



# Treating Modeling as Mission Critical

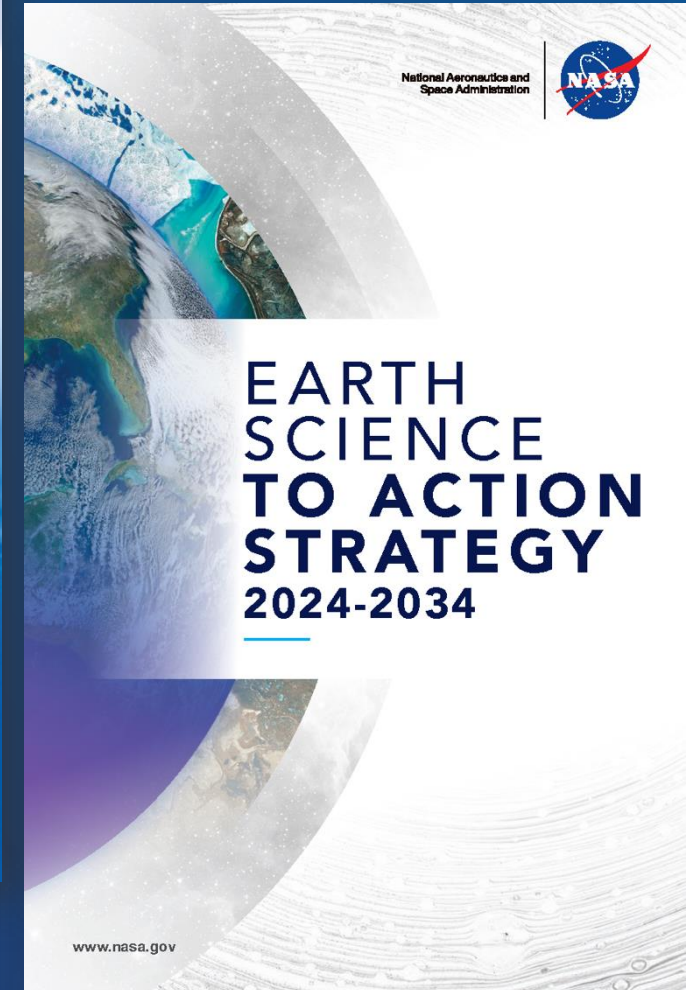
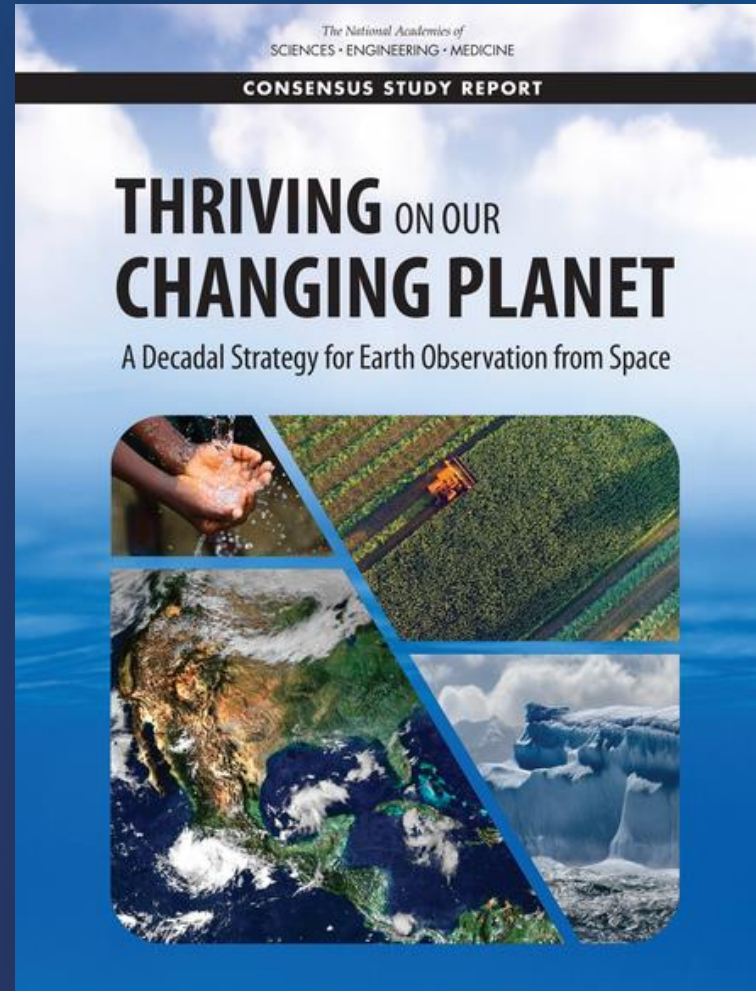


