

# NCNR

## NIST CENTER FOR NEUTRON RESEARCH



# NIST MISSION

Developing neutron measurements and making them available to the scientific community is central to the NIST mission

# A MAJOR NATIONAL USER FACILITY

Research quantities of neutrons can only be produced at major, centralized facilities

# DELIVERING HIGH IMPACT

NIST continues to be a source of excellent science with neutrons

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

NIST's neutron measurement capabilities continue to improve

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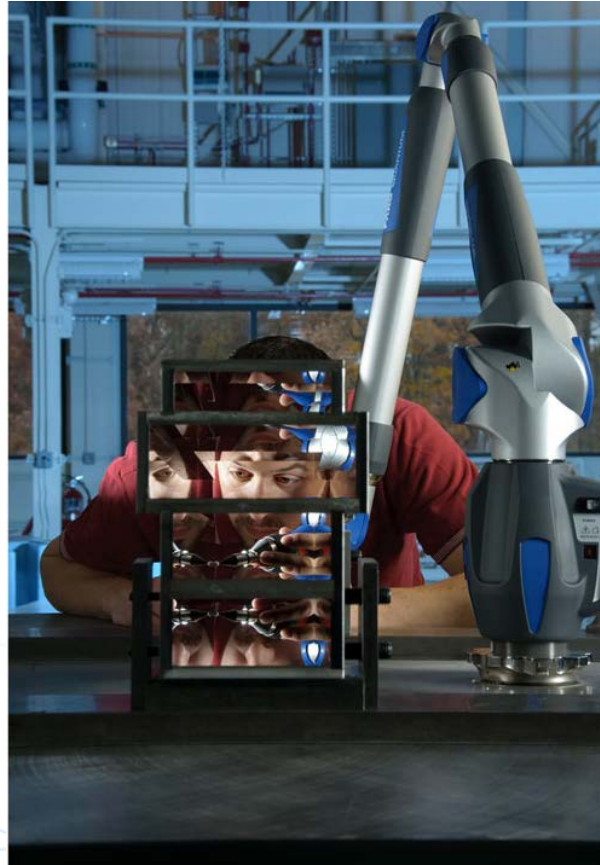
Promoting U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

Ensuring the **availability of neutron measurement capabilities** to meet the needs of U.S. researchers from industry, university and other Government agencies.

**Operate** the NIST Research Reactor cost effectively while ensuring the safety of the staff and general public



**Develop** neutron measurement techniques, develop new applications of these techniques, and **apply** them to science and engineering problems of national interest

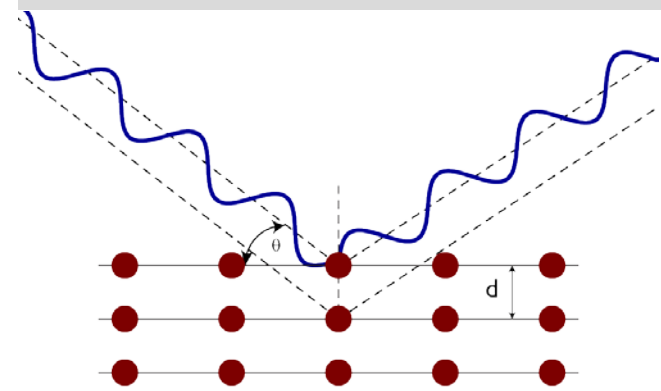


**Serve** the needs of researchers from industry, university, and government by operating the research facilities of the Center as a national user facility

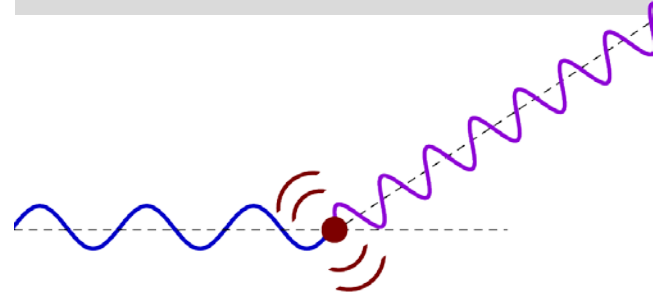


# THE POWER of NEUTRONS

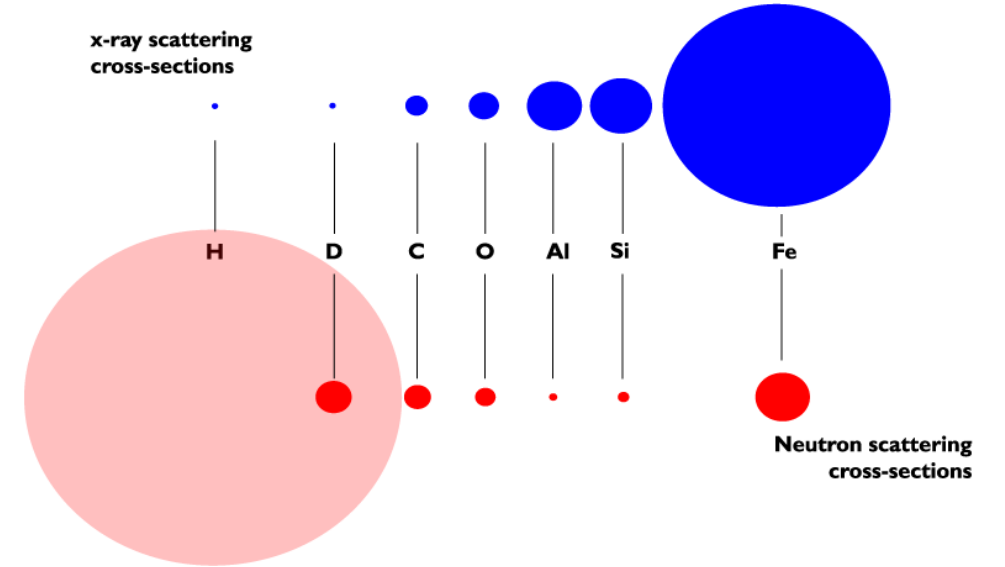
$\lambda \sim$  interatomic spacing



$E \sim$  atomic motion



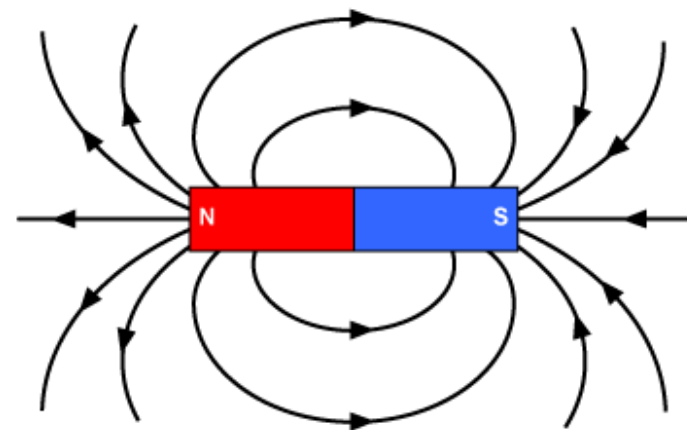
Scattering power varies randomly across the periodic table and from isotope to isotope



