





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

Sectoral Operational Programme "Increase of Economic Competitiveness" *"Investments for Your Future"* 

## Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP)

## **Quest for laser driven experiments at ELI-NP**

Daniel Ursescu



19.06.2014, DFT Seminar, IFIN-HH





## Content

- Project outline
- Main tools
- Laser driven experiments
  - TDR1: Laser driven nuclear physics
  - TDR2: Strong field QED
  - TDR3: combined laser gamma experiments
  - TDR4: material science and applications



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**Extreme Light Infrastructure** 

#### 2006 – ELI on ESFRI Roadmap

ELI-PP 2007-2010 (FP7) ELI-Beamlines (Czech Republic) ELI-Attoseconds (Hungary) ELI-Nuclear Physics (Romania)

ELI-DC (Delivery Consortium): 2010 Legal entity: April 2013 Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Italy, Germany, UK



- *High power laser system, 2 x 10PW maximum power* Thales Optronique SA and SC Thales System Romania
- Gamma beam, high intensity, up to 20MeV, produced by Compton scattering of a laser beam on a 700 MeV electron beam produced by a warm LINAC

EuroGammaS Association: Instituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (Italy) Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" (Italy), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France), ALSYOM S.A.S. (France), ACP Systems S.A.S.U. (France), COMEB Srl (Italy) ScandiNova Systems (Sweden), etc.

#### **ELI–NP Nuclear Physics Research**

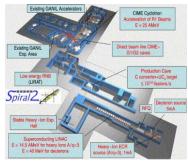
• Nuclear Physics experiments

Photo-fission & Exotic Nuclei Nuclear Photonics (NRF) Photo-nuclear reactions and structure Nuclear Astrophysics complementary to other ESFRI Large Scale Physics Facilities (FAIR, SPIRAL2)

- Laser–Target interaction characteristics: NP diagnostics
- Laser Ion driven nuclear physics experiments
- Strong fields QED. Towards High field (Laser + Gamma) and Plasma
- Applications based on HPLS and High intensity laser and very brilliant γ beams complementary to the other ELI pillars

ELI–NP in Romania selected by the most important science committees in Europe – ESFRI and NuPECC, in the 'Nuclear Physics Long Range Plan in Europe' as a major facility

