

We put science to work.™



**Savannah River  
National Laboratory™**

OPERATED BY SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

# Starting a National Initiative in Chemical Engineering – The RAPID Manufacturing Institute

Bond Calloway

AIChE President

Associate Laboratory Director

Savannah River National Laboratory

# SRNL Today: Multi-Program National Laboratory



## Clean Energy

- Nuclear Fuel Cycle R&D
- Renewable Energy Research
- Grid Research
- Commercial Cyber Security
- Process Intensification
- Smart Manufacturing



## National Security

- Nuclear Defense
- Tritium Technology
- Homeland Security
- Nonproliferation
- Nuclear Forensics



## Environmental Stewardship

- Waste Treatment
- Materials Stabilization and Disposition
- Remediation and Cleanup
- Assessments and Verification

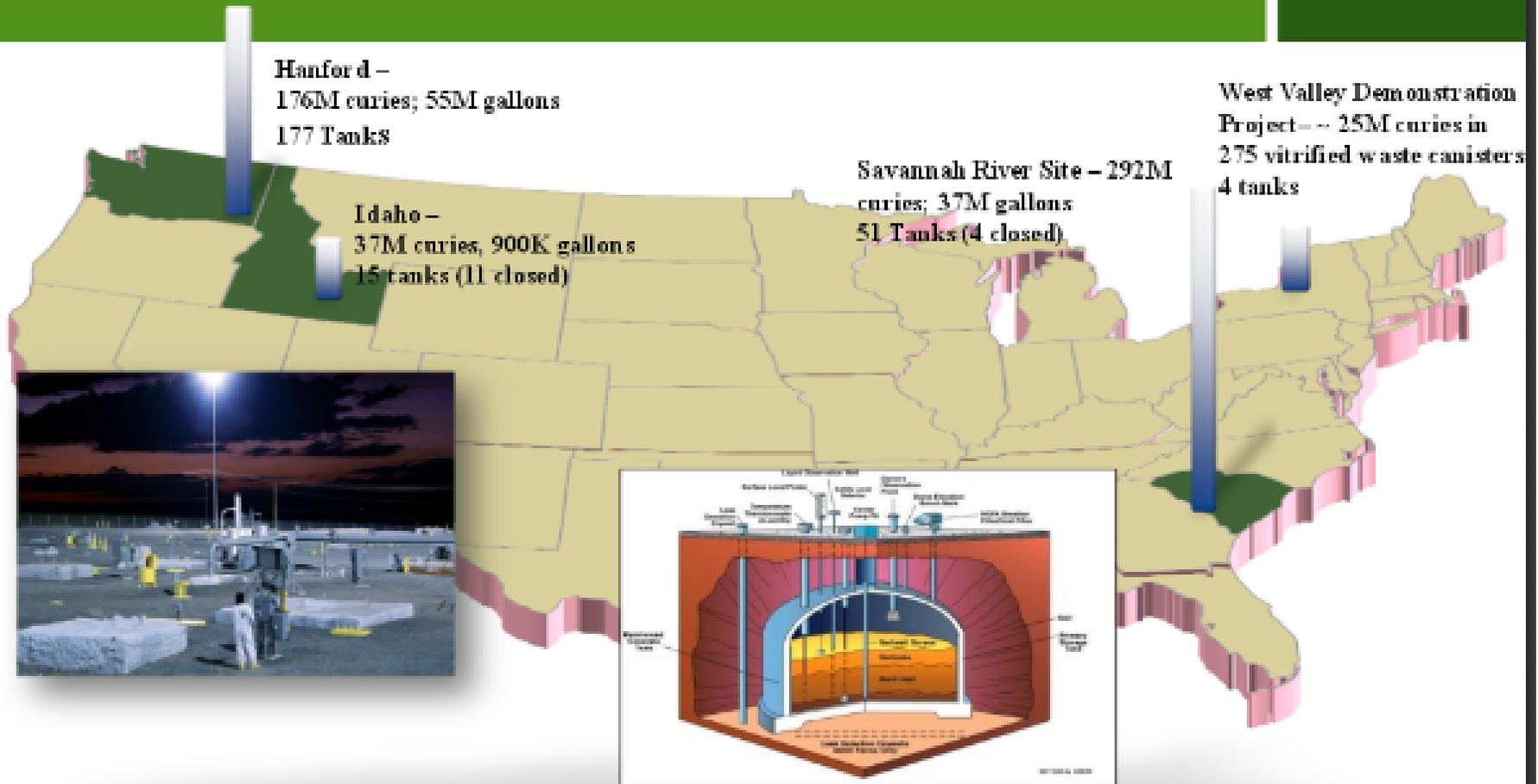


# Mission: Treatment & Disposal of 92 Million Gallons

**Waste Processing: Treatment and Disposal of Radioactive Waste**

**Mission: Treat 92 million gallons (343 million liters)**

**505 million curies of radioactive tank waste ( $7.39 \times 10^{18}$  becquerels)**



Ken Picha, Dec 3, 2013, <http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/TAB%204.1%20Picha%20EMAB%20Presentation.pdf>