Penetrating



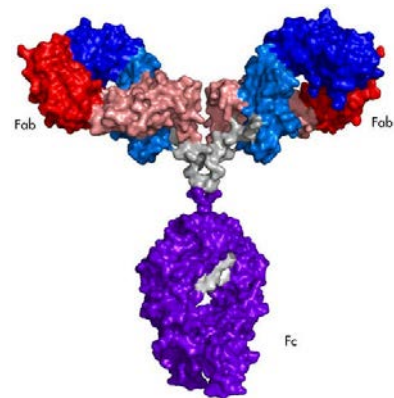
Magnetic



# MULTIDISCIPLINARY

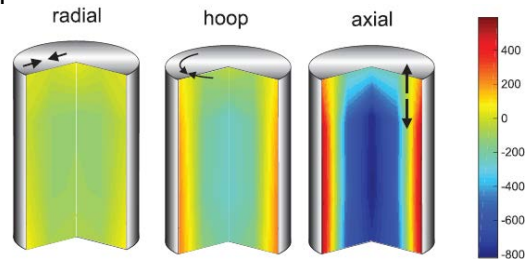
## BIOLOGY

*Castellanos et. al.*, Using SANS to characterize the NISTmAb reference material



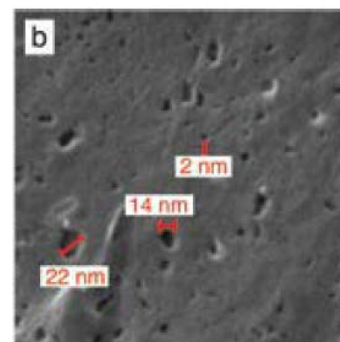
## ENGINEERING

*T. Gnäupel-Herold et. al.*, Residual stresses in additive manufactured parts



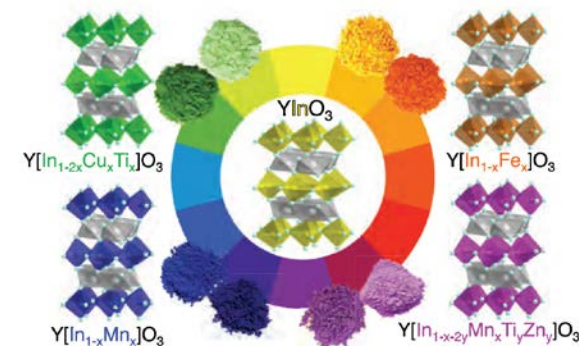
## GEOLOGY

*H.E. King et. al.*, Foamy porosity in gas shale



## CHEMICAL PHYSICS

*M. Subramanian et. al.*, Rational pigment design



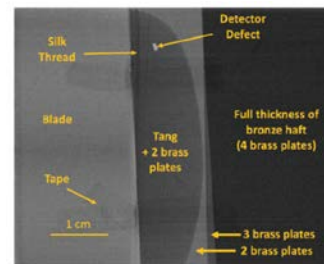
## ARCHEOLOGY

*R. Bishop et. al.*, Mayan trade routes



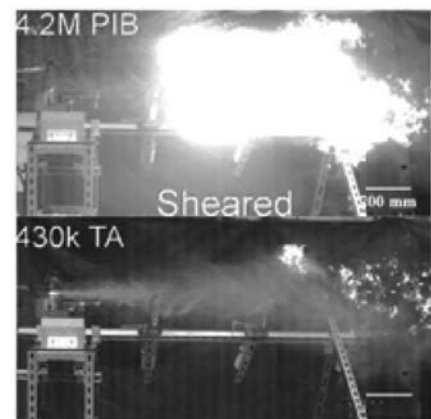
## CULTURAL HERITAGE

*R. Livingston et. al.*, Chinese jade and bronze dagger axes



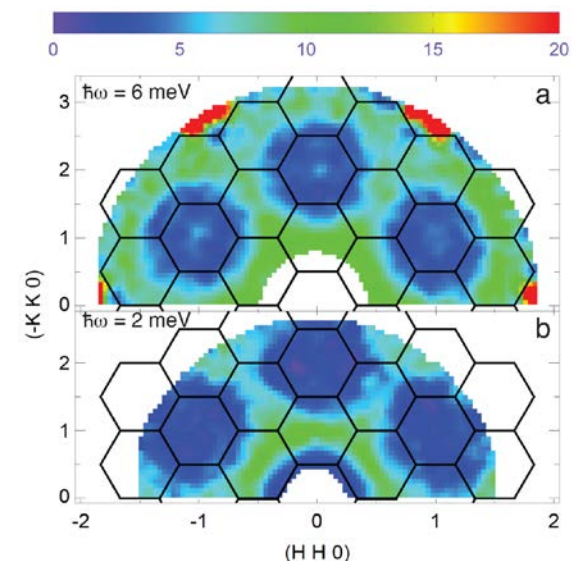
## SOFT MATTER

*J. Kornfield et. al.*, Safer jet fuel via megasupramolecules



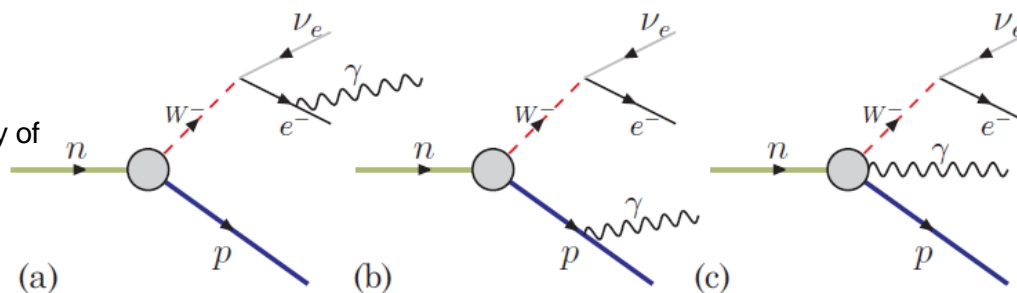
## CONDENSED MATTER

*Y. Lee et. al.*, Quantum spin liquid state in herbertsmithite



## NEUTRON PHYSICS

*F. Weitzfeldt et. al.*, Radiative beta-decay of the free neutron



# INSTRUMENT OWNERSHIP & ACCESS

## INSTRUMENT OWNERSHIP

NIST-owned

Partnership-owned (participating research team):  
interagency partnerships (e.g. NSF/NIST CHRNS),  
consortium-owned (e.g. nSoft, iPRIME/ExxonMobil)

## INSTRUMENT ACCESS

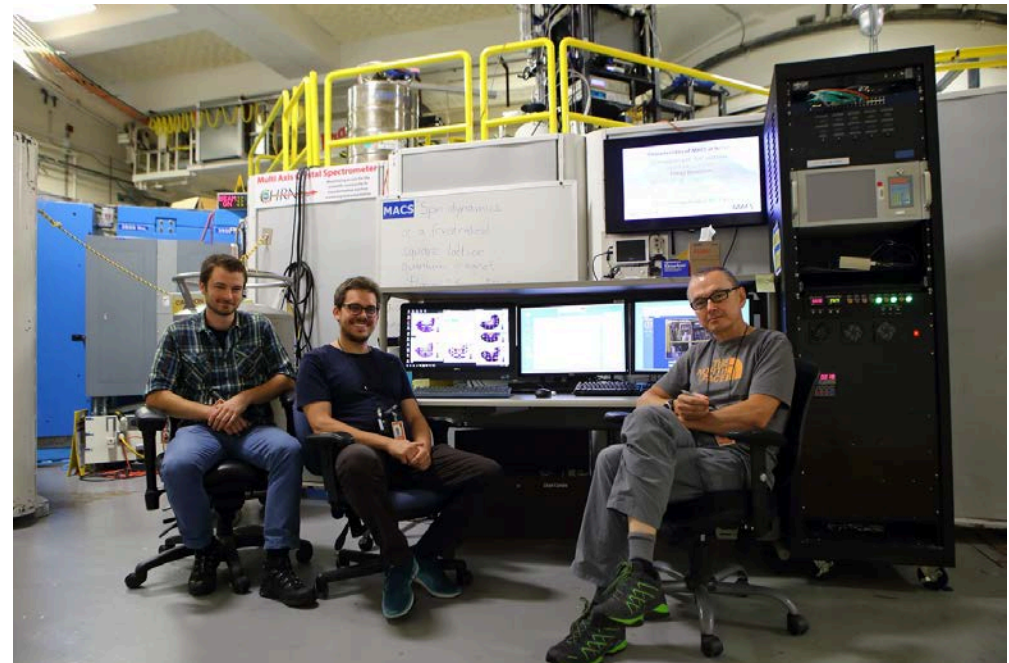
General user access (competitive proposal-based)

Collaborative access (merit-based via instrument “owner”)

Consortium-based access

Partnership-based access

Proprietary access





# USER ENGAGEMENT

## User Group Executive Committee

The executive committee represents the users, provides input to management regarding user concerns, administers a periodic user survey and post-experiment survey, and provides a forum for keeping the community informed about issues impacting users of the NCNR.



