



EUROPEAN UNION



GOVERNMENT OF  
ROMANIA



Structural Instruments  
2014-2020

**Operational Programme Competitiveness**

**Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP) – Phase II**  
Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

# Ultra-intense laser and gamma beam systems at ELI-NP

*Kazuo A. Tanaka and N. Victor Zamfir  
for the ELI-NP researchers and collaborators*



*Prof T Tajima's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Symposium  
UC Irvine,  
Jan. 26, 2018*

# Extreme Light Infrastructure: Nuclear Physics at Bucharest Romania

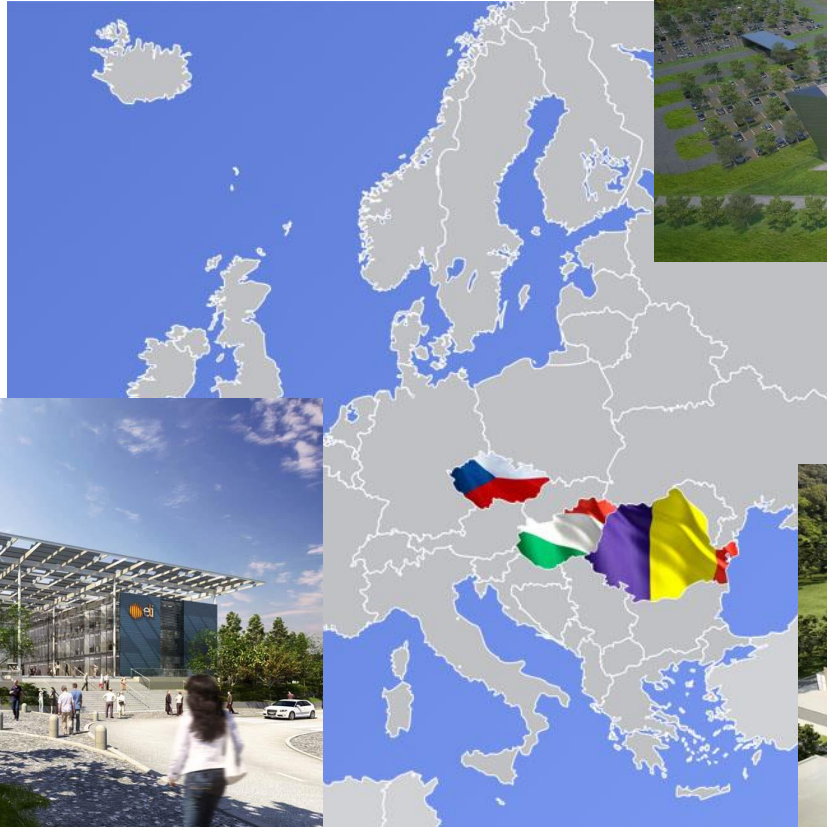


# Outline of My Talk

- Introduction
- Team Structure
- High Power Laser System  
Gamma Beam System
- Proposed Experiments
- Nuclear Photonics 2018
- Summary

# Extreme Light Infrastructure: ELI ?

- Three laser labs are being constructed with 300 MEuro each.
- Those are planned in Romania, Czeco, and Hungary.
- Each has its own characteristics.



Hungary/ELI-ALPS

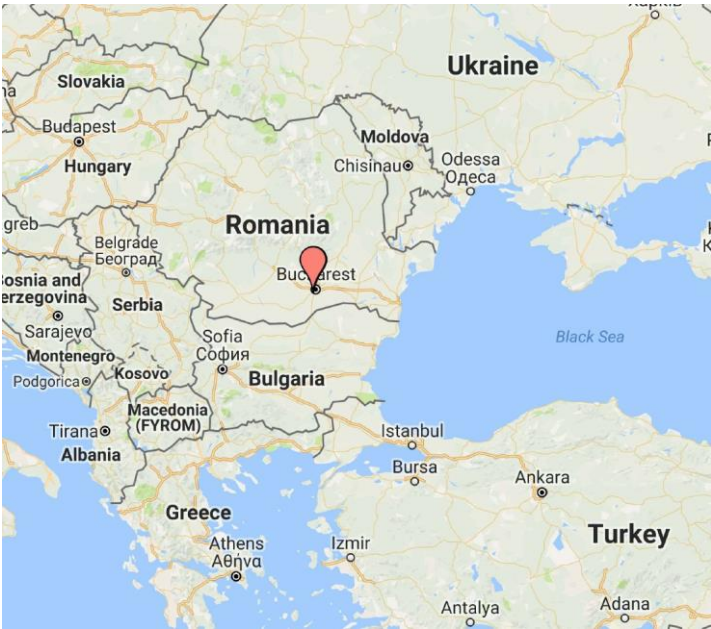
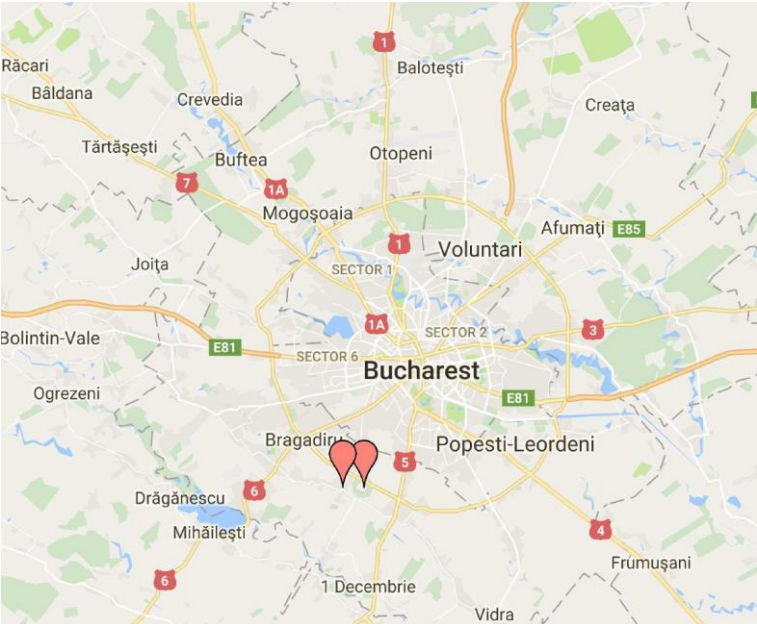


Czech/ELI-Beamlines



Romania/ELI-NP

# We are located in Bucharest.



# Introduction

## Laser System with Highest Focused Intensity

The wavelength, pulse width, energy, and beam diameter are 820 nm, 25 fsec, 250 J, and 50 cm.

Focused laser intensity may reach  $10^{23}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>.

The laser light will accelerate electrons up to the speed of light.

## Gamma Beam System with Highest Photon Number

The Gamma Beam photon energy is 19.5 MeV with 2 psec pulse width.

The number of photons may reach  $10^9$  photons/sec.

The gamma light will interact directly with nuclei for excitation and fission.

Laser system can be operated as stand alone or combined with Gamma beam system.

- Experiments under extreme conditions, so far not possible, can be conducted.

For example, we will perform

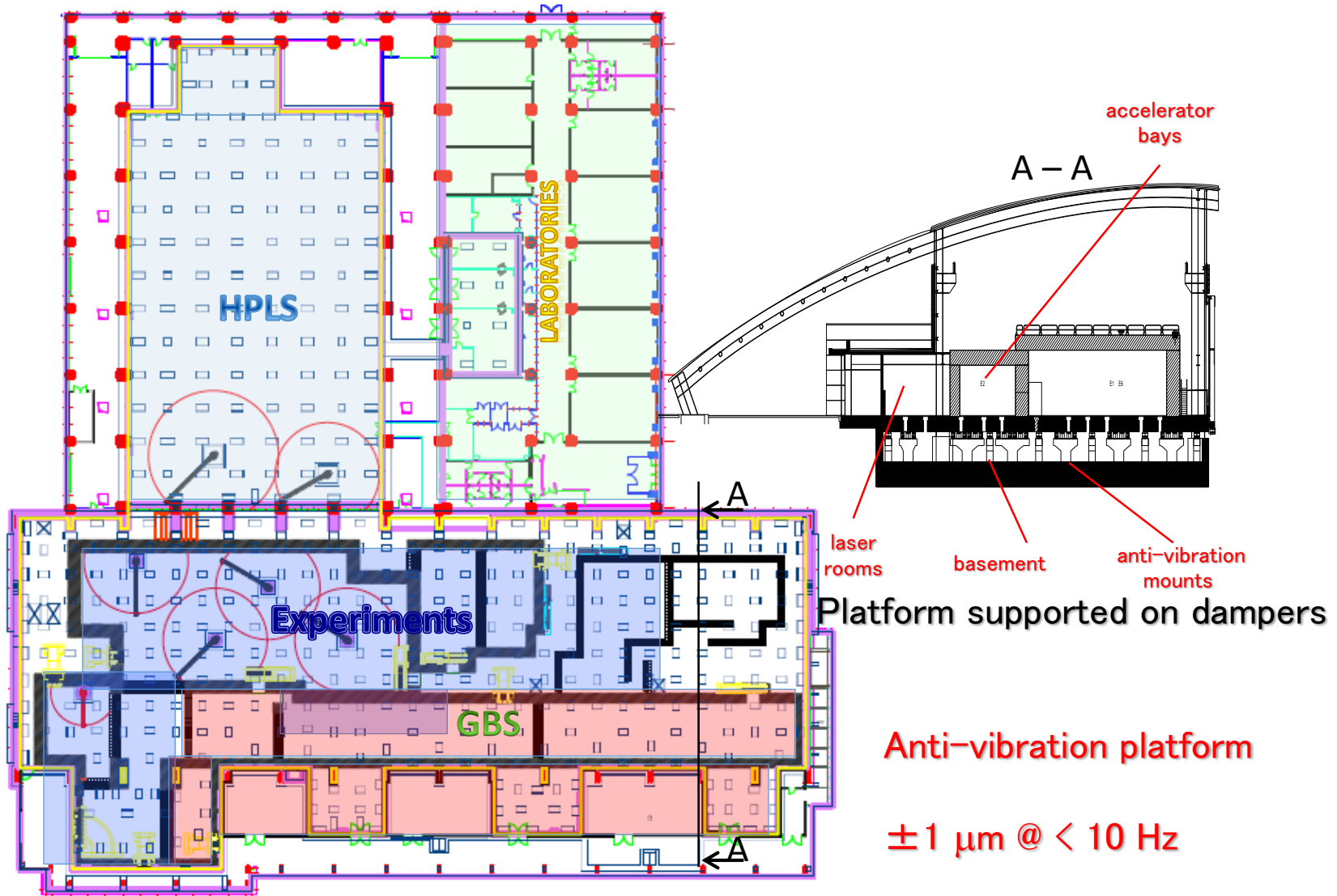
- Electron acceleration more than 10 GeV
- Nuclear fission and fusion
- Head-on collision of the laser and relativistic electron beam

Then these experiments will clarify

- History of the Universe
- Important Issues on nonlinear QED
- Isotope production for medical use

These achievements may lead to the Nobel prize and/or realistic outcomes for our society.

# ELI-NP Building





# Team Structure

General Director of IFIN/HH & Project Director

Prof Dr Nicolai Victor Zamfir (US-Romania)

Scientific Director

Prof Dr Kazuo A Tanaka (US-Japan)

Technical Director

Dr Dan Gabriel Ghita (Rom)

RA1 Laser Group

RA2 Gamma Beam Grp.

RA3 Laser plasma nuclear physics Grp.

RA4 Gamma Beam nuclear Physics Grp.

RA5 Combined Laser and Gamma Beam Grp.

Dr Daniel Ursescu (Germany Rom)

Dr Calin Ur (Italy Rom)

Dr Dan Stutman (US Rom)

Dr Dimiter Balabanski (Bulgaria)

Dr Ovidiu Tesileanu (Italy Rom)

Currently 130 members (20 Senior Sci., 60 Junior Sci. Rest Eng.)

