

# Plasma acceleration and high energy density science

Cameron Geddes

LLNL HEDS Seminar Series  
18 February, 2021



Office of  
Science

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*Theory*

*Experiment*

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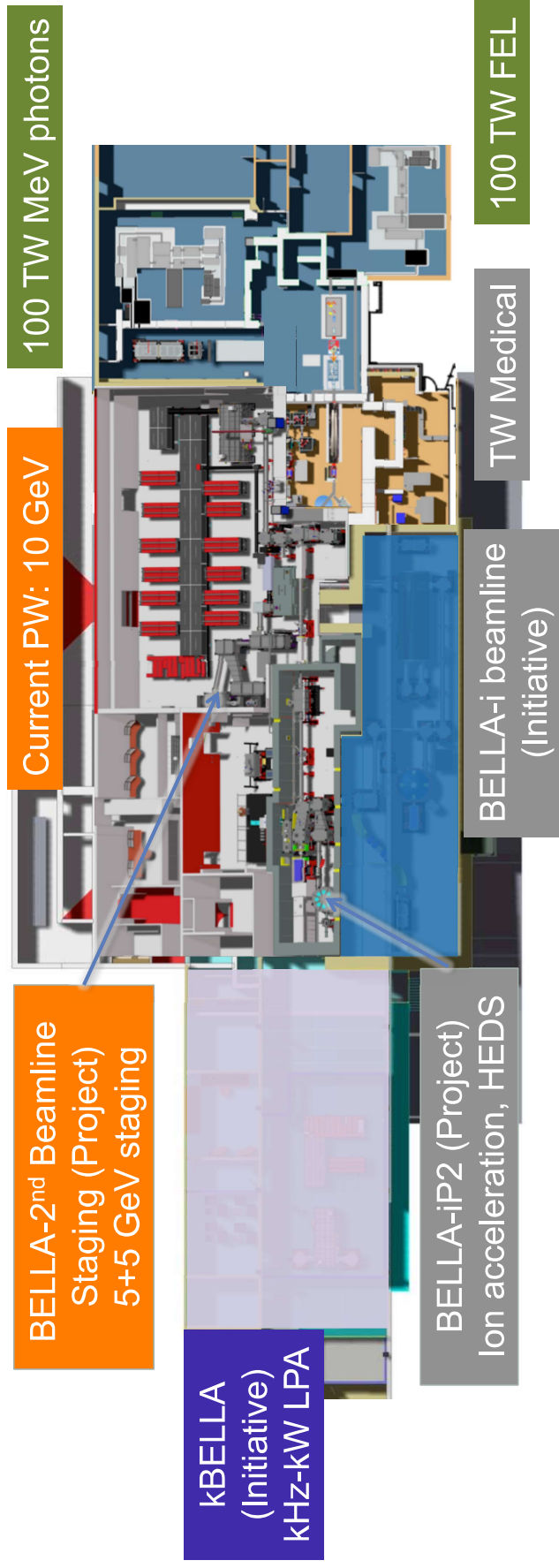
Wes Tabler

Close Collaborations with other  
ATAP Programs & LBNL Divisions



# BELLA Experimental Facilities: World-Leading Capabilities Driving Plasma Acceleration and HEDS

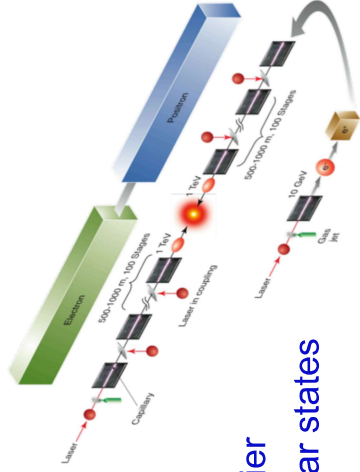
Existing and planned laser facilities in Building 71 at LBNL



**Unique resource of and for the DOE and beyond**  
**State of the art: 1 Hz at PW, 5 Hz at 100 TW**

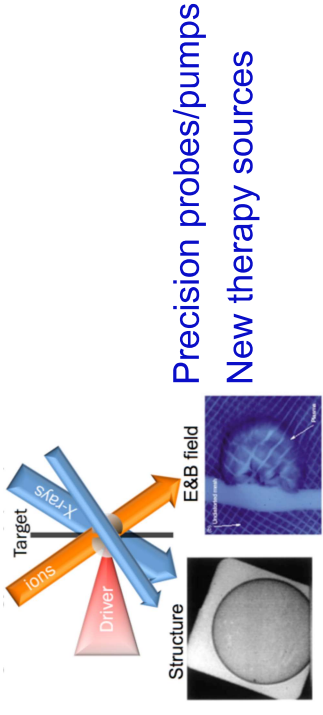
# Ultraintense Lasers Enable Science and Applications: From the Frontiers of Fundamental Physics to Industry, Security and Medicine

HEP Future Particle Colliders  
NP Nuclear Science



Extend energy frontier  
Access exotic nuclear states

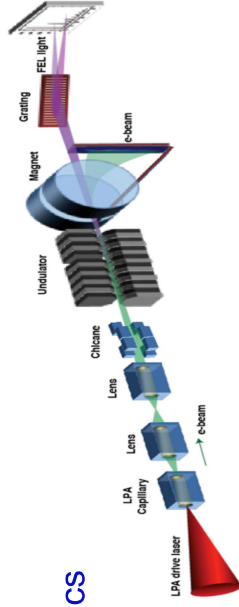
FES High Energy Density Science  
NIH/NCI Oncology



Precision probes/pumps  
New therapy sources

BES and Industry Coherent X-rays

Compact FELs  
Molecular dynamics  
Microelectronics



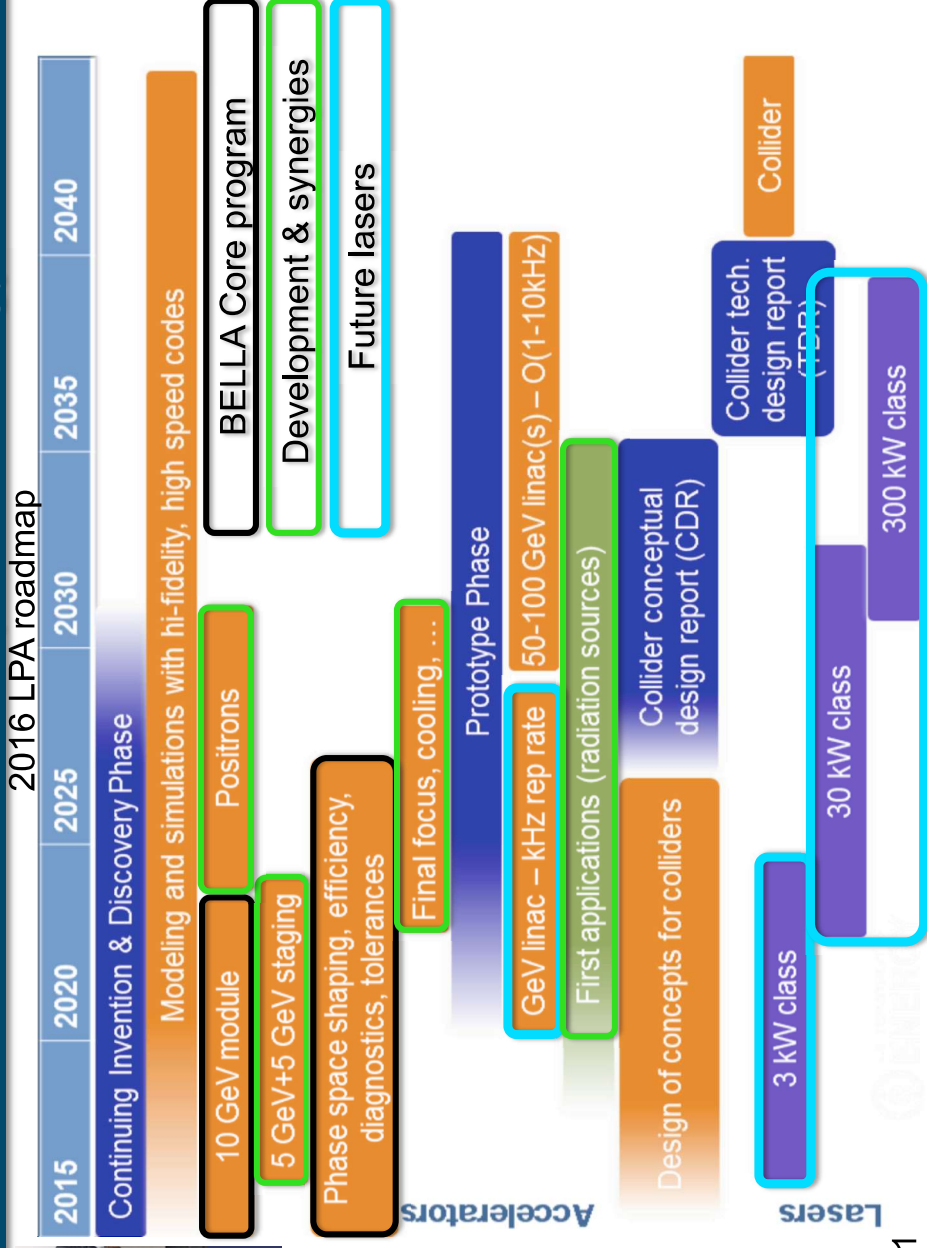
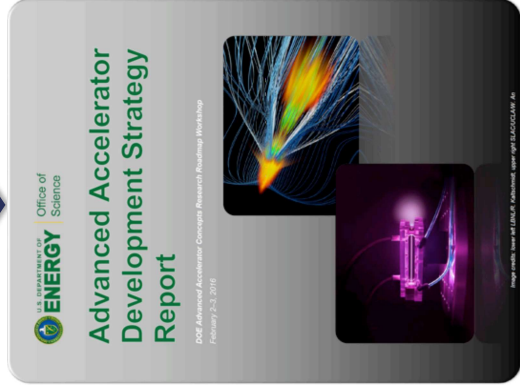
DoD, NNSA, Industry and Medical  
Sensing & X-rays

Precision  
Mono-Energy  
High res.  
Remote sensing

## Outline

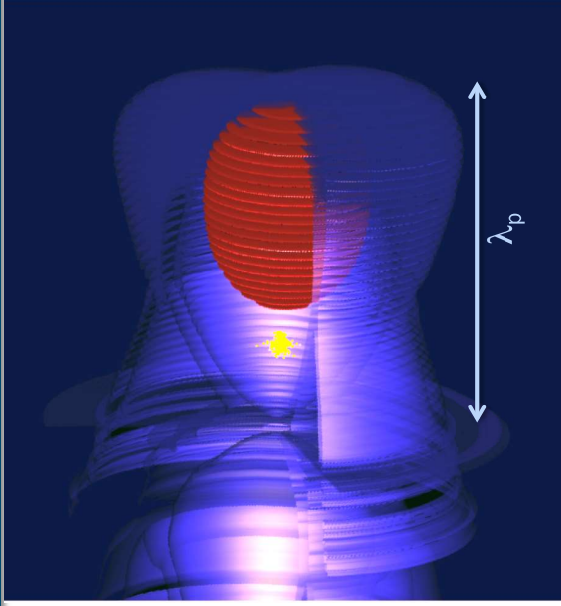
- **Plasma accelerators**
- Advanced sources & high energy density science
- kHz precision frontier

# BELLA Center is Focused on Executing the U.S. Advanced Accelerator Development Strategy



Updates in progress – Snowmass 2021

# Precision Engineering of Relativistic Plasmas Enables High Performance



## Resonant Excitation Results in Predictable Structure

- Accurate scaling laws for charge, energy, laser requirements...