**NASA Mission Statement (1958):**  
The expansion of human knowledge  
of phenomena in the atmosphere and  
space

# Key Guidance for Earth Science Modeling Strategy

“Pursue increasingly ambitious objectives and innovative solutions that enhance and accelerate the science/applications value of space-based Earth observations and analysis to the nation and the world in a way that delivers great value, even when resources are constrained, and ensures that further investment will pay substantial dividends.”

- *Thriving on Our Changing Planet: A Decadal Survey for Earth Observations from Space, 2017*



# Integrated Earth System Modeling Strategy

Models underpin state-of-the-art prediction and risk assessment to support economic growth, national priorities and national security



## STREAMLINE

Involve the best experts where they are and consolidate workflows for greater effectiveness



## PRIORITIZE

Align investments around advanced technologies and techniques

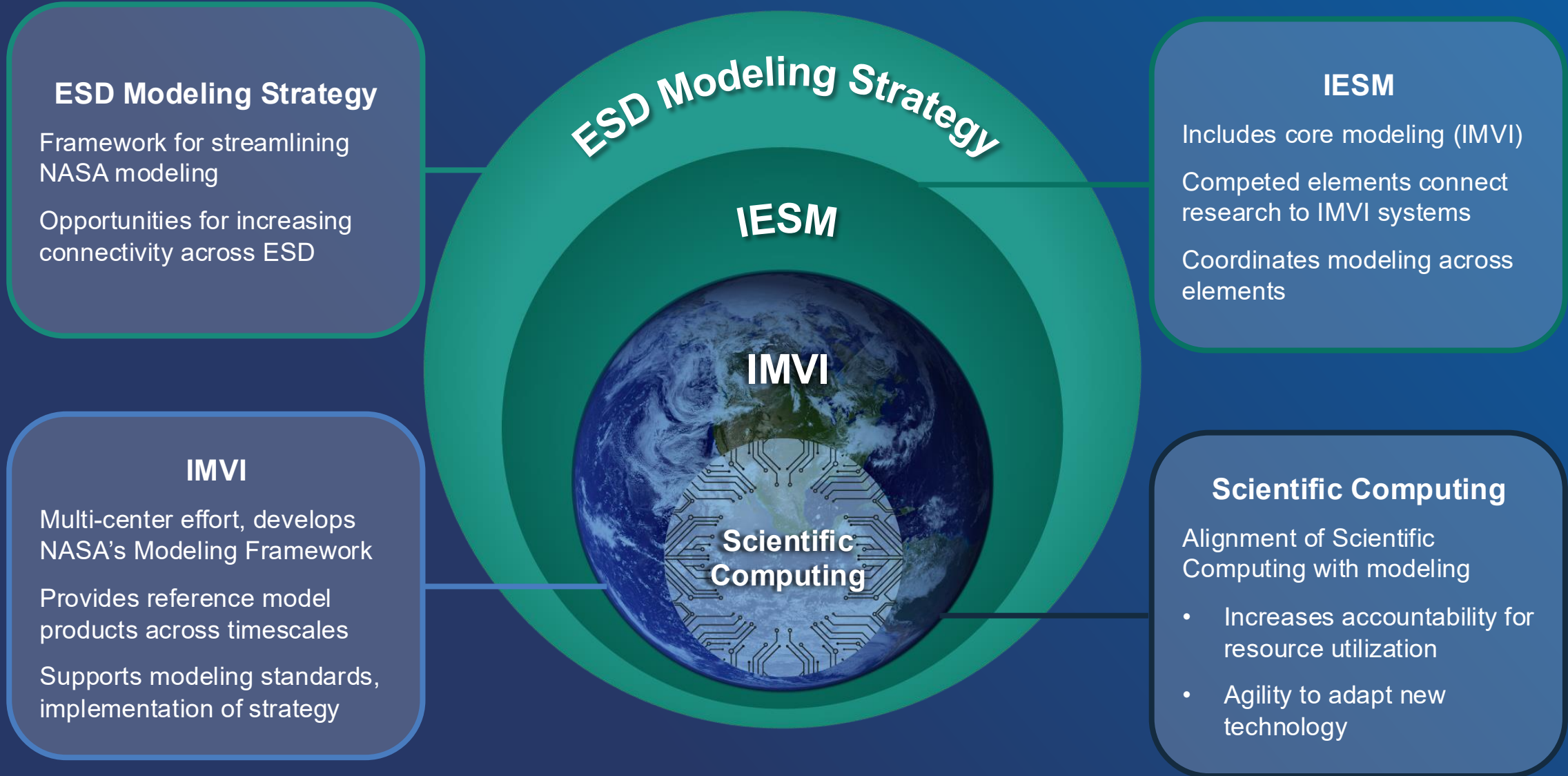


## FLEXIBLE & SCALABLE

Link models to supporting scientific computing systems



# ESD Modeling Strategy, IESM, and IMVI



# From Independent to Integrated

## Independent Models Today

### Land

LIS (Land Information System)

### Atmosphere

Including chemistry, turbulence, cloud processes

### Ocean

ECCO (Estimating the Circulation and Climate of Ocean)

### Ice

ISSM (Ice Sheet and Sea-Level System Model)

### Earth System

Reanalysis and short-term and seasonal prediction

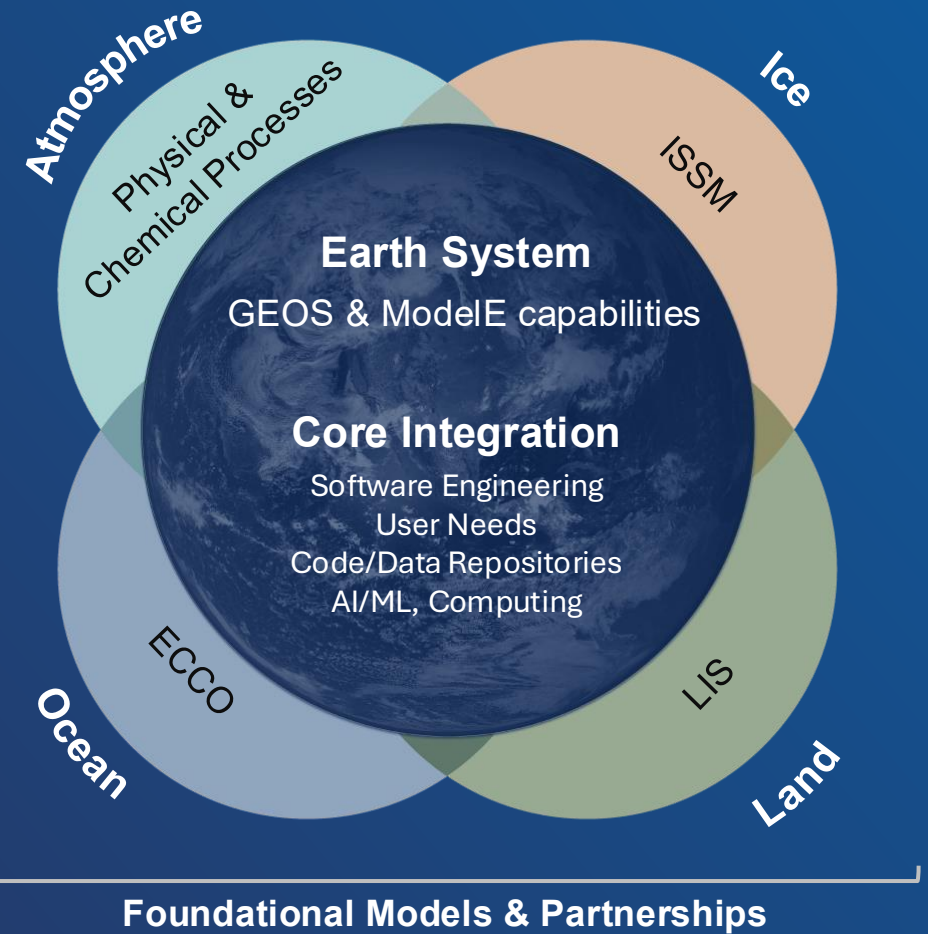
GEOS (Global Earth Observing System Model)