## Users

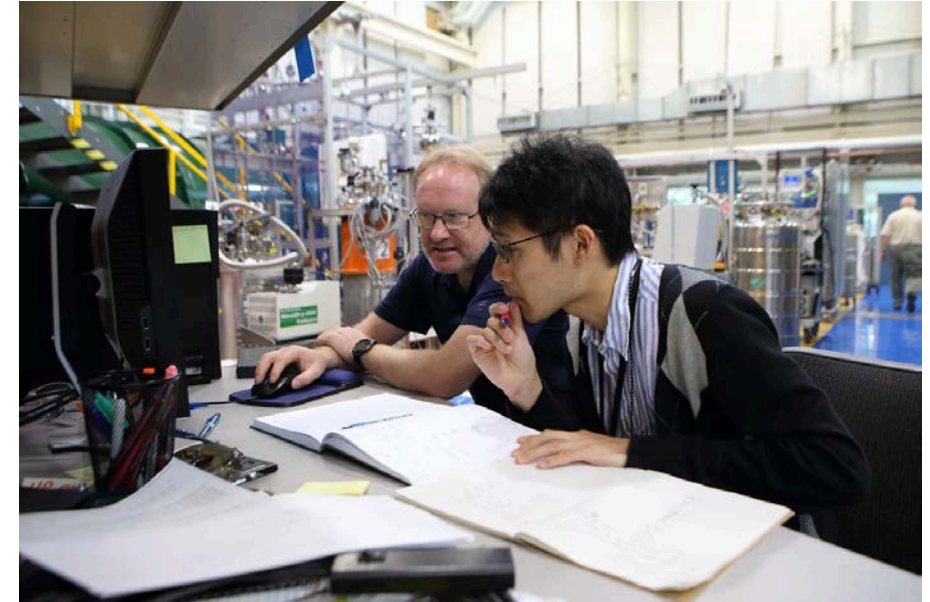
NCNR management frequently gathers feedback from users on-site for experiments via discussion and the NUG-issued post-experiment surveys.

## Workshops

NCNR hosts occasional workshops to gather input from the user community on future neutron scattering instruments.

## Topical Meetings

NCNR staff and leadership engage with the user community at scientific meetings and other venues such as the biennial American Conference on Neutron Scattering.



## Beam Time Allocation Committee

The BTAC assesses external reviews of beam time proposals and recommends allocation of available instrument time. The BTAC also provides feedback to management on facility developments that could affect beam time allocation.

# Los Angeles Times

<https://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-government-shutdown-science-impact-20190215-story.html> by Julia Rosen



Yumi Ijiri (Oberlin)



Mark Dadmun (UTK)



Jodie Lutkenhaus (TAMU)

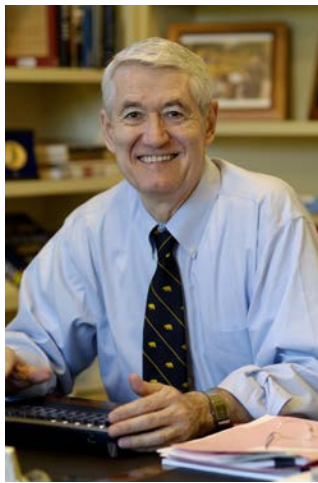


Matt Helgeson (UCSB)

“A slot at the NCNR is a precious commodity, and Helgeson’s students had spent six months meticulously preparing for theirs. But every day the shutdown limped on, their prospects grew dimmer and their nerves more frayed.”



Mike Hore (CWU)



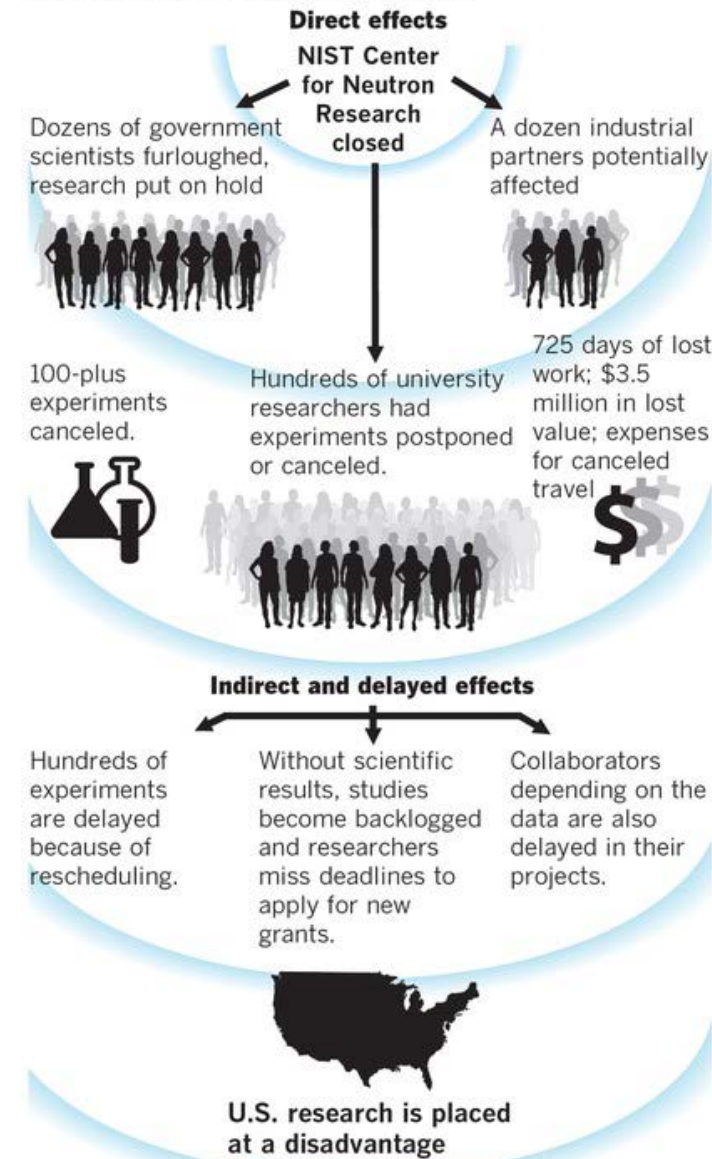
Bob Birgeneau (UC Berkeley)



Zach Porter, Stephen Wilson and Eli Zoghlin (UCSB)

## Shutdown's ripple effects on science

The closure of a single federal research center can affect scientists around the country and their collaborators across the globe. Private companies that rely on the center are also adversely affected. Here's an example of the spreading impact of a shutdown.



