



# Air Force Research Laboratory



***Integrity ★ Service ★ Excellence***

## **AFOSR: Basic Research- Game Changing Investments**

**18 April 2012**

**Dr. Patrick Carrick  
Director, Physics and Electronics  
AFOSR/RSE**

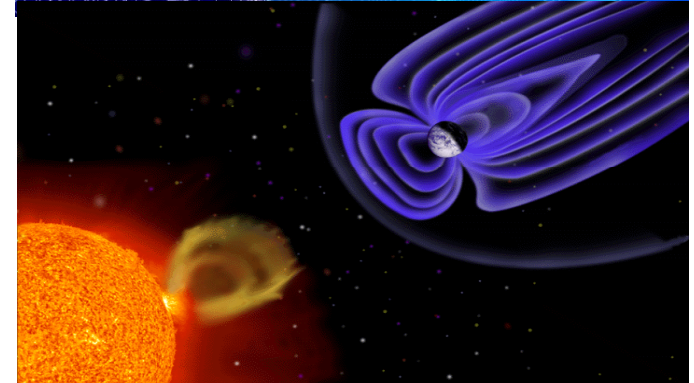
**Air Force Research Laboratory**



# Contents

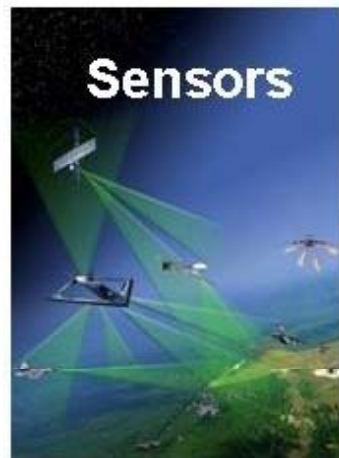
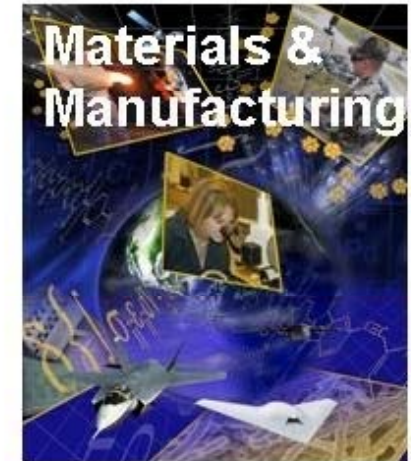
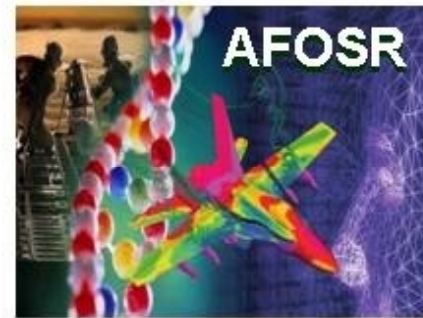


- **AFOSR Overview**
- Research Focus Areas;  
Transitions
- AFOSR International  
Program





# Air Force Research Laboratory



*The Air Force's Corporate Research and Development Laboratory*

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A – Unclassified, Unlimited Distribution





# AFOSR Mission



*Discover, shape, and champion basic science that profoundly impacts the future Air Force*

- ID Breakthrough Research Opportunities – Here & Abroad
- Foster Revolutionary Basic Research for Air Force Needs
- Transition Technologies to DoD and Industry

TODAY'S BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE FOR TOMORROW'S AIR FORCE



# AFOSR Roles AF Basic Research Manager



- **Identify Breakthrough Research Opportunities – Here & Abroad**
  - Regular interactions with leading scientists and engineers
  - 64 workshops conducted; 195 conferences co-sponsored
  - Int'l liaison offices in Europe, Asia, Latin America
  - 227 short-term foreign visitors; 22 personnel exchanges
- **Foster Revolutionary Basic Research for Air Force Needs**
  - 1327 extramural research grants at 228 U.S. universities
  - 590 fellowships; 2224 grad students, 344 post-docs on grants
  - 268 intramural research projects at AFRL, USAFA, AFIT
  - 96 summer faculty; 50 postdocs/senior scientists at AFRL
- **Transition Technologies to DOD and Industry**
  - 153 STTR small business - university contracts
  - 700 funded transitions (follow-on-uses) from FY10 PI data call



