

## Facilities @LNS and @LNF

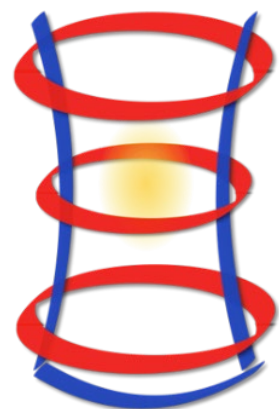
# Magnetically-confined and laser-induced plasmas

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Laboratori Nazionali del Sud – INFN, Catania, Italy

# In-plasma nuclear reaction studies: PANDORA

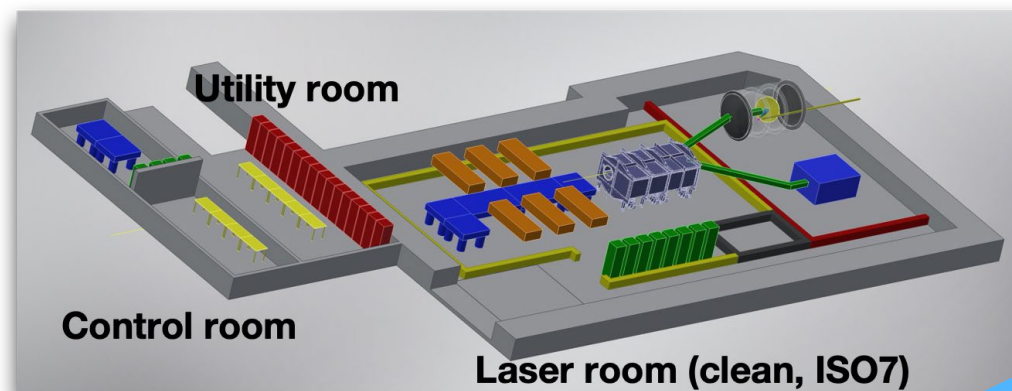
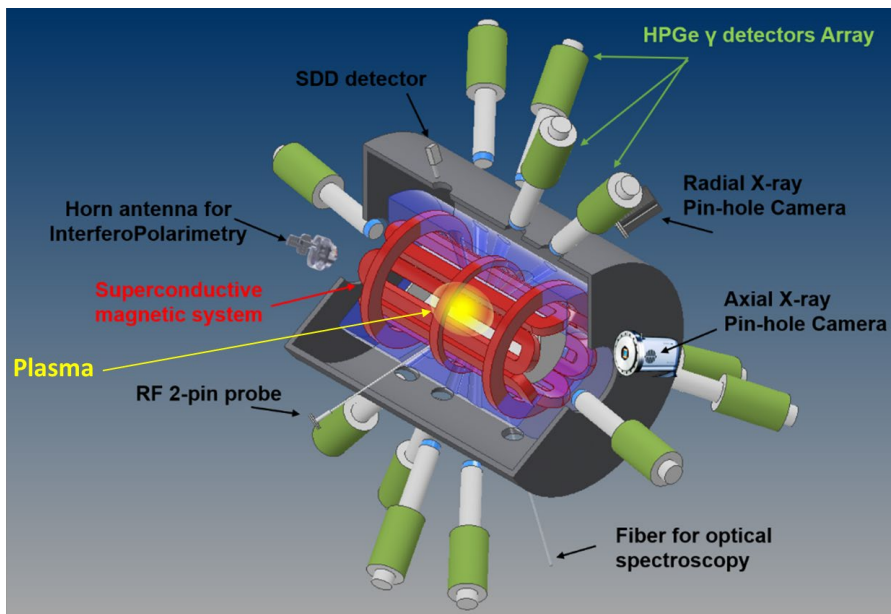
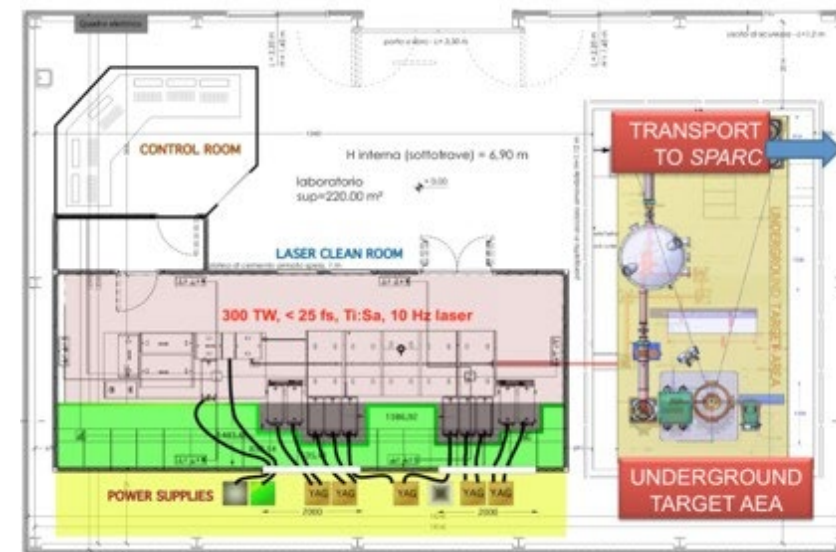


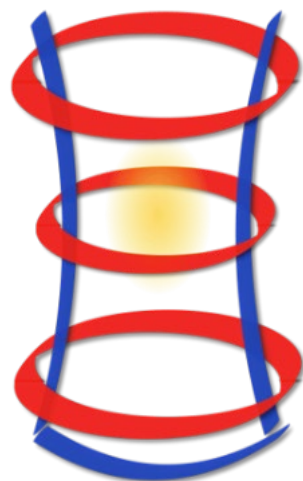
Plasmas for  
Astrophysics  
Nuclear  
Decay  
Observation and  
Radiation for  
Archaeometry

# Laser-induced nuclear reaction studies: Versatile Array for Laser-induced Astrophysics Research

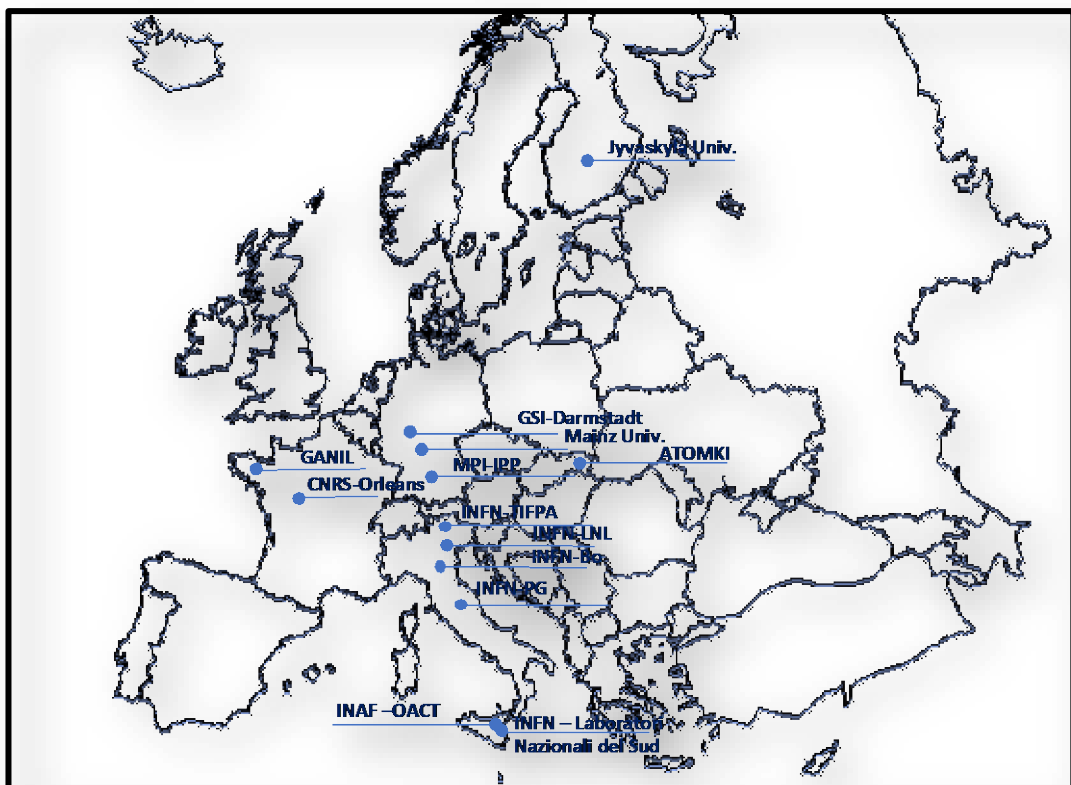
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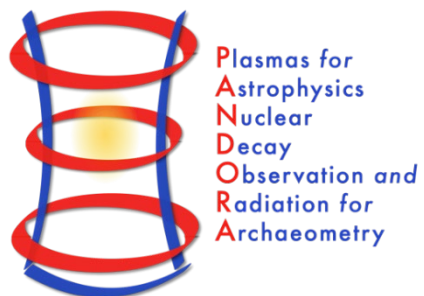
Plasmas for  
Astrophysics  
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Archaeometry



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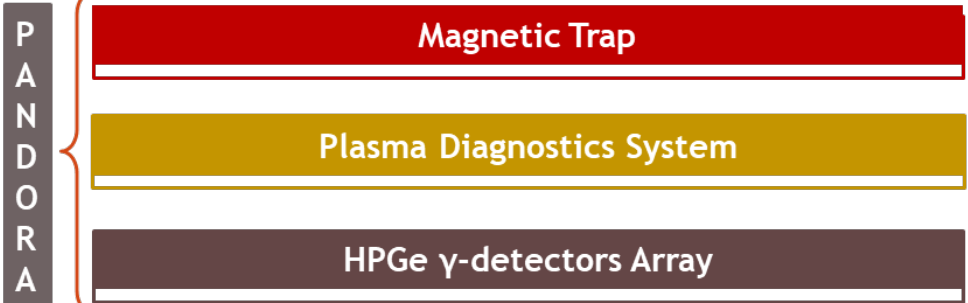
PANDORA is a facility whose construction is supported by INFN in the frame of [PANDORA\\_Gr3](#) project; it aims at building an innovative compact and flexible magnetic plasma trap, for fundamental physics studies and interdisciplinary and applied research. The main goal is the study of  $\beta$ -decays in the plasma (never done so far), i.e. in ionization conditions similar to some stellar environments and relevant for nucleosynthesis of chemical elements in the cosmos.

*Takahashi et al. 1987, Phys Rev C 36, 1522*

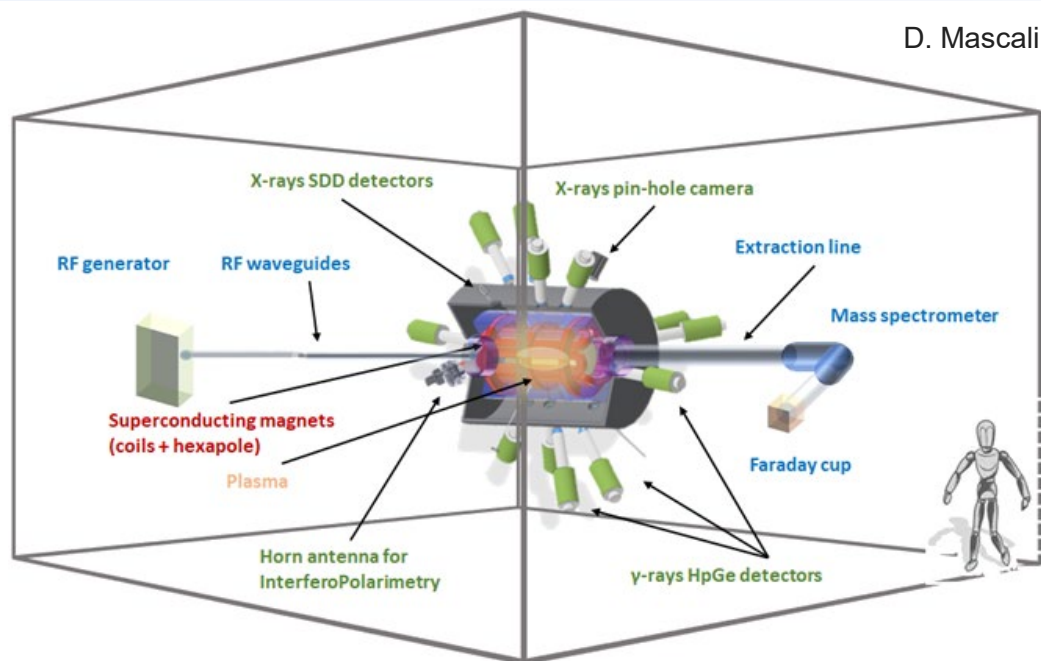


1) for the first time, $\beta$ -decay measurements in plasmas;	→	Huge impact on nuclear physics and stellar nucleosynthesis
2) plasma opacity measurements in conditions similar to kilonovae ejecta;	→	Heavy elements production in n-star merging
3) an unprecedented setup for applications: it will be the biggest B-minimum magnetic trap with potentiality as ion source; as testbench for magnetic fusion; as radiation source for Archeometry.	→	New ion and radiation sources for science and technology

**A NEW CHALLENGE:** Reproduce in laboratory some stellar-like conditions and measure the expected variations of nuclear lifetime in  $\beta$ -decaying nuclei



1. An innovative superconducting magnetic plasma trap, able to produce and confine plasmas with electron-ion density up to  $10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and electron temperature of  $T_e \sim 0.1-30 \text{ keV}$ ;
2. An advanced plasma multi-diagnostic system, consisting in a set of non-invasive diagnostic tools capable of operating simultaneously for the non-intrusive monitoring of the plasma thermodynamic properties and the measurement of plasma parameters;
3. An Array of 14 HPGe (High-purity Germanium) detectors for  $\gamma$ -ray spectroscopy, surrounding the plasma trap.



D. Mascali et al., *Universe* 2022, 8(2)

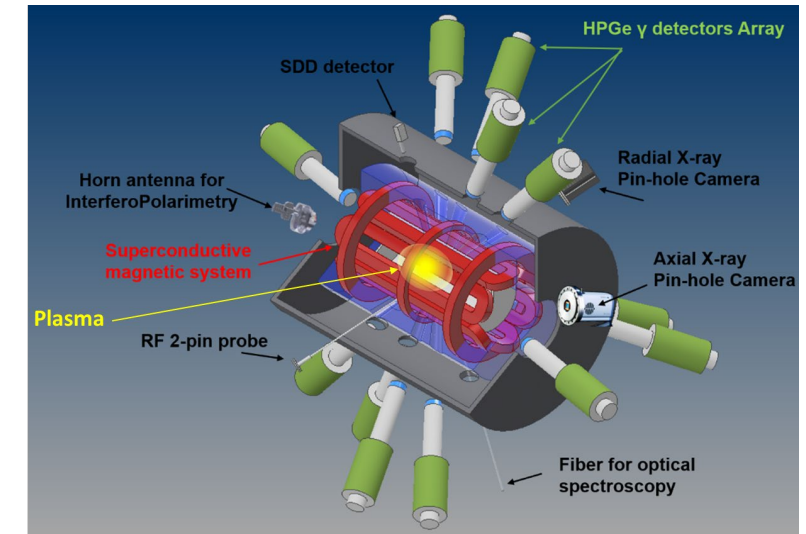
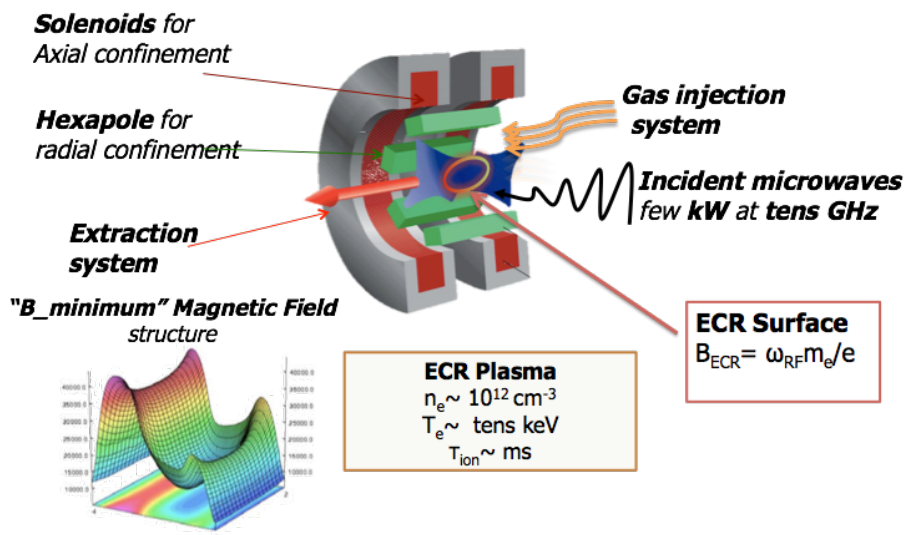
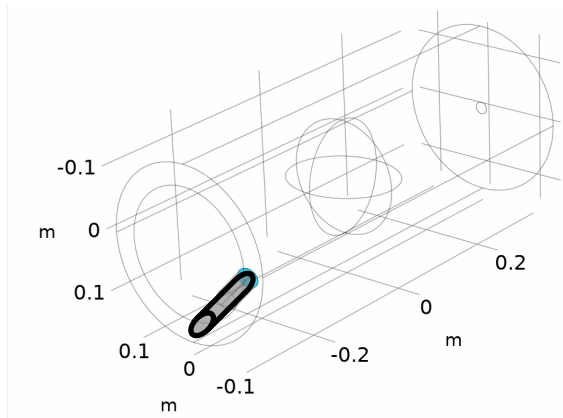


**Goal:** to investigate Electron-Cyclotron-Resonance plasma thermodynamical proprieties (electron density and temperature) in compact trap;

→ A gas or a metallic material vaporized by an oven is fluxed inside a plasma chamber

