



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

**Nuclear Energy**

## **NSUF Activities and Needs for In-Pile Sensors and Characterization**

**Brenden Heidrich, Ph.D.**  
Chief Irradiation Scientist , NSUF

**J. Rory Kennedy, Ph.D.**  
Director, NSUF  
Idaho National Laboratory



**Advanced Sensors  
and Instrumentation  
Program Review**  
October 18, 2017



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# The US User Facility Model



- The goal is to connect intellectual capital with investigative capabilities.
- Typically large single structure, government supported facilities with unique capabilities located at a single institution.
- Access is typically offered at no cost to the user through a competitive proposal process.
- Principle is to offer advanced, cutting edge capabilities to single investigators or teams.
- Generally the user facility offers a single type of capability to a broad range of technological or research areas.
- User facilities do not fund salaries or other user costs, such as travel.
  - They provide access and support with funding used at the user facility institution.
- Currently **~50 user facilities in US**
  - Synchrotron X-ray sources (e.g. APS, NSLS-II)
  - Neutron spallation sources (e.g. SNS)
  - Advanced scientific computing
  - Nano-scale sciences
  - etc.



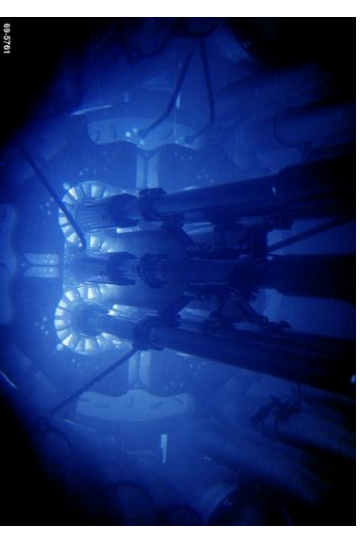
Advanced Photon Source, ANL



- Established 2007 as US DOE Office of Nuclear Energy first & only user facility.
- Founded at Idaho National Laboratory initially intended as a single institution user facility. INL remains lead and primary institution.
- NSUF operates as typical US user facility (no cost to user, competitive proposal processes, no funding to users) but also some unique aspects.

## Unique aspects of NSUF

- Consortium of facilities/capabilities, not single institution (currently 11 Universities + 4 Universities in CAES, 7 National Laboratories, 1 industry)
- NSUF offers multiple capabilities to a single scientific area:
  - *irradiation effects in nuclear fuels and materials.*
- **Projects can last many years or be short duration.**
  - Largest projects include design, fabrication, transport, irradiation, PIE, and final disposition.
- **No base funding to facilities.**
  - Funding to facility is for project cost and is fully forward funded.
  - Excess capacity is generally utilized.

