

Overview of Concentrating Solar Power Research at Sandia

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in the national interest*



Outline

- **Sandia CSP Research**
- **Integration of FOCUS and CSP**
- **Doing work with Sandia**

Timeline of CSP Development

Solar One and
Solar Two
10 MW_e
Daggett, CA
1980's – 1990's



Stirling Energy Systems
1.5 MW_e, AZ, 2010



Ivanpah,
steam, 377
MW_e, CA,
2014

1970's

1980's –
1990's

2000's

SunShot
2011 -



National Solar Thermal Test Facility
6 MW_t, Albuquerque, NM, Est. 1976



SEGS, 1980's
9 trough plants
354 MW_e, CA



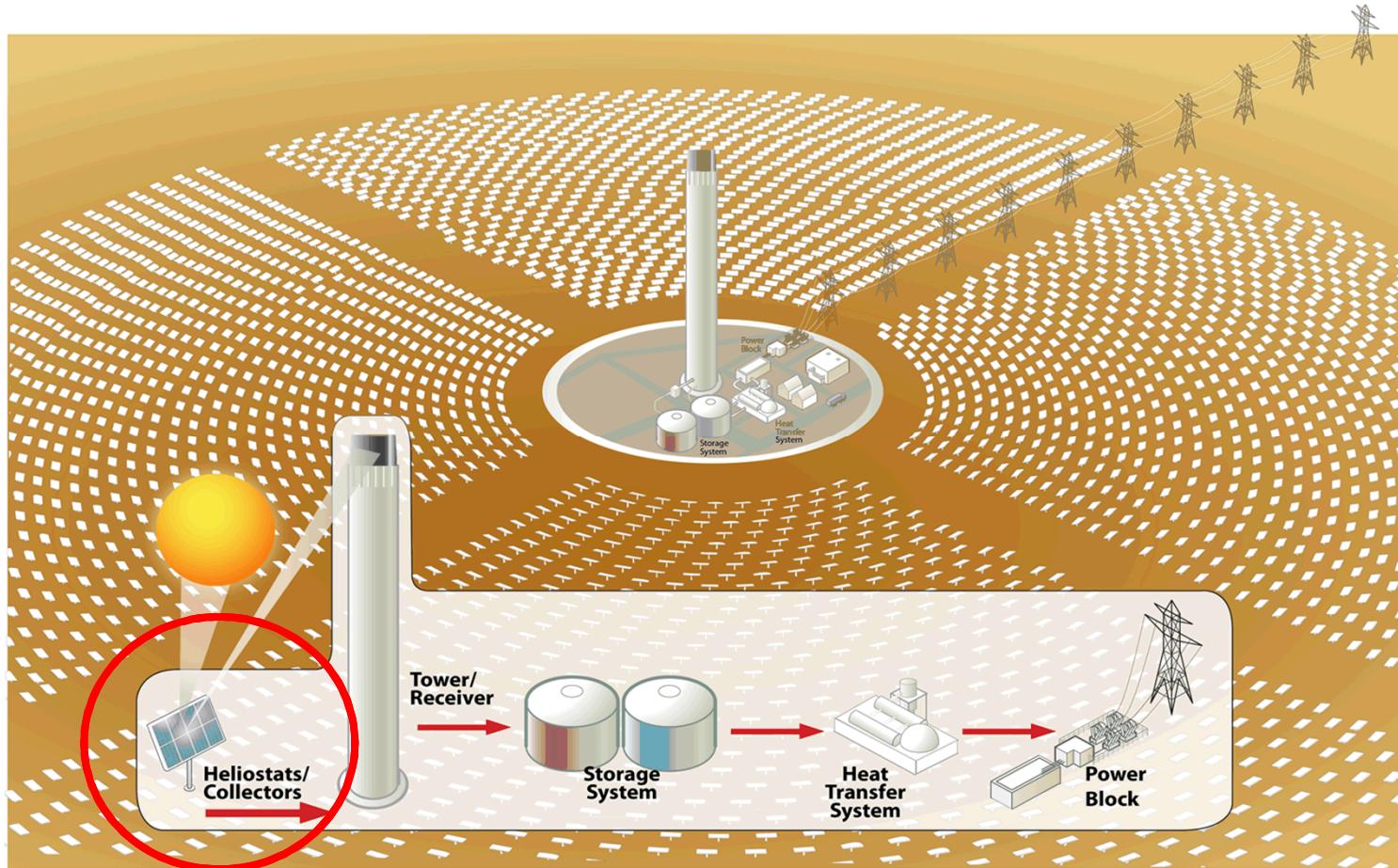
PS10/20,
steam, Spain,
2007-2009



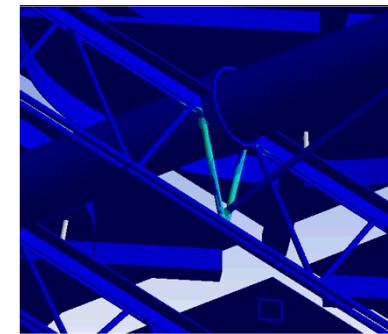
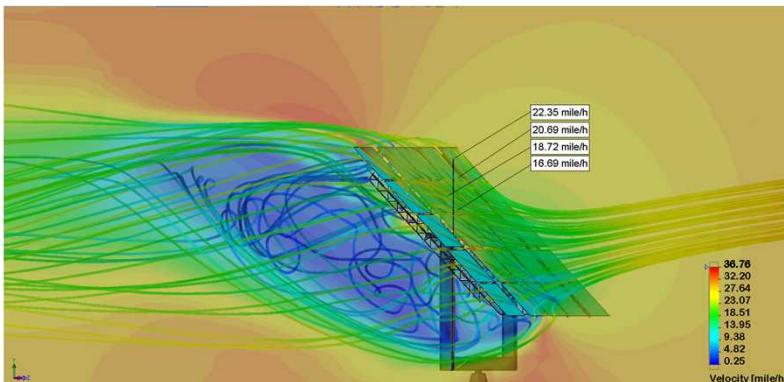
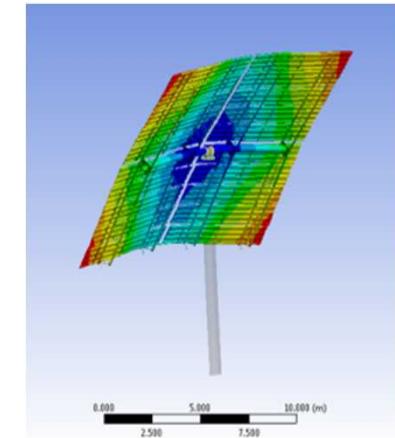
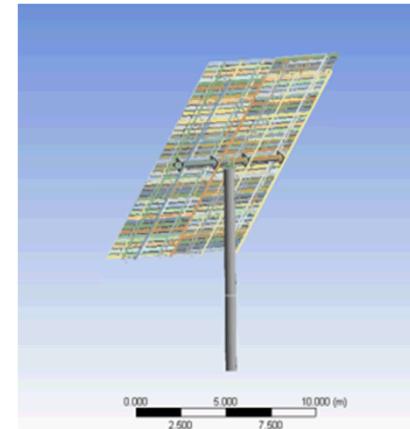
Crescent Dunes, molten salt,
110 MW_e, NV, 2016