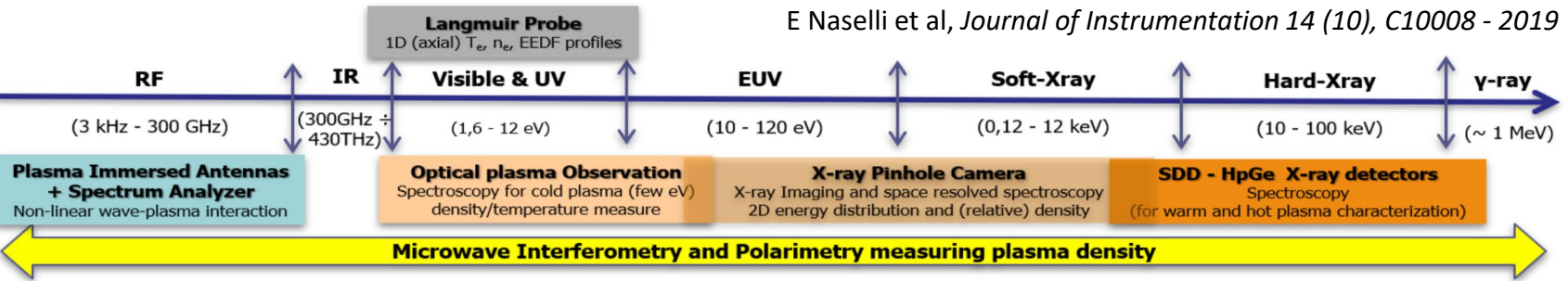
→ Plasma is excited by Electron-Cyclotron-Resonance by microwaves and confined by magnetic fields

→ A multidagnostic system surrounding the plasma chamber was developed to measure plasma parameters



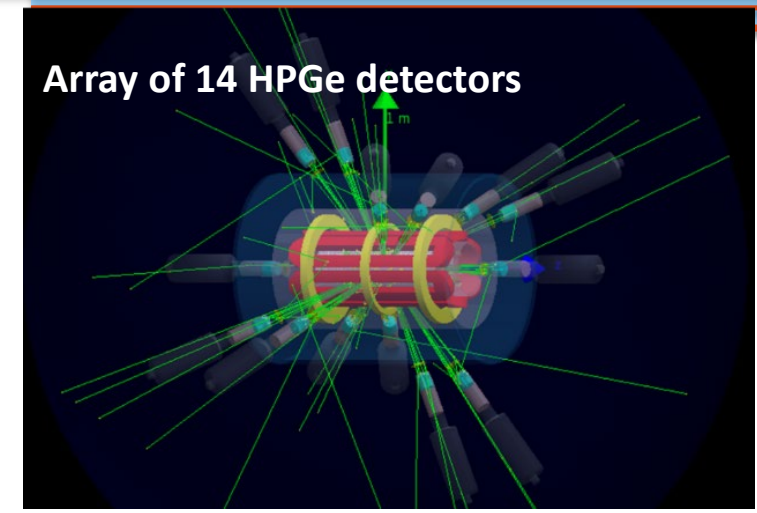
**Method:** ECR plasmas emit radiation from microwave to hard X-rays and this radiation can be used to investigate plasma parameters in different regimes;

### Plasma Emitted Radiation



## PANDORA: 14 HPGe detector array surrounding the plasma trap

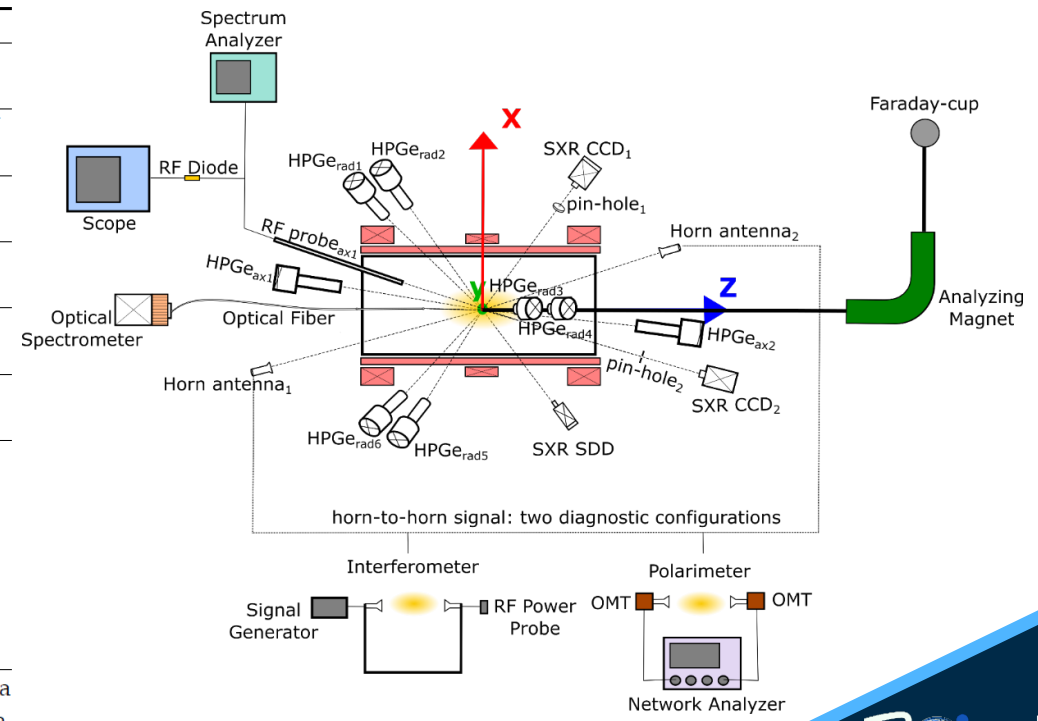
GS Mauro et al, *Frontiers in Physics*, 621(2022)  
 E Naselli et al, *Frontiers in Physics*, 692 (2022)  
 A Gausdouff et al, *Frontiers in Physics*, 2022



## PANDORA: Online plasma multidagnostic

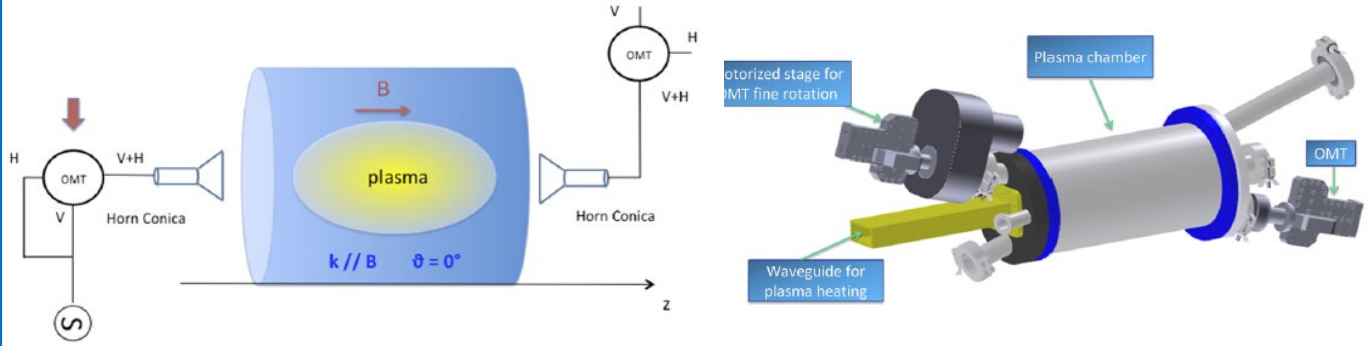
E Naselli et al, *Journal of Instrumentation* 14 (10), C10008 - 2019

Diagnostic tool	Sensitive Range	Measurement	Resolution - Measure Error
SDD	1 ÷ 30 keV	Volumetric soft X-ray Spectroscopy: warm electrons temperature and density	Resolution ~ 120 eV $\epsilon_{ne} \sim 7\%$ , $\epsilon_{Te} \sim 5\%$
HPGe detector	30 ÷ 2000 keV	Volumetric hard X-ray Spectroscopy: hot electrons temperature and density	FWHM @ 1332.5 keV < 2.4 keV $\epsilon_{ne} \sim 7\%$ , $\epsilon_{Te} \sim 5\%$
Visible Light Camera	1 ÷ 12 eV	Optical Emission Spectroscopy: cold electrons temperature and density	$\Delta\lambda = 0.035$ nm R = 13900
X-ray pin-hole camera	2 ÷ 15 keV	2D Space-resolved spectroscopy: soft X-ray Imaging and plasma structure	Energy Resolution ~ 0.3 keV Spatial Resolution ~ 0.5 mm
W-band super-heterodyne polarimeter	W-band 90 ÷ 100 GHz	Plasma-induced Faraday rotation: line-integrated electron density	$\epsilon_{ne} \sim 25\%$
Microwave Imaging Profilometry (MIP)	60 ÷ 100 GHz	Electron density profile	$\epsilon_{ne} \sim 1\% \div 13\%$
Multi-pins RF probe	10 ÷ 26.5 GHz	Local EM field intensity	$\epsilon \sim 0.073 \div 0.138$ dB
Multi-pins RF probe + Spectrum Analyzer (SA)	10 ÷ 26.5 GHz (probe range)	Frequency-domain RF wave	SA Resolution bandwidth: RBW = 3 MHz
Multi-pins RF probe + Scope + HPGe detector	10 ÷ 26.5 GHz (probe range)	Time-resolved radiofrequency burst and X-ray time-resolved Spectroscopy	80 Gs/s (scope) time scales below ns
Thomson Scattering	0.5 ÷ 500 eV	EEDF, absolute electron density global electron drift velocity	Condition-dependent (a function of spectral width, dependent on temperature, and area, dependent on density)



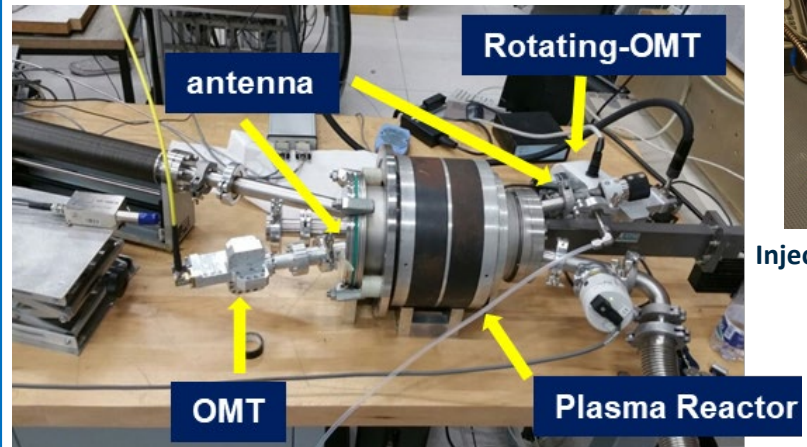
# Microwave Polarimetry for the non-invasive measurement of the plasma density

**Polarimetric** system based on 2 horn-antennas coupled with 2 OMTs (one of which is rotating) operating at 18-26.5 GHz

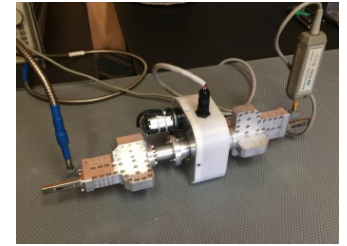


$$\vartheta_F = \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega - \omega_g)}} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega + \omega_g)}} \right)$$

**Polarimetry:** density measurement is based on the evaluation of the Faraday rotation angle of the polarization plane of an e.m. wave that passes through the magnetoplasma



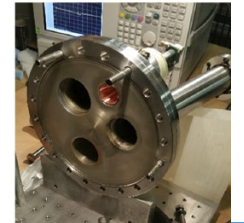
OrthoMode Transducer (OMT)



Horn antennas



Injection and extraction flanges with horn-antennas



**Polarimetry:** based on the evaluation of the Faraday rotation angle of the polarization plane of an e.m. wave that passes through the magnetoplasma

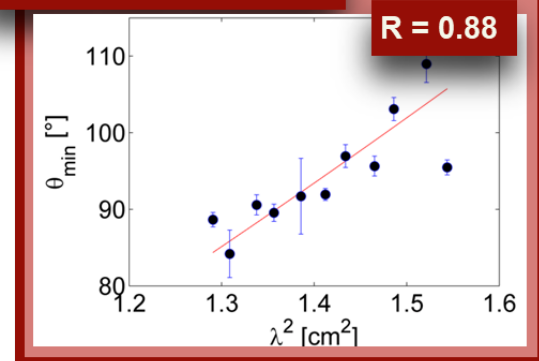
$$\theta = \int_0^L \frac{\omega}{2c} \left[ \sqrt{1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega - \omega_{ce})}} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega + \omega_{ce})}} \right] \cdot dz \sim \left( \frac{e^3}{2\pi m^2 c^4} \int_0^L n_e B \cdot dz \right) \lambda^2 = RM \lambda^2$$

**O-wave and X-wave different propagation constant in anisotropic plasma**

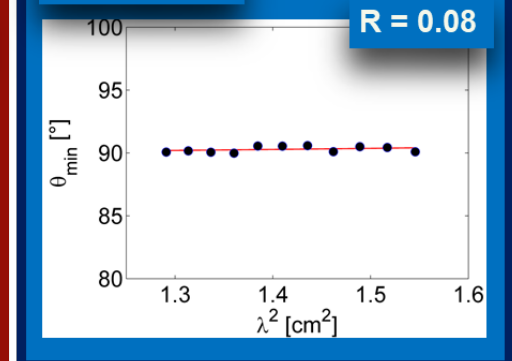
Known the magnetic field B, by a fitting procedure is possible to measure the plasma density:

$$n_e = 2.93 \pm 0.8 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ m}^{-3}$$

Plasma filled Chamber



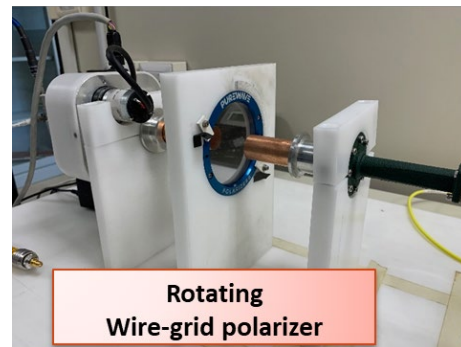
Free-Space



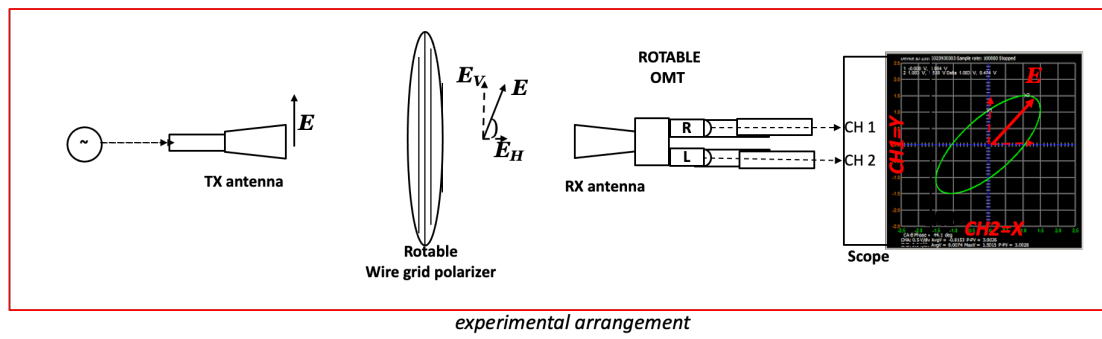
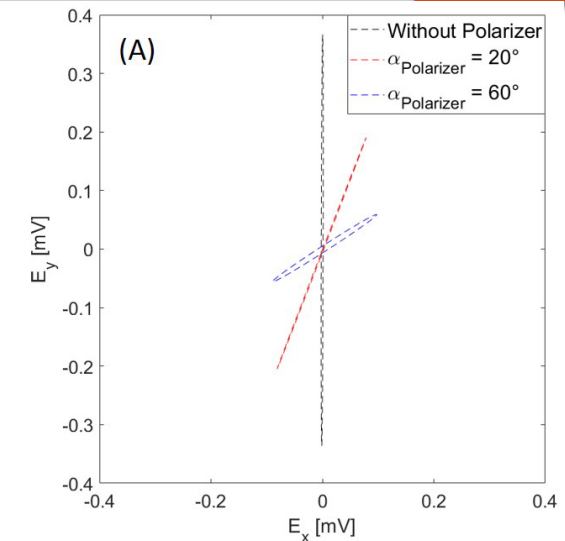


# Experimental Testbench: OMT-based K-band scheme

## Wire-grid polarizer SETUP

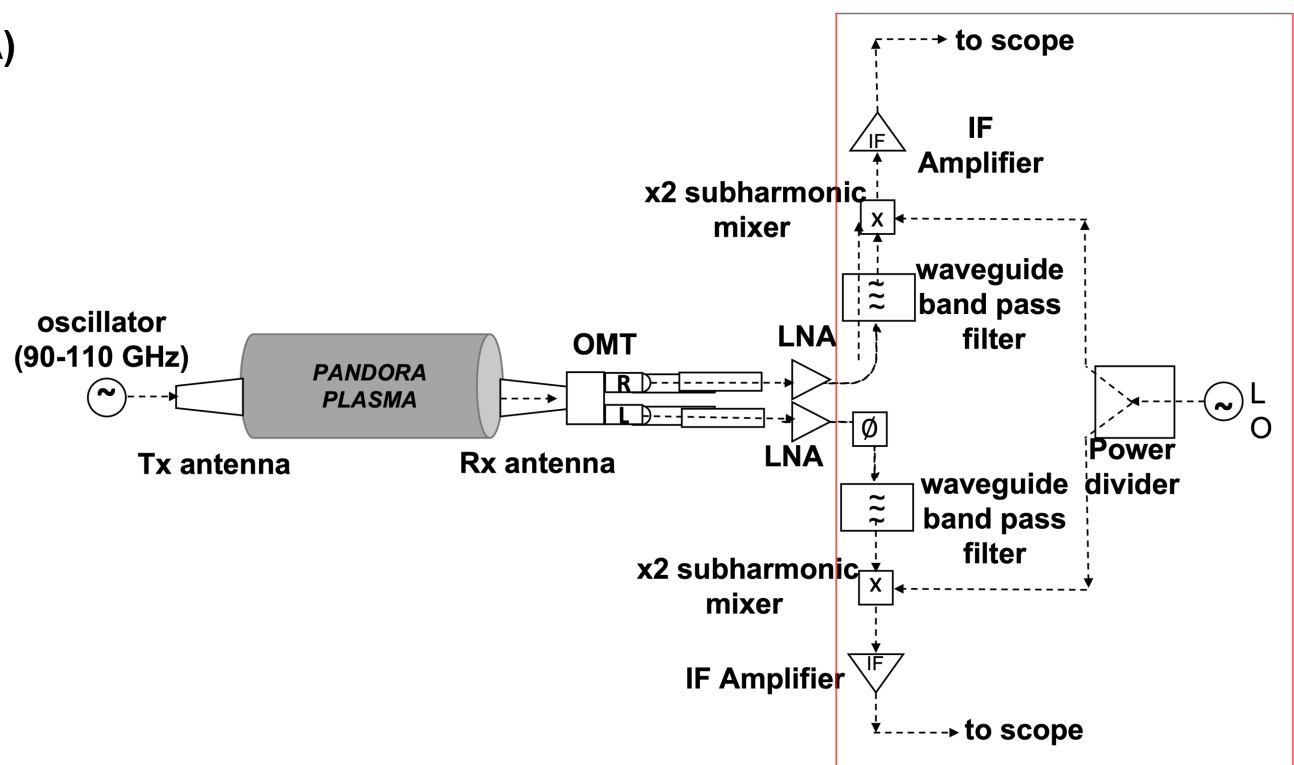


Rotating Wire-grid polarizer



experimental arrangement

(A)



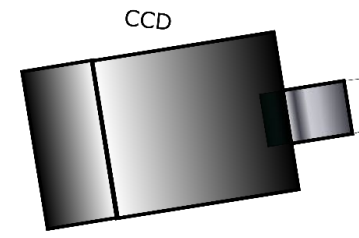
Super-heterodyne scheme for Stokes Parameters detection in magnetized plasmas: simplified block-diagram of the mm-wave polarimeter for PANDORA.

