



Exceptional service in the national interest

Nuclear Fuel Cycle & Grid Modernization

Sylvia Saltzstein

Senior Manager of Advanced Nuclear Energy Program

DECOVALEX

Albuquerque, NM

November 7, 2022

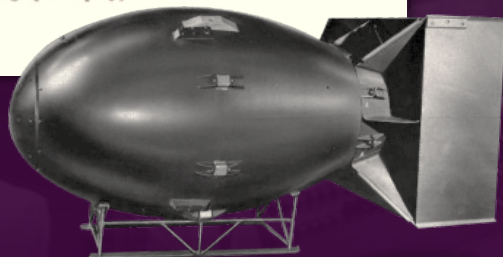
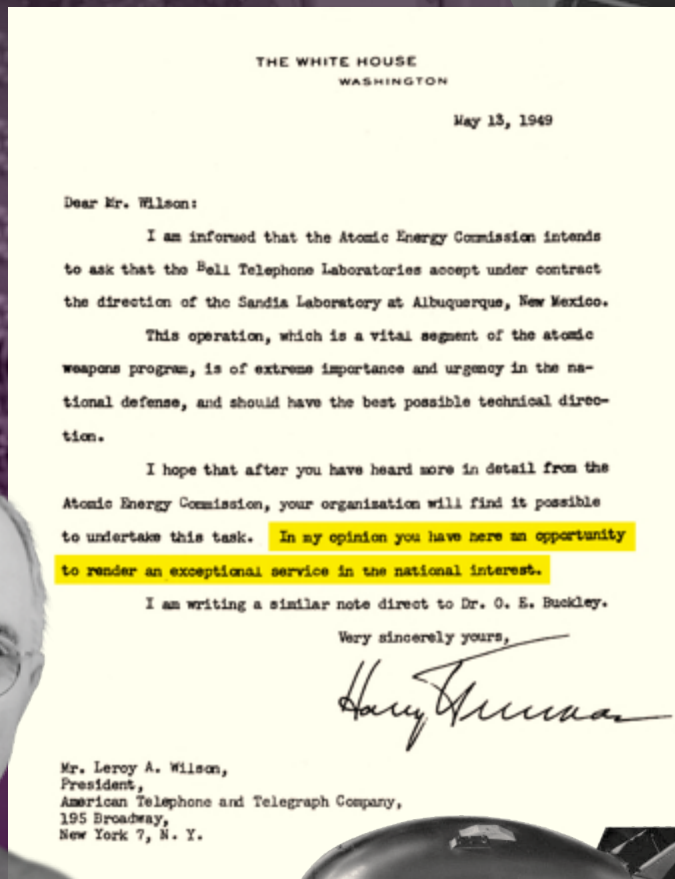
Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc. for the U.S.

