

EUROPEAN
PLASMA RESEARCH
ACCELERATOR
WITH
EXCELLENCE IN
APPLICATIONS



The EuPRAXIA@Sparc_Lab facility

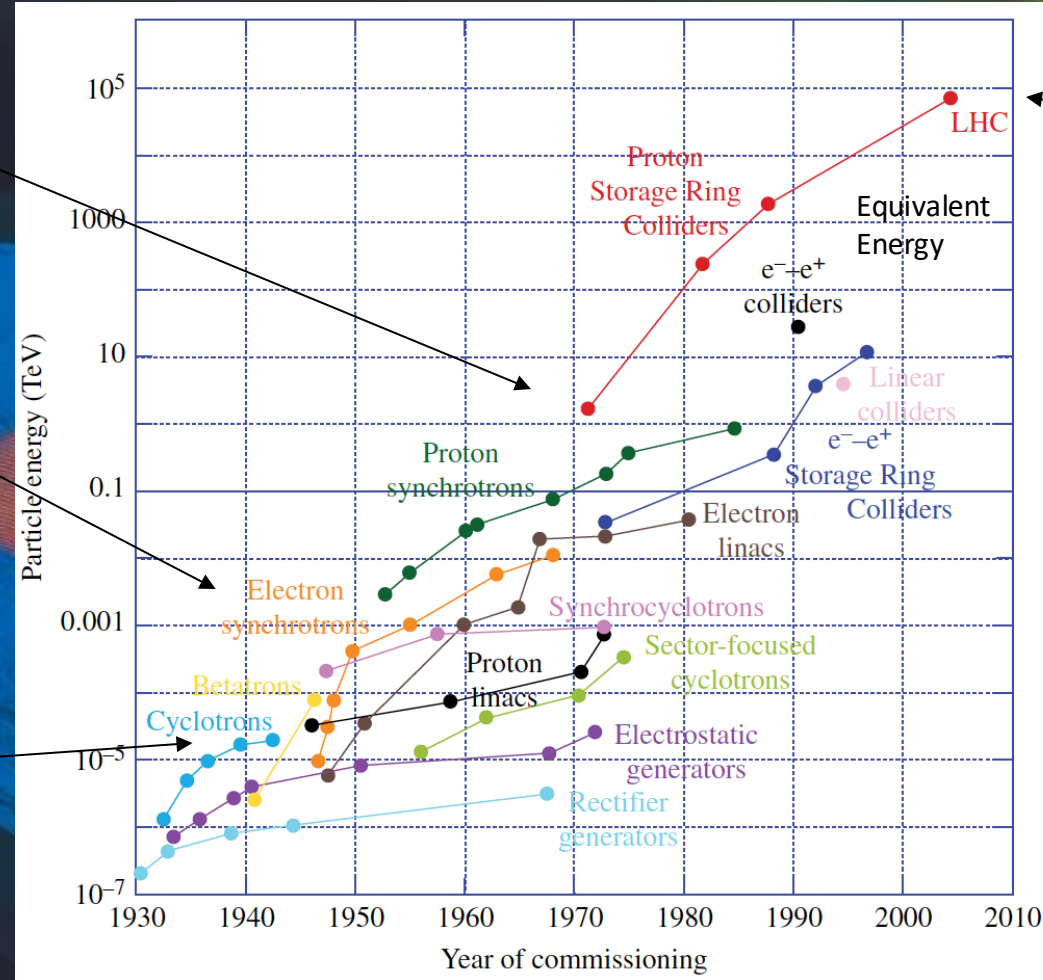
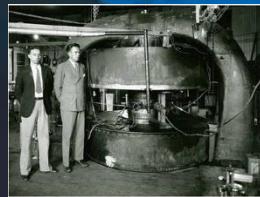
Massimo Ferrario (INFN-LNF)

On behalf of the EuPRAXIA collaboration



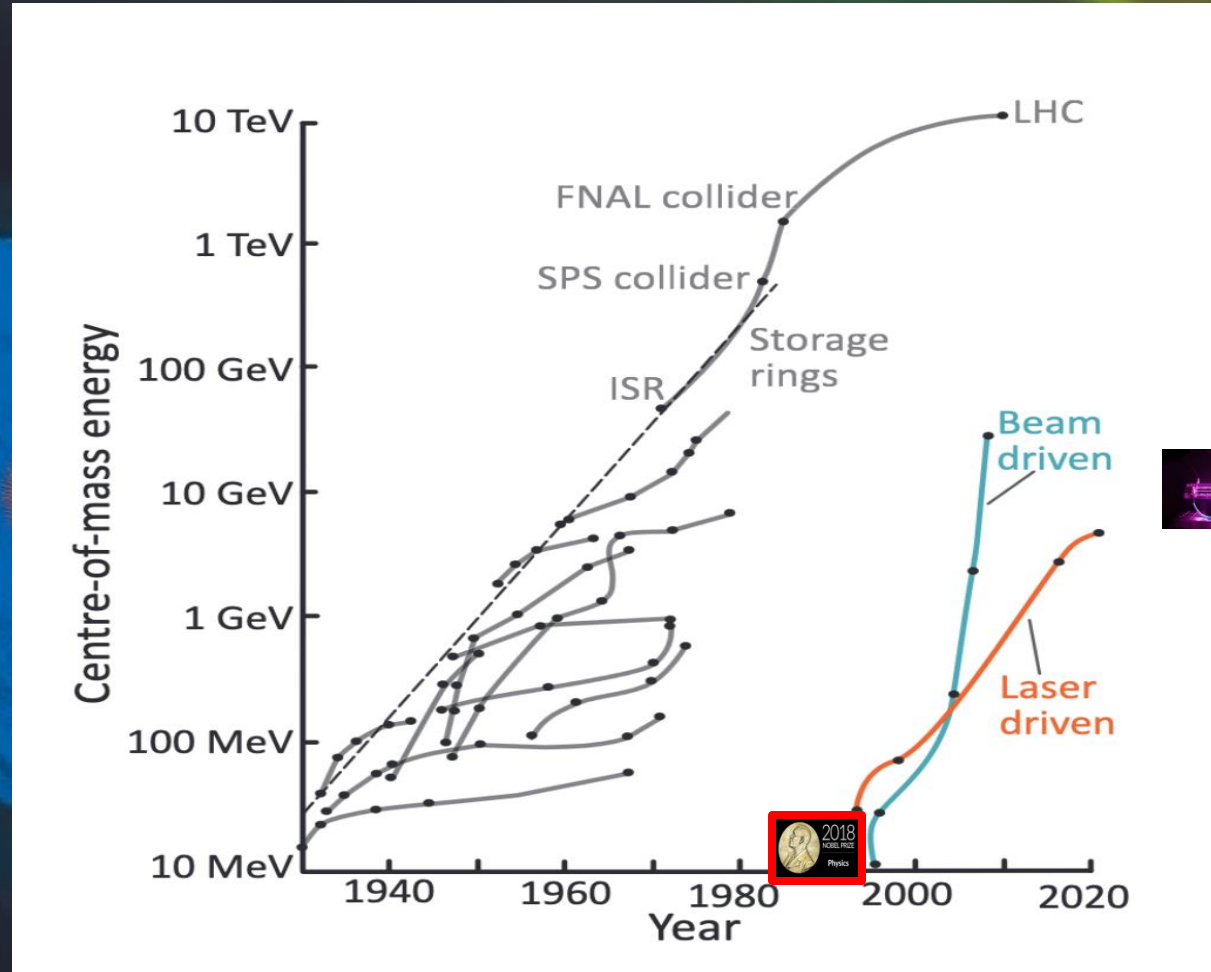
Frascati, December 4 , 2024

Livingstone Diagram

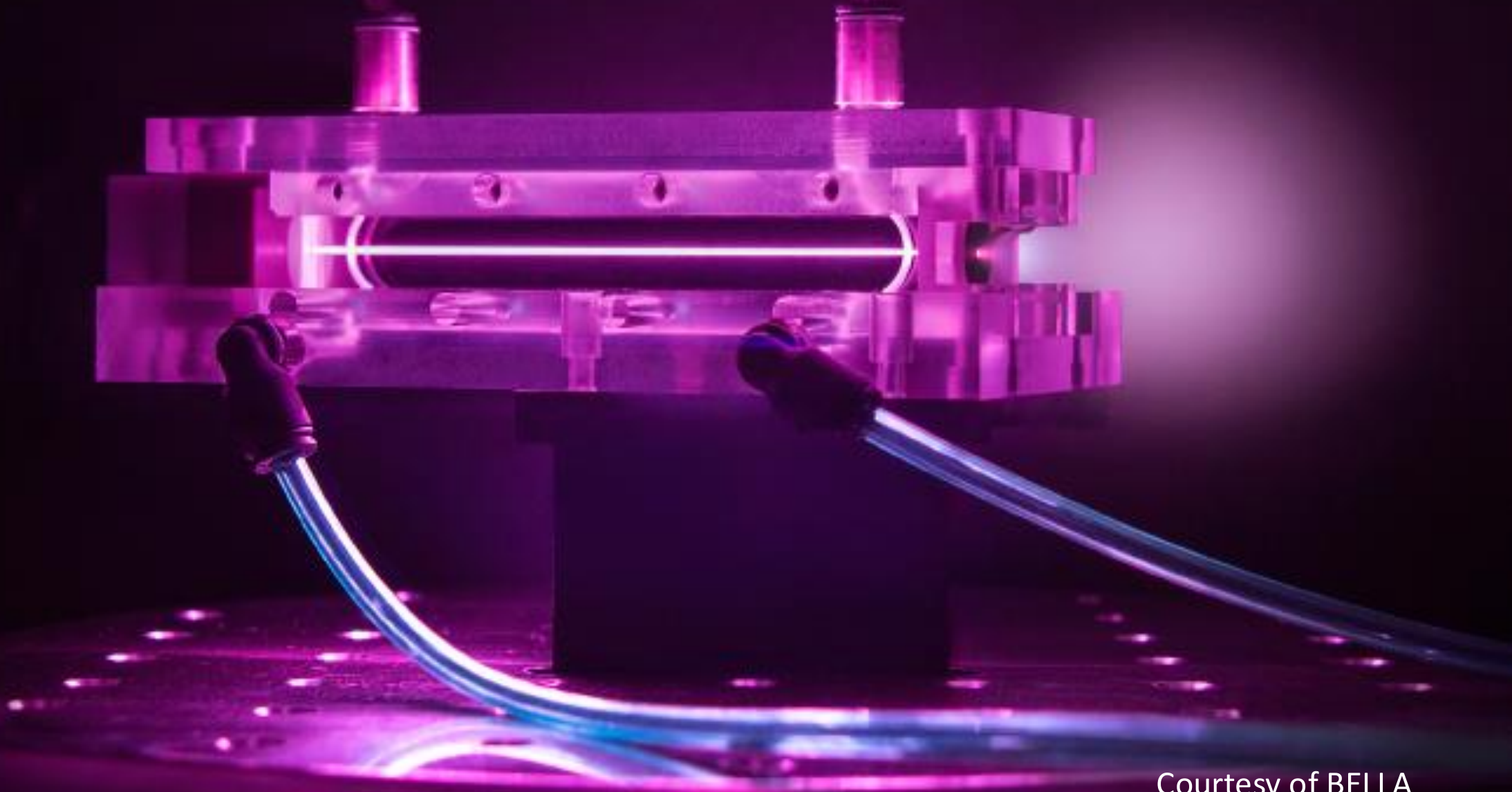


Energy of colliders is plotted in terms of the laboratory energy of particles colliding with a proton at rest to reach the same center of mass energy.

