OVERVIEW OF THE LOW TEMPERATURE PLASMA SCIENCE WORKSHOP: LTPS PRIORITIES AND DIRECTIONS

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AGENDA

- Background: Plasma 2010 Decadal Study
  - Plasma 2010 Recommendations-LTPSE Focus
  - Low Temperature Plasma Science Conclusions and Recommendations
- Low Temperature Plasma Science Workshop
  - Charge from OFES
  - Organization
  - Research Challenges and Priorities
- Current Status
In 2005, National Academies convened the *Plasma 2010 Committee* as part of the decadal survey of physics. The tasking was:

- Assess the progress and achievements of plasma science over the past decade.

- Identify new opportunities and compelling science questions, framing the future outlook, and place the field in the context of physics as a whole.

- Evaluate the opportunities and challenges for applications of plasma science to fusion and other fields.

- Offer guidance to government programs and scientific communities for addressing these challenges and realizing these opportunities.

- Steven Cowley, University of California, Co-Chair
  - John Peoples, Jr., Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Co-Chair
PLASMA 2010: REPORT - AREAS

• “Plasma Science: Advancing Knowledge in the National Interest”
  • Basic Plasma Science
  • Space and Astrophysical Plasmas
  • Plasma Physics at High Energy Density
  • The Plasma Science of Magnetic Fusion
  • Low Temperature Plasma Science and Engineering (LTPSE)

• National Academies Press
  http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11960
The expanding scope of plasma research is creating an abundance of new scientific opportunities and challenges.

These opportunities will expand the role of plasma science in enhancing economic security and prosperity, energy and environmental security, national security, and scientific knowledge.

To fully realize the opportunities in plasma research, a unified approach is required.

The Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Science should reorient its programs to incorporate magnetic and inertial fusion energy sciences, basic plasma science, non-mission-driven high-energy density plasma science, and low-temperature plasma science and engineering.
New Regimes

• Facilities of the next decade (ITER and NIF) will enable investigation of scientific issues in new regimes.

• Increasing overlap with other scientific disciplines is driving whole new frontiers
  
  • High-power, short-pulse lasers.
  
  • Control and manipulation of atoms and molecules connects LTPSE with atomic, molecular, and optical science.
  
  • Biology, healthcare, environmental remediation now realms of plasma science.

Predictive capability

• Advances in theory, computations and diagnostics provide new capabilities in understanding, predicting, and controlling the behavior of plasmas.
New research directions necessitate an evolution in the structure and portfolios of federal agencies supporting plasma science.

4 research challenges were identified that the current organization of federal plasma science does not optimally exploit:

1. Discovery-driven high energy density physics
2. Intermediate-scale plasma science
3. Fundamental low-temperature plasma science and engineering
   - Basic research fuels a plethora of applications from sterilization in healthcare and environmental remediation to surface-coating treatments for high-performance alloys.
4. Cross-cutting, interdisciplinary research
   - There are significant opportunities at the interfaces...with allied science fields. (Unclear how a physicist, materials engineer and medical doctor get funded...)

WHAT IS AT STAKE?-LTPSE

Plasma 2010: Low Temperature Plasma Science and Engineering
To fully realize opportunities in plasma research across the many sub-fields, a unified approach to funding and coordinating is required.

The Department of Energy’s Office of Science should reorient its research programs to incorporate:
- Magnetic and inertial fusion energy sciences
- Basic plasma science
- Non-mission-driven high-energy density plasma science
- **Low-temperature plasma science and engineering**
PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION II-LTPSE

• The new stewardship role for the Office of Science expands well beyond the current mission of the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences.

• A broader portfolio of plasma science beyond the fusion-centric research OFES currently supports including two-major thrusts.
  • Non-mission-driven high-energy density plasma science
  • Low-temperature plasma science and engineering

• This stewardship role will not replace nor duplicate programs in other agencies; rather, it would enable a science-based “point of departure” for federal efforts in plasma-based research.

