

The Diamond Light Source

Richard P. Walker, Technical Director



What is Diamond ?

- The largest scientific facility to be built in the UK for 40 years
- The world's largest medium energy, “third generation” **synchrotron light source** producing laser-like UV and X-ray light beams of exceptional brightness
- A series of ‘super microscopes’ for new research opportunities into the structure and properties of matter

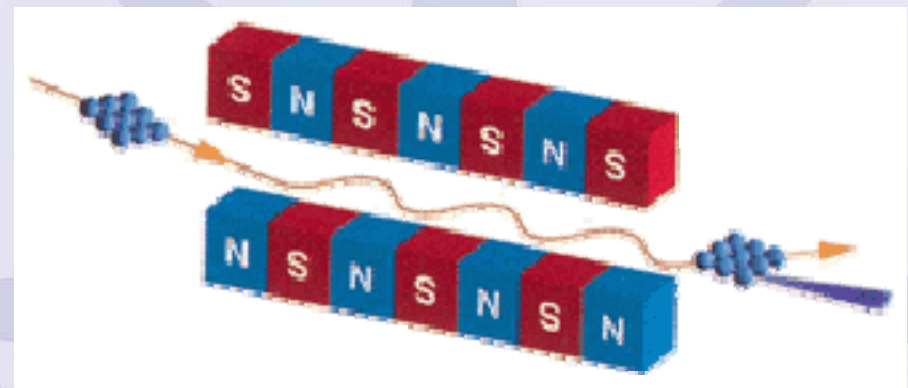
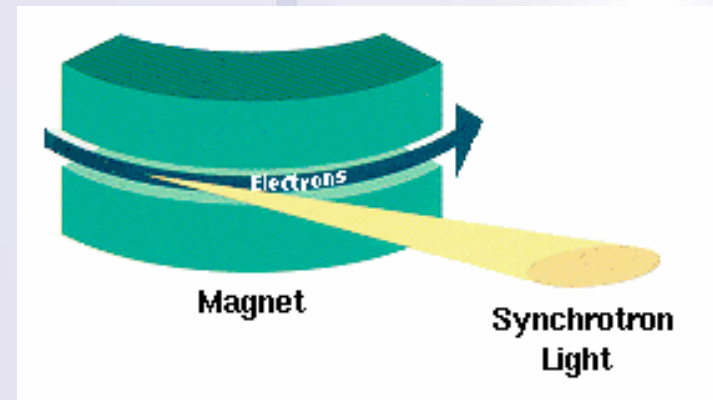


What is Synchrotron Light ?

- ❖ **Synchrotron Light is electromagnetic radiation emitted when a high energy beam of charged particles (electrons) is deflected by a magnetic field**

a single bending magnet produces a wide fan of radiation

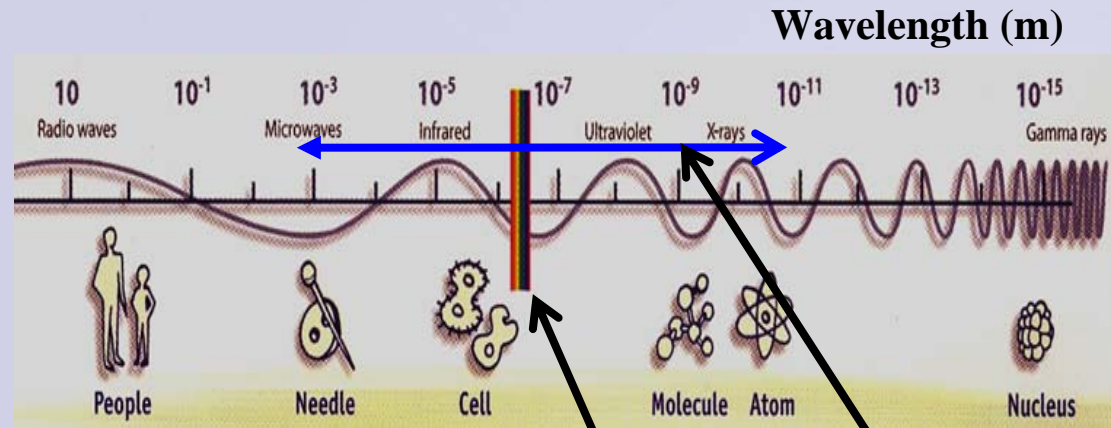
multiple bends in an "undulator" or "wiggler" magnet give higher intensity and brighter radiation



What's so special about Synchrotron Light ?

- ❖ **Covers the electromagnetic spectrum from microwaves to hard X-rays:**

- can select the wavelength required for a given experiment



- ❖ **Extremely intense and well collimated:**

- can be focused to sub-micron spot sizes, allows rapid experiments on small and dilute samples

- ❖ **Polarised:**

- adjustable linear/circular polarisation

- ❖ **Pulsed time structure:**

- allows dynamic studies of fast chemical or biological processes (10 -100 ps scale)

visible
light

synchrotron
light

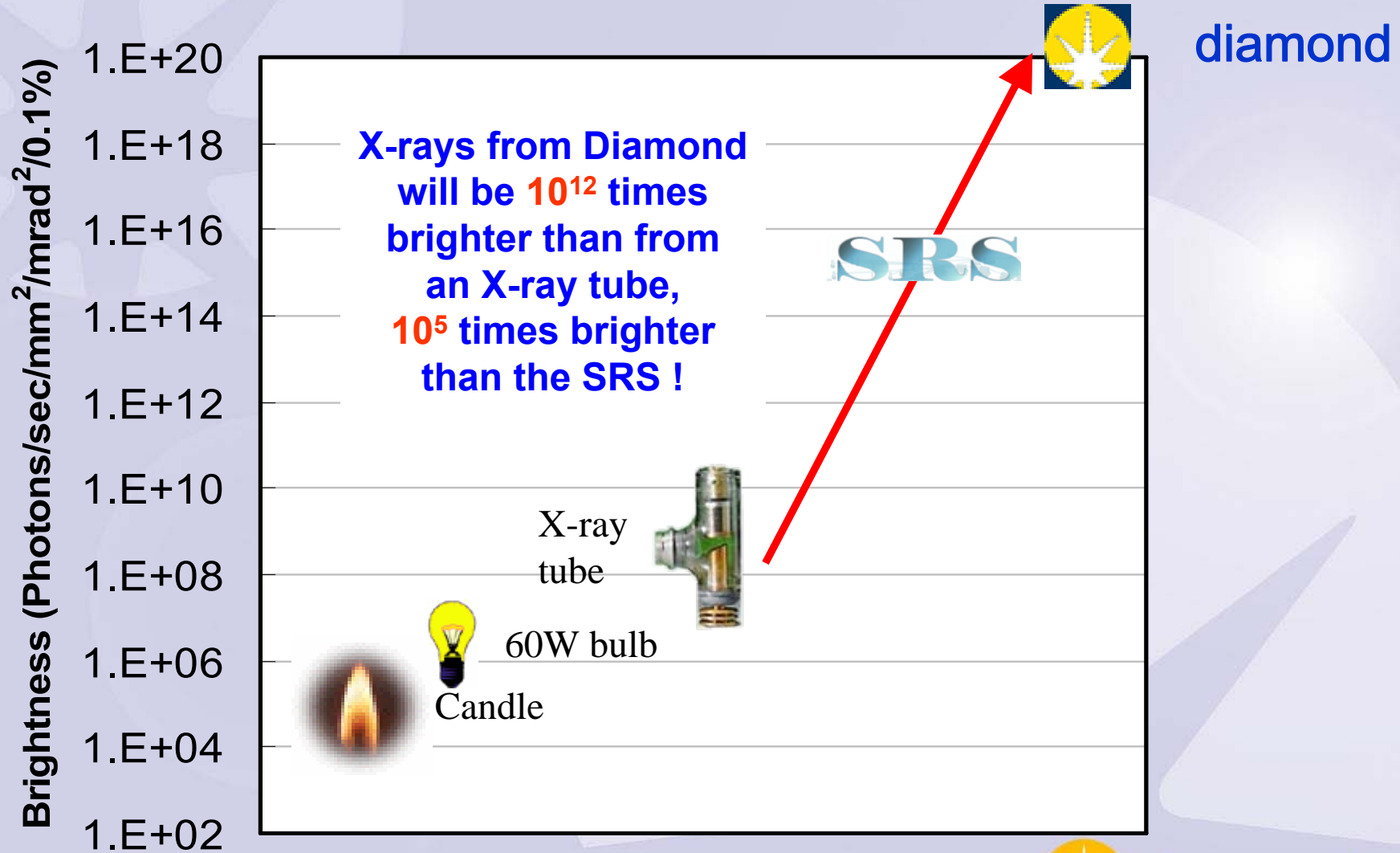
What can it be used for ?

- Biomedical -** protein crystallography and cell biology;
- Medical research -** microbiology, disease mechanisms, high resolution imaging;
- Environmental science -** toxicology, atmospheric research, clean combustion and cleaner industrial production technologies;
- Agriculture -** plant genomics, soil studies and plant imaging;
- Advanced materials -** nanostructured materials, intelligent polymers, ceramics, light metals and alloys, electronic and magnetic materials;
- Engineering -** imaging of industrial processes in real time, high resolution imaging of cracks and defects in structures, operation of catalysts in chemical engineering processes;
- Forensic Science -** identification from extremely small and dilute samples.
- Archaeometry -** ancient metalworking processes, identification of production sites etc.

A Brief History of Synchrotron Light Sources :

- **Discovery:** 1947, General Electric 70 MeV synchrotron
- **First use for experiments:** 1956, Cornell 300 MeV synchrotron
- **1st generation:**
machines built for other purposes, mainly High Energy Physics
*e.g. **Synchrotron Radiation Facility** at the NINA Synchrotron, Daresbury (1971-1977)*
- **2nd generation:**
purpose-built storage rings for synchrotron light
*e.g. the **SRS** at Daresbury, the world's first dedicated synchrotron X-ray source (1981-2008)*
- **3rd generation:**
higher brightness synchrotron light sources, using mainly undulators as the X-ray source
*e.g. ESRF, **Diamond** etc.*

The figure-of-merit is Brightness ...



Diamond Design Criteria

- Large number of Insertion Device beamlines
- High brightness from **undulators** optimised in the range 0.1-10 keV, extending to 15-20 keV
- High flux from **wigglers** from 20-100 keV
- Cost constraint

more IDs → more cells → increased circumference and cost

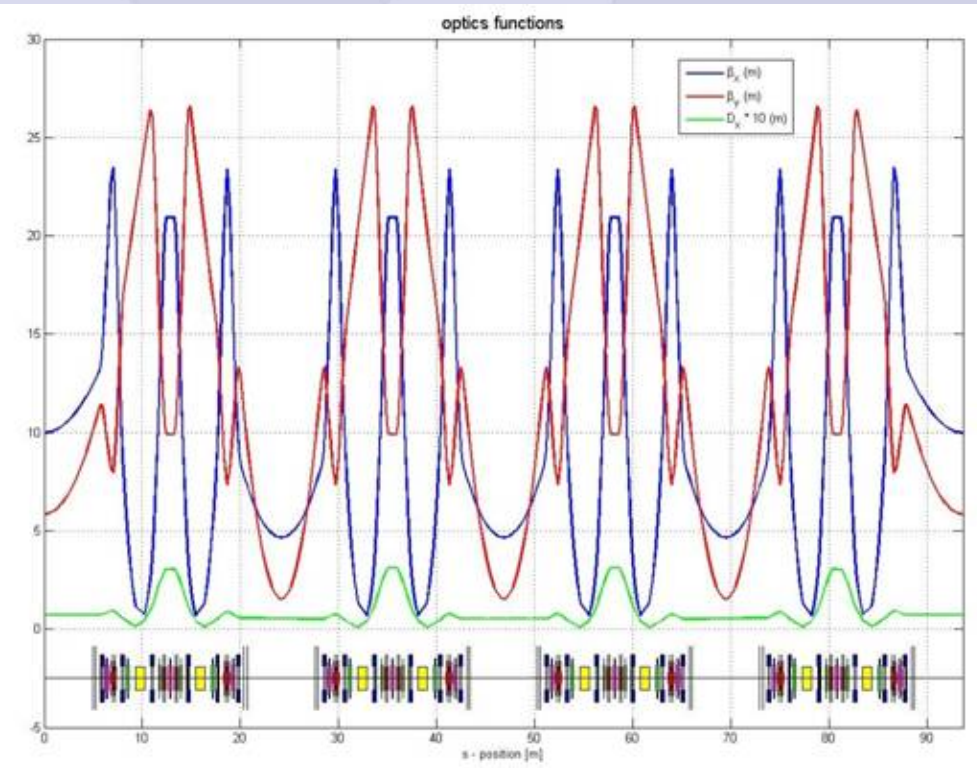
high brightness → low emittance → more cells

BUT

high photon energies → high machine energy → high emittance

- “Medium” energy of 3 GeV
- Relatively large circumference (562 m) and no. of cells (24)
- Extensive use of in-vacuum undulators

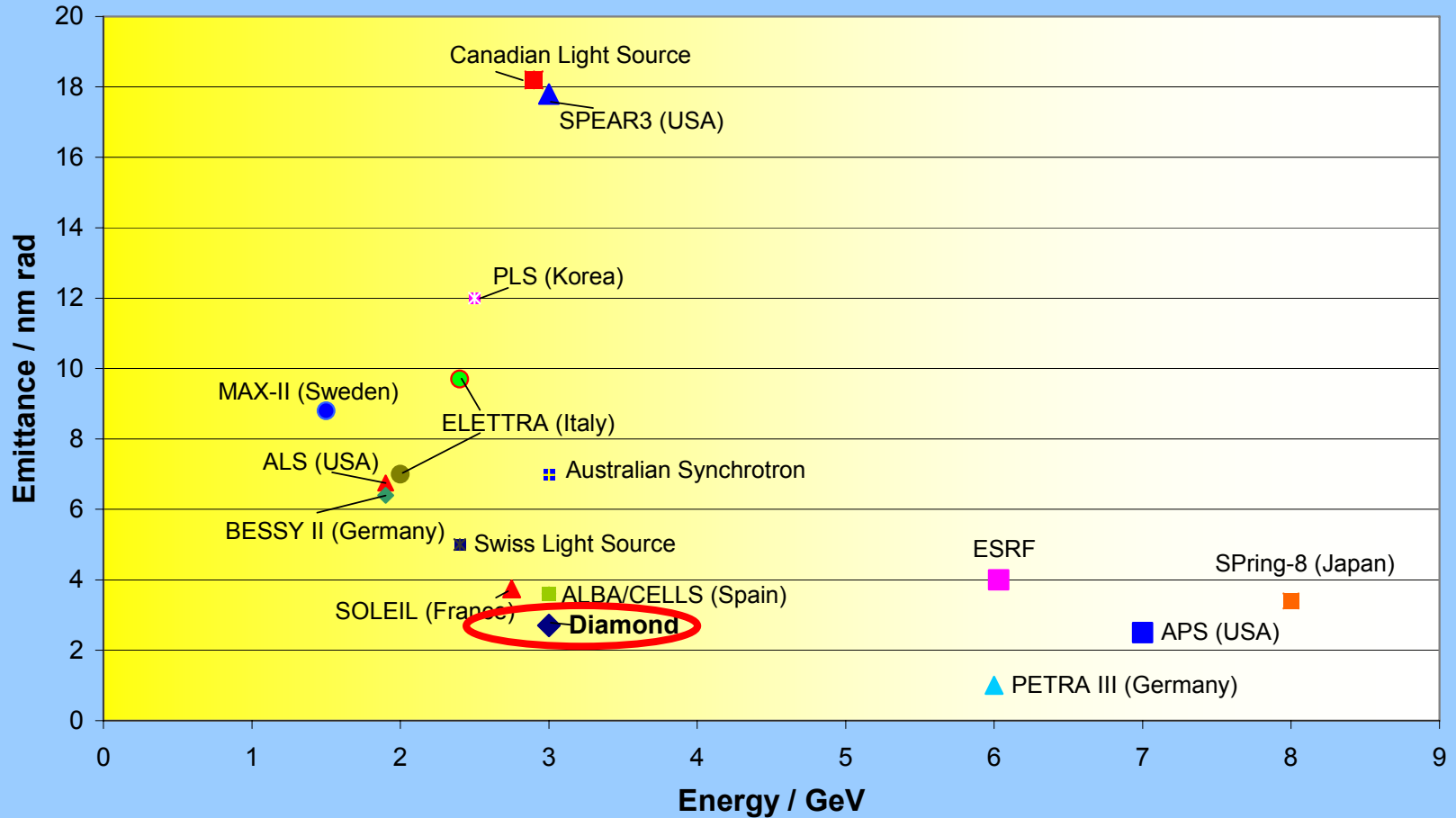
Diamond – Main Parameters



nominal, non-zero dispersion lattice

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Energy | 3 GeV |
| Circumference | 561.6 m |
| No. cells | 24 |
| Symmetry | 6 |
| Straight sections | 6 x 8m, 18 x 5m |
| Insertion devices | 4 x 8m, 18 x 5m |
| Beam current | 300 mA |
| Emittance (h, v) | 2.7, 0.03 nm rad |
| Lifetime | > 10 h |
| Min. ID gap | 7 mm |
| Beam size (h, v) | 123, 6 μ m |
| Beam divergence (h, v) <i>(at centre of 5 m ID)</i> | 24, 4 μ rad |

