

(Microreactor Applications Research, Validation & EvaLuation),  
June 2023

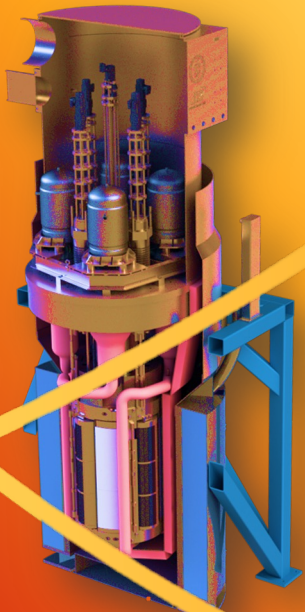
# MARVEL

## Project Update: Final Engineering & Construction

Yasir Arafat

MARVEL Chief Designer & Project Lead

Idaho National Laboratory, USA



# the global challenge

legend



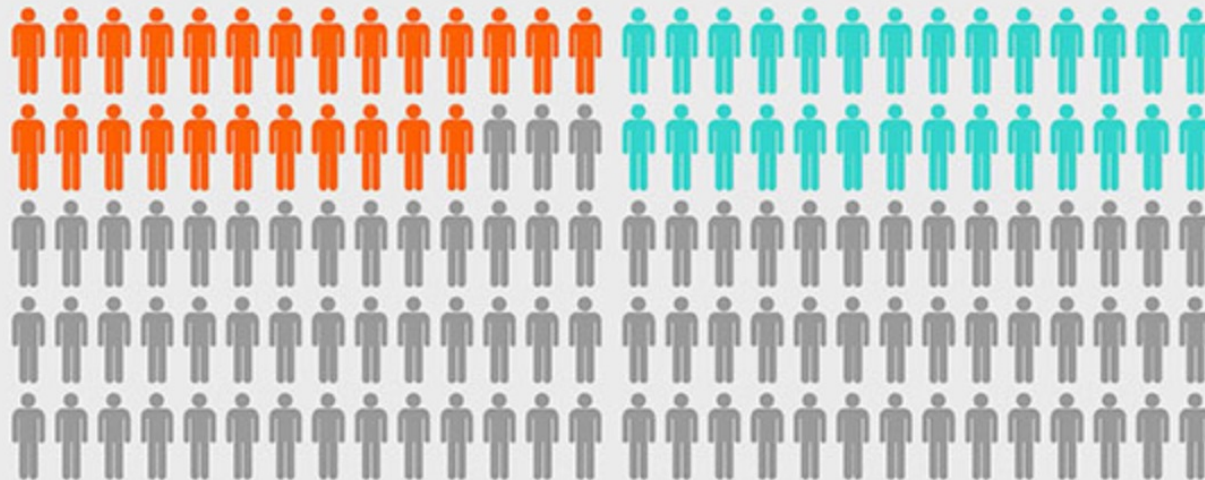
of the  
**7 Billion** people  
on Earth today,

**2.5 Billion**  
have unreliable or  
no access to electricity

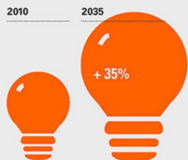
Source: EIA, 2012

**2.8 Billion**  
live in areas of  
high water stress

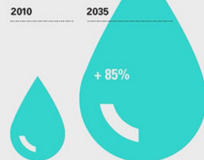
Source: WWAP, 2012



By 2035,  
energy consumption  
will increase by  
**35%**



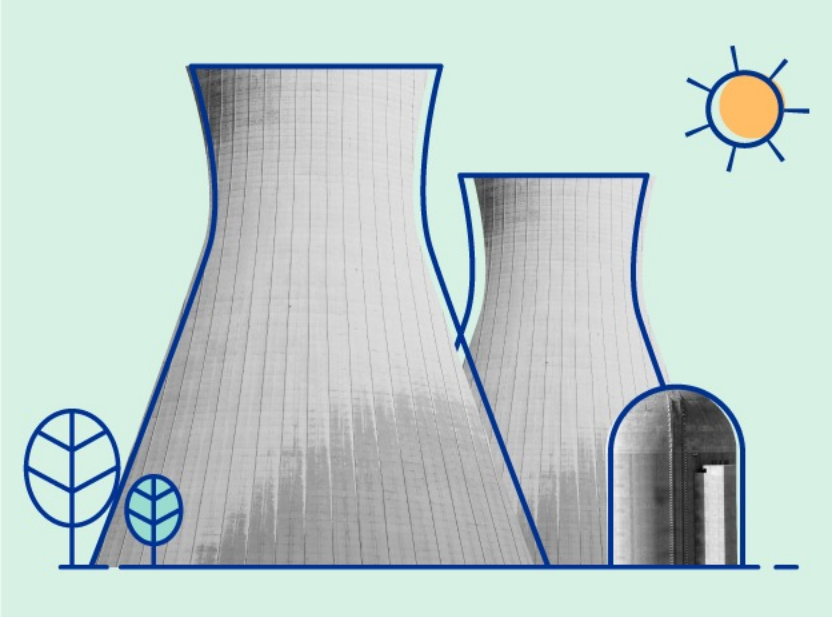
which  
will increase  
water consumption by  
**85%**



increasing pressure on  
finite water resources



**MRP** Microreactor  
Program



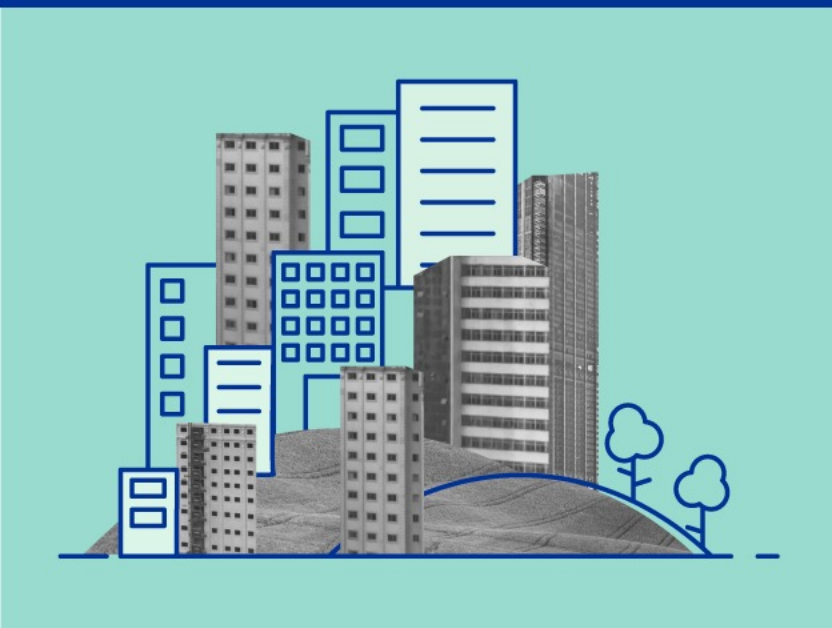
**LARGE, CONVENTIONAL REACTOR**  
700+ MW(e)