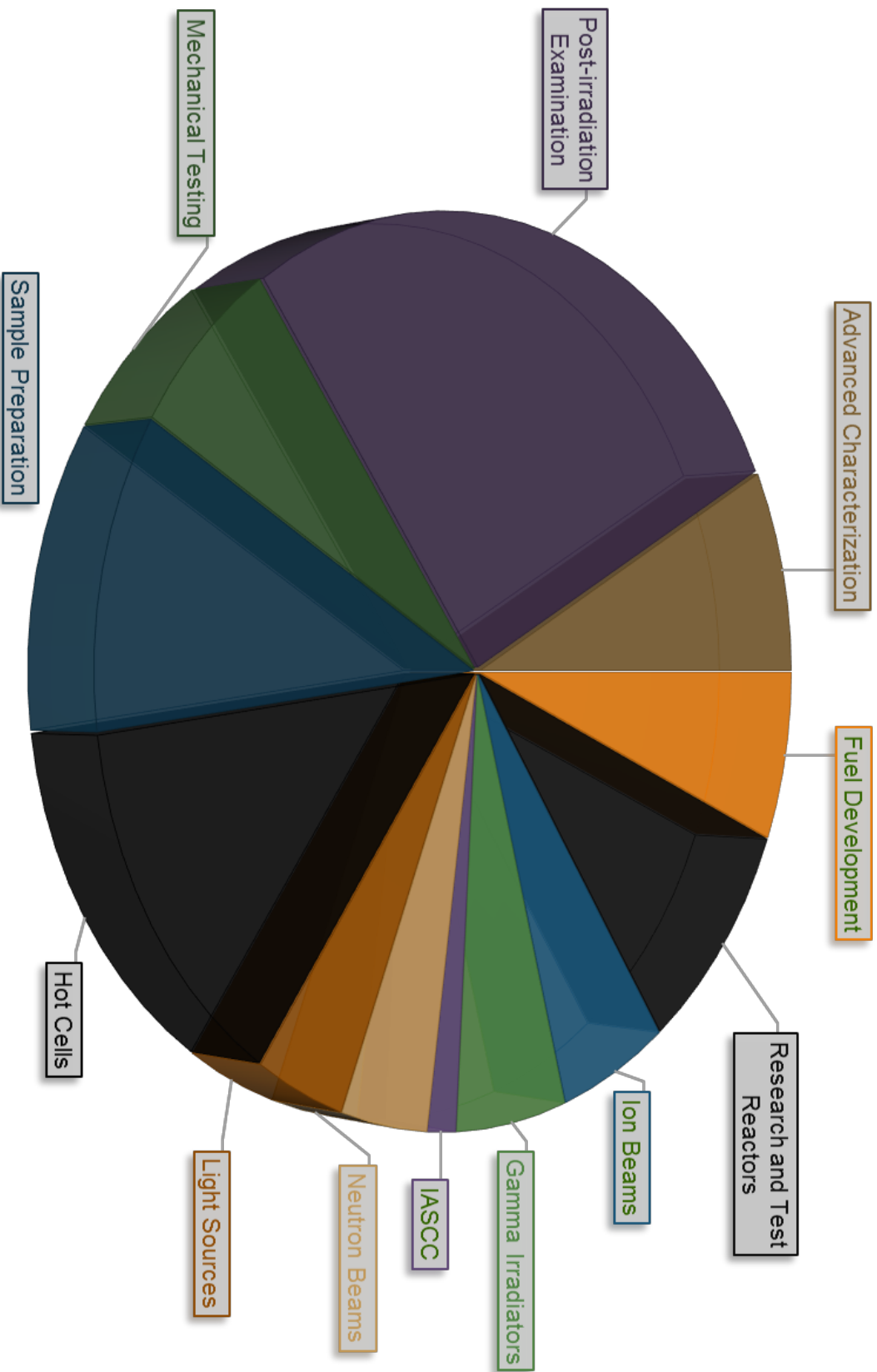




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# NSUF Capabilities





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# NSUF Capabilities



Neutron Irradiations    Ion Irradiations    Gamma Irradiations    Hot Cells & Shielded Cells    Beamlines    High Performance Computing



