



Branderburg Gate, Berlin, Germany



## Dorothea Knopf, PhD. Eng.

Head of "Mass – Dissemination of the Unit" Department  
Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) in Braunschweig

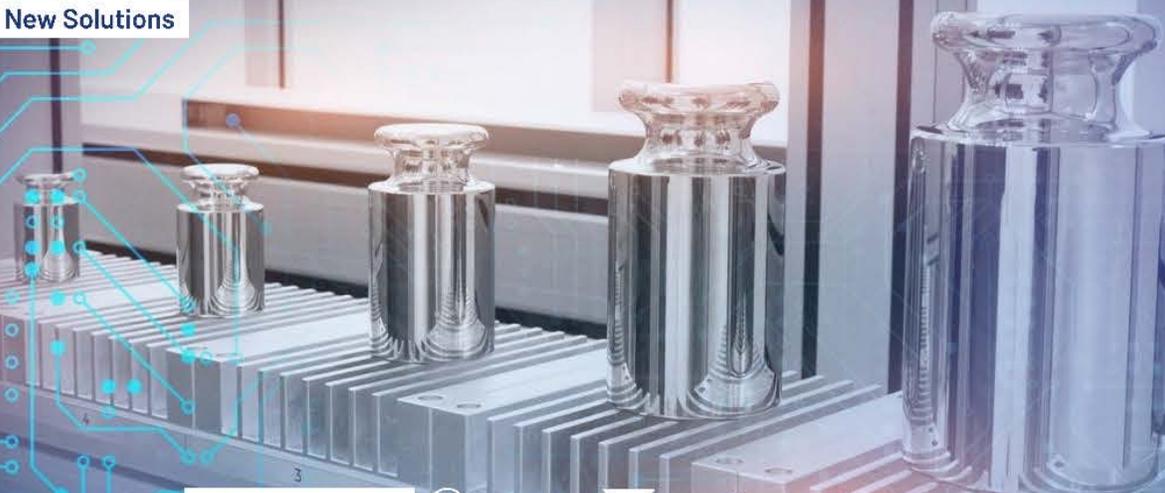
In 1993, she completed her studies in electrical engineering at the Technical University of Ilmenau in Germany. She started her metrologists career as a PhD student in the department "Metrology in Chemistry" at PTB in Germany from 1993 to 1997. In 1997, she completed her PhD studies in engineering at the Technical University of Ilmenau. From 1998 to 2011, she continued her work in the field of "Gas Analysis" at PTB, came in contact with "Legal Metrology" and was a one-year trainee in the Presidential Staff. Since 2012, she is head of the "Mass" department of PTB. In addition to metrology and legal metrology, her experience also includes conformity assessment, work in standardization and other bodies, quality infrastructure and digital transformation.



