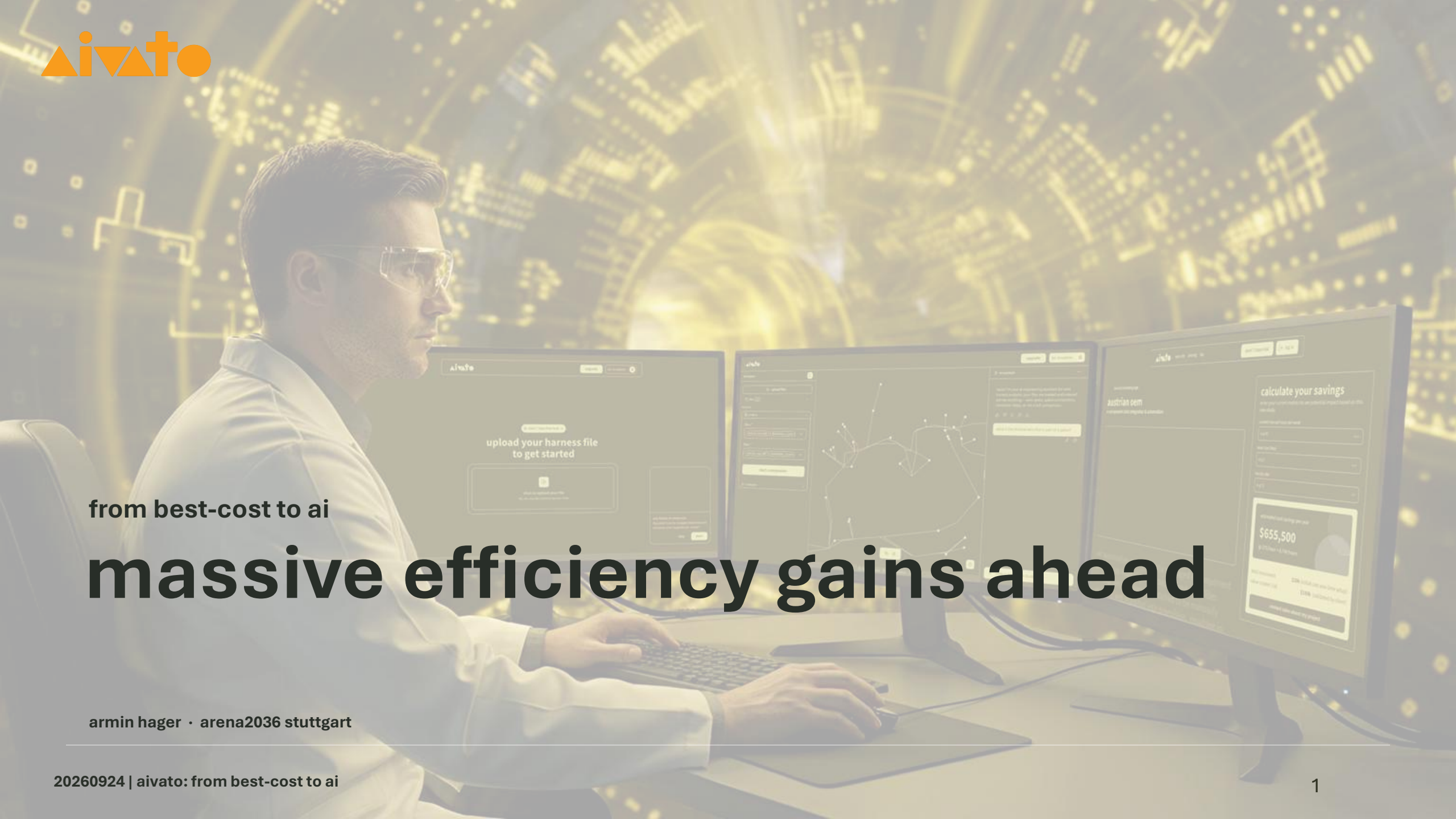


from best-cost to ai

massive efficiency gains ahead

armin hager · arena2036 stuttgart

high cost

