



DRD5 Collaboration



Warsaw University of Technology
Faculty of Physics

Quantum sensing developments for particle physics

Quantum sensors for both high and low energy particle
physics

Georgy Kornakov

DIPC, San Sebastian, 16 July 2026

- Clarification of terms
- Quantum sensors for low energy particle physics
- Quantum sensors for high energy particle physics
- Detector R&D collaboration at CERN
- Control systems and electronics for QE

Quantum sensors register a change of quantum state caused by the interaction with an external system:

- transition between superconducting and normal-conducting
- transition of an atom from one state to another
- change of resonant frequency of a system (quantized)



highly sensitive and highly specific sensors for minute perturbations of the environment in which they operate

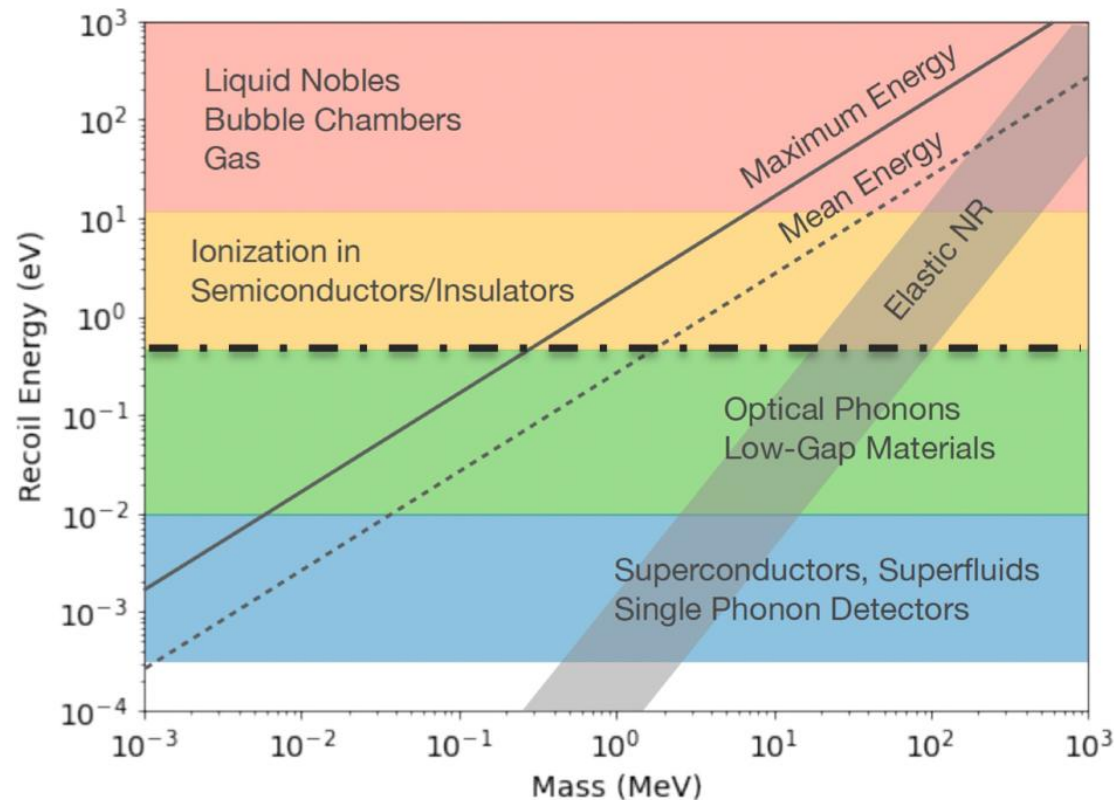
Then, a “quantum sensor” is a device, the measurement (sensing) capabilities of which are enabled by our ability to manipulate and/or read out its quantum states.

and because the commensurate energies are very low, unsurprisingly, quantum sensors are ideally matched to low energy (particle) physics;

→ They can also form natural elements of HEP detectors

(I will *not* however be talking about **entanglement** and its potential applications)

Start with an example: Energy deposited in detectors by particles



$$\Delta E \sim 1 \text{ eV}$$

e.g. Si, Ge, GaAs, diamond, Quantum Dots, organic scintillators...

$$\Delta E \sim 10 - 100 \text{ meV}$$

e.g. GaAs, sapphire, Dirac materials, doped s/c, ...

$$\Delta E \sim 1 \text{ meV}$$

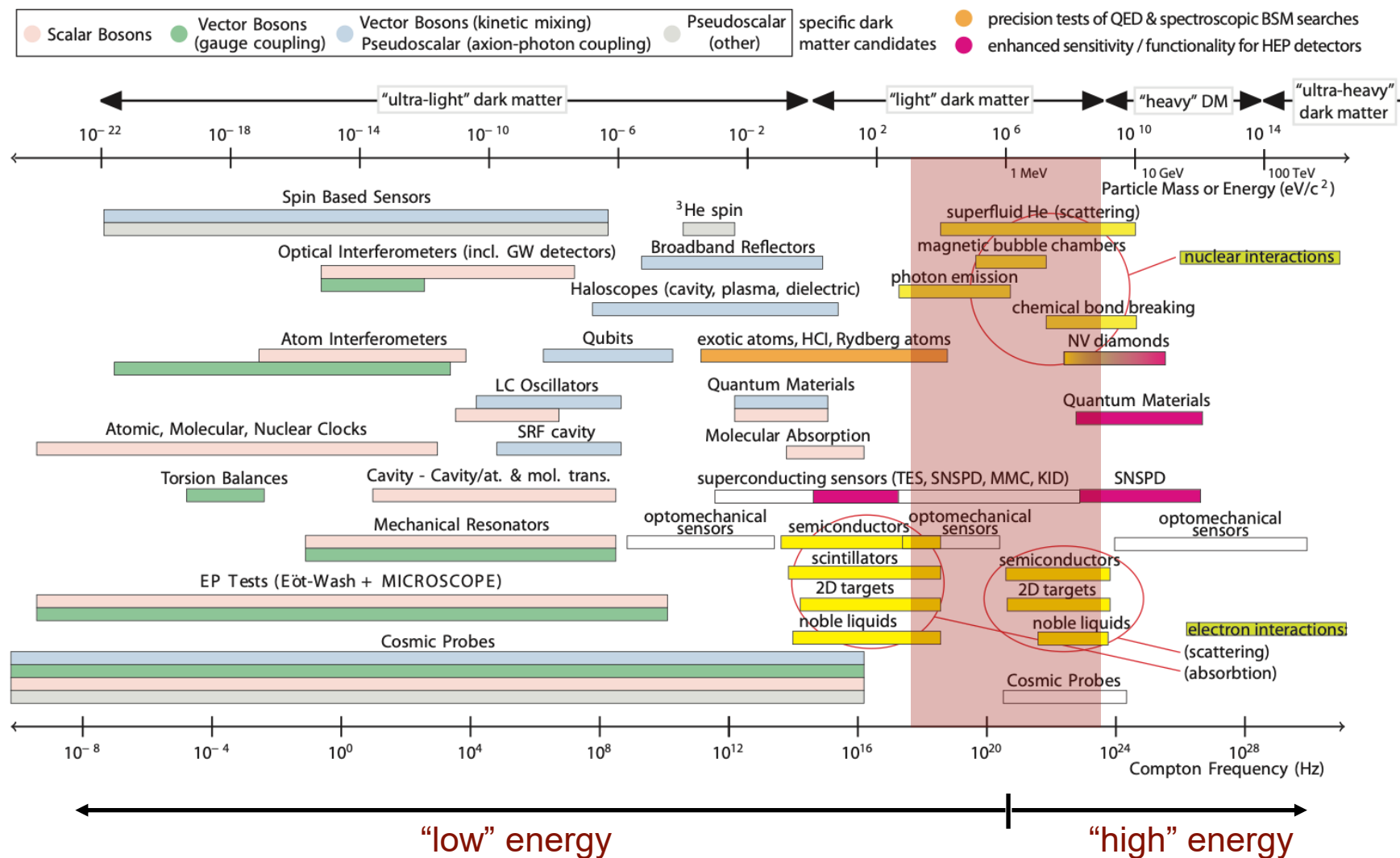
e.g. superfluids, superconductors

Daniel Baxter | IDM 2024

Essig et al, Snowmass CF1 WP2 (2022) [arXiv:2203.08297]

- What's the goal? MIP detection? or minute, sub-MIP energy deposits?
- Very low bandgap materials required to be sensitive to tiny energy deposits: milli-charged particles, nuclear recoil from very light DM, ...
- For much higher (or lower) particle masses (or better, very weak fields), other quantum sensing technologies are more appropriate: Rydberg atoms, Qubits

Ranges of applicability of different quantum sensor techniques to searches for BSM physics



quantum technologies

- ① superconducting devices (TES, SNSPD, ...) / cryo-electronics
- ② spin-based, NV-diamonds
- ③ optical clocks
- ④ ionic / atomic / molecular
- ⑤ optomechanical sensors
- ⑥ metamaterials, 0/1/2-D materials

domains of physics

search for NP / BSM

Axions, ALP's, DM & non-DM UL-particle searches

tests of QM wavefunction collapse, decoherence

EDM searches & tests of fundamental symmetries

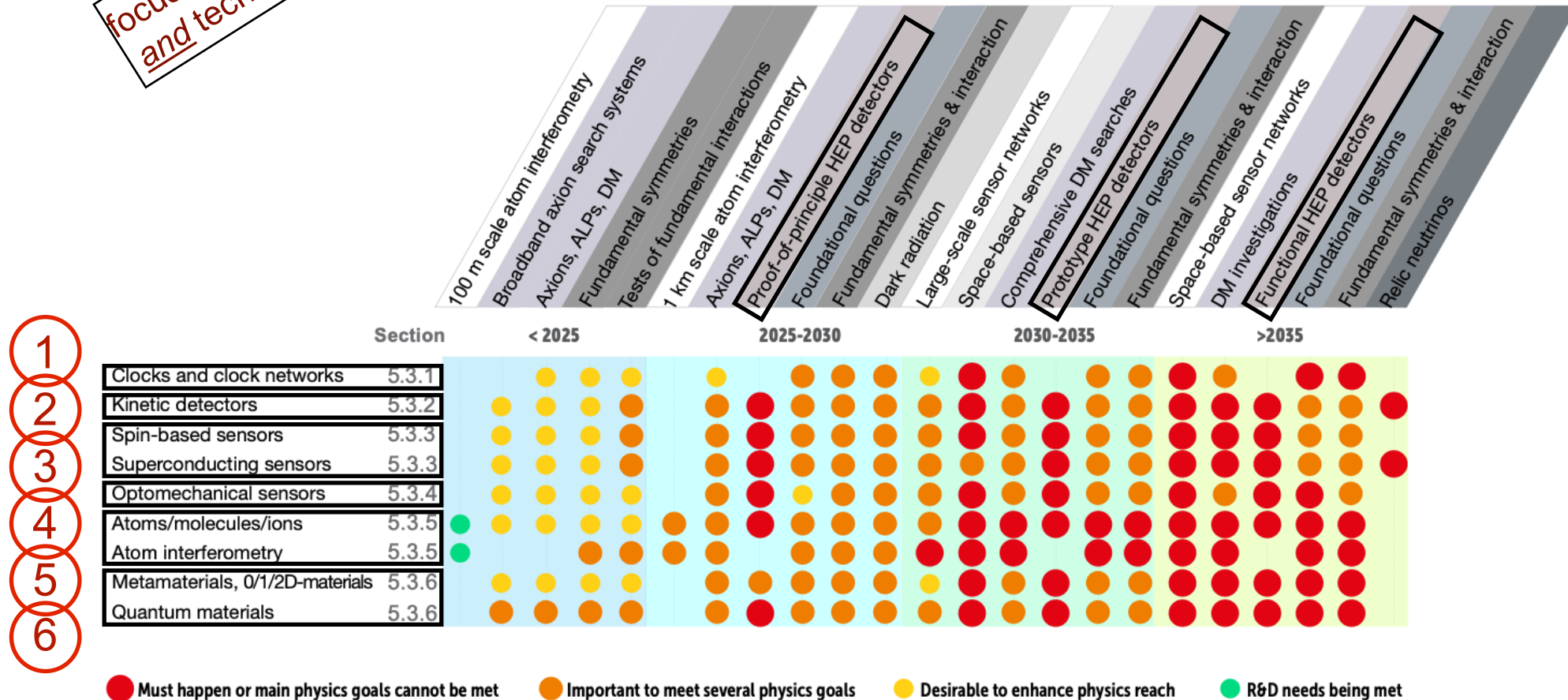
Development of new detectors

RECFA Detector R&D roadmap 2021

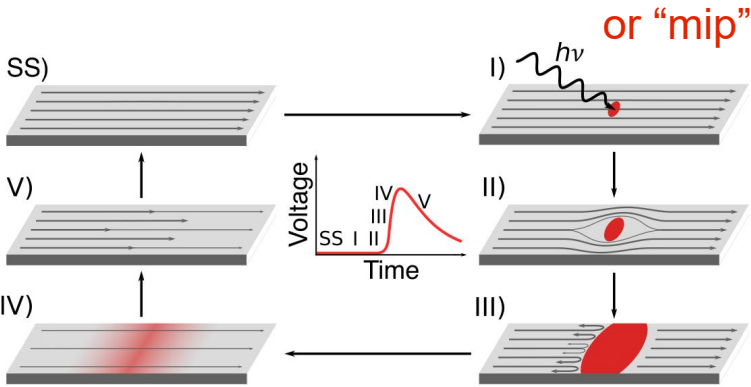
<https://cds.cern.ch/record/2784893>

focus on physics
and technology

Chapter 5: Quantum and Emerging Technologies Detectors



Extremely low energy threshold detectors: SNSPD



Parameter	SOA 2020	Goal by 2025
Efficiency	98% @ 1550nm	>80 % @10 μ m
Energy Threshold	0.125 eV (10 μ m)	12.5 meV (100 μ m)
Timing Jitter	2.7 ps	< 1ps
Active Area	1 mm ²	100 cm ²
Max Count Rate	1.2 Gcps	100 Gcps
Pixel Count	1 kilopixel	16 megapixel
Operating Temperature	4.3K	25 K

