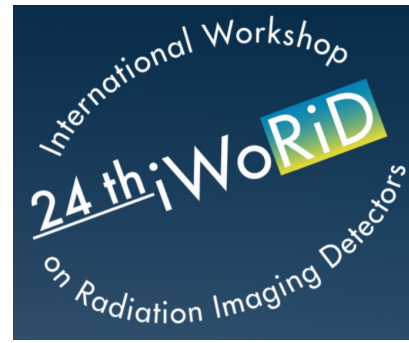




**UNIVERSITY
OF TRIESTE**



Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors for High-Energy Physics applications

Giacomo Contin

Università di Trieste & INFN Sezione di Trieste

24th iWoRiD - International Workshop On Radiation Imaging Detectors

25-29 June 2023 – Oslo (Norway)

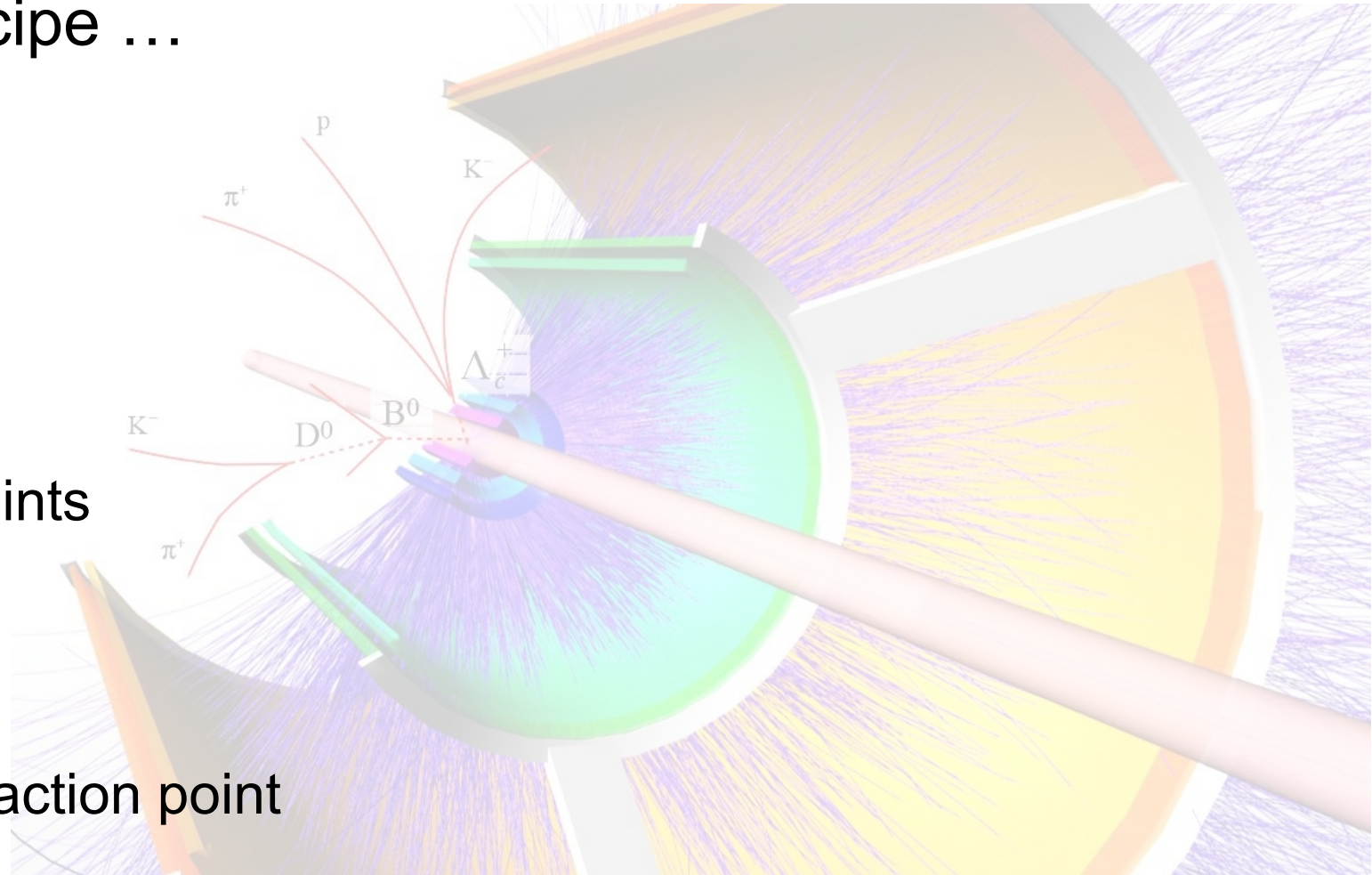
Outline

- **Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor** technology
- Successful experiences: **STAR HFT** and **ALICE ITS2**
- The future: **ALICE ITS3** and further plans

High-precision tracking in High-Energy Physics

The ingredients for the recipe ...

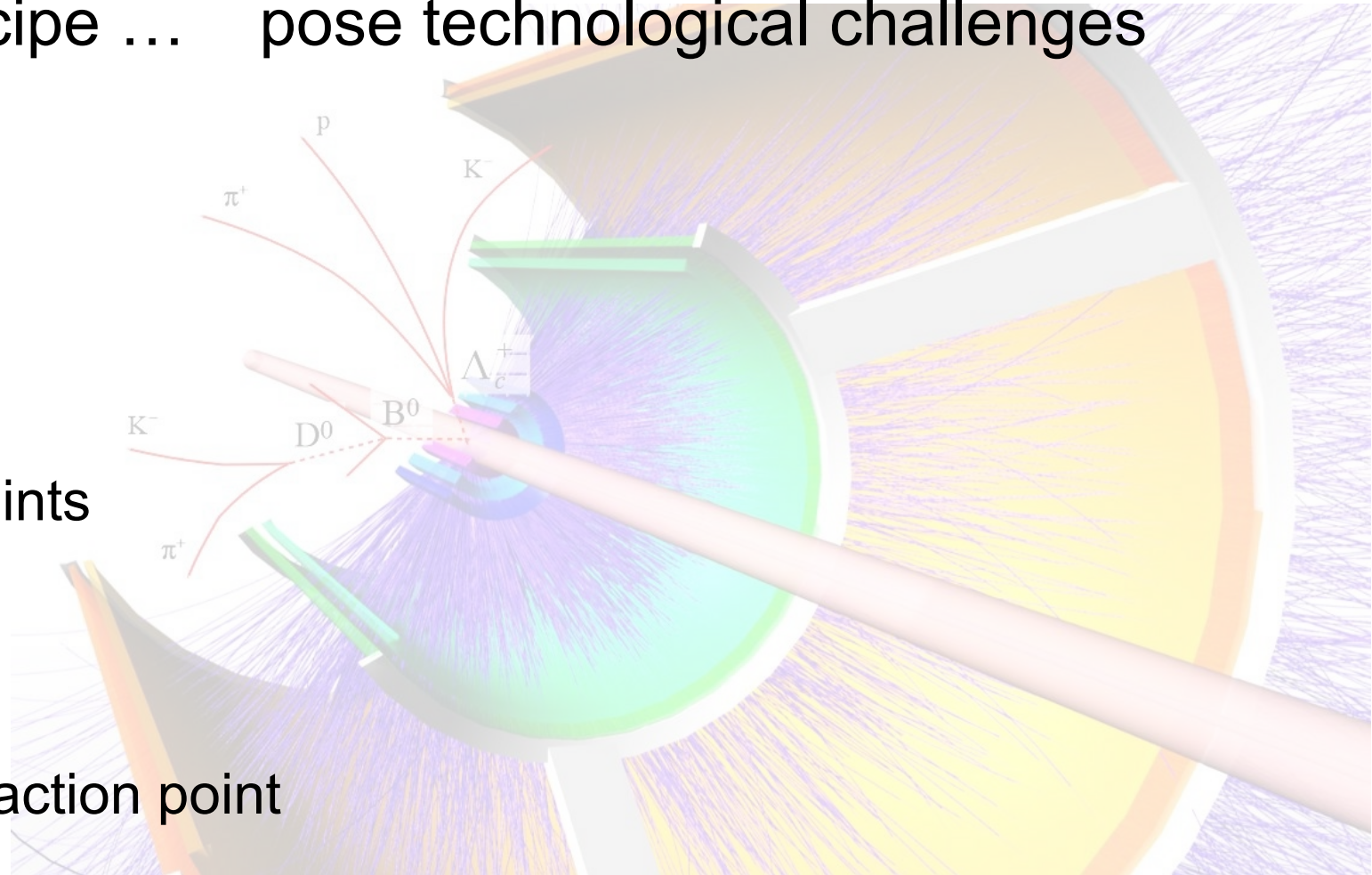
- Low material budget
- Large number of track-points
- Small distance from interaction point



High-precision tracking in High-Energy Physics

The ingredients for the recipe ... pose technological challenges

- Low material budget
- Large number of track-points
- Small distance from interaction point

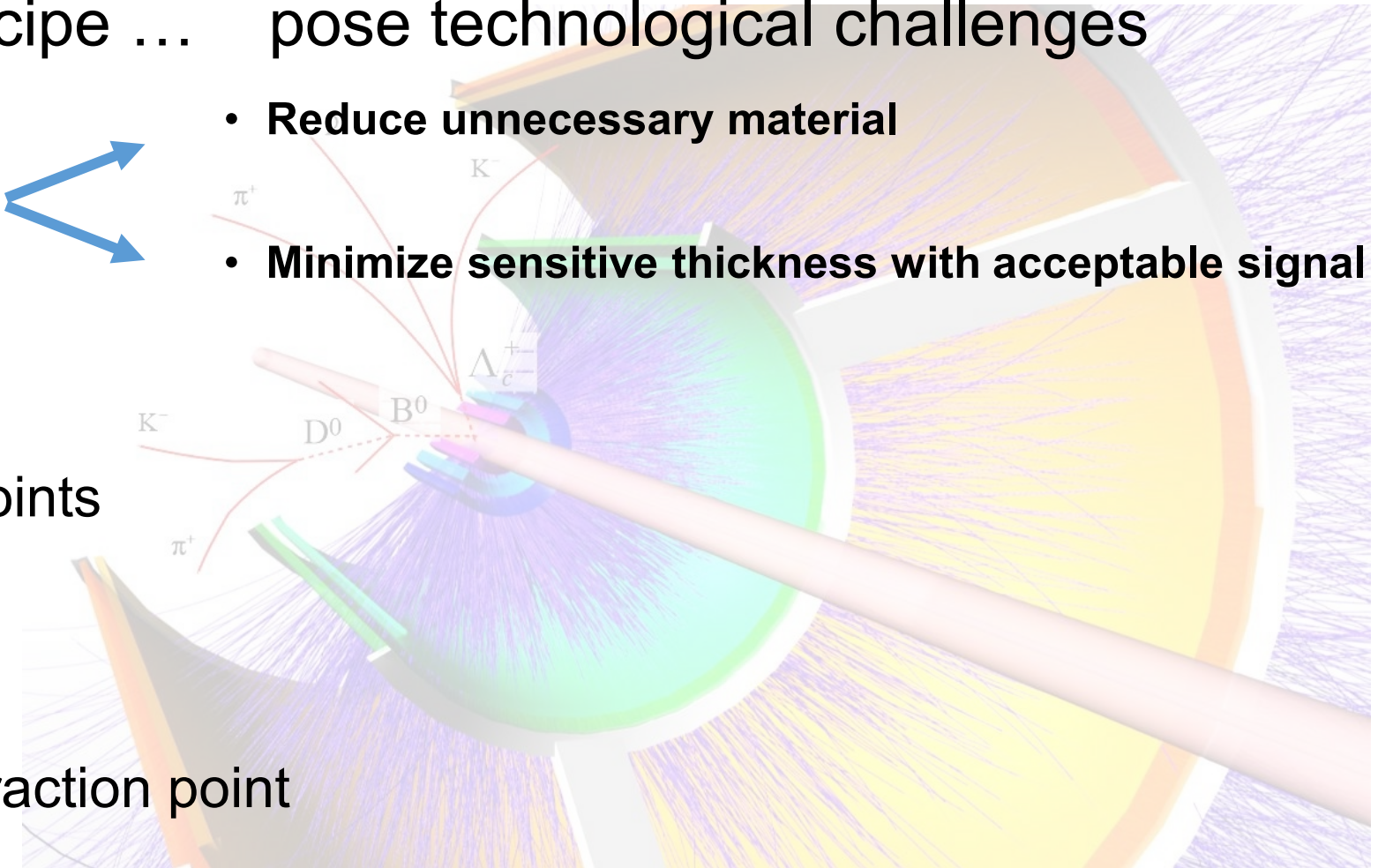


High-precision tracking in High-Energy Physics

The ingredients for the recipe ... pose technological challenges

- Low material budget
- Large number of track-points
- Small distance from interaction point

- Reduce unnecessary material
- Minimize sensitive thickness with acceptable signal



High-precision tracking in High-Energy Physics

The ingredients for the recipe ... pose technological challenges

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- Reduce unnecessary material

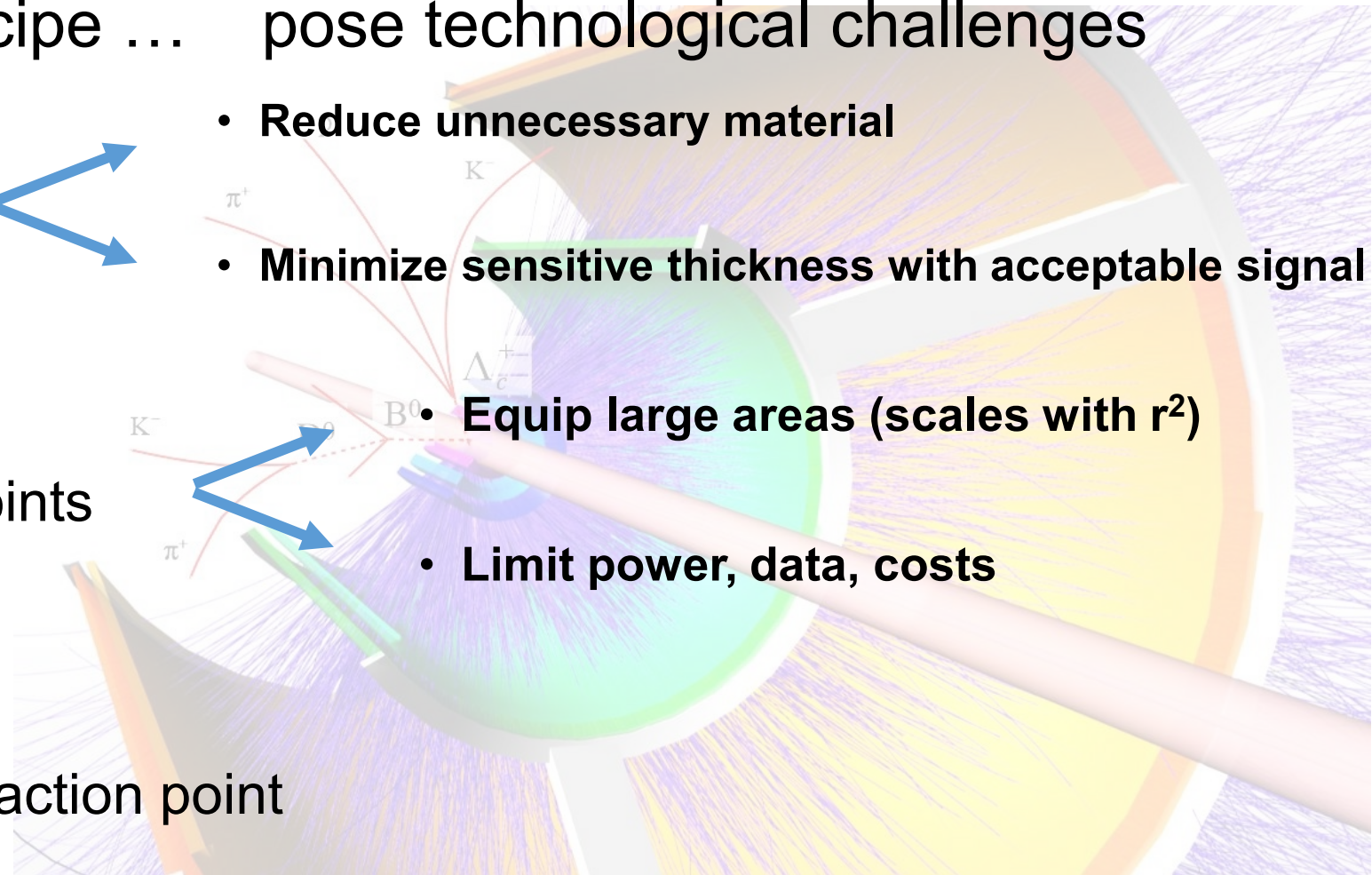
- Minimize sensitive thickness with acceptable signal

- Large number of track-points

- Equip large areas (scales with r^2)

