

**Abstract Submitted for the 55th Annual Meeting  
Division of Plasma Physics  
November 11-15, 2013  
Denver, Colorado**

Category Number and Subject: 6.20 DIII-D Tokamak

[ ] Theory [x] Experiment

**High Internal Inductance as a Steady-State Scenario,\*** J.R. Ferron, T.C. Luce, *GA*; C.T. Holcomb, *LLNL*; J.M. Park *ORNL* – An optimized high  $\ell_i$  discharge is being investigated as a candidate steady-state operating scenario. Increased plasma internal inductance,  $\ell_i$ , is motivated by better confinement and higher ideal-stability-limited normalized beta ( $\beta_N$ ). Stable operation at high  $\beta_N$ , even with relatively low H-mode pedestal pressure, could be possible with sufficient confinement and without a requirement for a conducting wall or  $n \geq 1$  feedback coils. Increased  $\beta_N$ , and thus bootstrap current fraction ( $f_{BS}$ ), results in lower  $\ell_i$ , so an optimized steady-state scenario is expected to have moderate  $\beta_N \approx 4$ ,  $f_{BS} \approx 0.5$  and  $\ell_i \approx 1$ . The externally-driven current is required near the axis where it can be produced efficiently. In experiments, non-stationary discharges with parameters exceeding these values ( $f_B \approx 0.8$ ,  $\beta_N > 4$  but below the calculated no-wall ideal stability limit) have been produced. Noninductive overdrive of the plasma current was verified through freezing of the ohmic coil current. Based on these discharges, an ideal MHD stable, stationary solution for DIII-D has been modeled using FASTRAN and TGLF.

\*Work supported by the US DOE under DE-FC02-04ER54698, DE-AC52-07NA27344, and DE-AC05-00OR22725.