

Technology Transfer Case

Novel Timing and Synchronization Strategies in Medical and Industrial Tomography

Application of White Rabbit Technology

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on behalf of the Instrumentation ITA Team

1st Meeting Aragón – Comunidad Valenciana
Complementary Plans of Astrophysics and High Energy Physics
Galáctica, Arcos de las Salinas, Teruel
May 28 – 29, 2025



Agenda

- Our research
- Motivation for Timing techniques / technologies
- Reference distribution approaches
- White Rabbit for tomography
- Our Proof-of-Concept prototype

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FRONT-END AND DAQ ELECTRONICS

“Digital Electronics”

Our expertise covers also

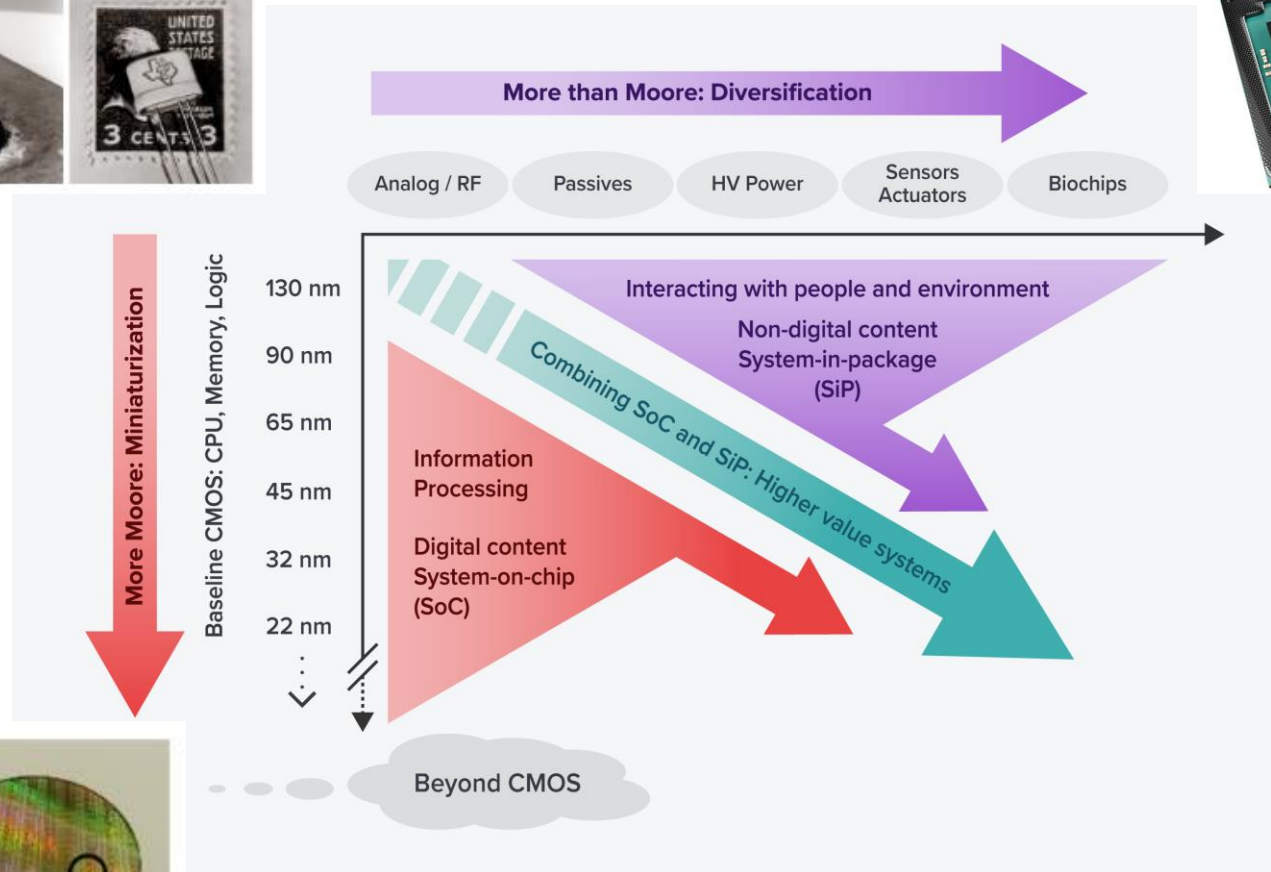
“Analog” Electronics

(See F. Arteché talk)

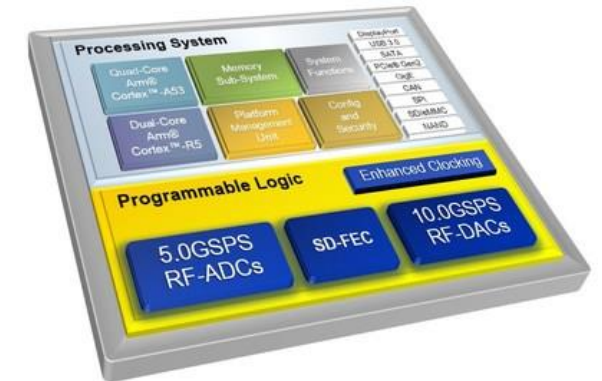
- Sensors / Transducers / Actuators
- Signal Conditioning – amplification, filtering, impedance matching, isolation...
- Data-Acquisition & Control Hardware – digitizers, ADCs, DACs, and embedded controllers
- Software & Firmware – DSP, algorithms for instrument control, data reduction, visualization, and automation

Our Technologies

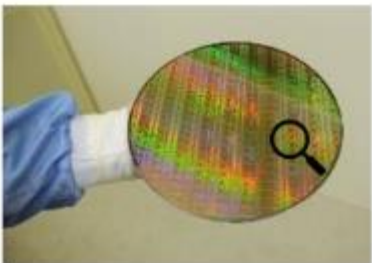
Highly specialized electronic cards based on high performance SoCs



More than Moore devices
SoCs (MPSoCs, RFSocS)



CPU, FPGA, ADC, DAC, Memories...
Hardware, Gateware, Firmware,
Software...



Our Application Domains

RF instrumentation

communications, industrial
heating, quantum computing, EMI/EMC...

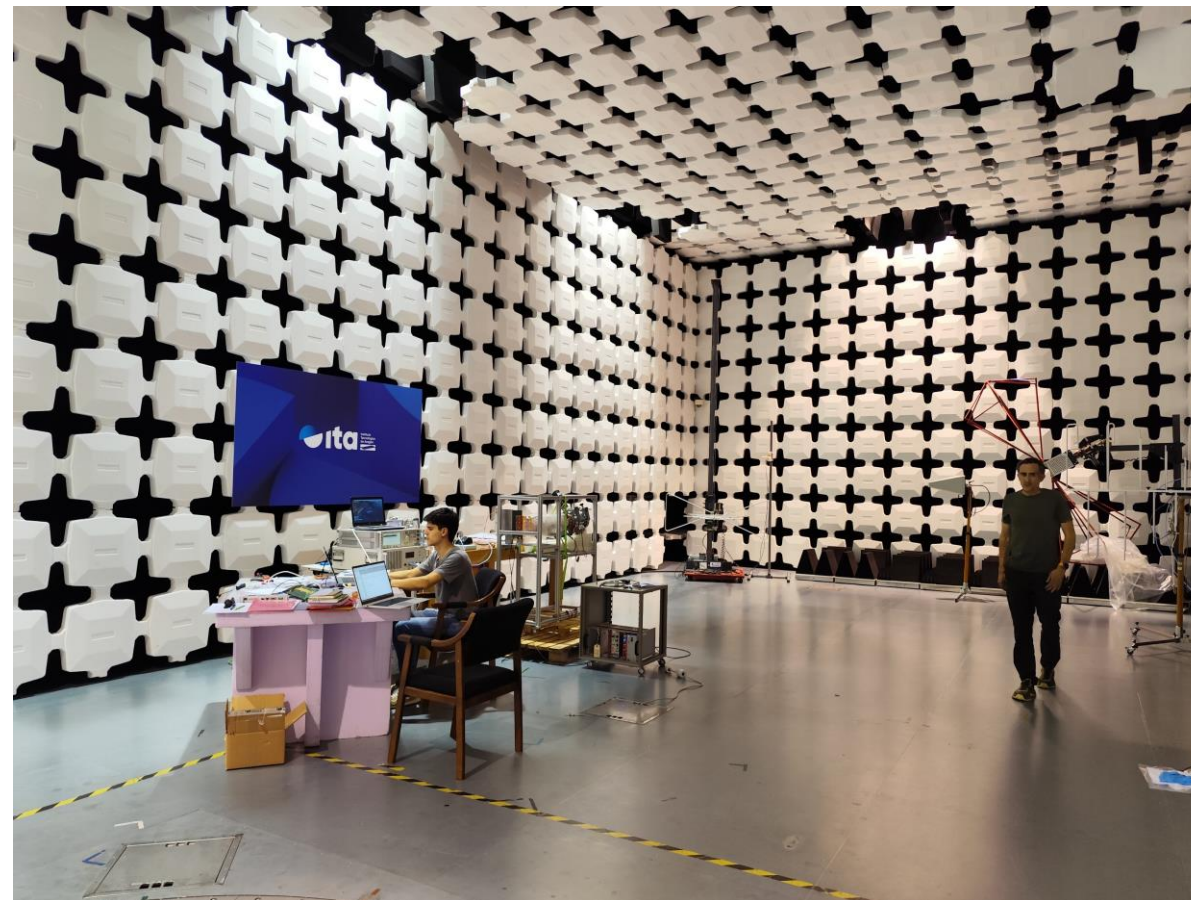
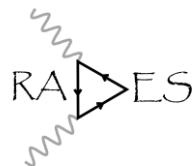
HEP Detectors (Electronics, Powering, EMI-EMC, Timing)

RF, tomography, timing,
communications, medical imaging,
synchronization...