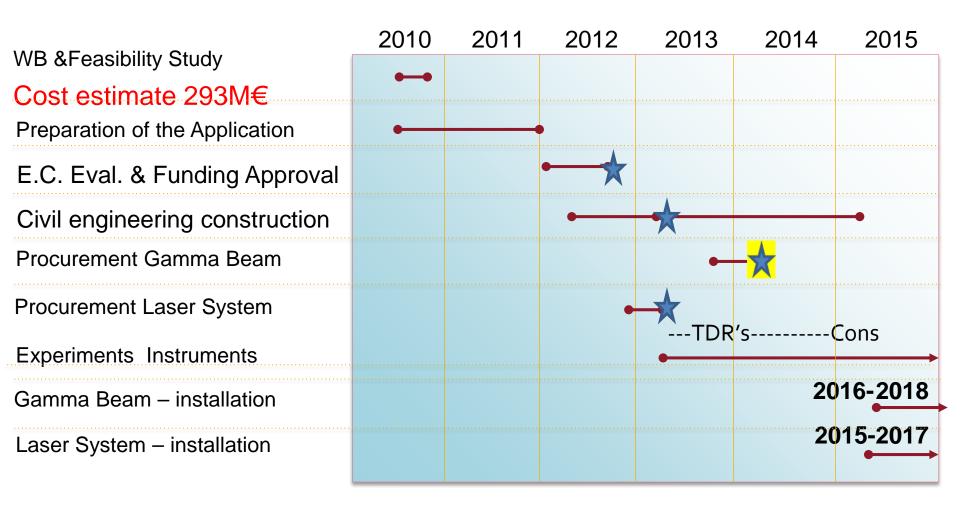








## **ELI–NP** Project Timeline



S.Gales for the ELI-NP team



## June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

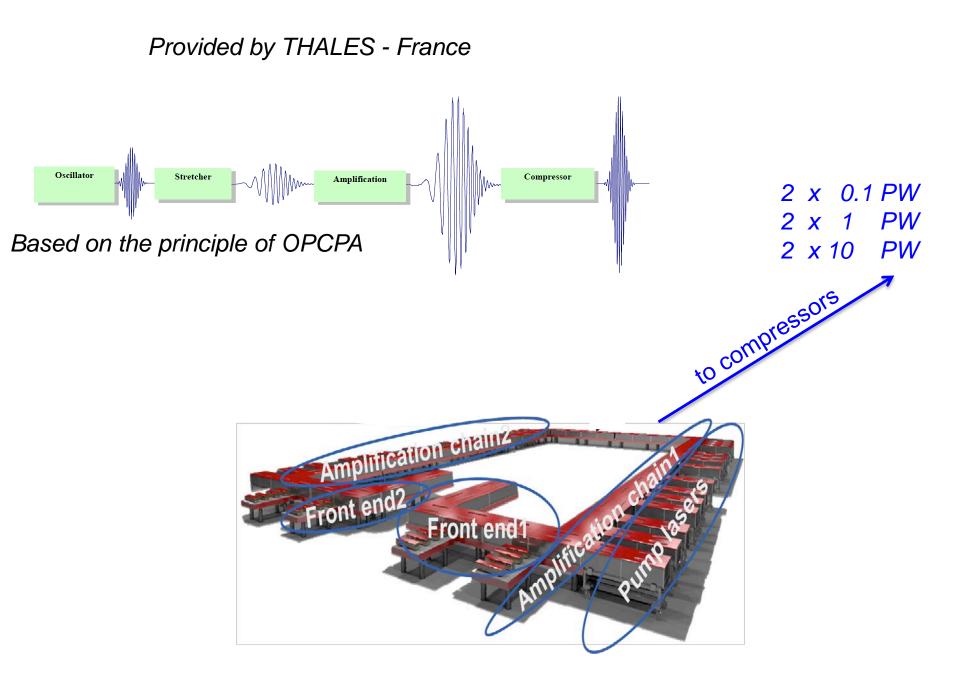


## **Building progress**

#### June 14, 2013

## August 23, 2013





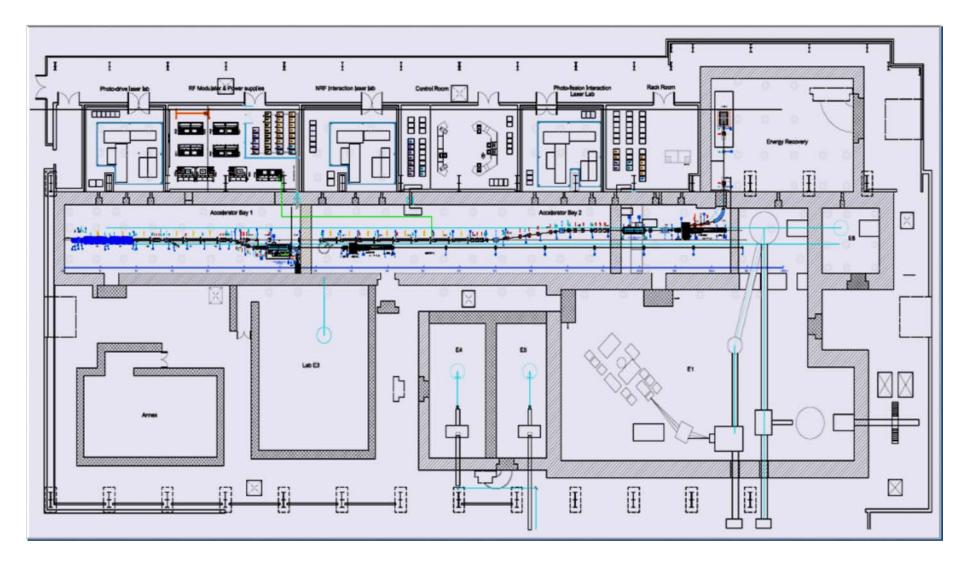


2x10PW Laser System

#### Thales Optronique SAS and S.C. Thales System Romania SRL



#### Lay –out of the Laser –Gamma Beam and experimental halls at ELI-NP





## Gamma Beam System

EuroGammaS Association: Instituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (Italy) and Research Institutions and Companies from

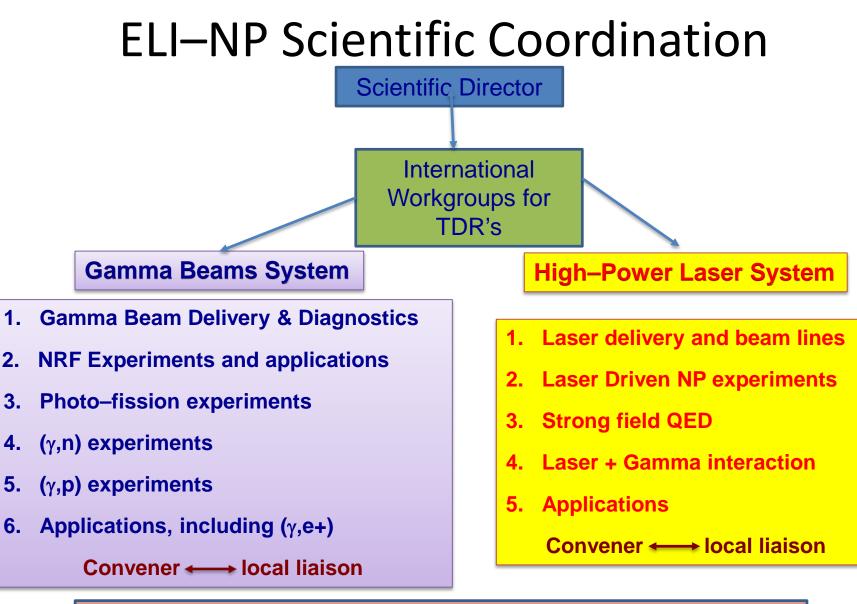
Italy, France,

Sweden, UK,

Germany, Denmark,

Slovenia, Spain





Engineering bureau : Building Interface&Transversal Technical proposals Safety RP Dosimetry, Vacuum, Control system Alignments, Laboratories, Utilities



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Main working groups

- TDR Laser Beams Delivery: convener Gilles Cheriaux (LOA, France)
- TDR1: Laser Driven Nuclear Physics convener Markus Roth (TU Darmstadt, Germany)
- TDR2: Strong Field QED convener Paul McKenna, (SUPA, UK)
- TDR3: Combined Laser-Gamma experiments convener Kensuke Homma (Hiroshima University, Japan)
- TDR4: Irradiated Materials Science convener Marilena Tomut (GSI, Germany)
- □ Vacuum related issues M Toma, ELI-NP
- □ Alignment related issues Cristian Petcu, ELI-NP
- □ Radioprotection related issues Sorin Bercea, ELI-NP
- □ EMP related issues Marius Gugiu, ELI-NP
- □ Control systems related issues Mihail Cernaianu, ELI-NP



#### **ELI–NP Experiment Building**

E6 10PW

E7,2X10PV

E1 10PW



E8,Gamma **Nuclear reactions** 

> E7,QED High field gamma + electrons

HP Lasers

**7000** m<sup>2</sup>

E5 1PW @ 1 Hz E4 0.1PW @ 10 Hz

E3 Positron

source

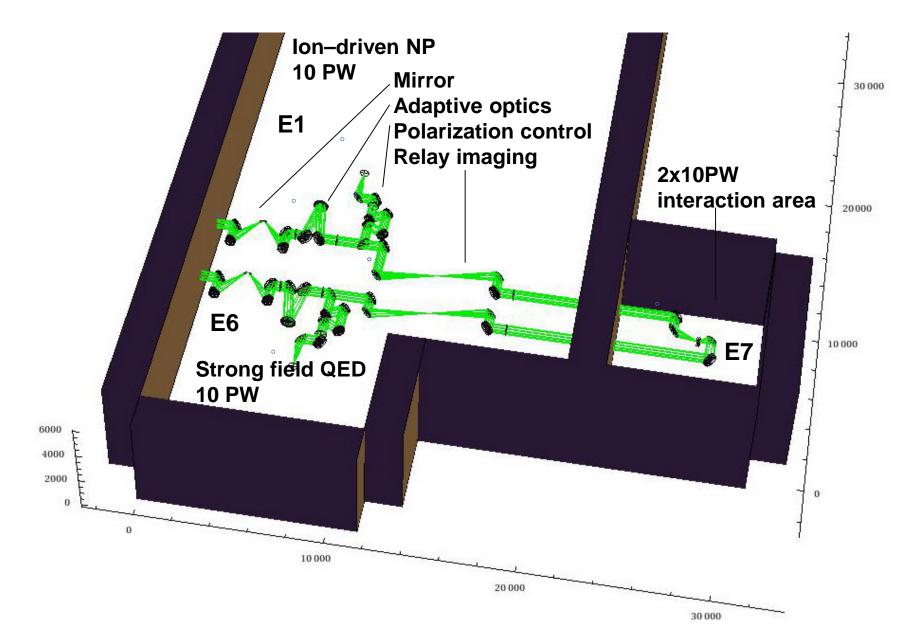
E2,NRF

#### Preliminary , first step lay out of High Power Laser Experiments in E1,E6,E5,E7 TDR1,TDR2, TDR3,TDR4



First generation of experiments to be implemented Goals: Precise technical description, Target interaction chamber, Target technologies, vacuum, diagnostics and laboratories

## **HPLS** Delivery





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## Laser driven Nuclear Physics Experiments TDR1 Convener :M. Roth ELI-NP F. Negoita +WG members

