

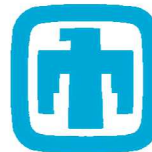


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

SAND2019-2152PE  
**Nuclear Energy**

## **sCO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle Economics Modeling and Optimization**

Authors: Blake Lance, Sandia National Laboratories  
Tom Drennen, Galisteo Consulting



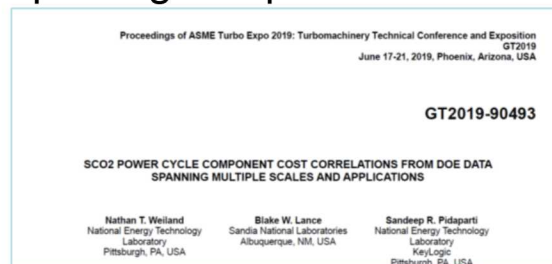
**Sandia National Laboratories**

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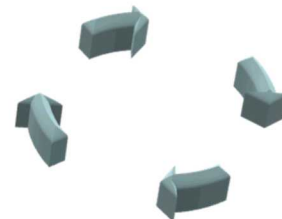


### Scope

- 1) Continue development of economics model by updating component models with collaboration across DOE national labs



- 2) Perform LCOE optimization of the sCO<sub>2</sub> Brayton cycle to inform design parameters while considering cross-cutting heat sources



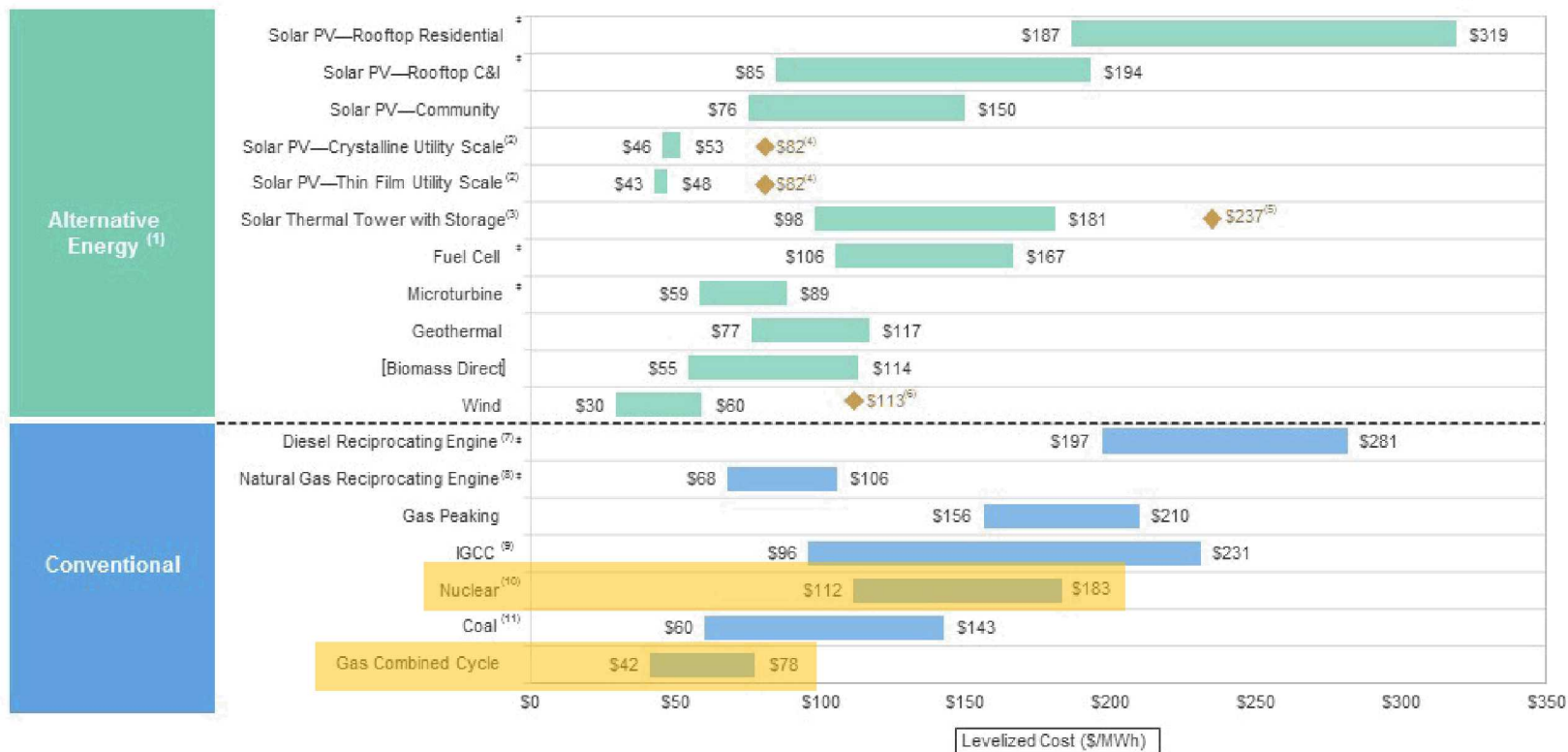
- 3) Perform market analysis for sCO<sub>2</sub> Brayton cycles with outside contractor





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### Unsubsidized Levelized Cost of Energy Comparison



‡ Denotes distributed generation technology.

