

# *X-energy Xe-100 Reactor*

## *Initial NRC Meeting*

September 11, 2018



# X-energy: Who We Are

*Harlan Bowers*



# REIMAGINING NUCLEAR ENERGY



“I began X-energy because the world needs energy solutions that are clean, safe, secure, and affordable. With so much at stake, we cannot continue down the same path.”

Dr. Kam Ghaffarian,  
Founder & CEO

## LICENSING

Licensing timeframe  
should be aligned  
with business case

## ECONOMICS

Technology offering  
must support business  
case

## TECHNOLOGY

Technology must be  
licensable



# X-energy Mission Statement

- To be the world's leader in development of **High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactors** and the **Fuel** to supply to those reactors:
  - Establish the organization needed to achieve our development goals;
  - Maintain an effective Safety and Quality culture throughout the organization;
  - Foster trust-based relationships with customers and government agencies;
  - Create win-win relationships with industry partners and suppliers; and
  - Implement robust and accurate project management to ensure efficient, cost-effective performance.
- To ***Change the World*** through innovative and implementable energy solutions - for domestic and international customers; for all communities; in a safe, secure, long-term, and economically viable way.



# X-energy Strategy

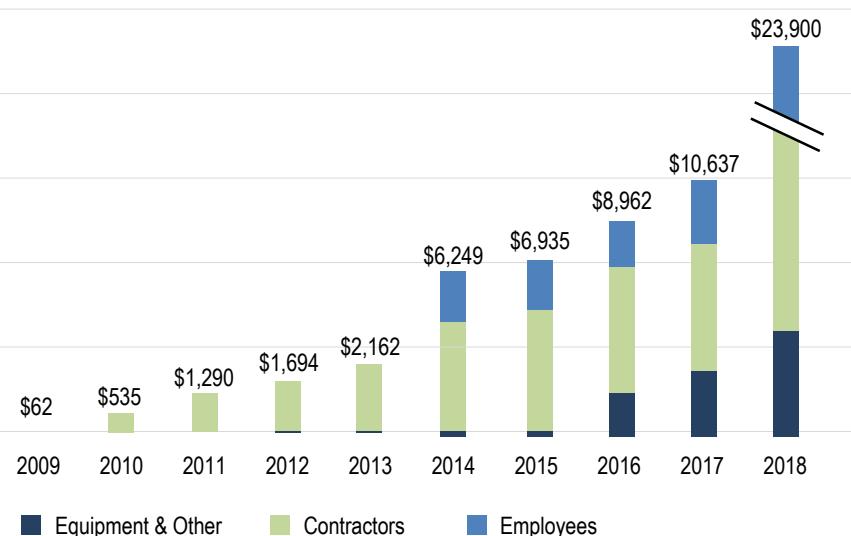
- **Reactor**—to differentiate X-energy by:
  - Serving niche markets where long-term nuclear co-generation (electricity and process heat) energy has an advantage
  - Advance our reactor designs by winning and successfully executing multiple DOE and other U.S. Agency funding opportunities
- **Fuel**—to be a competitive provider of high-quality TRISO-based UCO fuel form, supplying X-energy and other advanced reactors
- **Licensing**—To pursue nuclear power plant and fuel fabrication facility licenses in the U.S. through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**ISCE**

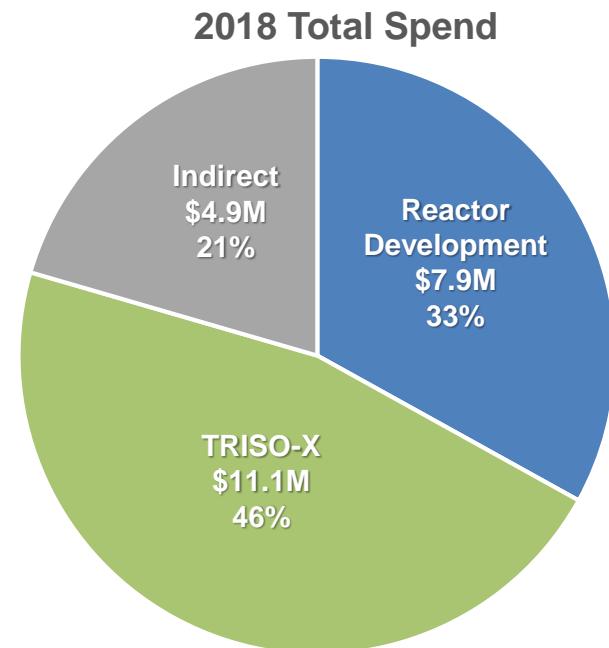


# Company Profile

- X-energy formed in 2009
- 2018 Expenditure Forecast: ~\$24M
- Full Time Equivalents: **65 people**
- X-energy Strategic Partners including: Centrus Energy, TI, MPR Associates, Burns & McDonnell, Aerotherm, Southern Nuclear Development, multiple national labs



- U.S. DOE Contracts –
  - 2016 - Advanced Reactor Concepts: **\$53M**
  - 2018 - Advanced Reactor Technology: **\$10M**
  - Primary National Lab Support – ORNL, INL, ANL, SNL



# X-energy Experienced-Based Leadership Team



Harlan Bowers

**President**

20 years of experience managing large (over \$100M/yr) government task orders and performance-based contracts



Dr. Eben Mulder

**SVP, Chief Nuclear Officer**

30 years of experience in pebble bed design and architecture



Ralph Loretta

**Chief Financial Officer**

30 years of experience in energy generation & distribution financial management



Jeff Harper

**VP for Business Development**

30 years of experience in nuclear program management, business development, and strategy



Dr. Pete Pappano

**VP for Fuel Production**

15 years of experience in graphite & fuel fabrication



Dr. Martin van Staden

**VP for Reactor Development**

28 years of experience in power generation including nuclear and renewables



Carol Lane

**Government Relations**

30 years experience including service as U.S. Senate staff, service with the federal government, and industry



