



Report from the SAPES Co-Chair to the Community 2026 Competition

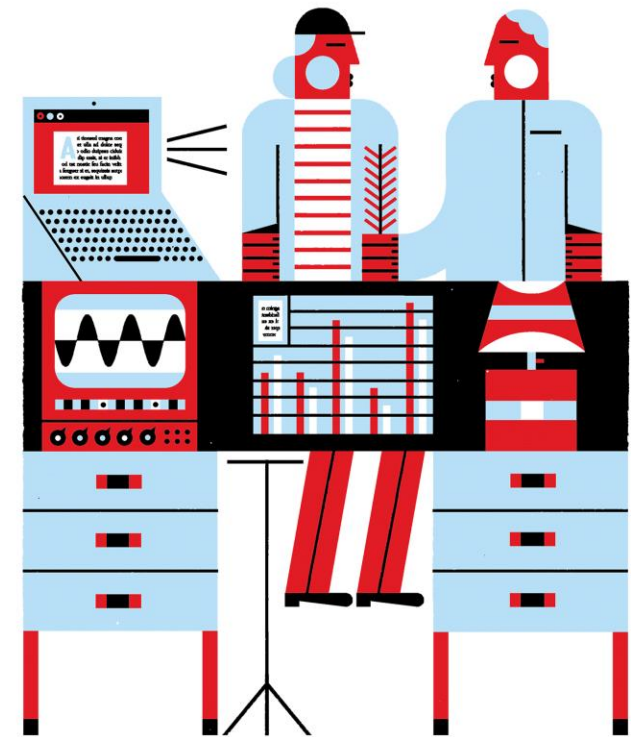
Presented by: Rituparna Kanungo, TRIUMF

Congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists

June 25, 2026

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The Subatomic Physics Evaluation Section

- The Subatomic Physics Evaluation Section (SAPES) is a standing review committee that oversees various programs:
 - Individual and Project Discovery Grants
 - Research Tools and Instruments (RTI - Category 1, 2 or 3) Grants
 - Major Resources Support (MRS) Grants
- Funded through a unique **independent envelope mechanism at NSERC**, since 1991
- This comprehensive approach is essential
 - Complexity and inter-dependency of many proposals
 - Country-wide collaborations among individuals, groups, universities, and national research organizations
 - Long-term and large-scale projects and commitments
 - Possibility to exchange funds between the various programs as a function of the priorities of the community and the pressures it faces

The Subatomic Physics Evaluation Section

Name	Institution	Term	Expertise
Freya Blekman	University of Hamburg/DESY	2026-2028	Exp. High Energy Physics
Maxime Brodeur	University of Notre Dame	2024-2026	Exp. Low Energy Nuclear Physics
Maria Chamizo-Llatas (Co-Chair)	Brookhaven National Laboratory	2024-2026	Exp. High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics
Heather Crawford	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	2025-2027	Exp. Nuclear Physics – Nuclear Structure
Mariana Frank	Concordia University	2025-2027	Th. High Energy Physics
George Fuller	University of California, San Diego	2026-2028	Th. Astroparticle Physics
Yordanka Ilieva	University of South Carolina	2025-2027	Exp. Nuclear Physics
Sangyong Jeon	McGill University	2025-2027	Th. Nuclear Physics
Rituparna Kanungo (Co-Chair)	TRIUMF	2024, 2026-2027	Exp. Nuclear Physics
Pierre Savard	University of Toronto	2025-2027	Exp. High Energy Physics
Anne Schukraft	Fermi National Laboratory	2026-2028	Exp. Neutrino Particle Physics
Gordon Semenoff	University of British Columbia	2024-2026	Th. Quantum and Field Theory
Daniel Stolarski	Carleton University	2026-2028	Th. Particle Physics
Timothy Sumner	Imperial College of London	2024-2026	Exp. Astroparticle Physics & Dark Matter
Martin Venhart	Slovak Academy of Sciences	2025-2027	Exp. Nuclear Physics
Juan Pablo Yanez	University of Alberta	2025-2027	Exp. Neutrino Physics

The Subatomic Physics Evaluation Section

Support to Operations

- Group Chair
 - Christopher Homes, Brookhaven National Laboratory
 - Monitors consistency of deliberations for Physics in general
 - Provides advice on procedures and policies as needed
 - Not a member; does not participate in reviews/votes
- NSERC Staff
 - Shashini Jayaratne, Program Assistant
 - Philip Bale, Program Officer
 - Kaitlyn Pomykala, Program Officer
 - Erika Naruzawa, Program Officer
 - Kevin Lapointe, Manager

**Many thanks
from SAPES!!**

Pre-Competition Details

- 58 applications
- Total requested: \$15.3M
- Available funds: \$9.7M
- Maximum funding rate: 64%

Compare to past funding rates:

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
64%	56%	40%	64%	60%	58%*	56%

Competition Budget - Pre-competition

SUBATOMIC PHYSICS ENVELOPE					
MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS BY CATEGORY					
Competition 2026					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
RTI - COMMITTED	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RTI - 2026 Competition	\$880,117	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RTI - TOTAL	\$880,117	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
THEORY - COMMITTED	\$3,077,500	\$2,271,500	\$1,416,500	\$520,000	\$0
THEORY - 2026 Competition	\$1,527,796	\$1,605,685	\$1,648,407	\$1,629,661	\$1,529,916
THEORY - TOTAL	\$4,605,296	\$3,877,185	\$3,064,907	\$2,149,661	\$1,529,916
EXP OPS** - COMMITTED	\$17,430,005	\$10,942,000	\$726,000	\$367,000	\$0
EXP OPS - 2026 Competition	\$12,827,530	\$13,732,807	\$14,115,766	\$1,114,530	\$1,085,358
EXP OPS - TOTAL	\$30,257,535	\$24,674,807	\$14,841,766	\$1,481,530	\$1,085,358
MRS - COMMITTED	\$2,578,600	\$2,662,367	\$2,344,793	\$2,210,015	\$108,765
MRS - 2026 Competition	\$87,500	\$90,050	\$92,675	\$95,380	\$98,168
MRS - TOTAL	\$2,666,100	\$2,752,417	\$2,437,468	\$2,305,395	\$206,933
TOTAL - COMMITTED	\$23,086,105	\$15,875,867	\$4,487,293	\$3,097,015	\$108,765
TOTAL - 2026 Competition	\$15,322,943	\$15,428,542	\$15,856,848	\$2,839,571	\$2,713,442
GRAND TOTAL	\$38,409,048	\$31,304,409	\$20,344,141	\$5,936,586	\$2,822,207
TOTAL ENVELOPE	\$32,067,865	\$34,427,388	\$36,979,194	\$36,981,450	\$36,981,450
COMPETITION BUDGET	\$9,759,760				
Funds Remaining from Previous FY	\$778,000				
AVAILABLE	-\$5,563,183	\$3,122,979	\$16,635,053	\$31,044,864	\$34,159,243
Funding Rate:	64%				

**EXP OPS = Experimental Operations – Includes Project grants and experimental Individual grants

Competition Week

- **February 23 – February 27, 2026**
- Large Project Day was held February 20, 2026
 - Invited Participants received SAPES questions in advance:
 - Hyper-K/T2K
 - Gamma Ray Spectroscopy at ISAC
 - Belle II and Chiral Belle Projects
 - PICO
 - TUCAN
- Assessment of applications done in up to 3 rounds;
- Deliberations followed NSERC's policies and guidelines throughout all rounds of competition;
- All recommendations were determined through anonymized electronic voting, with the median vote selected as the final recommendation.

Competition Week

Round 1

- Presentation by the **first** reviewer, followed by discussion with the **second through fifth** reviewers on merit criteria, as well as the budget and Data Management Plan
- **Five** reviewers vote anonymously:
 - Merit Criteria
 - Recommended Budget

Rounds 2 and 3

- Discussion by all **five** reviewers, related to the budget
- **Five** reviewers vote anonymously:
 - Recommended Budget

