

## DOE Building Technologies Office: Advanced HVAC&R Research Effort

IMECE Workshop on Technical Focus and Structure



Room 339B, Hilton of the Americas, ASME IMECE 2015

9:00 am to noon

November 17, 2015



DISPUTES & INVESTIGATIONS • ECONOMICS • FINANCIAL ADVISORY • MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

**Navigant,**  
*on behalf of the United States Department of Energy,*  
*welcomes you to this workshop on an*  
**Advanced HVAC&R Research Effort**

## *Introductions and Logistics*

- Timing
- Restrooms

## *Group Discussion*

- *Individual Insights*
- *Shared perspectives*

30  
mins

## Vision

60  
mins

## Technical Focus

15  
mins

## Break

60  
mins

## Structure

15  
mins

## Review and Final Q&A

# DOE BTO has supported the next generation of HVAC&R systems through numerous R&D initiatives.



**Residential Cold-Climate Heat Pump**



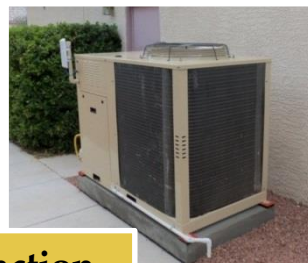
**Supercharger for Heat Pumps in Cold Climates**



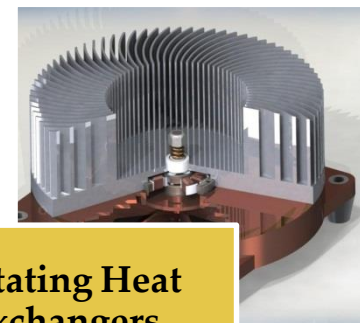
**Low-GWP Refrigerants Roadmap**



**New Low-GWP Supermarket Refrigerant**



**Multi-Function Gas-Fired Heat Pump**

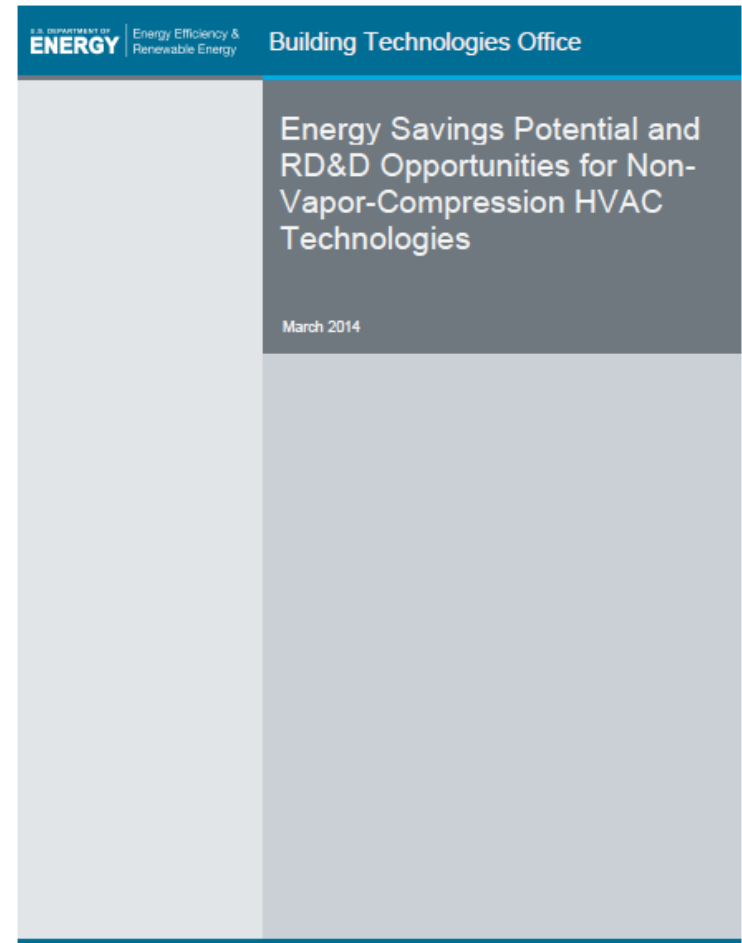


**Rotating Heat Exchangers**

- » **Low-GWP HVAC with ultra-small centrifugal compressor** – Mechanical Solutions, Inc. (MSI) (New Jersey) and Lennox Industries, Inc. (Lennox) (Texas).  
<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/low-global-warming-potential-hvac-system-ultra-small-centrifugal>
- » **High efficiency centrifugal compressor** - United Technologies Research Center (UTRC) (Connecticut) <http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/high-efficiency-low-global-warming-potential-gwp-compressor>
- » **Advanced membrane HVAC** - Dais Analytic (Florida)  
<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/membrane-based-air-conditioning>
- » **Thermoelastic cooling system (TEC)** - Maryland Energy and Sensor Technologies, LLC (MEST) (Maryland) <http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/compact-thermoelastic-cooling-system>
- » **Novel magnetocaloric A/C** – Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Tennessee). Vaccumschmelze GmbH & Co. KG., (Germany) is a key partner.  
<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/novel-solid-state-magnetocaloric-air-conditioner>
- » **Electrocaloric heat pump** - United Technologies Research Center (UTRC) (Connecticut) <http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/high-efficiency-solid-state-heat-pump-module>
- » **Electrochemical compression (ECC) A/C** - Xergy, Inc. (Delaware)  
<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/low-cost-electrochemical-compressor-utilizing-green-refrigerants-hvac>

