

# UK Nuclear Physics Update (2023)

- **UK Nuclear Physics Science includes research into:**
  - Nuclear Structure, Nuclear Reactions & Nuclear Astrophysics
  - Hadronic Physics
  - Nuclear Theory
  - Applications and Societal Benefits through instrument development and nuclear data application.
  - Also Involvement in some Network grants (UKNDN ; Early Diagnosis Network ; NuSEC Network)

**‘Core’ UKRI funding comes via STFC (tensioned vs Particle Physics and Astronomy.**

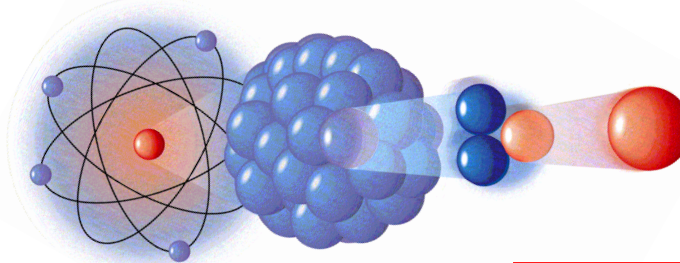
Paddy Regan: [p.regan@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:p.regan@surrey.ac.uk) [Paddy.regan@npl.co.uk](mailto:Paddy.regan@npl.co.uk)

# UK Nuclear Physics Update (2023)

- **UK Nuclear Physics Science include experimental input investment, instrumentation and manpower for:**
  - Nuclear Structure, Nuclear Reactions & Nuclear Astrophysics
    - Radioactive Ion Beam Facilities: FAIR (Germany) ; CERN-ISOLDE (Switzerland); RIBF-RIKEN (Japan) ; TRIUMF (Vancouver, Canada); GANIL (France).
    - Stable beam facilities inc. Argonne National Lab (USA); Jyvaskyla (Finland) ; Legnaro (Italy); Gran Sasso (Italy), others...
  - Hadronic Physics
    - (nucleon / parton distributions – including J-LAB (Virginia, USA)
    - Hot, dense nuclear matter) - including ALICE (CERN)

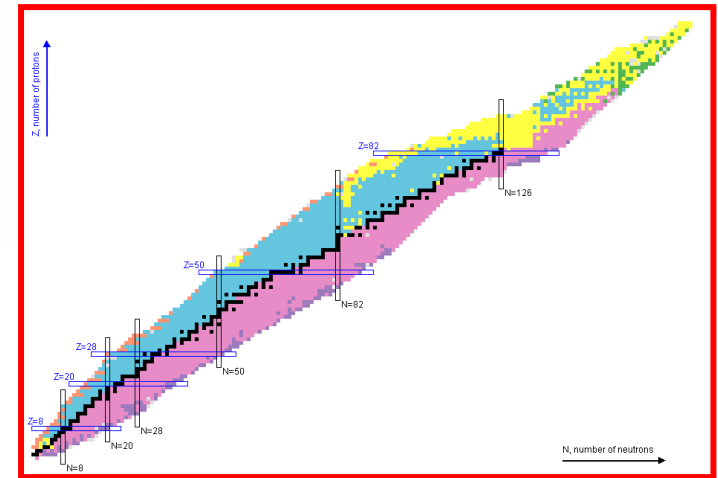
# Some 'Big' Physics Questions?

- 1) What are the fundamental building block of matter ?
- 2) How can you see 'inside' an atomic nucleus / nucleons?
- 3) Where & when were the stable elements formed?
- 4) How do we measure very long / short radioactive decays?
- 5) What are some of the applications of nuclear science?



IUPAC Periodic Table of the Elements

Key: atomic number Symbol name standard atomic weight																																
1 H hydrogen 1.008																	2 He helium 4.003															
3 Li lithium 6.941	4 Be beryllium 9.012																	5 B boron 10.811	6 C carbon 12.011	7 N nitrogen 14.007	8 O oxygen 15.999	9 F fluorine 18.998	10 Ne neon 20.180									
11 Na sodium 22.990	12 Mg magnesium 24.305																	13 Al aluminum 26.982	14 Si silicon 28.086	15 P phosphorus 30.974	16 S sulfur 32.06	17 Cl chlorine 35.45	18 Ar argon 39.948									
19 K potassium 39.098	20 Ca calcium 40.078	21 Sc scandium 44.956	22 Ti titanium 47.867	23 V vanadium 50.942	24 Cr chromium 51.996	25 Mn manganese 54.938	26 Fe iron 55.845	27 Co cobalt 58.933	28 Ni nickel 58.693	29 Cu copper 63.546	30 Zn zinc 65.38	31 Ga gallium 69.723	32 Ge germanium 72.630	33 As arsenic 74.922	34 Se selenium 78.96	35 Br bromine 79.904	36 Kr krypton 83.798															
37 Rb rubidium 85.468	38 Sr strontium 87.62	39 Y yttrium 88.906	40 Zr zirconium 91.224	41 Nb niobium 92.906	42 Mo molybdenum 95.94	43 Tc technetium 98	44 Ru ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh rhodium 102.905	46 Pd palladium 106.36	47 Ag silver 107.868	48 Cd cadmium 112.411	49 In indium 114.818	50 Sn tin 118.710	51 Sb antimony 121.757	52 Te tellurium 127.6	53 I iodine 126.905	54 Xe xenon 131.29															
55 Cs caesium 132.905	56 Ba barium 137.327	57-71 lanthanoids																72 Hf hafnium 178.49	73 Ta tantalum 180.948	74 W tungsten 183.84	75 Re rhenium 186.207	76 Os osmium 190.23	77 Ir iridium 192.222	78 Pt platinum 195.084	79 Au gold 196.967	80 Hg mercury 200.59	81 Tl thallium 204.383	82 Pb lead 207.2	83 Bi bismuth 208.98	84 Po polonium [209]	85 At astatine [210]	86 Rn radon [222]
87 Fr francium [223]	88 Ra radium [226]	89-103 actinoids																104 Rf rutherfordium [261]	105 Db dubnium [262]	106 Sg seaborgium [263]	107 Bh bohrium [264]	108 Hs hassium [265]	109 Mt meitnerium [266]	110 Ds darmstadtium [267]	111 Rg roentgenium [268]	112 Cn copernicium [269]	113 Nh nihonium [270]	114 Fl flerovium [271]	115 Mc moscovium [272]	116 Lv livermorium [273]	117 Ts tennessine [274]	118 Og oganesson [276]
57 La lanthanum 138.905																		58 Ce cerium 140.12	59 Pr praseodymium 140.908	60 Nd neodymium 144.24	61 Pm promethium [145]	62 Sm samarium 150.36	63 Eu europium 151.964	64 Gd gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb terbium 158.925	66 Dy dysprosium 162.50	67 Ho holmium 164.930	68 Er erbium 167.259	69 Tm thulium 168.930	70 Yb ytterbium 173.054	71 Lu lutetium 174.967	
89 Ac actinium [227]																		90 Th thorium 232.037	91 Pa protactinium 231.036	92 U uranium 238.029	93 Np neptunium [237]	94 Pu plutonium [244]	95 Am americium [243]	96 Cm curium [247]	97 Bk berkelium [247]	98 Cf californium [251]	99 Es einsteinium [252]	100 Fm fermium [257]	101 Md mendelevium [258]	102 No nobelium [259]	103 Lr lawrencium [260]	



# Size of the UK community

- There are ~70 academics / faculty staff @ 12 institutions carrying out nuclear physics research
  - Includes appointments via STFC ERF, UKRI-FLF, Roy. Soc Fel.
  - Almost all are University-based researchers
- ~90 PhD Research students across the community
  - ~40 - 50 funded by STFC quota plus a few iCASE etc.
- Nucl. Phys. Advisory Panel - Chair J. Dobczewski (York)
- Nucl. Phys. Grant Panel - Chair K. Flanagan (Manchester).

\* UK Nucl. Phys. Community annually (10-11 Jan 2023 in IoP London)

\* IoP Nucl. Phy. Conf. held each April (U. York, April 2023)



**Nuclear Physics Community Meeting Jan 2022**

# Members of STFC - Nuclear Physics Advisory Panel (NPAP)

Jacek Dobaczewski (chair)	University of York
Rachel Montgomery	University of Glasgow
Philippos Papadakis	STFC
Pascal Reiter	University of Edinburgh
David Sharp	University of Manchester
Paul Stevenson	University of Surrey

## Engaging with:

**Science Board Liaison:** David Ireland, University of Glasgow

**PPAP Chair:** Matthew Needham, University of Edinburgh

**PAAP Chair:** Sergey Burdin, University of Liverpool

# The Nuclear Physics Strategy document

- Scope and range of Physics
  - Current projects
  - Future projects
  - Other issues
  - 10 year horizon
- 
- Last one published 2019
  - Update one due out later this year (2023).



# 2017 NuPECC Long Range plan. Chapter 6.

## APPLICATIONS AND SOCIETAL BENEFITS

(renewal due out 2024 with lots of UK input)



- Energy production: fission, fusion.
- Health applications
  - therapy; imaging; radioisotope production; theranostics, etc.
- Radioprotection / health physics.
- Environmental radioactivity, space applications, climate science.
- Cultural Heritage science.
- Nuclear security; counter terrorism; Nuclear forensics.
- Materials science, nanotechnology.



# STFC Nuclear Physics Grants Panel (NPGP)

## Nuclear Physics Grants Panel Membership 2023

Name	Institute	Expertise
Professor Kieran Flanagan (Chair)	Manchester	Nuclear Structure
Dr Nara Singh Bondili	UWS	Nuclear Structure
Prof. Jens Jorgen Gaardhoje	Copenhagen	Hadronic Physics
Dr Liam Gaffney – Liverpool	Liverpool	Nuclear Structure
Dr David Hamilton	Glasgow	Hadronic Physics
Professor Morten Hjorth-Jenson	MSU/Oslo	Nuclear Theory
Dr Marc Labiche	Daresbury Lab	Nuclear Structure
Professor Alison Laird	York	Nuclear Astrophysics
Dr Judith McGovern	Manchester	Nuclear Theory
Professor Zsolt Podolyak	Surrey	Nuclear Structure
Prof. Dan Watts	York	Hadronic Physics

