# Beyond Bigger: Quantum, AI, and the Future of Research Computing

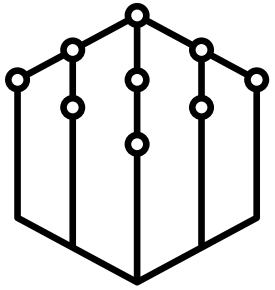



Dr. Travis L. Scholten
Technical Lead, Public Sector
IBM Research

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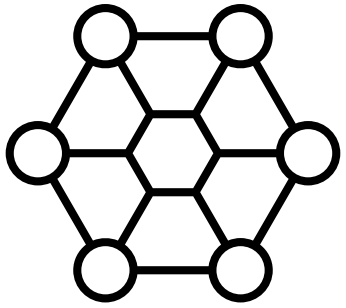
# Three shifts reshaping the future of computing.

*As computing grows in importance, the technologies, institutions, and partnerships that support it are evolving as well.*



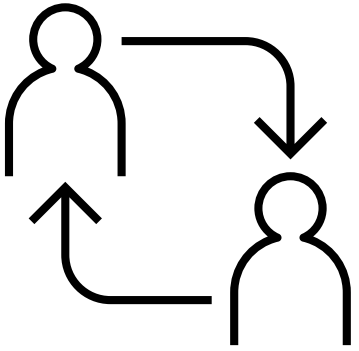
Computing
is becoming more
**essential**

*Why leaders care*



Computing
is becoming more
**integrated**

*AI, HPC, and quantum together*



Discovery
is becoming more
**collaborative**

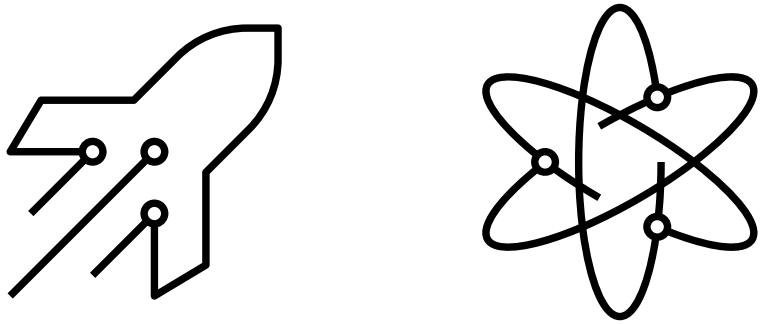
*Spanning machines, methods, & institutions*

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# Computational capacity is becoming foundational infrastructure.

*HPC centers, hyperscale data centers, and "AI factories" are pieces of one emerging foundation.*

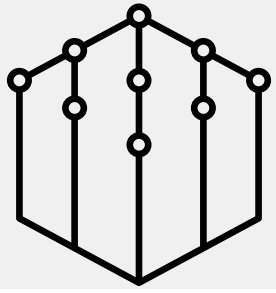
**Applications**



**Computing**



**Infrastructure**



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# Computing is becoming more integrated.

*Future computing infrastructure will combine classical, AI, and quantum resources to solve problems beyond the reach of any single approach.*

CPU

+

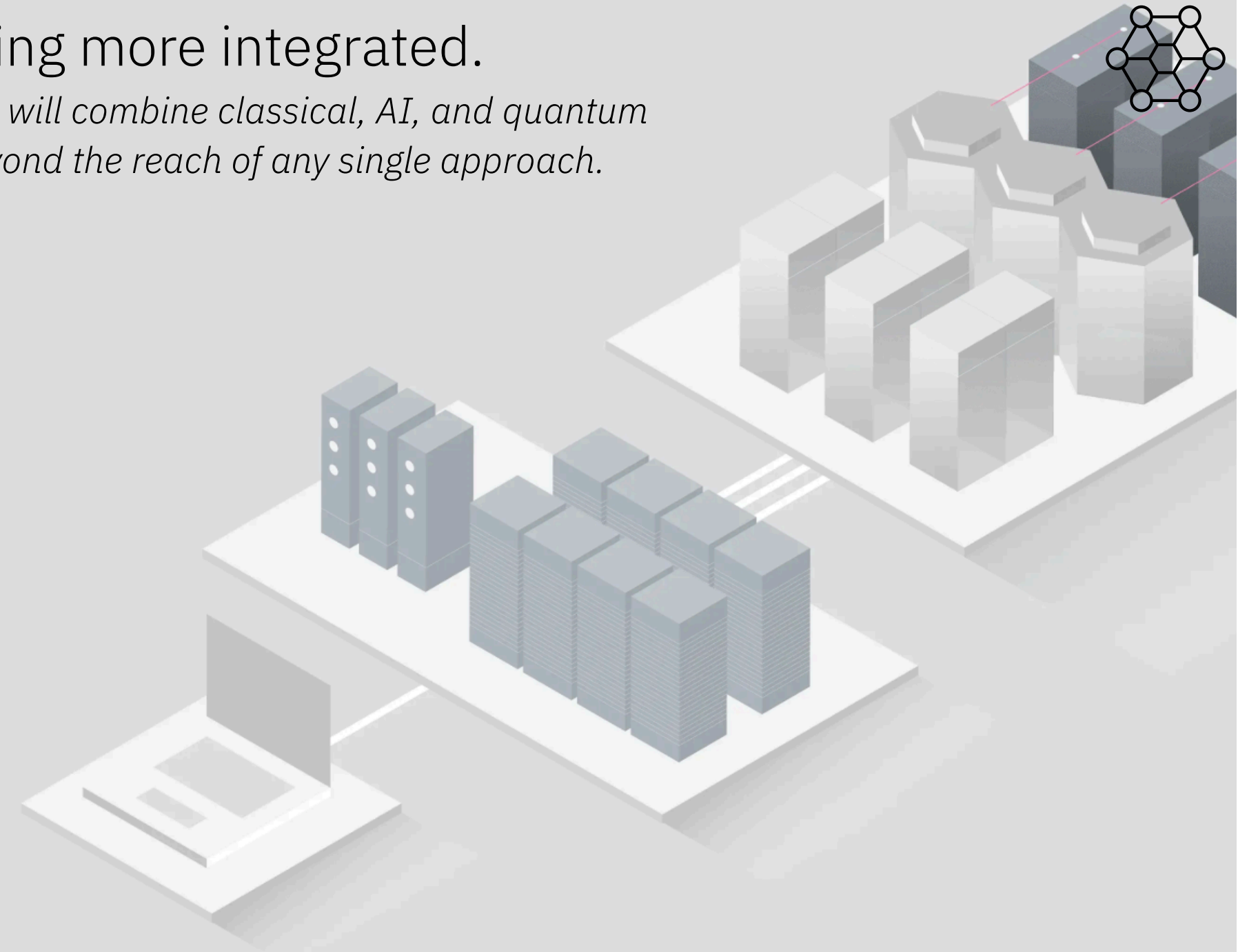
GPU

+

QPU

*Quantum-centric*

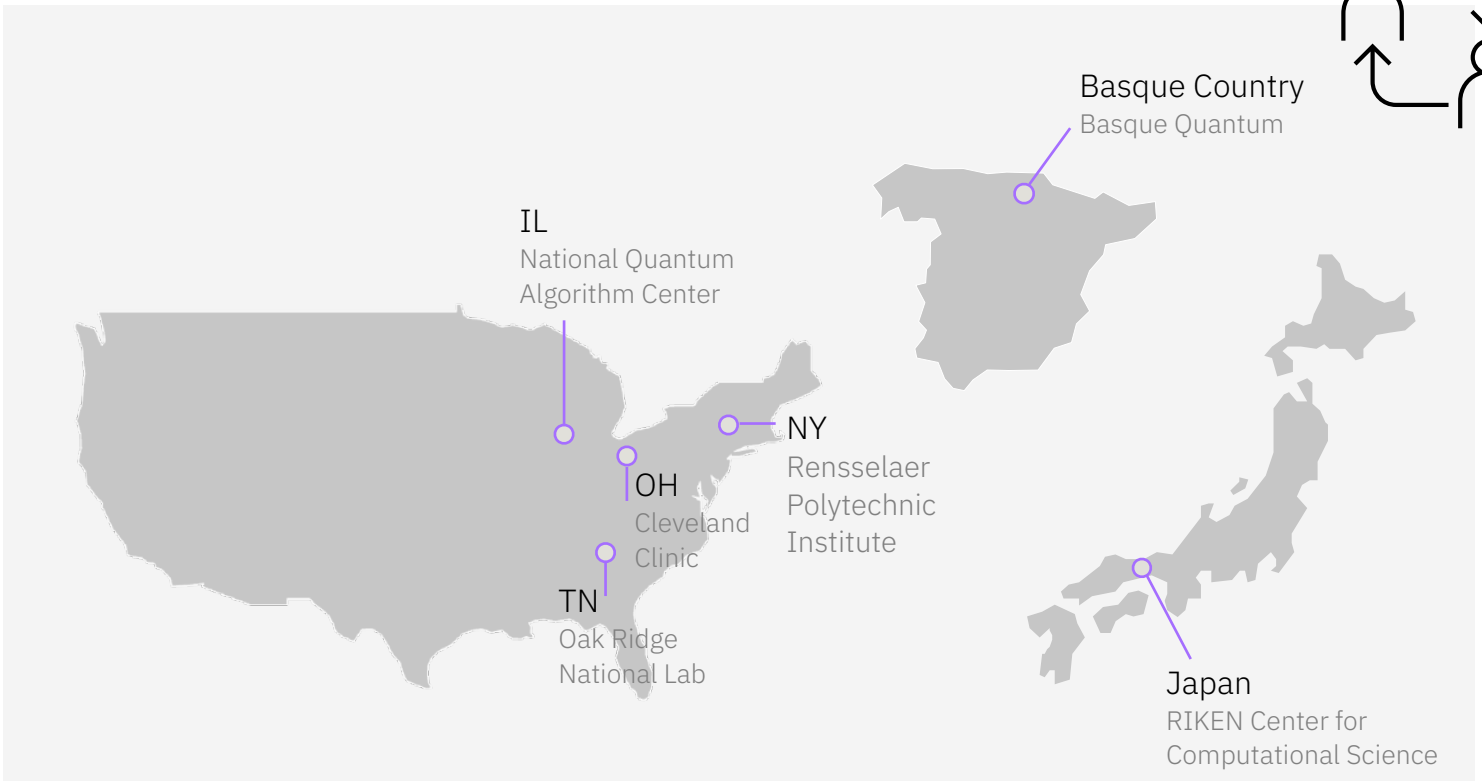
supercomputing



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# The frontier is bigger than any 1 institution.

*Scientific breakthroughs increasingly emerge from networks of institutions, disciplines, and computing platforms working together.*




*RIKEN*

“Chemistry Beyond Exact Solutions on a Quantum-Centric Supercomputer”

—

arXiv:2405:05068

*Cleveland Clinic*

“Accurate quantum-centric simulations of supramolecular interactions”

—

arXiv:2410:09209

*Lockheed Martin*

“Quantum-Centric Study of Methylene Singlet and Triplet States”

—

arxiv.org/abs/2411.04827

*Oak Ridge National Lab*

"Quantum-Centric Algorithm for Sample-Based Krylov Diagonalization"

—

arxiv.org/abs/2501.09702

"Quantum-centric supercomputing for materials science: A perspective on challenges and future directions"

—

FGCS 160, 666-710 (2024)

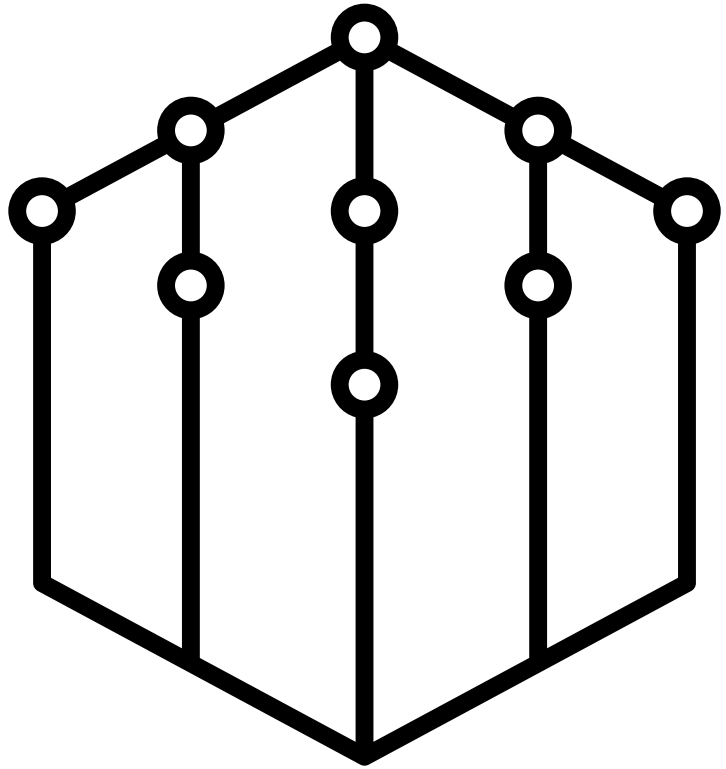
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# Research institutions are becoming the builders of computational infrastructure.

