

# ***EPICS – Today’s Control System of Choice***

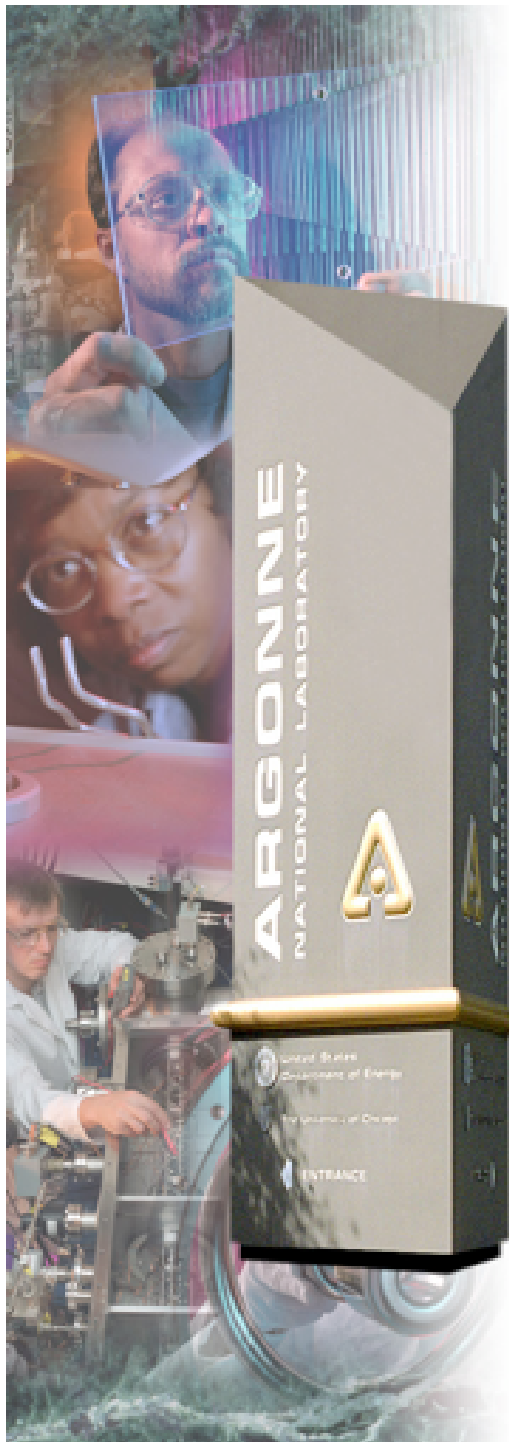
***... but what about tomorrow?***

*Ned Arnold  
12/10/2004*

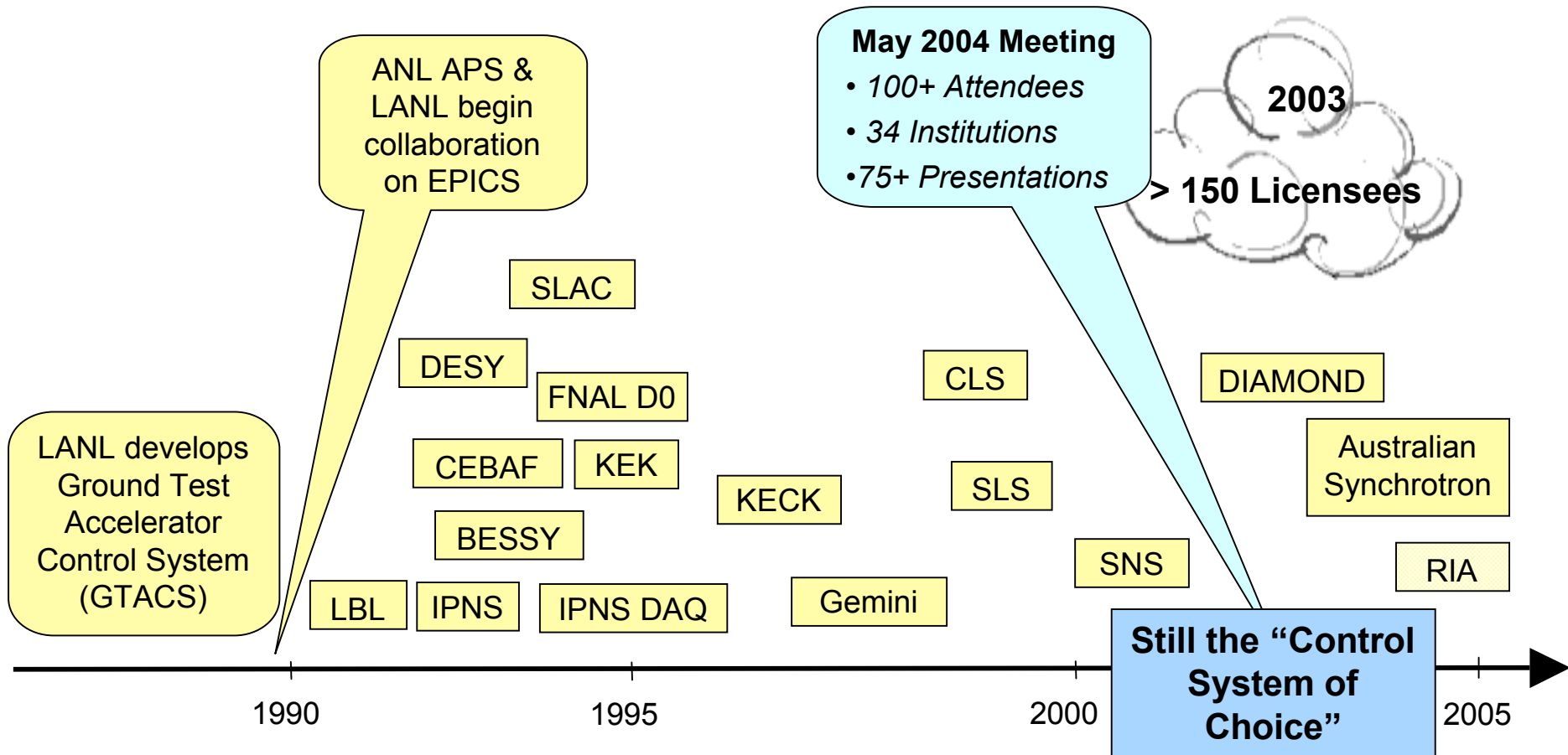
## ***Argonne National Laboratory***



*A U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Science Laboratory  
Operated by The University of Chicago*



# The Collaboration Grows ...



# ***Reflection on the Collaboration***

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- **Pros**
  - An extremely beneficial and effective collaboration
  - Synergy – yields many good ideas
  - Common requirements have a single solution
  - Large installed base improves robustness
  
- **Cons**
  - No one is in charge – tasks can not be delegated or assigned
  - Contributors do what they want to do [i.e. the un-fun yet important work is often left undone]
  - When money gets tight, there is less effort donated to the community good

## ***The Cons are Starting to be Felt***

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- **No one's in charge ...**
  - In light of advancing technology, some of EPICS' core facilities could be substantially enhanced
    - *More good ideas than resources, no common direction*
- **Contributors do what they want to do ...**
  - Many of the things required to enhance EPICS user support are not voluntarily addressed by the collaboration
    - *Consistent documentation*
    - *Consistent method in packaging/testing contributions*
- **Money getting tight ...**
  - Construction Funds: Running out ... not much on the horizon
  - Operations Funds: Already being used ...being pinched

## Looking to the Future

- **What has been attempted?**
  - EPICS 2010 Meetings (three in the last two years)
    - *Good discussions*
    - *The seed has been sown ...*
    - *An attempt was made to move forward ...*
  
  - *It is now time to fertilize, water, and make something grow*

# *Looking to the Future*

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- **What is Needed?**
  - “A plan”
  
  - “A plan” that encourages the Pros and mitigates the Cons
  - “A plan” that receives wide acceptance and support
    - ... *which then becomes “The Plan”*
  
  - Implementation of “The Plan”
  - Demonstration that we can deliver on “The Plan”, which will build additional momentum for further plans

## ***Vision ... (i.e. A Plan)***

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- **Establish and promote a direction for the future**
- **Aggressively solicit resources from collaborating institutions**
- **Make something happen**

## ***Establish a direction ...***

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- **Divide the numerous topics into four categories**
  - EPICS Core
    - *iocCore*
    - *Channel Access*
    - *SNL*
  
  - Core Tools/Extensions
    - *Display Manager, ALH, Archiver, StripTool, Gateway*