Livingstone Diagram with PWFA



Principle of plasma acceleration



Courtesy of BELLA

Principle of plasma acceleration

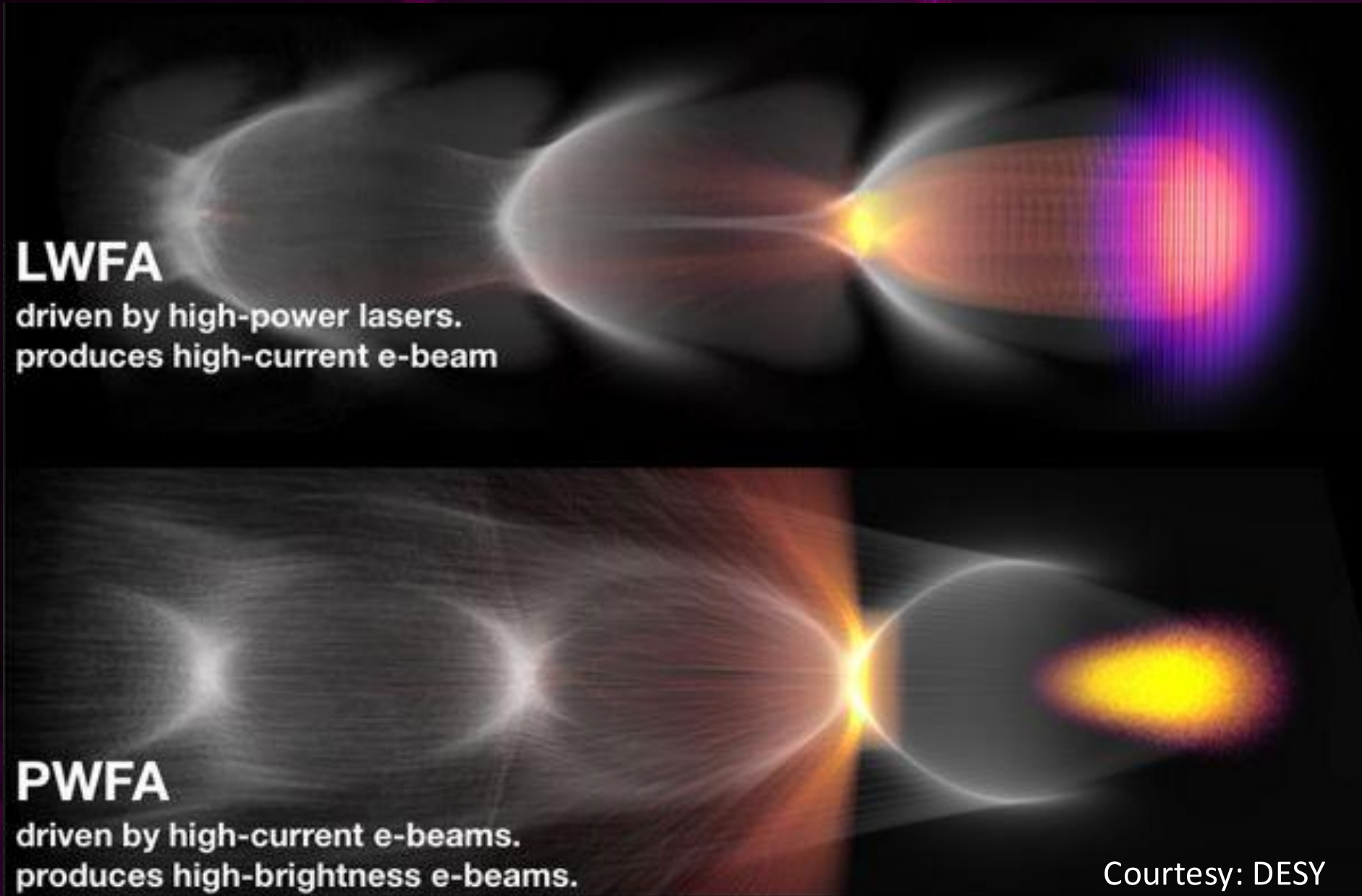
LWFA

driven by high-power lasers.
produces high-current e-beam

PWFA

driven by high-current e-beams.
produces high-brightness e-beams.

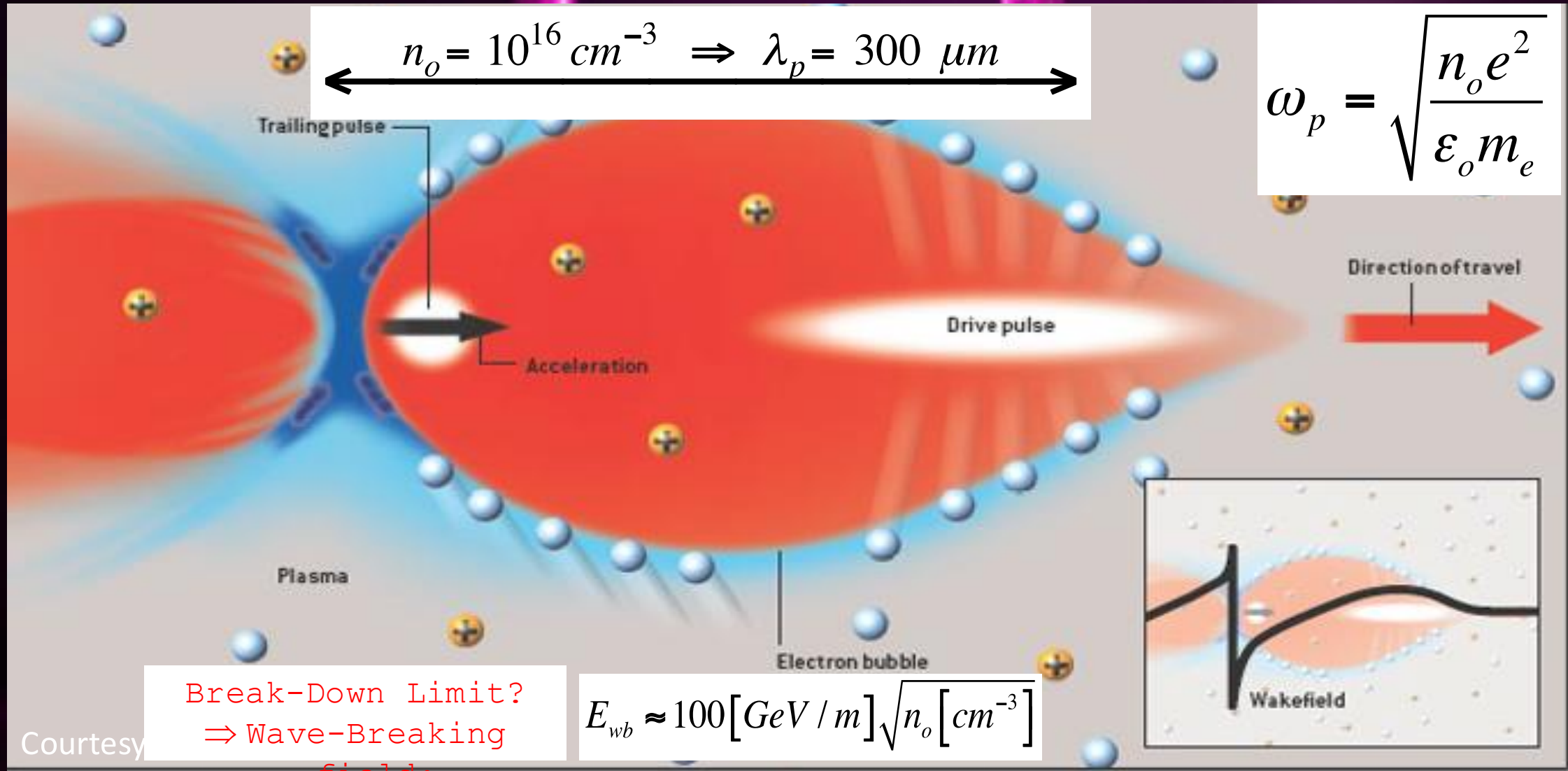
Courtesy: DESY



Principle of plasma acceleration

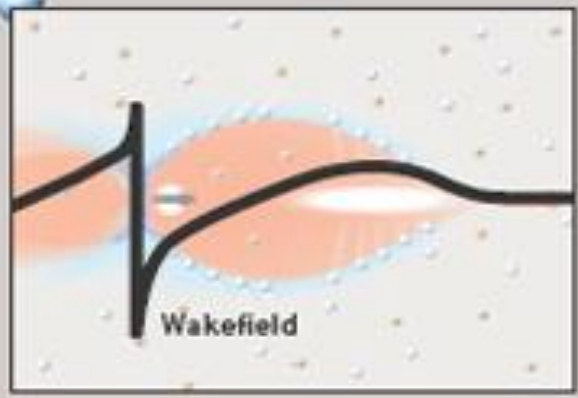
$$n_o = 10^{16} \text{ cm}^{-3} \Rightarrow \lambda_p = 300 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\omega_p = \sqrt{\frac{n_o e^2}{\epsilon_o m_e}}$$



Break-Down Limit?
⇒ Wave-Breaking
field:

$$E_{wb} \approx 100 [\text{GeV} / \text{m}] \sqrt{n_o [\text{cm}^{-3}]}$$



Courtesy

A

EuPRAXIA is the first European project that develops a dedicated particle accelerator research infrastructure based on novel plasma acceleration concepts driven by innovative laser and linac technologies.

1

Building a facility with very high field plasma accelerators, driven by lasers or beams
1 – 100 GV/m accelerating field

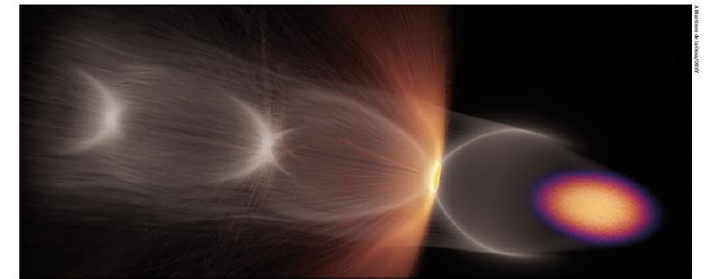
Shrink down the facility size
Improve Sustainability

2

Producing particles and photons to support several urgent and timely science cases

Drive short wavelength FEL
Pave the way for future Linear Colliders

FEATURE EuPRAXIA



Surf's up Simulation of electron-driven plasma wakefield acceleration, showing the drive electron beam (orange/purple), the plasma electron wake (grey) and wakefield-ionised electrons forming a witness beam (orange).

EUROPE TARGETS A USER FACILITY FOR PLASMA ACCELERATION

Ralph Assmann, Massimo Ferrario and Carsten Welsch describe the status of the ESFRI project EuPRAXIA, which aims to develop the first dedicated research infrastructure based on novel plasma-acceleration concepts.

Energetic beams of particles are used to explore the fundamental forces of nature, produce known and unknown particles such as the Higgs boson at the LHC, and generate new forms of matter, for example at the future FAIR facility. Photon science also relies on particle beams: electron beams that emit pulses of intense synchrotron light, including soft and hard X-rays, in either circular or linear machines. Such light sources enable time-resolved measurements of biological, chemical and physical structures on the molecular down to the atomic scale, allowing a diverse global community of users to investigate systems ranging from viruses and bacteria to materials science, planetary science, environmental science, nanotechnology and archaeology. Last but not least, particle beams for industry and health support many societal applications ranging from the X-ray inspection of cargo containers to food sterilisation, and from chip manufacturing to cancer therapy.

This scientific success story has been made possible through a continuous cycle of innovation in the physics and technology of particle accelerators, driven for many decades by exploratory research in nuclear and particle physics. The invention of radio-frequency (RF) technology in the 1920s opened the path to an energy gain of several tens of MeV per metre. Very-high-energy accelerators were constructed with RF technology, entering the GeV and finally the TeV energy scales at the Tevatron and the LHC. New collision schemes were developed, for example the mini "beta squeeze" in the 1970s, advancing luminosity and collision rates by orders of magnitudes. The invention of stochastic cooling at CERN enabled the discovery of the W and Z bosons 40 years ago.

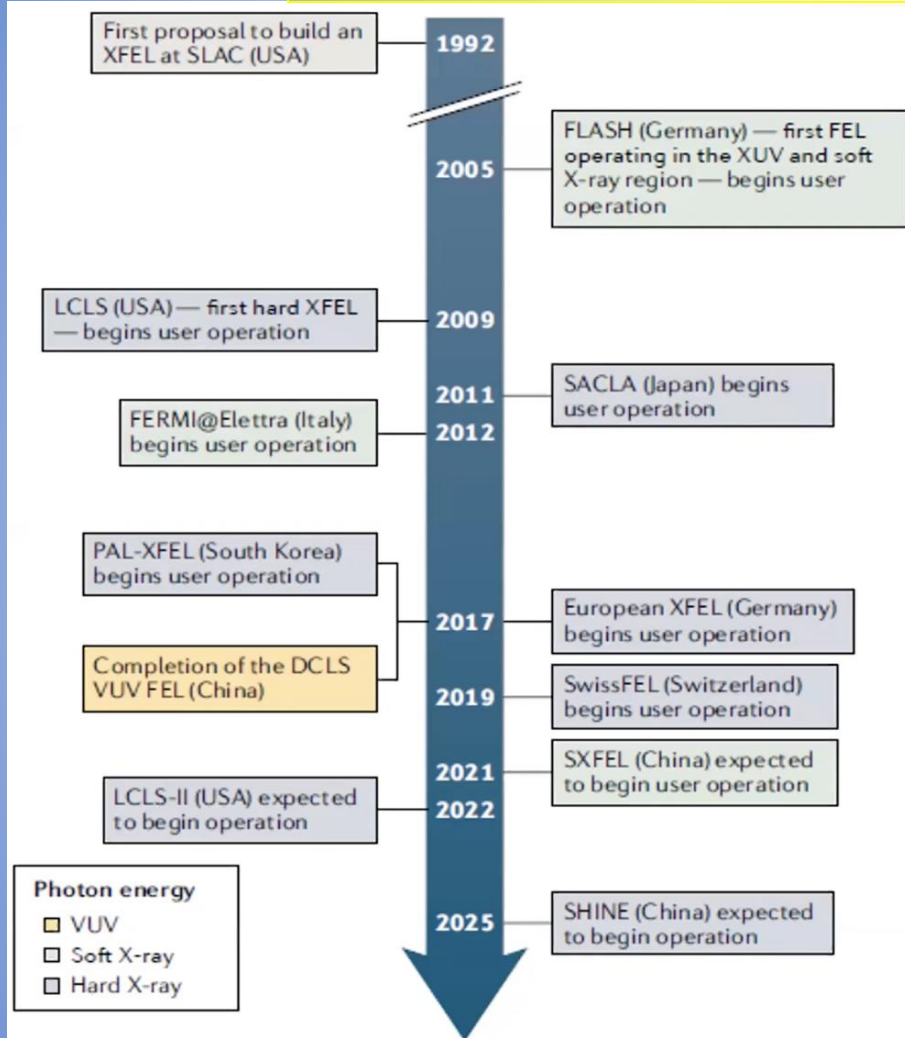
However, intrinsic technological and conceptual limits mean that the size and cost of RF-based particle accelerators are increasing as researchers seek higher beam energies. Colliders for particle physics have reached a

