

# Overview of Sandia National Laboratories and the National Solar Thermal Test Facility (NSTTF)

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SAND2013-XXXXP



Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000.

*Exceptional service  
in the national interest*



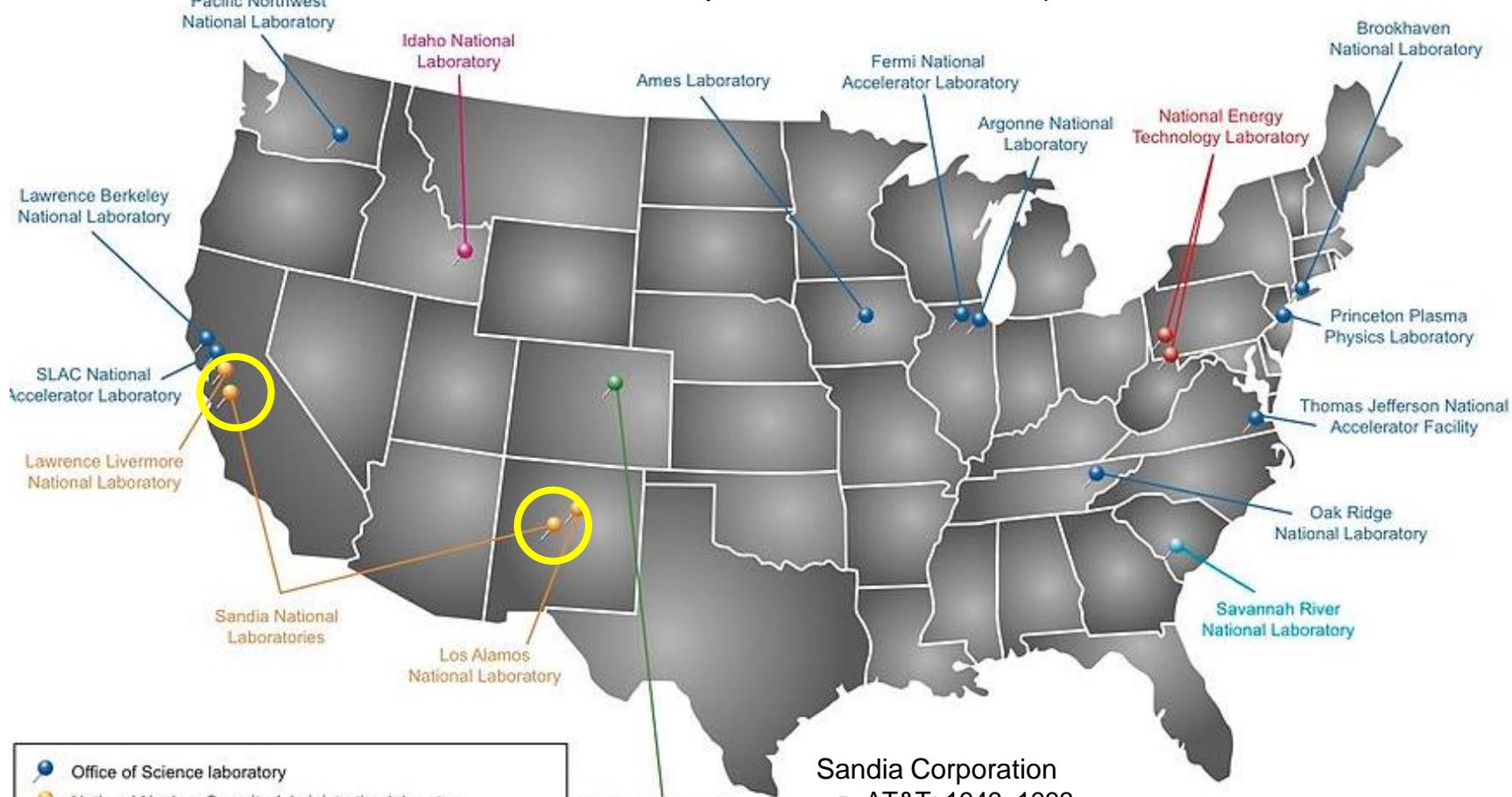
# Overview

- Overview of Sandia National Laboratories
- National Solar Thermal Test Facility & CSP Activities
- Bi-National (Sandia/DLR) Proposal for CSP
  - Value proposition
  - Why Sandia and DLR?
  - Funding mechanisms

# Overview of Sandia

One of 16 national laboratories operated by United States Department of Energy

- Government owned, contractor operated
- Federally funded research and development center



## Sandia Corporation

- AT&T: 1949–1993
- Martin Marietta: 1993–1995
- Lockheed Martin: 1995–present

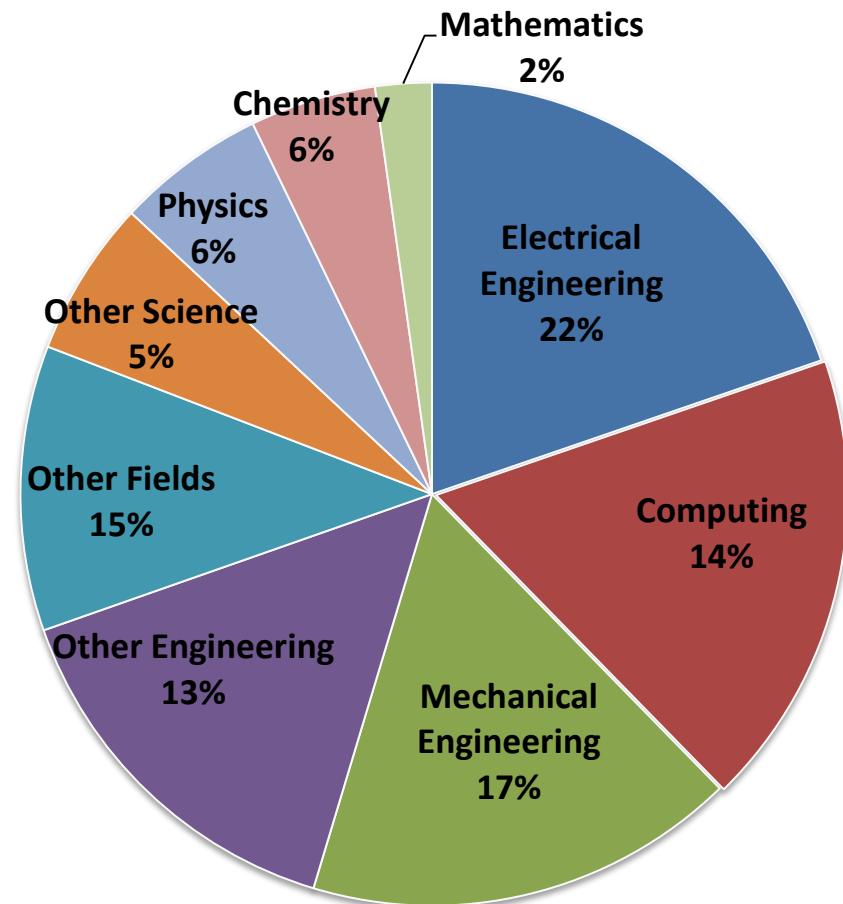
# Our Workforce

- On-site workforce: 11,711
- Regular employees: 9,494
- Gross payroll: ~\$1.046 billion

