



# Modular Assessment Technology: Overview & Case Study

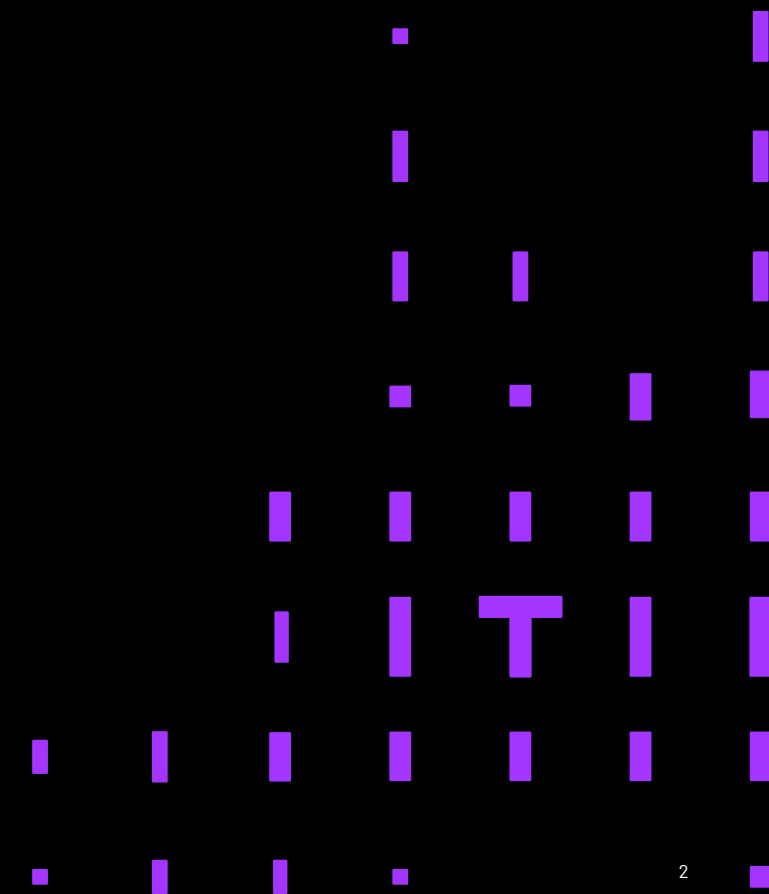
Joseph Abraham & Steven Jarrett

IPAC 2023 3



# PSYCHOLOGY + TECHNOLOGY

We're not just a technology platform,  
and we're not just psychology – we're **both**,  
and with good reason.



# Your presenters

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Vice President,  
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Director,  
Assessment Solutions  
& Manufacturing COE



# Topics for today

- What is Modular Assessment?
  - A peek under the vendor side hood
  - Increasingly seen in private sector



# Topics for today

- Case Study

- Manufacturing setting example
  - But modularity is NOT specific to manufacturing
  - Applies broadly to entry-level, professional and leadership assessment for selection and development
- Example includes online and physical modules
- Validation results
- Candidate feedback

Let's set the table first .

## modularity

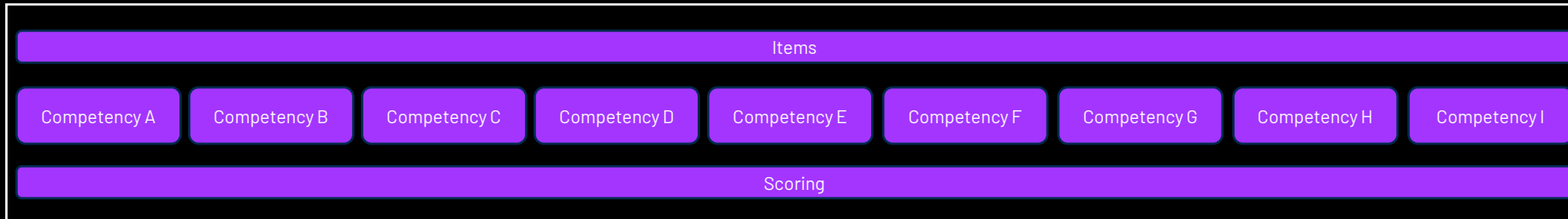
*noun* [ U ]