# How Much is 92 Million Gallons?



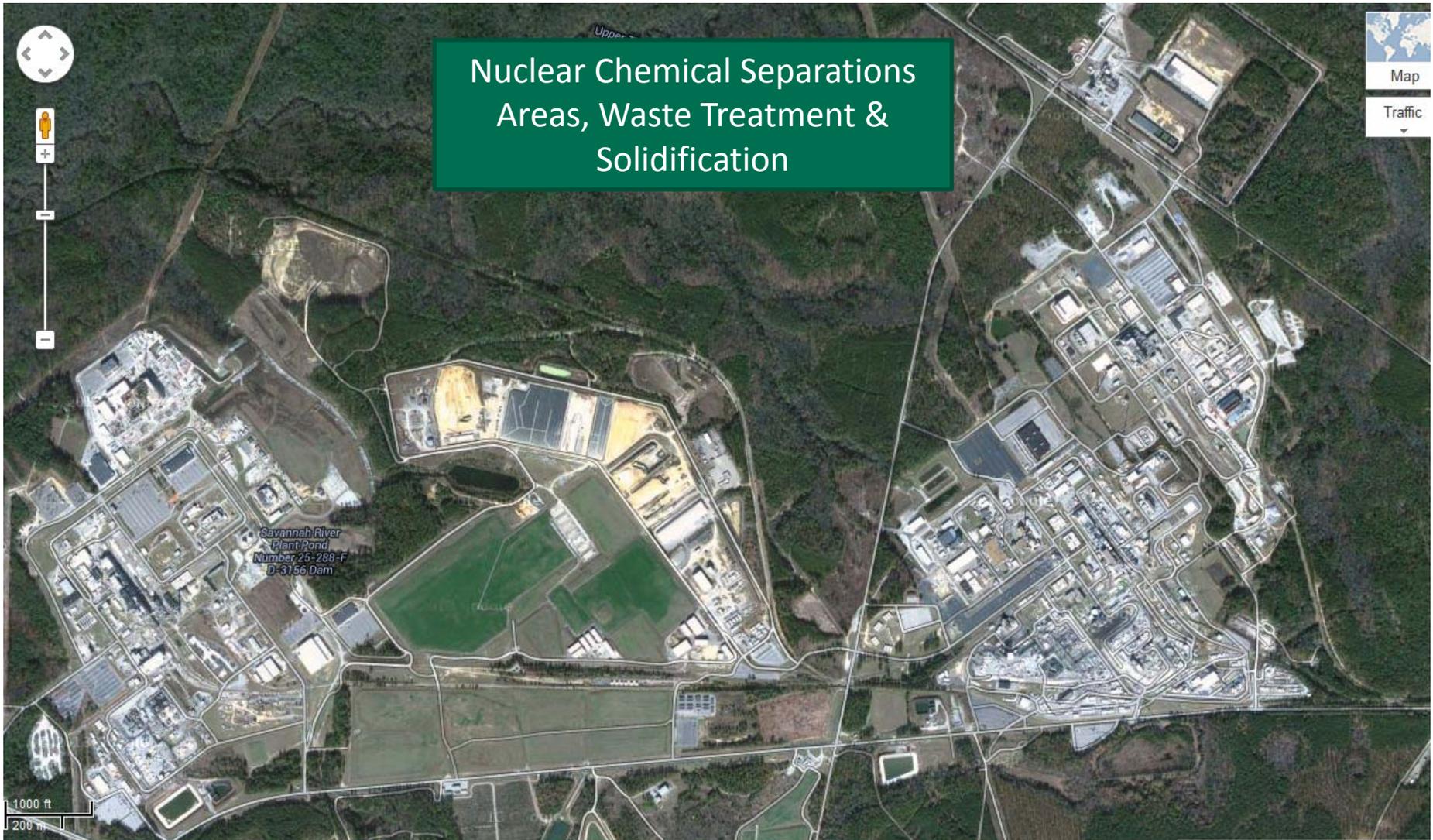
Roughly 3 of These



# 375' Diameter, 40' Tall, 32 Million Gallons



# A Large Nuclear Chemical Complex



> 3 Miles



# Flowsheet

Fuel Rods/Pu

**Chemistry**

- Inorganic
- Many trace organics
- Most all elements represented
- Solid, Liquids, Slurries(Gas-Liquid-Solid), Gases

Chemical Separations

Pu/U

Tanks

Pretreatment

Low Activity Stabilization

High Activity Stabilization

Low Activity Water Treatment

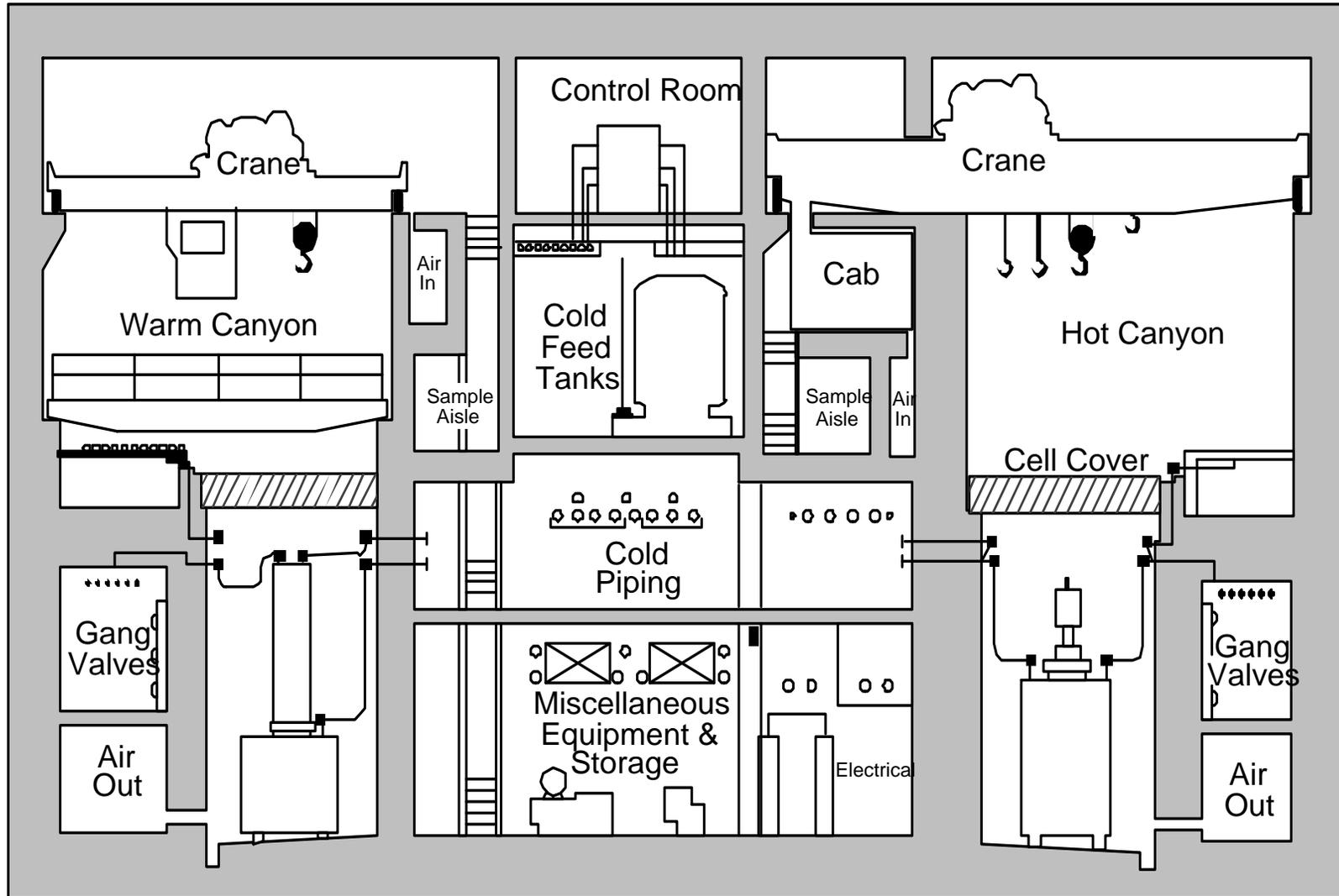
Glass

Water/Trace Radionuclides

**Primary unit Operations**

- Evaporation
- Liquid-Liquid Extraction
- Batch Reaction/Precipitation
- Batch Reaction/Acid/Base
- Filtration
- Ion Exchange
- **Off Gas Treatment**
- Glass Melting
- Concrete Batch Plant