TEXAS A&M  
UNIVERSITY



Westinghouse



ILLINOIS TECH  
SINCE 1890



Visit [nsuf.inl.gov](http://nsuf.inl.gov) for details at individual facilities

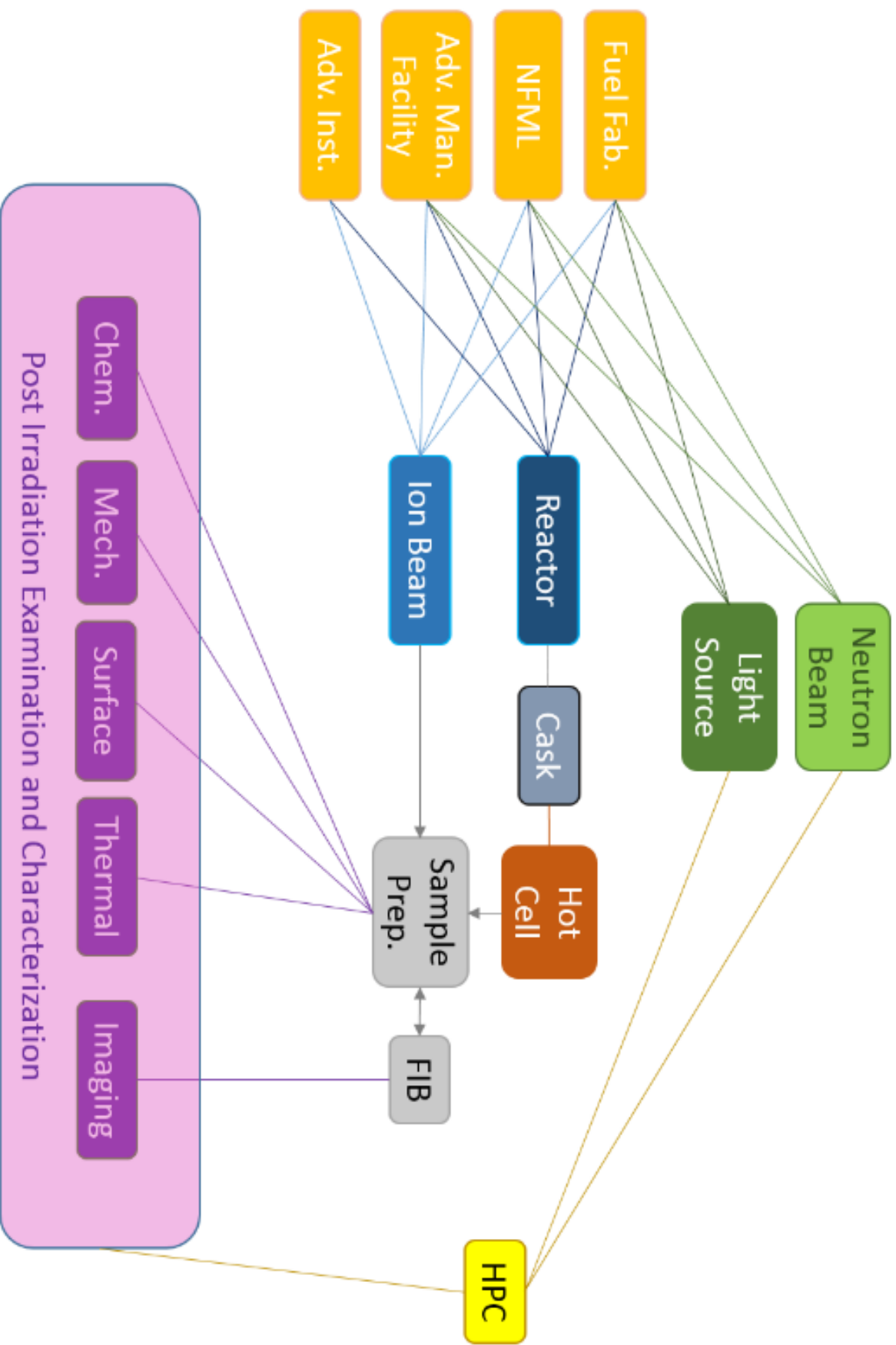




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# NSUF Experiment Pathways

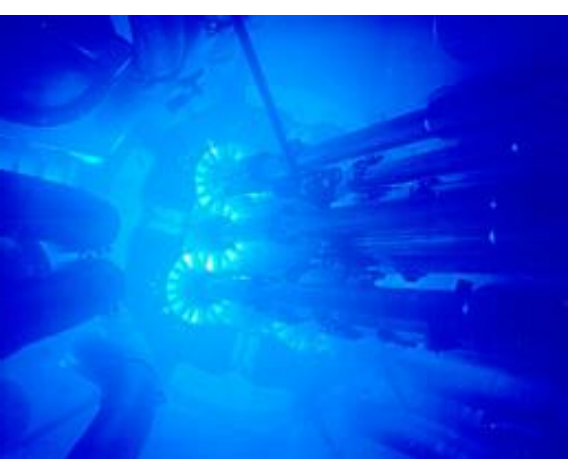
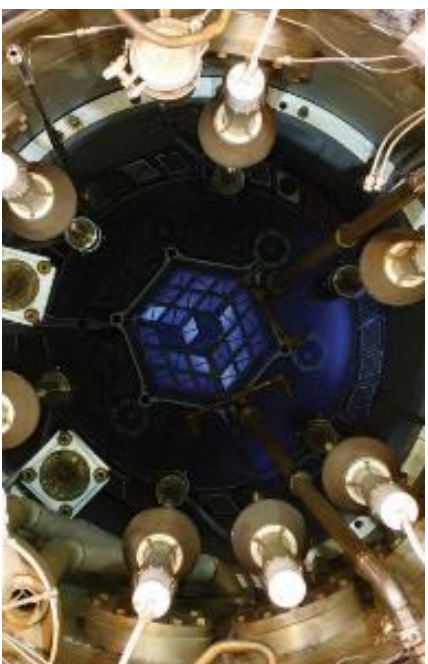




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# NSUF Neutron Irradiation Capabilities







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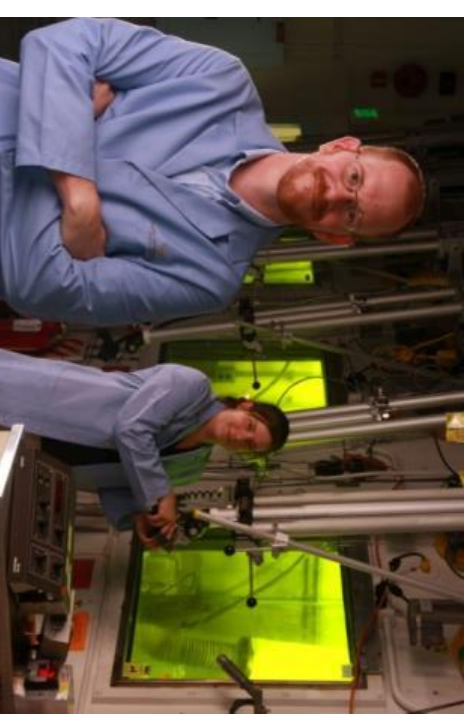
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# NSUF Capabilities



## High radiation level measurements/instrumentation

- Neutron Radiography
- Elemental & Isotopic Analyses
- Gas Sampling and Analyses
- Profilometry
- Gamma Scanning
- Mechanical Testing (tensile, punch, Charpy)
- Micro-focus X-ray Diffraction
- Thermal Analyses
- Eddy Current
- Irradiation Assisted Stress Corrosion Cracking
- Electron Probe Micro Analysis (EPMA)
- Electron and Optical Microscopy
- Focused ion Beam (FIB)







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# NSUF Capabilities



## Low radiation level measurements/instrumentation

- **Electron and Optical Microscopy**
  - Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)
  - Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)
- **Focused Ion Beam (FIB)**
- **Mechanical Testing**
  - Tensile
  - Hardness
  - Micro- and Nano-Indentation
- **X-ray Diffraction**
- **Photo Electron Spectroscopy**
  - X-ray Photo Electron Spectroscopy (XPS)
  - UV Photo Electron Spectroscopy (UPS)
  - Auger Spectroscopy
- **Irradiation Assisted Stress Corrosion Cracking (IASCC)**
- **Positron Annihilation Spectroscopy**
- **Atomic Force Microscopy**
- **Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry**

### ● Thermal Analysis

- Thermal Conductivity
  - Heat Capacity
  - Thermal Expansion
- **Nuclear Magnetic Resonance**





