Characteristics and performance of the Multigap Resistive Plate Chambers of the EEE experiment

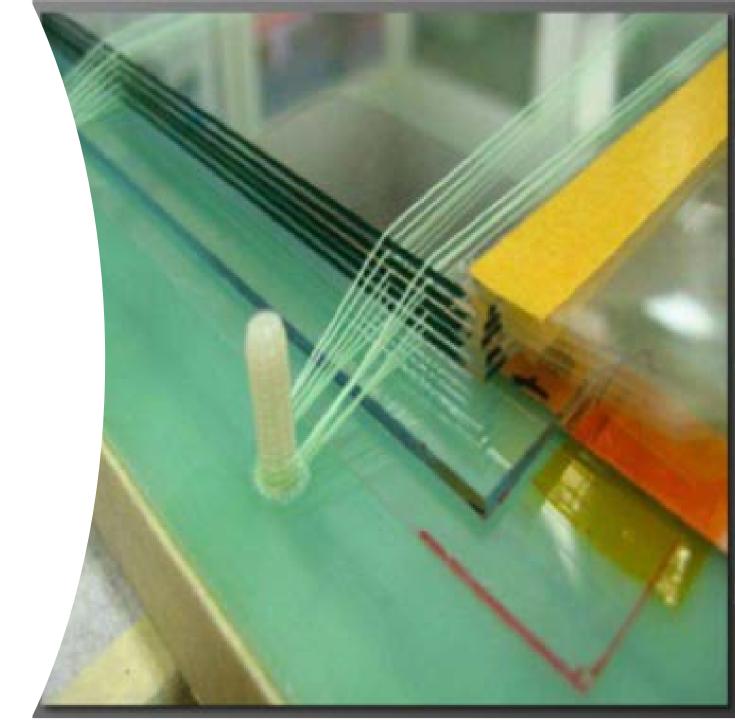
#### F. Coccetti for the EEE Collaboration

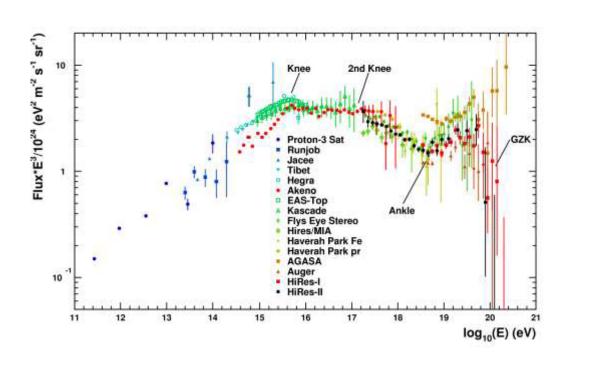
fabrizio.coccetti@centrofermi.it

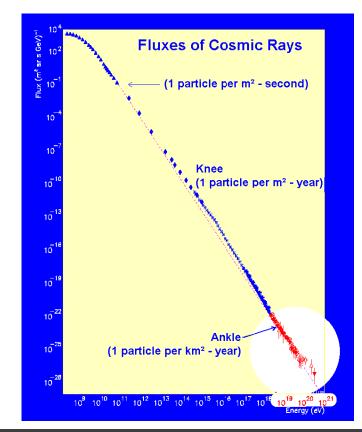


MUSEO STORICO DELLA FISICA E

CENTRO STUDI E RICERCHE ENRICO FERMI







# The **aim** of the **EEE experiment**

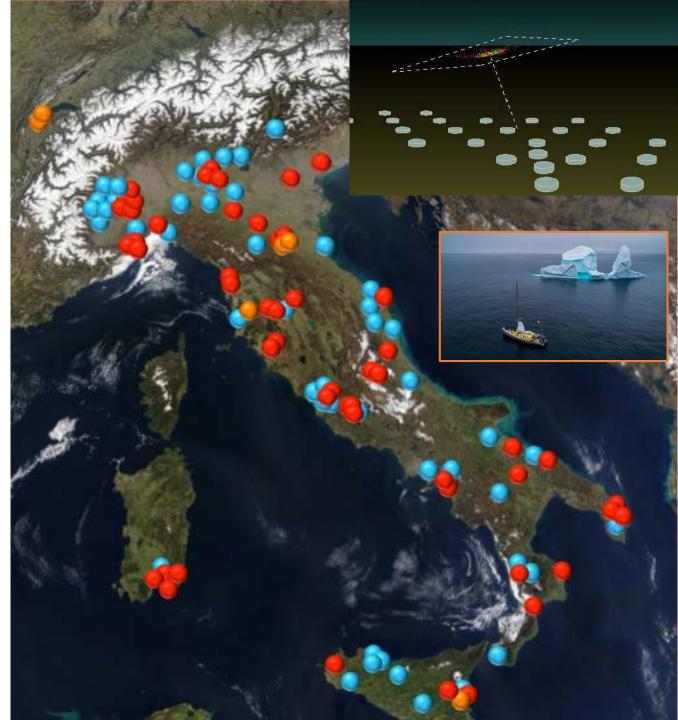
Covering the most interesting region of the cosmic ray spectrum:

- E > 10<sup>18</sup> eV
- Extragalactic sources
- GZK cutoff (Greisen, Zatspein and Kuz'min)

### EEE experiment

- array of MRPC telescopes covering more than 3000 km<sup>2</sup>
- each telescope is made of 3 MRPCs
- 59 telescopes (+ 4 Polar)
- more than 100 billion candidate muons currently detected
- clusters and standalone telescopes
- project started in 2004
- long-living MRPC-based system (15 years)
- Telescopes are hosted in Italian Secondary Schools, INFN sections and CERN
- unconventional working sites (High Schools), with heterogeneous maintenance conditions and sometimes without controlled temperature or dedicated power lines.