# Canyon Cross-Section-Can We Make this Smaller?



# Piping Gallery in Canyon Chemical Separations Facility



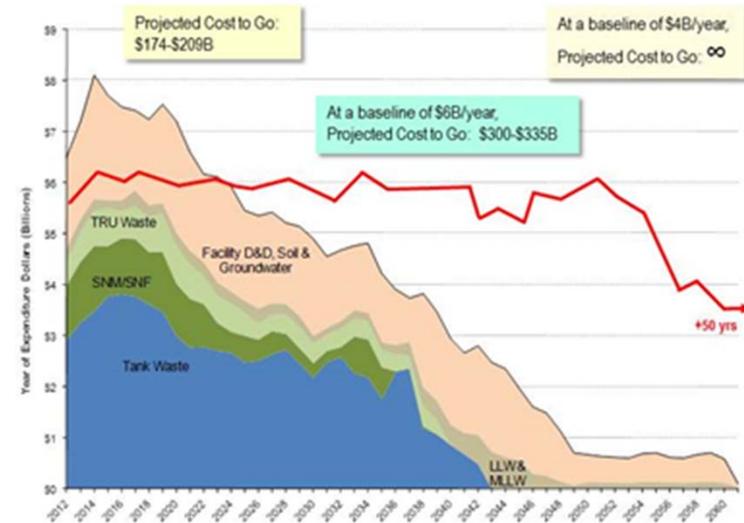
# Another Multi-Billion Dollar Site Under Construction



Startup 2036 – Price Tag 16.8 Billion as of Dec 2016



# Nuclear Waste Clean-up Faces Major Challenges



Nuclear Chemical Processing is 30+ Years Behind the Chemical Industry

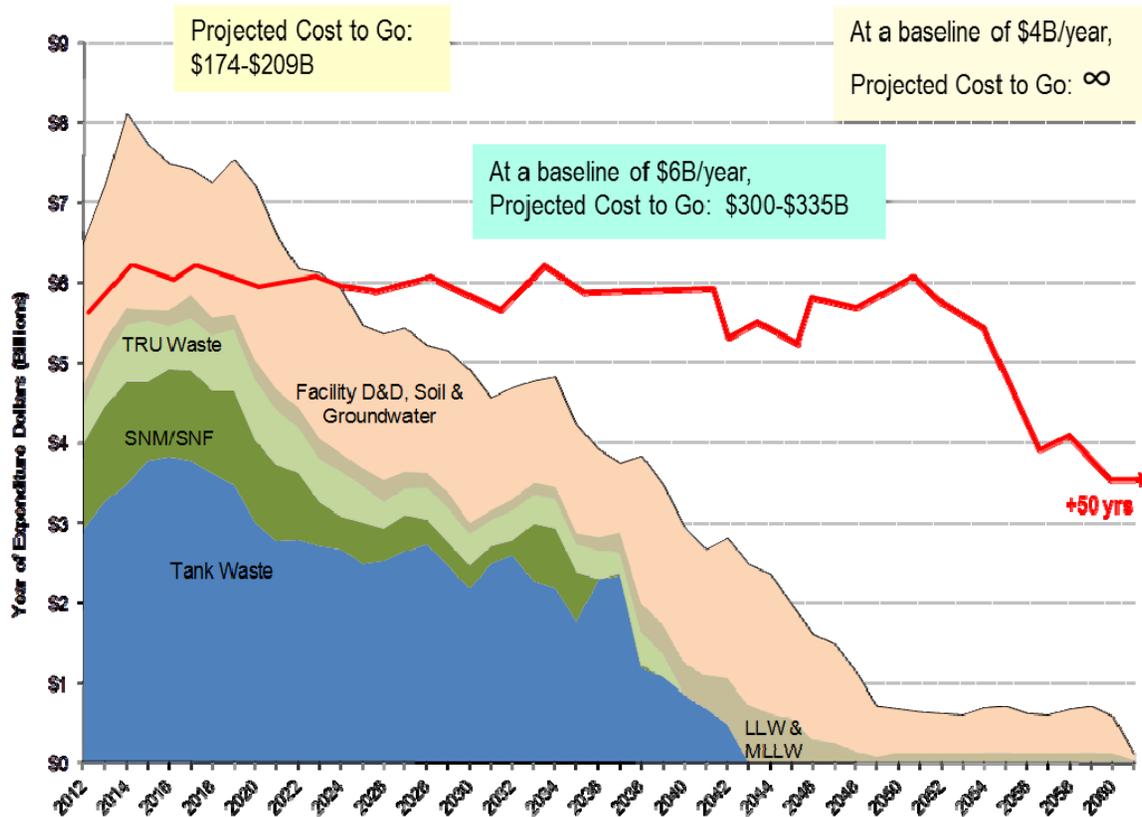
<p><b>Old Technology</b> Bigger is better; Cost ~ Production Capacity<sup>2/3</sup></p>	<p><b>Old Controls</b> Output Based Process Control; Production decisions made offline</p>
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Today, EM lifecycle cost is a function of Funding level.

- Meeting baseline regulatory agreements will require unrealistic funding.
- Optimistic funding levels push cleanup schedule past 2070.
- As cleanup schedule extends, maintenance and infrastructure consume increasing fraction of available funds.



# Nuclear Waste Cleanup Faces Major Challenges



“Without the application of mature technologies from chemical and manufacturing industries, it is not clear that the cleanup can be completed satisfactorily or at any reasonable cost...”

- SEAB Report of the Task force on Technology Development for Environmental Management  
December 2014



# A New Approach for DOE

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## Leverage the Concepts of PI and SM to Reinvent Nuclear Chemical Manufacturing

Develop processes that lead to dramatically smaller equipment with

- Improved control of processing kinetics
- Higher selectivity/reduced waste
- Higher energy efficiency
- Reduced capital and lifecycle costs
- Reduced inventory
- Enhanced intrinsic safety
- Fast response times



# Bringing Advanced Chemical Manufacturing to DOE Missions



Key Technology	Benefits
Process Intensification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced Cost</li> <li>• Increased Safety</li> </ul>
Additive Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialized Tooling</li> <li>• Integrated Waste Forms</li> </ul>
Industrial Robotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove Personnel from Exposure</li> </ul>
Smart Manufacturing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced Cost (reduced sampling)</li> <li>• Integrated Process and Business Models</li> </ul>
Virtual Manufacturing & Industrial Simulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced Worker Training, Safety</li> <li>• Improved Work Planning/ Estimates</li> </ul>



# Reinventing the Approach to DOE Priorities

## What If: Flexible/Modular Facilities Replaced Large Processing Plants



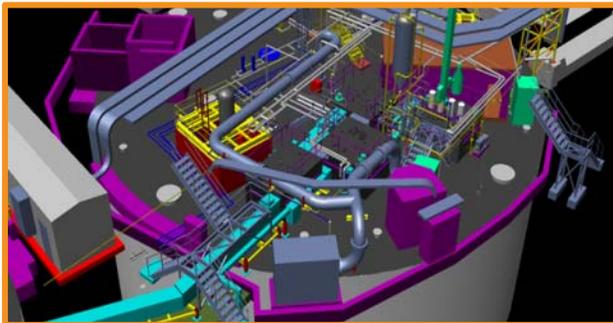
**SRS SWPF**

Capital Cost: \$1.4B  
Throughput: ~6 Mgal/yr



**SRS Interim Salt Processing Facility**

Capital Cost: \$250M  
Throughput: ~4.5 - 5 Mgal/yr  
(with Next Gen Solvent)



