

# 2021 NDIA Future Force Capabilities Conference

## Modernizing the Energetics Manufacturing Industrial Base

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**FRANKLIN**  
engineering group, inc.



Approved for Public Release

# Presentation Overview

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- Franklin Engineering Group Introduction
- Modernization Process
- Modernization Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Success Stories
- Conclusion

# Franklin Engineering Overview

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- Multi-disciplinary engineering services company
  - Chemical
  - Mechanical/Structural
  - Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls
  - Environmental
- Office located in Franklin, TN (Nashville)
- 20 plus years of executing projects for energetics and munitions production processes
- Small Business



# Franklin Clients

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## Government

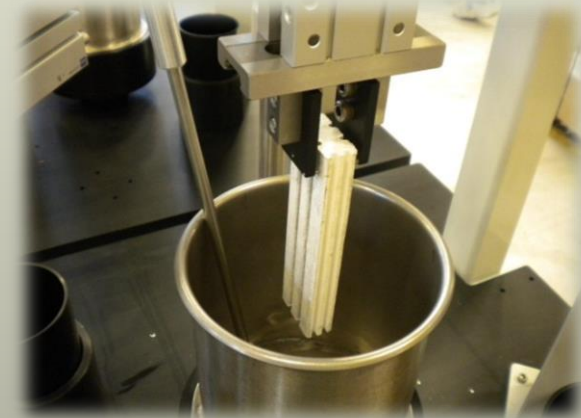
Radford RFAAP	Indian Head NSWC
McAlester AAP	Picatinny Arsenal
Crane NSWC	Lake City AAP

## Commercial

Eastman Chemical	Pacific-Scientific
Solvay	Tesla
Mitsubishi	Nissan

# Hazardous Materials Experience

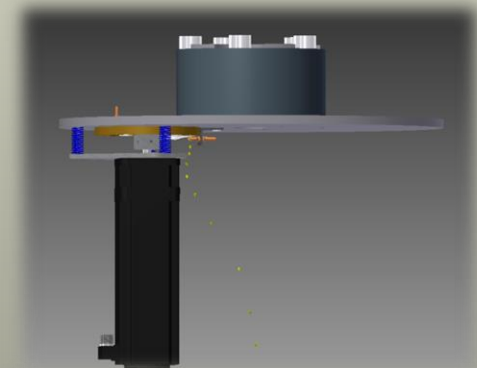
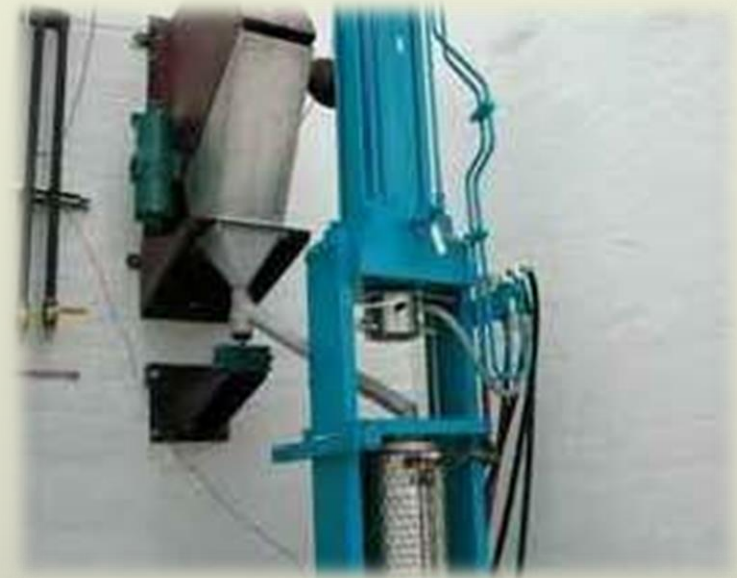
- Munitions, Ammunition, and Primers
- Propellants: Single, double, triple-based
- Explosives
  - TNT
  - PAX
  - PBX
  - Lead azide
  - Lead styphnate
  - MIC
  - HMX
  - PETN
  - KDNBF
  - DDNP
  - ZPP
- Magnesium and aluminum powders
- MTV flare composition
- Elemental phosphorus, white and red
- Phosphine gas
- Lithium and sodium metal
- Ammonium Perchlorate



# Energetics Processing Experience

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- Mixing/blending
- Granulating
- Slurry handling
- Drying and filtration
- Net-shape pressing
- Cast-cure filling
- Extrusion
- High speed cutting
- Pick and place handling
- Gravimetric and volumetric filling
- Abrasive jet cutting and high-pressure water washout
- Waste incineration
- Solvent/vapor recovery and distillation
- Render-safe and demil systems



# Modernization – What?

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- Efforts to update current energetics manufacturing facilities
- Facilities and processes designed and constructed during WWII era (1940/50's) compared to current design and construction.