### Surface covered by EEE's MRPCs: 59 telescopes x 3 MRPCs ≈ 230 m<sup>2</sup>

Second largest system using MRPCs: ALICE TOF: 144 m<sup>2</sup>

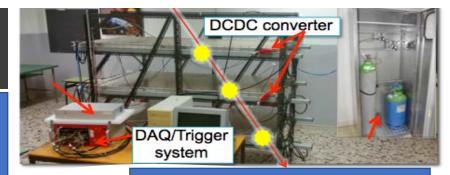
## The **MRPCs** of the EEE experiment

- The EEE network is a system of detectors operating in a coordinate way
- All the telescopes are synchronized at o(10 ns)
- Collaboration with INRIM to improve sync between telescopes
- Taking data at the same time in Coordinated RUNs
- Data transferred to a central repository

#### EEE Telescope

- 6 Front-End boards (FEAs) with 24 channels to process readout signal (pre-amplification + discrimination)
- 2 Multi-hits Time to Digital Converters (TDCs 128 + 64 channels)
- 1 Trigger Card: a six-fold coincidence of both FEAs of the three MRPCs generates the Data AcQuisition trigger
- GPS unit (with an external antenna) provides the event time stamp to synchronize time between telescopes
- A Weather Station records pressure and temperature inside and outside the building
- 100 ps, time resolution of the TDC bin.
- ~cm, spatial resolution for both coordinates.
- > 95%, MRPC efficiency at the operating voltage of 18 kV.
- tens of ns, GPS time resolution

Achieving **reliability**: Lot of effort to improve all components of the detector



#### **New DCDC Converters**



#### New Trigger/GPS Card

- clock distribution
- counters accessible via VME
- trigger logic programmable via VME