Comparison of 3rd Generation Synchrotrons



Diamond compared to SRS

| | SRS | Diamond |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Electron Beam Energy | 2 GeV | 3 GeV |
| Storage ring circumference | 96.0 m | 561.6 m |
| Available space for Insertion Devices | 6x1m | 4x8m, 18x5m |
| Beam current | 250 mA | 300 mA |
| Emittance (hor., vert.) (nm rad) | 190, 3.8 | 2.7, 0.03 |
| Minimum ID gap | 20 mm | 7 mm |
| Electron beam sizes (hor., vert) (μm) | 1000, 160 | 123, 6 |
| Electron beam divergences (hor., vert) | 590, 60 | 24, 4 μrad |
| Peak brightness* | $3 \cdot 10^{15}$ | $2 \cdot 10^{20}$ |
| Peak brightness* (1Å) | 10^{14} | 10^{19} |

100,000 increase in brightness

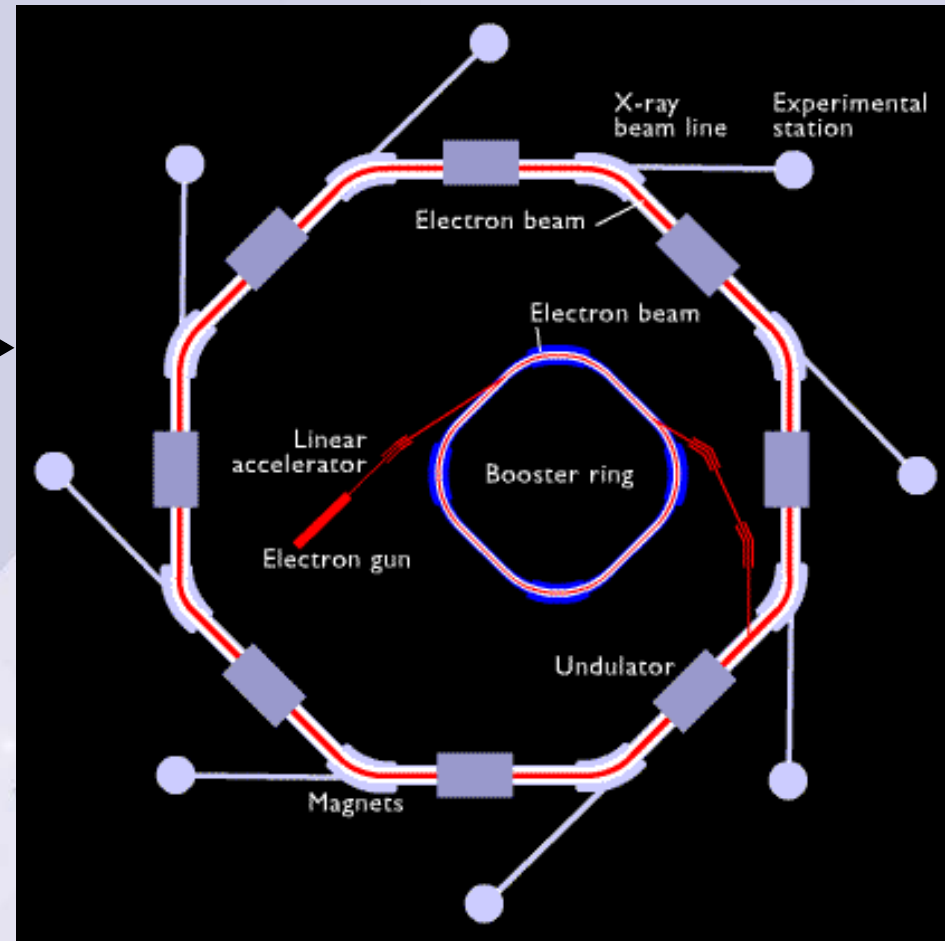
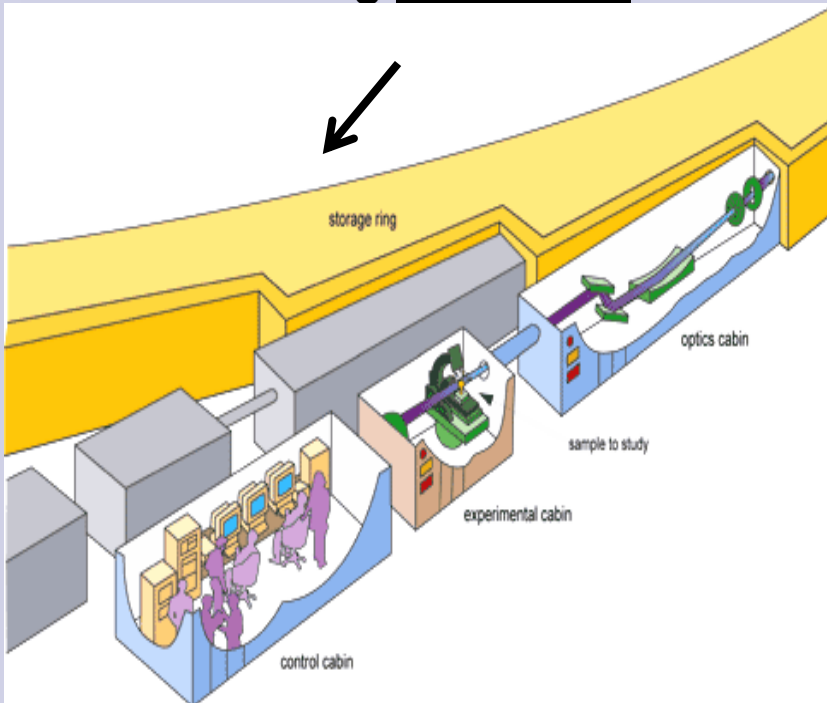
* photons/s/mrad²/mm²/0.1%bw



How does it work ?

A beam of electrons is accelerated in a linac, further accelerated in a booster, then accumulated in a storage ring.

The circulating electrons emit intense beams of synchrotron light that are sent along beamlines to the



