



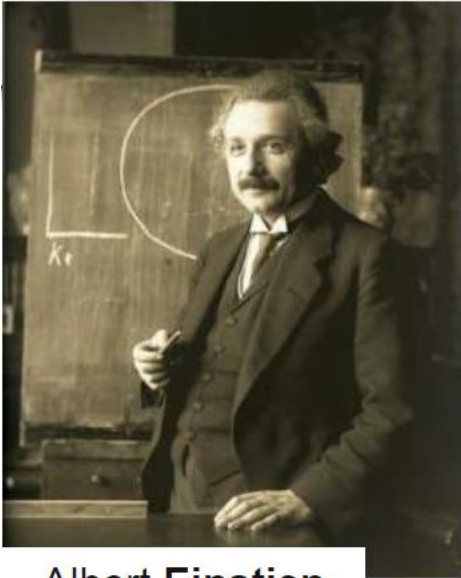
# ELI ERIC: Development of a large scale laser facility

ELI Summer School  
August 29<sup>th</sup> 2023



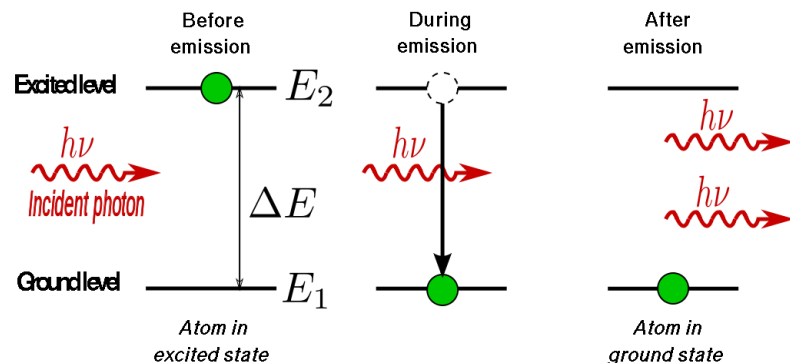
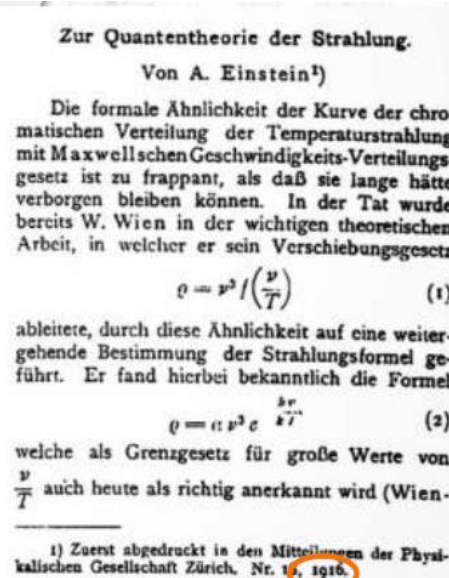
# In the beginning....

*Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation*



Albert Einstein

1916.



$$E_2 - E_1 = \Delta E = h\nu$$

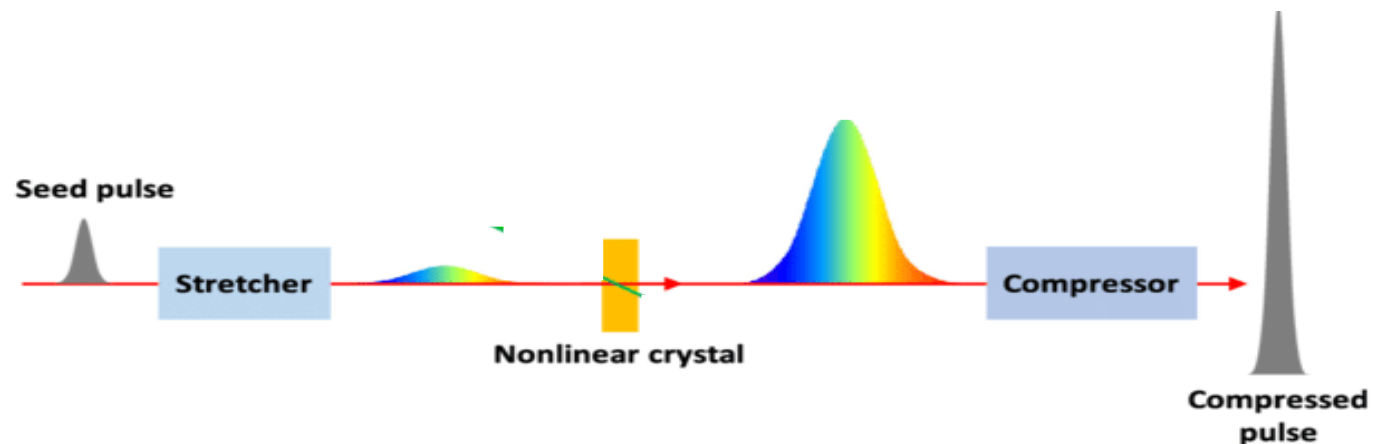
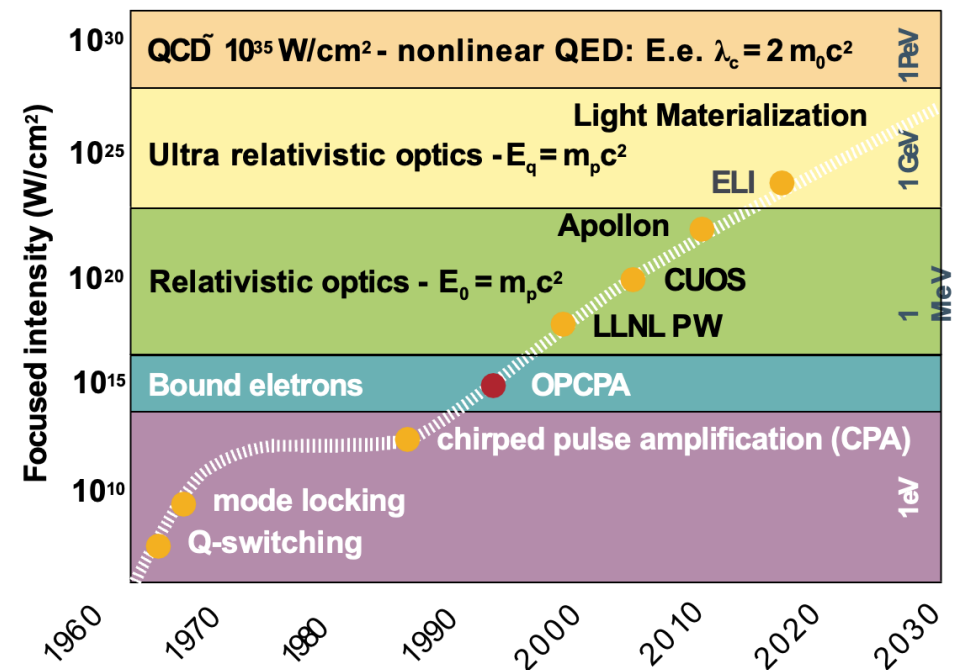






# From Nobel Prize to Extreme Light

## A Technological Breakthrough Enables ELI

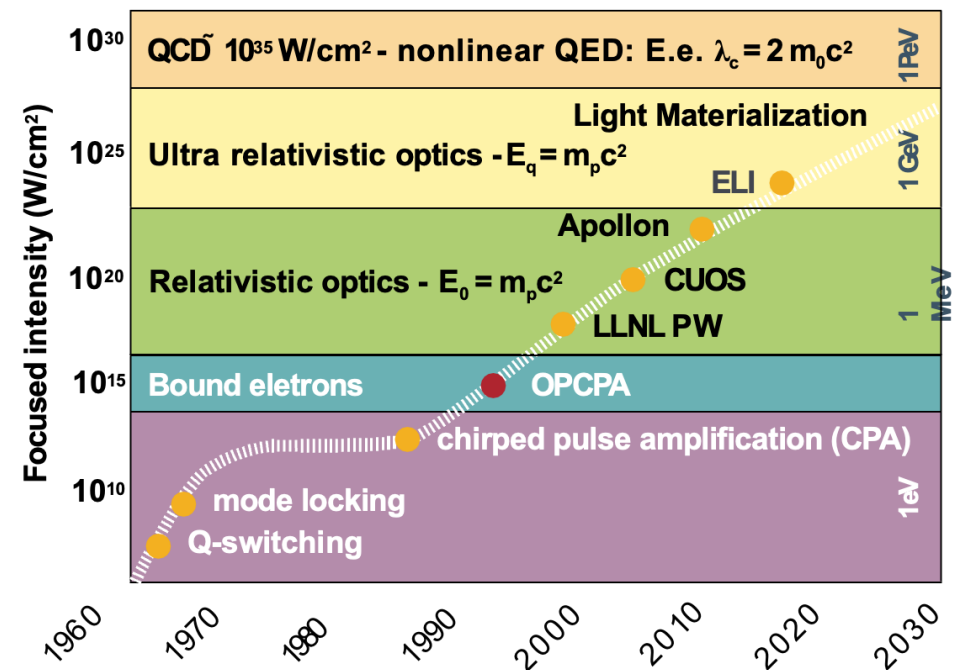


Chirped Pulse Amplification (CPA)

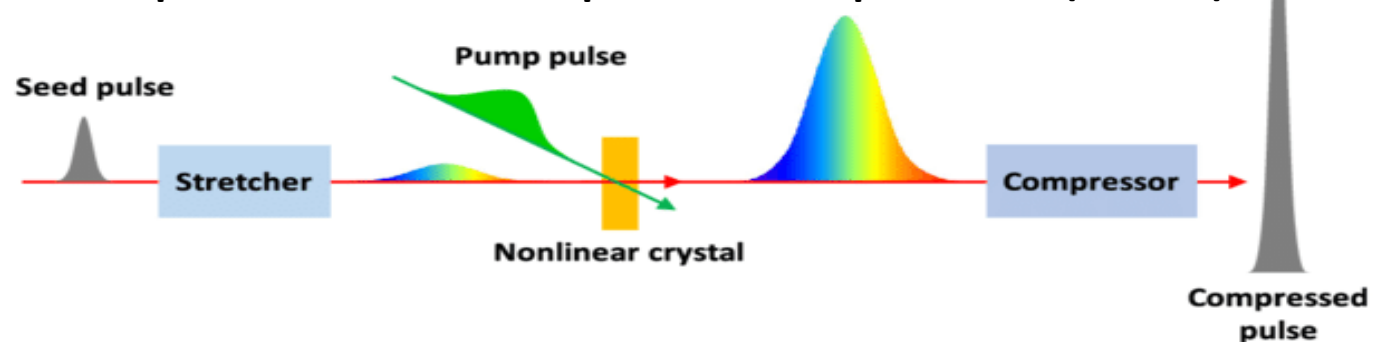


# From Nobel Prize to Extreme Light

## A Technological Breakthrough Enables ELI



### Optical Parametric Chirped Pulse Amplification (OPCPA)



**Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland** won the **2018 Nobel Prize for Physics** for proposing “**Chirped Pulse Amplification**” for high-power, ultrafast, extremely intense lasers.



Mourou, *et al* proposed ELI in 2004, and from 2007-2010 initial research including 15 institutions and € 7.9M from the Seventh Framework Programme.

