

U.S. AIR FORCE BASIC RESEARCH IN WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS

21-25 June 2004



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Program Manager
AFOSR/NA**

Air Force Research Laboratory

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Report Documentation Page

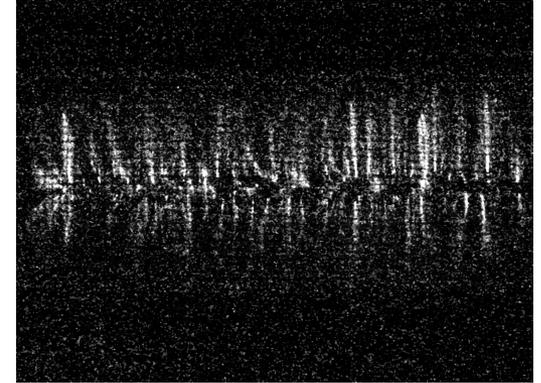
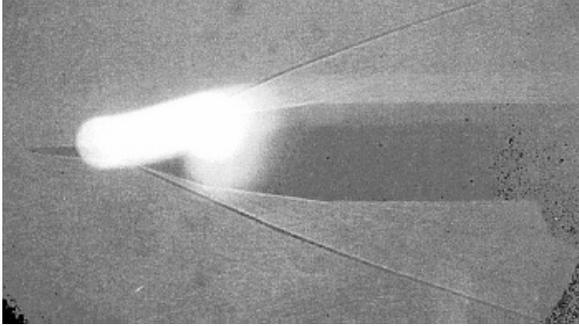
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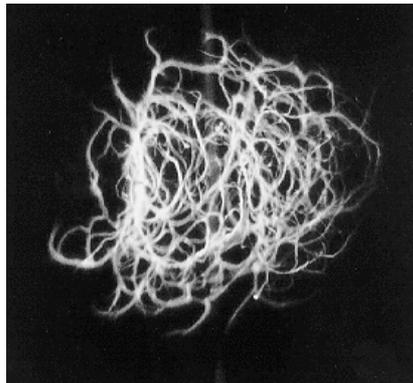
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WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



RESEARCH OBJECTIVE: Understand, Predict, And Control Weakly Ionized Flows To Revolutionize The Performance Of Aerospace Vehicles





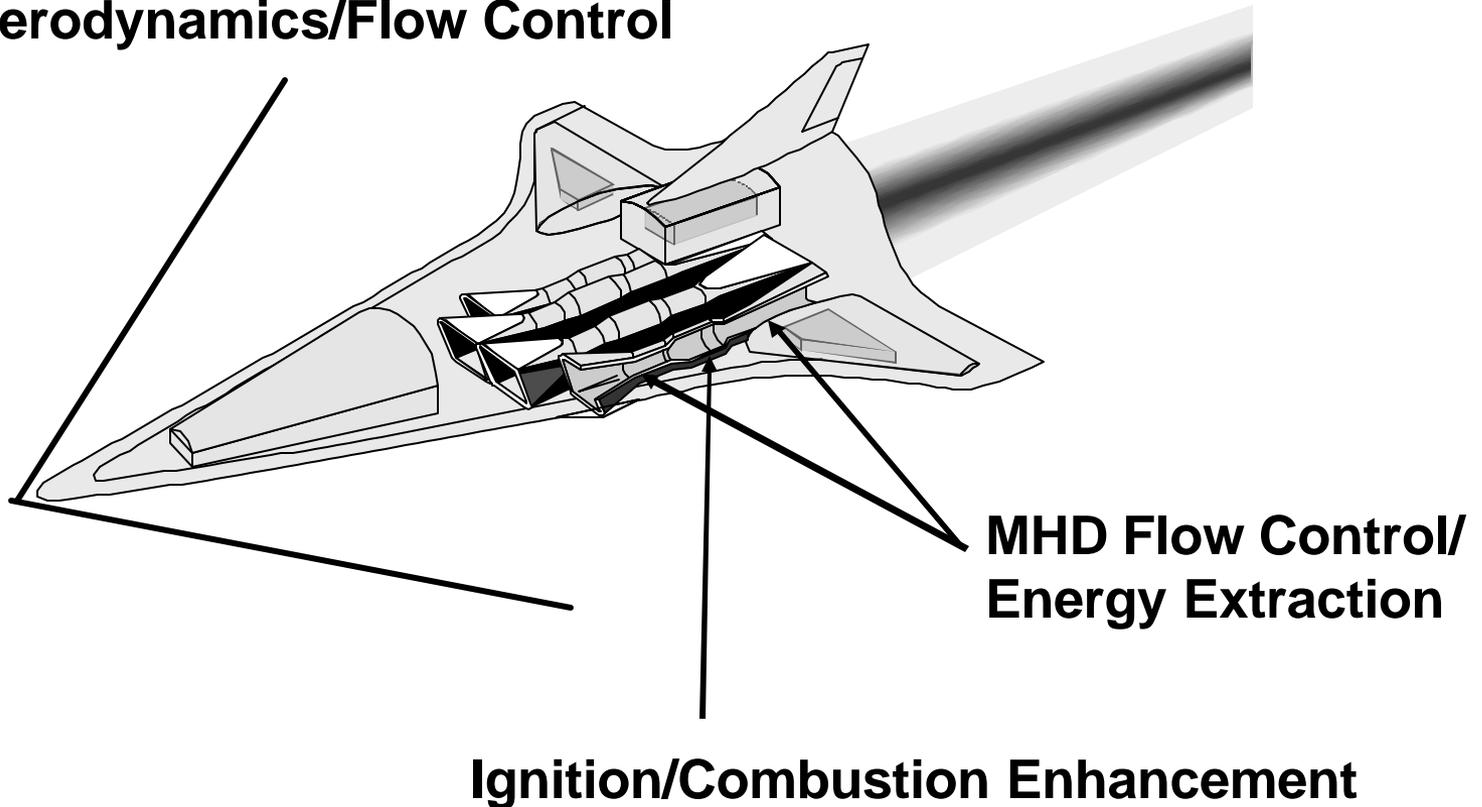
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **Research Focus**
- **Research Coordination And Direction**
- **Selected Research Accomplishments**
- **Summary**