Planes Complementarios



Centro de Astropartículas y
Física de Altas Energías
Universidad Zaragoza



**Technology Transfer from Science to
other applications: Industrial, Medical...**

Timing and electronics...

4D Detector Prototype based on LGAD sensors and ETROC2



Projects; CMS-ETL, DRD7, TOMULGAD-4D, PROTECT...
Collaboration;



Instrumentation: Timing and Synchronization

- Scalable timing/clocking distribution system
- Self calibrating and mitigating perturbations
- Using as Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS)



Experience And Efforts With WR Technology

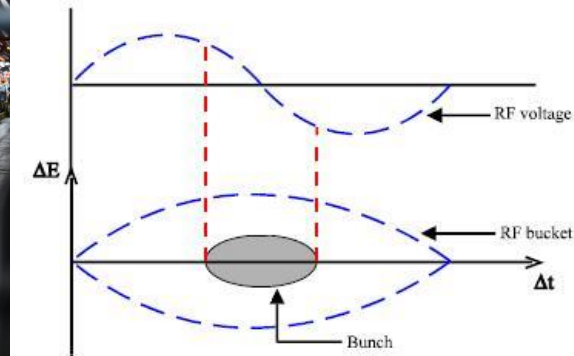
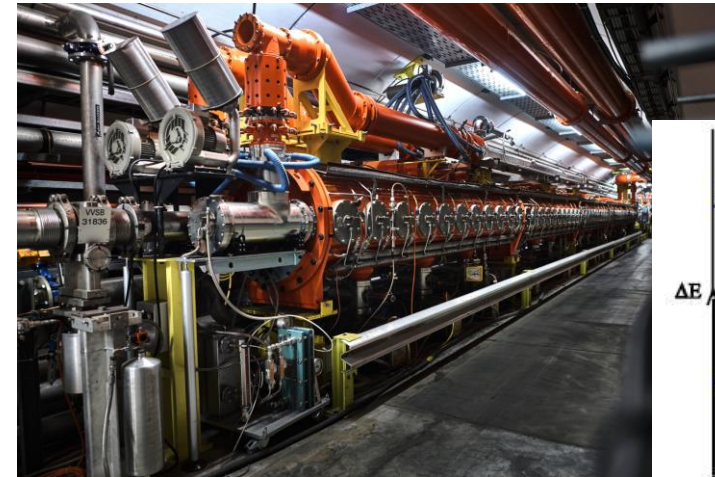
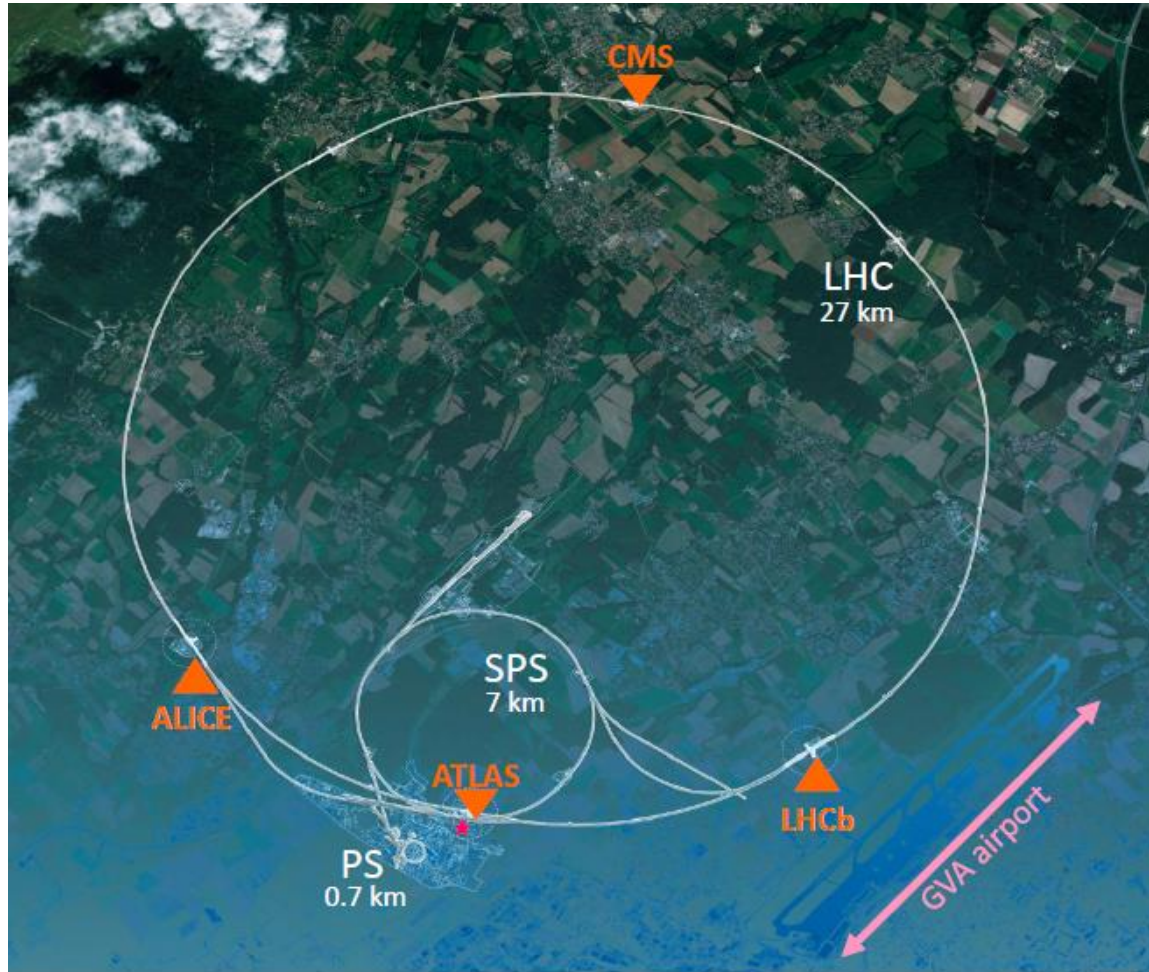
Preliminary Results Performance And Usability

High Accuracy Default
PTP Profile of
IEEE1588-2019

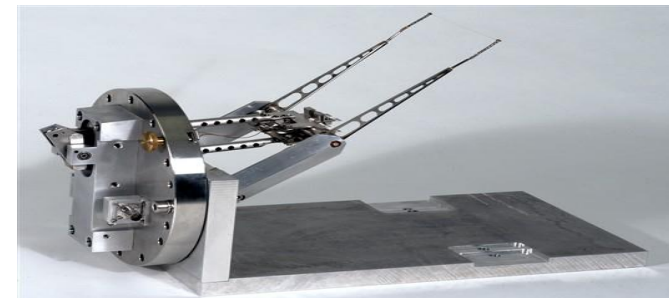


Accelerators: The need for a Reference

RF Acceleration



Beam Monitors (Size, position, intensity...)

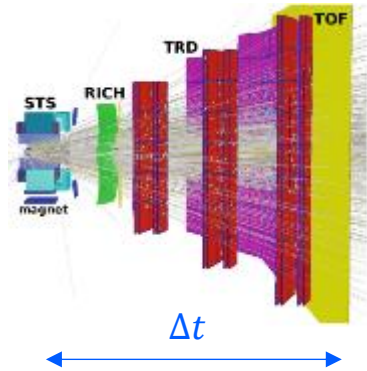


Reference: Controls / measurements need to be synchronized

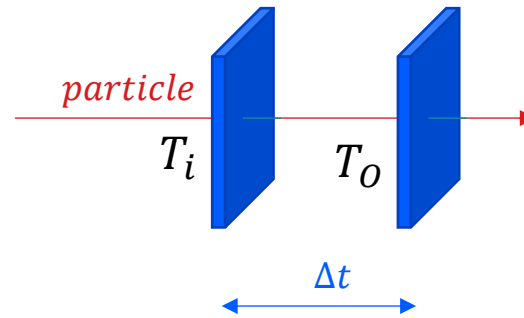


Detectors; need for Reference in Time Measurements

Colliders



Multi-plane detectors

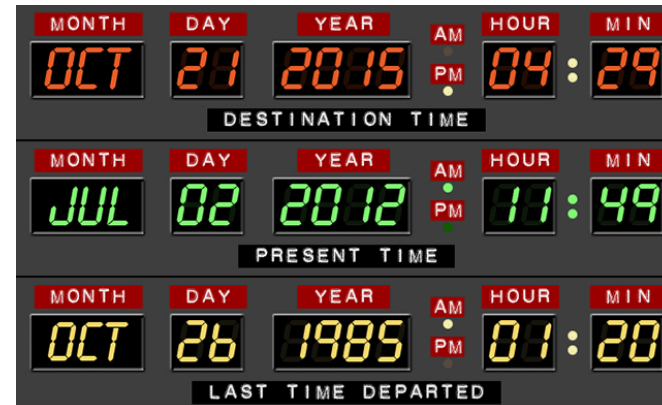


Absolute notion of time

Both times T_o and T_i
need a common
REFERENCE



How do we measure Time?



