

# Create Business Impact with LabVIEW

Understanding the True Cost of Test

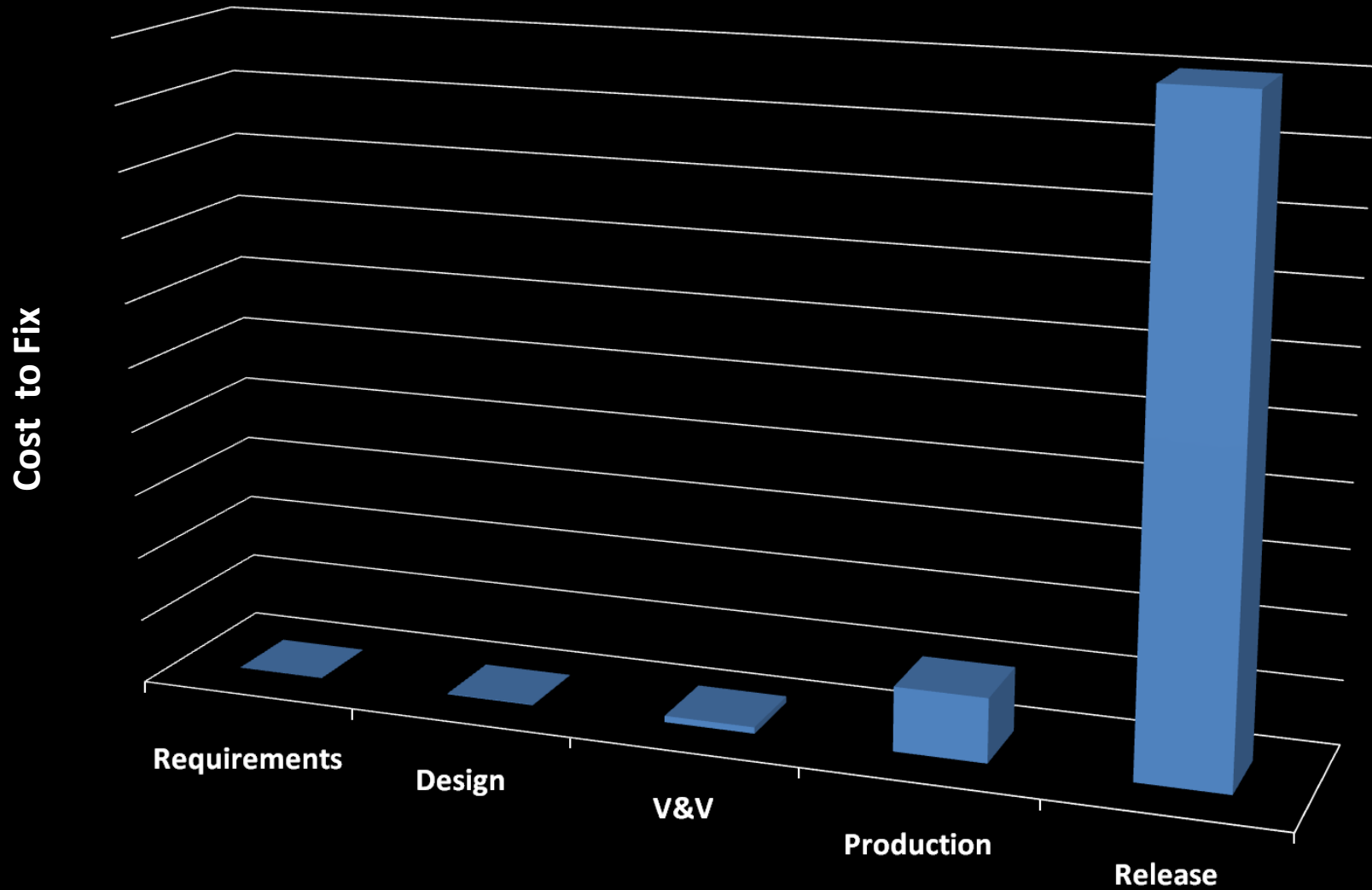
Rene Voorhorst

Regional Sales Manager, Northern Region

National Instruments

# Why do we Care?

# Test saves Money



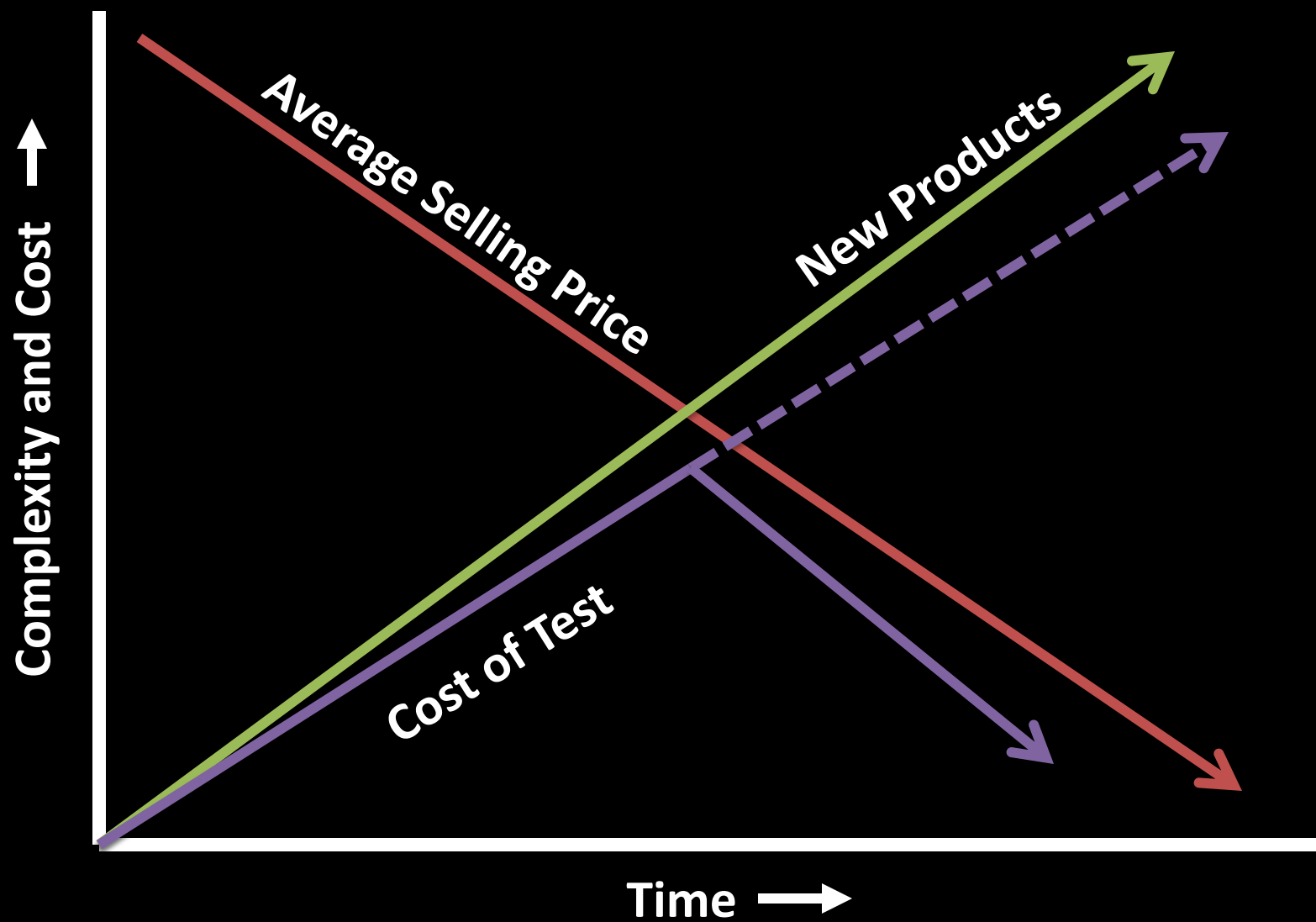
# 5 Things CEOs Care About

- Cash Flow
- Margin
- Strength of Assets
- Growth
- Customer Loyalty

**Where do test costs show up on  
your financial statements?**

# What if you could reduce COGS by 2%?

- COGS for company X is \$800M
- How much is 2%?
  - \$16M
- What could they do with \$16M?
  - Reduce prices, fuel growth
  - Invest in R&D, create more products, fuel growth
  - Invest in quality initiatives, customer loyalty
- What could your organization do?



