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# Diversified International Portfolio for Magnetic Fusion and FIRE

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for the FIRE Study Team

Seminar at  
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  
Idaho Falls, ID

May 23, 2002

<http://fire.pppl.gov>

**FIRE**

*Lighting the Way to Fusion*



# Outline

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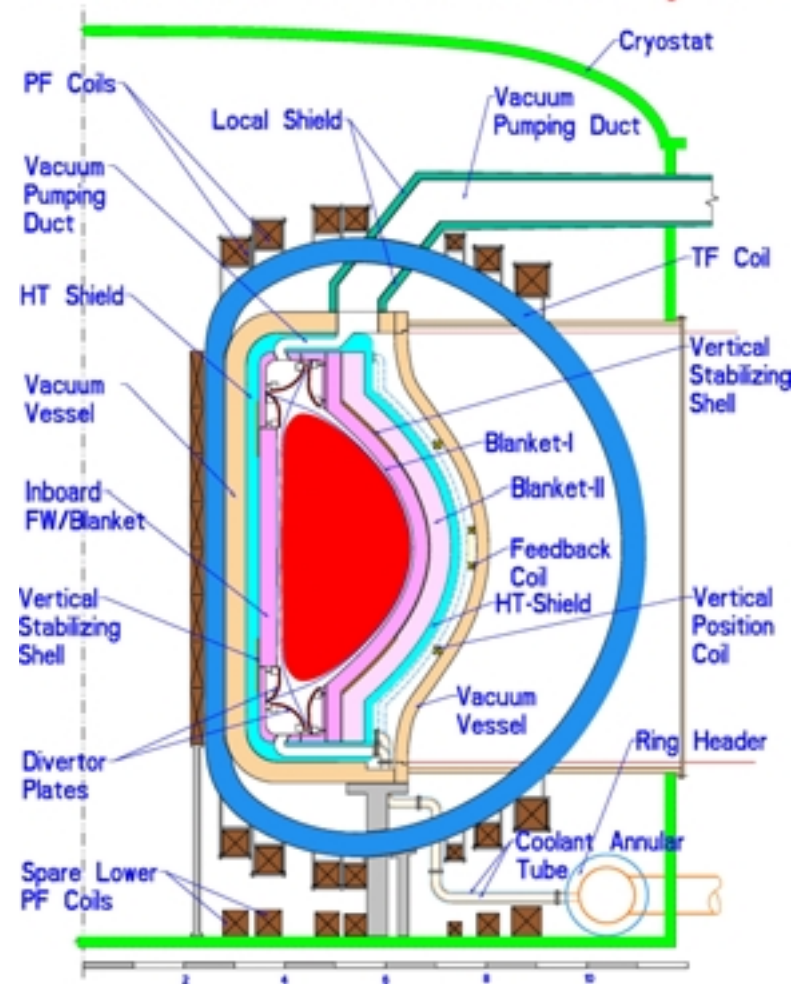
- Fusion Goals
- Critical Issues for Fusion
- Strategy for a Road Map
- FIRE
  - Goals
  - Characteristics
  - Issues/Challenges
- Plans for the Future

# The Key Features for an Attractive Fusion Power Plant have been Identified

## Desired Characteristics

- Power gain  $Q \geq 25$   
 $n\tau_E T_i > 6 \times 10^{21} \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ s keV}$
- Power density  $\geq 6 \text{ MWm}^{-3}$   
high beta =  $p_{\text{plasma}}/p_{\text{mag}} > 5\%$
- Wall Loading  $> 3 \text{ MW m}^{-2}$
- Steady state  
bootstrap current  $> 90\%$
- High availability  
First Wall Materials  $> 150 \text{ dpa}$
- Safety and Environment  
low activation materials  
no evacuation

Cross Section of ARIES-AT Power Core Configuration



**$P_{\text{fusion}} = 1.7 \text{ GW}$ ,  $P_e = 1 \text{ GW}$**

# Critical Issues to be Addressed in the Next Stage of Fusion Research

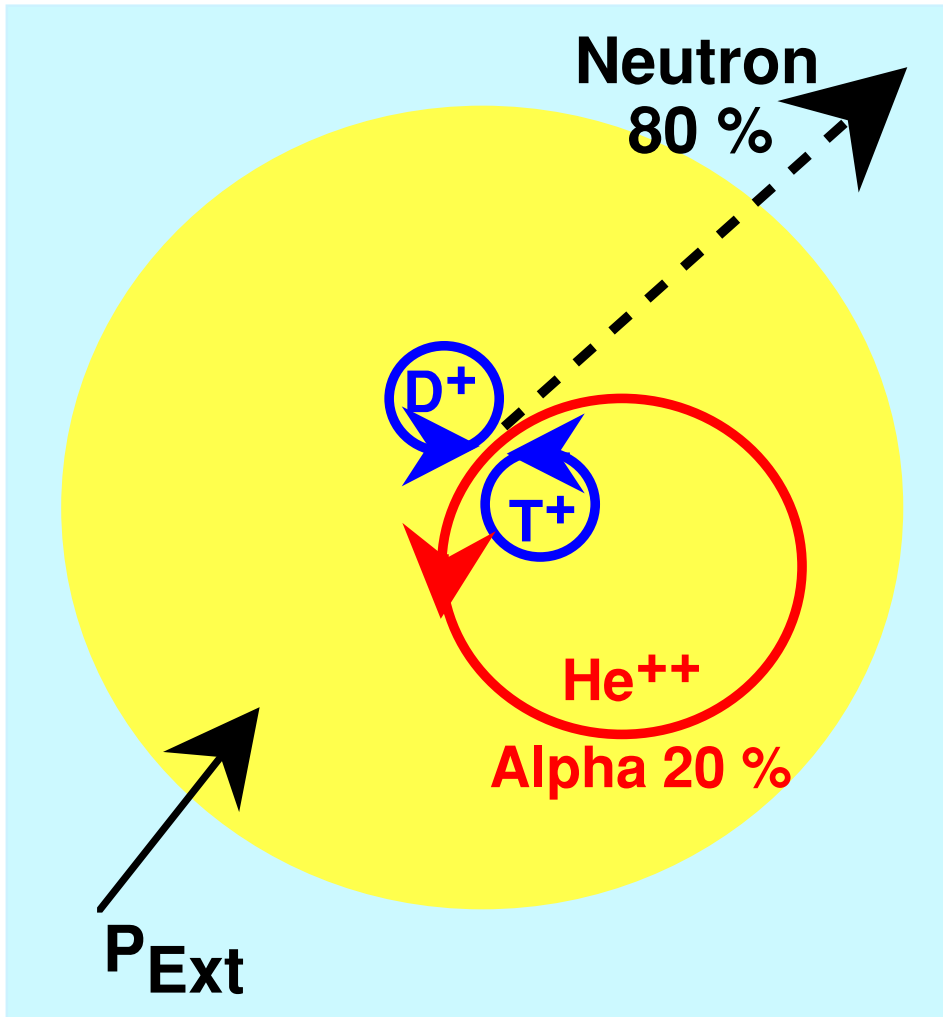
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- **Burning Plasma Physics**
  - strong nonlinear coupling inherent in a fusion dominated plasma
  - access, explore and understand fusion dominated plasmas
- **Advanced Toroidal Physics**
  - develop and test physics needed for an attractive MFE reactor
  - couple with burning plasma physics
- **Boundary Physics and Plasma Technology** (coupled with above)
  - high particle and heat flux
  - couple core and divertor
  - fusion plasma - tritium inventory and helium pumping
- **Neutron-Resistant Low-Activation Materials**
  - high fluence material testing facility using “point”neutron source

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- high fluence component testing facility using volume neutron source -----

- Superconducting Coil Technology does not have to be coupled to physics experiments - only if needed for physics objectives

# Burning Plasma Physics in a D-T Fusion Reactor



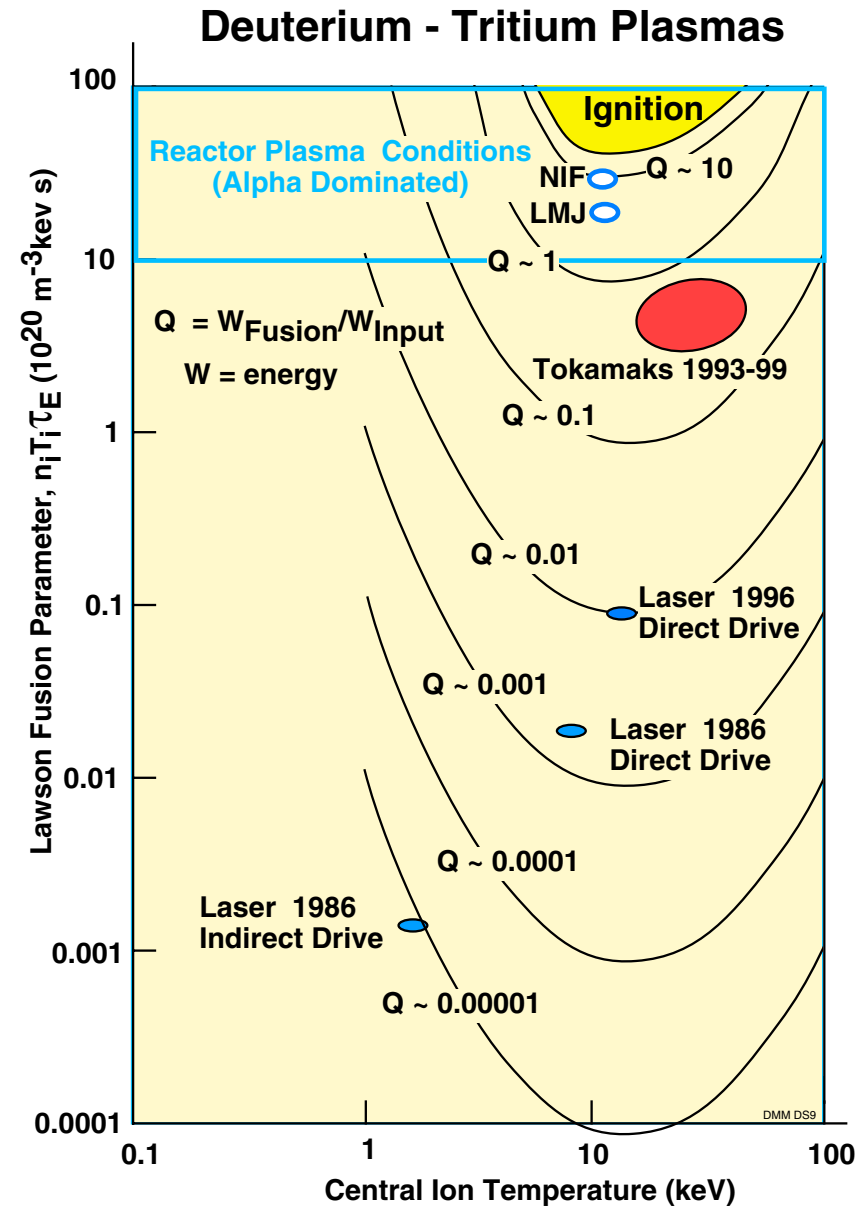
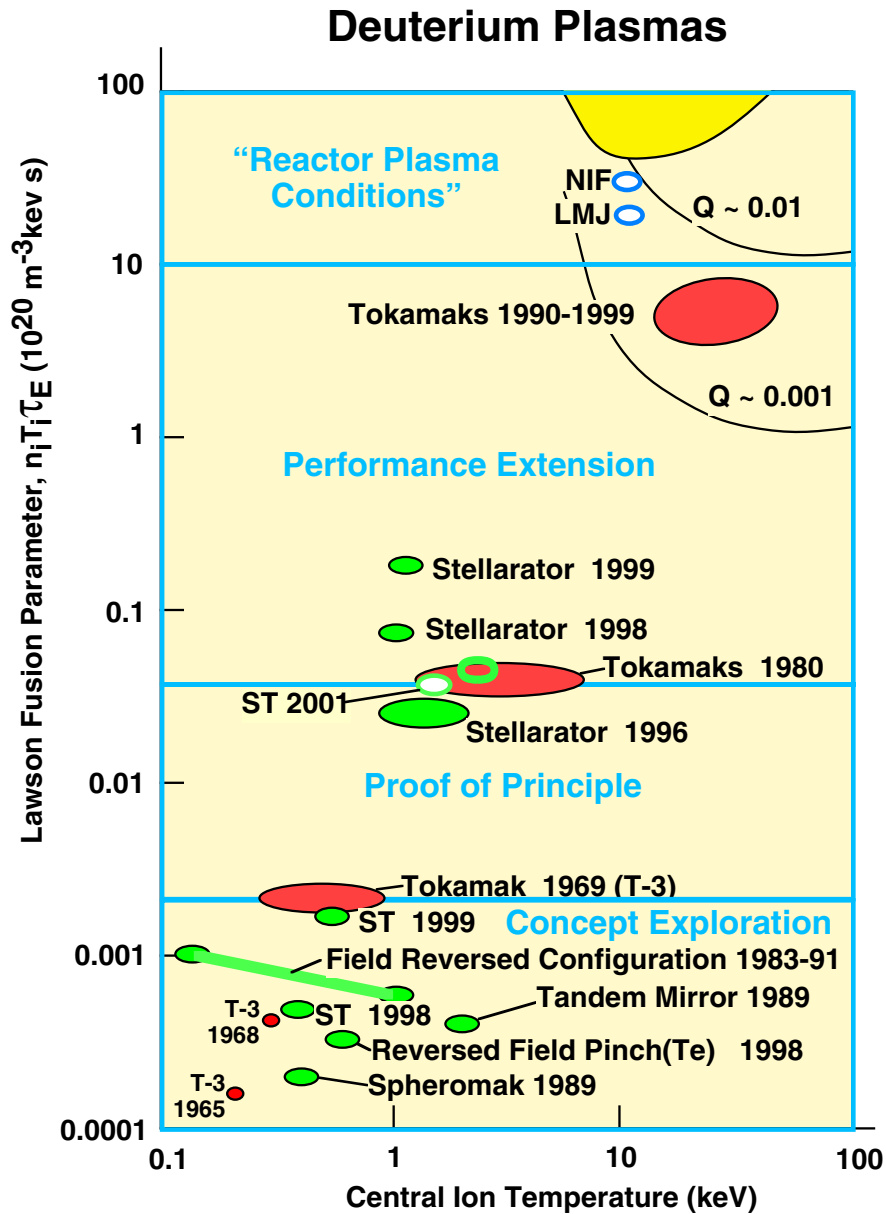
## Alpha Physics Issues

- Alpha confinement
- Alpha Energy to Plasma from alphas to plasma electrons
- Burn Control
- Alpha Ash Removal
- Alpha Driven Instabilities

$$Q = \frac{P_{Fusion}}{P_{Ext}}, \quad f_{\alpha} = \frac{P_{alpha}}{P_{Heat}} = \frac{Q}{Q + 5}$$

The alpha particle, which has 20% of the fusion reaction energy, remains trapped in the plasma and heats the plasma.

