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*Title:* Large-Bore Powder Gun and Confinement System

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*Intended for:* Workshop meeting with Ktech Corp.  
November 16, 2011



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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Large-Bore Powder Gun and Confinement System**

The Large-Bore Powder Gun system has been under development at LANL for the past few years. The system will serve to conduct shock physics experiments on plutonium. This presentation discusses the current system configuration, the planned deployment at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), a synopsis of the requirements, and immediate project plans.

# Large-Bore Powder Gun and Confinement System

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November 16, 2011

Don Rabern, W-14,  
LBPG System Lead Engineer

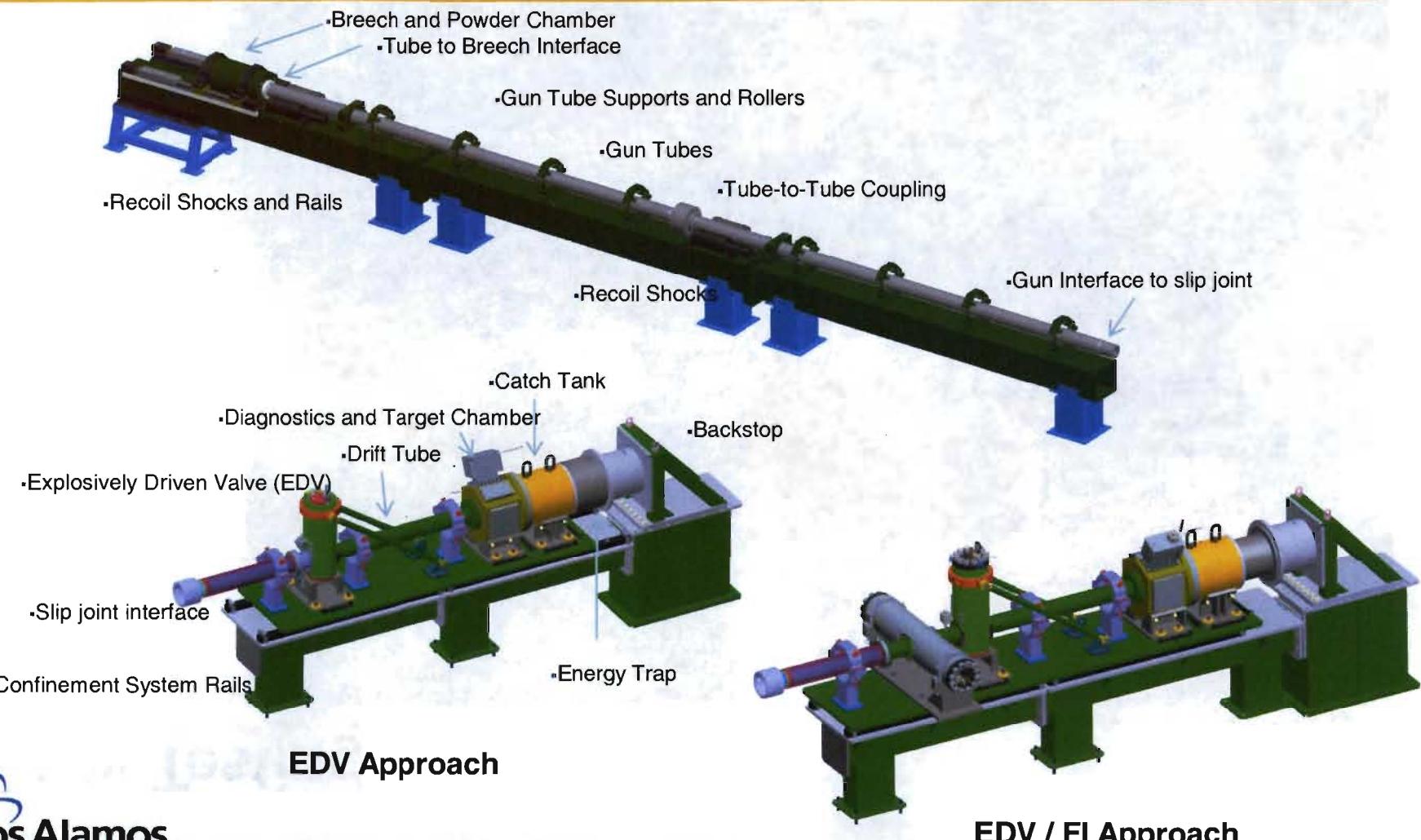
Robert Valdiviez, W-14,  
Test Engineer

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- Explosively Driven Valve Valdiviez
- Flow Interrupt Valdiviez
- Risk Mitigation All

