

The Pursuit of Fusion Energy: Where are we, and where should we be going?

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Fusion Innovation Research and Energy
(formerly PPPL)**

**Plasma Physics Colloquium
Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics Department
Columbia University
April 11, 2014**

Today's Talk (Discussion)

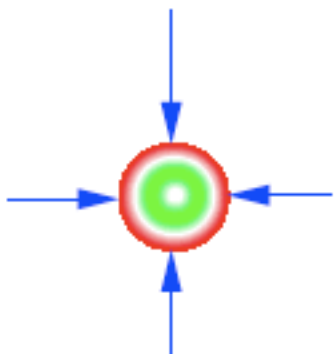
- The need for an abundant non-CO₂ emitting energy source is generally accepted. However, there is debate about whether there is a near term urgency and the best way to produce abundant non-CO₂ emitting energy.
- Fusion would be an ideal long term energy source, but.....
 - it is a very difficult scientific and technical challenge
- Where are we today in the pursuit of fusion energy?



Fusion Fire Powers the Sun

“We need to see if we can make fusion work.”

There are Three Main Fusion Concepts



Spherical Inertial

gravitational

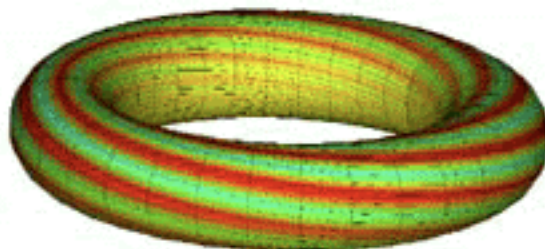
transient compression

drive (laser-D/I, beam)

radial profile

time profile

electrostatic



Toroidal Magnetic

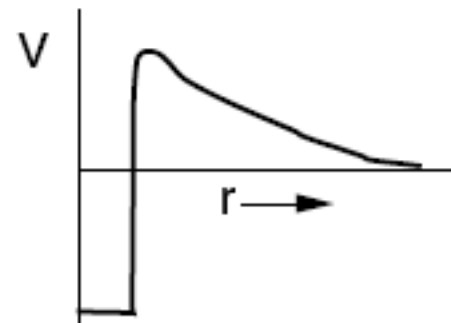
surface of helical B lines

twist of helix

twist profile

plasma profile

toroidal symmetry



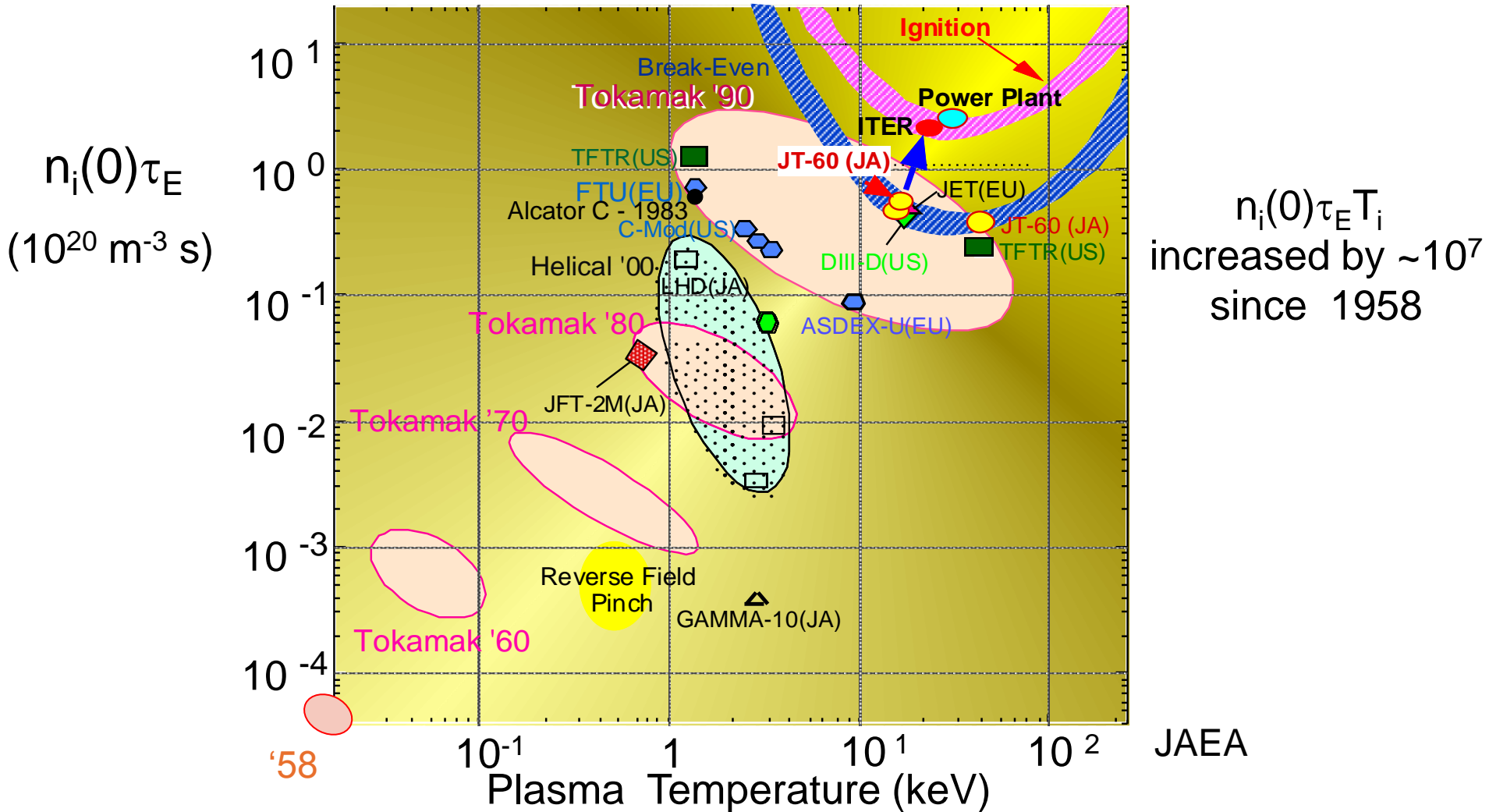
Reactivity Enhancement

muon catalysis

polarized nuclei

others?

Fusion Temperatures Attained in the Laboratory, Fusion Confinement One Step Away

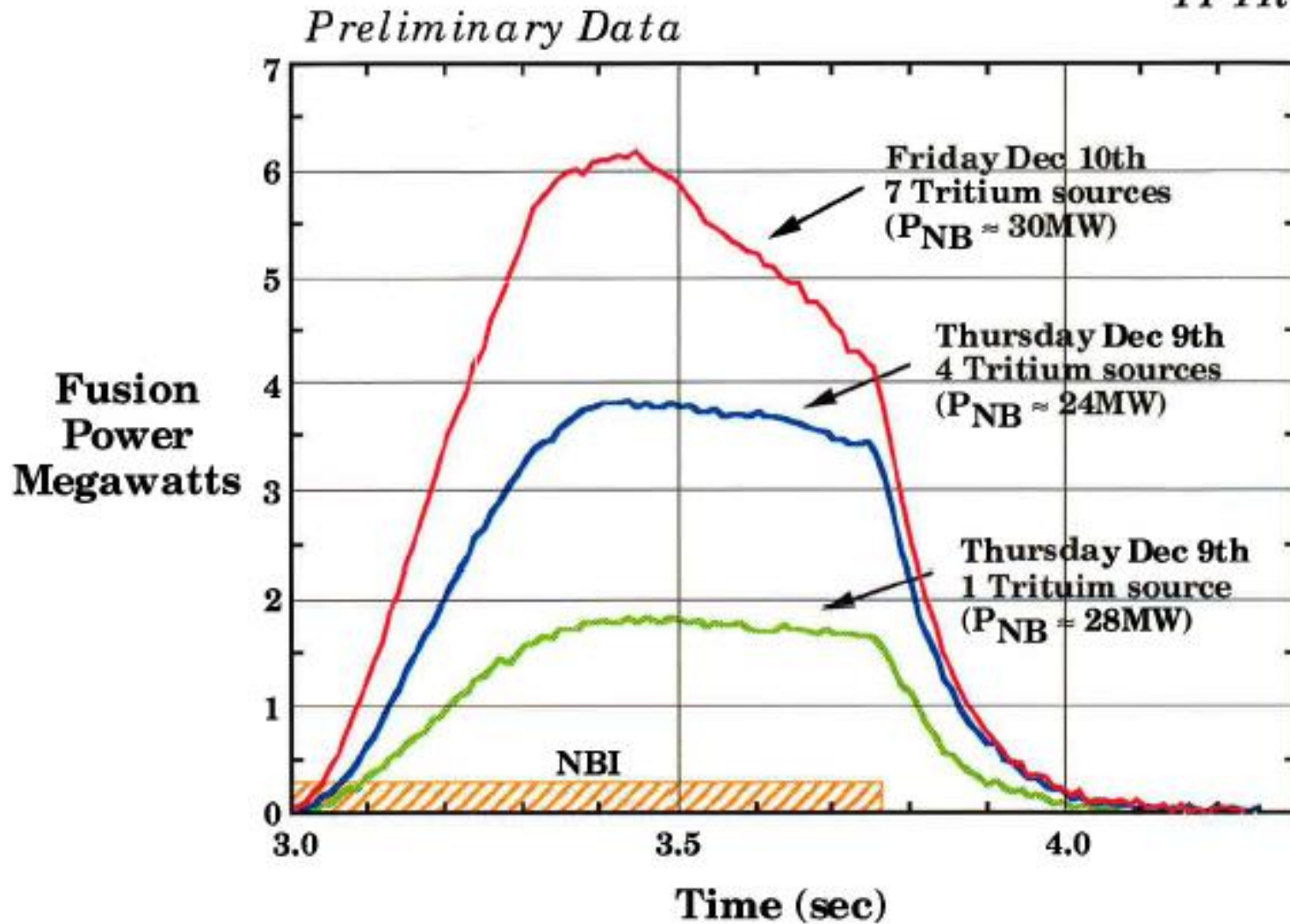


Significant Fusion Power (>10MW) Produced 1990s

- 1991 JET 90/10-DT, 2 MJ/pulse, $Q \sim 0.15$, 2 pulses
- 1993-97 TFTR 50/50-DT, 7.5MJ/pulse, 11 MW, $Q \sim 0.3$, 1000 D-T pulses,
 - Alpha heating observed, Alpha driven TAEs - alpha diagnostics
 - ICRF heating scenarios
 - 1 MCi of T throughput, tritium retention
 - 3 years of operation with DT, and then decommissioned.
- Advanced Tokamak Mode Employed for High Performance
 - Improved ion confinement TFTR, DIII-D, $Q_{DTequiv} \sim 0.3$ in DIII-D 1995
 - $n\tau_E T$ record => $Q_{DTequiv}$ in JT-60U DD using AT mode 1996
 - Bootstrap and current drive extended
- 1997 JET 50/50-DT 22MJ/pulse, 16 MW, $Q \sim 0.65$, ~100 D-T pulses
 - Alpha heating extended, ICRF DT Scenarios extended,
 - DT pulse length extended
 - Near ITER scale D-T processing plant
 - Remote handling