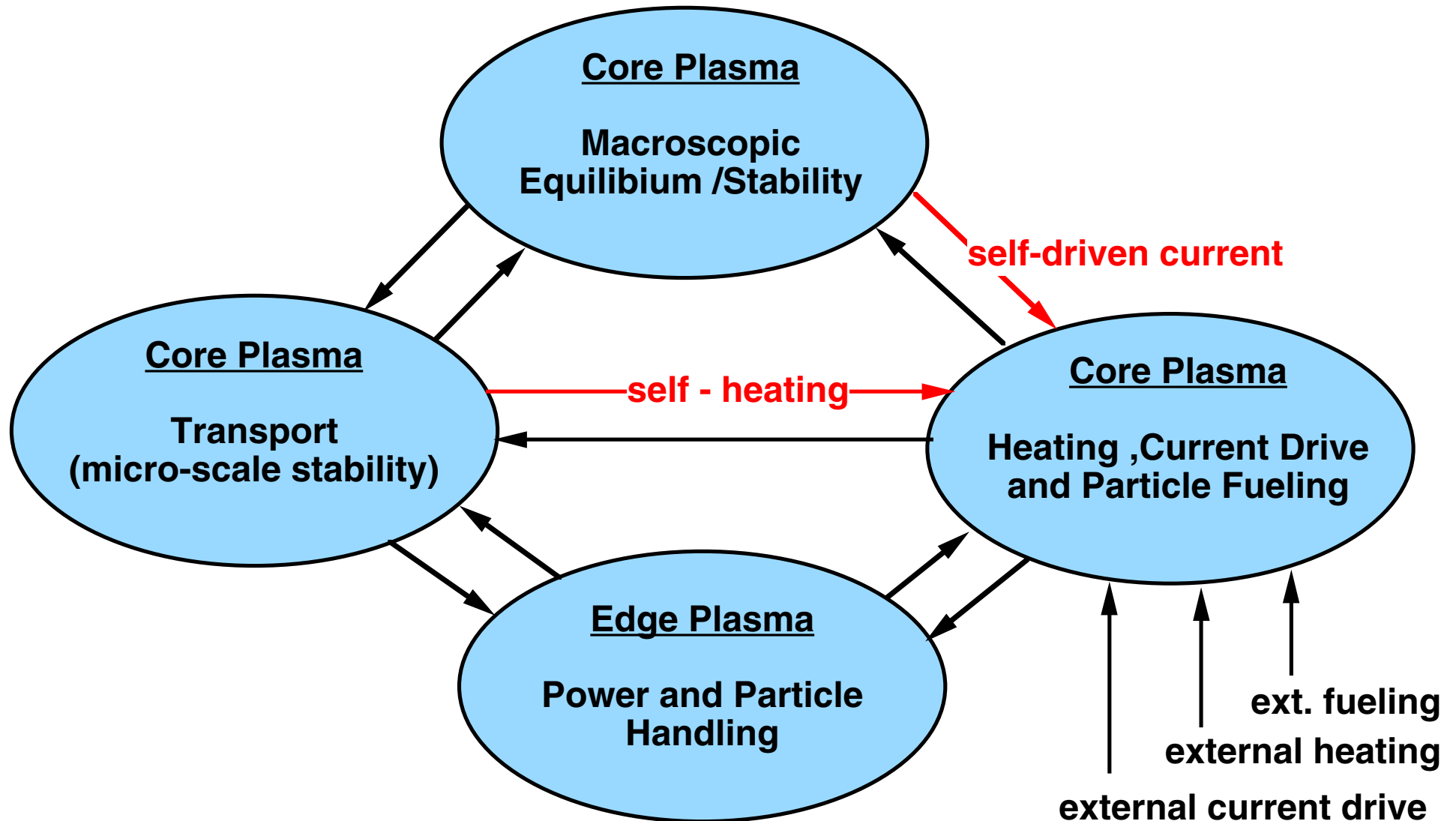
# The Tokamak is Technically Ready for a High Gain Burning Exp't



The tokamak is sufficiently advanced to permit the design, construction and initiation of a next step burning plasma experiment within the next decade that could address the fusion plasma and self-heating issues for magnetic fusion.

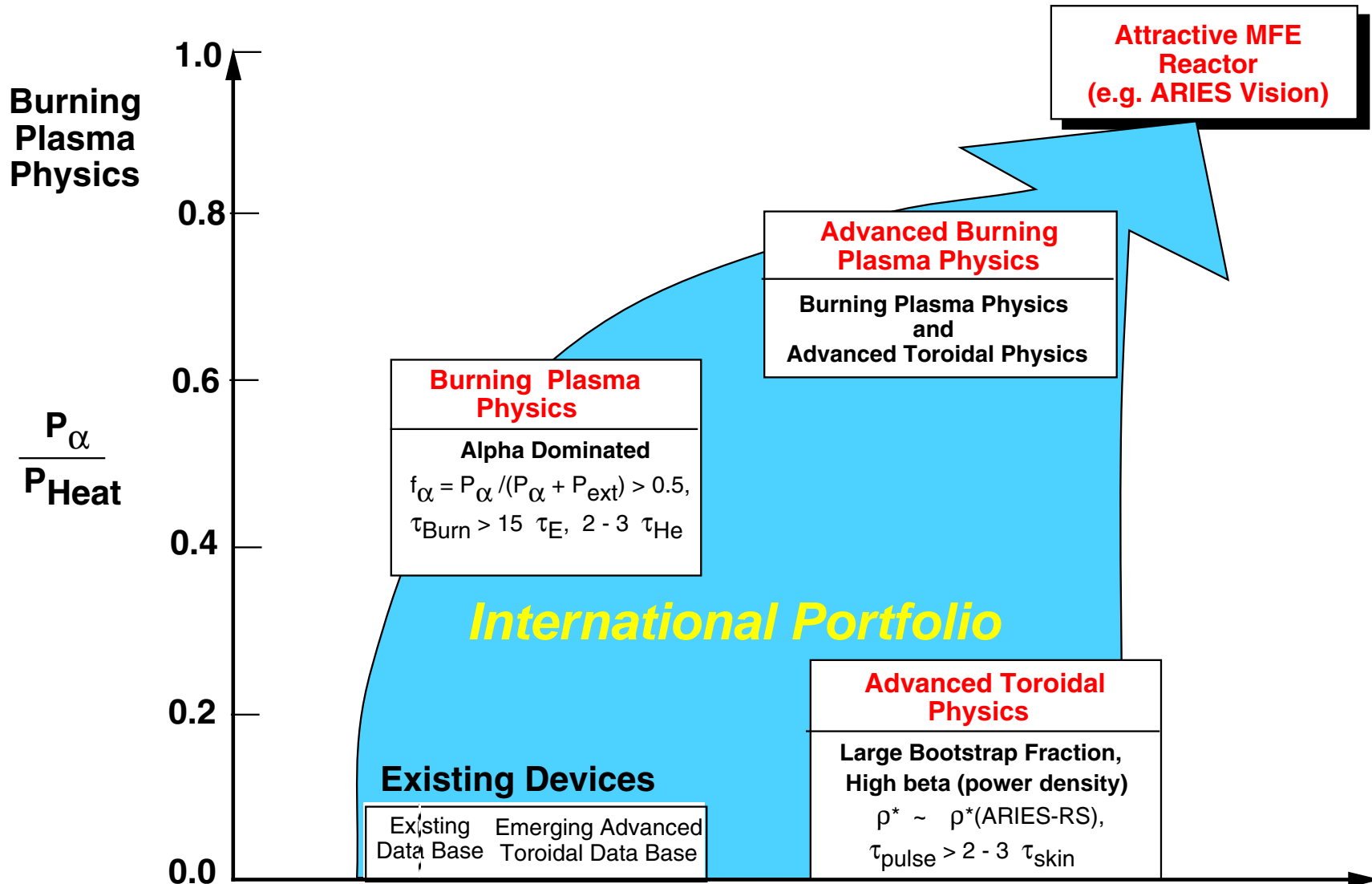
# Fusion Plasmas are Complex Non-Linear Dynamic Systems

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**Can a fusion dominated plasma be attained and controlled in the laboratory?**

# Portfolio Approach to Address the Critical Burning Plasma Science Issues for an Attractive MFE Reactor

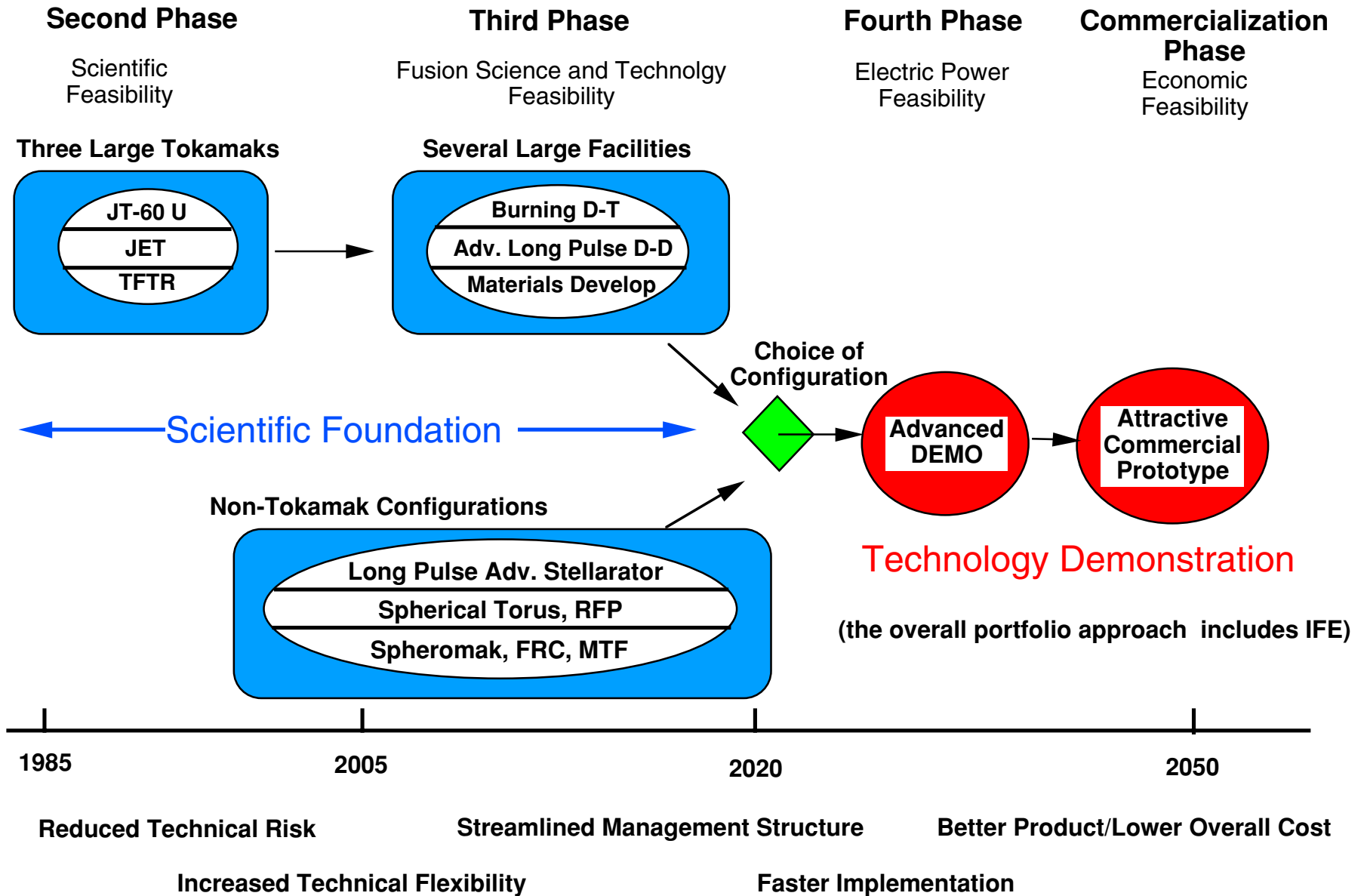


**Advanced Toroidal Physics (e.g., bootstrap fraction)**

**Attain a burning plasma with confidence using “today’s” physics, but allow the flexibility to explore tomorrow’s advanced physics.**



# Diversified International Portfolio for Magnetic Fusion



## **Next Step Option (FIRE) Program Advisory Committee**

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- **Members:** Tony Taylor (Chair), Gerald Navratil, Ray Fonck, David Gates, Dave Hill, Wayne Houlberg, Tom Jarboe, Mitsuro Kikuchi, Earl Marmor, Raffi Nazikian, Craig Petty, Rene Raffray, Paul Thomas, James VanDam
- **Meetings**
  - July 20-21, 2000 at General Atomics, San Diego, CA.
  - January 17-18, 2001 at MIT, Cambridge, MA
  - July 10-11, 2001 at Univ. Wisc, Madison, WI
  - November 29-30 at LLNL, Livermore, CA
- **Charge for First and Second meetings**
  - Scientific value of a Burning Plasma experiment
  - Scientific readiness to proceed with such an experiment
  - Is the FIRE mission scientifically appropriate?
  - Is the initial FIRE design point optimal?
- Extensive PAC Reports provide detailed recommendations for the FIRE activity to address. NSO-PAC reports are on FIRE (<http://fire.pppl.gov>), will discuss in more detail under FY 2001-03 Plans.