Source: Times reporting

Paul Duginski / @latimesgraphics

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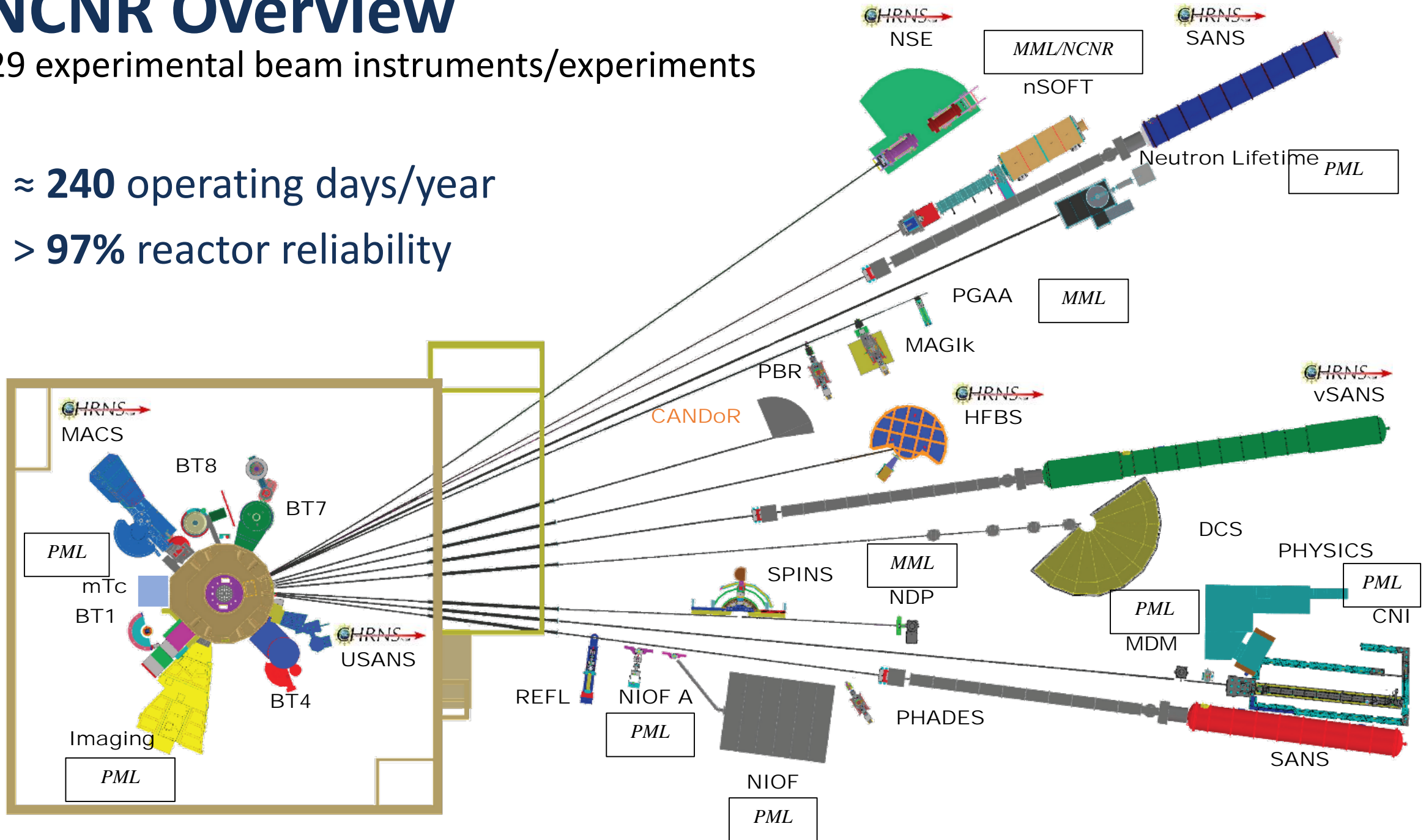
NIST's neutron measurement capabilities continue to improve

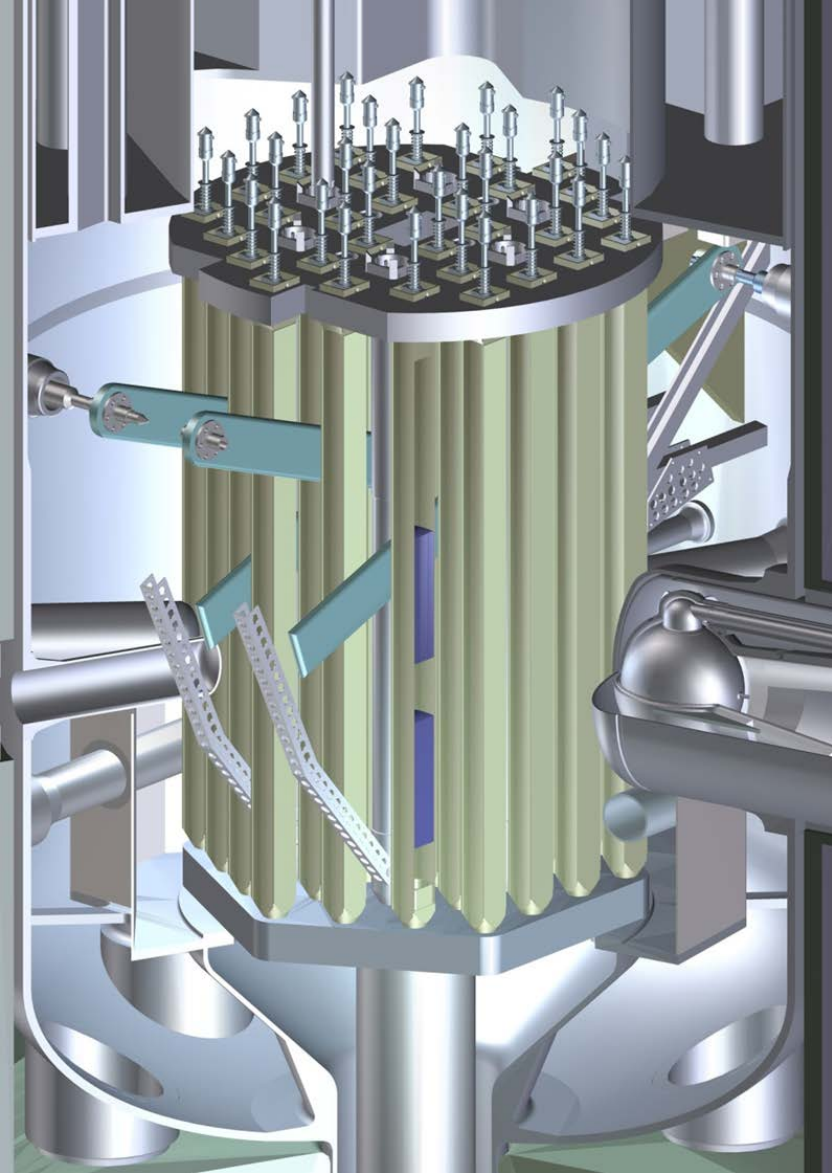
# NCNR Overview

29 experimental beam instruments/experiments

≈ 240 operating days/year

> 97% reactor reliability





# NIST REACTOR

Regulated by the NRC

7 cycles/year

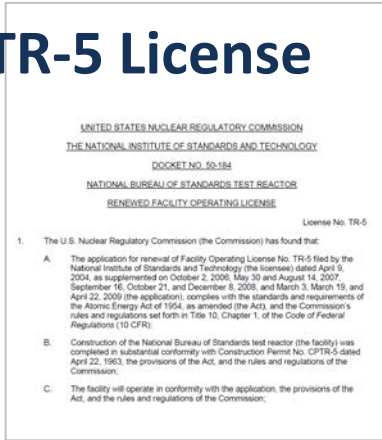
38 days/cycle

~240 days/year

Licensed through **2029**

# SAFETY

## TR-5 License



Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspects NCNR, NIST Security and Emergency Services annually

maintenance and surveillance activities  
fuel handling  
experiments  
procedures  
emergency preparedness  
safeguards and security  
organizational structure  
qualifications and responsibilities  
operational activities  
design and design control  
review and audit functions  
radiation and environmental protection  
operator requalification  
material control and accounting

## NCNR Safety Assessment Committee

Independent, external group reviewing annually: Reactor operations and engineering activities performed in compliance with license requirements, health physics program, industrial safety program, hazard review committee, NCNR Safety Evaluation Committee.