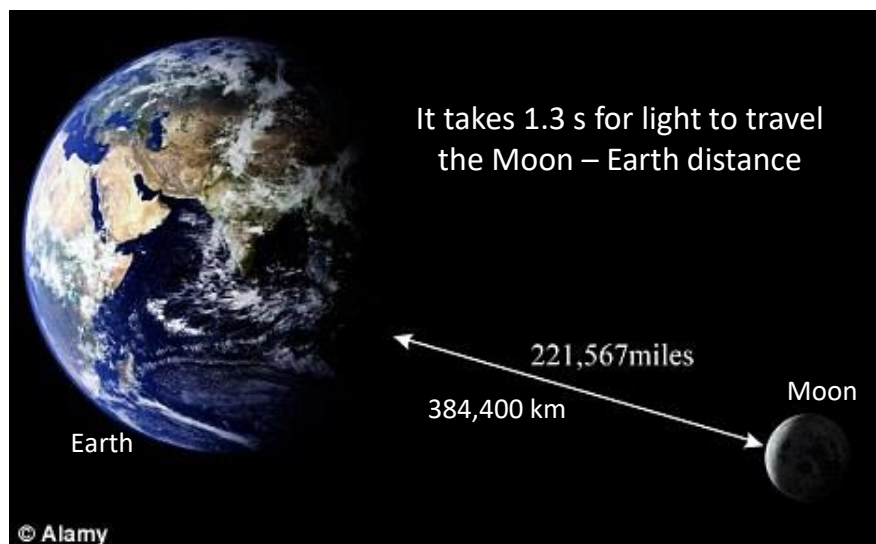


# Femtosecond-class Laser ?

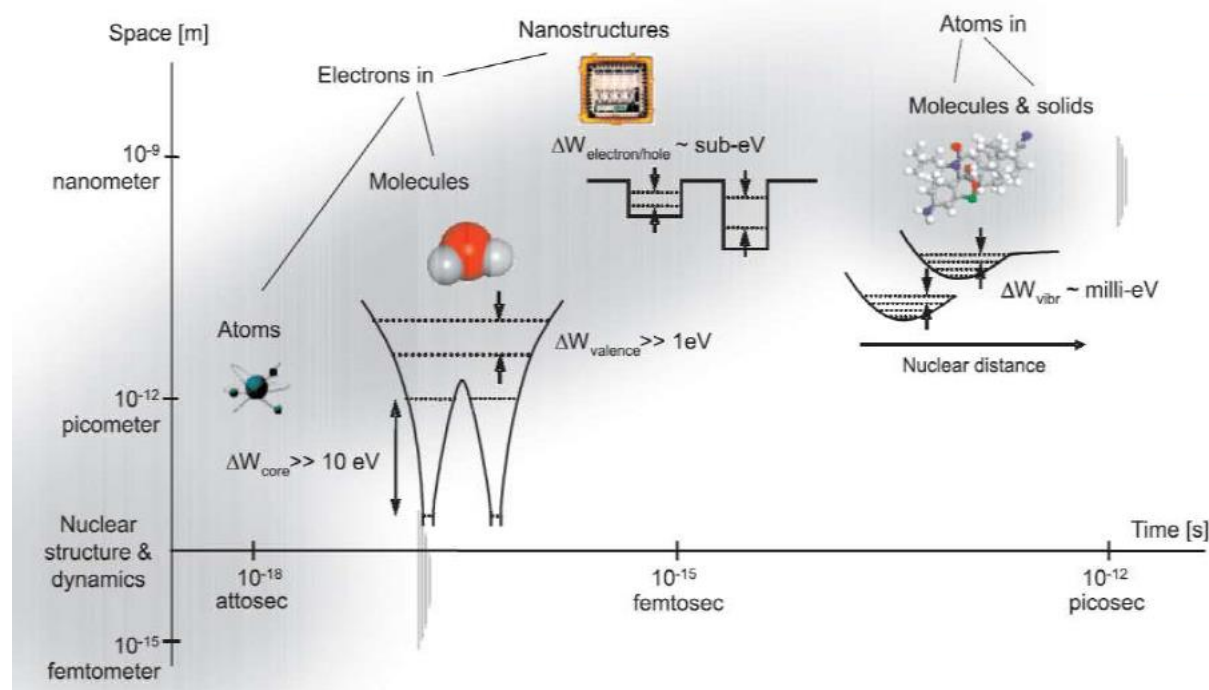
10-100 fs

$$10 \text{ fs} = 10^{-14} \text{ s}$$

Speed of Light: 300 000 km/s



10 fs pulse  $\rightarrow$  3  $\mu\text{m}$  path



fs and sub-fs timescale – electronic motion in atoms and molecules

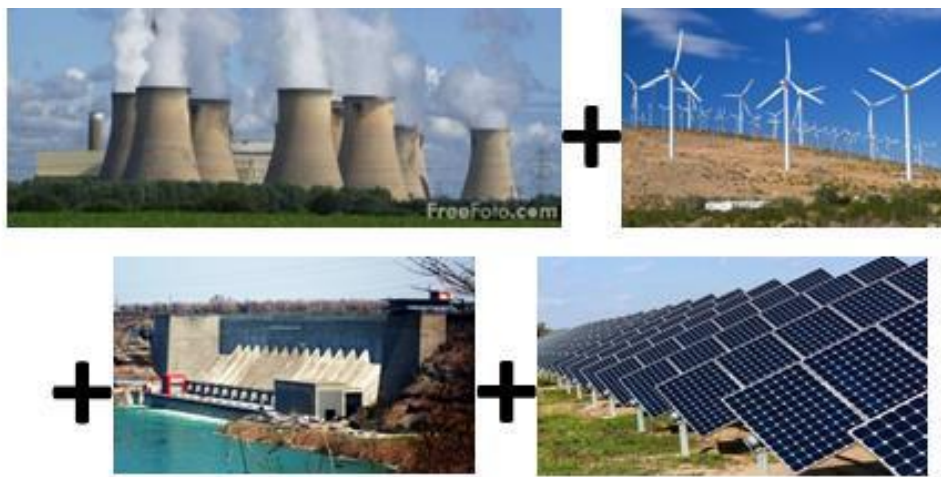


# PetaWatt-class Laser ?

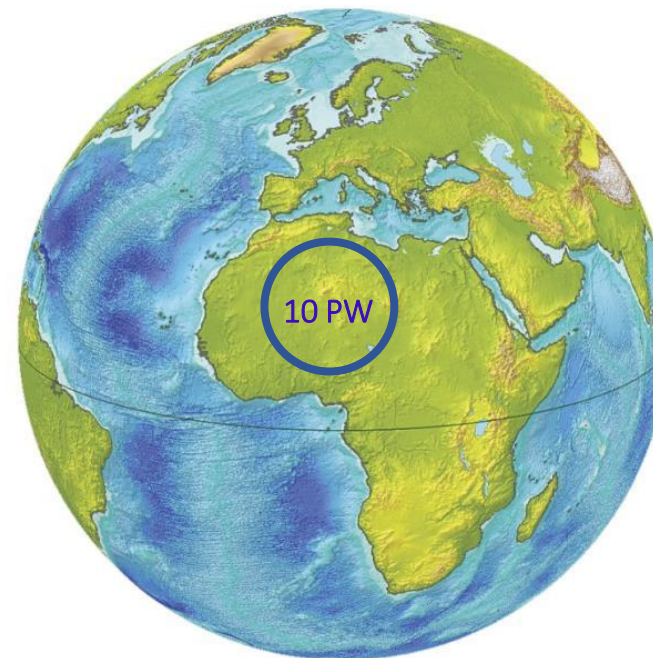
*1-10 PW (in 10-100 fs)*

$$1 \text{ PW} = 10^{15} \text{ W}$$

Total global electricity generating capacity is 'only' 10 TW = **0.01PW**



Sun power shining on Earth: 174 PW



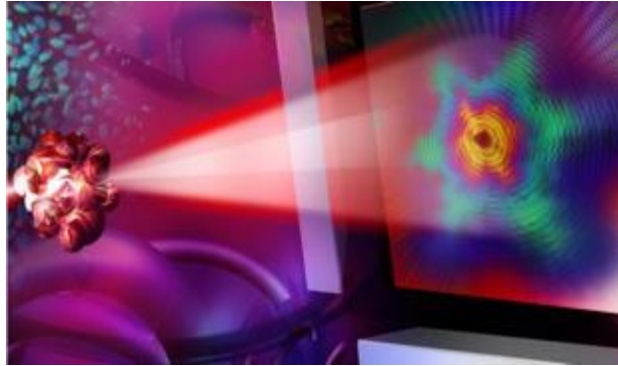
**1 PW in 10 fs pulse =  $10^{15} \times 10^{-14} = 10 \text{ J}$  - which is not a huge amount of energy. If we want to use lasers to drive processes that need significant energy we need to increase the repetition rate....**





**eli**

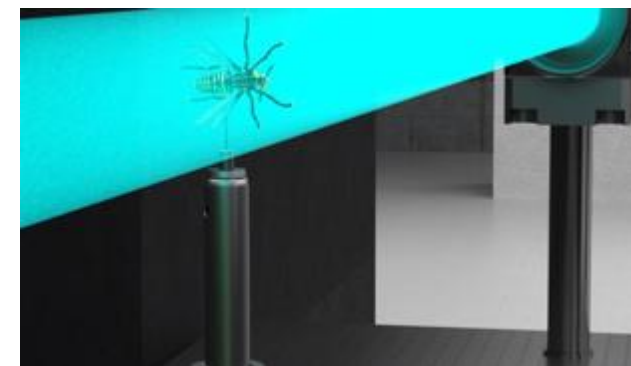
# Democratising science using high-performance lasers



Applications in Material Science and Biology –  
structure and dynamics to attosecs



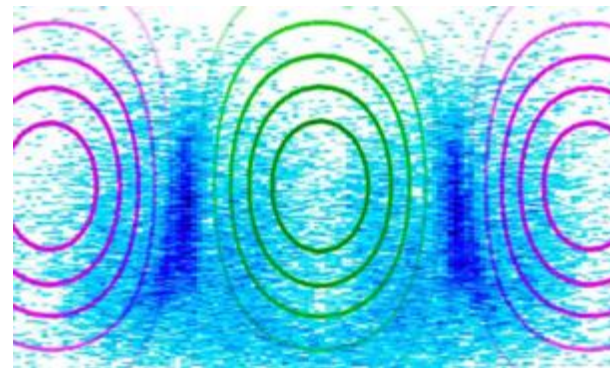
Particle Acceleration  
250 MeV Ions Acceleration by lasers



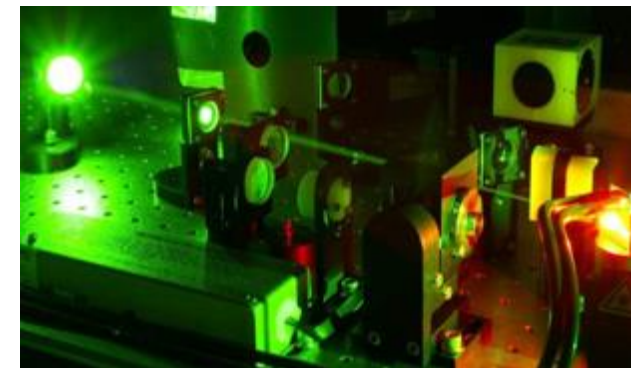
Radiation Physics and Electron Acceleration  
Soft to hard x-rays, GeV electrons



Plasma Physics and High Energy Density,  
Astrophysics, Nuclear Photonics

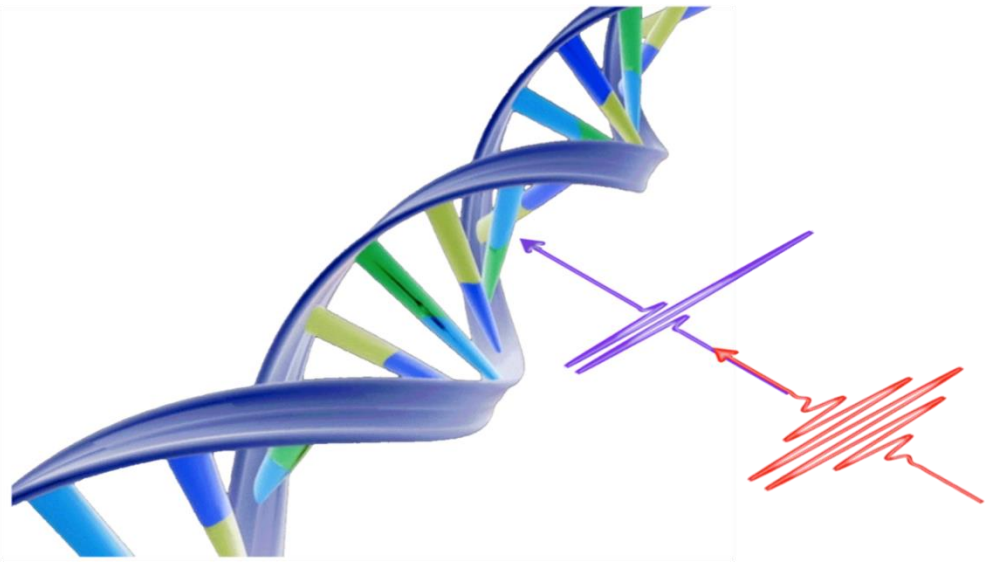


Ultra High Intensity Interactions  
High-field physics and theory



Laser Development

# Pump-probe studies of chemical and biochemical processes

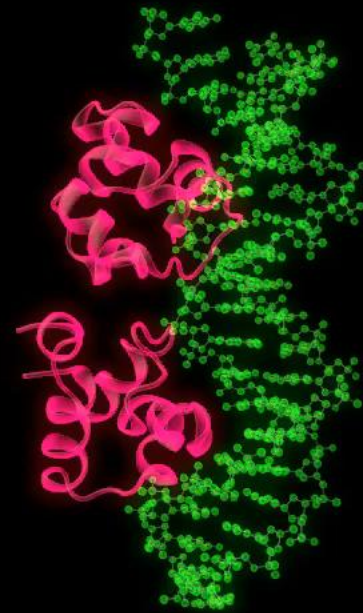


Ultrafast, intense laser pulses can drive **secondary sources** of even faster (sub-fs – attosecond) pulses

Induce changes in the electronic configuration with a stimulating pulse of light - the **pump**

**Probe** the global structural-rearrangement as a function of time delay between pump and probe

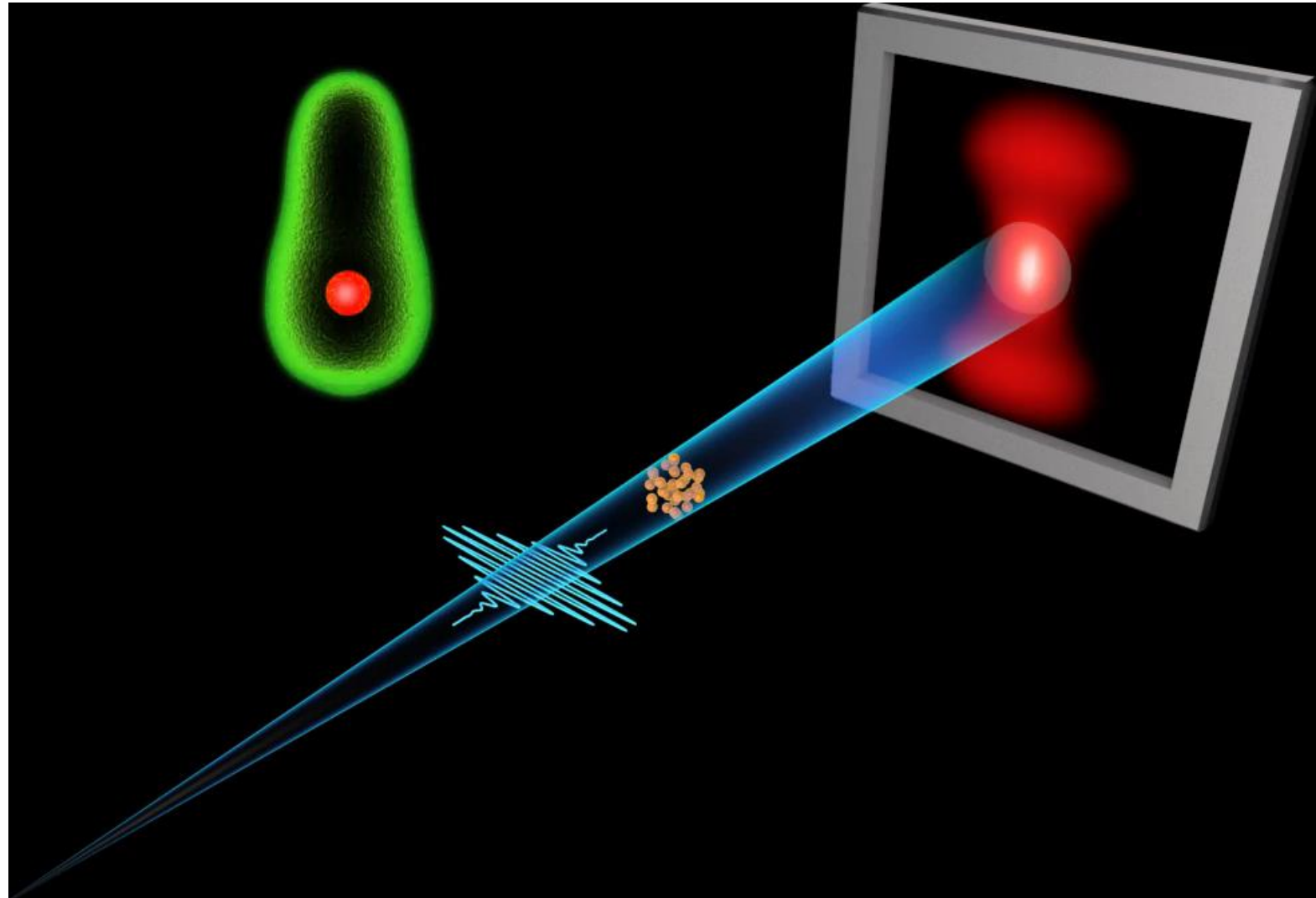
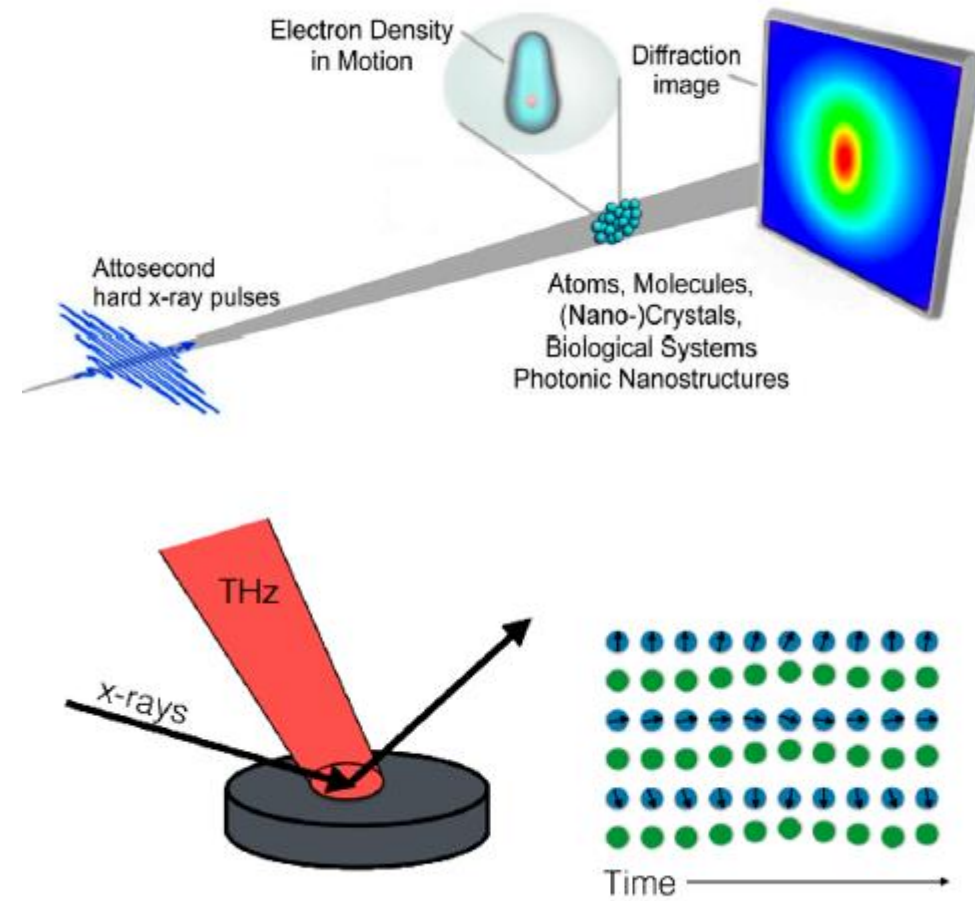
**Repeat at a high rate** to build up statistics (>KHz) and produce a much stronger signal – plus combine with other probes, e.g. mass-spectrometry