Snowmass2021 - Letter of Interest

Superconducting Nanowire Single-Photon Detectors

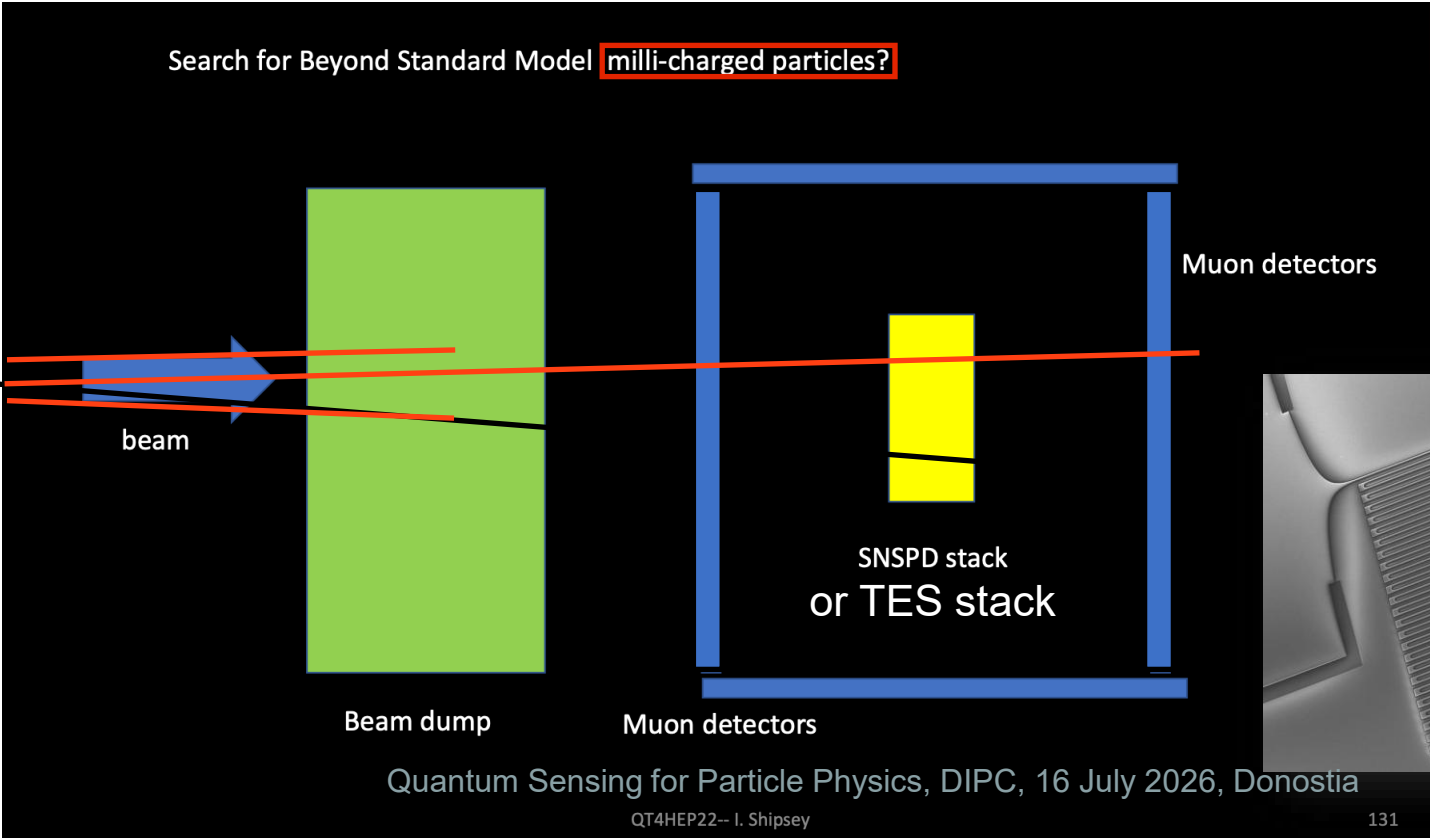
Moving to SC strips conventional lithography → scale up
Development towards SC SSPM

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QT4HEP22-- I. Shipsey

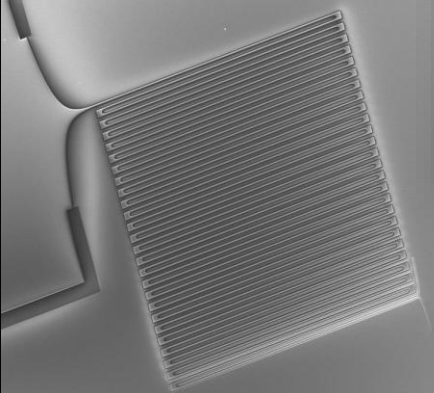
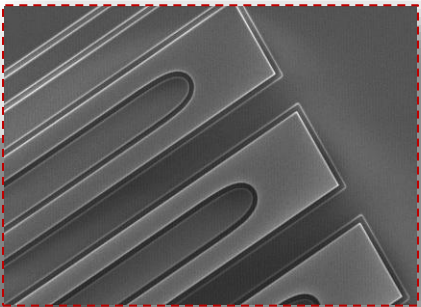
125



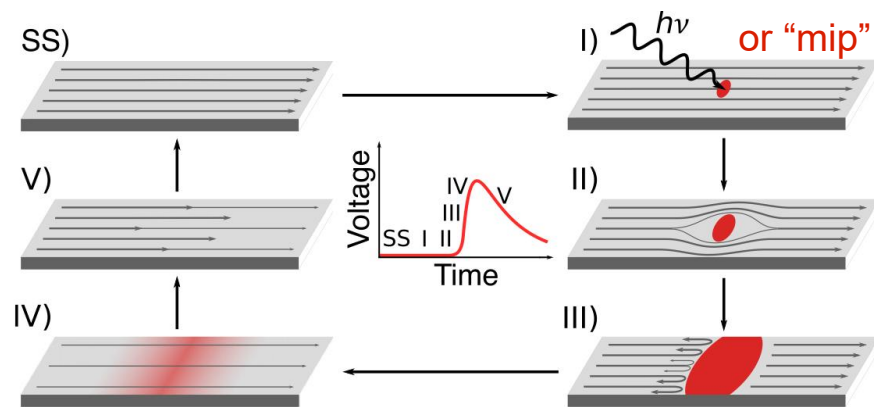
mip: ~20 keV/100 μ m

$\times 10^6$ sensitivity

Thick → slow (ns)



Extremely fast detectors: SNSPD



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Snowmass2021 - Letter of Interest

Superconducting Nanowire Single-Photon Detectors

Moving to SC strips conventional lithography → scale up
Development towards SC SSPM

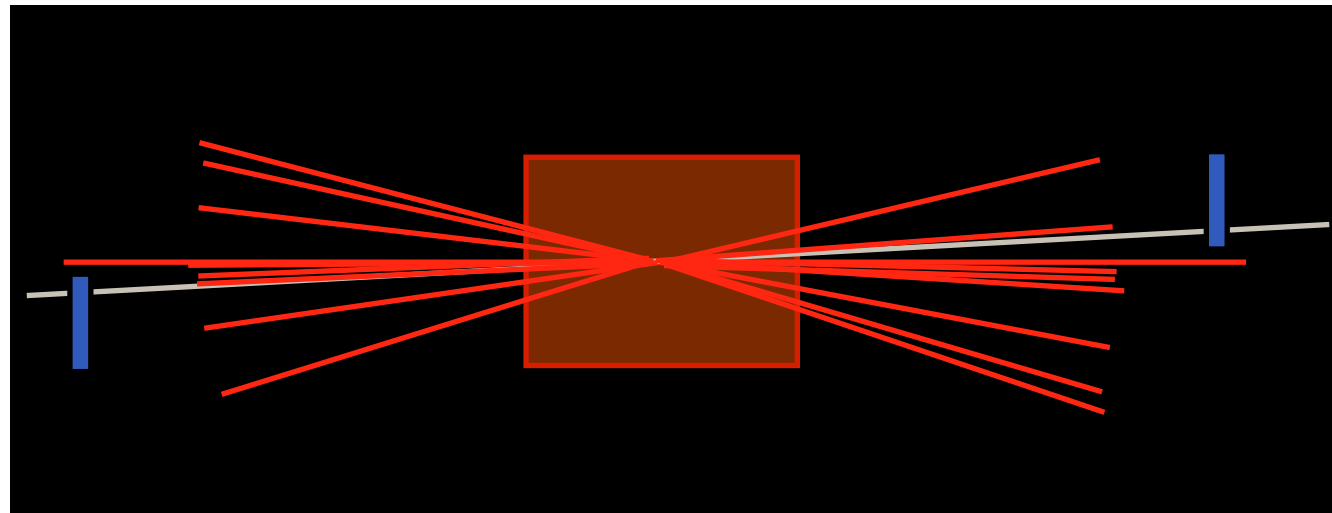
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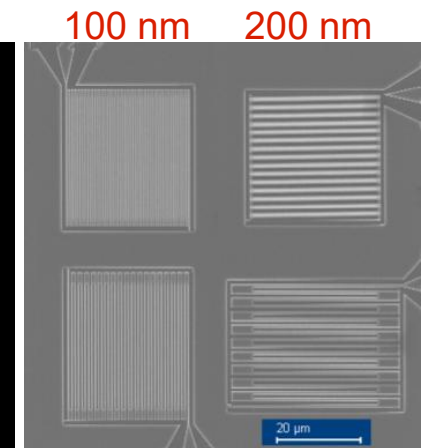
125

diffractive scattering via ps-resolution tracking in Roman pots



low energy particle physics: dark count rate is critical !
high energy particle physics: dark count rate is not a problem: high T_c is imaginable

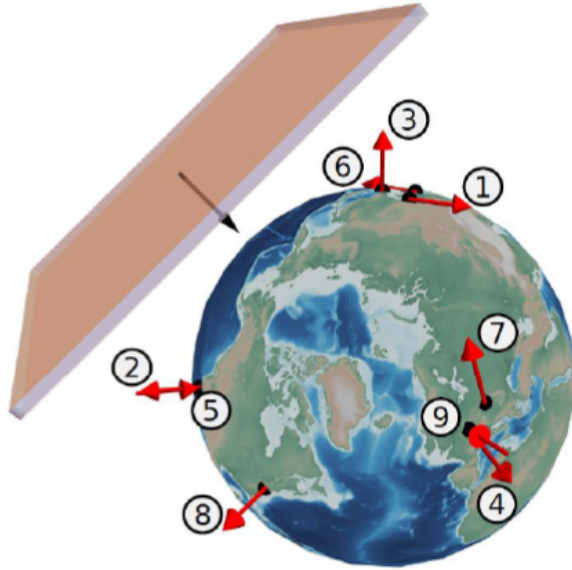
@ 2.8 K



S. Lee et al., (2024)
arXiv:2312.13405v2
SNSPD w/ p@120 GeV
for use e.g. at EIC

particle physics: what are we talking about?

search for NP / BSM

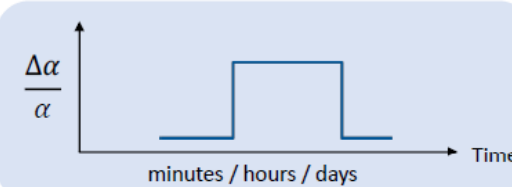


- Oscillations
- Fast transients
- Slow drifts

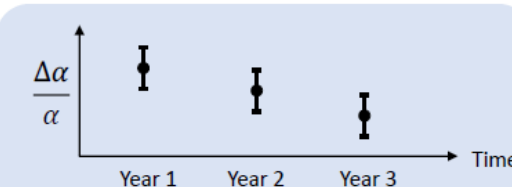
networks of sensors



Very light DM



DM- topological defects



New physics

magnetometers

Afach et al, arXiv:2102.13379v2

atomic clocks

nuclear, HCl, molecules

Wcislo et al, Sci.Adv. 4, 4869 (2018)

optical fiber networks

Roberts et al, New J. Phys. 22, 093010 (2020)

Investigate very light scalar and pseudo-scalar DM candidates over ~ 10 orders of magnitude in mass and different couplings

ECFA Detector R&D Roadmap Symposium of Task Force 5 Quantum and Emerging Technologies



<https://indico.cern.ch/event/999818/>

Giovanni Barontini (Birmingham)

Active scintillators (QWs, QDs, QWDs, QCLs)

M. Doser, CERN

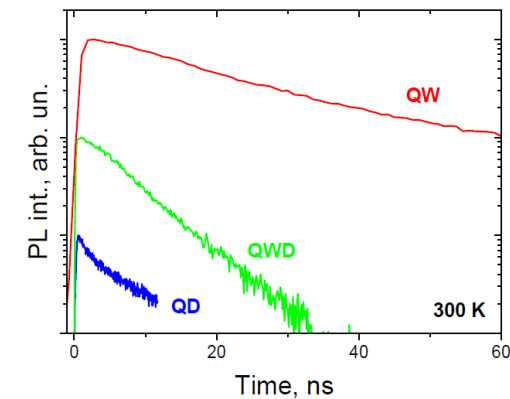
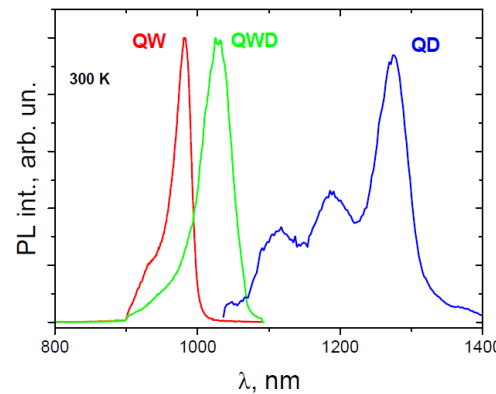
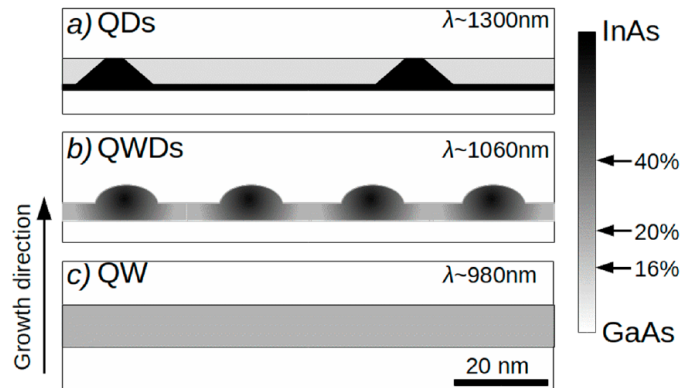
standard scintillating materials are **passive**

- can not be amplified
- can not be turned on/off
- can not be modified once they are in place

is it possible to produce **active** scintillating materials?