Diamond Layout

100 MeV Linac

3 GeV Booster

C = 158.4 m

3 GeV Storage Ring

C = 562.6 m

Experimental Hall
and Beamlines

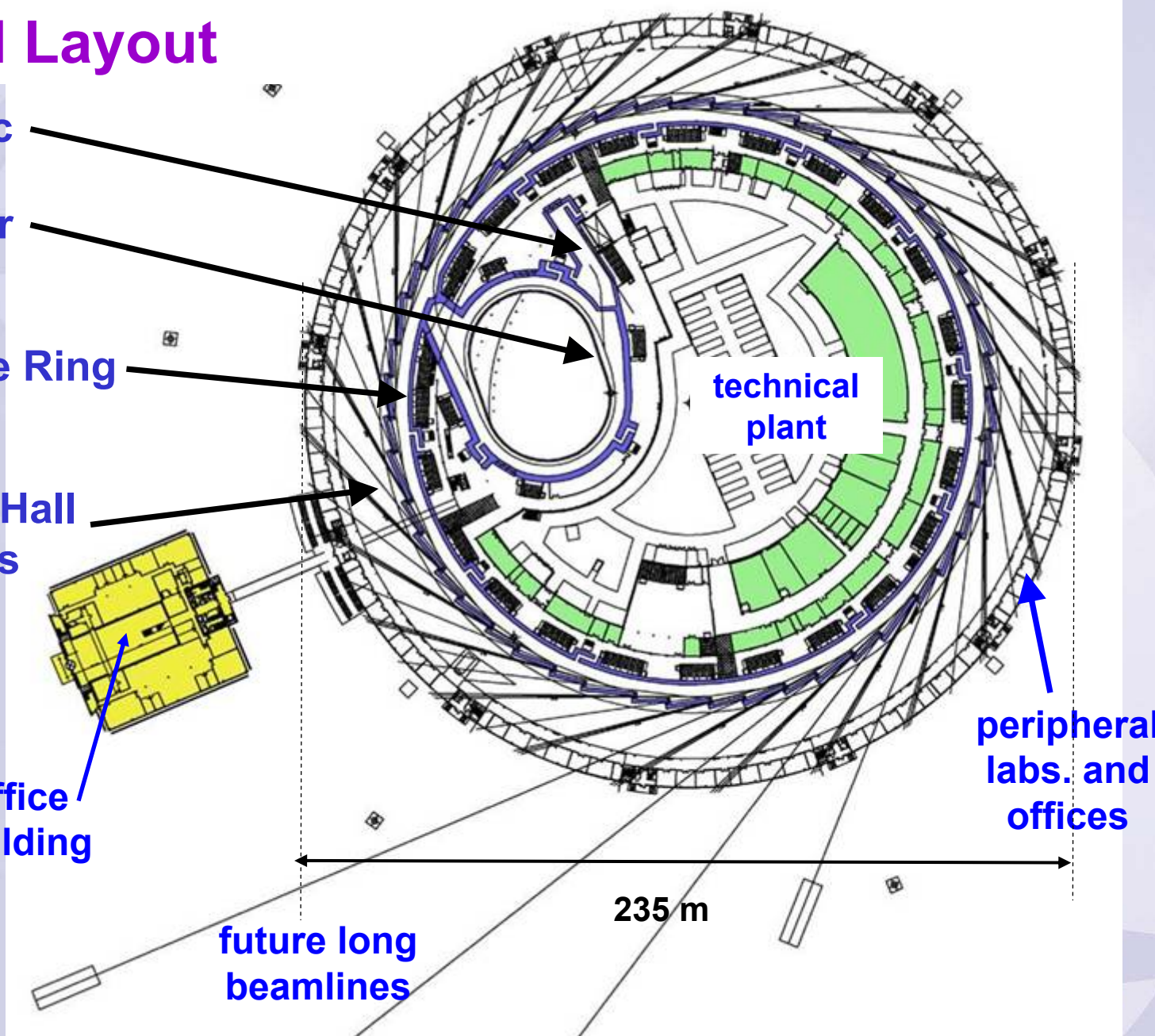
office
building

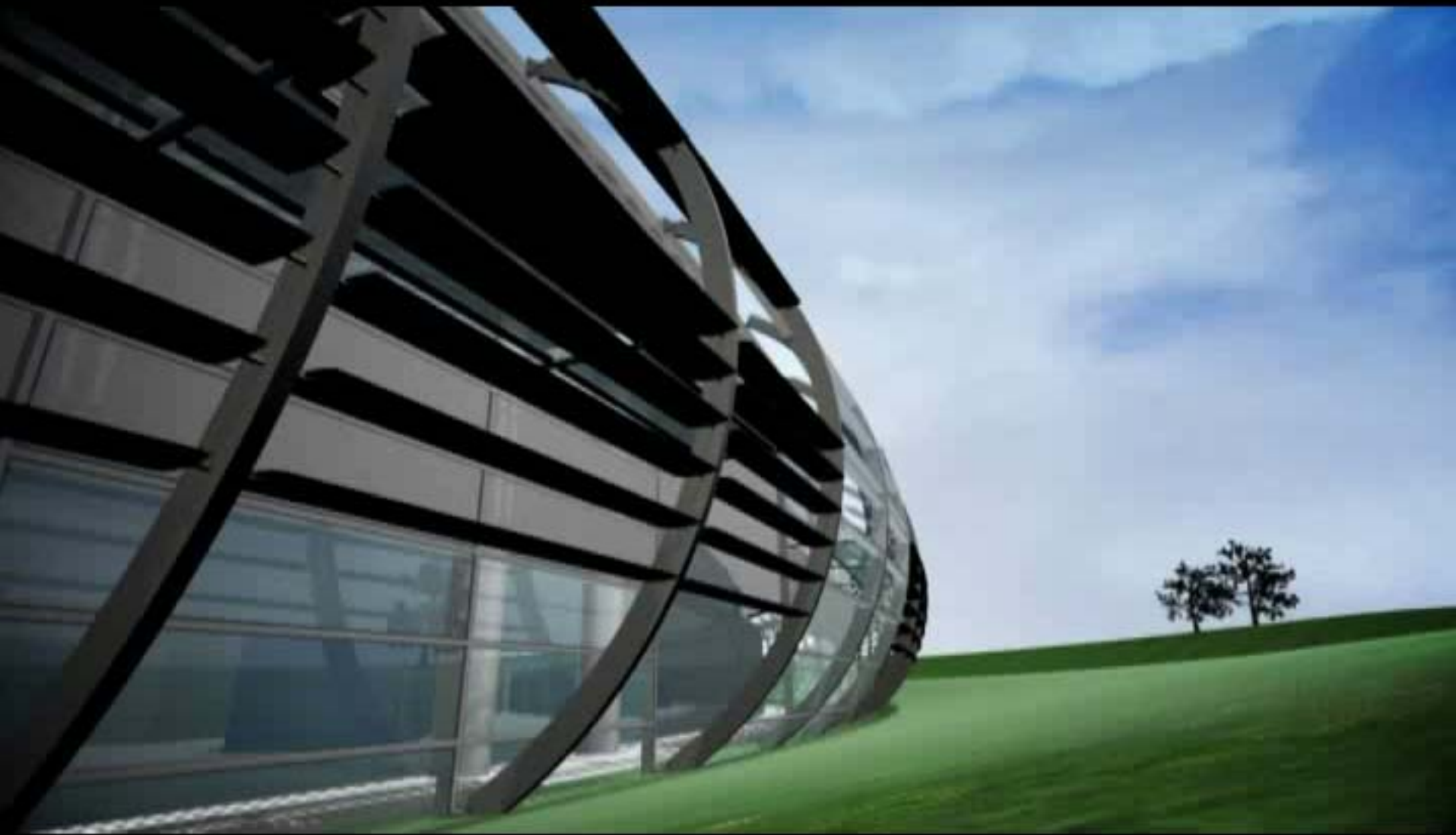
technical
plant

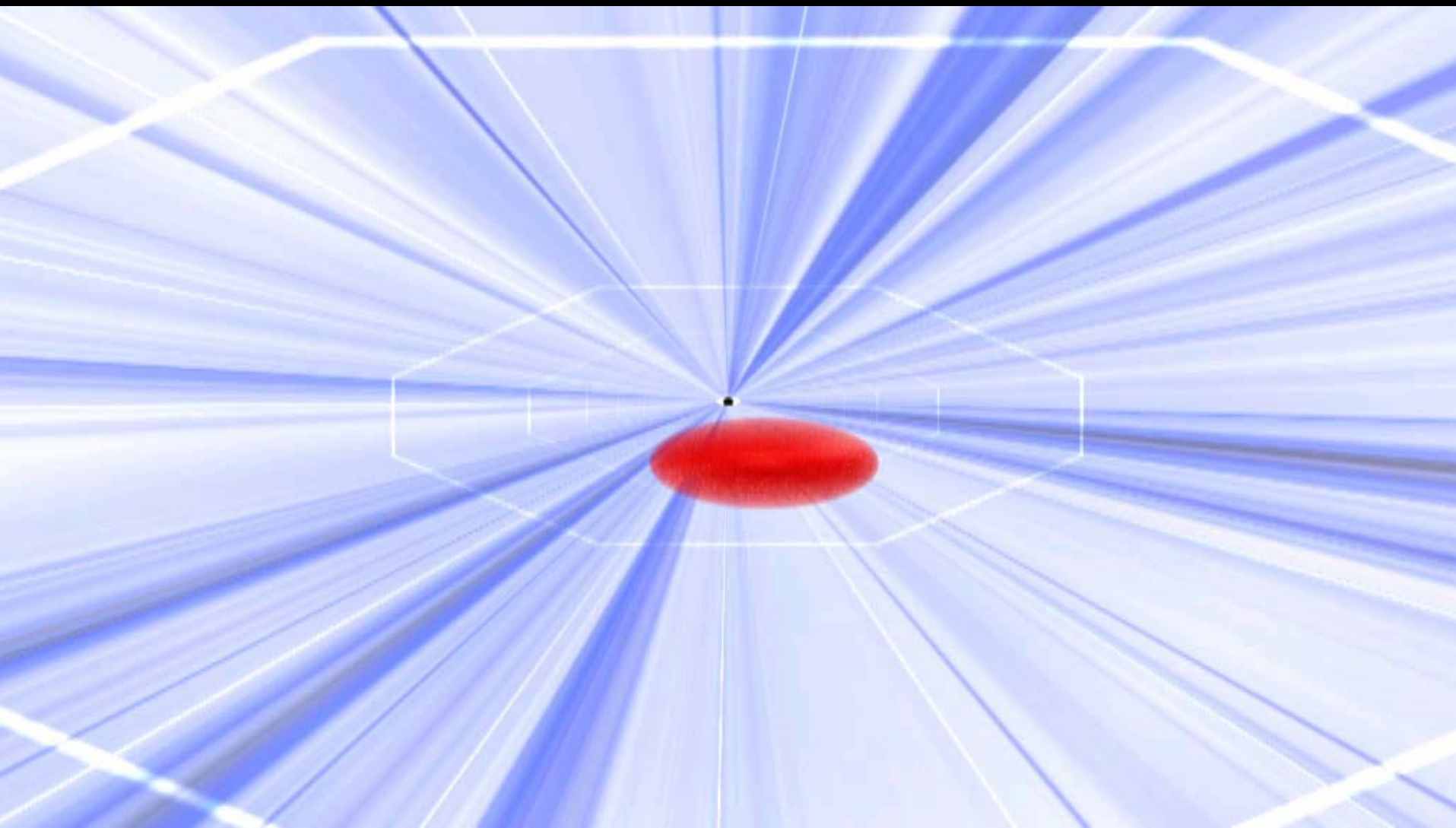
peripheral
labs. and
offices

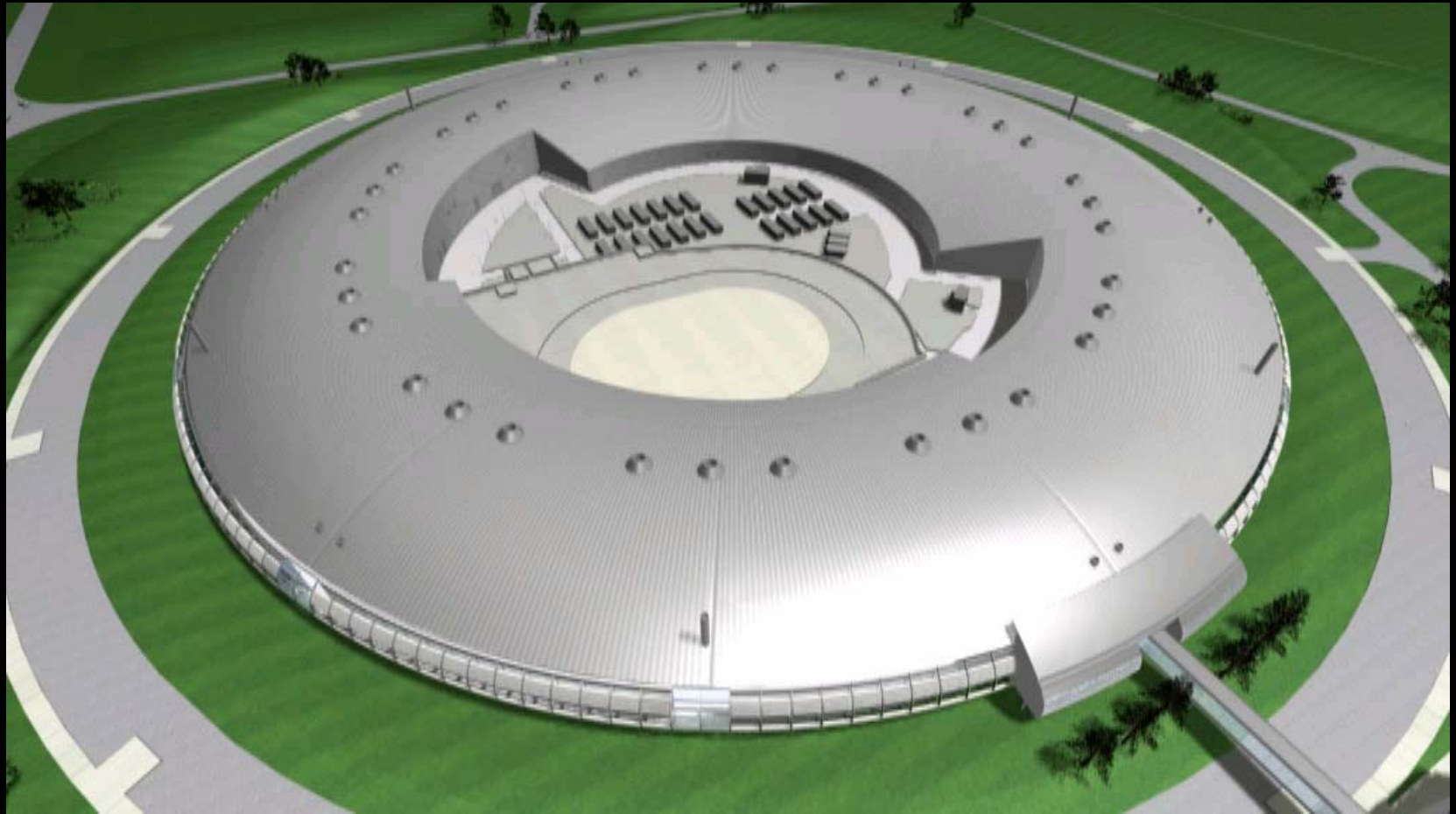
235 m

future long
beamlines









Diamond Key Dates

- 1993** Woolfson Review: new facility needed to replace the SRS
- 1997** Feasibility Study (“Red Book”) published
3 GeV, 16 cells, 345 m circumference, 14 nm rads
- 1998** Wellcome Trust joins as partner
- Mar. '00** Decision to build Diamond at Rutherford Appleton Lab.
- Oct. '00** 3 GeV, 24 cells, 560 m circumference design approved
- Apr. '02** Joint Venture Agreement signed (UK Govt./WellcomeTrust)
Diamond Light Source Ltd. established
Design Specification Report (“Green Book”) completed
- Jan. '07** Start of Operations
- 19th Oct. 2007** Official Opening

Who we are:

Diamond Light Source Ltd. Shareholders



86 %

The Science and Technology Facilities Council is an independent, non-departmental public body of the Office of Science and Innovation, which is part of the Department of Trade and Industry. It was formed as a new Research Council on 1 April 2007.



14 %

The Wellcome Trust is an independent charity funding research to improve human and animal health. It is the UK's largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research.



June 2003



Sep. 2003



June 2004



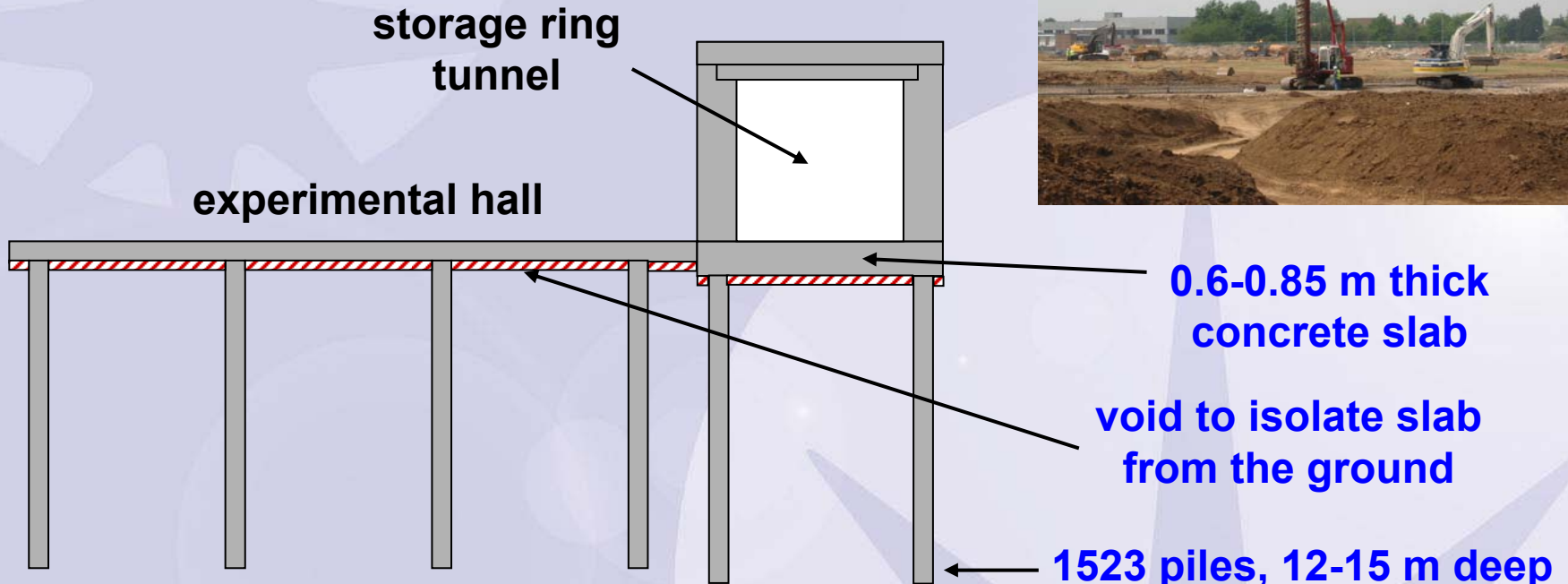
October 2005



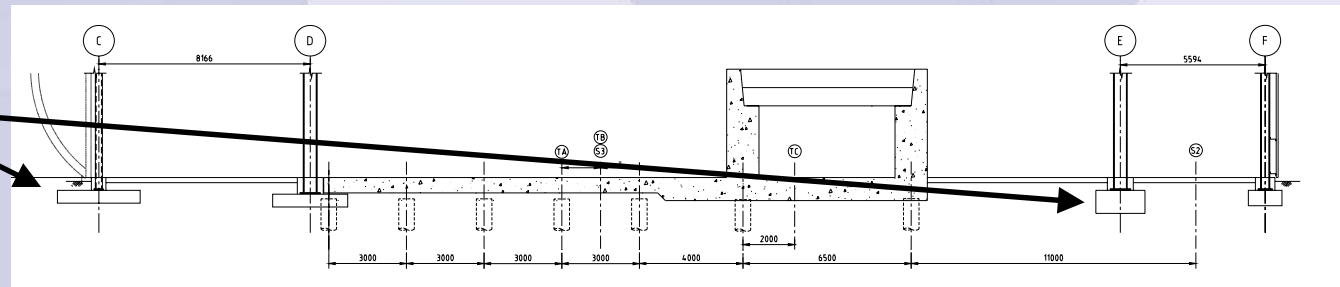
Engineering Challenges

Foundations – designed to minimise ground movement, and transmission of vibrations

piling rig:



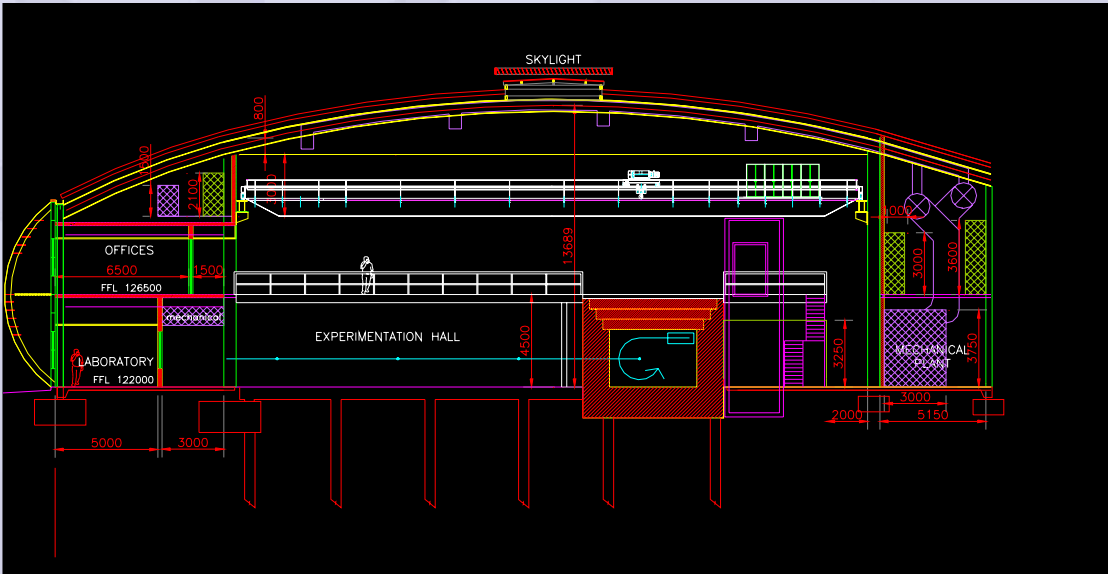
separate non-piled foundation for the building structure and plant rooms