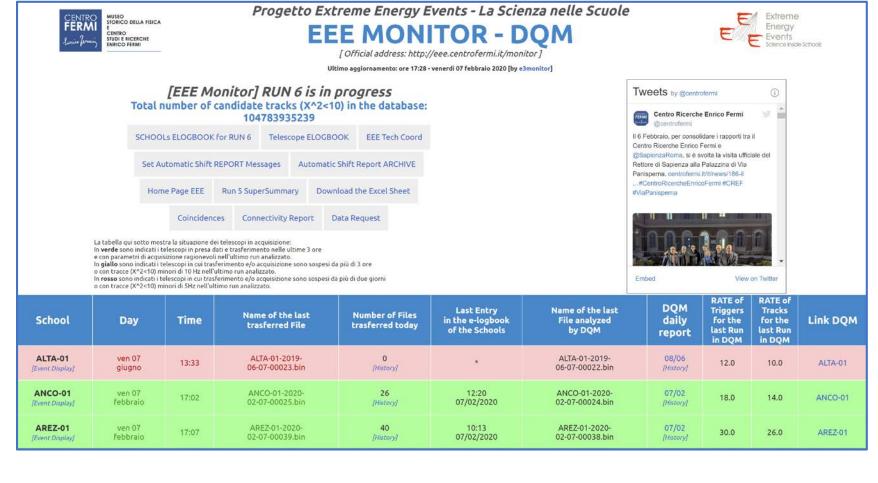
### Online monitor and DAQ

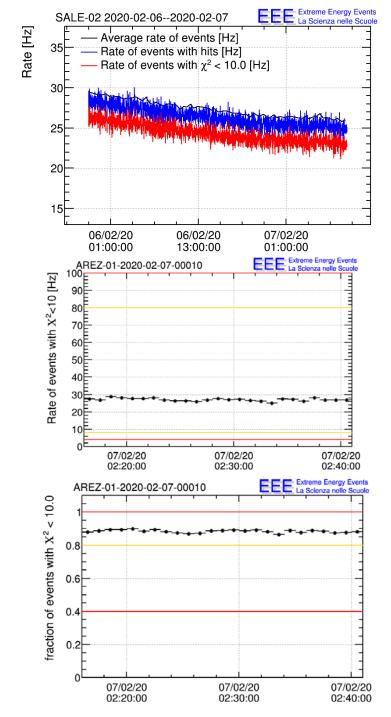
#### eee.centrofermi.it/monitor

• Quasi real-time

• EEE-log

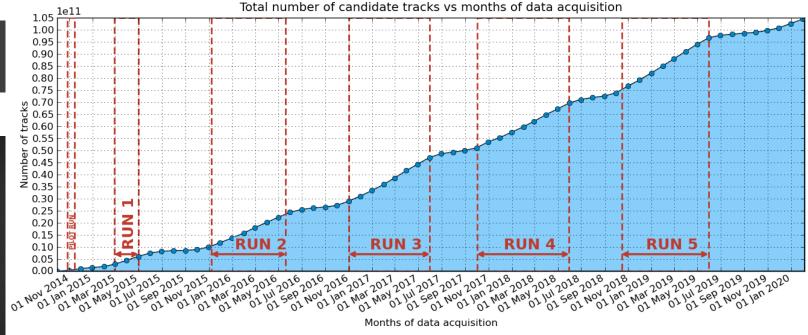
• Detailed automated daily report



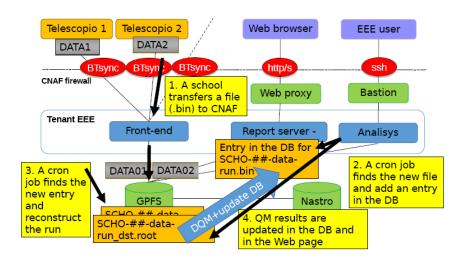


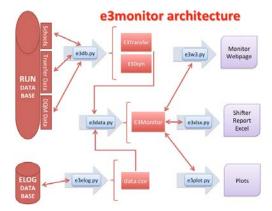
### Data taking

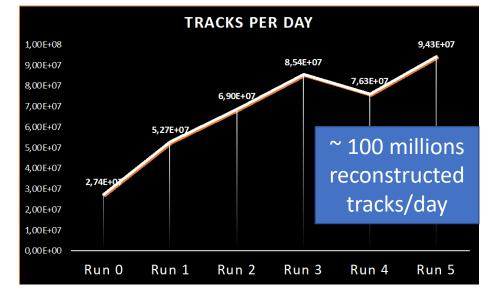




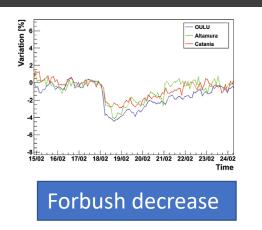
#### More than 100 billion events collected since the start of organized data taking

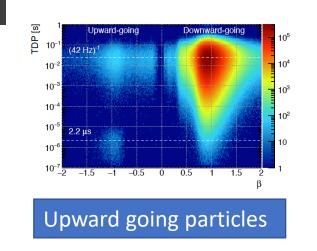


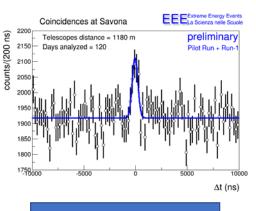




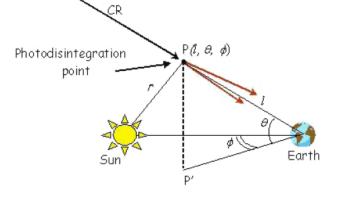
#### Scientific results





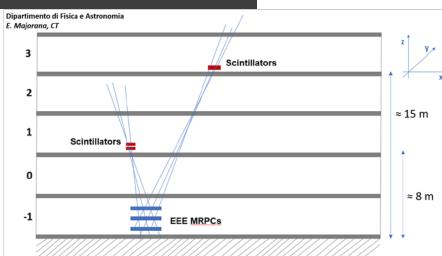


Detection of EAS

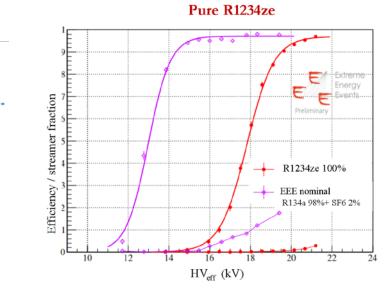


#### Long Distance Correlations (LDC)

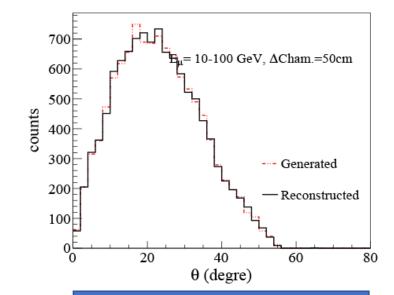
#### New studies



Chiara Pinto's talk on long time scale structure stability

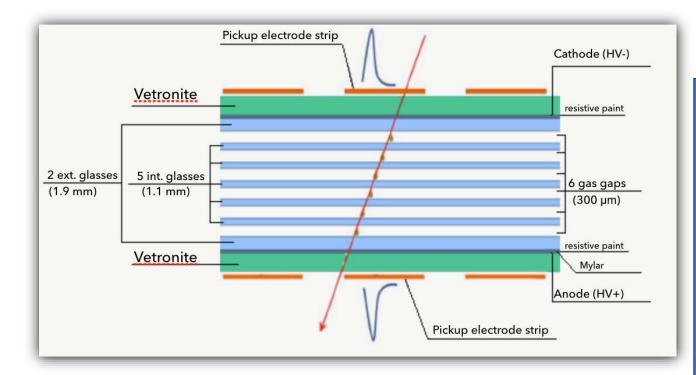


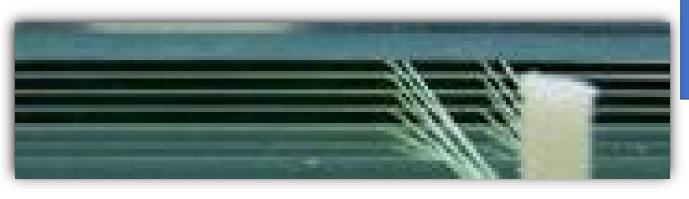
Maria Paola Panetta's talk on strategies to reduce the Global Warming Impact