# AFOSR Supports University Individual Investigators



- **Goals**

- Provide revolutionary scientific breakthroughs to maintain military air, space, and information superiority
- Build collaborations between AFRL and universities

- **General Submission Process**

- Researchers submit white papers to AFOSR program managers
- Promising white papers lead to request for full proposals
- Proposals merit reviewed for *excellence* and *relevance*
- Individual grants awarded for up to 5-years in duration

- **Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) open at all times to innovative ideas <http://www.afosr.af.mil>**



# Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI)



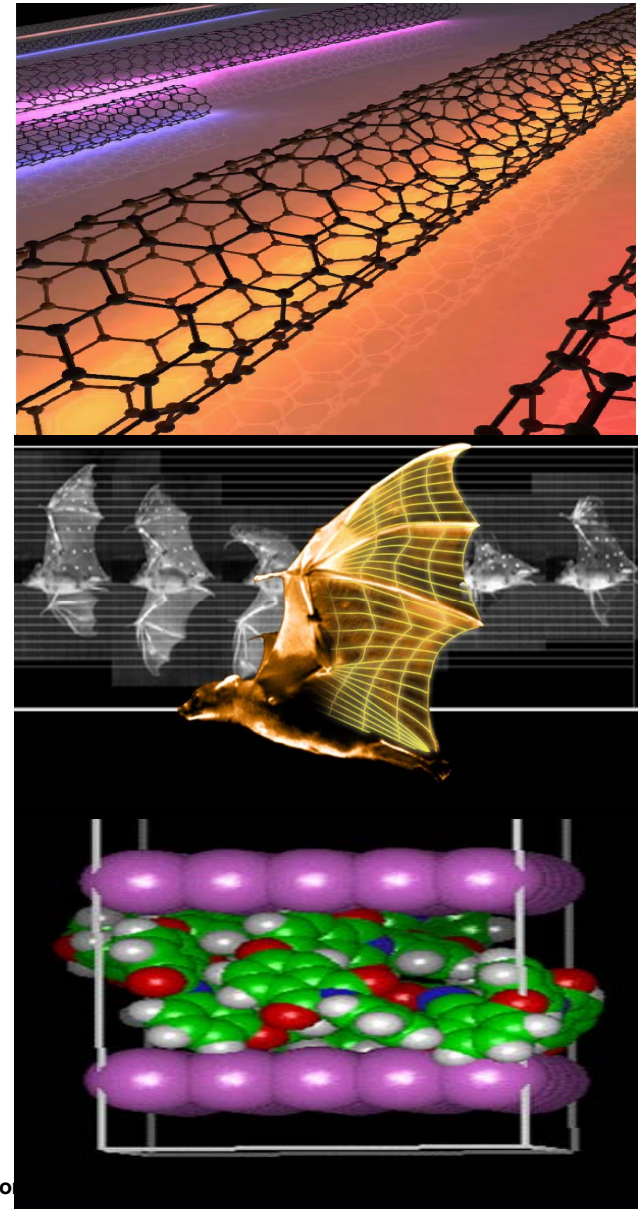
- **Achieve significant scientific advances**
  - Capture attention of top researchers
  - Build on results of individual-researcher grants
  - Encourage multidisciplinary collaboration
- **Up to \$1.5M/yr for five years**
- **Typically 8-10 research topics per Service**
  - Occasional joint topics
  - One or two awards per topic
- **Currently there are 61 AFOSR MURI Projects (FY05-09)**
  - 10 new projects in FY10



# Contents



- AFOSR Overview
- **Research Focus Areas;  
Transitions**
- AFOSR International  
Program