THE AUTHORS

Ralph Assmann
DESY and INFN,
Massimo Ferrario
INFN, Carsten
Welsch
University of Liverpool/INFN

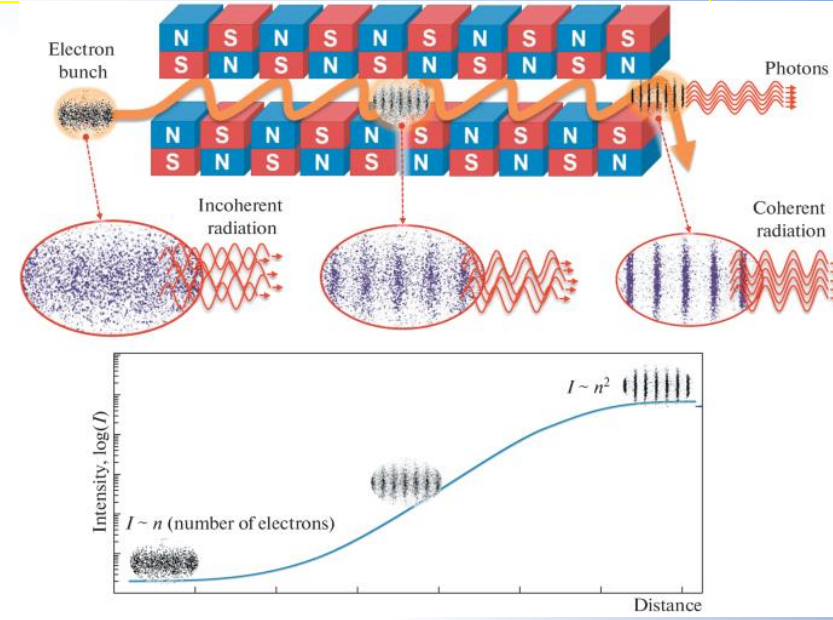
FEL is a well established technology

(But a widespread use of FEL is partially limited by its size and costs)





New facilities are expected to begin operation in the next 5 years in the USA and China, and the UK is considering the scientific case for an XFEL.

Iulia Georgescu



Basic beam quality achieved in pilot FEL experiments

EuPRAXIA 2021 Plasma FEL Feasibility Proven: Laser-driven 

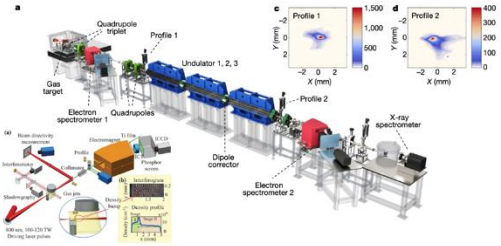



Recent ground-breaking result in China

500 MeV electron beam from a laser wakefield accelerator

FEL lasing **amplification of 100** reached at 27 nm wavelength (average radiation energy 70 nJ, peak up to 150 nJ)

W. T. Wang, K. Feng, et al., *Nature*, 595, 561 (2021).

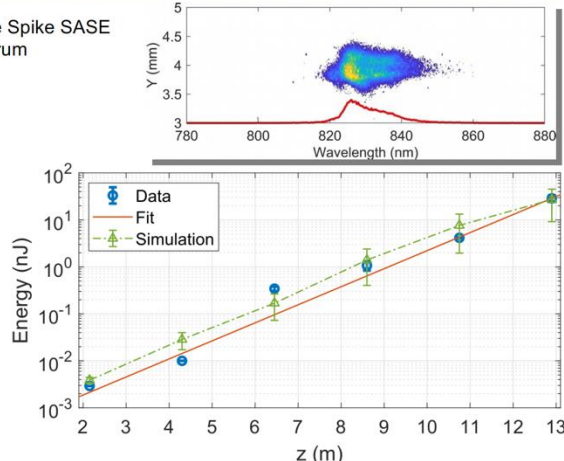
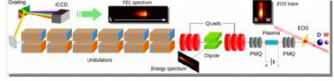


EuPRAXIA 2021 Plasma FEL Feasibility Proven: Electron-driven 

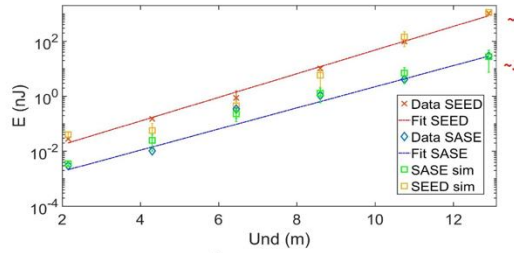
Recent ground-breaking results in Frascati: First FEL lasing from a beam-driven plasma accelerator

Pompili et al., *Nature* 605, 659–662 (2022)

Single Spike SASE spectrum

EuPRAXIA First Beam Driven SEEDED - FEL Lasing at SPARC_LAB (June 2021)



~1 uJ (SEED)
~30 nJ (SASE)

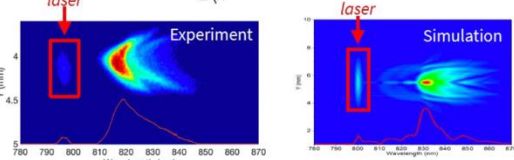
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 129, 234801 (2022)


Stable Operation of a Free-Electron Laser Driven by a Plasma Accelerator

M. Galliani,^{1,2,3} D. Alessi,¹ M. P. Anania,¹ S. Armand,¹ M. Behouac,¹ M. Bellavista,¹ A. Biagioni,¹ B. Bonomo,¹ F. Caselli,¹ M. Carpanese,¹ E. Chantoni,^{1,2} A. Cianchi,^{1,2} G. Cozzi,¹ A. Dei Dato,¹ M. Del Giacco,¹ F. Di Pasquale,¹ A. Doria,¹ F. Filippi,¹ G. Franzini,¹ L. Giannessi,¹ A. Gibboni,¹ P. Iovine,¹ V. Lollo,¹ A. Mostacci,¹ F. Nguyen,¹ M. Opomolla,^{1,2} L. Pellegrino,¹ A. Petralia,¹ V. Pettilio,^{1,2} L. Piersanti,¹ G. Di Piro,¹ R. Pompili,¹ S. Romeo,¹ A. R. Rossi,¹ A. Selce,^{1,3} V. Shpakov,¹ A. Stella,¹ C. Vaccarezza,¹ F. Villa,¹ A. Zigler,^{1,2} and M. Ferrario¹

Seeded FEL radiation

- ✓ Pulse energy increased 2 order of magnitude respect to SASE radiation
- ✓ 6% pulse energy RMS fluctuations over 90% of successful shot respect to 17% over 30% of shot for SASE



EuPRAXIA Seeded UV free-electron laser driven by LWFA 

Collaboration Soleil/HZ Dresden, published on *Nat. Photon.* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41566-022-01104-w>

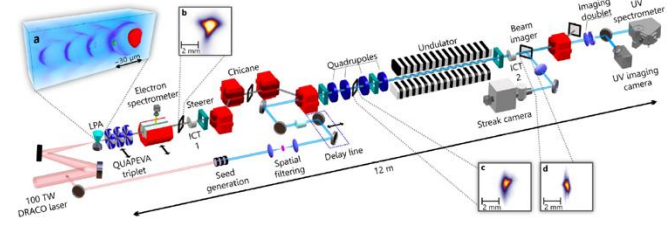
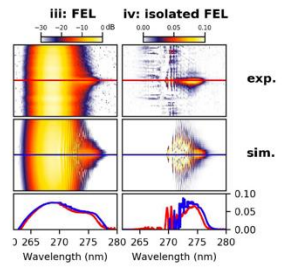
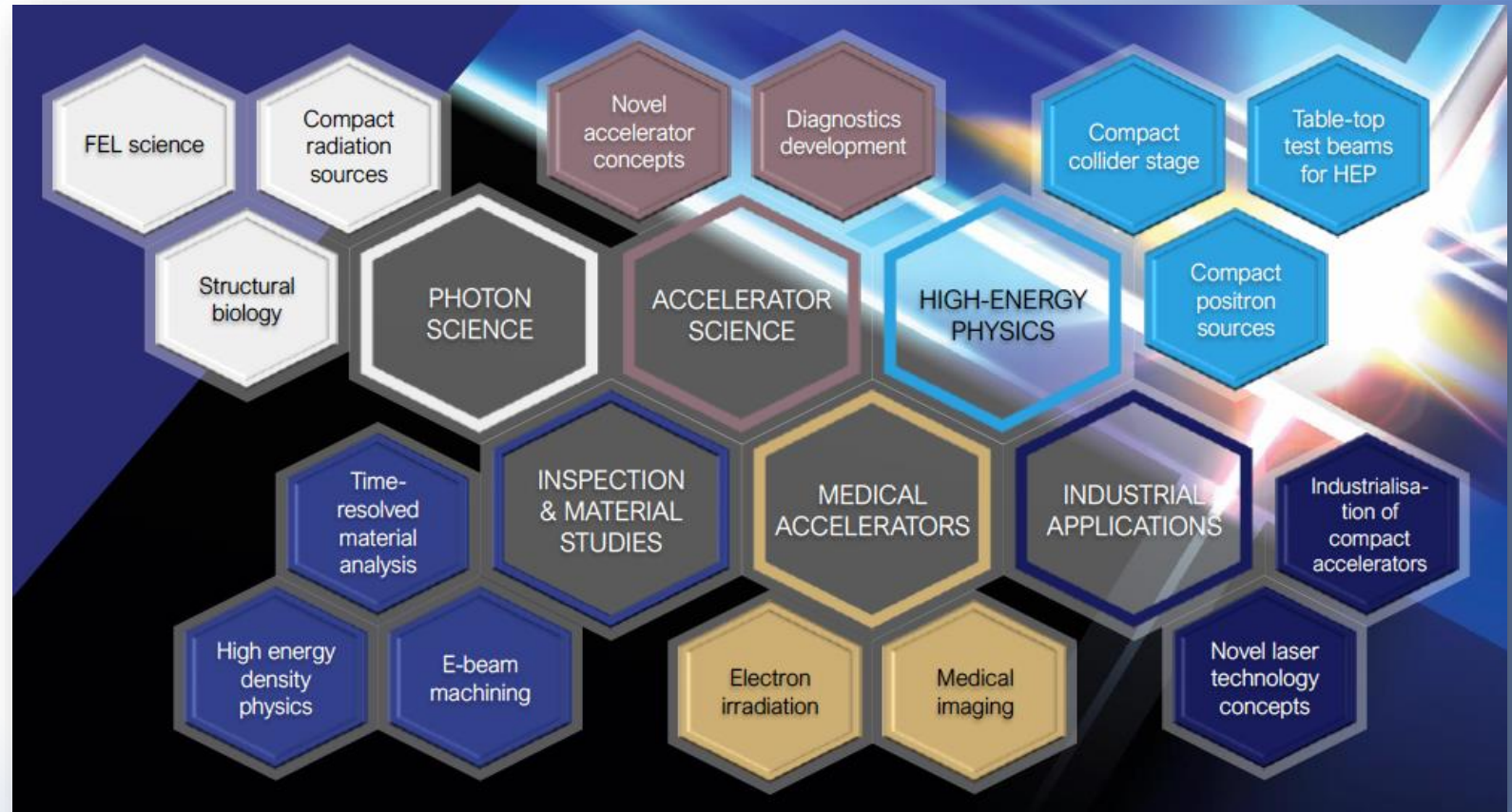
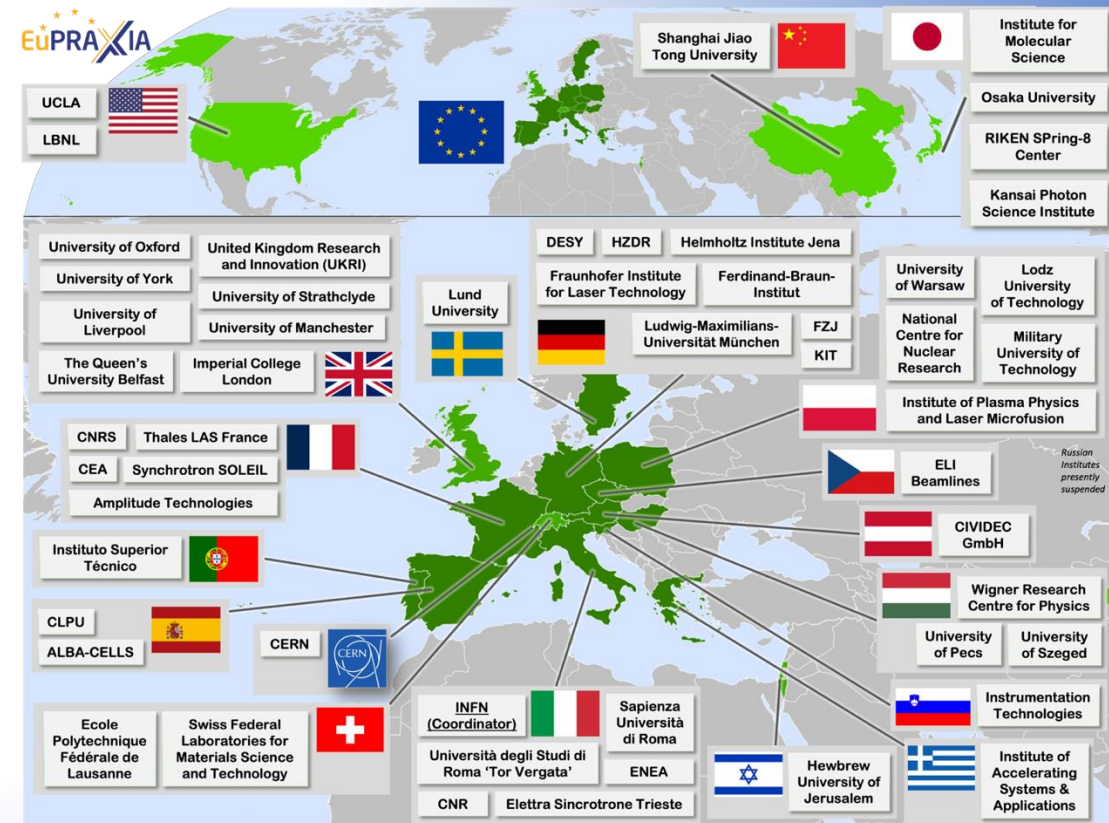