Multiyear Commitments - End of Competition

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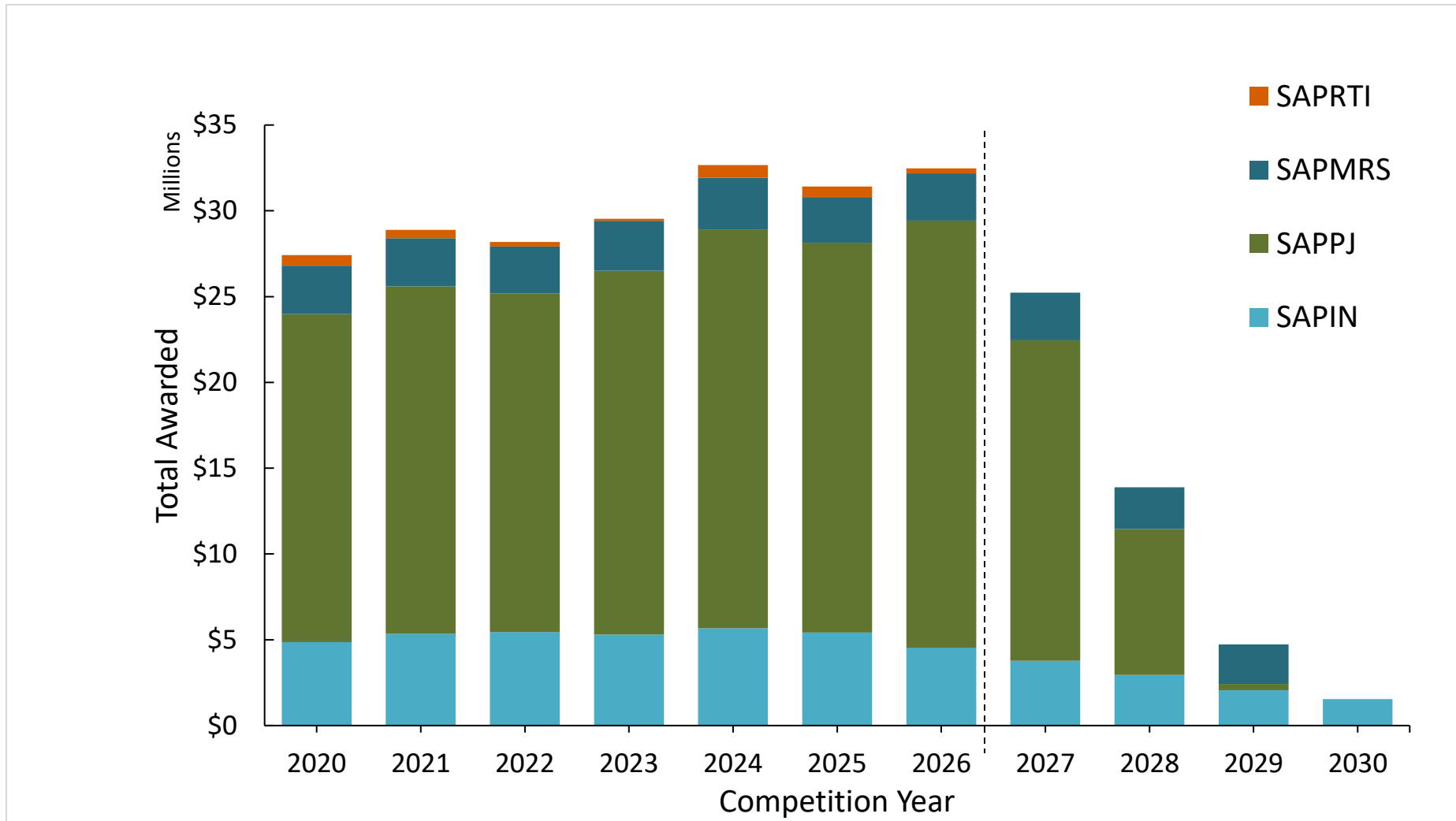
SUBATOMIC PHYSICS ENVELOPE					
MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS BY CATEGORY					
Competition 2026					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
RTI - COMMITTED	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RTI - 2026 Competition	\$294,059	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RTI - TOTAL	\$294,059	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
THEORY - COMMITTED	\$3,077,500	\$2,271,500	\$1,416,500	\$520,000	\$0
THEORY - 2026 Competition	\$972,590	\$1,008,280	\$1,008,500	\$1,008,500	\$1,011,500
THEORY - TOTAL	\$4,050,090	\$3,279,780	\$2,425,000	\$1,528,500	\$1,011,500
EXP OPS** - COMMITTED	\$17,430,005	\$10,942,000	\$726,000	\$367,000	\$0
EXP OPS - 2026 Competition	\$7,946,985	\$8,232,631	\$8,301,157	\$524,750	\$527,000
EXP OPS - TOTAL	\$25,376,990	\$19,174,631	\$9,027,157	\$891,750	\$527,000
MRS - COMMITTED	\$2,578,600	\$2,662,367	\$2,344,793	\$2,210,015	\$108,765
MRS - 2026 Competition	\$87,500	\$90,050	\$92,675	\$95,380	\$98,168
MRS - TOTAL	\$2,666,100	\$2,752,417	\$2,437,468	\$2,305,395	\$206,933
TOTAL - COMMITTED	\$23,086,105	\$15,875,867	\$4,487,293	\$3,097,015	\$108,765
TOTAL - 2026 Competition	\$9,301,134	\$9,330,961	\$9,402,332	\$1,628,630	\$1,636,668
GRAND TOTAL	\$32,387,239	\$25,206,828	\$13,889,625	\$4,725,645	\$1,745,433
TOTAL ENVELOPE	\$32,067,865	\$34,427,388	\$36,979,194	\$36,981,450	\$36,981,450
COMPETITION BUDGET	\$9,301,134				
AVAILABLE	\$0	\$9,679,186	\$23,089,569	\$32,255,805	\$35,236,017
THEORY ENVELOPE SHARE	13%				
Funding Rate:	61%				