This Building Technologies Office report:

- Identifies alternatives to vapor-compression technology in residential and commercial HVAC applications
- Characterizes these technologies based on their technical energy savings potential, development status, non-energy benefits, and other factors affecting end-user acceptance and their ability to compete with conventional vapor-compression systems



<http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/non-vapor-compression-hvac-technologies-report>

# **Today, DOE BTO is exploring the launch of a major new research effort dedicated to advanced HVAC&R.**

- » Dedicated focus area(s)
- » Centralized oversight
- » Committed partners across industry, academia, research organizations
- » Concentrated funding instead of independently funded projects
- » Long-term mission oriented
- » Open to new and innovative ideas and approaches

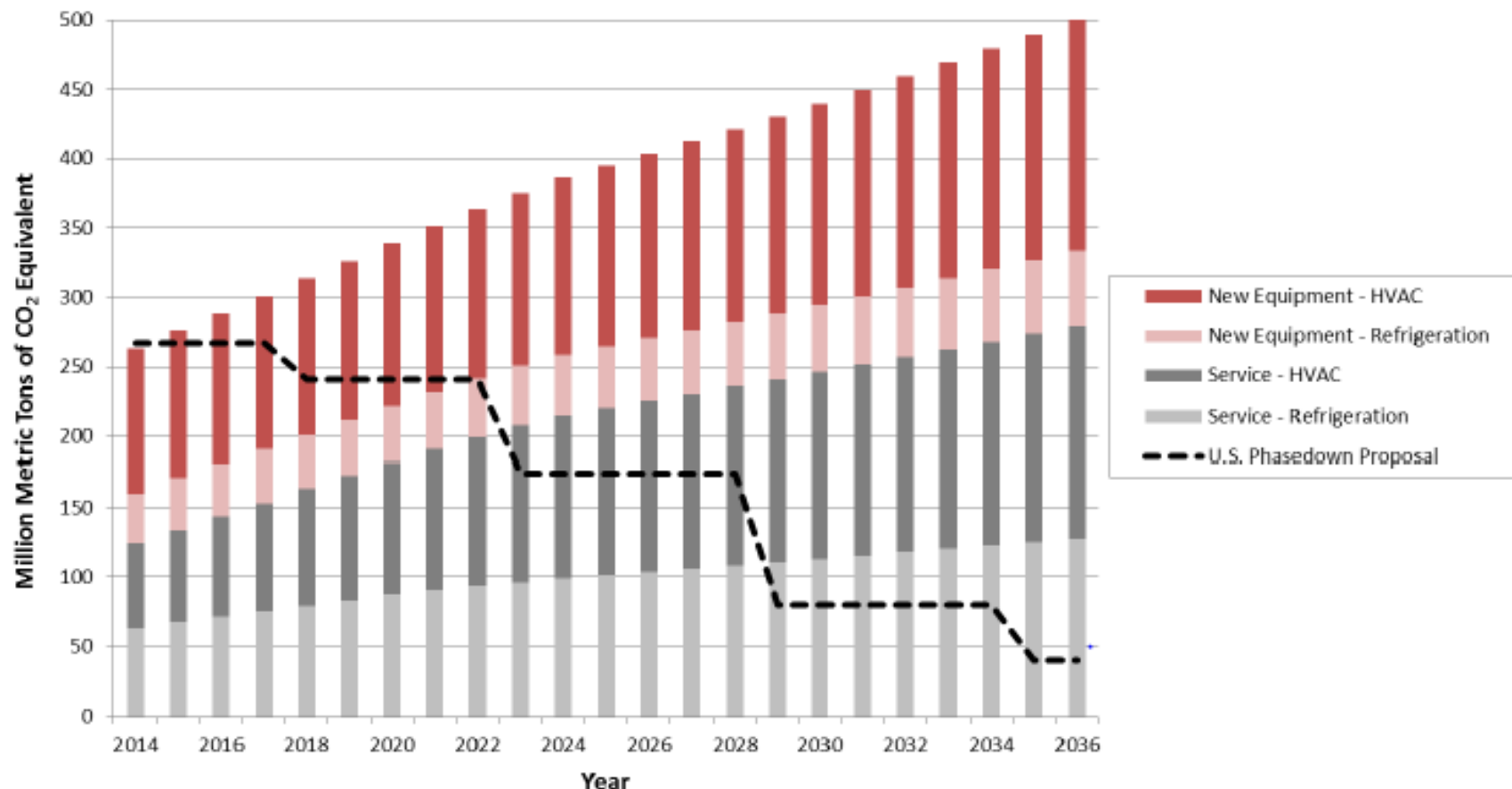
**Key Driver:** DOE's goal to develop next-generation technologies that 'leapfrog' existing technologies and result in dramatically improved efficiency with near-zero GWP cooling fluids.