**SRS Small Column Ion Exchange**

Capital Cost: \$350M (est. for 2 SCIX)  
Throughput: ~6 Mgal/yr

### Science & Technology Innovation

- Next Generation Solvent
- Centrifugal Contactor
- Rotary Microfilter

SRNL, ORNL, PNNL, INL, ANL  
USC, GA, IBC Tech

### Science & Technology Innovation

- At-tank Treatment
- Ion Exchange Resin
- Spent Resin Handling

SRNL, ORNL, ANL, Catholic U,  
Spintek, UOP



# PI Example: Rotary Microfilter & Small Column IX

## SRNL application of mature technology

- Rotary Microfiltration
- MST treatment
- Ion exchange
- Submersible mixer pumps

## Testing designed and executed to reduce technical uncertainties

- Rotary microfilter uses high shear to produce high filter flux in small footprint
- Small Column IX eliminates heat loading concerns with large columns
- Low volume of Cs waste in solid form
- Minimized impact to downstream facilities

## Deploy at-tank treatment process

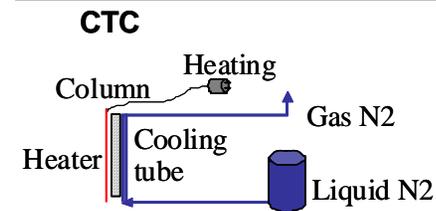
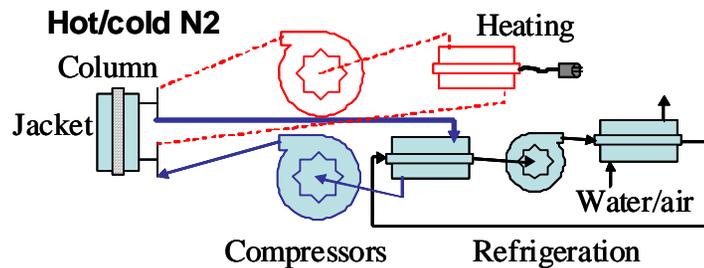
- No new buildings; modular components
- Reduced schedule risk

## Supplemental salt processing capability

- Potential for six year, \$3B lifecycle savings



# Process Intensification: Tritium Production



First Generation TCAP (left) versus CTC-TCAP (right, 1/10<sup>th</sup> footprint)



## Scaled Representation of TCAP Development

- Greatly reduced footprint while maintaining throughput



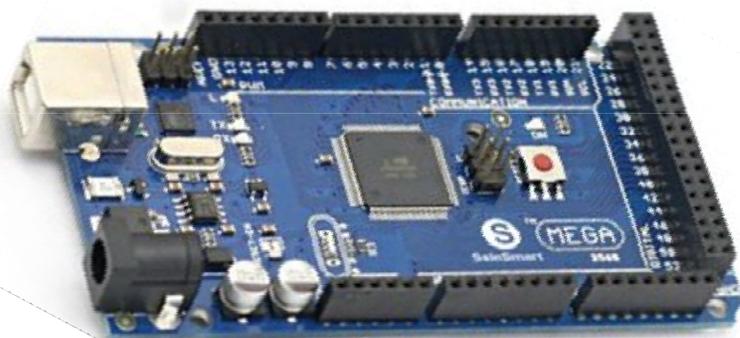
# PI Leads to Capital Cost Reduction

SRNL technology & operational improvements – reduce Limited Area by 30%

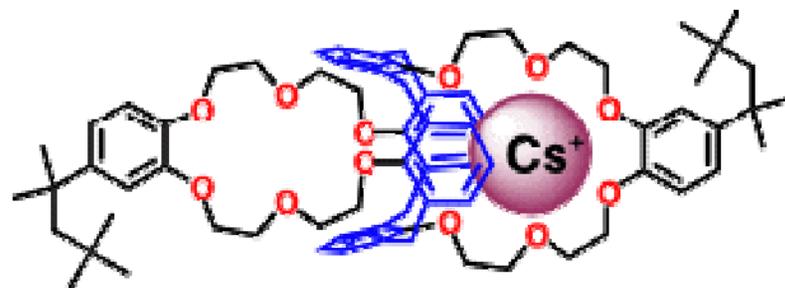


# Other Examples

- *Infrastructure Consolidation – Convert distributive control to machine control via embedded microprocessor control – Replace In-building Maintenance*
- *Chemistry Changes – Increase Extraction Efficiency of Solvent*



Replace DCS with Signal Board



**Calix[4]arene-bis(*t*-octylbenzo-crown-6)**  
**"BOB Calix"**  
**(As complexed with Cs<sup>+</sup> ion)**

ORNL

Led to increases in throughput  
 that allowed pilot scale to  
 perform at full scale



# Starting a National Conversation

FY13-14

**June 2013:** SRNL commissioned an internal trade study to develop ideas >> “Reinvent Nuclear Chemical Engineering.” >> Laboratory Directed Research & Development projects initiated.

**May 2014:** European Visit to PI Centers of Excellence – *Report Issued*

FY14-15

**April 2014:** National Science Foundation funded a Process Intensification Workshop <http://processintensification.org/2014>. Led by SRNL, UT-Austin and Rutgers University.

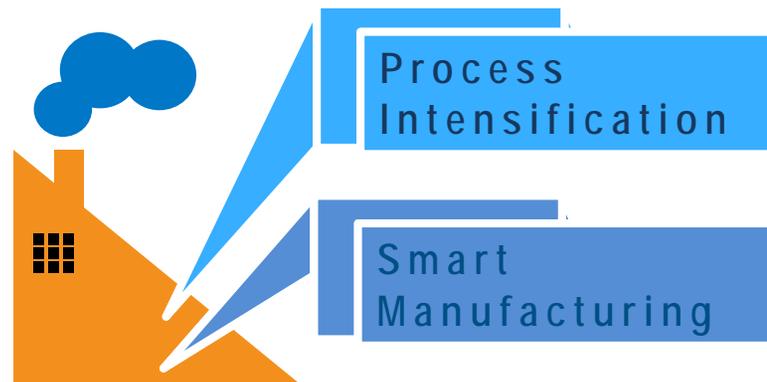
**September 2014:** DOE EERE Advanced Manufacturing Office Director became aware of SRNL Efforts

FY15-16

**January-September 2015:** Multiple visit to DOE AMO; SRNL’s aids in developing a workshop led by DOE AMO entitled “Process Intensification Workshop” <http://1.usa.gov/1UykflH>

**September–January 2016:** White Paper developed by SRNL, DOW, UT, PNNL to Make the Business Case for PI; *Much included in the FOA*

▶▶▶ TWO IDEAS EMERGED FROM STUDY.



