

Beyond Frontier – Thoughts on the OLCF's Post-Exascale System

Scott Atchley

Chief Technology Officer, OLCF

SOS26

Cocoa Beach, FL

ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle LLC for the US Department of Energy

Overview

- OLCF's Mission
- DOE's Integrated Research Infrastructure
- Changing Advanced Computing Ecosystem
- OLCF-6's RFP adapts to the new Ecosystem
- How the SOS Community Can Help

OLCF's Mission



OLCF was Established in Response to the 2004 American Supercomputing Leadership Act

Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-423):

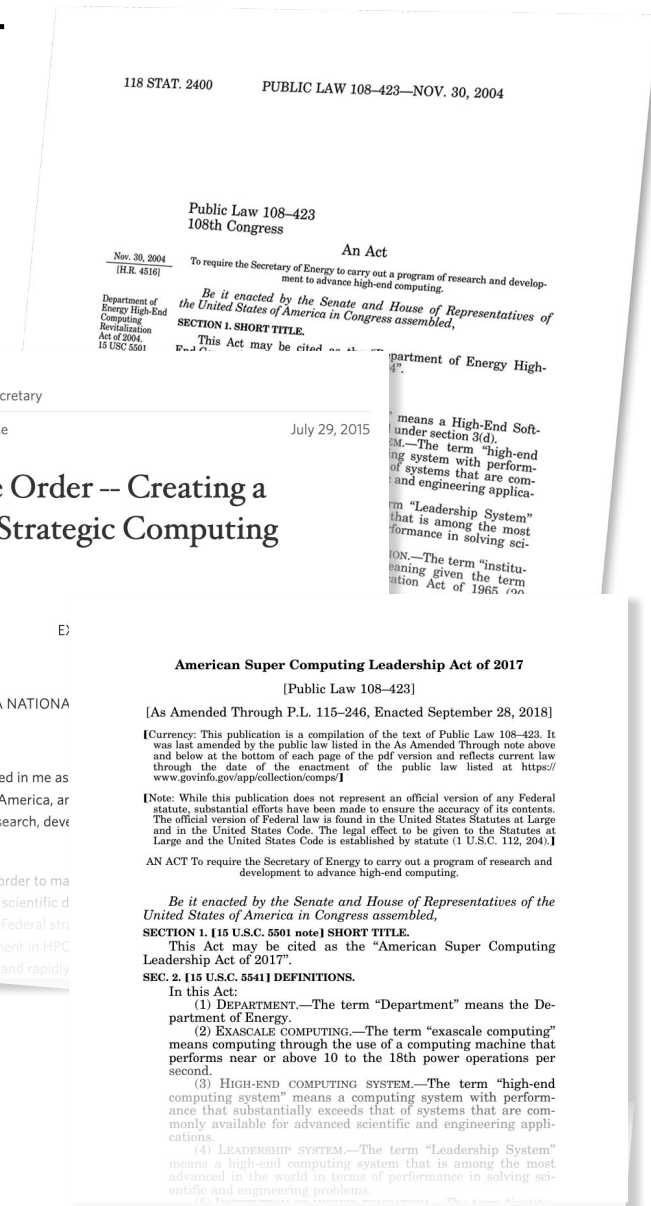
The Secretary of Energy, acting through the Office of Science, shall

- Establish and operate Leadership Systems Facilities
- Provide access [to Leadership Systems Facilities] on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis **to researchers in U.S. industry, institutions of higher education, national laboratories and other Federal agencies.**

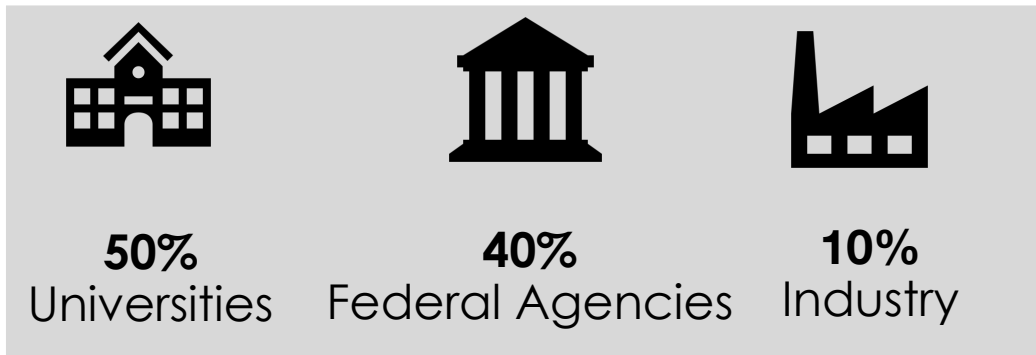
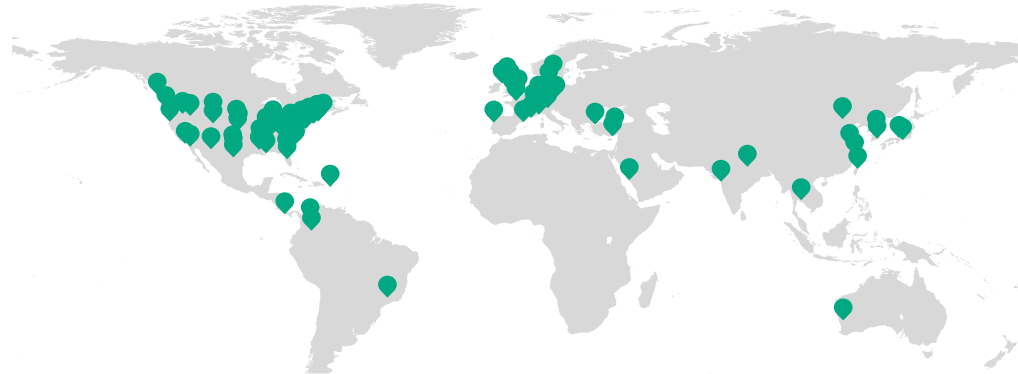
Amended: American Super Computing Leadership Act of 2017 (P.L. 115-246)