# METROLOGY SYMPOSIUM

DIGITALIZATION AND AUTOMATION IN MASS METROLOGY

Third Edition: Future and New Solutions



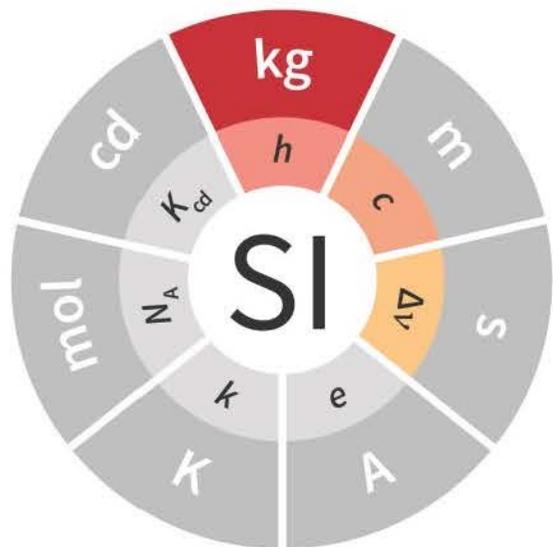
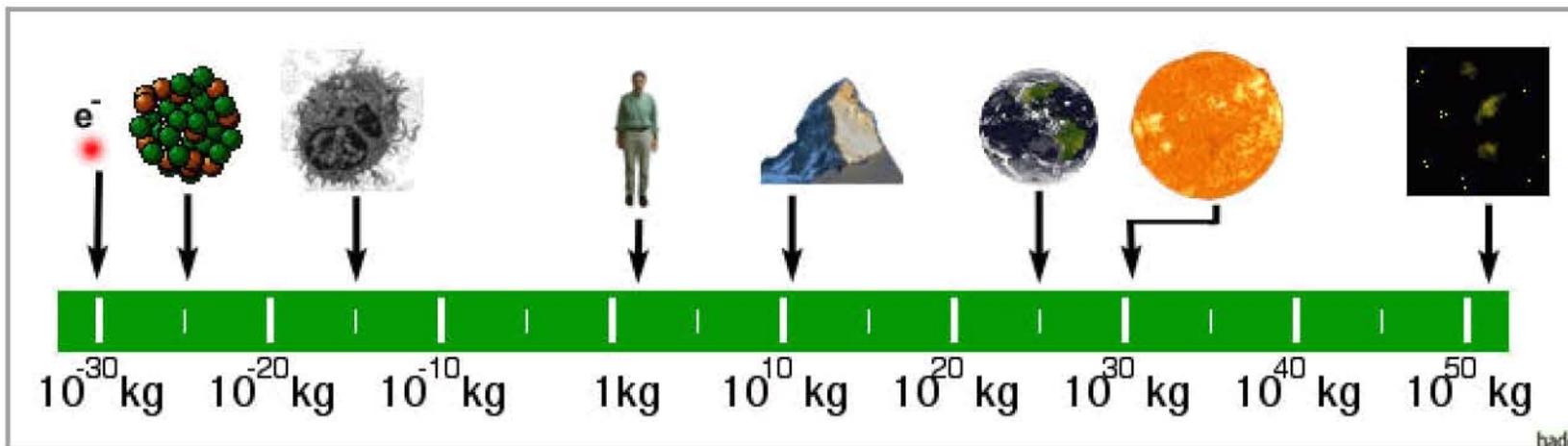
ČESKÝ  
METROLOGICKÝ  
INSTITUT

## Mass Metrology at PTB

Dorothea Knopf, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt



Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt  
National Metrology Institute



- Defining constants allows realisation everywhere
- 'mise en pratique' allows two realisation methods
- No need to stick to nominal value of "1 kg" as starting point
- Direct dissemination possible – at the moment 'consensus value'

$V$ : volume of a physical object  
 $a_0^3$ : lattice parameter of  $^{28}\text{Si}$   
 $h$ : Planck constant  
 $R_\infty$ : Rydberg constant  
 $c$ : speed of light in vacuum  
 $\alpha^2$ : fine structure constant  
 $m$ : **mass** in kg

$f$ : ratio of the Si isotopes (weight factor)  
 $A_r^i$ : relative mass of  $^i\text{Si}$  isotopes ( $i=28, 29, 30$ )  
 $A_r^e$ : relative atomic mass of an electron  
 $m_{\text{deficit}}$ : mass of lattice vacancies and impurities in the sphere  
 $m_{\text{SL}}$ : mass of surface layers

$$m = \frac{8V}{a_0^3} \cdot \frac{2hR_\infty}{c\alpha^2} \cdot \sum_i f_i \frac{A_r^i}{A_r^e} - m_{\text{deficit}} + m_{\text{SL}}$$



“Re-activation” of the realisation – measure the quantities that may tend to change

- Determination of the spheres volume
- Determination of the surface layer

- CCM.M-K8 – comparison of the kg realisations
- ‘consensus value’ basis for current kg dissemination
- CCM recommendation 2023 – resolve discrepancies!
- Resulting PTB activities
  - cooperation between BIPM and PTB mass experts
  - bilateral comparison with NMIJ (XRCD)
  - bilateral cooperation with NIST
  - Exchange between “Kibble” and “XRCD” communities