**January 2015:** Mark Johnson, DOE AMO Director visited SRS and the Clemson eGrid

**March 2015:** Process Intensification appears in House Energy & Water Bill; *Origin GTI (current partner)*

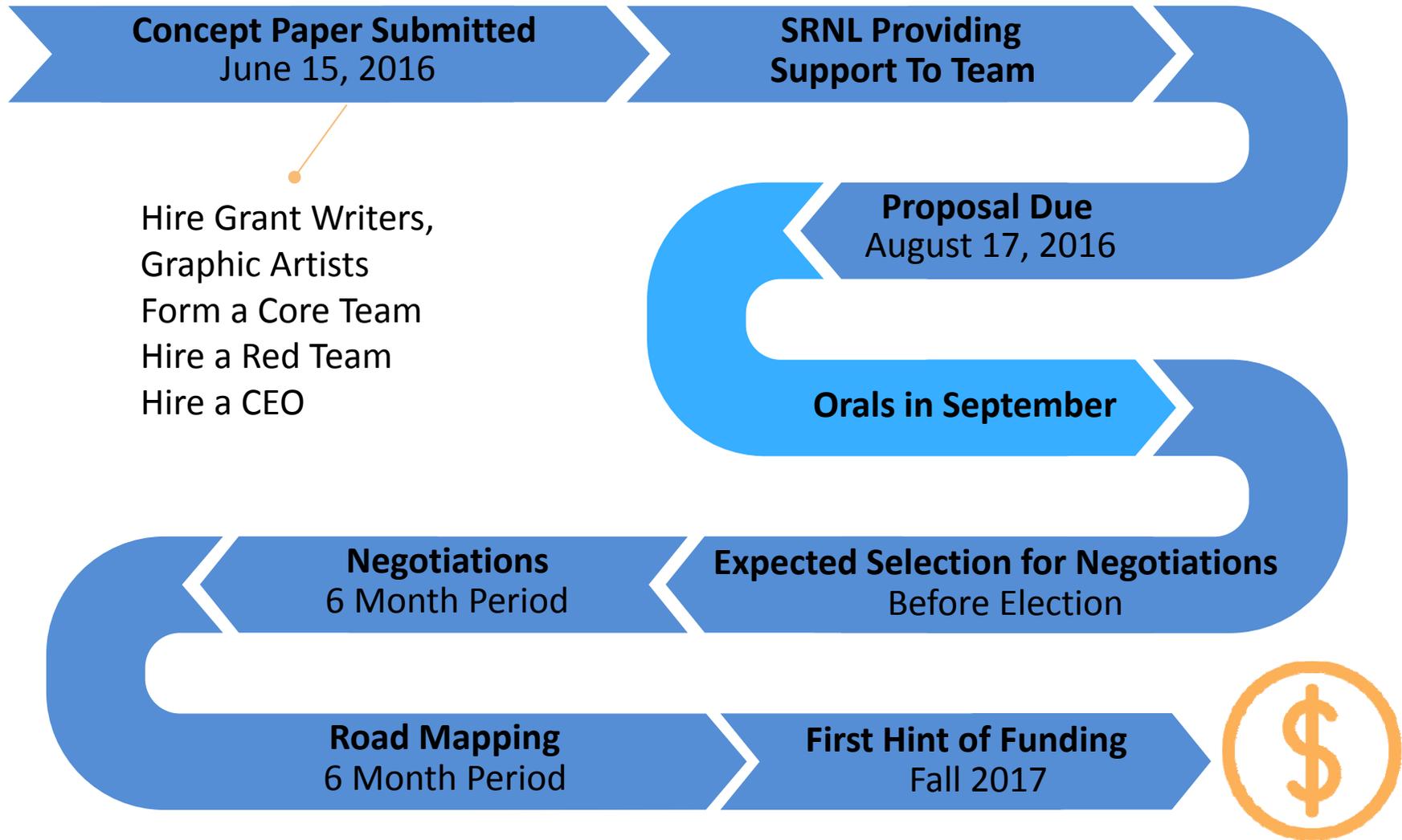
**February-March:** AIChE invited to Two Congressional Briefings on Advanced Manufacturing; SRNL Makes Multiple Visits to AMO

**September–April 2016:** DOE Consider Four Topics for Manufacturing Institutes – PI Being Considered

**April-May 2016:** NOI/FOA Announced



# Turning PI Into a Reality





# Process Intensification Solutions for U.S. Manufacturing



1. Manufacturing USA program
2. RAPID Manufacturing Institute
3. A Look Ahead

Introducing: Karen Fletcher, CEO RAPID

Ex. VP of Engineering, DuPont





Manufacturing**USA**

# Manufacturing USA Overview

## Vision

U.S. Global leadership in Advanced Manufacturing

## Mission

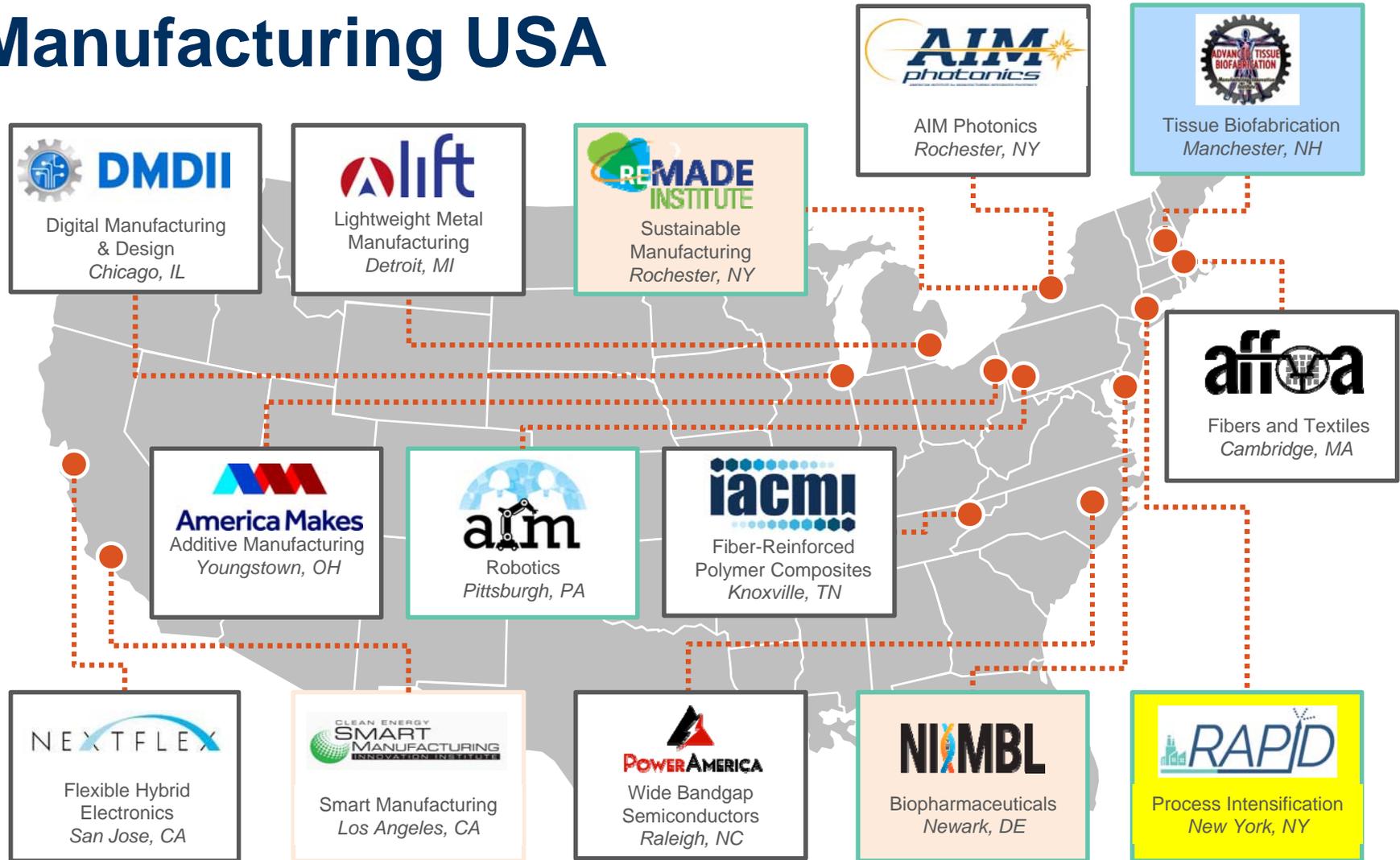
Connecting people, ideas, and technology to solve industry-relevant advanced manufacturing challenges, thereby enhancing industrial competitiveness and economic growth, and strengthening our national security.

