

# Pathways to Fusion Beyond NIF

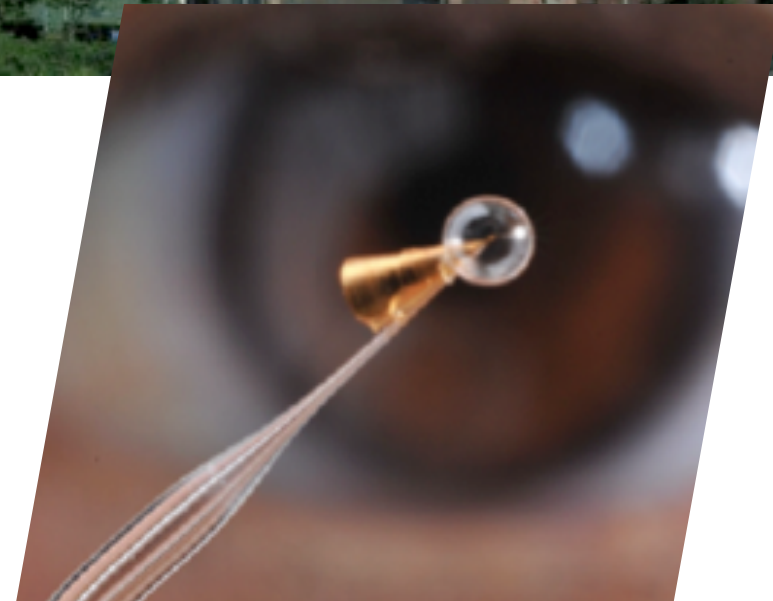
**Hiroshi AZECHI**

**Institute of Laser Engineering, Osaka University**

**Fusion Power Associates Mtg. 2013. 12. 10.**

# Fast Ignition Realization EXperiment

FIREX-I Fast Heating to 5 keV  
FIREX-II Ignition and Burn



So far, 1 keV achieved.  
Ignition temperature to be achieved.

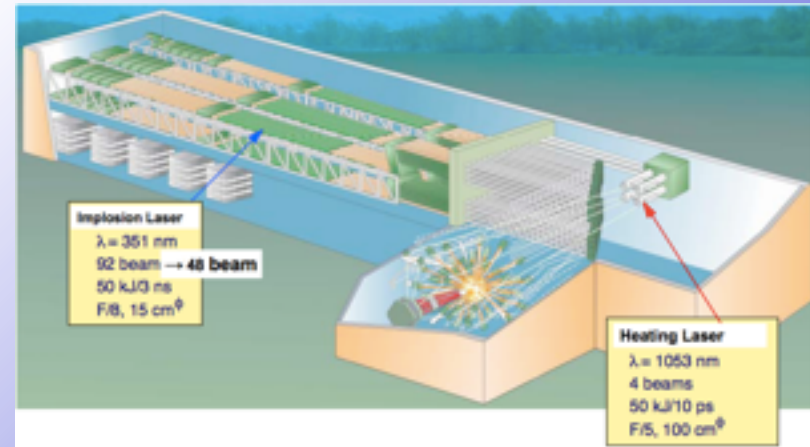
# Strategy towards Fusion Power Generation

~2010



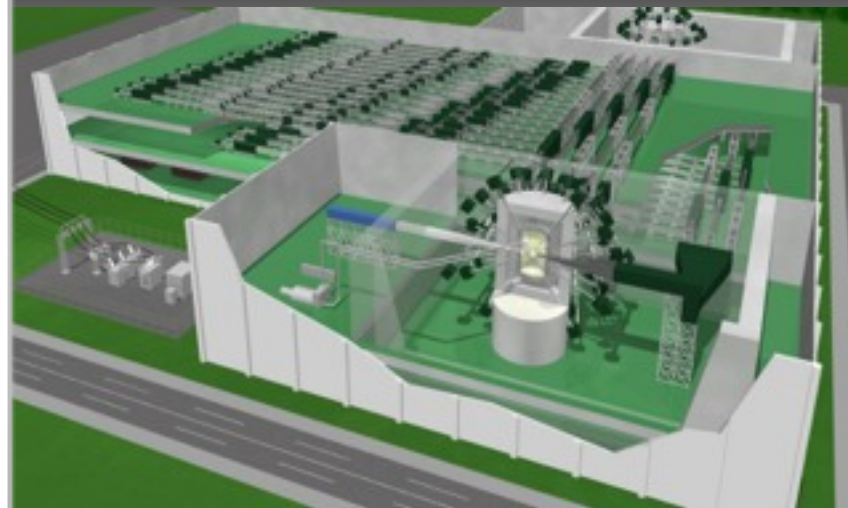
**FIREX-I: Ignition Temp**

~2020



**FIREX-II: Ignition&Burn**

~2030



**LIFT: Power Generation**

Atomic Energy Commission of Japan reported (Oct. 2005):

“Based on its (FIREX-I) achievement, decide whether it should be advanced to the second-phase program aiming at the realization of ignition and burning”