*Data as of April 12, 2013*



## R&D staff (4,799) by discipline

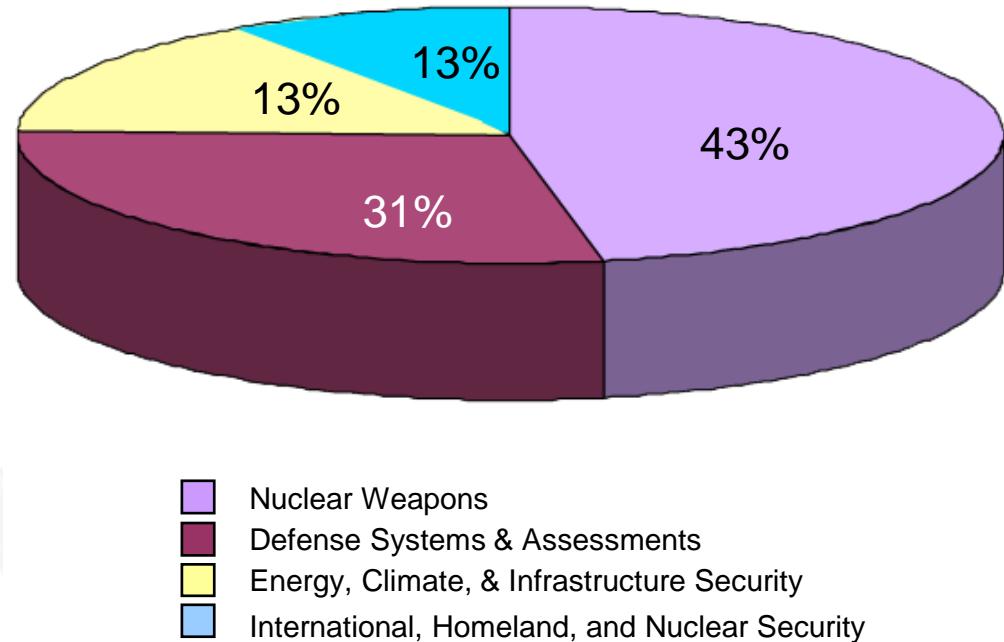


# Our Budget

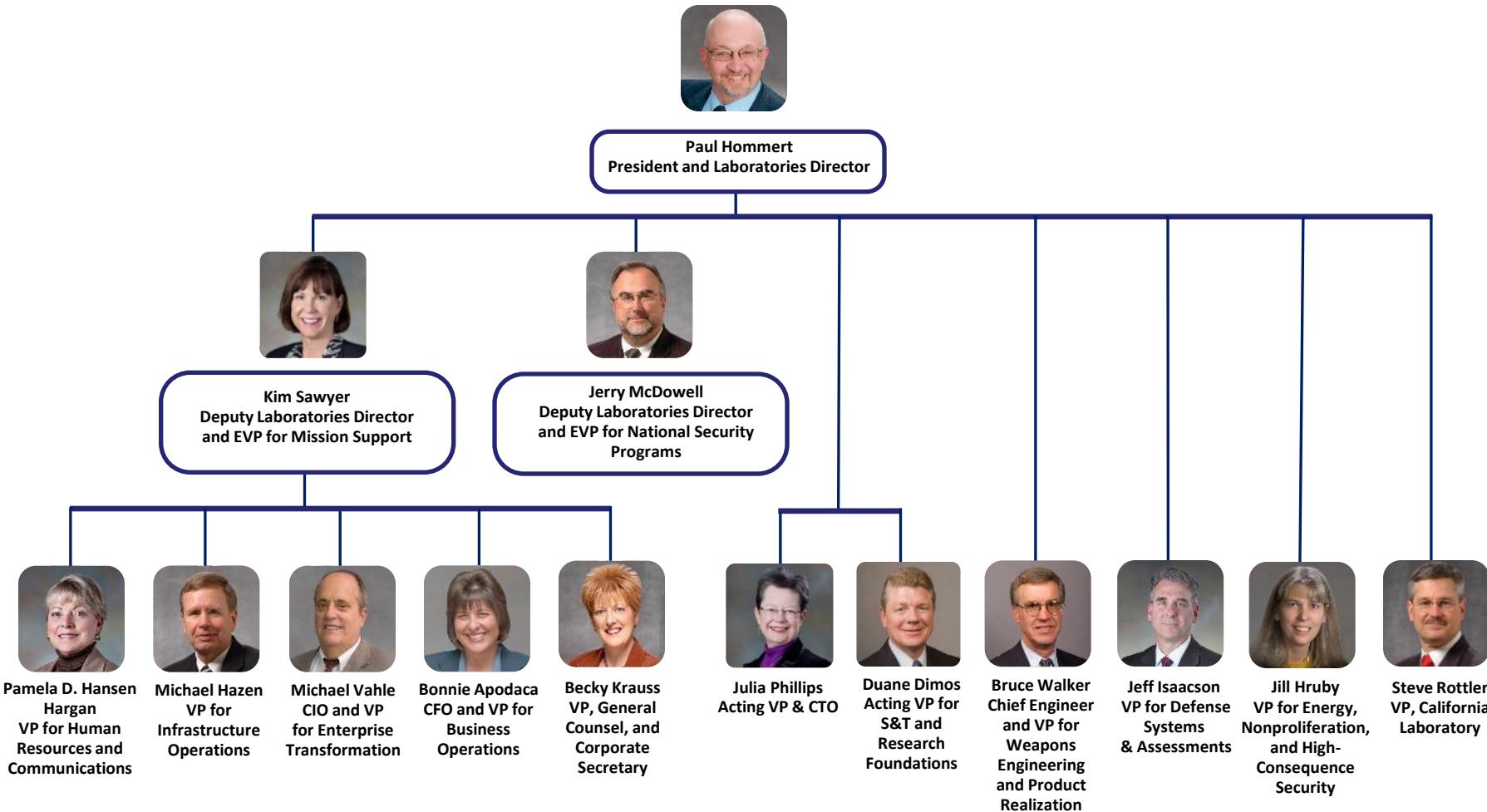
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FY10 operating revenue: \$2.3 billion



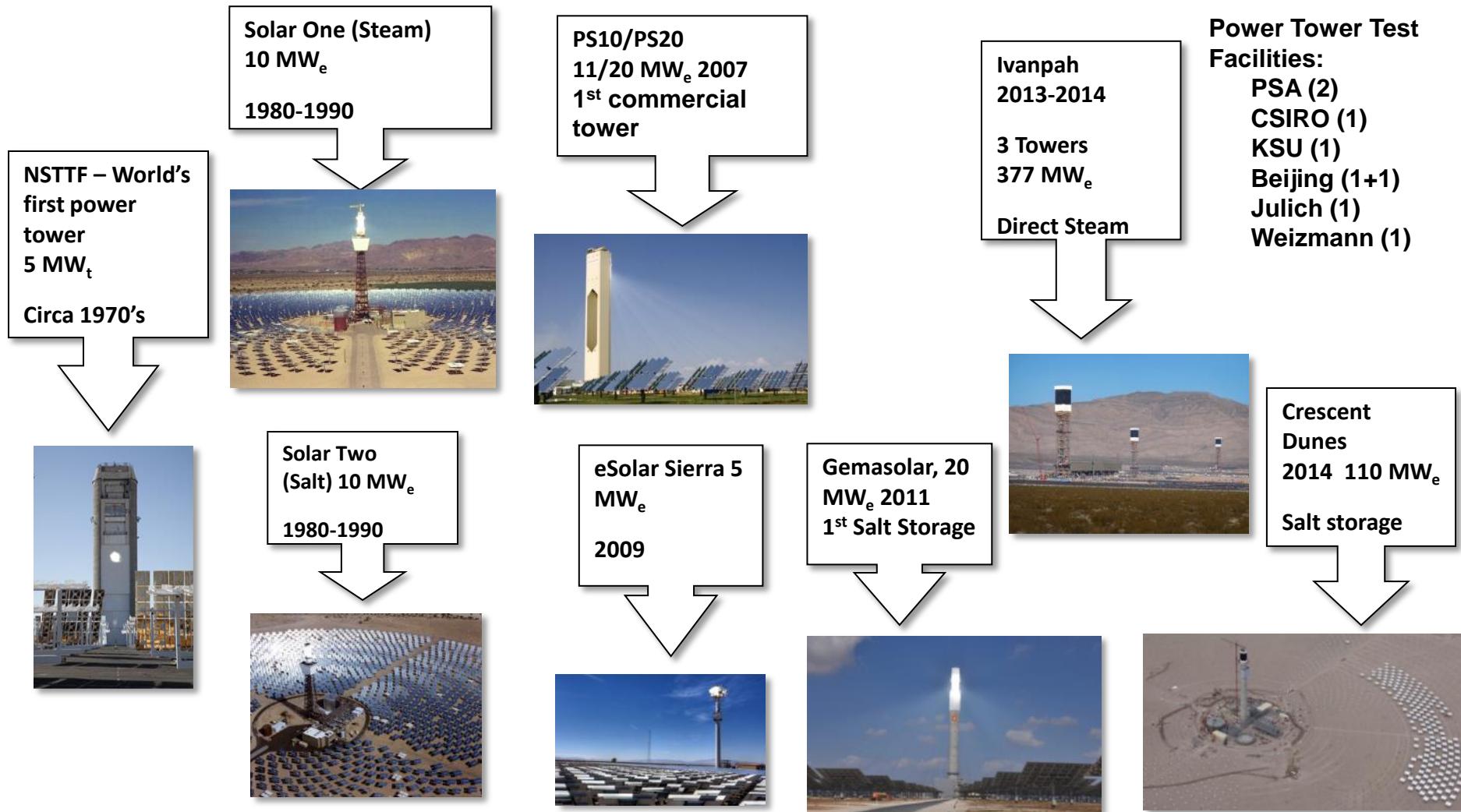
# Executive Management Structure



# Overview

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# NSTTF and Power Tower History