### Earth System

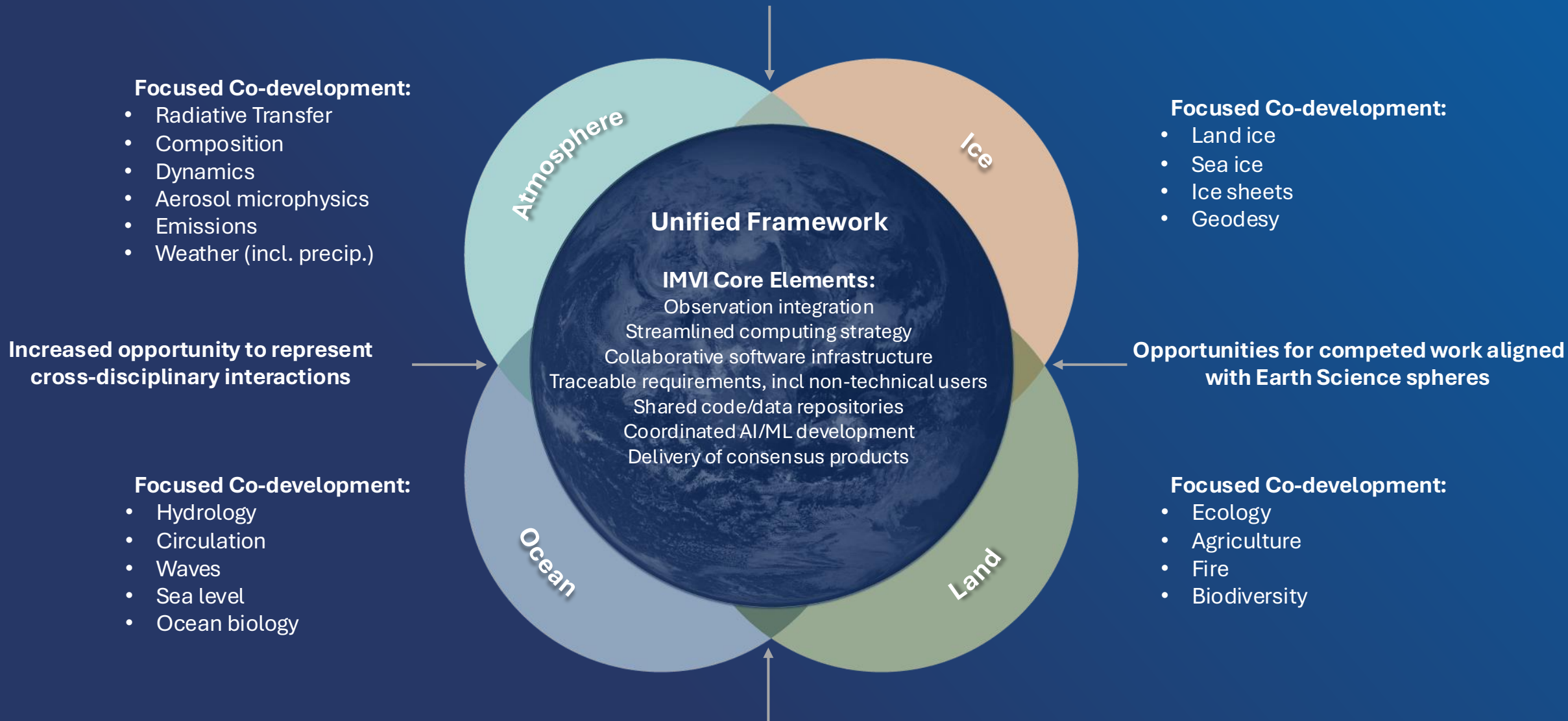
Decadal and long-term prediction and planetary atmospheres

ModelE (Global Earth Observing System Model)