*Computational capacity is becoming a strategic asset; research institutions both consume and create advanced computing.*

**AI** made
computation *visible*.

**Quantum** makes
computation even more *strategic*.



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# Quantum computing is becoming a strategic national infrastructure priority.




***EO 14413***

Establishing a whole-of-government approach to quantum

***DOE Genesis Mission***

Building a new substrate for scientific discovery




***DARPA QBI***

Validating scalable quantum computing

**The US government is increasingly planning for a quantum-enabled future for computing.**



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# Quantum computing is entering a new phase of maturity.

## 2016

Quantum is online



*IBM puts quantum devices on the cloud*

## 2017

Qiskit SDK is launched



*Open source quantum software*

## 2023

Establish quantum utility



*5K operations on 100+ qubits*

## **2026**

Demonstrate quantum advantage



*With clear separation and verifiability*

## **2029**

Deliver the first fault-tolerant quantum computer



*100M operations on 200 qubits*



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# Access is no longer a bottleneck for working with quantum computers.

## **2** Quantum Facilities



IBM US Quantum Facility
Poughkeepsie, USA
August 2019

Currently operating 6 quantum computers with 100+ qubits

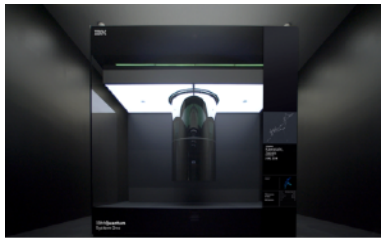


IBM EU Quantum Facility
Ehningen, Germany
October 2024

Currently operating 3 quantum computers with 100+ qubits

## **9 (+1)** Quantum Computers On-Site

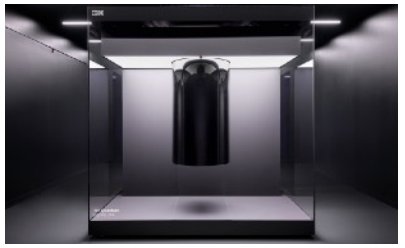
Quantum Computational Center
University of Tokyo
Shin-Kawasaki, Japan
June 2021, 2023 & Sep 2025



Discovery Accelerator
Cleveland Clinic
Ohio, USA
March 2023, Nov 2025



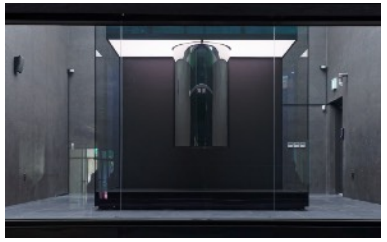
Discovery Accelerator
PINQ [2]
Bromont, Canada
September 2023, Jul 2025



Quantum Computational Center
Rensselaer Polytechnic
Troy, New York
April 2024



Quantum Computational Center
Yonsei University
Seoul, South Korea
September 2024



**JHPC-quantum Riken**
Kobe, Japan
May 2025



IBM-Euskadi Quantum
Computational Center
San Sebastián, Spain
October 2025



**National Quantum Algorithm Center**
Chicago, USA
Projected 3Q 2026



Quantum Valley
Tech Park
Andhra Pradesh, India
Projected 2H 2026



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# Access enables experimentation; evidence shows value.

## Empirical tests of quantum usefulness

**HSBC**
arXiv:2509.17715

Cleveland Clinic
Communications Physics **8**, 396 (2025)

moderna
arXiv:2405.20328

**Vanguard**
arXiv:2508.13557

## Scientifically rigorous proofs of advantage

OAK RIDGE National Laboratory
arXiv:2501.09702

**RIKEN**
Science Advances 11, 25

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**
Nature Computational Science (2025)

BasQ Basque Quantum
arxiv:2507.08088

**Flatiron Institute**

BlueQubit



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# Not every research problem needs quantum.

**Research Problem** → **Computational Bottleneck** → **Problem Class** → **Classical Baseline** → **Quantum Investigations**



Strong Candidates

Approximate solutions OK

Existing HPC workflows

Meaningful operational impact



Weak Candidates

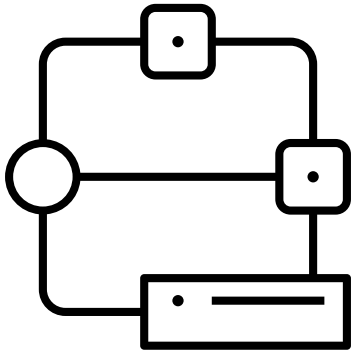
Poorly defined baselines

Tiny problem scales

No operational impact



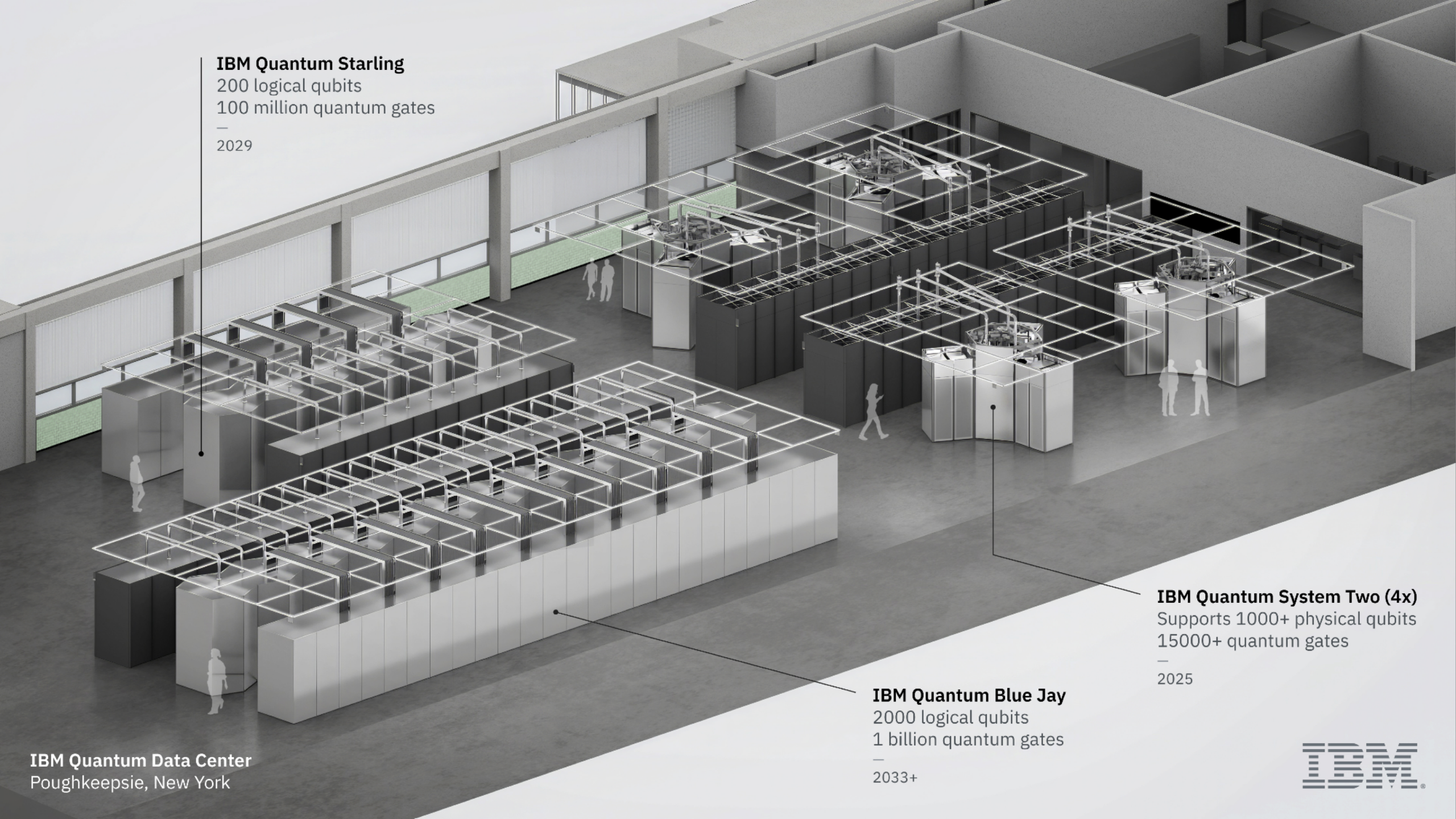
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# Scaling is systemic

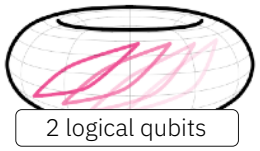
*Progress beyond processor scale*

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IBM Quantum Starling
200 logical qubits
100 million quantum gates
—
2029
IBM Quantum System Two (4x)
Supports 1000+ physical qubits
15000+ quantum gates
—
2025
IBM Quantum Blue Jay
2000 logical qubits
1 billion quantum gates
—
2033+
IBM Quantum Data Center
Poughkeepsie, New York
IBM

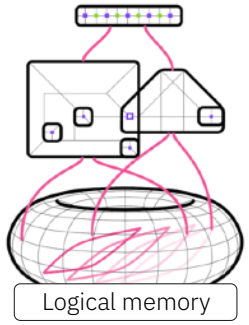
# IBM fault-tolerant quantum computing milestones

## Loon (2025)



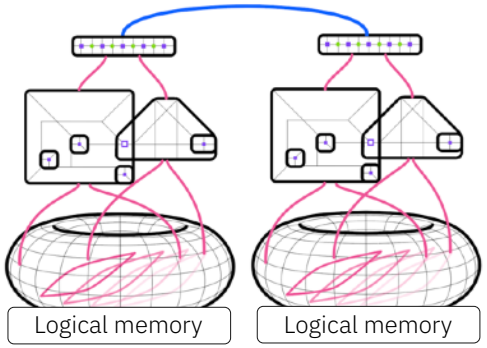

- 6-way connectivity
- c-coupler demo
- Automated design

## Kookaburra (2026)



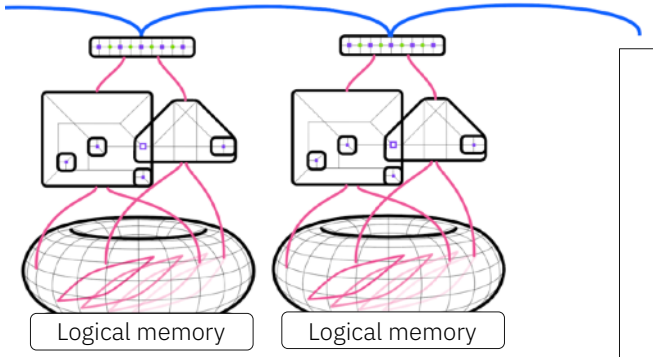

- “Long” c-couplers
- Real-time decoding
- LPU (+~100 qubits) for logical operations

## Cockatoo (2027)




- Two blocks of gross code + LPU
- Module-to-module logical communication over l-couplers