**Why this major research effort?** Achieving DOE's goal will require a large, coordinated, and interdisciplinary approach in order to make transformative progress.



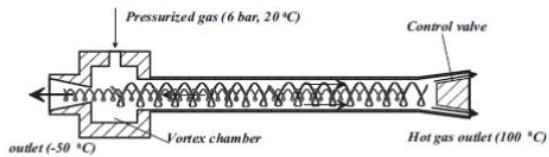
This effort supports the U.S. HFC phasedown proposal, which targets an 85% reduction by 2035.

## Projected GWP-Weighted HFC Consumption

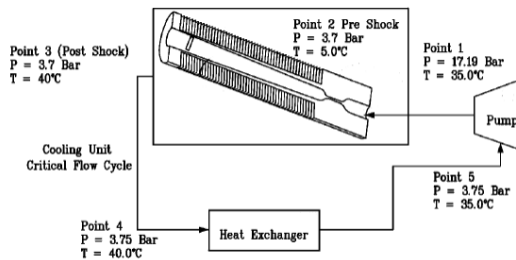


Note: Baseline = 2014-16 average consumption

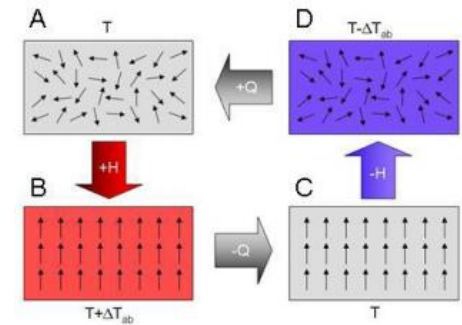
DOE envisions a future where low-GWP HVAC solutions are the new norm and non-vapor compression will be prevalent in several end uses