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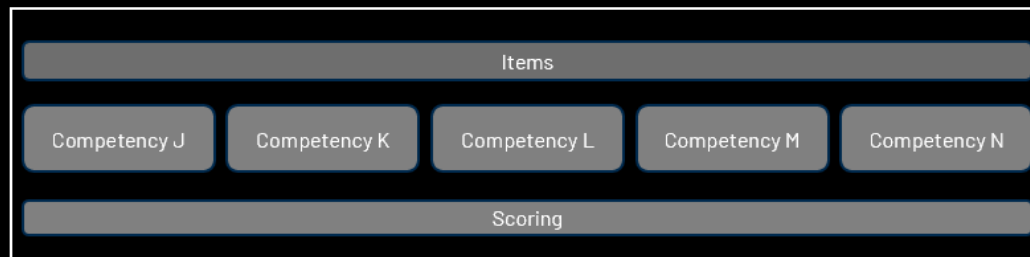
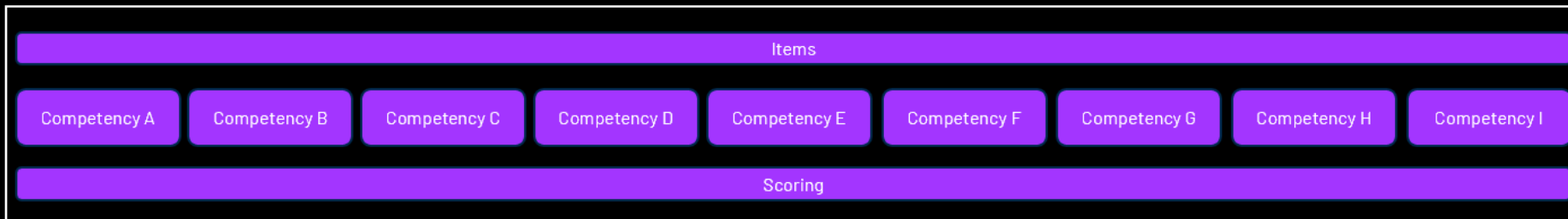
**the quality of consisting of separate parts that, when combined, form a complete whole:**

- *It is a philosophy and technology capability that allows assessment scientists to combine discrete assessments components into a cohesive whole.*
- Evolutionary
- Designed to improve speed and efficiency of configuration; candidate experience.
- Typical use case is online assessment, but concept can be applied to other assessment delivery models.

# Traditional off-the-shelf assessments

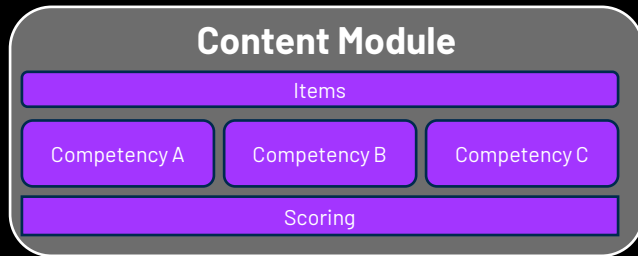


# Battery of assessments



2

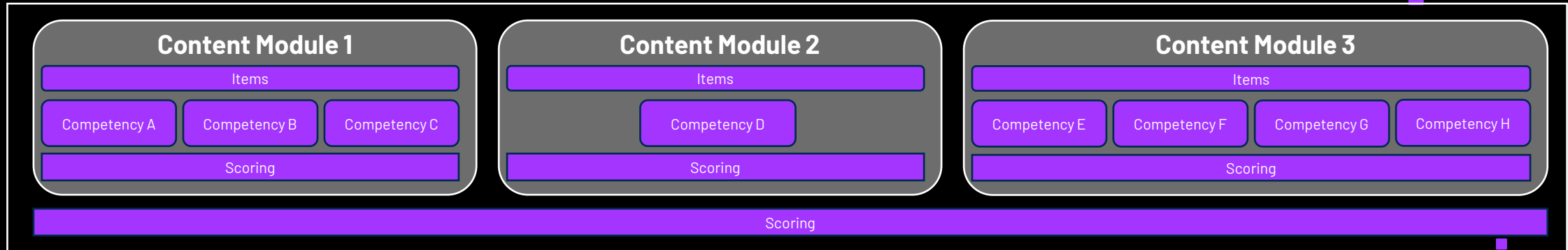
# Modularity: Content modules



- Building blocks for modular assessments
- Smaller item sets that measure (usually) multiple competencies
- Typically using multiple measurement methods (e.g., personality + SJT)
- Backed by data with known psychometric characteristics



