

Transporting Spent Nuclear Fuel:

How do Stresses on Fuel During Normal Conditions of Transport Compare to Failure Limits?

THREE SERIES OF TESTS USING SURROGATE PWR ASSEMBLY

- 1) *Truck data on a vertical acceleration shaker table*
- 2) *Over-the-road truck test*
- 3) *Truck and rail data on a commercial seismic shaker with six degrees of freedom*

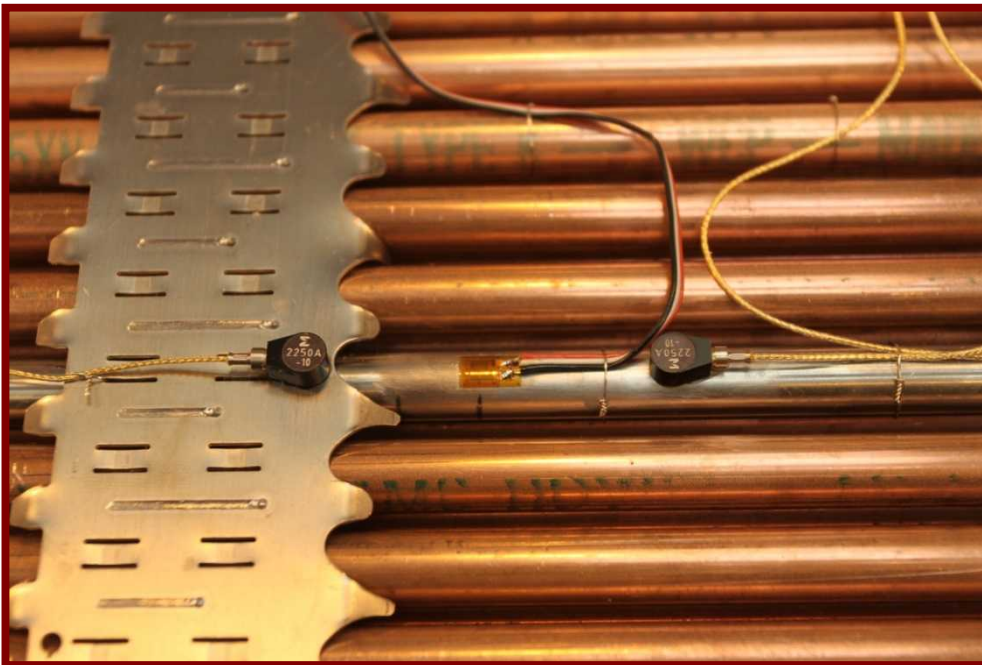


McConnell et al, 2016, SNL and PNNL

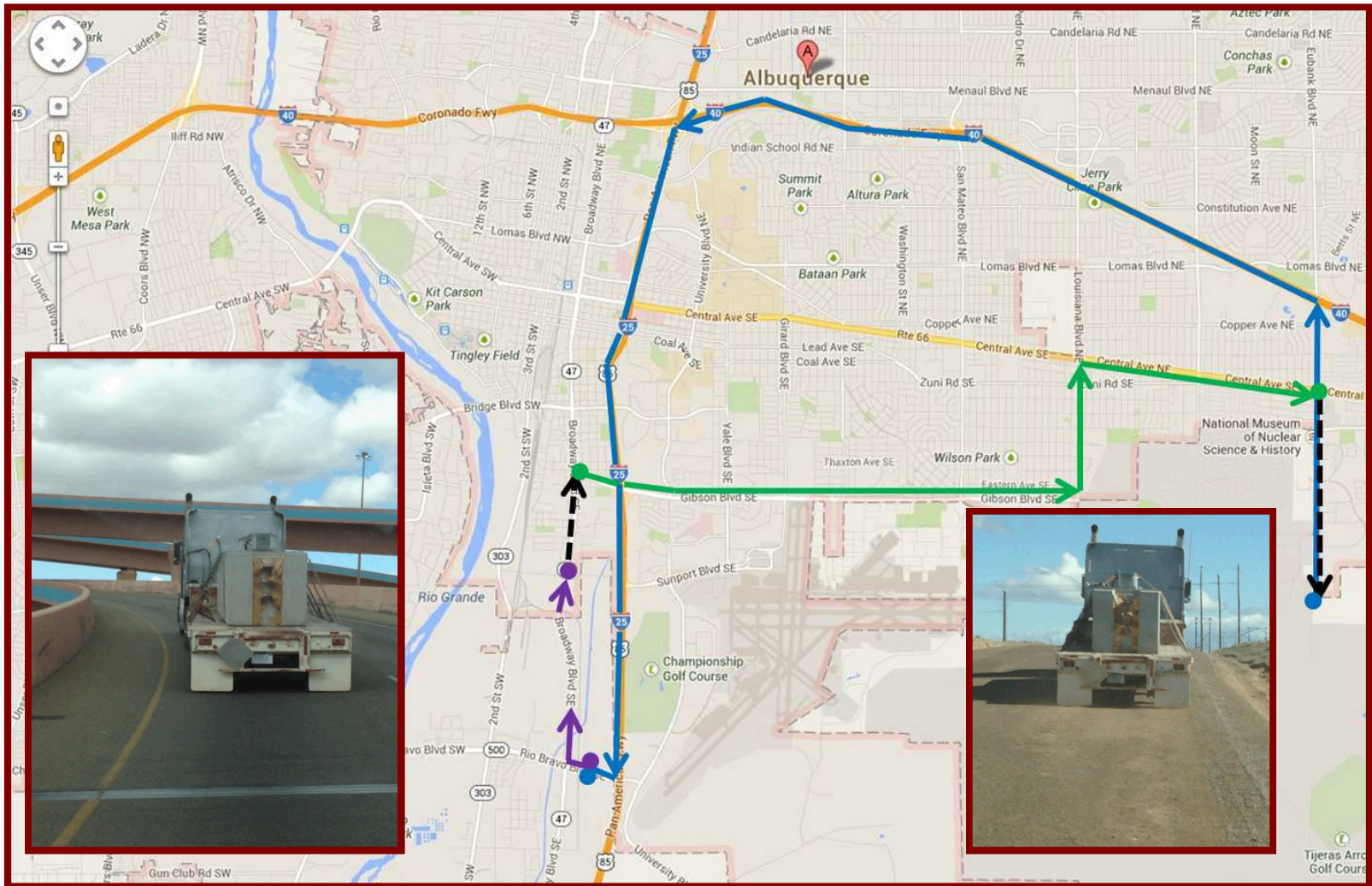


Surrogate Assembly

A surrogate PWR assembly was assembled and instrumented at Sandia to measure strain and accelerations during Normal Conditions of Transport.

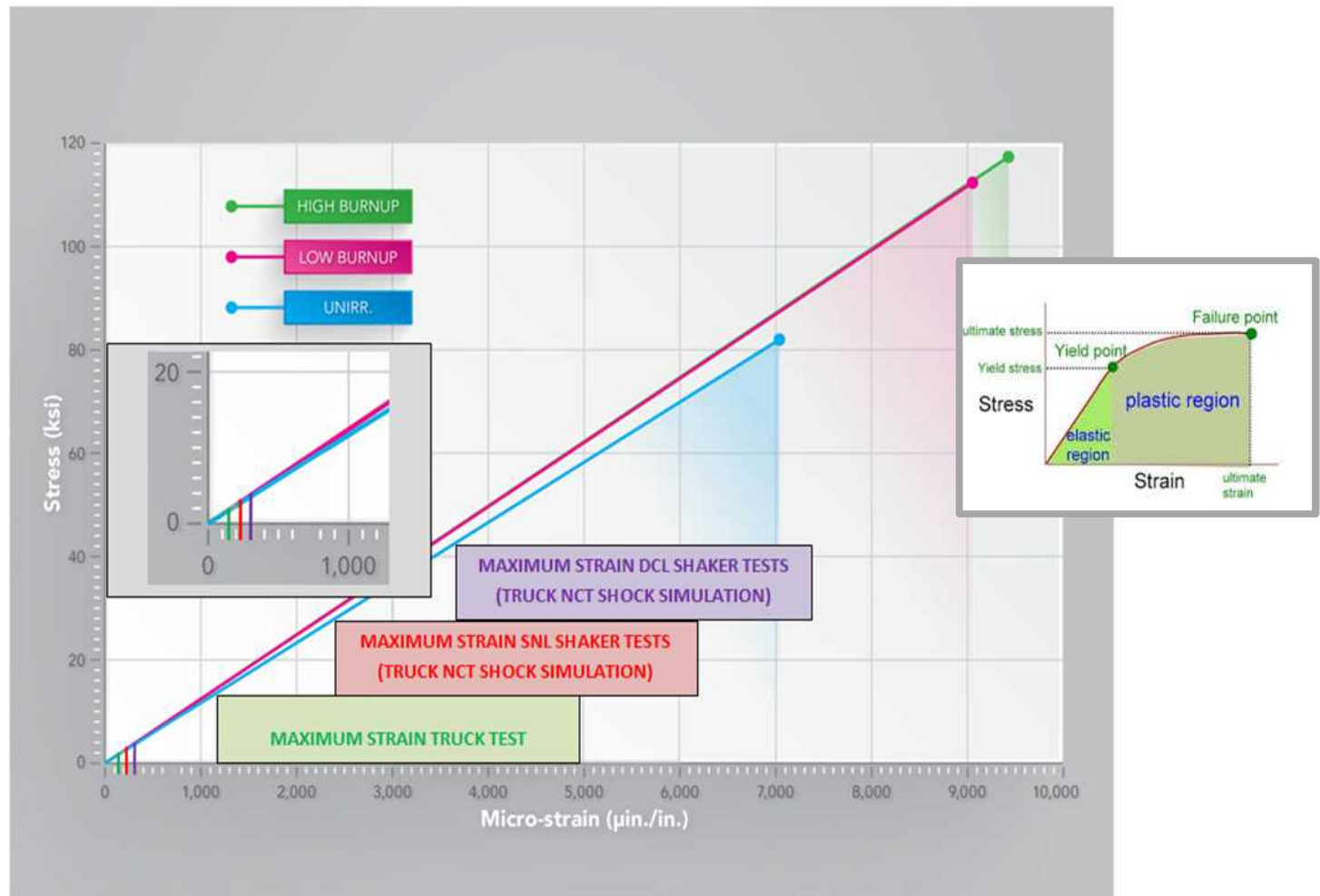


Driven 40 miles Over Range of Road Conditions (ABQ)