# What is The Cost of Test?

Cost of  
Test  $\neq$





# True Cost of Test

Production test capital expense reduction	Number of square feet per tester	
Avg. Hrs./person spent on planning effort		Number of current testers/needed testers
Cost per Test Engineer	Software cost per Tester	Total Test Project Savings
Total Test System Savings (annual)	Test Engineering Development Engineers	
	Investment needed in spares/inventory per each tester	Operator cost/person
Years spent on the project	Capital Equipment Cost per Tester	Number of Development Systems
Spares/Inventory Cost Reduction	# of Maintenance people/test	Payback Period
Manufacturing Floor Space Cost Reduction	Maintenance cost/person	Calibration cost per tester
	Number of developers sent to training classes	Per copy price of Development System
Reduction in Cost of Test /Product	Costs of internal training and documentation effort for standard	
	Operational cost Reduction	# of operators/test
New /Old Tester Throughput Improvement	% Time dedicated	Calibration Cost Reduction
Cost per square foot	Software development cost	Volume of product produced annually tested
Life of the project (years)	Volume of product produced tested annually through new testers	
Cross-functional Planning team Test Engineers		Cost of product training/person
	Operator & Maintenance Cost	
Average ROI Test Project		

# Total Test Cost

=

Upfront Development Cost

+

Deployment Cost

+

Operational Cost

# Upfront Development Cost

- Strategy development effort
- Development tools cost
- Development training cost
- Development effort
- Internal Training

# Development Example

# Development Tools Cost

- 10 copies of test development software
- \$10,000 copy

Total Development tools cost

$$10 * \$10,000 = \$100,000$$

# Development Effort

- # of Engineers = 10
- Engineer Cost = \$100,000
- Years spent on project = 2
- % of Engineers time on project = 75%

Cost per Engineer

$$\$100,000 * 2 * .75 = \$150,000$$

Total Development Cost

$$\$150,000 * 10 = \$1,500,000$$

# Development Example

Tools Cost = \$100,000

Development Cost = \$1,500,000

Total Cost = \$1,600,000

# Lawrence Livermore National Labs

Developed automated maintenance process for world's most energetic laser array at the National Ignition Facility using NI LabVIEW and PXI

- LabVIEW increased productivity by 3X over Java and C++
- Developed complex application consisting of over 1,000 VIs
- Applied software engineering practices to ensure quality



*An overhead view of one of the main laser chambers*

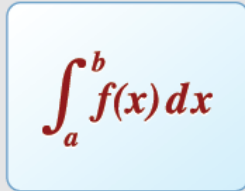
*"The value in using the graphical dataflow language is the speed in which a team can deliver a robust solution while still using proper software engineering practices.*

*- Glenn Larkin, LLNL*



System Design Software

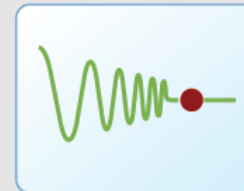
Measurement and Control Hardware



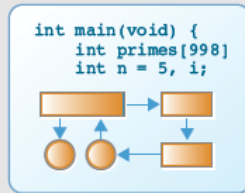
Math & Analysis



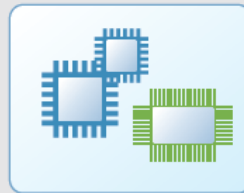
User Interface



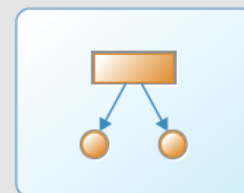
Input/Output  
Signals



Models of  
Computation



Commercial  
Technologies



Deployment  
Target

Graphical System Design

Graphical System Design is an **approach**  
that **integrates** software and hardware  
to combine the **six elements** of measurement and control systems

