## Critical issues of laser fusion reactor KOYO-F

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## Outline

- Introduction
  - Conceptual design reactor KOYO-F
- Issues on liquid wall
- Tritium control
- Issues on neutron damage



Reactor Design Committee was organized to clarify the feasibility of Laser Fusion Plant based on Fast Ignition by IFE Forum and ILE, Osaka University

Chair; A. Tomabechi

Co-chair; Y. Kozaki (IFE, Forum) T. Norimatsu (ILE, Osaka)



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#### Core plasma Working Group

- H. Azechi (ILE),
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- H. Sakagami (Hyogo Unv.),
- H. Shiraga (ILE),
- R. Kodama (ILE),
- H., Nagatomo(ILE),
- T. Johzaki (ILE)

#### Laser Working Group

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- N. Tuchiya (Nishin Co.)
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- T. Jitsuno (ILE),
- M. Nakatsuka (ILE),
- H. Fujita (ILE),
- K. Yoshida (Osaka Inst. Technol.),
- J. Kawanaka (ILE),
- H. Nakano (Kinki Univ.),
- Y. Fujimoto (ILE),
- H. Kubomura (HP),
- T. Kawashima (HP),
- S. Matsuoka(HP),
- T. Ikegawa(HP),
- K. Tusbakimoto (ILE),
- J. Nishimae (Mitsubishi Elec.),
- H. Furukawa (ILT)

### **Target Working Group**

- T. Norimatsu (ILE), M. Nishikawa (Kyushu Univ.), T. Konishi (Kyoto Univ.), T. Endo (Hiroshima Univ.),
- H. Yoshida (Gifu Univ.),
- M. Nakai (ILE)

### Plant system Working Group

- Y. Kozaki (ILE),
- Y. Soman (Mitsubishi Heavy Ind.),
- K. Okano (CRIEPI),
- Y. Furukawa (ILT),
- Y. Sakawa (Nagoya Univ.),
- A. Sagara (NIFS),
- T. Norimatsu (ILE)

### Purpose

- 1) to make a reliable scenario for the fast ignition power plant basing on the latest knowledge of elemental technologies,
- 2) to identify the research goal of the elements
- 3) to make the critical path clear.

KOYO-F

KOYO-F is a fast-ignition, laser-fusion power plant with 4 modular reactors powered by 1.2 MJ, 16Hz, cooled-, Yb:YAG ceramic laser.



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<image>



### Electric output power 1018MW

- Laser (1.1MJ+150kJ)x16Hz (13%) (5.4%)
- Target gain 148
- Fusion yield 200MJx16Hz
- Blanket gain 1.2
- Thermal efficiency 41%
- Circulating power for laser, 193MW



## Compression and heating lasers based on identical amplifier architecture



	Compression laser			
	Main pulse	Foot pulse	Heating laser	
Energy/pulse	1.1 MJ	TBD	150 kJ	
Wavelength	UV (3ω) 343 nm	Visible (20) 515 nm	1030 nm	
Band width	Narrow band	Broad band 1.6 THz	Broad band (rectangular pulse) ~3 nm	
Efficiency	Efficient	Sacrifice of efficiency	(Sacrifice of efficiency)	
Laser material	Cooled Yb:YAG ceramic			
Method for broad band	Arrayed beam with different wavelength ~0.1 nm@1030 nm (0.08 THz@343 nm)	Broad-band OPA pumped by 3ω, Spectral angular dispersion	Broad-band OPCPA pumped by 2ω	

OPA: optical parametric amplifier OPCPA : optical parametric chirped pulse amplifier



## Why Cooled Yb:YAG ?



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Because there are dramatic Improvements in;

1. Wide Tuning Range of Emission Cross Section (Saturation Fluence)

Realize an efficient energy extraction without optics damages

2. 4-Level Laser System

Enough Laser gain even in diode-pump

3. Improved Thermal Characteristics

High average power operation





## Cooled Yb:YAG ceramic is promising as the laser driver material.



# We experimentally confirmed performance of cooled Yb;YAG



Experimental results obtained by HALNA-20 showed DPSLL is a powerful candidate for the reactor driver.





