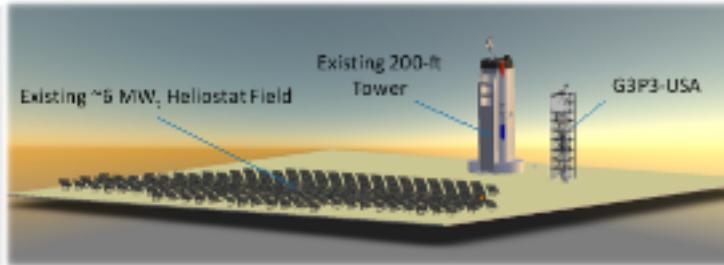




# Overview of the Gen3 Particle Pilot Plant (G3P3)



## PRESENTED BY

Clifford K. Ho

Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM, [ckho@sandia.gov](mailto:ckho@sandia.gov)

## Contributors:

SNL: Brantley Mills, Kevin J. Albrecht, Jeremy Sment, Nathan Schroeder, Henk Laubscher, Lindsey Yue, Org. 08923

Others: Georgia Tech, King Saud U., SEC, DLR, ANU, CSIRO, U. Adelaide, CINCPAC, Sandia, Ceramica, SolarDynamics, EPRI

Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

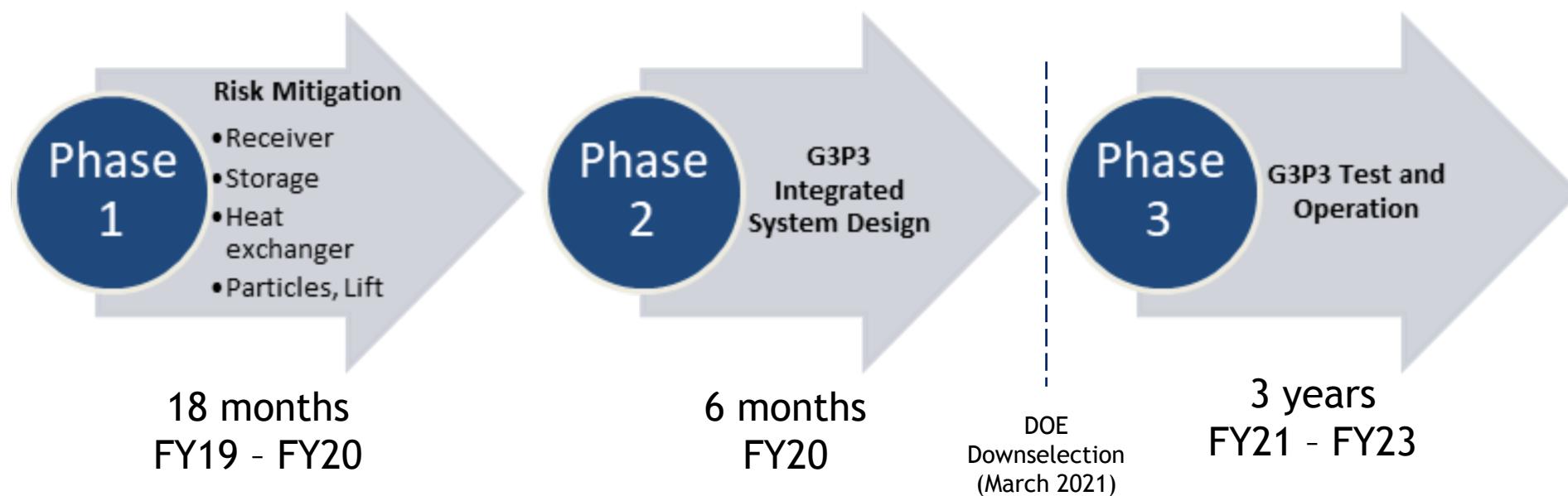


Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

# Gen 3 CSP Program (FY19 – FY24)



Achieve higher temperatures, higher power-cycle efficiencies, and lower LCOE



# Introduction to the Team

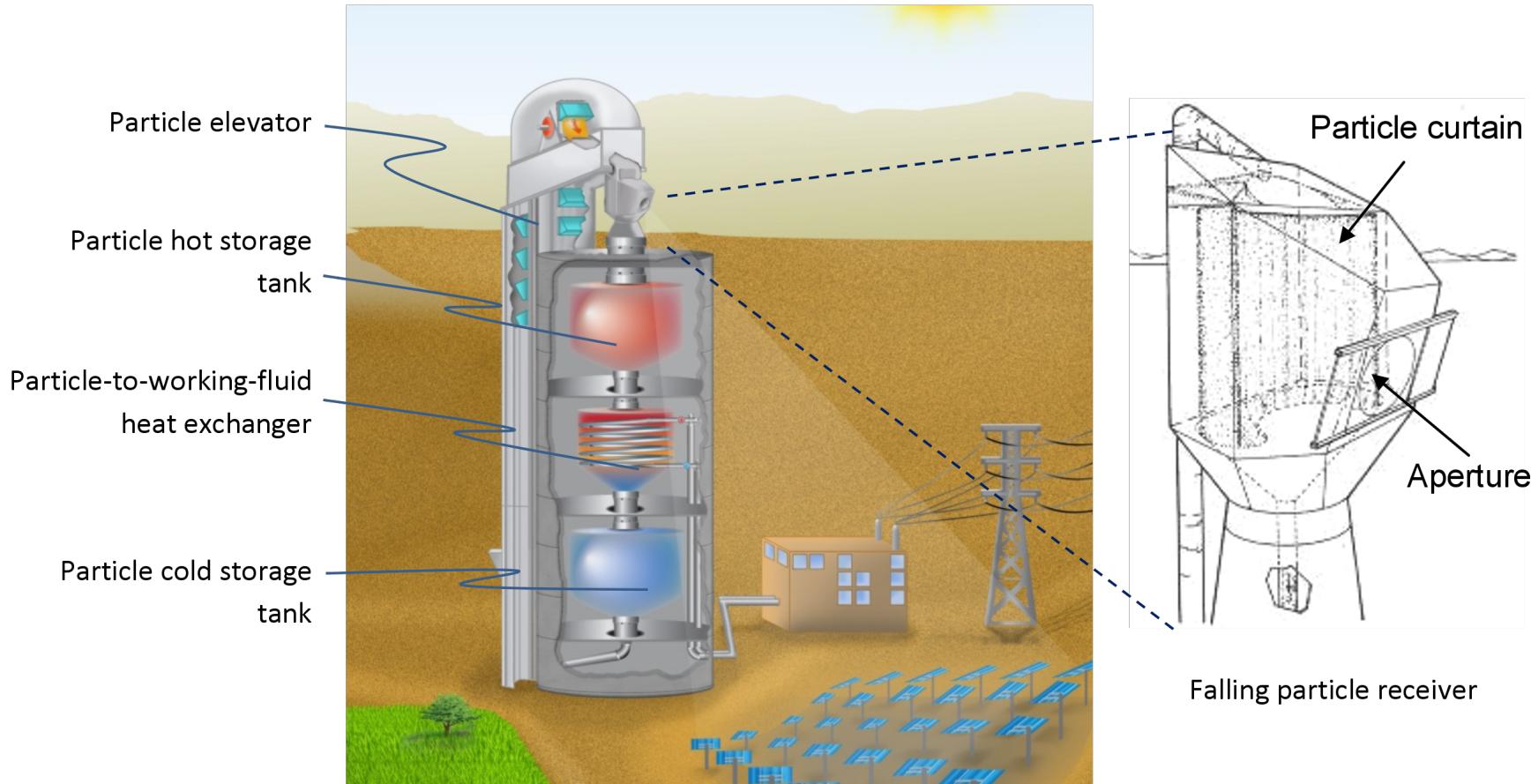


Role	Team Members	
<b>PI / Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sandia National Labs (PI, PMP, financial, facilities)</li></ul>	