Transporting Spent Nuclear Fuel:

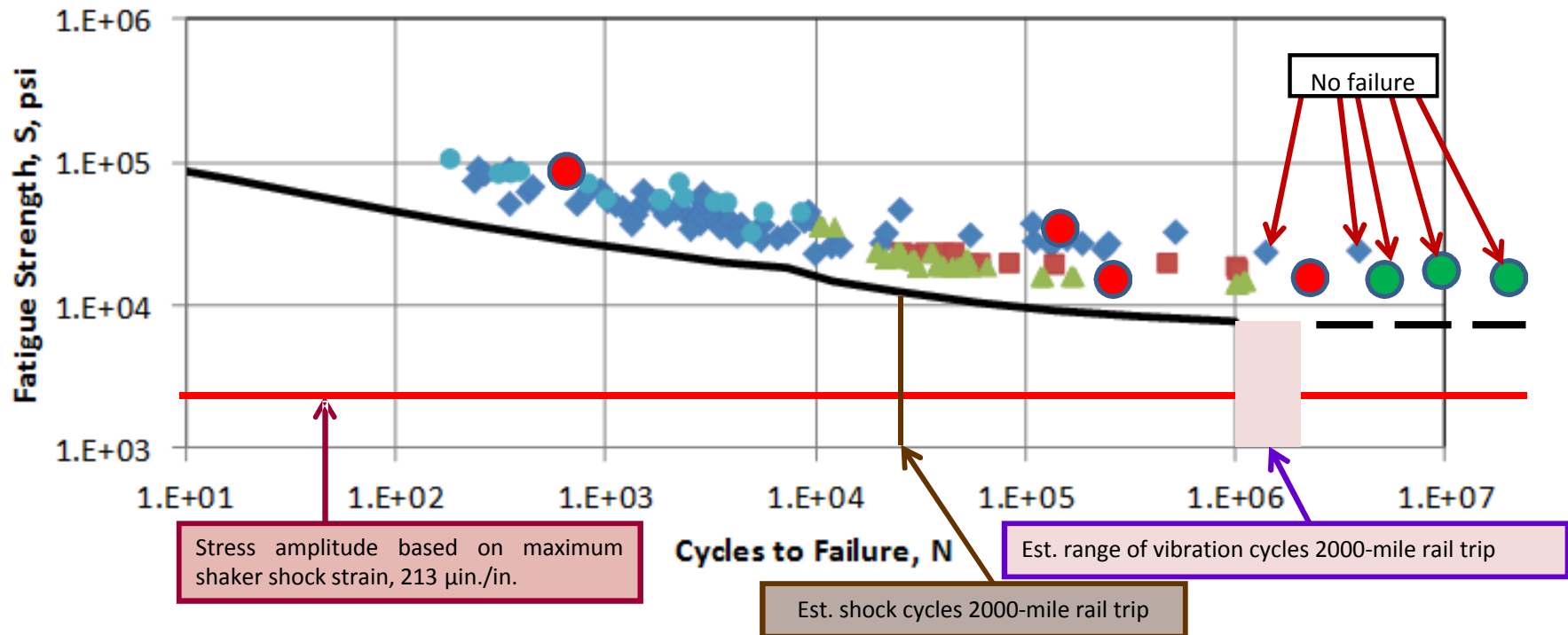
How do Stresses on Fuel During Normal Conditions of Transport Compare to Elastic Failure Limits?



McConnell et al, 2016, SNL and PNNL

Transporting Spent Nuclear Fuel:

Could Vibrations or Shocks Result in Fatigue Failure?



Fatigue design curve (—) O'Donnell and Langer, "Fatigue Design Basis for Zircaloy Components," Nucl. Sci. Eng. 20, 1, 1964. (cited in NUREG-0800, Chapter 4)

Data plot courtesy of Ken Geelhood, PNNL
The large circles are ORNL HBR data

CONCLUSIONS

The realistic stresses fuel experiences due to vibration and shock during normal transportation are far below yield and fatigue limits for cladding. We only have limited rail data, which most likely will be the prevailing transportation mode.

However, these tests...



...are only simulations of
the configuration of
actual
SNF transport mode.



So, We Are Performing a More Realistic Test

- Equipos Nucleares (ENSA) provided an ENUN 32P rail cask, basket, and cradle for international test program
 - ENUN 32P is similar to existing NRC-licensed cask currently in use in USA
- Three individual surrogate PWR assemblies are included in the test: SNL/ENRESA/Korea
- The other 29 basket cells are filled with dummy concrete assemblies to represent the mass of the loaded cask
- Tests significantly different than previous tests
 - Instrumented surrogate assemblies will be
 - within a rail-cask basket
 - within an actual rail cask on
 - a heavy-haul truck
 - two different ships
 - a railcar