Clint Medlock

**Southern Nuclear Consultant**

27 years of nuclear energy experience and management



# Partners Supporting Deployment

## X-energy Strategic Partners



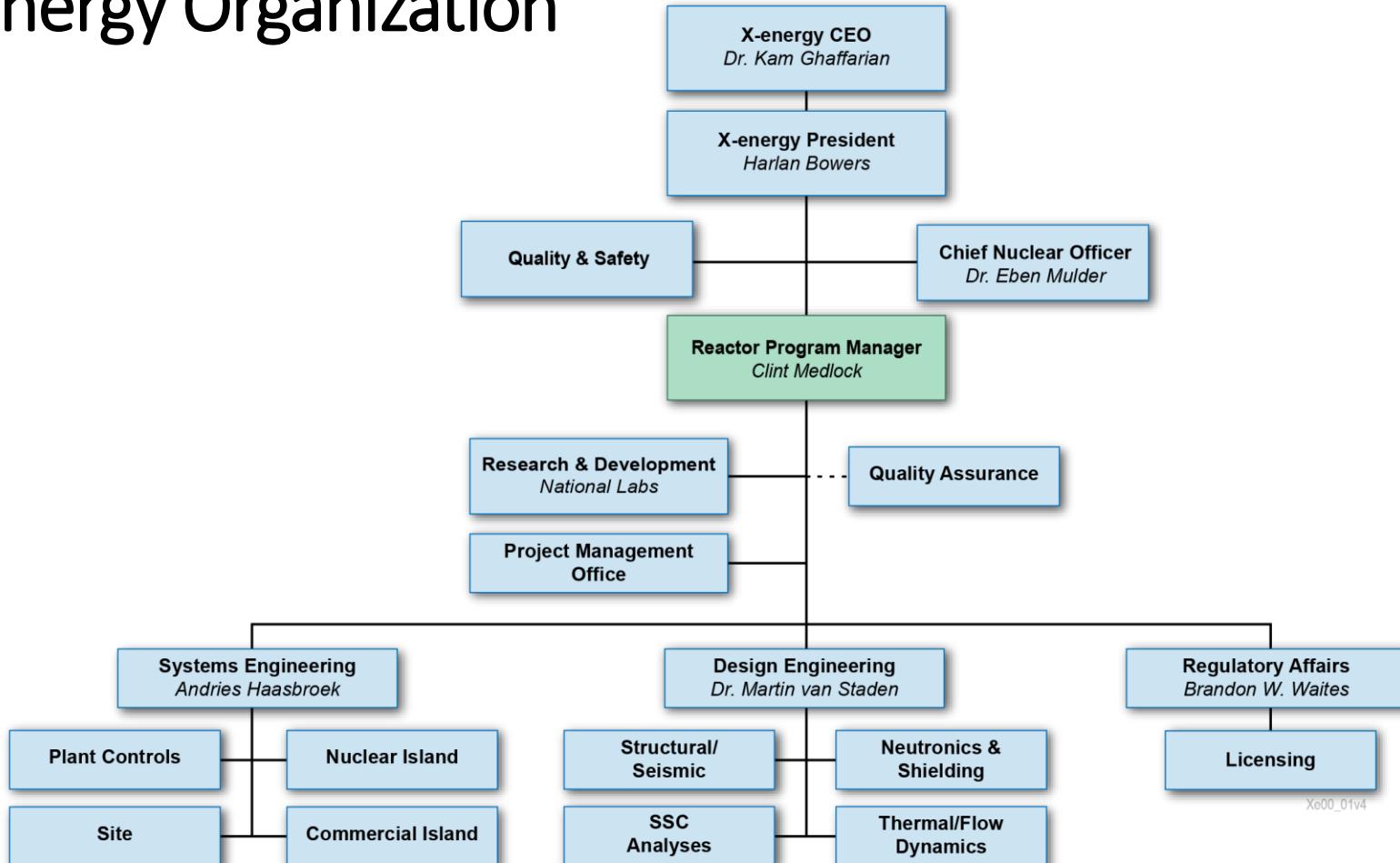
Sargent & Lundy

TECHNOLOGY INSIGHTS

## X-energy Advisory Committee



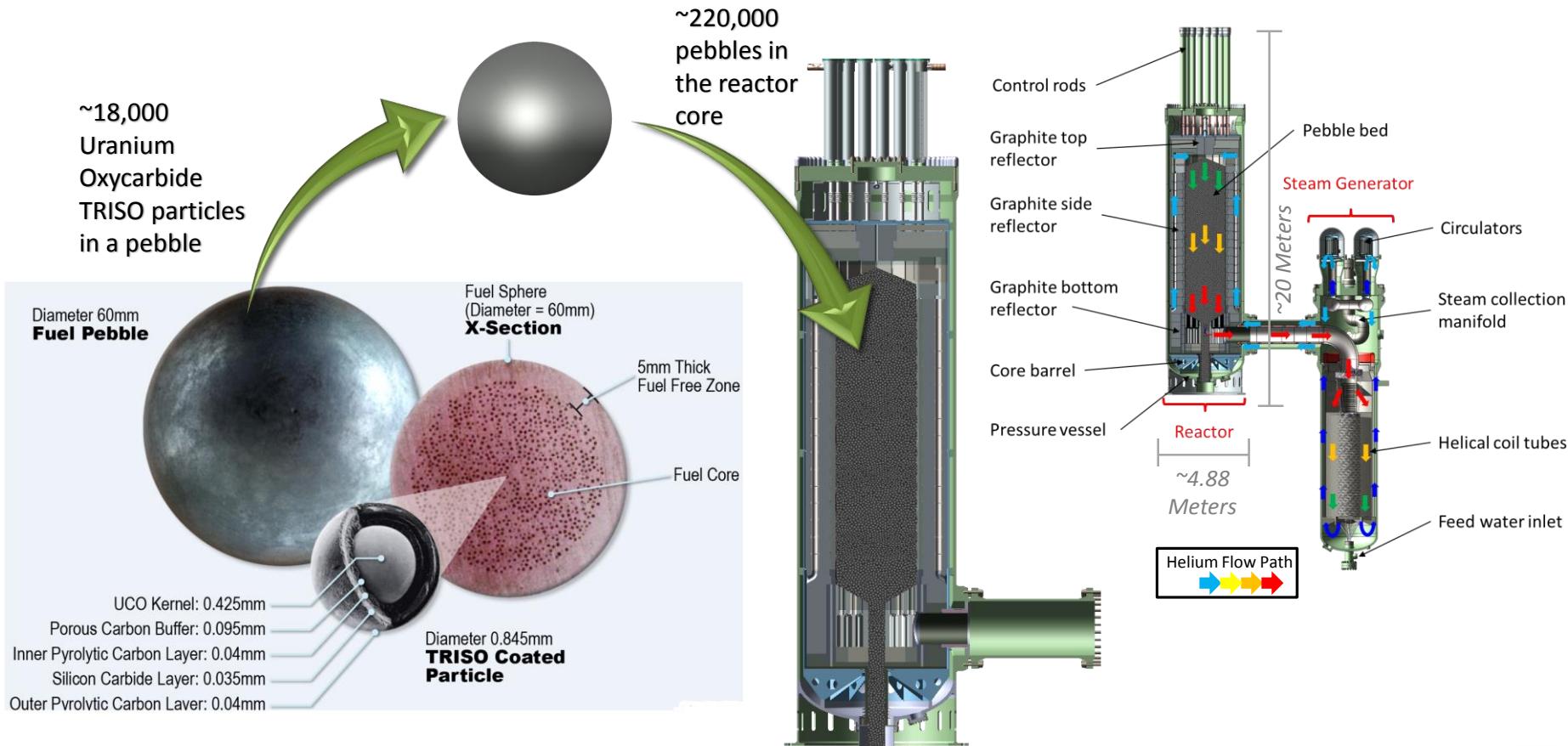
# X-energy Organization



Xe00\_01v4



# Overview – Pebble Bed High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR)



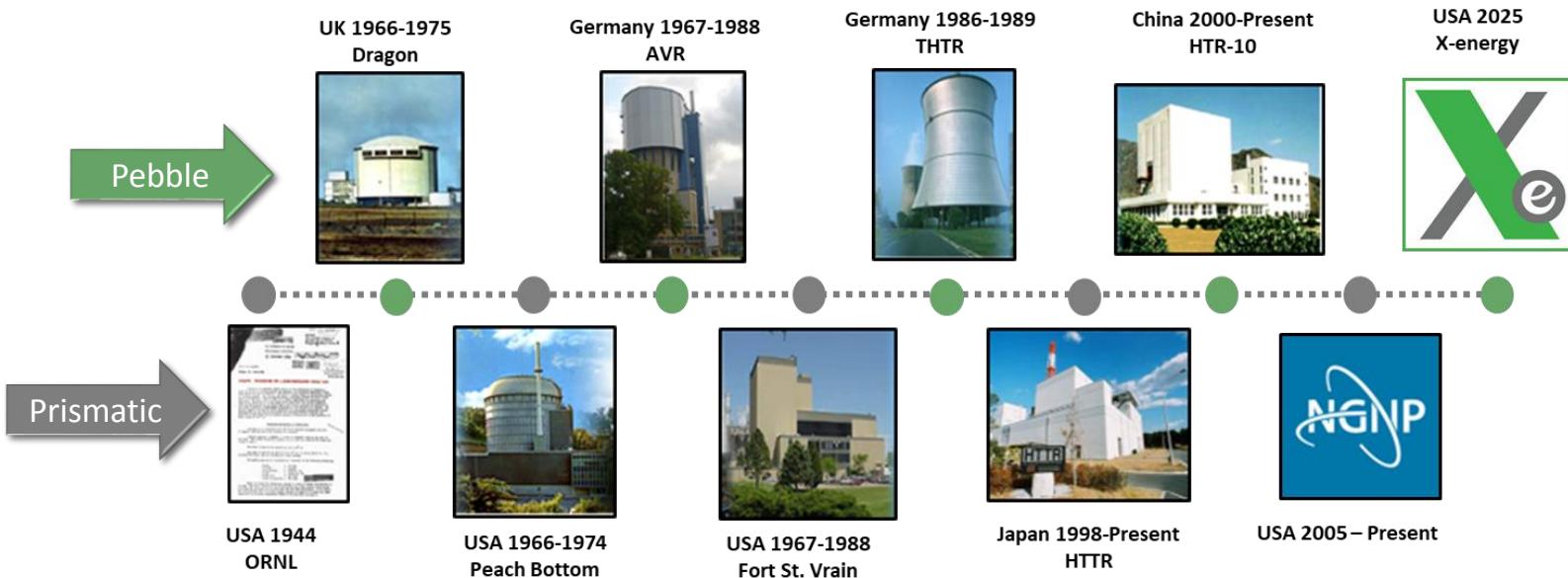
# X-energy: Technology Overview

*Dr. Martin van Staden*



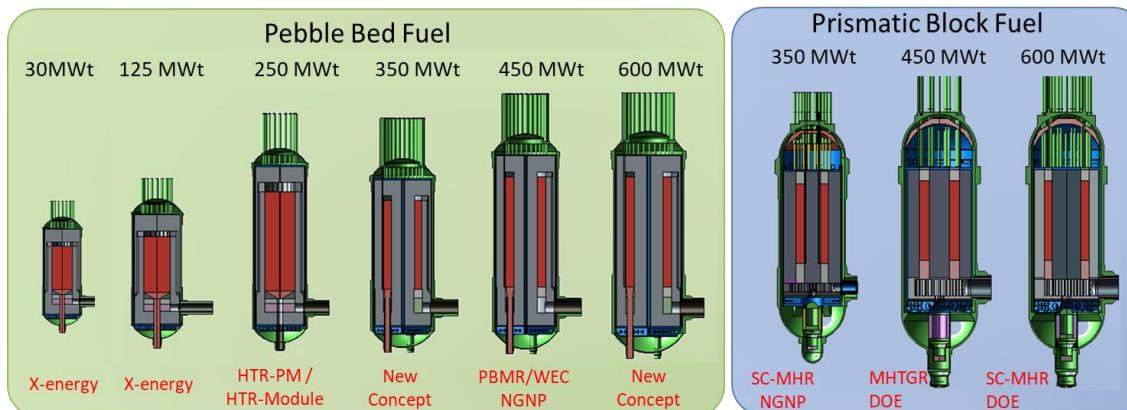
# Reason for Selection of HTGR

- Reasons for selection of HTGR as a technology:
  - Proven safety with more than 30 years of test and operational history
  - Potential deployment timeline within 2025-2030 timeframe
  - Technology demonstration and licensability
  - Significant U.S. DOE investment in NGNP through development and testing of UCO TRISO based fuel



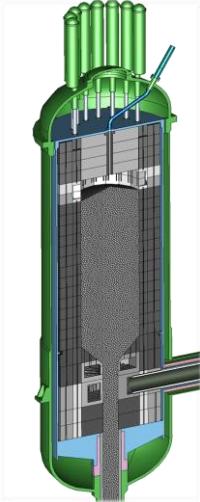
# Licensing / Technology / Economics

- Three Pillars for deployment success:
  - Licensing
  - Technology readiness
  - Competitive offering (Economic)
- X-energy performed a one-year trade study to determine the following parameters:
  - Fuel form – pebble vs. prismatic
  - Optimum reactor size
- In this study the following designs were reviewed:
  - Pebble bed ranging from 30 MWT to 600 MWT
  - Prismatic designs between 350 MWT and 600 MWT
- The study showed a 200 MWT pebble bed reactor with online refueling could provide a burnup of 160,000 MWd/tHM giving it an advantage over the prismatic designs that have an 18-20 month fuel cycle



# The X<sup>e</sup>volution

30–48 MWt



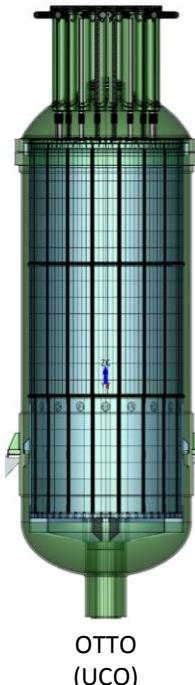
ST-OTTO  
(ThUO)