- 1950's Technology

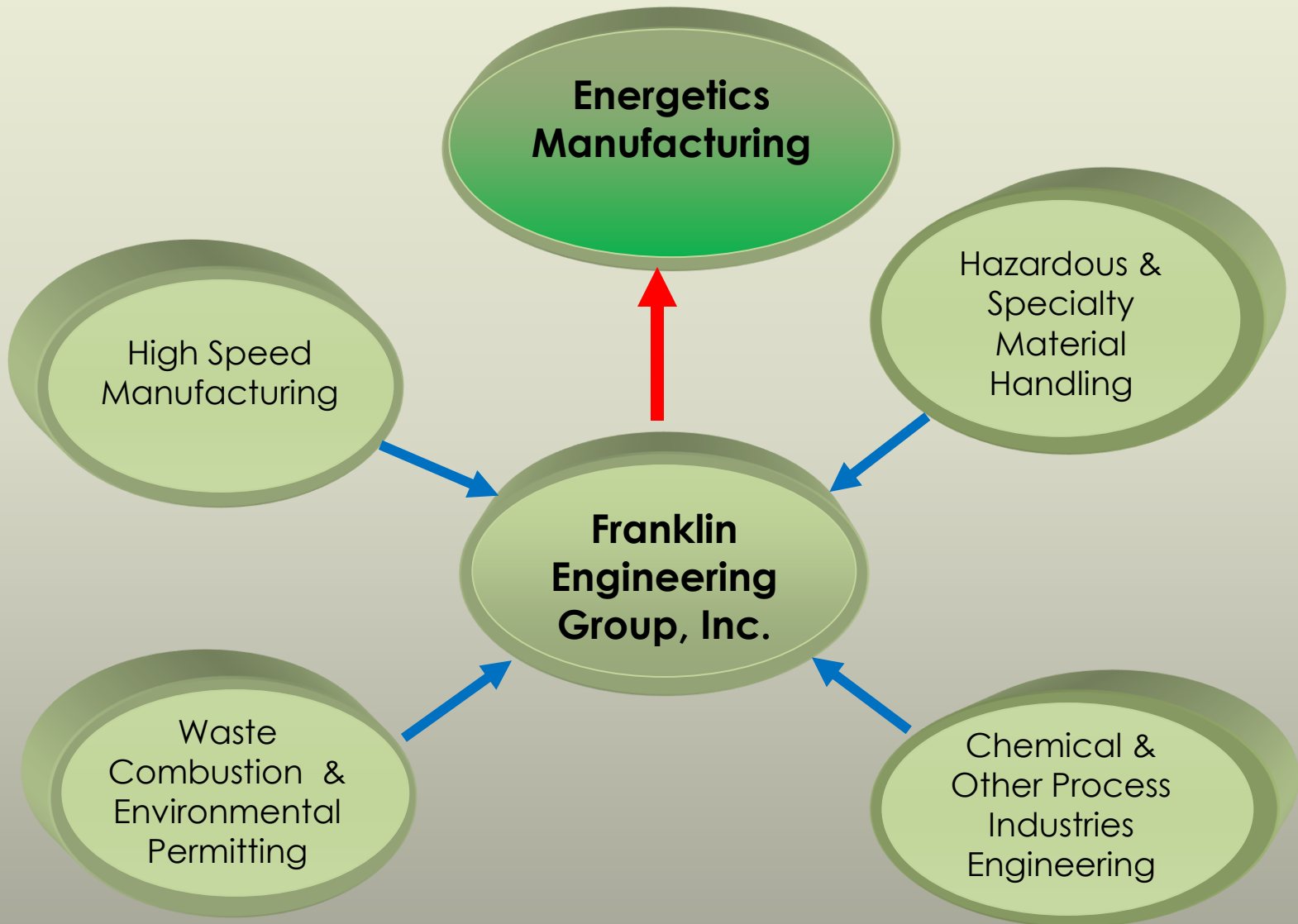


- Modern Technology



# Industries

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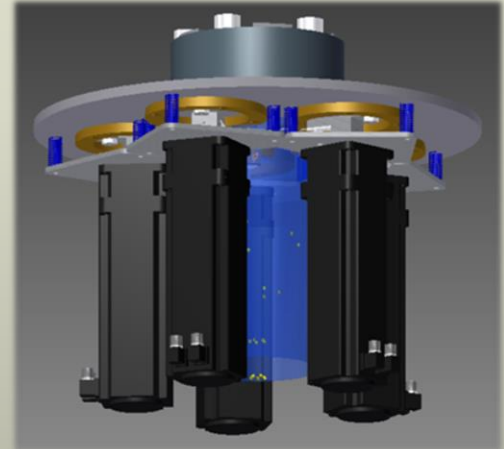




# Modernization – Why?

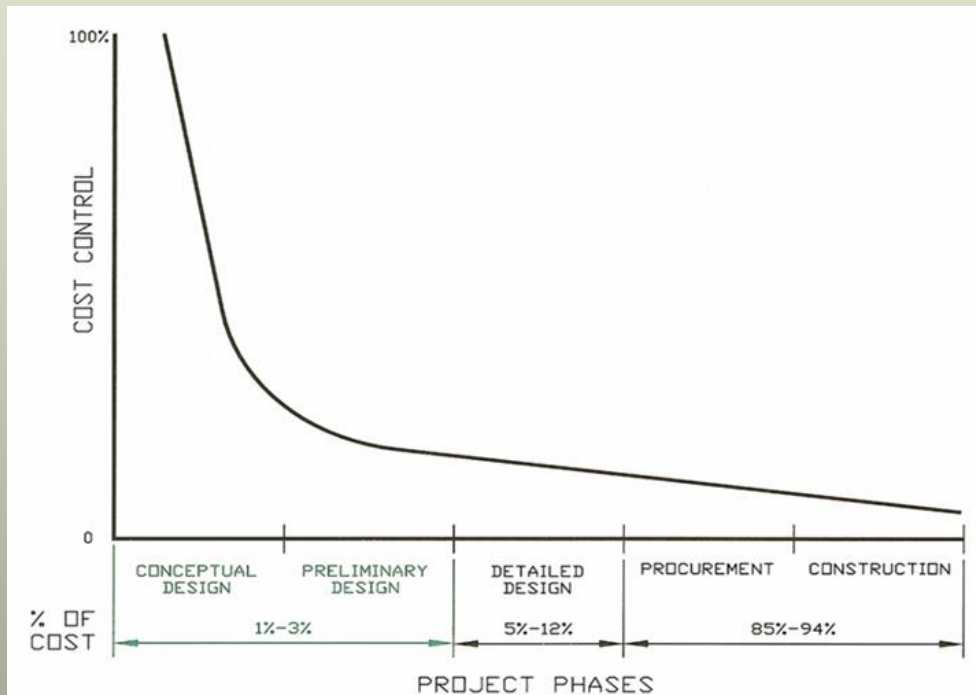
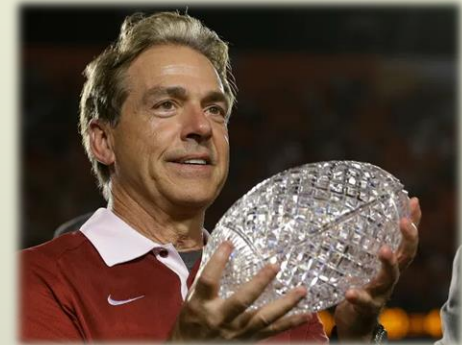
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- Safety
  - Remove operators from dangerous activities
- Quality
  - Increase consistency and improve inspections
- Production capacity and reliability
  - Improved rates with automation
- Cost
  - Reduced operating costs
- Environmental Benefits
  - Reduced emissions
- Sustainability
  - Long term viability
- Competitive
  - Remain competitive in the global market