1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

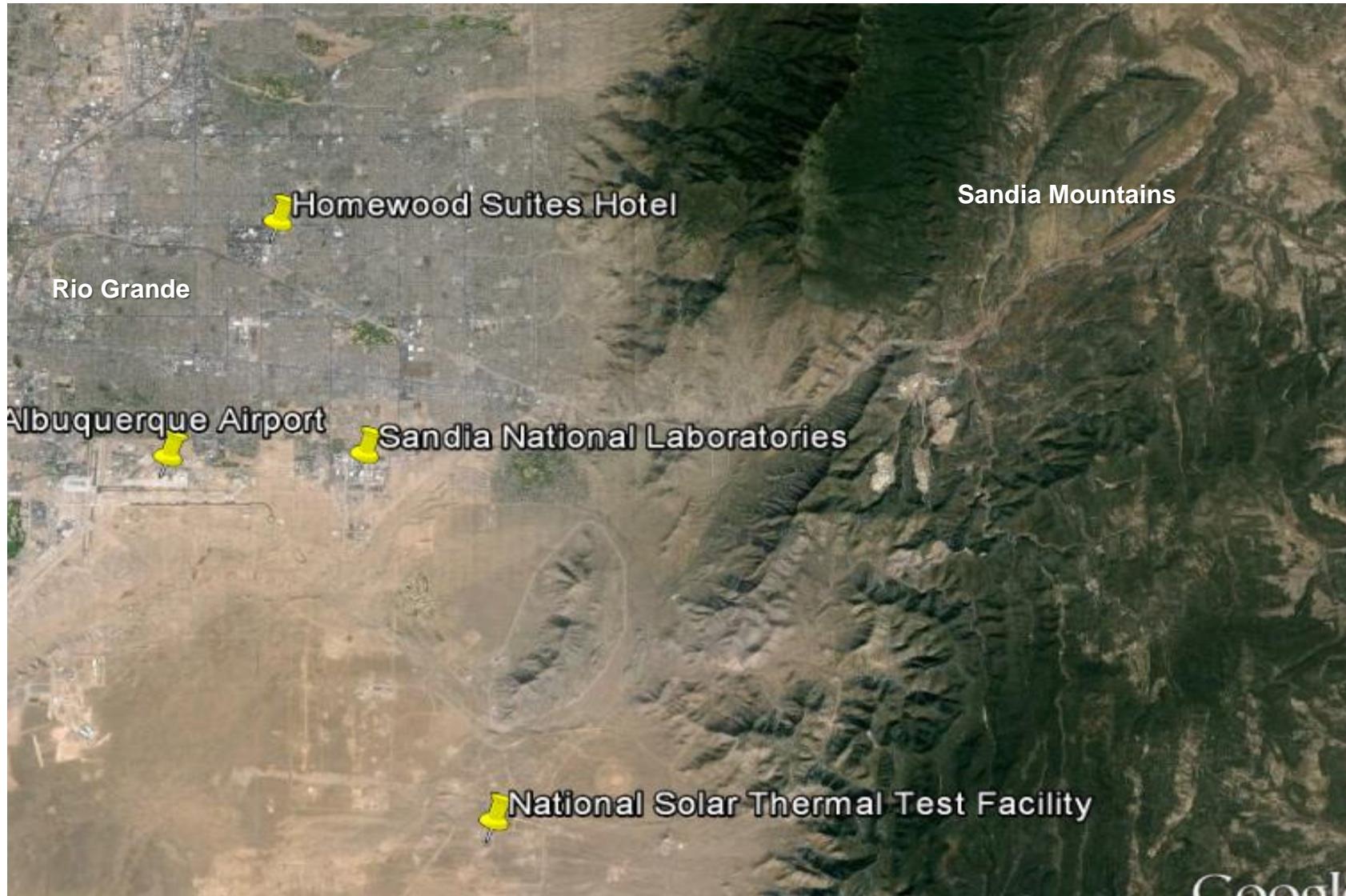
2011

2013

2014

# Albuquerque, NM

Population: ~600,000



# National Solar Thermal Test Facility

Parabolic Trough R&D



Dish Stirling R&D



Molten Salt Test Loop



Receiver, Heliostat, and Materials  
Testing



Solar Fuels and Selective Absorbers

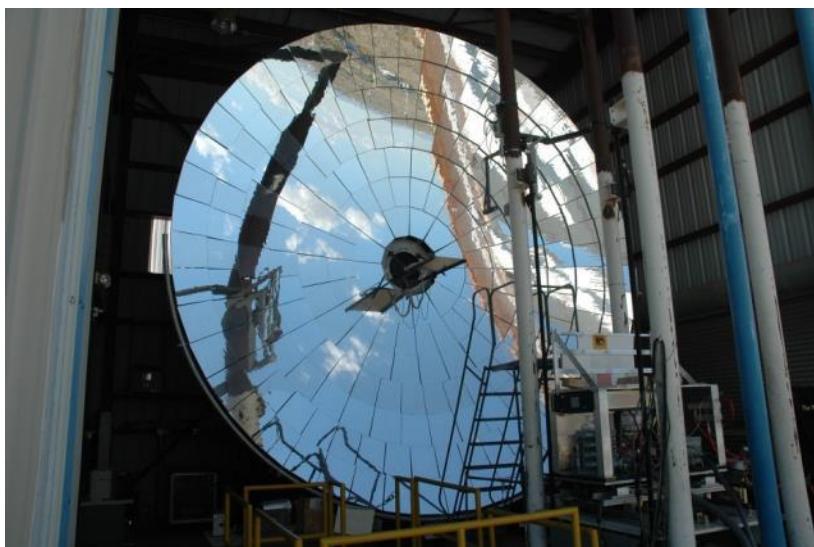
Optics Lab

# Tower and Heliostat Field



- Peak Flux:  
350 W/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Total Power:  
6 MW<sub>t</sub>
- 218 heliostats
- Tower (200 ft)  
3 test bays plus  
top of tower
- Testing of  
receivers,  
heliostats,  
materials, and  
subsystem  
components

# Solar Furnace



- Peak Flux: 600 W/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Total Power: 16 kW<sub>t</sub>
- Materials testing, solar fuels, calibration, proof of concept testing

# Molten Salt Test Loop

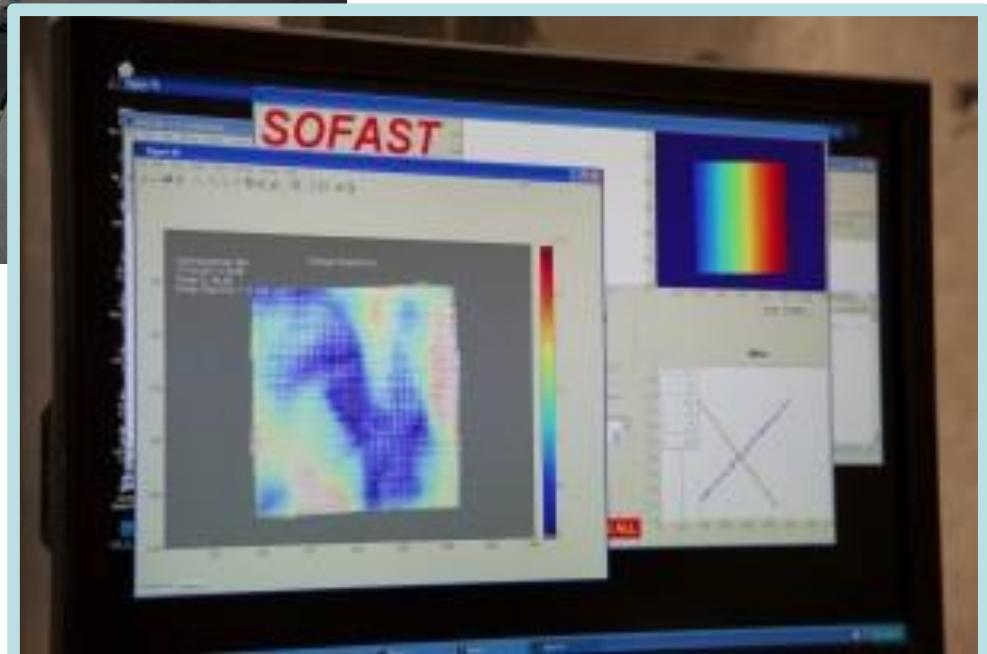


- Operating Temp: 300 - 585 °C
- Max pressure: 40 bar (580 psi)
- Flow rates variable: 44 – 70 kg/s (up to 600 gpm)
- Three test loops
- Component and system testing
- Accelerated life-time testing