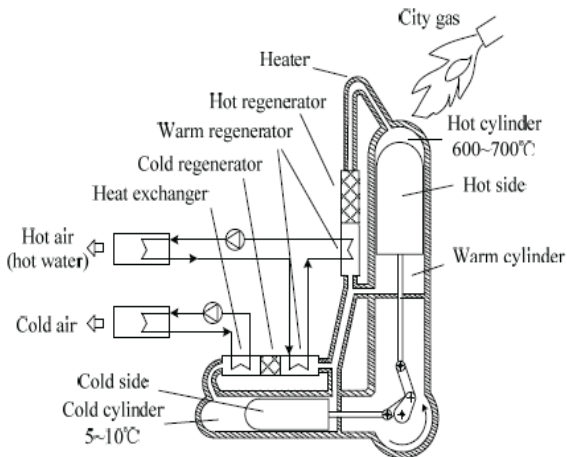
**VORTEX TUBE CHILLER**



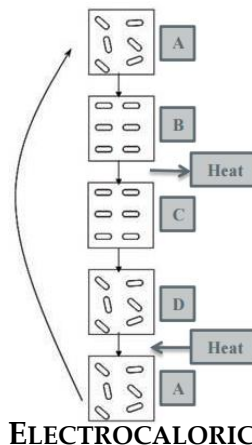
**CRITICAL FLOW REFRIGERANT CYCLE**



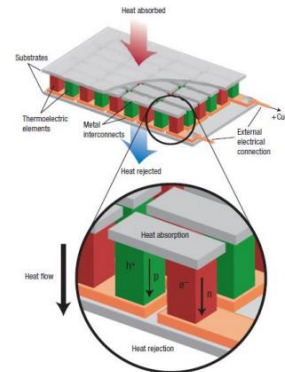
**MAGNETOCALORIC COOLING**



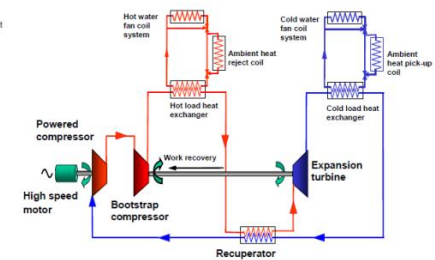
**VUILLEUMIER HEAT PUMP**



**ELECTROCALORIC**



**THERMOELECTRIC**



**BRAYTON HEAT PUMP**

## Illustrative Examples

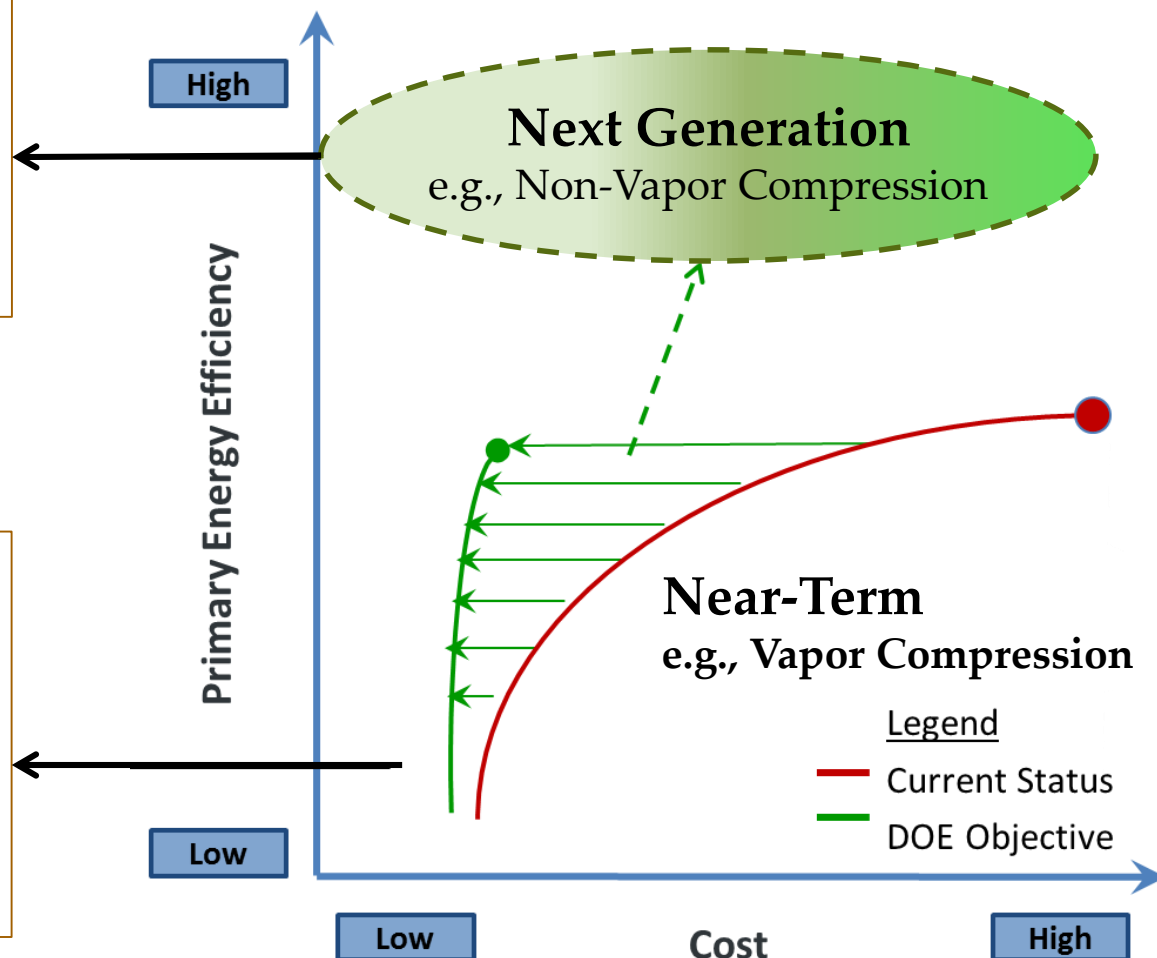
**This effort will build on existing work on near term improvements and strive for transformational advances.**

## Next Generation

- Potential to “leapfrog” existing technologies
- Entirely new approaches

## Near-Term

- Improve efficiency of current technologies
- May include cost reduction activities