# Modernization - How?

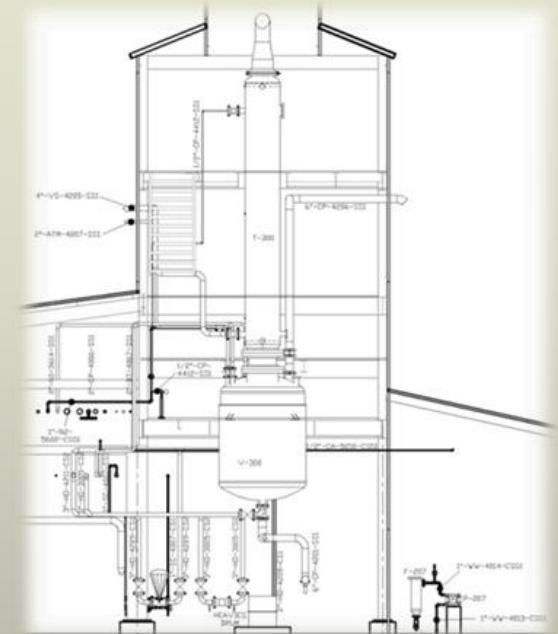
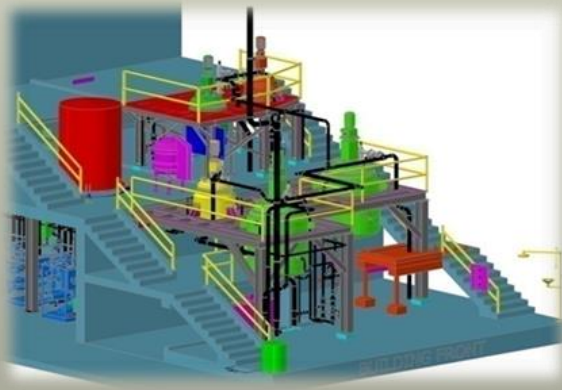
- Phase 1: Conceptual Design
- Phase 2: Development and Testing
- Phase 3: Detailed Design
- Phase 4: Construction and Installation
- Phase 5: Commissioning



# Phase 1 – Conceptual Design

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- Project definition and scope
- Define production and flexibility requirements
- Determine overall throughput
- Clearly define project requirements
- Survey modernization technology
- Evaluate custom solutions
- Select best viable technology solutions
- Identify facility, utility, environmental, and infrastructure constraints



## Phase 2 – Development and Testing

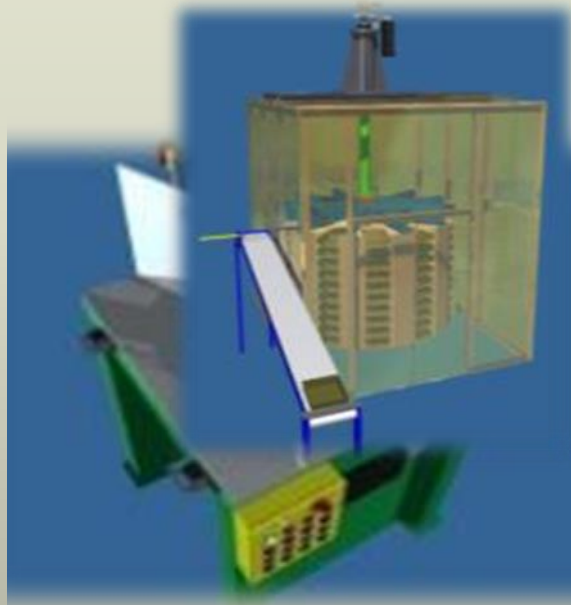
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### Objective:

Identify and validate technologies to replace aged production processes

### Approach:

1. Research
2. Screening
3. Testing
4. Selection



## Phase 3 - Detailed Design

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- Mechanical and electrical design
- Facility design
- Safety approvals (Local, USACE, DDESB, etc)
- Generate construction drawings

## Phase 4 - Construction & Installation

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- Construct facilities (modify existing facilities)
- Fabricate custom equipment
- Purchase COTS equipment
- Install building equipment and process equipment