Will boost up to 250 members.

High intensity laser system has started from these two.

When they were at Laboratory for Laser Energetics, Univ. of Rochester in early 80's.

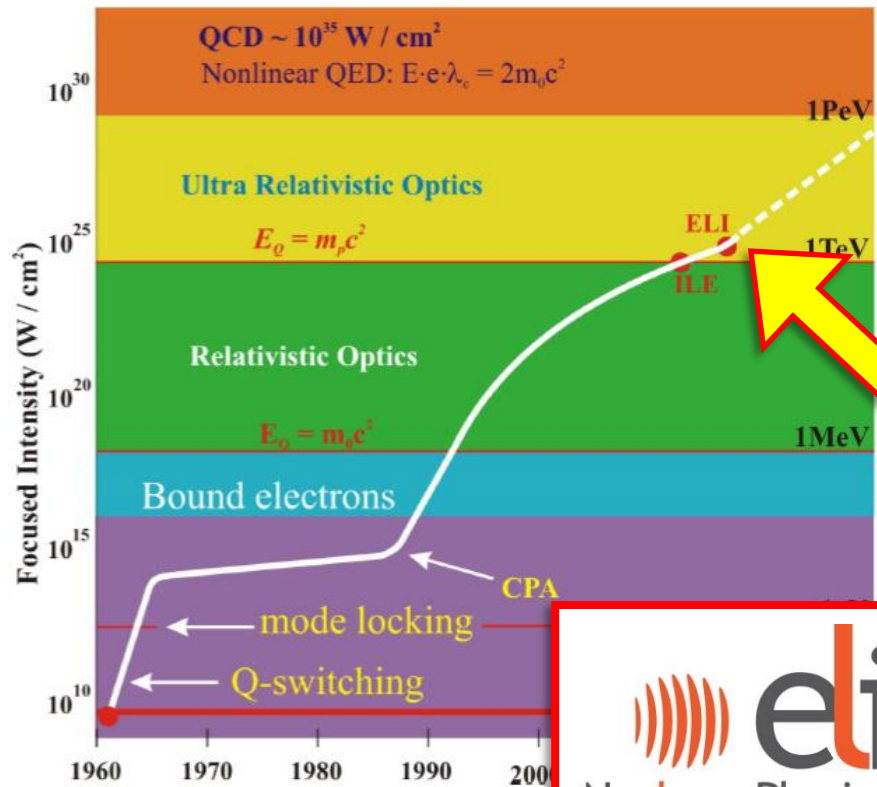


Gerard Mourou  
IZEST France

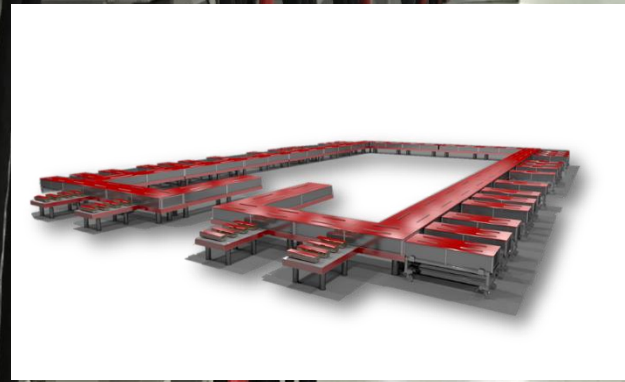


Dana Strickland  
University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada

# Intensity could reach $10^{22}$ - $10^{23}$ W/cm<sup>2</sup>



**Laser system sits in a 70 x 70 m<sup>2</sup> clean room.**



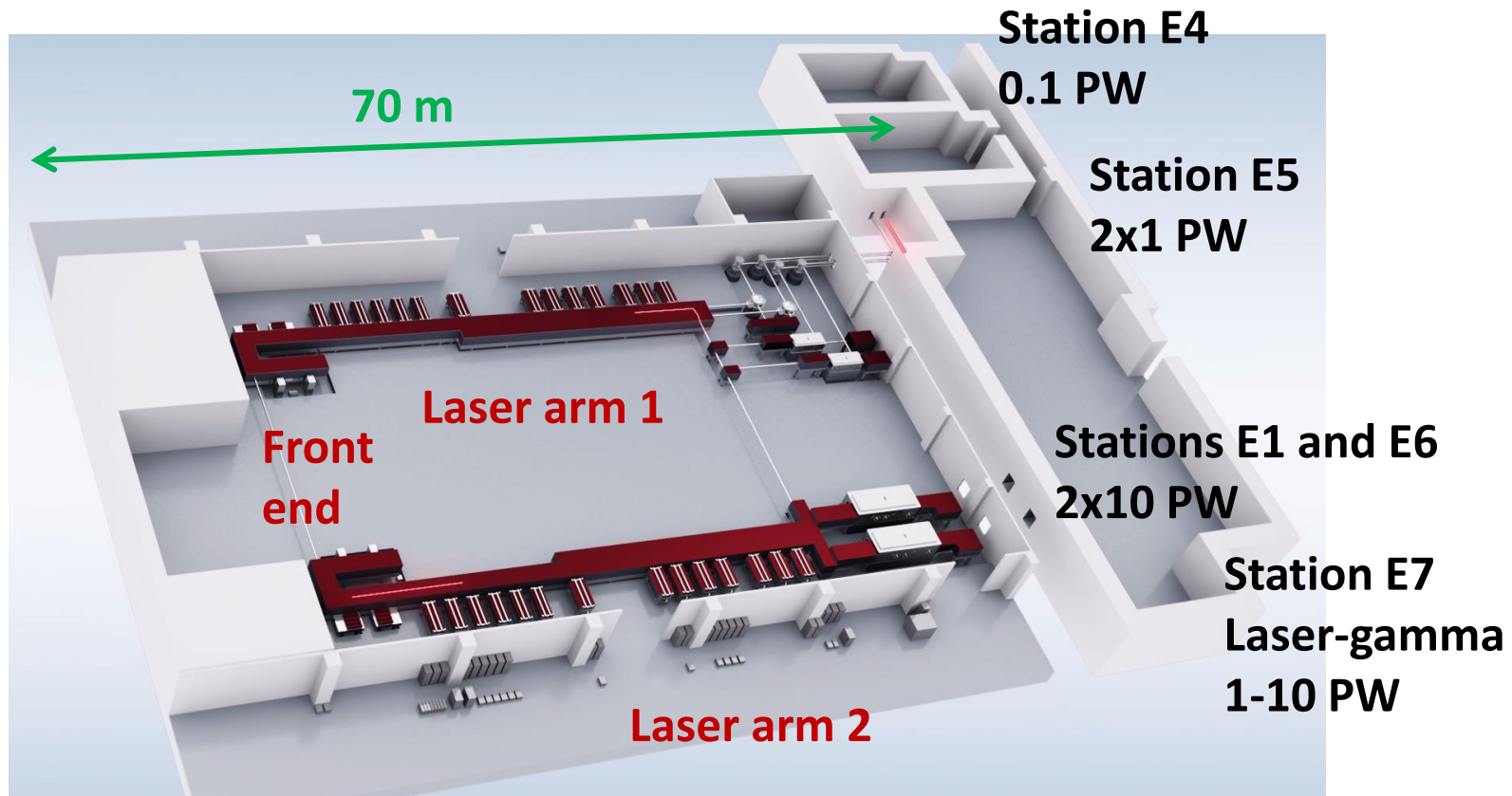
# Installation in progress.



# High Power Laser System

	min	max	unit
Energy/pulse	150	225	J
Central wavelength	814	825	nm
Spectral bandwidth (FWHM)	55	65	nm
Spectral bandwidth (at nearly zero level of intensity)	120	130	nm
Pulse duration (FWHM)	15	22.5	fs
FWHM beam diameter/Full aperture beam diameter	450/550		mm
Repetition rate	1		pulse /min
Strehl ratio	0.8	0.95	
Pointing stability	2	5	μrad
Beam height to the floor	1500	1510	mm

# 10 PW Laser System Layout



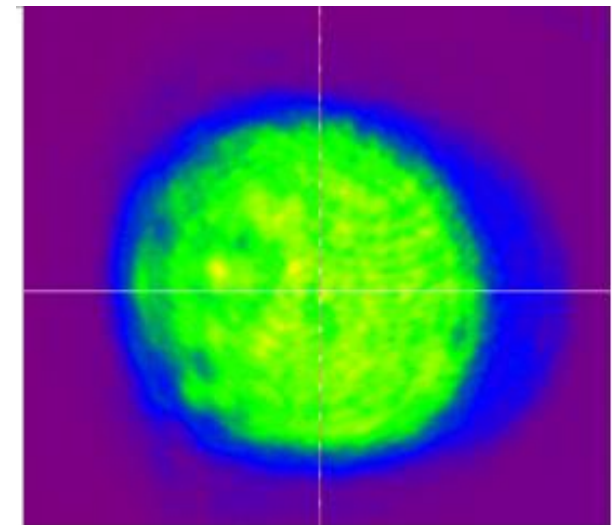
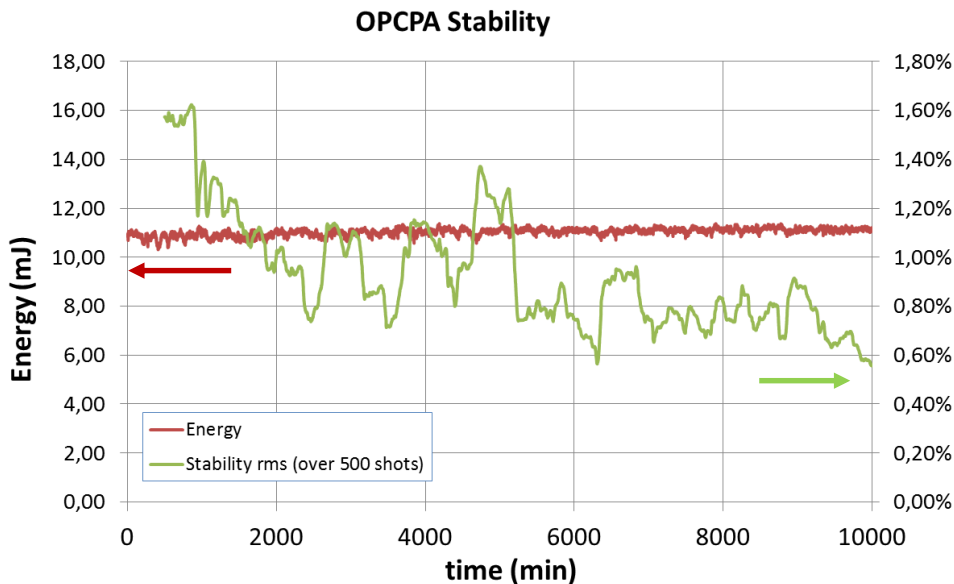
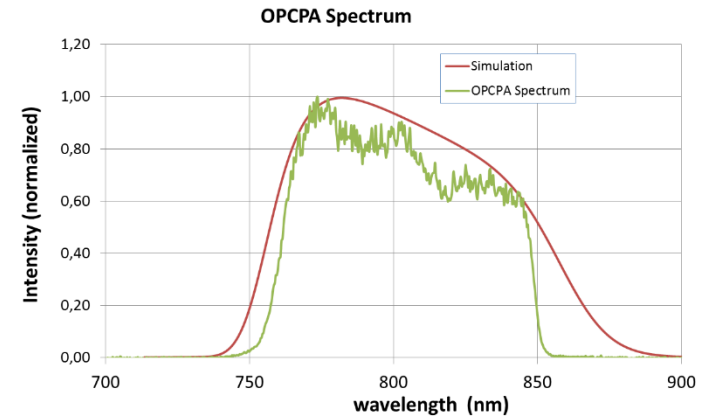
- High performance parameters : 250 J in 25fs, 0.9 Strehl ratio,  $<10^{-13}$  contrast
- Outputs: 2x 10 PW/min  
2x 1 PW/1 Hz  
2 x 0.1 PW/10 Hz

Thales at Elancourt France has reported the performance.