**EXP OPS = Experimental Operations – Includes Project grants and experimental Individual grants

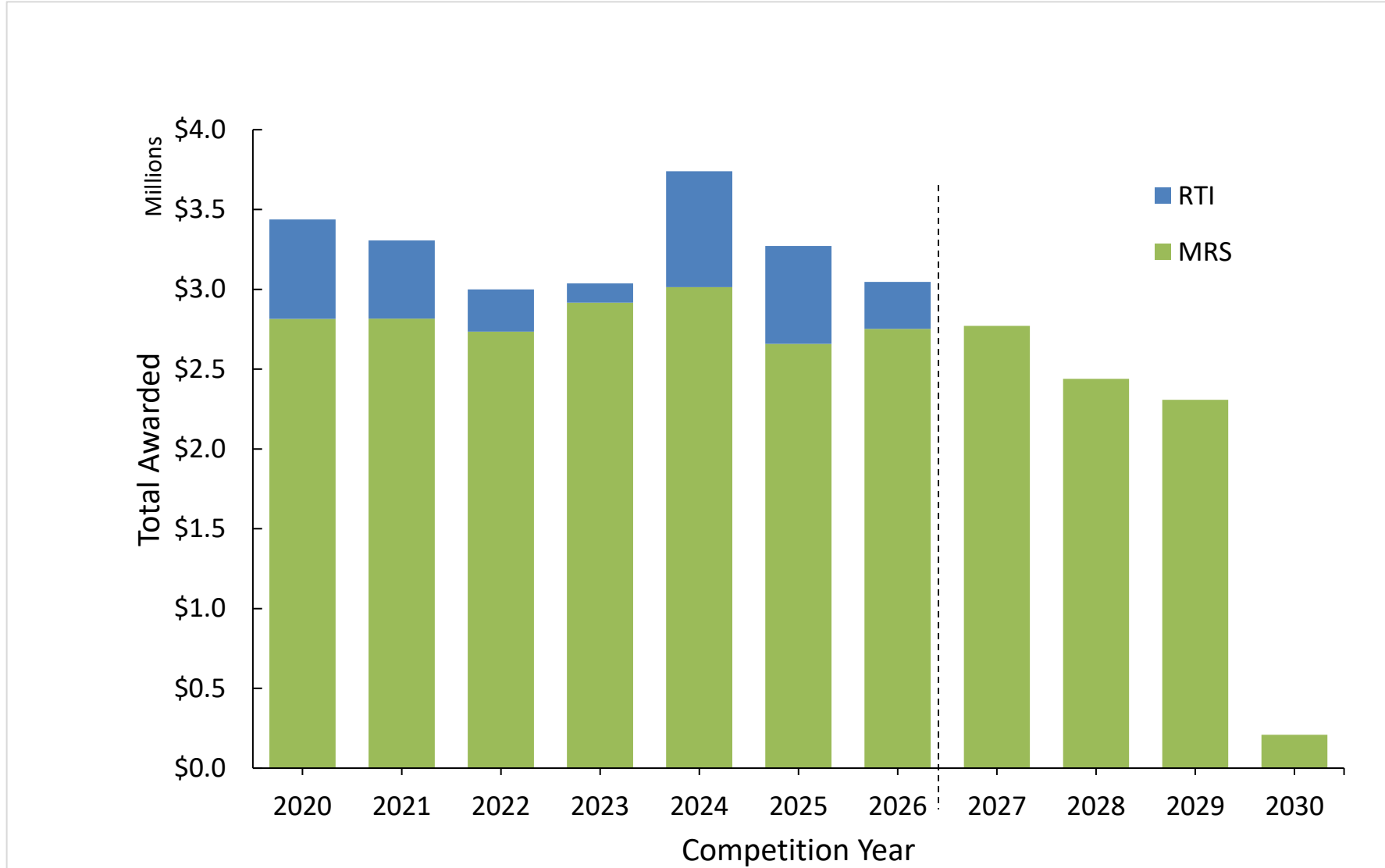
Share of Envelope at End of Competition Comparison to Past Years

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Theory	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%
RTI	1%	2%	2.2%	0.4%	1%	2%
Total Research Ops	88%	86%	85%	88%	86%	86%
Exp. Ops	79%	78%	76%	77%	77%	76%
MRS	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	10%