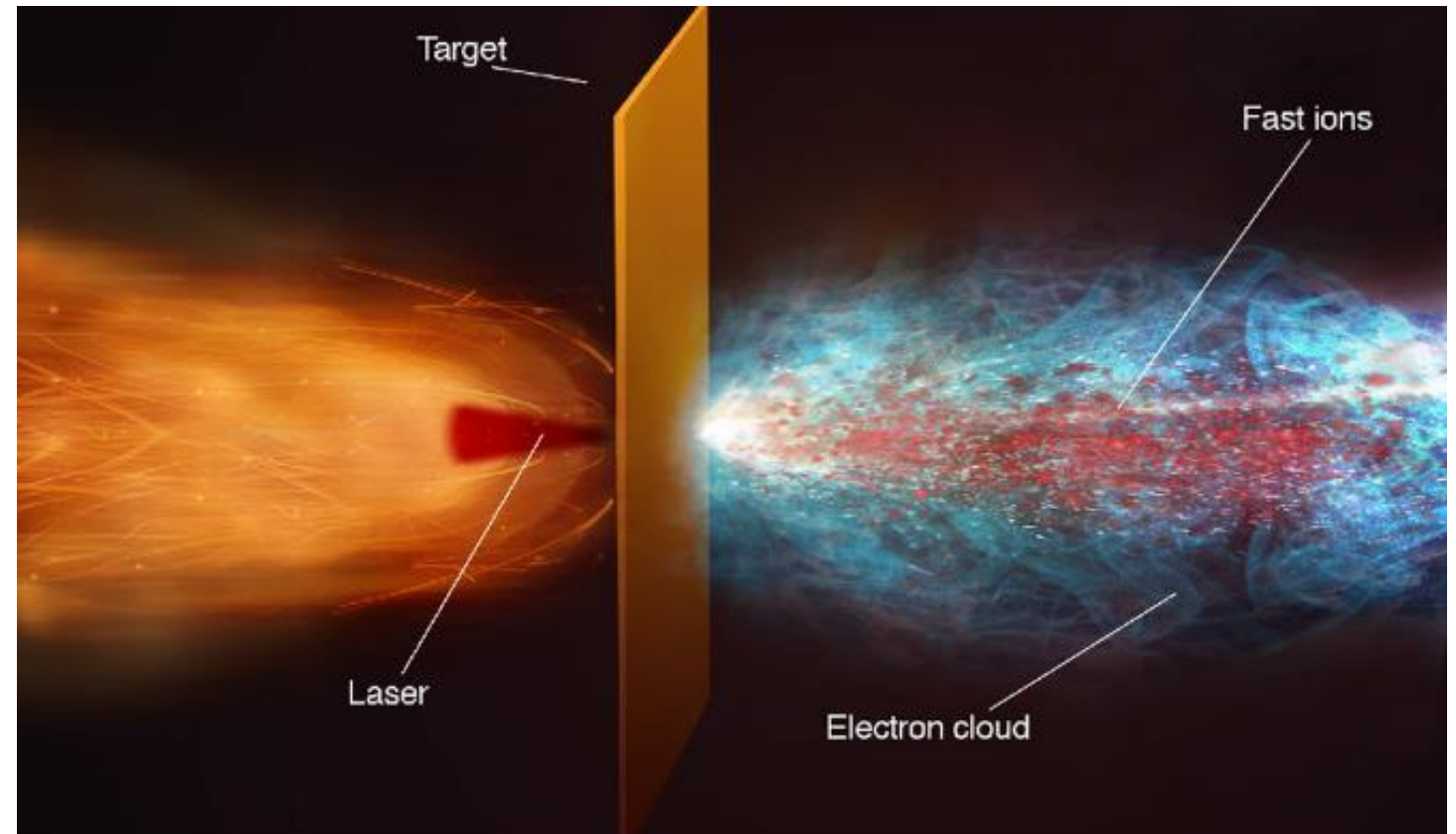
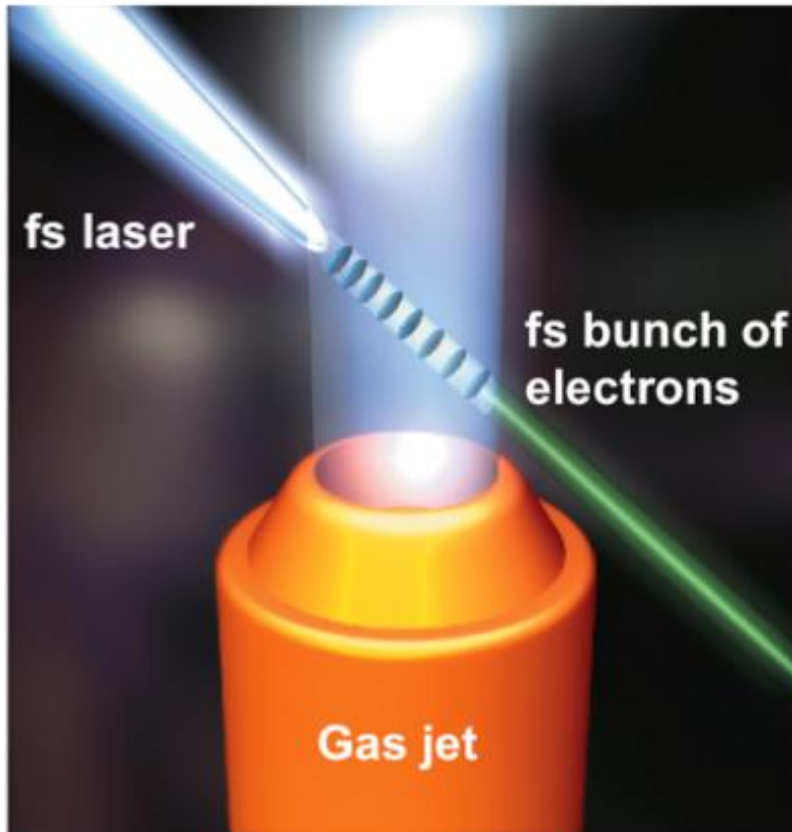


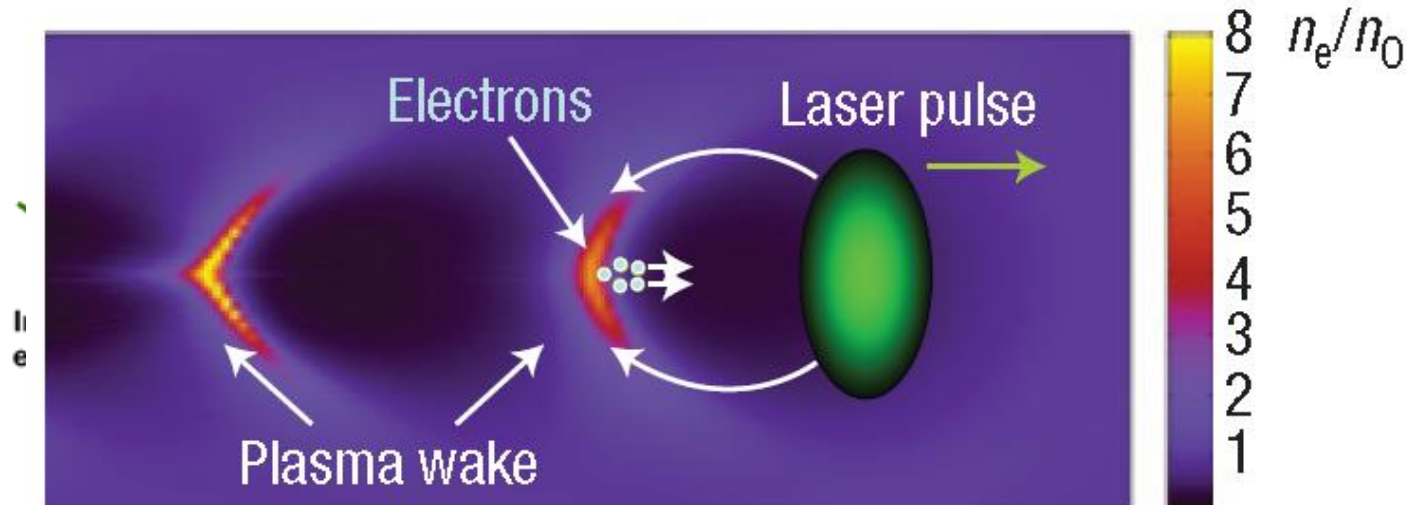
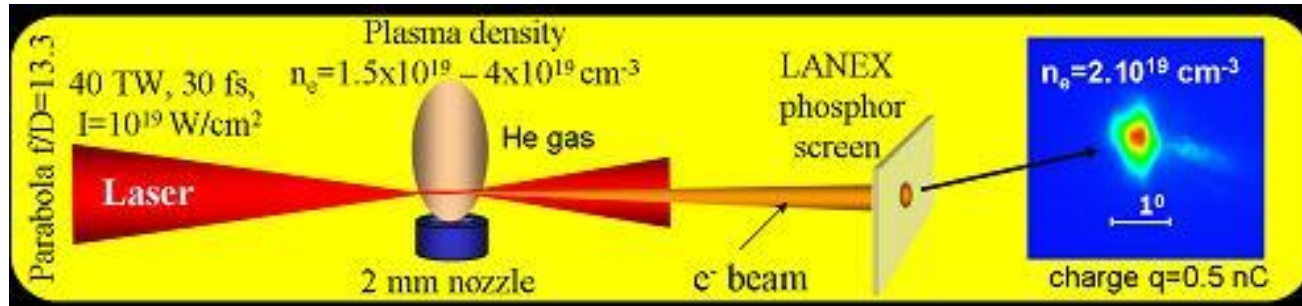
# Attosecond X-Ray structures





# Secondary sources: X-rays and particle beams





Intense laser pulse ionizes gas, with separated electrons dragged in its wake producing X-ray source and high-energy electron beam

## REVIEW PAPERS:

- Esarey et al., *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 81 (2009) 1229
- Leemans & Esarey, *Phys. Today* 62 (2009) 44
- V. Malka et al., *Nature Phys.* 4 (2008) 447



# Laser Wakefield Electron Acceleration

Conventional accelerators limited by dielectric breakdown: max E-field  $\approx 10$ 's MeV/m

Laser wakefield driving field orders (3) of magnitude higher

SLAC linear accelerator



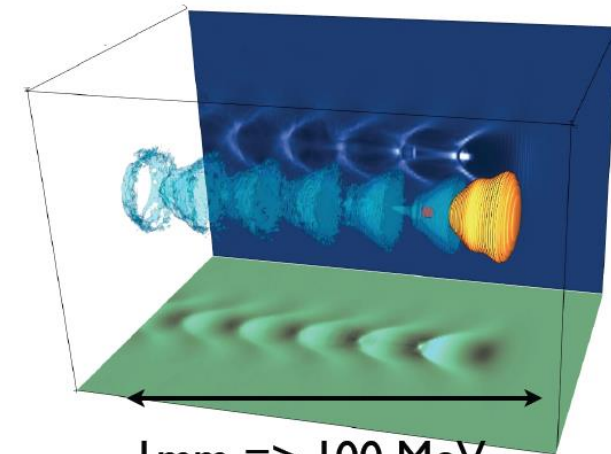
electron energy: 50 GeV  
3 km long!

RF Cavity



1 m  $\Rightarrow$  100 MeV Gain  
Electric field  $< 100$  MV/m

Plasma Cavity



1 mm  $\Rightarrow$  100 MeV  
Electric field  $> 100$  GV/m

# LWFA betatron X-ray source



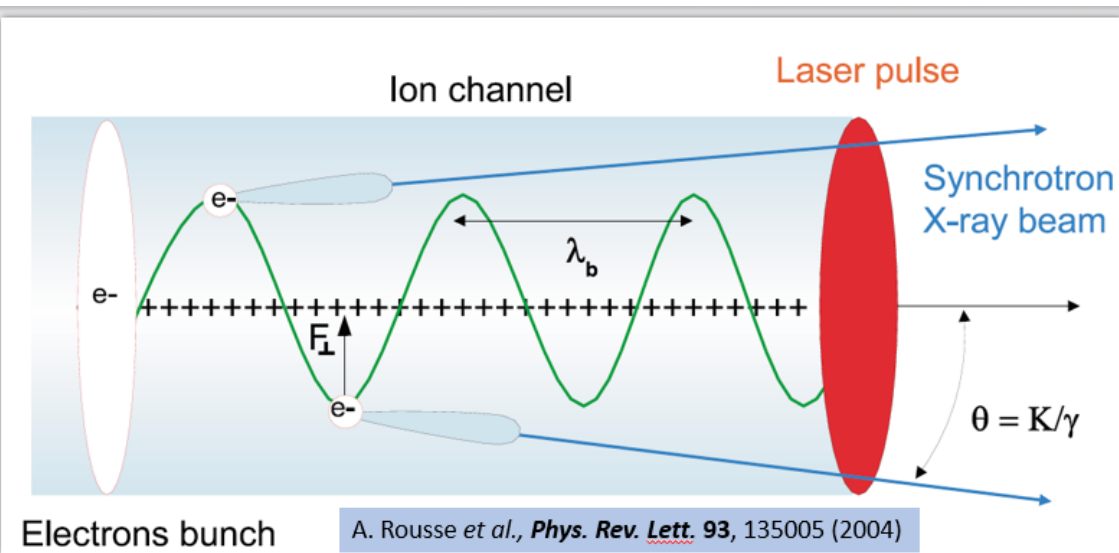
'Hard' photon energy -  $E_{\text{crit}} > 25 \text{ keV}$   
investigating dense material, biological materials

Small source size ( $\sim \mu\text{m}$ )  
intrinsically high resolution / exhibits spatial coherence

Small divergence ( $\sim 10 \text{ mRad}$ )  
makes beam line

Short pulse ( $\sim 10 \text{ fs}$ )  
suitable for ultrafast dynamics

Bright ( $>10^9$  photons per shot)  
suitable for single shot imaging



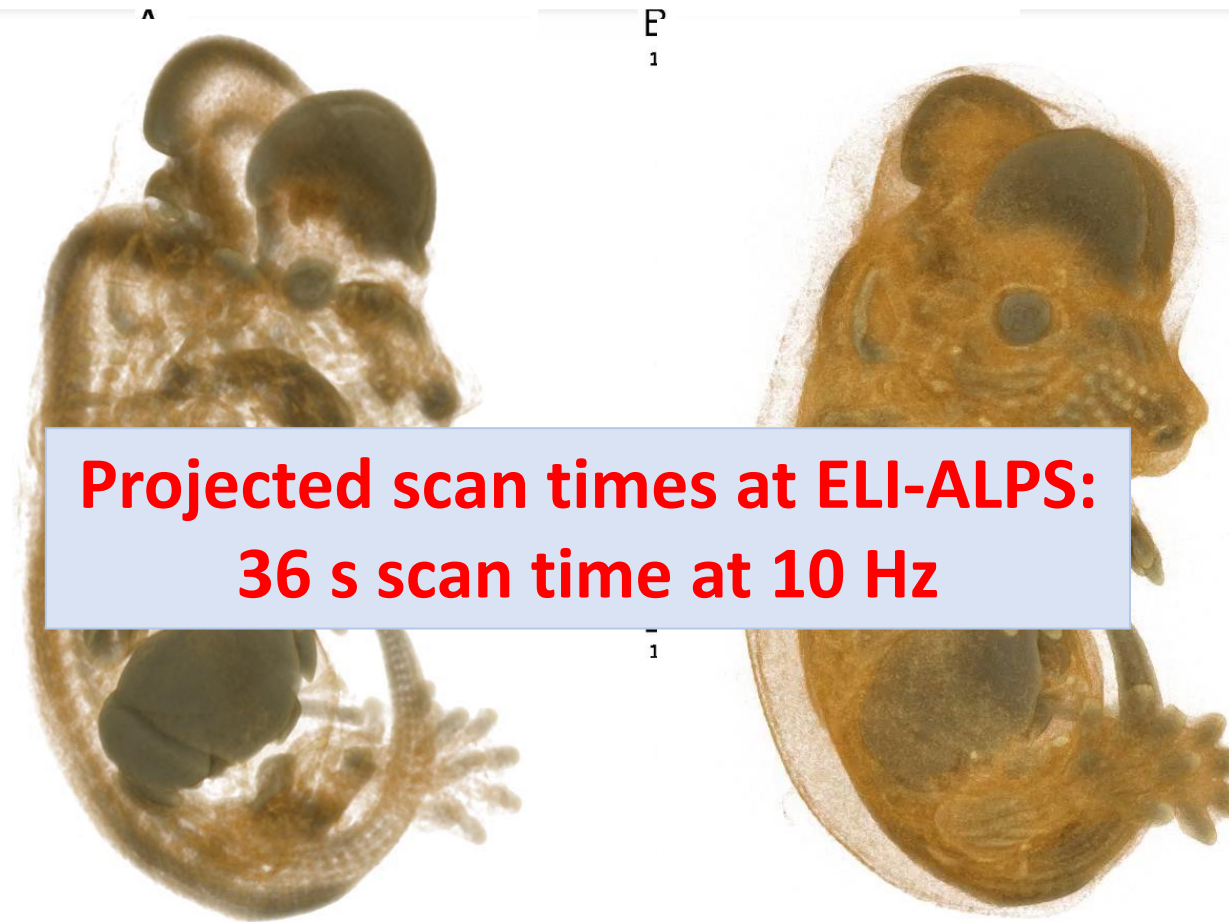
# Accelerated micro computed tomography

Astra laser,  
85 keV X-ra  
3  $\mu\text{m}$  sourc

2e10 photo

Laser shot  $\epsilon$   
360 project

**2 hours**



**Projected scan times at ELI-ALPS:  
36 s scan time at 10 Hz**

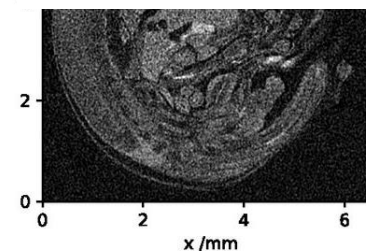
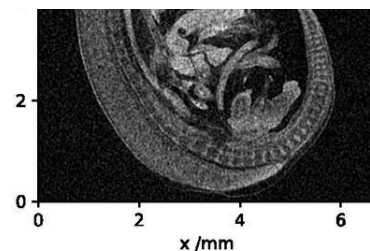
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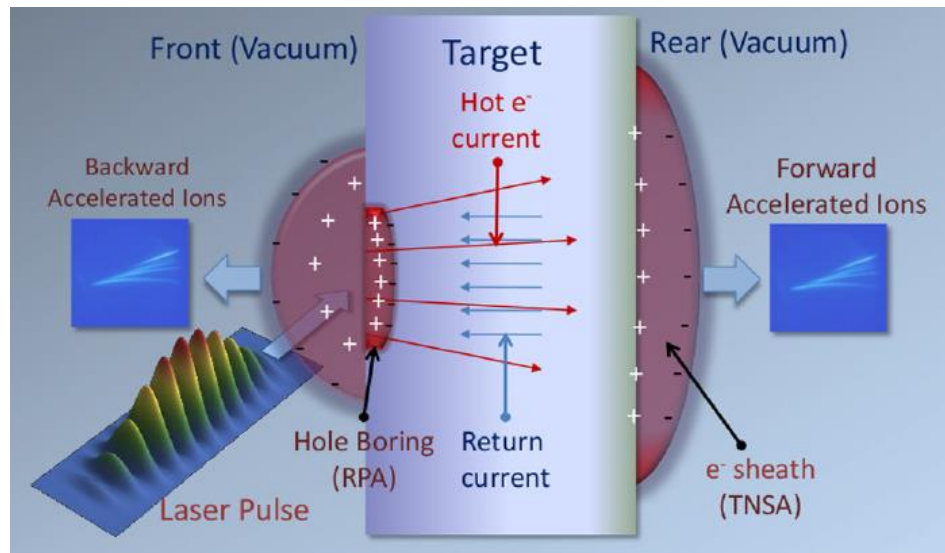
*Cole et al., PNAS 2018*



