



# **FLASH Radiotherapy with high Dose-rate particle beams**

## **FRIDA**

**Seconda Giornata Acceleratori - Catania 2-3 marzo 2023**

Andrea Mostacci  
on behalf of the FRIDA collaboration

# Outline

FLASH Radiotherapy with high Dose-rate particle beams

FLASH effect for radiotherapy

FRIDA project @ CSNV

Compact linac RF structures

Beam Delivery

Improved power sources (pulse compressors)



# FLASH effect

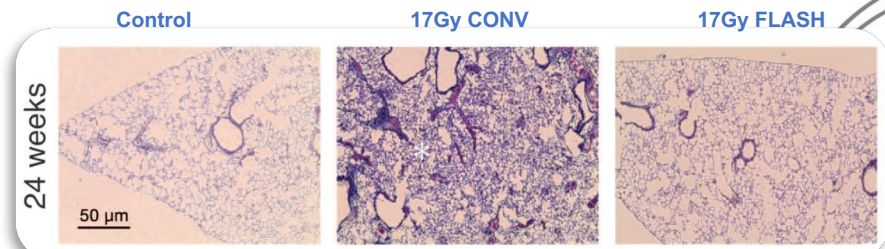
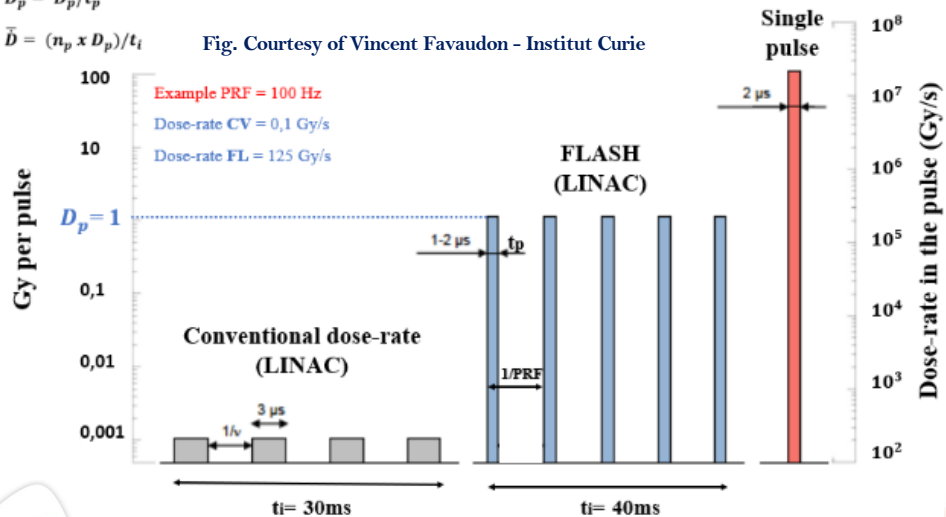
FLASH irradiation provides better protection on normal tissues while maintaining tumor killing effect compared with conventional dose rate irradiation

## Temporal structure of energy deposition in the flash effect

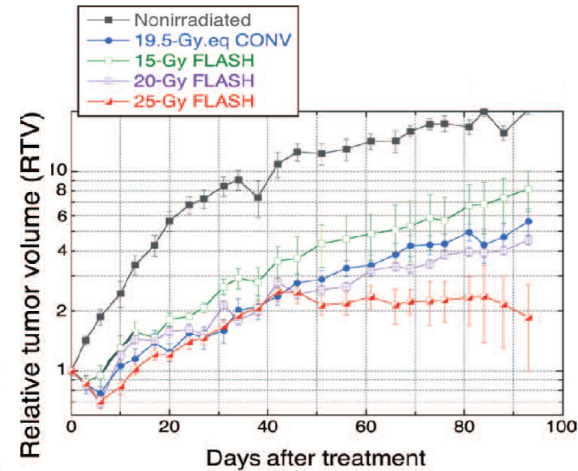
$$\dot{D}_p = D_p/t_p$$

$$\bar{D} = (n_p \times D_p)/t_i$$

Fig. Courtesy of Vincent Favaudon - Institut Curie



Healthy      Fibrosis      Healthy



V. Favaudon et al., *Science Translational Medicine* 6, 2014



# FLASH effect

FLASH irradiation  
tumor killing

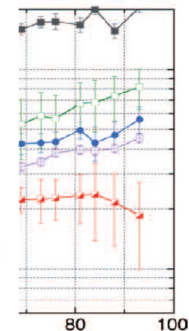
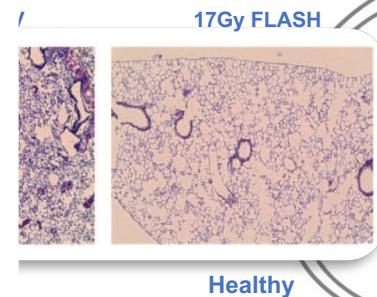
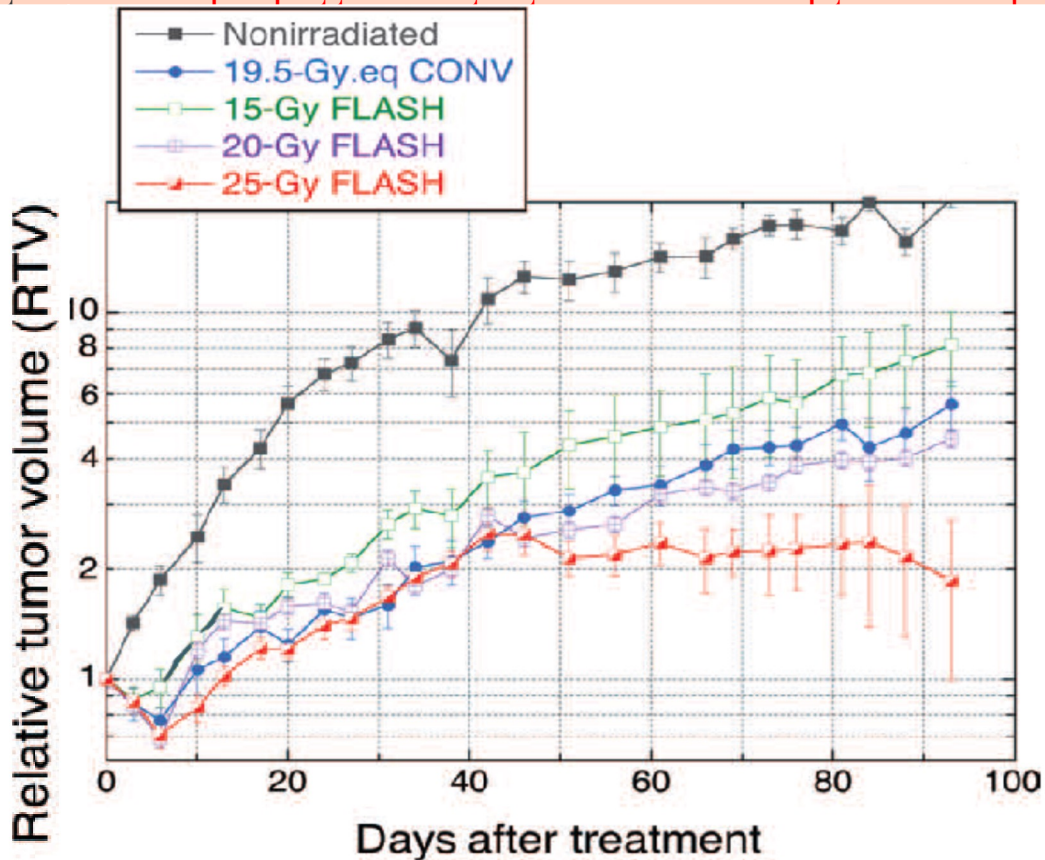
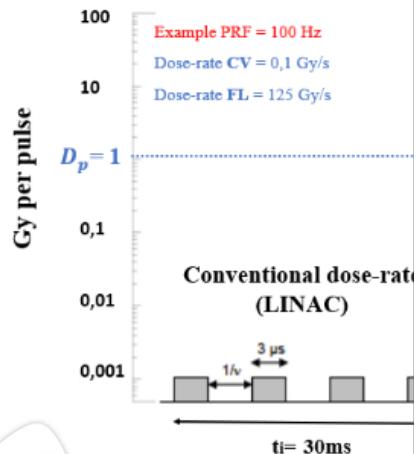
life maintaining

Temporal structure of energy

$$\dot{D}_p = D_p / t_p$$

$$\bar{D} = (n_p \times D_p) / t_i$$

Fig. Courtesy of Vincent

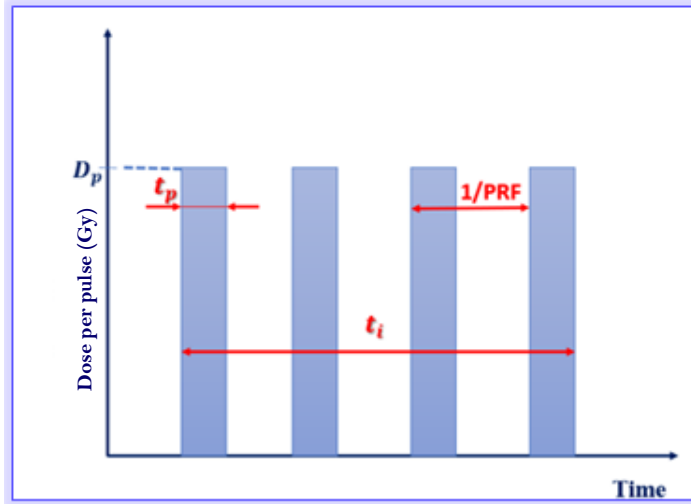


V. Favaudon et al., Science Translational Medicine

Courtesy of L. Giuliano

# Definition of FLASH treatment parameters

FLASH effect depends on **different inter-dependent parameters**



- Total dose
- Dose per pulse  $D_p$
- Mean dose rate  $\overline{D}$
- Instantaneous dose rate  $\dot{D}_p$
- Pulse length  $t_p$
- Pulse Repetition Frequency PRF
- Number of the pulses  $n_p$

$$\dot{D}_p = D_p/t_p$$

$$\overline{D} = n_p \times D_p/t_i$$

Example of irradiation:

Total dose = 12 Gy

$D_p = 3$  Gy

$t_i = \sim 30$  ms

$\dot{D}_p = 7,5 \times 10^5$  Gy/s

$\overline{D} = 400$  Gy/s

User interface

$t_p = 4 \mu\text{s}$   
 $\text{PRF} = 100$  Hz  
 $n_p = 4$



# FLASH effect in a nutshell ...

FLASH effect depends on **different inter-dependent parameters**

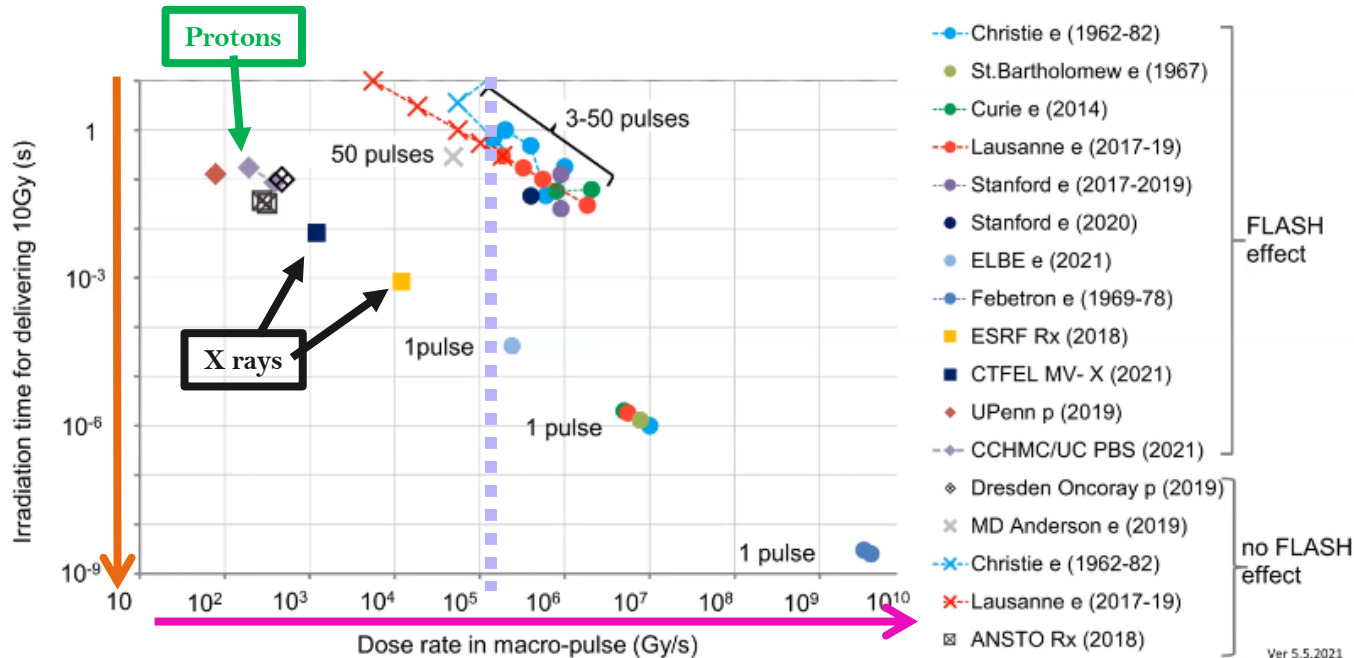
- Total dose
- Dose per pulse
- Mean dose rate
- Instantaneous dose rate
- Pulse length
- Pulse Repetition Frequency
- Number of the pulses

The **mean dose-rate** was initially used as a simplistic definition for FLASH irradiation ( $>40$  Gy/s).

However, the **instantaneous dose rate** and the **total treatment time** appear to be the most critical beam parameters.

# Conditions to obtain or miss the FLASH effect

Available data on FLASH radiotherapy from **in vivo and in vitro experiments**



- **Highest dose rate in the pulse,**
- **Shortest irradiation time,**

**highest is the FLASH effect.**

# Beam parameters to induce the **FLASH effect with *electrons***

FLASH effect depends on **different inter-dependent parameters**

- **Total dose**
- **Dose per pulse**
- **Mean dose rate**
- **Instantaneous dose rate**
- **Pulse length**
- **Pulse Repetition Frequency**
- **Number of the pulses**

Symbol	Description	Value
PRF	Pulse repetition frequency	> 100 Hz
$t_p$	Pulse width	0.1-4.0 $\mu$ s
$t_i$	Total irradiation time	< 100 ms
$\bar{D}$	Mean dose rate	> 100 Gy/s
$\dot{D}_p$	Instantaneous Dose-rate	> $10^6$ Gy/s
$D_p$	Dose in a single pulse	> 1 Gy



# CSN5 Call 2021 - FRIDA in a nutshell

## From call proposal

The external beam radiotherapy research community is currently experiencing an exciting time: experimental evidence is growing, supporting the evidence of a considerable normal tissue sparing effect when treatments are delivered with dose rates much larger (100 times or more) with respect to the conventional ones. If confirmed, this so-called **'FLASH effect' has the potential to re-shape the future of radiation treatments especially with charged particles, with a significant impact on many oncology patients.**

The FRIDA project addresses several challenges posed by this potential revolution. A crucial task is represented by the mechanistic **understanding and modelling of the effect**. Another key ingredient is the necessary research and development phase in the acceleration and **beam delivery** fields to provide the required dose rates with a clinically acceptable precision. A final word on the FLASH effect will be said only if novel **beam monitoring** and dosimetry techniques capable of sustaining very high dose rates will be developed. Finally, software tools for **FLASH treatments planning** are needed to evaluate the technique potential and enable clinical applications.

Within INFN and **CSN5 activities**, the knowhow and expertise needed to make a step forward in this field are presently available. **Experiments will be carried out at FLASH beam facilities** that are (or will be in the near future) available, complementing the multiscale FLASH mechanism modelling efforts. LINAC and laser-plasma techniques will be applied to the delivery of FLASH e- and p beams. Detection and monitoring techniques will be developed and tested, as well as the implementation of software tools needed for the simulation and treatment optimization tasks. **All these contributions can be seen as steps towards the FLASH enabling technology.**

The FRIDA deliverables will place on solid grounds the future steps made when **aiming for the FLASH effect confirmation or disprove and its possible clinical implementation.**

# The FRIDA organization

**“WPO”**  
**Coordination**  
**P.I. A. Sarti**

## WP1

### **The FLASH mechanism**

E. Scifoni (modeling)  
G. Forte (bio experiments)

## WP2

### **Beam delivery**

A. Mostacci (e-)  
G. A. P. Cirrone (p)

## Units

**CT – F. Romano**  
**LNS – G. Cirrone**  
**MI – D. Giove**  
**PI – G. Bisogni**  
**RMI – A. Sarti**  
**TIFPA – E. Scifoni**  
**TO – A. Vignati**

## WP3

### **Beam/dose monitoring**

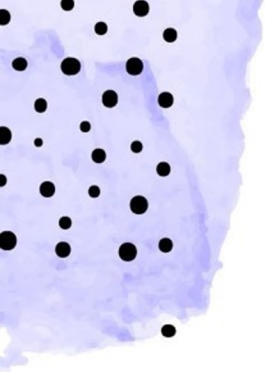
A. Vignati (Beam monitoring)  
G. Bisogni (Dose monitoring)

## WP4

### **Treatment planning**

A. Schiavi (Dose sim/optim.)  
M. Schwarz (Treatment planning)

# WP2-Beam delivery: main activities



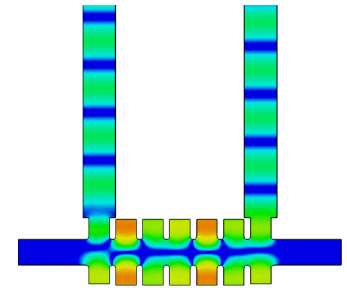
RF accelerated beams

- RF cavities
- RF source
- High current medium energy electron beams for medical applications

RM1, LNS, LNF

LNS, RM1, LNF

Milano

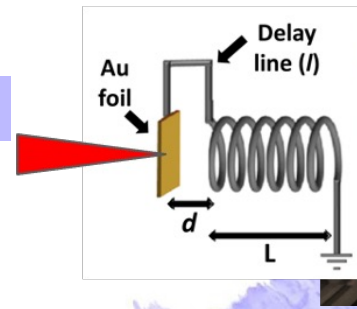


Laser Plasma accelerated beams

- Protons
- Electrons

LNS, Milano, Queens Univ.