<b>R&amp;D / Engineering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sandia National Laboratories</li><li>• Georgia Institute of Technology</li><li>• King Saud University</li><li>• German Aerospace Center</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CSIRO</li><li>• U. Adelaide</li><li>• Australian National University</li><li>• CNRS-PROMES</li></ul>
<b>Integrators / EPC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPRI</li><li>• Bridgers &amp; Paxton / Bohannan Huston</li></ul>	
<b>CSP Developers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SolarDynamics</li></ul>	
<b>Component Developers / Industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carbo Ceramics</li><li>• Solex Thermal Science</li><li>• Vacuum Process Engineering</li><li>• FLSmidth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Materials Handling Equipment</li><li>• Allied Mineral Products</li><li>• Matrix PDM</li></ul>
<b>Utility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saudi Electric Company</li></ul>	

# Background and Value Proposition



## High-Temperature Particle-Based CSP

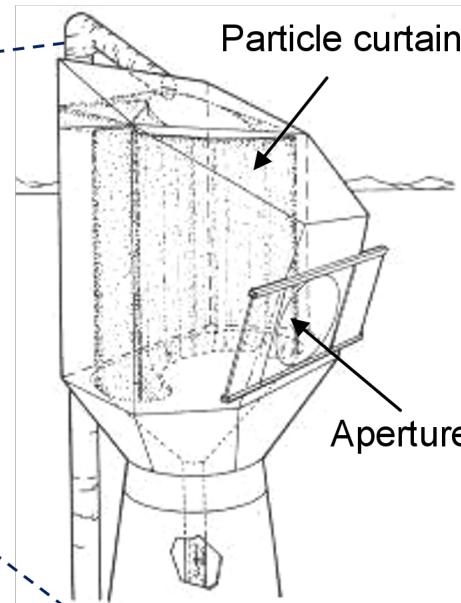
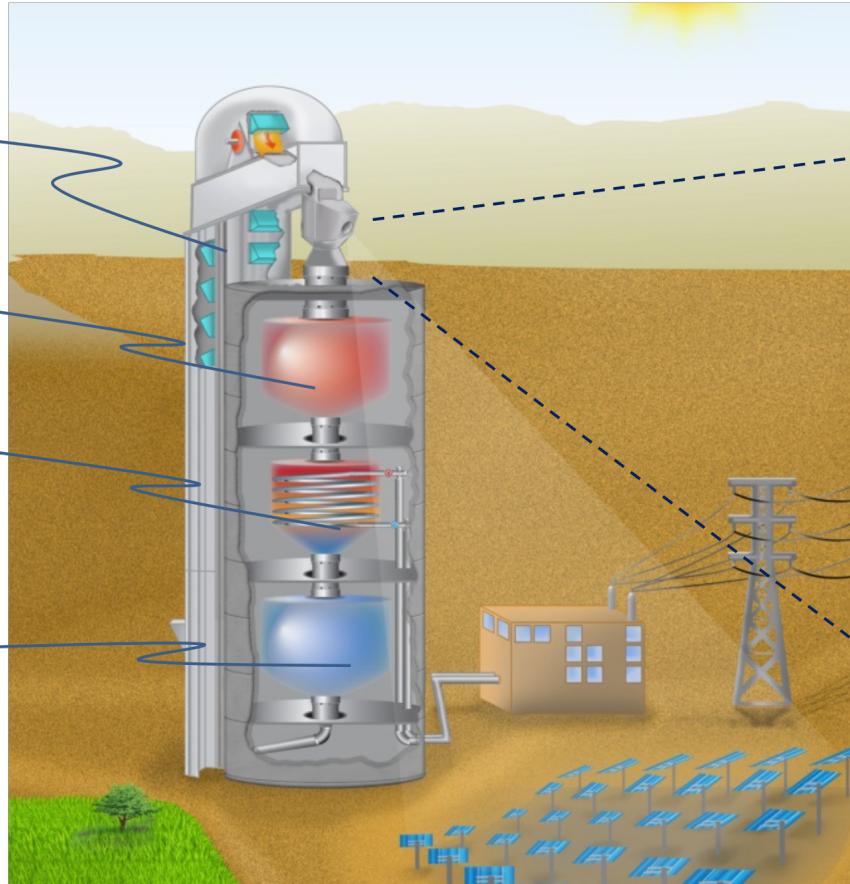