# THALES

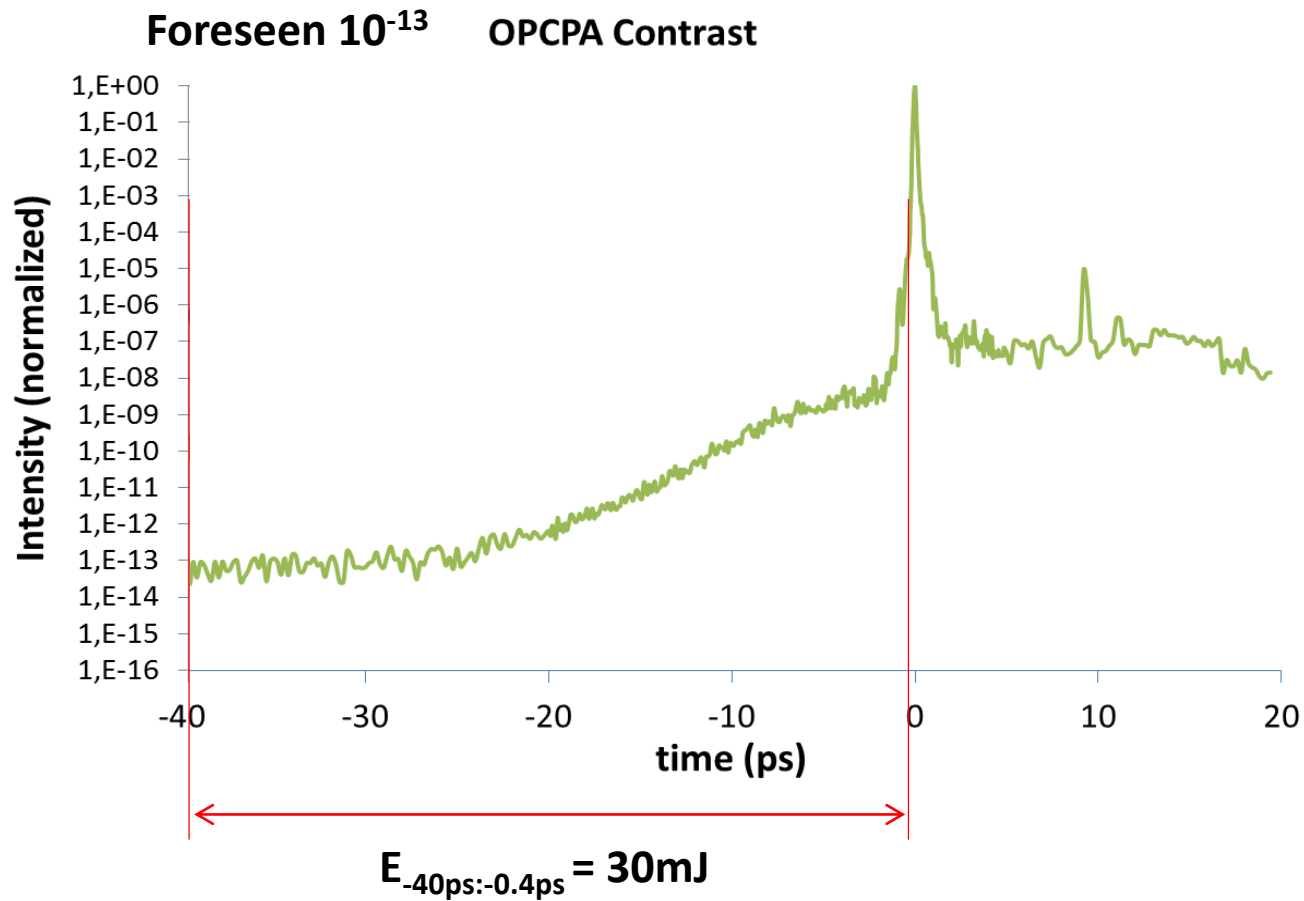


- Simulation and Results
  - Simulation result:
    - 16mJ
    - 77nm FWHM
  - Experimental result:
    - 11,6mJ (< 1,6% rms over 500 shots)
    - 67nm FWHM





We expect to have  $10^{13}$  contrast ratio.

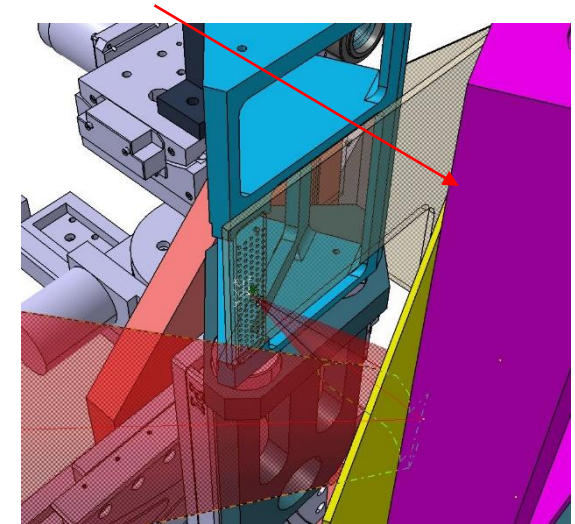
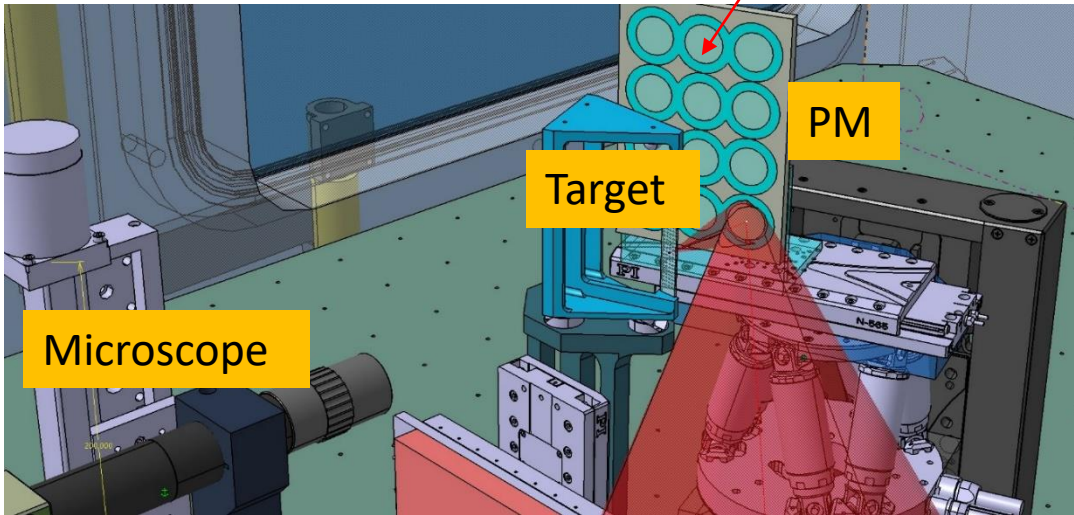


# Back reflection?

Plasma mirror is tested for optics protection.