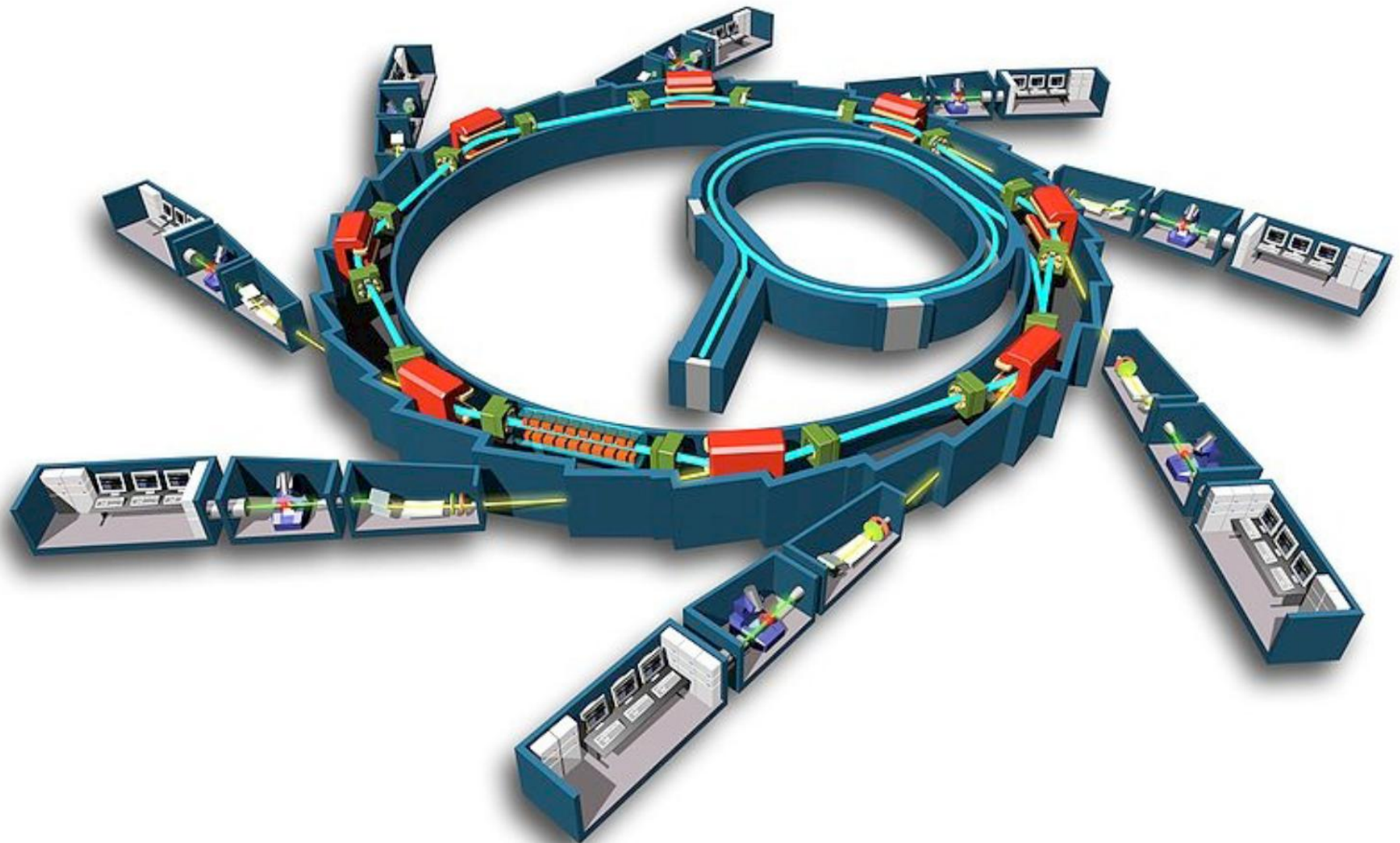
# Graphical System Design

- The primary benefits of Graphical System Design are tight integration of software and hardware resulting in increased productivity.
- Leveraging Graphical System Design-enabled tools allows scientists and engineers to focus on discovering and innovating rather than learning and managing disparate tool chains.
- Productivity gains are realized by giving smaller teams of scientists and engineers the ability to create what previously only larger teams of dedicated tools experts were able to do.