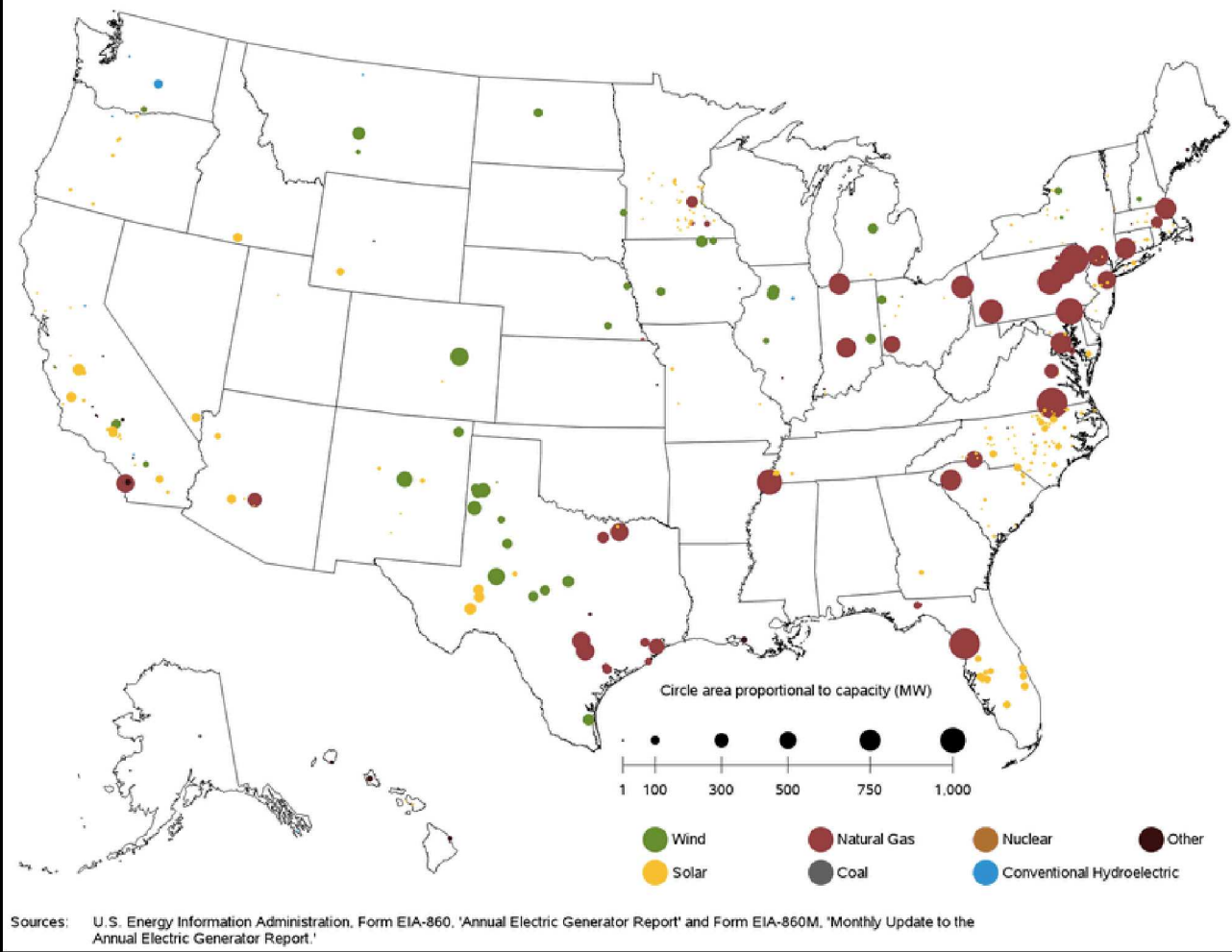
Source: Lazard, 2018.



# Planned Capacity Additions, 2018-2019

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Figure 6.1.C. Utility-Scale Generating Units Planned to Come Online from February 2018 to January 2019

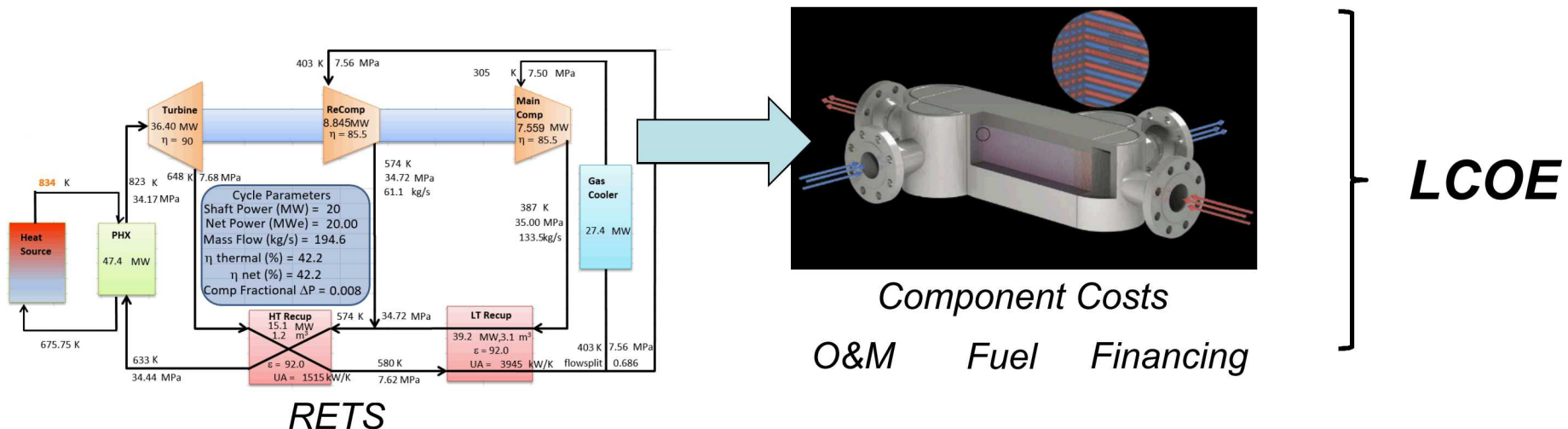


EIA, *Electric Power Monthly*,  
February 2018



# Integrated Techno-Economic Modeling Tool for sCO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycles

- Estimates the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for recompression closed Brayton cycle (RCBC) systems. **LCOE is often used as an economic measure of energy costs as it allows for comparison of technologies with different capital and operating costs, construction times, and plant load factors.**







# sCO<sub>2</sub> Component Costing

## Component costing for

- Heat Source
- Heat Exchangers
  - Primary Heat Exchanger
  - High Temperature Recuperator (HTR)
  - Low Temperature Recuperator (LTR)
  - Cooling
- Turbomachinery
  - Turbine
  - Compressors
  - Control Valves
  - Generator
- Piping

## Source information includes

- Publications
- Reports
- Vendor cost estimates/quotes

Proceedings of the ASME 2017 Power and Energy Conference  
PowerEnergy2017  
June 26-30, 2017, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

**PowerEnergy2017-3590**

**TECHNO-ECONOMIC COMPARISON OF SOLAR-DRIVEN sCO<sub>2</sub> BRAYTON CYCLES USING COMPONENT COST MODELS BASELINED WITH VENDOR DATA AND ESTIMATES**

**Matthew D. Carlson**  
Sandia National Labs  
Albuquerque, NM, USA

**Bobby M. Middleton**  
Sandia National Labs  
Albuquerque, NM, USA

**Clifford K. Ho**  
Sandia National Labs  
Albuquerque, NM, USA

**ABSTRACT**  
Supercritical carbon dioxide (sCO<sub>2</sub>) Brayton cycles have the potential to significantly improve the thermal to electric conversion efficiency of concentrating solar power (CSP) plants using high-temperature steam Rankine cycles depending on the cycle configuration. They most likely path toward achieving the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) SunShot targets for CSP lower than 5¢/kWh conversion efficiency above 50% with dry cool and a power block cost of less than 900 \$/kW have been conducted to optimize the performance of sCO<sub>2</sub> Brayton cycle configurations in order to efficiency, and a few have accounted for drive equipment size in the optimization, but economic optimization has not been feasible. Reasonably accurate component cost data for several sources for conventional equipment such as compressors, and heat exchangers for use in activities needed to guide further research and development.