(OIML) weights, methods and tools are established, robust and cost effective

**Classical dissemination**  
mass standards of stainless steel or PtIr



**Silicon dissemination**  
Spheres made of natural silicon (density comparison)

- $^{nat}\text{Si}$  spheres are available – commercial partner delivers high quality spheres
- Tools and equipment are available – commercial partner delivers materials
- Mass comparators ready for use of spheres available
- Cleaning method is well described and allows “reset” of the spheres – mass data with a good stability determined so far
- Improvements possible/desired – “Round & Established” WS 2022 (Si-Trust)
- Use of the spheres in a first step as a stable calibrated mass standard; additional characterisations possible

$$\rho^{\text{nat}}_{\text{Si}} = k \cdot \rho^{28}_{\text{Si}}$$

- Well characterised  $^{28}\text{Si}$  sphere is used as density standard
- Highly accurate density comparison system – “Pressure of Flotation” does not fit
  - first alternative concept failed, but implementation of a new concept is currently running

$$m^{\text{nat}}_{\text{Si}} = \rho^{\text{nat}}_{\text{Si}} \cdot V^{\text{nat}}_{\text{Si}} = k \cdot \rho^{28}_{\text{Si}} \cdot V^{\text{nat}}_{\text{Si}}$$

- Determine geometry of the  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Si}$  sphere as accurate as possible
  - Determination of core volume with sphere interferometer
  - Determination of surface layer thickness with XPS/XRF

(OIML) weights, methods and tools are established, robust and cost effective

**Classical dissemination**  
mass standards of stainless steel or PtIr

Offers advantages especially in the range of small and individual mass values

**Realisation of the mass unit**



Surface of silicon spheres is rather stable → spheres could be „reset“ by cleaning

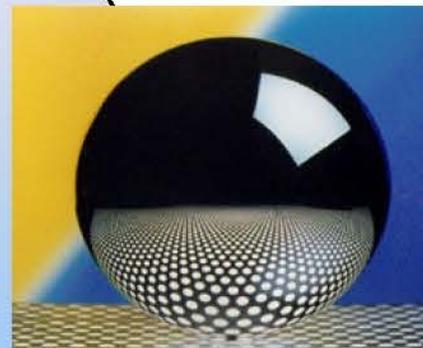
**Electrical dissemination**  
Use of Kibble principle (e.g. Planck balance)

**Silicon dissemination**  
Spheres made of natural silicon (density comparison)

Definition of the kilogram by fixing the value of the Planck constant

$$1 \text{ kg} = \left( \frac{h}{6,626\,070\,15 \times 10^{-34}} \right) \text{m}^{-2}\text{s}$$

'Consensus value' determined of the primary **realisations** of the kilogram with the smallest reachable uncertainties, currently, <sup>28</sup>Si spheres and Kibble balances



