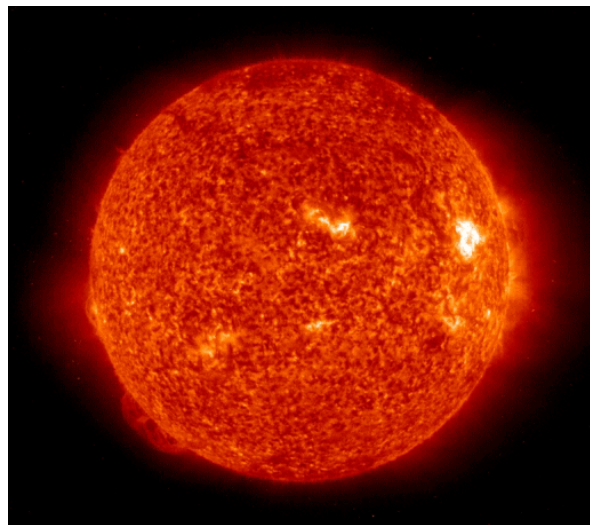


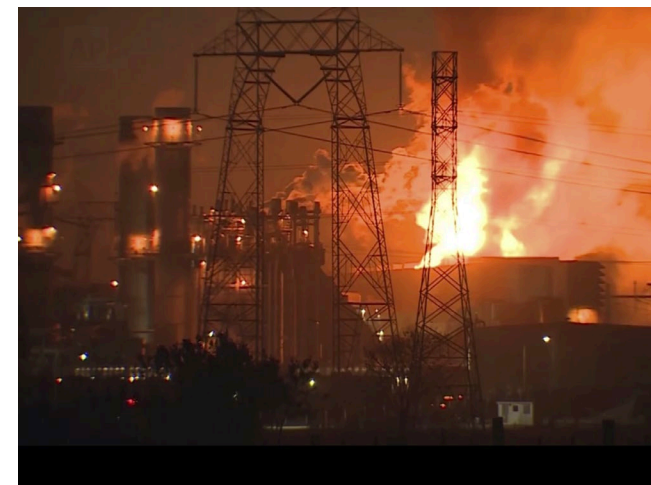


## Research Trends/Needs for Future High Energy Density Battery Technology

M. Stanley Whittingham  
Binghamton University (SUNY)



Solar PV and 3.3 GWh of battery Kern County, California



Moss Landing, California 2025



# Powered by Lithium – our Neighbor Here



# Several Major New Energy Storage Centers kicked off since last year

## **Non-Lithium Cells**

**DOE-BES Innovation Hub: Energy Storage Research Alliance (ESRA)**

**Argonne National Laboratory Led – Shirley Meng**

## **Aqueous Cells**

**DOE-BES Innovation Hub: Aqueous Battery Consortium (ABC)**

**Stanford University Led – Yi Cui**

## **Lithium Cells**

**NSF UpState New York Energy Storage Engine**

**Binghamton University Led**

Leapfrog Asian Technology

Use-inspired R&D, Translation and Workforce training





Major hub program of BES  
12.5M\$ per year for 5 years

## **ESRA Vision**

To create an innovation ecosystem that enables discoveries in materials chemistry (beyond lithium) through fundamental understanding of electrochemical phenomena—laying the scientific foundation for breakthroughs in energy storage technologies

# Energy Storage Research Alliance



## SCIENCE ENABLERS



*Solid State Ionics*

*Molecules for Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)*

*Metal Air & Reactive System*

## ESRA GOALS

- ✓ Integrative and autonomous materials discovery with advanced AI
- ✓ Most cutting-edge facilities covering all relevant temporal and length scales
- ✓ Close to unity transference number in liquids
- ✓ Order-of-magnitude higher transport in soft matter
- ✓ Suppression of parasitic reactions in all solids

