



ELIMAIA: a laser-plasma ion acceleration platform for fundamental and applied user science

D. Margarone, F. Schillaci, L. Giuffrida, G.A.P. Cirrone

*Director of Research and Operations, ELI Beamlines
The Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC*

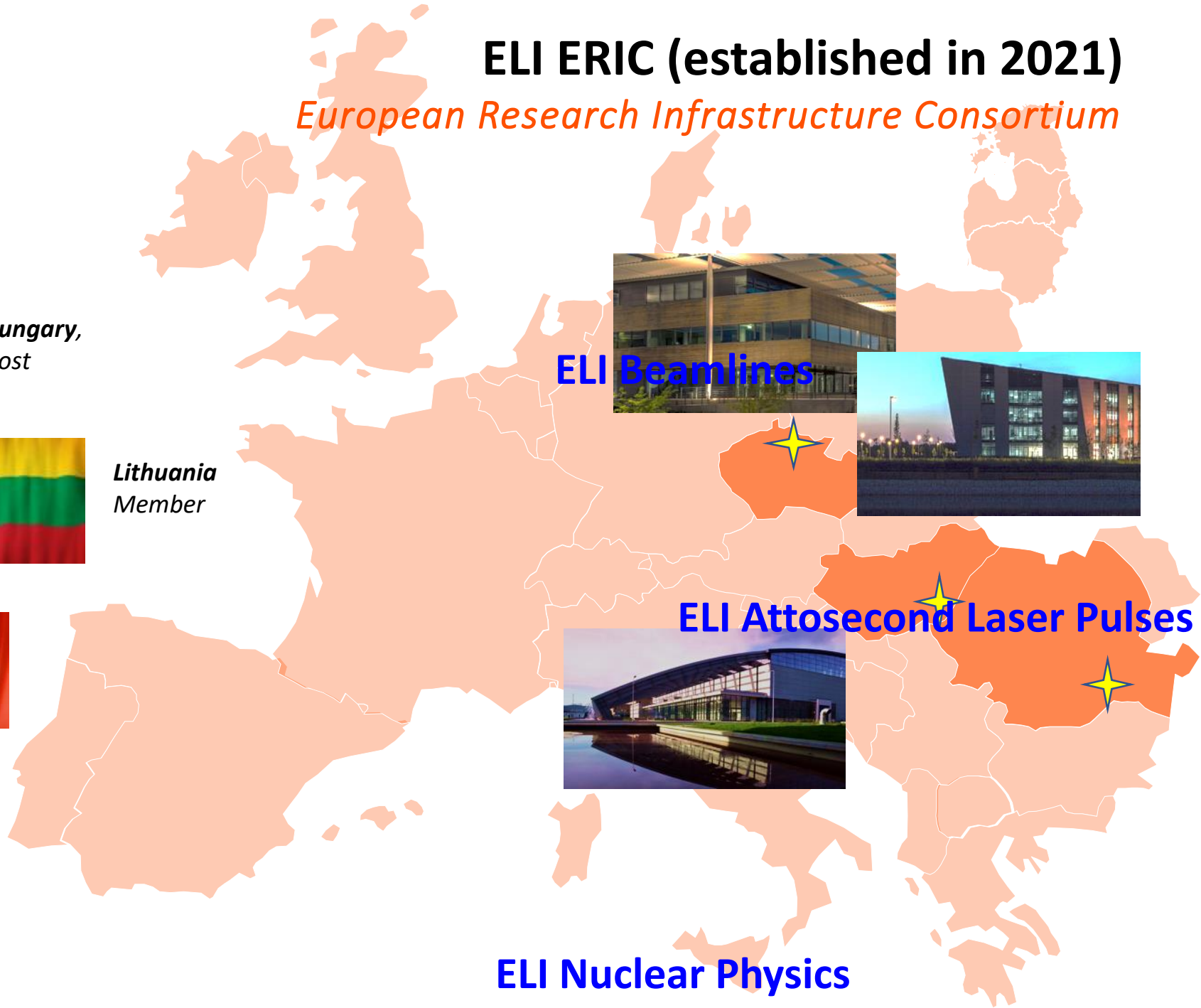
- **The ELI Beamlines Facility of ELI ERIC**

- **The ELIMAIA beamline**
 - ✓ **Motivation and mission**
 - ✓ **The Ion Acceleration platform**
 - ✓ **ELIMED: beam transport and dosimetry**



ELI ERIC (established in 2021)

European Research Infrastructure Consortium



*Czechia,
Host of Seat*



*Hungary,
Host*

ELI Beamlines



*Italy
Member*



*Lithuania
Member*

ELI Attosecond Laser Pulses



*Germany
Observer*



*Bulgaria
Observer*



*Romania
Observer*

ELI Nuclear Physics



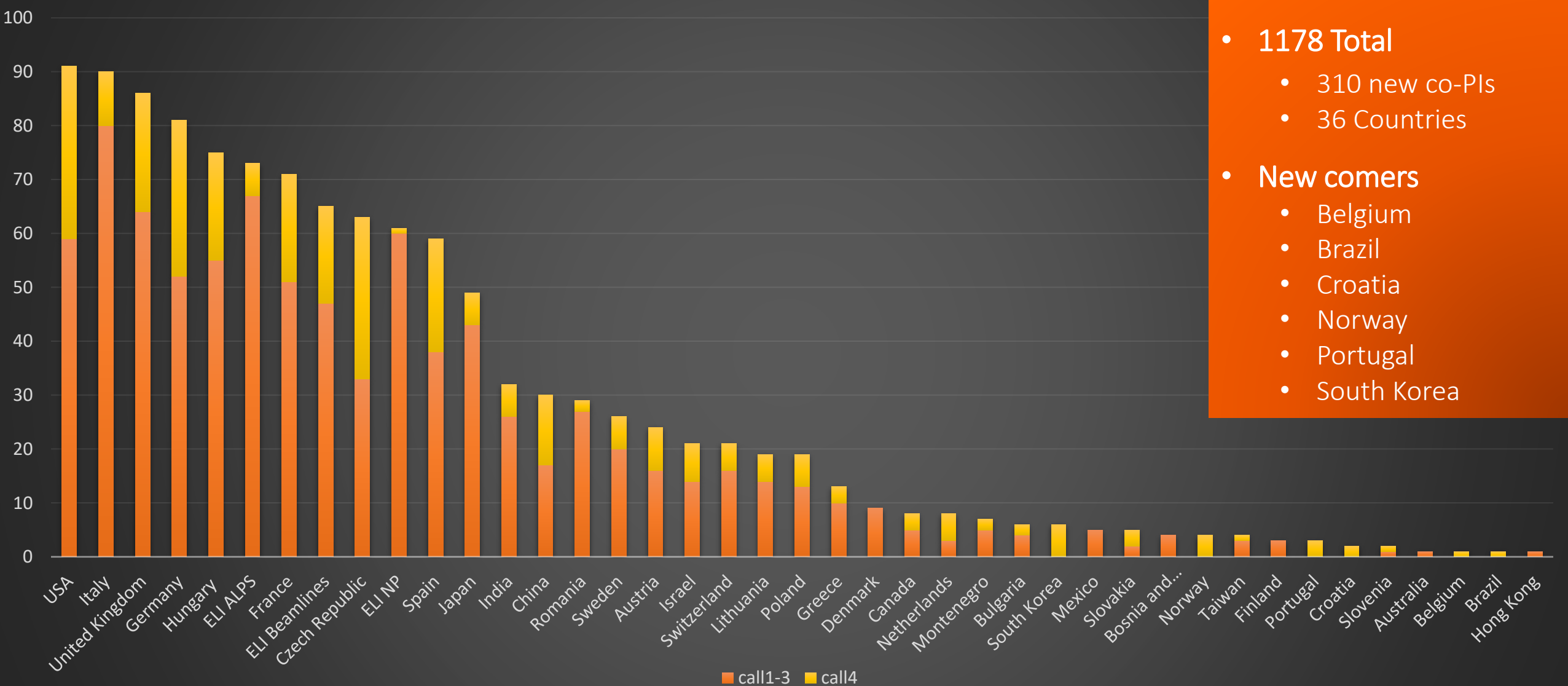
The ELI User Programme

- **ELI is open to international users and provides free access based on external peer-reviewed selection**
- **ELI Open-access Calls**
 - ✓ 4 Calls since 2022
 - ✓ 341 Proposal Submitted
 - ✓ 154 Proposals Granted
 - ✓ 1178 Unique Applicants
 - ✓ 605 Unique Users
 - ✓ 36 Countries
- **Call 5 (open):** September 25th, 2024
<https://up.eli-laser.eu>
Deadline: October 31st !!!



Unique Applicants 2022-2024

co-PIs (Call 1 to Call 4)



- **1178 Total**
 - 310 new co-PIs
 - 36 Countries
- **New comers**
 - Belgium
 - Brazil
 - Croatia
 - Norway
 - Portugal
 - South Korea



ELI Beamlines
Dolní Břežany, Czechia

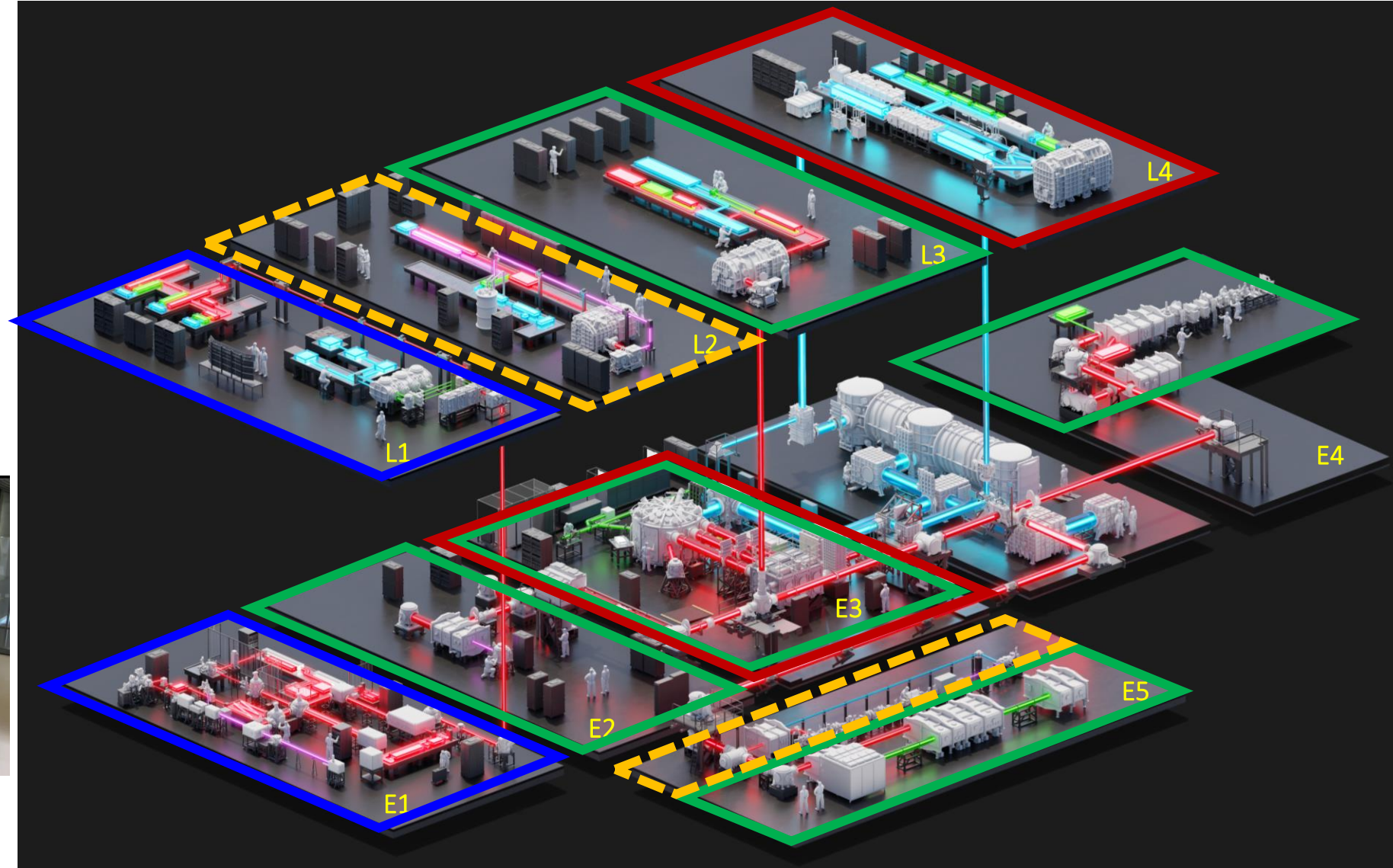




ELI BL Facility Status (2024)