# Optics Lab

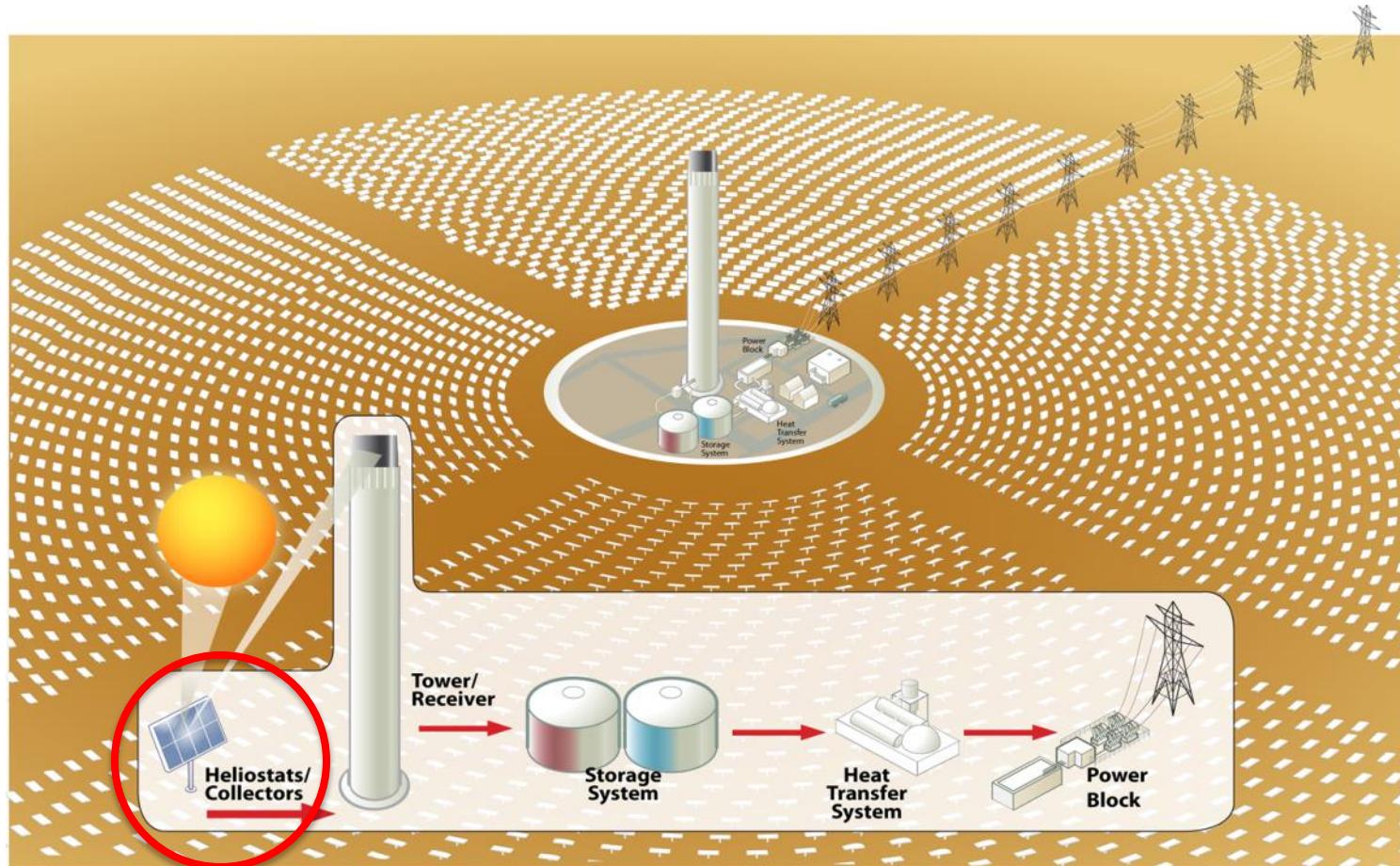


Optical  
characterization of  
collector facets,  
PV modules

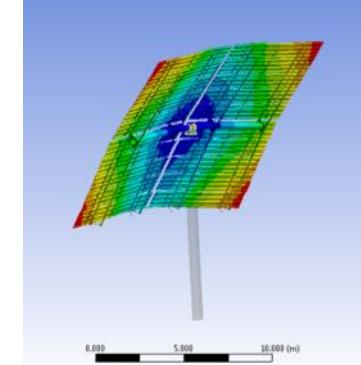


# NSTTF Research Activities

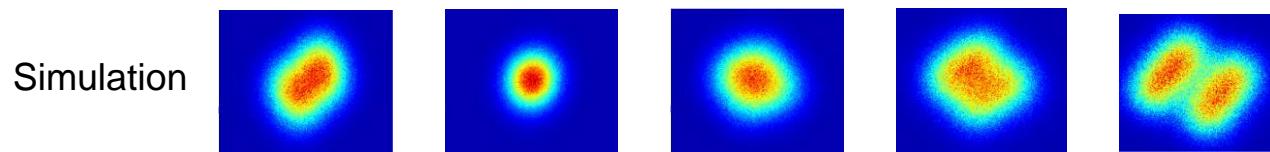
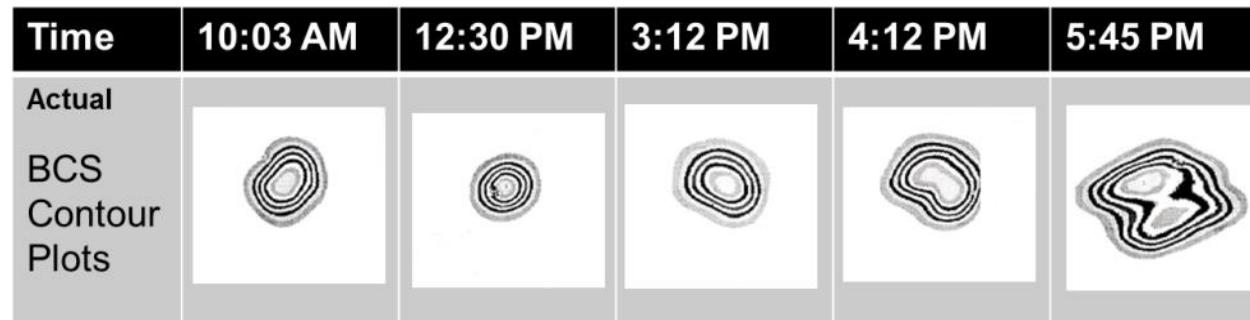
# CSP Research



# Optical Accuracy – Gravity Sag



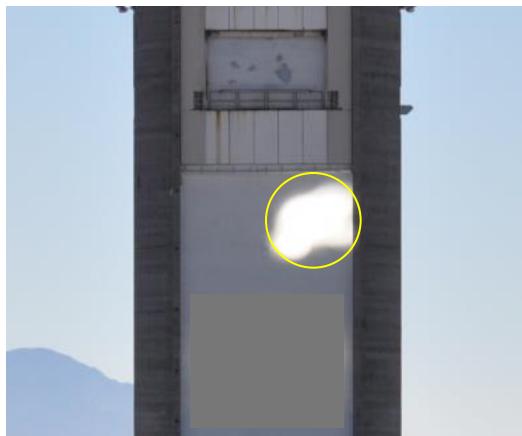
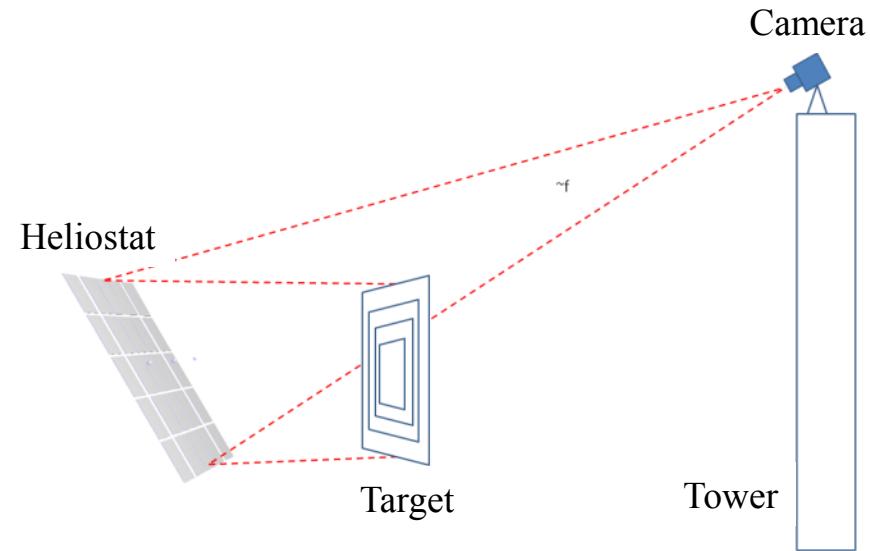
Mirror canting and gravity sag can affect optics  
(J.Yuan)



August 23

# Optical Accuracy – Characterization, Alignment, and Tracking

(C. Andraka, J. Yellowhair, E. Smith, C. Ho)

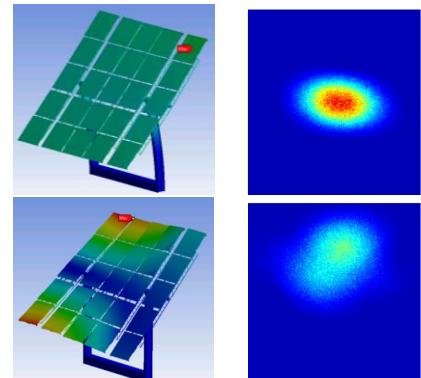
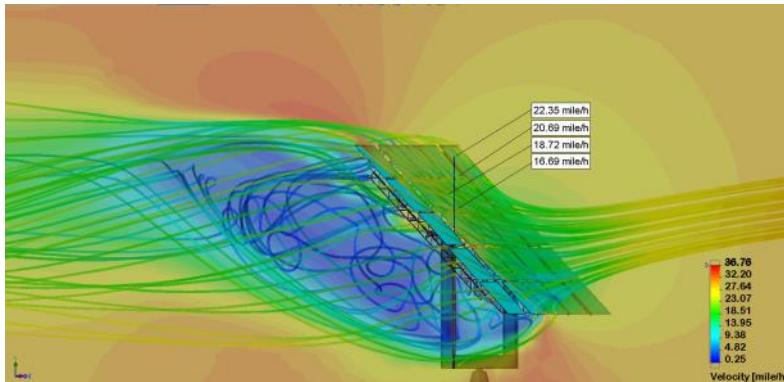


Before



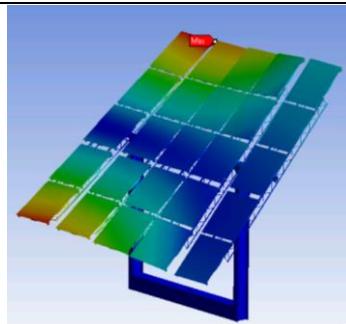
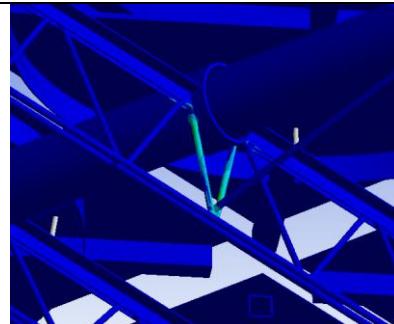
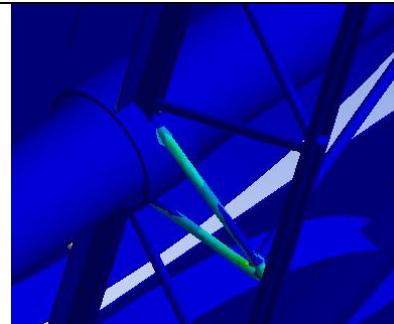
After

# Wind Impacts – Optics and Fatigue

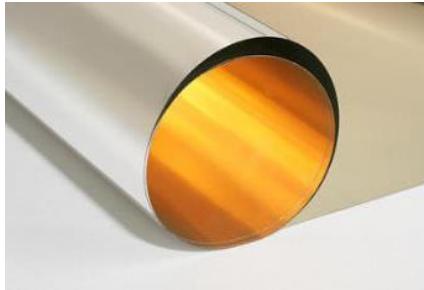


Optics impacted by  
“sway” or out-of-  
plane bending

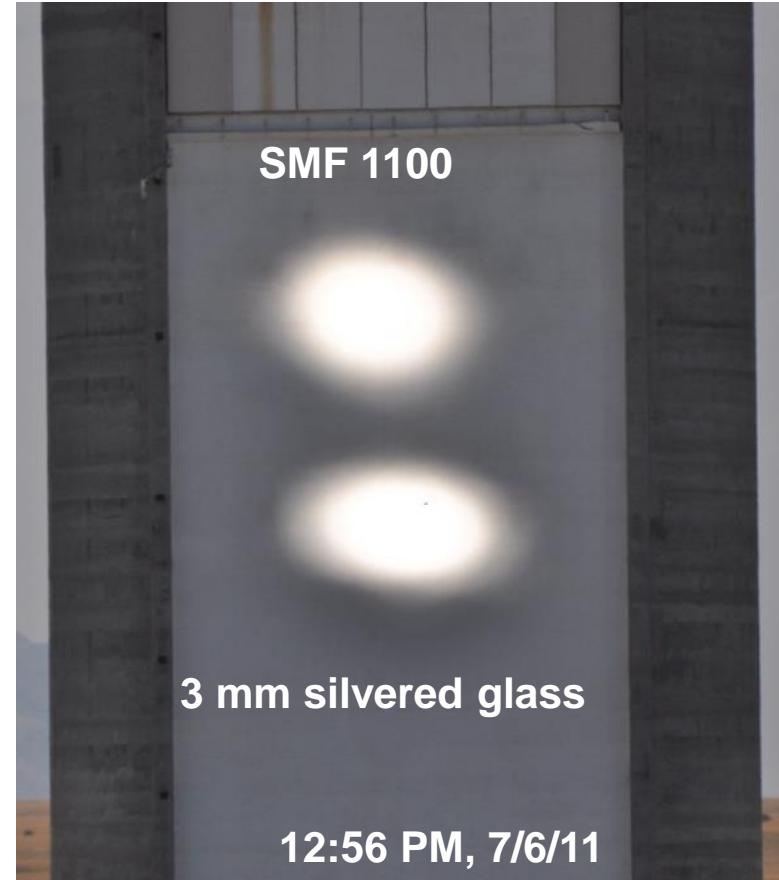
J. Sment, J. Christian, J. Yuan, T. Griffith, C. Ho

Mode shape	Fatigue Affected Areas		
 Mode 2	 Truss Cross Members at Torque Tube		  Tacoma Narrows Bridge collapsing under 40 mph winds (1940)