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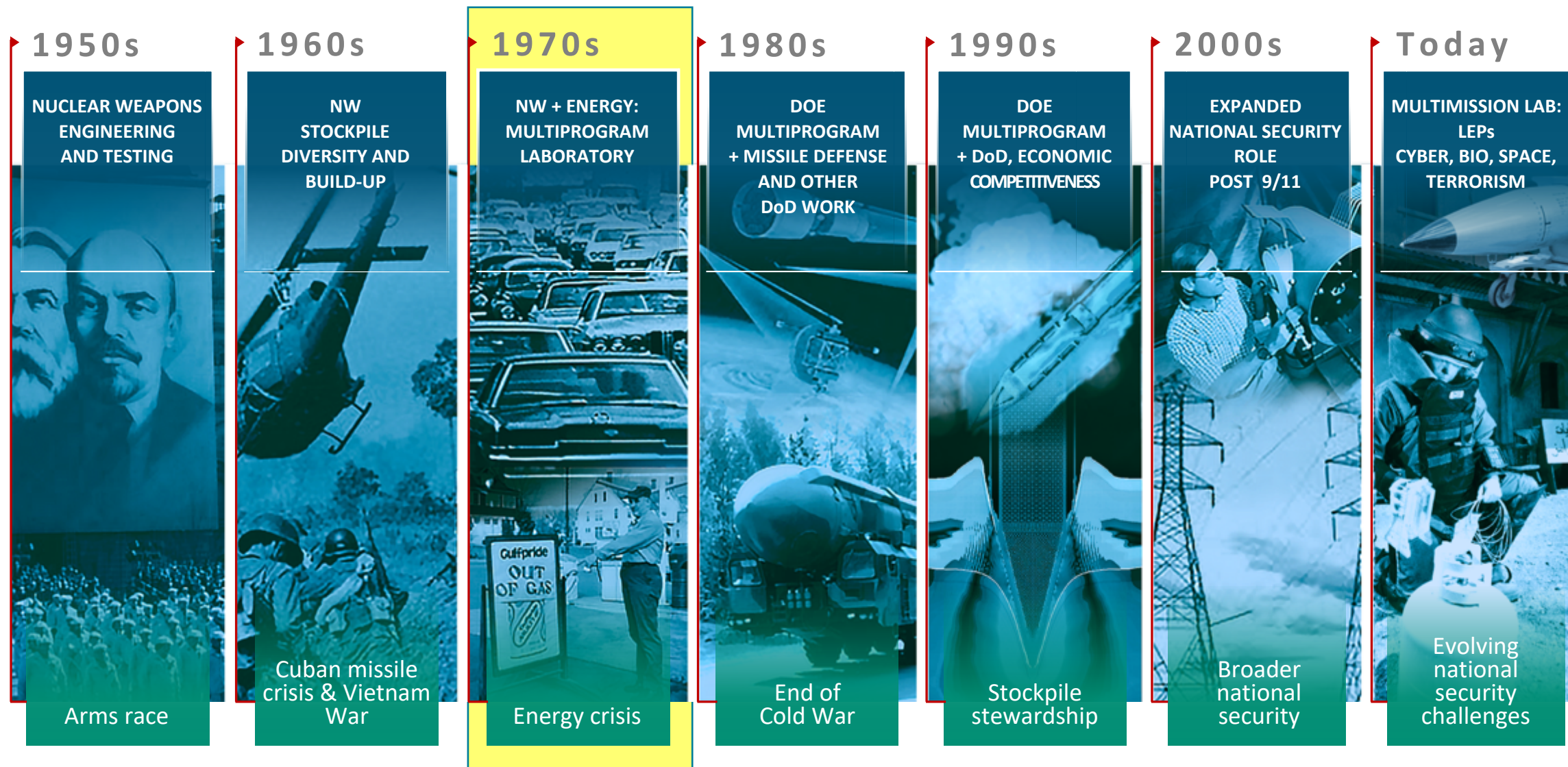
Sandia's History is Traced to the Manhattan Project



- July 1945: Los Alamos creates Z Division
- Nonnuclear component engineering
- November 1, 1949: Sandia Laboratory established
- AT&T: 1949–1993
- Martin Marietta: 1993–1995
- Lockheed Martin: 1995–2017
- Honeywell: 2017–present



Our National Security Role has Evolved over 70+ Years



Capabilities Housed Across the Nation

Activity locations

- Kauai, HI
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, NM
- Pantex, Amarillo, TX
- Tonopah, NV
- Utqiagvik (Barrow), AK
- Lubbock, TX