# Soft X-ray Imaging and Space-resolved spectroscopy for the local measurement of plasma density and temperature

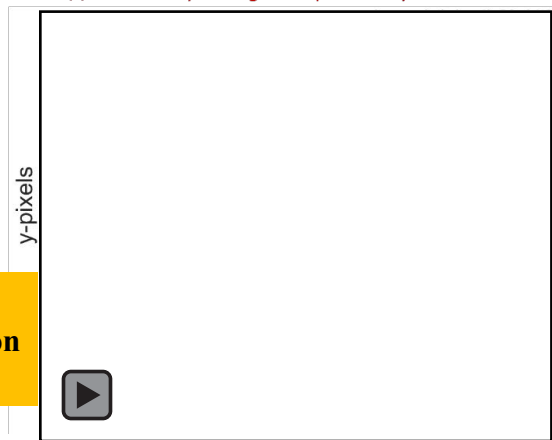
**CCD Camera**

- Sensitivity range ~ 2 ÷ 20 keV
- Sensor Size: 13.3 mm x 13.3 mm (1024 x 1024 Pixels)
- Pixel size: 13 μm x 13 μm
- Lead Pin-hole (diameters 400 μm)

- **Energy Resolution ~ 260 eV @ 8 keV**
- **Spatial Resolution ~ 450 μm**

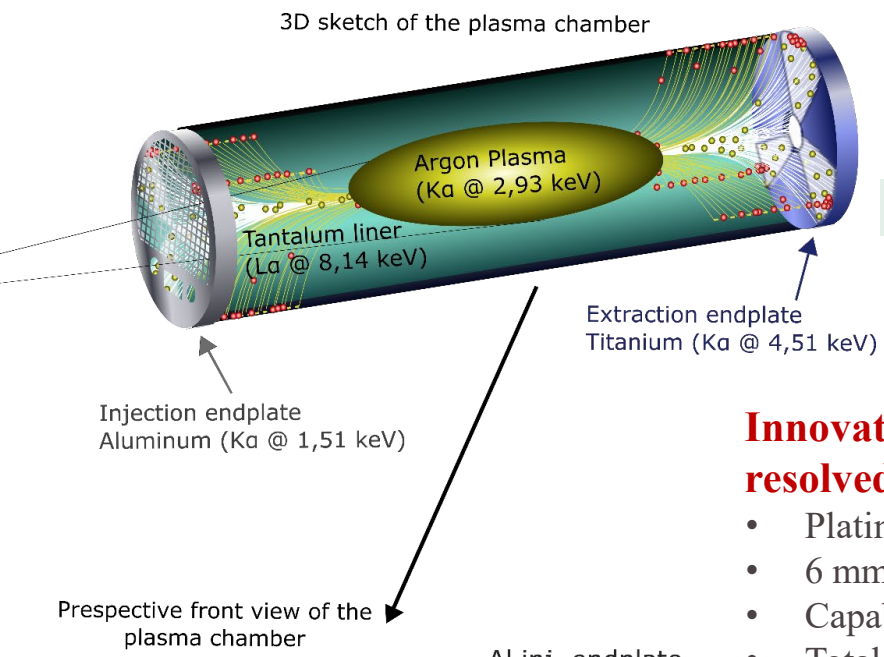
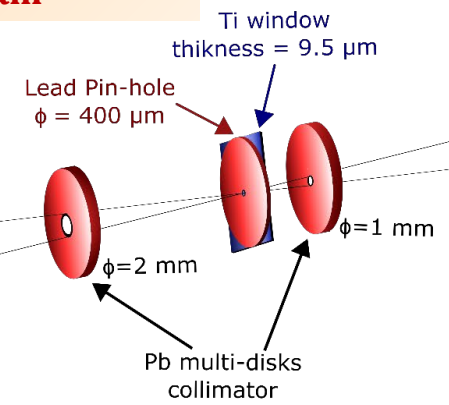


Typical X-ray image acquired by the CCD

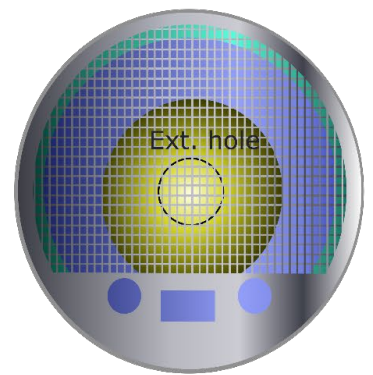


**“Live” plasma structure and emission investigations**

**Soft X-ray pin-hole camera tool**



Perspective front view of the plasma chamber



- Al inj. endplate and mesh
- Ti ext. endplate
- Ta liner
- Ar plasma
- Pb pin-hole + multi-disks collimator

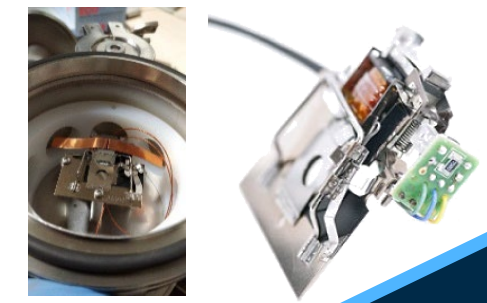
**Advanced design of the plasma chamber walls**

**Fluorescence lines can be used to get info about where the electrons collide on the chamber walls**

(plasma vs losses X-radiation emission)

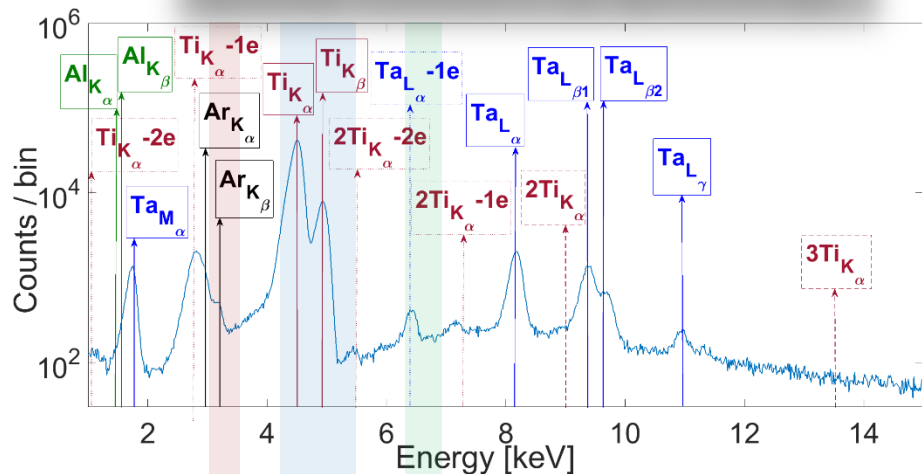
**Innovative soft X-ray Shutter for time resolved measurements:**

- Platinum-Iridium (PtIr) material;
- 6 mm aperture diameter;
- Capable of blocking X-ray energy up to 30 keV;
- Total opening time: 4.4 milliseconds



**Advanced Algorithm for Single Photon Counted (SPhC) Analysis**

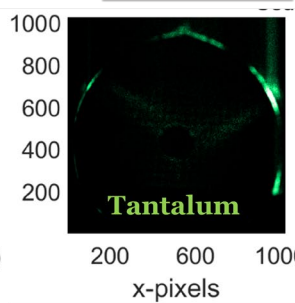
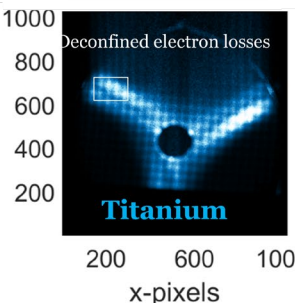
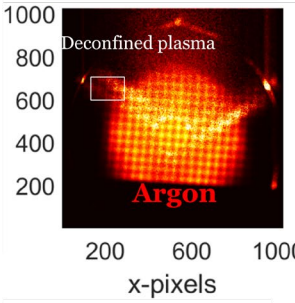
**Spatially-resolved X-ray Spectroscopy**



**Plasma structure inspection**

**Axial losses inspection**

**Radial losses inspection**



It is possible pixel-by-pixel to investigate the balance between plasma emissions vs. losses emissions

**Plasma radius evaluation (uncertainty of 5%)**

In SPhC each pixel becomes an independent spectrally-sensitive detector: decoupling of photon number vs. energy

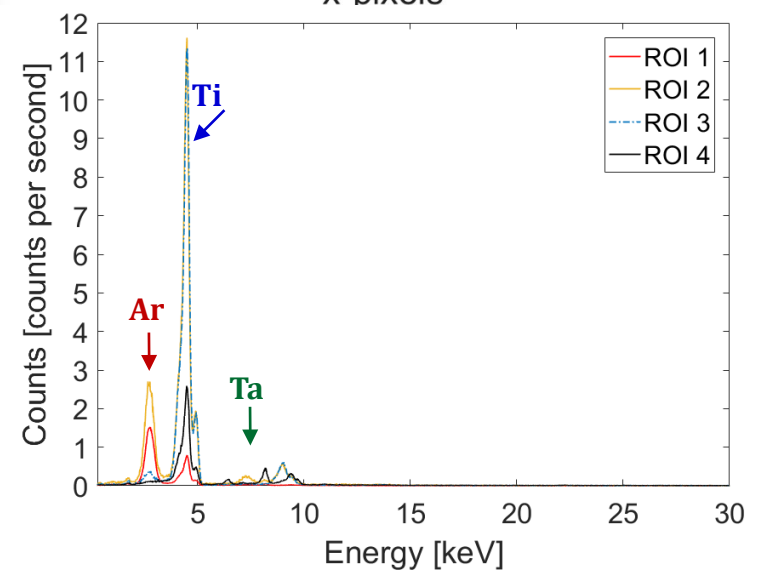
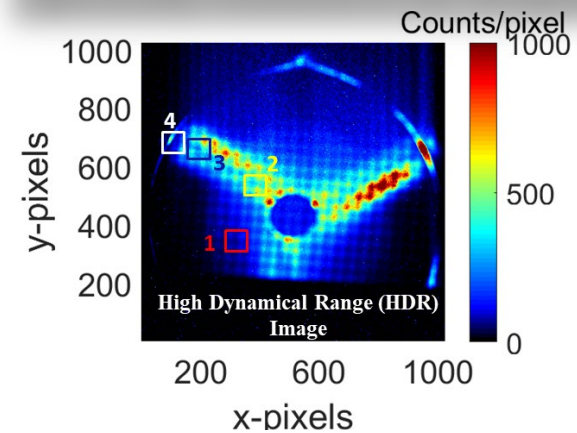
**POWERFUL Investigations: SPATIALLY-RESOLVED SPECTROSCOPY**

The data on the spectrum contains the spatial information on the emitting positions: the definition of a ROI allows the imaging of the elemental distribution.

**High spatial and energy resolutions:**

- Energy Resolution ~ 260 eV @ 8 keV
- Spatial Resolution ~ 450  $\mu$ m

**Spectrally-resolved X-ray Imaging**



Analyzing each ROI-spectrum it is possible locally measure the plasma parameters (electron density, temperature) Comparing experimental spectrum vs. theoretical one

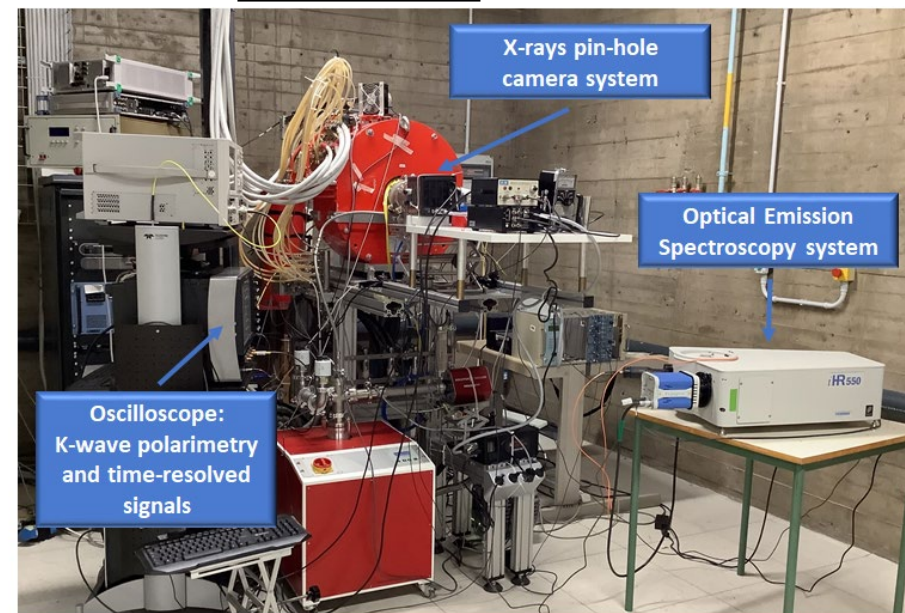
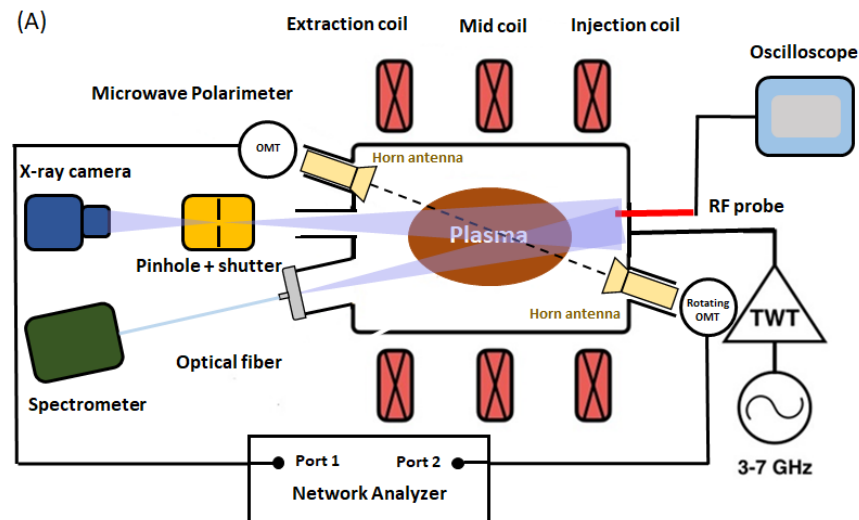
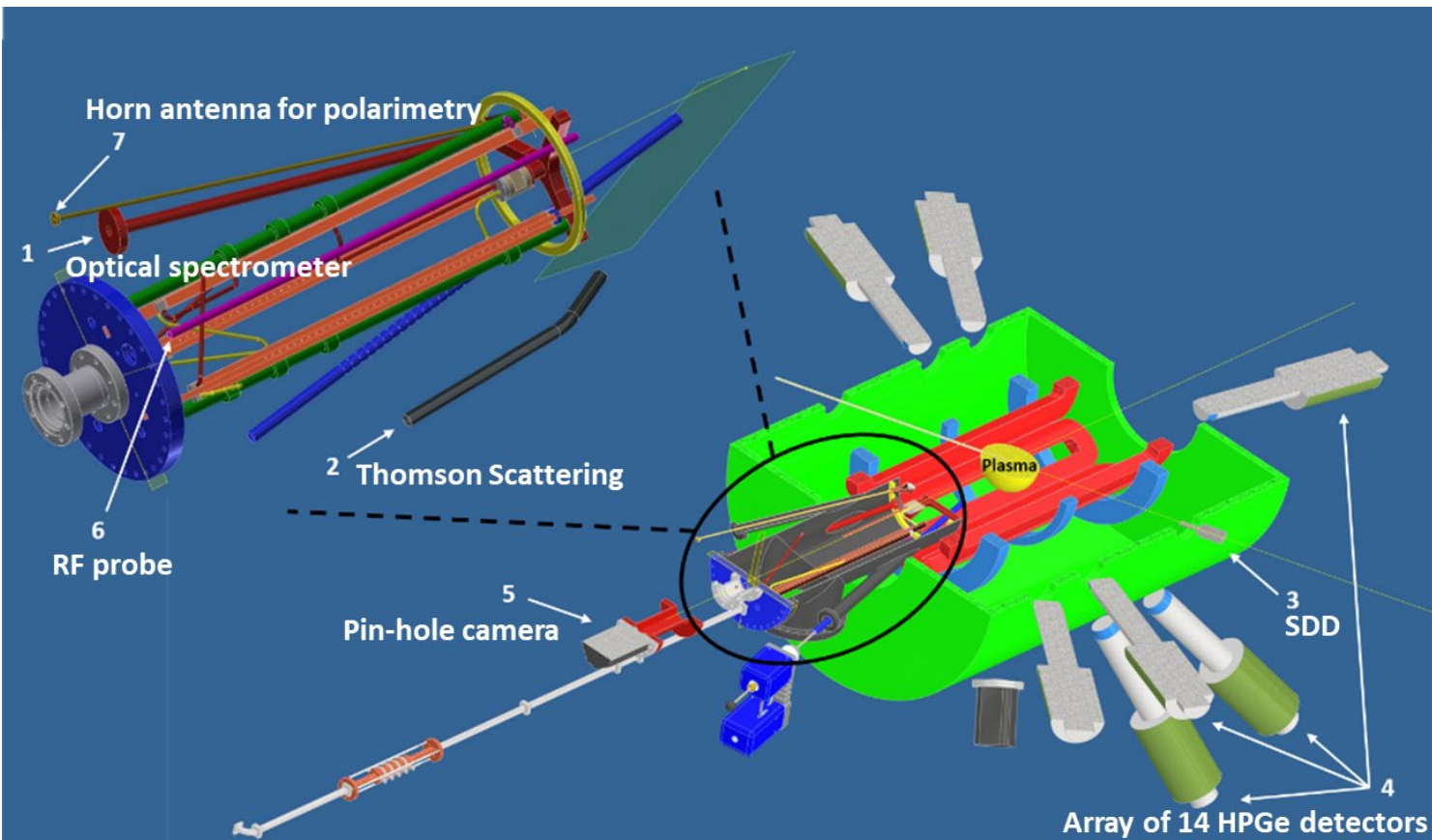
E. Naselli et al., Condensed Matter 7(1), 5, 2022  
 E. Naselli et al., JINST (2022) 17 C01009  
 S. Biri et al., JINST 16, 2021, P03003