Jet Plume Testing | AFRL

# Embedded Monitoring



ISIS Proton Synchrotron

# Advanced Data Acquisition





Ford Motor Company

# Fuel Cell Engine Control



ESO E-ELT

# Advanced Control





Analog Devices

# Semiconductor Test

# Reducing Development Costs Through Training



170 percent return on investment on training all  
Lexmark engineers in LabVIEW



# Sample Project Impact

- Project profile:
  - 6 month project with a 3 year life
  - 1 engineer, 70% of time spent on project
  - Annual cost of an engineer: 80,000 Euros

Total Phase Costs	Without NI Training	With NI Training
Expected total labor cost of project - learning phase	2,462	4,589
Expected total labor cost of project - development phase	56,000	42,000
Expected total labor cost of project - maintenance phase	12,000	6,840
<b>TOTAL PROJECT LABOR COST</b>	<b>70,462</b>	<b>53,429</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT LABOR COST SAVINGS with NI training</b>		<b>17,032</b>
<b>TRAINING ROI</b>		<b>371%</b>

# Deployment Test cost

- Test capital equipment cost
- Deployed test software cost

# Deployment Example

# Test Throughput Matters

*Must Test 20 Devices*

- Tester A
  - \$100,000
  - 2 DUTs at a time
- Total cost to test
  - =  $(20 / 2) * \$100,000$
  - = \$1,000,000
- Tester B
  - \$200,000
  - 5 DUTs at a time
- Total cost to test
  - =  $(20 / 5) * \$200,000$
  - = \$800,000

# Example: Auto-schedule Parallel Test



“The original test station sequentially tested each handheld radio produced. The new test system, on the other hand, is **capable of testing up to eight radios** in about the **same time required by the previous system to test two radios.**”

# Operational Test Cost

- Operator personnel cost
- Maintenance personnel cost
- Spares cost
- Floor space cost

# Operational Example

# Variable Operational Costs

- # of Testers = 10
- Annual Operator Cost = \$50,000
- Annual Technician Cost = \$60,000
- Technician time required = %50
- Floor space cost = \$50/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Square ft per tester = 10

Variable Cost per Tester

$$\$50,000 + \$60,000 * 0.5 + 10 * \$50 = \$80,500$$

Total Variable Cost

$$\$80,500 * 10 = \$805,000$$





Reduces MEMS Test Costs

	PXI Tester	Reduction	Previous ATE
Cost	\$40K USD	11X	\$450K+ USD
Footprint	18 by 24 by 7 in	15X	98 by 66 by 74 in
Weight	60 lbs	66X	4,000 lbs
Facility	600 W	16X	10KW



Reduces MEMS Test Costs

- Reduced Footprint
  - Can wheel system around on a cart
- Lower Weight
  - Lower shipping costs, keep local spares
- Decreased Power Usage
  - Use standard power plugs

# Costs are Interrelated

# Interrelated cost examples

- More developer training -> lower development times
- Smaller test equipment -> less floor space
- Built-from scratch test executive -> reduced SW licenses
- COTS test executive -> reduced development time
- Developing a parallel test architecture -> Improved Production throughput

# Test Cost VS Opportunity Cost

- Time to Market
  - First to market equals \$\$\$
  - Invest in development tools to reduce time
- Production Throughput
  - Implement Parallel Testing
  - Invest in more capable test systems
- Global Standardization
  - Larger strategy development investment

# National Instruments Evolution