user operations, commissioning, development

- L1-E1 user operation (call1,2,3)
- L3-P3/ELIMAIA user operation (call2)
- L3-ELBA/ELIMED commissioning (call3)
- L3-Gammatron to be commissioned
- L4n-P3 user operations (call2,3)
- L2-LUIS R&D



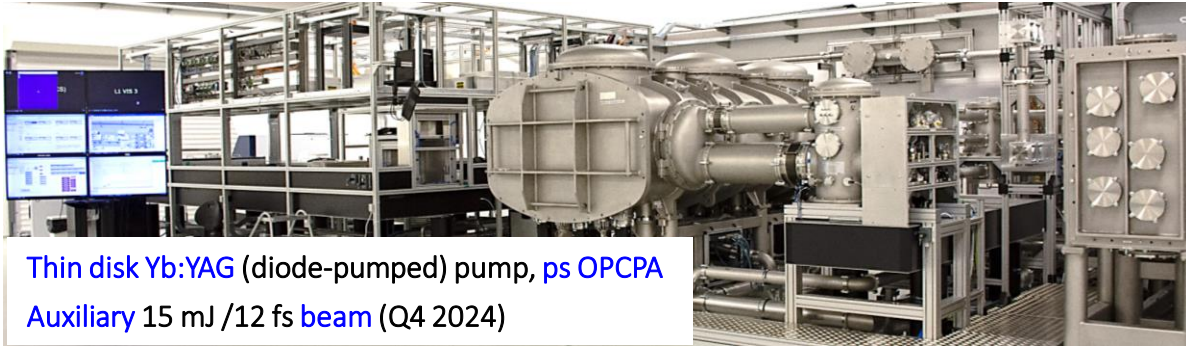


B. Rus et al.

ELI BL Primary Sources (Lasers)

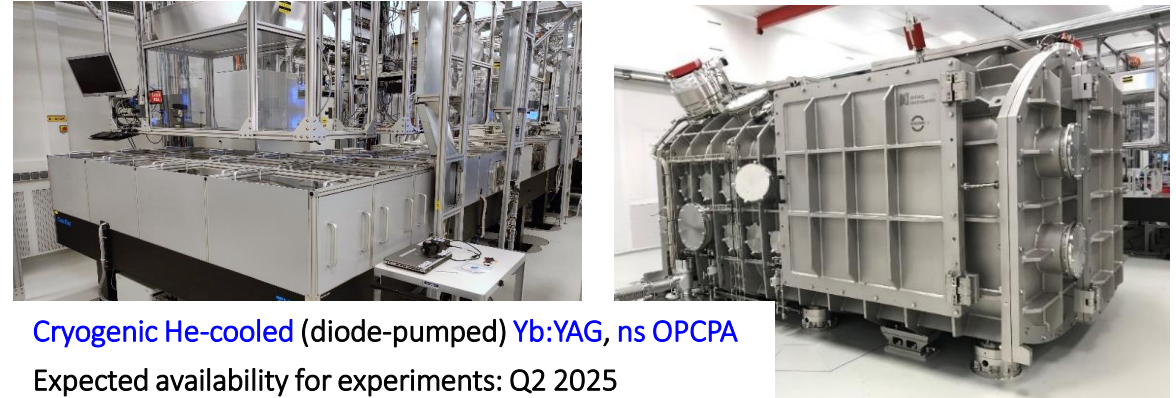
high-energy, high-rep-rate laser systems (0.01-1 kHz)

L1-ALLEGRA 100mJ/12fs/1kHz (>5TW) laser system
(in operation – 50mJ/15fs/1kHz)



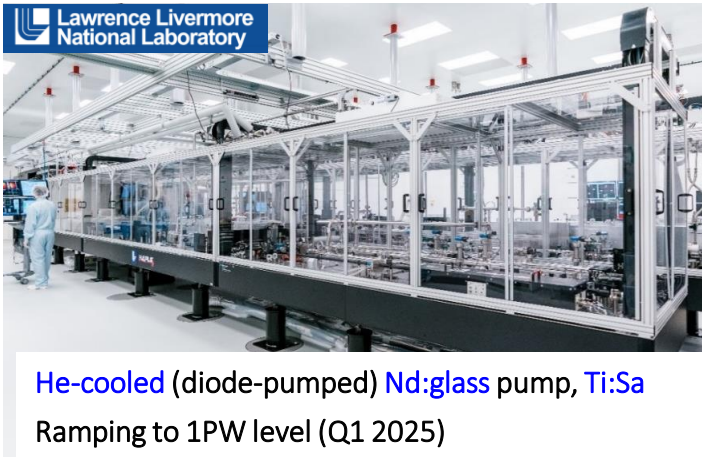
Thin disk Yb:YAG (diode-pumped) pump, ps OPCPA
Auxiliary 15 mJ /12 fs beam (Q4 2024)

L2-DUHA: 3J/20fs/50-100Hz (>100TW) laser system
(under development)

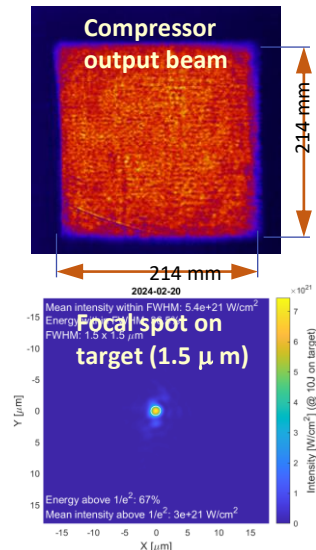


Cryogenic He-cooled (diode-pumped) Yb:YAG, ns OPCPA
Expected availability for experiments: Q2 2025

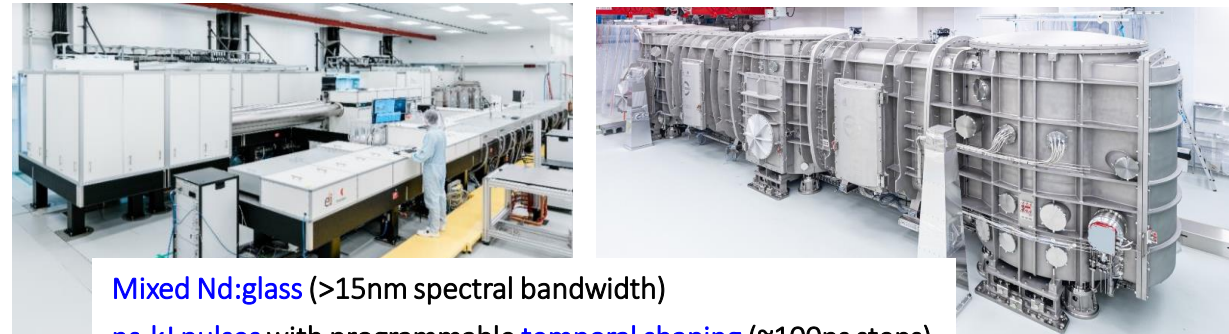
L3-HAPLS: 30J/30fs/10Hz (1PW) laser system
(in operation – 13J/27fs/3.3Hz)



He-cooled (diode-pumped) Nd:glass pump, Ti:Sa
Ramping to 1PW level (Q1 2025)



L4-ATON: 1.5kJ/150fs/1shot/min (10PW) laser system
(long pulse in operation – 1.2kJ (0.6kJ @2w)/2-10ns/1shot/2min)



Mixed Nd:glass (>15nm spectral bandwidth)
ns-kJ pulses with programmable temporal shaping (~100ps steps)
10PW commissioning on target: Q1 2025

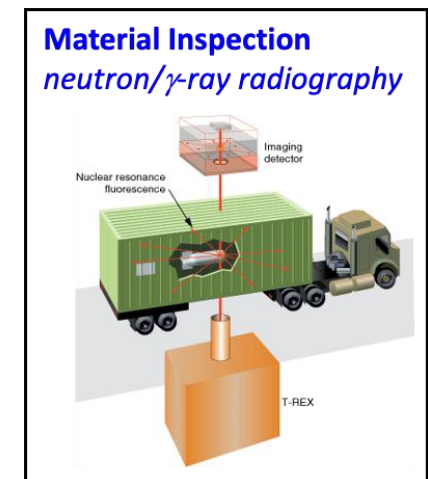
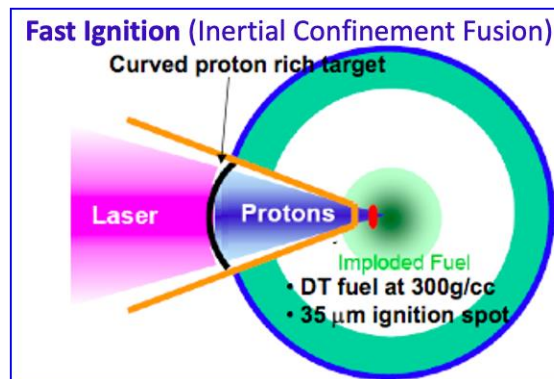
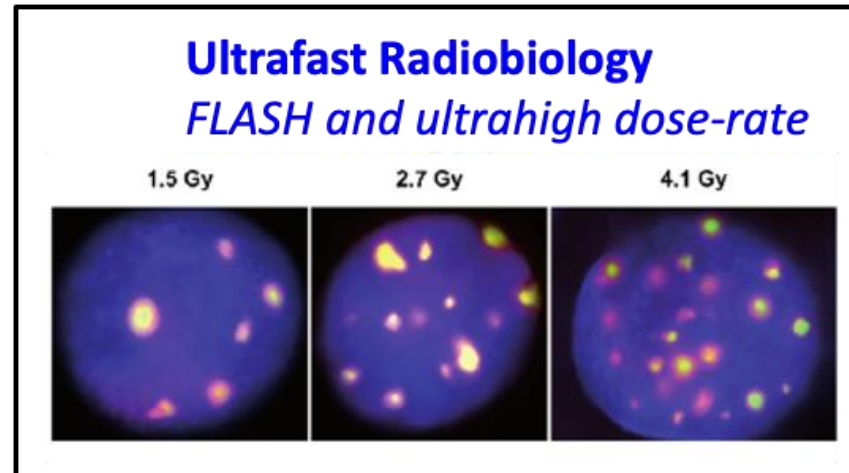
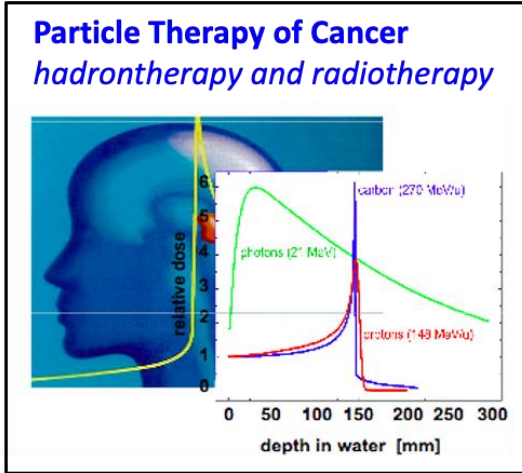
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ELIMAIA-ELIMED beamline potential societal applications

