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# The National Diagnostic Plan(NDP)for HED Science September 2021

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## **The National Diagnostic Plan (NDP) for HED Science September 2021**

**Abstract:** This documents the National Diagnostic Plan as of September 2021. The major changes in this version compared to the NDP document issued in 2020 are the new schedules and the text for the national transformative diagnostics - section III. The many local diagnostics for our three Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) facilities; NIF, Z and OMEGA are updated and captured in section V.

**Summary:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has made significant investments in major facilities and high-performance computing to successfully execute the Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP). The more information obtained about the physical state of the plasmas produced, the more stringent the test of theories, models, and codes can be, leading to increased confidence in our predictive capability. To respond to the increasing sophistication of the ICF program, a multi-year program to develop and deploy advanced diagnostics has been developed by the expert scientific community. To formalize these previously collegial activities NNSA directed the formation and duties of the National Diagnostics Working Group (NDWG) for HED Science.

The NDWG has identified ten transformational diagnostics, shown in Table 1, that will provide unprecedented information from experiments in support of the SSP at NIF, Z and OMEGA. Table 2 shows how the missions of the SSP experiments including materials, complex hydrodynamics, radiation flow and effects and thermo-nuclear burn and boost will produce new observables, which need to be measured using a variety of the largely new diagnostic technologies used in the ten transformational diagnostics. The data provided by these diagnostics will validate and improve the physics contained within the SSP's simulations and both uncover and quantify important phenomena that lie beyond our present understanding.

Transformative diagnostic	Collaborating Institutions	New capability
Single LOS imaging (SLOS or DIXI-SLOS)	SNL, GA, LLNL, LLE	Multi-dimensional shape and spectra with unprecedented time and space resolution for fusion, Pu strength, and radiation effects sources
Ultraviolet Thomson Scattering (UVTS)	LLE, LLNL, LANL, NRL	Localized plasma conditions and turbulence in hohlraums and Laser Direct Drive ablation plasma. Additional uses include plasma conditions at low density for rad flow studies and many discovery science applications.
3D n/gamma imaging (NIS)	LANL, LLNL	3D shape & size of both burning and cold compressed fuel, as well as remaining carbon ablator
Gamma spectroscopy (GCD)	LANL, AWE, GA, LLNL, SNL, NNSS	Fusion burn history allowing inferred pressure with increased precision and measured truncation of burn from degradation mechanisms such as mix and loss of confinement.
Time resolved neutron spectrum (MRS-time)	MIT, LLNL, GA, LLE	Time evolution of the fusion burn temperature and areal density
Hard x-ray imaging (Wolter)	SNL, LLNL, NASA, Harvard	High energy source distribution and space-resolved plasma conditions in the hot plasma. Also enables high spatial and temporal resolution for radiography to infer material strength.

Time resolved diffraction (XRDt)	SNL, LLNL, LLE	Time evolution of material structure (including weapon materials) and compression at high pressure. Also enables more efficient facility use through multiple measurements on a single shot.
High Resolution Velocimeter (HRV)	LLNL, LLE, SNL	Higher accuracy (< 1%) time evolution of material EOS at high pressure. Also enables more efficient facility use through multiple high-fidelity measurements on a single shot.
>15 keV X-ray detection (DHEX)	LLNL, LLE, SNL	Multiple-frame time resolved detection of high energy (>15 keV) x-rays with high detection efficiency.
hCMOS	SNL, LLNL	Multi-frame, burst mode imaging sensor capable of capturing images on the nanosecond timescale.

Table 1: The ten transformational diagnostics, institutional involvement & capability.

Mission	New Observable	Technique	Acronym
Materials	Strength vs time of compressed Pu	>4 images/costly target	SLOS, hCMOS
	Phase change of compressed Pu - rates	Time resolved x-ray diffraction	XRDt
	EOS of compressed Pu	High resolution velocimeter	HRV
Hydro and Properties	3D Structure at ~50 keV	X-ray bands imager +SLOS	Wolter, hMCOS
	High energy x-ray images of Structure	Detection of High Energy x-rays	DHEX
	T <sub>e</sub> of Marshak wave	Deep U.V. Thomson Scattering	UVTS
Outputs and Survivability	Hard spectrum vs space & time	X-ray bands imager +SLOS	Wolter, hCMOS
TN Burn and Pursuit of High Yield	Time history of burn	Ultra-fast Cerenkov detector	GCD
	3D T <sub>e</sub> and density vs time	Dilation tube +SLOS +Wolter	SLOS, hCMOS
	3D burn, 3D mix vs time	3D neutron/γ imaging	NIS
	T <sub>ion</sub> and areal density vs time	Neutron spectrum vs time	MRS-time
All	Hohlraum density & T vs space & time	Deep U.V. Thomson Scattering	UVTS

Table 2: How the missions of the SSP will be enhanced by new observables measured by the ten transformational diagnostics being developed under the guidance of the NDWG.

In addition to the transformational diagnostics, there are:

- (1) a set of broad diagnostics coordinated across the ICF sites,
- (2) a large number of local diagnostics associated with the three large facilities: NIF, Z and OMEGA.

This document is an update of the NDP as of 9/18/2021. The activities of the NDWG and its organization and leadership are summarized in section II. The organization, progress, and plans for the transformational diagnostics are in section III. The activities of the broad diagnostics are in section IV. Finally, the progress and plans for the local diagnostics on NIF, Z and OMEGA are in section V.

## **II: Recent activities of the National Diagnostic Working Group (NDWG)**

### **IIa: ICF and HED Diagnostics: Background and Mission**

ICF and High Energy Density (HED) physics experiments involve phenomena that occur on timescales measured in picoseconds and spatial scales measured in

micrometers (or microns). Observable information is conveyed in photons with energies ranging from visible light to MeV gamma rays, and in charged and neutral particles from fusion reactions. Progress in ICF and HED has been dependent for decades on the development and innovation of new instruments and techniques to measure the observables with increasing temporal, spatial, and energy resolution, and with the ability to gather more data in a single experiment.

Since 2008 there have been regular NDWG meetings, initially to foster national participation in the diagnostics for the NIF and recently to coordinate research and development of HED diagnostics across the ICF sites for NIF, Z and OMEGA. ***By coordinating efforts, each site is able to capitalize on the advances made at the other sites, share expertise, and incorporate new techniques into their own programs.***

The national diagnostics development effort is divided into three groups:

- Transformational Diagnostics: diagnostics requiring a major national effort with the potential to transform experimental capability for the most critical science needs across the complex.
- Broad Diagnostics: diagnostic efforts and techniques requiring significant national efforts which will enable new or more precise measurements across the complex.
- Local Diagnostics: important diagnostics that implement known technology for a local need and are identified by facility management responding to the needs of the local user community.

The NNSA ICF and HED programs supports stockpile stewardship through the four principal missions shown in Table 2. The facilities also support National Security Applications (NSA) with other national agencies and basic science conducted mainly in collaboration with Universities. The decisions on which new diagnostics to develop depends on a combination of the diagnostic usage at the various facilities, the prioritized needs of the programs, the status of technology, and the requests from the user community. Each facility has a different process for making these decisions for local diagnostics. For transformational and broad diagnostics, the development activities are prioritized, advocated for, and concerns are raised as appropriate by the appointed leaders of the NDWG. The core leadership of the NDWG as appointed by the ICF Execs are James Steven Ross (Lawrence Livermore National Lab, LLNL), Sean Regan (Laboratory for Laser Energetics, LLE), Michael Jones (Sandia National Laboratories, SNL), and Tom Murphy (Los Alamos National Laboratory, LANL) with consistent support from Joe Kilkenny (General Atomics, GA), Perry Bell, Doug Larson and Dave Bradley (LLNL), Johan Frenje (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT), Chuck Sorce, Wolfgang Theobald and Steven Ivancic (LLE), and John Kline (LANL).

## **Iib: Recent activities and organization of the NDWG**

- (i) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Dec. 2020 NDWG meeting was cancelled, and the leadership group met via video teleconference.
- (ii) The NDWG leadership group met via video teleconference in Feb 2021 to review progress.
- (iii) The NDWG leadership group met via video teleconference May 2021 to review progress.
- (iv) The NDWG leadership group met via video teleconference in July 2021 to review progress and re-plan technical progress according to the expected budget for FY22. This document is the new plan formulated during that meeting.
- (v) On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a NIF DT experiment produced a yield exceeding 1 MJ. Understanding this experiment and its impact on diagnostic needs is an ongoing process and not fully captured in this NDP. Breakout sessions at the Dec. 2021 NDWG meeting are planned to address diagnostics in this new regime. A follow-on workshop is also being proposed for early calendar year 2022. Recommendation from these workshops will be incorporated into next year's NDP.

### **III: Transformational Diagnostics**

Section IIIa is an overview of the transformational diagnostics. Section IIIb is a summary of the achievements and plans for each of the transformational diagnostics.

#### **IIIa: Overview of the Transformational Diagnostics**

The NDWG defined Transformational Diagnostics as those requiring a major national effort with the potential to transform experimental capability for the most critical science needs across the complex. In early 2015 a set of eight transformational diagnostics were identified. This set of diagnostics was reviewed by an independent group of experts in 2015 who reported to NNSA on the relative merit and urgency of each proposed capability (report is available). The NDWG monitors, on a quarterly basis, progress on these transformational diagnostics, as described in section II, and makes recommendations to the sites in terms of development priority and resource requirements. There is a simplified description of these diagnostics starting on page 41 of NNSA's 2016 Inertial Confinement Fusion Program Framework DOE/NA-0044, and in Appendix C.

Each category of transformational diagnostics can mean many actual diagnostics at some or all three of the major facilities. The plans for implementation consist of many phases. Table 3 is the updated top-level schedule for the transformative diagnostics as of September 2020. More details are in Section IIIb. These schedules are largely consistent with the expected budgets but can be affected by both the implemented annual site allocations by NNSA and the distributions relative to other funding priorities by each of the site managers.

UPDATED PLAN 093021									
NDP	FY21			FY22			FY23		
SLOS									
TRL-5	hSLOS1			$\Omega$ 3rd LOS			hSLOS3-HE		
Ultra-Violet Thomson Scattering									
TRL-8	Hohlraum-1J, 5w			Hohlraum-10J, 5w			Imaging OTS		
3D Neutron/Gamma Imaging									
TRL-6	90-315 Gamma Upgrade PQ			0-0 Scatt + Gamma LOS Req. Rev.					
Gamma Spectroscopy									
TRL-4	PD-PMT on GRH FDR			OQ					
Time Resolved Neutron Spectrometer									
TRL-3	Magnet CDR			Magnet FDR			System FDR		
Hard X-ray Imaging									
TRL-5	Toroidal-NIF			Wolter on NIF					
High Resolution Velocimetry									
TRL-6	FDR			NIF HRV			HRV 2D		
Time Resolved X-Ray Diffraction									
TRL-5	Fiddle Req Rev.			Fiddle CDR			Fiddle PQ		
>15 KeV X-ray Detection									
Photo diode/Roics/MCP/Struc PC				MCP-HSLOS avail.					
TRL-4	FDR MCP-HSLOS			MCP with Streak					
hCMOS									
Icarus TRL-10, Daedalus and Tantalus TRL-5	Daedalus2			Tantalus			Tantalus V2		

Table 3: Schedule for the transformational diagnostics. The acronym definition is below.  
*SLOS1* – 4-frame SLOS built for use in a manipulator on NIF that will be used with pinholes and then the Crystal Backlit Imager (section V-1).

*TRL* – Technical readiness level on a scale of 1-9 with 9 being further developed (details in the appendix).

*HSLOS* – A neutron Hardened Single Line of Sight detector consisting of a time dilation tube in front of a hCMOS detector.

*$\Omega$  SLOS-TRXI-2* third line-of-sight for x-ray imaging on OMEGA consisting of a time dialation tube in front of a hCMOS detector

*HE-hCMOS* – hCMOS cameras with enhanced sensitivity to high energy x-rays using GaAs diode material.

*6-fm hCMOS* – upgraded hCMOS sensor with more frames and faster time resolution.

*DD Bkgnd* – Measurement of Direct Drive background plasma light emission level

*HOHLR-1J, 5w* – 5w Optical Thomson Scattering from a hohlraum or a Direct Drive plasma early in a shaped “ignition” pulse.

*Hohlraum-10J, 5w* – 5w Optical Thomson Scattering from a hohlraum during the main laser pulse of ignition-relevant targets

*90,213 Un-scattered LOS* – Imaging of un-scattered neutrons on 90,213 line-of-sight.

*90,213 Scattered LOS* - Imaging of scattered neutrons on 90,213 line-of-sight.

*0,0 Scattered LOS* – Imaging of down-scattered neutrons from (near) the north pole.

*20ps TDT in well* – Time history of gamma ray emission using the Time Dilation

Detector in a well at 3.9 m from target chamber center.

*Hi Sens. GCD* – Time history of gamma ray emission at ~1 m from target chamber center

*NIF Foil Test*—Test of higher efficiency by mounting conversion foil on NIF hohlraum.

*Wolter-Z* – First implementation of Wolter optics on Z for >15 keV x-ray source shape.

*Ag-Wolter* – Wolter optic on Z tailored for Ag spectral line emission

*MRSt NIF* - Time resolved Magnetic Recoil Spectrometer on NIF

*NIFt* - A time resolving curved crystal spectrometer on NIF (dHiRes) in front of an x-ray streak camera.

*NIF EXAFS Pu* – A focusing, high resolution crystal spectrometer to perform Extended X-ray Absorption Fine Structure (EXAFS) spectroscopy through compressed plutonium

*Toroidal-NIF* – Toroidal optics for high resolution spatial distribution of hot spot electron temperature on NIF.

*Wolter NIF* – 20 -30 keV Wolter x-ray microscope with ~5  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution

*Streaked Omega* – Phase and compression evolution using x-ray streak camera measurements on Omega.

*HRV* – High Resolution Velocimeter diagnostic

*G3D* – Coupled hCMOS cameras to NIF diffraction platform for multi-frame phase.

*Z-High E* – Single frame diffraction on Z at >10 keV

*NIF ph2* – Coupled time dilation tube to hCMOS NIF diffraction platform for multi-frame high speed diffraction.

*Daedalus V2*: Next generation ROIC with tiling capability and deeper electron well for extended spectral range for spectroscopy.

*Tantalus*: First ROIC to be manufactured in an external foundry with integration times of around 500ps. Keystone for commercialization.

### **IIIb: Achievements and plans for each of the ten transformational diagnostics.**

#### **IIIb-1: Single Line-of-Sight (SLOS) Imaging**

Two key technologies developed within the ICF program are revolutionizing gated x-ray detectors. These technologies are pulse-dilation tubes developed in collaboration between General Atomics, Kentech Instruments, and LLNL, and fast-gated hybrid complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (hCMOS) sensors developed at SNL. The scope of the hCMOS development has caused this effort to be covered in a new section specifically addressing hCMOS ROICs and diodes, see hCMOS section. Pulse-dilation coupled with hCMOS sensors provides a transformative capability of time gating for multiple frames along a single line-of-sight (SLOS) at gate times as short as 10 ps. Used on its own, the hCMOS sensor can provide direct detection of multi-keV x-rays or electrons at gate times  $\geq 1$  ns as well as visible to near IR laser beams. Pulse-dilation SLOS framing cameras are transformative because they enable multiple time-gated detection of x-ray images or spectra at frame rates never before possible. Spectra are recorded using curved crystals. Images are recorded with curved crystals or multi-layer mirror optics, which can have superior spatial resolution and energy selectivity over pinhole/slit optics, but are too expensive or take up too much space to create an array of many images along many lines-of-sight. hCMOS sensors are transformative because they provide multi-frame direct detection of x-rays at nanosecond frame-rates from the same active area (pixel) in a technology that can be customized for the x-ray energy. Existing sensors have good



sensitivity for x-rays with a photon energy up to ~10 keV and new technology development is planned for capability up to ~50 keV.

The hCMOS and SLOS technologies are establishing themselves as critical tools for the NNSA stockpile stewardship program across nearly all the science campaigns and ICF. For thermonuclear burn experiments, SLOS technology enables time-resolved 3D imaging with sufficient spatial resolution to diagnose failure modes of high convergence implosions. In opacity experiments, hCMOS sensors enable time-resolved measurements of the plasma evolution essential for addressing systematic differences between models and data. In strength and phase experiments of high pressure plutonium, hCMOS sensors will enable time-sequence measurements on a single shot (instead of using multiple shots to map out the evolution), which improves the accuracy through elimination of shot-to-shot variability and reduces the overall use of Pu on the facilities. In hostile environment experiments, high-energy hCMOS sensors will enable more detailed understanding of x-ray source physics through enhanced imaging capability that will improve the fidelity of the x-ray test environment for more precise evaluation of component survivability. There are now more than 10 diagnostics using hCMOS/SLOS technology.