# Background and Value Proposition

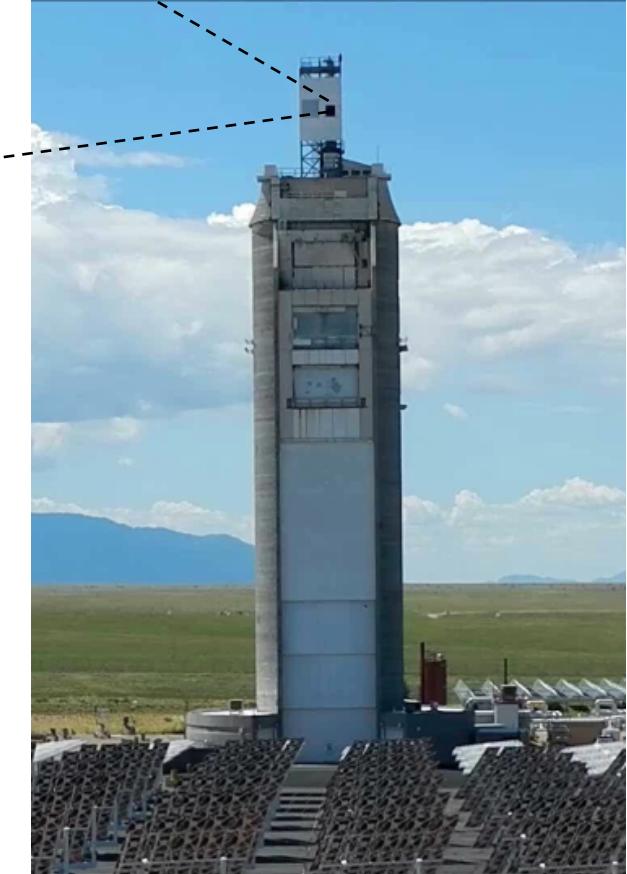


## High-Temperature Particle-Based CSP

Particle elevator  
Particle hot storage tank  
Particle-to-working-fluid heat exchanger  
Particle cold storage tank