FIG. 1. Experimental layout. The electron beam generated in the LPA is first characterized using a removable electron spectrometer and then sent through a triplet of quadrupoles (QUAPEVAs) for beam transport to the undulator and FEL radiation generation. ICTs: Integrated Current Transformers. Non-labelled elements: dipoles (red blocks), optical lenses (blue), mirrors (grey circled black disks). Inset a: Particle-in-Cell simulation renders of the accelerating structure driven by the laser pulse (red), the electron cavity sheet formed from the plasma medium (light blue) is visible in purple and the accelerated electron bunch visible in green. Insets b,c,d: Electron beam transverse distribution measured at LPA exit (b), at undulator entrance (c) and at undulator exit (d).

- **Electrons**
(0.1-5 GeV, 30 pC)
- **Positrons**
(0.5-10 MeV, 10^6)
- **Positrons (GeV source)**
- **Lasers**
(100 J, 50 fs, 10-100 Hz)
- **X-band RF Linac**
(60 MV/m , up to 400 Hz)
- **Plasma Targets**
- **Betatron X rays**
(1-10 keV, 10^{10})
- **FEL light**
(0.2-36 nm, 10^9 - 10^{13})



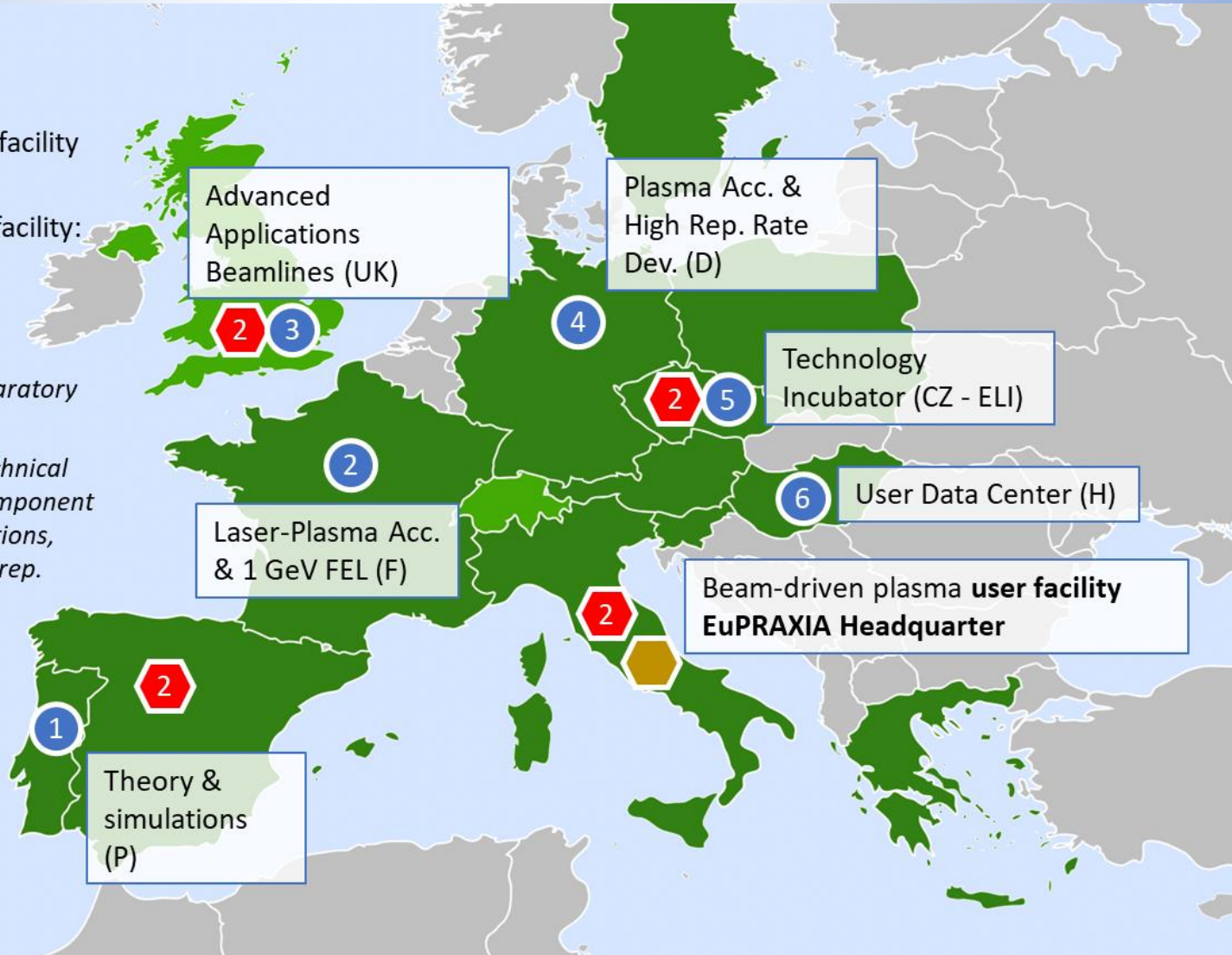
- The EuPRAXIA Consortium today: **54 institutes** from **18 countries** plus CERN
- Included in the **ESFRI Road Map**
- Efficient fund raising:
 - Preparatory Phase consortium (funding EU, UK, Switzerland, in-kind)
 - Doctoral Network (funding EU, UK, in-kind)
 - EuPRAXIA@SPARC_LAB (Italy, in-kind)
 - EuAPS Project (Next Generation EU)
 - **What Next? => PACRI !**



- Beam-driven plasma user facility
EuPRAXIA Headquarter
- Laser-driven plasma user facility:
candidates
- Excellence Center

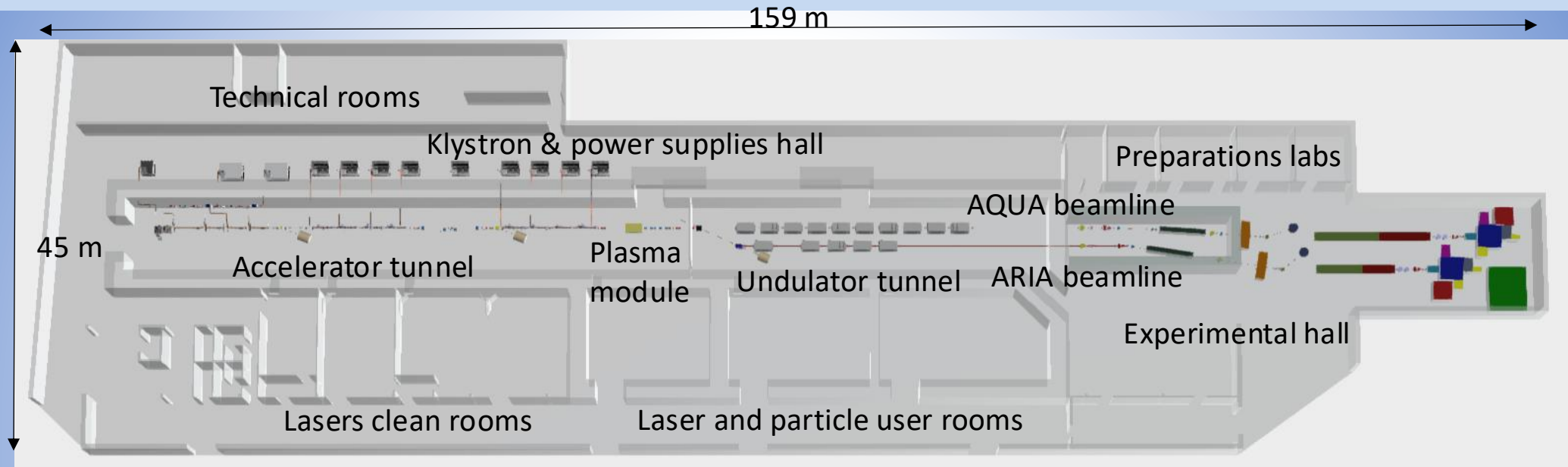
Second site will be decided in Preparatory Phase project.

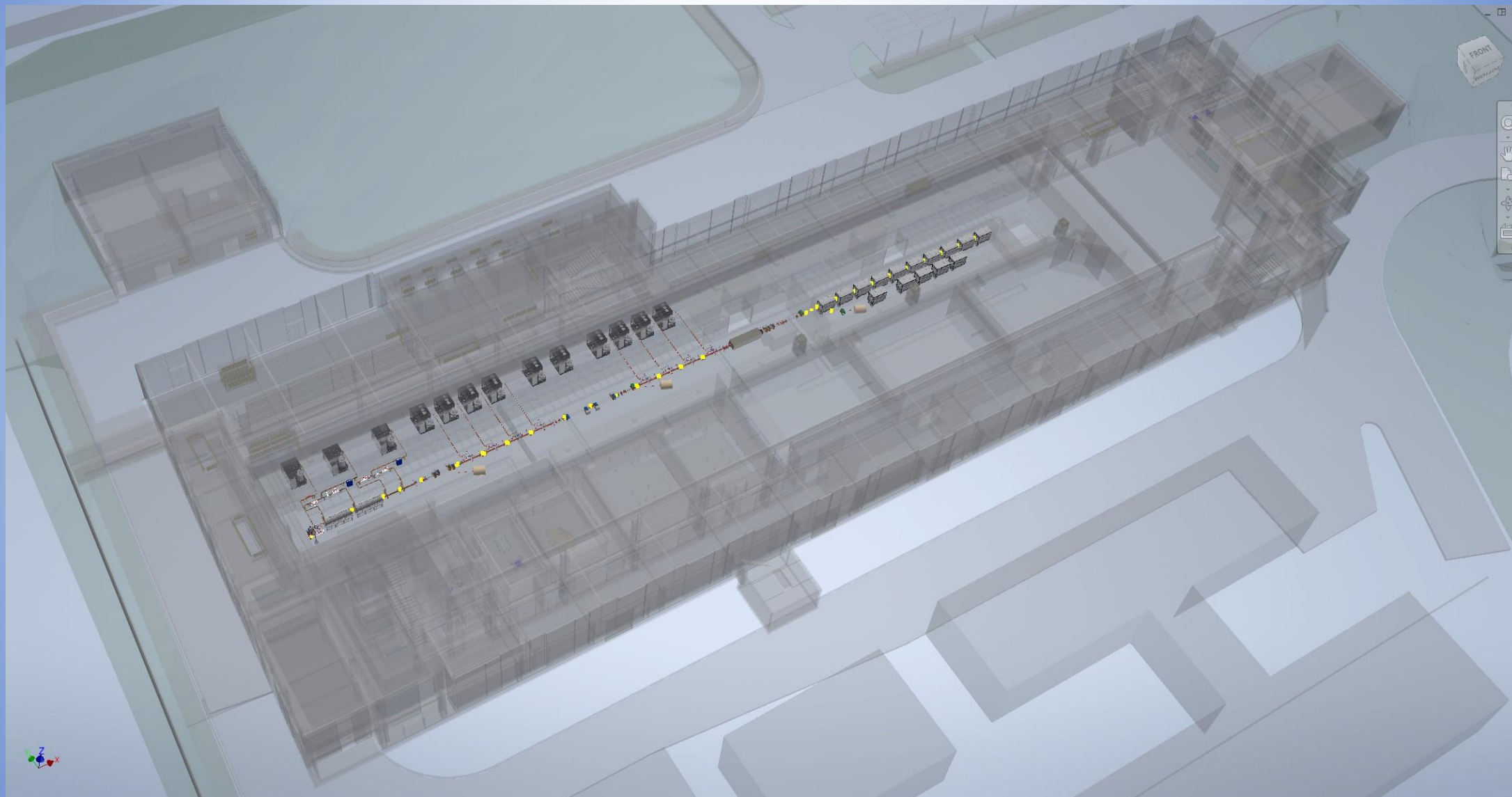
Excellence centers (EC) perform technical developments, prototyping and component construction. Number of EC's, locations, roles, responsibilities reviewed in Prep. Phase.