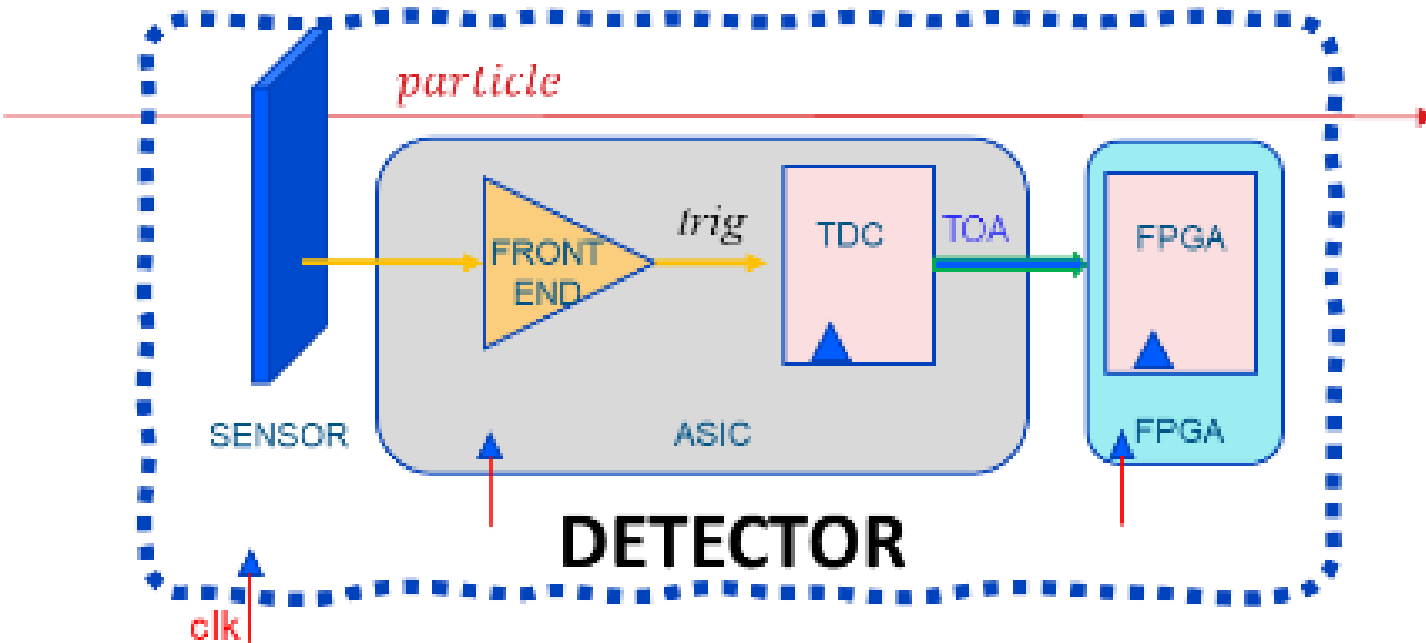
We usually refer to a
Time Difference

$$\Delta t = T_o - T_i$$



Timing: The need for a Reference

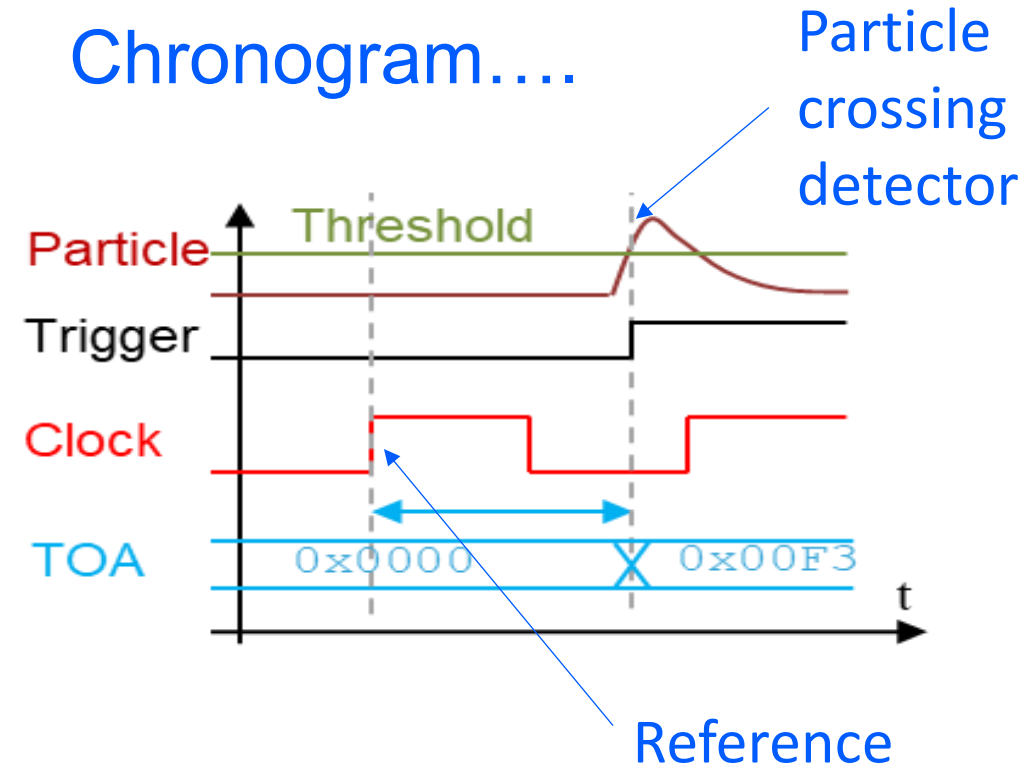
System Architecture



Absolute time

$$T_x = T_{ref\ x} + TOA_x$$

Chronogram....



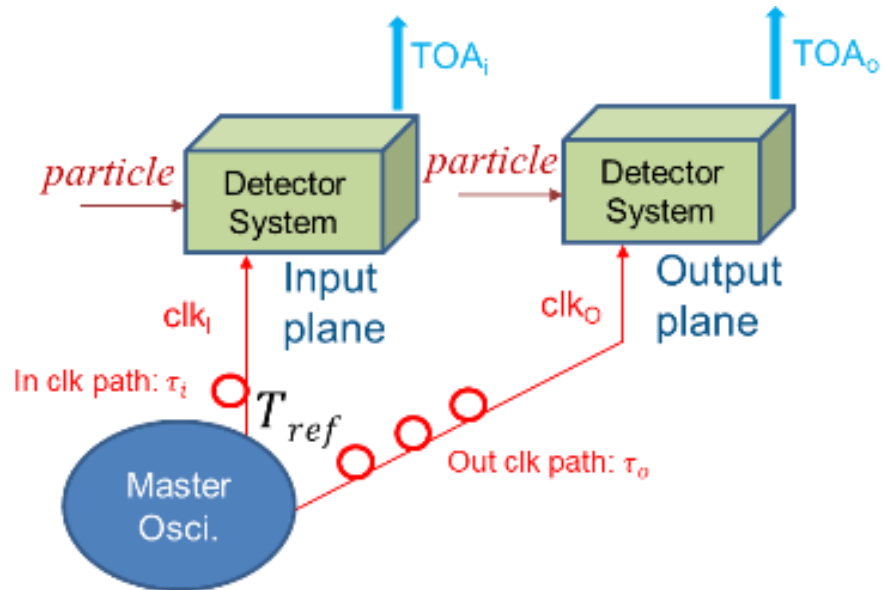
Multiple Detectors

T_{ref} needs to be a common synchronized reference among all nodes



Timing: The problem when you gets larger...

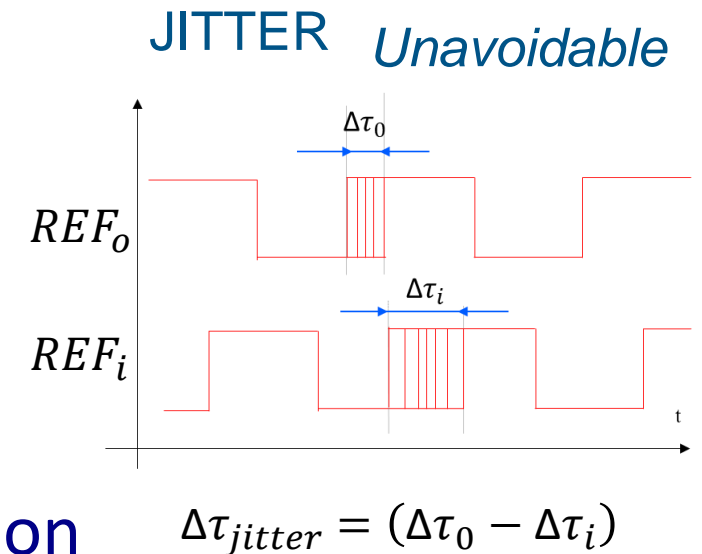
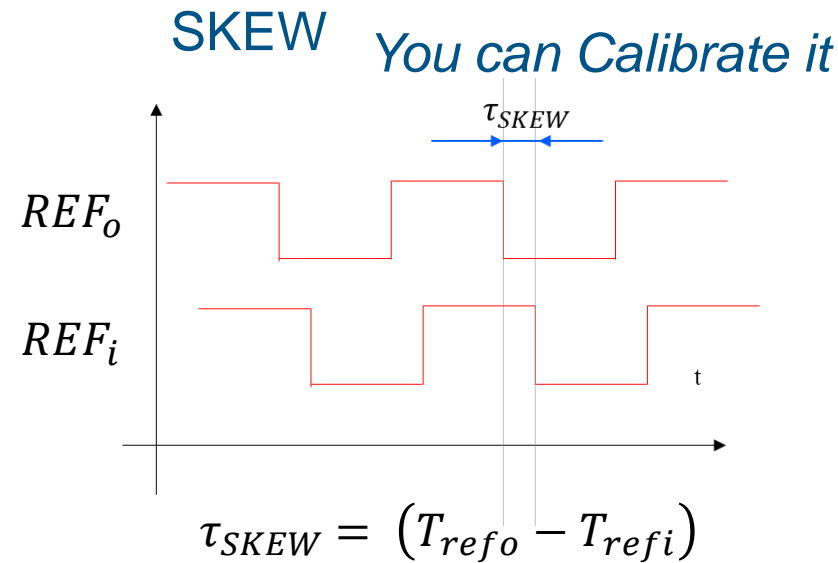
Multiple Detection Planes



Absolute time concept:

T_{ref} / clock phase

Time and Space matters... propagation



Technologies for Reference distribution / synchronization

The Local Oscillator and Distribution Network

“Classic” distribution networks

“Open loop” systems that turned a complex “Closed Loop” system

Cope the problems at Design Phase

High Accuracy Default PTP Profile of IEEE1588-2019



Based on

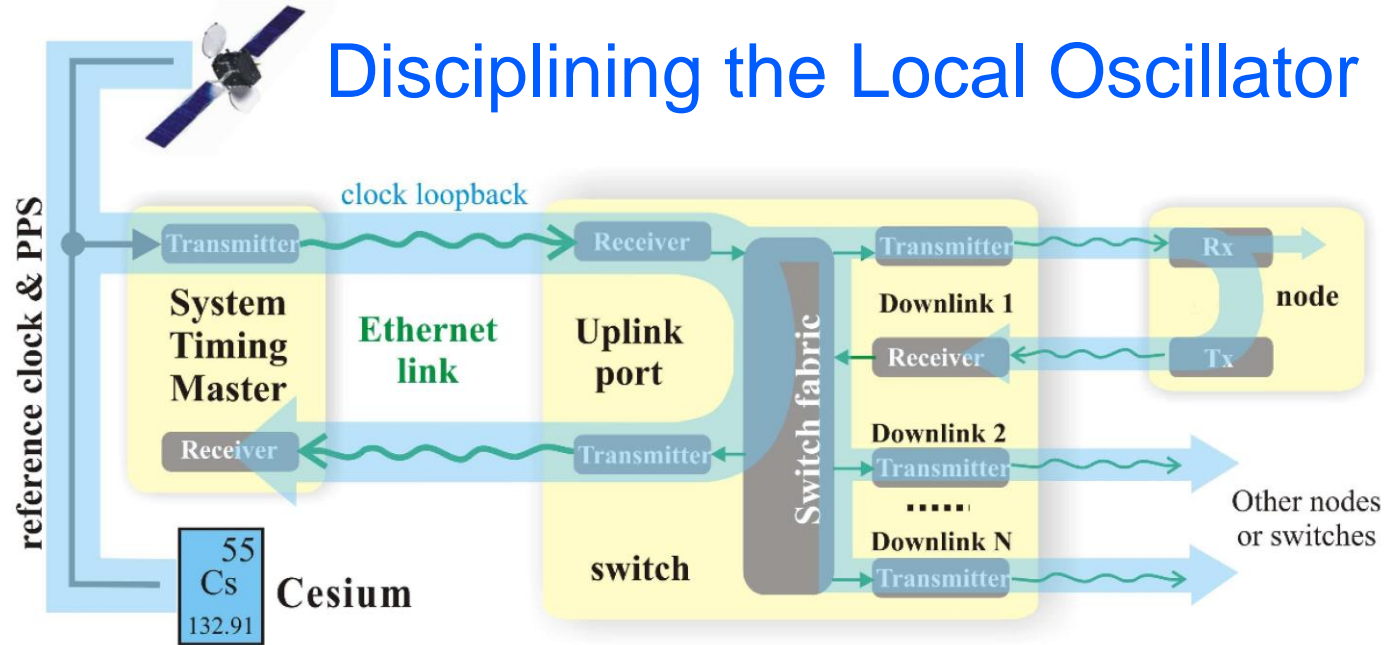
- Gigabit Ethernet over fibre
- IEEE 1588 Precision Time Protocol

Enhanced with

- Layer 1 syntonisation
- Digital Dual Mixer Time Difference (DDMTD)
- Link delay model

White Rabbit Principles

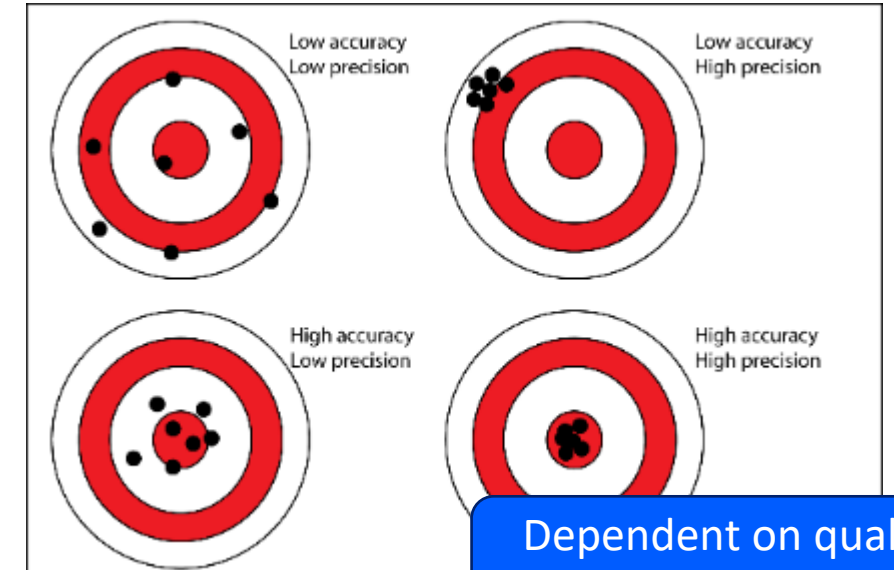
Disciplining the Local Oscillator



Clocking Performance

Accuracy: repeatability of the reference edge in the slaves with respect to an ideal master (skew)

Precision: dispersion of reference edge (jitter)



WR Switches



Nodes



Hardware; Carrier, FMC Gateway; WR PTP Core Firmware; Controls C code

Dependent on quality of the electronics...

**And now....
Our 4D Detector**

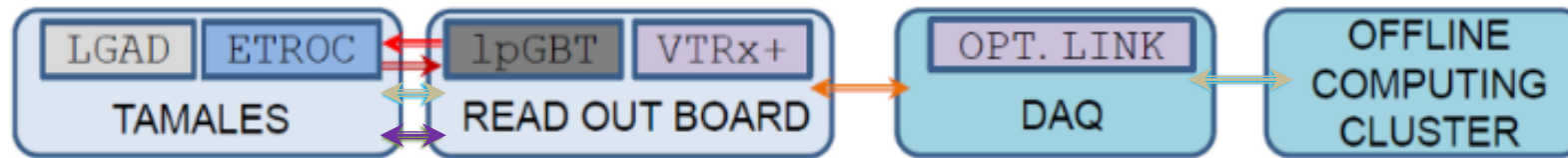
**Base on ETROC2
and...**



White Rabbit

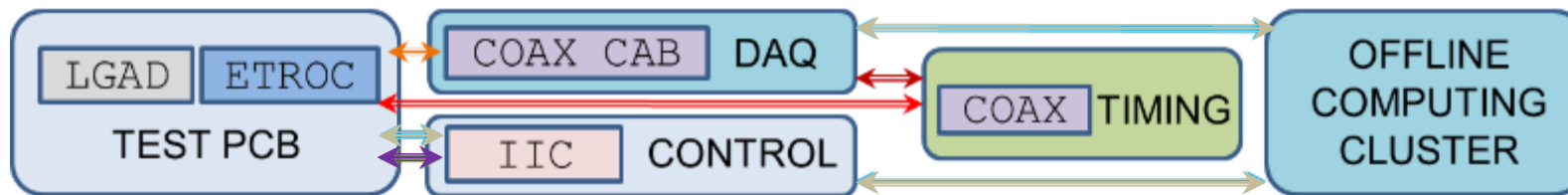
The ETROC2 Based Electronics...

CMS – ETL Electronics

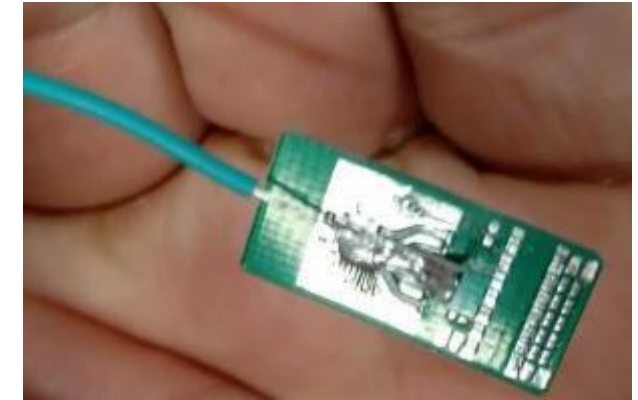
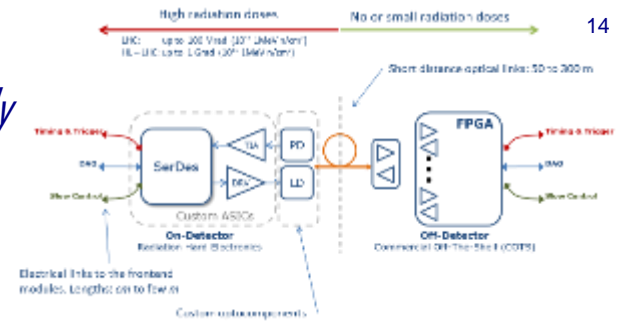


Based on CERN GBT ASICs (optical data/clock link)

