

# Thermal Cycling Absorption Process Overview

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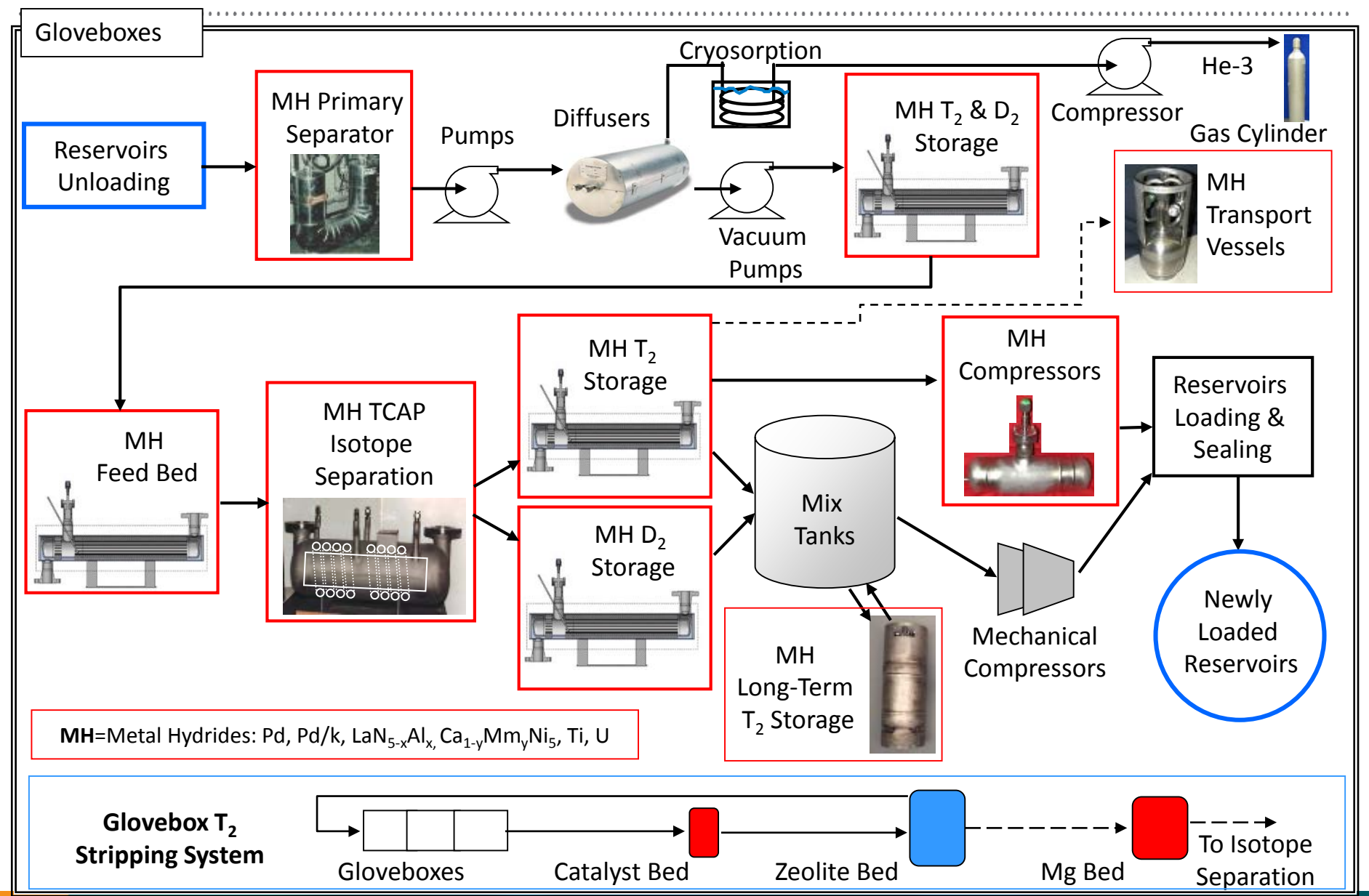
# Overview

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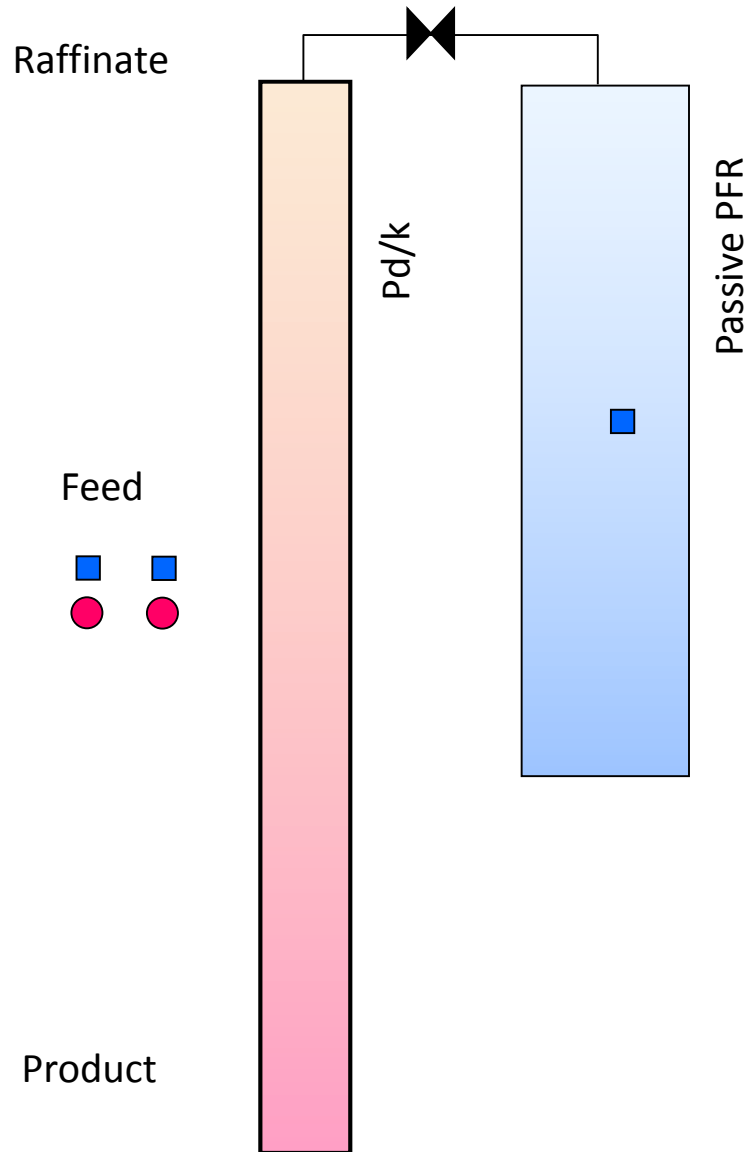
- How does TCAP Work?
- TCAP History
- State of the Art Technology
- Typical Performance
- In House Expertise and Capability
- TCAP Feature Summary