# Advanced Reflective Materials

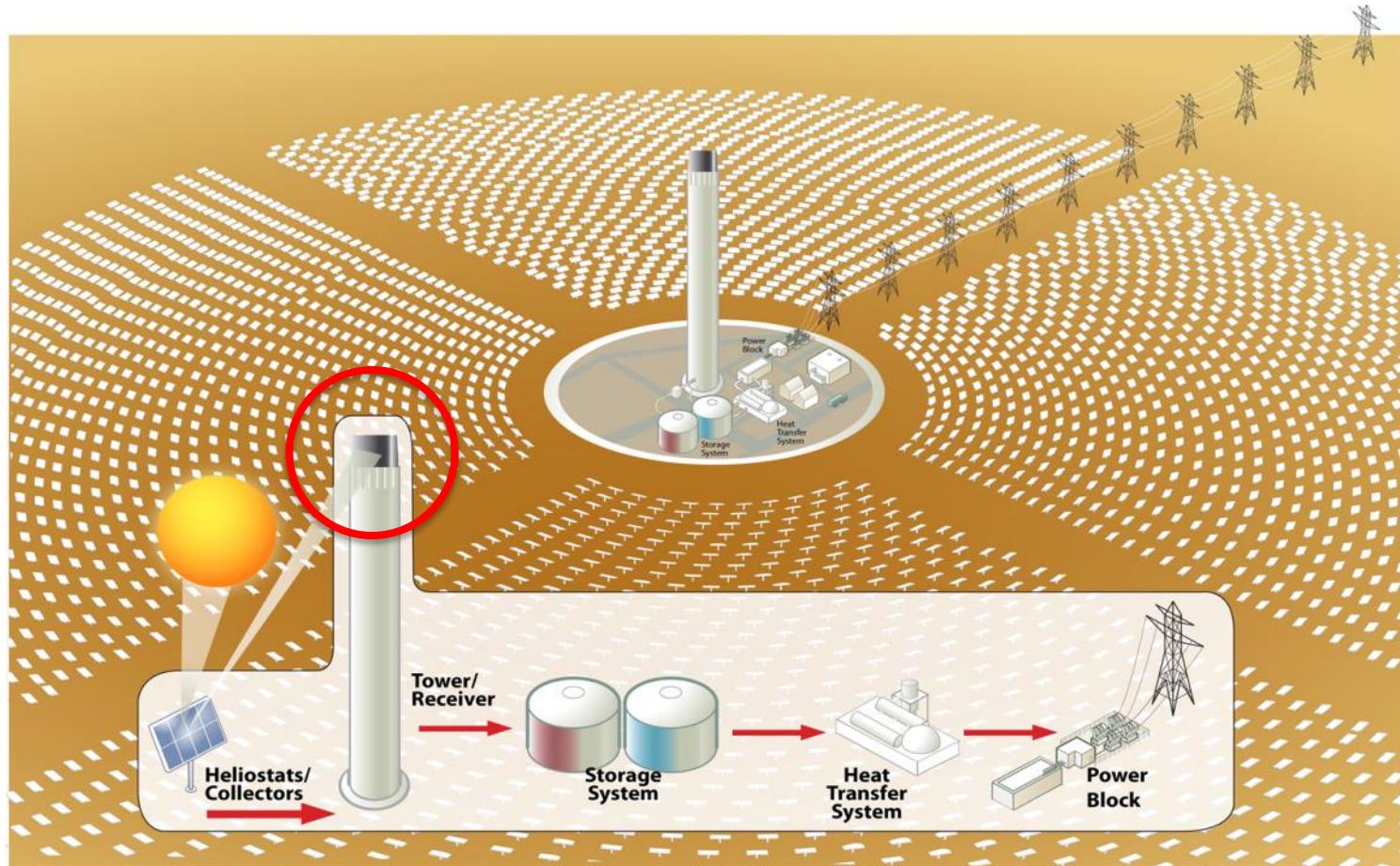


Heliostat with 3M™ Solar Mirror  
Film 1100



Ho et al. (*Solar Energy*, 2013)