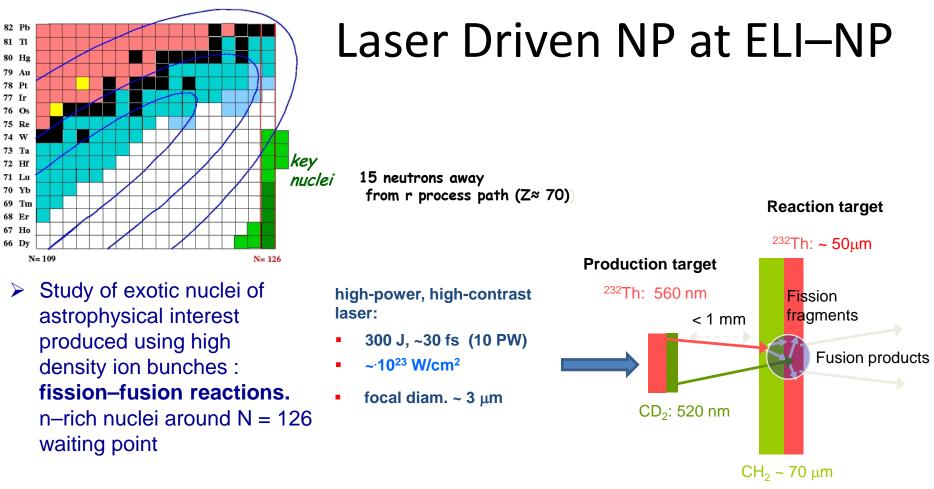
- 2.1 Nuclear fusion reactions from laser-accelerated fissile ion beams
  - 2.1.1 RPA for heavy ions
  - 2.1.2 Stopping power of very dense ion bunches
  - 2.1.3 Fission-Fusion reaction mechanism
- 2.2 Nuclear (de)excitation induced by lasers
  - 26Al case
- 2.3 Nuclear Astrophysics in Laser plasmas
  - 2.3.1 13C(4He,n)16O and 7Li(d,n)4He-4He



## The experiments for Laser Driven Nuclear Physics for E1 area at ELI-NP

- Nuclear fusion reactions from laser-accelerated fissile ions, to understand the nucleosynthesis of heavy elements. The neutron rich nuclei (with N=126) produced in the laser induced fission and fusion reactions in a Thorium target, will make possible the study the production mechanism of heavy elements (through the r-process). There is an experimental group to study:
- a) Radiation Pressure Acceleration of heavy ions;
- b) The Stopping Power for Intense Ion Bunches and
- c) The fission fusion reaction mechanism.
- The Bethe –Bloch equation for the stopping power for the ion (eq. 1) has two terms: the binary collision term (T1) and the long range collective interaction term (T2). This allows the study of potential reduction of atomic stopping power or ultra dense ion bunches.
- Laser Induced Nuclear (De)excitation, to study the excitation levels and lifetime of <sup>26</sup>Al.
- Nuclear astrophysics in laser induced plasma, to study the nuclear reactions relevant in nucleosynthesis: <sup>13</sup>C (<sup>4</sup>He, n) 16O ; <sup>7</sup>Li (d, n) <sup>4</sup>He ;

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = 4\pi n_e \frac{Z_{eff}^2 e^4}{m_e v^2} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{m_e v^2}{e^2 k_D}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{k_D v}{w_p}\right) \right] = T_1 + T_2$$



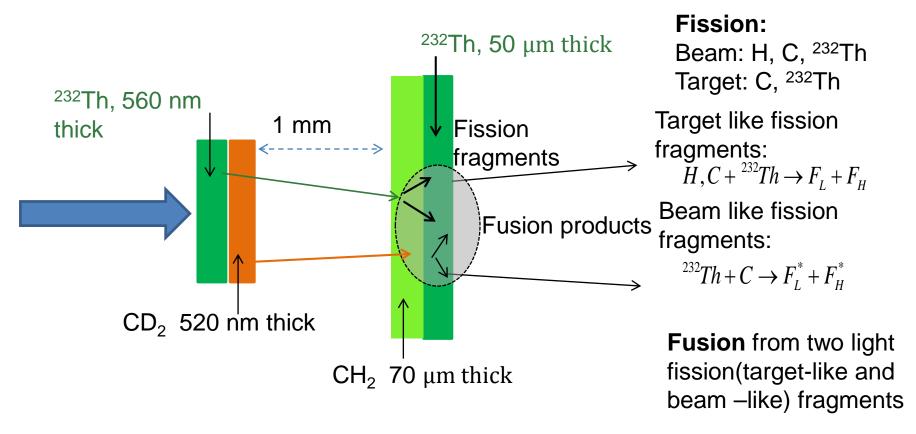
D.Habs, P.Thirolf et al., Appl. Phys. B 103, 471 (2011)

#### Study of heavy ions acceleration mechanism at laser intensities > 10<sup>23</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>

- > Deceleration of very dense electron and ion beams
- Understanding influence of screening effect on stellar reaction rates using laser plasma
- Nuclear techniques for characterization of laser-induced radiations

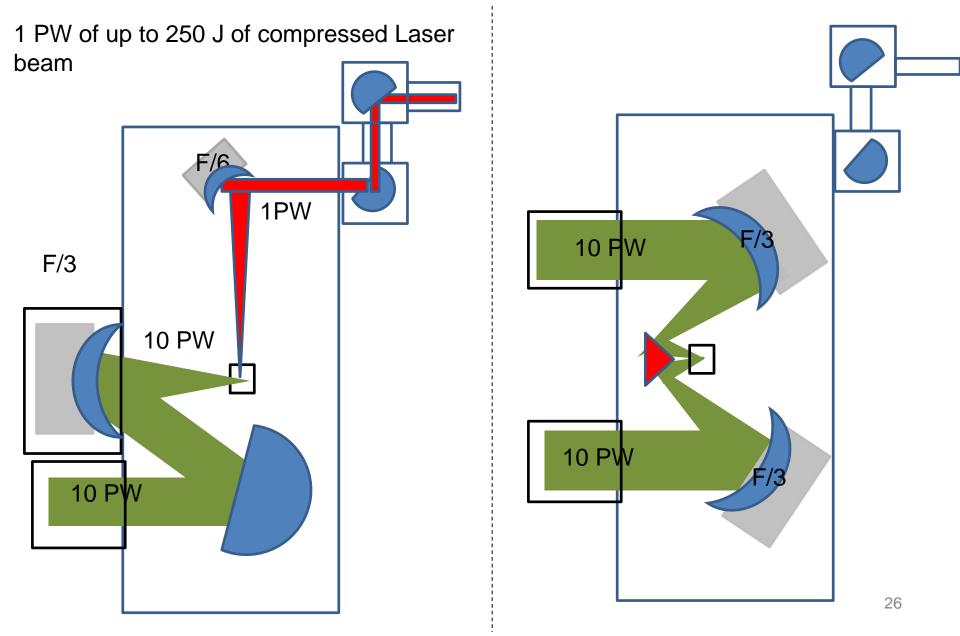
# Nuclear Physics The scheme for fission-fusion experiments

The experiment proposed with 8.5 -17 PW laser beam (150-300 J), ultra-short pulses (32 femto-seconds). For a focal diameter of 3 micrometers, the Laser power was 1.2 ·10<sup>23</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>.