100 MWt



OTTO  
(UO<sub>2</sub>)

125 MWt



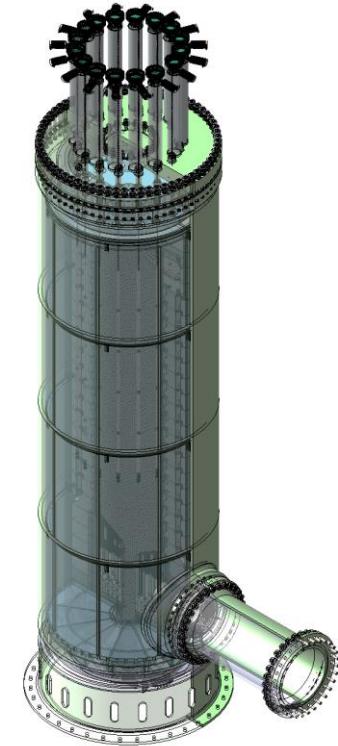
OTTO  
(UCO)

Pre-conceptual Design  
200 MWt



Multi-pass  
(UCO)

Conceptual Design  
200 MWt



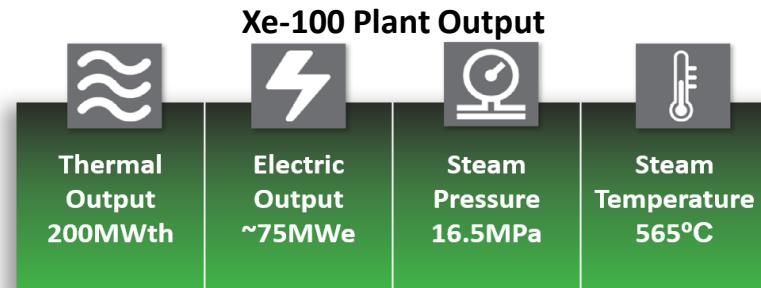
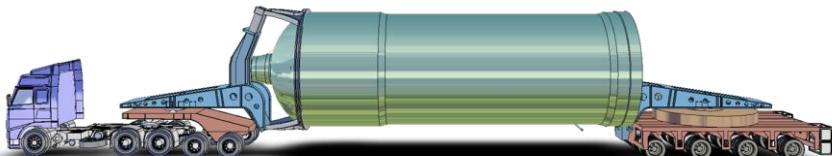
Multi-pass  
(UCO)

Licensing / Technology / Economics

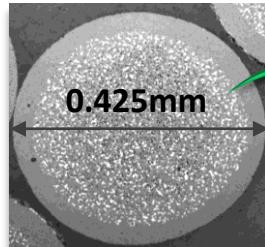
# Reactor Development

*X-energy is currently completing conceptual design of its Xe-100 reactor:*

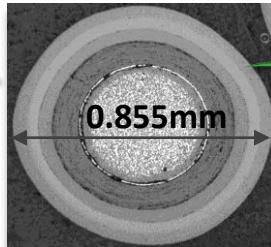
- Use of well proven UCO TRISO based fuel
- Proven intrinsic safety
- Operated without the need for a water source
- Load-following to 40% power within 15 minutes
- Continuous online fueling with passive on-site spent fuel storage
- Requires less time to construct (2.5 to 4 years)
- Factory assembled road transportable components/systems
- Deployable for electricity generation, process heat or co-generation



# Role of TRISO Fuel in Reactor Safety

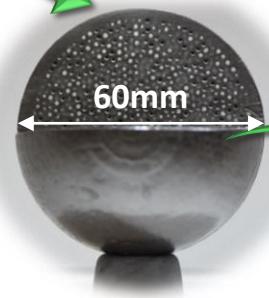


Optimized  
UCO kernel

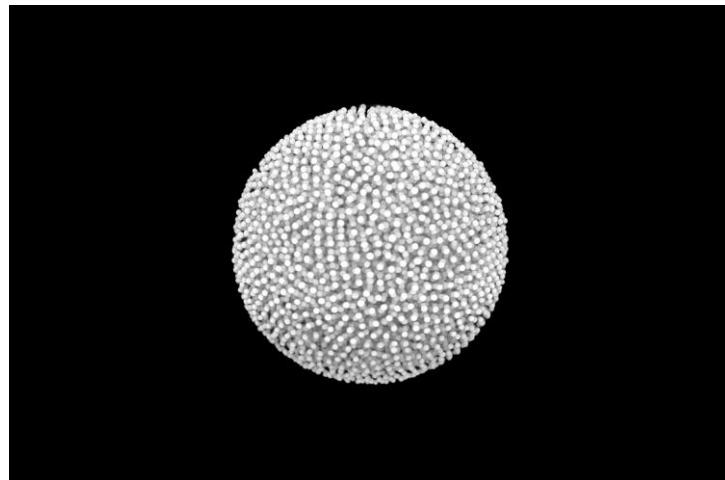


TRISO coating  
in modern  
CVD furnace

~18,000 TRISO coated  
particles in a pebble

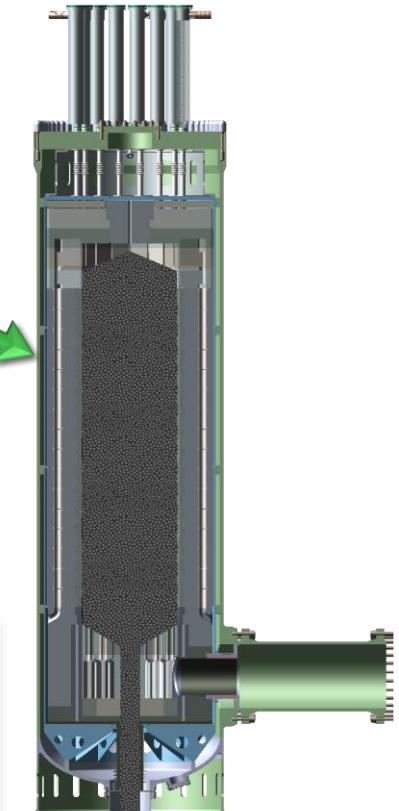


~220,000 pebbles in the  
core

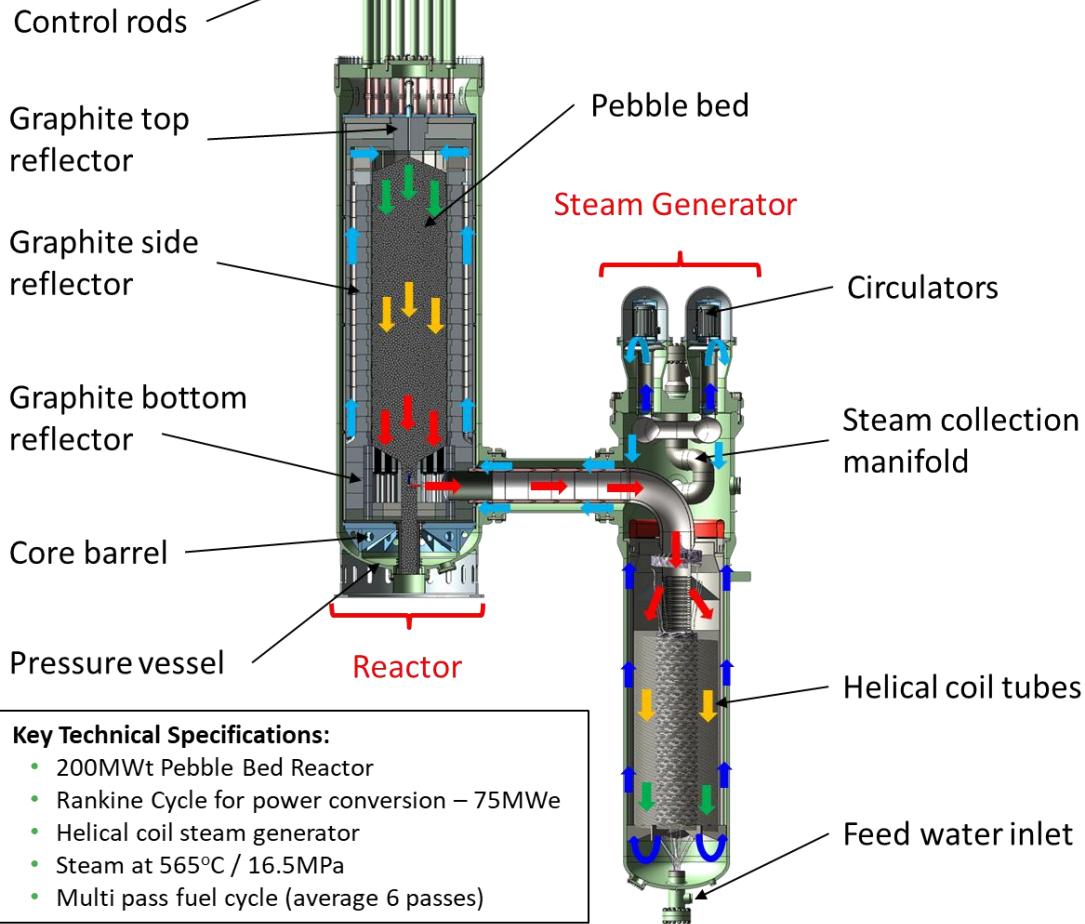


Innovative visualization of particles in pebble

Fuel is an integral part of the reactor safety basis and economics, therefore X-energy is developing in-house fuel manufacturing capability building on what was done through the DOE NGNP program.