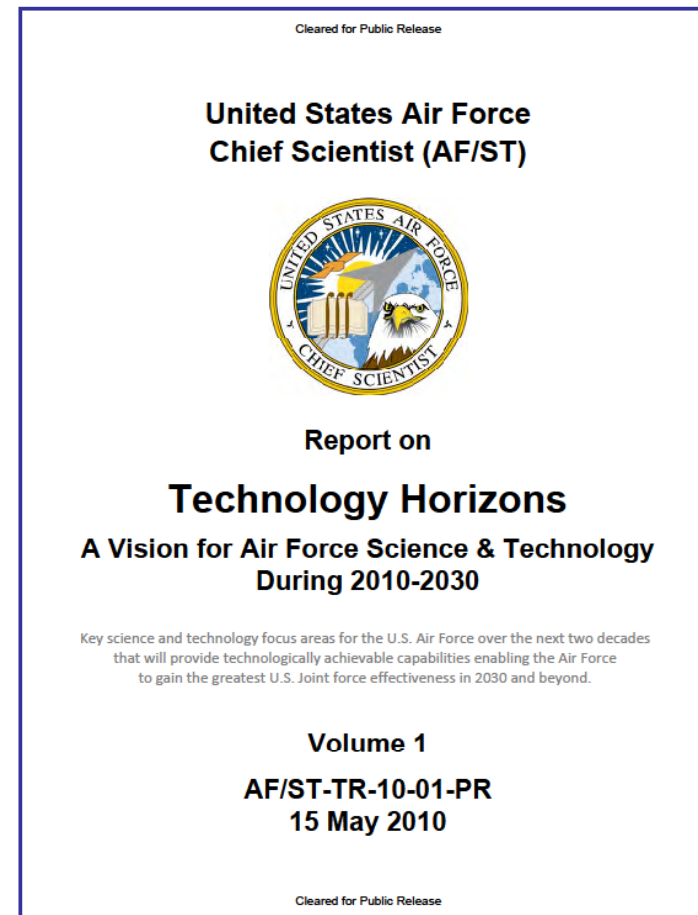




# AF/ST Technology Horizons



- Focus on 10-20-year time horizon
- Tech Horizons Grand Challenges:
  - Inherently Intrusion-Resistant Cyber Networks
  - Trusted Highly-Autonomous Decision-Making Systems
  - Fractionated, Composable, Survivable Remote-Piloted Systems
  - Hyper-Precision Air Delivery in Difficult Environments
- Not all the technologies require new basic science



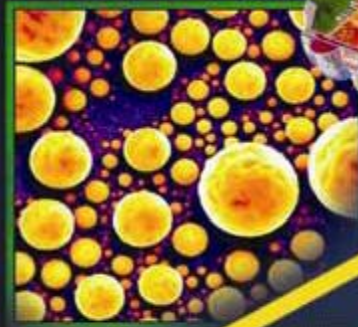
Available at: <http://www.af.mil/information/technologyhorizons.asp>

# Basic Research (Focus Areas)

(FY11PB - \$351M)

## Aerospace, Chemical & Material Sciences

- Aero-Structure Interactions & Control
- Energy, Power & Propulsion
- Complex Materials & Structures



32.8%

31.8%

35.4%

## Physics & Electronics

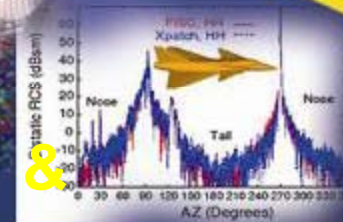
- Complex Electronics & Fundamental Quantum Processes
- Plasma Physics & High Energy Density
- Optics, EM, Comm, Signals Processing

## University Research Initiatives

(FY11PB - \$136M)

## Mathematics, Information & Life Sciences

- Info & Complex Networks
- Decision Making
- Dynamical Sys, Optimization & Control
- Natural Materials & Systems

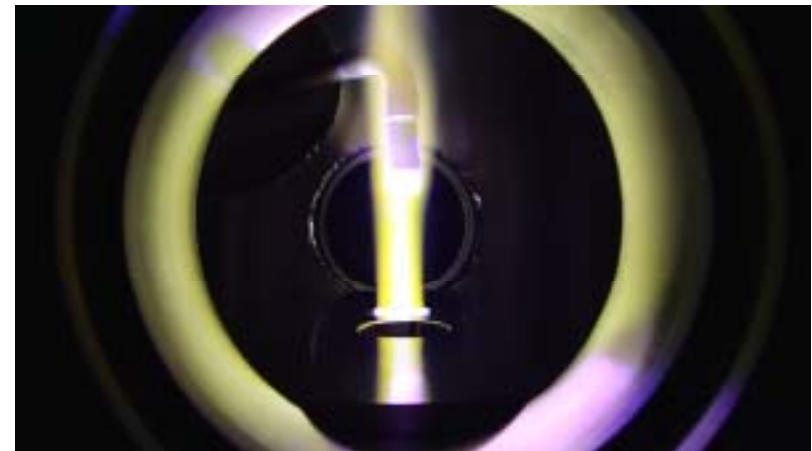




# Aero-Structure Interactions and Control



- Objective: Characterization, modeling, and exploitation of interactions between unsteady aerodynamic flow fields and dynamic air vehicle structures.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Turbulence and laminar-turbulent transition
  - Flow control
  - Unsteady aerodynamics
  - Structural dynamics
  - Aero elasticity