ENUN 32P basket. Photo courtesy of ENSA

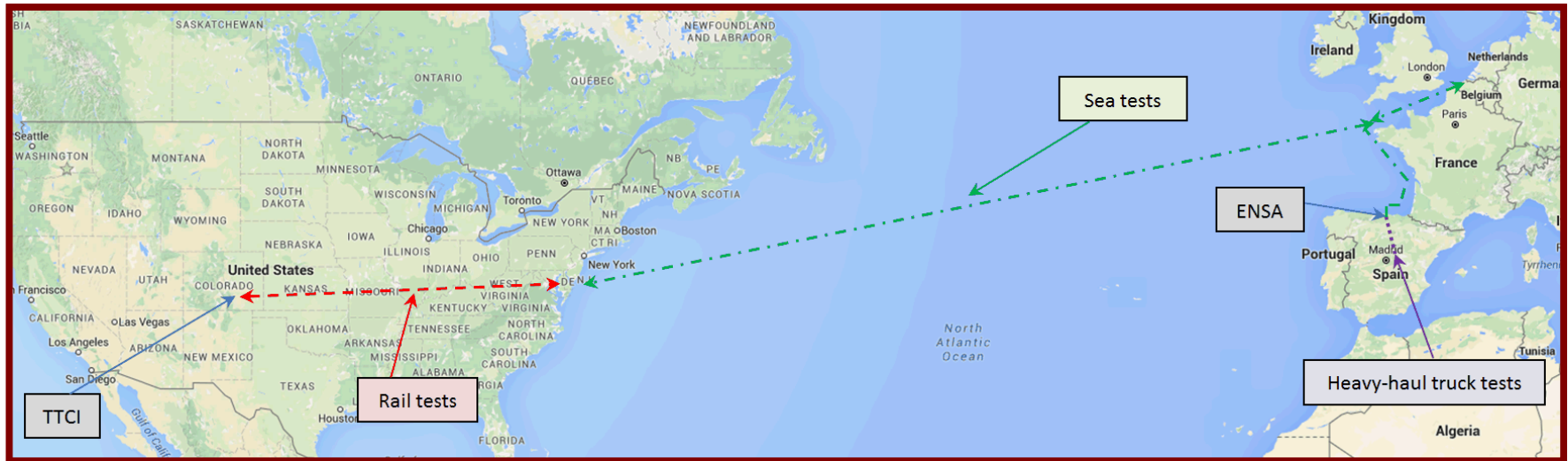


Barge from Spain to Belgium.
Photo: McConnell, SNL



ENUN 32P Cask. Photo courtesy of ENSA

Routing of Cask



- 1) Heavy-haul truck from within Spain ~ June 14, 2017
- 2) Coastal sea shipment from Santander to large northern European port ~ June 27, 2017
- 3) Ocean transport from Europe to eastern U.S. port (e.g., Baltimore)
- 4) Commercial rail shipment from East Coast to Pueblo, Colorado ~ July 12, 2017
- 5) Testing at the Transportation Technology Center, Inc.
- 6) Return trip to ENSA will be the same

Data will be collected throughout all legs of the transport as well as the transfers between legs.

The ENUN 32P holds 32 assemblies. We loaded it with three surrogate assemblies and 29 concrete masses. Here, Carissa is adding the accelerometers to the baskets.





*All instrumentation leads connect into this box.
It is very precise work.*



The cask, cradle, and assemblies are very large, but the accelerometers, strain gauges, and leads are very small and require a careful and steady hand. Out of 78 connections, we only lost one.

The instrumentation box (the Hoffman Box) is the nexus for all the instrumentation leads and is mounted to the side of the cask.



On June 12, 2017, we completed cask handling tests performed by three different crane operators who are experienced in dry cask movement. Each crane operator performed 3 tests. For two years before this date, this team had been involved in very detailed planning so that everything would work perfectly. Each day has brought a new challenge, but all the planning has paid off.



Each handling test included a lift up, movement left or right, and then back to the ground. This was performed nine times by three different crane operators.



Some tests were intentionally more aggressive or faster and some allowed for the cask to sway more than others.



The cask was then placed on the cradle. You can see one of the two cask accelerometers.



Our three crane operators. They each performed three cask handing tests, so we got nine tests in all. Each cask operator has a different touch.





*The trunnion was centered carefully in the cradle.
Data was collected during this entire placement.*

*Placing the cask
carefully in the
center of the
cradle*



The cask was then slowly tipped so it would rest horizontally in the cradle. We moved the top of the cask back and forth to initiate some more assembly movement.



Cask positioned at about 45 degrees.



*Our longer set of
data acquisition
cables can be seen
hanging from the
end of the cask.*



