

# Choosing Magnetic Bearing Technology for Improved Performance

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# Agenda

- Magnetic bearing background
- Core magnetic bearing benefits
- University of Texas at Austin background
- System performance
- Additional magnetic bearing benefits

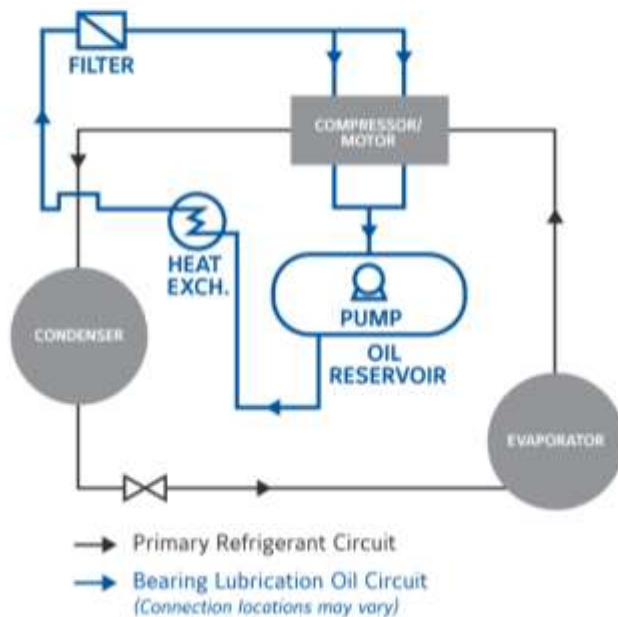
# History of Magnetic Bearing Technology

- First patents came during WWII
- Magnetic bearing technology introduced in 1998 on critical naval applications
- Introduced in commercial HVAC in 2002
- Bearings support load using magnetic levitation