**HEAT EXCHANGER SPECIFICATION SHEET**

Page 1  
US Units

1 Customer	Sandia National Labs	Job No.	
2 Address	Albuquerque, NM	Reference No.	
3 Plant Location	High Temperature Recuperator	Proposal No.	QE-492340-14
4 Service of Unit	60 x 720 inch	Date	06/18/2014
5 Size	60 x 720 inch	Item No.	TBD
6 Surf/Unit (Gross/Eff)	38229 / 35448 #2	Connected In	1 Parallel 1 Series
7 Shell/Unit	1	Surf/Shell (Gross/Eff)	38229 / 35448 #2
<b>PERFORMANCE OF ONE UNIT</b>			
8 Fluid Allocation	Shell Side		
9 Fluid Name	Tube Side		
10 Fluid Quantity, Total	1000020		
11 Vapor (in/out)	1000020	1000020	1000020
12 Liquid			1000020
13 Steam			
14 Water			
15 Noncondensables			
16 Temperature (in/out)	824.00	368.00	332.00 734.70
17 Specific Gravity			
18 Viscosity	0.0326	0.0234	0.0289 0.0328
19 Molecular Weight, Vapor			
20 Molecular Weight, Noncondensables			
21 Specific Heat	0.2793	0.2715	0.3825 0.2920
22 Thermal Conductivity	0.0300	0.0192	0.0246 0.0302
23 Latent Heat			
24 Inlet Pressure		1121.0	2872.0
25 Velocity		4.72	5.72
26 Pressure Drop, AllowCalc	11.200	7.373	28.700 5.407
27 Pressure Drop, Actual			



## Nuclear Energy

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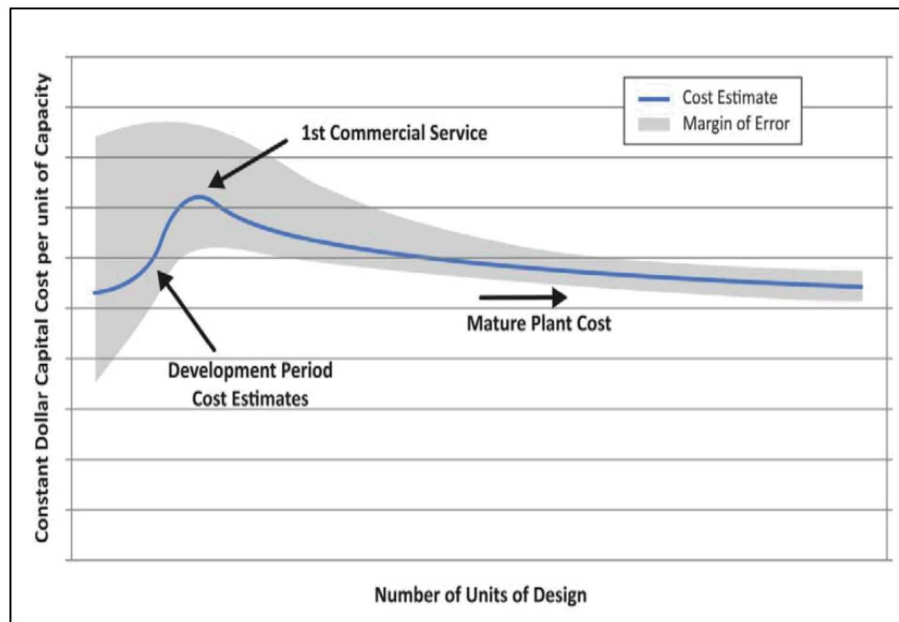
- Tool incorporates methodology outlined by the EIA (2013) for estimating total cost estimates for utility scale electricity generating plants.
  
- This methodology includes the following categories:
  - Component costs
  - Electrical and instrumentation and control (transformers, switch gear, etc.)
  - Civil and structural costs (site preparation, underground utilities, structural steel supply, and on-site building construction)
  - Project indirect costs (engineering, labor, construction management)
  - Fees and contingency
  - Owners costs (development costs, feasibility and engineering studies, legal fees, insurance, electrical interconnection)



# Capturing Costs as Technology Develops

## *First-of-a-Kind vs. Nth-of-a-Kind Methodology*

- Uses approach documented by NETL (2013)
- History has shown that new technology costs initial rise as details are refined until the 1st commercial unit.
- Costs decrease as lessons are learned and processes refined.
- We are using conservative scaling for Nth-of-a-Kind scaling.