Horizontal and yoke removed



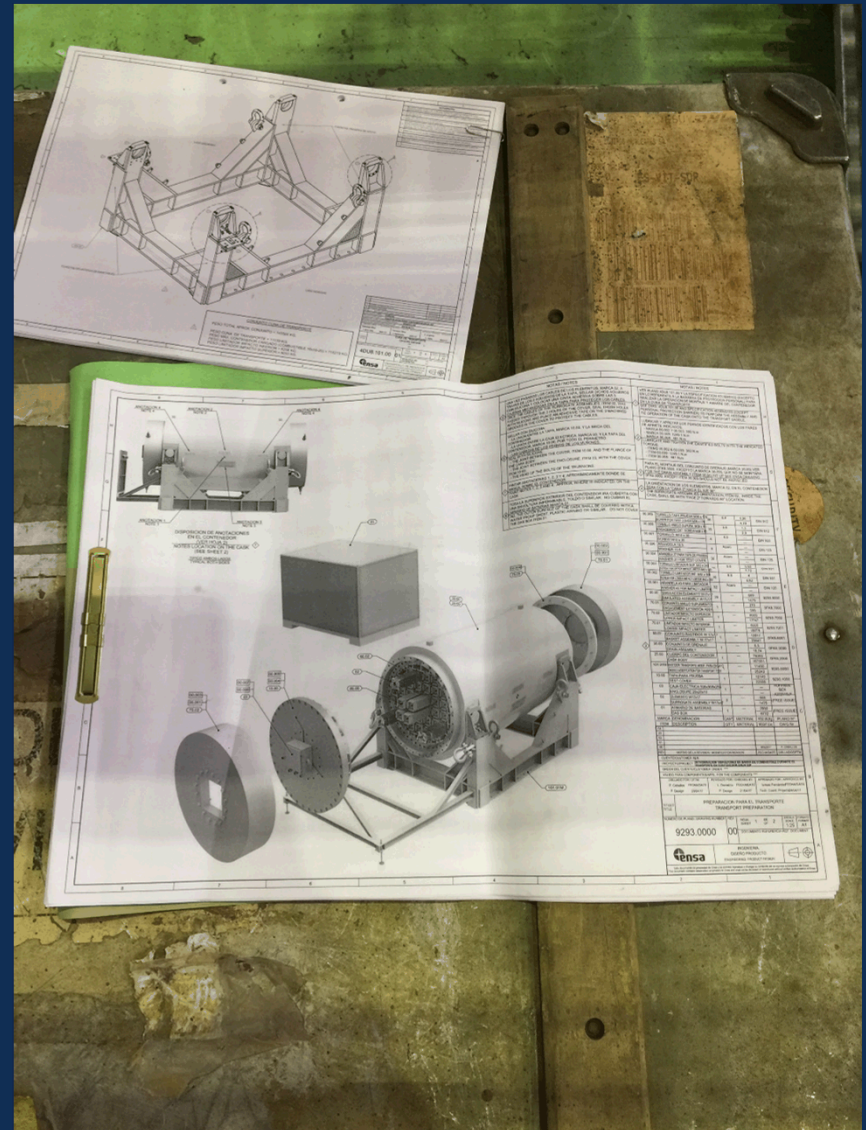
Horizontal



The yoke



*All work was
performed per
detailed drawings.*



*The two impact limiters go on next.
A hole was
manufactured into
one to allow the
data acquisition
cables to pass
through the lid.*



The long cables are wrapped around the Hoffman Box and then lead to the Data Acquisition Instruments located in the Battery Box.



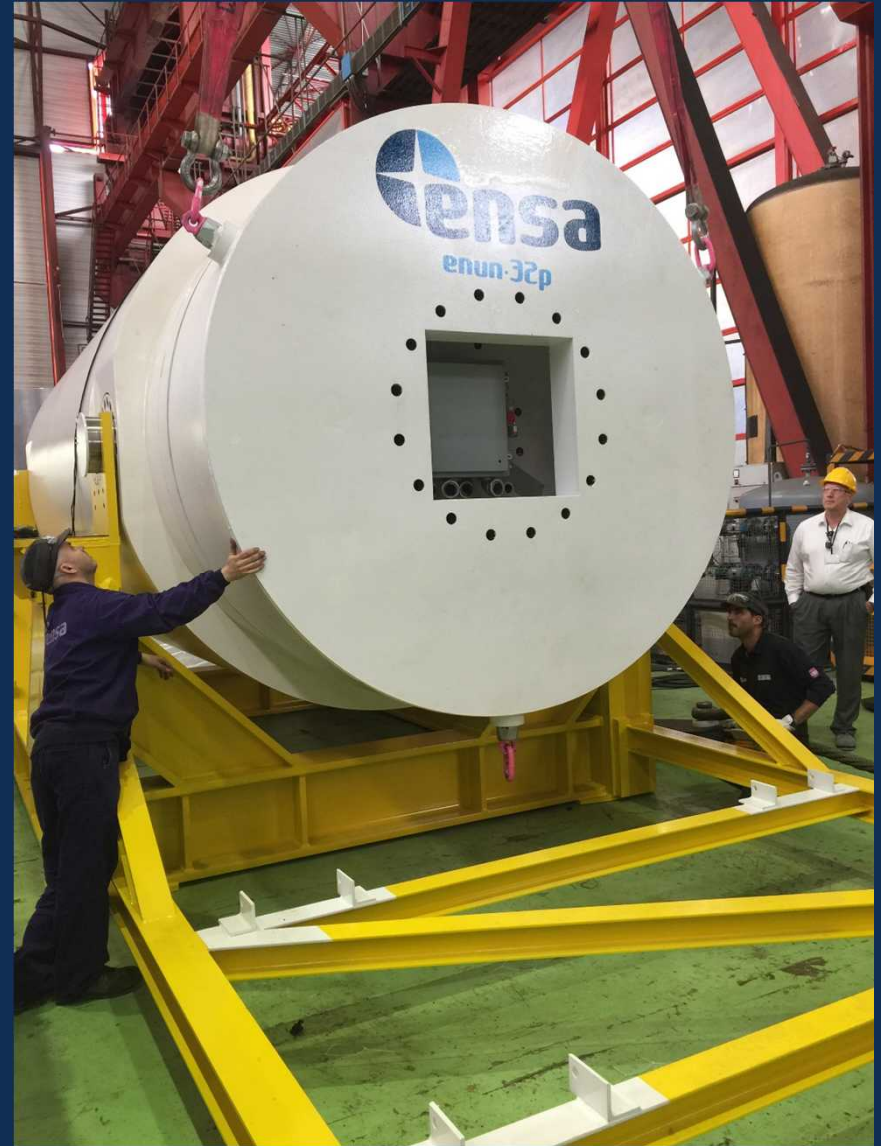
Carissa Grey, Mike Arviso, and Doug Ammerman ensuring data quality before we cut off the long cables.



