PBMAC

DOE / ARPA-E / Technical Volume Repair Memo — Excerpt

Prepared by InTelluric | Pre-Submission Technical Review | May 2026

Technical Thesis Repair

Current frame (avoid): LENR is real, excess heat has been documented across multiple laboratories, and this proposal will reproduce it.

This frame has been submitted in various forms since 1989. It reads as advocacy, not science. It does not explain why prior attempts failed to reproduce and does not identify a specific testable mechanism. A reviewer who has scored LENR proposals before will reject this framing before reaching page two.

Repaired frame: Excess heat in palladium-deuterium systems has been reproducibly observed when D/Pd loading exceeds 0.90 and dynamic loading conditions are applied. The irreproducibility problem is a measurement problem: D/Pd ratio is a bulk proxy for a surface variable — d-band electron density at active sites — that has never been directly controlled. This proposal introduces phonon-frequency-resolved calorimetry as the first experiment to directly activate and measure the proposed coupling mechanism.

Three-Component Technical Thesis

Component 1 — Mechanism: Excess heat is produced by phonon-mediated electron capture at deuterium nuclear sites via $d + e^- \rightarrow n + \nu$ at the surface of D-loaded Pd when d-band electron density at active sites exceeds a threshold. The threshold has never been directly measured.

Component 2 — Reproducibility source: D/Pd bulk loading ratio is a poor proxy for surface d-band electron density. Grain boundary density, surface oxide content, and electrolyte purity all modify d-band filling at active sites independently of bulk loading. This is why identically loaded samples from different laboratories produce different results.

Component 3 — Experiment: Phonon-frequency-resolved calorimetry using a direct-bonded magnetostrictive transducer identifies the specific lattice breathing mode frequency that activates coupling. Drive frequency is the independent variable. Excess heat onset is the dependent variable. The experiment either identifies the activation frequency or falsifies the phonon-coupling hypothesis — both outcomes are publishable.

Current Evidence Baseline

What the Evidence Actually Supports

He-4 correlated with excess heat at ~24 MeV/atom:

Documented by Miles (1993), McKubre (1994), Storms (2010), and subsequent independent groups. Published in peer-reviewed journals. He-4 production at 24 MeV per atom rules out chemical origin. This is the single strongest piece of evidence in the LENR literature and should lead every proposal.

SPAWAR CR-39 triple-track patterns:

Documented by Mosier-Boss et al. (2007, 2009), published in Naturwissenschaften. Track morphology is consistent with thermal-to-epithermal neutrons, not the 2.45 MeV neutrons of standard D-D fusion. This indicates a different reaction pathway. The SPAWAR result has not been replicated with adequate experimental controls.

D/Pd ≥ 0.90 loading threshold:

Documented across multiple groups as a reproducible bulk measurement. The explanation for why this threshold exists has not been proposed in the prior literature. This proposal provides that explanation and tests it directly.

What the Evidence Does Not Support

- Direct strong-force D-D fusion at room temperature. The fast-neutron deficit (4–7 orders of magnitude below D-D predictions) rules this out.
- Any mechanism producing fast neutrons in proportion to heat output. CR-39 morphology indicates thermal neutrons only.
- Efficacy of any specific Pd preparation protocol as a reproducible activator. No systematic surface characterization exists for active vs. inactive samples.

Reproducibility Bottleneck — Single Sentence

> **D-band electron density at active surface sites is not measured by bulk D/Pd loading ratio.**

D/Pd ratio measures bulk hydrogen atoms per palladium atom, averaged across the entire sample. Surface d-band filling depends on grain boundary density, surface oxide layer composition, impurity content at grain boundaries, and electrodeposition conditions during loading. Two samples with identical bulk D/Pd ratios from the same supplier can have surface d-band fillings that differ by more than the margin between active and inactive.

This is why groups that observe excess heat can often reproduce it within their own laboratory but cannot produce a protocol other groups can follow: they are unknowingly controlling a surface variable they have not identified.

The fix: Measure d-band filling directly via phonon resonance frequency at the Pd surface. Drive a Galfenol magnetostrictive transducer bonded directly to the Pd metal — not to the vessel wall — across a calibrated frequency sweep. The activation threshold is where the phonon mode couples to the nuclear transition, observable as a sharp onset in differential calorimetric output. Drive frequency is precise, reproducible, and directly maps to the physical condition being controlled.

Missing Evidence — Five Measurements Never Done

	Missing Measurement	Why It Matters

☐	INS characterization of D-Pd phonon spectrum in active vs. inactive samples	Directly identifies the breathing mode frequency that Phase I targets. Has never been done in correlation with LENR activity.
☐	Phonon-frequency-resolved calorimetry with direct-bonded magnetostrictive drive	Every prior experiment applied thermal or bulk acoustic excitation without frequency control. This is the primary independent variable that has never been swept.
☐	Blinded CR-39 protocol cross-correlated with simultaneous differential calorimetry	Done once (SPAWAR 2007) without blinding. Not replicated with controls. Blinding is required to answer the replication criticism.
☐	XPS surface characterization of active vs. inactive Pd-D samples post-experiment	Would directly measure d-band filling difference between threshold-meeting and non-threshold-meeting conditions. Has never been done systematically.
☐	He-4 production rate correlated with phonon drive frequency	Determines whether reaction rate is frequency-dependent (confirming phonon channel) or frequency-independent (refuting it). Has never been done.

This excerpt is drawn from a full Technical Volume Repair Memo including Work-Package Decomposition, Calorimetry and Byproduct Verification Plan, Material/Process Variable Matrix, Go/No-Go Milestone Ladder, Reviewer Scoring Alignment, and Rewrite-Ready Technical Volume Outline. Full document available upon request.