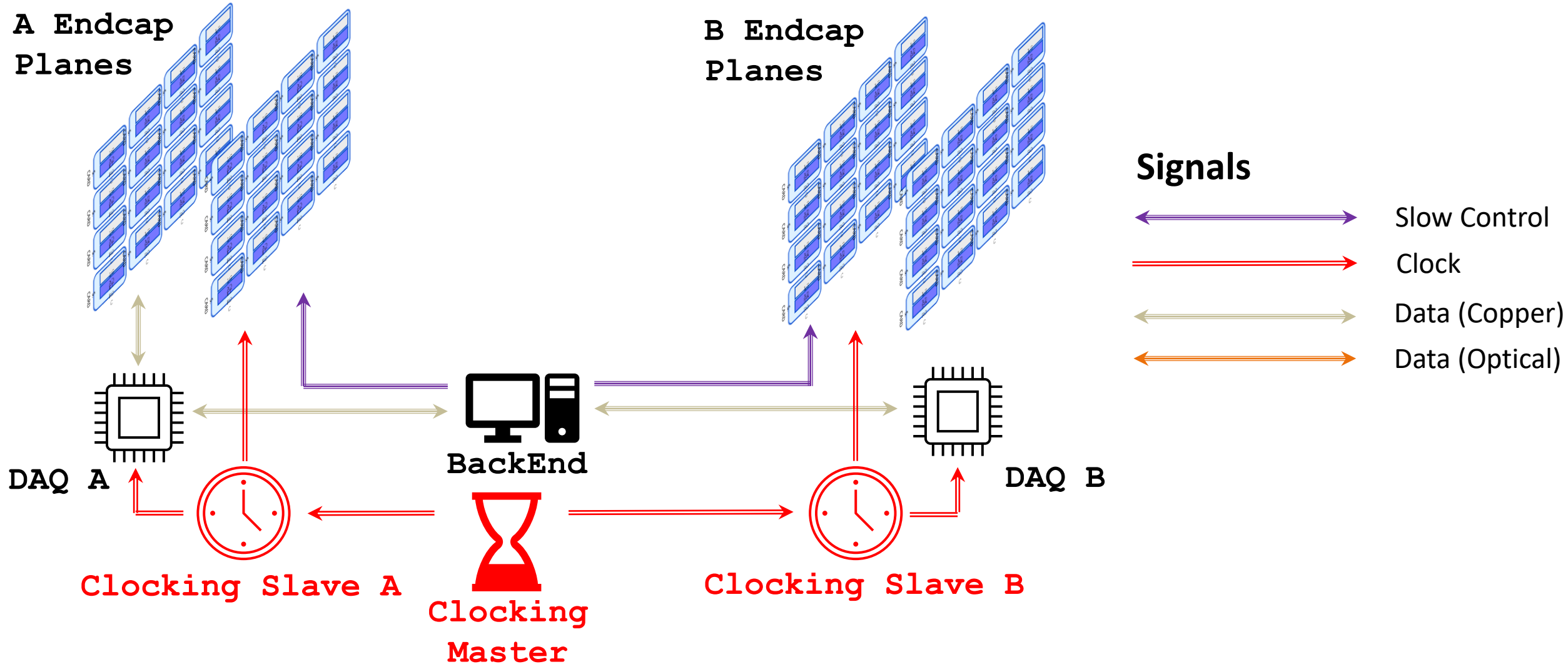
TOMULGAD-4D Electronics



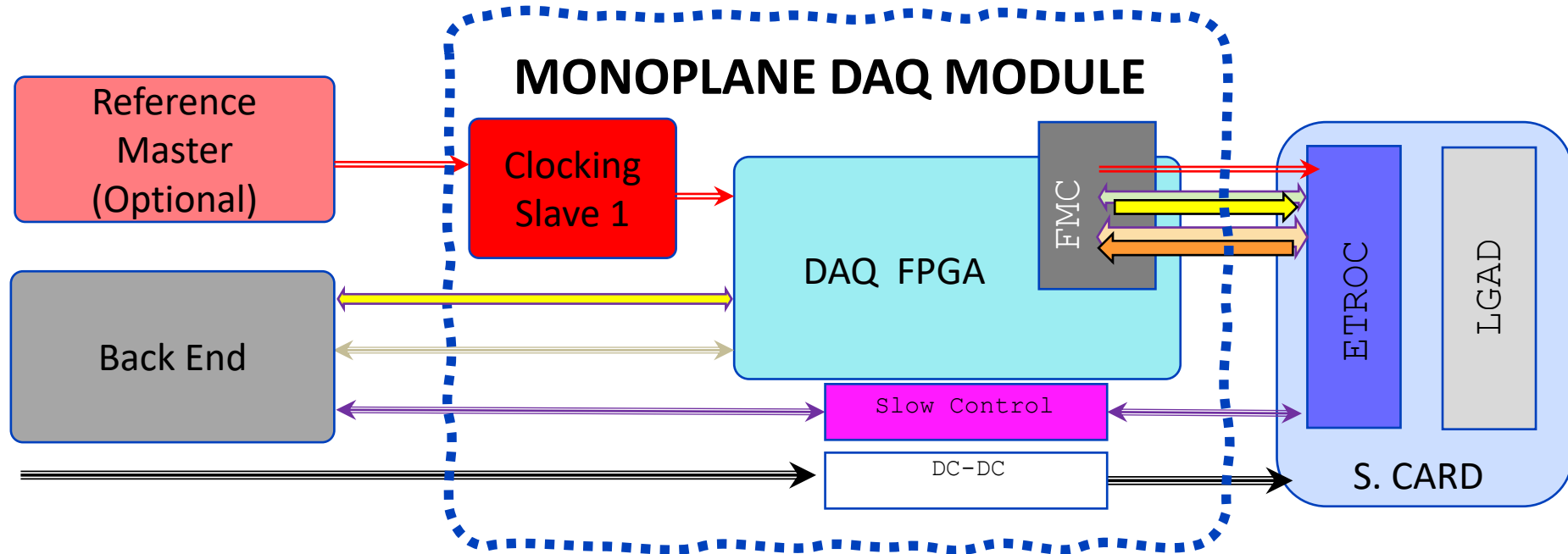
No access to GBTs... we decouple data, clocking, controls