Configurations possible with a 1PW and 10 PW laser beams (left fig) or two 10 PW laser beams.



# The required equipment in E1 area and the experimental challenges

- Characterization of reaction products (decay spectroscopy)
- Precision mass spectroscopy (Penning Trap or MR-TOF)
- Challenges: Laser Acceleration of Heavy Species (RPA), the Optimization of target structure and shape, the repetition rate capability, the characterization of stopping range for Laser (with investigation of potential collective effects).
- The development of the identification technique of the reaction products. : setup for precision mass measurements, wide acceptance separator for fission products, decay spectroscopy for short lived species.
- The novel laser-ion acceleration (RPA) of the new species, allows the generation of ultra-dense ion pulses and the fission-fusion reaction mechanism.

The ELI-NP Laser will have 2 X 150 Joules/pulse, 30 femto-seconds /per pulse to get and intensity of  $I=10^{23}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>





# Nuclear excitations with Ultra Intense lasers

M.M.Aléonard, F.Hannachi, F.Gobet, M.Gerbaux, C.Plaisir, M.Tarisien, J.N.Scheurer





INSTRUT NATIONAL DE PRYSIQUE NUCLÉAIRE ET DE PHYSIQUE DES PARTICULES

#### REGION



## Some orders of magnitude

1- Time scales

Laser wave period for 1 eV ( $\lambda$ ~1µm) photons: T = 4.10<sup>-15</sup> s = 4 fs

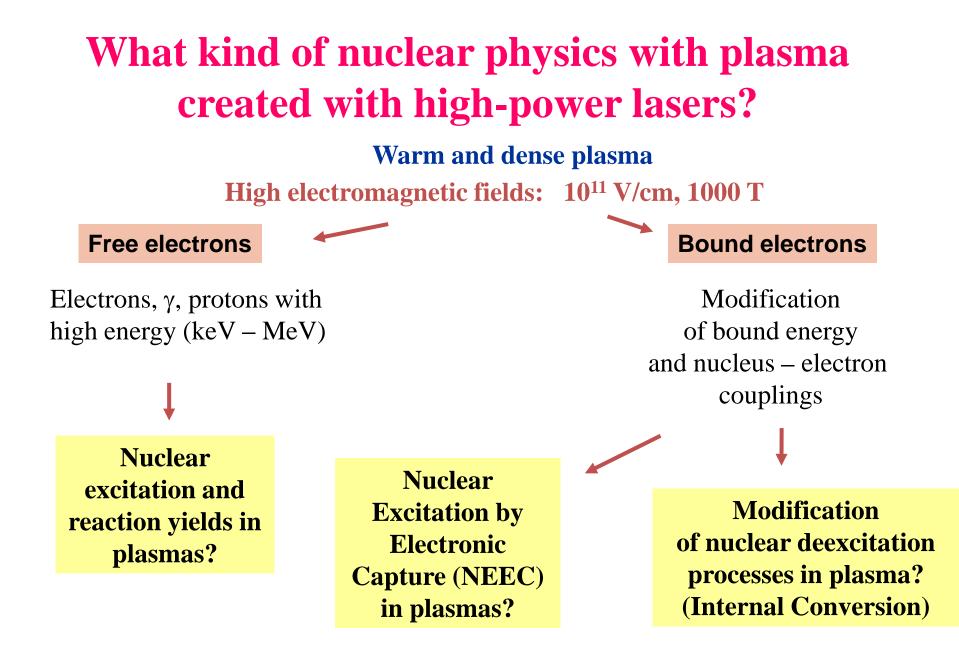
Pulse duration (LOA)  $\Delta T = 30$  fs i.e. 80 % of the energy in 8 periods

Bohr orbital electron period  $\tau = 4 \ 10^{-17} \ Z^{-2} \ s$  (Al: **0.02 fs**; Ca:**0.01fs**)

## 2 - Electric field scales

Intra-nuclear electric field: $F_n = 10^{19}$  V/cmBinding electric field in hydrogenoid atom $F_e = (Z^3 / n^2) 2.7 \ 10^9$  V/cm $_{13}$ Al $F_e \sim 6 \ 10^{12}$ V/cm $_{20}$ Ca $F_e \sim 2 \ 10^{13}$  V/cmlaser wave electric field as a function of the intensity: $F_1 = 13.7$  I  $^{0.5}$ 

$I(W/cm^2)$	$10^{14}$	<b>10<sup>20</sup></b>	1022	10 <sup>24</sup>	$10^{26}$
F <sub>1</sub> (V/cm)	108	<b>10</b> <sup>11</sup>	1012	<b>10</b> <sup>13</sup>	$10^{14}$



Nuclear Reactions in Plasmas Nuclear Astrophysics

#### ELI-NP Meeting Darmstadt March 24, 2014 S. Tudisco

#### Collaboration



Università degli Studi di Catania





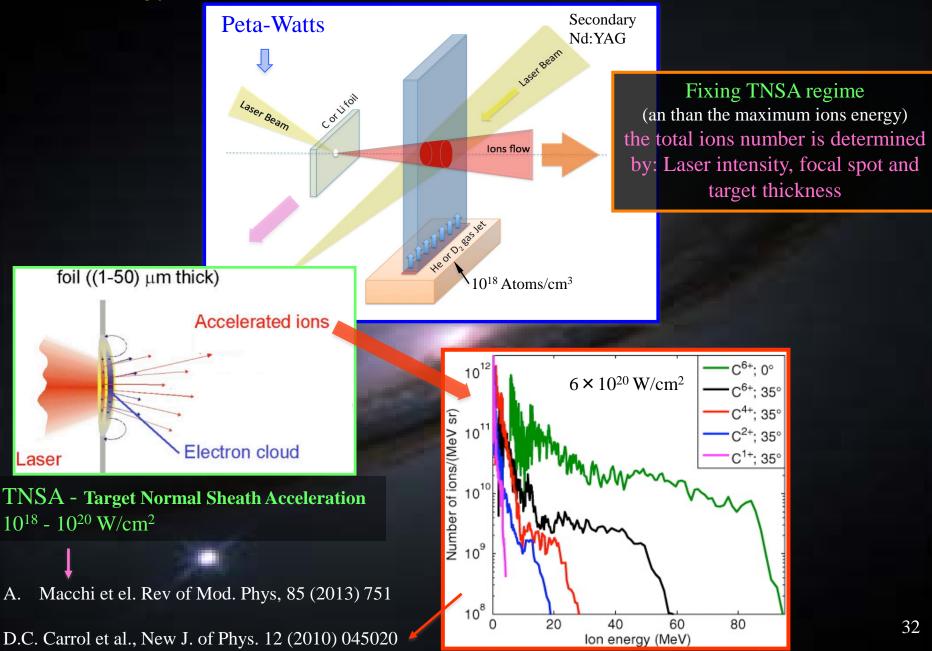




INO Istituto Nazionale di Ottica



#### <u>Methodology</u> Two laser beams generating two colliding plasmas





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## Strong Field QED

#### ELI–NP delivering pulse at > 10<sup>23</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup> will enable this exciting new regime to be investigated

Require electrons with a large Lorentz factor ( $\gamma$ ) interacting with strong electromagnetic fields.