# Outcome (STFC) Statistics from previous rounds

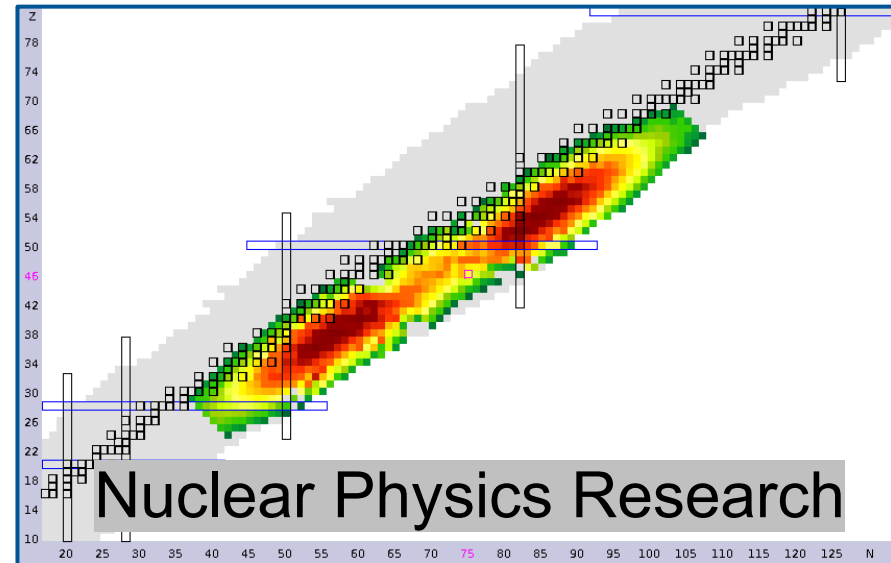
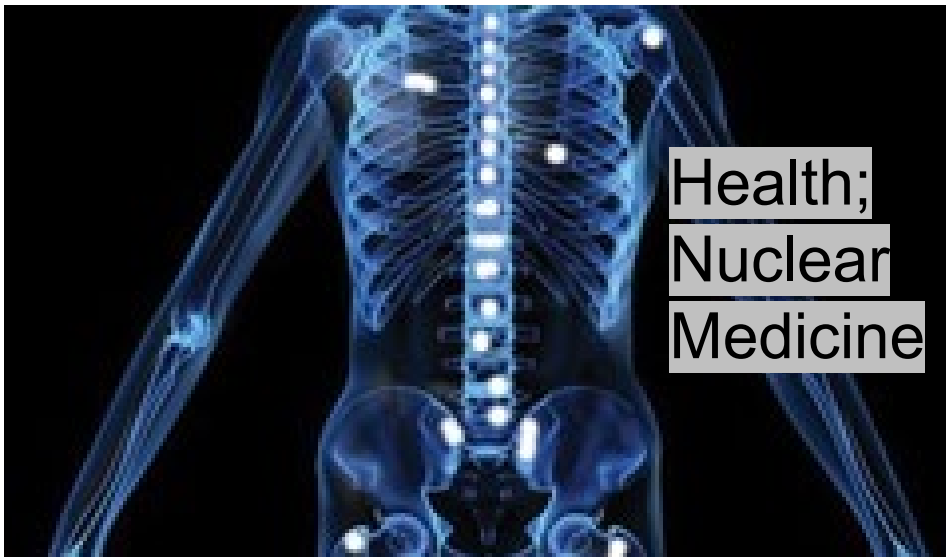
Measure	2011	2014	2017	2020
Number of proposals	8	8	8	8
Number of institutes	10	10	11	12
Number of scientific themes	34	35	35	33
Academics – Number (Requested)	46	52 (58)	53 (65)	45 (66)
Academics - Average FTE	14.5%	11%	9%	6%
Academics – Total FTE per year	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>
PDRA – Number	29	21	27	23
PDRA - Total FTE per year	<b>18.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Core Posts – Number	11	12	9	9
Core Posts - Total FTE per year	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Cross Community - Number	13	14	16	12
Cross Community - Total FTE per year	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Number of Studentships	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Technician - Total FTE per year	-	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Total Number of FTE per year	47.0	43.0	46.7	45.6

**TOTAL PDRAs including CORE RAs:**

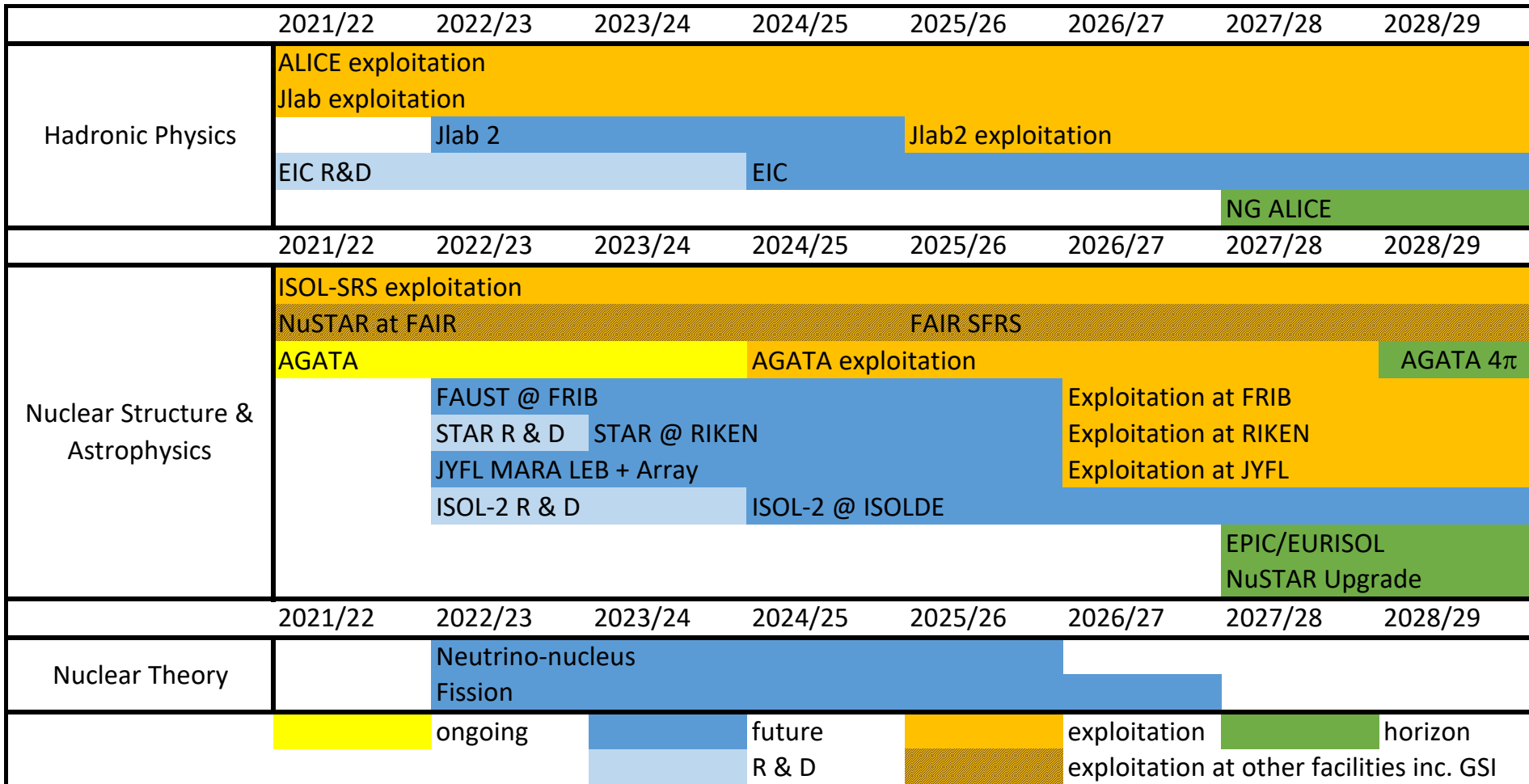
**2017: 21.78 FTE / year**

**2020: 21.4 FTE / year**

# Impact from UK nuclear physics



# Roadmap for existing projects and future opportunities

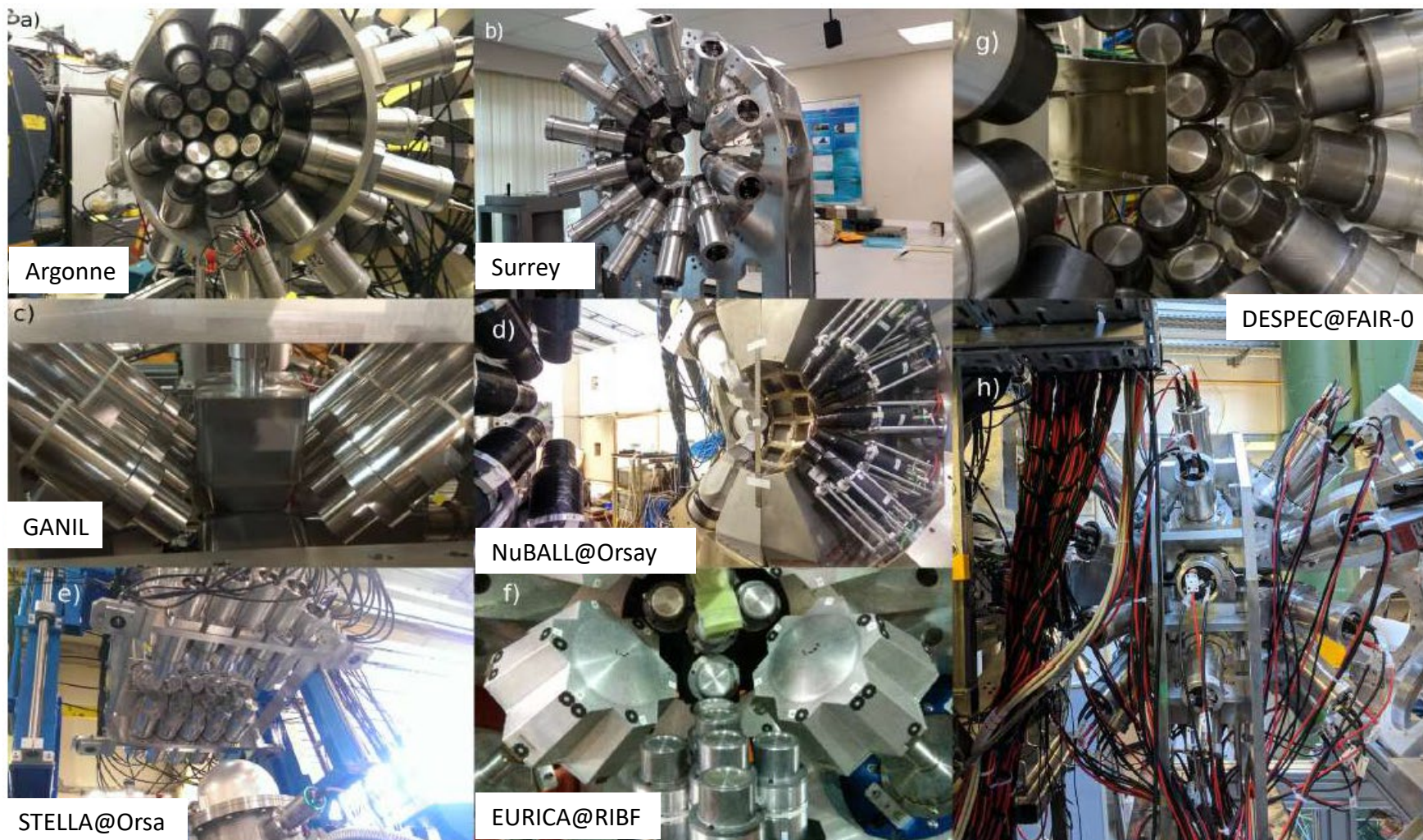


Examples of 2 STFC / UKRI funded nuclear physics detector projects:

