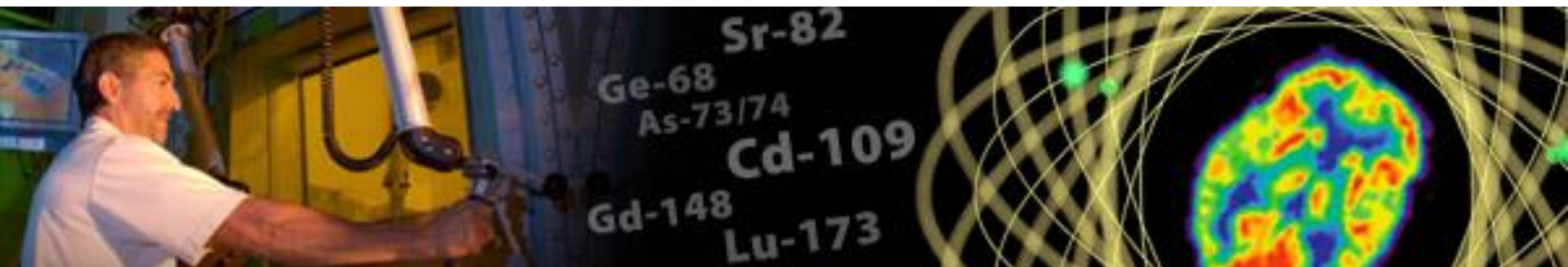




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# The DOE Isotope Program Annual Update and Perspective on Nuclear Data



**Workshop for Applied Nuclear Data Activities (WANDA 2022)**  
*Connecting the humans behind the nuclear data*  
**February 28, 2022**

***Dr. Ethan Balkin***

**Program Manager for Isotope R&D**

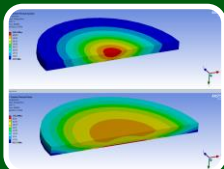
**Office Isotope R&D and Production, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy**



Produce and/or distribute radioactive and stable isotopes that are in short supply; includes by-products, surplus materials and related isotope services



Maintain the infrastructure required to produce and supply priority isotope products and related service



Conduct R&D on new and improved isotope production and processing techniques which can make available priority isotopes for research and application. Develop workforce.

**DOE IP is both a producer and consumer of nuclear data.**

## Briefly:

- 1) We produce isotopes in short supply**
- 2) We develop novel, cutting edge, approaches to isotope production (often the only producer globally)**
- 3) As the facilities we utilize are upgraded or newly commissioned (FRIB), we need to be able to optimize production**
- 4) This means we need a lot of new and updated nuclear data**