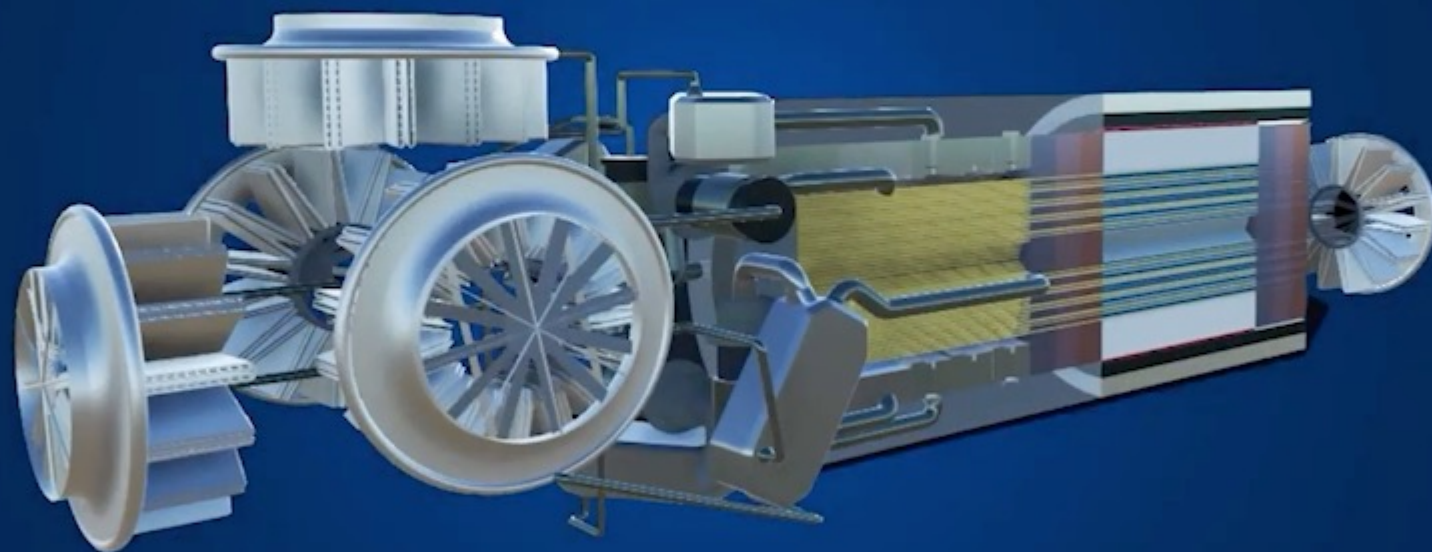
**SMALL MODULAR REACTOR**  
Up to 300 MW(e)



**MICROREACTOR**  
Up to ~10 MW(e)



# MICROREACTORS



SMALL REACTORS, **BIG** POTENTIAL

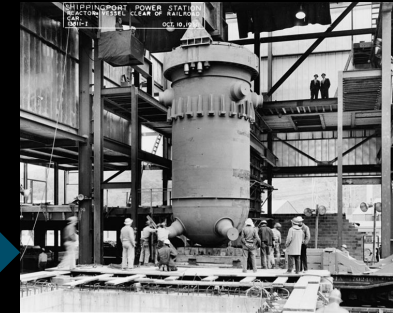




# Impact of INL's work on Nuclear Industry



Commercial



LWR

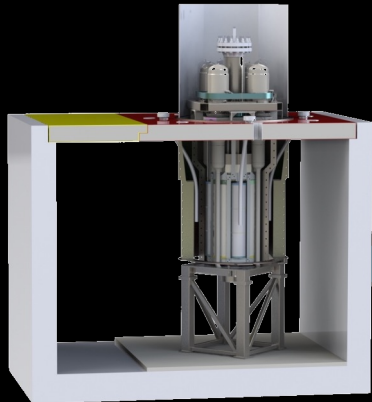
1951

1953

1954

1957

1960



Commercial



Commercial Microreactors

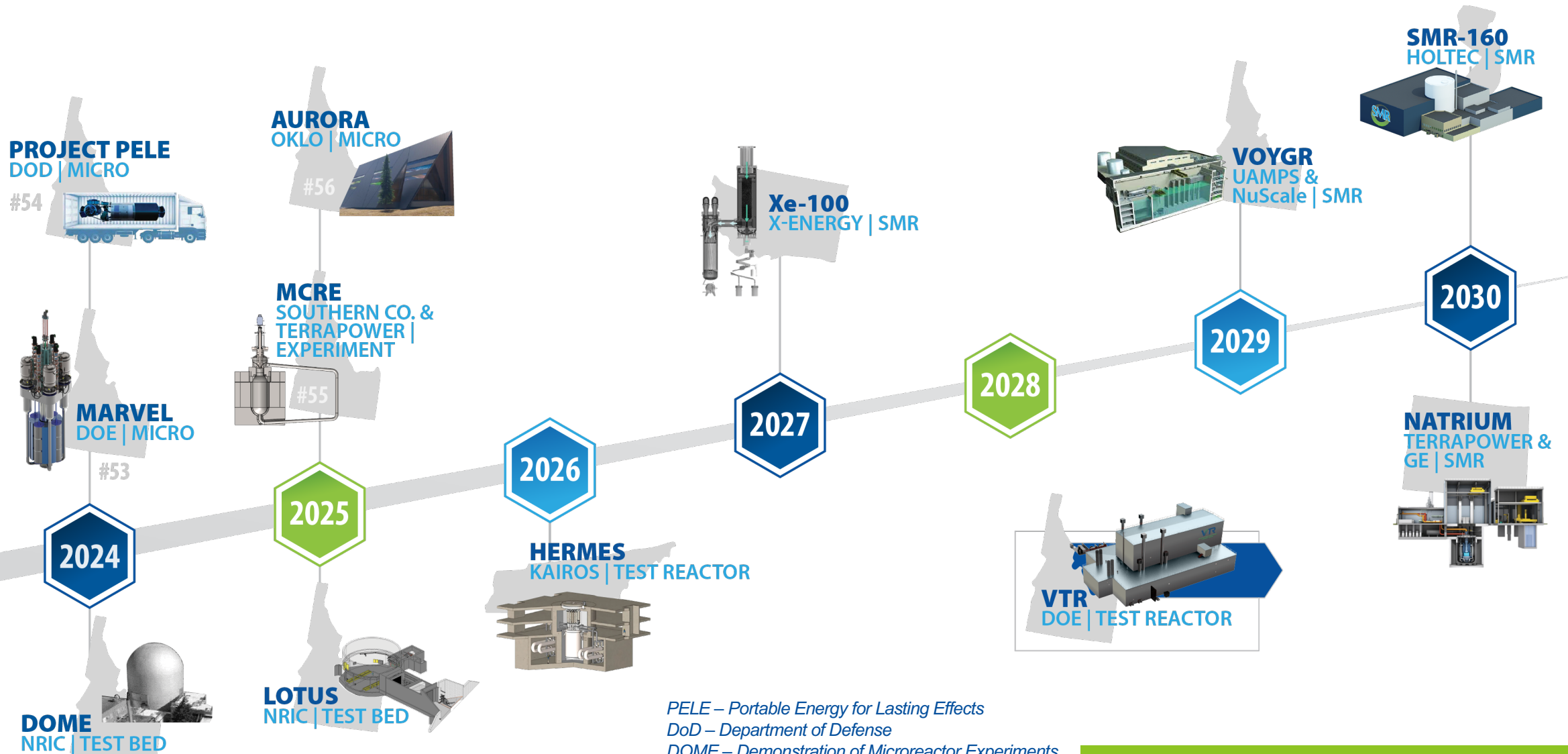
Microreactor

2023

2024

2025+

# Accelerating Advanced Reactor Demonstration & Deployment



PELE – Portable Energy for Lasting Effects  
 DoD – Department of Defense  
 DOME – Demonstration of Microreactor Experiments  
 NRIC – National Reactor Innovation Center  
 LOTUS – Laboratory for Operating and Testing in the U.