1) Current: **FATIMA**

2) Future: **FAUST**

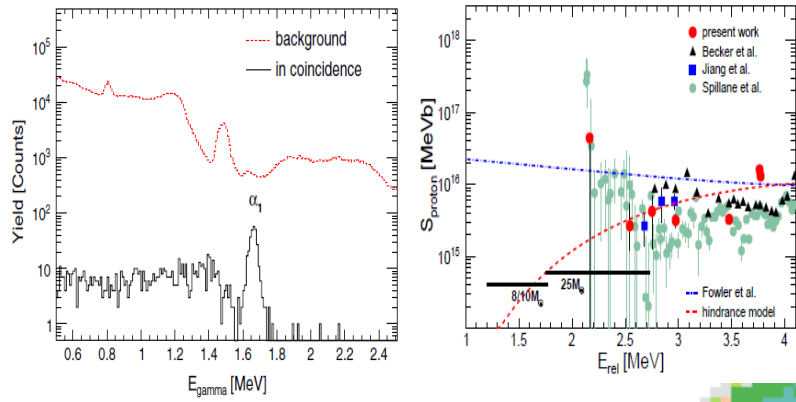
**Design build & commission precision instrumentation (e.g. AGATA; J-LAB; ALICE@CERN; NuSTAR@FAIR; ISS@CERN-ISOLDE) and use them for UK 'buy in' at labs around the world... e.g The UK Fast TIMing Array (FATIMA) – 36 LaBr<sub>3</sub>(Ce) gamma-ray spectrometers.**



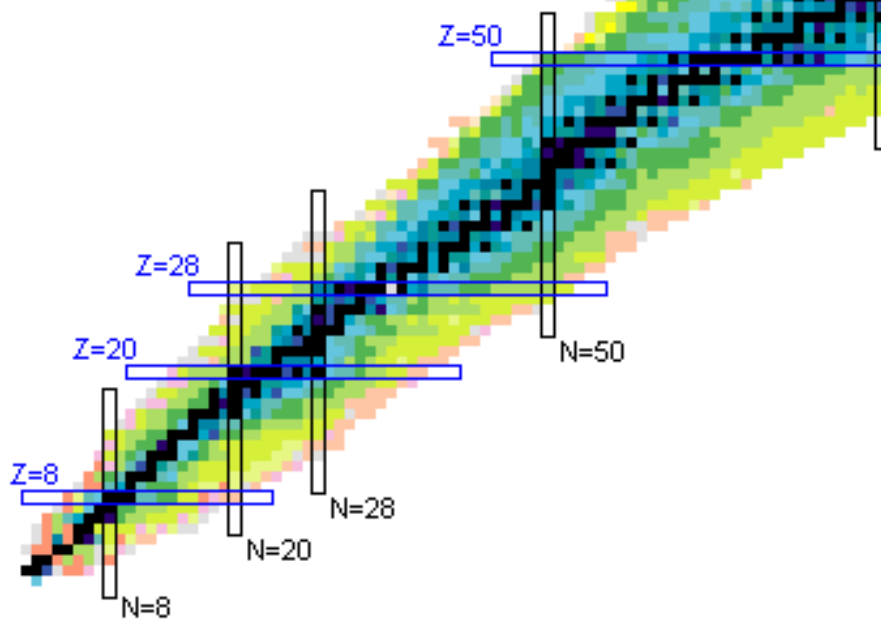
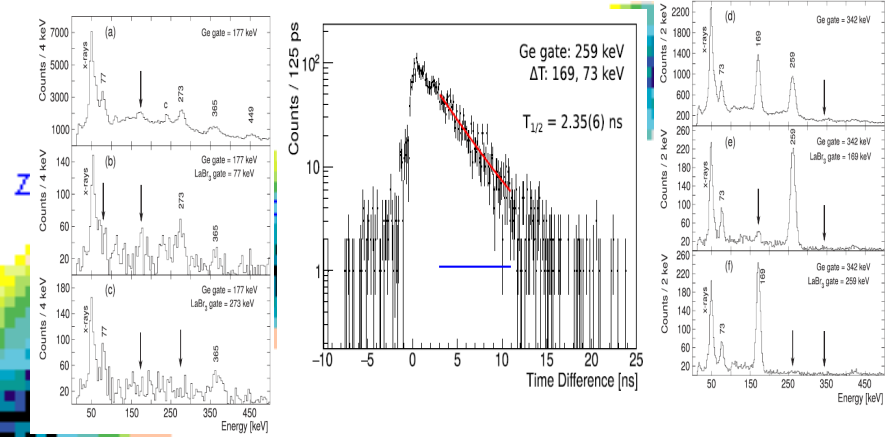
*M. Rudigier, Zs. Podolyák, P.H. Regan et al*

*Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 969 (2020) 163967*

Advances in the Direct Study of Carbon Burning in Massive Stars

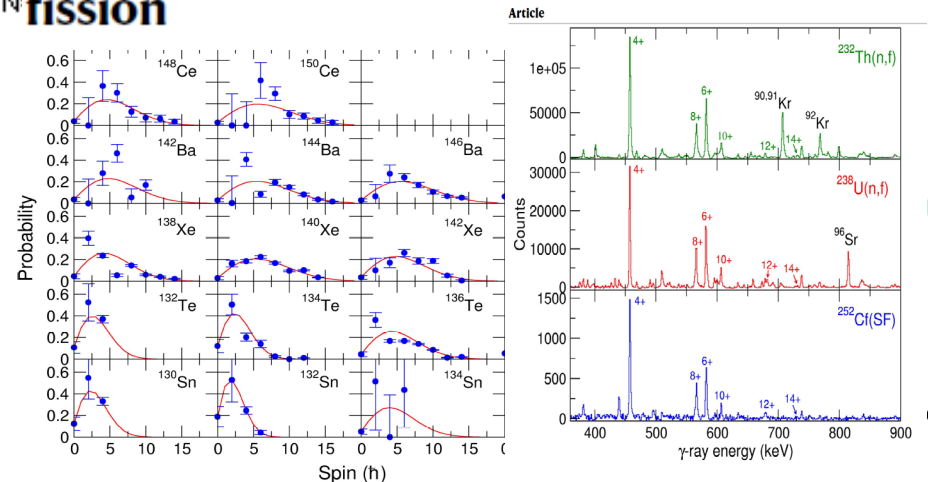


Half-life measurements in  $^{164,166}\text{Dy}$  using  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  fast-timing spectroscopy with the  $\nu$ -Ball spectrometer



Article **566** | Nature | Vol 590 | 25 February 2021

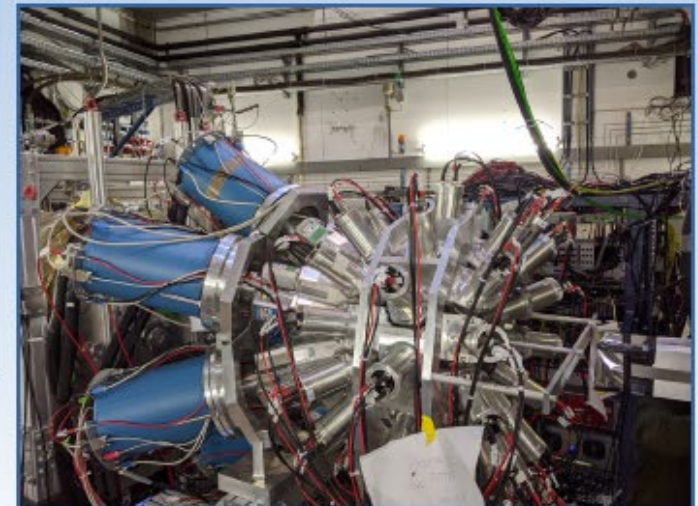
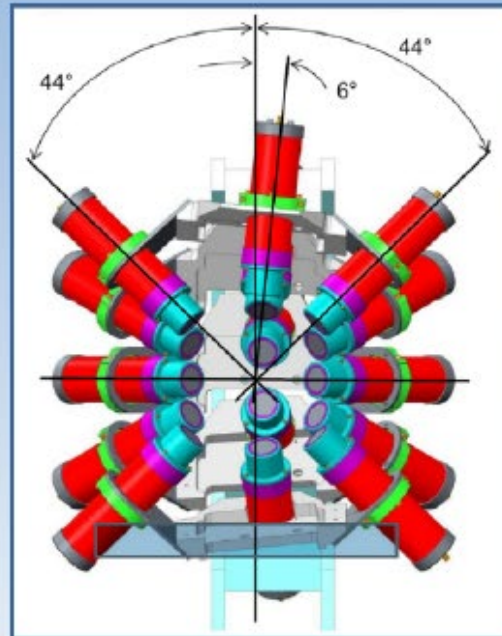
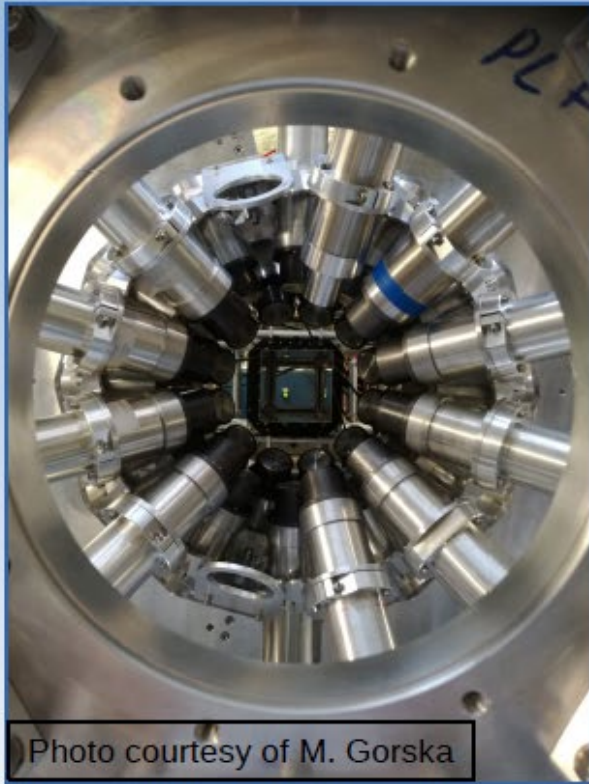
Angular momentum generation in nuclear fission



