

# Science and technology of Laser-driven X-ray sources at ELI Beamlines



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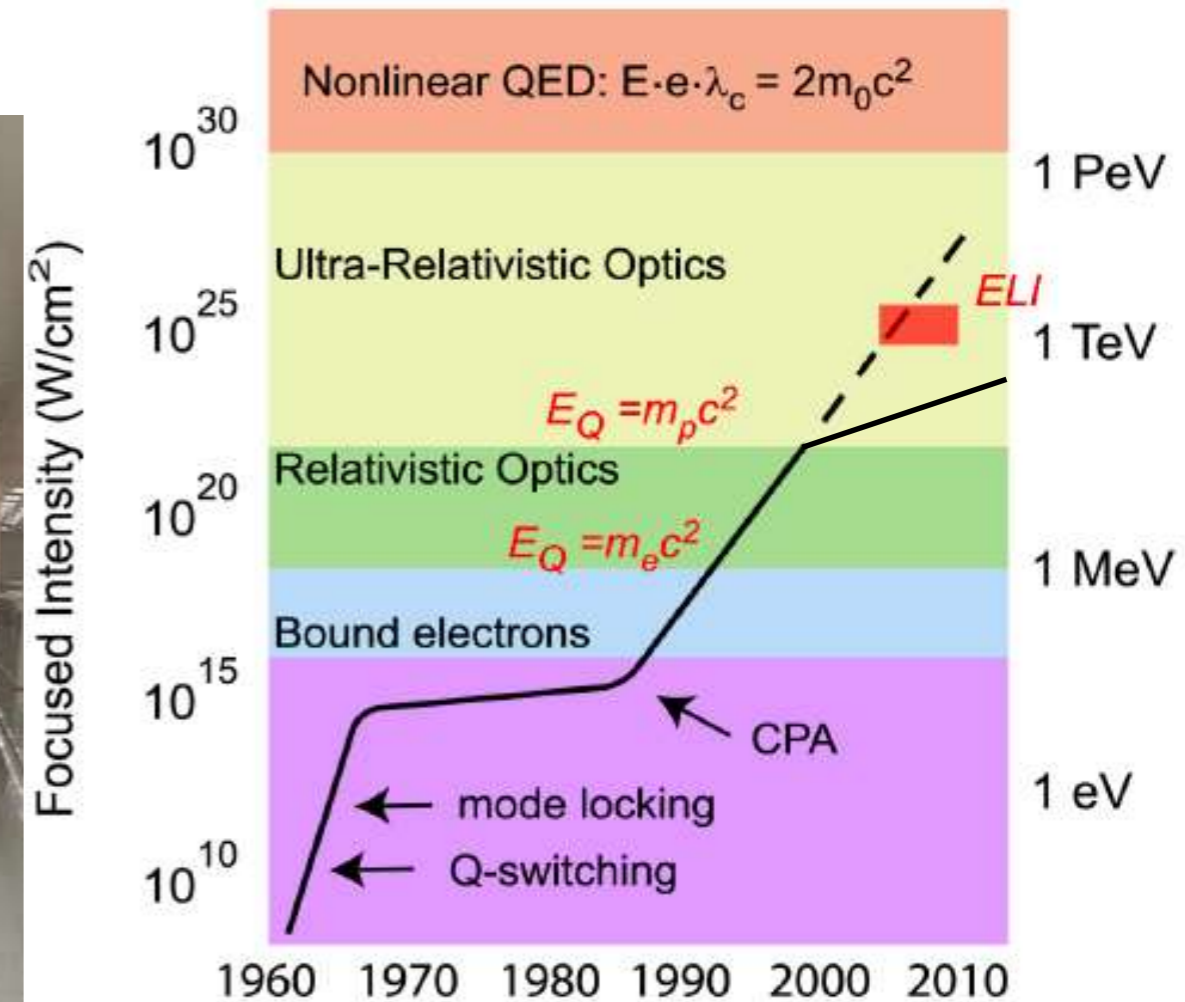
*ELI Beamlines Facility, Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC,  
Dolní Břežany, Czech Republic*

*& Czech Technical University in Prague, FNSPE, Prague, Czech Republic*

# Laser technology: huge development in last 60 years



10 PW laser  
commissioned at ELI NP



G. Mourou *et al.* Rev. Mod. Phys. **78**, p. 309 (2006)

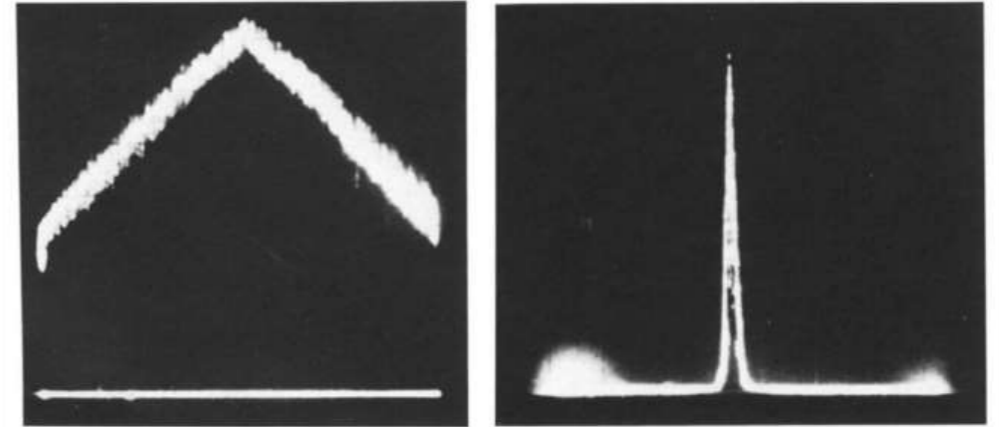




# From Nobel Prize to Extreme Light

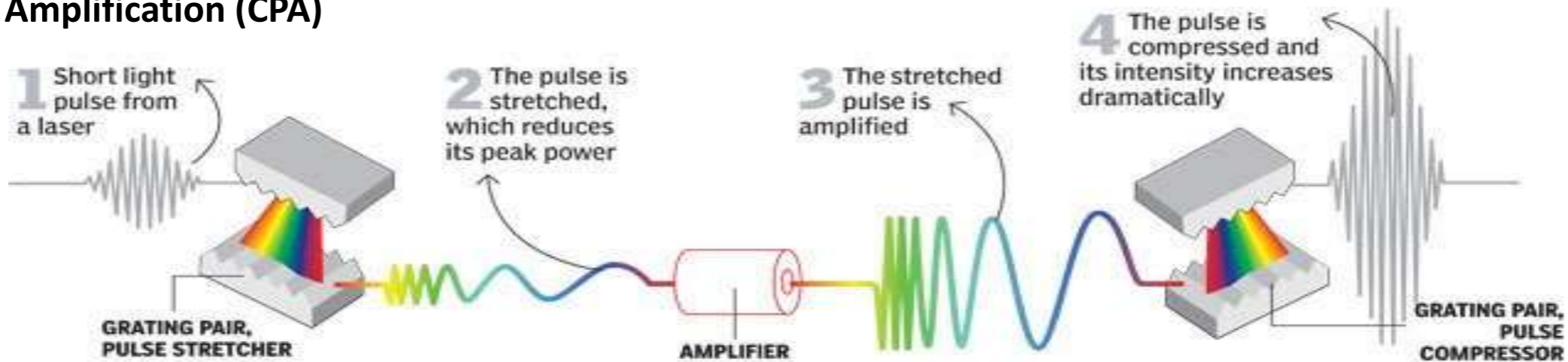
## A Technological Breakthrough Enables ELI

**Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland** won the **2018 Nobel Prize for Physics** for proposing “**Chirped Pulse Amplification**” for high-power, ultrafast, extremely intense lasers. **Mourou proposed ELI in 2004.**



Images of stretched and compressed pulses, from Strickland's 1985 paper on Chirped Pulse Amplification (CPA) which led to petawatt-class lasers

### Chirped Pulse Amplification (CPA)



# High peak power lasers

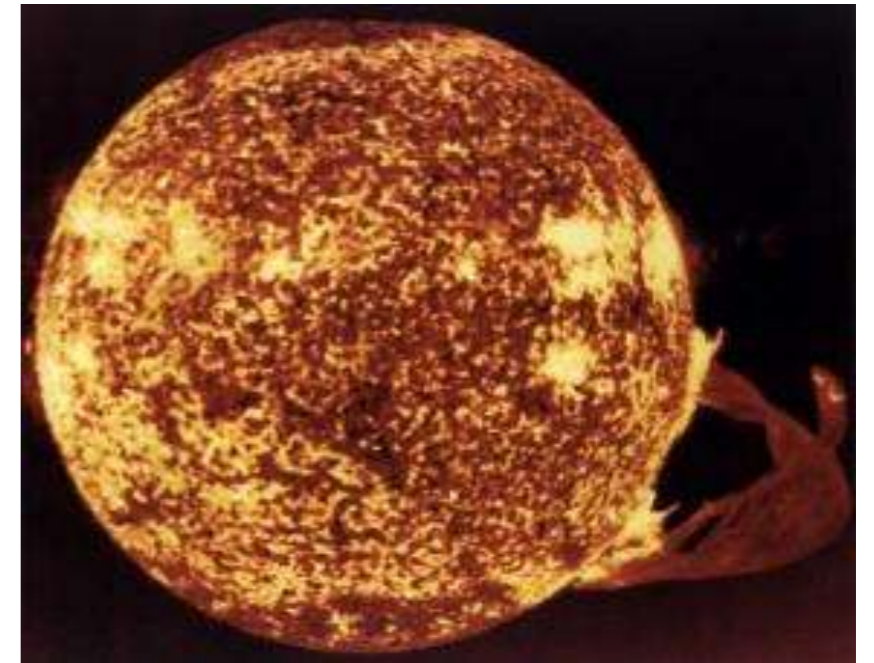
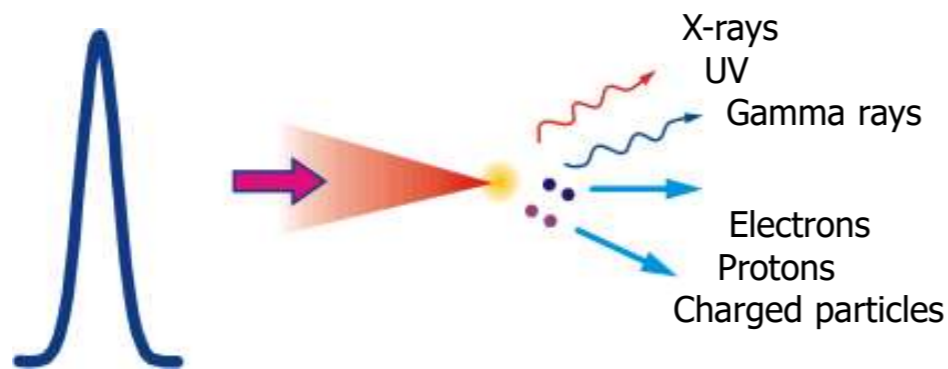
energy, power, intensity

## Laser pulse example:

- energy 30 J (heating two drops of water from 20°C to 100° C)
- duration 30 fs ( $= 3 \times 10^{-14}$  s), spatial length 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- Peak power  $10^{15}$  W = 1 PW =  $10^6$  GW (!!!)

Focusing the beam to area of 1  $\mu\text{m}^2$   
Intensity in focus  $10^{23}$   $\text{Wcm}^{-2}$

$\sim$  The Sun emitting all its power ( $4 \times 10^{26}$  W) from area smaller than 1  $\text{m}^2$



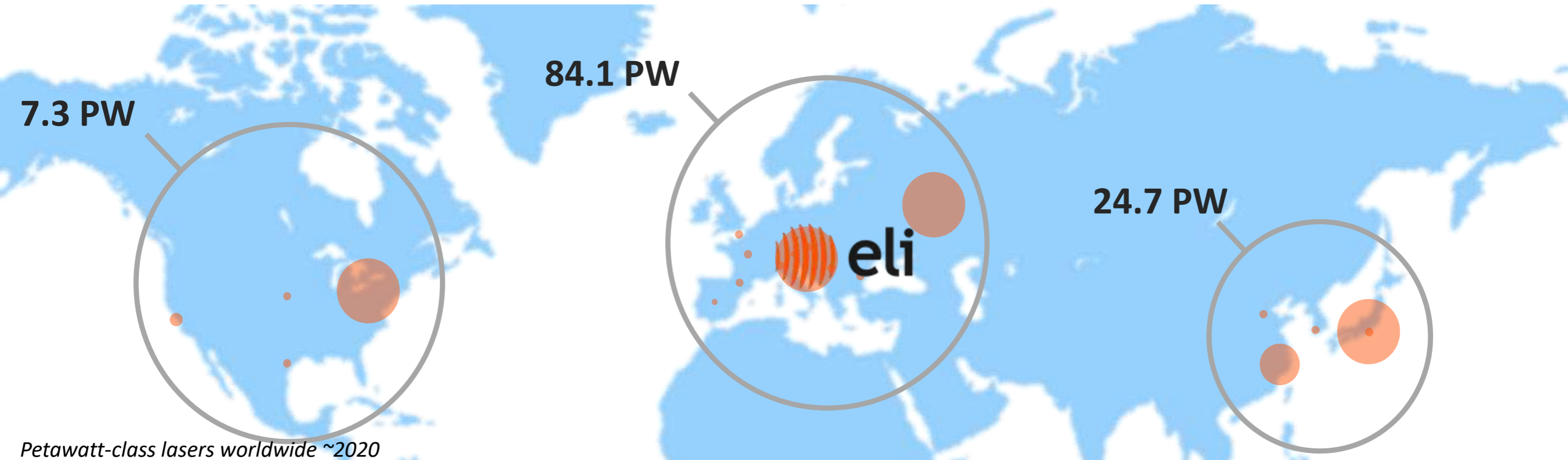
## Femtosecond lasers:

- Most intense pulsed sources of EM fields in the lab

- Brief introduction of ELI and ELI Beamlines
- Lasers driving X-ray sources at ELI Beamlines
- X-ray sources at ELI BL
  - HHG from gases
  - Plasma X-ray sources
  - X-rays from relativistic electrons
    - Betatron & Inverse Compton sources
    - Laser-driven Undulator X-ray source
- How can YOU benefit from ELI

## Europe leads the world in *high-power* laser technology

- **Investment** in high-power laser systems in Europe is connected to a **strong and relatively consolidated** community in Laserlab Europe beginning in 2001.
- **The ELI Facilities** are introducing **5 PW+ lasers, ( 3x10PW and 2xPW@10Hz)** plus a **diverse set of secondary sources** with unique specs.





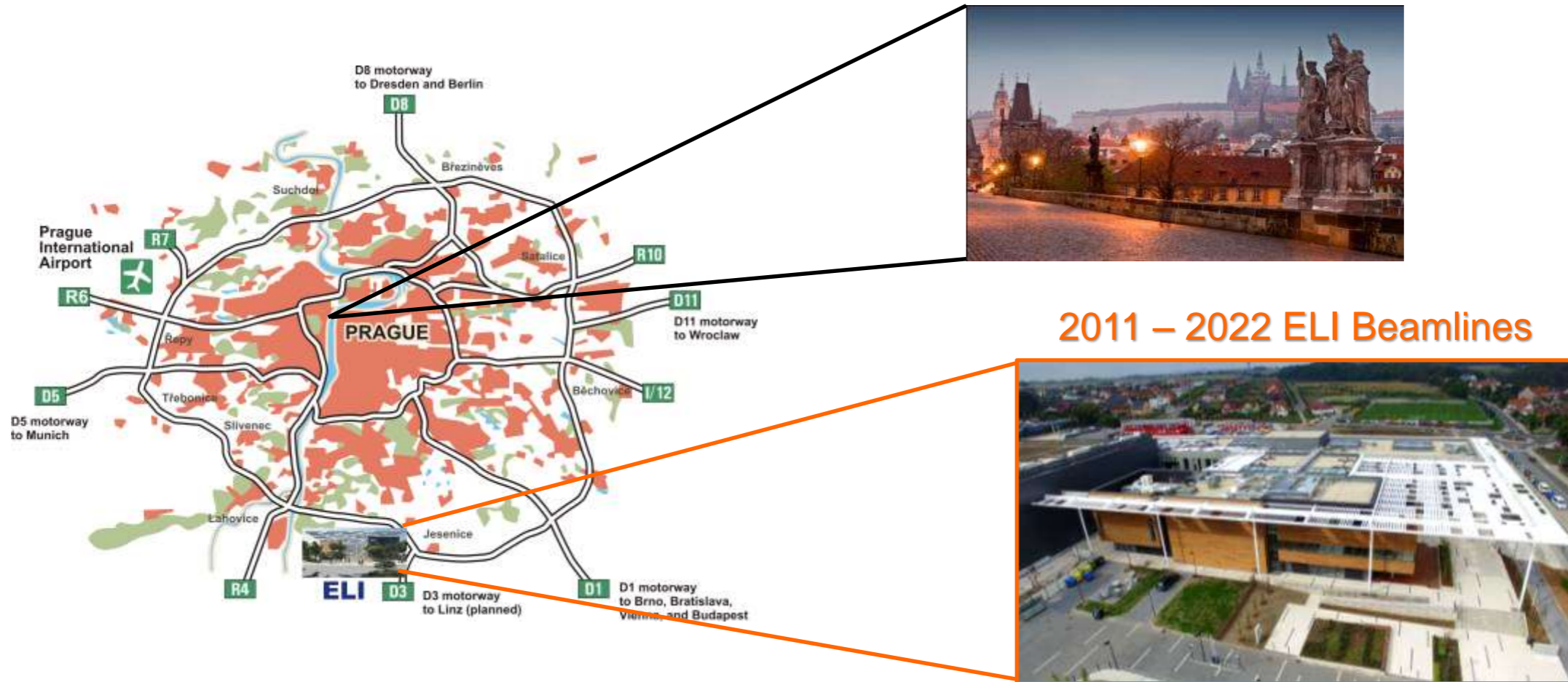
# Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI)

ELI comprises three branches:

- **Attosecond Laser Science**  
new regimes of time resolution  
*(ELI ALPS, Szeged, HU)*
- **High-Energy Beam Facility**  
ultra-short pulses of high-energy particles and radiation  
*(ELI Beamlines, Prague, CZ)*
- **Nuclear Physics Facility**  
brilliant gamma beams (up to 19 MeV) and brilliant neutron beam  
*(ELI NP, Magurele, RO)*



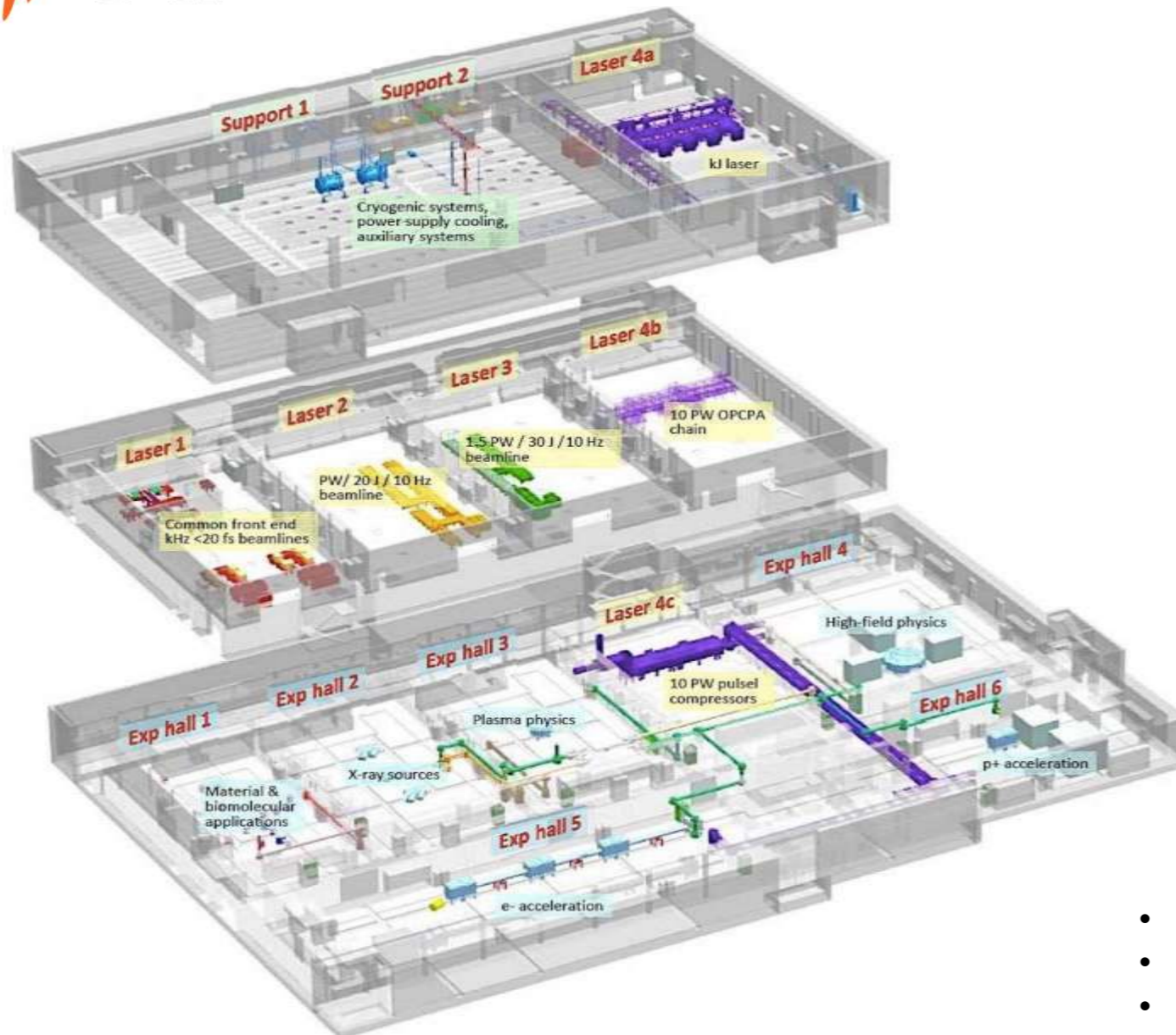
IMPULSE



- Facility with New Generation of High-Power Lasers
- User-oriented X-ray beamlines (driven by lasers)



# Facility layout and laser drivers for X-ray sources

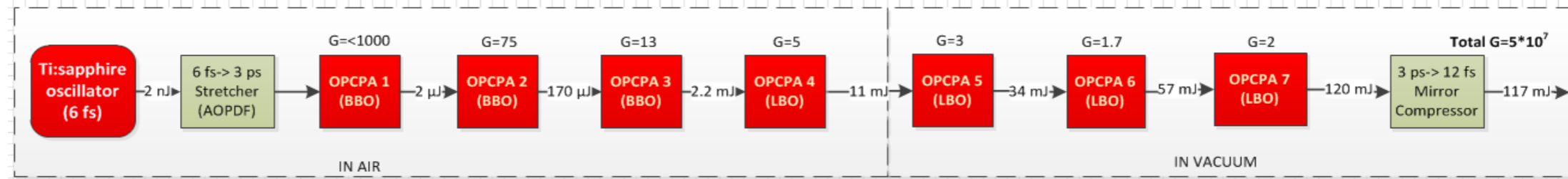


Laser	L1	L2	L3	L4
Energy (J)	<b>0.1</b>	5	<b>30</b>	1200
Pulse duration (fs)	<b>15</b>	20	<b>30</b>	120
Wavelength (nm)	<b>830</b>	850	<b>820</b>	1060
Rep. rate	<b>1 kHz</b>	20 - 50 Hz	<b>10 Hz</b>	1/min