**FIRE Study is a Pre-Conceptual design, integrated costs (1998-2002) <\$12M.**

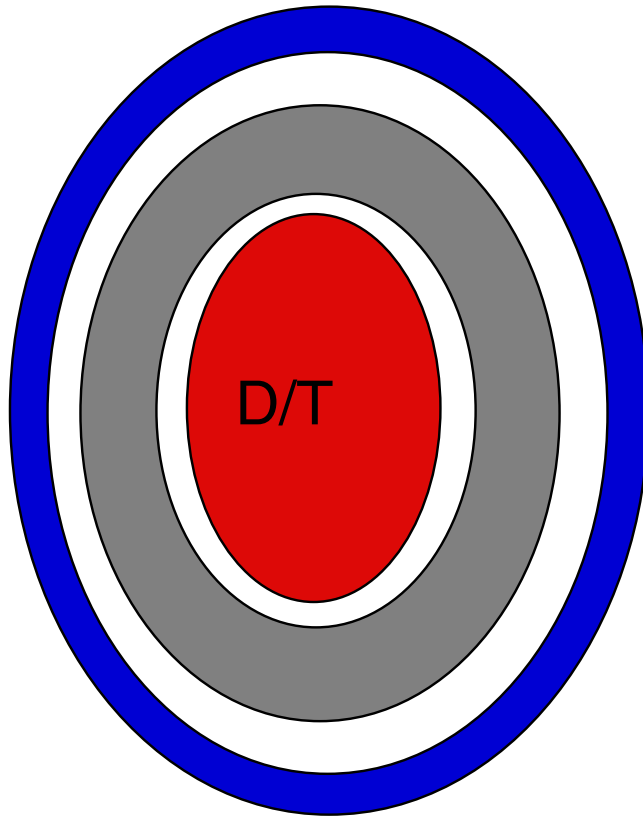
## **Participants in the FIRE Engineering Design Study**

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FIRE is a design study for a major Next Step Option in magnetic fusion and is carried out through the Virtual Laboratory for Technology. FIRE has benefited from the prior design and R&D activities on BPX, TPX and ITER.

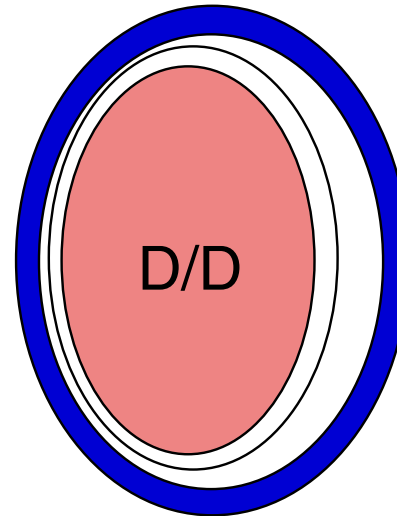
**Advanced Energy Systems  
Argonne National Laboratory  
DAD Associates  
General Atomics Technology  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Idaho National Engineering Laboratory  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory  
Sandia National Laboratory  
Stone and Webster  
The Boeing Company  
University of Illinois  
University of Wisconsin**

# Evolution of Multi-Machine (International Portfolio) Strategy



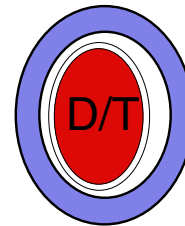
**ITER (400 MW)**

- NbSn, LHe
  - B = 5.3T, I<sub>p</sub> = 15 MA
  - Mag Energy = 50 GJ
  - Vol p = 840 m<sup>3</sup>
  - Surface pl = 600 m<sup>2</sup>
- Cost ≥ \$8B (US methodology)**



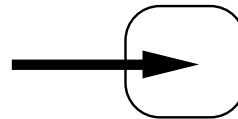
**KSTAR, (JT-60 SC)**

- NbSn (NbAl), LHe
  - B = 3.5T(4T), I<sub>p</sub> = 1.8 MA(4 MA)
  - Mag. Energy = 0.6 GJ
- Cost = \$0.3B + \$0.5B < \$1B**



**FIRE (150 MW)**

- BeCu/CuCrZr/OFHC, LN
  - B = 10 T, I<sub>p</sub> = 7.7 MA
  - Mag. Energy 6 GJ
  - Vol pl = 27m<sup>3</sup>
  - Surface pl = 60 m<sup>2</sup>
- Cost ≈ \$1.2B - Site Credits**



**IFMIF**

- 2 MW/m<sup>2</sup>
  - 10 liter
- Cost ≈ \$0.8B**

# Advanced Burning Plasma Exp't Requirements

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## Burning Plasma Physics

$Q \geq 5, \sim 10$  as target, ignition not precluded

$f_\alpha = P_\alpha/P_{\text{heat}} \geq 50\%, \sim 66\%$  as target, up to 83% at  $Q = 25$

TAE/EPM stable at nominal point, able to access unstable

## Advanced Toroidal Physics

$f_{\text{bs}} = I_{\text{bs}}/I_p \geq 50\%$  up to 75%

$\beta_N \sim 2.5$ , no wall  $\sim 3.6$ ,  $n = 1$  wall stabilized

## Quasi-stationary Burn Duration

Pressure profile evolution and burn control  $> 10 \tau_E$

Alpha ash accumulation/pumping  $> \text{several } \tau_{\text{He}}$

Plasma current profile evolution  $1 \text{ to } 3 \tau_{\text{skin}}$

Divertor pumping and heat removal  $\text{several } \tau_{\text{divertor}}$

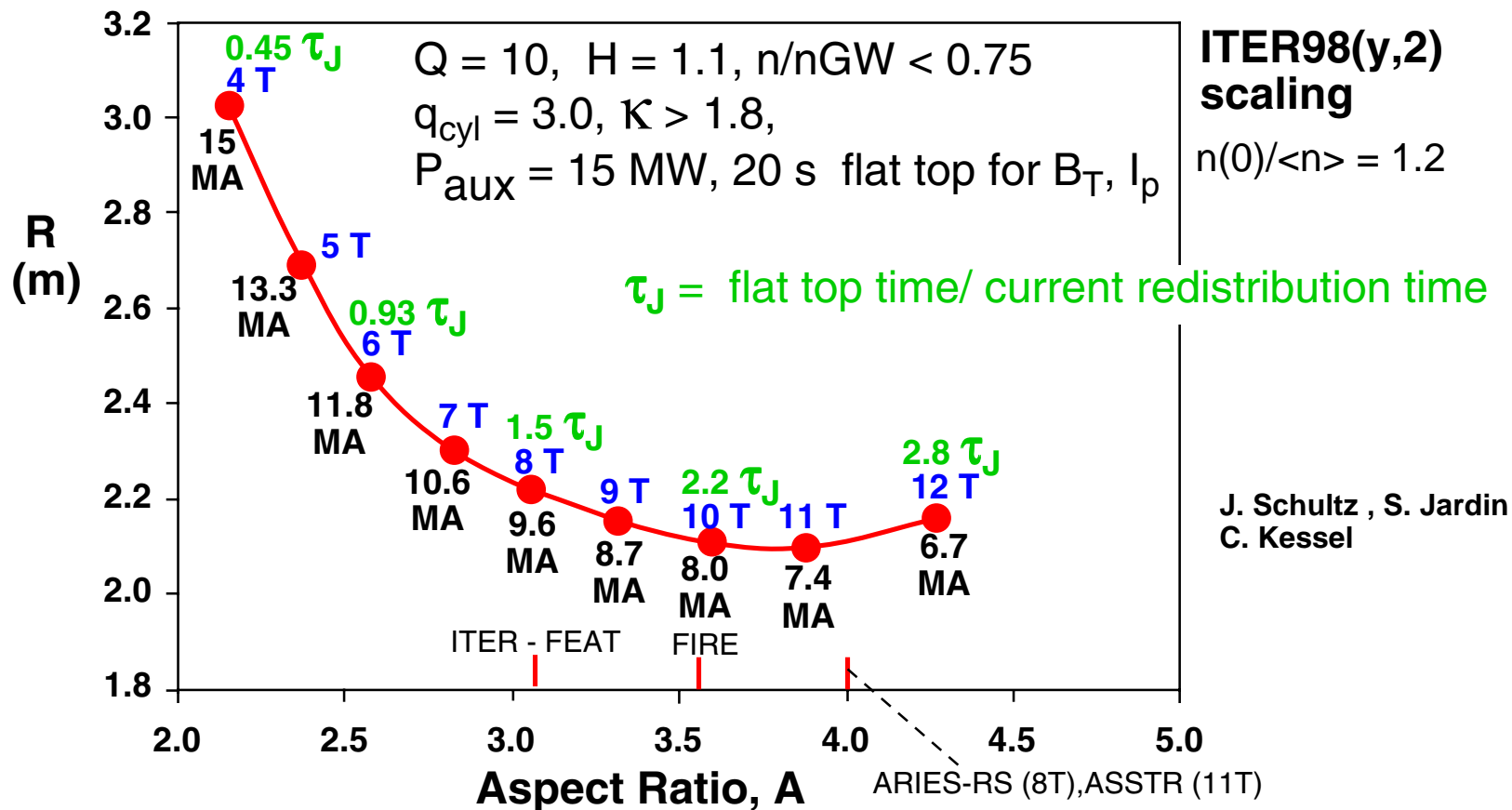
# FIRE has Adopted the Advanced Tokamak Features Identified by ARIES Studies

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- High toroidal field
- Double null
- Strong shaping
  - $\kappa = 2.0, \delta = 0.7$
- Internal vertical position control coils
- Cu wall stabilizers for vertical and kink instabilities
- Very low ripple (0.3%)
- ICRF/FW on-axis CD
- LH off-axis CD
- LHCD stabilization of NTMs
- Tungsten divertor targets
- Feedback coil stabilization for Resistive Wall Modes (RWM)
- Burn times exceeding current diffusion times
- Pumped divertor/pellet fueling/impurity control to optimize plasma edge

# Optimization of a Burning Plasma Experiment (H-Mode)

- Consider an inductively driven tokamak with copper alloy TF and PF coils precooled to LN temperature that warm up adiabatically during the pulse.
- Seek minimum R while varying A and space allocation for TF/PF coils for a specified plasma performance - Q and pulse length with physics and eng. limits.

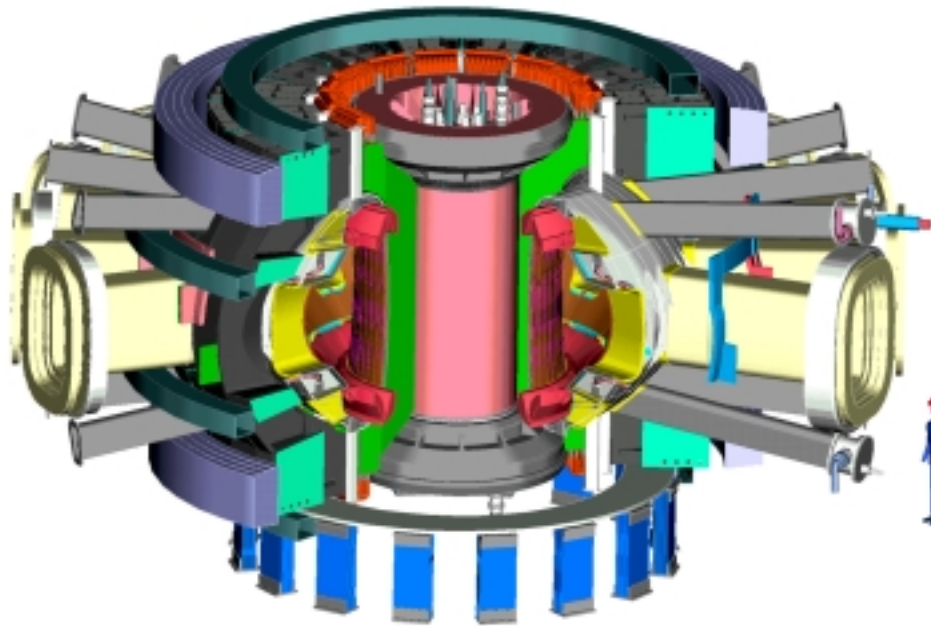


What is the optimum for advanced steady-state modes?

# Fusion Ignition Research Experiment

## (FIRE)

<http://fire.pppl.gov>



### Design Features

- $R = 2.14 \text{ m}$ ,  $a = 0.595 \text{ m}$
- $B = 10 \text{ T}$
- $W_{\text{mag}} = 5.2 \text{ GJ}$
- $I_p = 7.7 \text{ MA}$
- $P_{\text{aux}} \leq 20 \text{ MW}$
- $Q \approx 10$ ,  $P_{\text{fusion}} \sim 150 \text{ MW}$
- Burn Time  $\approx 20 \text{ s}$
- Tokamak Cost  $\approx \$375\text{M}$  (FY99)
- Total Project Cost  $\approx \$1.2\text{B}$  at Green Field site.

**Mission: Attain, explore, understand and optimize magnetically-confined fusion-dominated plasmas.**

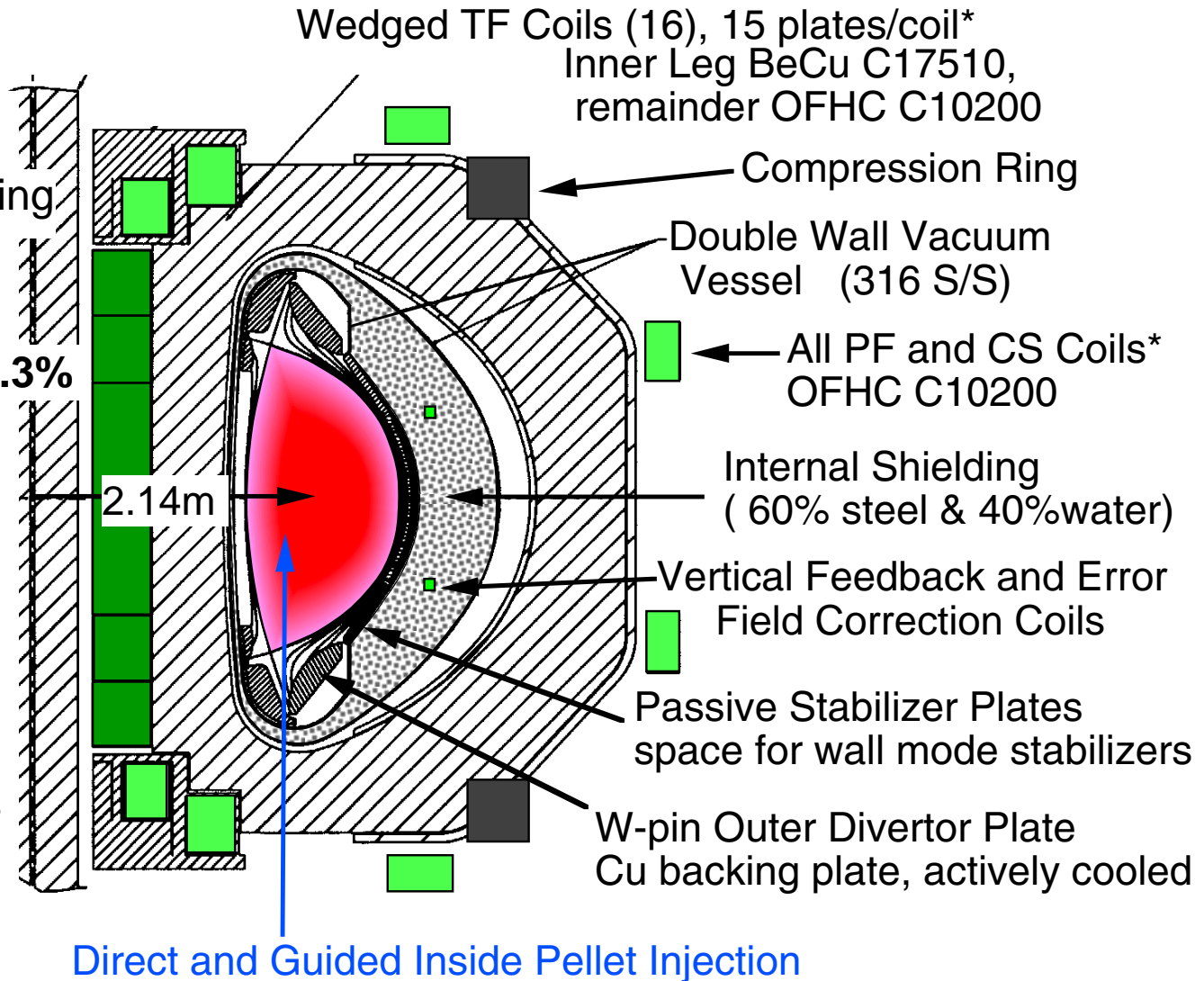
**CIT + TPX = FIRE leading to ARIES**



# High-Field Copper-Alloy Coils have Advantages for BP Expt's

## AT Features

- DN divertor pumping
- strong shaping
- very low ripple < 0.3%
- internal coils
- space for wall stabilizers
- inside pellet injection
- large access ports