Gemasolar, molten salt, 19
MW_e, Spain, 2011

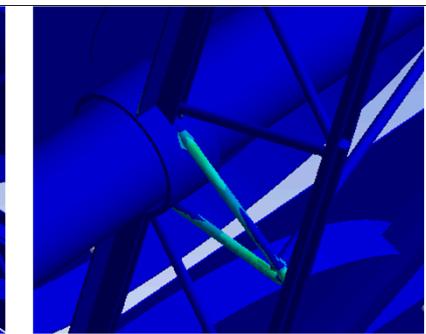
Sandia CSP Research



Optical Accuracy



Truss Cross Members at Torque Tube

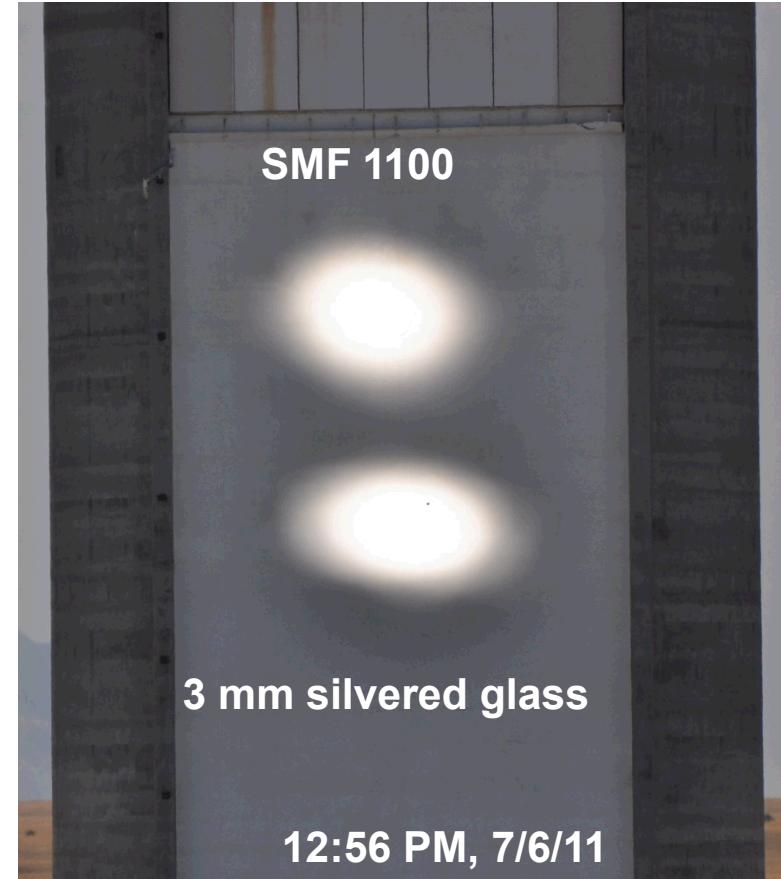


Mirror canting, tracking, gravity sag, and dynamic wind loads
can affect optics and fatigue

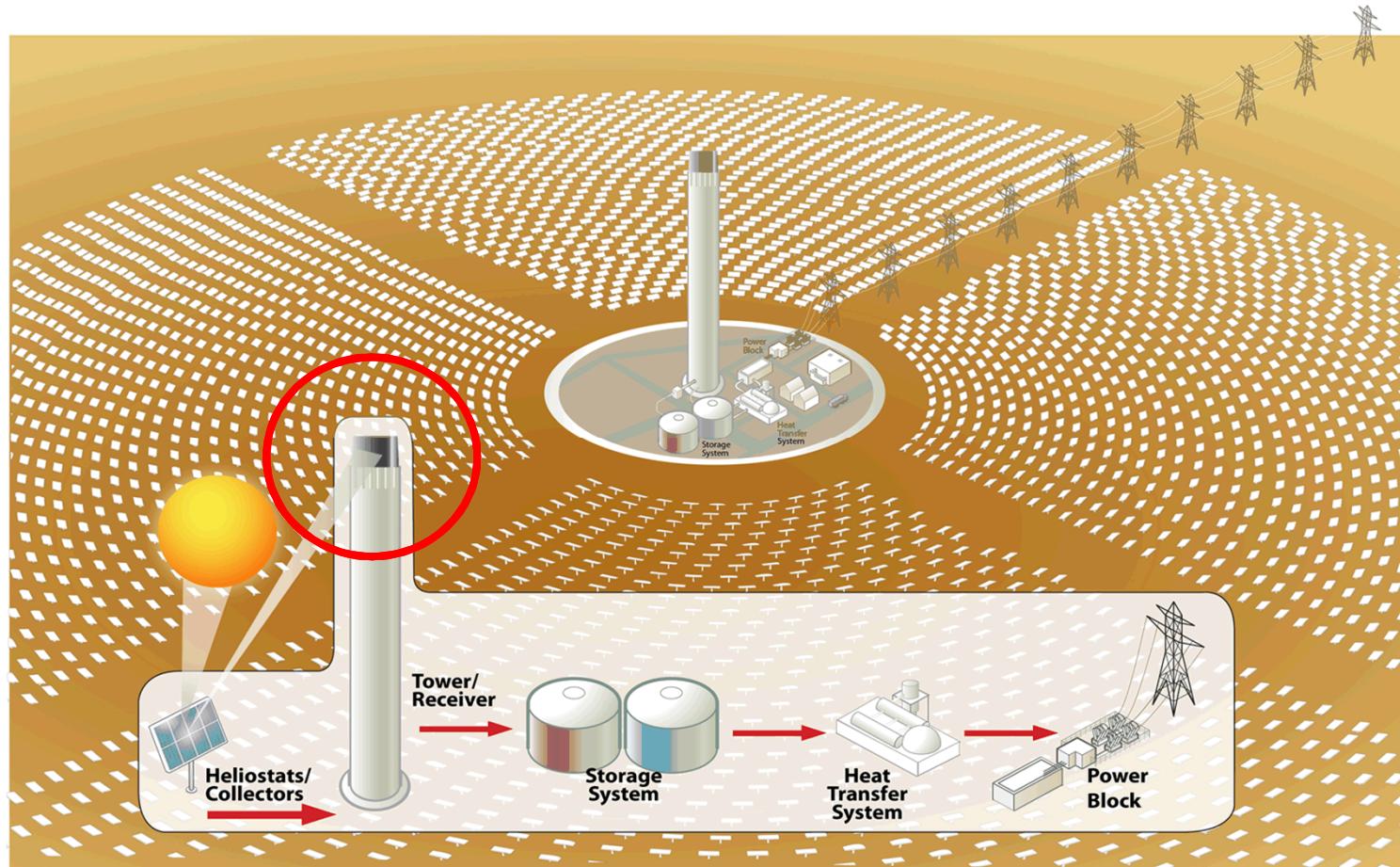
Advanced Reflective Materials



Heliostat with 3M™ Solar Mirror
Film 1100



Receivers



High-Temperature Receivers



National Solar Thermal Test Facility, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM

- Maximize solar absorptance and minimize heat loss (selective absorber coatings, geometry, concentration ratio)
- Need materials that operate at high temperature (>650 °C) and are durable in air