- Limit power, data, costs

- Small distance from interaction point



High-precision tracking in High-Energy Physics

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- Low material budget

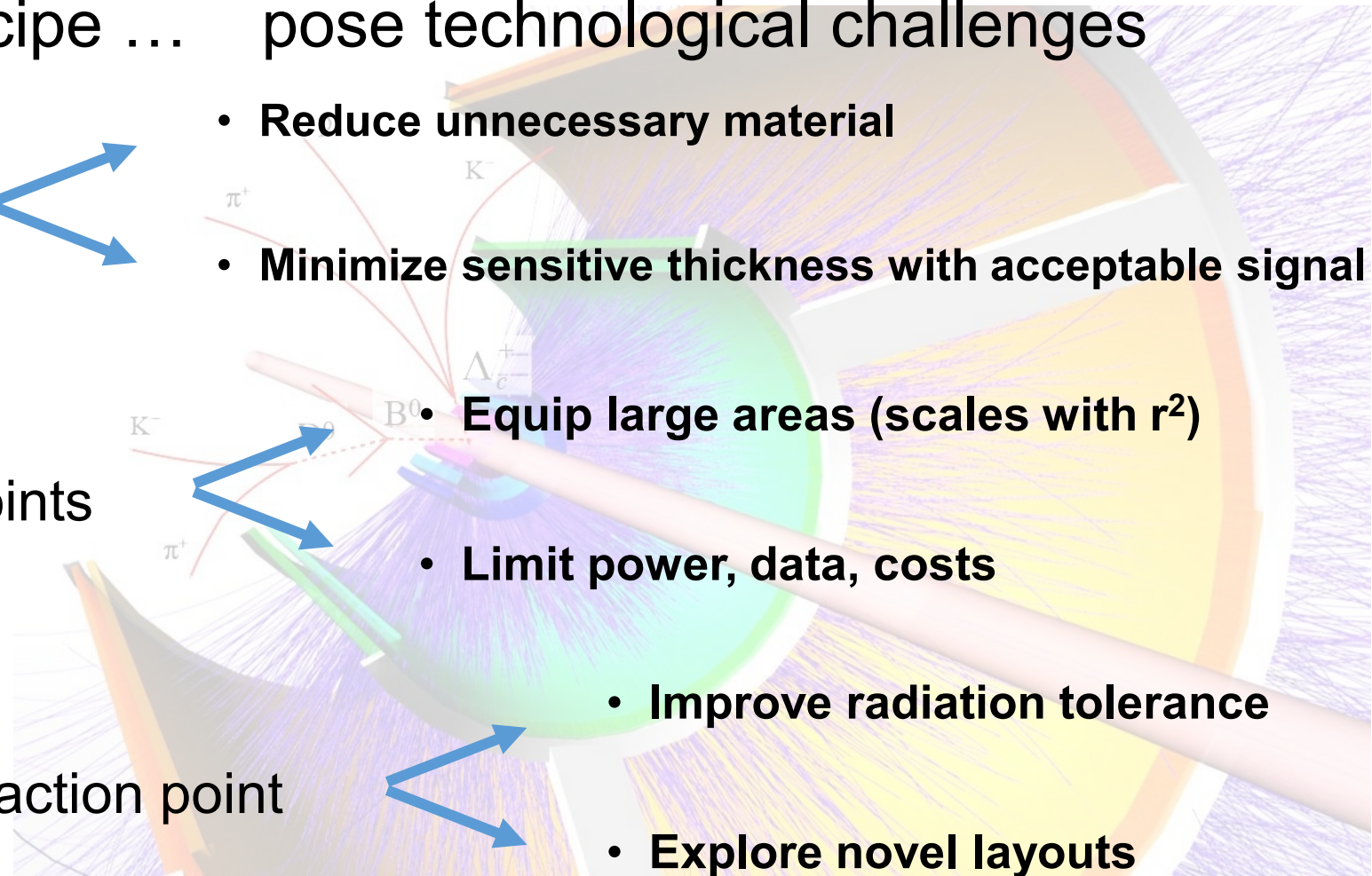
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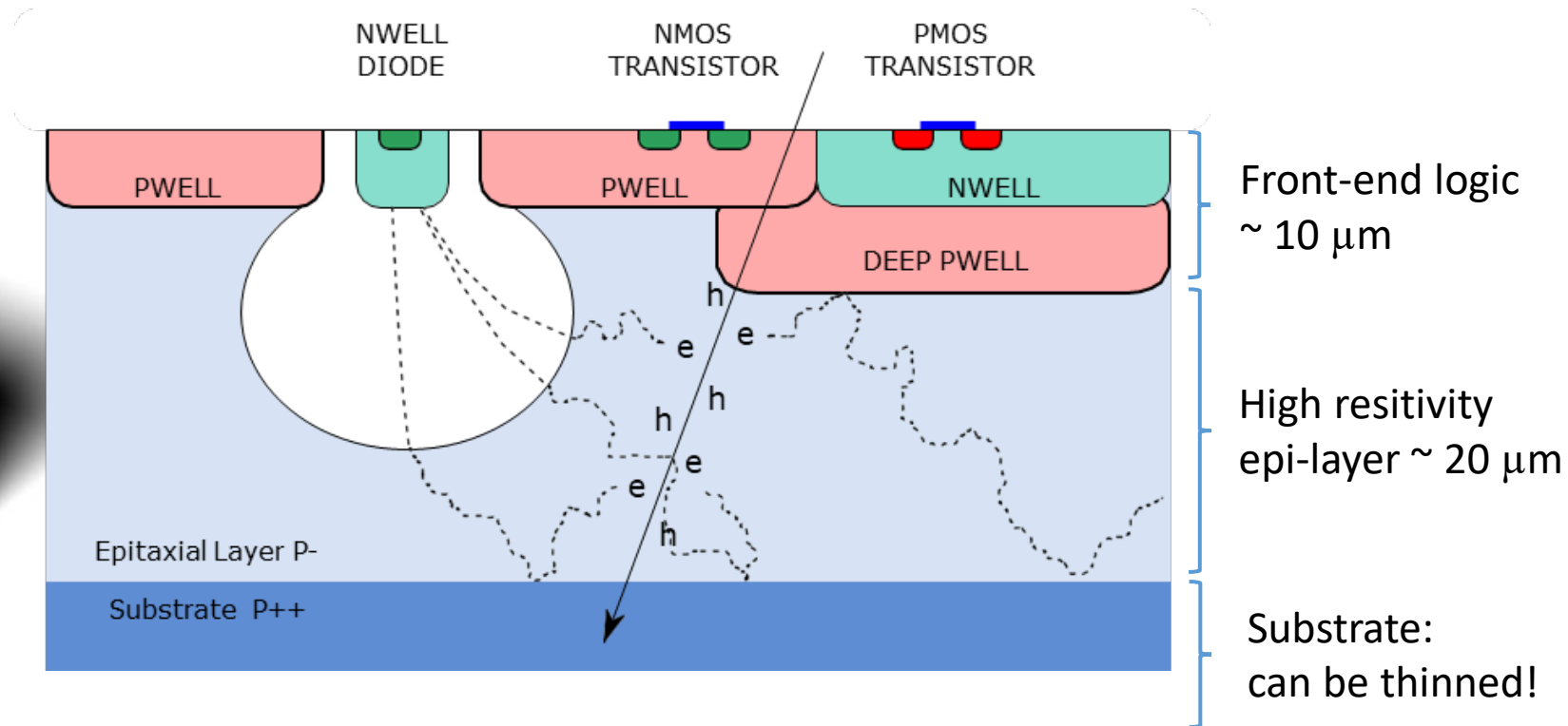
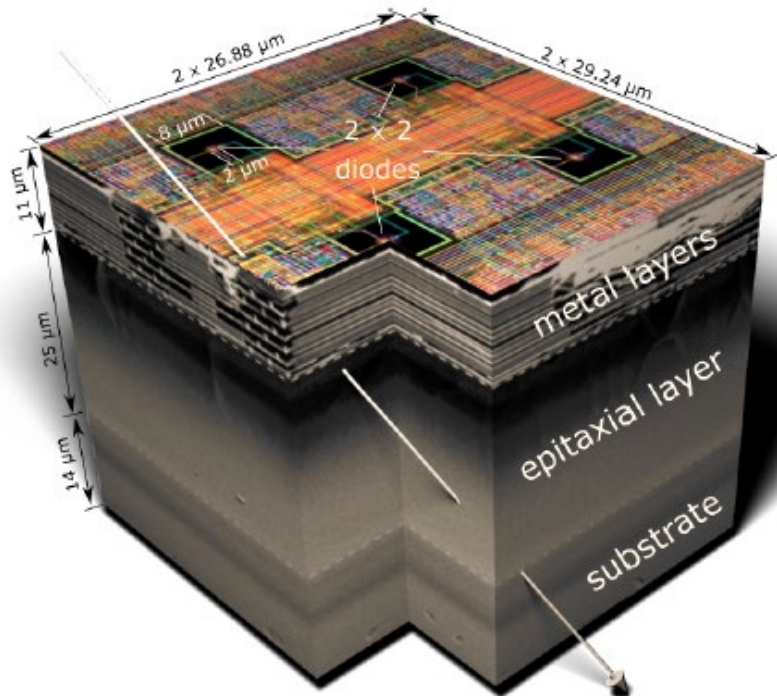
- Small distance from interaction point

- Limit power, data, costs
- Improve radiation tolerance
- Explore novel layouts



Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor technology

- Combines sensitive volume and front-end readout CMOS logic in the same piece of silicon



Minimizes the material budget + simplifies the construction

MAPS: the origins

- Invented in the '90s for the detection of visible light
 - Soon became leader technology for cameras
 - Later reached performance required by scientific imaging applications
 - Active area is just a fraction of the pixel; the standard substrate has low resistivity
- Only in the early 2000s proposed for charged particle tracking in HEP
 - Need larger fill factor and better charge collection (higher resistivity substrate)



ELSEVIER

[doi:10.1016/S0168-9002\(00\)00893-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-9002(00)00893-7)

Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 458 (2001) 677–689

NUCLEAR
INSTRUMENTS
& METHODS
IN PHYSICS
RESEARCH
Section A

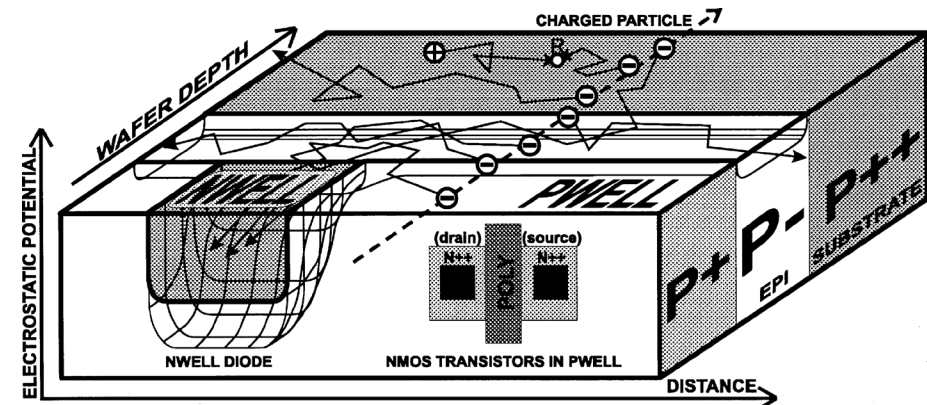
www.elsevier.nl/locate/nima

A monolithic active pixel sensor for charged particle tracking and imaging using standard VLSI CMOS technology

R. Turchetta^{a,*}, J.D. Berst^a, B. Casadei^a, G. Claus^a, C. Colledani^a, W. Dulinski^a, Y. Hu^a, D. Husson^a, J.P. Le Normand^a, J.L. Riester^a, G. Deptuch^{b,1}, U. Goerlach^b, S. Higuere^b, M. Winter^b

^aLEPSI, IN2P3/ULP, 23 rue du Loess, BP20, F-67037 Strasbourg, France

^bIReS, IN2P3/ULP, 23 rue du Loess, BP20, F-67037 Strasbourg, France



First MAPS for collider experiment: STAR HFT

Requirements for the MAPS layers

Operate in a moderate radiation environment	20 to 90 kRad / year $2 \cdot 10^{11}$ to 10^{12} 1MeV n eq/cm ²
DCA pointing resolution	$\leq 30 \mu\text{m}$ for 750 MeV/c kaons
Integration time	$< 200 \mu\text{s}$
Sensor efficiency	$\geq 99\%$ with accidental rate $\leq 10^{-4}$
Installation and maintenance	Quick insertion and extraction from one side

The STAR Experiment at RHIC (BNL)



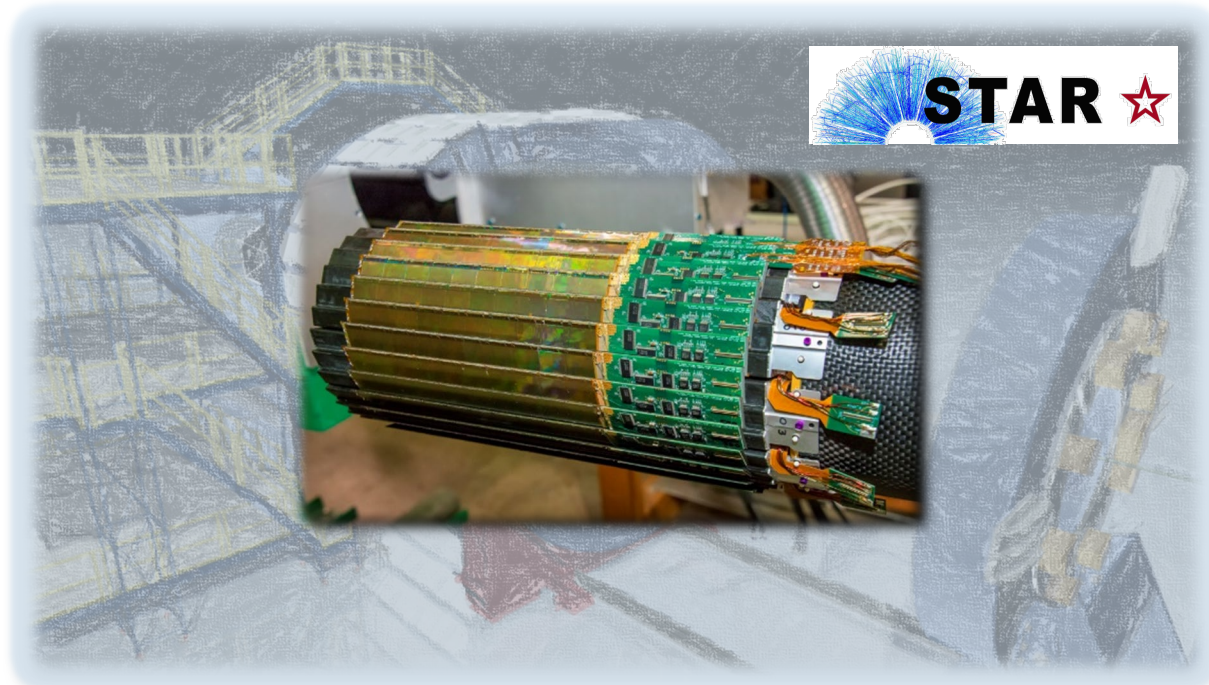
Goal: Detect charm decays with small $c\tau$ in Au-Au collisions at 200 GeV

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A new Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT)



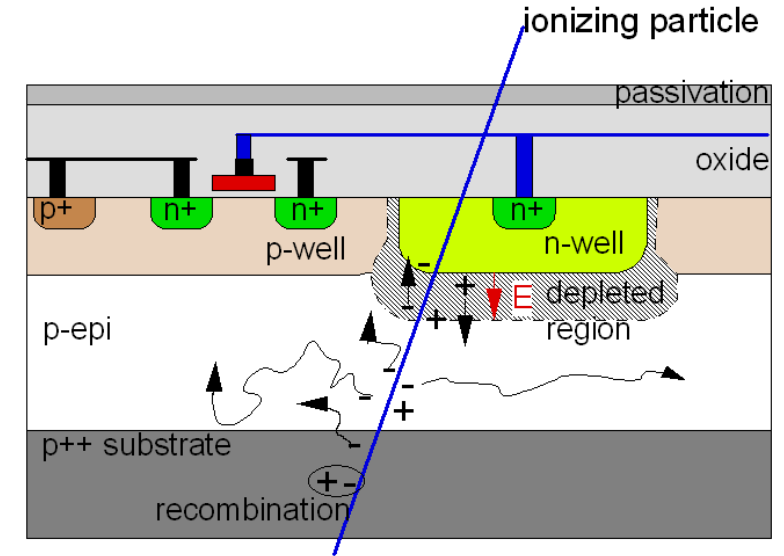
Two vertexing layers based on thin, low-power, small-pitch MAPS sensors



The MIMOSA *Ultimate-2* sensor for STAR HFT

MIMOSA-family sensor developed for HFT at IPHC, Strasbourg

- AMS 0.35 μm CMOS, Twin-well process
 - **Only NMOS transistors** to avoid competition in charge collection
- 'High' resistivity ($\geq 400 \Omega\cdot\text{cm}$) p-epi layer ($\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$)
 - Reduced **charge collection time** and improved **radiation hardness**
- Charge collection mostly by **diffusion**
 - **Shallow depletion** region formed between n-well and p-epi
 - **High-potential difference** between epi and substrate acts as a mirror

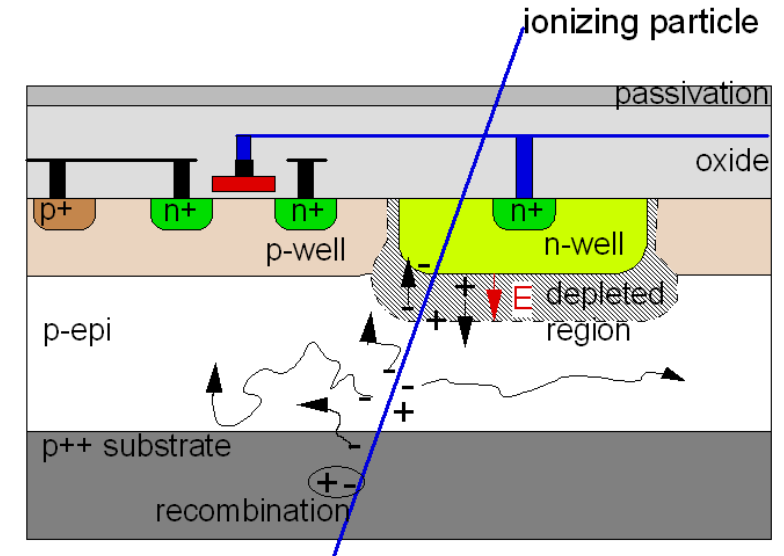




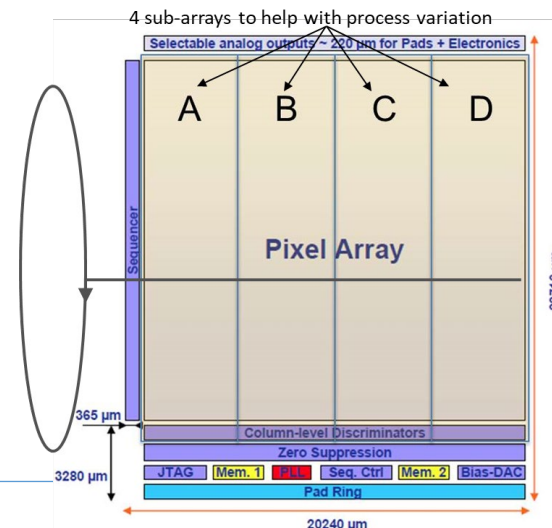
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- **Rolling-shutter** readout architecture
- 185.6 μs integration time
- $\sim 170 \text{ mW}/\text{cm}^2$ power dissipation
 - Clock distributed across the matrix



• Pixel matrix

- 20.7 μm pitch
- 928 rows * 960 columns = $\sim 1\text{M}$ pixel
- In-pixel amplifier
- In-pixel Correlated Double Sampling (CDS)

• Digital section

- Ping-pong memory
- 160 MHz LVDS data output



The STAR HFT PXL Layers

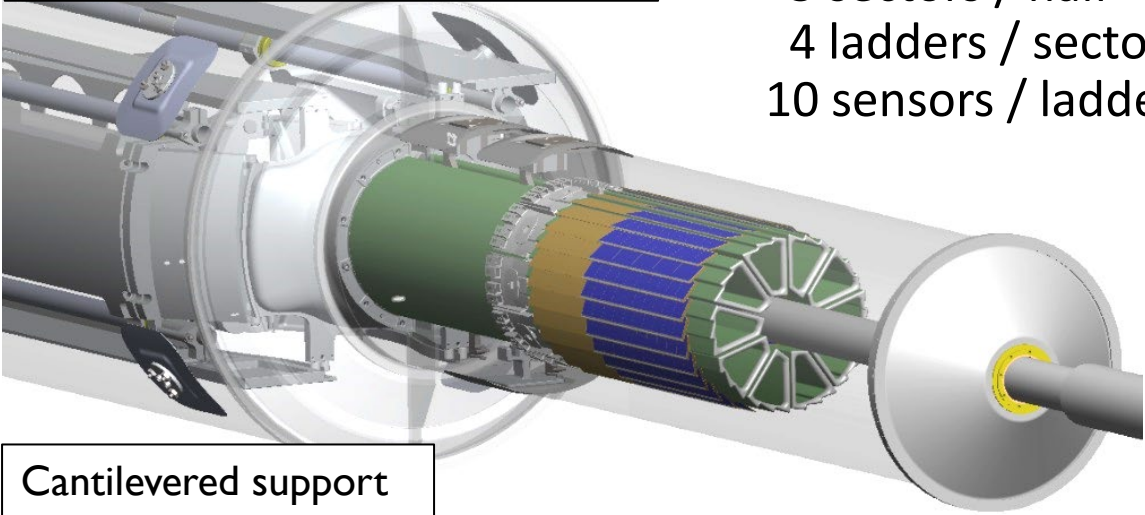


See G. Contin @ [iWoRiD 2014](#)