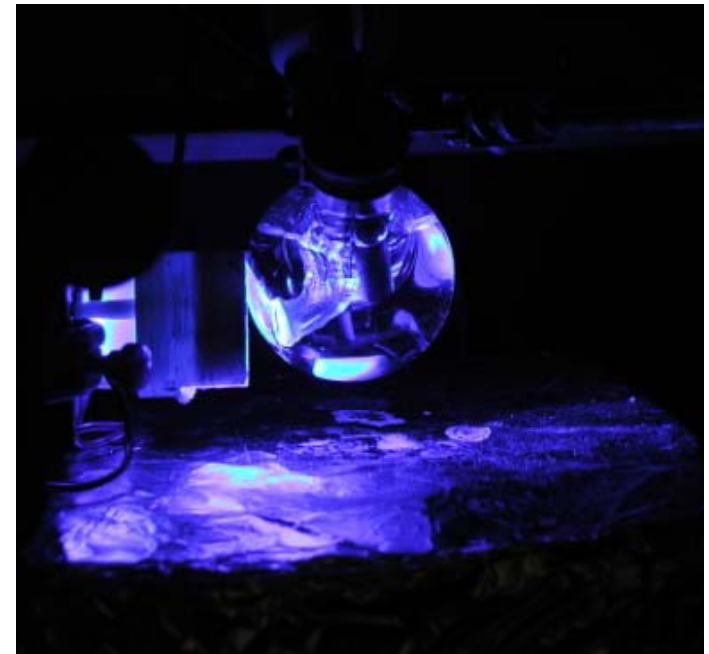
30 kW Inductively Coupled Plasma Facility  
for High Temperature Material Testing



# Energy, Power, and Propulsion



- Objective: Focus on the production, storage, and efficient utilization of energy.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Novel energetic materials
  - Combustion research
  - Thermal science
  - Novel propulsion methods
  - Catalysis chemistry
  - New ways in which energy can be produced/collected/stored/utilized



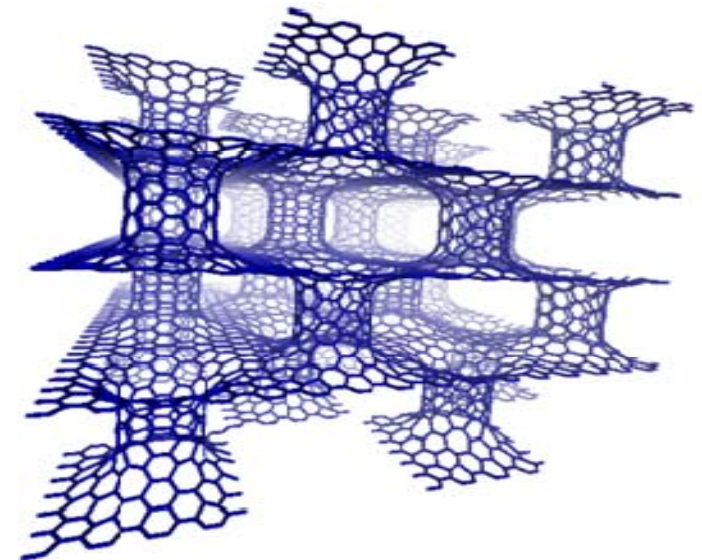
*Blue light (465 nm) is used to convert CO<sub>2</sub> to alcohols with a substituted pyradine catalyst and a p-GaP electrode.*



# Complex Materials and Structures



- Objective: Future materials and structures that incorporate hierarchical design and functionality from the nanoscale through the mesoscale to effect functionality and/or performance characteristics to enhance the mission versatility of future air and space systems.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Materials with tunable properties
  - Adaptive morphing structures
  - Active materials with on-demand shape and phase change
  - Reconfigurable structures