A total of fifty-two hCMOS sensors were delivered to Z, NIF, and OMEGA in support of existing and new diagnostic development in FY20. In addition, the camera system delivered to the CEA in FY19 for use in the Laser Mega Joule (LMJ) facility in Bordeaux France as part of the CEA/NNSA collaboration is operational and taking good data. The second hCMOS workshop was held in February 2020 and users from all facilities attended to discuss issues, capabilities, and testing methodologies of the sensors. The third generation hCMOS sensor Daedalus was completed, and testing revealed that minor design changes were needed. Daedalus V2 went through design and fabrication was started. High energy detector arrays development has started with the design, fabrication and testing of discrete pixelated arrays of GaAs photo detectors at SNL and design, fabrication and testing of discrete Ge diodes at LLNL.

Future plans include the utilization of the SLOS capability include coupling to Kirkpatrick-Baez, Wolter, and/or toroidal optics for high convergence burn experiments with <5  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution. Second (hSLOS) and third generation (SLOS-TRXI2) instruments are being develop for use on NIF and OMEGA in FY21 and FY22. In parallel with these efforts, new 6-frame hCMOS sensors will be developed in the commercial Tower-Jazz 130 nm process.

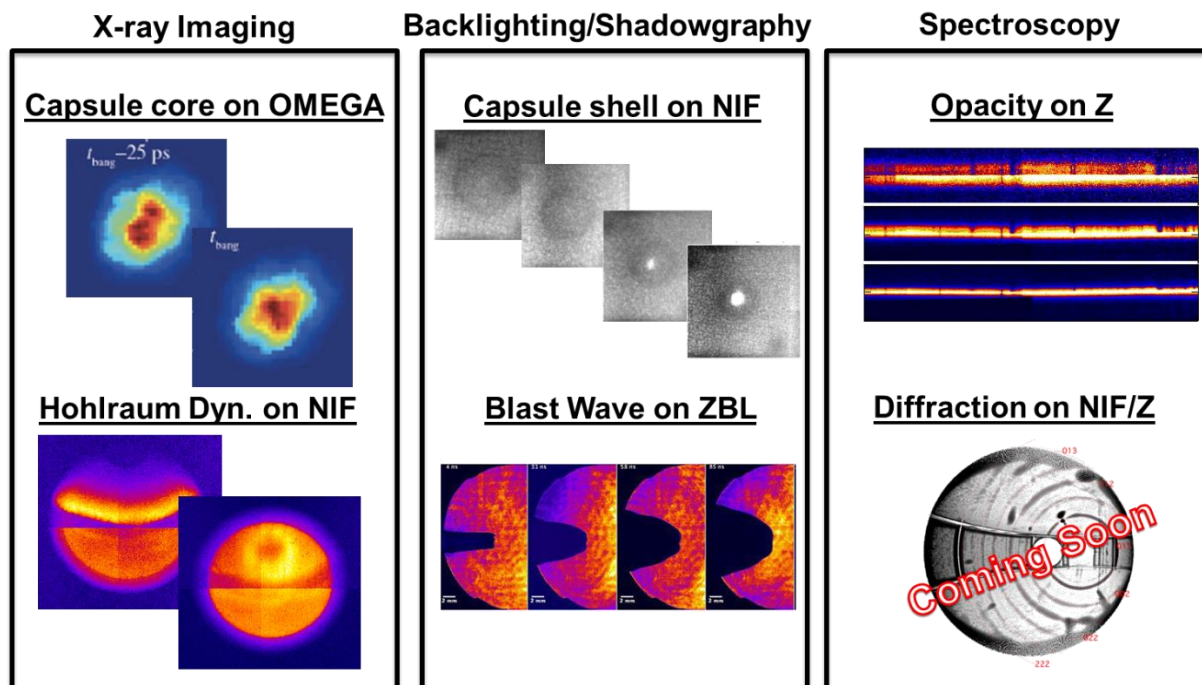


Figure 1: Example applications of SLOS- and hCMOS-enabled capabilities on NIF, Z (and the Z Beamlet Laser, ZBL) and Omega.

### IIIb-2: Ultra Violet Optical Thomson Scattering (UVTS)

Optical Thomson scattering measures the spectrum of the light scattered by a plasma to get time and space resolved measurements of nearly all of the plasma properties. It is the gold standard measurement of plasma properties used in tokomaks and at lower densities in ICF.

On NIF, Z, and OMEGA a high-density plasma produces high pressures to drive shocks or to inhibit hohlraum wall motion for all SSP programs. There are no direct measurements of the high-density plasmas but it needs to be understood better. This information is critically important to better understand the hohlraum environment and benchmark codes that presently fail to capture the complex dynamics inside a hohlraum. On NIF an u.v. probe laser beam makes the Thomson Scattering a transformative diagnostic probing to very high density. UVTS can also be used for measurements of radiation flow in low density foams and to access higher densities for laser direct drive.

The time evolution of the hohlraum plasma density ( $n_e$ ), temperature ( $T_e$ ), flow velocity and turbulence levels are critical parameters for understanding the x-ray drive for all HED hohlraum applications. Likewise, in long scale length plasmas such as Laser Direct Drive (LDD) on NIF measurements of  $n_e$ ,  $T_e$  and turbulence above the critical density are important for understanding the drive pressure and its uniformity. These fundamental parameters will be uniquely measured, without recourse to integrated rad-hydro models, with Ultra Violet Thomson Scattering (UVTS) on the NIF. These parameters need to be measured at high densities ( $n_e$  is calculated to be  $> 10^{21}$  e/cc in a NIF hohlraum) and this leads to the requirement for an ultraviolet Thomson scattering

probe laser beam in order to avoid significant absorption and refraction. Background plasma emission and other sources of non-Thomson scattered light indicate that to exceed a signal-to-noise of unity the Thomson scattering probe laser must be 1-10J in 1ns at 210 nm, see J. S. Ross et al., Rev. of Sci. Instrumen. **87**, 11E510 (2016).

There are also less challenging experimental configurations which can benefit from  $3\omega$  UVTS on the NIF and are benefitting from  $4\omega$  OTS on OMEGA [for example see J. Katz et al., Rev. Sci. Instrumen. **83**, 10E349 (2012)]. These include source development for radiation effects experiments, experiments designed to study energy transport in foams, and collision-less shocks in counter-streaming plasmas. OTS has been implemented on Nova, Trident, JLF and OMEGA although in less stressing conditions than an ignition hohlraum and LDD on NIF. UVTS on the NIF is therefore a transformative diagnostic because the short wavelength of the probe opens new windows in plasma density even after five decades of Thomson scattering from high-temperature plasmas.

For UVTS on the NIF an ultraviolet probe beam is generated by 5<sup>th</sup> harmonic conversion of a 1.06  $\mu\text{m}$  glass laser beam. A separate 100J class laser beam line has been through the rigorous design review process for the NIF including frequency conversion to 210 nm and delivery to target chamber center. Installation of a NIF preamplifier module (PAM) in NIF to provide the seed 1.06 micron laser energy is complete and testing of the conversion to 210 nm has begun.

Although Thomson scattering is used widely in ICF and magnetic fusion research, our high densities drive us to use 210 nm. Work at LLE in FY16 measured conversion efficiencies from 1.06 micron to 210 nm, albeit with smaller beams, of 10-20% [I. A. Begishev et al. (CLEO:2016 © OSA 2016)]. Full size beam conversion tests are presently underway. The detector for the scattered light is a dual spectrometer multiplexing onto an ultraviolet sensitive streak camera. The detector was designed and built in FY16 [P Datte et al., (IFSA 2015) IOP Publishing], and is shown in Fig 2. The detector has been used to measure the background levels for NIF hohlraums and LDD capsules. The detector has already been used for  $3\omega$  OTS on the NIF from relatively low-density plasma for planar laser plasma instability experiments, Magnetized Liner Inertial Fusion (MagLIF) experiments, and discovery science laboratory astrophysics experiments.



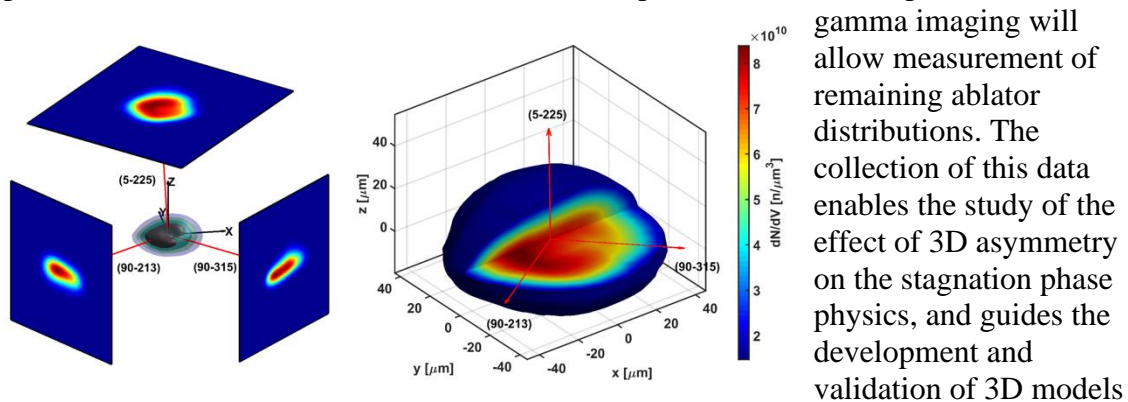
**Figure 2: OTS detector for a DIM on the NIF.**

### **IIIb-3: 3D Neutron Imaging System**

Three-dimensional (3D) imaging of thermonuclear (TN) burn provides the location, size, and shape of the burning region, and informs the burn and boost program of changes needed, such as improved drive symmetry or reductions in effects of engineering features such as fill tubes and tents. Gamma imaging indicates the location of the ablator material and potentially where it has mixed into the fuel, providing data that can be used to validate mix modelling.

The objective of the Neutron Imaging System (NIS) is to fully characterize the 3D fuel assembly at stagnation by imaging the neutron (primary and scattered), x-ray, and gamma-ray emission from the implosions along three almost orthogonal lines-of-sight on NIF and eventually OMEGA and Z. Three-dimensional reconstruction of non-symmetric implosions requires imaging along three lines-of-sight (LOS). Each LOS has two components: a pinhole aperture array that is used to form the neutron, x-ray, and gamma images (passive system), and a detector system that is used to record the image formed by the pinhole array (active system). A scintillator-based detector with time-gated cameras on the two existing equatorial lines-of-sight allow the collection of two independently timed images from each LOS. Typically, one detector is gated to view the 14 MeV neutrons (primary image) and provides information on the size and shape of the fusion burn region. The second detector is gated at a later time to measure the source distribution neutrons which scatter off the dense fuel (scattered image), to provide information on the distribution of the cold fuel. These down-scattered neutrons are lower-energy (typically in the 6-12 MeV range) and lower-intensity, and arrive after the 14 MeV neutrons. A third image can be obtained early in time to capture the 4.44-MeV gamma rays that are produced from the inelastic scattering of the 14 MeV neutrons on the ablator material through the  $^{12}\text{C}(n,\gamma)$  reaction.

Computational techniques have been developed to use neutron and gamma images from multiple lines-of-sight to generate three-dimensional reconstructions of the burn region, the fuel, and the remaining ablator (Fig. 3). These advancements of the imaging system provide a measure of the 3D structure of the hot spot and cold fuel. Implementation of



and simulations.

**Figure 3: Neutron images from three lines of sight can be utilized to create three-dimensional reconstructions of the neutron source region and the distribution of fuel in the implosion.**

gamma imaging will allow measurement of remaining ablator distributions. The collection of this data enables the study of the effect of 3D asymmetry on the stagnation phase physics, and guides the development and validation of 3D models

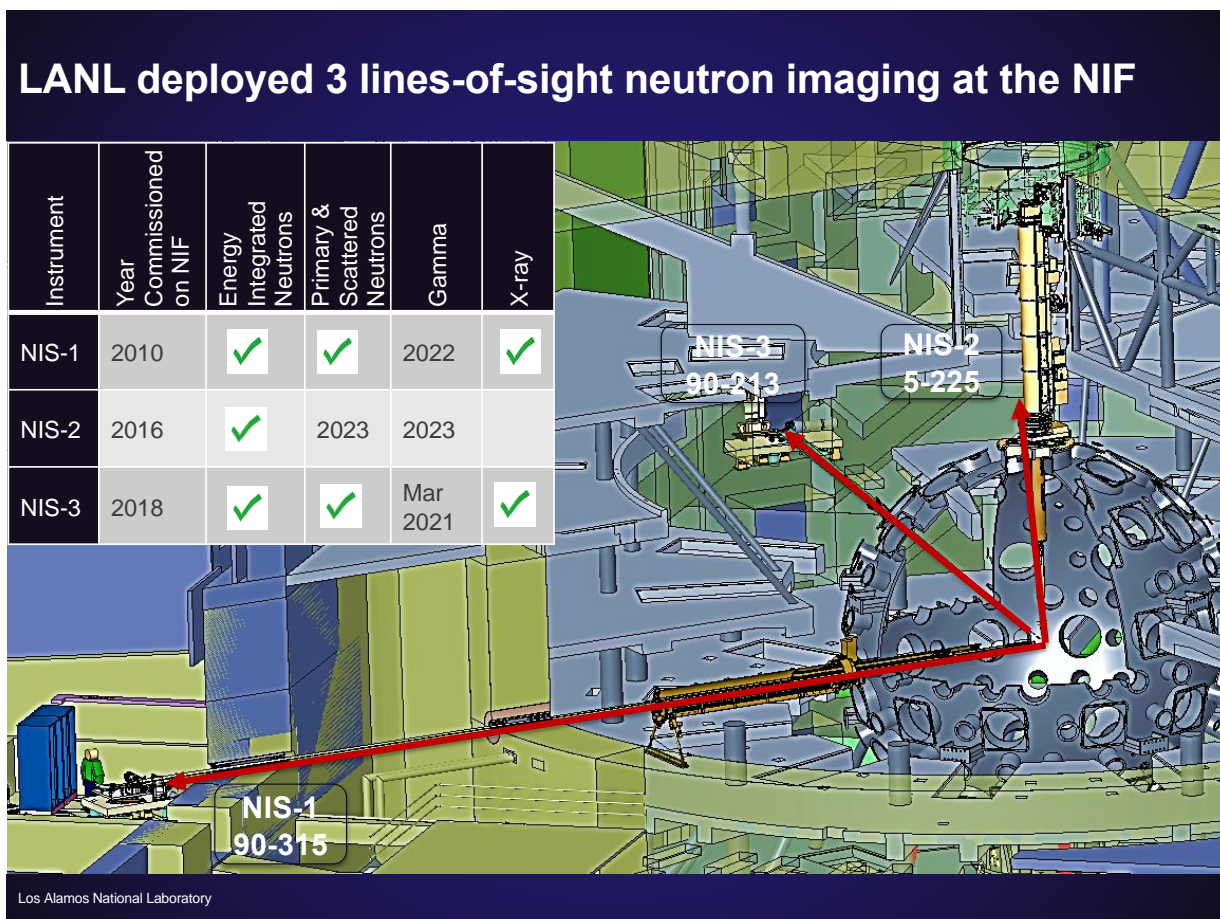
Neutron imaging systems have been installed on two equatorial and one polar LOS on NIF.



Currently, the polar LOS utilizes image plate as a detector and therefore the images are dominated by the greater number of unscattered neutrons. This data now allows higher quality 3D reconstructions of the primary neutron emission at stagnation.

An active system has been implemented on the second equatorial LOS approximately normal to the other two. This third system (NIS-3) includes improved active detector systems that will provide better data, and improved PinHole Array (PHA) characterization allows higher spatial resolution in the reconstructions. In addition, NIS-3 includes capability to record gamma-ray images. The gamma-ray capability will be implemented in FY 2021.

Following completion of NIS-3, the improvements developed in both the passive and un-scattered and scattered neutron imaging as well as gamma imaging active systems will be applied to the original NIS-1 LOS. With these upgrades, NIS will provide two equatorial LOS with un-scattered and scattered neutron imaging as well as gamma imaging. Following this, a gated active system will be applied to the polar LOS (NIS-2) providing three-axis views for neutrons and gammas. Due to the shorter length of the polar LOS, a scintillator with faster decay characteristics will be used on NIS-2.