Initial D-T Results From TFTR

TFTR



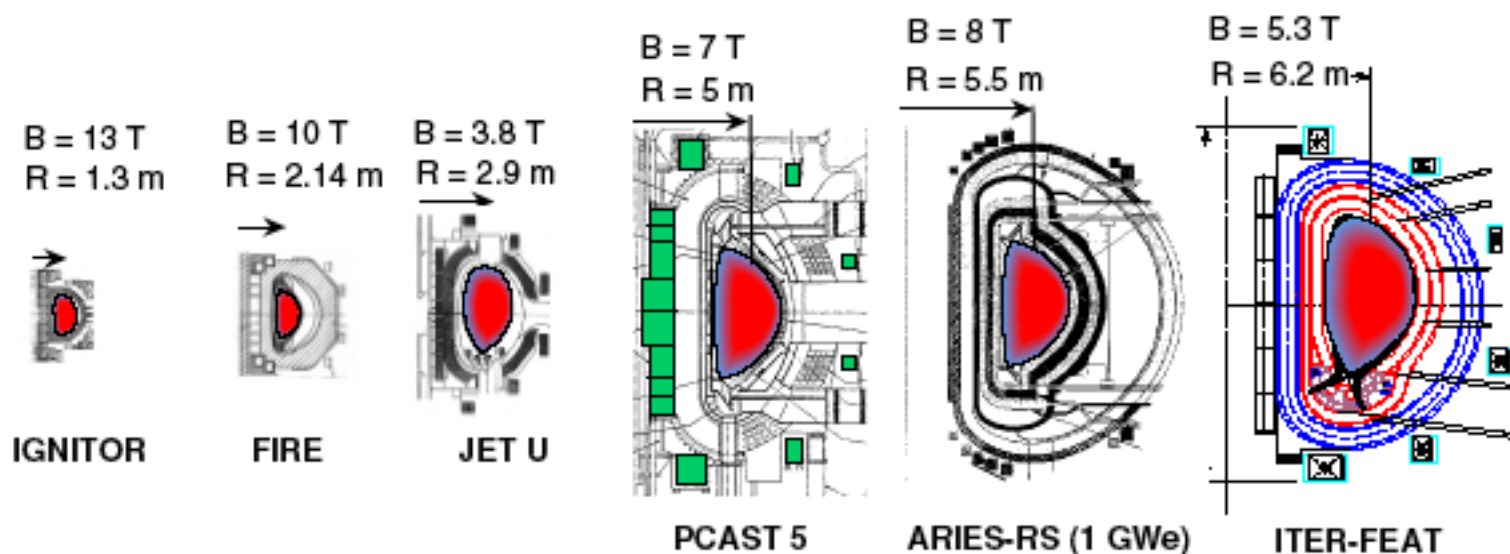
1st DT Experiments with 50/50 DT fuel, Dec 9-10, 1993

L. Johnson
J. Strachan

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From 1996 to 2004 the US Considered the NEXT Step in MFE



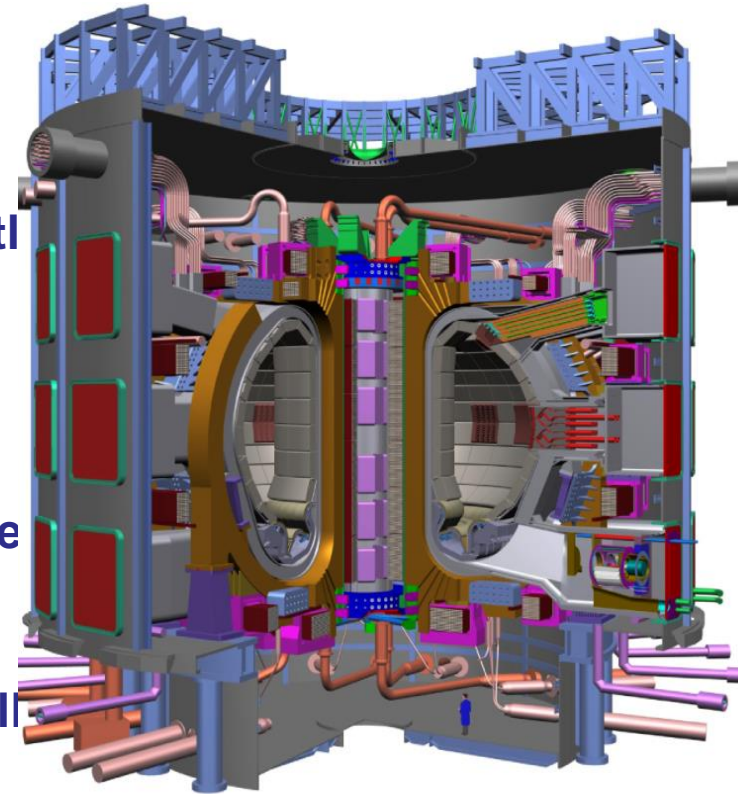
Cost Drivers	IGNITOR	FIRE	JET U	PCAST	ARIES-RS	ITER-FEAT
Plasma Volume (m ³)	11	27	108	390	350	828
Plasma Surface (m ²)	36	60	160	420	420	610
Plasma Current (MA)	12	7.7	6	15	11.3	15
Magnet Energy (GJ)	1.3	5	1.6	40	85	41
Fusion Power (MW)	100	150	30	400	2170	400
Burn Duration (s), inductive	~1	20	10	120	steady	400
τ Burn Flat-top/ τ CR		~2	0.6	1	steady	2
Cost Estimate (\$B-2000\$) -proposers		1.2	~0.6	7.1	11.2*	5.0
Fusion Core Mass (kilo tonnes)		1.4		10	13	19

* first, \$5.6 B for 10th of a kind

AR RS/ITERs/PCAST/FIRE/IGN

ITER was proposed in 2000 by EU, JA and RF to Demonstrate the Scientific and Technological Feasibility of Fusion Power

- ITER is a large step. The core tokamak is the physical size of a fusion power plant.
- For the first time the fusion fuel will be dominantly heated by the fusion reactions.
 - Today: 10 MW(th) for ~1 second with gain ~1
 - ITER: 500 MW(th) for >300 seconds, gain >10
- Many of the technologies used in ITER will be the same as those required in a power plant.
- Further science and technology development will be needed to bridge the gap to a fusion DEMO.



On January 30, 2003 President Bush announced that the US would join the negotiations on the construction and operation of ITER. The US cost was expected to be roughly 10% of the total estimated cost of \$5B.

In November 2006 the World Decided to Build ITER

- ITER is now under construction by a seven party (EU, JA, RF, KO, IN, CN and US) international organization. However, as predicted by several wise people - there are issues associated with management structure, etc.....
- This has caused schedule delays and cost increases. Now 1st Plasma ~ 2023, 1st DT plasma >2030, US cost ~\$4B
- I personally have confidence that the management problems of ITER can be solved, and that ITER could achieve its technical mission.
- When ITER produces 500MW for 300s at a gain of 10 – there will be a sea-change in how people view fusion energy.
- We (you) must anticipate that sea change, what needs to be done in addition to ITER to realize the promise of Fusion Energy?

Today's Talk (Discussion)

- The need for an abundant non-CO₂ emitting energy source is generally accepted. However, there is debate about whether there is a near term urgency and the best way to produce abundant non-CO₂ emitting energy.
- Fusion would be an ideal long term energy source, but.....
 - it is a very difficult scientific and technical challenge
- Where are we today in the pursuit of fusion energy?
- What are the steps that still need to be taken on the road to fusion energy?
- A technical road map with hazards identified, options available and mileage markers is one the first steps in developing a strategic plan for fusion energy.

Why Work on a Fusion Roadmap Now?

- To demonstrate that there are realistic technical paths to a Magnetic Fusion DEMO
 - essential to convince others that fusion is worth supporting even if the funding is not yet available to follow an aggressive path.
- To update previous studies, and develop some initial views on the relative attributes of various paths. This exercise is not to down select !!
- In difficult of times, it is even more important to have a plan to make progress. Unfortunately, the US DOE has been resisting the development of a Strategic Plan for fusion energy by the fusion community.
- The European Union has developed a Road Map for Fusion Energy, it has been accepted by the European Commission and was used to justify budget increases for the next EU framework plan – Horizon 2020.

Magnetic Fusion Program Leaders (MFPL) Initiative

U. S. Magnetic Fusion Program Leaders: S.Prager, PPPL; T. Taylor, GA; N. Sauthoff, USIPO; M.Porkolab, MIT; P. Ferguson, ORNL; R. Fonck, U.Wisc; D. Brennan, UFA.

Goal: Develop and assess three aggressive technically feasible, but constrained, paths for the US Fusion Program to support or motivate a commitment to DEMO on the timescale of ITER Q \approx 10 experiments (nominally 2028).

Task: Building on previous Fusion Community workshops and studies, assess the technical readiness and risks associated with proceeding aggressively along three potential paths:

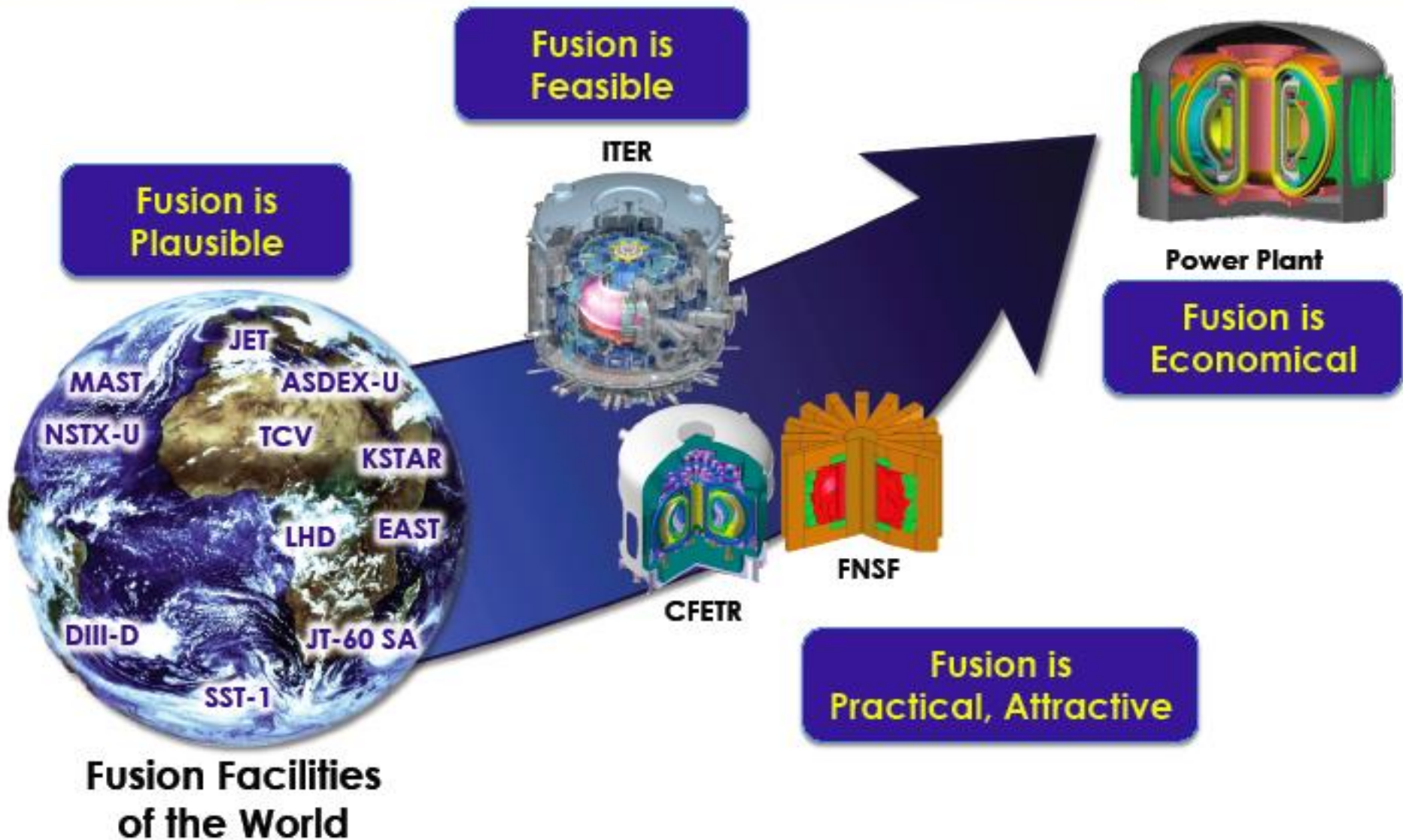
- 1) ITER plus Fusion Nuclear Science Facility leading to a Tokamak DEMO
- 2) ITER directly to a Tokamak DEMO (possibly staged)
- 3) ITER plus additional facilities leading to a QS - Stellarator DEMO

Each of these paths will include major aspects of a broad supporting research program.