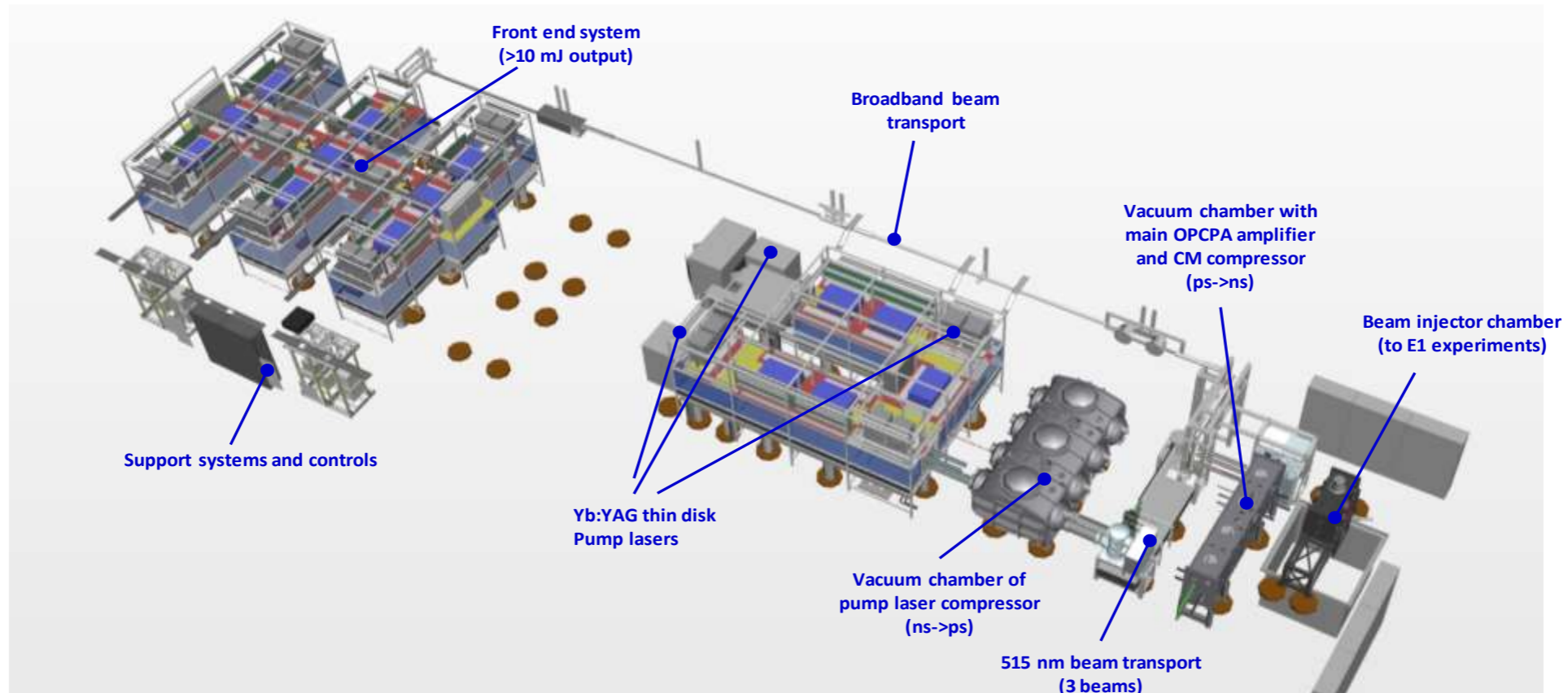
## + Commercial lasers (L1 backup)

- Coherent LEGEND Elite DUO: 1kHz, 12 mJ @ 35 fs
- Coherent Astrella: 1 kHz, 2x6 mJ @ 45 fs
- Coherent Hidra: 10 Hz, 100 mJ @ 40 fs

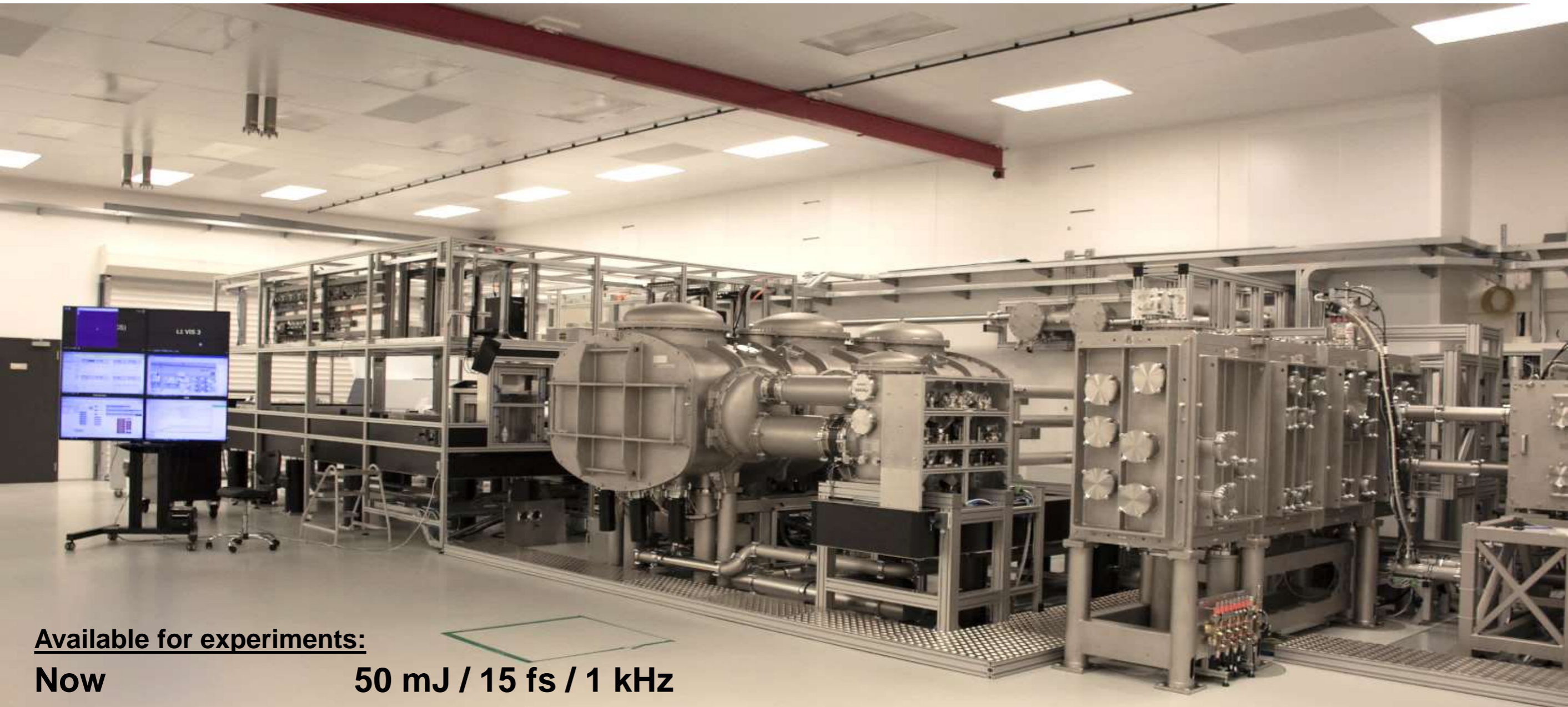
# Laser drivers: L1 Allegra



**100 mJ / 15 fs / 1 kHz laser system, very high temporal pulse contrast  $> 10^{11}$  using ps pump pulses**







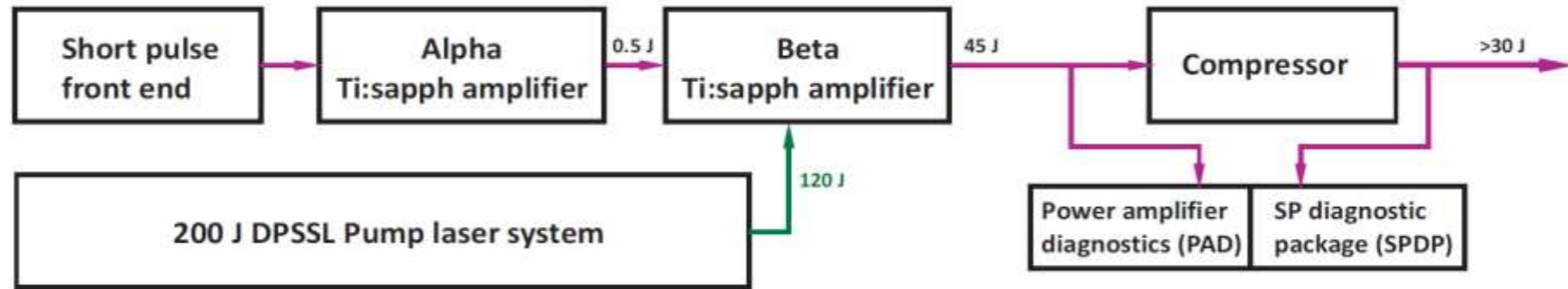
Available for experiments:

Now  
design

**50 mJ / 15 fs / 1 kHz**  
**100 mJ / 15 fs / 1 kHz**



## HAPLS: High repetition rate Advanced Petawatt Laser System



L3-HAPLS with compressor at ELI-Beamlines

Parameter	Value
Peak power	$\geq 1\text{PW}$
Repetition rate	10 Hz
Pulse energy	$\geq 30\text{ J}$
Pulse duration	$\leq 30\text{ fs}$
Central wavelength	820 nm
Pump laser technology	DPSSL





Now  
design

**12 J / 30 fs / 3.3 Hz**  
**>30 J / 30 fs / 10 Hz**

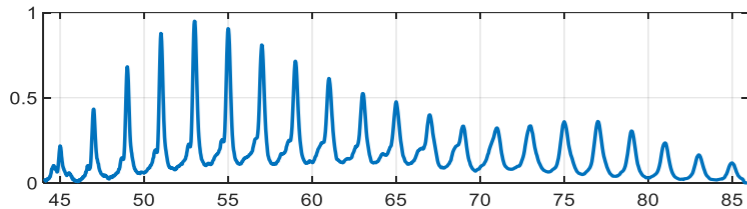


# Laser driven X-ray sources: several approaches

## E1 L1 driver

1 kHz, 100 mJ, 20 fs

### High-order harmonic beamline

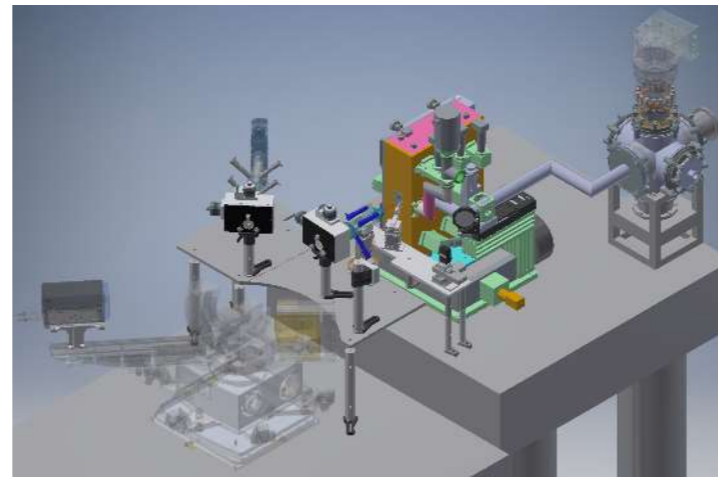


	Legend: 10 mJ, 35 fs	L1 Allegra: >20 mJ, ~15fs
Wavelength	10 -120 nm	5 -120 nm
Photons/shot	$10^7$ to $10^9$	few $10^9$ - $10^{12}$
Duration	< 20 fs	< 10 fs
Polarization	Linear	Lin./Circ./Elliptic

## Ti:sapphire backup

1 kHz, 12 mJ, 35 fs  
& 10 Hz, 100 mJ, 40 fs

### Plasma X-ray source

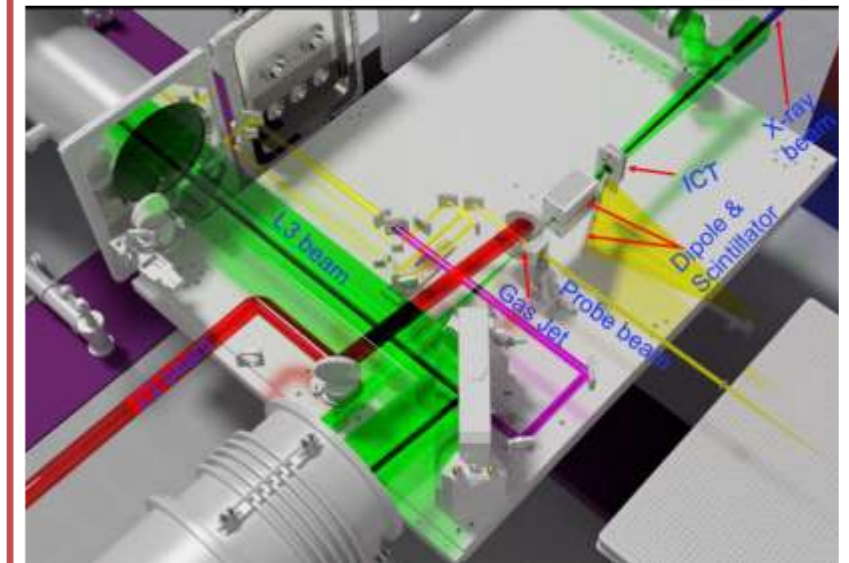


	10 mJ, 35 fs	100 mJ laser (15 fs)
photon energy	3 - 40 keV	3 - 80 keV
photons/( $4\pi$ sr line or 1keV @10keV)	$> 10^8$	$> 10^9$
Source size	< 50 $\mu\text{m}$	< 50 $\mu\text{m}$
pulse duration	< 300 fs	<300 fs

## E2/E3 L3 driver

10 Hz, 30 J, 30 fs

### Betatron / inverse Compton

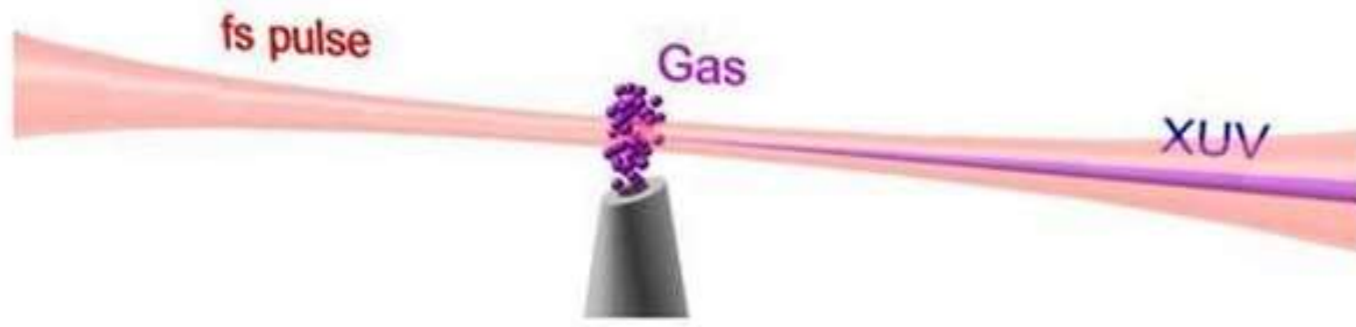


	Betatron	Compton
photon energy	10- 100 keV	50 - 5000 keV
photons/shot	$> 10^9$	$> 10^8$
Source size	< 5 $\mu\text{m}$	< 5 $\mu\text{m}$
pulse duration	~30 fs	< 30 fs

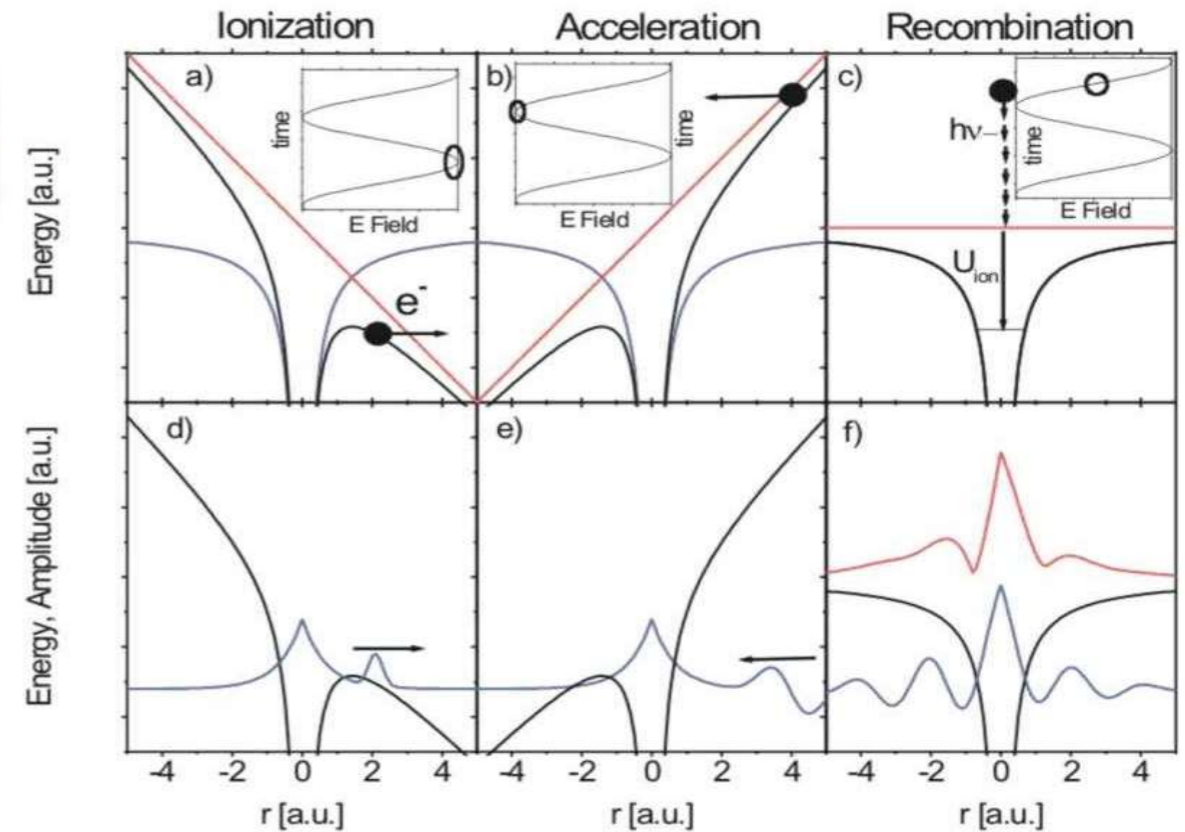


# High-order harmonic generation from gas

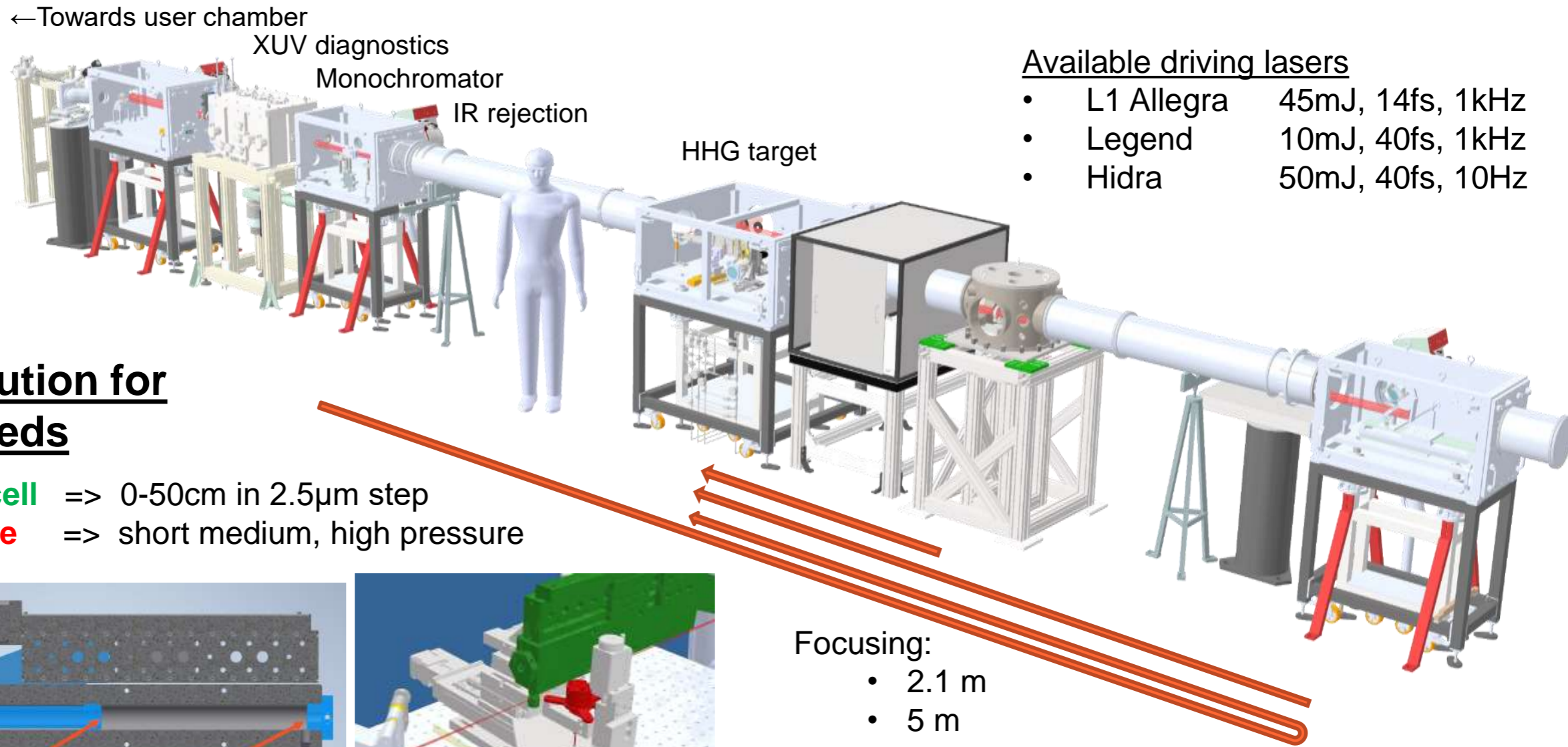
- Interaction of linearly polarized intense laser pulse with matter (valence electron)



- Three step model:
  - Ionization
  - Acceleration
  - Recombination



# User oriented HHG beamline

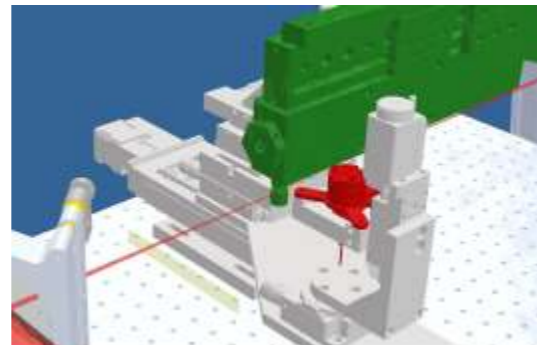
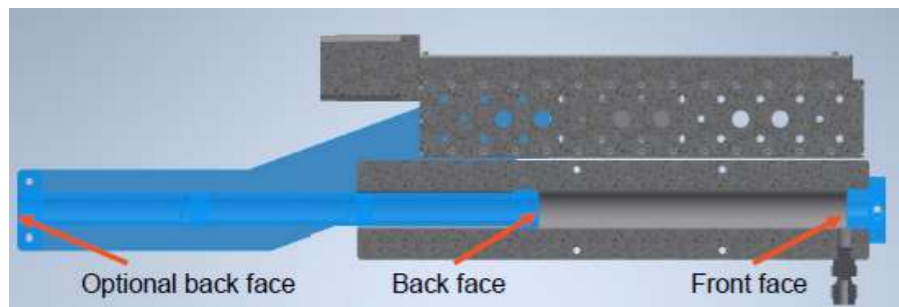


## Available driving lasers

- L1 Allegra 45mJ, 14fs, 1kHz
- Legend 10mJ, 40fs, 1kHz
- Hidra 50mJ, 40fs, 10Hz

## Versatile solution for user needs

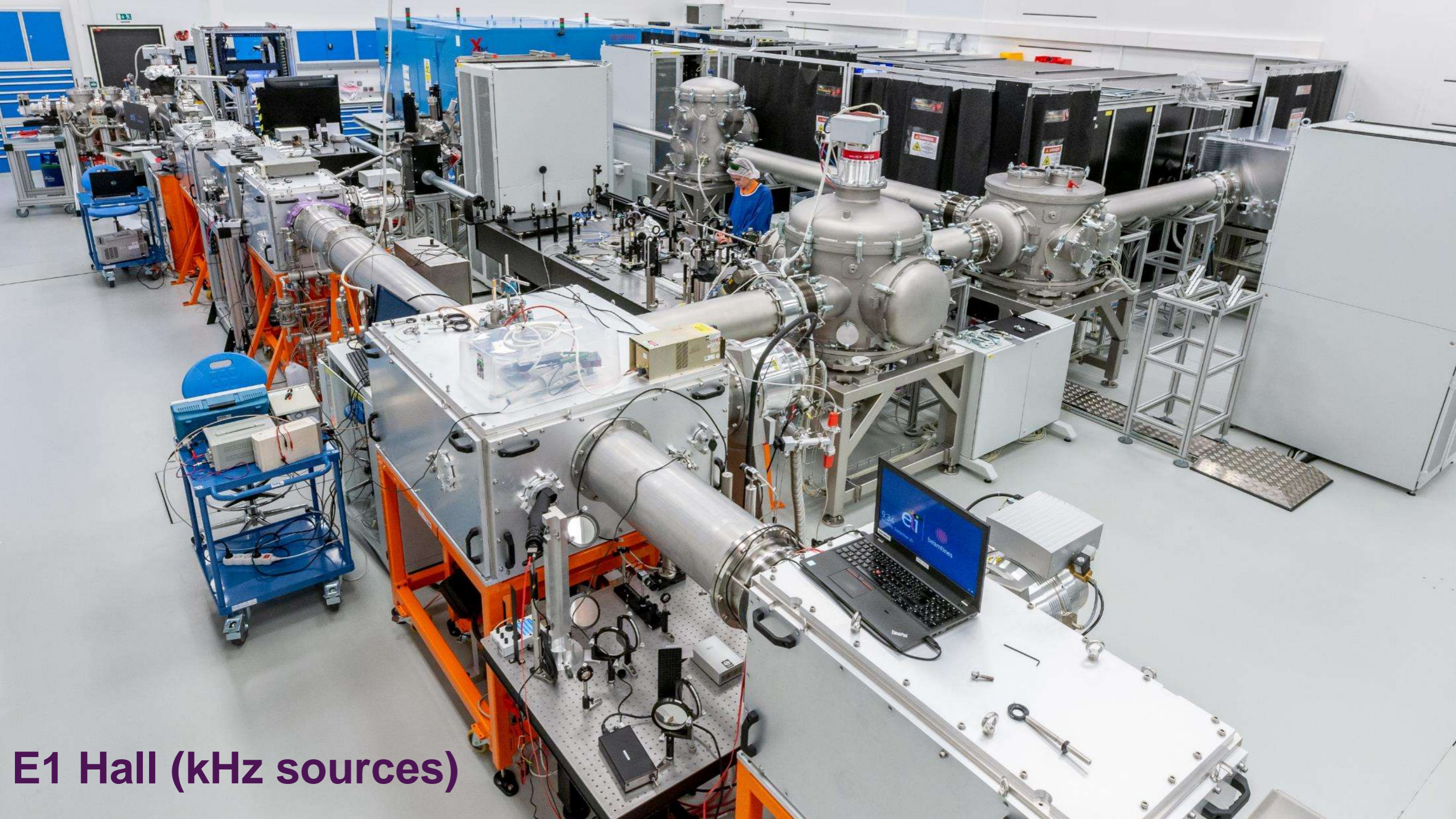
- **Motorized gas cell** => 0-50cm in 2.5 $\mu$ m step
- **Even-Lavie valve** => short medium, high pressure