You can see the length of the cable needed for the handling test. The cables were then cut and shorter ones installed for the transportation tests.



Placing the impact limiter on the cask was difficult because all the bolt holes had to align perfectly. ENSA told us, "This could take 5 minutes or 5 days." It took a few hours.



*Positioning and
gently moving.*



Getting the right alignment involved very small and precise crane movements.



*Installing the
bolts that hold
the impact
limiter to the
cask.*



*More tiny
crane
movements
to allow the
bolts to go in.*



*Installing
the bolts.*



Success!



*Tightening
the bolts.*



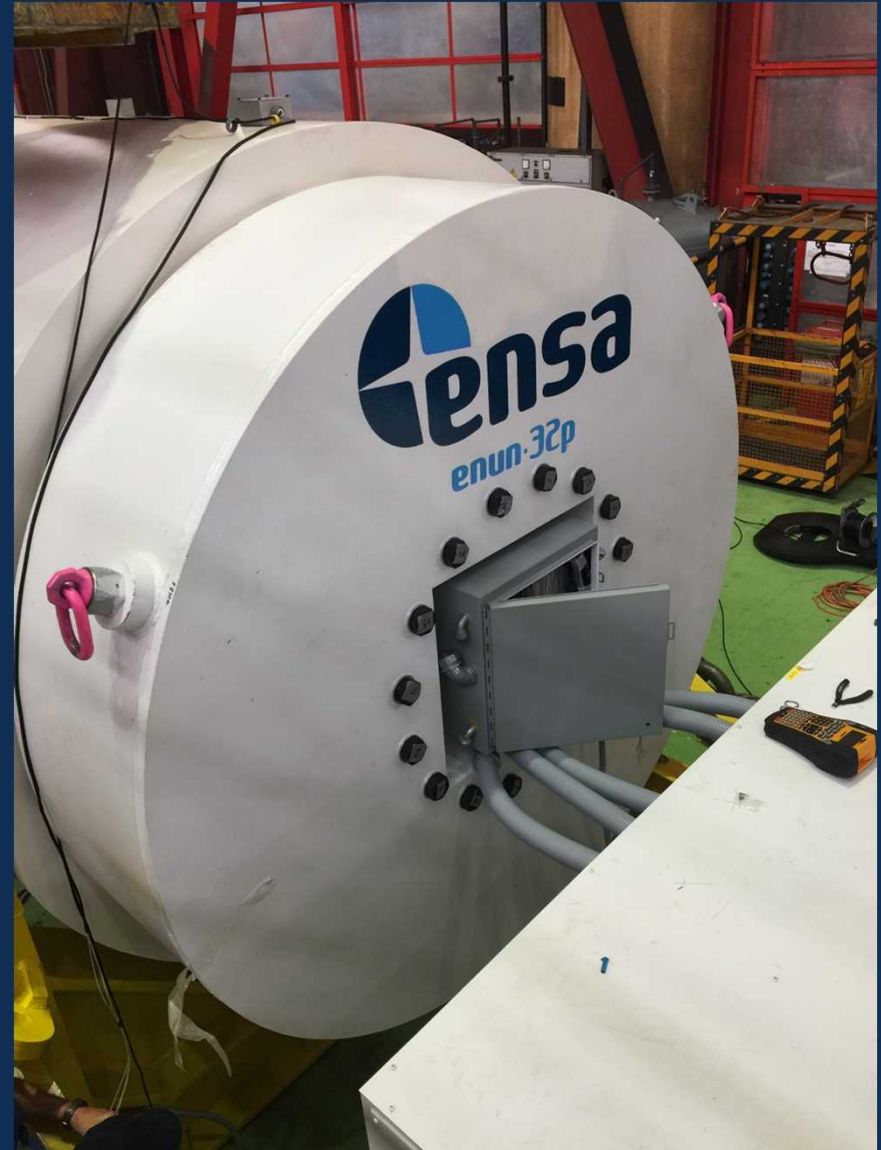
Placement of the battery and data acquisition box onto the cradle extension and the cask gets logos.





Earlier at SNL, 20 batteries, 2 data acquisition boxes, and lots of cabling were placed in the box.

The short cables are now attached to the data acquisition box. Cables are run through waterproof conduit called "Liquid-tight."