## NCNR Executive Safety Committee

NCNR, MML, PML leadership and safety staff who meet monthly to discuss progress on development and implementation of safety programs and safety performance of NCNR.

## NIST IRSC

SNM-362 license

## NCNR Safety Evaluation Committee

Independent review of safety aspects of reactor operations; evaluates reactor operational activities, improving quality of operations programs, recommends corrective actions.

## NCNR Hazard Review Committee

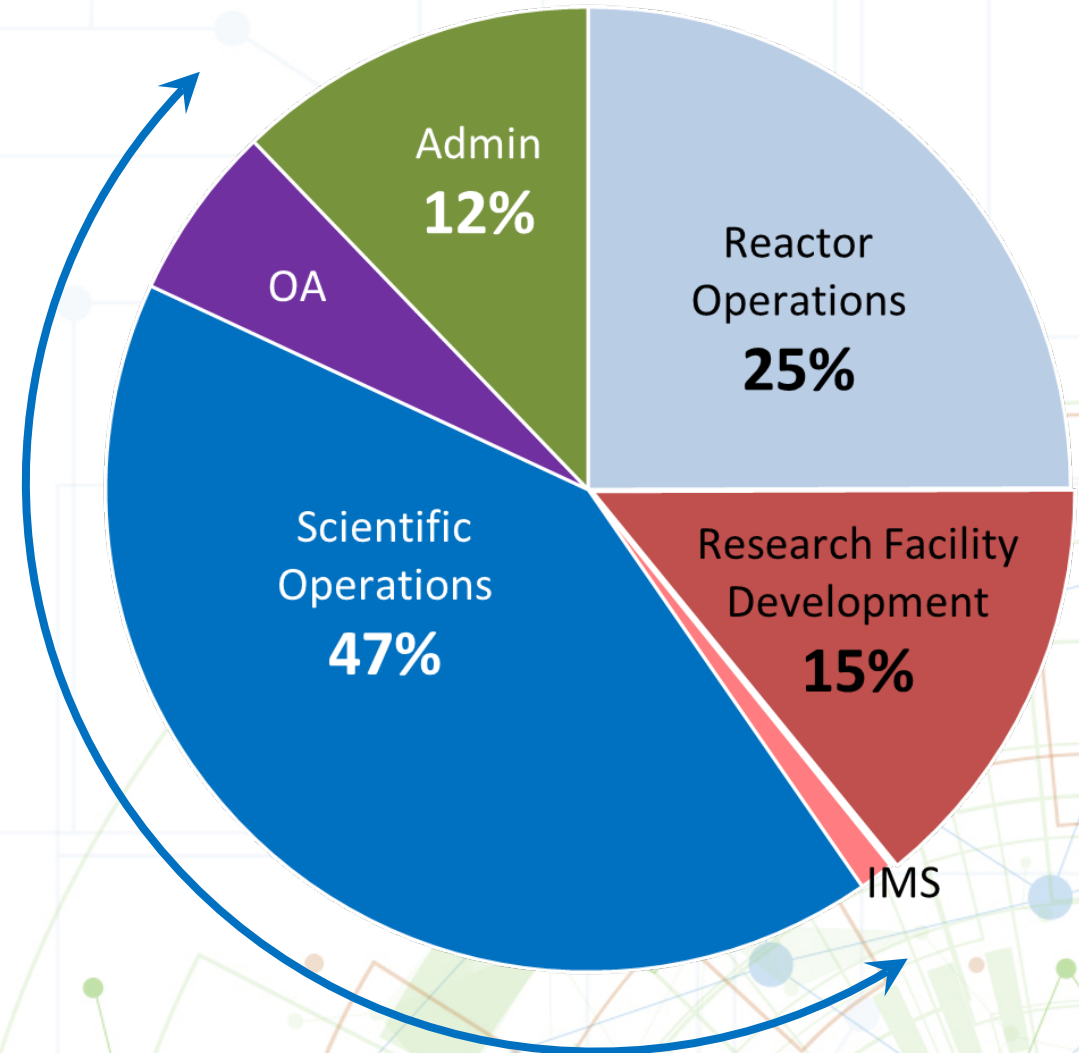
Independent group that reviews hazard assessments on all potentially hazardous activities conducted at the NCNR.

## NIST ESC

NIST safety programs

# BUDGET

**\$48M (STRS)**  
**\$3.2M (OA)**



# PARTNERSHIPS

Expanding the research community's access to NIST's neutron capabilities



Maximizing access for the scientific community to transformative neutron scattering instrumentation

NIST/NSF partnership  
Operates 6 neutron scattering instruments  
Robust user support  
Education & outreach

## Smithsonian (National Museum of Natural History)

Nuclear Laboratory for Archaeological Research & Chemical analysis (INAA) of > 43000 archaeological artifacts

## iPRIME (UMN) & ExxonMobil Research

SANS consortium for large scale structure in soft matter (e.g. polymers, complex fluids, petroleum mixtures)

## General Motors

Neutron imaging/visualizing the operation of fuel cells for vehicles

## nSoft

Development of advanced measurements of materials and manufacturing processes for manufacturers of soft materials (e.g. plastics, composites, protein solutions, surfactants, and colloidal fluids).