Process:

1. A core group (10) has been formed
2. Solicit review from a large (30) group of technical experts and external advisors
3. Aiming for interim report to Magnetic Fusion Program Leaders by Spring 2014

An Advanced Tokamak Path to Fusion Energy



Road Map Study Group

Members

Dale Meade
Steve Zinkle
Chuck Kessel
Andrea Garofalo
Neil Morley
Jerry Navratil
Hutch Neilson
Dave Hill
Dave Rasmussen
Bruce Lipschultz/Dennis Whyte

Chair
Materials
Power Plant Studies, FNSPA
Toroidal Physics
Blanket Technology
University Experimental Perspective
3-D Toroidal, Road Map Studies
Toroidal Alternates
Enabling Technology, ITER
Plasma Wall Interactions
Reactor Innovations

Background

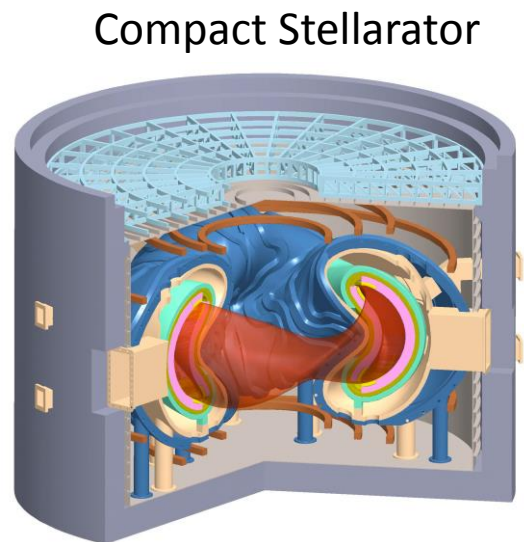
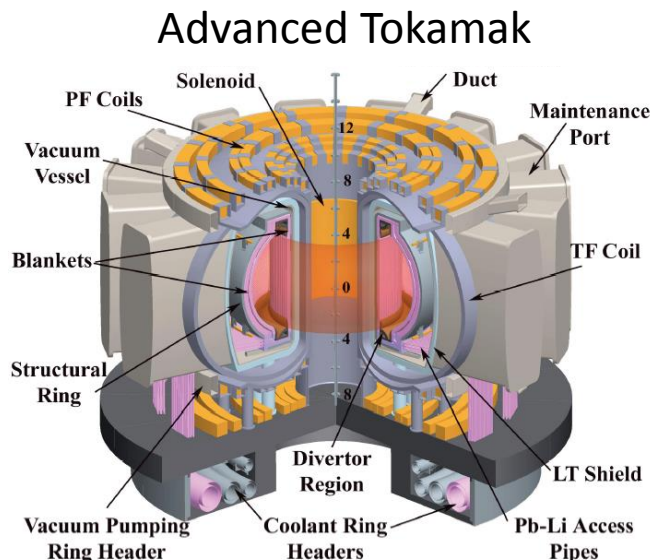
FESAC 35 Yr RJG (2003)
ReNeW Study (2009)
FESAC Materials SZ (2012)
FESAC Priorities RR (2013)
EU Road Map/Annex (2013)

FESAC Opportunity MG (2007)
FNPA Assessment CK (2011)
FESAC Int Collab DM (2012)
FESAC Facilities JS (2013)
China CFETR Plan (2013)

General Considerations

- Road Map driven by Goal and Associated Missions (Goal is a Fusion Power Plant)
- Strive for quantitative milestones and metrics as mileage markers
 - Technical Readiness Levels
 - Quantitative dimensional and dimensionless Figures of Merit
- Setup logic Framework for Mission milestones and Decision points
- Identify facilities needed to achieve mission milestones
- Must have parallel (overlapping) steps (as in the 1970s) for a reasonable schedule
- Detailed cost estimates are beyond scope our exercise, however
 - Consider ball park cost when choosing steps, avoid Mountain of Death
 - Our charge assumes funding capability to move forward as in 1970s
 - look for near term deliverables to bootstrap funding of later steps
- Gap/Risk Assessment
 - Gap assessment is straight forward, but quantitative risk assessment is difficult.

ARIES Studies Identified General Characteristics of Magnetic Fusion Demonstration Plants



	ARIES-ACT1	ARIES-ACT2	ARIES-CS
R(m)	6.25	9.75	7.75
B(T) / B _{max-coil} (T)	6.0/10.6	8.75/14.4	5.7/15.1
β_N / β_{tot} (%)	5.6/6.5	2.6/1.7	-/6.4
P _{Fusion} (MW)	1813	2637	2440
f _{bs} (%)	91	77	~25
$\langle \Gamma_n \rangle$ MWm ⁻²	2.5	1.5	2.6

All steady-state at 1,000 MW_E

Major Mission Elements on the Path to an MFE Power Plant

Mission 1. Create Fusion Power Source

Mission 2. Tame the Plasma Wall Interface

Mission 3. Harness the Power of Fusion

Mission 4. Develop Materials for Fusion Energy

Mission 5. Establish the Economic Attractiveness, and
Environmental Benefits of Fusion Energy

- Restatement of Greenwald Panel and ReNeW themes
- Each Mission has ~ five sub-missions

TRLs Express Increasing Levels of Integration and Relevance to Final Product and can Identify R&D Gaps.

TRL	Generic Description (<i>defense acquisitions definitions</i>)
1	Basic principles observed and formulated.
2	Technology concepts and/or applications formulated.
3	Analytical and experimental demonstration of critical function and/or proof of concept.
4	Component and/or bench-scale validation in a laboratory environment.
5	Component and/or breadboard validation in a relevant environment.
6	System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in relevant environment.
7	System prototype demonstration in an operational environment.
8	Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration.
9	Actual system proven through successful mission operations.

These terms must be defined for each technology application


ITER + FNSF => Advanced Tokamak Demo Pathway

Mission 1: Create Fusion Power Source


Technical Readiness Level	Concept Development			Proof of Principle			Proof of Performance		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Attain Burning Plasma Performance $Ba5/4, n\tau_E T_i, Q_{DT}$	Now			Now	ITER	ITER	DEMO	DEMO	Power Plant
Control High Performance Burning Plasma $\beta_N, nT, \text{disruptivity}, \tau_{\text{controlled}}, P_{\text{loss}}/P_{\text{heat}}$	Now			Support Pgm	ITER	ITER	DEMO	DEMO	Power Plant
Sustain Magnetic Configuration $f_{CD}, P_{CD}/P_{\text{heat}}, \dots, \tau_{\text{sustained}}/\tau_{CR}, \text{etc}$	AT	Now		Now	Support Pgm	ITER	ITER	DEMO	Power Plant
	ST	Now		Support Program	FNSF	FNSF	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
					Choose AT or ST for FNSF		OK for Steady State?		
Sustain Fusion Fuel Mix and Stable Burn $n_D(0)n_T(0)/n_e(0)^2, \text{Pop.Con stable}, \tau \text{ long}$	Now			Now	Now	ITER	ITER	DEMO	Power Plant
	Now			Now	Now	FNSF	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
Attain High Performance Burning Plasma Compatible with Plasma Exhaust $T_{ped}, n_{ped}, \text{fuel dilution}, P_{\text{core-rad}}$	Now			Support Pgm	ITER	ITER	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
	Now			Support Pgm	Support Pgm	FNSF	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
Major Issues									
Can AT be sustained in DEMO relevant mode with low disruptivity?									
Does QSS confinement extend to BP regime?									
Can high performance be sustained in either with DEMO relevant PFCs?									
Can fuel mix be sustained in either?									
Support Facilities									
Existing DD tokamaks (domestic and foreign)									
Upgrades to existing facilities									
New Facilities									
	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">More Work Needed here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show JT60-SA, etc explicitly Need to review Compare with EU NAS IFE DOE TRL Guidelines Describe reqmts for each TRL with issues, milestones 								
	<p>Note- this is linked to an active Excel spreadsheet</p> <p>Double click to open spreadsheet</p>								


Mission 1: Create Fusion Power Source (AT DEMO Pathway)

- **Attain high burning plasma performance**

 TRL 4: Q~1 achieved in DT experiments in TFTR/JET & extended with DT in JET 2015 with a Be wall

- **Control high performance burning:**


 TRL 3: Q~1 DT experiments in TFTR/JET see self-heating

 TRL 4: DIII-D ECH dominated ITER baseline experiments
JET DT experiments on TAE transport in Q~1 DT plasmas with Be walls

- **Sustain fusion fuel mix and stable burn:**


TRL 5: NBI Tritium fueling in TFTR/JET & cryo pellet injection technology

- **Sustain magnetic configuration-AT Configuration:**

 TRL 4: Bootstrap current widely observed; non-inductive sustained plasmas observed on JT-60U & DIII-D using NBI-CD/LHCD/ECCD

 TRL 5: DIII-D/K-STAR/JT-60SA observation of ≥80% bootstrap sustained plasma
EAST/K-STAR/WEST observation of RF & bootstrap sustained SS plasma

- **Sustain magnetic configuration-ST Configuration:**

 TRL 3: Bootstrap current observed in NSTX; CHI demonstrated non-inductive current drive


 TRL 4: NSTX-U demonstrate non-inductive start-up and sustainment extrapolable to FNSF-AT

- **Attain high burning plasma performance compatible with plasma exhaust:**

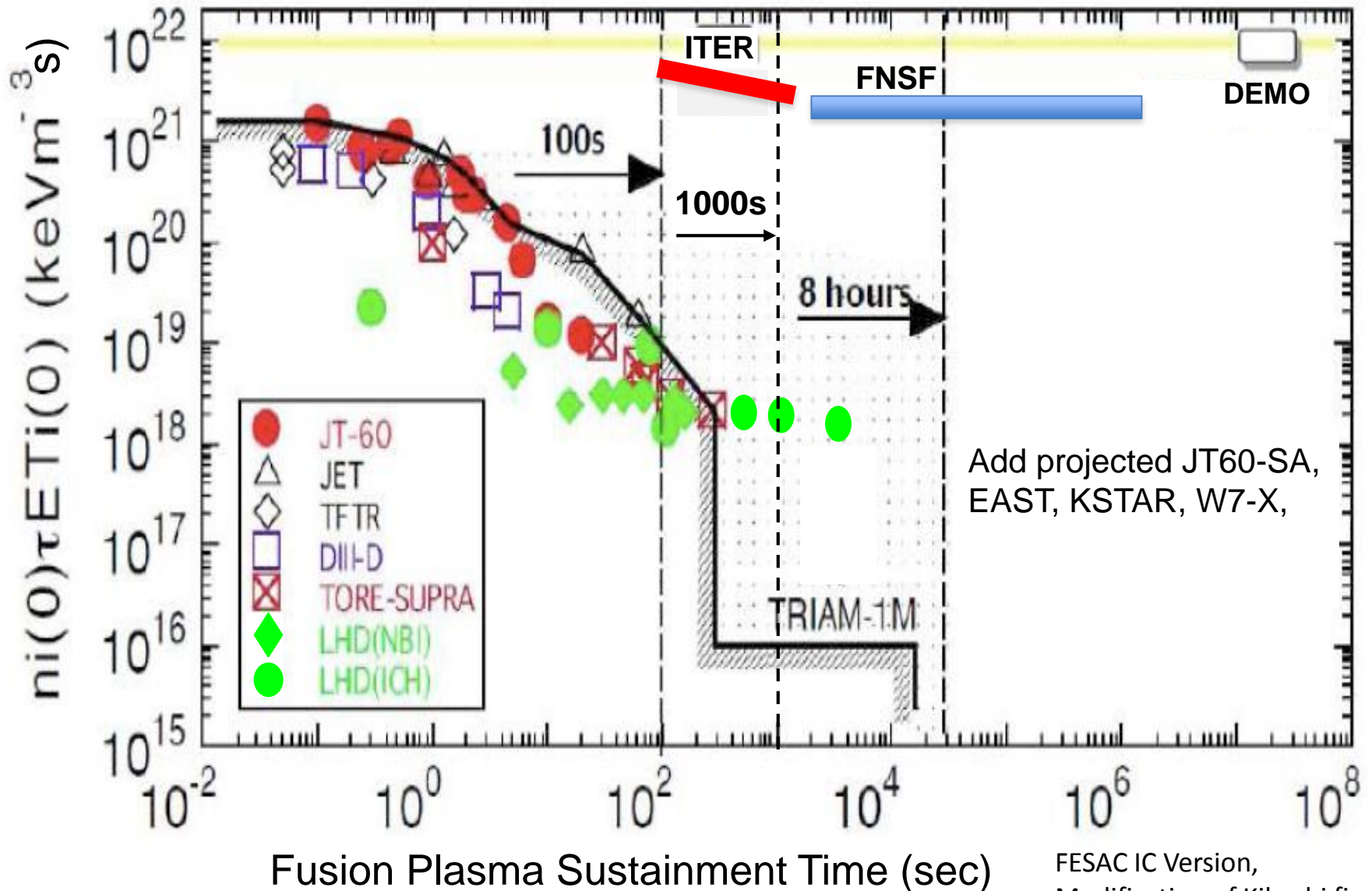
 TRL 3: JET/DIII-D/ASDEX-U demonstration of detached divertor operation