# Modular assessments



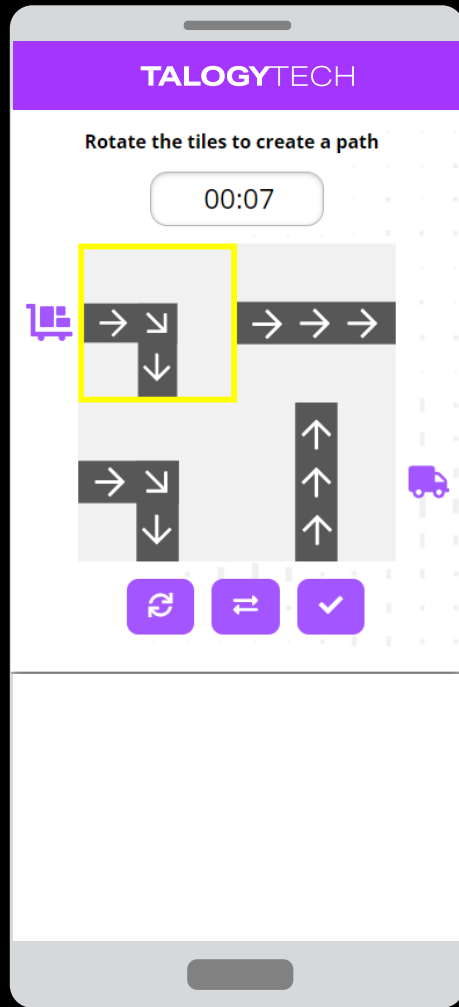
- Mix-and-match approach
- Build unique assessment content modules
- Target specific competencies
- Benefits
  - Content module library allows for greater customization across settings.
  - Better candidate experience – consistent look and feel with control over section flows within the assessment.