INO ILIL (CNR Pisa)



# Electron beam parameter list

**Caveat:**

scaling to high energy the beam parameters for FLASH irradiation at 6-7MeV energy range (**wide beams, large irradiation field**)

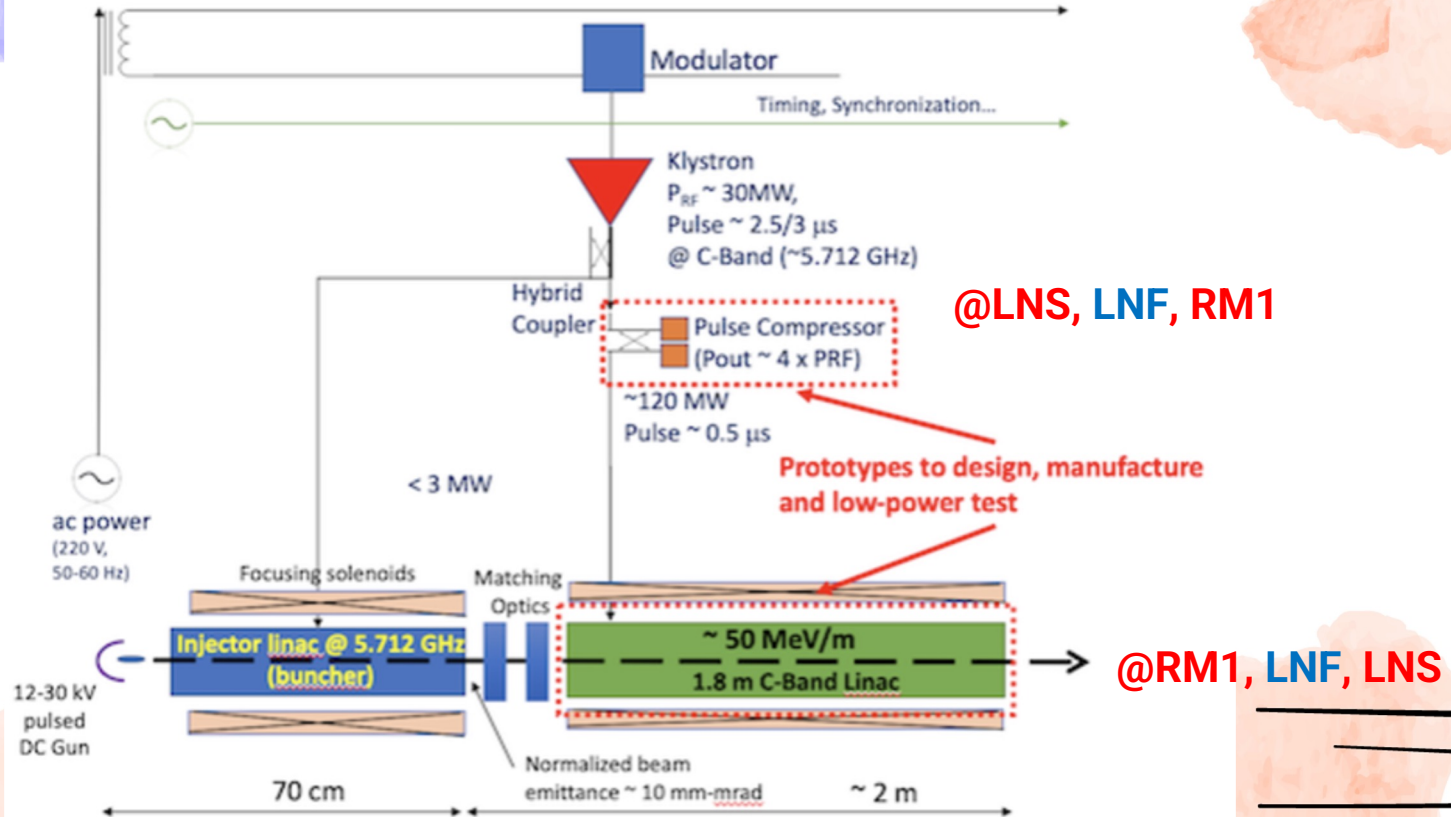
 Description	Value
<b>E</b> Beam Energy	7 MeV
<b>PRF</b> Pulse repetition frequency	>100 Hz
$t_p$ Pulse width	4 $\mu$ s
$Q_p$ Pulse Charge	400 nC
$I_p$ Pulse Current	100 mA
$\dot{D}_p$ In-Pulse Dose-Rate	> $10^7$ Gy/s

Description	Value
<b>E</b> Beam Energy	60 - 130 MeV
<b>PRF</b> Pulse repetition frequency	> 100 Hz
$t_p$ Pulse width	1 - 3 $\mu$ s
$Q_p$ Pulse Charge	200 - 600 nC
$I_p$ Pulse Current	200 mA
$\dot{D}_p$ In-Pulse Dose-Rate	> $10^7$ Gy/s

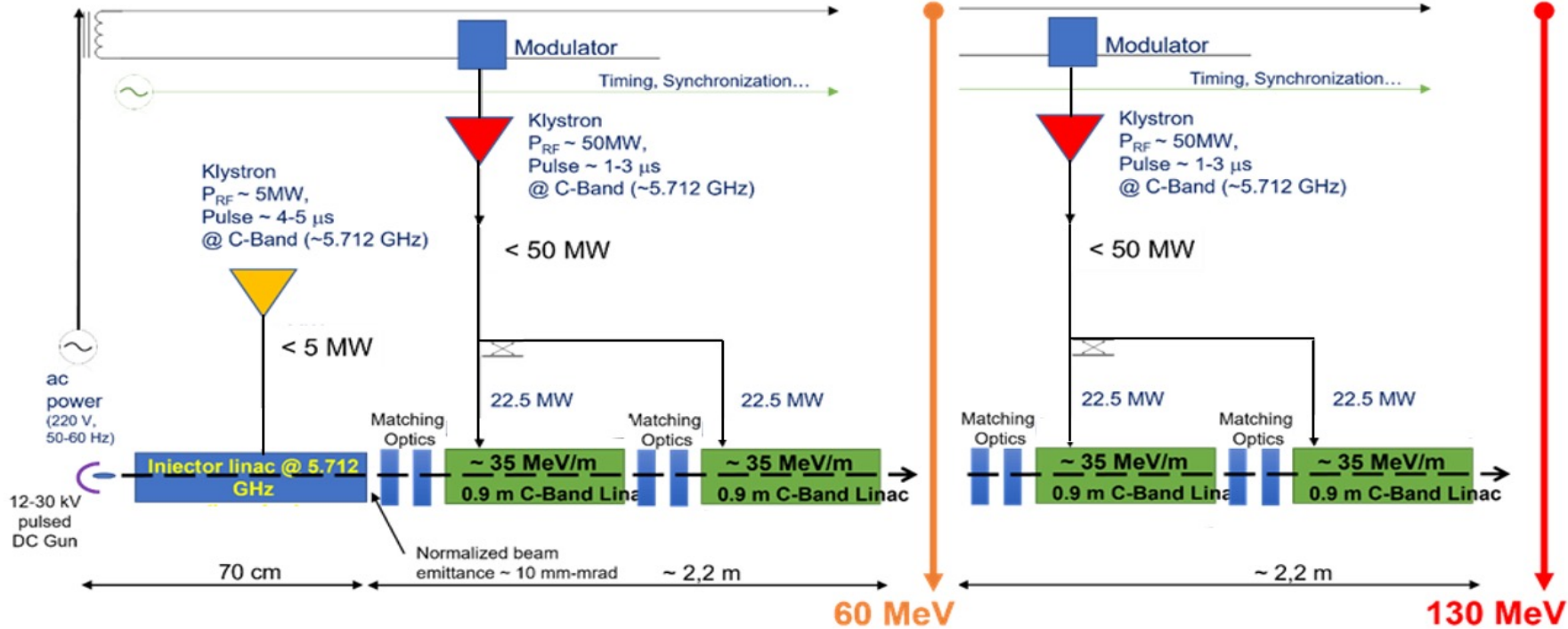
Measurements with ElectronFlash at Curie Institut

# FRIDA proposal: layout

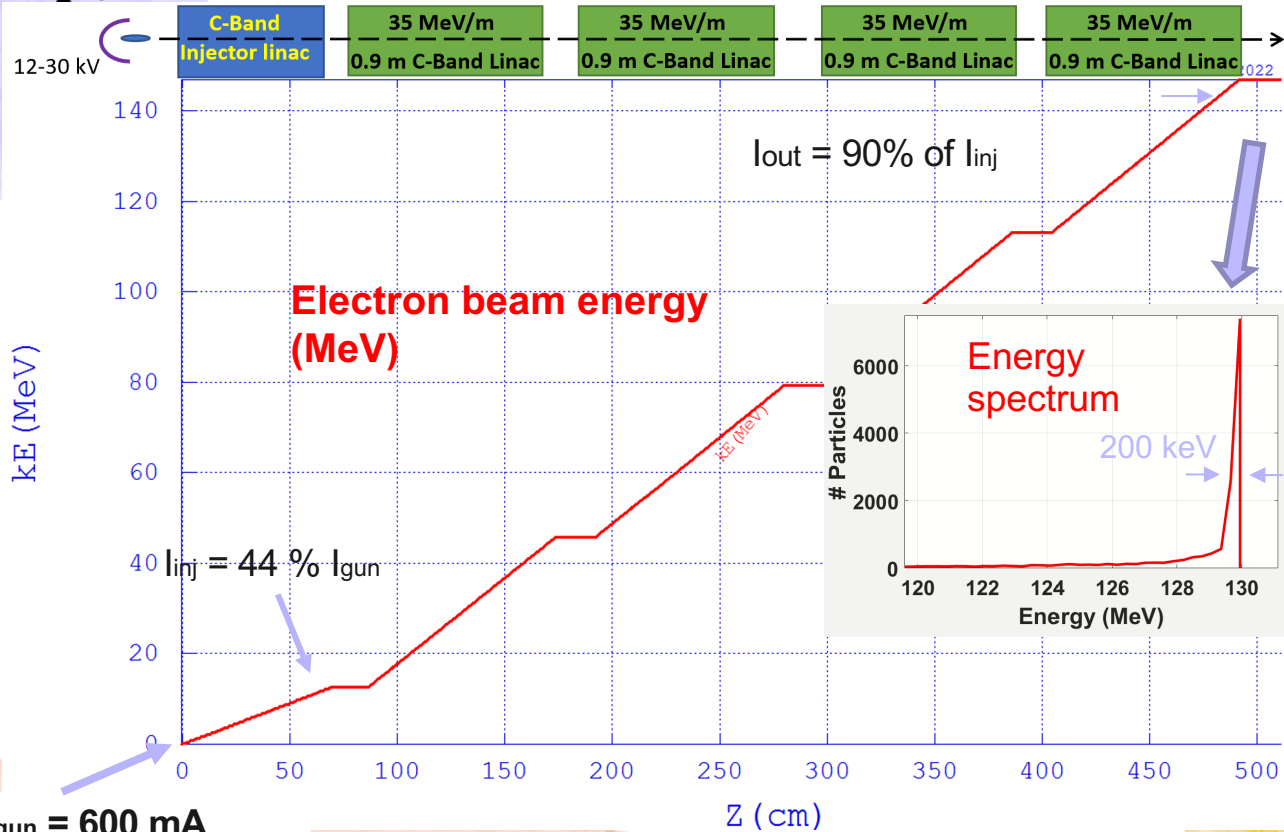
## Compact C-band option



# Update: 60-130MeV demonstrator



# Beam Dynamics for the 130MeV demonstrator



Output e-beam >130 MeV and 200 mA output e-beam;