B. Mishra et al., Physics of Plasmas 28, 102509 (2021)  
 B. Mishra et al., Condensed Matter 6(4) (2021) 4

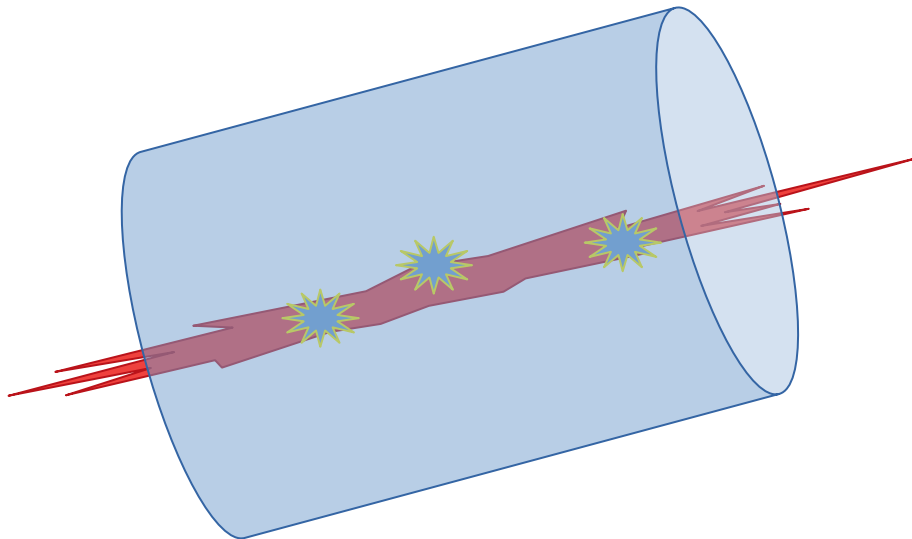


# Towards PANDORA...

# Multi-diagnostics approach in the Flexible Plasma Trap @ INFN-LNS



# Versatile Array for Laser-induced Astrophysics Research



← Yes, we do need a logo



D. Lattuada, G.L. Guardo, A. Bonasera, M. La Cognata, A. Tumino, L. Lamia, A.A. Oliva, S. Palmerini, R.G. Pizzone, G.G. Rapisarda.

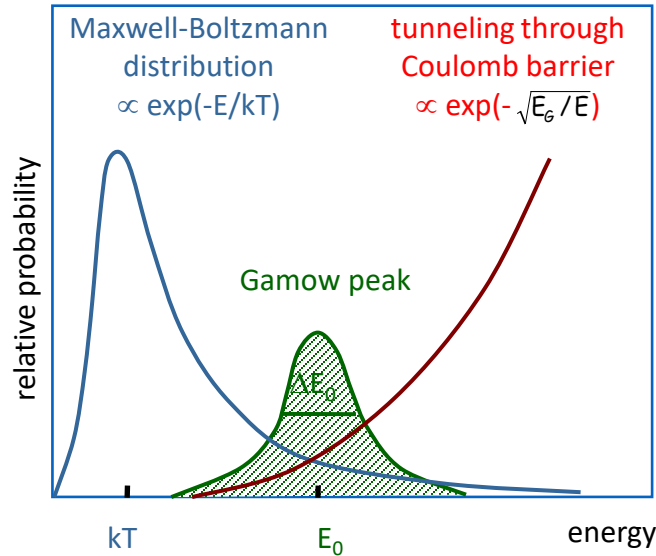
University of Texas – CHEDS, Austin, US  
 Cyclotron Institute, Texas A&M, US  
 ELI-NP - IFIN-HH, Bucharest, Romania  
 ENEA ABC, Frascati, Italy



Nuclear Physics  
 Mid Term Plan in Italy



Courtesy of A. Tumino



Example:  $T \sim 15 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$  ( $T_6 = 15$ )

reaction	C.barrier (MeV)	$E_0$ (keV)	area under Gamow peak
$p + p$	0.5	5.9	$7.0 \times 10^{-6}$
$\alpha + {}^{12}\text{C}$	2.242	56	$5.9 \times 10^{-56}$
${}^{16}\text{O} + {}^{16}\text{O}$	10.349	237	$2.5 \times 10^{-237}$

For  $T \sim 200 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$ ,  $E_0 \sim 320 \text{ keV}$   
 $kT \sim 17 \text{ keV}$

**Gamow peak:** most effective energy region for thermonuclear reactions

It is where measurements should be carried out

$10^{-18} \text{ barn} < \sigma < 10^{-9} \text{ barn}$



- EXTRAPOLATION
- LUNA MV – JUNA: with background suppression

.. explore directly in laboratory plasmas!

# Evaluating the electron screening

Relatively small enhancements due to electron screening at energies  $E/U = 100$  could cause significant errors in the extrapolation to lower energies, if the cross-section curve is forced to follow the trend of the enhanced cross sections without correcting for screening.

The whole effect of screening in this case ( $U_0 \ll E_{max}$ ) is then that the reaction rate with screening neglected has to be multiplied by the factor

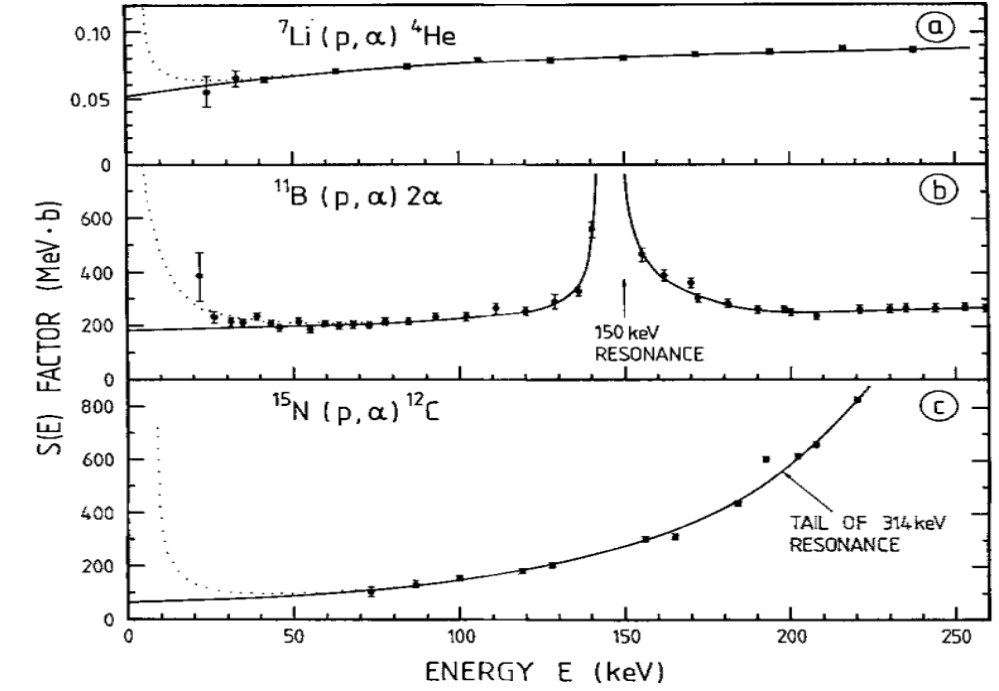
$$e^{-\frac{U_0}{KT}}$$

- $R_D = 2.812 \times 10^{-7} \rho^{-1/2} T_9^{1/2} \zeta^{-1} \text{ (cm)}$
- Weak screening:  $R_D \gg r_{nuclei}$  (stars)
- Intermediate screening:  $\langle E_C \rangle \approx KT$
- Strong screening:  $\langle E_C \rangle \gg KT$

$$f(E) = \frac{\langle \sigma_s v \rangle}{\langle \sigma_b v \rangle} \approx e^{\frac{\pi \eta U}{E}},$$

$$U \approx \frac{Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{R_0}$$

$$\sigma_{stdexp} \neq \sigma_{plasma} \approx \sigma_{stars} \neq \sigma_b = \sigma_{THM}$$

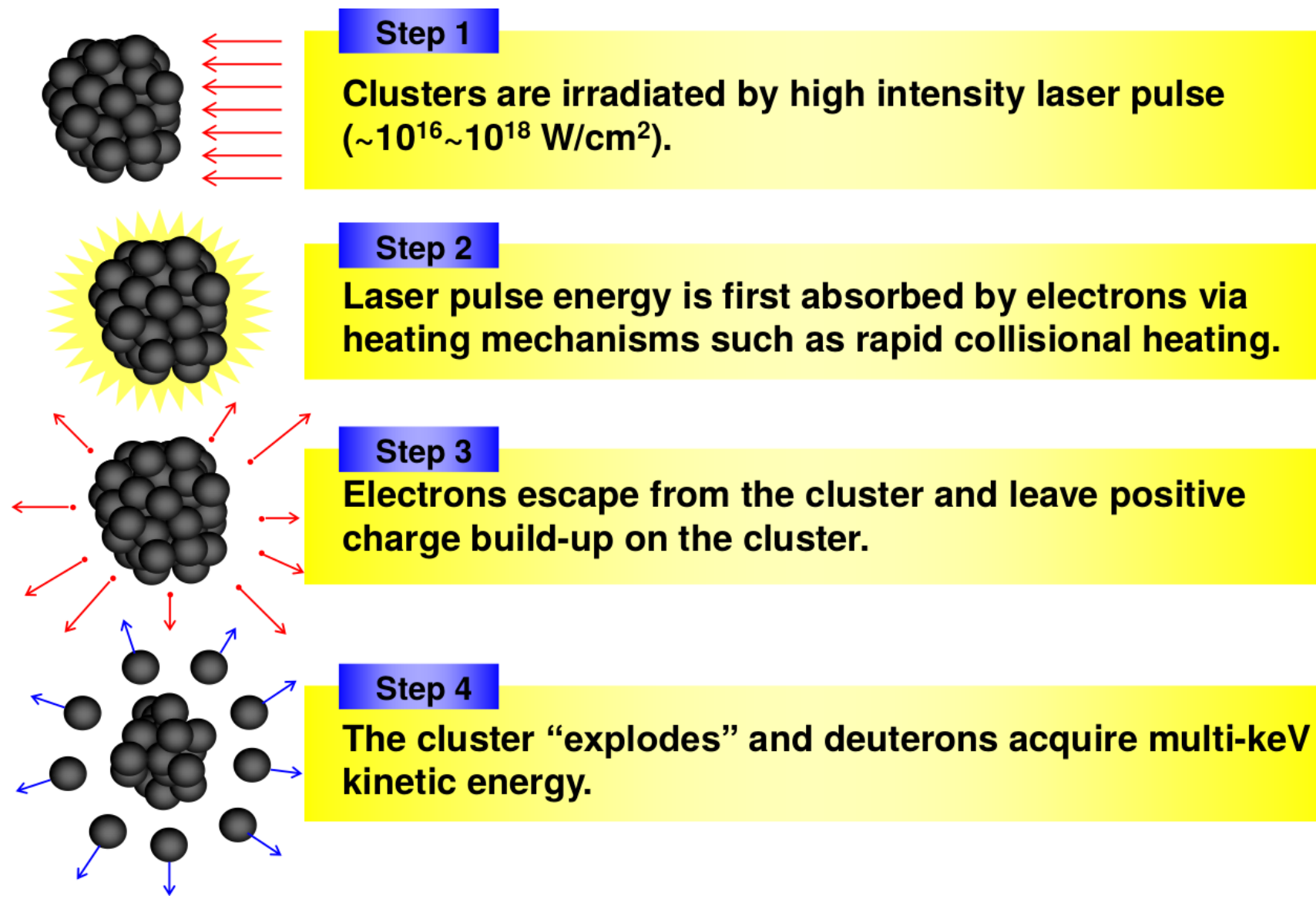


Effects of electron screening on low-energy fusion cross sections Assenbaum, H. J., Langanke, K., & Rolfs, C. 1987