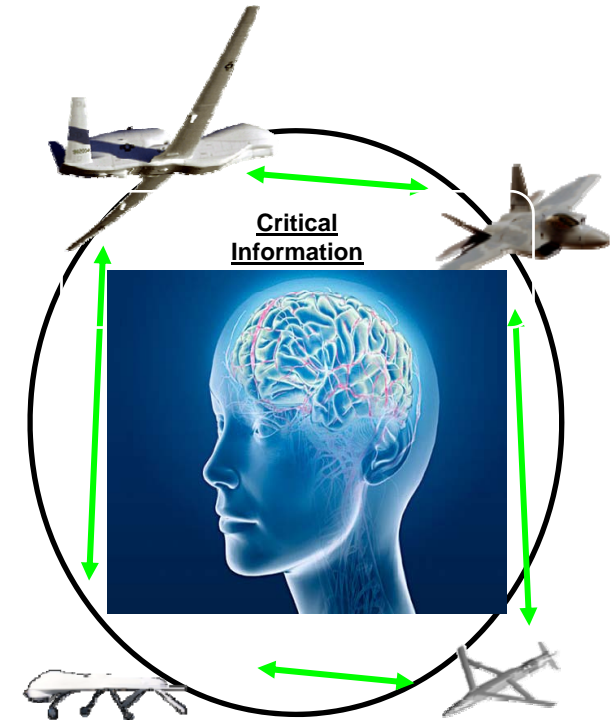
3D Pillared CNT/Graphene Nano Structure



# Decision Making



- ▶ Objective: Discovery of mathematical laws, foundational scientific principles, and new, reliable and robust algorithms, which underlie intelligent, mixed human-machine decision making.
- ▶ Critical Subjects Include:
  - Robust human-machine decision making
  - Socio-cultural modeling
  - Mathematical analysis and models of individual human cognition and collective behaviorCombining sensor, intelligence, and database information resources to formulate hypotheses about adversaries' intentions, information fusion

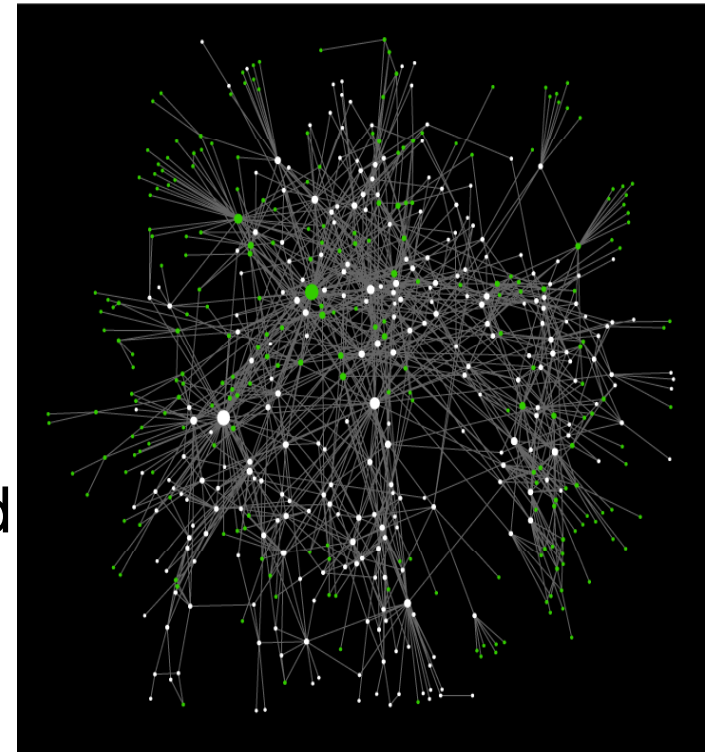




# Information and Complex Networks



- Objective: Reliable and secure exchange of information and predictable operation of networks and systems.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - System and network performance prediction, design and analysis
  - Predict and manage network failure comprehensively
  - Information operations and security
  - Integration of models of computation and cognition for the specification and design of complex human-machine systems