### Example scalings

$$\lambda_p = 2\pi c / \omega_p \sim n_e^{-1/2}$$

$$\text{Gradient} \sim n_e^{1/2}$$

$$\text{Energy} \sim 1/n_e$$

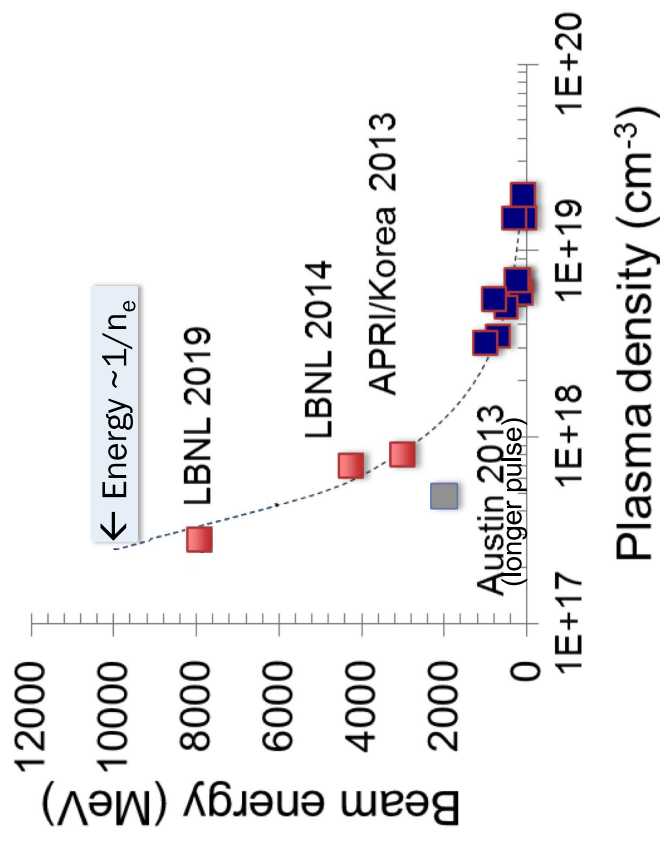
Typical at  $n_e \sim 10^{17}/\text{cm}^3$

100  $\mu\text{m}$

10 GV/m

10 GeV/stage in 10's of cm

Scalings strongly validated: close integration of theory, experiment, and simulation



Allows design of accelerator systems

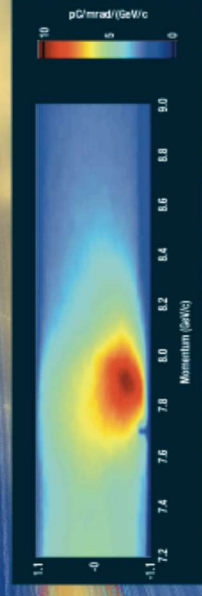
# BELLA Center: Timeline of LPA Records

## CONTINUOUS PROGRESS

Since its beginnings in the mid 1990s, BELLA has been in the forefront of LPA performance, and recently continued its string of energy records by producing 8-GeV electron beams.

In a separate achievement, BELLA has demonstrated "staging," the use of one LPA as the input to another, which will become key to achieving the highest energies.

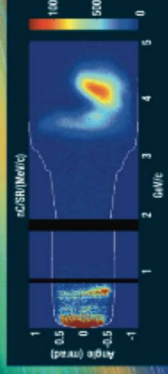
2019: 1000TW & laser heater



8 GeV



2014: 300TW



4.2 GeV

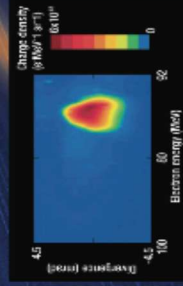
2006: 40TW



1 GeV



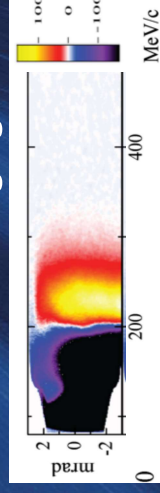
2004: 10TW



86 MeV

A second beamline dedicated to staging, and a second interaction point for studying ultrahigh-field interactions with tightly focused PW beams, are among the major near-term enhancements to our facilities.

2016: 40TW staging demo





# The BELLA PW enables precision 1 Hz experiments

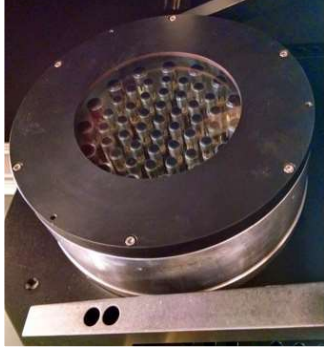
## BELLA PW laser performance

- >40 J on target with a 1% level fluctuation
- <1.3 prad pointing fluctuation
- Focus to 53  $\mu\text{m}$ ,
  - 75% energy in main structure,
  - <6% peak fluence fluctuation.
- Compressed to 33 fs,
  - >90% energy in main pulse
  - <5% peak power fluctuation.
- Peak intensity  $1.7 \times 10^{19} \text{ [W/cm}^2\text{]}$ 
  - <8% fluctuation.

- Contrast
  - 1 ns > $10^9$
  - 5 ps > $10^6$



High quality laser including XPW, Deformable Mirror

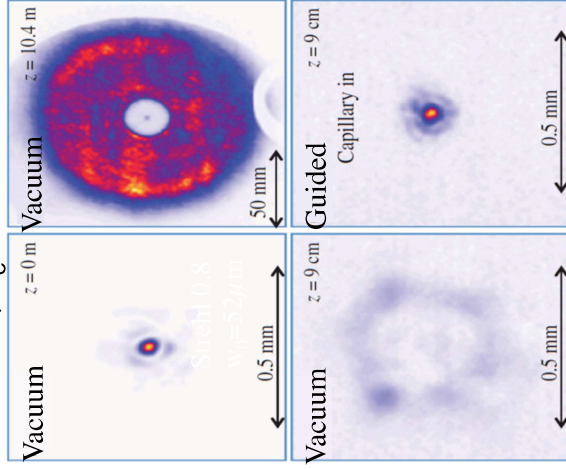


## State of art Controls

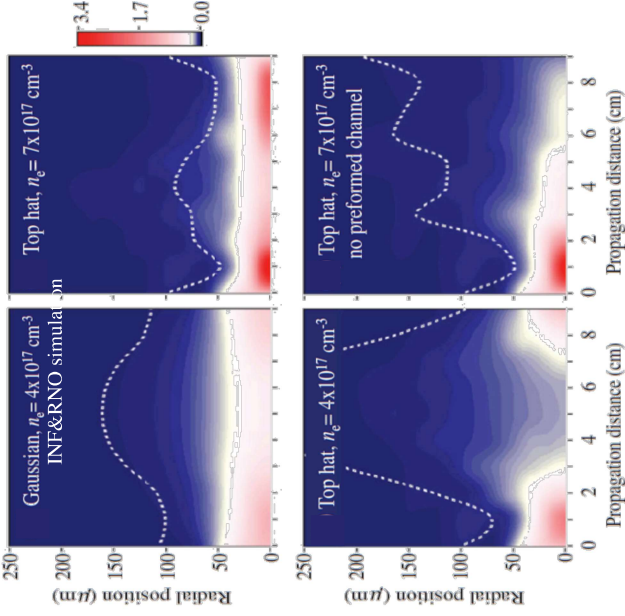


# Guiding of laser over many focal depths requires compensation for non-ideal laser mode

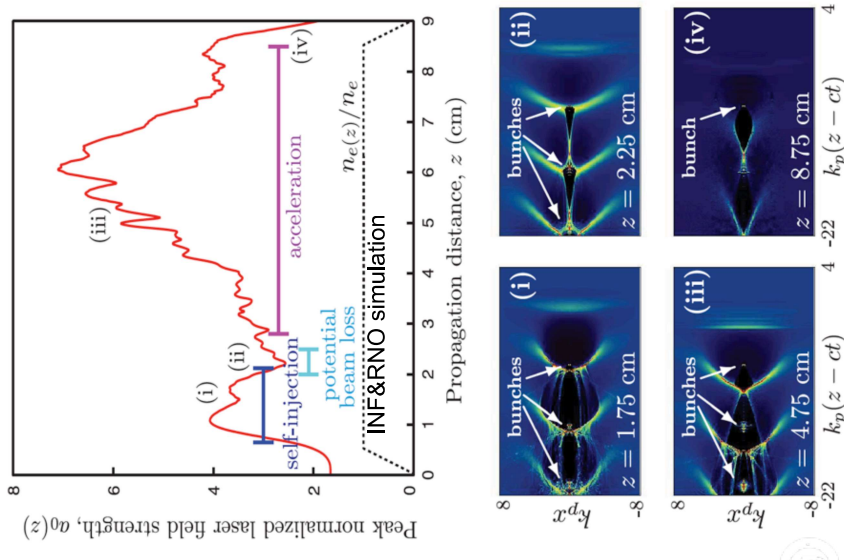
Laser close to a flat-top near field  
 $16\text{J}, n_e = 7.5 \times 10^{17}$