Cavity receiver



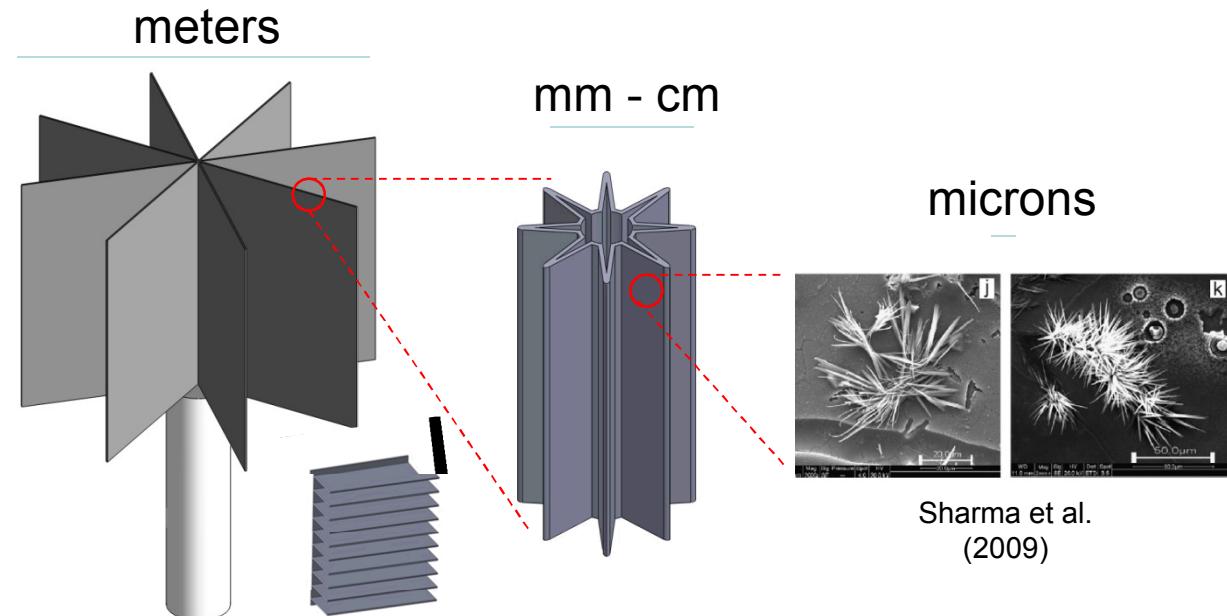
External tubular receiver

Fractal-Like Receiver Designs

- Develop fractal-like designs and structures across multiple scales to increase solar absorptance while minimizing heat loss



Conventional cylindrical solar receiver

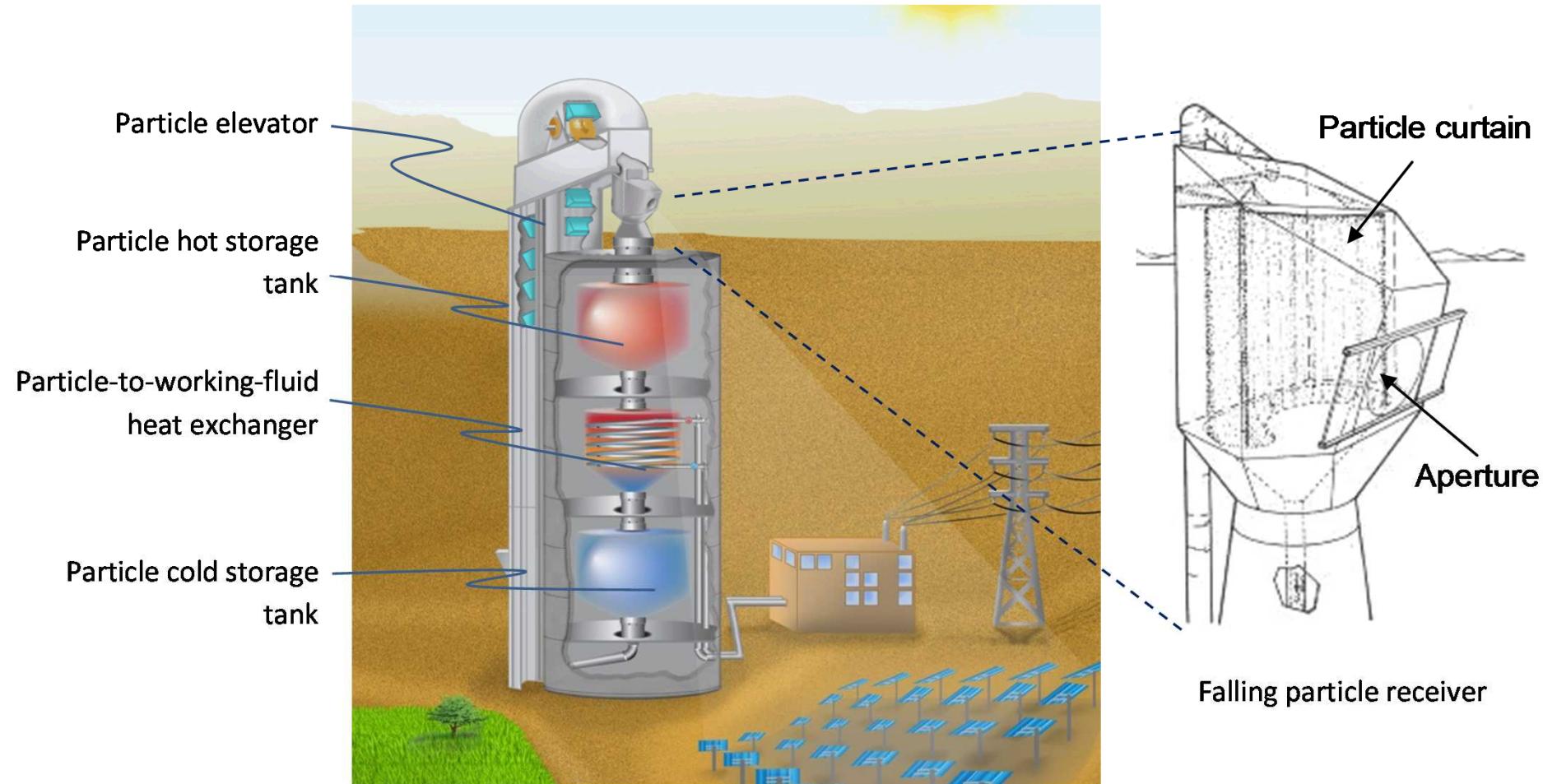


New fractal-like designs with light-trapping and low-emittance properties at multiple scales

Patents Pending

High Temperature Falling Particle

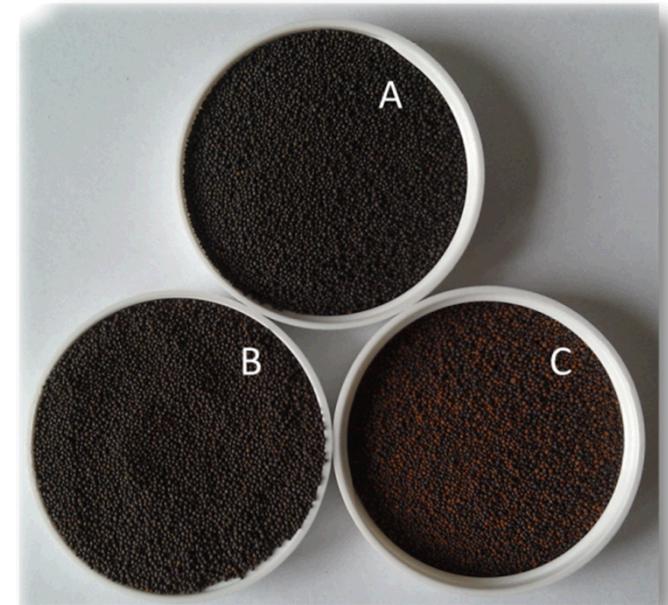
Receiver (DOE SunShot Award FY13 – FY16)