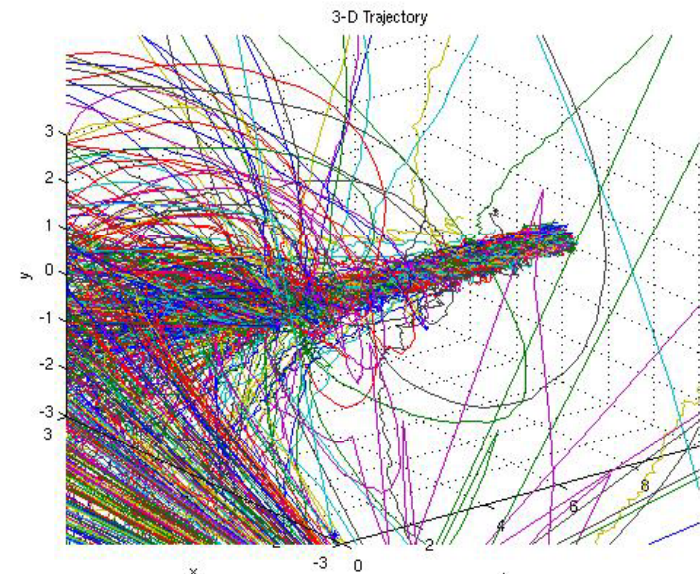
Network Map



# Dynamical Systems, Optimization, and Control



- To provide advances in in the science of autonomy including adaptive control for coordinating heterogeneous autonomous or semi-autonomous aerospace vehicles in uncertain, information rich, dynamically changing, adversarial, and networked environments.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Embedded optimization
  - Dynamical systems theory
  - Reliable scalable algorithms
  - Computational and discrete mathematics
  - Management of the effects of uncertainties
  - Robust adaptive control of complex systems



**Simulation:** 400 agents<sup>†</sup> converge to equilibrium under the Adaptive NCE Control Law

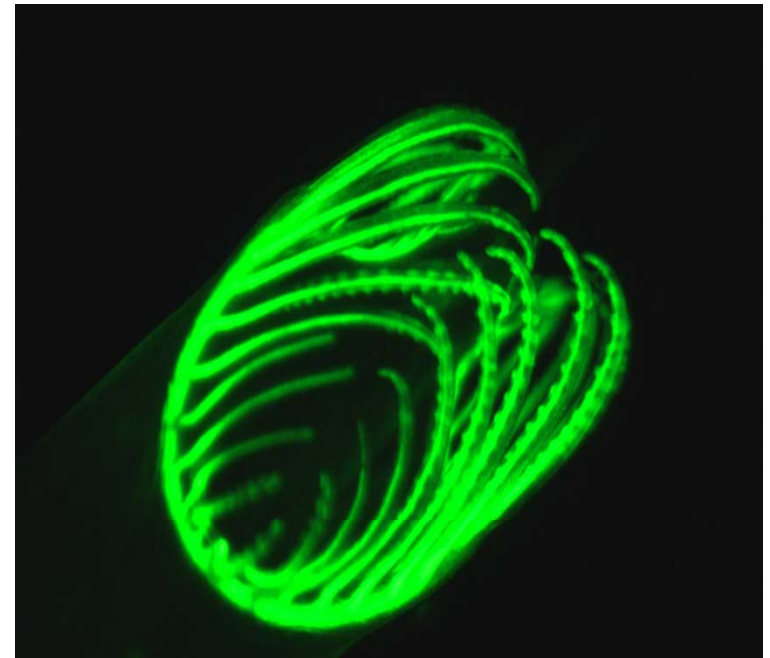




# Natural Materials and Systems



- Objective: Studying, using, mimicking, or altering the novel ways that natural systems build exquisite materials and sensors that often outperform manmade versions and perform under extreme conditions.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Biomimetics of materials and flight
  - Sensors
  - Interfaces
  - Extremophiles
  - Bioenergy