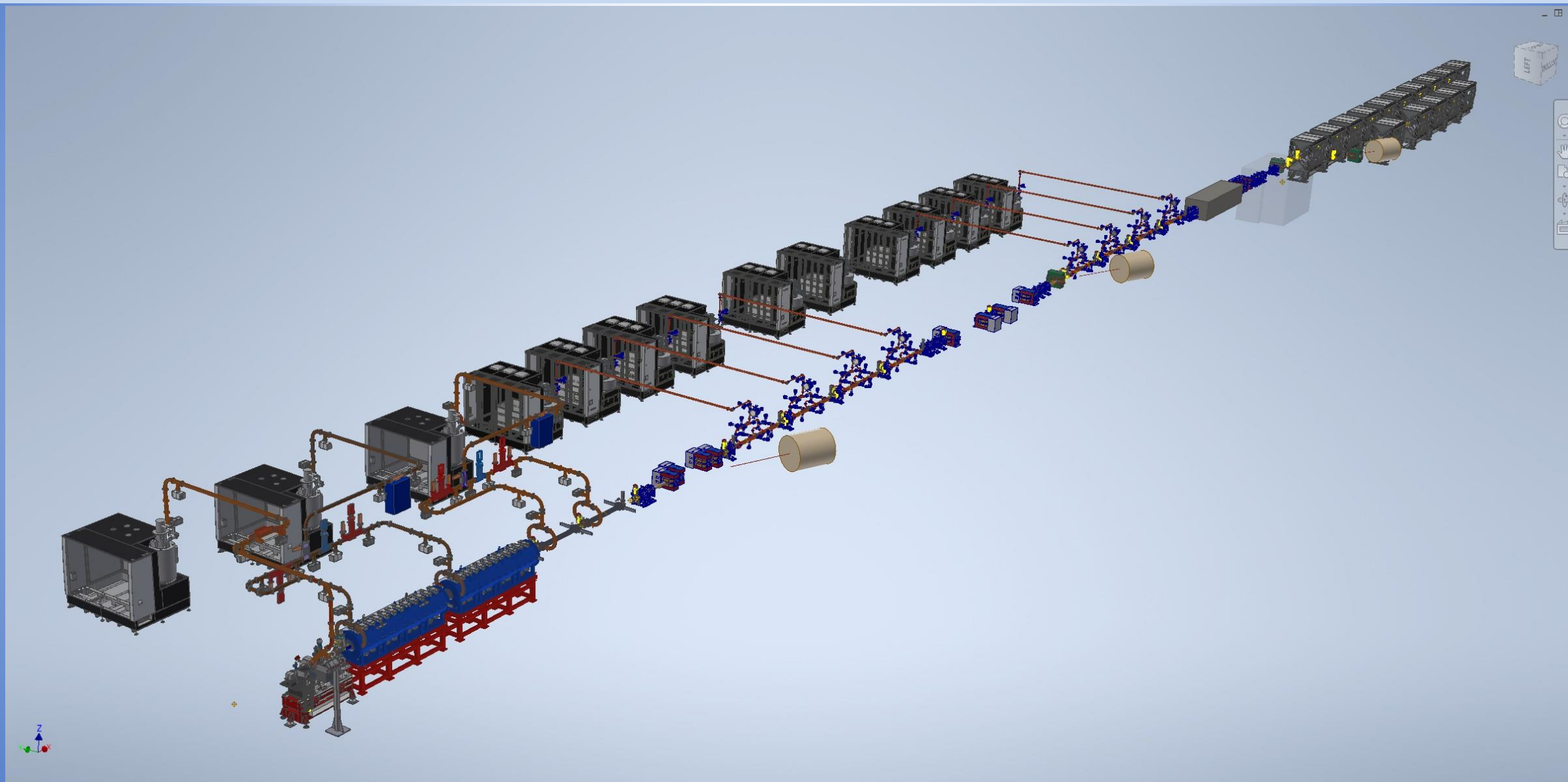


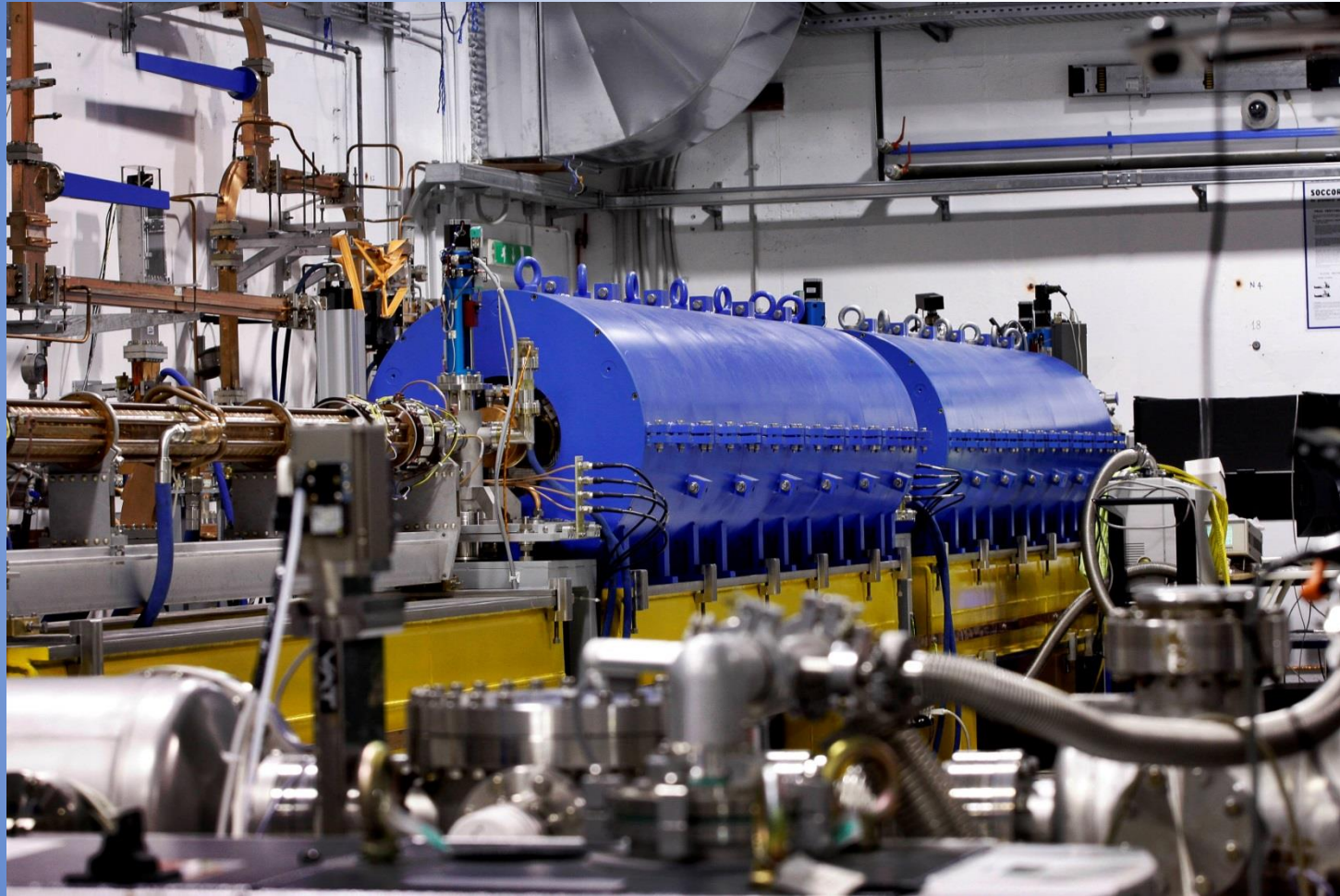


- Frascati`s future facility
- > 130 M€ invest funding
- Beam-driven plasma accelerator
- Europe`s most compact and most southern FEL
- The world`s most compact RF accelerator (X band with CERN)



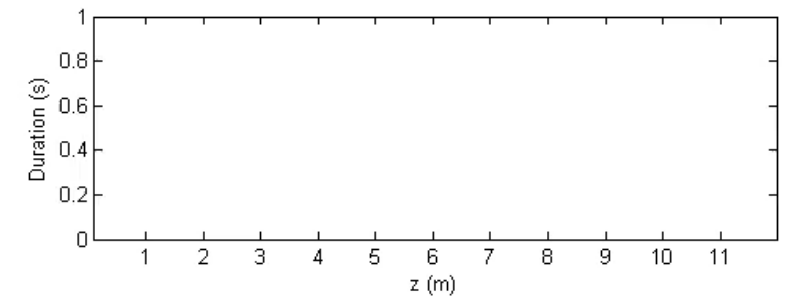
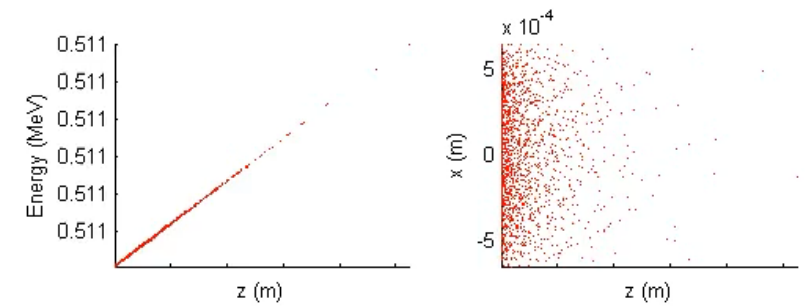


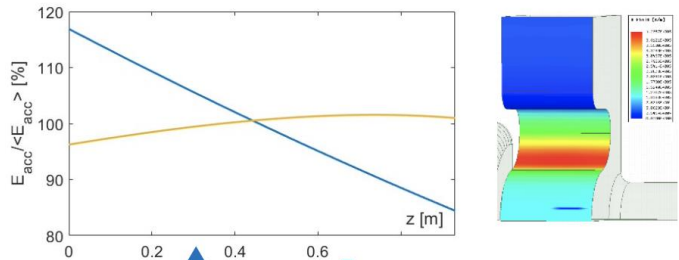




Parameter	Unit	Witness	Driver
Charge	pC	30	200
Energy	MeV	101.5	103.2
RMS energy spread	%	0.15	0.67
RMS bunch length	fs	12	20
RMS norm. emittance	mm mrad	0.69	1.95
Rep. rate	Hz	10	10

Table 7.2: Driver and witness beam parameters at the end of photo-injector.





1. E.m. design: *done*

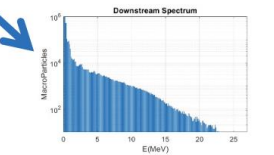
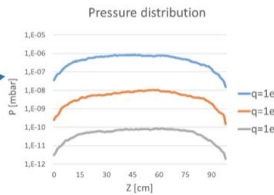
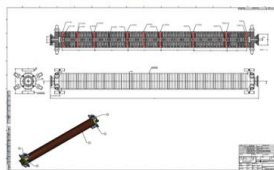
2. Thermo-mechanical analysis: *done*