## Phase 5 - Commissioning

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- Equipment check-out
- Testing (inert batches)
- Start-up

# Modernization - Challenges

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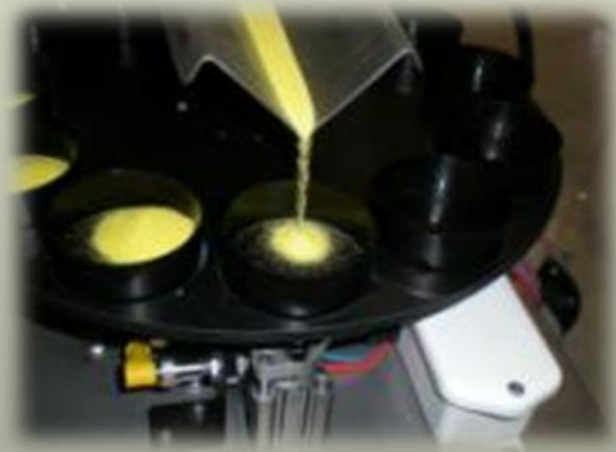
- Safety
  - Electrical classifications
  - Change from traditional processes
- Justification
  - Cost / Funding
- Facilities
  - Older buildings
  - Infrastructure
- Schedule
  - Development time
  - Safety approvals
  - Product qualifications
  - Building upgrades or new construction



# Modernization – Lessons Learned

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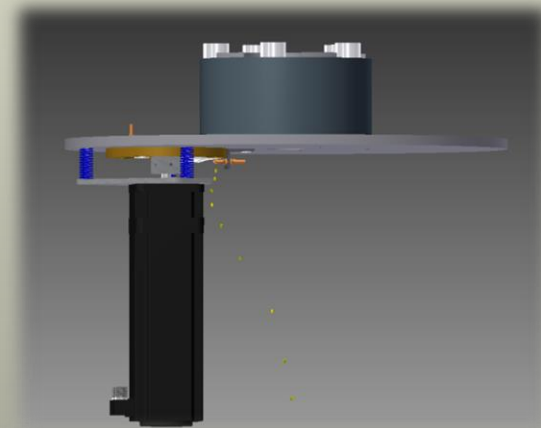
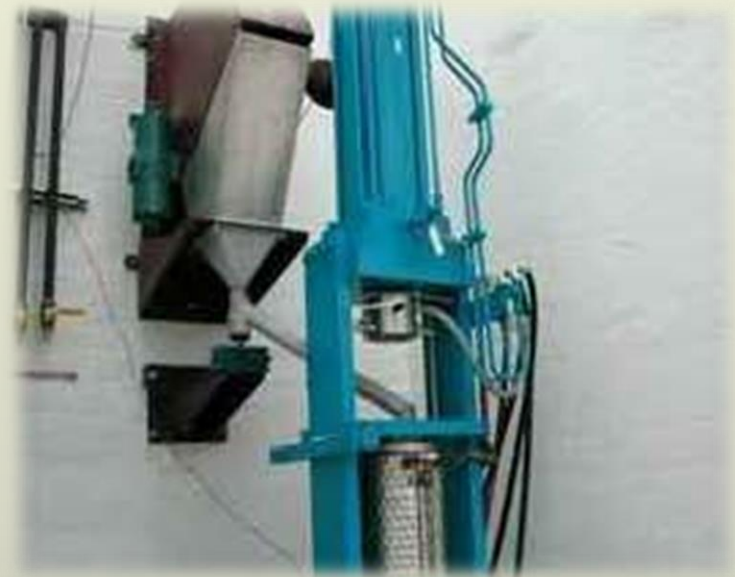
- Safety – Always the Top Priority
- Think outside the box
- Leverage other industries
- Correctly identify problem
  - Proper scope development
  - Don't rush FEL engineering
- Funding
- Approval cycles



# Successful Projects

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- MTV Manufacturing
- Explosives Mixing
- Drying and filtration
- Pressing & extrusion
- Cast-cure filling
- High speed cutting
- Pick and place handling
- Primer assembly
- Abrasive jet cutting
- Waste incineration
- Solvent/vapor recovery
- Render-safe and demil systems