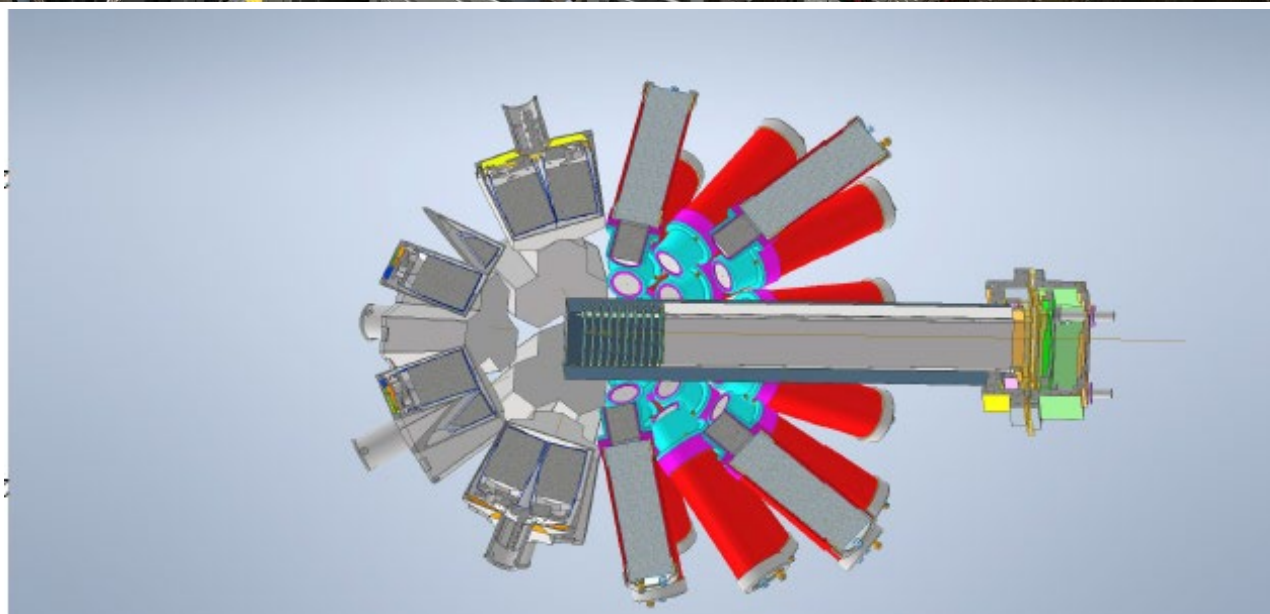
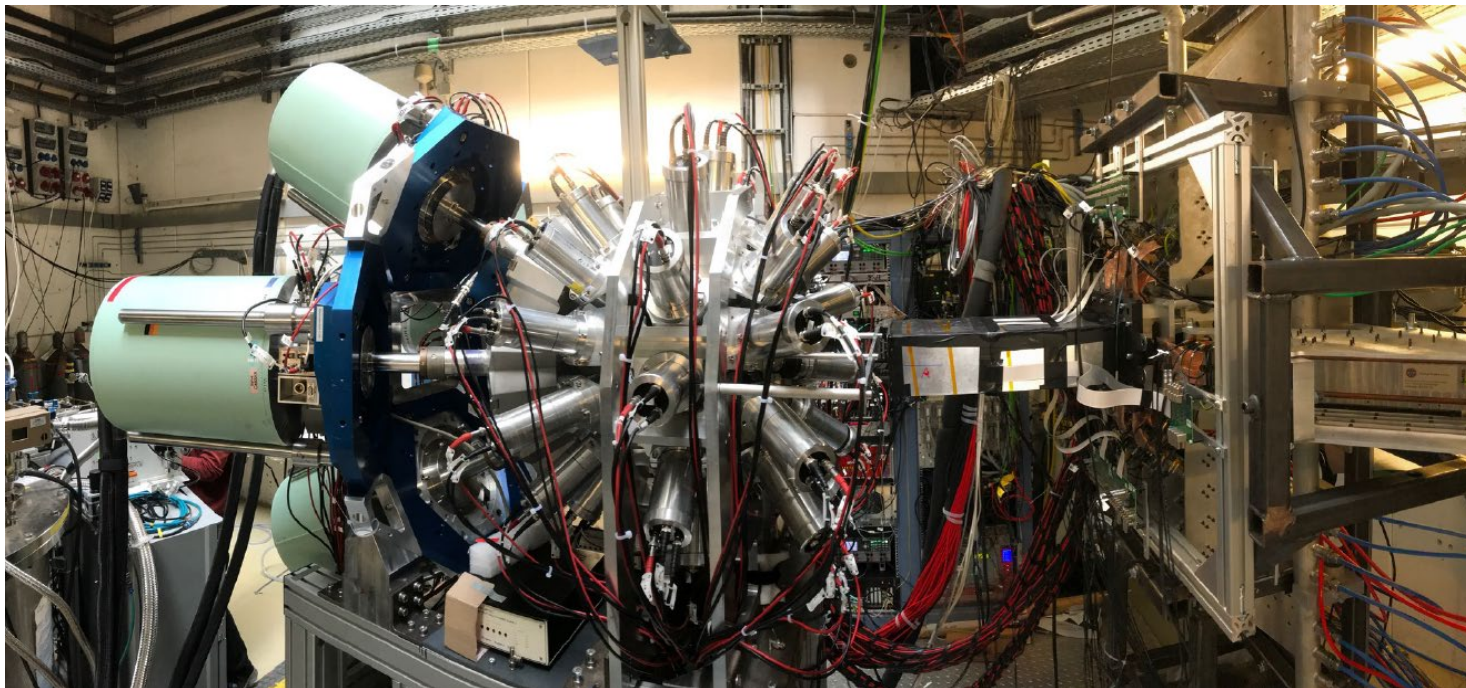
FATIMA contributes to answering some very 'big nuclear physics' questions

# Current setup - FATIMA

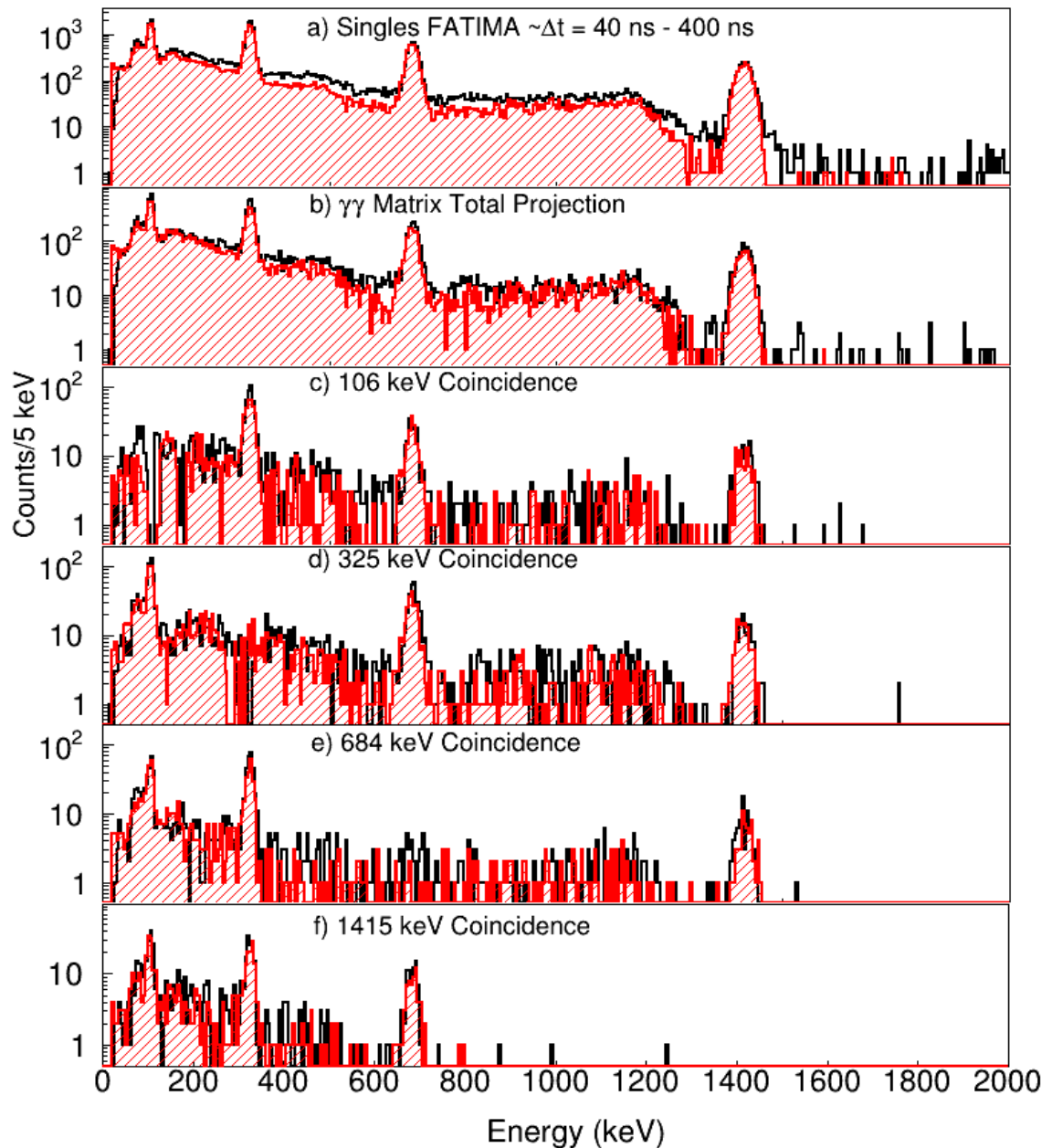
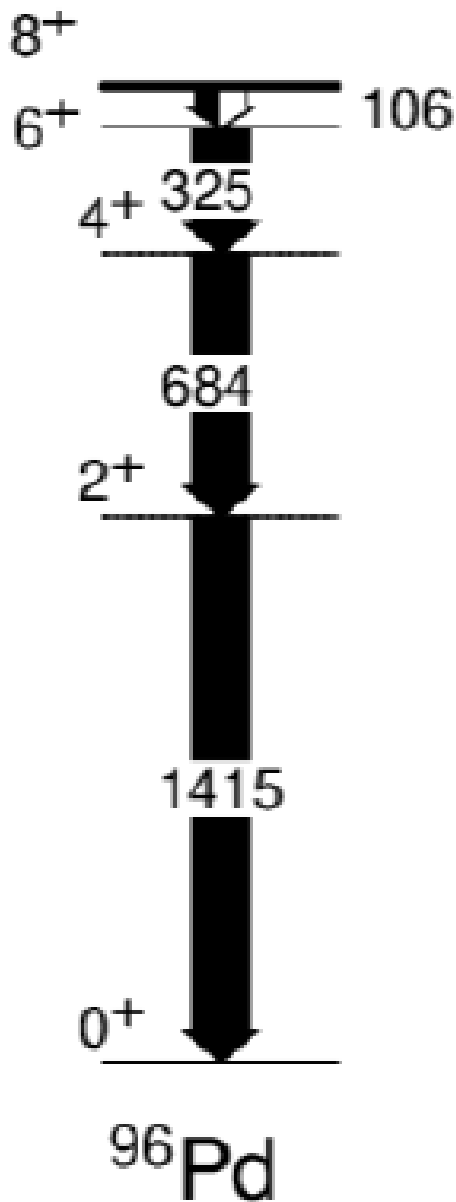
- **FA**st **TIM**ing **A**rray of 36  $\text{LaBr}_3(\text{Ce})$  crystals
- Brighton, Surrey, IFIN-HH, Cologne, Daresbury, Madrid, Manchester...
- 6 IFIN-HH modules at GSI
- Extremely stable VME electronics > 1yr