# MARVEL Can Enable a New Class of Nuclear Reactors

Project Goal: Build a Test Microreactor ASAP

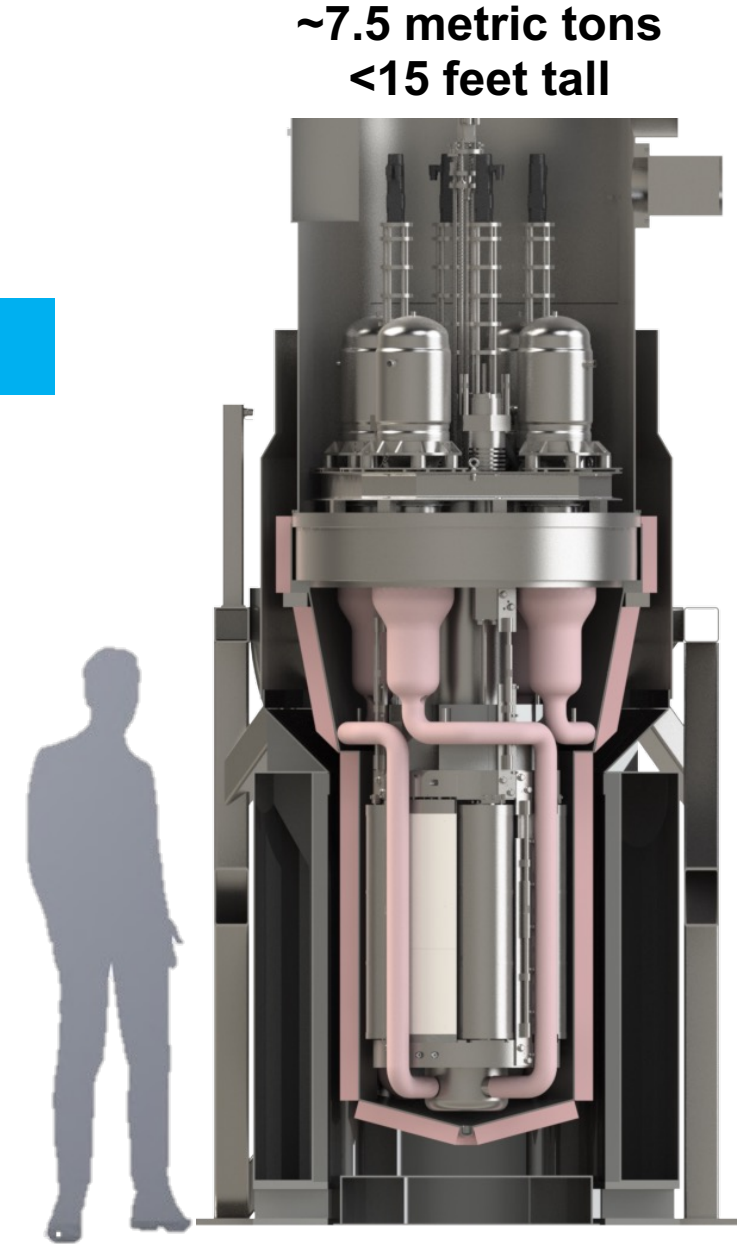


DOE Idaho  
Operations Office



Office of  
NUCLEAR ENERGY

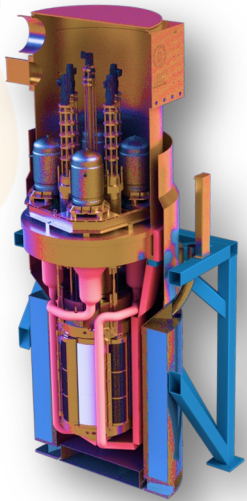
Key Design Features	
Thermal Power	100 kW (85kW nominal)
Electrical Power	~20 kWe (QB80 Stirling Engines)
Primary Coolant	NaK eutectic
Fuel	HALEU-(UZrH), 304SS clad
Moderator	Hydrogen
Primary Coolant Boundary	SS316H



~7.5 metric tons  
<15 feet tall



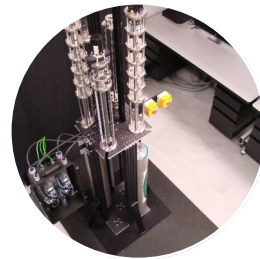
# MARVEL Value Statement for Developers



“With many companies working on microreactor concepts behind closed doors, I see unique value in having a system that can be shared and discussed across teams”



