A reply to Peter Quarrell:

I have no desire to pick a quarrel with Peter, whose expertise with HOCUS is evident. I'm well aware that HOCUS has been used successfully over many years for a wide range of applications. The same breadth of application applies to other systems, such as WITNESS, however.

If he is convinced that HOCUS is not a generic model then he has nothing to fear from my comments about those who sell such software. All he has to do is to tell his potential customers that HOCUS is a simulation methodology – whatever that is. At the same time he could point out its clear superiority to mere generic models.

Perhaps I could keep your correspondence column occupied by asking Peter to explain and justify why discrete simulation software, not specifically HOCUS, is so expensive.

*MIKE PIDD
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