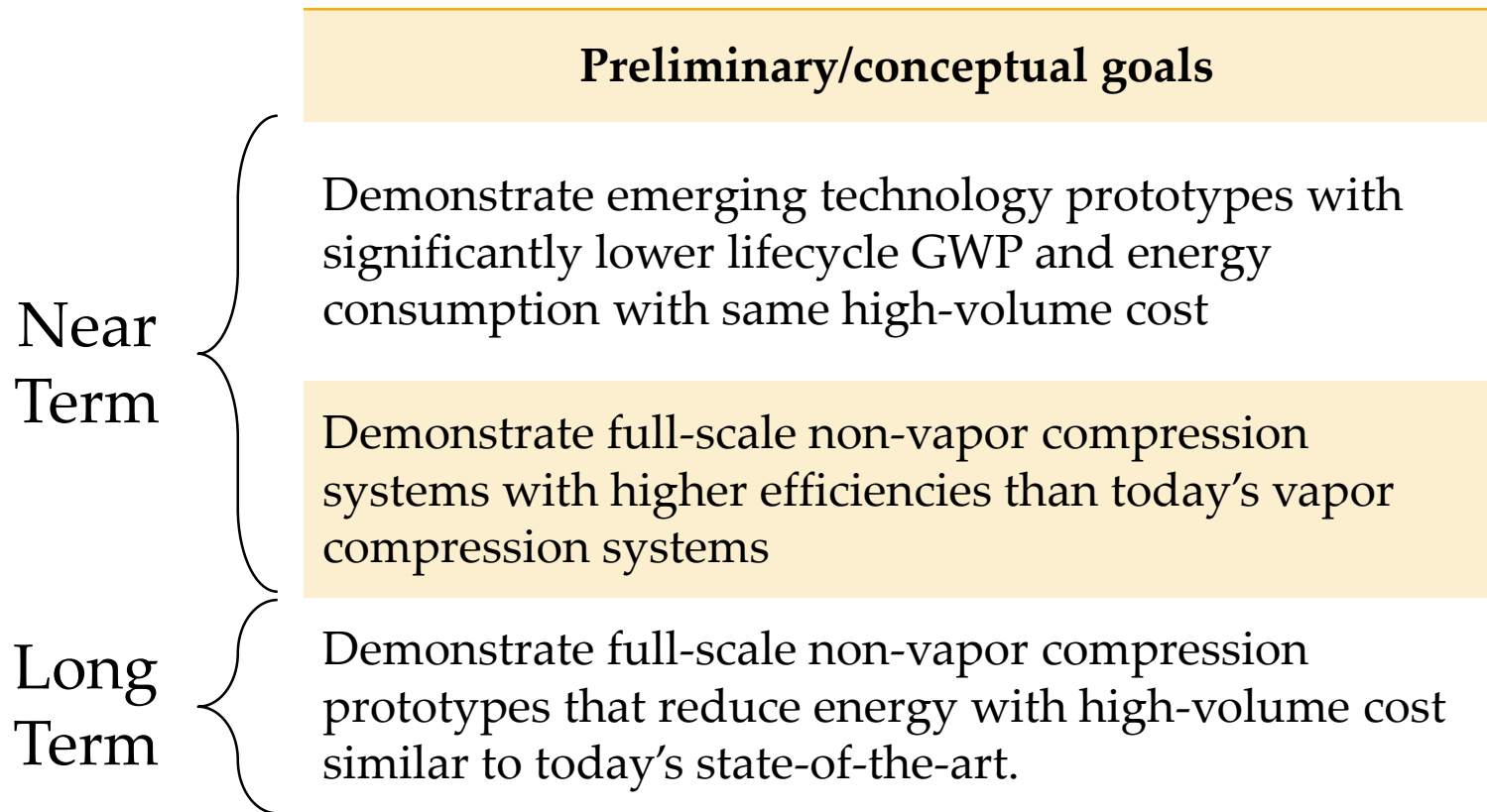
Source: Refined from BTO Presentation:

[energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/05/f15/HVAC\\_Overview\\_Bouza\\_042314\\_and\\_042414.pdf](https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/05/f15/HVAC_Overview_Bouza_042314_and_042414.pdf)

©2015 Navigant Consulting, Inc.


Confidential and proprietary. Do not distribute or copy.

**Research goals will include successful demonstration of both vapor compression and non-vapor-compression technologies.**




- » BTO plans to have additional workshops, including at ASHRAE on December 8th
- » Request for Information (RFI) – spring of 2016
- » Will potentially lead to a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), pending availability of funds

Please join the



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**


for a workshop exploring the launch of a  
**MAJOR ADVANCED HVAC RESEARCH EFFORT**

Workshop hosted in Atlanta, GA at  


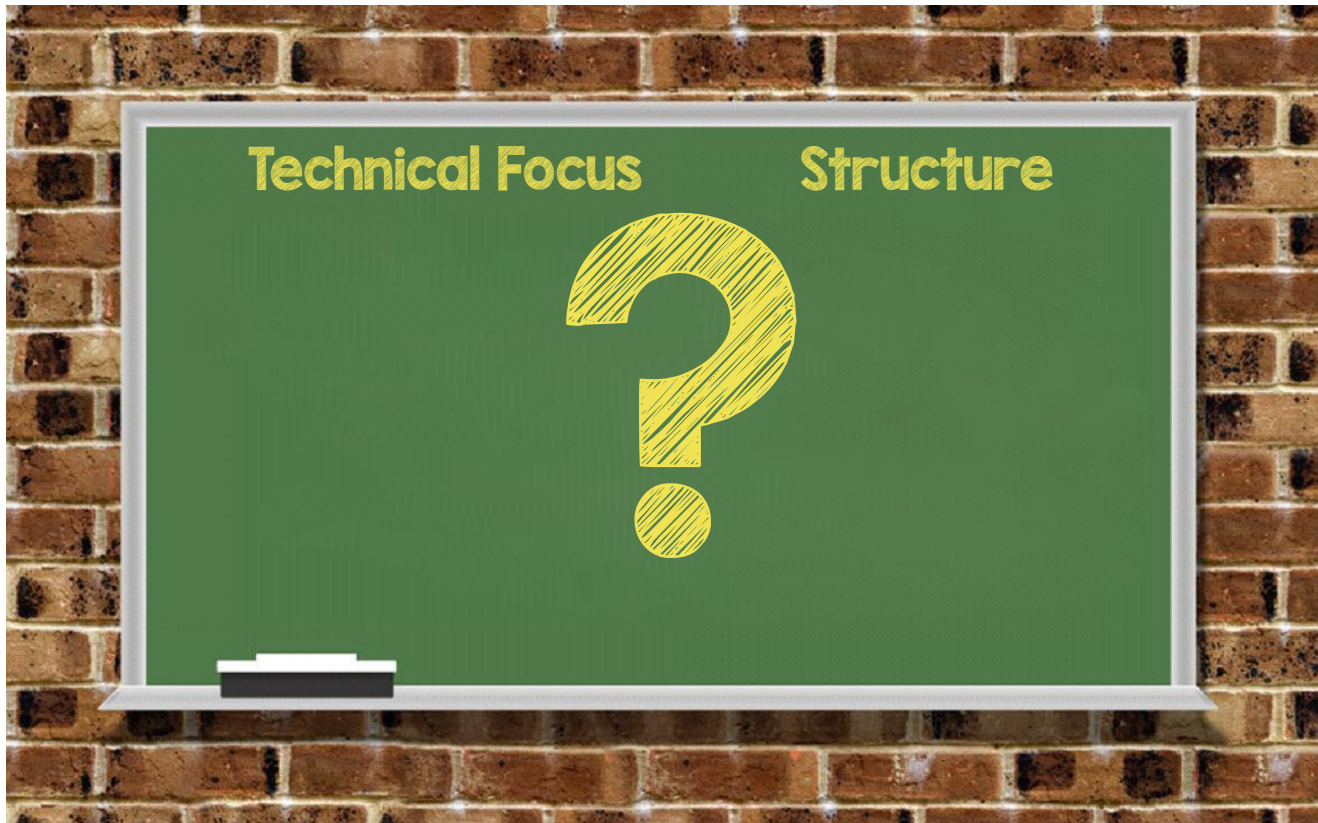
**TIME & PLACE**  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
11 am – 3pm  
ASHRAE Headquarters  
Room 1-ABC