Executive Order -- Creating a National Strategic Computing Initiative, July 29, 2015:

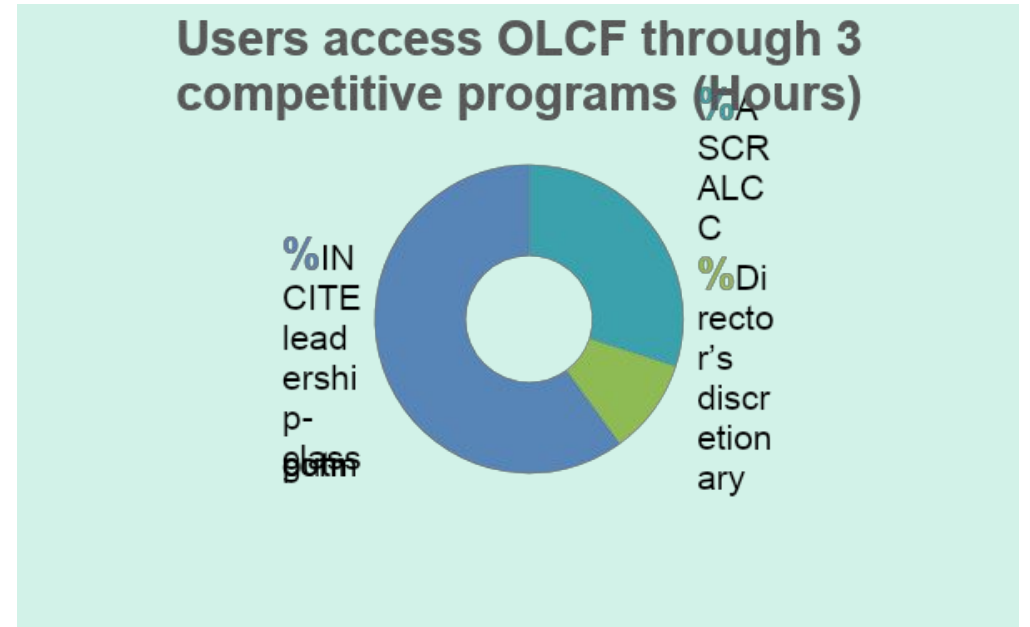
Mandated that DOE be the lead agency to develop a capable exascale program



OLCF by the Numbers



Mission: Provide Leadership Computing **to researchers in U.S. industry, institutions of higher education, national laboratories and other Federal agencies.**



1,744 annual users
262 institutions

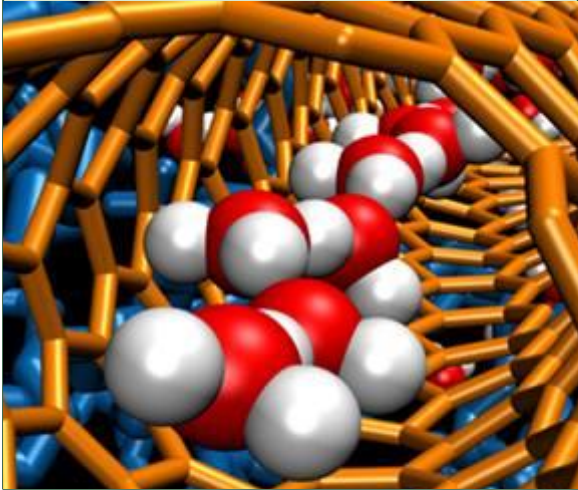
5,800 confirmed
peer-reviewed
publications since 2012
12 Gordon Bell Prizes