Density for guiding increased



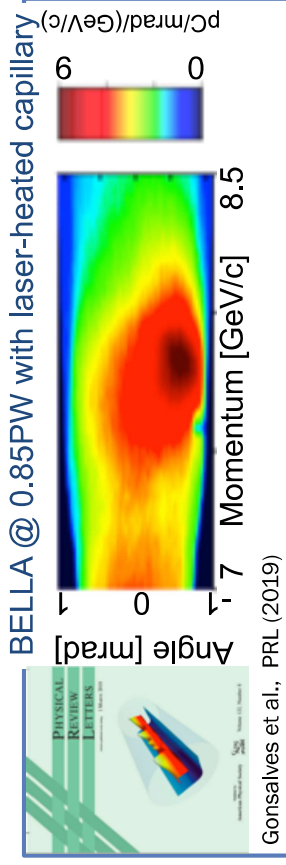
Affects guiding and acceleration



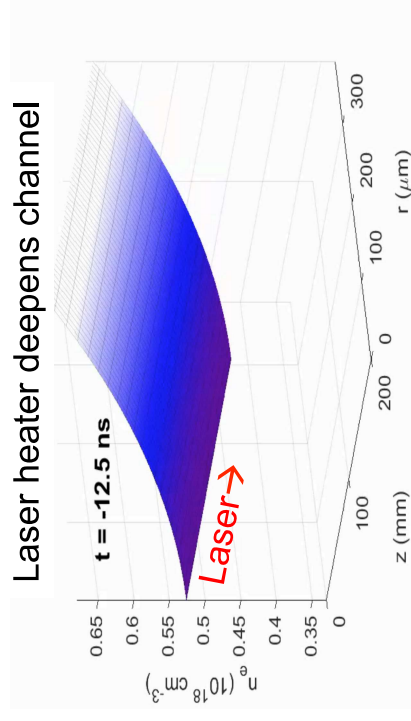
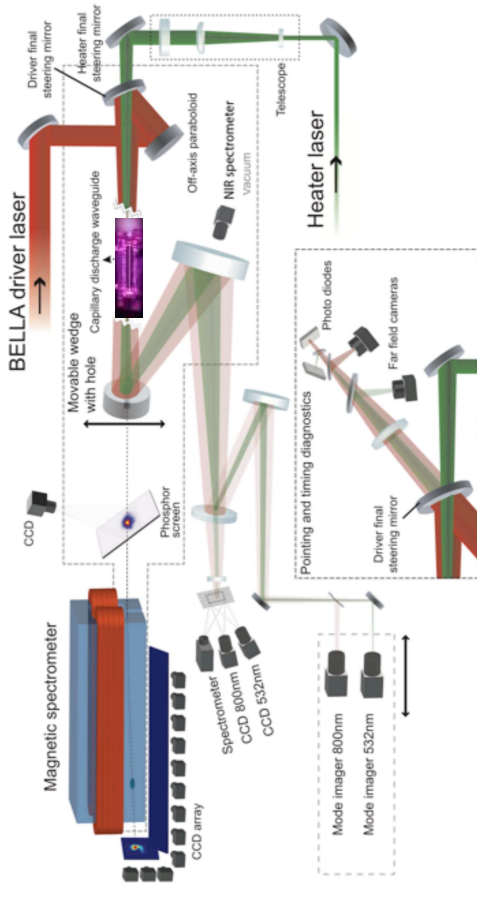
# Continuous Progress Towards 10 GeV Collider-Class Per-Shot Stage

## Efficient systems via control and development

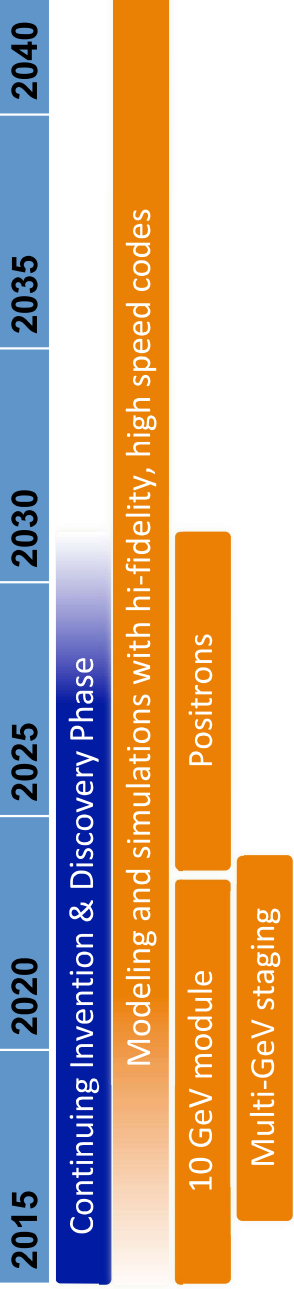
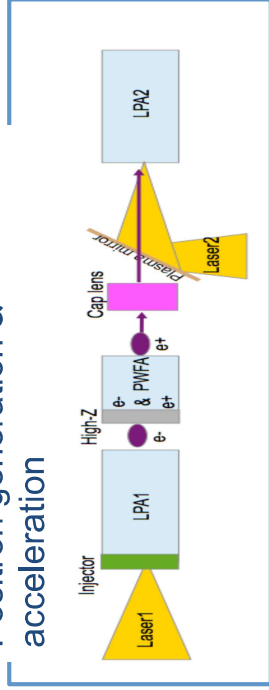
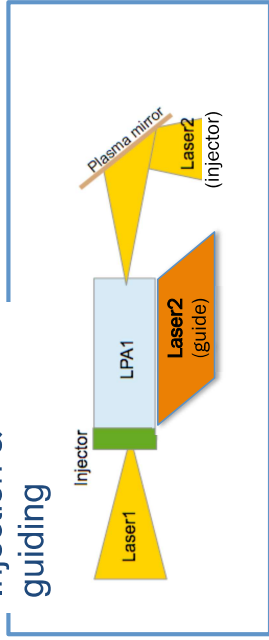
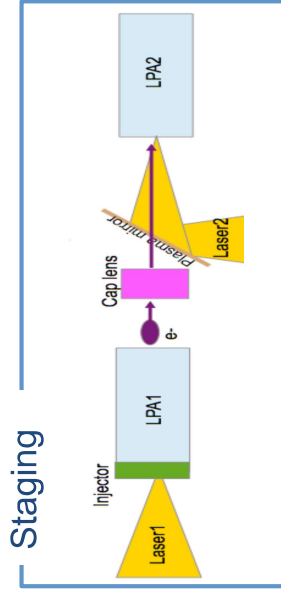
- 2014: 4GeV. Using capillary waveguide
- 2017: 6GeV. Required a new beamline for hybrid waveguide (laser-heated capillary)
- 2018: 8GeV. Required optimization of the waveguide regime through theory & simulation



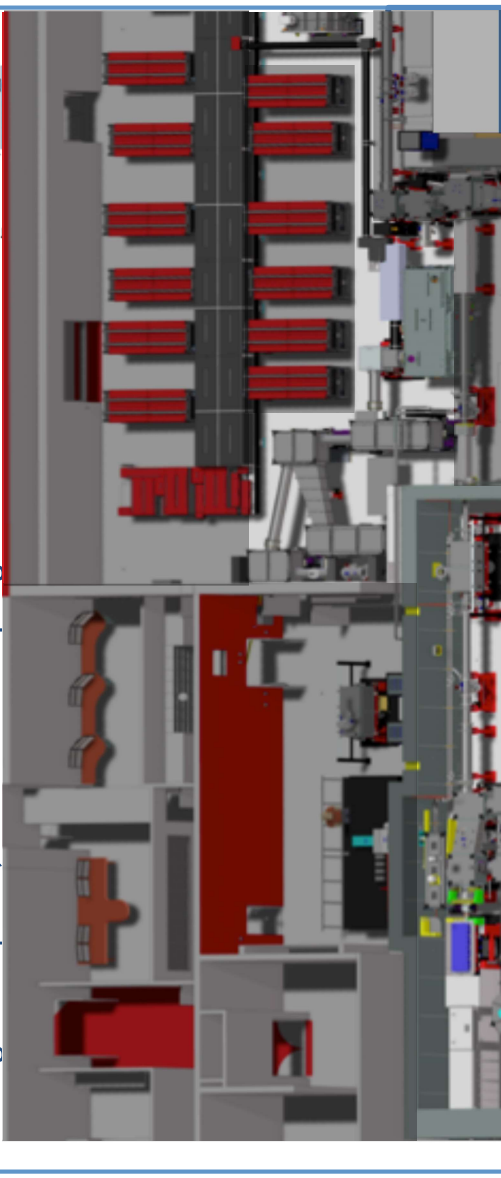
- Towards efficient 10 GeV stages: shaped guides, controlled injection, structure and loading control...



# 2nd Beamline Will Provide a Platform to Enable Key Elements of Advanced Accelerator R&D Roadmap



Design complete, installation in progress

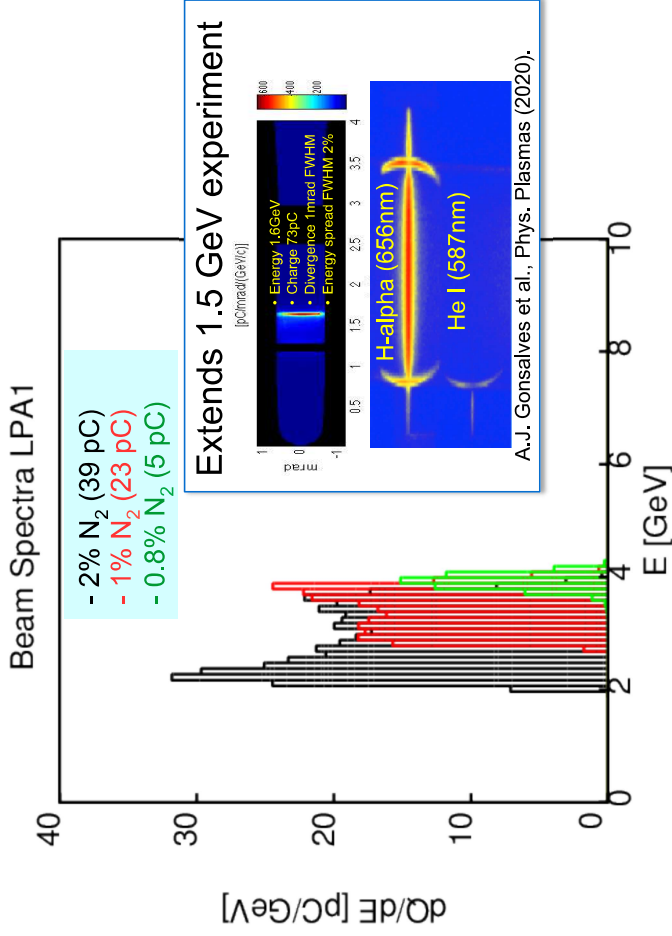


Goal: multi-GeV staging. Future: multi-beam HEDS

# Flexible Focusing and Controlled Injection Key to Multi-GeV staging

Ionization injection at start of first stage

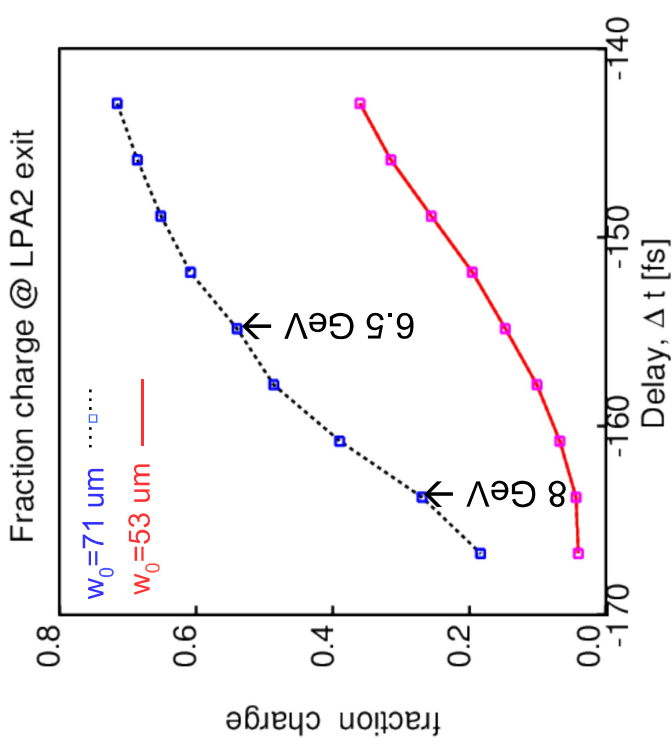
Controllable 4 GeV beam



Basis of near term multi-GeV staging experiment

Longer term: low emittance injector and matched guide for near 100% efficiency and 10 GeV

