

## Editor's Note

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Papers in this special issue are presented in a sequence that corresponds to the order the critical assemblies achieved first critical at their new home in the National Criticality Experiments Research Center (NCERC). Planet was the first critical operation performed at NCERC, or anywhere in the Device Assembly Facility. First critical occurred on June 15, 2011. Comet, which has a similar operating principle to Planet, was next, on August 11, 2011. Flattop, with its massive stationary and moveable reflectors that required careful alignment, achieved criticality on November 29, 2011, with its uranium core. Flattop's other existing core, composed of plutonium, was taken critical separately several years later, on August 9, 2016. The last critical assembly to achieve

criticality at NCERC was Godiva IV, on October 24, 2012. One year later, the first super-prompt critical operation occurred with a Godiva burst on September 10, 2013. The last paper in this issue encompasses operations with radiation test objects (RTOs) and inspection objects (IOs). By design, these operations remain subcritical at all times. RTO operations date back to 2007, before the adoption of the designation NCERC, while the critical assemblies were being installed.

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