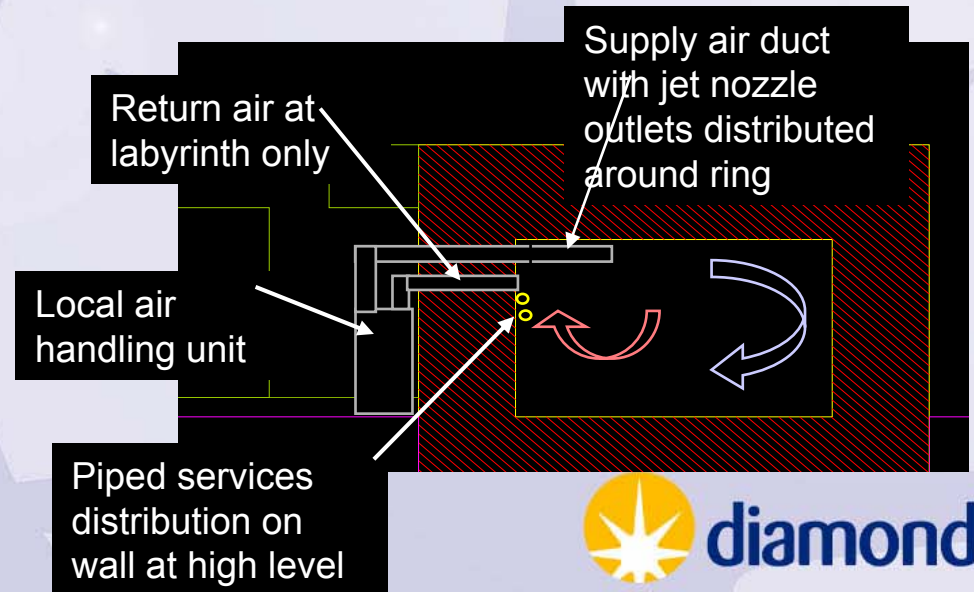
Concrete shielding walls cast to 5 mm tolerances :



Buildings and services: designed for thermal stability:

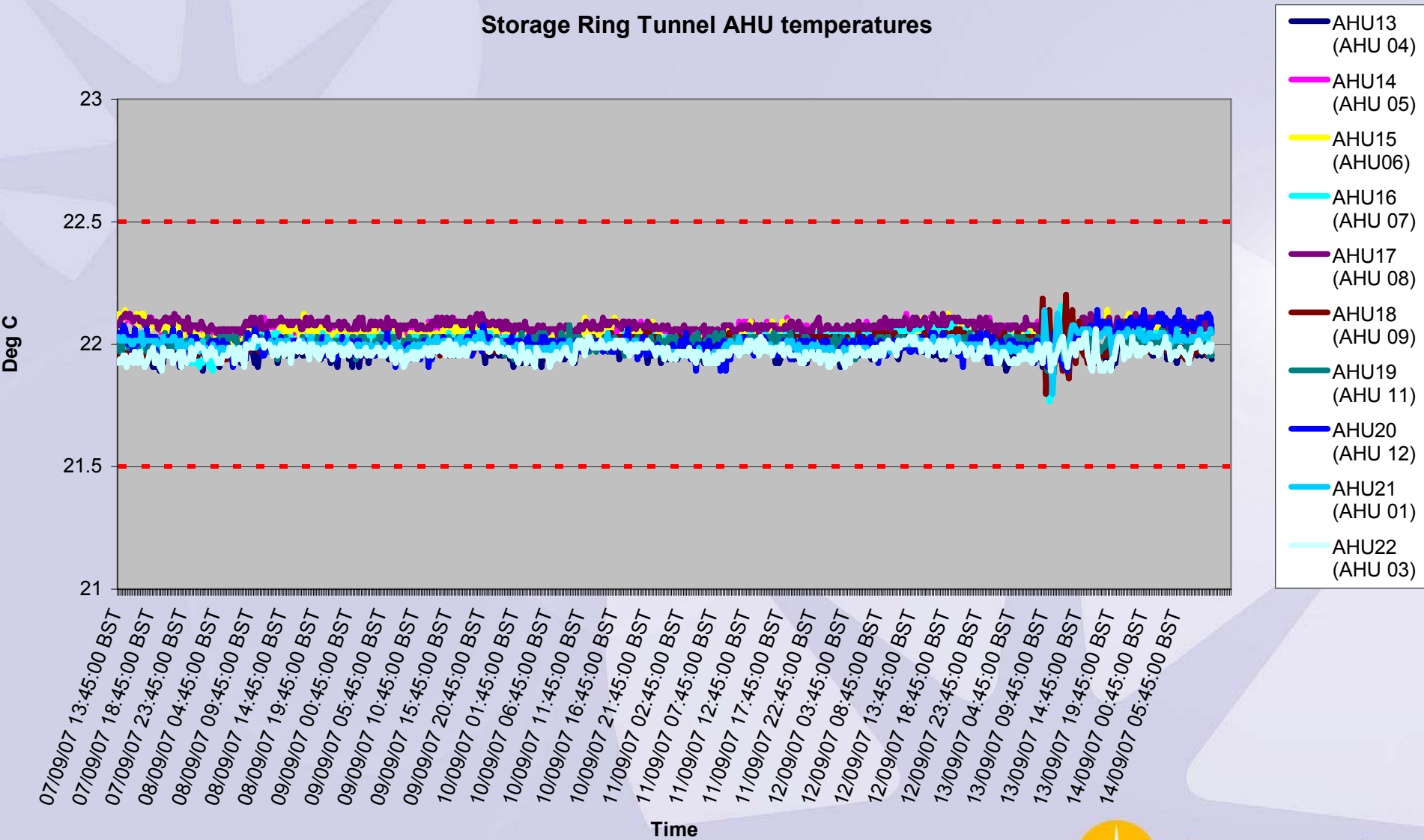


experimental hall $\pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
storage ring tunnel $\pm 0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



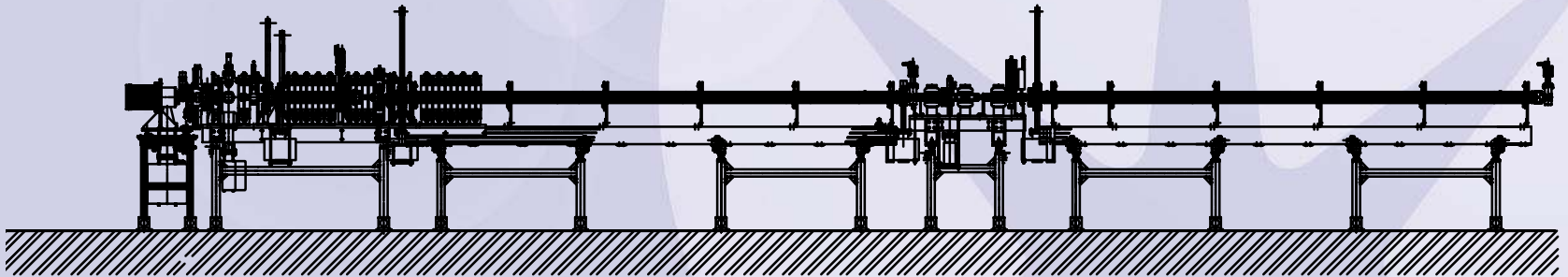
Courtesy of JacobsGibb Ltd.

Storage Ring Tunnel AHU temperatures



Linac

- 100 MeV Linac of the DESY S-band Linear Collider Type II design, supplied "turn-key" by Accel Instruments.
(DLS supplied diagnostics, vacuum and control system components, and beam analysis software)
- thermionic gun; short (< 1 ns) and long pulse (0.1 - 1 μ s) modes
- 500 MHz sub-harmonic pre-buncher, 3 GHz primary buncher, 3 GHz final buncher
- two 5.2 m constant gradient accelerating sections fed by independent klystrons



Linac Commissioning



Installation complete: Aug. 3rd 2005

1st beam from gun: Aug. 31st 2005

1st 100 MeV beam: Sep. 7th 2005

Acceptance test complete: mid-Oct. 2005



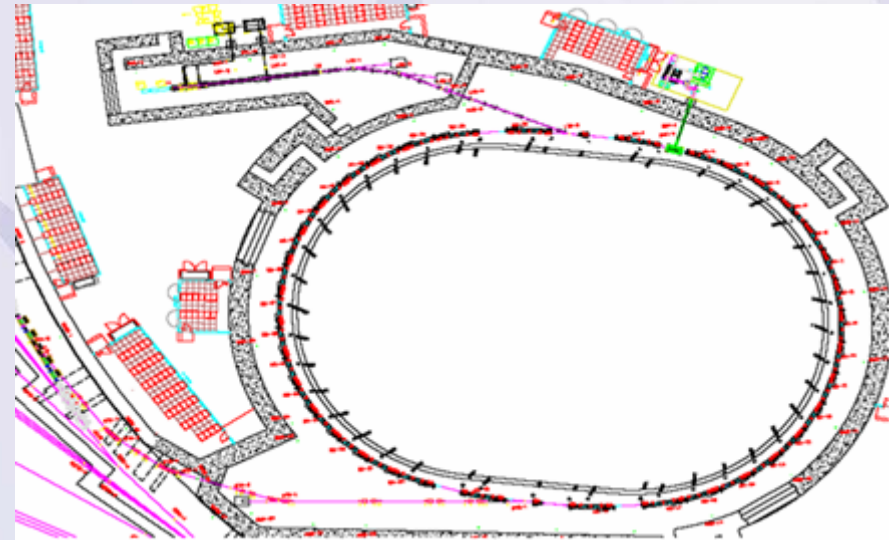
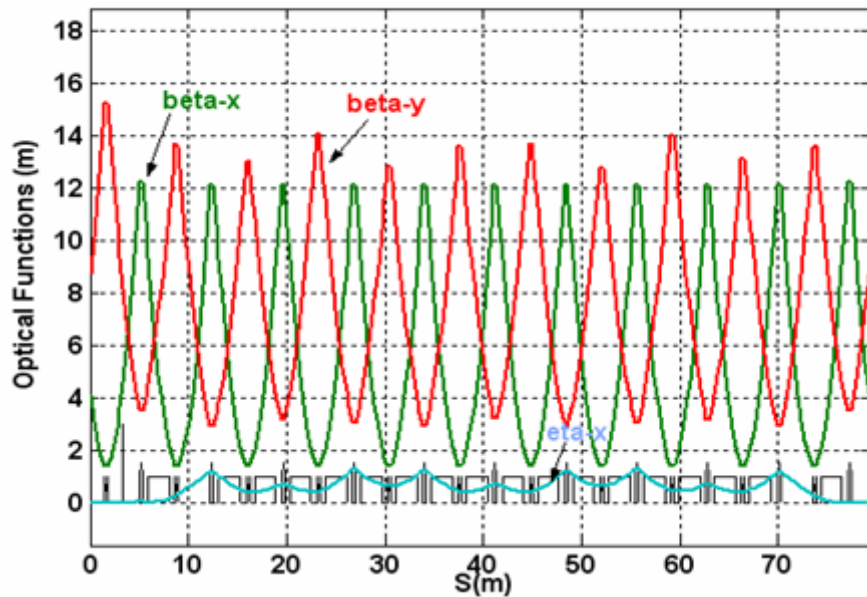
Linac Performance

| Parameter | Specification | Single bunch | Multi bunch |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Energy [MeV] | > 100 | 103 | 103 |
| x norm. emittance [π .mm.mrad] | < 50 | 18 | 16 |
| y norm. emittance [π .mm.mrad] | < 50 | 27 | 11 |
| Charge [nC] | > 1.5 / 3.0 | 2.1 | 4.8 |
| Pulse width [ns] | < 1 | ~ 0.2 fwhm | ~ 0.2 fwhm |
| Jitter [ps] | < 100 | 11 | 11 |
| Energy variation [%] | < 0.25 | 0.05 rms, 0.21 full | 0.05 rms, 0.16 full |
| Energy spread [%] | < 0.5 | < 0.2 | 0.2 |

(Same at 1 Hz or 5 Hz)

Booster

Energy **3 GeV**
Circumference **158.4 m**
Emittance **141 nm rad**
Repetition rate **5 Hz**
Lattice **FODO, missing dipole**



Booster Commissioning

1st turn, 100 MeV:

Dec. 21st 2005

Acceleration to 700 MeV:

Mar. 10th 2006

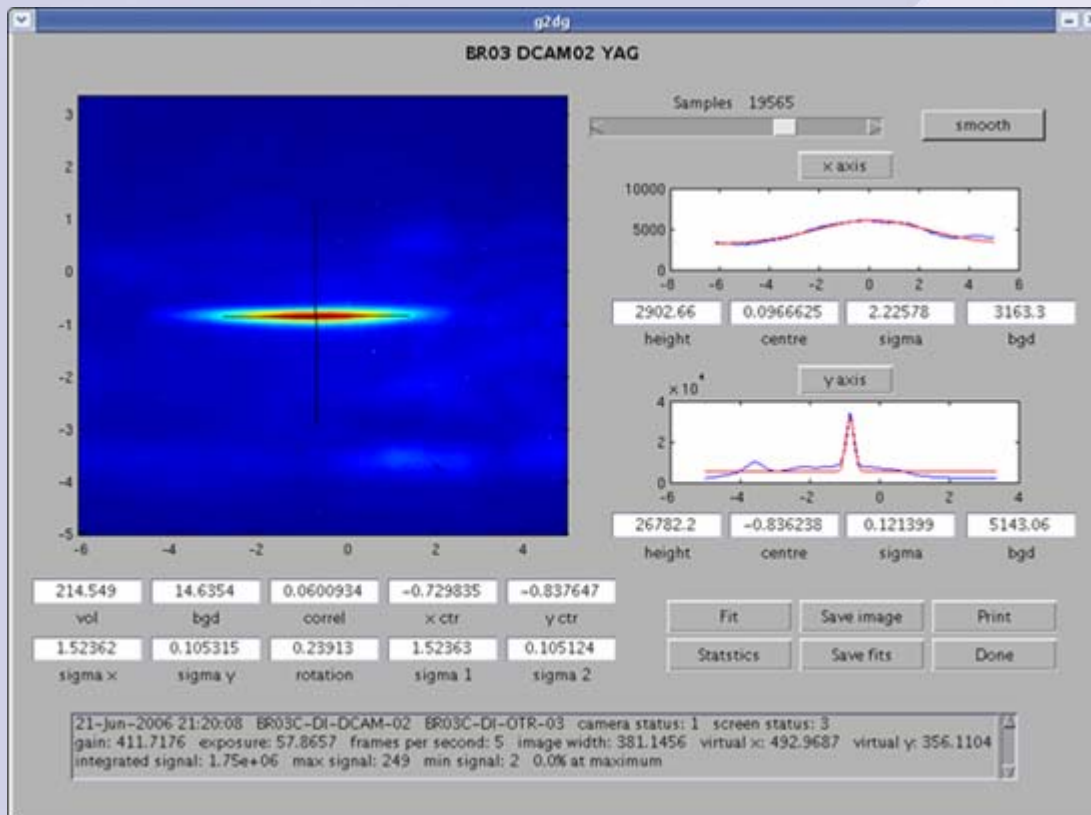
Extraction at 700 MeV:

Apr. 4th 2006

Acceleration and extraction at 3 GeV:

Jun. 9th 2006

limited by
lack of water
cooling



Extracted beam at 3 GeV

$$\sigma_x = 1.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$\sigma_y = 0.11 \text{ mm}$$

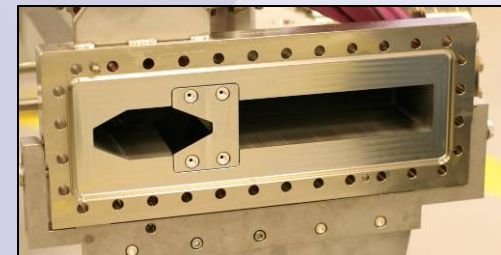
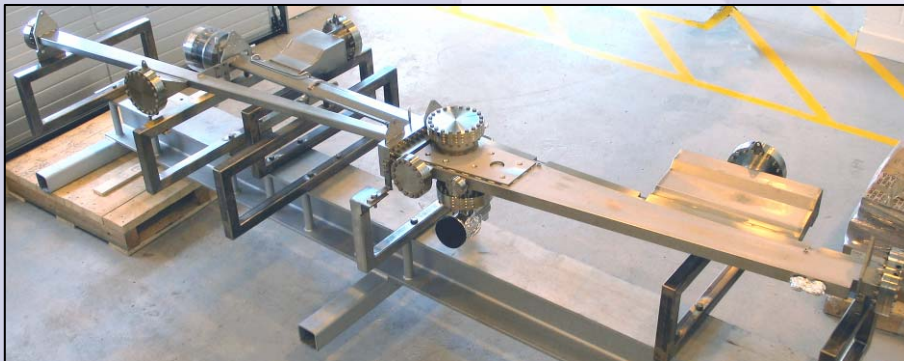
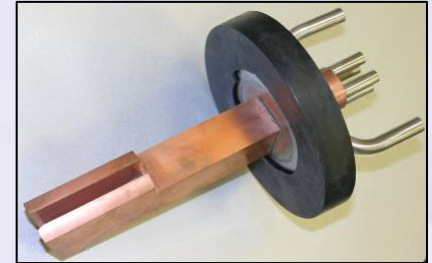
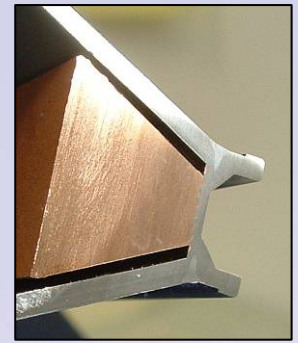
in agreement with theory
(2% coupling)

Storage Ring

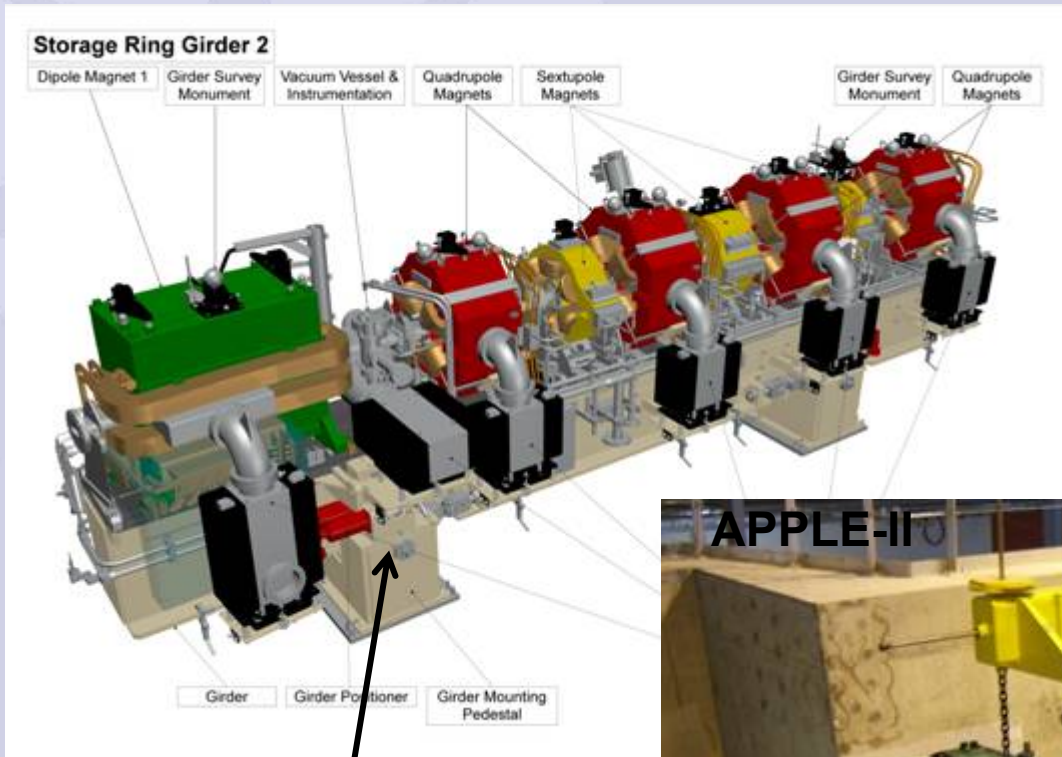


Vacuum System

- The 562 m circumference storage ring has to be maintained at a pressure of 10^{-9} mbar or lower (Ultra-High Vacuum) to reduce beam losses from collisions of circulating electrons with residual gas molecules.
- This sets a number of vacuum engineering challenges:
 - **UHV compatible materials** (316LN stainless steel, OFHC copper, extruded aluminium)
 - **Reliable joining techniques** (TIG welding, electron beam welding, vacuum brazing, explosion bonding)
 - **Quality control** (material traceability, ultrasonic testing, radiography, helium leak testing etc.)
 - **Clean assembly and installation**



Magnets and Vacuum Chambers



... mounted and pre-aligned on 72 precisely machined girders, up to 6 m long and 17 T in weight.



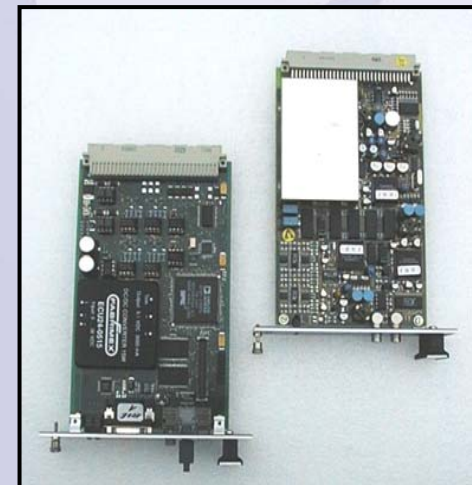
mover system for remote alignment

... positioned to a global accuracy of 0.1 mm

Power Converters

| Type | Number | Current (A) | Voltage (V) | Bandwidth (Hz) |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| SR Dipole | 1 | 1500 | 530 | DC |
| Booster Dipole | 1 | 1000 | 2000 | 5 |
| Booster Quadrupole | 2 | 200 | 421 | 5 |
| Booster Sextupole | 2 | 20 | 60 | 5 |
| Medium Power Supplies | 437 | 350/200/100 | 41/28/17 | DC |
| Slow Corrector Type | 544 | 5 | 20 | 50 |
| LTB Quads. | 10 | 20 | 55 | 1000* |
| Pulsed Power Supplies | 10 | 85-15,000 | 100-23,000 | Pulse |

- highly stable: 10ppm over 8 hours typically
- built in redundancy to improve reliability
- standardisation of types and modularity to reduce repair time
- common digital control interface for ease of commissioning and maintainability



RadioFrequency System



**Supercon-
ducting
cavities
(2+1)**



**3 x IOT-based 300 kW
amplifiers**



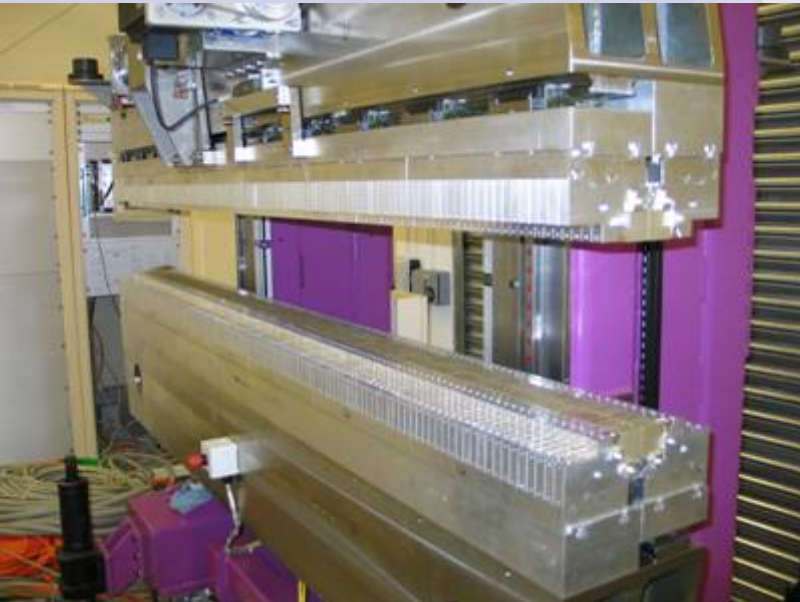
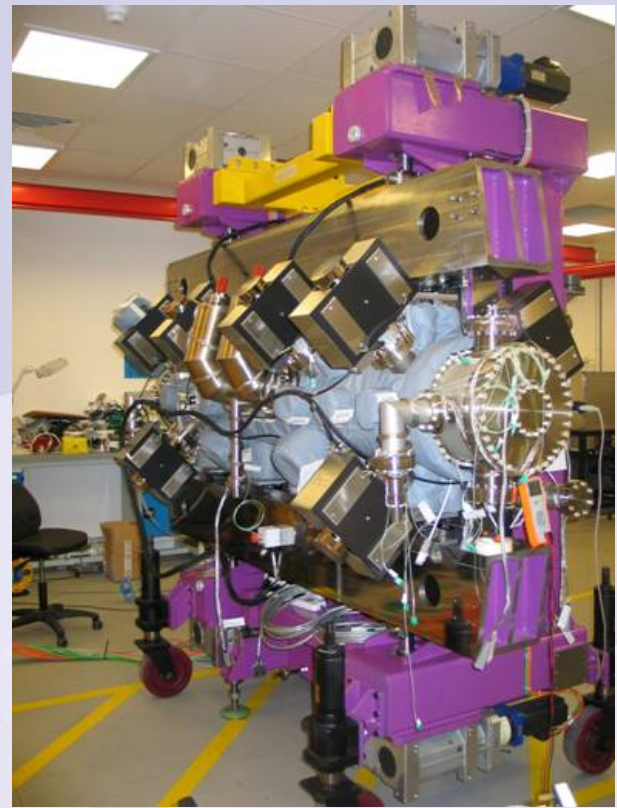
Liquid He plant

Insertion Devices

6 x in-
vacuum
devices

APPLE-II

3.5 T s/c
wiggler



Control System



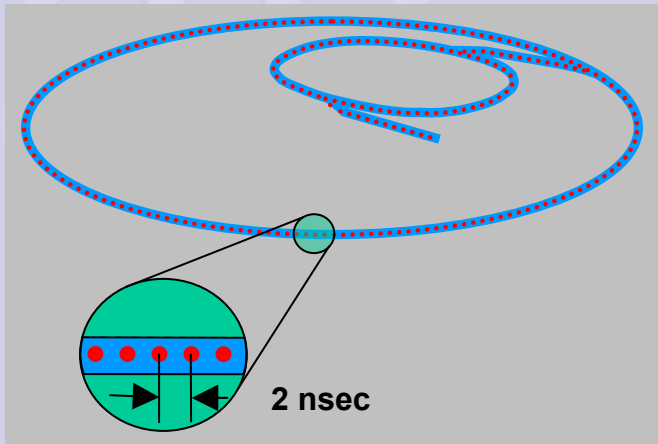
1 control room

265 embedded VME computer systems

450 19" racks

~ 10,000 physical devices

~ 500,000 control and monitoring points

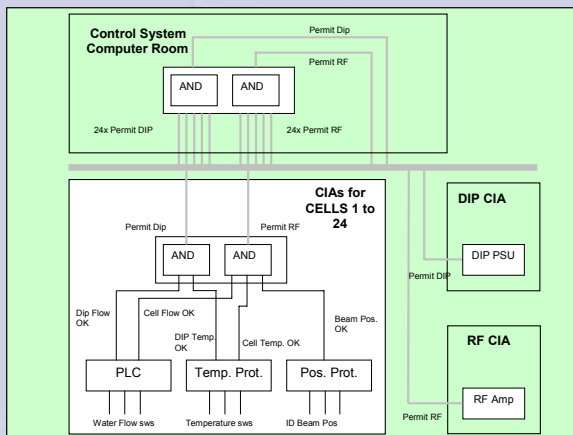


Timing System

Electrons contained in bunches separated by 2 ns

Storage ring contains 936 possible bunches

Timing system allows electrons to be injected reproducibly into any selected bunch



Protection System

> 300 kW of X-rays are produced

In the worst case, this could melt the vacuum chamber in ~ 10 ms

960 interlocks protect the machine, and can "kill" the beam in < 1 ms.

Storage Ring Commissioning – Phase I (700 MeV)

limited by lack of
water cooling

May 4th 2006 - first injection in the
storage ring

May 5th - first turn (*correctors off*)

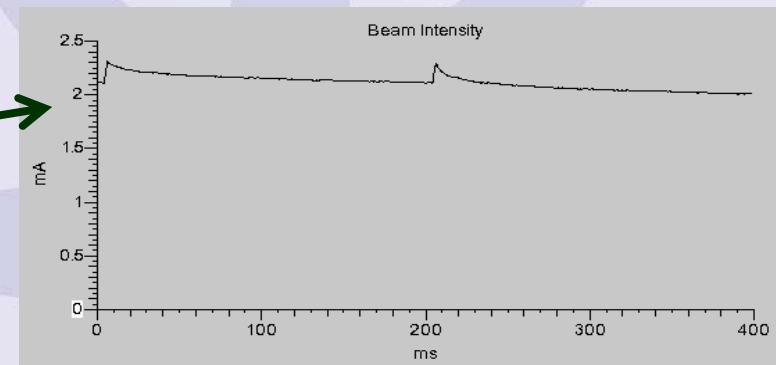
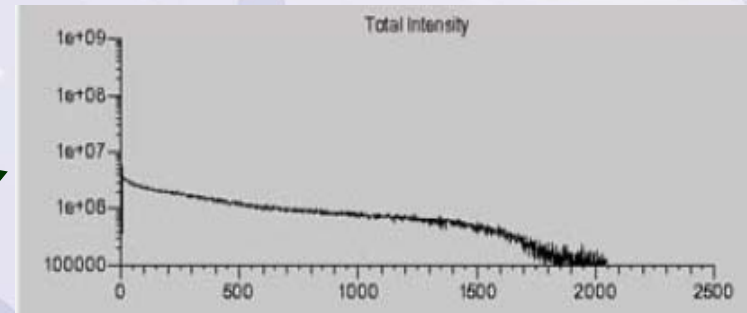
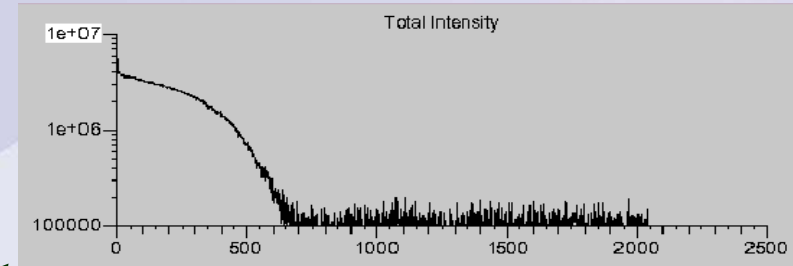
May 6th - 4 turns

May 7th – 600 turns (*sext. off, RF off*)

May 20th – 2000 turns (*sext. on, RF off*)

May 22nd – 0.5 mA stored beam
(no accumulation)

May 30th – stacking to 2 mA



Storage Ring Commissioning – Phase II (3 GeV)

Sep. 4th 2006 – 5 turns, no correctors !