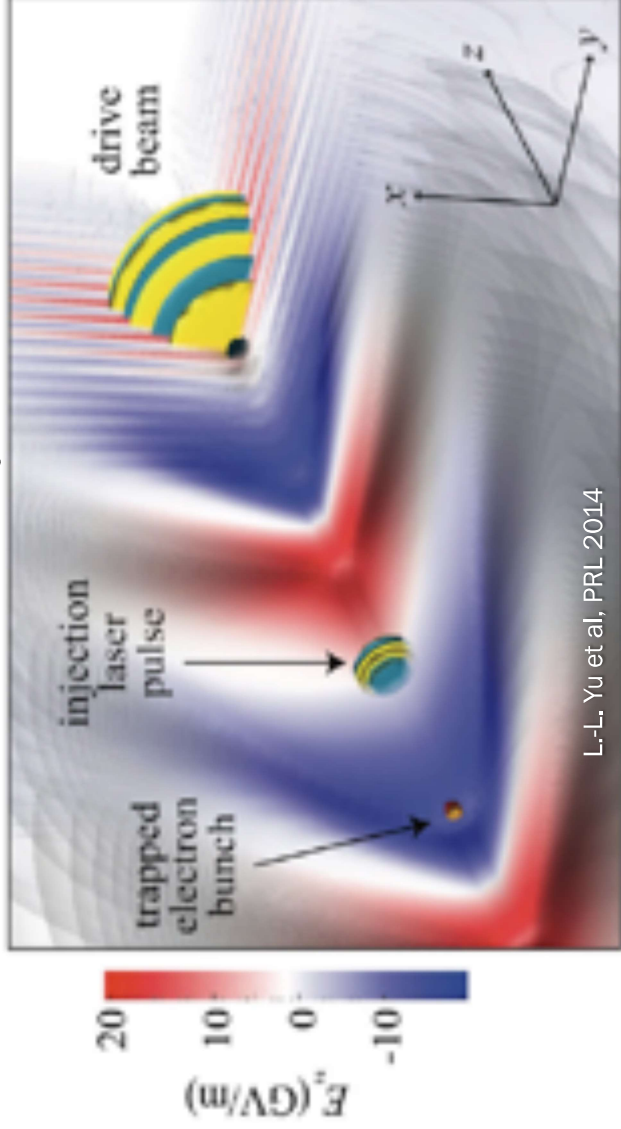
Particle loss due to wake evolution, bunch size  
Adjust with focal match:  $w_0 \sim 70$  micron



\*Gonsalves et al, POP (2020)

# Ionization injection and other multi-beam experiments require precision control

## nm $\epsilon$ injectors



Long wavelength drive laser/beam excites wake without injecting particles

High  $a_0$ , low E

Short wavelength injection laser injects particles without exciting wake

Low  $a_0$ , high E

Injection of sub-micron bunch with low transverse momentum enables nm-class emittance

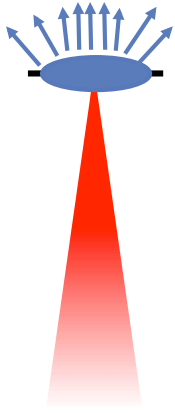
Requires precision alignment  $\leq \mu\text{m}$

Priority for active alignment, pilot beams and repetition rate to execute

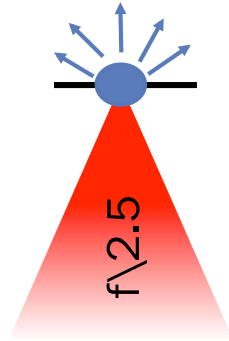
## Outline

- Plasma accelerators
- Advanced sources & high energy density science
- kHz precision frontier

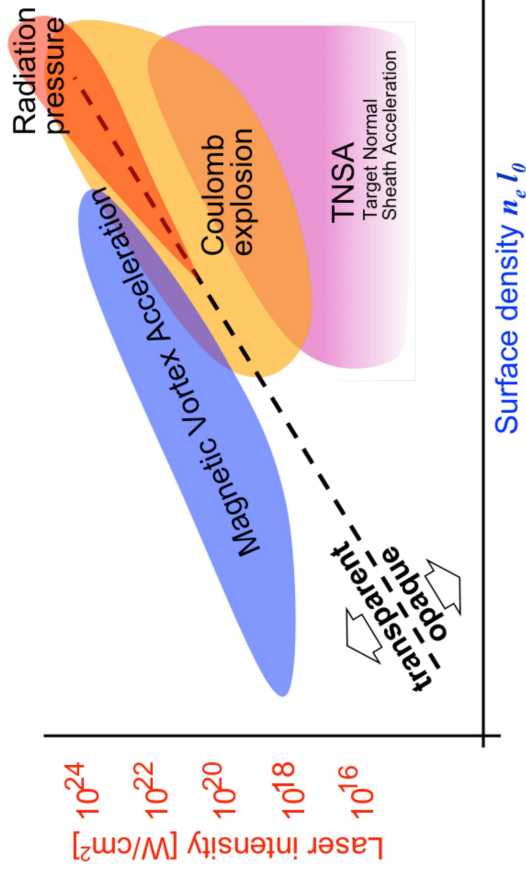
# Ion acceleration



**in operation**,  $2 \times 10^{19}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>, large laser spot, 50  $\mu$ m, low divergence ion pulses with  $\sim 10^{12}$  protons



**Late 2021**,  $> 10^{21}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>, small laser spot,  $\sim 10$   $\mu$ m, (ultra)-relativistic plasma science at 1 Hz, advanced ion acceleration mechanisms, ions to  $> 100$  MeV, ...



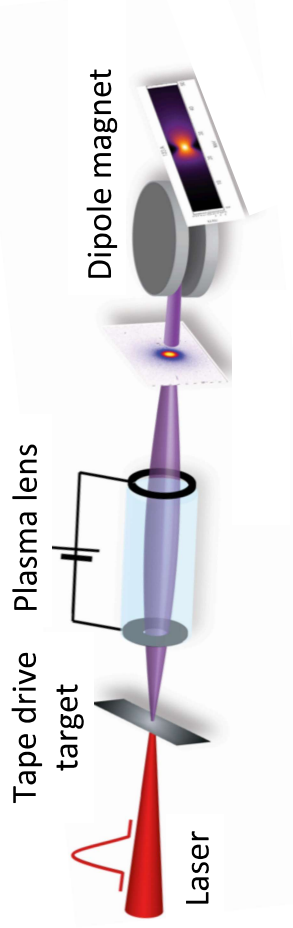
LLNL collaborations/users including Tammy Ma, Scott Wilks, Derek Mariscal, Graeme Scott, Elizabeth Grace, Kelly Swanson, Raspberry Simpson (MIT)



# BELLA PW Ion Acceleration and Transport Enabling Applications

## Rep-rated experiments

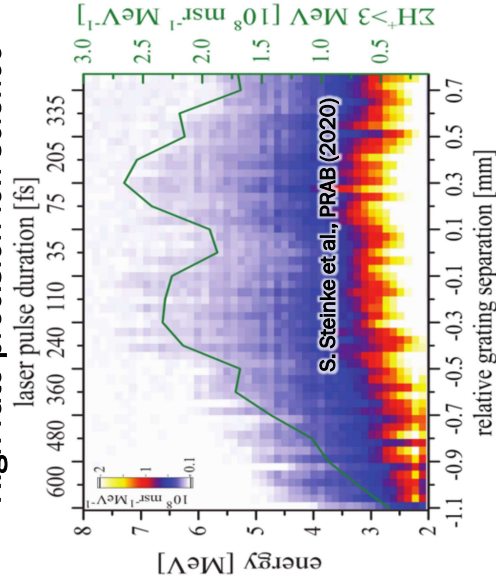
- Tape-drive target and MCP-based Thomson Parabola Spectrometer
- Plasma lens focusing
- Thousands of shots
- Stable source enables applications



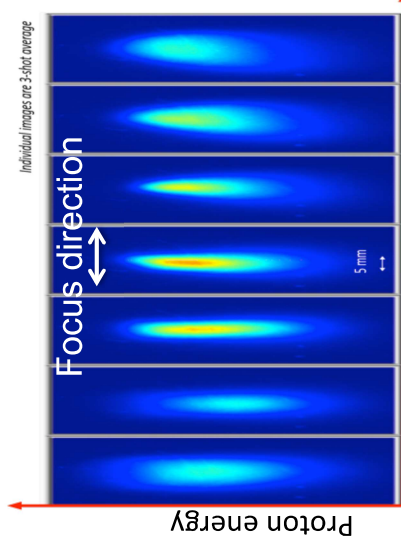
In-air setup:

1. scintillator
2. RCFs
3. radiation biology cell samples

## High rate precision ion science

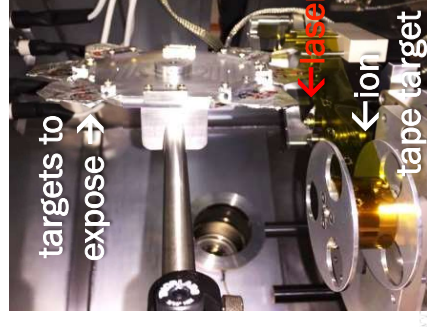


## Plasma lens: controlled focus

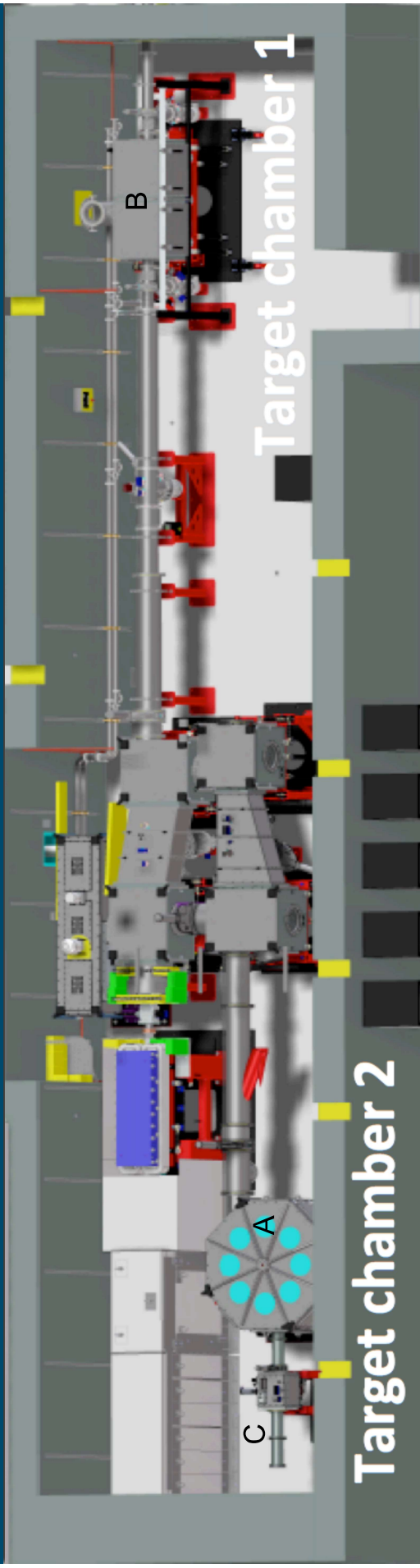


Discharge current, i.e. focus strength

## Materials



# High intensity laser beamline: new opportunities in discovery plasma science



## Features

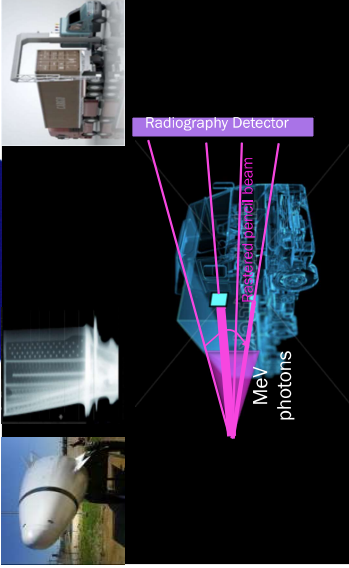
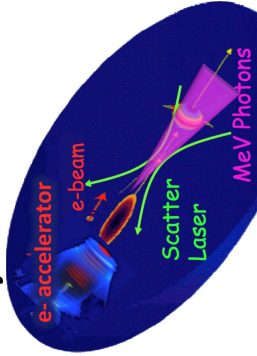
- A. New target chamber for highest laser intensities  $>10^{21}\text{W/cm}^2$
- B. Double plasma mirror for temporal contrast enhancement of laser (ns-ps)  $<10^{-14}$
- C. Expansion space for diagnostic, probe laser, ion beamlines, betatron backlighter for WDM studies

## Opportunities in

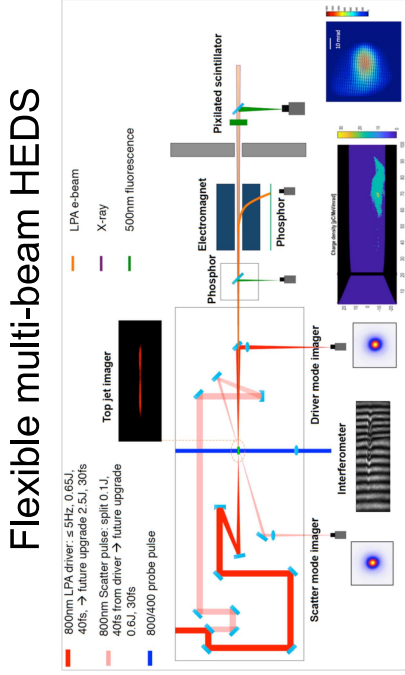
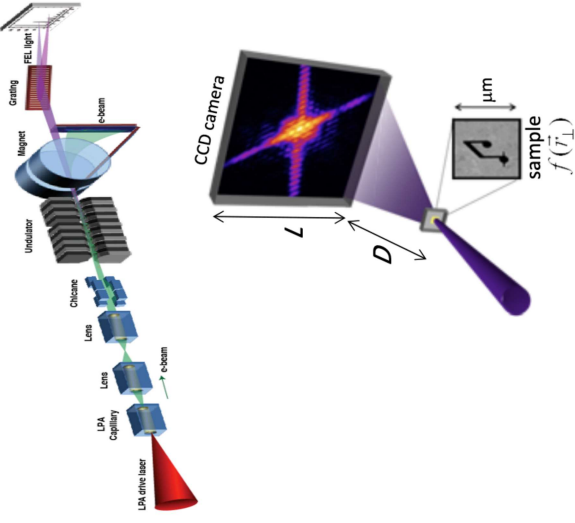
- **Fundamental Physics of Relativistic Plasmas**  
advanced ion acceleration, relativistic oscillating mirror, flying mirror
- **Relativistic Laboratory Astrophysics**  
plasma instabilities, bow waves, magnetized jets, antimatter plasma, collisionless shocks

# Dual 100 TW laser systems drive photon sources and HEDS experiments

## Precision MeV mono-energetic X-ray characterization



## Compact Free Electron Lasers

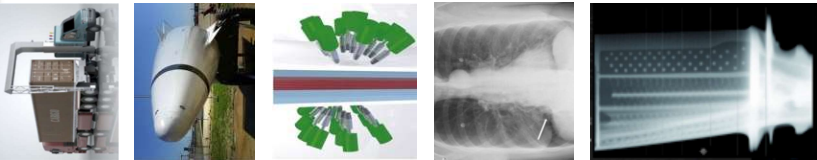


- 1 to 5 Hz, 2.4 J primary + 0.6 J 2<sup>nd</sup> beam,  $\geq 40\text{ fs}$ , 800 nm
- Available now for high energy density science, ...



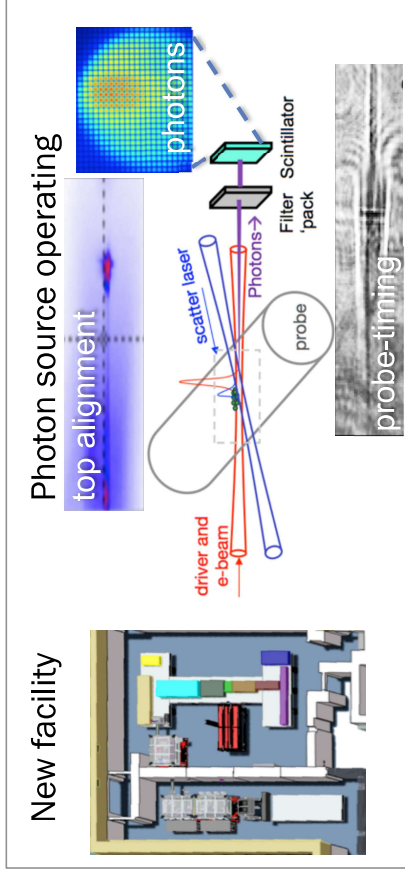
LLNL simulations with Dave Grote, Alex Friedman

# MeV Compton (Thomson) MeV Photon Source Operational: Revolutionary X-ray Applications, Prototypes Collider Components at GeV Scale



## Mono-energetic MeV photons by collision w/laser:

- Enable: precision measurements below  $\mu\text{m}$  & ps

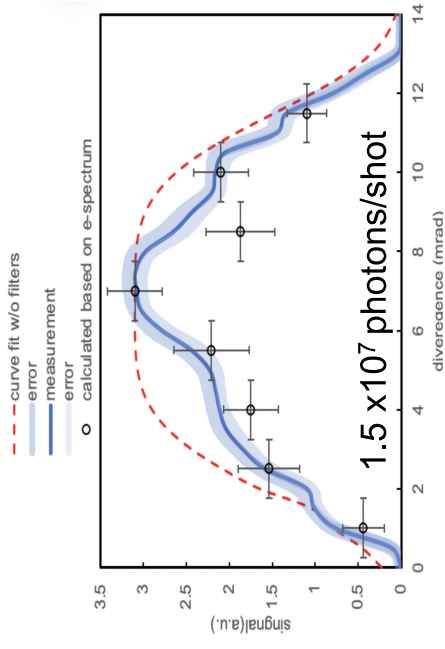


## Reduce X-Ray & CT Dose 10x-100x and improve material separation 10x<sup>1</sup>

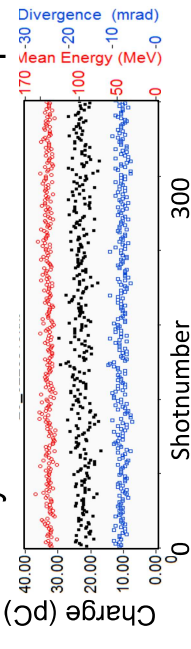
- Application and user (LaserNetUS) experiments
- Next: 9 MeV photons, guiding, electron deceleration, energy spread at 10% level with path to below 1%

1: Report: "Impact of Monoenergetic Photon Sources on Nonproliferation Applications", 2018 C. Geddes, et al., (2017)

## 1.5 MeV photon beam measured by filter pack



## Enabled by stable LPA over hours of operation



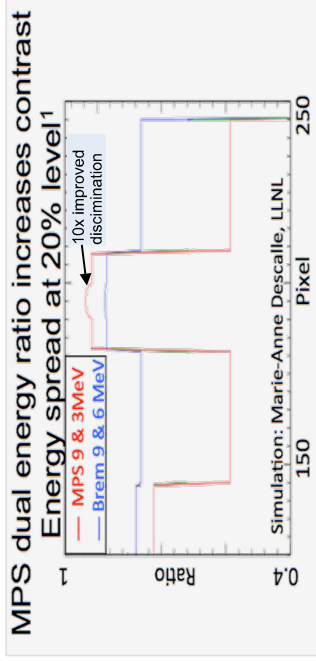
Ostermayr et al., DPP 2020 BO04.00002 : The BELLA Center Hundred Terawatt laser system...  
Tsai et al, DPP 2020 - BO04.00003 : MeV photon generation based on Thomson scattering...