Input e-gun current = 600 mA;

No focusing solenoids needed;

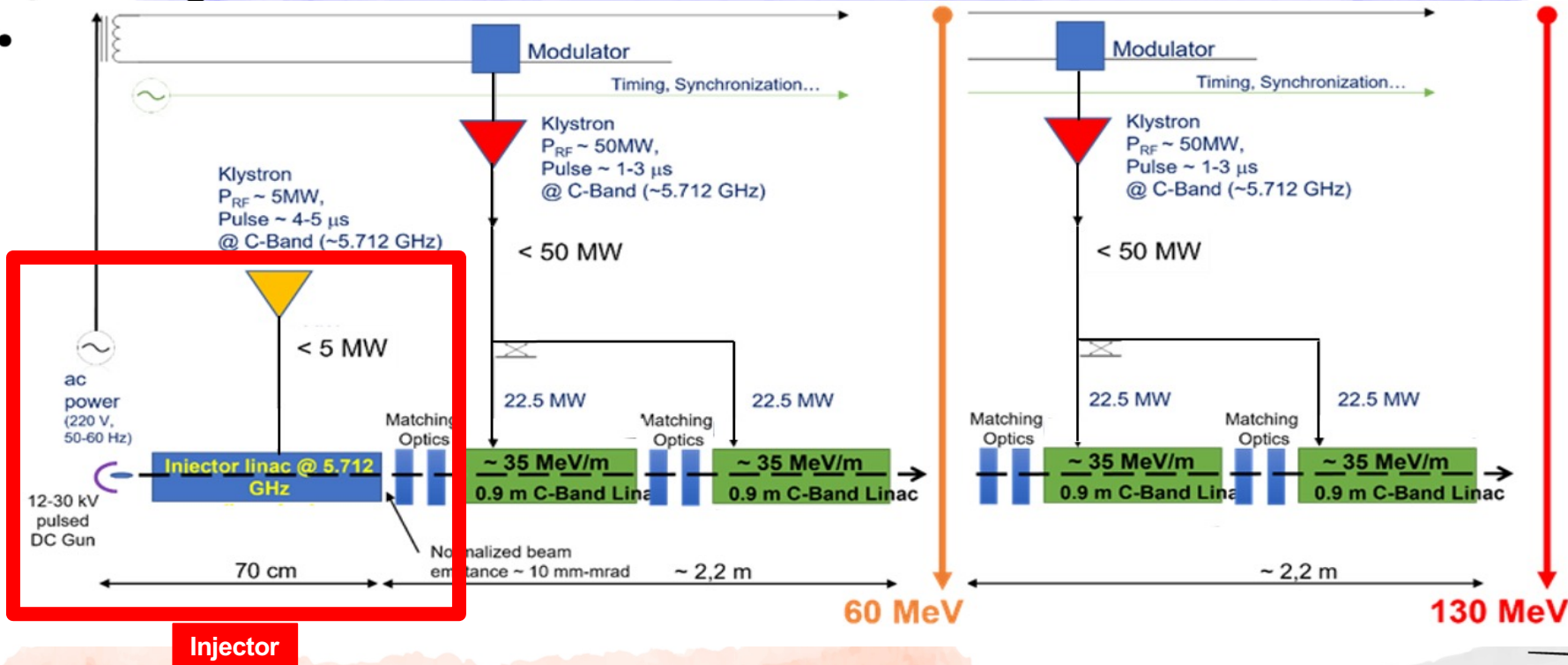
Total beam capture ~40%;

Lost e-current phase-space evaluated for required radiosafety protocols;

Very low energy spread  
200 keV @ 130 MeV

$I_{gun} = 600 \text{ mA}$   
Energy = 15 keV

# Update: 60-130MeV demonstrator

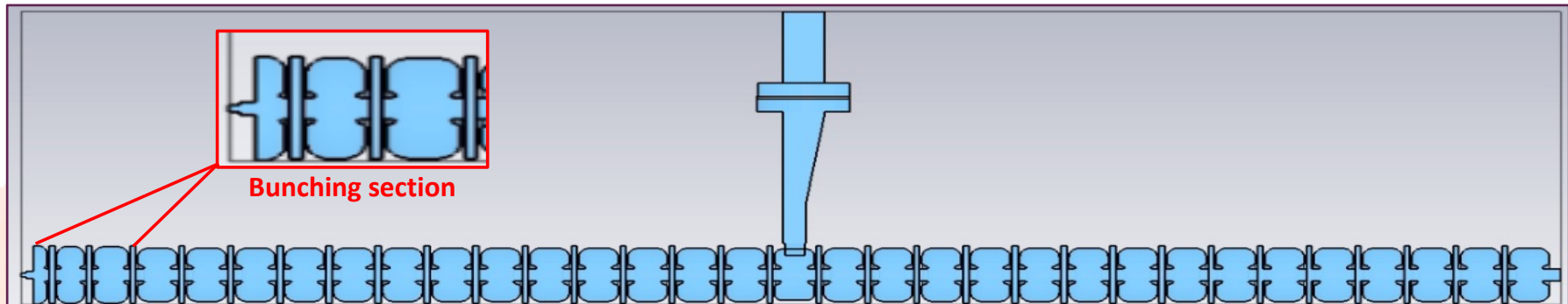
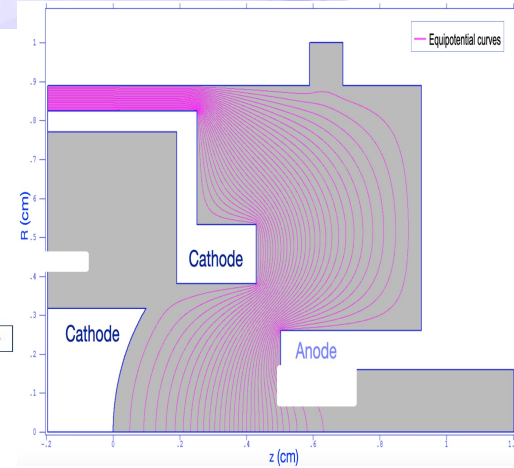
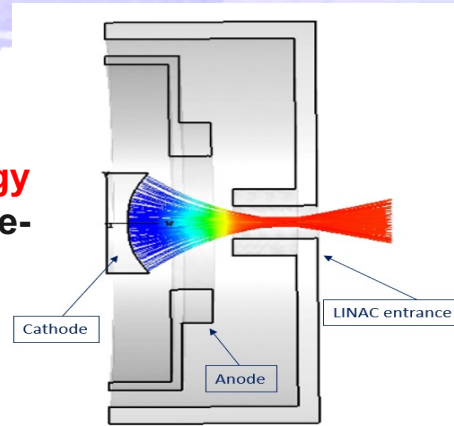




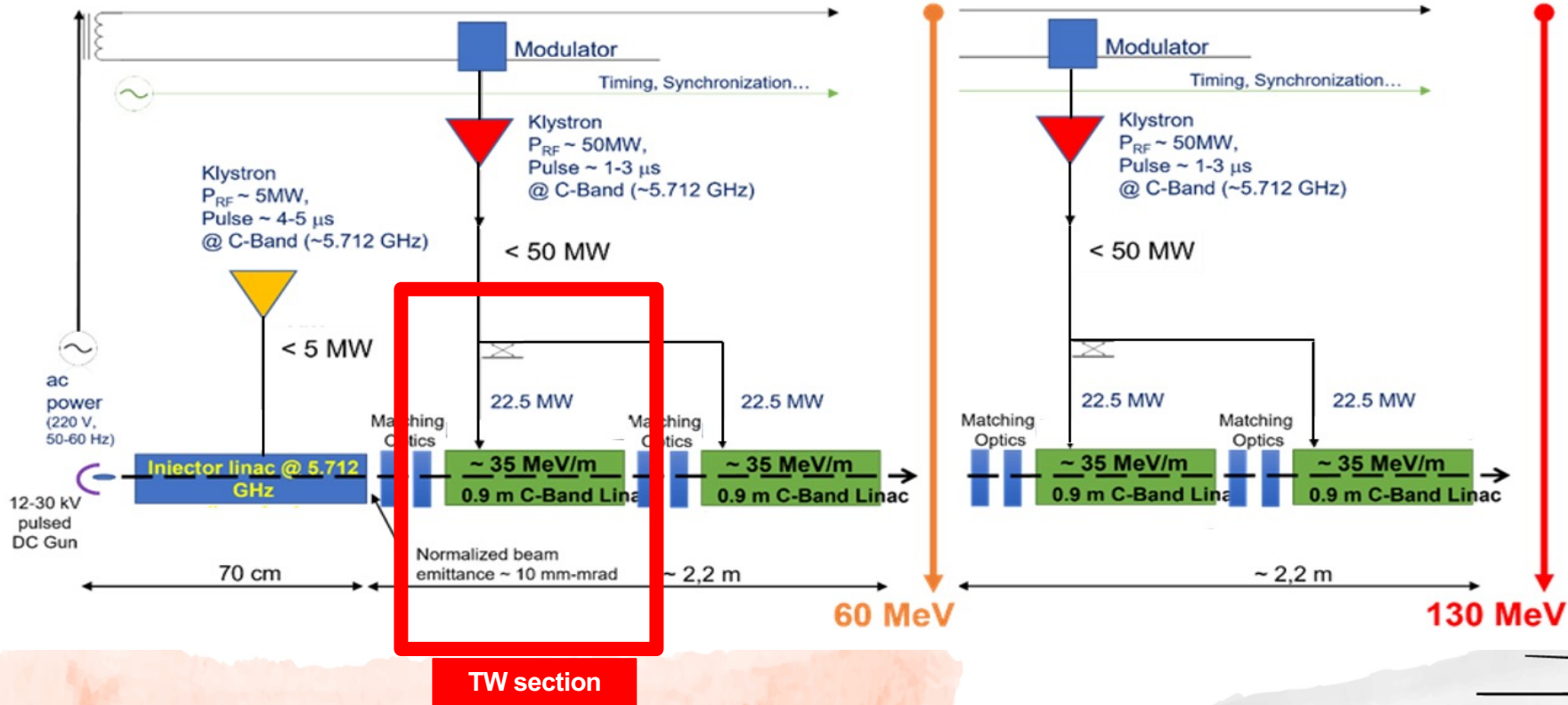
# Accelerating structure: source and injector

Electron source: **pulsed DC thermionic gun** at 15 kV.