# CSP Research

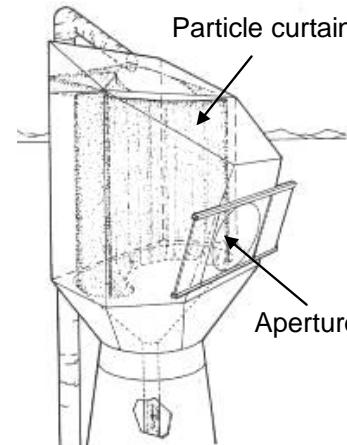


# High-Temperature Receivers



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

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



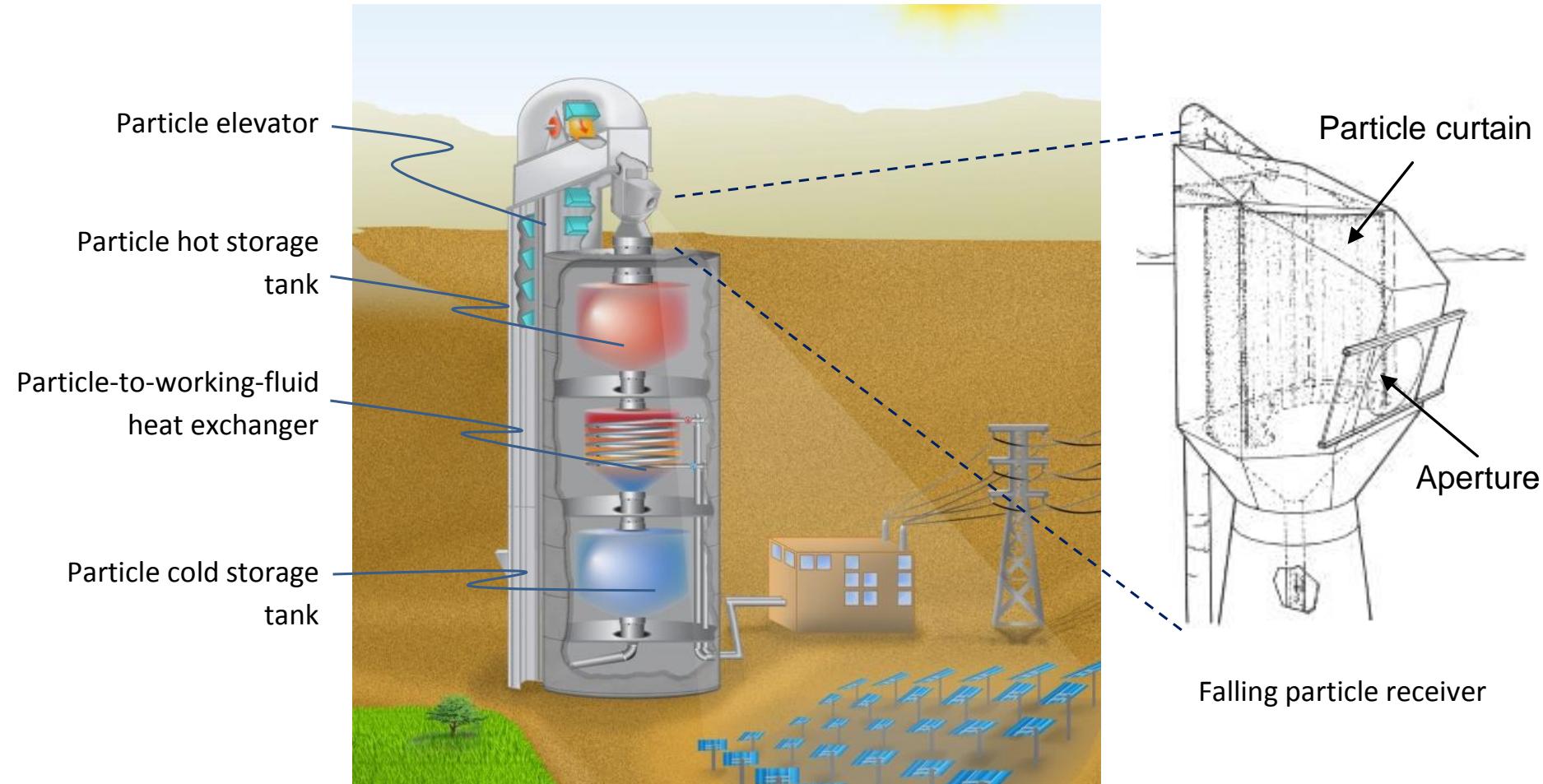
Falling particle receiver



External tubular receiver

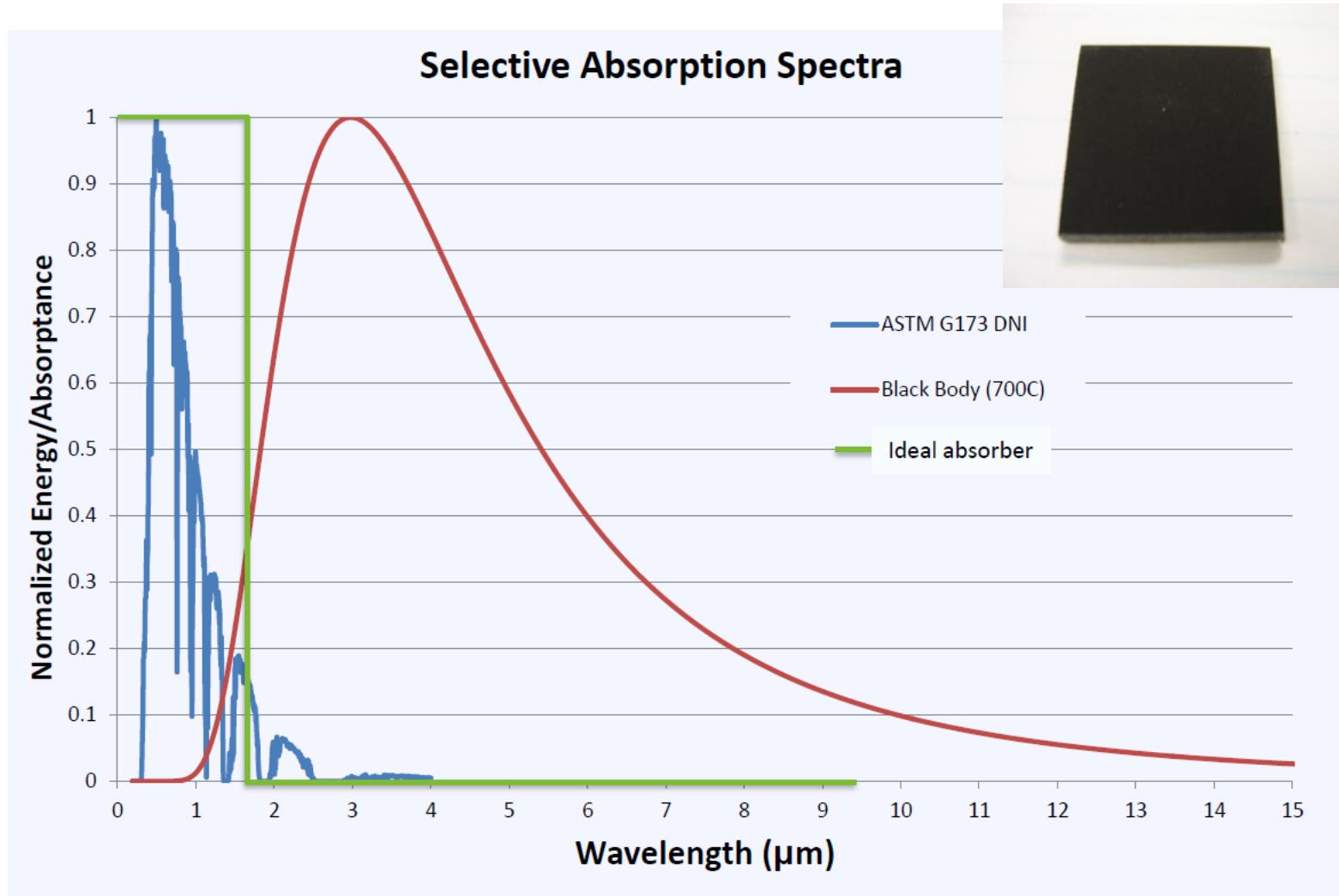
# High Temperature Falling Particle

## Receiver (DOE SunShot Award FY13 – FY15)

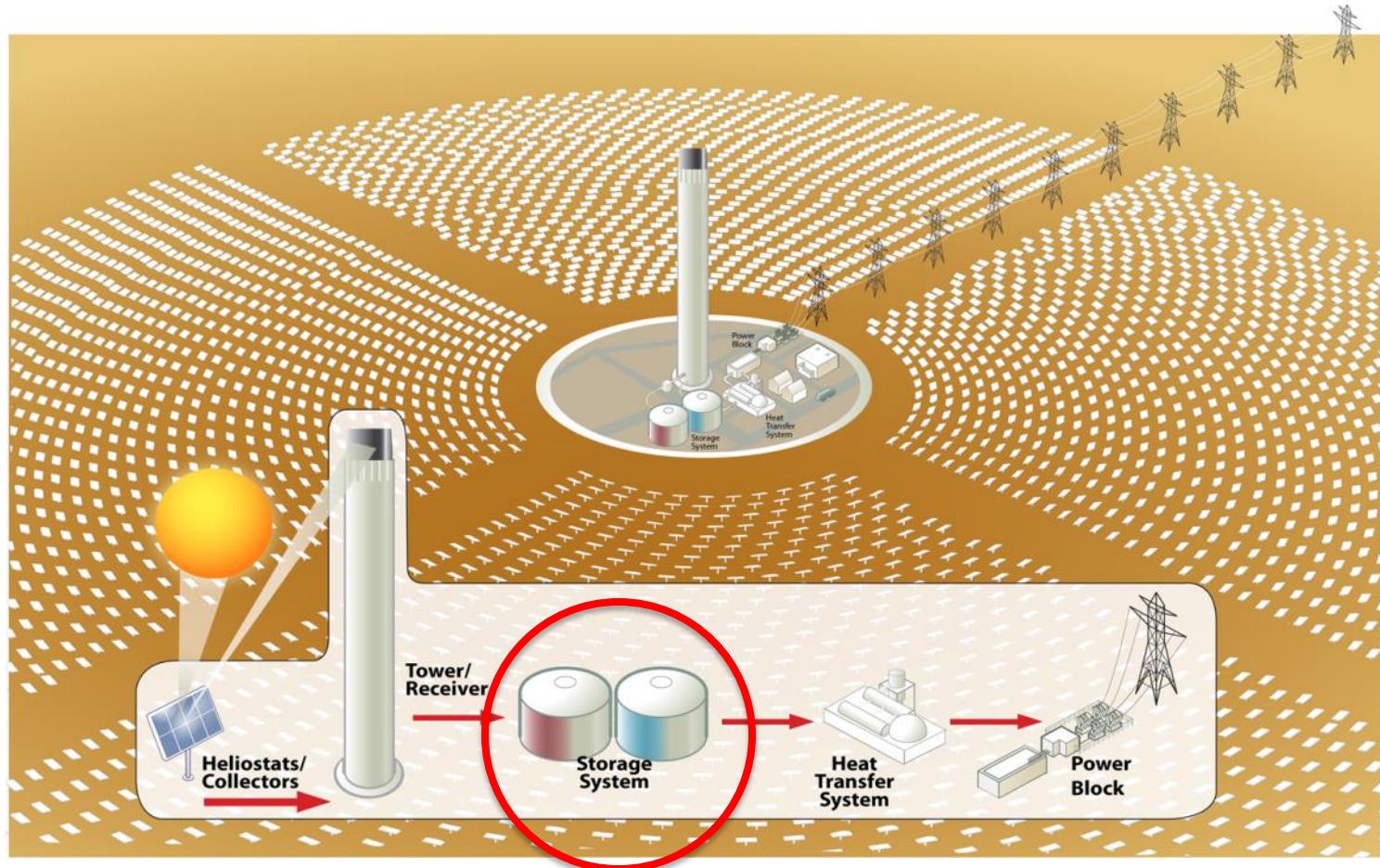


Participants: Sandia, Georgia Tech, Bucknell U., King Saud Univ., DLR

# Selective Absorber Coatings



# CSP Research



# Molten Salt Research

- Molten Salt Test Loop – Plant-Like Conditions for On-Sun Testing of Salt Components/Collectors
- 700 C Salt Pots – Corrosion testing along with Analysis Capability
- Molten Salt Expertise for Testing
- Thermochemical experience from S2P, Fuel Cells, and Hydrogen Expertise



Salt Pot



Molten Salt Test Loop (MSTL)

# AREVA Linear Fresnel and Salt Tube Test

## Single Module Linear Fresnel Test Connected to MSTL

Evaluate:

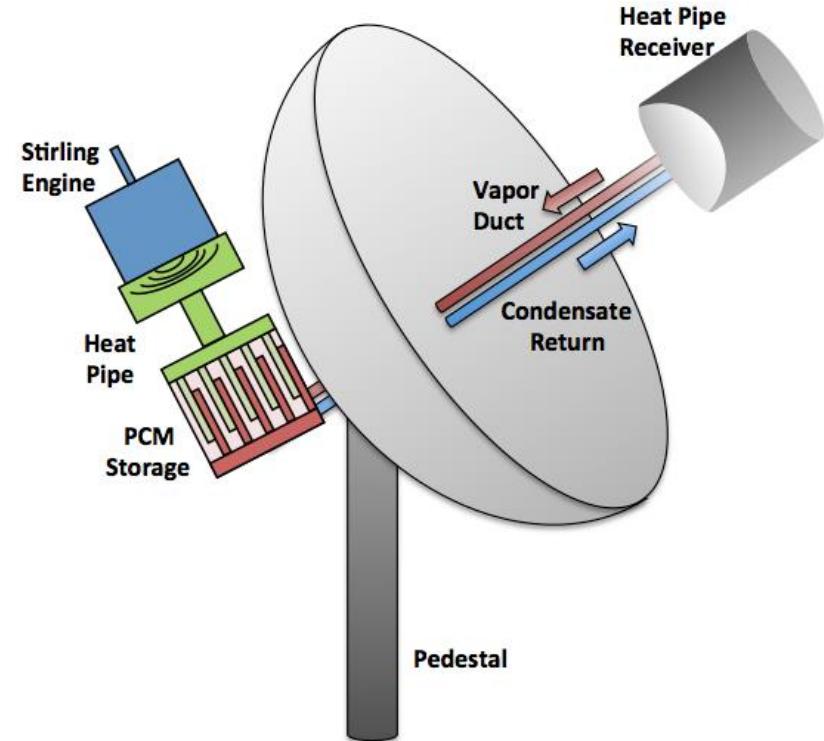
- Salt performance in Linear Fresnel
- Salt components
- Filling/draining strategies
- System efficiency
- Operating strategies
- Off-normal conditions

Areva's Linear Fresnel Test (middle of picture)  
Connected to MSTL (lower left)