Ultra-intense lasers should be able to provide both the Lorentz factor and the fields

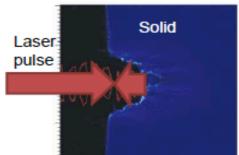
(1) Interaction of GeV electron beam (Wakefield) with TW-PW laser

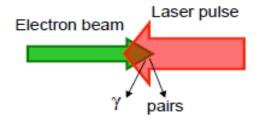
(2) >10PW laser pulse interactions with dense plasma

Reaction rates are high due to high electron density

 $10PW=10^{23}Wcm^{-2} \rightarrow \gamma=300 \rightarrow \eta \approx 0.2$ 

A.R. Bell & J.G. Kirk, Phys Rev Lett, 101, 200403 (2008)







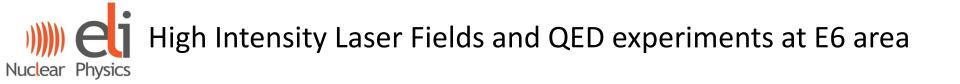


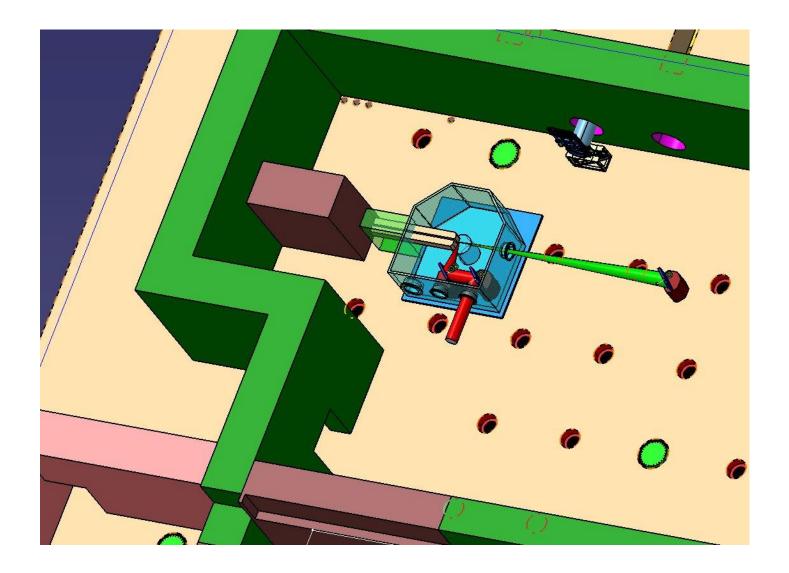
#### **High Field Physics in Beam-Beam Interactions**

- Producing suitable secondary electron beams, gamma beams and controlling the laser pulses
- Nonlinear Compton Scattering
- Classical and Quantum kinetic radiation reaction effects

#### High Field Physics in Dense Plasma (Solid) Interactions

- Intense synchrotron gamma-ray generation
- Radiation reaction
- Electron-positron pair production





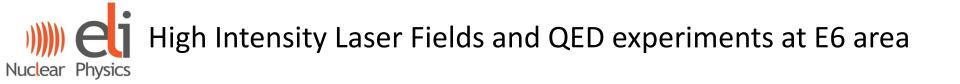
# High Field Physics with Beam-Beam interactions (E6

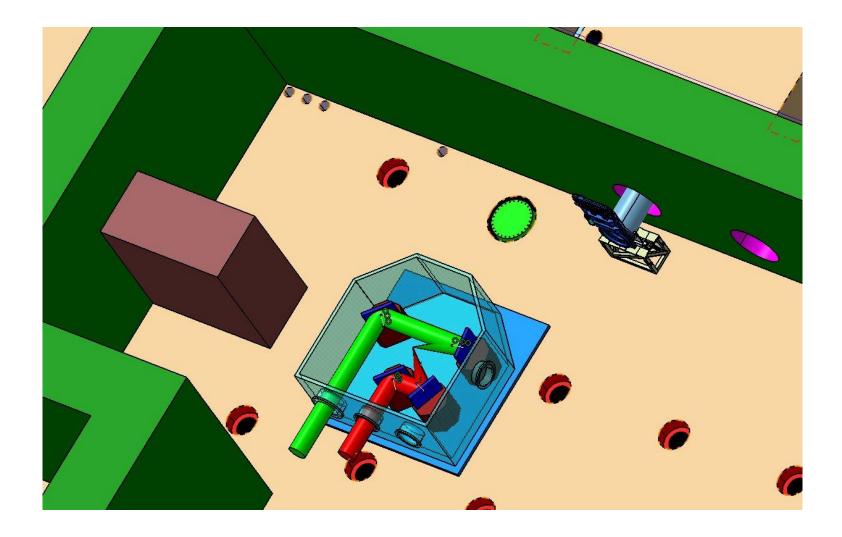
Laser beam with intensity >10<sup>21</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup> produces relativistic electrons in a gas plasma. The electrons are accelerated in the laser field. The work done by the Laser field  $a_0 = eA/(mc^2)$ . Electrons gain a longitudinal momentum  $a_0^2$ . If a laser beam can be scattered off a counter propagating electron beam with Y>>1, to produce a gamma beam with shifted frequency by a factor  $4 \cdot Y^2$ . The phenomena that can be studied are:

- 1. Classical Radiation Reaction, to understand how charged particles interact with their own radiation field. If  $a_0 >> 1$  significant momentum is taken up by the electron oscillating in Laser Field and the radiation force is large. The Radiation Reaction can be treated as perturbation [1] or with a non-perturbative approach [2].
- 2. Nonlinear Compton Scattering is seen in low intensity laser beam 1< a0 < 10 and not-focused laser beam pulses to extend the interaction time and treat the laser as plane waves. Electron bunches (10 MeV) interacting head on with such laser beam, emit radiation with an intensity that depends on the mass shift of the electrons.
- 3. Classical and quantum kinetic radiation effects. Radiation Reaction tends to reduce the energy spread of the electrons when 50 MeV electron bunch collides head-on with the laser pulse of a0 =10. Quantum effects become important for 1 GeV electrons collide with a laser with a0=70, such that the Radiation Reaction increases the spread of electrons. Both effects could be studied at ELI-NP.



- 1. Non-linear optics in relativistic plasma. At high laser intensity the bounce frequency of electrons trapped in trapped ponderomotive force is bigger than plasma forces. Coherent scattering in plasma, can compress laser pulses and enhance the beam intensity, allows the control of the pulse duration, the focusing and the contrast enhancement.
- Electron beam generation using Laser Plasma Wake Field Acceleration. In the first stage, at ELI-NP, an electron beam will be accelerated to 5-10 GeV in the 10 PW Laser field focused in a 1 meter long plasma cell (with density 10<sup>16</sup> – 10<sup>17</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>). The electron beam will be suitable for radiation reaction studies.
- 3. Betatron gamma rays generation: The LWFA electrons can be used as a source of gamma radiation. Hard X rays emitted from femto-second laser-produced plasma and betatron X rays from LWFA electrons, were reported [1].