Falling particle receiver

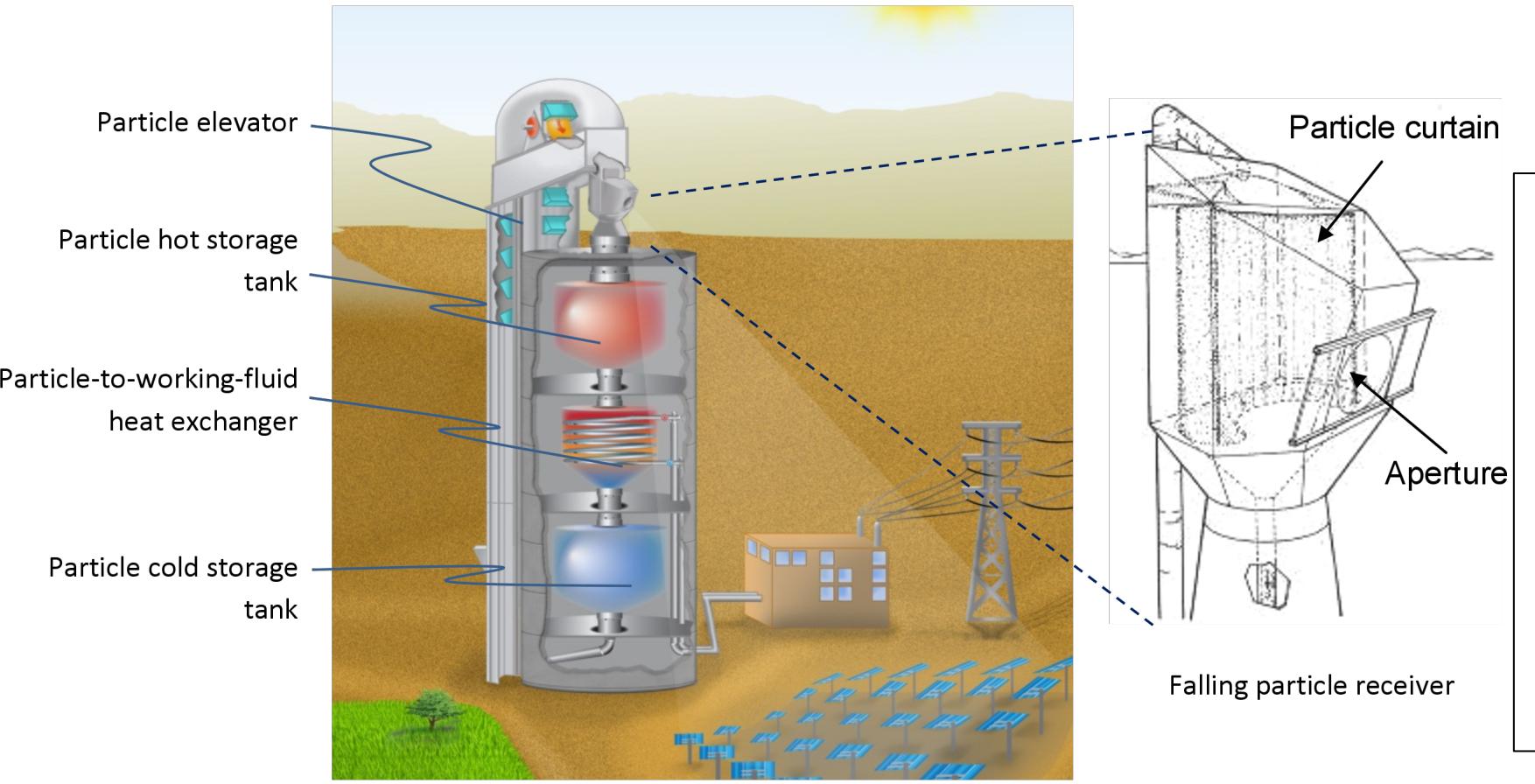


National Solar Thermal Test Facility  
Sandia National Laboratories

# Background and Value Proposition

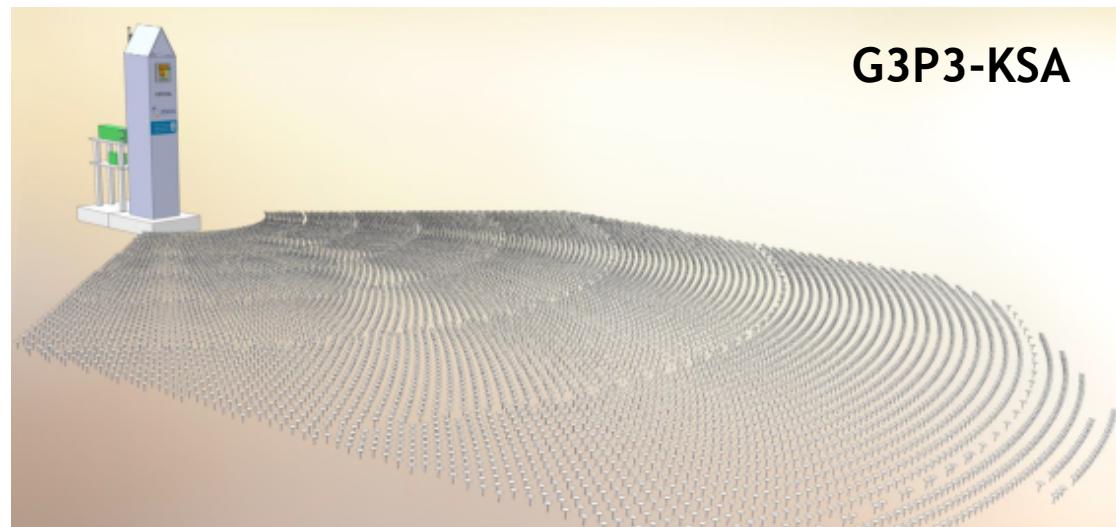
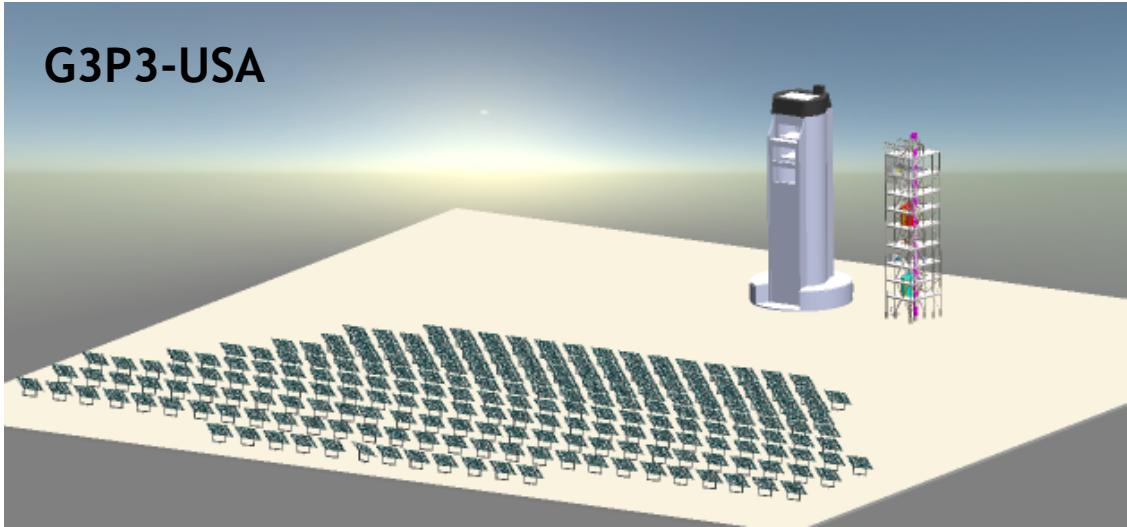


## High-Temperature Particle-Based CSP



- Higher temperatures ( $>1000^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) than molten nitrate salts
- Direct heating of particles vs. indirect heating of tubes
- No freezing or decomposition
  - Avoids costly heat tracing
- Direct storage of hot particles