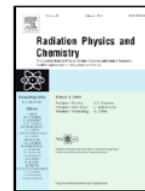




A.K.Mistry, H Albers et al. NIM **A1033** (2022) 166662



GEANT4 simulations for FATIMA (Chishti, Jazrawi et al., Nuclear Instruments and Methods, A in press (Aug 2023))



$^{96}\text{Pd}_{50} \text{ } | \pi = 8^+ \text{ isomer,}$   
 H. Mach et al., PRC95,  
 014313 (2017),

$T_{1/2} (6^+) = 6.3(6) \text{ ns}$

$T_{1/2} (4^+) = 1.0(1) \text{ ns}$

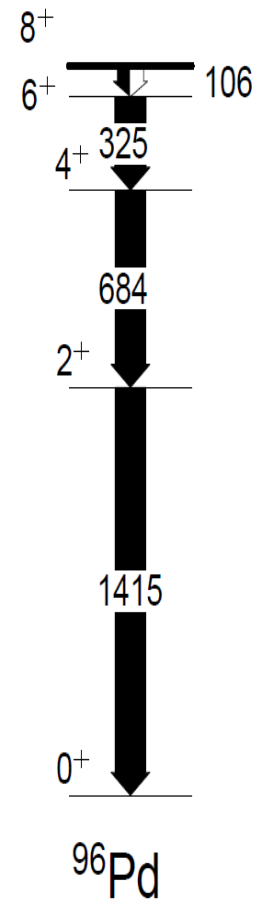
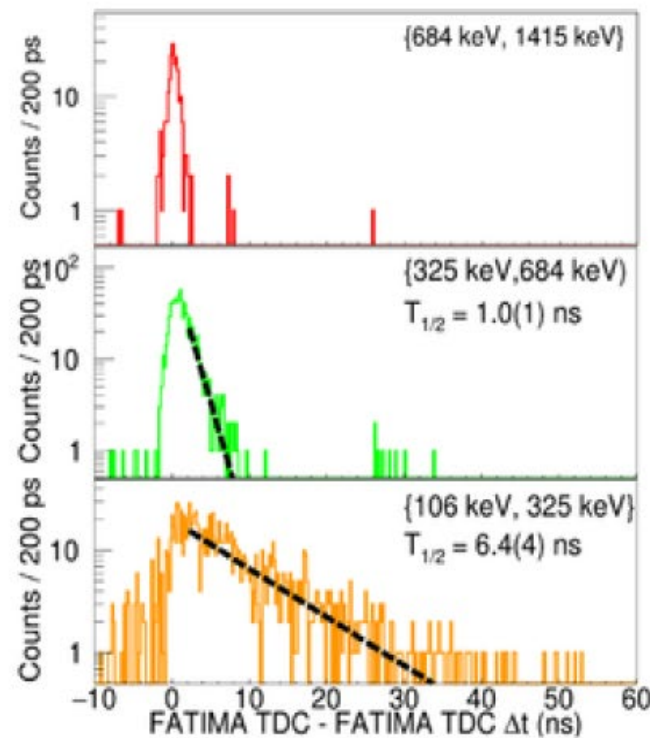
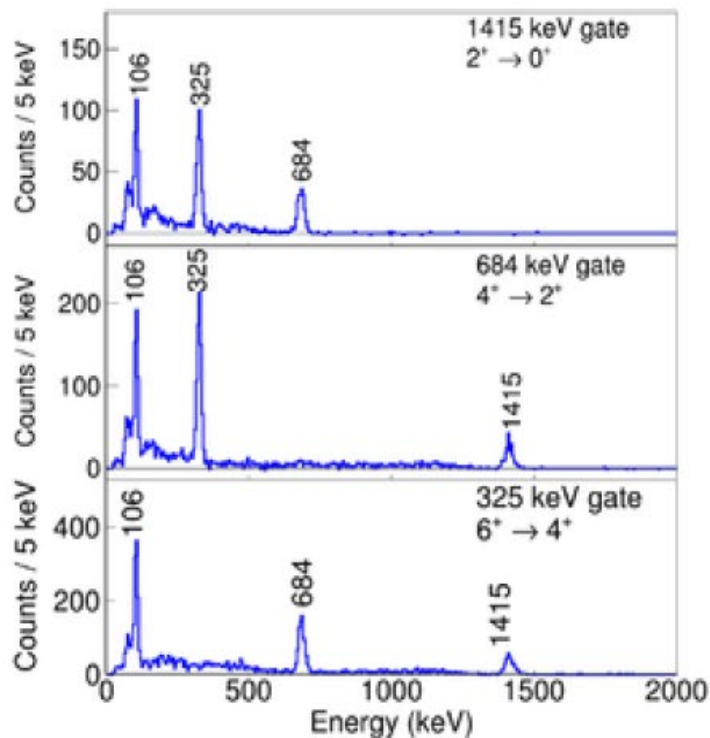
$T_{1/2} (2^+) < 17 \text{ ps}$

Commissioning the FAST TIMING array (FATIMA) at FAIR Phase-0: Half-lives of excited states in the  $N = 50$  isotones  $^{96}\text{Pd}$  and  $^{94}\text{Ru}$

S. Jazrawi<sup>a, b, \*</sup>, A. Yaneva<sup>c, d</sup>, M. Polettini<sup>e</sup>, B. Das<sup>f</sup>, P.H. Regan<sup>a, b, \*\*</sup>, M. Górska<sup>c</sup>, B. Cederwall<sup>f</sup>, J. Jolie<sup>d</sup>, H.M. Albers<sup>c</sup>, M.M.R. Chishti<sup>a</sup>, A. Banerjee<sup>c</sup>, N. Hubbard<sup>c, g</sup>, A.K. Mistry<sup>c, g</sup>, M. Rudigier<sup>g</sup>,

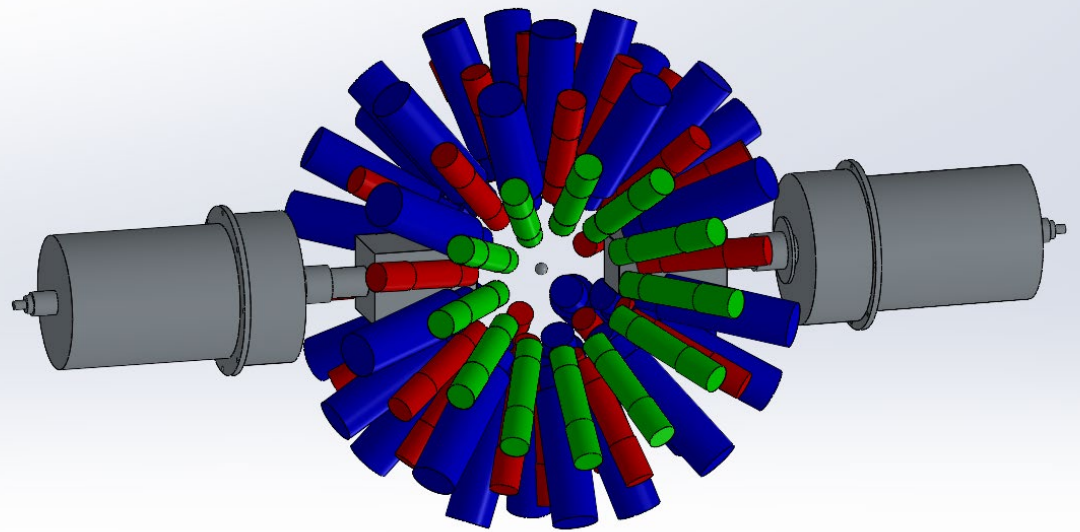
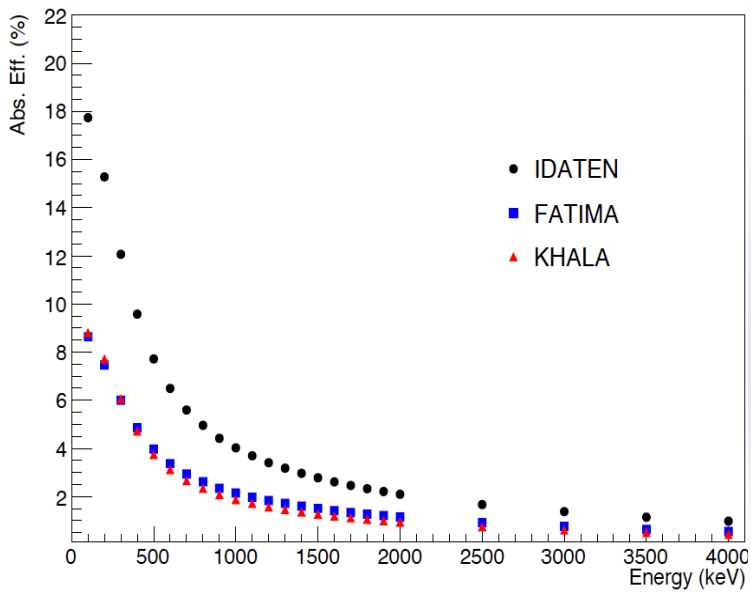
\* Jazrawi et al.

Radiation Physics and Chemistry



$\gamma\text{-}\gamma\text{-}\Delta T$  for transitions across individual states  $^{96}\text{Pd}_{50}$

# The Future of FATIMA – IDATEN@ RIBF > 84 LaBr<sub>3</sub> detector gamma-ray array made up of IDATEN (UK) + KHALA (S. Korea) + RIKEN



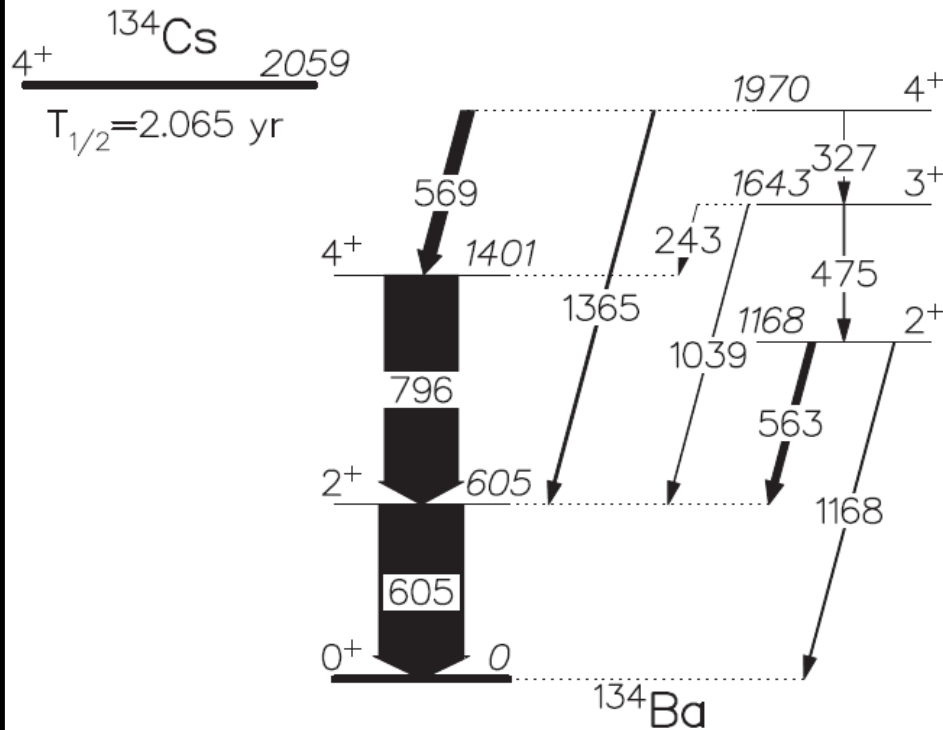
Commissioning of the UK NATIONAL Nuclear Array