Injector Linac with matching section for **low-energy beam capture** ( $> 40\%$ ) and initial acceleration from e-gun up to  $\approx 10$  MeV and **200 mA** beam peak current.



# Update: 60-130MeV demonstrator



# Accelerating structure: TW structure

Operating RF frequency:  $f_{RF} = 5.712$  GHz in C-band;

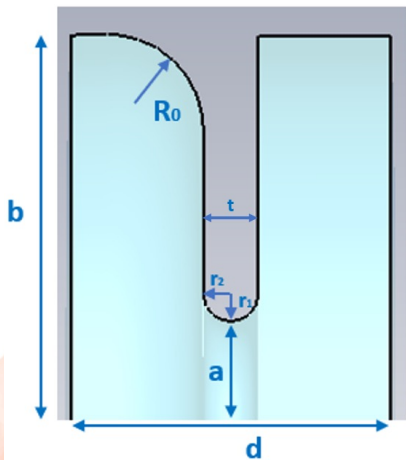
Operating mode: TM010-like with  $2\pi/3$  cell-to-cell phase advance;

TW **Constant Impedance**: Iris aperture radius  $a = 5$  mm;

Structure Length: **0.9 m** (modularity)  $\rightarrow$  MAX power/section  $\approx 22.5$  MW

Possibility of using pulse compressors and avoid one structure

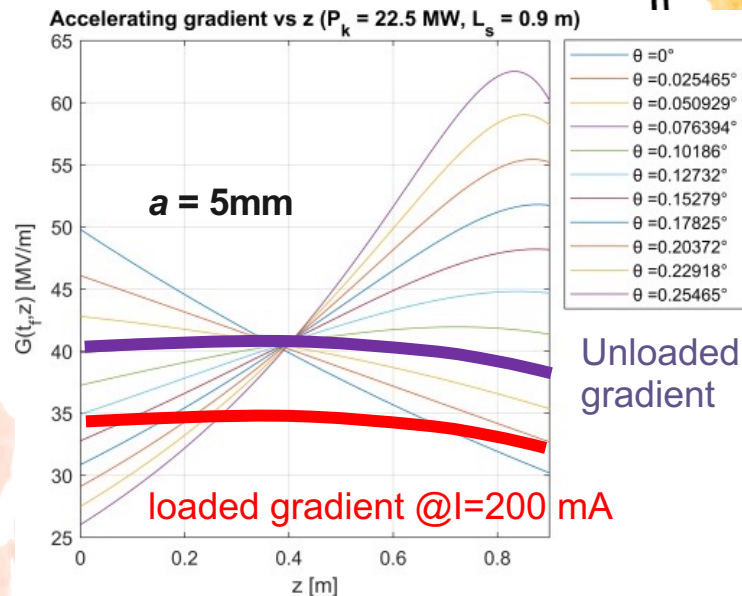
Single Cell design



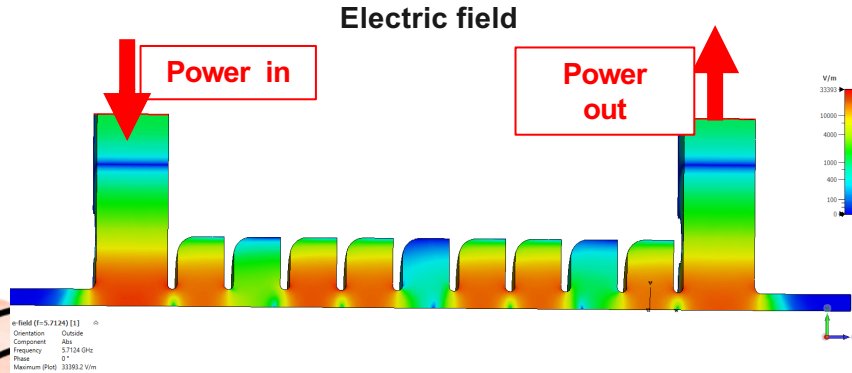
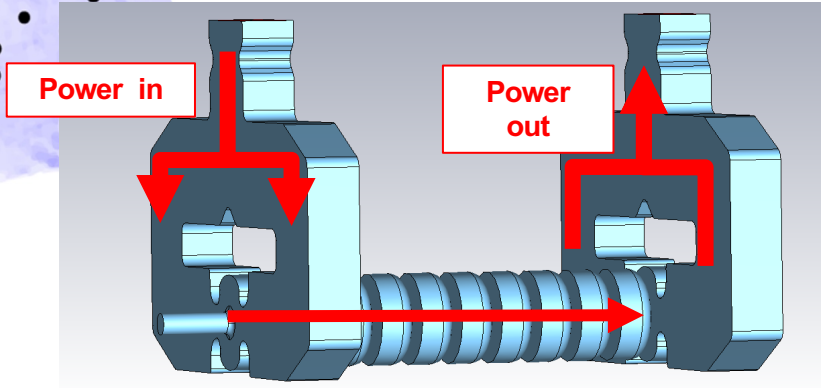
Single cell RF parameters

Parameter	Size [mm]
a	5
b	21,03
d	17,45
t	3
R0	6
r1/r2	1.25

Symbol	Description	Value
E	Beam energy	50-250 MeV
$t_p$	Pulse width	1-3.0 $\mu$ s
PRF	Pulse repetition frequency	$> 100$ Hz
$I_p$	Pulse current	$> 200$ mA
$Q_p$	Pulse charge	200 – 600 nC
$D_p$	Dose in a single pulse	219 Gy in $\varnothing 30$ mm
$\dot{D}_p$	Instantaneous Dose-rate	$> 10^7$ Gy/s



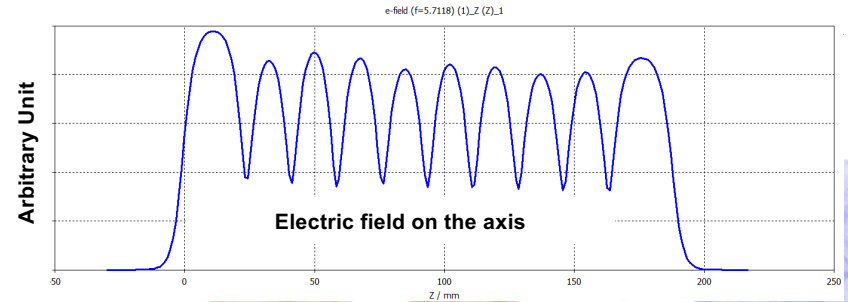
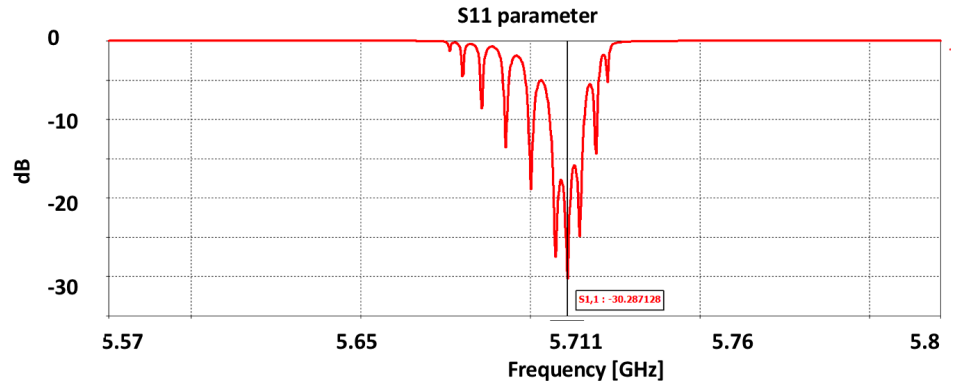
# Accelerating structure: full RF design



Dual-feed input and output RF power couplers;

Iris aperture radius  $a = 5$  mm;

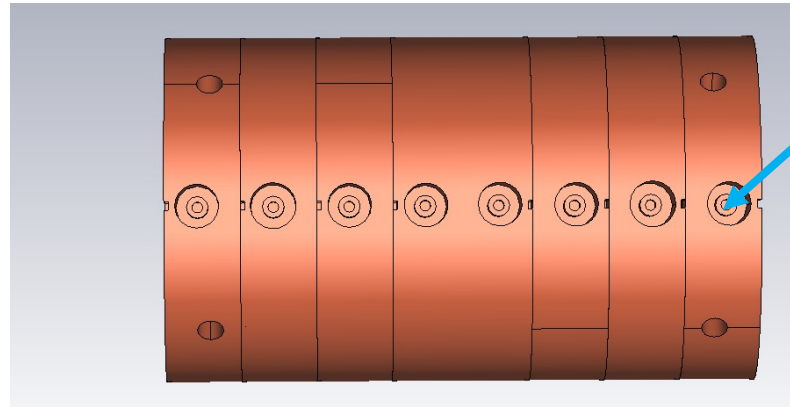
Reflection Coefficient  $S_{11} = -30$  dB at 5.712 GHz;