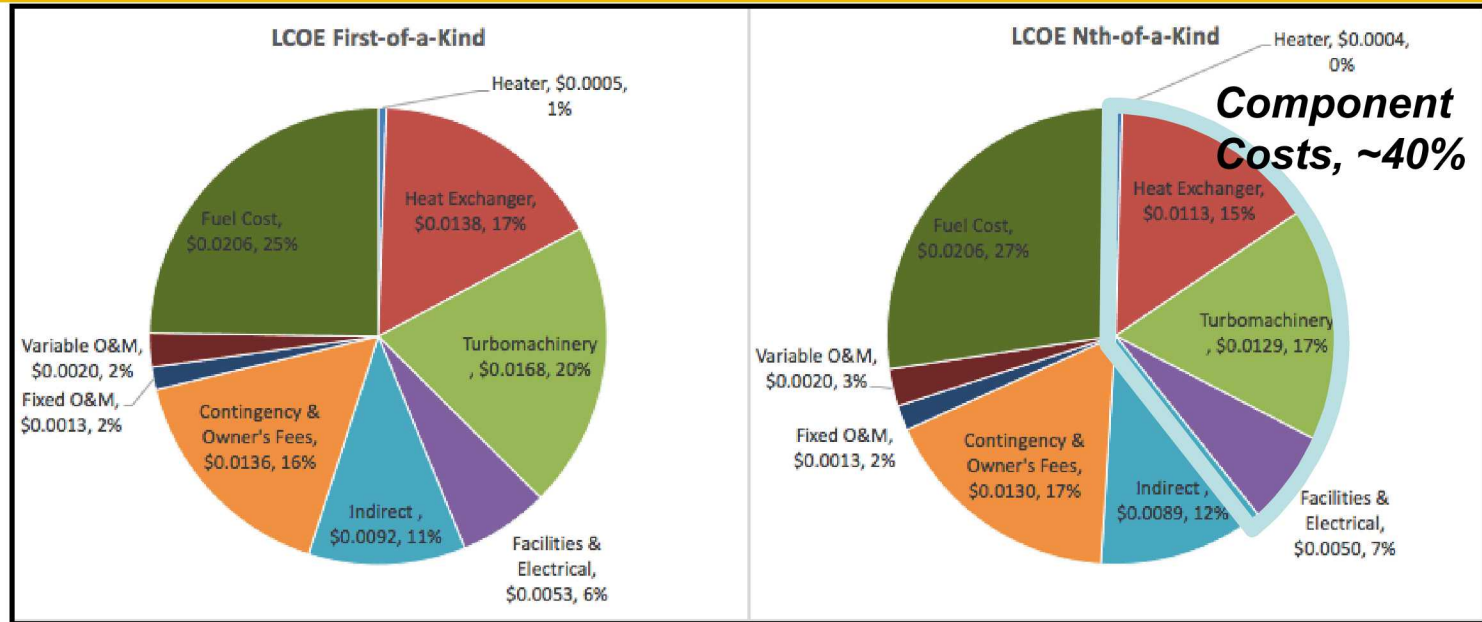






# Nominal LCOE Results

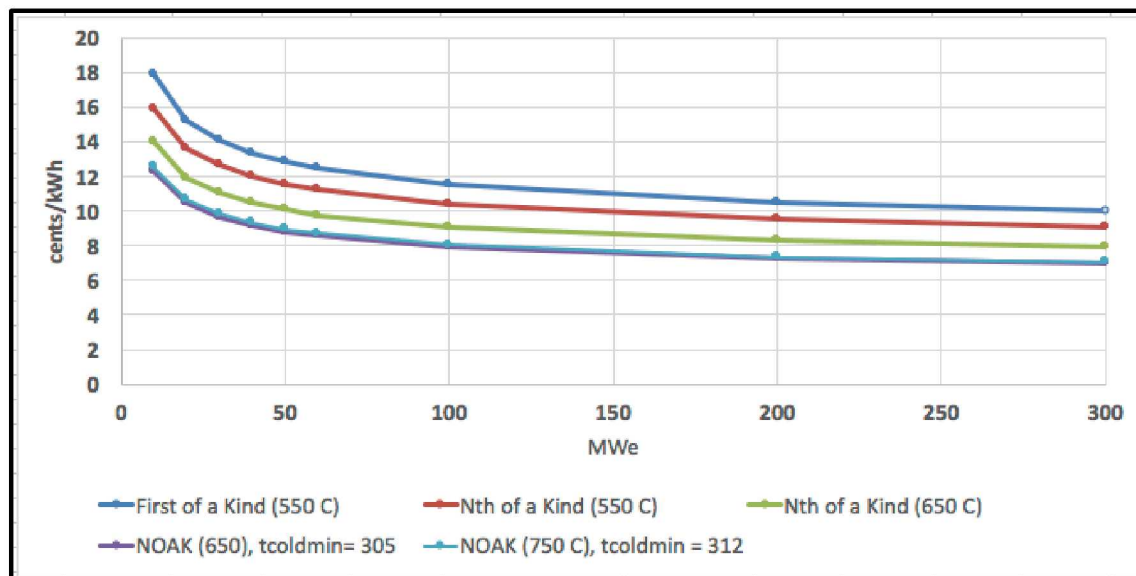
## Nuclear Energy



- The estimated LCOE for a 100 MWe Brayton system operating with an inlet turbine temperature of 700°C with dry cooling are **8.32 ¢/kWh** and **7.54 ¢/kWh** for a **first-of-a-kind** and **Nth-of-a-kind** plant, respectively.
- For the 100 MWe facility, the various heat exchangers and turbomachinery account for 15% and 17% of the total costs for the nth-of-a-kind plant, respectively.
- The Nth-of-a-kind total mechanical costs for are
  - \$1320/kWe for 100 MWe
  - \$2000/kWe for 20 MWe



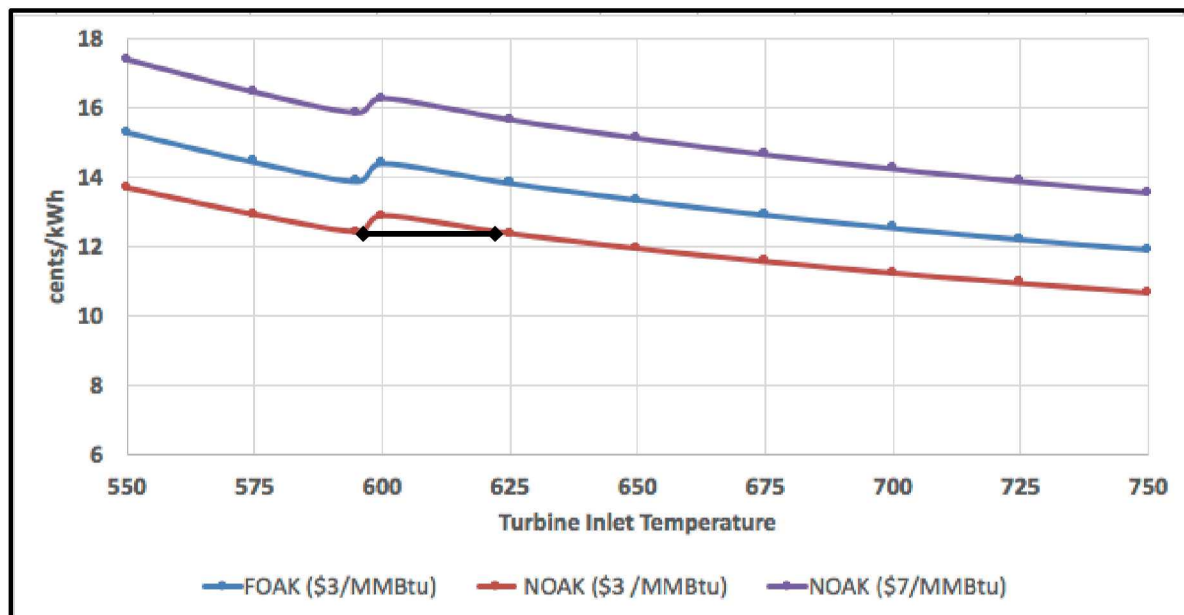
# Plant Size and Turbine Inlet Temperature Parameter Study



- Costs decline rapidly as size increases from 10 to 50 MWe, before slowly leveling off.
- Plants under 50 MWe, typically used for distributed or remote generation, are expected to have higher costs but higher value.
- This result demonstrates a benefit of these parameter studies, that a **relatively small decrease in cycle minimum temperature of 7°C has as much benefit as increasing the turbine inlet temperature by 100°C.**



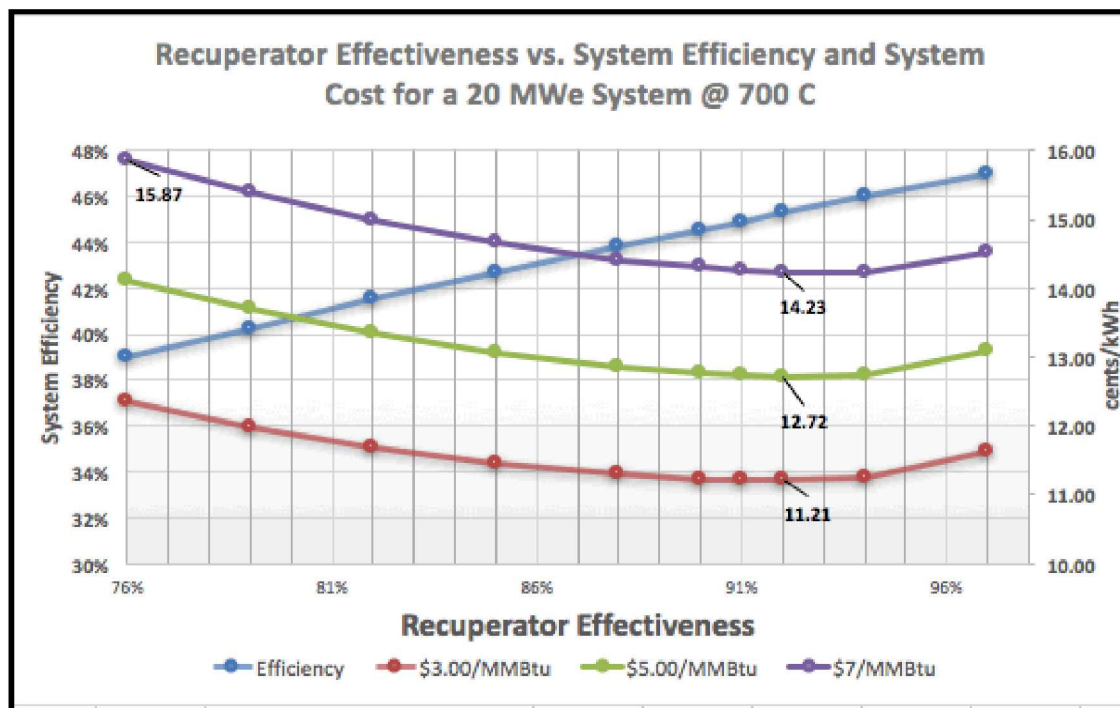
# Turbine Inlet Temperature Parameter Study