Photo credits: Ronald L. Bishop



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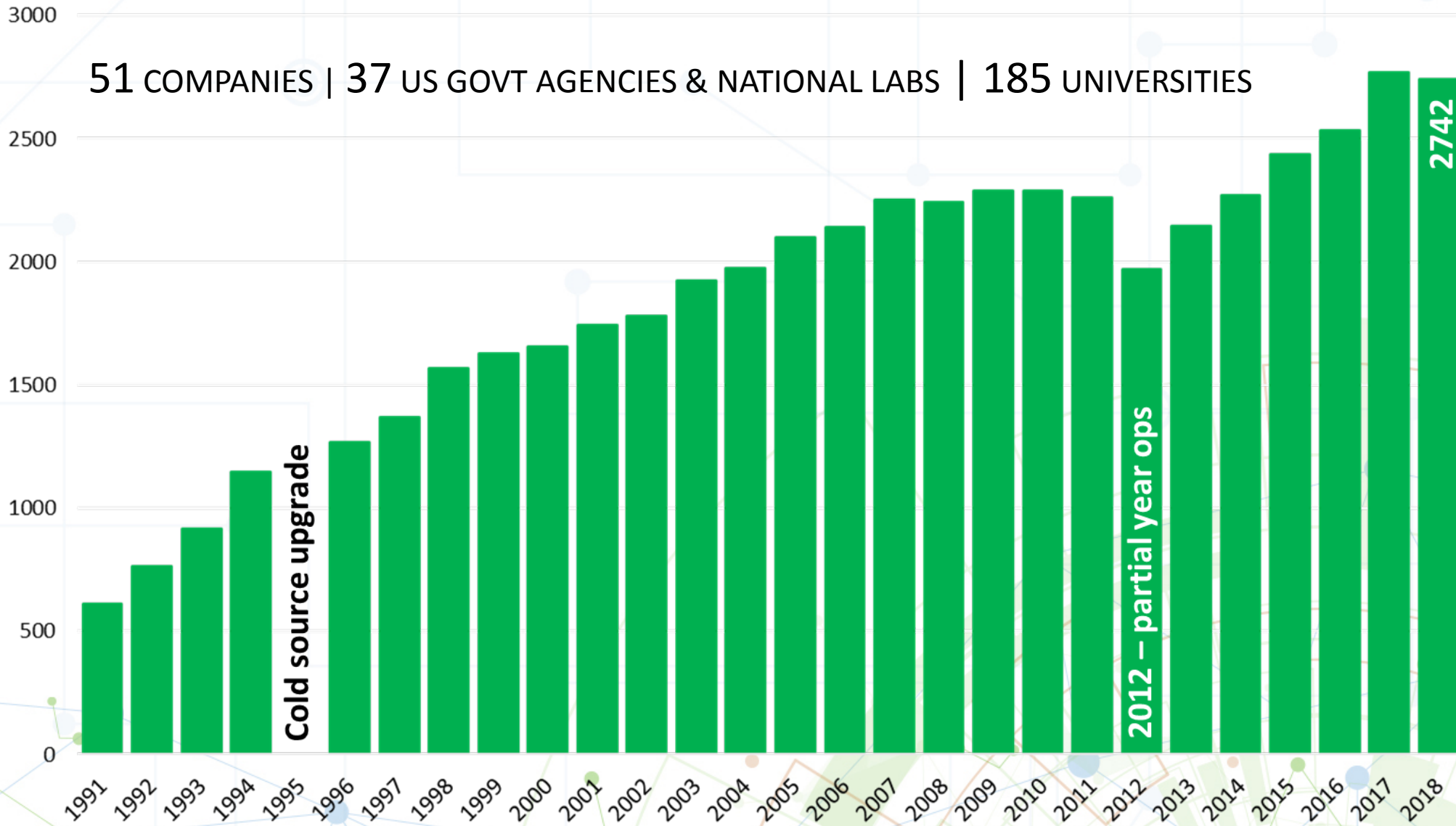
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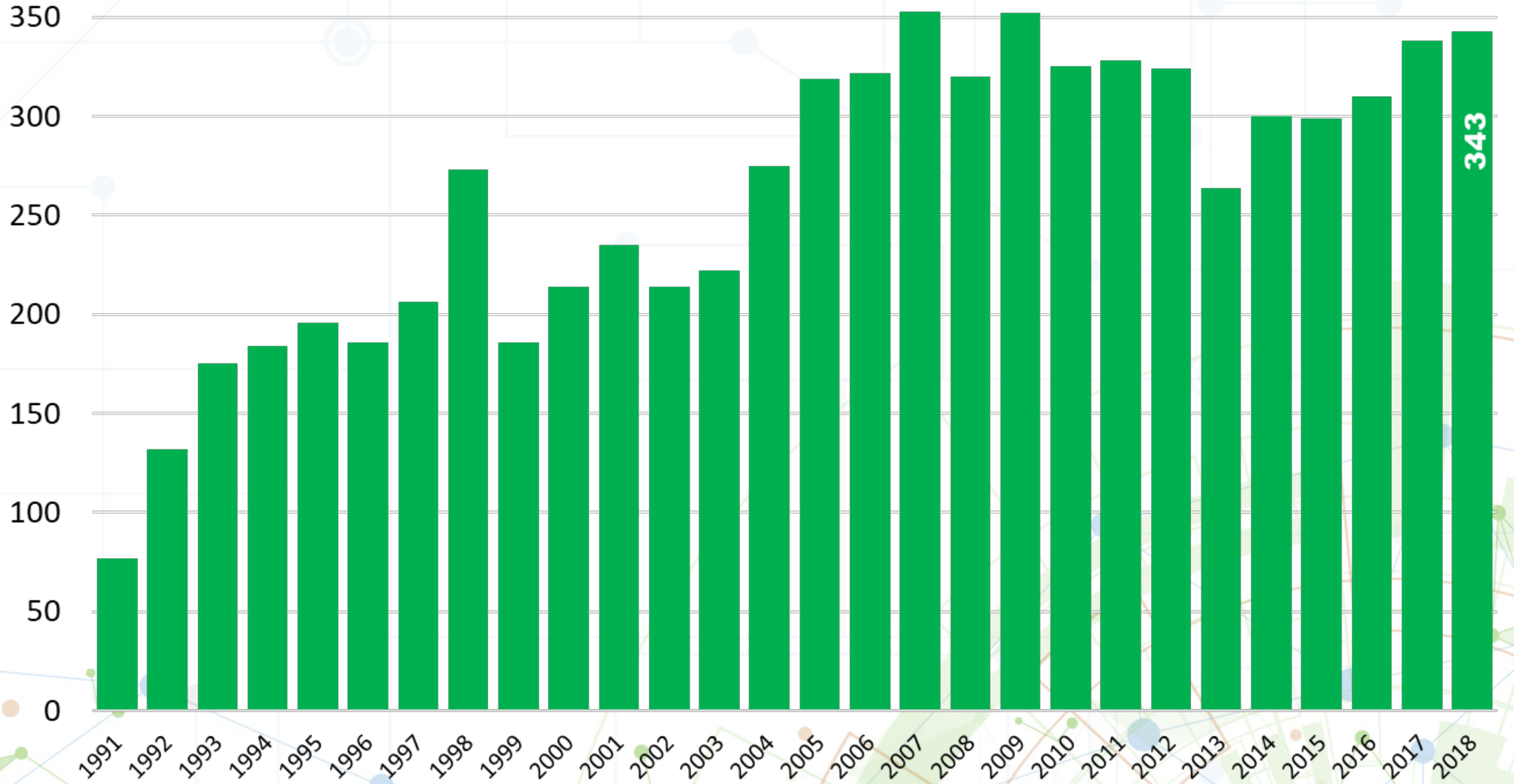
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# RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

51 COMPANIES | 37 US GOVT AGENCIES & NATIONAL LABS | 185 UNIVERSITIES



# PUBLICATIONS

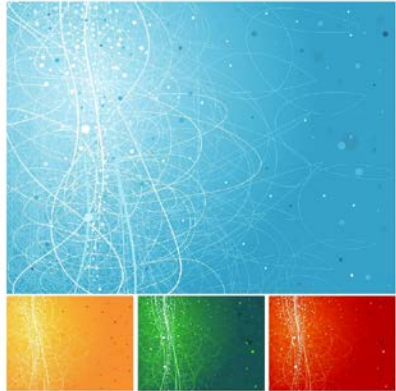


# FACILITY IMPACT

Science-Metrix

Bibliometric study on CNBC's  
scientific publications 1980-  
2017

Final analytical report



The current study uses the bibliometric record to capture the outcomes and achievements of the CNBC's teams and networks of collaborators from 1980 to 2017. It contextualizes the CNBC's activities through a comparison to three Canadian and five international benchmark institutions, which provide points of reference to guide the interpretation of bibliometric findings.