## ENABLING CROSSCUTS

**MATERIALS ACCELERATION PLATFORM**

**CORRELATIVE CHARACTERIZATION**

**DIVERSE TALENT DEVELOPMENT**

ESRA\_025



**An Energy Innovation Hub funded by DOE Office of Science Shirley Meng ESRA Director**

# Three Enabling Crosscuts



## Facilitating the 3 Scientific Thrusts



### **Crosscut 1: Materials Acceleration Platform**

- applies cutting-edge AI to automated synthesis and characterization to accelerate materials discovery in Zn and Na Electrochemistry



### **Crosscut 2: Correlative Characterization**

- leverages the generational opportunities of APS-U and ALS-U to advance our ability to observe ion-matter motion and interactions at unprecedented temporal and spatial scales



### **Crosscut 3: Diverse Talent Development**

- integrates the resources of ESRA's 3 national labs and 11 university partners to train, develop, and mentor next-gen workforce

# Aqueous Battery Consortium (ABC)

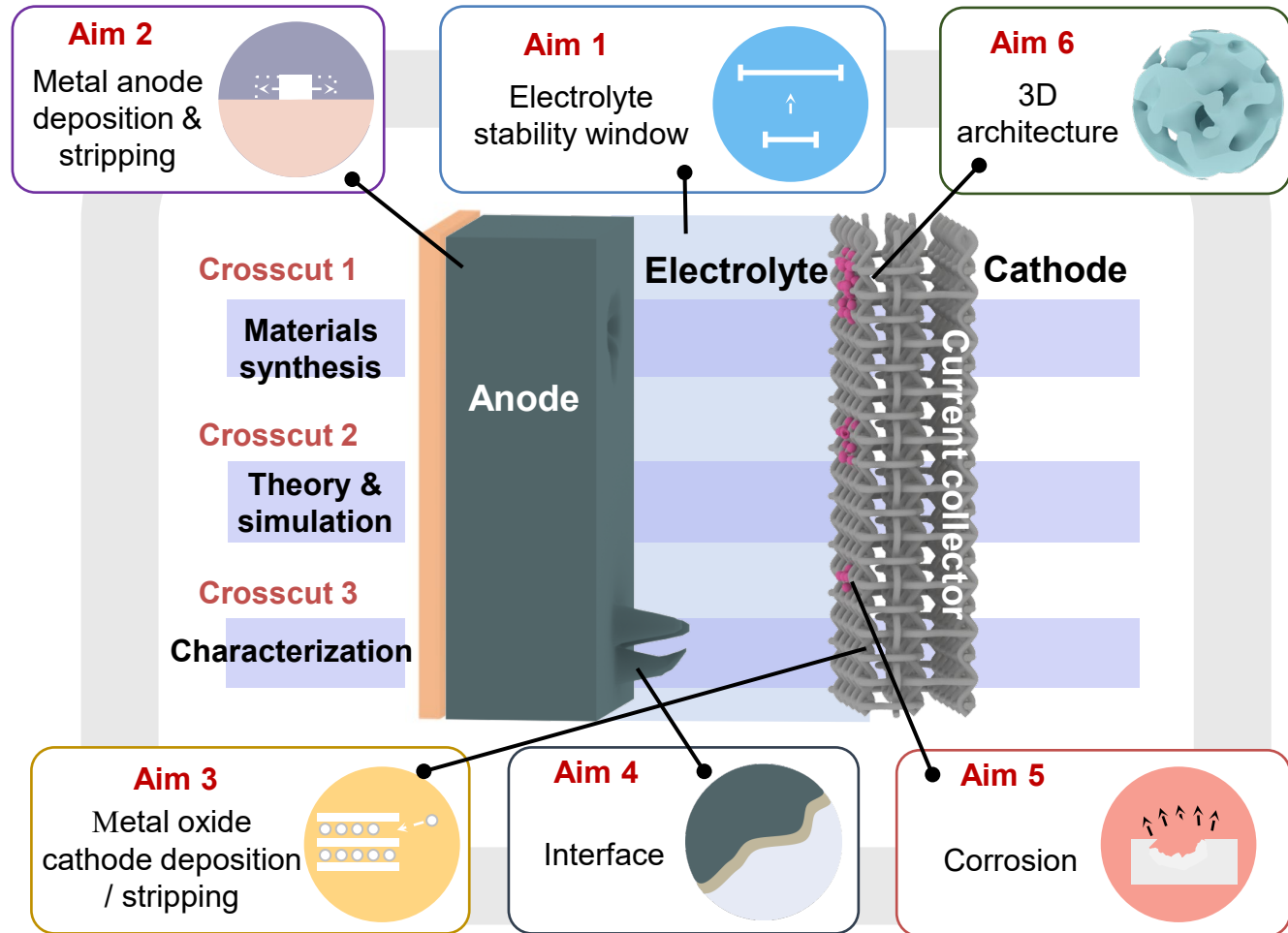
A DOE Energy Innovation Hub, \$62.5M

Director: Yi Cui, Stanford University

The Aqueous Battery Consortium (ABC) will generate fundamental breakthroughs to enable aqueous batteries for long-duration energy storage with a potential of **10x reduction** in the cost floor compared with lithium-ion batteries, while ensuring **excellent safety** and **scalability (billions of ton)** for **global grid storage**.