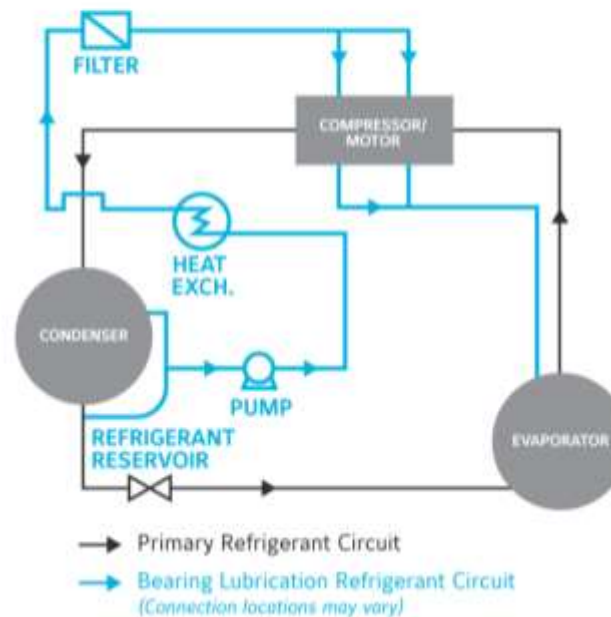


# Bearing Options for Centrifugal Chillers

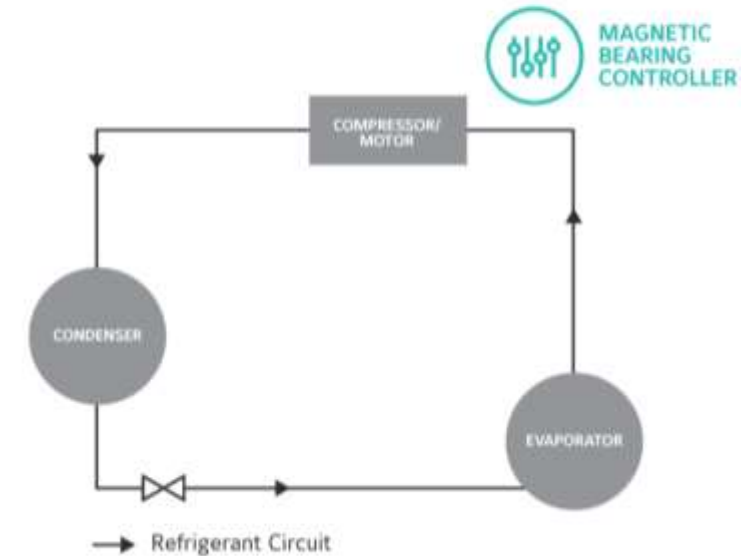
## OIL-LUBRICATED BEARINGS



## REFRIGERANT-LUBRICATED BALL BEARINGS



## MAGNETIC BEARINGS



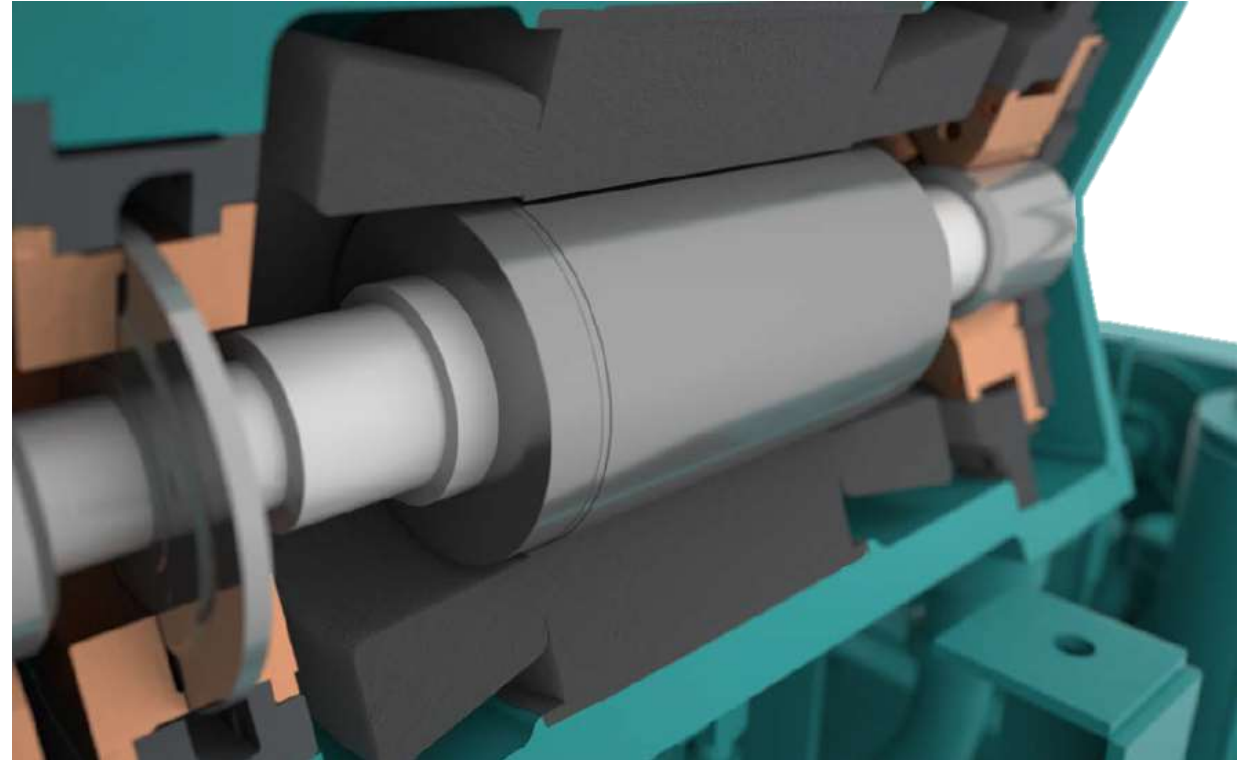
# Magnetic Driveline Benefits

Single moving assembly suspended in a magnetic field with no lubrication system

- 80% fewer moving parts