Giuseppe Mandaglio's talk on GEANT-GEMC simulation for EEE telescopes

### EEE Multigap Resistive Plate Chambers





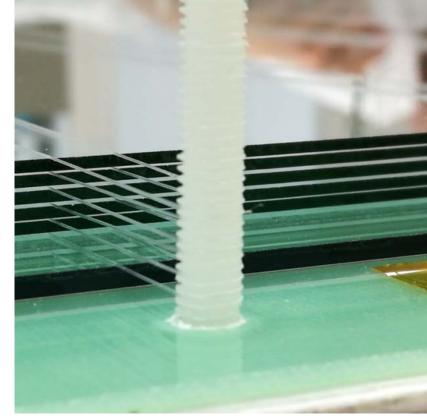
#### • 6 gas gaps 300 μm -> 250 μm

- two external glass sheets anode and cathode – 160 cm x 85 cm, 1.9 mm thick (resistive paint 5-20 MΩ/□)
- 5 intermediate (electrically floating) glass sheets - 158 cm x 82 cm, 1.1 mm thick

 24 copper strips (anode and cathode) to pick up the signal – 158 cm x 2.5 cm, spaced by 7 mm





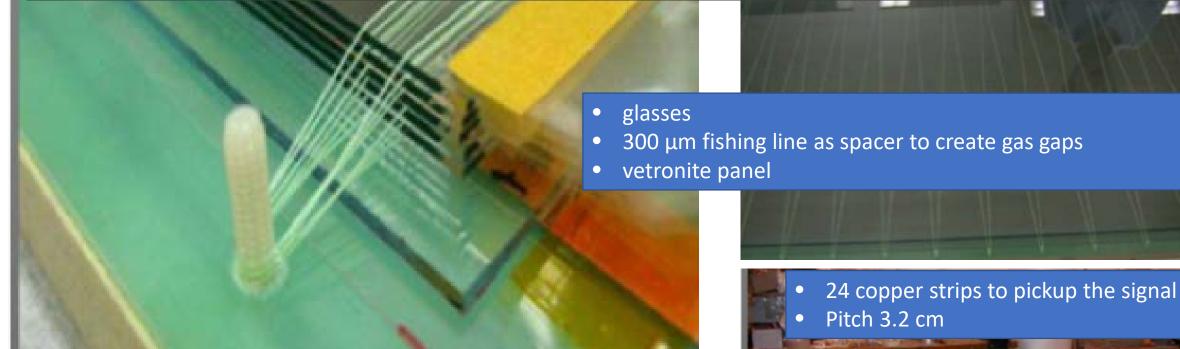


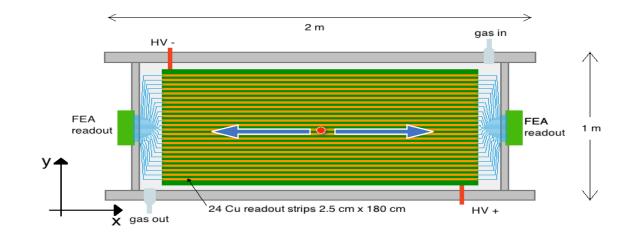
High Schools and Students

- one week at CERN to build 3 MRPCs under researchers' supervision
- setup of the telescope at School
- Check every day that the Telescope is working correctly (E-log)