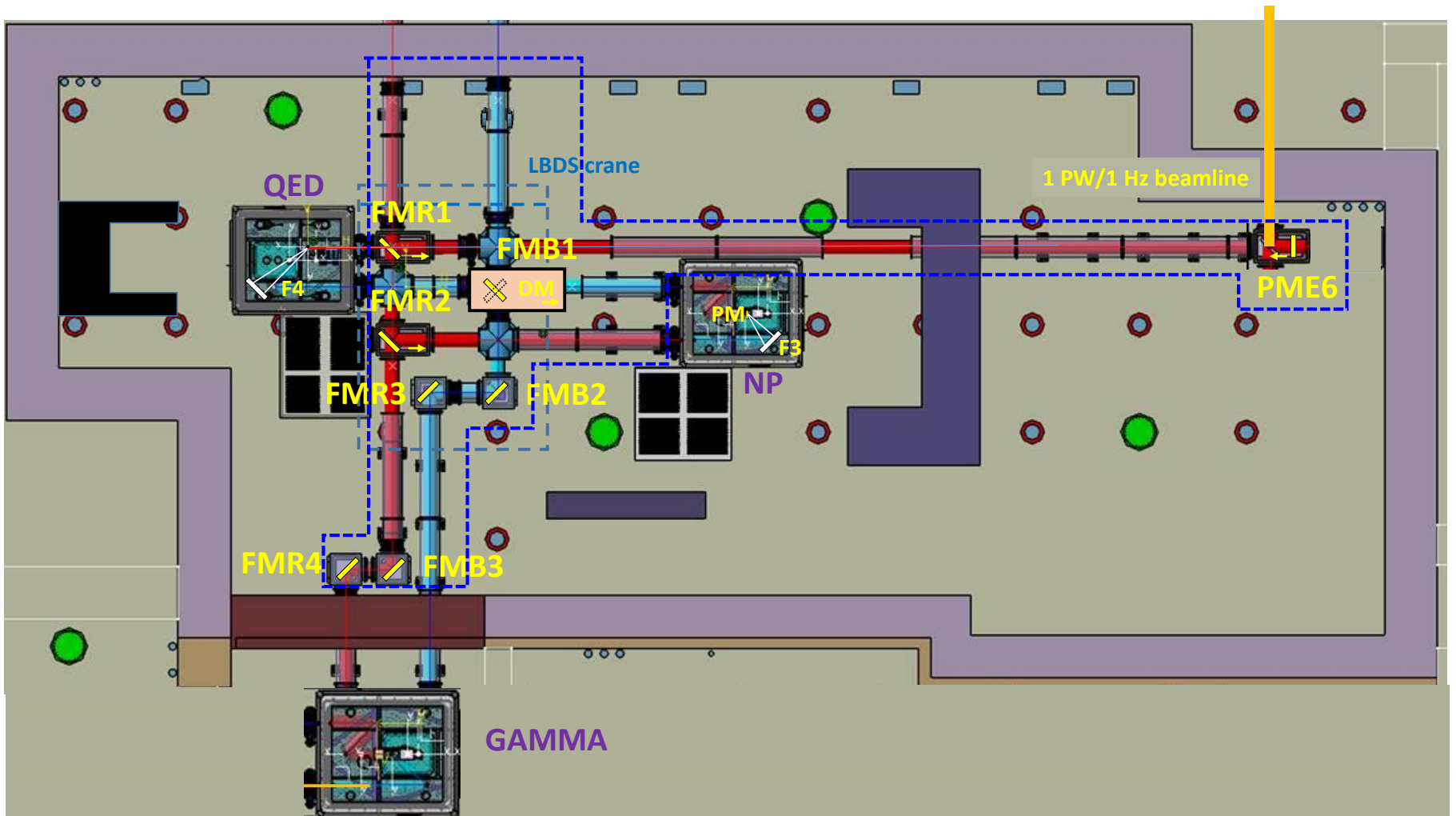
- Silver coated glass slab

PM @ 50mm away from target



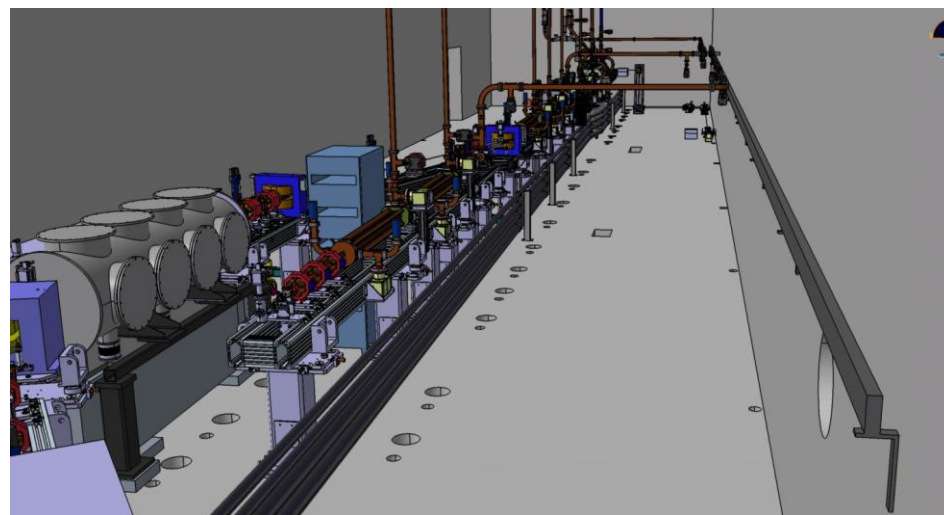
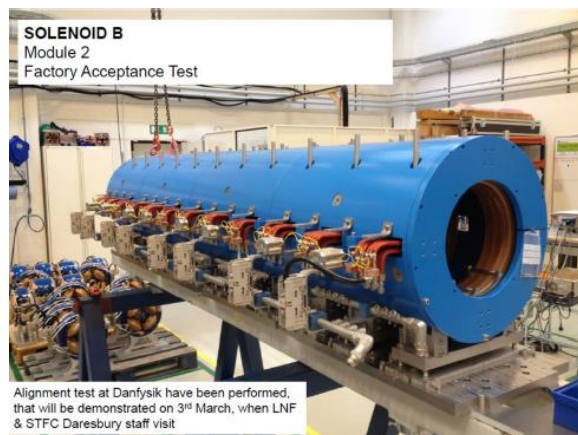
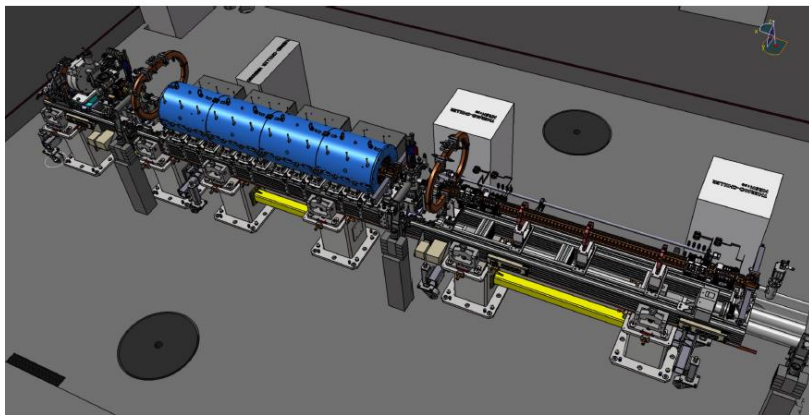
Typically the peak intensity is set at  $10^{15} - 10^{16}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup> on the plasma mirror.

# New 10 PW LBTS design



# Gamma Beam System

## RF Photoinjector



# Components of Gamma Beam System

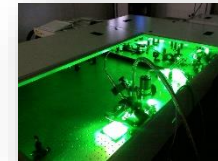
## 1) **Warm electron RF Linac** (innovative techniques)

- multi-bunch photogun (32  $e^-$  microbunches of 250 pC @ 100 Hz RF)
  - 2 x S-band (22 MV/m) and 12 x C-band (33 MV/m) acc. structures
  - low emittance 0.2 – 0.6 mm·mrad
  - two acceleration stages (300 MeV and 720 MeV)



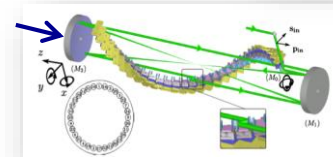
## 2) **High average power, high quality J-class 100 Hz ps Collision Laser**

- state-of-the-art cryo-cooled Yb:YAG (200 mJ, 2.3 eV, 3.5 ps)
- two lasers (one for low- $E_\gamma$  and both for high- $E_\gamma$ )



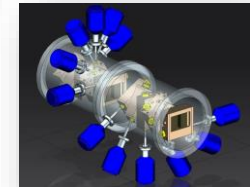
## 3) **Laser circulation with $\mu\text{m}$ and $\mu\text{rad}$ and sub-ps alignment/synchronization**

- complex opto/mechanical system
- two interaction points:  $E_\gamma < 3.5 \text{ MeV}$  &  $E_\gamma < 19.5 \text{ MeV}$



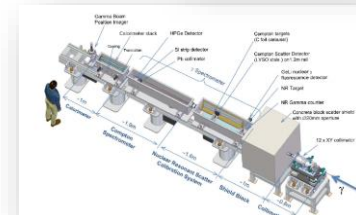
## 4) **Gamma beam collimation system**

- complex array of dual slits
- relative bandwidths  $< 5 \times 10^{-3}$



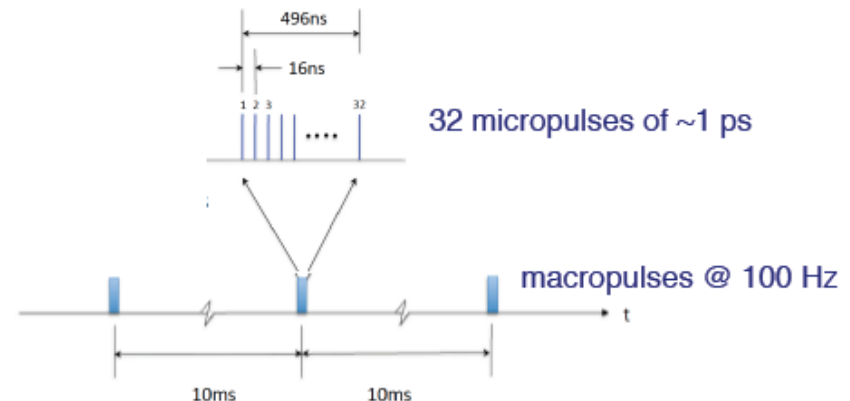
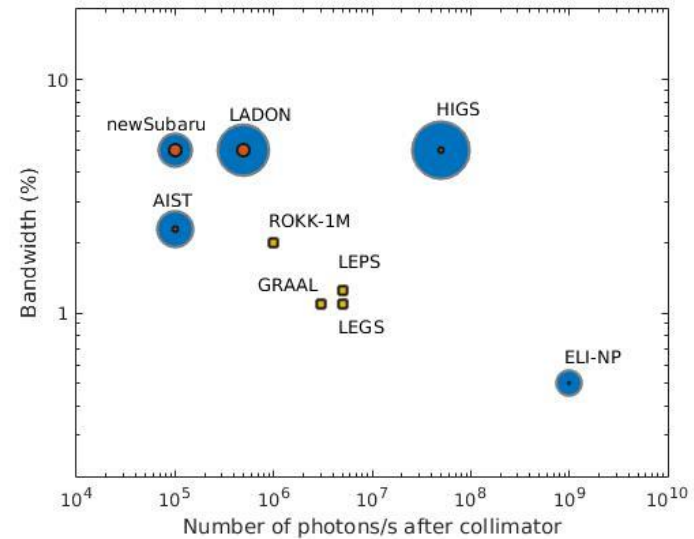
## 5) **Gamma beam diagnostic system**

- beam optimization and characterization: energy, intensity, profile



# GBS Specification

Parameter [units]	Value
Photon energy [MeV]	0.2 – 19.5
Spectral density [ph/s/eV]	$> 0.5 \times 10^4$
Bandwidth	$< 0.5 \%$
# photons / shot FWHM bdw.	$1.0 - 4.0 \cdot 10^5$
# photons/sec FWHM bdw.	$2.0 - 8.0 \cdot 10^8$
Source rms size [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	10 – 30
Source rms divergence [ $\mu\text{rad}$ ]	25 – 250
Peak brill. [ $N_{\text{ph}}/\text{sec}\cdot\text{mm}^2\cdot\text{mrad}^2\cdot 0.1\%$ ]	$10^{22} - 10^{24}$
Radiation pulse length [ps]	0.7 – 1.5
Linear polarization	$> 95 \%$
Macro repetition rate [Hz]	100
# of pulses per macropulse	$> 31$
Pulse-to-pulse separation [ns]	16



# Commissioning Phase in 2019.

- We will focus on the characterization of each machines: 10PW laser and 19 MeV Gamma beam systems.

## 10 PW Laser System

- Laser intensity:  $10^{22}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Electron acceleration > GeV
- Proton acceleration > 200 MeV

## Gamma Beam System

- Gamma photon energy calibration-Nuclear excitation 3.5 or 19.5 MeV
- Polarization > 95%

# Day 1 Experiments with 10 PW

- Radiation Reaction: Classical to QED
  - Photo Nuclear Reaction
  - Ion Stopping & Excitation in Plasmas
  - Fission Fusion Mechanism: r process  $^{232}\text{Th}$
  - Dark Matter Physics
  - Vacuum Birefringence
  - Photo-excitation of isomers
- Etc.

Romanian Report in Physics 68 Suppliment 2016



# New Horizons



Fission-fusion

Dark matter

Radiation effect

Nuclear Resonance

Gamma Imaging

Material Science

Medical Isotopes

**Astrophysics**

**Astrophysics**

**Biology**

**Nuclear Physics**

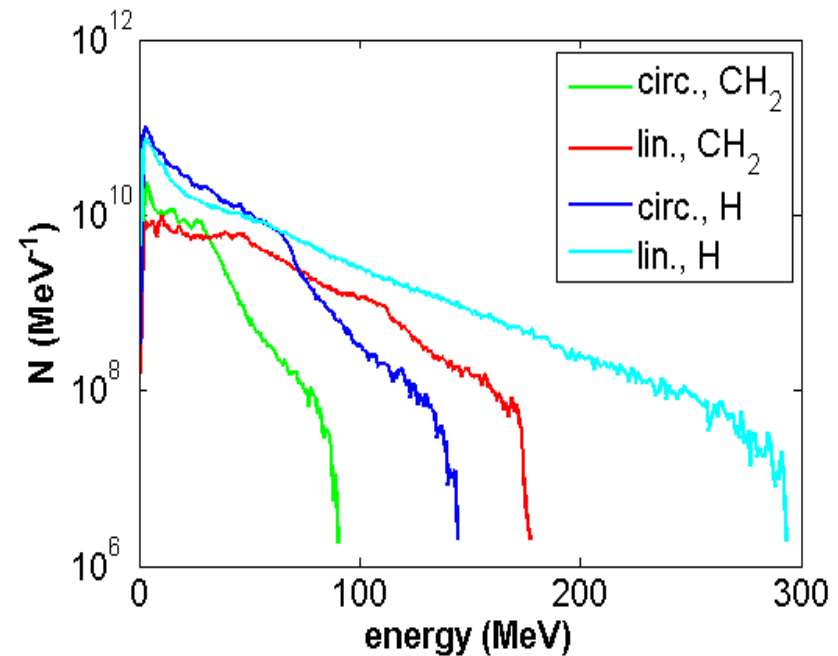
**Nuclear Security**

**Fusion Reactor Eng.**

**Cancer Therapy**

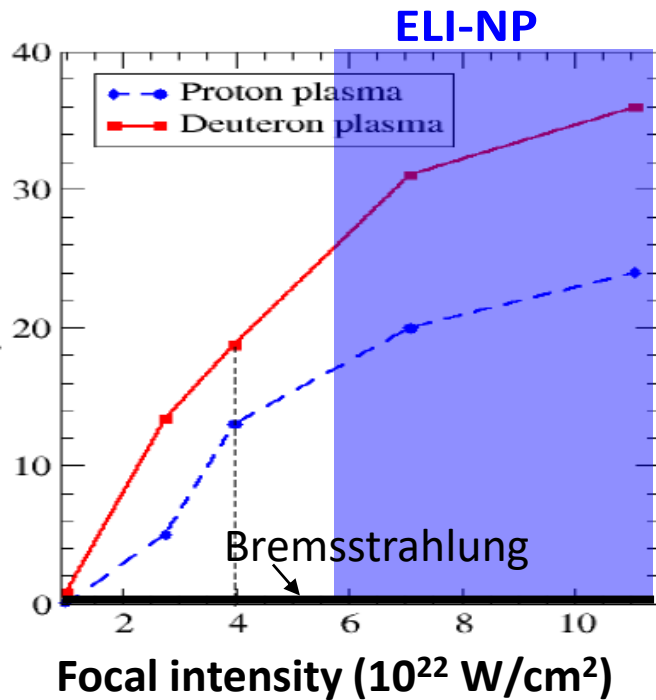
# Proton $>200$ MeV is possible.