**OBJECTIVES**  
Exchange ideas on  
**TECHNICAL FOCUS:** long-term research needs in low-GWP and non-vapor compression systems  
**STRUCTURE:** organizational and management approaches

Please RSVP [here](#) by Nov 16. For more information please contact Adam Weiner at [adam.weiner@Navigant.com](mailto:adam.weiner@Navigant.com)

 In collaboration with DOE's Building Technologies Office

**The objective of this workshop is to gather ideas on technical focus areas and best practices in structuring the research effort.**



**Today's discussion will focus solely on HVAC&R R&D.**

**While no less important, our discussion excludes:**

- » Policy issues
- » Regulatory actions, such as efficiency standards
- » Market transformation activities

30  
mins

Vision

60  
mins

Technical Focus

15  
mins

Break

60  
mins

Structure

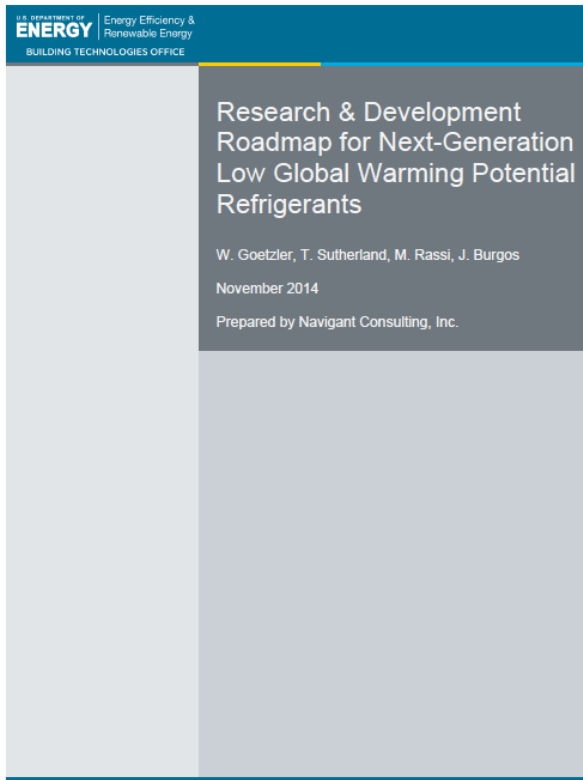
15  
mins

Review and Final Q&A



## DOE has identified broad research opportunities in advanced HVAC&R through past workshops.











### Roadmap: Low-GWP Refrigerants








### Roadmap: Emerging HVAC Technologies


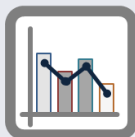





# Technical Focus » HVAC Roadmap » Direct Impact Initiatives







Activity/Initiative	Topic	Activity/Initiative	Topic
Direct-current (DC) HVAC to utilize solar PV w/o inverter losses and to facilitate microgrid integration	 <b>Renewables &amp; Storage</b>	Material advances to reduce the cost of small absorption systems	 <b>AC/HP</b>
Separate sensible and latent control and quantify the energy savings	 <b>AC/HP</b>	Hybrid ventilation systems to combine mechanical & natural ventilation techniques (aka mixed-mode conditioning)	 <b>Ventilation &amp; Humidity</b>
Raise HP performance (all fuels) at low-ambient temperature	 <b>AC/HP</b>	Ground-source heat pump (GHP) ground-loop cost and performance	 <b>AC/HP</b>
Develop electrochemical compression systems	 <b>AC/HP</b>	Alternative non-solid-state, non-thermally activated HPs with suitable efficiency, cost, and performance	 <b>AC/HP</b>
Seasonal energy storage for residential and commercial	 <b>Renewables &amp; Storage</b>	Solid-state cooling systems	 <b>AC/HP</b>