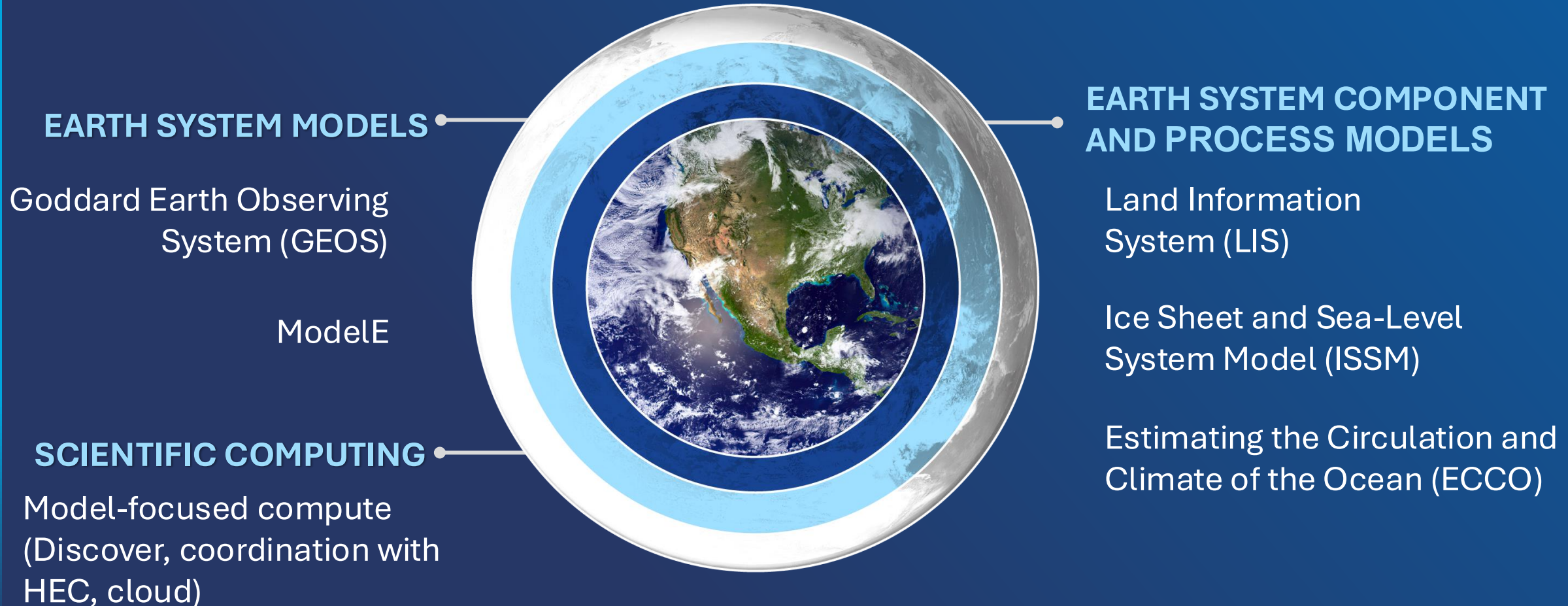
## Integrated Modeling with IMVI



# IMVI Approach to Scientific Co-Development



# IMVI: Leveraging Complementary Strengths



# Systematic Understanding Anchors Predictions Across Timescales

## BALANCED EARTH SYSTEM STATE



### ATMOSPHERE

GEOS: MERRA series



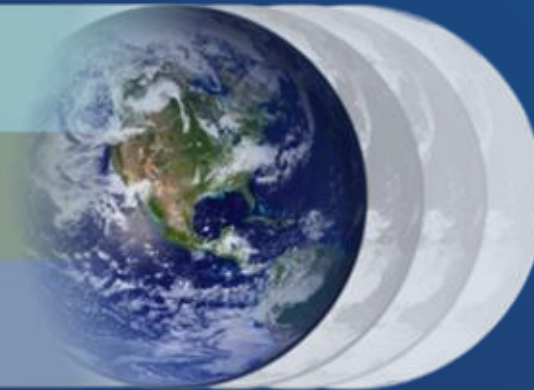
### LAND

LIS: HydroGlobe, GLDAS



### OCEAN

ECCO: State Estimates



## IMPROVED LONG-LEAD PREDICTION

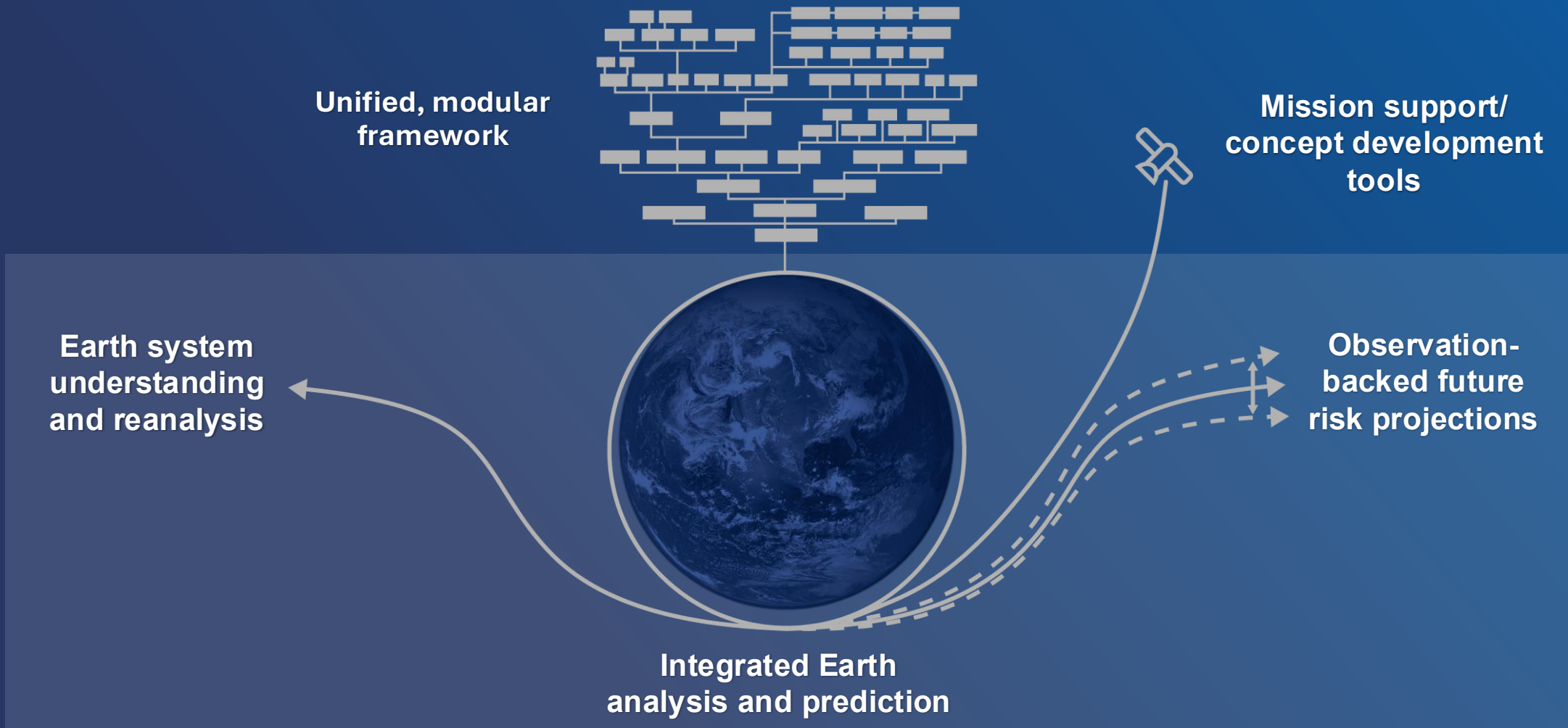
- Extends predictive skill across timescales
- Reduced uncertainty and better characterizes uncertainty
- Decadal focus incorporates ModelE, ISSM expertise

### NEAR-TERM OPPORTUNITIES:

- GEOS-S2Sv3 – now available, MERRA-21C, Q4 FY26 RELEASE
- Opportunity to update surface forcing data, improve consistency with state estimates

# NASA Integrated Modeling Components

Best estimates of Earth's past, present, and future based on all available observations



# Integration Pathways

EXPLORATORY

INTEGRATION

ENTERPRISE

IMVI



Enterprise system stability  
Advancing in step with research



Improved core products  
& prediction capabilities

Potential for Model Readiness Levels  
to guide transition process  
(see: **ECMWF**)