## Starling (2028)



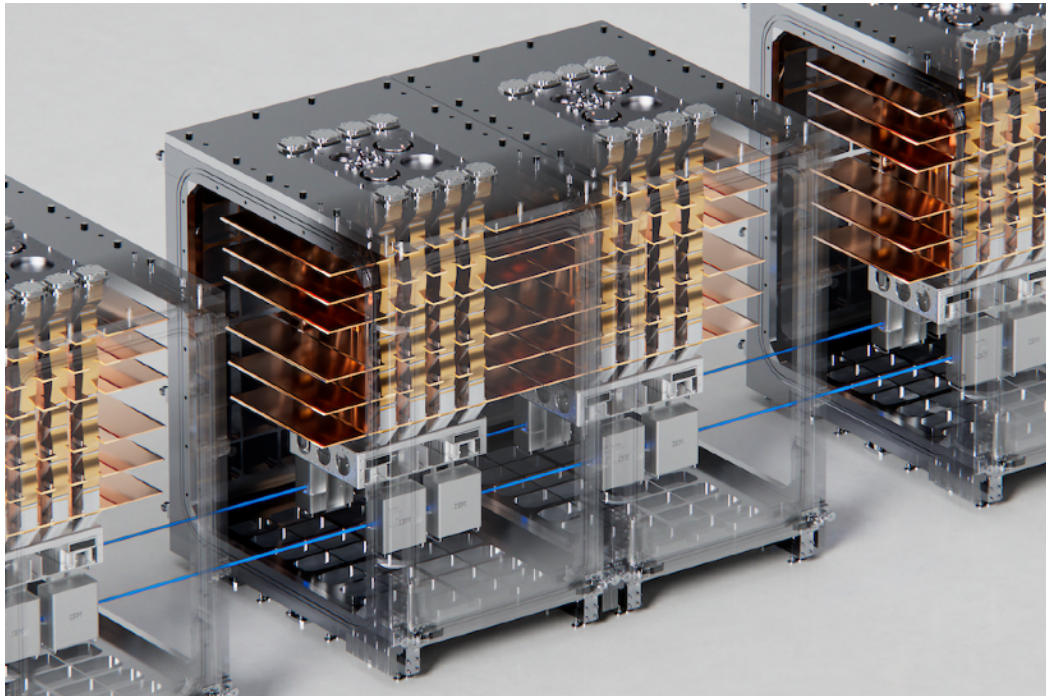

Magic state factory

- Multiple blocks of gross code + LPUs
- Universal computation with magic state distillation



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# Modular cryogenic architecture purpose-built for fault-tolerant quantum computing



### Modular Architecture

Individual cryogenic cells can be built, tested, shipped, and assembled into larger systems, creating a scalable foundation for quantum computing.

### Efficient Integration

A rectangular architecture packs more wiring and qubits into each cell while simplifying connections between neighboring cryogenic modules.

### Flexible Evolution

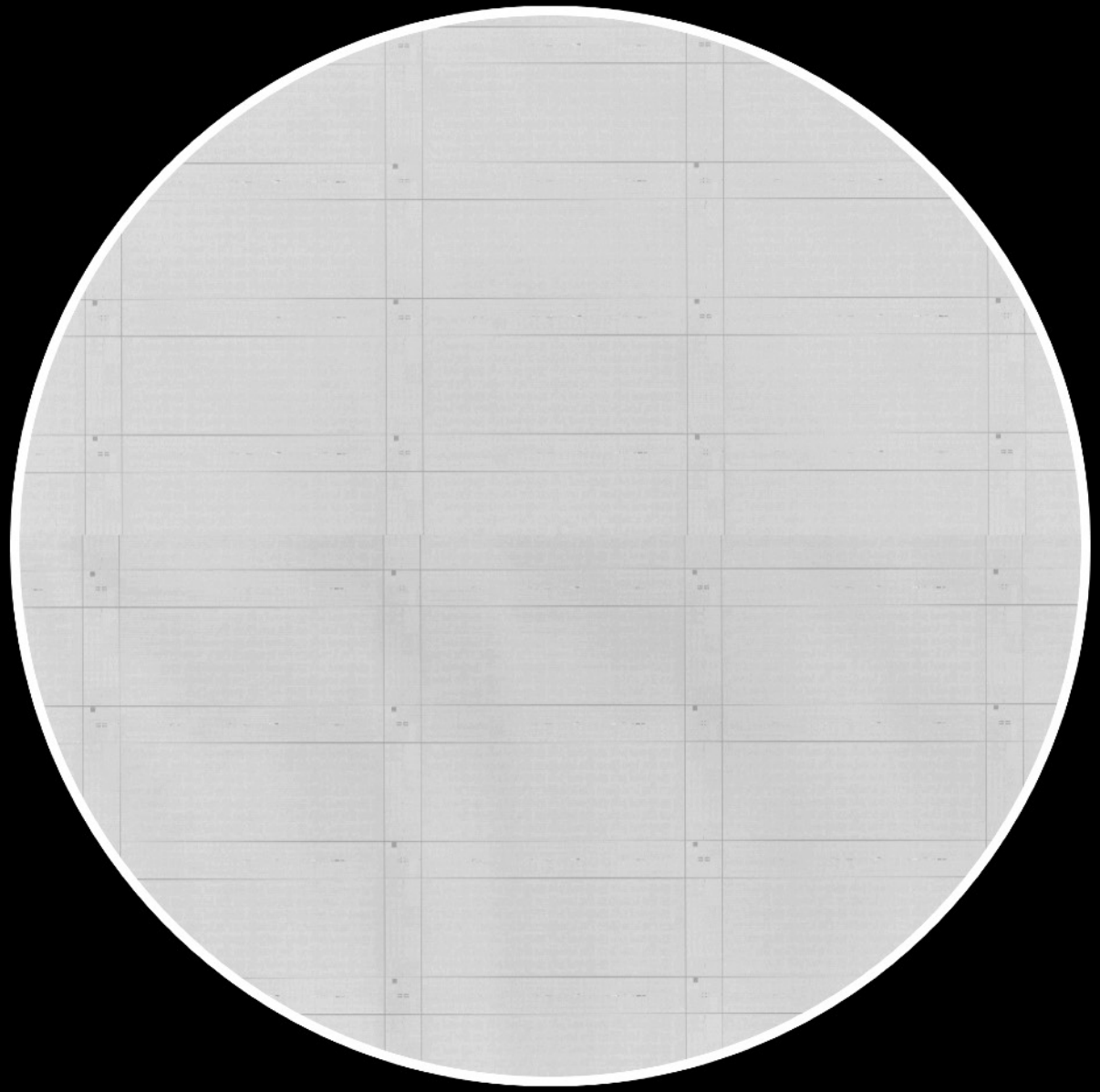
Separate cryo subsystems: cooling technologies, wiring infrastructure, electronics, and quantum devices evolve independently enabling faster optimization and adaptation as quantum hardware advances

### Scalable Deployment

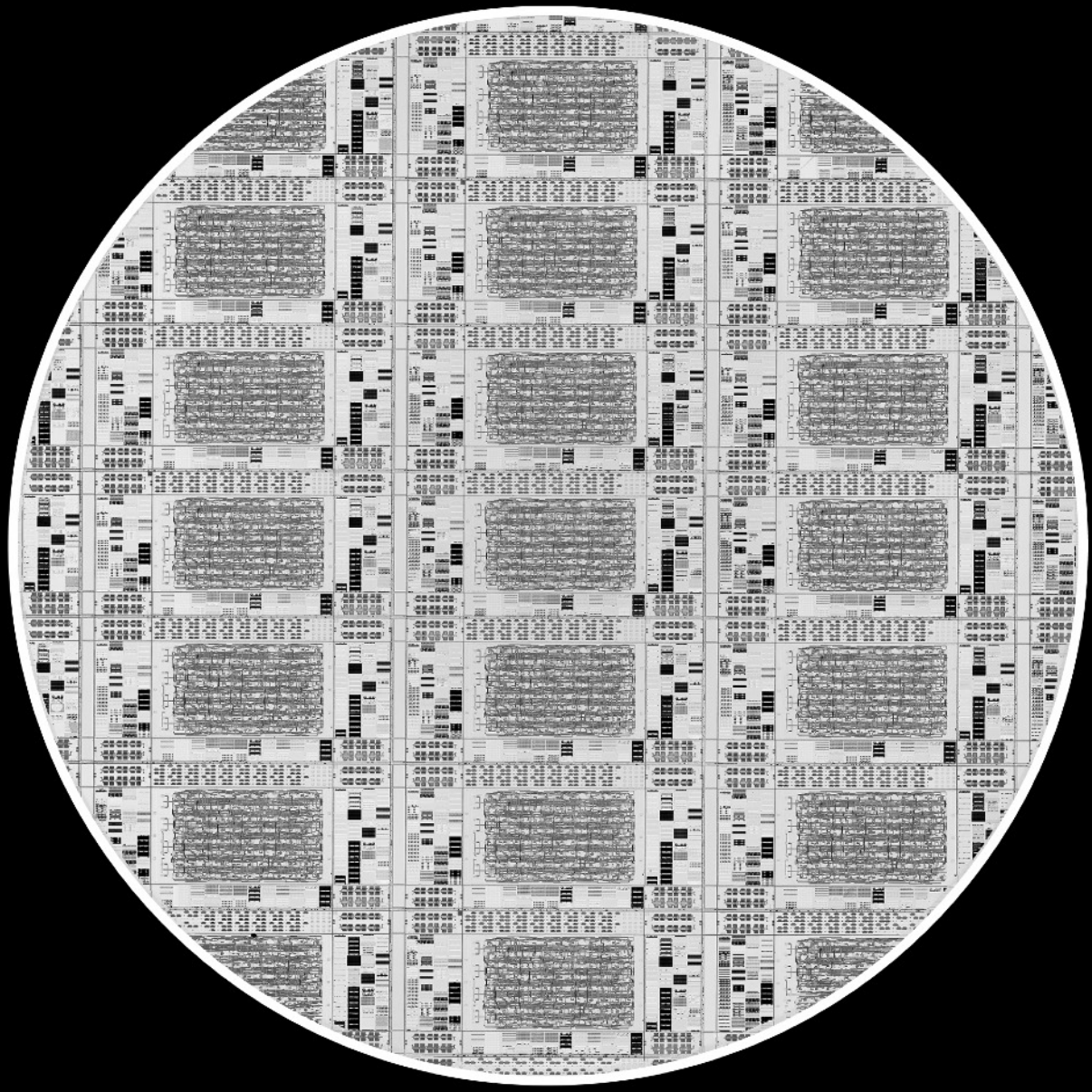
Early systems will have two modules supporting roughly 1,000 qubits; designed to scale to dozens of modules and hundreds of thousands of physical qubits while maintaining fast cool-down and warm-up cycles.



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IBM Quantum Heron



IBM Quantum Loon

# Scaling quantum hardware to 300mm processing

## >~10x

Increase in complexity for qldpc codes

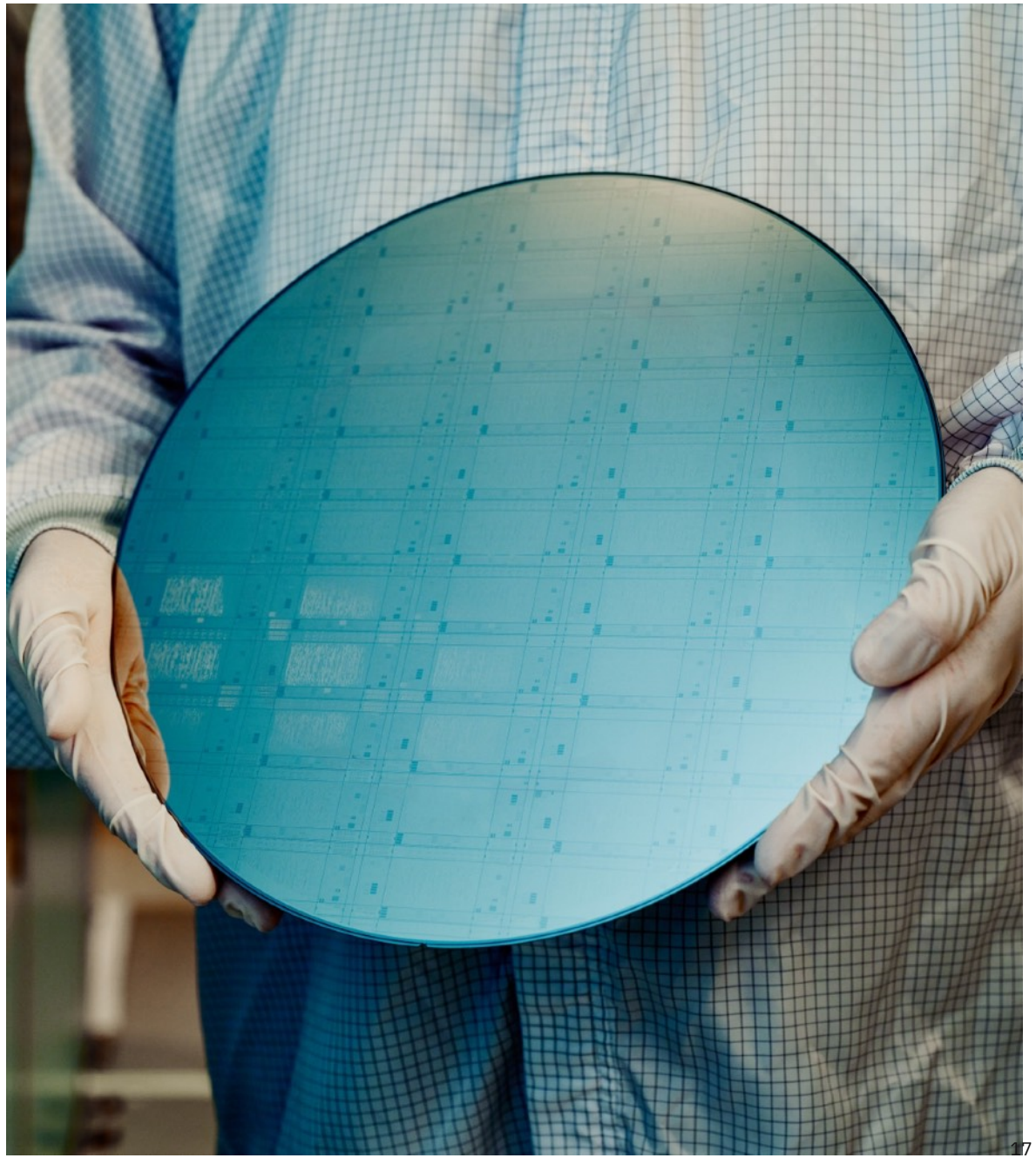
## 2-3x

Speedup per wafer with 300mm 24/7 fab line

## >11,000

Wafers for quantum run through Albany Nanotech

Accelerating progress towards advantage and fault tolerance.