# Xe-100 Reactor and Steam Generator Detail

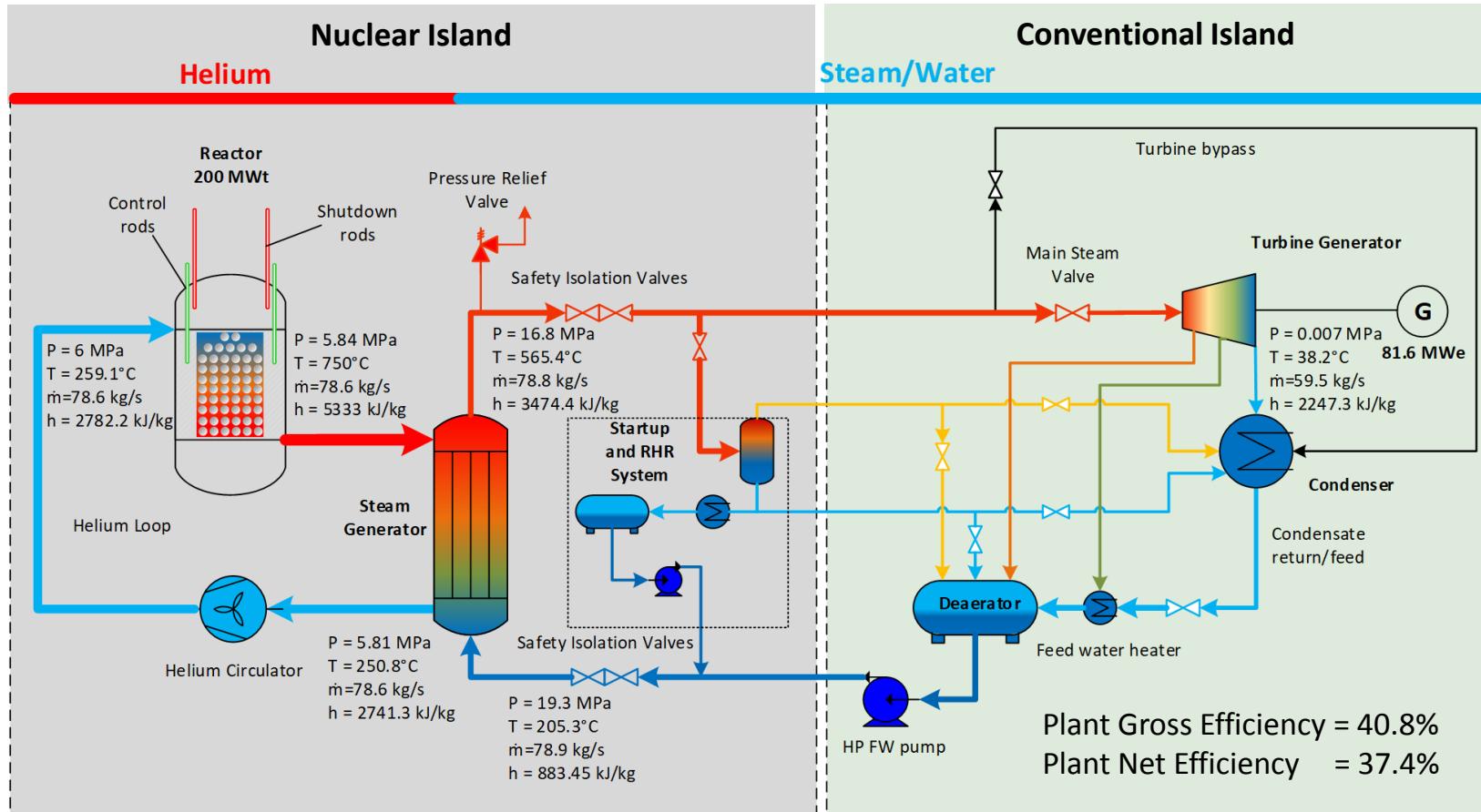


Reactor Pressure Vessel Material	
Component	Material
Bottom Head, Manway Shell, Crossover vessel	SA-508, Grade 3, Class 1
Vessel Flange, Top Head CRDM Housings	SA-508, Grade 3, Class 2
Top Head Fasteners	SB-637, Alloy 718
Center Manway Fasteners Bottom Manway Fasteners	SA-540, B24, Class 1

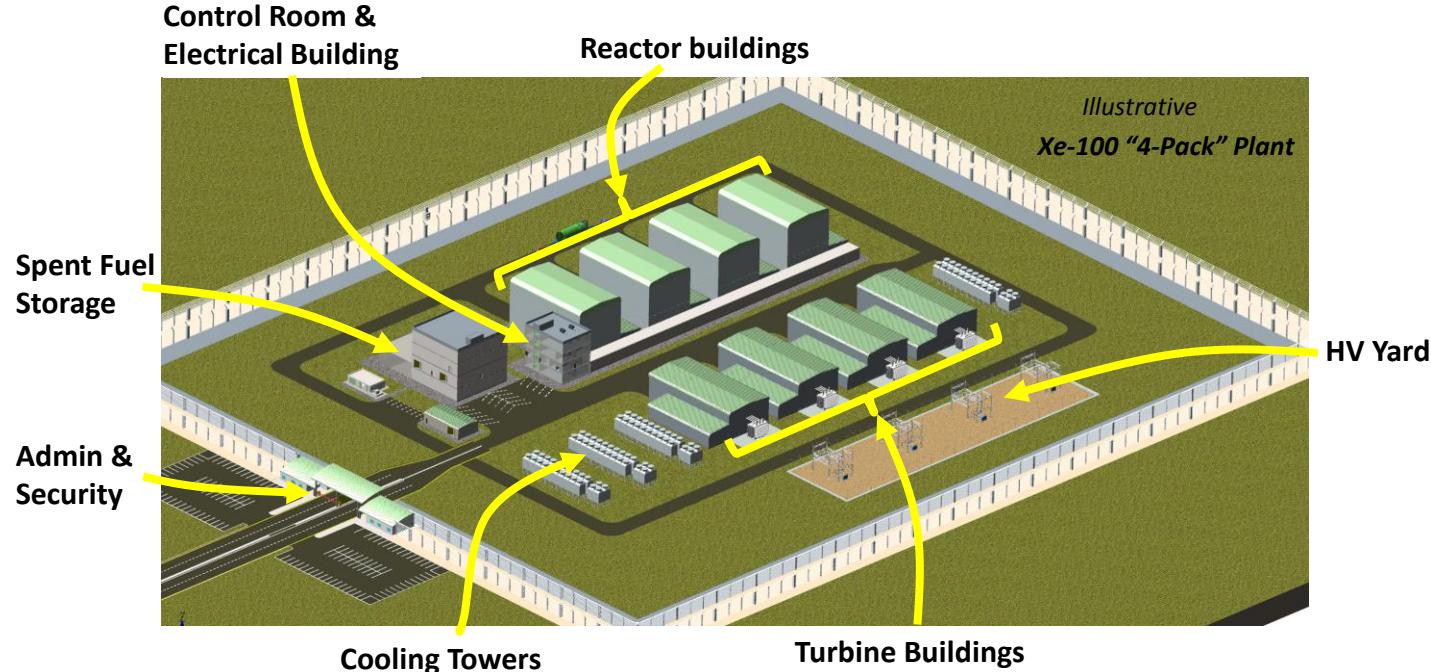
**Note:** All material selections within existing ASME code requirements, no code cases needed

Reactor Graphite Reflector Material
IAW ASME Section III, Division 5
Irradiation program at ORNL underway

# Xe-100 Energy Balance Process Flow Diagram



# Xe-100 Reactor Four Module Plant Layout (300 MWe)



- **Scalable:** allows for sequential reactor build-out based on power demand
- **Small:** can be built on 13 acres of land and allows for grid independence
- **Safe:** small EPZ potential allows building close to existing infrastructure
- **Plant Life:** designed to achieve total life of at least 60 years