Anodes: Zn, Mn, and Fe metal

Cathodes:  $\text{MnO}_2$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$

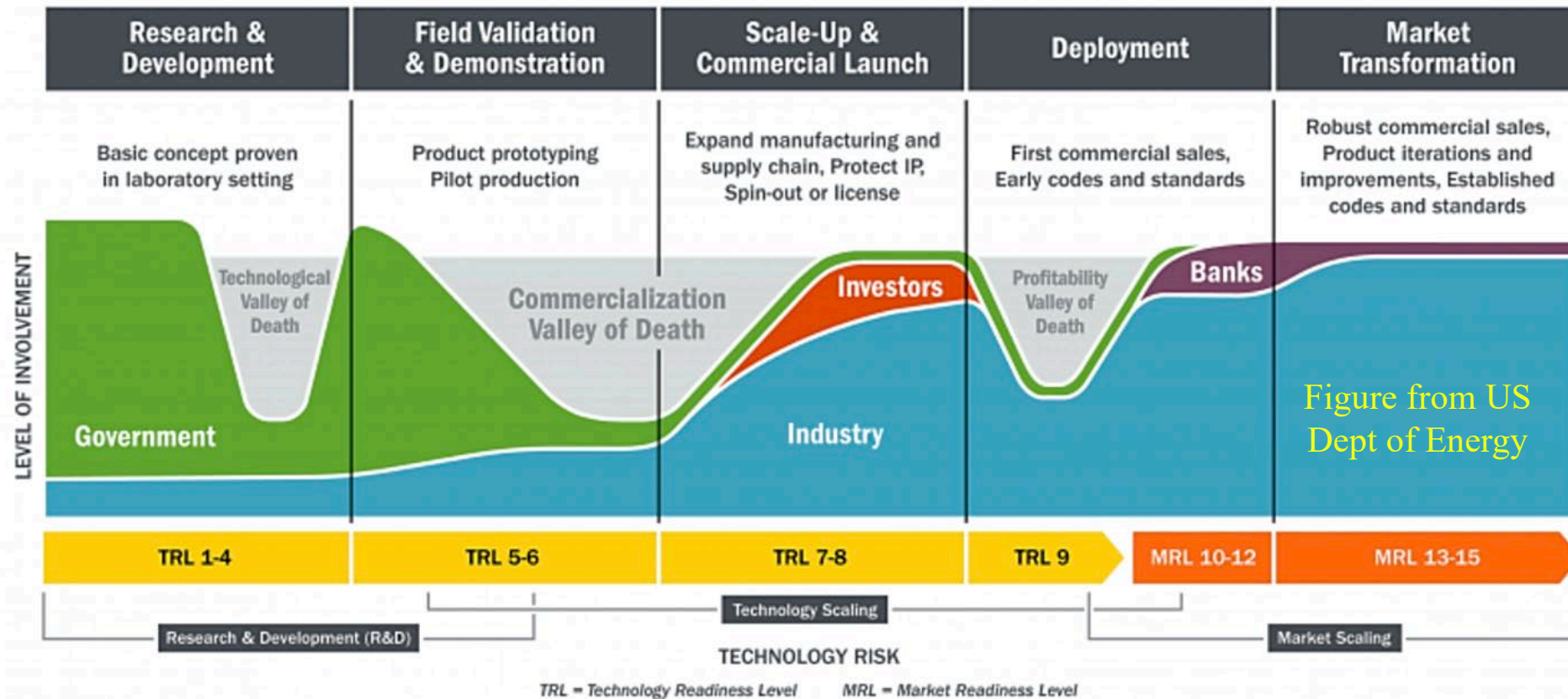


Aqueous Battery Consortium