# Technical Focus » HVAC Roadmap » Enabling Initiatives





Activity/Initiative	Topic
Analysis on energy impacts of incorrect commissioning, installation, operations, and maintenance	 <b>Installation O&amp;M</b>
Open-source, open-architecture platform that enables smart grid connectivity for DR transactional communications	 <b>FDD Controls</b>
Low-cost sensor networks and control schemes	 <b>FDD Controls</b>
Standardized methods of data acquisition and data storage for equipment sizing at end of life	 <b>Tools &amp; Software</b>
Renewable-integrated district heating, cooling, and power systems	 <b>District Systems</b>




Activity/Initiative	Topic
Open-source building automation system	 <b>Tools &amp; Software</b>
Standardized building metric to incorporate energy, health, etc.	 <b>Analysis, Education, Demonstration</b>
New solutions for simultaneous heating and cooling in buildings	 <b>Zoning Distribution</b>
Energy analysis tools for homeowners to aid in purchasing new equipment	 <b>Tools &amp; Software</b>
Compile lessons learned from NREL's high performance buildings database	 <b>Tools &amp; Software</b>

# Technical Focus » Refrigerants Roadmap

Tier 1 Initiative/Activity		Category
Expand NIST modeling research to identify and explore theoretical properties of new low-GWP blends, particularly azeotropes.		Modeling and Evaluation Tools
Characterize the heat transfer and thermodynamic properties and efficiency performance of new refrigerants and blends.		New Refrigerant Development
Techniques for detecting and reducing refrigerant leakage in currently installed systems.		Equipment Development
System-level evaluations of newly identified fluids for specific applications.		Modeling and Evaluation Tools
Techniques for improving temperature control and operational efficiency of secondary loops in installed supermarket refrigeration systems.		Equipment Development
Improve LCCP models by conducting studies on average annual versus peak season performance in large systems.		Modeling and Evaluation Tools

# Technical Focus » Refrigerants Roadmap (cont.)

Tier 2 Initiative/Activity	Category	
Public repository for risk assessments, performance data, material compatibility data, and fire incidents for alternative refrigerants		Industry Collaboration
Prototype systems that demonstrate leak detection with high-reliability, inexpensive sensors		Equipment Development
Materials compatibility and stability of new refrigerants and blends		New Refrigerant Development
Additional A1 refrigerants or blends as drop-in options for servicing existing equipment		New Refrigerant Development

Tier 3 Initiative/Activity	Category	
Improve flammability test methods and prediction tools for blended compounds		Safety Risks
Flammability risk assessments on additional A2L, A3, and B2L fluids for a wider range of applications		Safety Risks
Investigate alternative system architectures that would inherently mitigate flammability risks with A2L and A3 fluids		Safety Risks



## Guidance:

- » Think beyond your daily focus
- » Think about big picture
- » Build on others' ideas
- » Every idea has equal worth

30  
mins

## Vision

60  
mins

## Technical Focus

15  
mins

## Break

60  
mins

## Structure

15  
mins

## Review and Final Q&A

30  
mins

## Vision

60  
mins

## Technical Focus

15  
mins

## Break

60  
mins

## Structure

15  
mins

## Review and Final Q&A



**There is no single performer that can bring together all the necessary broad expertise and perspectives to succeed.**

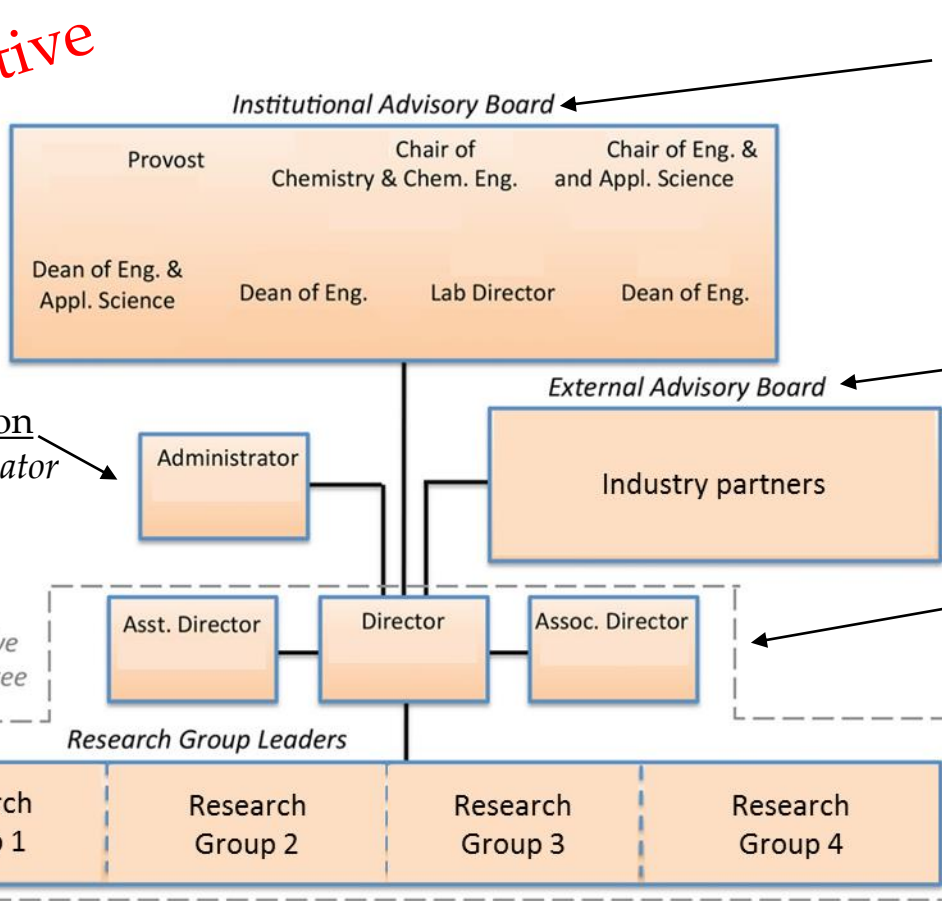
BTO anticipates that this effort will include:

- » **Active** BTO project management
- » Detailed annual **reporting** on progress, successes, challenges
- » **Tangible** outcomes, i.e., actual hardware
- » Strong **cooperation** from a broad array of contributors
- » Comprehensive **evaluation** of effectiveness in reaching goals
- » **Publicized** outcomes and lessons learned

**BTO needs an interdisciplinary team, including resources in chemistry, materials science, electronics, and mechanics.**

## To meet their goals, BTO wants to understand the organizational structure that delivers the needed resources.

**Illustrative**



- Institutional Advisory Board
- Institutional partners distinct from industry partners
  - Weekly meeting w/ Director

- External Advisory Board
- Select industry partners on a separate board

- Executive Committee
- 1-3 Directors and multiple team leads (reporting to the Director)

Administration  
One administrator reporting to Director



**Shared Perspectives**



What are the best (or worst?) practices in research management?

## Guidance:

- » Consider all of past experiences and those of others
- » Build on others' insights
- » Every insight has equal worth

## What works best to:

- Manage and allocate resources?
- Select new research projects?
- Monitor & evaluate outcomes?
- Peer review?
- Publicize outcomes?
- Promote strong engagement from national labs, academia, and industry?



**Shared Perspectives**



What makes a successful research partnership?

- What partners provide the best value for you? And for what roles?
- What is valuable about your research partnerships?
- What types of partners should DOE consider having involved?

## Guidance:

- » Consider all of past experiences and those of others
- » Build on others' insights
- » Every insight has equal worth

30  
mins

## Vision

60  
mins

## Technical Focus

15  
mins

## Coffee Break

60  
mins

## Structure

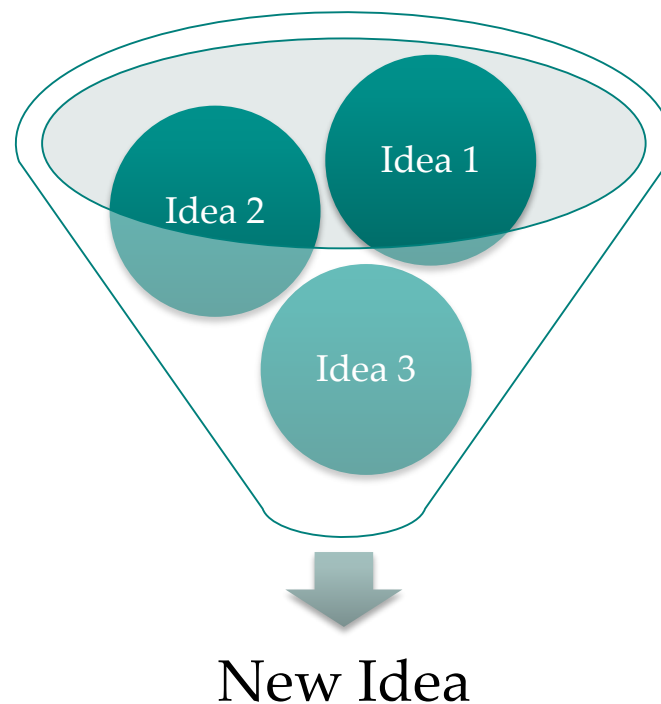
15  
mins

## Review and Final Q&A

## Additional Questions

Have the discussions today sparked any additional thoughts or ideas that we have not yet discussed?

- Combinations of existing ideas?
- New ideas?
- New twists?
- Important but missing details?
- New perspectives?



# Key CONTACTS



## Thank you for your inputs

**William Goetzler**  
Managing Director  
Burlington, MA  
781.270.8351  
wgoetzler@navigant.com

**Matt Guernsey**  
Associate Director  
Burlington, MA  
781.270.8358  
matt.guernsey@navigant.com

**Please make sure that your name, email, and organization are on the sign-in sheet!**