20J x 10Hz Diode pumped solid state laser HALNA-20

### How to access reactor driver? Key: cooling



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- Current Nd glass, flush lamp, air, room temperature
   3 shot/ day (9 × 10<sup>-5</sup>Hz)
- Flush lamp  $\rightarrow$  LD Spectrum fits to pump Nd, by 100

- 1 shot / 1000 sec (9 × 10<sup>-3</sup>Hz)

- Glass → Ceramic Thermal conductivity, by 30
  - 1 shot / 30 sec (0.03 Hz)
- Nd → Yb Quantum efficiency, by 3

– 1 shot / 10 sec(0.1Hz)

- 300K → 200K Thermal conductivity, by 3
  - 1 shot / 3 sec (0.3Hz)
- Air cooling → Freon Cooling rate, by 100
   30 shot / 1 sec (30Hz)
- High shoot rate is possible!!!

### Lasers

## Beam arrays of implosion and hearting lasers



## Illustration of main amplifier using active mirror concept



Large diameter laser beams will be distributed to 4 modular reactors using rotating corner cubes.





### Cooling system with 2MW at 200K can be constructed with existing technology.



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Electric input	ut power	3600+1500kW		
<b>Cooling wat</b>	er 1300	1300m³/h (32-		
37°C)				
Cooling power		2MW at 200K		
		(δT=5K)		
Efficiency		>30%		
Coolant R	R507A(Hig	h)+R23(Low)		

Image of 600kW, two coolants refrigerator\*

This image was produced by Maekawa MFG. Co. LTD.

## Overall Efficiency from Electricity to Laser



	Implosion Laser	Heating Laser	
Laser Power	17.6 MW(1.1MJ, 16 Hz)	1.6 MW(0.1MJ, 16Hz)	
LD Electrical – LD Optical	60%		
LD Optical – 1ω	42%		
LD Electrical – 1ω	25.2% (= 0.6 x 0.42)		
$1\omega - 3\omega$	70%	-	
$1\omega - 2\omega$	-	80%	
OPCPA Eff.	-	40%	
Pulse Compression Eff.	-	80%	
Transportation Eff.	90%	90%	
Harmonic Generation and Transportation	63%	23%	
Electric Input Power	111 MW	27.6 W	
Crystal Heating Power	7 MW	0.7MW	
Cooler Electric Power	23 MW	2.1 MW	
Electric Power Demands	134 MW	30 MW	
Total Electric Power	164 MW		
Overall Efficiency	12% (13% +	· 5.4%)	



After fast ignition, share of lasers in the construction cost becomes minor.



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### Fast ignition KOYO-F

**Central ignition KOYO** 



## **Issue of KOYO-F**



- Following issues remained because of limited data
  - Stability of LiPb flow
  - Chamber clearance
  - Tracking and beam steering
  - Tritium barrier in heat exchanger
  - Swelling of structural wall
  - Life of final optics
  - Control of impurity in LiPb

## Collaborators



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 After the Reactor design committee of KOYO-F (2004-2006), elemental researches on the critical issue of KOYO-F have been continued through bilateral collaboration of NIFS in Japan.



Many thanks to;

- R. Tsuji, Ibaraki Univ. on tracking,
  Y. Kajimura, JAXA, on beam port protection,
- 3 H. Yoshida, Gifu Univ. on beam steering,
- 4 T. Kunugi, Kyoto Univ. on liquid wall,
- 5 H. Furukawa, ILT Osaka, on chamber clearance,
- 6 T. Endo, Hiroshima Univ. on Injection,
- 7 S. Fukada, Kyusyu Univ. on Tritium issue.