RESEARCH THRUST AREAS

Plasma Aerodynamics/Flow Control





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RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

- **Semi Annual Reviews In Russia And The United States**
 - **Weakly Ionized Gas Dynamics Workshops At The American Institute Of Aeronautics And Astronautics Aerospace Sciences Meeting And Exhibit In January**
 - **Summer Workshops In Moscow And Saint Petersburg, Russia**
- **Support For Russian Research Through International Organizations**
 - **International Science And Technology Center (ISTC)**
 - **Civilian Research And Development Foundation (CRDF)**



WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



U.S. RESEARCH



Plasma Generation

Robert Vidmar/
Nevada, Reno

Igor Adamovich/
Ohio State



MHD

Robert Mac Cormack/
Stanford

Dennis Jacobs/
Notre Dame

Doyle Knight/
Rutgers

Norm Malmuth/
Rockwell

Datta Gaitonde/
AFRL/VA



Aerodynamics

Krishnan Mahesh/
Minnesota

Scott Morris/
Notre Dame

Bohadan Cybyk/
JHU/APL

Skip Williams/
AFRL/VS

Yiguang Ju/
Princeton

Robert Continetti/
UC San Diego

Cam Carter/
AFRL/PR

Bish Ganguly/
AFRL/PR



Ignition/Combustion

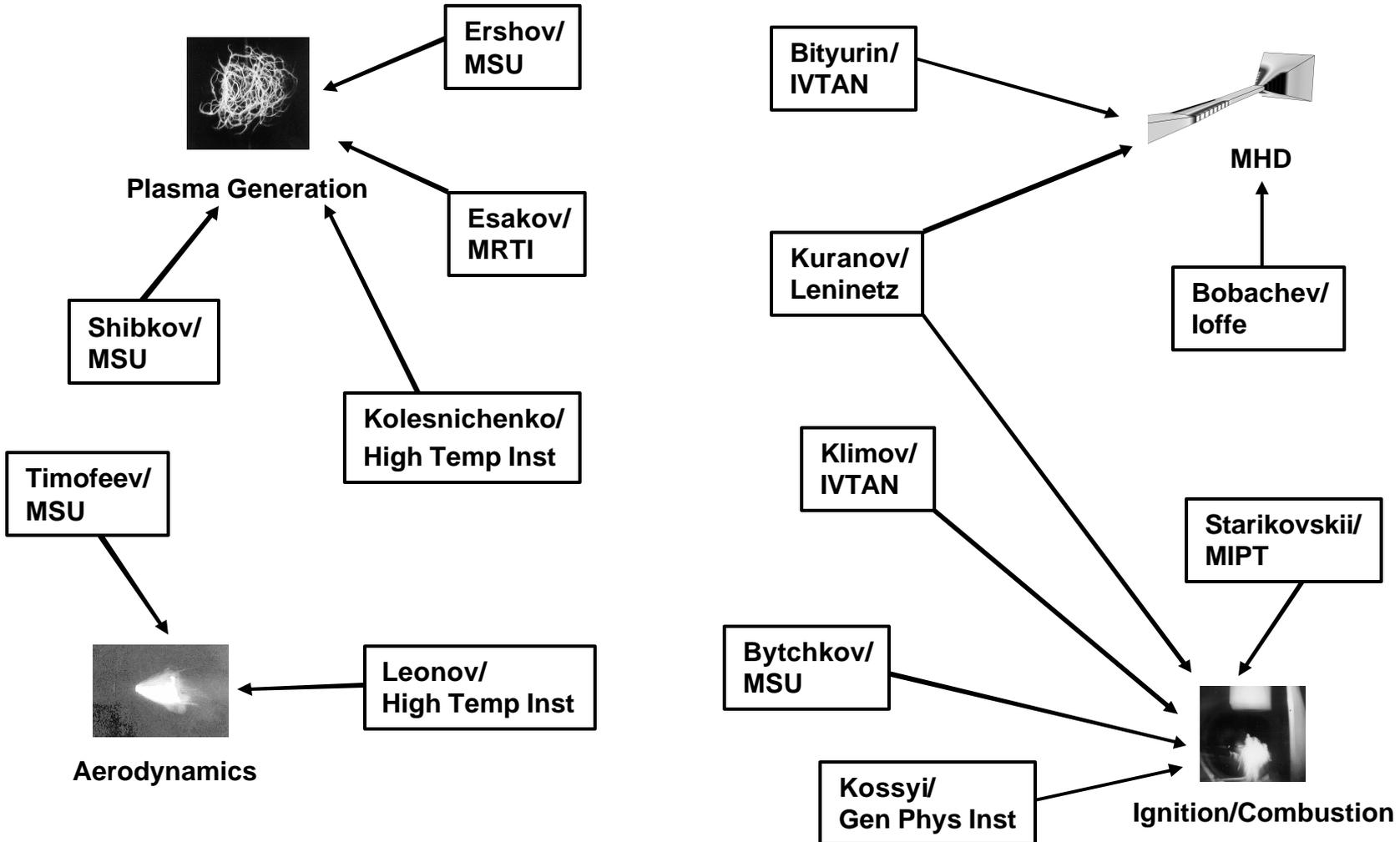
Martin Gundersen/
USC



WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



RUSSIAN RESEARCH





PRESENTATION OUTLINE

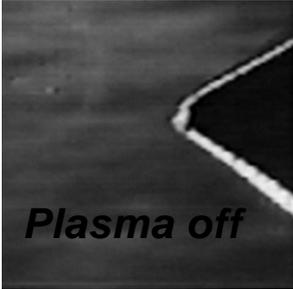
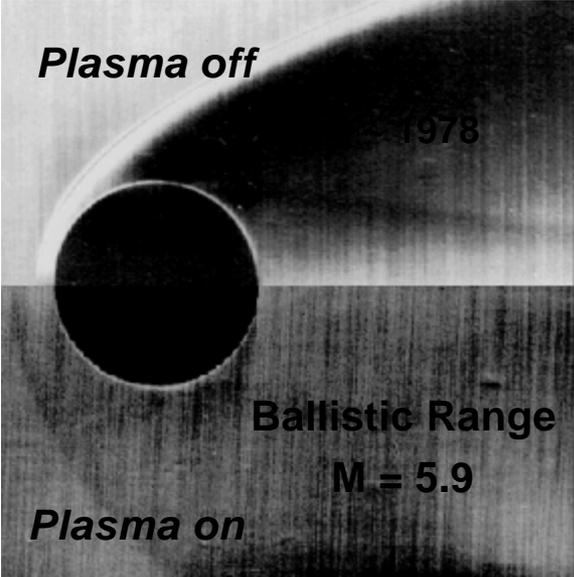
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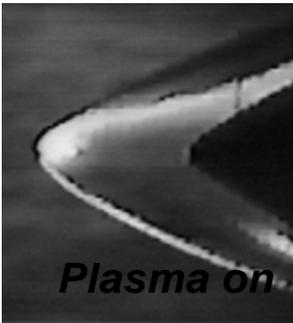
PLASMA AERODYNAMICS



RUSSIAN EXPERIMENTS INDICATED SHOCK WAVES WERE WEAKENED IN THE PRESENCE OF WEAKLY IONIZED PLASMAS – POTENTIAL FOR DECREASED VEHICLE DRAG



**Plasma Torch
M = 4.0**



TsNIIMash ~ 1997

**DRAG
COEFFICIENT**



TIME, s

Moscow State University ~ 1998

**SHOCK STAND-OFF
DISTANCE INCREASED
(INDICATING WEAKER
SHOCK WAVES) IN THE
PRESENCE OF PLASMA**

**QUESTIONS REMAINED
REGARDING THE PHYSICAL
MECHANISM FOR THE
OBSERVED PHENOMENA**

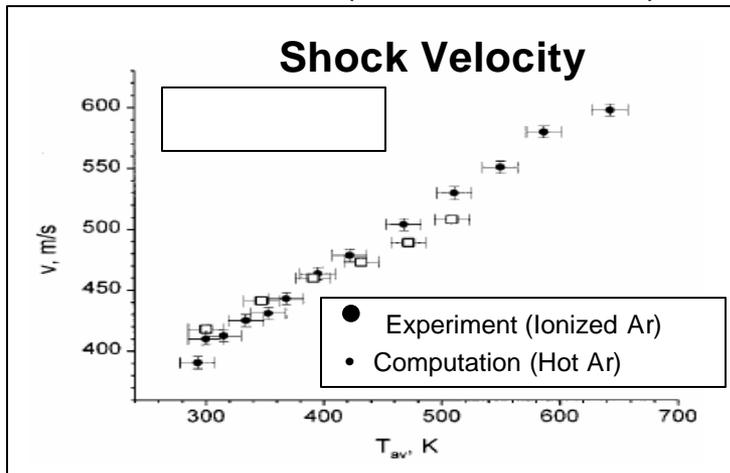


WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



U.S. INVESTIGATORS EXPLAIN “ANAMOLOUS” SHOCK BEHAVIOR: THERMAL EFFECT

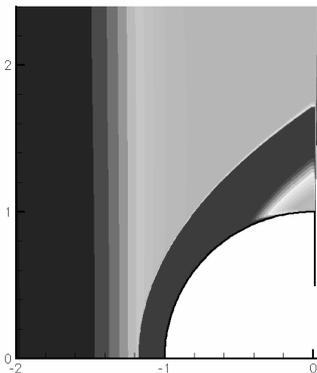
Princeton (Macheret/Miles)



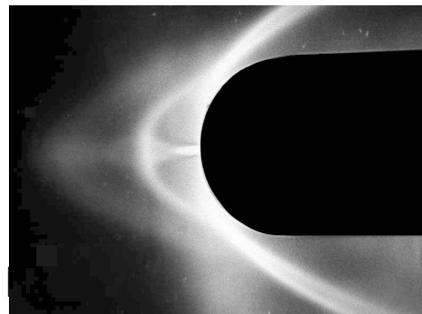
OBSERVED SHOCK-WEAKENING PHENOMENA RESULTS WHEN TEST MEDIUM IS HEATED DURING PLASMA GENERATION

- **QUESTIONS REMAIN IF THIS MAY BE EFFICIENTLY UTILIZED**

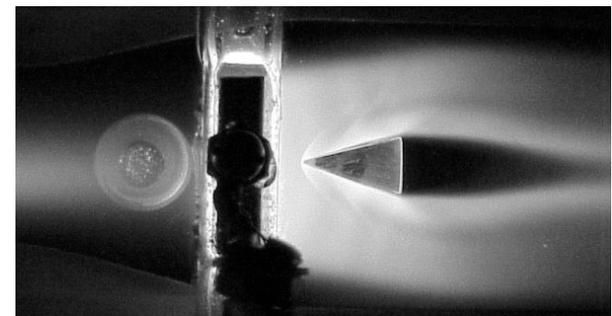
UMinn (Candler)



AFRL/VA (Shang)



OSU (Rich/Adamovich)