3. Mechanical design: *done*

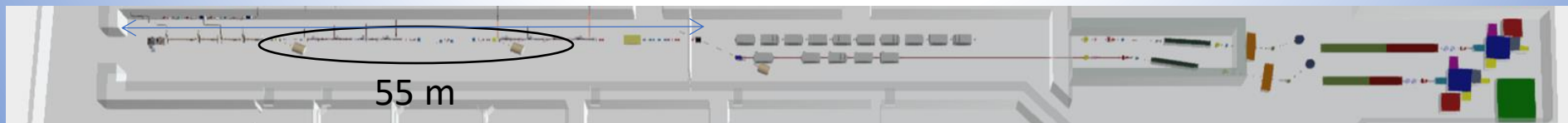
4. Vacuum calculations: *done*

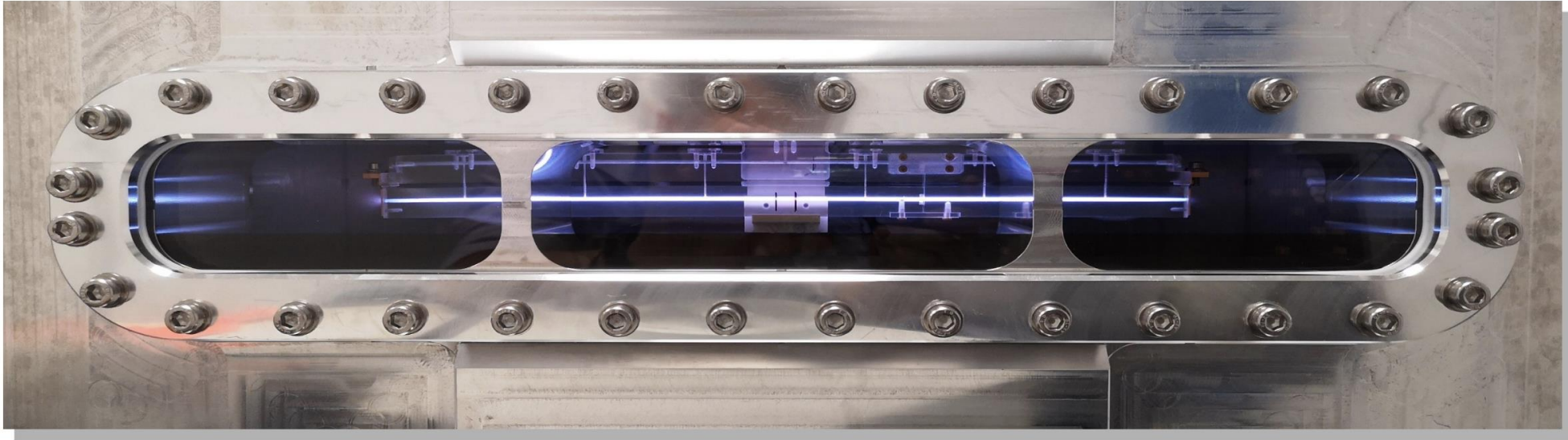
5. Dark current simulations: *done*

6. Waveguide distribution simulation with attenuation calculations: *done*



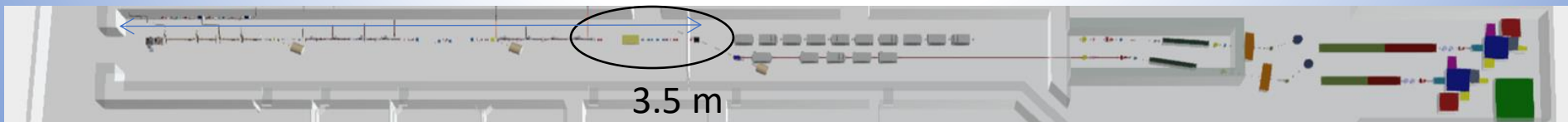
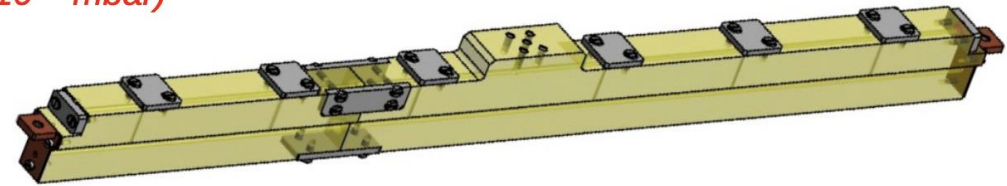
PARAMETER	Value	
	with linear tapering	w/o tapering
Frequency [GHz]	11.9942	
Average acc. gradient [MV/m]	60	
Structures per module	2	
Iris radius a [mm]	3.85-3.15	3.5
Tapering angle [deg]	0.04	0
Struct. length L_s act. Length (flange-to-flange) [m]	0.94 (1.05)	
No. of cells	112	
Shunt impedance R [M Ω /m]	93-107	100
Effective shunt Imp. $R_{sh\ eff}$ [M Ω /m]	350	347
Peak input power per structure [MW]	70	
Input power averaged over the pulse [MW]	51	
Average dissipated power [kW]	1	
P_{out}/P_{in} [%]	25	
Filling time [ns]	130	
Peak Modified Poynting Vector [W/ μm^2]	3.6	4.3
Peak surface electric field [MV/m]	160	190
Unloaded SLED/BOC Q-factor Q_0	150000	
External SLED/BOC Q-factor Q_E	21300	20700
Required Kly power per module [MW]	20	
RF pulse [μs]	1.5	
Rep. Rate [Hz]	100	





- 40 cm long capillary → 1st prototype for the EuPRAXIA facility
 - *Made with special junction to allow negligible gas leaks (<math><10^{-10}</math> mbar)*
- Operating conditions
 - *1 Hz repetition rate (to be increased up to 100 Hz)*
 - *10 kV – 380 A minimum values for ionization*
 - *6 inlets for gas injection. Electro-valve aperture time 8-12 ms*

A. Biagioni, V. Lollo

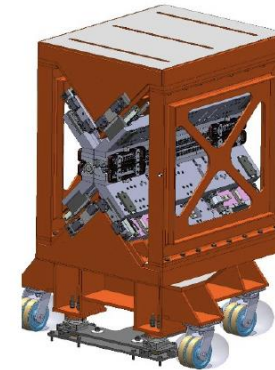


Two FEL lines:

1) AQUA: Soft-X ray SASE FEL – Water window optimized for 4 nm (baseline)

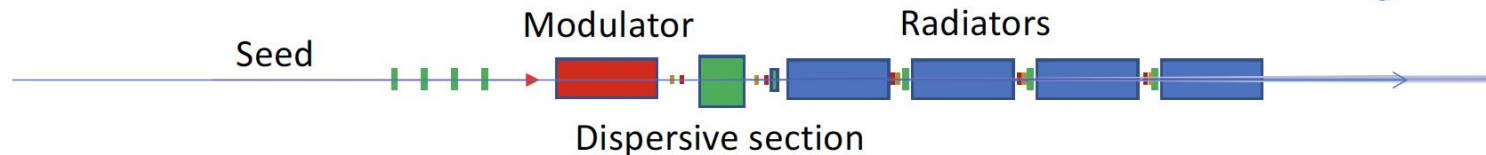


SASE FEL: 10 UM Modules, 2 m each – 60 cm intraundulator sections.
 Two technologies under study: Apple-X PMU (baseline) and planar SCU.
 Prototyping in progress



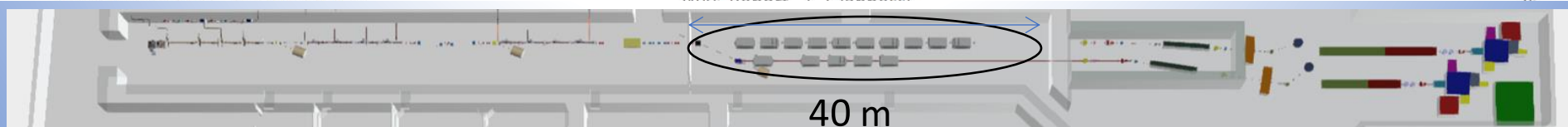
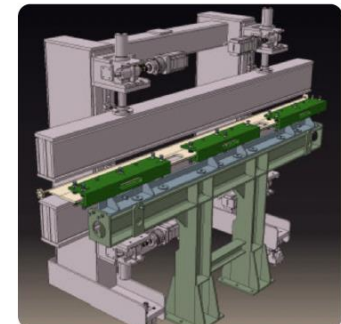
FERMI FEL-1 Radiator

2) ARIA: VUV seeded HGHG FEL beamline for gas phase



SEEDED FEL – Modulator 3 m + 4 Radiators APPLE II – variable pol. 2.2 m each – SEEDED in the range 50-100 nm (see former presentation to the committee and *Villa et al. ARIA—A VUV Beamline for EuPRAXIA@SPARC_LAB. Condens. Matter 2022, 7, 11.*) – Undulator based on consolidated technology.

Frascati 06/05/23 – EUPRAXIA TDR

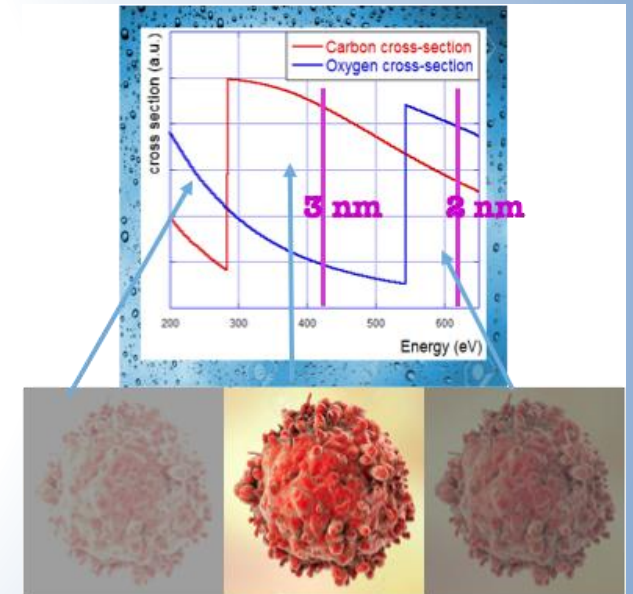


Expected SASE FEL performances

Parameter	Unit	PWFA	Full X-band
Electron Energy	GeV	1-1.2	1
Bunch Charge	pC	30-50	200-500
Peak Current	kA	1-2	1-2
RMS Energy Spread	%	0.1	0.1
RMS Bunch Length	μm	6-3	24-20
RMS norm. Emittance	μm	1	1
Slice Energy Spread	%	≤ 0.05	≤ 0.05
Slice norm Emittance	mm-mrad	0.5	0.5

Parameter	Unit	PWFA	Full X-band
Radiation Wavelength	nm	3-4	4
Photons per Pulse	$\times 10^{12}$	0.1- 0.25	1
Photon Bandwidth	%	0.1	0.5
Undulator Area Length	m	30	
$\rho(1D/3D)$	$\times 10^{-3}$	2	2
Photon Brilliance per shot	$s\text{ mm}^2\text{ mrad}^2\text{ bw}(0.1\%)$	$1-2 \times 10^{28}$	1×10^{27}

In the Energy region between Oxygen and Carbon K-edge 2.34 nm – 4.4 nm (530 eV -280 eV) water is almost transparent to radiation while nitrogen and carbon are absorbing (and scattering)



Coherent Imaging of biological samples
protein clusters, VIRUSES and cells
living in their native state
Possibility to study dynamics
 $\sim 10^{11}$ photons/pulse needed



Finanziato
dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca

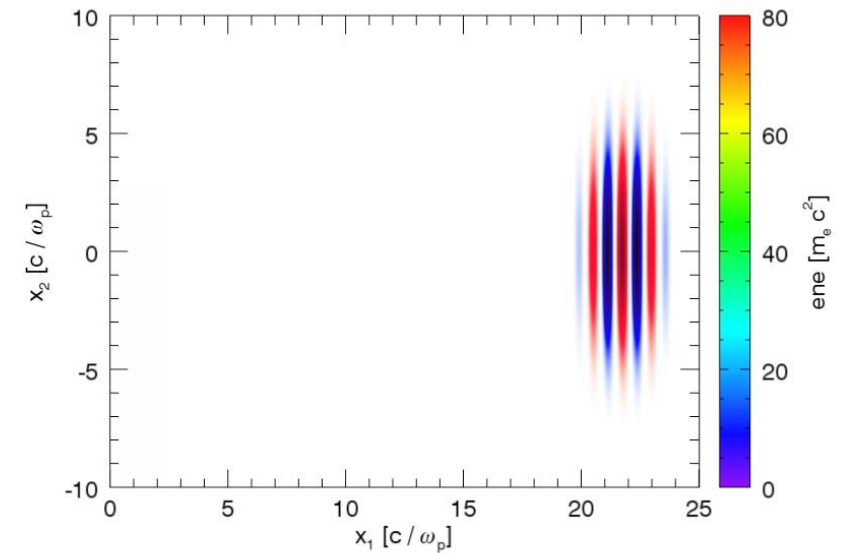


Italiadomani
PIANO NAZIONALE
DI RIPRESA E RESILIENZA



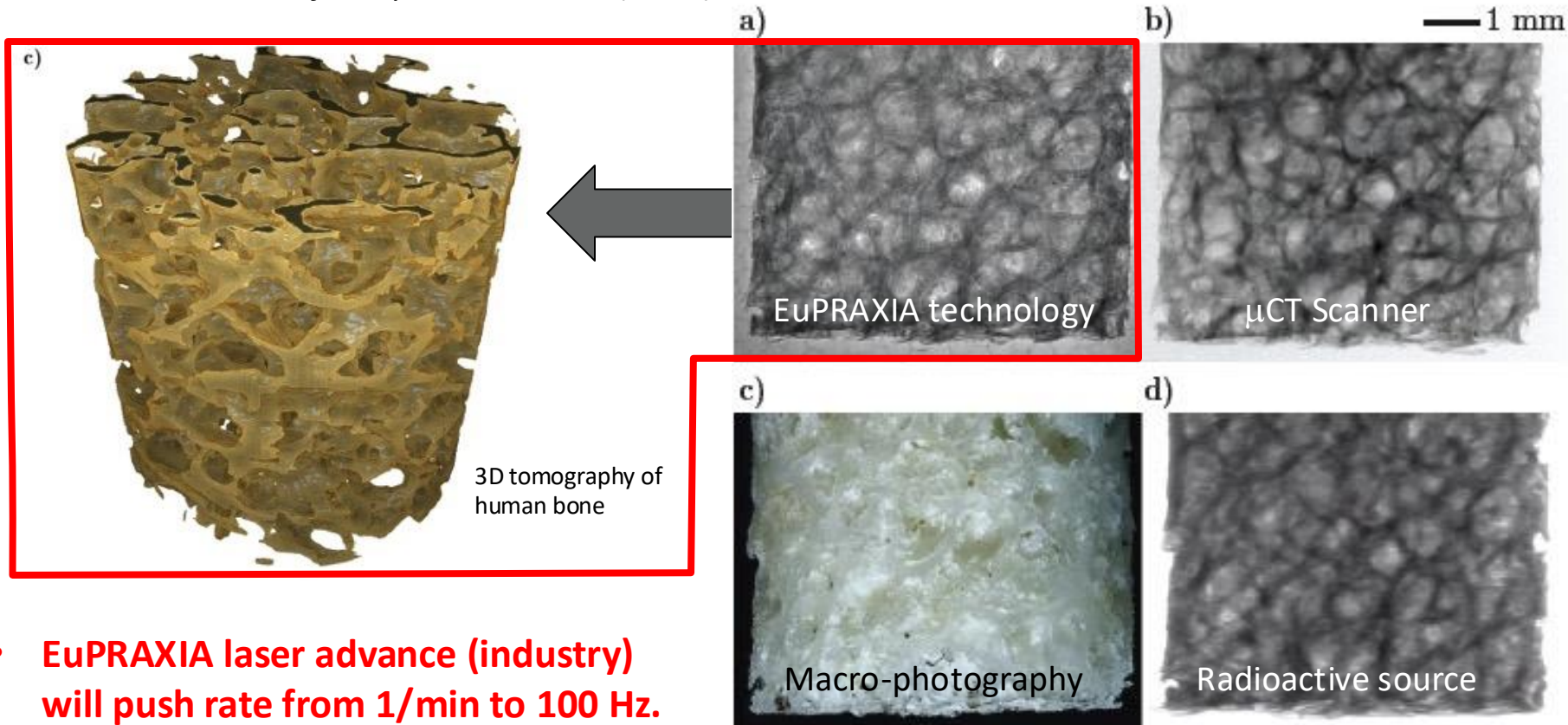
Betatron Radiation Source at SPARC_LAB

Electron beam Energy [MeV]	50-800
Plasma Density [cm^{-3}]	$10^{17} - 10^{19}$
Photon Critical Energy [keV]	1 - 10
Nuber of Photons/pulse	$10^6 - 10^9$