- Non-contact design

Magnetic bearings deliver

- Extraordinary efficiency & wide operating map
- Superior durability
- Simplified maintenance

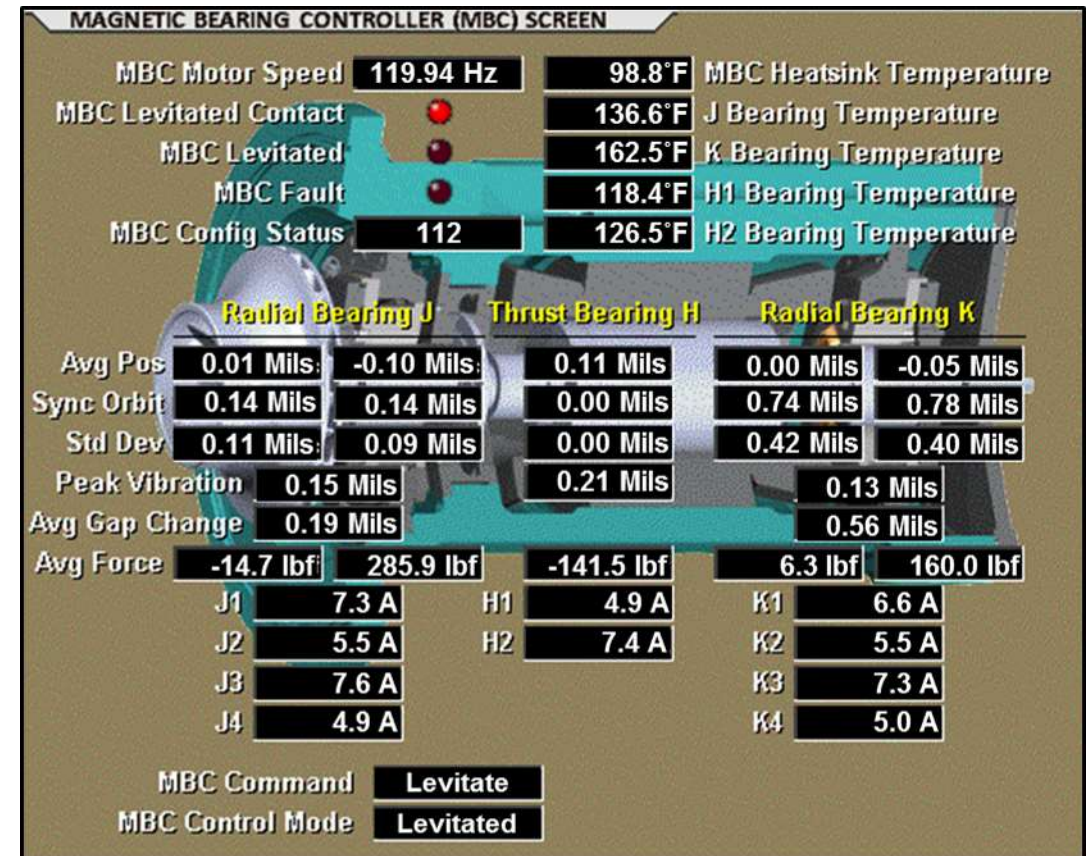


**Enhanced longevity & reduced maintenance!**

# Highly Engineered Technology Offers Simplicity

- Highly complex design – behind the scenes
- Magnetic bearing controller is measuring and responding 20,000 times per second