# Laser-Plasma Ion Acceleration

## Target Normal Sheath Acceleration

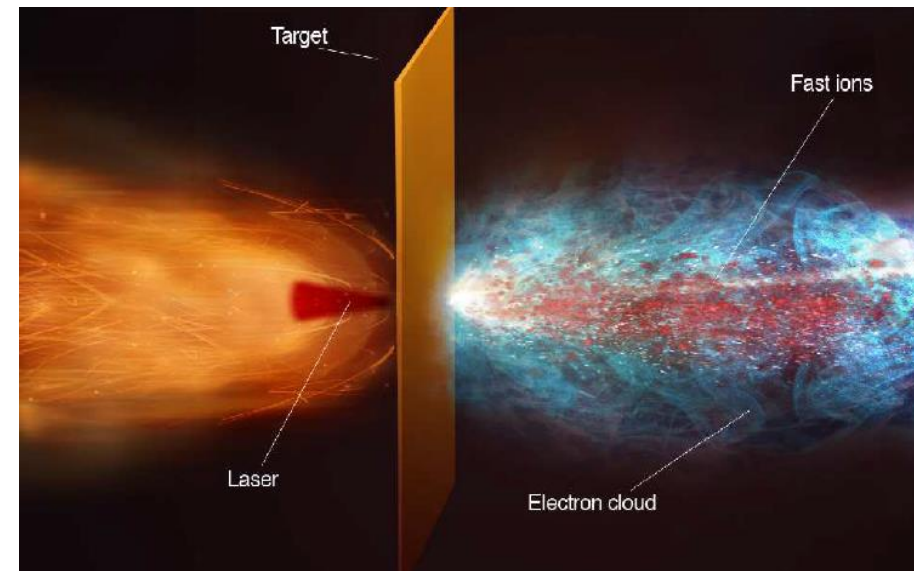
0.1-10  $\mu\text{m}$  long



### REVIEW PAPERS:

- Macchi, Borghesi, Passoni, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 85 (2013) 751
- Borghesi et al, *Springer Proc. Phys.* 231 (2019) 143

Laser pulse hits a thin foil and produces accelerated charged particles: energy gain  $\sim 100\text{MeV}$  in  $\sim \mu\text{m}$

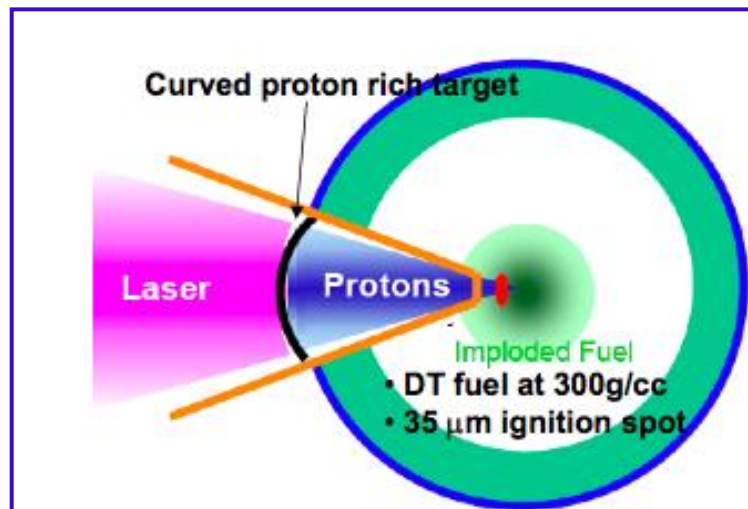




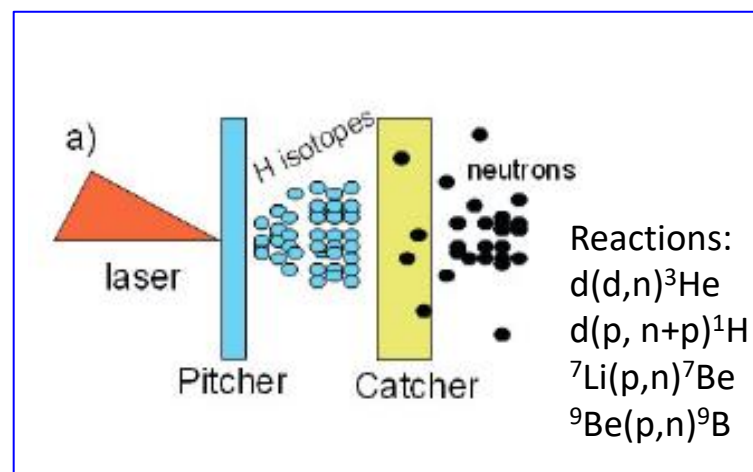
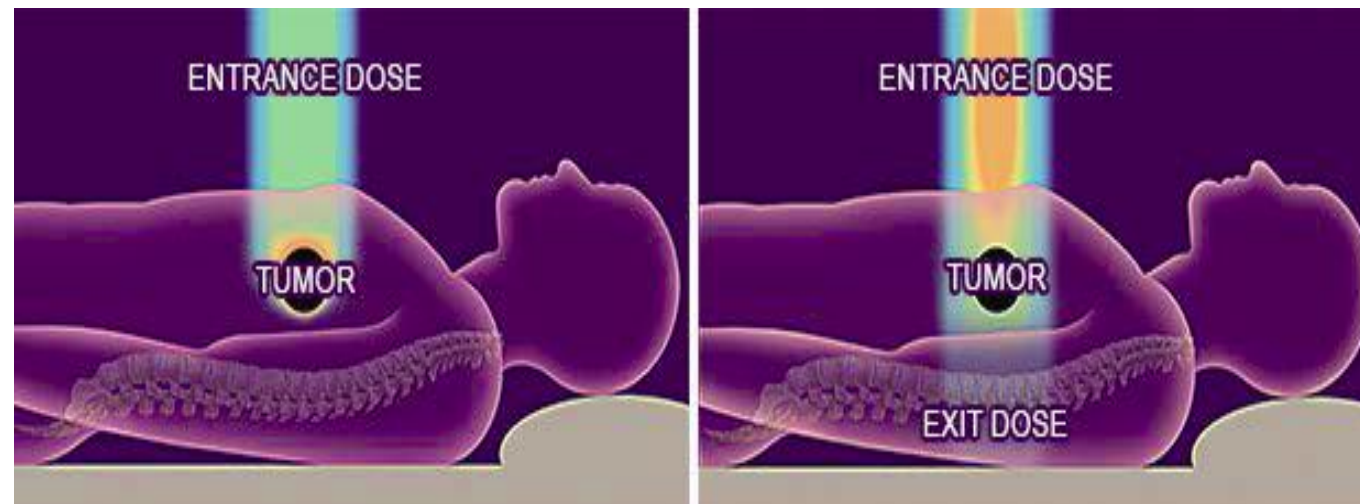
# Applications of laser driven ions

*unique beam features*

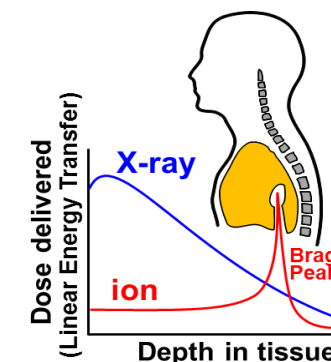
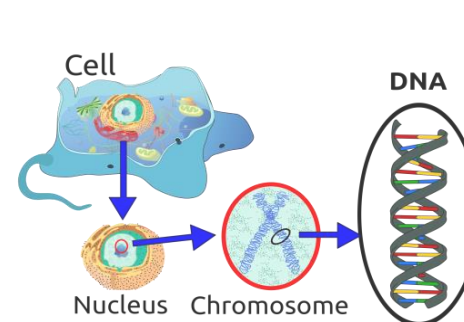
**Fast Ignition** (Inertial Confinement Fusion)



**Particle therapy of cancer** (hadrontherapy – almost nothing in Central Europe)



**Neutron generation** (H ions on converter materials)



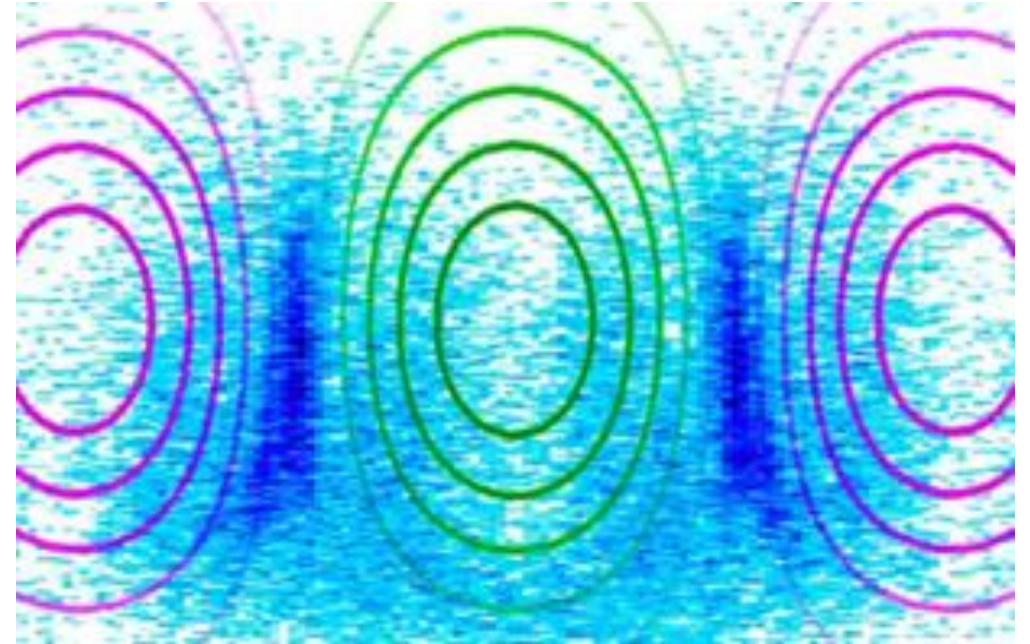
**Radiobiology** (ns-ps ultra-intense dose gives non-linear 'Flash' effects)



# Physics in ultra-high electromagnetic fields



Plasma Physics and High Energy Density,  
Astrophysics, Nuclear Photonics



Ultra High Intensity Interactions  
High-field physics and theory





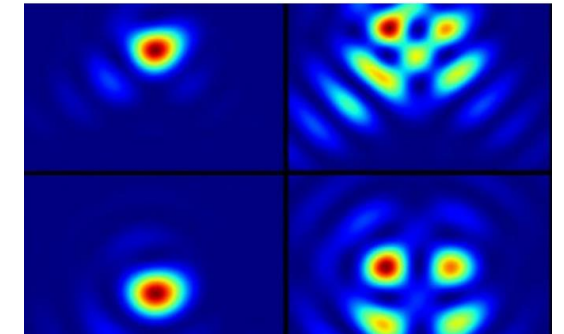
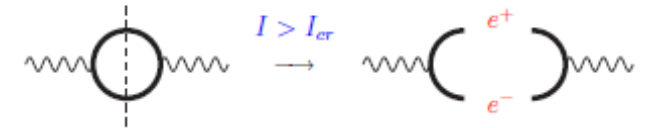
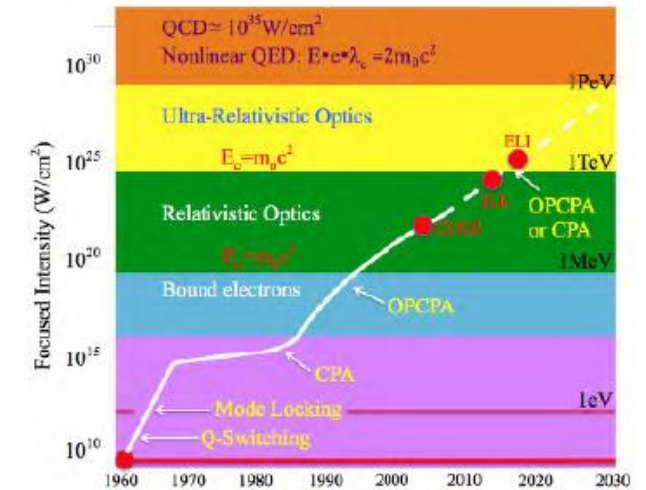
# Matter (and absence of matter) under extreme electromagnetic fields

## Plasma physics

- High energy density physics, inertial confinement fusion, shock physics, development of plasma optics at ultra-high light intensities and energy densities

## Explore vacuum structure

- Strong-field QED and production of matter-antimatter pairs, dispersive and absorptive photon propagation processes in ultra-high laser fields - vacuum birefringence and diffraction

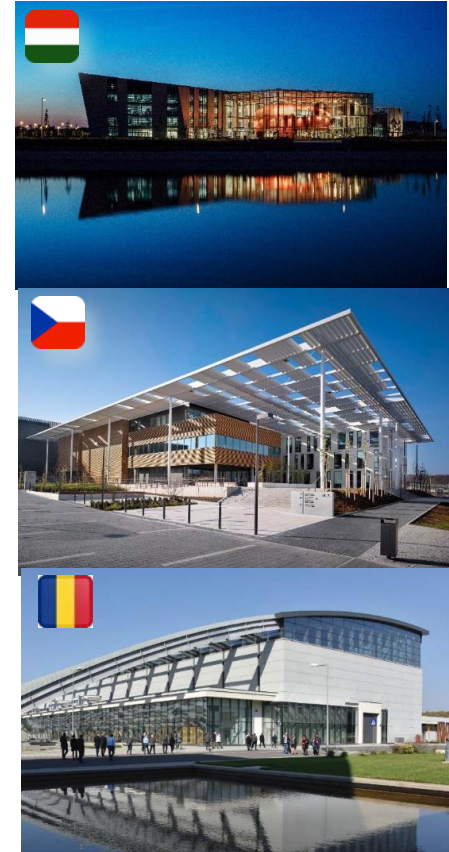




# Extreme Light Infrastructure for Europe

## 3 distributed branches set up as user facilities using European Structural Funds:

- **Attosecond Laser Science**, exploring ultra-fast processes with uniquely high time resolution (atto – a billion, billionth of a second) (*ELI Attosecond Light Pulse Source (ALPS), Szeged, HU*)
- **High-Energy Beamlines Facility**, developing and applying very short pulses of ultra-intense radiation to explore extreme conditions or produce high-energy particles and radiation (*ELI Beamlines, Prague, CZ*)
- **Nuclear Physics Facility** with ultra-intense lasers and brilliant gamma beams to produce and explore new nuclear states or generate neutron beams (*ELI NP, Magurele, RO*)





# A European Research Infrastructure Consortium

*A European International Organisation Established in 2021 brings together ALPS and Beamlines into one co-ordinated legal entity: ELI ERIC*

*The Czech Republic,  
Host of Seat*



*Hungary,  
Host*



*Italian  
Republic*



*Lithuania*



*Federal Republic of  
Germany  
Observer*



*Bulgaria  
Observer*



*Member countries support ELI ERIC jointly  
with national funding.*



*Horizon 2020 (INFRADEV) helps finance the  
integration of the joint user programme, as well  
as initial access pilots, flagship experiments*