 TRL 4: JET/DIII-D/K-STAR demonstration of detached divertor in SS AT ITER like plasma

 TRL 4: NSTX-U demonstration of advanced divertor operation in FNSF-ST like plasma

 TRL 5: Test stand validation of long lifetime divertor PMI material

Mission 1: Create Fusion Power Source



Add projected JT60-SA, EAST, KSTAR, W7-X,

ITER + FNSF => Advanced Tokamak Demo Pathway

Mission 2: Tame the Plasma Wall Interface

Compare with FESAC Zinkle Pane PMI TRL Chart

Technical Readiness Level	Concept Development			Proof of Principle			Proof of Performance		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Remove Plasma Exhaust Heat and particles on Divertor and First Wall $P_{div}/A_{div} < 10 \text{ MWm}^{-2}$, pulse length, T_{PFC}	Now			Support Pgm	ITER	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant	
Mitigate Transient Heat Loads (Elms/Disruptions) (integrated with plasma control issue) MJm^{-2} , freq, freqxMJm^{-2}	Now			Support Pgm	ITER	★ FNSF Disruption has been controlled?	DEMO	Power Plant	
Reduce Material Migration (erosion), dust mm per FPYm^{-2} , lifetime(FPY)	Now		Support Pgm	ITER		FNSF	DEMO		Power Plant
Control Plasma Contamination (He ash, impurities) Z_{eff} , $P_{rad-core}$, $P_{rad-edge}$	Now								
Reduce Tritium Retention $T_{inventory}(\text{kg-T})$,	Now			ITER		higher? FNSF	DEMO		Power Plant
Develop Neutron Resistant PFC/FW mat'l dpa, FPY	Now		Support Pgm			ITER	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant

Major Issues

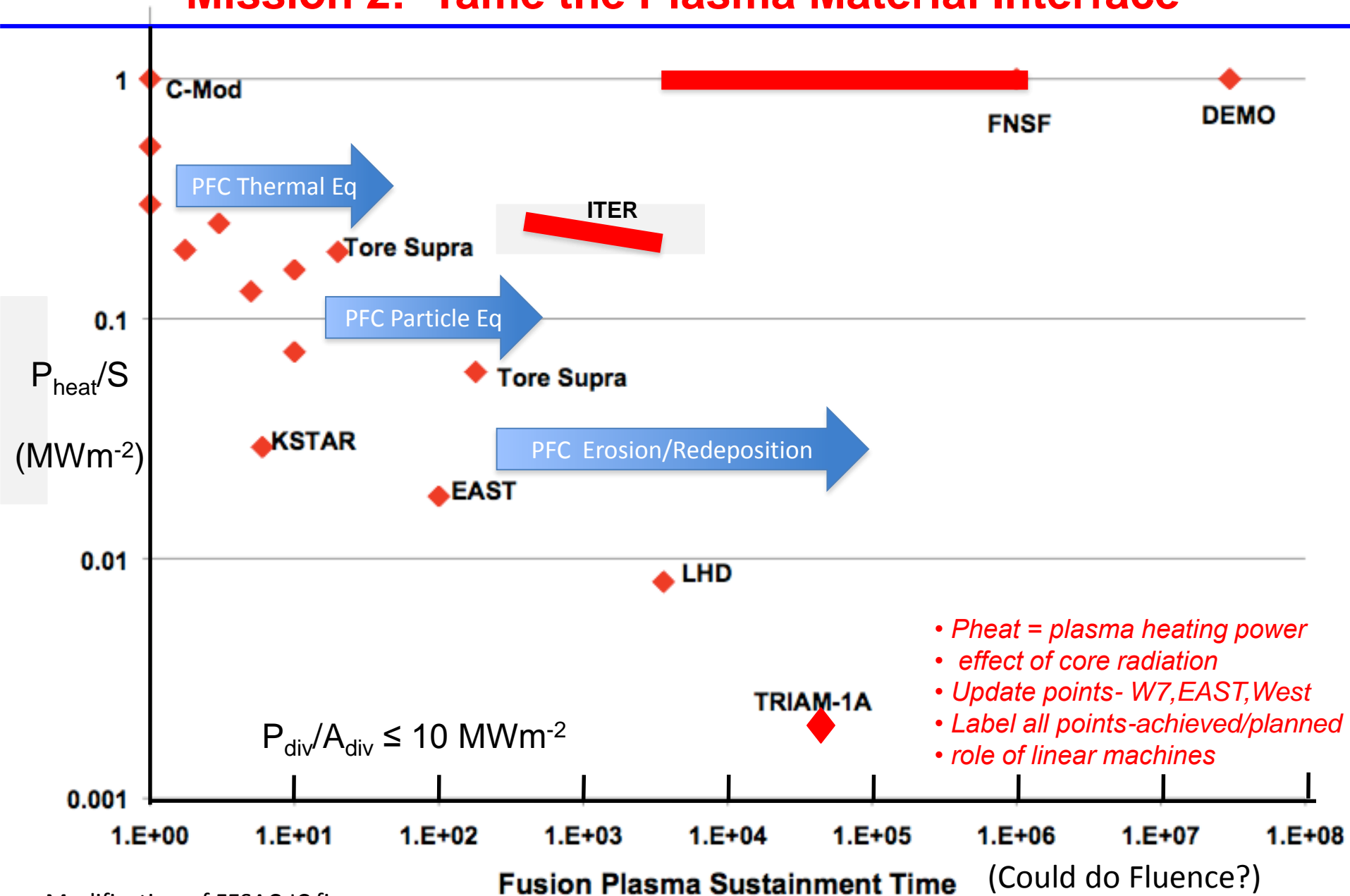
- choice of material for FNSF- when?, How?, R&D needed
- Test improved divertor configuration - where, when
- Integrated test of PFC concept/material/tokamak-plasma
- Required pulse length, H/D/T, n-fluence,

Compare with EU assessment esp DTT

Support Facilities

- single effect - high power steady-state linear
- toroidal - dedicate existing facilities, upgrade existing or new specialized facility
- Need to identify critical PMI facilities

Mission 2: Tame the Plasma Material Interface



ITER + FNSF => Advanced Tokamak Demo Pathway

Mission 3: Harnessing the Power of Fusion

Technical Readiness Level	Concept Development			Proof of Principle			Proof of Performance		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Demonstrate Fusion Power Conversion			now Benchtop /Lab	BT3F		ITER-TBM	FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
Produce Required Tritium		now	Benchtop /Lab	BTEF	ITER-TBM		FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
Establish MTBF/MTTR of Blanket/FW Systems		now	Benchtop /Lab	BT3F / BTEF RHDF	ITER-TBM		FNSF	DEMO	Power Plant
Tritium Fueling and Exhaust Processing				now Benchtop/Lab	ITER, Other Tokamaks FCDF		FNSF	DEMO	DEMO

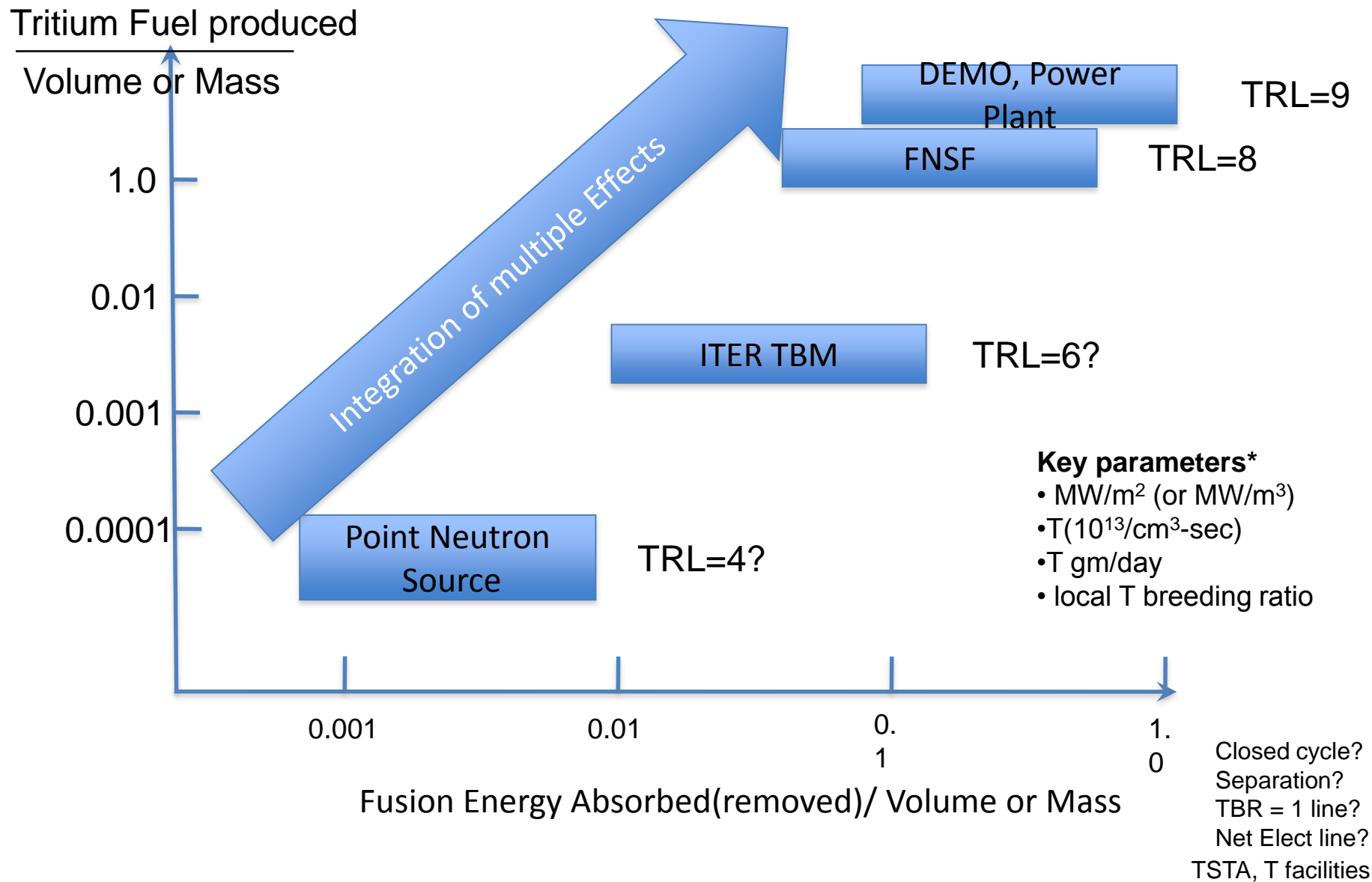
Major Issues

- PbLi MHD Flow Control, Pressure Drop, Transport Phenomena
- PbLi Chemistry Control/Processing
- Helium-cooled FW and Structure Thermomechanics
- Fabrication and Reliability of Complex Structures Under Combined loads
- Component synergistic failure modes, rates and effects
- Mechanisms for n decrease in MTTR
- Plasma Exhaust Processing Time and Availability
- Simulating Fusion Environment in Non-Fusion Test Facilities