- electronically amplified / modulable
- pulsed / primed
- gain adapted in situ

existing QD's, QWD's are elements of optoelectronic devices, typically running at 10 GHz, quite insensitive to temperature



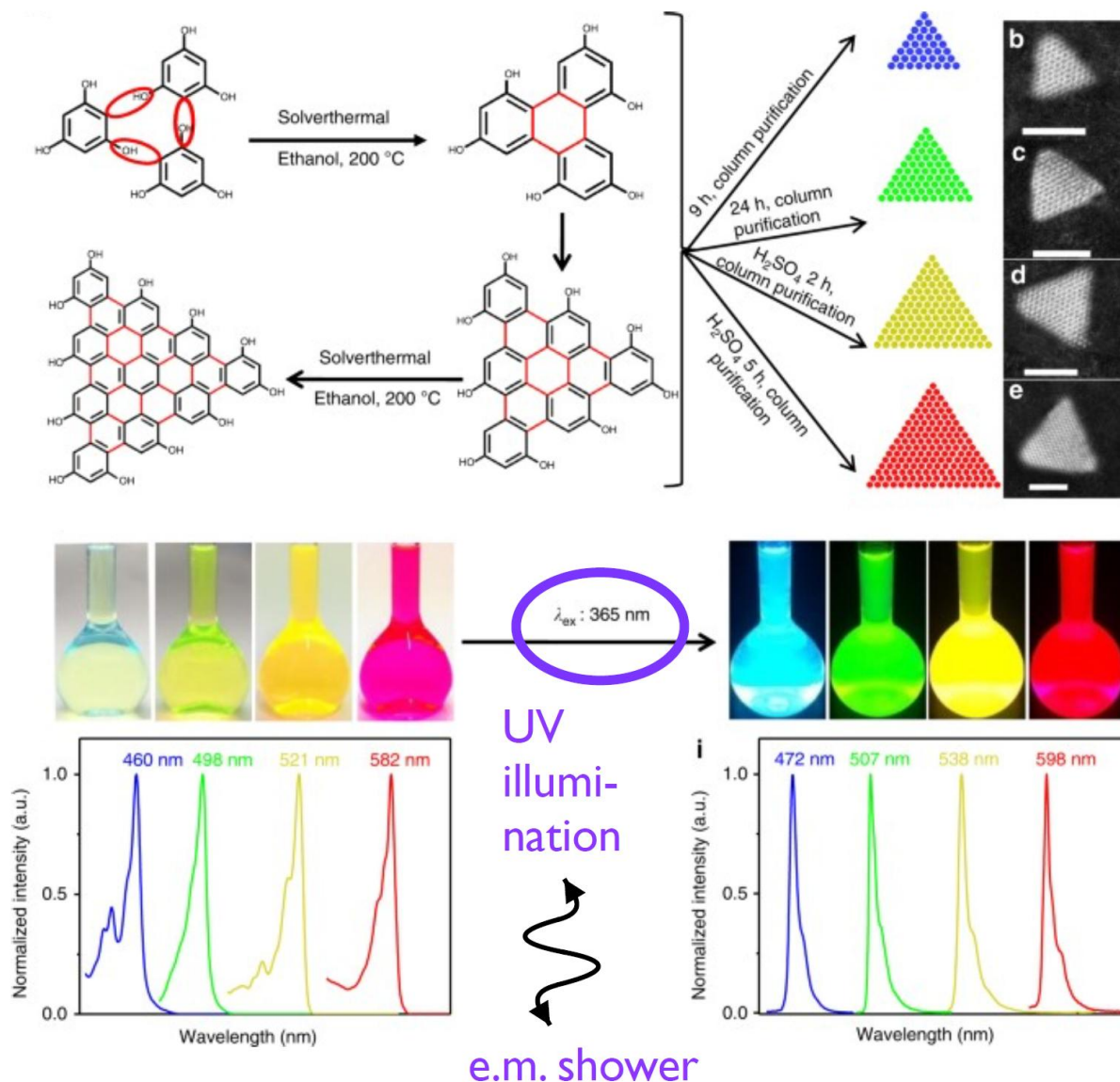
Light Emitting Devices Based on Quantum Well-Dots, Appl. Sci. 2020, 10, 1038; doi:10.3390/app10031038

QD's are radiation resistant

R. Leon et al., "Effects of proton irradiation on luminescence emission and carrier dynamics of self-assembled III-V quantum dots," in IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science, 49, 6, 2844-2851 (2002), doi: 10.1109/TNS.2002.806018.

Quantum dots: chromatic calorimetry

M. Doser, CERN



idea: seed different parts of a "crystal" with nanodots emitting at different wavelengths, such that the wavelength of a stimulated fluorescence photon is uniquely assignable to a specific nanodot position

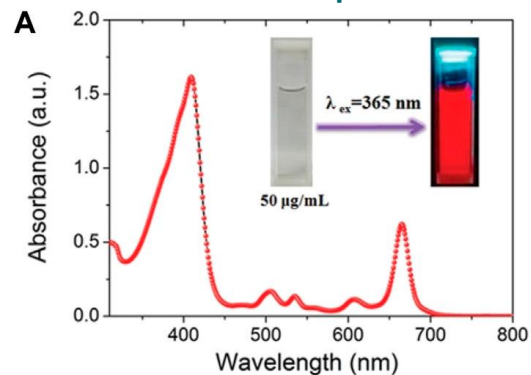
requires:

- narrowband emission (~20nm)
- only absorption at longer wavelengths
- short rise / decay times

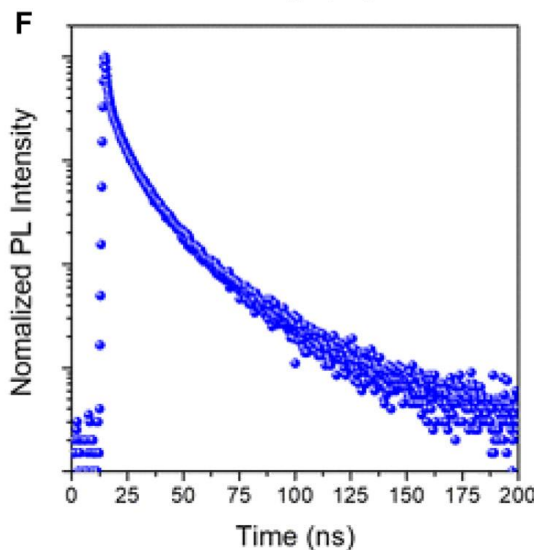
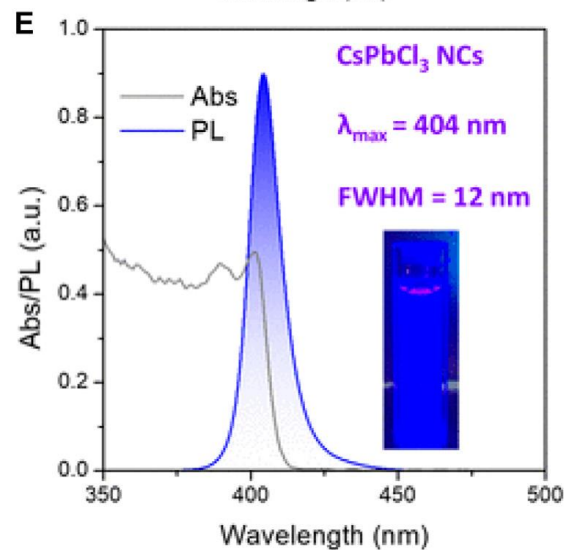
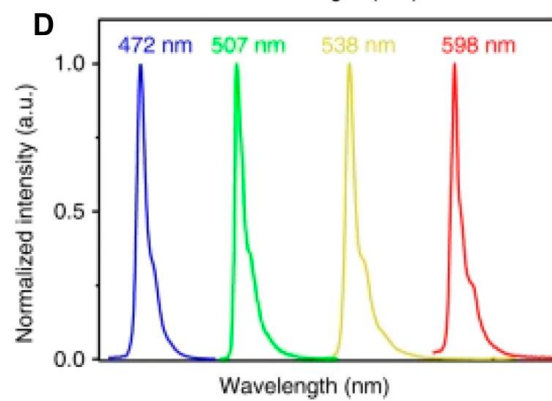
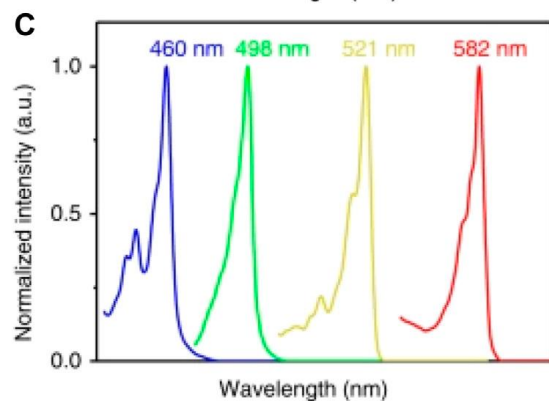
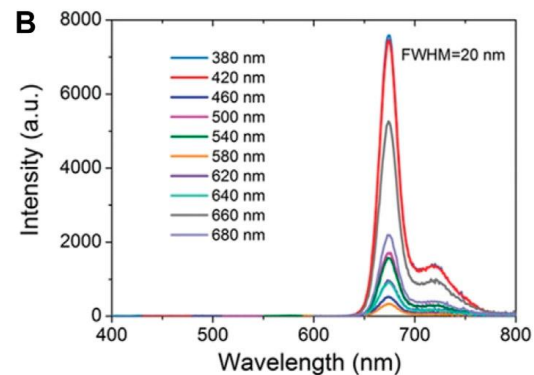
select appropriate nanodots

e.g. triangular carbon nanodots

Absorption



Emission



M. Doser, CERN

carbonized polymer dots

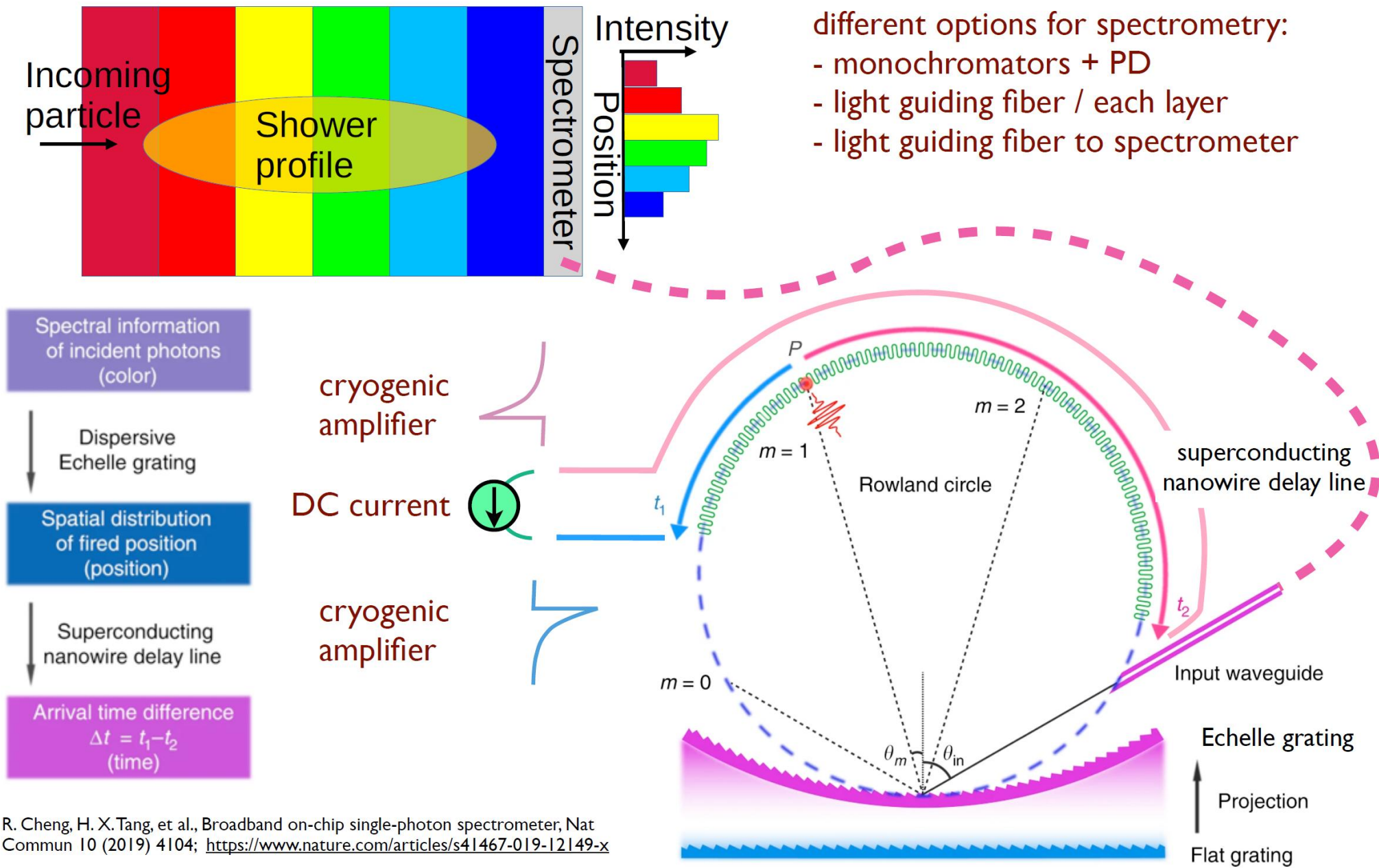
J. Liu, B. Yang, et al., Advanced Materials
32 (2020) 1906641