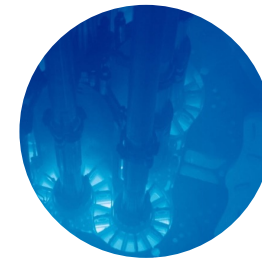
Fuel



Reactor Controls



NEPA

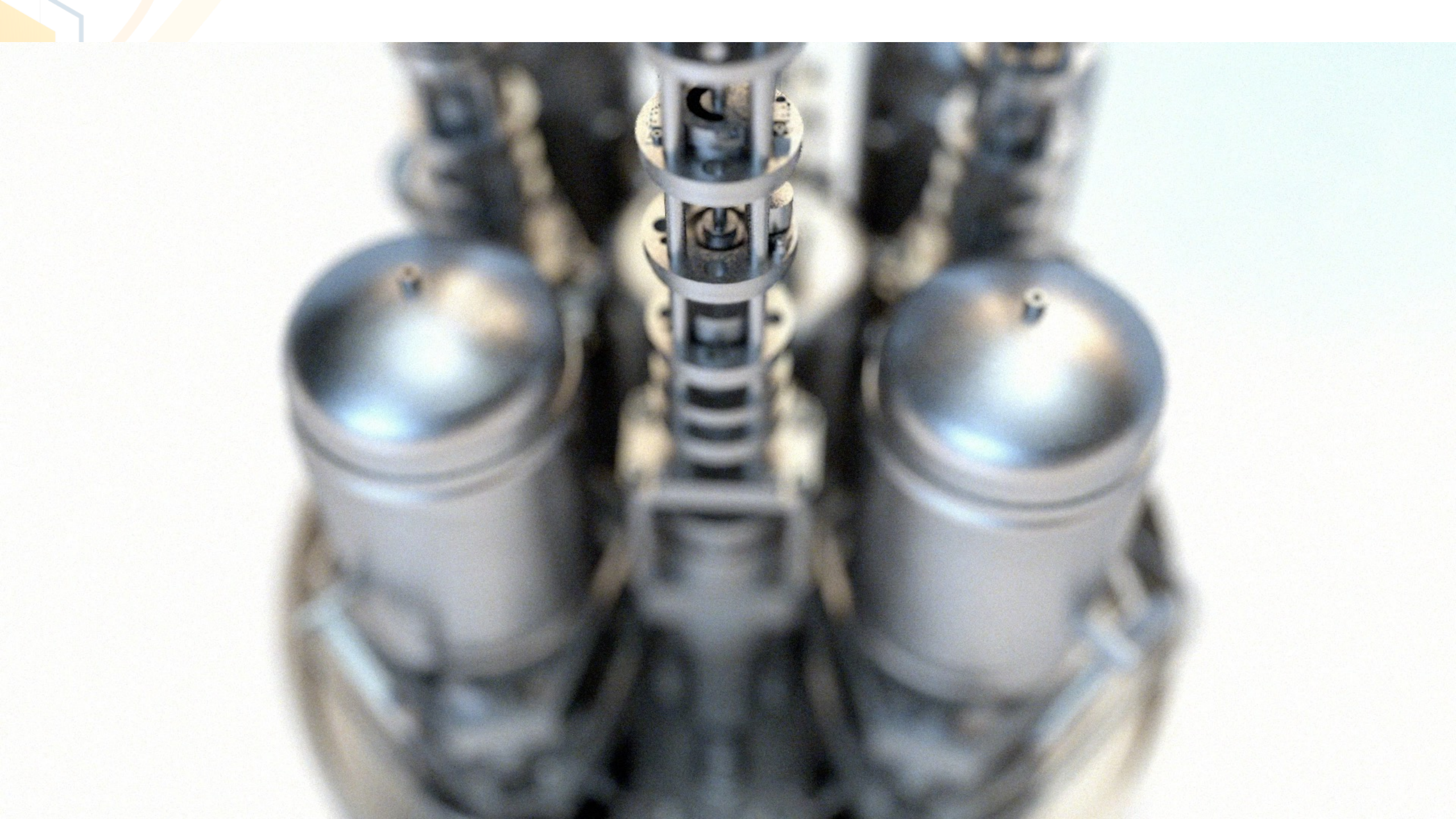


Fuel Loading

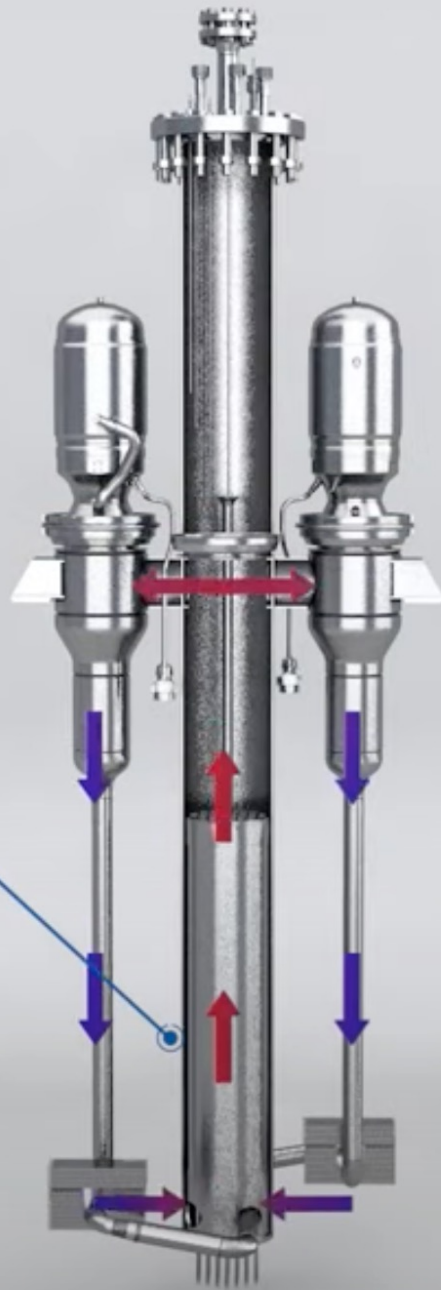


Power Conversion



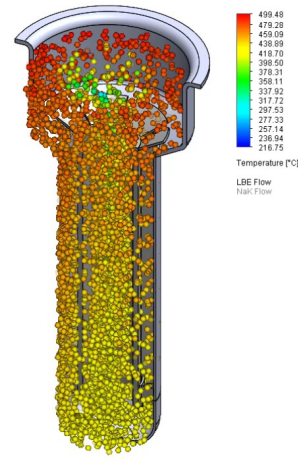
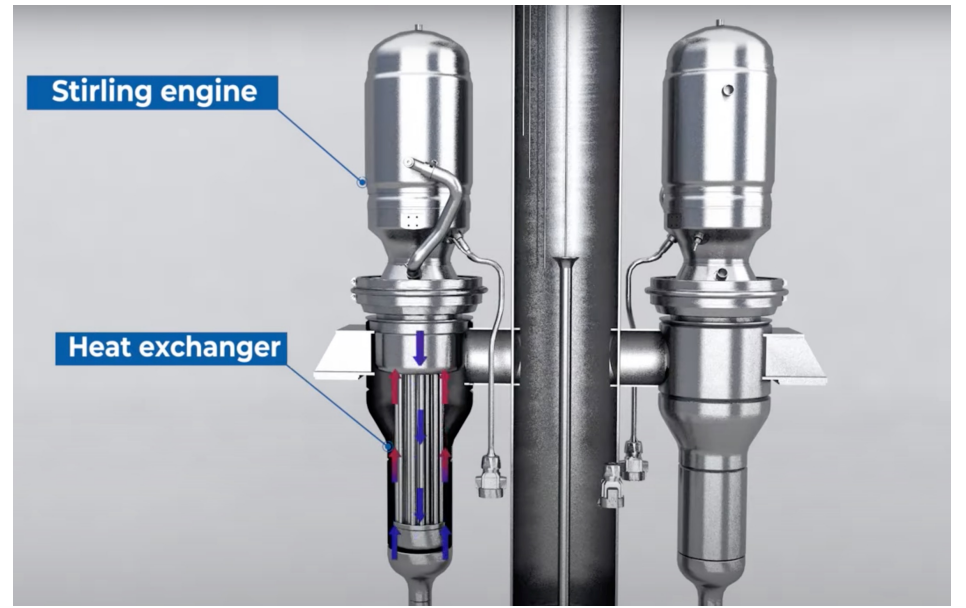


**Convection loop**

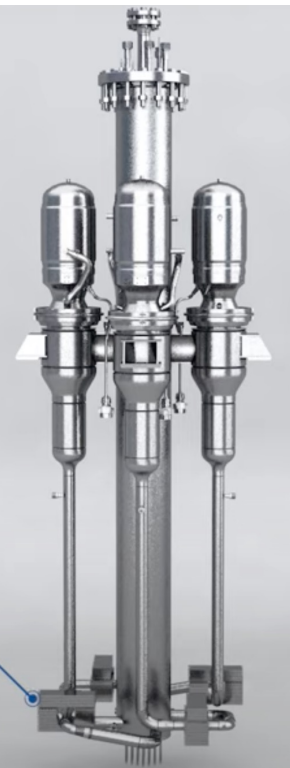


**Stirling engine**

**Heat exchanger**

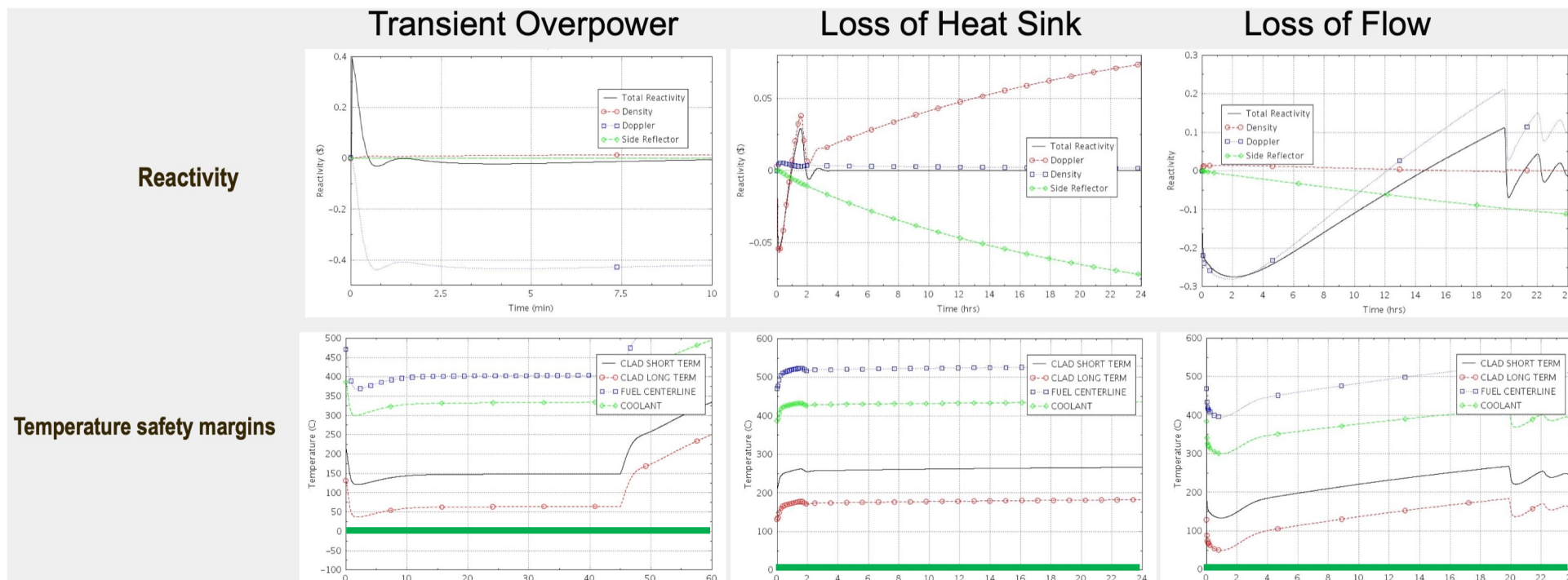
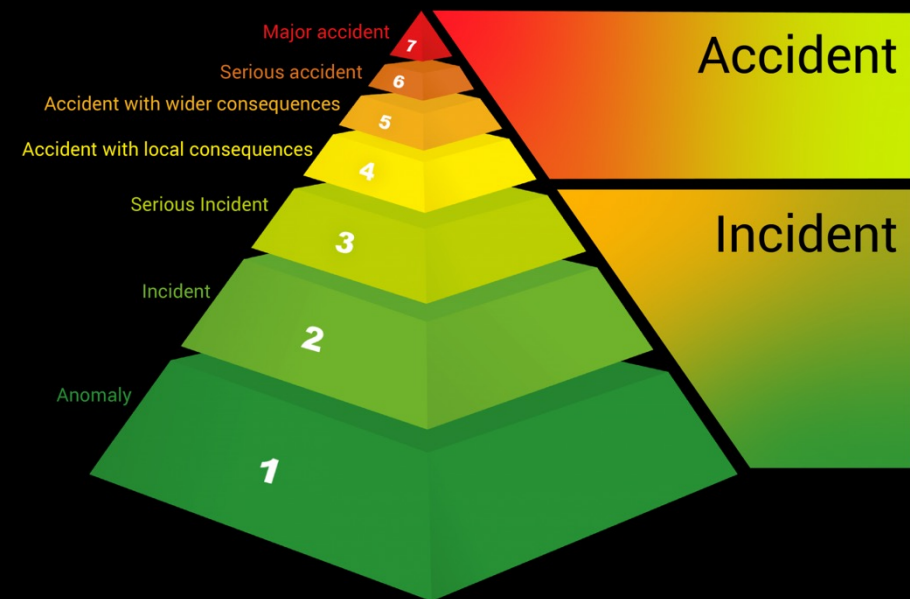