cost effectiveness vs unique beam characteristics

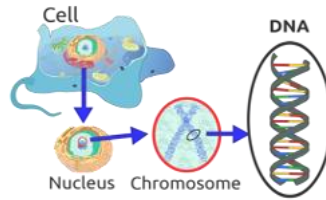
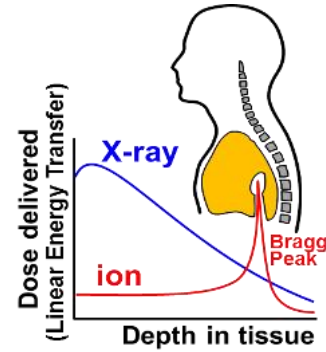
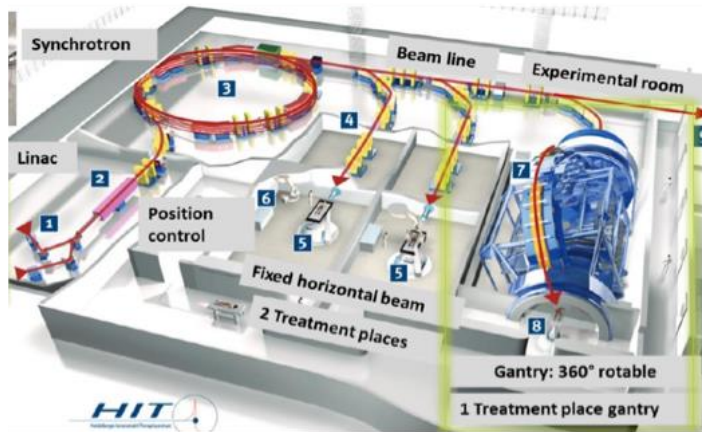




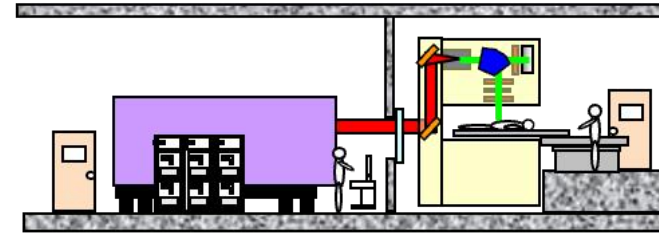
ELIMAIA-ELIMED ultra-fast radiobiology and clinical research

ultra-high dose-rate, ultra-short proton/ion bunches

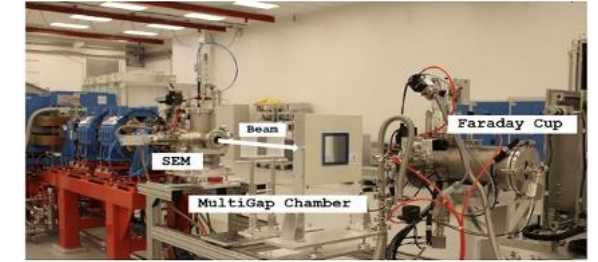
Conventional hadrontherapy (C-ions)



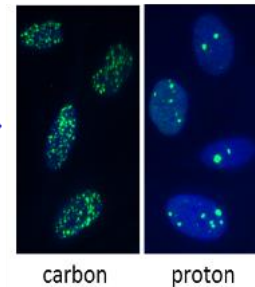
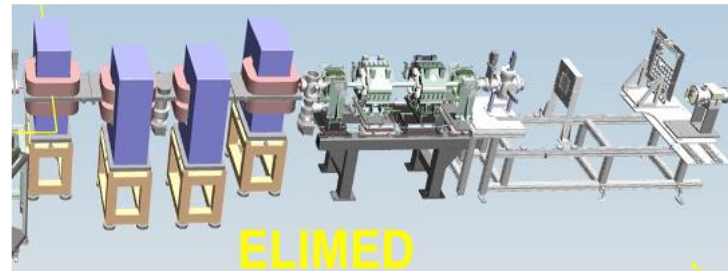
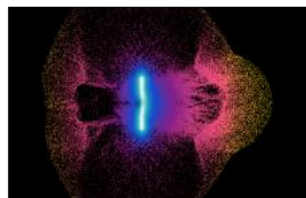
Laser based hadrontherapy (concept)



The ELIMED endstation at ELI BL



FLAIM flagship experiment: Flash and ultrahigh dose-rate radiobiology with Laser Accelerated Ions for Medical research





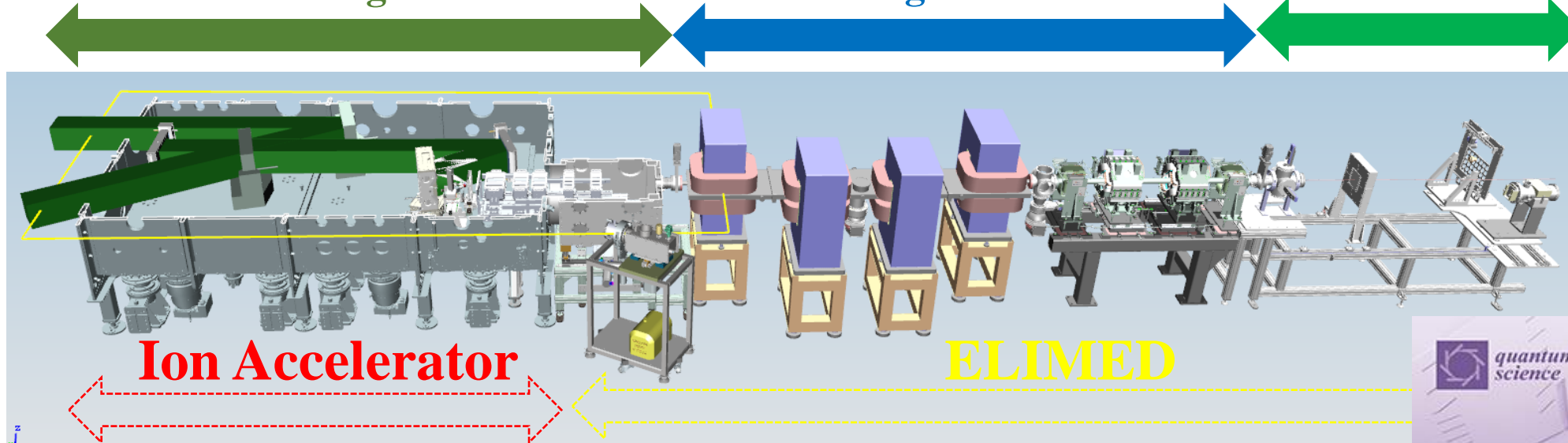
The ELIMAIA-ELIMED User Beamline

ELI Multidisciplinary Applications of laser-Ion Acceleration

Acceleration, Capture
& Diagnostics

Selection, Transport
& Diagnostics

Dosimetry &
Sample Irradiation



Ion Accelerator

ELIMED

D. Margarone et al., “ELIMAIA: A Laser-Driven Ion Accelerator for Multidisciplinary Applications”, Quantum Beam Science 2 (2018) 8

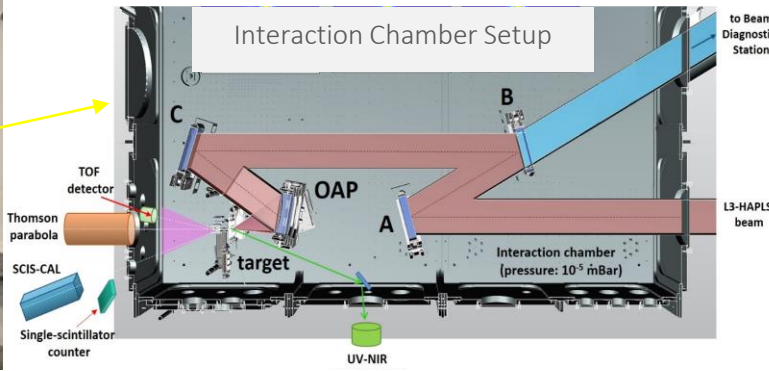
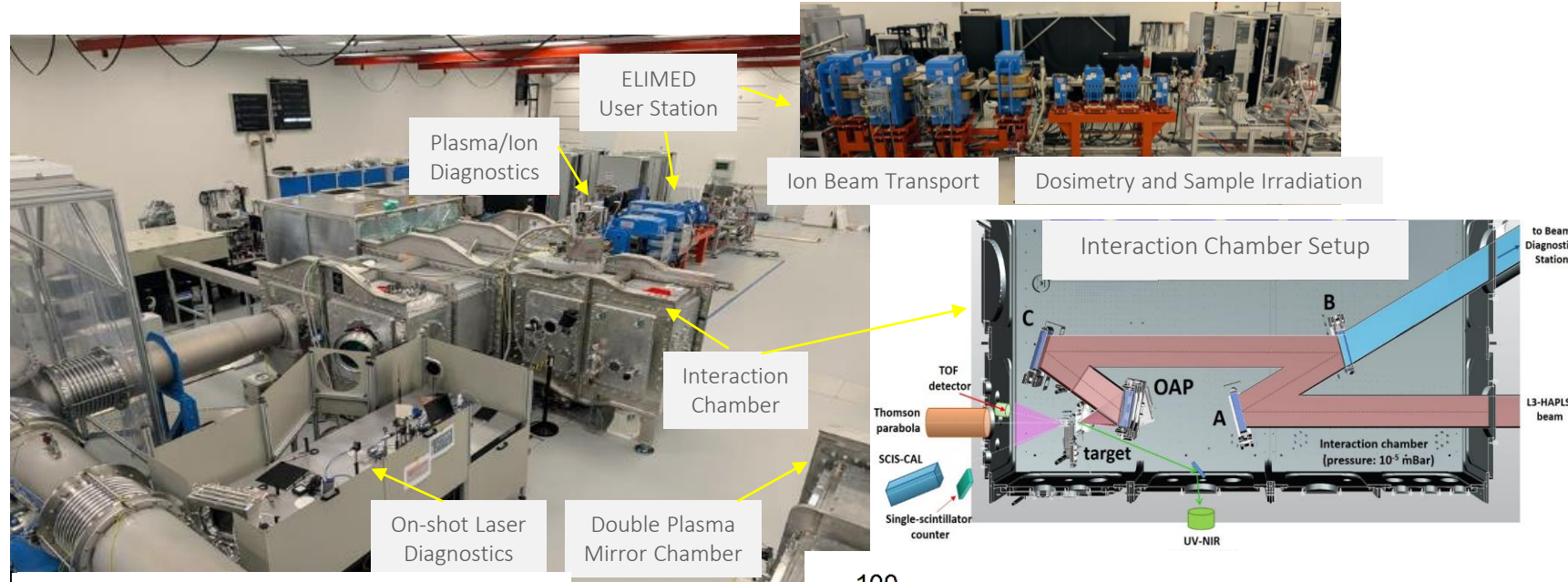
G.A.P. Cirrone et al., “ELIMED-ELIMAIA: The First Open User Irradiation Beamline for Laser-Plasma-Accelerated Ion Beams”, Frontiers in Physics 8 (2020) 564907