# NSUF High Performance Computing Resources

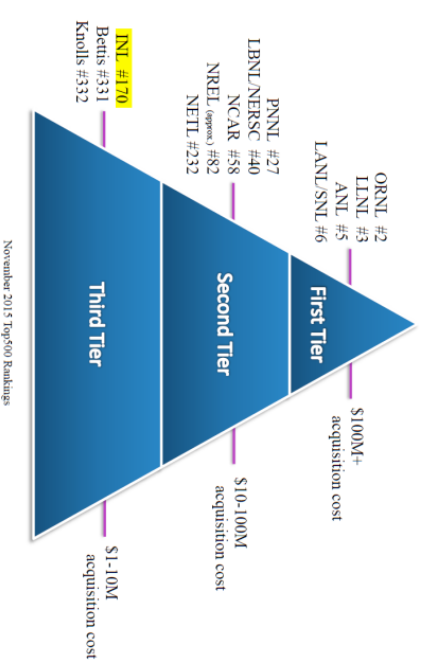
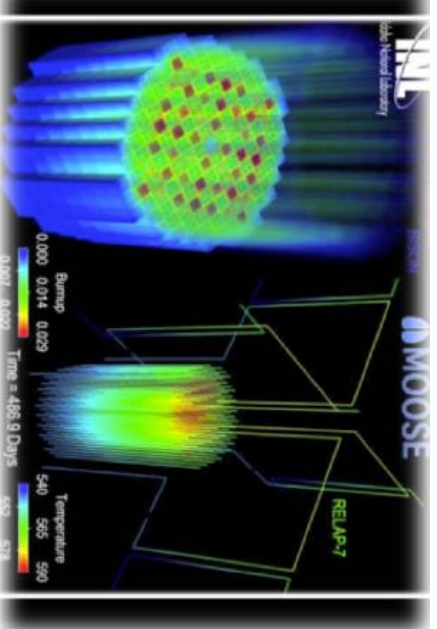
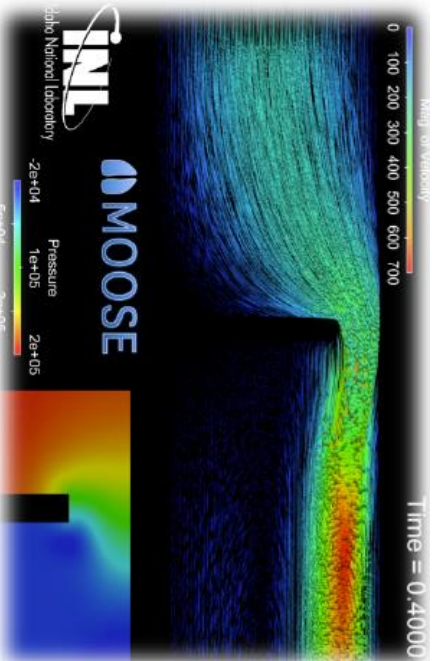


## How does HPC enable DOE missions?

- High Performance Computing (HPC) compliments theory and informs experimental processes.
- HPC functions as a 'microscope' for researchers to better understand physics, chemistry, and engineering principles in ways not otherwise possible.
- HPC resources support NSUF, CASL, NEAMS, NEUP, and GAIN

## NSUF Program Support

- System already in place for quickly granting user access and prioritizing work
- Reporting and accounting systems are being modified to better capture NSUF metrics and science impact
- Implementing tools to improve and simplify user experience
- Ensuring that NSUF and related programs have needed support
  - Priority scheduling for milestones upon request
  - Supporting as-run analysis, thermal analytics, neutronics analytics
  - MOOSE support