## Goals

1. Increase competitiveness
2. Facilitate technology transition
3. Accelerate the manufacturing workforce
4. Ensure stable and sustainable infrastructure

***[www.ManufacturingUSA.com](http://www.ManufacturingUSA.com)***

# Manufacturing USA



# RAPID's Industry-Led Vision

*A dynamic network of partners who collectively build a sustainable **ecosystem** that:*

*... researches, develops and broadly commercializes new technology for modular chemical process intensification*

*... delivers dramatic reductions in energy, greenhouse gas, capital and operating cost*

*... makes U.S. Manufacturing and our workforce more competitive*

## RAPID's Ecosystem





## Our Mandate

- Lead a national effort to research, develop and demonstrate high-impact modular chemical process intensification solutions for U.S. Manufacturing.
- Actively build RAPID membership through an inclusive and attractive value proposition.
- Leverage \$70 million of federal funding with cost share from members.
- Operate the Institute to benefit a wide range of stakeholders.
- Establish an infrastructure that enables access to process intensification resources, tools, expertise, and facilities.
- Bring together private and public entities to co-invest in R&D, commercialization, and deployment of innovative technologies.
- Establish a technical education and workforce development program.

*“The goal for these Institutes is to revitalize American manufacturing and support domestic manufacturing competitiveness.”*

— U.S. DOE



# Initial Partners

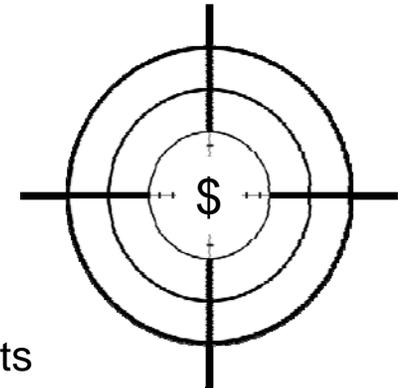
Industry ... Academia ... National Labs & Non-Profits



50 of our 75 companies are shown here

## An “Industry-Centric” Institute

- Access to new process intensification technology and tools with the potential for:
  - Lower capital cost
  - Lower operating cost
  - Improved process efficiency
  - Improved energy efficiency
  - Reduced waste
  - Reduced environmental footprint
- Participation in roadmapping workshops with access to finished products
- Leveraged investment in R&D projects that directly address industry challenges
- Access to tools, models, and educational materials
- Networking and collaboration with academia, national labs, supply chain partners

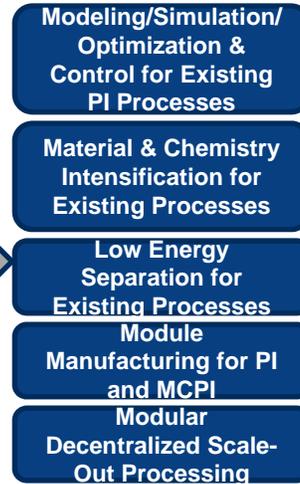


# RAPID Value Proposition

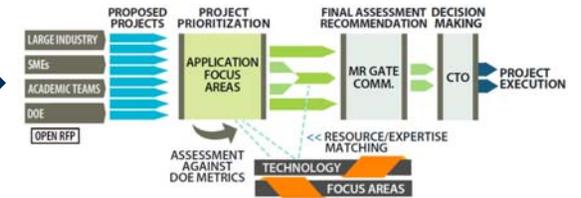
## 1. Roadmapping & Strategy with Partner input



## 2. Address the Barriers to PI Adoption



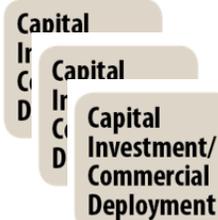
## 3. Disciplined / Gated Work Processes



## 4. Demonstration & Scale-up



## 5. Deliverables



## 7. Feedback, Guidance



## 6. Progress toward long-term targets



## 10 Years from now

### RAPID Outcomes...

- Commercial Successes
- Module Supply Chain
- Project Pipeline
- Workforce Development

### Indicators...

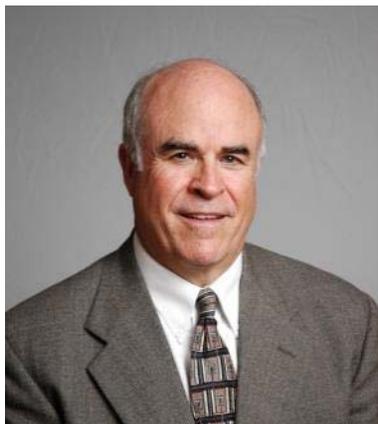
Member testimonials  
PI-related capital spending  
Module production  
PI models, tools  
RAPID project portfolio  
PI conferences  
Training tools  
Job creation



## 6 Technical Focus Areas

### Chemical & Commodity Processing

- Develop guidelines for integration of novel reaction and separation modules
- Validate design tools for process intensification



Thomas Edgar  
Univ. of Texas



Ramanan Krishnamoorti  
Univ. of Houston

### Renewable Bioproducts

- Prototype and scale novel bio-conversion processes
- Improve energy & capital efficiency of existing and emerging processes



Robert Brown  
Iowa State Univ.