## Focusing:

- 2.1 m
- 5 m
- 14.5 m



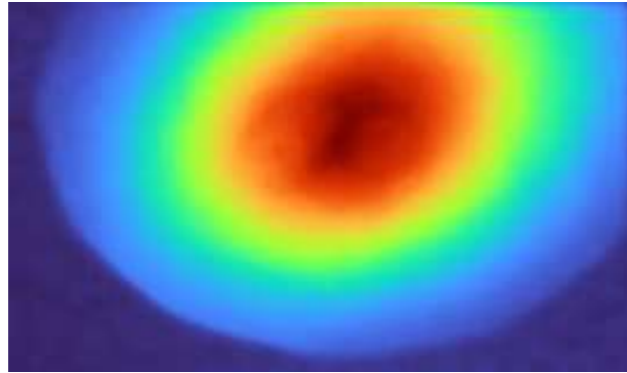


**E1 Hall (kHz sources)**



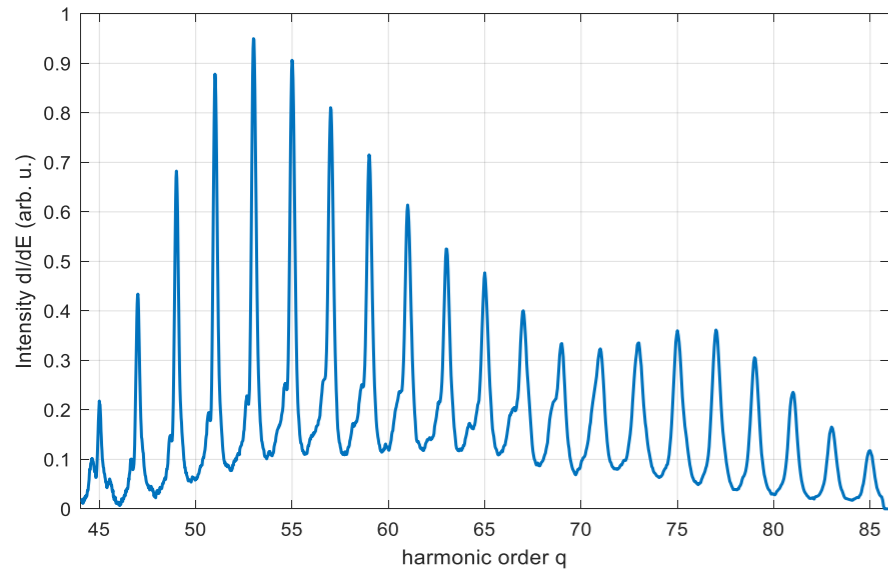
# User oriented HHG beamline

Measured XUV beam profile

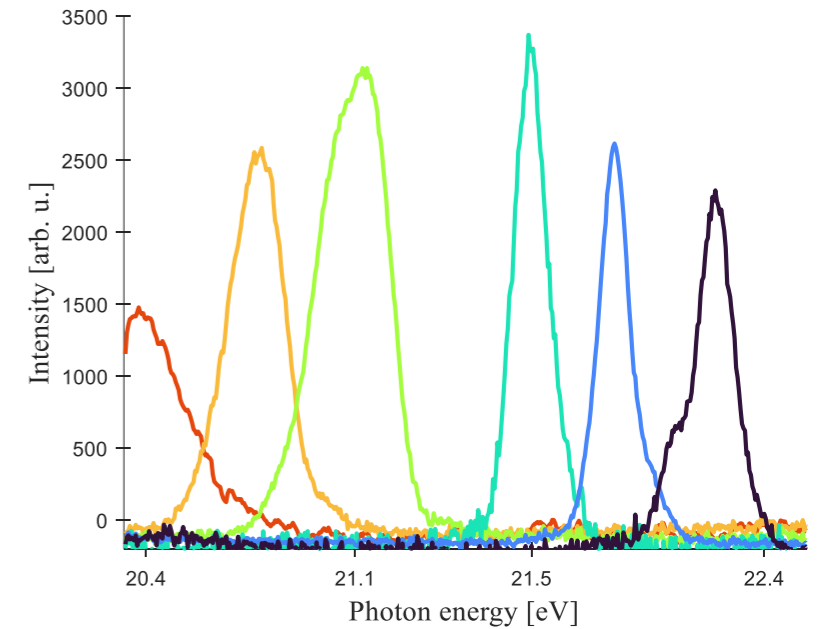
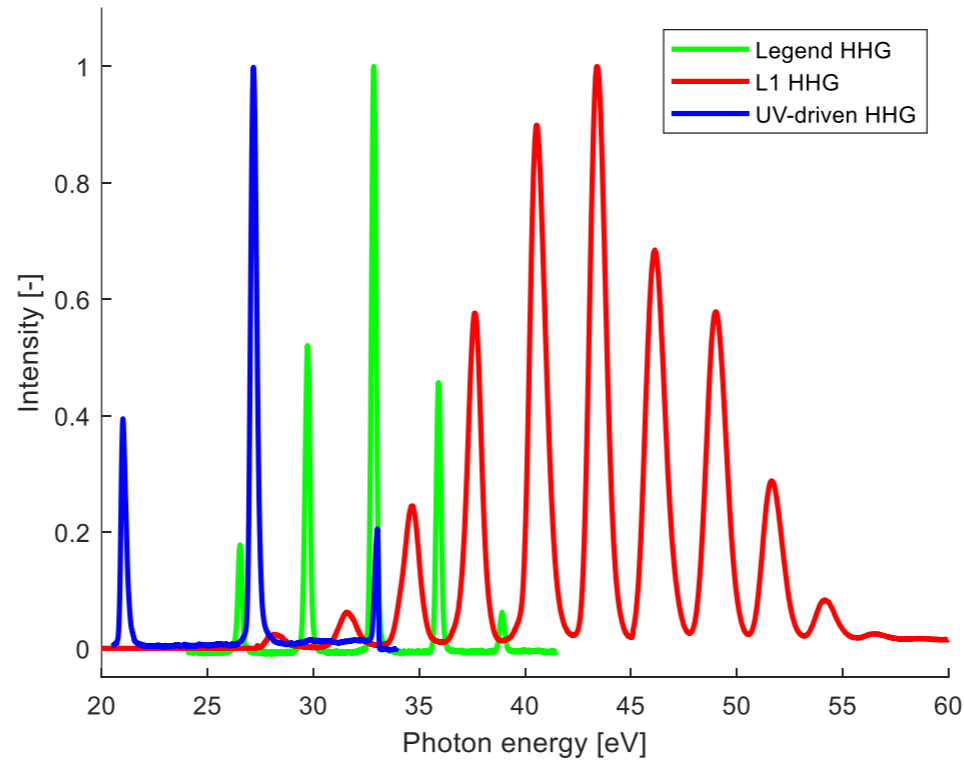


Gas	$\lambda_{\text{XUV}}$ (nm)	Estim. XUV energy ( $\mu\text{J}$ )
Xenon	$\geq 50$	2
Argon	$\geq 30$	0.2
Neon	$\geq 10$	0.02
Helium	$\geq 5$	0.02

neon

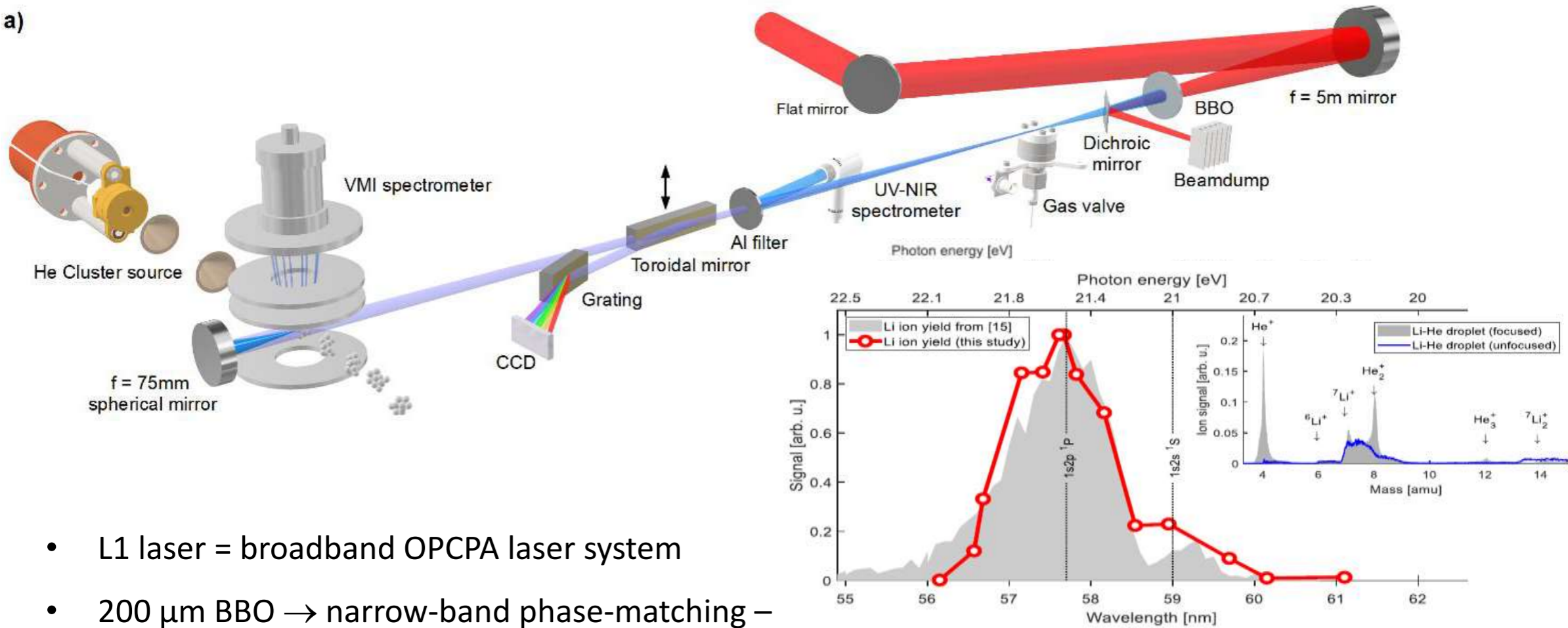


L1:  $\lambda=830$  nm,  $\tau=15$  fs, 10 mJ



# Precise spectral tuning for spectroscopy

a)



- L1 laser = broadband OPCPA laser system
- 200  $\mu\text{m}$  BBO  $\rightarrow$  narrow-band phase-matching –
- Tuning the H7 ( $\sim 21.5$  eV) around the He resonance (in Li-doped He nanodroplets)
- Interatomic Coulomb Decay ( $\text{He}^* \rightarrow \text{Li}^+$ ) & Collective auto-ionization ( $\text{He}^* + \text{He}^* \rightarrow \text{He} + \text{He}^+$ )



# HHG Beamline end-stations

- Multipurpose chamber for AMO science and CDI

- Sample delivery systems:

gas jets; microfluidic gas-dynamic nozzle  
aerosol nano-particle injector;  
cluster source (cryo-cooled Even-Lavie valve)

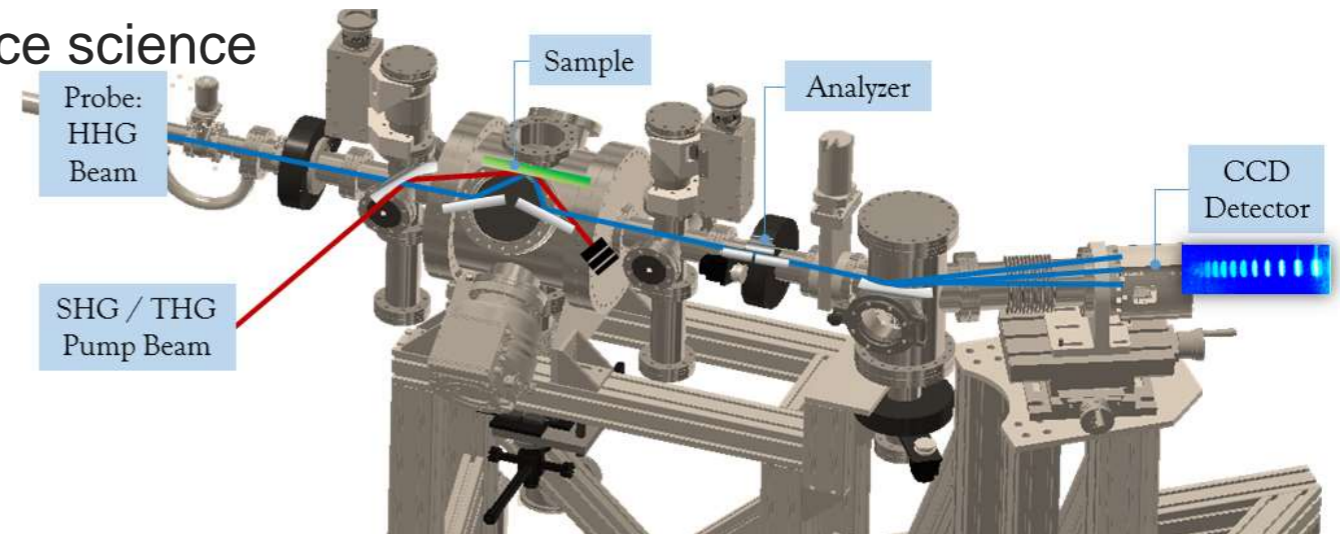
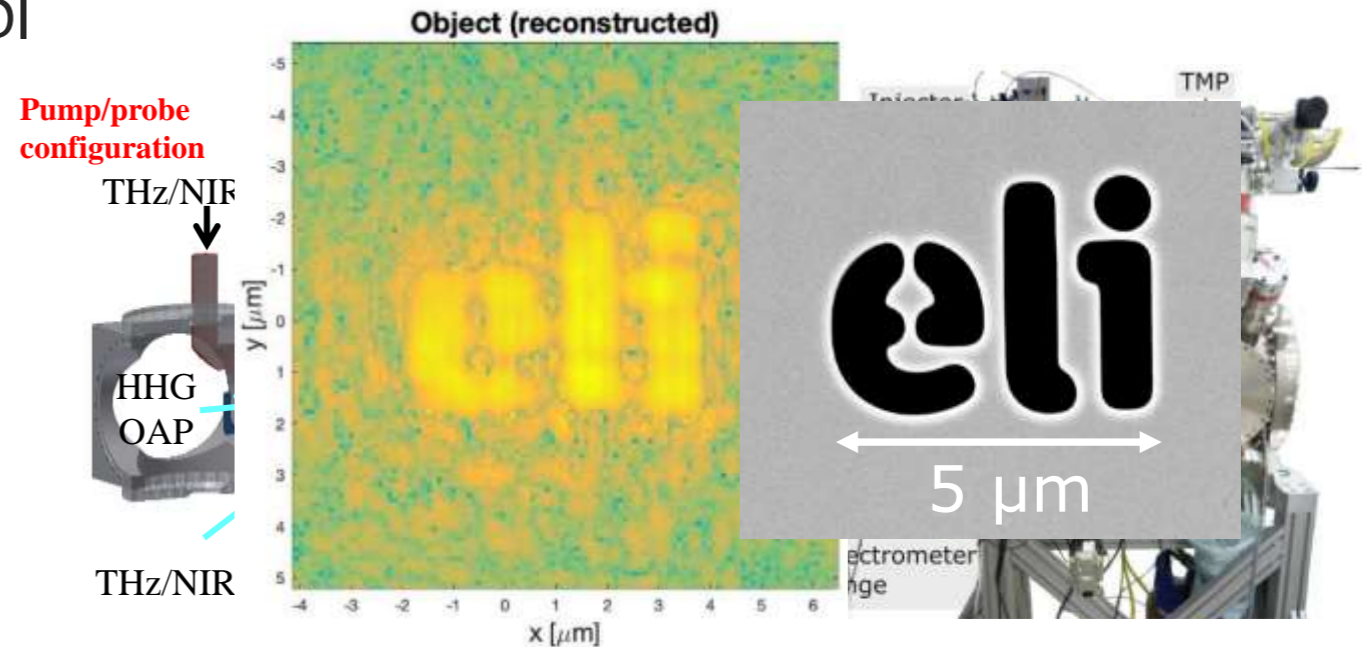
- Diagnostics:

Velocity map imaging spectrometer  
Magnetic bottle spectrometer  
Electron and ion time of flight spectrometers  
Various area detectors (X-ray CCDs, MCPs)

- VUV Magneto-optical ellipsometer (ELIps) for surface science

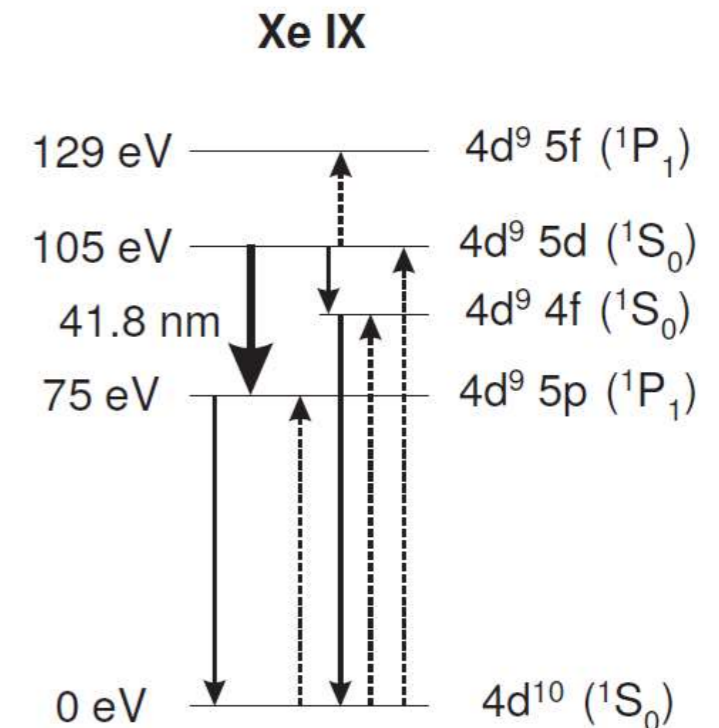
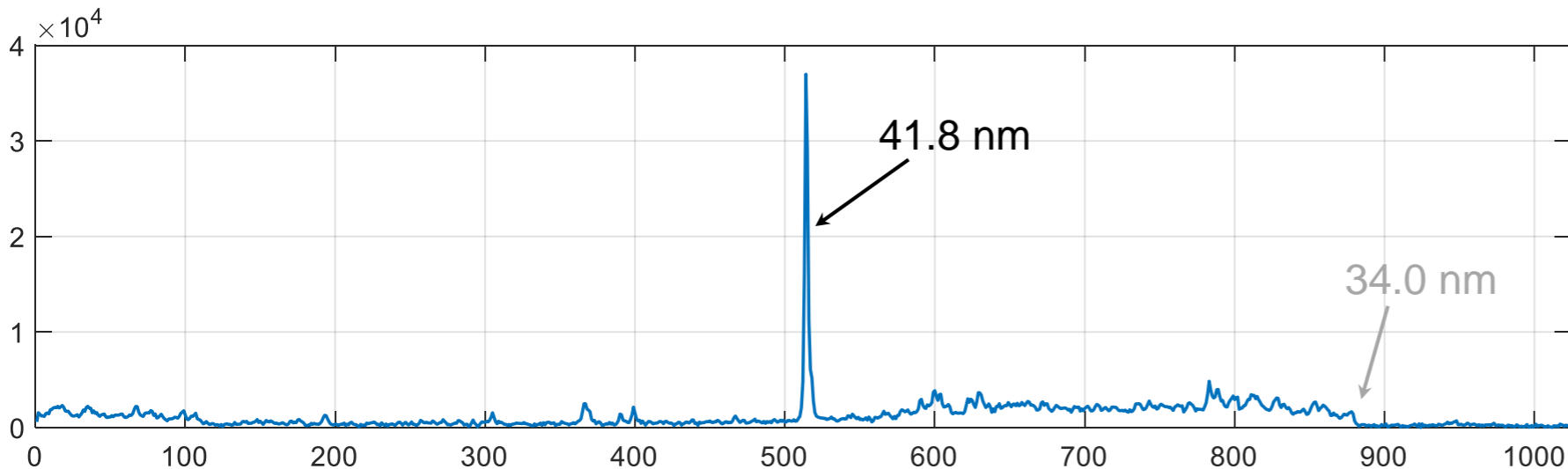
- Multiple grazing incidence reflection polarizers
  - Spectrally resolved (FF spectrometer)
  - Cryogenic cooling of the sample
  - Switchable magnetic field ( $\pm 1.5$  T)

- Pump beams (Mid IR to UV) with fs pulses



## Plasma X-ray laser S. Sebban's group, LOA, ENSTA, Paris-Tech, France

- L1 laser ( $\sim 20$  mJ on target, 15 fs, 1 kHz) focused by F#8 parabola into mm-long Xe cell
- Xe<sup>+8</sup> by optical field ionization (Intensity  $>$  few  $10^{16}$  Wcm<sup>-2</sup>)
- Population inversion pumped by collisions with hot electrons (circ. polarization of the laser)
- 5d-5p lasing line @ 41.8 nm
- **The very first XRL working at 1 kHz repetition rate!**





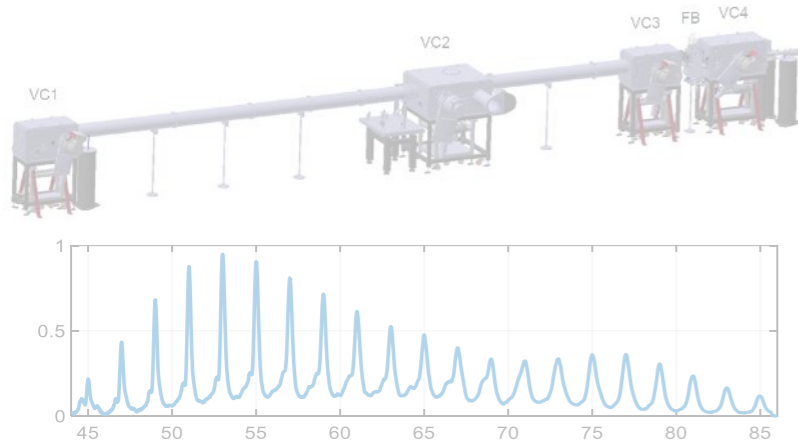
# Laser driven X-ray sources: several approaches

E1

## L1 driver

1 kHz, 100 mJ, 20 fs

High-order harmonic beamline

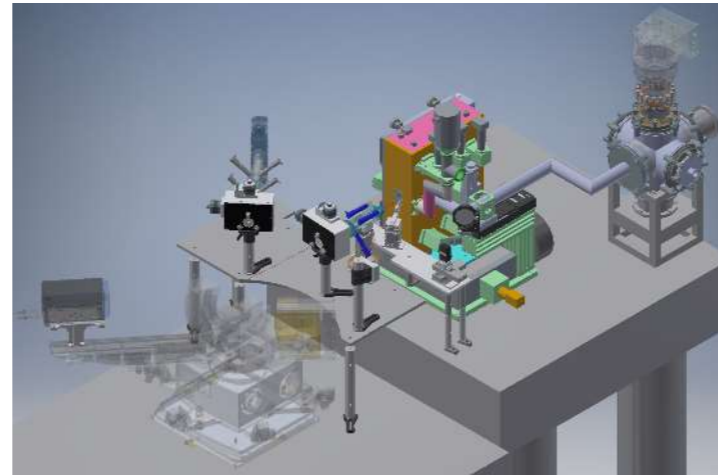


	Legend: 10 mJ, 35 fs	L1 Allegra: >20 mJ, ~15fs
Wavelength	10 -120 nm	5 -120 nm
Photons/shot	$10^7$ to $10^9$	few $10^9$ - $10^{12}$
Duration	< 20 fs	< 10 fs
Polarization	Linear	Lin./Circ./Elliptic