Participants: Sandia, Georgia Tech, Bucknell U., King Saud Univ., DLR

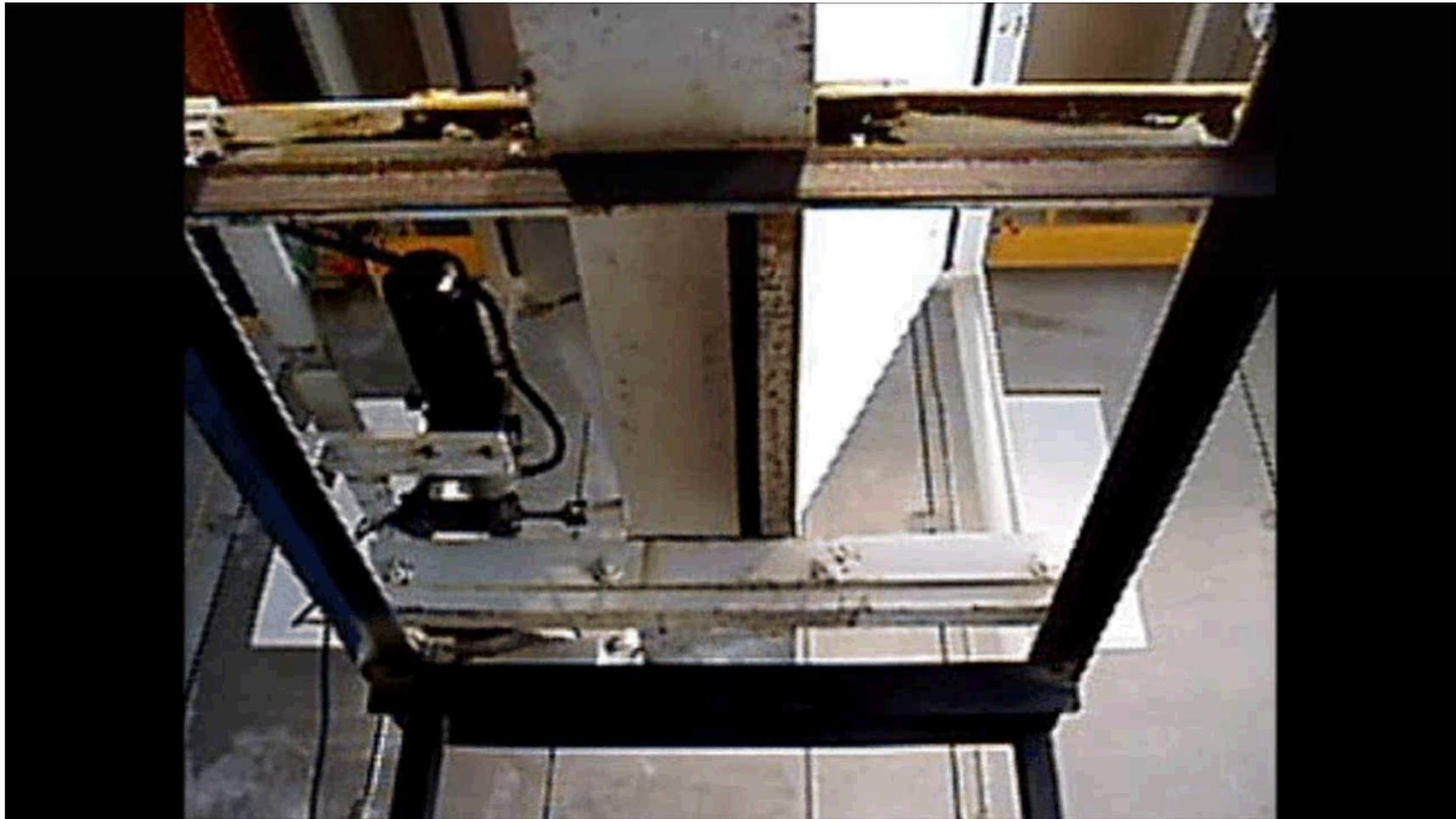
Advantages of Particle Receivers

- Direct heating of particles
 - Higher temperatures than conventional molten salts
 - Enable more efficient power cycles (e.g., sCO₂ at ~700 C)
 - Higher solar fluxes for increased receiver efficiency
- Direct storage of hot particles
 - Reduced costs

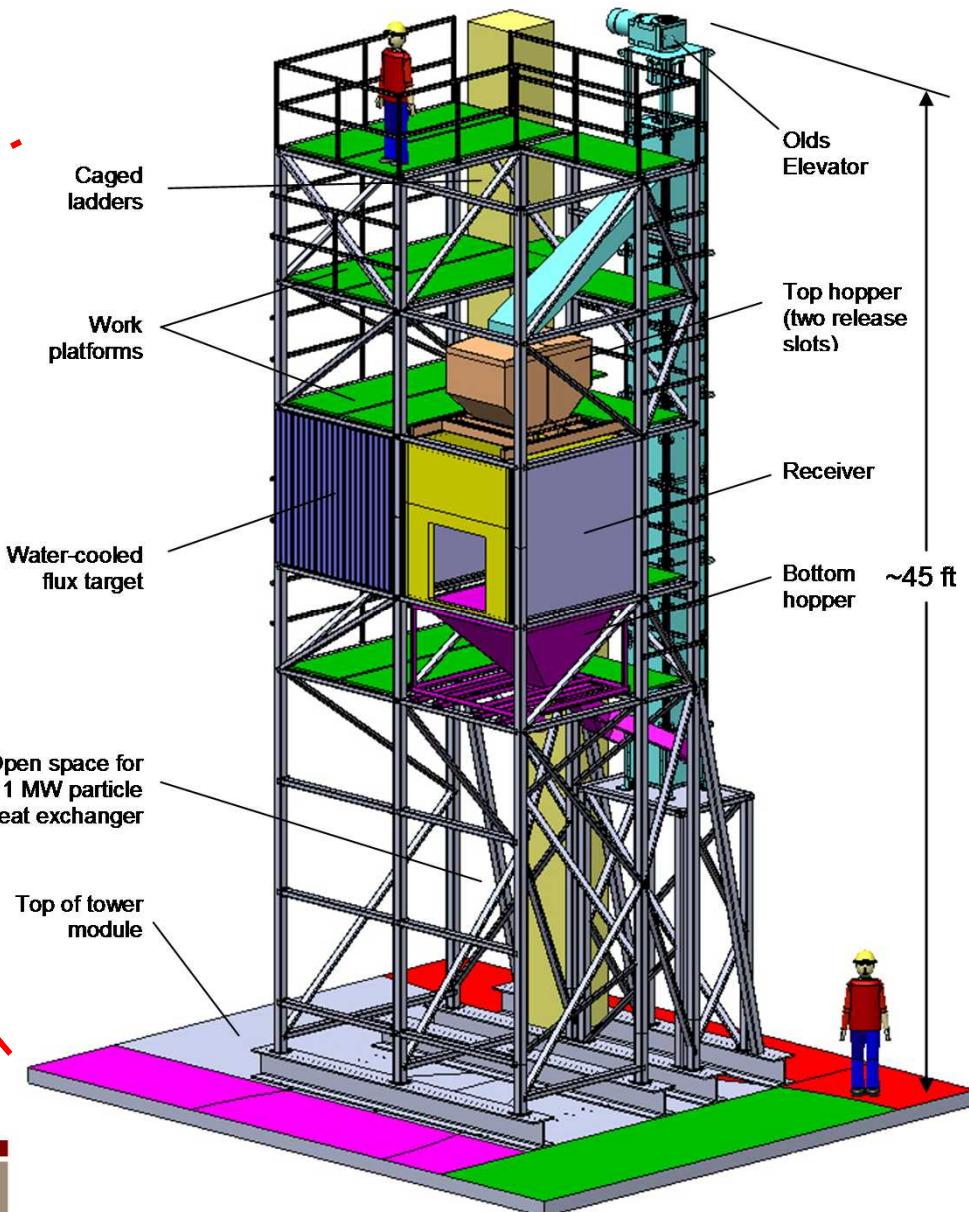
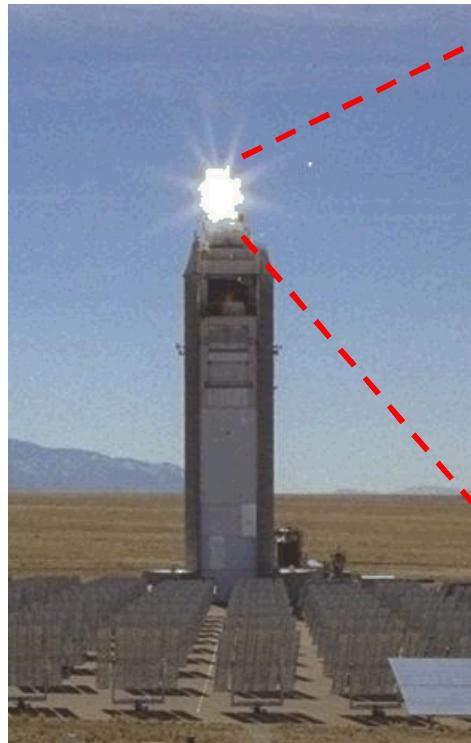