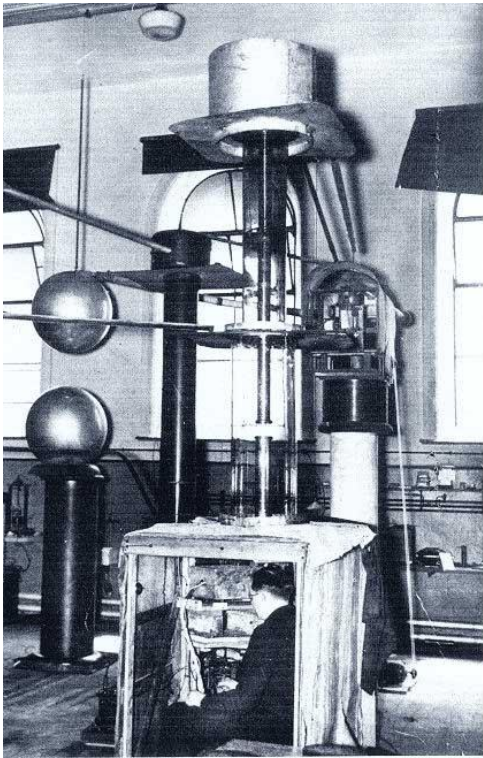




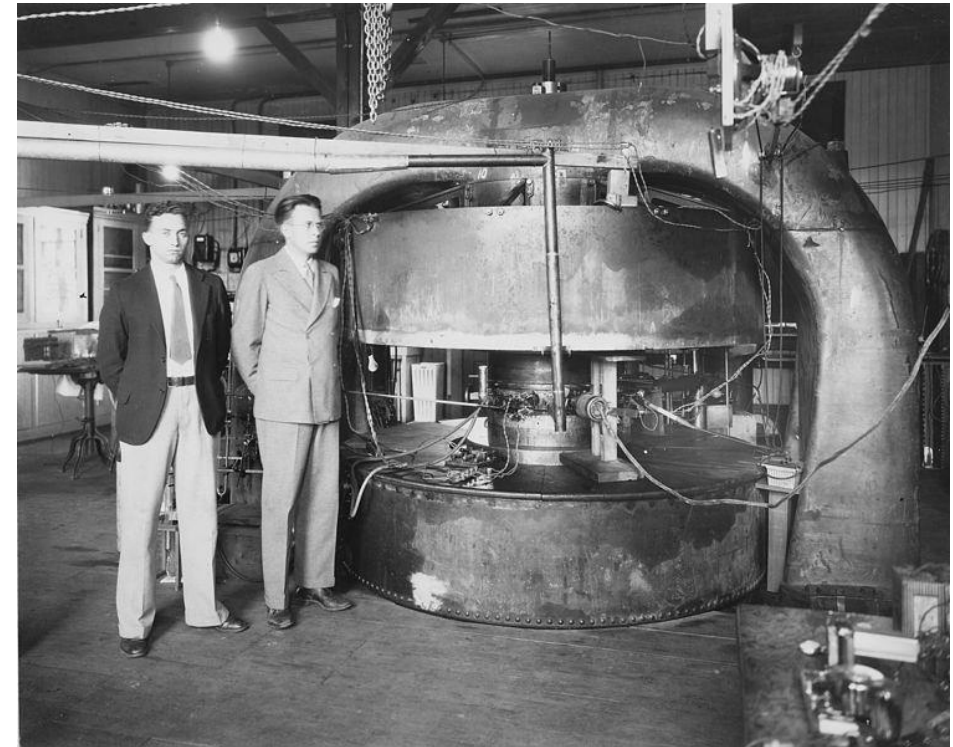
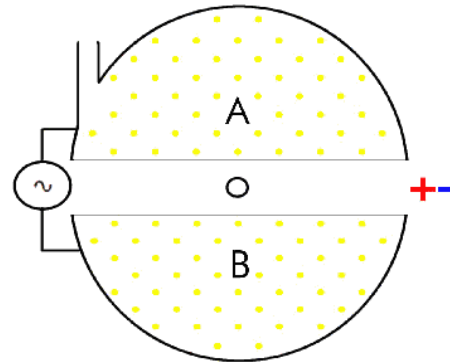
# From laboratory sources to user facilities – the synchrotron story







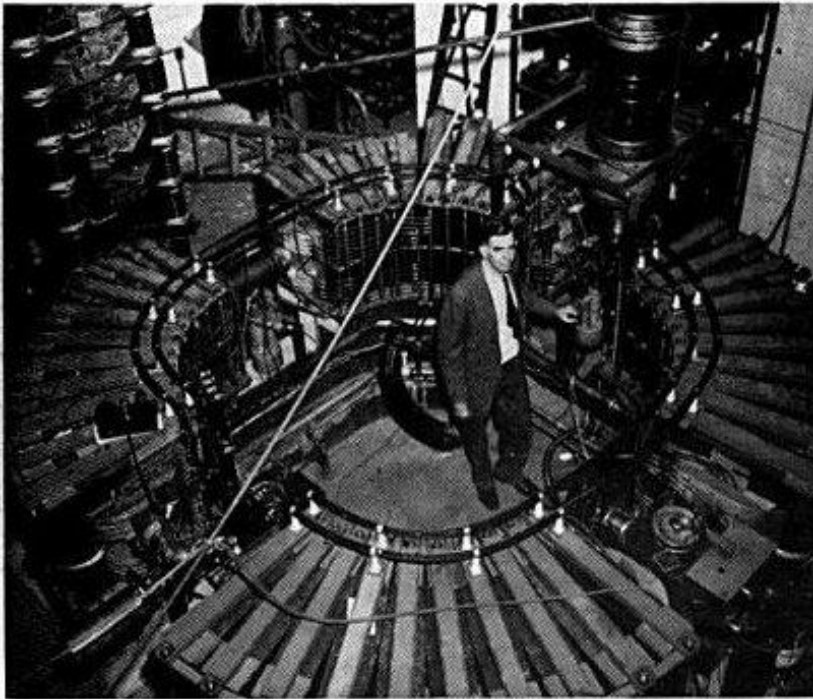
Cockroft and Walton – Cambridge  
1930's



Lawrence – California – 1930's



# Ever increasing circles



University of Michigan – 1949

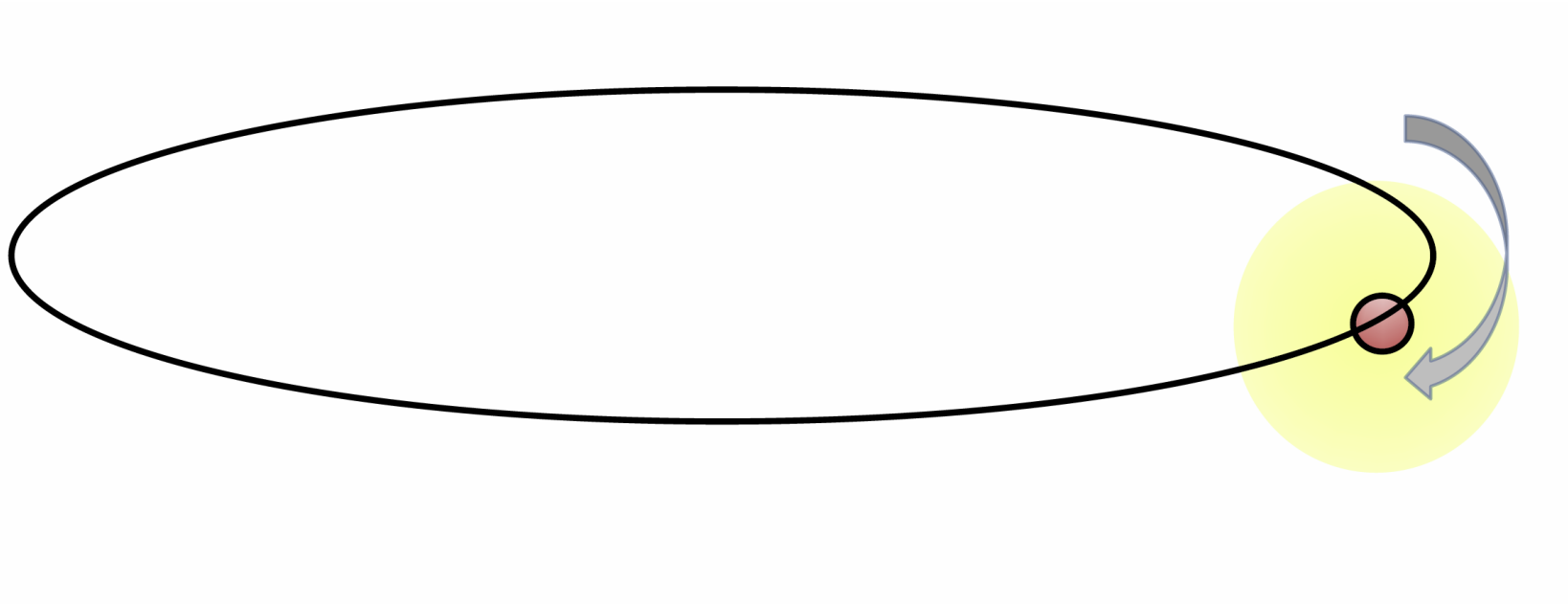


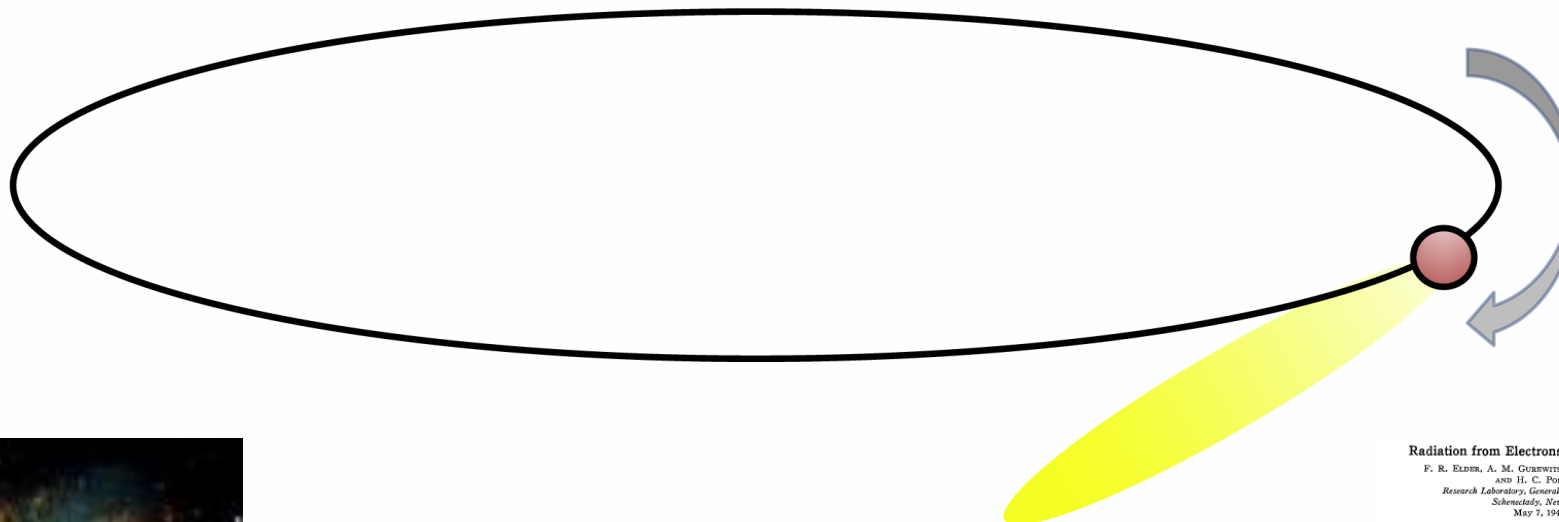
CERN LHC from 2008





# Unintended consequences





1946

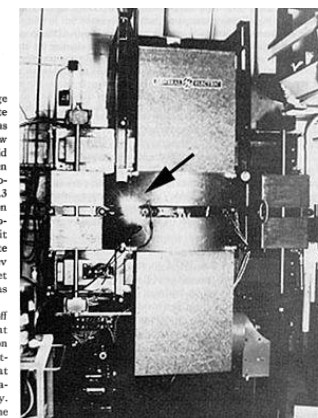


**Radiation from Electrons in a Synchrotron**  
F. R. ELDER, A. M. GUREWITZ, R. V. LANGMUIR,  
AND H. C. POLLOCK  
*Research Laboratory, General Electric Company,  
Schenectady, New York*  
May 5, 1947

HIGH energy electrons which are subjected to large accelerations normal to their velocity should radiate electromagnetic energy.<sup>1-4</sup> The radiation from electrons in a betatron or synchrotron should be emitted in a narrow cone tangent to the electron orbit, and its spectrum should extend into the visible region. This radiation has now been observed visually in the General Electric 70-Mev synchrotron.<sup>5</sup> This machine has an electron orbit radius of 29.3 cm and a peak magnetic field of 8100 gauss. The radiation is seen as a small spot of brilliant white light by an observer looking into the vacuum tube tangent to the orbit and toward the approaching electrons. The light is quite bright when the x-ray output of the machine at 70 Mev is 50 roentgens per minute at one meter from the target and can still be observed in daylight at outputs as low as 0.1 roentgen.

The synchrotron x-ray beam is obtained by turning off the r-f accelerating resonator and permitting subsequent changes in the field of the magnet to change the electron orbit radius so as to contract or expand the beam to suitable targets. If the electrons are contracted to a target at successively higher energies, the intensity of the light radiation is observed to increase rapidly with electron energy. If, however, the electrons are kept in the beam past the target and then expands as the magnetic field decreases. In this case, the observer no longer sees a single point of light but a short line with extension in the plane of the orbit.

The light emitted from the beam is polarized with the electric vector parallel to the plane of the electron orbit. It disappears as the observer rotates a piece of Polaroid before the eye through ninety degrees. An investigation of the spectral distribution of the energy is in progress and will be reported.

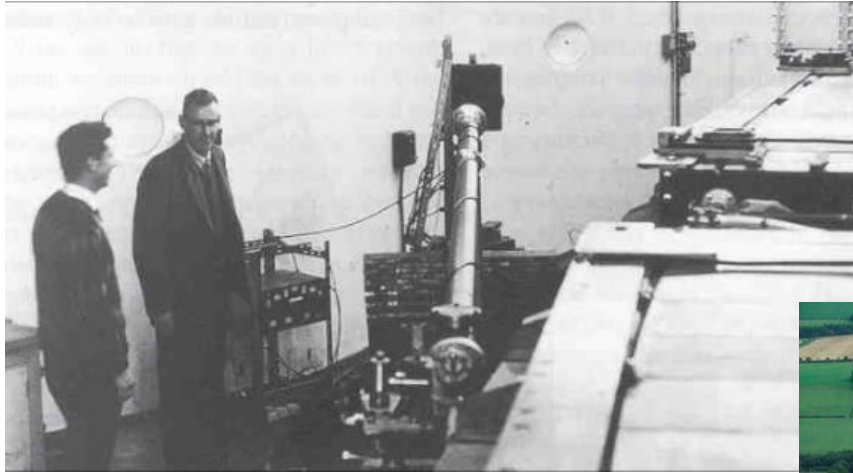


This work has been supported by the Office of Naval Research under contract N5ori-178.

<sup>1</sup> D. Iwanenko and I. Pomeranchuk, *Phys. Rev.* **65**, 343 (1944).  
<sup>2</sup> J. P. Blewett, *Phys. Rev.* **69**, 87 (1946).  
<sup>3</sup> L. Schiff, *Rev. Sci. Instr.* **17**, 6 (1946).  
<sup>4</sup> J. S. Schwinger, *Phys. Rev.* **70**, 728 (1946).  
<sup>5</sup> H. C. Pollock et al., *Phys. Rev.* **70**, 798 (1946).