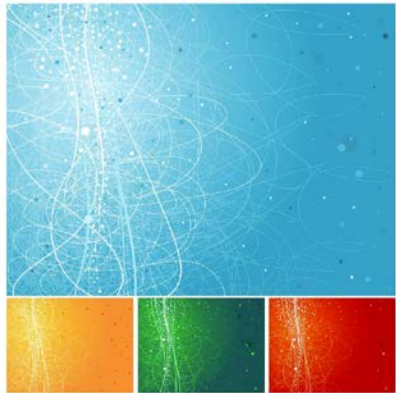
# FACILITY IMPACT

## Average of Relative Citations

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Final analytical report



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Institution	ARC*
Institut Laue-Langevin	1.03
Laboratoire Léon Brillouin (LLB)	1.06
Los Alamos Neutron Science Center (LANSCE)	1.30
Canadian Beam Neutron Centre (CNBC)	1.39
ORNL High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR)	1.57
NCNR	1.95

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\*ARC: Average of Relative Citations for 2000-2017

1.0 = world average

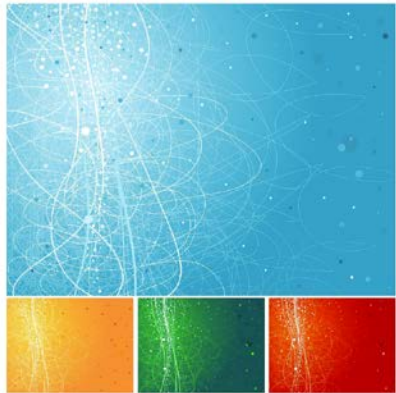
1.2 → papers cited 20% more than world average

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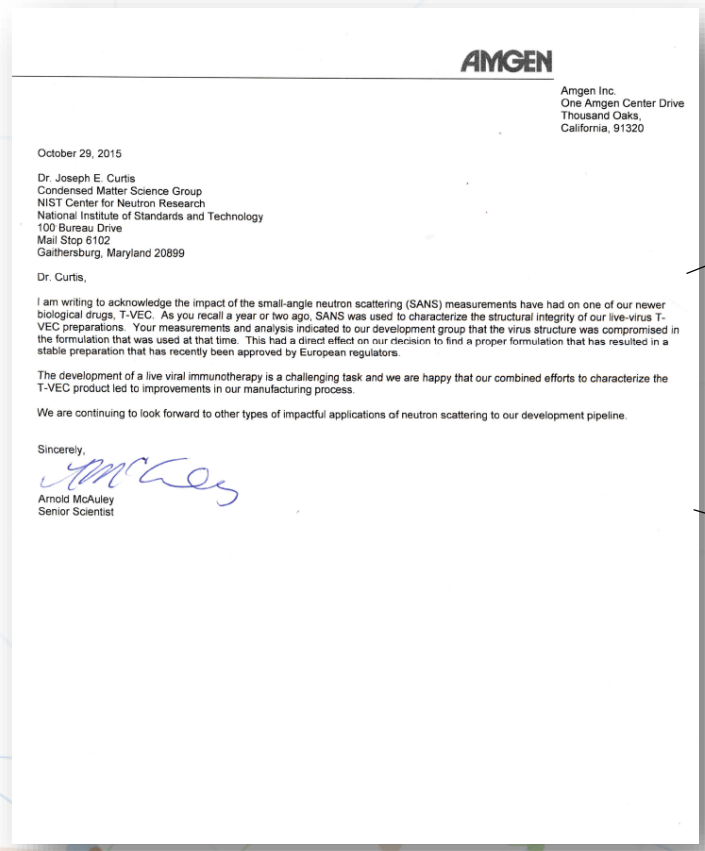


“The NCNR came in ... first by a wide margin for all citation indicators

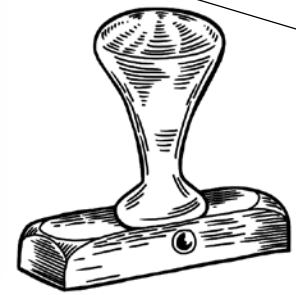
The NCNR is ... the only institution examined to have displayed consistently high performances across most indicators.”

# FACILITY IMPACT: IMLYGIC

Injectable formulation of T-VEC for treatment of melanoma



Your (SANS) measurements and analysis indicated to our development group that the virus structure was compromised in the formulation that was used at that time. This had a direct effect on our decision to find a proper formulation that has resulted in a stable preparation that has recently been approved by European regulators.



Approved by FDA



Arnold McAuley  
Amgen Senior Scientist

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# INPUT from the SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

CHRNS Review Committee  
NCNR User Group  
NCNR Users  
Beam Time Allocation Committee  
National Academies' Panel of Assessment