One mil is = 1/1000 th of an inch  
= 0.025 mm  
= “less than the width of a human hair”  
Sensing position down to hundredth of a mil and  
correcting position to remain centered

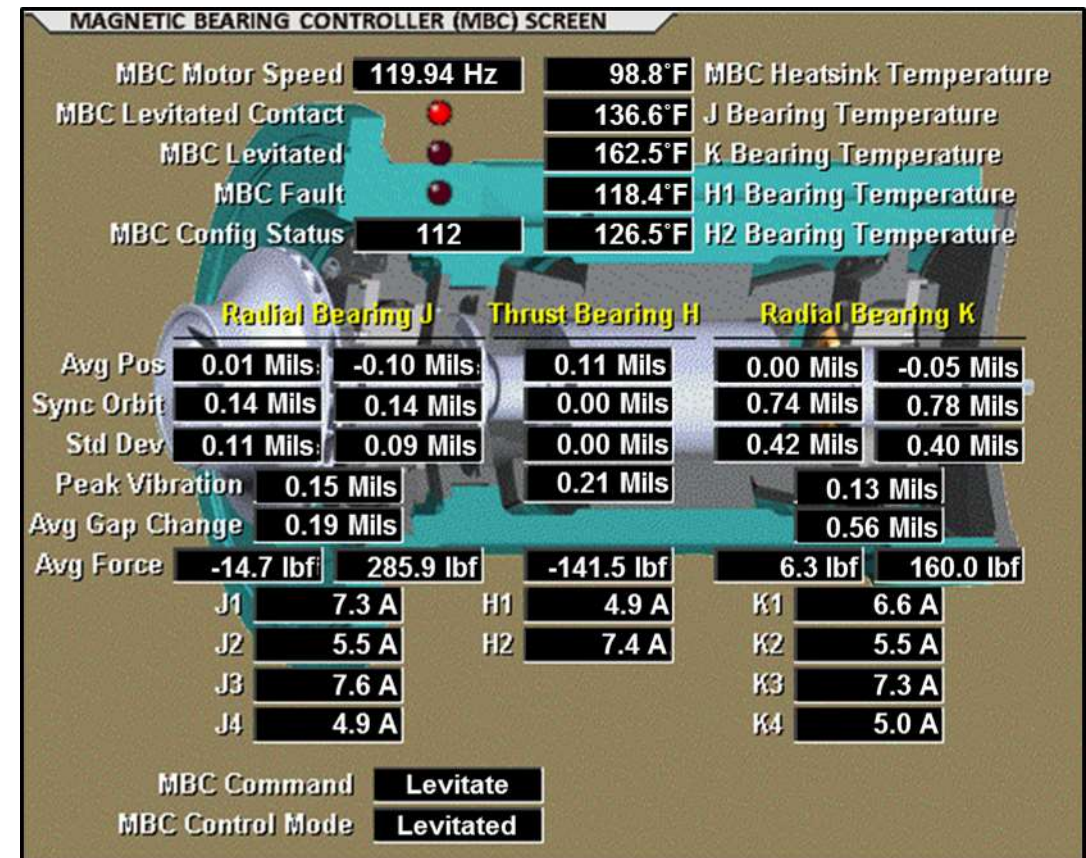




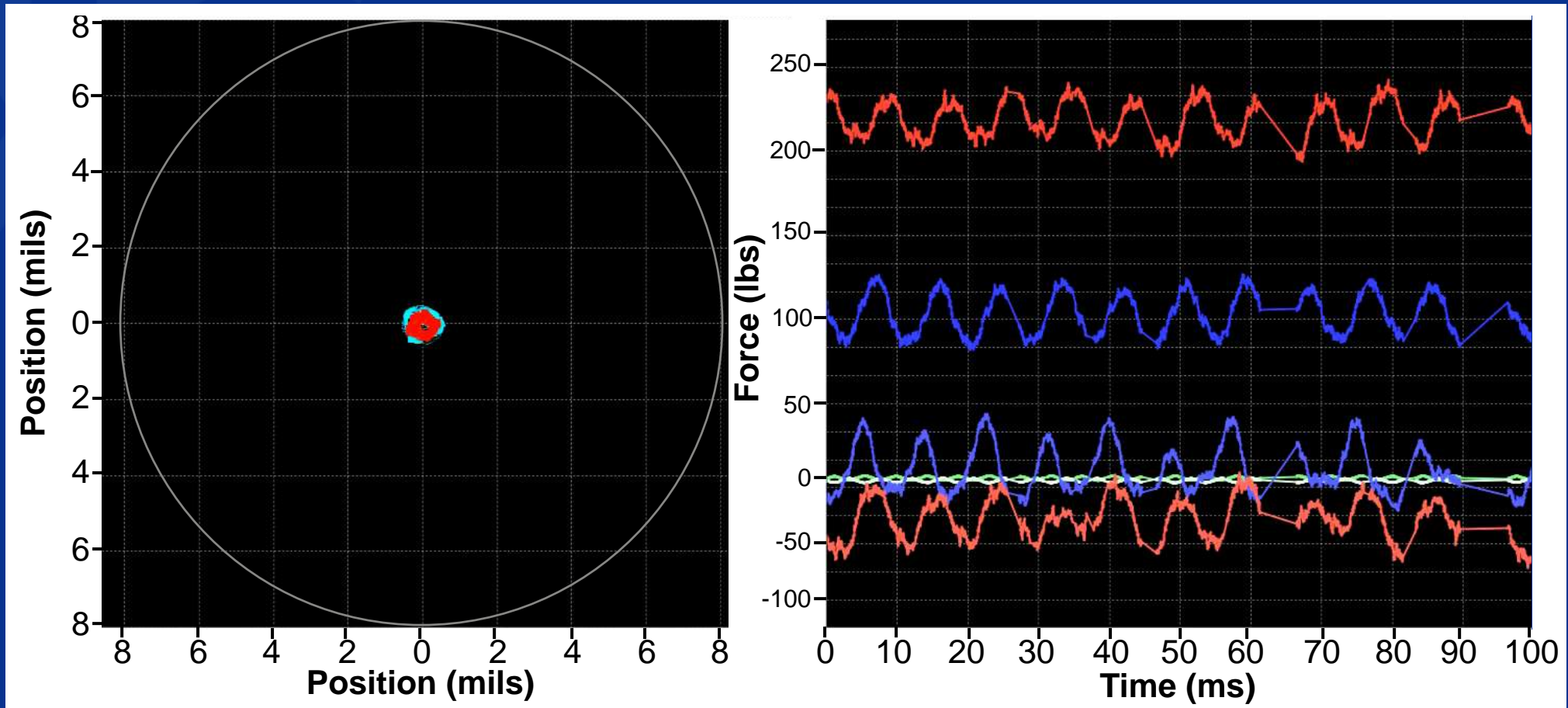
# What happens during a power failure?