Shri Ramaswamy  
Univ. of Minnesota

## 6 Technical Focus Areas

### Natural Gas Upgrading

- Maximize impact through transfer of technologies and learnings across industries
- Mature and demonstrate transformational and enabling technologies for gas utilization



Michael Matuszewski  
Univ. of Pittsburgh



Levi Thompson  
Univ. of Michigan



David Sholl  
Georgia Tech



Stratos Pistikopoulos  
Texas A&M

### Modeling & Simulation

- Develop methods & tools for design, optimization, and intensification across multiple length and time scales
- Establish methods for intensification of dynamic/periodic operations

## 6 Technical Focus Areas

### Intensified Process Fundamentals

- Advance inherently energy efficient separation processes & reaction platforms
- Develop fundamentals for multifunctional modules such as hybrid separation/reaction schemes



Dion G. Vlachos  
Univ. of Delaware



James A. Ritter  
Univ. of South Carolina



Brian Paul  
Oregon State Uni



Ward TeGrotenhuis  
Pacific Northwest Nat'l Lab

### Module Manufacturing

- Standardize modules and components to drive demand and capital investment within the supply chain
- Lower the cost of PI equipment using advanced manufacturing technology

## Facilities and Testbeds

- Leverage extensive, existing capabilities and capital already invested by our partners
- Key to our RD&D program are testbeds in the areas of module manufacturing, CPI for membranes and reactive distillation, and pulp & paper dewatering
- Access to >10 testbeds and 20 facilities

### *Representative Examples*



*Austin testbed  
University of Texas - Austin*



**Dow's Multipurpose Piloting Facility  
Freeport, TX**



*Modules undergoing tests at the  
Modular Energy Production Systems Demonstration Facility  
Easy Energy Systems—Emmetsburg, IA*

- Education & WFD Committee
  - Reports to Technical Advisory Board
  - Committee Members
  - Process Intensification Workforce Development Roadmap (PIWDR)
  - Establish curricula for target audiences:
    - Professionals
    - Undergraduate and graduate students
    - Faculty
    - High school students
  - Start with survey to assess current state



## What's Happening NOW?

1. Start-up the Institute
  - Governance
  - Membership drive
  - Website, communications, ...
  
2. Roadmapping
  - One for each Focus Area
  - Strong participation by members, experts
  - Launch in May
  
3. “Jump Start” projects (4)
  
4. Project Call for Proposals





# Jump Start #1: Chemical and Commodity Processing

Dynamic intensification of the operation of dividing wall columns



## Technology Challenge

- Classic paradigm for chemical process control is built on steady state operation - recent theoretical work suggest significant energy savings by considering dynamically controlled process (non-steady state)

## Project Outcomes

- Develop theoretical basis for periodic operation of intensified processes & screening criteria to identify candidate technologies
- Experimental proof of concept using dividing wall column (DWC) pilot plant available at UT





Adsorptive Nitrogen Rejection from  
Natural Gas

# Jump Start #2: Natural Gas Upgrading



## Technology Challenge

- Nitrogen has been used as an alternative to water in fracturing in unconventional gas – lack of modular gas separation technology leads to >10,000GJ of energy lost to flaring per well

## Project Outcomes

- Field demonstration of portable, modular PSA system enabled by breakthrough rate selective adsorbent



# Jump Start #3: Renewable Bioproducts

Autothermal pyrolysis of lignocellulose wastes to sugars and other biobased products

## Technology Challenge

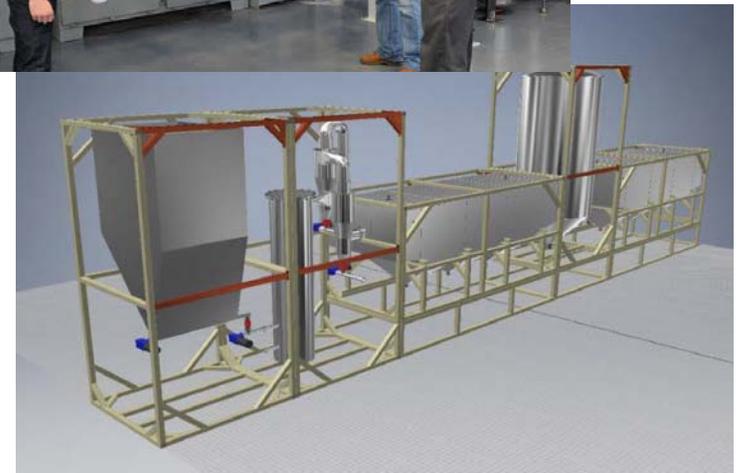
- Existing technology for conversion of biomass to sugars is carried out at low temperature and long residence time – no ability to use modular technology to address supply chain cost

## Project Outcomes

- Demonstrate PI benefits of autothermal pyrolysis to enable modular applications
- Establish Product/co-product yields at pilot scale to feed techno-economic analysis
- Design details provided for commercial scale modular conversion system



IOWA  
STATE





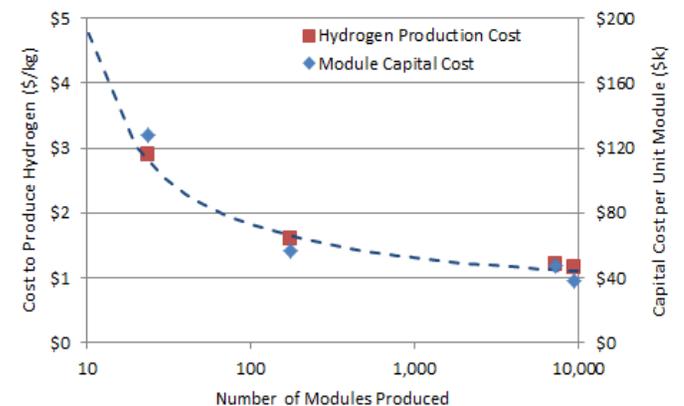
Mfg Supply Chain Development for the Modular Solar-Thermochemical Conversion Platform

## Technology Challenge

- Near-term cost savings needed for modularizing and scaling out process chemistries cannot be captured using classical, large-scale methods of manufacturing

## Project Outcomes

- Develop novel additive manufacturing techniques and materials that enable modular designs
- Redesign prototype micro- and meso-channel processing technology components to be manufactured using these techniques



Estimated capital and product costs for individual STARS modules as a function of module mass production.

## DOE Performance Metrics

**Delivered**

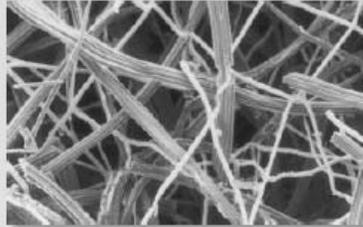
- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Productivity improvement
- Intensification in Individual Process Modules
- Cost-Effective Manufacturing of Modules
- Cost Effective Deployment
- Enabling R&D Portfolio
- Industrial Partnerships
- Pathway to Self-Sustainment
- Train the Trainers
- Educate Students
- Annual Planning Process
- Industrial Roadmap
- Emerging Supply Chain
- Diversity of Firms and Individuals in the Eco-System



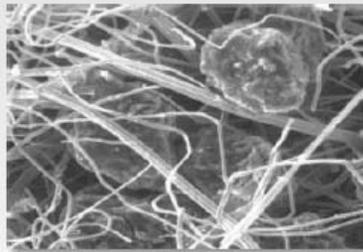
# What RAPID Has Already Done!

