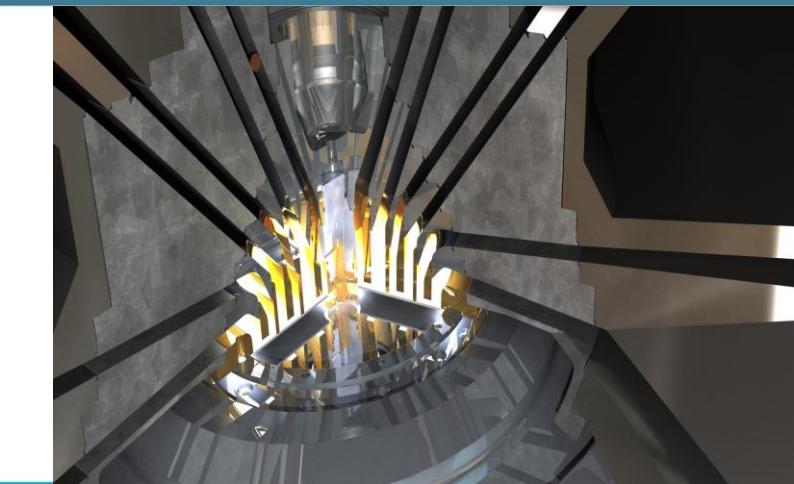




# Pulsed Power: The Enabler for Radiation, Electrical and High Energy Density Science



Bryan V. Oliver

2023 IEEE International Pulsed Power Conference.



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.

SAND2023-XXXXX



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# The Peter Haas Award



Peter Haas was a pioneer in the field of nuclear weapons effects beginning in the mid 1950s. He proposed and conducted some of the landmark experiments on nuclear electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and transient radiation effects on electronics at the Nevada and Pacific Nuclear Test



**Peter H. Haas**  
**1921-1986**

He was a strong advocate for laboratory simulation facilities and it was under his direction that some of the early electronic effects research was done in pulsed nuclear reactors and x-ray generators.



From the study of intense beams, inertial fusion plasmas and radiation effects, my career has been aligned with Peter Haas' vision and I am truly grateful for this recognition

# Acknowledgments



Many people have provided content for this presentation.

Keith Cartwright

Peggy Christenson

Bob Commisso

Greg Frye-Mason

Steve Glover

Chris Grabowski

Michael McLain

Israel Owens

Tim Renk

Mark Savage

Dan Sinars

Peter Sincerny

Ben Ulmen

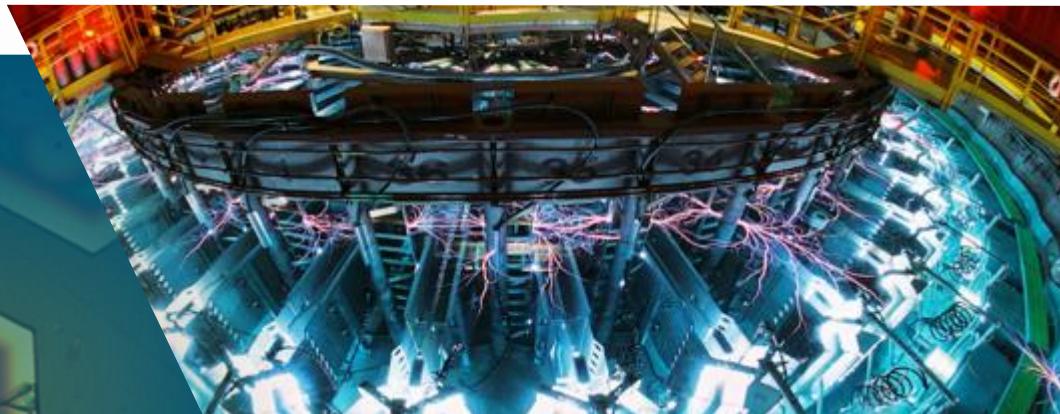
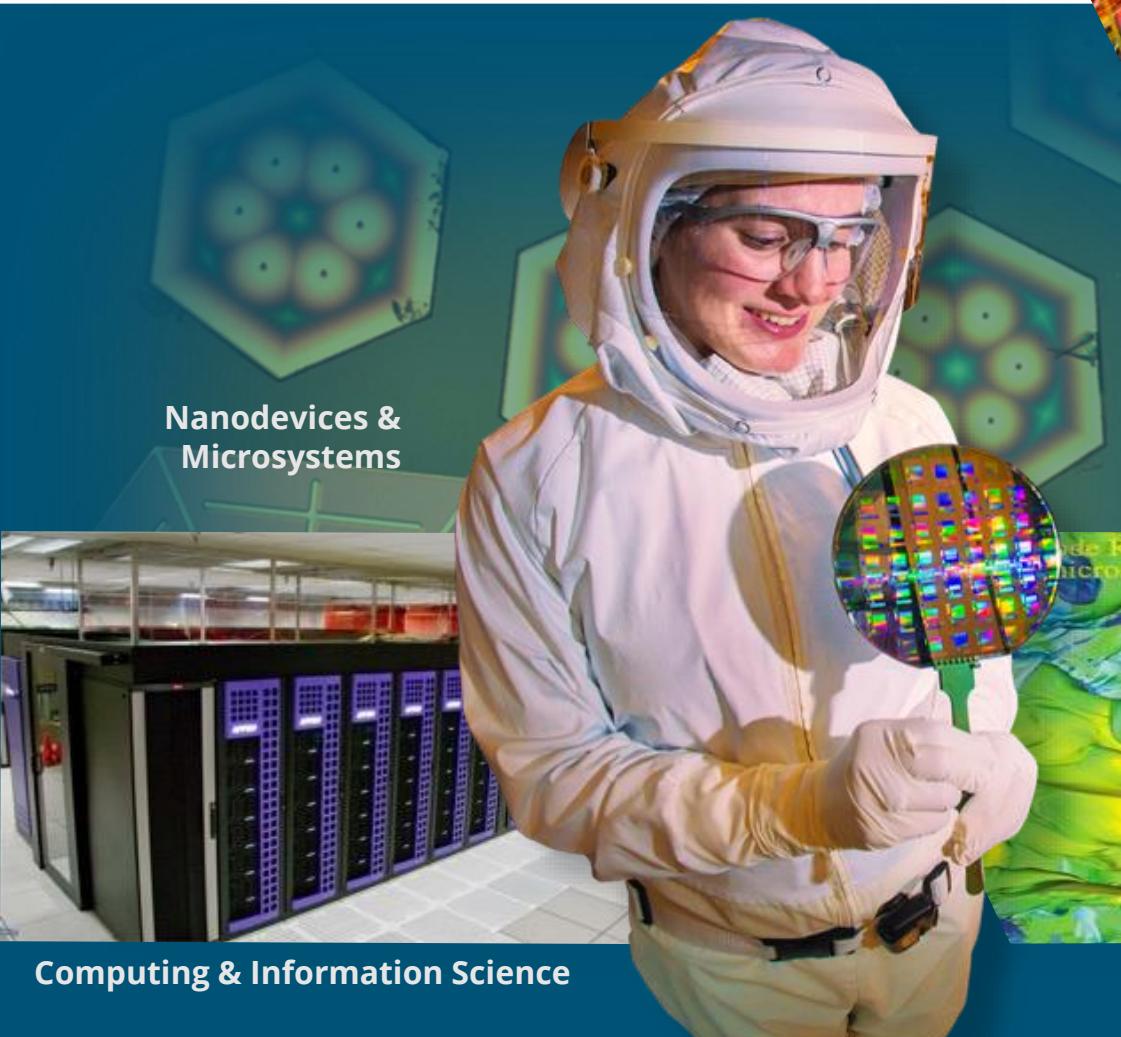
I'll try not to botch it!

# Sandia Has 7 Research Foundations that Steward Our Core Science and Technology Capabilities.

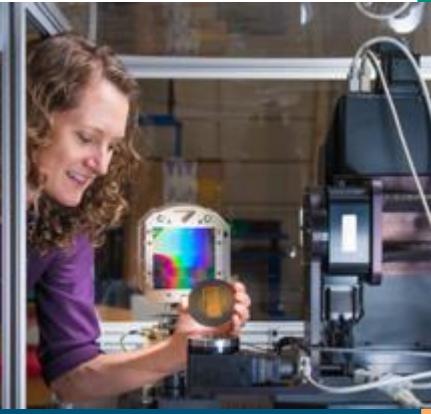
4



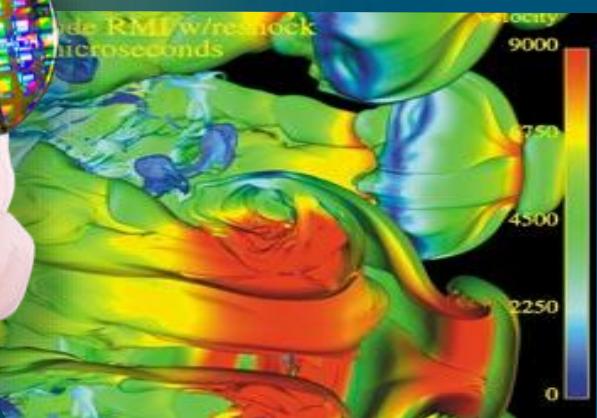
**Purpose:** Conduct fundamental/discovery research in disciplines germane to our national security missions, advance the frontiers of knowledge, explore innovative solutions, and build/maintain technical capability.



Radiation Electrical & High Energy Density Science



Materials Science



Engineering Science



Earth Science



Bioscience

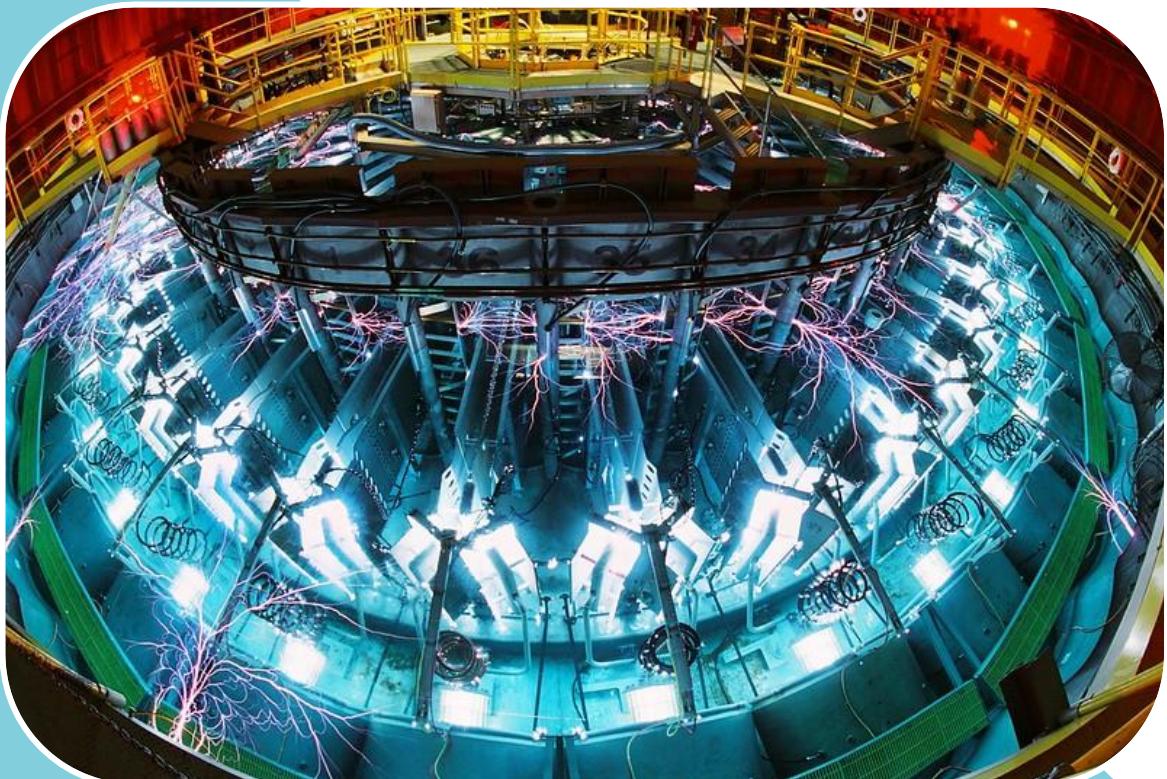
# Radiation, Electrical, and High Energy Density Science (REHEDS) Research Foundation



The research foundation seeks to advance the fundamental understanding of the science of nuclear weapons and their effects for the DOE's Stockpile Stewardship Program

## Radiation Effects Science

- Understanding the effects on materials and electronics caused by single and combined radiation environments (photon and particle).



**Saturn Accelerator**

## Electrical & Electromagnetic Science

- Understanding the effects of electromagnetic radiation, with a particular focus on electrical and electro-optical circuits.
- Research, development and application of computational and physical simulation capabilities.

## High Energy Density Science

- Studying material properties, inertial confinement fusion, radiation transport, and other physical processes at extreme temperatures, densities, and pressures.

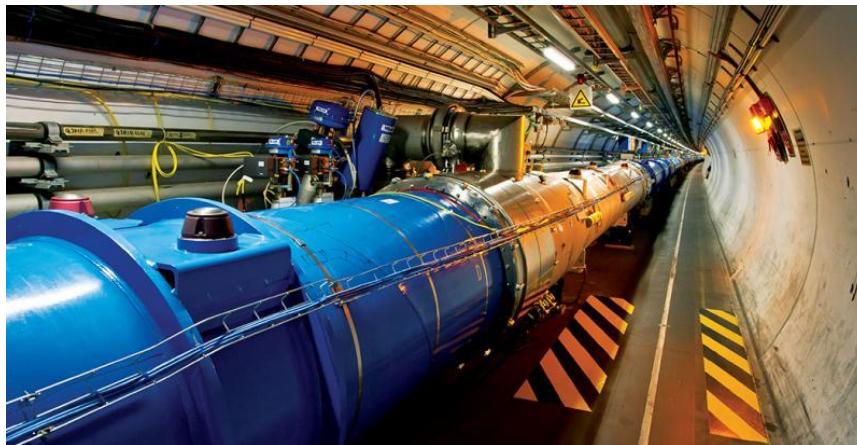
## Pulsed Power Science & Technology

- Understanding the physical principles that underlie the efficient creation and application of electrical energy through pulsed power technologies.

# Radiation and Electrical Sciences: Why We Care?



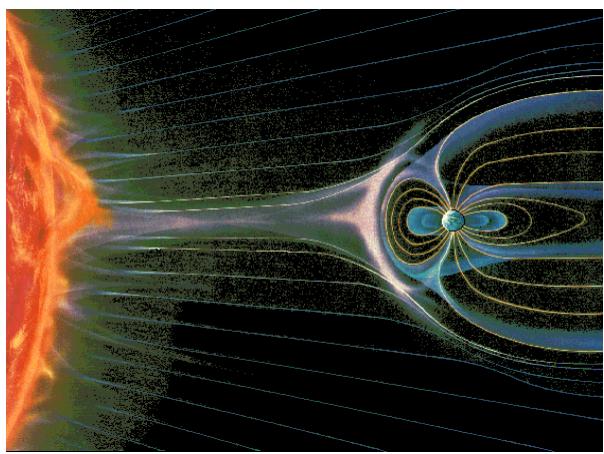
(After [nuclearweaponarchive.org](http://nuclearweaponarchive.org))



(After [home.cern/topics/large-hadron-collider](http://home.cern/topics/large-hadron-collider))



Starfish  
(After [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org))



(After Endo, Nikkei Science, Inc. Japan)



(After [www.stratcom.mil/Newsroom/Images](http://www.stratcom.mil/Newsroom/Images))



(After [oncampus.richmond.edu](http://oncampus.richmond.edu))

Many systems require radiation hardness and/or an understanding of the response to radiation and electrical stimulus

# Radiation Effects Sciences: What We Do!

- Work spans research, development, and application in the field of radiation hardening design and qualification
- Activities range from fundamental radiation effects research to qualifying the performance of materials and electronic systems to severe radiation environments
- Utilize state-of-the-art photon, neutron, ion, electron, and laser sources located at Sandia and other laboratories throughout the United States
  - Operate pulsed power accelerators
  - Develop critical radiation, electrical, and plasma diagnostics to characterize our test environments
  - Perform research in accelerator technologies
- Develop theory, analytical techniques, and computer codes to model the effects of radiation on materials, electronics, and conduct pulsed power research

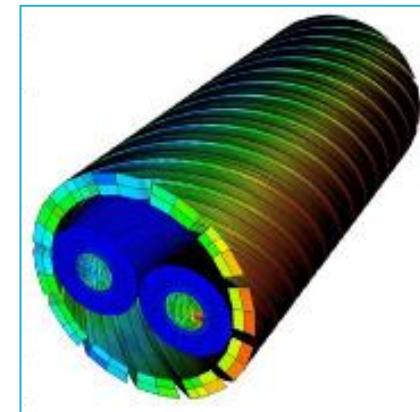
*National Security Applications*



*X-ray effects experiments*



*Model of Energy Deposition in a Cable*



*Z Target Chamber*

We support the national security missions using world-class experimental and computational capabilities



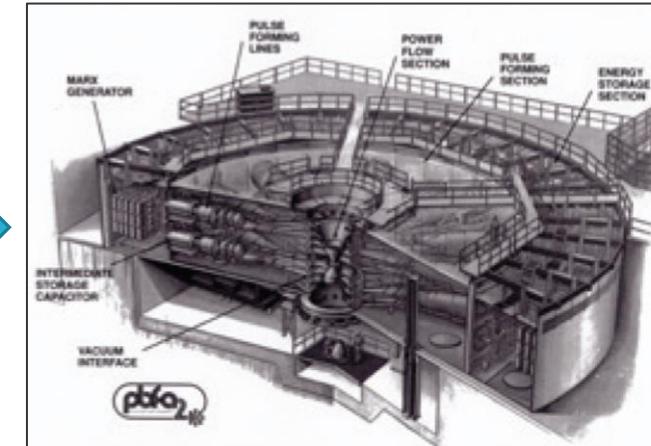
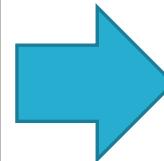
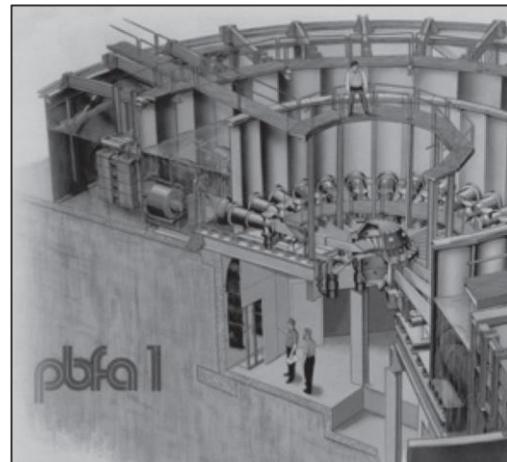
# Sandia Laboratories is the home to three of the world's largest radiation generating pulsed power accelerators.