ELECTRON SCREENING AND THERMONUCLEAR REACTIONS E. E. SALPETER 1954



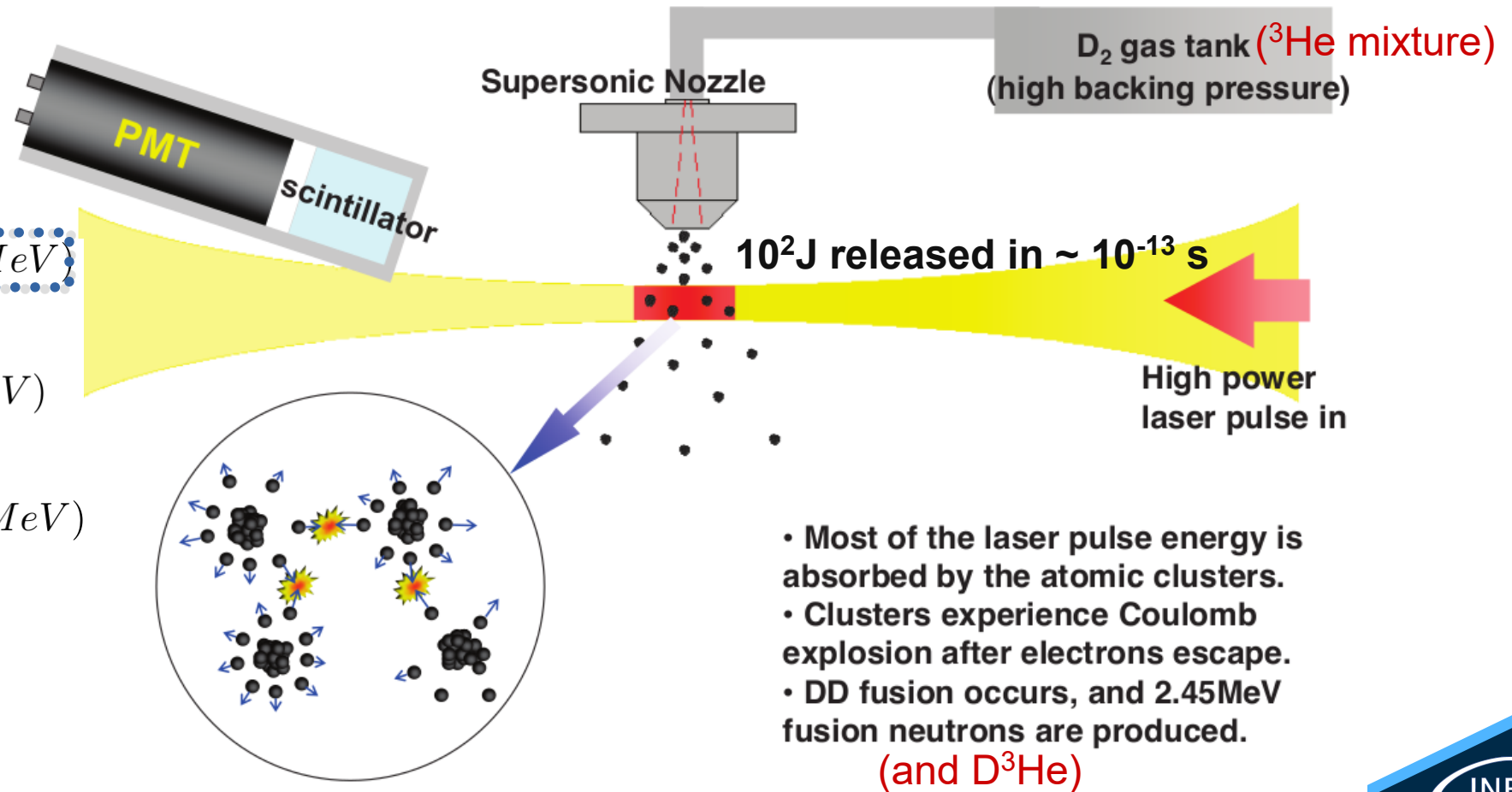
# Coulomb Explosion of cryoclusters



# Exp. Campaigns @ UT Petawatt Laser 2011&2016

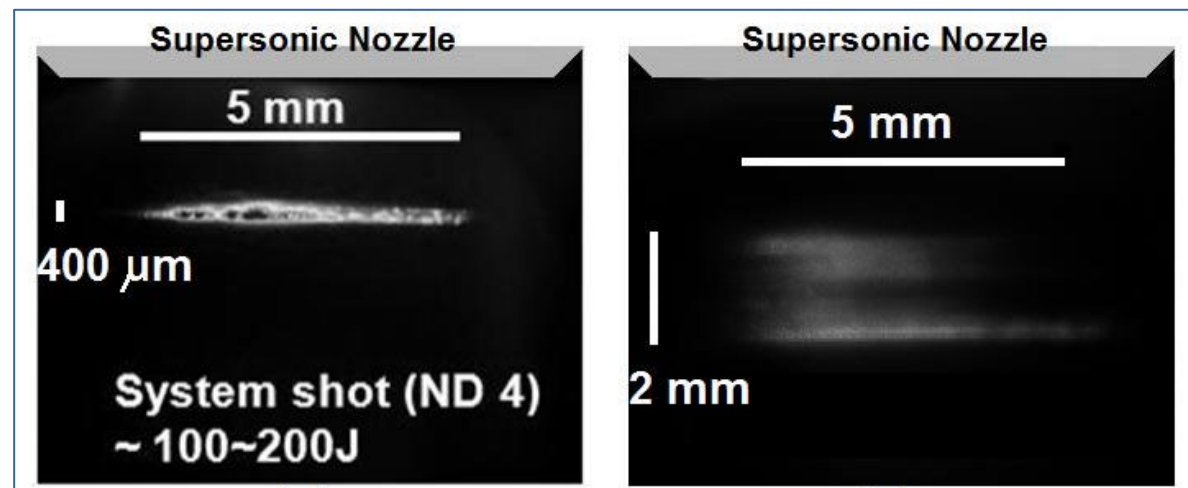
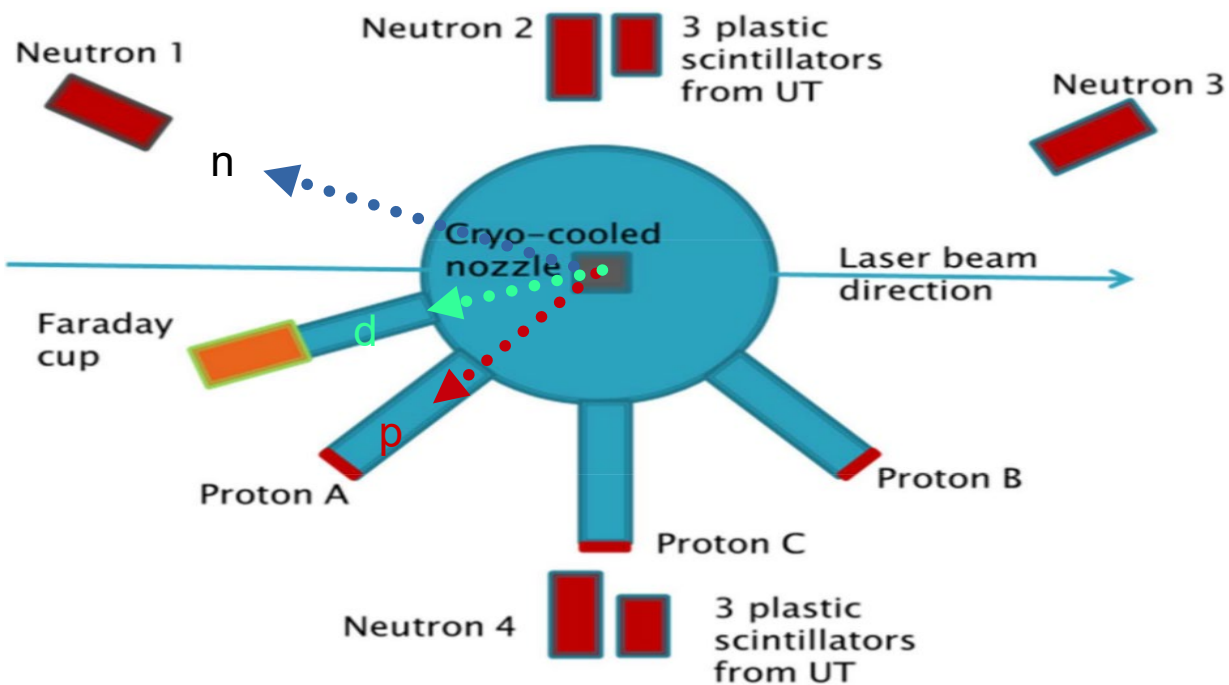
E = 100-140 J  
 Pulse duration: 140 fs  
 Rep. Rate: ~ 1/hour  
 CW: 1057 nm  
 Intensity ~  $10^{21}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>

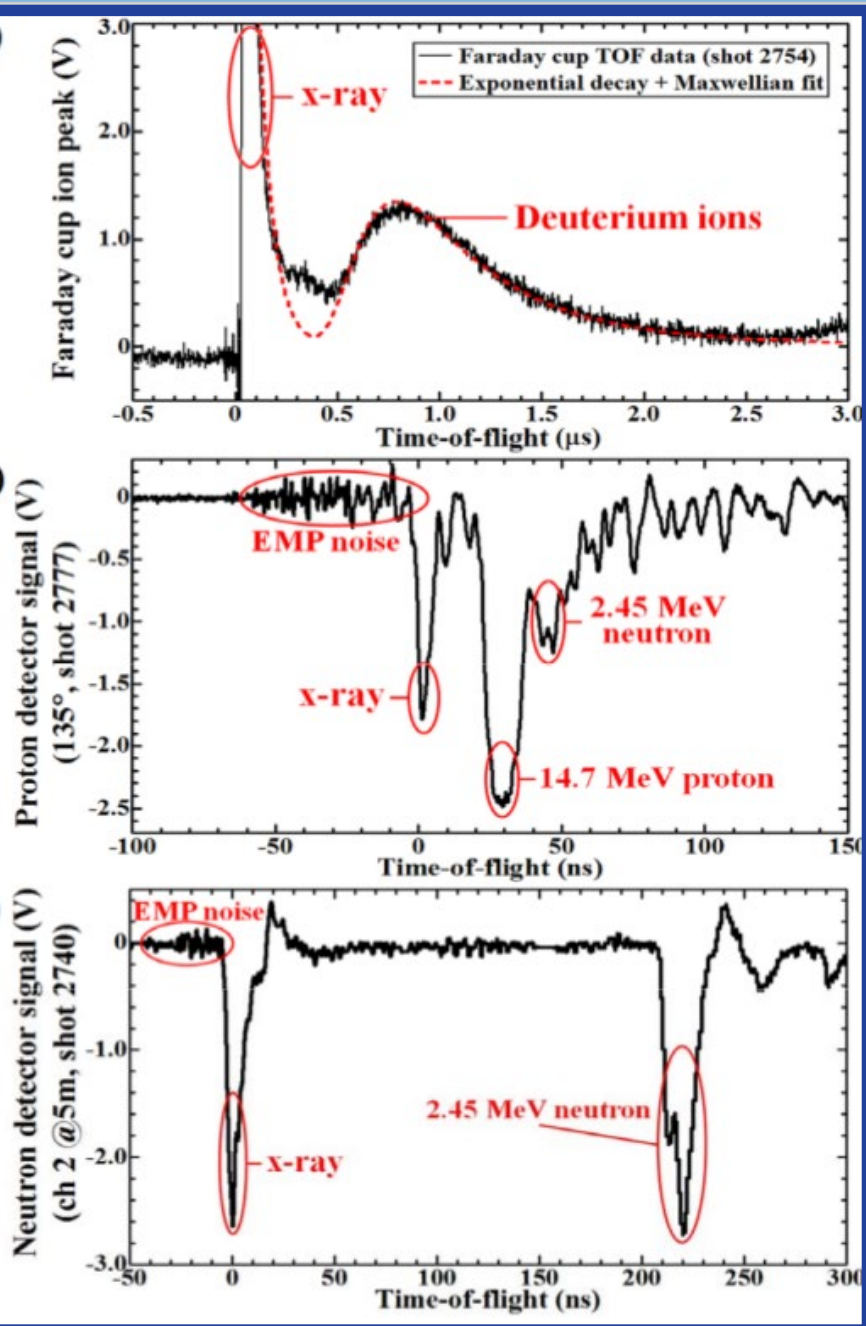
## Nuclear fusion from laser-cluster interaction





$$Y_{n, BB} = l \rho_D \int \frac{dN}{dE} \sigma_{BB}(E) dE$$



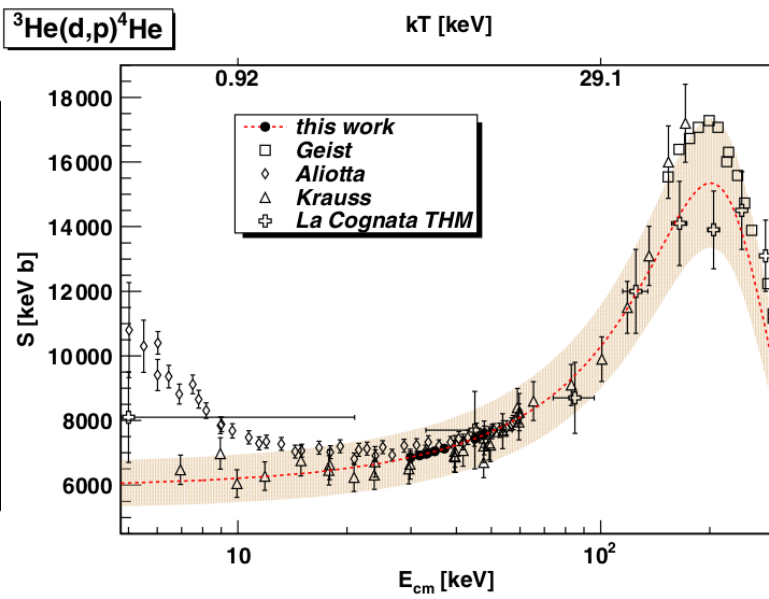
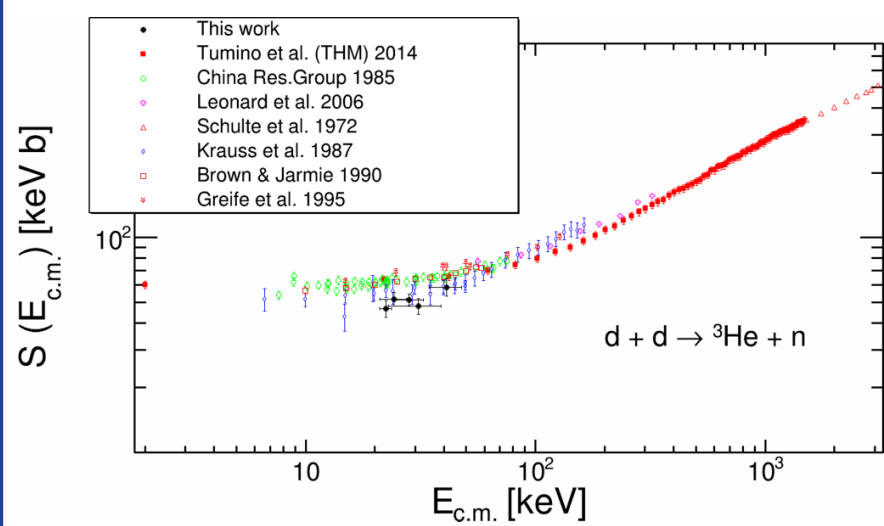


$$Y_{n,BB} = l\rho_D \int \frac{dN}{dE} \sigma_{BB}(E) dE$$

$$2\pi\eta = b/\sqrt{E}$$

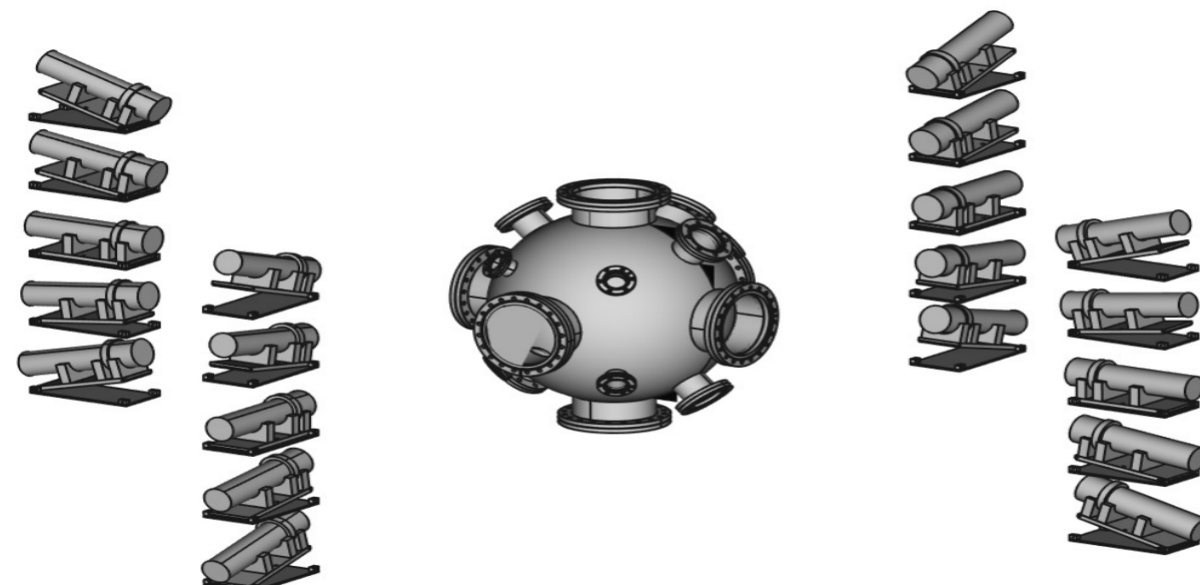
$$b = 0.9898 Z_i Z_j \sqrt{A} \text{ MeV}^{1/2}$$

$$\sigma(E) = \frac{S(E)}{E} \exp(-2\pi\eta(E))$$

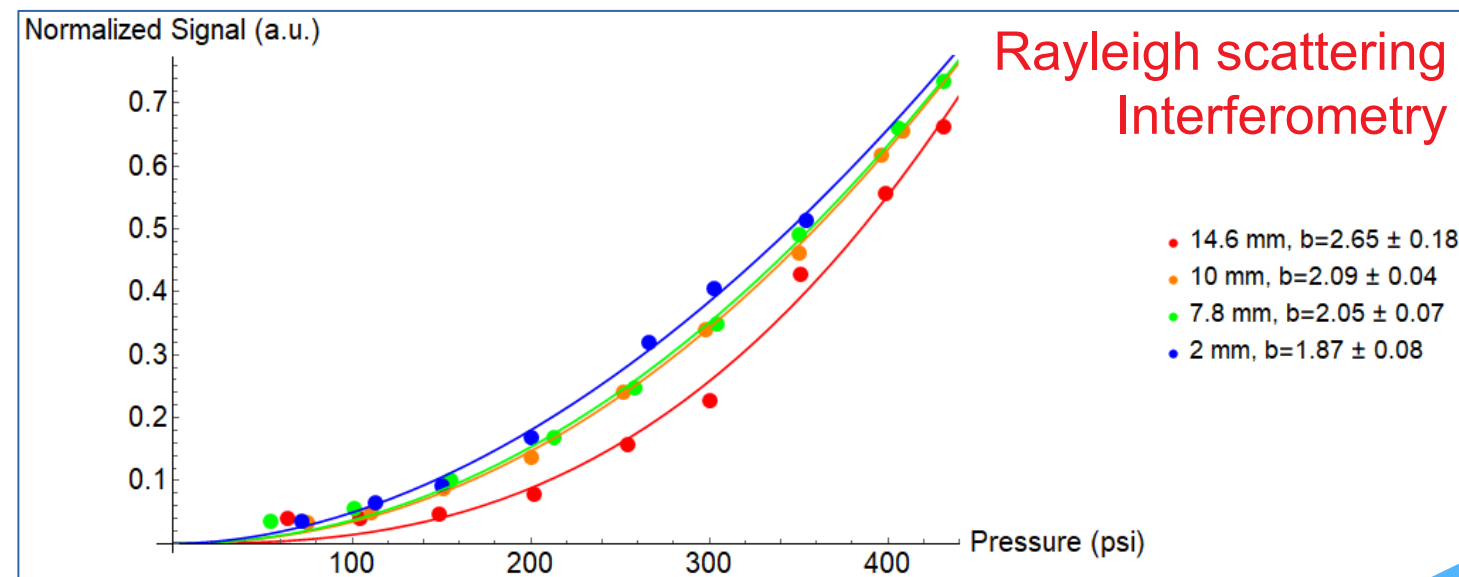
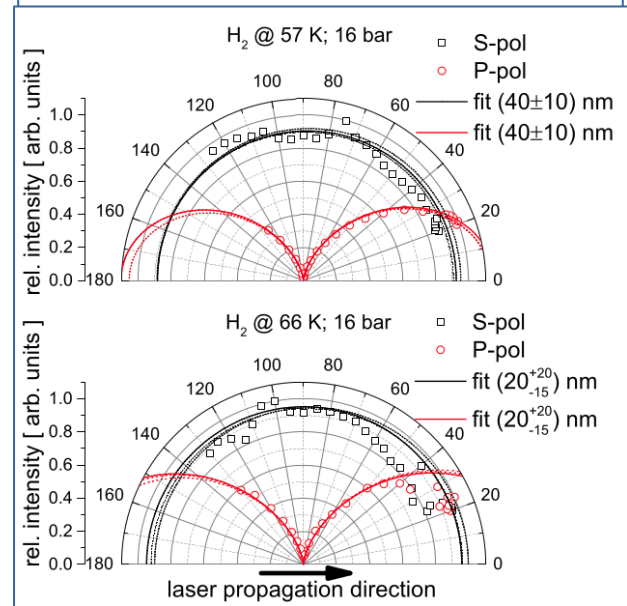
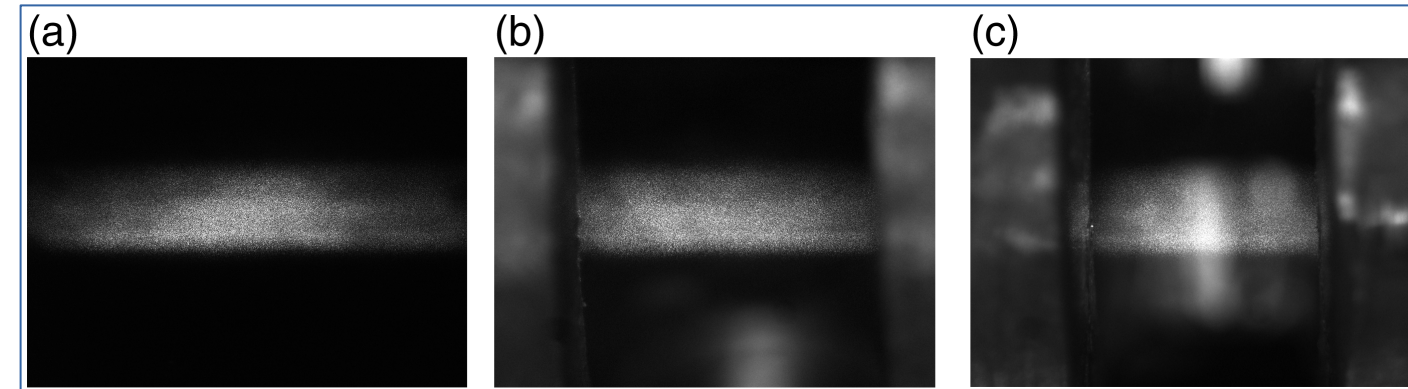
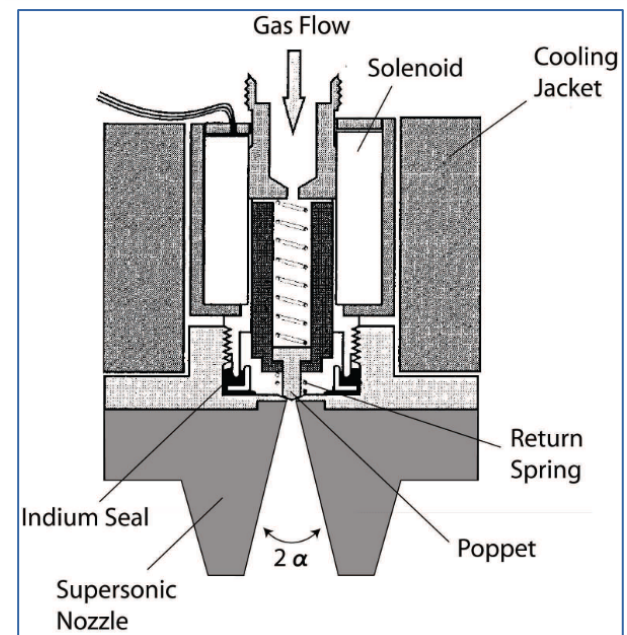