H. Azechi, H. Shiraga, T. Jistuno, J. Kawanaka, H. Nagatomo, S. Fujioka, Y. Arikawa (ILE, Osaka)

## Outline

- Introduction
- Issues on liquid wall
  - Stability of LiPb (by T. Kunugi)
  - Chamber clearance (by H. Furukawa)
- Tritium control
- Issues on neutron damage



## Ablation depth and profiles of ablated plume obtained by simulation

Temporal profile of particle loads



ka

**ILE** Spatial profile of deposited energy



Volumetric heating Bragg's peak

### KOYO-F

## Non-symmetric chamber with cascade flow of liquid LiPb







- Dimensions
  - Inner diameter 3m
  - Inner height 10m+3m
    Fusion Yield: 200MJ/shot
  - Blanket: Liquid LiPb
  - First wall: Liquid LiPb
    - 5mm thick cascade flow on side wall
  - Thin laminar flow on ceiling
- Serrated inner wall to prevent the stagnation of ablated materials.

## **Cascade flow of KOYO-F**



- 1) The height of cascade is 30 cm that comes from free fall distance in 0.25 sec (4Hz).
- 2) There is a void at the top of each step to obtain a stable flow.



## **Design base of mockup**

- Water was used instead of liquid LiPb for visibility.
- The mockup was designed to obtain the same Weber number.

Reynolds number:
$$\operatorname{Re} = \frac{u\delta}{v}$$
Weber number: $We = \frac{\rho u^2 \delta}{\sigma}$  $\frac{We_{water}}{We_{LiPb}} = \frac{\sigma_{LiPb}}{\sigma_{water}} \frac{\rho_{water}}{\rho_{LiPb}} \left(\frac{u_{water}}{u_{LiPb}}\right)^2 = 1$  $\therefore \frac{u_{water}}{u_{LiPb}} = 1.21$ 

## The height of the front panel is the same as actual reactor but the width is ¼ of KOYO-F



## A continuous flow was obtained if the thickness is > 3 mm.



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1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> steps







**Numerical simulation** 



# Mixing of hot surface flow with cold inner flow was experimentally confirmed.





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### To simplify protection scheme of ceiling, KOYO-F has vertically unsymmetrical configuration.

The thermal load on the ceiling is close to that of a dry wall chamber. But blistering due to alpha particles seems critical.
 We need a protective layer on the ceiling.



Thermal load at r=3m

### by T. Kunugi

# POP experiment was conducted at KYOTO university.

- In order to confirm the behavior of the liquid film formed on the ceiling of the reactor chamber, proof-of-principle (POP) experiments and numerical simulations were conducted regarding the liquid-film flow on the ceiling wall.
- In order to obtain information of the liquid-film flow, measurements were taken of the liquid-film thickness formed on the inclined wall surface by using a confocal laser scanning microscopy.

### by T. Kunugi

# Procedures of condensation experiments



 In the actual design, the ceiling of the reactor chamber has the cone-type structure inclined at an angle of 45 degrees.



•Condensation experiments were conducted by using an inclined plate which was sloped at an angle of 45 degrees.

- Experimental conditions
  Working fluid : Water
  Material of the plate : Acrylic resin
- POP experiments regarding wettability
- Observation of the behavior when vapor was condensed on the surface of the inclined plate

Experimental apparatus

## **Results of condensation** experiments

### Contact angle was large (=poor wettability)

A few

**1**Generation of many tiny droplets on the wall surface

minutes

2 Grow and coalesce with surrounding droplets

3 Flow down along the wall entraining surrounding droplets

from the wall surface was observed at third process

50 The liquid never fell away 50 from the wall surface at Several Several tens of tens of seconds seconds 100 1 Generation of many tiny 2 Grow and coalesce 3 Flow down along the into thin liquid film wall surface

>Once the liquid film is formed on the wall surface, the liquid will flow down along the ceiling wall and will not fall away from the wall surface as long as vapor will be supplied

The liquid falling away

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third process





droplets on the wall surface

### by T. Kunugi

## Procedures of measuring liquidfilm thickness

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### Contact angle was small (= good wettability)

•Measurements of the liquid-film thickness formed on the inclined wall surface were performed with a confocal laser scanning microscopy.