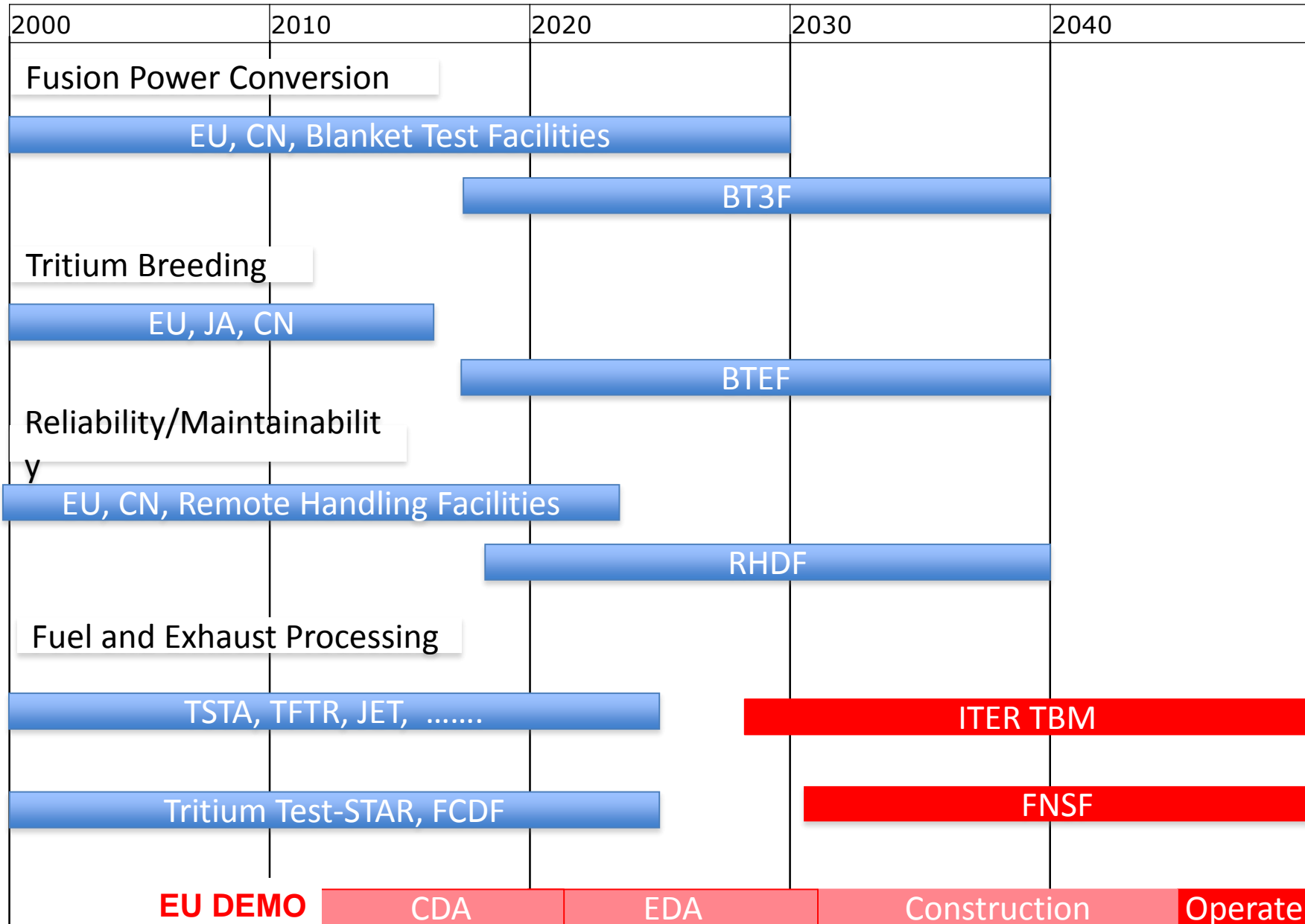
Support Facilities

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket Thermomechanics and Thermofluid Test Facility (BT3F) Bred Tritium Unit Cell and Extraction Test Facility (BTEF) Fuel Cycle Development Facility (FCDF) Remote Handling Development Facility (FHDF) ITER Test Blanket Module Experiments (ITER-TBM) | <p>Summary of 1st IAEA DEMO Workshop</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) thermofluid-MHD behaviour of complex geometry, multi-channel blanket designs; 2) impact of neutron irradiation on properties and performance; 3) high duty-cycle plasma exhaust processing; and 4) remote handling and maintenance of blanket/FW components. <p>Facilities to address these issues are required for TBM, FNFs, and DEMO.</p> |
|--|---|

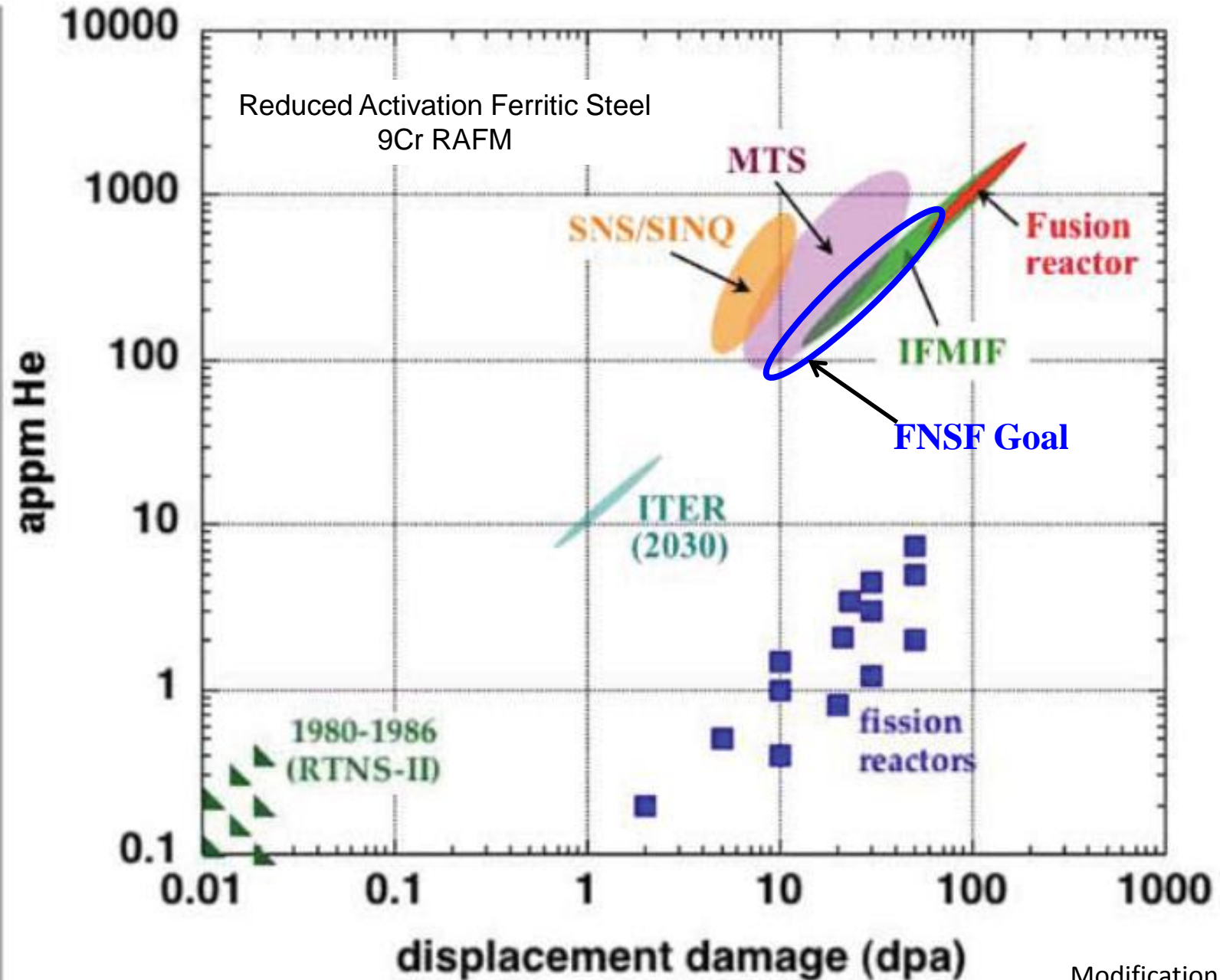
Mission 3: Harness the Power of Fusion



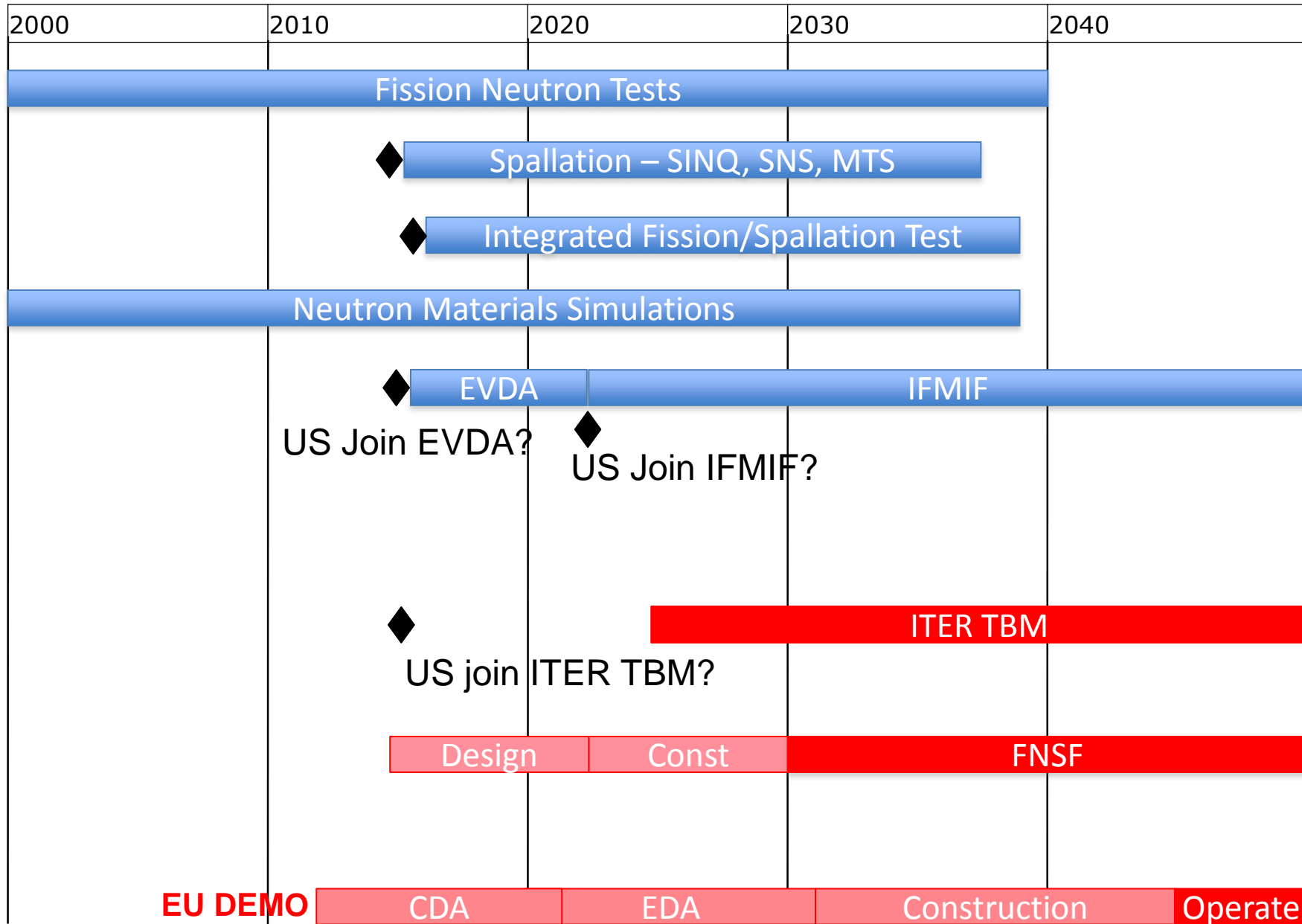
Blanket Facilities for all Pathways



Mission 4: Create Materials for Fusion Power



Materials Facilities for all Pathways



ITER + FNSF => Advanced Tokamak Demo Pathway

Mission 5: Establish the Economic Attractiveness and Environmental Benefits of Fusion Energy