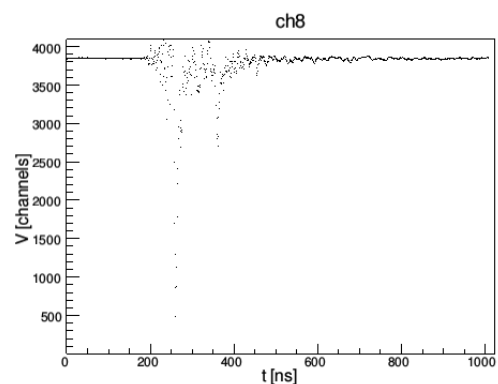
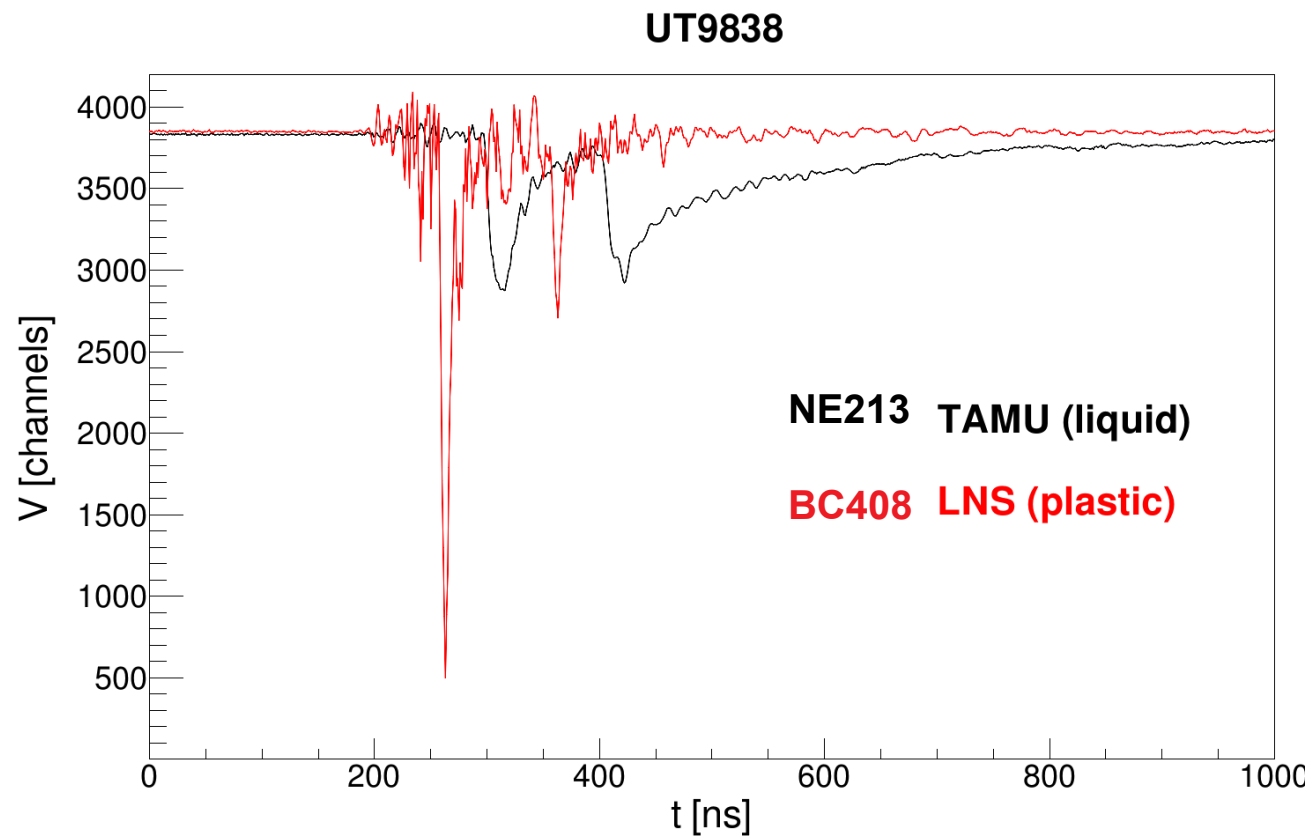
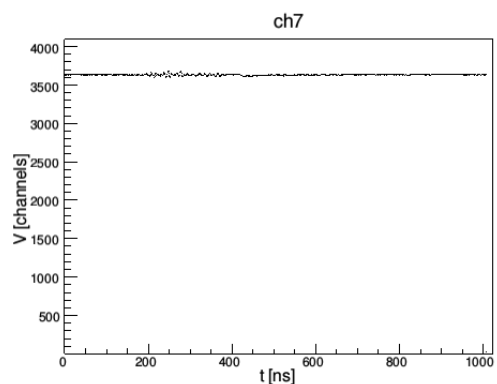
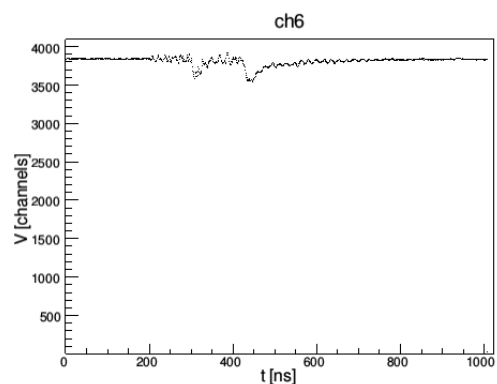
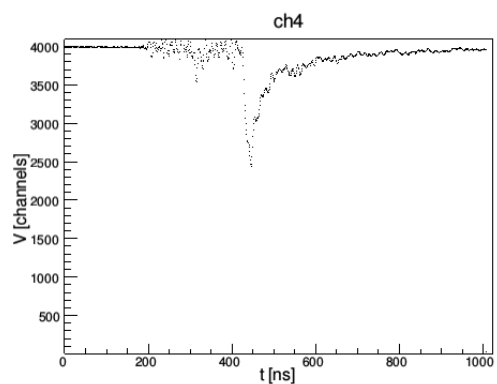
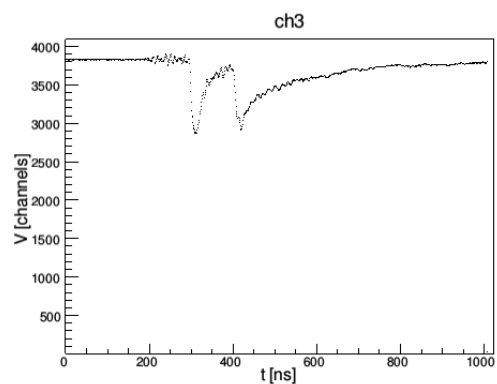
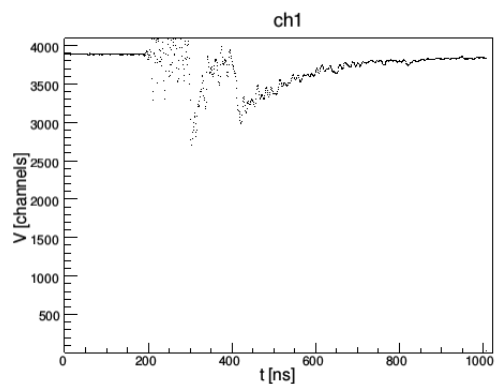
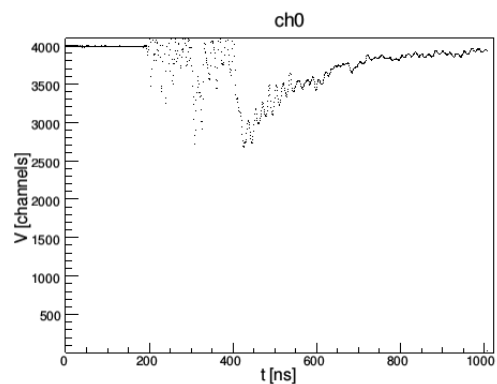
# Versatile Array for Laser-induced Astrophysics Research

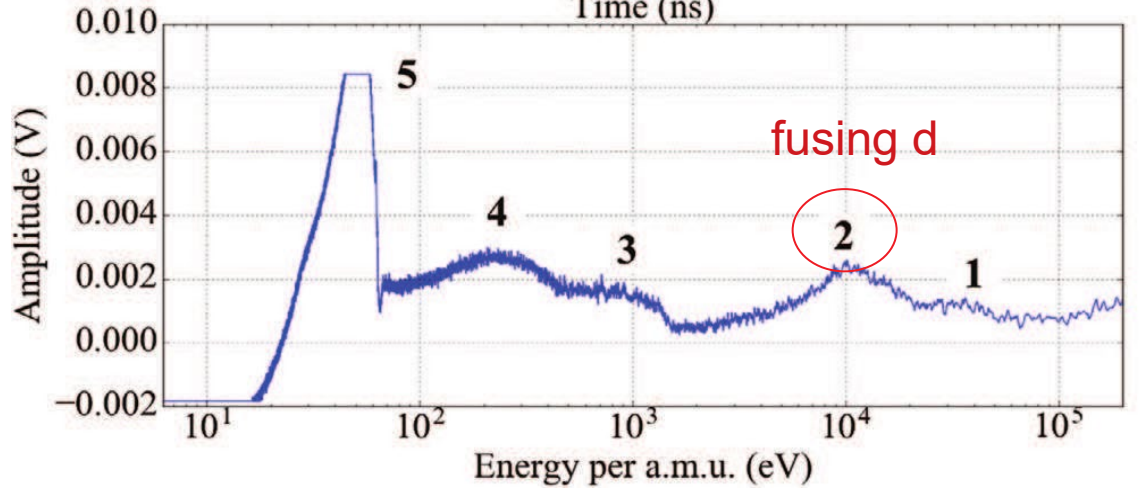
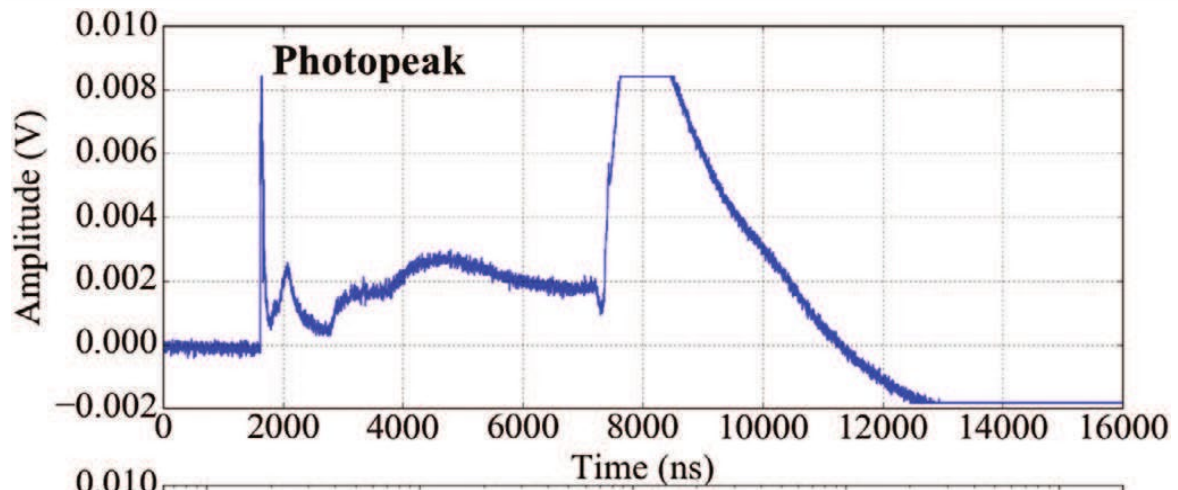
- *Science-driven, portable, cost-efficient*
- cryo-cooled supersonic nozzle
- compact interaction chamber
- neutron ToF detectors (plastic/liquid scintillators)
- charged particle ToF detectors (SiC/CVD diamond detectors + FCs)
- 2 TPS with MCP readout
- CR39 supplies and ancillary equipment
  
- *additional R&D:*
- $\gamma$  &  $e^-$  calorimeters, TimePix3, MCP as ToF



*Under evaluation by funding agencies*

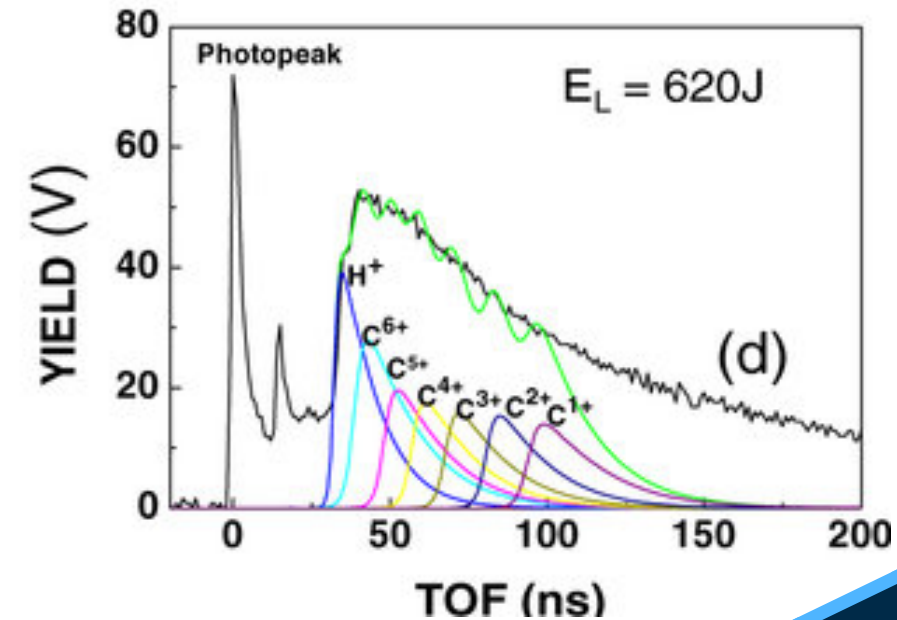
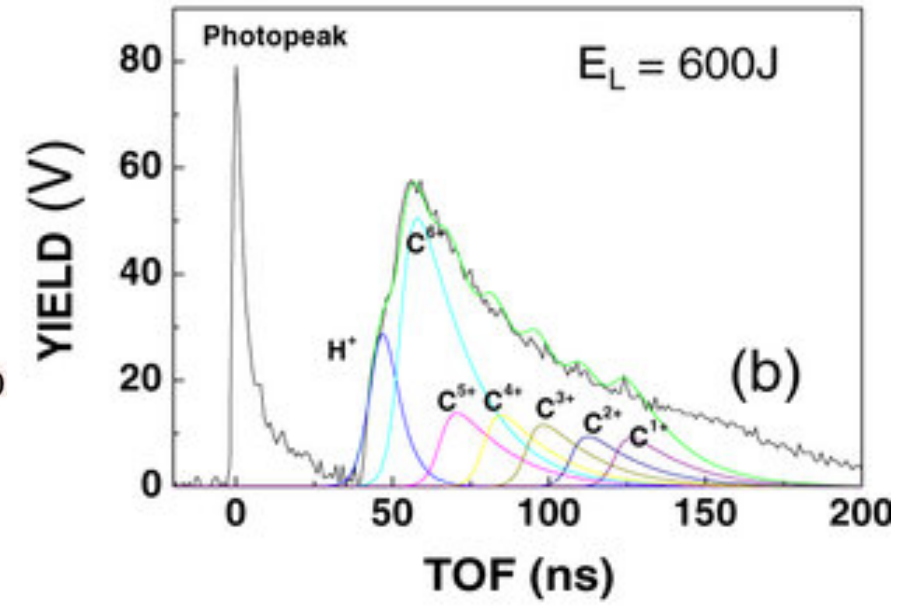