• Changes would be more evolutionary than revolutionary, starting modestly and growing with the expanding science opportunities.
LTPSE: ROBUST SCIENCE, SOCIETAL BENEFIT

Operating premise:
LTPSE has a history and future of robust, interdisciplinary science challenges whose resolution provides immediate and long term societal benefit.
LTPSE: SCIENCE BASED HIERARCHY

- Societal benefit is built on a science base with the goal of predictability. Challenges are synergistic with other plasma areas.

**High-value manufacturing and materials**
- semiconductors
- nanomaterials
- polymers
- textiles

**National goals and security**
- commercial & planetary space propulsion
- bioagent destruction
- directed energy weapons

**Clean air and water**
- H2 reformation
- photovoltaics
- efficient lighting

**Sustainable energy**
- water purification
- plasma combustion
- waste treatment

**Economics**
- efficiency and selectivity

**Health and medicine**
- biocompatibility
- sterilization
- surgery

**Predictability**
- theory, codes, diagnostics, data

**Generation, stability & control**

**Interactions with complex surfaces**

**Stochastic and chaotic behavior**

**Pervasive science for Plasma2010**

**Plasmas in multiphase media**

**Low-temperature plasma science**
FIELD IS EXTREMELY DIVERSE

• Diversity of field makes leveraging across science and application areas challenging:

• Size: From the need for ever larger, stable plasmas (5 m² plasmas for LCD television panels) to tiny (100 µm²) plasmas so intense that the plasma electrons merge with solid electrodes.

• Pressure: From ever lower pressures used in semiconductor processing equipment (< 1 mTorr) to increasing pressures (>200 atm) for the lamps that power projection displays.

• Chemistry: From simple rare-gas plasmas used to propel spacecraft to ever more complex chemistries for plasma-augmented combustion and material processing.
SCIENCE CHALLENGES UNITE FIELD

- **Plasma heating, stability, and control:** Connect charged and neutral collisional and collective processes at the atomic level to the behavior of m^2 plasmas.

- **Efficiency and selectivity:** Quantitatively understand the flow of energy and material.

- **Stochastic, chaotic and collective behavior:** Understand and control transitions among the different regimes of behavior.

- **Plasma interactions with surfaces:** Quantify and predict the interactions between reactive plasmas with complex surfaces.

- **Diagnostics and models:** Develop predictive capability to advance understanding and speed the development of technologies.
FUTURE SCIENTIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

• Basic interactions of plasmas with organic materials and living tissue
• Methods to describe the behavior of plasmas that contain chaotic and stochastic processes.
• Stability criteria for large, uniform, high-pressure plasmas.

• Interaction of high-density (micro-) plasmas with surfaces
• Flexible, noninvasive diagnostics
• Fundamental data

Plasma 2010: Low Temperature Plasma Science and Engineering
KEY RECOMMENDATION-LTPSE

• To fully address the scientific opportunities and the intellectual challenges within LTPSE, and so optimally meet economic and national security goals, one federal agency should assume lead responsibility for the health and vitality of this subfield by coordinating an explicitly funded, interagency effort. This coordinating office could appropriately reside within the Department of Energy’s Office of Science.
LOW TEMPERATURE PLASMA SCIENCE WORKSHOP
LOW TEMPERATURE PLASMA WORKSHOP

• NRC Decadal Study recommends that DOE Office of Science should:
  • Assume responsibility for health and vitality of the subfield of low temperature plasma science (LTPS)
  • Coordinate an explicitly funded, interagency effort.

• To begin implementation, a workshop to identify scientific challenges in LTPS for next decade was commissioned by Dr. Raymond J. Fonck, Associate Director for Fusion Energy Sciences, DOE Office of Science

• Workshop held at UCLA 25-27 March 2008

• David B. Graves, Mark J. Kushner - co-Chairs
• David Goodwin, Michael Crisp – OFES Laisons
• Jody Shumpert – ORISE Coordinator

Low Temperature Plasma Science Workshop
CHARGE TO WORKSHOP AND DELIVERABLE

- Charge for Workshop
  - Summarize the status of research in LTPS.
  - Identify and communicate outstanding major scientific questions in LTPS.
  - Articulate the importance of these questions, both in terms of fundamental science and potential applications.
  - Describe basic research activities needed to address these questions.
  - Develop a scientific and prioritized roadmap for an initiative in LTPS.