- 20 MWe system with dry cooling
- As turbine inlet temperature increases above 600°C, certain individual system components (primary heat exchanger, turbine, and high temperature recuperator) will require higher-quality alloys. The higher component costs are quickly offset by the increased overall system efficiency.



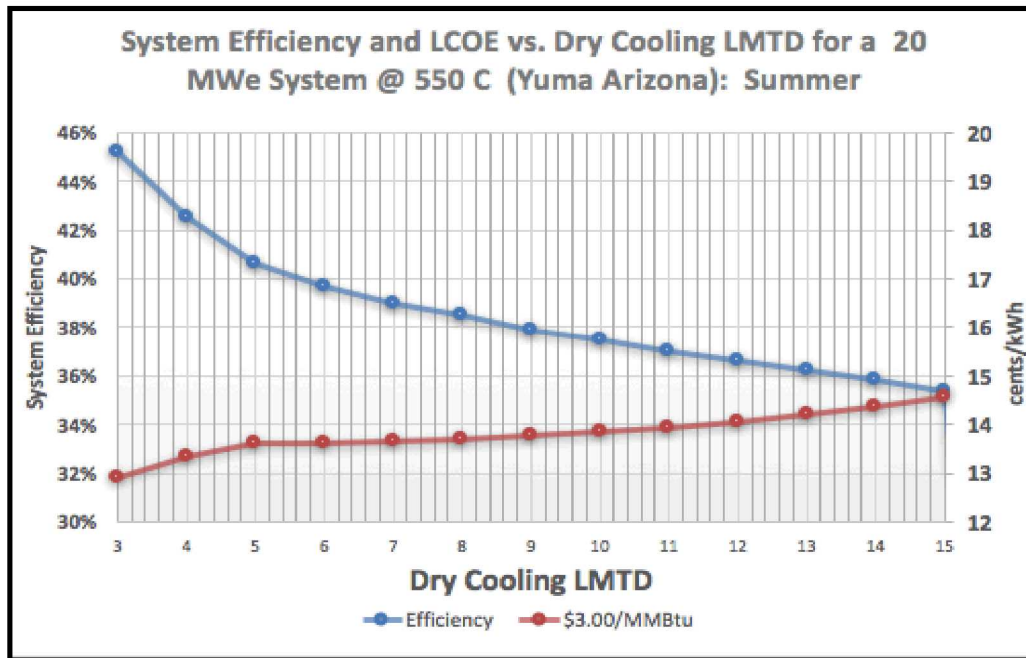
# Recuperator Effectiveness Parameter Study



- Demonstrates the impact of recuperator effectiveness on system efficiency and LCOE. As recuperator effectiveness increases, system efficiency increases. The present analysis shows that the **optimal recuperator effectiveness, regardless of fuel price, is 92%.**



# Dry Cooling Approach Temperature Parameter Study

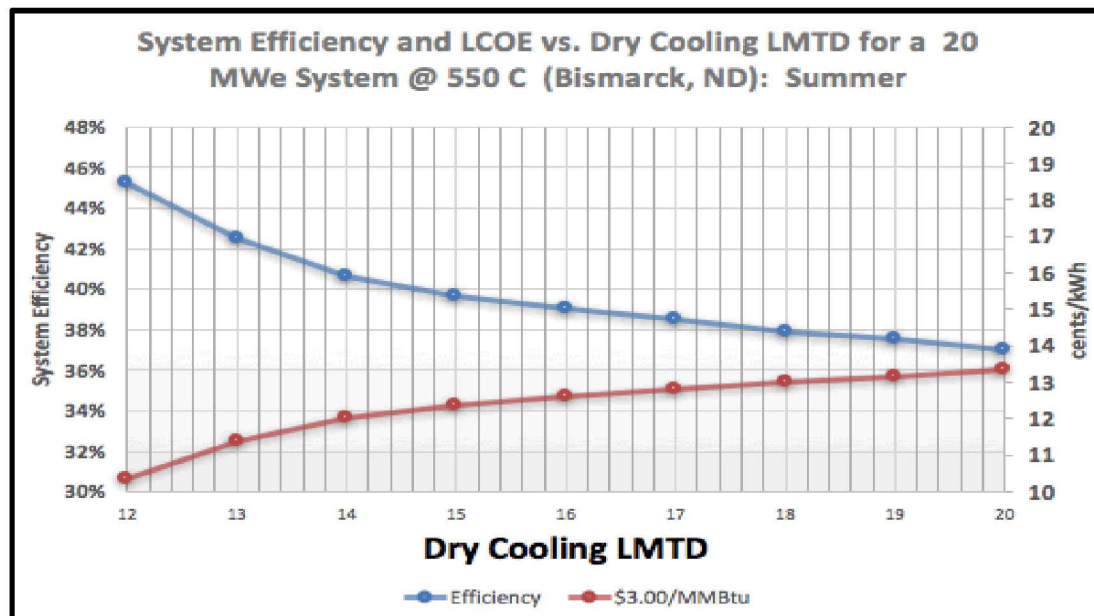


- Illustrates the sensitivity of the results to the technical assumptions regarding the approach temperatures for dry cooling in a hot, dry climate (Yuma, AZ).
- The overall system efficiency drops sharply 10% as the LMTD increases from 3 to 15°C in Yuma. **The increased system costs associated with lower LMTD translate into lower LCOE due to the increased system efficiencies.**
- sCO<sub>2</sub> properties were assumed constant for this analysis. A discretized heat exchanger model will be developed to account for property variations.