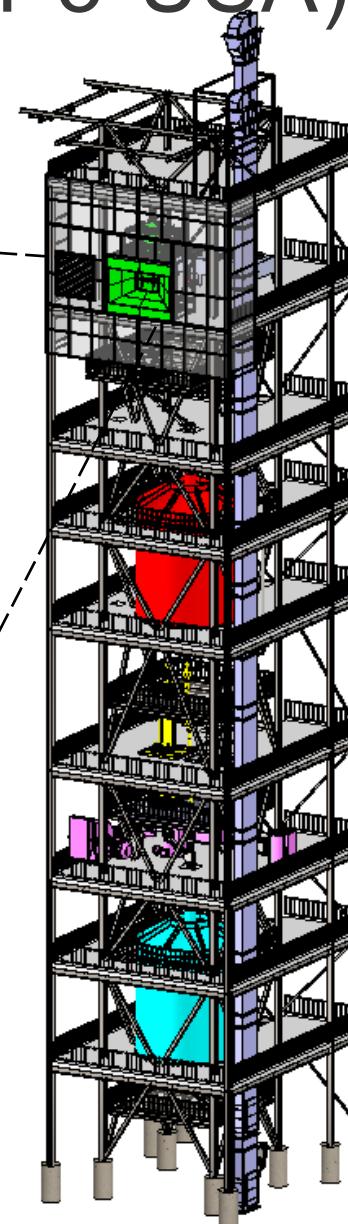
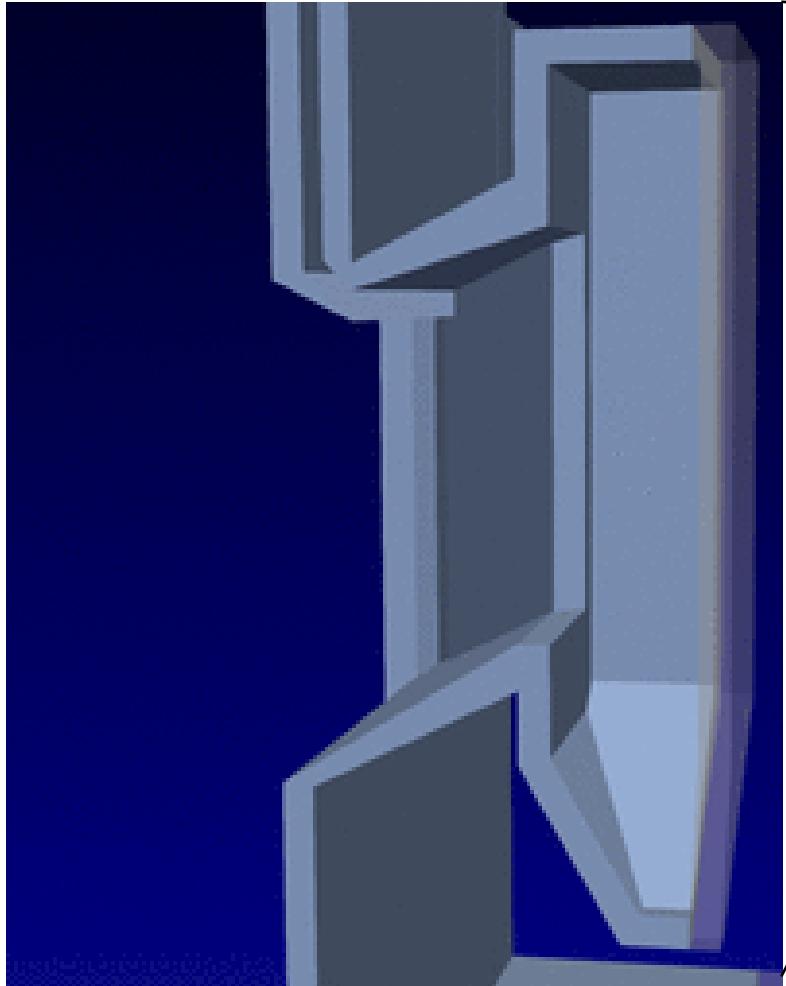
# G3P3-USA and G3P3-KSA



# Gen3 Particle Pilot Plant (G3P3-USA)



Next-Generation High-Temperature Falling Particle Receiver



## Gen 3 Particle Pilot Plant

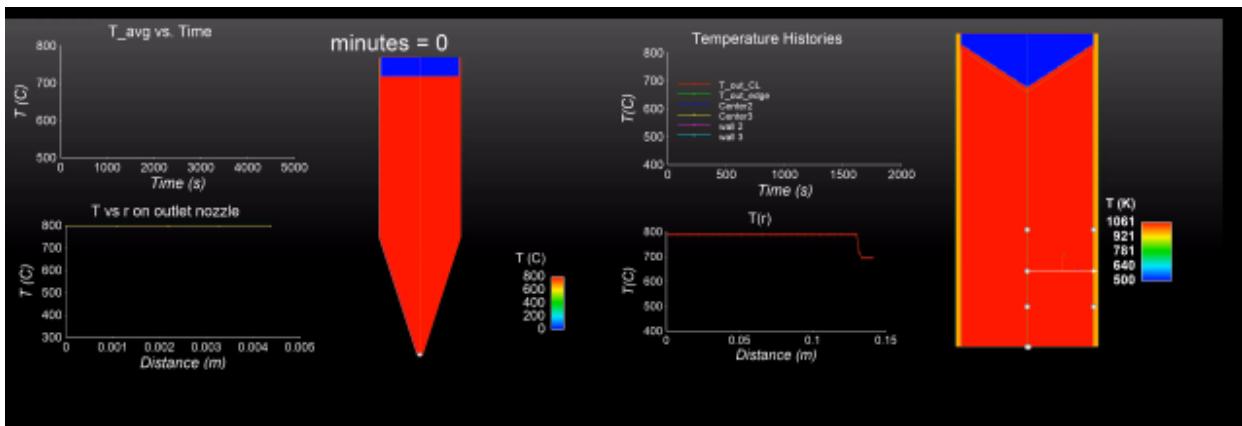
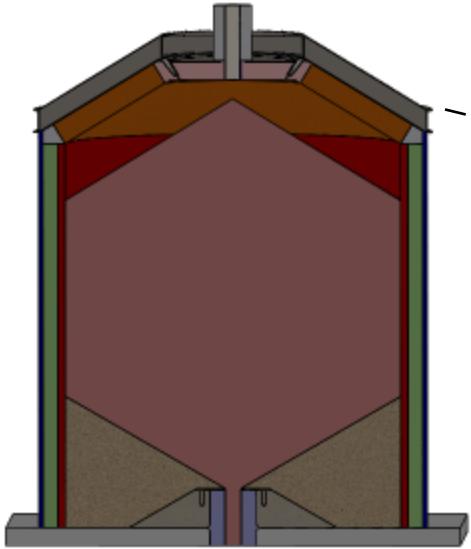
- $\sim 1 - 2 \text{ MW}_t$  receiver
- $6 \text{ MWh}_t$  storage
- $1 \text{ MW}_t$  particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> heat exchanger
- $\sim 300 - 400$  micron ceramic particles (CARBO HSP 40/70)