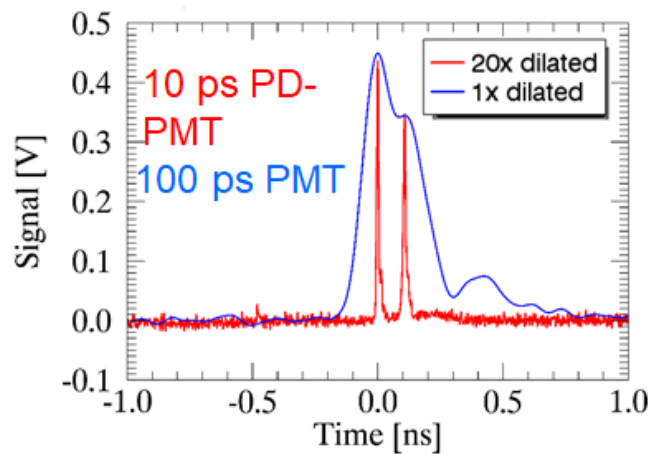
**Figure 4: The Neutron Imaging System on NIF with current capabilities of each LOS identified in the table, as well as the planned dates for the incorporation of new capabilities on each LOS.**

#### IIIb-4: Gamma Spectroscopy (GCD)

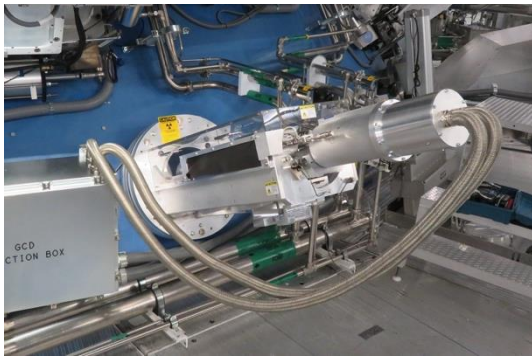
As thermonuclear burn conditions at NIF begin to reach an alpha-deposition regime, high-bandwidth fusion burn measurements are required beyond nuclear bang time and burn width. Since the inception of National Ignition Campaign, the Gamma Reaction History (GRH-6m) diagnostic on NIF has been providing time-resolved measurements of gamma-rays from implosions. However, GRH-6m is limited in temporal resolution by  $\sim 100$  ps due to the technology bottle-neck of conventional photo-multiplier tubes (PMT). The objective of NIF Gas Cherenkov Detector (GCD) is to overcome these limitations in order to positively identify signs of alpha heating and/or performance degradation mechanisms such as mix and asymmetry.

The NIF GCD is being developed to improve temporal resolution down to 10 ps by incorporating a Pulse Dilation (PD) Photo-Multiplier Tube (PMT) technology. The LANL ICF program has been directing the development of this revolutionary PD-PMT technology, collaborating with Kentech Technologies LTD, Photek LTD, Sydor Instruments, LLNL, AWE, and General Atomics. Before coupling the PD-PMT on the NIF GCD, a double short pulse

laser calibration test was performed at AWE Orion facility. Figure 5 shows the raw data from a double pulse with 135 ps peak-to-peak spacing. The blue “Undilated” trace is taken with the PD-PMT operated in dc mode as a standard PMT and results in the double pulse just barely being resolved. The red “Dilated” trace is a measurement of the same double pulse during the dilation ramp. The dilated signal is recompressed ( $\sim 20\times$  in time) to match the undilated peak spacing resulting in a highly resolved double peak structure. The resolution of the PD-PMT was found by reducing the spacing between double laser pulses and determined to be slightly less than 10 ps.



**Figure 5: Two optical pulses separated by 135 picoseconds clearly resolved by PD-PMT (red curve). Standard PMT (blue curve) is just barely resolvable the two optical pulses**



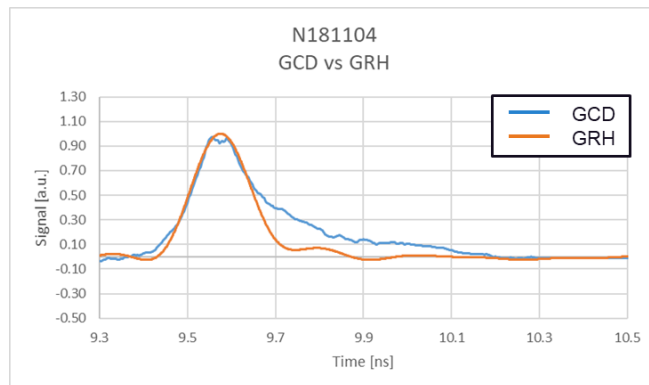
**Figure 6: The NIF-GCD in the 3.9 m Well-DIM.**

In late FY 2018, the PD-PMT was installed into the back end of the GCD on NIF Well DIM, completing the Installation Qualification (IQ). Shortly after, a 10x temporal magnification of carbon ablator history and DT fusion reaction history were achieved, which satisfied a NNSA L2 milestone goal (Dec 2018).

GCD took data on 35 high yield shots, 15 of those are high band width reaction histories, 20 are benchmarking and calibration shots. High band width fusion

gamma reaction histories measured

by NIF GCD confirm fusion burn width measured by the sister instrument GRH-6m as seen in figure 7. This result confirms discrepancies between simulations and measurements. Simulations do not capture the actual burn width of experiments. This issue needs to be resolved for better understanding of inertial confinement fusion and NIF GCD can provide critical information to help resolve this problem. Additionally, the high temporal resolution of the PD-PMT will be able to resolve high frequency features such as the onset of the fusion burn that will aid in benchmarking simulations.



**Figure 7: Comparison between High band width GCD fusion reaction history (blue) and GRH reaction history (orange).**

However, the NIF-GCD fusion reaction histories showed a late-time tail component (blue curve, 9.7 ns – 10.3 ns in Figure 7), not seen in the GRH-6m. An investigation revealed that the gas cell is causing this late-time tail and not the PD-PMT itself. The current hypothesis is that gamma rays with energy below that required to produce Cherenkov radiation are causing scintillation or fluorescence in the gas cell. This signal is then collected by the GCD optics. This was not seen in the GRH, perhaps due to the circuitous optical path of the GRH, which was designed to efficiently collect the forward-directed Cherenkov radiation, but inefficiently collects the uniformly emitted fluorescence radiation.

A new NIF dedicated gas cell was installed to allow for improvements to the gas cell that will be tested in FY21. Different gases will be utilized to determine if a low-fluorescence gas can be found. Shielding will be added to reduce the flux of sub-threshold gamma-rays that can scatter into the gas cell. Finally, a light block that prevents the Cherenkov radiation from reaching the PD-PMT, but allows most of the fluorescence will be added

temporarily to confirm the fluorescence hypothesis. If the hypothesis is confirmed, a plan to mitigate the effect of fluorescence will be developed. One possibility is to develop a better optical path that would duplicate the ability of the GRH to efficiently collect Cherenkov radiation while rejecting fluorescence.

In addition to tests utilizing the GCD, a further test will involve installing a PD-PMT on one channel of the GRH. This will allow direct comparison of high-temporal resolution GRH and GCD signals.

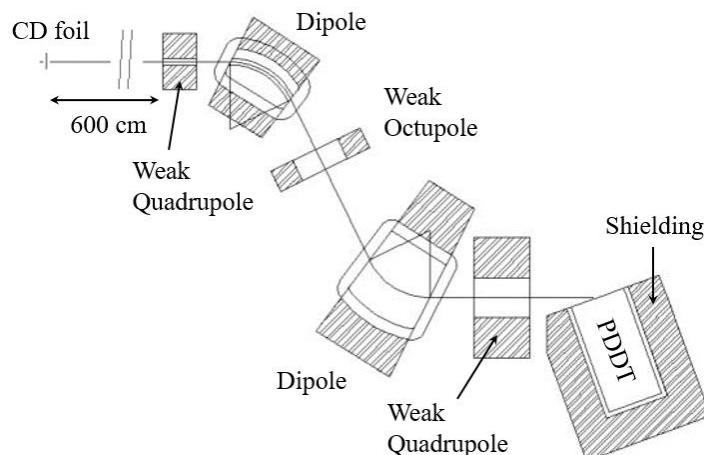
Experience from improved NIF GCD operations will be fed into the final phase of a NIF-specific “High-sensitivity Super GCD” which can better handle the harsh radiation environment associated with indirect-drive. The resulting better data quality of high bandwidth fusion reaction histories will give a better understanding of the assembly of the hot spot, onset of the fusion burn, and truncation of the fusion burn due to developing failure modes.

The goal of final Phase (> FY23) will be to increase GCD sensitivity several orders of magnitude by operating it in a deep well or on a “TANDM” diagnostic insertor in close to target chamber center. This will enable innovative time-resolved mix measurements which will discriminate between mix mechanisms (e.g., diffusion vs turbulence) and highly constrain implosion models.

### IIIb-5: Time resolved neutron spectrum (MRSt)

In support of the ignition experiments at the NIF, current neutron spectrometers routinely measure the time-integrated neutron spectrum, from which burn-averaged values of  $\rho R$ ,  $Y_n$ , and apparent  $T_i$  are determined. Although these data have been essential to better understand the physics governing the nuclear phase of an ICF implosion and to guide experiments towards ignition conditions, the current suite of neutron spectrometers does not provide any information about the evolution of the fuel assembly, hot-spot formation, alpha heating, and nuclear burn. This information will be obtained with the next-generation Magnetic Recoil Spectrometer (MRSt) through measurements of the neutron spectrum (12-16 MeV) with high accuracy, high energy resolution and, for the first time, time resolution (down to ~20ps). The MRSt uses existing MRS principle and Pulse-Dilation-Drift-Tube (PDDT) technique instead of CR-39 as the detector [J.A. Frenje et al., RSI (2016); T.J. Hilsabeck et al., RSI (2016)].

**Figure 8. Main components of the MRSt design. Only the Pulse-Dilation-Drift Tube (PDDT) detector will be surrounded by shielding to reduce neutron and gamma background. The quadrupoles and octupole will be used to correct for focusing aberrations, and improve the ion-optical resolution to an unprecedented level of ~1.8 keV (100× better than current, time-integrating MRS).**





The conceptual design involves a CD foil [with a thickness in the range of 25-80  $\mu\text{m}$  and diameter in the range of 0.1-0.3 mm] positioned on the outside of the hohlraum for production of recoil deuterons from incident neutrons; two dipoles, positioned outside the NIF target chamber, for energy analysis and focusing of forward-scattered recoil deuterons onto a focal plane of the spectrometer (two quadrupoles and an octupole have also been incorporated in the design for correction of focusing aberrations); and a PDDT with a CsI cathode positioned at the focal plane of the spectrometer. In the CsI photocathode, recoil deuterons are converted into secondary electrons, which are subsequently accelerated by a spatially- and time-varying electric field that unskews and dilates the signal along the length of the PDDT. This signal is then amplified by a set of microchannel plates and then detected by an anode array.

The designs of the MRSt ion-optics and shielding are complete. The offline tests of the CsI photocathode response to ions are complete; the foil-on-hohlraum concept has been demonstrated using NIF shots [C. Parker et al., RSI (2019)]; tests of the borosilicate MCP to background are complete [C. Parker et al., RSI (2019)]; and the PDDT unskew-and-dilation technique has been successfully demonstrated.

The top-level physics requirements for the MRSt have been defined, although they will most likely be refined. In light of the recent increased neutron yields the baseline design is now able to meet requirements, and so the FY22 plan is to develop an MRSt engineering design and Conceptual Design Review of the MRSt baseline with a single or several streak cameras as a phase-1 detector. In addition, the plan is to develop a PDDT design as phase-2 detector.

### **IIIB-6: Hard (15-60keV) x-ray imaging (Wolter)**



**Figure 9: Picture of the first test optic for a future NIF Wolter microscope.**

To reach harder x-rays energies ( $>17\text{keV}$ ) the Wolter microscope was suggested at the National Diagnostic Working group meeting in 2014. This mirror system focuses the x-ray radiation through a specially shaped tube, see Figure 9 (intersecting a hyperbolic and elliptic surface) and has been used on X-ray observatory missions by NASA (such as the Chandra telescope). NASA developed a replication method to produce low mass Wolter telescopes, that was readily compatible with multilayer technology developed at the Harvard-Smithsonian Observatory (SAO). The first phase of this diagnostic development applied existing capabilities to X-ray imaging at the Z-Facility, allowing narrow band images on the molybdenum and silver K-alpha lines to be recorded. After successfully obtaining 17.5 keV images from Wolter on Z in FY18, R&D efforts during FY19 focused primarily on updates to the multilayer recipe to image x-ray sources at energies above 20 keV. In total, three optics have been fabricated, calibrated and fielded on 10 Z experiments to date for this purpose, providing a variety of band-pass options between 21 – 24 keV. SNL continued to improved data analysis from Z-experiments by using measured point-spread-functions to

reconstruct the source shape in FY21. SNL and LLNL have developed a process to evaluate and specify multilayer designs based on known source spectra. SAO has demonstrated improved multilayer coating speed to enable higher reflectivity and more complex coatings in FY21. A new 23 keV optic was produced for SNL with an improved tuning to better match the experimental conditions. Continued time constraints at MSFC in FY21 prevented testing a new optical prescription expected to improve the optic resolution, but will be revisited in FY22.

Concurrently, progress continues to be made in Wolter microscopes to achieve  $< 10\ \mu\text{m}$  spatial resolution for NIF. A new mandrel design, improved polishing, and improvements in shell replication at MSFC in FY21 has produced a bare-shell optic (no multi-layer) with figure error dominated by gravitational sag. The estimated performance without the gravitational sag is 10 microns. The gravity sag can potentially be mitigated by improved mounting and a thicker shell. The next phase of development is to test the replicated shell shape with a multilayer coated at SAO and to improve the mounting to improve the optic shape.

The efforts invested over the last several years have demonstrated that there is no fundamental limitation to achieving 5 micron resolution with the Wolter microscope. The factor of 2x improvement in mandrel shape required is possible with the current MSFC processes, simply requiring additional time and effort.

### **IIIb-7: High Resolution Velocimeter (HRV)**

The current VISAR instrument on NIF is a highly reliable, versatile, high precision diagnostic which is run as a primary diagnostic on 100+ shots per year. However, new programmatic needs that exceed the current capabilities have emerged which motivated the inception of a new High Resolution Velocimeter (HRV) instrument including a new High-Resolution 1D VISAR, as well as a new High-Resolution 2D VISAR capability together with a visible streaked pyrometry system.

The current NIF Velocimetry Velocity (Doppler) Interferometer System for Any Reflector (VISAR) can track the velocity of a moving reflecting surface with sub % precision using a visible Laser probe at 660 nm and an interferometer to transform Doppler shift into a fringe phase shift proportional to the velocity of the reflector. A time-delay element (etalon) determines the velocity sensitivity. Specifically, the NIF VISAR is a line-imaging (1D) instrument: a f/3 optical-relay images the target onto the entrance slit of a streak camera fitted with a CCD detector. The system therefore records the velocity time-history for  $\sim 100$  resolution elements corresponding to different spatial positions onto the target. Two field of view options are available: 1mm and 2 mm. The spatial resolution is currently limited by the streak cameras. Space-time distortion inherent to streak-tube technology are also strongly limiting the performance, in particular around the periphery of the field of view. The time-resolution is currently around 30 ps over a 30 ns streak.

The ICF program needs to understand capsule and shock-front

non-uniformities which degrade implosion quality as even very small velocity variations can seed major degradation in the implosion quality. There is therefore a need to document the velocity distribution *in-flight*, with micrometer spatial resolution and meter-per-second velocity sensitivity.

HED Stockpile Stewardship Science programs perform critical experiments to study the Equation of State (EOS), strength and phase transitions of High-Z materials using the RampEOS, RMStrength and Tardis Platforms which all use VISAR as a primary diagnostic. There is a need for sub-% accuracy in velocity, ps timing accuracy and high-fidelity imaging and recording that exceed the current capabilities. Higher spatial, timing and velocity resolution 1D VISAR would boost the data return per shot, reduce the number of NIF shots necessary to obtain the required accuracy in the EOS data (which currently requires averaging data from 3-5 shots) and would also enable new science.

Based on the programmatic needs and discussions with the users' community the new NIF High Resolution Velocimeter (HRV) instrument will have several channels to allow simultaneous recording of 1D and 2D VISARs plus Streaked Optical Pyrometry data and room to grow not to preclude future improvements. The new High-Resolution 2D-VISAR will feature f/2 and f/3 collection systems, a picosecond laser, two interferometers and 4-records per snapshot on a CCD detector. The new High-Resolution 1D VISAR will feature 4 interferometer channels for higher resolution and higher dynamic range, redundancy and flexibility. A new push-pull detection scheme for higher velocity and spatial resolutions will be tested on one channel initially, before being extended to all channels. Two nanosecond lasers (blue, red) will allow to obtain a two-color system for improved optical properties measurements. The improved Streaked Optical Pyrometry (SOP) will feature optimized stray light rejection and a detector gating to mitigate background. Overall, this combination of new and unique capabilities will make the High Resolution Velocimeter at the NIF a transformative diagnostic for the HED community.