**Electromagnetic meter**



# Unparalleled Safety

- No safety concerns
- Even in the worst case, extremely unlikely cases



# Rickover's Paper Reactor vs Practical Reactor

*“An **academic reactor** or reactor plant almost always has the following characteristics: (1) It is simple. (2) It is small. (3) It is cheap. (4) It is light. (5) It can be built very quickly. (6) It is very flexible in purpose (“omnibus reactor”). (7) Very little development is required. It will use mostly “off-the-shelf” components. (8) The reactor is in the study phase. It is not being built now.*

*On the other hand, a **practical reactor** plant can be distinguished by the following characteristics: (1) It is being built now. (2) It is behind schedule. (3) It is requiring an immense amount of development on apparently trivial items. Corrosion, in particular, is a problem. (4) It is very expensive. (5) It takes a long time to build because of the engineering development problems. (6) It is large. (7) It is heavy. (8) It is complicated.”*

--Hyman Rickover, 1953

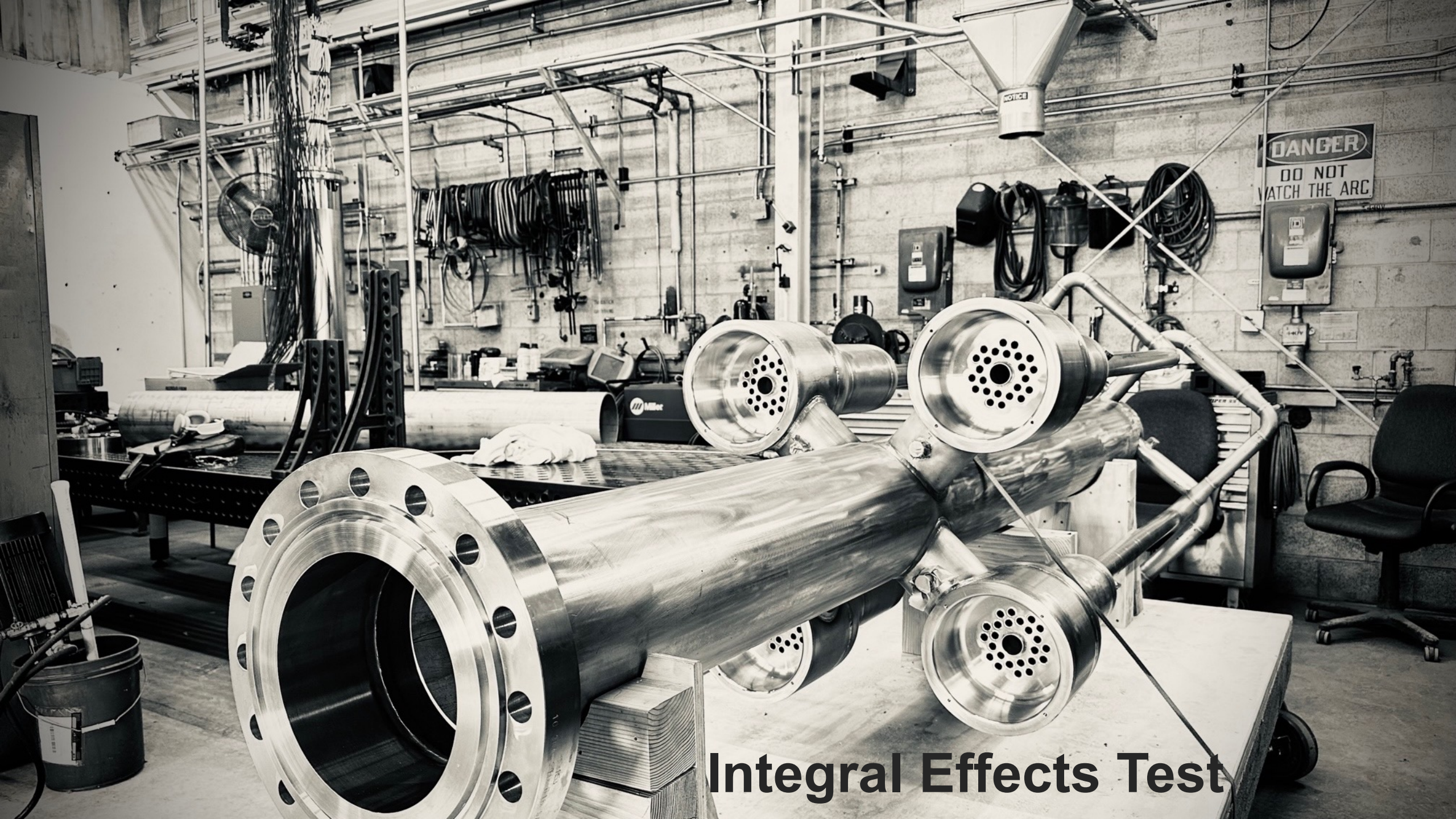
“The Father of the Nuclear Navy”



# Multiple Separate Effects Tests for Rapid Learning

1. Stirling Engine Operation and Control
2. Fuel Pin Fabrication and Assembly
3. Control Drum Actuator functionality- V1
4. Intermediate Heat Exchanger Test using PbBi
5. Reactivity Control Cabinet Prototype-
6. Control Drum Actuator functionality- V2
7. Reactivity Control system Qualification Test Rig
8. Central Insurance Absorber actuator
9. Neutron Detector circuit test at TREAT
10. MARVEL HMI and Simulator
11. Mixed Reality Control Room MVP
12. Alkali Metal Flow Meter Calibration