triangular carbon nanodots

F. Yuan, S. Yang, et al., Nature
Communications 9 (2018) 2249

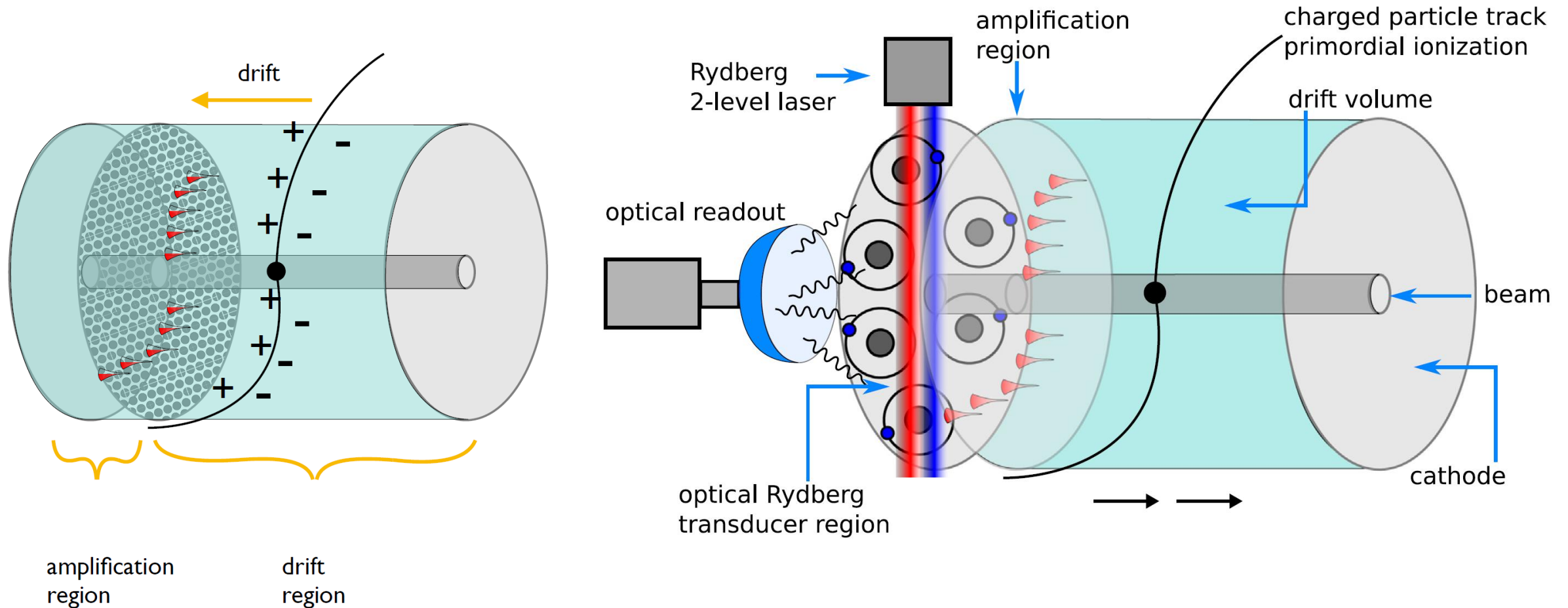
CsPbCl₃ nanocrystals

C. Zhang, L. Li, Y. Qi, et al., ACS Energy Lett.
6 (2021) 3545–3554.



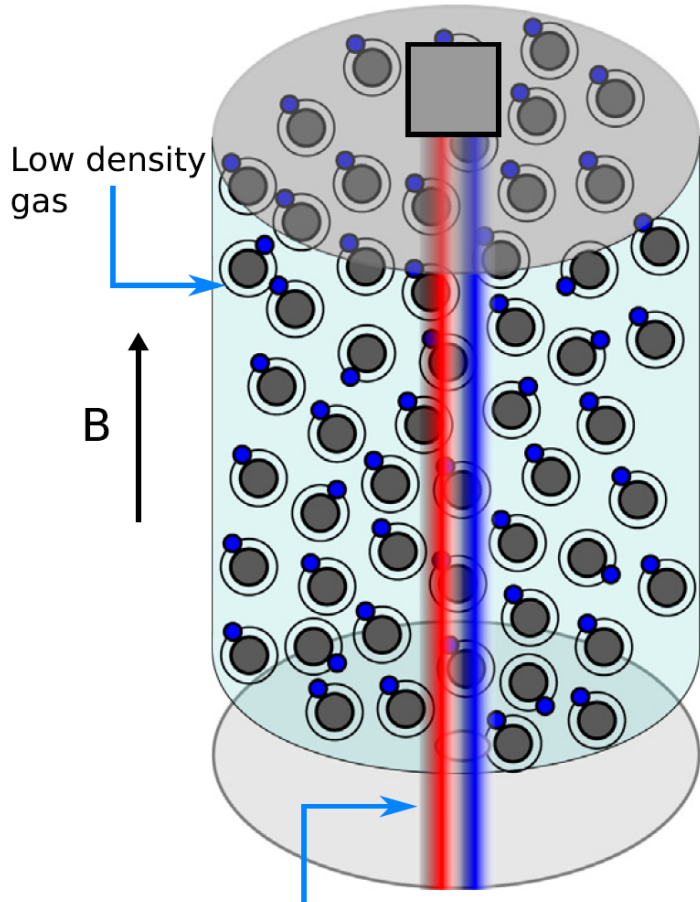
R. Cheng, H. X. Tang, et al., Broadband on-chip single-photon spectrometer, Nat Commun 10 (2019) 4104; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-12149-x>

Rydberg-enhanced Time projection Chambers

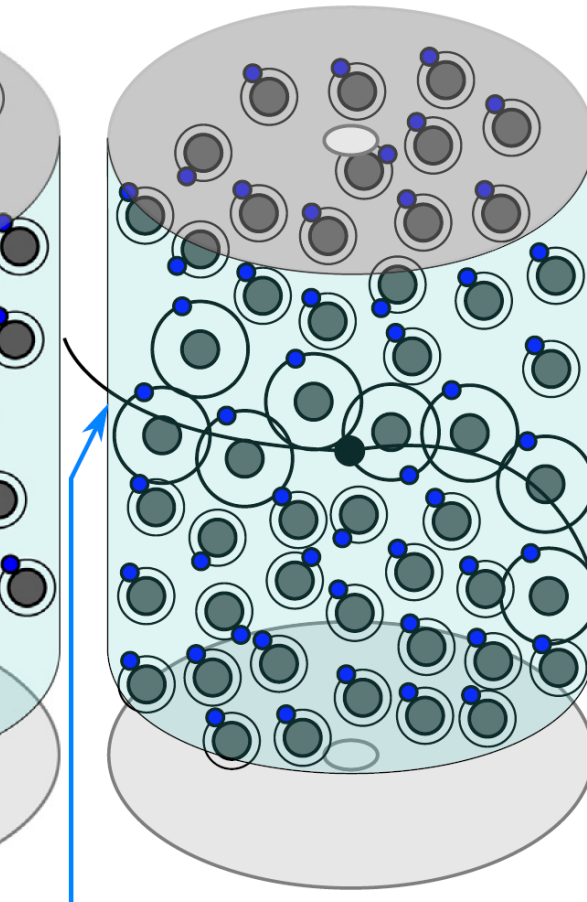


Rydberg Time projection Chamber

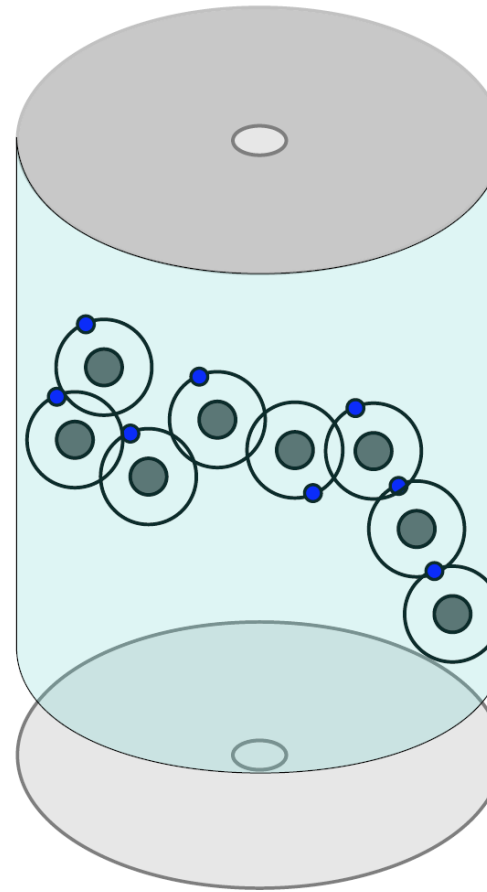
Preparation of the low-n
Rydberg states



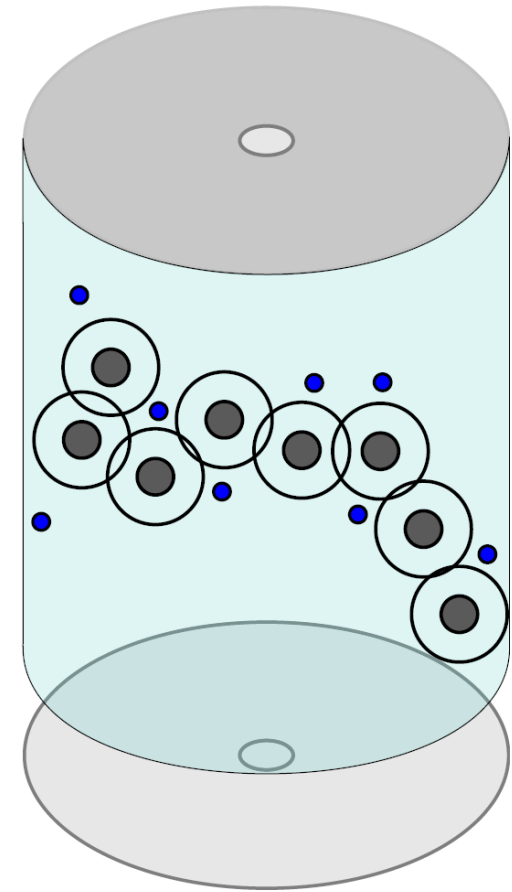
Ionization to high-n
Rydberg state by
charged particles