F. Schillaci et al., “The ELIMAIA Laser-Plasma Ion Accelerator: Technology Commissioning and Perspectives”, submitted to QuBS, Laser-Driven Irradiation Facility special issue



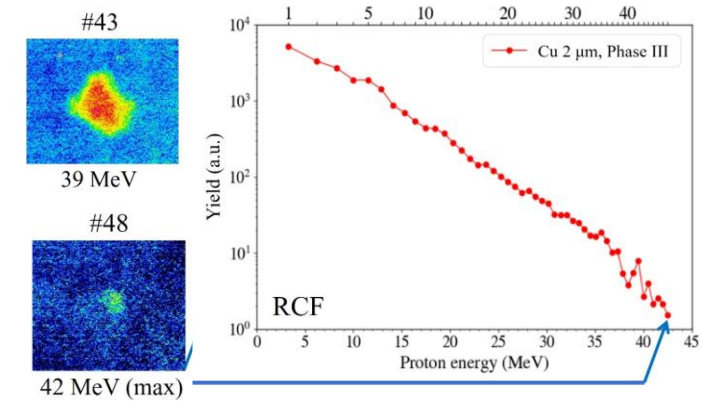
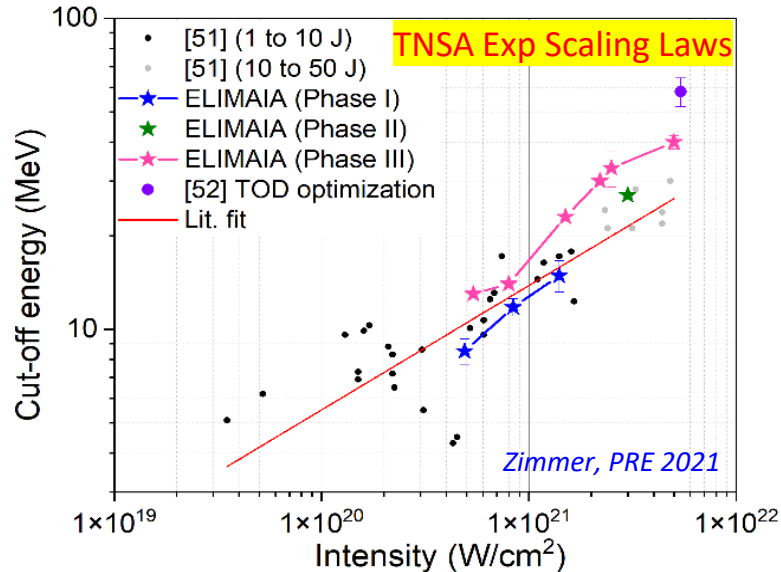
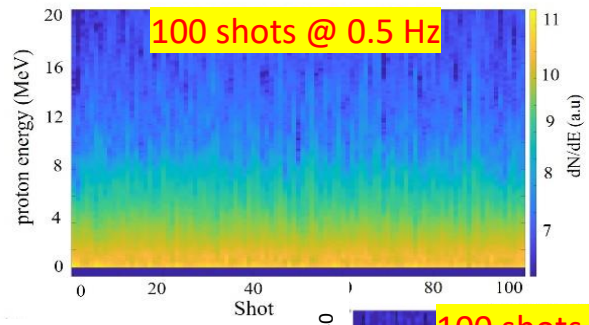
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L3 - Ion Accelerator	Available	Design
Laser intensity	$5 \cdot 10^{21} \text{ W/cm}^2$	10^{22} W/cm^2
Laser energy	~10 J	30 J
Laser pulse width	<30 fs	<30 fs
Repetition rate	~1 Hz	10 Hz
Proton energy cutoff	~40 MeV	100 MeV
Proton flux (>3 MeV)	~ $10^{11}/\text{sr}$	> $10^{11}/\text{sr}$

ELIMED station	Available	Design (@usample)
Ion energy	5-30 MeV/nucl	5-60 MeV/nucl
Bandwidth	~10%	<10%
Ions/shot	10^9 - $10^{10}/\text{sr}$	10^9 - $10^{10}/\text{sr}$
Duration	~10ns (~ 10^7 Gy/s)	1-10ns (~ 10^9 Gy/s)
Divergence	1deg	1deg
Spot size	0.1-10mm	0.1-10mm
Rep rate	~1Hz	10Hz

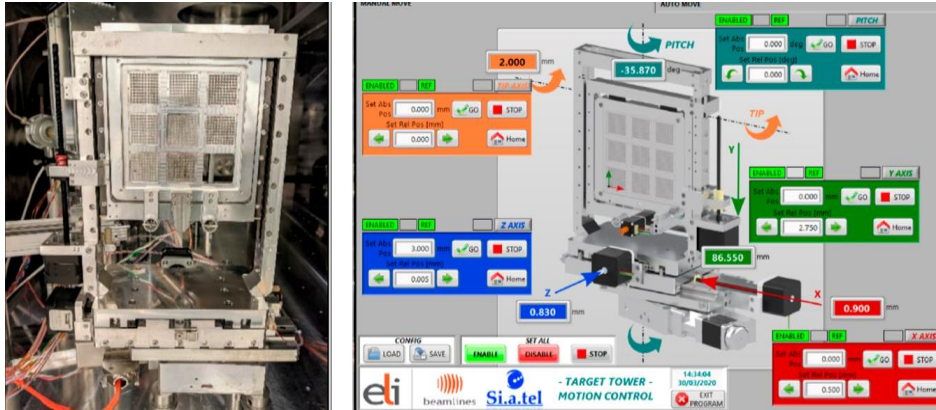




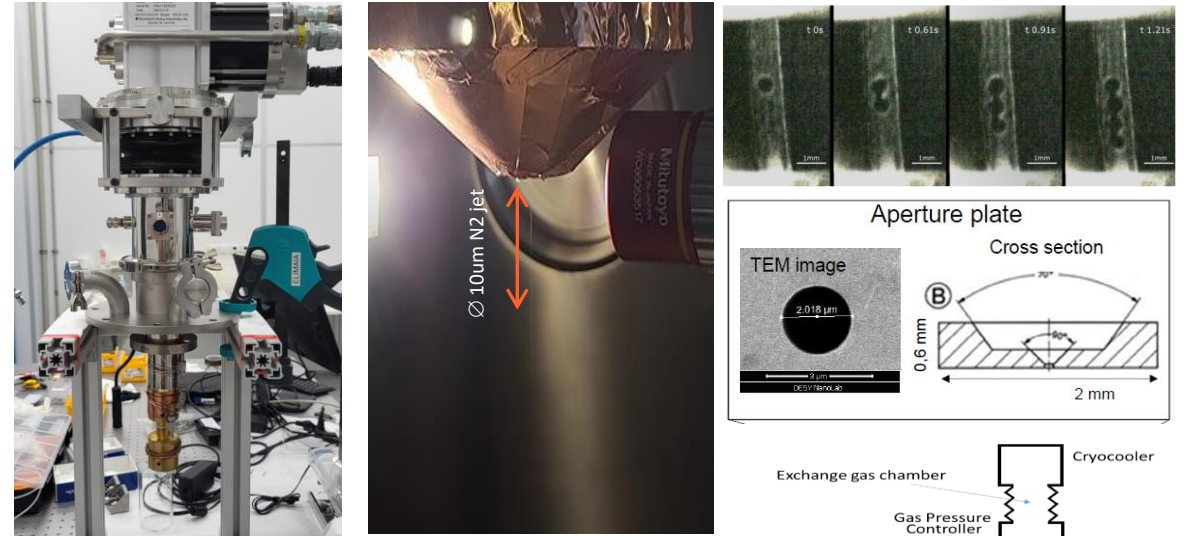
High rep rate targetry for L3 driven experiments (1-10 Hz)

tape, cryogenic, liquid target delivery systems

Raster target for thin foils (~1 Hz)



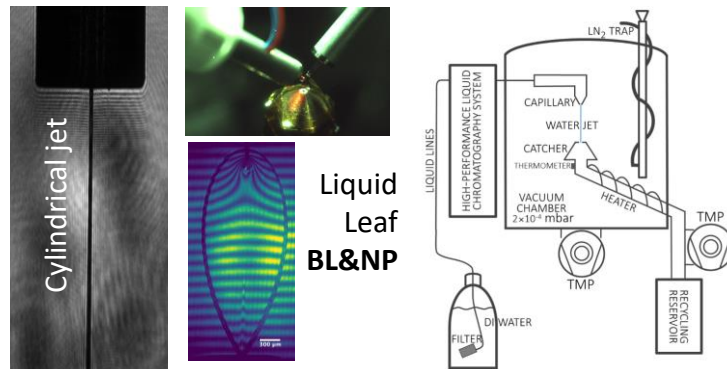
Debris-free Cryogenic targets (3-10 Hz): H₂, D₂, He, N₂, Ar, Xe, Kr



Article
Automation of Target Delivery and Diagnostic Systems for High Repetition Rate Laser-Plasma Acceleration

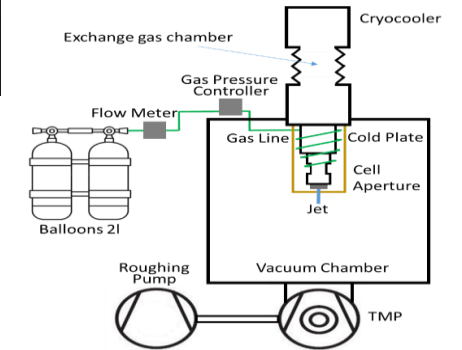
Timofej Chagovets^{1,*}, Stanislav Stanček¹, Lorenzo Giuffrida¹, Andriy Velyhan¹, Maksym Tryus¹, Filip Grepel^{1,2}, Valeriia Istoksaika^{1,2}, Vasiliki Kantarelou¹, Tuomas Wiste¹, Juan Carlos Hernandez Martin¹, Francesco Schillaci¹ and Daniele Margarone^{1,3}

Liquid jet targets (10 Hz)