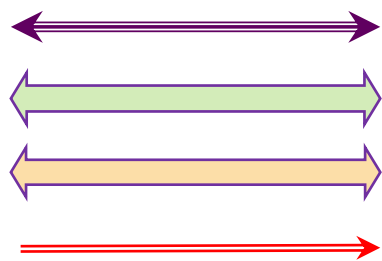
The Multiplane Detector Architecture



The Detection Plane Reference Architecture



Signals

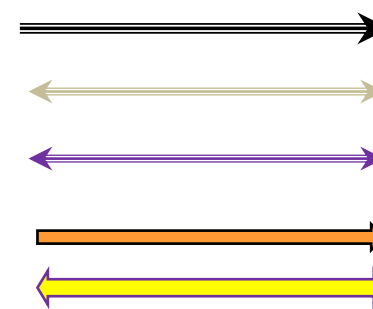


USB

Fast Command

Data

Clock



Power

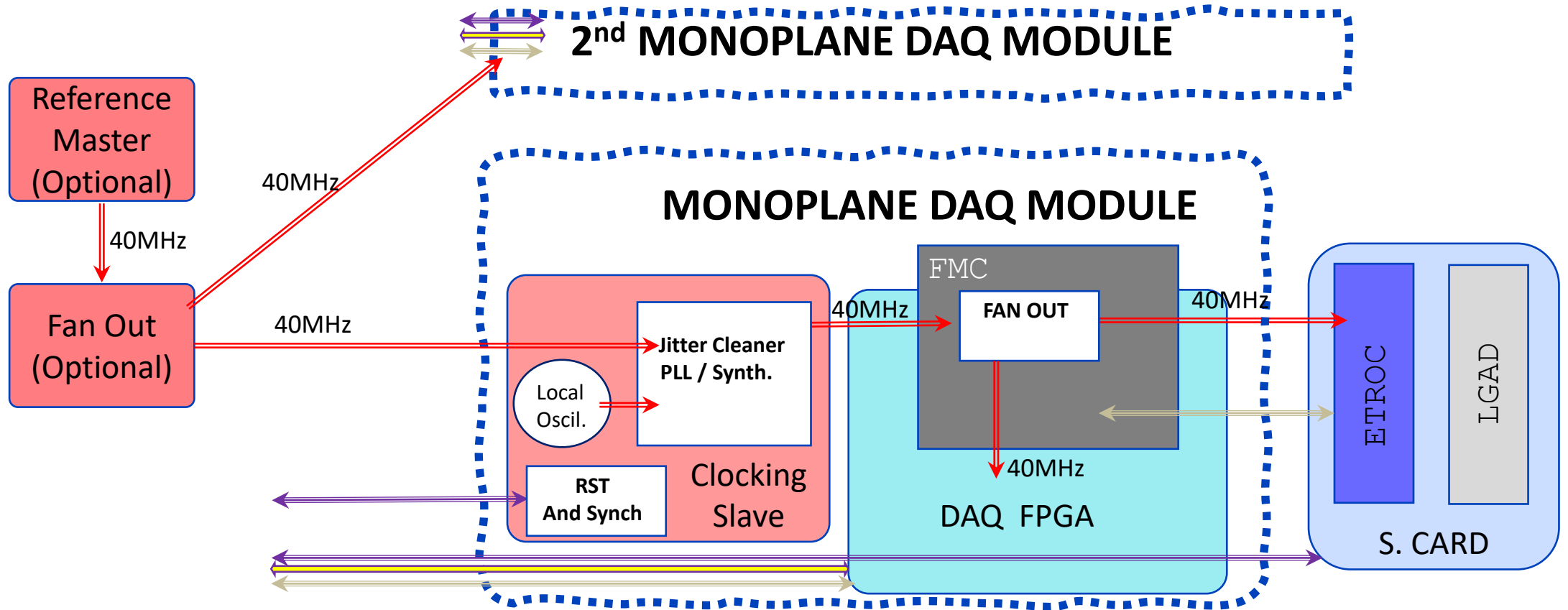
Ethernet

Slow Control

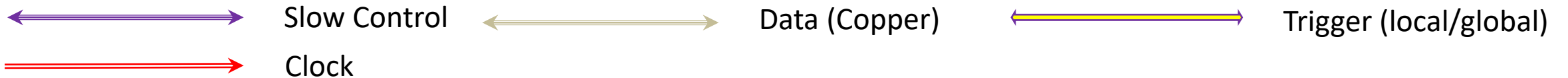
1st Trg

Broadcast Trg

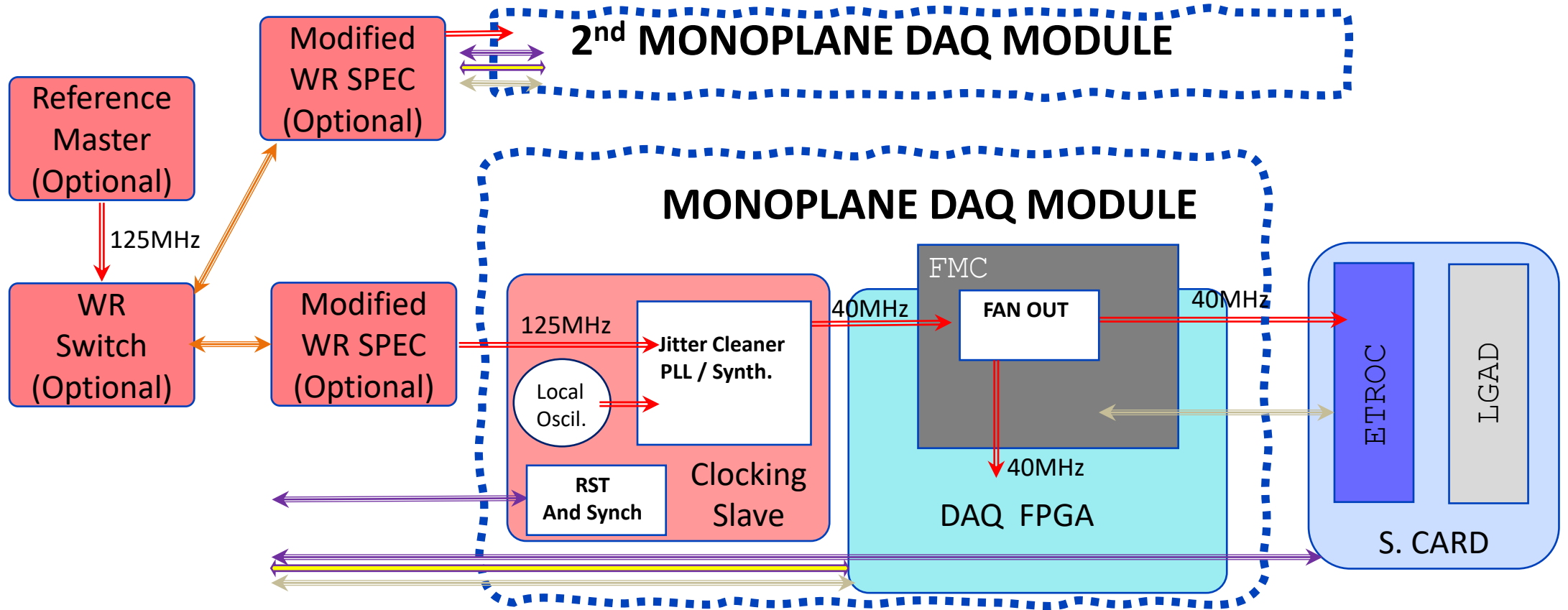
Open Loop Clocking Architecture with multiple Planes



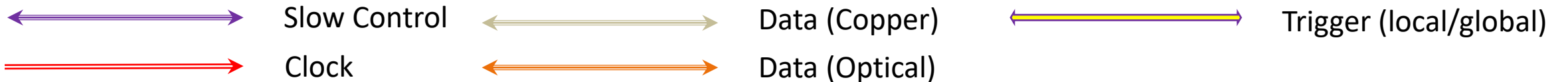
Signals



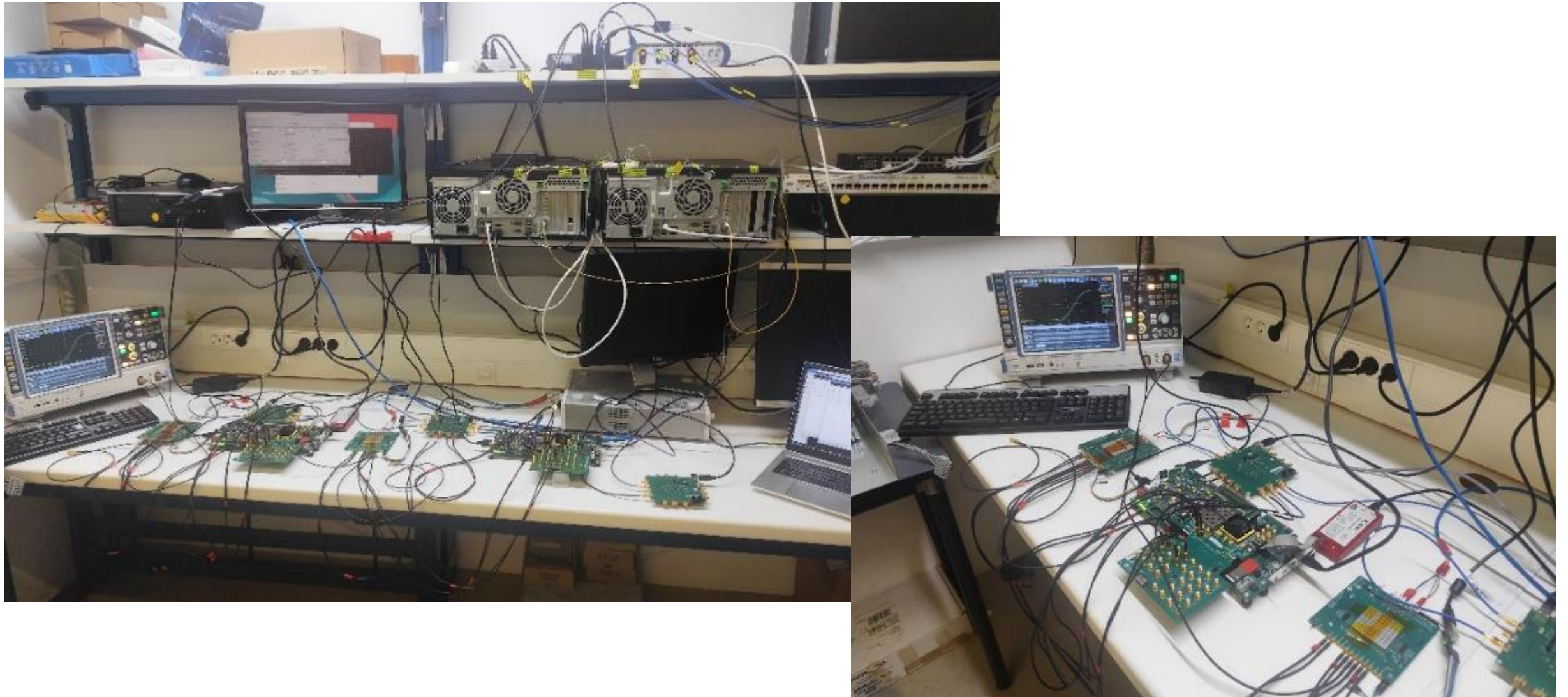
Close Loop WR based Clocking Architecture



Signals



The meshy setup...