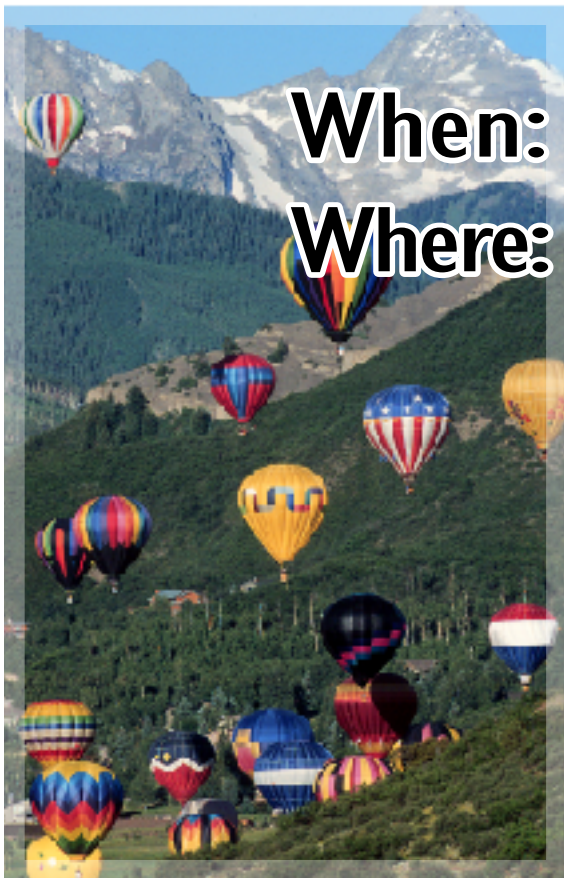
\*Coil systems cooled to 77 °K prior to pulse, rising to 373 °K by end of pulse.

## Basic Parameters and Features of FIRE

R, major radius	2.14 m
a, minor radius	0.595 m
$\kappa_X, \kappa_{95}$	2.0, 1.77
$\delta_X, \delta_{95}$	0.7, 0.55(AT) - 0.4(OH)
q <sub>95</sub> , safety factor at 95% flux surface	>3
B <sub>t</sub> , toroidal magnetic field	10 T with 16 coils, 0.3% ripple @ Outer MP
Toroidal magnet energy	5.8 GJ
I <sub>p</sub> , plasma current	7.7 MA
Magnetic field flat top, burn time	28 s at 10 T in dd, 20s @ Pdt ~ 150 MW)
Pulse repetition time	~3hr @ full field and full pulse length
ICRF heating power, maximum	20 MW, 100MHz for 2Ω <sub>T</sub> , 4 mid-plane ports
Neutral beam heating	Upgrade for edge rotation, CD - 120 keV PNBI?
Lower Hybrid Current Drive	Upgrade for AT-CD phase, ~20 MW, 5.6 GHz
Plasma fueling	Pellet injection (≥2.5km/s vertical launch inside mag axis, guided slower speed pellets)
First wall materials	Be tiles, no carbon
First wall cooling	Conduction cooled to water cooled Cu plates
Divertor configuration	Double null, fixed X point, detached mode
Divertor plate	W rods on Cu backing plate (ITER R&D)
Divertor plate cooling	Inner plate-conduction, outer plate/baffle- water
Fusion Power/ Fusion Power Density	150 - 200 MW, ~6 -8 MW m <sup>-3</sup> in plasma
Neutron wall loading	~ 2.3 MW m <sup>-2</sup>
Lifetime Fusion Production	5 TJ (BPX had 6.5 TJ)
Total pulses at full field/power	3,000 (same as BPX), 30,000 at 2/3 B <sub>t</sub> and I <sub>p</sub>
Tritium site inventory	Goal < 30 g, Category 3, Low Hazard Nuclear Facility



- A forum for the critical assessment of major next-steps in the fusion energy sciences.
- Provide crucial community input to the long range planning activities undertaken by the DOE and the FESAC.
- Assess benefits of a tokamak burning plasma.
- Evaluate the contributions of various MFE approaches.
- Examine initiatives in integrated research experiments in IFE.



**When:**  
**Where:**

**JULY 8-19, 2002**  
**SNOWMASS, CO**

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

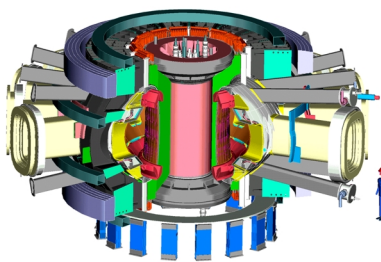
ROGER BANGERTER, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
GERALD NAVRATIL, Columbia University  
NED SAUTHOFF, Princeton University

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**<http://web.gat.com/snowmass/>**

# Burning Plasma Physics - The Next Frontier

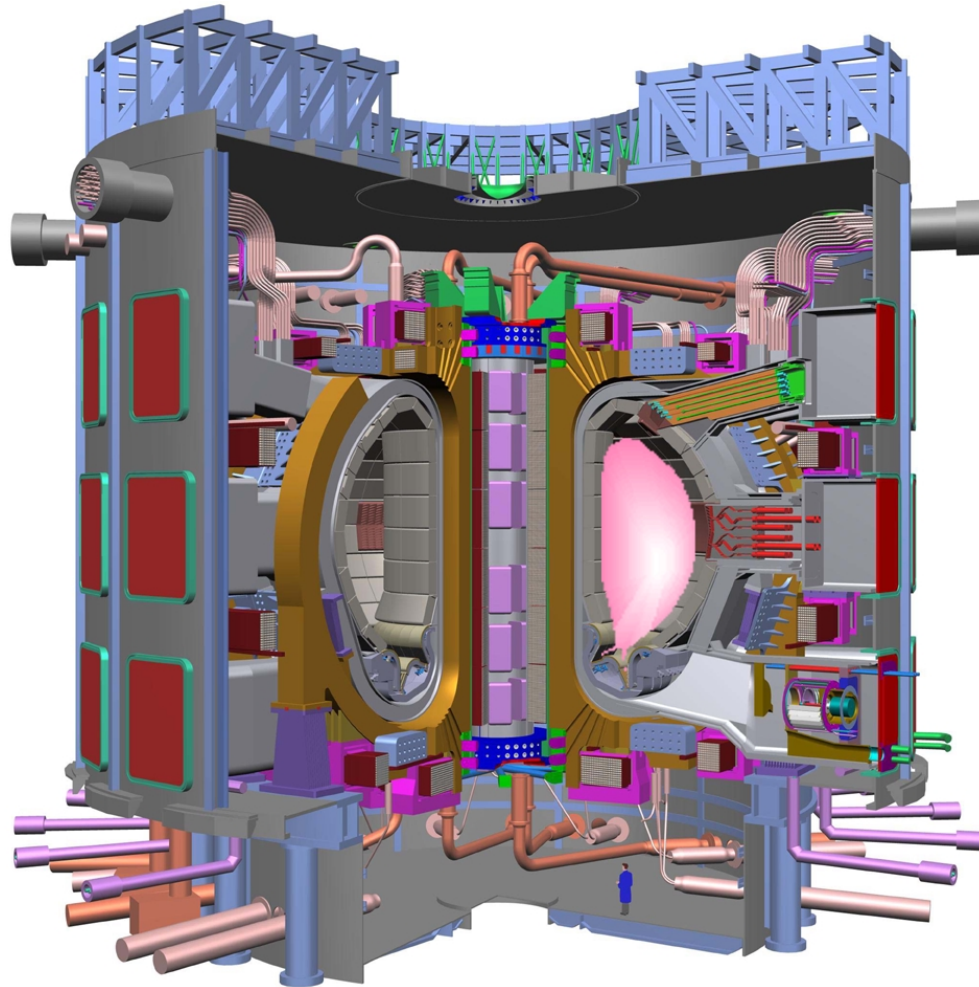
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Three Options  
(same scale)



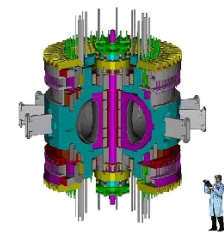
## FIRE

US Based  
Diversified International Portfolio



## ITER-FEAT

JA, EU or CA Based  
International Partnership



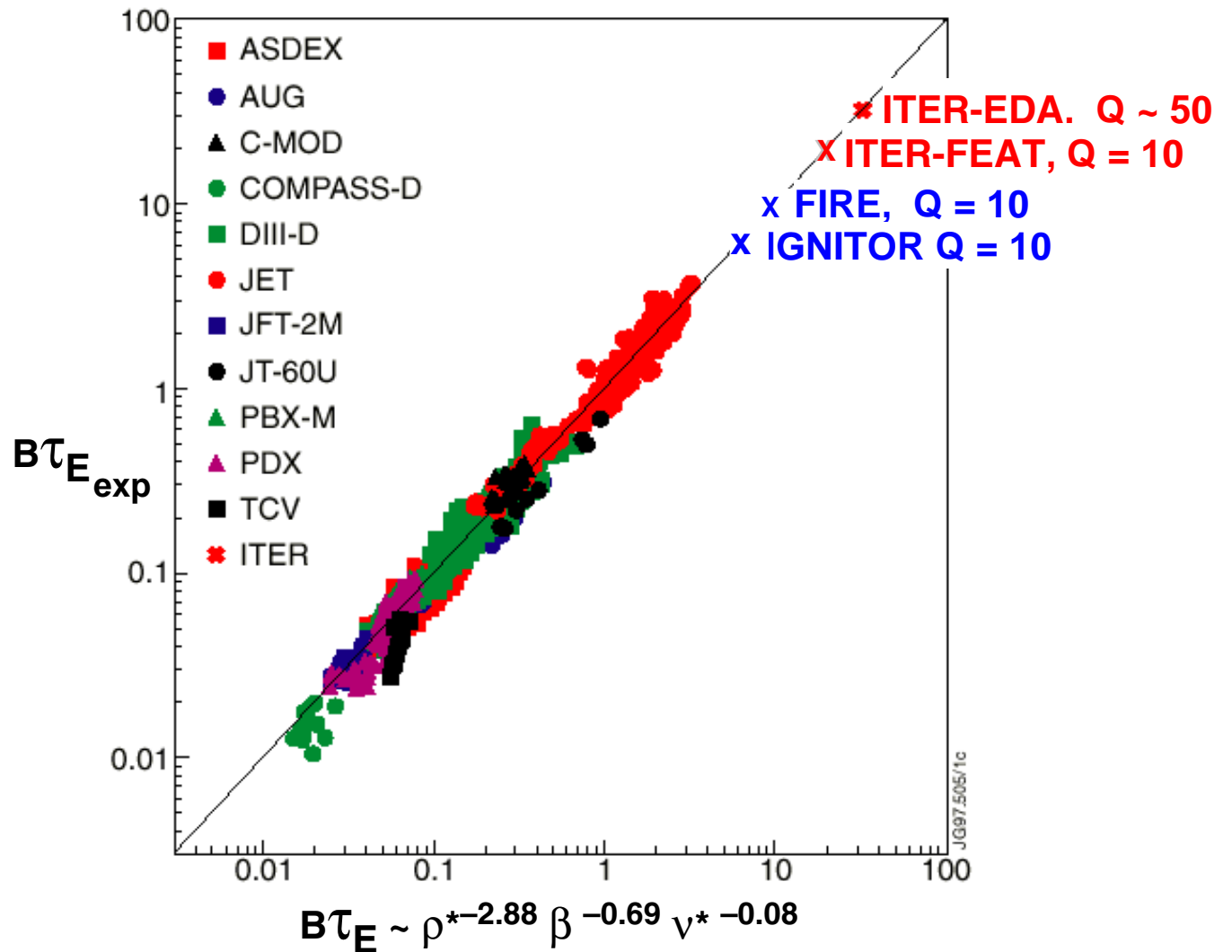
## IGNITOR

Italian Based  
International Collaboration

# FIRE is a Modest Extrapolation in Plasma Confinement

Dimensionless Parameters
$\omega_c \tau = B \tau$
$\rho^* = \rho/a$
$v^* = v_c/v_b$
$\beta$

Similarity Parameter
$B R^{5/4}$



Kadomtsev, 1975



# Guidelines for Estimating Plasma Performance

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**Confinement (Elmy H-mode) - ITER98(y,2) based on today's data base**

$$\tau_E = 0.144 I^{0.93} R^{1.39} a^{0.58} n_{20}^{0.41} B^{0.15} A_i^{0.19} \kappa^{0.78} P_{\text{heat}}^{-0.69} H(y,2)$$

**Density Limit - Based on today's tokamak data base**

$$n_{20} \leq 0.8 n_{\text{GW}} = 0.8 I_p / \pi a^2,$$

**Beta Limit - theory and tokamak data base**

$$\beta \leq \beta_N(I_p/aB), \quad \beta_N < 2.5 \text{ conventional, } \beta_N \sim 4 \text{ advanced}$$