The NIF Team completed a PDR and is now evaluating deployment options including an accelerated deployment expanding on the existing system in the Target Bay or building a new instrument on two new floors located in the NIF switchyard. This would not-only provide adequate space with room to grow for the new complex instrument and streamline shot operations by minimizing shot preparation activity in the target bay, but it would resolve neutron damage from high-yield implosions as observed in a recent experiment which required the replacement of two streak cameras and deferment of two VISAR experiments.

### **IIIb-8: Time-Resolved X-ray Diffraction**

X-ray diffraction is a well-established technique to identify phases and document phase transitions in compressed materials of interest to the SSP. X-ray diffraction is the most discriminating method to identify the phase of a solid material because it reflects the distances between atoms with high precision. The technique has been used on NIF and OMEGA, and is being developed for Z. Early work on NIF has been

limited to using TARget Diffraction In-Situ (TARDIS) to obtain one or two snapshots per very expensive laser shot. Time-resolved x-ray diffraction will be a transformative diagnostic that builds on the demonstrated success of the TARDIS (NIF) and Power X-ray Diffraction Image Plates (PXRDIIP, Omega) platforms to provide a significant enhancement to the HED materials diffraction program for the SSP.

The ability to observe material phase at multiple times during a solid-solid or solid-liquid phase transition within a single laser experiment will substantially constrain equilibrium material phase boundaries and also enhance our understanding of kinetic effects that drive or inhibit phase transformation in materials at high densities. Moreover, we anticipate that the time-gated quality of these measurements will improve the signal to noise of measurements as background signals (which are substantial) are not integrated over the entire experiment. With this platform our facilities will be able to make multiple diffraction measurements of a solid material compressed to multi-Megabar pressures over timescales as long as tens of nanoseconds.

We evaluated several approaches to a time-resolved diffraction platform including both x-ray and optical relays. In order to maximize detection efficiency, we have decided on a direct-detection strategy in which an x-ray sensitive detector is placed very close to the target. This strategy ultimately will allow us to minimize the heating of the target, which is critical to document certain phase transitions and to prevent melting of solid targets. In the first years of XRD(t) development we designed and commissioned a Gated Diffraction Development Diagnostic (G3D) to confirm the feasibility of this approach.

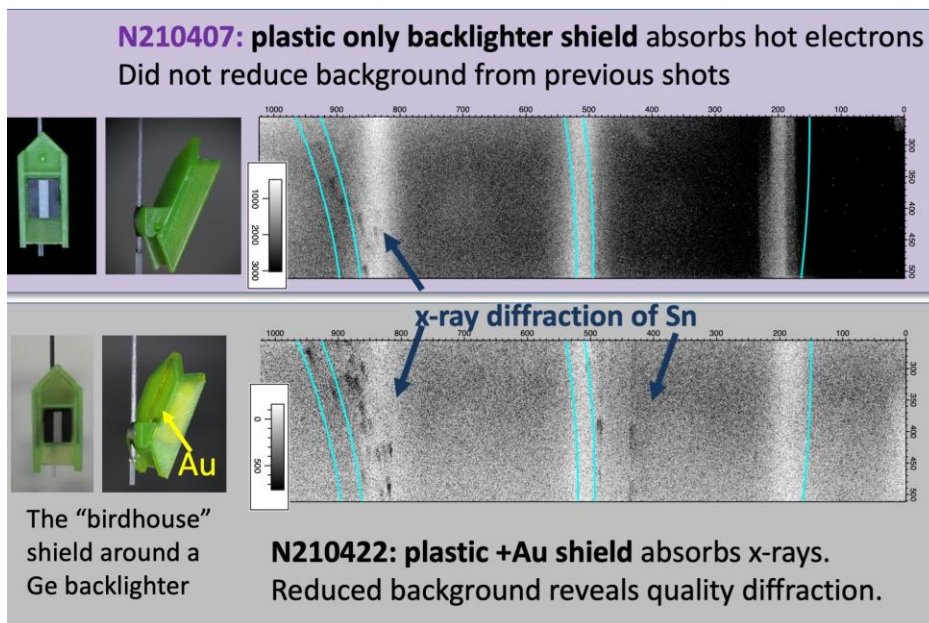
Having successfully demonstrated that direct detection is feasible, we are now turning our attention to the design of a robust experimental platform that will be able to make high-quality diffraction measurements for a wide variety of material transformations. The Flexible Imaging Diffraction Diagnostic for Laser Experiments (FIDDLE) is planned to be commissioned in FY23.

### **Status update, 2021 (NIF)**

In 2021 we completed four NIF shots using the Gated Diffraction Development Diagnostic (G3D) that we commissioned in 2019 (N201008-001, N210407-001, N210422-001, 210701-001). With the first three shots we made significant progress addressing the high background levels we found to be problematic in 2019 and 2020. The fourth G3D shot drove the physics package to high pressure with very high energy ( $\sim 10$  Mbar) in order to assess debris and shrapnel for FIDDLE design.

The scientific highlight of this year came in a pair of scripted shots in April 2021 to assess a new strategy for background reduction. We found that we could more effectively limit background by shielding the backlighter directly than by shielding elements of the target or diagnostic. Figure 10 shows images of the backlighter shield in these two shots. We reduced backgrounds substantially by adding a thin

layer of gold to the shielding, and this reduced background revealed high-quality x-ray diffraction data. This indicates that x-rays (rather than electrons) from the backlighter are the primary cause of background.

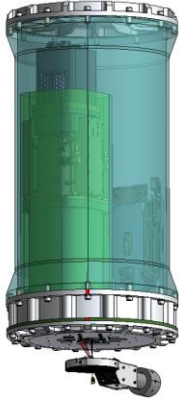


**Figure 10:** Background reduction to G3D with backlighter shielding. **Left.** Backlighter shield (green) around Ge backlighter. **Right.** X-ray diffraction to Icarus sensor from an undriven Sn target. **Top.** Backlighter and data from shot N210407. 600  $\mu\text{m}$  plastic shielding absorbs fast electrons from backlighter so that they cannot hit other metal parts and emit x-rays. **Bottom.** Target and data from shot N210422. Additional 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick Au shielding limits range of x-rays from the backlighter. The additional Au shielding reduced background substantially.

We also completed one NIF shot using the backlighter-development platform that we commissioned in 2020 (N210218-002) to compare the emission from a continuous 10 ns illumination with that from a laser that turns on and off over 10 ns while illuminating a single location. We were successfully able to pulse a backlighter at a single location, which we expect to use as a strategy to reduce heating of our physics target and to improve temporal resolution over the 1-2 ns resolution of our UXI sensors. However, we also determined that maintaining a backlighter for 10 ns or more requires a thicker germanium substrate than can be vapor deposited (16 $\mu\text{m}$ ), which further limits the backlighter to single-sided illumination.

Requirements for FIDDLE were reviewed in January 2021, and a conceptual design review is planned for September, 2021. The preliminary design calls for a hybrid detector scheme comprised of 8 UXI sensors and 1 x-ray streak camera to maximize both diffraction range and temporal resolution. It will be located in the polar dim and will use a rotational flexibility (around  $\hat{z}$ ) to access a wide range of diffraction angles. Mechanical and electrical design of this complex diagnostic are underway, and a preliminary design of the diagnostic is shown in Figure 11. We plan to follow a staged approach to the build of this diagnostic as shown in figure 12. This approach will allow us to begin gathering data and identifying and mitigating technical

challenges as early as FY23, with additional flexibility and functionality implemented over ~2 years.



**Figure 11** Preliminary design of FIDDLE in the polar DIM above the XRDT target. Design incorporates 8 UXI sensors, 1 x-ray streak camera, a catcher for material driven into the diagnostic, and image plates for failure diagnosis.

UPDATED PLAN 093021											
NDP	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25					
Time Resolved X-Ray Diffraction											
FIDDLE Staged engineering approach	G3D	Fiddle Req Rev.	CDR	FDR	UXI	SC	Rot	ICCS	Catch	Class	Pu
UXI sensors			CDR	FDR	UXI-PQ						
Streak Camera					SC-PQ						
Rotation							Rot-PQ				
Full ICCS support							ICCS support				
Backward catching									Catcher		
Classified OPS										Classified ops	
XRDT Science			Pb hcp-bcc (solid-solid)	Pb Liquid to solid	Other material						Pu

**Figure 12** GANTT chart showing staged approach to FIDDLE implementation at NIF.

### IIIb-9: >15 keV X-ray Detection (DHEX)

There is currently a gap in the ability to efficiently detect high energy X-rays (DHEX) with multi-frame capability across many HED applications and programs. This ability is becoming increasingly important, in particular as experimental investigations move to probe plasmas of higher density and temperature, or larger volume, which needs higher X-ray energies and therefore efficient HE X-ray detection.

As the U.S. are developing X-ray sources to study plasmas of higher density and temperature, or larger volume, at high repetition rates, it is our responsibility to also develop the detectors for these applications. There is currently a gap in the ability to efficiently detect high energy X-rays with multi-frame capability. With new technologies and advances in other fields, we can potentially close and fill the need of advancing and developing high energy X-ray detection for multiple applications. The initiative would extend beyond the current available detector capabilities worldwide and keep the U.S. at the forefront of scientific progress pertinent to high-density regimes that are relevant to stockpile stewardship.

#### Goals:

- Efficient x-ray detection at high energies ( $>15\text{keV}$ )
- GHz, Multiple frames & high data rate, fast detection

Developing higher energy X-ray detectors with multi-frame capability is important for several HED facilities around the world. Such a capability would allow observation of the evolution of a single driven target down to the sub-ns timescale, which would increase the quality of data both by combining what would be a multi-shot sequence into one and by removing uncertainties arising from variations in target and laser conditions. There would be similar advantages for HED science in NNSA missions, for example time resolved diffraction for diagnosing material properties of shocked materials at high strain rates. A high Q/E detector at  $> 10\text{keV}$  with  $<\text{nanosecond}$  frame duration that could provide multiple frames would reduce the number of experiments required to map out material phase space as a function of material pressure. This would reduce both the cost of experiments and reduce uncertainties arising from comparing trends across multiple experiments.

Applications include high pressure drivers like the Omega and NIF lasers and advanced light sources that are moving to higher X-ray energies. A flexible ability to modify the data acquisition rates in 100s's ps to nanosecond ranges would open up new science at these facilities.

Ways to detect high-energy (HE) X-rays can be put into two categories, bulk (diode) and electron (photocathode) detection. These two approaches differ in temporal resolution, ns vs 10s of ps scales.

Currently available photodiode based detectors use 25 and 50  $\mu\text{m}$  thick Si diodes which only work well for  $\sim 5\text{ keV}$  X-rays. Moving to thicker, 100  $\mu\text{m}$  - 200  $\mu\text{m}$  Si diodes would increase the absorption for HE X-rays. Unfortunately, a thicker photo diode (PD) detector structure results in slower performance and blooming between pixels and though Si has a very high technology readiness level (TRL), for HE X-ray detection it requires an unfeasible thickness. This causes a slow temporal response in the 5ns to 10ns range and the expected absorption is only about 10% at 25 keV.

Other PD materials that are currently under development such as GaAs and Ge are of lower TRL but are promising with regards to improved X-ray detection at higher energies while having a fast expected temporal response. Ongoing work at SNL includes pixelated GaAs diodes with 40  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness, and expected 40% absorption @ 25 keV, and 0.44 ns expected temporal response. LLNL is working with UC Davis on a Ge pixelated diode with expected 50% absorption @ 25 keV for 60  $\mu\text{m}$  Ge with a temporal response of 1 ns.

The diodes can be bonded to fast Read Out Integrated Circuits (ROICs) which are physically large: millions of pixels. For hard X-rays the number of electron-hole pairs generated quickly saturate the readout. Mitigation strategies are being investigated, such as larger full-well capacities and charge dumping schemes. The plan is to integrate a GaAs diode with an ICARUS at the beginning of FY22 and develop the process flow to deliver reliable

sensors with the GaAs around July 2022. This development would be followed by an effort to characterize the GaAs arrays using X-ray sources towards the end of FY22 and provide a limited number of sensors to the community at that time.

Plasmas and material research can require temporal resolution faster than the ns scale where a photocathode approach is more appropriate. For this streak cameras and recently pulse dilation aided framing cameras (another transformative diagnostic) can have short integration times. The state-of-the-art X-ray detectors use photocathodes and diodes that use ‘old, common’ materials and suffer from degrading/poor detection efficiencies for higher X-ray energies which make detection of  $>10$  keV X-rays challenging. An ideal PC material has a high X-ray stopping power, low electron pulse height distribution, and large escape depth for the secondaries as well as a low primary contribution. In other words, it would absorb all photons and produce only one low-energy electron per photon. However, currently available X-ray PCs usually obtain noisy images because each photon can produce a wide range, 0 to 100’s, of electrons per absorbed X-ray, so has high pulse height distributions. In addition to the large electron distribution, the detection sensitivity of these PCs usually drops by an order of magnitude between 5 and 15 keV. This means that the Detective Quantum Efficiency (DQE) is  $< 0.5\%$  for the X-ray energies under consideration.

A possible way to improve the Quantum Efficiency (QE) for PCs is to increase the interaction area per unit area (i.e. increase QE without changing the electron distribution or noise factor (NF)). Both, structured PCs and MCPs as PCs offer a geometric way to increase the interaction/absorption length by lengthening the X-ray path while maintaining a short escape length for the electrons. Here the transit time distribution and energy distribution of secondary electrons limits the achievable temporal resolution. Structured photocathodes have already shown a QE improvement of  $3.4\times$  with Au PC At 7.5 keV. Assuming that the NF does not change this is equivalent to an improvement of  $1.8\times$  in SNR. Even steeper structures are predicted to give a  $10\times$  boost in QE, translating to a  $3\times$  improvement of the SNR. This technique could be especially useful for detecting higher ( $>10$  keV) photon energies. However, the temporal fidelity still needs to be studied, as well as coating methods for Alkali Halide PC materials for these structured PCs need to be established. In addition, studies into decreasing the NF, i.e. increasing the dynamic range of the PCs by reducing the number of high charge bunches using an electron beam filter are required and in some cases are underway.

For the integration of higher QE photocathodes with the hSLOS system we have decided to focus on the MCP as a PC path. Unfortunately, due to staffing shortage this project got delayed, but a conceptual design review was held in May 2021. And a modified streak camera test apparatus was assembled to measure both the transit time spread and energy distribution of the output electrons.

Detecting high energy photons produces a large number of primary and secondary electrons per absorbed photons. This can lead to excess charge build up, space charge effects and reduced dynamic range of the detectors. Mitigation schemes are required for these space charge issues. As discussed above, some work is underway in this area, but more work needs to be done to characterize the issues and (hopefully) solve them.



Particle-in-Cell codes are useful as a means of modeling the behavior of these instruments. More effort is required to adapt existing codes and develop new tailored models to understand these important issues.

### **IIIb-10: hCMOS**

The hCMOS technology developed at Sandia's Microsystems Engineering Science & Applications (MESA) facility is the world's fastest, multi-frame, burst mode imaging sensor capable of capturing images on the nanosecond timescale. hCMOS sensors can detect and image X-rays, visible light, and energetic electron and have been established as a critical tool for the NNSA stockpile stewardship program across nearly all the science campaigns and ICF. For thermonuclear burn experiments, hCMOS (in conjunction with SLOS technology) enables time-resolved 3D imaging with sufficient spatial resolution to diagnose failure modes of high convergence implosions. In opacity experiments, hCMOS sensors enable time-resolved measurements of the plasma evolution essential for addressing systematic differences between models and data. In strength and phase experiments of high pressure plutonium, hCMOS sensors will enable time-sequence measurements on a single shot (instead of using multiple shots to map out the evolution), which improves the accuracy through elimination of shot-to-shot variability and reduces the overall use of Pu on the facilities. In hostile environment experiments, high-energy hCMOS sensors will enable more detailed understanding of x-ray source physics through enhanced imaging capability that will improve the fidelity of the x-ray test environment for more precise evaluation of component survivability. There are now more than 25 diagnostics using hCMOS/SLOS technology.

hCMOS technology provides three key benefits to many ICF and HED diagnostics and development; multi frame sampling from same pixel (active area), gating out of background, and native radiation tolerance. The hCMOS sensors and LLNL developed camera electronics are currently the most radiation tolerance imagers on NIF.

The hCMOS design team and diagnostic teams with the NDWG work together to outline a five-year roadmap for the technology. The roadmap created (depicted below in Figure 13) captures the activities needed to ensure the technology can meet current demand and future needs of the NDWG.