# Accelerating structure: mechanical design

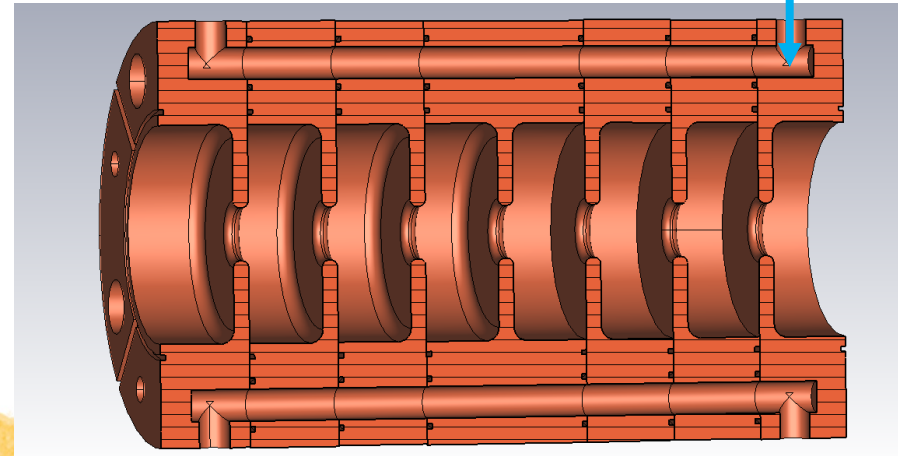
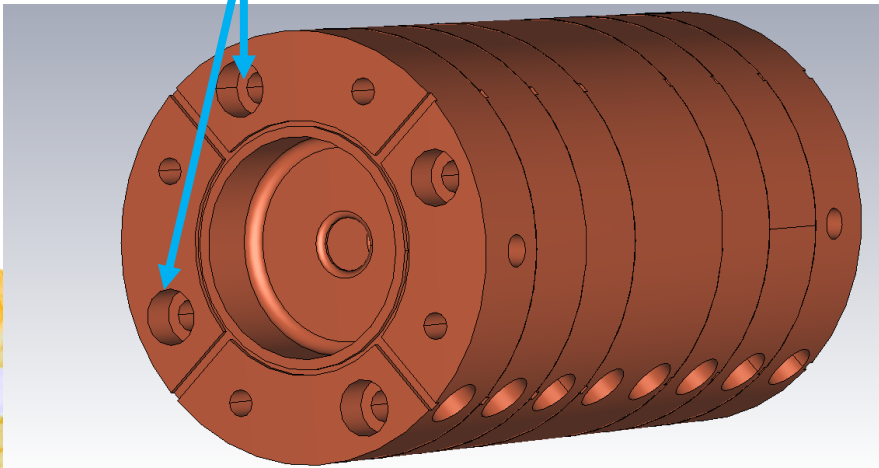


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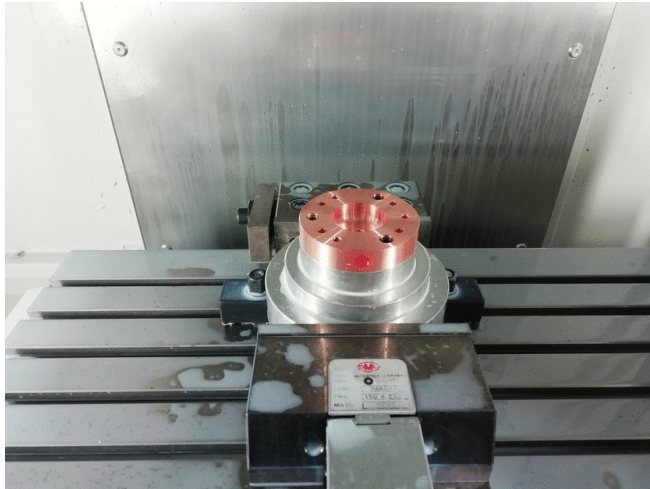


bolts to join the cells

water for cooling



# Accelerating structure: prototype realisation



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# Design of RF structures workflow

- Baseline accelerating gradient:  $\approx 35$  MV/m
- RF system (and pulse compressor characteristics)
- Average iris radius: 5 mm
- Electromagnetic parametric study of the TW cell
- Effective shunt impedance optimization acting on the total length (and the iris tapering)
- Check of expected Breakdown rate (modified Poynting vector values @ nominal gradient)
- Design a realistic RF module including power distribution network
- Finalize the electromagnetic design (input and output couplers, final breakdown analysis)