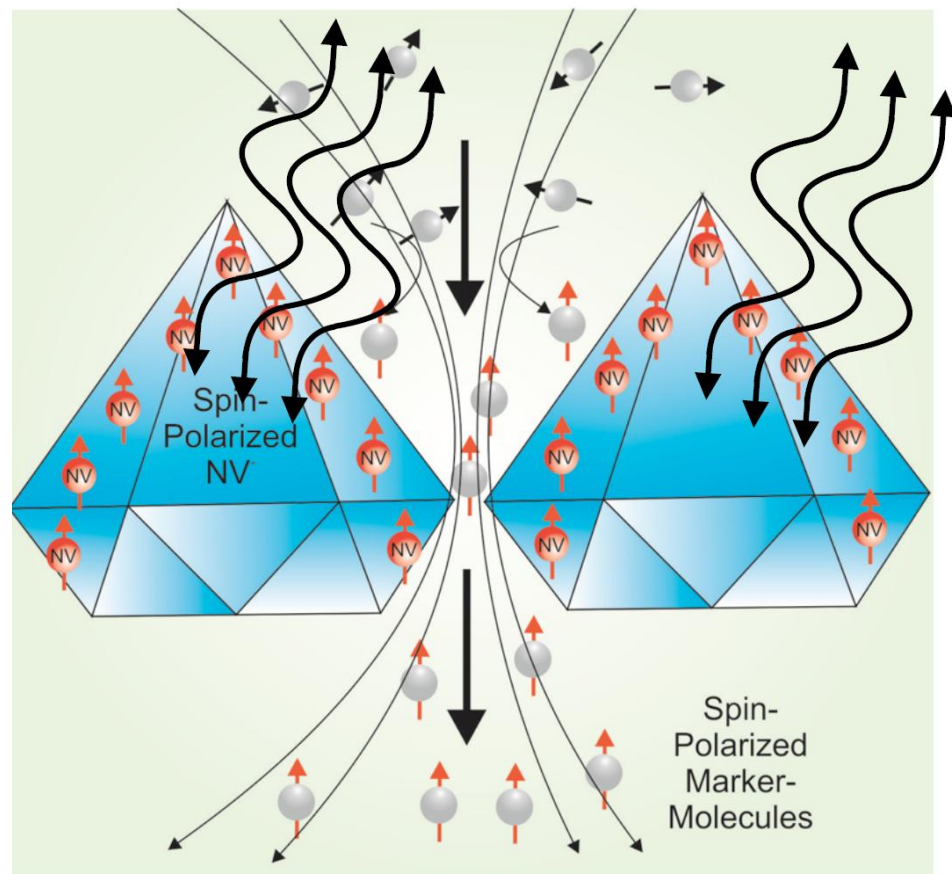
Fast decay of low-n
Rydberg states



Laser spectroscopy
or induced detachment
of long lived states



Helicity trackers



© Dr. Christoph Nebel, Fraunhofer IAF

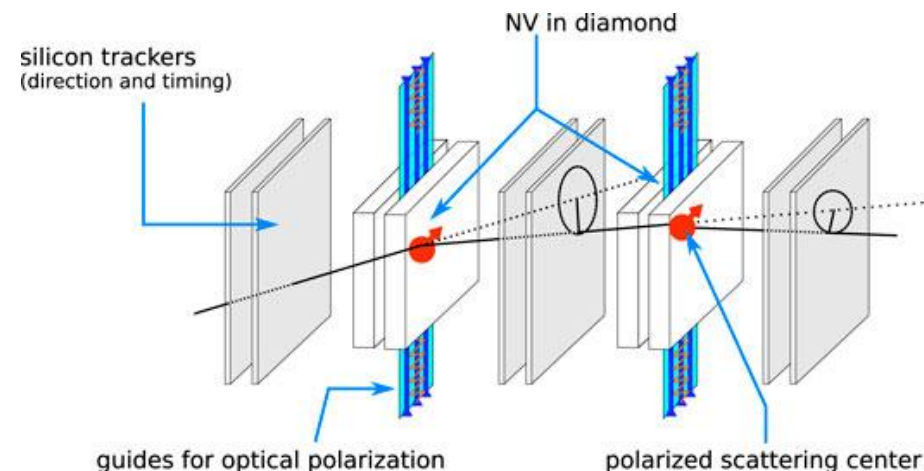
https://www.metaboliqs.eu/en/news-events/MetaboliQs_PM_first_year.html

Diamond plates of up to $8 \times 8 \text{ mm}^2$ in size, fabricated by Element Six

Kurita T, et al., Appl Phys Lett (2021) 118(21):214001.

spin-spin scattering for helicity determination:
usually with polarized beams and/or polarized
targets introduce polarized scattering planes to
extract track-by-track particle helicity

- Polarization modify the helicity-dependent scattering direction probability of a charged particle crossing the polar tracker.
- The probability of scattering in a polarized atom is directly proportional to defect abundance in the diamond
- The density of defects is one of the parameters that is actively being optimized. Current state-of-the art: $10^{16-18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (laser-created defects) with hyperpolarization 2 orders of magnitude gain



Local and bulk ^{13}C hyperpolarization in nitrogen-vacancy centred diamonds at variable fields and orientations, G. Alvarez et al., *Nature Communications* **6**, 8456 (2015)

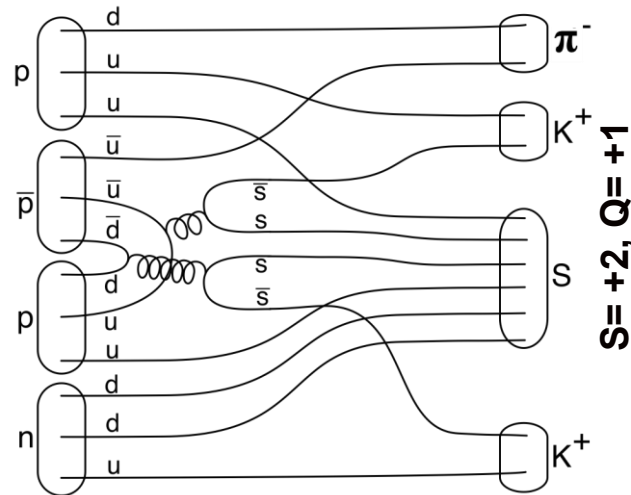
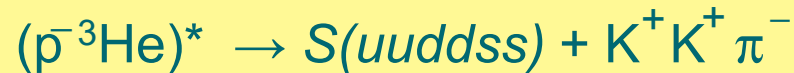
DM formation within Penning traps; starting from trapped $\bar{p}$ and trapped ${}^3\text{He}^+$

G. Farrar, G. Kornakov, M. Doser, EPJC 83, 1149 (2023)

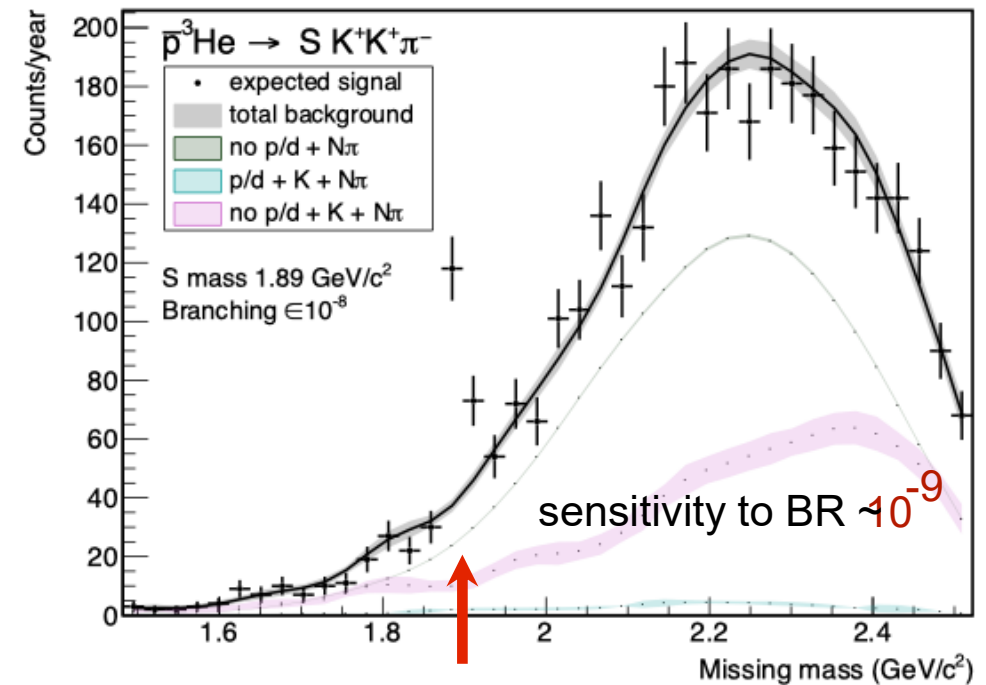
state sexaquark: $(u\uparrow u\downarrow d\uparrow d\downarrow s\uparrow s\downarrow)$ scalar QCD bound
 ($m \sim 2m_n, < 2m_\Lambda$) Glennys Farrar, arxiv:1808.08951v2 (2017)

- not excluded by prior searches
- compatible with astrophysical bounds
- standard model compatible

formation reaction:



Tracking detector with good particle ID



DRD5: WP's and structure

- WP1

Exotic systems in traps & beams (HCI's, molecules, Rydberg systems, clocks, interferometry, ...)
- WP2

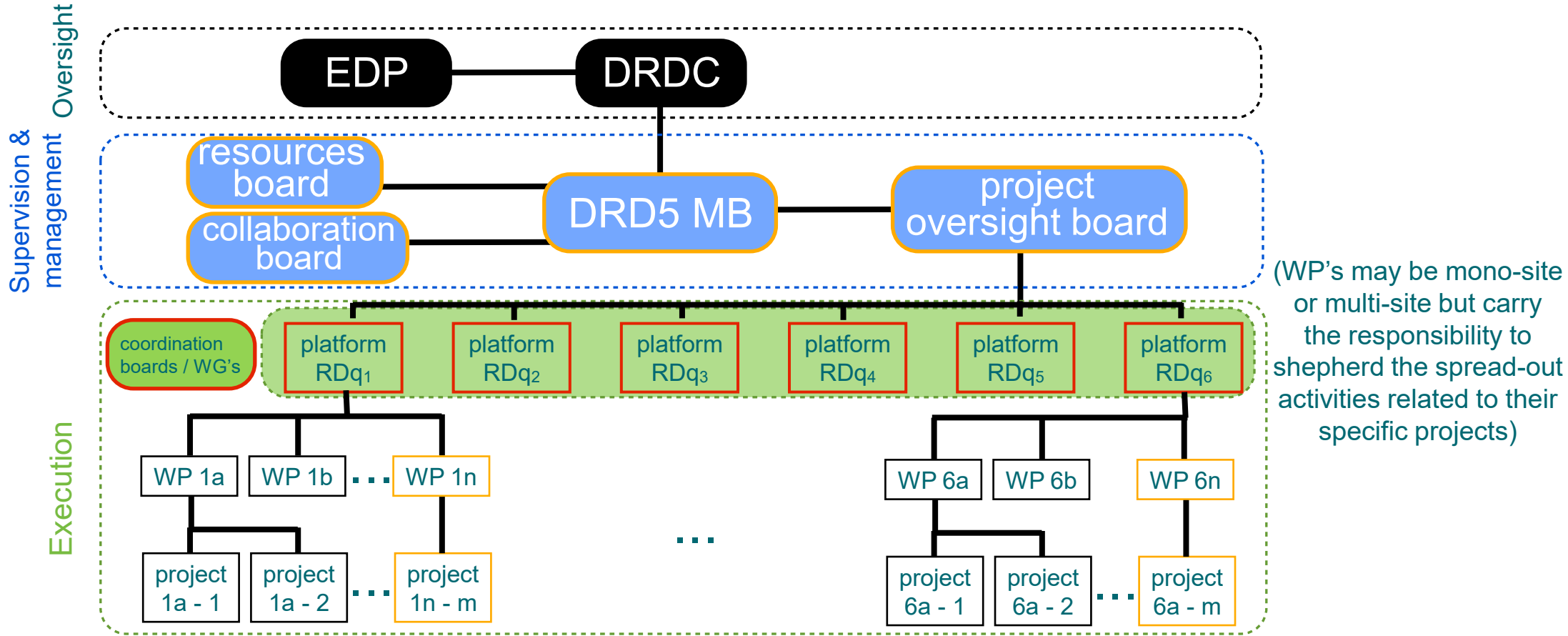
Quantum materials (0-, 1-, 2-D) (Engineering at the atomic scale)
- WP3

Quantum superconducting systems (4K electronics; MMC's, TES, SNSPD, KID's/...; integration challenges)
- WP4

Scaling up to macroscopic ensembles (spins; nano-structured materials; hybrid devices, opto-mechanical sensors,...)
- WP5

Quantum techniques for sensing (back action evasion, squeezing, entanglement, Heisenberg limit)
- WP6

Capability expansion (cross-disciplinary exchanges; infrastructures; education)



Quantum technology needs dedicated R&D to achieve its expected potential: DRD5

(some) HEP applications

WP-2

- Quantum dots (**HEP calorimetry**)
- Superconducting devices (**HEP, astroparticle**)

WP-3

- Nano- and Microwires
- TES, MMC (cryo-spectrometry)

WP-1

- Atomic & nuclear physics (**exotic atoms, neutrino physics**, clocks)

WP-4

- Spin-based sensors

DRD5 : putting together a global collaboration ab initio

What is DRD5 built to do?