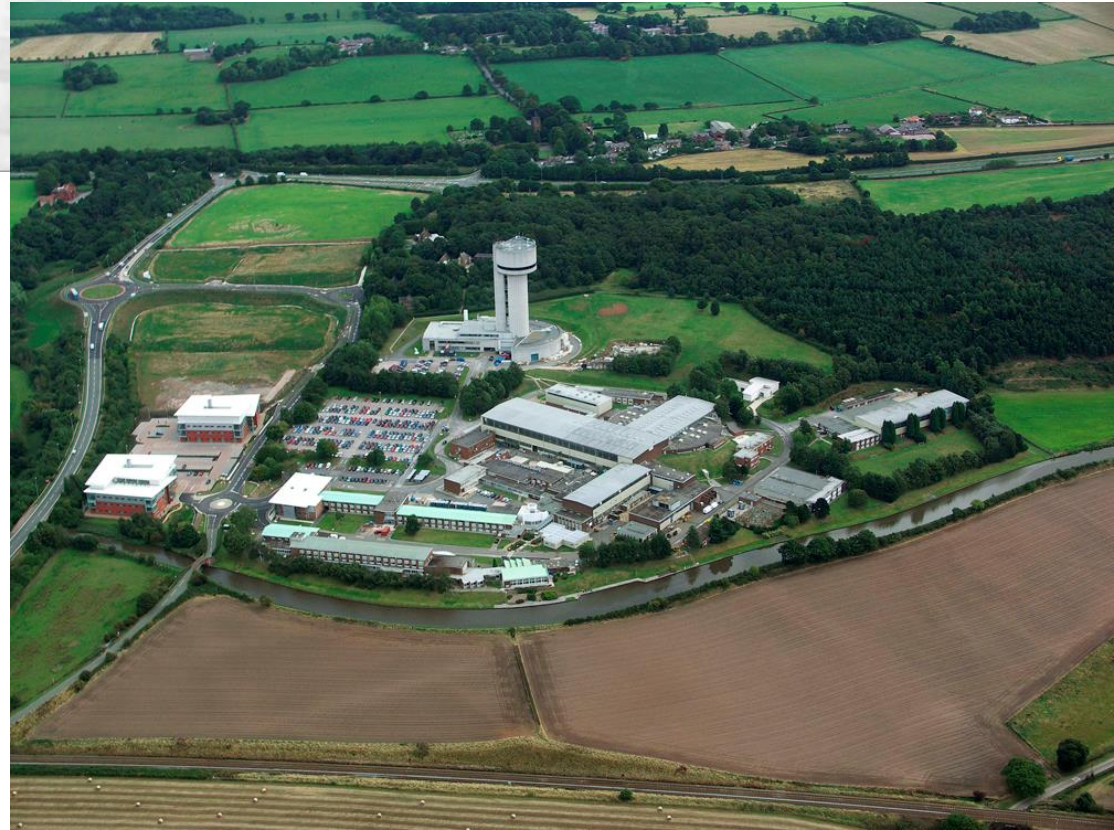


# Intended consequences



NINA, Daresbury  
1960's

Synchrotron Radiation Source,  
Daresbury, 1981 - 2008





**1990's – 3<sup>rd</sup> generation sources**

**10,000s mostly non-expert users accessing the facility 24/6**



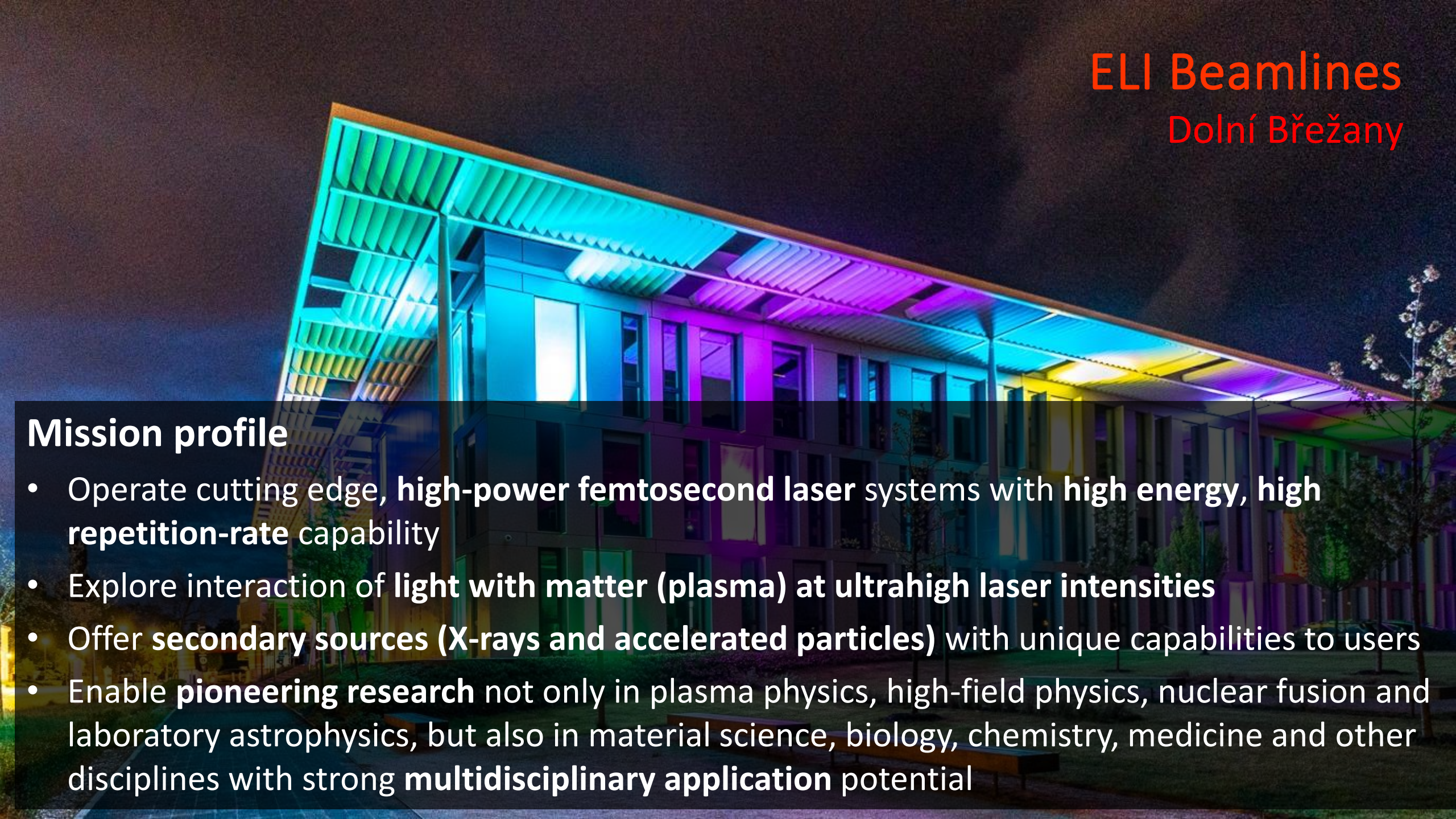


# ELI Beamlines

Dolní Břežany







# ELI Beamlines

Dolní Břežany

## Mission profile

- Operate cutting edge, **high-power femtosecond laser systems** with **high energy, high repetition-rate** capability
- Explore interaction of **light with matter (plasma)** at **ultrahigh laser intensities**
- Offer **secondary sources (X-rays and accelerated particles)** with unique capabilities to users
- Enable **pioneering research** not only in plasma physics, high-field physics, nuclear fusion and laboratory astrophysics, but also in material science, biology, chemistry, medicine and other disciplines with strong **multidisciplinary application** potential





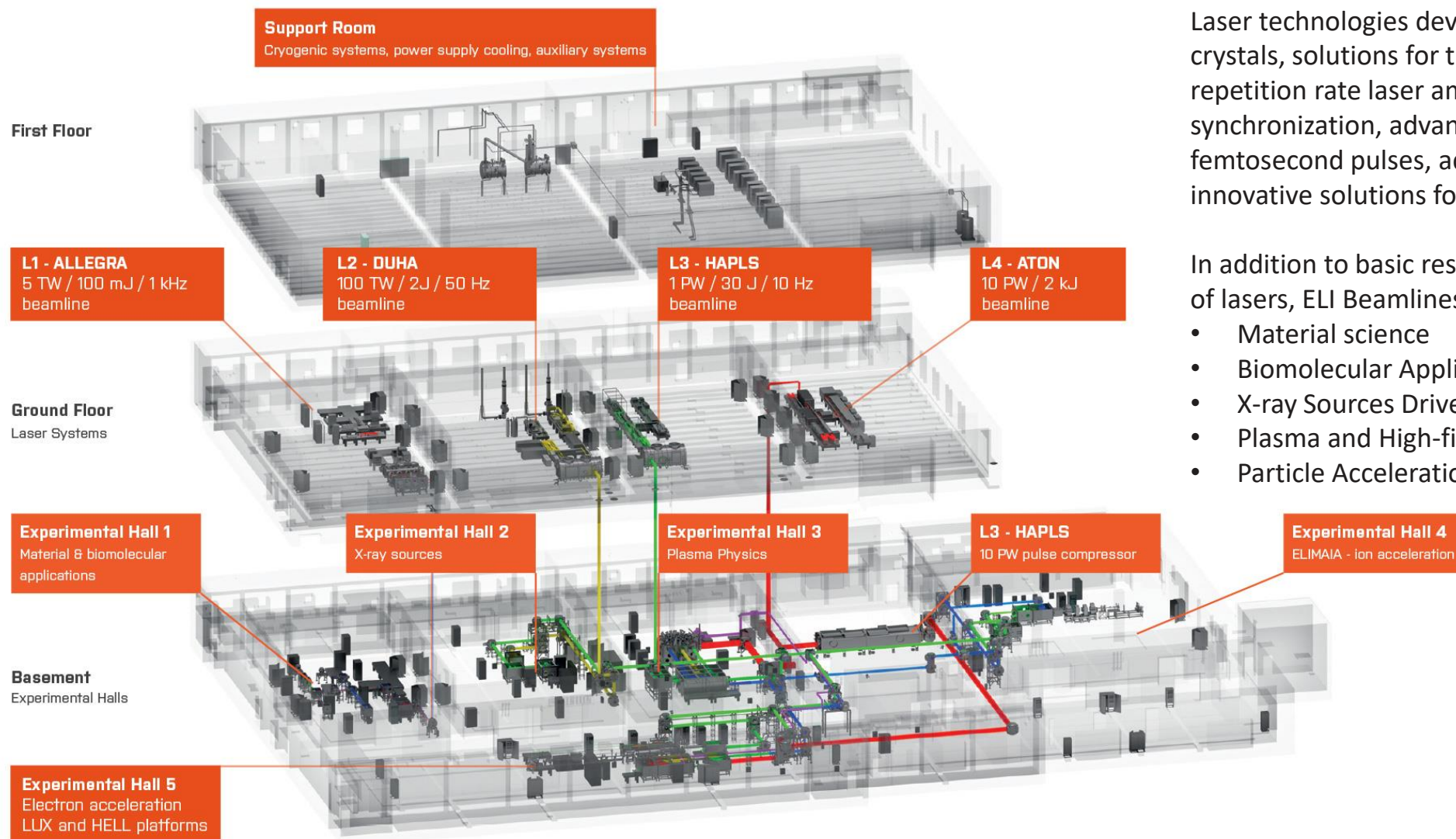
# ELI Beamlines Facility Layout

## ELI Beamlines

Laser technologies developing new techniques for laser crystals, solutions for the cryogenic cooling of high-power repetition rate laser amplifiers, femtosecond synchronization, advanced repetition rate diagnostics of femtosecond pulses, advanced control systems, and innovative solutions for petawatt (PW) pulse compressors.

In addition to basic research and development in the field of lasers, ELI Beamlines deals with research:

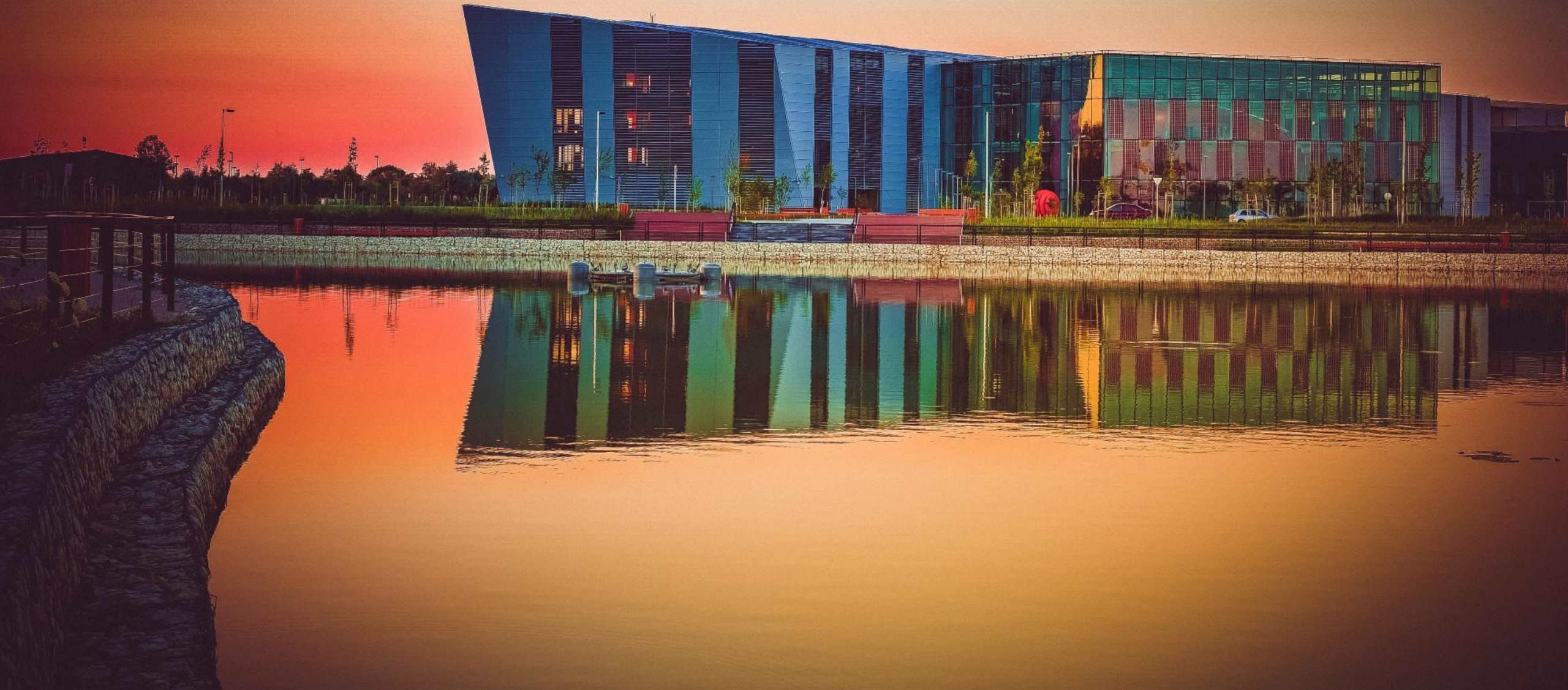
- Material science
- Biomolecular Applications
- X-ray Sources Driven by Ultrashort Laser Pulses
- Plasma and High-field Physics
- Particle Acceleration





# ELI ALPS

*Szeged, Hungary*





# ELI ALPS

*Szeged, Hungary*



## Mission Profile

To provide laser and secondary light and particle sources in the form of ultrashort bursts with high repetition rates. Energetic coherent light pulses of few optical cycles are available from the THz ( $10^{12}$  Hz) to the X-ray ( $10^{18}$  —  $10^{19}$  Hz) frequency range. Dedicated to study extremely fast dynamics by taking snapshots in the attosecond scale of the electron dynamics in atoms, molecules, plasmas and solids.

The parallel existence of these secondary sources and state of the art lasers including PW-class lasers within the same facility, offers unique time-resolved investigation possibilities for both nonrelativistic and relativistic interaction of light with all the four phases of matter.