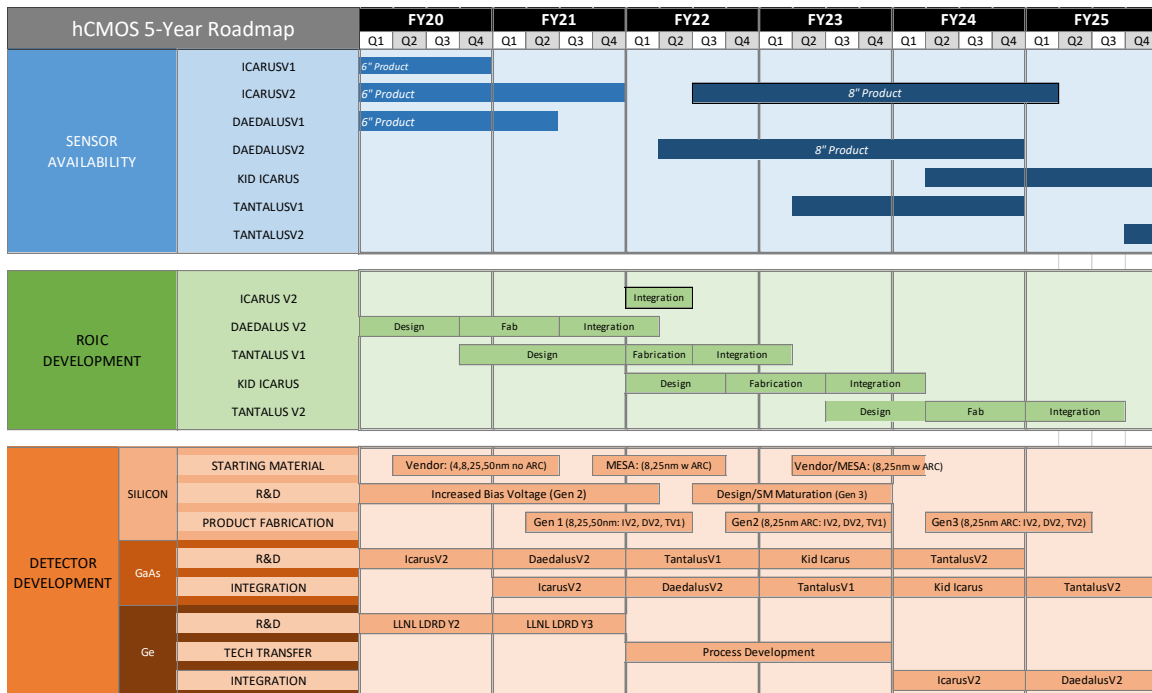


Figure 13 5-year hCMOS roadmap

The hCMOS technology roadmap has three primary focus areas. The first focus area is Sensor Realization and Delivery. Work in this focus area involves the creation of hCMOS sensors from the various sub-systems/processes needed. These include; wafer testing of base Read-Out Integrated Circuits (ROIC) and detector wafers, sensor package design/fabrication, bonding of ROIC wafers to Photo Diode wafers, wafer testing bonded pairs, packaging of bonded wafers, and testing of packaged sensors. A total of fifty-four IcarusV1 and IcarusV2 sensors have been delivered to Z, NIF, and OMEGA in FY21 in support of ICF diagnostics. Future work in this area will be integrating GaAs Photo Diodes on Icarus ROICS, continuing to deliver the remaining stock of sensors on six-inch MESA fabricated wafers, and the fabrication/realization/delivery of next generation sensors fabricated on eight-inch wafers.

The second focus area of the hCMOS roadmap centers on Next Generation ROIC Development. Work in this area includes the design, fabrication and testing of new ROICs that meet new specifications or needs identified by the NDWG. Examples of these include faster shutter speeds, additional frames, faster image readout times, etc. The needs and specifications of the NDWG community help to dictate the fabrication process selected for the ROIC. In FY21 the DaedalusV2 ROIC was fabricated in the SNL MESA 8-inch 350nm process. The DaedalusV2 ROIC is a 3-frame imager that offers faster shutter speeds (1ns), a higher full well, and new imaging modes than the existing IcaursV1/V2 sensor. In addition, of the Tantalus ROIC design was completed targeting the commercial Tower Jazz 130nm process and was released for fabrication in FY21Q4. The Tantalus ROIC is being architected to offer 4-frames with shutter speeds of 500ps. Future work in this area will be the

development of a small scale ROIC based on the IcarusV2 architecture. The primary advantages of a smaller ROIC would be a decrease in sensor cost due to the larger quantity of ROICs that could be fabricated on a single wafer. This would enable the use of hCMOS technology in areas/applications that have a high risk of damaging the sensor.

The third focus area of the hCMOS roadmap is Detector Development. This involves the design, fabrication, and testing of new Photo Diodes that target specifications/needs called out by the NDWG or by next generation ROICs under development. In FY21 the DaedalusV2 Photo Diode array was fabricated and hybridized. These Photo Diodes are being constructed silicon substrates with varying thicknesses (8um, 25um, and 50um). In addition, Photo Diode test structures were created and released for fabrication. The goal of the Photo Diode test circuits is to increase the overall breakdown voltage of silicon Photo Diodes from ~60V to ~100V. An improvement in breakdown voltage will allow Photo Diodes to be biased at higher voltages which ultimately increases the speed of the Photo Diode. Pixelated GaAs diodes were developed for Icarus ROICs and testing occurred at the array level. GaAs offers significant advantages in the absorption of higher energy X-rays than silicon of the same thickness. Similar work is being performed at LLNL using Ge as an absorber. Future work in this area will involve creating silicon Photo Diodes for the Tantalus ROIC and developing GaAs Photo Diodes for the DaedalusV2 ROIC.

#### **IV: Broad Diagnostic Efforts**

The NDWG defined a class of diagnostics or diagnostic related activities which benefits from significant national efforts and will enable new or more precise measurements across the complex. These are: Precision nToF, Mix, and Te, Image Analysis, Hard X-Ray Detectors, X-ray Doppler Velocimetry (XDV), and Synthetic Data. There is also an ongoing effort to maintain the capability to scan imaging plates with high accuracy and consistency across the complex.

One part of the precision nToF activity is to continue improving the measurement accuracy of the hot-spot velocity inferred from the nToF spectrum. Existing nToF detectors provided the first evidence that DT implosions at both NIF and Omega have a residual bulk velocity limiting the efficiency of the implosion. Both direct and indirect drive experiments have confirmed the adverse impact of residual hot-spot velocity on fusion yield and was confirmed with simulations.

Measuring the hot-spot velocity requires better than 10000:1 precision owing to the relatively small drift velocity  $\sim 10\text{-}100\text{km/s}$  that modifies the birth neutron spectrum that has a velocity associated with the 14 MeV neutron of 51233km/s. A simple hot-spot model asserts that the mean neutron energy is modified by both bulk hot-spot motion and the average kinetic energy (or ion temperature) of the D and T reactants. To characterize the 3D velocity vector and ion temperature a minimum 3 or 4 independent nToF detectors are required at quasi-orthogonal positions around the target chamber. Each of these must be sufficiently well collimated so that the neutron spectrum is not significantly impacted by the scattering environment and of sufficient temporal response to meet the precision requirements described above. This need has led to a multi-laboratory goal within the nToF community to implement more collimated lines of sight and faster fused-silica Cherenkov nToF detectors to better characterize the bulk flow. In addition adding a fifth detector on NIF has improved the accuracy of the velocity measurement as shown in

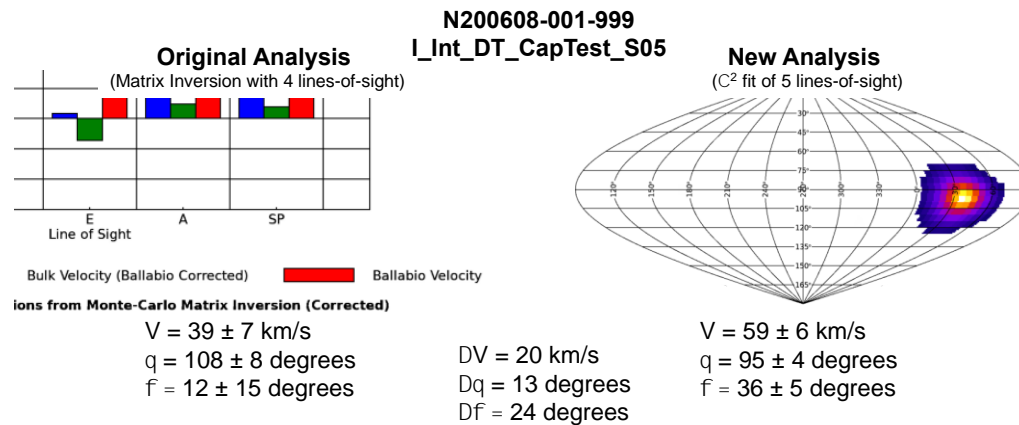


Figure 14 -Analysis of hot spot velocity using 4 NTOF LOS vs 5 LoS, which has improved both the angular precision of the velocity measurement by  $\sim 2\times$ .

Fused-silica Cherenkov nToF detectors (QCD) have enabled higher precision velocity measurements illustrated in

Figure 14 due to the thresholding nature of the Cherenkov process. This means that the signal measured due to gamma-rays is more directly related to the implosion bang-time and not polluted by high-energy x-rays emitted by LPI in the hohlraum or plasma surrounding the capsule.

This has revolutionized the precision with which hot-spot bulk flow can be measured and as a result, Cherenkov detectors have been deployed and tested at NIF, Omega and Z over the past 2 years. All 3 laboratories are investing in additional nToF lines of sight to better understand these effects which should lead to a significantly improved capability within the next few years.

NIF to Z Diagnostic Tech Transfer Effort:

After a decade of intense investment, there are well established diagnostic capabilities demonstrated at the NIF that are used to make quantitative measurements on ICF

plasmas. Many of these diagnostics were developed as national collaborations toward the goal of determining the efficacy of NIF to achieve ignition. Starting in late 2020 a tech-transfer effort was initiated to transfer key measurement capabilities and engineer for use at Z. These demonstrated capabilities on the NIF will bring the measurement maturity for characterizing magnetic direct drive (MDD) fusion plasmas on Z up to the long-standing ability of the NIF.

Nuclear burn volume, burn and confinement time, burn magnitude (and spectra), and ion burn temperature are fundamental to quantifying burn performance. At present, Z has no capabilities to measure neutron production duration (burn width), the spatial length scale for 1D neutron imaging is  $\sim 0.5$  mm, and there are no capabilities to disambiguate effects of motion broadening of neutron spectra from a thermonuclear ion temperature. While substantial understanding can be gained with integrated measurements, multi-dimensional spatially and temporally resolved data is critical to assess key questions on performance and scaling and to utilize burning platforms for stockpile science. The physics requirements for spatial and temporal resolution in nuclear and x-ray measurements in some MDD platforms require existing capabilities on Z to improve by roughly an order of magnitude (detailed physics requirements available in classified document). For typical ICF plasmas, the feature length scales of interest are  $\sim 10$  micrometers and  $\sim 10$  picoseconds and require nuclear diagnostics to most effectively assess. On NIF, typical measurement error for scalar fusion output metrics is less than 10%, and in some cases routinely less than 5%. The technology to make each of these measurements on NIF are routine and in some cases have been deployed along multiple lines-of-sight.

The specific capabilities under development as part of this NIF-to-Z technology transfer include:

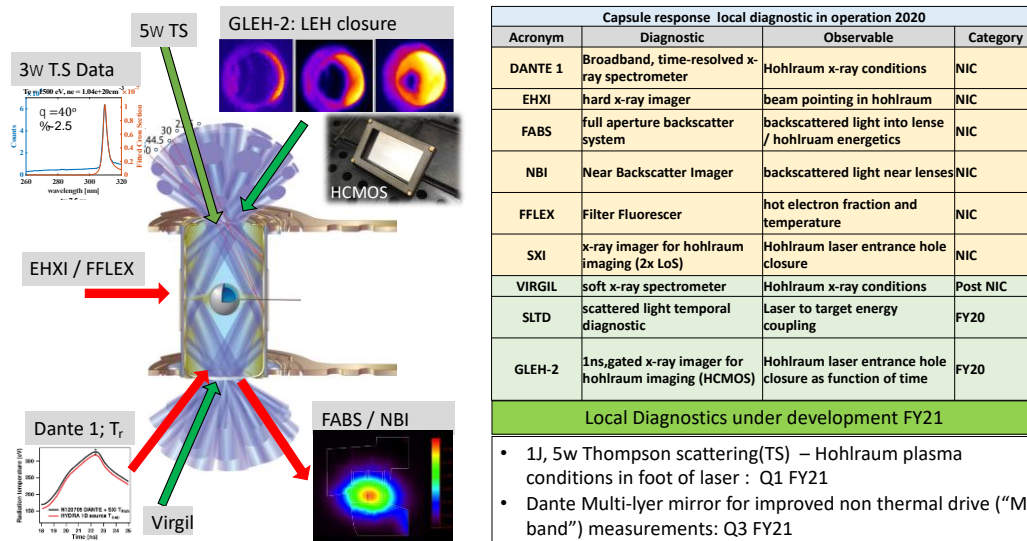
- Improved nTOF for reliable Tion and kinetic energy: During the latter stages of the National Ignition Campaign (NIC), it became clear that a significant amount of residual kinetic energy (RKE) was present during the burn phase of the implosion. This RKE manifested itself in significantly shifted and broadened neutron time-of-flight signals. Quantifying the RKE requires measuring the neutron time-of-flight (nTOF) signals along multiple independent nTOF lines of sight to fully disambiguate coherent and incoherent flow, as well as the true burn weighted ion temperature, Tion.
- X-ray streak bang and burn: Understanding stagnation conditions is greatly enhanced through an analysis based on both X-ray and nuclear signatures. One gap in the X-ray diagnostic suite at the Z-facility is the lack of X-ray streak camera-based instruments. At the NIF, X-ray streak cameras are regularly used to provide high temporal resolution X-ray burn history measurements (SPIDER), high temporal resolution 1-D images of implosions (DISC), and high temporal and spatial resolution spectroscopy measurements (DISC/tConSpec).
- 2-D neutron imaging: At Z, there is no 2-D neutron imaging capability, while there is a 1-D capability it is limited by a spatial resolution of 0.5mm. A highly resolved 2-D neutron capability will be transformational to help understand and resolve fusion parameters such as the burn volume and shape, which is critical to infer ignition metrics such as P-tau.

## V: Local diagnostic development efforts at NIF, Z and OMEGA

### V-1: Local Diagnostic Development on the National Ignition Facility

New local diagnostic capabilities on the NIF are aimed at improving our understanding of the evolution of high energy density plasmas for stockpile stewardship, National Security applications and discovery science. The majority of the development activities in FY 20 were focused on the development of x-ray, neutron and optical diagnostics for LLNL HED science programs, including Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF), focused high energy density experiments, specifically: Materials research and radiation transport. For ICF these local diagnostics can be categorized into three general areas, (1) Hohlraum drive, (2) Capsule response and (3) Stagnation diagnostics.