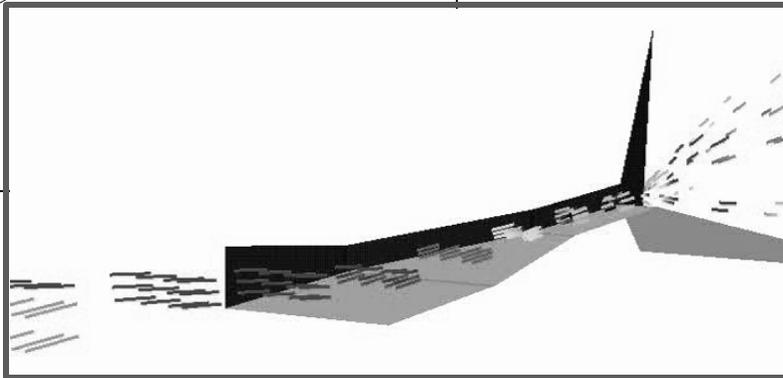
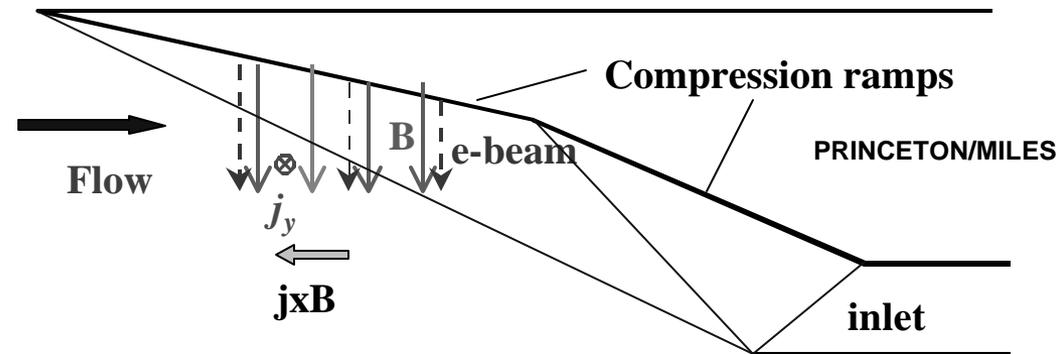
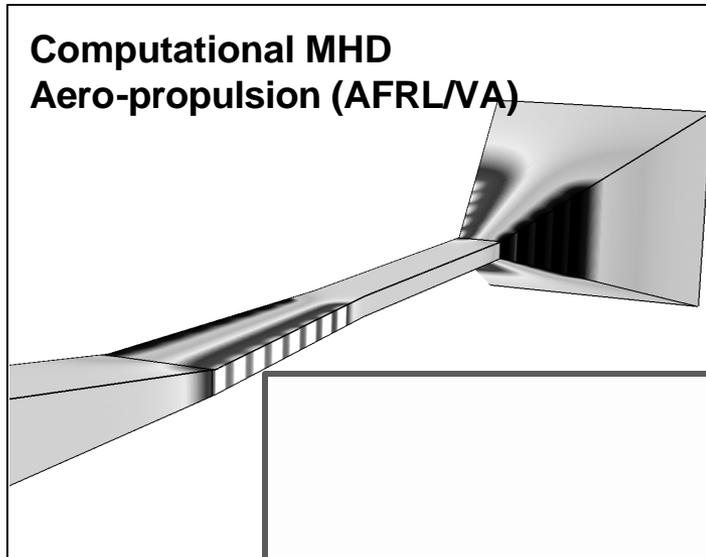




MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS



MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC (MHD) RESEARCH FOCUSES ON SCRAMJET OPTIMIZATION, POWER EXTRACTION/ADDITION



MHD USED TO DECELERATE FLOW
BEFORE COMBUSTOR, ACCELERATE FLOW
THROUGH NOZZLE

MODELING SHOWS THAT E-BEAM SUPPORTED EXTERNAL MHD DEVICE CAN BRING SHOCKS BACK TO COWL LIP AT OFF-DESIGN MACH NUMBERS WHILE GENERATING MW-SCALE NET POWER

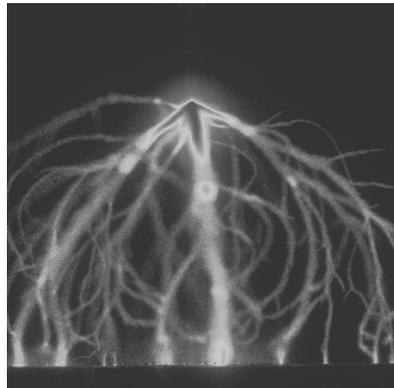


PLASMA IGNITION ALTERNATIVES



Glow Discharge
(Adamovich/Ohio State)

$$dV/dt = 0$$



Streamer Discharge
(Gundersen/USC)

$$dV/dt > 1 \text{ kV/ms}$$



Nanosecond Discharge
(Starikovskii/MIPT)