*Cables pulled
through the
liquid-tight
housing.*



*The back
impact
limiter is
installed and
bolted.*



*Cask
accelerometer
cables are
placed in liquid-
tight and
attached to the
top of the cask.*



*Cask
accelerometers
cables are
connected to
the Hoffman
Box.*





Cradle accelerometers are attached inside the corners of the cradle.

*Cabling is
protected with
Liquid-Tight*



*Cask
accelerometer
cabling is
attached to the
cask with nylon
belt.*



*Carissa worked
in very tight
quarters for the
entire project.*



*Hours of
detailed
work was
accomplishe
d by all.*



*Installing cask
accelerometers
to the Hoffman
Box.*



1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.



*Everything
coming together.*







155 tons being loaded onto the truck.

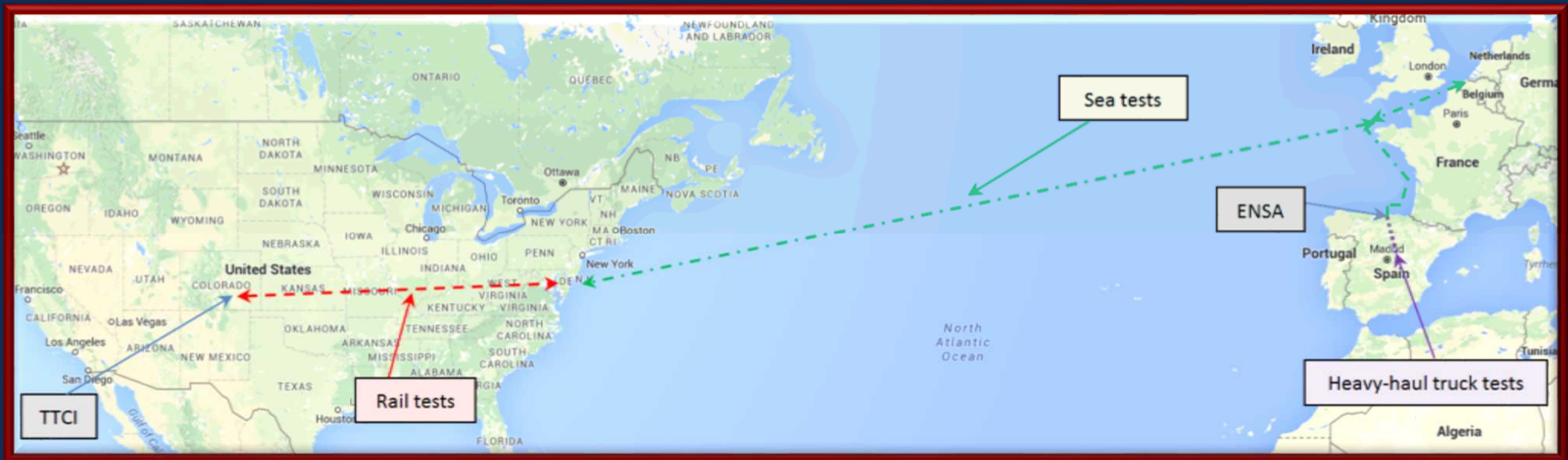
The cask system was meticulously placed on the truck bed. The Heavy Haul Handling Test was successful. It collected 4.3GB of data on one hour.





Loading on the 16-axle, 110 foot-long truck. The truck will have 3 sets of tri-axial accelerometers on the bed.

Routing of Cask



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The cradle is chained to the truck bed at 12 places.



Ready for the 2-day heavy-haul leg of the test.



There is a 900 meter grade in which a smaller truck (seen in the back) will push up the larger truck.



The truck needed to push our truck.