\*Laboratory Inertial Fusion Test

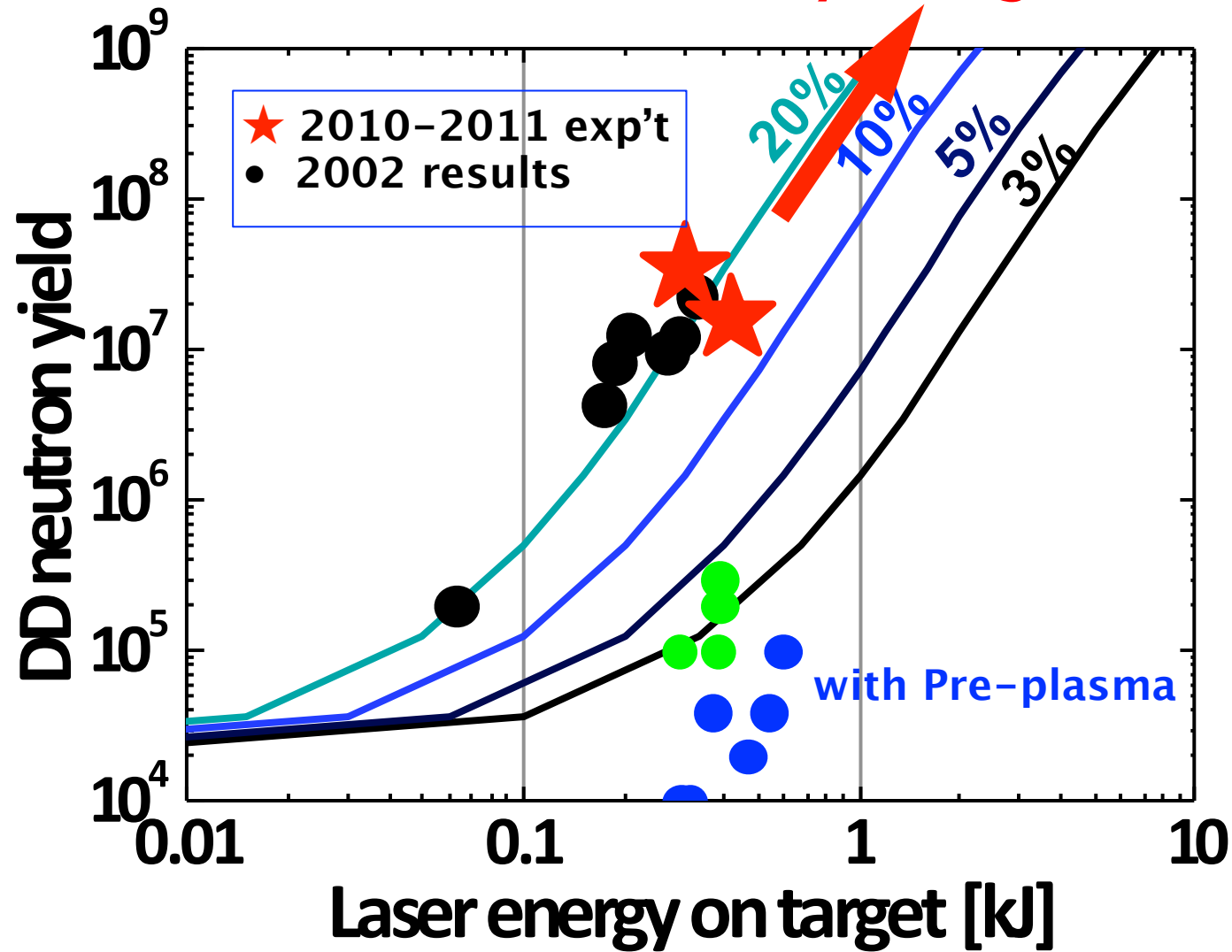
# Are we ready?

- ✓ **Reactor Core Plasma**
- Reactor Technology Elements**
  - Laser**
  - Target injection and tracking**
  - Reactor System**

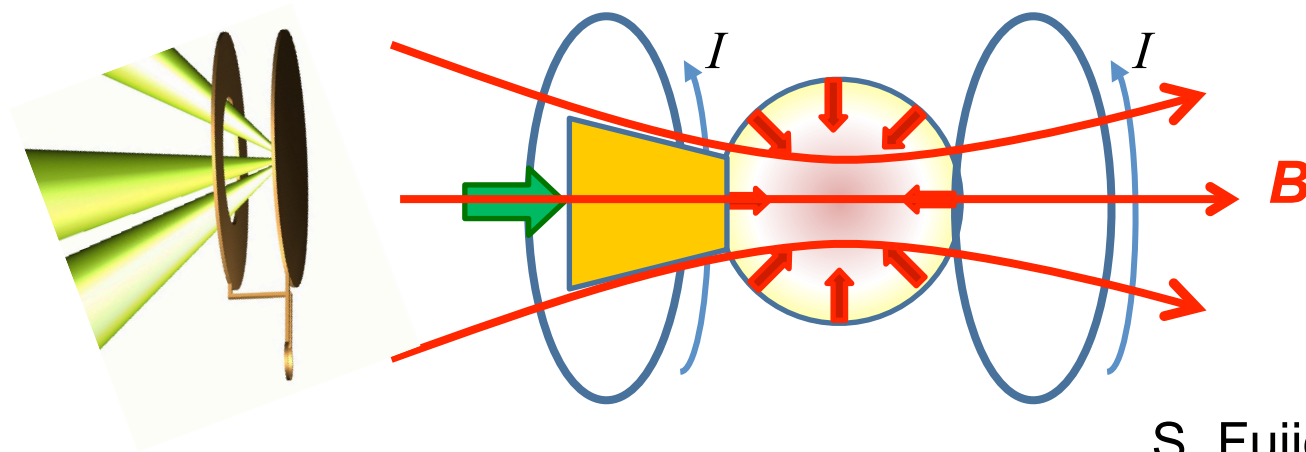
**Alliance**

# Yield increase

Can we keep the coupling efficiency at higher intensity?

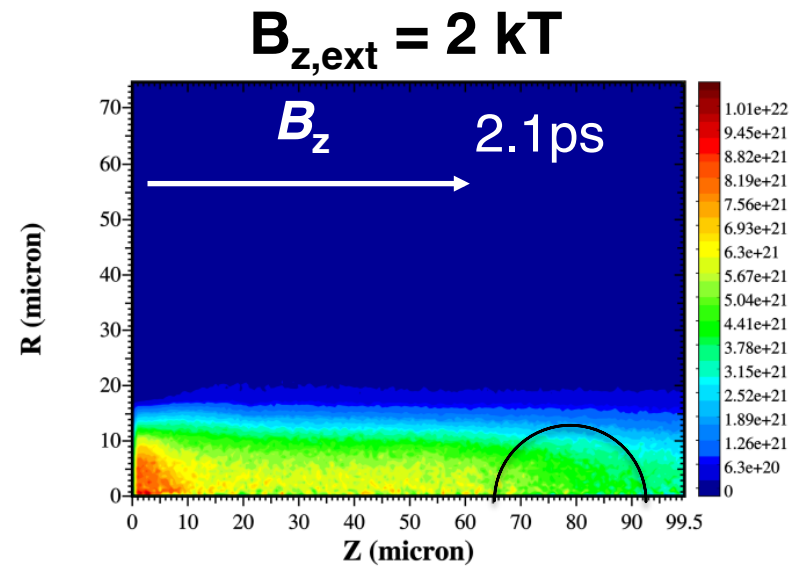
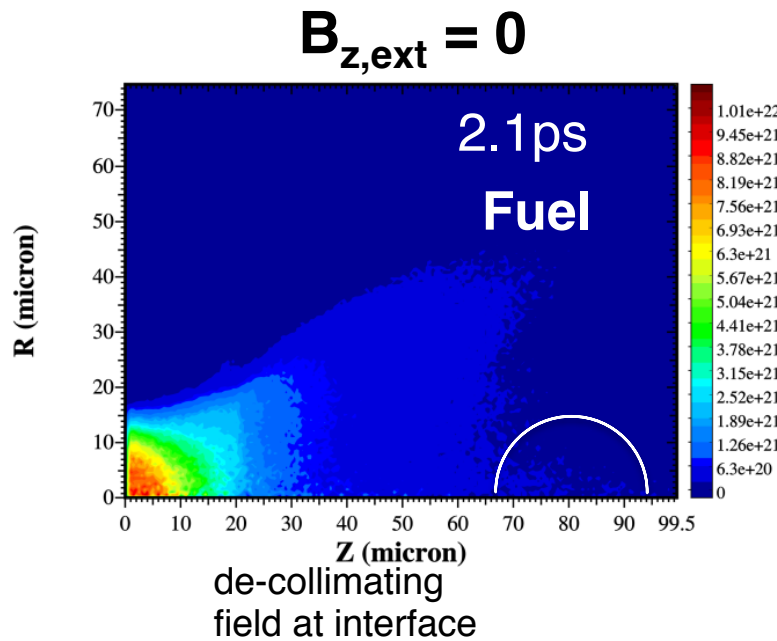