## Ti:sapphire backup

1 kHz, 12 mJ, 35 fs  
& 10 Hz, 100 mJ, 40 fs

### Plasma X-ray source



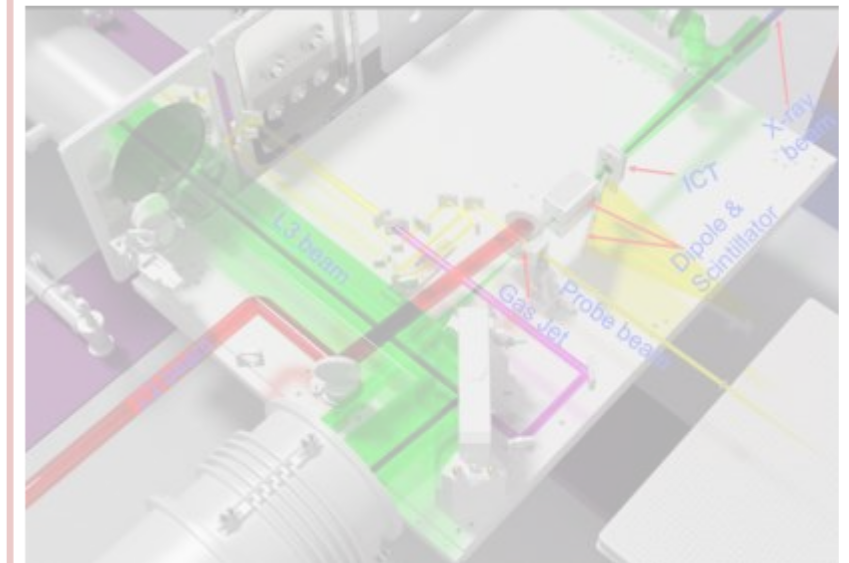
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photon energy	3 - 40 keV	3 - 80 keV
photons/( $4\pi$ sr line or 1keV @10keV)	$> 10^8$	$> 10^9$
Source size	< 50 $\mu$ m	< 50 $\mu$ m
pulse duration	< 300 fs	<300 fs

E2/E3

## L3 driver

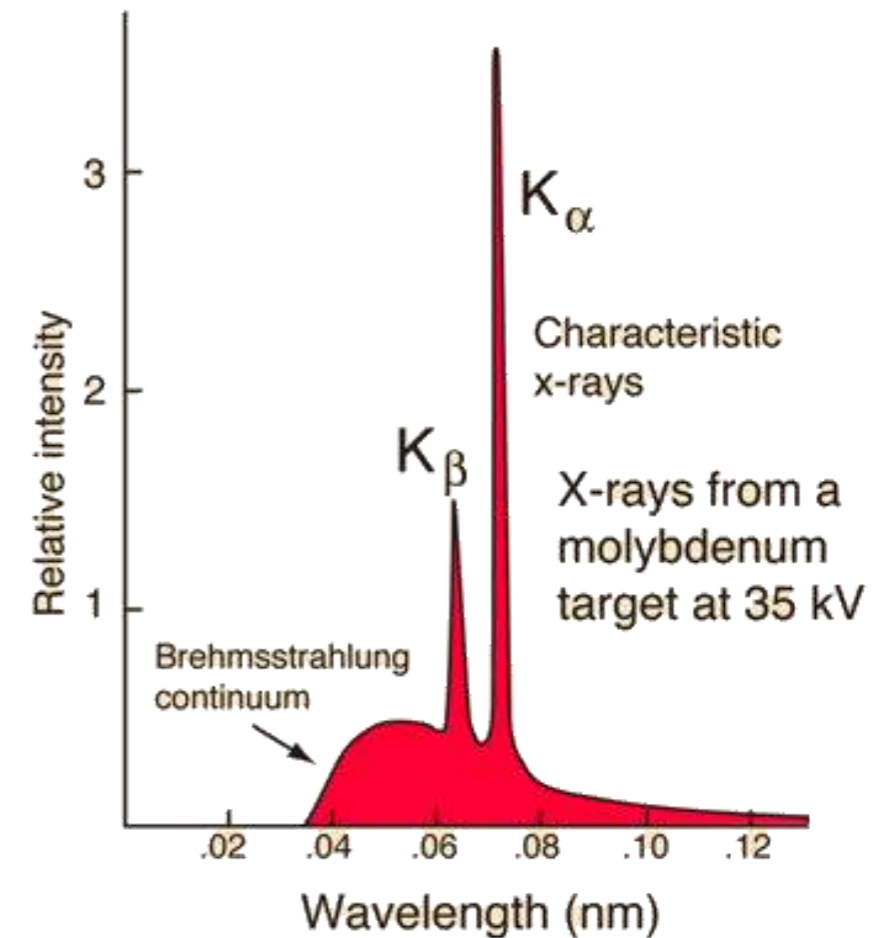
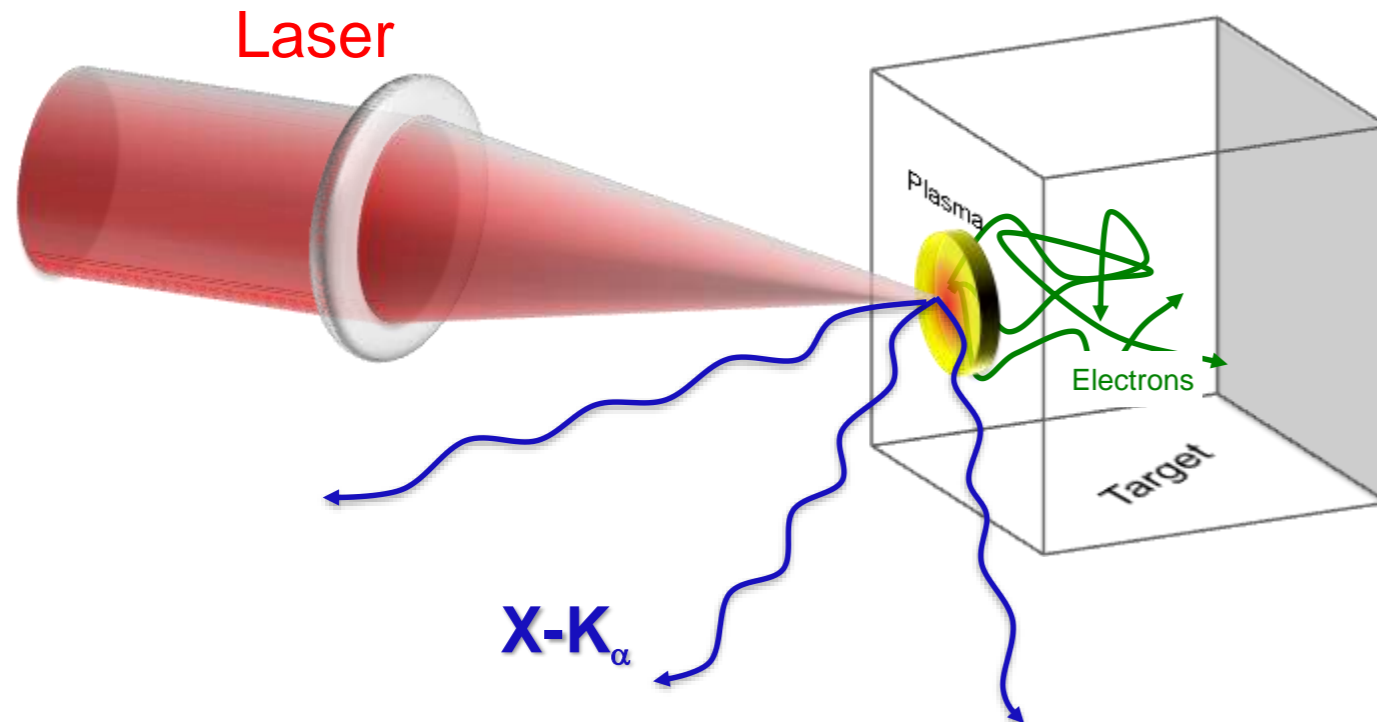
10 Hz, 30 J, 30 fs

Betatron / inverse Compton



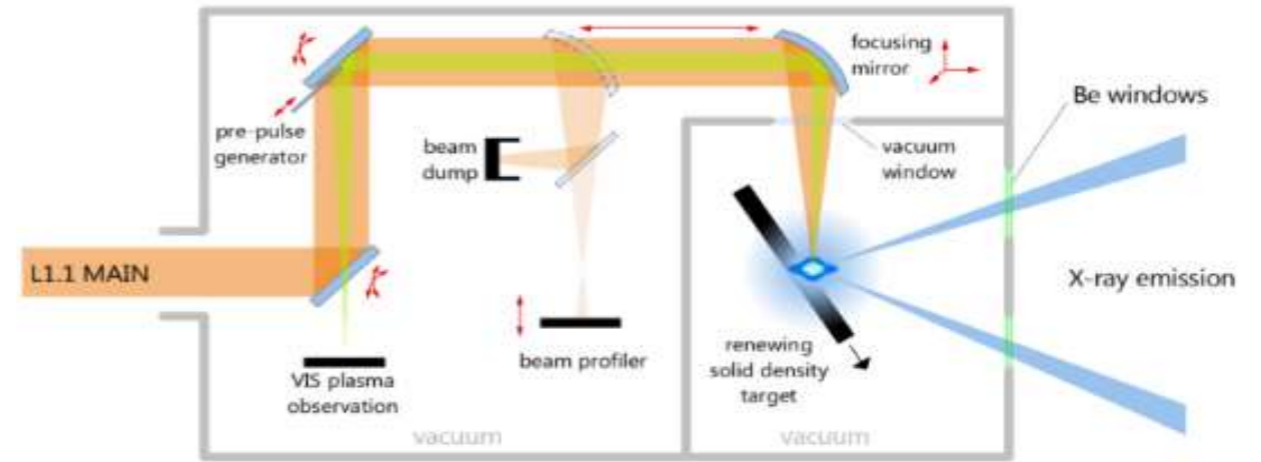
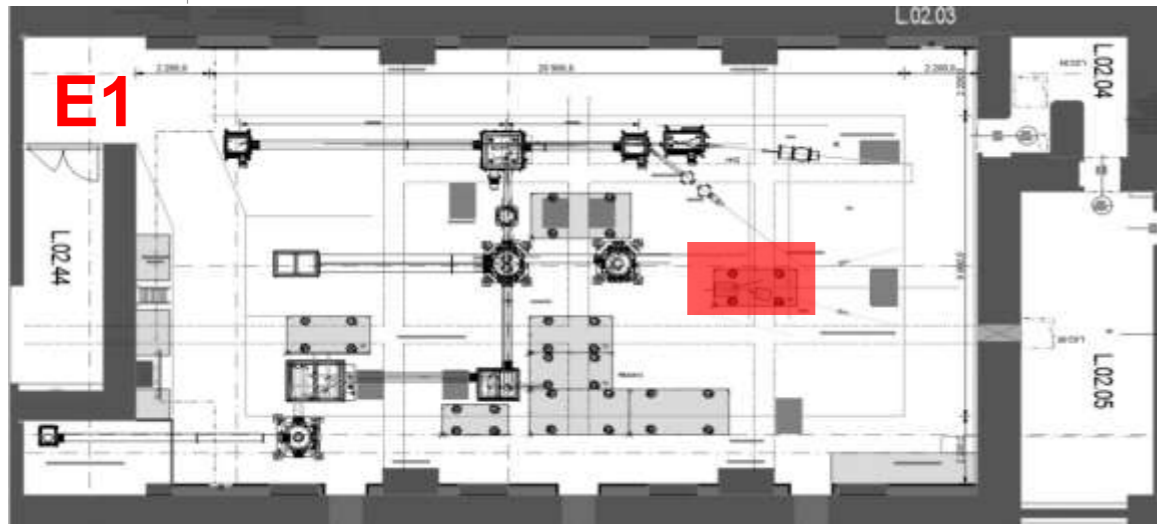
	Betatron	Compton
photon energy	10- 100 keV	50 - 5000 keV
photons/shot	$> 10^9$	$> 10^8$
Source size	< 5 $\mu$ m	< 5 $\mu$ m
pulse duration	~30 fs	< 30 fs

- Creation of “hot” electrons by interaction of intense laser pulse with matter ( $I > 10^{16} \text{ Wcm}^{-2}$ )
- Energetic electrons are decelerated in the target
- generation of bremsstrahlung and characteristic radiation





# 1 kHz Plasma X-ray Source (PXS)



High-intensity laser ( $I > 10^{16} \text{ Wcm}^{-2}$ ) interacting with high-density target:

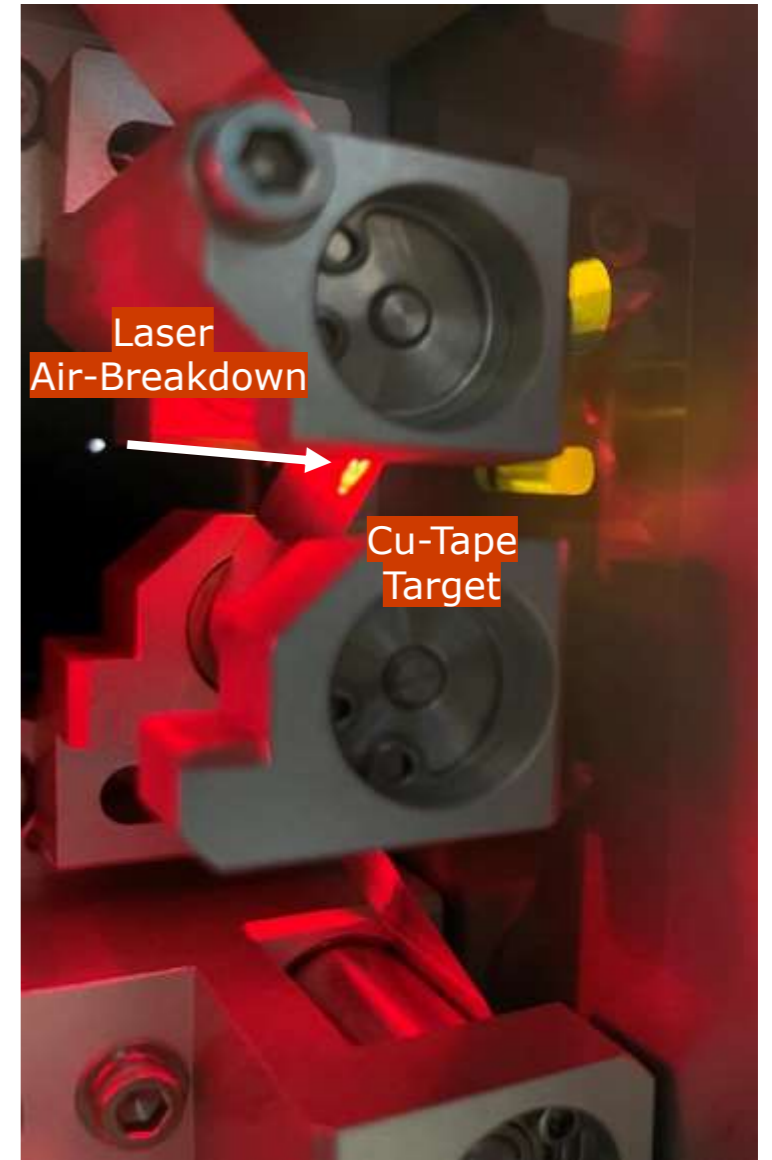
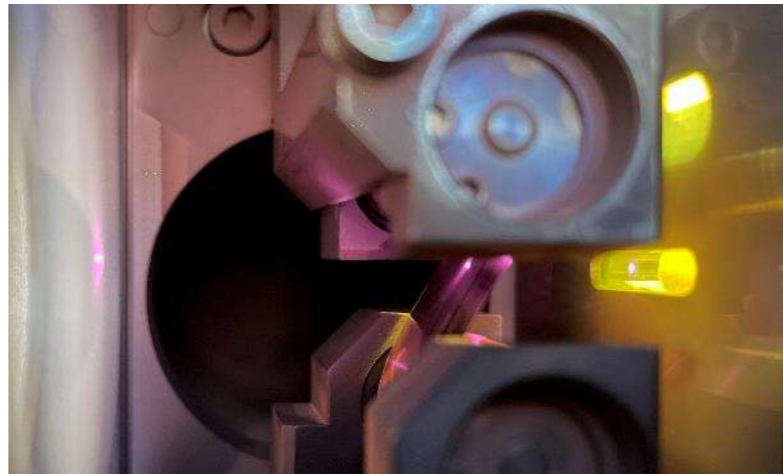
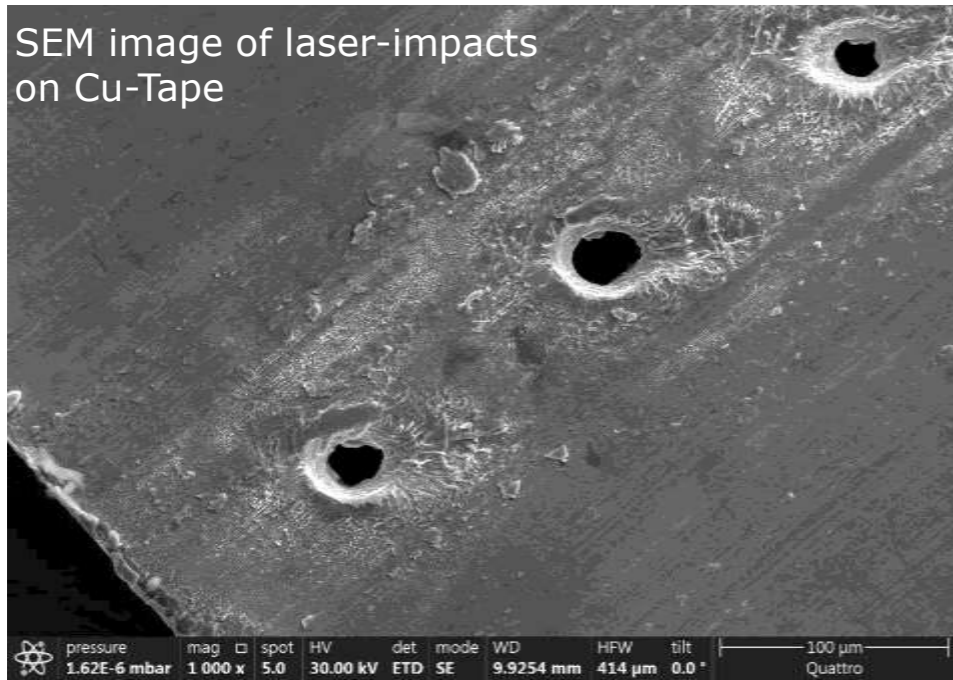
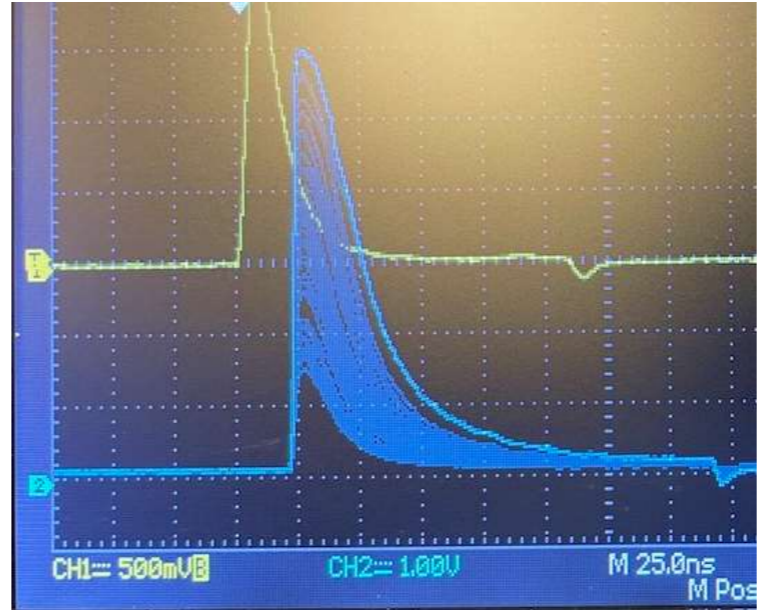
- **Cu tape**
- Liquid metal jet (in commissioning)
- Water jet

Table 1: X-ray source parameters	Phase I 10 mJ laser	Phase II 50 mJ laser
Photons per shot (photons/(sr line) or photons/(sr 1keV) @10keV)	$> 10^9$	$> 10^{11}$
Source size	$< 50 \mu\text{m}$	$< 50 \mu\text{m}$
Hard X-ray pulse duration (FWHM)	$< 300 \text{ fs}$	$< 300 \text{ fs}$

## Cu Tape source

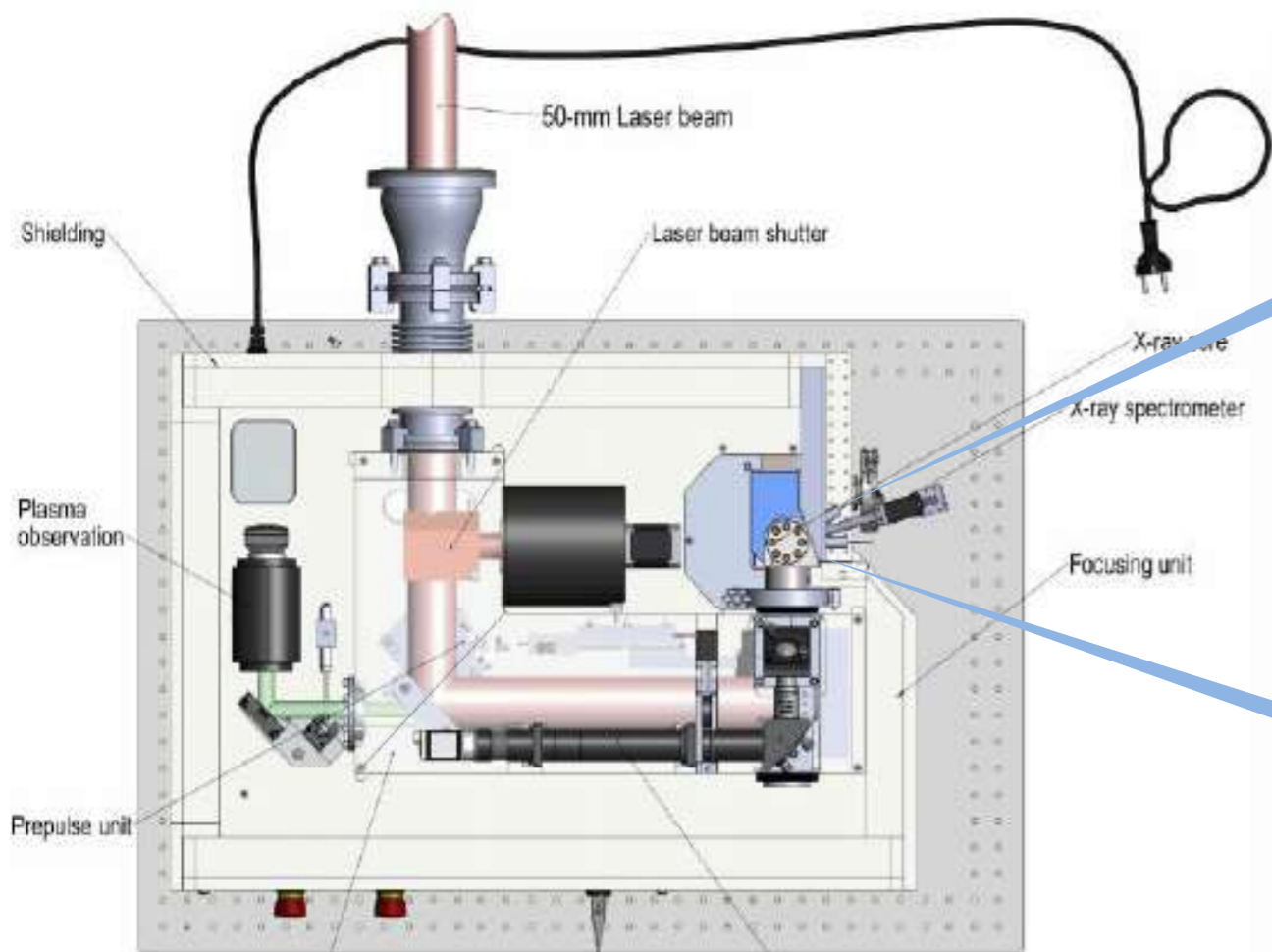
Driven by L1 laser (20 mJ, 1 kHz)