Ladder with 10 MAPS sensors (~ 2x2 cm each)



Mechanical support with kinematic mounts (insertion side)

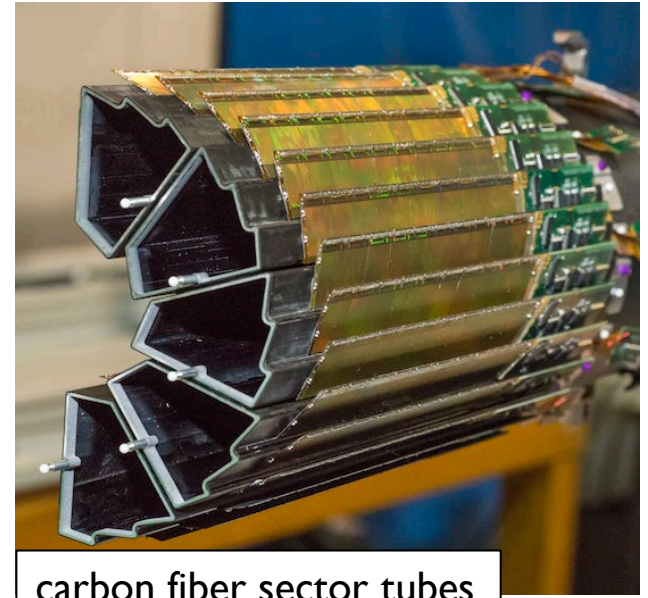


Cantilevered support

Highly parallel system

- 10 sectors total
- 5 sectors / half
- 4 ladders / sector
- 10 sensors / ladder

~356 M pixels over ~0.16 m²



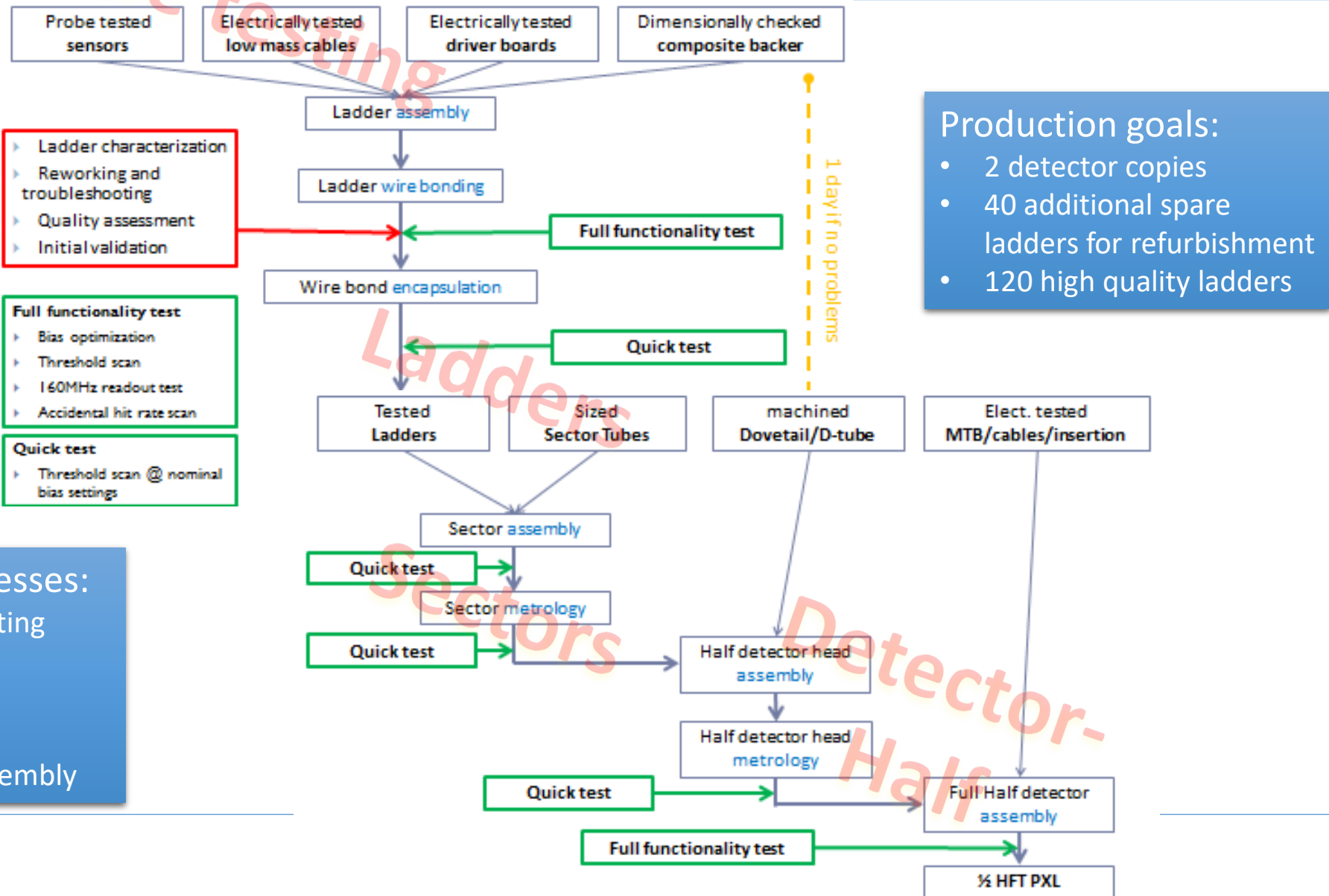
carbon fiber sector tubes

Untested technology in a collider environment

- Plan for a way to quickly replace malfunctioning components
- Produce spare replica and components ready to plug in



HFT Production, Assembly and QA workflow



- › Ladder characterization
- › Reworking and troubleshooting
- › Quality assessment
- › Initial validation

- Full functionality test
- › Bias optimization
- › Threshold scan
- › 160MHz readout test
- › Accidental hit rate scan

- Quick test
- › Threshold scan @ nominal bias settings

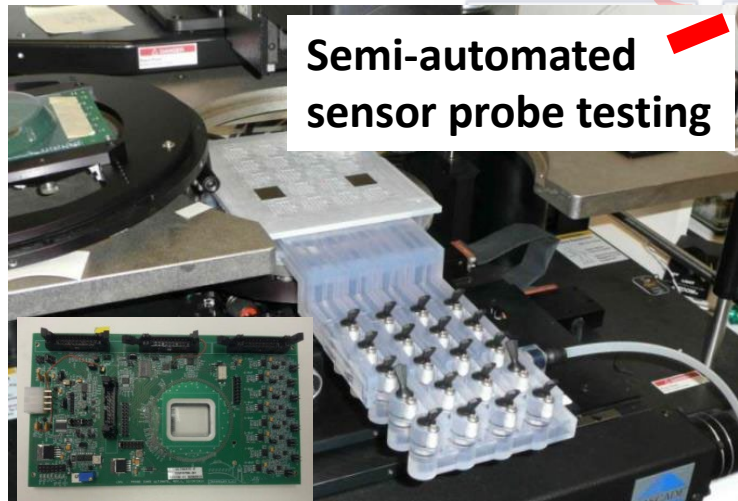
- Production goals:
- 2 detector copies
 - 40 additional spare ladders for refurbishment
 - 120 high quality ladders

- Production processes:
- Sensor probe testing
 - Ladder assembly
 - Ladder testing
 - Sector assembly
 - Detector-half assembly

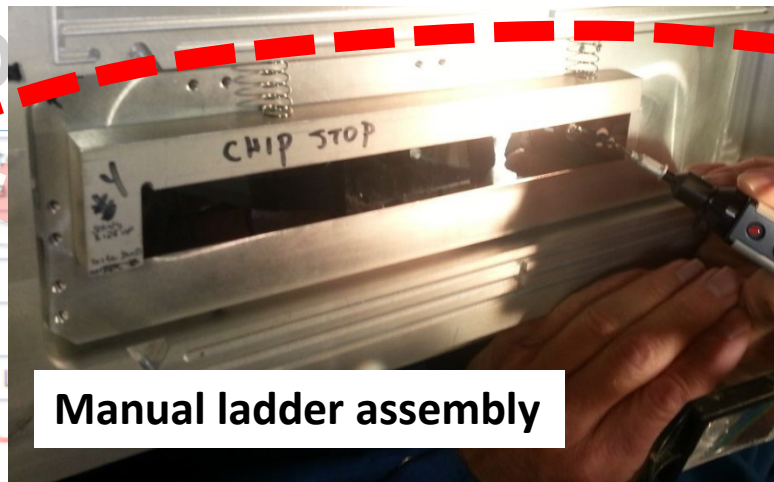


HFT Production

QA workflow



Semi-automated sensor probe testing

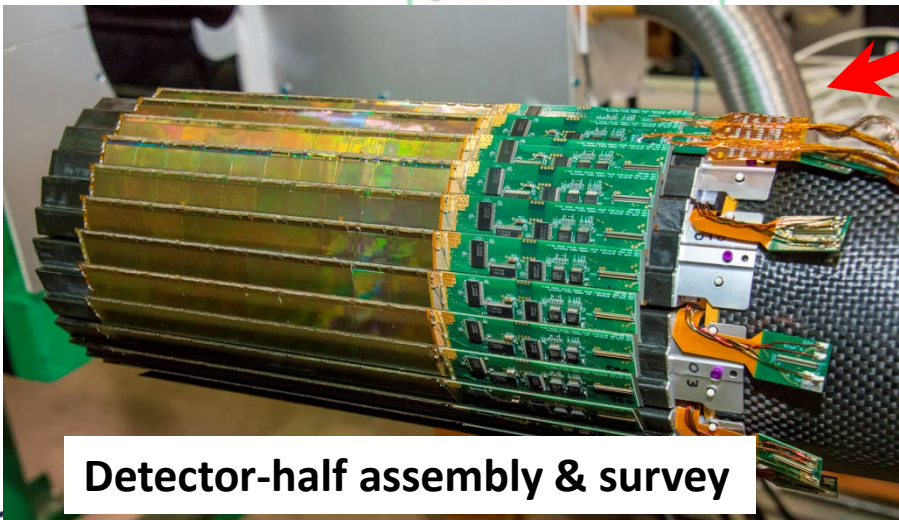


Manual ladder assembly

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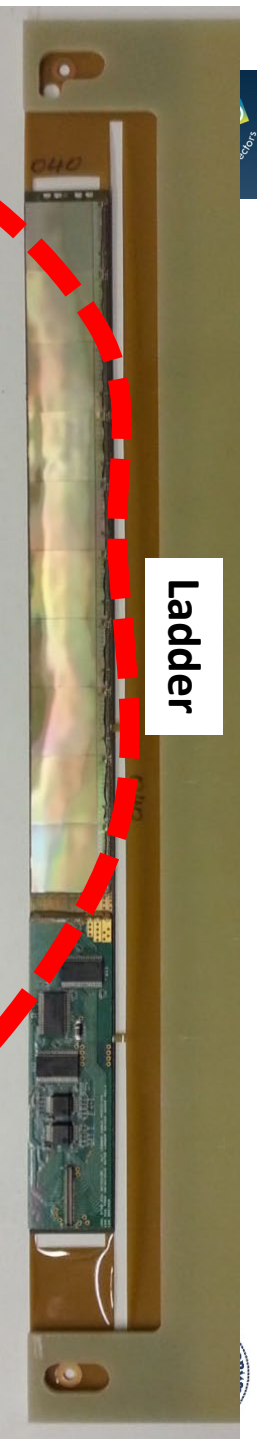
Sector metrology survey



Detector-half assembly & survey

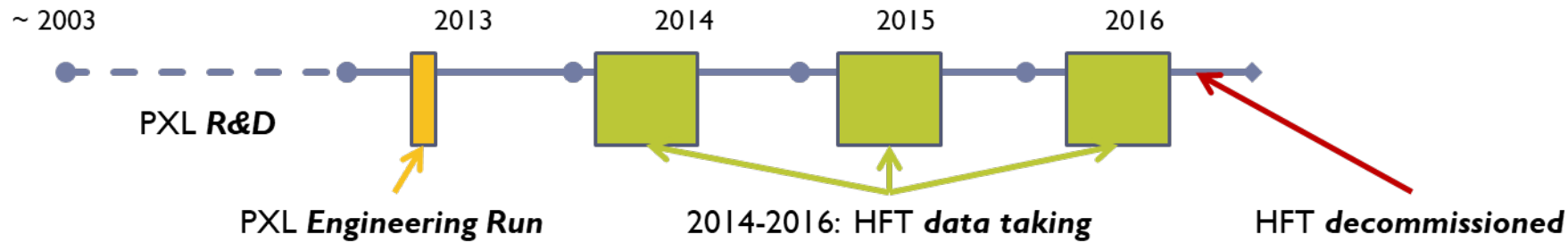


Manual sector assembly



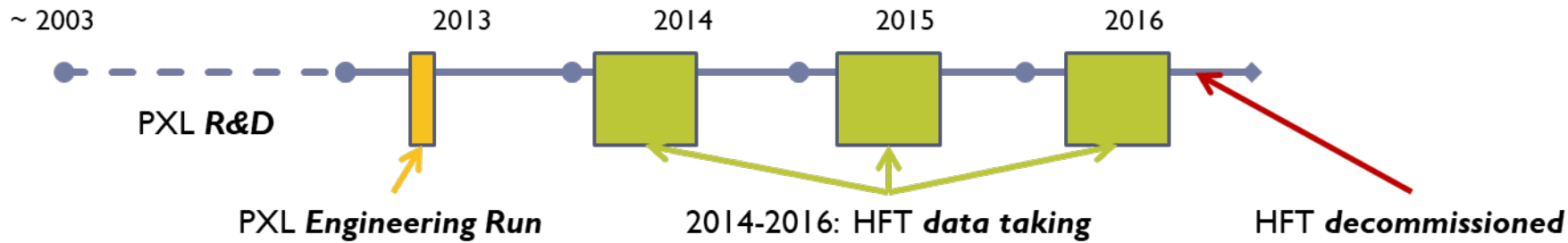
Ladder

HFT PXL timeline and operations

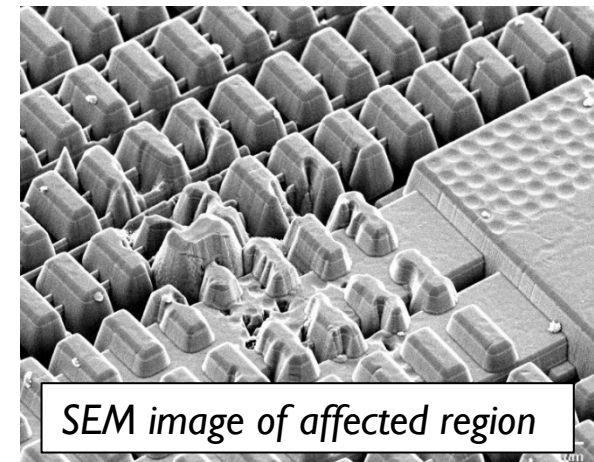
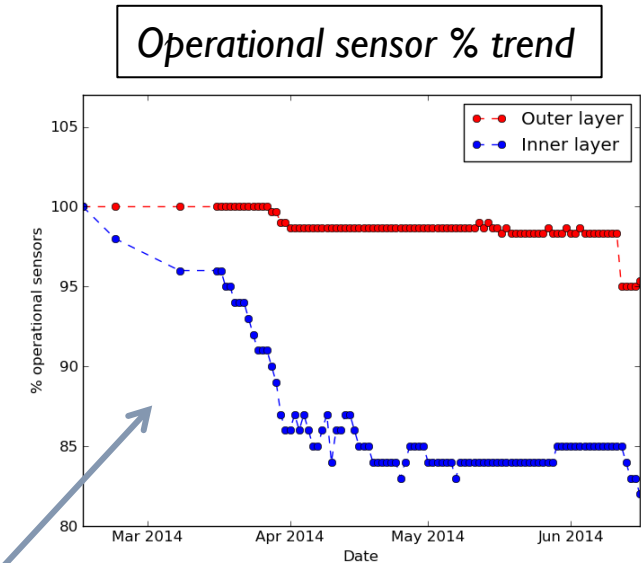


- **2013 Engineering Run** (3 sectors in actual STAR environment) crucial to solve:
 - **Electrical shorts, mechanical interference, missing functionalities**
 - Power control, monitoring and overcurrent thresholds were made available
- **2014-2016 Physics Runs** operations: up to 1000hits/sensor; Trigger rate: 0.8-1 kHz

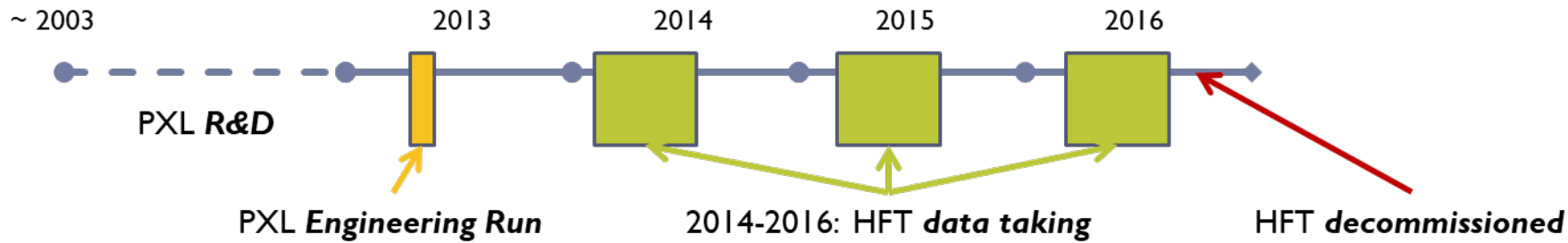
HFT PXL timeline and operations



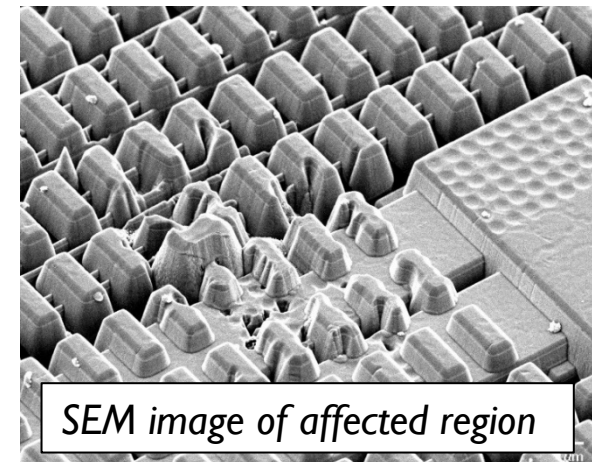
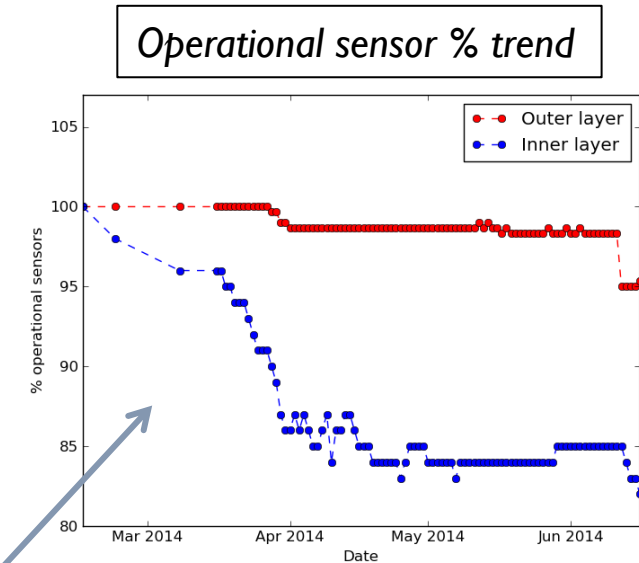
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 - Current limited latch-up states (typically ~300 mA) **permanently damaging the thin sensor**
 - Affected mostly high-density logic in the digital section: **local power dissipation** melting the metal layers
 - Mitigated with **latch-up detection and automatic power cycling**: dead time up to ~6%