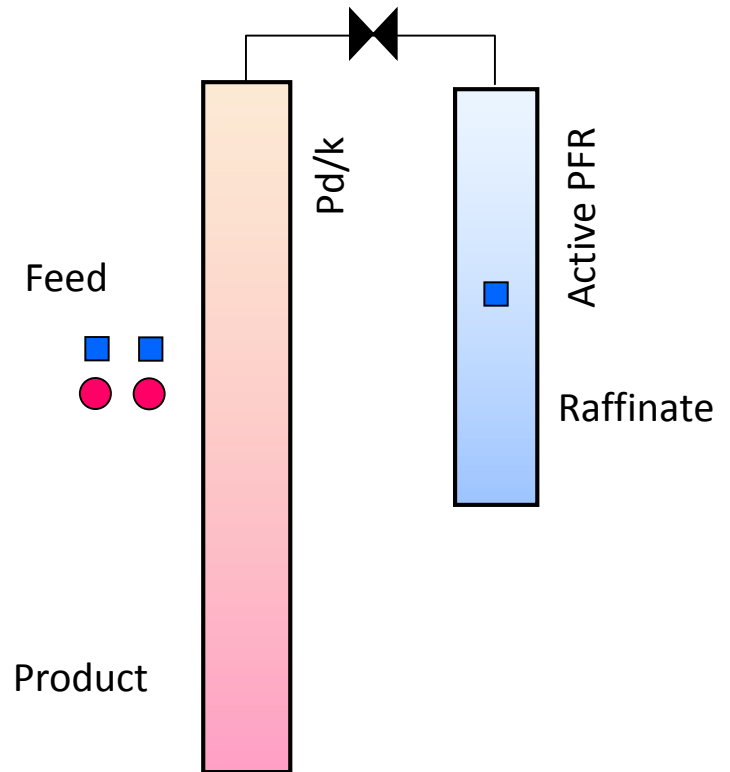
# Tritium Processing at SRS - The Largest Metal Hydride Based Tritium Facility in the World



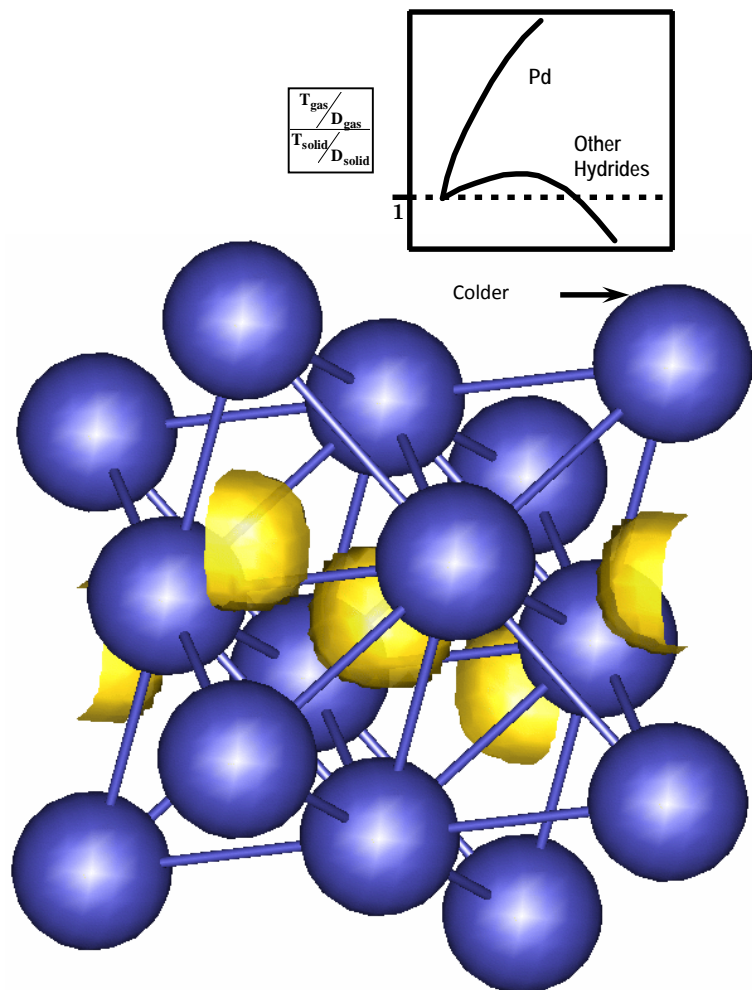
## TCAP with passive-PFR



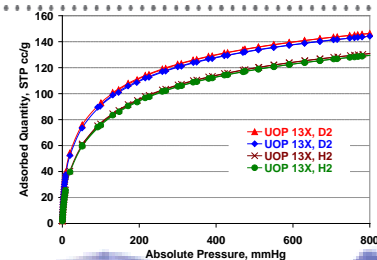
## TCAP with active-'PFR'



# Isotopic Effect Based on Material Property



Palladium favors lighter hydrogen isotope



Molecular Sieve favors heavier hydrogen isotope



# TCAP Development History

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- TCAP concept invented at SRL 1980
- Experimental TCAP achieved 97% purity ( $D_2$ ,  $H_2$ ) 1983
- Prototype TCAP achieved 99% purity ( $D_2$ ,  $H_2$ ) 1989
- Pilot TCAP demonstrated (production-configured) 1993
- Production TCAP achieved target  $T_2/D_2$  separation 1994
- Compact TnT design tested at LANL 2001
- Batch Cryogenic distillation column replaced by TCAP 2004
- Comp.-free CTC concept developed, 1/10<sup>th</sup> footprint 2006
- Comp.-free CTC experiment reached 4,000 cycles 2009
- Inverse Column achieved 2X+ capacity & higher purity 2009
- Mini-TCAP for Shine Medical Technologies 2013
- Micro-TCAP (batch) for LLE (U. Rochester) 2013
- Plant-Configured mini-TCAP reached 8,000 cycles 2018





# Representation of TCAP Footprint Reduction

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CTC-TCAP (1/10<sup>th</sup> current footprint)