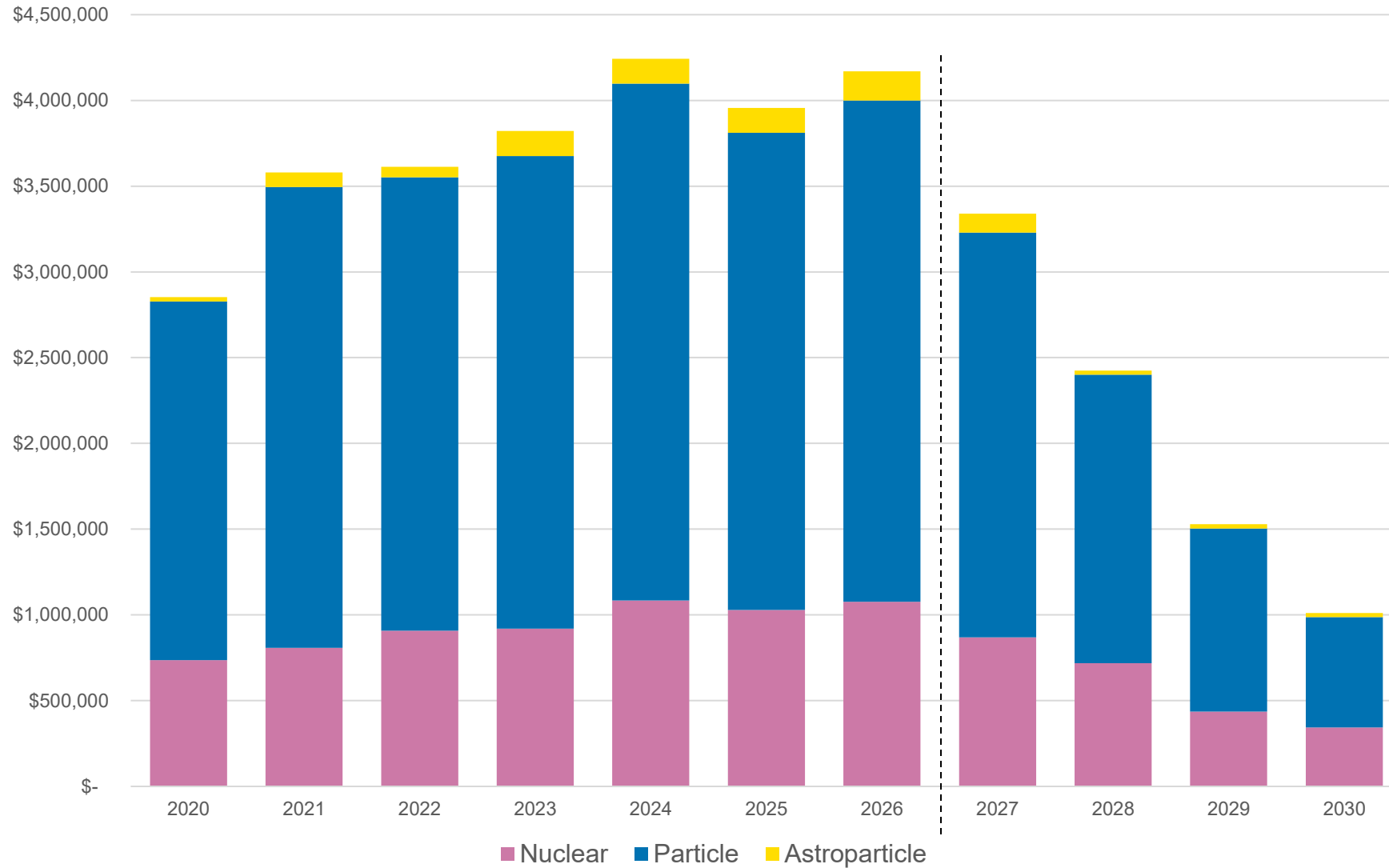
Evolution of SAPES Awards – Grant Type



Evolution of SAPES Awards



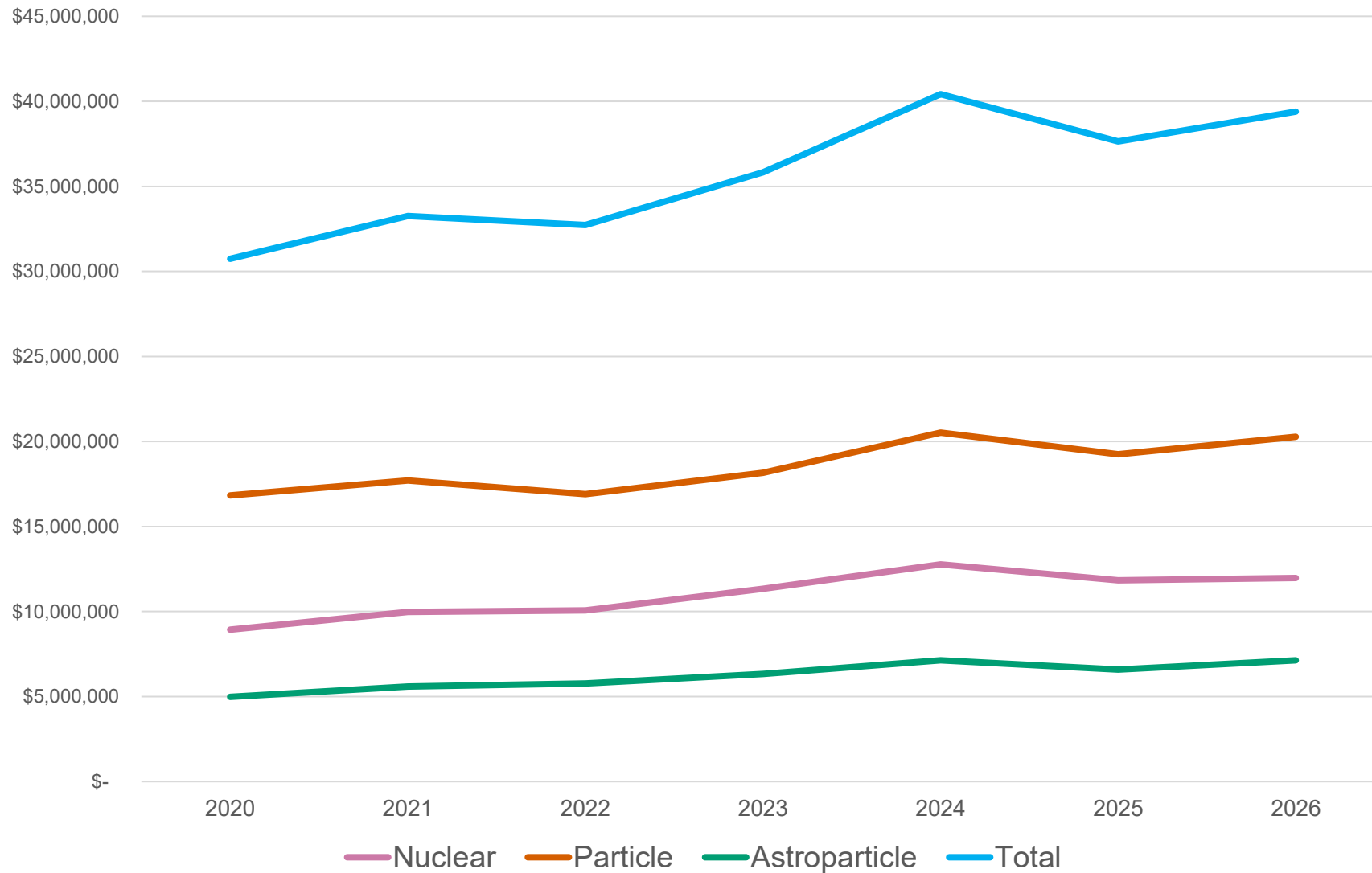
Evolution of SAPES Awards - Theory



Theory Results 2021-2026

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of Theory applications received	10	11	15	13	11	18
Theory success rate	80%	82%	73%	92%	73%	78%
% of applications submitted that were Theory	21%	26%	32%	25%	18%	31%