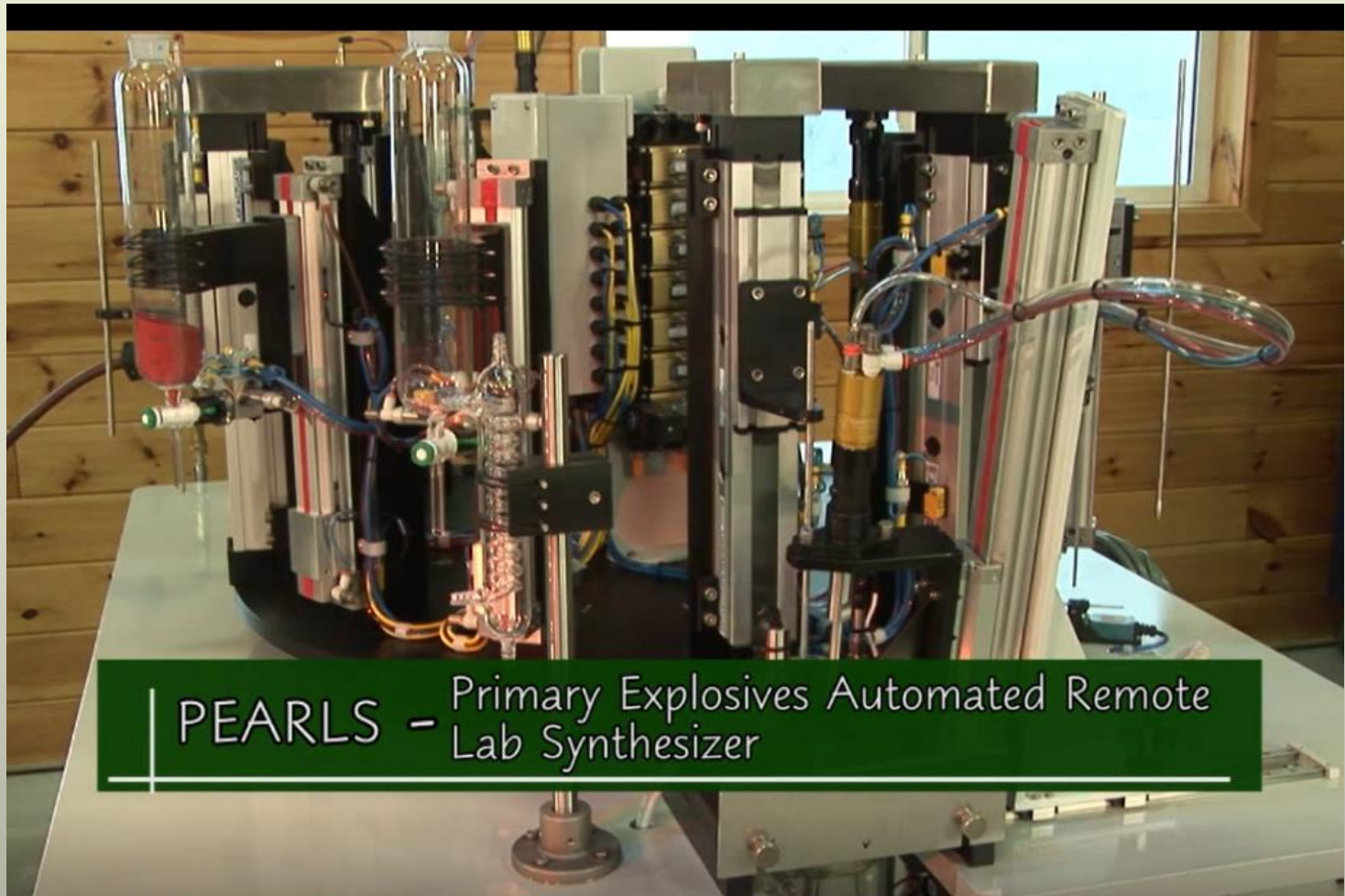


# Automated mixing - Various Energetics

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# Primary Explosives



# Modernization - Summary

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- What?
  - Bringing the energetics manufacturing process into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Why?
  - Safety, quality, cost, sustainability
- How?
  - Follow a proven modernization process and leverage technologies from the chemical, pharmaceutical, automotive industries
- When?
  - NOW, before falling further behind
- Questions?