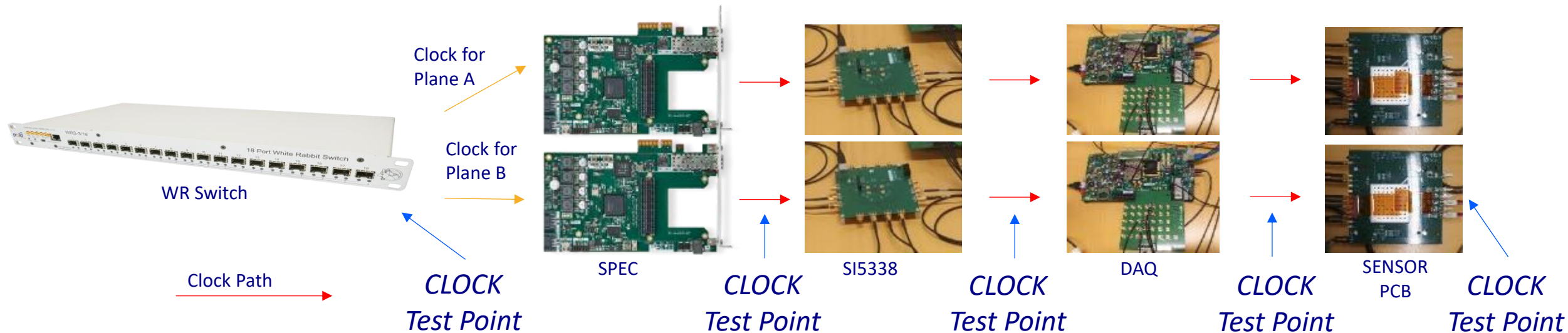


The WR initial evaluation

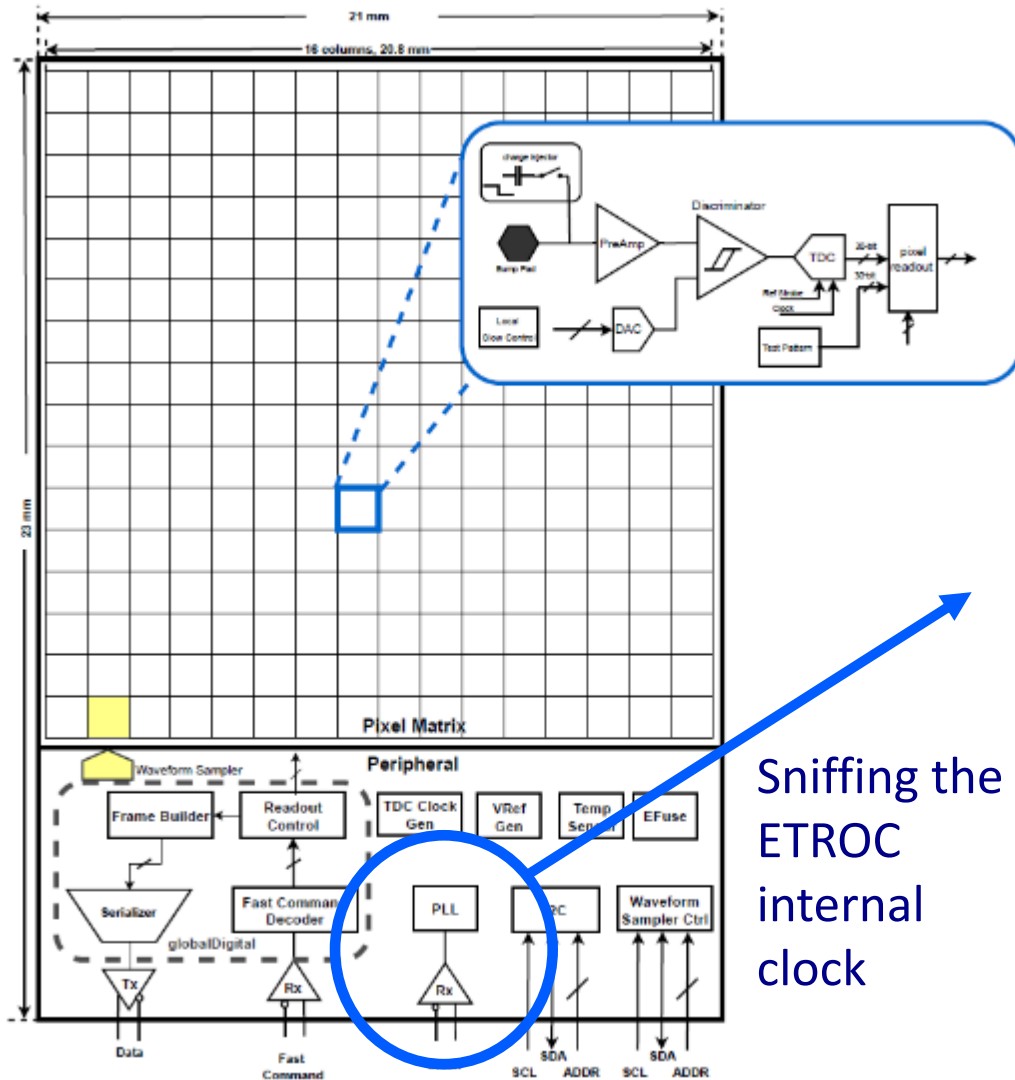


Phase A: Coaxial clock distribution with external clock synthesizer (40 MHz) using the Si5338 as 1:N fanout (transparent)

Phase B: WR based clock (125MHz) slaves using the SI5338 to synthesize and derive 40 MHz outputs to DAQ and sensor card