=> up to  $3 \times 10^{11}$  photons/shot/4pi





# Plasma X-ray Source (PXS) - two beamlines



polychromatic  
high flux  
small spot size  
OR point source

**PXS-BL2**

Imaging  
Radiolysis  
Spectroscopy



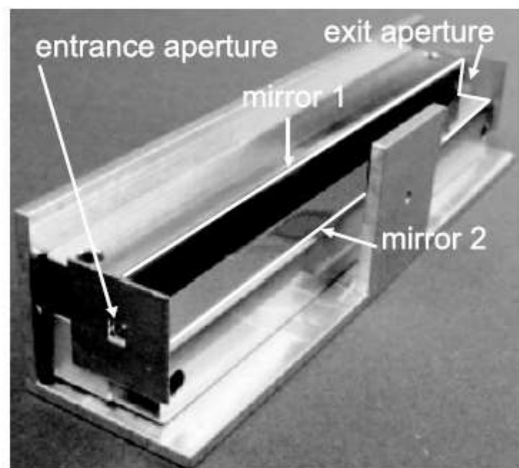
monochromatic  
low divergence

**PXS-BL1**

Diffraction

Currently  $10^6$  photons/shot on sample

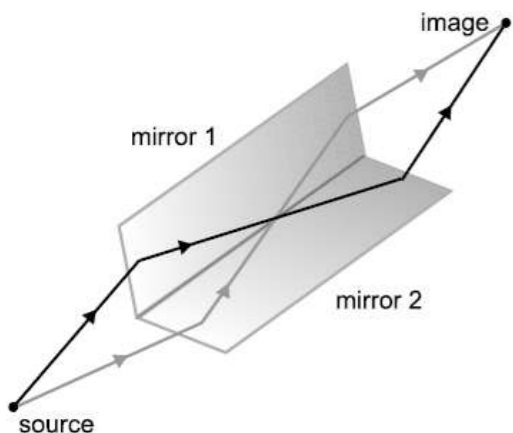
# Montel optics at TREX diffractometer



a



Ni/C multilayer coating  
for 8.046 keV radiation (Cu K-alpha)



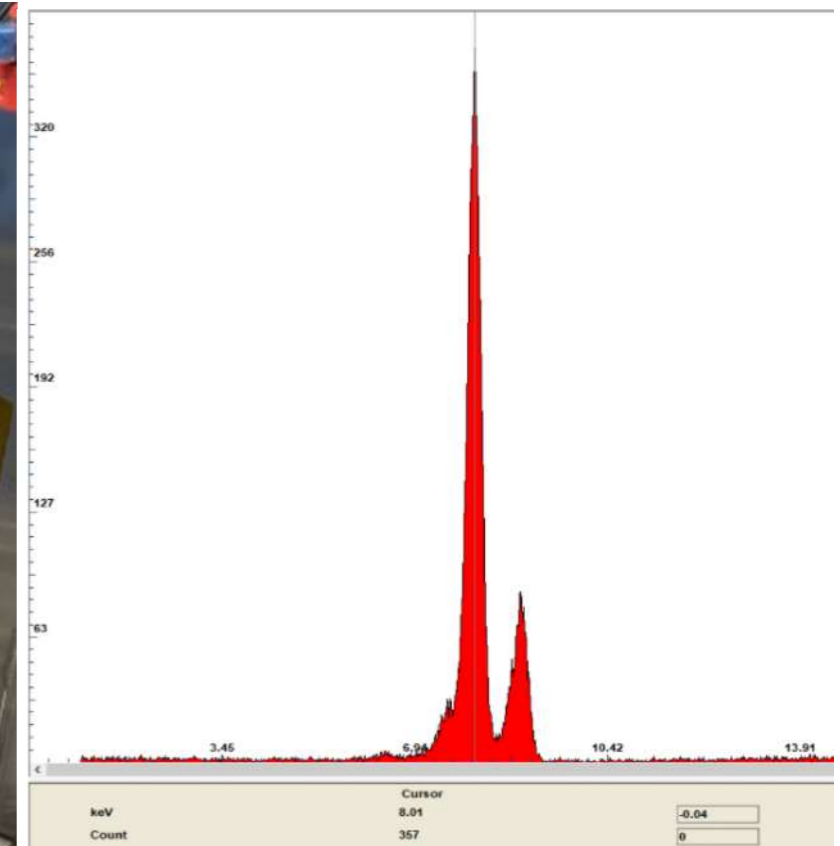
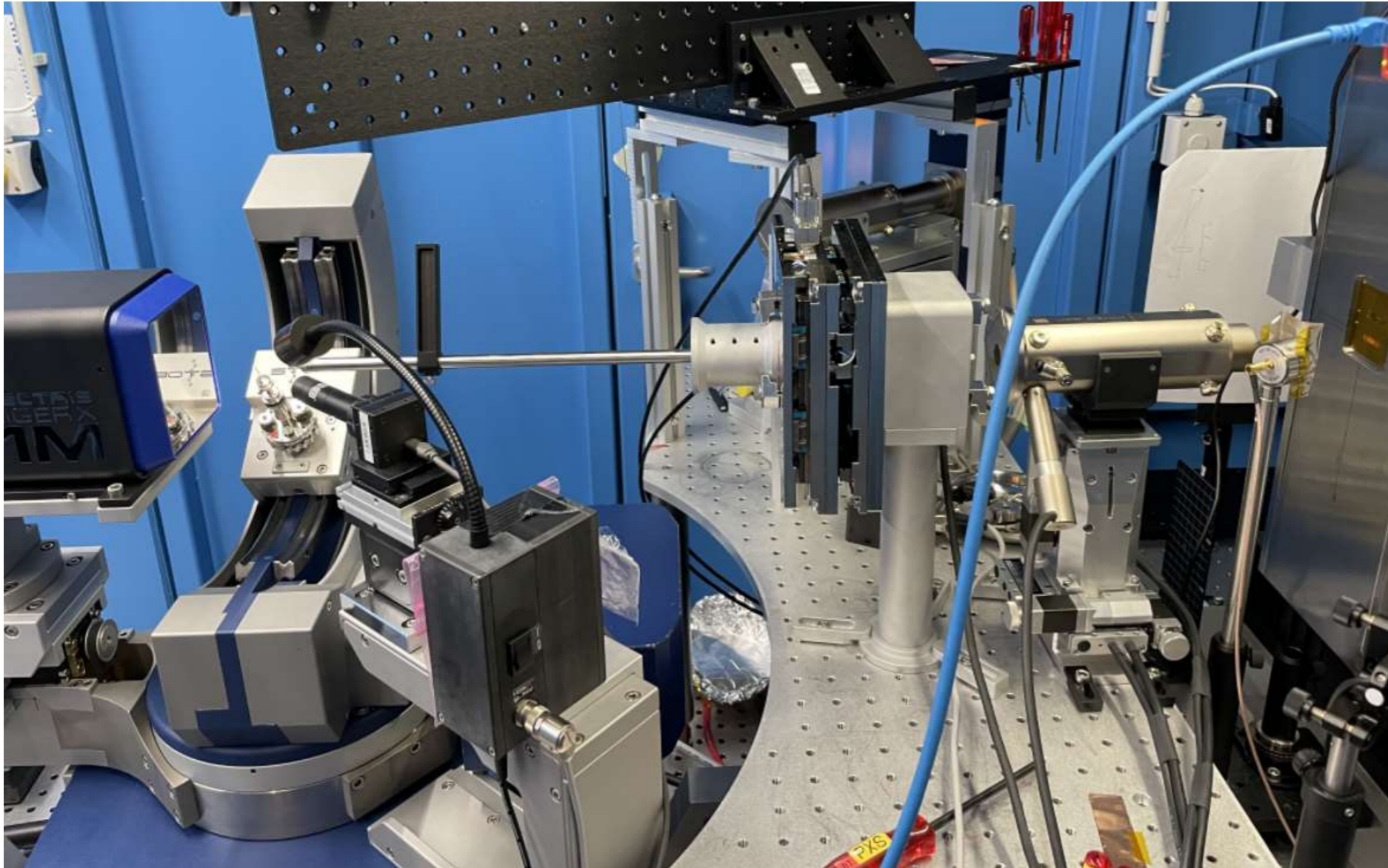
b

Fig. Montel optic: (a) photograph; (b) principle scheme

- Focal distances:  $f_1 + f_2 = 805 \text{ mm}$
- Primary focal distance:  $f_1 = 190 \text{ mm}$
- Secondary focal distance:  $f_2 = 615 \text{ mm}$
- Focal spot dimension:  $\varnothing \approx 0.10 \text{ mm FWHM}$  (for  $30 \mu\text{m FWHM}$  source)
- Deflection angle  $2\sqrt{2}\cdot\theta_B = 3.128^\circ$  (54.6 mrad)
- Collection angle  $\Omega_{\text{in}} = 16.8 \text{ mrad}$
- Convergence angle:  $\Omega_{\text{out}} = 4.8 \text{ mrad}$



# Plasma X-ray Source (PXS) diffraction experiment



Flux from the source:  
 $10^{12}$  photons/shot/ $4\pi$  sr  
Flux on target:  
 $\sim 10^6$  photons/shot

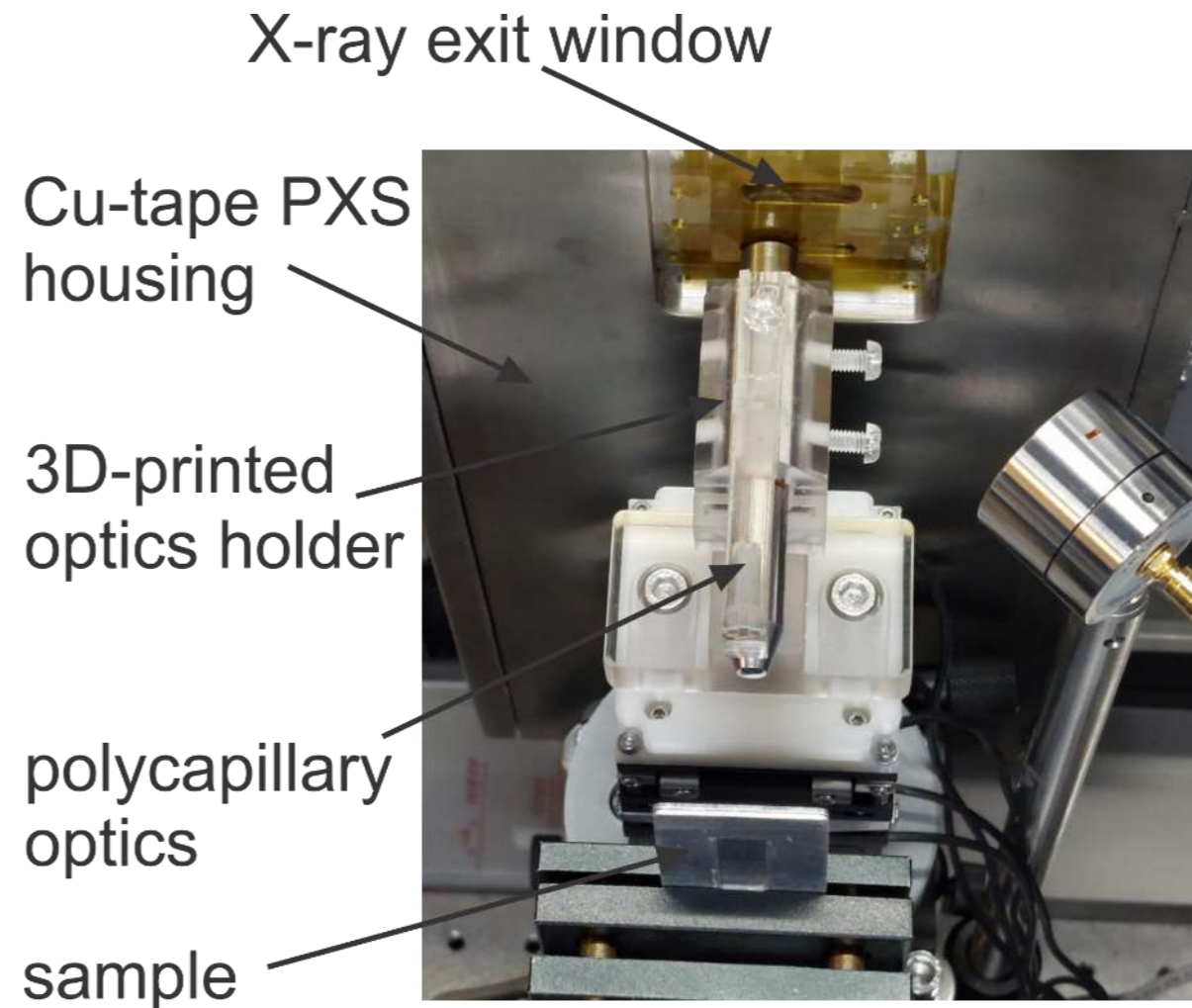
# Focusing optics for X-ray spectroscopy (Von Hamos)

**Polycapillary** – a bunch of curved channels, each guiding a photon to a required target spot, which is the focus

**Polycapillary optics** *re-images* broadband photons from the source spot to the target

ELI Beamlines E1 polycapillary parameters:

- Input focal distance – 18.0 mm
  - Output focal distance – 30.0 mm
  - Enclosure length – 77.0 mm
  - Enclosure diameter – 10.0 mm
  - Output focal spot size -  $<130 \mu\text{m}$
  - Output beam convergent angle –  $7.4^\circ$
  - Input FWHM @ 8 keV -  $>50 \mu\text{m}$
  - Has Beryllium windows
- [Zymaková et al., J. Synchrotron Rad. **27** (2020)]





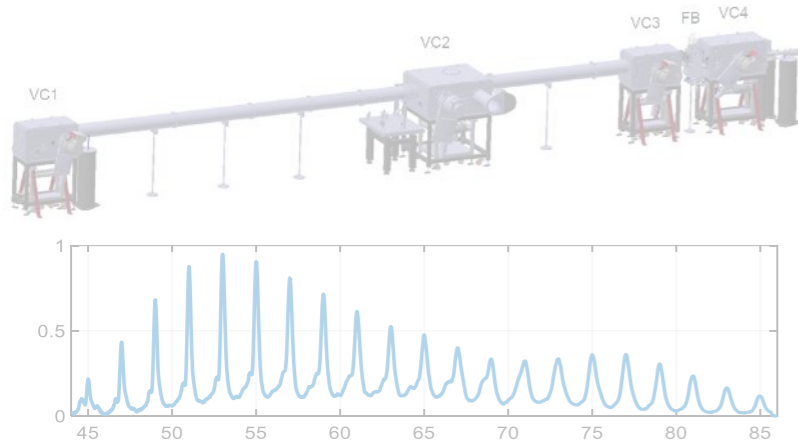
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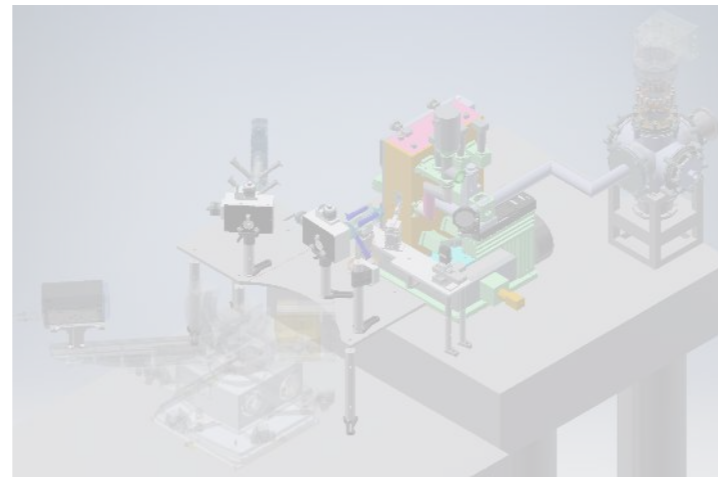


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1 kHz, 12 mJ, 35 fs  
& 10 Hz, 100 mJ, 40 fs

### Plasma X-ray source



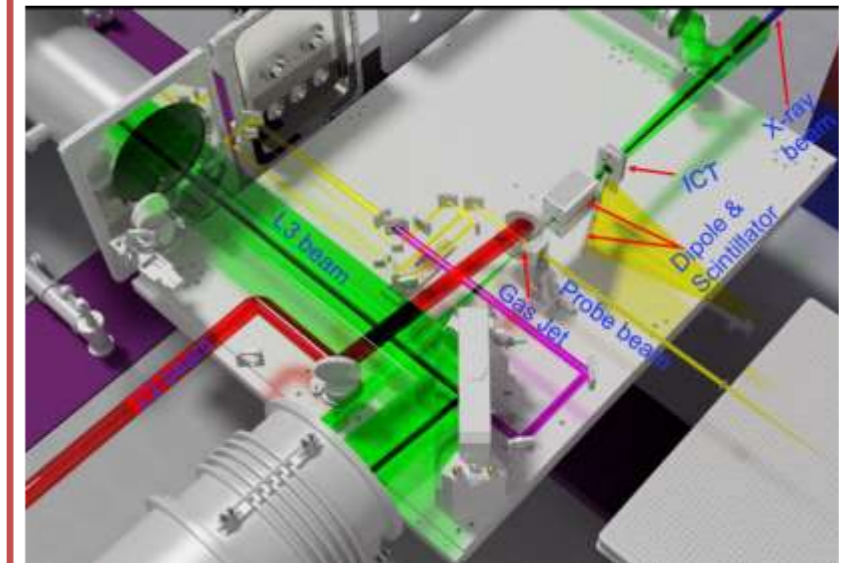
	10 mJ, 35 fs	100 mJ laser (15 fs)
photon energy	3 - 40 keV	3 - 80 keV
photons/( $4\pi$ sr line or 1keV @10keV)	$> 10^8$	$> 10^9$
Source size	< 50 $\mu\text{m}$	< 50 $\mu\text{m}$
pulse duration	< 300 fs	<300 fs

E2/E3

## L3 driver

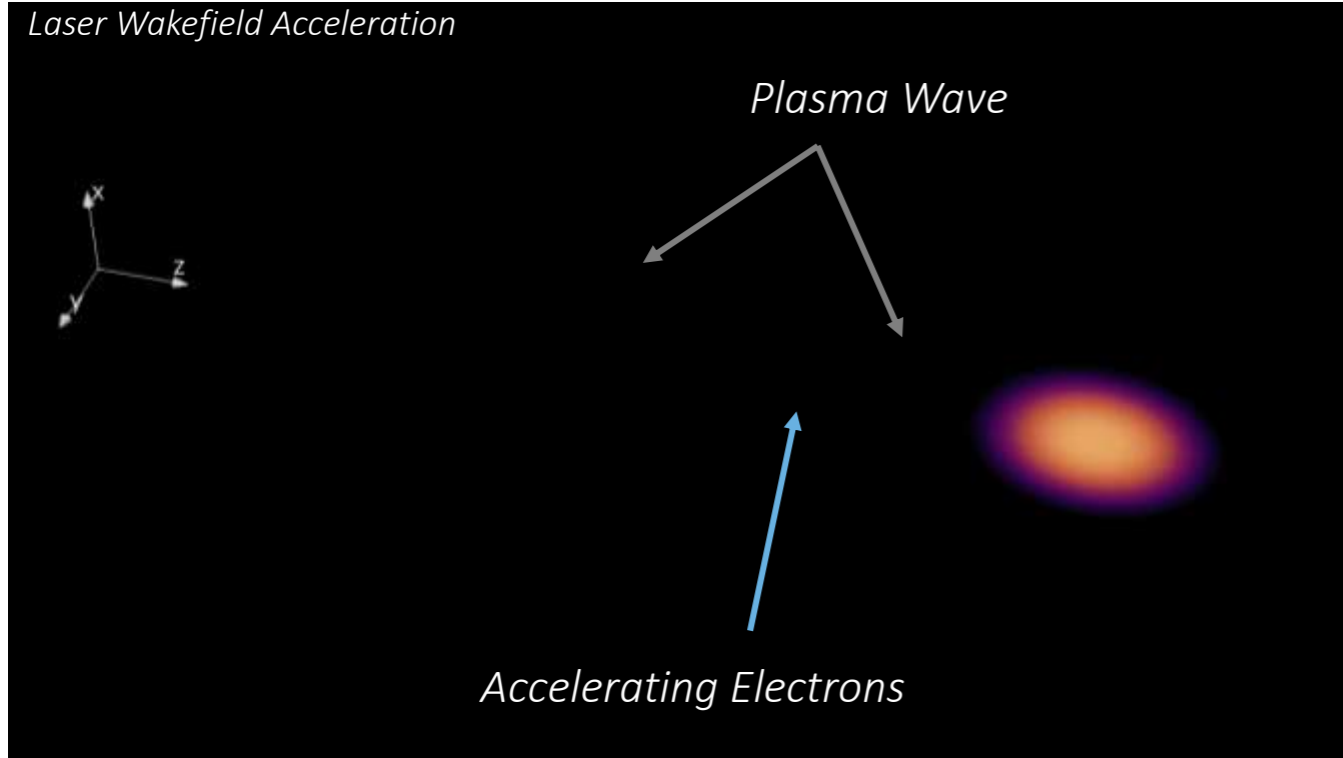
10 Hz, 30 J, 30 fs

### Betatron / inverse Compton



	Betatron	Compton
photon energy	10- 100 keV	50 - 5000 keV
photons/shot	$> 10^9$	$> 10^8$
Source size	< 5 $\mu\text{m}$	< 5 $\mu\text{m}$
pulse duration	~30 fs	< 30 fs

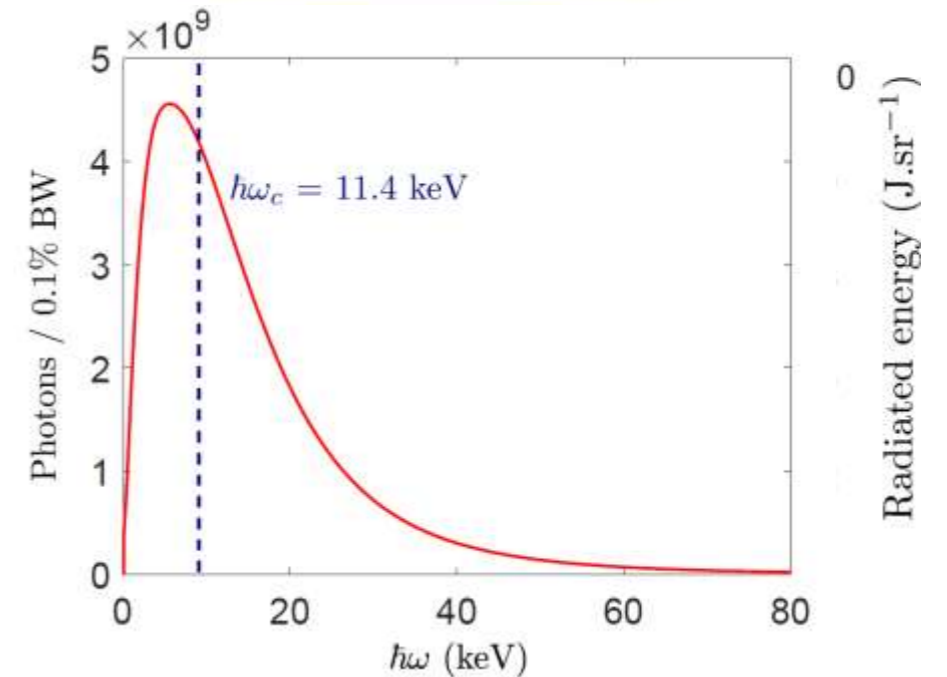
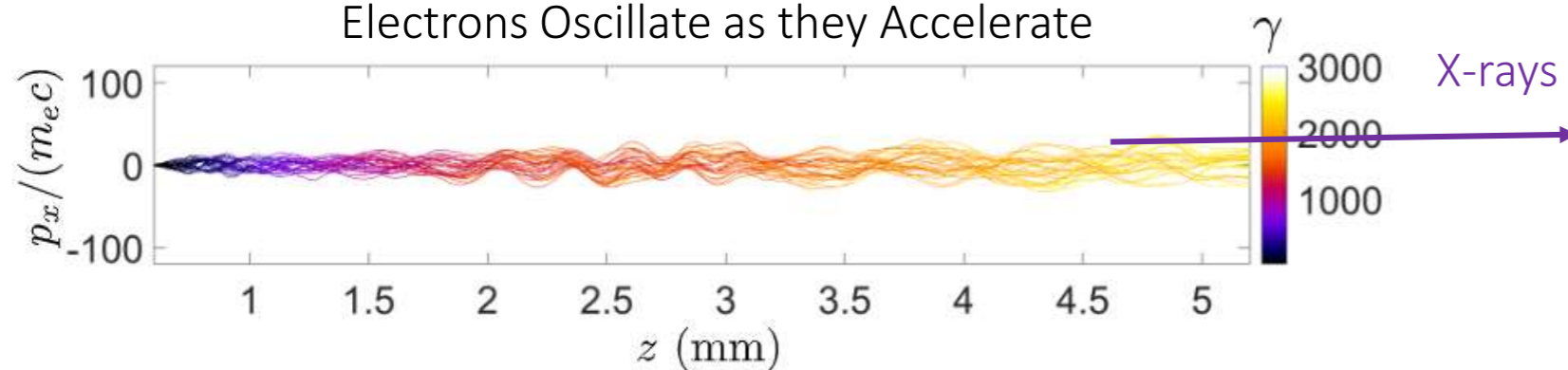
# Laser plasma accelerator based Betatron X-ray source