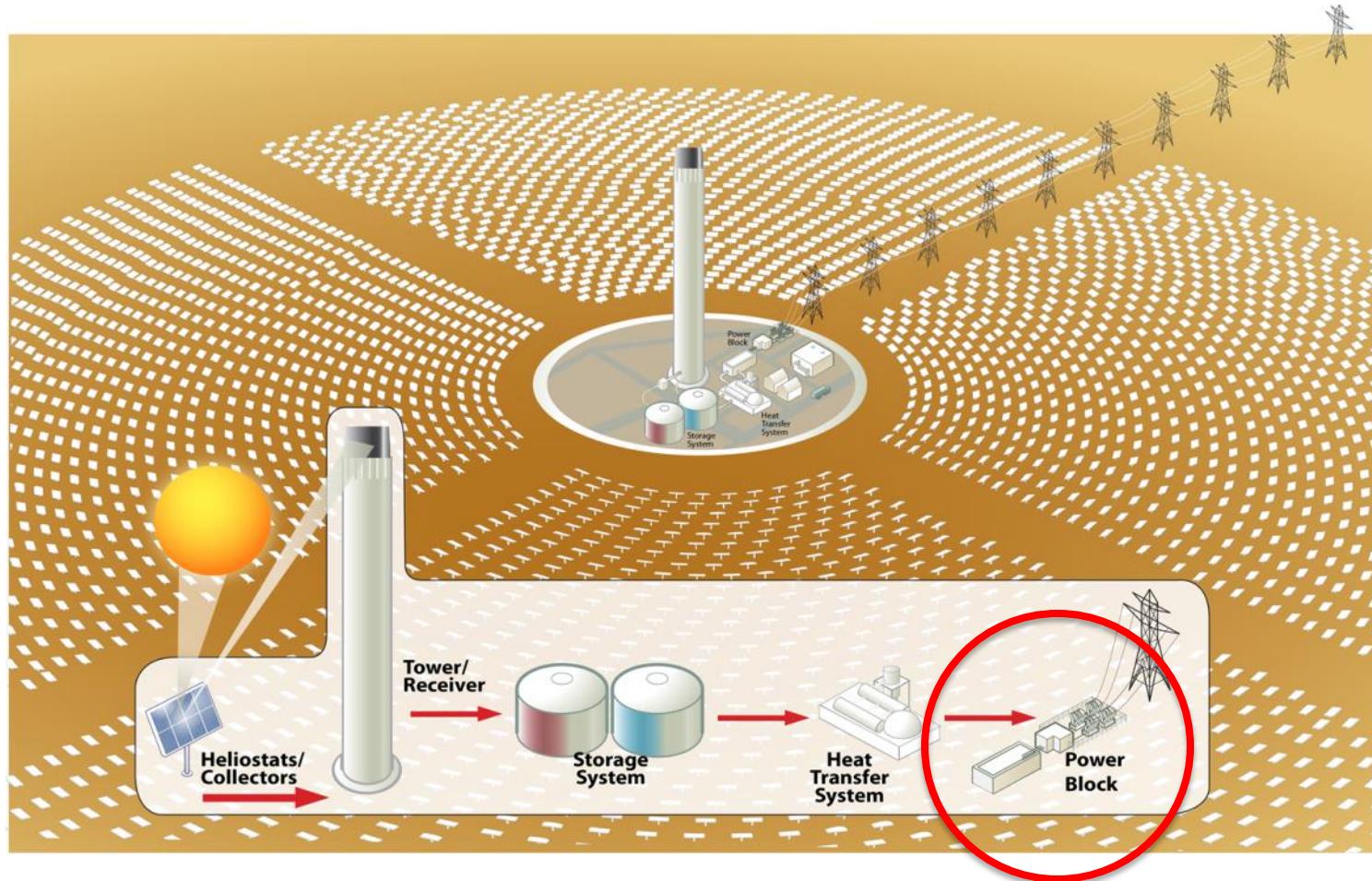


# Dish Storage Concept (C. Andraka)

- Phase Change Material (PCM)
  - Heat pipe transport to storage and to engine
  - Latent transport and storage ideal for Stirling input
- Rear dish mount
  - Rebalances system
  - Allows heavy storage
  - Closes pedestal gap
- Demonstrated system performance boost with latent input



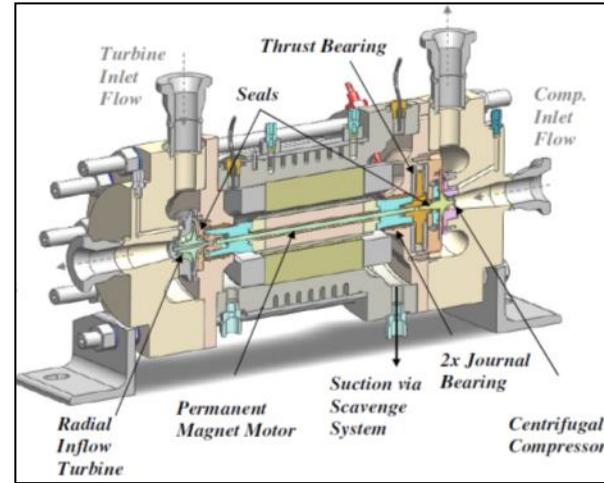
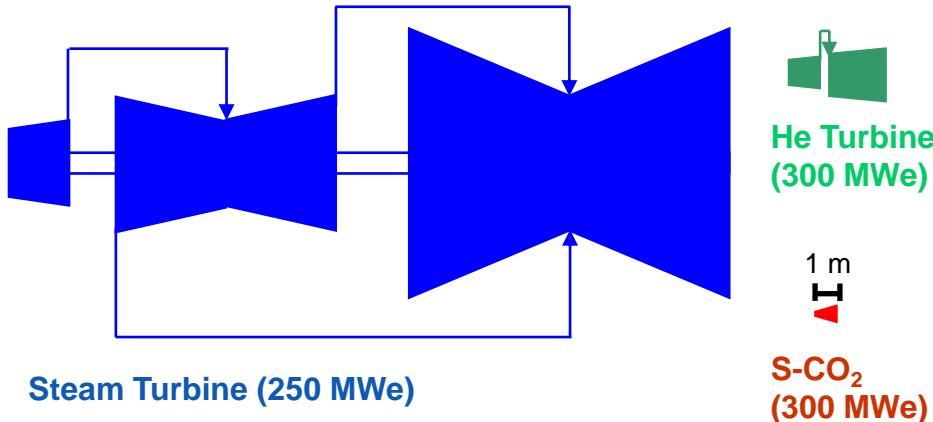
# CSP Research



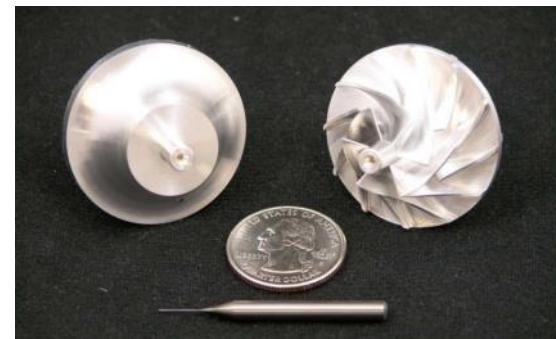
# Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle

(Sandia Advanced Nuclear Concepts Group, Conboy et al.)

- High efficiency
  - 50% thermal-to-electric
- Compact power conversion
  - Liquid-like densities with CO<sub>2</sub>

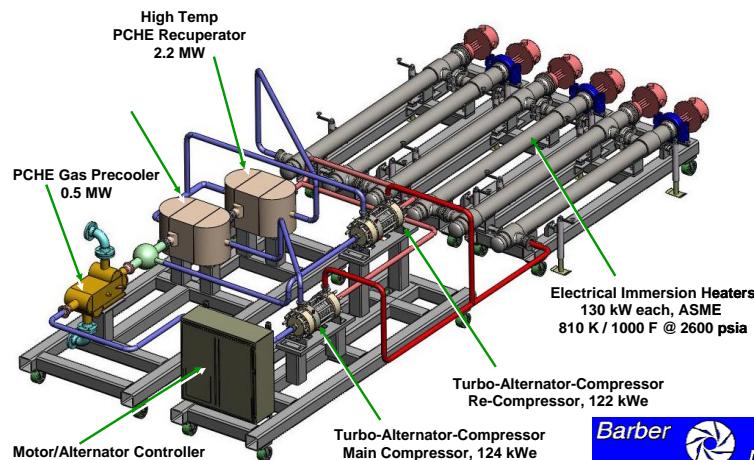
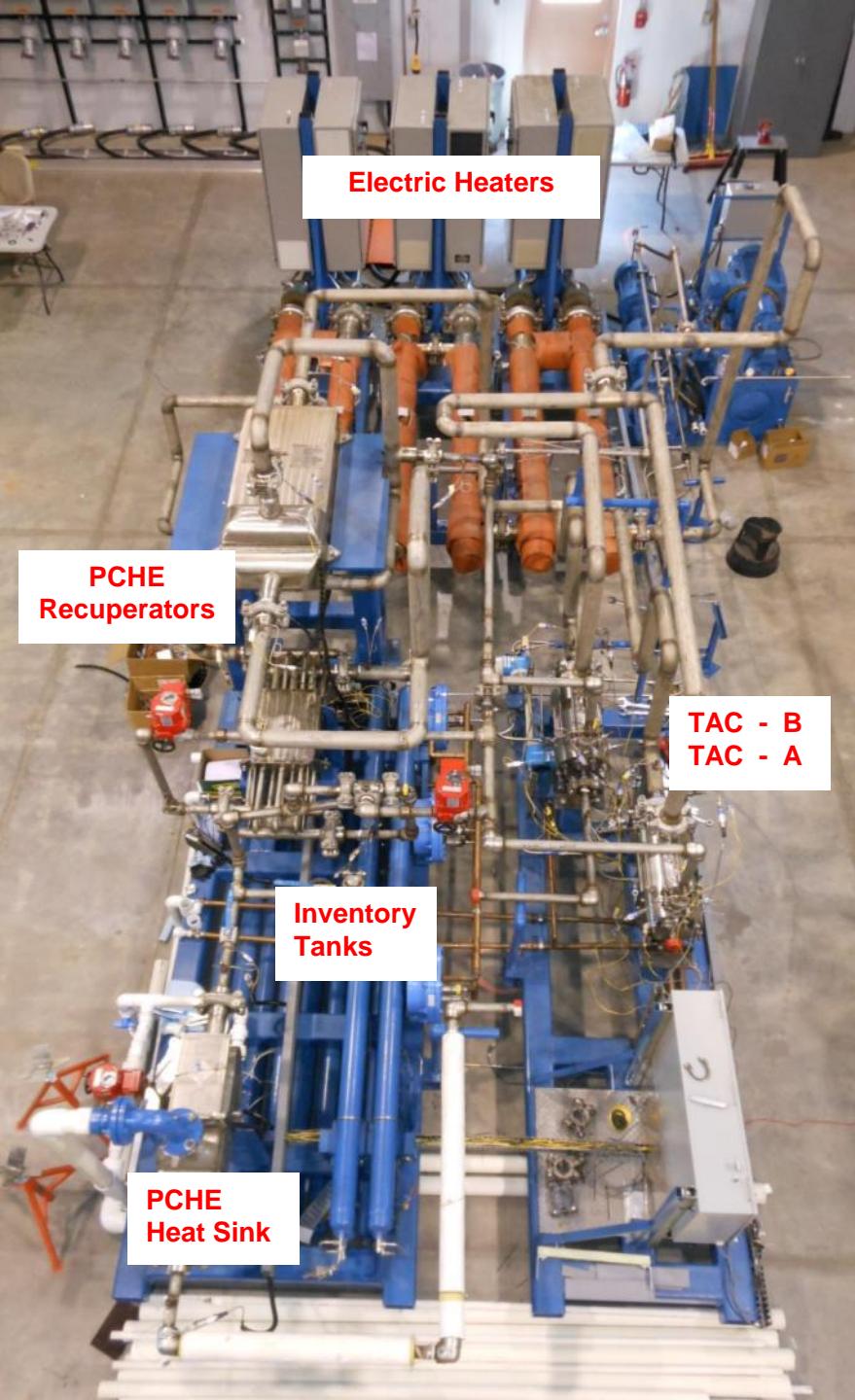