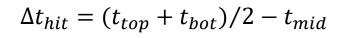


### Making the EEE MRPCs

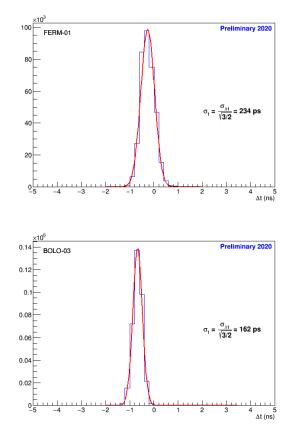


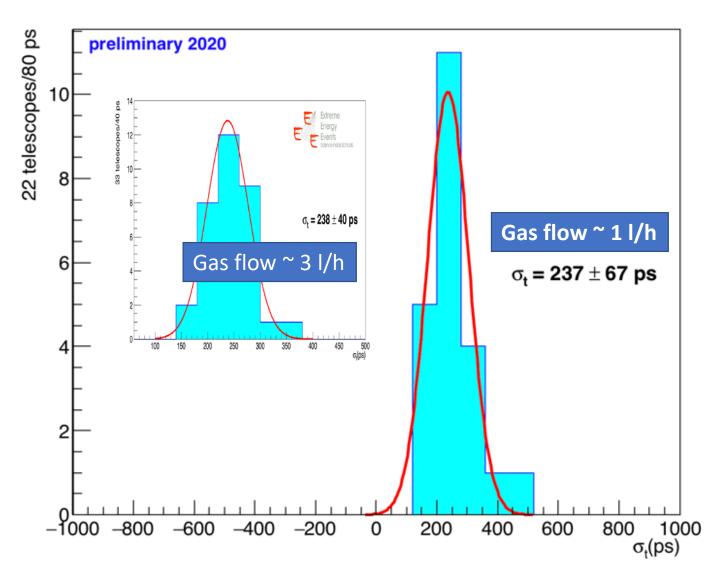


#### Time resolution









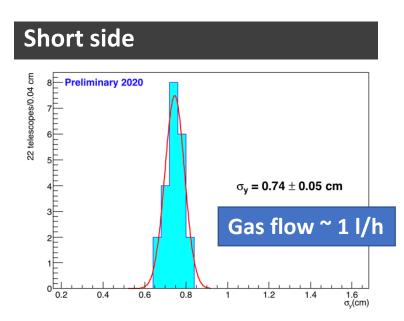
Time slewing correction applied

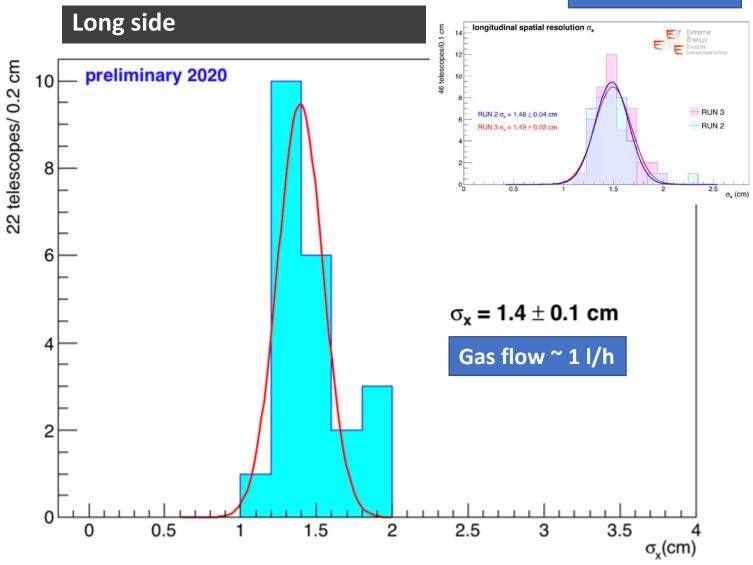
- the hit time depends on the signal amplitude
- the effect of its jitter has to be corrected in order to get the real hit time

#### Spatial resolution

$$\Delta x_{hit} = (x_{top} + x_{bot})/2 - x_{mid}$$

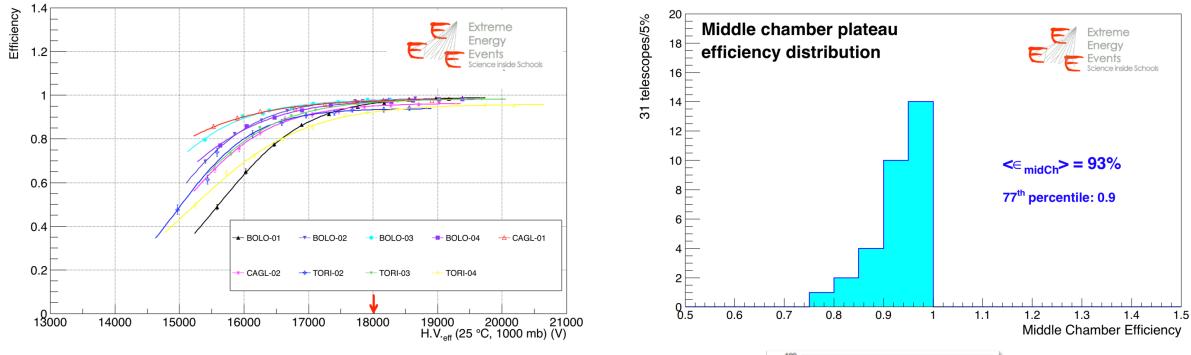
 $\sigma_x = \sigma_{\Delta x} / \sqrt{3/2}$ 