# Dry Cooling Approach Temperature Parameter Study

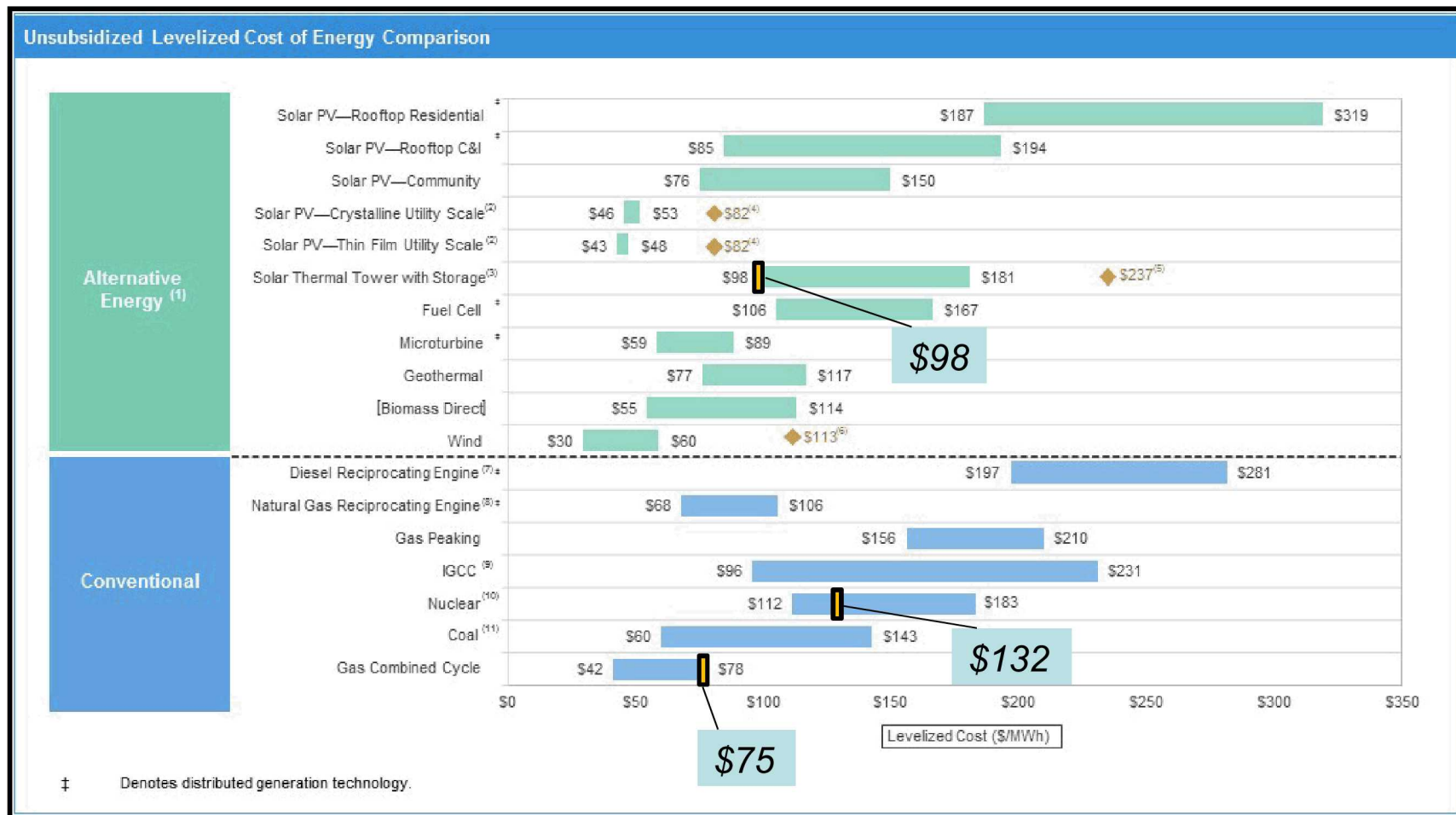


- This same relationship holds for Bismarck, ND in the summer, although the overall LCOE is lower than was the case in Yuma, AZ as the ambient air temperatures are lower, allowing for a smaller cooling heat exchanger.
- The location change from AZ to ND reduces LCOE by 25%.





## Nuclear Energy



Current estimates are for Nth-of-a-kind at 700°C and 100 MWe

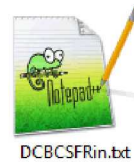
Source: Lazard, 2018.



# The current model is cumbersome for parameter studies

## Running the current model

- Manual manipulation of a text input file



```
base          ! output filename, 4 characters long
1 1           ! units flag: 1 = Metric, 2 = English. te
0.008 0.008 0.001 ! dpFractMin,dpFractMax,dpFractInc
973. 973. 5.    ! tHotMin,tHotMax,tHotInc [K]
305. 305. 0.2   ! tColdMin,tColdMax,tColdInc [K]
7.5d6 7.5d6 0.1d6 ! pLowMin,pLowMax,pLowInc [MPa]
35.d6 35.d6 1.0d6 ! pHighMin,pHighMax,pHighInc [MPa]
2             ! RecupFlag: recuperator approach temp or
.92 .92 .01     ! fLTR_Min,fLTR_Max,fLTR_Inc
.92 .92 .01     ! fHTR_Min,fHTR_Max,fHTR_Inc
0.90 0.90 0.01  ! effTurbMin,effTurbMax,effTurbInc
0.855 0.855 0.01 ! effCompA_Min,effCompA_Max,effCompA_Inc
0.855 0.855 0.01 ! effCompB_Min,effCompB_Max,effCompB_Inc
100.           ! power [MW]
```

- Running RETS from command line

```
Z:\sCO2\RETPeT-2016-10-04>"split flow recup prediction.exe"
Copyright 2013 Sandia Corporation.
Under the terms of Contract DE-AC04-94AL85000,
there is a non-exclusive license for use of this
work by or on behalf of the U.S. Government. Export of
this data may require a license from the
United States Government.
CO2.FLD

Iteration      1 complete.
Iterations complete.

Z:\sCO2\RETPeT-2016-10-04>
```