## Microfibrous Media

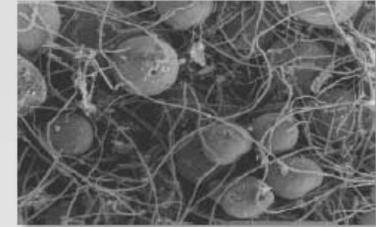
(Sub Nano to Micro, Meso, Macro and Mega)



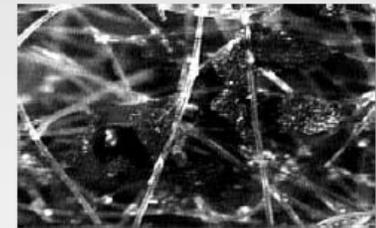
Activated Carbon Fiber and 2 μm Stainless Steel Fibers



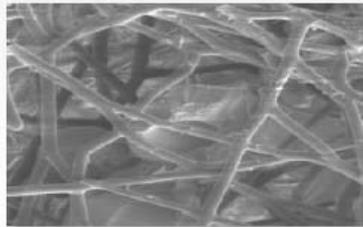
55-85 μm BPL sorbent entrapped in 2, 4, 8 μm Ni Fibers



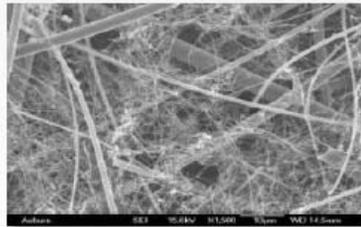
2 μm 316L SS Fibers  
Entrapping Spray Dried TiO<sub>2</sub>



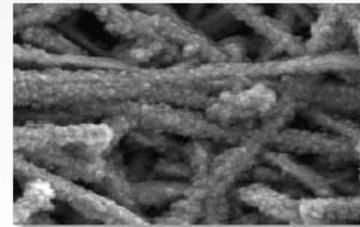
100 – 150 μm Activated Carbon  
10 – 20 μm Polymer Fibers



100 μm SiO<sub>2</sub> in 2-15 μm Ceramic Fibers



Vapor grown carbon fibers (VGCF) entrapped in 2.4 μm glass-MFM



Vapor grown carbon nano-fibers (VGCNF) grown on 1.5 μm Ni-MFM



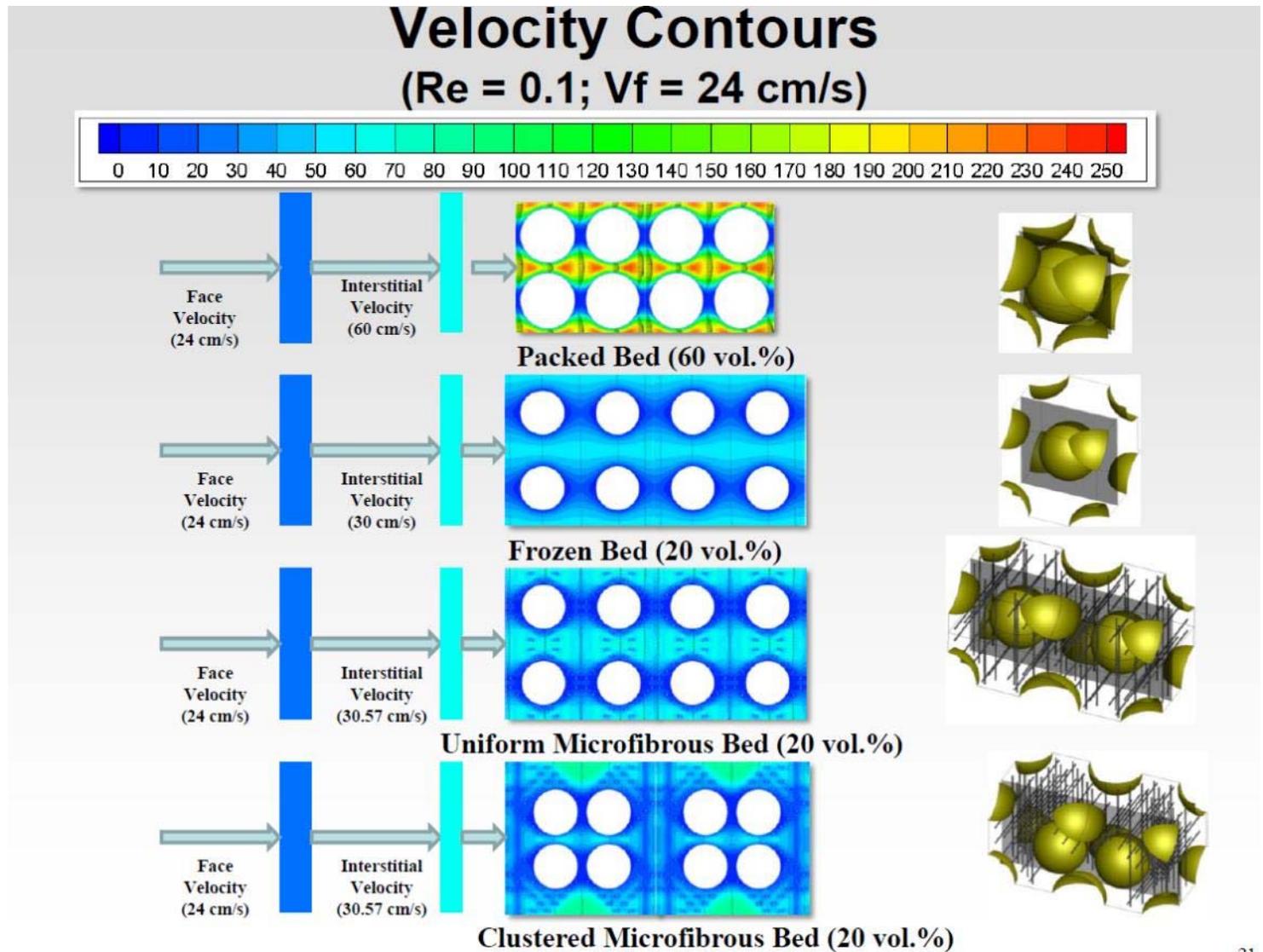
180-250 μm g-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> entrapped in 8mm SS Fibers



# Microfibrous Media Application Space

- Gas Separation, Gas Storage, Gas Compression, Ion Exchange, Catalysis

Residence Time Distribution is Optimized





**To learn more about RAPID:**

**[www.AICHE.org/RAPID](http://www.AICHE.org/RAPID)**

**KareF@aiche.org**