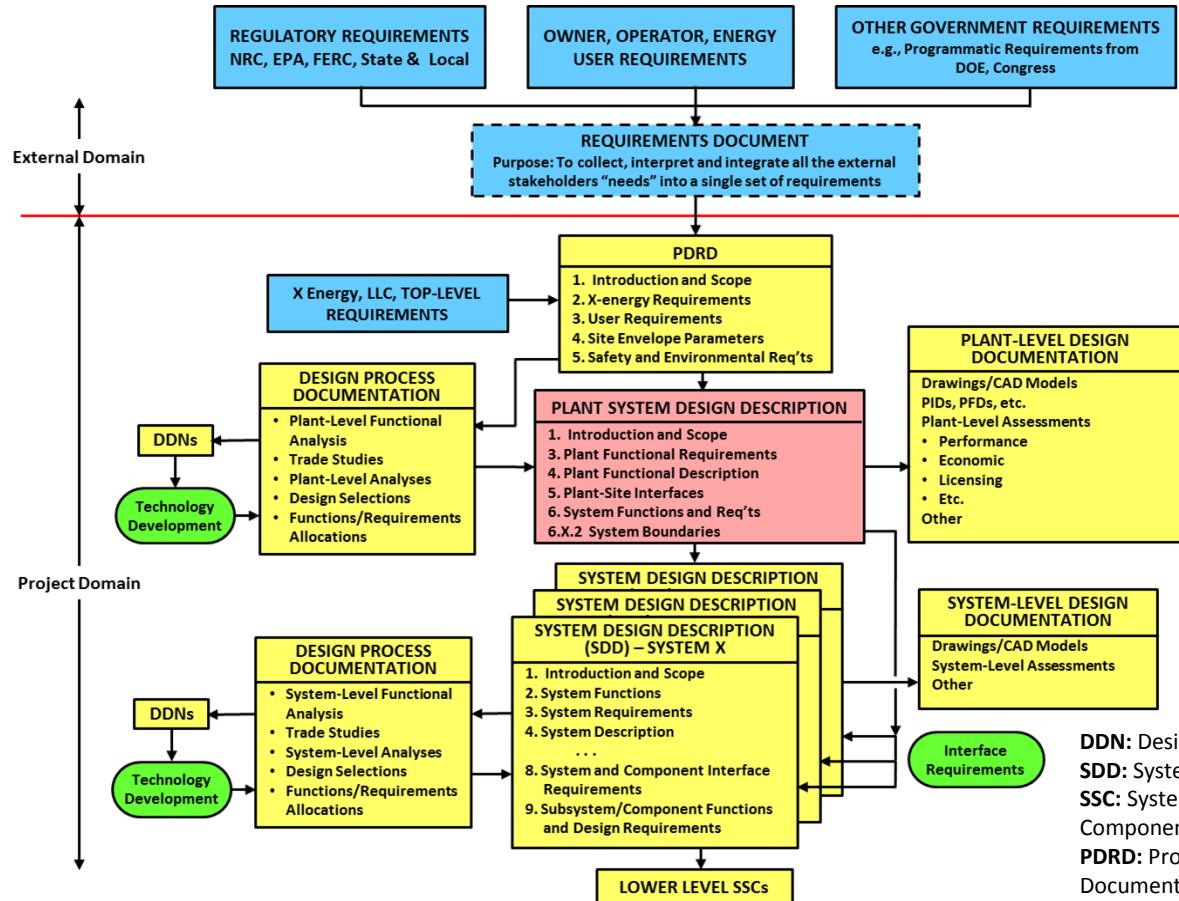


# Technology Implementation

*Dr. Martin van Staden*



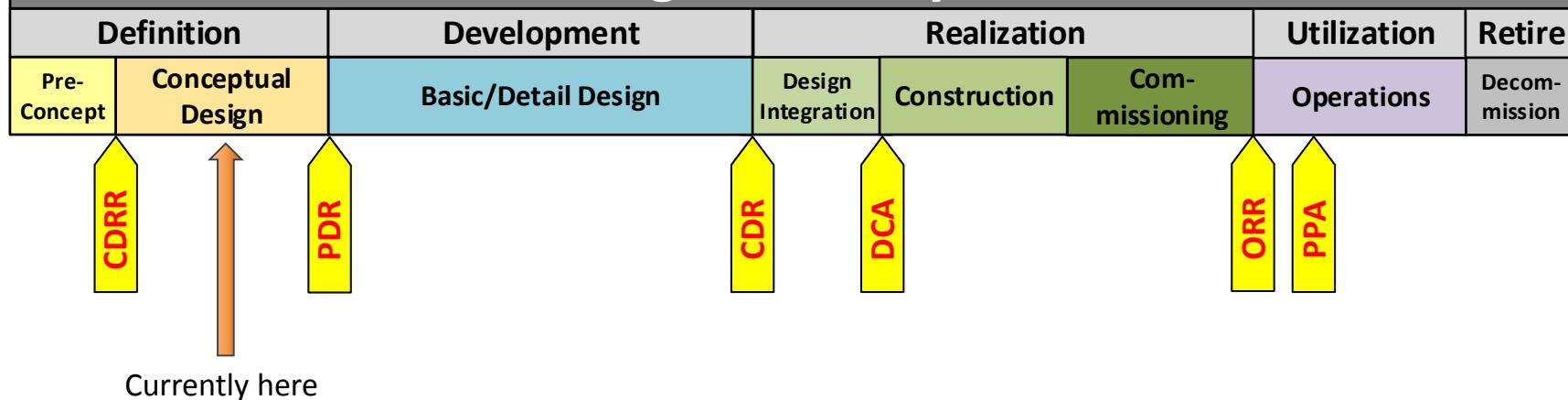
# Requirements Definition and Flow-down



- X-energy is following a strict Systems Engineering approach for the design of the Xe-100 Plant
- All requirements are managed using a requirements management tool “Core” to track requirements flow down
- The Product Design Requirements Document (PDRD) interprets all requirements on a Plant Level and flows them down into the lower level systems



# Program Life Cycle



CDRR: Concept Design Readiness Review

PDR: Preliminary Design Review

CDR: Critical Design Review

DCA: Design Completion Assessment

ORR: Operational Readiness Review

PPA: Plant Performance Assessment



# System Engineering Process – Conceptual Design Phase

Each design phase is executed through a methodical process with certain deliverables and reviews after each sub-phase