#### Hohlraum Drive Diagnostics:

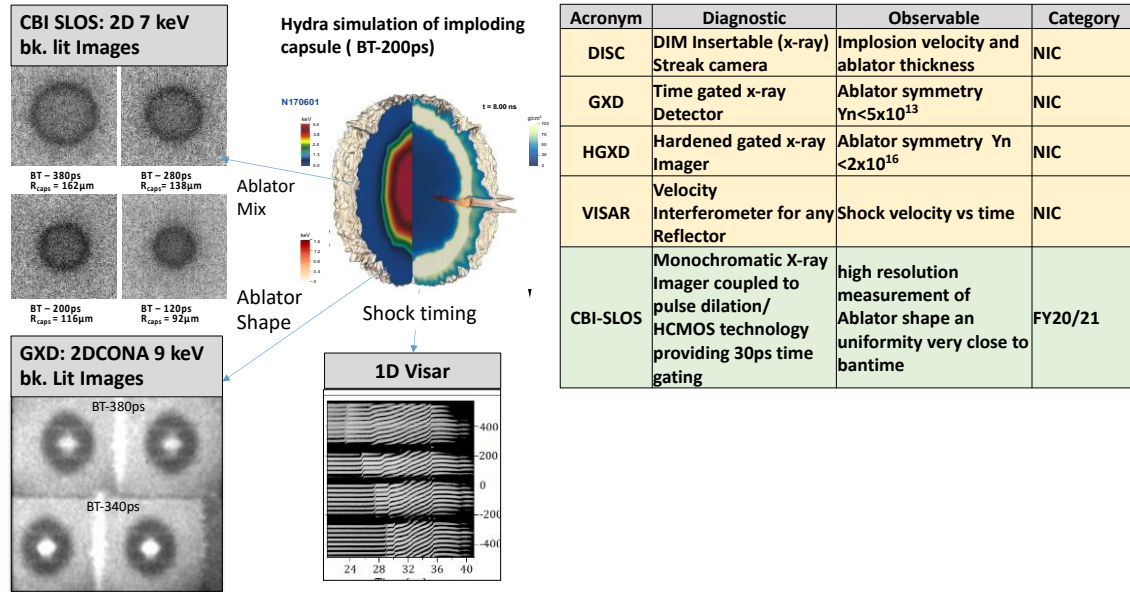


**Figure 15: ICF Hohlraum Drive Diagnostics:** *Hohlraum Drive Diagnostics, including example data from Gated Laser Entrance Hole (GLEH) imagers that utilize hCMOS technology, 3w Thomson Scattering, Radiation temperature measured by Dante 1 and backscattered light distribution measured by the NBI and FABS diagnostic. The table shows diagnostic, observables and time frames for first implementation.*

The hohlraum drive local diagnostics, shown in Fig.15, include soft x-ray spectrometers (e.g. Dante 1 and Virgil), hard x-ray spectrometers (FFLEX), hohlraum alignment imagers (EHXI and SXI) and scattered light diagnostics (SLTD, FABS, NBI). The NIF scattered light time history diagnostic (SLTD) was developed for LDD to measure the azimuthal distribution of scattered light in NIF polar direct drive implosions. Major developments in this area are a new gated laser entrance hole imager (GLEH-2), which has replaced the standard CCD camera in SXI with SNL's time gated hCMOS cameras. This now provides 1 ns duration time gated images of the hohlraum laser entrance hole (LEH) and feeds into assessments of both laser-hohlraum energy coupling and implosion symmetry. The second major development is the addition of the transformational deep UV Thomson scattering diagnostic, which is due to come online late by mid FY21 and will greatly benefit diagnosis

of hohlraum and coronal plasmas for HED science. This system uses a 5 $\omega$  optical probe to provide time resolved point measurements of electron density, temperature, plasma flow and plasma ionization stage in the hohlraum plasma (this system is described in detail in transformational section A.A).

### ICF Capsule response diagnostics:



**Figure. 16: ICF Capsule Response Diagnostics**, showing a hydra simulation of a capsule within 200ps of bang time, four examples of important diagnostic measurements during NIC (1D VISAR, 2D CONA), post NIC (CBI-SLOS).

## 2.2. Capsule Response Local diagnostics:

For laser indirect drive the hohlraum produces a large flux of soft x-rays which are absorbed in the capsule containing the DT fuel. The outer wall of the capsule (the “ablator”) is heated by the x-rays and expands rapidly, driving a series of shocks that travel through the ablator and fuel, leading to a quasi-spherical implosion that both compresses and heats the DT fuel. Capsule response diagnostics are required to measure the symmetry and performance of the ablator and fuel as it implodes.

Capsule response diagnostics are shown in Fig.16. Just after the completion of NIC, the ablator uniformity, density and symmetry were measured using backlit 2D x-ray radiography (2D CONA). This technique uses an x-ray back-lighter to provide a shadow of the ablator, which is imaged via a pinhole array onto a gated framing camera (GXD). This provides a series of radiographic in flight images of the ablator within about 500ps of the peak compression, with an example of data shown in panel on lower left of Fig. 16. The dark ovals show compressed ablator while the bright regions in the center of the images are from capsule self-emission. This important diagnostic provides insight into the deleterious effects of the capsule support tent, seeding a hydrodynamic instability which led to non-uniform implosion and mixing of ablator into the fuel and hot spot helping to explain the sub-optimal performance of the NIC implosion designs.

Over the course of FY19 the single line of sight imaging diagnostic (SLOS), which is one of the nine NDWG transformational diagnostics, replaced the gated x-ray imagers as the detector for 2D x-ray backlit imaging (2DCONA). Coupling this new diagnostic with a mono-chromatic imaging crystal (CBI-SLOS) enabled ablator radiography measurements to overcome the capsule self-emission within  $\sim 100$ ps of bang-time, as shown in panel on upper left. It is the narrow bandwidth of the imaging crystal that allows greater discrimination between back-lighter x-rays over the broad-band capsule self-emission, enabling ablator measurements late in the implosion, which could not be done with the previous 2DCONA technique. This new data is currently being used to infer mixing of ablator material into the hot spot, providing valuable new information on an important ICF degradation mechanism. Implosion trajectory and ablator density are also measured using one dimensional x-ray backlighting techniques, which use x-rays to project a 1D slit image onto an x-ray streak camera (DISC).

Another important diagnostic is the one dimensional velocity interferometer (1D VISAR) that is used to characterize materials at high pressure (as shown in lower middle panel in fig.18) and to synchronize the shocks driven by the x-ray drive through both the capsule and the DT fuel. This ensures that the laser pulse drives the correct sequence of shocks to assemble the fuel. In 2019 NIF diagnostics began the process to develop a new 2D VISAR system on NIF (2DHRV). This is building on the successful OMEGA High Resolution Velocimeter (OHRV) diagnostic, which has been used to study laser driven shock non uniformity, driven by ablator microstructure, on samples of plastic, beryllium and diamond. This diagnostic, which is described in detail in the transformational section **IIIb-7**, uses multiple laser pulses to provide a snapshot of the shock uniformity in the ablator with m/s velocity resolution, and will be used to measure shock uniformity at high pressures obtained in ICF implosions on the NIF towards the end of FY23.

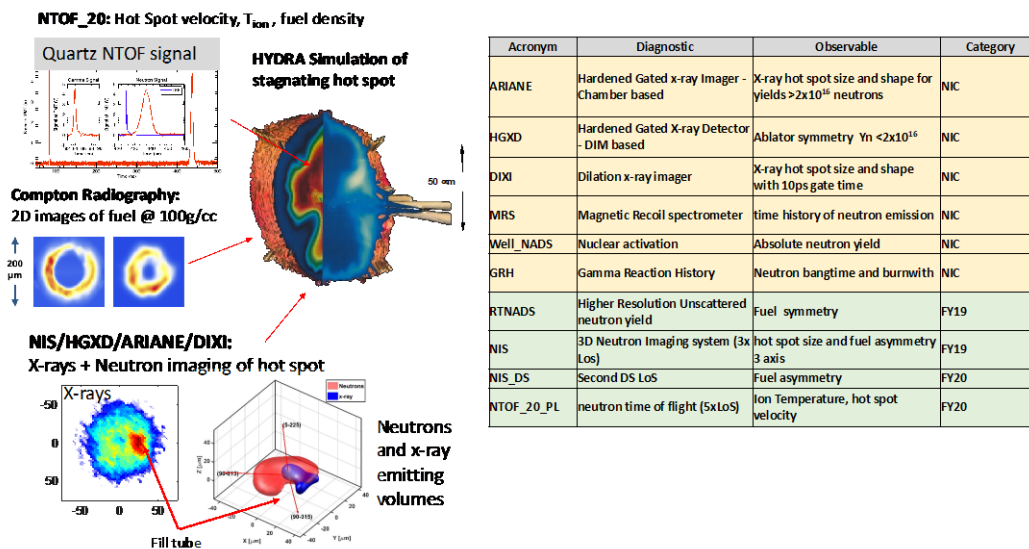
### **2.3. Stagnation Local diagnostics:**

As the capsule approaches peak compression, the hot spot begins to approach maximum density and temperature conditions and produces copious neutrons and x-rays. These particles and photons are used to diagnose stagnation conditions  $\sim 100$ -200ps around time of peak compression. As shown in Fig.17, a large number of diagnostics were commissioned on NIF to characterize stagnation conditions during the NIC. Since then there have been multiple advances that are greatly improving understanding of these challenging implosions. Some notable examples are; (1) the use of 5 neutron time of flight detectors to provide high precision measurements of neutron ion temperature and the bulk velocity of the neutron emitting hot spot; (2) the use of the multi-kJ, 30ps ARC laser to provide a higher energy X-ray backlight images of the compressed fuel at stagnation, via Compton scattering; (3) multiple Neutron and X-ray imaging lines of sight to provide 3D reconstructions of the neutron and x-ray emitting volume at stagnation. These diagnostics provide powerful new insights into degradation mechanisms that prevent ICF implosions from reaching



their designed performance, These mechanisms are described in detail within the ICF 2020 report.

## ICF Stagnation Diagnostics



**Figure 17: ICF Capsule stagnation Diagnostics**, showing a hydra simulation of a capsule at bang-time, three examples of important diagnostic measurements; neutron time of flight (NTOF\_20), Compton scattering imaging of the dense DT fuel and combined 3D and x-ray imaging neutron imaging of the stagnating hot spot.

## Key Stagnation local diagnostic developments in FY20:

**HGXD/DIXI/ARIANE:** X-ray emission diagnostics that have been hardened against the high neutron and hard x-ray fluxes are used to measure the shape and brightness of the hot spot throughout the time of peak x-ray emission. HGXD (70ps resolution x-ray framing camera) and DIXI (10ps resolution, x-ray framing camera), are used for this measurement up to neutron yields of  $2 \times 10^{16}$ . ARIANE is a hardened x-ray framing camera placed 6m from chamber center that is designed to provide similar x-ray shape data for yields approaching  $1 \times 10^{17}$  neutrons.

**DS\_NIS:** This is part of the LANL neutron imaging diagnostic. This diagnostic images neutrons that have been down-scattered by the DT fuel. This allows measurements of the shape of the DT fuel surrounding the hotspot. Currently there is one Line of Sight (LoS) dedicated to this measurement, a second LOS was added in mid FY20, which is now provide an elementary 3D fuel imaging capability. Adding a third LoS would improve the fidelity of this measurement. This requires the development of faster scintillators for the polar neutron LoS at NIF, which are under development, with a notional fielding date of FY23.

**GRH/GCD:** The Gamma Reaction History (GRH) and Gas Cherenkov Detector (GCD) are both LANL diagnostics that are used to measure the time of peak emission and neutron burn duration which are measured via fusion induced gamma emission using GRH. This measures peak emission time to  $\pm 50$ ps and burn duration to  $\pm 30$ ps. A new diagnostic based on time dilation technology (GCD) is being developed to

improve burn width resolution to  $\sim 10\text{ps}$ . This is scheduled for operation by the end of 2021.

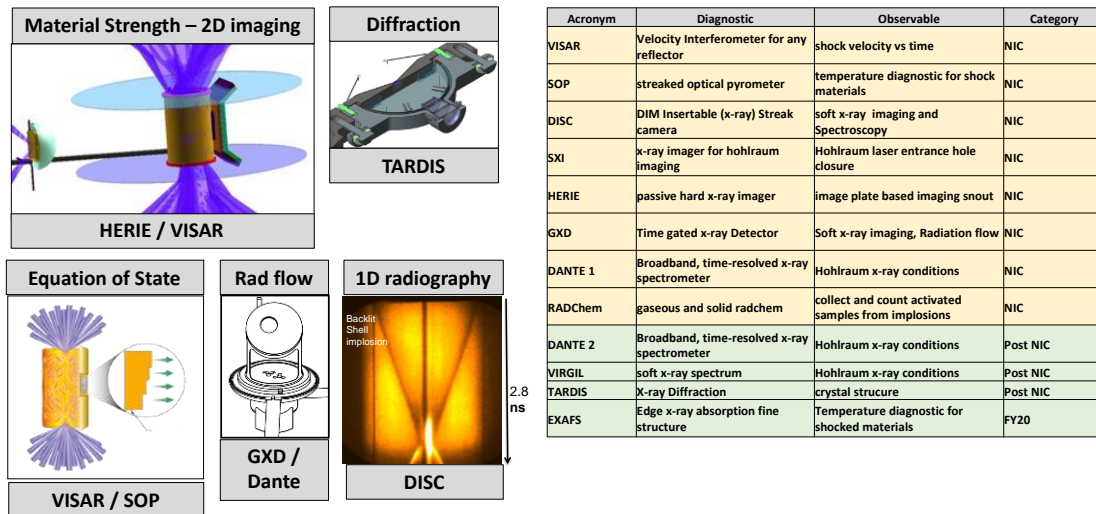
**FNADS/RTNADS:** Absolute neutron yield is measured using zirconium Nuclear Activation Detectors (Well\_NADS). DT fuel uniformity is also measured by a distribution of chamber Flange based nuclear activation detectors (FNADS). This diagnostic provided 18 discrete measurements of un-scattered neutron yield at various locations around the chamber. Imperfections in the fuel distribution scatter the neutrons from the hot spot and this affects the number of the neutrons that reach the activation detectors at each location. Low mode DT fuel distribution maps are constructed from these measurements. In FY19 this diagnostic was replaced by a new Real Time Nuclear Activation Detection System (RTNADS). In FY20 RTNADS began to provide automatic analysis of low mode fuel uniformity with higher sensitivity and  $\sim 2\times$  increased locations ( $\sim 40$  vs 18), which allows fuel maps to be measured with higher Legendre modal content ( $L < 4$ ) than the previous FNADS system ( $L < 2$ ).

**NTOF\_20:** A suite of five Neutron Time Of Flight systems (NTOF\_20; each  $\sim 20\text{m}$  from the center of the chamber) are used to measure the ion temperature and hot spot bulk velocity via broadening of the neutrons emitted from the hot spot at time of peak compression. These diagnostics have been developed via a decades long collaboration with scientists and engineers from LLNL, LLE, LANL and Sandia. Fig.17 shows example data from a new high temporal resolution quartz detector. In addition to ion temperature and bulk velocity these powerful diagnostics also measure the fraction of neutrons that are down-scattered by the DT fuel (the Down Scattered ratio = DSR), giving 5 measurements of fuel density around the implosion. The fifth NTOF was commissioned in mid 2020. It filled a gap in the angular coverage and provided a more accurate measurement of the hot spot bulk velocity (giving resolution of  $< 5\text{km/s}$ ).

#### **4. Local diagnostics supporting HED science experiments on NIF:**

The diagnostic suites support experiments that generate weapon-relevant HED conditions in specialized laboratory environments for NIF, Omega and Z. These are generally experiments that use a subset of the facility diagnostics to study focused physics problems relevant to weapons science in the general areas of radiation flow and material properties at high pressures (including equation of state, opacities and material strength) as shown in Fig.18. On NIF the VISAR system is used for shock timing in ICF implosions, and for equation of state studies that have provided important data on a range of materials for the national HED program. Planned improvements to the VISAR system on NIF will allow extremely precise measurements of pressure profiles and will provide a new capability to study shock uniformity in materials of interest to the HED community by the end of FY23. X-ray diffraction is another important diagnostic that is used to directly measure the crystal structure, adding another constrain to the equation of state in HED experiments. On NIF the TARDIS diagnostic is used to characterize the crystal structure of important materials at high pressures.

## HED diagnostics supports multiple experimental platforms



**Figure 18: The NIF diagnostic suite supports focused science experiments for the HED program**, some of the many examples are shown here. These include advanced 1D streaked x-ray radiography using DISC, 2D high energy radiography for material strength using image plates (future experiments will use ARC and high energy HCMOS gated detectors), material behavior at ultra-high pressures with VISAR, SOP, TARDIS, EXAFS and DIFF(t).

A time resolved version of TARDIS, called FIDDLE, is being designed to produce more frames per experiment, and is due to provide data in FY22. Gated x-ray framing cameras (GXD) are also used to diagnose radiation flow via plasma self-emission and x-ray streak cameras (DISC) are used to measure material equation of state through 1D streaked x-ray radiography on both NIF and OMEGA. Material strength at high pressure has been successfully measured using point projection x-ray backlighting and simple image plate diagnostics. In the future this experiment capability will be extended to thicker samples by using ARC or OMEGA EP to drive higher x-ray energy back-lighters. These techniques will be used to diagnose metallic ablator conditions that are relevant for double shell implosion science. The data return per experiment can be increased by using gated high energy hCMOS detectors (DHEX/HEXI) to obtain multiple frames per shot. New cathode materials that are sensitive to more energetic x-rays (>15keV) will be required for these devices. R&D work is underway on Germanium and GaAs detectors that can provide good detection efficiency for these x-ray energies.

### **V-2: Local Diagnostic Development on Z**

The development of new local diagnostic capabilities on Z is aimed at improving the fidelity by which we can measure time-dependent phenomena in all our HED platforms with an emphasis on the needs to understand stagnation dynamics in magnetic direct drive ICF. Development activities in FY21 were focused on:

- Gamma Reaction History (With LANL, LLNL, & NNSS)
- Compact Recoil Spectrometer (With MIT)
- SCORPIONZ streak camera (With LLNL)
- Precision nToF (with LLNL)
- 2D Neutron Imaging (with LLNL)
- Development of an equatorial line of sight
- Expansion of Line VISAR capabilities

In the next few years more dedicated efforts will be placed on neutron diagnostics that will be enabled by tritium operations on Z. Table 5 shows the present estimates of the timeline for development of the local diagnostics on Z.