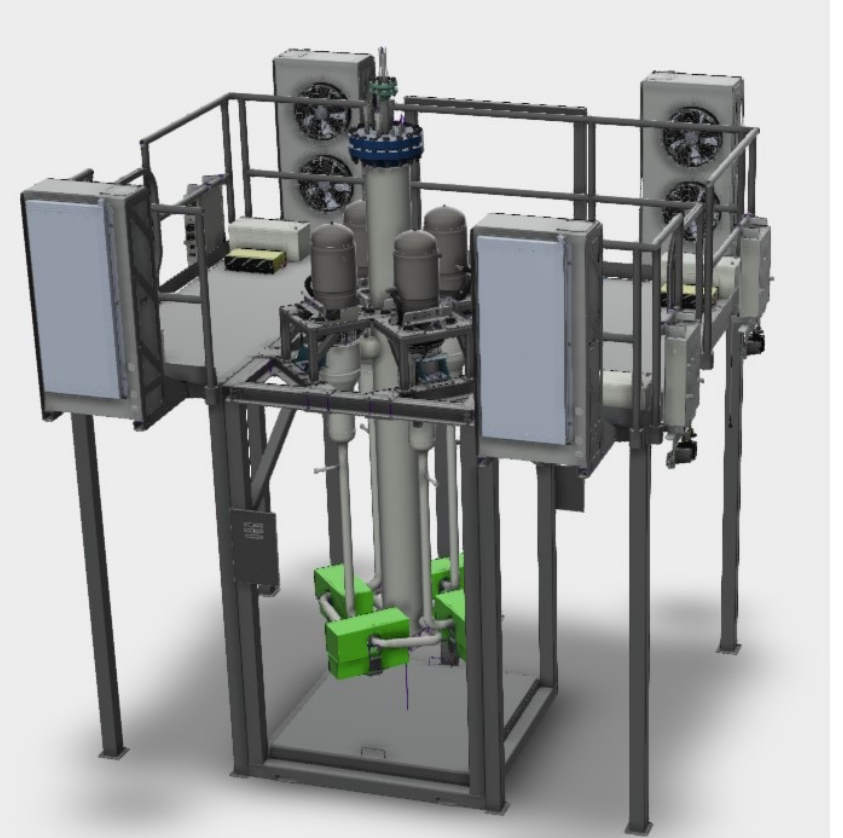
**DANGER**  
DO NOT  
WATCH THE ARC

**Integral Effects Test**

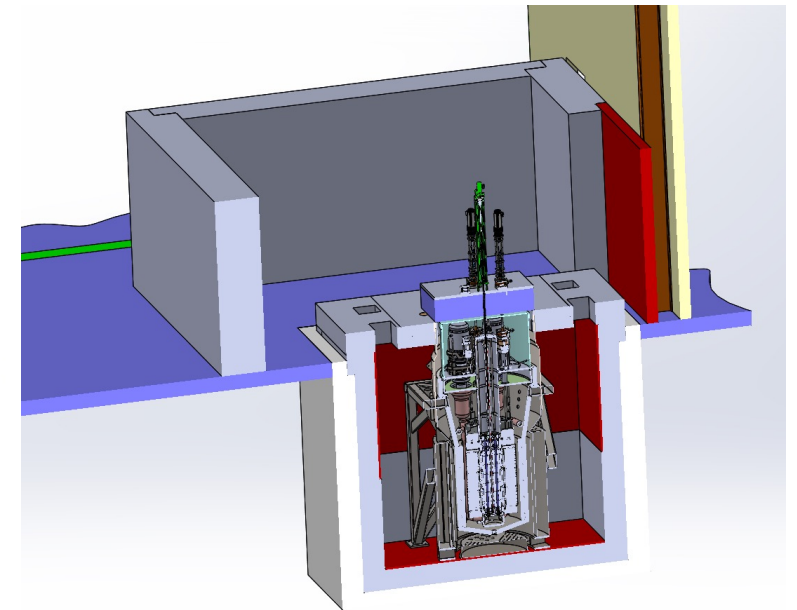
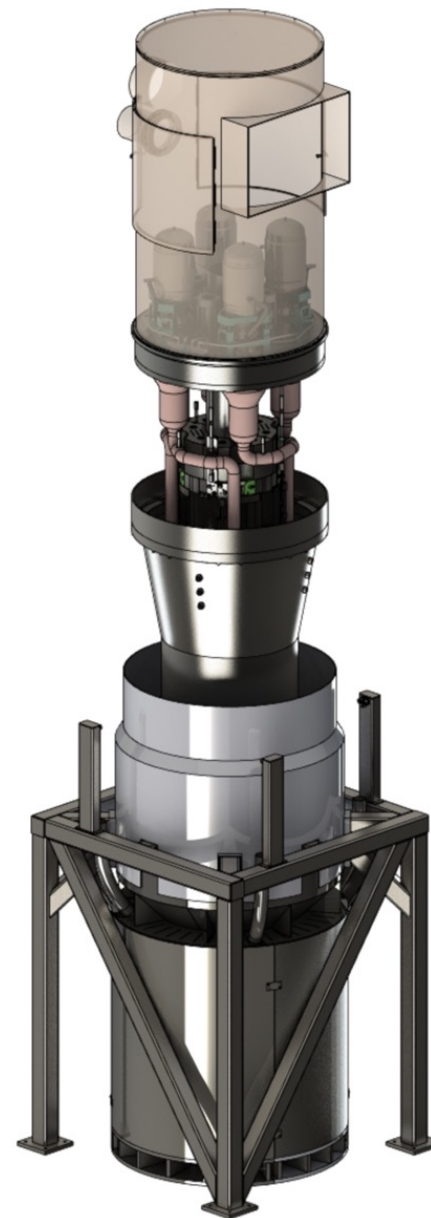
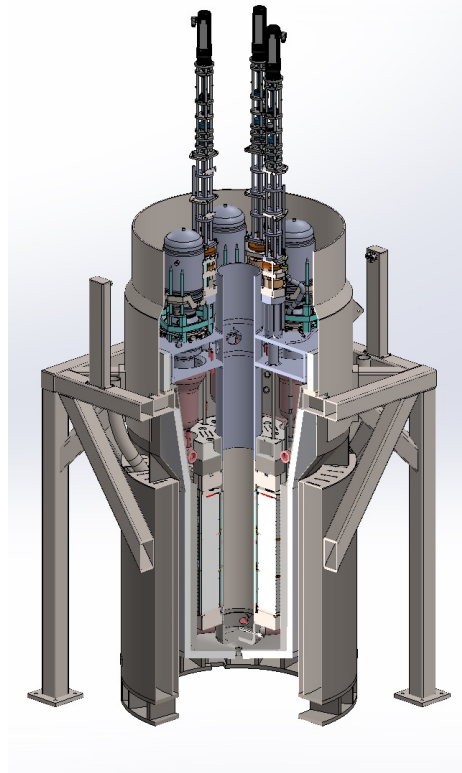
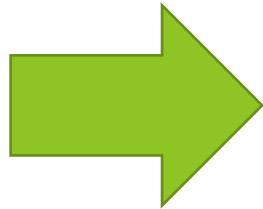
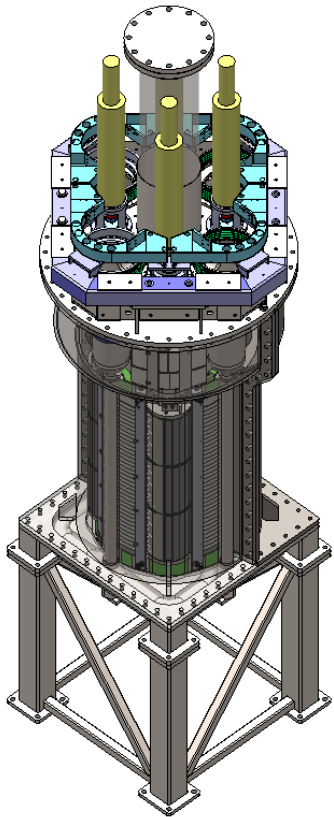


# Integral Effects Test: Support structure fabrication

- Fabricated PCAT platform, handrails, ladders, removable PCAT stand, containment pan, and engine mounts
- All 300-series stainless steel construction
- Certified welders w/ sign-offs
- Received electrical panels, Stirling engines, other equipment in June 2022
- Received PCAT in April 2023 (dedicated, custom skid); mounted PCAT in frame 2 weeks later