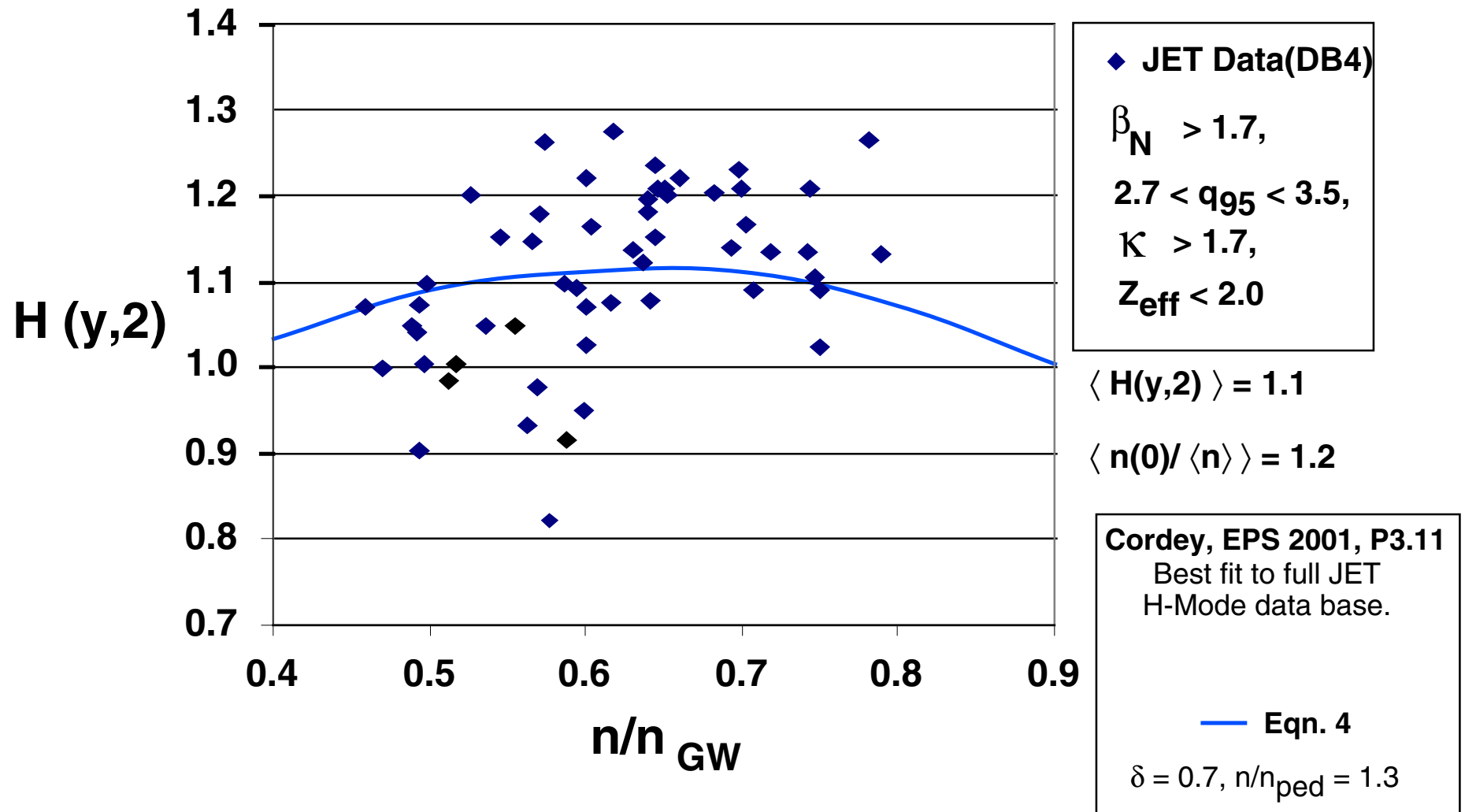
**H-Mode Power Threshold - Based on today's tokamak data base**

$$P_{\text{th}} \geq (2.84/A_i) n_{20}^{0.58} B^{0.82} Ra^{0.81}, \text{ same as ITER-FEAT}$$

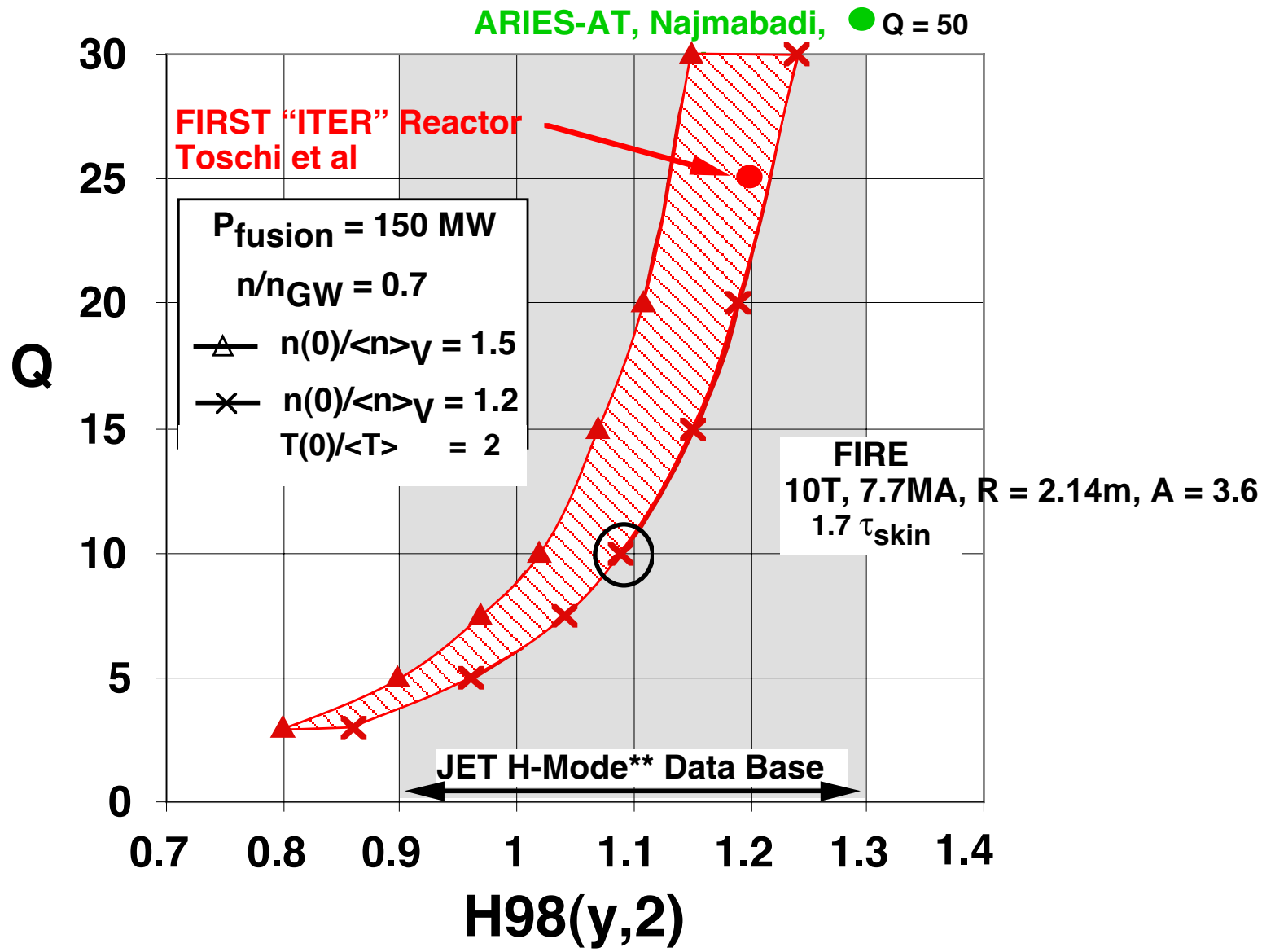
**Helium Ash Confinement  $\tau_{\text{He}} = 5 \tau_E$ , impurities = 3% Be, 0% W**

**Understanding is mainly empirical. Better understanding is needed from existing experiments with improved simulations, and a benchmark in alpha-dominated fusion plasmas is needed to confirm and extend the science basis.**

# JET H-Mode Data Selected for FIRE-like Parameters

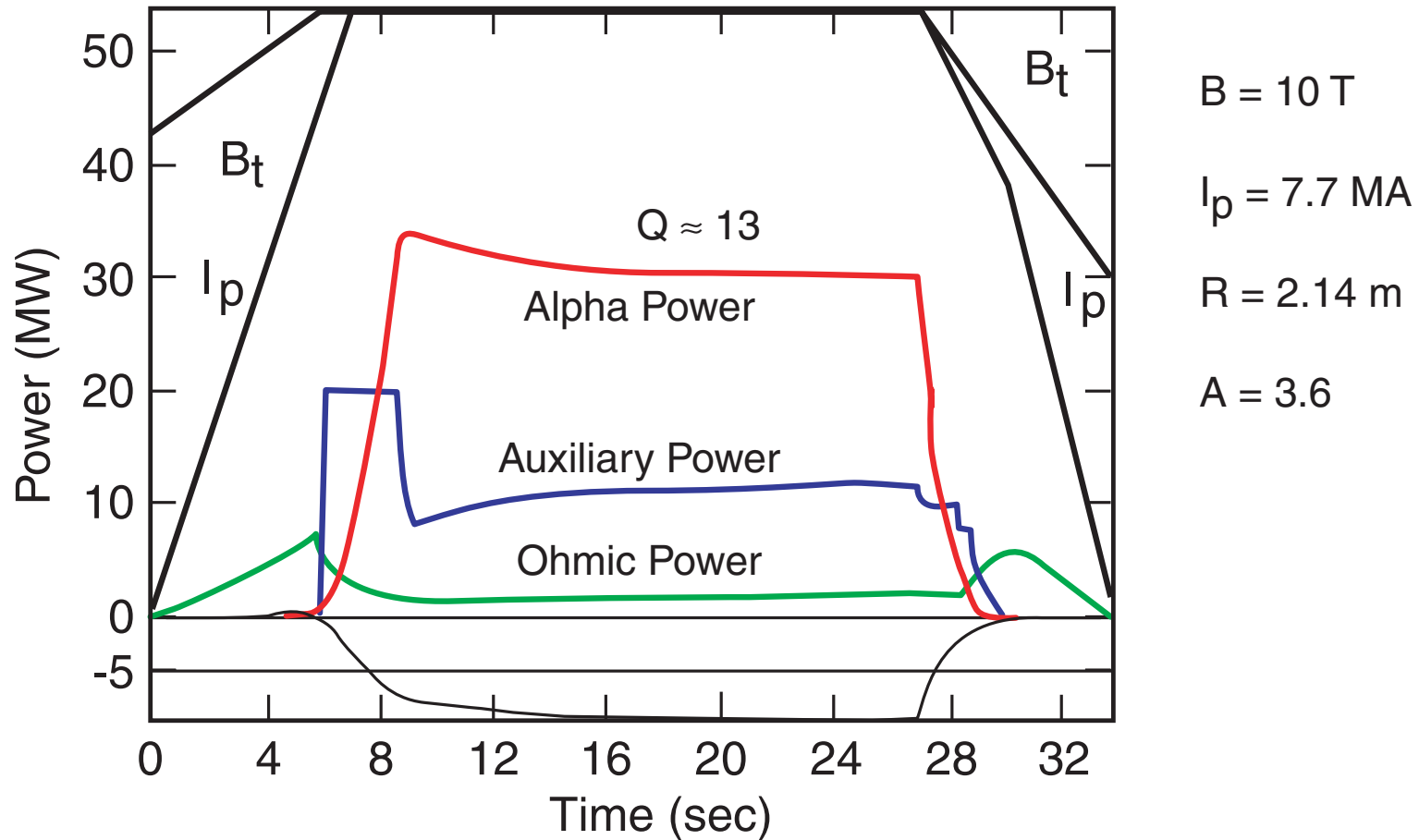


# Projections to FIRE Compared to Envisioned Reactors





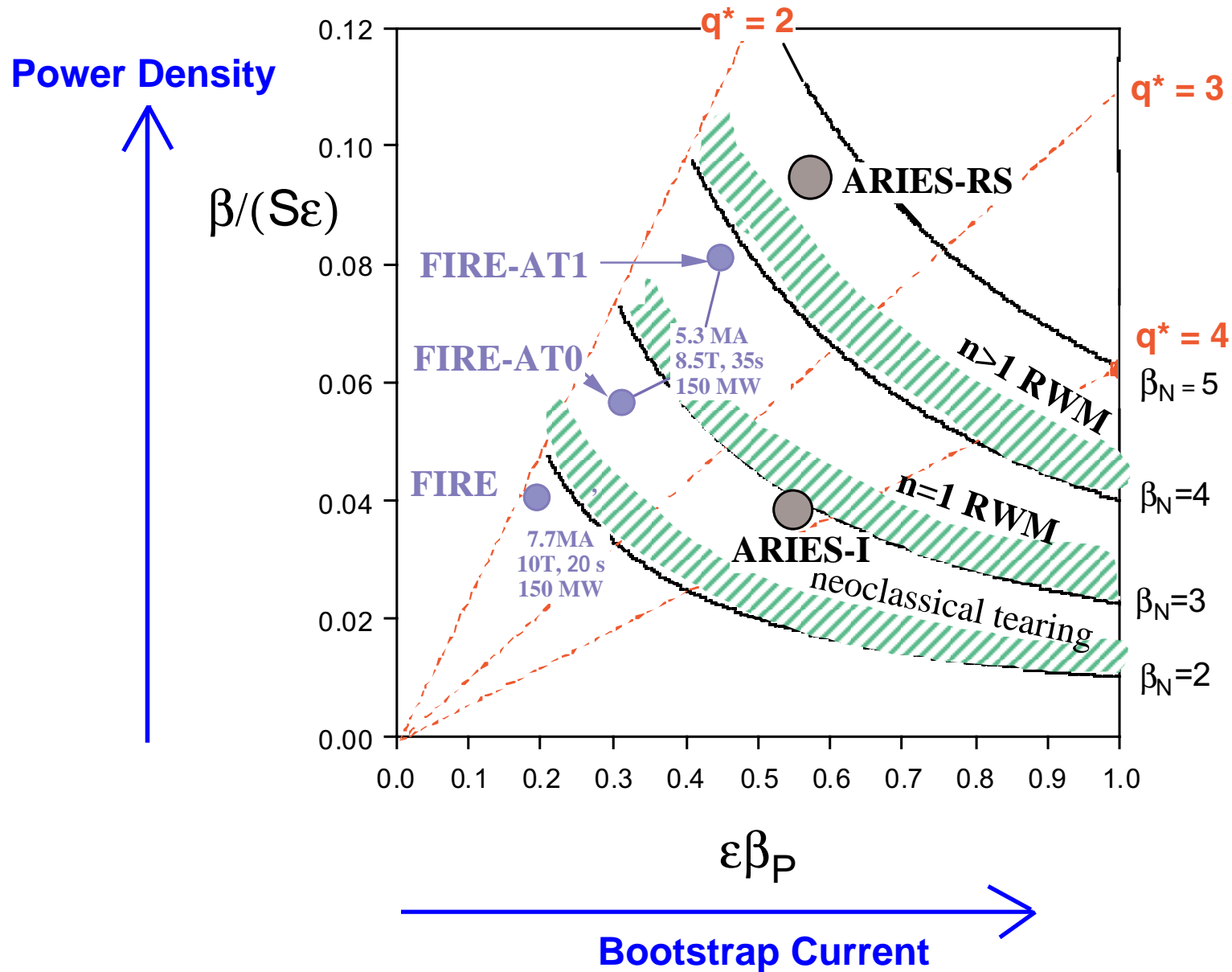
# Simulation of Burning Plasma in FIRE



- ITER98(y, 2) with  $H(y, 2) = 1.1$ ,  $n(0)/\langle n \rangle = 1.2$ , and  $n/n_{GW} = 0.67$
- Burn Time  $\approx 20 \text{ s} \approx 21\tau_E \approx 4\tau_{He} \approx 2\tau_{CR}$