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# Anderon

A pure-play quantum foundry

This new company from IBM, with support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, will catalyze the world's quantum manufacturing capability

Backed by decades of semiconductor research, quantum computing leadership, and large-scale quantum wafer fabrication



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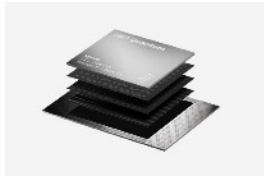
# Current and anticipated* IBM Quantum System power consumption

Advanced computational workloads in the quantum era will comprise of both classical and quantum components working together

Quantum could be used to reduce consumption of classical resources for certain operations in an overall workflow

## ~50-100 kW

Current generation Heron and Nighthawk processors typically consume <100 kW



Nighthawks are ~55 kW

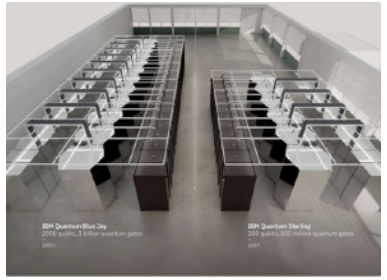



Targeting

## 1.5-6.3 MW

We are targeting

- 1.5 MW for Starling
- 6.3 MW for Bluejay



## 100s MW to GWs

Typical for modern data centers

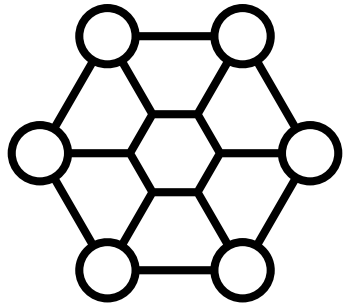
**System scale changes the infrastructure equation, but quantum remains one component of a larger computational workflow.**



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*Information is provided as-is with no promises or guarantees. These numbers are intended to provide relative size comparison information only.

# As hardware scales, integration becomes the challenge.



Computing
is becoming more
**integrated**
*AI, HPC, and quantum together*

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# Computing is becoming more integrated.

*Future computing infrastructure will combine classical, AI, and quantum resources to solve problems beyond the reach of any single approach.*

CPU

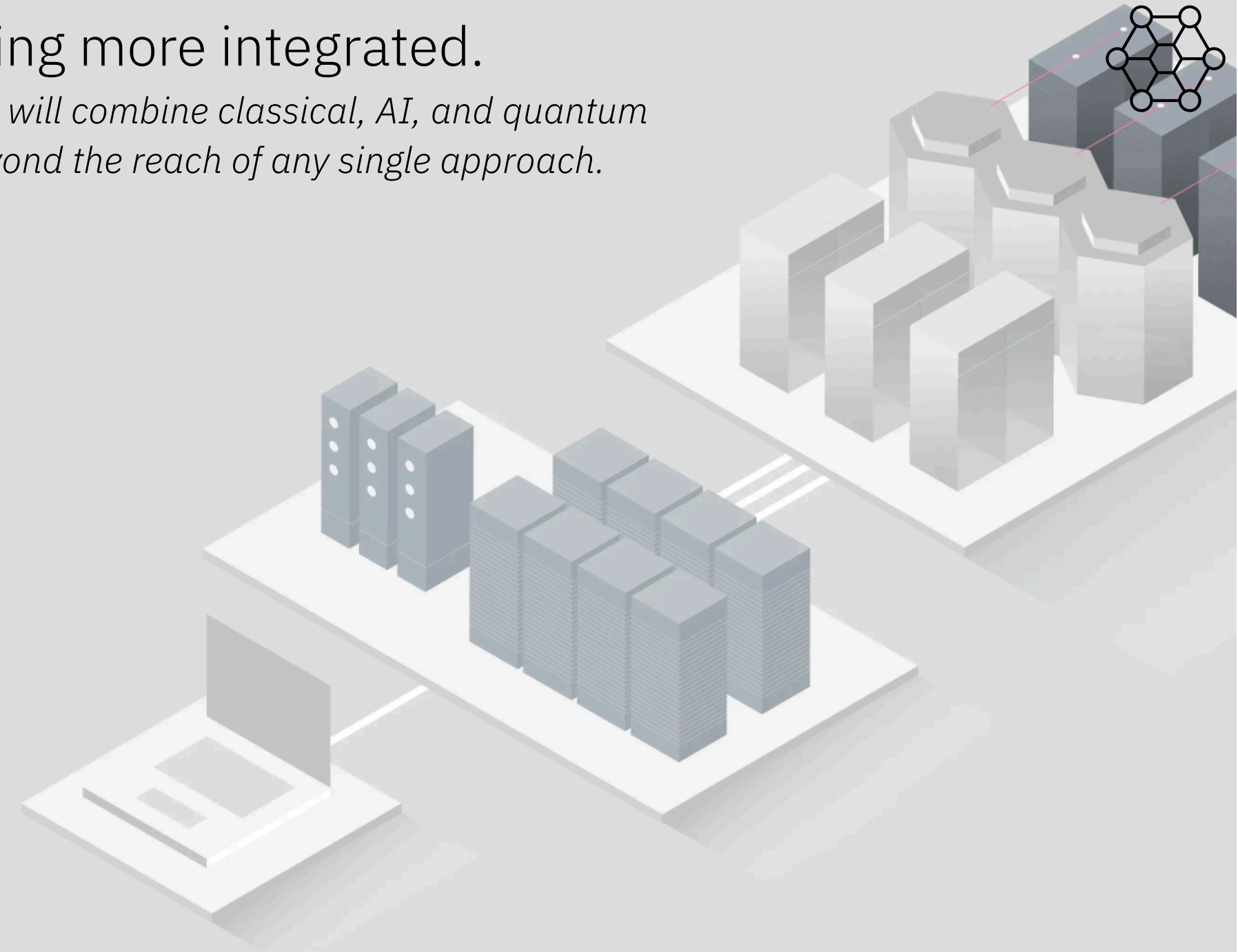
+

GPU

+

QPU

*Quantum-centric* supercomputing



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## Quantum as a co-processor to HPC

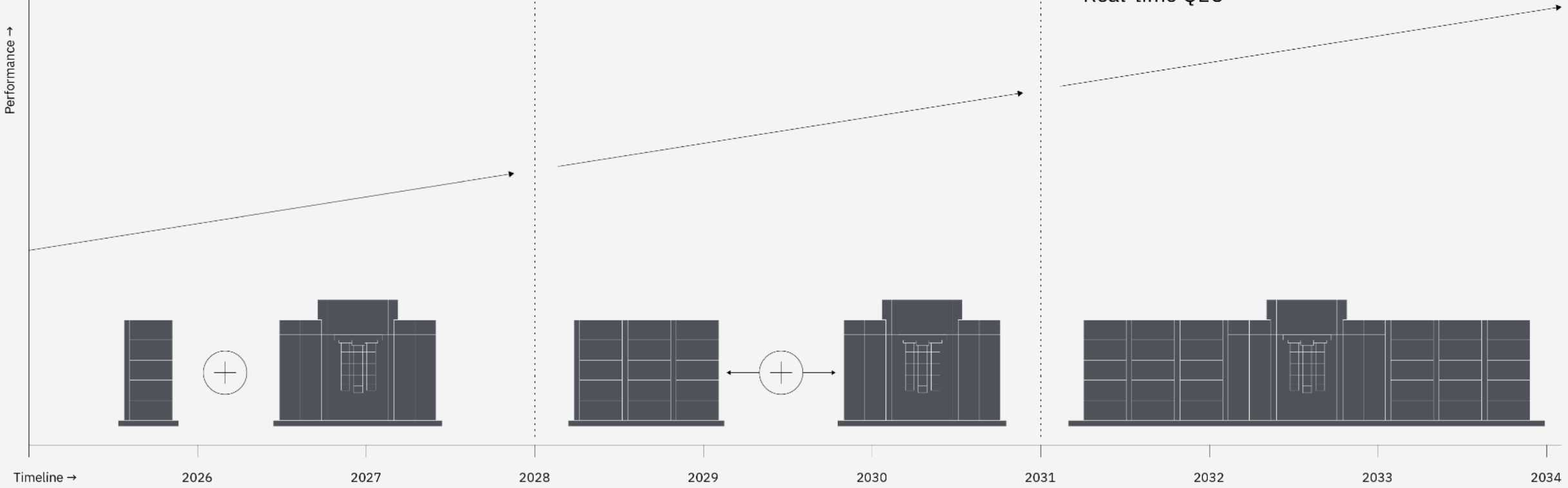
- → Specialized compute offload engines
- → Co-location with existing HPC systems
- → Algorithm and application
- → Post-selected QEC

## Heterogeneous Quantum and HPC Systems

- → Tight coupling between HPC and Quantum
- → Advanced middleware for hybrid algorithms
- → Unified scheduling and resource management
- → Interoperable fabric between
- → Near-time conditional QEC