Effective & numerous
channels for
user engagement

High annual survey scores
for user engagement

DOE Office of Science Programs

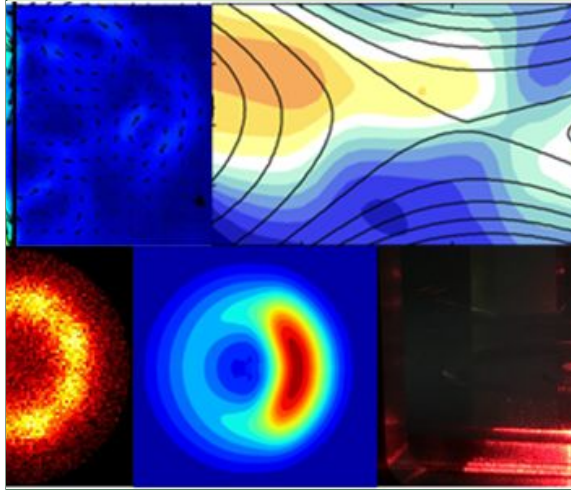
Basic Energy Research



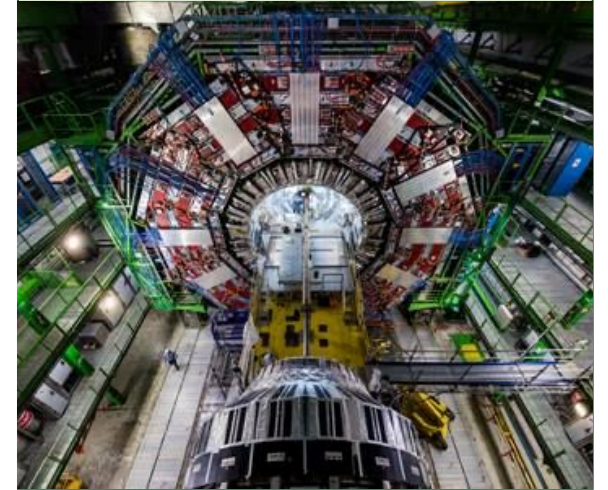
Biological & Environmental



Fusion Energy Sciences



High Energy Physics



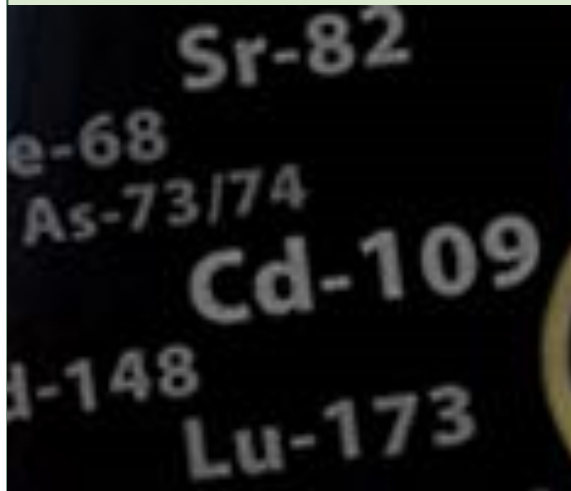
Nuclear Physics



Accelerator R&D and Prod

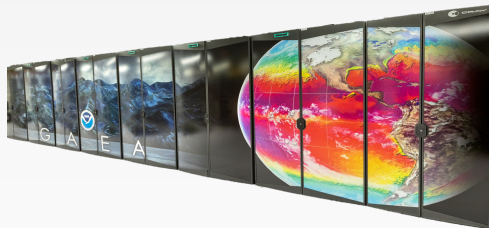


Isotope R&D and Prod



NOAA

- NOAA paid funds in to fill out the GPUs in Titan
- Collaborated on container technologies that we ultimately deployed on Summit, Frontier, and the NOAA systems



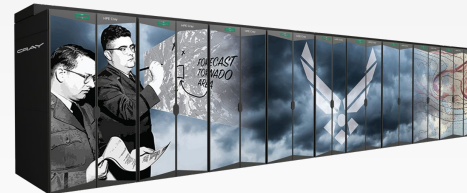
VA & NIH

- Main drivers for building the CITADEL capability
- End-to-end AI campaigns from discovery to population level deployment
- Driving Federated Learning capabilities



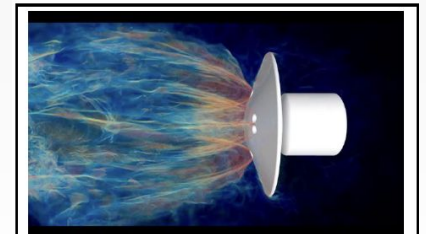
Air Force

- Experience learned on deploying AFW systems helped the OCLF to accelerate Frontier timeline
- AF investment in NVIDIA GPUs provides OLCF with access to current and emerging GPUs



NASA

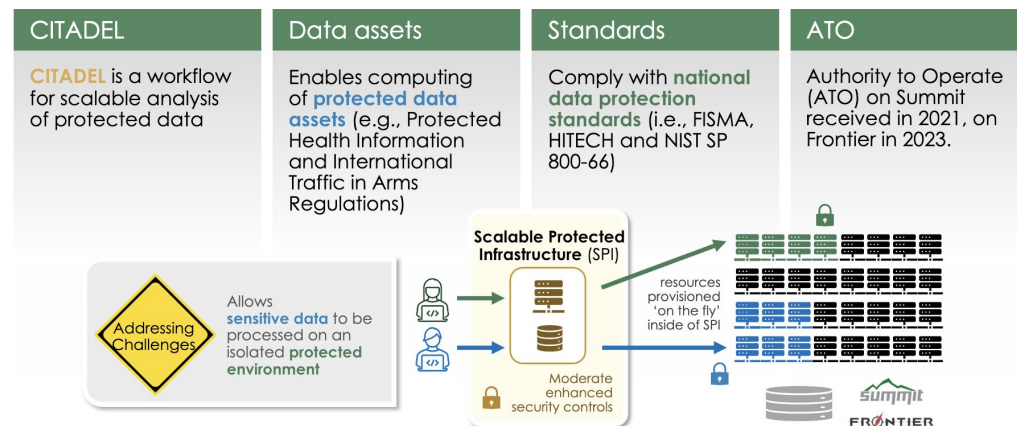
- NASA has received significant computing time through INCITE projects
- NASA applications have benefited from OLCF partnerships
- The ability to host ITAR data allows NASA to bring new problems



Led by Langley Research Center (LaRC), a team of scientists and engineers used Summit, the world's fastest supercomputer, at the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), to simulate retropropulsion for landing humans on Mars. The simulation is depicted above.