Mini-TCAP



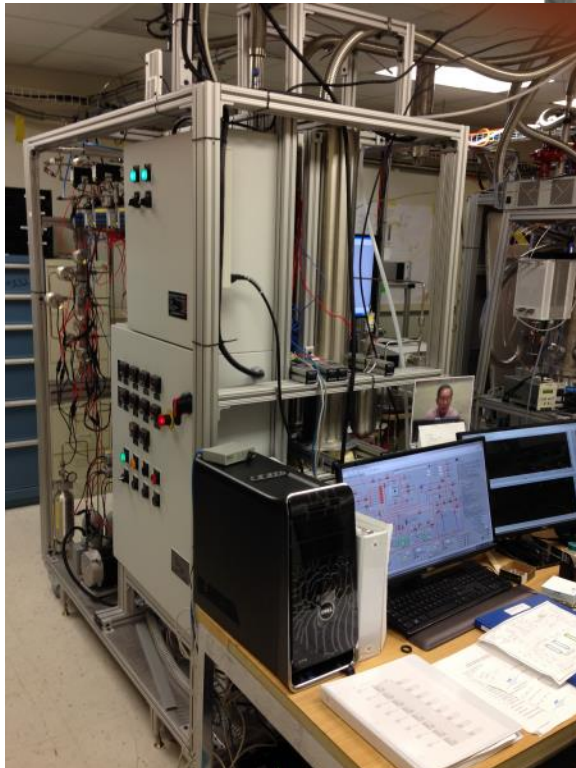
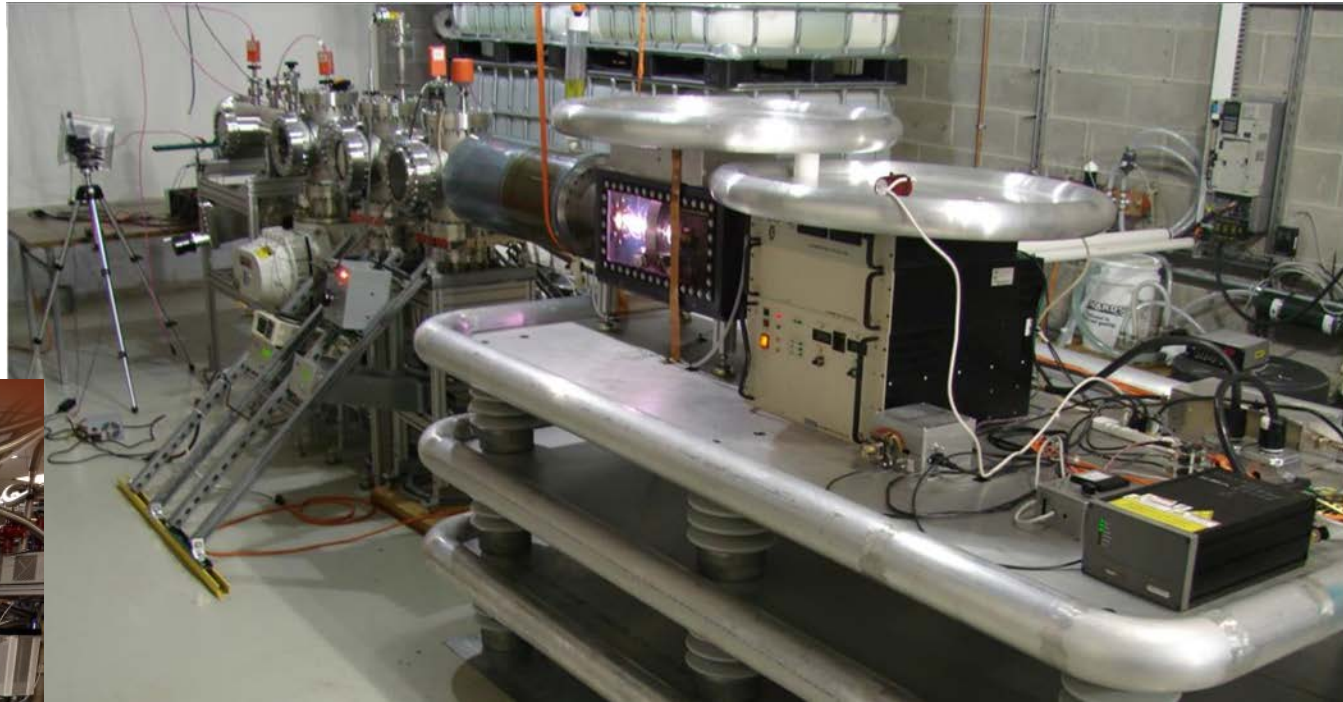
Micro-TCAP

New TCAP technology continues to evolve in miniature designs for diversified applications