# Magnetized Fast Ignition: Collimation



S. Fujioka

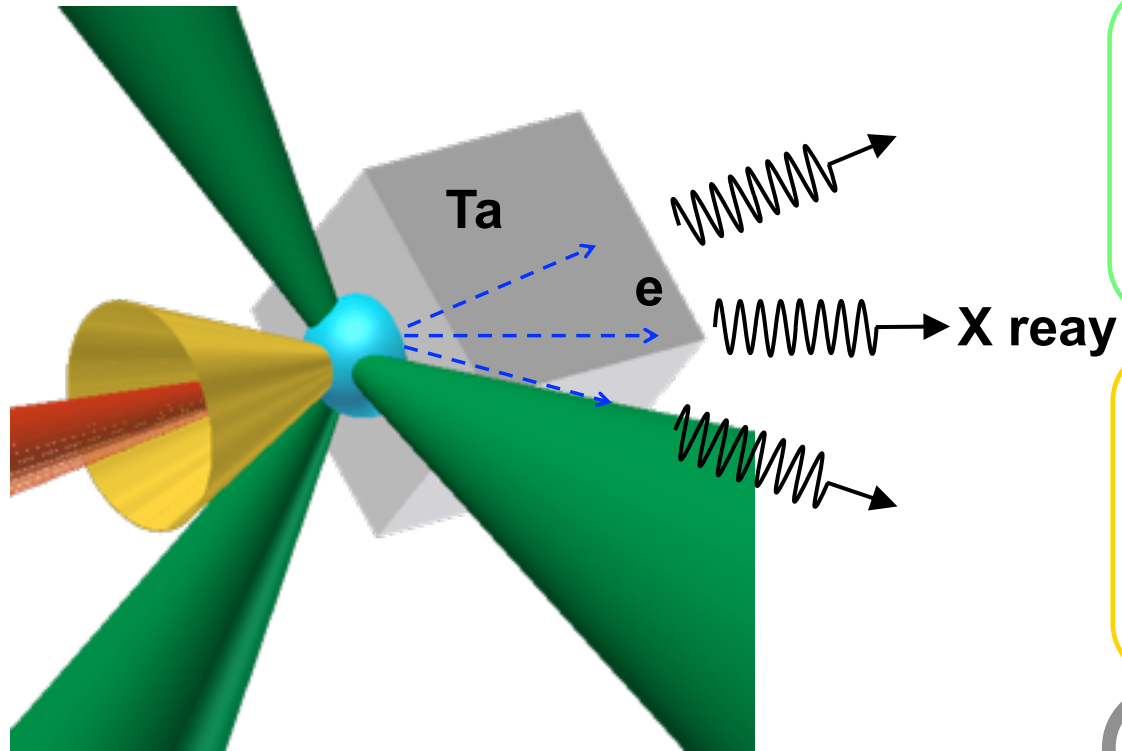
$n_b$   
( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )



Simulation by J. Honrubia

Necessary field is demonstrated.

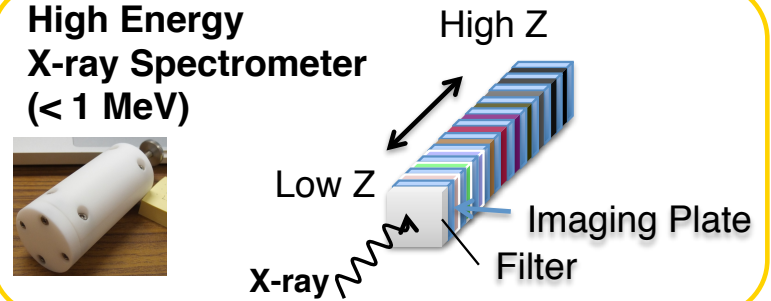
# Magnetized Fast Ignition: Diagnostics



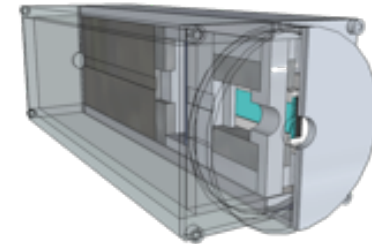
LAUE Spectrometer (<0.1 MeV)



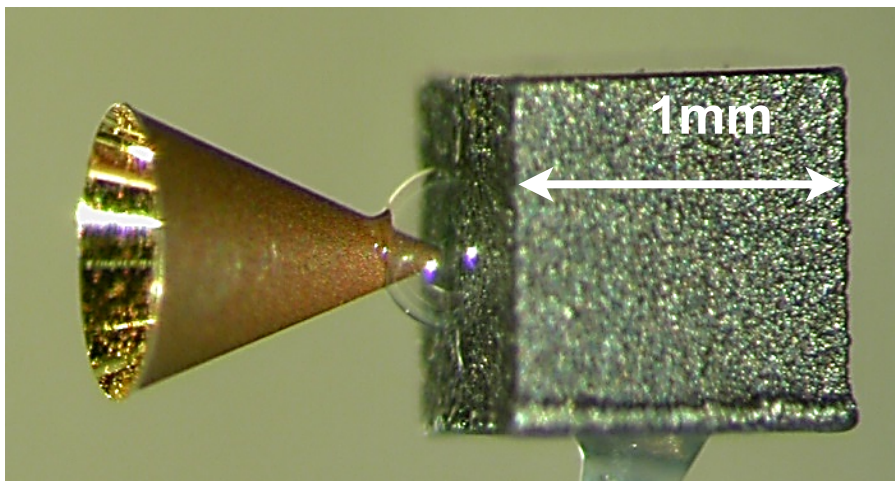
High Energy X-ray Spectrometer (< 1 MeV)



Compton  $\gamma$ -ray spectrometer (0.5 - 5 MeV)