Sandia sCO<sub>2</sub> turbo-alternator-compressor  
(Conboy et al., 2013)



Compressor wheel for 150 kW<sub>e</sub> sCO<sub>2</sub> Brayton cycle  
(SAND2010-0172)

# Sandia's Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Brayton Cycle Loop



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# Solar Particle System with Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycle Demonstration Project

# Value Proposition

## Technical:

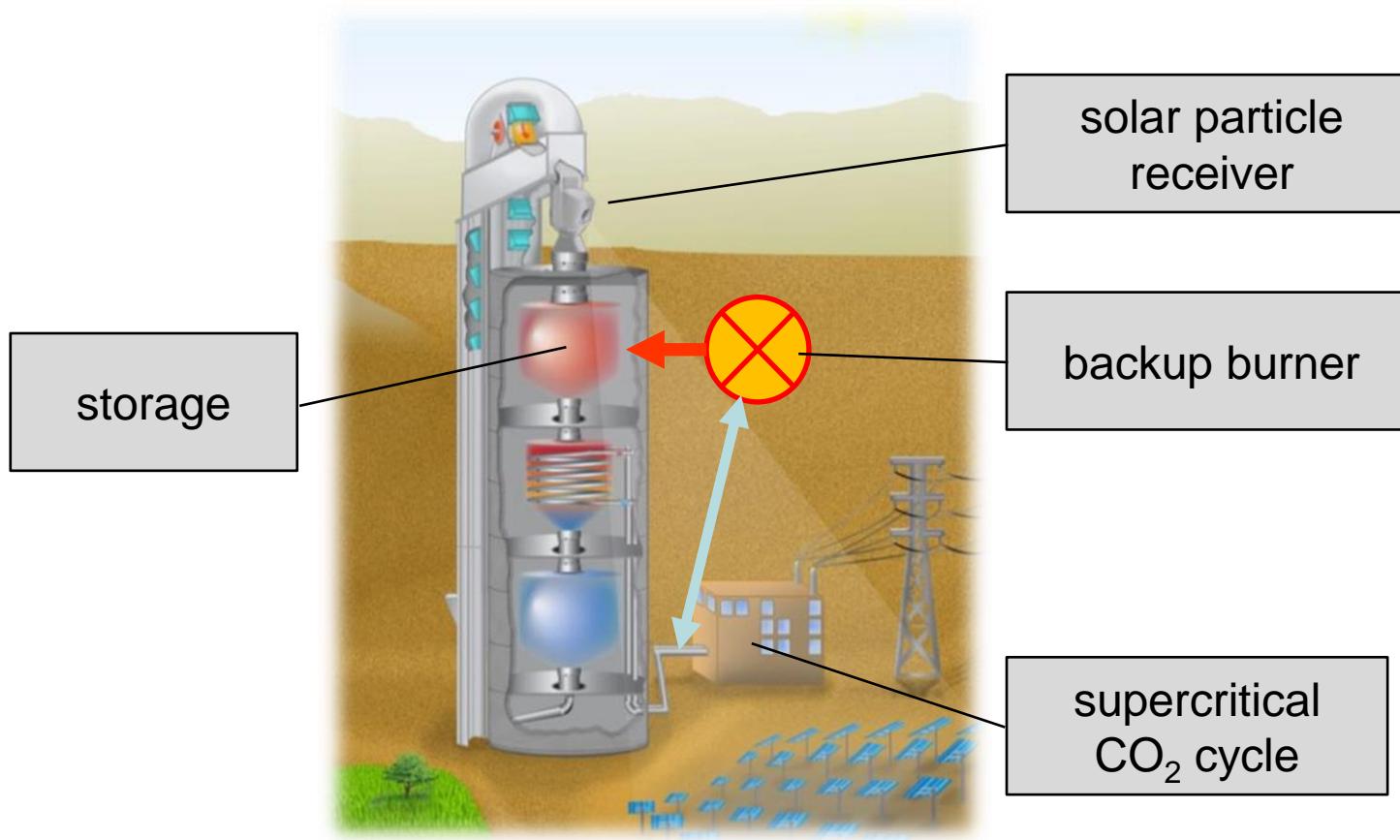
- Next generation solar system with high capacity factor and full dispatchability (storage, backup burner)
- Enables high efficiency sCO<sub>2</sub> power cycle
  - ~50% thermal-to-electric (higher for combined cycles)
- Reduces LCOE toward SunShot goal of 6 cents/kWh\*
- Full system demonstration

## Programmatic:

- Greater return on investment with bi-national funding and effort

\*Power Tower Technology Roadmap and Cost Reduction Plan (SAND2011-2419)

# System Scheme



Particles serve as heat transfer and storage medium

# Tasks

- Receiver: SNL, DLR
- Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> cycle: SNL
- Particle-to-CO<sub>2</sub> heat exchanger: DLR, SNL
- Thermal energy storage: DLR, SNL
- Back-up heater: DLR
- System optimization: DLR, SNL
- Component testing and system demonstration: SNL



# Potential Industrial Partners

- Abengoa
- Babcock Wilcox
- Barber Nichols
- Bechtel
- EPRI
- GE Global Research



**ABENGOA**

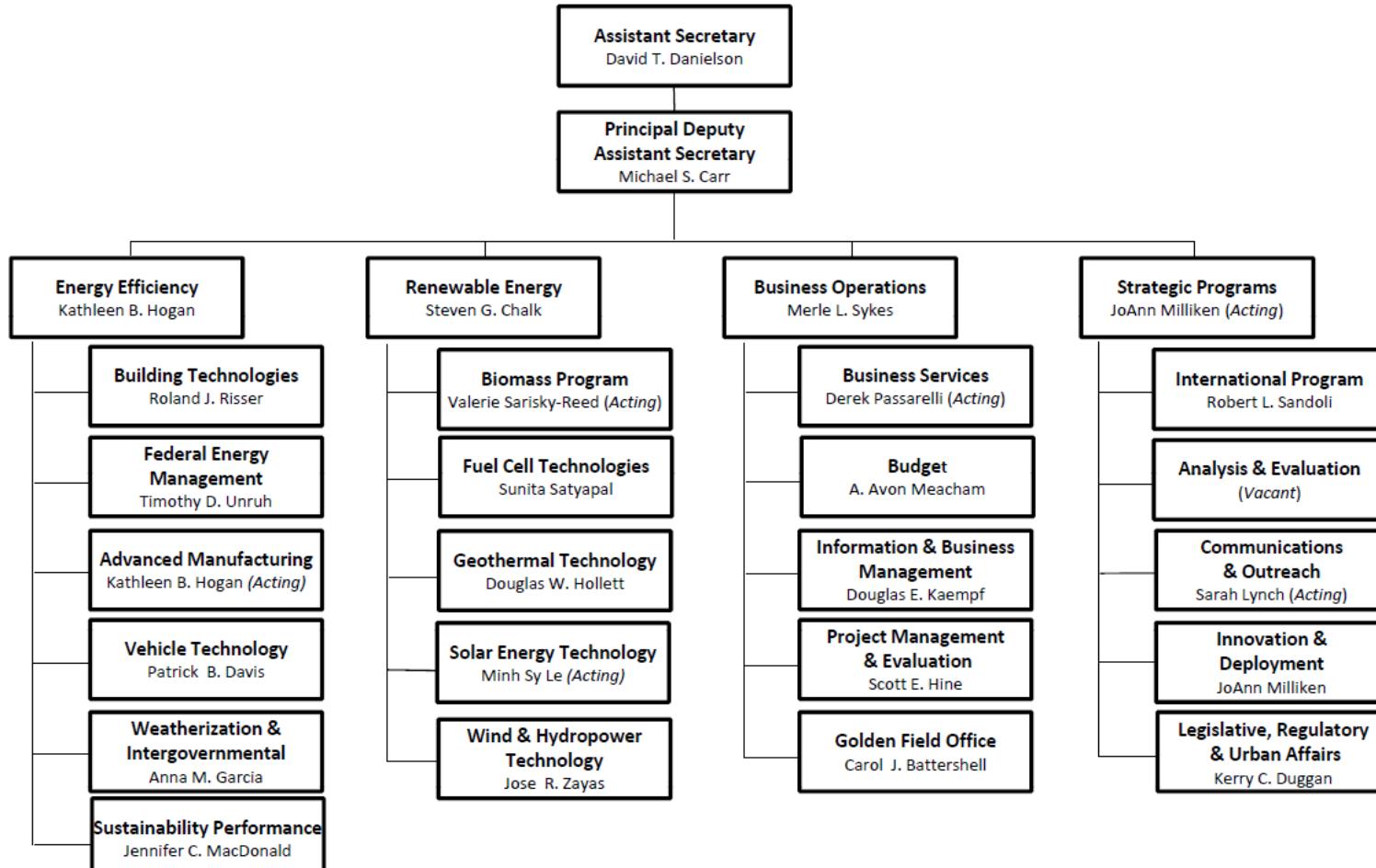


# Budget and Funding Mechanisms

- Duration: 5 years
- Budget:
  - SNL: \$10M - \$30M
  - DLR: 10M€ - 20M€
- Funding Mechanisms
  - Bi-National Investment
    - Germany / EU
    - U.S. DOE
  - Industry participation
  - Lockheed Martin Offset Program

# EERE Organization Chart

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy



# Summary

- Sandia and DLR have synergistic research and capabilities in CSP
- Seeking collaborative opportunities
  - Bi-National Proposal
    - Solar Particle System with Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> Power Cycle Demonstration Project
    - Bi-national funding for greater return on investment



# Questions?



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# DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