## ELI ALPS

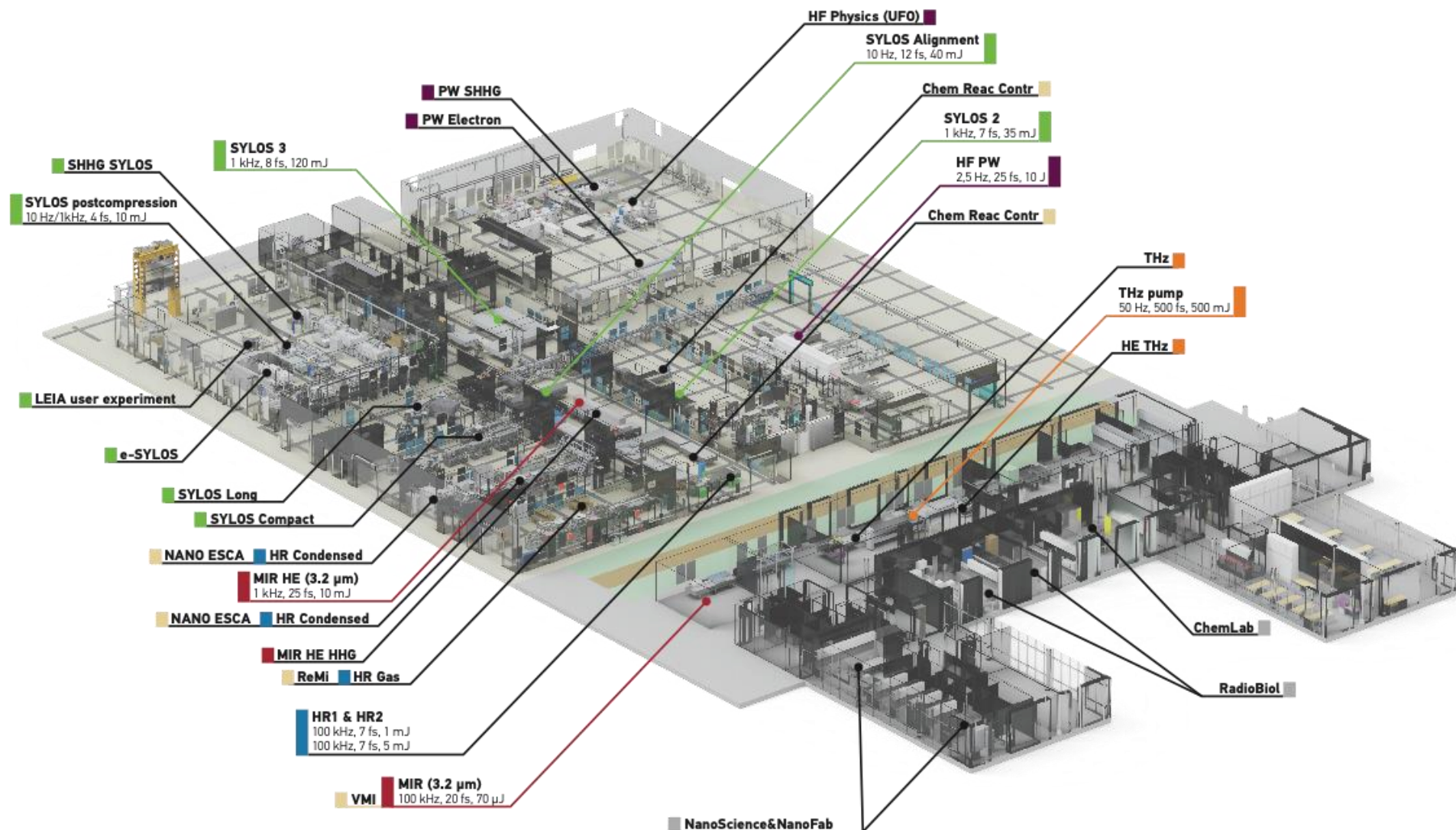
### (Attosecond Light Pulse Source)

ELI ALPS is a leading research facility in ultrafast physical processes as well as a world-class centre for generating outstanding biological, chemical, medical and materials science results.

Research fields and applications:

- Development of attosecond light sources and measurement techniques
- Radiobiological applications
- Energy research: solar cells, artificial photosynthesis, transmutation of used nuclear fuels
- High-peak-power photonics
- Information technology, materials science and nanoscience
- Particle acceleration with few cycle laser pulses

# ELI ALPS Facility Layout







ELI NP

*Măgurele, Romania*

Most advanced photonuclear physics facility in the world with 2 PW class lasers

#### Basic science

- Laser-driven nuclear physics, nuclear astrophysics and nucleosynthesis
- particle acceleration with high power lasers
- Strong field quantum electrodynamics (QED)

#### Technology development

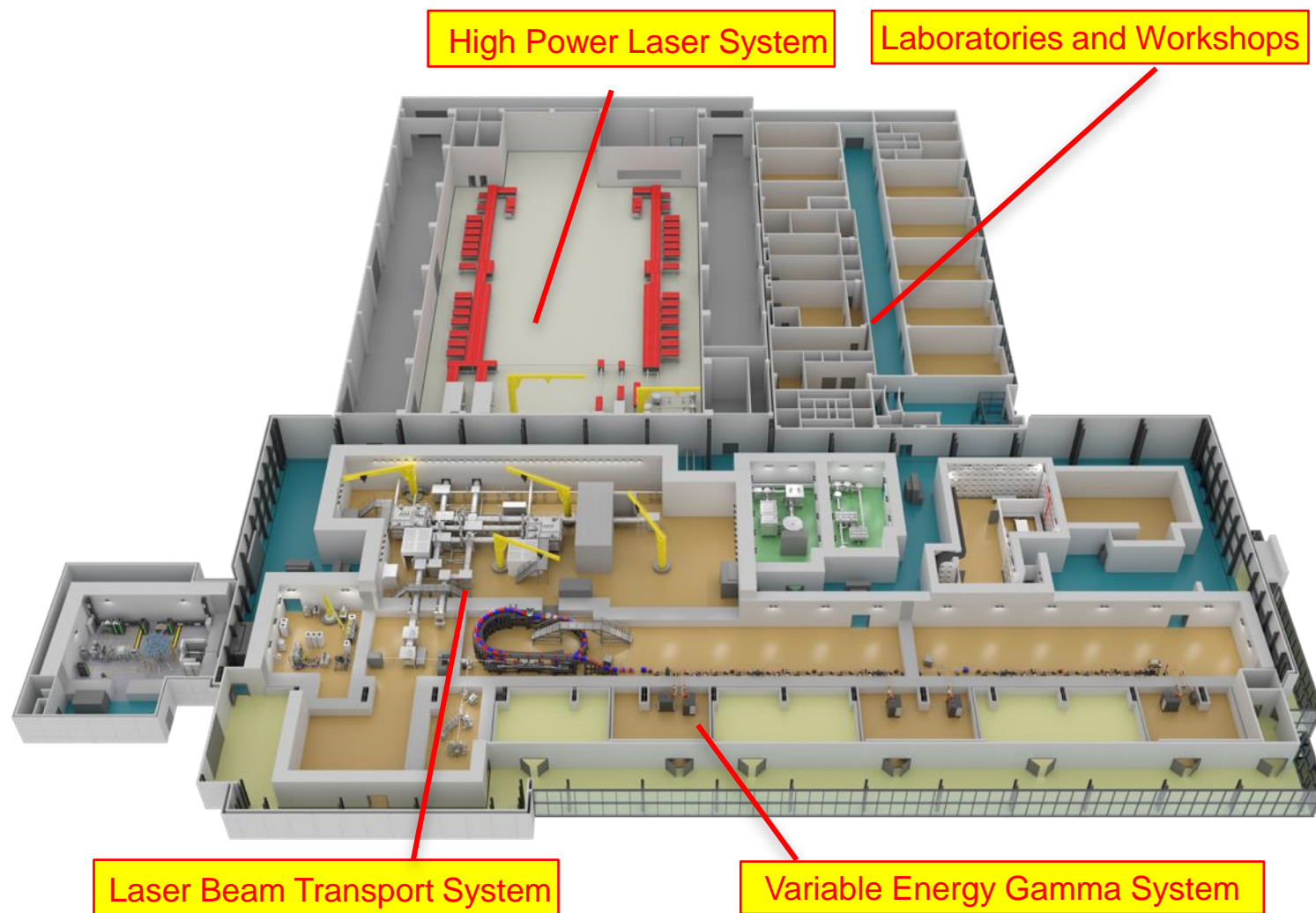
- Medical applications (X-ray imaging, radioisotopes)
- Industrial applications (non-destructive studies)
- Materials and biological science in high radiation fields



# ELI NP Facility Layout

## World-unique combination of instrumentation

- 100 TW laser, 27 fs, 2.7 J @10 Hz (single shot available)
- 1 PW laser, 24 fs - 1 ps, 25 J @ 1 Hz (single shot available)
- 10 PW laser operational (**10.4 PW on target from April 2023** ! but only offered to users when experimental station complete)
- Optics and chambers for nuclear physics and ultra-high-field physics (QED)
- Monochromatic  $\gamma$ -beam (tunable 0.2 – 19.6 MeV) under development



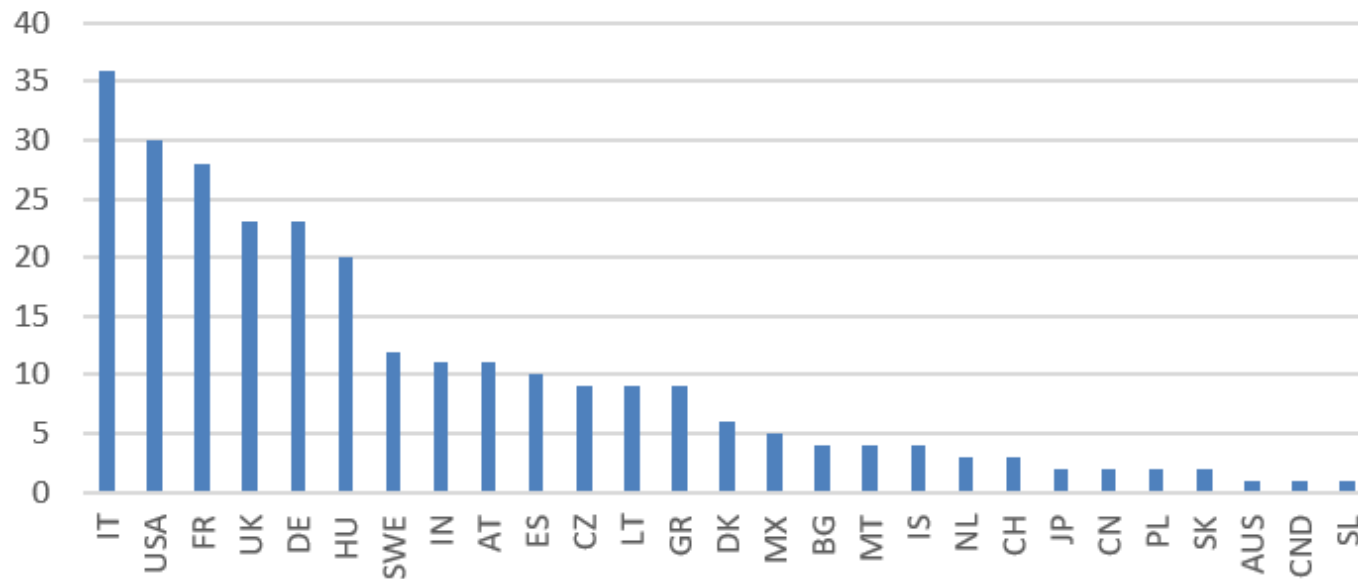




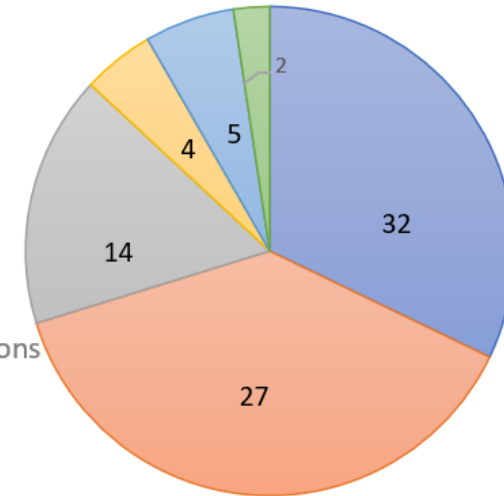
- ## ELI User Calls
- 1<sup>st</sup> User Call launched June 2022 for experiments late 2022 to April 2023
    - 44 proposals accepted and evaluated for 10 beamlines/sources
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> User Call launched Jan 2023 for experiments late 2023 to Feb 2024
    - 102 accepted and evaluated for 32 beamlines/sources
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> User Call in mid-Sept Jan 2023 for experiments from Feb 2024
  - Single point of access <https://up.eli-laser.eu>



## 2<sup>nd</sup> ELI ERIC User Call



- AMO physics and chemistry
- Surface and materials science
- Particle acceleration and applications
- Plasma physics
- Relativistic and ultrarelativistic interactions
- Life sciences



Nationality of institute to which all unique external investigators are affiliated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> user call at ELI ERIC: 271 in total plus 51 unique investigators from ELI ALPS, and 39 from ELI Beamlines

# Integrating ELI's Facilities Requires Resources and a Plan.

## Project Objectives

IMPULSE focuses on achieving quick and effective transition of ELI ERIC from construction into sustainable operations by uniting the ELI facilities and making them accessible for users through one single, high-quality access point.

IMPULSE addresses the key scientific, technical, organisational, and management requirements of this integration, building user communities and expanding the ELI member consortium.

<https://impulse-project.eu/>

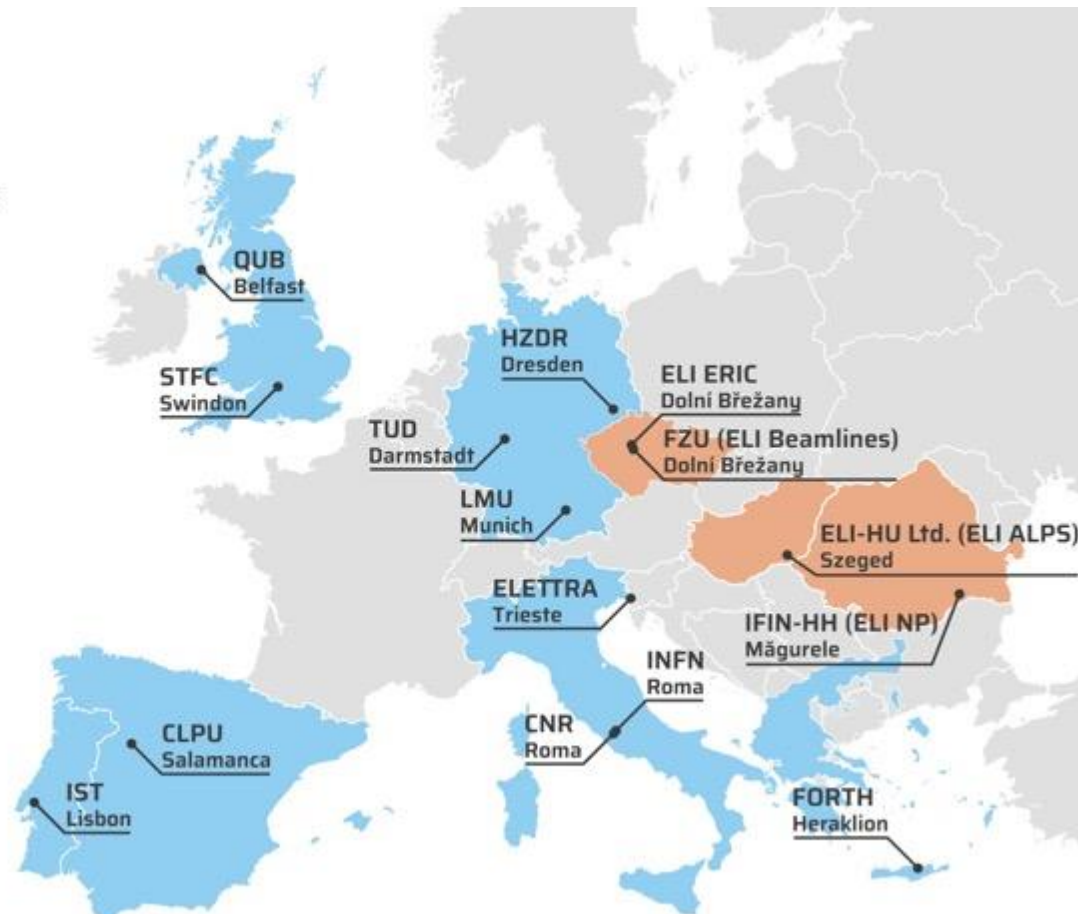


IMPULSE is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 871161

Project Coordinator:  
ELI ERIC

ELI Project Partners

Other Partners



## Project Facts

- 14 Partners
- 9 Countries
- 42 Months
- €19.9 Million





# ELI ERIC: Development of a large scale laser facility

ELI Summer School  
August 29<sup>th</sup> 2023





# ELI Attosecond Light Pulse Source

*Szeged, Hungary*

**ELI ALPS is a world-class centre for :**

- Ultrafast physical processes
- Chemical, medical and materials science analysis
- Attosecond measurement techniques
- Biological imaging technologies
- Artificial photosynthesis
- Nanoscience
- 270 international staff
- Area 30,000 m<sup>2</sup>