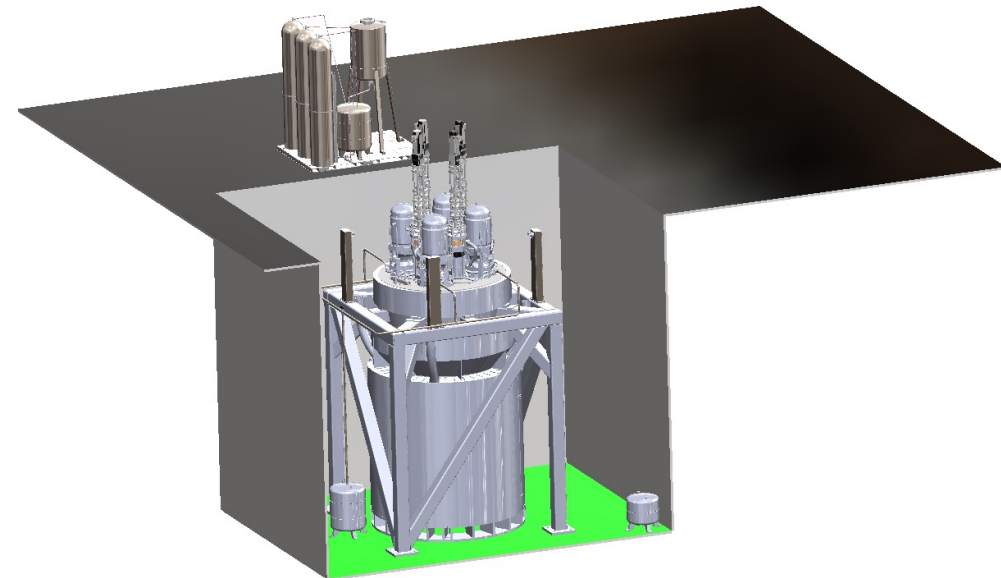
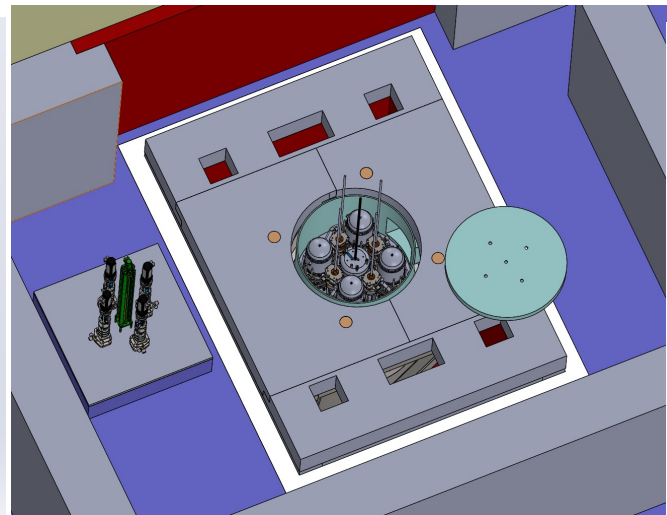
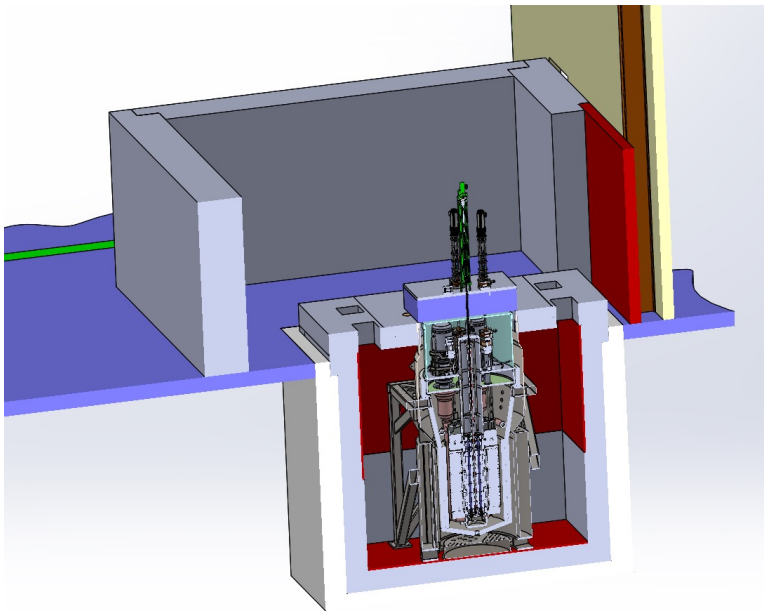
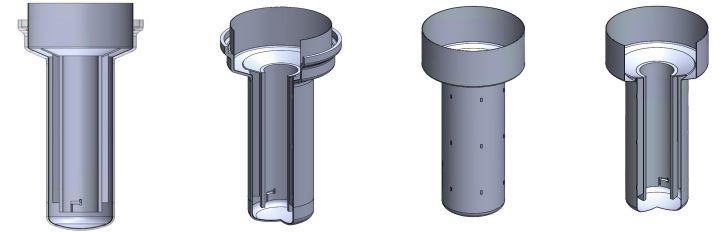
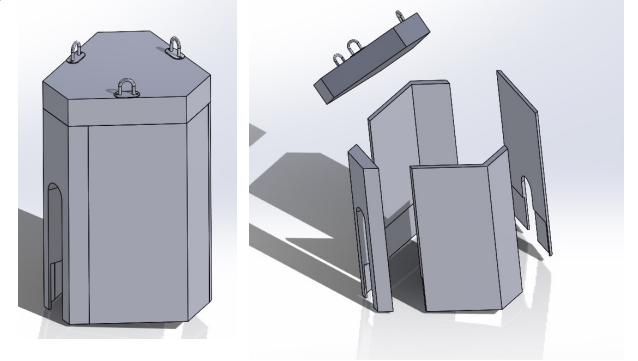


# Design Evolution (last 18 months)



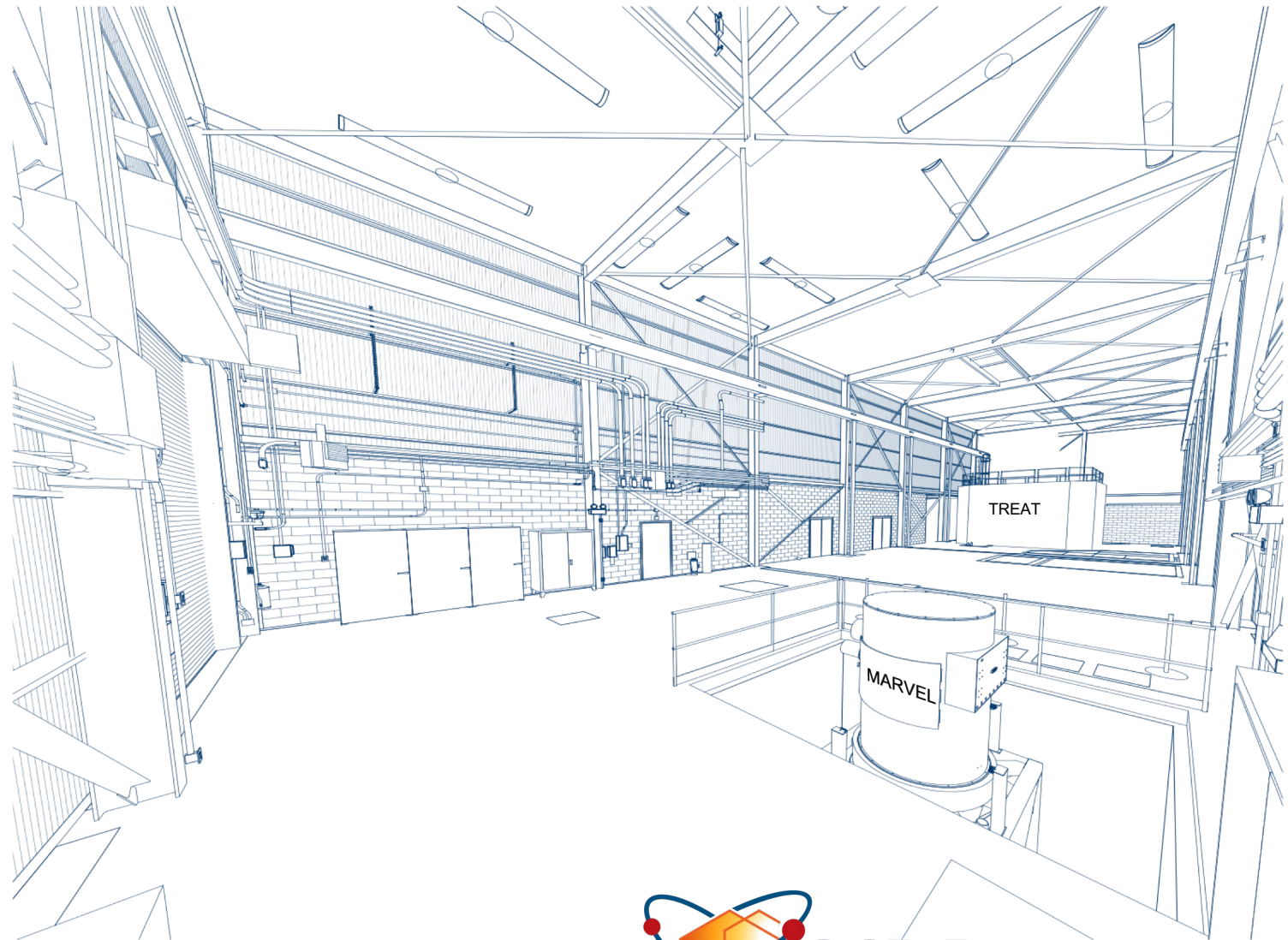
# Active Design Activities for Final Design

- Shielding for CD actuators
- Shielding for Stirling engines
- Secondary coolant freeze/thaw