"Secondary" standards



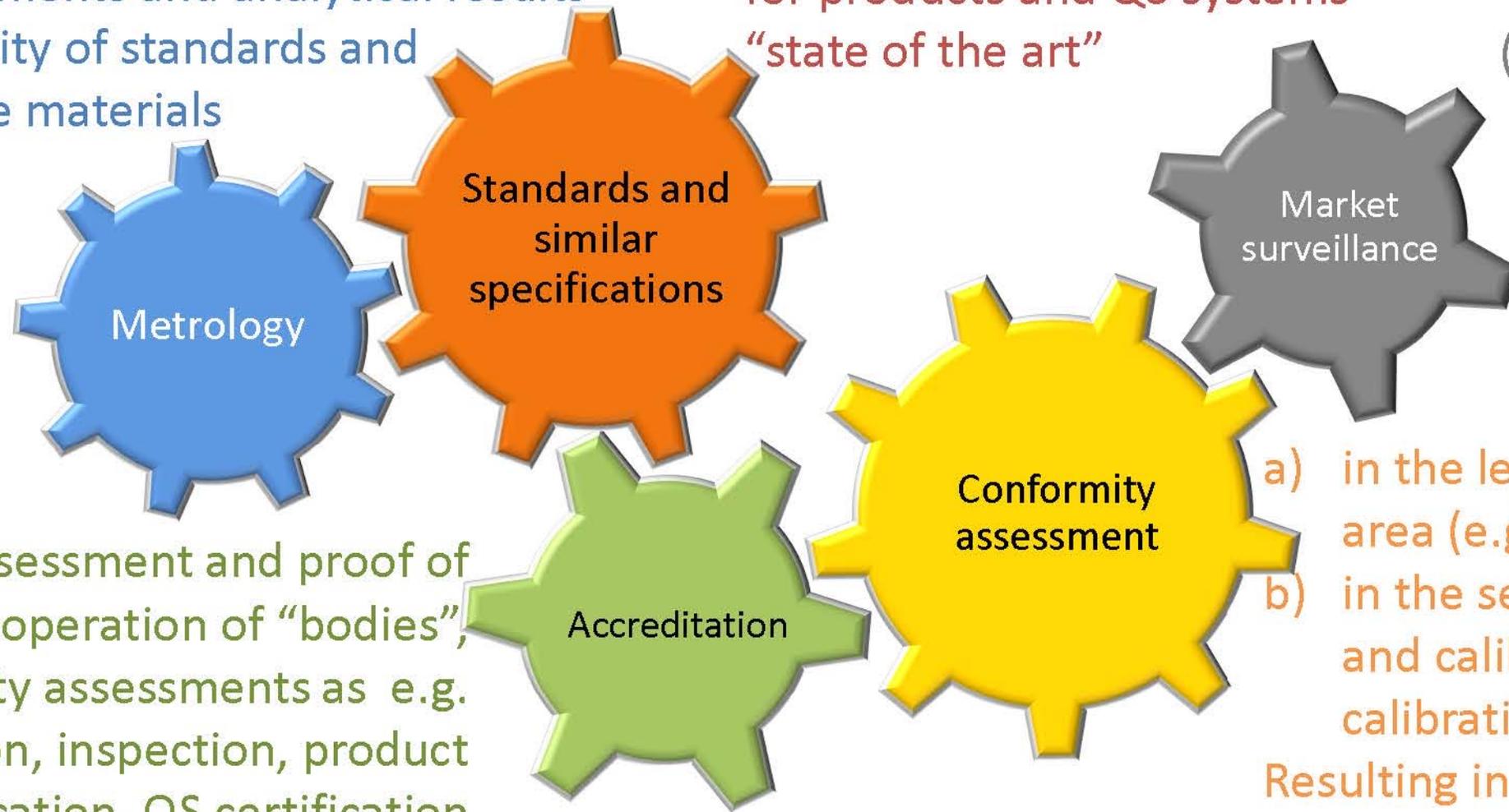
"Market"  
huge number, different qualities and values



International consistency of measurements and analytical results  
Traceability of standards and reference materials

Standards and specifications for products and QS systems  
“state of the art”

“Referee”  
(e.g. verification)



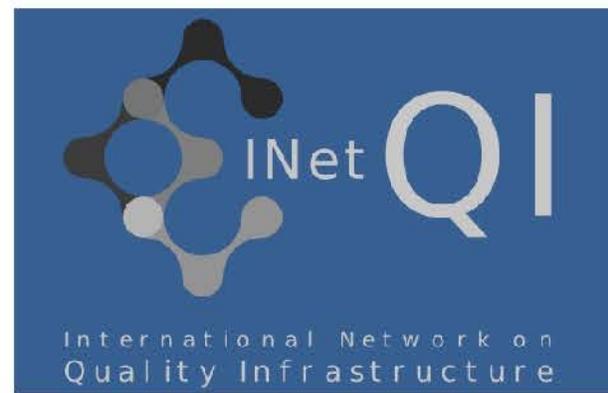
Assessment and proof of operation of “bodies”, conformity assessments as e.g. calibration, inspection, product certification, QS certification

a) in the legally controlled area (e.g. type approval)  
b) in the sense of testing and calibration (e.g. calibration certificate)  
Resulting in certificates with conformity statement