$$dV/dt > 1 \text{ kV/ns}$$

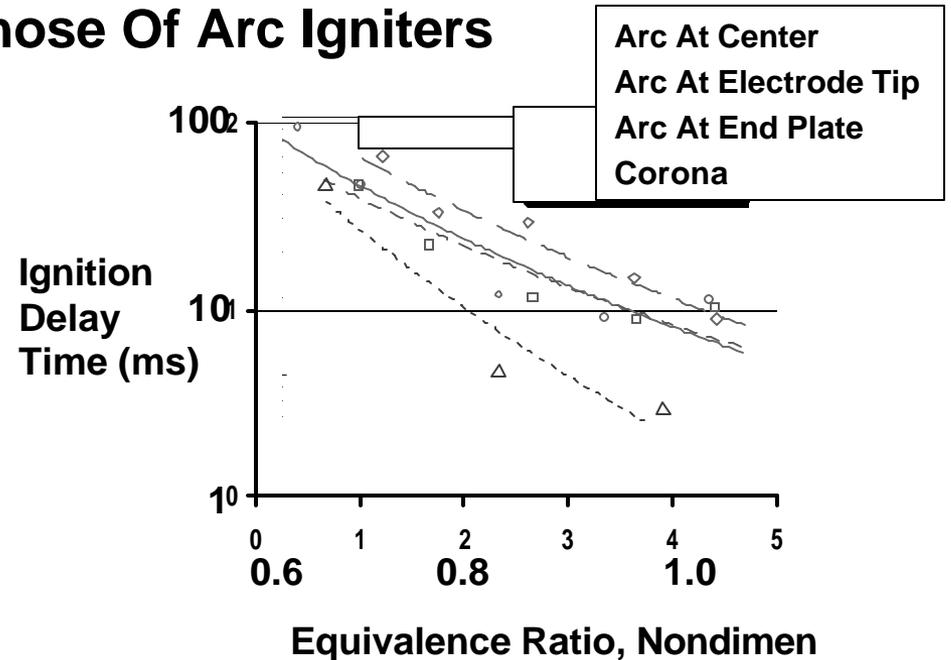
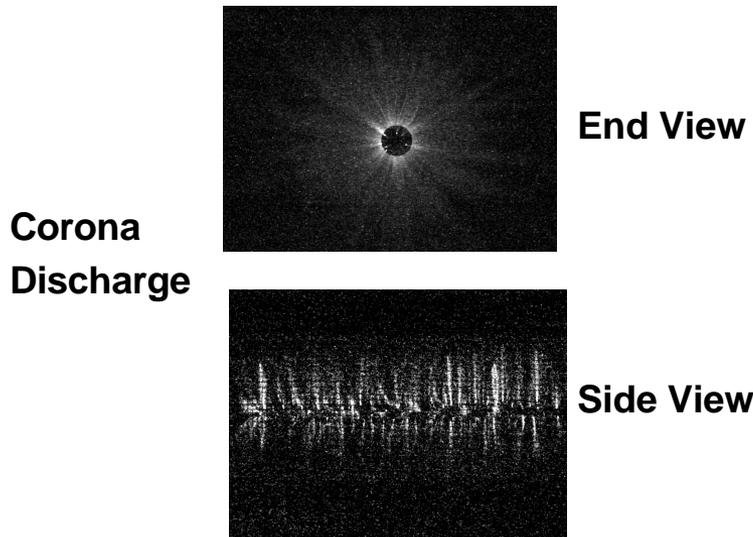


WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



SHORT-DURATION (< 100 ns) CORONA DISCHARGE EXHIBITS SUPERIOR IGNITION CHARACTERISTICS FOR HYDROCARBON-AIR MIXTURES

- Ignition Delay Times 1/3 Those Of Arc Igniters

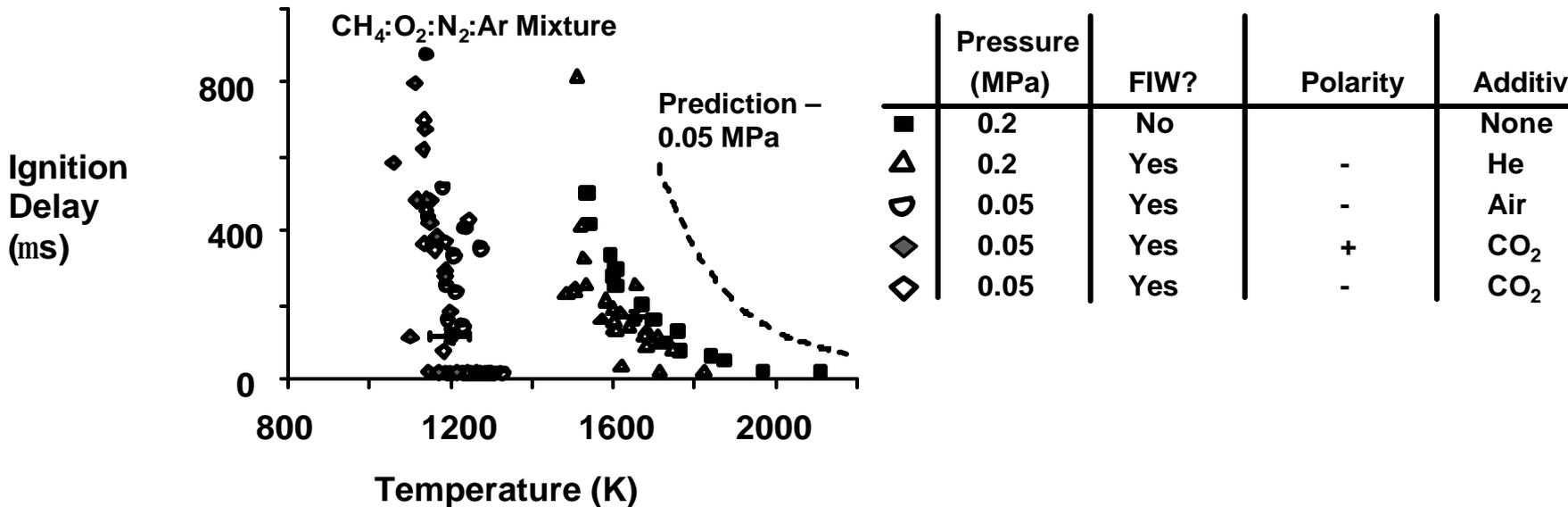


- Corona Contains Multiple Plasma Streamers With ≈ 10 eV Energy For Ignition
- Corona Discharge Ignition Based On Activation Of Radical Species Vs. Thermal Ignition For Conventional Arcs