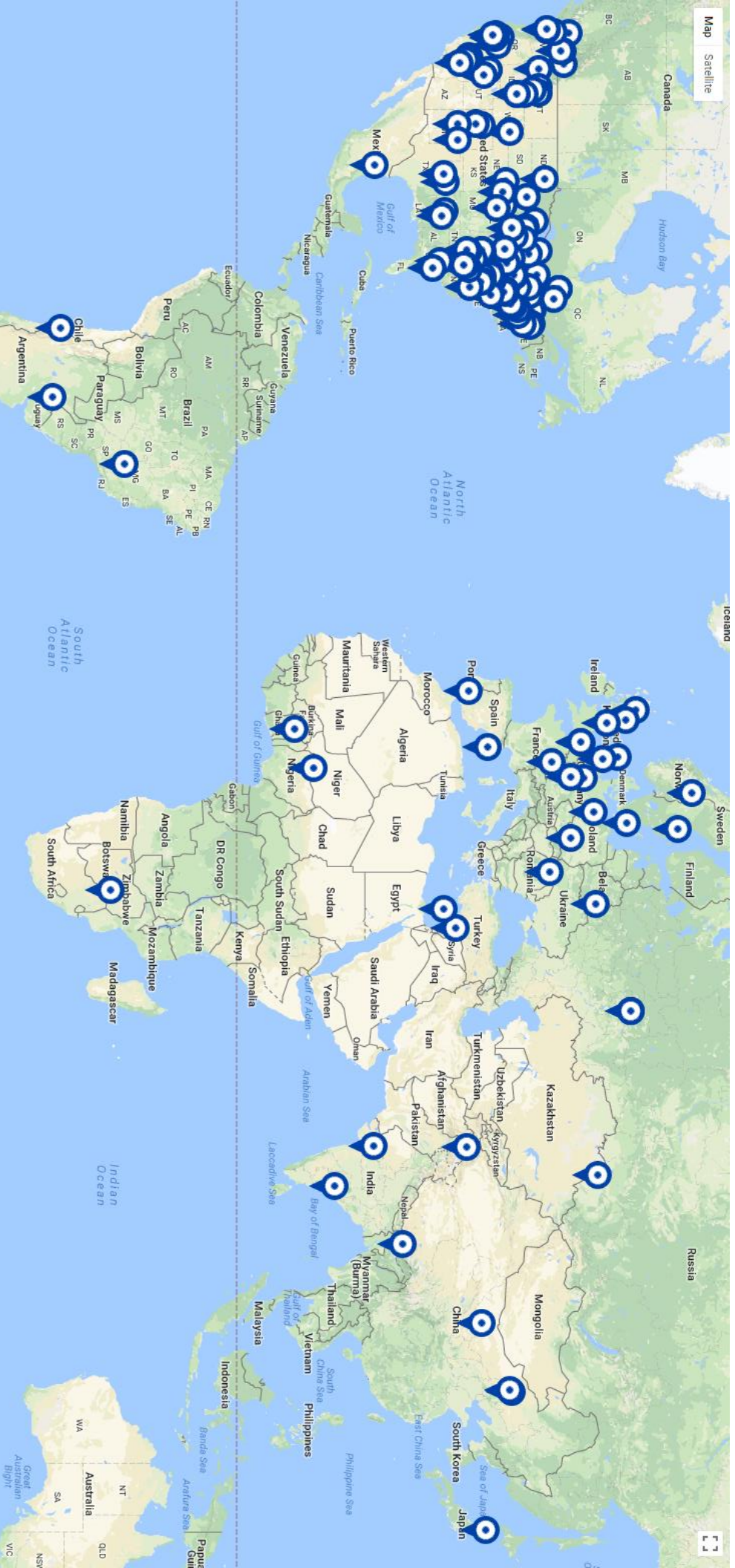




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# Database of world-wide nuclear energy R&D resources (NEID)





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## NSUF Interests



### General Characteristics

- \* Wireless data transmission
- \* Spatially-resolved measurements

### Neutronics

Fluence  
Energy Spectrum  
Transient Flux

### Mechanical Properties

Swelling  
Creep and Stress/Strain  
Crack Initiation and Growth  
Microstructural Evolution  
Dimensional Changes

### Thermal Properties

Temperature  
Thermal Conductivity  
Thermal Expansion  
Thermal Diffusivity  
Heat Capacity

### Chemical Information

Composition and Evolution  
Gas Composition and Pressure  
Chemistry --> FCCI  
Electrochemical Potentials