## Tightly Integrated Quantum and HPC Systems

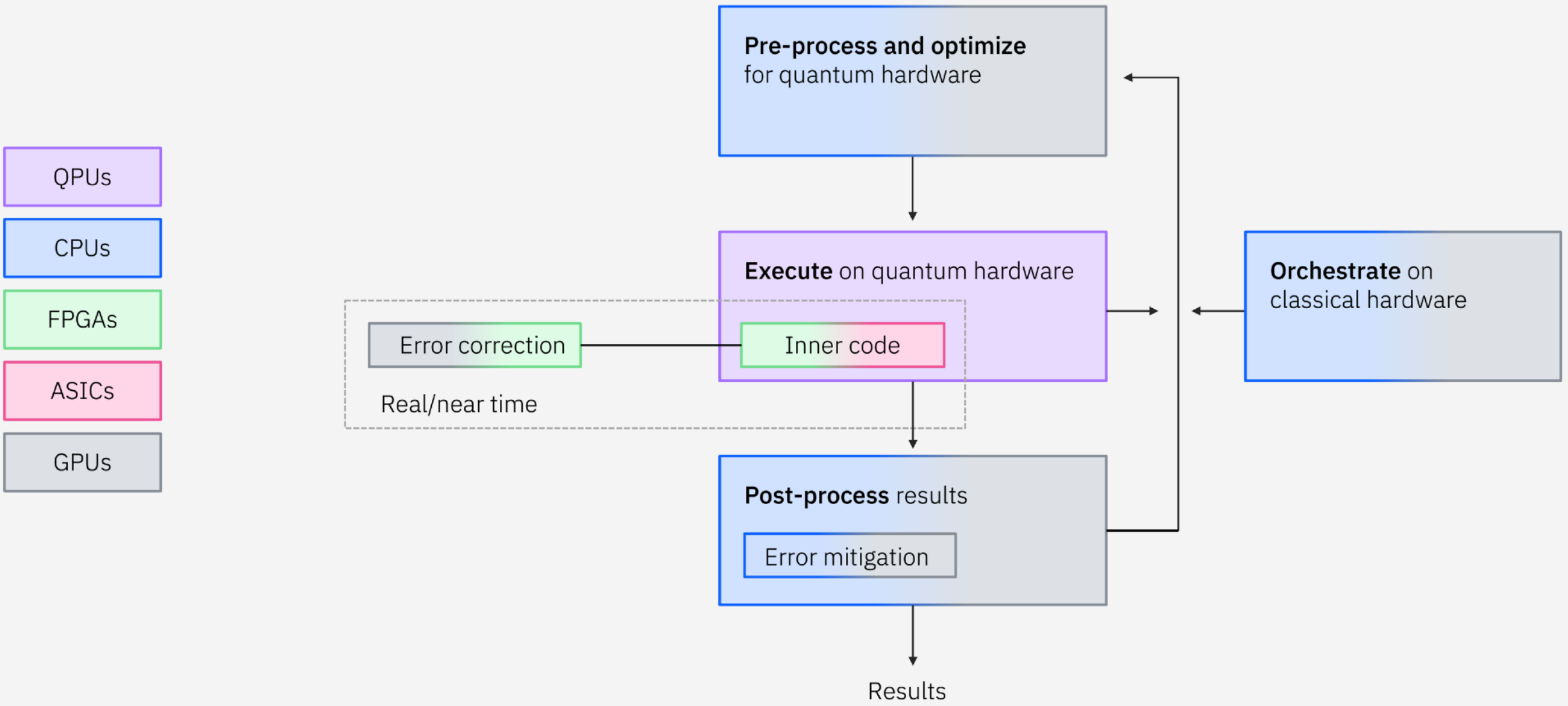
- → Co-designed heterogeneous Quantum and HPC systems
- → Unified programming model that spans Quantum and classical resources
- → Interoperable high-performance fabric between Quantum-classical systems
- → Multi-tenant execution
- → Real-time QEC





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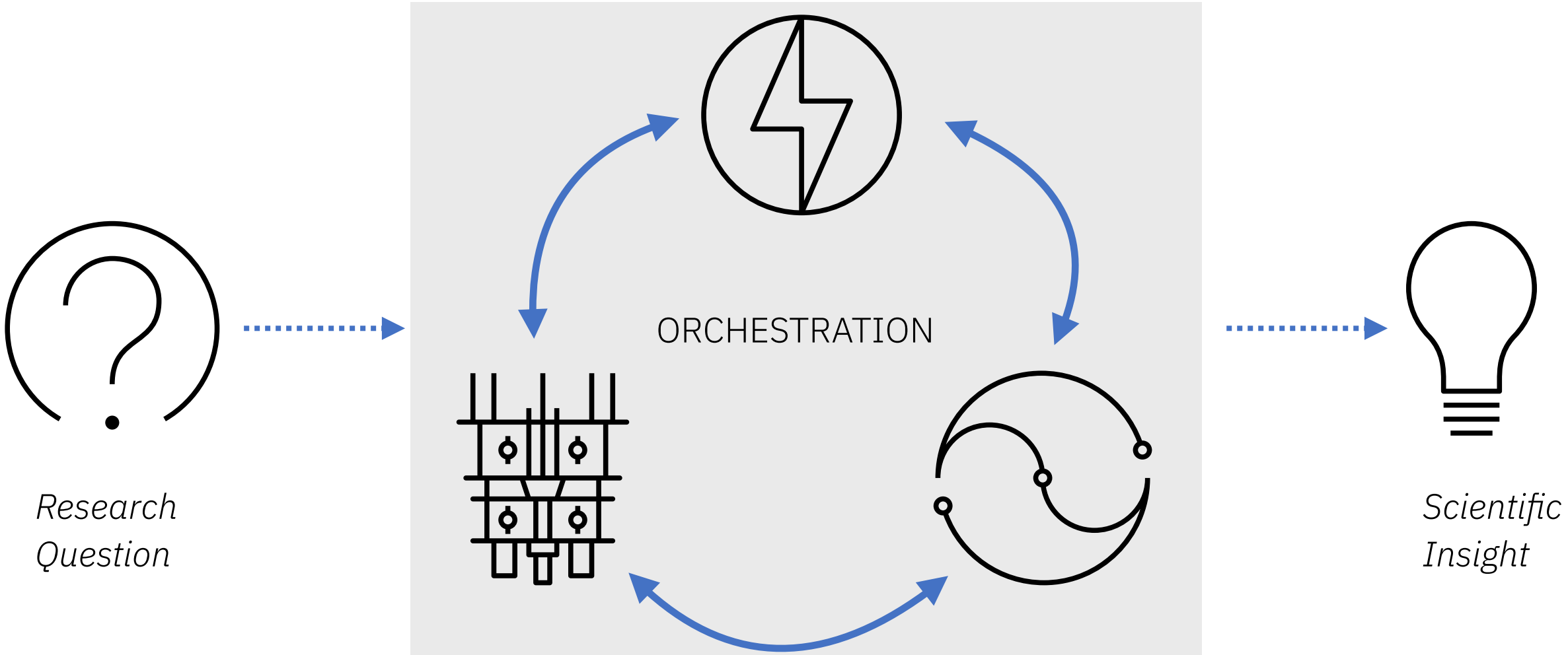
# Quantum-classical workflow




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# The future of discovery is hybrid and workflow-centric across CPU, GPU, and QPU.

*Workflows, not single programs, become the core unit of scientific computing.*




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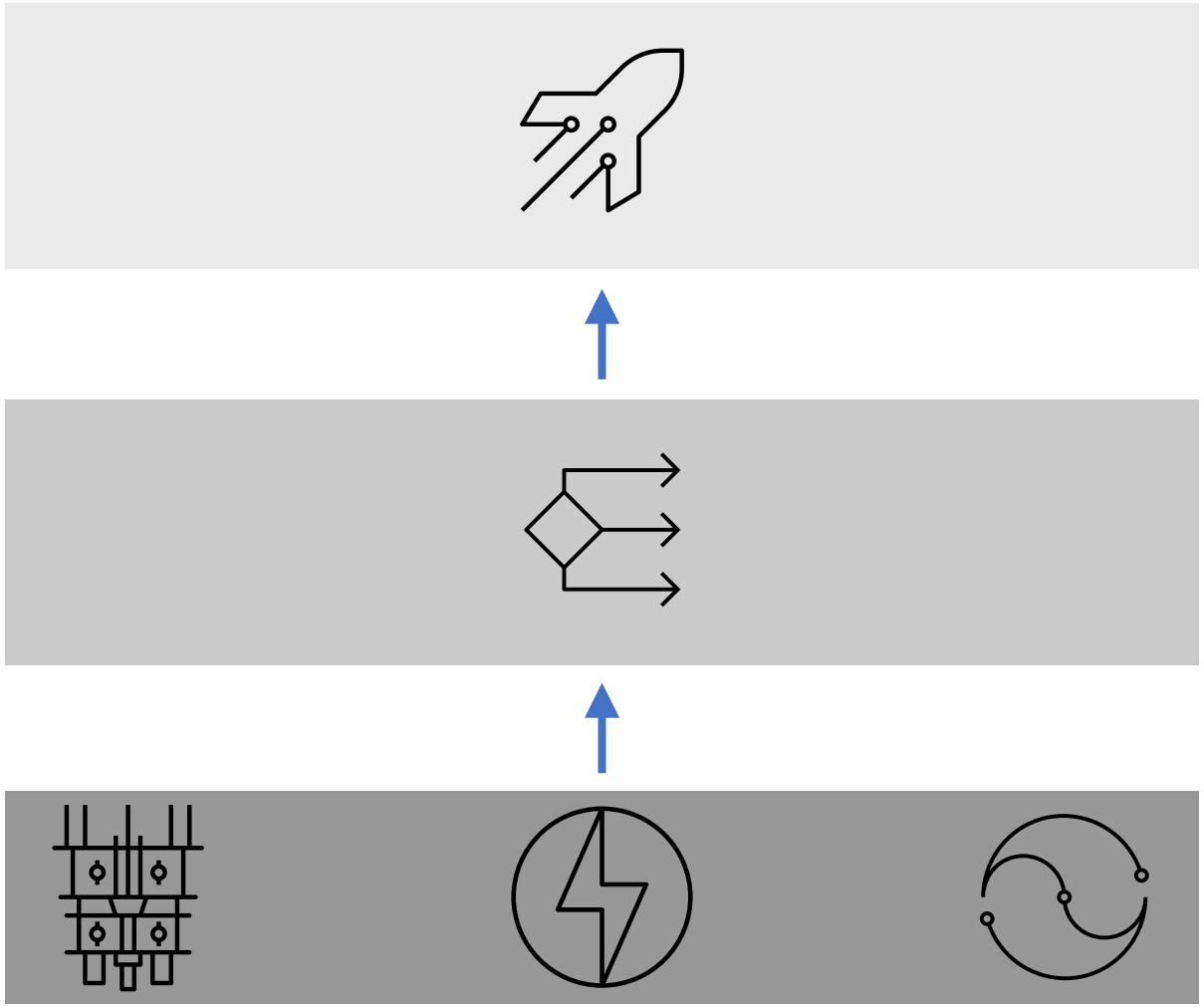
# Orchestration becomes the new software challenge.

*Managing an adaptive workflow over heterogeneous hardware.*

**Accelerated Discovery**

**Orchestration**

**Computing Resources**

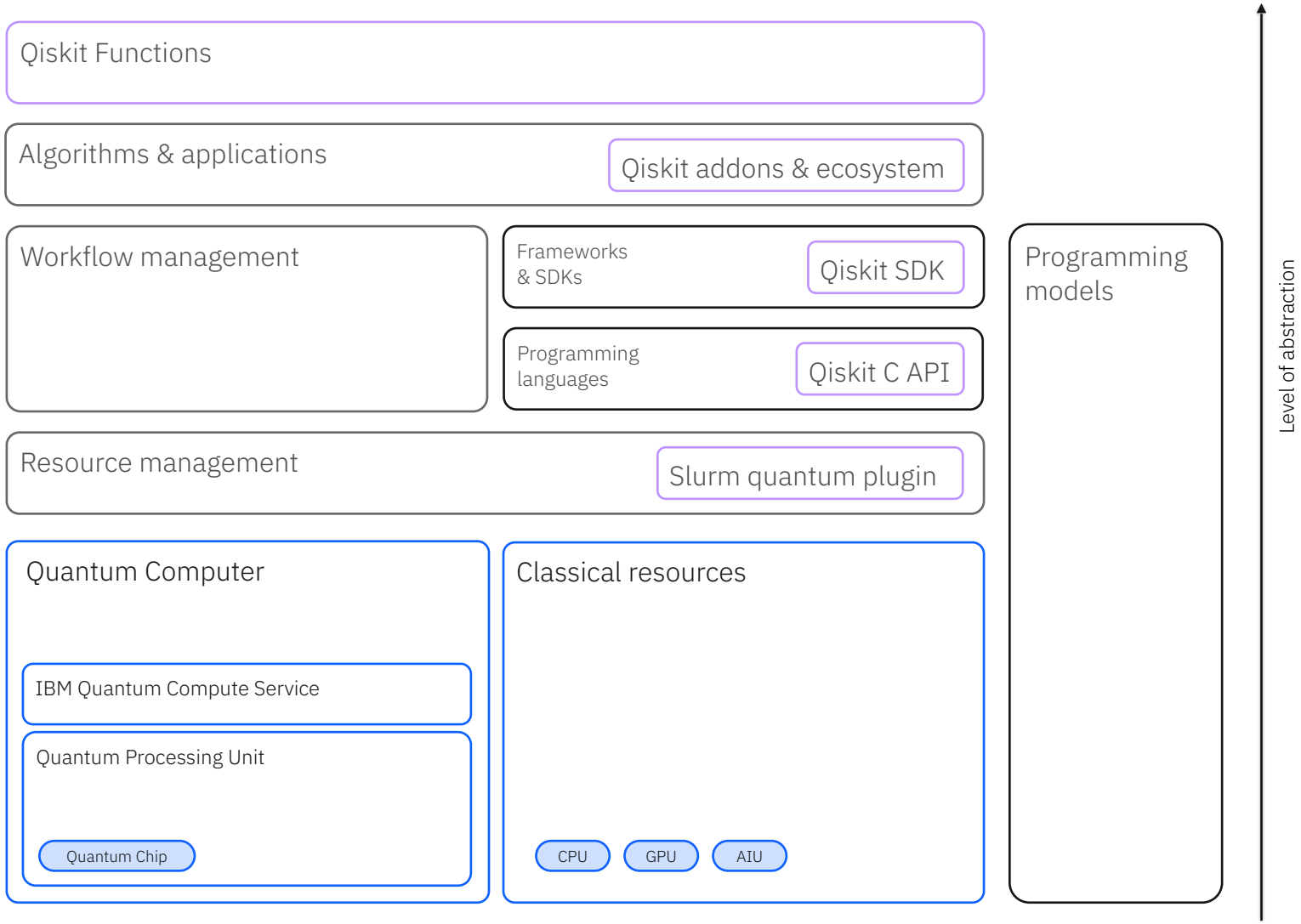


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# We are actively building toward a quantum-centric supercomputing future