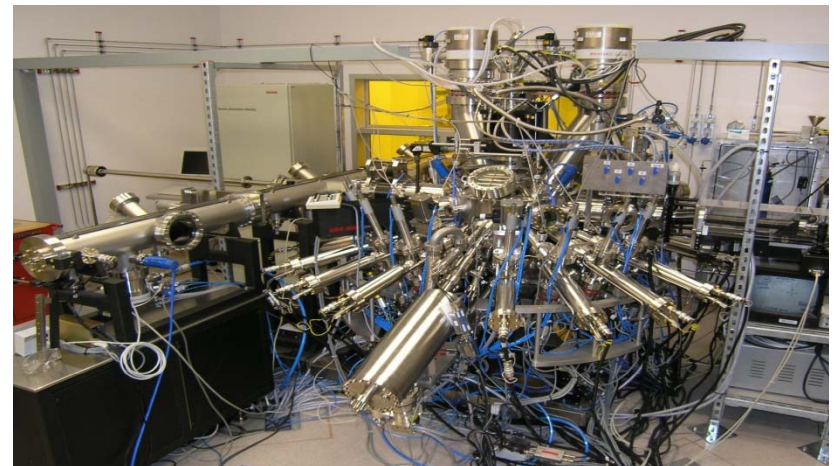
**bfloGFP, a new family of fluorescent proteins from lancelet cephalochordate amphioxus**



# Complex Electronics and Fundamental Quantum Processes



- Objective: Pursue breakthroughs in information processing, secure communication, multi-modal sensing, computer memory, high speed communication and computing through exploration and understand of complex engineered materials and devices.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Non-linear Optical Materials
  - Optoelectronics and Nanophotonics
  - Ultracold Atoms & Molecules
  - Metamaterials & Graphene
  - Dielectric and Magnetic Materials
  - High Energy, Semiconductor and Ultrafast Lasers
  - High temperature Superconductors
  - Quantum Dots and Wells



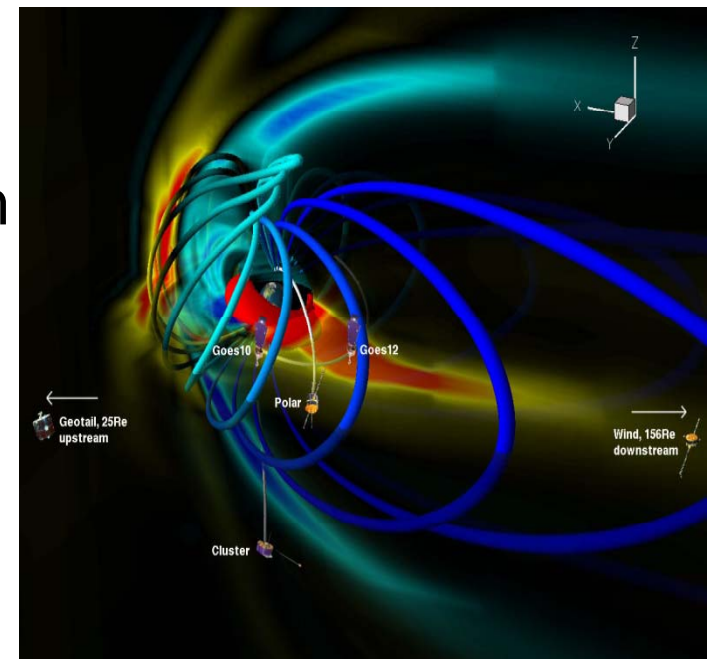
Atomic-Layer Molecular Beam Epitaxy System



# Plasmas and High Energy Density Nonequilibrium Processes



- Objective: Pursue understanding of fundamental plasma, non-linear electromagnetic phenomena, and the non-linear response of materials to high electric and magnetic fields.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Space weather
  - Plasma discharges & non-equilibrium chemistry/thermo
  - Plasma control of boundary layers in turbulent flow
  - RF propagation and RF-plasma interaction
  - High power beam-driven microwave devices



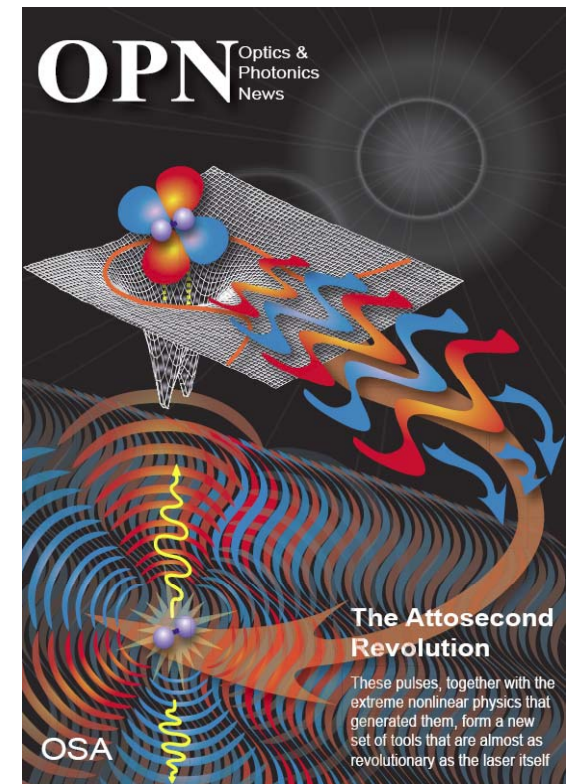
The simulated heliosphere during the Halloween storms.