## Conceptual Design Sub-Phases:

### C1 - Design Basis:

Functions/requirements identified and allocated,

### C2-Functional Definition:

System functional architecture defined,

### C3- Physical Definition:

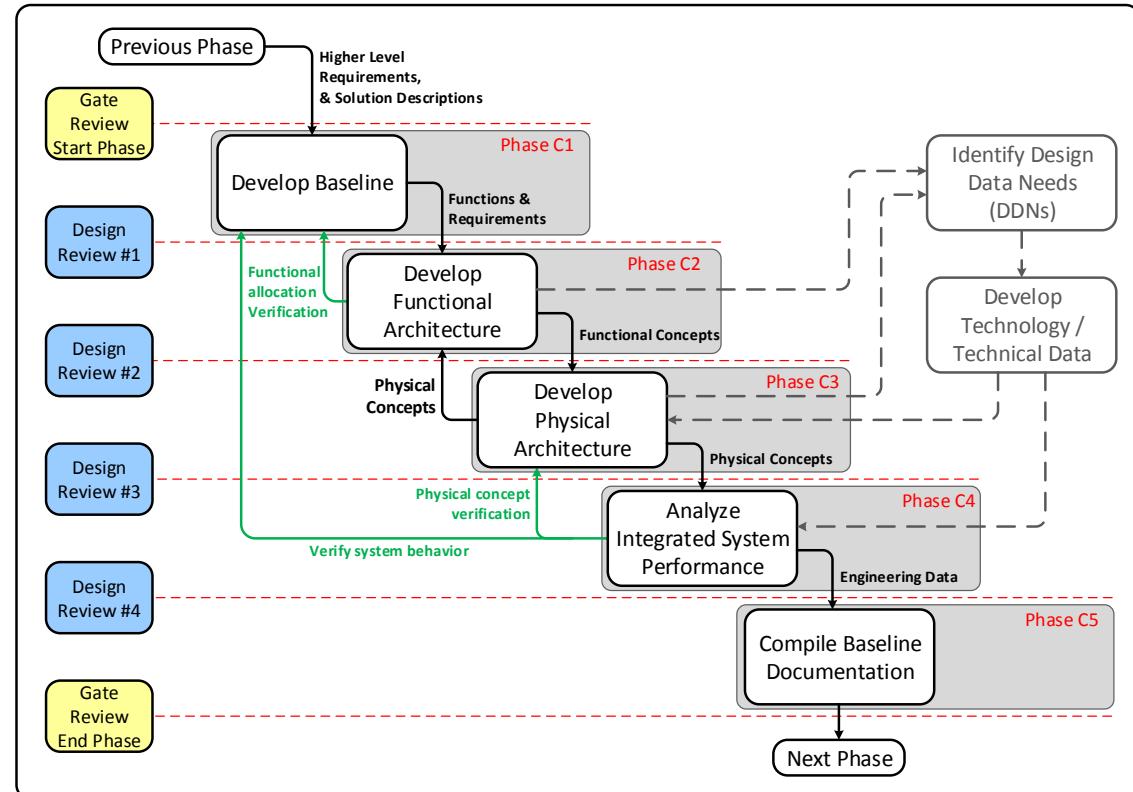
System physical concept developed,

### C4-Performance Evaluation:

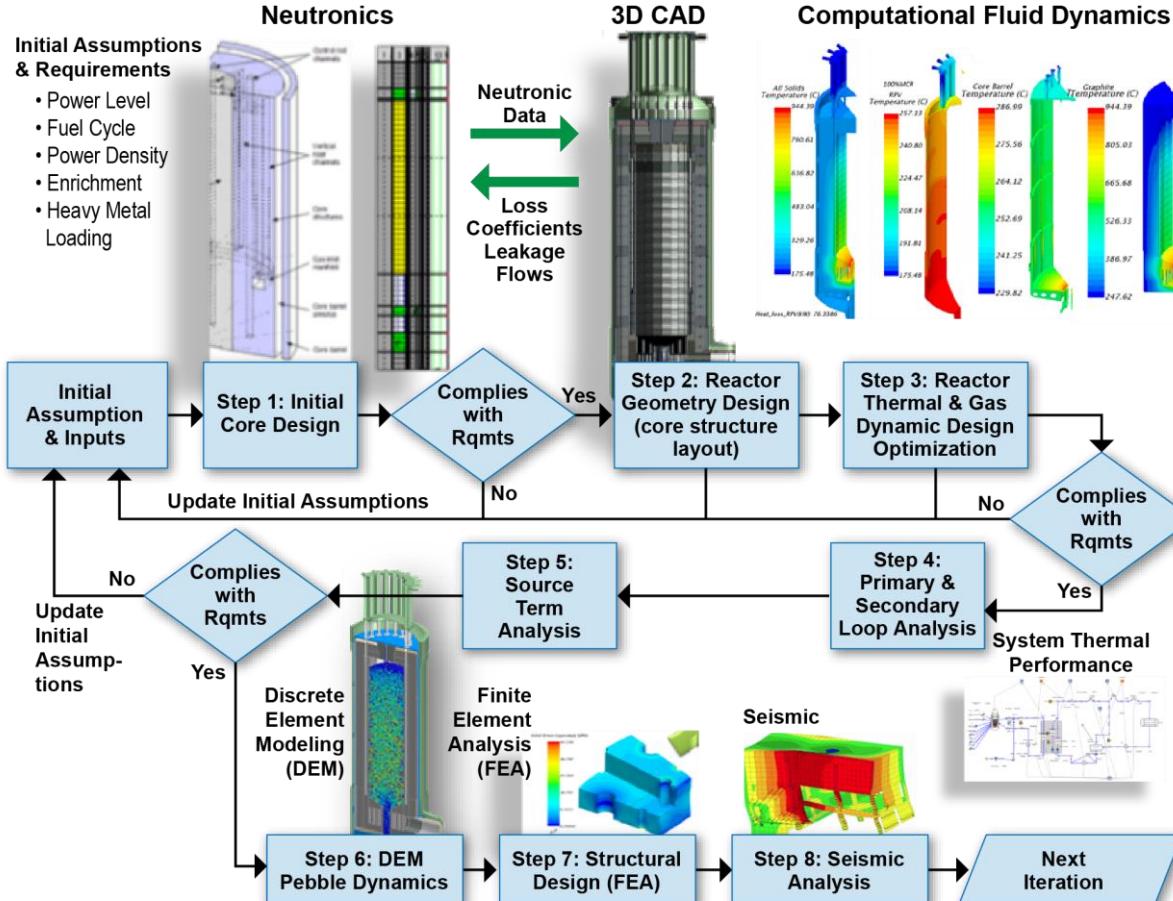
System behavior demonstrated

### C5-Baseline Documentation:

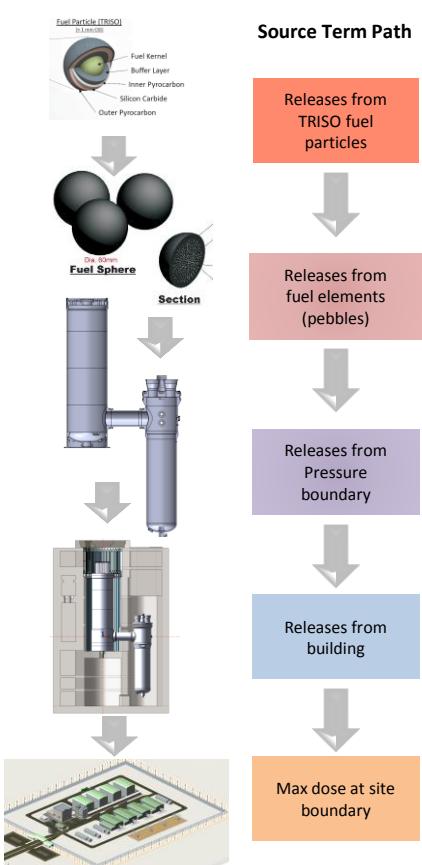
System solution adequately described



# Reactor Integrated Design Process



# Radionuclide Source Term Calculation Path



Source Term Path	Element / Isotope	Form / State	Mechanism	Physical Phenomena	Methods / Software Codes
Releases from TRISO fuel particles	Iodine Silver Strontium Cesium ...	Gaseous FPs Metallic FPs	- Release from TRISO particles into matrix graphite - Activation of impurities	Temperature, irradiation time, fast fluence, burnup, particle defects, contamination	VSOP, MGT SCALE, PARCS, ORIGEN FLOWNEX XS-Term STAR-CCM+
Releases from fuel elements (pebbles)	Iodine, Silver Strontium Cesium Graphite dust	Gaseous FPs Metallic FPs Dust Particles	- Diffusion from pebble into the helium stream - Activation of impurities	Temperature, irradiation time, fast fluence, burnup, contamination	VSOP, MGT SCALE, PARCS, ORIGEN, FLOWNEX XS-Term STAR-CCM+
Releases from Pressure boundary	Iodine, Silver Strontium, Cesium Graphite dust Metallic dust	Gaseous FPs Metallic FPs Dust Particles	- Leakage from HPB into building and structures - Activation of impurities	Instrumentation line failure, small & large pipe breaks, plate-out, liftoff	ORIGEN XS-Term STAR-CCM+ Flownex
Releases from building	Iodine, Silver Strontium, Cesium Graphite dust Metallic dust	Gaseous FPs Metallic FPs Dust Particles	- Transport throughout building to the environment	Plate-out, liftoff	XS-Term MELCOR STAR-CCM+
Max dose at site boundary	Iodine, Silver Strontium, Cesium Graphite dust Metallic dust	Gaseous FPs Metallic FPs Dust Particles	- Atmospheric dispersion - Ingestion	Postulates	XS-Term STAR-CCM+

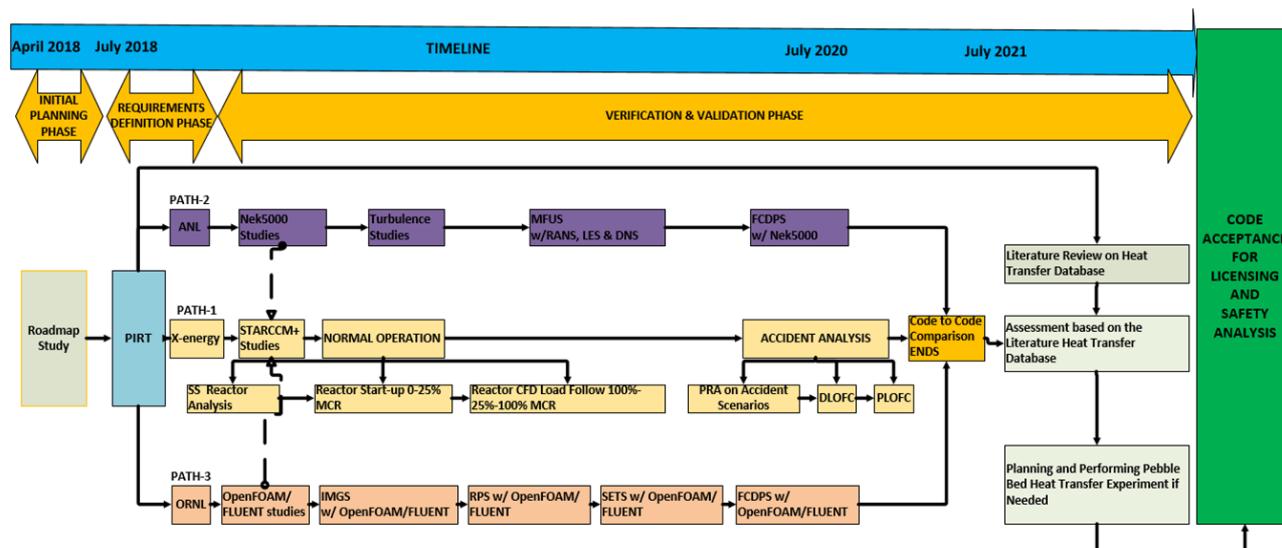


# Development of Analysis Tool Roadmaps

X-energy has developed a number of roadmap documents in conjunction with the DOE Labs and prominent universities:

- Neutronics analysis tools roadmap
- CFD heat transfer analysis V&V Roadmap
- Mechanistic Source Term Roadmap
- Graphite Core Structures Design Roadmap

Example of Heat Transfer CFD V&V Roadmap

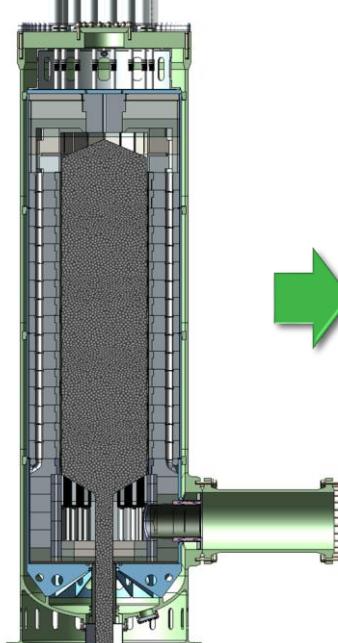
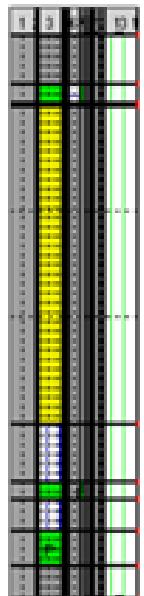


# Reactor Design Analysis

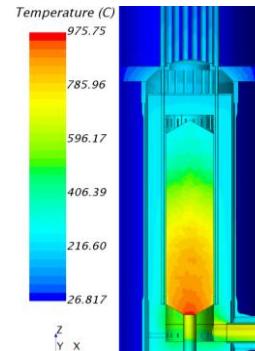
Neutronics  
stress analysis



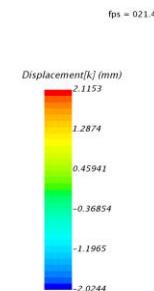
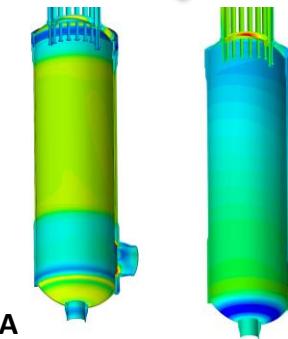
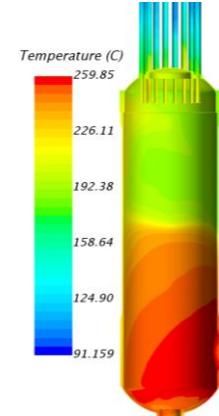
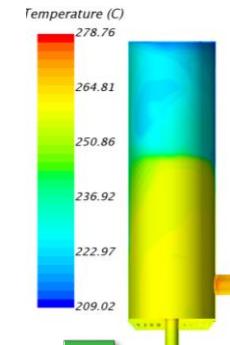
3D Geometry