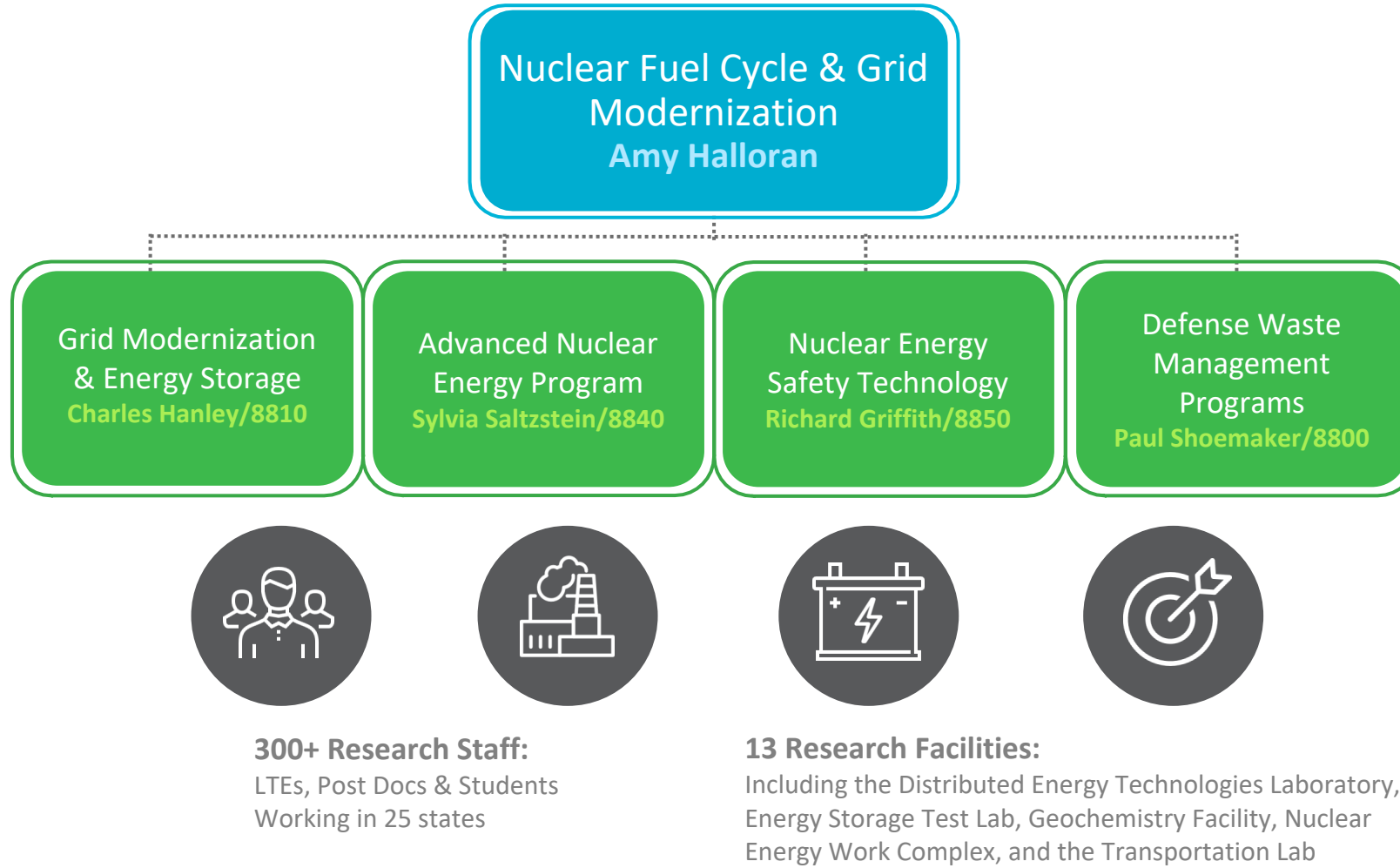
Main sites

- Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Livermore, California





Nuclear Fuel Cycle & Grid Modernization Program



A unique set of Modeling, High Performance Computing, Experimental, Engineering, & Testing capabilities



Our Work at Sandia

OUR PROJECTS ARE...



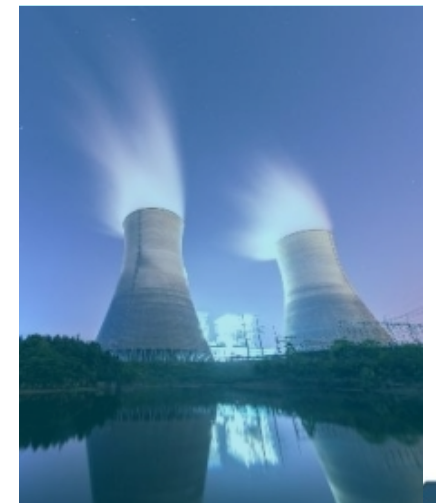
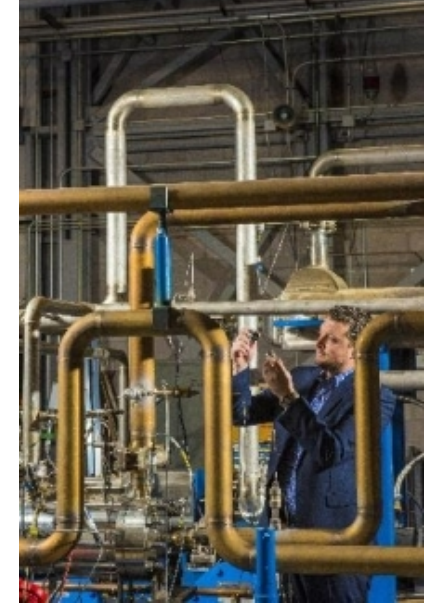
Developing an advanced Electric Grid with Reliable Resources and Storage



Enhancing the safety, security, safeguards and economical viability of Nuclear Energy