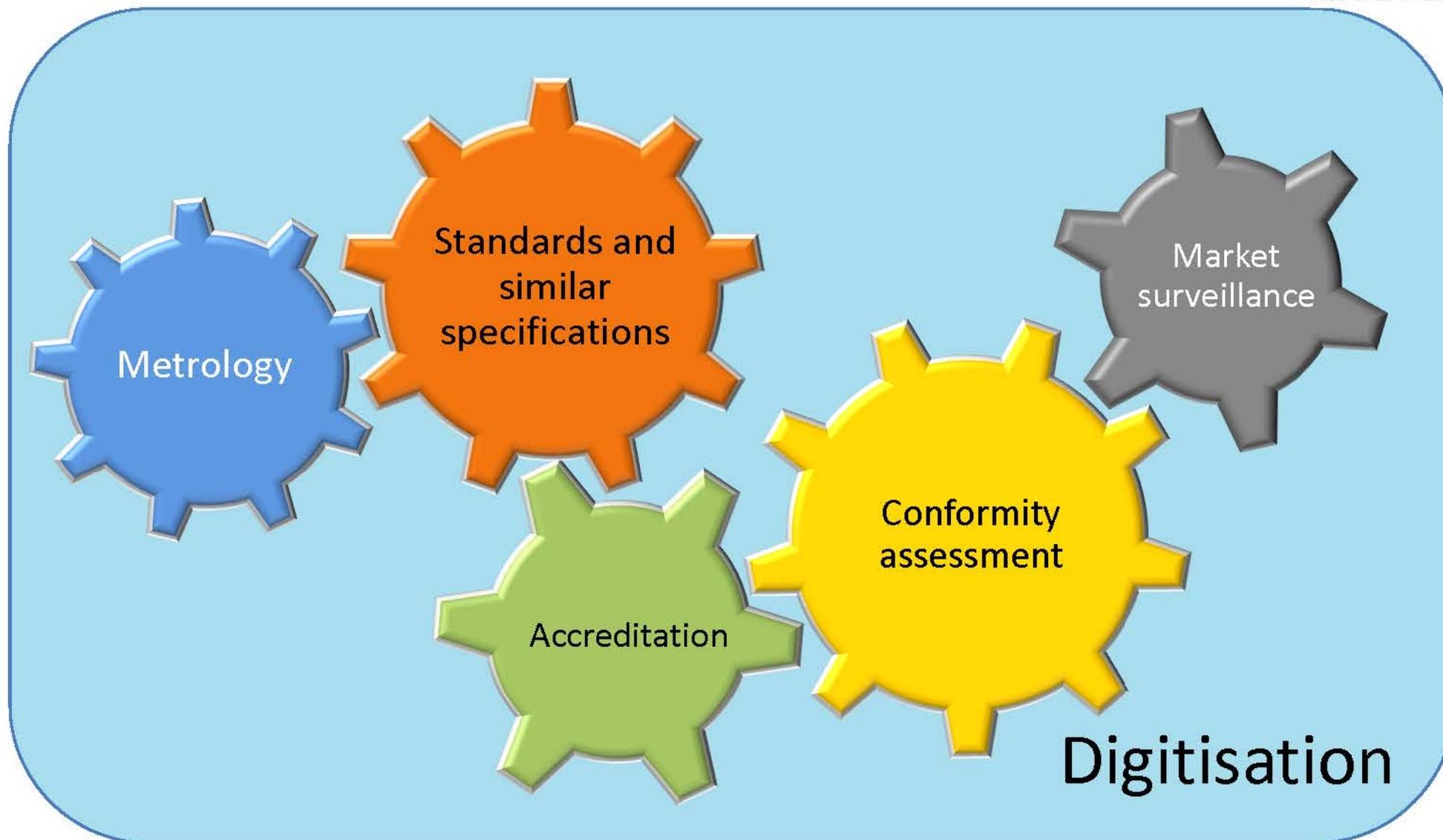
The system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes.