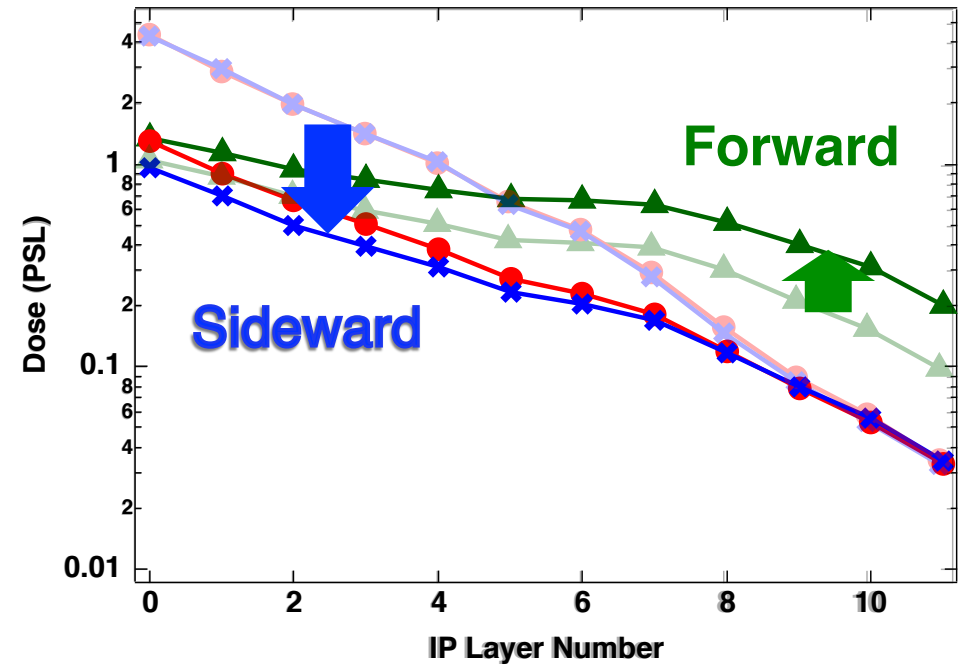
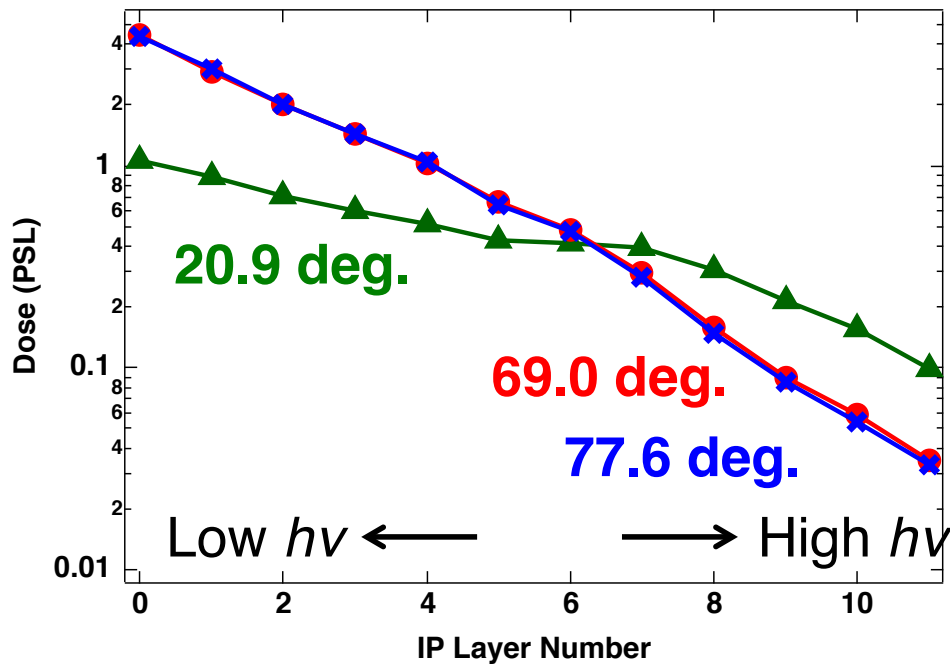
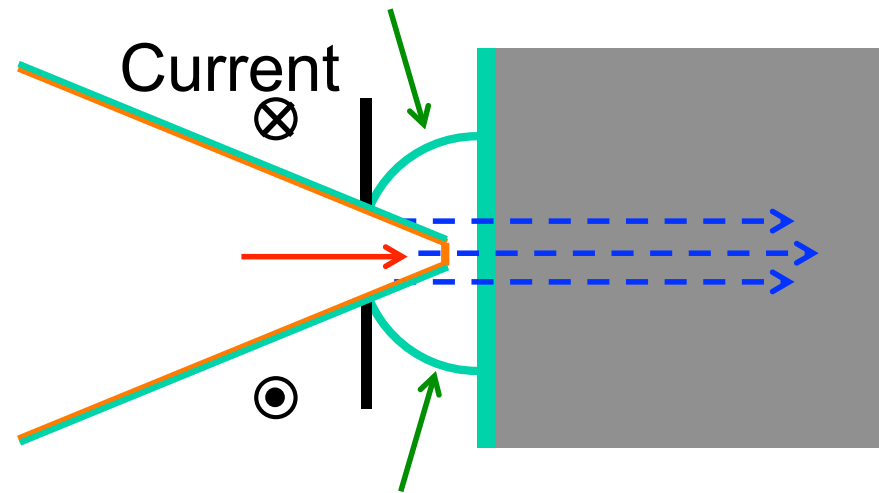
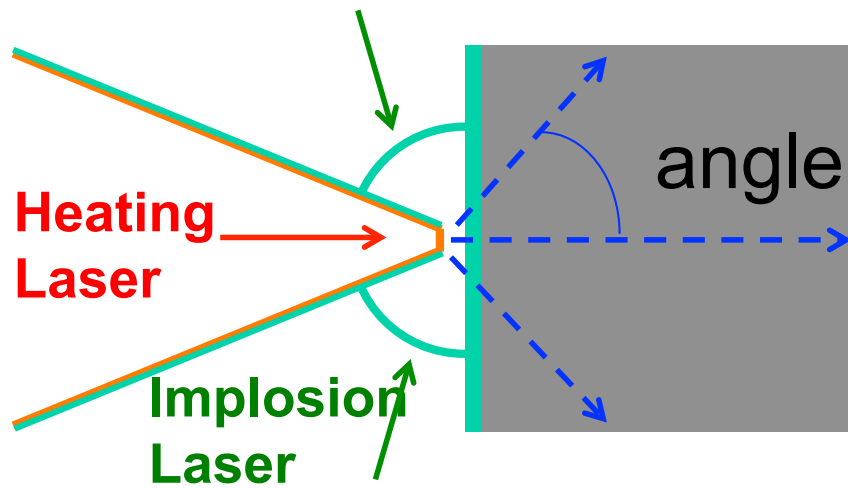
( $\gamma, n$ ) reaction  $\gamma$ -ray spectrometer (3 - 30 MeV)