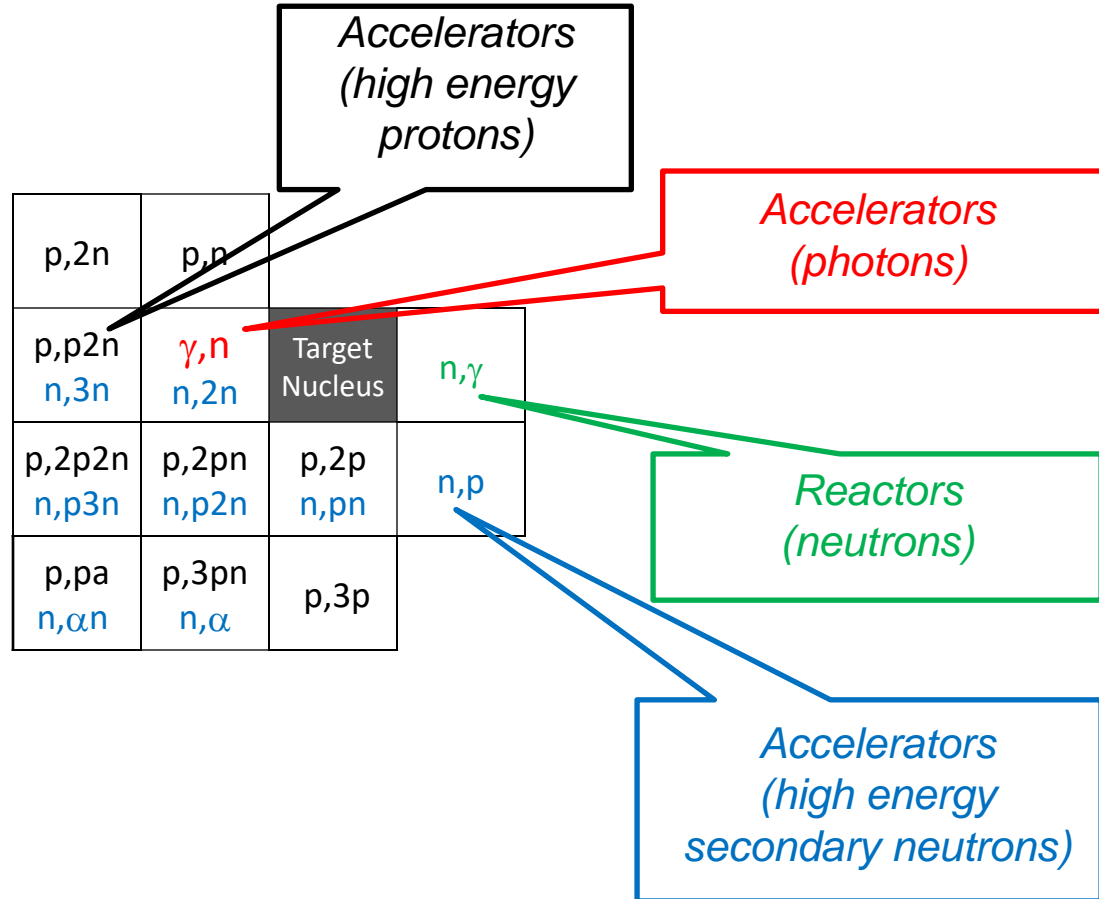


## ■ Cross sections for reactor production

- Effective cross sections
- Excitation functions

## ■ Energy resolved cross sections for accelerator production with

- High energy protons
- High energy neutrons
- Photons



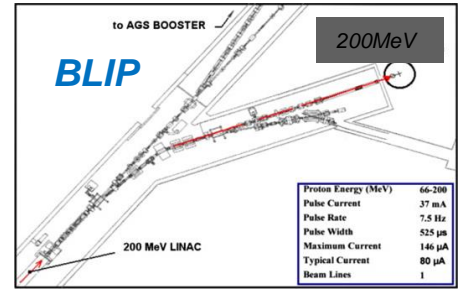
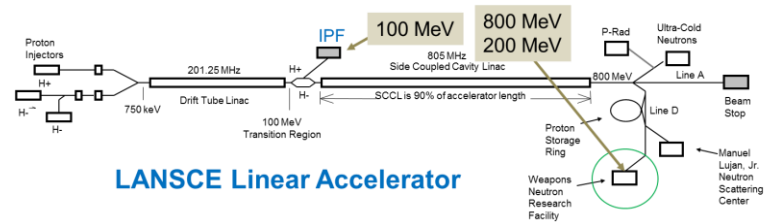
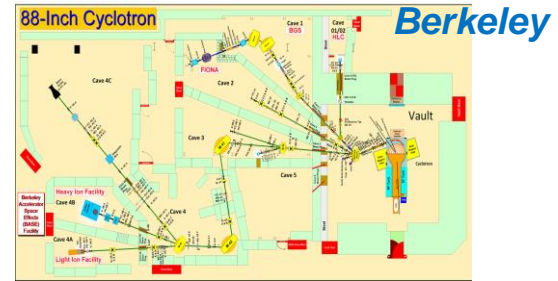


## Expanding measurement capability to multiple facilities to better cover proton energy ranges up to 200 MeV

➤ Berkeley (<60 MeV) - includes Faraday cup style chamber for monitor reaction measurements

➤ LANL – IPF (40-100 MeV) – includes new low beam current measurement capability for monitor reaction measurements (100 nA with 1% accuracy)

➤ BNL – BLIP (100-200 MeV)