HFT PXL timeline and operations

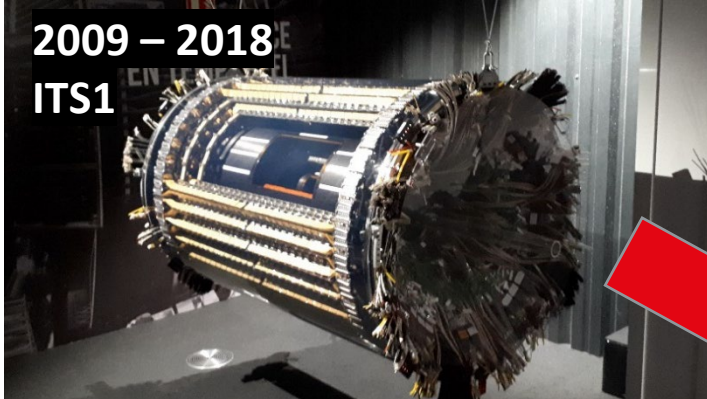


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- **MAPS technology proved to be suitable for a collider experiment!**



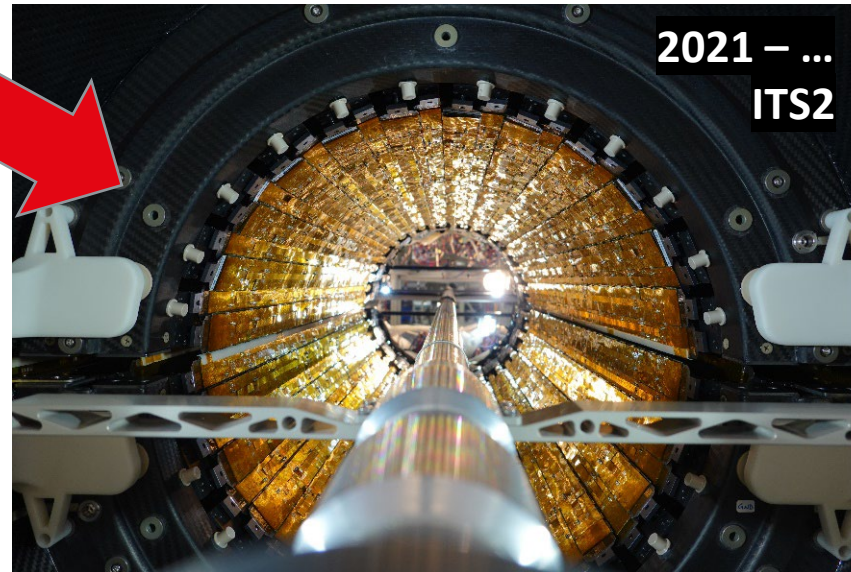
SEM image of affected region

ALICE ITS2: first large-area MAPS-based tracker

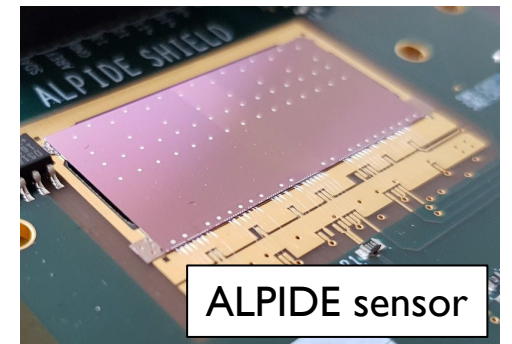
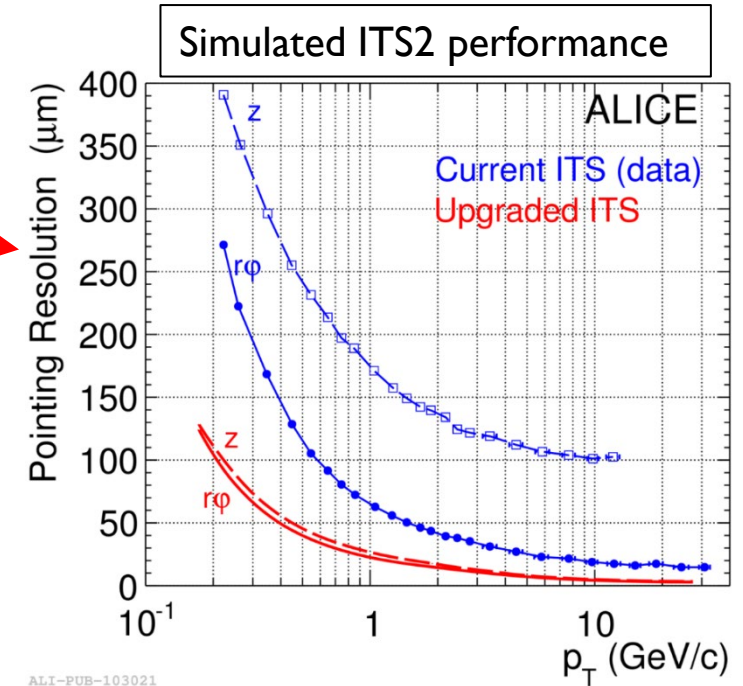


- **ITS1:** three silicon technologies
 - Hybrid pixels
 - Drift chambers
 - Micro-strips
- Operated for 10 years in ALICE
 - Secondary vertex reconstruction: essential ingredient for its physics output

- **ITS2:** a large-scale MAPS detector
- **Goal:** a dramatic improvement in the detector performance, especially at low p_T



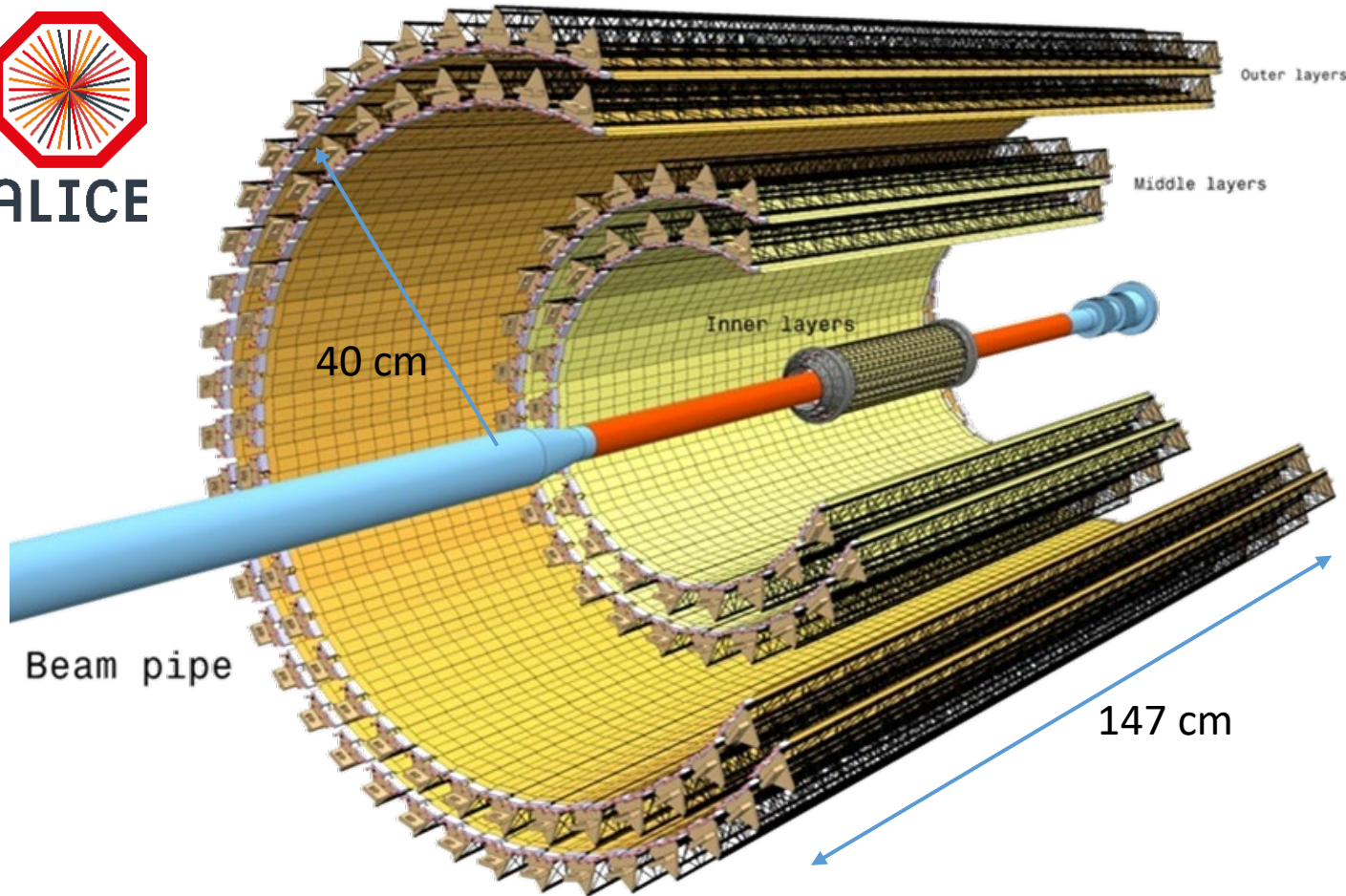
- **Single technology:** MAPS sensor developed within the Collaboration in TowerJazz 180nm CMOS process



ALICE ITS2: 12.5 Gpixels on $\sim 10 \text{ m}^2$ of silicon



ALICE



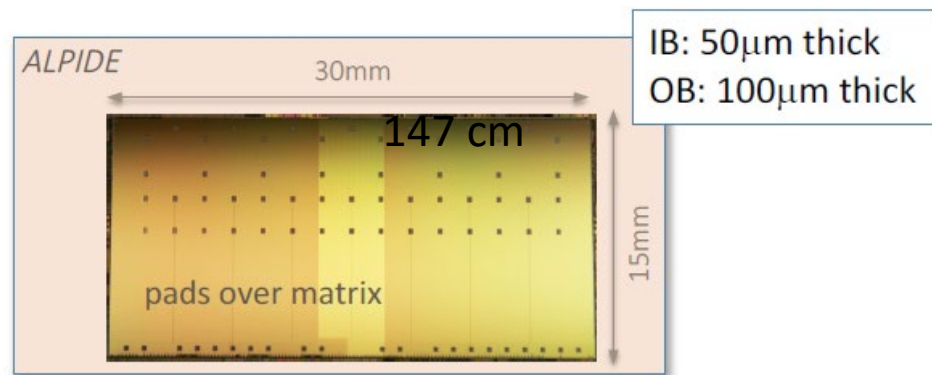
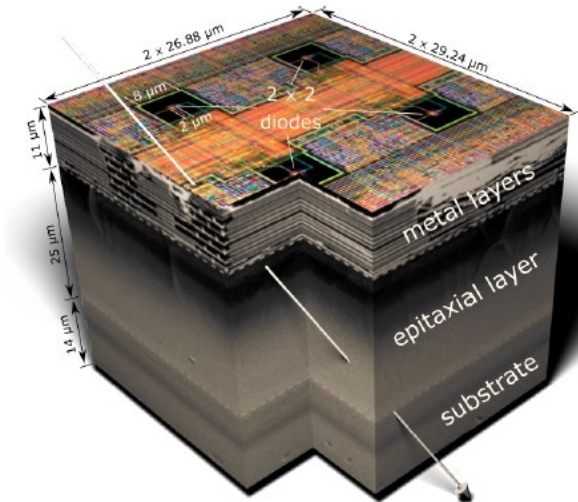
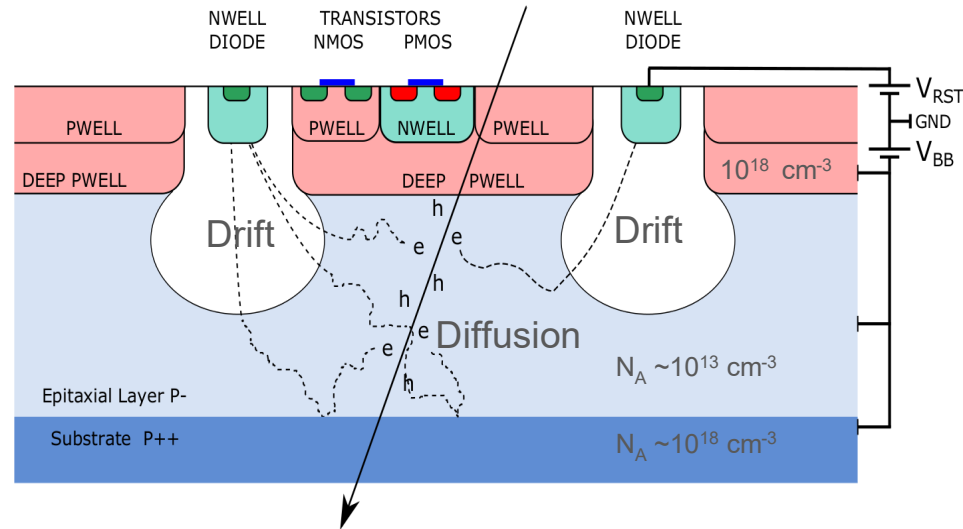
- Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor
- Pixel pitch: $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$
- **7 cylinders** covering $\sim 10 \text{ m}^2$
- Innermost radius: **23 mm**
- $\sim 0.35\% X_0$ material budget
- $\sim 24\text{k}$ chips = **12.5G pixels**

"Technical Design Report for the Upgrade of the ALICE Inner Tracking System"
ALICE Collaboration, J.Phys. G41 (2014) 087002, CERN-LHCC-2013-024

The ALPIDE sensor for ALICE ITS2

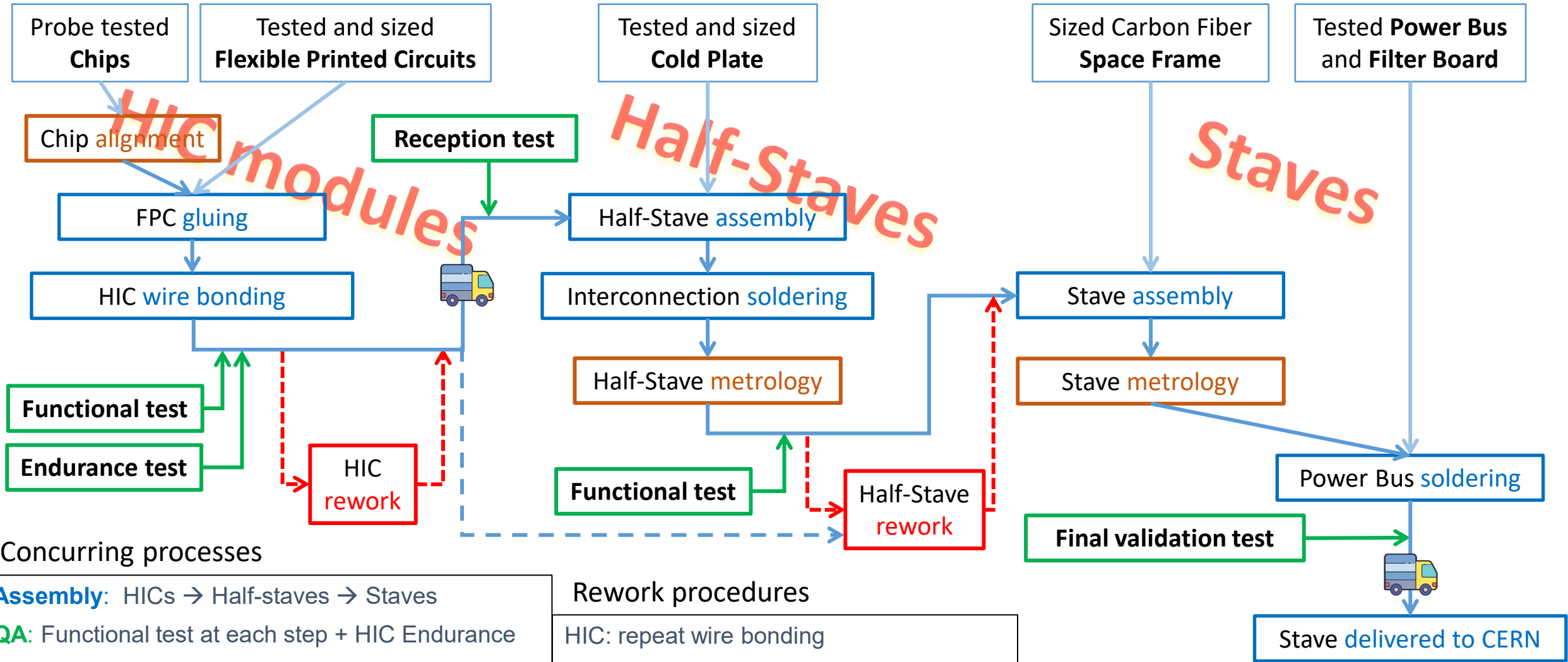
MAPS produced using TowerJazz 0.18μm CMOS Imaging Process

- Deep P-well allows in-pixel **full CMOS**
- Low-power ($\sim 40\text{mW}/\text{cm}^2$)
- $\sim 30\ \mu\text{m}$ pitch \rightarrow high granularity
- **50 μm thickness** \rightarrow low material budget
- $>1\ \text{k}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$ p-type epitaxial layer ($25\ \mu\text{m}$)
- Possibility of **reverse biasing** to expand drift region
- **TID** $\sim 0.3\ \text{Mrad}$
- **NIEL** $\sim 3 \cdot 10^{12}\ 1\ \text{MeV}\ n_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$
- $27 \times 29 \times 25\ \mu\text{m}^3$
- 1024×512 pixels
- Spatial resolution: $\sim 5\ \mu\text{m}$
- Priority Encoder Readout



- Integration time: $< 20\ \mu\text{s}$
- Read out up to $1.2\ \text{Gbit/s}$
- Continuous or triggered read-out
- Final testing yield: 64%