<https://abc-hub.stanford.edu>



# Binghamton led teams will grow NYS's Energy Storage Ecosystem



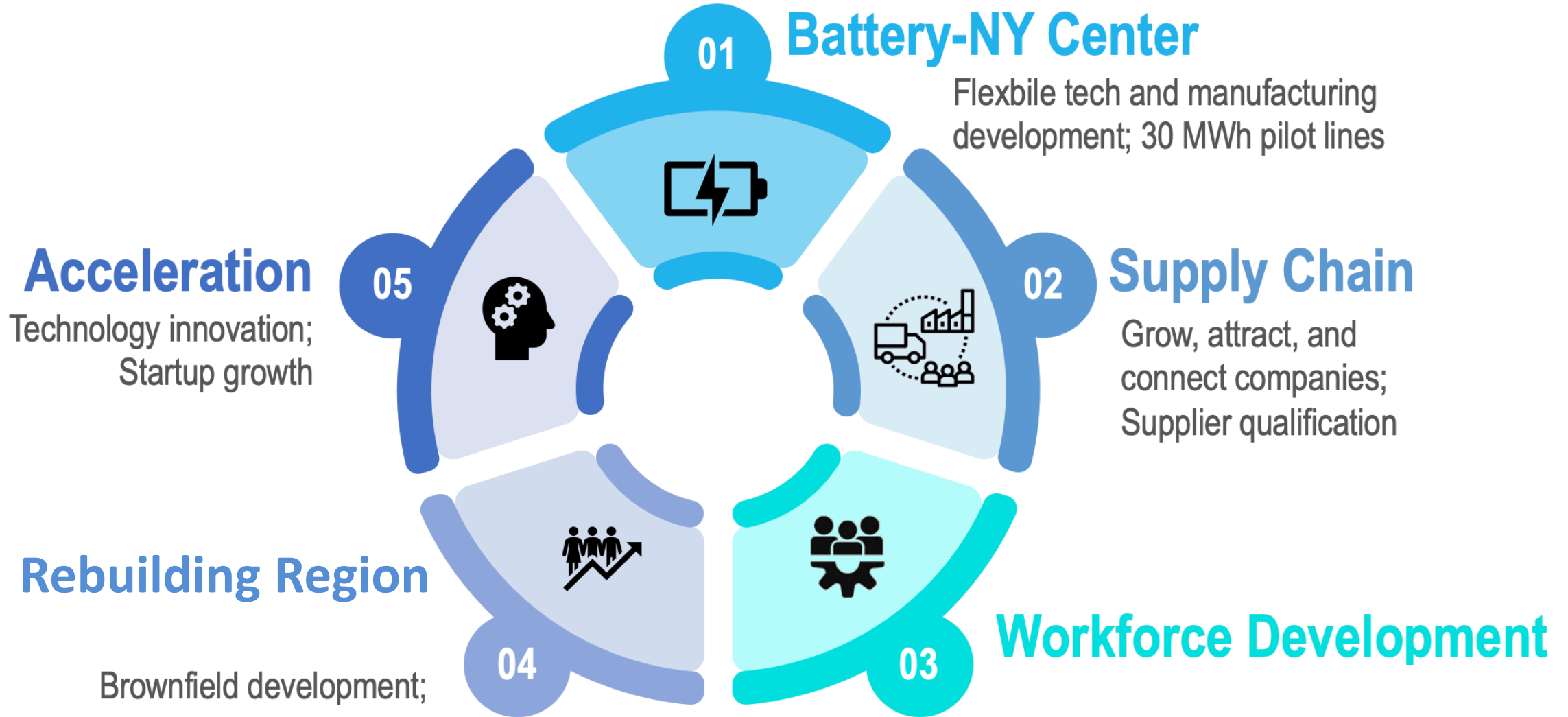
**NSF Engines**  
**Focused R&D**  
**\$160M**