SHOCK TUBE EXPERIMENTS DEMONSTRATE IGNITION DELAY REDUCTION BY FAST IONIZATION WAVES

- Results Validate Previous Model Predictions

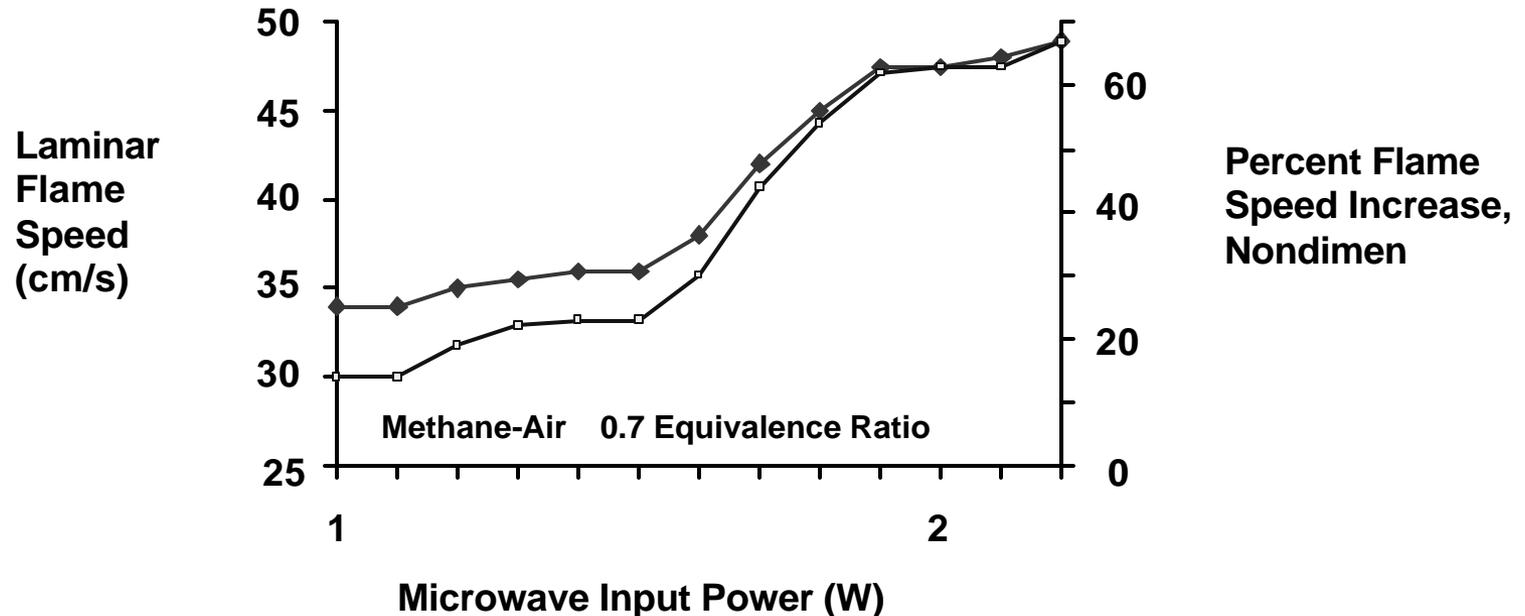


- Nanosecond Corona Discharge at 0.2 MPa Pressure And By Volume Nanosecond Discharge At 0.05 MPa Pressure
- Ignition Not Possible Without Fast Ionization Wave At 0.05 MPa Pressure



SIGNIFICANT ENHANCEMENT OF LAMINAR FLAME SPEED BY MICROWAVE RADIATION OBSERVED

- Evidence For Combustor Performance Improvements By Microwave Plasmas



- Plasma Strength Was Below Levels Required To Initiate Or Sustain Plasmas, Indicating That Microwaves Were Coupled To Flame-Generated Ions
- Applied DC Voltage Also Found To Increase Flame Speed By Unknown Mechanism