Thermal flow



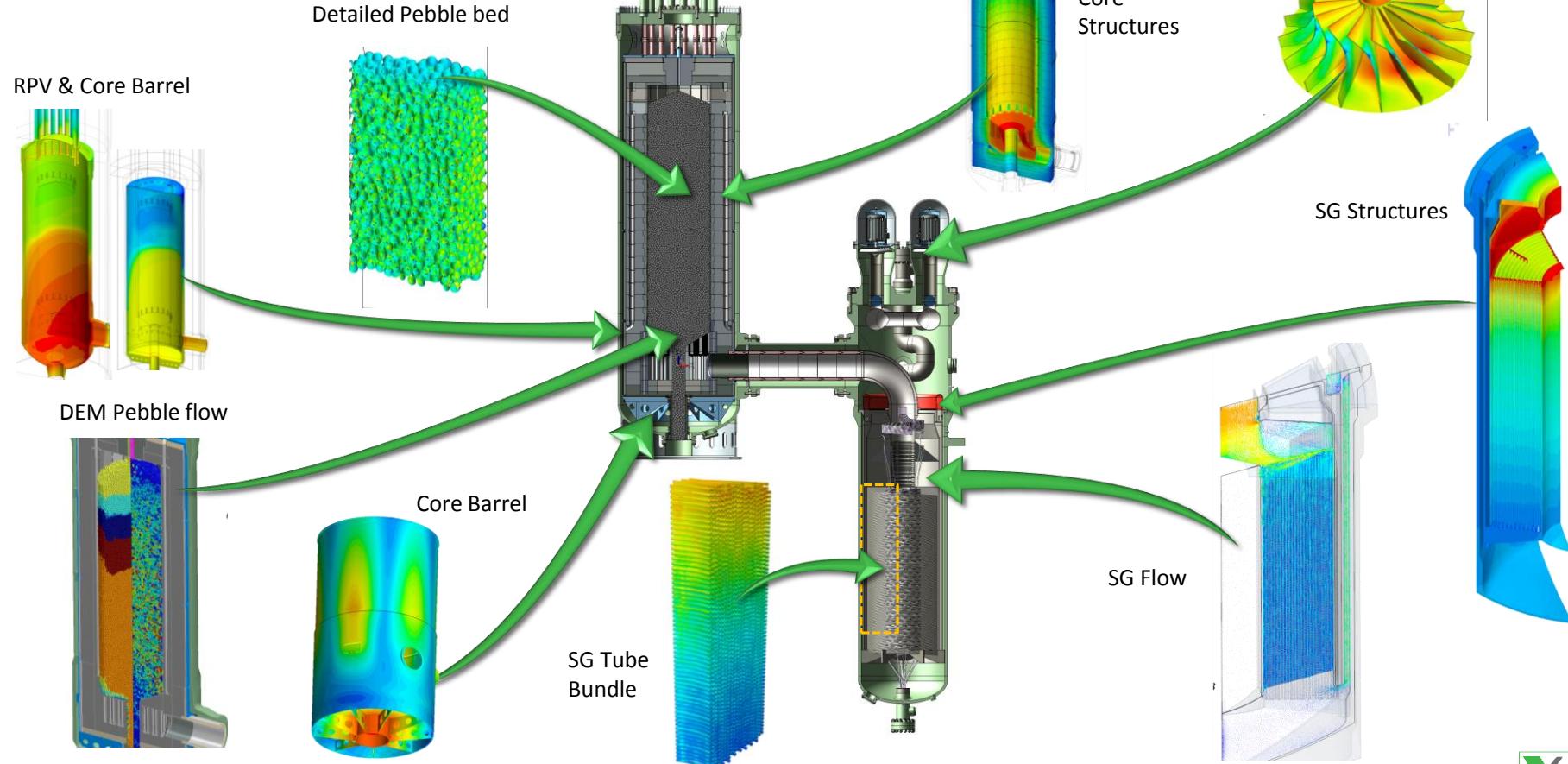
Static & thermal load



RPV FEA

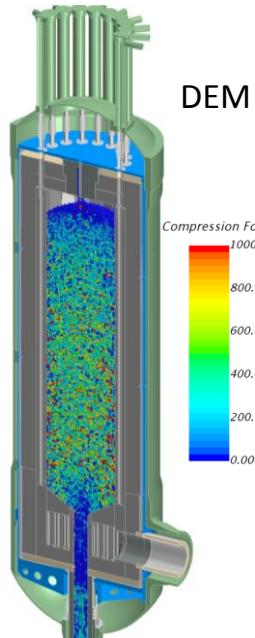


# Analyses Examples

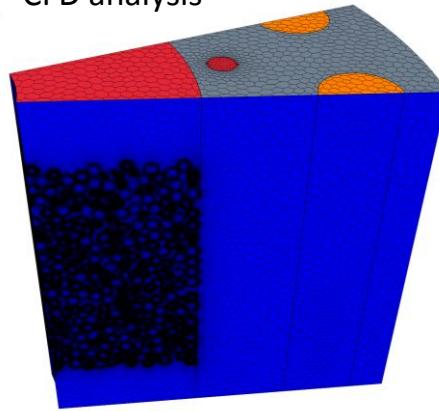


# Verification and Validation

- Using models to perform verification and validation of simplified porous media models
- Directly export Discrete Element Model (DEM) results to mesh pebbles
- Heat is generated in the fuel core zone of the pebble, providing valuable insight into the pebble temperature distribution



Detailed randomly packed physical geometry meshed for CFD analysis

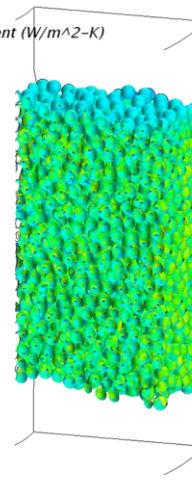


STAR-CCM+

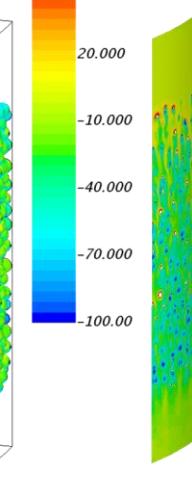
Heat Transfer Coefficient (W/m<sup>2</sup>-K)

Z  
Y  
X

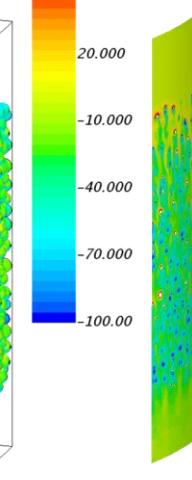
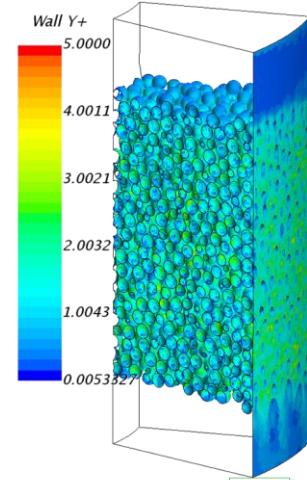
Heat Transfer Coefficient (W/m<sup>2</sup>-K)



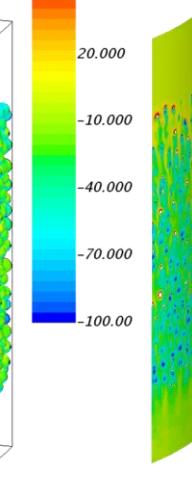
Heat Transfer Coefficient (W/m<sup>2</sup>-K)



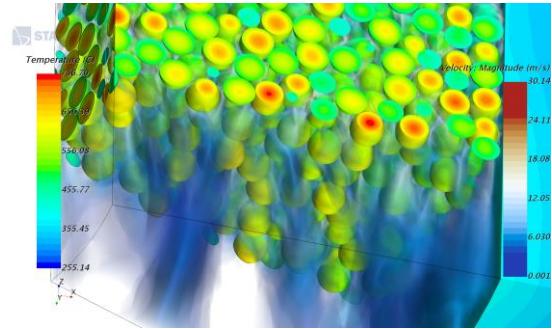
Heat Transfer Coefficient (W/m<sup>2</sup>-K)



Heat Transfer Coefficient (W/m<sup>2</sup>-K)



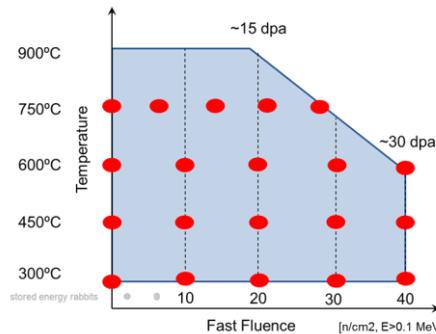
Heat Transfer Coefficient (W/m<sup>2</sup>-K)



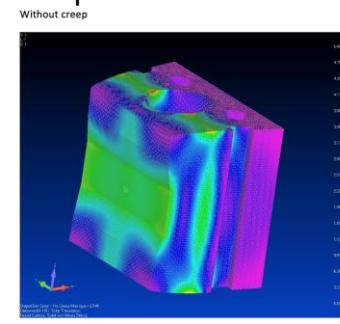
# Graphite Modeling & Irradiation

- Structural graphite performs the following important functions in a pebble bed reactor:
  - Defines the core geometry
  - Defines the helium flow path
  - Reflects neutrons
  - Provides heat removal path and heat capacitance during loss of forced flow events
- X-energy has developed in-house graphite lifetime analysis tools for prediction graphite lifetime using guidelines outlined in ASME Section III Division 5
- Graphite irradiation campaign is underway with SGL at Oak Ridge in HFIR
  - Temperature range is between 250°C and 750°C
  - Dose range up to 30 dpa

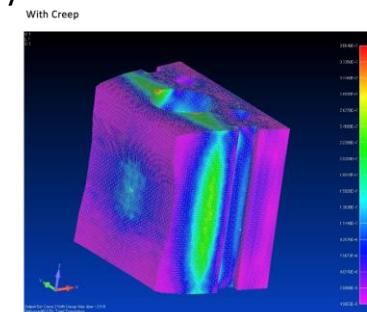
Graphite Irradiation test envelope



Graphite Structural Analysis



Without creep  
Max dpa 2.5  
Max Von Mises stress 54 MPa – above allowable – failure



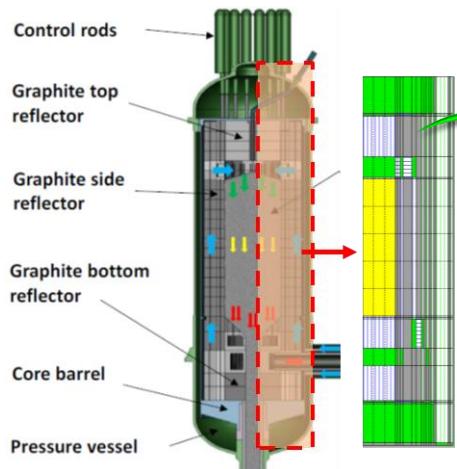
With Creep  
Max Von Mises stress 3.8 MPa POF 5.1E-4