- Deliverable:
  Report to broader scientific community that OFES will use to develop a modest new program in LTPS to be proposed to be part of the American Competitiveness Initiative.
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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STRUCTURE OF WORKSHOP

- Initial working groups based on recommendations, themes, opportunities of the Decadal Report *Plasma 2010*
- Starting points...expected some evolution and possible consolidation
- Working groups to deliver chapters for report.
- Example of desired outcome:
  - “Future Science Needs and Opportunities for Electron Scattering: Next Generation Instrumentation and Beyond”
  - [http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/reports/archives.html](http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/reports/archives.html)
CHARGE TO WORKING GROUPS

- Emphasize science challenges and opportunities...not applications....though science issues can (and should) be motivated by applications.

- Working groups deliver....

- Introduction to science area and short historical perspective
- Motivating technologies and potential societal benefit
- Description of science challenges
  - Why is this science issue fundamentally important?
  - Progress to date
  - What science benefit will result?
  - What specifically needs to be done?
  - What are linkages to other areas of science (e.g., AMO)
- Prioritized list of science challenges

Low Temperature Plasma Science Workshop
# STARTING WORKING GROUPS

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        |                                                                      | M. Geockner                         |
| 2     | Chaotic, non-linear, stochastic processes, including multiphase and plasmas in liquids | K. Stalder  
        |                                                                      | V. Godyak                           |
| 3     | Stability, generation of large, uniform plasmas including high pressure | I. Adamovich                        |
| 4     | High density microplasmas: Interaction with surfaces                  | D. Economou                         |
| 5     | Interaction of plasmas with, and production of, nanostructures        | U. Kortshagen                       |
| 6     | Flexible, noninvasive plasma diagnostics and sensors                  | G. Hebner  
<pre><code>    |                                                                      | V. Donnelly                         |
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<p>| 7     | Fundamental data                                                     | A. Garscadden                       |</p>
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• Low Temperature Plasma Science: Not only the Fourth State of Matter but All of Them

• Published, September 2008
LTPS – PRIORITY 1: PREDICTIVE CONTROL OF PLASMA KINETICS

- Plasma kinetics underlie the fundamental means of transport in and utilization of LTPs, and the generation of chemically reactive species.

- These kinetic processes are expressed in the ability to craft and control the velocity distributions electrons and ions; and neutral particles that originate as ions.

- Predictably controlling velocity distributions based on fundamental understanding of the coupling of electromagnetic energy into LTPs underlies our ability to advance the field and utilize LTPs for societal benefit.

- For example, the entire world-wide information technology infrastructure is predicated on bringing to the surface a carefully crafted set of plasma produced, energy selected fluxes of ions and reactive neutral species.
LTPS – PRIORITY 2: COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR AND NONLINEAR TRANSPORT

• LTPs produce unique collective behavior and nonlinear transport not found in other fields of science and plasma physics.

• The ability to change the degree of ionization by many orders of magnitude in a few ns at temperatures of only a few eV is a highly nonlinear process.

• The non-equilibrium nature of LTPs with their broad array of positive and negative ions of varying mass and transport coefficients, and electrons provides for a rich possibility of waves and instabilities

• Improving our knowledge of these processes will enable us to customize extremely large area quiescent plasmas for material processing or optimize the efficiency of combustion for high utilization of fuel.
LTPS – PRIORITY 3: INTERFACES AND MULTIPLE PHASES IN PLASMAS

- LTPs uniquely interact with multiple phases: solid, liquid and gas.
- Plasmas in liquids are being developed as surgical instruments while low pressure plasmas are being used to create nano-crystals of unique composition, morphology and properties.
- In high intensity microplasmas electrons in the confining solid material may merge with the electrons in the plasmas.
- In all cases, there are phase boundaries with which plasma activated species (ions, radicals, electrons) either pass through or interact with.
- Generating and optimizing plasmas in contact with multiple phases based on fundamental science principles, particularly those in liquids, is now beyond our abilities.
LTPS – CROSS CUTTING SUPPORTING PRIORITIES: DIAGNOSTICS, MODELING AND FUNDAMENTAL DATA

- Advances in these priority areas require an evolving state-of-the-art foundation in diagnostics and modeling supported by robust knowledge base of fundamental data (e.g., electron impact cross sections).