Subset of approaches  
Integration  
Testing

Research  
Innovation



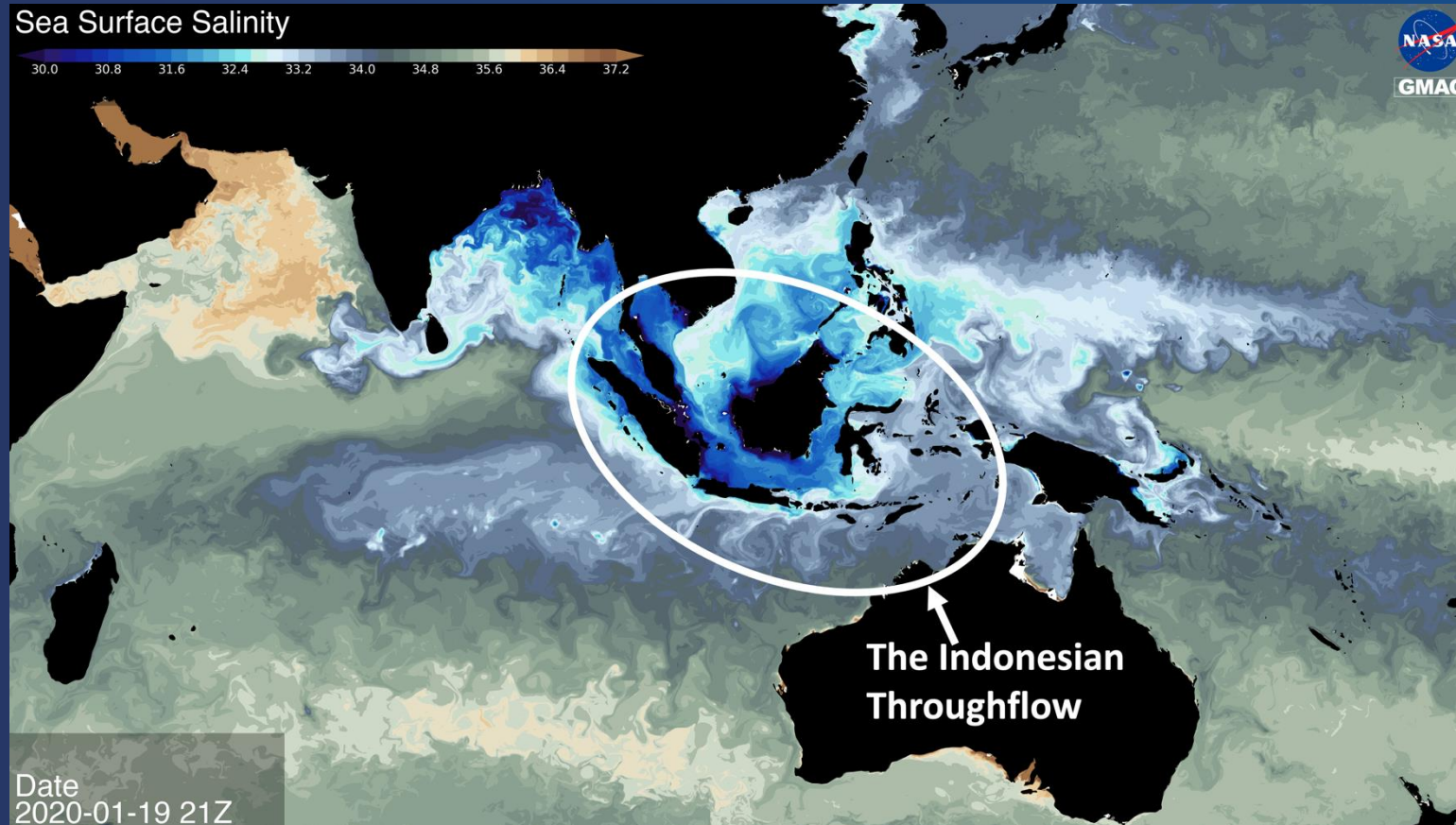
Prototype components  
Evaluation & benchmarking