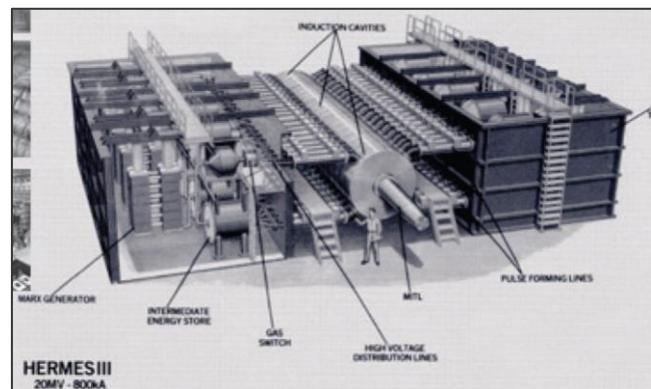
## Particle Beam

### Fusion Accelerator 1

(1980): Built to study e-beam and light ion beams for fusion target research



**PBFA-1 converted into Saturn (1987):**  
The world's largest, large-area hot x-ray simulator



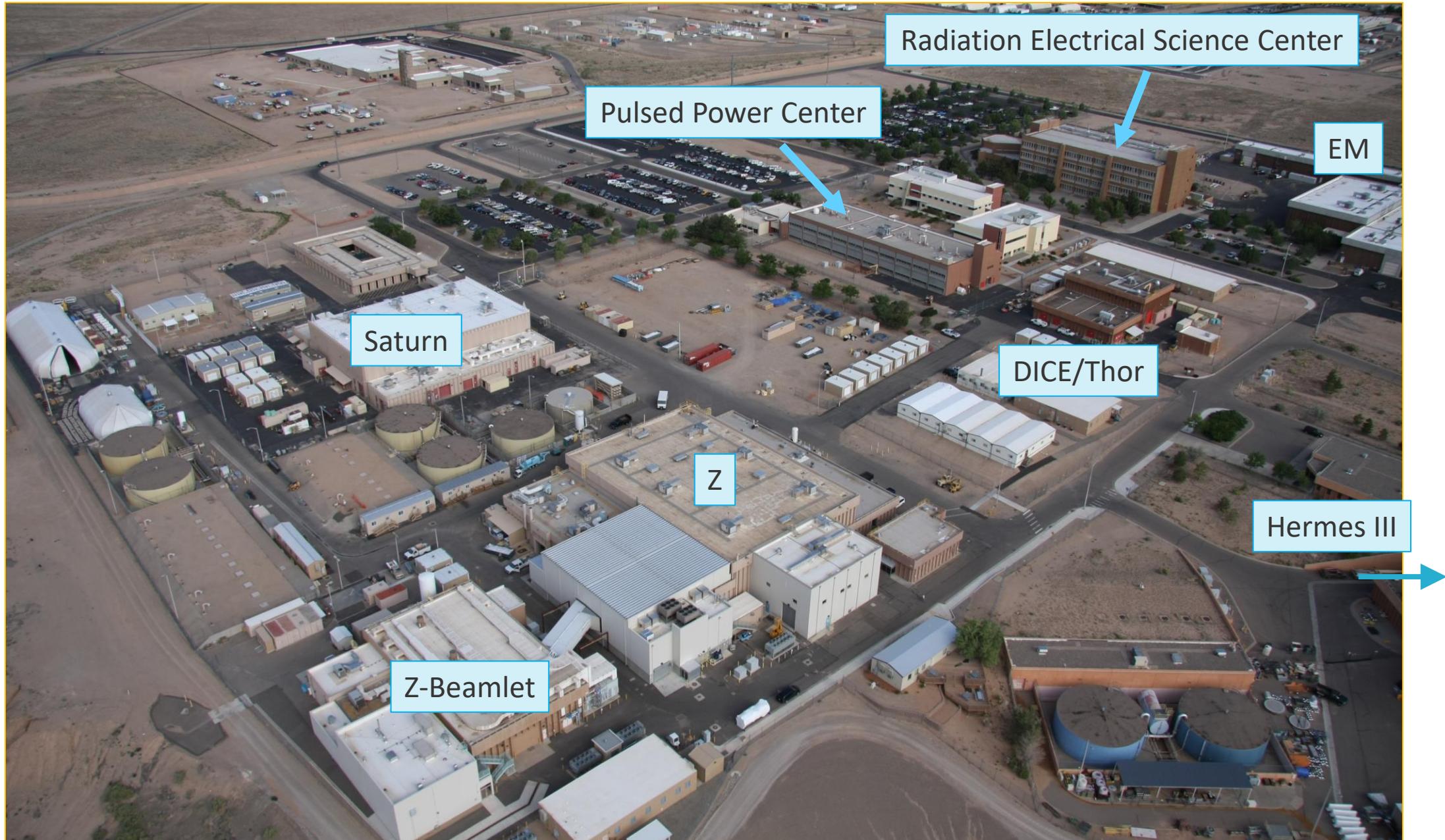
**PBFA-2 (1985):** Largest pulsed power machine in the world, converted to "Z machine" in 1996

**Hermes-III (1988):**  
The world's most powerful gamma-ray accelerator

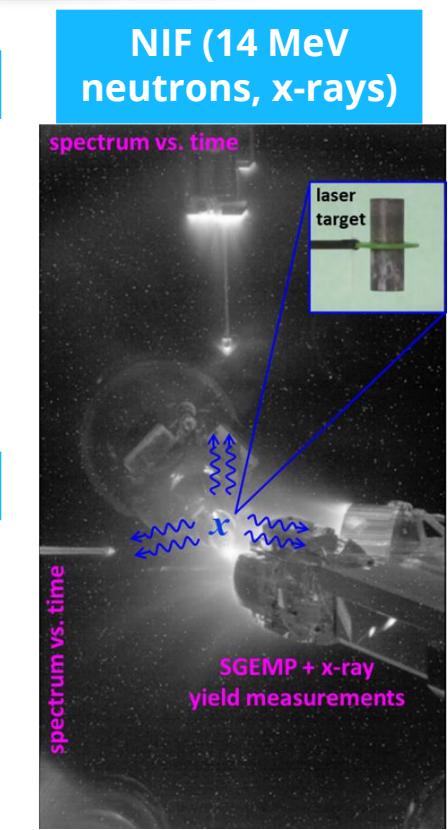
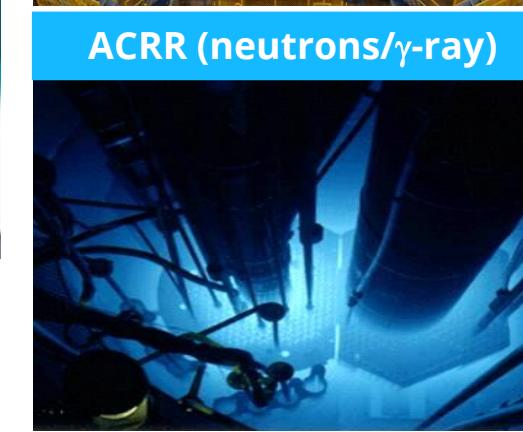
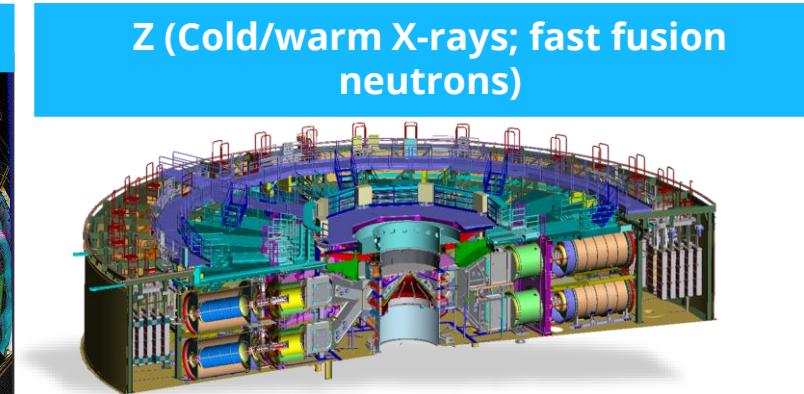
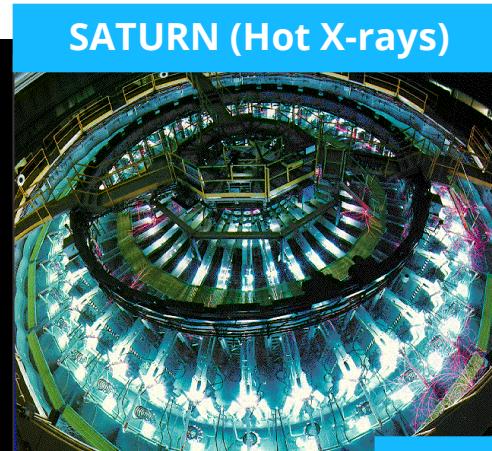
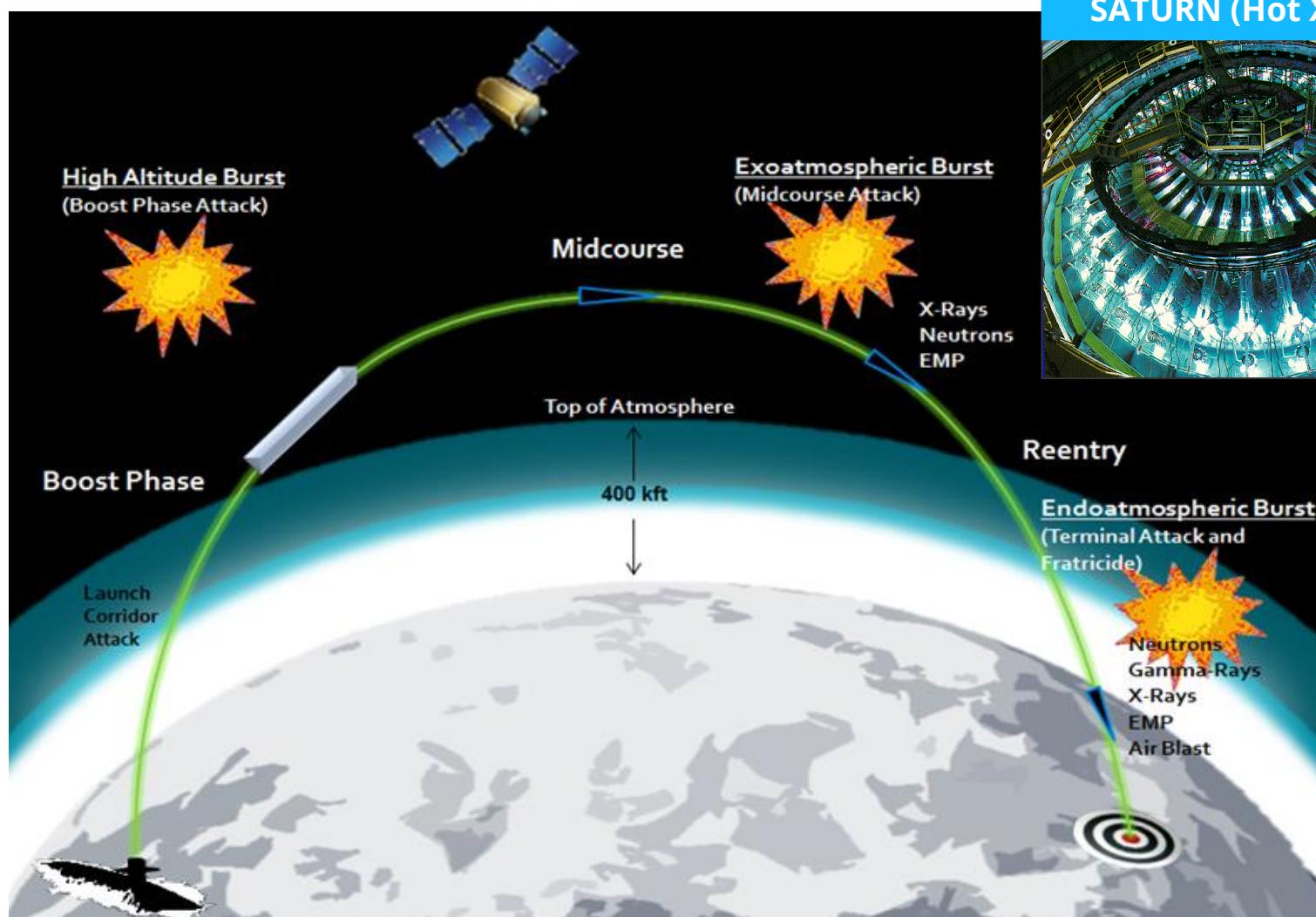
# The Infrastructure for Such Capabilities is Large



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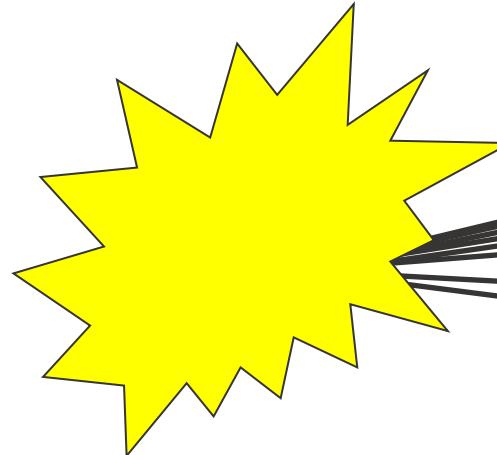
# We Use The Pulsed Power Capabilities to Generate Relevant Environments for Science Based Stockpile Stewardship



## Radiation Electrical and High Energy Density Science (REHEDS) Activities



## Radiation Event



## Radiation Effects

- EM shielding effectiveness
- Total Ionizing Dose (TID)
- Dose Rate Effects ( $\dot{\gamma}$  and  $\dot{X}$ )
- Displacement Damage (DD)
- Single Event Effects (SEE)

## System Response

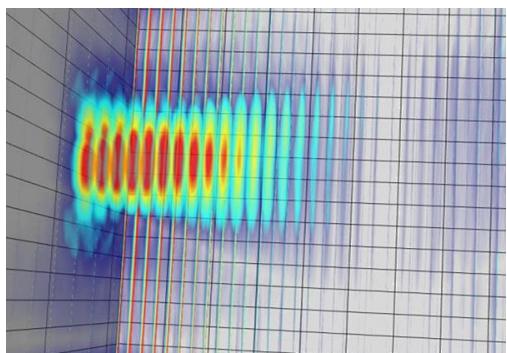
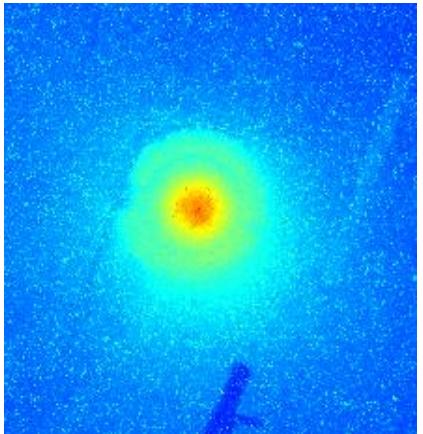
- Device Response
- Circuit Effects
- Signal Integrity/Board Effects

Radiation response depends on the environment and the technology affected. Proper characterization of the environment is essential

# Advances at HERMES for Electronic Effects Testing



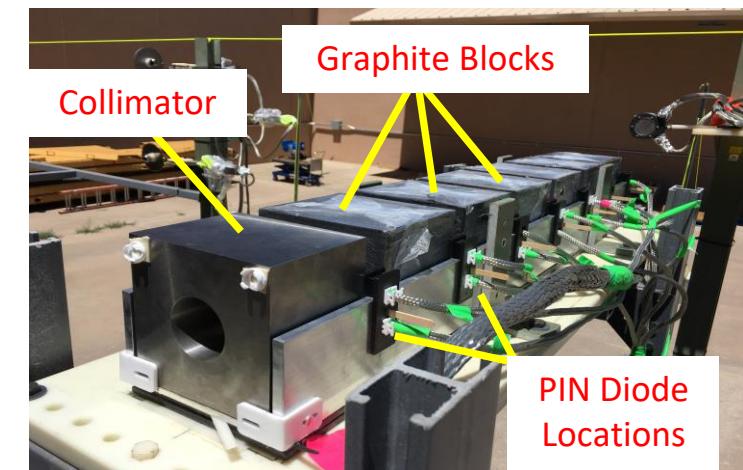
13



Optical dose mapping and tomographic reconstruction

C. Grabowski *et al.*, 23<sup>rd</sup> Pulsed Power Conf., 2021

**Hermes III Gamma-ray simulator (18 MeV, 600-800kA)**



High fidelity spectral characterization

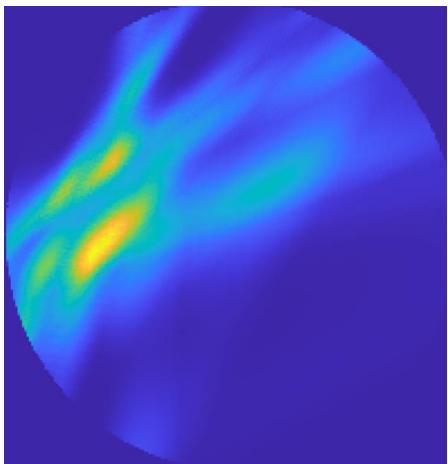
Indoor and Outdoor configurations allow for a broad range of electronic effects testing from circuit boards to simulated power grids!

