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# **Solenoid-Free Plasma Startup**



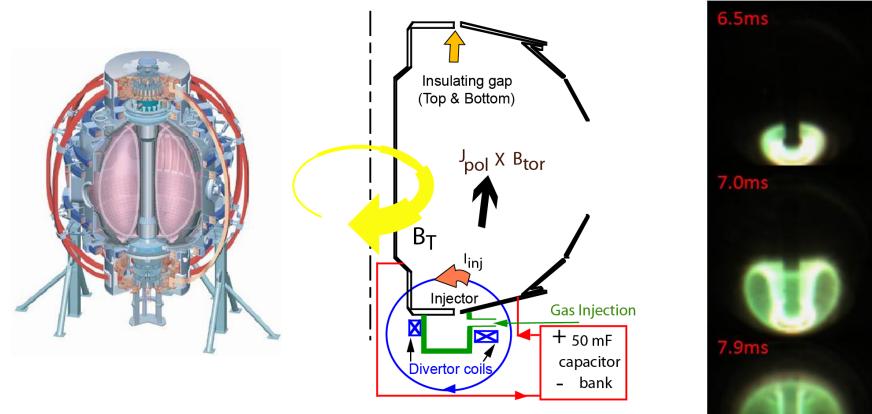
## R. Raman, D. Mueller

**University of Washington / PPPL** 

NSTX Research Forum for FY2010 Research 1-3 December 2009

Culham Sci Ctr U St. Andrews York U Chubu U Fukui U Hiroshima U Hyogo U Kyoto U Kyushu U Kyushu Tokai U NIFS Niigata U **U** Tokyo JAEA Hebrew U loffe Inst **RRC Kurchatov Inst** TRINITI **KBSI** KAIST POSTECH ASIPP ENEA, Frascati CEA, Cadarache IPP, Jülich **IPP.** Garching ASCR, Czech Rep **U** Quebec

### Transient CHI: Axisymmetric Reconnection Leads to Formation of Closed Flux Surfaces

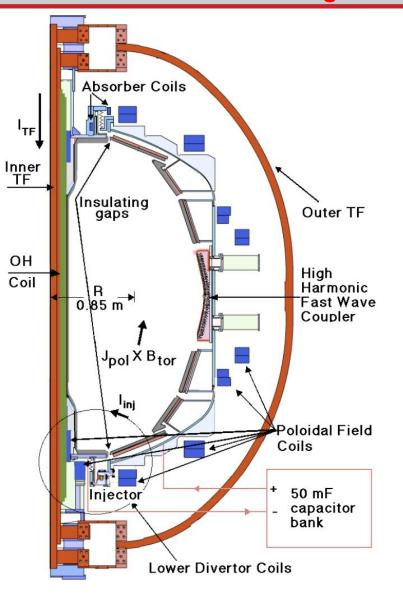


- Demonstration of closed flux current generation
  - Aided by gas injection from below divertor plate region
- Demonstration of coupling to induction (2008)
  - Aided by staged capacitor bank capability

CHI for an ST: T.R. Jarboe, Fusion Technology, 15 (1989) 7 Transient CHI: R. Raman, T.R. Jarboe, B.A. Nelson, et al., PRL 90, (2003) 075005-1



"If the coupling current could be doubled, pronounced flux savings should happen naturally" – FY2009 SFPS Research Forum Conclusion Flux Savings on NSTX Now Realized (FY09 Results)



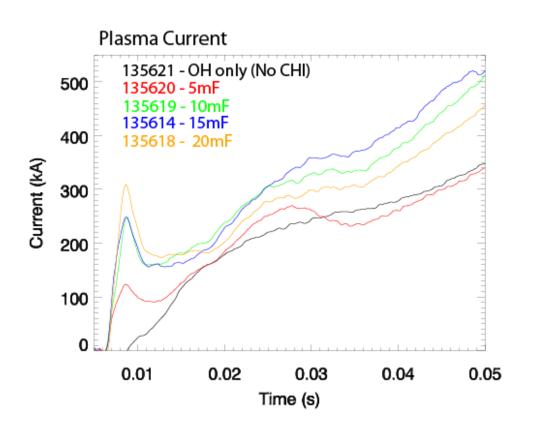
Long-pulse (400ms) CHI discharges in a 'stuffed- injector' current mode used to ablate Low-Z impurities from lower divertor [Helped FY09 CHI]

Deuterium Glow Discharge cleaning employed to chemically sputter and reduce oxygen levels [Helped FY09 CHI]

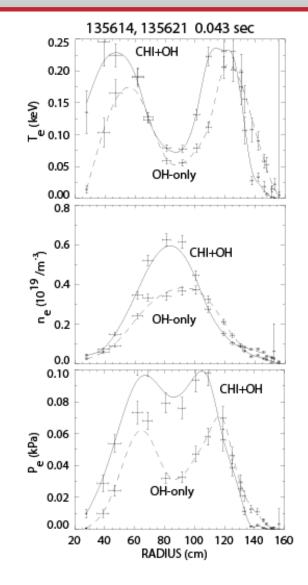
A buffer field was provided using new PF coils located in the upper divertor region (Absorber region) to reduce interaction of CHI discharge with un-conditioned upper divertor plates [Helped FY09 CHI]

Lithium evaporation on lower divertor plates improved discharge performance [Helped FY08 and 09 CHI]

#### Using Only 27kJ of Capacitor Bank Energy 300kA of CHI Started Discharge Generated and Coupled to Induction



Additional effort required to reduce absorber arcs to allow operation above 300kA



#### NSTX is Unique in the World Program Investigating CHI Plasma Startup & Fast-Wave Assisted Ramp-up

#### Priorities for FY2010 aimed at improving CHI discharges from FY2009

- Develop operating conditions aimed at improving the control of CHI
- Increasing the current and closed poloidal flux production of CHI
- Increase ohmic flux savings using CHI by reducing impurity influx
- Increase high-performance plasma pulse lengths using CHI startup
- FY2010 Research Milestone (R10-2): Characterize HHFW heating, current drive, and current ramp-up in deuterium H-mode plasmas.

CHI group discussion to occur in B233 from 1-5:30PM (Today) & RF coupling to CHI group discussion to occur tomorrow, B233 from 10AM to 12:30PM