## ELI ALPS

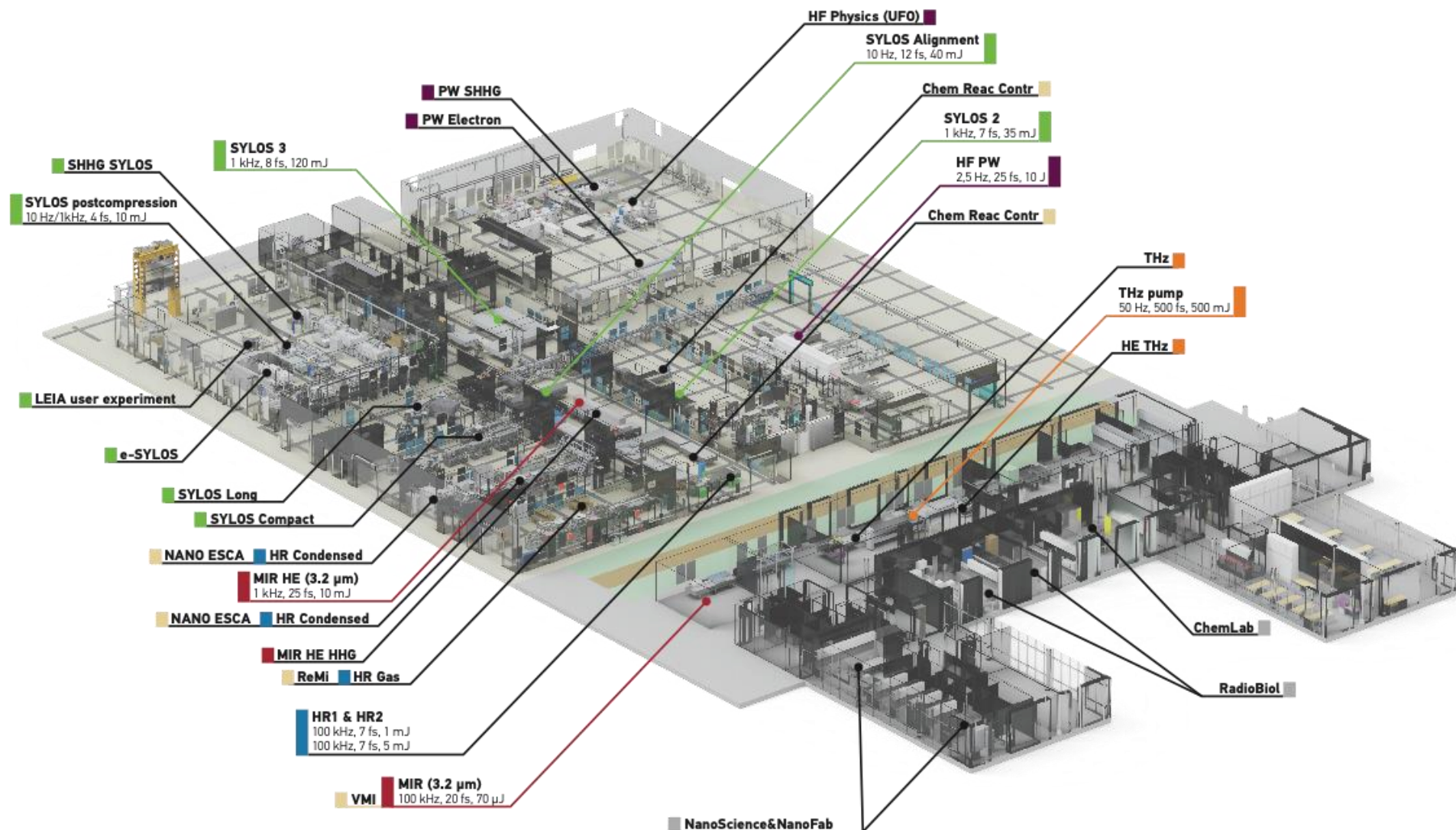
### (Attosecond Light Pulse Source)

ELI ALPS is a leading research facility in ultrafast physical processes as well as a world-class centre for generating outstanding biological, chemical, medical and materials science results.

Research fields and applications:

- Development of attosecond light sources and measurement techniques
- Radiobiological applications
- Energy research: solar cells, artificial photosynthesis, transmutation of used nuclear fuels
- High-peak-power photonics
- Information technology, materials science and nanoscience
- Particle acceleration with few cycle laser pulses

# ELI ALPS Facility Layout







# ELI Beamlines

*Dolní Břežany, Czech Republic*

ELI Beamlines is the world's most versatile laser center covering the broadest range of energy and frequency under one roof. We explore the interaction of light with matter at intensities 10 times higher than previously achievable.

- medical imaging and diagnostics, radiotherapy
- new materials
- X-ray optics
- Laser driven hadron-therapy
- High field
- Fusion
- 300+ international staff





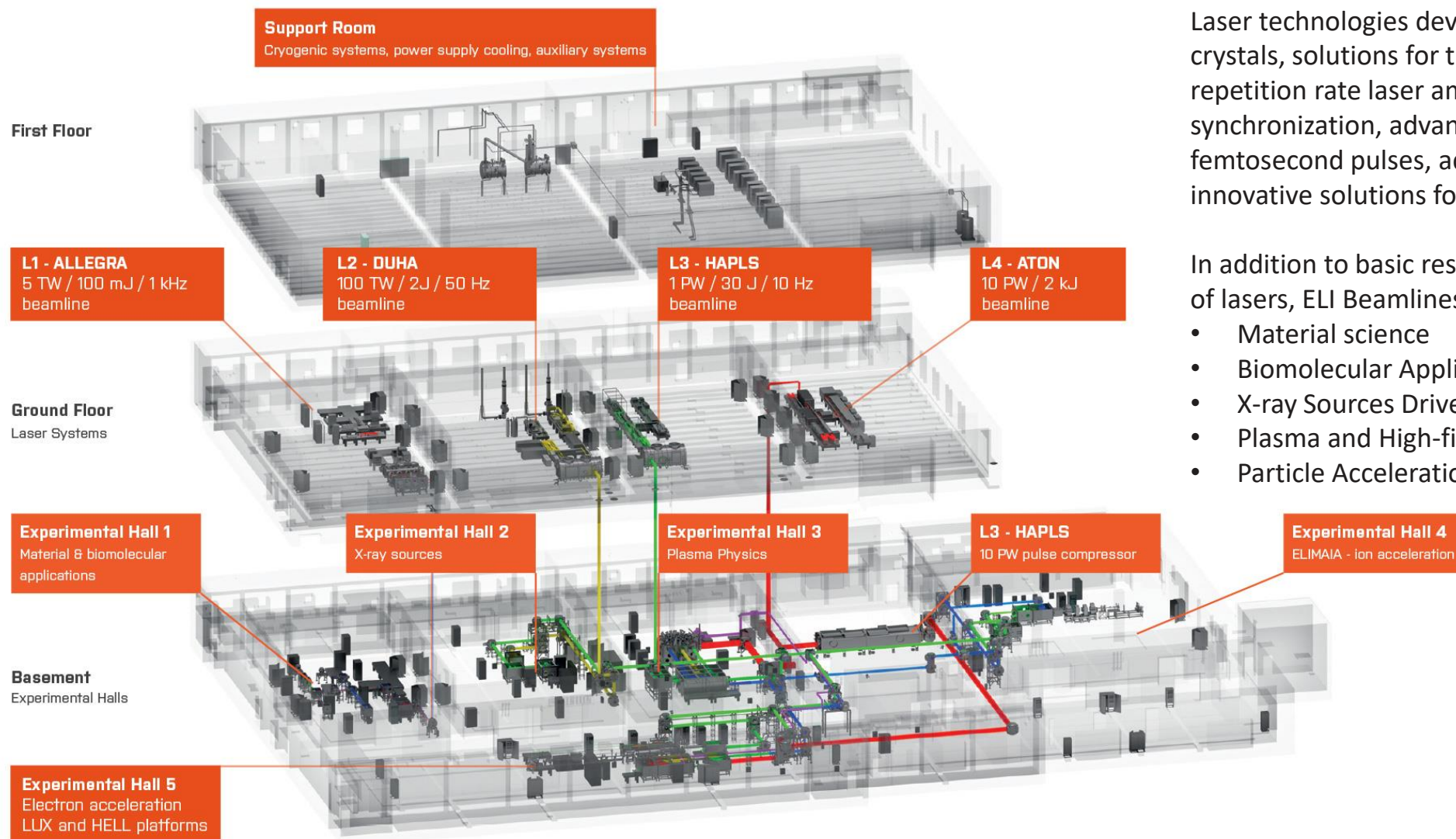
# ELI Beamlines Facility Layout

## ELI Beamlines

Laser technologies developing new techniques for laser crystals, solutions for the cryogenic cooling of high-power repetition rate laser amplifiers, femtosecond synchronization, advanced repetition rate diagnostics of femtosecond pulses, advanced control systems, and innovative solutions for petawatt (PW) pulse compressors.

In addition to basic research and development in the field of lasers, ELI Beamlines deals with research:

- Material science
- Biomolecular Applications
- X-ray Sources Driven by Ultrashort Laser Pulses
- Plasma and High-field Physics
- Particle Acceleration





IMPULSE

# ELI Nuclear Physics

*Măgurele, Romania*

ELI ERIC and IFIN-HH includes ELI-NP in the first joint ELI Call. This is made possible through the collaboration under IMPULSE. Experiments using:

- One laser @ 100 TW, 27 fs, 2.7 J @10 Hz (single shot available)
- One laser @ 1 PW, 24 fs - 1 ps, 25 J @ 1 Hz (single shot available)





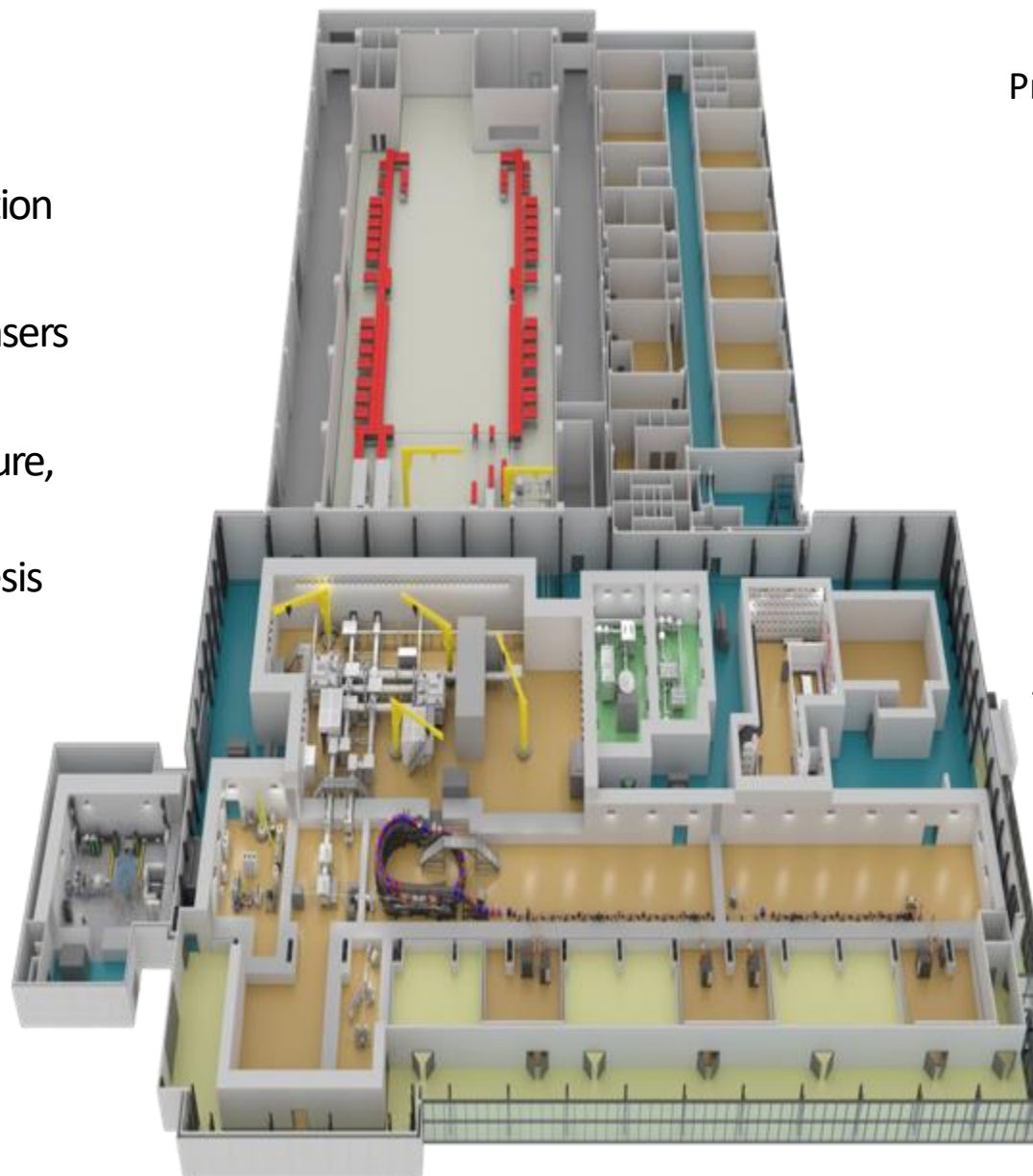
# ELI-NP Research Infrastructure

## Advanced studies in basic science ...

- characterization of laser-matter interaction with nuclear methods
- particle acceleration with high powerlasers
- nuclear reactions in plasma
- photonuclear reactions, nuclear structure, exotic nuclei
- nuclear astrophysics and nucleosynthesis
- quantum electrodynamics (QED)

## ... and applications – developing technologies for:

- medical applications (X-ray imaging, radioisotopes)
- industrial applications (non-destructive studies with!)
- material studies with positrons
- materials in high radiation fields



**Calin Ur**  
Project Director  
*ELI-NP*



**Sydney Galès**  
Science Director  
*ELI-NP*





# ELI ERIC is Open to the World

A user facility with three access modes

- **Excellence-Based Access** – Evaluation of proposals by international peer-review panels. ***Results of experiments published and open.***
- **Mission-Based Access** – Thematic research granted on the basis of scientific missions pursuing challenges. Proposals reviewed by international panels. ***Results published and open.***
- **Proprietary Access** – Paid access for industrial or other users. ***Results are retained by the user,*** consistent with ELI ERIC's Data and IPR Policy.







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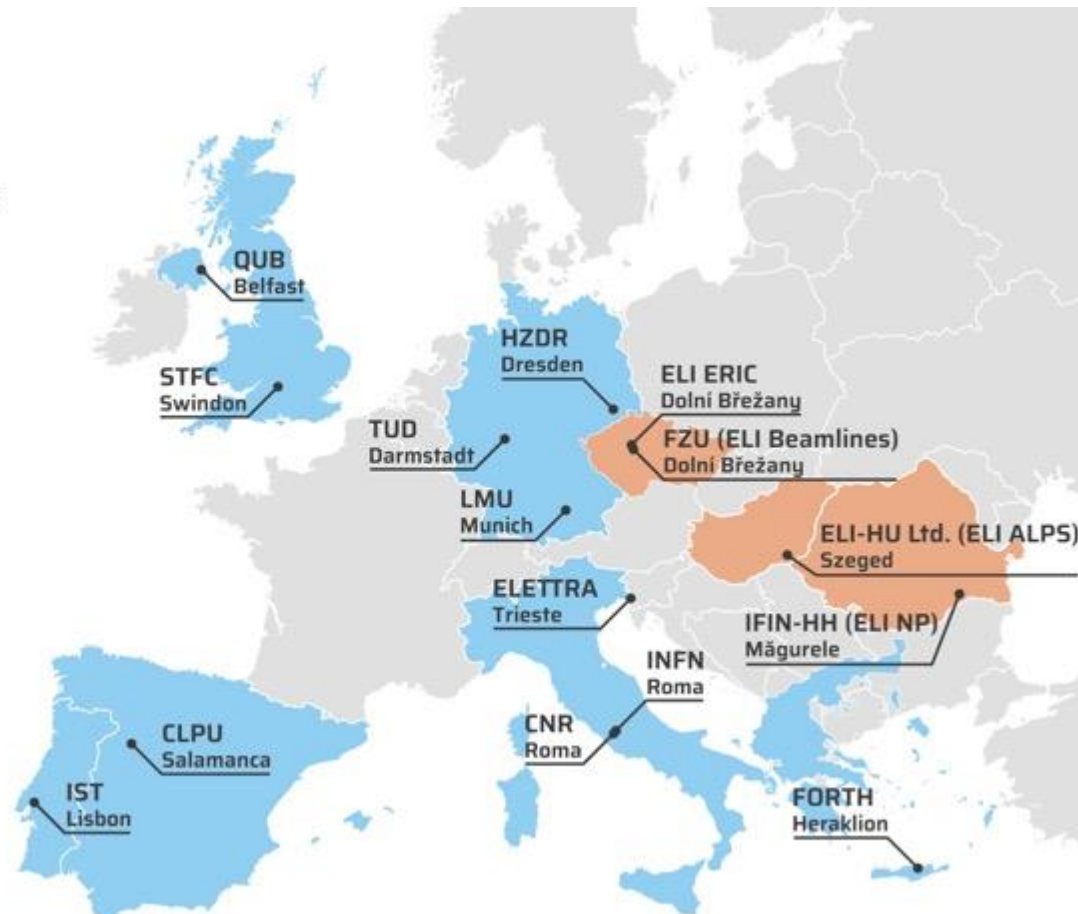


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