# TCAP for SHINE Medical Technologies

Mini-TCAP  
constructed by  
SRNL

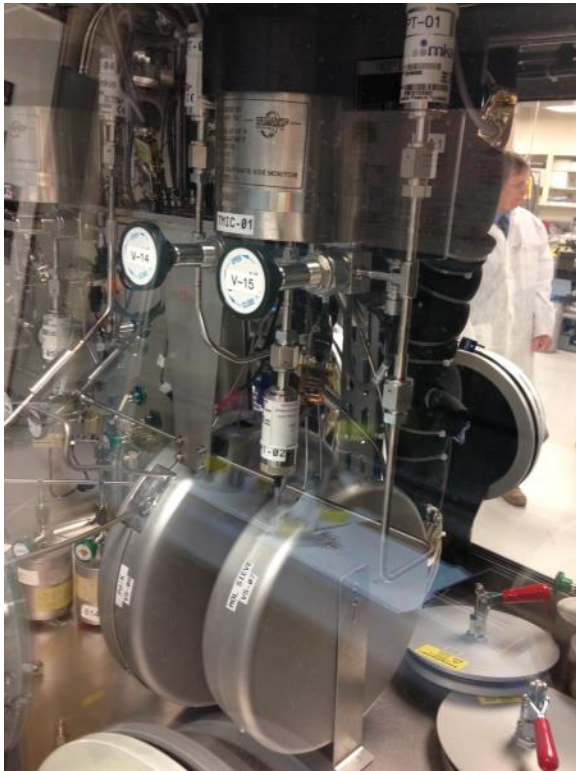


Linear Accelerator in SHINE for medical isotope  
production





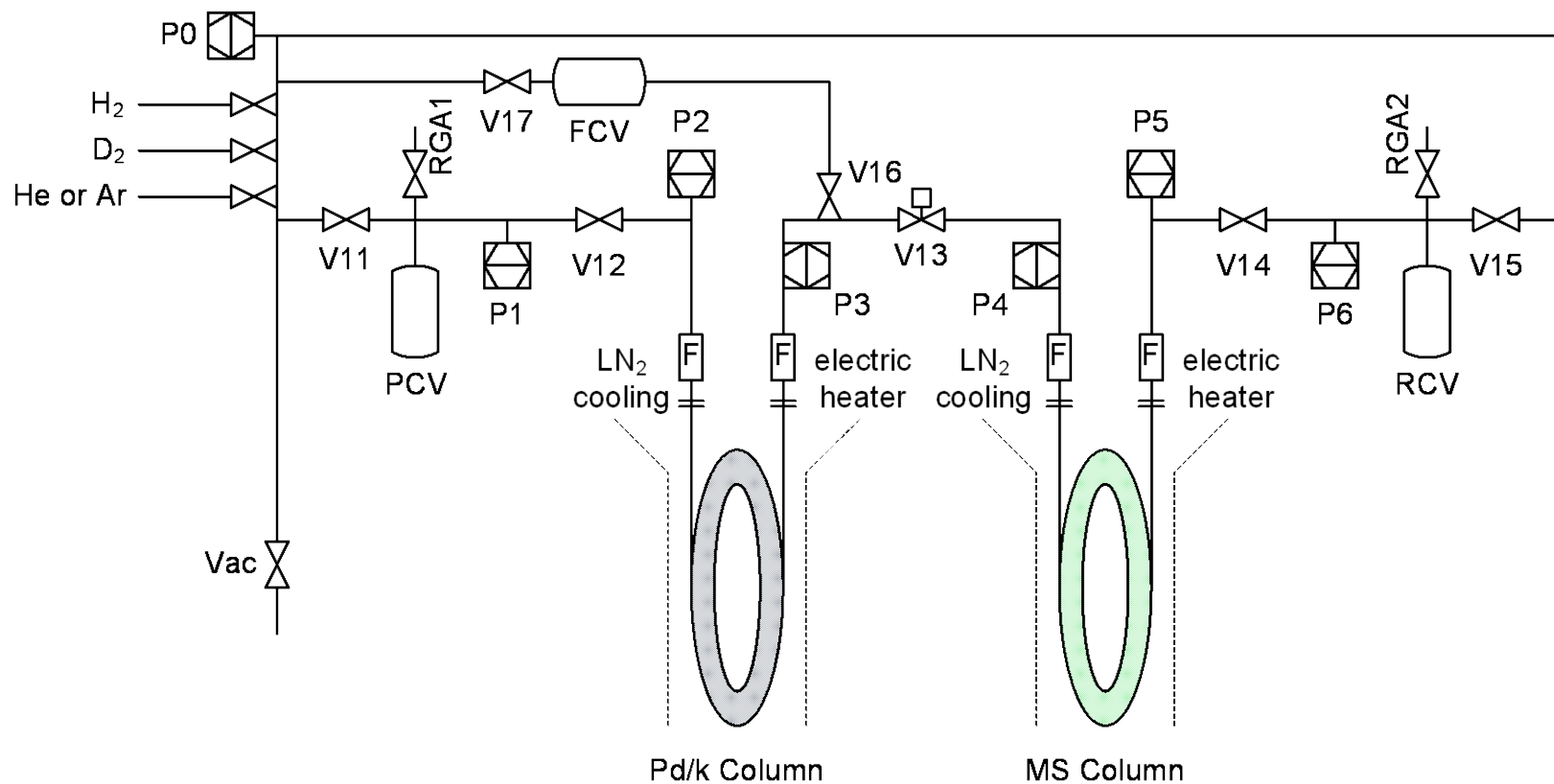
## Micro-TCAP constructed by SRNL



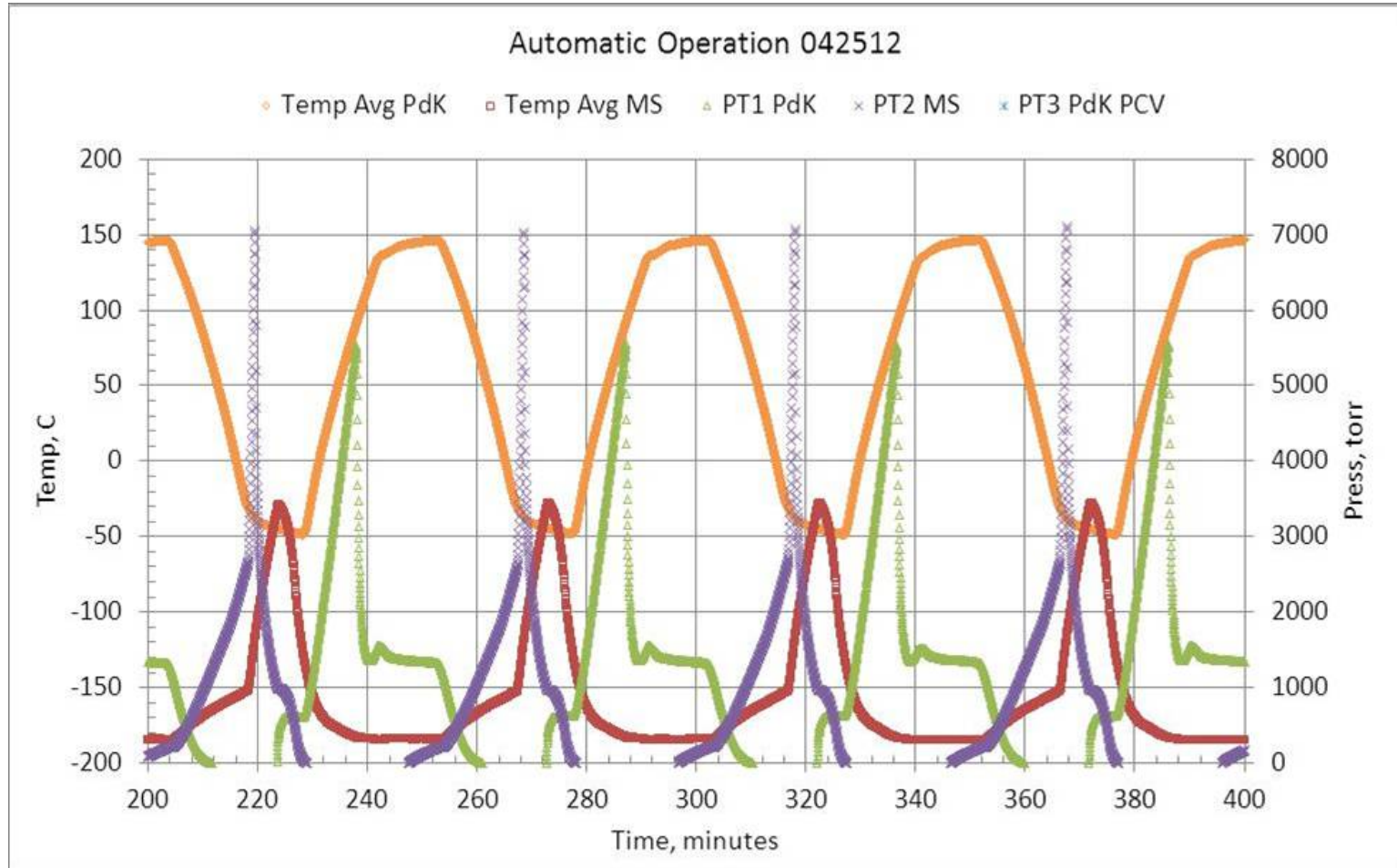
## Laser Target Shot in Laboratory for Laser Energetics for Fusion Study