CARBO ceramic particles (“proppants”)

Particle Receiver Designs – Free Falling



Prototype System Design

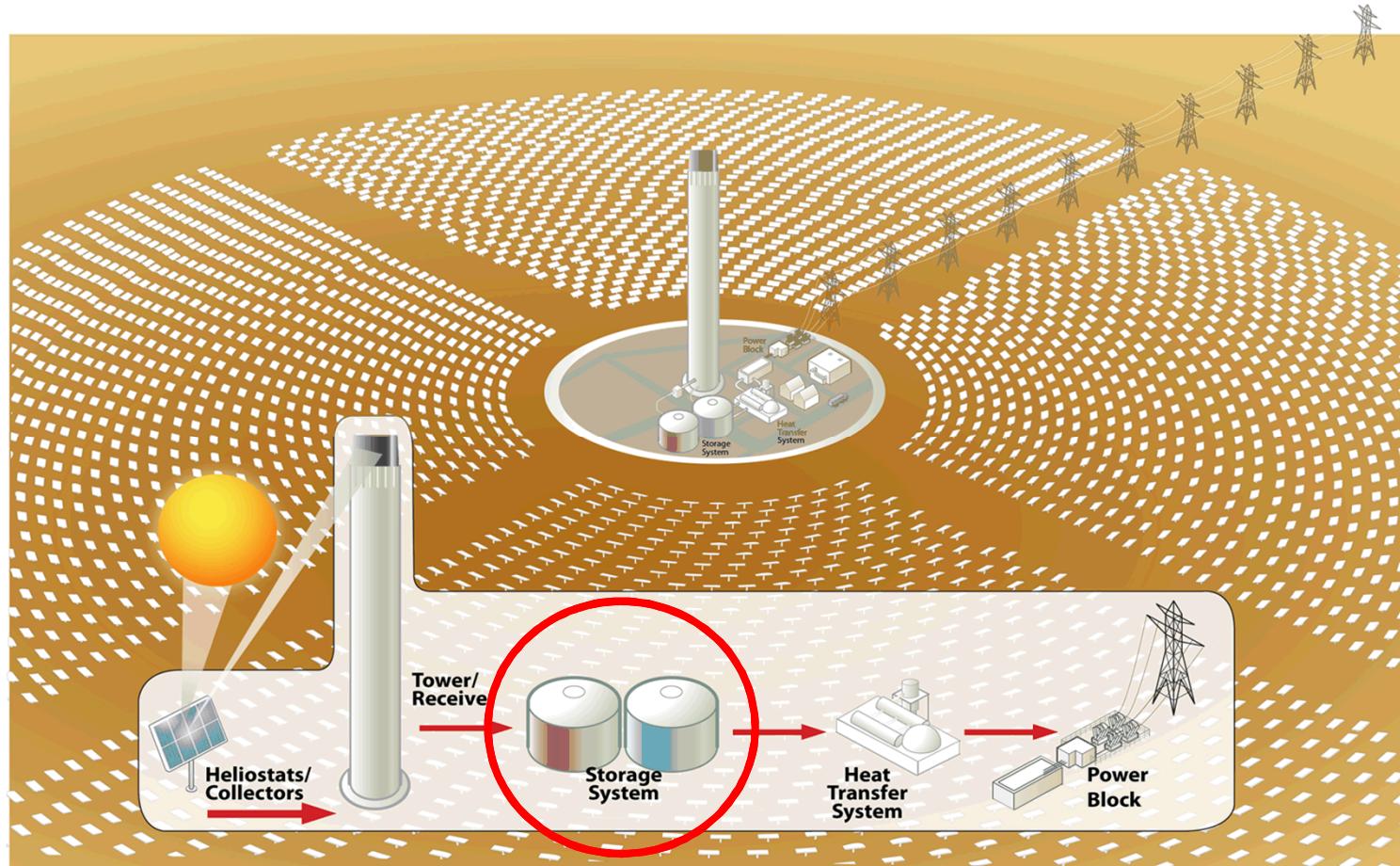


On-Sun Tower Testing



Over 600 suns peak flux on receiver
(July 20, 2015)

Thermal Storage



Molten-Salt Test Loop



- 3 parallel test loops
- Salt Temperature: 300 – 585 C (572 - 1085 F)
- Maximum pressure: 40 bar (580 psi)
- Maximum flow: 44-70 kg/s (600 gpm)

AREVA Molten-Salt Linear Fresnel System



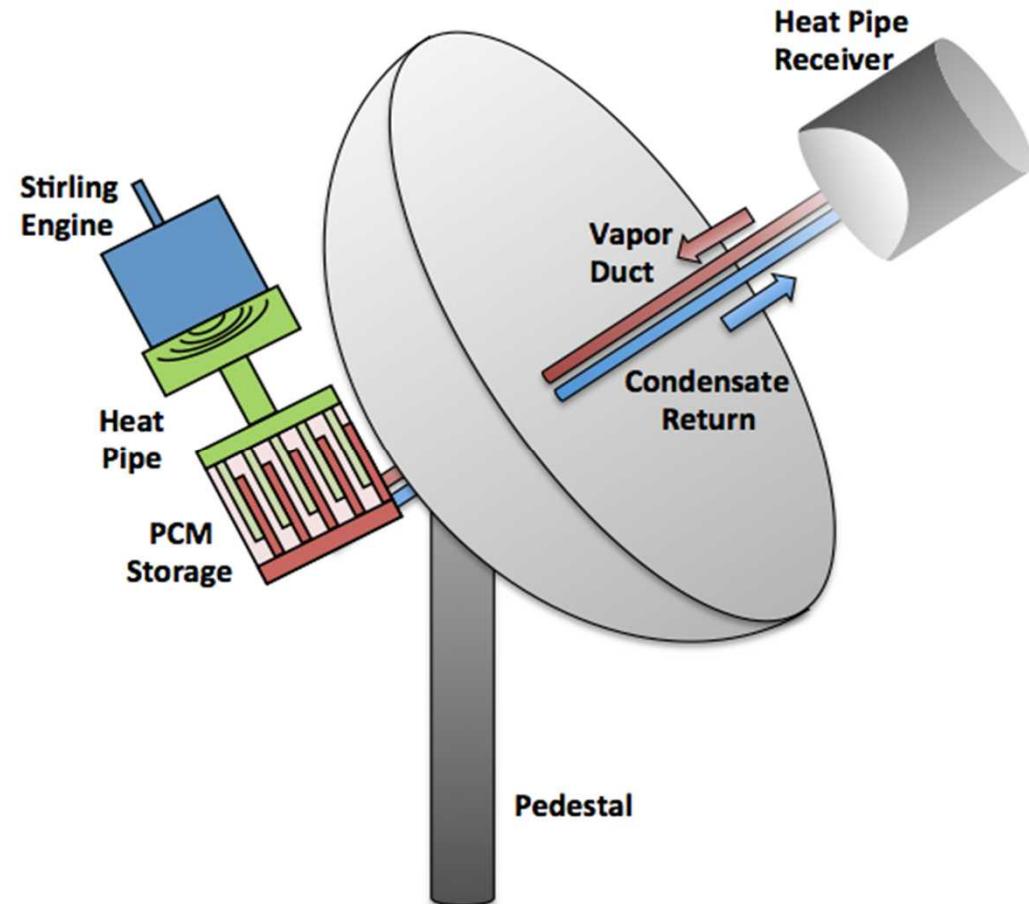
Dish Stirling Thermal Storage

Goal:

- Thermal storage for dish Stirling systems (6 hours)

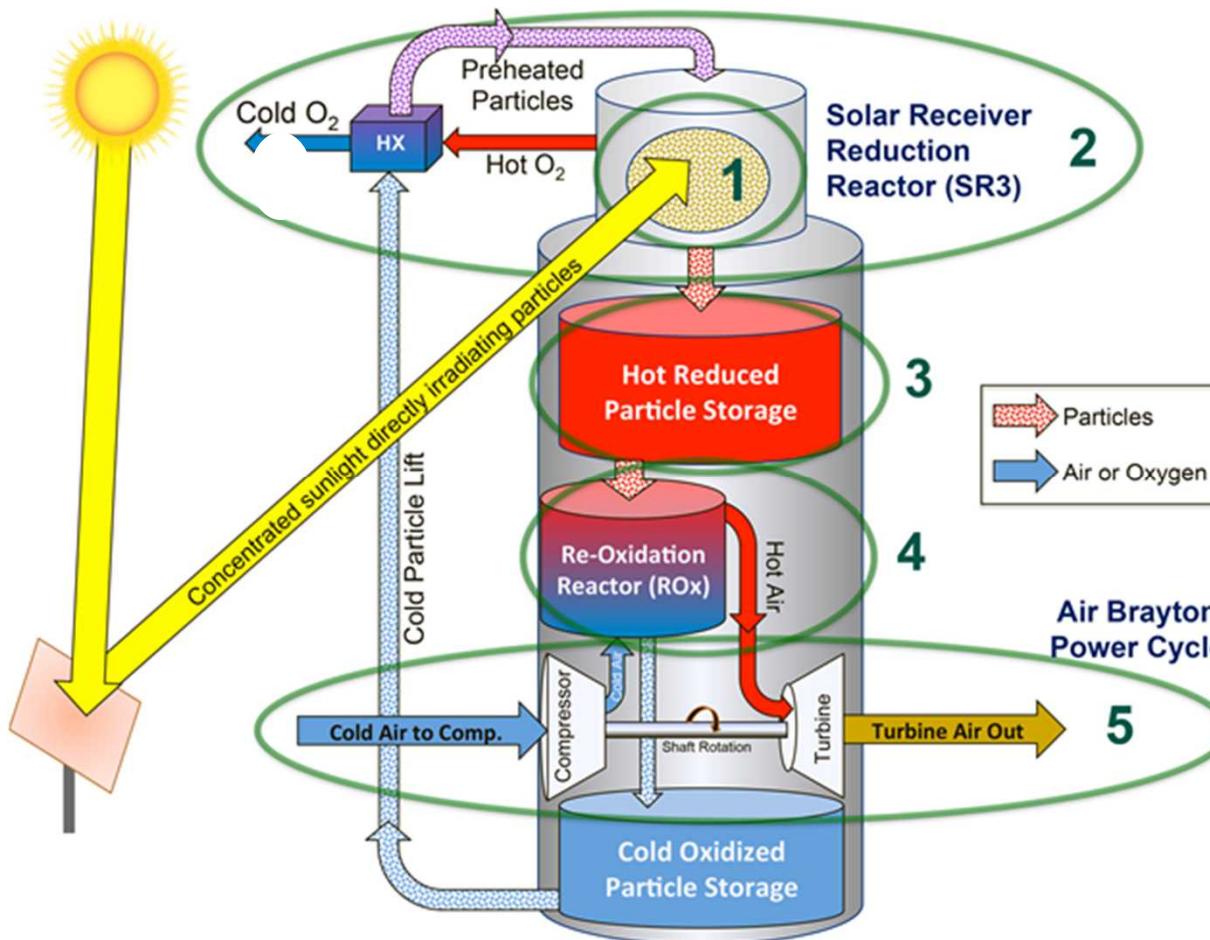
Innovation:

- Heat pipe transport to storage and engine
- Condensate return via pump
- Latent storage and transport matches Stirling cycle isothermal input



Thermo-Chemical Energy Storage

Particles Provide Reaction Enthalpy + Sensible Heat Storage for Increased Capacity, Higher Temperature Delivery



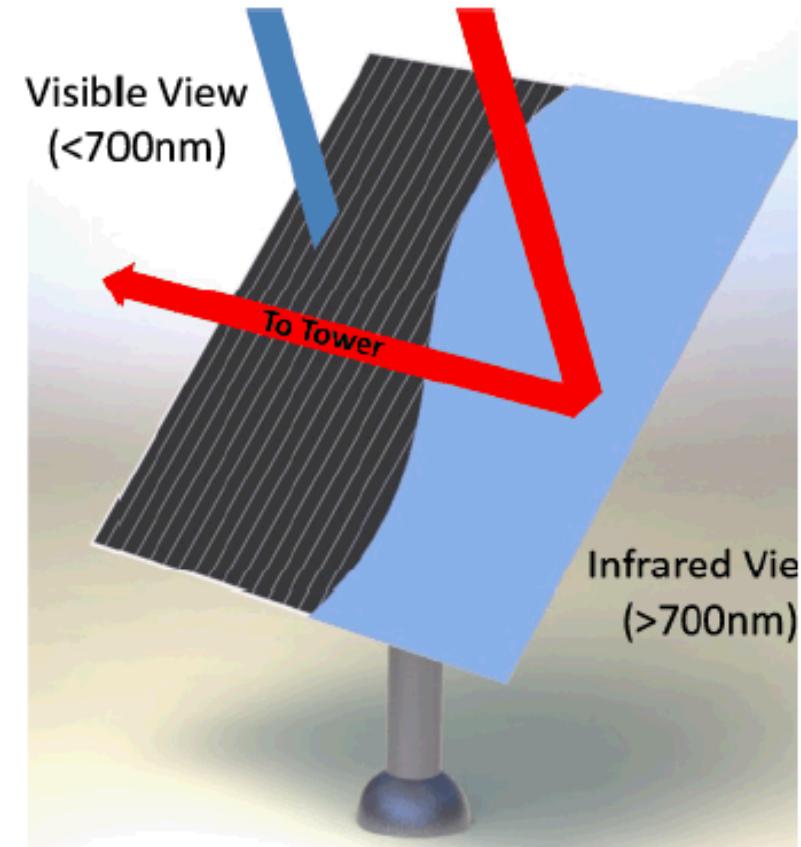
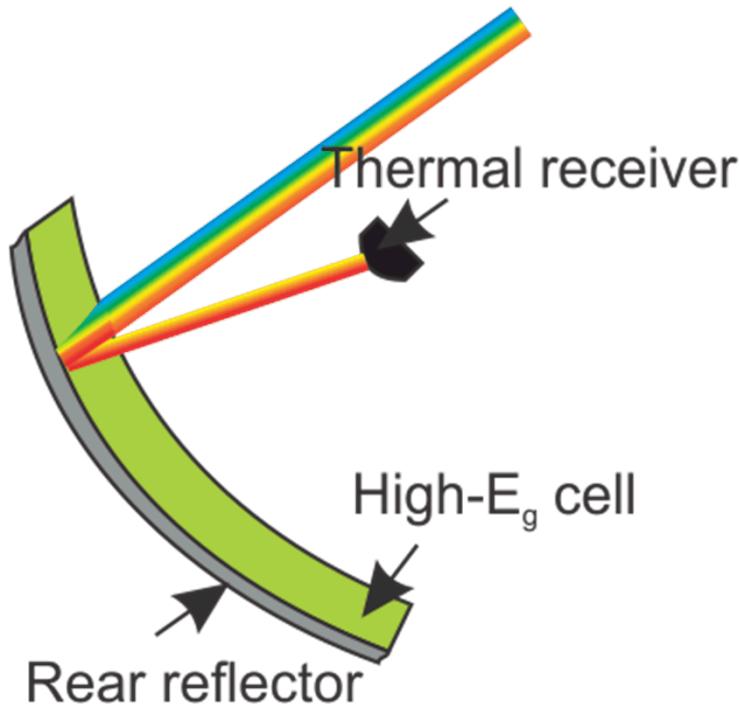
High Performance Reduction/Oxidation Metal Oxides for Thermochemical Energy Storage (PROMOTES)