“It relies on **metrology, standardisation, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance.**”



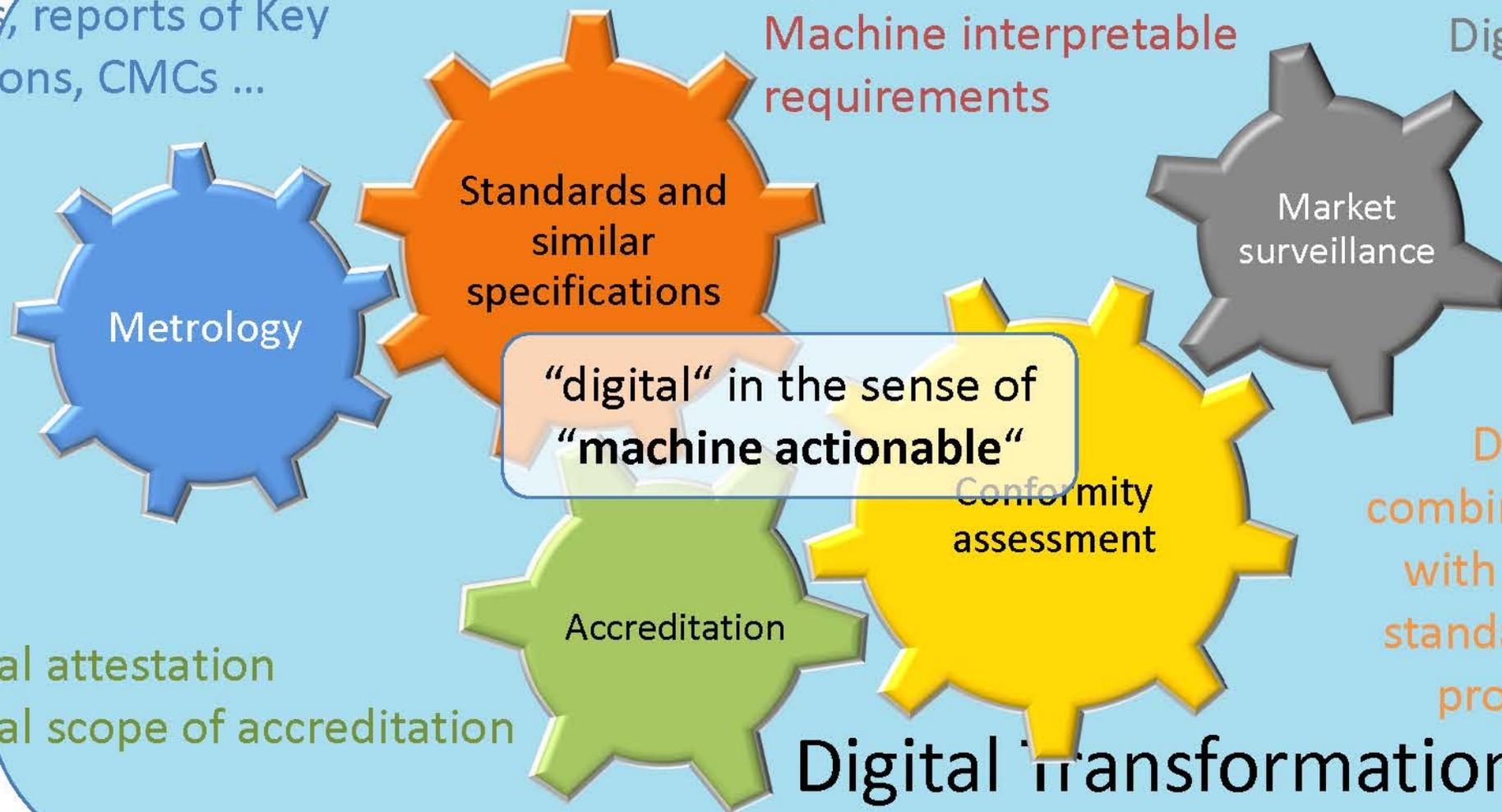
<https://www.inetqi.net/documentation/quality-infrastructure-definition/>



Digital SI, i.e. access to defining constants, reports of Key comparisons, CMCs ...