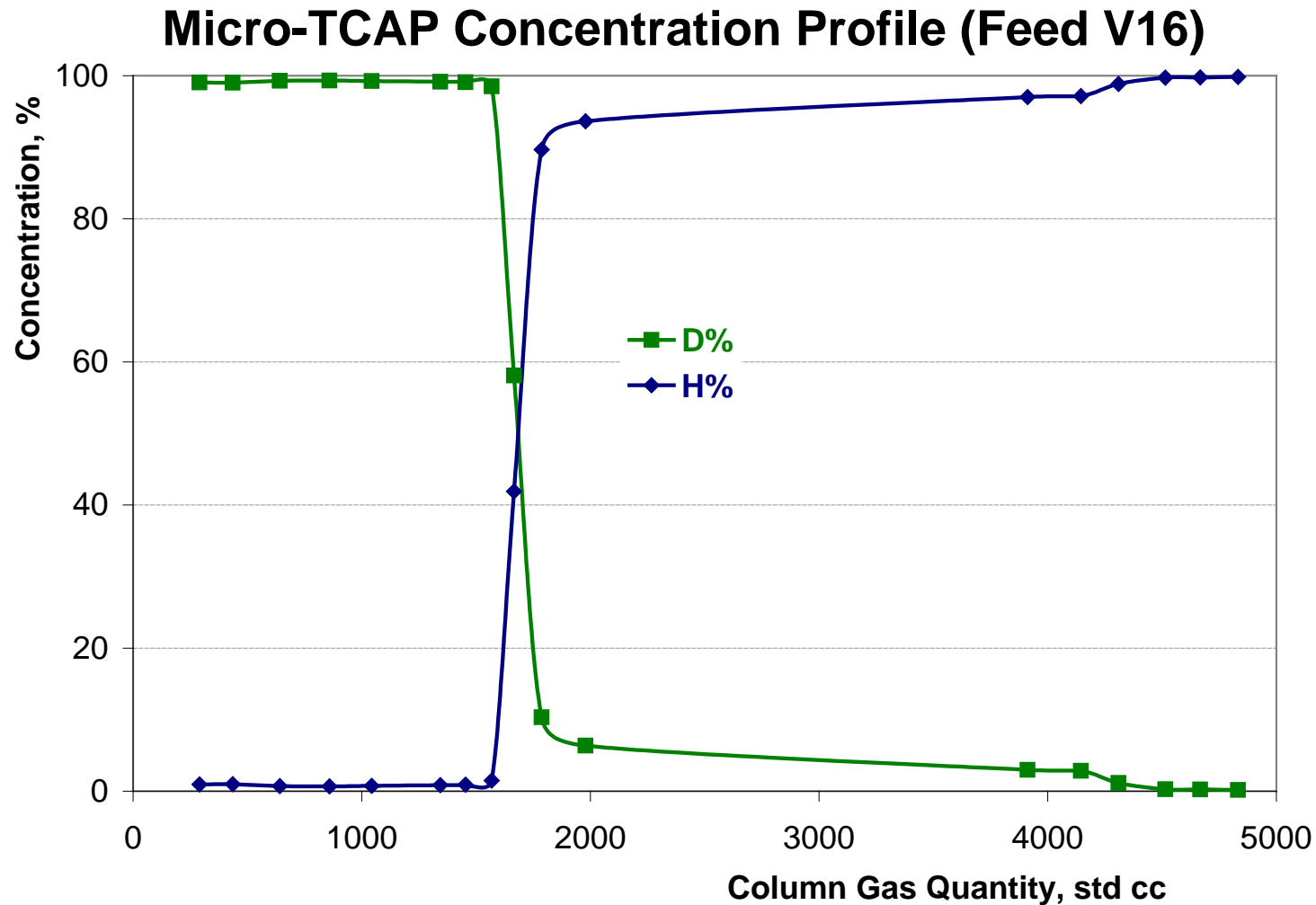
# Micro-TCAP Configuration



# TCAP Typical T and P Cycles



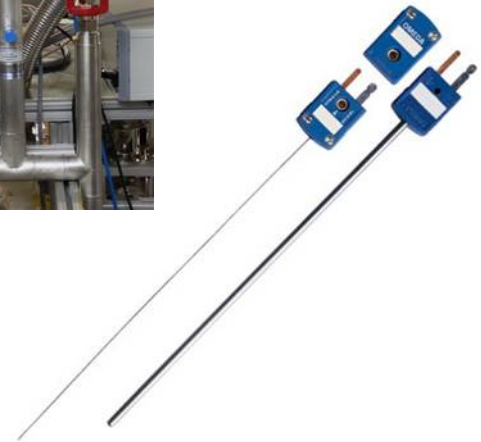
# TCAP Concentration Profile



# Extensive Evaluation for Component Selection

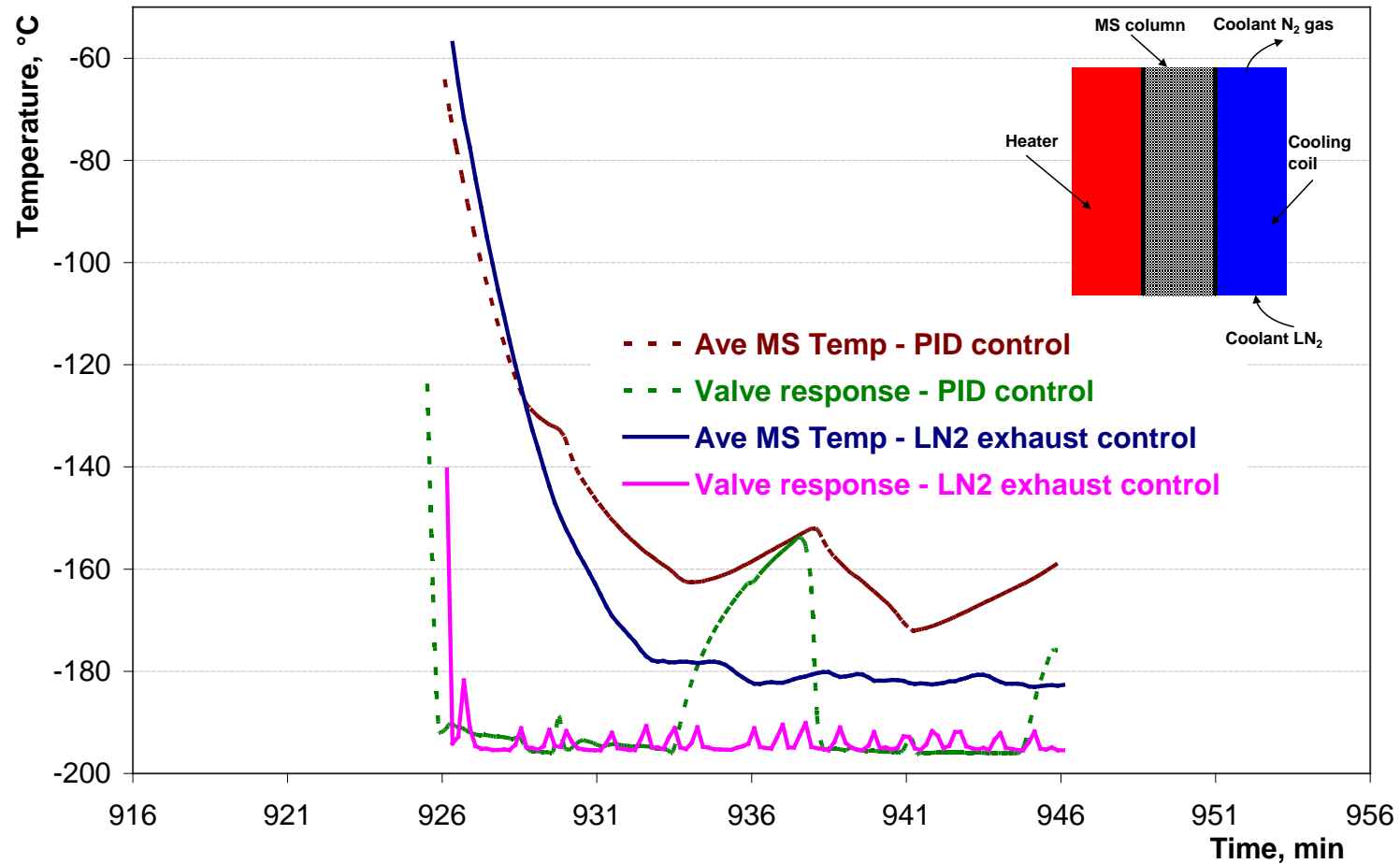
- LN<sub>2</sub> control valves
- Process valves:
  - *Tritium compatibility*
  - *Pressure rating*
  - *Performance*
  - *Durability*
- Pressure transducers
- Thermocouples
- Insulation