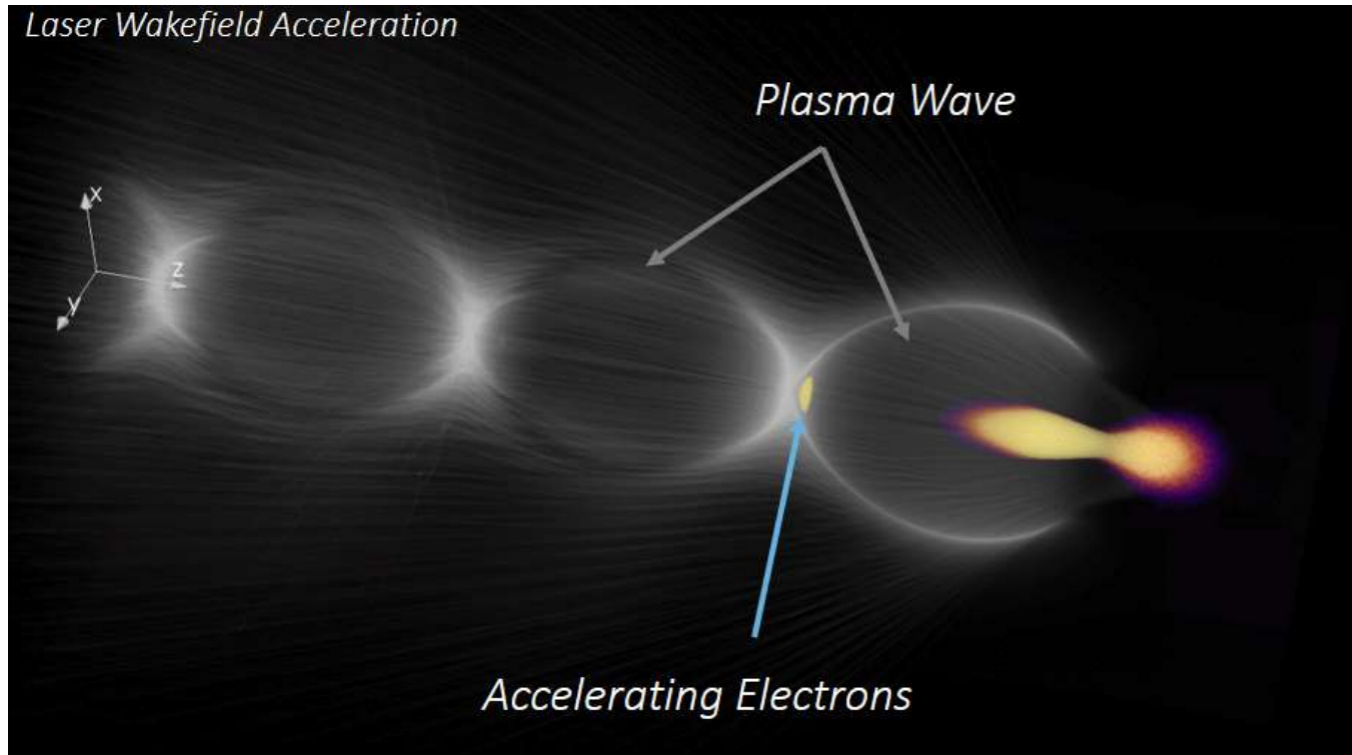
Short laser pulse with relativistic intensity ( $I > 10^{18} \text{ Wcm}^{-2}$ ) interacts with underdense plasma (gas target)

**LWFA** + transverse oscillations = X-rays

Electrons Oscillate as they Accelerate







## Characteristics of Betatron radiation

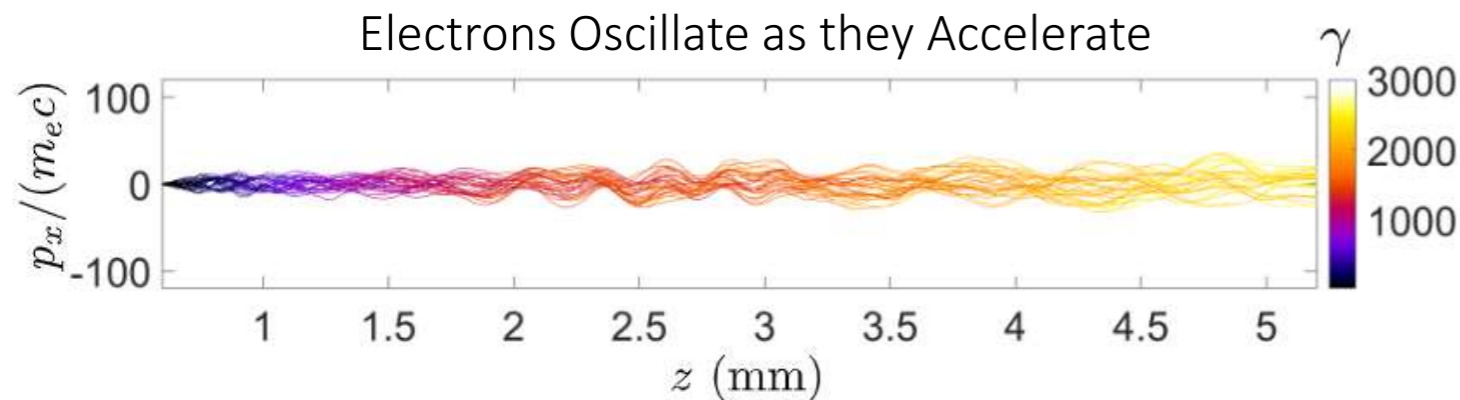
- « Source size: few  $\mu\text{m}$
- « Broadband, crit. energy: 5 - 50 keV
- « Number of Photons:  $10^9 - 10^{11}/\text{shot}$
- « Beam divergence < 20 mrad
- « Pulse duration  $\sim 10$  fs

- Critical energy:

$$E_c = \frac{3}{2} K \gamma^2 \hbar \omega_\beta = 5.24 \times 10^{-21} * \gamma^2 * n_e [\text{cm}^{-3}] r_b$$

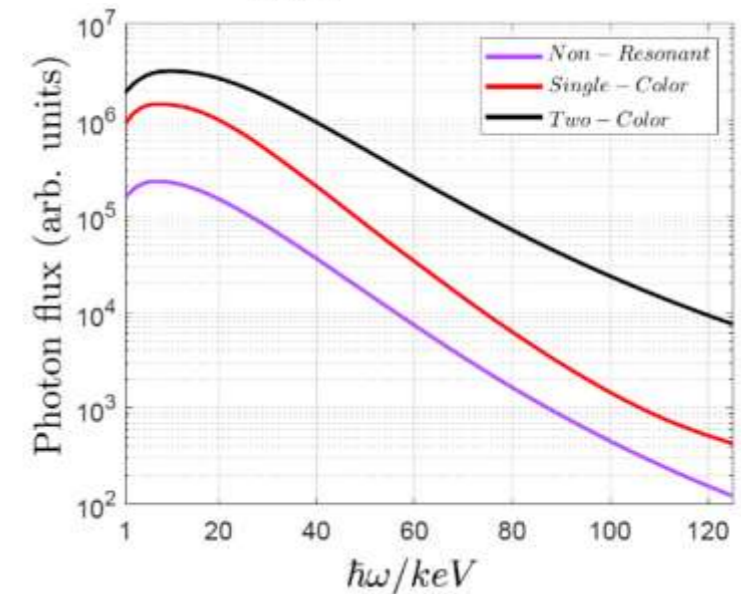
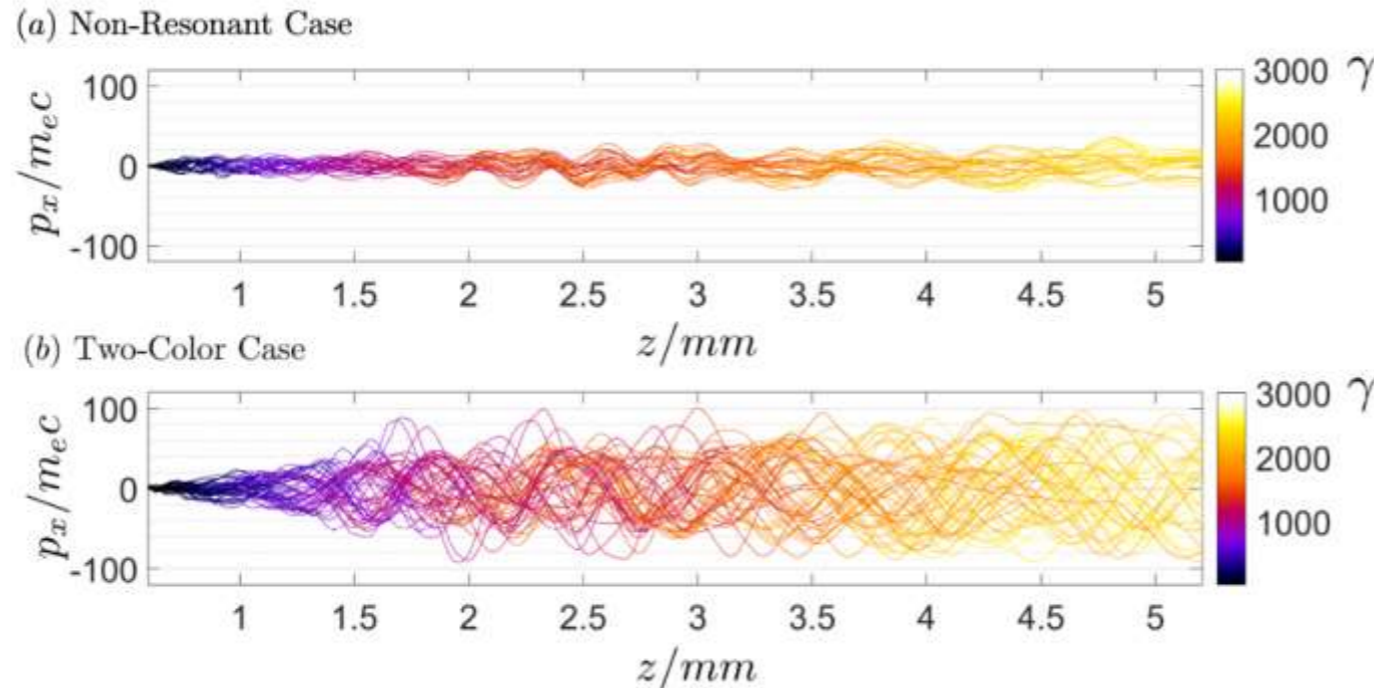
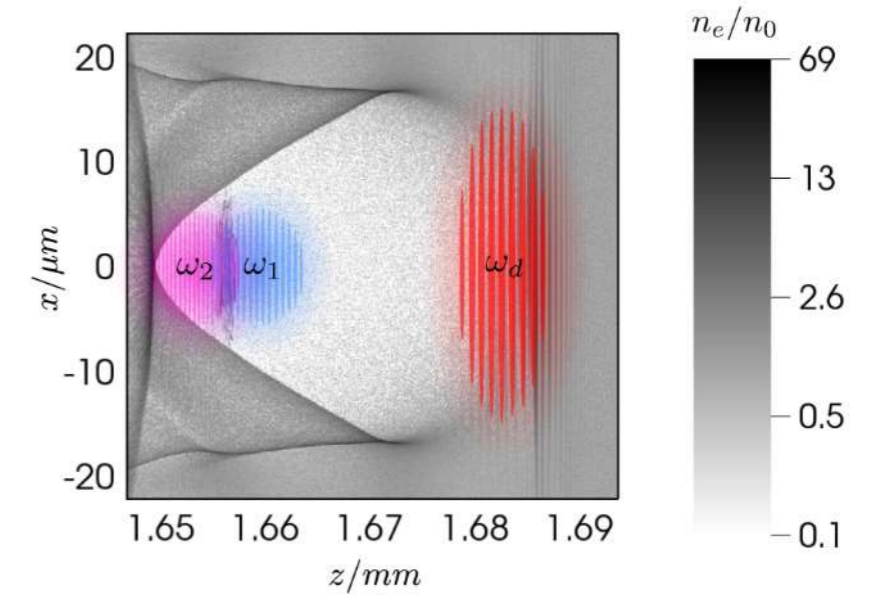
- Total emitted X-ray radiation:  $W_{\text{tot}} \propto N e \gamma^{5/2} r_b^2$

=> Higer energy and brighter radiation  
for higher  $\gamma$  and  $r_b$

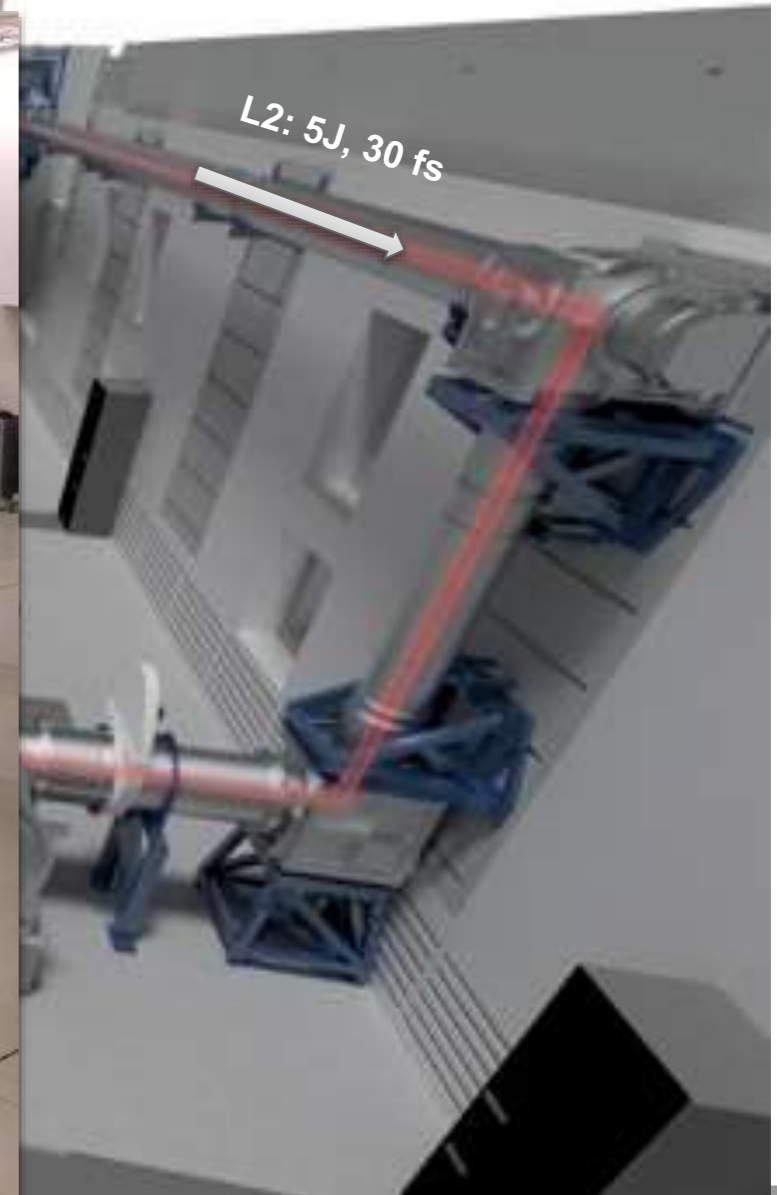
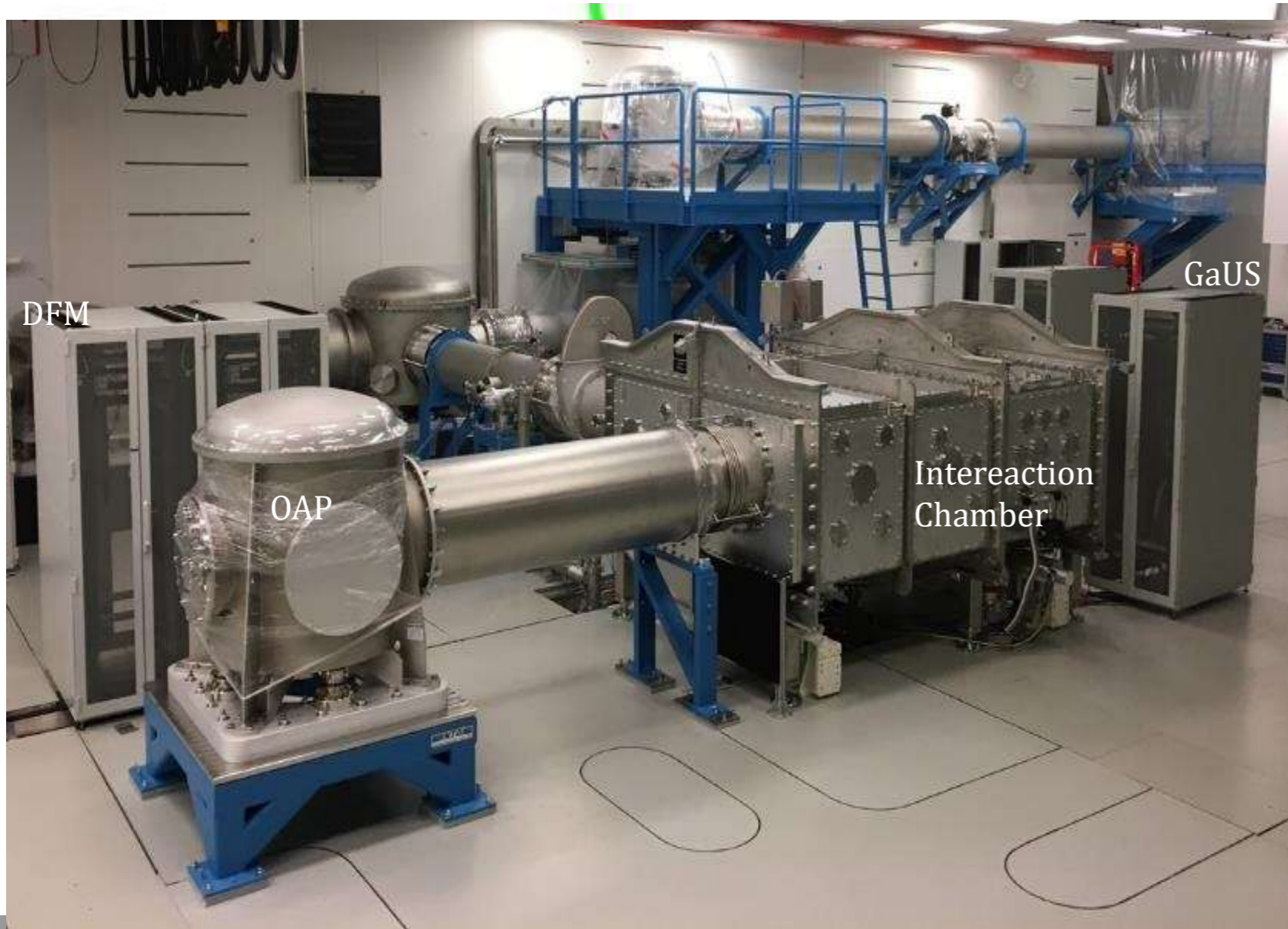


# Advanced plasma Betatron

- « Two-color nonlinear resonances in plasma betatron (PIC)
  - « Increase of betatron oscillation amplitudes (undulator parameter  $K$ )
  - « Rel. electrons resonant with either of the fields and/or combination resonances