Continued development  
Process studies

# IMVI Capability Focus: Earth System Interactions

**Example:** High-resolution GEOS-MITgcm sea surface salinity



## Challenges:

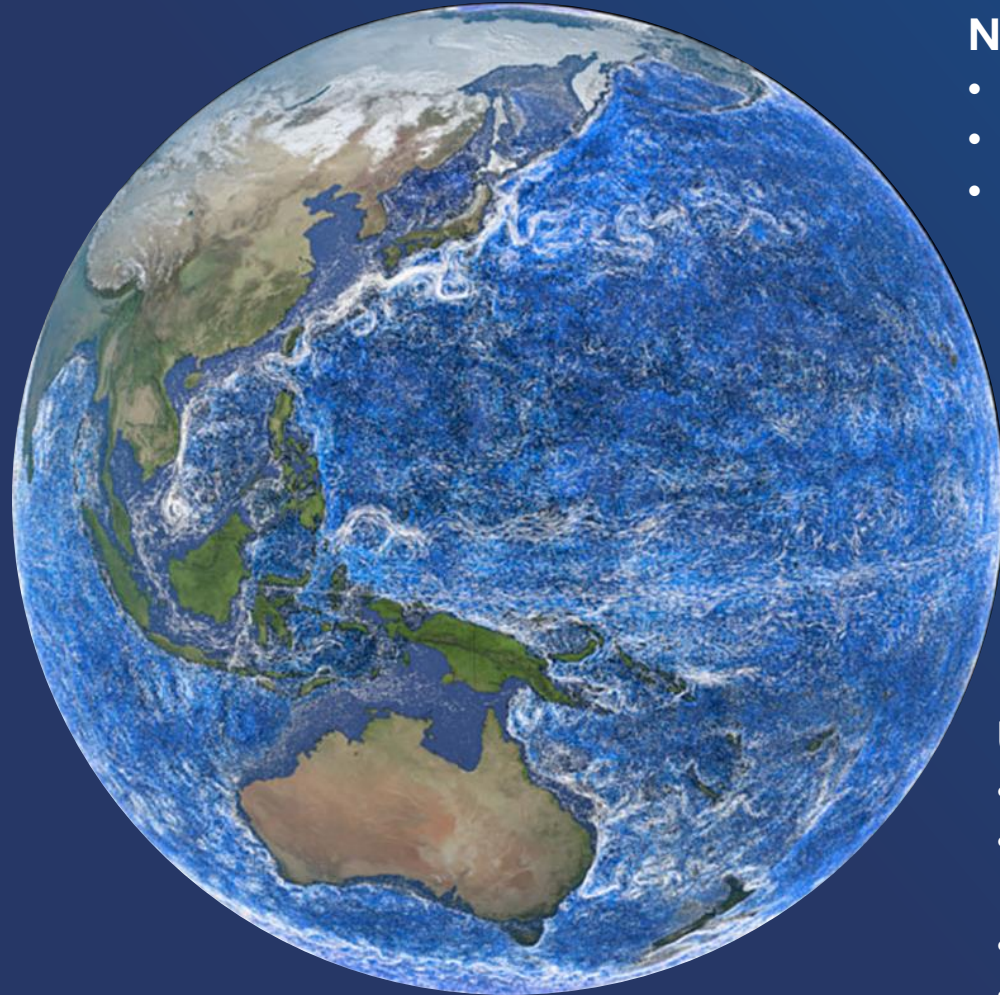
- Biggest science questions, societally relevant decisions are coupled problems
- Discipline-specific models cannot represent feedbacks, constraints across Earth system

IMVI enables coupled modeling, state estimation across atmosphere, land, ocean, & ice – and adoption of system –level constraints (water, energy, carbon). New opportunities:

- Land-atmosphere coupling -> extremes, predictability
- Ocean, stratospheric composition -> S2S (science of STRIVE)
- Land/ocean, atmosphere -> carbon cycle constraint on future projections

Flexible modeling framework allows new opportunities for NASA community to investigate coupled questions – and feed back on next generation of reanalysis/state estimates, long range predictions

# Pathways to advance Earth system modeling capability together



## Near-Term Scientific Focus

- Consistent Earth system constraints across land, atmosphere, ocean
- Continued focus on coupled GEOS-ECCO-ISSM configurations
- Increasing focus on using systems to understand S2D predictability

## Emerging Opportunities

- Coupled ocean-atmosphere state estimation
- Systematic water, energy, carbon closure constraints
- Consistent UQ, benchmarking across timescales
- AI-assisted workflows and components
- Multi-scale modeling capabilities

## Upcoming Milestones, Engagement

- Modeling Strategy rollout ~September 2026
- Continued dialogue and updates through NASA Sphere community meetings (summer-fall)
- NASA community modeling meeting winter 2026/27 (tbc)
- AGU sessions, town hall

# Integrated Modeling Virtual Institute

A framework for NASA's state-of-the-art Earth system models to advance Earth understanding and deliver actionable insights for societal benefit

Scan the QR  
code or go to  
[go.nasa.gov/IMVI](https://go.nasa.gov/IMVI)