% of amount requested from Theory	12%	6%	7%	11%	4%	9%
% of amount awarded to Theory	15%	5%	6%	14%	4%	10%
Theory funding rate	51%	59%	51%	66%	51%	73%
Funding rate overall for that CY	40%	64%	60%	52%	56%	61%
Theory Envelope Share (includes ongoing commitments)	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%

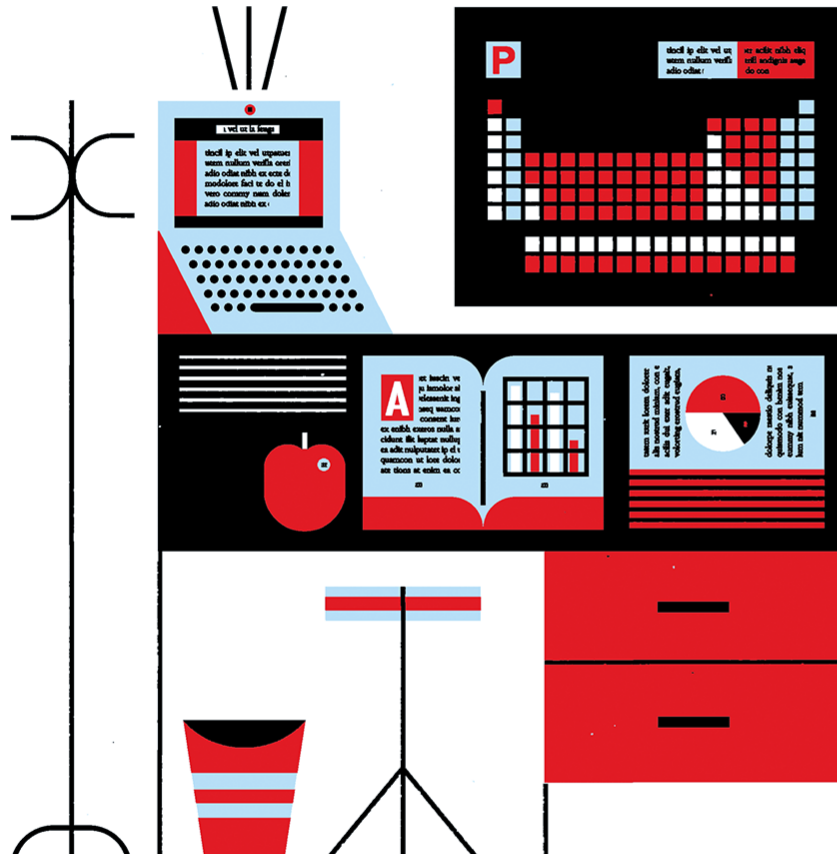
Nuclear, Particle, and Astroparticle Physics