Assembly and Quality Assurance workflow



Concurring processes

- Assembly:** HICs → Half-staves → Staves
- QA:** Functional test at each step + HIC Endurance
- Metrology:** Align components and map the sensitive volume positions

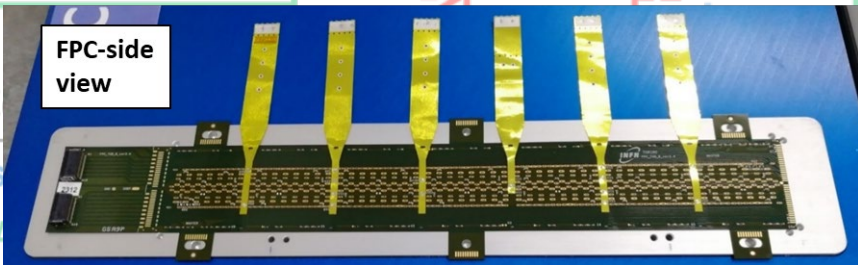
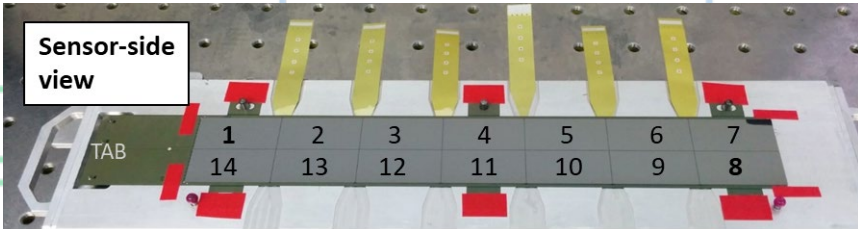
Rework procedures

- HIC: repeat wire bonding
- Half-Stage: replace HIC
- Stave: Disconnect and rework Half-Stage

Custom-made module assembly machine for **automated** placing, alignment, inspection, gluing



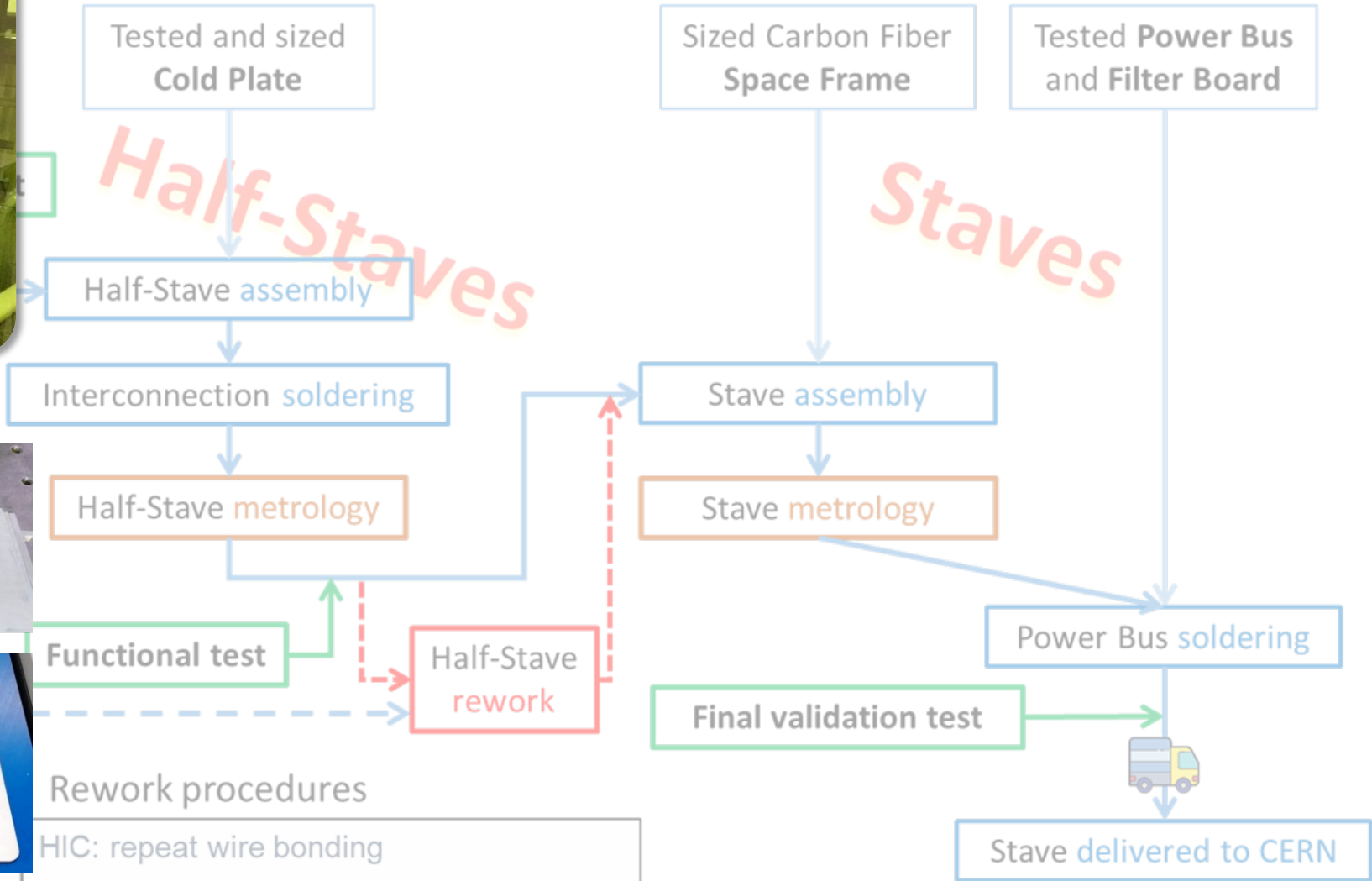
HIC wire bonding



Metrology: Align components and map the sensitive volume positions

~2 weeks

Quality Assurance workflow



Rework procedures

HIC: repeat wire bonding

Half-Stage: replace HIC

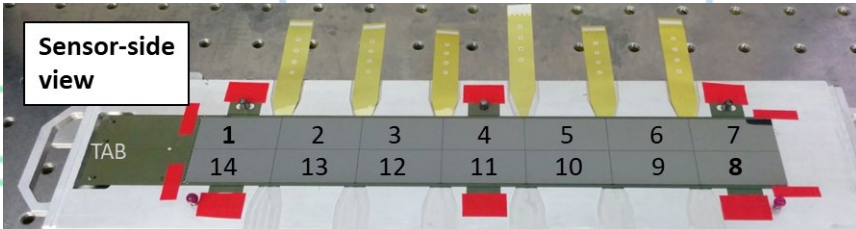
Stave: Disconnect and rework Half-Stage



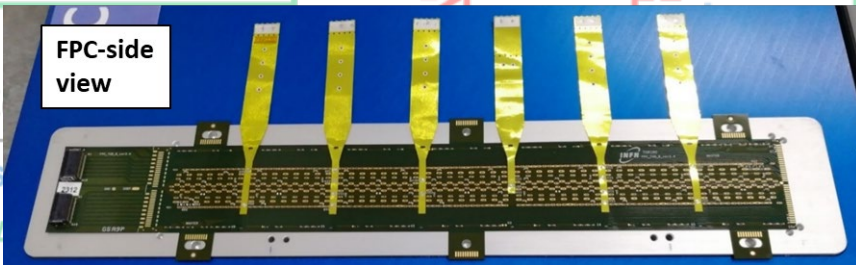
Custom-made module assembly machine for **automated** placing, alignment, inspection, gluing



HIC wire bonding



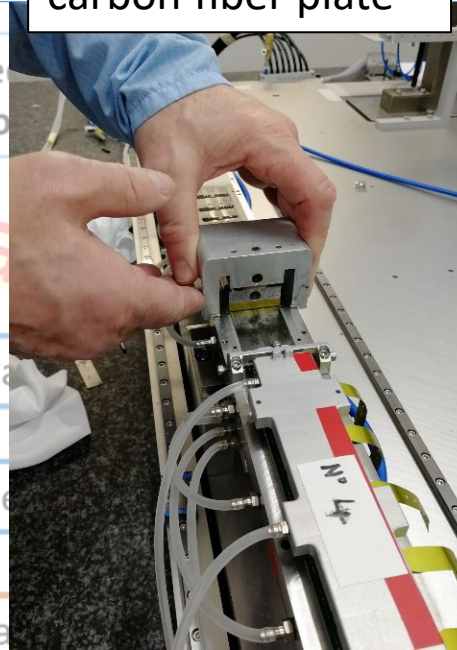
Sensor-side view



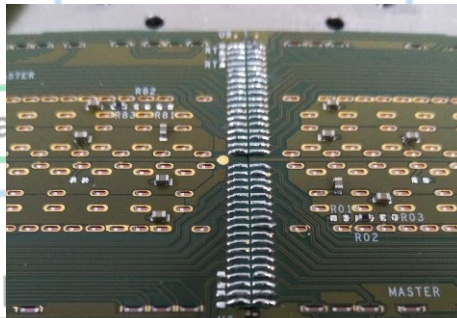
FPC-side view

Metrology: Align components and map the sensitive volume positions

Manual gluing on carbon fiber plate

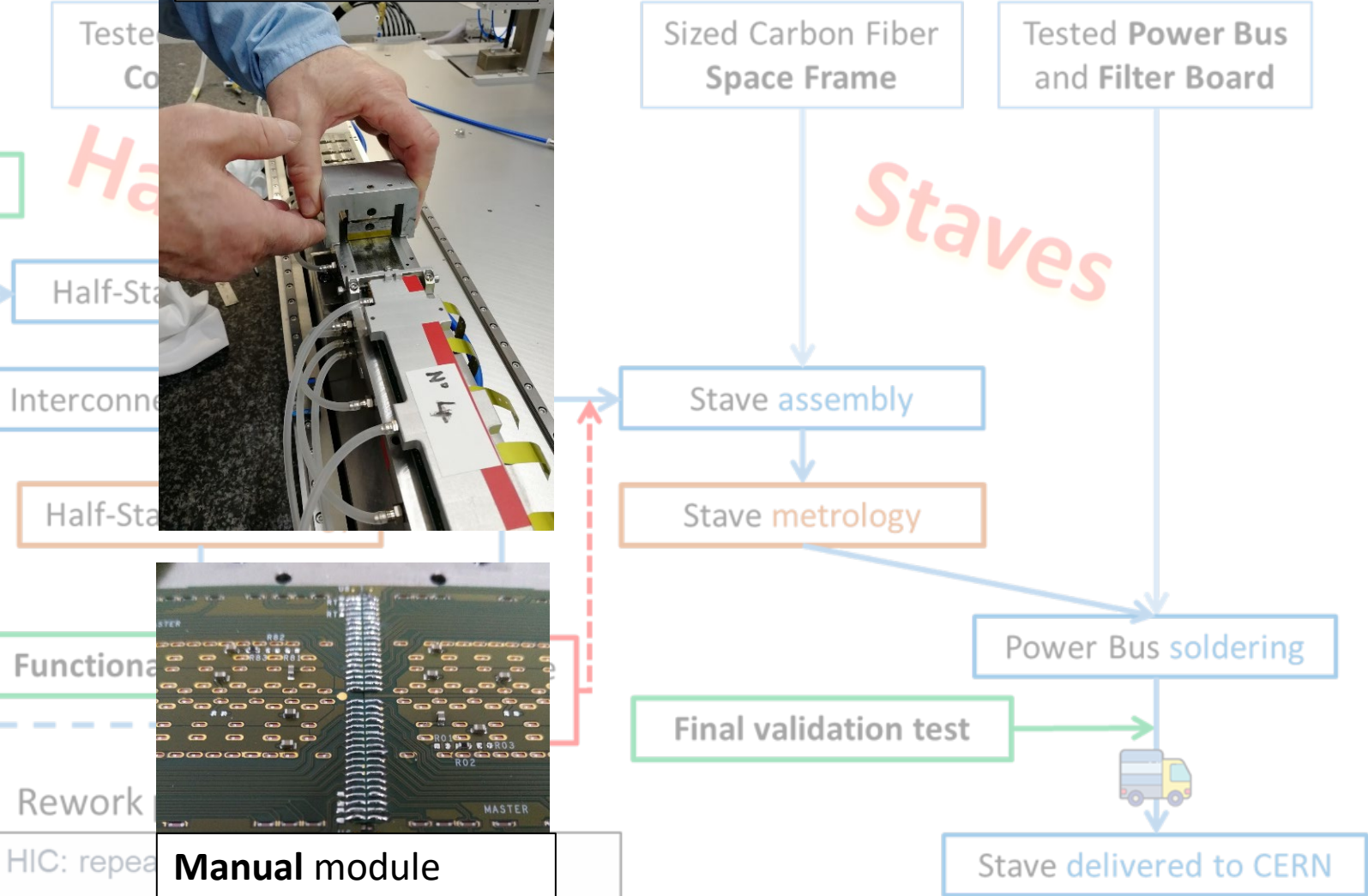


Manual module connection soldering



~2 weeks

Quality Assurance workflow



Tested Co

Half-Stage

Half-Stage

Interconn

Half-Stage

Functiona

Rework

HIC: repe

Half-Stage

Stave: Disconnect and rework Half-Stage

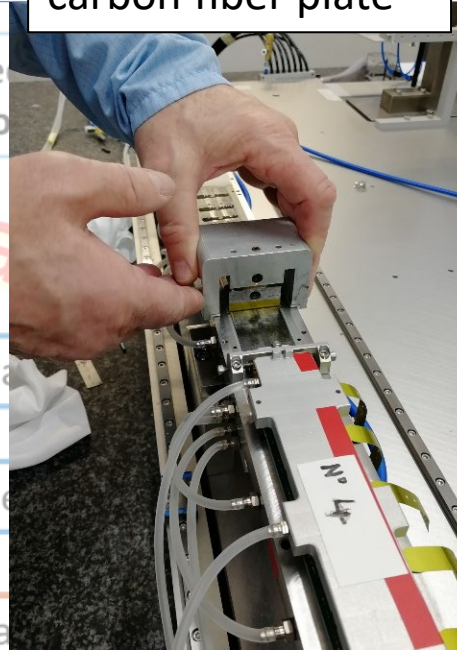


Custom-made module assembly machine for **automated** placing, alignment, inspection, gluing



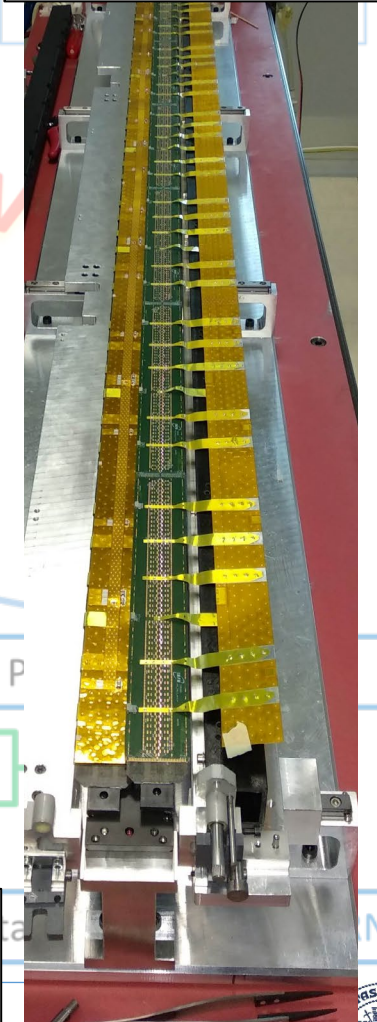
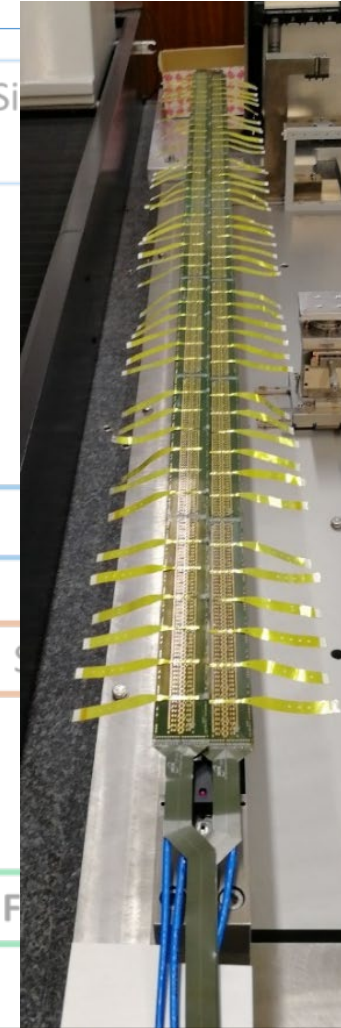
HIC wire bonding

Manual gluing on carbon fiber plate



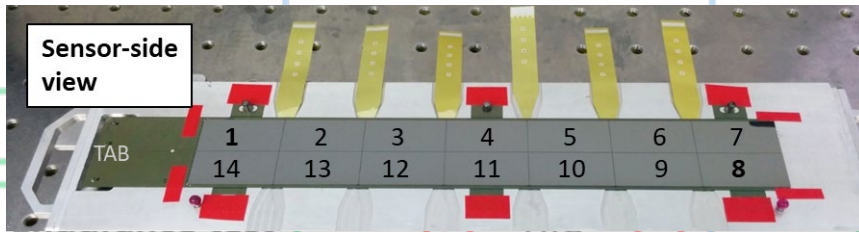
See G. Contin @ [Vertex 2019](#)

Manual power-bus application and folding

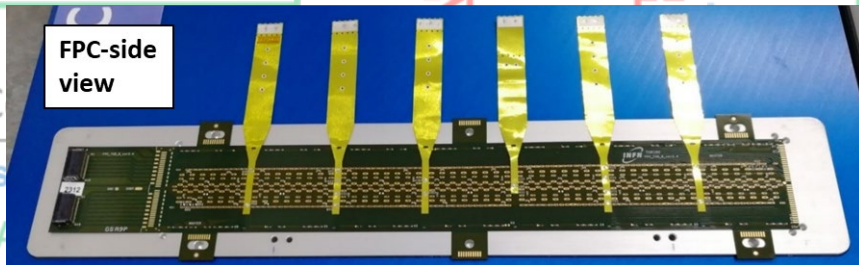


Surveyed manual stave assembly

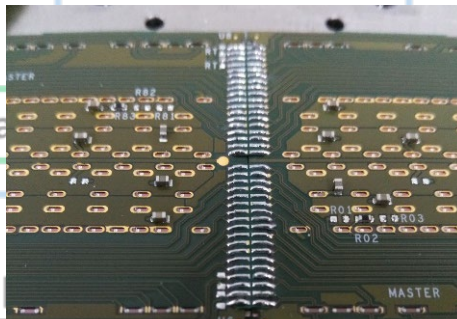
Sensor-side view



FPC-side view

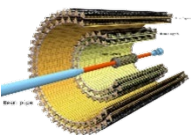


Manual module connection soldering

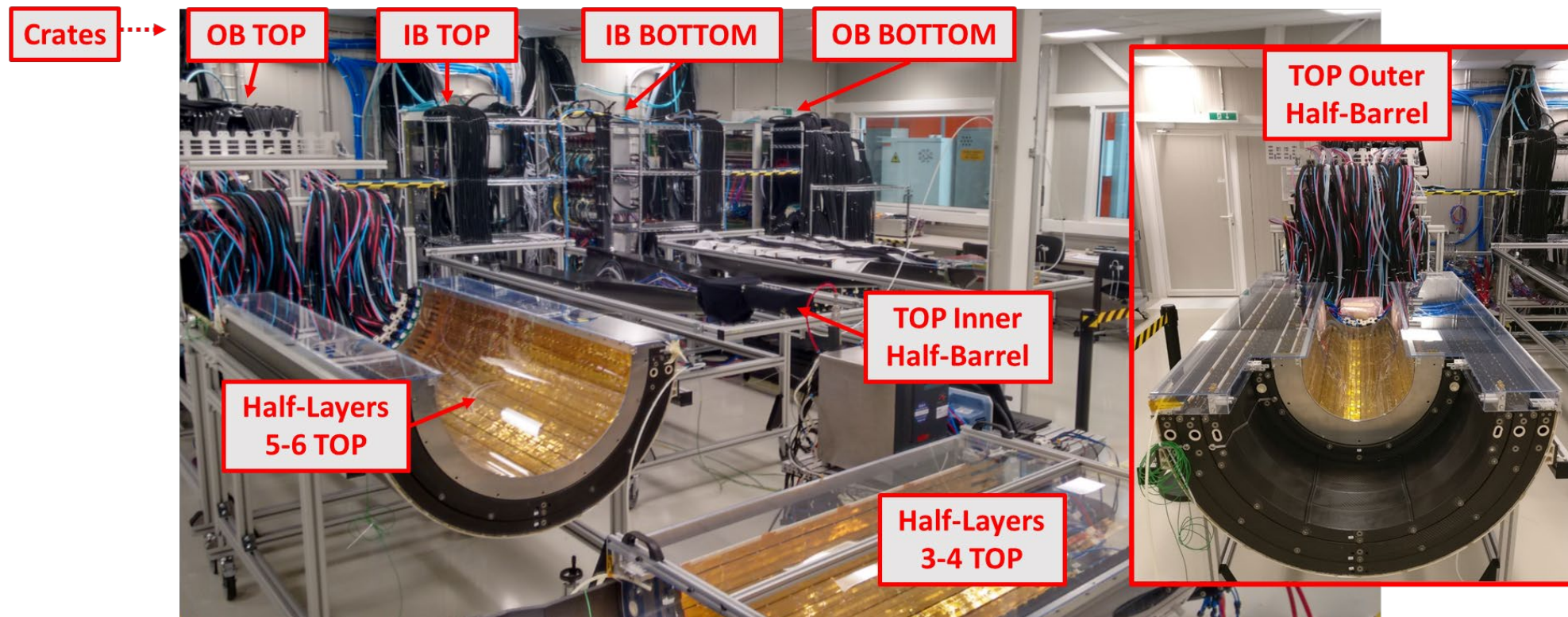


More than 10 Institutes for a few years!