Components meet ASME B31.3 and are tritium compatible

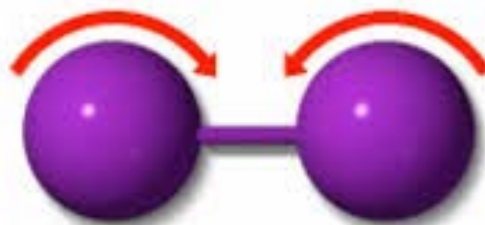




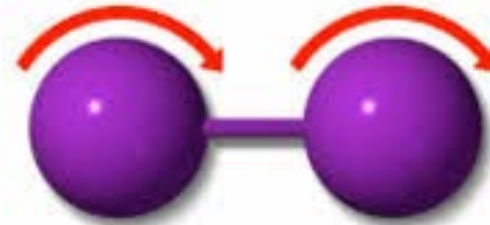
## MS Column Cooling



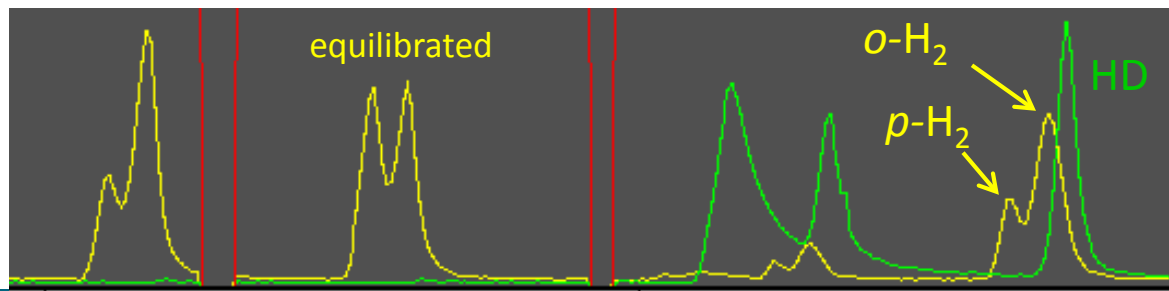
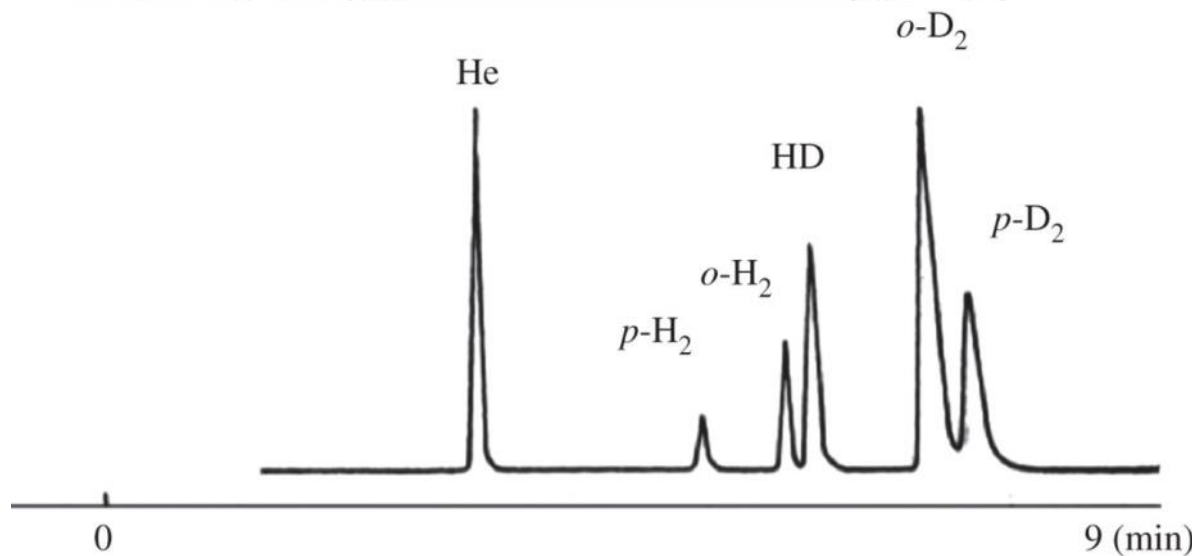
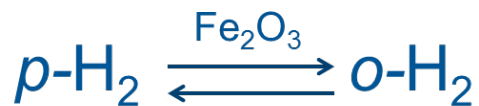
# Separation Enhanced by Reactive Equilibrium