Sep. 5th – 120 turns, RF off

Sep. 6th – RF on .. 2 mA stored; 
(limited since absorber water flow interlocks not commissioned ..)

Sep. 9th – 10 mA;
(limited since orbit interlock not commissioned ..)


Sep. 25th – 25 mA

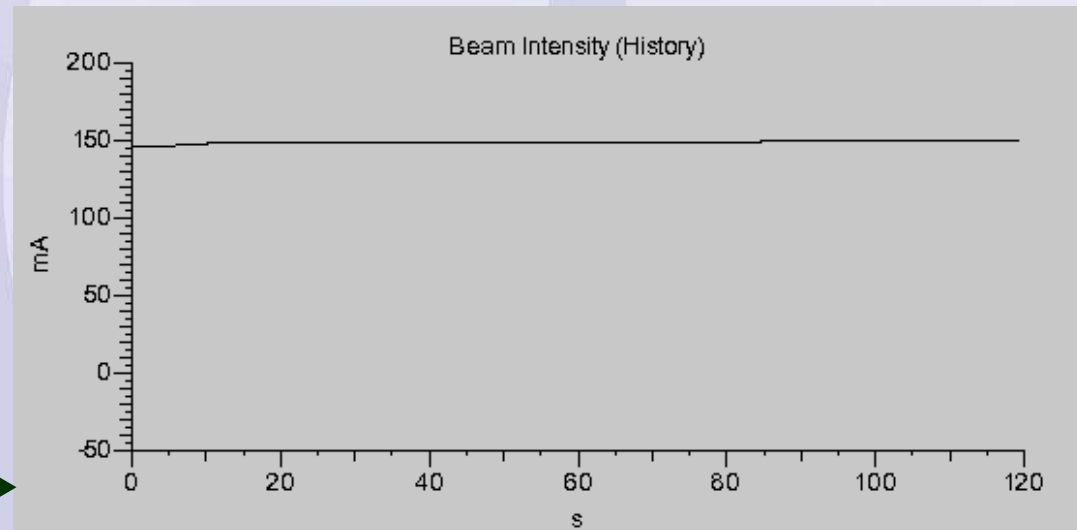
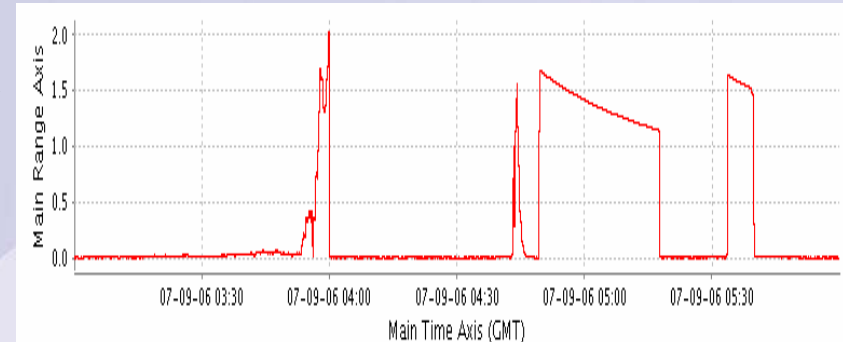
Oct. 2nd – 60 mA

Oct. 10th – 90 mA

Oct. 12th – Start of beamline
commissioning

Nov. 11th – 100 mA

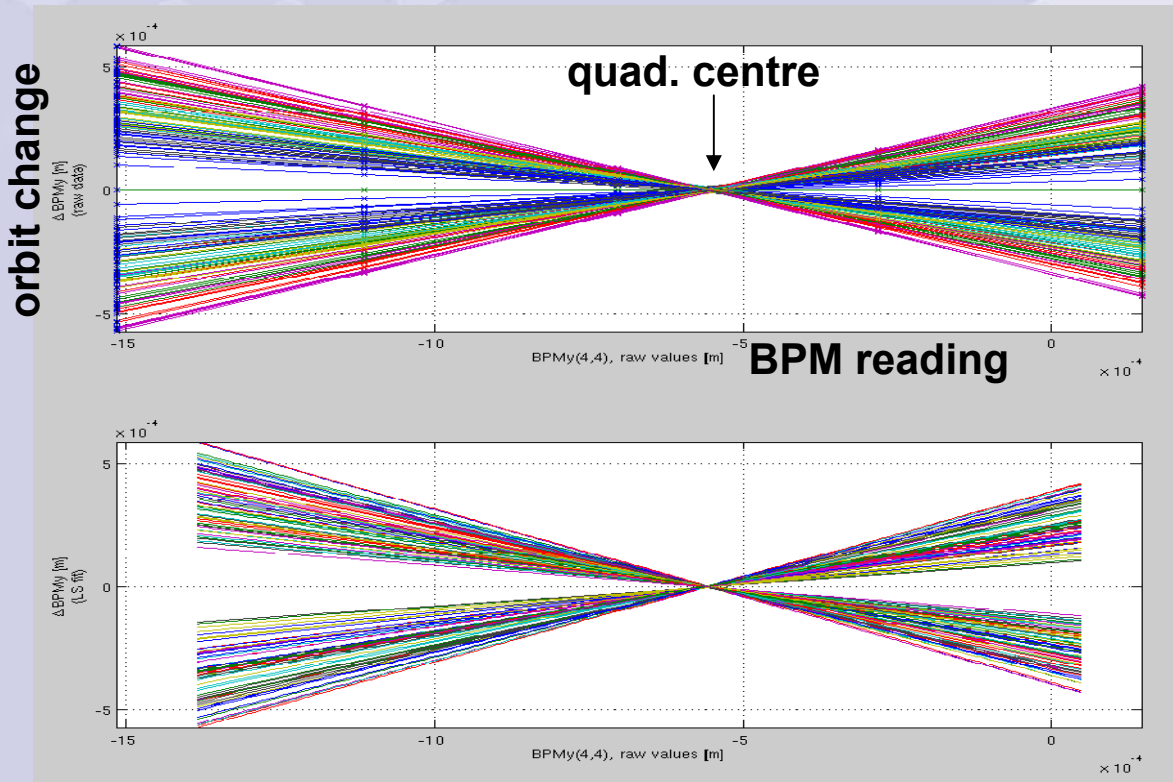
Jan. 12th 2007 – 150 mA 



Closed Orbit

Closed orbit initially corrected to 0.7 mm rms in both planes, then “saturated”.

“Beam based alignment” carried out to determine offsets between the BPMs and quadrupole magnet centres.



corrector is varied to find the point that the beam passes through the centre of the adjacent quadrupole

G. Portmann, et al., “An Accelerator Control Middle Layer using MATLAB”, Proc. PAC 2005, p. 4009.

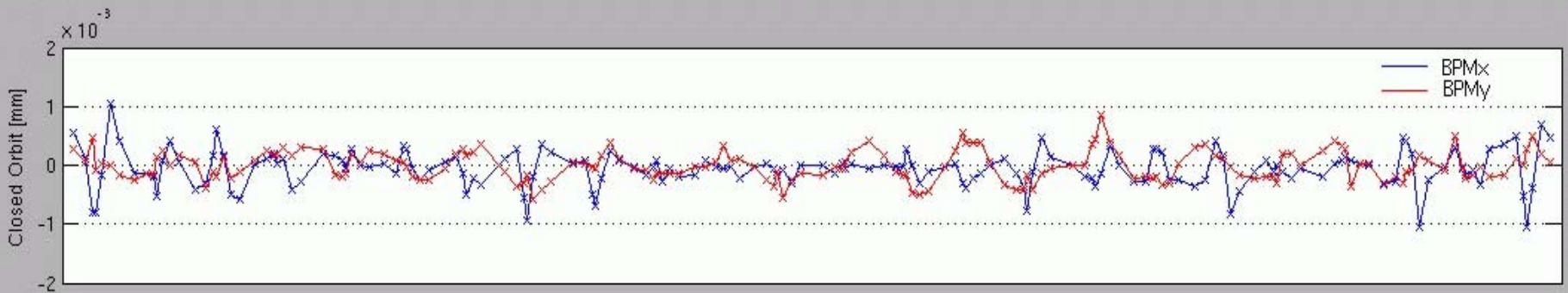
After the 5th iteration, the closed orbit could be corrected to $< 1 \mu\text{m}$ rms (using all correctors):

BPM Readings (mm)

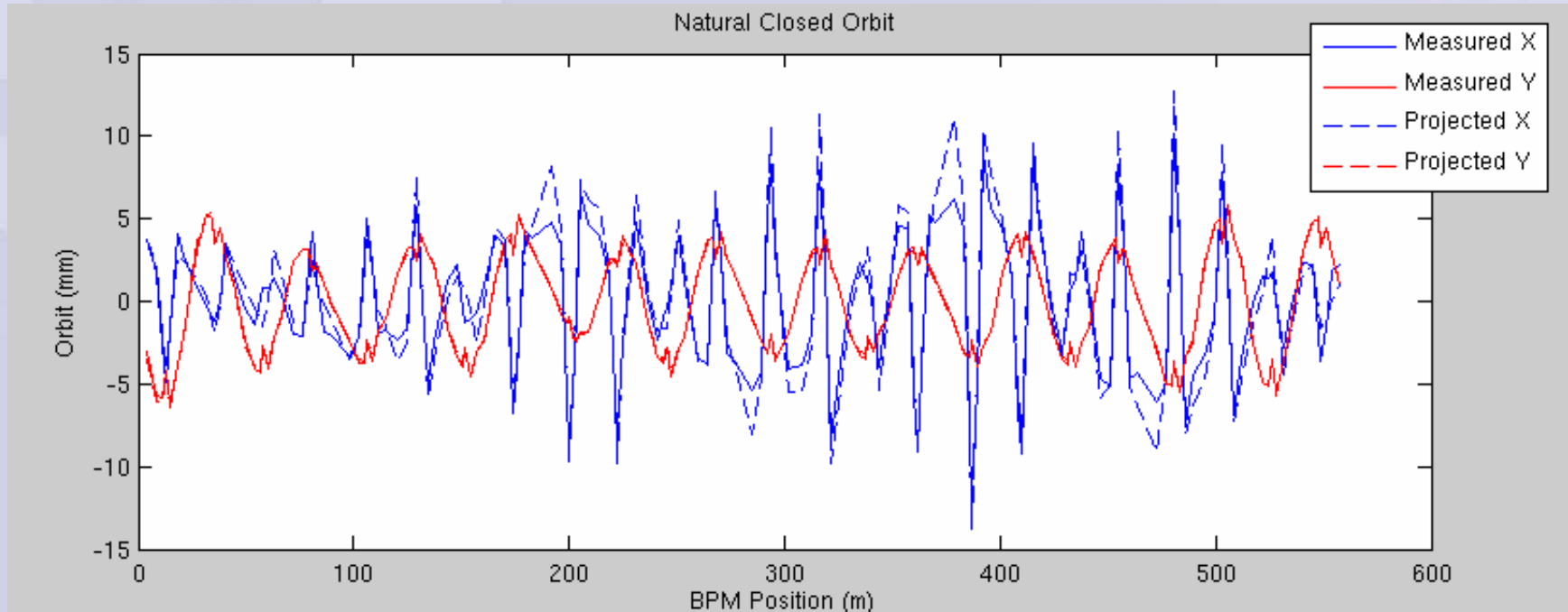
| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Max BPMx = 0.001062 | RMS BPMx = 0.00032212 | Mean BPMx = $-6.1524\text{e-}0$ |
| Max BPMy = 0.000844 | RMS BPMy = 0.00024965 | Mean BPMy = $-3.1524\text{e-}0$ |

CM Readings (rad)

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Max HCM = 0.00071143 | RMS HCM = 0.00020664 | Mean HCM = $-4.794\text{e-}06$ |
| Max VCM = 0.00035675 | RMS VCM = $8.9269\text{e-}05$ | Mean VCM = $-1.442\text{e-}07$ |