# Quickly configure a targeted assessment

Module 1

Module 2

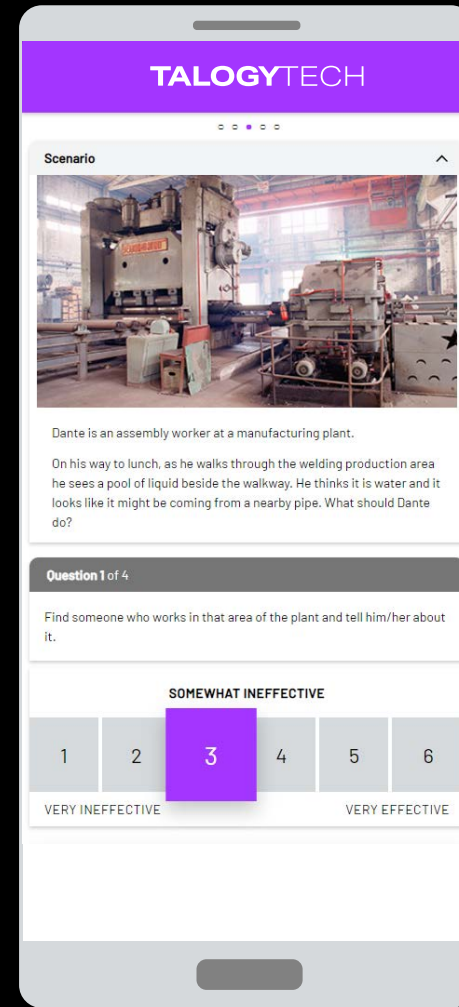
Module 3



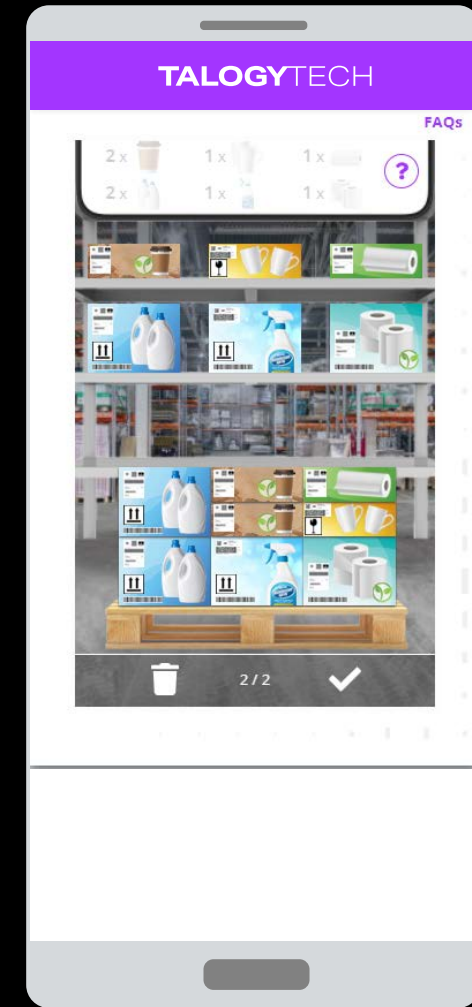
Cognitive Ability



Personality

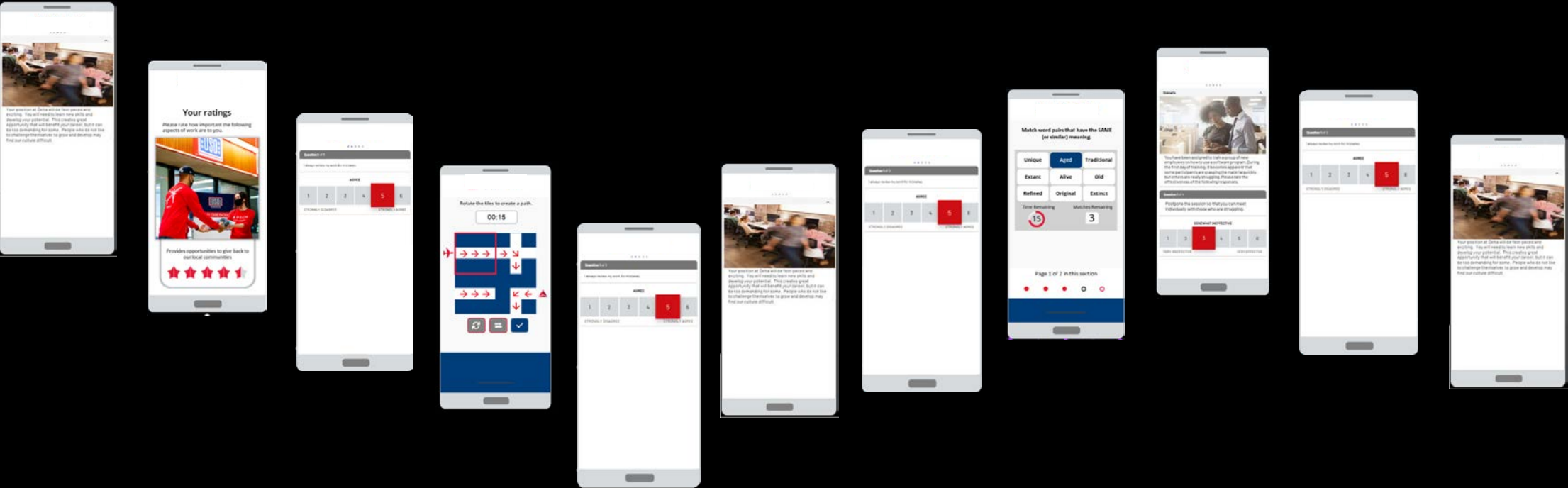


Situational Judgment



Pick & Pack Simulation

# Helps to create a cohesive candidate experience

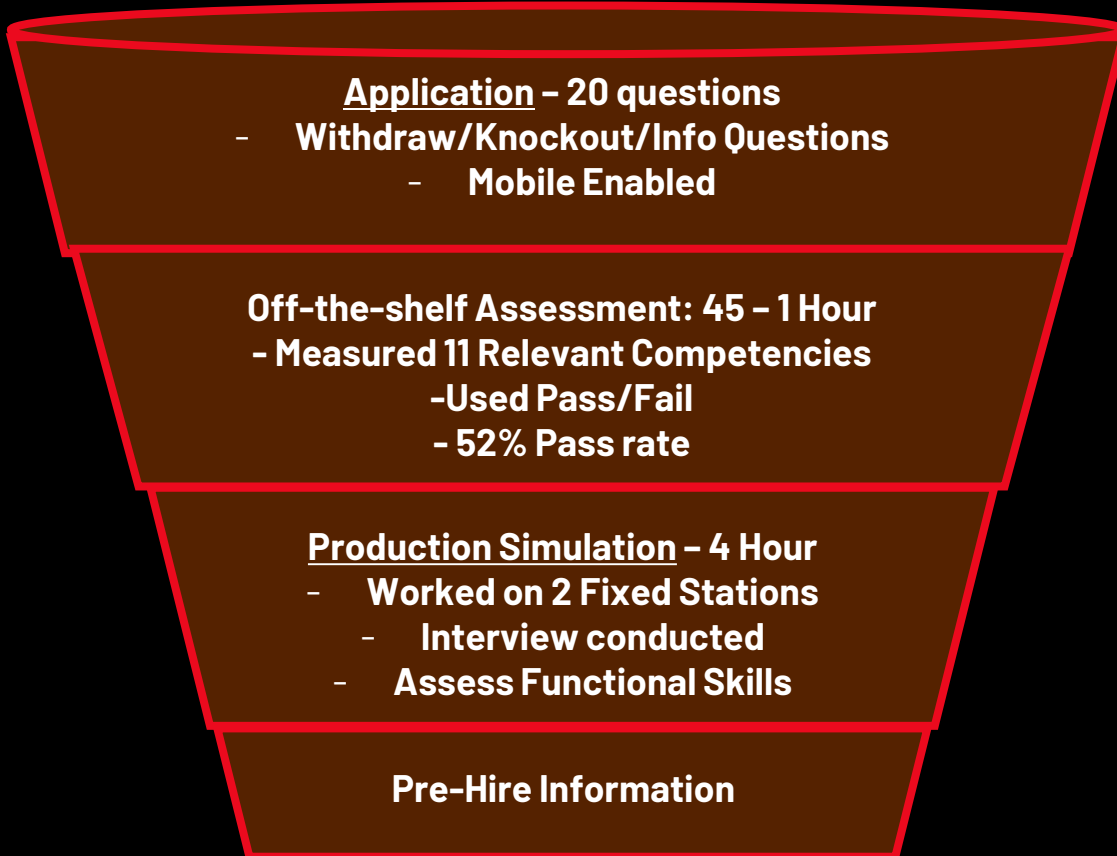


# Modularity Case Study - Manufacturing

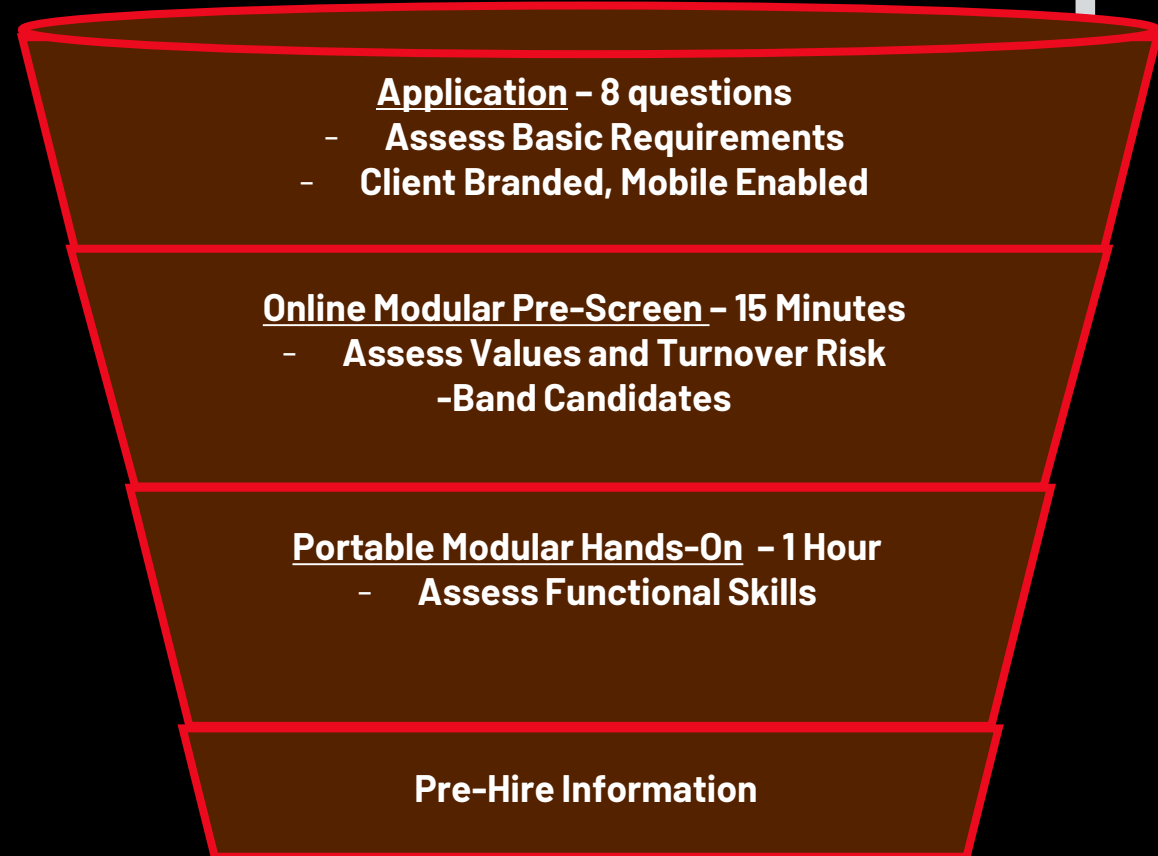
- Major auto manufacturing client
- Looking to redesign two selection process stages
  - Online pre-screen
  - Hands-on aptitude testing
- Address labor market challenges
  - Improve candidate experience & throughput
- Elements of modular solution
  - Online
  - Portable briefcase

# New Selection Process Elements

## Previous Process



## Redesigned Process



# Online modular pre-screen

- Includes three assessment modules covering values, turnover risk, spatial ability
- Yields a short list of critical competencies
  - Teamwork
  - Continuous Improvement
  - Dependability
- Assessment flow designed for engagement
  - Personal beliefs
  - SJT
  - Biodata
  - Spatial ability