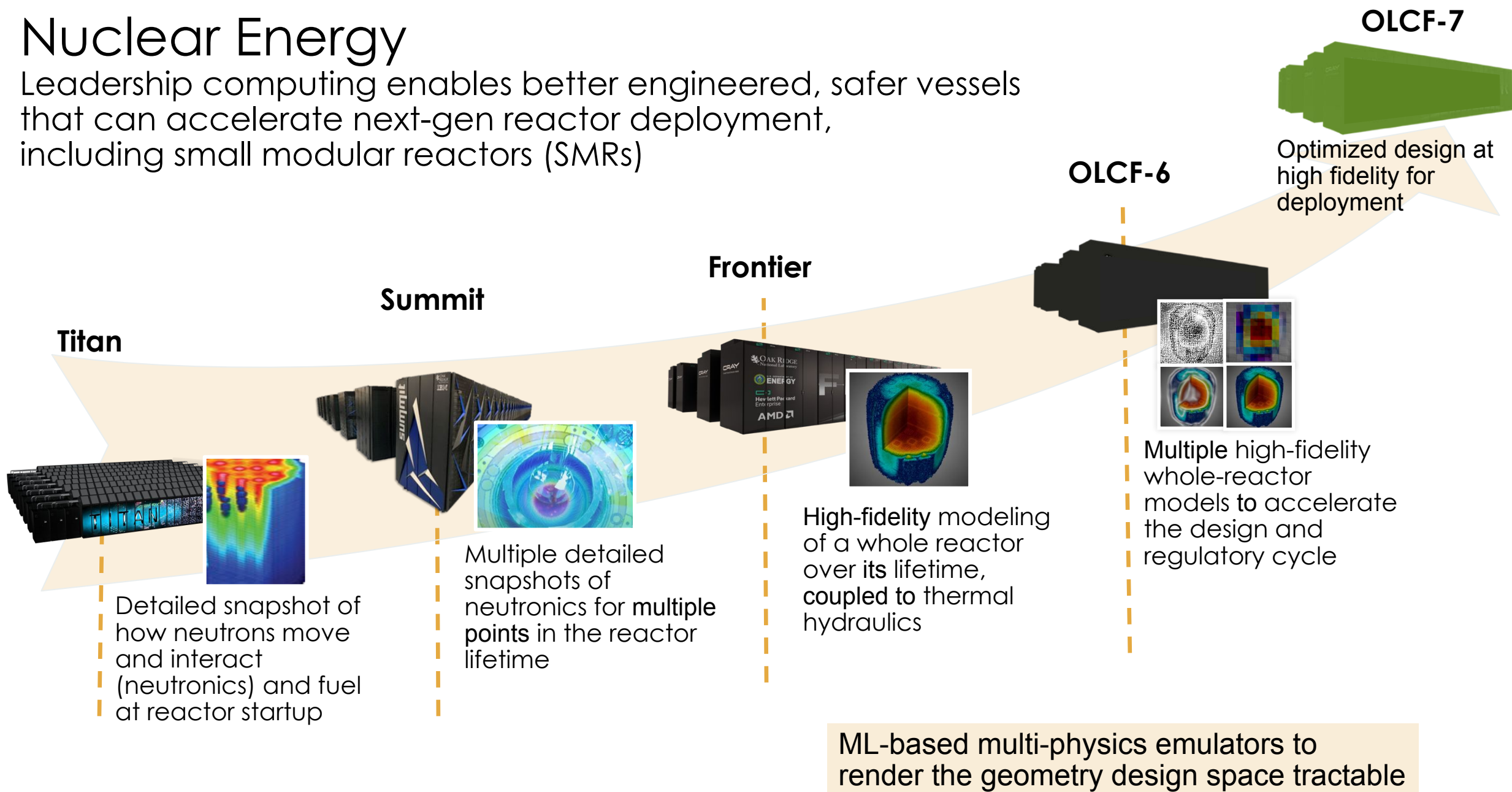
OLCF Industrial Partnerships Program Innovates

- The OLCF supports small to large Industrial partners
- Supported **175 unique industrial projects** over the last 5 years with notable outcomes
- OLCF pioneered the **Industry Partnership User Agreement**
- Industry was strong driver for the development of **OLCF's secure computing infrastructure known as Citadel** →
- Strong engagement with the **ECP Industry Agency Council (IAC)** and plans are in the works to continue those engagements into the future