### Experimental apparatus

### by T. Kunugi

## Results of measuring liquid-film thickness



### Contact angle was small (= good wettability)

### Surface coated one time

Average thickness of liquid-film

X(mm) Y (mm)	0	30	60	80
0	152 µm	173 µm	154 µm	168 µm
20	150 µm	122 µm	128 µm	120 µm
40	135 µm	151 µm	141 µm	171 µm

•Overall averaged thickness : about 150  $\mu m$ 

### Surface coated twice

#### Average thickness of liquid-film X(mm) 0 30 60 80 Y (mm 0 210 µm 214 µm 213 µm 211 µm 202 µm 195 µm 194 µm 196 µm 20 199 µm 210 µm 40 205 µm 200 µm

•Overall averaged thickness : about 200 μm



### Thickness of one coating layer was about 50 µm, and actual thickness of liquid film was about 100 µm



Distribution of average thickness in case coated one time

Distribution of average thickness in case coated twice



## **Numerical simulations**





### ILE, Osaka Numerical simulations were performed with the STREAM, which was an unsteady 3D thermo-fluid numerical analysis code.

Computational domain modeled on the test section inclined at an angle of 45 degrees

➤Tiny droplets placed on the wall surface as an initial condition, in order to simulate the behavior of droplets and liquid film

Numerical conditions

- •Analytical area : Hexahedron area of 1000  $\mu m$  × 1500  $\mu m$  × 500  $\mu m$
- •Number of mesh : 50 × 75 × 25 = 93,750
- •Size of mesh : 20 µm
- •Temperature : 20°C
- •Kind of fluids : Incompressible air and water
- Material of wall : Acrylic resin
- Flow field : Laminar flow in gravity field
- Interval time : 1.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> sec
- Boundary conditions
  - Wall surface : No-slip condition
  - Both ends of X side : Free-slip condition (Symmetry plane)
  - >Both ends of Y side and bottom of Z side : Outflow condition



### Tras : 0.000000 >As an initial condition, tiny droplets were placed on the wall surface Contact angle is large (45 degrees) Time : 0.000000 Tiny droplets coalesced into large droplet, and the large droplet flowed down along the wall surface Les : B.E.K.D.E Contact angle is small (10 degrees)

Tiny droplets coalesced into thin liquid film, and the thin liquid film flowed down along the wall surface

The numerical simulations can retrieve the experimental results

# Summary of POP experiment for protection of ceiling



- POP experiments and numerical simulations were conducted regarding the liquid-film flow on the ceiling wall.
- Once the liquid film is formed on the wall surface, the liquid will flow down along the ceiling wall and will not fall away from the wall surface as long as the vapor will be supplied.
- This experimental result indicated that a layer wettable with liquid LiPb is necessary on the ceiling.
- Future work
  - Erosion of the wettable layer
  - Life time of continuous layer after condensation of blast vapor



### **Chamber clearance**

# Irradiation Intensities of $\alpha$ particles and Debris Ions at the surface of Liquid Wall





- When heating laser is irradiated on target,
- I set time = 0.
- Characteristic time in an ablation of liquid wall of laser fusion is roughly sub nano second.
- The physics in an ablation of liquid wall of laser fusion is quite deferent from that of burning plasmas and magnetically confinement fusion.
## The simulation code covers microscopic energy deposition and macroscopic expansion processes



# Large clusters are formed near the surface. The peak of number density is at 0.3m form the surface when the plume front reaches the center.



By Furukawa

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#### **Chamber clearance**

#### 2D calculation indicated that the mass toward the center is 1/10 of ablated vapor





Due to energy deposition process of alpha particles, ablated vapor is accelerated from inside. As the result, instabilities happen.

t=0.0 ns



t=10.0 ns

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# We estimated that possibility of collisions of aerosols is 1/100



Gas component makes a hot, dense peak at the center but most of aerosols pass through the core without collision. As the result, the stagnation and precipitation of ablated material seems not so critical.

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Three dimensional hybrid code was used.