# Strong mono-energetic photon source impact on nonproliferation Potential (unfunded) for HEDS, stockpile, defense/industry, medicine

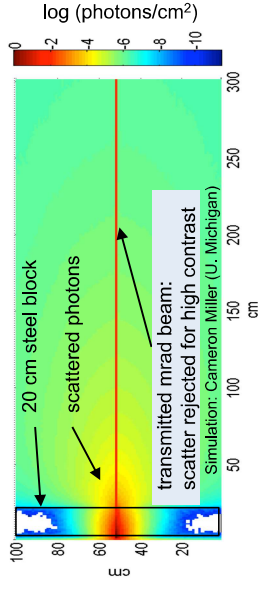
Energy selection: enhances signal

- **Radiography**: maximize transmission and Z-contrast, reduce dose

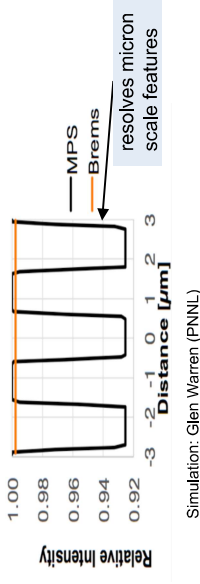


1: Final report of project "Impact of Monoenergetic Photon Sources on Nonproliferation Applications", C. Geddes, B. Ludewigt, J. Valentine, B. Quiter, M.-A. Descalle, G. Warren, M. Kinlaw, S. Thompson, D. Chichester, C. Miller, S. Pozzi (2017)

mrad divergence: mitigates scatter



≤ micron emission spot: resolution



Enables precision measurements for nonproliferation, nuclear physics, medicine and industry

Cargo, single sided detection, treaty verification and safeguards cases detailed

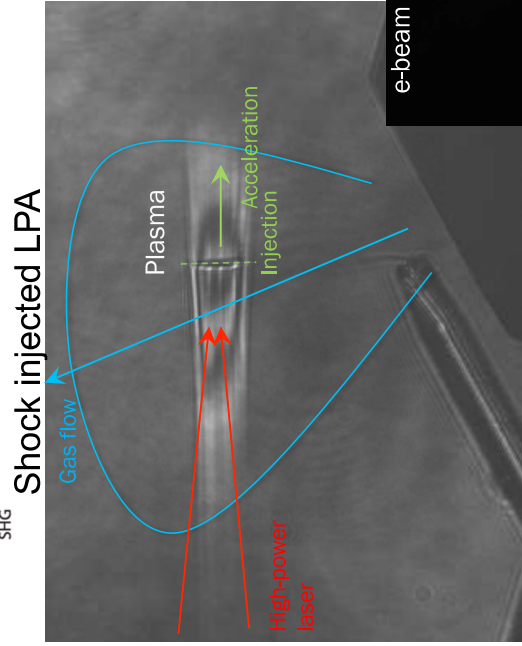
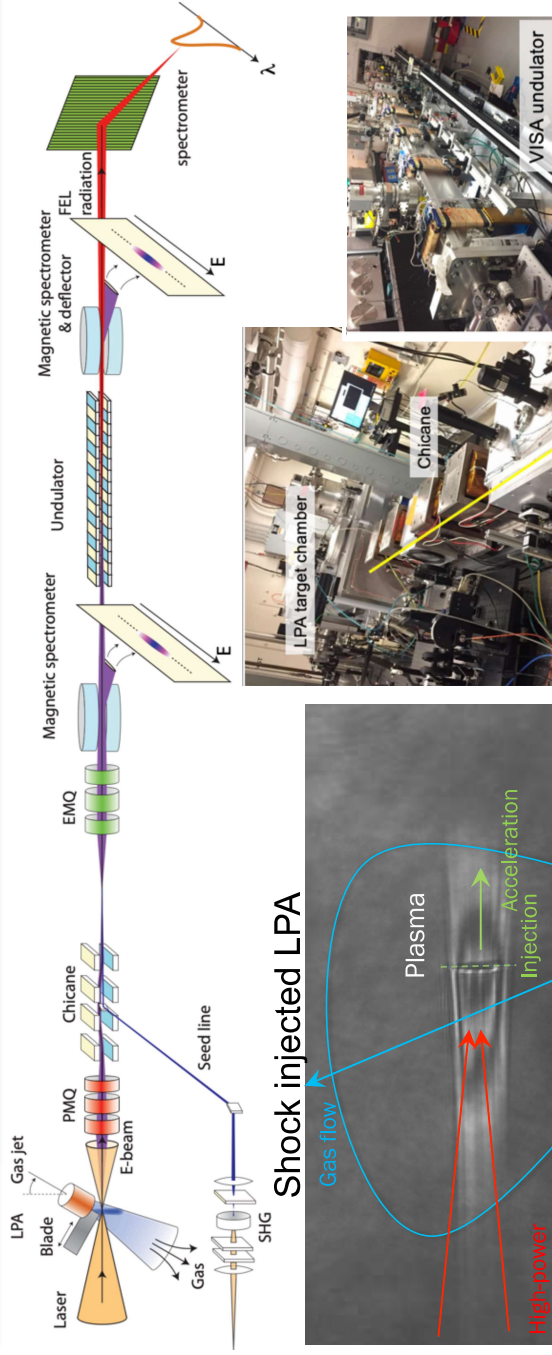
Dose reduced 10x-100x with energy control + narrow divergence

Material discrimination improved 10x

Spatial and temporal resolution improved more than 100x (fs, micron)

LLNL collaboration with Harry Martz, Steven Glenn, Joseph Bendahan

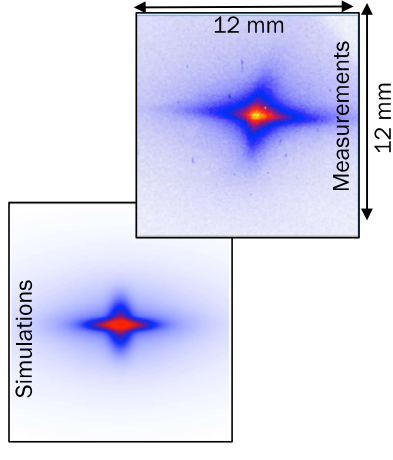
# LPA-FEL project: control phase-space to enable a LPA-based Free Electron Laser (a compact coherent X-ray source)



Approaching required charge density on single 100 MeV shots

e-beam spatial profile  
2 mrad |  
Stable 60 MeV e-beam

Transport studies in progress



## LPA de-compression

- dE/E few-% to <<1%

## Strong-focusing undulator

- Preserve charge density

Phase1: 100 MeV → 3eV FEL

Phase2: 300 MeV → 27eV FEL

- Strong overlap with HEP
- Novel phase-space diagnostics

Future: compact keV LPA FEL

DOE BES ECRP and Moore foundation

# LaserNetUS user access to PW and 100 TW systems

**Goal:** *Bring together the high-intensity laser science community and enable a broad range of frontier scientific research.*



- HEDS, light source, HEP oriented users
- Collaborative projects welcome
- Enables new science & facility capabilities

Recent proposal areas include:

- ion acceleration (upcoming LLNL run)
- plasma mirrors
- betatron sources, hydro and imaging
- NDE, material processing...

Synergistic BELLA R&D

- FLASH Radiation Biology with laser-plasma ion beams
- Quantum Information Science / Qbit & material synthesis
- COVID droplet microenvironments

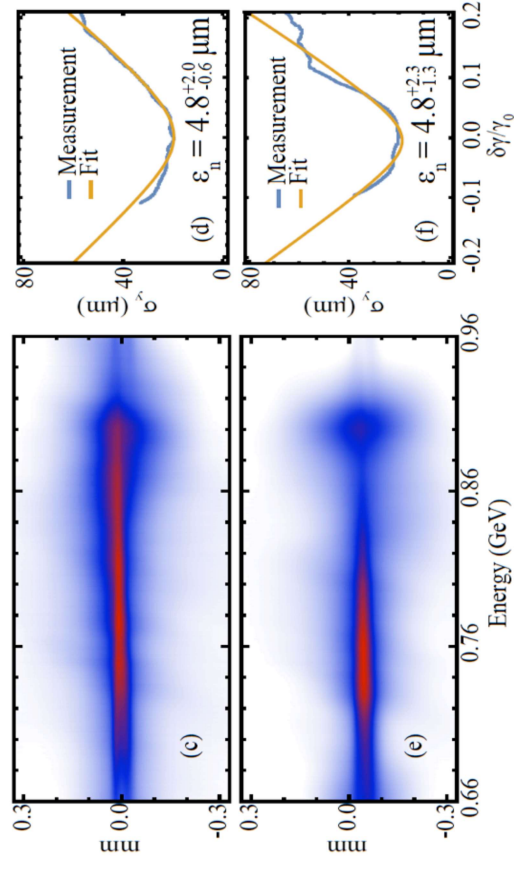
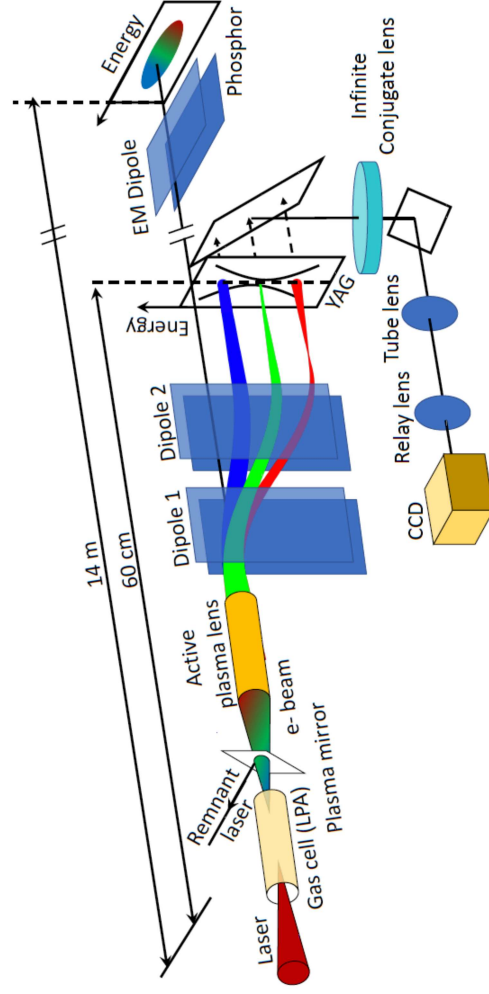
# Compact diagnostic enables single shot emittance measurements

## Tight focusing (6cm APL) coupled to dipoles for high-resolution energy and emittance characterization

- 4-5  $\mu\text{m}$  emittance from ionization injection, 0.25 PW in 1.3 e18 of 99% He / 1%N2
- Compact spectrometer (<60cm), range to above 10 GeV