DONE

DONE

DONE

DONE

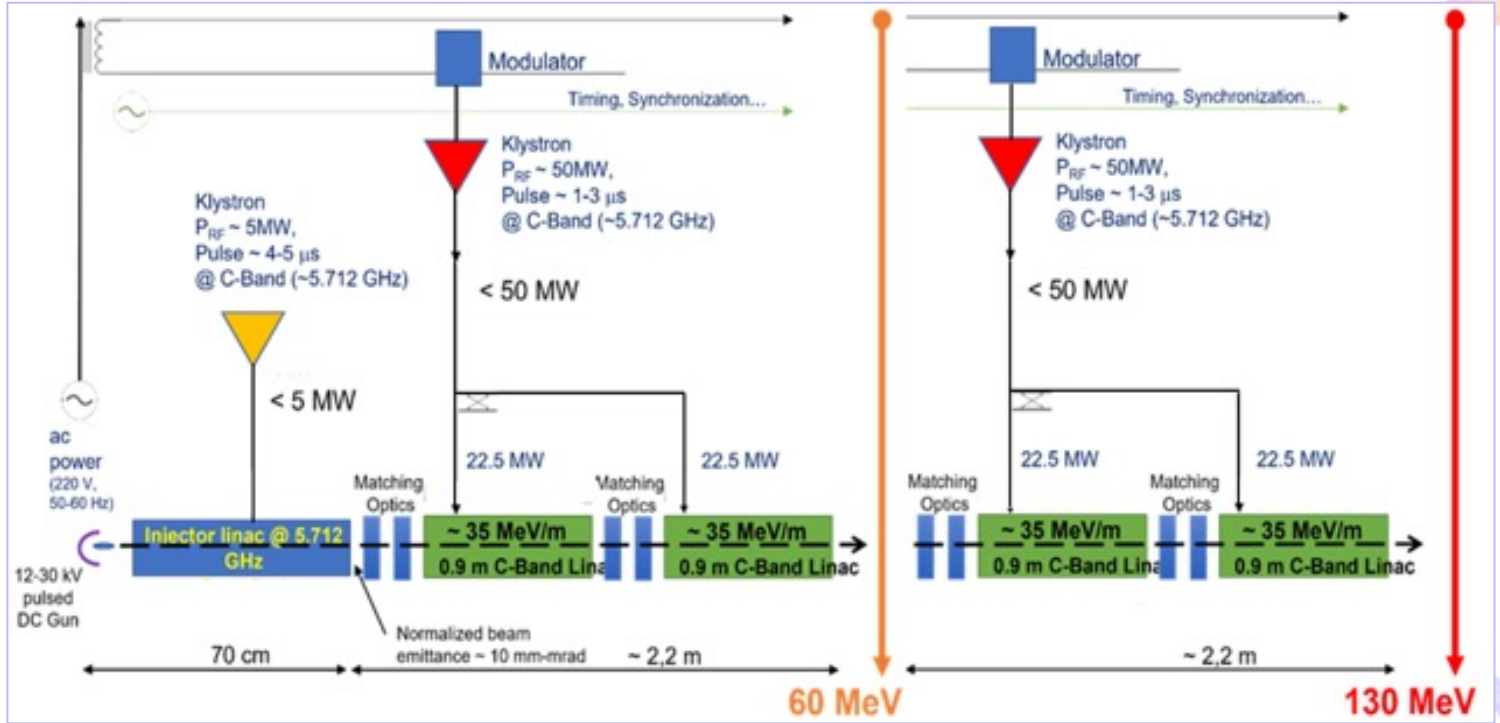
DONE

DONE

ON GOING

ON GOING

# Very High Energy Electron Linac layouts

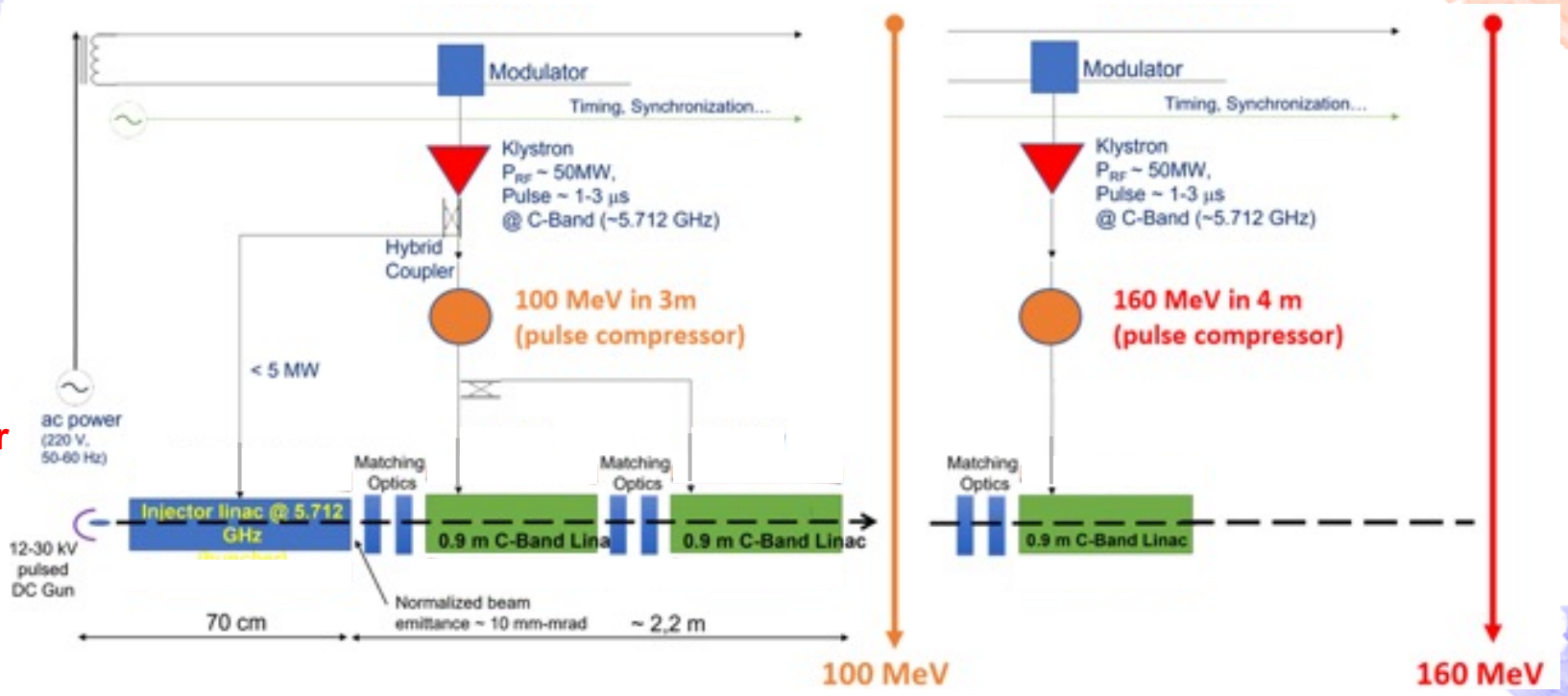


Without pulse compressor

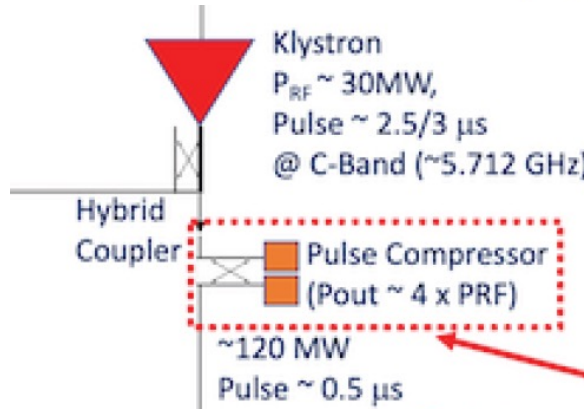


# Very High Energy Electron Linac layouts

With pulse compressor



# FRIDA proposal: pulse compressor



Doubling beam energy  
enhancing peak RF power at the  
expense of pulse width

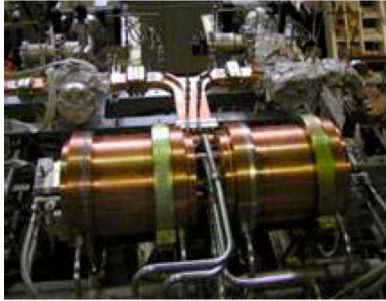
Sub-tasks for the **design of the pulse compressor**

- Geometry and shape of the resonator definition
- RF Design of the RF pulse compressor
- RF simulation Report



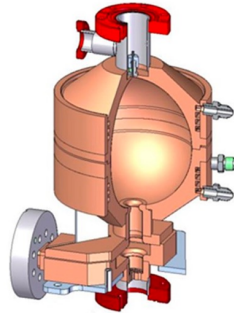
# Pulse compressor: shape definition

Geometry and shape of the resonator definition

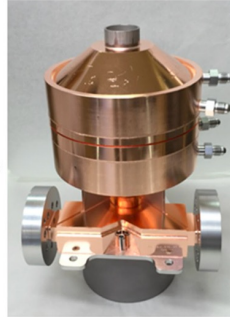


[SKIP - A PULSE COMPRESSOR FOR SUPERKEKB THP61 Proceedings of LINAC 2004, Lübeck, Germany <https://accelconf.web.cern.ch/l04/PAPERS/THP61.PDF>]

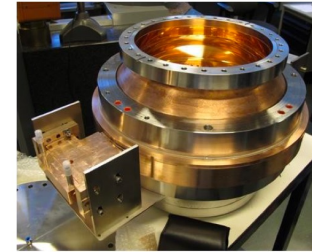
vs.



RF polarizer and single High-Q spherical resonator for new X-band SLED system [J. Wang, S. Tantawi et al., PRAB20, <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevAccelBeams.20.110401>]



vs.



single Barrel Open Cavity (BOC) pulse R. Zennaro et al., IPAC2013,, WEPFI059 <https://accelconf.web.cern.ch/ipac2013/papers/wepfi059.pdf> C-BAND RF PULSE COMPRESSOR FOR SWISS FEL

main RF Pulse Compressor parameters

- resonant mode - **Q-factor**
- Coupling constant of the cavity / Reflection at the power coupler
- **machining accuracy** required
- **maximum peak surface field** (about 2 or 3 times higher than the acceleration field)

# Pulse compressor: RF design

- design of **RF mode coupler** with reduced unwanted modes
- Investigation **RF power gain variation** as a function of the coupling constant  $\beta$  of the RF compressor cavity
- obtain an optimal compromise between large coupling constant (high-power gain) and risks of **RF breakdown**
- reducing RF field around the edges, avoiding a large number of brazed parts, *using if possible special joint-free open structures*
- **Transient** response
- **Thermal** studies, **Tuning** and **Multipacting**

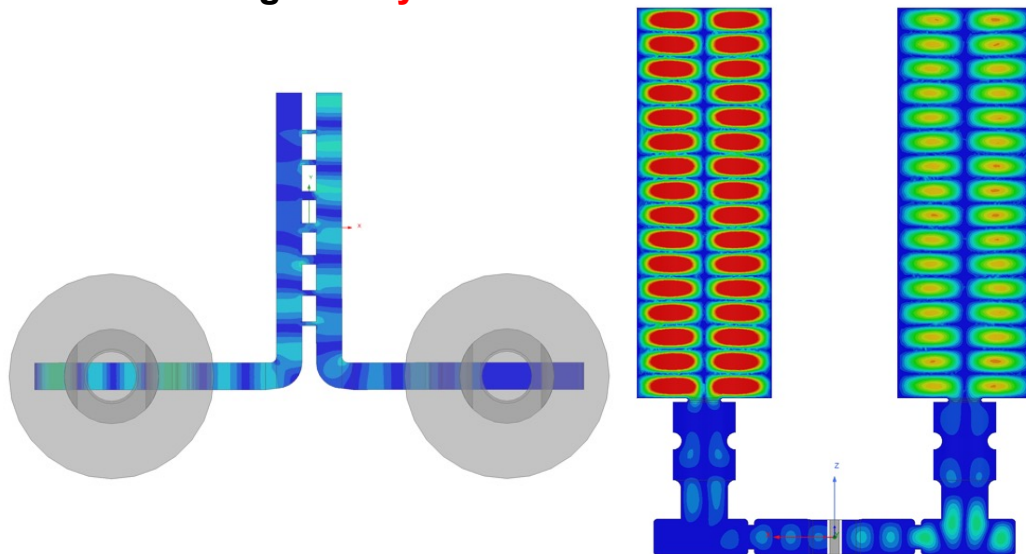
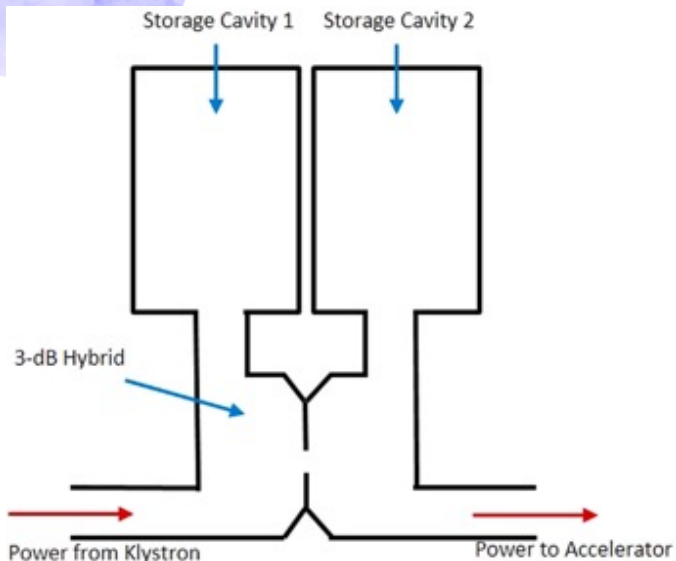


# Pulse compressor: cylindrical cavity

Hybrid 3 dB coupler

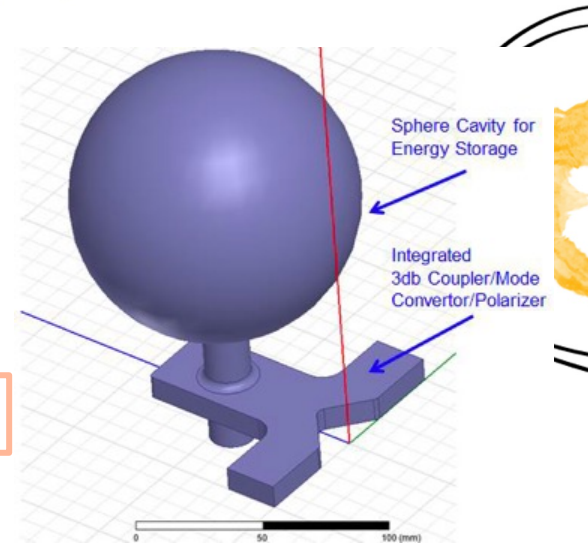
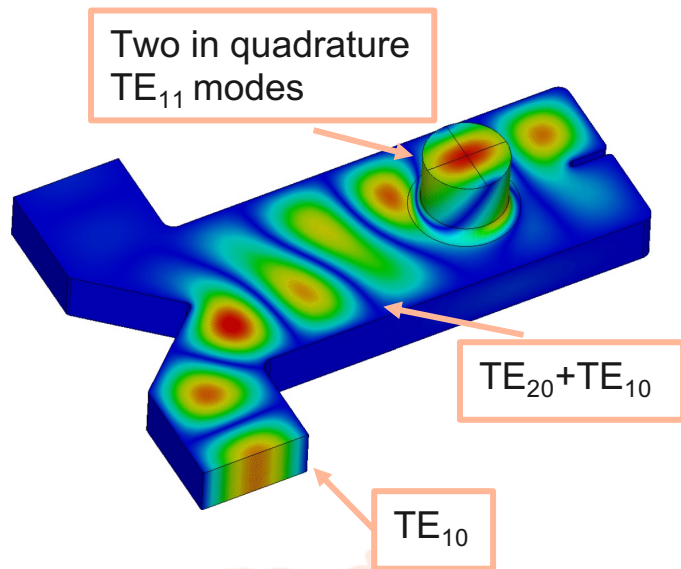
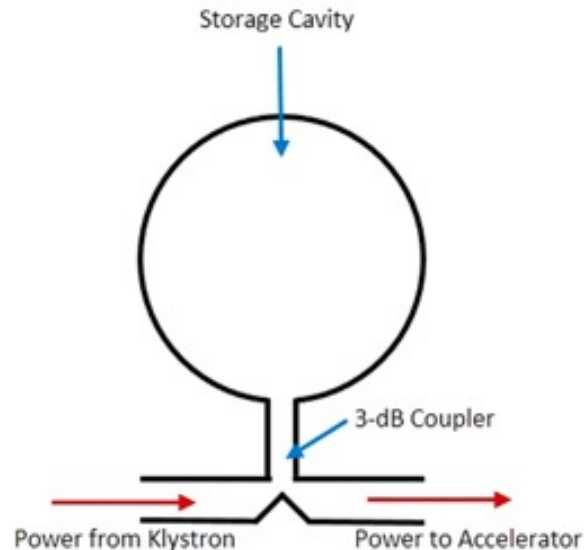
Mode converter TE<sub>10</sub><sub>rectangular</sub> to TE<sub>01</sub><sub>circular</sub>