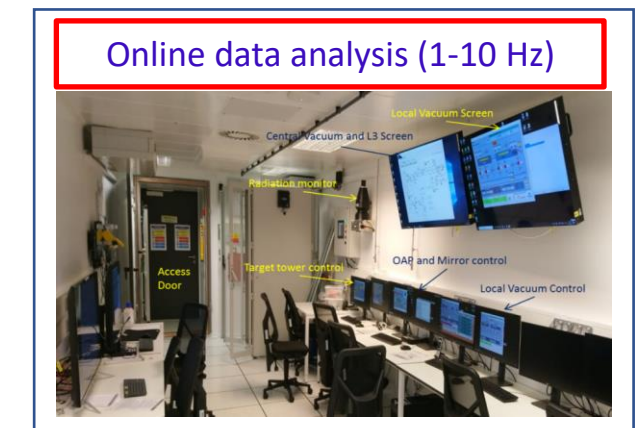
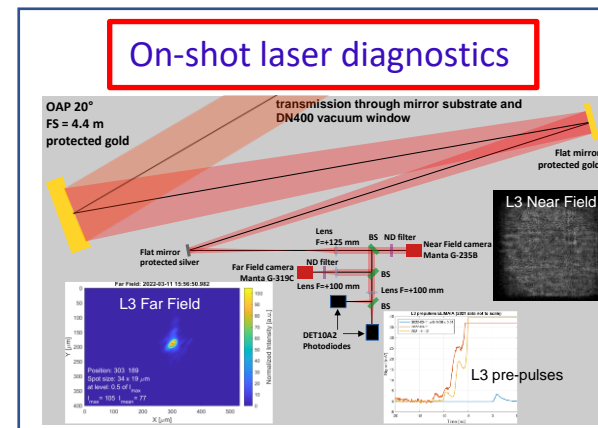
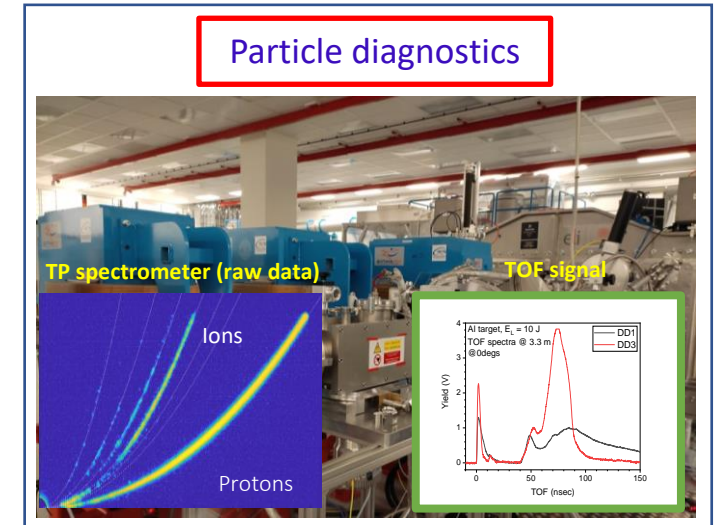
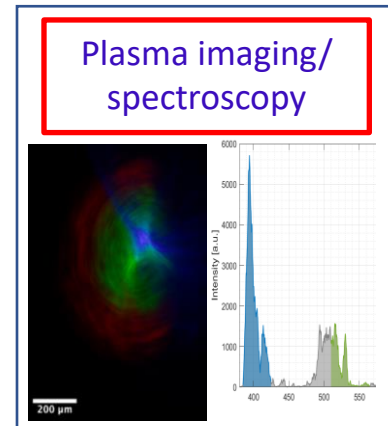
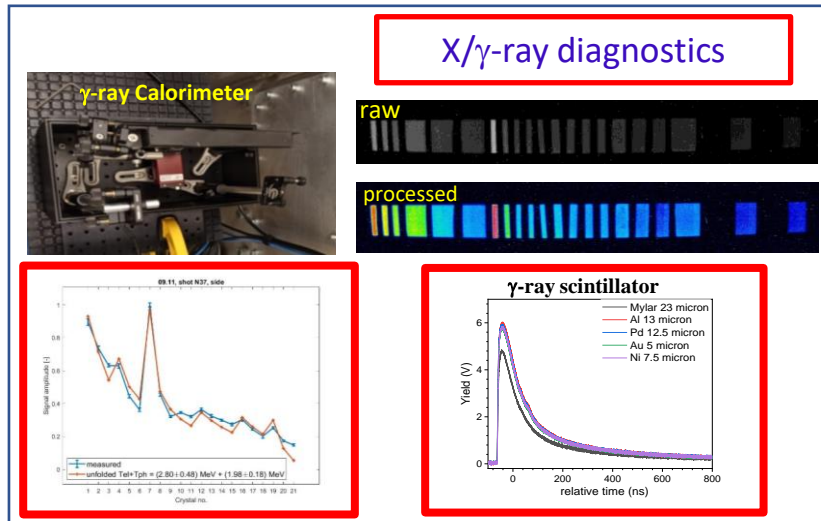
A Cryogenic Hydrogen Ribbon for Laser Driven Proton Acceleration at Hz-Level Repetition Rate

T. Chagovets^{1*}, J. Viswanathan², M. Tryus¹, F. Grepel^{1,3}, A. Velyhan¹, S. Stancek^{1,4}, L. Giuffrida¹, F. Schillaci¹, J. Cupal^{1,3}, L. Koubikova¹, D. Garcia², J. Manzagol², P. Bonnay², F. Souris², D. Chatain², A. Girard² and D. Margarone^{1,5}



Online L3 laser/plasma/particle/X-ray diagnostics

example of online diagnostics in the E4 exp hall (1-10 Hz)



- Further **software development** for real-time **data analysis** at high rep rate
- Implementation of **ML/AI algorithms** for secondary source optimisation/data curation

*“Optimizing high rep-rate radiography with machine learning” Call-2, L3-ELIMAIA, ELIUPM-156, PI: Hill (LLNL, USA)
*“Compact, high-rep dose delivery system employing helical coil targets”, S. Kar (QUB, UK)**



- Demonstration of robust diagnosis of laser-accelerated ions and electrons from solid targets at high intensity in rep rate
- **Machine-learning optimization** algorithm to the laser front-end
- Repeatedly demonstration of **optimization of ion yield** above the nominal baseline performances



Harnessing Machine Learning for Breakthroughs with High-Power Lasers



A team of international scientists from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT, and ELI collaborated on an experiment to optimise high-intensity high-

ion yield above the nominal baseline performance. The experiment utilised the state-of-the-art High-Repetition-Rate Advanced Petawatt Laser System (L3-HAPLS) to generate protons in the ELI MAIA Laser-Plasma Ion

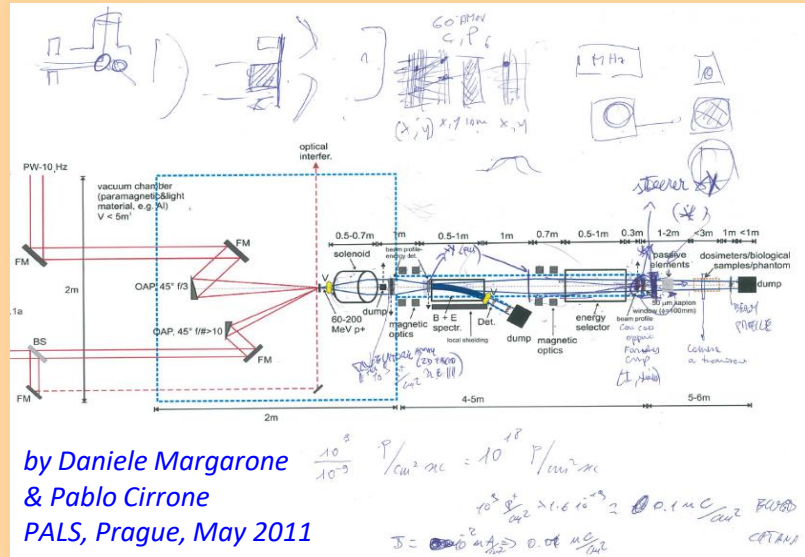
Proton beam from “coil target” (collimation and post-acceleration)



- Hot electrons expelled from target
- Target strongly positively charged
- Return current and **giant EMP** propagating to ground
- **Helical coils** attached to target harness EMP to **focus and post-accelerate protons**
- Proton beam energy: **>46MeV** (only with 10J)
- Proton beam divergence: **<1deg**
- Proton dose **>10Gy/pulse @32MeV**
- ~0.5 rep rate tested (tape target and detached coil)

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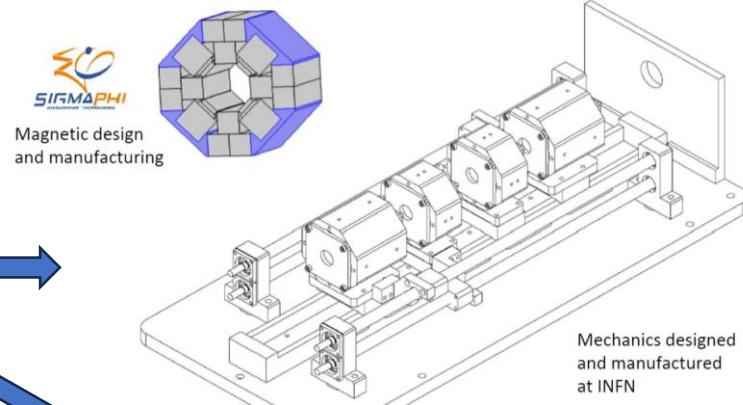


by Daniele Margarone & Pablo Cirrone
PALS, Prague, May 2011

$$\frac{10^{-8}}{10^{-5}} \frac{1}{cm^2 \cdot m} = 10^{-18} \frac{1}{cm^2 \cdot m}$$

$$10^{-8} \frac{1}{cm^2} \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \times 2 \times 0.1 \text{ m} \cdot \text{cm} = 3.2 \times 10^{-27} \text{ CPT 2011}$$

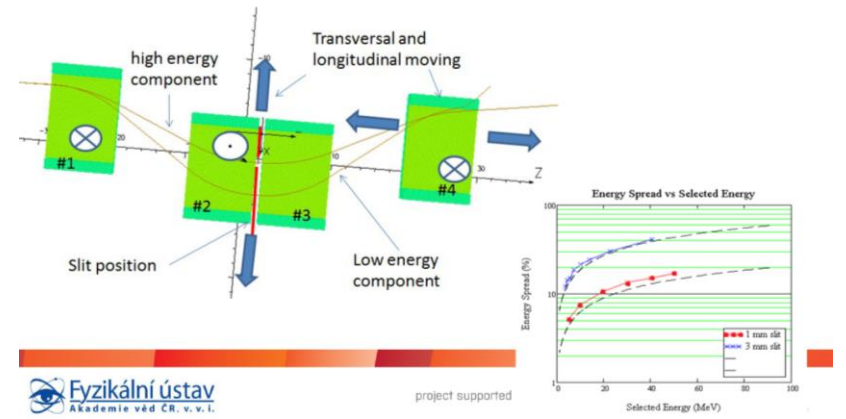
ELIMED V0 The injection system



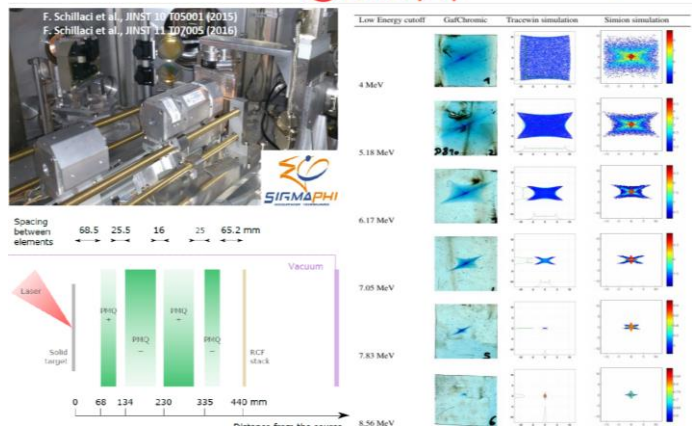
designed, assembled, and tested by F. Schillaci et al.