# Magnetized Fast Ignition: Collimation

**No Field**

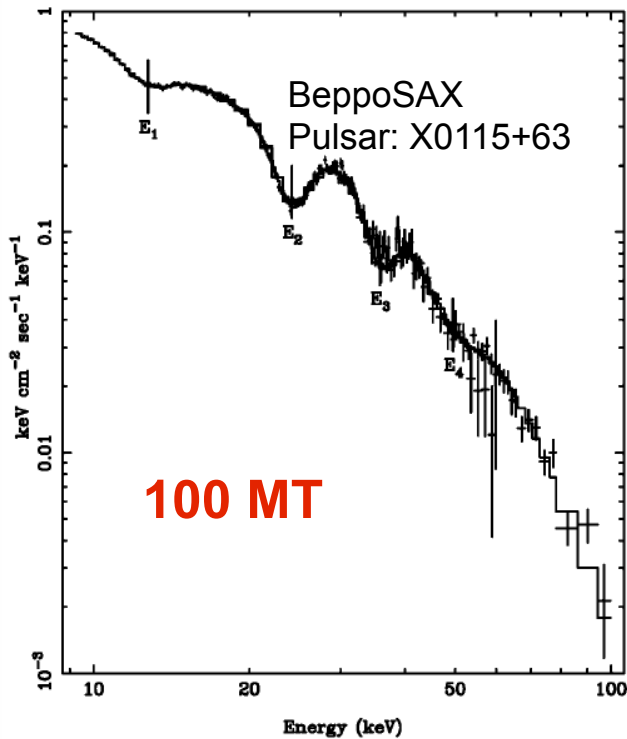
**Strong Field**



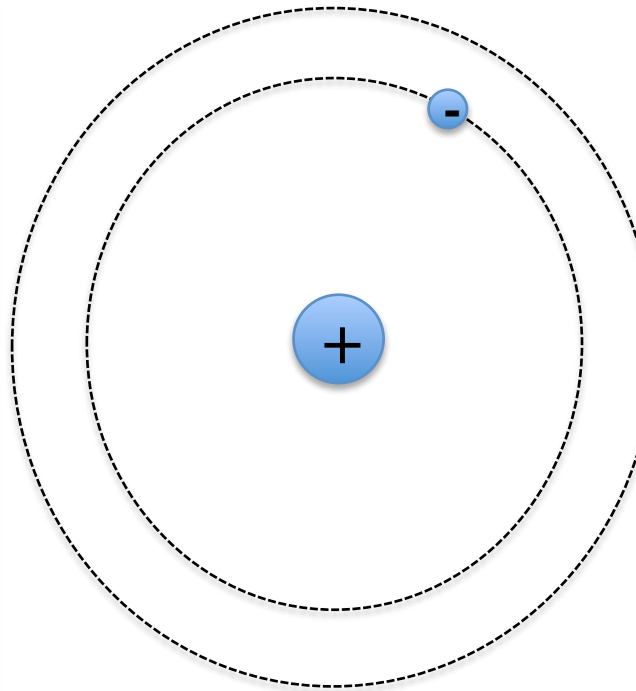


# Amusement: Landau quantization

## Electron around B-field



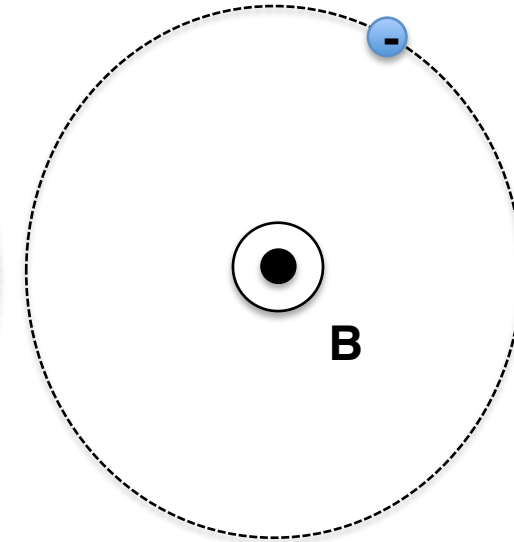
## Electron around Nucleus



$$E = -\frac{2mZ^2e^4}{n^2\hbar^2}$$

## Electron around B-field

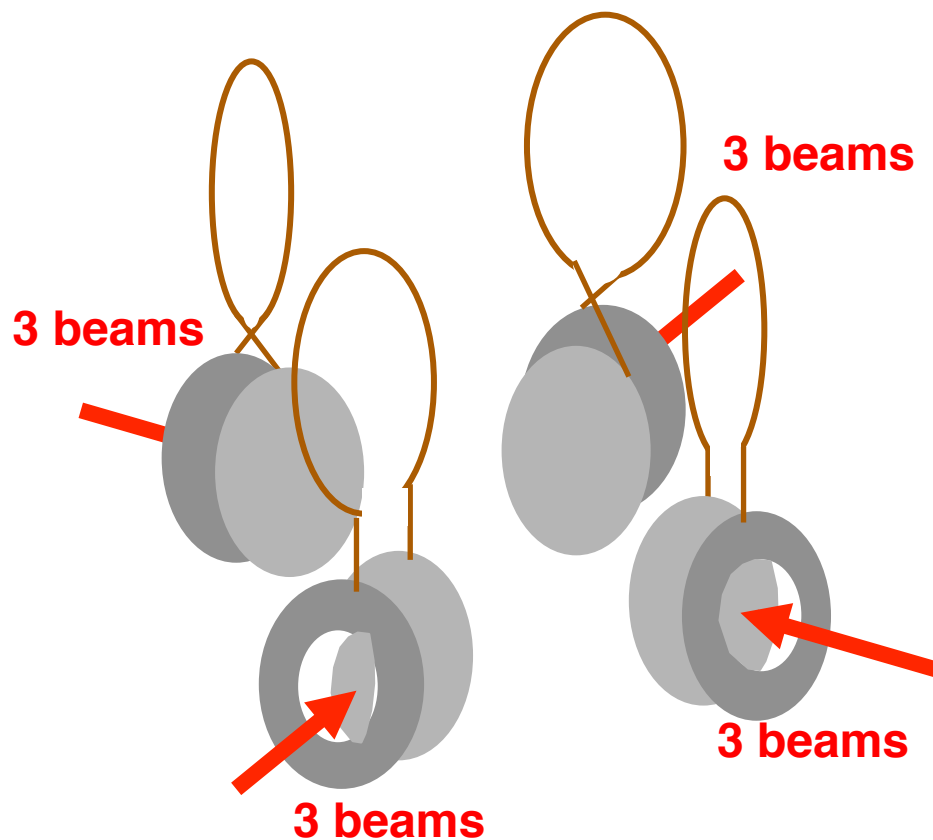
1 eV @ 10 kT



$$E = n\hbar\omega_c = n\hbar \frac{eB}{m}$$

# Amusement: Micro Tokamak

Cusp



Tokamak

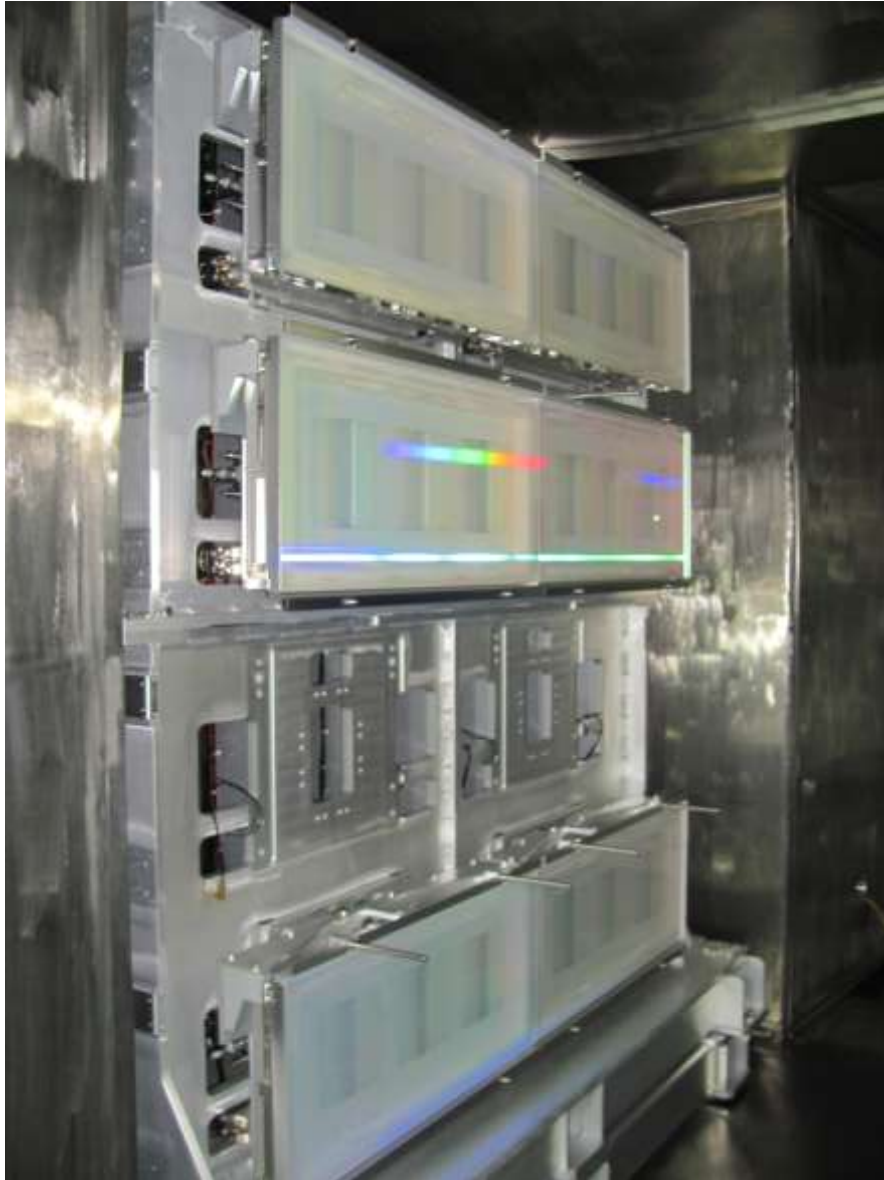


Driven by ...



$10^4$  times B field sustains  $10^8$  times density plasma: mm Tokamak!?

# Full operation of LFEX on Nov. 2014.



Currently, compressor gratings are installed for three beams.

# Four Campaigns in three years

FY2012				FY2013				FY2014				FY2015			
4	7	10	1	4	7	10	1	4	7	10	1	4	7	10	1

3 beams

Laser Development


4 beams

DFM1 DFM2

Campaign 1	 Heating Basics		
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Campaign 2

 Heating Scaling

Campaign 3		Heating Scaling 	
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Campaign 4