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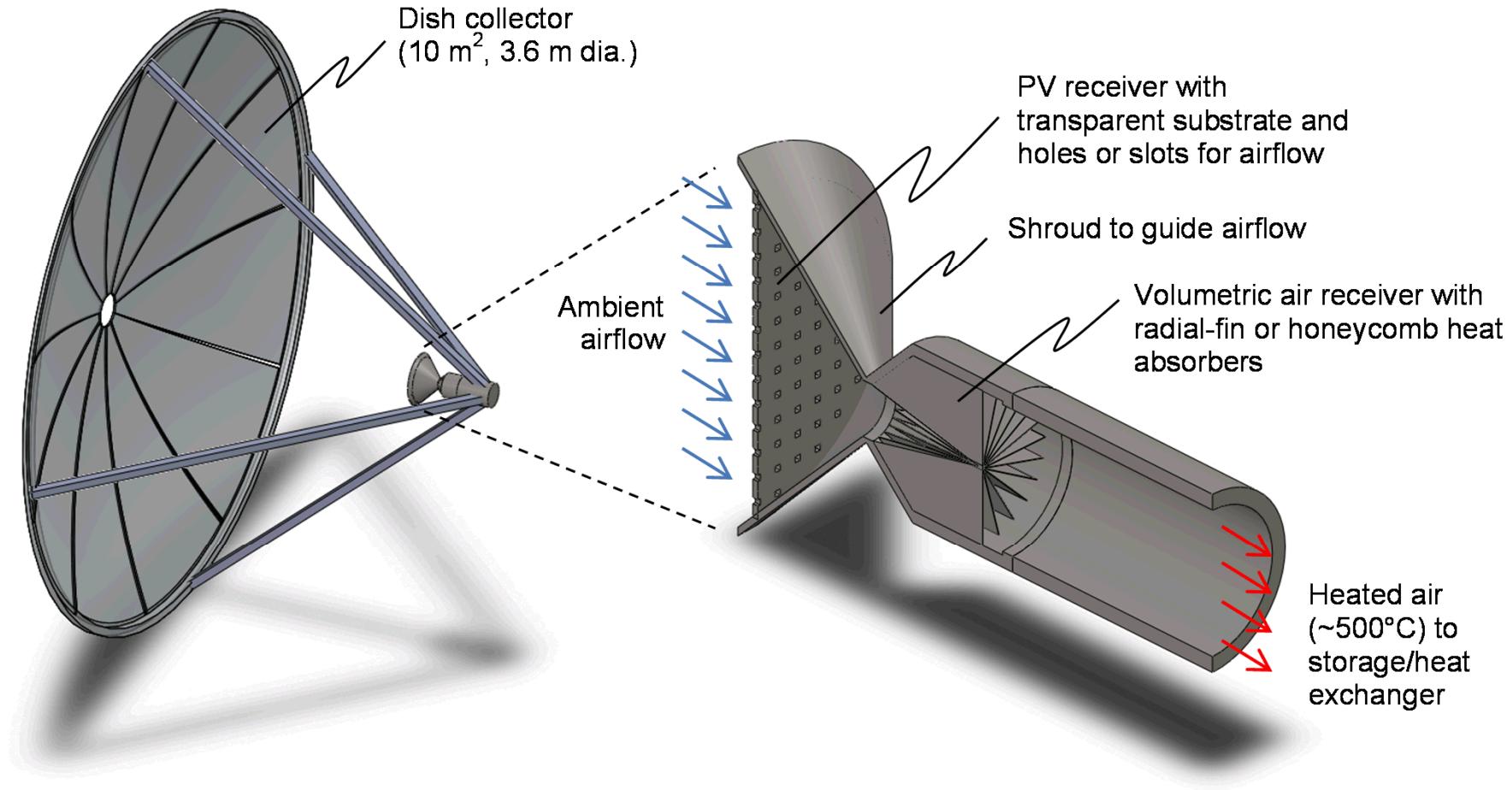
- Full-Spectrum Optimized Conversion and Utilization of Sunlight
 - Develop hybrid solar energy converters and storage systems (PV and CSP)

Light-Filtering/Spectrum-Splitting Mirrors

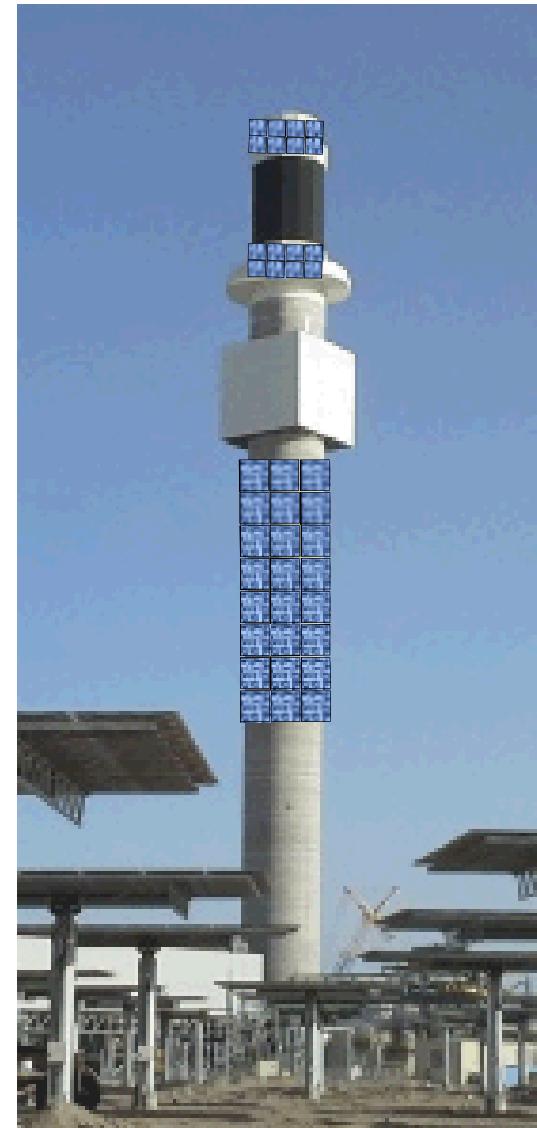
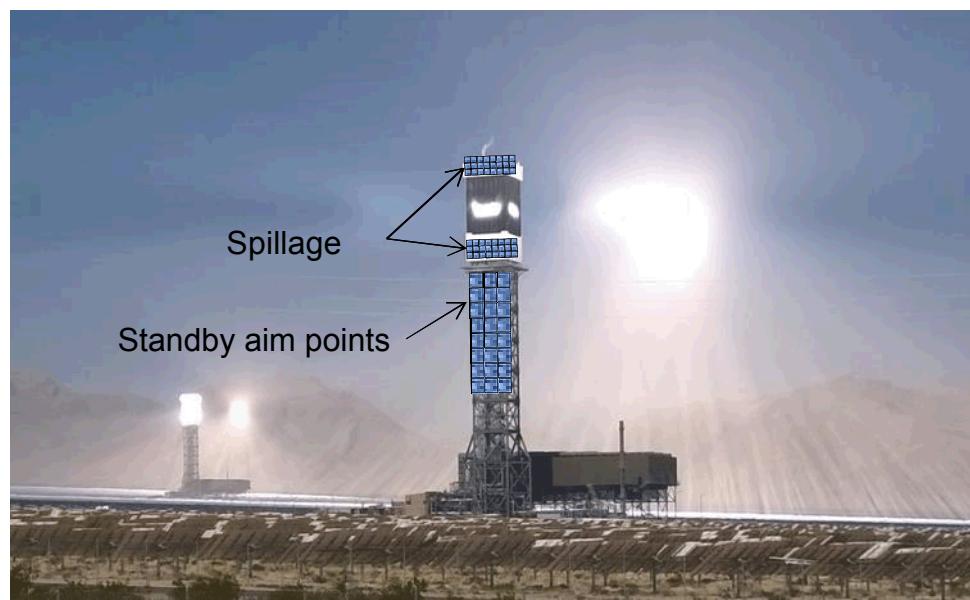