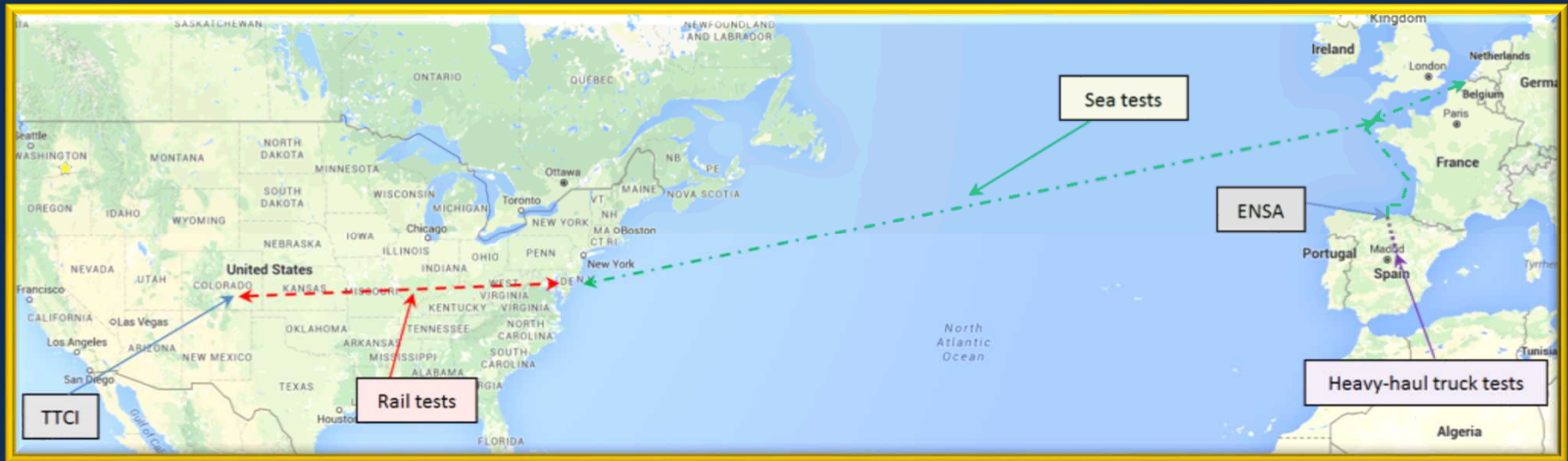


*Oops! Can you make a U-Turn at the light ahead?
(just kidding)*

*Addressing a
minor hydraulic
leak along the
way.*



Routing of Cask

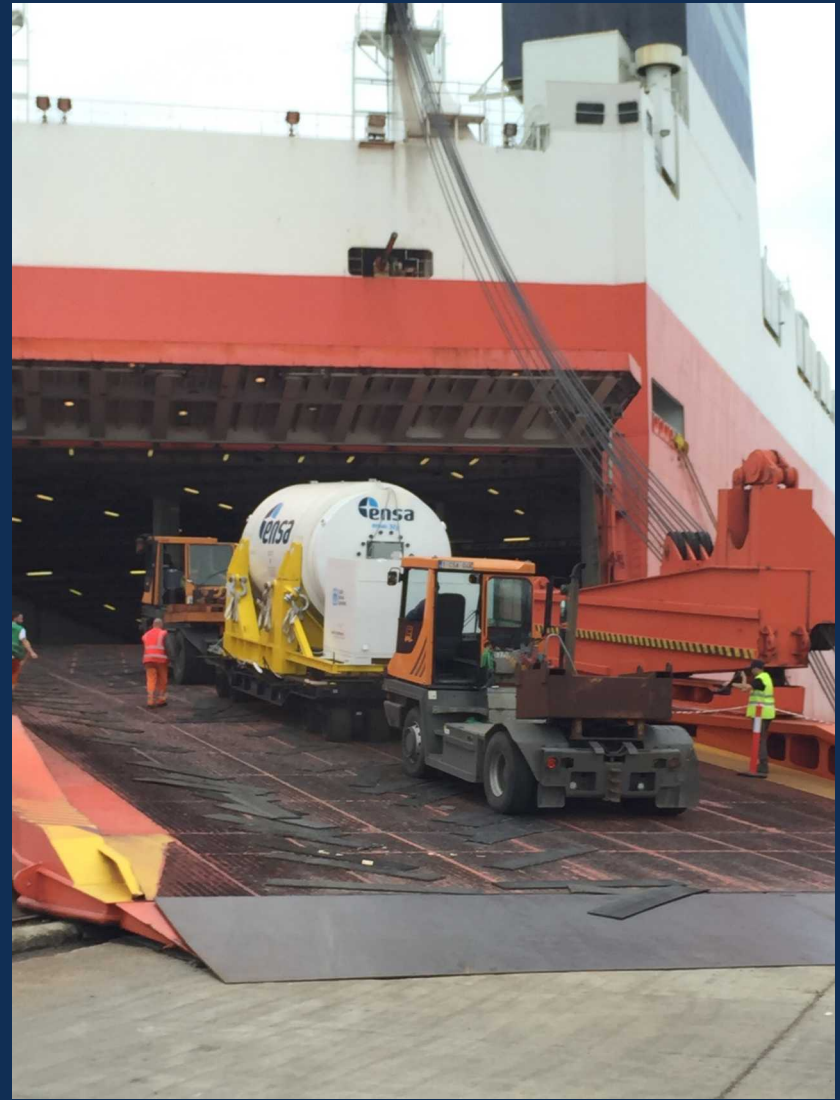


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The system is being loaded onto the ship in Belgium to go to the US.

It was the first cargo loaded onto the ship, so it was positioned in the bottom of the ship.





Inside the ship

Thank you.



(Left to Right) Paul McConnell (SNL), Ismael Fernandez Perez (ENSA), Rafael Gonzalez Garmendia (ENSA)



(Left to Right) Marco, Roberto, Paul McConnell, Sylvia Saltzstein, Ismael Fernandez Perez, Doug Ammerman, Mike Arviso, Carissa Grey. We are missing Steve Ross, Guillermo Calleja and Rafael Gonzalez.

*Mike Arviso, SNL
Instrumentation
Expert, and Rafael
Gonzalez Garmendia,
ENSA Project Lead.*



We all signed the battery box.

(Top Left to Right) Ismael Perez (ENSA), Mike Arviso (SNL), Carissa Grey (SNL), Rafael Gonzalez (ENSA).

(Bottom Left to Right) Doug Ammerman (SNL), Roberto (ENSA), Marco (ENSA), Paul McConnell (SNL). Not pictured Steve Ross and Sylvia Saltzstein.





We owe enormous thanks to Ned Larson who saw the value in this project, funded it, and kept looking for money for us at every turn.

We owe equal thanks to ENSA, who initiated the brainstorming, provided the hardware and the operational excellence to get this done.

Thank you!



*Beautiful
Spanish Tapas*