Courtesy J. Vieira, R. Fonseca/GoLP/IST Lisbon

J.M. Cole et al, "Laser-wakefield accelerators as hard x-ray sources for 3D medical imaging of human bone". *Nature Scientific Reports* 5, 13244 (2015)



Physics & Technology Background:

- Small EuPRAXIA accelerator → small emission volume for betatron X rays.
- **Quasi-pointlike** emission of X rays.
- **Sharper image from base optical principle.**
- Quality demonstrated and published, but takes a few hours for one image.
- Advancing flux rate with EuPRAXIA laser by factor > 1,000!

Added value

Sharper images with outstanding **contrast**

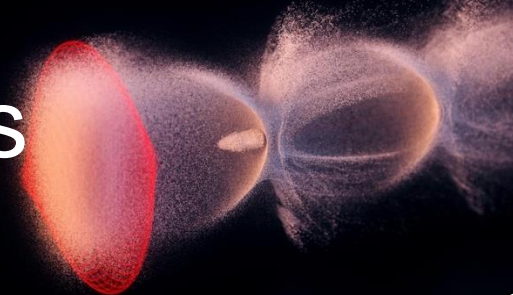
Identify smaller features (e.g. early detection of cancer at micron-scale – calcification)

Laser advance in EuPRAXIA → **fast imaging** (e.g. following moving organs during surgery)

- **EuPRAXIA laser advance (industry) will push rate from 1/min to 100 Hz.**

- **Ultra-compact source of hard X rays → exposing from various directions simultaneously is possible in upgrades**

ESPP Roadmap Update – Plasma Accelerators



		Timeline (approximate/aspirational)			
		0-10 years	10-20 years	20-30 years	
Single-stage accelerators (proton-driven)	Demonstration of:	Preserved beam quality, acceleration in very long plasmas, plasma uniformity (longitudinal & transverse)	Fixed-target experiment (AWAKE) Dark-photon search, strong-field QED experiment etc. (50-200 GeV e-)		
			Demonstration of: Use of LHC beams, TeV acceleration, beam delivery	Energy -frontier collider 10 TeV c.o.m electron-proton collider	
Single/multi-stage accelerators for light sources (electron & laser-driven)	Demonstration of:	R&D on EuPRAXIA will de-risk HALHF and other plasma-based collider concepts considerably			
		R&D on EuPRAXIA will de-risk HALHF and other plasma-based collider concepts considerably			
Multi-stage accelerators (Electron-driven or laser-driven)	Timeline (approximate/aspirational)				
	0-5 years	5 - 10 years	10-15 years	15-25 years	
	Pre-CDR (HALHF) Simulation study to determine self-consistent parameters (demonstration goals)	Demonstration of: scalable staging, driver distribution, stabilisation (active and passive)	Multistage tech demonstrator Strong-field QED experiment (25-100 GeV e-)	Facility upgrade	
		Demonstration of: High wall-plug efficiency(e- drivers), preserved beam quality & spin polarization, high rep.rate, plasma temporal uniformity & cell cooling		Higgs Factory (HALHF) Asymmetric, plasma-RF hybrid collider (250-380 GeV c.o.m)	Facility upgrade
Demonstration of: Energy-efficient positron acceleration in plasma, high wall-plug efficiency (laser-drivers), ultra-low emittances, energy recovery schemes, compact beam delivery systems					
				25+ years	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study R&D (exp & theory) HEP facility (earliest start of construction) 	

Plasma collider challenges

Beam delivery system

- *Higgs factory*: optimized LC designs exist optimizations for plasmas needed/possible?
- *10 TeV collider*: no design exists
critical - HF designs scale poorly with energy (geo. gradient) → 20 (CLIC) to 90 (ILC) km

Interaction region

- *Higgs factory*: designed for other LCs
- *10 TeV collider*: studies critical to define collider type and machine parameters
critical - valid codes for beam/beam studies

Driver technology

- *Beams*: technology exists in principle cost, gradient, efficiency, distribution optimization
- *Lasers*: do not exist, R&D paths identified
critical - rep. rate & power, efficiency, robustness, cost
opportunity - simple energy recovery (photovoltaics)

Beam sources

- *Higgs factory*: LC solutions exist
opportunity - compact (cheaper) sources from plasmas
- *10 TeV collider*: undefined, potentially a key issue

Positron acceleration

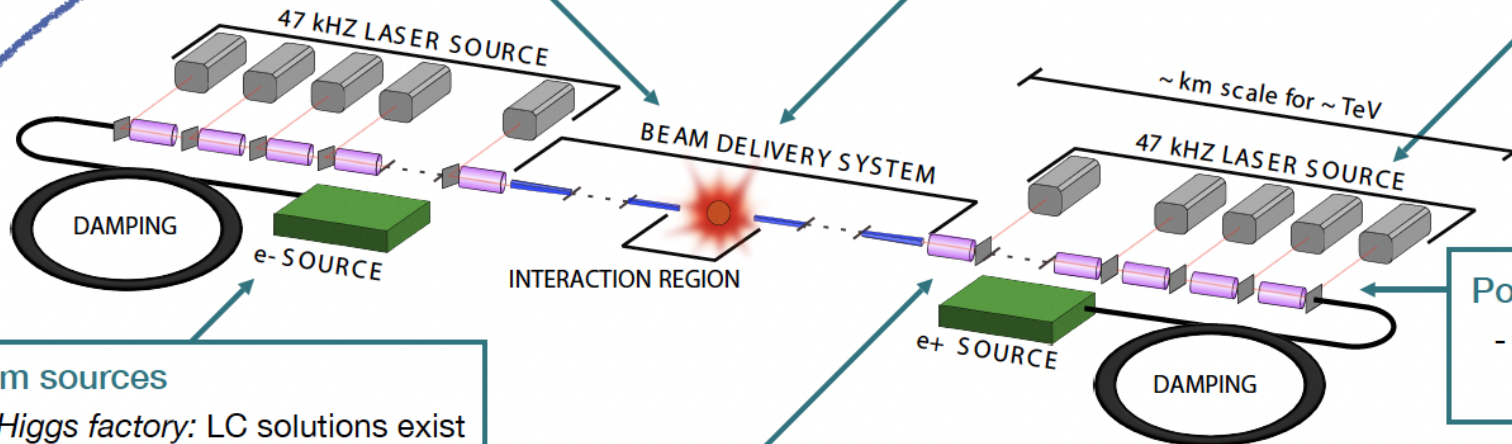
- No concept exists (yet) that fulfills needs
critical - beam quality, efficiency, resilience

Plasma stages + coupling

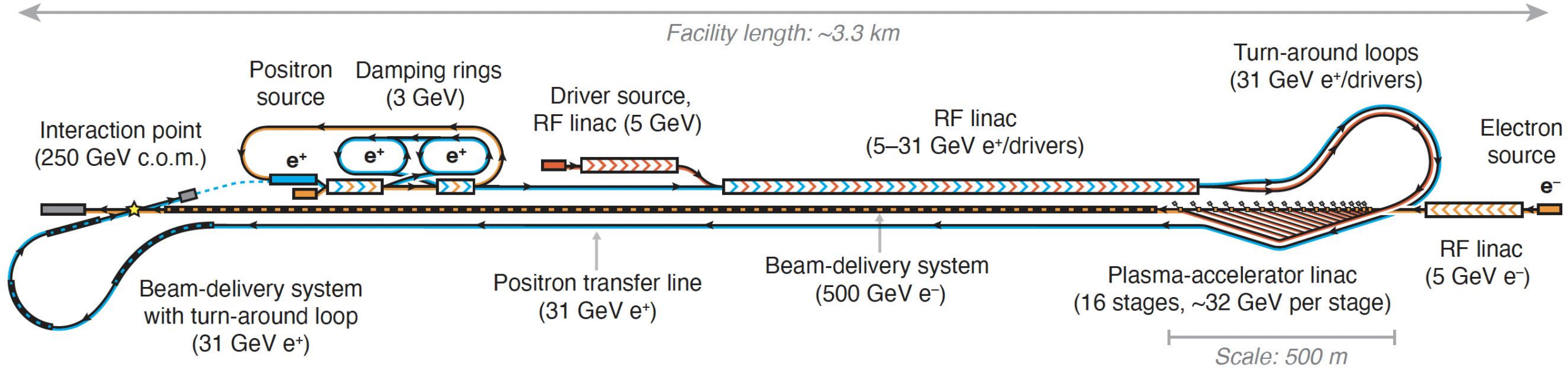
- Focus and key charge for our field, no roadblocks known
critical - beam quality (incl. polarization), efficiency, stability, longevity, resilience to jitter (in time, space, and momentum), resilience to catastrophic errors (one bad shot)
- *Plasma stage*: requires demonstration of collider parameters
+ critical - rep. rates & bunch structure (CW vs. burst), power handling
- *Staging*: requires detailed concepts, additional test facilities
+ critical - driver in-/out-coupling, geometric gradient

Full system integration

- Turn components into self-consistent machine
- Optimization of the system for cost, efficiency, environmental impact, physics performance, resiliency (jitter budget)



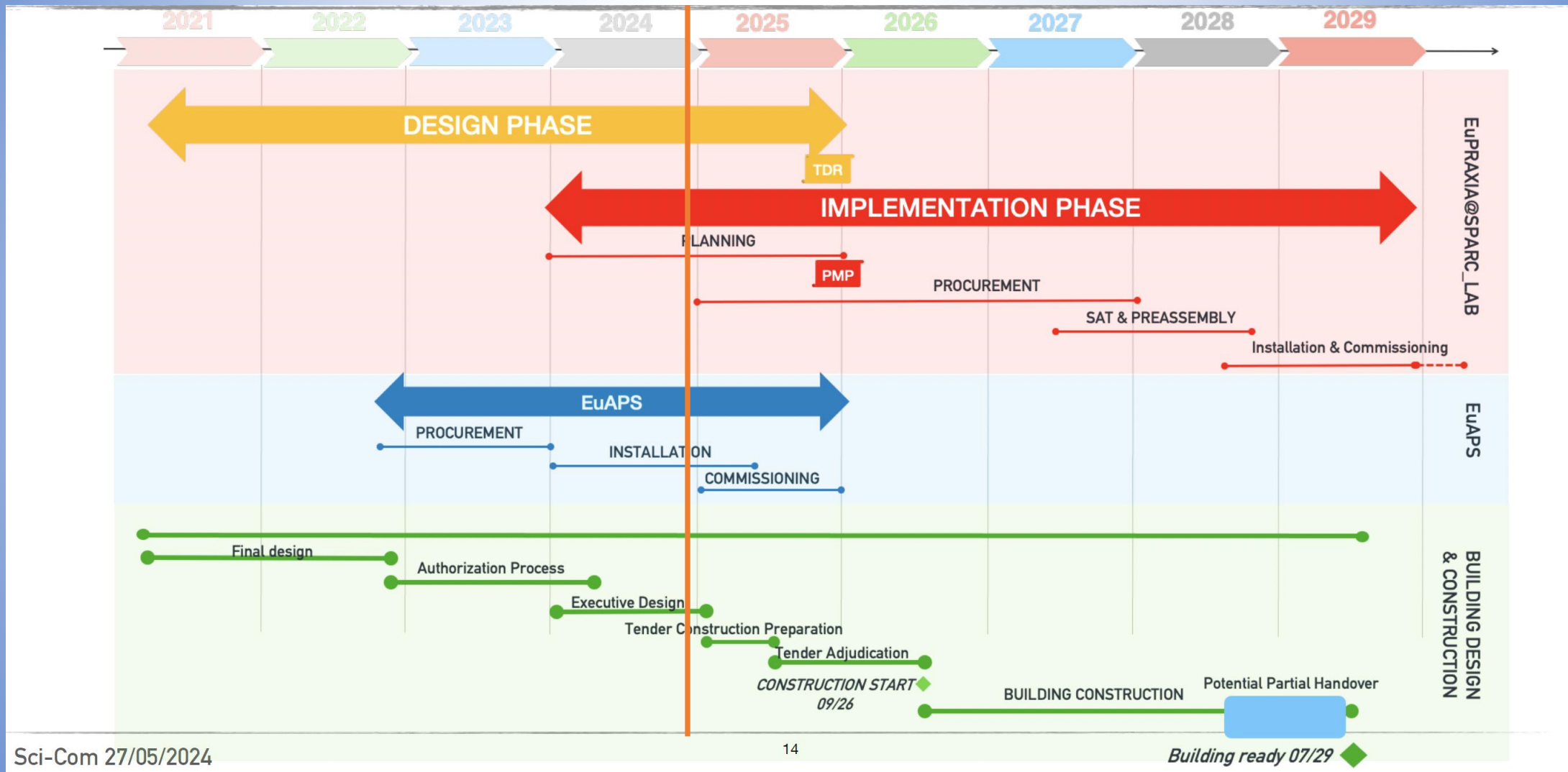
HALHF: A Hybrid, Asymmetric, Linear Higgs Factory