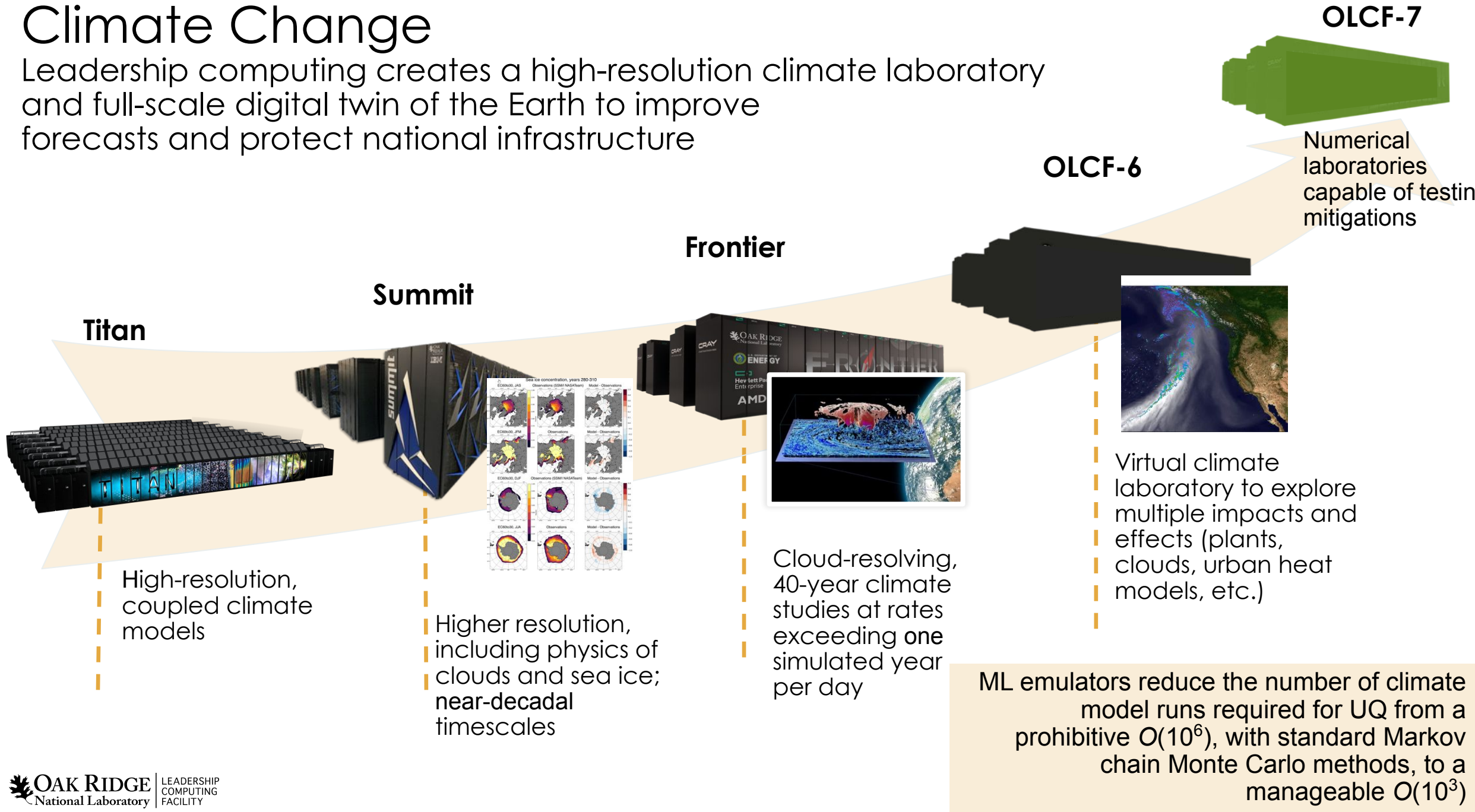
Nuclear Energy

Leadership computing enables better engineered, safer vessels that can accelerate next-gen reactor deployment, including small modular reactors (SMRs)