Technical Readiness Level	Concept Development			Proof of Principle			Proof of Performance			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Establish Competitive Cost of Electricity	Now (eg- higher B, more efficient current drive, reduce complexity, cheaper manufacturing,)									
Reduce Plant Capital Cost	Now (eg- reduce complexity, cheaper manufacturing,)									
Demonstrate Safety and Environmental Benefits (separate Safety and Environmental?)				Now - TFTR/JET		ITER		DEMO		Power Plant
				Support Pgm		FNSF				
Exploit Innovation in Physics, Technology and Manufacturing	Now									

Major Issues:

- Total cost of fusion must be competitive
- Fusion program must be vigilant to ensure that the safety and environmental advantages of fusion energy are realized.

Support Facilities:

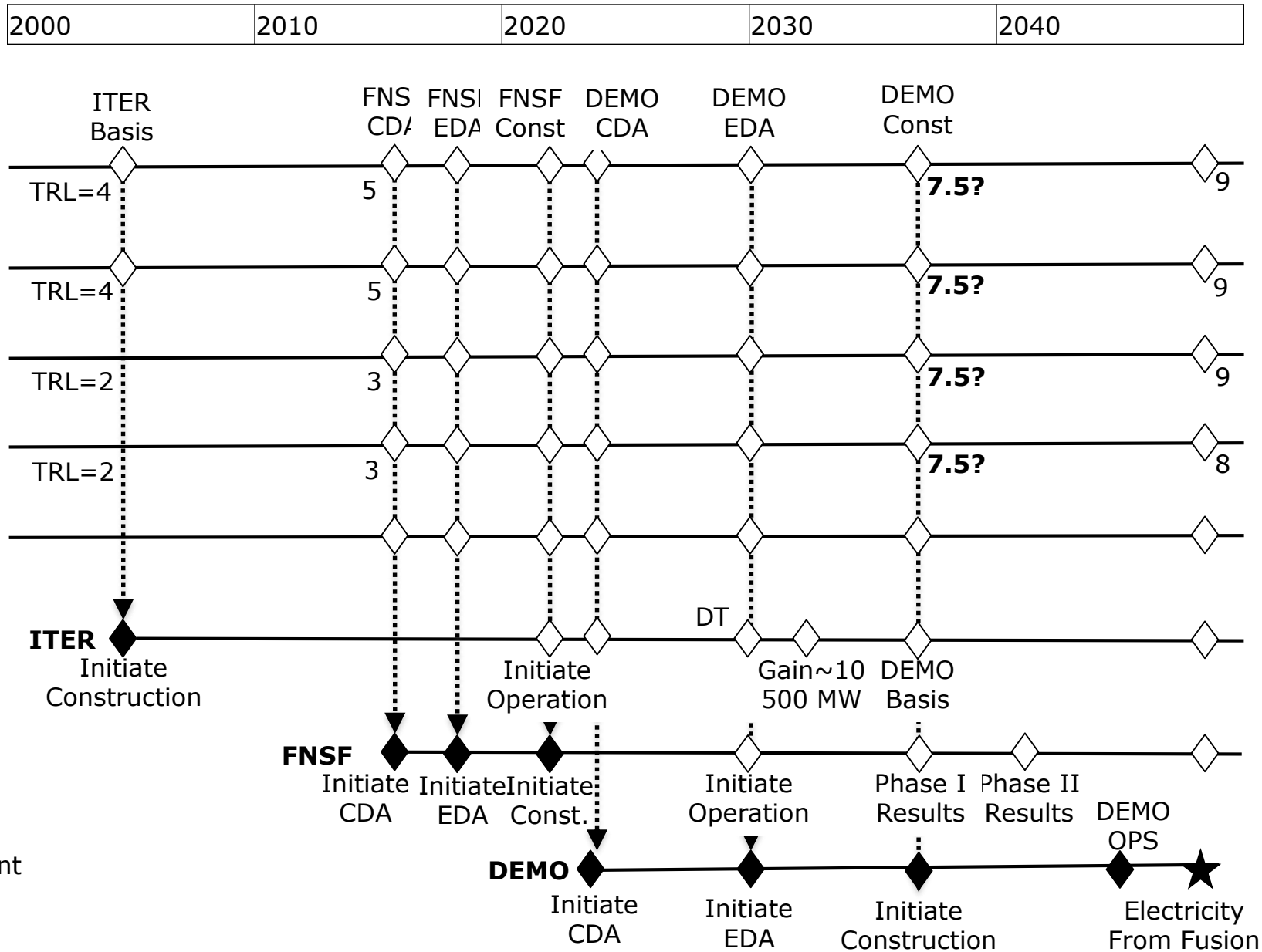
Other Important Activities that need to be mentioned somewhere

Supporting Resource 1: Establish Enabling Plasma Technology for Fusion P Should we have a full mission on this?? it tends to get lost

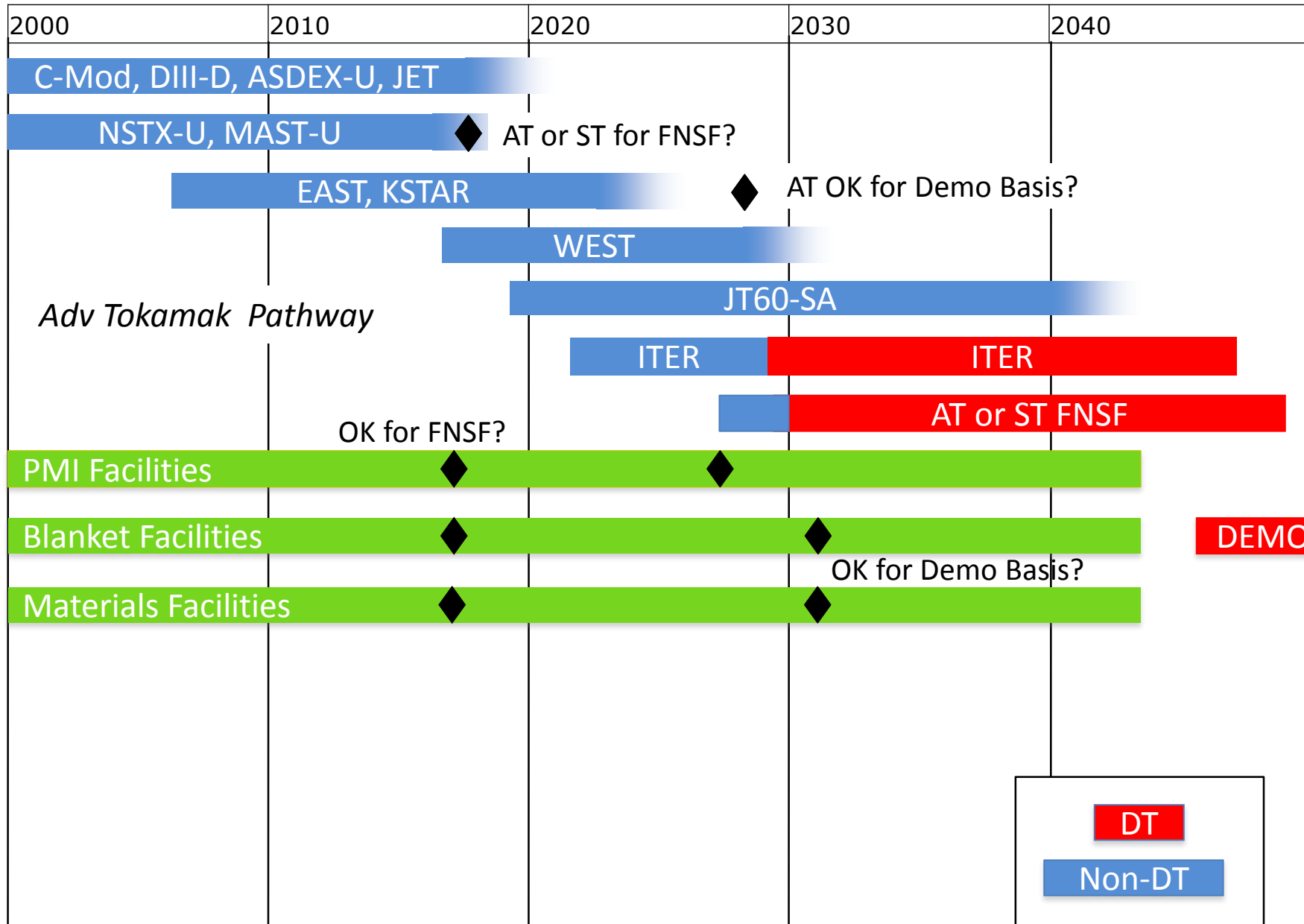
- Enabling Plasma Technologies
 - Plasma Actuators
 - Development of Low Cost High Field Magnets
ie a section on R&D to support Missions above
- Plasma and Machine Diagnostics
 - Plasma Control
 - Development of Diagnostics Compatible Fusion Environment

Supporting Resource 2: Strengthening the Educational Infrastructure supporting Fusion Research

ITER + FNSF => AT DEMO Pathway (Logic)