# Modular Manufacturing Briefcase

## Virtual Simulations

**Multi-Tasking  
Quality Focus  
Work Pace**

Lift Assist  
**Work Pace**

Clip Insert  
**Fine Motor Skills**

Bolt Mount  
Hand Tightening  
**2-Hand Tighten  
Work Pace**

## **Case Overview**

**Weight:** Less than 40 lbs

**Dimensions:** 21.2 x 16 x 10.6  
(about the size of a carry-on suitcase)

### **Contents:**

- Impact Wrench, Extra Battery, Charger
- iPad and Chargers for Flexibility
- Testing Plates
- Bolts, Clips, Lift Assist Simulator, Stylus

### **Each Site will Receive a Proctor Case (Spares)**

- iPad, bolts, plates, impact gun, stylus, simulator, etc.

**Handle and Wheels for Mobility**



## **Proctor Role**

- Ensure Candidate's complete understanding of the tasks they are being asked to perform
- Ensure the safety of the staff, candidates and equipment
- Monitor the candidate's completion of the assessment as designed to ensure accurate data

# Hands-On Simulations

Candidates complete a series of actions:

- **Drive Bolts/Secure Plates to Fixture (Bolt Mount)**

- Candidates are asked to use a hand tool to insert a group of bolts based on the instructions to assess quality and work pace.  
(<https://psi.wistia.com/medias/9ywryrdbpl>)

- **Insert Clips**

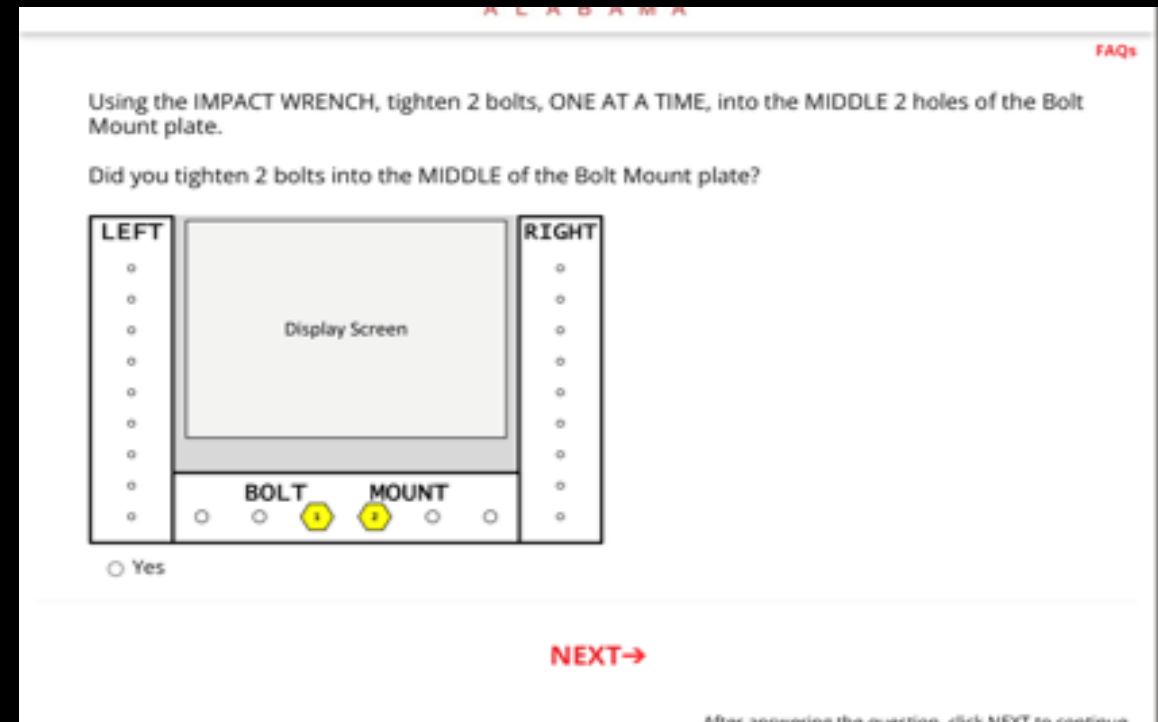
- Candidates are asked to insert a group of clips based on the instructions to assess fine motor skills.  
(<https://psi.wistia.com/medias/2vjpckrmyf>)

- **Manipulate Lift Assist**

- Candidates are asked to manipulate a simulated tool to follow a specific pattern to measure work pace.  
(<https://psi.wistia.com/medias/i5grwwlyew>)