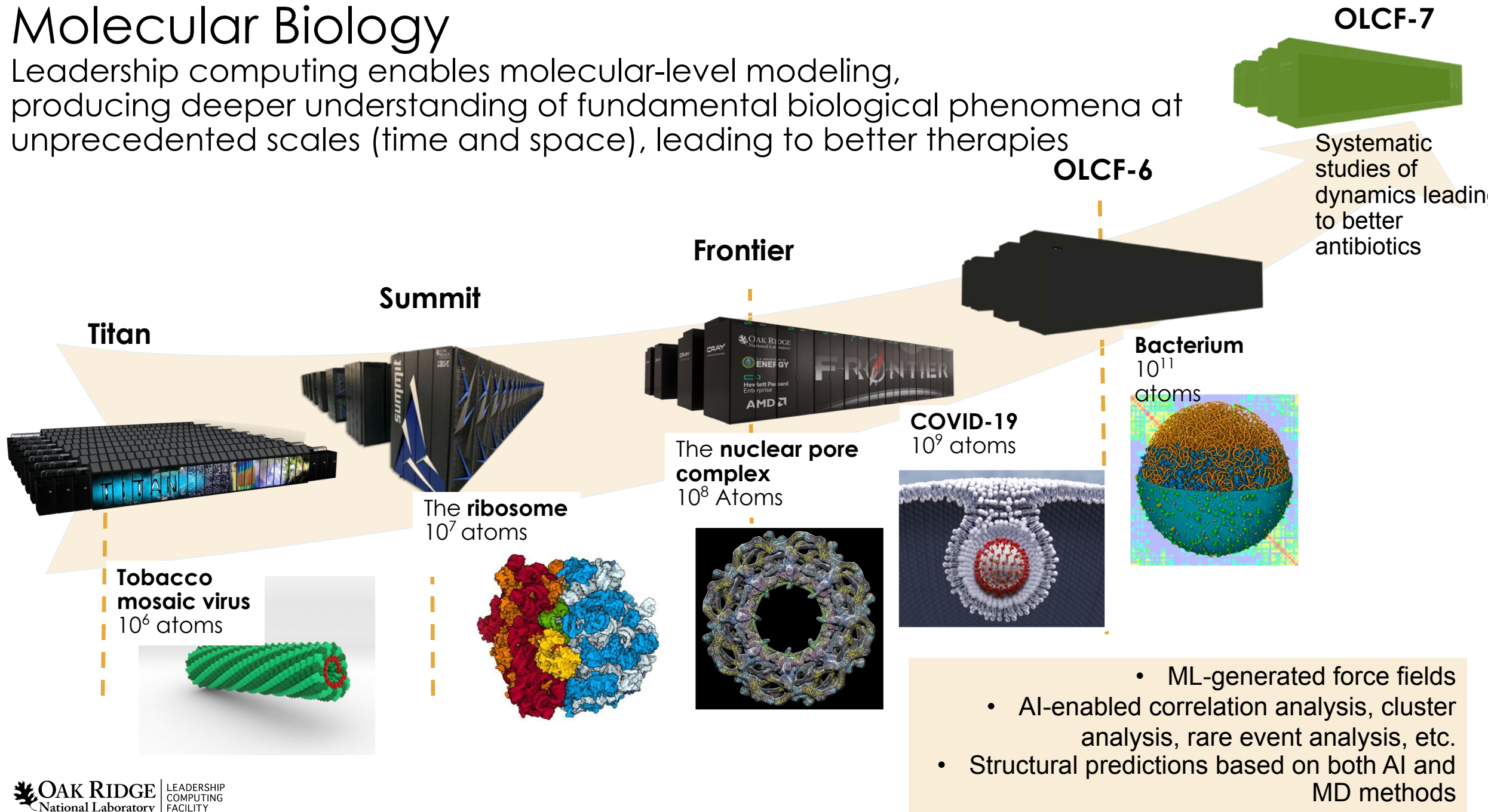
Climate Change

Leadership computing creates a high-resolution climate laboratory and full-scale digital twin of the Earth to improve forecasts and protect national infrastructure



Molecular Biology

Leadership computing enables molecular-level modeling, producing deeper understanding of fundamental biological phenomena at unprecedented scales (time and space), leading to better therapies



Energy-Efficient Jet Engines

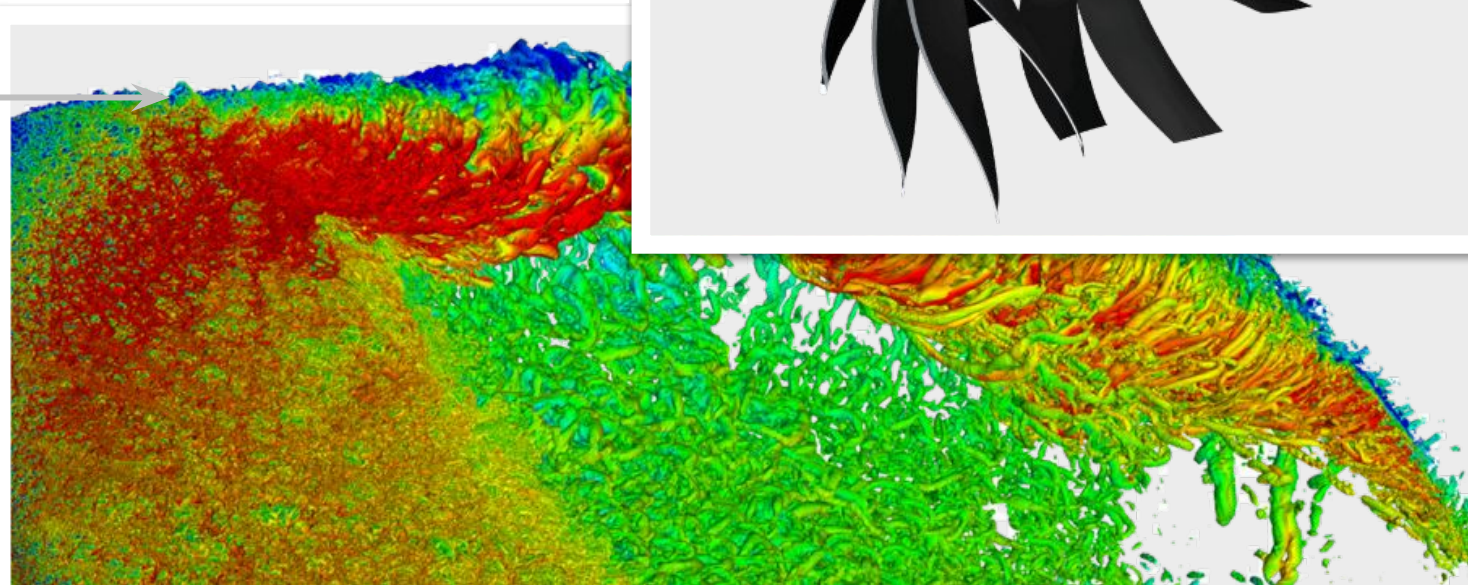
GE Aerospace plans to reduce aviation emissions by 20%

- Larger fans are more efficient
- Nacelle drag offsets gains
 - Lose the nacelle
- Cannot simulate physically
 - No wind tunnel large enough
- Frontier provides enough resolution to understand turbulence
 - Frontier can only model one blade
- GE needs to model whole engine (10-12 blades) and the wing
 - Both level flight and take-off climb
 - The problem size will not fit on Frontier

Below: The novel GE RISE engine featuring open fan blade design.



Below: A GE Aerospace visualization of turbulent flow in the tip region of an open fan blade. These models could help reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 20%.