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# Quantum Resource Management Interface (QRMI): an open standard for integrating quantum resources

Thin and vendor-agnostic layer to access, control, and monitor underlying on-prem or cloud quantum systems

**Contributors:**

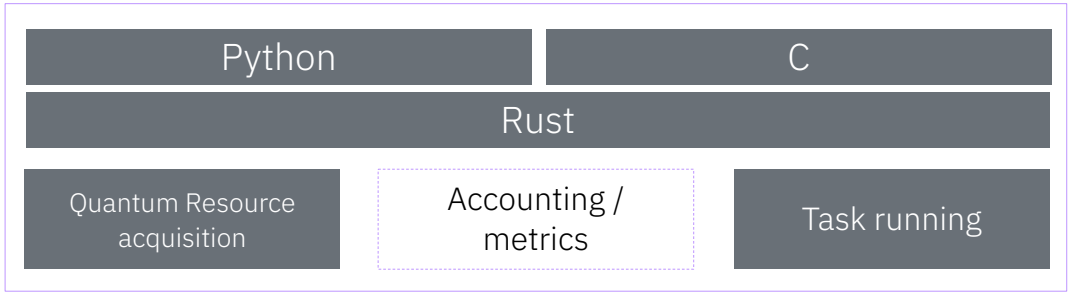
- IBM Quantum
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Pasqal
- STFC Hartree Centre
- Cleveland Clinic
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Jülich Supercomputing Centre
- Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center
- ParTec

HPC Plugins

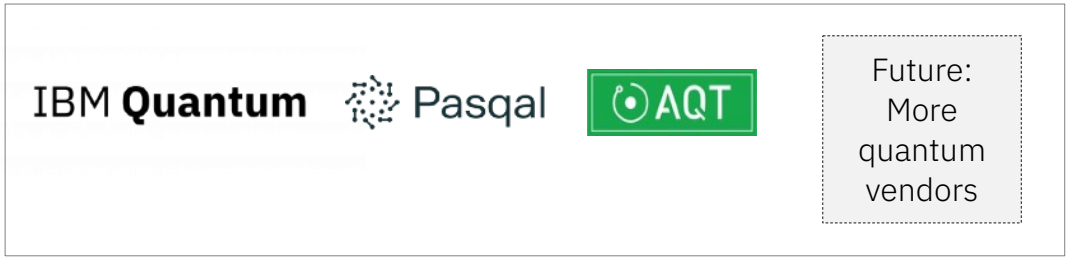
slurm workload manager

PREFECT

QRMI https://github.com/qiskit-community/qrmi




Hardware Support






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RPI200

Pioneering quantum-centric supercomputing integrations

Joint sponsored research in applications architectures for HPC and quantum computers

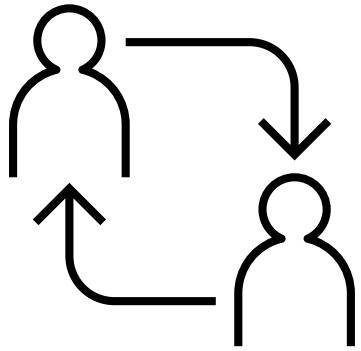
IBM Quantum System One
127-qubit Eagle processor →

↕ 10 miles
10Gb/s ethernet



AiMOS supercomputer

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Discovery
is becoming more
**collaborative**

*Spanning machines, methods, & institutions*

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BasQ

# Simulating complex interactions from high-energy physics

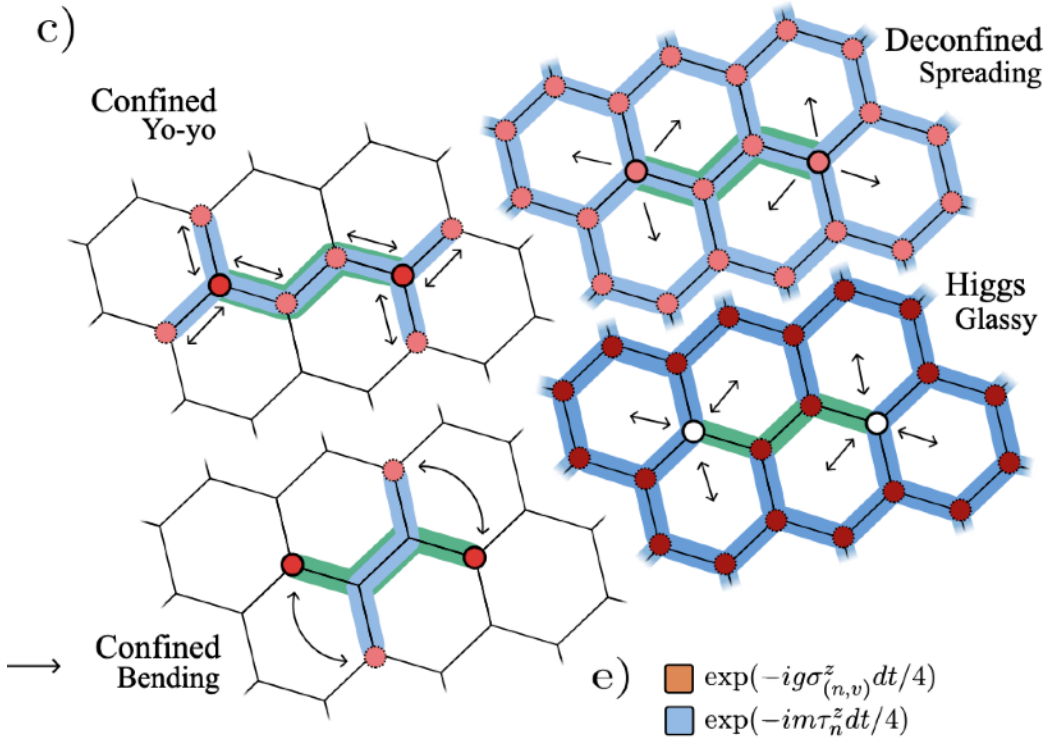
Hamiltonian simulation

BasQ and IBM researchers simulated the behavior of quarks and strong force interactions in a simplified model of nature.

This work pushed boundaries of scale, using 144 qubits and 7,862 two-qubit gates, establishing a milestone for quantum simulation and elucidated the real time behavior of confining strings.

"We came to the conclusion that this could be a really key enabling technology, that could help us keep producing excellent science, technology, and innovation... So the Basque government made a strong, institutional bet on quantum computing."

**Javier Aizpurua**
Scientific Director of the Basque Quantum Initiative




The figure above shows four modes of quark and strong force behavior in the simplified model of physics. These simplified models can offer real insights into the nature of matter in the universe, and this work shows the power of quantum computers to run models at scale.

**Read the paper →** arxiv:2507.08088
**Read the blog→** ibm.com/quantum/blog/basque-quantum-leadership

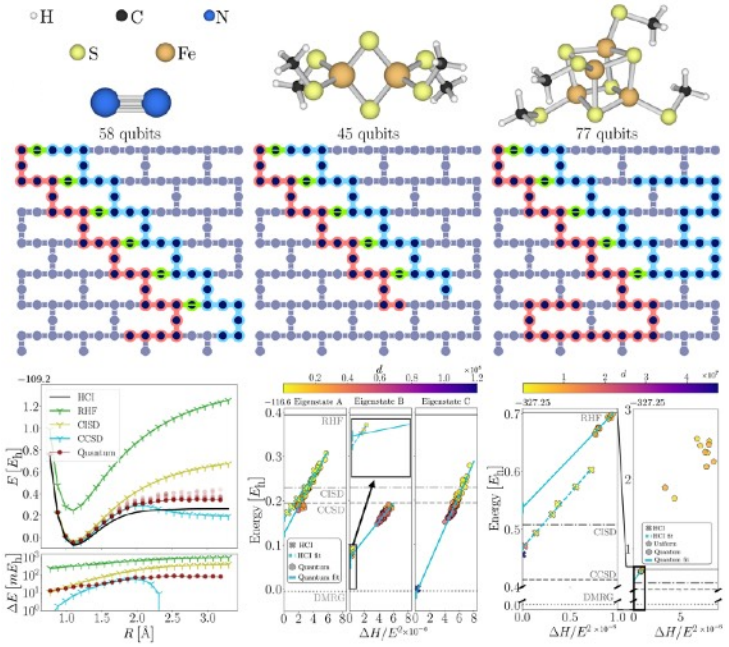


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# RIKEN | IBM Quantum

Near-term exploration with heuristic methods leads to progress before error correction

## Chemistry beyond the scale of exact diagonalization on a quantum-centric supercomputer

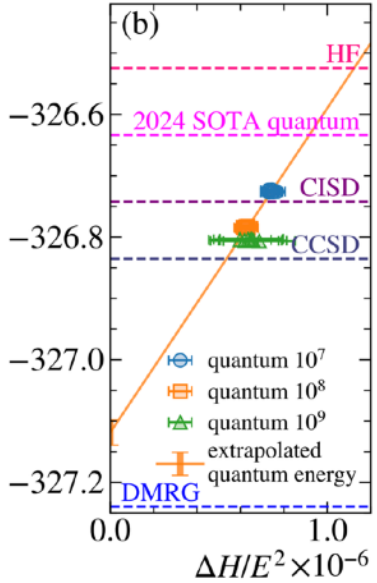






Science Advances, 18 Jun 2025, Vol 11, Issue 25
DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adu9991

## Closed-loop calculations of electronic structure on a quantum processor and a classical supercomputer at full scale



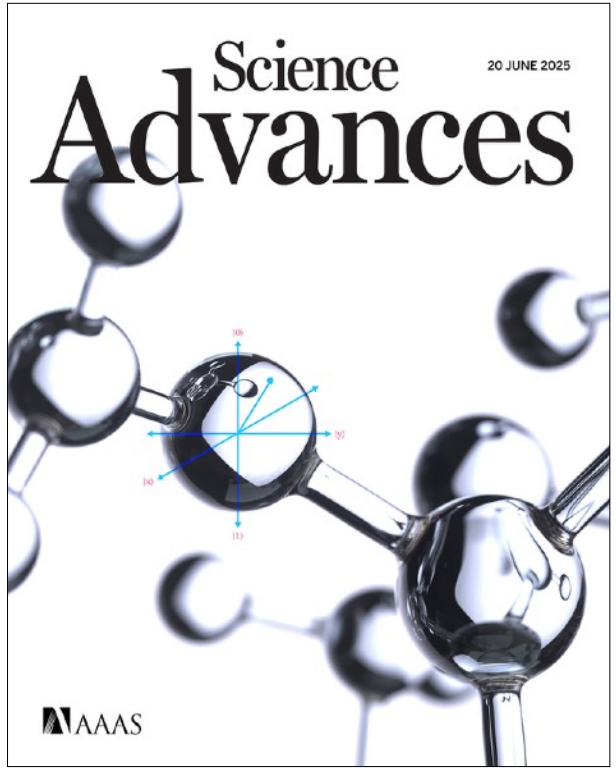

Extrapolated energies are .1 Hartree away from classical SOTA DMRG

arXiv:2511.00224 (31 October 2025)



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# Reducing the requirements to realize quantum chemistry applications using quantum-centric supercomputers