# Electrical Science Research to Advance Performance and Protection of Grid Systems.

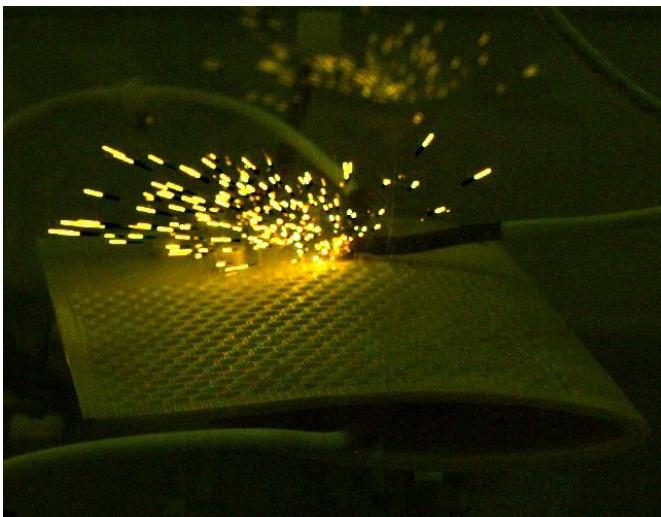


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Characterizing dielectric breakdown using radio-imaging

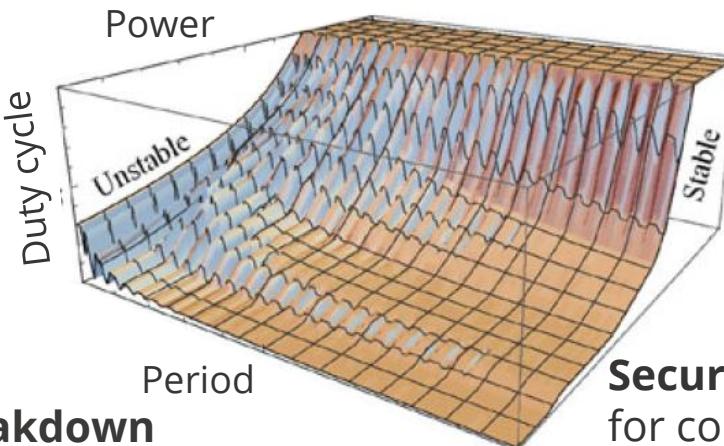


## Understanding and detection of electrical breakdown



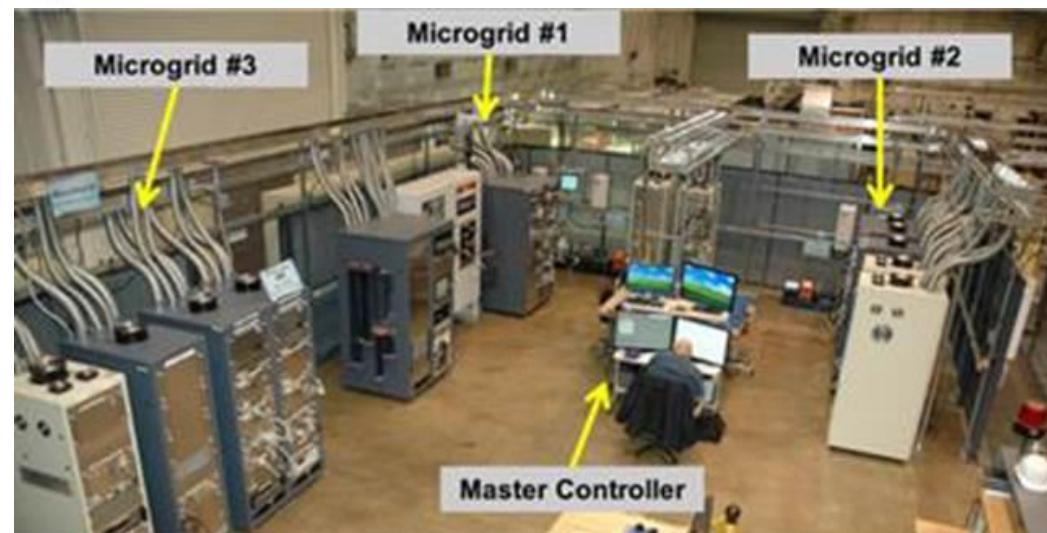
Lightning strikes to electrical systems and components such as wind turbines

Improving energy transfer through multi-physics based nonlinear controls and power electronics\*



Meta-stable regions expand the operating regions beyond normal linear stability

**Secure Scalable Microgrid:**  
for controls and power electronics research



# Lightning Simulators for System Level Testing

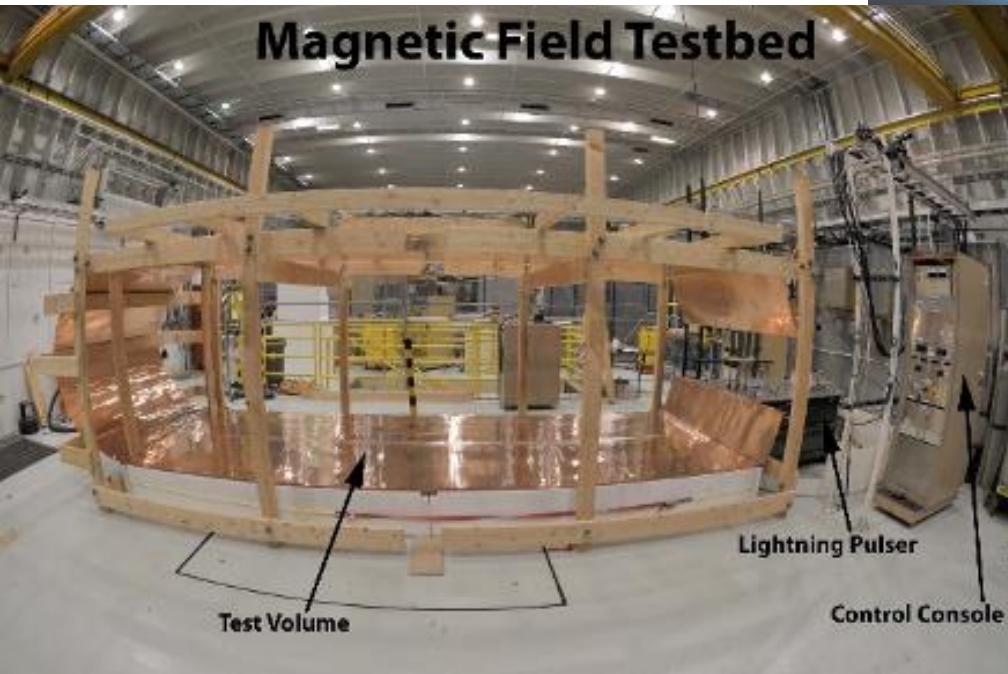
15



Sandia Lightning Facility



Magnetic Field Testbed



Peak H-field 700 A/m  
Risetime <500 ns  
Pulse Width ~31  $\mu$ s

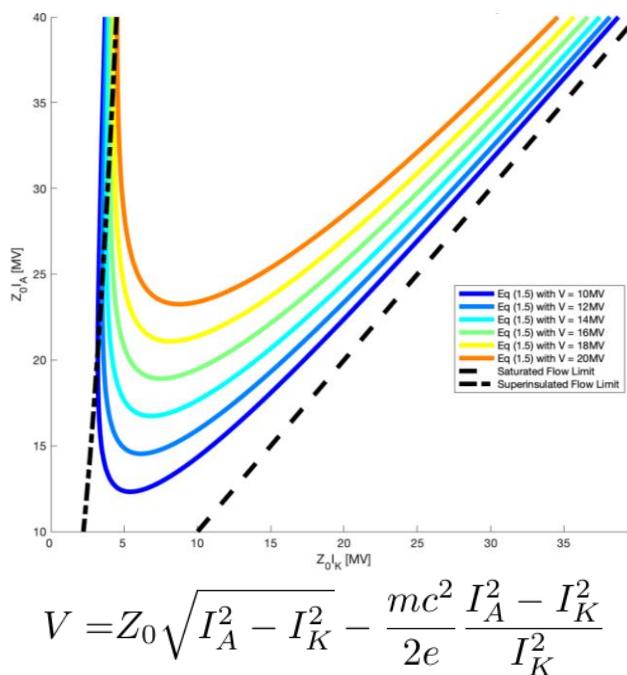
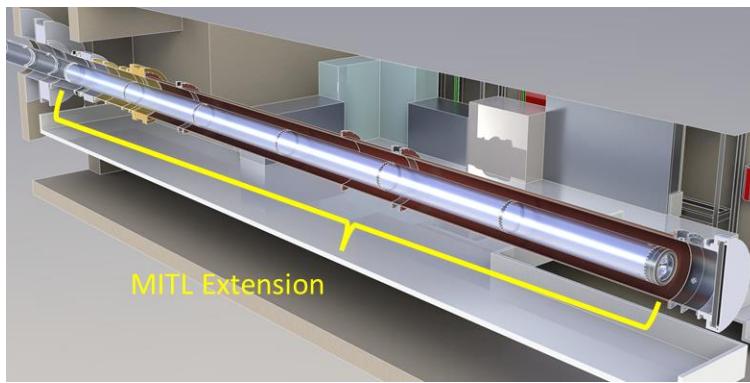
Peak Current 200 kA  
Risetime 1-500  $\mu$ s  
Pulse Width ~50-500  $\mu$ s  
1 or 2 pulses

Emulation of pulsed E and B fields from Lightning strikes

# Extending MITL Flow and Theory at HERMES to Improve Performance

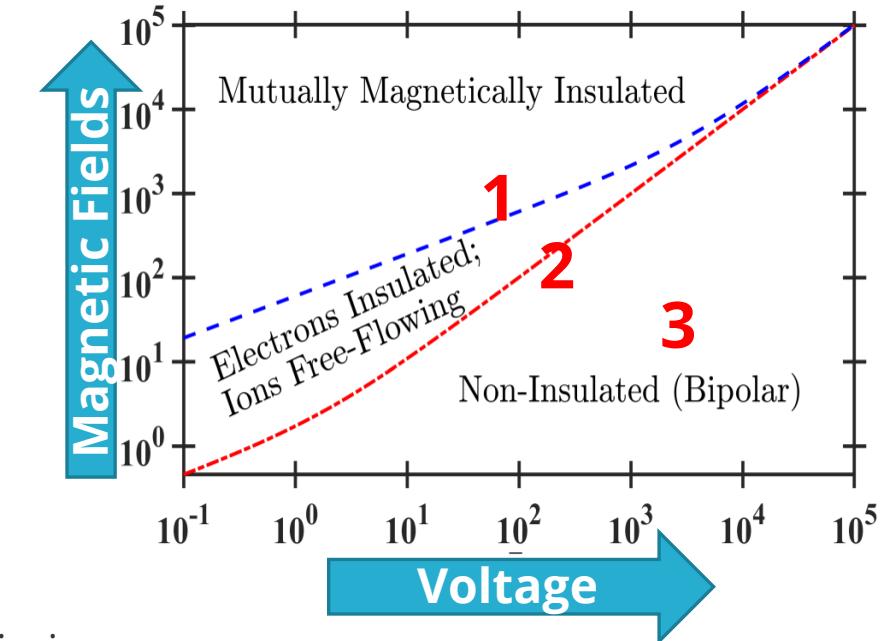


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$$V = Z_0 \sqrt{I_A^2 - I_K^2} - \frac{mc^2}{2e} \frac{I_A^2 - I_K^2}{I_K^2}$$

The Magnetically Insulated Transmission Line (MITL) is a wonderful non-linear transmission line which affords some freedom in operating conditions



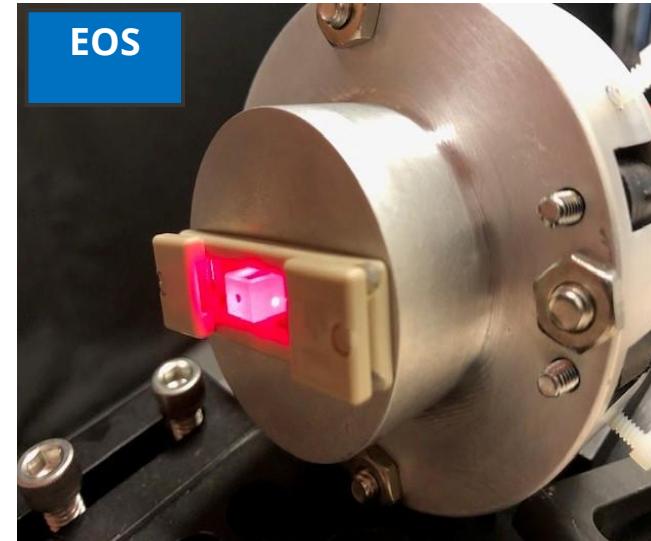
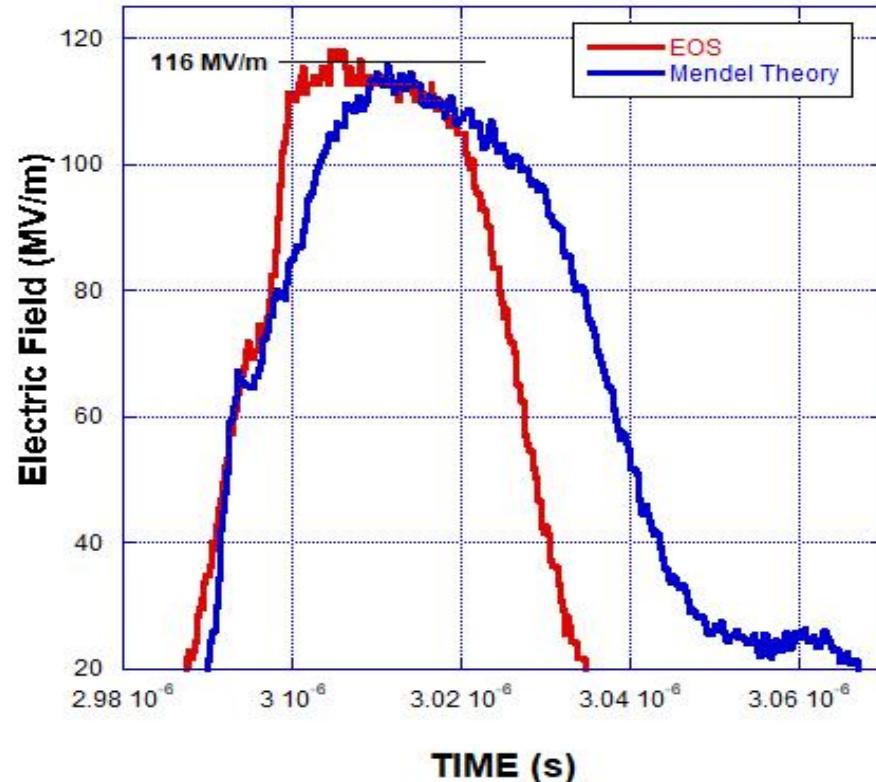
We are developing multi-species insulation theories that account for time-dependence and span the regimes from non-insulated to fully insulated

T. Powell, K. Cartwright et al., Proc. EAPPC-BEAMS, 2021

A. Darr, K. Cartwright., Phys. Plasmas **30**, 2023

MITL Optimization and Redesign Decreased Losses and Doubled Radiation Output

# New Diagnostics: Electro-Optical Measurement of Very High Electric Fields



- Electro-optical sensors (EOSs) are ideally suited to be used as a noninvasive pulse power diagnostic
- Provides a *direct absolute linear measurement of electric fields* up to 100 MV/m without the need for calibration or integration factors

**"Nice idea, I doubt it will work.....", Bryan Oliver, 2018**

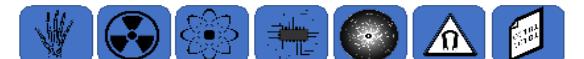
I. Owens, et al., *Nature Scientific Reports*, **11**, 10702, 2021

Demonstrated measurement of the electric field in the HERMES III MITL at full power (18 MeV)