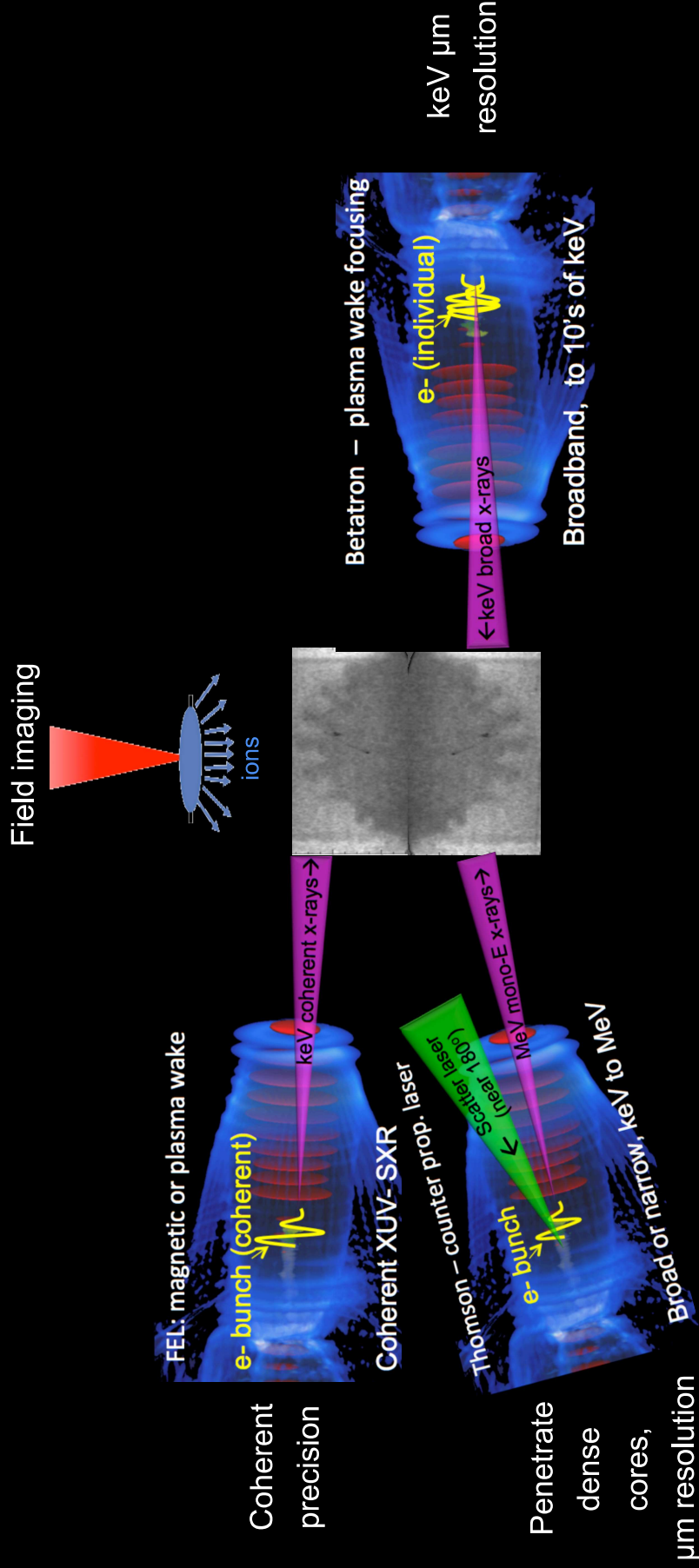
## Liquid crystal plasma mirror protects plasma lens (OSU collaboration)

- Sub-micron emittance degradation





# HEDS probes: compact MeV penetrating sources + coherent keV sources + charged particles

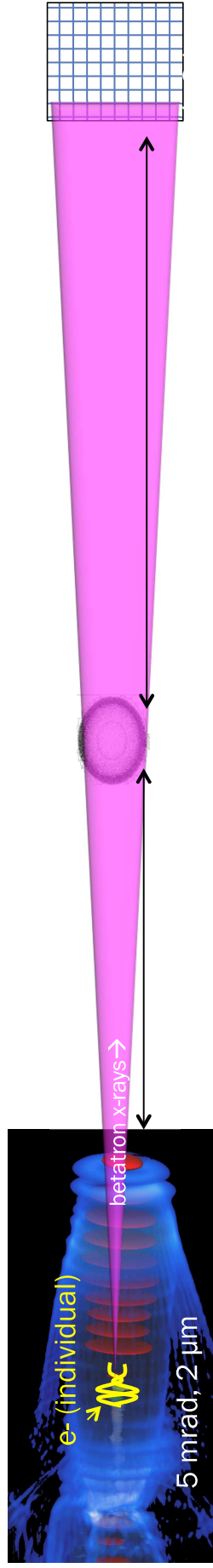
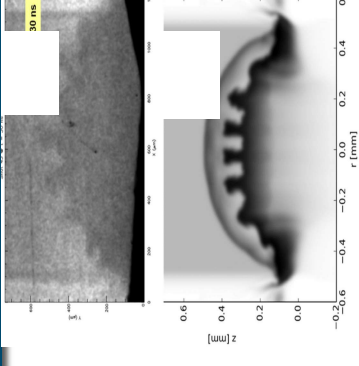


Advanced imaging to enable precision HEDS, collaboration opportunity

Related: F. Albert et al LLNL

# HEDS diagnostic opportunities / needs

- Narrow angle of emission implies longer stand off
- Need to know:
  - What is the desired probe energy, bandwidth
  - Photon # coupled to detector aperture at this energy
  - Poisson Dynamic range? Target absorption dynamic range? Other?
  - Where is coherence needed? longitudinal, transverse?
  - When do we care about/need to block laser/electron effect on target?
- Diagnostic constraint: Narrow divergence 1-100 mrad (dep. on source & energy) implies longer source-to-target distance; therefore also longer target to detector



## Outline

- Plasma accelerators
- Advanced sources & high energy density science
- kHz precision frontier

# Science Need: kHz Key to Efficient, High Quality Accelerators & Ultrafast Science

## Laser plasma accelerator potential shown

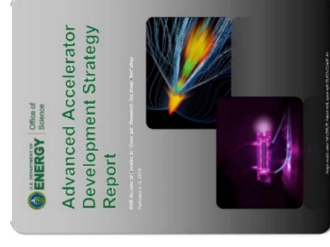
- Order of magnitude performance increase needed for HEP and applications
- Theory & simulation show attainable

## Realizing potential requires precision

## Broad ultrafast science potential

- HEDS precision time resolved tomography over thousands of shots
- Attoscience, Molecular Dynamics, Sensing, Nuclear Science, Radiation biology
- Sources for Bioimaging, COVID, Microelectronics, HEP detectors,
- Applications limited by rate & performance

## Realizing potential requires rate



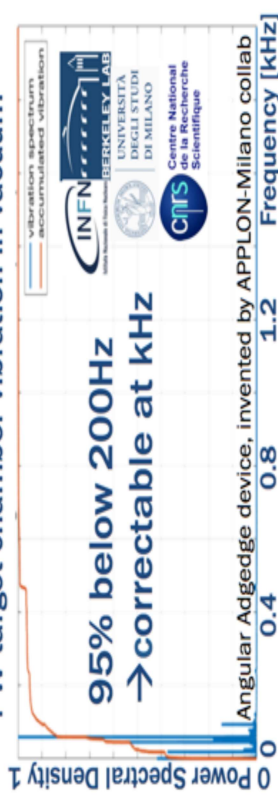
Increasing laser energy only does not enable applications – not efficient

Precision laser shaping and control required for quality and efficiency

- Laser pointing: from  $\mu\text{rad}$  to  $< 0.1 \mu\text{rad}$
- Focal spot/wave front: now at fluctuation limit
- Near field: currently not well controlled
- Pulse shape, carrier envelope phase...

Ground & air motion fall off at  $O[100\text{Hz}]$

Correction at kHz  $> 10$  fold - key to LPA performance  
PW target chamber vibration in vacuum



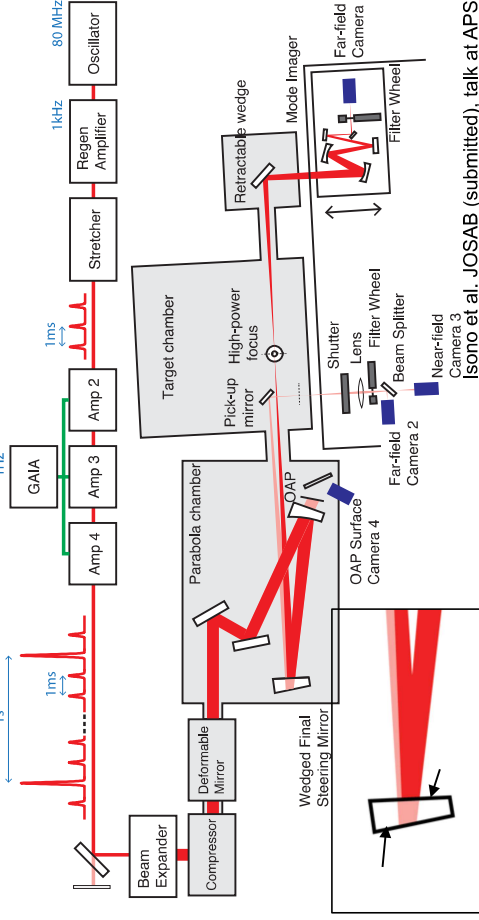
BELLA mJ kHz: 10x reduced pointing fluctuation  
Other groups: CEP, spectral phase...

# Laser Control and Stabilization for Precision LPA on Existing Lasers

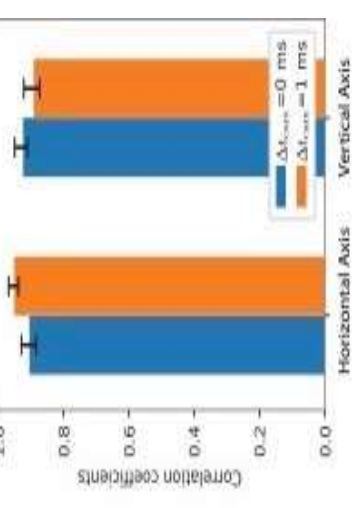
## kHz-mJ regen pilot beam to characterize 100TW system

- Wedged steering mirror: 'copy' of pulse
  - Position and angle on target in both planes
- ### Pilot well correlated to amplified pulse
- Diagnostics: non-perturbative at high-power
  - Correction to be enabled at kHz – potential 10x improved pointing
  - Path to correction of other parameters

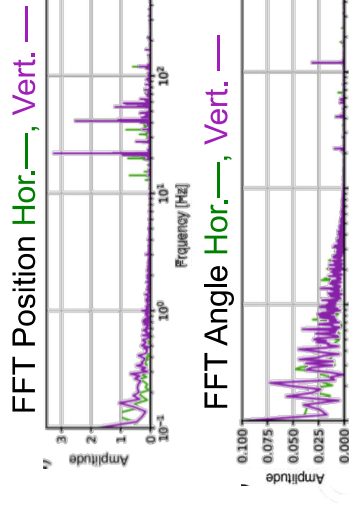
## Does not correct: pumping & beam size effects



Pilot well correlated to amplified beam  
(oscillator-to-target beam-pilot overlap)



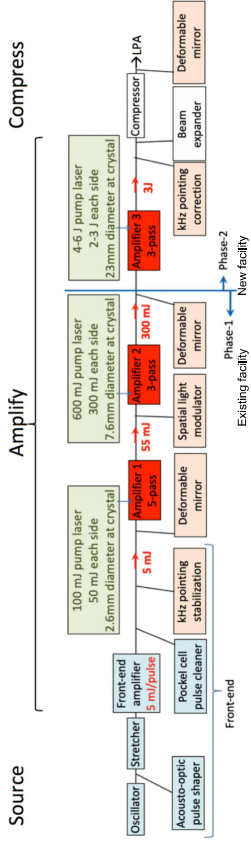
Fluctuation primarily < 100 Hz



# Ti:sapphire kHz Design Ready to Build

Ti:sapphire – extend existing systems

Near term 3J / GeV LPA available

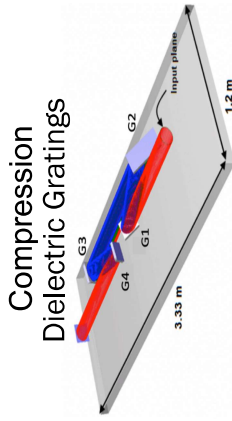
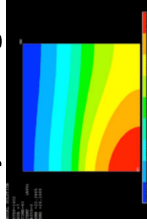


Laser energy pump  
Diode pump lasers (Commercial)

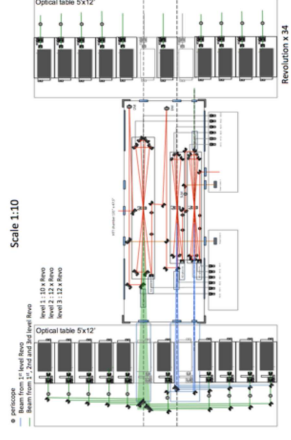


Also: Colorado State, TRUMPF, MIT-LL

Heat extraction  
Cryo cooling



Design detailed: Layout and > 200 line BOM



Based on established 100 TW system

Direct path to GeV kHz system for LPA studies.