    - *VDCT*
    - *Other? (rdbCore?)*
  
  - Collaboration Support Issues
  
  - Ideas and R&D for EPICS 5.0 and beyond



# *How can we build momentum?*

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- **For each category ...**
  - Identify a category “lead” – the person(s) responsible for making something happen
  - <not sure what authoritative body actually approves these “leads” >
- **Responsibilities of Category “lead”**
  - Identify interested people who are committed to contributing both ideas and effort in this category (i.e. build a team)
  - Ensure that plans, implementations, etc are sufficiently distributed/exposed for comments and all effort is kept “collaborative”, i.e. beta releases, <appropriate> reviews (e.g. Ben Franksen’s e-mail).
  - Maintain web page(s) that clearly describes the activity (current plans, future plans, wild ideas, current status) occurring in this category. [Post plan -> solicit feedback -> post plan -> solicit feedback -> ...]
  - Report at every EPICS Collaboration Meeting what progress has been made in this category (accountability on collaborative skills)

# Action Items

Category	Leads	Immediate Pursuits	Imminent Deliverables
EPICS Core	Bob Dalesio Marty Kraimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> iocCore 3.15</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> iocCore 4.0</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CA 4.0</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SNL 4.0</li> </ul>	3.15 Feature Sheet 4.0 Feature Sheet CA 4.0 Func. Spec CA 4.0 Design Spec
Tools/Extensions	??	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Common look/feel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Common config</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tightly integrated</li> </ul>	
Collaboration	??	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Record Reference</li> </ul>	
Support Collaboration Support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "Getting Started"</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Device Support Archive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Expectations for contributions</li> </ul>	
EPICS 5.xx++ EPICS 5.xx++	??		

## ***How might a lead proceed?***

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- **Identify a cooperative team**
  - **Hold frequent consultations with the team**
    - E-mail, video conference, meetings
  - **Solicit input from the wider community**
  - **Solicit/identify tangible resources**
  - **Consider “short term sabbaticals” for intense implementation efforts**
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- **It might be that the report at the EPICS Collaboration Meeting is ...**
    - “I contacted 15 people and no one was interested”.

# *Available Resources ?*

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- Can you help?