1-year commissioning at the surface

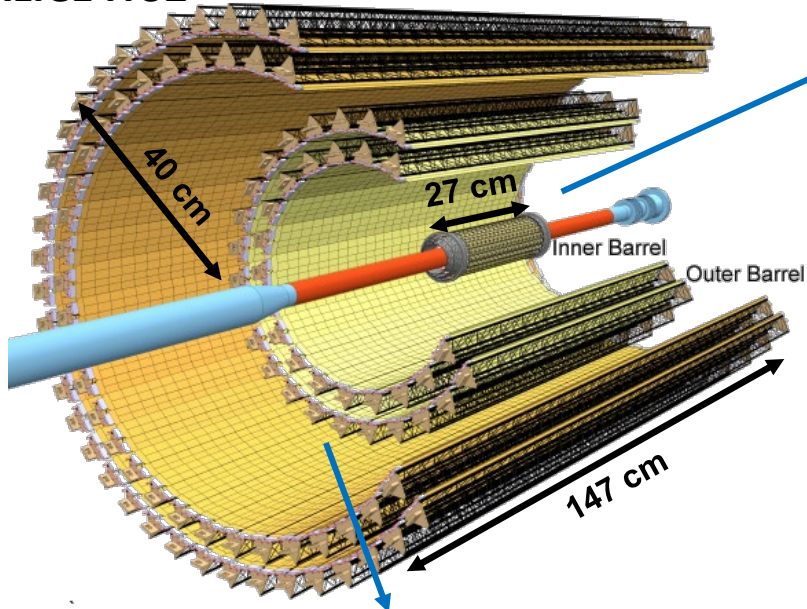


- ITS2 included in ALICE Data Taking since 2022:
 - Extremely quiet ($<10^{-7}$ hits/event/pixel), meeting performance expectations

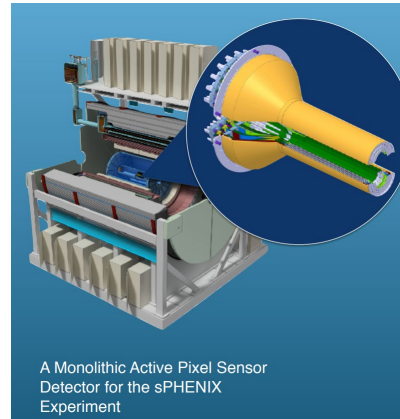
See [J. Liu's poster](#) @ this conference!

ITS2 technology transfer to other projects

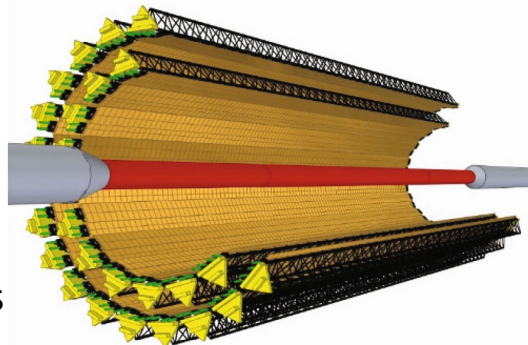
ALICE ITS2



SPHENIX MVTX @RHIC

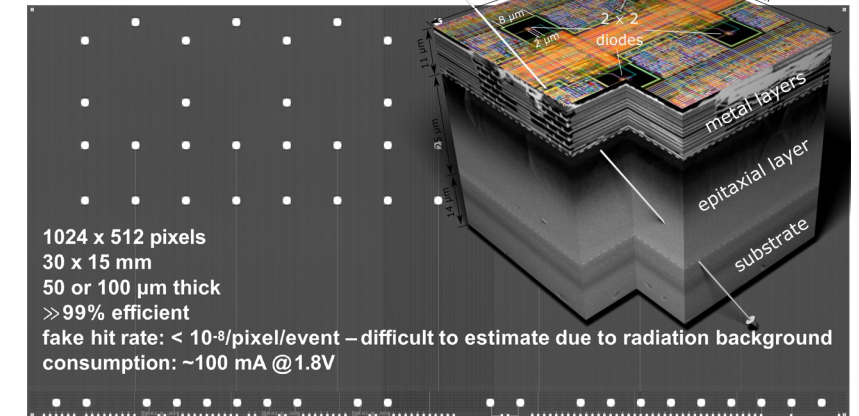


MPD Inner Tracker @NICA

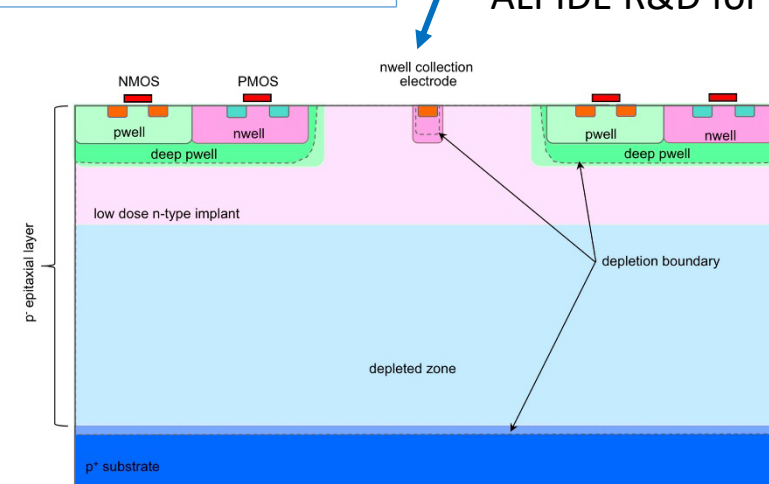


- Detector replicas for new experiments

ITS2 ALPIDE sensor



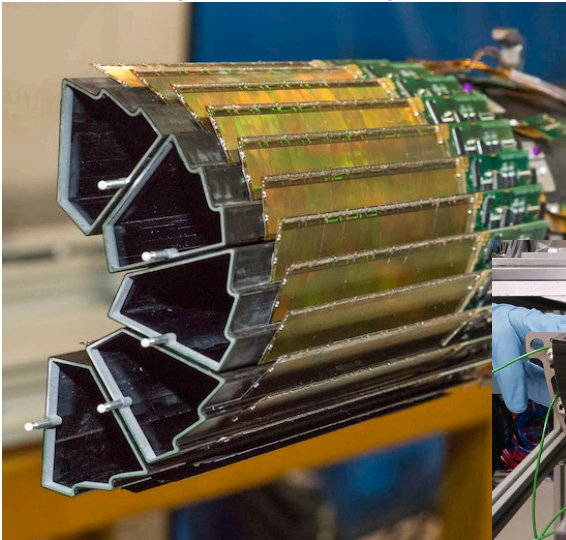
- **Modified process** developed and prototyped within ALPIDE R&D for better timing and radiation hardness



- Now adopted or considered by future experiments...
- **HADES, CBM, PANDA, NUSTAR, NA61, CSES2-Limadou, iIMPACT, COMPASS++/AMBER, pCT, ePIC ...**
- & chip developments:
 - **MALTA,**
 - **CLICpix,**
 - **FastPix, ...**

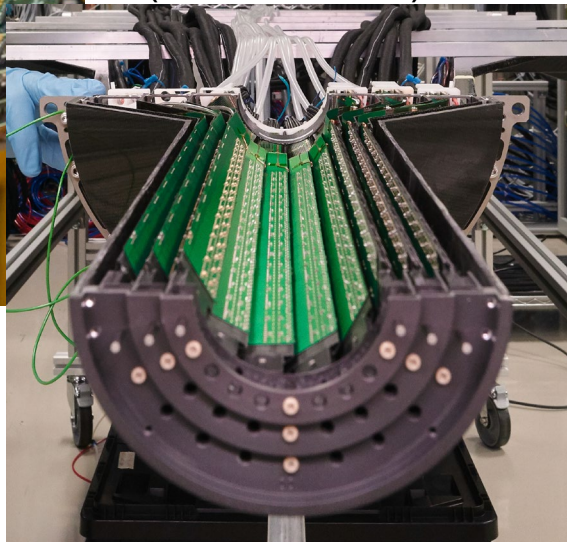
The next MAPS development for HEP

STAR HFT
(2014-2016)



Material: $0.4\%X_0$
Minimum radius: 2.8 cm
Pixel pitch: $\sim 21 \mu\text{m}$

ALICE ITS2
Inner Barrel
(2021 - 2025?)

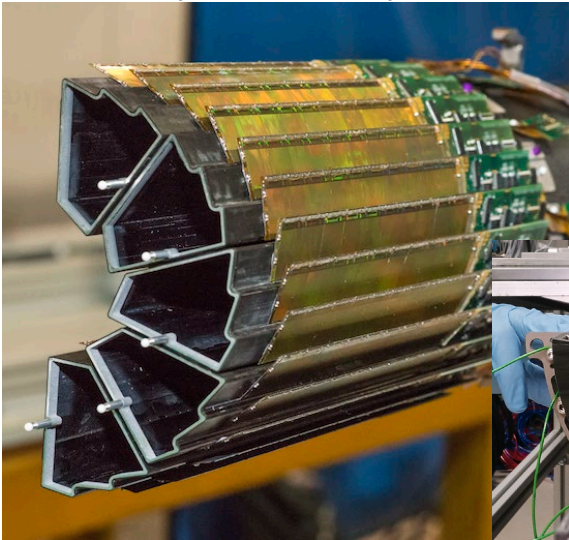


Material: $0.3\%X_0$
Minimum radius: 2.3 cm
Pixel pitch: $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$

*How can we do
better than this?*

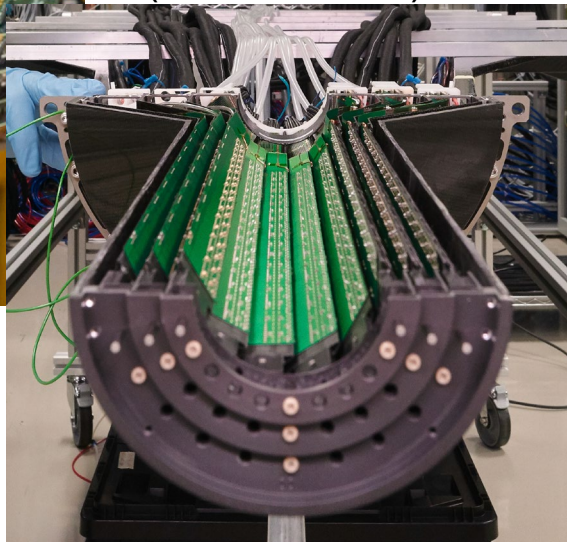
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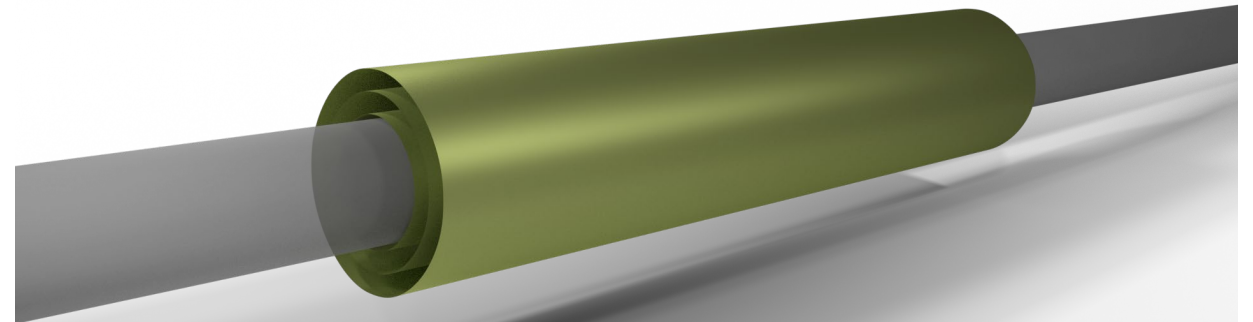
ALICE ITS2
Inner Barrel
(2021 - 2025?)



Material: $0.3\%X_0$
Minimum radius: 2.3 cm
Pixel pitch: $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$

A truly-cylindrical, 'silicon-only' detector
to achieve unprecedented tracking
performance at low transverse momenta.

ALICE ITS3
(2027 - ?)

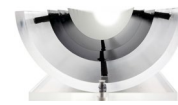


Material: $< 0.05\%X_0$
Minimum radius: $\sim 1.8 \text{ cm}$
Pixel pitch: $< 25 \mu\text{m}$

See [M. Suljic's talk](#) @ this conference!

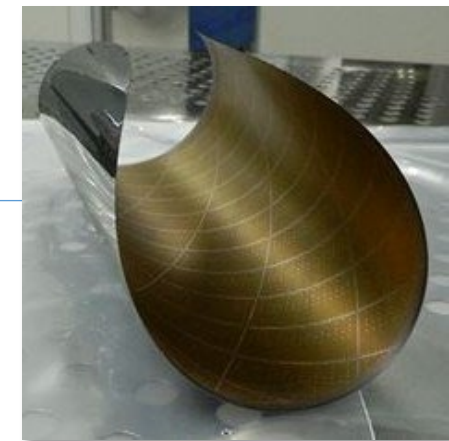
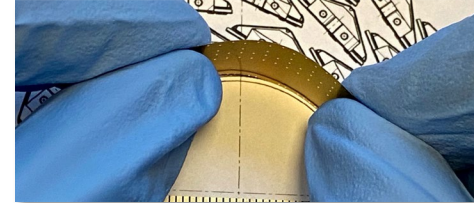
ITS3 silicon-only layers

ALICE ITS3



- **Curved geometry**

- Silicon becomes flexible below 50 μm thickness



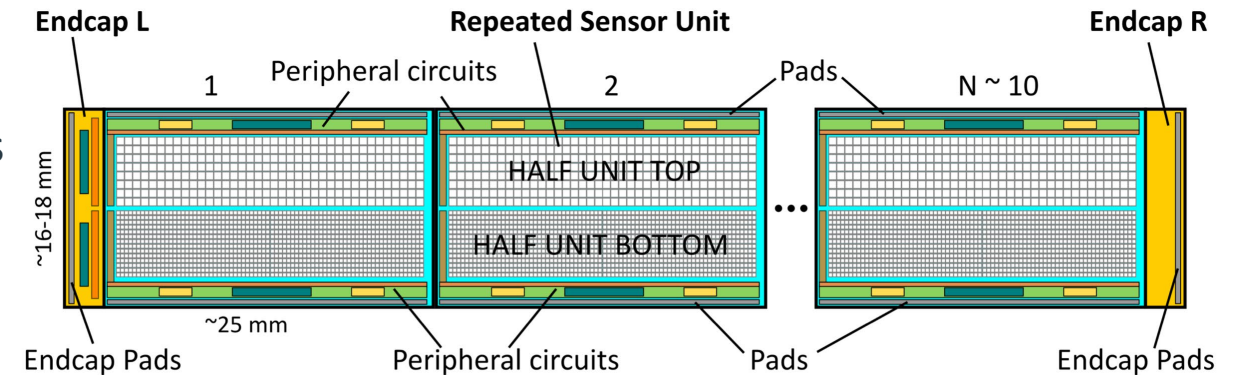
- **Large area chips** to reduce segmentation and interconnections

- 30 cm wafers

- **Stitched design:**

possible architecture →

- abutting identical but functionally independent units
- connect metal traces for power distribution and long range on-chip interconnect busses
- repeat in vertical direction to match layer size

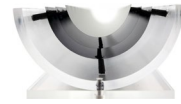


- **TPSCo 65 nm CMOS process** exploration

featuring: →

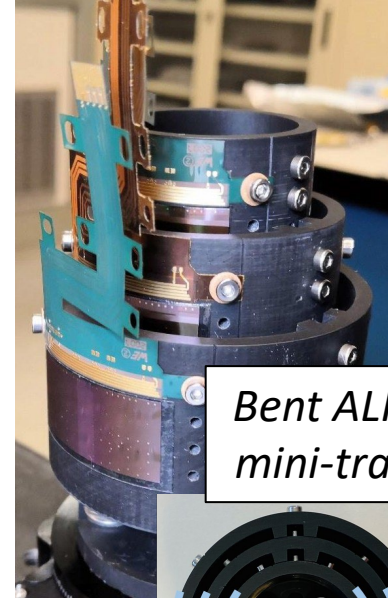
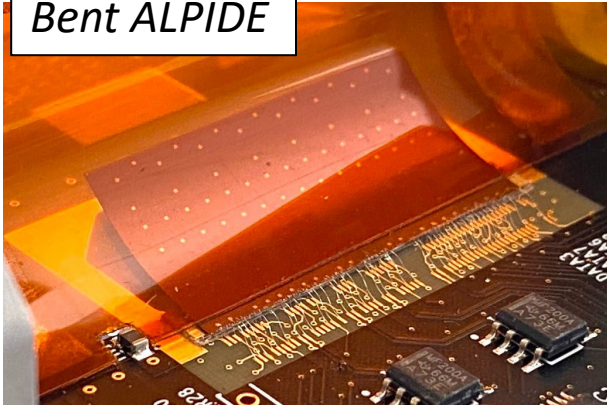
- First submission containing test structures now characterised
- Performance meeting ITS3 requirements