# Initiation of MARVEL Construction Phase

- **Final Design Review (completed)**
  - Live Review- Sept 2022
  - 4-weeks review period
  - 440+ comments received
- **Reconciliation Engineering (ongoing)**
  - Resolutions formulated
  - Engagement of reviewers for concurrence
  - Formal process was established,
- **90% Design Completion, per DOE-STD-1189**
- Release of 260+ documents
  - Phases:  
technical review → independent review →  
comments resolution → signatures → EDMS  
Release → Engineering verification
  - Summer 2023 target
- **Long Lead Procurements**
  - Purchased materials, LLP#1 (completed)
  - Fabrication Start, LLP#2 (initiated)

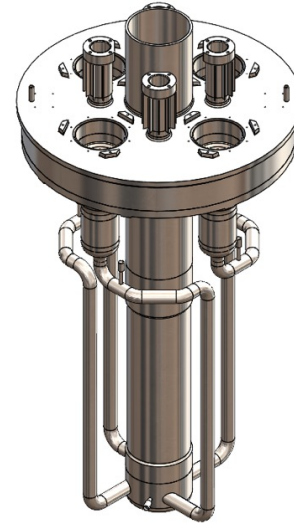


**MRP** Microreactor  
Program

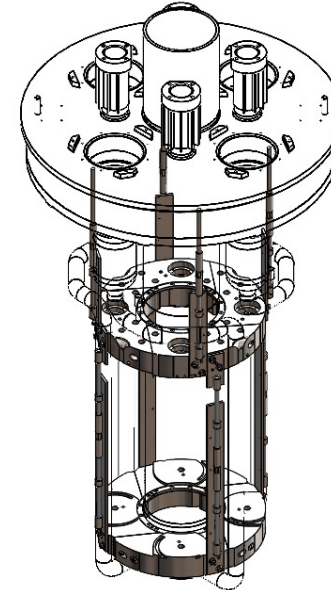
# Long Lead Procurement Approvals from DOE

- **Long Lead Procurement # 1,2**
  - DOE-ID approval was received on April 26<sup>th</sup>
  - DOE-HQ concurrence on fab start
  - We have stamped and released drawings to fabricator.
  - Fabricator performed materials inspection to kick start “cutting metal”

Primary Coolant Boundary



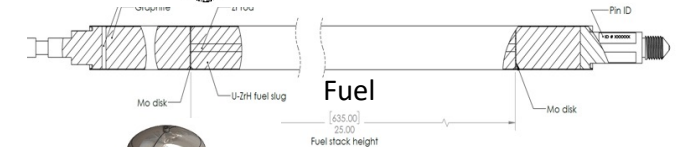
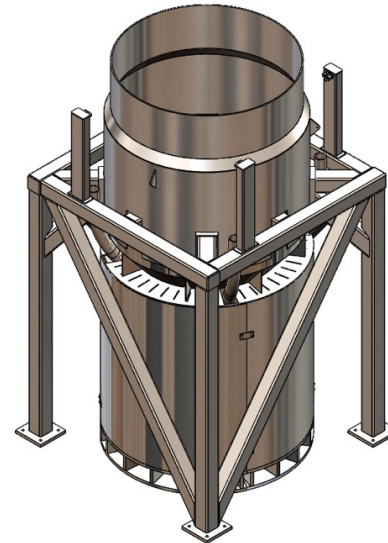
Reactor Support Structure



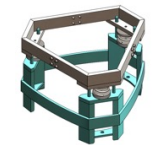
Guard Vessel



Reactor Support Frame



Stirling Engine



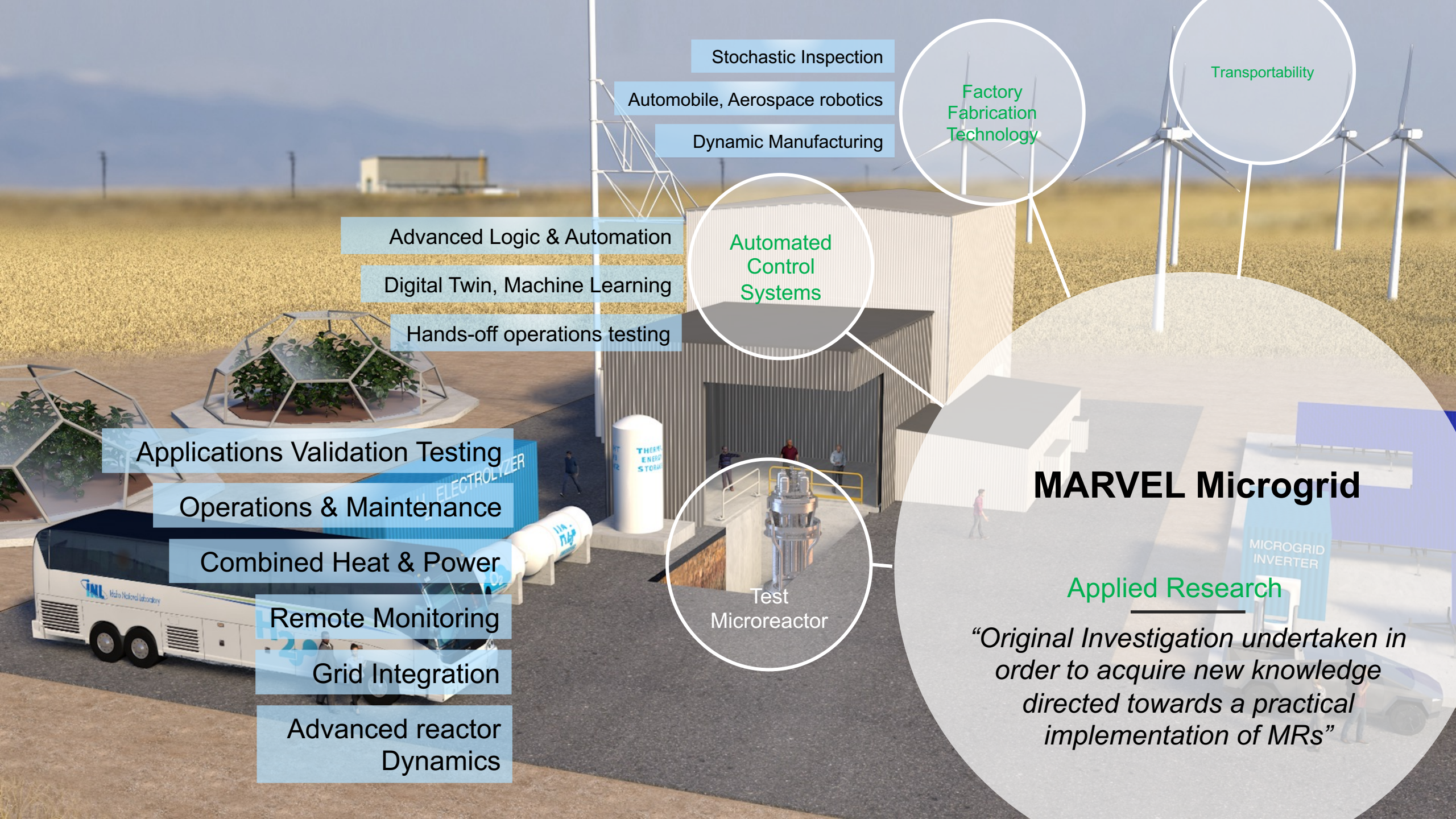
Secondary Support Structure



**MARVEL plans to:  
Complete Construction by Summer 2024  
load fuel by end of 2024**



MARVEL



Stochastic Inspection

Automobile, Aerospace robotics

Dynamic Manufacturing

Factory  
Fabrication  
Technology

Transportability

Advanced Logic & Automation

Digital Twin, Machine Learning

Hands-off operations testing

Automated  
Control  
Systems

Applications Validation Testing

Operations & Maintenance

Combined Heat & Power

Remote Monitoring

Grid Integration

Advanced reactor  
Dynamics

Test  
Microreactor

## MARVEL Microgrid

Applied Research

*“Original Investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge directed towards a practical implementation of MRs”*



*"Small but Mighty: Unlocking a New Era  
of Energy with Microreactors"*

*- ChatGPT*

**Thank You**