# High Field Physics with solid-laser interaction (for E6 area)

- □ Two main QED processes are important in laser-solid interaction: a) Thomson scattering ( $e^-+Y_L \rightarrow e^- + Y_R$ ) in which 40% of electron energy is damped in the Laser field, via synchrotron radiation emission. b) Pair production  $Y_L + Y_R \rightarrow e^- + e^+$ . The two processes are important when the parameter  $\eta = \gamma/E$  ( $E_p + v \times B$ ), is almost unity. Here  $E_p$  is the perpendicular component of the electric field. The Lorentz factor  $\gamma > 300$  and  $\eta > 0.2$  and  $I=10^{24}$  W/cm<sup>2</sup>
- □ Intense synchrotron gamma rays produced from electrons accelerated by Laser's electric field, when the damping force exceed the Lorentz force on electron. The ELI-NP laser beams with 10PW and 10<sup>23</sup> W/cm2 should enable the onset of radiation damping, when >35% of the Laser energy is converted to intense synchrotron radiation.
- Electron –Positron pair production : a) an electrons with E>1.022 MeV produces electron-positron pair (the single stage Trident process) and b) electron emits a synchrotron radiation E>1.022 MeV that generates the electron positron pair (the two stage Bethe Heitler process). A cascade of gamma rays and e-e pairs is predicted at laser intensities >10<sup>24</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>.

# Requirements for laser beam control and the characterization (at E6 area)

- Highest possible intensity >10<sup>23</sup> W/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Shot focal length F3 (or shorter) off-axis parabola mirrors.
- Two 10 PW beams combined on target with coherent addition of the pulses, phase front tilt control
- Polarization control needed, to switch from circular to linear polarization.
- Ultra high intensity 10<sup>13</sup>:1 contrast is needed for nano-seconds pulses and 10<sup>14</sup>:1 at pico-seconds pulses.
- Temporal shaping and control of rising edge of the laser pulse
- Spatial shaping and control of focal spot distribution with adaptive optics.
- Debris mitigation using suitable pellicles (with minimum front distortion) to cover the surface of the mirrors. Inter-changable optics required to minimize the downtime.



- □ Laser dignostics
- Intensity temporal contrast measurements;
- FROG Frequency Resolved Optical Gating Diagnostics.
- Measurement of the laser focal spot energy distribution
- The degree of the temporal overlap measurement
- Synchronized optical probe to characterize the density gradient at target front surface
- Near and far field monitoring of the laser beams
- **Electron beam diagnostics:**
- energy spectrometer,
- beam profile,
- charge (Faraday cup, ICT and calibrated),
- emittance measurement,
- beam transport system.
- □ Plasma diagnostics for beam-beam experiments:
- Thomson scattering
- interferometer



## Content

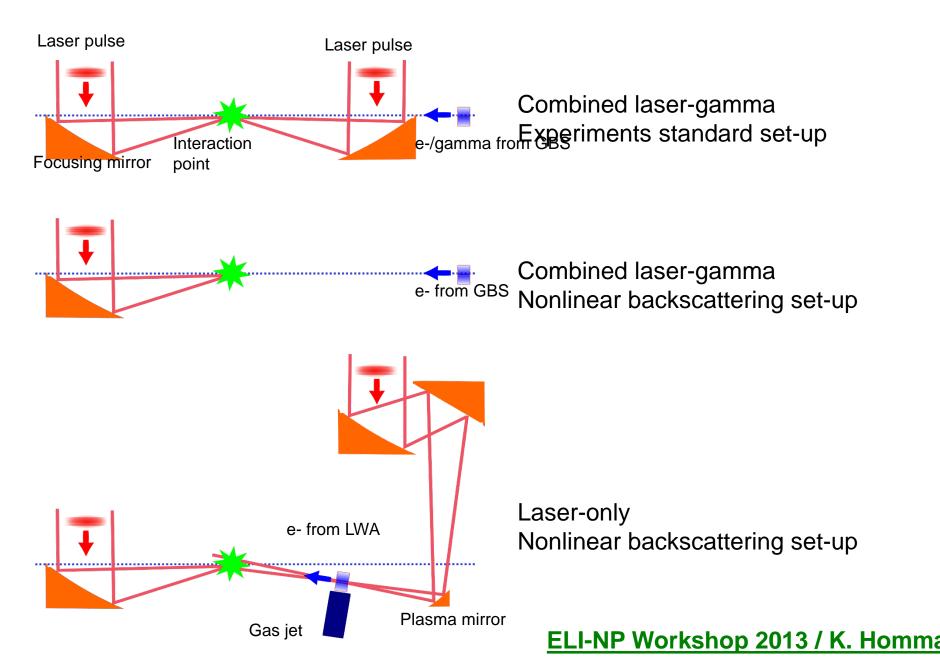
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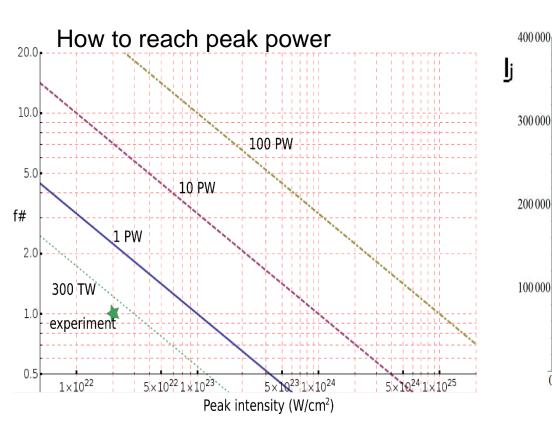
TDR3 Combined laser - gamma experiments

- 1. Dark field search (Four-wave mixing in the vacuum)
- 2. QED birefringence studies
- 3. Electron induced nuclear processes investigated with gamma beams
- 4. Gamma-gamma scattering
- 5. Gamma assisted electron-positron pair production in vacuum; requires:
  - Nonlinear Thomson scattering or
  - X-ray laser / high order harmonics driven Backscattering gamma source
  - Bremsstrahlung source driven by laser produced ultrarelativistic electron bunches

#### Experiments at E7



Experiments at E7: Nonlinear Scattering as extension method for the gamma range at ELI-NP



## Focal distance correlation with the peak power in focus

The spectrum of the normalized total scattered radiation for a=65.9. ( $I_j$  is the intensity of the j<sup>th</sup> harmonic radiation). Ionel, Ursescu, LPB2014