Brief description of these capabilities and their applications:

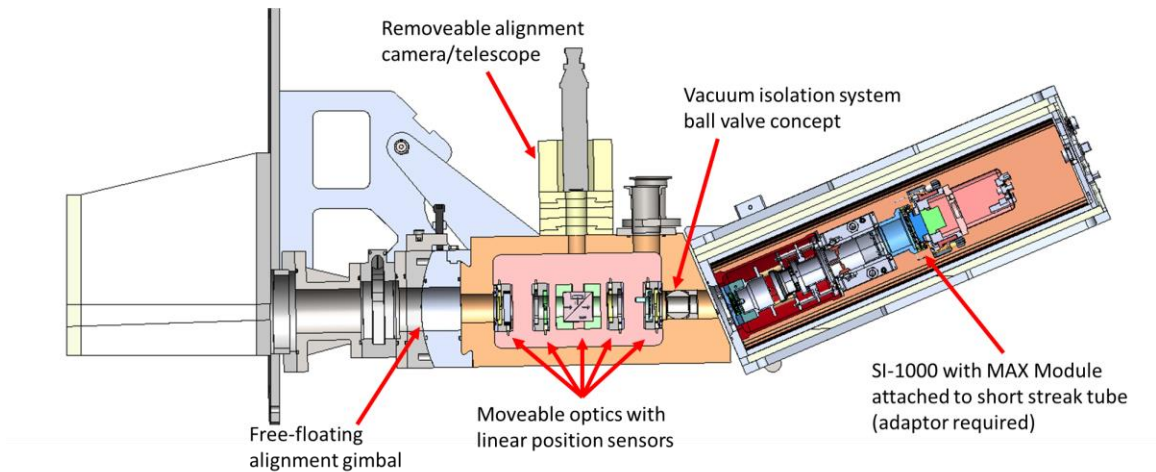
**MONSSTR:** Multi Optic Novel Spherical Spectrometer with Time Resolution is a time gated in-chamber spectrometer being developed to diagnose the evolution of mix in ICF experiments. Future plans include integrating tiled Daedalus sensors to increase the spectral range.

**Multi-Frame Crystal Backlighting:** This is a spherical crystal backlighter coupled to an hCMOS camera with multiple laser pulses to enable multi-frame capabilities. The primary application is measuring the liner mass distribution near stagnation in MDD-ICF.

**High energy and faster diodes:** This work supports both increasing the temporal response and development of higher energy diodes. The primary application is measuring the time-dependent x-ray output spectrum from >15 keV x-ray sources. Ongoing research involves GaAs, CdTe, and 100um thick silicon.

**GRH-Z:** This is a gamma reaction history diagnostic to measure the time-history of the DT fusion production in MDD-ICF (requires ~1% tritium on Z). Future plans include improving gamma shielding and incorporating a PDPMT to improve the temporal response.

**SCORPIONZ, X-Ray Streak Camera** – Streak Camera Observatory for Radial or Polar Implosions ON Z. Enables much faster temporal response to better understand evolution of target parameters. In FY21 a conceptual design was held in collaboration with LLNL.



**Figure 39 Cross section of SCORPIONZ diagnostic in Z Diagnostic Boat**

**Precision nTOF** – Developing an advanced nTOF system that will use three equatorial line of sight.

**2-D Neutron Imager:** This is a time-integrating 2-D neutron imager optimized for primary DT neutrons from the stagnation in MDD-ICF.

**Temperature Diagnostics for Materials Research:** This is part of multi-year effort to diagnose the temperature of dynamically compressed material samples. Infrared and Near Visible Pyrometry, Infrared Reflectance, and reflectance spectroscopy are being developed.

**X-Ray Diffraction** – Measure the phase dynamics of compressed materials for Materials Research.

**Equatorial Line of Sight** – A new diagnostic capability that will allow an equatorial view of imploding targets from distances greater than 3m. The transport section will extend through the water and oil sections of Z which will provide great neutron

collimation for future nuclear diagnostics.

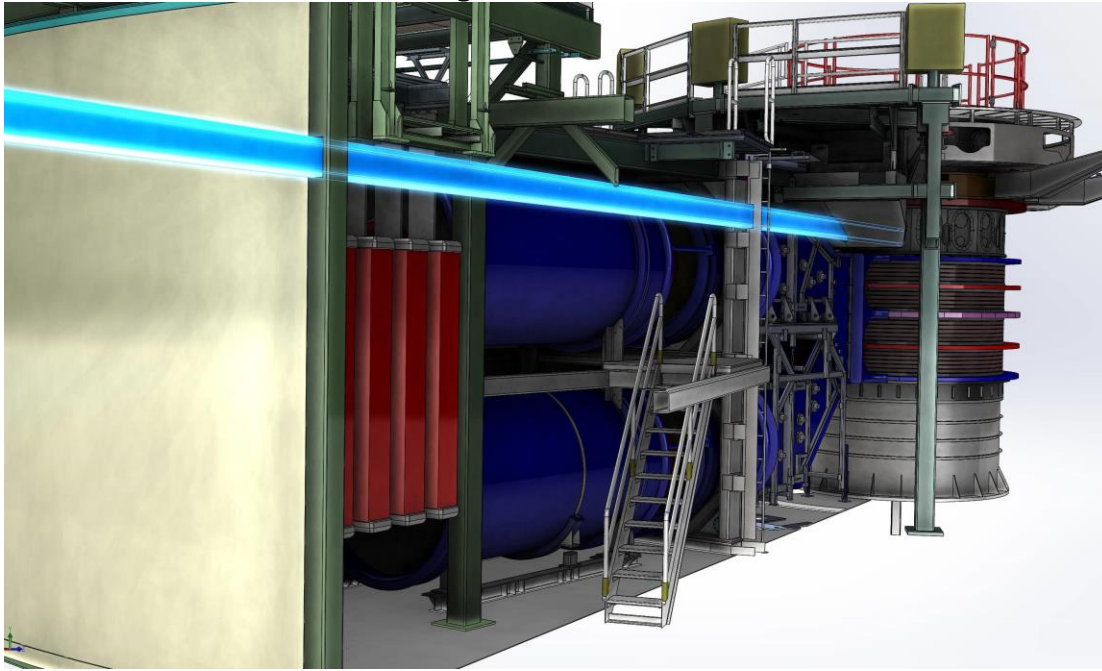


Figure 40 View of equatorial line of sight extending through the pulsed power sections of Z.

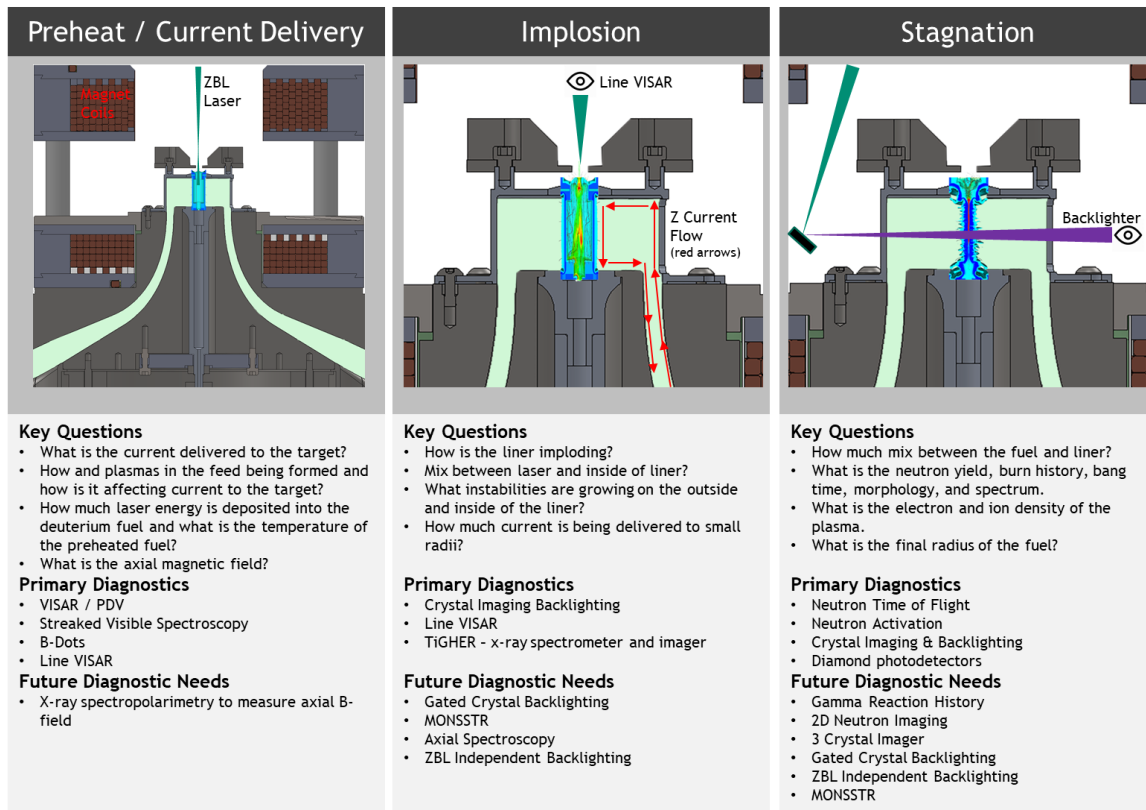
**Line VISAR**– In FY21 the Line VISAR system, developed in collaboration with LLNL, continues to expand to other experimental campaigns and expanding its capability to image plasma formation that could lead to current loss in Z.

Major Z Local Diagnostic	Status	FY21				FY22				FY23				FY24			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
MONSSTR	In Progress																
Multi-Frame Backlighting	In Progress																
High Energy & Faster Diodes	In Progress																
Gamma Reaction History-PDPMT	Not Started																
Compact Recoil Spectrometer	In Progress																
RadChem	In Progress																
SCORPIONZ	Development																
Precision nToF	Development																
2D Neutron Imager	Development																
Temperature Diagnostics for Material Research	In Progress																
X-Ray Diffraction	In Progress																
Equatorial Line of Sight	Development																

**Table 5:** Estimated timelines for the local diagnostic effort on Z.

Z has a diverse portfolio of experimental platforms that support multiple experimental campaigns. For Magnetic Direct Drive Fusion experiments the MagLIF concept is used and shown in Figure 21. Recent efforts have focused on understanding current delivery (Z Line VISAR) and stagnation diagnostics; need to implement 1) 2D neutron imager, 2) fusion burn history measurement, and 3) time gated spectroscopy and imaging. There are existing limitations that don't allow backlighting and MagLIF to be executed simultaneously or Backlighting and Line VISAR.





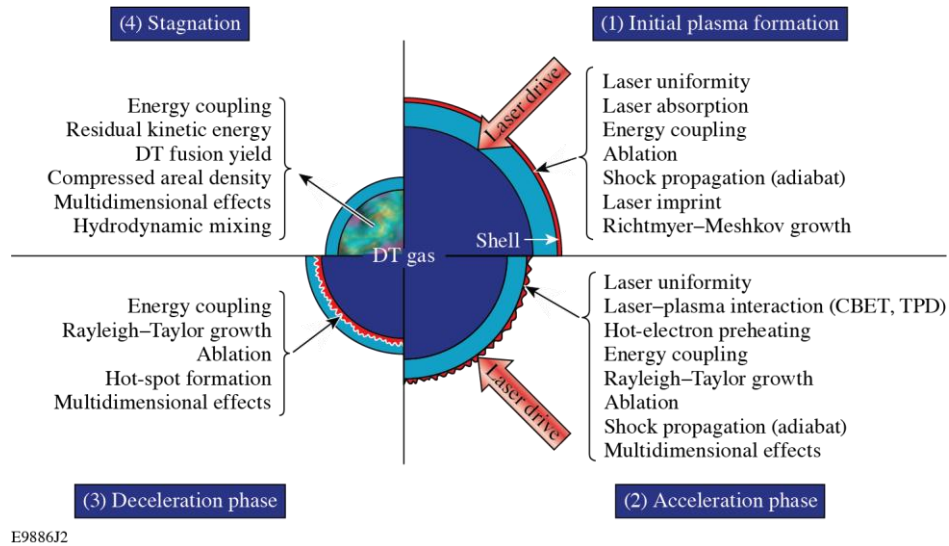
**Figure 21: Magnetic Direct Drive implosion experiments are diagnosed to understand fundamental target physics in three general phases. Cross-section of the MagLIF hardware.**

### **V-3: Local Diagnostic Effort on OMEGA**

Scientific advances in High Energy Density (HED) physics are realized with an innovative research and development program of visible, ultraviolet, x-ray, gamma ray, nuclear, and particle diagnostics. Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) and the pursuit of ignition has been a major driver for diagnostic development for decades and this has driven many advances in diagnostics that are now being used in the wider HED community. The development of many diagnostics for Laser Indirect Drive (LID), Magnetic Direct Drive (MDD) and Laser Direct Drive (LDD) on the National Ignition Facility (NIF) often starts with a prototype demonstration on the Omega Laser Facility. There is also strong synergy between diagnostic groups at the major HED facilities: OMEGA, Z and NIF.

The Omega Laser Facility is used to develop diagnostics for the three ignition approaches in ICF and HED experiments. LDD ICF implosions and focused HED experiments on OMEGA are diagnosed to understand fundamental target physics. For ICF the key target physics areas for each of the four phases of a LDD implosion—initial plasma formation, acceleration phase, deceleration phase, and stagnation—are highlighted in Fig. 20, including laser drive uniformity, laser imprint, laser plasma instabilities, energy coupling, shock propagation, hydrodynamic instabilities, hot-electron preheat, multidimensional effects on hot-spot formation, and residual kinetic energy. A multi-year research and development effort is being conducted for 3-D (i.e., having three or more diagnostic lines of sight) x-ray and nuclear diagnostics to study multidimensional effects on LDD

implosions during the all phases of the implosion. The development of primary diagnostics, including the accuracy and precision requirements, are derived from the fundamental target physics needs. In addition, the high shot rate on OMEGA and OMEGA EP is exploited to develop LID and MDD diagnostics for NIF and Z, respectively. The OMEGA EP PW laser, similar to Z-beamlet and ARC, is combined with OMEGA to develop advanced x-ray and particle probe sources for HED plasma research.



**Figure 22. The key target physics areas for each of the four phases of an LDD implosion**

The primary diagnostics associated with the key target physics of the initial plasma formation and the acceleration phase of an LDD implosion are listed in Fig. 21. Many synergies were realized with the VISAR diagnostic, which is used by all three approaches. Diagnostics developed for NIF on OMEGA are highlighted with an asterisk.

Target physics area	Diagnostic and measurement
Laser Uniformity	Full-beam in-tank diagnostic (records the spatial distribution of UV far-field fluence inside the OMEGA target chamber) [1] X-ray target plane (infers the spatial distribution of UV far-field fluence from x-ray spots recorded on target) [2] Fixed x-ray pinhole cameras for beam pointing [3] Laser power balance measurement [4] Ultraviolet equivalent target plane [5]
Laser Absorption	Full-aperture backscatter station for time-resolved scattered light spectroscopy [6] Scattered Light Uniformity Imager (SLUI)
Ablation/Shock Propagation/adiabat	1-D VISAR (velocity interferometer system for any reflector) [7]* Refraction-enhanced X-ray radiography [8] X-ray Thomson Scattering [9] X-ray Talbot-Lau deflectometry [10]
Laser Imprint/Richtmyer-Meshkov Growth	OHRV (2-D VISAR) [11]* Through-foil x-ray radiography [12]
Laser Plasma Instabilities	Full-aperture backscatter station for time-resolved scattered light spectroscopy [6]



	$3/2\omega$ time- and space-resolved imagers [13] $2\omega$ and $4\omega$ ( $5\omega$ in future) optical Thomson scattering [14]* $4\omega$ interferometry [15] and angular filter refractometry [16] TOP9 beam and transmitted-beam diagnostic [17] Angularly-Resolved Thomson Scattering for electron distribution functions [18] Hard x-ray diagnostic [19]
Energy Coupling	Shell trajectory measurements using x-ray framing cameras (XRFC) [20]
Rayleigh–Taylor Growth	Through-foil x-ray radiography using Fresnel Zone Plates [21]
Multidimensional Effects	3-D in-flight ablation surface measurement using XRFC [22]

**Figure 23. LDD key target physics areas and diagnostics for the initial plasma formation and acceleration phase.** \*These diagnostics were developed on OMEGA for NIF through collaborative efforts amongst scientists and engineers from LLE, LLNL, LANL, SNL, MIT, Kentech and the NDWG.