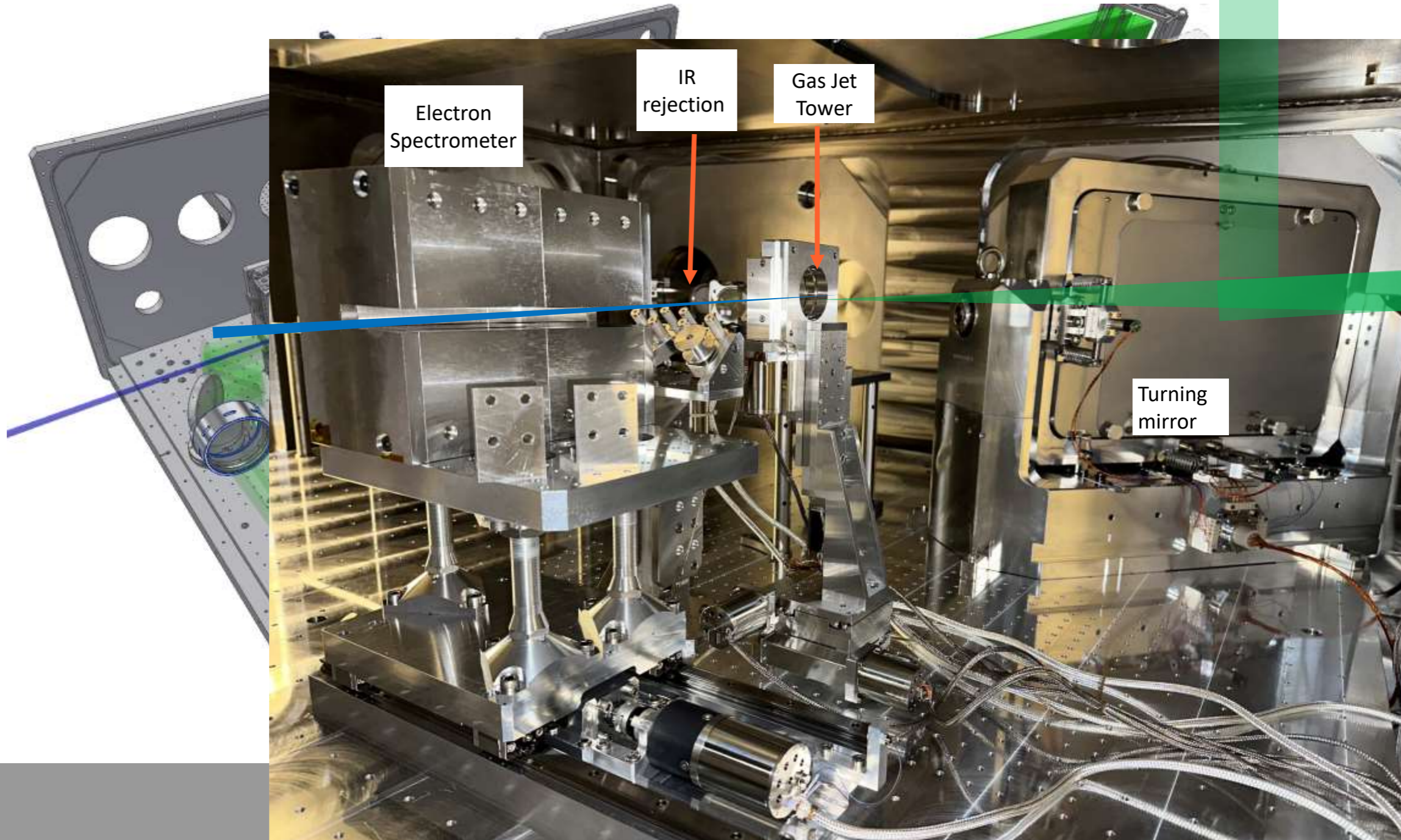






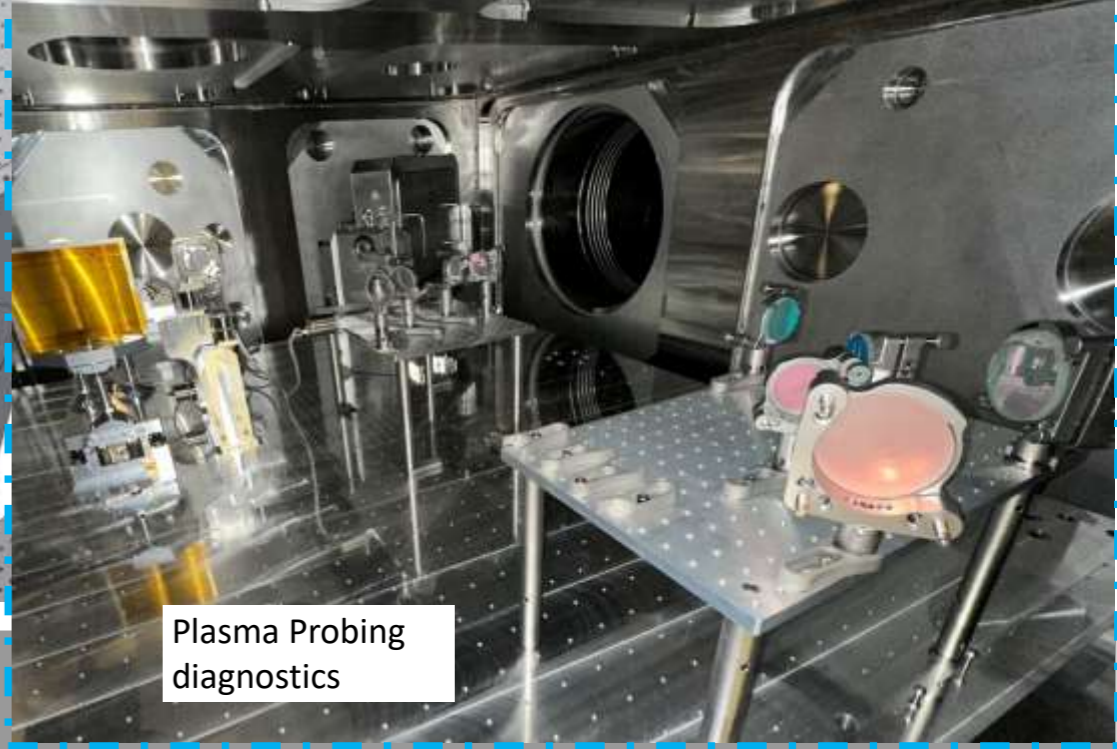
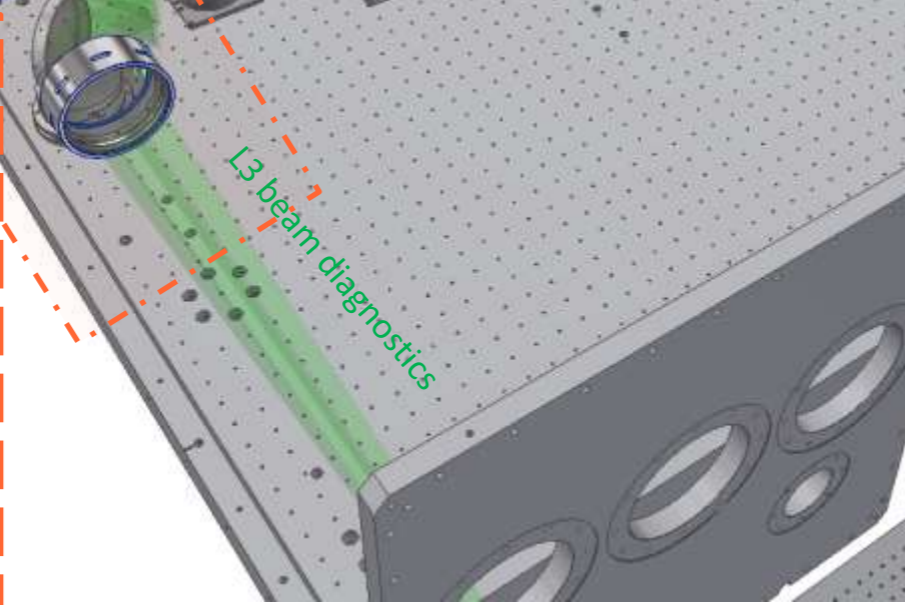
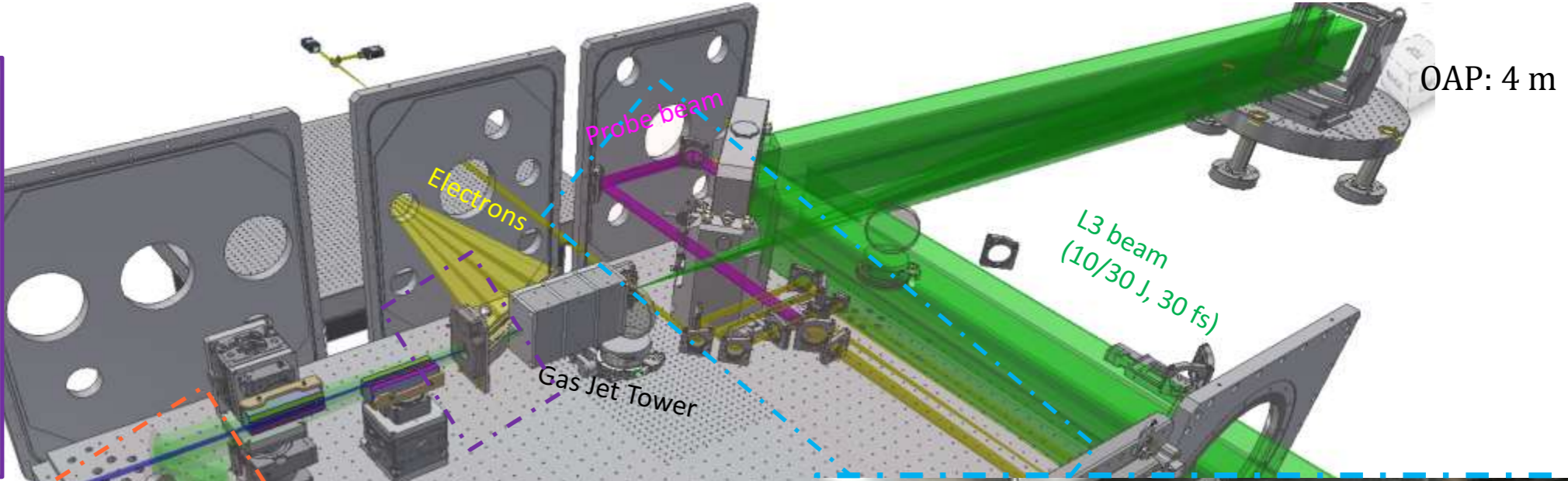
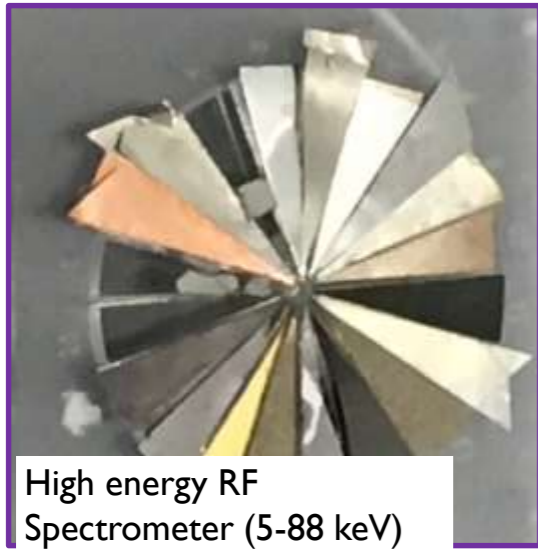


# ELI Gammatron Beamline – betatron source



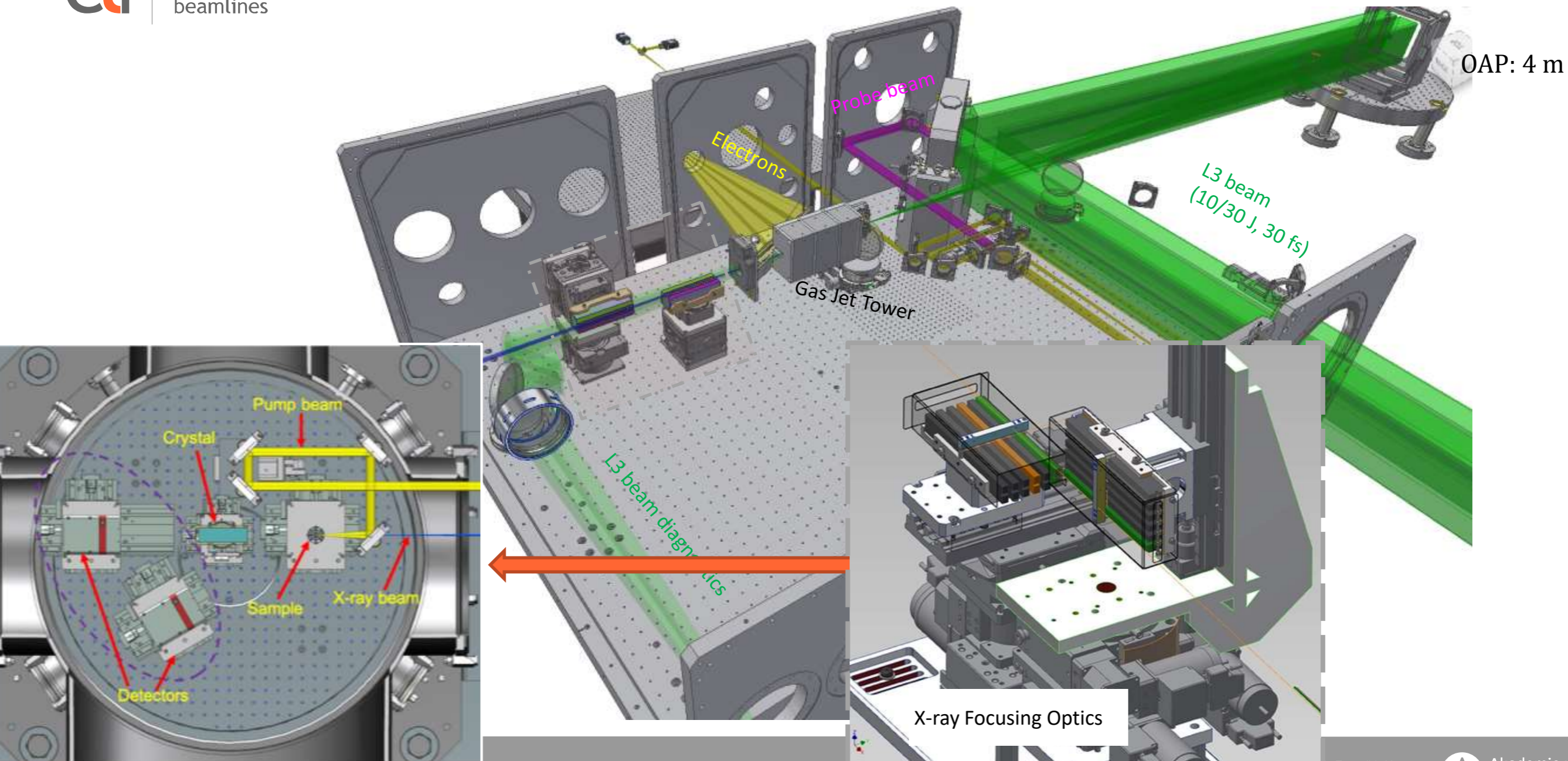


# ELI Gammatron Beamline – betatron source



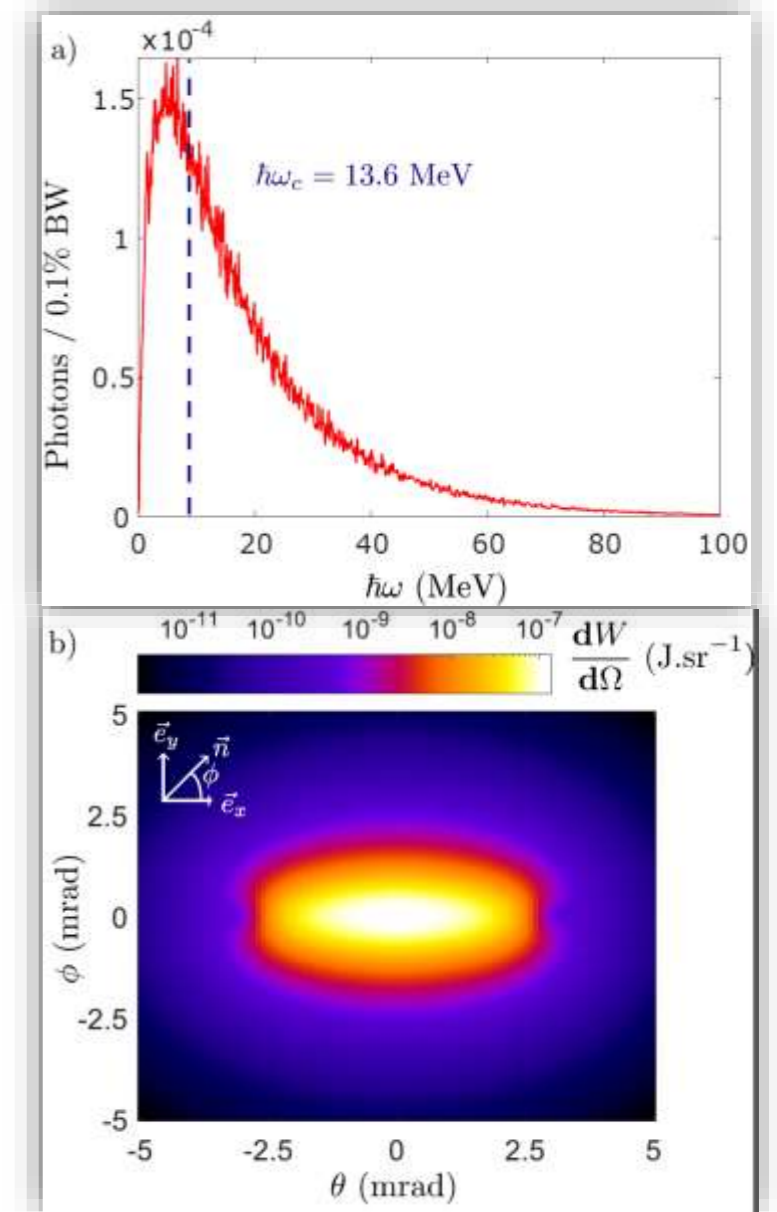
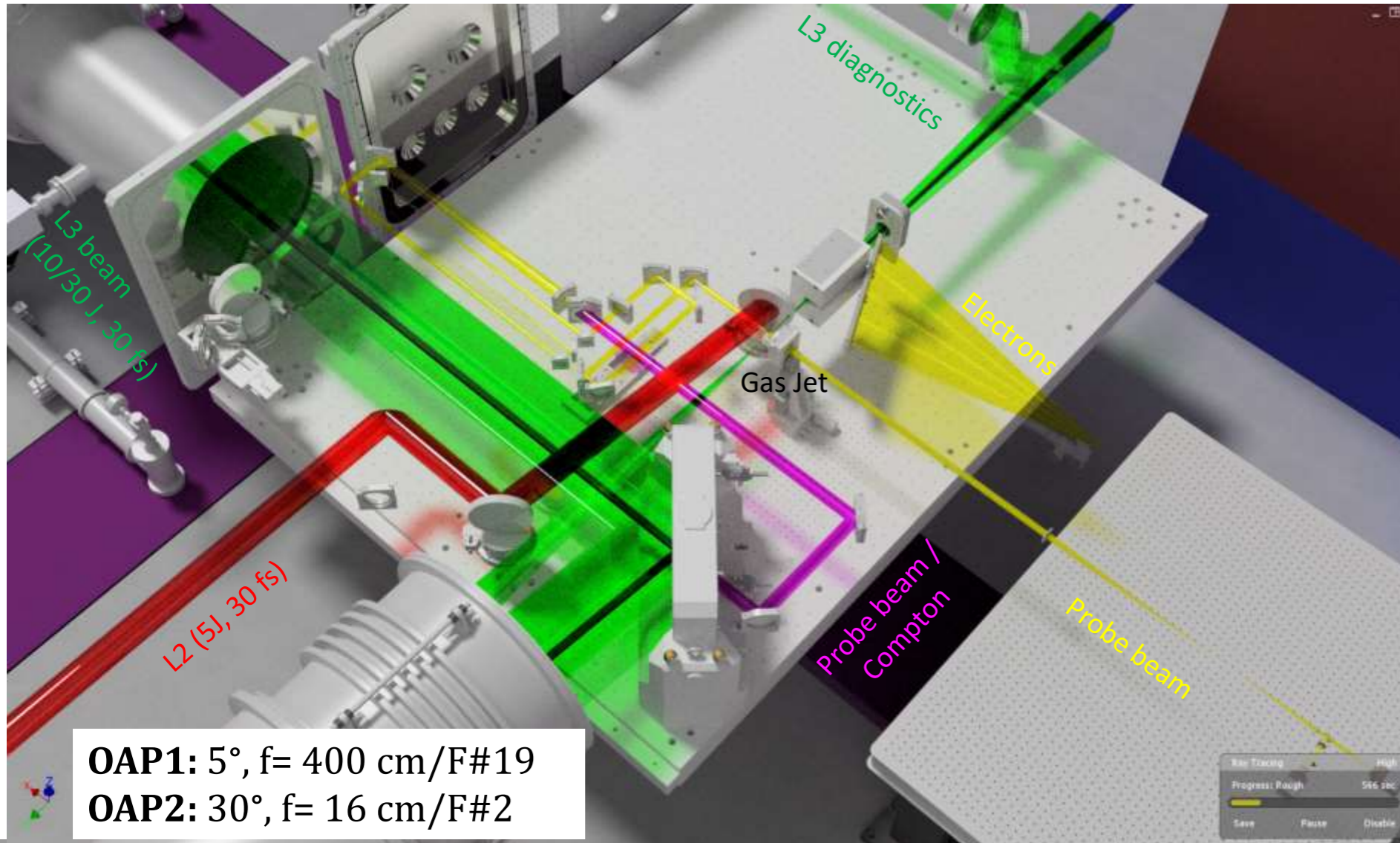


# ELI Gammatron Beamline – betatron source





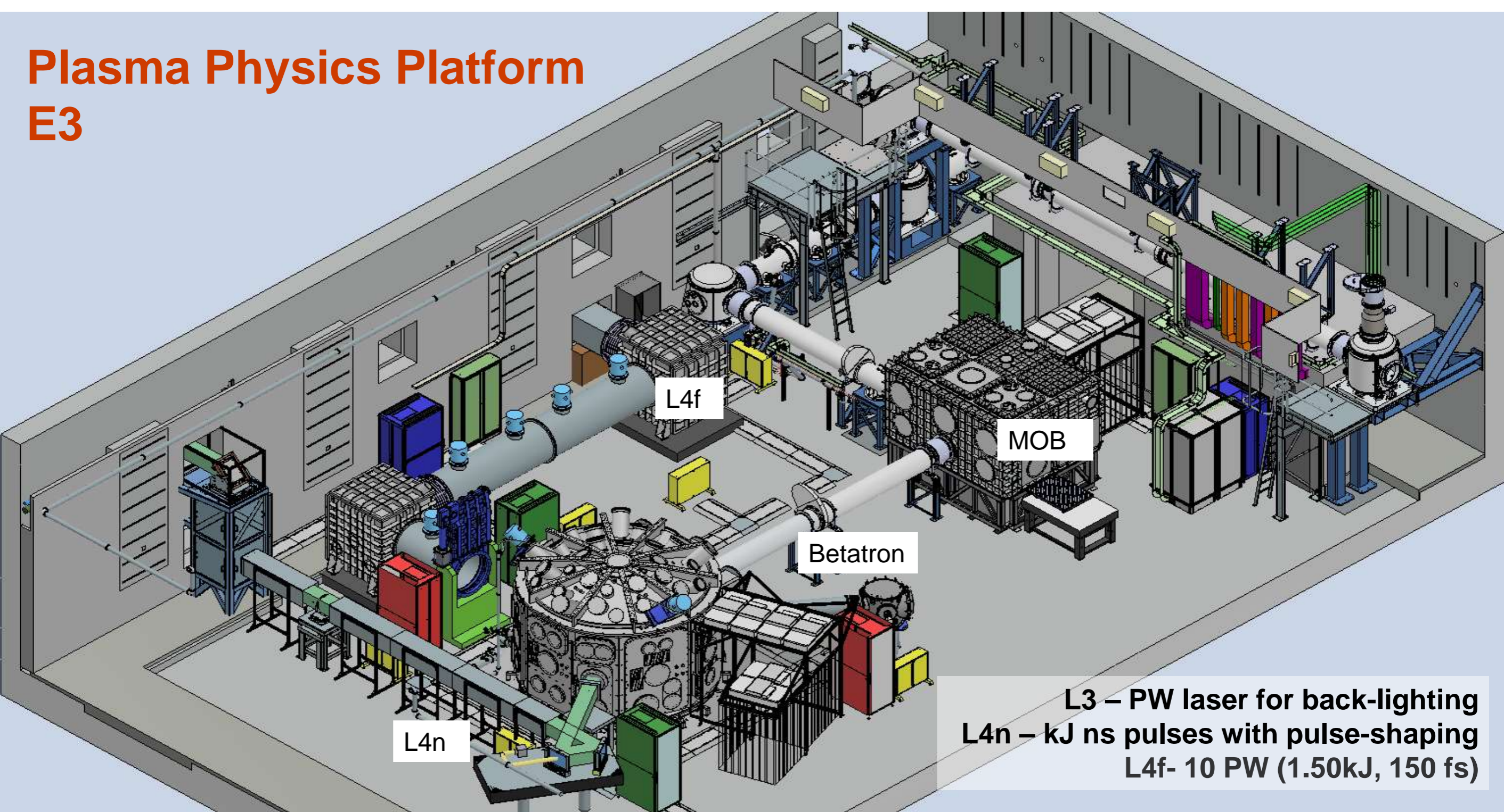
# ELI Gammatron Beamline – inverse Compton source





# Plasma Physics Platform

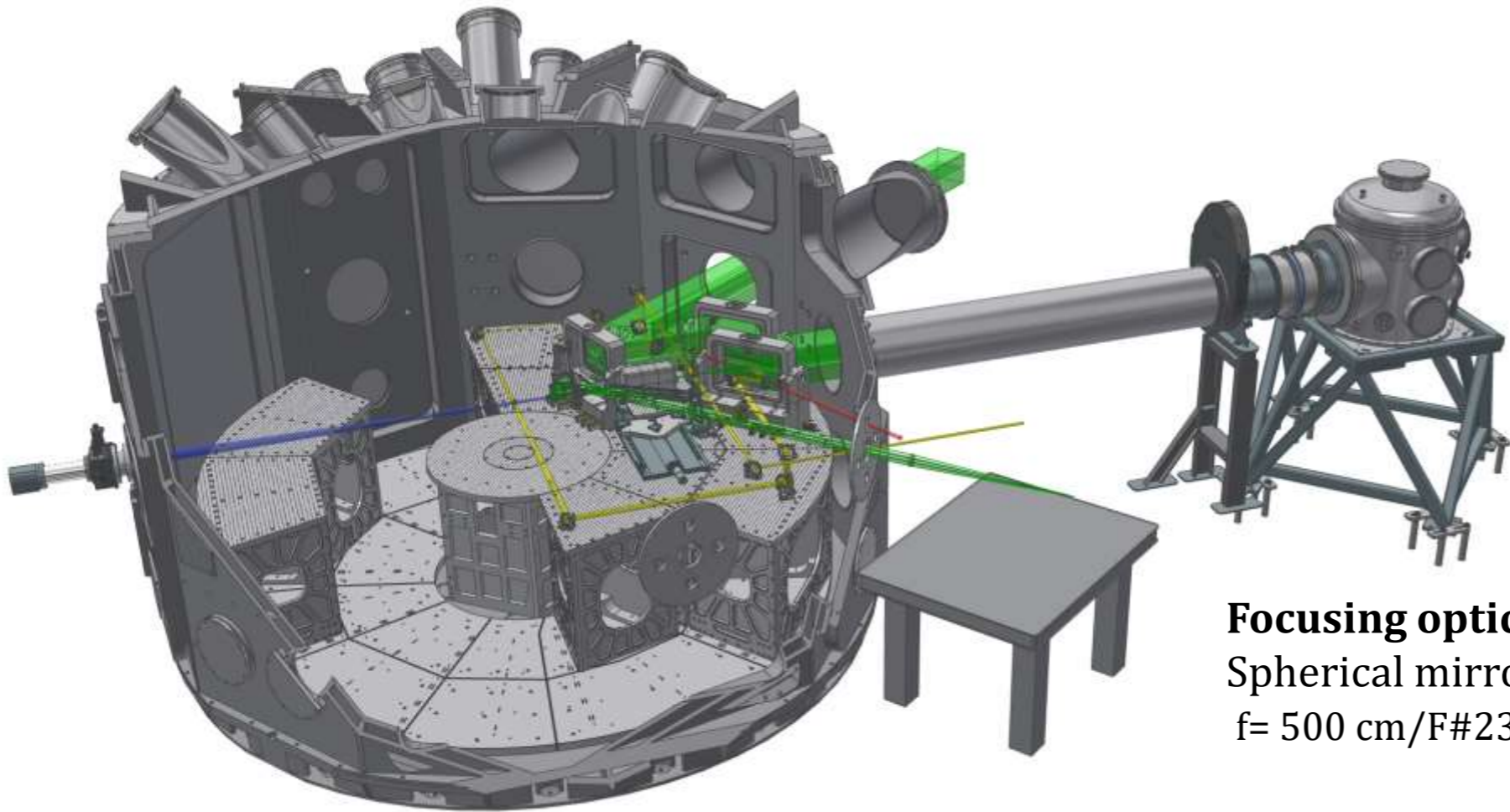
## E3



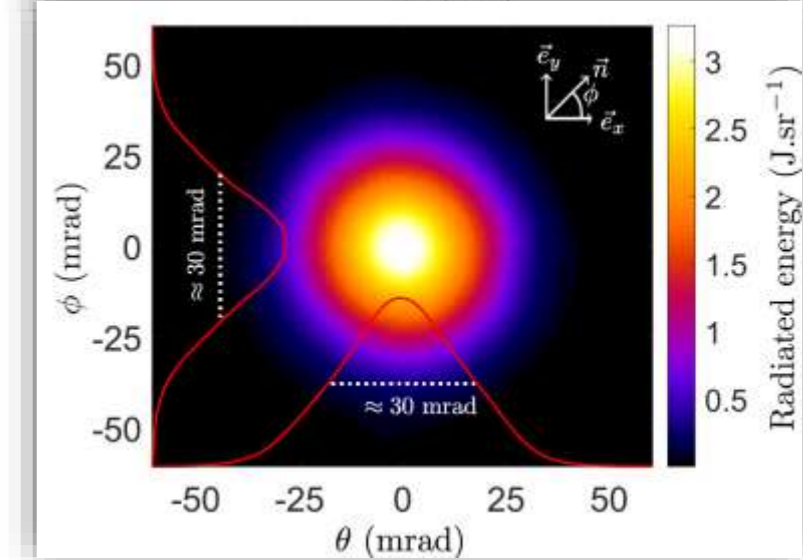
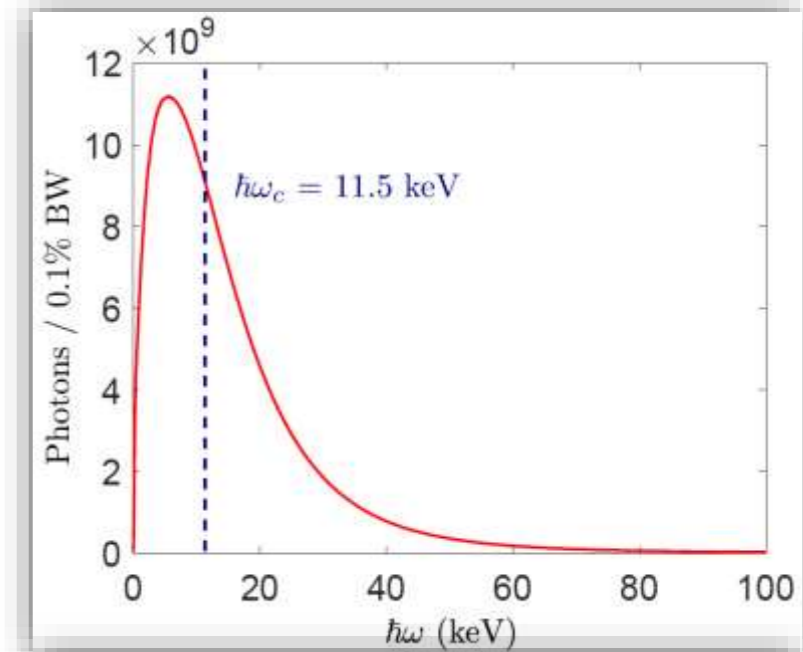
**L3 – PW laser for back-lighting**  
**L4n – kJ ns pulses with pulse-shaping**  
**L4f- 10 PW (1.50kJ, 150 fs)**