During a power failure

- An uninterruptable power supply (UPS) provides power to the bearings until rotation has stopped
- Additional backup bearings provide protection if power AND the UPS fail

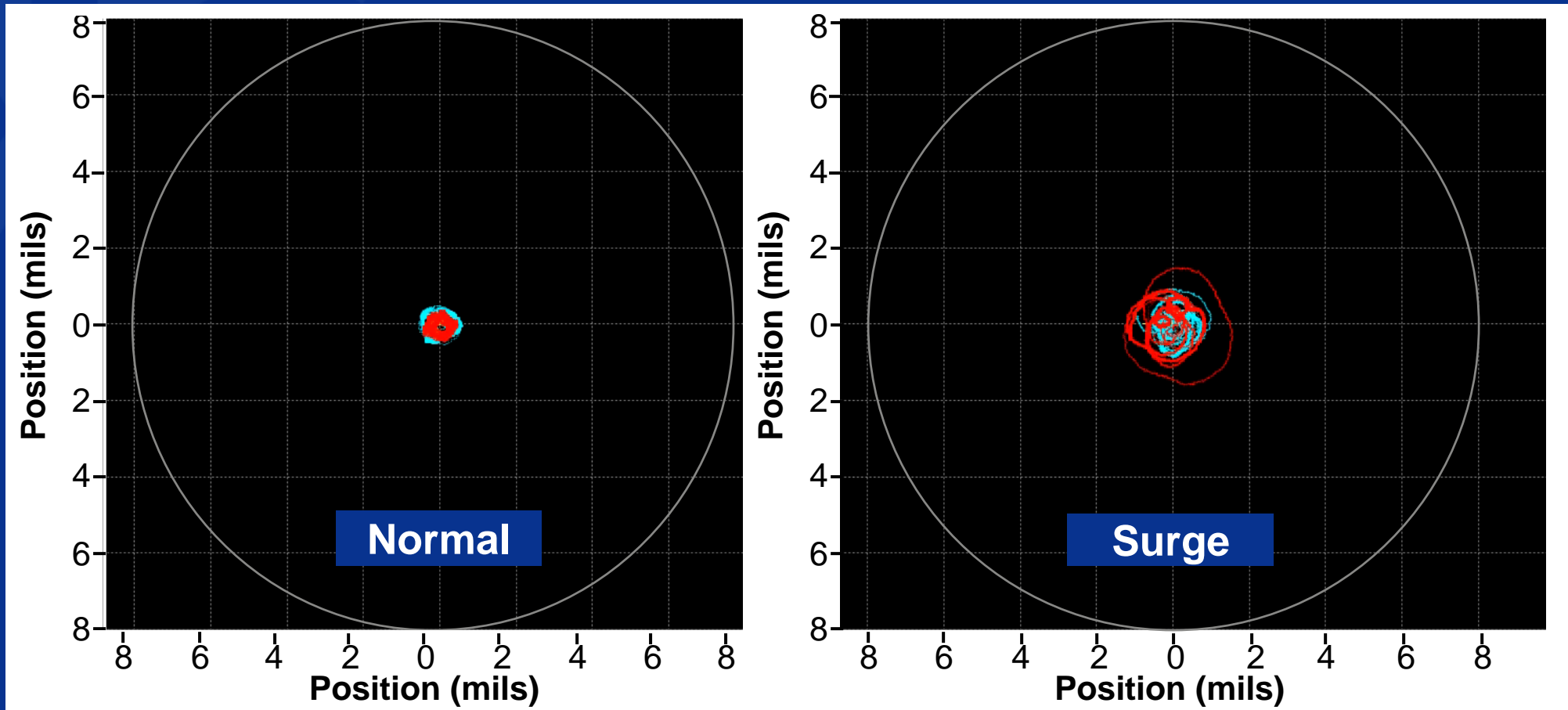


# Normal Chiller Operation





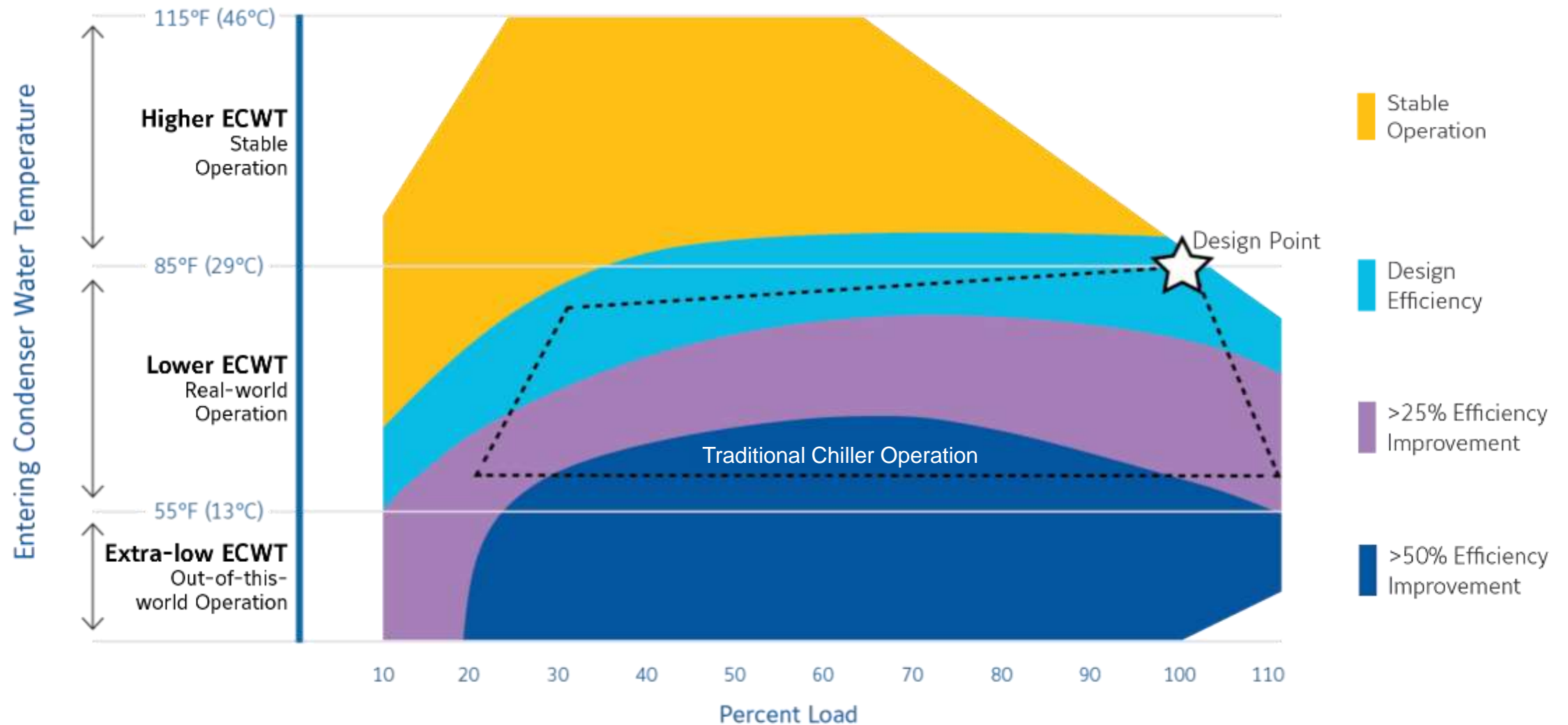
# Magnetic Bearing Comparison During Normal Chiller Conditions and Surge



## Legend:

- Radial J Bearing
- Radial K Bearing
- Thrust H Bearing

# Magnetic Bearings Provide a Wide Operating Range



*The operating map can vary, please contact your local sales representative for project specific details*

# Case Study Site – University of Texas at Austin

## About UT

- Opened its doors in 1838 and employs over 20,000 Staff and serves over 51,000 students.
- Despite incredible growth in both served pace and energy output, carbon emissions are equivalent to 1976 levels due to efficiency improvements in both demand at the buildings and supply at the power and chiller plants.

## Pickle Research Campus

- Developed in 1949 to perform research in the areas of defense, high speed computing, nuclear physics, and space flight.
- Separate from main campus cooling loop.



# Upgrading of Facilities

**Cooling Tower System**

**Chiller**

**Controls**





# Upgrading Chiller System

## Old System:

- 2 centrifugal chillers using R-11
- 600 tons and 200 tons
- Constant speed, oil-lubricated bearings
- Minimum entering condenser water temperature: 65°F

## Upgraded System:

- 1 centrifugal chiller using R-1233zd
- 300 ton machine
- Variable speed drive, magnetic bearings
- Minimum entering condenser water temperature: 40°F

Upgraded System online May 2018



*Magnetic bearing chiller installed in West Pickle Research Center mechanical room*



# Focus around Real World Performance

## 300 Ton Magnetic Bearing Chiller

- 12 foot shells
  - Retrofit installation occurred in 1 piece
  - Active filtered VSD to meet intent of IEEE
- Machine design to allow for wide operating map
  - Improved performance at reduced load and lift