- Although diagnostics, modeling and fundamental data are couched here as supporting priorities, they also hold extreme science and technology challenges.
PLASMA SURFACE INTERACTIONS: FROM NANOSTRUCTURES TO LIVING TISSUES

- Science Challenges

- How do plasma species onto to a complex surface synergistically interact to provide unique reaction pathways for materials processing?

- How do LTPs interact with organics, living tissue analogues, and living tissue?

- How do collisions in nanostructures, porous materials, and textiles change the transport and reaction of plasma species?

- How do plasmas create and modify nanometer sized materials, and their surfaces, to make novel functional nanostructures?

- How do extreme changes gradients in plasma properties influence plasma-surface interactions, resulting in heat fluxes ranging from manageable MW/m² to destructive GW/m²?

- How do plasma-surface interactions affect the composition, stability and dynamics of the plasma?
The ability to craft structures and functionality on surfaces is critically depends on the ability to control $f(\vec{v}, \vec{r}, t)$ of charged and neutral species.
The importance of controlling \( f(\vec{v}, \vec{r}, t) \) intensifies with new classes of materials and biotechnological applications.

- Low dielectric constant materials for microelectronics fabrication with nm sized pores.
- Bacterial (sterilization)
- Human tissue (wound treatment)
- Organic materials
PLASMA SURFACE INTERACTIONS: EXTREME DYNAMIC RANGE

- Thermal plasma arcs are used for deposition of high performance materials (e.g., jet engine turbine blades).

- Quality of materials and lifetime of electrodes depend on control of arc attachment, from “beneficial” MW/m² to destructive GW/m².

- Extreme temperature gradients $10^8$ K/m produce positive feedback to instabilities.

- Manageable and unmanageable anode attachment (left) emission (right) $T_e$
PLASMA SURFACE INTERACTIONS: FROM NANOSTRUCTURES TO LIVING TISSUES

• Priorities:

• 1 - Develop novel experimental and modeling tools to understand and control the production of desired functionality on surfaces, including the synergistic role of multiple species. The materials priorities are:
  (a) organic materials and living tissues
  (b) nanostructures, nano-materials, nano-particles and porous materials.

• 2 - Investigations to understand and predict plasma-surface interactions in the presence of large plasma gradients.

• 3 - Understand and predict the effects of plasma-surface interactions on plasma composition, stability and dynamics.

• 4 - Design and model plasma systems to elucidate the governing principles of high-priority plasma-surface interactions.
• Science Challenges

• What are the fundamental principles governing generation of nonlinear structures appearing in low-temperature plasmas?

• Develop theoretical and numerical tools for active plasma control via plasma boundaries and external electromagnetic fields.

• Apply of concepts in non-linear dynamics from LTPs to chemical and biological systems.
EXPLORING AND UTILIZING KINETIC NON-LINEAR PROPERTIES OF LTPs

- LTPS is perhaps unique among plasmas in the ability (and need) to control the shape of $f(\vec{v}, \vec{r}, t)$ for the production of excited states and radicals.

- The partially ionized nature of the plasma and the non-Maxwellian $f(\vec{v}, \vec{r}, t)$ produce non-linearities which can lead to instabilities.
KINETIC NON-LINEAR PROPERTIES OF LTPs

- Nonlinear coupling between \( f(\vec{v}, \vec{r}, t) \) and ionization through self-consistent electric field leads to formation of self-organized plasma structures (streamers, striations, double layers).

- Example:

- Time averaged negative power absorption in wave heated plasma

\[
P = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{\Delta t} j(t) \cdot \vec{E}(t) dt
\]

- Normal skin depth: \( J = \sigma_p E, \delta_J = \delta_E \)

- Anomalous SE: \( J \neq \sigma_p E, \delta_J \neq \delta_E \)

- Different propagation mechanisms (dynamic screening for \( E \) and electron thermal motion for \( j \)) provide an arbitrary phase difference between \( E \) and \( j \).
KINETIC NON-LINEAR PROPERTIES OF LTPs

• Plasma density and electric field vectors in positive column.