**NCNR Expansion Workshop**  
July 17-19, 2006 | Bethesda, MD



**Neutron Measurements for Materials  
Design & Characterization**  
August 21-22, 2014 | Potomac, MD

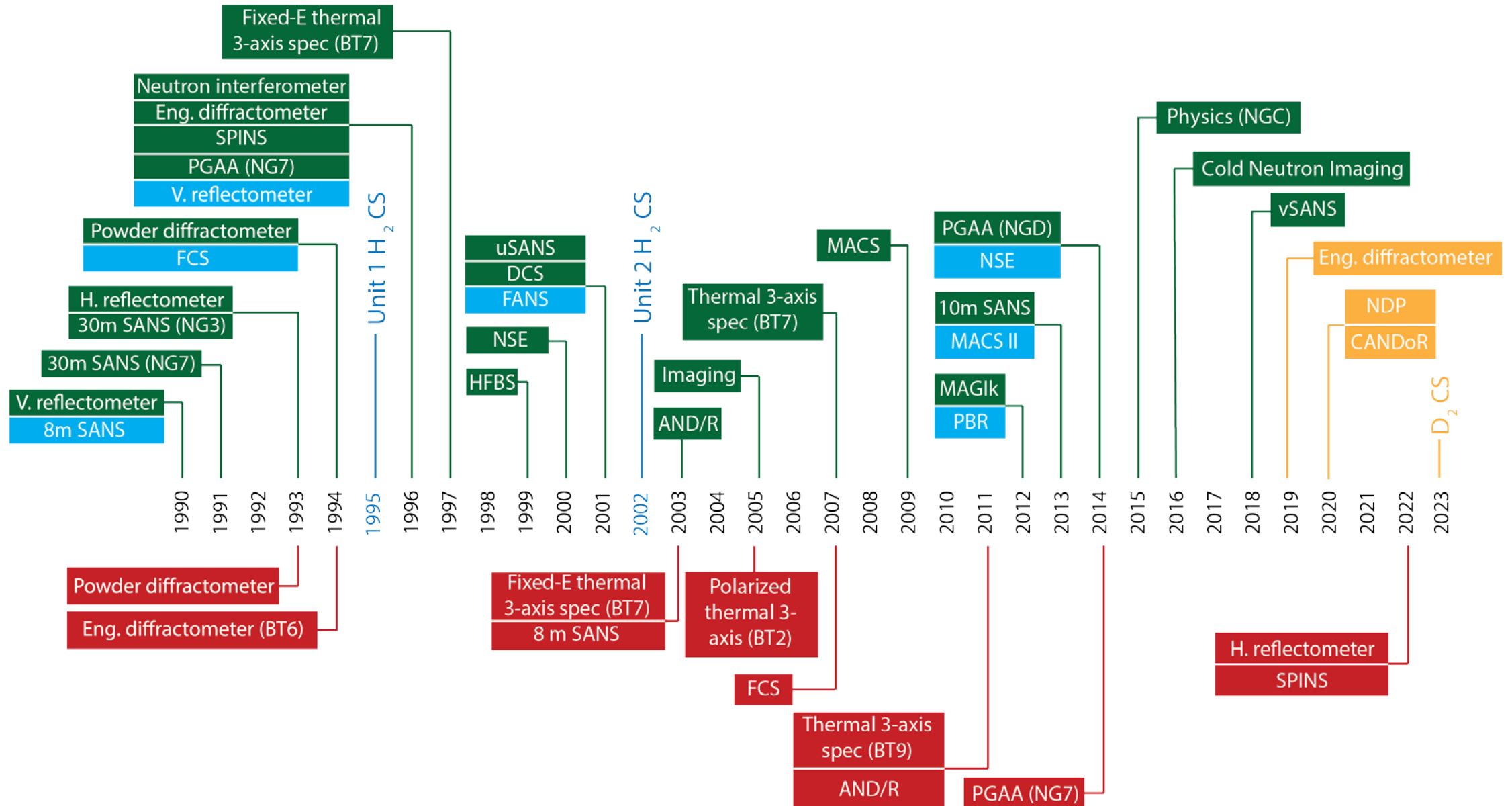


**Neutrons for Quantum Information  
Workshop**  
Nov 26, 2018 | NCNR

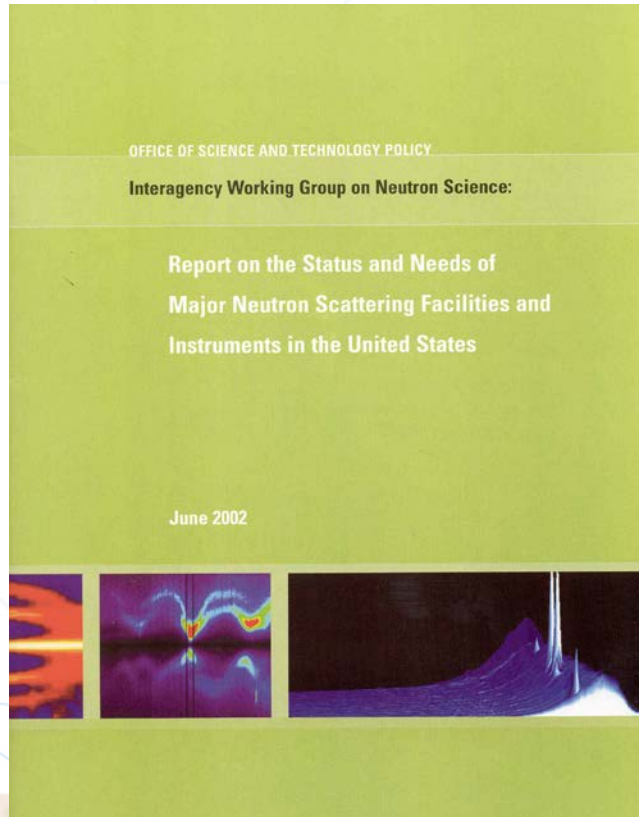


# NCNR INSTRUMENT TIMELINE

Instrument became available for users  
 Major instrument upgrade  
 Projected availability for users  
 Instrument decommissioned



# Assessing the National Needs: OSTP Report<sup>‡</sup> 2002



“The NIST facility is the only U.S. facility which currently provides a broad range of world-class capability.”

“...it is also important to improve both the number and quality of neutron scattering instruments at the Nation’s best neutron sources and to broaden access to those facilities by the U.S. research community.”

“The highest priority for federal investments in neutron scattering is to fully exploit the best U.S. neutron source capabilities—including the SNS—for the benefit of the broadest scientific community.”

<sup>‡</sup> From the Office of Science and Technology Policy Interagency Working Group on Neutron Science: *Report on the Status and Needs of Major Neutron Scattering Facilities and Instruments in the United States*, June 2002.

# Assessing the National Needs: OSTP Report<sup>‡</sup> 2002



**A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST 17 YEARS**

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<sup>‡</sup> From the Office of Science and Technology Policy Interagency Working Group on Neutron Science: *Report on the Status and Needs of Major Neutron Scattering Facilities and Instruments in the United States*, June 2002.

- 2005 FRM II user operations begin (Germany)
- 2006 **SNS first neutrons**
- 2006 OPAL first criticality (Australia)
- 2008 **IPNS ceases operations**
- 2008 J-PARC SNS first neutrons (Japan)
- 2009 ISIS STS begins operations (UK)
- 2010 HANARO begins cold source operations (South Korea)
- 2010 CARR first criticality (China) - awaiting user ops to start
- 2011 PIK (Russia) first criticality
- 2012 **NCNR completes cold neutron expansion project**
- 2012 CMRR user operations begin (China)
- 2014 **Lujan Center ceases BES-supported user operations**
- 2014 ESS construction begins (Sweden)
- 2016 RA-10 construction begins (Argentina)
- 2016 **SNS-STX receives conceptual design funding**
- 2017 **CNBC ceases operations (Canada)**
- 2018 CSNS commissioning completed (China)
- 2019 **LLB to cease operations (France)**
- 2019 **BER II to cease operations (Germany)**

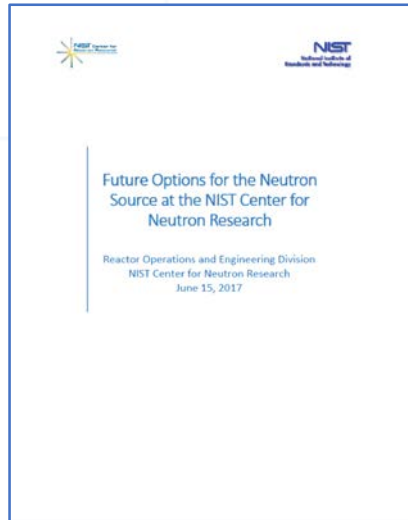
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# THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF NEUTRONS AT NIST

## *Future Options for the Neutron Source at the NCNR*

June 2017

- Maintain NBSR in current configuration
- Major upgrade to the NBSR to enhance flux
- Replace the NBSR with a new reactor



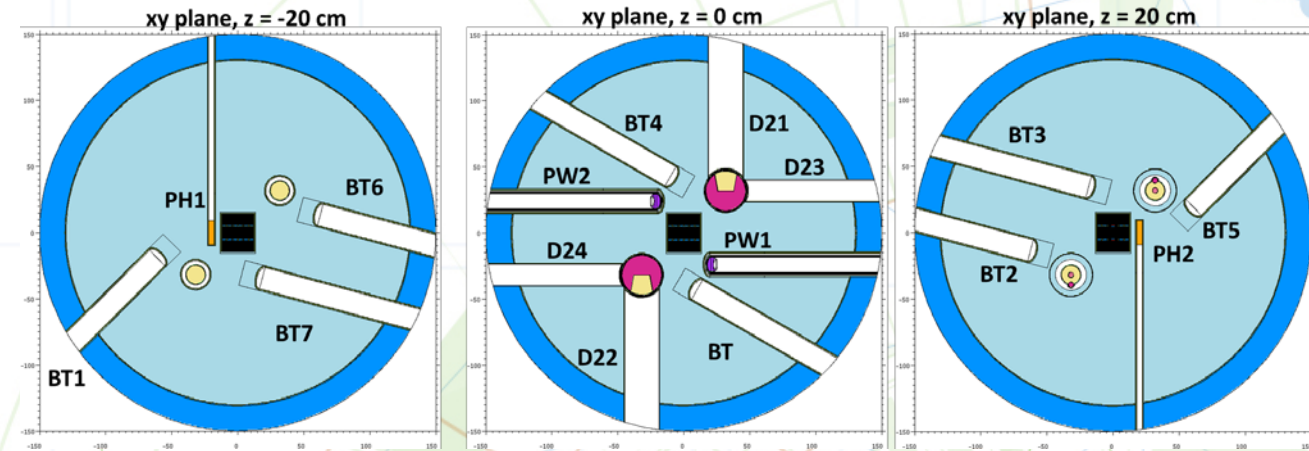
## Replacement Neutron Source

Brainstorming conceptual designs

Emphasize science with cold neutrons

Exploit new developments in CNS technology (e.g. high brightness para-H<sub>2</sub>)

National need: future NAS study



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