Predicted proton energy for LP and  
CP  $I=10^{22}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>, 0.2  $\mu$ m CH<sub>2</sub>  
target  
(Psikal et al J Phys Conf 2016)

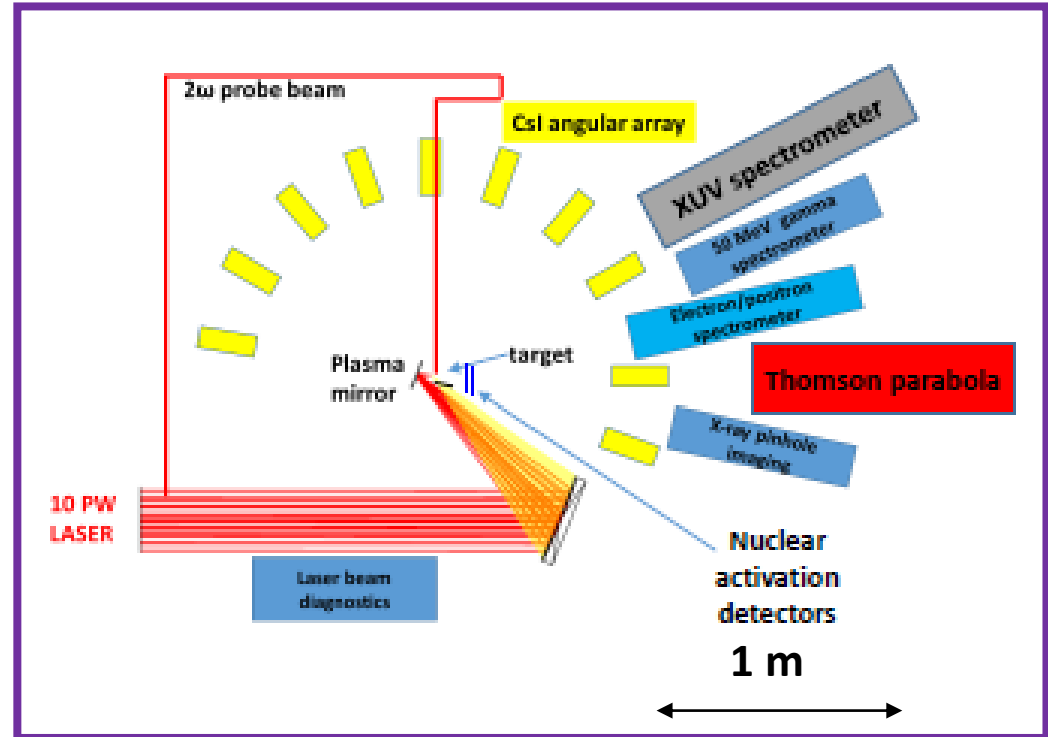


# Commissioning experiment: Demonstration of extreme laser intensity through efficient laser- $\gamma$ conversion

Laser- $\gamma$  conversion efficiency (%)

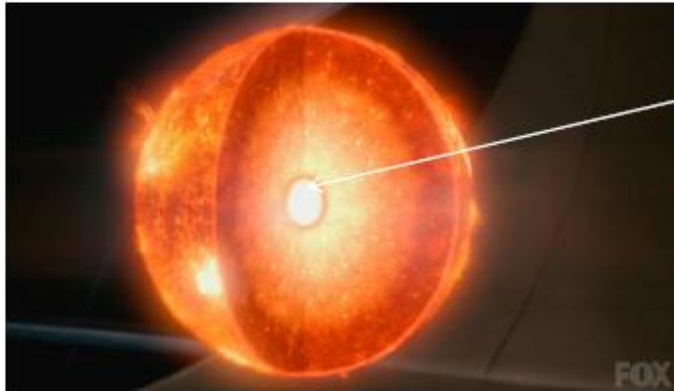


Capdessus et al RRP 2016



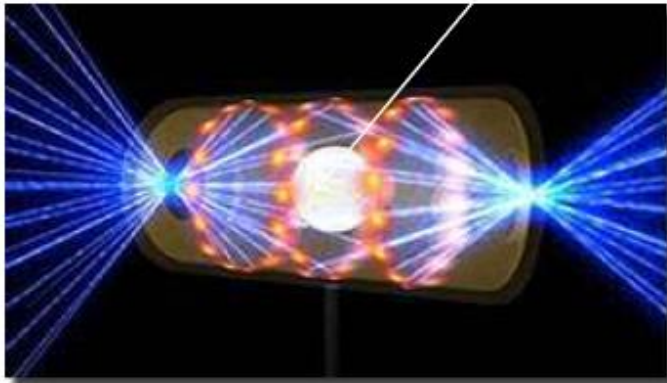
- ❑ Tens of % gamma conversion efficiency in  $\mu\text{m}$ -thick plastic or dense gas targets
- ❑ GeV dense ion bunch acceleration using same setup with thinner targets
- ❑ Plasma mirror + baffle for protection against laser back-reflection, debris
- ❑ We consider also membrane protection for the parabola

## Path to Extreme pressures by irradiation of aligned nanowire arrays

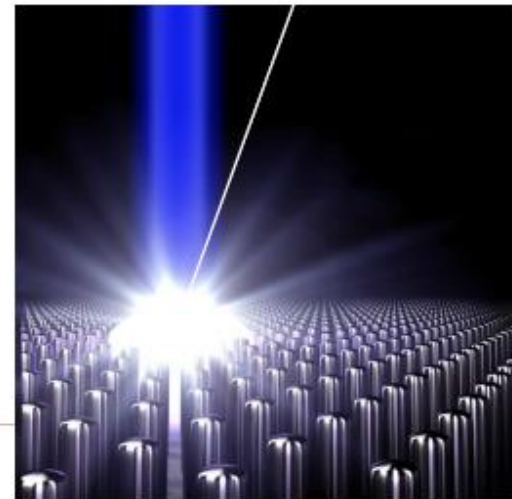


Sun Core  
240 Gbar

NIF Implosion  
150 Gbar



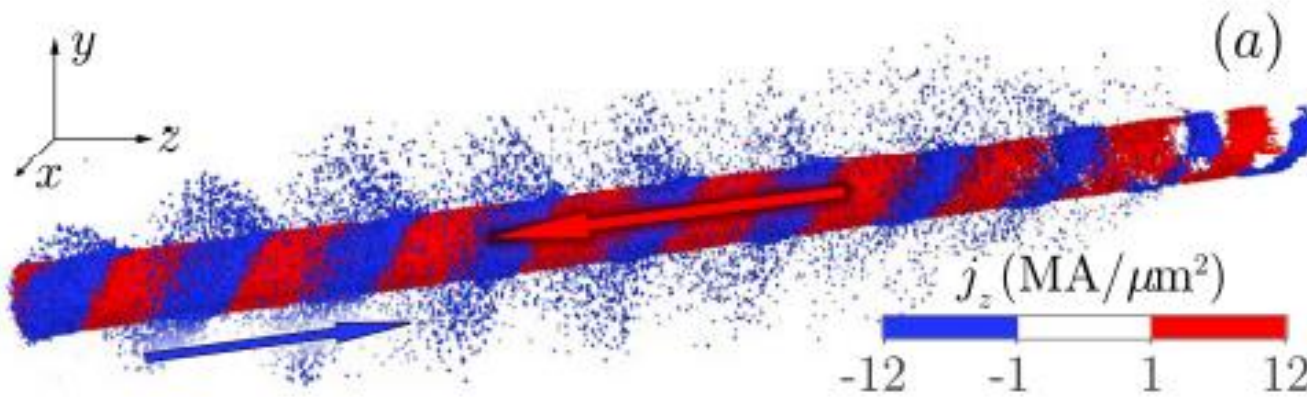
Nanowire array plasma  
 $I = 1 \times 10^{22} \text{ W cm}^{-2}$



Kaymak et al, PRL 117, 035004 (2016)