Facilities for US Magnetic Fusion Program Road Map



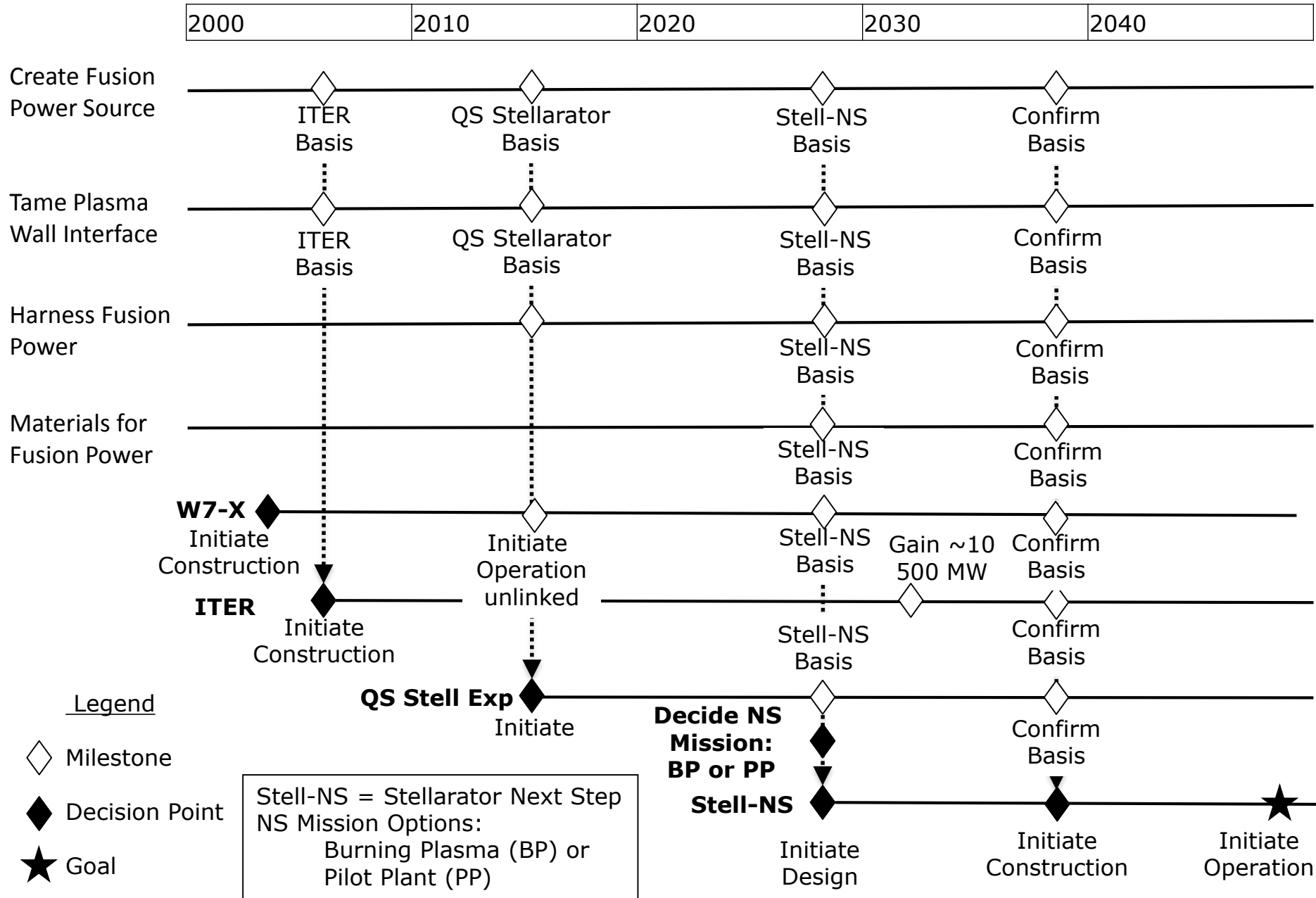
ITER + Stell Program => Stellarator DEMO Pathway

Mission 1 Create Fusion Power Source

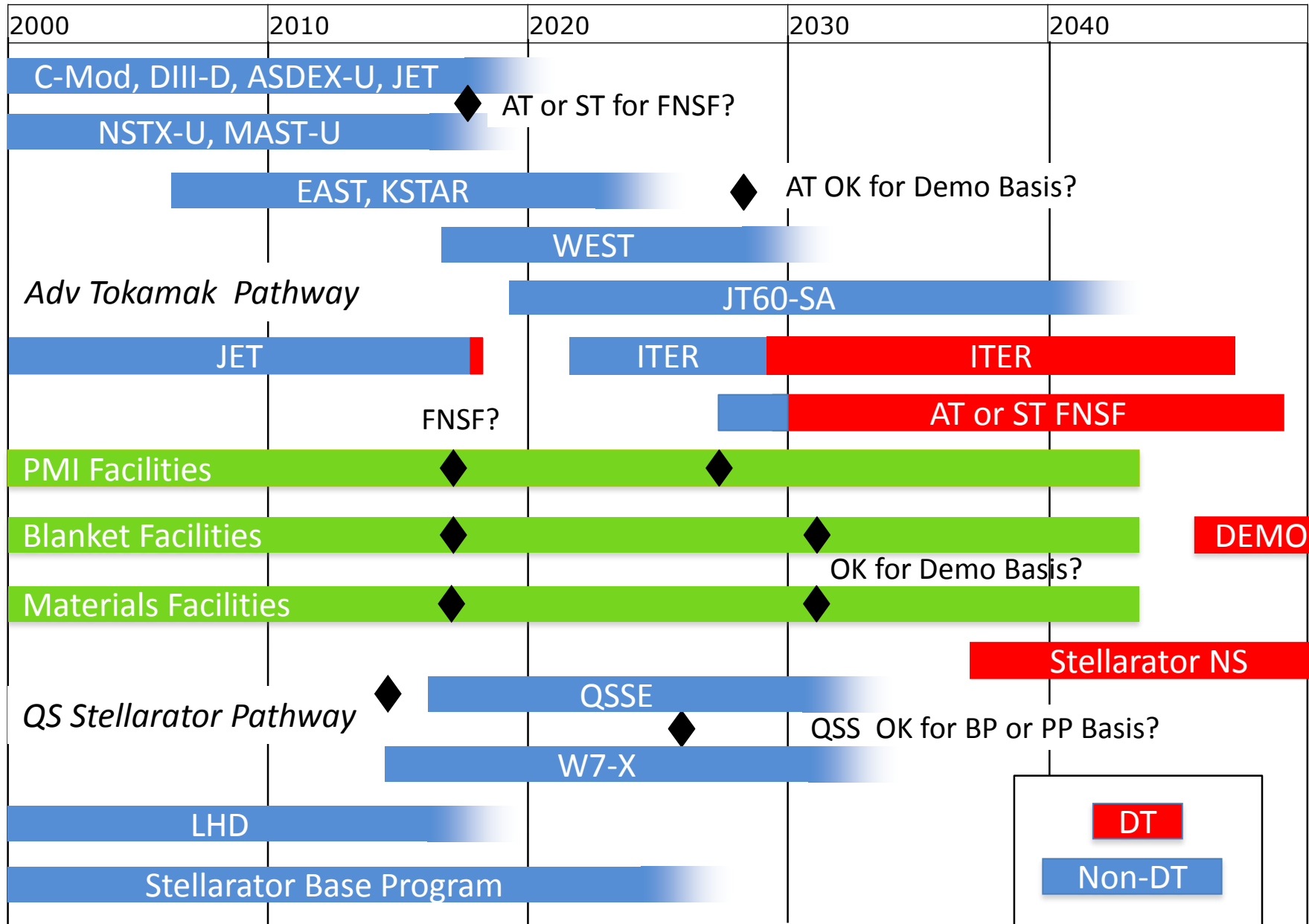
Technical Readiness Level	Concept Development			Proof of Principle			Proof of Performance		
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Attain Burning Plasma Performance $Ba5/4, n\tau_E T_i, Q_{DT}$			Now	LHD / W7X / ITER			Stell. FNSF --> DEMO	Power Plant	
				◆ QSS equivalence with Tokamak physics?					
Control High Performance Burning Plasma $\beta_N, nT, \text{disruptivity}, \tau_{\text{controlled}}, P_{\text{in-loss}}/P_{\text{heat}}$			Now	QS Stell. Exp't. / W7-X			Stell. FNSF --> DEMO	Power Plant	
Sustain Magnetic Configuration $f_{CD}, P_{CD}/P_{\text{heat}}, \dots \tau_{\text{sustained}}/\tau_{CR}, \text{etc}$				Now	QS Stell. Exp't. / W7-X / LHD			Power Plant	
Sustain Fusion Fuel Mix and Stable Burn $n_D(0)n_T(0)/n_e(0)^2, \text{Pop.Con stable}, \tau \text{ long}$			Now	ITER / W7-X			Stell. FNSF --> DEMO	Power Plant	
Attain High Performance Burning Plasma Compatible with Plasma Exhaust $T_{ped}, n_{ped}, \text{fuel dilution}, P_{\text{core-rad}}$			Now	QS Stell. Exp't. / W7-X / ITER			★ FNSF --> DEMO	Power Plant	
Major Issues									
Can QS stellarator take credit for ITER burning plasma results?									
Does confinement extend to BP regime?									
Can high performance be sustained in either with DEMO relevant PFCs?									
Can fuel mix be sustained in either?									
Comments									
Stell. FNSF is most likely a pilot plant. Definition of DEMO needs to be clarified.									
Assumes Quasi-Symmetric (QS) Stellarator development path, and ITER BP physics results are transferable to QS stellarators.									

See next slide for explanation

ITER + QS-Stell Program => Stellarator DEMO Path (Logic)



Facilities for US Magnetic Fusion Program Road Map



Next Steps for MFE Road Map Activity

- Complete draft framework for each path forward:
 - Review critical issues
 - TRL assessments
 - Milestones-much more work needed, esp. for next 10 years
 - Decision points
 - Complete facility schedules, esp. PMI facilities
 - Define and review the range of possible missions for an FNSF (CTF =>Pilot)
 - Review aggressiveness of the schedule (More or less)
 - Compare relative technical gaps and risks
 - Resource needs (more than hardware)
- Seek input and review by technical experts and the fusion community
- Continue working with international groups that are developing Road Maps for their National Programs (e.g., 2nd IAEA DEMO Programme Workshop, Dec 16-20, 2013)

Comments – to the working group or me dmeade@pppl.gov

Concluding Remarks

- The technical basis for the US to move aggressively to a next major step in MFE is strong. A sufficient basis has been there for 20 years.
- The technical issues to be solved are well understood and a framework has been identified that could help develop a plan to achieve MFE.
- For the other fusion partners in ITER, an abundant energy source with benign environmental impact is a near term urgency, they (esp. the Chinese) are moving forward aggressively.
- The US is out of synch with the world magnetic fusion community, and is in danger of falling from among the leaders to a follower.
- The Lesson of March Madness
- *The Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee has just been asked to prepare a report on priorities for fusion research activities for the next 10 years.*

Comments – to the working group or me dmeade@pppl.gov

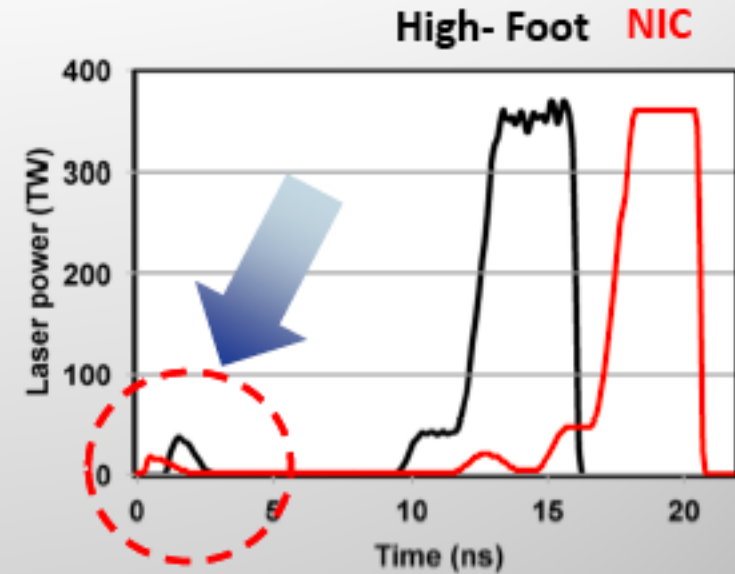
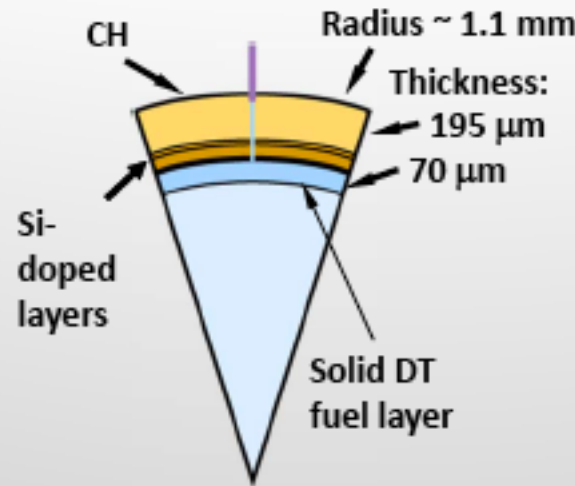
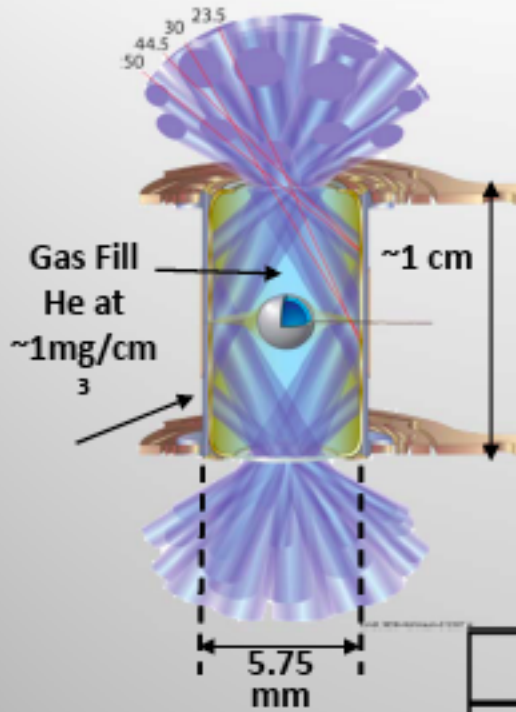
What about Inertial Fusion Energy?