- ❖ 30 cm wafers (vs 20 cm in 180 nm)
- ❖ 2D stitching experience
- ❖ Smaller feature size → smaller pixels

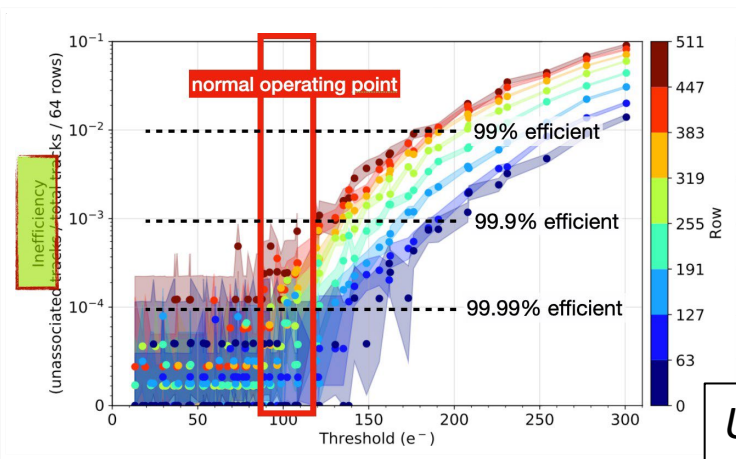


Bent silicon validation

Bent ALPIDE



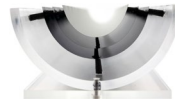
*Bent ALPIDE
mini-tracker*



Unchanged efficiency

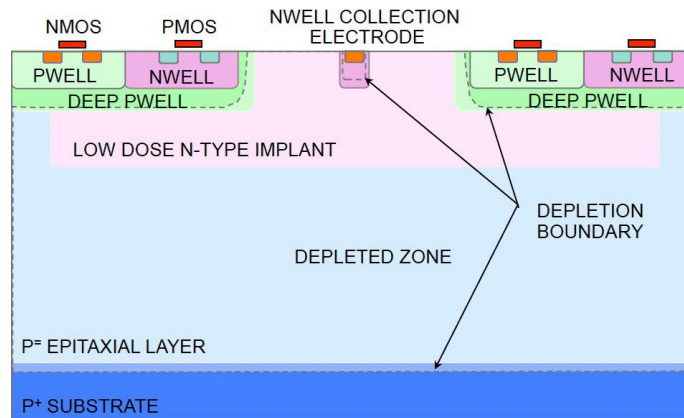
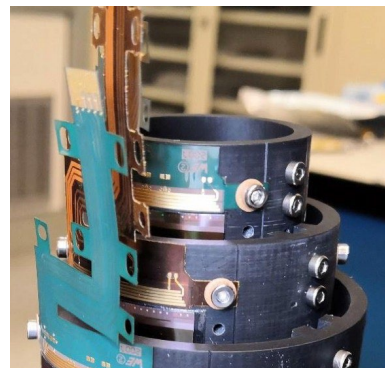
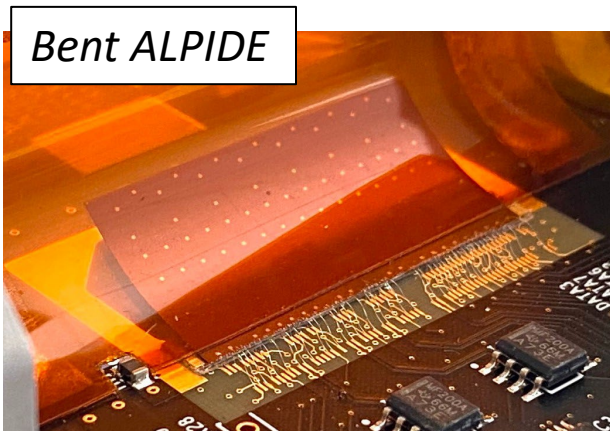
[doi:10.1016/j.nima.2021.166280](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2021.166280)

Bent silicon works!



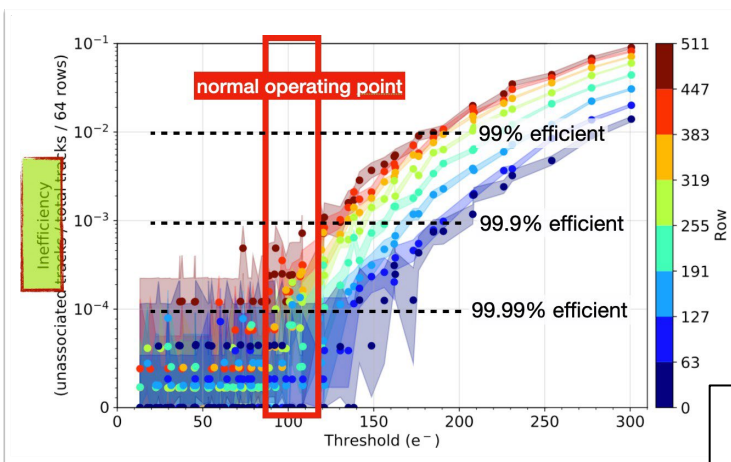
Bent silicon validation

Process validation



65 nm CMOS modified process with gap

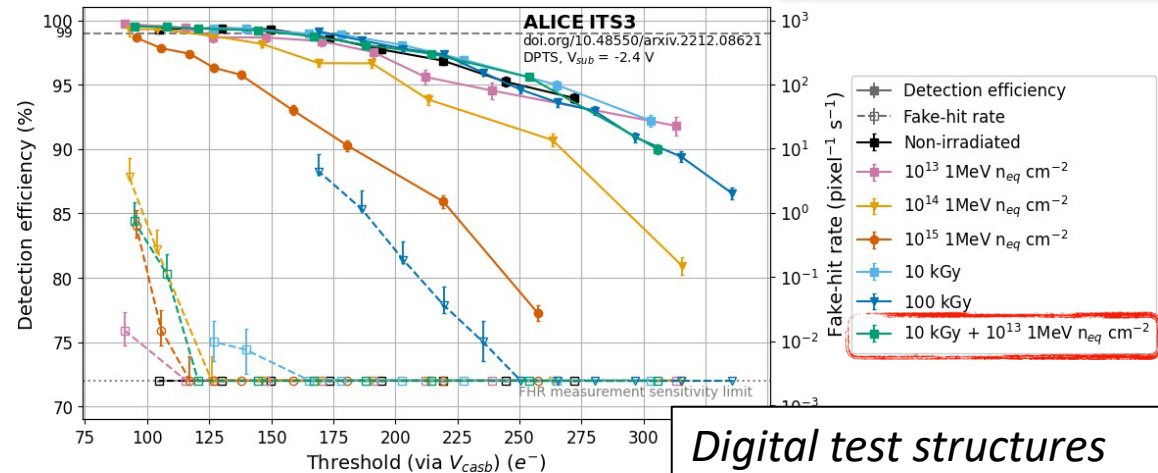
M. Buckland's poster @ this conference!



Unchanged efficiency

[doi:10.1016/j.nima.2021.166280](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2021.166280)

Bent silicon works!



Digital test structures efficient after irradiation

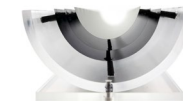
[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621)

65 nm CMOS meets ITS3 requirements!

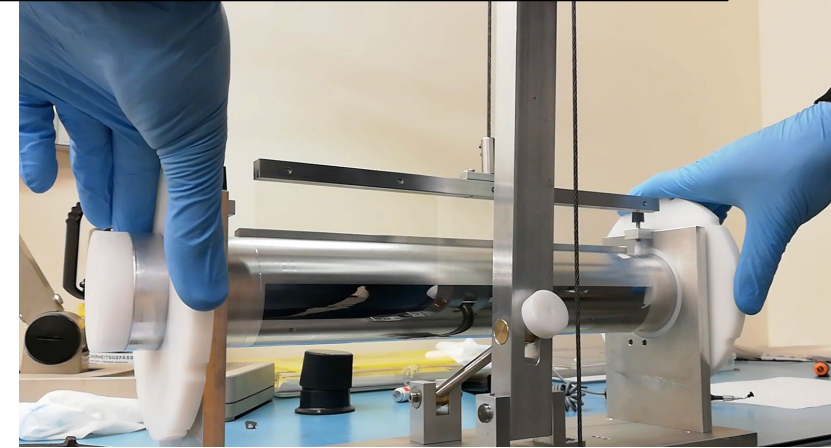
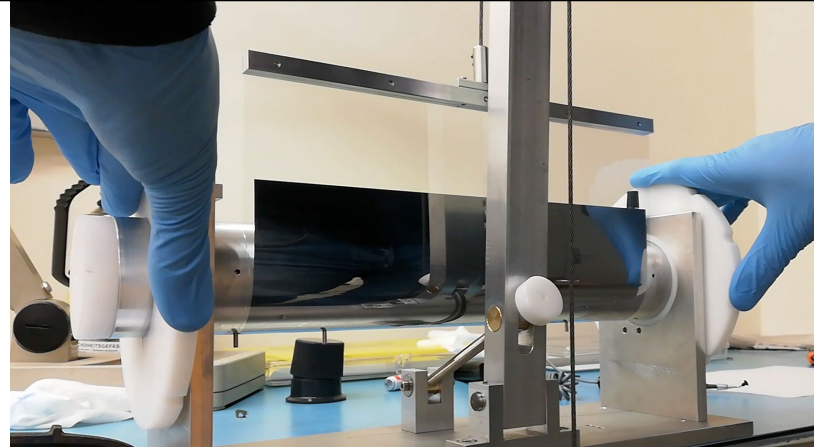
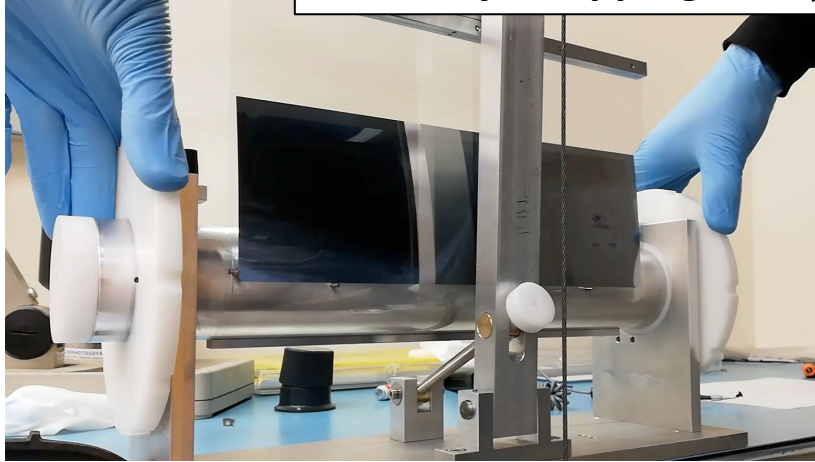


Manual bending and assembly

ALICE ITS3

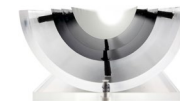


Manually wrapping a 50 μm thick dummy sensor, $\sim 10 \times 28 \text{ cm}^2$ around the 3 cm radius assembly mandrel



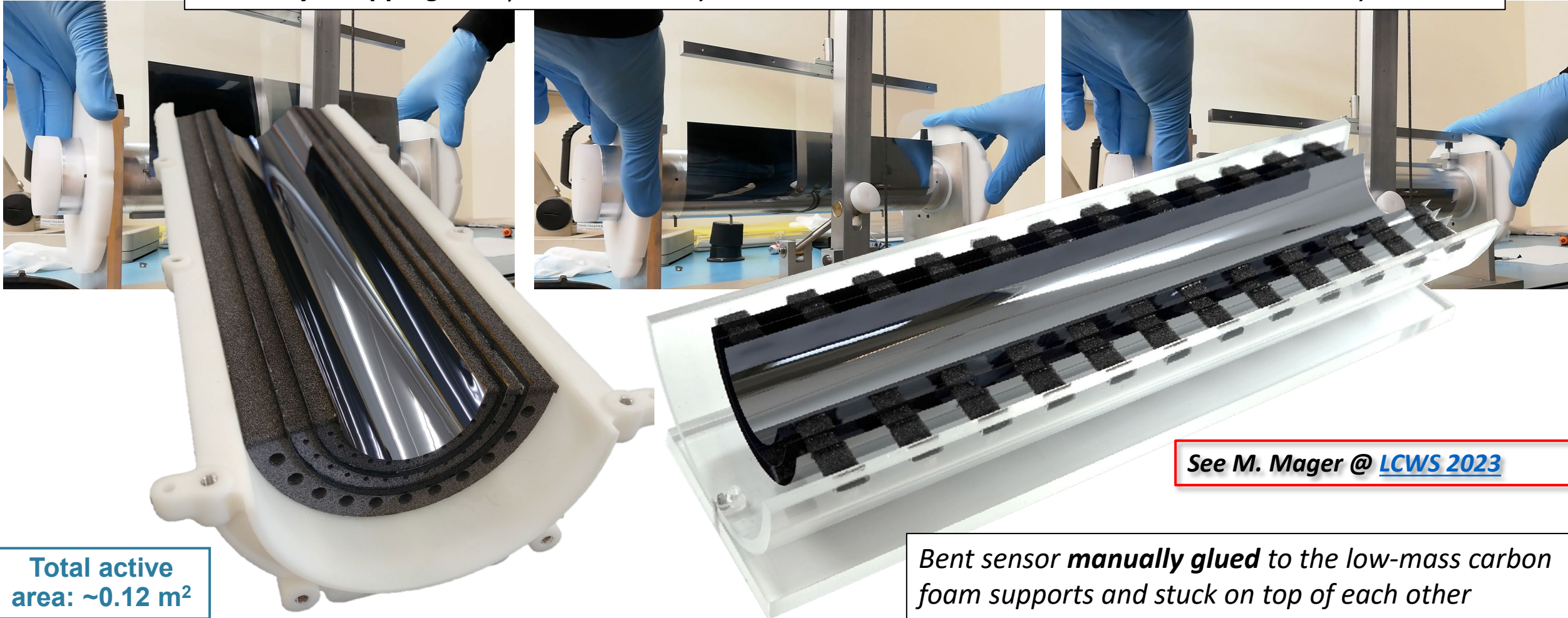
See M. Mager @ [LCWS 2023](#)

Total active
area: $\sim 0.12 \text{ m}^2$



Manual bending and assembly

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See M. Mager @ [LCWS 2023](#)

Total active
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*Bent sensor **manually glued** to the low-mass carbon
foam supports and stuck on top of each other*

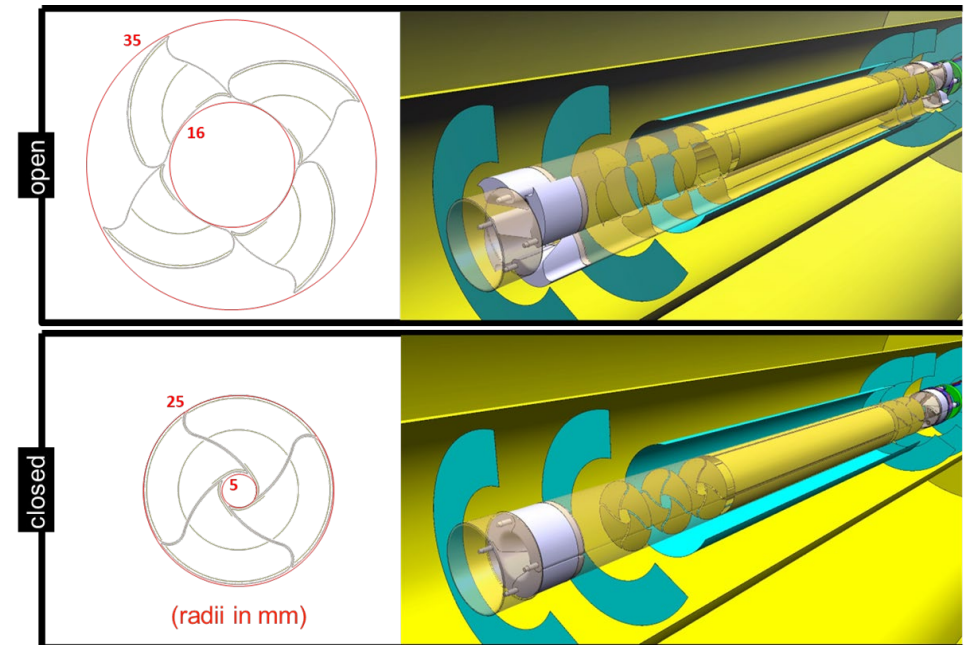
Future challenges for MAPS-based trackers - 1

- Improve radiation tolerance and develop mechanics to place the detector directly 'in the beam' → **ALICE 3 Experiment**, proposed for LHC LS4 (2034)
- **ALICE 3 Vertex Layers**: curved sensors at 5 mm from the interaction point

- Expected **NIEL**: 10^{16} 1MeV n_{eq} / cm^2 ~**1000x ITS3 level**
 - Improve doping profiles in modified process
- Expected **TID**: 300 Mrad ~**300x ITS3 level**
 - Extend tests to understand limitations

- **Retractable mechanics** inside the beam pipe
- **Vacuum-compatible** services and interconnections

See M. Mager @ [FCC Week 2023](#)



Future challenges for MAPS-based trackers - 2

- Cover **extra-large areas** on barrel and disk layers

- **ALICE 3 Outer Tracker** $\sim 60 \text{ m}^2$

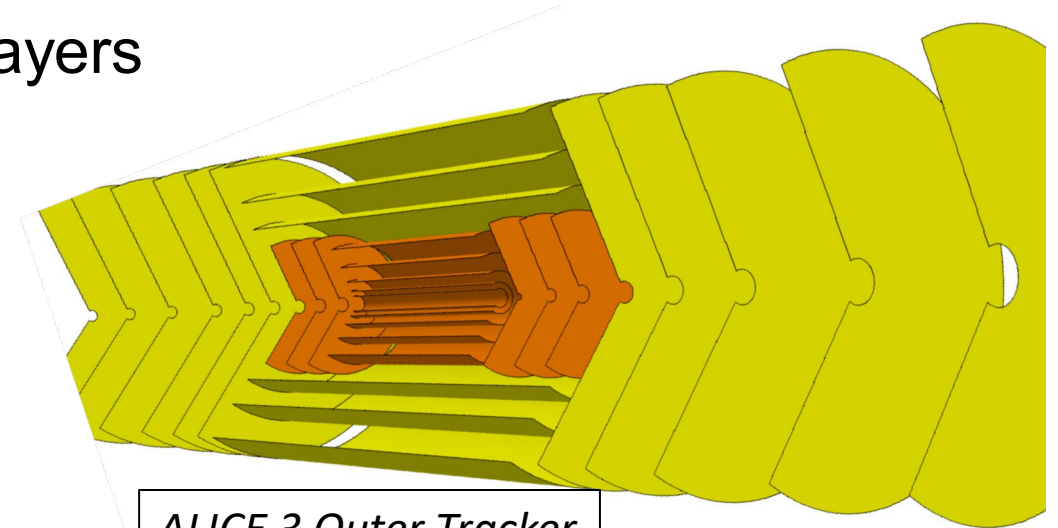
- **Industrialisation** of the production
 - Module layout complying with industrial standards
- **Specific sensor** development
 - Extremely low power consumption ($\approx 20 \text{ mW/cm}^2$)
 - Larger pixel pitch to reduce data and power