# Optics, Electromagnetics, Communication, & Signal Processing



- Objective: Pursue understanding of complex electro-magnetic and electro-optical signals impacting space object imaging, secure reliable communication, on-demand sensing modalities, distributed multilayered sensing, automatic target recognition, and navigation.
- Critical Subjects Include:
  - Adaptive Optics and Optical Imaging
  - Laser Phenomenology
  - Precision Navigation and Timing
  - Sophisticated mathematics and algorithm development for extracting information from complex and/or sparse signals





# Contents



- AFOSR Overview
- Research Focus Areas; Transitions
- **AFOSR International Program**



Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation (HIFiRE), is investigating the fundamental science of hypersonics technology and its potential for next generation aeronautical systems.



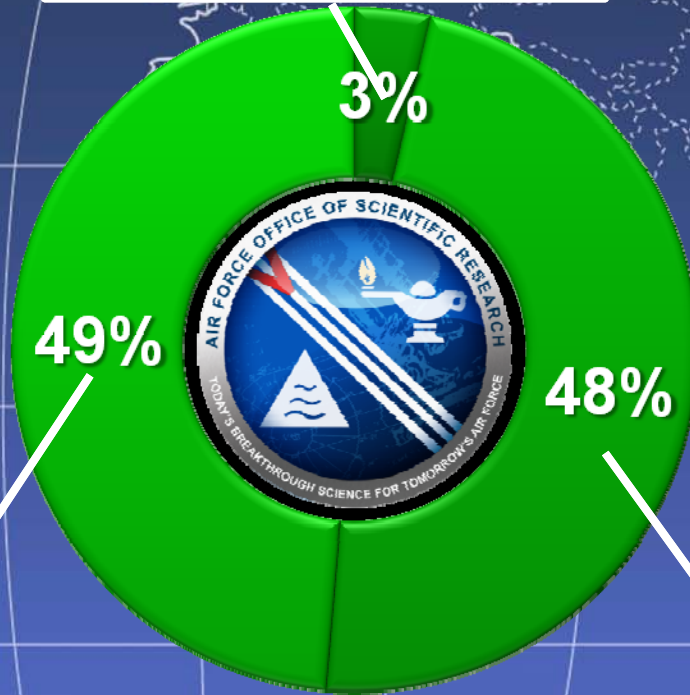
# AFOSR International Enterprise



- *Building international goodwill*
- *Strengthening partnerships*

- *Avoiding technological surprise*

**SOARD**  
SOUTHERN OFFICE OF AEROSPACE  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
Santiago



**EOARD**  
EUROPEAN OFFICE OF AEROSPACE  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
London

**AOARD**  
ASIAN OFFICE OF AEROSPACE  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
Tokyo

*The Sun Never Sets on AFOSR*



# International Research Achievements



- **Agent-Based Computing in Distributed Adversarial Planning: Michal Pechoucek, Czech Tech Univ (EOARD)**

A decision-making process through which an *agent* constructs a sequence of actions (possibly consisting of a single action only) leading to the desirable goal state of the world in an *adversarial situation*.

- **Biomimetic Silicon Nanostructure: Li-Chyong Chen, National Taiwan University, (AOARD)**

Created nanostructure (nanotip) surfaces which mimic moth eye and surpass its function in anti-reflection in that they absorb almost all incident light.

- **Laser-Induced Air Breakdown in Hypersonic Flow: Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil (SOARD)**

Experimental study of hypersonic flow. Gearing up collaboration with Australian hypersonic project HIFIRE .





# AFOSR

AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

**TODAY'S  
BREAKTHROUGH  
SCIENCE FOR  
TOMORROW'S AIR FORCE**