Proton Energy (MeV)	66-200
Pulse Current	37 mA
Pulse Rate	7.5 Hz
Pulse Width	525 μs
Maximum Current	146 μA
Typical Current	80 μA
Beam Lines	1



## ■ High Energy Protons

- Th+p for production of therapy isotopes  $^{225}\text{Ac}$ ,  $^{227}\text{Th}$  and  $^{223}\text{Ra}$
- $^{\text{nat}}\text{Sb}$ ,  $^{121}\text{Sb}+\text{p}$  for production of  $^{119}\text{Te}/^{119}\text{Sb}$ , a promising Auger e-emitter for therapy
- La+p for production of  $^{134}\text{Ce}/^{134}\text{La}$  (PET analogues for  $^{225}\text{Ac}$  and  $^{227}\text{Th}$ )
- Fe+p, Cu+p for production  $^{52\text{g}}\text{Mn}$ ,  $^{54}\text{Mn}$ ,  $^{48}\text{Cr}$ ,  $^{55}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{58\text{m}}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{57}\text{Ni}$
- Nb+p for  $^{93}\text{Nb}(\text{p},4\text{n})^{90}\text{Mo}$  as monitor reaction
- As+p for production of  $^{72}\text{Se}$  – generator for  $^{72}\text{As}$  (PET imaging isotope of the  $^{72}\text{As}/^{77}\text{As}$  theranostic pair)

## ■ High Energy Neutrons

- Production of  $^{193\text{m}}\text{Pt}$ ,  $^{64}\text{Cu}/^{67}\text{Cu}$ ,  $^{47}\text{Sc}$ ,  $^{77}\text{As}$  via (n,p)

## ■ Photonuclear

- $^{48}\text{Ti}(\gamma,\text{p})^{47}\text{Sc}$ ,  $^{196}\text{Pt}(\gamma,\text{n})^{195\text{m}}\text{Pt}$

## ■ Low energies

- $^{232}\text{Th}(\text{p},\text{x})^{229}\text{Th}$  for production of  $^{229}\text{Th}/^{225}\text{Ac}$
- $^{238}\text{U}(\text{p},\text{xn})$  and  $^{235}\text{U}(\text{d},\text{xn})^{235-237}\text{Np}$  for Production of  $^{236\text{g}}\text{Np}$

- **At best charged particle data is old**
- **Many times it is non-existent**
  - **DOE IP's existing investment is the first step to addressing IP related needs**
  - **Charged particle Evaluated Nuclear Data File or ChENDF is the ultimate goal**
    - **Evaluated Reliable Resource**
    - **Underpinned by predictive codes**
  - **Did not solicit proposals for ChENDF in FY21 NDIAWG FOA**
  - **As of today, still not ready**
    - **Developing a Programmatic posture related to AI/ML**
      - **Will directly inform how this takes shape**



# Cross-Cutting Needs & Funding Challenges

- **The need for reliable evaluated nuclear data continues across all user communities**
  - Charged particle induced reactions
  - Neutron induced reactions for isotope production
  - Phototransmutation
- **Budget challenges began to present themselves in FY21 and have remained present in FY22**
  - Number of submissions
  - High-quality science
  - Reviewers feeling strain of the past 2-years
    - If you know of any promising early career scientists let me know
- **No intention to participate in or put the community through “work-making” exercises**



- **DOE IP has, and will continue to have, significant nuclear data needs requiring investment from it's R&D portfolio (magnitude is subject to budget fluctuations).**
- **Not Walking Away from NDIAWG FOA**
  - **Still finalizing an approach**
  - **More of a focused call on specific topics when released**
  - **Likely to utilize Letters-of-Intent for early down-selection**
- **Our R&D investments have a direct impact on the products and services that we are able to provide.**
- **While nuclear data R&D investments may fluctuate, pathways exist for programs to partner with us to accelerate and/or add scope to our ongoing activities.**
- **Please ensure that you continue to feed your isotope needs up to your Federal Program Managers to ensure that all input is accurately compiled into our rolling 5-year production plans.**





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 **Isotope Program**  
U.S. Department of Energy