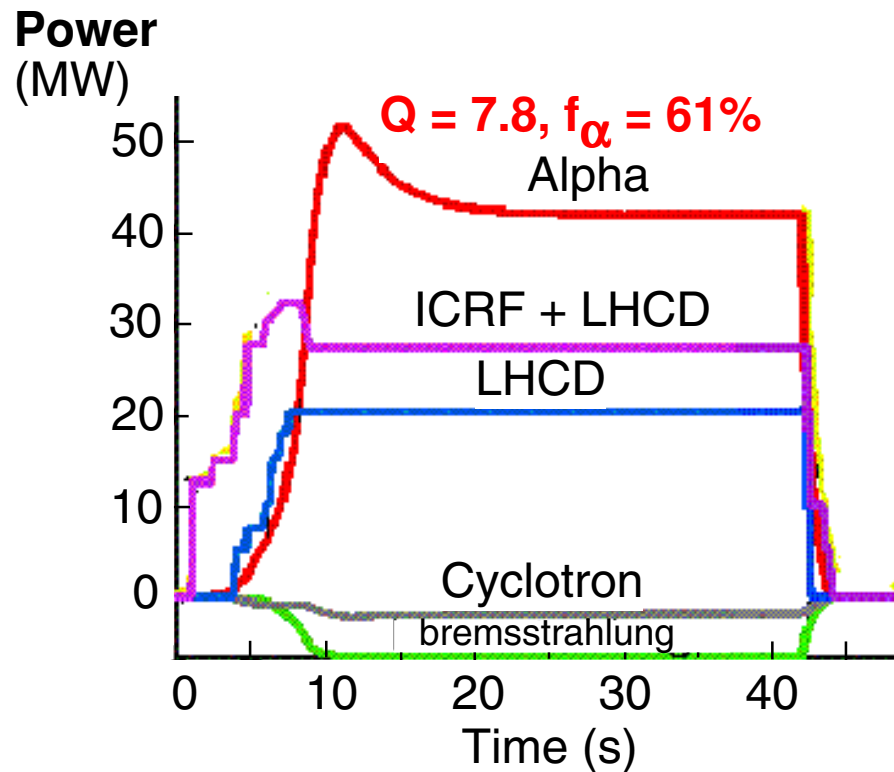
$$Q = P_{\text{fusion}} / (P_{\text{aux}} + P_{\text{oh}})$$

# FIRE would Test a Sequence of AT Modes



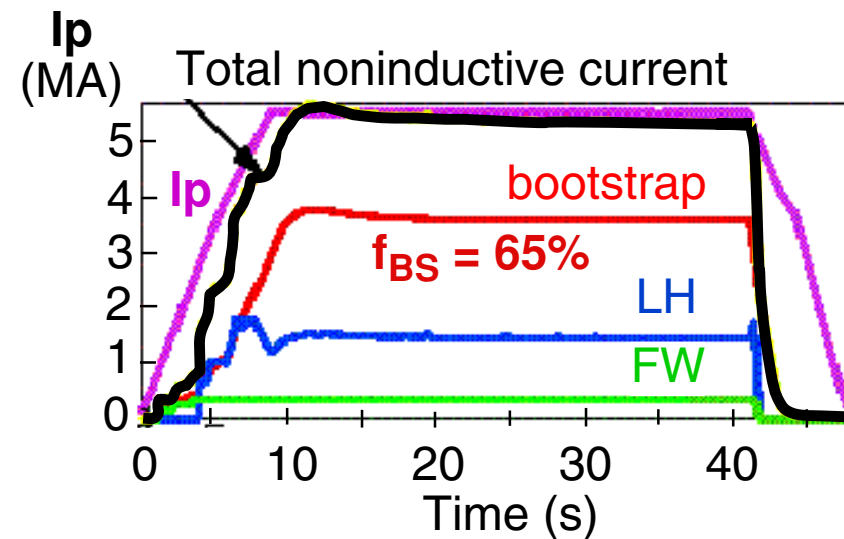
# Advanced Burning Plasma Physics could be Explored in FIRE

## Self-Heating Dominant



## Self-Current Drive Dominant

Fully Non-Inductive for  $> 1 \tau_{CR}$



Tokamak simulation code results for  $H(y, 2) = 1.6$ ,  $\beta_N = 3.5$ , would require RW mode stabilization.  $q(0) = 2.9$ ,  $q_{min} = 2.2$  @  $r/a = 0.8$ , 8.5 T, 5.5 MA

# **Edge Physics and PFC Technology: Critical Issue for Fusion**

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Plasma Power and particle Handling under relevant conditions  
Normal Operation / Off Normal events

Tritium Inventory Control  
must maintain low T inventory in the vessel  $\Rightarrow$  all metal PFCs

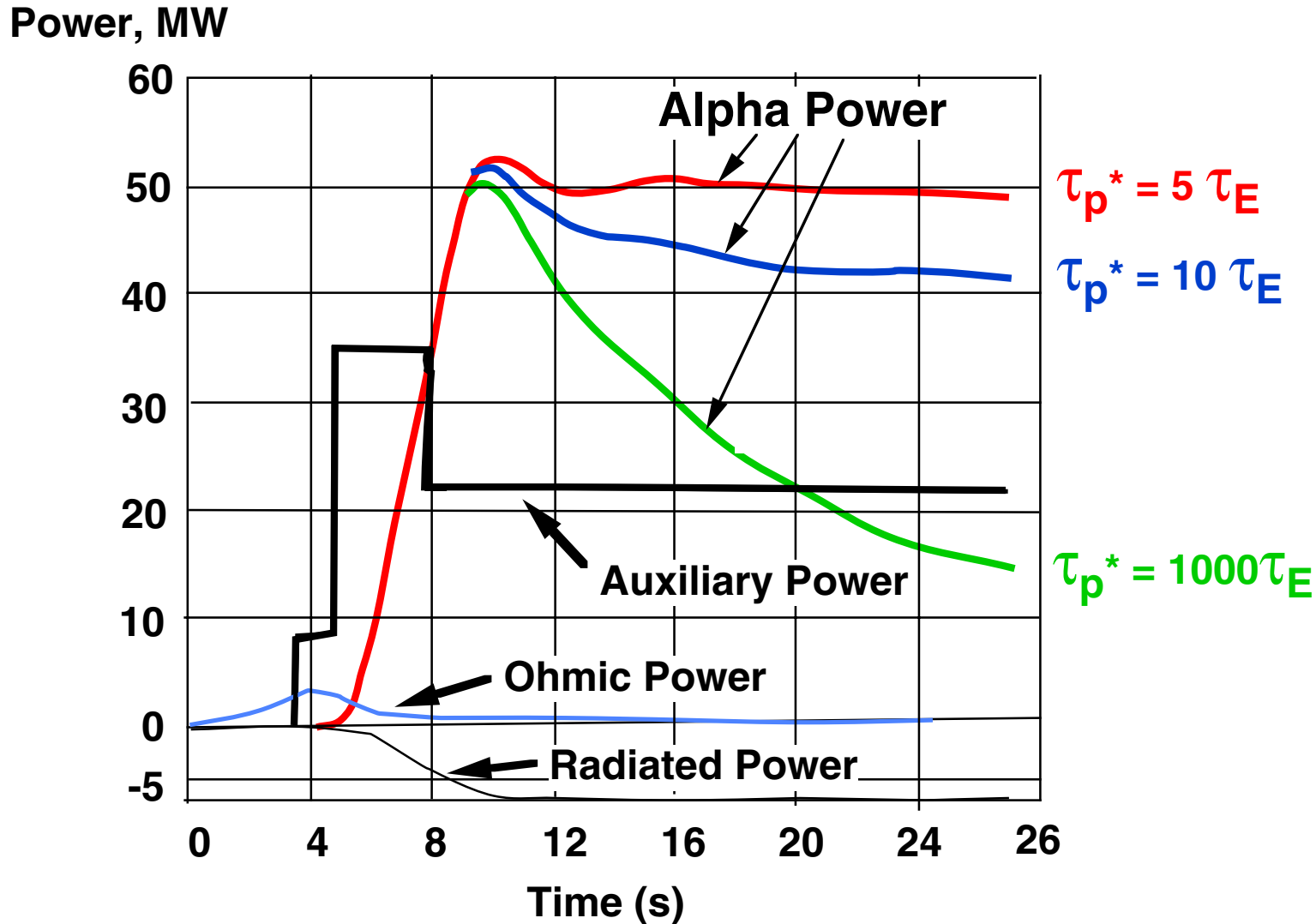
Efficient particle Fueling  
pellet injection needed for deep and tritium efficient fueling

Helium Ash Removal  
need close coupled He pumping

Non-linear Coupling with Core plasma Performance  
nearly every advancement in confinement can be traced to the edge  
Edge Pedestal models first introduced in  $\sim$  1992 first step in understanding  
Core plasma (low  $n_{\text{edge}}$ ) and divertor (high  $n_{\text{edge}}$ ) requirements conflict

**Solutions to these issues would be a major output from a next step experiment.**

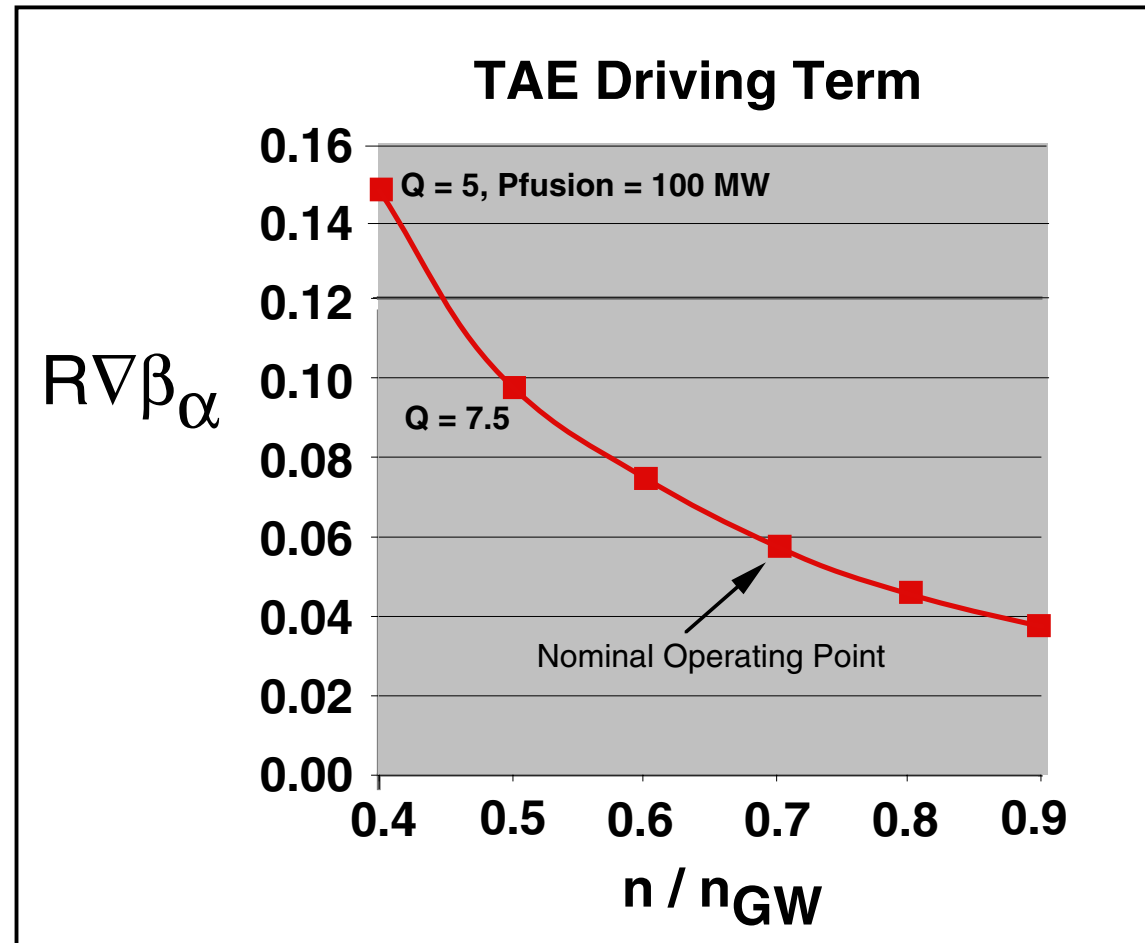
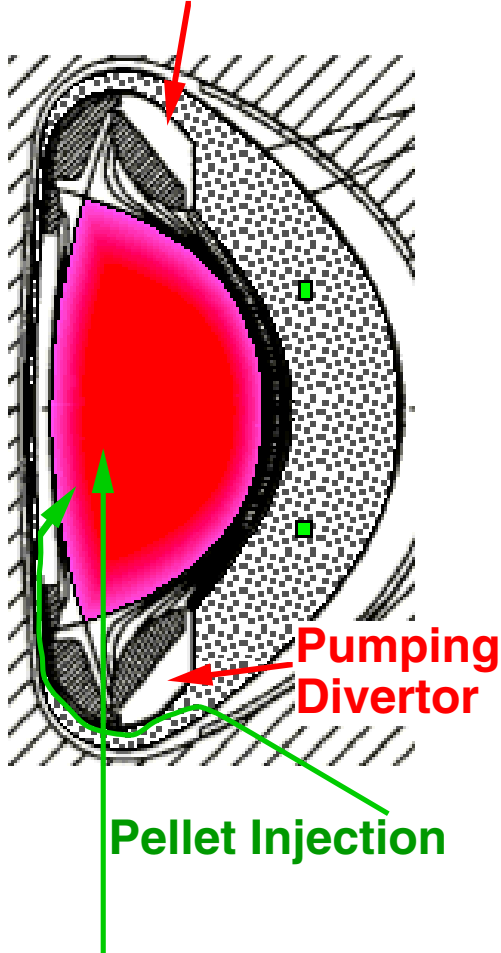
# Helium Ash Removal Techniques Required for a Reactor can be Studied on FIRE



Fusion power can not be sustained without helium ash punping.