## Nanoscale Ultradense Z -Pinch

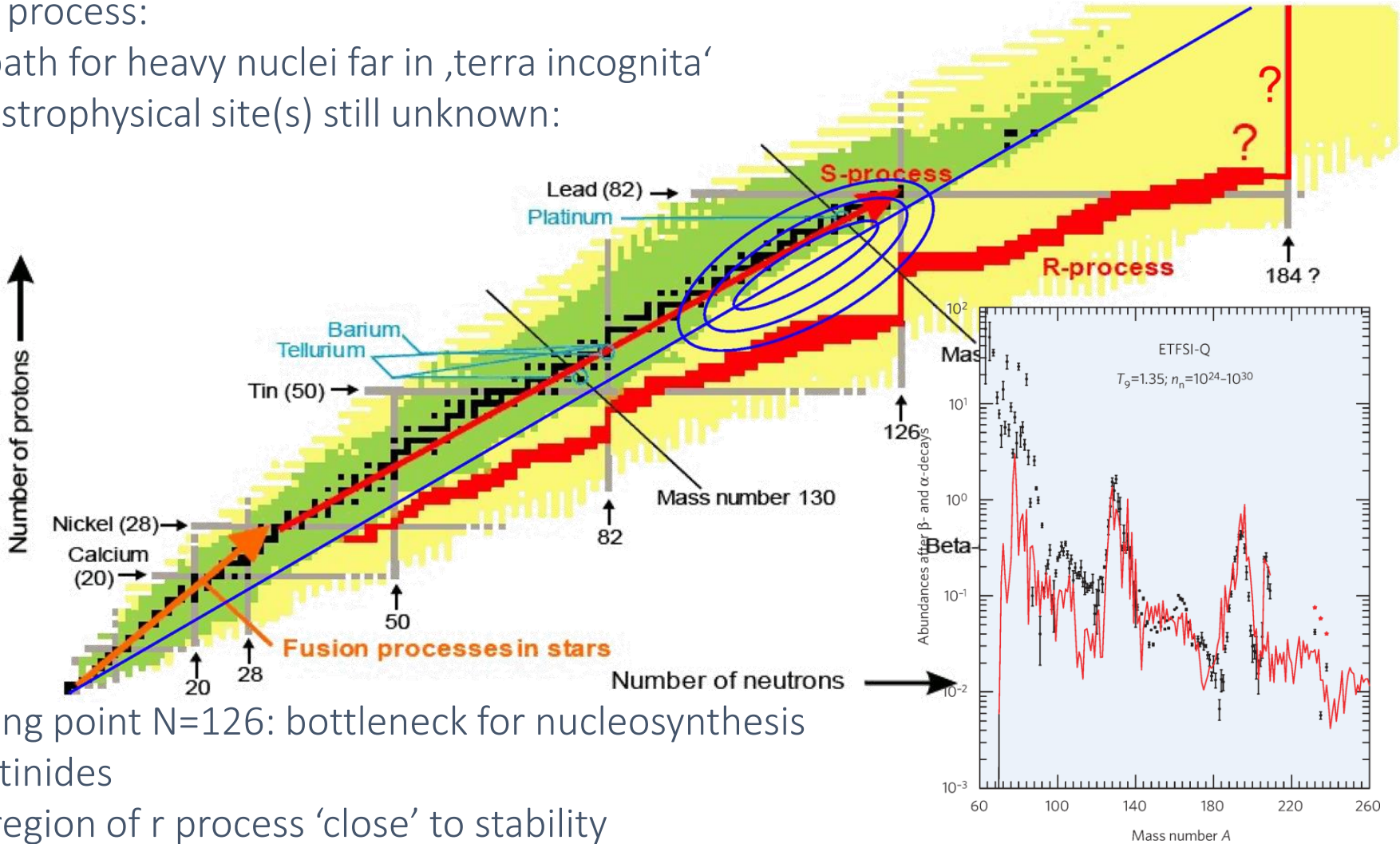
Longitudinal current distribution



# Astrophysical r process: waiting point N=126

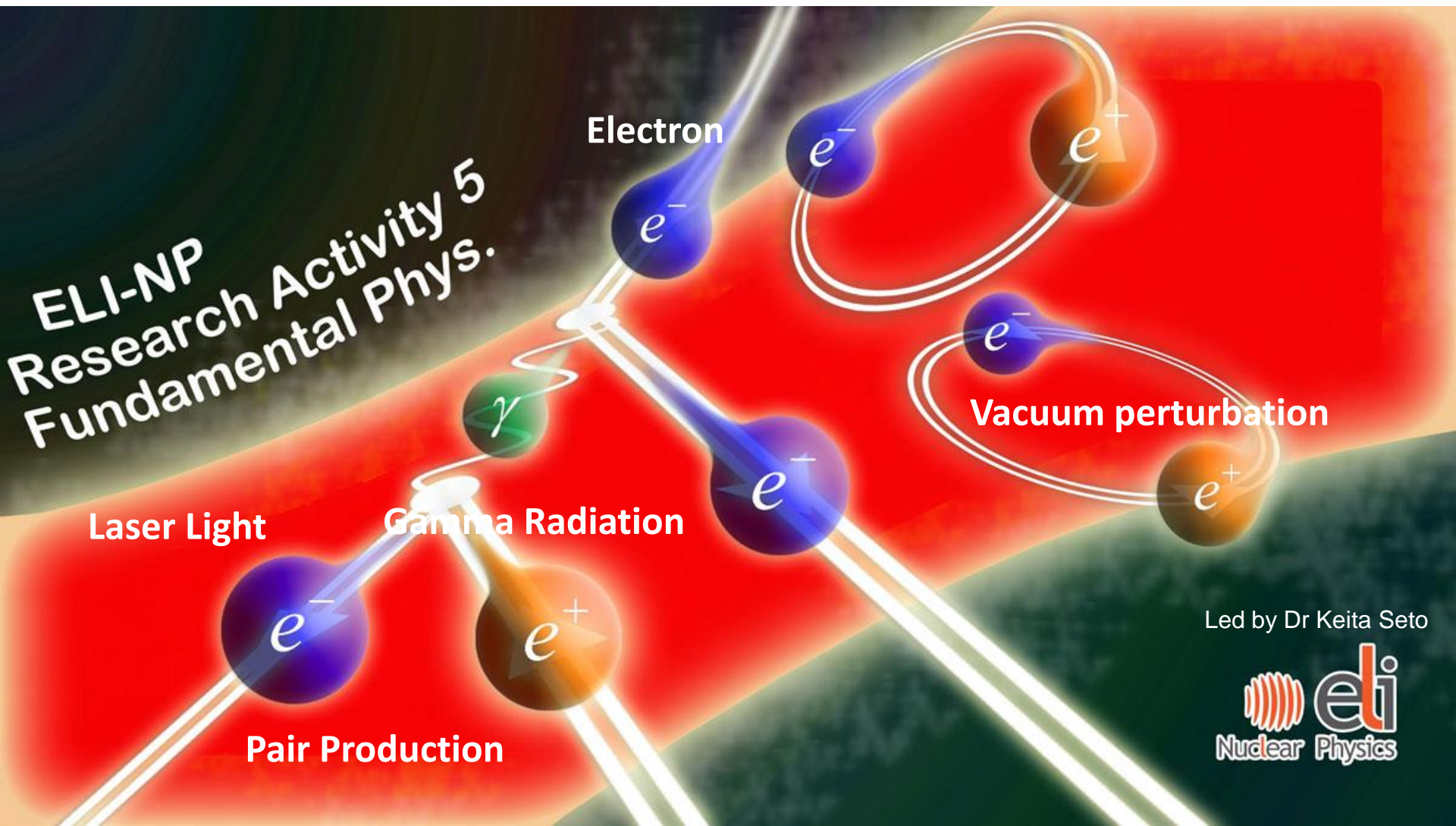
-P. Thirolf (LMU)-

- r process:
  - path for heavy nuclei far in 'terra incognita'
  - astrophysical site(s) still unknown:



- waiting point N=126: bottleneck for nucleosynthesis of actinides
- last region of r process 'close' to stability

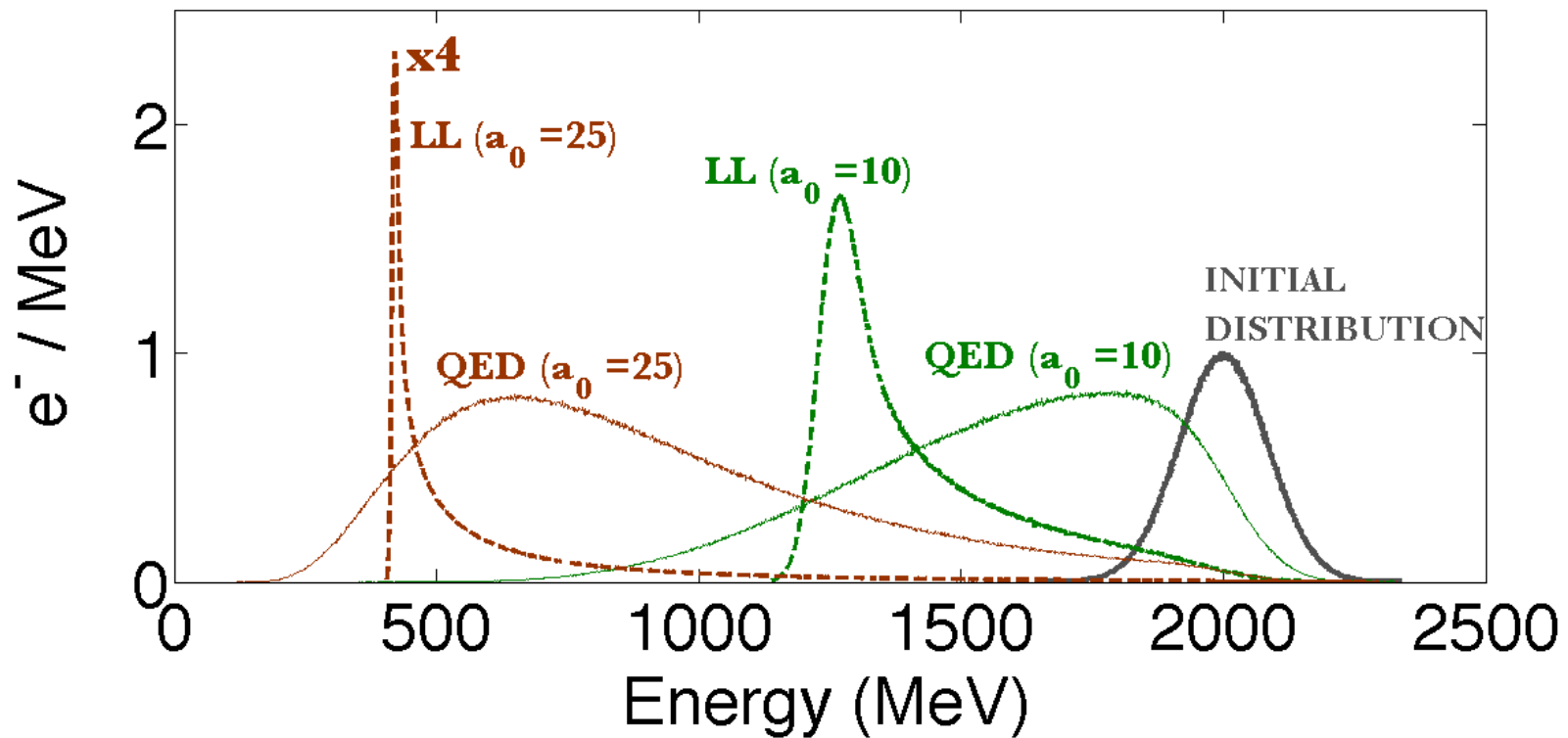
# Nonlinear QED may be confirmed.



ELI-NP  
Research Activity 5  
Fundamental Phys.

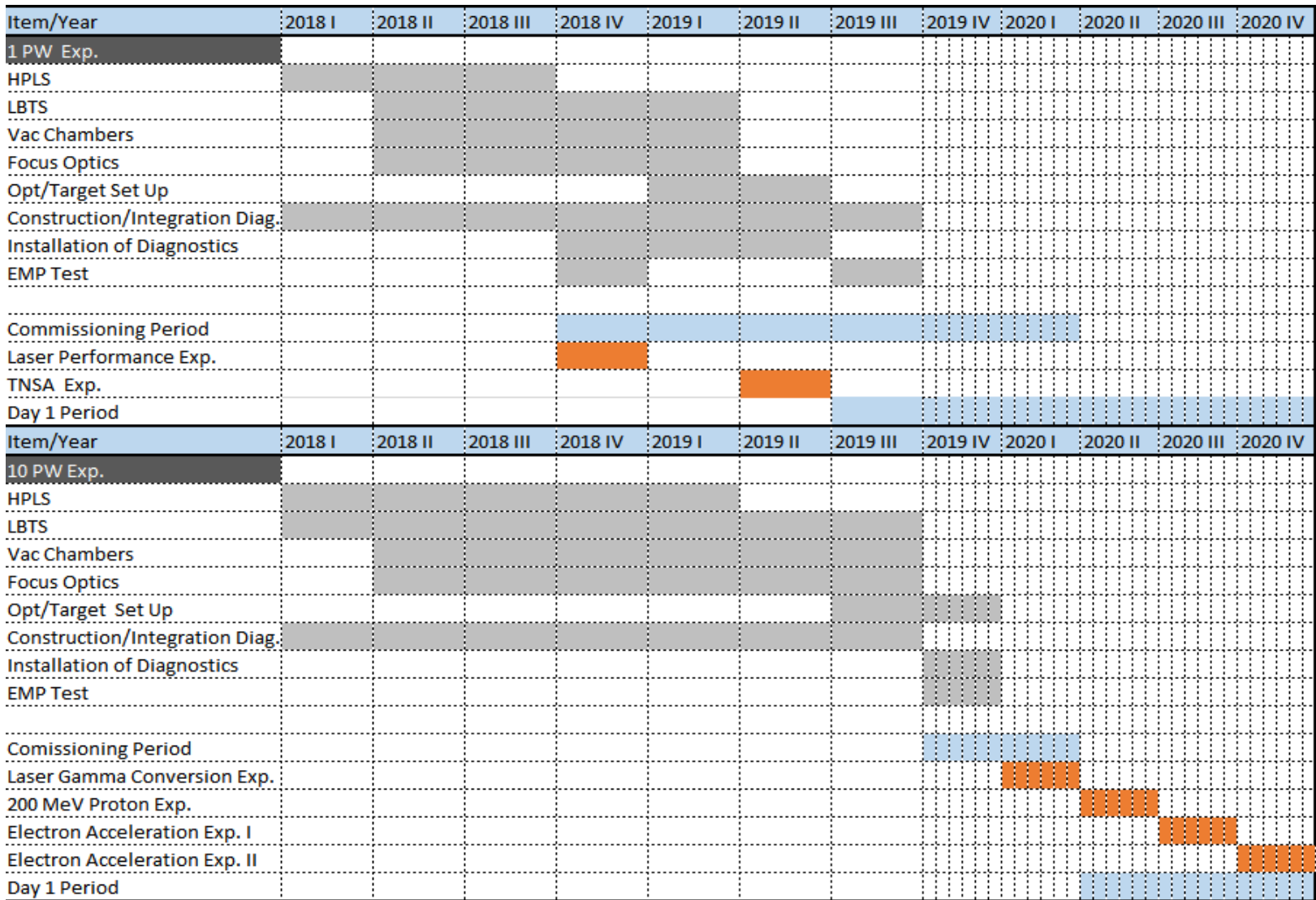
Led by Dr Keita Seto

We may expect to see the drastic down shift in Electron spectrum.