R. Shearman<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, S.M. Collins<sup>a</sup>, G. Lorusso<sup>a,b</sup>, M. Rudigier<sup>b</sup>, S.M. Judge<sup>a,b</sup>, S.J. Bell<sup>a</sup>, Zs. Podolyak<sup>b</sup>, P.H. Regan<sup>a,b</sup>

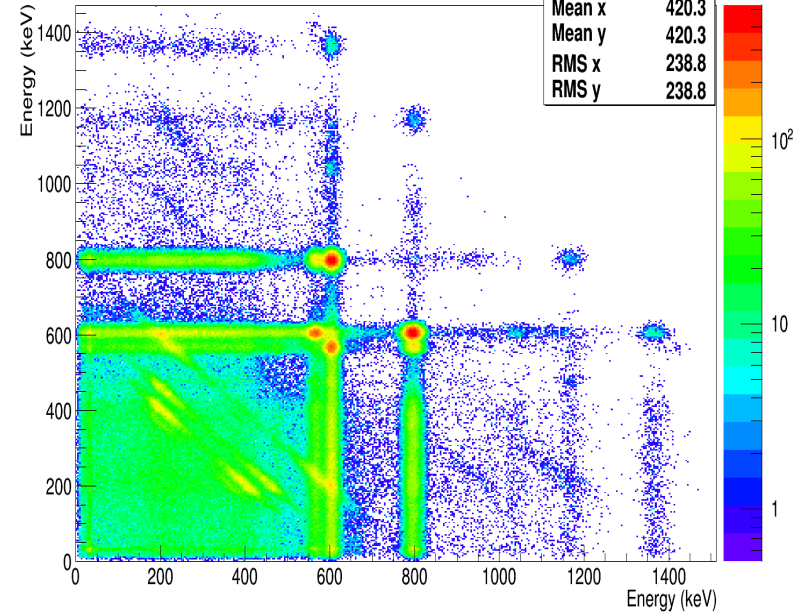
<sup>a</sup> National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0LW, UK  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Physics, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK



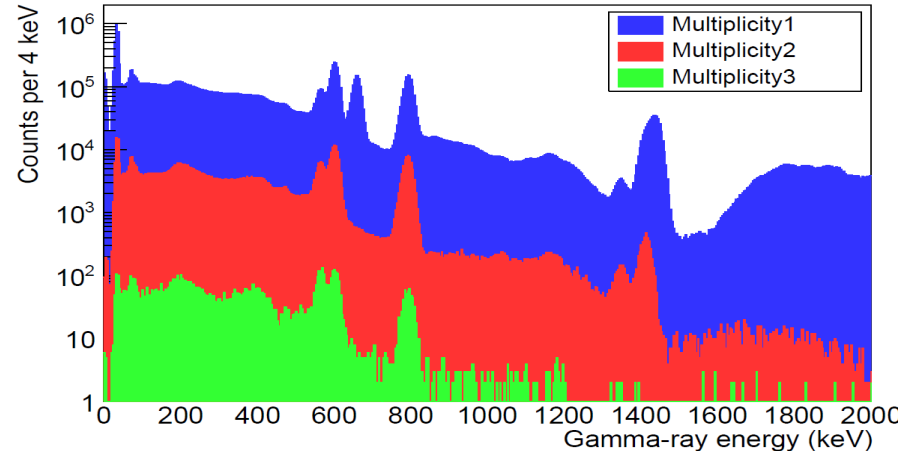
Radiation Physics and Chemistry 140 (2017) 475–479



Total g-g Coincidence Plot



Multiplicity spectra of mixed caesium source

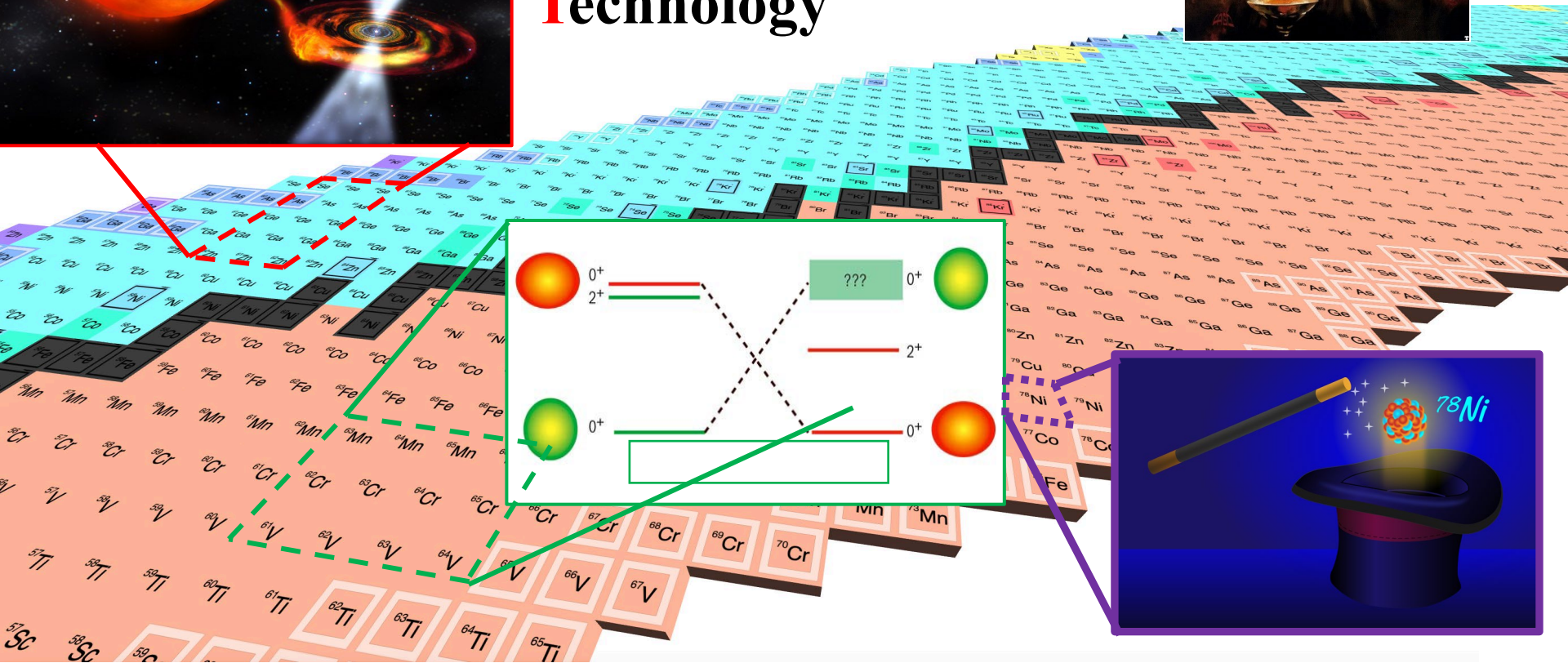
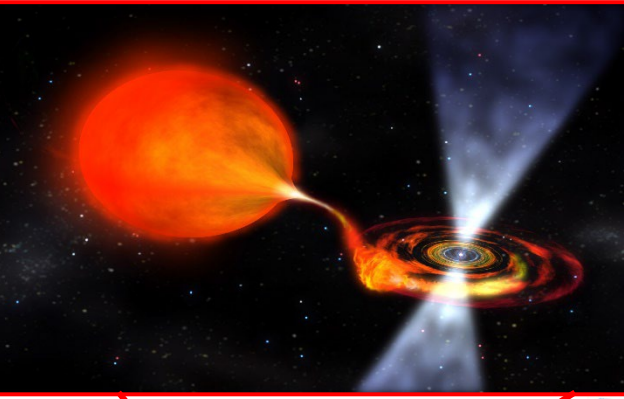
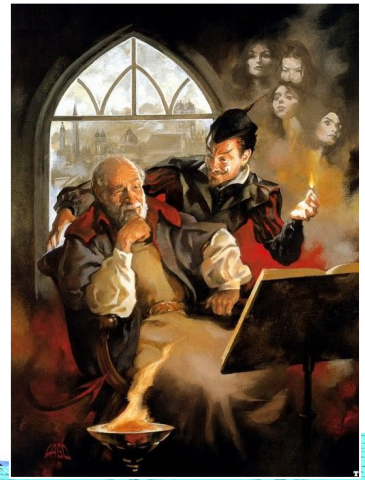


NANA for spent nuclear fuel assay:  $^{134,7}\text{Cs}$  reactor products.  
 $^{134}\text{Cs} \rightarrow \gamma$ -ray coincidences;  $^{137}\text{Cs} \rightarrow$  single transition (662 keV).