Digital standards  
Machine interpretable requirements

Digital access to all necessary information



Digital attestation  
Digital scope of accreditation

Digital certificates combining information with requirements of standards, traceability proof, accreditation information, ...

- Joint Statement of Intent on digital transformation in the international scientific and quality infrastructure (<https://www.bipm.org/en/liaison/digital-transformation>)
  - BIPM, OIML, ISO, IEC, ILAC, IMEKO, ISC, CIE, CODATA, NCSLI
- BIPM (<https://www.bipm.org/en/digital-transformation>)
  - Forum on Metrology and Digitalisation
  - SI Reference Point, KCDB CMCs, KCDB Service Categories (<https://si-digital-framework.org/>)
  - FAIR Data (<https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>)
- OIML – Legal Metrology
  - Digitisation Task Group (DTG) 2022 (<https://www.oiml.org/en/structure/digitalisation-task-group/digitalisation-task-group>)
  - Exchange within OIML and cooperation with others



- **Standardisation** Bodies (national, European, international)
  - SMART standards that allow “machine actionable” access
- **Accreditation** bodies - different solutions
  - e-certificate, digital symbol/attestation, ...
- Market Surveillance (verification authorities)
  - digitised tools for information transfer
- **Conformity Assessment**
  - Digitised Certificates →  
Machine-actionable certificates
  - Important element of the product documentation



- Digital Calibration Certificate (DCC)
  - Development of a data structure (<https://www.ptb.de/dcc/>) to transfer the needs of ISO/IEC 17025
  - Schema based on XML – only partly human readable but good adaptable
  - Annual DCC-Conference allows discussion and exchange
- Gemimeg – a tool for the transfer between the human-readable and the machine-readable presentation of the information

<https://www.gemimeg.ptb.de/gemimeg-tool/#/>



- Digital Calibration Certificate (DCC) for weights
  - Discussion with German accredited labs for weights (DKD)
  - Experience of the practitioners – intensive discussions
  - Expert report DKD-E 7-2 “Instructions on how to use the DCC schema to create a digital calibration certificate for weights”
  - First edition 2022, second edition 01/2024
  - <https://oar.ptb.de/files/download/550.20240119B.pdf>

- Digital Certificate of Conformity (legal metrology, based on ISO/IEC 17065)
  - Prepare structures for the certificates for “type evaluation”, “assessment of quality assurance systems” and “verification” – corresponding to the modules B, D and F of the European NLF
  - Based on our experience with MID, NAWID and ATEX, but vision that it can also be used for other NLF products
  - Schema based as well on XML - first proposals are under discussion in a NoBoMet project group
  - Aims – machine-actionable certificate information for the use in data bases and/or product data folders, support of manufacturers etc.
  - Continuous interchange with NoBoMet and OIML DTG is established

Organisation of kg realisation (PTB)  
Maintaining mass, density standards  
Participation in comparisons  
Development of “Planck balance”,  
density comparison system  
Gravimetry as potential new service  
Active in EURAMET and CCM

Active in DIN and CEN/CLC JTC 18  
REA project groups regarding  
WIM, grain bulk density, ...  
OIML (9 recommendations +)  
WELMEC and EURAMET guides  
ISO regarding terminology

