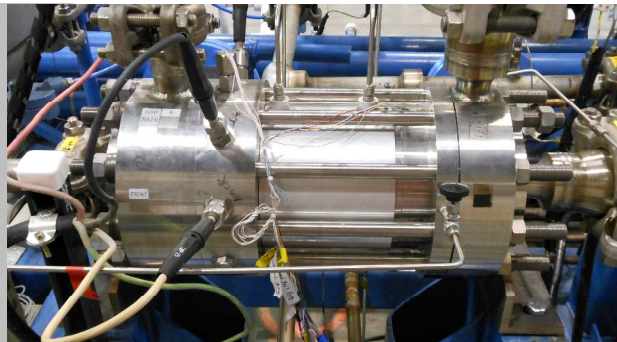
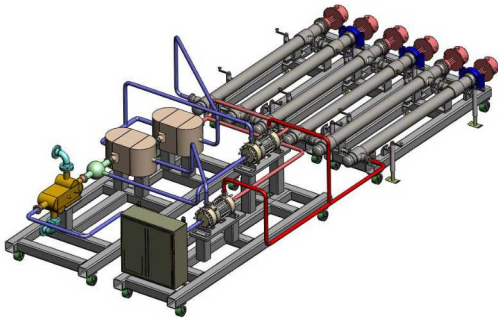


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## **SUPERCritical CO<sub>2</sub> BRAYTON CYCLE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

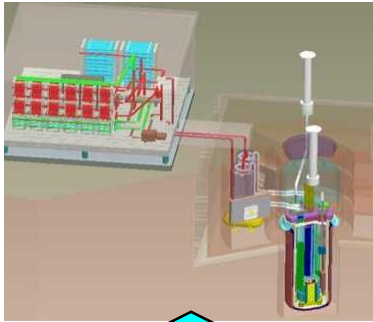
Gary E. Rochau, (505) 845-7543, [gerocha@sandia.gov](mailto:gerocha@sandia.gov)

Jim Pasch, (505) 284-6072, [jjpasch@sandia.gov](mailto:jjpasch@sandia.gov)

6221 Advanced Nuclear Concepts

Nuclear Energy Systems Laboratory/Brayton Lab ([ne.sandia.gov/nesl](http://ne.sandia.gov/nesl))

# Advanced Energy Conversion



Nuclear

- Using Supercritical Fluids
- Higher Conversion Efficiency
- 1/10 of the Cost
- 1/100 of the Plant Volume