### Data Collection:

- Start-up in May
- Data collection in 15-minute intervals using UTA BAS system

Partload Data (Minimum Condenser Water Temperature)										
CEFT (°F)	% LOAD									
	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%	20%	10%
85.00°	0.5489	0.5399	0.5413	0.5519	0.5682	0.5937	0.6261	0.6991	0.8450	1.540
80.00°	0.4781	0.4692	0.4710	0.4808	0.4943	0.5125	0.5407	0.5968	0.7224	1.133
75.00°	0.4287	0.4219	0.4188	0.4189	0.4252	0.4349	0.4553	0.5024	0.6171	0.9221
70.00°	0.3821	0.3719	0.3608	0.3551	0.3542	0.3594	0.3742	0.4086	0.4994	0.7660
65.00°	0.3320	0.3184	0.3062	0.3004	0.2999	0.3033	0.3093	0.3313	0.3986	0.6584
60.00°	0.2855	0.2708	0.2594	0.2504	0.2470	0.2455	0.2492	0.2635	0.3004	0.5202
55.00°	0.2471	0.2299	0.2174	0.2068	0.2004	0.1998	0.2004	0.2070	0.2341	0.3774
50.00°	0.2069	0.1914	0.1762	0.1667	0.1587	0.1531	0.1495	0.1537	0.1742	0.2611
45.00°	0.1749	0.1612	0.1485	0.1335	0.1205	0.1070	0.1018	0.1152	0.1430	0.2306
44.00°	0.1717	0.1581	0.1456	0.1298	0.1149	0.1005	0.1032	0.1203	0.1505	0.2485
43.00°	0.1684	0.1550	0.1423	0.1251	0.1093	0.1013	0.1069	0.1254	0.1580	0.2666
42.00°	0.1635	0.1500	0.1358	0.1174	0.1072	0.1033	0.1078	0.1262	0.1587	0.2676
41.00°	0.1581	0.1446	0.1289	0.1143	0.1096	0.1056	0.1088	0.1269	0.1594	0.2686
40.00°	0.1523	0.1385	0.1252	0.1172	0.1121	0.1079	0.1099	0.1276	0.1601	0.2698

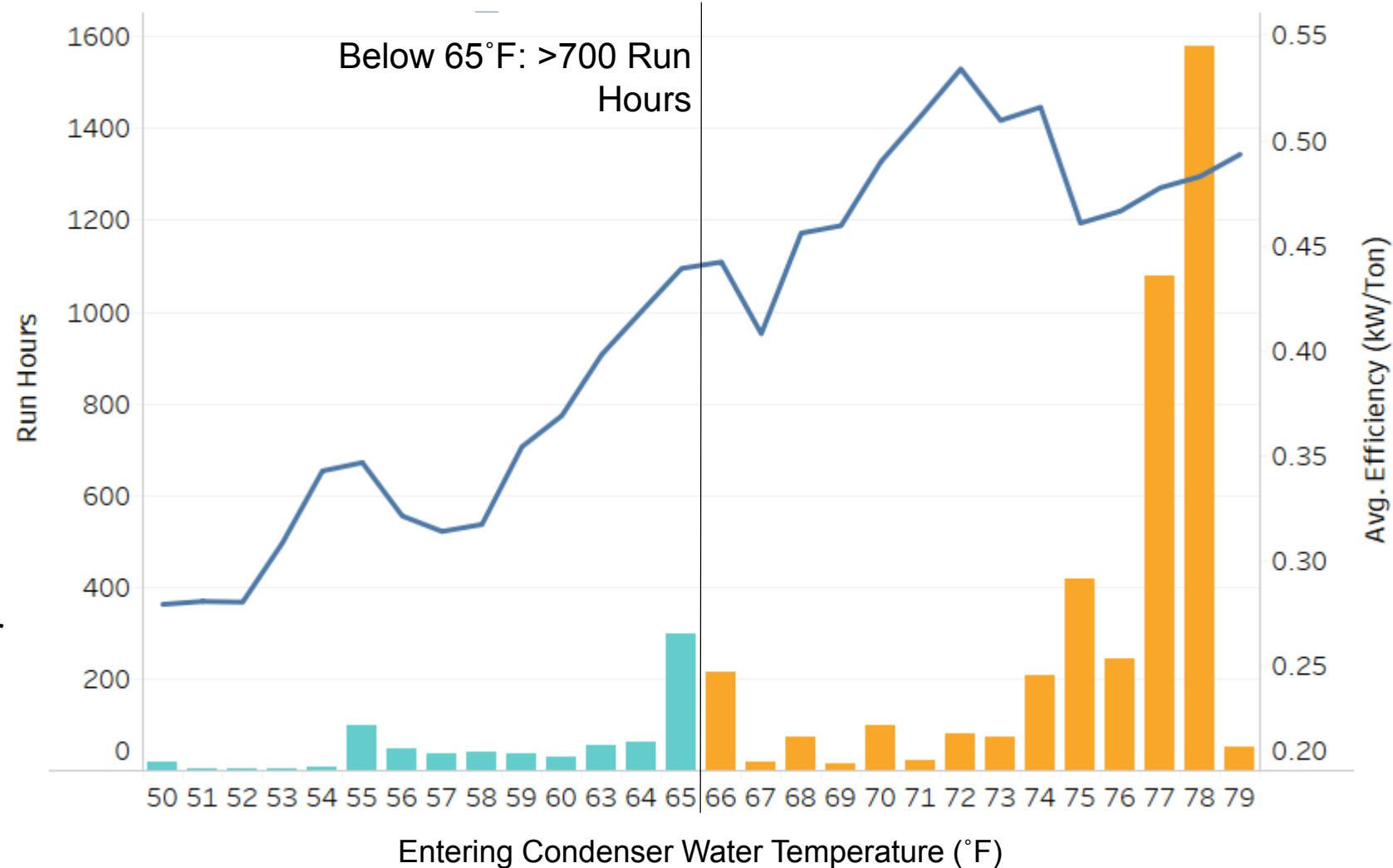
\*Values are in kW/Ton

Report generated in YW 19.00, color added for emphasis

Stable Operation
Design Efficiency
>25% Efficiency Improvement
>50% Efficiency Improvement