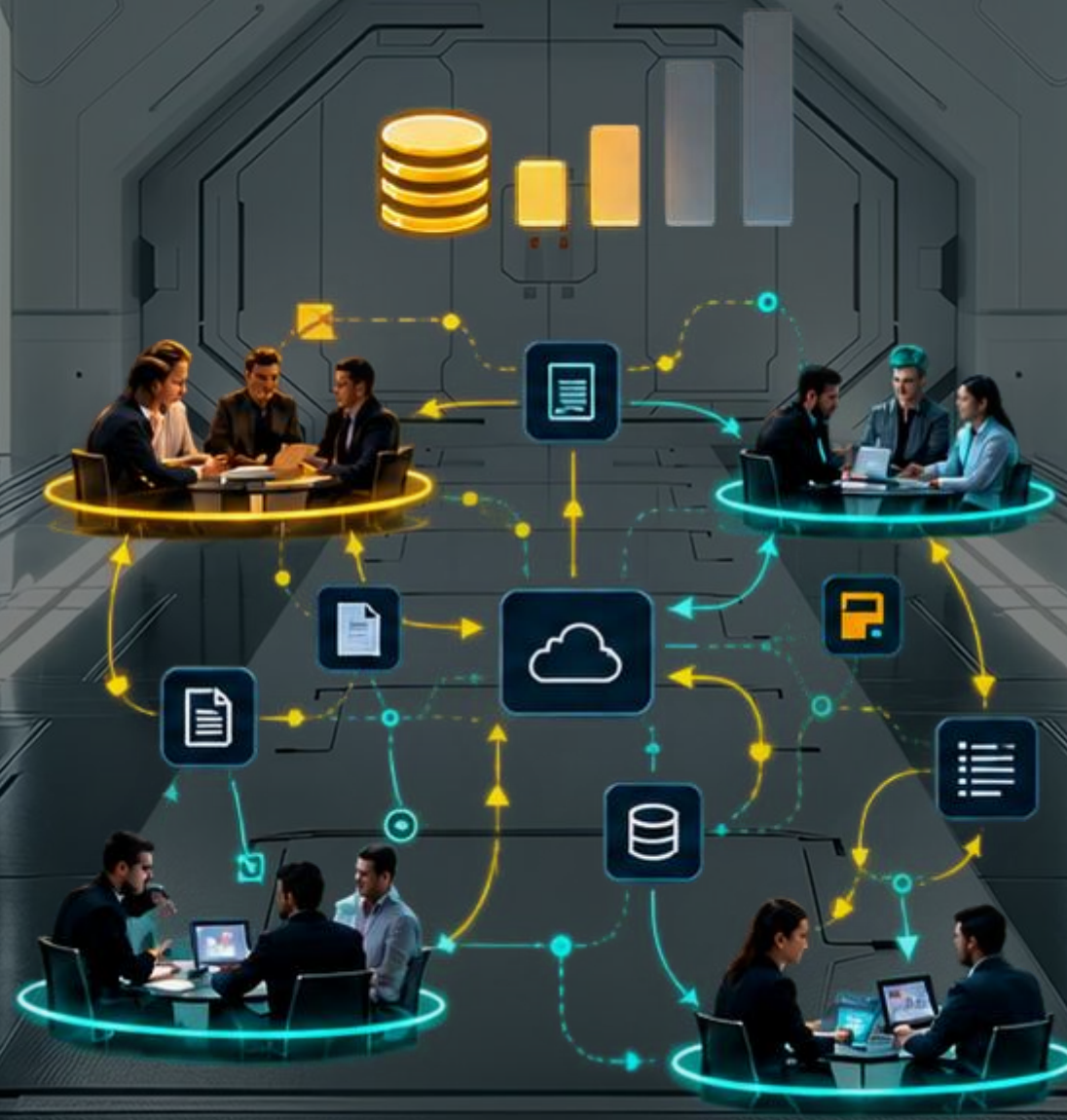
local

mid cost

local

+

back-office



„new“
best-cost

local
+
ai

but did we really change engineering?