- The construction of the National Ignition Facility (NIF) was initiated in 1994 by the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration, with the goal of supporting stockpile stewardship. The primary NNSA project milestone for NIF is to achieve ignition defined as

$$\text{Fusion Gain} = \text{Fusion Energy Produced} / \text{Laser Energy on Target} = 1$$

- The NIF was completed in May, 2009 at a cost of ~\$4B, and began DT experiments in Sept 2010.
- The NIF laser has performed extremely well at high power (1.8 MJ) and an extensive set of diagnostics has been installed.
- The fusion energy produced has been increased steadily to ≈ 27 kJ, with a corresponding Fusion Gain ≈ 0.015 .

A new “High-foot” design uses same target but higher initial laser power to reduce growth of surface perturbations



	NIC Low-foot		High-foot
Adiabat	~1.5	Increased to:	~2.5
In-flight aspect ratio, (IFAR)	~30*	Reduced to:	~10*
Convergence	~45	Reduced to:	~30

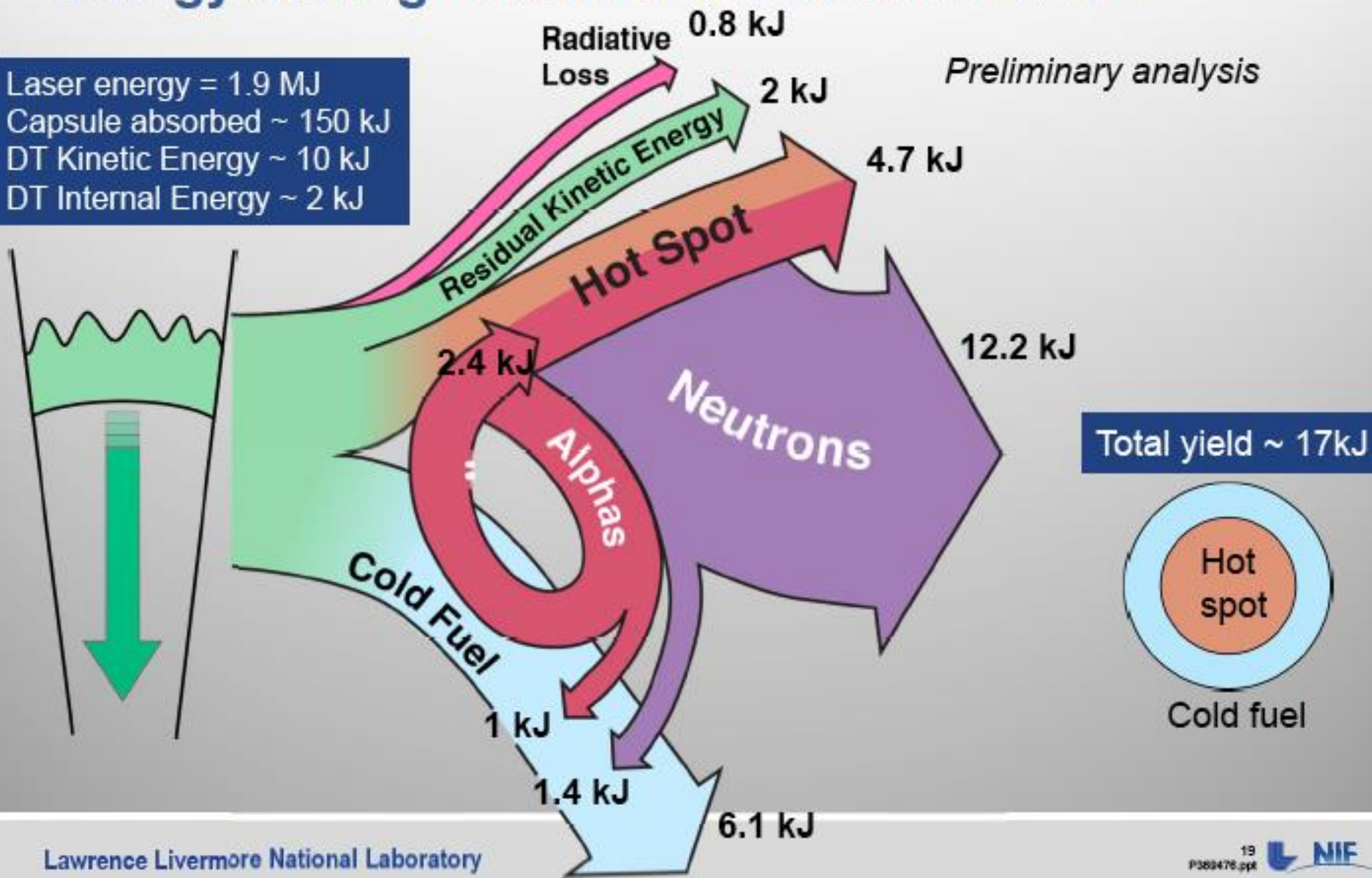
* Analysis ongoing

GOAL: Performance that is understood and well matched to calculations

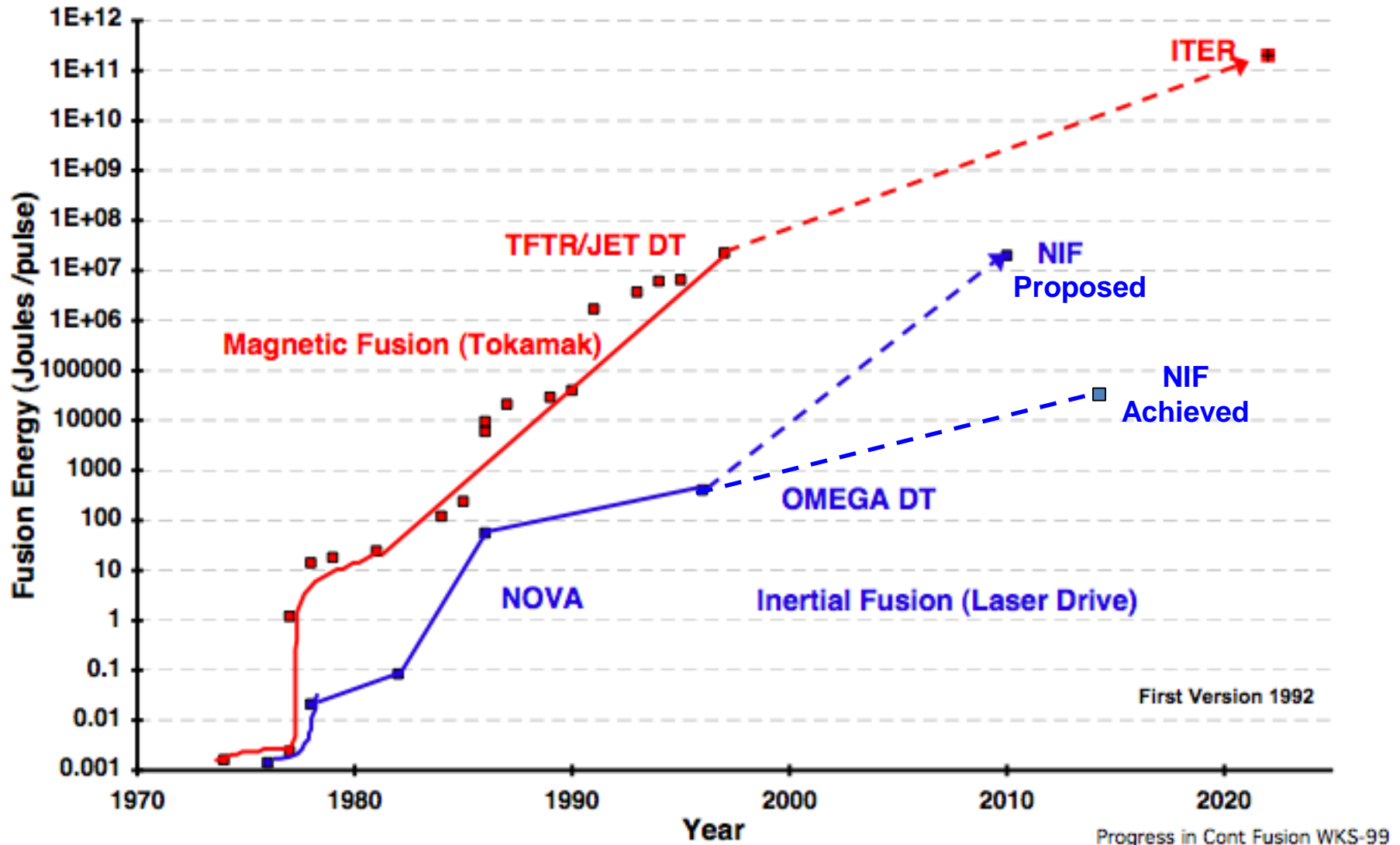
Alpha energy contributed ~ 50% of the hot spot energy at stagnation for DT shot N131119

Laser energy = 1.9 MJ
Capsule absorbed ~ 150 kJ
DT Kinetic Energy ~ 10 kJ
DT Internal Energy ~ 2 kJ

Preliminary analysis



Fusion Energy per Pulse is a Measure of Progress in Fusion Energy



Fusion Plasma Performance Required for Fusion Power

The performance achieved on MFE and IFE fusion experiments using DT fuel is compared with the fusion performance required for a Fusion Power Plant.

	Const. Cost \$B	Date of Fusion Result	Fusion Yield MJ	Fusion Gain Achieved	Fusion Gain Required for Power Plant	Fuel Gain Achieved	Fuel Gain Required for Power Plant	GAP in Fuel Gain to Power Plant
MFE								
TFTR	\$0.5B ¹	1994	7.5	0.28	35	0.28	35	125
JET	\$0.5B ¹	1997	22.2	0.65	35	0.65(~1)	35	54
IFE								
NIF	\$4.5B ²	2013	0.028	0.015	65	~2	8,125	4,075
MFE- Under construction			Goal	Goal				Goal
ITER	\$20B ³	2030	200,000	10	35			3.5

Fusion Yield = fusion energy produced during a single experimental pulse,

MJ is 1 million joules of energy or 1 million watts for 1 second.

Fusion Gain = fusion power produced/ power used to heat fuel (standard definition)

Fuel Gain = fusion power produced/ power absorbed by fuel (a new definition)

In definitions above power is used for magnetic fusion, and energy for inertial fusion

Notes:

1. TFTR and JET construction costs in 1980 dollars
2. NIF construction costs in 2004 dollars
3. ITER Construction Costs estimated by EU in 2013 dollars

May 26, 2014

U.S. Fusion Energy Sciences Funding

(2012 Dollars)