- **Two Hand Tighten**

- Candidates are asked to use two hands at the same time to tighten a group of bolts into place to measure fine motor skills.  
(<https://psi.wistia.com/medias/61ygqji2jc>)





# Competency Measurement

Using the data from the individual exercises, we aggregate the data to provide competency measurement that is related to success

- Work Pace
  - Example: Belt simulation, bolt mount, lift assist each provide scores that feed into this competency
- Multi-Tasking
- Quality/Ability to Follow Standardized Work
- Fine Motor Skills/Manual Dexterity
- Two Hand Usage

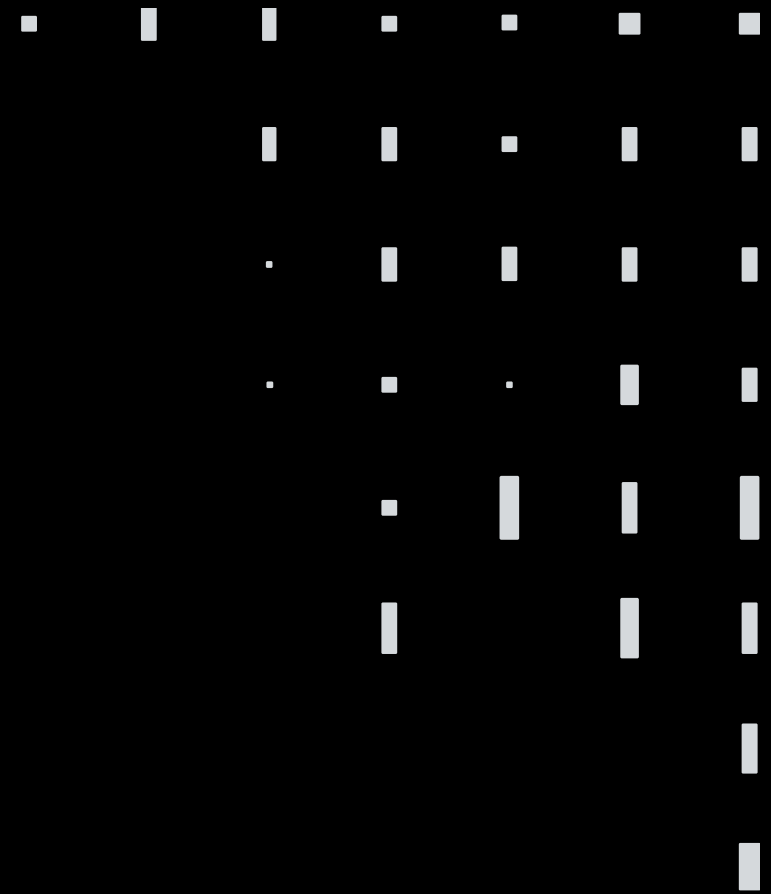
# Criterion-related validation study

- Concurrent design
- Participants completed both the pre-screen and hands-on modular assessments
- Performance criterion was supervisory ratings
- Final sample included 189 participants