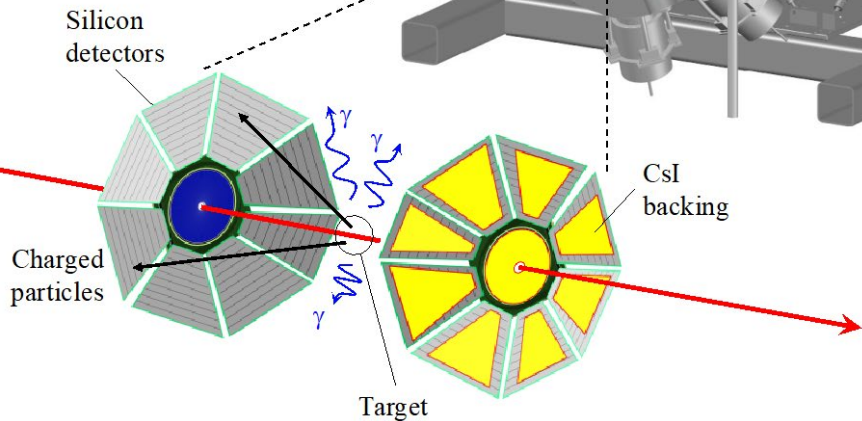
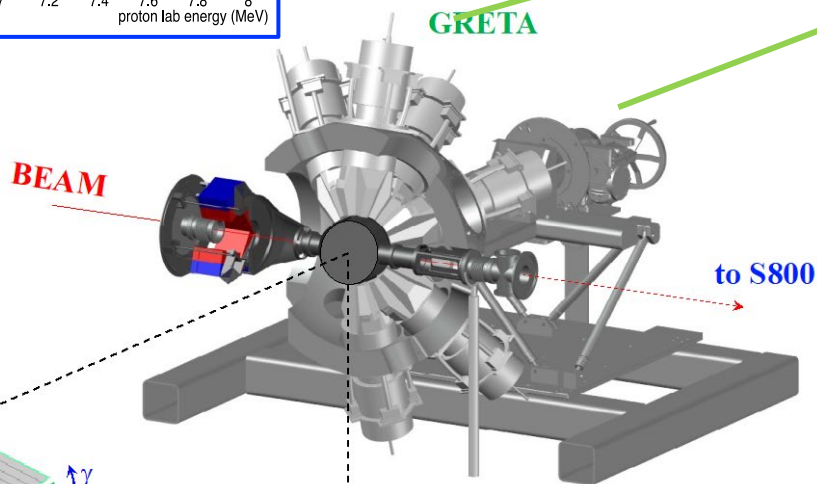
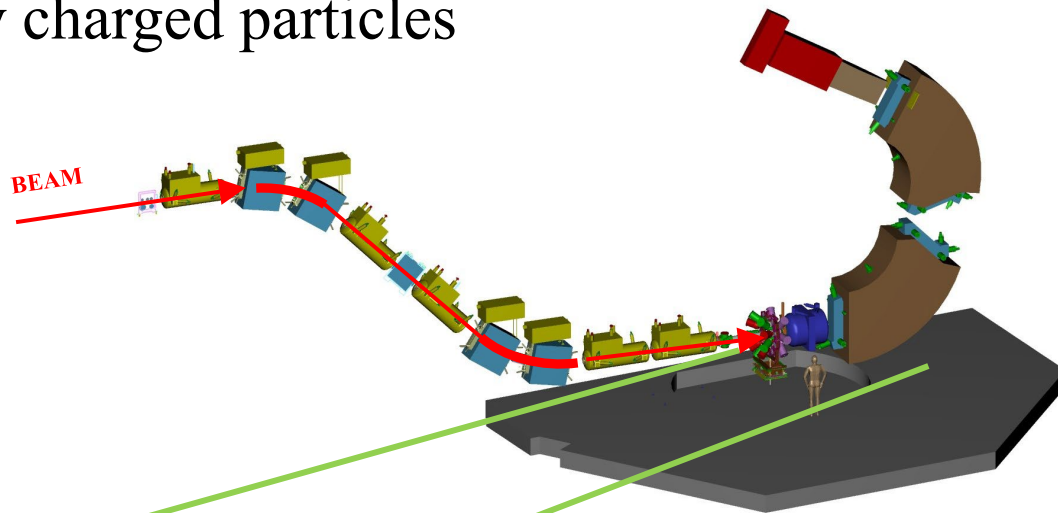
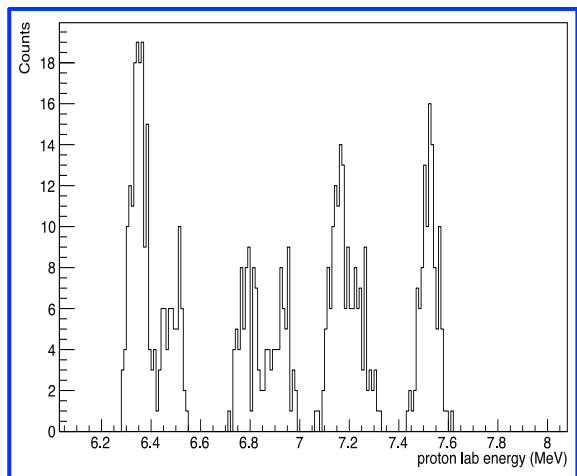
# FAUST

# FRIB

## Accelerated-beams for Understanding Science and Technology



# FAUST – Si backed with CsI provides stopping required for high-energy charged particles



**FAUST** constitutes a major UK contribution to the US DoE FRIB facility (Michigan State, USA). Highly-pixelated, **game changing** Si-detectors-based instrumentation for precision nuclear reaction measurement of the most important nuclear astrophysics reactions using radioactive beams

**G.Lotay, D.T.Doherty et al.,**

# The STFC Nuclear Security Science Network (NuSec)

- Novel imaging techniques, including compact gamma & neutron imaging systems; cosmic ray muon imaging of large objects.
- Radiation detection, detector development, digital pulse processing; new materials for radiation detectors.
- Advanced detection methods for nuclear fuel cycle monitoring.
- Robotics and remote inspection technologies.
- Non-proliferation technologies.

For further information, see: [www.nusec.uk/](http://www.nusec.uk/) and [p.sellin@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:p.sellin@surrey.ac.uk)





# University of Manchester: STEFF @ n\_TOF Spectrometer for Exotic Fission Fragments: *A.G. Smith, T. Wright, N. Sosnin, et al.*

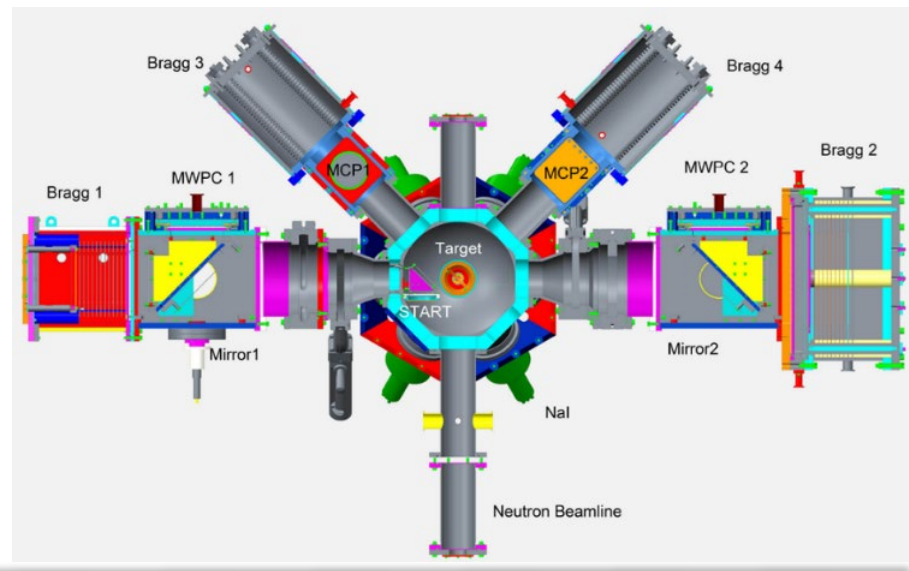


## Goal:

- Provide data for NEA HPRL entry on  $^{235}\text{U}$  and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  Prompt Fission  $\gamma$ -Rays

## Realisation:

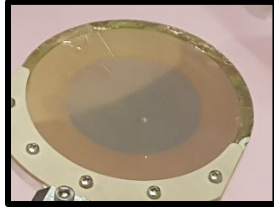
- Measure fission with STEFF and corresponding  $\gamma$ s with NaI and LaBr<sub>3</sub> detectors



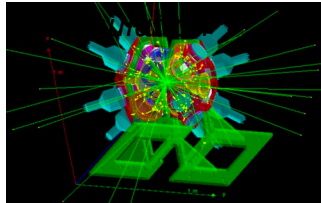
$^{235}\text{U}$  target



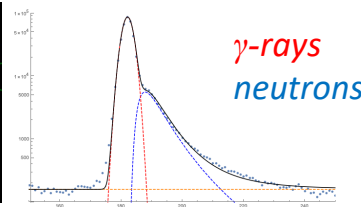
$^{239}\text{Pu}$  target



Geant4

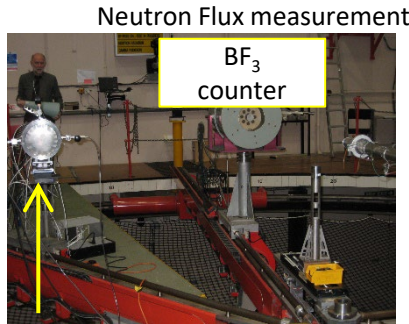
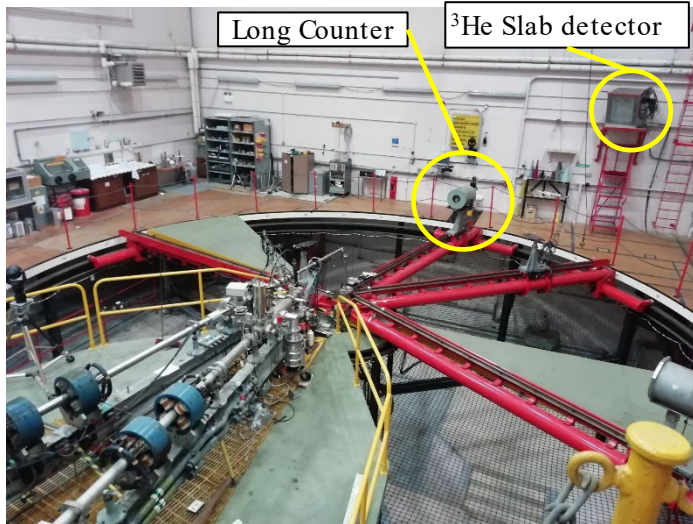


Fission neutron removal

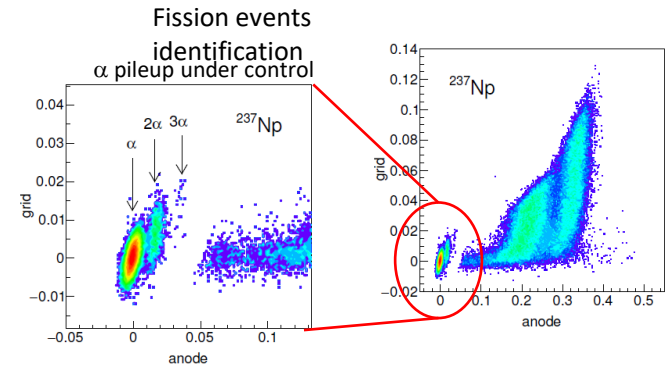


# Toward $^{237}\text{Np}(n,f)$ and $^{238}\text{U}(n,f)$ reference cross sections

- NPL Low scattering area 18m x 18m x 26m
- Well known neutron fluence (within 2%)



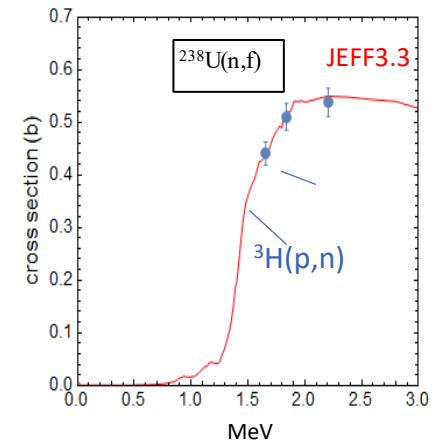
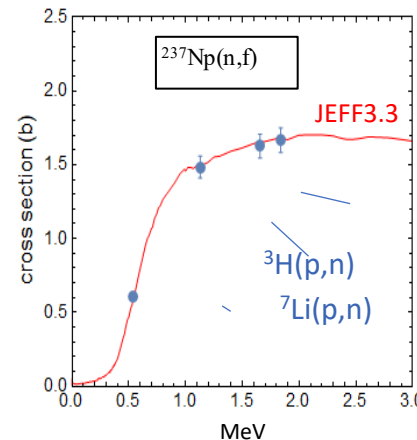
TFGIC and targets from JRC (Geel)



Results are promising, agree with current libraries, more work needed to:

- Improve reproducibility of the fission target position
- reduce error bars and more energies for  $^{238}\text{U}$  → more neutrons needed (working on this with AFCP)

- 2/3 of the GEN-IV reactors are fast reactors
- Fast  $^{237}\text{Np}(n,f)$   $^{238}\text{U}(n,f)$  are better reference cross section than  $^{235}\text{U}(n,f)$
- NPL **absolute** cross section will contribute the evaluation effort toward making  $^{237}\text{Np}$  and  $^{238}\text{U}$  standards



# UK NP Radioactive Gas Metrology

UK Nuclear expertise in

- A) Neutron activation facility & source prep;
- B) Gas metrology, transport and engineering;
- C) Gamma-ray and electron spectrometry;
- D) Nuclear data analysis and interpretation.