# Energetic Particle Drive can be Varied in FIRE Using Divertor Pumping and Pellet Injection

Pumping Divertor



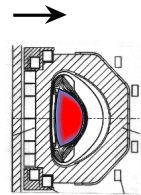
FIRE:  $H(y,2) = 1.1$ ,  $\alpha_n = 0.2$ ,  $\alpha_T = 1.75$ ,  
 $Q = 10$ ,  $P_{fusion} = 150$  MW except where noted

# FIRE would Test the High Power Density In-Vessel Technologies Needed for ARIES-RS

**P<sub>fusion</sub>**  
= ~ 150 MW

**Volume**  
= 27 m<sup>3</sup>

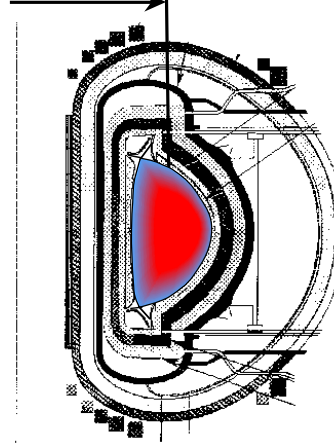
**B = 10 T**  
**R = 2.14 m**



**FIRE**

~ 3X

**B = 8 T**  
**R = 5.5 m**



**ARIES-RS The "Goal"**

**P<sub>fusion</sub>**  
= 2170 MW

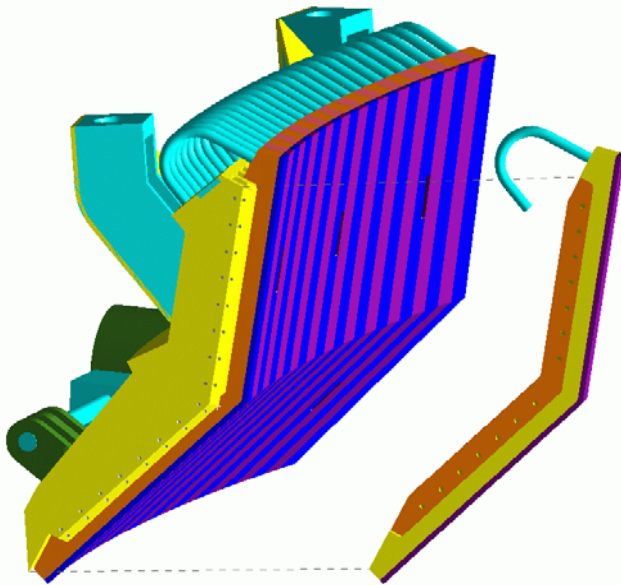
**Volume**  
= 350 m<sup>3</sup>

	<b>JET</b>	<b>FIRE</b>	<b>ARIES-RS</b>
<b>Fusion Power Density (MW/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	0.2	5.5	6
<b>Neutron Wall Loading (MW/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	0.2	2.3	4
<b>Divertor Challenge (P<sub>heat</sub>/NR)</b>	~5	~10	~35
<b>Power Density on Div Plate (MW/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	3	~15-19 → 6	~5
<b>Burn Duration (s)</b>	4	20	steady

# Divertor Module Components for FIRE

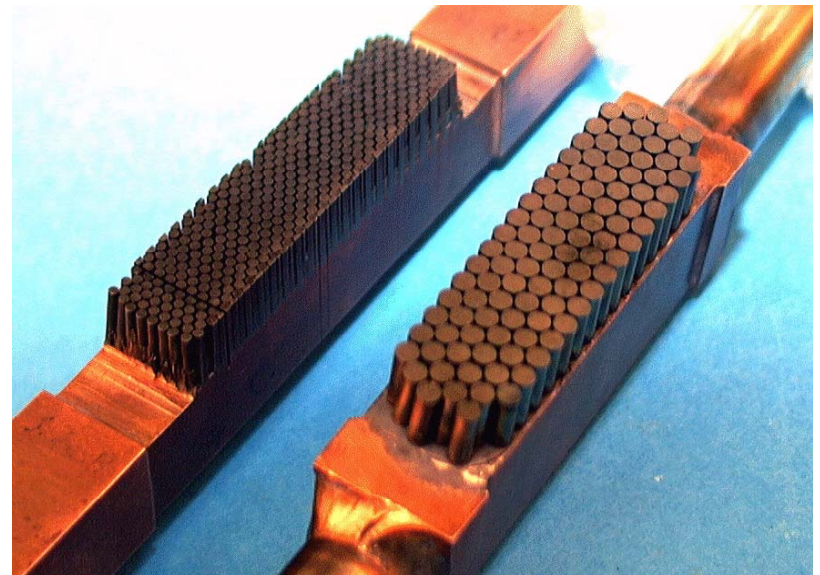
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*Sandia*



**Finger Plate for  
Outer Divertor Module**

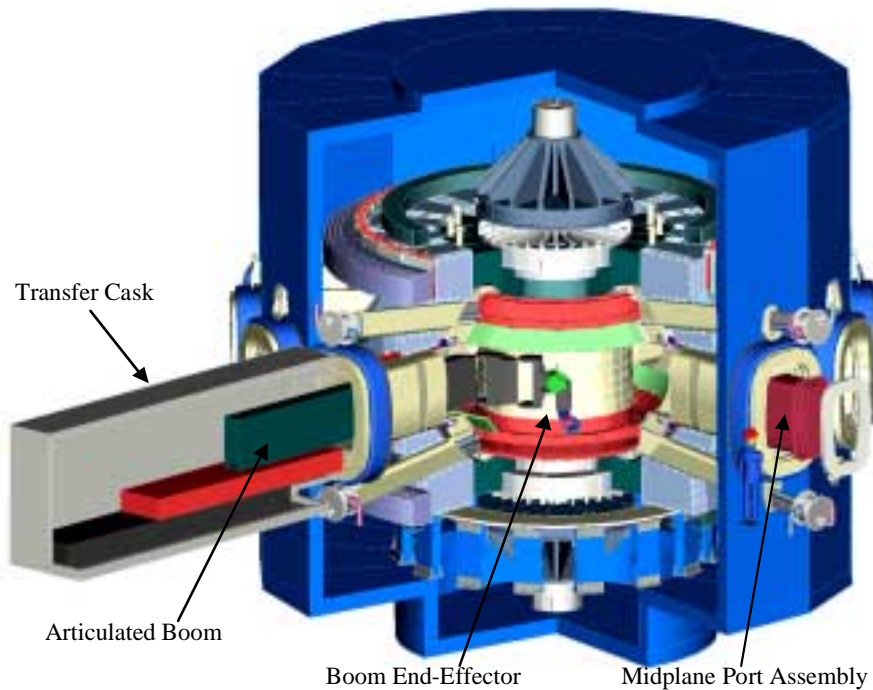
**Two W Brush Armor Configurations  
Tested at 25 MW/m<sup>2</sup>**



**Carbon targets used in most experiments today are not compatible with tritium inventory requirements of fusion reactors.**

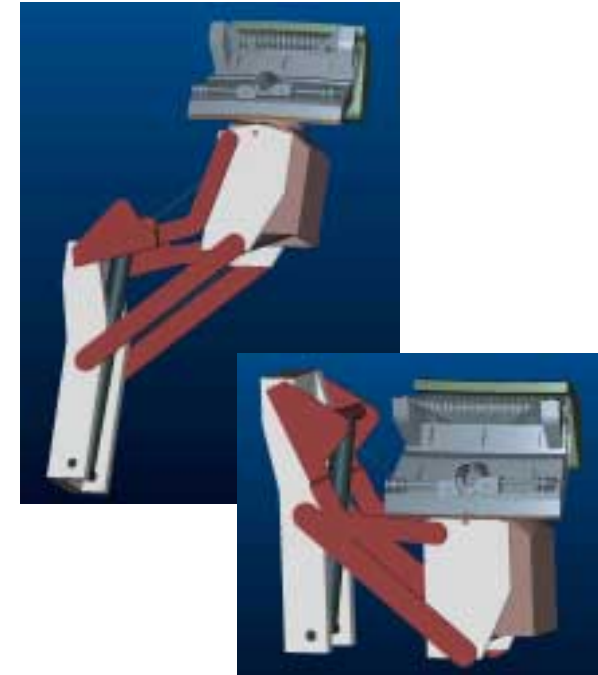


# FIRE In-Vessel Remote Handling System



## In-vessel transporter

- Articulated boom deployed from sealed cask
- Complete in-vessel coverage from 4 midplane ports
- Fitted with different end-effector depending on component to be handled
- First wall module end-effector shown



## Divertor end-effector

- High capacity (module wt. ~ 800 kg)
- Four positioning degrees of freedom
- Positioning accuracy of millimeters required

## FIRE Parameters and Design Goals

	FIRE	ITER-FEAT	ARIES-RS
$\kappa_x/\kappa_{95}$	2.0/1.77	1.85/1.7	2/1.7
$\delta_x/\delta_{95}$	0.7/0.4-0.55	0.49/0.33	0.7/0.5
Divertor	DN	SN	DN
R (m)	2.14	6.2	5.5
A = R/a	3.6	3.1	4.0
B (T)	10	5.3	8
$I_p$ (MA)	7.7	15	11.3
$Q = P_{fus}/(P_{oh} + P_{aux})$	10	10	27
Burn Time (inductive) (s)	20	400	steady
Current Redistributions	~2	~2	infinite
$P_{fusion}$ (MW)	150	400	2170
$P_{fusion}/Vol$ (MW/m <sup>3</sup> )	5.6	0.5	6.2
Neutron Wall loading (MW/m <sup>2</sup> )	2.3	0.5	4
First Wall Thermal Equilib.	no	yes	yes
Divertor Target material	W	C(W?)	W
$P_{fusion} - P_{bremm} / N2\pi R_x$ (MW/m)	1.5	1.4(0.7)	8.1
Div. Target Thermal Equilib.	yes	yes	yes

## Cost Background for FIRE

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- Three tokamaks physically larger but with lower field energy than FIRE have been built.

Water Cooled Coils	B(T)	R(m)	Coil Energy (GJ)	Const. Cost
TFTR (1983), US	5.2	2.5	1.5	\$498M
JET (1984), Europe	3.4	2.96	1.4	~\$600M
JT-60 (1984), Japan	4.4	3.2	2.9	~\$1000M
FIRE*, US	10	2.14	5.0	(~ \$1000M)

\* FIRE would have liquid nitrogen cooled coils.

Cost estimates from previous design studies with similar technology.

Liquid N, Cu coils	B(T)	R(m)	Coil Energy (GJ)	Const. Cost
CIT (1989),	11	2.14	5	\$680M (FY-89)
BPX (1991)	9.1	2.59	8.4	\$1,500M (FY-92)
BPX-AT(1992)	10	2.0	4.2	\$642M (FY-92)
FIRE Goal	10	2.14	5.0	(~\$1,000M FY-99 )
PCAST ( 120s)	7	5.0	40	~\$5,815M (FY-95)

# Preliminary FIRE Cost Estimate (FY99 US\$M)

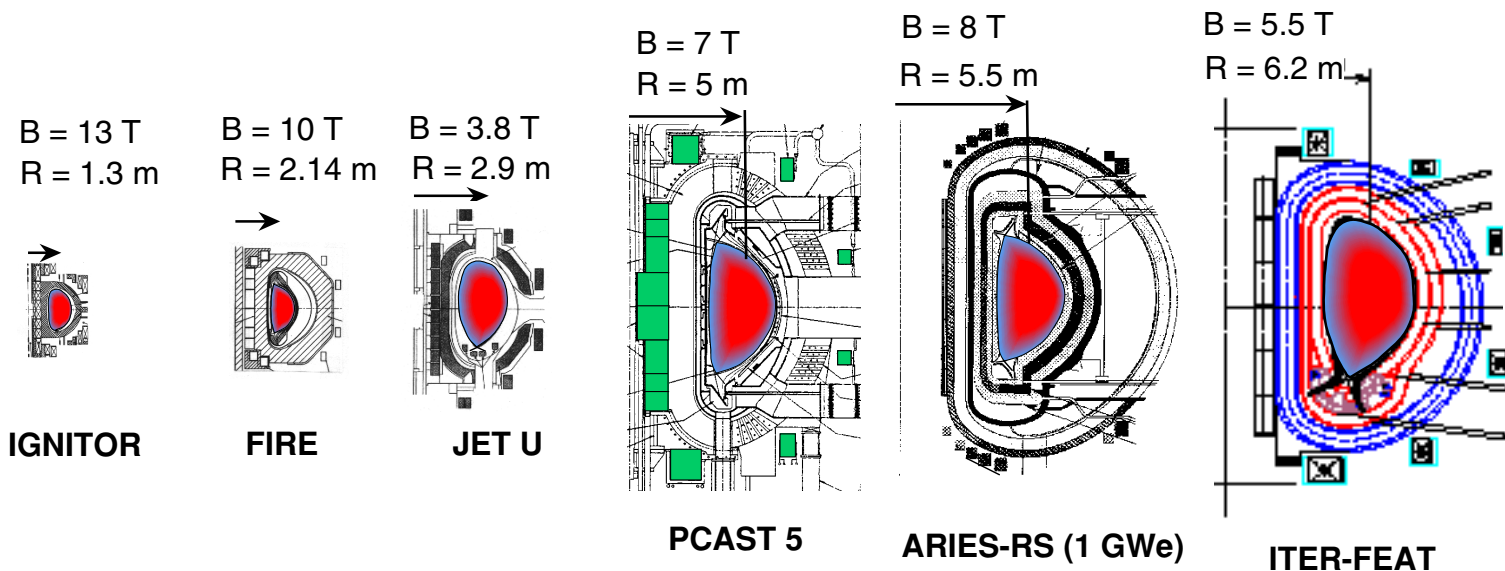
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	Estimated Cost	Contingency	Total with Contingency
1.0 Tokamak Core	266.3	78.5	343.8
1.1 Plasma Facing Components	71.9	19.2	
1.2 Vacuum Vessel/In-Vessel Structures	35.4	11.6	
1.3 TF Magnets /Structure	117.9	38.0	
1.4 PF Magnets/Structure	29.2	7.2	
1.5 Cryostat	1.9	0.6	
1.6 Support Structure	9.0	1.8	
2.0 Auxiliary Systems	135.6	42.5	178.1
2.1 Gas and Pellet Injection	7.1	1.4	
2.2 Vacuum Pumping System	9.6	3.4	
2.3 Fuel Recovery/Processing	7.0	1.0	
2.4 ICRF Heating	111.9	36.6	
3.0 Diagnostics (Startup)	22.0	4.9	26.9
4.0 Power Systems	177.3	42.0	219.3
5.0 Instrumentation and Controls	18.9	2.5	21.4
6.0 Site and Facilities	151.4	33.8	185.2
7.0 Machine Assembly and Remote Maintenance	77.0	18.0	95.0
8.0 Project Support and Oversight	88.8	13.3	102.2
9.0 Preparation for Operations/Spares	16.2	2.4	18.6
<b>Preconceptual Cost Estimate (FY99 US\$M)</b>	<b>953.6</b>	<b>237.8</b>	<b>1190.4</b>

Assumes a Green Field Site with **No** site credits or significant equipment reuse.