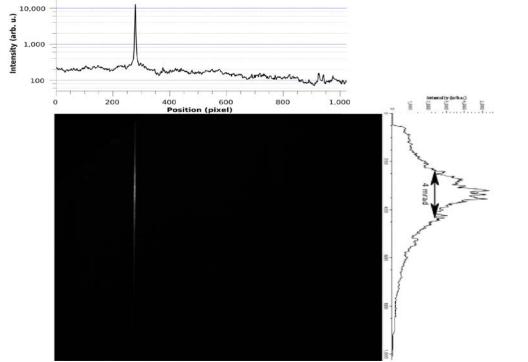
Harmonics in the gamma

spectra to be seen

# Nuclear Physics X-ray laser driven gamma source experiments proposal at ELI-NP

Banici, Ursescu et al, Optics Letters 2012:

X-ray laser driven with 200mJ pump energy @13.9 nm and 10Hz Cojocaru. Ursescu *et al.* Optics Letters **2014** 



On-going Laserlab3 experiment for 200mJ pumped 100Hz X-ray laser @ MBI, Germany (D. Ursescu)

Available 100Hz laser for ELI-NP gamma facility with at least 200mJ energy/pulse

J. Rocca group, Optics Letters **2012**: Demonstrated 100Hz operation of an XRL driven with 1000mJ pump energy @13.9 nm and 10Hz

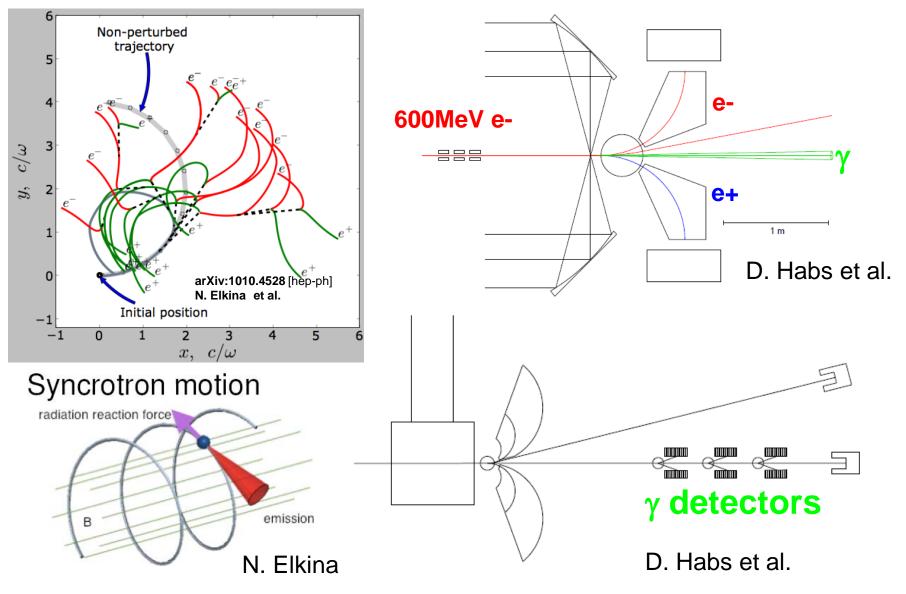


### Specific technologies

- Target manipulation (gas target, solid target for bremsstrahlung generation)
- Beam manipulation (plasma mirrors, mirror shifting)
- Vacuum pipes
- Vacuum pumping
- Diagnostics of the beams at experimental areas (LBD?)
- Detection and data processing
- Beam dumps
- Logistics

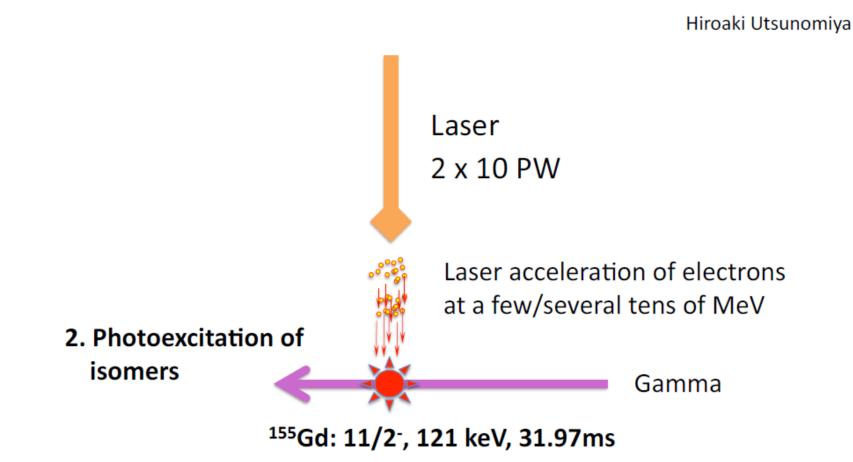


#### Laser-electron interaction



ELI-NP Workshop 2013 / K. Homma

Nuclear Physics TDR3: Electron induced nuclear processes investigated with gamma beams



Photoexcitation of isomers may be induced by a simultaneous irradiation with a monochromatic  $\gamma$ -ray beam.



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- testing new materials for fusion and fission energy application
- testing of new materials for accelerator components
- testing materials for space science (electronics components, hypervelocity impacts)
- surface and volume modification; micro- and nano-technology)
- biological science research (effects on bio-molecules, cells)
- testing radiation hardness and developments of detectors
- irradiated optical components testing

Potential partners: GSI, CERN, GANIL, Politecnico di Torino, ESA, Fraunhofer-Institut für Kurzzeitdynamik Ernst-Mach-Institut EMI



## **Materials for Fusion Energy Systems**

Extreme operating conditions on materials surrounding the plasma:

- high heat fluxes
- sputtering/redeposition
- $\Box$  T<sub>2</sub> retention

#### Key strategies for the coming decade:

 exploratory testing in prototypic fusion radiation environments (combined with modeling) to foster the development of candidate materials Key issues in fusion materials degradation

- Structural materials: dimensional stability and mechanical properties
- Diagnostic materials: strong changes in electrical and optical properties

Key strategies for the coming decade :

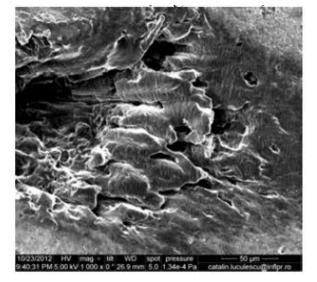
 new high density structural materials with nanoscale features conferring improved mechanical strength and radiation resistance



#### Laser irradiation studies for fusion reactor materials



SEM W probe



#### SEM C probe



#### SEM Be probe

Lungu, Ursescu et al, APL2014



## **Materials for Fission Energy Systems**



Very High Temperature Reactor Purpose:

- More Efficient Power production
- Inherent passive safety features

#### Breakthroughs needed

materials for extreme environments, high temperature, high radiation flux, high corrosivity

Nuclear Physics Testing of new materials for accelerator components

## High power targets: production targets for radioactive beams, neutrinos, spallation targets

• Potential collaborations: RADIATE, PASI

#### Secondary collimators for HL-LHC

-innovative materials are needed for accelerator collimator jaws for the upgrade of the LHC

-aims of collimator material experiments at ELI-NP: testing of novel materials under extreme conditions (accidental beam impact), quantifying of material damage for LHC operating scenarios