# Chiller Performance through Peak Season and Off-Design

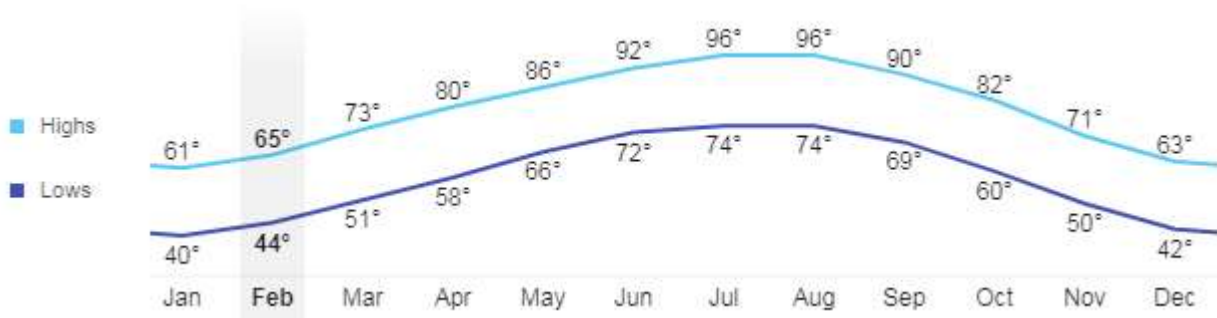
- Cooling tower able to maintain ~80°F water temperature
- Average efficiency below 0.50 kW/Ton
  - Average on campus plant is 0.67 kW/Ton including auxiliaries
- Over 700 hours below 65°F water
  - Efficiency below 0.3 kW/Ton



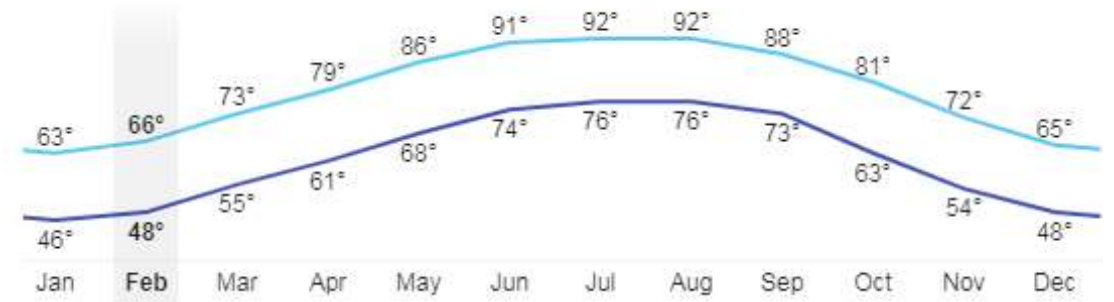
# Low tower water temperatures happen here too!

## Weather Averages (Temperatures °F)

Austin, Texas

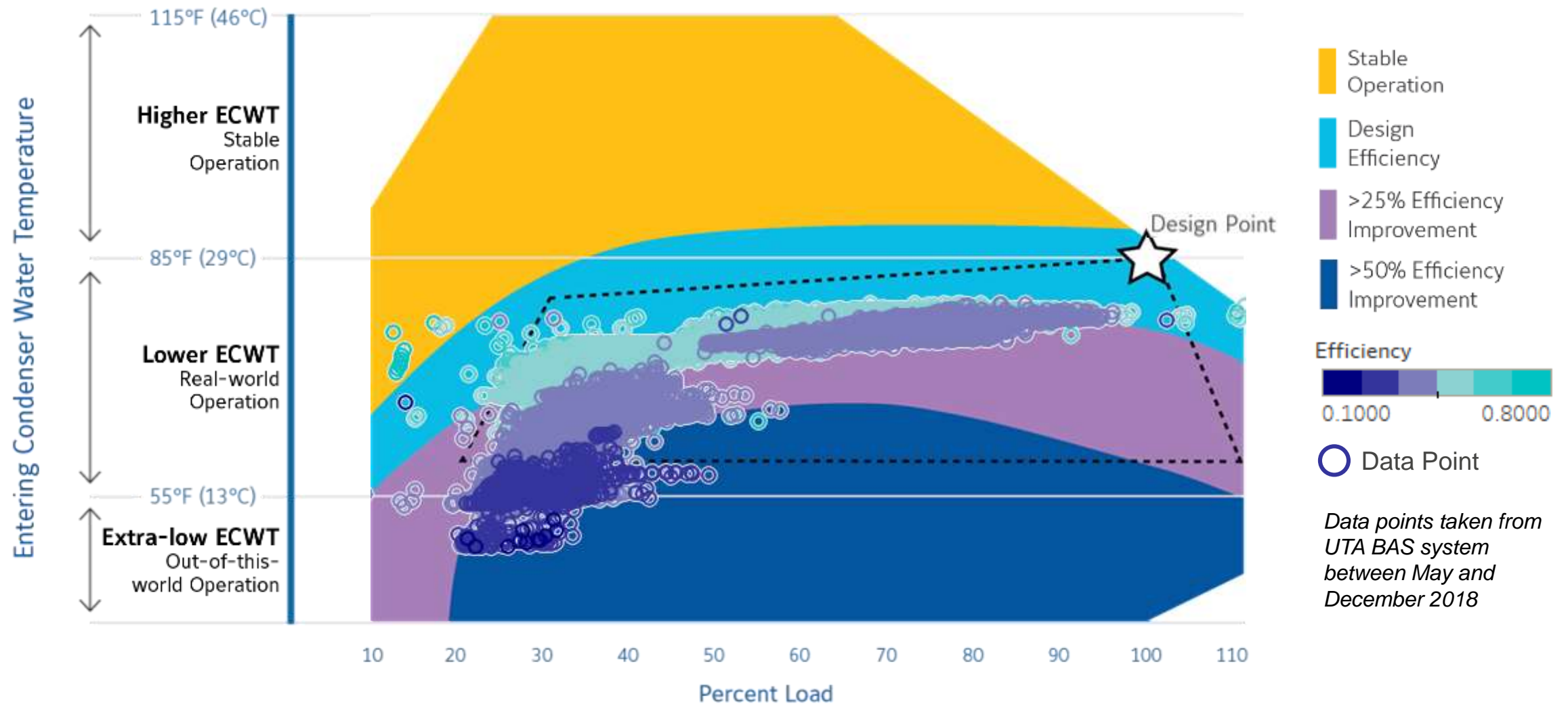


New Orleans, LA



- Southern climates can still achieve cooler tower temperatures
- Lower tower temperatures allow the system to operate more efficiently