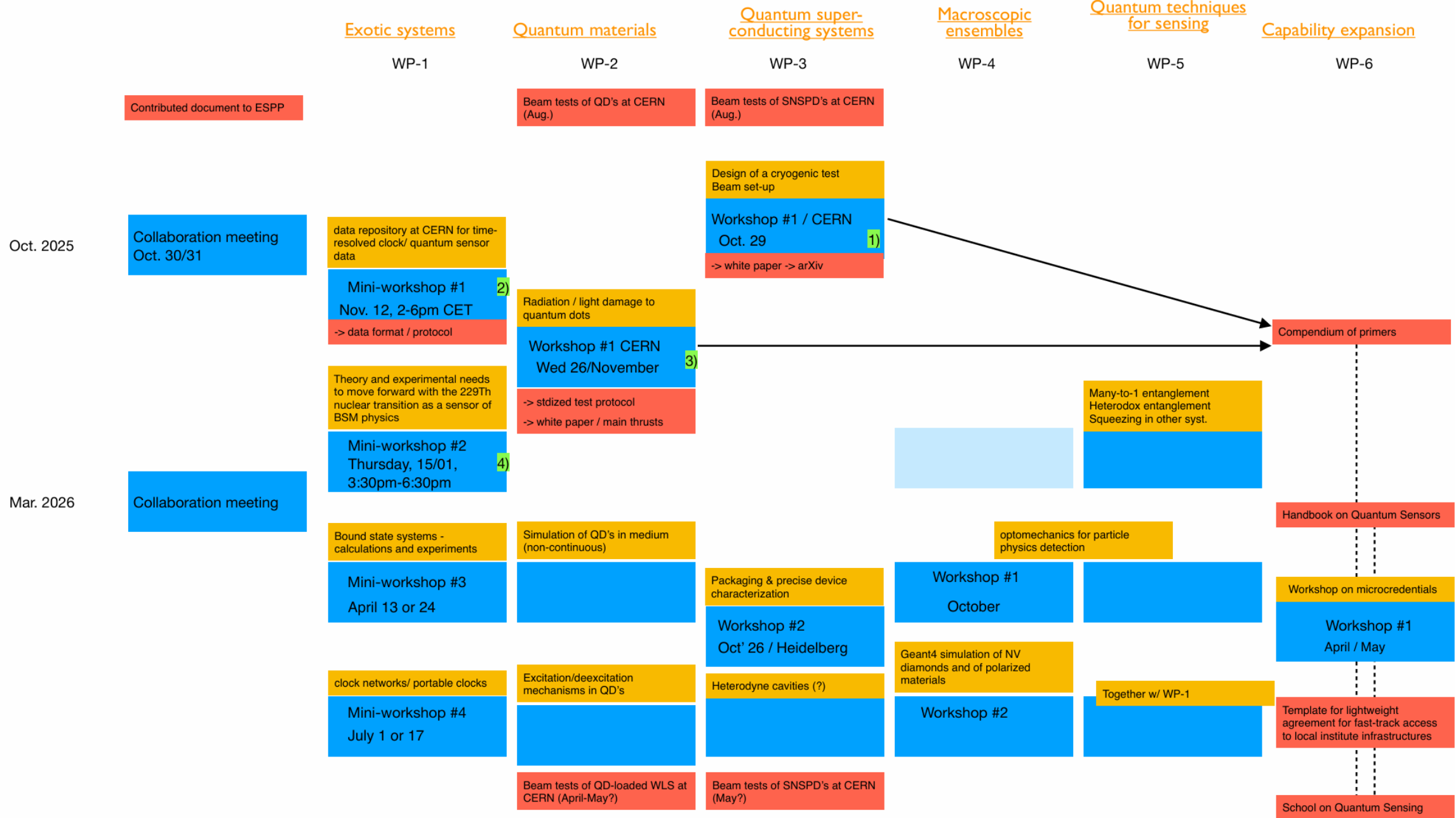
- focus on addressing topics that go beyond what individual institutes can do
- pool expertise, resources, create exchanges, educate
- create a global multi quantum-technology community focusing on quantum systems based detector R&D under the umbrella of DRD5

Common R&D building on the extremely rapidly growing areas of quantum technologies

- Workshops
- Detector test facilities
- Education
- Agreements & standards
- ...

What has happened since the DRD5 was formed and approved in mid-2024?

- **concrete proposals for HEP-relevant uses of quantum sensors** are appearing
- **first beam tests** with quantum dots and nano/microwires
- formation of a global multi quantum-technology community focusing on detector R&D under the umbrella of DRD5
- infrastructure needs have been identified and are starting to be addressed (**cryogenic beam test facilities, quantum dot characterization infrastructure, ...**)



In parallel: development of devices, characterizations with sources or in beam, simulations, theory developments

DRD5 coordinates such activities, proposes directions, enables exchanges, fosters collaboration, supports initiatives and interdisciplinarity

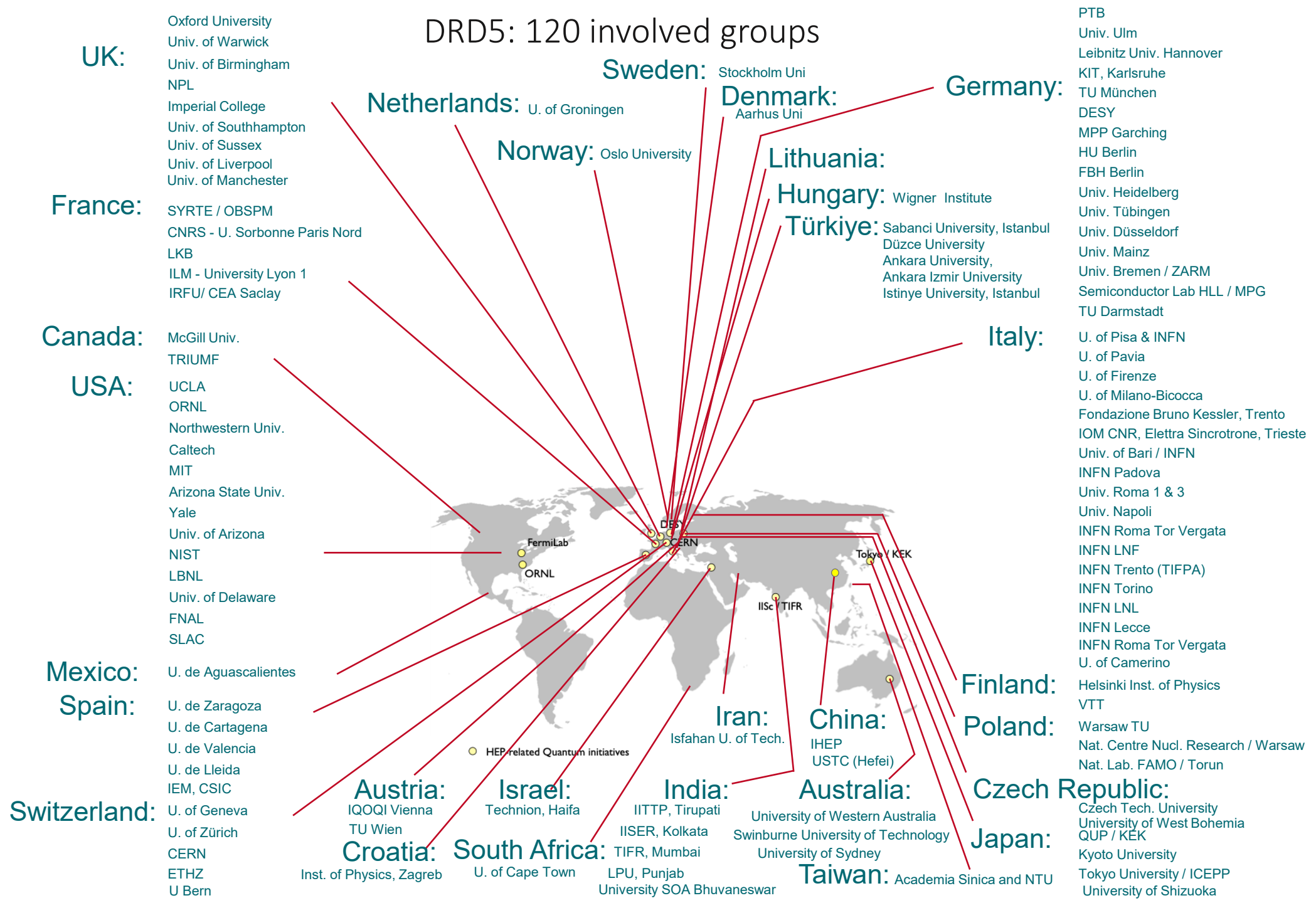
Quantum Sensing for Particle Physics, DIPC, 16 July 2026, Donostia

HEP function Work package	Tracking	Calorimetry	Timing	PID	Helicity
WP 1 (Quantum systems in traps and beam)	Rydberg TPC	BEC WIMP scattering (recoil)	O(fs) reference clock for time-sensitive synchronization (photon TOF)	Rydberg dE/dx amplifiers	
WP2 (Quantum materials: 0-, 1- and 2-D)	"DotPix", improved GEM's; chromatic tracking (sub-pixel); active scintillators	Chromatic calorimetry	Suspended / embedded quantum dot scintillators	Photonic dE/dx through suspended quantum dots in TPC	
WP 3 (Superconducting quantum devices)	O(ps) SNSPD trackers for diffractive scattering (luminosity)	FIR, UV & x-ray calorimetry	O(ps) high Tc SNSPD	Milli- & microcharged particle trackers in beam dumps	
WP 4 (scaled-up bulk systems for mip's)	Multi-mode trackers (electrons, photons)	Multi-mode calorimeters (electrons, photons, phonons)	Wavefront detection (e.g. O(ps) embedded devices)		Helicity detector via ultra-thin NV optically polarized scattering / tracking stack
WP 5 (Quantum techniques)				Many-to-one entanglement detection of interaction	
WP 6 (capacity building)	Technical expertise of future workforce (detector construction); broadened career prospects and thus enhanced attractiveness; cross-departmental networking and collaboration; broadened user base for infrastructure (beam tests, dilution refrigerators, processing technologies)				

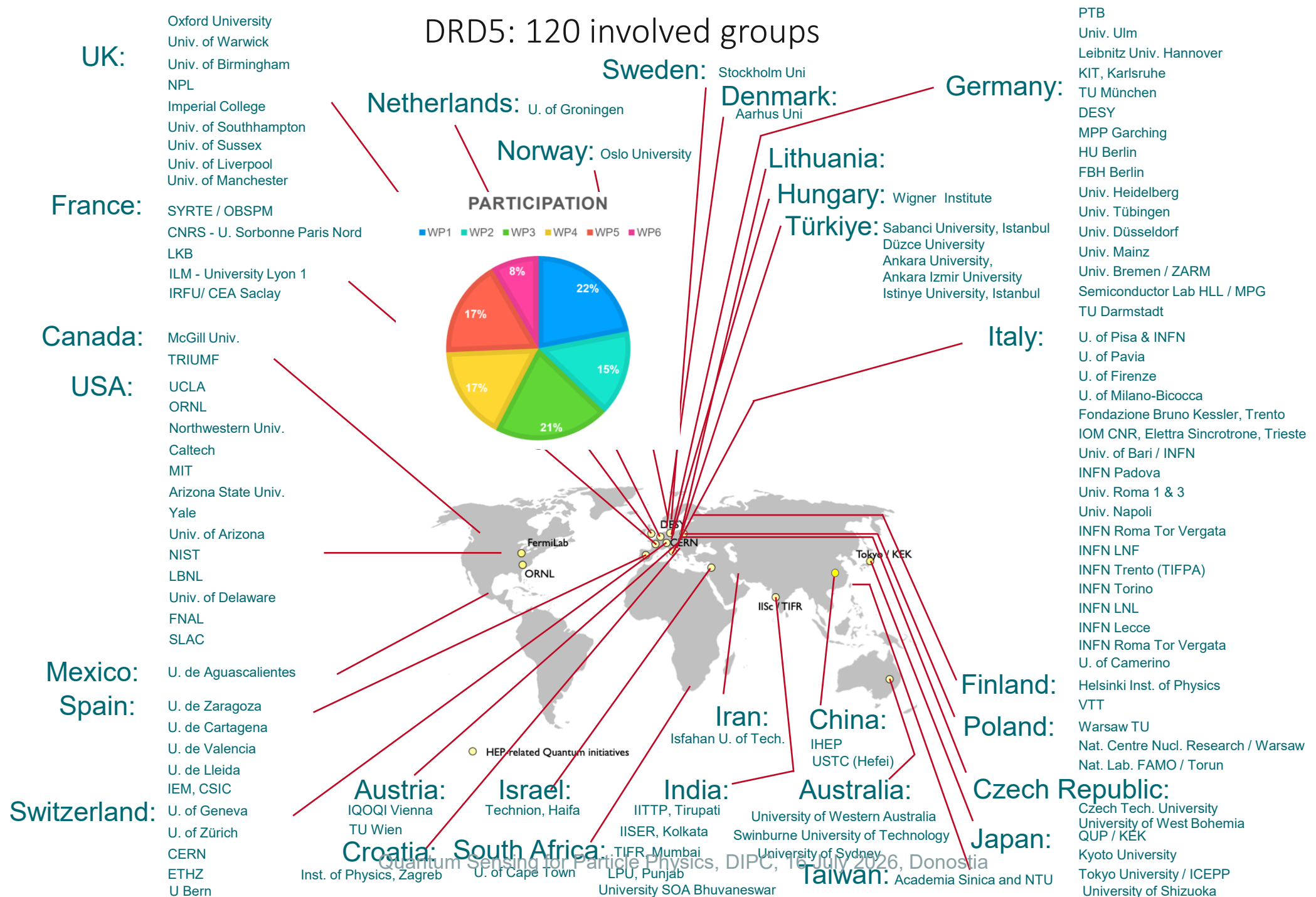
HEP function		Tracking	Calorimetry	Timing	PID	Helicity
Work package						
DRD5 WP	WP 1 (Quantum systems in traps and beam)	TPC	BEC W	workshop?	but mainly atom interferometry!	
	WP2 (Quantum materials: 0-, 1- and 2-D)	sub- μ m tracker	segmented calorimeter	Suspended / embedded quantum dot scintillators	TPC	
	WP 3 (Superconducting quantum devices)	Luminosity monitor	FIR, UV & x-ray calorimetry	Define R&D programme		
	WP 4 (scaled-up bulk systems for mip's)	Multi-mode tr (electrons, ph	Cryogenic test beam facility under design	workshop		TPC?
	WP 5 (Quantum techniques)				Many-to-one entanglement detection of interaction	
	WP 6 (capacity building)	Technical expertise of future workforce (detector construction); broadened career prospects and thus enhanced attractiveness; cross-departmental networking and collaboration; broadened user base for infrastructure (beam tests, dilution refrigerators, processing technologies)				