LBNL - LLE - LLNL  
MIT-LL and Colorado State discussions

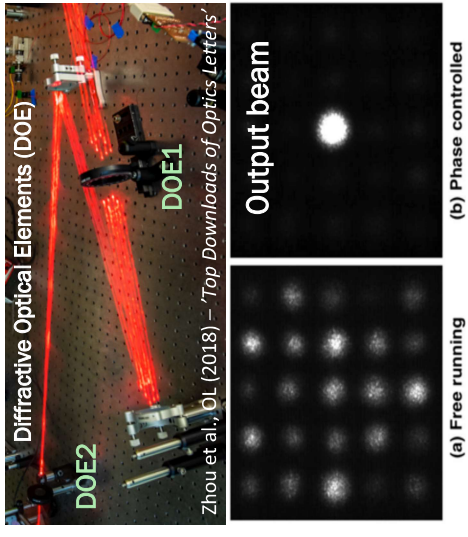
Other technologies needed for high efficiency > few %  
and repetition rates beyond kHz class



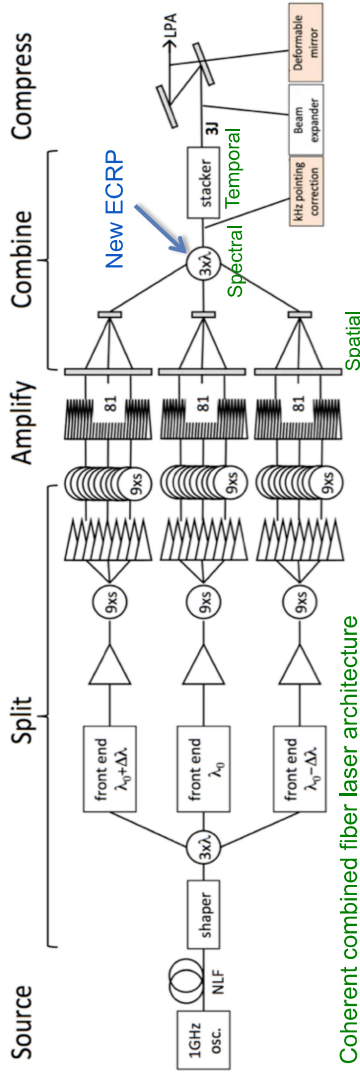
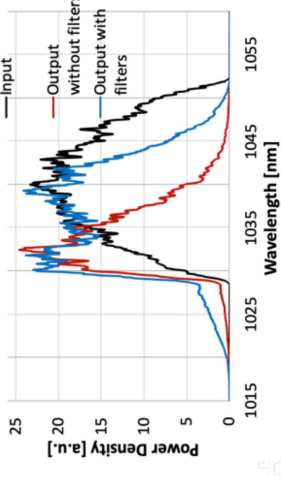
# Towards Application Luminosity Needs: Developing High Repetition Rate Lasers (Joint with BACI)

## Fiber lasers enable: beyond kHz with high efficiency

- Critical for collider roadmap
  - Combine ~100 fibers X Stack 100 pulses temporally for Joule energy
- ### LBNL – U. M. – LLNL projects developing architecture
- Stewardship: Scalable diffractive combining – Combined 81 low energy beams
  - Coherent pulse stacking – Stacked 81 high energy pulses
  - ECRP (Qiang Du): Controls for efficient combining & stacking
  - New ECRP (Tong Zhou): Spectral combining for 30fs pulses & LPA demo
- ## Near term path to hundreds of mJ, 10's of fs systems
- Future 10 Joule class, 10's of kHz collider drivers



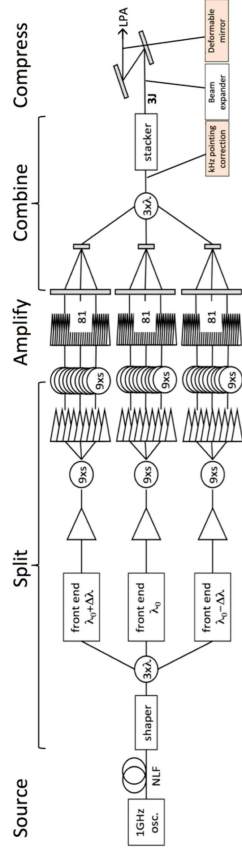
## Distributed Spectral Filtering preserves amplified bandwidth for short pulses



Coherent combined fiber laser architecture

# Laser Technology Path Established for Future High Efficiency

## Fiber combination



Phase 1 would have a subset of channels.

**LLNL-U.M.-LLNL**

LLNL lead – Leily Kiani

## R&D under accelerator stewardship program

- Technical roadmaps in progress for both technologies

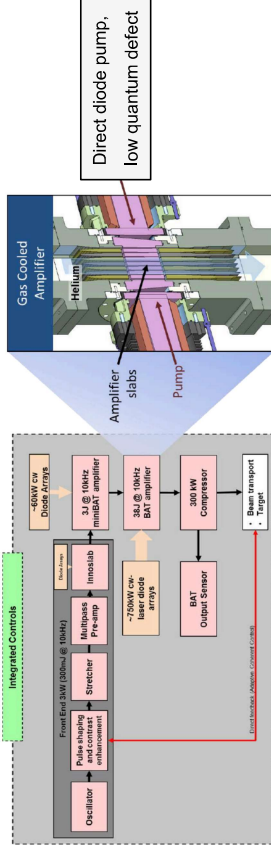
## Path in next 5 years for fiber and Tm:YLF

- 100's of mJ, 100 fs class systems feasible
- Build full Joule-class compressor & support systems to provide for future expansion
- Laser development platform

## Future path for fiber and Tm:YLF

- Highly efficient systems
- 10's of kHz at Joules of energy and 30-60fs

## Tm:YLF



**LLNL with LBNL discussion**

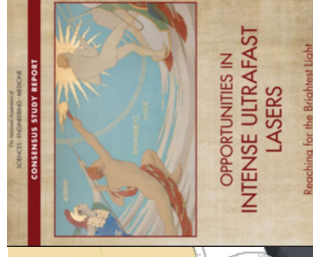
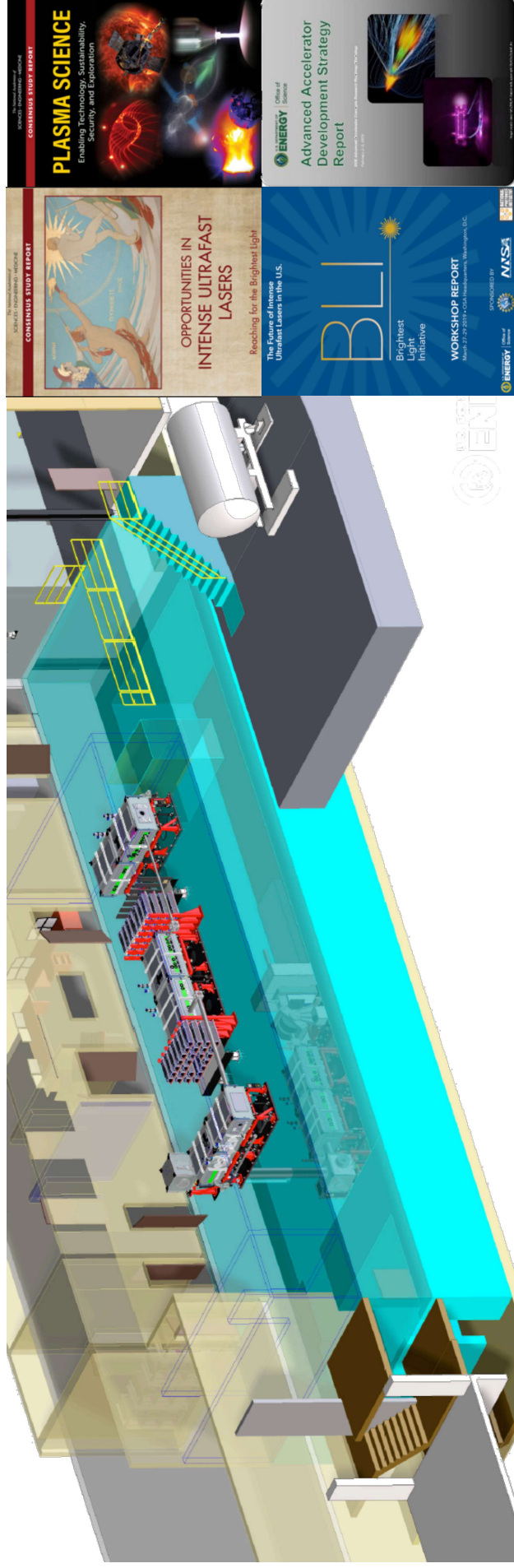
Courtesy: Tom Spinka, LLNL



# kBELLA Initiative Under Development for kHz, Joule-class LPA

High priority in community and funding agency plans for precision LPA

- Ti:sapphire is ready to execute at GeV class in next few years
- Fiber & Tm:YLF offer path to future high efficiency, with lower energy in near term
- Facility supporting multiple lasers for immediate experiments and long term development
- Key step on collider roadmap and enables photon sources and precision HEDS



# Summary

## LPA performance advancing strongly

- 8 GeV record using laser-heated capillary
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Beamline will enable high quality LPA staging**
- Platform for: controlled injection, laser produced guides, and positrons
- Flexible spot size will assist both staging and single stage campaigns

## Photon sources, user experiments and ion acceleration reinforce program

- Common techniques with collider at accessible scale
- HEDS pumps and probes

## Precision control of laser drivers is key to LPA advancement

- Path to efficient future kHz systems via fiber combination and other approaches
- kHz, Joule class is a key next step for control and applications

 **LBNL-LLNL collaboration opportunities ranging from simulations to ion acceleration to photon sources**