DOE's Integrated Research Infrastructure



Three IRI Blueprint Science Patterns



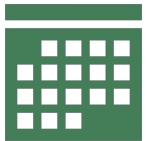
Time-Sensitive Pattern

- Workflows that have time-critical requirements (i.e., real time) including rapid decision-making, experiment control, coordinating distributed assets, and data capture/reduction



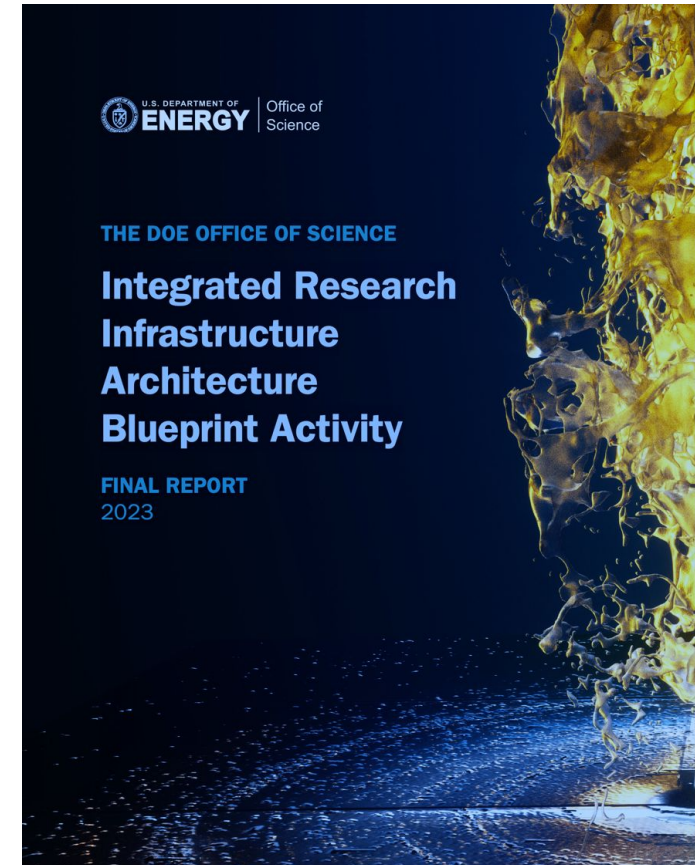
Data Integration-Intensive Pattern

- Analysis of data from multiple sources, e.g., simulations and experiments/observations
- Cross-site data-driven discovery
- AI/ML incorporated into simulations and experiments



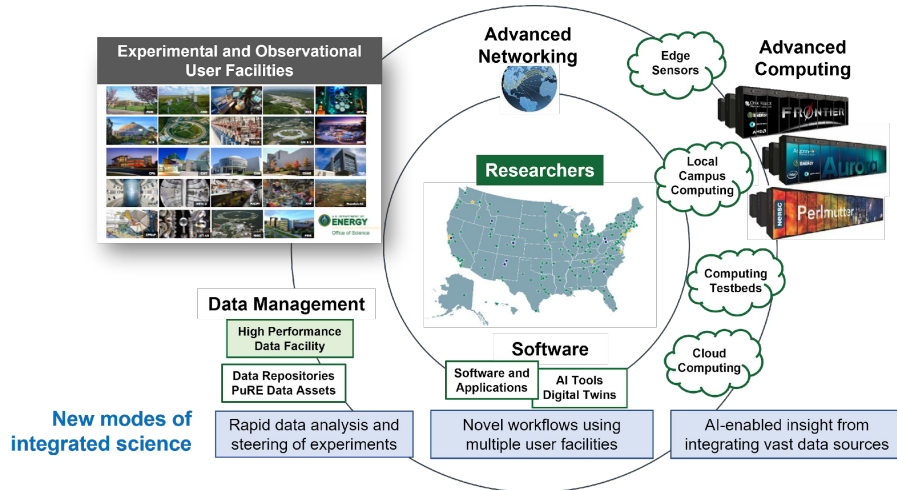
Long-Term Campaign Pattern

- Sustained access (several years) to resources at scale, e.g., sustained simulation production and large data (re)processing for collaborative use