See M. Mager @ [FCC Week 2023](#)

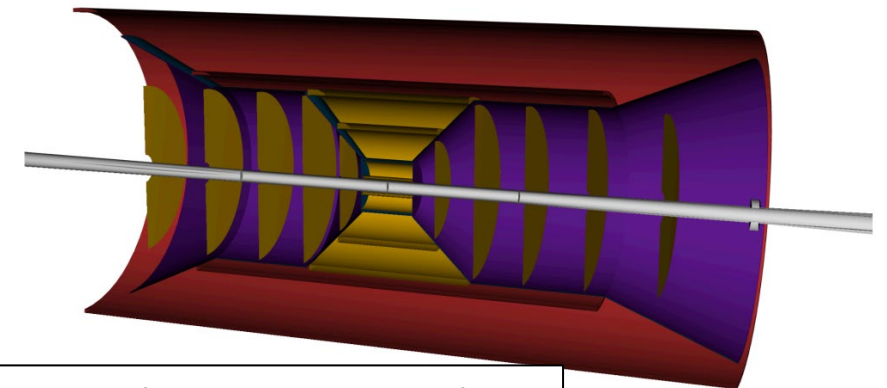
- **ePIC Silicon Vertex Tracker, proposed for EIC (2034)**

- Based on ALICE ITS3 sensor
- Stitched sensor size adapted for **yield optimisation**

See X. Li @ [Vertex 2022](#)



ALICE 3 Outer Tracker

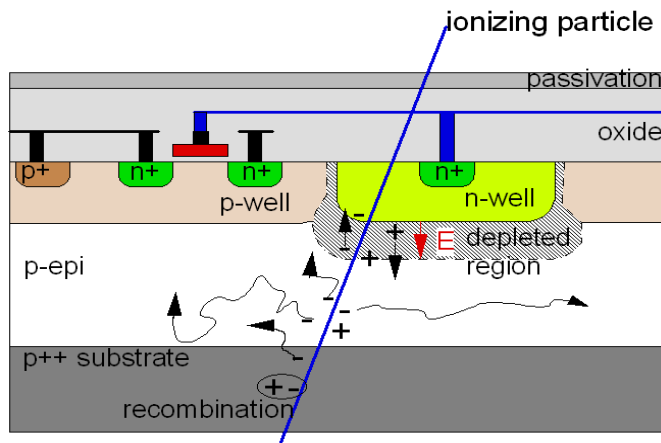


ePIC Silicon Vertex Tracker

Summary: the sensor

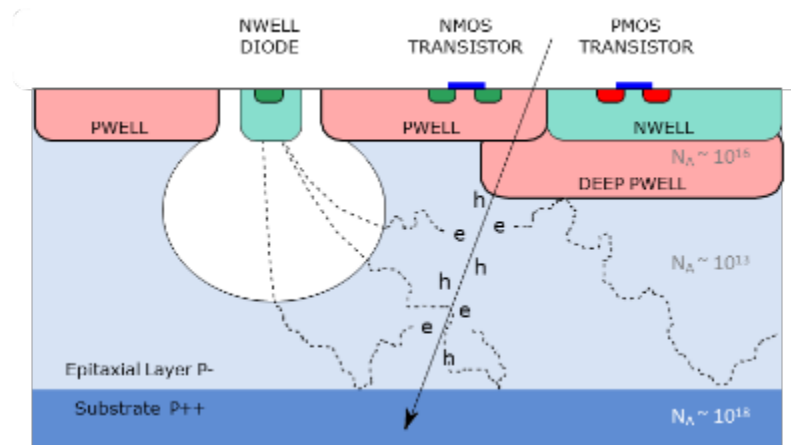
MIMOSA Ultimate-2

- AMS 350 nm CMOS
- Twin-well process
- In-pixel **NMOS** transistors only
- Rolling-shutter readout
- ($\rho > 0.4\text{k}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$) p-type epitaxial
- **Collection mostly by diffusion + drift** in the built-in depletion



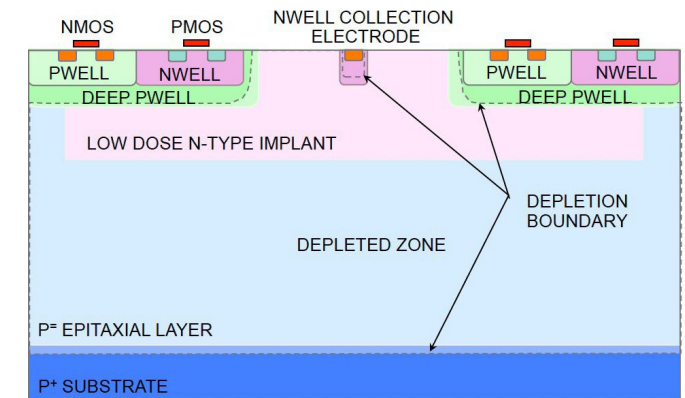
ALPIDE

- TowerJazz 180 nm CMOS
- Quadrupole-well technology
- Deep-pwell for in-pixel **full CMOS**
- Hit-driven readout
- ($\rho > 1\text{k}\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$) p-type epitaxial ($\sim 25\mu\text{m}$) on p-type substrate
- Depleted drift region expanded through reverse bias (0-6V)



ITS3 sensor

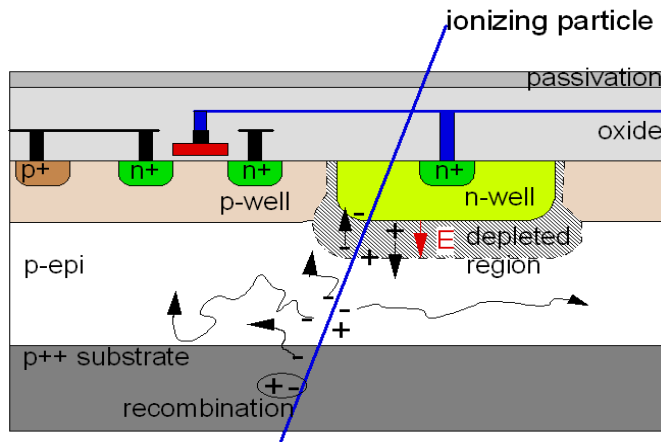
- TPSCo 65 nm CMOS
- Deep-pwell for in-pixel **full CMOS**
- Hit-driven readout
- Modified process for planar depletion + gaps for efficient collection from the edges
- Uniformly and fully depleted epi-layer



Summary: the sensor

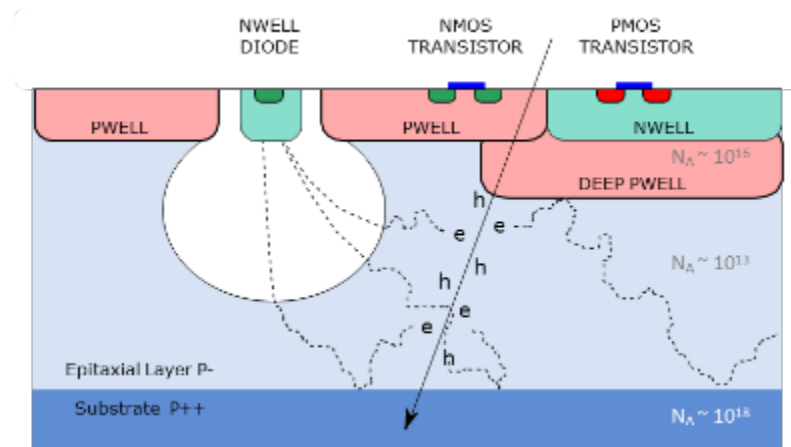
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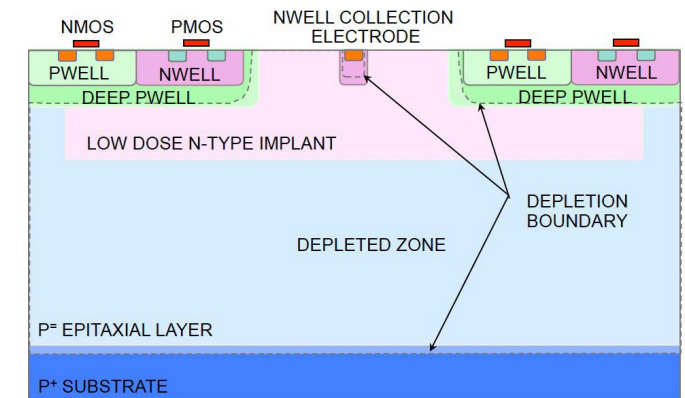
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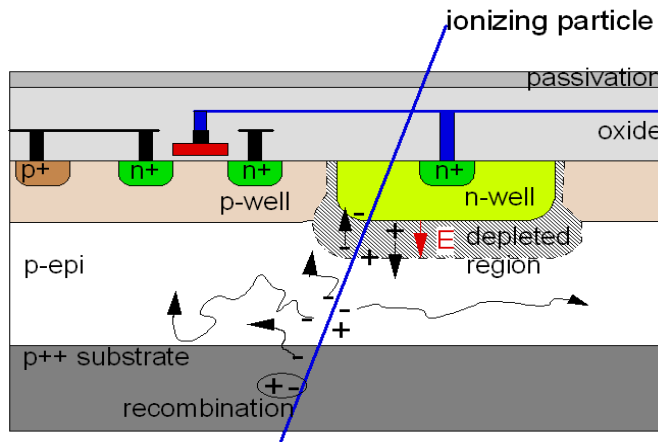
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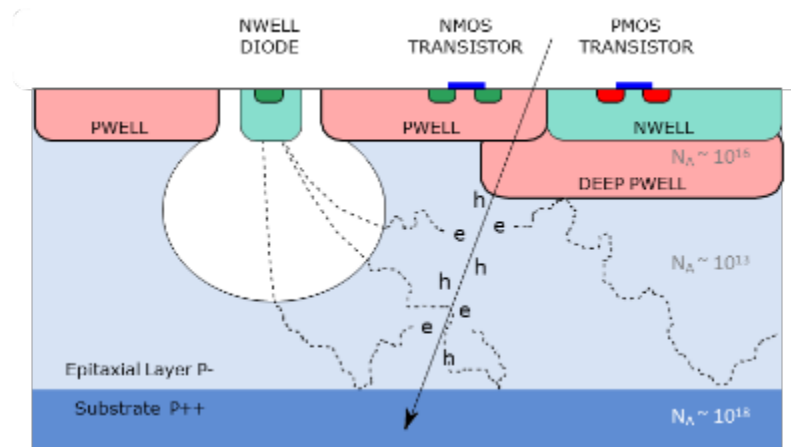
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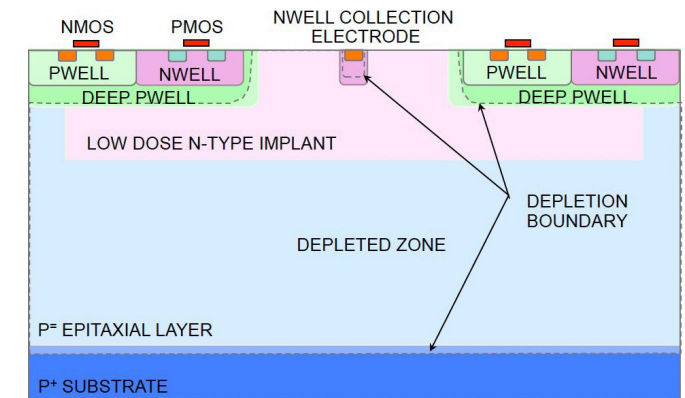
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ITS3 sensor

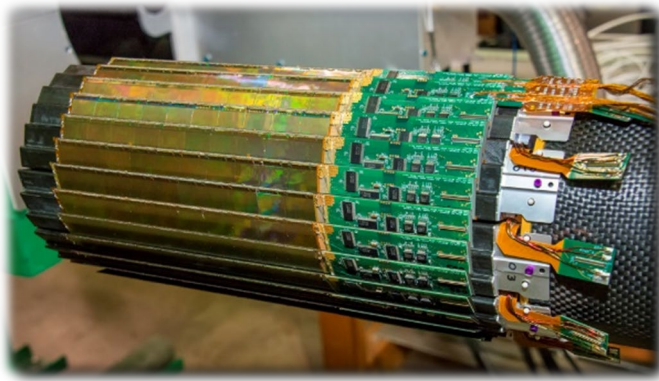
- TPSCo 65 nm CMOS
- Deep-pwell for in-pixel full CMOS
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Summary: the apparatus

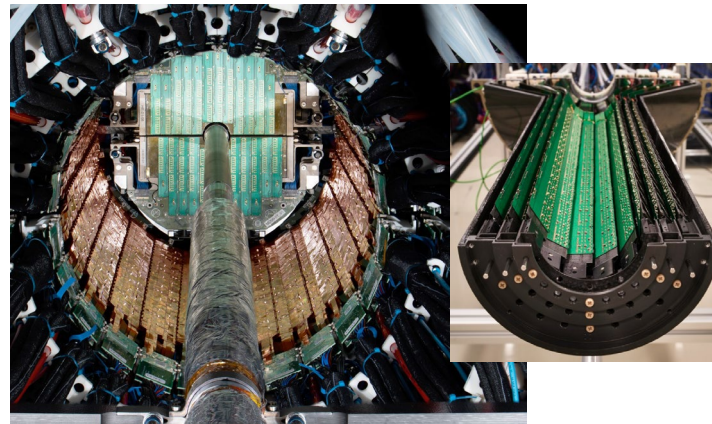
STAR HFT Pixel

- **2 vertexing layers**
- ~356 Mpixel on 0.16 m²
- Traditional stave layout in turbo-like geometry
- 50 μm sensors on carbon fiber supports + FPC
- Air cooled
- Inner layer $X/X_0 = 0.39\%$



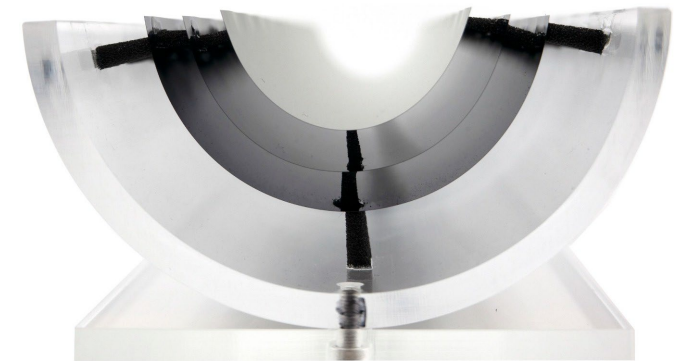
ALICE ITS2

- **7-layer tracker** – Inner(-Outer) layers
- ~12.5 Gpixels on 10 m²
- Traditional (module-)stave layout in turbo-like or staggered geometry
- 50(/100) μm sensors on carbon fiber + FPC (+ power bus)
- Water cooled
- Inner layer $X/X_0 = 0.35\%$



ALICE ITS3

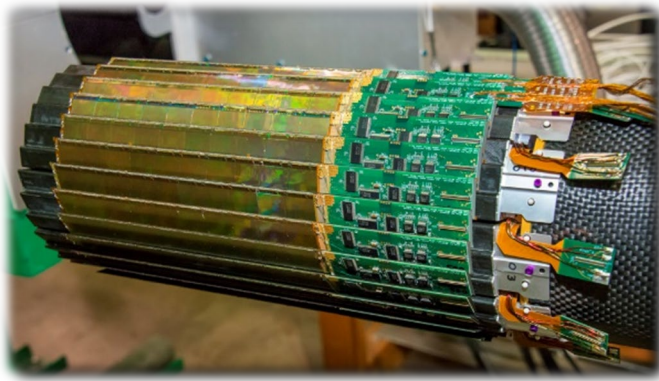
- **3 vertexing layers** (~0.12 m²) integrated in ITS2 tracker
- Truly-cylindrical layer layout
- ~40 μm sensors on minimal carbon foam supports
- No in-acceptance data/power bus
- Air cooled
- Inner layer $X/X_0 = 0.05\%$



Summary: the apparatus

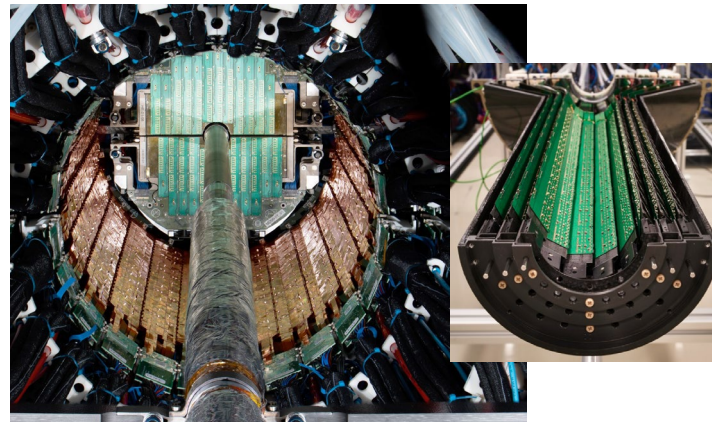
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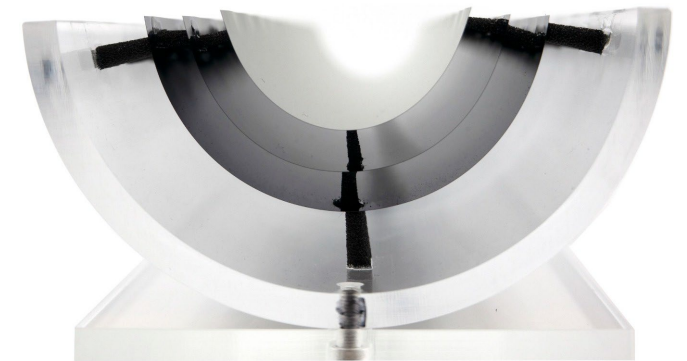
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- No in-acceptance data/power bus
- Air cooled
- Inner layer $X/X_0 = 0.05\%$



Final considerations

- The HEP experiment requirements **pushed the sensor technology** to the current specifications and performance
- Innovative solutions for sensor, layout and mechanics developed for HEP goals are now **enabling new detector concepts**, made available for any application
- The **construction approach** depends on detector area and layout complexity:
 - From manual to semi-automated, to fully industrialised procedure as the area increases
- **Novel technologies**, fresh from R&D, quickly embedded in operating detectors, **need risk mitigation strategies**:
 - Engineering run (HFT), long-period commissioning (ITS2), spare detector copies for relatively quick replacement in case of failure
- **Higher radiation tolerance** and **larger areas** are the next challenges for MAPS

Thank you for your attention!