K. Albrecht, SNL

# Gen3 Particle Pilot Plant (G3P3-USA)



High-Temperature Particle Storage Bin  
(Allied Mineral Products, Matrix PDM, Sandia)



## Gen 3 Particle Pilot Plant

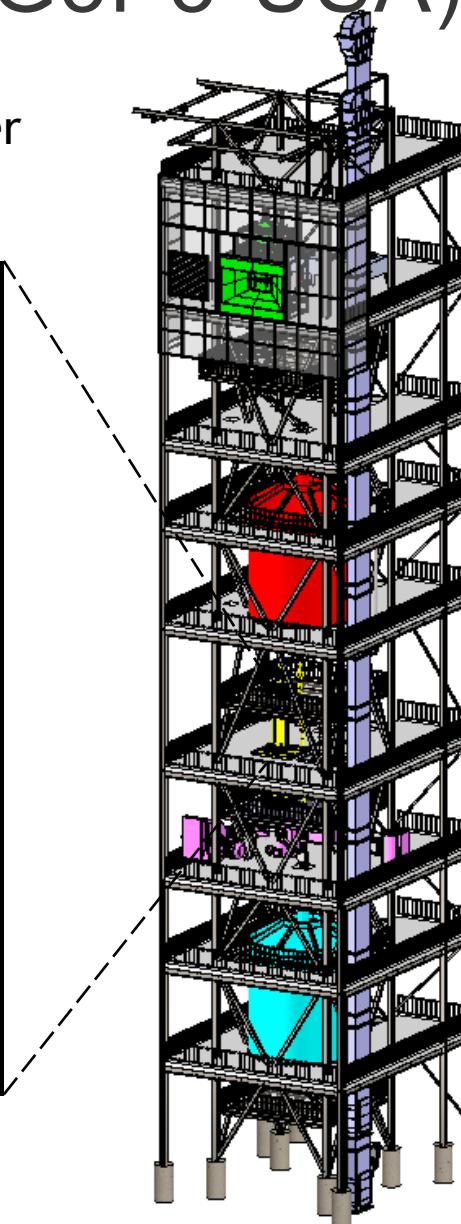
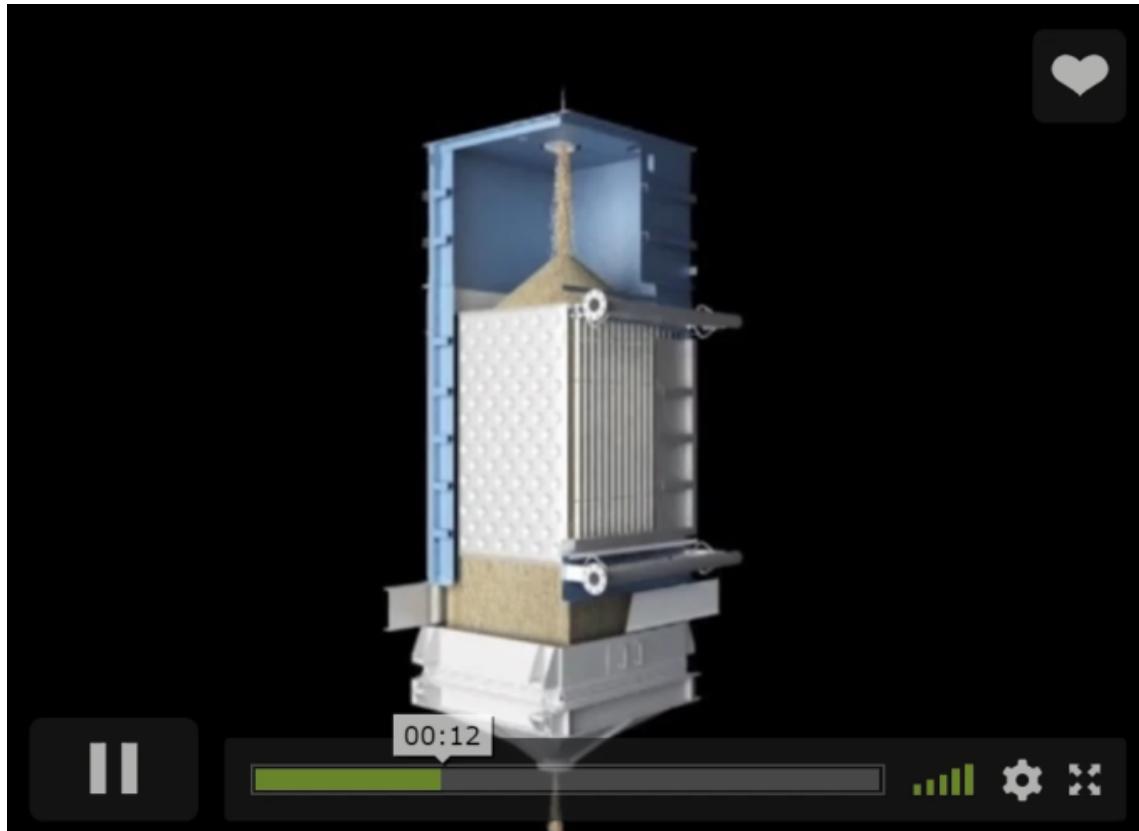
- ~1 - 2 MW<sub>t</sub> receiver
- 6 MWh<sub>t</sub> storage
- 1 MW<sub>t</sub> particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> heat exchanger
- ~300 - 400 micron ceramic particles (CARBO HSP 40/70)

K. Albrecht, SNL

# Gen3 Particle Pilot Plant (G3P3-USA)



High-Temperature Particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> Heat Exchanger  
(VPE, Solex, Sandia)



## Gen 3 Particle Pilot Plant

- ~1 - 2 MW<sub>t</sub> receiver
- 6 MWh<sub>t</sub> storage
- 1 MW<sub>t</sub> particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> heat exchanger
- ~300 - 400 micron ceramic particles (CARBO HSP 40/70)