Parahydrogen



Orthohydrogen



# Why Us? - Team with Track of Records and Expertise

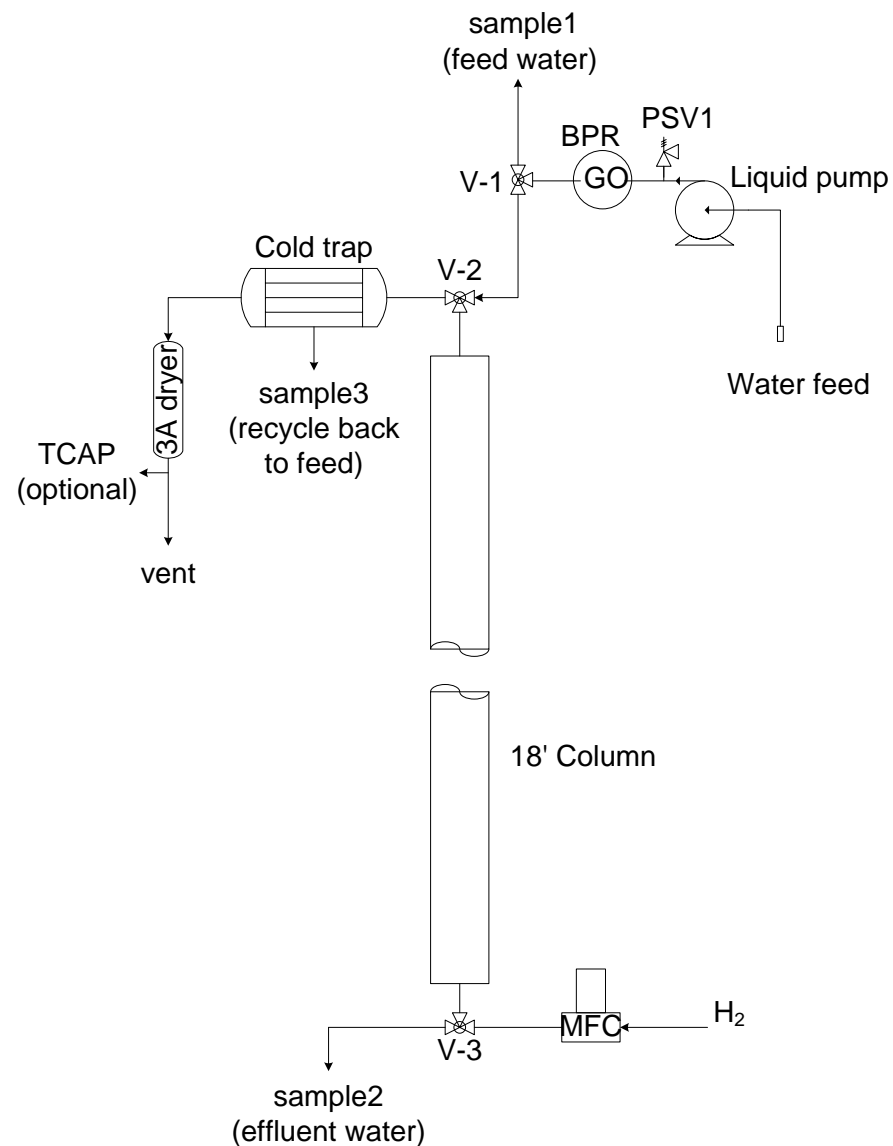
- Discovery of deuterium 1931
- Discovery of tritium 1934
- TCAP concept invented at SRL 1980
- SRS Isotope Separation
  - Thermal diffusion 1957-1986
  - Fractional absorption 1964-1968
  - Cryogenic distillation 1967-2004
  - TCAP 1994- present



**TCAP (Thermal Cycling Absorption Process) for hydrogen isotope separation**



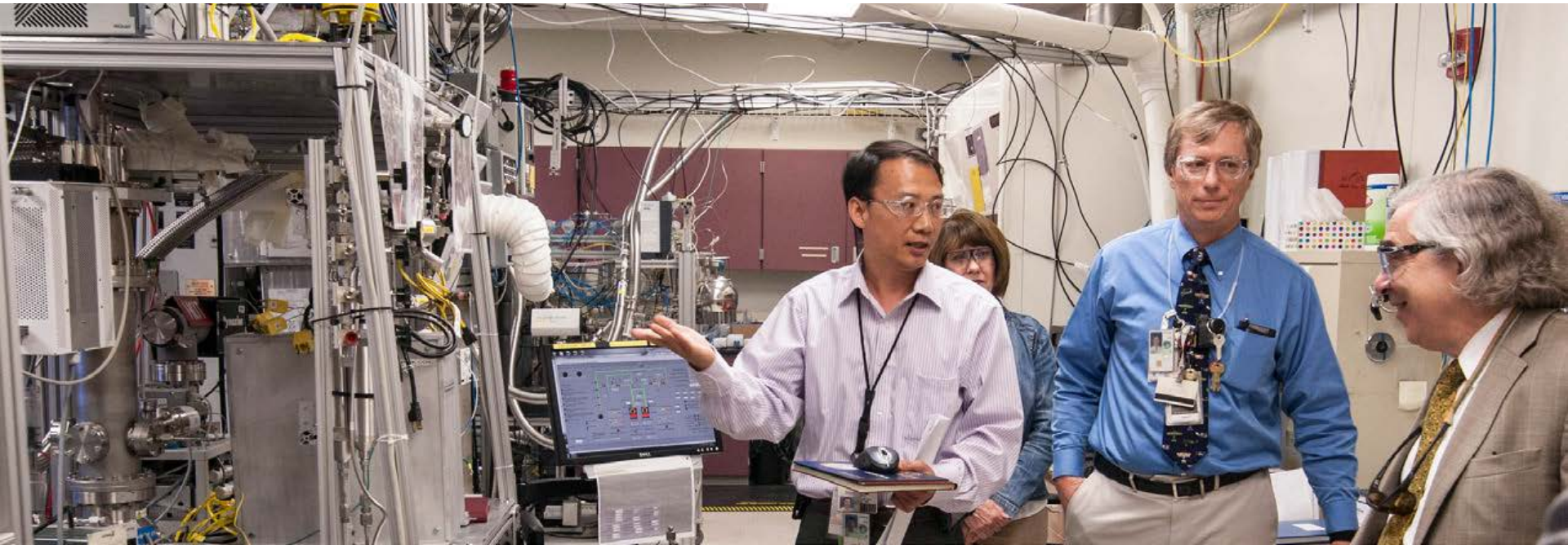
# Water Isotope Separation Under Development





# Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in the TCAP Lab

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SRNL's Steve Xiao (from left), Sharon Redd and Tommy Sessions explain the research and development process behind SRNL's Thermal Cycling Absorption Process (TCAP) for Secretary Moniz in July 2014. SRNL has continually improved TCAP's ability to enrich tritium gas in a smaller space, and in a more cost-effective process.