# Betatron Source at Plasma Physics Platform



**Focusing optics:**  
Spherical mirror  
 $f = 500 \text{ cm}/F\#23$



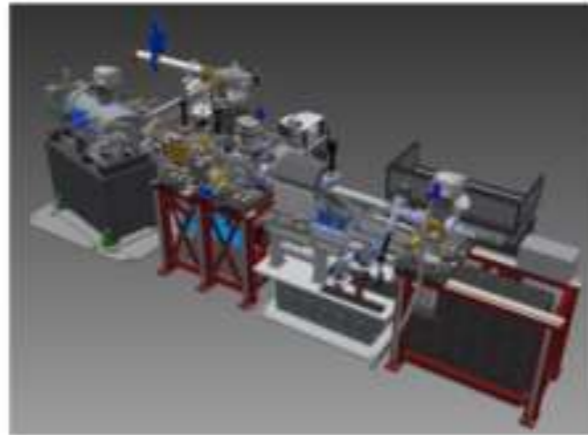
First Light (Q1 2022)

Source commissioning (Q3 2023)

User call (Q4 2023)

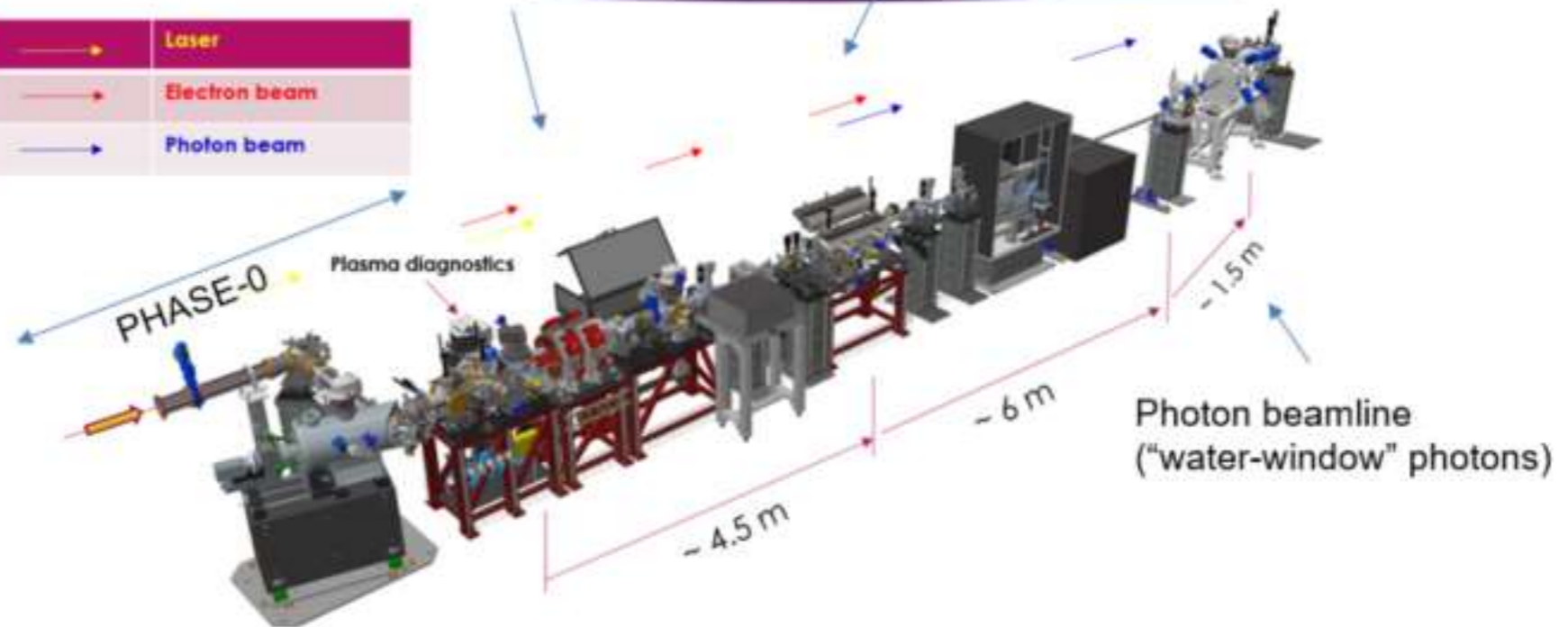
**Goal: Compact LPA-based accelerator at high repetition rate (3 Hz → 20 Hz → 50 Hz)**

**PHASE-0  
2022**



**PHASE-1  
2023-2024**

	Laser
	Electron beam
	Photon beam

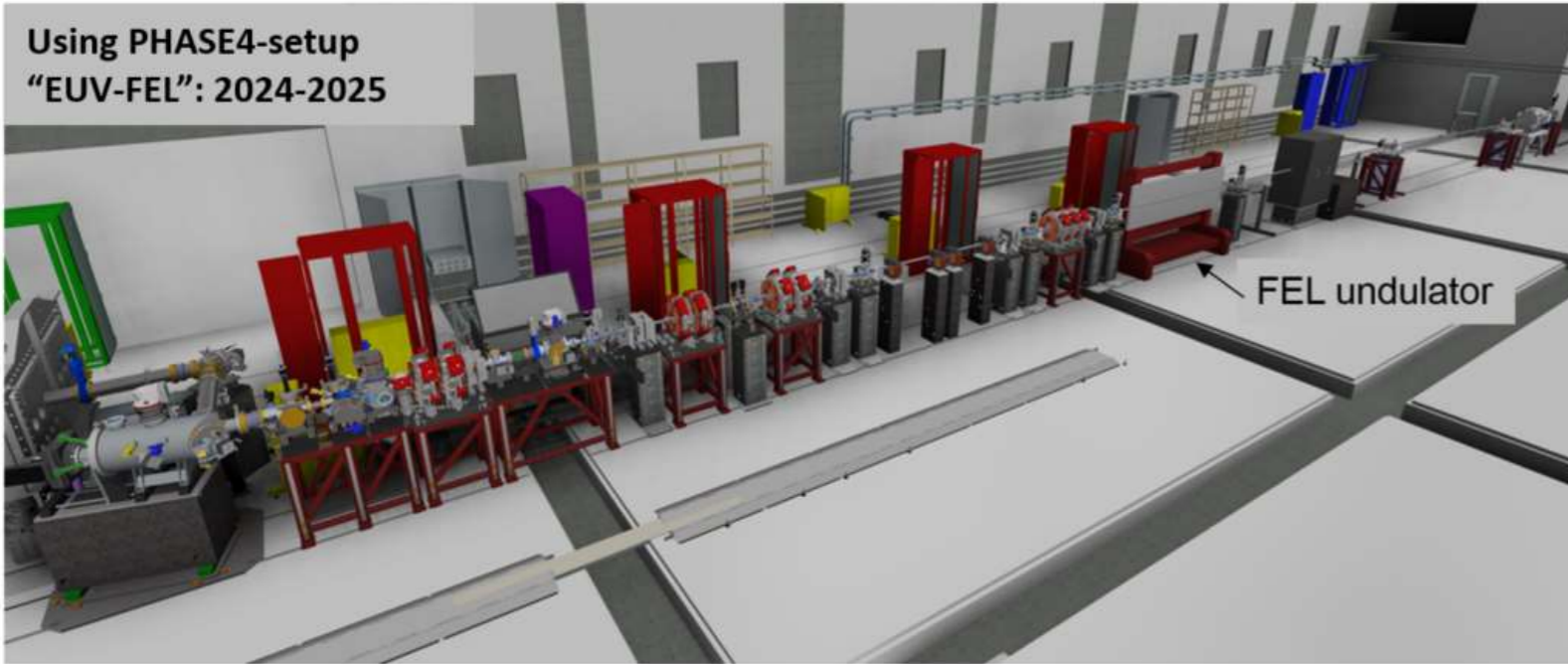




# From incoherent to coherent regime (LPA-based FEL)

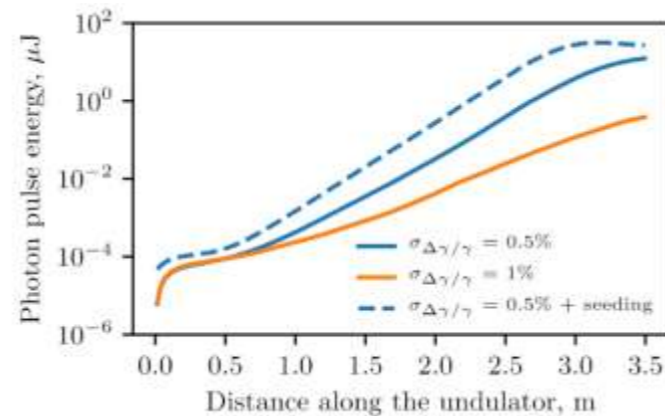
Courtesy of A. Molodozhentsev

Using PHASE4-setup  
"EUV-FEL": 2024-2025



FEL undulator

- Goal: demonstration of the SASE XUV-FEL regime
- $We \sim 350$  MeV
  - saturation in a single undulator ( $\sim 3$  m)
  - 'seeded' FEL

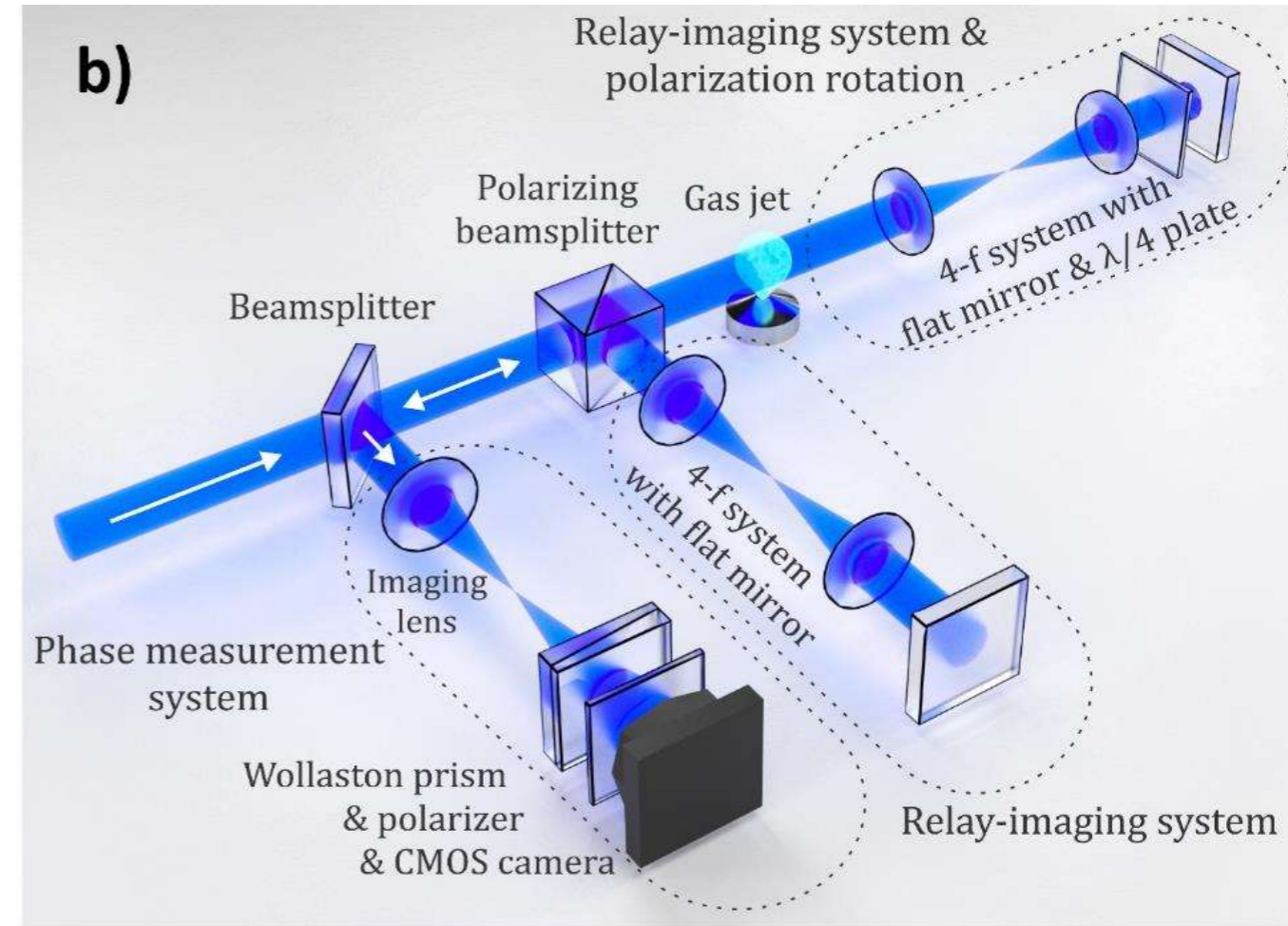
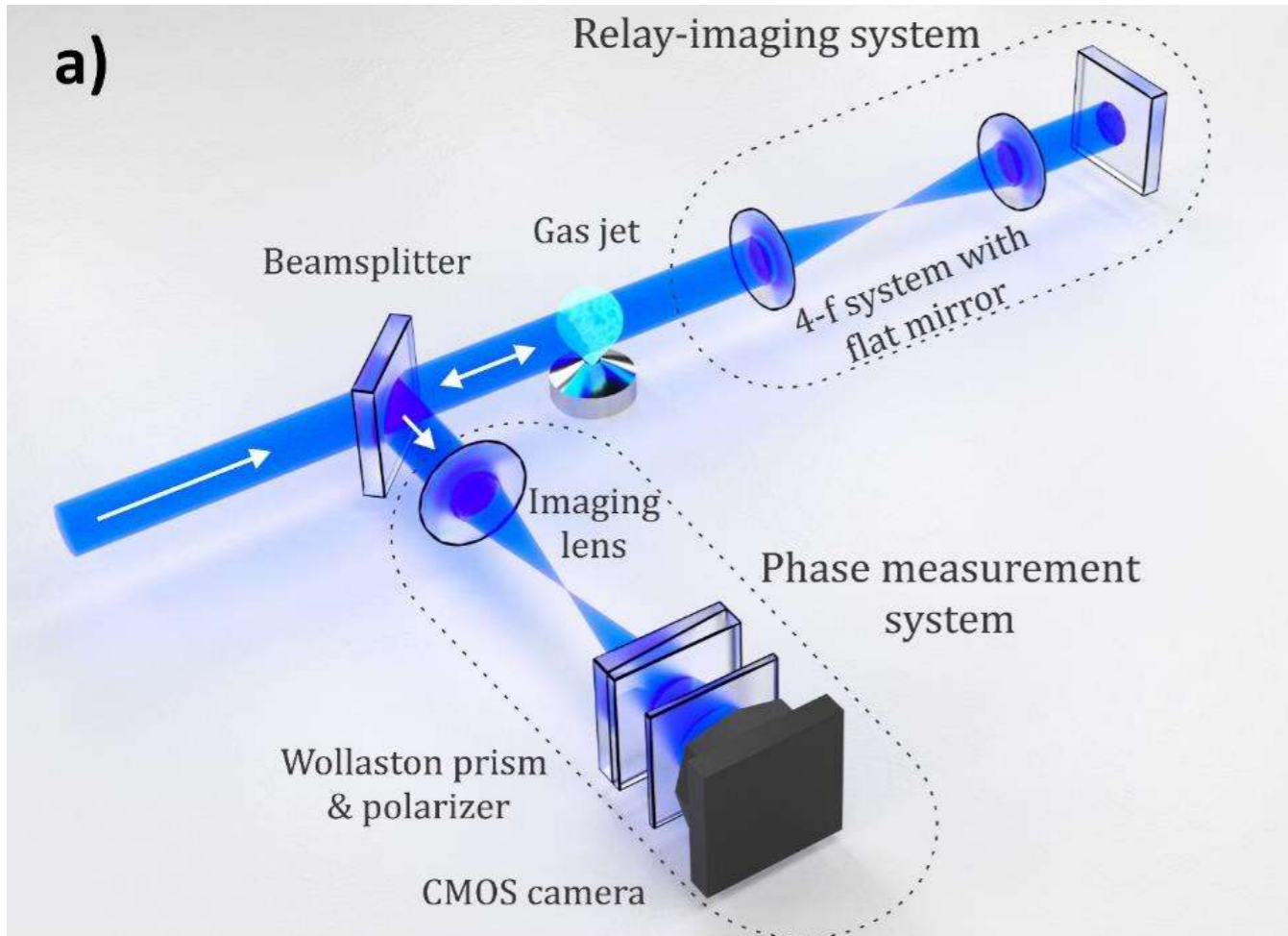


← Seeded  
← SASE

## Main parameters of EUV-FEL at ELI-Beamlines

Electron beam in Undulator ( $K_0=1.4$ )		
Beam energy	MeV	350
Bunch charge	pC	30
RMS bunch duration	fs	3
Peak current	kA	4
Matched beam size	$\mu\text{m}$	25
Normalized emittance	$\pi$ mm.mrad	0.24
'Slice' energy spread	%	0.3
Photon coherent radiation at saturation		
Radiation wavelength	nm	32
Pierce parameter, $\rho$	$\times 10^{-2}$	0.8
Coherent normalized RMS emittance	$\pi$ mm.mrad	1.7
Cooperation length (3D), $L_{\text{coop}}$	$\mu\text{m}$	0.26
Gain length (3D), $L_{\text{z,3D}}$	m	0.12
Saturation length (3D)	m	2.4
Radiation bandwidth	%	0.65
Photon flux per 0.1%bw	$\times 10^{12}$ #	2.2
Photon brilliance	$\times 10^{30}$ #	1
Photon pulse power	GW	8.2
Photon pulse energy	$\mu\text{J}$	63

# Gas jet characterization (with improved sensitivity)

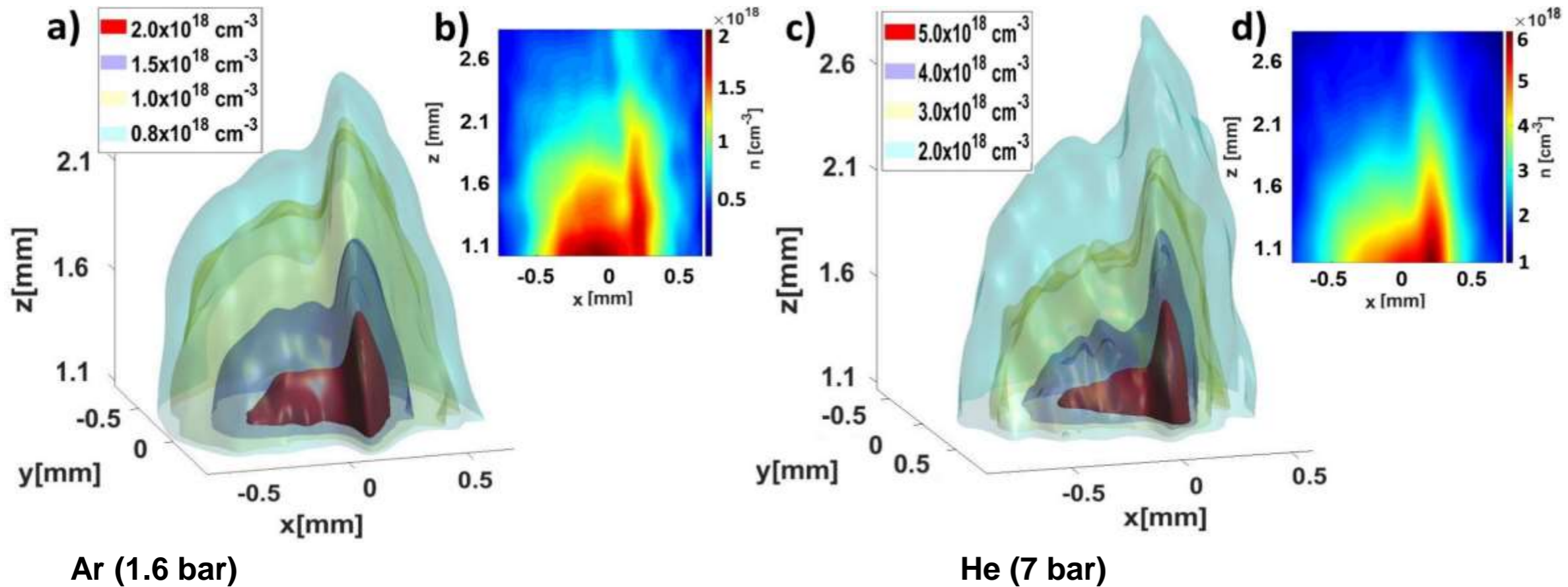


**Two/Four-pass interferometer** in which the gas jet is imaged on itself by two **relay-imaging object arms**.



# Gas jet characterization (with improved sensitivity)

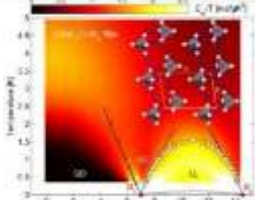
- **Automated station** for tomography with unprecedented sensitivity available to users
- Pulsed laser (445 nm, 100 ns) being used to **visualize the instabilities** inside the gas jet on nanosecond scale



Density isosurfaces of gas jets from 1 mm in diam. supersonic nozzle with a razor blade



Properties in new **surfaces** and **interfaces, charge and spin dynamics** (electronic and magnetic properties)




**Electron dynamics** in molecules. **Structure** of non-reproducible biological particles.



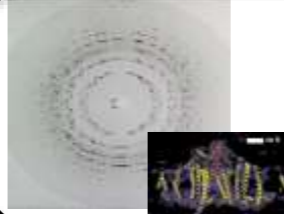
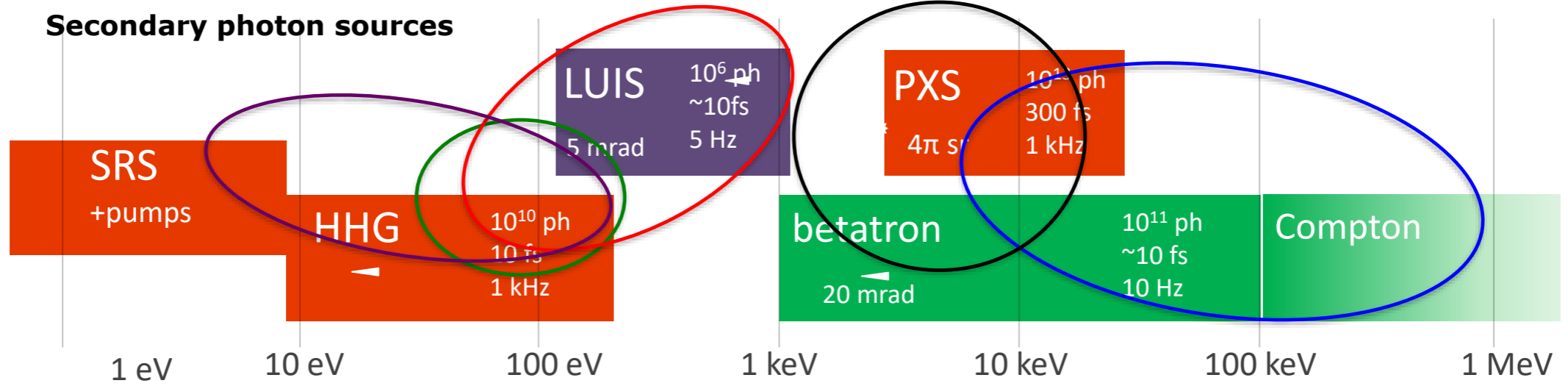
**X-ray Imaging.** Movies of transient effects in large specimens



Initiate and study **transient processes** in molecular dynamics and material sciences



Sub-ps resolution of atomic scale **structural dynamics** (time resolved protein crystallography)





# The X-ray Team

Dong-Du Mai, Uddhab Chaulagain, Ondřej Hort, Ondřej Finke, Martin Albrecht, Matej Jurkovič, Marcel Lamač, Marek Raclavský, Kaya H. Rao, Yelizaveta Pulnova, Shirly Espinoza, Mateusz Rebarz, Eva Klimešová, Maria Krikunova, Jakob Andreasson, Sergei Bulanov



Postdoc position open







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Thank you for your attention!

Jaroslav.Nejdl@eli-beams.eu