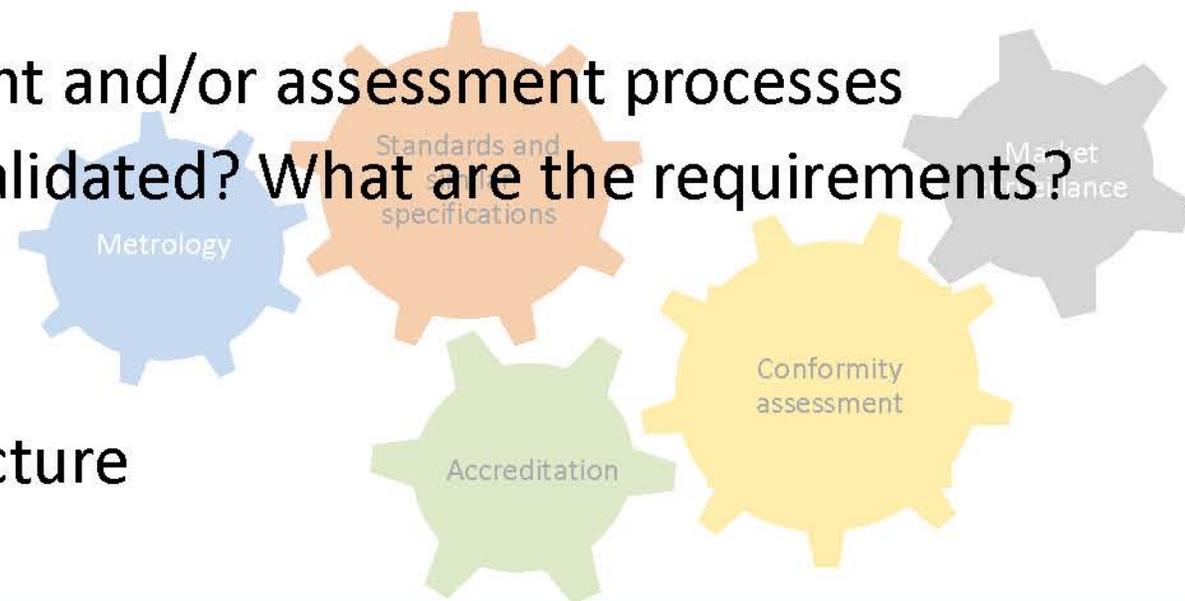
Authorities only, but  
intensive exchange  
and support  
Interchange with  
respective ministry

Peer-assessed - metrological activities  
(EURAMET), CAB (DACH) and OIML CS issuing  
authority  
Strong cooperation with DAkkS accredited labs  
in the field of mass and weighing instruments  
DAkkS auditors

Calibrations and tests in the field of  
mass+weights, solid density,  
hydrometers, weighing instruments and  
modules (also OIML CS), ...  
CAB (and NoBo) for NAWIs (NAWID)  
and AWIs (MID) (+ nationally regulated)  
Issuing Authority OIML CS (5 OIML R+)

- Mass metrology has a long history – Pro and Con at the same time
  - A lot of experience, high quality standards and machines all over the world
  - One and the same international standard for 130 years...
  - Established processes and terminology
- Changes (including digital transformation) need clarity in the analogue world  
→ strong exchange with all stakeholders necessary
- One of the basic identified aspects – Terminology!
  - “Context” – we all have one, but a machine cannot understand
  - Used terms and definitions have to be “unambiguous”
  - Also confusions from other areas – e.g. what is a “certificate”?
- Here, too, an intensive exchange between the parties involved is necessary

- Resolve discrepancies of kg realisations – enable individual dissemination
- Digital Twins
  - a first demonstrator of a digital twin of a weight at PTB in 2017
  - Expected - digital twins of more complex systems to possibly extend re-calibration/re-verification cycles
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - Being part of or support measurement and/or assessment processes
  - How can such systems be checked/validated? What are the requirements?
- ...
- Let's care for TRUST even in future!
  - Think the complete Quality Infrastructure





**METROLOGY SYMPOSIUM**  
DIGITALIZATION AND AUTOMATION IN MASS METROLOGY

Third Edition: Future and New Solutions



Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt  
National Metrology Institute

**Thank you for  
your attention**



<https://www.imeko2024.org>

[www.radwag.com](http://www.radwag.com)