**June 5, 2001**

# Comparison of Burning Plasma Device Parameters



Cost Drivers	IGNITOR	FIRE	JET U	PCAST	ARIES-RS	ITER-FEAT
Plasma Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	11	27	108	390	350	828
Plasma Surface (m <sup>2</sup> )	36	67	160	420	420	610
Plasma Current (MA)	12	7.7	6	15	11.3	15
Magnet Energy (GJ)	5	5	1.6	40	85	50
Fusion Power (MW)	100	150	30	400	2170	400
Burn Duration (s), inductive	~1	20	10	120	steady	400
$\tau$ Burn/ $\tau$ CR		~2	0.6	1	steady	2
Cost Estimate (\$B-2000\$)		1.2	~0.6	6.7	10.6*	4.6?

\* first , \$5.3 B for 10th of a kind

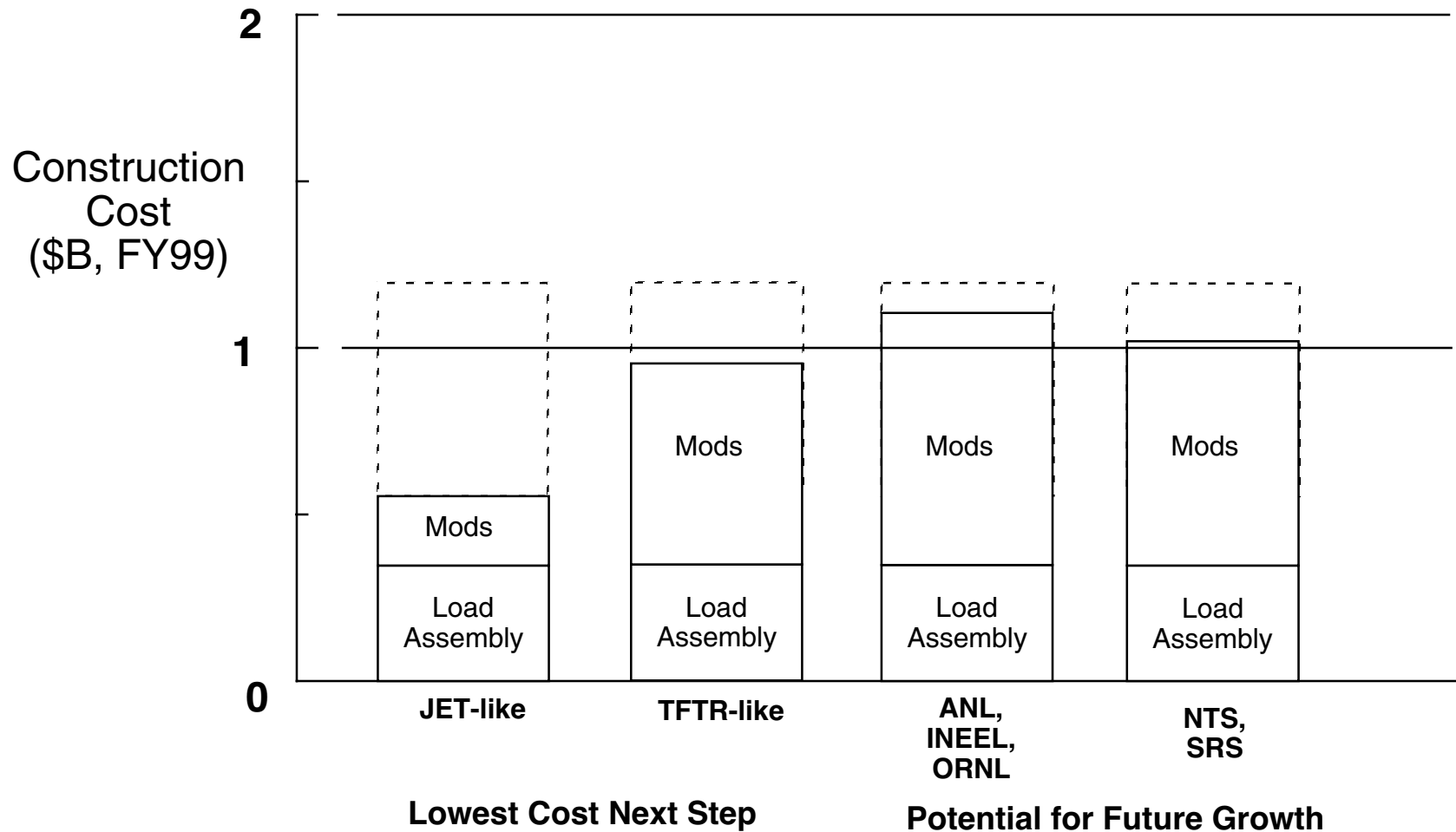
AR RS/ITERs/PCAST/FIRE/IGN

## Site Characteristics for FIRE

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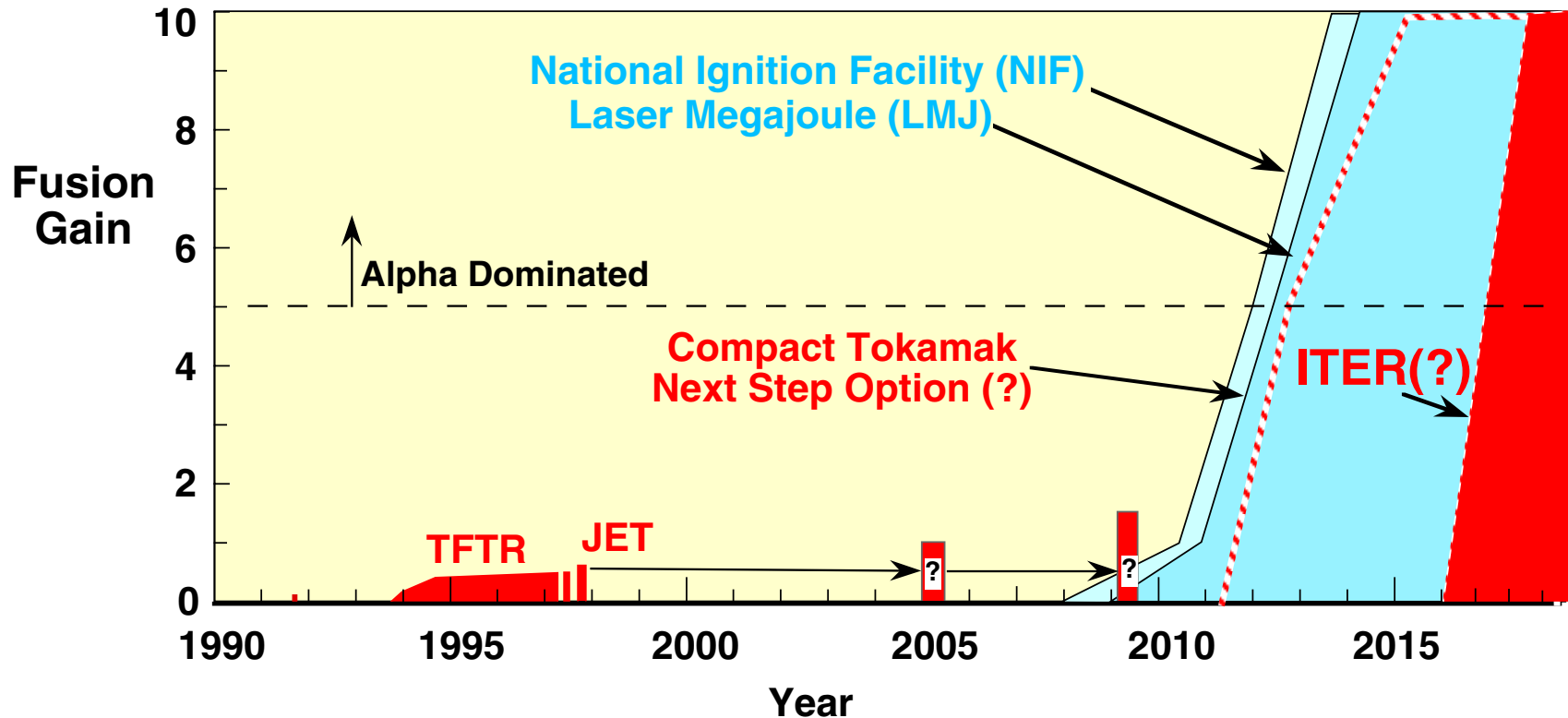
- **Land Area**
  - ~ 20 acres
- **Buildings**
  - Test cell ~ 30m x 45 m x 17 m (high)
  - Auxiliary Buildings - power, material handling, cryo, support
- **Power**
  - ~ 600 MW from grid for ~ 20 s pulse every 3 hours
  - ~ 200 MW and ~ 4.5 GJ from on site MG
- **Tritium Inventory**
  - 5 g to 25g (in process inventory)
- **Cryogenic Plant**
  - 2 kW refrigerator, 600 kgallon LN storage

# Site Credits could be Significant and Need to be Evaluated



1. Could the TFTR site ever be used for tritium again? We need to determine this very soon.
2. Defense Program sites may be special opportunities.

# Timetable for “Burn to Learn” Phase of Fusion



- Even with ITER, the MFE program will be unable to address the alpha-dominated burning plasma issues for  $\geq 15$  years.
- Compact High-Field Tokamak Burning Plasma Experiment(s) would be a natural extension of the ongoing “advanced” tokamak program and could begin alpha-dominated experiments by  $\sim 10$  years.
- **More than one high gain burning plasma facility is needed in the world program.**
- The information “exists now” to make a technical assessment, and decision on MFE burning plasma experiments for the next decade.



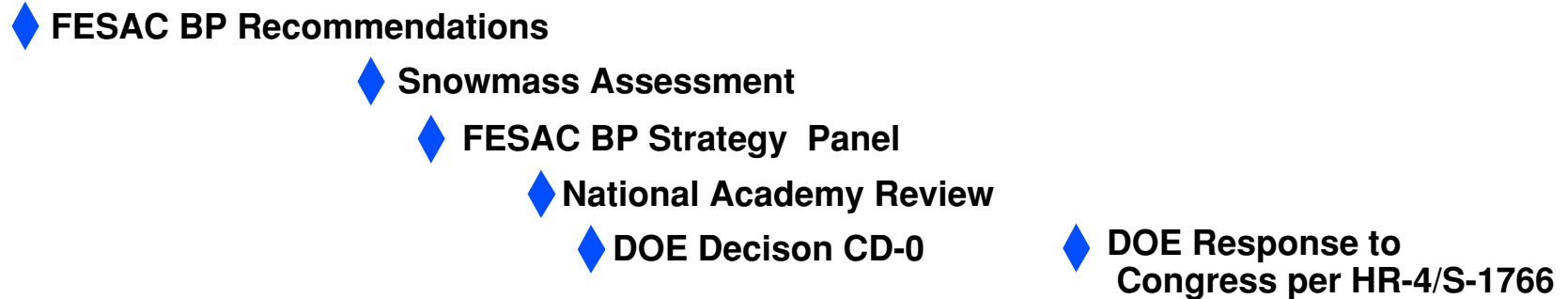
# Timetable for Investment Decisions in Magnetic Fusion

USFY 2001	USFY 2002	USFY 2003	USFY 2004	USFY 2005
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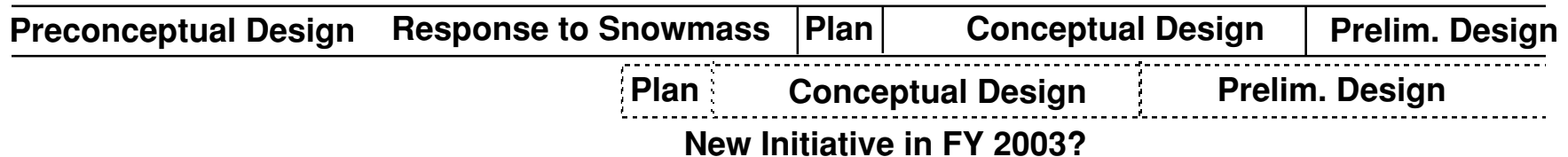
## ITER Activities and Decisions Schedule (Sep 2001)



## US Activities and Decisions



## U.S. Burning Plasma Design Activity - FIRE



## Summary

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- A Window of Opportunity may be opening for U.S. Energy R&D. We should be ready. The Diversified International Portfolio has advantages for addressing the science and technology issues of fusion.
- FIRE is being designed to :
  - address the important burning plasma issues, performance ~ ITER
  - investigate the strong non-linear coupling between BP and AT,
  - stimulate the development of reactor relevant PFC technology, and
  - provide generic BP science and possibly BP infrastructure for non-tokamak BP experiments in the U. S.
- Some areas that need additional work to realize this potential include:
  - Apply recent enhanced confinement and advanced modes to FIRE
  - Understand conditions for enhanced confinement regimes-triangularity
  - Compare DN relative to SN - confinement, stability, divertor, etc
  - Complete disruption analysis, develop better disruption control/mitigation.
- If a positive decision is made in this year, FIRE is ready to begin Conceptual Design in FY2003 with target of first plasmas ~ 2010.

<http://fire.pppl.gov>