Fossil



Concentrated Solar



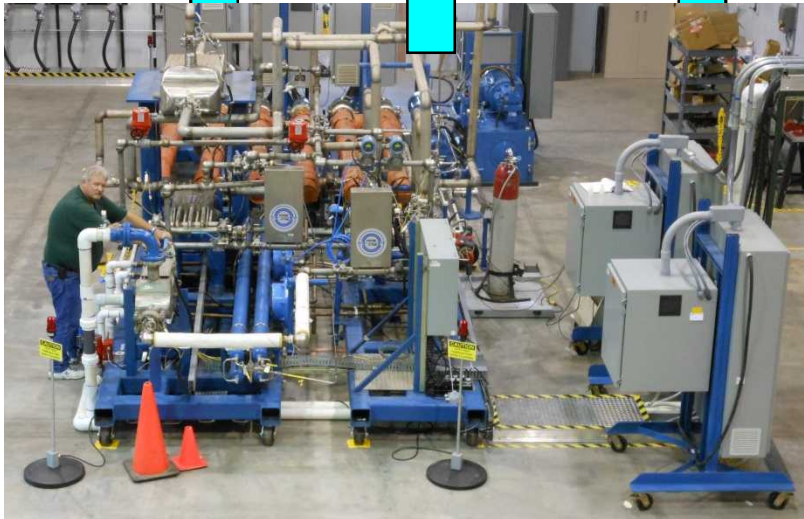
Geothermal



Turbomachinery

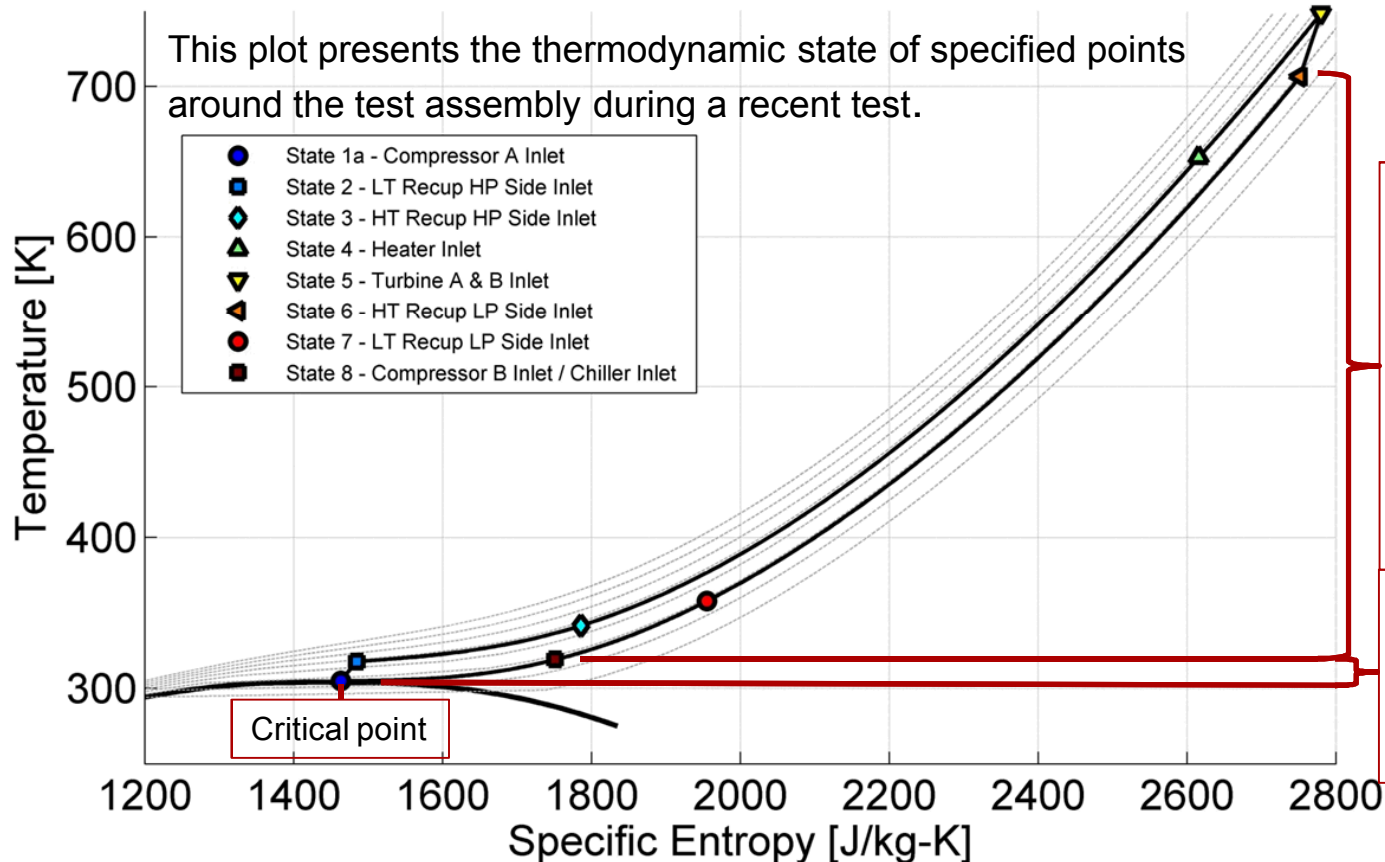


Industrial Heat



# Primary Advantage over Steam Cycle

T-s Diagram  
DOE SNL Test "GenIV\_120925\_0935mod"  
At 6500 [s] into the test  
Generated PowerA = 9681 [W]  
Generated PowerB = 3983 [W]



This much heat energy that remains in the low pressure SCO<sub>2</sub> is transferred into the cold, high pressure flow from the compressors.

This much heat energy is rejected to maintain the operating point.

# Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Cycle Applicable to Most Thermal Sources

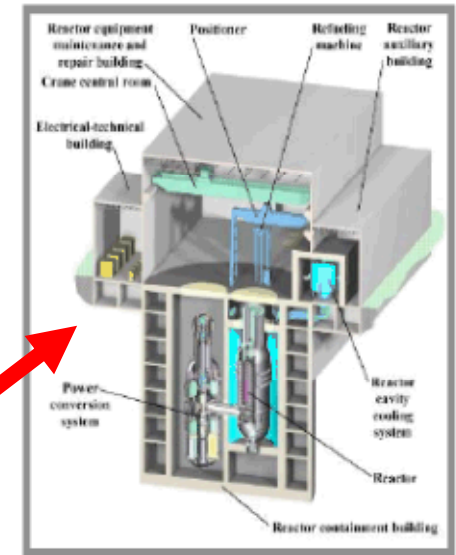
Solar



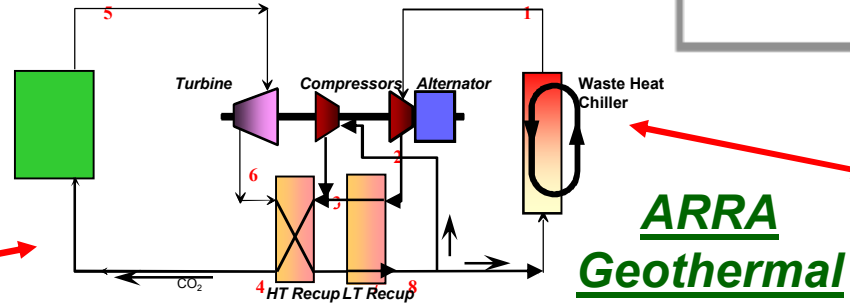
SunShot Power Cycle

Nuclear  
(Gas, Sodium, Water)

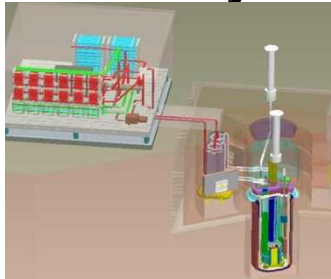
DOE-NE  
Advanced  
Reactors



Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>  
Brayton Cycle



Military



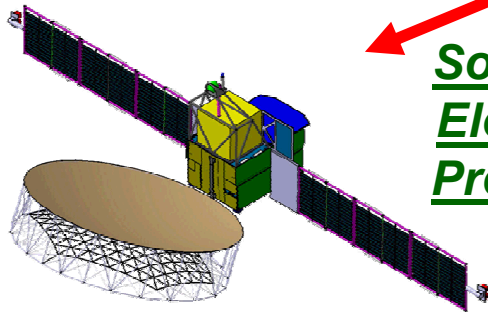
CONUS  
Marine  
Mobile?