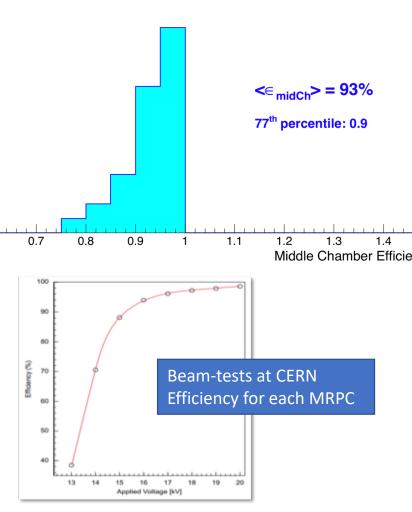


Gas flow ~ 3 l/h

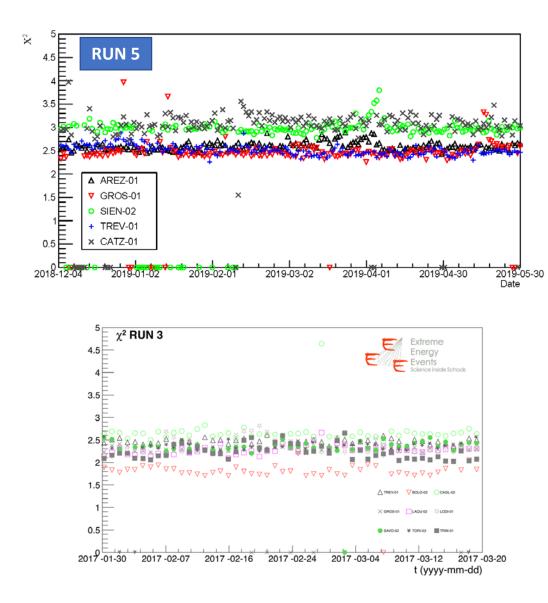
### Efficiency

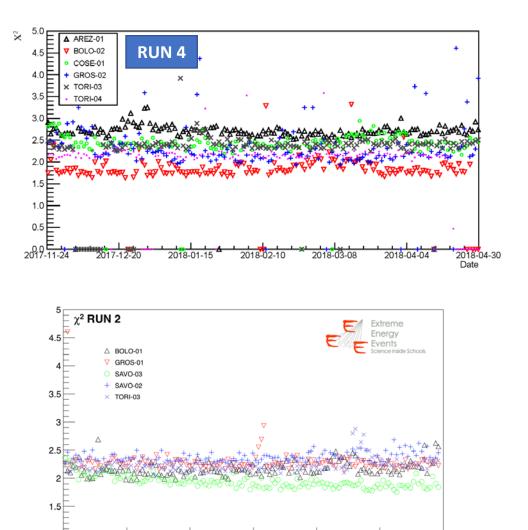


- average efficiency of the EEE telescope network ~ 93 %
- compatible with the results from beam-tests performed at CERN
- efficiency better than 93 % is reached by 77% of the network
- efficiency of the middle chamber measured on all telescopes
- students involved in the measurement



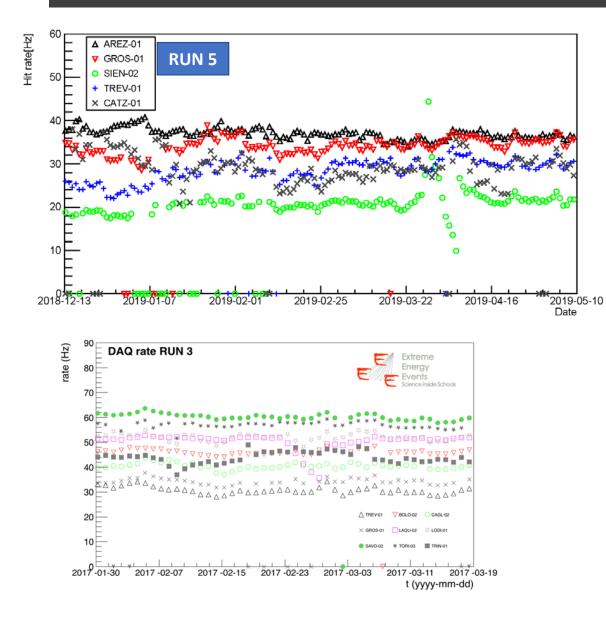
#### Long term stability: average track $\chi^2$

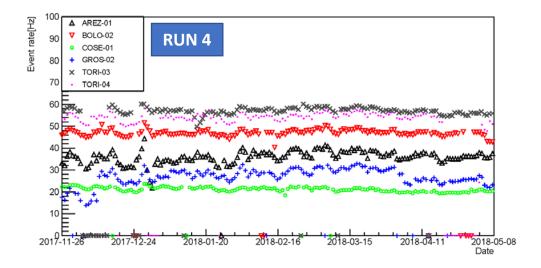


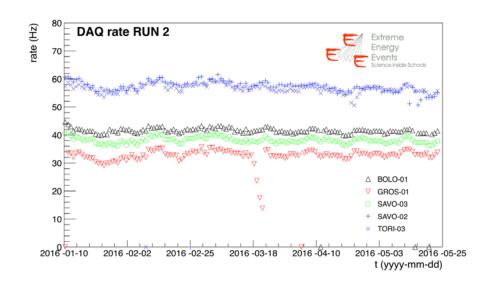


2016 -01-09 2016 -02-01 2016 -02-24 2016 -03-18 2016 -04-10 2016 -05-02 2016 -05-25 t (yyyy-mm-dd)

