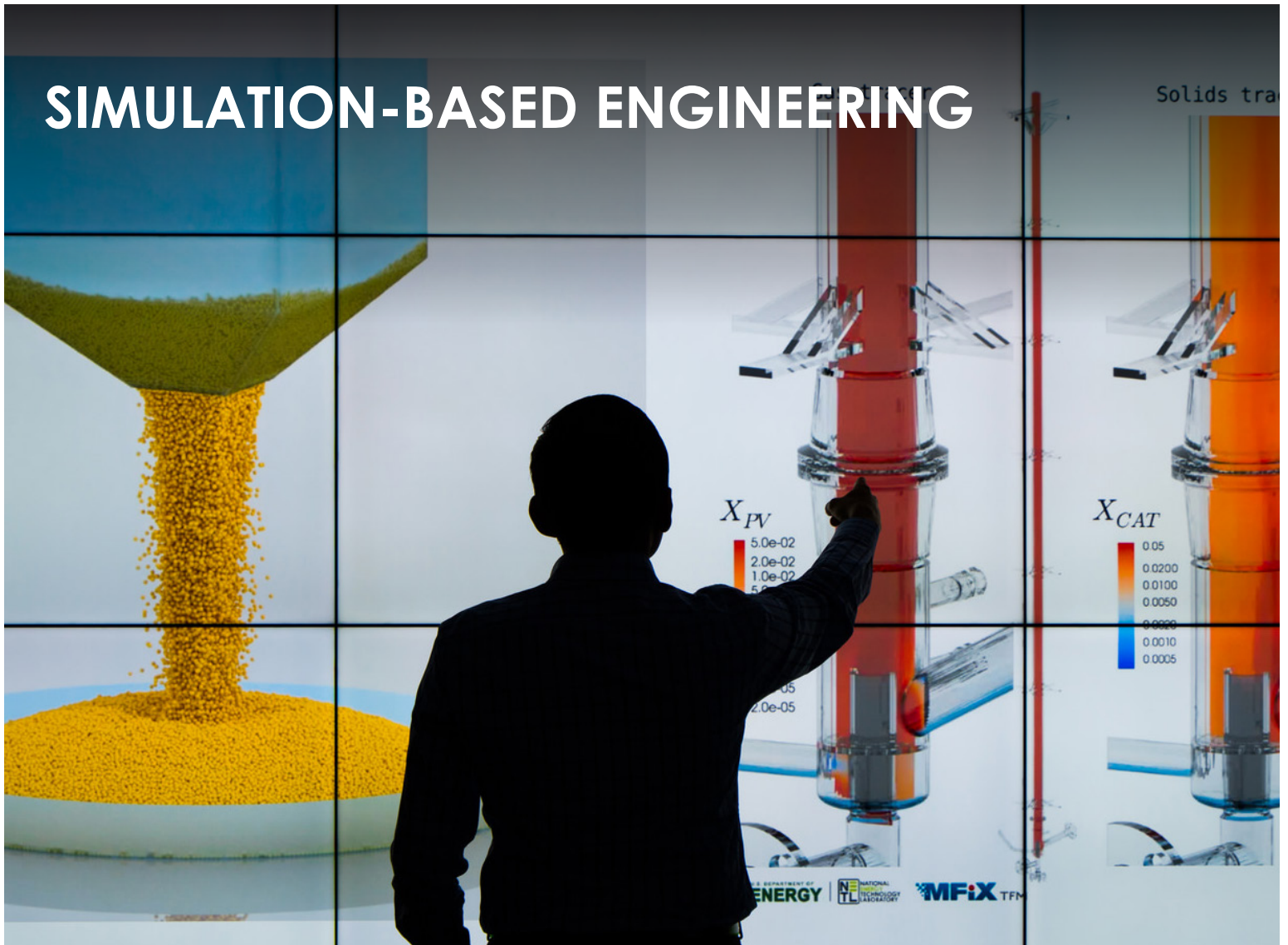


# SIMULATION-BASED ENGINEERING



# NETL

## NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

The Simulation-Based Engineering (SBE) program within the Crosscutting Research portfolio supports the development and application of new and innovative physics- and chemistry-based models and computational tools at multiple scales (atomistic, device, process, grid and market), to accelerate development and deployment of advanced and clean fossil fuel technologies. Research in this area provides the basis for the simulation of engineered devices and systems to better predict and optimize the performance of fossil energy electricity generation units. Computational design methods and concepts are vital to significantly improve performance, reduce the costs and emissions of existing fossil energy power systems, and enable the development, analysis, and optimization of new systems and capabilities. Current technologies of focus include advanced ultra-supercritical operation, biomass gasification, hydrogen storage and combustion, as well as carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration. NETL's SBE program combines technical knowledge, software development, computational power, data repositories, experimental facilities, and unique partnerships to support research into timely and accurate solutions for complex fossil energy systems.

Analysis and visualization tools are manipulated to gain scientific insights into complex, uncertain, high-dimensional, and high-volume datasets. The information generated is then collected, processed, and used to inform research that combines theory, computational modeling, advanced optimization, experiments, and industrial input with a focus on the following three main research areas:

- Multiphase Flow Science
- Advanced Process Simulation
- Computational Design of Materials and Components

**MULTIPHASE FLOW SCIENCE** — NETL has developed the Multiphase Flow with Interphase eXchanges (MFiX) software suite, which is the world's leading open-source design software for comparing, implementing, and evaluating multiphase flow constitutive models. These tools provide an accurate, validated, and cost-effective capability to design, optimize, scale up, and troubleshoot an extremely diverse range of multiphase flow applications. MFiX has been utilized for complex fossil energy applications including gasification with biomass for hydrogen production (negative carbon emission), carbon capture using solid sorbents or liquid solvents, and chemical-looping combustion of gaseous and solid fuels. MFiX Software Suite has over 6,700 registered users and is the national leading platform for computational fluid dynamics code.