Identify at least one potential HEP-relevant project per WP

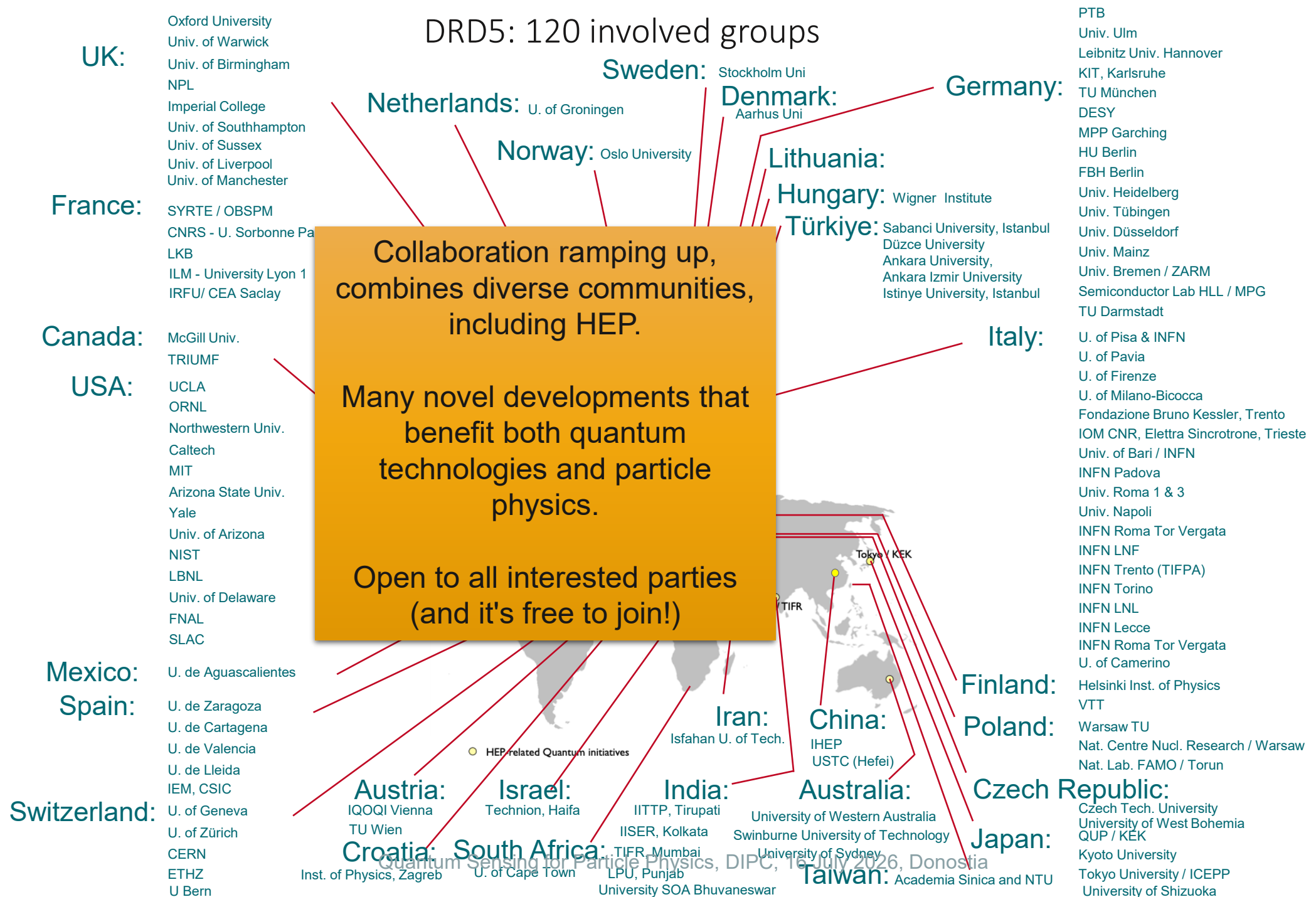
DRD5: 120 involved groups



DRD5: 120 involved groups

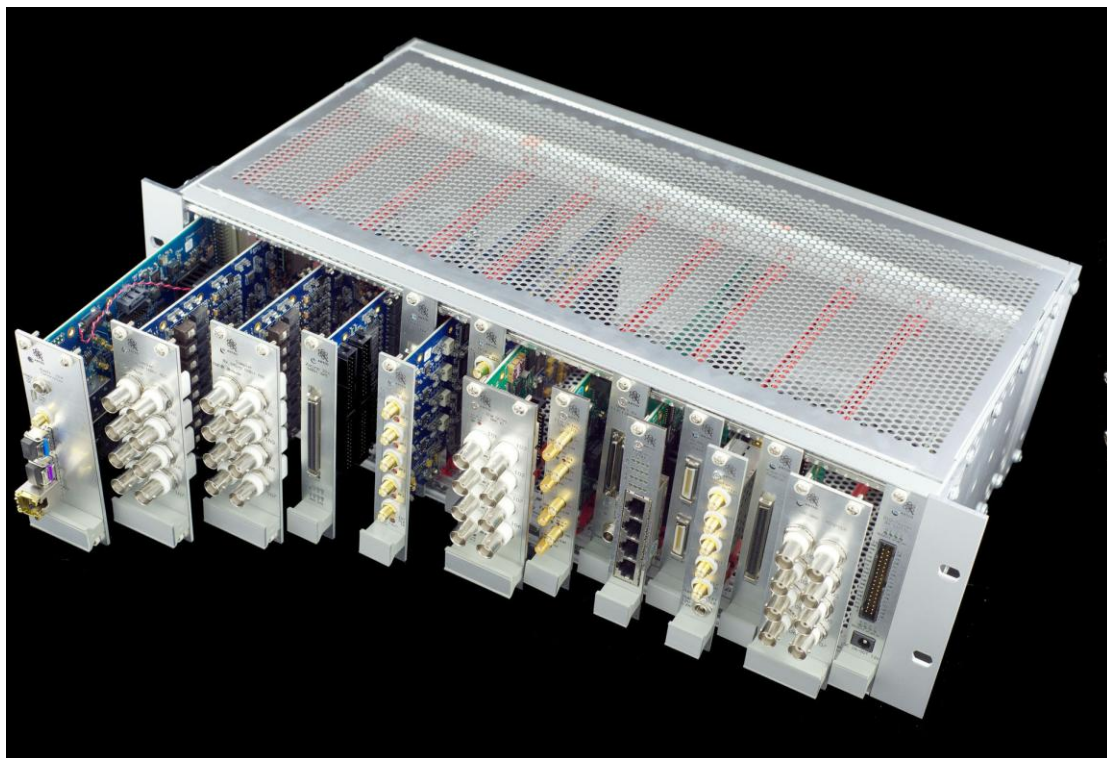


DRD5: 120 involved groups



Open software and Open hardware for Quantum (and beyond!)

<https://github.com/sinara-hw/meta/wiki> and <https://m-labs.hk/artiq/>

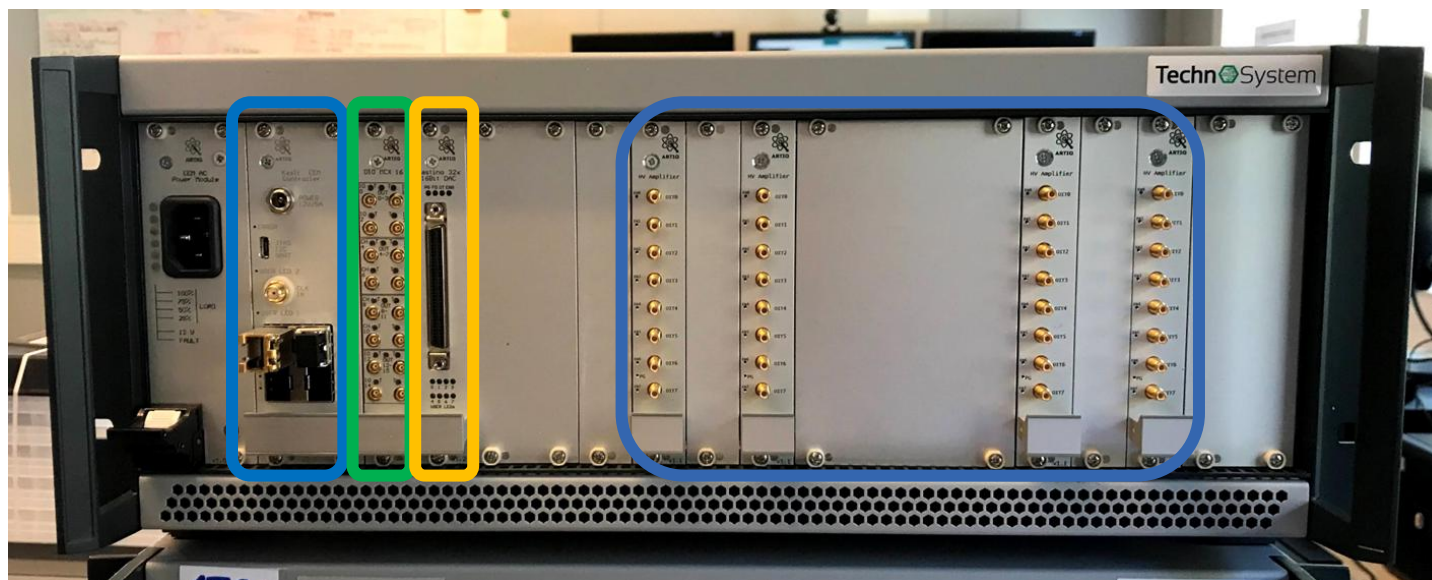


Sinara, an **open-source hardware ecosystem**,

- Designed for quantum experiments
- CERN Open Hardware License,
- over 50 modules (commercially available).
- Integration with the Advanced Real-Time Infrastructure for Quantum physics (ARTIQ) control system.
 - 1 ns timing resolution.
 - management of experiment scheduling,
 - versioning,
 - results storage,
 - and hardware management.

• Kasli controller

- Artix-7 FPGA
- PSU connector
- JTAG port
- External clock input (SMA)
- 4 SFP ports (DRTIO receiver/distributor, allowing for master/satellite use)
- Can control up to 12 extension modules



• DIO units

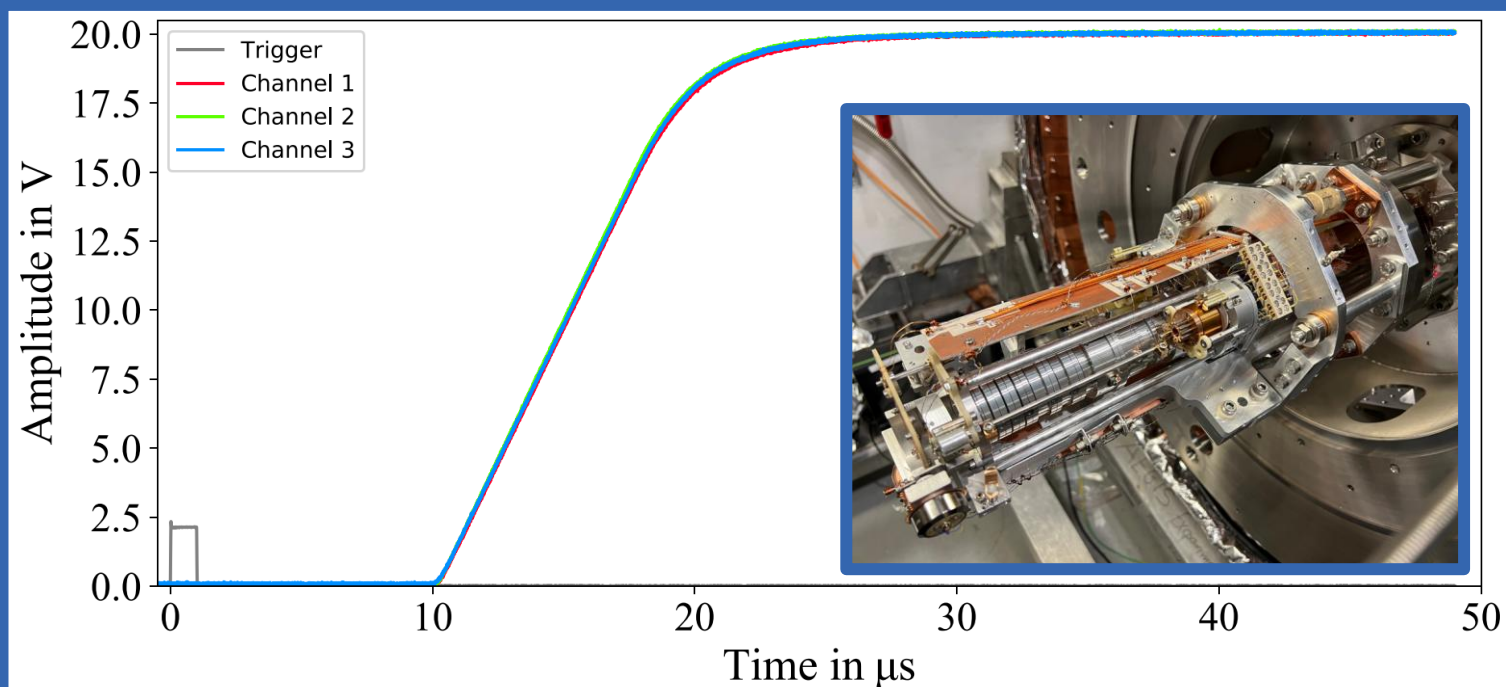
- Individual in/out configuration
- 16 channels (MCX)