**Mono-crystalline CVD diamonds**

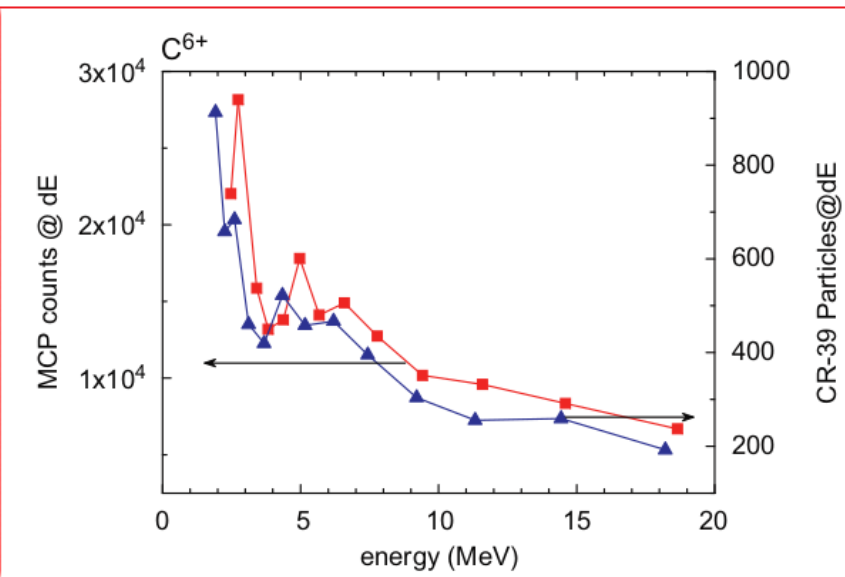
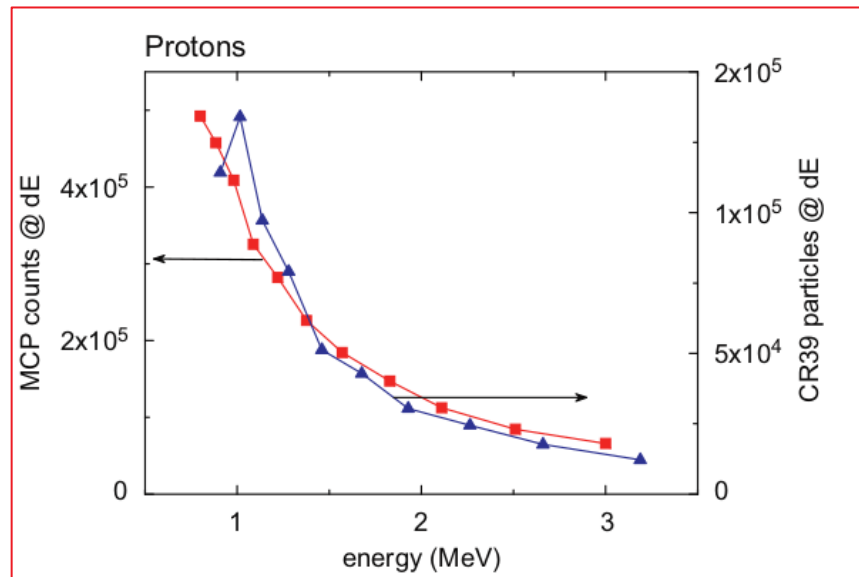
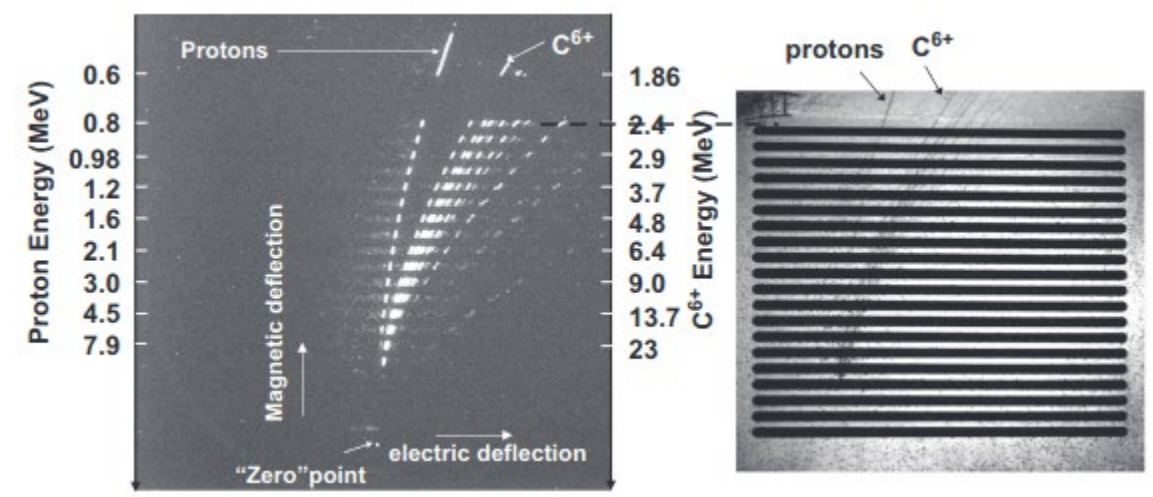
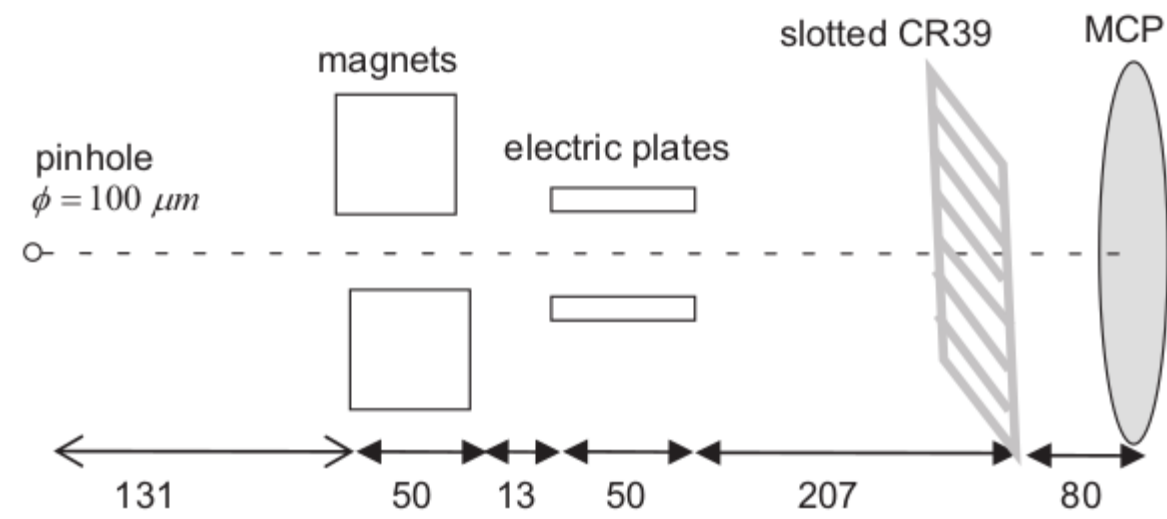
D. Giulietti et al., D+D fusion reactions in  $10^{18}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> intensity and repetitive laser-plasma interactions, EPL, 119 (2017)



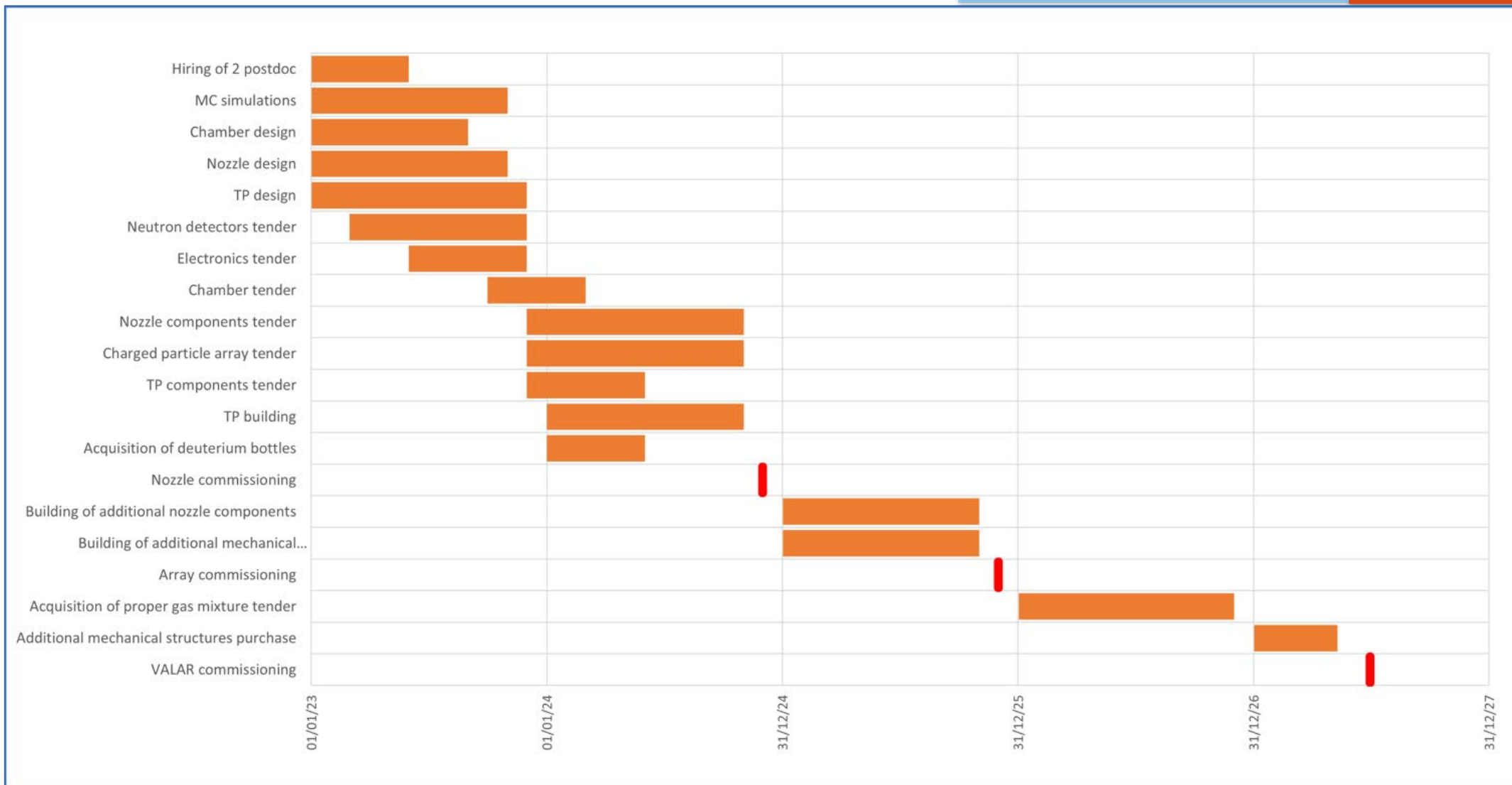
**Silicon carbides**

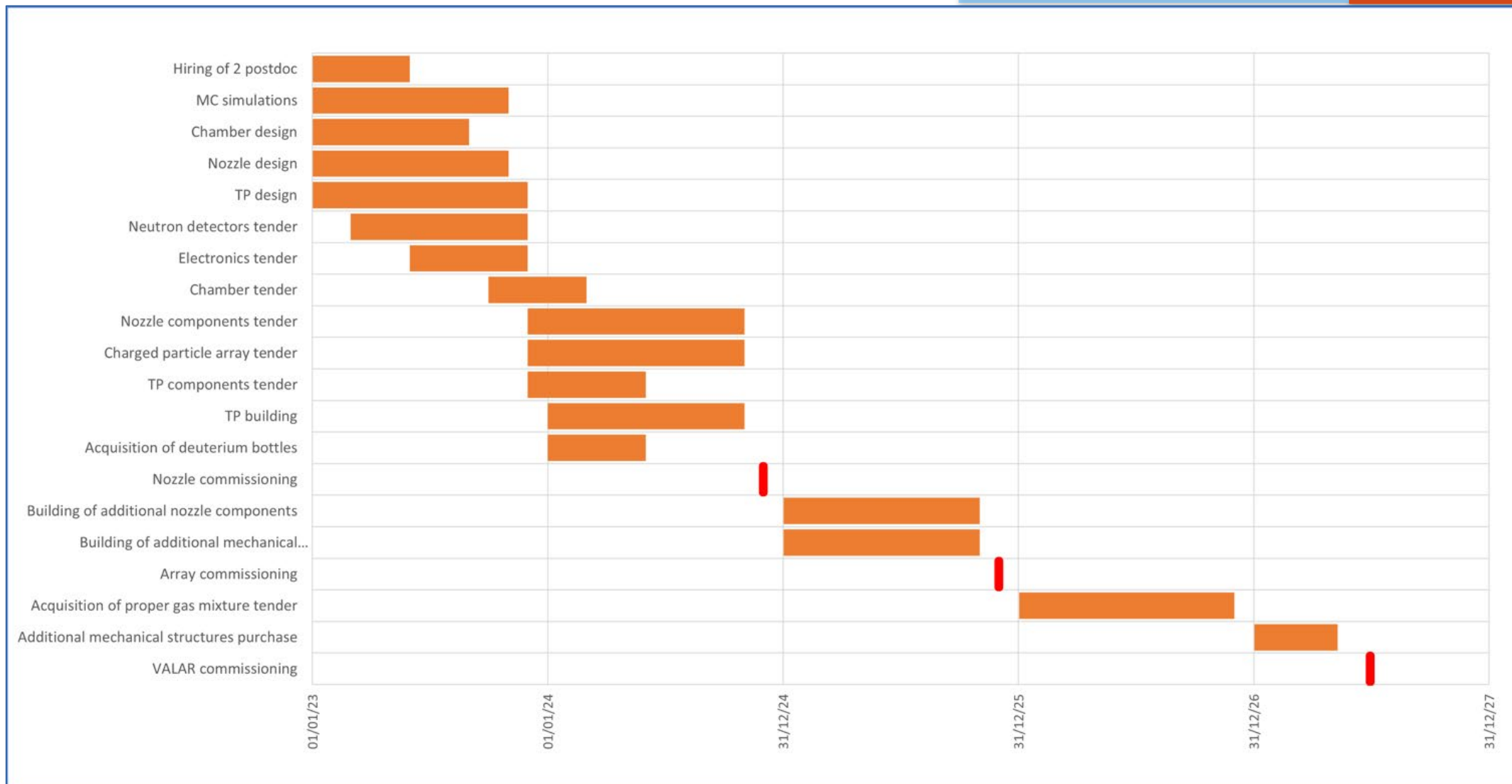
P. Musumeci et al., Silicon carbide detectors for diagnostics of ion emission from laser plasmas, Physica Scripta T161 (2014)





IP, MCP, CMOS ..



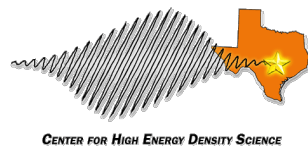


Graphic designer for the LOGO somewhen here

Ok, where?



E4:	100TW	22-100fs	2.2J	10Hz
E5:	1PW	24-1000fs	25J	1Hz
<b>HPLS:</b>	<b>(2x) 10PW</b>	<b>25fs</b>	<b>10<sup>2</sup>J</b>	<b>1/hour</b>



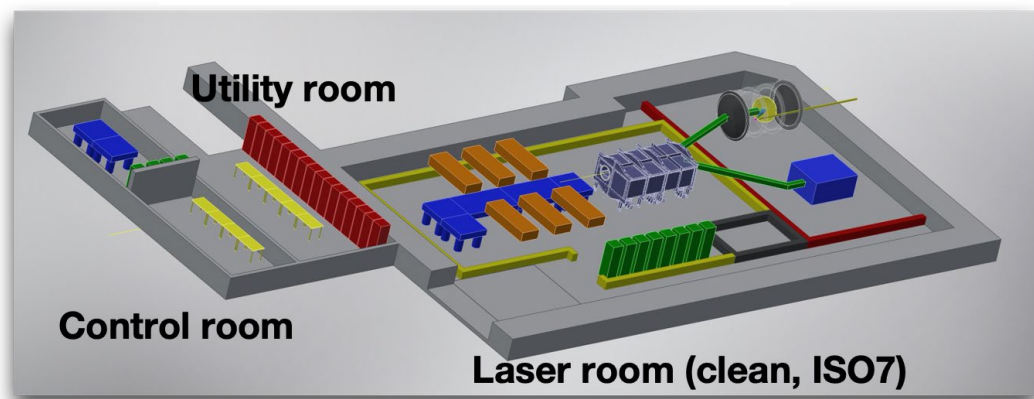
TPW:	1PW	140fs	140J	1/hour
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VEGA1:	100TW	30fs	0.6J	10Hz
VEGA2:	200TW	30fs	6J	10Hz
VEGA3:	1PW	30fs	30J	1Hz



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare



# I-LUCE facility

## I-LUCE: INFN Laser Induced particle acCeleration

aim: electron, proton acceleration; nuclear reaction in warm dense matter; ion-plasma interaction studies

Peak power : 1 PW  
 Pulse duration: <25fs  
 Repetition rate: 1 Hz  
 System designed to be upgradable up to 1 PW



**Max energy**  
 protons: 150 MeV  
 electrons: 8 GeV

Funds:



7.9 M€

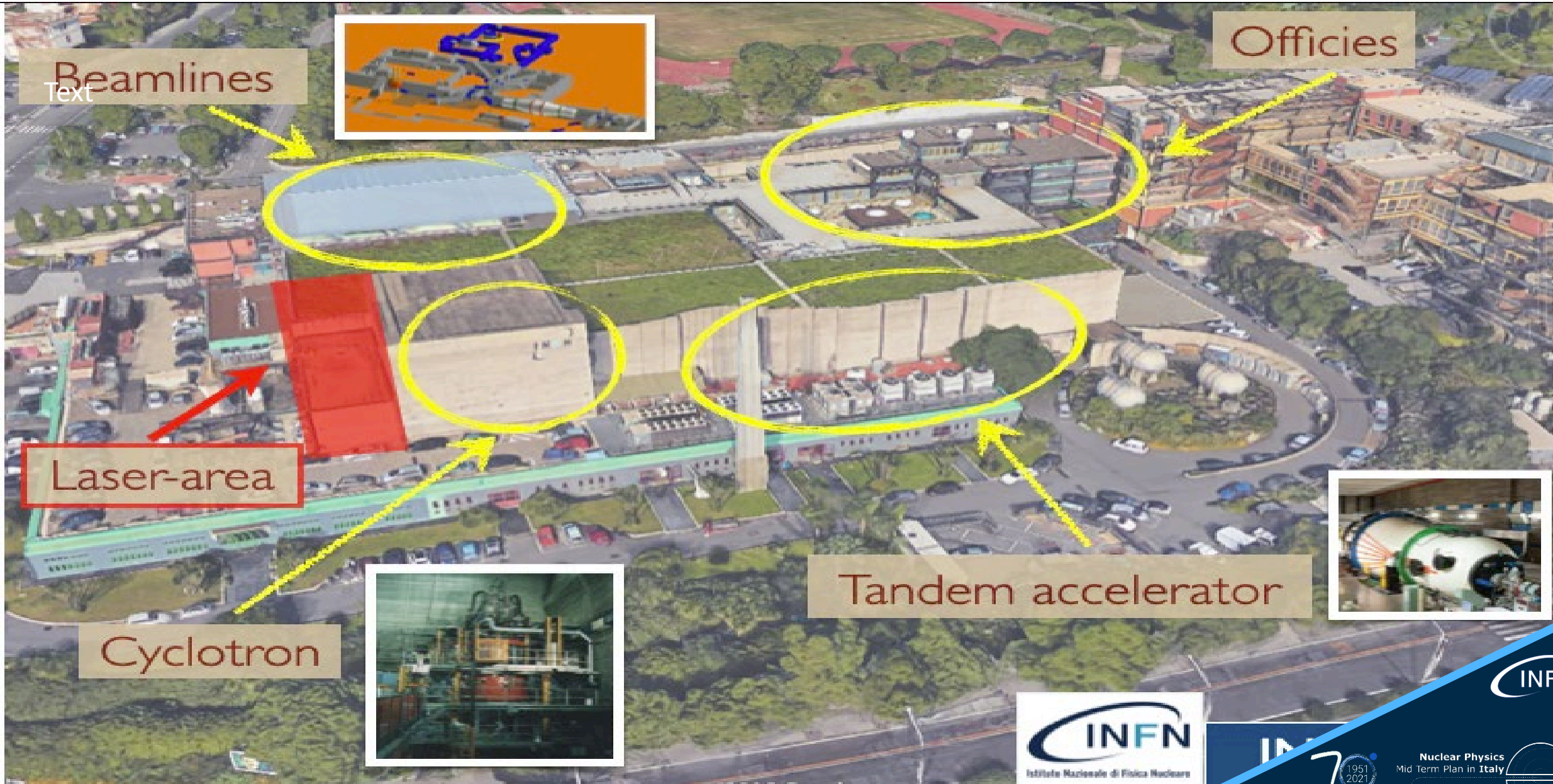


2.5 M€



1 M€

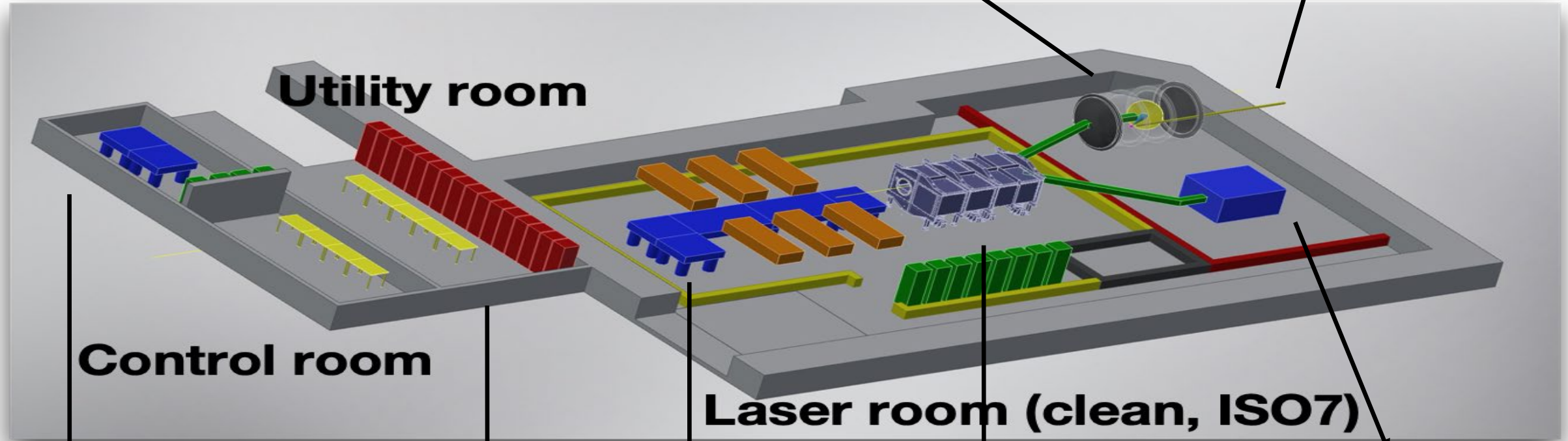






Plasma–ion interaction chamber; Plasma and nuclear physics studies

Ion beams from Cyclotron and Tandem



Proton-, ion- and electron acceleration

Optical laboratory

Pumps laser bias supplies

Laser system

Laser compressor chamber



# 1 Phase



Laser tender is starting (2022)

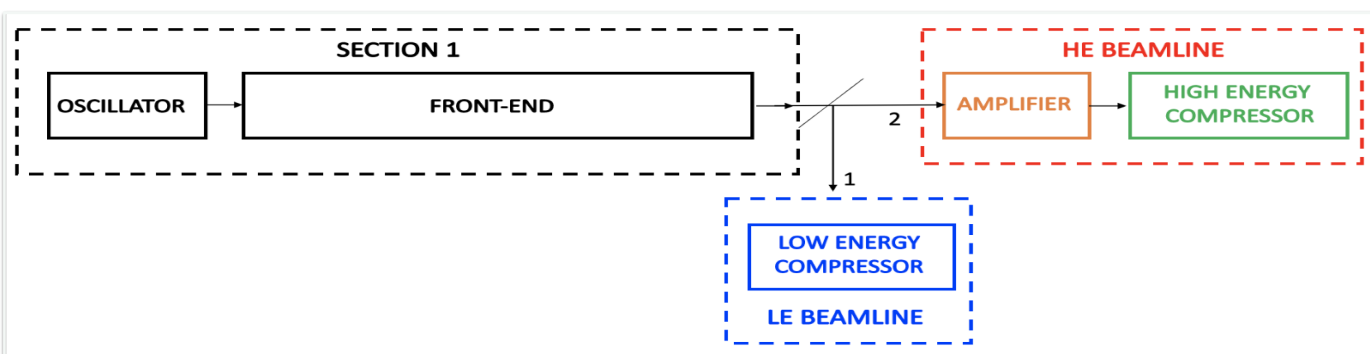
Middle 2024 the first experimental station

Two laser lines and three experimental stations:

- Fusion studies
- Acceleration
- Plasma-ion interaction

Laser Power	~ 1 TW
Energy per pulse	25-30 mJ
Pulse duration	25-30 fs*
Contrast ratio ns	< 1*10 <sup>-8</sup>
Contrast ratio @5 ps	> 10 <sup>5</sup>
Contrast ratio @100 ps (ASE)	> 10 <sup>10</sup>
Repetition rate	10 Hz

Laser Power	50-250 TW
Energy per pulse	≥ 1-10 J
Pulse duration	≤ 25 fs
Contrast ratio ns	> 10 <sup>8</sup>
Contrast ratio @5 ps	> 10 <sup>5</sup>
Contrast ratio @100 ps (ASE)	> 10 <sup>10</sup>
Repetition rate	1 Hz
Path to upgrade up to 1PW	Compressor optics ready for the upgrade up to 1PW
Pointing stability	<50 μrad
Beam diameter (FWHM)	50-60 mm
Strehl ratio	≥0.65 (without deformable mirror) ≥0.8 (with deformable mirror)





# 2 Phase

**Laser tender will start in 2023**

**At the end of 2025 the first call for external users**

- **proton, ion, electron acceleration;**
- **biological experiments;**
- **neutrons and gamma production;**
- **ion-plasma interaction;**
- **nuclear studies in plasma**

Laser Power	<b>1 PW</b>
Energy per pulse	$\geq 25$ J
Pulse duration	$\leq 25$ fs
Contrast ratio ns	$> 10^8$
Contrast ratio @5 ps	$> 10^5$
Contrast ratio @100 ps (ASE)	$> 10^{10}$
Repetition rate	<b>1 Hz</b>
Path to upgrade up to 1PW	Compressor optics ready for the upgrade up to 1PW
Pointing stability	$< 50$ $\mu$ rad
Beam diameter (FWHM)	50-60 mm
Strehl ratio	$\geq 0.65$ (without deformable mirror) $\geq 0.8$ (with deformable mirror)



- ✓ **Proton, electron and neutron sources**
- ✓ **Free Electron Laser radiation**
- ✓ **Dosimetry and Radiobiology** of «FLASH» beams (electrons, protons, gamma)
- ✓ **Cultural Heritage:**  
PIXE studies with laser-driven protons
- ✓ **Space applications:**  
laser-driven beams could easily reproduce the space radiation quality
- ✓ **Radioisotopes production:**  
laser-driven beams could easily produce high intensity charged particles beams
- ✓ **Imaging at the molecular level with ultrafast X-Rays** (ex radiation chemistry of the radiolysis)

- ✓ **Stopping powers** in plasma
- ✓ Studies on **Nuclear Reactions** in plasma with particular focus on the pB reaction\* (PROBONO Cost Action)
- ✓ **Materials studies**
- ✓ **MORE..**

**Ion-plasma interaction:  
UNIQUE CAPBILITY OF INFN-LNS**

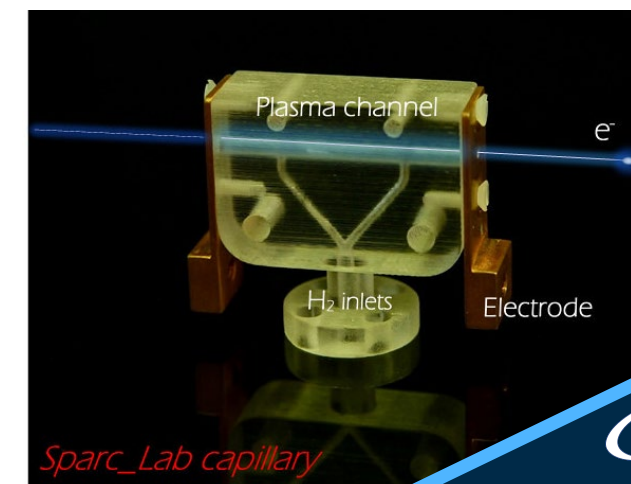
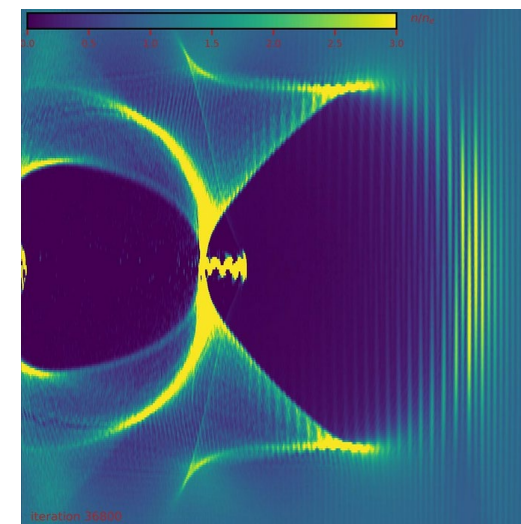
## FLAME @ SPARC\_LAB

- FLAME itself

- Electron acceleration by self injection
- Light ion acceleration by TNSA
- Air propagation by LIDAR

- FLAME + SPARC

- Compton scattering
- Electron acceleration by external injection



Massimo Ferrario, Maria Pia Anania.

**FLAME**

Max energy: 7J

Min bunch duration: 23 fs

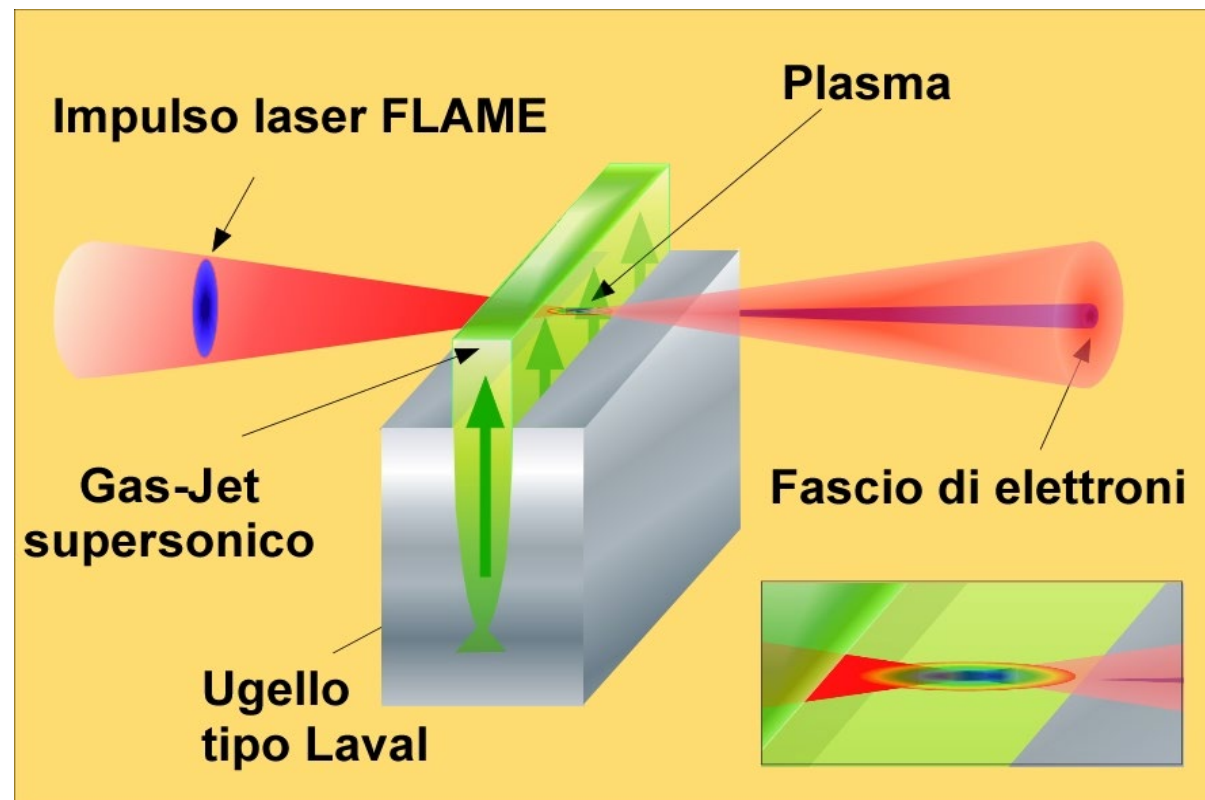
Wavelength: 800 nm

Spot-size @ focus: 10 μm

Max power: 300 TW

Contrast ratio: 10<sup>10</sup>

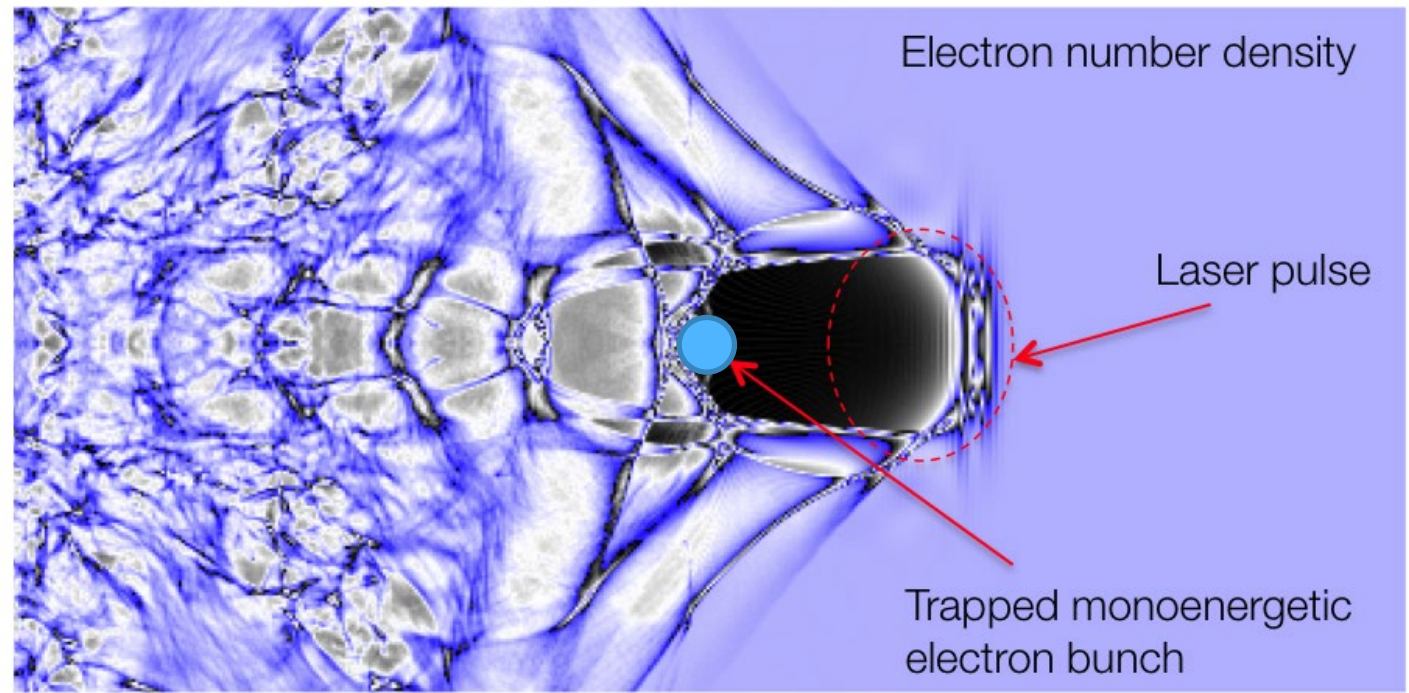
Intensity: 10<sup>19</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup> (→10<sup>21</sup>)



**Laser wakefield accelerators (LWFA)** are a novel type of accelerators capable to produce accelerating field up to 100 GV/m. This feature gives the possibility to have very compact accelerators able to accelerate electrons to GeV energies in few **centimetres**.

**FLAME**

Max energy: 7J  
 Min bunch duration: 23 fs  
 Wavelength: 800 nm  
 Spot-size @ focus: 10 μm  
 Max power: 300 TW  
 Contrast ratio: 10<sup>10</sup>  
 Intensity: 10<sup>19</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup> (→10<sup>21</sup>)



**External injection:** electrons accelerated by the linac injected with the right phase on the crest of the wakefield to be further accelerated. Electrons exit with a higher energy and a quality comparable to that of incoming electron beam.

# EUPRAXIA

1<sup>st</sup> Phase: 500TW laser will be installed

2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: second 500TW (or upgrade to 1PW)

Two 500TW laser could satisfy the 24h/7day operation request in parallel on different experiments.

	Units	value
Central wavelength	nm	800
Bandwidth	nm	60 - 80
Repetition rate	Hz	1 - 5
Max energy before compression	J	20
Max energy on target	J	13
Min pulse length	fs	25
Max power	TW	500
Contrast ratio		$10^{10}$
Laser spot size at focus (optics dependent)	$\mu\text{m}$	2 - 50
Peak power density at focus (optics dependent)	$\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$	$10^{22} - 10^{19}$