## Recent NSUF In-pile and Sensor Development Support



- **Transducers for In-pile Ultrasonic Measurements of Fuels and Materials Evolution**  
(FY12) Idaho National Laboratory, Penn State, CEA, PNNL, ANL, MIT, \$959K
- **Ultrasound-Based Sensors for Enhanced Monitoring of Irradiation Testing**  
(FY15) Idaho National Laboratory, Univ. of Pittsburgh, CEA, AFO Research, \$957K
- **Additive manufacturing of thermal sensors for in-pile thermal conductivity measurement**  
(FY17) Boise State University, \$536K
- **Rad. Effects on Optical Fiber Sensor Fused Smart Alloy Parts with Graded Alloy Composition Manufactured by Additive Manufacturing Processes**  
(FY17) University of Pittsburgh, \$775K
- **Monitoring of Temperature of Reactor Experiments – MOTORE**  
(FY17) Idaho National Laboratory, SCK-CEN, \$80K
- **Benchmarking of Ultrasonic Thermometer and Fiber Bragg Grating Thermometer**  
(FY18) Idaho National Laboratory, SCK-CEN, \$140K



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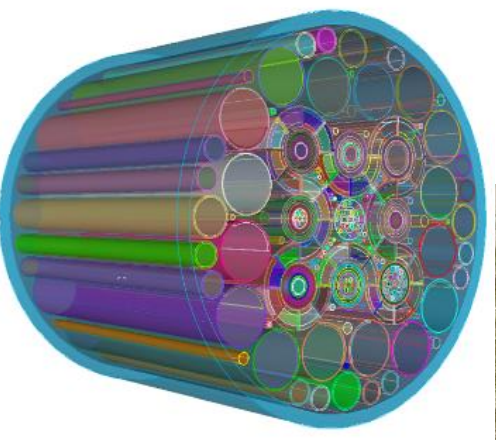
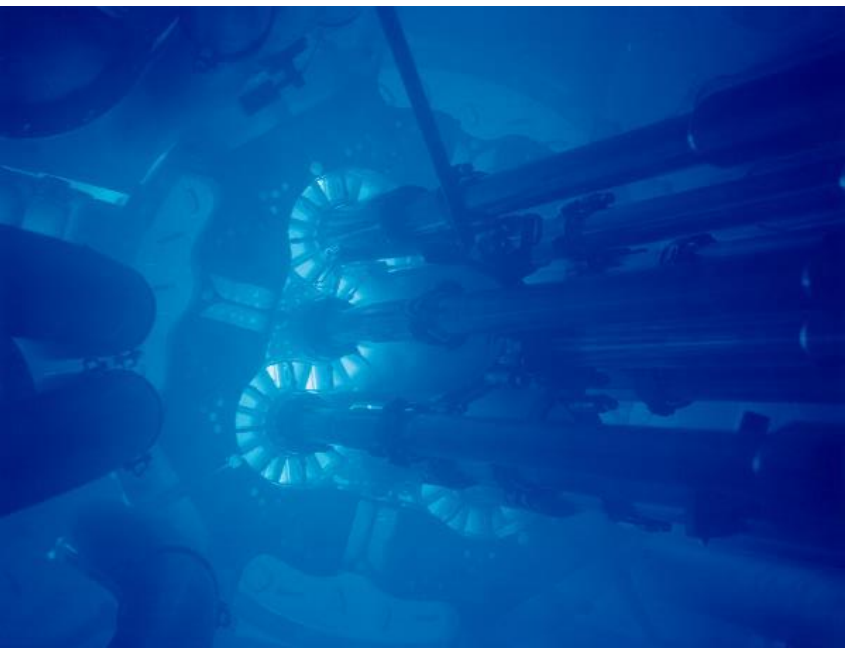
# Contact Information for NSUF



**Brenden Heidrich**

**(208) 526-8117**

**[Brenden.Heidrich@INL.gov](mailto:Brenden.Heidrich@INL.gov)**



**[NSUF@INL.gov](mailto:NSUF@INL.gov)**

**[NSUF.INL.gov](mailto:NSUF.INL.gov)**

**[NSUF-Infrastructure.INL.gov](mailto:NSUF-Infrastructure.INL.gov)**