Storage cavity



Total Dimensions: 507 x 326 x 702 mm<sup>3</sup>

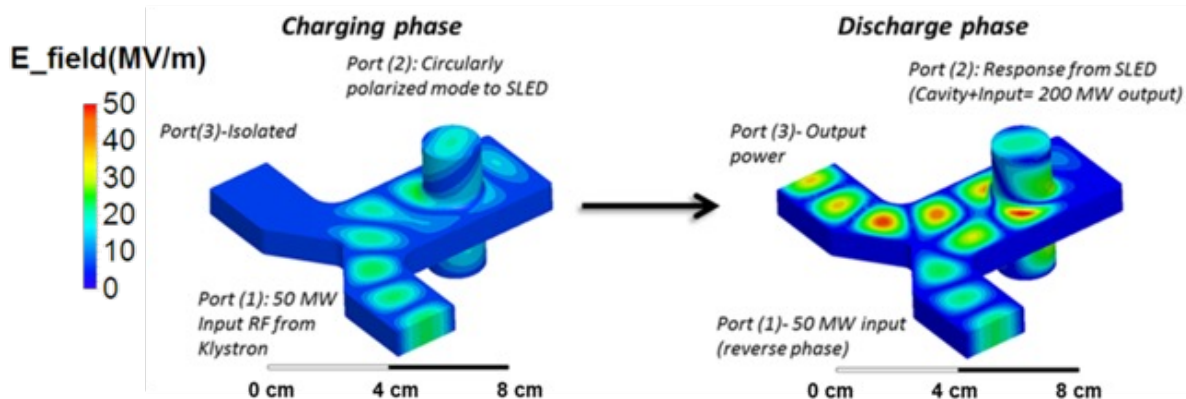
# Pulse compressor: spherical cavity



works on two  $TE_{113}$  mode

# Cylindrical cavity compressor: working principle

- Equal coupling to the  $TE_{10}$  and  $TE_{20}$  modes
- Isolation of the opposite port
- Each rectangular waveguide mode excite a  $TE_{11}$  mode
  - Excitation in quadrature produces quasi circularly polarized wave
- $TE_{11}$  modes excite degenerate  $TE_{114}$  modes of spherical resonator
  - $TE_{20}$  and  $TE_{10}$  emitted/reflected from the cavity cancel at input port

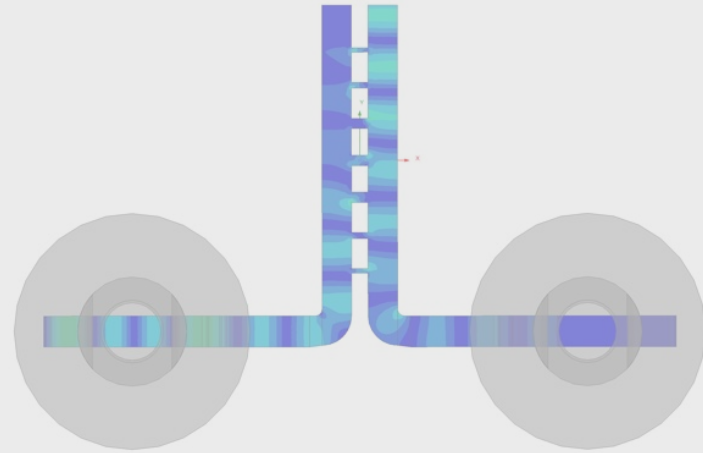
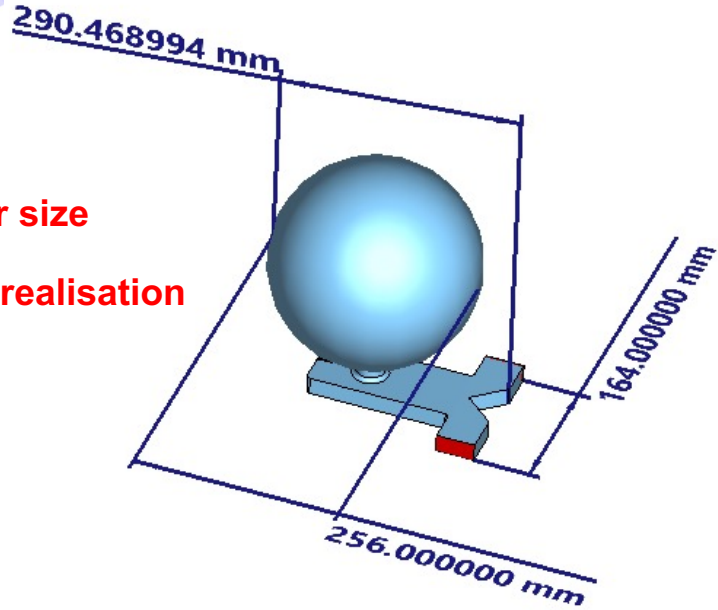


average power gain of 3.8

# Pulse compressor: shape comparison

Smaller size

Easier realisation



Tot. Dimensions: 507 x 326 x 702 mm<sup>3</sup>



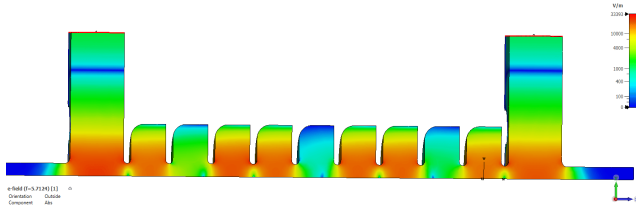
# Conclusions

FLASH Radiotherapy with high Dose-rate particle beams

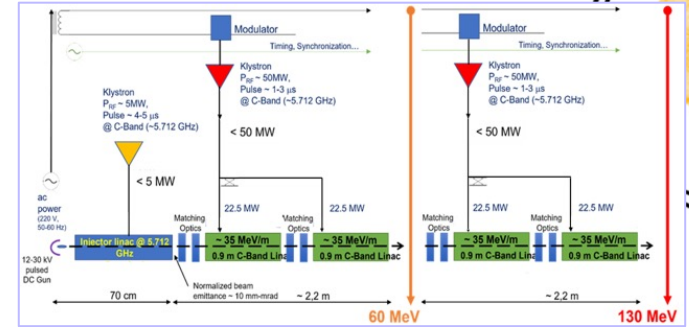
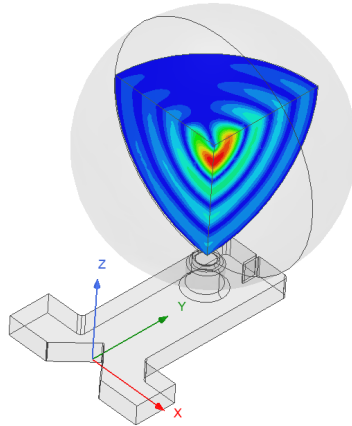
FRIDA aims to the FLASH effect **confirmation or disprove** as well as and its possible **clinical implementation**

Towards a **Very High Energy Electron (VHEE)** demonstrator

TW accelerating structure



Pulse compressor



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**Thank you**



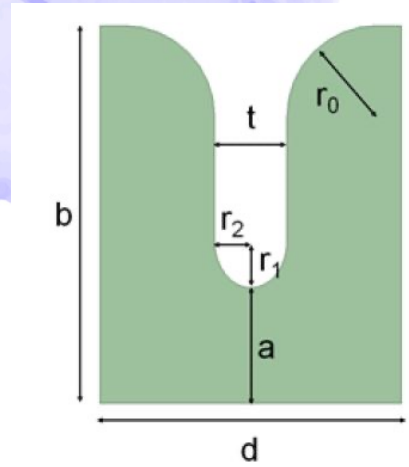
**FLASH Radiotherapy with high Dose-rate particle  
beAms**



# Spares

**FLASH** Radiotherapy with **h**igh **D**ose-rate particle  
be**A**ms

# RF parameters studies



Structure length  $L_S = 90$  cm;

Average gradient for  $a = 5$  mm is equal to  $\bar{G} = 40$  MV/m, with an RF input power of  $P_{rf} = 22.5$  MW;

Modified Poynting vector  $S_c$  below threshold of 2 MW/mm<sup>2</sup>

Shunt impedance  $R = 95$  M $\Omega$ /m for  $r_1/r_2 = 1.25$  and  $t=3$ .