ARRA  
Geothermal

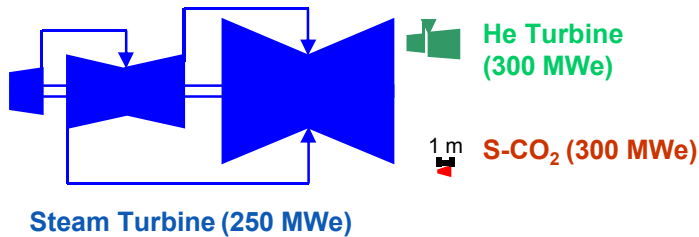


Fossil  
Sequestration Ready

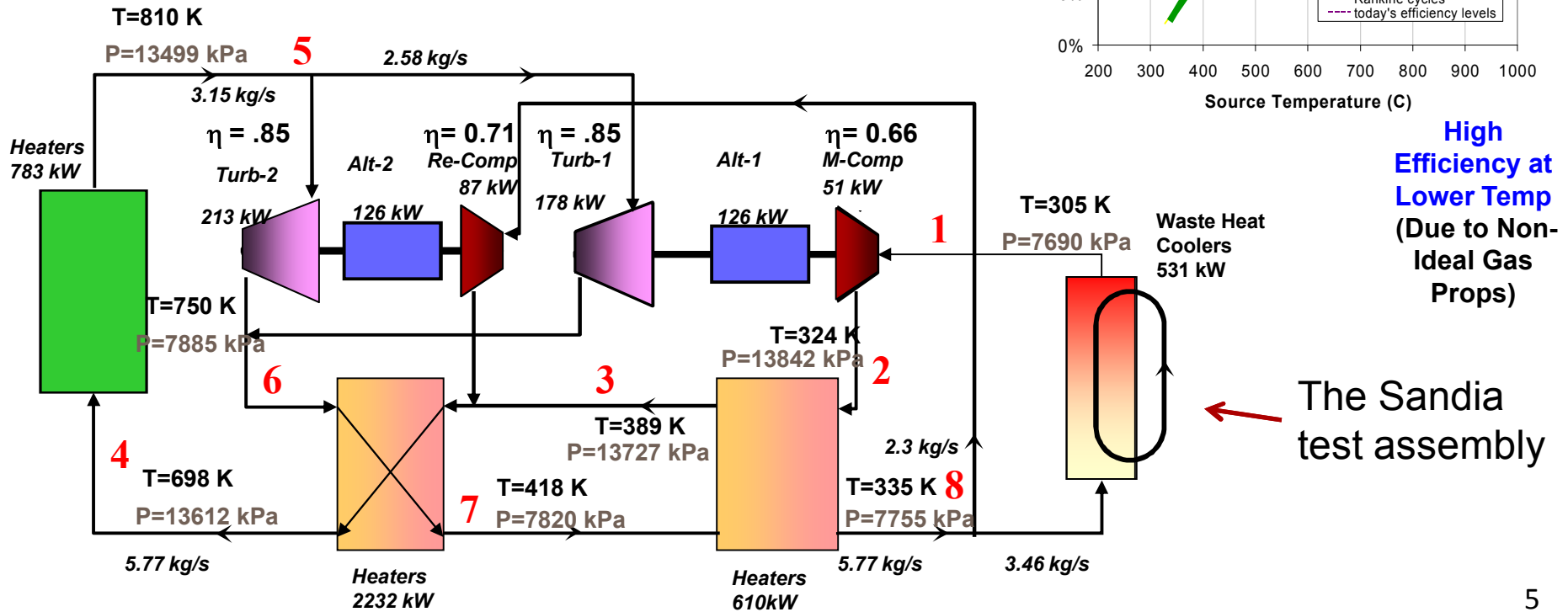
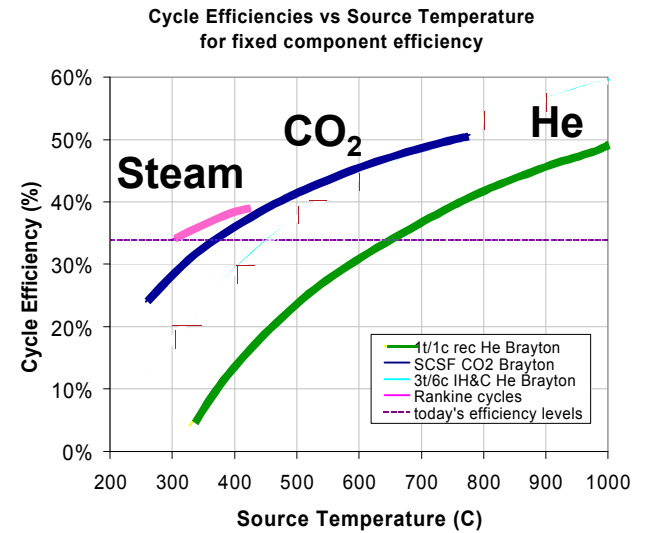
Solar  
Elec.  
Prop.