# We Develop High Performance Computing capabilities to define environments and investigate response.

**“Monte-Carlo used to be embarrassingly parallel...now it’s just embarrassing!”, Greg Valdez, 2014**

# RAMSES



Charon CHEETAH EM PHASIS EIGER EMPIRE  
Gemma ITS NUGET Q SCEPTRE Xyce

*Particle Radiation  
Transport Codes*



*Device and Circuit  
Simulators*



*Electromagnetic/Plasma  
Codes*



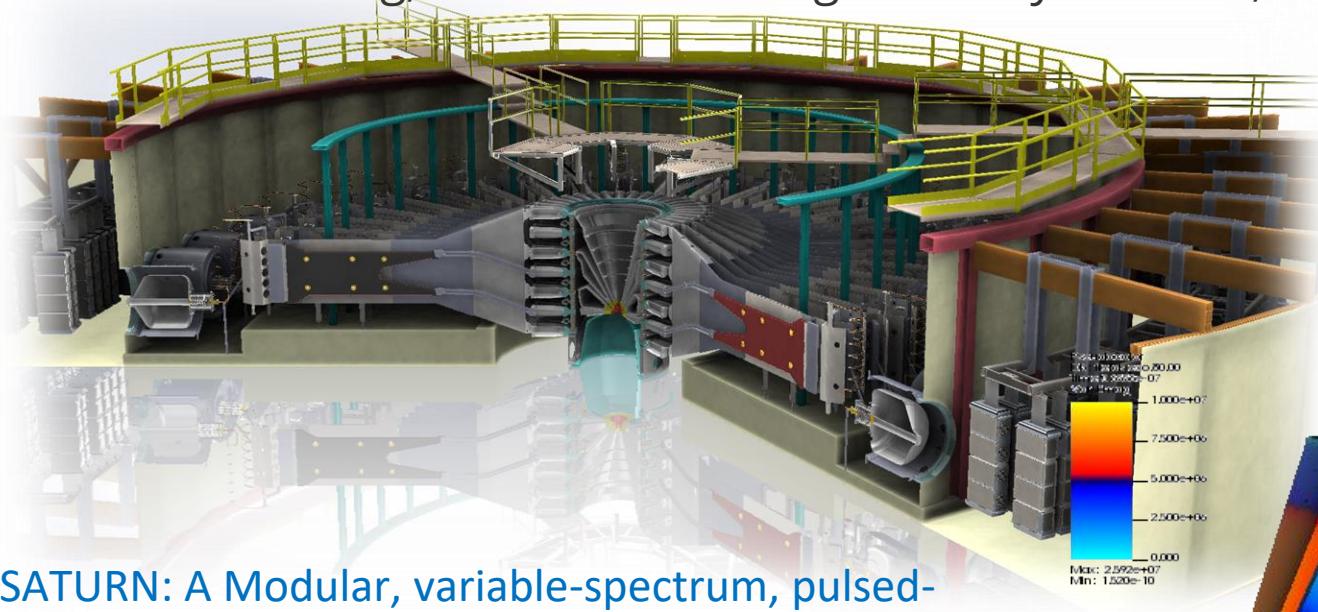
**“ Bryan, the future of plasma physics is that you’ll do the  
same problem on a bigger computer”, Rod Mason (LANL), 1994**

There is a strong need to develop accurate and efficient workflows to couple the codes and to reduce the complexity to enable fast turn solutions

# New Code Capabilities Allow for Full 3D Electromagnetic Simulations to Inform Pulsed Power Design

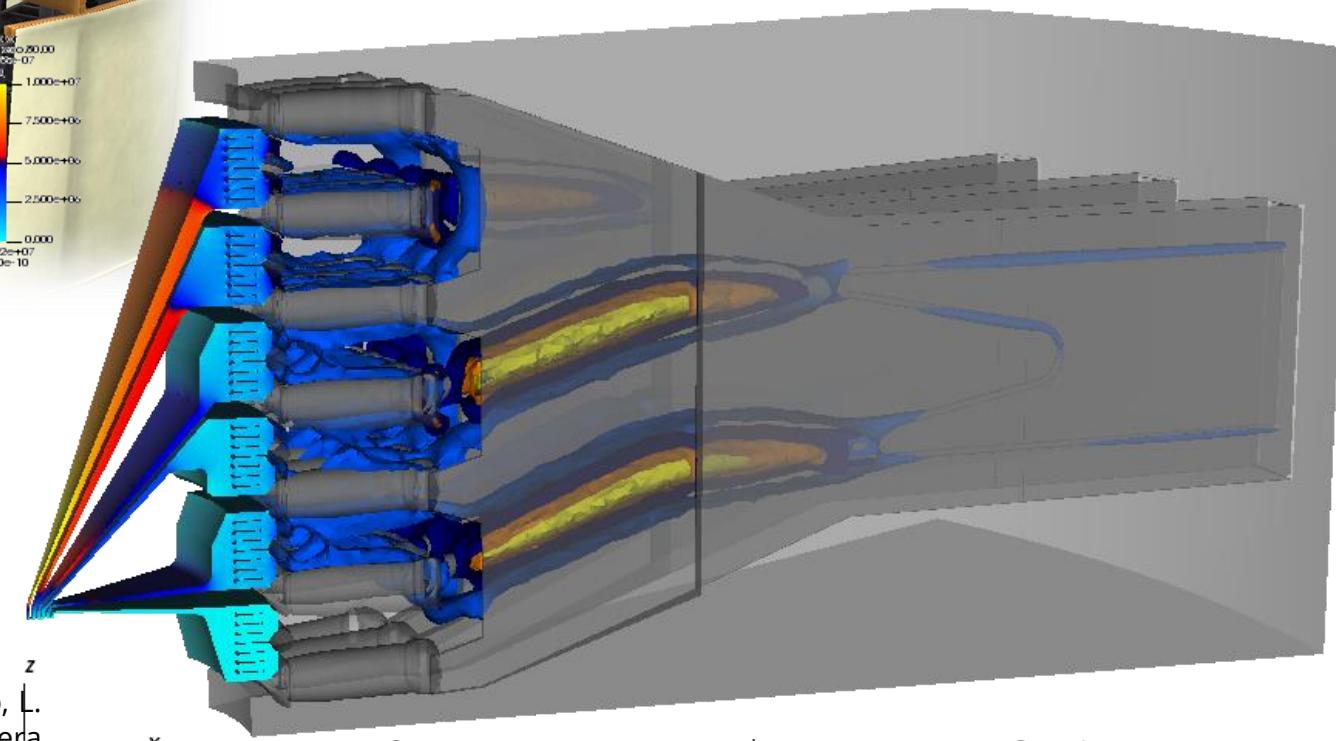


Simulations of 3 tri-plate water lines in Saturn can be analyzed to determine power flow characteristics such as timing, current and voltage delivery to diode, as well as effects on symmetry.



SATURN: A Modular, variable-spectrum, pulsed-power accelerator (10 MA, 1.6 MeV, 40 ns power-pulse and ~25ns radiation pulse width)

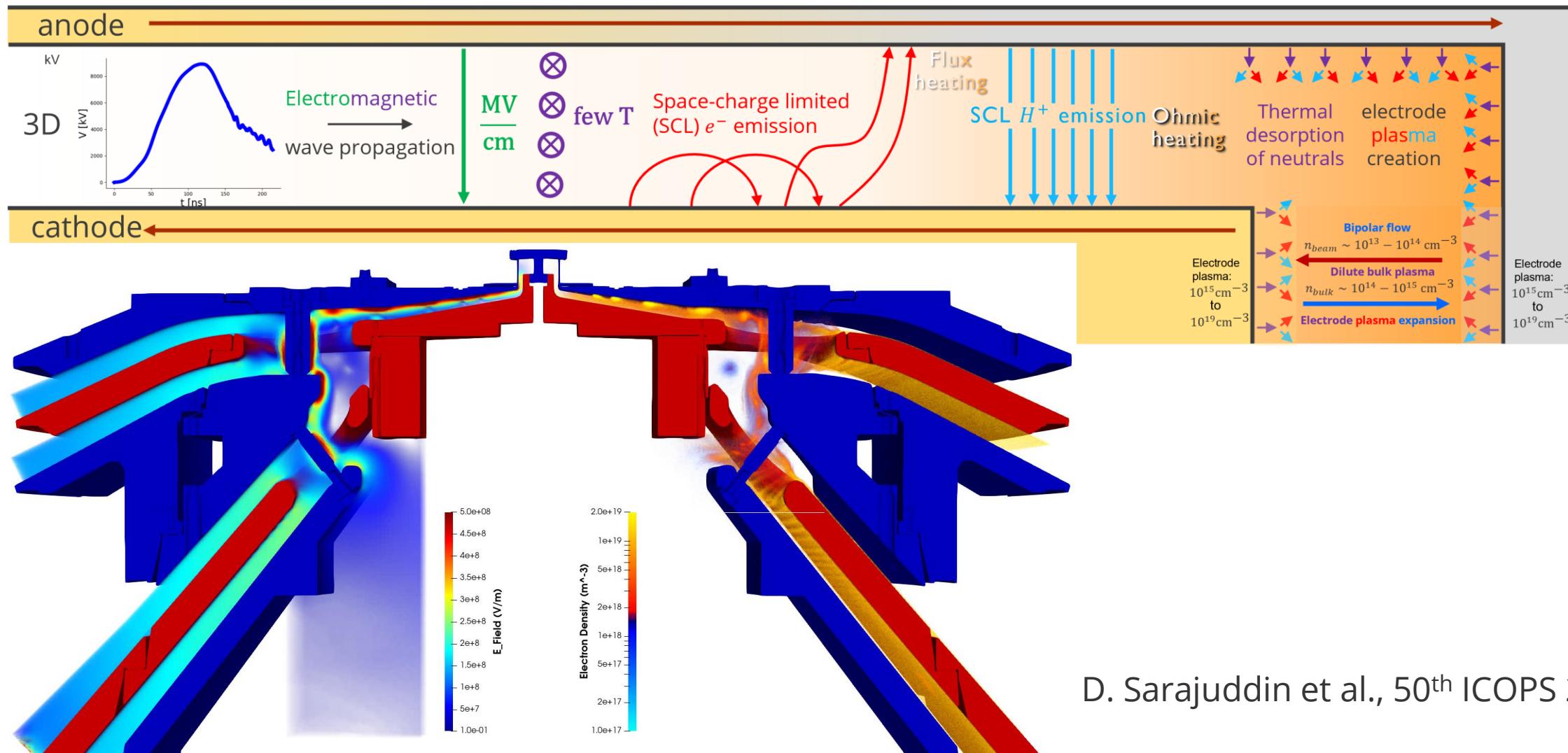
**EMPIRE**



D.D. Bloomquist, R. W. Stinnett, D. H. McDaniel, J. R. Lee, A. W. Sharpe, J. A. Halbleib, L. G. Schlitt, P. W. Spence, and P. Corcoran. "Saturn, a large area X-ray simulation accelerator." In Proc. 6th IEEE Pulsed Power Conference, Arlington, VA, p. 310. 1987

P. Christenson et. al. 23<sup>rd</sup> Pulsed Power Conference, 2021

# High Fidelity Hybrid PIC/Fluid Simulations Inform Power Flow and Guide Diode Designs



D. Sarajuddin et al., 50<sup>th</sup> ICOPS 2023

Models couple upstream TEM wave propagation described by 1D transmission lines to downstream 3D electromagnetic particle-in-cell domain (centimeters) which include detailed processes near the load

# Intense Beam Propagation in Gas, Validation Studies

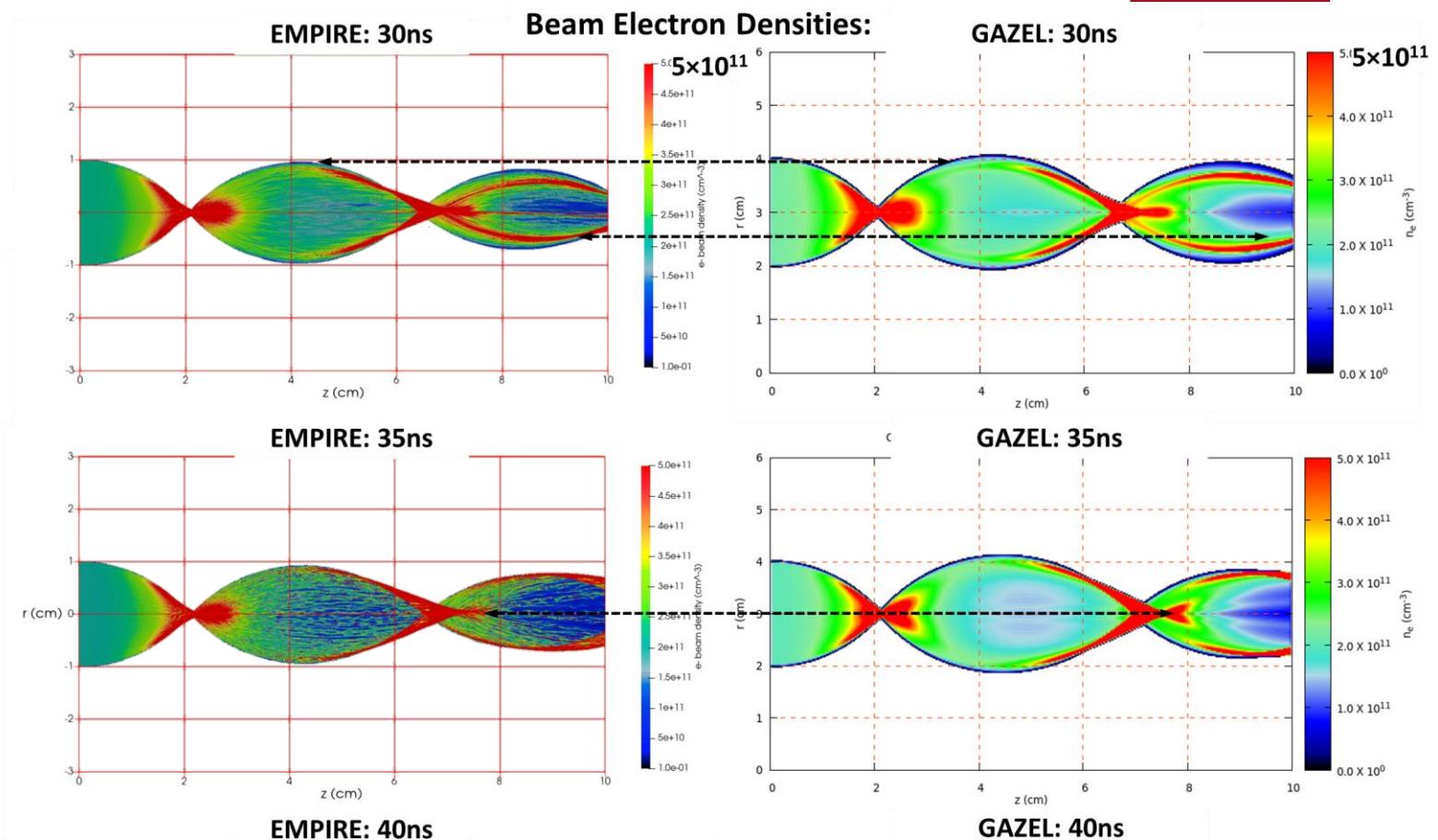
21



Benchmarking simulations: EMPIRE (SNL) and GAZEL (CEA)

Data taken on the SPHINX pulsed e-beam generator

500keV Beam  
 $I_{max} = 180\text{kA}$   
 $\tau = 20\text{ns}$

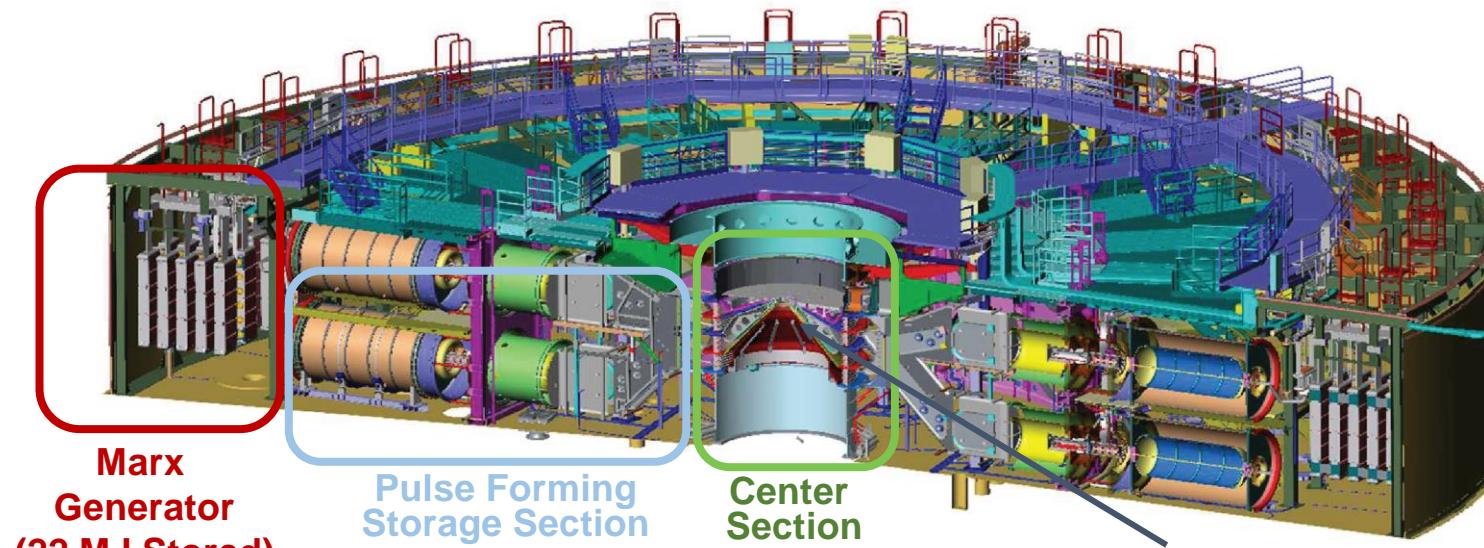


Medina et al. Verification and benchmarking relativistic electron beam transport through a background gas,  
Comp Phys. Comm. 288, 108721 (2023)

E. Rhodes et al., 24<sup>th</sup> PPC, PS30-07 (2023)

21

# The 'Z' Facility: world's largest pulsed power machine, delivering 80 TW and 6 MJ of electrical energy to the load region

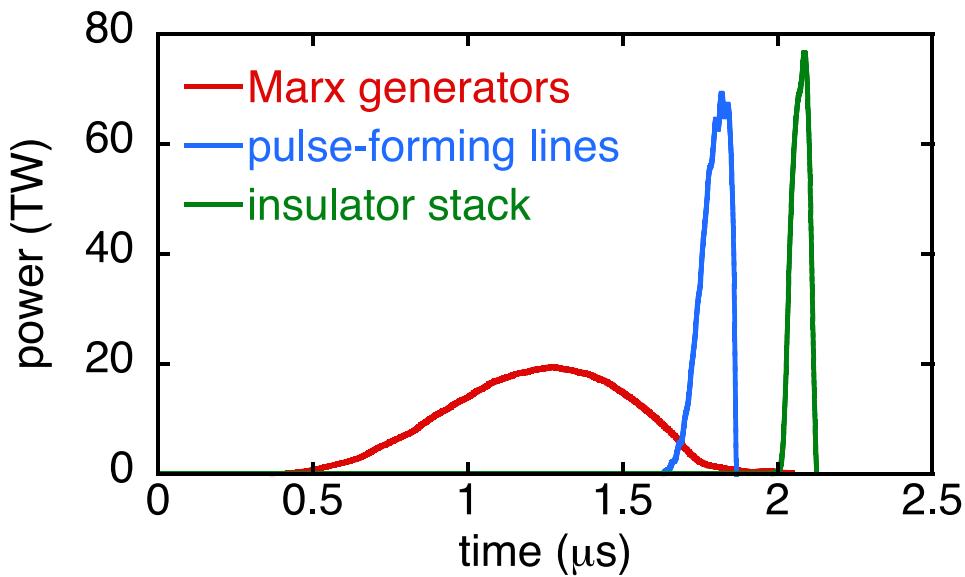


Marx Generator (22 MJ Stored)

Pulse Forming Storage Section

Center Section

Load Hardware & Target (post-shot)



Z today couples several MJ out of 22 MJ stored to the load hardware region at the machine center.