**Chemistry Beyond Exact Solutions on a Quantum-Centric Supercomputer**

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[6] *Quantum Computational Science Research Team, RIKEN Center for Quantum Computing (RQC), Wako, Saitama, 351-0198, Japan*
[7] *RIKEN Interdisciplinary Theoretical and Mathematical Sciences Program (iTHEMS), Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan*
[8] *RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science (CEMS), Wako, Saitama 351-0198, Japan*

*Introduces the "sample-based quantum diagonalization" (SQD) algorithm*

| | |
|---|---|
| Fault-tolerant | Phase estimation qubits: **4.53M** **13 days** runtime * |
| Conventional near-term approach | VQE estimation at 10µs/circuit ~**3M years** |
| Quantum-centric supercomputing | Subspace estimation at 10µs/ circuit ~**2 hours** |

$Fe_4S_4$ on **72** qubits (TZP-DKH basis set):

**6.7M** Pauli operators

*Estimation done using surface code

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# Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Cleveland Clinic

## Using quantum computers to solve hard problems in designing fusion reactors

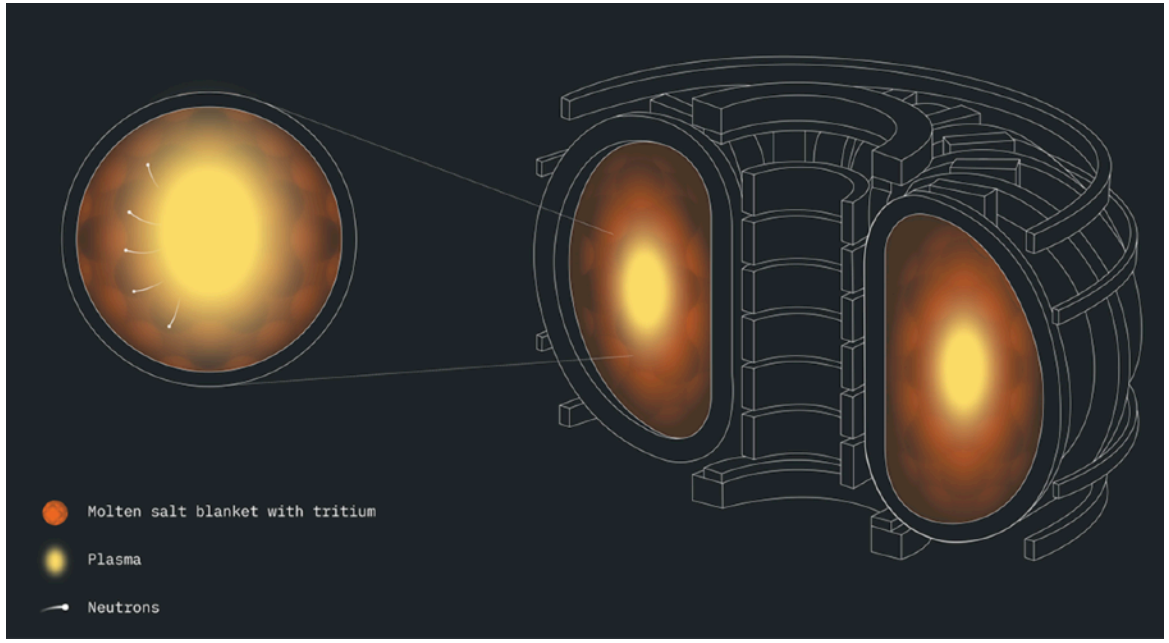
Materials Science

Molten salts could play a crucial role in future fusion energy plants. They would produce rare tritium fuel, shield powerful magnets, and move heat through the system. Developing good tritium sources is a crucial challenge in realizing fusion power.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Cleveland Clinic, and IBM calculated nine molecular configurations of molten salts and tritium. This is the first-known instance of such computations on quantum computers. This work was funded as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Genesis Mission.

"When we started this work maybe five months ago, I did not expect to be at this place this soon."

**Tom Beck**
Section Head for Science Engagement
The National Center for Computational Sciences
Oak Ridge National Laboratory




In a future tokamak, neutrons released from the plasma during fusion could bombard the surrounding molten salt blanket to create tritium. This new work uses quantum computers to model the interaction between tritium and a clusters of atoms in the molten salt.

Read the paper: arXiv:2606.30402
Blog: www.ibm.com/quantum/blog/molten-salts-fusion-quantum

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# Oak Ridge National Laboratory and collaborators

## Quantum computing as a tool for materials discovery

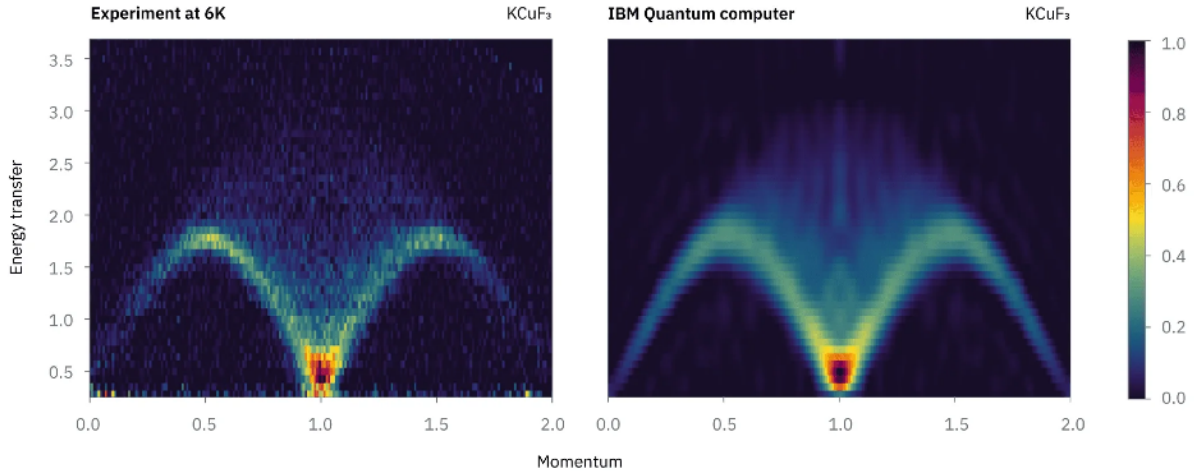
Materials Science

A multi-institutional team used quantum simulations on IBM hardware alongside neutron scattering experiments to study the magnetic behavior of $KCuF_3$, with both modalities showing close agreement.

The work demonstrates how quantum computers can complement experimental measurements, establishing a hybrid approach that points toward faster and more accurate materials discovery.

"Using a quantum computer to compare with this data has been a goal for many years and we have now shown it is possible."

**Arnab Banerjee**
Assistant professor of physics and astronomy
Purdue University




Results of a neutron scattering experiment (left) and an IBM quantum computer-aided simulation of the experiment (right).

Read the paper: arXiv:2603.15608

Collaborating institutions: The Quantum Science Center, ORNL; Purdue University; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; IBM; MPA-Q, Los Alamos National Laboratory; University of Tennesse

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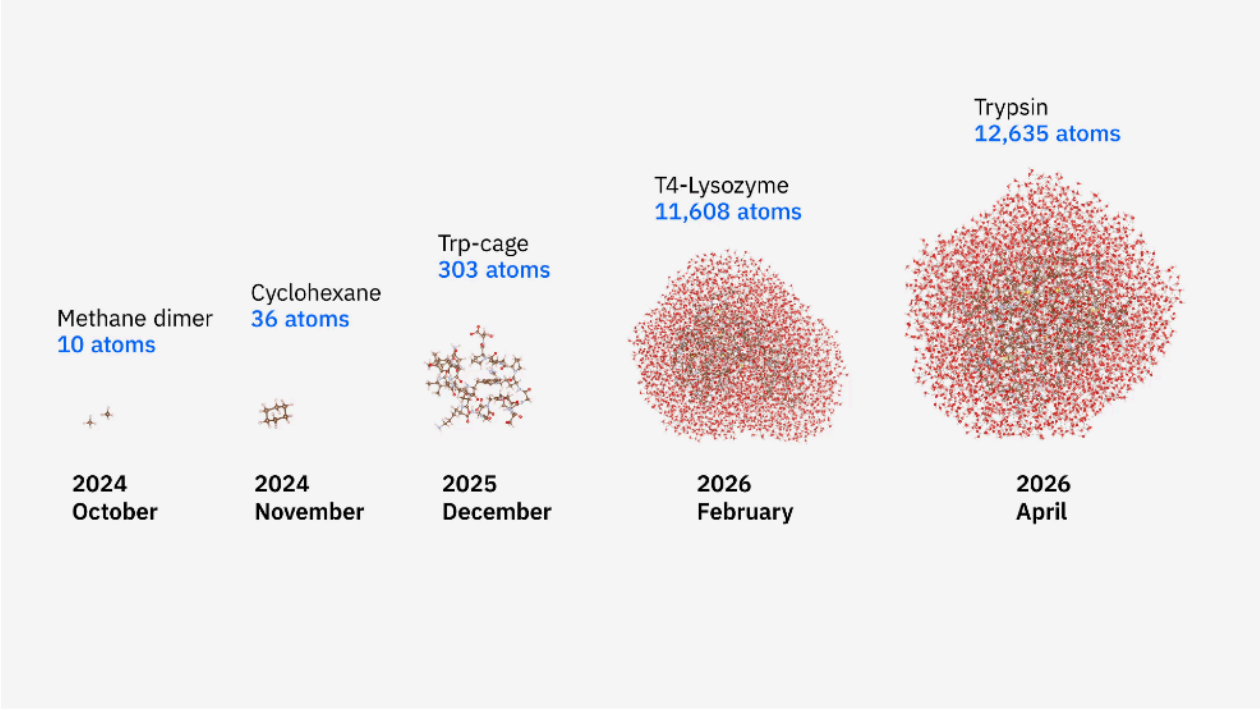
Cleveland Clinic

Scientists at Cleveland Clinic, RIKEN, and IBM used two IBM quantum computers and two supercomputers to simulate two molecules relevant to drug development, reaching a scale of 12,635 atoms in the largest simulation.

The result is the largest-known simulation of biologically meaningful molecules ever performed using quantum hardware, and a signal that quantum computers are maturing into useful scientific tools.

"Better chemistry workflows really mean ways to help you and future generations lead better, healthier lives."

**Dr. Kenneth Merz, PhD**
Kenneth Merz Laboratory
**Cleveland Clinic**




This illustration shows how quickly the scale of quantum chemistry simulations has grown in recent months.

Read the paper: https://arxiv.org/abs/2605.01138
Read the blog: https://www.ibm.com/quantum/blog/cleveland-clinic-riken-chemistry

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Cleveland Clinic

# The path to drug discovery

### First demonstration of SQD in organic molecules

Framework for electronic structure calculations of non-covalent interactions on quantum hardware

Communications Physics 8, 396 (2025)

### Integration of SQD with DMET

Early demonstration of the potential for QCSC simulation (SQD-DMET) to accurately simulate large molecules

Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation 21, 14 (2025)

### Expansion of SQD to a liquid state

Inclusion of solute-solvent interactions in SQD is critical for biochemical and medical applications

The Journal of Physical Chemistry B 129, 23 (2025)

### Template function

Open-source Qiskit Function template shared for electronic structure simulation with an implicit solvent model

https://ibm.biz/ccf-function-template

### Fragmentation methods

Demonstration of method to decrease number of qubits used to accurately simulate a molecule without loss in accuracy

arXiv:2506.20825 (2025)

### Demonstration on mini-protein

Accurate simulation of Trp-cage (over 22 amino acids; 303 atoms). Increase in size of experiment from <100 Dalton molecular weight to over 3000.

arXiv:2512.17130 (2025)