# Key findings

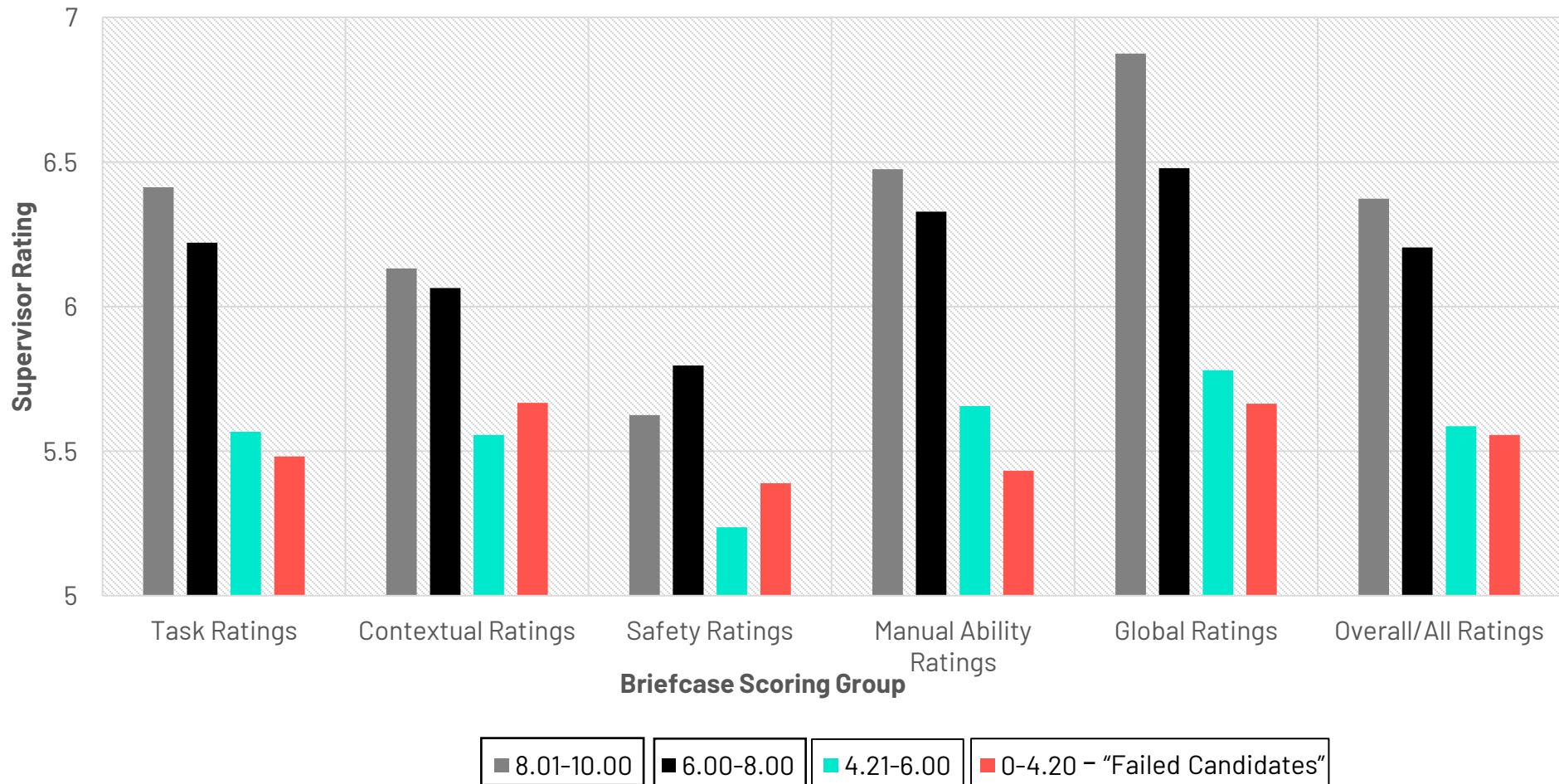
- Pre-screen online
  - Correlations with criterion in .20 to .30 range\*
- Hands-on
  - Correlations with criteria in .30 to .40 range\*
- Minimal group differences

\*Corrected only for range restriction (applicant versus incumbent SD)

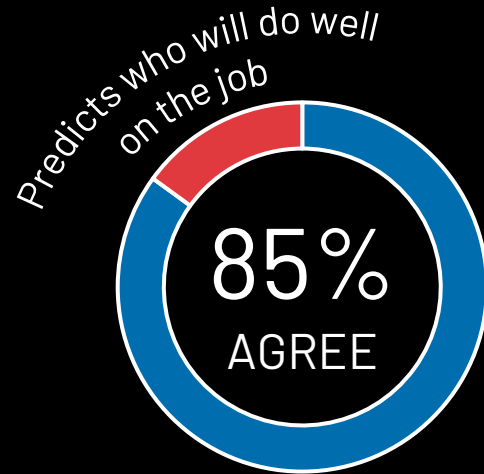
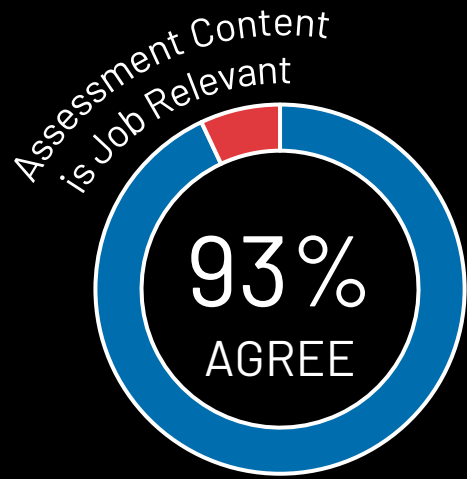


# Simulation and Performance

## Supervisor Rating by Briefcase Scoring Group



# Findings – Applicant Reactions



## APPLICANT REACTIONS

STRONGLY DISAGREE (1) TO STRONGLY AGREE (6)



# Wrap up & Key Takeaways

- Modularity is a philosophy and technology that allows for the combination of discrete assessment components into a cohesive whole
- It is evolutionary; advantages include improved efficiency and candidate experience
- While originally envisioned for online assessments, the approach has been expanded to hands-on testing
- As demonstrated in our case study, it is possible to maintain strong validity results and positive applicant reactions when applying this approach



THANKS FOR  
YOUR TIME

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