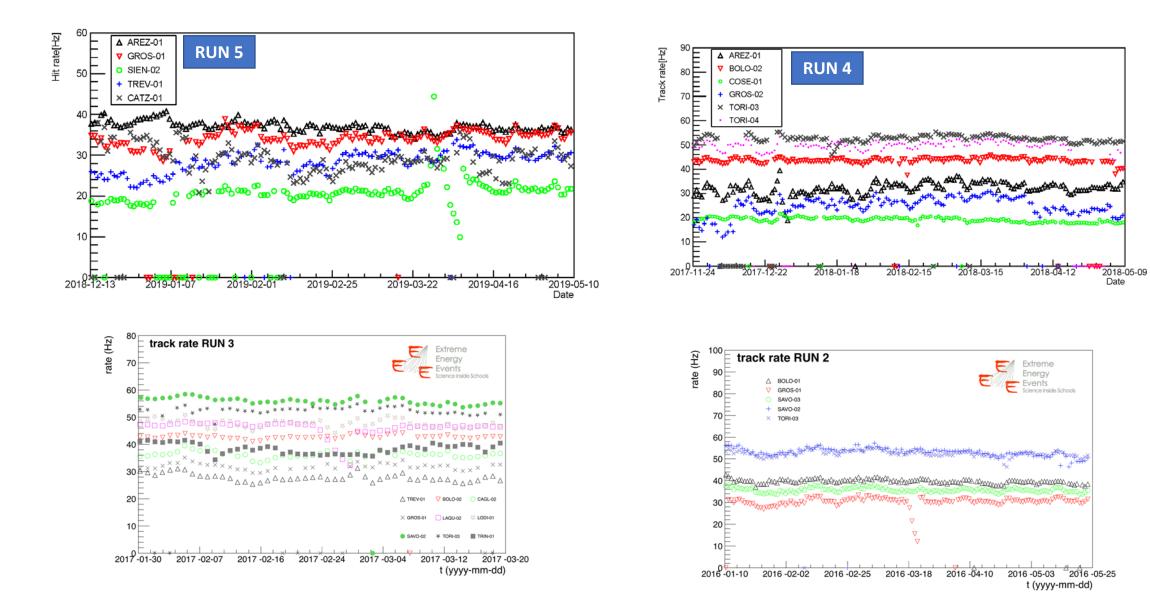
#### Long term stability: DAQ rate



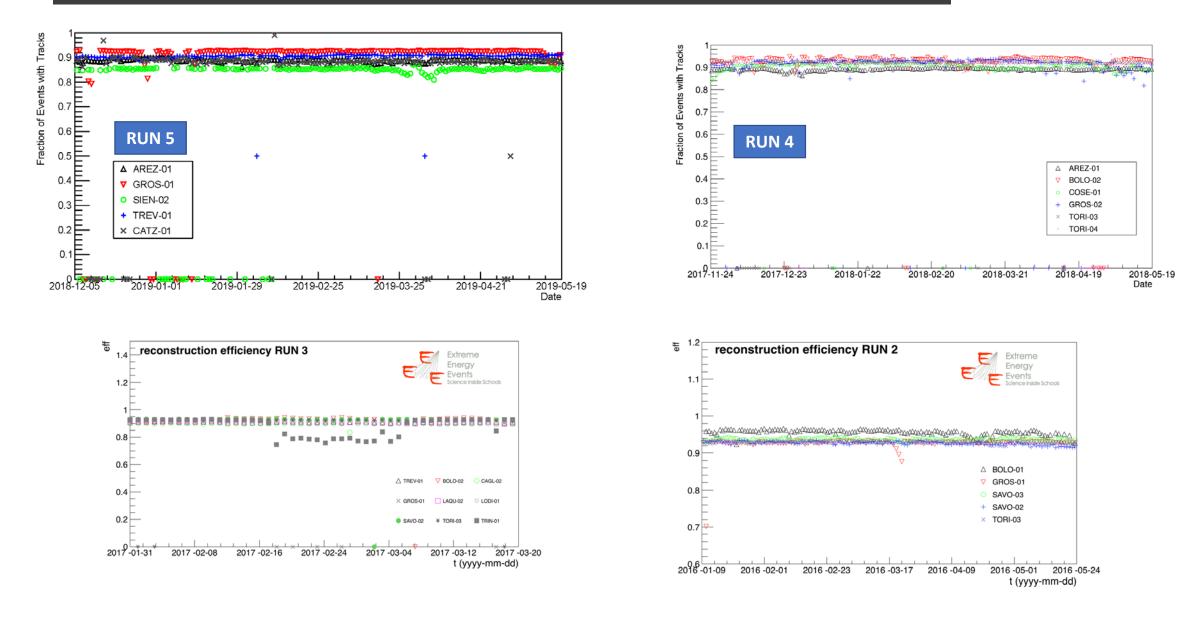




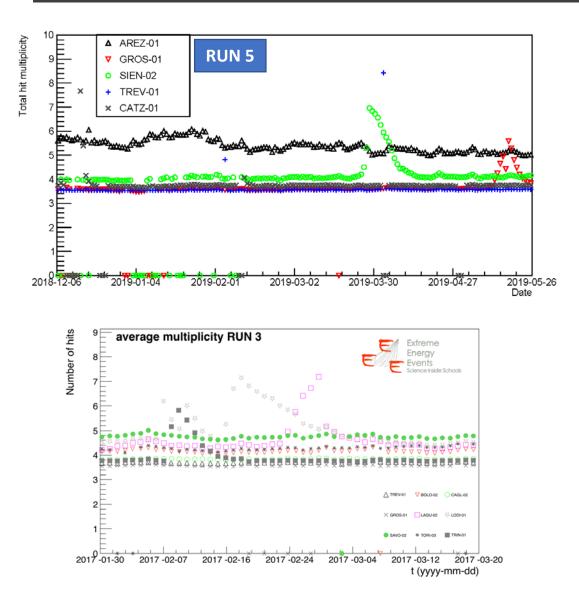
#### Long term stability: track rate

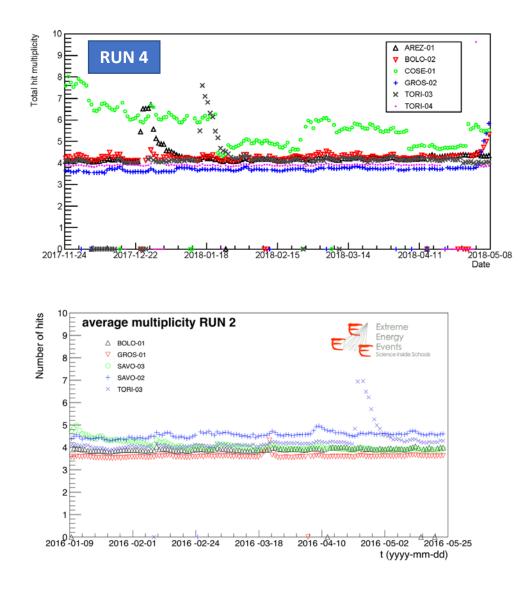


#### Long term stability: reconstruction efficiency

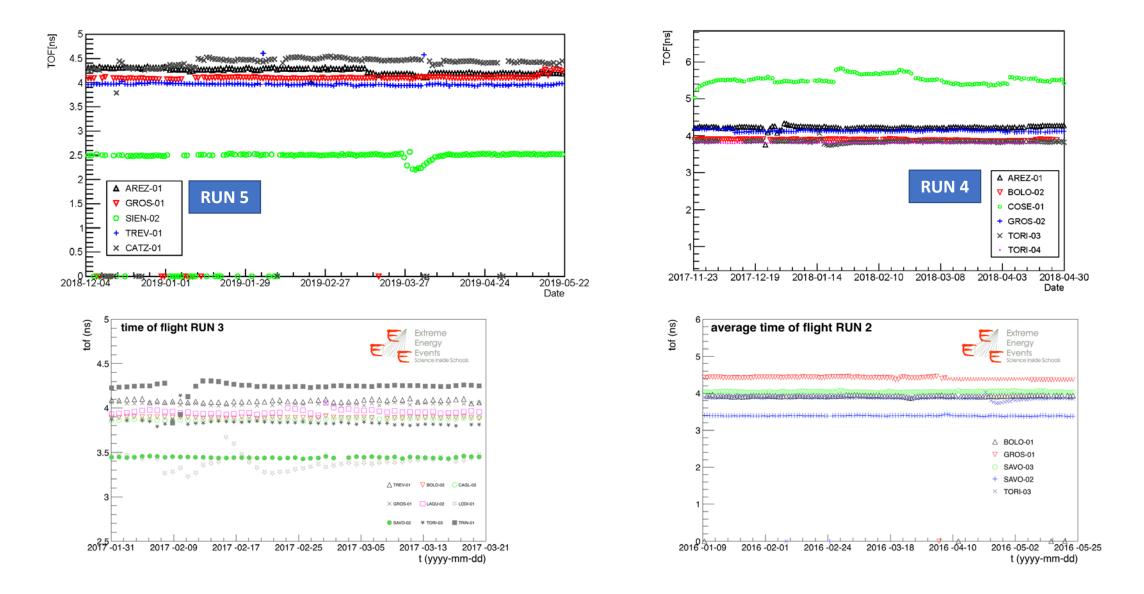


#### Long term stability: average multiplicity



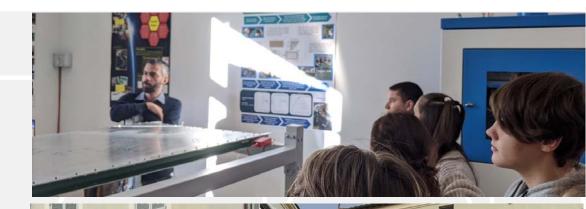


#### Long term stability: Time of Flight



## **Final summary**

- ~ 180 MRPCs (1.6 m x 0.8 m) [59 sites] **230 m<sup>2</sup>**
- ~ 15 years of data taking
- Performance in heterogeneous conditions



CONTRACTOR DURING STATE