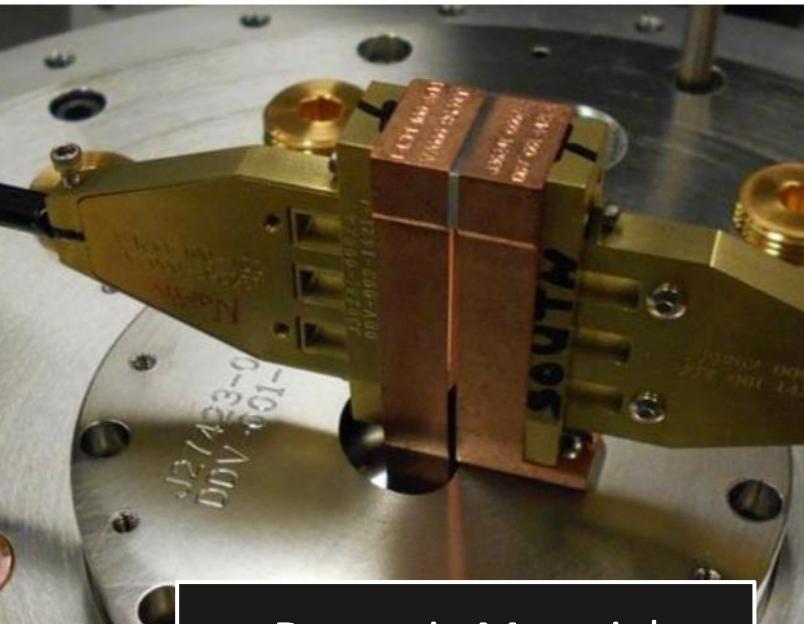
# Z is a precision tool for high energy density science



23



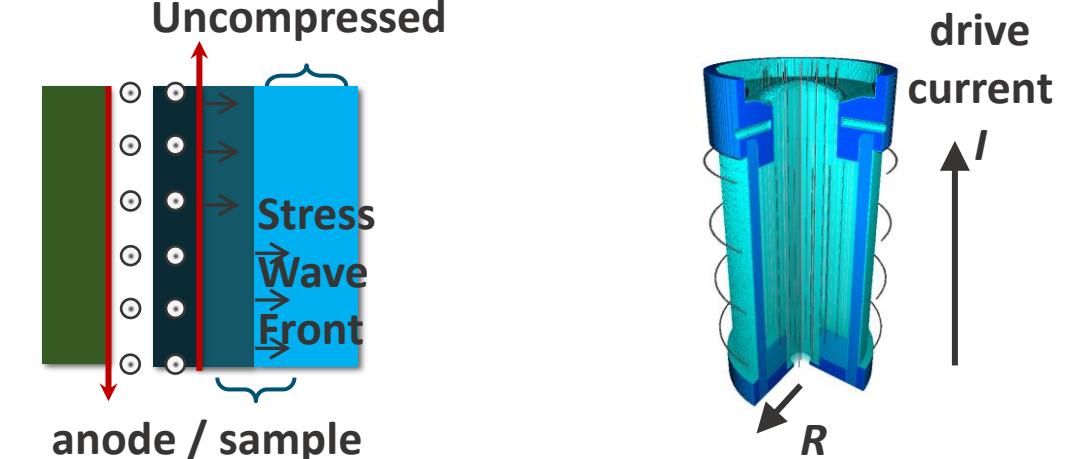
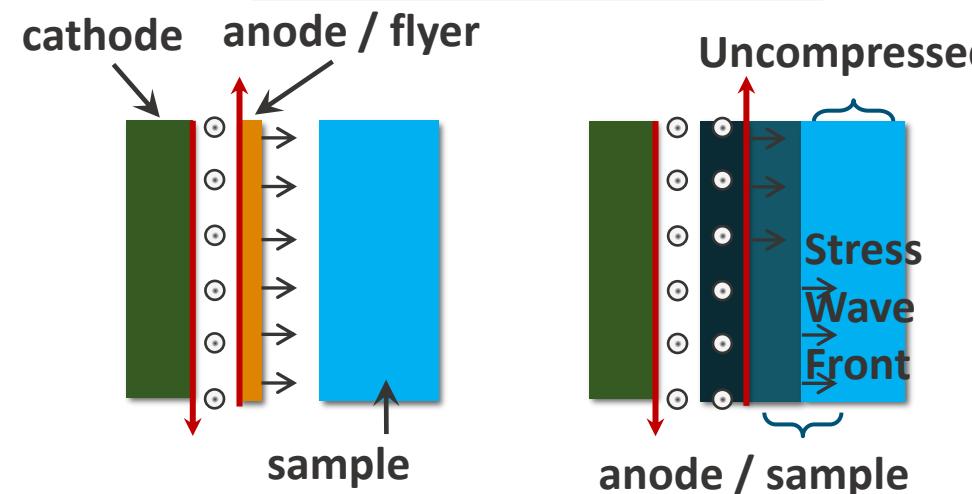
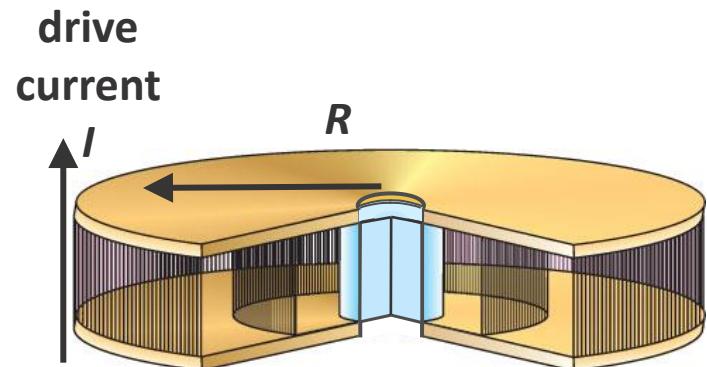
Radiation Science



Dynamic Material Properties

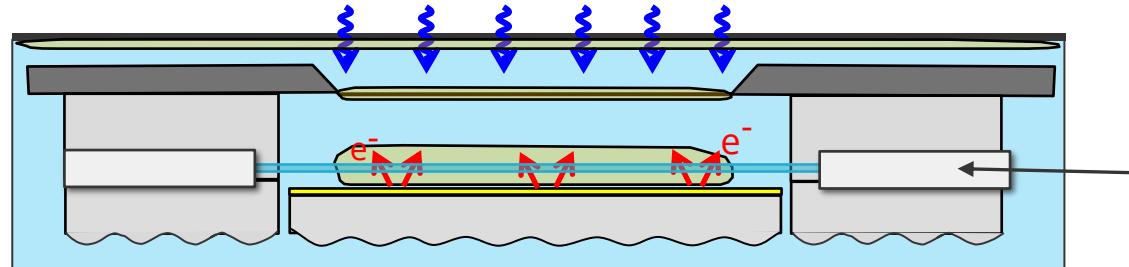
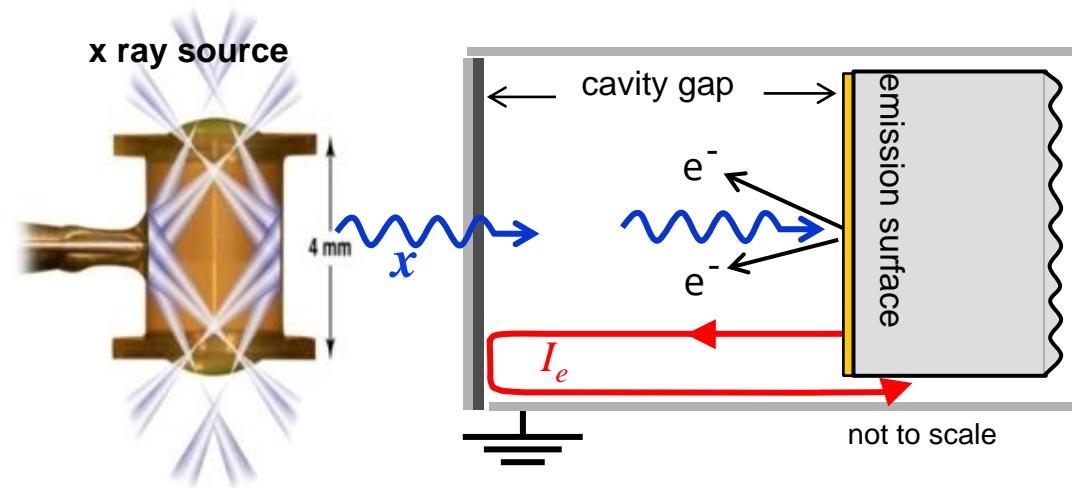


Inertial Confinement Fusion

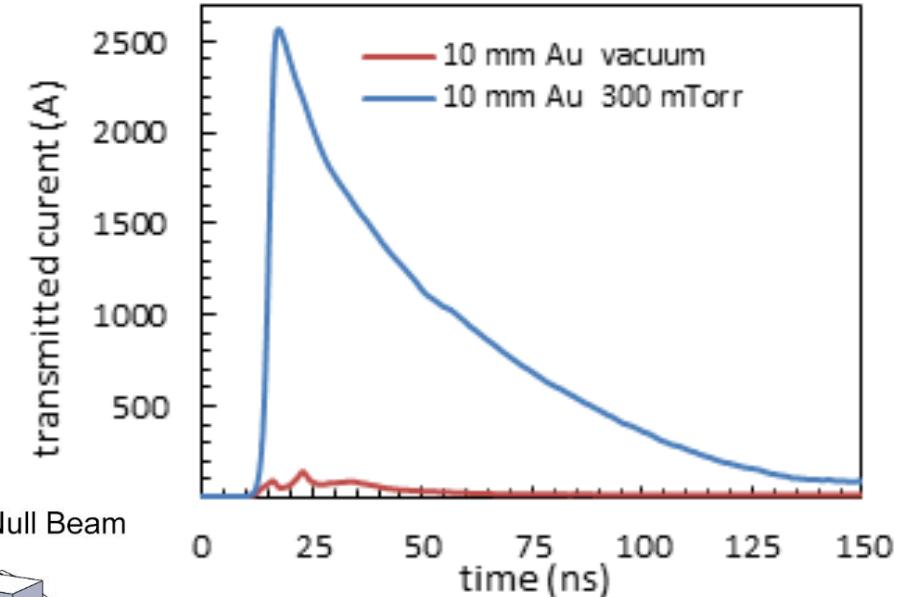
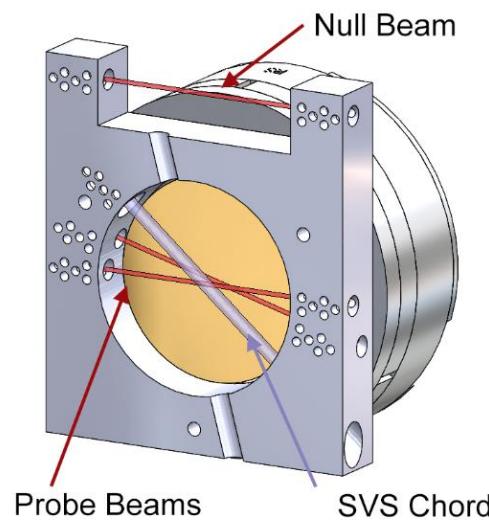


23

# We Can Generate Sufficient X-rays to Study High Current Diodes Driven by the Photo-electric effect in Vacuum and in Gas



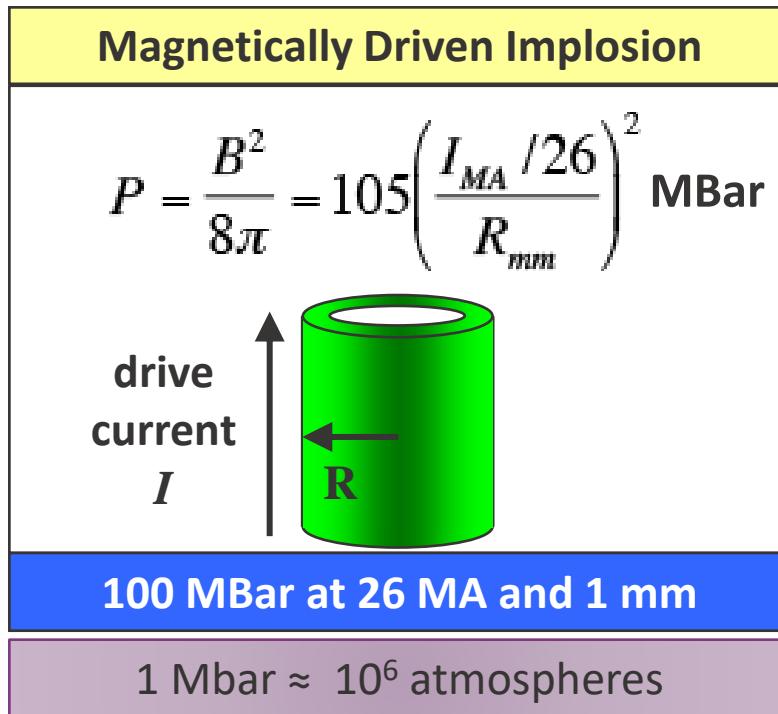
Interferometric density measurements, K. Cartwright,  
K. Bell, T. Flanagan et al, APS DPP (2019)



**Peak current response:**  
Vacuum = 120 A  
300mTorr N<sub>2</sub> = 2.6 kA

With Pulsed-Power x-ray sources we can drive sufficient emission off Au to induce space-charge limited currents in vacuum and gas for beam physics code validation

# 'Z' can generate ~100 Mbar drive pressures to study materials under intense dynamic loads



Pressure equivalent to Energy Density (J/m<sup>3</sup>)  
 1 Mbar =  $10^{11}$  J/m<sup>3</sup>, threshold of High Energy Density regime