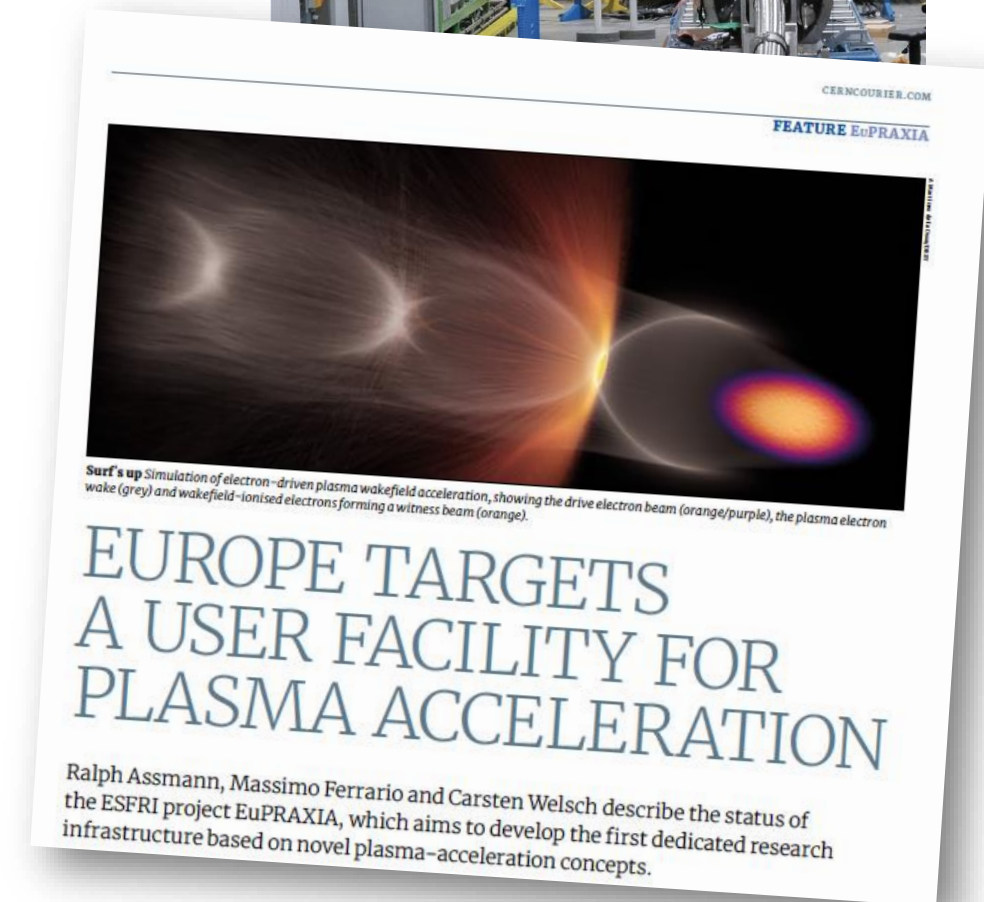
Source: [Foster, D'Arcy and Lindstrøm, New J. Phys. 25, 093037 \(2023\)](#)

- > Beam-driven: Use e^+ RF linac for producing e^- drivers
- > Overall footprint: ~3.3 km
 - > Length dominated by e^- beam-delivery system
 - > Fits in most major particle-physics laboratories





- Plasma accelerators have advanced considerably in beam quality, **achieving FEL lasing.**
- EuPRAXIA is a design and an ESFRI project for a distributed European Research Infrastructure, **building two plasma-driven FEL's in Europe.**
- EuPRAXIA FEL site in Frascati LNF-INFN is sufficiently funded for **first FEL user operation in 2029.**
- Second EuPRAXIA FEL site will be selected in next months, among **4 excellent candidate sites.**
- Concept today **works in design and in reality.** Expect (solvable) problems in stability for **24/7 user operation.** Facility needed to demonstrate!
- **Additional fund raising is continuously going on**



LPAW 2025

Laser and Plasma Accelerators Workshop 2025

14-18 April 2025, Ischia Island, Italy



<https://agenda.infn.it/event/42311/>

The **Laser and Plasma Accelerators Workshop 2025 (LPAW 2025)** will be held at **Hotel Continental Ischia**, in the **Ischia Island (Campania, Italy)**, from **Monday 14 to Friday 18 April 2025**.

The Laser and Plasma Accelerators Workshop (LPAW) series is one of the leading workshops in the field of plasma-based acceleration and radiation generation.

The following scientific topics will be the main focus of the conference:

- Plasma-based lepton acceleration (experiments, simulations, theory, diagnostics...).
- Plasma-based ion acceleration (experiments, simulations, theory, diagnostics...).
- Secondary radiation generation and applications (experiments, simulations, theory, diagnostics...).

John Dawson Thesis Prize

“John Dawson Thesis Prize” is awarded on a biannual basis to the best PhD thesis in the area of plasma accelerators driven by laser or particle beams. The prize will be awarded for fundamental (theoretical or experimental) or applied aspects.

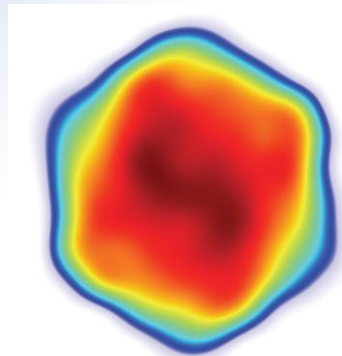
Each prize winner will receive a certificate of merit, up to 500 Euros, and financial support to attend the “Laser and Plasma Accelerators Workshop,” where the prize will be awarded.



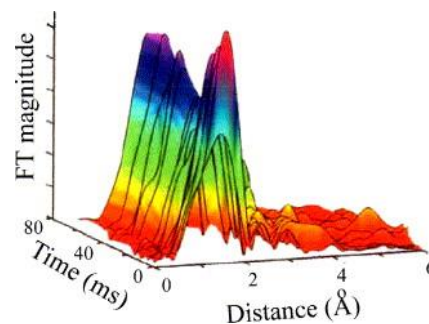
Thank for your attention

Experimental techniques and typology of **samples**

Coherent imaging



X-ray spectroscopy



Raman spectroscopy

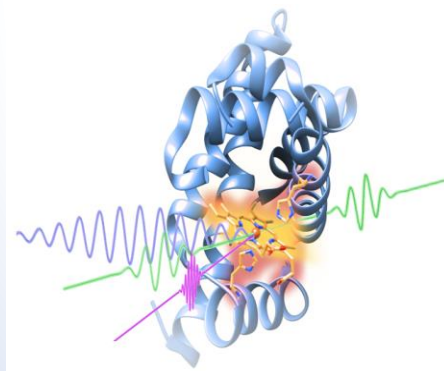
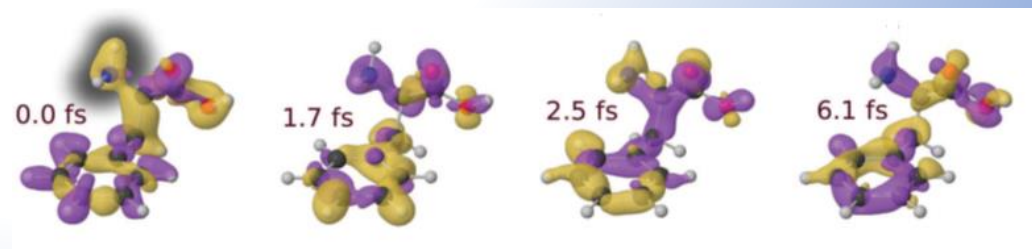


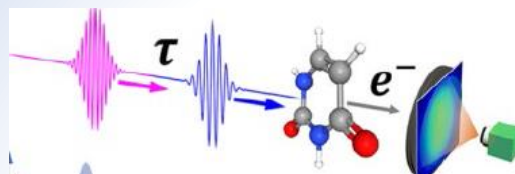
Photo-fragmentation of molecules



(Large) Viruses
Organelles
Bacteria/Cells
Metals
Semiconductors
Superconductors
Magnetic materials
Organic molecules

Defining experimental techniques and typology of **samples (and applications)**

Photoemission Spectroscopy



Photoelectron Circular Dichroism



Raman spectroscopy

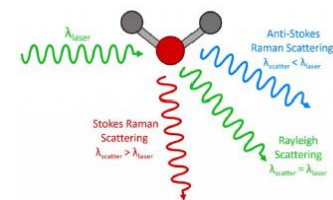
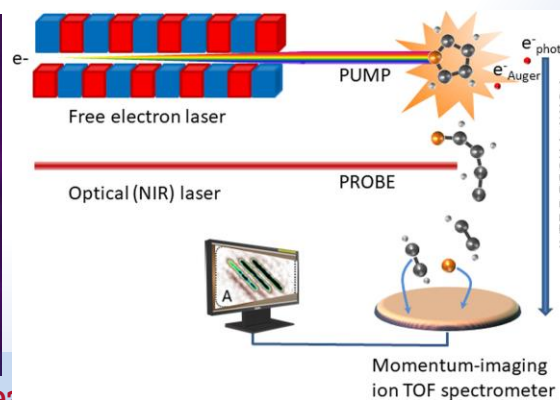
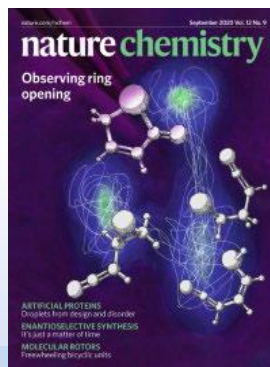


Photo-fragmentation of molecules
Time of Flight Spectroscopy



Gas phase & Atmosphere
(Earth & Planets)

Aerosols

(Pollution, nanoparticles)

Molecules & gases

(spectroscopies, time-of-flight)

Proteins

(spectroscopies)

Surfaces

(ablation & deposition)



WP1 - Coordination & Project Management

P. Campana, INFN

M. Ferrario, INFN

WP2 - Dissemination and Public Relations

C. Welsch, U Liverpool

S. Bertellii, INFN

WP3 - Organization and Rules

A. Specka, CNRS

A. Ghigo, INFN

WP4 - Financial & Legal Model. Economic Impact

A. Falone, INFN

WP5 - User Strategy and Services

F. Stellato, U Tor Vergata

E. Principi, ELETTRA

WP6 - Membership Extension Strategy

B. Cros, CNRS

A. Mostacci, U Sapienza

WP7 - E-Needs and Data Policy

R. Fonseca, IST

S. Pioli, INFN

WP8 - Theory & Simulation

J. Vieria, IST

H. Vincenti, CEA

WP9 - RF, Magnets & Beamline Components

S. Antipov, DESY

F. Nguyen, ENEA

WP10 - Plasma Components & Systems

K. Cassou, CNRS

R. Shaloo, DESY

WP11 - Applications

G. Sarri, U Belfast

E. Chiadroni, U Sapienza

WP12 - Laser Technology, Liaison to Industry

L. Gizzi, CNR

P. Crump, FBH

WP13 - Diagnostics

A. Cianchi, U Tor Vergata

R. Ischebeck, EPFL

WP14 - Transformative Innovation Paths

B. Hidding, U Dusseldorf

S. Karsch, LMU

WP15 - TDR EuPRAXIA @SPARC-lab

C. Vaccarezza, INFN

R. Pompili, INFN

WP16 - TDR EuPRAXIA Site 2

A. Molodozhentsev, ELI-Beamlines

R. Pattahil, STFC

WP's on coordination & implementation as ESFRI RI (organization, legal model, financing, users)

WPs on technical implementation and sites