Arizona State University – Professor Zachary Holman

High-Temperature PV Topping Cells



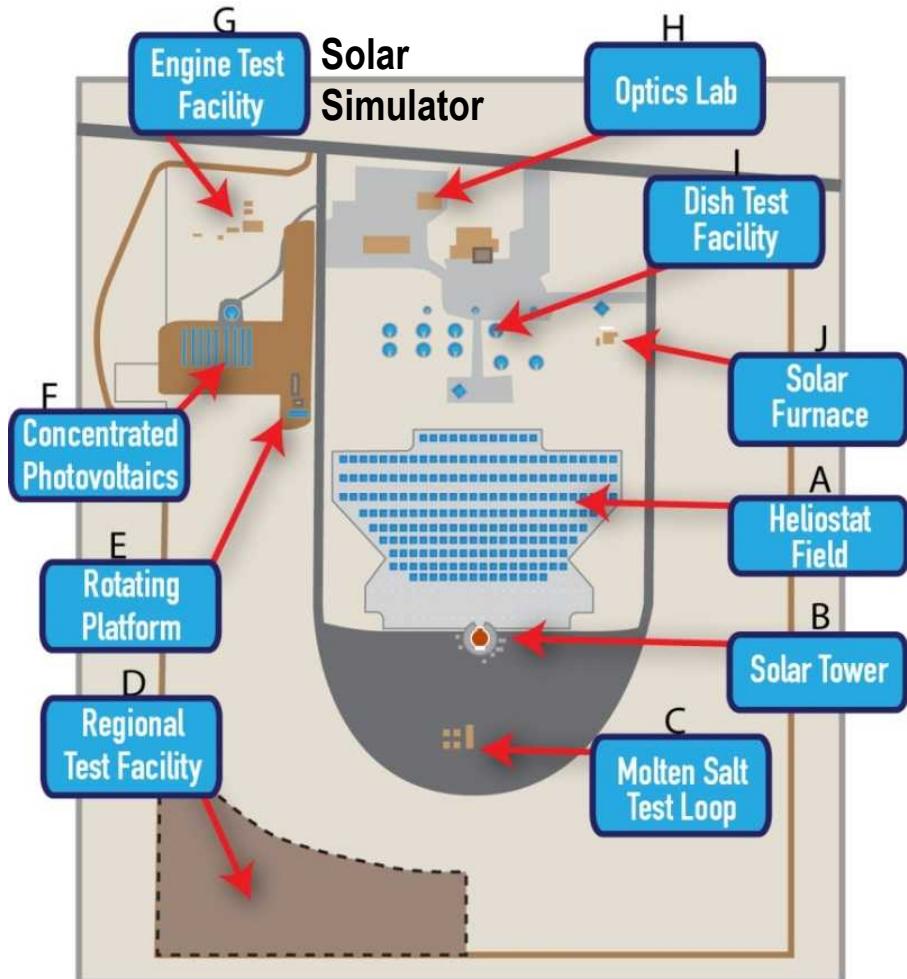
High-Temperature PV as Heat Shields



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The National Solar Thermal Test Facility



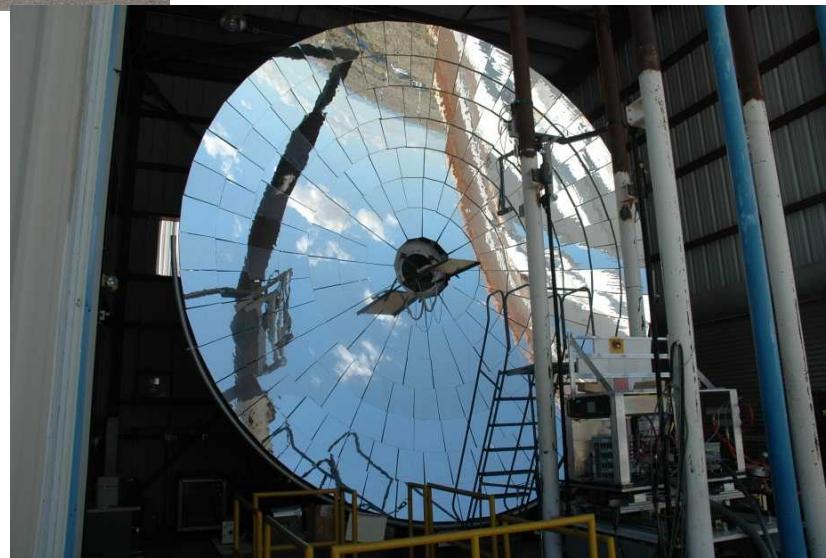
NSTTF is a DOE Designated User Facility

- Strategic Partnerships Projects (SPP)
- Cooperative Research And Development Agreement (CRADA)

Solar Furnace

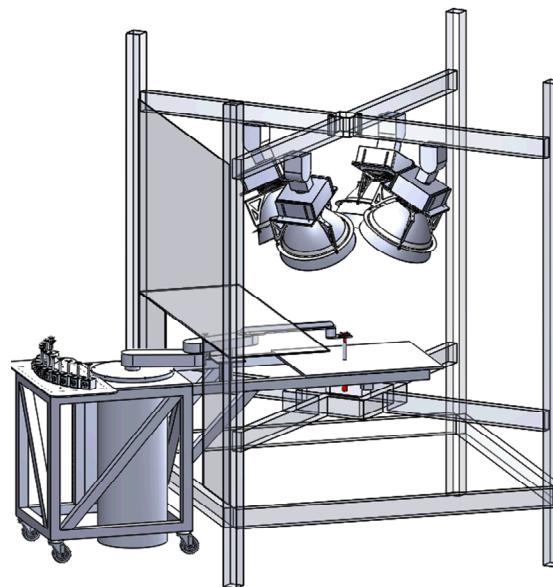


- 16 kW Solar Furnace
- Peak flux $\sim 600 \text{ W/cm}^2$
(6000 suns)
- 5 cm spot size



Solar Simulator

- High-Flux Solar Simulator with Automated Sample Handling and Exposure System (ASHES)
 - Four 1.8 kW lamps
 - $7.2 \text{ kW}_{\text{electric}}, 6.2 \text{ kW}_{\text{radiative}}$
 - 1100 kW/m^2 peak flux over 1 inch spot size



Questions?



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