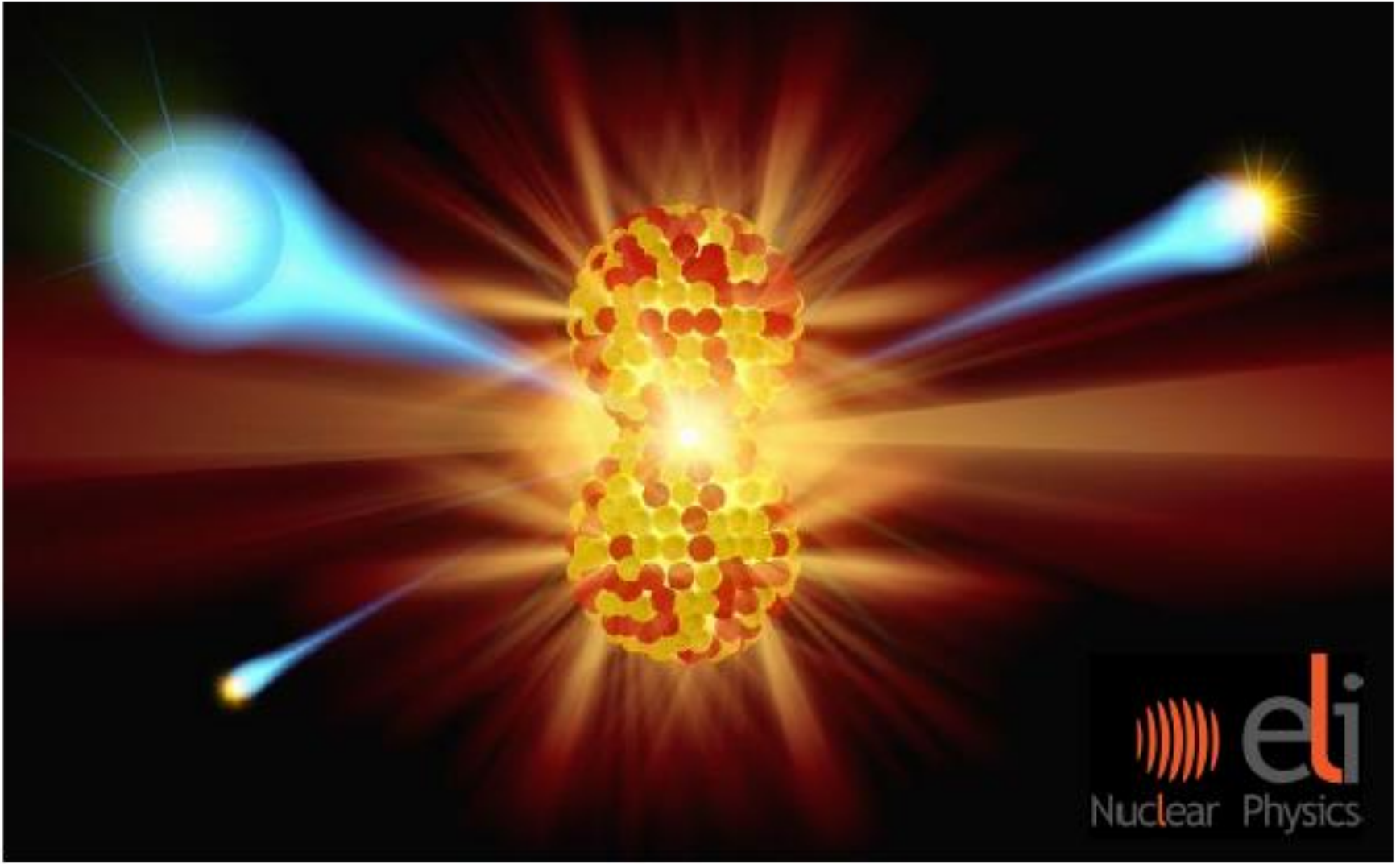


# Commissioning laser experiment schedule



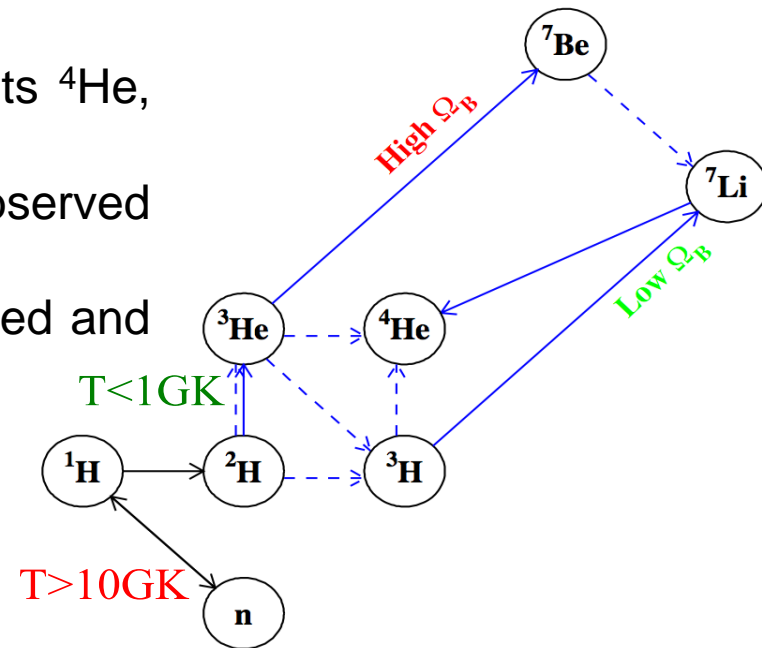
- Assumes 10 PW LBTS commissioning by Q3 2019
- 1 PW “Laser performance ” experiment in Q4 2018
- 10 PW experiments paced by LBTS delivery and installation to ~Q1 2020

# Gamma Beam System Experiments

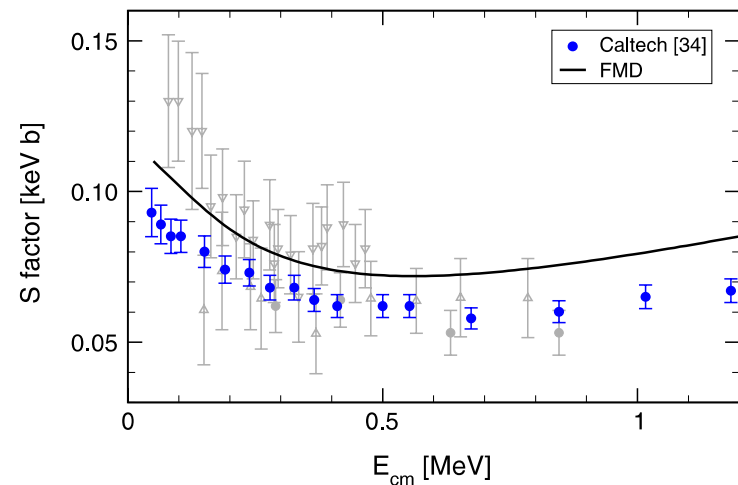


# Li problem : cosmological & theoretical

- BBN predicts the abundances of light elements  $^4\text{He}$ , D,  $^3\text{He}$  and  $^7\text{Li}$
- good agreement between calculated and observed abundances for all light nuclei except for  $^7\text{Li}$
- factor of 3-4 discrepancy between the calculated and the observed abundance of  $^7\text{Li}$ .



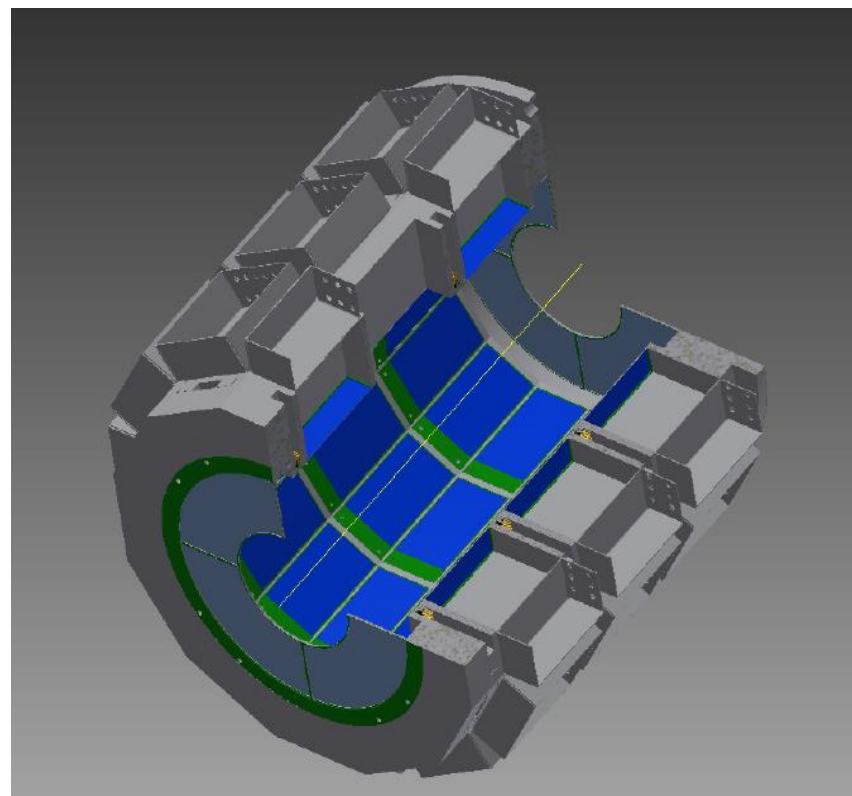
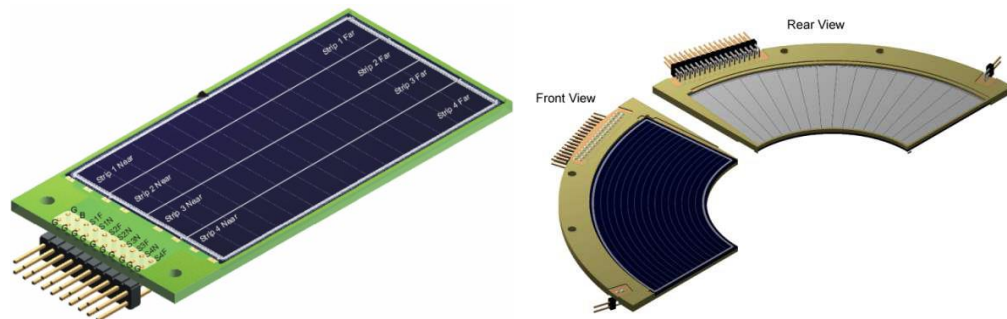
- Li-7 made by the mirror alpha capture reactions  $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$  and  $^3\text{H}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Li}$
- theoretical models could provide the capture cross section at lower energies where experiments are not possible
- good agreement with measurements of  $^3\text{He}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Be}$
- no agreement with measurements of Brune et al for  $^3\text{H}(\alpha,\gamma)^7\text{Li}$