• At low currents coherent structure exists for 10s of cm in spite of 1000s of collisions and even recombination in volume and walls.

• The potential drop over the spatial period is close to the ionization potential.

• How do collective effects maintain memory with this degree of collisionality?
Priorities

1 - Understand the kinetic phenomena of non-linear structures especially electronegative plasmas.

2 - Translate this understanding into the creation of comprehensive, multidimensional, parallel kinetic codes.

3 - Develop novel diagnostics to measure electron and ion velocity distributions in the presence of complexity of real discharges, including magnetic and rf electric fields.

4 - Develop and exploit methods to control plasma parameters and nonlinear behavior through manipulation of external electromagnetic fields and plasma sheaths.

5 - Relate LTP nonlinear dynamics and structures to analogous phenomena in biological and other collective, nonlinear systems.
PLASMAS IN MULTI-PHASE MEDIA

• LTPs are perhaps unique in their purposely being sustained in media having multiple phases.

• Science Challenges

  • Nucleation and Growth – How do entities of a new phase nucleate and grow in a plasma?

  • Plasma-nano-particle interactions – What processes govern the coupling of the plasma to suspended nano-particles?

  • Plasmas in liquids – How do plasmas interact with liquid-gas multiphase media?

  • Plasma Metamaterials – What unusual properties can be found in plasmas containing dispersed nanoscale and quantum-confined objects?
PLASMAS IN LIQUIDS

- Plasmas in liquids are unique to LTPs and an emerging science area. Applications include VOC remediation from water to surgery.

- The most fundamental of properties (e.g., penetration of plasma through the gas-liquid boundary) are not understood.

- Surgical Instrument (discharge in saline solution).


- “Bubbles” for streamer propagation.
SYNERGISTIC PLASMA PARTICLE INTERACTIONS

- LTP-injected feed stock gases
- Synergistic coupling between plasma and chemically active particles could lead to a new class of meta-materials.

- Near-IR photoluminescent nanocrystals

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PLASMAS IN MULTI-PHASE MEDIA

• Priorities

• 1- Develop a fundamental knowledge base for the production and sustaining of plasmas in liquids and plasmas in contact in liquid boundaries.

• 2 - Leverage the unique abilities and properties of particles in plasmas for the possible creation of new classes of multiphase metamaterials.

• 3 – Quantify nucleation and growth of solid phases in plasmas producing unique and otherwise unattainable functionality.

• 4 – Understand Plasma and nano-particle interactions.
PLASMA SCALING LAWS: MICRO-PLASMAS TO LARGE AREA/VOLUME

- Applied Materials PECVD platform for LCD panels and solar cells.
- Microplasma arrays (Ref: J. G. Eden)

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PLASMA SCALING LAWS: MICRO-PLASMAS TO LARGE AREA/VOLUME

- Science Challenges
- Electromagnetic-plasma coupling for high-aspect-ratio, low-pressure plasmas with extreme uniformity constraints.
- Producing uniform high-pressure plasmas generated by short ionizing pulses
- Designing at kinetic level: Development of new approaches to affect and control plasma parameters using waveform manipulation
- Nonlinear interactions between RF power supplies and plasmas; constraints to short-pulse generation for high-power, high-E/N plasmas.
- Understanding micro-plasmas and leveraging their unique properties
- Diagnostics and computations
PLASMA SCALING LAWS

• Specific dynamics of large and small systems are, to some degree, unique.

• Scaling processes ultimately depend on leveraging excitation waveforms and mechanisms to prevent onset of instabilities.

• Understanding breakdown, power coupling, optimization of distribution functions and feedback, at very high power levels, are required. – Must be some leveraging across size.

• Repetitively pulsed (10 kHz), fast ionization wave plasma in air.

• Plasma bullets emanating from an atm pressure microplasma (5 ns gate separated by 10 ns).
PLASMA SCALING LAWS: MICRO-PLASMAS TO LARGE AREA/VOLUME

• Priorities

• 1 - Nonlinear dynamics of the coupling of electromagnetic fields to plasmas in realistic geometries, molecular and electronegative gas mixtures and under transient conditions.