**ADVANCED PROCESS SIMULATION** — NETL's 2020 R&D 100 Award winning Institute for the Design of Advanced Energy Systems (IDAES) seeks to be the premier resource for the identification, synthesis, optimization, and analysis of innovative advanced energy systems at scales ranging from materials to process to system to market. IDAES was established to develop new advanced process systems engineering capabilities to support the design and optimization of innovative new processes that go beyond current equipment/process constraints. The open-source IDAES process system engineering framework addresses the capability gap between state-of-the-art simulation packages and general algebraic modeling languages (AMLs) by integrating an extensible, equation-oriented process model library within the open-source, DOE-funded Pyomo AML, which addresses challenges in formulating, manipulating, and solving large, complex, structured optimization problems.

**COMPUTATIONAL DESIGN OF MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS** — Computational materials design utilizes modeling tools to enable rapid design and simulation of new and novel alloys suitable for high-temperature, high-pressure, corrosive environments of an advanced energy system. Computational methods are also used to provide validated models capable of simulating and predicting long-term performance and failure mechanisms of the newly developed materials with specific emphasis on durability, availability, and cost. Similarly, component-scale modeling develops insight into existing fossil plant challenges and mitigation solutions using novel modeling tools. The program utilizes physically informed models of industrial components under cyclic loading, long-duration stress, and high-temperature exposure to generate practical and cost-effective solutions to reduce plant failures and extend plant life.

## SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS BEYOND EXPERIMENTAL BOUNDARIES:

- NETL researchers work closely with stakeholders and partners to outline issues, emerging trends, and areas of need.
- MFiX provides accurate, high-fidelity models with advanced computing to reduce the time of development of advanced technologies critical for the DOE to meet its low-cost, high-efficiency goals.
- IDAES is the platform for the Grid Modernization Laboratory Consortium's DISPATCHES project to develop and demonstrate an open, transparent, multi-lab computational platform to support the design, optimization, and analysis of tightly coupled hybrid systems with zero or negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Models developed with comprehensive uncertainty quantification will reduce the risk of modification and optimization.
- NETL's Joule supercomputer is one of the world's fastest and most energy-efficient, intended to help energy researchers discover new materials, optimize designs, and better predict operational characteristics.

### Contacts

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