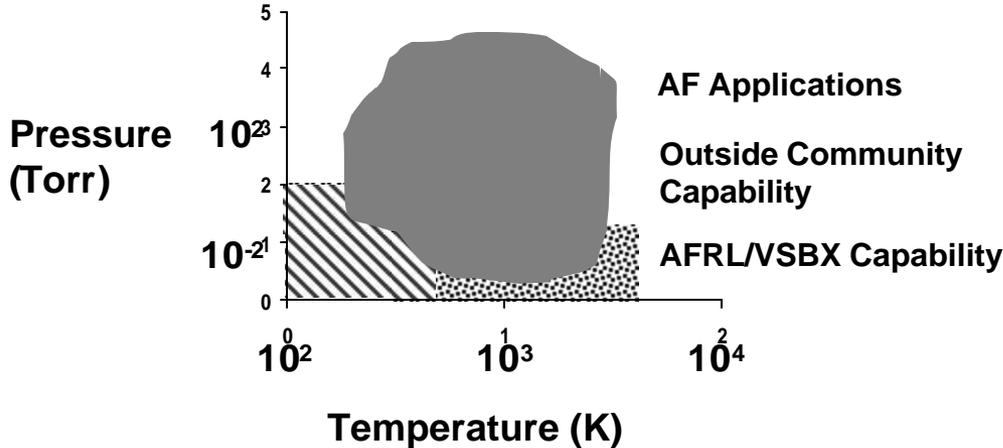


WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS

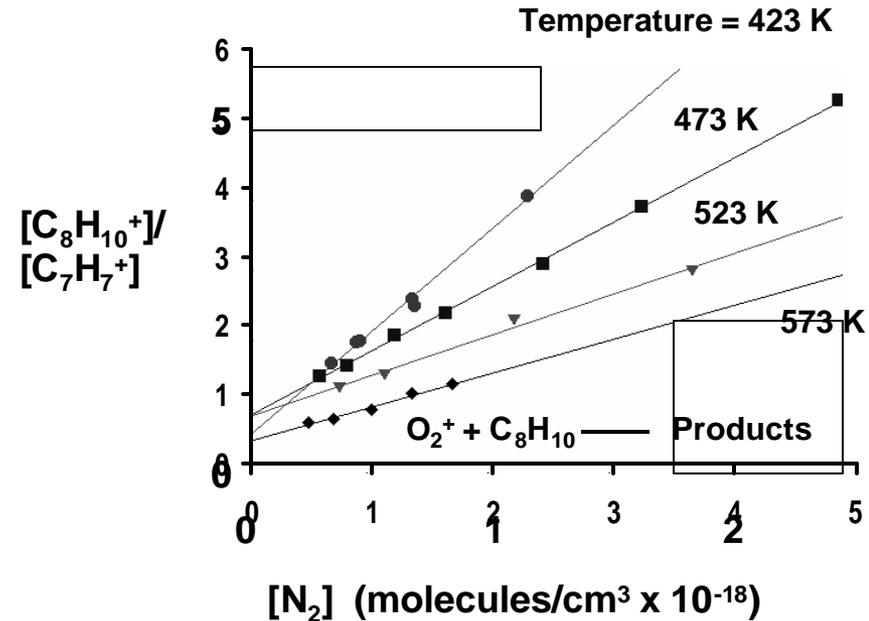


UNIQUE FACILITIES PROVIDE REACTION RATE DATA FOR ION-MOLECULE REACTIONS

- Critical Information For Air Plasma Chemistry And Plasma-Enhanced Combustion



Turbulent Ion Flow Tube



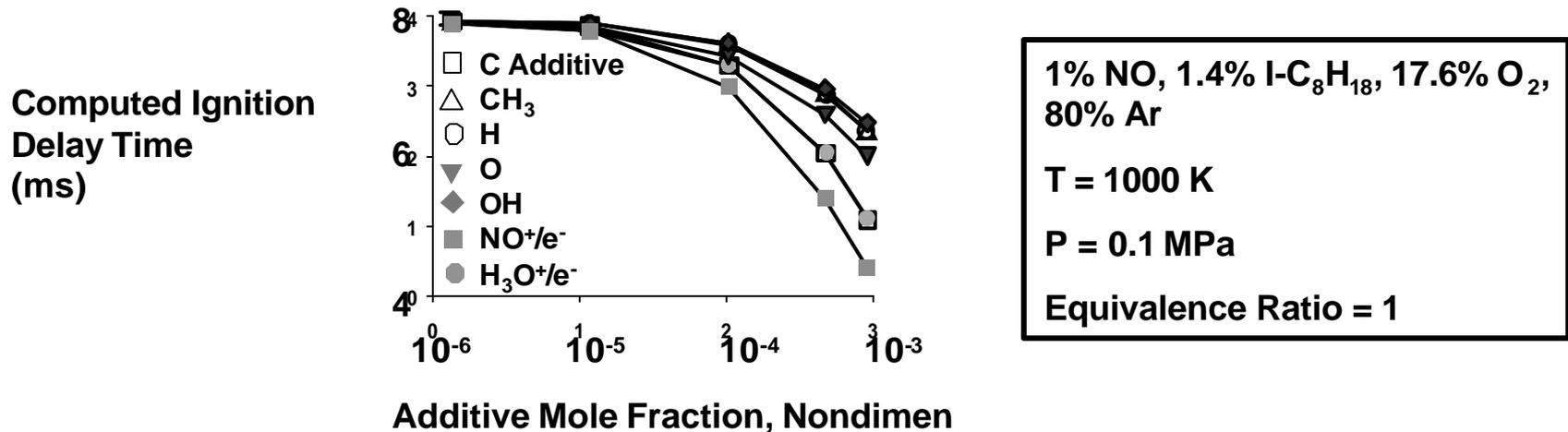


WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



EXPERIMENTS PROVIDE REACTION RATE DATA FOR PLASMA-ENHANCED IGNITION MODELS

- Modeling Needed For Plasma Igniter Design



- Supports Development Of The Lindstedt-Maurice-Leung Mechanism (1181 Reactions, 196 Species)
- Aids In The Selection Of JP-8 Surrogate Fuel Composition For Research
- Reveals Important Consequences Of Ionization (Thermal Vs. Chemical Enhancement, Fuel Vs. Air Ionization)