• 2 - Understanding the unique phenomena of micro-plasmas and their relationship to scaling of macro-plasmas.

• 3 - Electric field penetration using short ionizing pluses, including breakdown development on sub-Debye-length scales.

• 4 - Multi-scale dynamics by manipulation of the excitation waveforms and their optimization for desired performance.

• 5 - Non-linear interactions between power supplies and plasmas.
CROSS CUTTING THEMES IN LTPS: DIAGNOSTICS, MODELING, FUNDAMENTAL DATA

• Advances in diagnostics, modeling and fundamental data are required to enable and sustain progress in topic-specific areas.

• Diagnostics: Science Challenges

  • Discover breakthrough methods to quantitatively characterize the complex chemical and physical nature of dynamic surfaces immersed in low-temperature, non-equilibrium plasmas

  • Invent new tools with unprecedented time and space resolution to measure the neutral and charged particle velocity and energy distributions in the bulk plasma and sheath.

  • Develop techniques to understand the complex and nonlinear interaction between a plasma and external power sources.
CROSS CUTTING THEMES IN LTPS: DIAGNOSTICS, MODELING, FUNDAMENTAL DATA

- **Diagnostics: Priorities**
  - 1 - Innovate methods for probing chemical composition of surfaces while they are immersed in plasmas.
  
  - 2 - Develop diagnostics capable of interrogating 3-dimensional structures inside the plasma.
  
  - 3 - Develop diagnostic techniques for 5 $\mu$m spatial and 5 ns temporal resolution usable in the bulk plasma and plasma sheath for large, low pressure plasmas to atmospheric pressure microplasmas.
  
  - 4 - Develop techniques to understand the complex and nonlinear interaction between a plasma and its external power sources, including model, scalable systems.
  
  - LIF measurements of E-fields around a Langmuir probe above an rf biased electrode (resolution 100 $\mu$m).
CROSS CUTTING THEMES: MODELING AND SIMULATION

- **Science Challenge:** Revolutionize modeling and simulation tools to predict plasma physics and chemistry spanning length scales from angstroms to meters and time scales from picoseconds to minutes.

- Streamer between a needle-like elliptic cathode and a flat anode: $p = 760$ Torr, voltage $600$ kV, gap $d=1$ cm

- Multi-physics modeling

- Helicon plasma sustained by multi-mode waves (E-field and $T_e$.)
Priorities

1 - Expand plasma capabilities to combine theory (e.g., nonlocal methods), simulation (e.g., Monte Carlo), and reacting flow equations to model closely-coupled, stochastic processes (e.g., breakdown, instabilities, turbulence).

2 - Improve the computational infrastructure to exploit state-of-the-art high performance computing (e.g., parallel algorithms).

3 - Identify the mechanisms governing plasma-liquid and plasma-living tissue interfaces.

4 - Develop multi-scale methods describing interactions of plasmas with nanoscale features such as nano-particles and nano-textured surfaces.

5 - Implement "diagnostics" to predict directly measurable quantities (e.g., Langmuir probe IV) to enhance the interpretation of diagnostics.
CROSS CUTTING THEMES IN LTPS: FUNDAMENTAL DATA

• Science Challenge: *Develop new methods to rapidly measure and calculate the fundamental atomic-scale interactions that support the entire field of plasma physics.*

• Priorities

• 1 - Establish a clearinghouse for fundamental data for LTPS.

• 2 – Establish a standing body to identify needs, set priorities and validate fundamental data in LTPS.

• 3 - Develop new approximate methods, scaling laws, and empirical formulas that can be used to quickly estimate unknown data.

• 4 - Via computation, provide fundamental data for large molecules, clusters, nano-particles, and surfaces.

• 5 - A program of experimental measurements needs to be revitalized.
CURRENT STATUS

• The report has been accepted by OFES.
• LTPS was included in the RFPs for Plasma Science Centers and the DOE-NSF Plasma Science Partnership.
• OFES is considering organizational changes that would enable programmatic support for LTPS.
• Summary Statements:
  • The Plasma 2010 and LTPS Workshop reports have had impact in OFES.
  • Final resolution of opportunities for LTPS in OFES await new Associate Director.