Z Storage capacitor



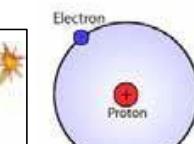
2e-6 Mbar



0.07 Mbar

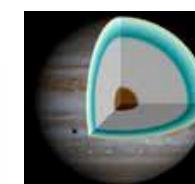
TNT

Internal Energy of H atom



1 Mbar

Metallic H in Jupiter's core



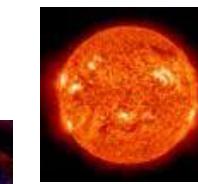
30 Mbar

Z Magnetic Drive Pressure



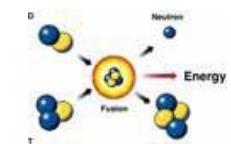
$\sim$ 100 Mbar

Center of Sun



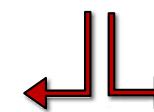
250,000 Mbar

Burning ICF plasma



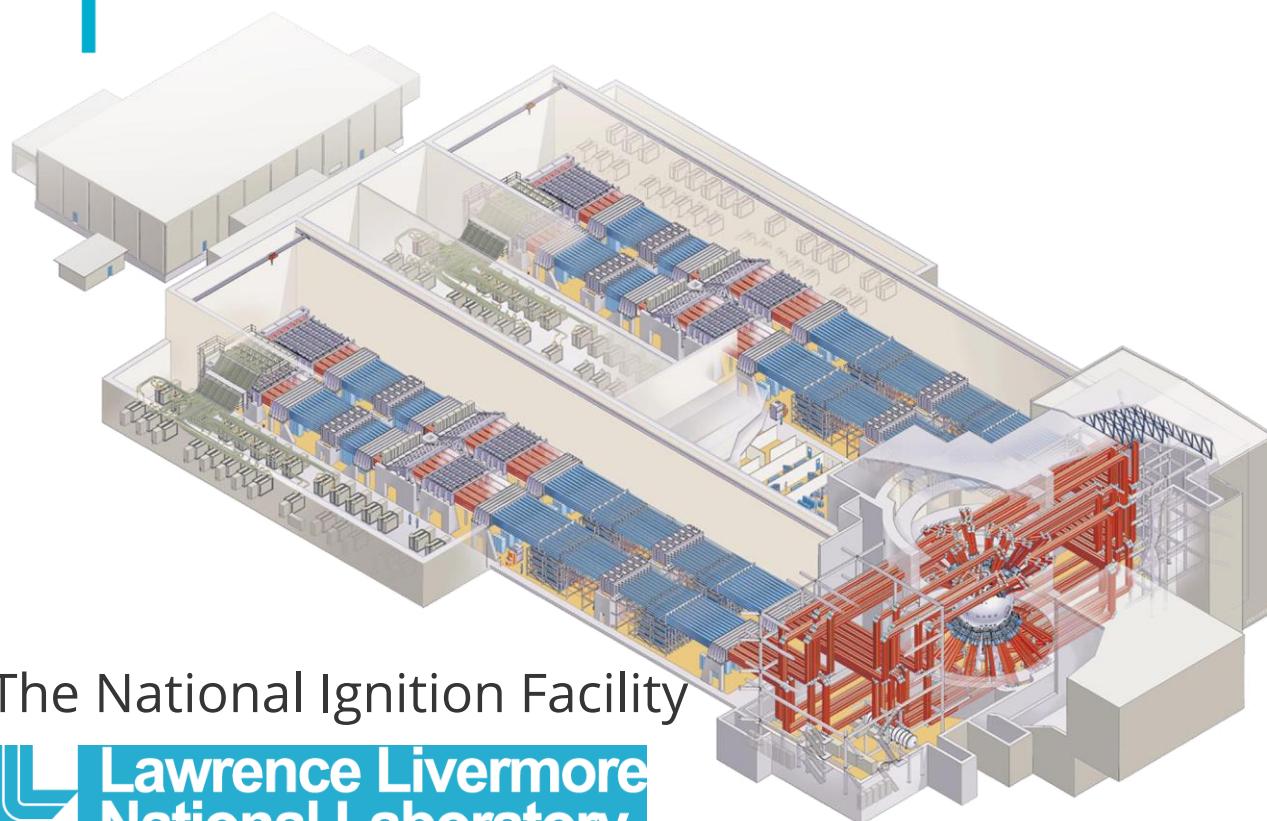
800,000 Mbar

Push on samples



Compress fuel at high velocity

# And Lest I Forget: A Very Large Pulsed Power Facility is a Laser!



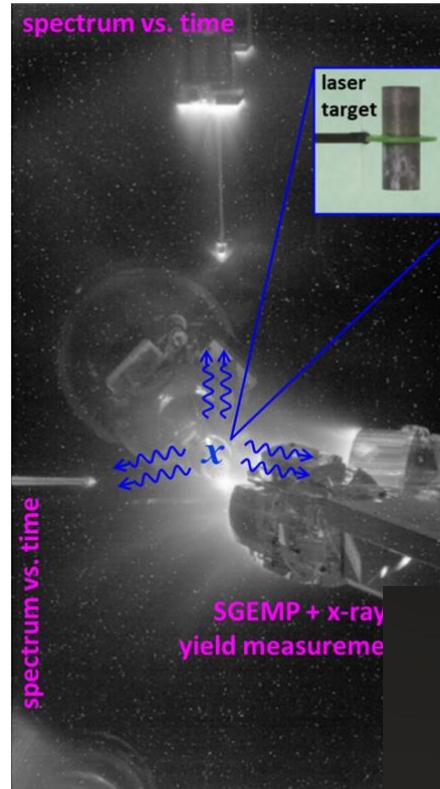
The National Ignition Facility



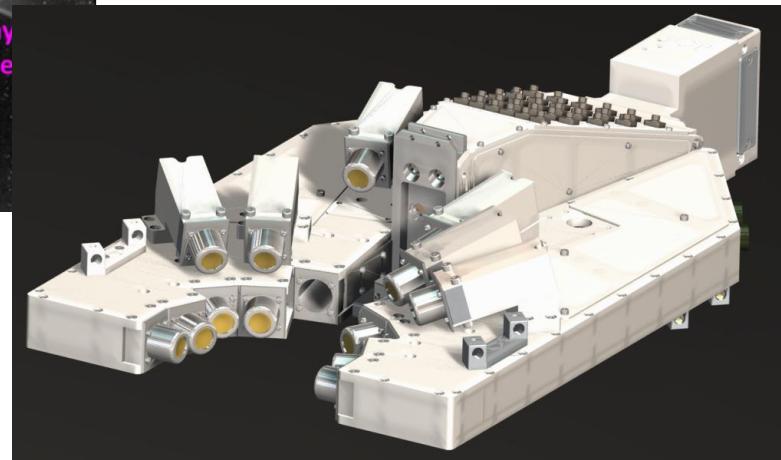
400 MJ stored electrical energy

Coupled 2.15 MJ of UV laser energy to the target chamber and achieved fusion ignition in Dec. 2022.

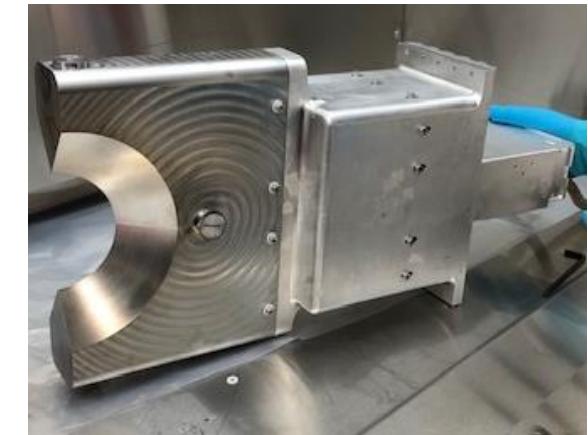
We have developed platforms for studying materials and electronics subject to x-ray and neutron radiation drives



SGEMP platform

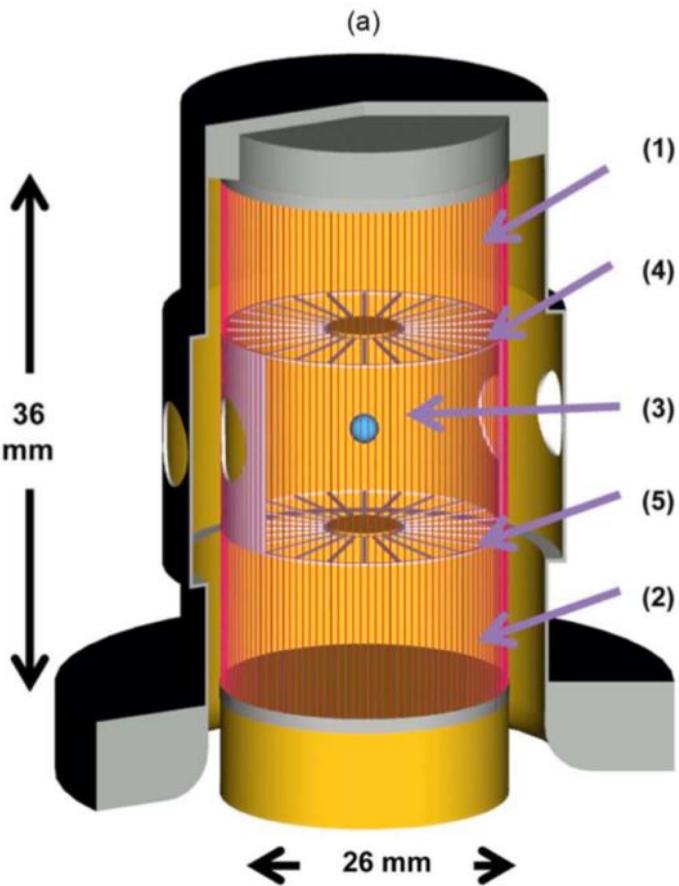


STAR materials platform

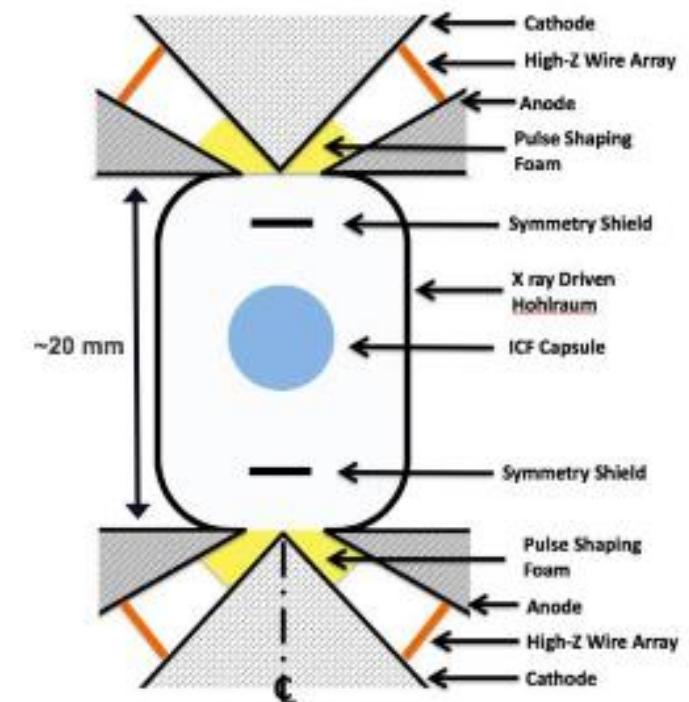
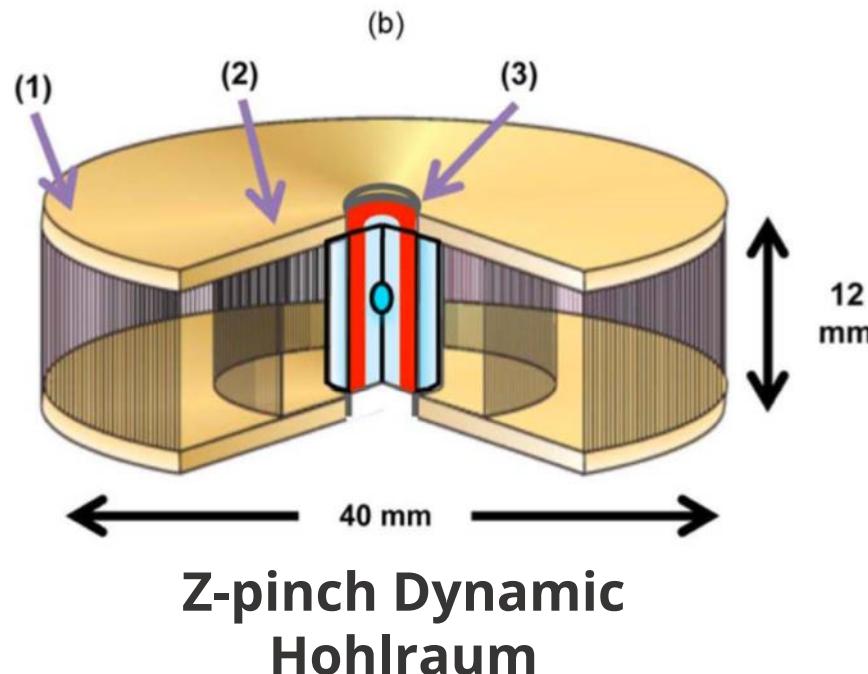


Energetic neutron platform

# Magnetic drive (radiation-driven) inertial fusion remains an option for a future high-current facility to build on the success of NIF



**Double-ended Hohlraum**



R.E. Olson *et al.*,  
High Energy Density Physics (2020).

# Induction Voltage Adders for Pulsed X-ray Radiography

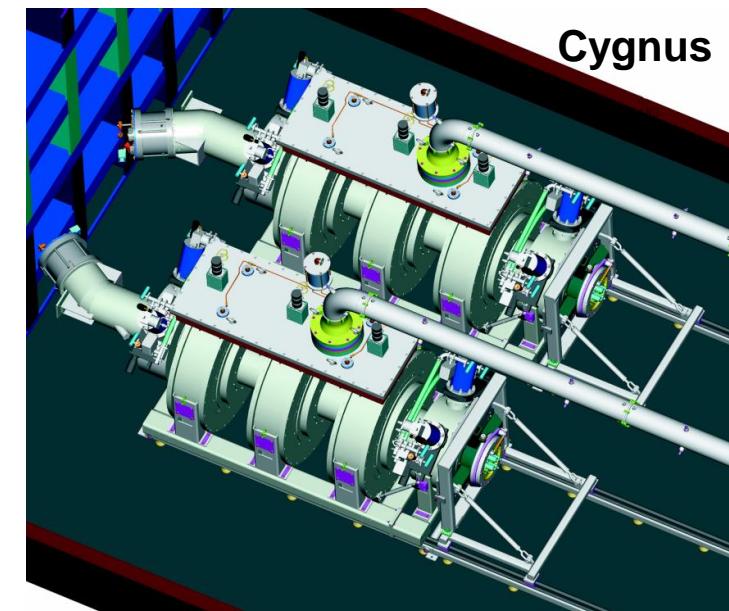
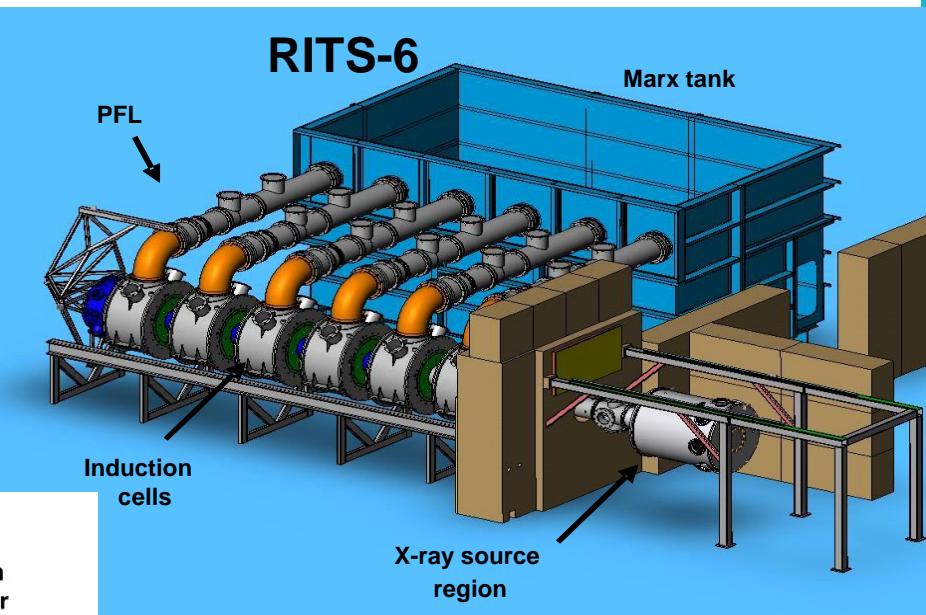
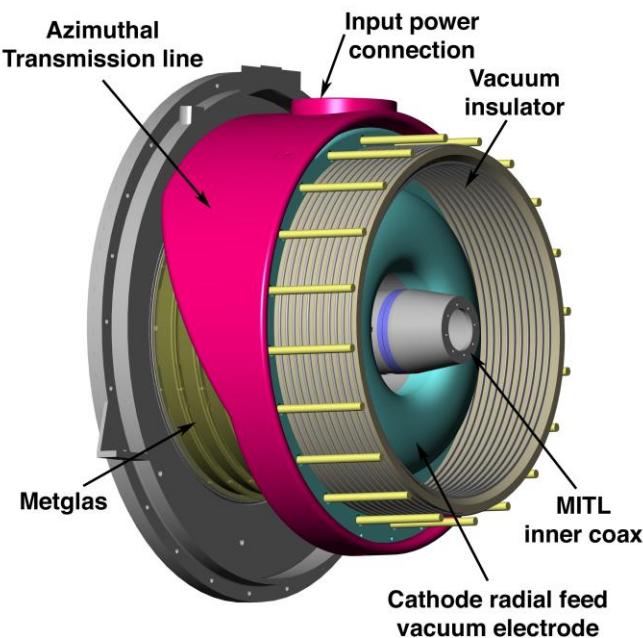
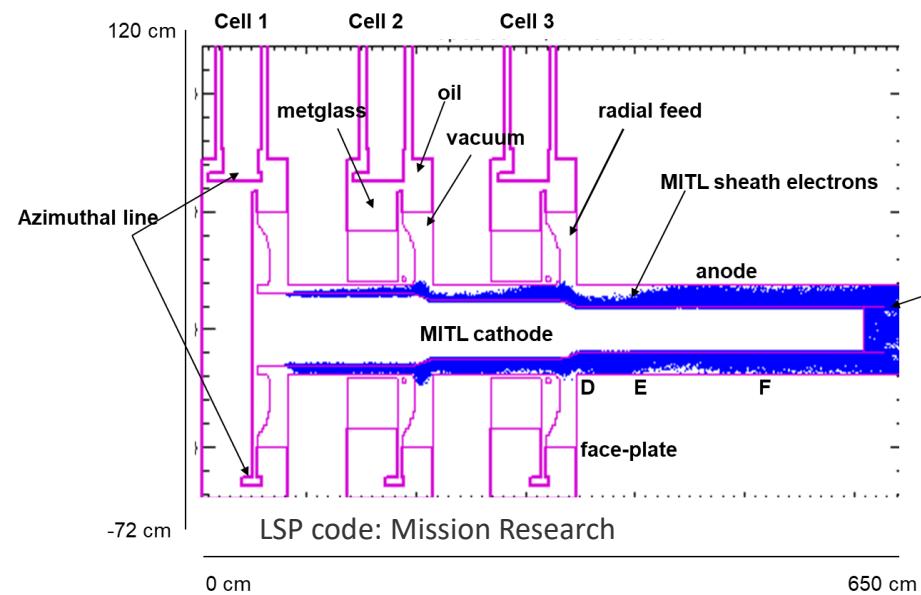