# SNL/DOE Design Target for Proof-of-Principle Split-Flow Re-compression S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle



High Density Means Very Small Power Conversion System  
 Non-Ideal Gas Means Higher Efficiency at Moderate Temperature



High Efficiency at Lower Temp (Due to Non-Ideal Gas Props)

The Sandia test assembly

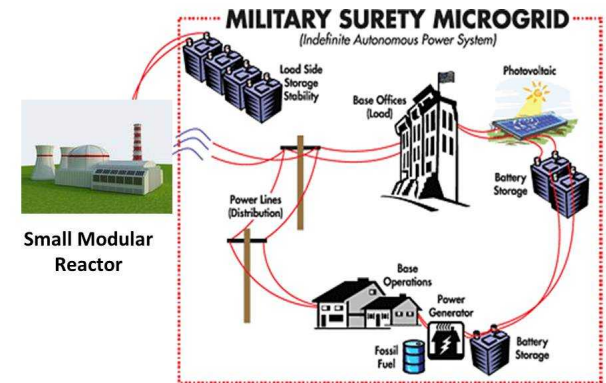
# Status of the DOE Program

- **Sandia/DOE-NE S-CO<sub>2</sub> Program has Operating S-CO<sub>2</sub> Turbo-Machinery Test Loops**
  - Multiple Operational Loops and Flexible Configurations – Brayton Laboratory
  - These are currently among the leading S-CO<sub>2</sub> power production loops in the world
    - Other Loops are : (Japan TIT, Czech Republic, Echogen)
  - Power Production in multiple loop configurations
- **Multiple “Paying” Customers**
  - DOE-NE, Industry, Solar, Geo Thermal, Fossil
  - Over \$13M Invested since 2006 (DOE-NE)
- **Advanced S-CO<sub>2</sub> Options Look Very Promising**
  - Condensing, Advanced Cycles, Natural Circulation, Dry Heat Rejection
- **Current Effort**
  - Demonstrate theoretical efficiency in the 1 MW<sub>th</sub> Split Flow Loop
  - Demonstrate Fluid Mixtures, Other Supercritical Fluids, Advanced Cycles and Condensing Cycle for Dry Heat Rejection
  - Scale up Demonstration Program to 10 MWe for operation in 2014 with SunShot Program



# DOE-NE R&D Goals

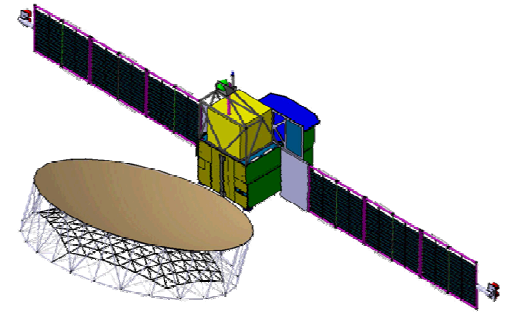
- Demonstration of the theoretical gross efficiency of the supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle in FY13
- Operational characteristics of a same cycle (includes start-up, shut-down, transient response, load following and full operational model) expected mid-FY15
- Demonstration of commercial grade 10-MWe simple S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton cycle with dry heat rejection (50% DOE – 50% industry)
- Optimization of 10-MWe S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton cycle in FY18. (Industry 50%, DOE- NE 10%, DOE-FE 20%, DOE-EERE 20% )
- After FY18 and beyond only industrial support.



# Commercialization Goals

## Industry Funded Projects

- Commercialization of 1-5 MWe S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle in 2014 (applications: geothermal, solar, waste heat recovery)
- Commercialization of 5-15 MWe S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle in 2016 (Power peaking systems)
- Optimized S-CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle systems (cost and life cycle) in 2018 (Smart Secure Grid Systems)
- Commercialization of <300MWe optimized systems for (clean coal, SMRs, advanced power cycles)



# SCO<sub>2</sub> Advantages with SMRs

Scalable to match practically any power demands

SMRs of different sizes could be coupled

Adaptable to a wide range of heat sources and source temperatures

Application with both LWR-type and novel SMR designs

Adaptable as a topping or bottoming cycle

Demonstrated load following capability

With proper SMR, could operate by power demand

Extremely small turbomachinery vs. steam power equipment

More easily transported to remote locations

Benign, cheap, ubiquitous operating fluid

Noncorrosive, nonflammable

Efficiencies remain high with dry cooling

Desert applications, etc.

Extremely low noise levels in all equipment

Very few moving parts in the high temperature flow sections

Maximum operating pressures are roughly 20 MPa

Supercritical and ultrasupercritical steam plants that operate at 25 – 35 MPa

Hundreds of thousands of hours experience over decades of operation with this cycle with other fluids (Germany, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century)

Demonstrated high availability