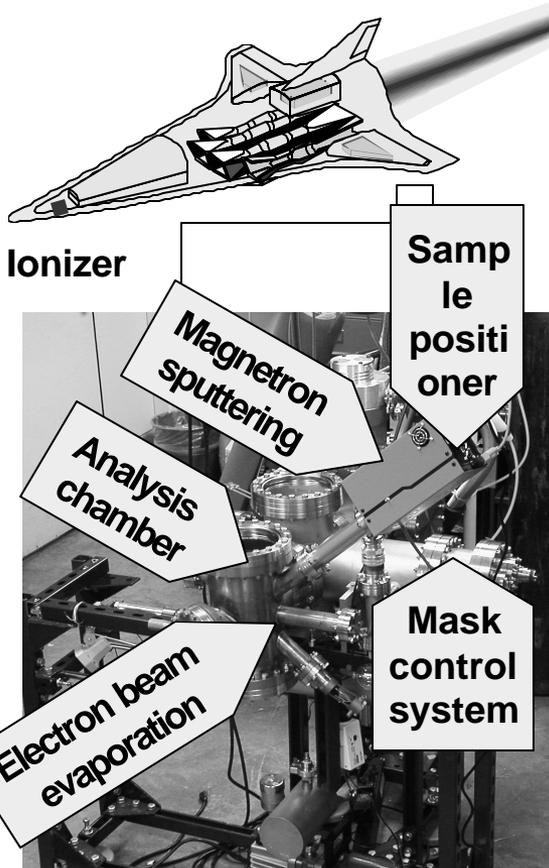


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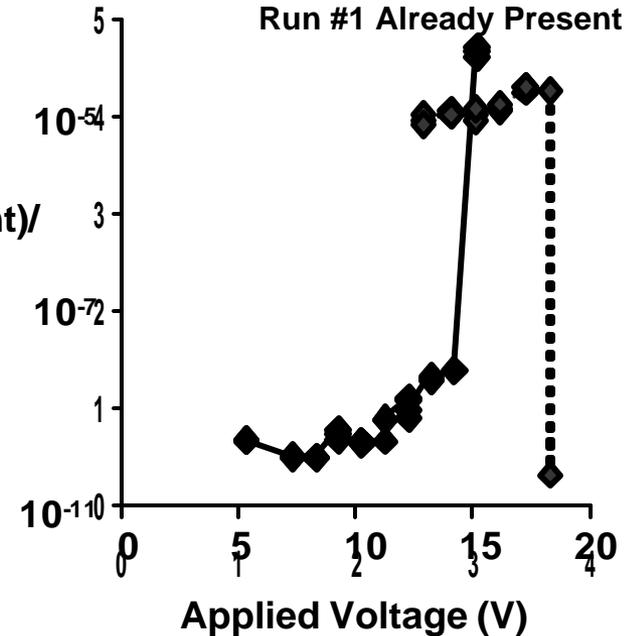
NOVEL APPARATUS PRODUCES COLD CATHODE ELECTRON EMISSION FROM NANOSTRUCTURED METAL-INSULATOR-METAL (MIM) DEVICES

- Ion Source For Plasma Aerodynamic Enhancement



Run #1 – Initiates Emission Current
 Run #2 – Emission Current From Run #1 Already Present

(Emission Current)/
(Device Current)



- MIM Devices Produced By Metal Evaporation And Magnetron Sputter Deposition
- Combinatorial Approach For Rapid Screening To Achieve Optimization Of MIM Structures



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

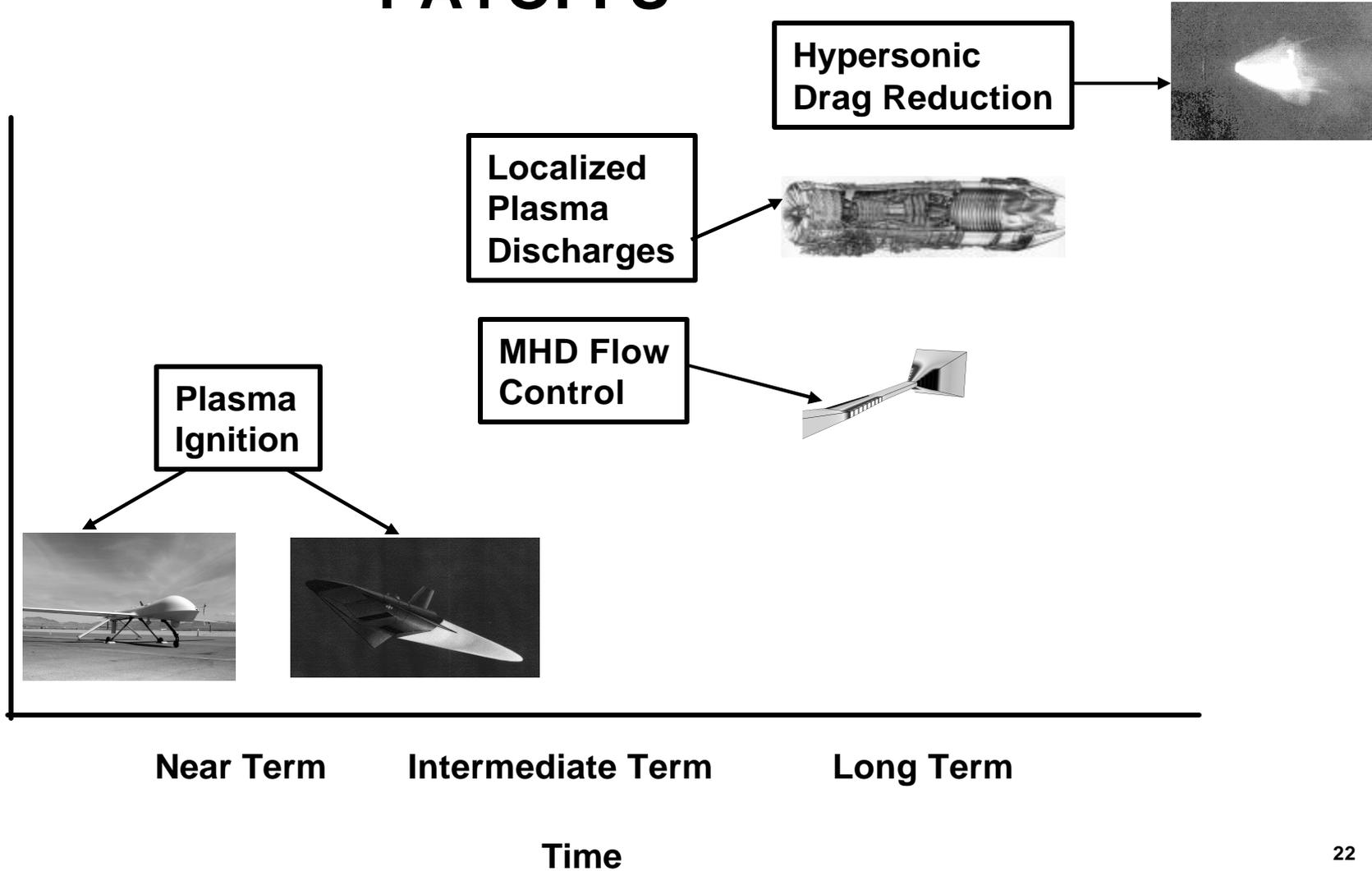
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WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



PAYOFFS





WEAKLY IONIZED GASDYNAMICS



SUMMARY

- **We Are Conducting And Coordinating International Research On Weakly Ionized Gas Dynamics**
- **Vision Of Future Technology Maturation And Transition**
- **Quality Investigators Performing World-Class Basic Research**