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Equation of motion of ions

$$m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = Ze(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v}_i \times \mathbf{B}), \ \frac{d\mathbf{x}_i}{dt} = \mathbf{v}_i$$

Hydrodynamic equation of electrons  $n_e m_e \frac{d\mathbf{v}_e}{dt} = -en_e (\mathbf{E} + v_e \times \mathbf{B}) - \nabla P_e$ 

**Faraday's law**  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E}$ 

Ampere's law

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B}_{p} = \mu_{0} (\mathbf{J}_{e} + \mathbf{J}_{i})$$
$$\mathbf{J}_{e} = -en_{e} \mathbf{v}_{e}, \ \mathbf{J}_{i} = en_{i} \mathbf{v}_{i}$$

•The electric field in plasma was calculated from motion of electrons and that in neutral region was calculated from Laplace equation.



## **Calculation model**







N $\alpha$ =2.5 x 10<sup>18</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> V=1.4 x 10<sup>6</sup> m/s



## Magnetic field is effective to reduce the alpha load on the tip of beam port.



Coil radius r =13 cm B =0.9 T ILE, Osaka

- No influence on side wall of beam port
- Thermal load around the beam port was increased to 150 % but this is acceptable.

## Outline

- Introduction
- Issues on liquid wall
- Tritium control
  - Tritium barrier in heat exchanger
- Issues on neutron damage



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## Tritium diffusion through heat exchanger is critical issue of fusion plant.



If there is no tritium barrier, tritium spreads quickly over heat cycles. 1/5 of injected tritium goes to the second water loop in the worst case. Coating of Er2O3 enables tritium recovery as fuel, but insufficient in safety view point.

#### We are going to use double tubes. Thin lines in the wall are filled with carrier gas and oxygen to convert tritium to HTO.





### With 12 lines for tritium trapping



ILE, Osaka Partial pressure of tritium in the trapping tube is assumed to be zero. 10 mm  $1.0 \times 10^{15}$ 3 mm  $5.0 \times 10^{15}$  $2.5 \times 10^{16}$ 12.5 mm  $1.25 \times 10^{17}$ Line for tritium trapping  $6.25 \times 10^{17}$ 30°  $3.13 \times 10^{18}$  $1.56 \times 10^{19}$  $2.2 \times 10^{19}$ (atoms/m<sup>3</sup>) Tritium flux  $1.06 \times 10^{16}$  atoms/m<sup>2</sup> · sec

#### Heat flux $1.63 \times 10^5$ W/m<sup>2</sup>

## With 30 lines, tritium permeation was reduced to 2/10<sup>5</sup> of base line tube.





### Summary of tritium barrier



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- We propose a tritium filtering system for a heat exchanger, which is compatible with coating technique.
- By using both techniques simultaneously, we can reduce the tritium accumulation in the second water loop to an acceptable level.

## Outline

- Introduction
- Issues on liquid wall
- Tritium control
- Issues on neutron damage
  - Concept for first structural wall
  - Final optics



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First wall

## How to deal with neutrons damage of the first structure wall?



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The neutron load on the first structure wall of KOYO-F is 40
- 70 dpa/y. So, swelling of the blanket wall is unavoidable.





To allow expansion, we keep gaps between cells and the cell is mounted on the frame at one fixed point and two sliding points. -> we expect 2 year continuous operation.

### How to protect the final optics



- $\alpha$  particles, ions
- Neutral vapor

• Neutrons

Magnetic field ILE, Osaka Synchronized rotating shutter and inert gas in beam duct Distance



### Neutron load on final optics of KOYO-F



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Compression beam (L=30m)
 2.5 × 10<sup>12</sup> n/s cm<sup>2</sup>. (8 × 10<sup>23</sup> n/m<sup>2</sup>FPY)

Ignition beam (L=15 – 25 m)
 5 × 10<sup>12</sup> – 1.5 × 10<sup>13</sup> n/s cm<sup>2</sup>





\*2 M. E. Sawan, et al, Fusion Science and Technology, Vol. 52, No4, pp938-942, 2007. \*3 R. W. Moir, Fusion Eng. And Design, 51-52 (2000) 1121.