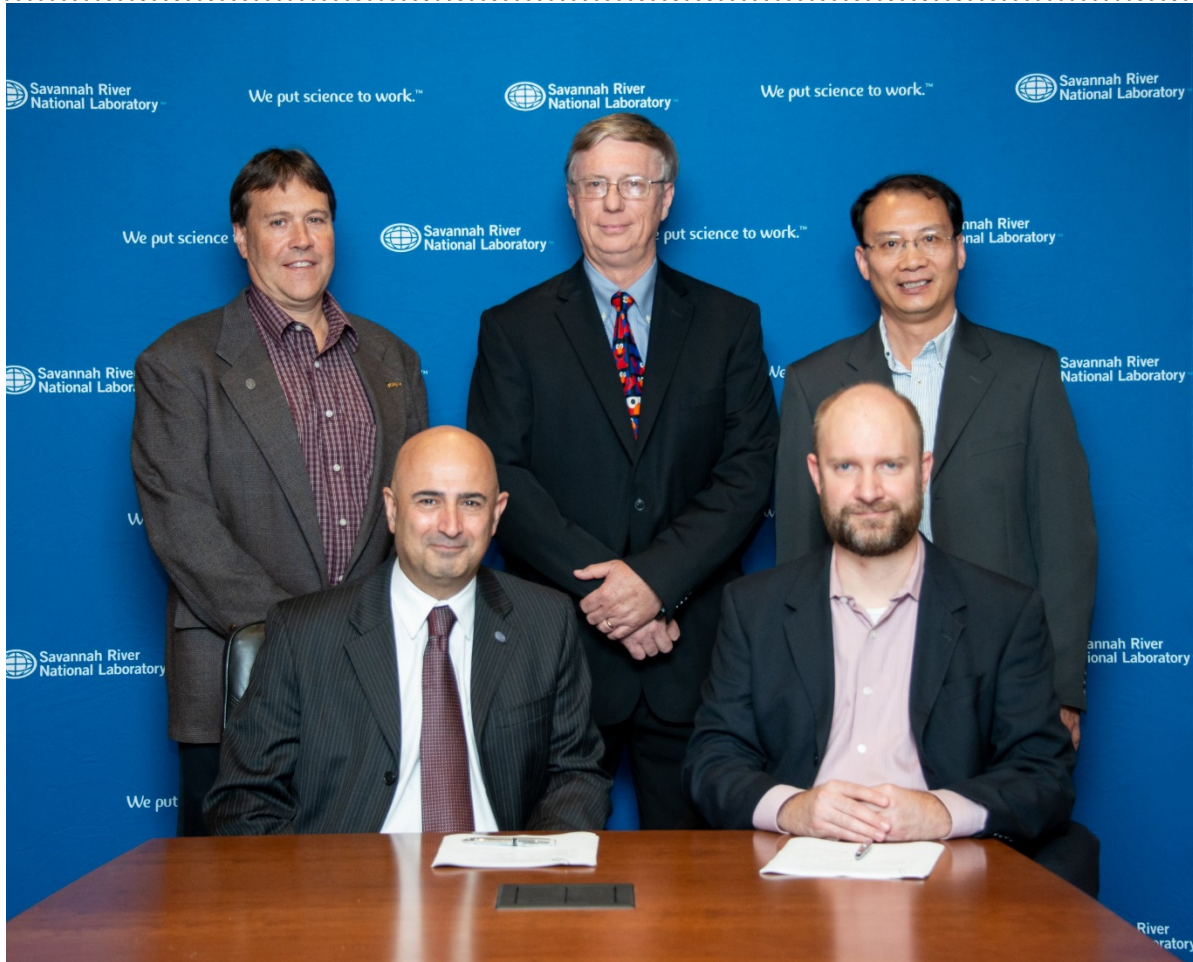
# Energy Secretary Rick Perry in the TCAP Lab



Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Director of Defense Programs Science and Technology David Babineau explains the Thermal Cycling Absorption Process (TCAP) to Energy Secretary Rick Perry in February 2018. TCAP has reduced the footprint needed to separate hydrogen isotopes by up to 10 times while saving operational costs and improving performance.



# TCAP Technology Licensed to Greenway Energy



Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Director Vahid Majidi and President of Greenway Energy Scott Greenway signed TCAP license agreement. Standing in the Backrow are Director of Defense Programs David Babineau, inventors Henry T. Sessions and Steve Xiao.



# Isotope Separation for Tritium: Past, Present and Future

## Cryogenic Distillation **Past**

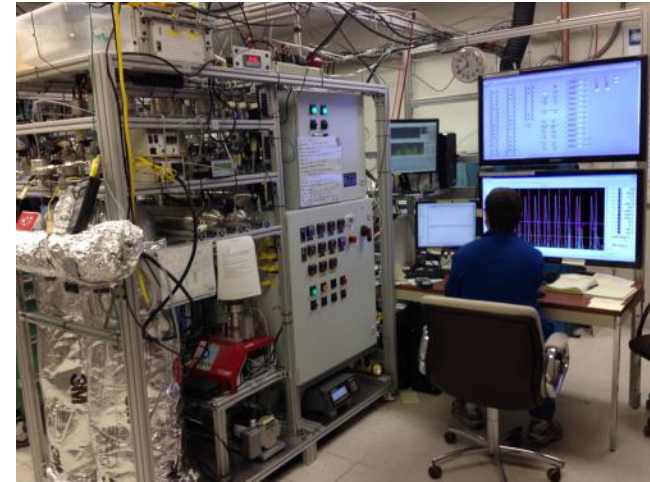
- 23 Feet Tall
- Significant Supporting Infrastructure
  - Helium refrigeration
  - Liquid nitrogen cooling jacket
- Large inventory of tritium
- Batch mode operation
- Difficult to control



## **Present**

### Thermal Cycling Absorption Process

- About three feet in length and diameter
- Small enough to be placed in glovebox
- Reduced material-at-risk by 27X
- Reduced tritium environmental emissions by 1000X
- Continuous mode operation
- Reduction in supporting infrastructure
- Hot and cold nitrogen refrigeration system



Future: Mini-TCAP

## **Future**

### Mini-TCAP

- $< 1/10^{\text{th}}$  footprint of present TCAP
- $\frac{1}{4}$  heat load
- Further reduces tritium at risk by  $\frac{2}{3}$
- Once through liquid nitrogen cooling
- Electric heating

Past: 23 ft. Cryogenic Distillation Column    Present: Thermal Cycling Absorption Process



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# Summary: TCAP Features

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- **Pressure swing**
- **Temperature Swing**
- **Hydride vacuum pump**
- **Hydride pressure pump**
- **Hydride interim storage**

- **Separation by chromatography**
- **Hydrogen itself as carrier gas**
- **Excellent radioactive confinement**
- **Reprocess gas in column repeatedly**
- **HD re-equilibrium / separation**

- **Versatility**
- **Scale by throughput**
- **Impurity rejection**
- **Energy efficient**

- **Simple design & advanced control logic**
- **No mechanical moving parts besides valves**
- **Inherently safe / extra long life**
- **Robust and fault proof**

- **Easily beat deuterium natural abundance (~ 150 ppm)**