## Description



Unclassified

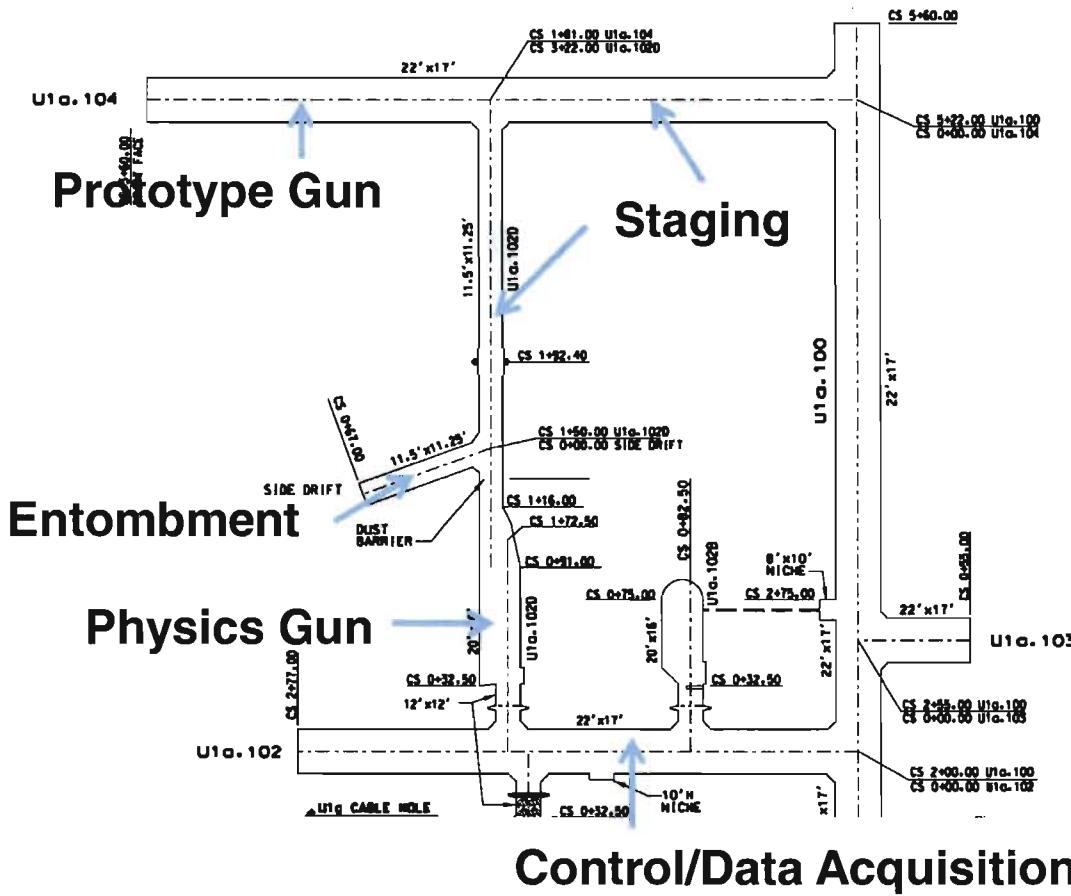
# Early Testing



Unclassified

## Unclassified

# Operational Environment



## Control/Data Acquisition

## A Synopsis of Requirements

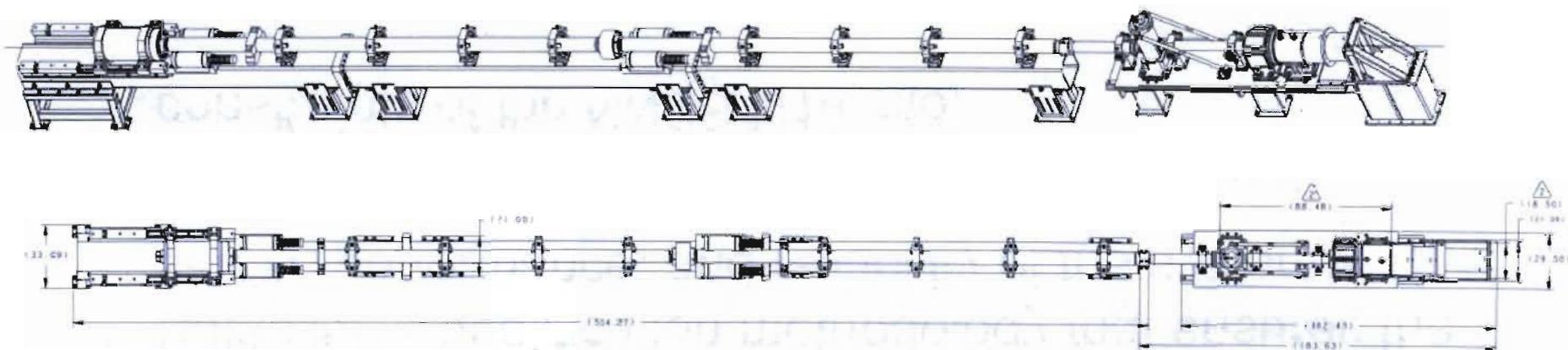
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- Have a diameter of ~90mm to allow for multiple samples or large monolithic samples to enable prescribed pressure profiles and shock duration,
- Launch a range of projectiles (with a maximum mass of 2kg) to velocities up to 2 km/s,
- Stop, contain, and seal the projectile and target materials in a catch tank without structural failure or allowing the catch tank to vent significantly,
- Field reliable high fidelity instrumentation to record material behavior during impact,

## Requirements continued

- Ensure structural integrity of the entire system over 60 shots as well as withstanding seismic events,
- Entomb the contaminated components of the experiment,
- Establish a qualification methodology that ensures the safety, performance, and reliability of the system,
- Be compatible with the physical and operational constraints of the NNSS U1a site.

# Gun System

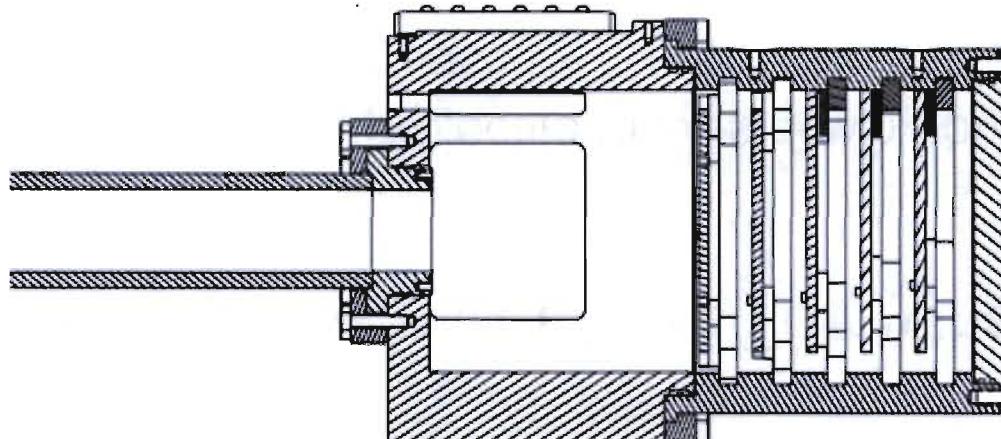


- Total length of both systems with slip tube: 733.15 in. (61.09ft)
- Total length of gun system: 551.9 in. (45.99 ft)
- Confinement system and slip tube: 183.63 in. (15.30 ft)
- Gun tube ID / OD 3.5 / 7.00 in.
- Drift tube ID / OD 3.5 / 4.625 in.
- Projectile travel to catch can cover 599 in. (49.9 ft)
- Available room in U1a 70 ft.

# Confinement

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- Ballistic Plates to stop projectile and target material



- Target Area

## Sequence

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- Evacuate the system to 1.0 e-2 Torr (Check for leaks)
- Fire Shot
  - Propellant ignited, projectile moves down bore
  - EDV or alternate closes
  - Projectile and Target Material stops
  - Site secured
- Propellant and target gases evacuated
- System charged with helium and monitored
- Contaminated system entombed

## Plans for FY12

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- Requirements document
- Preliminary qualification plan
- Powder Curves
- Analysis:
  - Characterize lateral loading and internal pressure at closure
  - EDV analysis and redesign
  - Flow Interrupt decision
  - Fracture simulations in breech
  - Gun structural analyses to establish structural “hot spots”