K. Albrecht, SNL

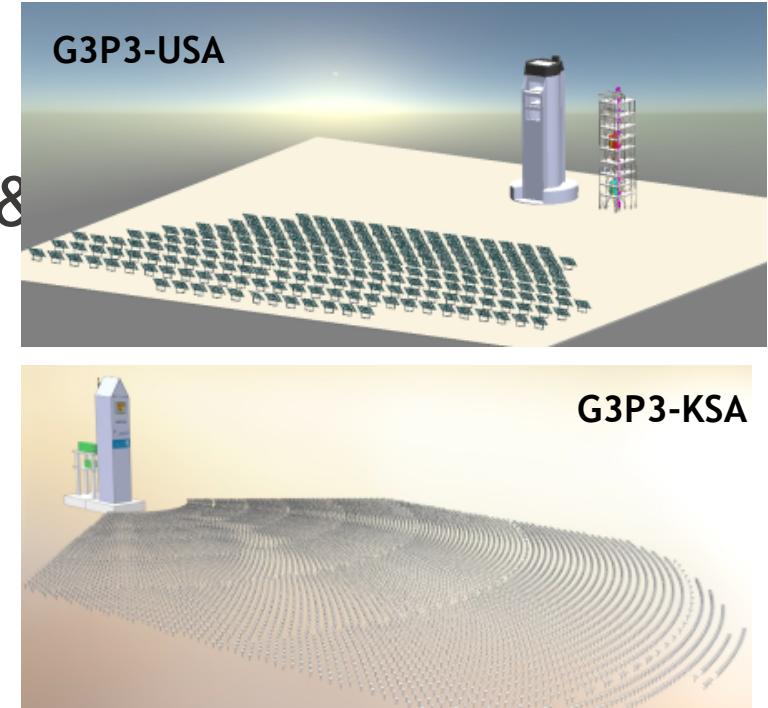
<https://www.solexthermal.com/our-technology/cooling/>

# Summary



# Summary

- G3P3-USA and G3P3-KSA being developed
- Key components evaluated in G3P3 Phases 1 & 2
  - Receiver
  - Particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> heat exchanger
  - Storage
- Key risks of G3P3
  - Particle and heat loss from open-aperture receiver
  - Heat loss from storage and bucket elevator
  - Low particle-side heat-transfer coefficients in heat exchanger
  - High cost of diffusion-bonded heat exchanger
- Contingencies
  - Fluidized-bed heat exchanger (Babcock & Wilcox, SandTES TU Wien)
  - Skip hoist for particle lift
  - Tower-integrated particle storage bins