<https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1984466>

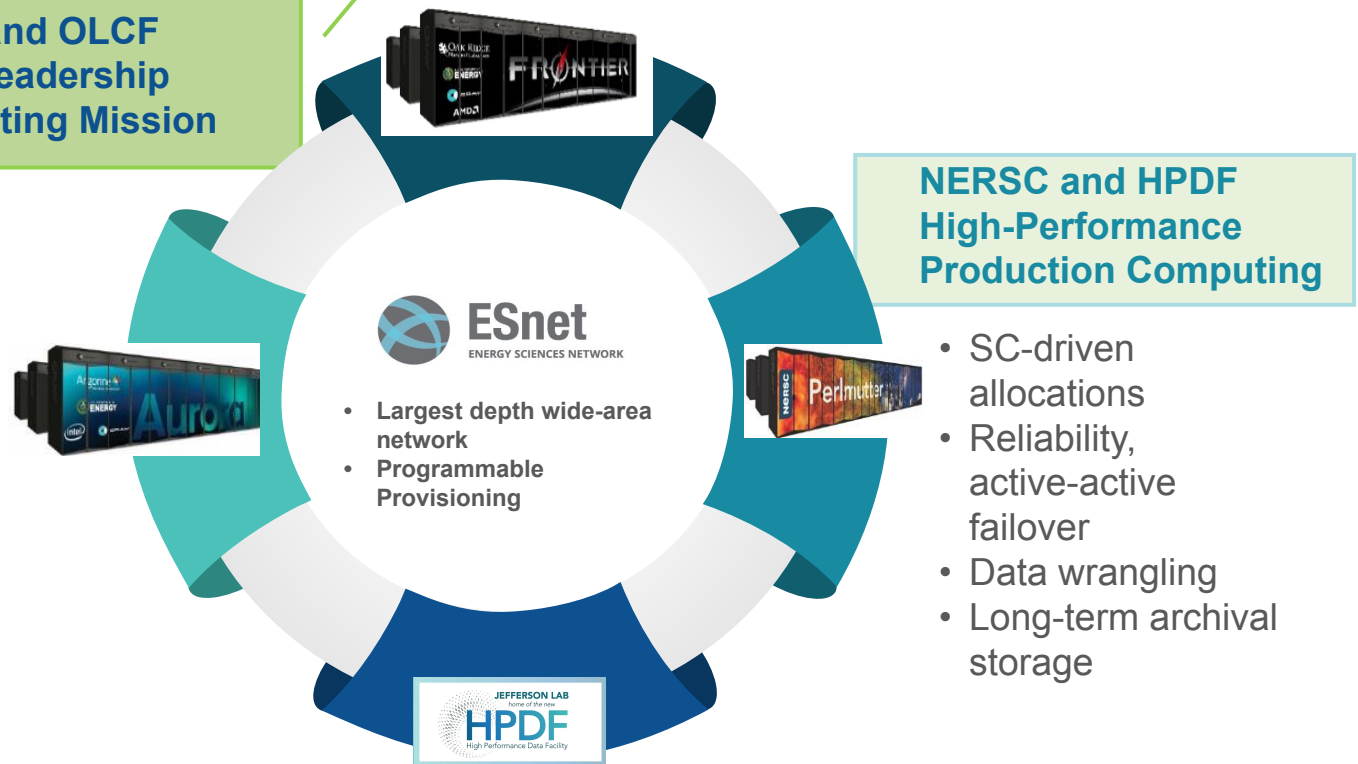
LCFs in the Integrated Research Infrastructure Ecosystem



New modes of integrated science

ALCF and OLCF Joint Leadership Computing Mission

- Leadership-scale compute and data storage allocations
- Enable new, novel, and unique data analyses
- Other federal agency and industry users
- Diversity of technology
- Secure computing



NERSC and HPDF High-Performance Production Computing

- SC-driven allocations
- Reliability, active-active failover
- Data wrangling
- Long-term archival storage

Changing Advanced Computing Ecosystem



We live in a new world

- We are spoiled; we had >50 years of more for less
- Dennard Scaling ended ~20 years ago
- Slowing (ending?) of Moore's Law
- But processors are still getting X times faster...
 - Packaging (integrating more silicon into a processor)
 - But gains come with a price
 - More silicon area costs more
 - More power
- Adding insult to injury, transistors costs more
 - DOE will struggle to deliver more performance

There is hope

- Harnessing reduced precision to calculate full precision
 - HPL-MxP shows how to use reduced precision plus iterative refinement to solve for full precision
 - Not always guaranteed to converge 😞
- New architectures
 - Data flow, coarse-grained reconfigurable
 - Quantum (for a limited class of algorithms)
- Specialization
 - RISC-V
 - Chiplets + UCIe

OLCF-6's RFP adapts to the new Ecosystem



OLCF-6 System Goals (1/2)



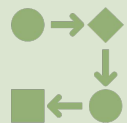
Provide Leadership Modeling and Simulation (ModSim) capabilities

Both strong and weak scaling
Focus on apps using 20-100% of the system
Analysis and data science



Explore and incorporate transformational AI technology to accelerate scientific discovery

Physics-based, validated, high fidelity



Support DOE's Integrated Research Infrastructure

Extend Leadership capabilities to enable new workflows between facilities

OLCF-6 System Goals (2/2)



Improve Energy-Efficiency

Co-design with vendors to optimize performance/watt
Optimize from processor to node to system to whole data center
Investigate new architectures/accelerators



Expandable to add new capabilities and to support new workloads

Quantum
Specialized AI accelerators
Novel architectures



Tailor storage to meet current and new paradigms

Parallel file system to support write-optimized ModSim workload
AI-optimized (i.e., small, random read) storage
Securely handle protected data

The Elephant in the Room: OLCF-6 Engages the Cloud

- **No cloud vendor wants to sell a stand-alone system**
 - They view a dedicated resource as an extension of their cloud
- **Allow cloud vendors to propose on-prem or off-prem**
- **Known-unknowns risks**
 - How to manage, access telemetry, understand locality, assess energy-efficiency
- **Unknown-unknowns**



- OLCF Cloud Evaluation Report 2022
- New cloud pilot to study integration with OLCF and infrastructure manageability

How the SOS Community can help



Areas of Interest

- Resiliency mitigations
- Power/energy monitoring, control, and optimization
 - Application-level and across the data-center
- Federated ID management
- Multiple resource manager integration
 - E.g., Slurm and K8s
- Data services
 - Streaming (not file based), tiering migration (between flash, HDD, archive)

Areas of Interest

- Hybrid cloud management
- Frontier Digital Twin
- System telemetry analysis tools
- Quantum integration with classical computing
- Many more

Thank you!