# This estimation is moderately supported by Snead's experiment.



Fig. 5. Optical inspection of HfO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> mirrors in the non-irradiated and neutron irradiated condition as a function of post-irradiation annealing temperature.



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Fig. 8. Effect of neutron irradiation on the relative reflectance of HfO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.



Fig. 11. Absolute reflectivity of non-irradiated, irradiated, and irradiated/annealed HfO<sub>2</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> mirrors.

#### From L. L Snead, et al., FUSION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY VOL. 56 (2009) pp1069

We estimated that the life of reflective mirror is 2 month.



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Attenuation of SiO<sub>2</sub> optical fiber by DT neutrons
 I<sub>in</sub>/I<sub>out</sub> = 1 × 10<sup>-19</sup> dB/cm/(n/cm<sup>2</sup>)

(From T. lida, et al., Nucl. Sci. Technol., 24(12), pp1073 (1987))

- Thickness of multilayer coating <10  $\mu$ m
- Total absorption of laser light < 1kW (water cooling from back side of mirror)</li>

Life of mirror 2 - 4 months

### Cost for mirrors is acceptable.



- If we replace all mirrors for compression beams every 2 month in a short halt of laser operation.
- The cost for mirrors 1.4 M\$/2 months
- Target cost 16 M\$/2 months (@ 20C/target)
- Sale 150 M\$/2 months(@ 10 C/kWh)
- Running cost for mirrors is less than 1% of total sale, which is acceptable.

Traverser



The critical issue of KOYO-F is the final optics for the heating 150kJ/30ps laser.



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- The diameter of heating laser is about 3m. So, periodic replacement of expensive multicoated mirror seems inappropriate.
- Conventional GIMM and GILMM<sup>\*1</sup> are also critical due to bent of base frame.



Fig. 4. Pulse-width dependence of damage threshold of a gold grating and a gold mirror at 1053 nm.

Because of low damage threshold, metal mirror becomes big.

\*1 R. W. Moir, Fusion Eng. Design, 51-52, (2000) pp1121.

B. C. Stuart, J. Opt. Soc. Am. B/ 13, 458 (1996)

### Neutron damages on glass lense and metal mirror



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	Defects and size	Defect source	Effect on laser	When defects
			beam	appear?
Lenses	Defect in grid (Color center)	Collision	Increase of absorption	Life:5 min for 3cm thick optics
	$\lambda_{defect} < \lambda_{\lambda aser} / 10$	Sputtering	No influence	
Mirror	$\lambda_{defect} = \lambda_{aser}$	Blistering by He	Scattering	>1 dpa, 1 year
$\leftarrow \lambda_{defect} \rightarrow$	$\lambda_{defect}$ >10 $\lambda_{laser}$	Swelling of structure by He	Defocusing	>1 dpa, 1 year

Swelling of support frame would increaser the focusing size. Estimated life time of GIMM is 1 year.

## Level, Grazing Incident Liquid Metal Mirror\* will be used for 150kJ/30ps heating laser.

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\*R. W. Moir, Fusion Eng. Design, 51-52, (2000) pp1121.

#### Summary 1

#### Issue of KOYO-F and the current solution

- Stability of liquid flow
  - Cascade flow. OK
  - If wettable Ceiling, OK
- Tracking and beam steering
  - Tracking, OK
  - Damping of large mirror to be studied.
- Life of final optics
  - Implosion beam OK by replacing them every 4 M.
- Tritium barrier in heat exchanger
  - Er<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coating + double tube concept +TRS in the 2<sup>nd</sup> loop
- Swelling of structural wall
  - Scale scheme for blanket cell
  - Textile blanket wall
- Impurity control in LiPb



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#### Summary 2 and Roadmap to laser fusion power plant



i-LIFT can be fabricated using existing materials and improved technologies.



# Thank you for your attention!