Advancing the science and engineering of Nuclear Waste Management





We Steward Unique Large-Scale Test Facilities and Labs





Critical Partners

Academic



Industry



Govt/ National Labs



Exceptional service in the national interest

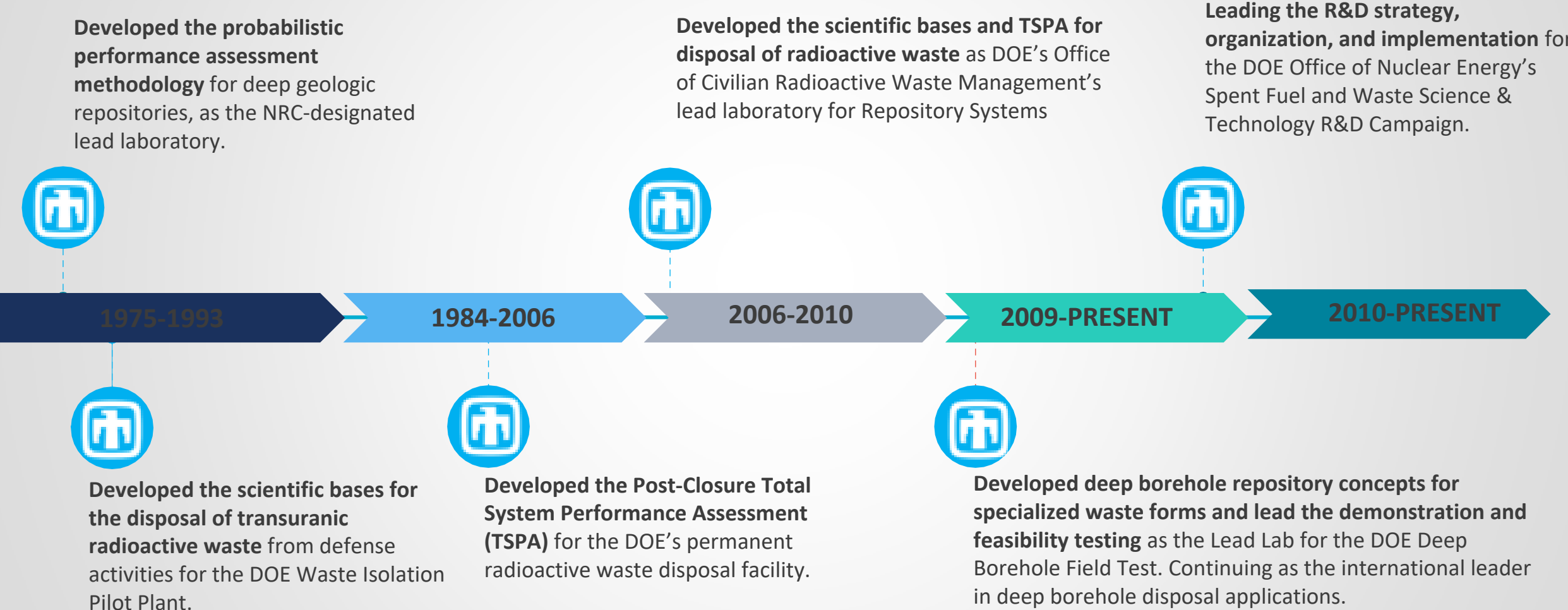




The Nuclear Energy Fuel Cycle

Sylvia Saltzstein, Senior Manager, Nuclear Energy Fuel Cycle

45+ YEARS OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT





OUR UNIQUE FACILITIES



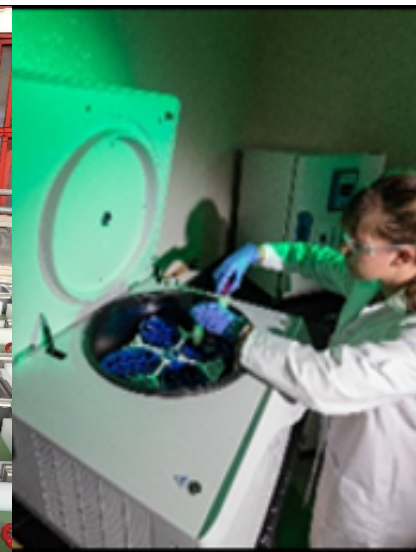
NEWC



BRAYTON LAB

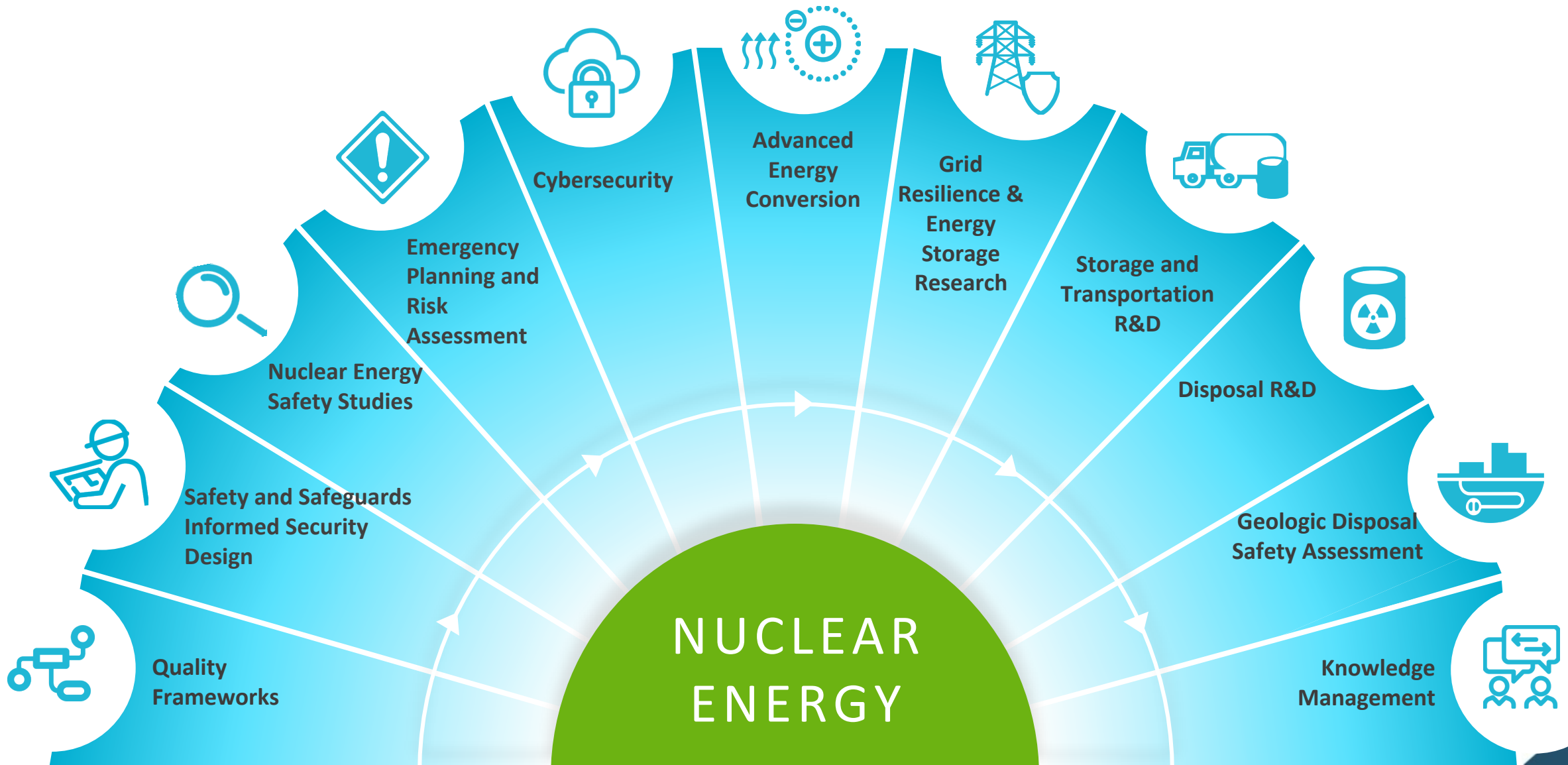


LARGE TESTING
CAPABILITIES



TESTING LABS

We don't design nuclear facilities.
We help ensure they are **safe, sustainable, and secure.**





SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS INFORMED SECURITY DESIGN



AREAS OF FOCUS



- **Advanced Reactor Safeguards (ARS)**
 - Material Control & Accounting and Physical Protection for the next generation of advanced reactors
- **Material Protection, Accounting, and Control Technologies (MPACT)**
 - Fuel cycle facilities (e.g., HALEU enrichment)
- **International Safety, Safeguards, and Security**
 - 3S-informed nuclear fuel cycle facility design



AREAS OF FOCUS



ENERGY CONVERSION

- **sCO₂ Brayton Component Testing**
- **1 MW Core Testing**
- **Waterless Power**
- **Refractory High-Entropy Alloys**
- **Systems Engineering**





STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION



AREAS OF FOCUS

- **Stress Corrosion Cracking:**
 - Process, Prevention and Mitigation
- **External Loads:**
 - Measure strain and acceleration experienced by spent nuclear fuel assemblies during storage and transport
- **Fuel Integrity**
 - How does High Burnup fuel age over time?
- **Thermal Behavior**
 - What is the thermal condition of the fuel from drying through extended storage?
- **Mobile Guardian Transporter:**
 - Over-the-road transportation



AREAS OF FOCUS



DISPOSAL R&D



- **Testing and Analysis of Dry Storage Canisters**

- Canister Deposition Field Demonstration (CDFD)
- Horizontal Dry Cask Simulator (HDCS) – thermal behavior of prototypic canister and cask
- Advanced Drying Cycle System (ADCS) – potential for residual moisture after drying
- Aerosol Crack Flow Testing – potential releases through stress corrosion cracks
- Thermal-Hydraulic Modeling – estimation of temperature profiles; test planning

- **Direct Disposal of Dual-Purpose Canisters**

- Engineering Feasibility, Thermal Management , Post-Closure Criticality Control
- Criticality Consequence Modeling – steady state and transient events using PFLOTRAN
- Fillers – injectable cementitious slurries for moderator exclusion

- **Engineered Barrier System R&D**

- Seal integrity, material interfaces, coupled processes



AREAS OF FOCUS



GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL R&D



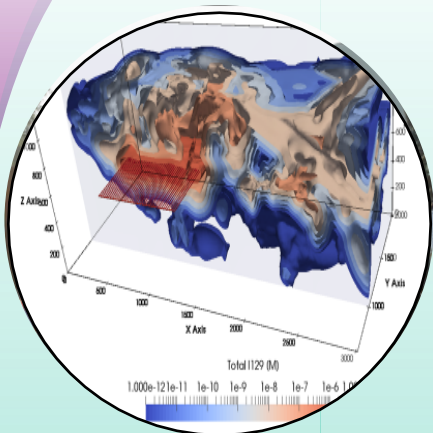
- **Crystalline Host Rock R&D**
 - Fractured media and fluid flow/transport
- **Argillite Host Rock R&D**
 - Temperature effects on clay, bentonite, and barrier system
- **Salt Host Rock R&D**
 - Brine availability
- **Online Waste Library:**
 - Inventory and characteristics of DOE-managed high-level waste
- **Engineered Barrier System R&D**
 - Seal integrity, material interfaces, coupled processes



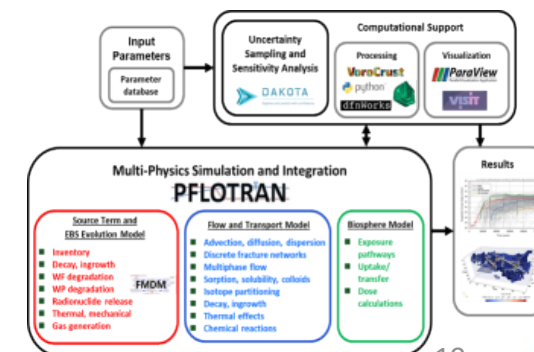
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GEOLOGIC DISPOSAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT



- **Geologic Disposal Safety Assessment (GDSA)** <https://pa.sandia.gov/>
 - GDSA Framework
 - Repository Systems Analysis (RSA)
 - PFLOTRAN Development
 - Uncertainty Quantification and Sensitivity Analysis (UQ/SA)
- **Salt**
 - Brine Availability Test in Salt (BATS)
 - International Collaborations
- **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)** <https://www.sandia.gov/salt/>
 - PFLOTRAN Development





KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



AREAS OF FOCUS

Loss of Nuclear Waste Management expert knowledge is a worldwide problem

- NWM SMEs are retiring without an effective means to transfer their experience to new or less experienced staff; NRC estimates an average 10-15 year turnover rate for experts
- More than 70% of NEFC staff have no experience working on an active NWM project

DOE-NE Knowledge Management Program was established in FY20 using a phased approach with a focus on SME Tacit Knowledge Capture

- Quick launch required – With Experts retiring, there was no time to lose
- Phased approach allowed us to benefit from lessons learned and to develop a platform for later expansion to DOE-NE and associated Labs



KM PROGRAM
STRATEGY
DEVELOPMENT



NEFC STAFF FOCUS
GROUPS



MULTI-DAY WORKSHOP
14 PRESENTATIONS



10 HALF-DAY DEEP
DIVE SESSIONS



KM REPOSITORY &
TAXONOMY
DEVELOPMENT