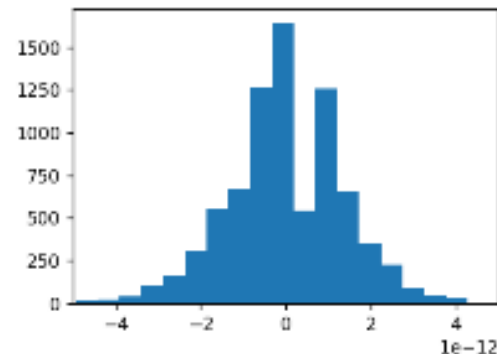


TIE Jitter Performance; 40 MHz analog vs WR based distribution

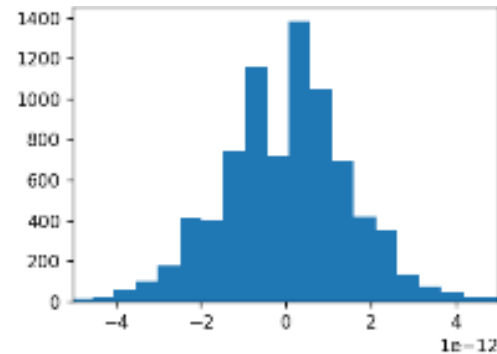


40 MHz Ideal Clocking

Detector Plane A



Detector Plane B

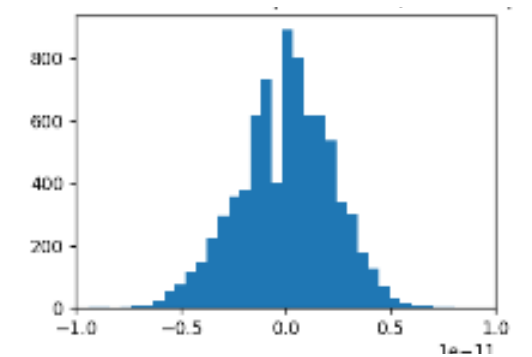


Plane A RMS jitter = 1.3658 ps

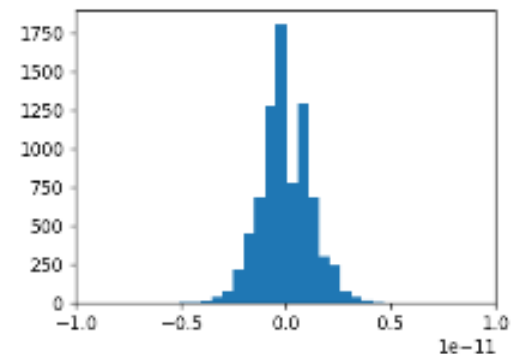
Plane B RMS jitter = 1.504 ps

White Rabbit Based Clocking

Detector Plane A



Detector Plane B

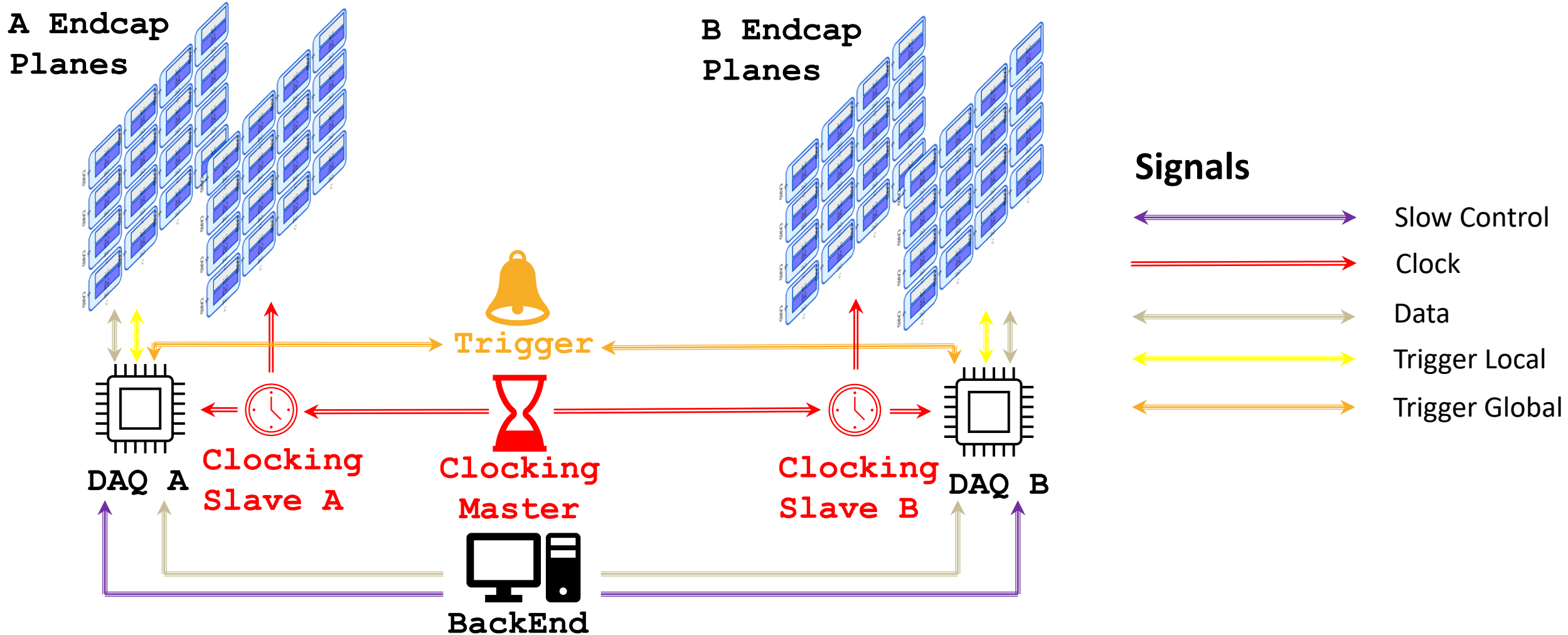


Plane A RMS jitter = 2.2489 ps

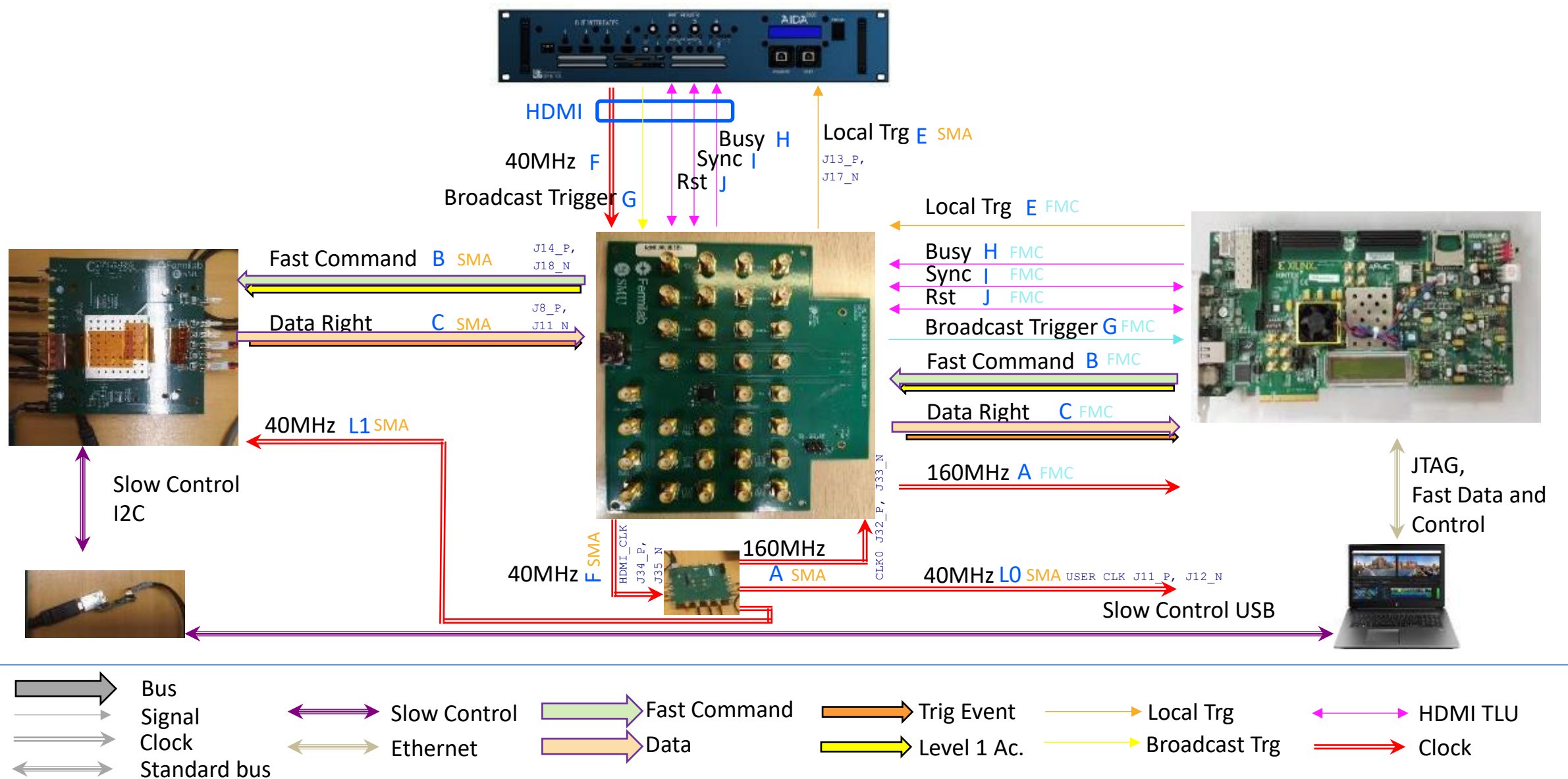
Plane B RMS jitter = 1.1864 ps

Close to Golden Reference System

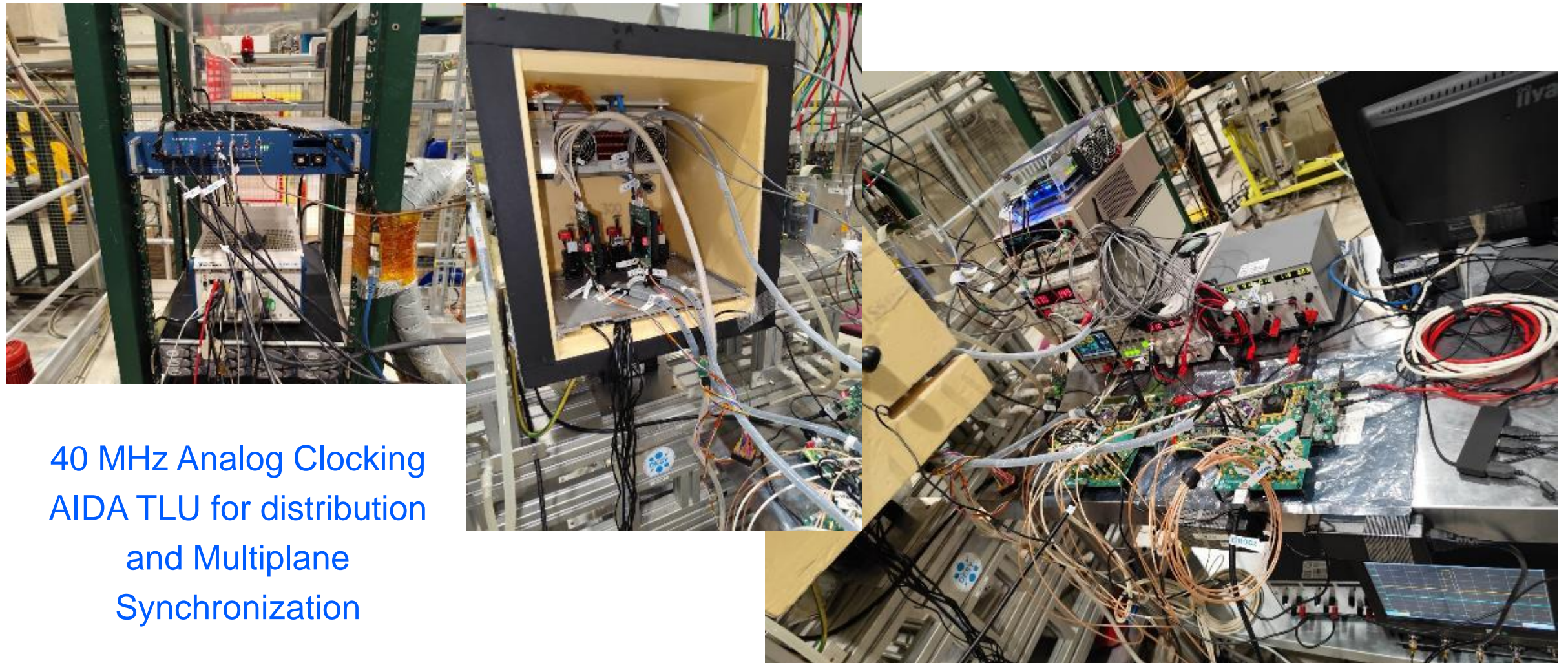
System Level Validation: The Multiplane Detector Architecture



VALIDATION: TLU CLK@40MHz With 2 DAQ, 1 ETROC, 1 Data channel

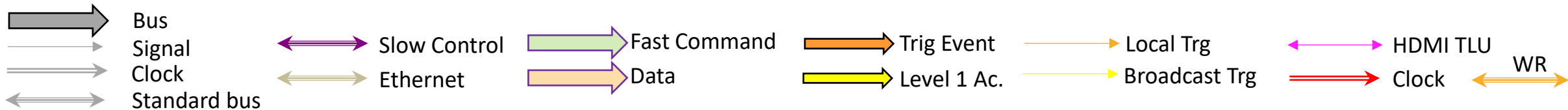
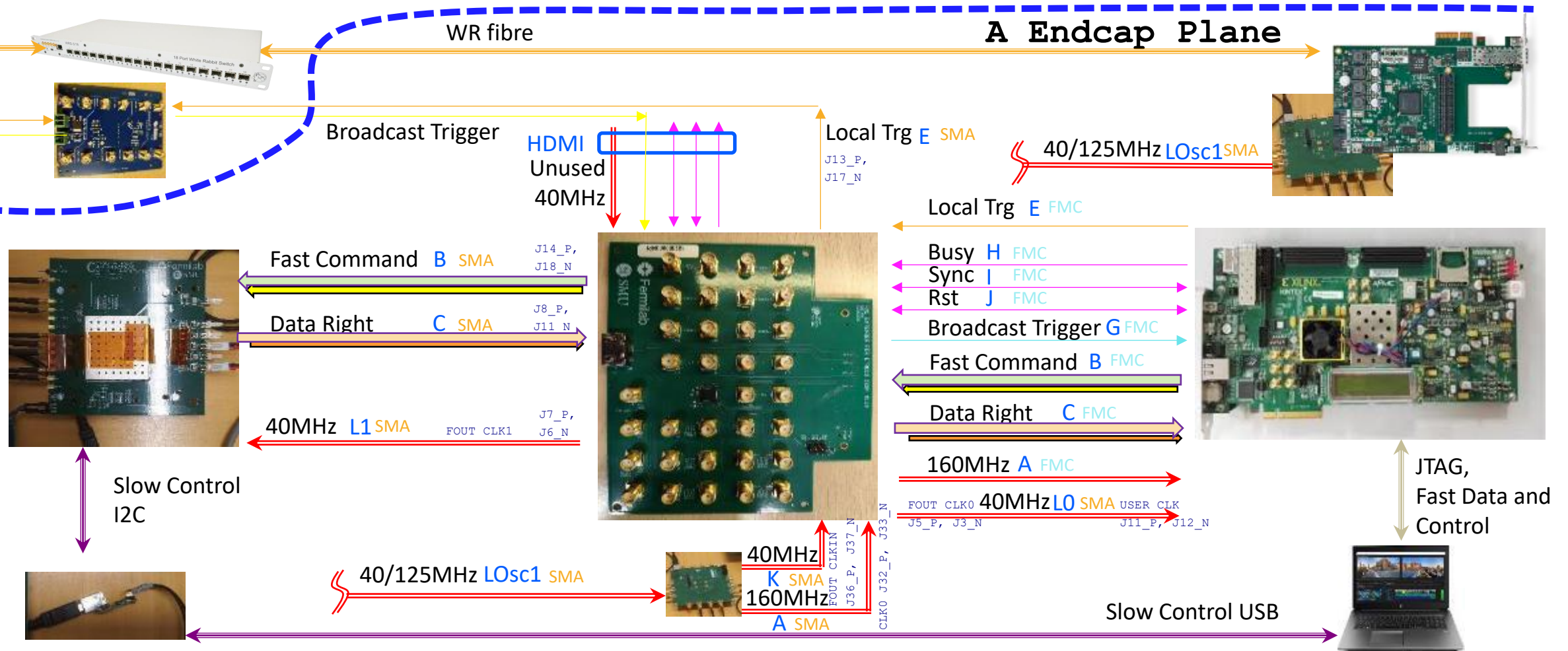


Multiplane test, Clocking, Synchronization and Performance



40 MHz Analog Clocking
AIDA TLU for distribution
and Multiplane
Synchronization

WR EXT-CLK@40/125MHz, With 2 DAQ, 1 ETROC, 1 Data channel





¡Muchas gracias!

DAQ Interfaces