Ignition Temperature 

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**Alliance**

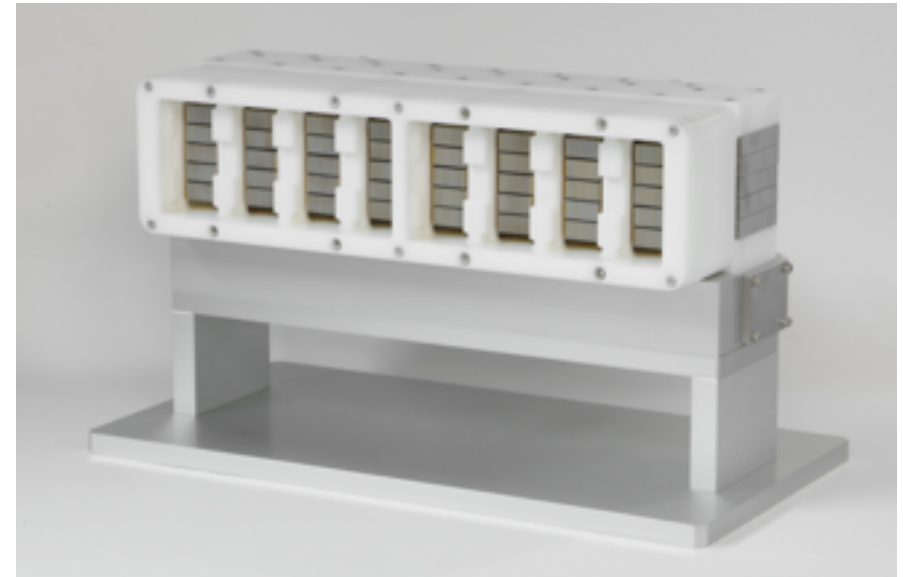
# From Flush Lumps to Laser Diodes

## Flash Lamps



**Broad emission spectra  
Inefficient & low rep**

## Laser Diodes



**Emission matches absorption line**



**1x1.5 cm<sup>2</sup>  
5-kW module  
15 k\$ → 500 \$**

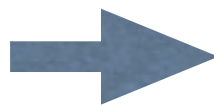
**HAMAMATSU**  
PHOTON IS OUR BUSINESS

**high efficiency and heat suppression**

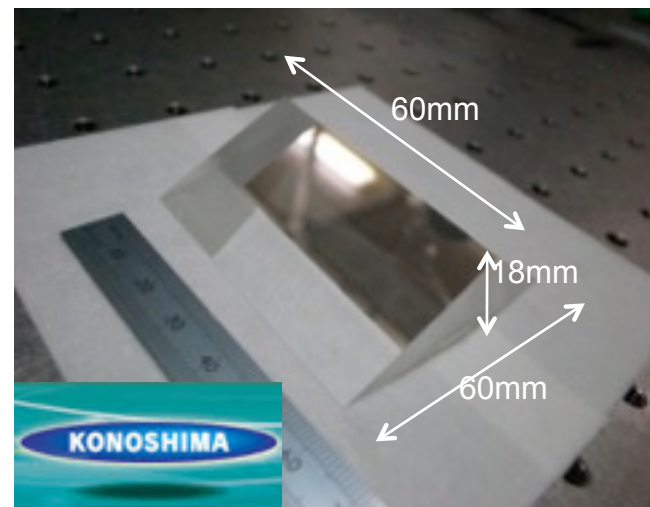
## Laser Glasses



- Glass→Large optics
- Glass→Very low thermal conductivity



## Yb: YAG Cooled Ceramic Crystal

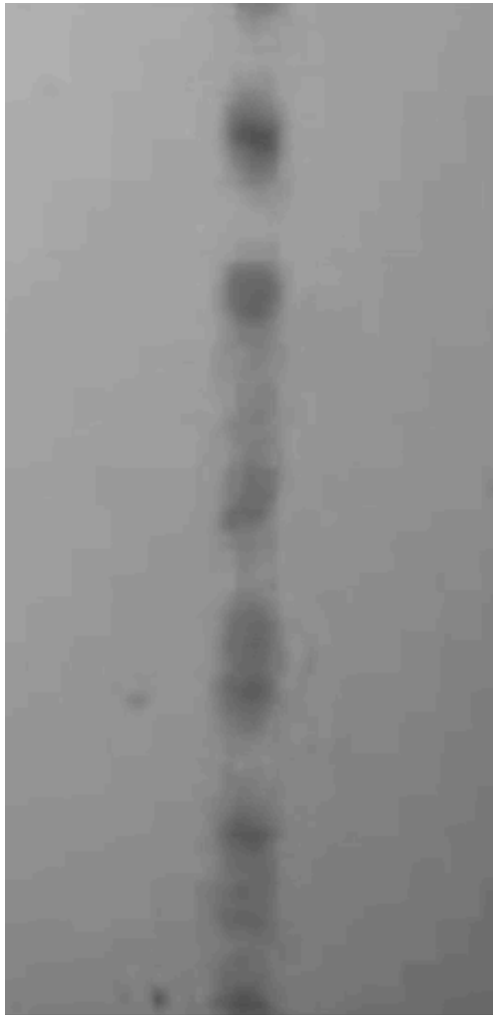


- Crystal→High thermal cond.
- Ceramic→Large optics

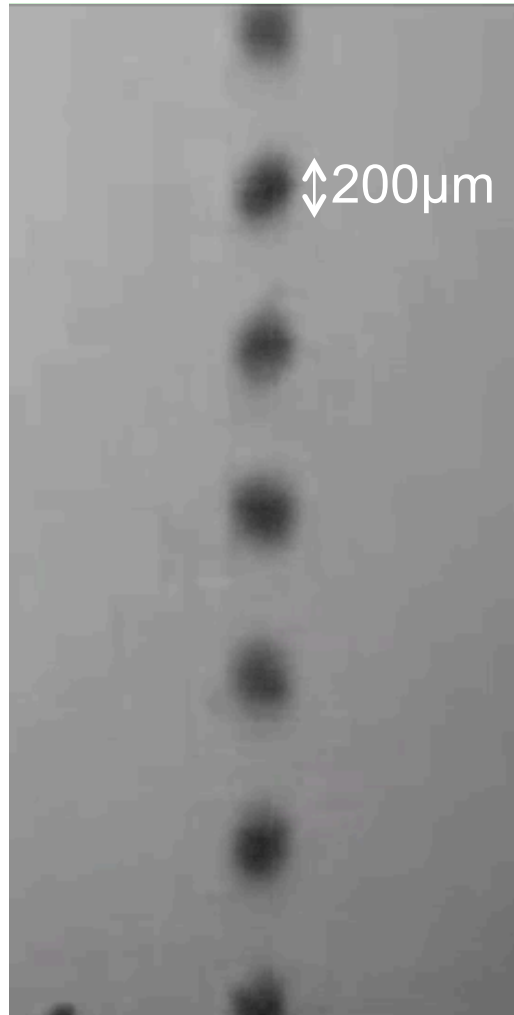
Several 100s increase of thermal conductivity enables 500 Hz rep rate, much higher than reactor requirement.

# Target Injection and Beam Pointing

Strobe backlight



Synchronized



Laser fire  
百発百中



Injection is demonstrated

→Demo of reactor core plasma is critical



# Are we ready?

**Reactor Core Plasma**  
**Reactor Technology Elements**  
**Laser**  
**Target injection and tracking**  
**Reactor System**