- Opening output .csv file



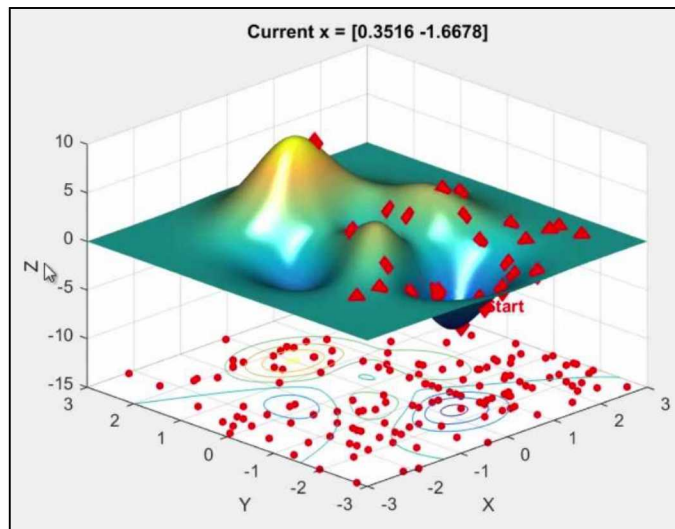
- Opening Excel file



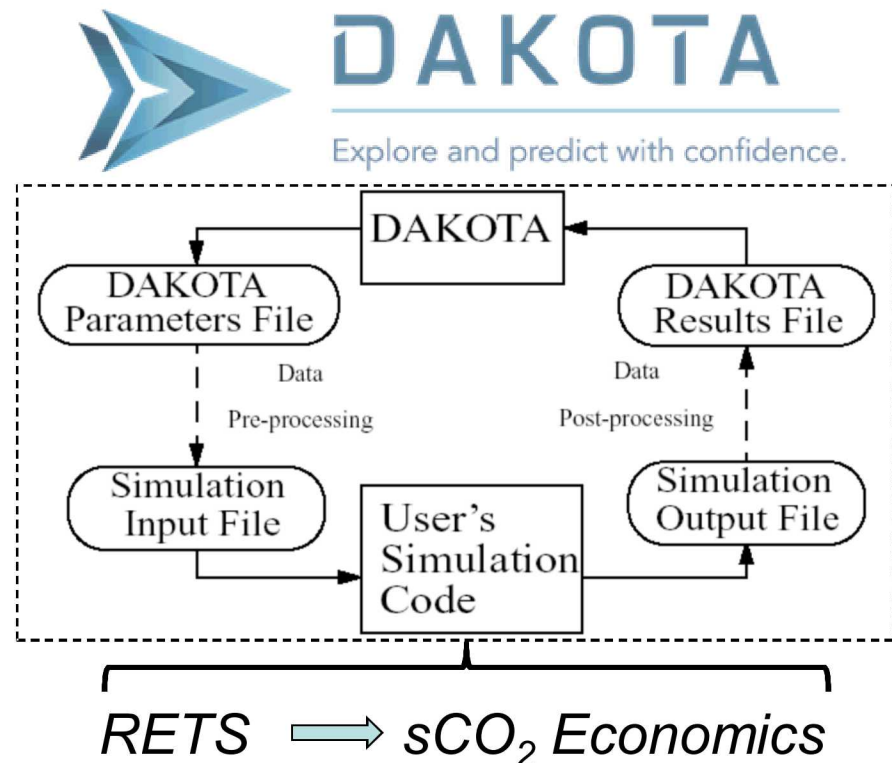
- Recording Results, closing .csv file

- This process has to be repeated for each set of conditions, so parameters studies take some time

- RETS is written in FORTRAN
- Cost Models will be translated from Excel into FORTRAN
- Sandia's DAKOTA will be used as an optimization wrapper that will also enable sensitivity studies



**A Genetic Algorithm is the best approach for this application,**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i8muvzZkPw>





# Collaboration with DOE National Labs

- The DOE national labs that have interest in sCO<sub>2</sub> power cycles are starting a collaboration for component cost information sharing.
- Vendor identification will be protected.
- This collaboration is expected to improve understanding and accuracy for economics modeling.
- Nathan Weiland at NETL initiated a monthly teleconference.
- Sandia is planning to facilitate information sharing, similar to the 2017 sCO<sub>2</sub> Summit Site.

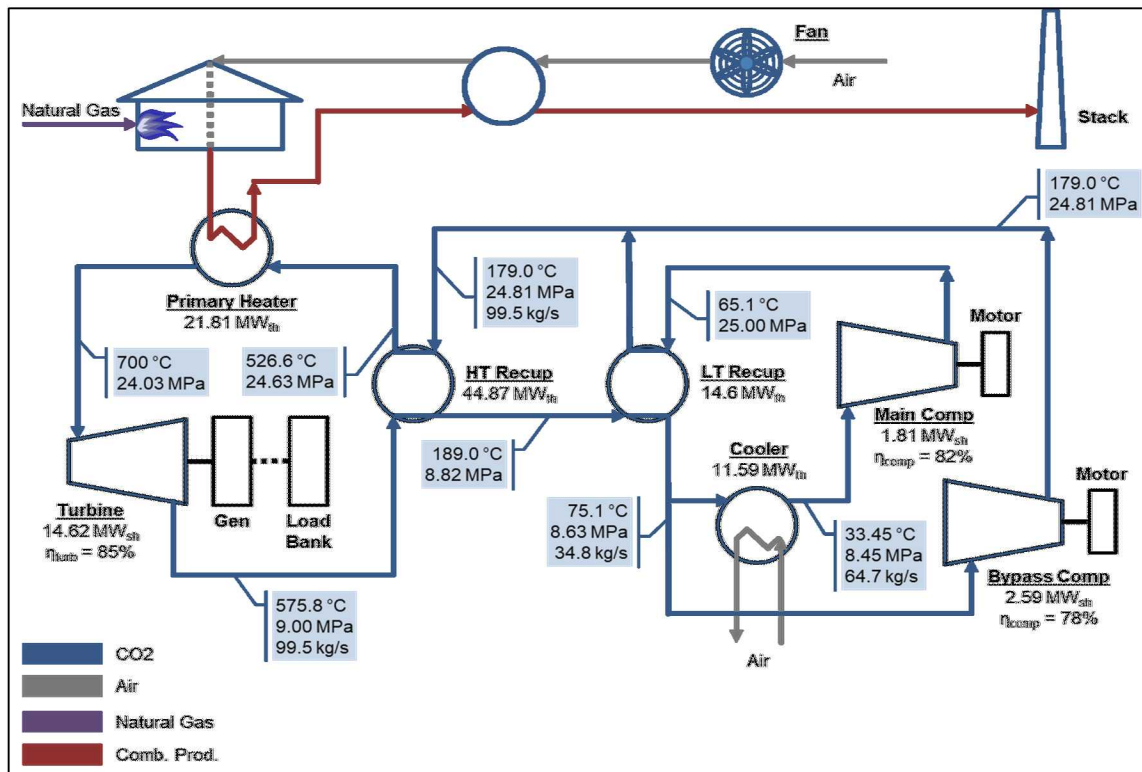






# Component Cost Estimates of 10 MWe STEP Pilot Plant

10 MWe Plant		
Component	(2017 \$1,000)	% of total cost
NG-fired heater	\$8,909	38.21%
PC-fired heater	-	
LTR	\$2,056	8.82%
HTR	\$3,324	14.25%
Direct dry cooler	\$1,617	6.93%
Main compressor	\$1,558	6.68%
Recompressor	\$1,798	7.71%
Motors	\$407	1.74%
Turbine	\$2,831	12.14%
Generator	\$471	2.02%
Gearbox	\$340	1.46%
Total equipment cost (2017 \$1,000)	\$23,310	
Uncertainty range of total equipment cost	-28% to +35%	



S. E. Zitney and E. A. Liese, "Dynamic Modeling and Simulation of a 10 MWe Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Recompression Closed Brayton Power Cycle for Off-Design, Part-Load, and Control Analysis," in *The 6<sup>th</sup> International Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycles Symposium*, Pittsburgh, 2018.