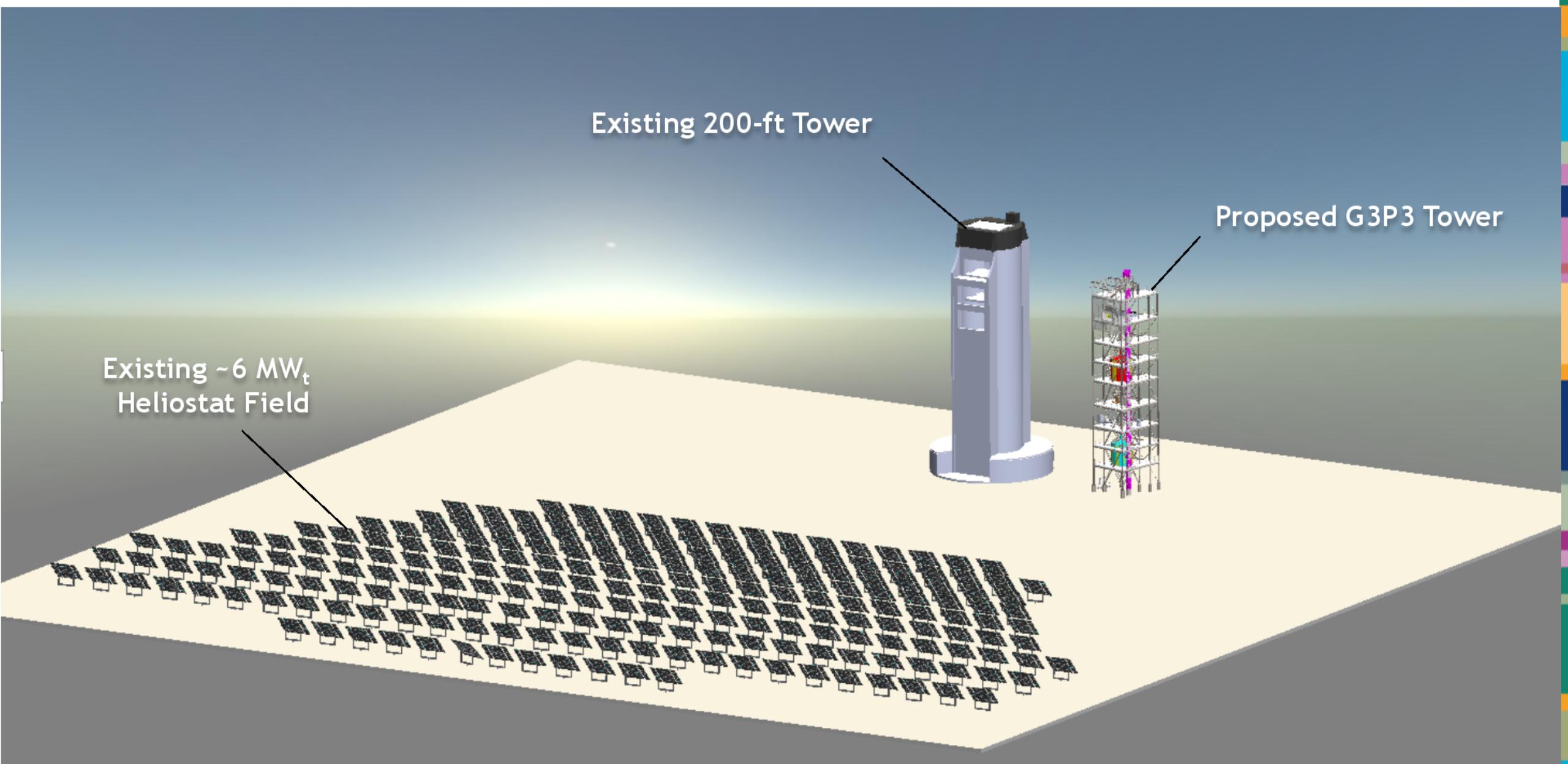


# Acknowledgments

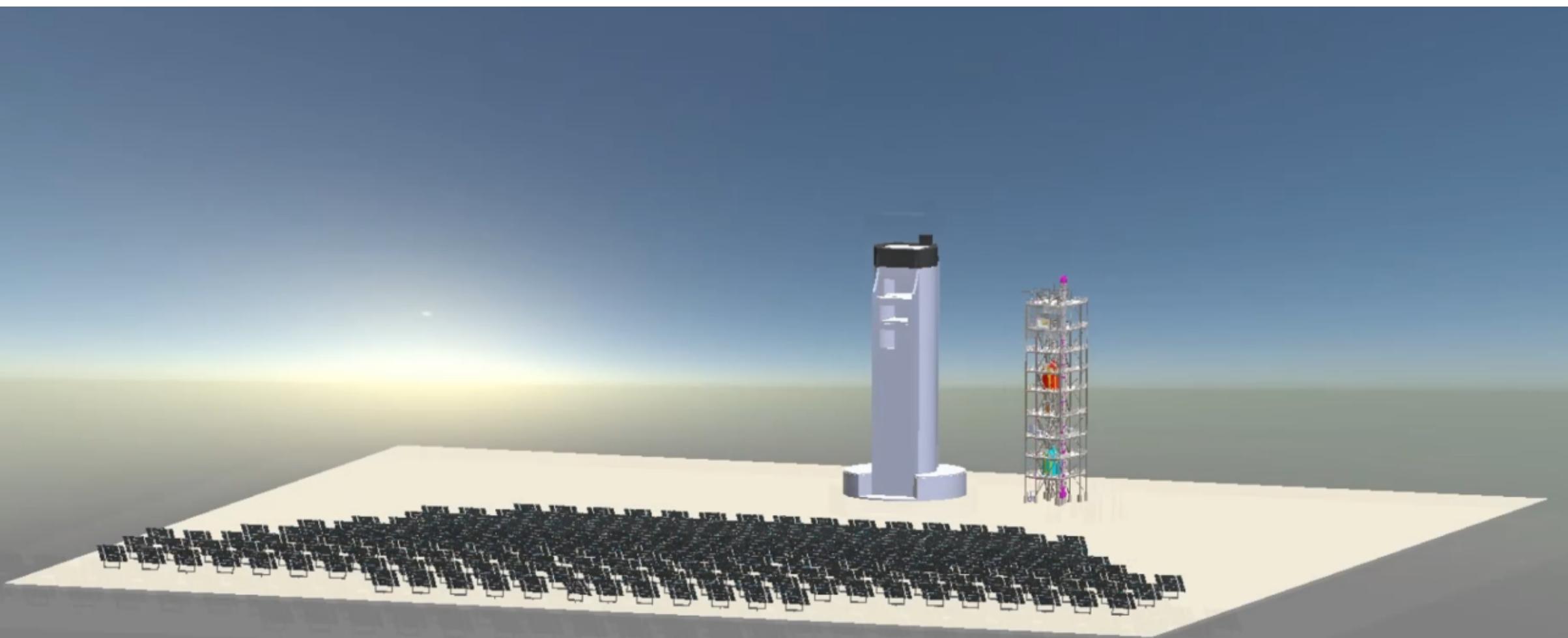


- This work is funded in part or whole by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office under Award Number 34211
  - DOE Project Managers: Matthew Bauer, Shane Powers, Vijay Rajgopal, Levi Irwin, Andru Prescod, Mark Lausten, Avi Shultz

G3P3-USA  
National Solar Thermal Test Facility (NSTTF), Albuquerque, NM



**G3P3-USA**  
**National Solar Thermal Test Facility (NSTTF), Albuquerque, NM**



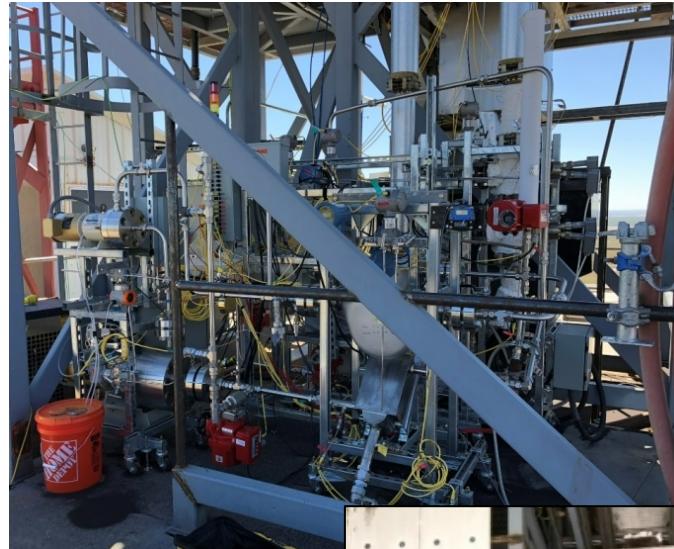
# Backup Slides



# High-T, High-P Particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> Heat Exchanger



100 kW particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> heat exchanger



Integration of heat exchanger and sCO<sub>2</sub> flow loop in tower



~100 kW sCO<sub>2</sub> flow loop

On-sun testing of integrated system with falling particle receiver