Feedback

Feedback from this year (co-chairs - not NSERC)

- ❖ Applicants are advised to highlight the impact of the research outcome(s) and describe specifically their role in the publication(s)/accomplishments.
It is suggested that NSERC ask PIs in large collaborations to provide only the publications where they have directly contributed rather than the long list of the collaboration publications.
- ❖ There has been an increase in the number of Large Projects submissions over the past 6 years. The envelope faces strong pressure with several Large Projects submitting significant increase in the funding request for grant renewal. Applicants are advised to prepare optimized budgets keeping in sight the envelope capacity.
- ❖ The need for improving coordination between NSERC SAP portfolio and the McDonald Institute funding for projects was discussed.
- ❖ Applicants are encouraged to seek opportunities for securing funding from outside the SAP envelope for new developments that may align with other NSERC programs or other funding programs in Canada.
- ❖ The salaries of the IPP scientists currently come from the NSERC SAP envelope and reduces the availability of funding for the research programs. A proposed topic that can be discussed with the community.



Questions?

Philip Bale

Erika Naruzawa

Program Officers, Subatomic Physics

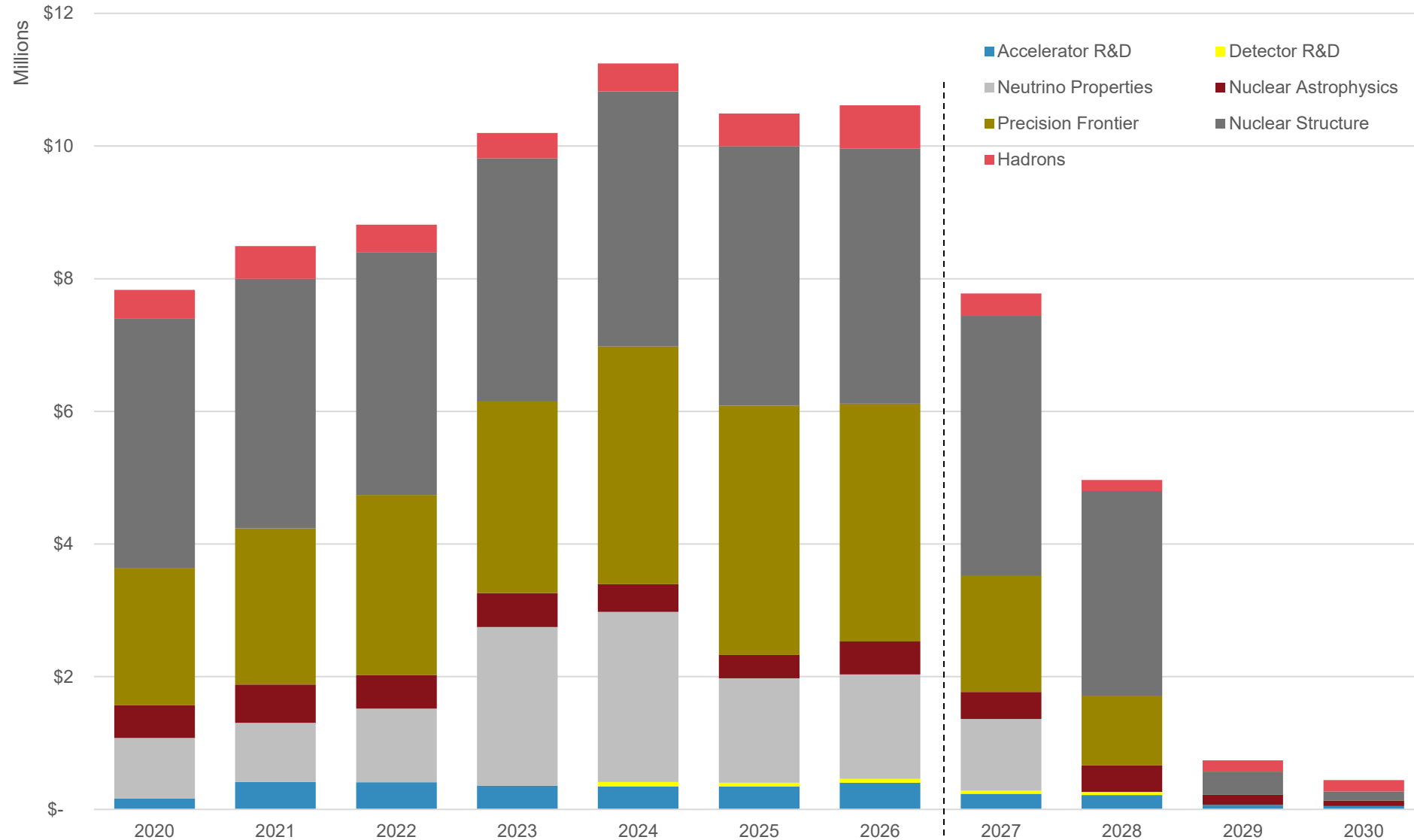
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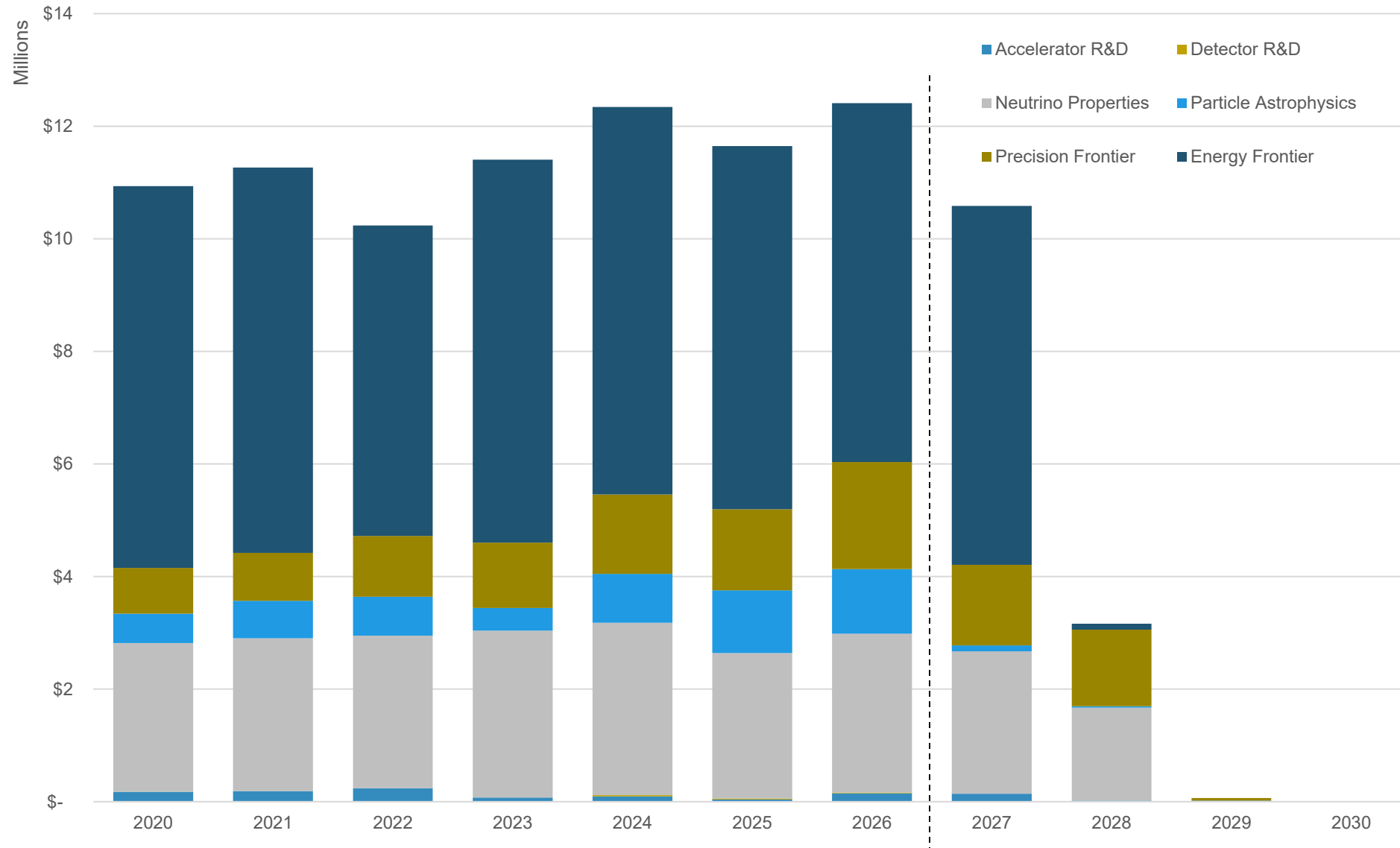
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Evolution of SAPES Awards – Nuclear



Evolution of SAPES Awards - Particle



Evolution of SAPES Awards - Astroparticle