• Fastino DAC

- 16-bit resolution
- Maximum voltage: ± 10 V
- 32 channels

• Amplifiers

- 20-fold amplification (± 10 V to ± 200 V)
- Custom design
- Individual OptoMOS isolation
- 8 channels per board (SMC)



**Synchronous application of a voltage on 3 electrodes
using **Fastino** + 3 amplifier channels
10 μs after an incoming trigger pulse**



• Amplifiers

- 20-fold amplification (± 10 V to ± 200 V)
- Custom design
- Individual OptoMOS isolation
- 8 channels per board (SMC)

solution

in voltage: ± 10 V

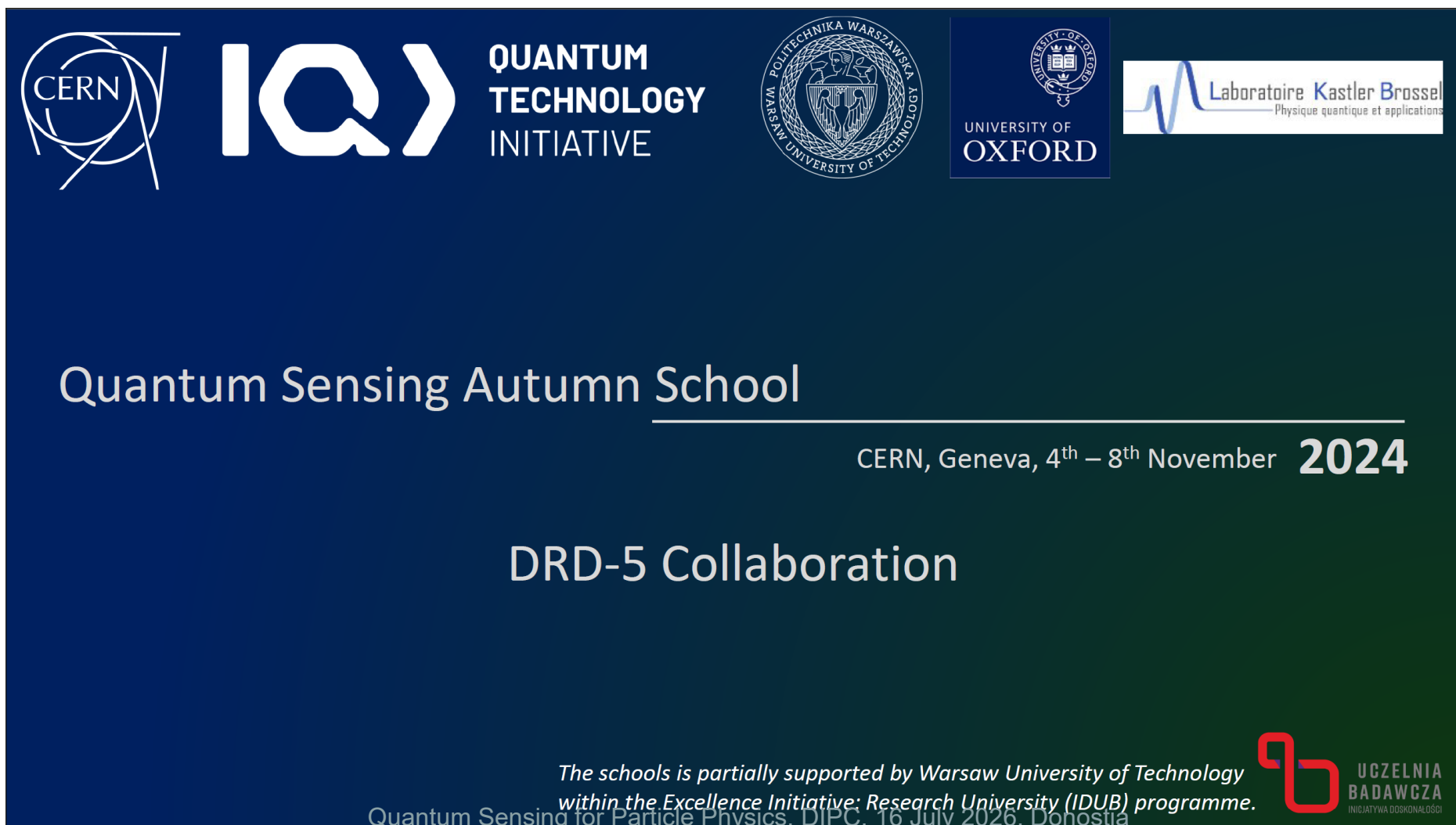
nels



Thank you!

Pilot school organized by:

Michael Doser (CERN), Stafford Withington (Oxford), Nancy Paul (LKB), and Georgy Kornakov (WUT)



  **QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE**   

Quantum Sensing Autumn School

CERN, Geneva, 4th – 8th November **2024**

DRD-5 Collaboration

The schools is partially supported by Warsaw University of Technology within the Excellence Initiative: Research University (IDUB) programme. 

Quantum Sensing for Particle Physics, DIPC, 16 July 2026, Donostia

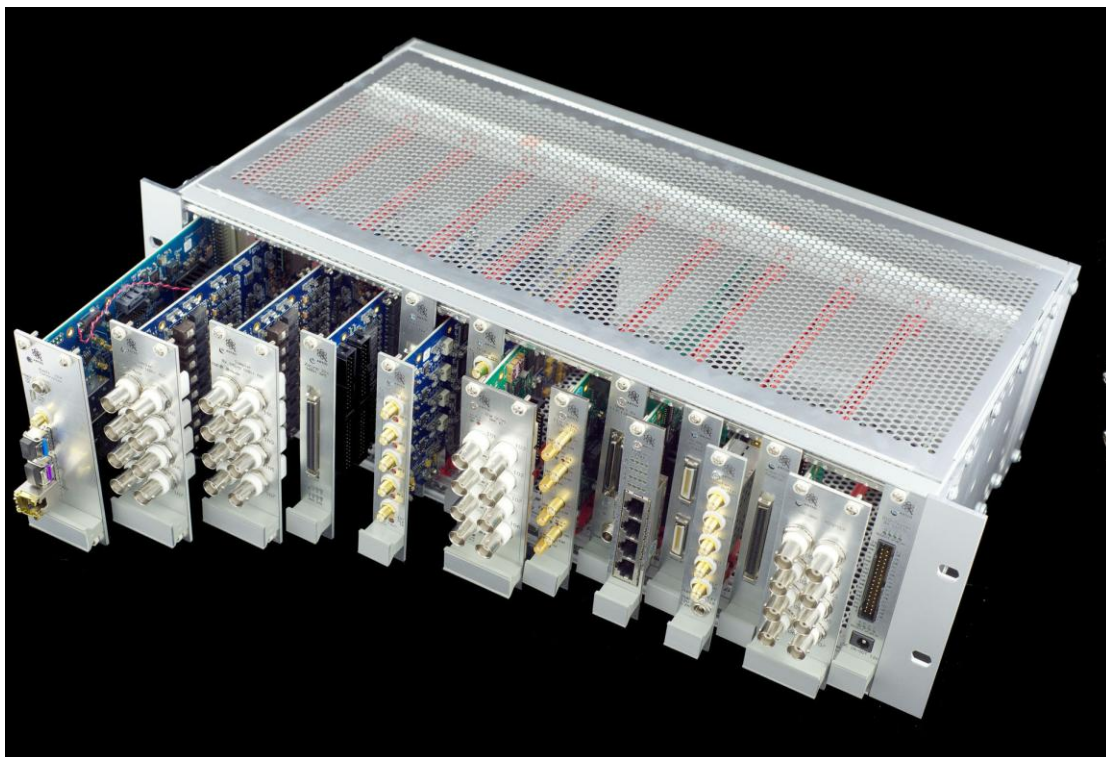
Speakers and topics

In total, the school has covered 10 topics in the domain of quantum sensors which were distributed in 5 morning sessions (3 hours and 30 minutes each), and 4 evening training sessions (3 hours each).

The topics were the following:

- Quantum Sensing implications for fundamental research (Prof. Marianna Safronova – University of Delaware)
- Atom Interferometry (Prof. John Ellis – Kings College London)
- Superconducting sensors (Prof. Stafford Withington - Oxford)
- Atomic Clocks (Prof. Steven Worm - DESY)
- Spin sensors (Prof. Dmitry Budker – Helmholtz Institute Mainz and UC Berkeley)
- Molecules for HEP-related frontier measurements (Marianna Safronova - University of Delaware)
- Microcalorimeters (Prof. Loredana Gastaldo – Heidelberg University)
- Chromatic Calorimetry (Prof. Michael Doser – CERN)
- Quantum limit of measurements (Dr. Jan Kolodynski – IF PAN)
- Josephson parametric amplifier and Traveling Wave Parametric Amplifiers (Prof. Caterina Braggio – University of Padova and INFN)

<https://github.com/sinara-hw/meta/wiki> and <https://mlabs.hk/artiq/>

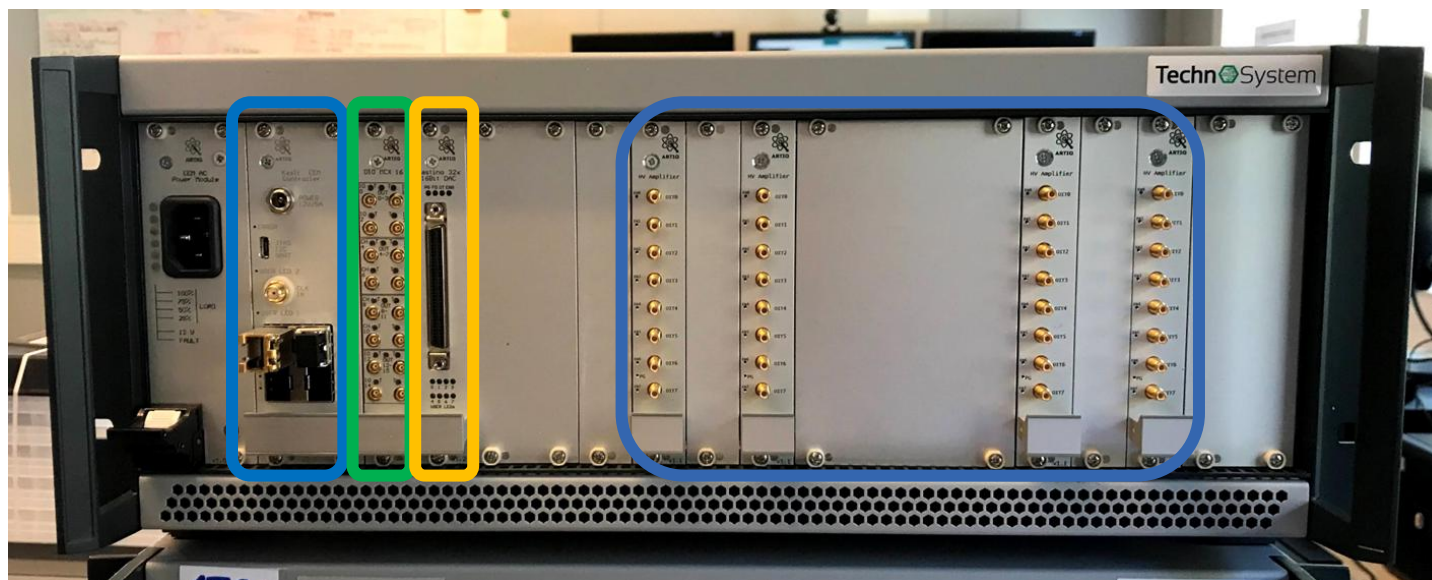


Sinara, an **open-source hardware ecosystem**,

- Designed for quantum experiments
- CERN Open Hardware License,
- over 50 modules (commercially available).
- Integration with the Advanced Real-Time Infrastructure for Quantum physics (ARTIQ) control system.
 - 1 ns timing resolution.
 - management of experiment scheduling,
 - versioning,
 - results storage,
 - and hardware management.

• Kasli controller

- Artix-7 FPGA
- PSU connector
- JTAG port
- External clock input (SMA)
- 4 SFP ports (DRTIO receiver/distributor, allowing for master/satellite use)
- Can control up to 12 extension modules



• DIO units

- Individual in/out configuration
- 16 channels (MCX)

• Fastino DAC

- 16-bit resolution
- Maximum voltage: ± 10 V
- 32 channels

• Amplifiers

- 20-fold amplification (± 10 V to ± 200 V)
- Custom design
- Individual OptoMOS isolation
- 8 channels per board (SMC)

Proposal for DRD5: R&D on quantum sensors

ECFA Roadmap topics → Proposal themes → Proposal WP's

ECFA Detector R&D Roadmap Symposium of
Task Force 5 Quantum and Emerging
Technologies

Roadmap topics

Proposal WP's	Sensor family → Work Package ↓	clocks & clock networks	superconduct- ing & spin- based sensors	kinetic detectors	atoms / ions / molecules & atom interferometry	opto- mechanical sensors	nano-engineered / low-dimensional / materials
	WP1 <i>Atomic, Nuclear and Molecular Systems in traps & beams</i>	X			X	(X)	
	WP2 <i>Quantum Materials (0-, 1-, 2-D)</i>		(X)	(X)		X	X
	WP3 <i>Quantum super- conducting devices</i>		X				(X)
	WP4 <i>Scaled-up massive ensembles (spin-sensitive devices, hybrid devices, mechanical sensors)</i>		X	(X)	X	(X)	X
	WP5 <i>Quantum Techniques for Sensing</i>	X	X	X	X	X	
	WP6 <i>Capacity expansion</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X

Ensure that all sensor families that were identified in the
roadmap
as relevant to future advances in particle physics are included