The primary diagnostics associated with the key target physics of the deceleration phase and stagnation of an LDD implosion are listed in Fig. 22. Diagnostics developed for NIF on OMEGA are highlighted with an asterisk.

Target physics area	Diagnostic and measurement
Hot-spot formation/ Multidimensional Effects / Hot-spot flow velocity	3-D gated x-ray imaging of hot spot (16 channel gated Kirkpatrick–Baez microscope) [23] single line-of-sight time-resolved x-ray imager (SLOS-TRXI) [24]* 3-D neutron time-of-flight (nTOF) detectors [25]* Neutron imaging [26]* Penumbral imaging of knock-on deuterons [27] X-ray backlighting with monochromatic crystal imager at 1.86 keV [28] Spec $T_e$ [29] and particle and x-ray temporal diagnostic (PXTD) to diagnose hot-spot $T_e$ [30] High-resolution X-ray spectroscopy [31]*
Hydrodynamic Mixing	X-ray spectroscopy of high-Z dopants [32]* X-ray backlighting with monochromatic crystal imager [28] Comparison of absolute x-ray continuum emission (Spec $T_e$ ) and neutron yield from hot spot [33]
Fusion Yield	nTOF detectors (yield, $T_i$ ) [25]*, [34]* Cu activation detector [35] Neutron bang time and burn rate [36] PXTD [30]
Compressed areal density	Charged-particle spectrometer [37] Neutron spectroscopy via nTOF detectors in shielded and collimated diagnostic lines of sight [38] and magnetic recoil spectrometer [39]* X-ray backlighting with monochromatic crystal imager at 1.86 keV [28] Compton Radiography [40]*

**Figure 24. LDD key target physics areas and diagnostics for the deceleration phase and stagnation.** \*These diagnostics were developed on OMEGA for NIF through collaborative efforts amongst scientists and engineers from LLE, LLNL, LANL, SNL, MIT, GA, Kentech, Sydor Technologies, and the NDWG.

A list of the diagnostics qualified on the Omega Laser Facility in FY21 is presented in Fig. 25. Along with the diagnostic name, the diagnostic status, lead lab, and diagnostic description are given. In addition, LLE led a working group consisting of members from LLNL, SNL, GA, Kentech, and Sydor Technologies to define the requirements and

conceptual design of the drift tube for the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of sight gated x-ray imager on OMEGA for 3-D imaging of the hot-spot emission from DT cryogenic implosions. A conceptual design will be conducted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of sight gated x-ray imager early in FY22.

Diagnostic Name	Diagnostic Status	Lead Lab	Diagnostic description
Scattered Light Uniformity Imager (SLUI)	Full Qualification	LLE	Measures scattered light over f/2 emission cone in 5 TIMs. Capable of measuring 10% of all scattered light on implosions
Vacuum Cherenkov Detector (VCD)	Full Qualification	LLNL	Designed to measure low-energy nuclear reactions such as $T(^4\text{He},\gamma)^7\text{Li}$ , $^4\text{He}(^3\text{He},\gamma)^7\text{Be}$ , and $^{12}\text{C}(p,\gamma)^{13}\text{N}$
Terahertz Background Energy Measurement (TBEM)	Preliminary Qualification	LLE	Survey instrument to study feasibility of THz studies on OMEGA EP. Follow-on experiments will involve THz Time-domain spectroscopy of HED systems
Time Resolved Neutron Imaging	Preliminary Qualification	LANL	Spatially and temporally resolved ion-temperature measurement utilizing the neutron imaging coupled to a streak camera.
Port P9 Full Aperture Backscatter Station	Full Qualification	LLNL	P9 FABS is a critical diagnostic for the FLUX project
H2 nTOF	Full Qualification	LLE	Neutron time of flight detector positioned near north pole of OMEGA target chamber
MIT-MagSpec	Full Qualification	MIT	Charged particle spectrometer for 1-16 MeV range
FZP-TIM14	Full Qualification	LLE	Fresnel Zone plate imager
EP-TXD2, EP-TXD3	Full Qualification	JHU	Talbot-Lau Deflectometry diagnostic
7x4 nTOF	Full Qualification	LLE	Neutron time of flight detector for OMEGA
SXS w/XRCCD1	Full Qualification	LLE	Streaked x-ray spectrometer adapted from streak camera (SSCA) to XRFC1
Mini-B-Dot	Full Qualification	LLE	B-dot probe
LLNL-EPPS-Shielding	Installed/Complete	LLNL	Shielding for LLNL EPPS diagnostic

Figure 25. Diagnostics qualified on the Omega Laser Facility in FY21. The diagnostic, status, lead lab, and diagnostic description are listed.

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## Appendix:

**Scattered light diagnostic for direct drive (DD) - five systems:** Scattered light diagnostic to measure angular distribution of scattered laser light principally from Direct Drive laser illumination experiments on NIF.

**Upgrade DISC:** The existing DIM Insertable Streak Camera (DISC) will be upgraded with improved electron optics to improve the spatial resolution over the whole 24mm active area of the cathode. The microchannel plate fiber optic detector will also be replaced with a direct electron detection CMOS detector.

**CBI:** Crystal Backlit Imaging; this diagnostic uses spherical Bragg crystals to provide narrow band ( $dE/E < 0.5\%$ ) high resolution imaging ( $< 10$  micron) at discrete photon energies (6keV – 16keV) for ICF and HED applications.

**HGXD-Rad Hard Camera:** Replace the optical film that is used in the current Hardened Gated X-ray framing camera Diagnostic (HGXD) with radiation hardened CMOS sensors to increase useful neutron yield ceiling of these x-ray imaging cameras to  $\sim 10^{17}$  neutrons per shot.

**Z\_VISAR:** This is 1-D imaging open-beam VISAR system developed in collaboration between SNL and LLNL for use on Z. The primary application is measuring current delivery to MDD-ICF targets.

**Prec.nToF/Quartz Detector:** Precision Neutron time of Flight diagnostic will replace existing Bibenzyl scintillator as the neutron detector with device using Cherenkov emission in quartz crystals. This fast optical signal reduces the instrument response function (IRF) from its current many nano-seconds to  $\sim 350$  of pico-seconds. This effectively reduces the DT Tion systematic uncertainty due to the IRF to around 50 eV. Further, since the crystal is also sensitive to gammas produced at bangtime, the detector will also improve the accuracy of fluid velocity measurements by through direct measurement of the neutron-gamma flight time difference along a given flight path.

**RTNADS:** The real time Nuclear Activation Diagnostic uses in situ Zirconium activation coupled to photomultipliers to provide a real time spatial measurement of the neutron flux at the NIF target chamber after a high yield shot ( $> 5 \times 10^{14}$  neutrons). This diagnostic will provide a spatial map of relative un-scattered neutron flux at least 24 locations around the NIF target chamber. This data is designed to be used to infer the uniformity of the compressed DT fuel in an ICF implosion.

**Contaminated Control VISAR:** This diagnostic modifies the VISAR debris shield so that VISAR can be used whenever NIF is used to study hazardous material such as “high Z”.

**SPBT upgrade:** South-Pole Bang-Time will be upgraded to provide new HAPG crystals and Indium Phosphide detectors that that will characterize the time of peak x-ray capsule emission at both 15 and 30keV. This will be used to obtain a slope temperature measurement at x-ray energies that are transparent to the imploded shell in high convergence implosions.

**Crystal calibration facility:** X-ray calibration station inside NIF facility, to measure absolute sensitivity and sensitivity vs x-ray energy of NIF spectrometer snouts in the geometry in which they are used and to track performance vs time.

**U.V. Interferometry-polarimetry:** Optical diagnostic for measure density profiles and magnetic fields in low density plasmas, relevant for discovery science and hohlraum science.

**EXAFS spectrometer:** High resolution spectrometer for measuring Absorption Fine Structure near absorption edges. This is a sensitive temperature diagnostic in shock heated plasmas. This design allows crystals to be changed to look at the different absorption edges.

**DIXI Polar:** “Dilation Imager for X-rays at Ignition”. A DIXI high temporal resolution x-ray imager will be mounted on the Polar DIM of the NIF target chamber. This diagnostic utilizes a time dilation drift tube to obtain x-ray images of high yield implosions from the pole with a time resolution better than 10 ps. This kind of time resolution is necessary because as the yield increases, the duration of x-ray emission reduces to 100 ps.

**Toroidal x-ray imager:** Toroidal curved x-ray imaging microscope for quasi monochromatic radiography of plasmas and shocked material with <10um resolution and dE/E ~0.5%

**HRV:** NIF High Resolution Velocity Interferometer. This is a 2-Dimensional diagnostic for measuring shock uniformity in ICF ablaters such as CH, HDC and Be at pressures in 1 to >20 Mbar range with gate times < 40 ps.

**Imaging x-ray spectrometer:** High spatial and spectral resolution imaging spectrometer for characterizing temperature gradients in HED plasmas.

**SPEC5 nToF:** 5<sup>th</sup> Neutron time of flight diagnostic in a location opposite to existing to nToF detectors. This diagnostic will help to increase accuracy of fluid velocities in high convergence ICF and HED implosions

**SPEC6 nToF:** 6<sup>th</sup> Neutron time of flight diagnostic in a location opposite to existing to nToF detectors. This diagnostic will help to increase accuracy of fluid velocities in high convergence ICF and HED implosions

**VIRGIL time resolved spectrometer:** Adding time resolution to the VIRGIL X-ray spectrometer for characterizing hohlraum emission spectrum in soft x-ray regime.

**4ω FIDU:** This is a replacement for the optical 4ω (263nm) timing Fiducial that serves SPIDER and DISC streak cameras to improve reliability and energy output.

**HEXI:** The High Energy X-ray Imager is a DIM insertable direct detection diagnostic built using dual hCMOS gated sensors for nanosecond time scale imaging of x-rays in the range of 10keV to 50keV.

**ISS:** Will allow x-ray spectra to be recorded along the polar axis with simultaneous neutron imaging and x-ray pinhole imaging; the spectral data will still have 1D spatial resolution and may be recorded in time-resolved snapshots.

**NEPPS:** A new NEPPS design for use on Cryotarpos or 90-348 for use as a diagnostic for ARC beam studies

**SSII:** New replacement Qtz or PET crystals in the existing SSII snout to look at backlighter and Compton

**AXIS Snout (DRI):** New snout to use on ARC dual backlighting on image plate to radiograph large field of view targets. New snout shall leverage existing AXIS snout design.

**EHXI 90-110 Electronic Readout:** The addition of an electronic readout system for the existing equatorial hard x-ray imager (eHXI) will eliminate the cost and time associated with processing of image plates and enable data from shots to be available in real time.

**dHiRes II:** This is a high-resolution time resolved x-ray spectrometer utilizing conical crystals to measure line emission from Ar.

**DIXI3:** “Dilation Imager for X-rays at Ignition”. A DIXI high temporal resolution x-ray imager will be mounted at the equator of the NIF target chamber.

**FBIT:** Full Beam In-Tank (UV intensity at TCC)

**Beamlets:** Gated Optic Imager to measure relative changes in 60+TOP9 refracted beam intensity (CBET)

**T-OPA TBD:** Transmitted Beam Diagnostic for the Tunable Optical Parametric Amplifier beam (EP UV beam injected into port P9 on the OMEGA target chamber for LPI studies)

**NIF Scattered Light:** Fiber-based, compact spectroscopic measurements for SBS and SRS (add ~5 units per year)

**FABS:** Full Aperture Back Scatter (streaked SBS and SRS)

**OTS:** Optical Thomson Scattering ( $5\omega$  is being pursued currently on the NIF with significant

**TS:** Thomson Scattering

**ROSS:** Rochester Optical Streak System (camera)

**PXTD:** Particle and X-ray Temporal Diagnostic (simultaneous proton, neutron and x-ray burn history)

**2<sup>nd</sup> LOS (nTOF):** Shielded neutron Time-Of-Flight for simultaneous DD/DT yields,  $T_{ion}$  and  $\rho R$  (via n,T backscatter 10-12 MeV Down Scattered Ratio, DSR)

**3D nTOF:** 3 axes of antipodal neutron time-of-flight (nTOF)

**3<sup>rd</sup> LOS (nTOF):** Third shielded nTOF; challenge is finding a suitable line-of-sight

**NIS:** Neutron Imaging System (scoping feasibility initially)

**KoDI:** Knock-on Deuteron Imager (extension of existing Proton Core Imaging System)

**CherenTOF:** nTOF diagnostic based on a Cherenkov radiator rather than a conventional scintillator

**GCD:** g-ray Cherenkov Detector (time-integrated and time-resolved versions to be pursued)

**SLOS-TRXI:** Single Line-of-Sight Time-Resolved X-ray Imager

**PXRDP(t):** Time-resolved diffraction

**XRPHC:** X-Ray PinHole Camera

**HOTSPEC:** Hard x-ray spectrometer to infer electron temperature

**Spec-Te:** Low energy x-ray spectrometer to infer electron temperature

**GXSC:** “Generic” X-ray Streak Camera (use existing tubes and modern pulsers, package for use in a TIM, add configuration options)

**EXAFSvH:** New crystals in existing von Hamos spectrometer for EXAFS measurements of various materials (initially FeO and Fe)

**XANES:** New crystal(s) in EP High Resolution Spectrometer to measure XANES modulations

**3<sup>rd</sup> LOS GXI:** Time-resolved imager (likely a KBFramed front-end with a DIXI readout)

**UFXRSC:** Ultra-Fast (<ps) X-Ray Streak Camera

**ZP:** Zone Plates (<few microns resolution x-ray imager)

**SCI:** Spherical Crystal Imager (updated crystal configurations to image specific lines/ranges)

**CCPt:** This is a convex crystal spectrometer coupled to an hCMOS camera in the axial diagnostic package. The primary application is time-gated opacity measurements.

**Line VISAR:** This is 1-D imaging open-beam VISAR system developed in collaboration between SNL and LLNL. The primary application is measuring current delivery to MDD-ICF targets.

**HE-diodes:** This is a high energy filtered diode array. The primary application is measuring the time-dependent x-ray output spectrum from >15 keV x-ray sources.

**CRS:** This is a time-integrating spectrometer that measures recoil protons from DD or DT neutrons. The primary application is measuring the burn-averaged neutron spectrum from the stagnation in MDD-ICF.

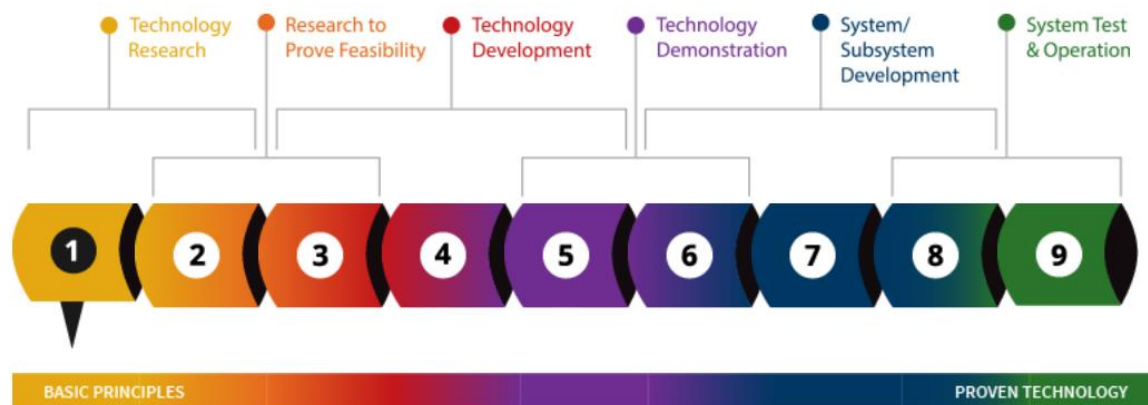
**Gated Backlighting:** This is a spherical crystal backlighter coupled to an hCMOS camera. The primary application is measuring the liner mass distribution near stagnation in MDD-ICF.

**GRH:** This is a gamma reaction history diagnostic to measure the time-history of the DT fusion production in MDD-ICF (requires ~1% tritium on Z).

**DT-nImager:** This is a time-integrating 2-D neutron imager optimized for primary DT neutrons from the stagnation in MDD-ICF.

**MRS:** This is a time-integrating spectrometer that measures the recoil protons from DT neutrons. The primary application is measuring the neutron spectrum from the stagnation in MDD-ICF with higher resolution and range than the CRSLocal Diagnostic Efforts on OMEGA

#### Technical Readiness Levels



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