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## E-beam driven flash x-ray radiography drivers

**RITS:** Flexible accelerator architecture with exchangeable MITLs producing: 4.5-11 MV, 125-190 kA, 70 ns pulse.

**CYGNUS:** dual axis, pulsed radiography for subcritical expts.  
First single-point feed IVAs.



J.E. Maenchen et al., Proc. IEEE 92, 7, 2004

B.V. Oliver et al, Proc. 14<sup>th</sup> PPC, 2003

B.V. Oliver et al, Proc. 17<sup>th</sup> Pulsed Power conf. (2009)

J. Smith et al., 24<sup>th</sup> Pulsed Power Conf., 03A-1

## New Initiatives

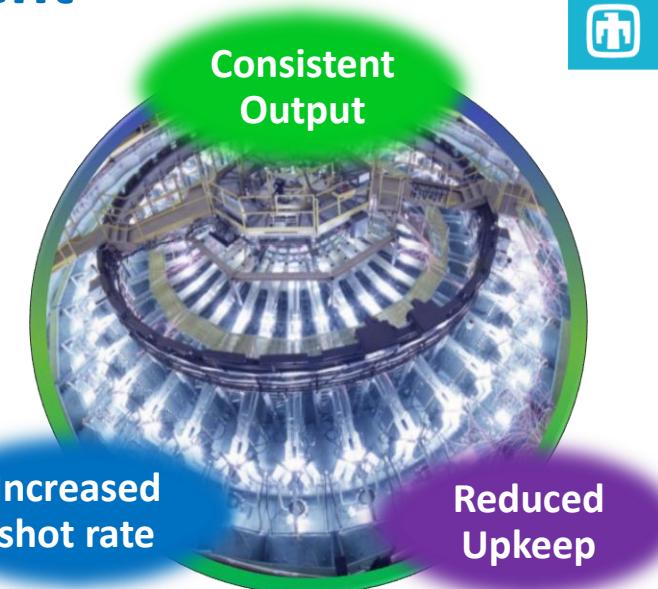
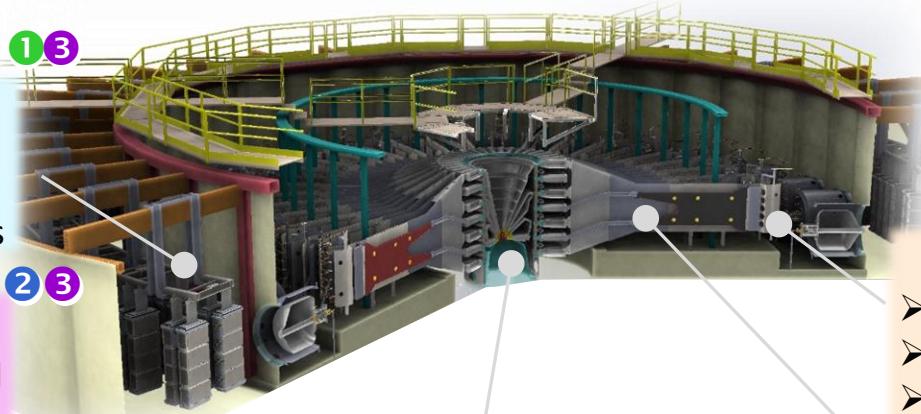
# Saturn Recapitalization Project: ~\$50M NNSA Investment



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- ① Provide Consistent Radiation Output  
Radiation output to ~ 10% shot-to-shot variation
- ② Increase Facility Shot Rate  
Enable consistent execution of one shot per 10-hour workday.
- ③ Reduce Time Needed for Facility Upkeep  
Enable routine evaluation of machine performance.



## Energy Storage Section:

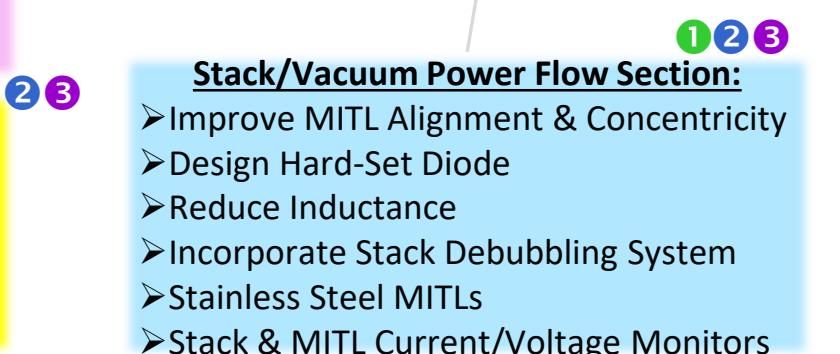
- Upgrade MTGs
- Laser Trigger MTGs
- Z-Based Operational & Safety Features

## Technical Utility Systems:

- Improve Water/Oil Fill & Drain Control
- Stainless Steel DI Water Piping
- SF6-Based Components Gas Isolation
- 24 VDC Water/Oil Actuators, Controls

## Facility:

- 8-Ton Crane
- MITL Fixtures Improvements
- Dry Compressed Air
- Paint High Bay
- Access Control System Enhancements



## Stack/Vacuum Power Flow Section:

- Improve MITL Alignment & Concentricity
- Design Hard-Set Diode
- Reduce Inductance
- Incorporate Stack Debubbling System
- Stainless Steel MITLs
- Stack & MITL Current/Voltage Monitors

## Pulse Forming Section:

- New Triggered Gas Switch
- Improve Gas Switch Trigger System
- Update Diagnostic Monitors

## Transmission Section:

- Addition of Water Diverters
- Stainless Steel Components
- Improve Connecting Rod Design

## Data Acquisition System:

- Repair/Upgrade Data Ports in Floor
- Fiber Optics Communications Capability
- Stack & MITL Monitors Infrastructure

# A New output Gas Switch is Designed, Tested and Fielded at Saturn



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## Designed by M. Savage

Tolerate >2.6 MV before closure

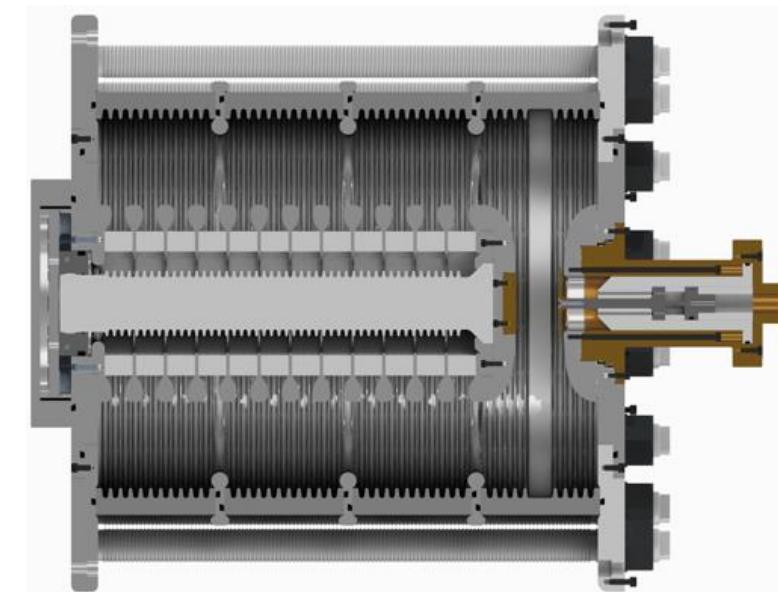
Electrically triggered with a ~80 kV forward wave in high voltage cable



New optical diagnostic  
for timing fiducial



## New Saturn Switch



- Improve jitter to ~ 4ns
- Reduced pre-fire rate
- Maintenance lifetime of ~200 shots
- Retain electrical triggering for simplicity, with option to laser-trigger if needed

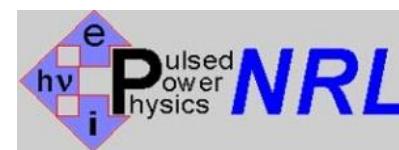
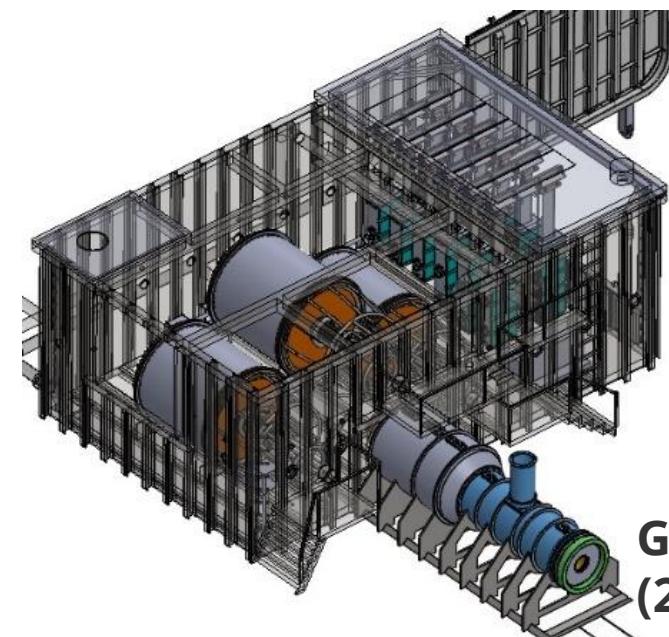
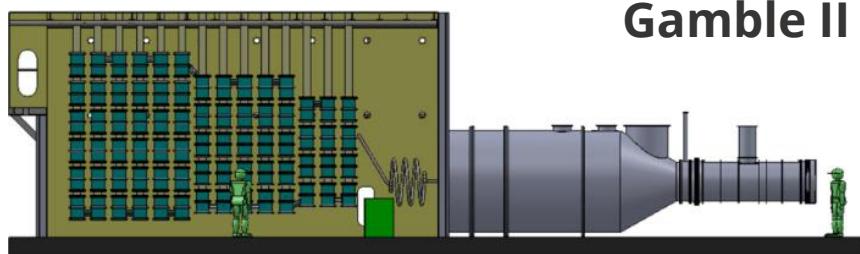
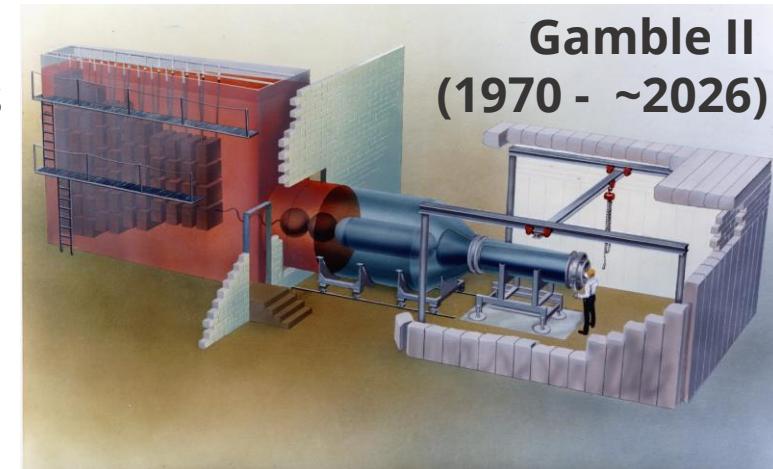
C. Grabowski et. al. "Characterization of a New 3-MV Gas Switch for Saturn", Pulsed Power Conf. 2021

B. Ulmen et. al. "Optical measurement of the new Saturn gas switch as a timing fiducial", Pulsed Power Conf. 2021

# Naval Research Labs' Gamble III Accelerator



- Sandia Z machine Marx technology and output line enhancements significantly reduce the footprint and increases reliability.
- Increased current will allow Gamble III to produce higher fluence, enabling testing of larger, 3D test objects
- Design provides more efficient operations and maintenance to further reduce downtime and shot-to-shot turnaround times



**Gamble III**  
**(2026 - ~2056)**

Reduced  
footprint

**Increased capability, test area, uniformity, and reliability.**

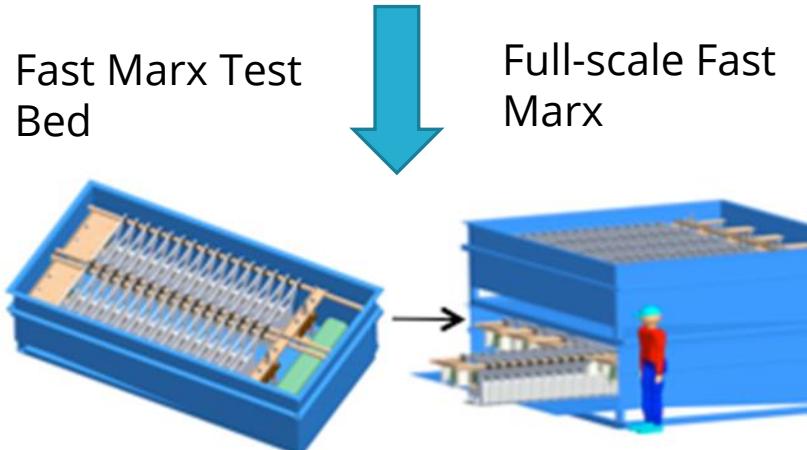
# Exciting New Capability Using Fast Marx Technology: Quad-EAGLE



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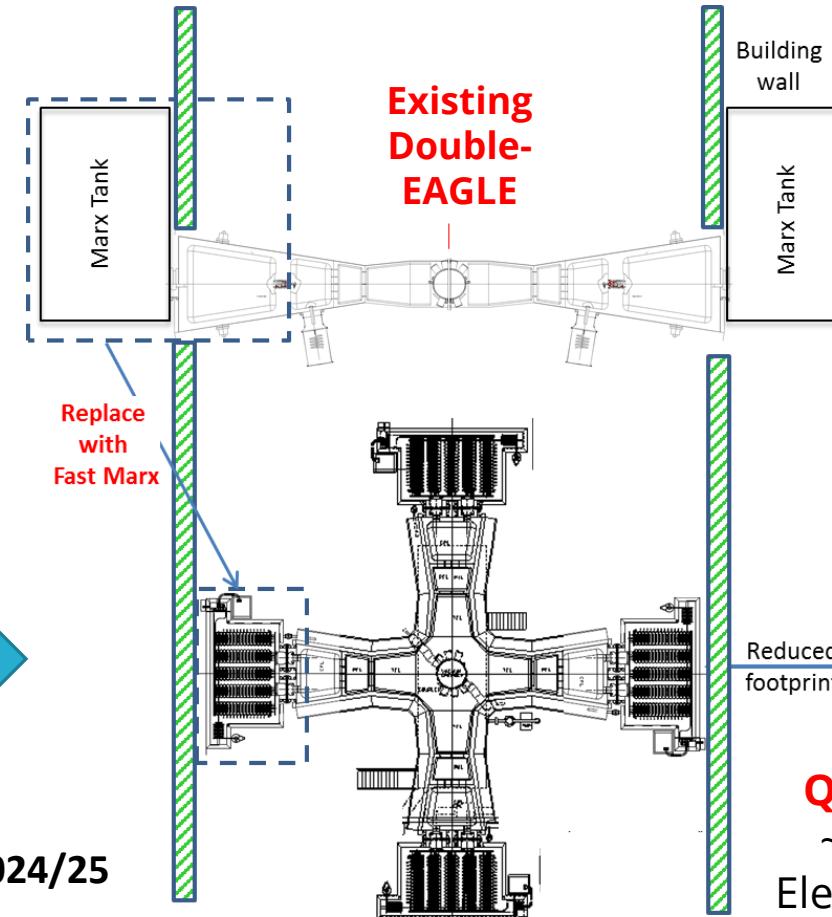
Transfer Fast Marx technology from successful Short Pulse Gamma simulator



- Quad Eagle (QE) will replace Double-EAGLE (DE): Planned for 2024/25
- It will eliminate the use of SF6

Standard Marx banks' inductance slows the discharge time and requires a second stage of energy transfer via an intermediate storage capacitor and triggered output switch.