# ELISSA – ELI Silicon Strip Array

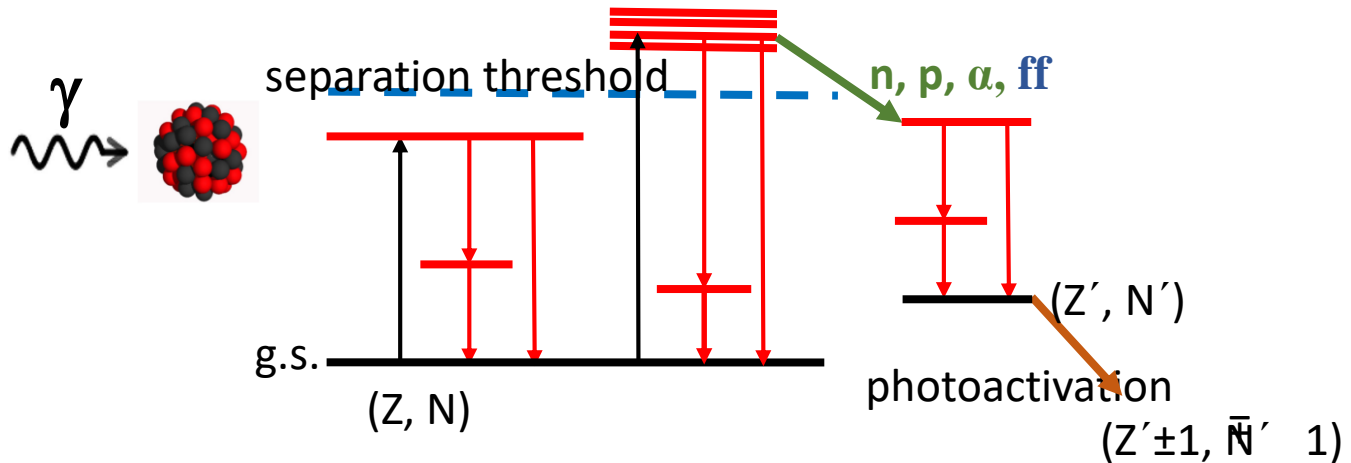
- silicon array would make it possible to measure reactions on solid targets
- good energy resolution, almost 100% efficiency, small thresholds
- successfully designed and applied to nuclear astrophysics, e.g. ORRUBA
- array developed in collaboration with INFN-LNS, Catania

- 3 rings of 12 position sensitive X3 silicon-strip detectors (1000  $\mu\text{m}$ ) by Micron
- 2 end cap detectors from 4 QQQ3 segmented detectors by Micron (300  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- 512 channels readout with standard DAQ or GET electronics



## Experiments with high-brilliance gamma beams at ELI-NP

S. Gales et al., *Phys. Scr.* **91**, 093004 (2016)



Nuclear Resonance Fluorescence (NRF) – **Rom. Rep. Phys.** **68**, S483 (2016)

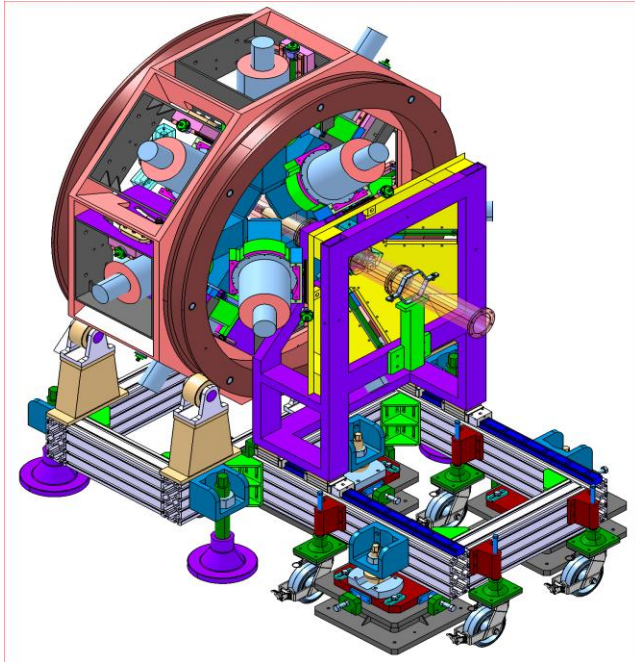
Giant/Pigmy Resonances (GANT) – **Rom. Rep. Phys.** **68**, S539 (2016)

Photodisintegration  $(\gamma, n)$ ,  $(\gamma, p)$ ,  $(\gamma, \alpha)$  – **Rom. Rep. Phys.** **68**, S699 (2016)

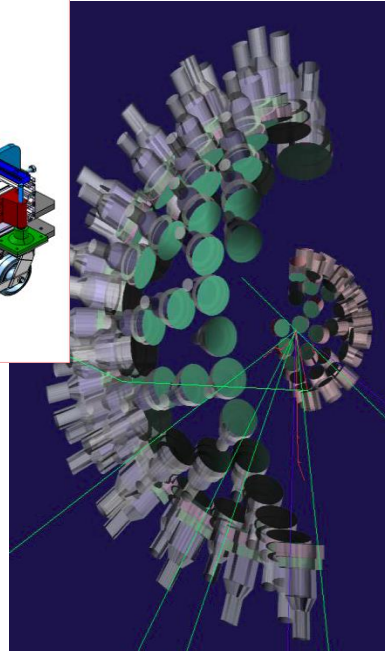
Photofission  $(\gamma, ff)$  – **Rom. Rep. Phys.** **68**, S621 (2016)

Applications – **Rom. Rep. Phys.** **68**, S735 (2016), *ibid* **68**, S799 (2016), *ibid* **68**, S847 (2016)

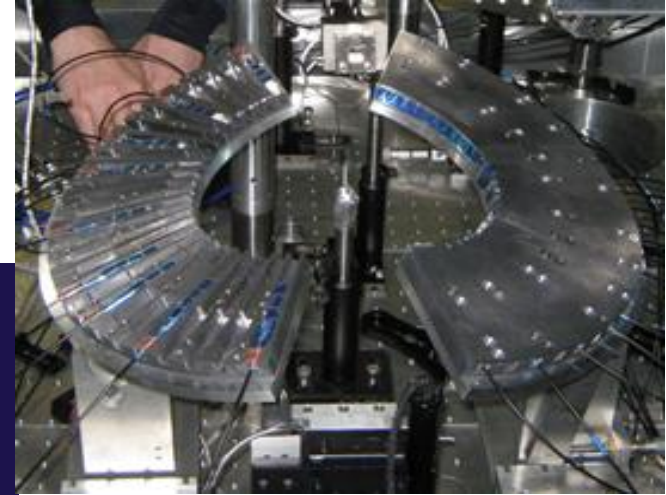
# Instrumentation for Physics



ELIADE array: 8 segmented  
HPGe Clover detectors with  
anti-Compton shields + 4  
LaBr3 detectors



Gamma above neutron threshold (GANT)



CsI array for angle resolved  
calorimetry

# Commissioning GBS experiment schedule

Item/Year	2018 I	2018 II	2018 III	2018 IV	2019 I	2019 II	2019 III	2019 IV	2020 I	2020 II	2020 III	2020 IV	
GBS I Components	Components Delivered												
GBS II Installation	Components Delivered												
GBS III Gamma Beams	█												
GBS IV Whole System	█		█										
System Alignment & Tuning								█					█
Commissioning Exp.	█												
Gamma Beam Delivery Diag.	█												
ELIGANT	█												
ELIADE NRF etc.	█												
Day 1 Exp.	█												

# Actual Issues in Medical Isotope Production

**Radioisotopes play a crucial role in nuclear medicine** being used for the diagnosis and the treatment of ones of the most spread diseases: **the cancer and the cardiovascular disease.**



**Medical radioisotopes have a limited lifetime,** the production centers and the clinics should be placed relatively close one to each other.

**The main medical radioisotopes are produced in nuclear reactors** (ex.  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ ) the production could be affected by long maintenance periods, safety issues, etc. (see the Tc crisis from 2009).



**An important part of medical radioisotopes are produced in cyclotrons** (ex.  $^{11}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{N}$ ,  $^{15}\text{O}$ ,  $^{18}\text{F}$ ). Cyclotrons have big dimensions (and price) they could deserve a relatively small amount of hospitals concentrated in the big cities.



**Alternative technologies are a necessity**



## Could High Power Lasers play a role in this field ?

**Lasers provide a flexible way** for reaching different characteristics of the accelerated particle beam (type of particle, energy spectrum, etc) based on different targets.

**Laser-based particle beams have big density** ➡ many activations/shot produced.

**Acceleration field more intense than at accelerators and less shielding against radiation is needed** ➡ potential for size reducing.

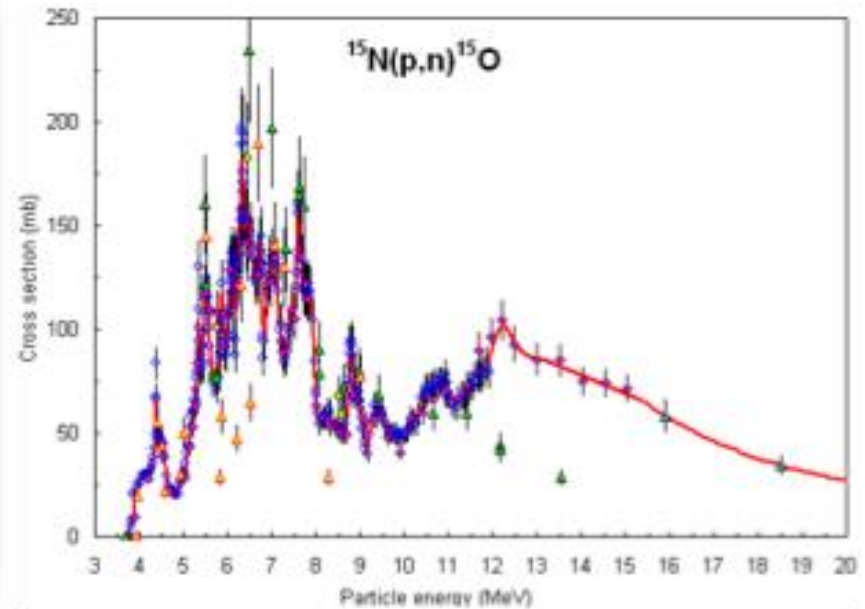
**The actual challenges** are related to the “quality” of the proton beam, the repetition rate and the size minimization.

**Many synergies** with cyclotron- related isotope production and with laser-related physics experiments.

# The Production Next Door

In laser based systems the shielding against radiation is needed only after laser-target interaction, in a much smaller volume/space than in the case of cyclotrons. □ possibility of producing short-live isotopes with small laser-based accelerators and deserving hospitals far away from the big cities.

**Very short lived isotopes such as  $^{15}\text{O}$  ( $T_{1/2} = 122\text{s}$  !!) from  $^{15}\text{N}(p,n)^{15}\text{O}$  are hardly accessible by conventional cyclotrons. They could be produced in the future with “table-top” lasers at dedicated production centers inside clinics.**



Be part of this great adventure, join our team!



# Acknowledgment

- A Pukhov    Heinrich Heine University
- A Zilges    University of Cologne
- M LaCognata INFN-LNS, Catania
- All the co-authors from Technical Design Report and Romanian Report in Physics 2016

# Summary

- ELI-NP is under active implementation.  
10 PW laser beam will be available in June 2019.  
3 MeV and 19.5 MeV gamma beams in June 2019.
- Fission-fusion, Non linear QED, Plasma Physics, Dark Matter Physics, and Applications to Bio and Medical fields are to be tested.
- This experimental platforms can offer excellent opportunities to young scientists to test their original ideas.
- Your proposal is welcome. You can talk to me first.



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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA



Structural Instruments  
2007-2013

**Thank You Very Much for Your Listening**



**Extreme Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP) - Phase II**

**Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund**



Document edited by

**Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research and Development in Physics and Nuclear Engineering**

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