### Energies of protein-ligand complexes

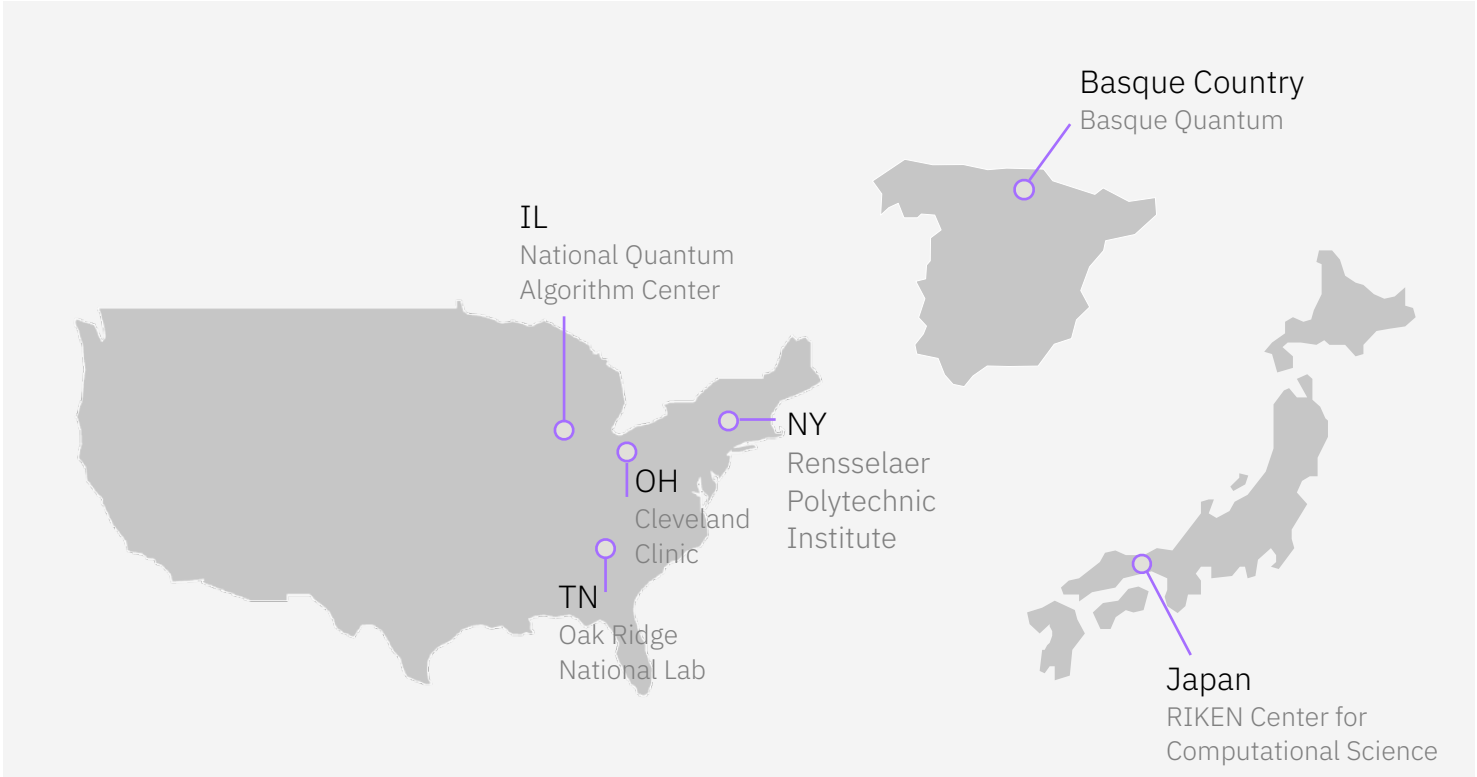
Largest known simulations using QCSC (11K/12K atoms), with accuracy rivaling best classical methods. Progression from a molecule in gaseous phase to ones in liquid water.

arXiv:2605.01138 (2026)

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# The frontier is bigger than any 1 institution.

*Scientific breakthroughs increasingly emerge from networks of institutions, disciplines, and computing platforms working together.*




*RIKEN*

“Chemistry Beyond Exact Solutions on a Quantum-Centric Supercomputer”

—

arXiv:2405:05068

*Cleveland Clinic*

“Accurate quantum-centric simulations of supramolecular interactions”

—

arXiv:2410:09209

*Lockheed Martin*

“Quantum-Centric Study of Methylene Singlet and Triplet States”

—

arxiv.org/abs/2411.04827

*Oak Ridge National Lab*

"Quantum-Centric Algorithm for Sample-Based Krylov Diagonalization"

—

arxiv.org/abs/2501.09702

"Quantum-centric supercomputing for materials science: A perspective on challenges and future directions"

—

FGCS 160, 666-710 (2024)

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# Communities enable scale.




Active application research in industry and academia accelerating the field toward quantum advantage

**50+**

Active industry prototypes and Road to Utility projects

Collaborative skill building within the Network and in wider community to build the quantum workforce

**437**

Road to Practitioner students from RPI, FreeYa Mind, Yonsei University, University of Tokyo, and BasQ

**20k+**

Qiskit Summer School, Challenge and Qiskit Fall Fest participants

Technical working groups bringing together the best scientists to accelerate the path to quantum advantage

## Healthcare and life sciences

Cleveland Clinic, University of Chicago, QuantumBasel, Virginia Tech, Algorithmiq, and more

Towards quantum-enabled cell-centric therapeutics
Pre-print: arXiv:2307.05734

## Sustainability

PINQ², Hydro-Quebec, University of Sherbrooke, E.ON, DTU, and more

## Optimization

STFC Hartree Centre, Fraunhofer, **Los Alamos**, E.ON, University of Amsterdam, and more

Quantum Optimization Benchmarking Library: The Intractable Decathlon
Pre-print: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2504.03832

## Materials science

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory**, University of Chicago, **Argonne National Laboratory**, **RIKEN**, BasQ and more

Quantum-centric Supercomputing for Materials Science: A Perspective on Challenges and Future Directions FGCS 160, 666-710 (2024)
Pre-print: https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.09733

## High energy physics

**CERN**, **DESY**, **Oak Ridge National Lab**, University of Tokyo, and more

Quantum Computing for High-Energy Physics: State of the Art and Challenges. Summary of the QC4HEP Working Group:
PRX Quantum 5, 037001 (2024)
Pre-print: arXiv:2307.03236

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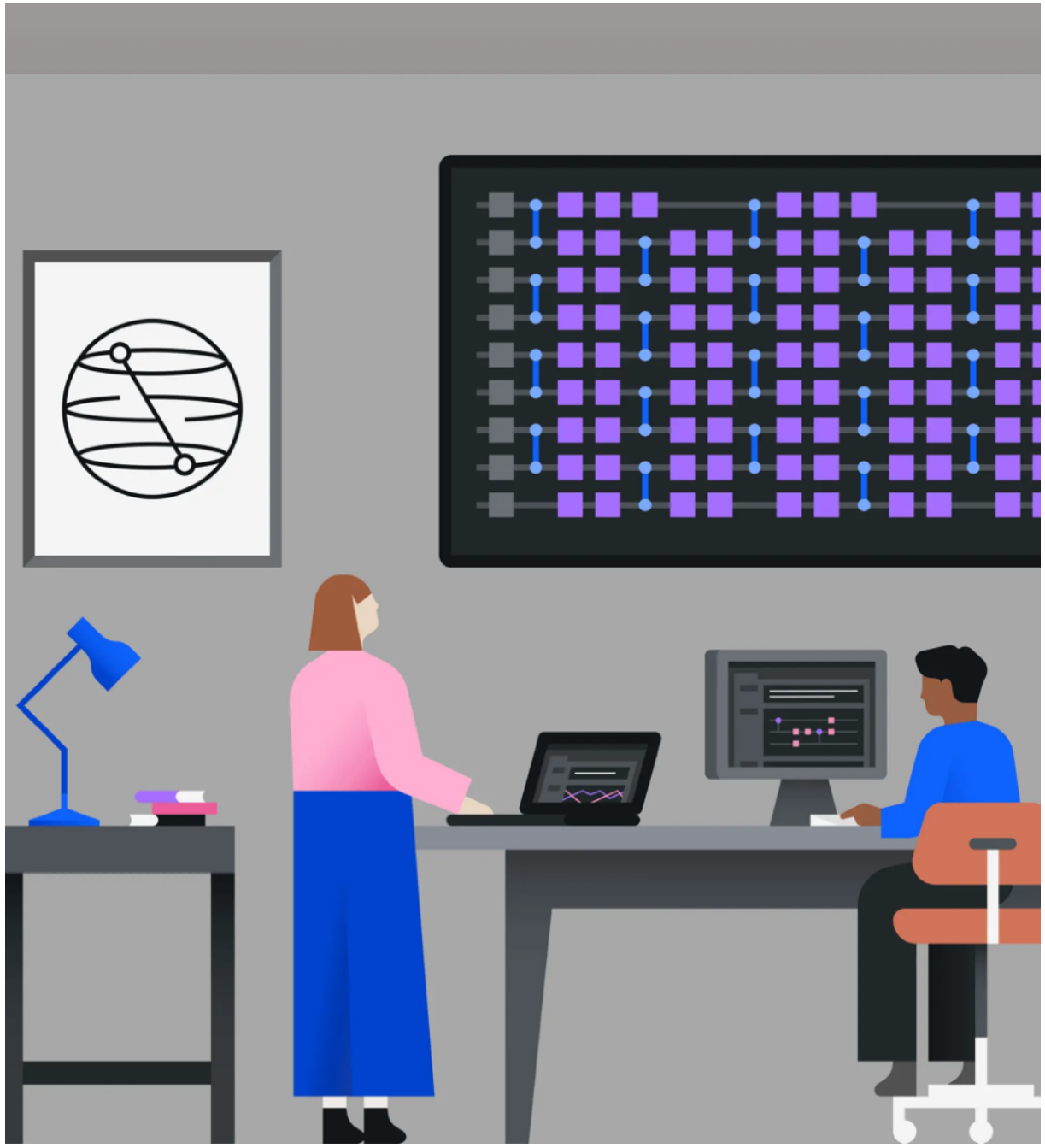
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# Expanding quantum access for the community

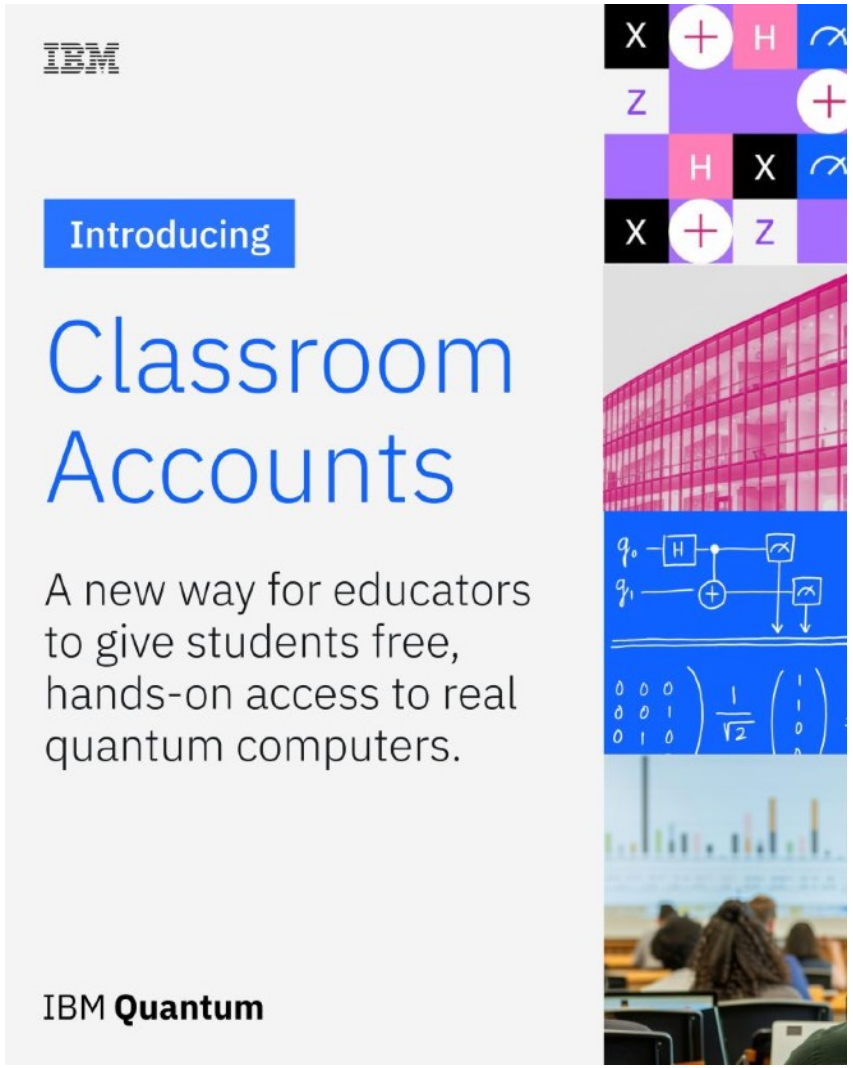
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## 2. Classroom Accounts




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