ELIMED V0 The energy selector

Beam handling and transport solutions
M. Maggiore, G. A. P. Cirrone, M. Carpinelli, G. Cuttone, F. Romano, F. Schillaci, V. Scuderi, and A. Tramontana
Citation: AIP Conference Proceedings 1546, 34 (2013); doi: 10.1063/1.4816603



Beam Transport Test @ LOA (Fr)

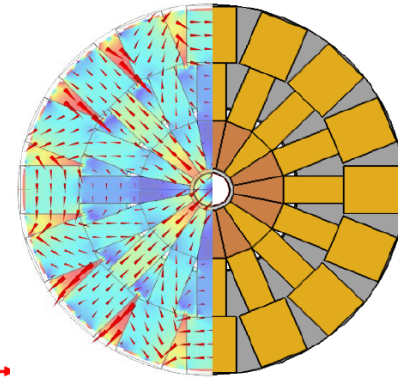




ELIMED beam transport elements I

permanent quadrupoles (PMQs) for ion beam "capture" (injection)

Permanent Magnet Quads Preliminary Design

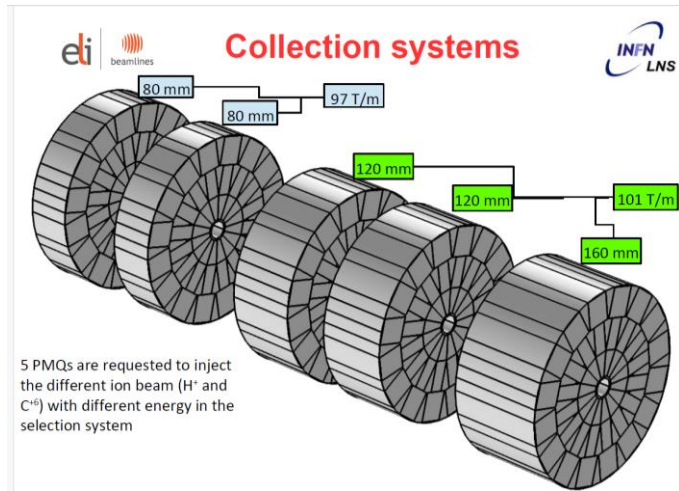
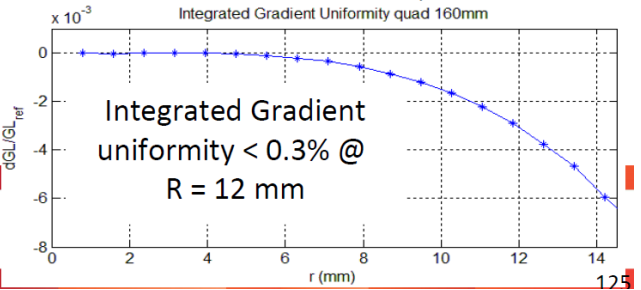
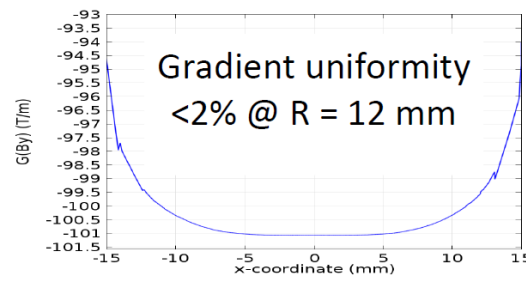


Aluminum chassis	NdFeB N48H	NdFeB N38UH
High Br - Low Hc	(Br = 1,39 T	(Br = 1,26 T
Low Br - High Hc	Hc= 1273 kA/m)	Hc= 1990 kA/m)
Stainless Steel Screen		

Hybrid multiarray:

- 36 mm magnetic bore
(3 mm shield + 30 mm for the beam)
- Inner Halbach trapezoidal
(122 mm outer diameter, two NdFeB alloys)
- 2 external arrays with rectangular blocks
(223 mm and 322 mm outer diameter)

F. Schillaci et al., JINST 10 T12001 (2015)



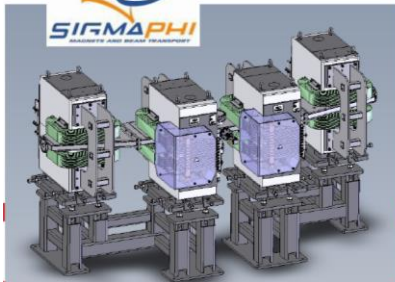
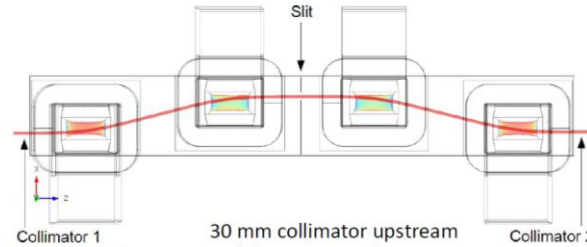


ELIMED beam transport elements II

ion beam energy selection and transport



Double Dispersive Mode Magnetic Chicane



30 mm collimator upstream and downstream the chicane (200 mm far from dipoles)

Variable slit aperture size (4 up to 20 mm)

F. Schillaci et al., JINST 11 P08022 (2016)

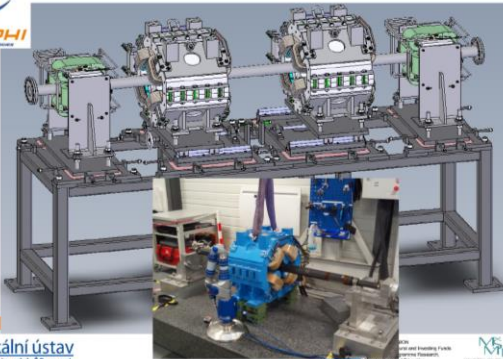
project supported by:



EUROPEAN UNION
European Structural and Investing Funds
Operational Programme Research, Development and Education



Quads and Steerers



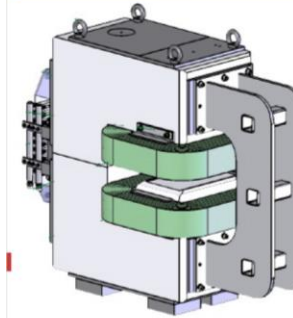
EUROPEAN UNION
European Structural and Investing Funds
Operational Programme Research, Development and Education



Energy Selector Features



n° of Dipoles	B field	Geometric length	Effective length	Gap
4	0.06 – 1.226 T	400 mm	450.23 – 448.34 mm	55 mm (shim)
Good Field region (GFR)	Field uniformity	Curvature radius	Bending angle	Drift between dipoles
100 mm	0.4 %	2.570 m	10.10°	500 mm



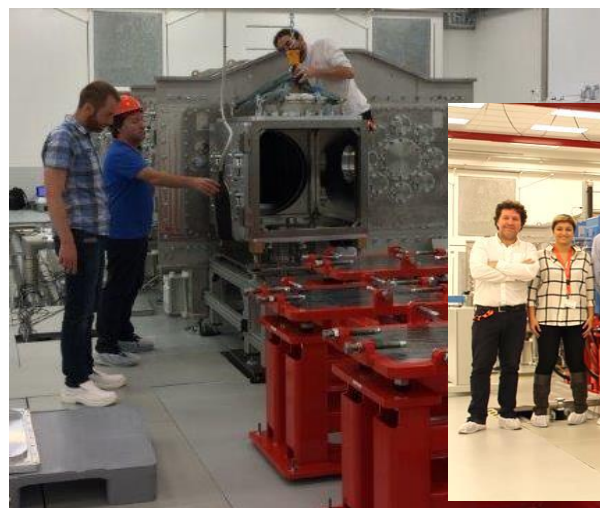
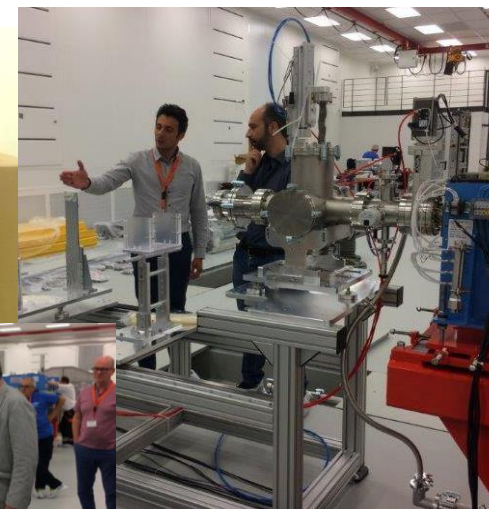
- Magnet efficiency: 97%
- Packing factor: 99% (1 mm lamination)
- 116x116 mm coil section (10x10 turns, 0.4 mm of insulator, 4 mm water channel)
- Max current: 300 A
- Total weight: 2.6 tons
- < 28 kWatt in total