# UTA is able to take advantage of off-design conditions

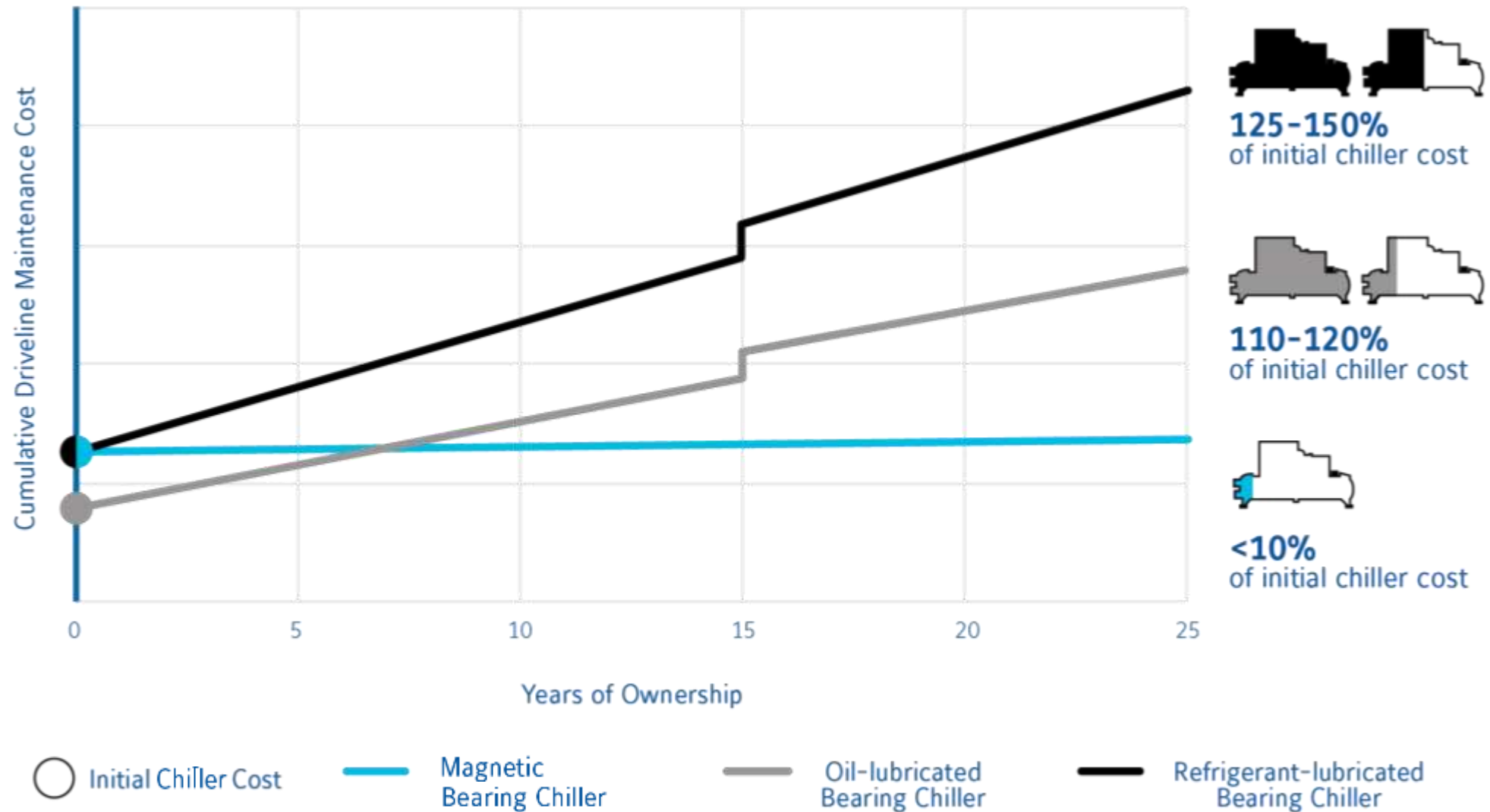


# Other Magnetic Bearing Benefits: Lower Driveline Maintenance

Driveline Maintenance Tasks	Magnetic Bearings	Oil-lubricated Bearings	Refrigerant-lubricated Bearings
Check lubricant sump & temperature control operation	—	● Monthly	● Monthly
Check lubrication eductors	—	● Monthly	● Monthly
Lubricant analysis	—	● Annually	● Annually
Replace lubricant filter(s)	—	● Annually	● Annually
Vibration analysis	—	—	● Quarterly
Clean refrigerant pump strainer	—	—	● Monthly
Battery health test	● Periodically	—	● Periodically



# Other Magnetic Bearing Benefits: Lower Driveline Maintenance



# QUESTIONS?



# Broad Offering to Meet a Variety of Project Needs

**Magnetic Bearing  
Chillers Available  
165 – 1,350 Tons**

**Johnson Controls  
Table #36**