✓ **Alliance**

# Industry's Engagement into IFE Field

President Emeritus,  
Shoichiro Toyota, visited  
ILE, Osaka

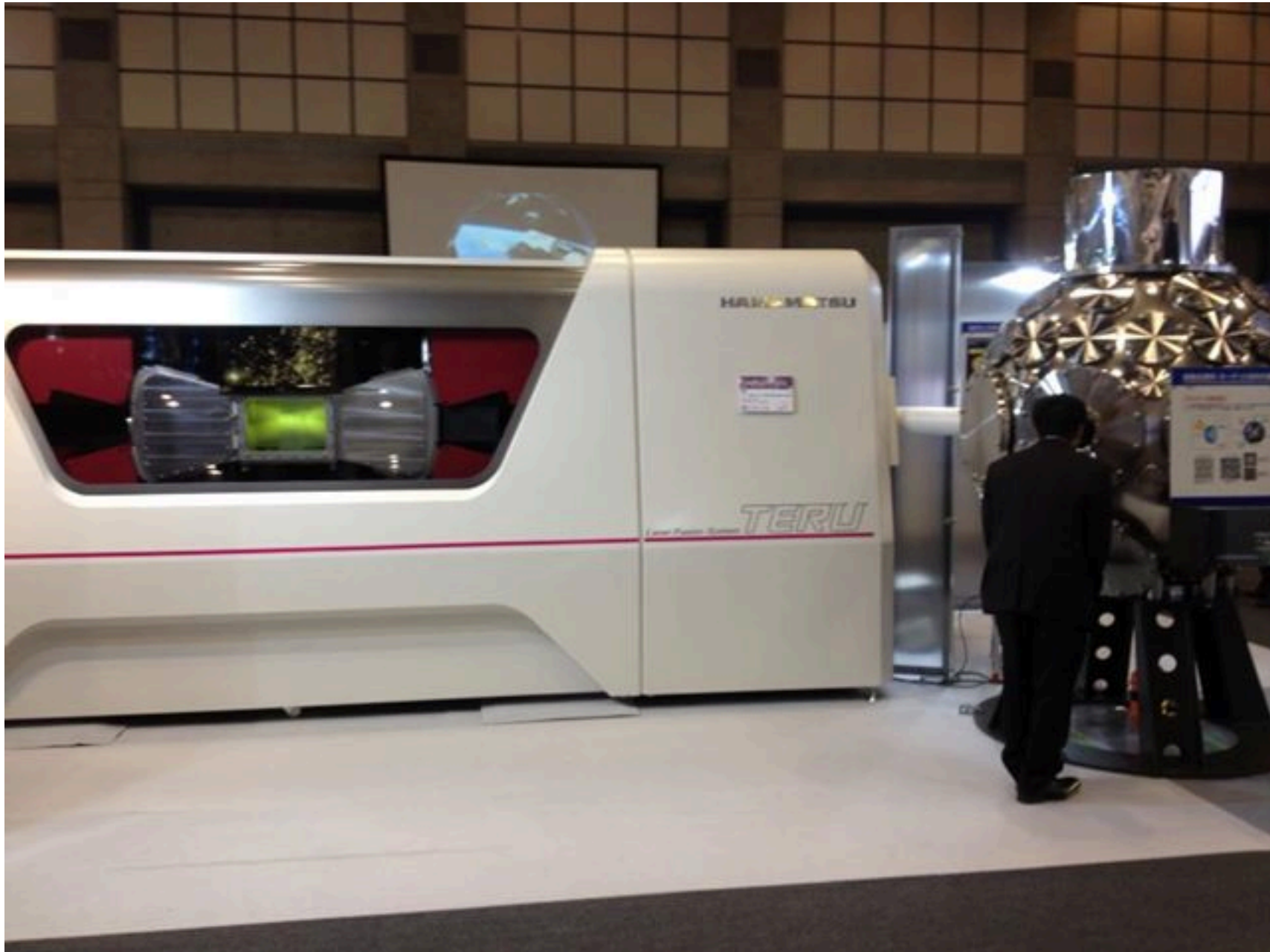


Air & Water Jet Loom@  
Toyota Techno Museum



Wept injection:  $>10$  Hz, 80 m/s  
 $\ll$ mm accuracy

# Hamamatsu and Toyota have started private Laser Fusion Program.



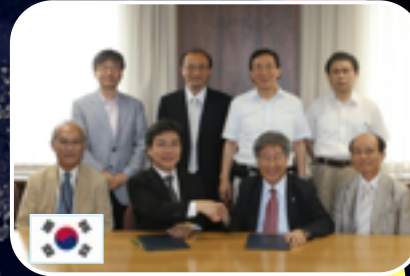
# International Alliance on IFE

HiPER Shock Ign.



Europe

Asia



LIFE Indirect drive



US



Japan



LIFT Fast Ign.

400 people got together.



The Eighth International Conference on Inertial Fusion Sciences and Applications

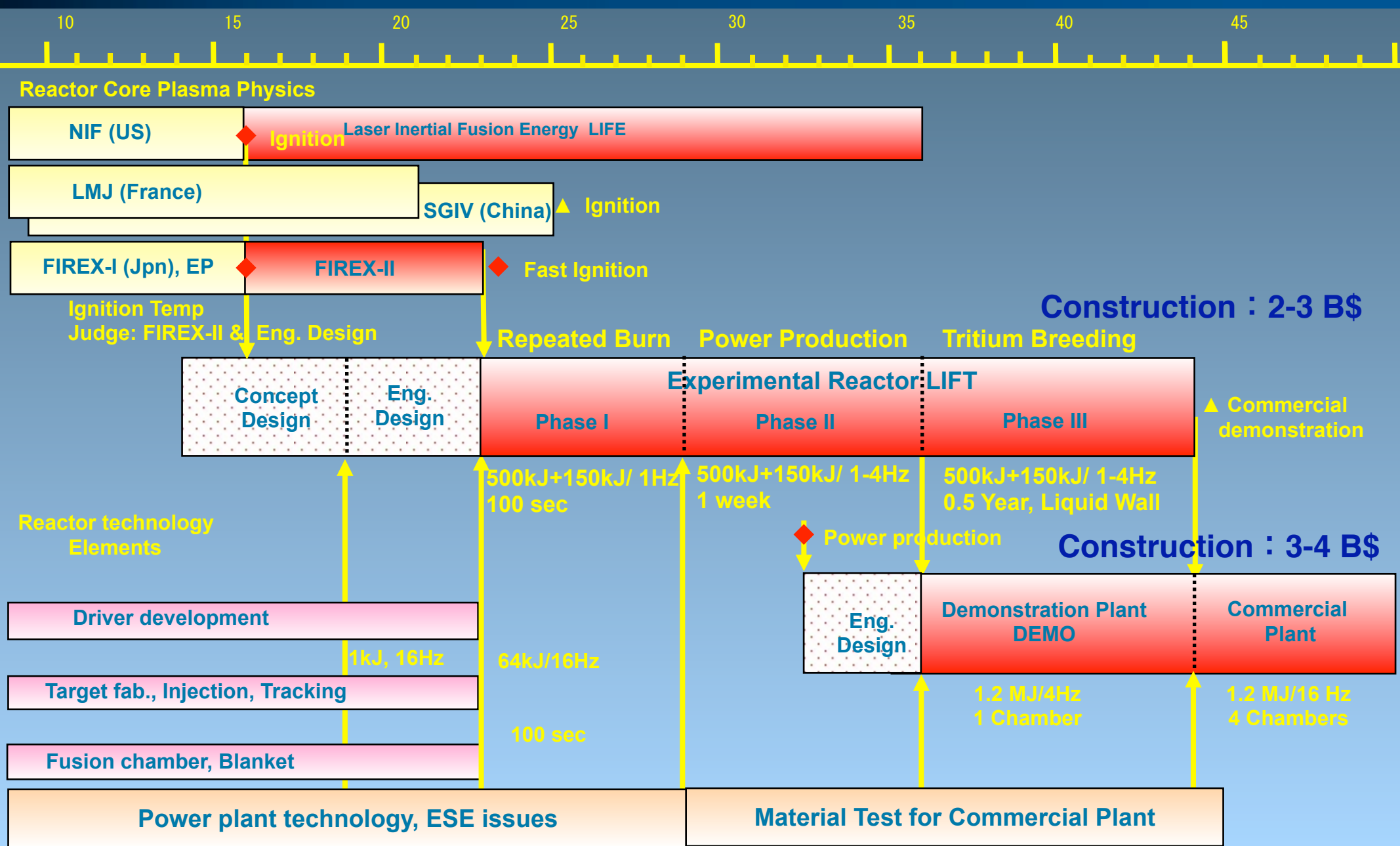
# IFSA2013 Nara

September 8 – 13, 2013

Nara Prefectural New Public Hall, Nara, Japan



# Experimental reactor LIFT integrates all physics and engineering activities.



(i-)LIFT is Laser based Fast Track. 2013/9/8

- Fusion provides limitless energy source, has no danger of nuclear runaway, and emits neither warming gas nor high-level radioactive waists.
- After 50 years from the innovation of lasers, it is an eve of the first controlled fusion burn in humankind history.
- Compactness of fast ignition will accelerate inertial fusion energy development.
- IFE physic and engineering programs would converge onto an experimental reactor, that will **LIFT up** people's spirits.