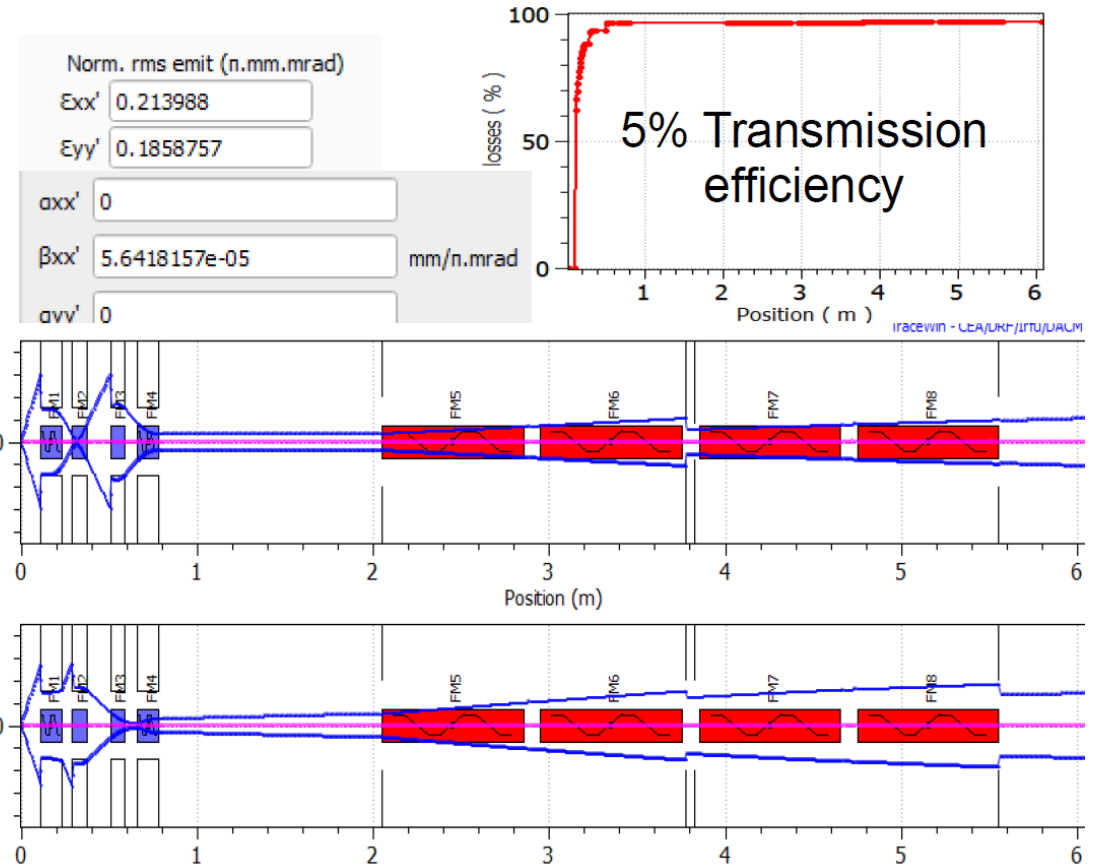
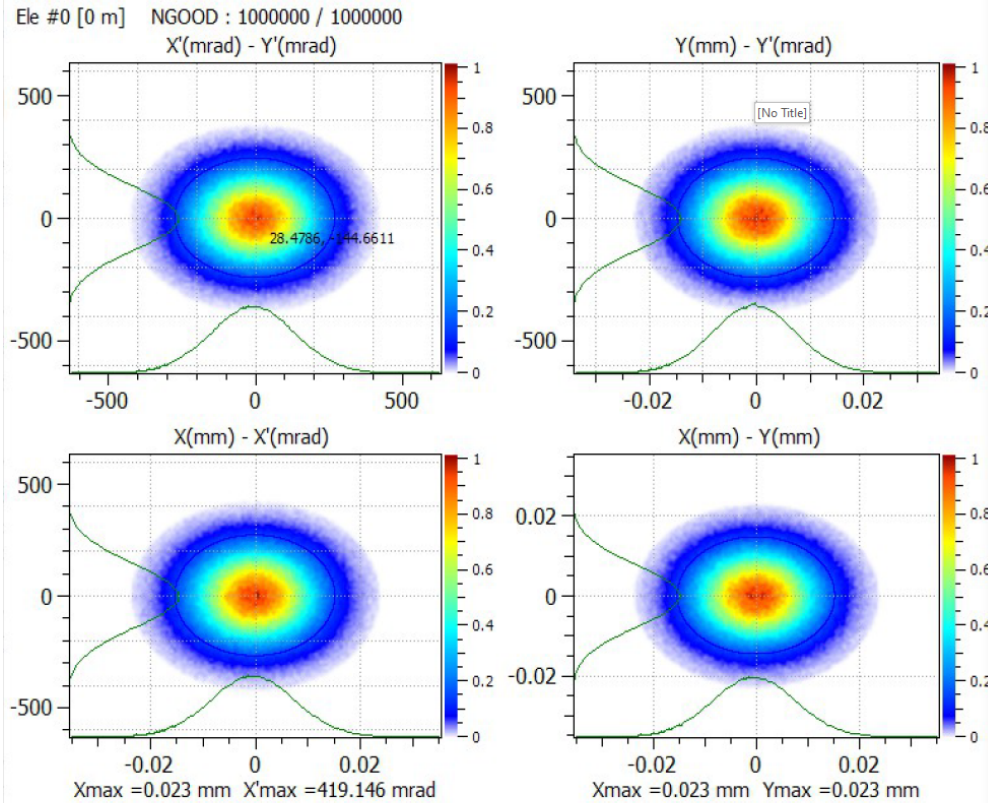
Reinforcement to guarantee 42 mm inner clearance in the vacuum chamber



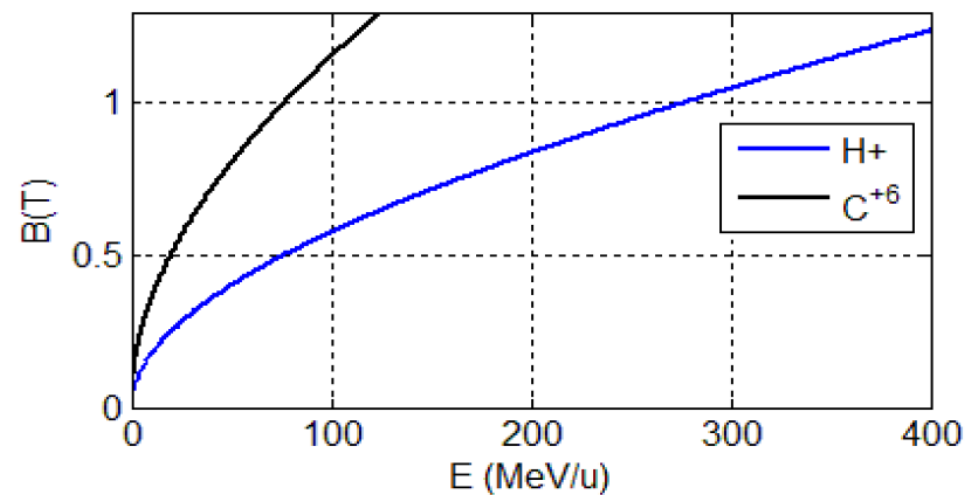
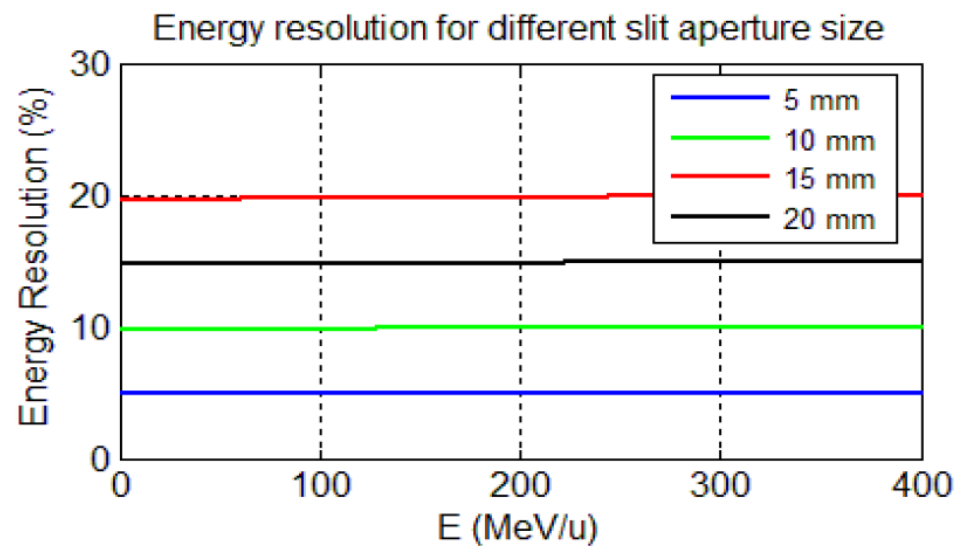
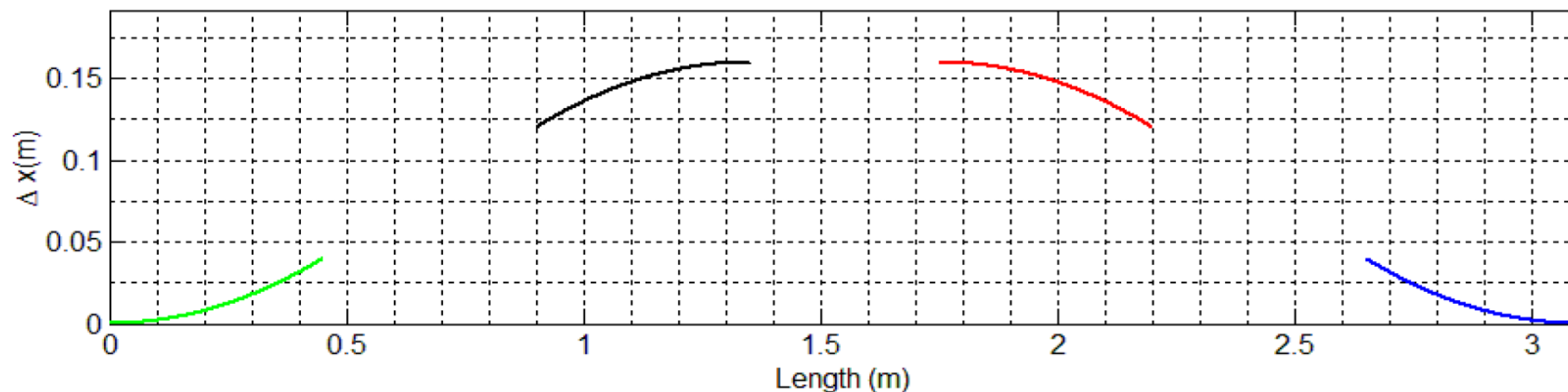
EUROPEAN UNION
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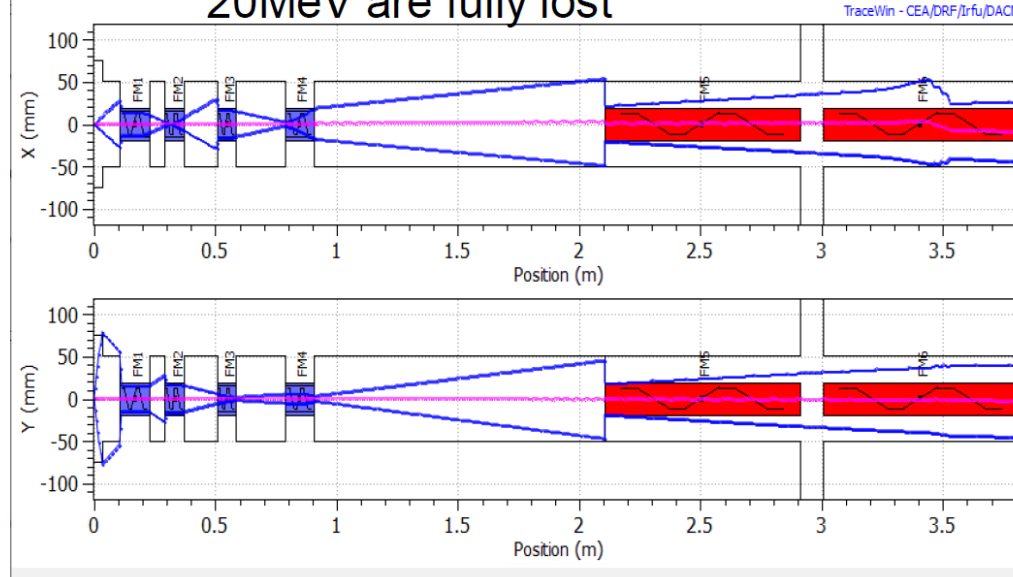