## **Radiation-hard Space Electronics**

• Due to its use on low-Earth orbits, most consumer electronics is less tolerant to radiation effects, as communication (commercial) satellites are exposed to far less radiation than those placed on Geostationary orbits

• Sensors with increased ability used to gather satellite data

 Increased data traffic between satellites or back to Earth →need for more powerful algorithms and more logic in a smaller space, as satellite costs have to be "redimensioned "

• Power issues (solar cells), thermal issues and payload issues (processing large amounts of data and making decisions or send data to the ground)

• Processing power has to be "adjusted" to data traffic while using as little power as possible  $\rightarrow$  shrinking of transistor size : 90 nm technology  $\rightarrow$  worsening SNR

• Survival of 90 nm technology to aggressive space environment conditions

- Low voltages susceptible to radiation interference
- New technologies on the consumer market : wide-bandgap technologies

• Radiation effects: total dose, constant bombardment of radiation and low dose rate effects

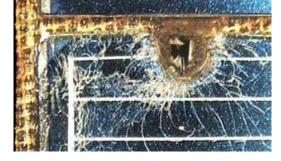


## Dynamic Response of Structural and Functional Space Materials to Micro-Meteoroid Impacts

Space environments are very hostile to many spacecraft materials and components due to the combined action of radiation, extreme temperature, and vacuum conditions, as well as impacting hypervelocity micro-particles:

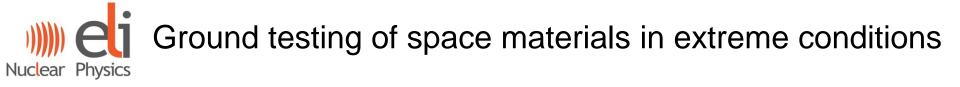
 Can be investigated using shock waves induced with flyers launched in high-power laser impacts on specially designed targets. These experiments can be performed both on pristine materials and on samples that have been exposed to increasing cocktail doses of particles, simulating the natural radiation exposure in space.





19 mm crater in the High-Gain Antenna of the Hubble Space Telescope

Thousends of impacts on solar panels



•The radiation environment used for ground testing should ideally be similar to the natural environment probed by the satellite

•This condition is difficult to achieve by traditional accelerator facilities

•Cosmic radiation includes protons, helium and heavier ions, and also electrons, neutrons, and ultraviolet radiation. In this complex radiation environment many materials are damaged and deteriorate in a complex manner

•The energy spectrum of laser accelerated particles is quite similar to the natural one (exponential energy distribution), unlike the quasi mono-energetic spectrum of accelerated particle beams in classical accelerators → develop rad hard testing procedures and standards

•Vacuum and extreme temperatures as well as thermal cycling alter physical properties and lead to material fatigue.

•Impacts of micro-meteoroids and orbiting man-made debris can damage spacecrafts and components.



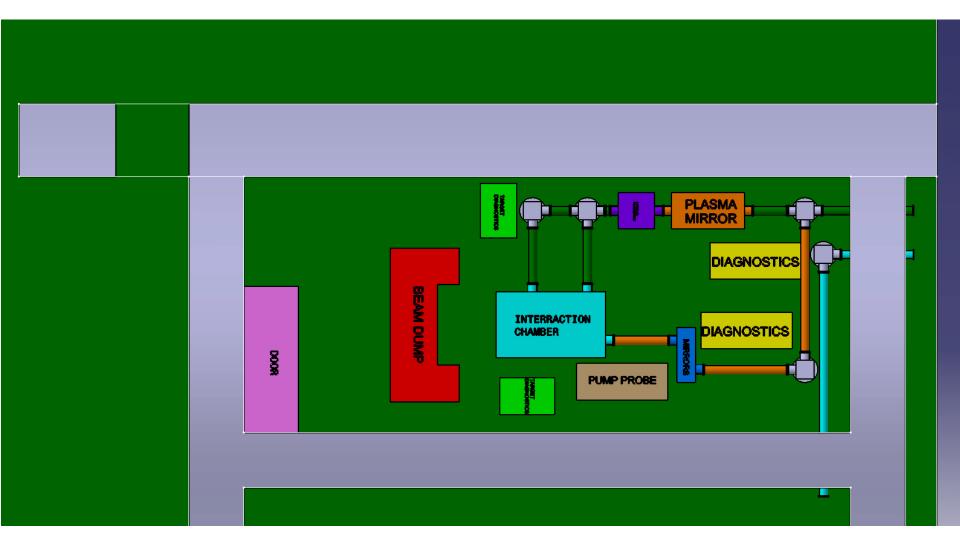
## Irradiated optical components testing

# -characterization of optical components placed in the vicinity of laser driven secondary radiation sources

-measuring the damage threshold modification at ISOTEST (INFLPR)

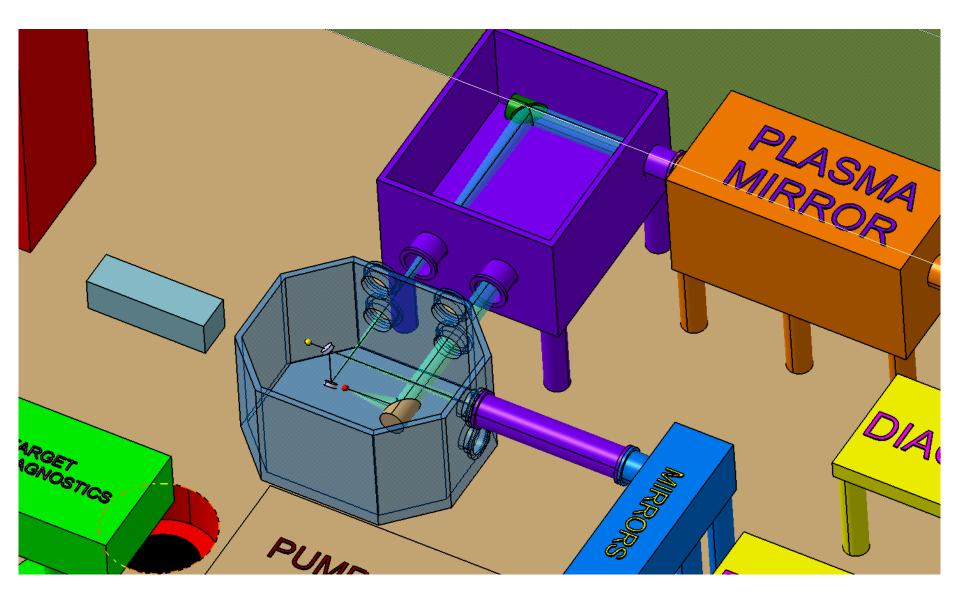


### E5 experimental area (2x1PW@1Hz)











Following steps

- TDRs to be completed between Fall 2014 and Winter 2015
- General workshop: Oct-Nov 2014
- TDRs evaluated by independent reviewers March-May 2015
- International Scientific Advisory Committee final endorsement of experiments in June 2015



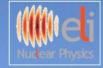




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Thank you!

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## Your collaboration is decisive and a must for ELI-NP