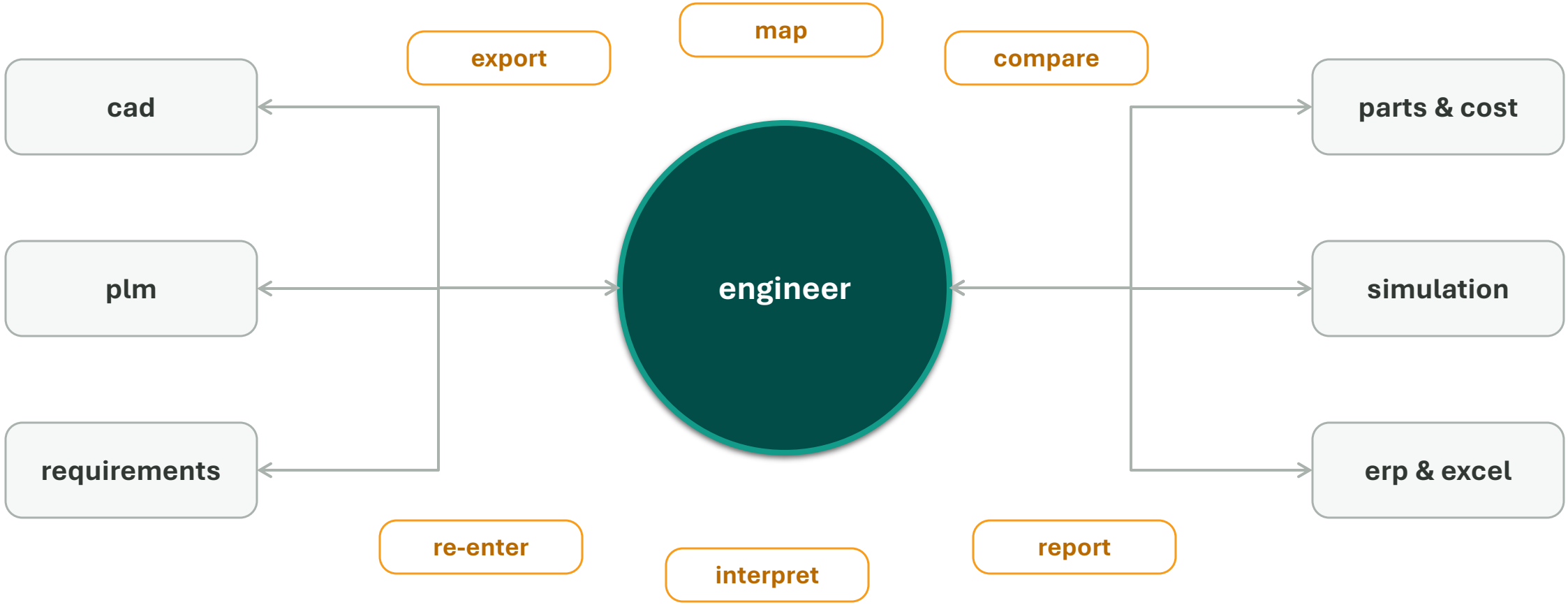
no. we automated one silo.

an automated silo is still a silo

engineering is a system of systems.

the engineer became the integration layer

highly qualified middleware



engineering time is consumed by moving meaning between systems.

the future is not only “ai does cad”

task automation is useful — workflow intelligence is structural

1

task automation

ai operates one tool

prompt → command → cad result

local speed-up

2

workflow intelligence

ai spans engineering systems

intent → evidence → consequence

end-to-end friction removed

the bigger gain is not faster clicks. it is fewer tool operations.

what this looks like in real eds work

two technical examples from aivato programs

cost savings opportunities

2 min

from identification to changed cad

validated on an oem dataset

- optimized in-line con. free cavities
- 30% more space in dmu due to smaller con.

design & manufacturing q&a checks

10 sec

complete q&a check incl. recommended actions

single or full vehicle harnesses

- report for misalignment approval
- checks pdf, xml, kbl, h2ml

data models + algorithms + domain knowledge

not generic text generation — engineering structure made executable.

value shifts back to product judgment

roles change when tool friction disappears

tool operation	→	product understanding
manual integration	→	workflow & rule ownership
pure code production	→	domain-driven product logic

tool operators decline. product and domain experts become more important.

the next efficiency frontier

less tool work.

best-cost changed where engineering work is performed.

connected ai changes how engineering work is composed.

the engineer becomes the product expert again.

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