- 1) Waist close to the slit on the radial direction $M_{12}=0$
- 2) Parallel beam on the transverse plane $M_{44}=0$
- 3) Fixed beam dimensions at the selection plane (to fit the slit aperture size)

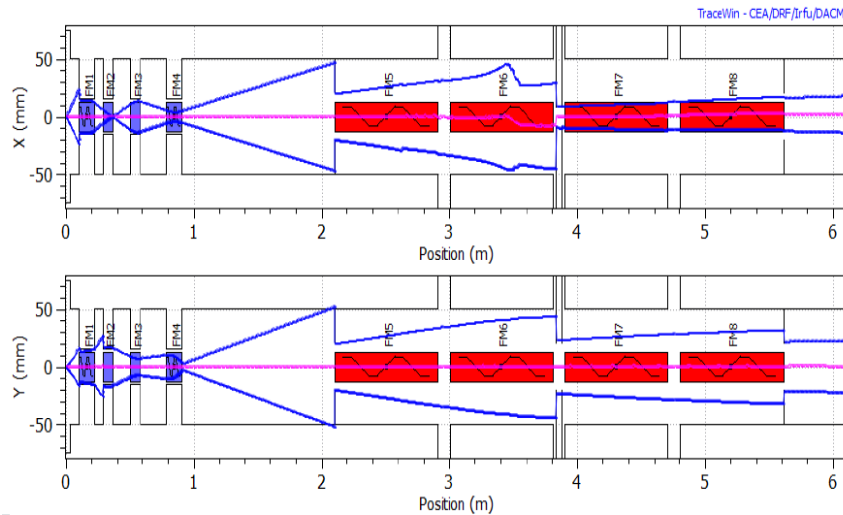




20MeV are fully lost



25MeV Envelope



WORK IN PROGRESS!

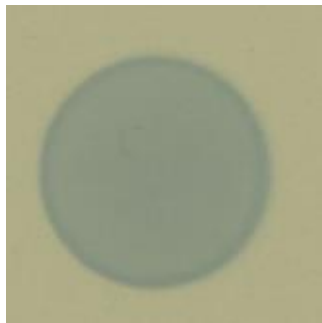
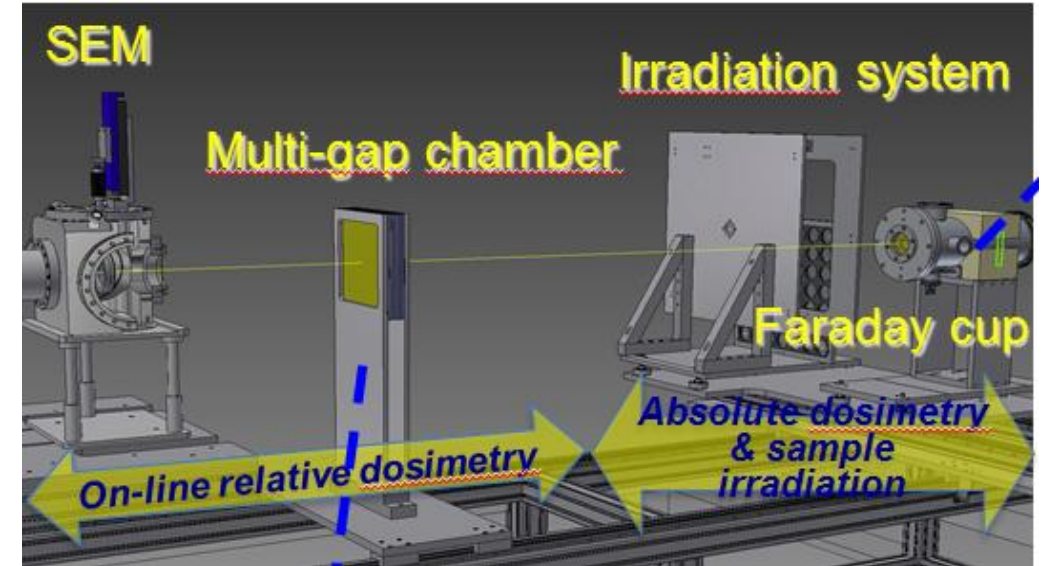
- ✓ Ion transmission: much lower than expected
- ✓ Ion beam directionality at source: different than expected
- ✓ PMQ's tolerance (magnetic axis): ?



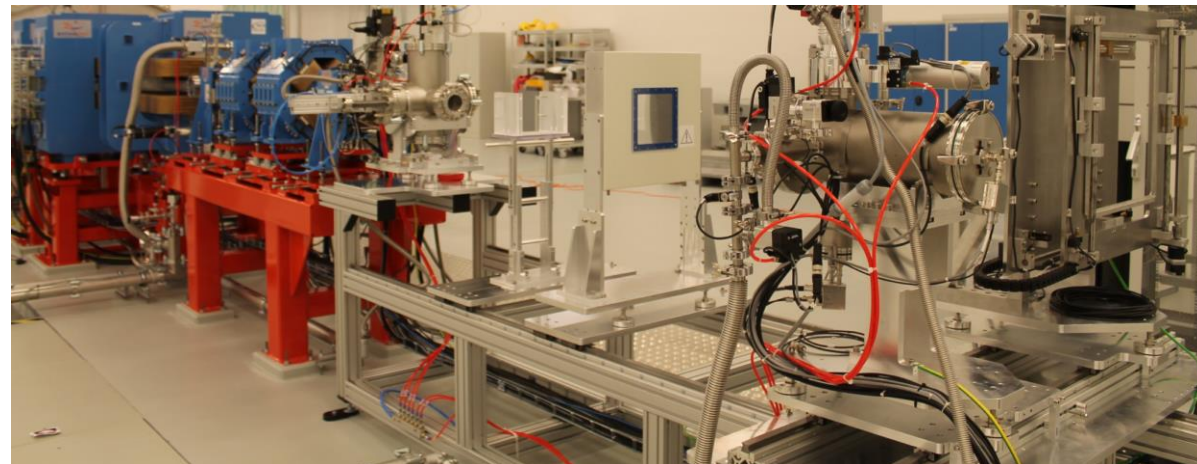
ELIMED technical commissioning IV

dosimetry setup commissioning

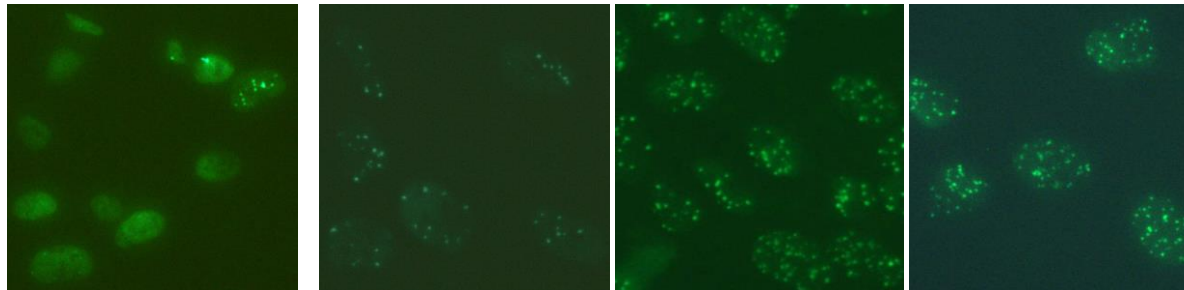
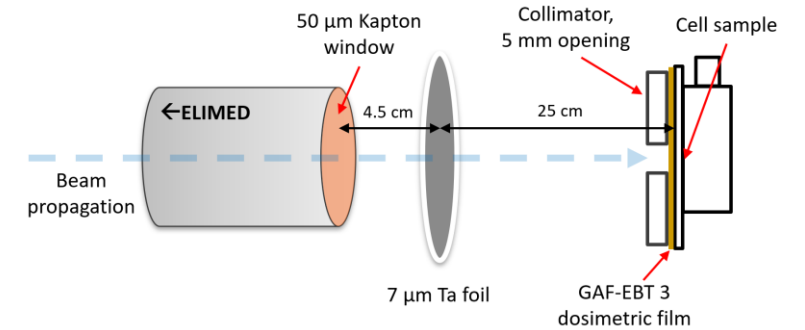
- Complete ELIMED dosimetric chain was tested
- Selected proton beams of 25 ± 4 MeV
- Absolute and relative dosimetry carried out
- Proton beam spatial profile uniformity of $\sim 5\%$ (over 1cm)
- >10 mGy per shot (0.5 Hz)



Proton beam homogeneity



- **First** radiobiological campaign with laser accelerated protons (LDP) successfully conducted at ELI Beamlines
 - Multi shot LDP irradiation
 - Normal skin fibroblasts AG01522
 - DNA damage assay
 - DNA Double Strand Breaks – 53BP1 foci



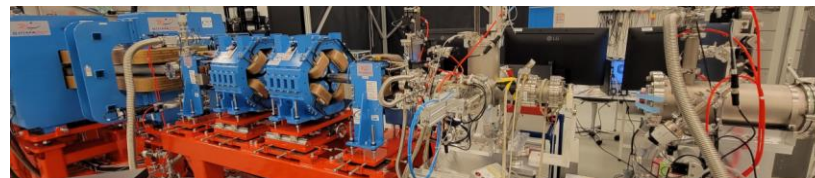
Non-irradiated sample 0.43 Gy 1.1 Gy 1.48 Gy



- Results are in line with single shot LDP irradiation

Hanton F., *Scientific Reports*, 9:4471, 2019

➔ new possibilities for radiobiological research at ELI Beamlines





Radiobiology Pilot experiment at ELIMAIA-ELIMED II

European user consortium around ultra-fast radiobiology



FLAIM: “**FL**ash and ultrahigh dose-rate radiobiology with **L**aser **A**ccelerated **I**ons for **M**edical research



Innovative Radiobiology with
Laser-Driven Ion Beams

- PI (external): M. Borghesi, K. Prise (Queen’s Univ. Belfast); PI (local): L. Giuffrida (ELI BL)
- General Goal: showing feasibility of radiobiology studies for pre-clinical research
- Specific Objective: study the biological response of human cells to ultrahigh dose rate proton bursts (fractionated dose)
- User Network (collaborative effort): Queen’s Univ. Belfast (UK), INFN-LNS (IT), CNR (IT), Univ. of Naples (IT), Nuclear Physics Institute CAS (CZ), Laboratory of Immunotherapy CAS (CZ), ELI ALPS, ELI-NP
- Means: ELIMED experimental station (part of ELIMAIA beamline driven by L3)
- First in-vitro radiobiology experiment at ELI Beamlines



5th Joint ELI Call for Users



- **ELI Facilities:**
 - **ELI ALPS**, Szeged, Hungary
 - **ELI Beamlines**, Dolní Břežany, Czech Republic
 - **ELI NP**, Magurele, Romania
- **5th Call period: 25 September - 31 October 2024 (!!!)**
- **Unique scientific opportunities provided by access to a wide range of complementary instruments**
- **Single point of access (<https://up.eli-laser.eu>)**
- **Access is free** based on a **peer-reviewed** evaluation of **scientific excellence**
- **Contact Integrated ELI User Office**
user-office@eli-laser.eu or **technical contacts** listed on User Portal.