**EDA BBBRC**  
**Battery-NY**  
**\$113M**

**EDA Hub**  
**Designation**



# New Energy NY Projects to Build the Ecosystem



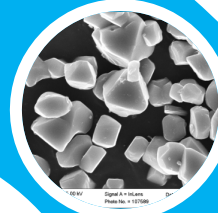
# The Life-Cycle Ecosystem for Lithium-Ion Batteries

**All Components are under-funded in North America**

**MINING  
RAW MATERIALS**



**MATERIALS &  
COMPONENTS**



**RECYCLING**



**CELL  
MANUFACTURING**



**APPLICATIONS**



**SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT**



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Step: a Joint Academia/Industry Effort to Leapfrog Today's Tech

NSF Engines Winner - \$160M (10 years)

2. R&D to overcome hurdles



Testing, Safety, and Manufacturing Equipment



Policy & Regulations





# A Technology Gap Analysis has Identified Promising Areas for Use-Inspired R&D

## 1. Manufacturing process improvements

a. Reduction in the energy required to manufacture cells

**b. NMP-free** electrode production process

i. Ideally **dry processing**

c. Thicker electrodes

i. Higher ionic and electronic conductivity of active materials will be needed

d. Improved operando **metrology** and **AI** to reduce manufacturing waste and improve safety

e. American manufacturing **equipment**

f. Design for recycling

i. Direct recycling of components, with elimination of black mass

## 2. Need systems that operate over wider temperature range

a. Eliminate thermal issues and air-conditioning for grid storage

## 3. Safer systems

a. Recent major fires are jeopardizing the industry

# A Technology Gap Analysis has Identified Promising Areas for Use-Inspired R&D

## 1. Manufacturing process improvements

a. Reduction in the energy required to manufacture cells

**b. NMP-free** electrode production process

i. Ideally **dry processing**

c. Thicker electrodes

i. Higher ionic and electronic conductivity of active materials

d. Improved operando **metrology** and **AI** to reduce manufacturing waste and improve safety

e. American manufacturing **equipment**

f. Design for recycling

i. Direct recycling of components, with elimination of black mass

## 2. Need systems that operate over wider temperature range

a. Eliminate thermal issues and air-conditioning

## 3. Safer systems

a. Recent major fires are jeopardizing the industry

**9 contracts  
signed for \$2M**

# Future Trends for Sustainable/Safer Economic Energy

- ✓ **Lithium battery systems will dominate for next 5-10 years** (oxide and phosphate)
  - ✓ Trend back to “LFP, LMFP” for non-extreme applications
  - ✓ For high Ni NMC, how high is too high
- ✓ **Is sodium-ion safe?**
  - ✓ A number of reports are suggesting that sodium-ion cells explode on thermal runaway
- ✓ **Need systems that operate over wider temperature range**
  - ✓ Eliminate thermal issues and air conditioning
    - ✓ System efficiency could be raised from 70% to 90%
    - ✓ Safer
- ✓ **Not obvious that solid state is the answer**
  - ✓ Progress continues to be made