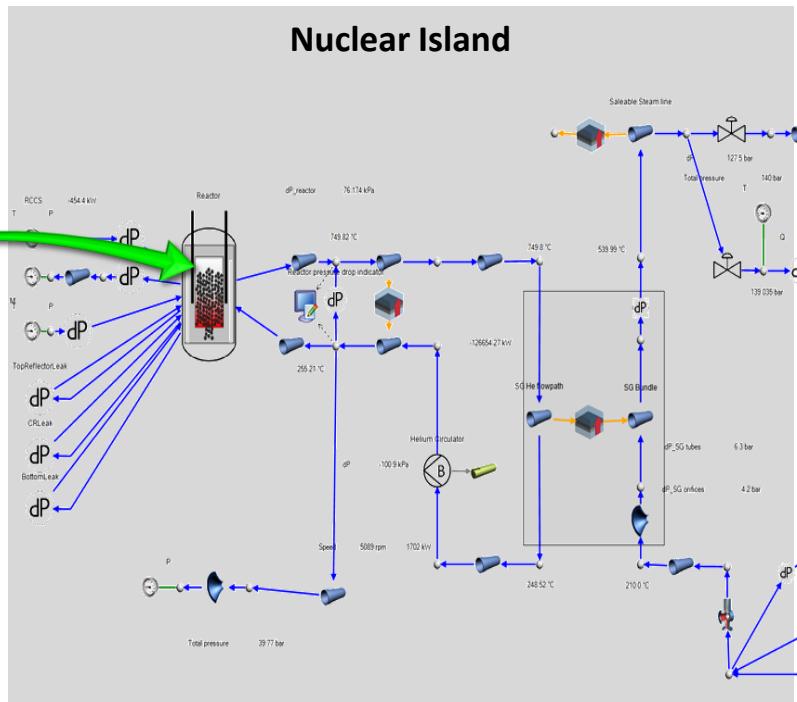
# Comprehensive Systems Analysis

- Comprehensive full system analysis using Flownex compressible transient flow code (NQA 1 compliant)
  - Perform system transients and develop control philosophy

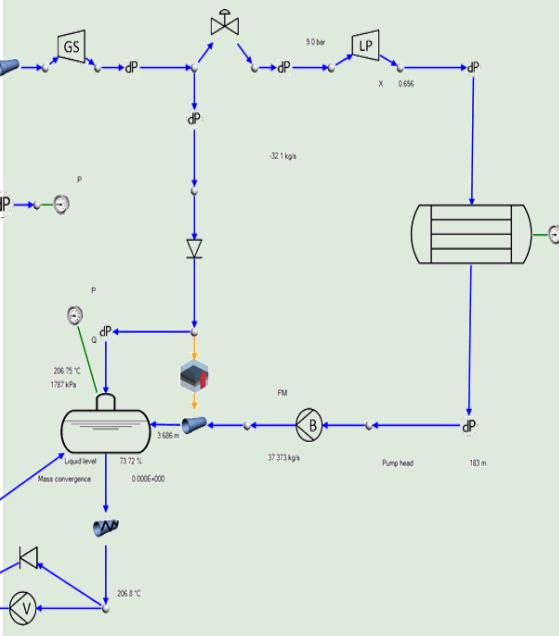
## Detailed 2D Reactor sub-model



## Nuclear Island



## Conventional Island



# Program Status

## *Clint Medlock*



# X-energy Advanced Reactor Concepts Award

## DOE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

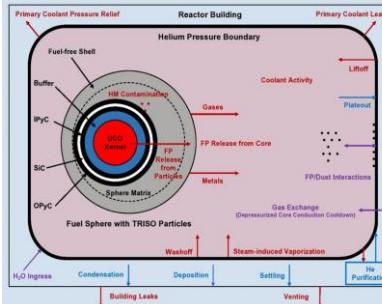
X-energy began activities July 1, 2016 on a 5-year, \$53M cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy focused on:

- Furthering the Xe-100 reactor design
- Establishing pebble fuel manufacturing capability
- NRC engagement

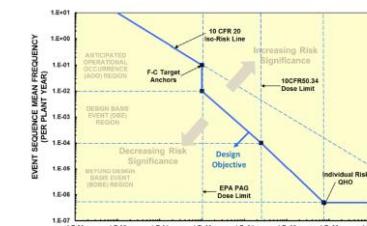
## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed structural graphite TRL and operating envelope
- Developed probabilistic risk assessment fault tree
- Completed three white papers on regulatory issues
- Developed unique mechanistic source term codes
- Implemented a plant level engineering analysis toolset software package
- Developed Porous media heat transfer model and performed initial V&V using detailed pebble CFD

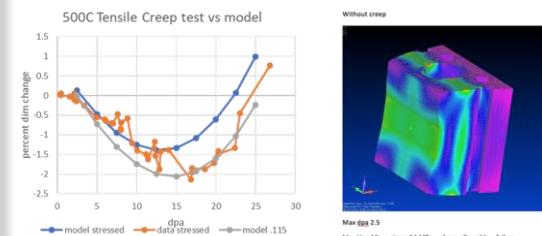
## Source term code development



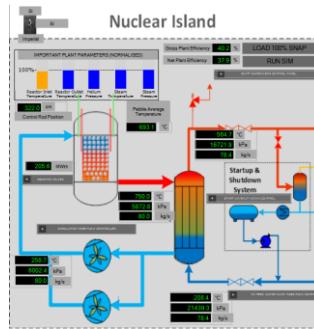
## Probabilistic risk assessment



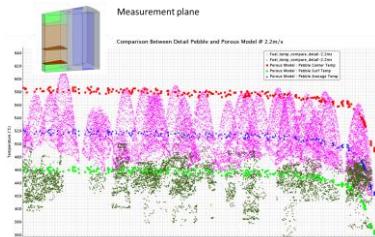
## Graphite lifetime modelling



## Plant level engineering analysis toolset

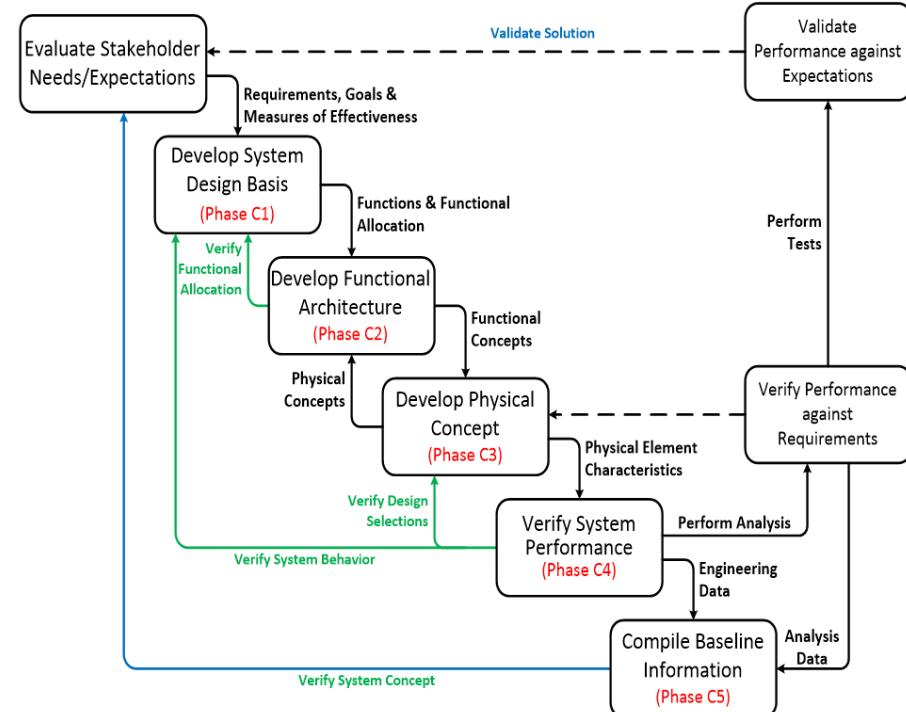


## Porous media heat transfer model



# Program Status

System	CD Maturity	Current Phase (% CPLT)
<b>Plant-Level Definition</b>		
Plant System	C4	C2 (20%)
Distributed Control System	C4	C3 (90%)
Investment Protection System	C2	C1 (20%)
Plant Site	C2	Pre-Concept
<b>Major Systems Definition (supporting Licensing Basis)</b>		
Reactor System	C4	C3 (80%)
Steam Generator System	C4	C3 (75%)
Reactor Cavity Cooling System	C4	C3 (40%)
Fuel Handling System	C3	C3 (35%)
Spent Fuel Storage Facility	C3	C3 (10%)
Helium Circulator System	C2	C2 (100%)
Helium Services System	C2	C2 (100%)
Reactor Protection System	C4	C2 (0%)
Startup and Shutdown System	C3	Pre-Concept
Nuclear Island Civil Structures	C3	Pre-Concept
<b>Auxiliary Systems Definition</b>		
Nuclear Island HVAC System	C2	Pre-Concept
Nuclear Island Cooling Water System	C2	Pre-Concept
Nuclear Island Electrical System	C2	Pre-Concept
NI Fire Detection and Suppression System	C0	Pre-Concept
Plant Access and Security System	C1	Pre-Concept



# Acronyms and Abbreviations



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**-A-**

ANL Argonne National Laboratory

**-C-**

CAD Computer Aided Design

CFD Computational Fluid Dynamics

CRDM Control Rod Drive Mechanism

CVD Chemical Vapor Deposition

**-D-**

DDN Design Data Need

DEM Discrete Element Modeling

DOE Department of Energy

**-E-**

EPZ Emergency Planning Zone

**-F-**

FEA Finite Element Analysis

FP Fission Products

**-H-**

HFIR High Flux Isotope Reactor

HM Heavy Metal

HTGR High-Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor

HV High-voltage

**-I-**

INL Idaho National Laboratory

**N-**

NGNP Next Generation Nuclear Plant Alliance

NQA National Quality Assurance

NRC Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**-O-**

ORNL Oak Ridge National Laboratory

**-P-**

PDRD Product Design Requirements Document

RPV Reactor Pressure Vessel

**-S-**

SDD Systems Design Description

SG Steam Generator

SNL Sandia National Laboratories

SSC Systems Structures & Components

**-T-**

TRISO Tristructural ISOtropic

**-U-**

UCO Uranium oxide – carbide mixture

**-V-**

V&V Verification and Validation





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