Clear, direct impact in:

**1) Energy & Environment**: standardisations of radioactive Krypton. Real time signatures for reactor criticality .

**2) Security & Resilience**: New methodologies developed in collaboration with AWE & CTBTO for radioactive Xenon weapon signatures.



## Production and measurement of fission product noble gases

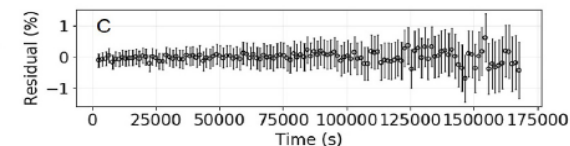
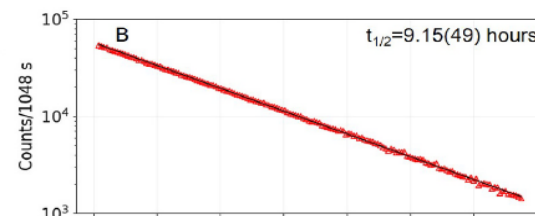
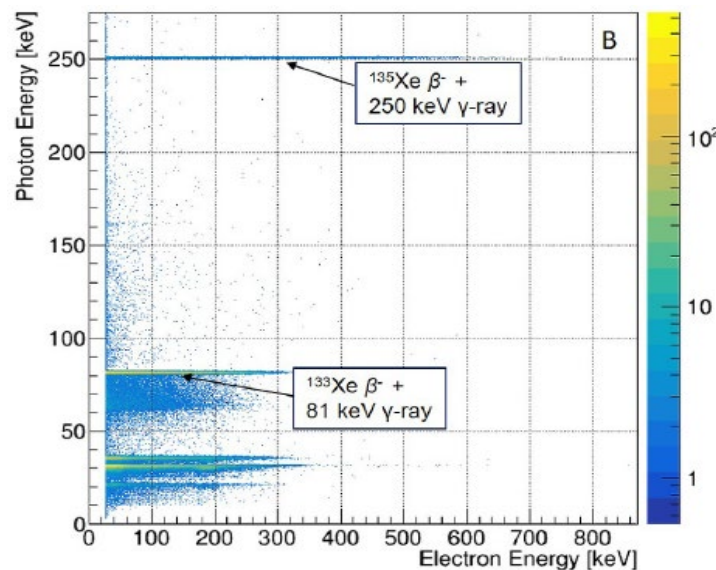
Matthew A. Goodwin<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Steven J. Bell<sup>c</sup>, Richard Britton<sup>d</sup>, Ashley V. Davies<sup>a</sup>, Marc Abilama<sup>c</sup>, Sean M. Collins<sup>b,c</sup>, Robert Shearman<sup>c</sup>, Patrick H. Regan<sup>b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> AWE Aldermaston, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4PR, UK

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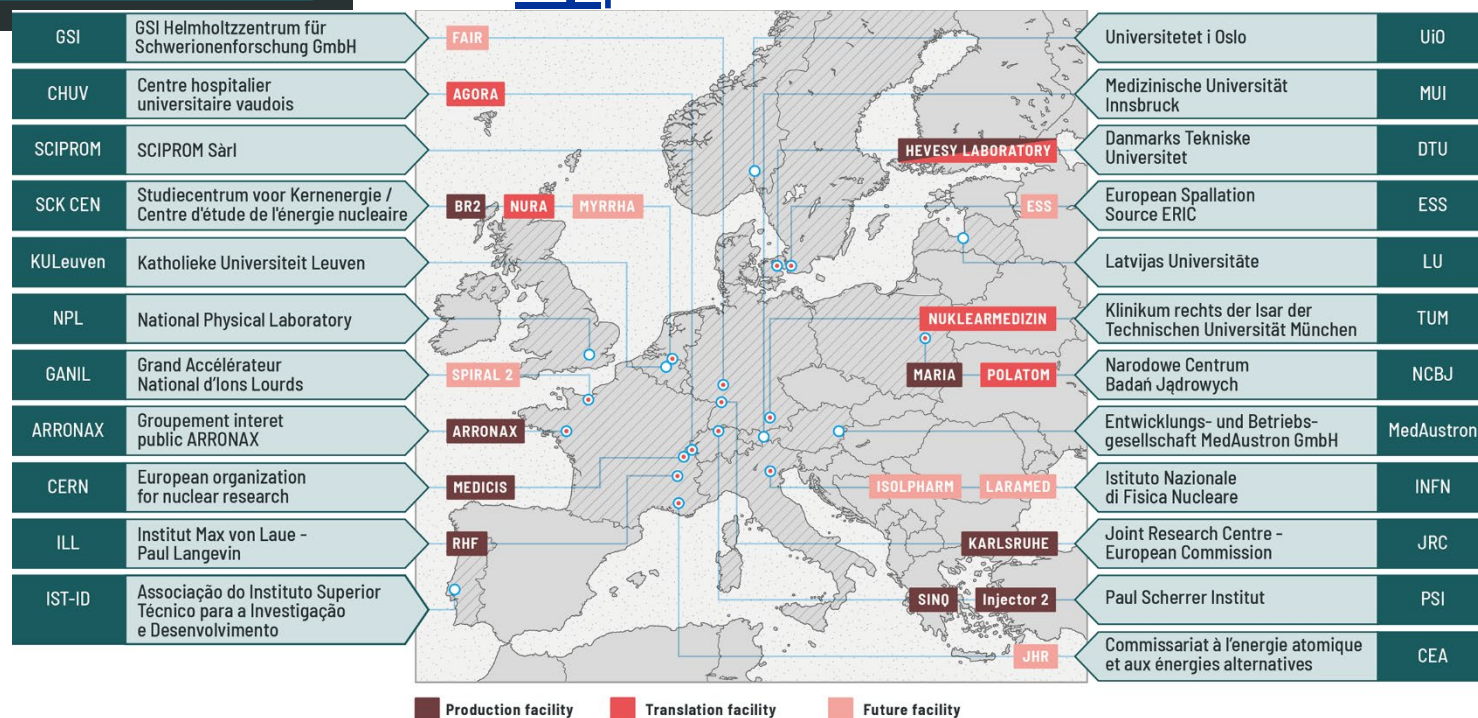
<sup>c</sup> National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LW, UK

<sup>d</sup> Provisional Technical Secretariat, CTBTO, Vienna, Austria





# PRoduction of high purity I sotopes by mass S eparation for M edical A pplications



<https://www.prismap.eu/>



# Molecular radiotherapy and theranostics

- Recent successes for  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  and  $^{177}\text{Lu}$  has renewed interest for molecular radiotherapy.

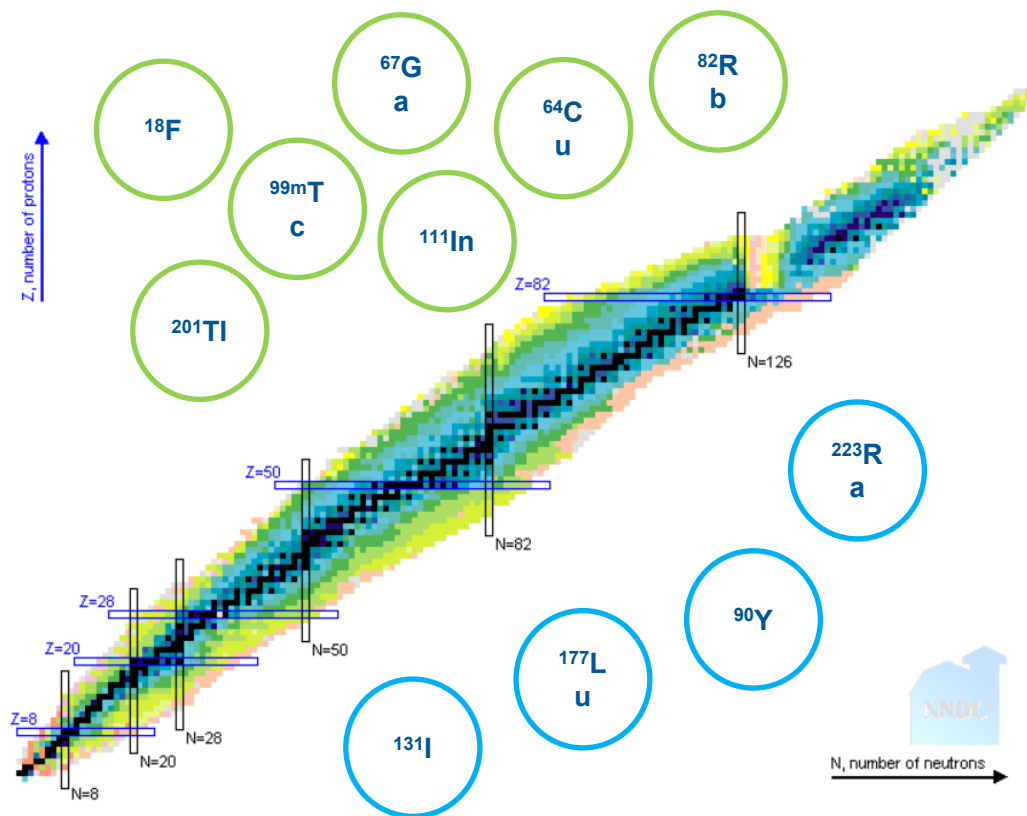
- Search for new suitable radioisotopes continues..

- Over 3000 radioisotopes synthesised in the lab - only a fraction currently used for medical procedures.

- Limited by:

Physical characteristics e.g.  $T_{1/2}$ ,

Production purity



N, number of neutrons