### Conclusions

- A DOE National Lab sCO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycle Economics Consortium was organized
- The sCO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Economics Tool has been updated with component cost information
- Economics optimization has begun with software selection, algorithm planning

### Future Plans

- Current cost models will be updated with collaborative work from Consortium
- Economics optimization will be performed





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# Backup

Nuclear Energy

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## Nuclear Energy

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- Initial market opportunities
  - waste heat
  - distributed generation
- Strong market opportunities in water-stressed regions as Brayton cycles achieve high efficiencies with dry cooling
- Key challenges:
  - *Customers not willing/able to invest in unproven technologies*
  - *Need demonstrable evidence that Brayton technology can operate for extended periods of time in a real-world environment*
- Main competitors (Next slide):
  - Renewable technologies, such as onshore wind (3.0 – 6.0 ¢/kWh)
  - Natural Gas Combined Cycle (NGCC) plants (4.2 – 7.8 ¢/kWh)
  - Bottom line: Must be able to compete on an economic basis with existing options or will be difficult to break into the market (subsequent slide)



## ***Basic LCOE Methodology***

- The levelized cost of energy is given by:

$$LCOE = \frac{I * FCR}{E} + \frac{O\&M}{E} + \frac{F}{E}$$

where:

*I* = total financed capital costs

*FCR* = fixed charge rate

*E* = annual plant output (i.e. kWh)

*O&M* = fixed and variable operating and maintenance costs

*F* = feedstock costs (i.e. natural gas, biomass)



## Nuclear Energy

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- Tool incorporates methodology outlined by the EIA (2013) for estimating total cost estimates for utility scale electricity generating plants.
- This methodology includes the following categories:
  - Mechanical equipment supply (major equipment)
  - Electrical and instrumentation and control (transformers, switch gear, etc.)
  - Civil and structural costs (site preparation, underground utilities, structural steel supply, and on-site building construction)
  - Project indirect costs (engineering, labor, construction management)
  - Fees and contingency
  - Owners costs (development costs, feasibility and engineering studies, legal fees, insurance, electrical interconnection)
- Adding all of these costs obviously increases the estimated LCOE estimates, but are more realistic than studies which ignore such costs. For example, the **project indirect costs add an additional 28.8% to the mechanical and electrical costs.**



## *First-of-a-Kind vs. Nth-of-a-Kind Methodology*

- Uses approach documented by NETL (2013) where costs are:

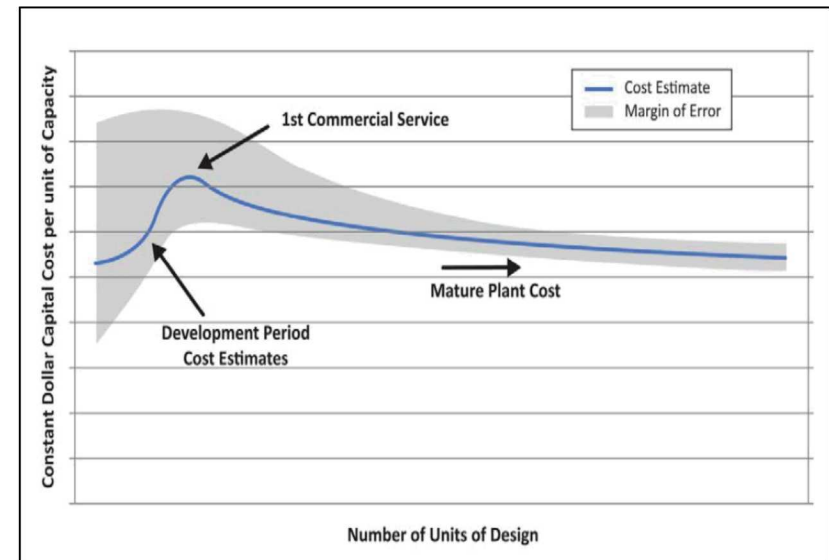
$$\text{Cost}_{\text{NOAK}} = \text{Cost}_{\text{FOAK}} * X^{-b}$$

Where X is the cumulative number of units and b is the learning rate exponent, which is further defined as:

$$b = \frac{\log(1 - R)}{\log(2)}$$

where R is a technology-specific learning rate.

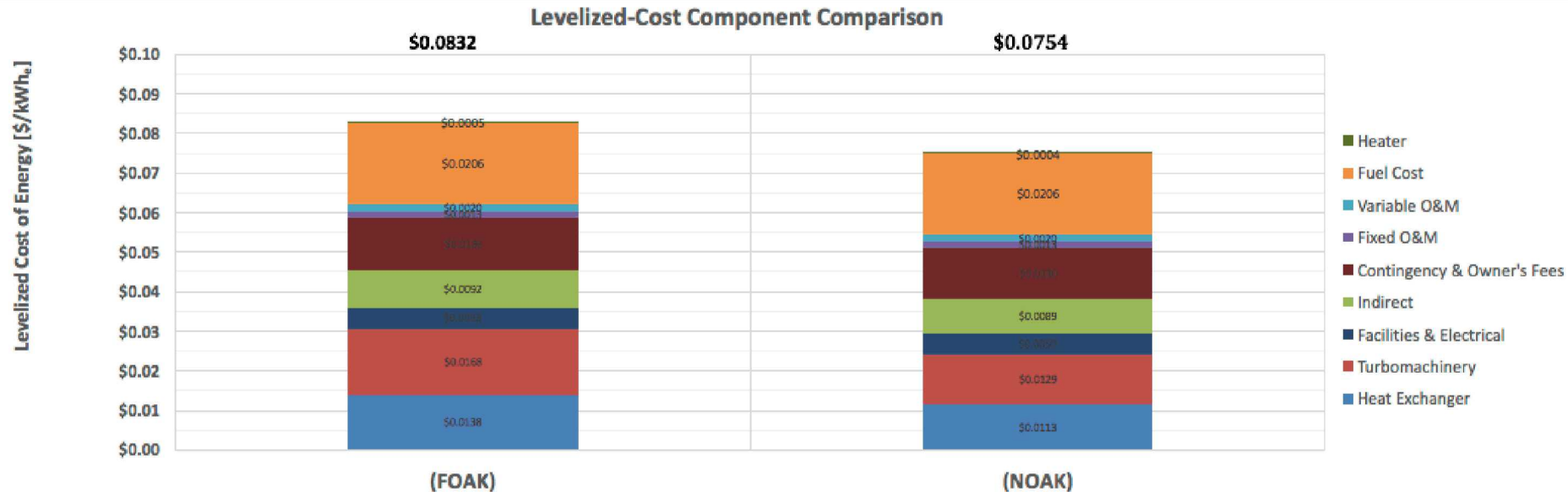
- Suggested R values as high as 0.06 for experimental technologies (e.g., fuel cells) and in the range of 0.01 for mature technologies (e.g., buildings, steam turbines, instrumentation).





# Nominal LCOE Results

## Nuclear Energy



- The estimated LCOE for a 100 MWe Brayton system operating with an inlet turbine temperature of 700°C with dry cooling are **0.832 \$/kWh and 0.754 \$/kWh for a first-of-a-kind and N<sup>th</sup>-of-a-kind plant, respectively.**
- For the 100 MWe facility, the various heat exchangers and turbomachinery account for 15% and 17% of the total costs for the nth-of-a-kind plant, respectively.
- The Nth-of-a-kind total mechanical costs for are
  - \$1320/kWe for 100 MWe
  - \$2000/kWe for 20 MWe