Because of its low inductance and fast rise-time, the Fast Marx allows for the elimination of the first stage of the pulse forming lines



**L3HARRIS™**

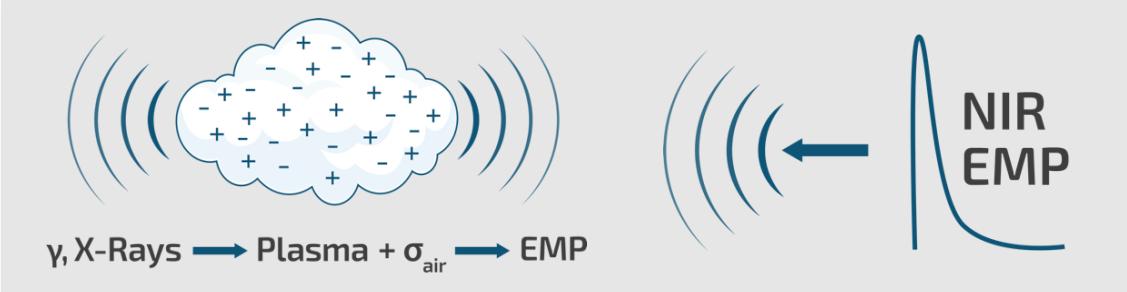
**Quad EAGLE**  
~2x Output  
Electrical Power

# A new Sandia platform for gamma ray & EMP environments by integrating capabilities

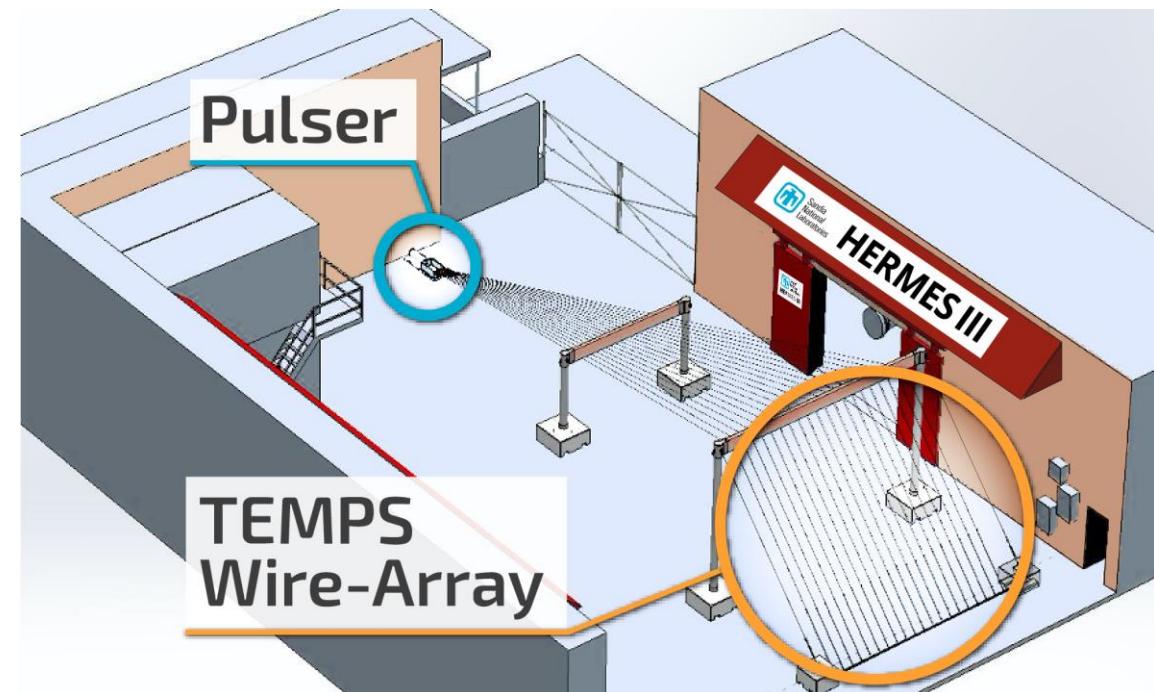
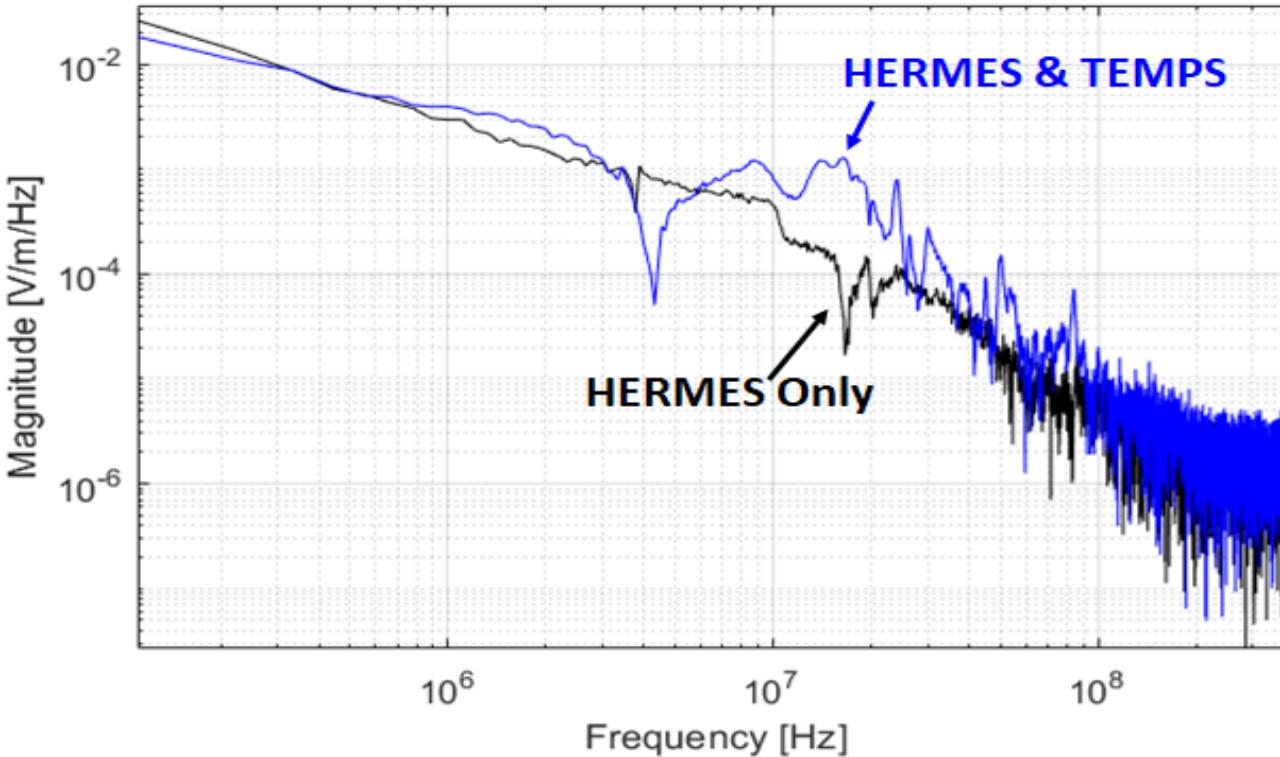


## Challenge:

- Capability to explore electrical system effects using a combined-simultaneous ionizing and non-ionizing environment



HERMES Only cf Combine Center Ez (H60 C58-T120ns After)



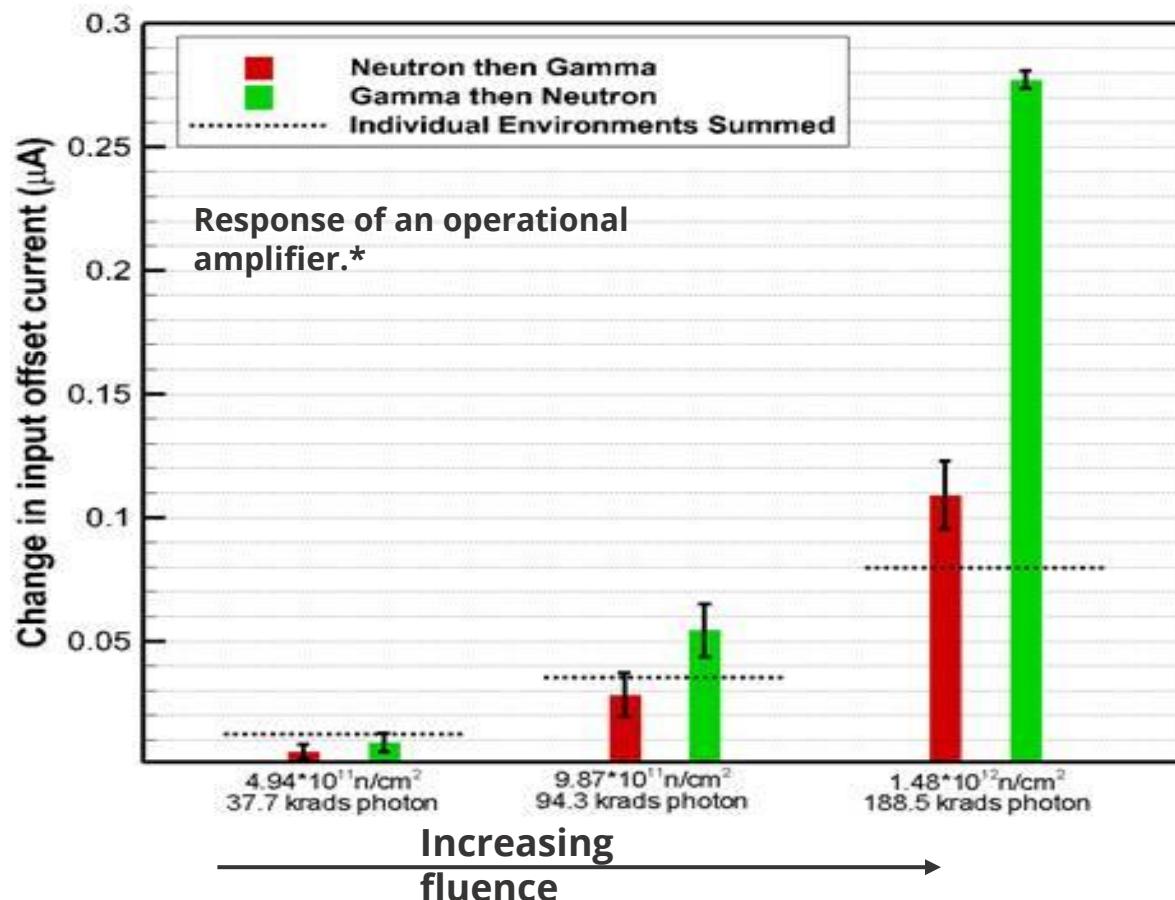
# Looking to the Future: The CREST Facility



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CREST is *Combined Radiation Environments for Survivability Testing*

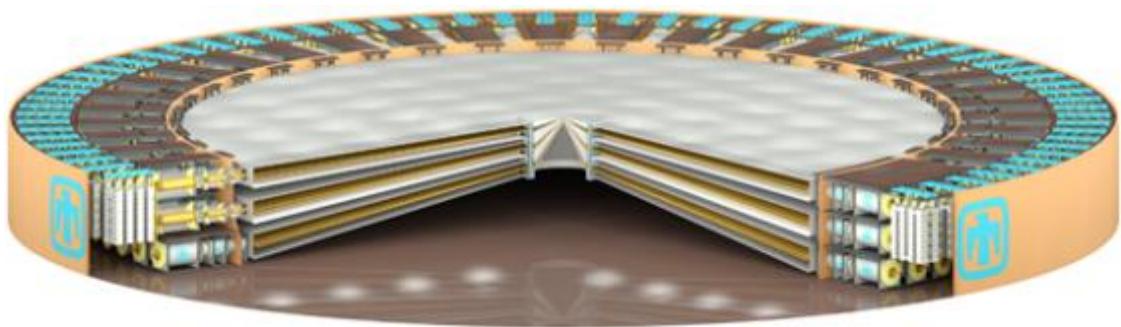
- A new facility for the pulsed neutron Annular Core Research Reactor (ACRR) facility to ensure continued reactor-based research and testing at Sandia
- Add a gamma-ray accelerator to allow study of synergistic effects in combined radiation



Through Critical Decision-0 and Analysis of Alternatives. Preparing for Conceptual Design

# Looking to the Future: A Next Generation Pulsed Power (NGPP) Machine

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## NGPP will:

Be the world's most powerful warm x-ray source  
Support fusion yields up to ~100 MJ  
Provide advanced capability for high energy density physics (e.g., dynamic materials)  
Advance the state-of-the-art for fast pulsed power technology  
Provide a venue for scientific and technical innovation for national security

Parameter	Example NGPP Option	Z
Diameter	300'	108'
Marxes	75 @ 2400 kJ (180 MJ)	36 @ 600 kJ (22 MJ)
Capacitors	13,500 @ 2.95 $\mu$ F	2,160 @ 2.65 $\mu$ F
Power at Stack	600 TW	85 TW
Forward Energy at Stack	54 MJ (short pulse)	6 MJ (short pulse)

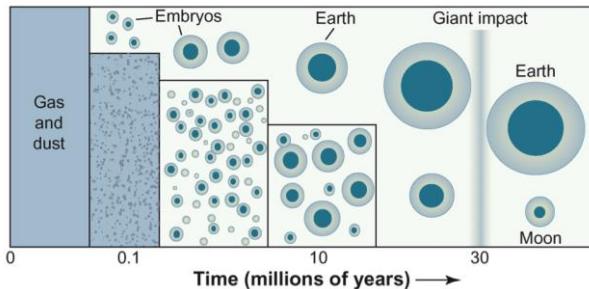
The National Nuclear Security Administration is working with Sandia to define the requirements

# Sandia is looking for additional lab, academic, & industry partnerships going forward

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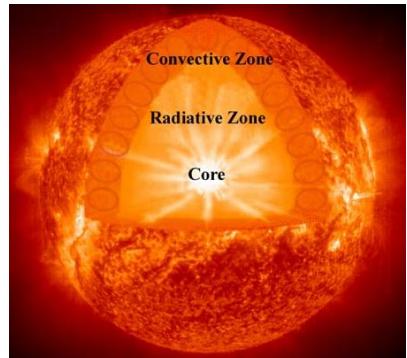


## Z Fundamental Science Program



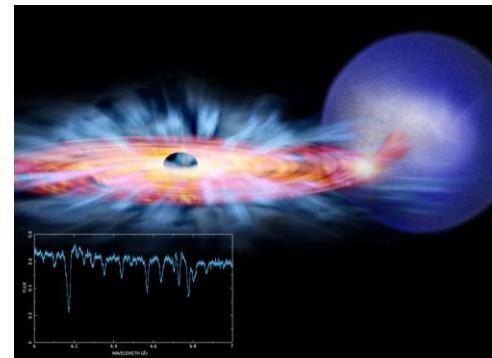
### Earth and super earths

Properties of minerals and metals



### Stellar physics

Fe opacity and H spectra



### Photo-ionized plasmas

Range of ionization param.  $\xi$

## NNSA Laboratory Residency Graduate Fellowship

Students can complete residency projects with us

## Laboratory Research and Development Funding

Radiation, Electrical, and High Energy Density Science Research Foundation (\$9.5M annually)

Assured Survivability and Agility with Pulsed Power (ASAP) Mission Campaign (\$40M FY20-26)

New Maxwell Fellowship opportunity  
(2 awarded in 2022, 1 in 2023)

# Other Avenues for Student Engagement: The Science of Extreme Environments Research and Innovation (SEERI) Internship Program



- Foster the search for future researchers, engineers, and operators in radiation effects, pulsed power, and high energy density sciences
- Students (at all levels) are offered hands-on, flexible, challenging, interesting, and cutting-edge research opportunities
- Technical work supplemented with seminars and facility tours which expose students to the broad range of engineering and scientific disciplines



Contact: Patricia St. John, [plstjoh@sandia.gov](mailto:plstjoh@sandia.gov)

## Some Musings

# My Only Words of Advice



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When the Theory doesn't match the Experiments.....Check the Vacuum!



Controlling the vacuum on SuperSwarf, AWE (2004)

Nothing good can come from a theorist having oversight of pulsed power facilities in the 1-100 TW range.

I'm sure J.C. Martin would concur

# The Berkeley Liberal In Me



“Bryan V. Oliver was born in San Francisco, CA on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1965. Immediately thereafter he was taken across the Bay and raised in Berkeley, where he became environmentally Green and politically Left”



*Biography,  
PhD Dissertation, Nov. '94*

# We need your innovations for SF<sub>6</sub> free pulsed power switching

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***SF<sub>6</sub> is excellent for high voltage switches, but is a potent greenhouse gas (GHG)***

**Every pound of SF<sub>6</sub> is equivalent to ~24,000 lb CO<sub>2</sub>**

SF<sub>6</sub> advantages for switches:

- High breakdown strength
- Chemical stability
- Compatible with materials
- Low jitter
- Compatible with laser triggering
- Well known, existing infrastructure

*SF<sub>6</sub> emissions from the Z, HERMES & Saturn facilities result in ~30% of total GHG emissions for the Sandia New Mexico site!*

Executive Order 14057 requires a 65% reduction in federal facilities' greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, net zero by 2050

Next generation pulsed power needs Marx, laser triggered and self break switches with:

- High reliability and low maintenance  
Potential for ~ 100,000 switches at 100keV, dependent on architecture
- High voltage (~ 5-10 MeV)
- Low jitter (< 5 ns)

**The challenge! Provide it all without using SF<sub>6</sub>**



Thank you PPS&T Committee for the recognition! It is an honor to be listed amongst the previous winners for which I have great respect and admiration.

*I encourage all of us to continue to recognize the accomplishments of our peers. And, to pursue the advocacy for and the recognition of individuals that represent the diverse population of the PPS&T community.*

*We are stronger when we:*

*Appreciate all members of our community  
Minimize bias and maximize acceptance  
Are equitable in our reward and recognition*

## Thank You!

### Past Haas Award Winners

- 1987 Magne "Kris" Kristiansen
- 1989 Arthur H. Guenther
- 1991 Gerold Yonas
- 1993 Alan C. Kolb
- 1995 Bernard H. Bernstein
- 1997 William L. Baker
- 1999 Gerald Cooperstein
- 2001 Dillon H. McDaniel
- 2003 Hidenori Akiyama
- 2005 Robert Reinovsky
- 2007 Karl H. Schoenbach
- 2009 John E. Maenchen
- 2011 Roger White
- 2013 Scott J. MacGregor
- 2015 Edl Schamiloglu
- 2017 Ron Gilgenbach
- 2019 Thomas Mehlhorn
- 2021 Andreas Neuber