“Bare orbit” – correctors off

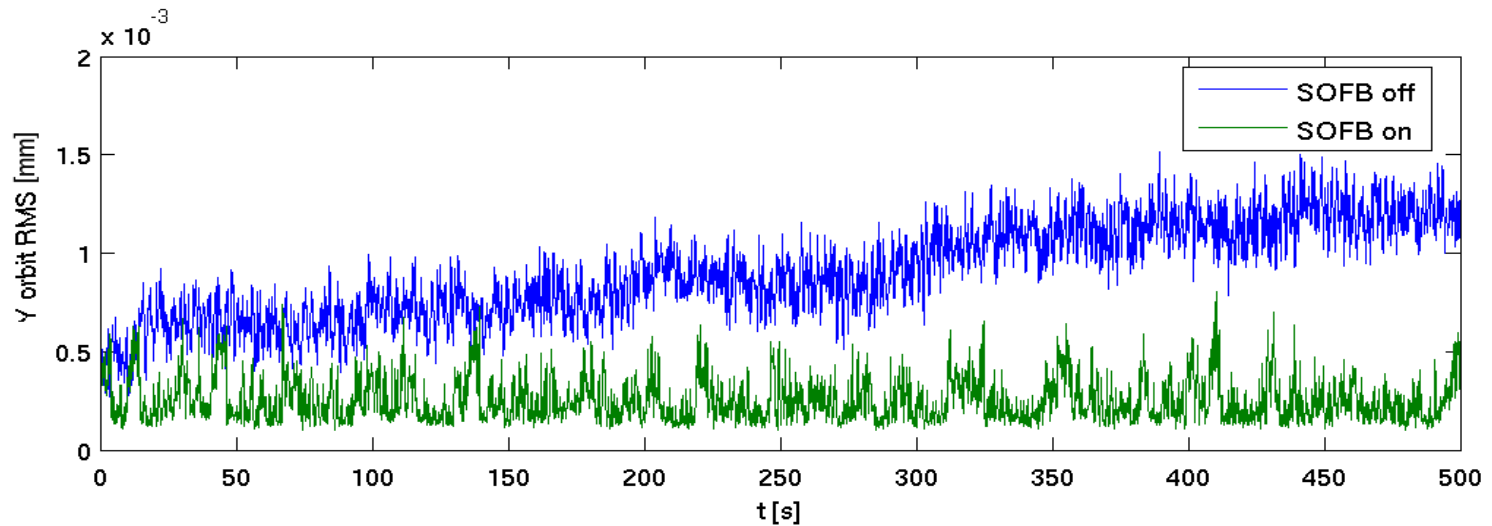
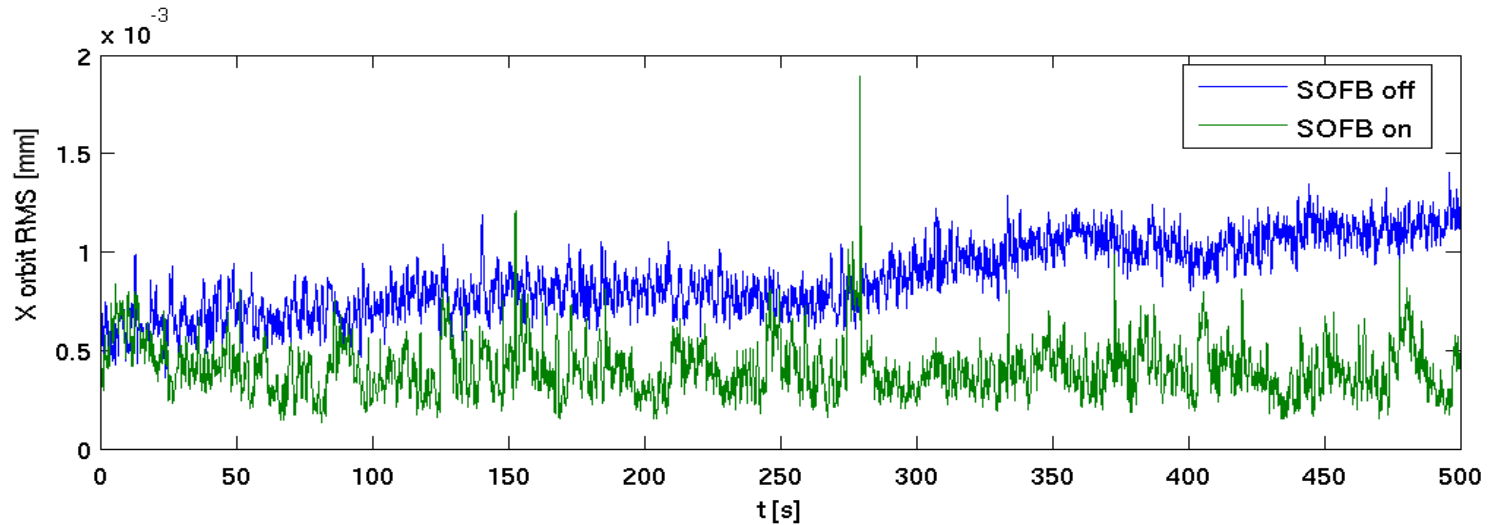


rms x = 4.8 mm, rms y = 3.1 mm

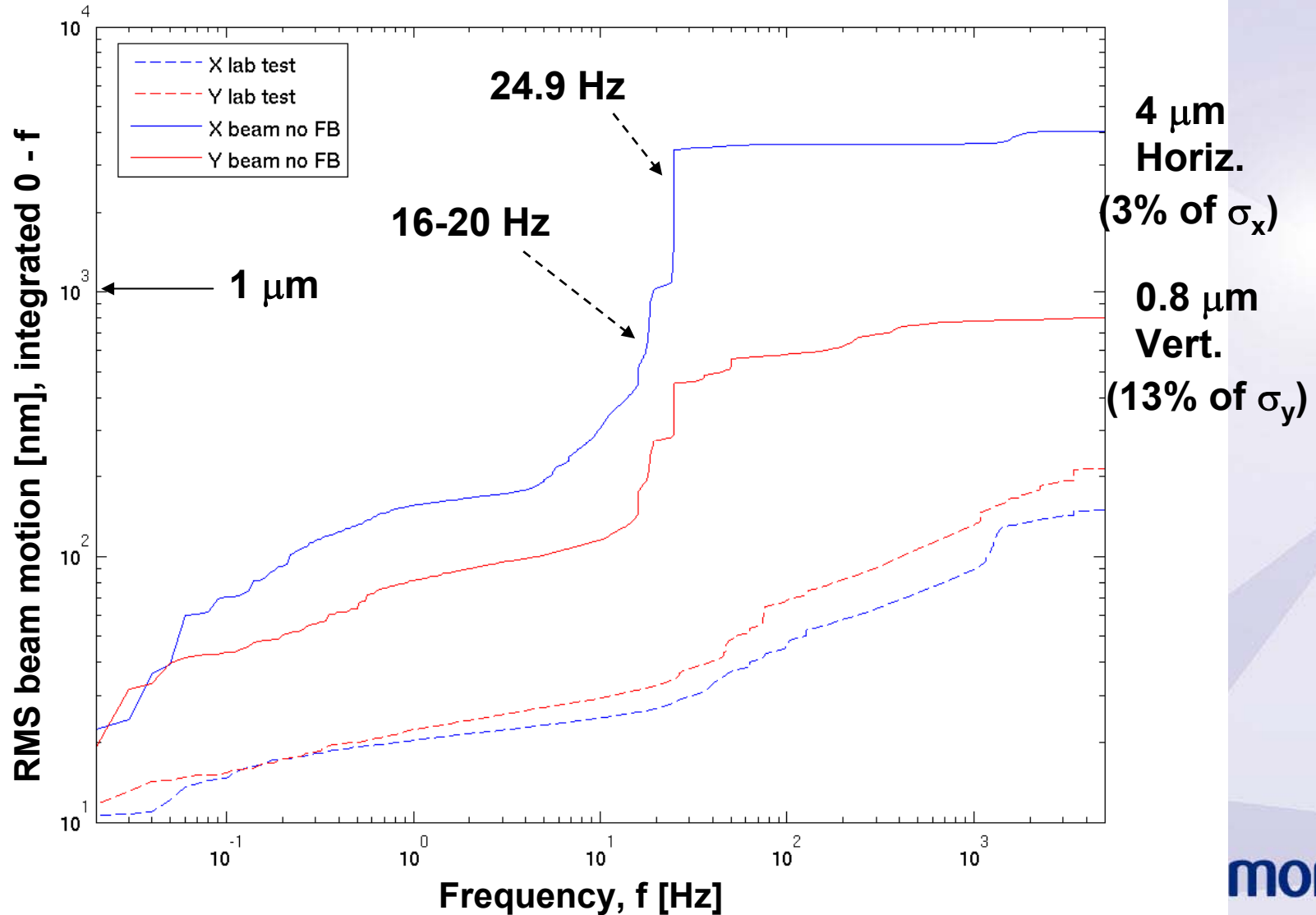
**- reasonably consistent with specified
0.1 mm quadrupole positioning error**

Orbit stability – long term

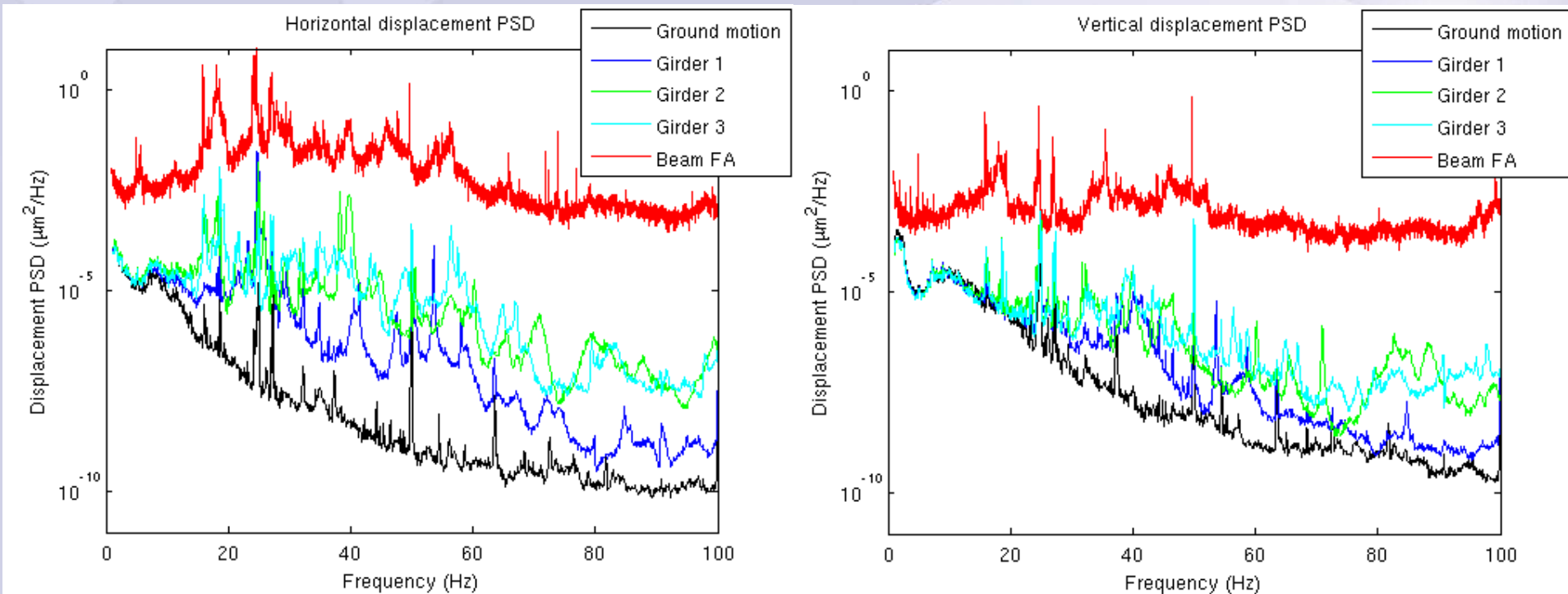
running from MATLAB, 0.2 Hz



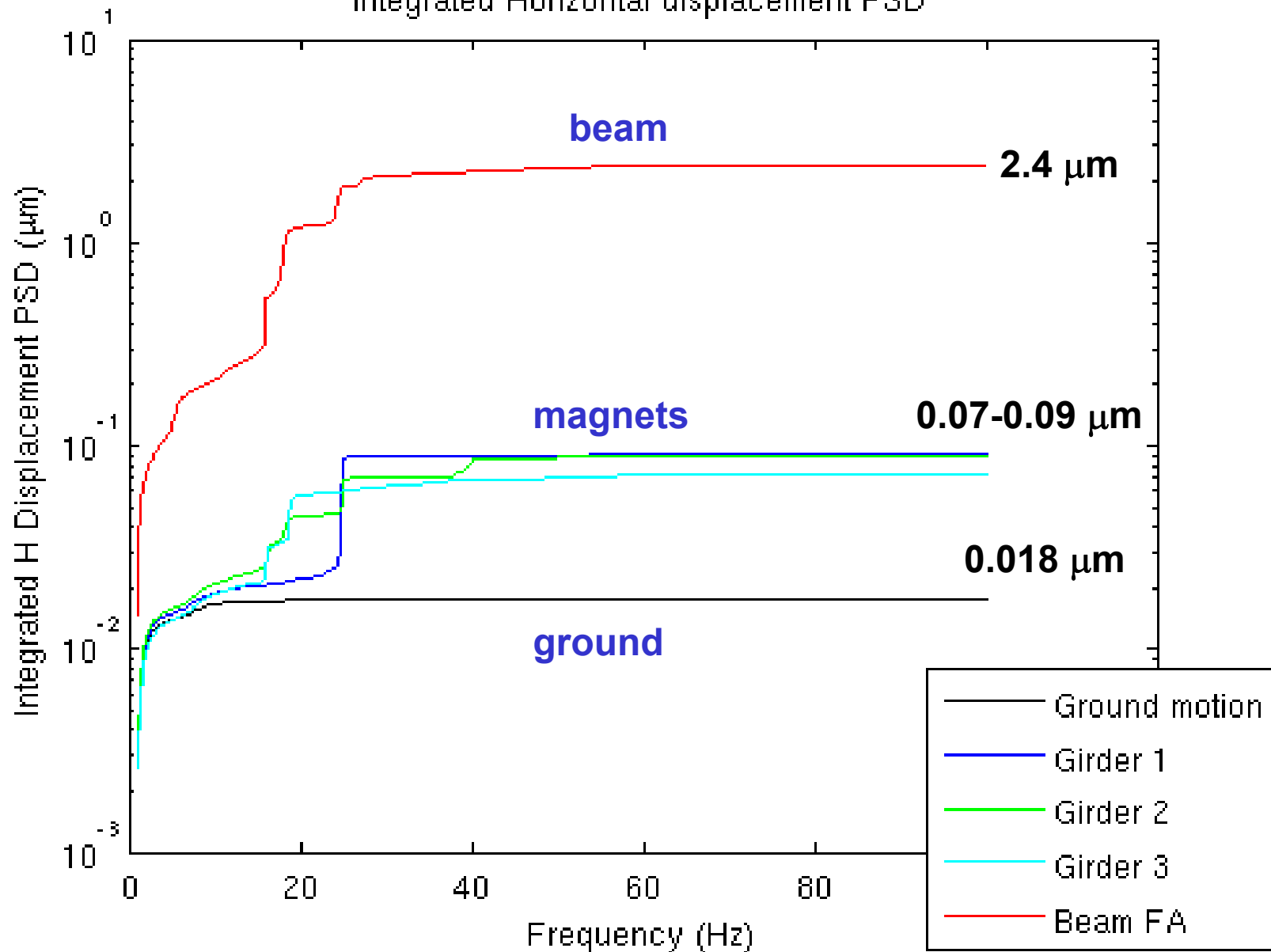
Orbit stability – short term



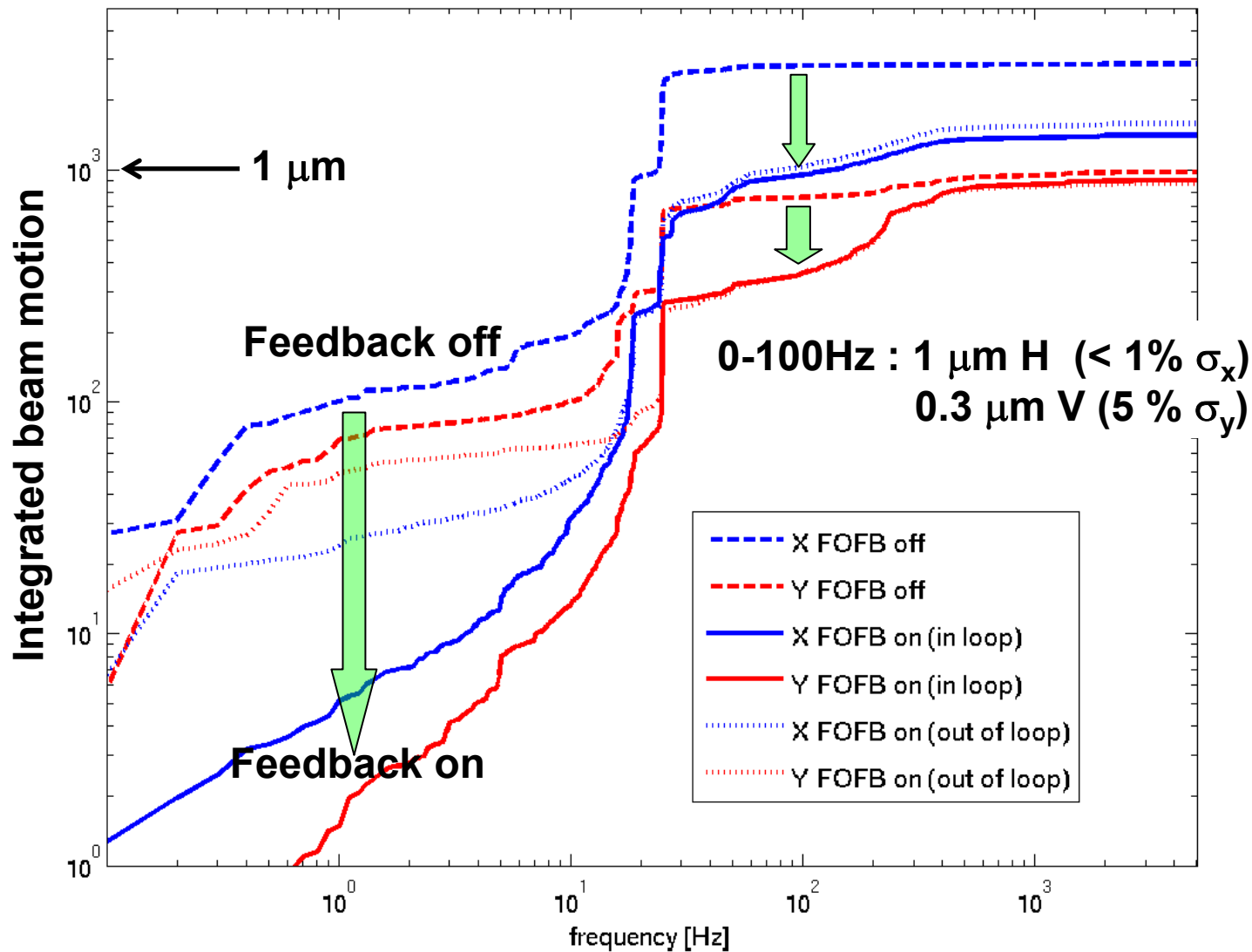
Comparison of beam motion with that of the ground and the girders:



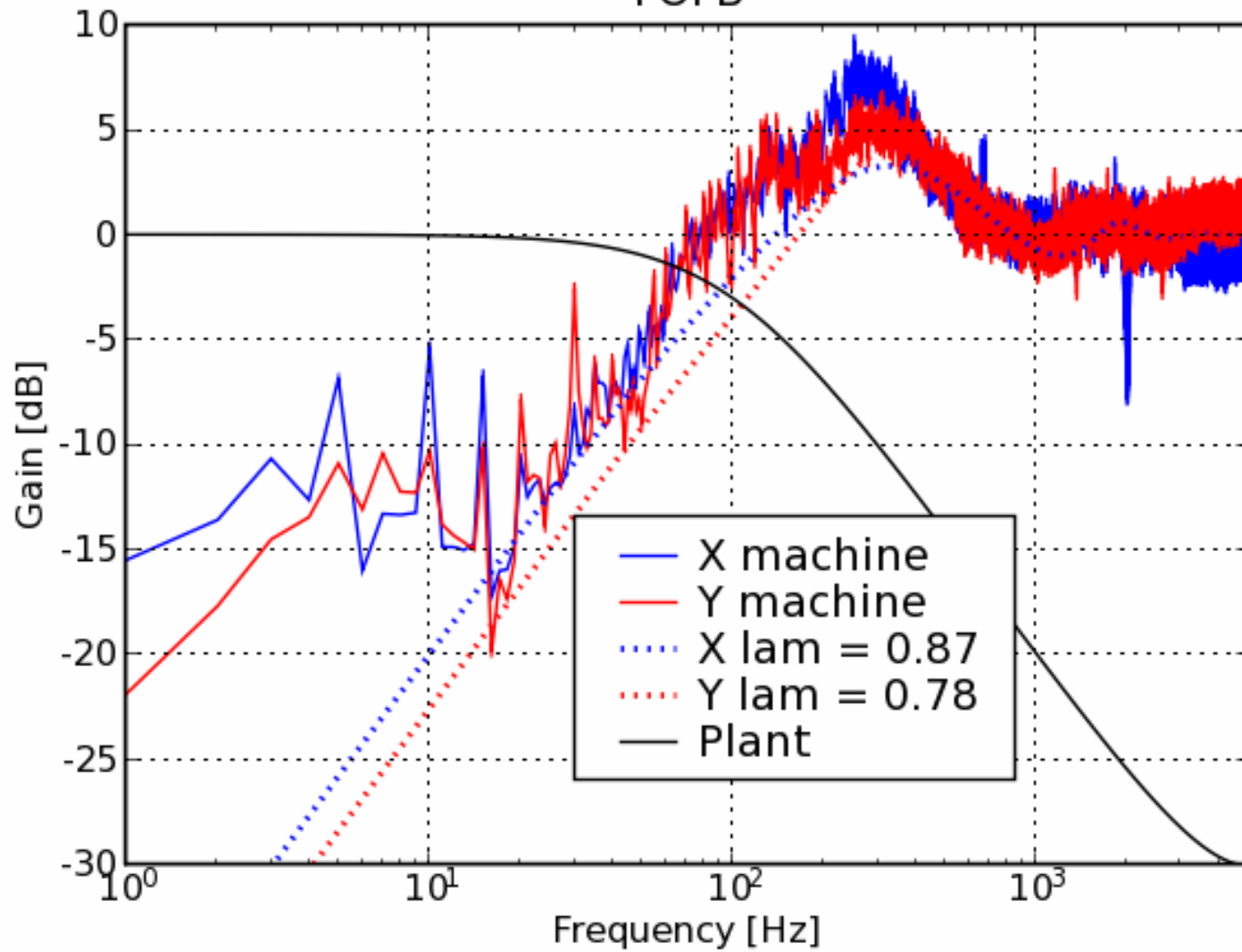
Integrated Horizontal displacement PSD



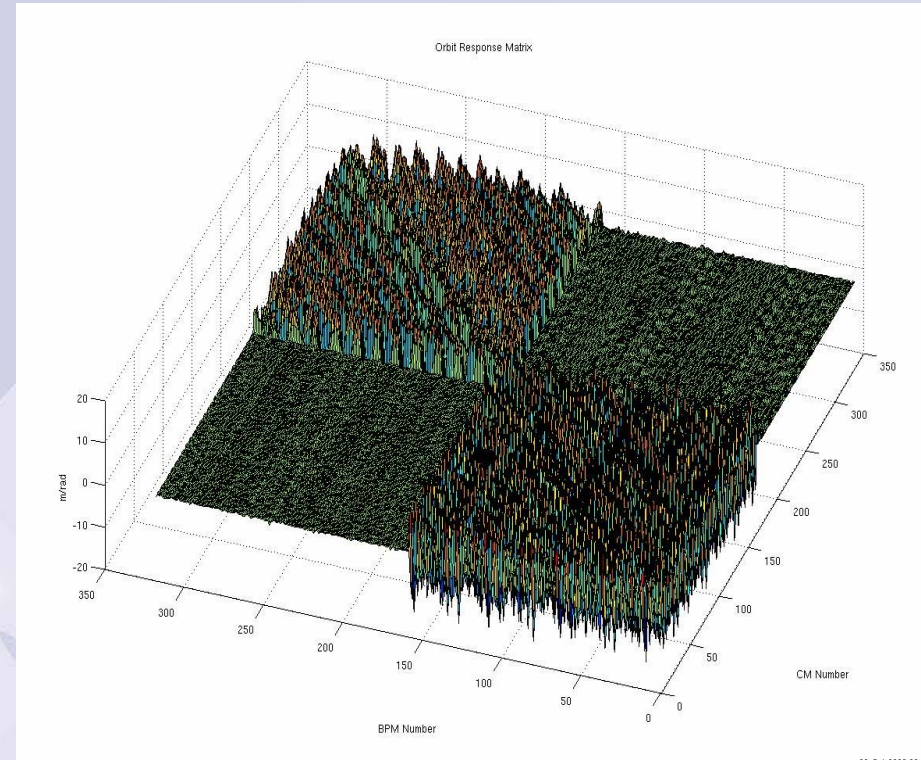
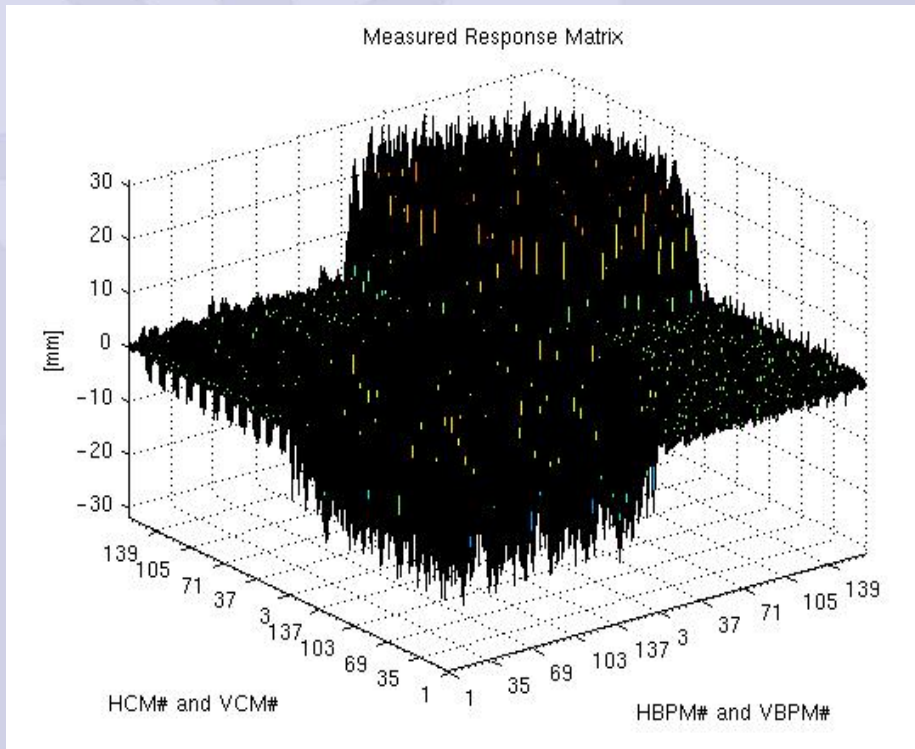
Fast Orbit Feedback - in routine operation:



FOFB



Optics Analysis and Correction (using LOCO*)



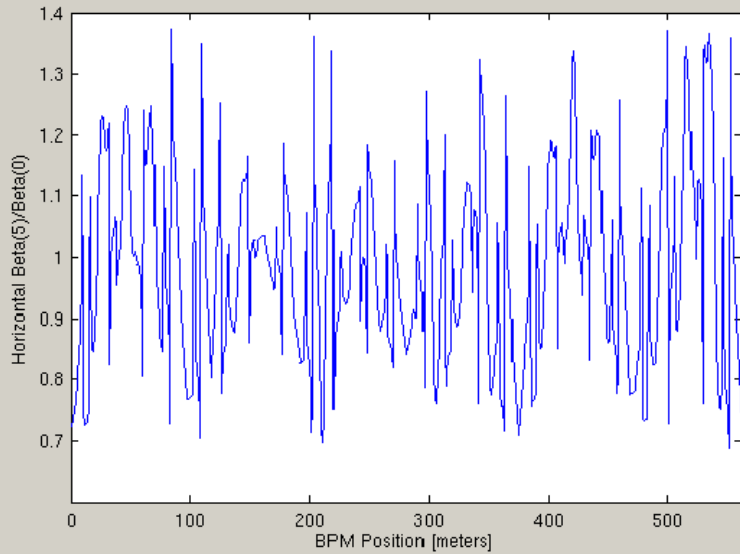
Measured Response Matrices (before and after LOCO analysis)

*J. Safranek, "Experimental Determination of Storage Ring Optics Using Orbit Response Measurements", *Nucl. Inst. Meth. A388*, 27 (1997)

J. Safranek et al., "MATLAB based LOCO", SLAC-PUB 9464, (2002).

Beta-function – before and after LOCO correction

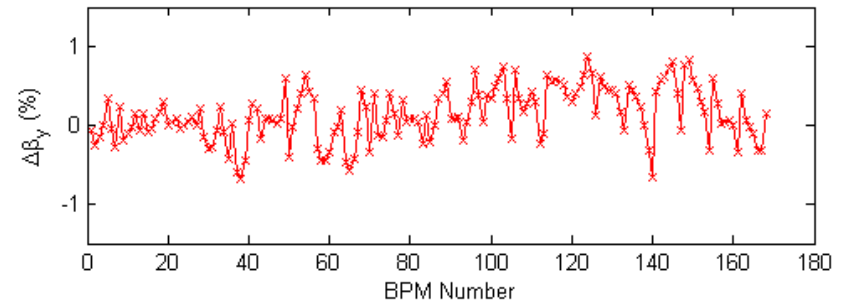
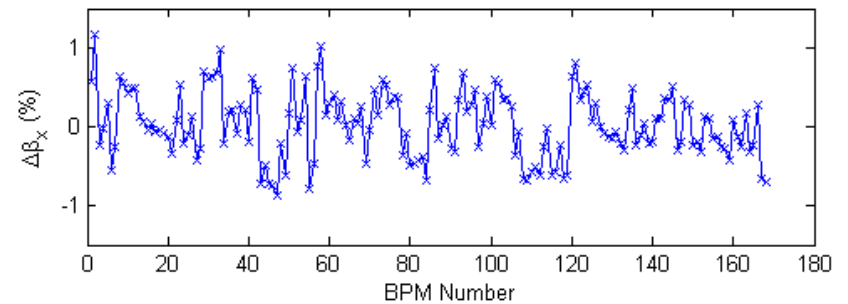
Beta Beat ($v_x(5)=27.2208$, $v_x(0)=27.2256$)



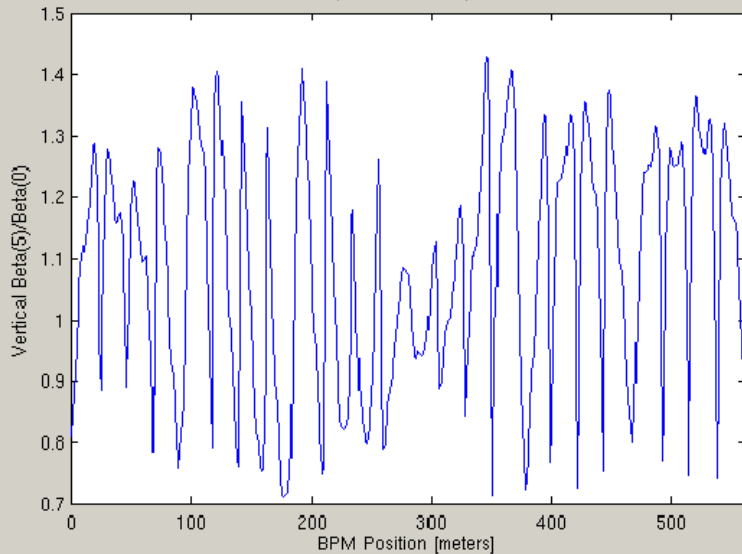
← before correction $\pm 40\%$

after correction $\pm 1\%$

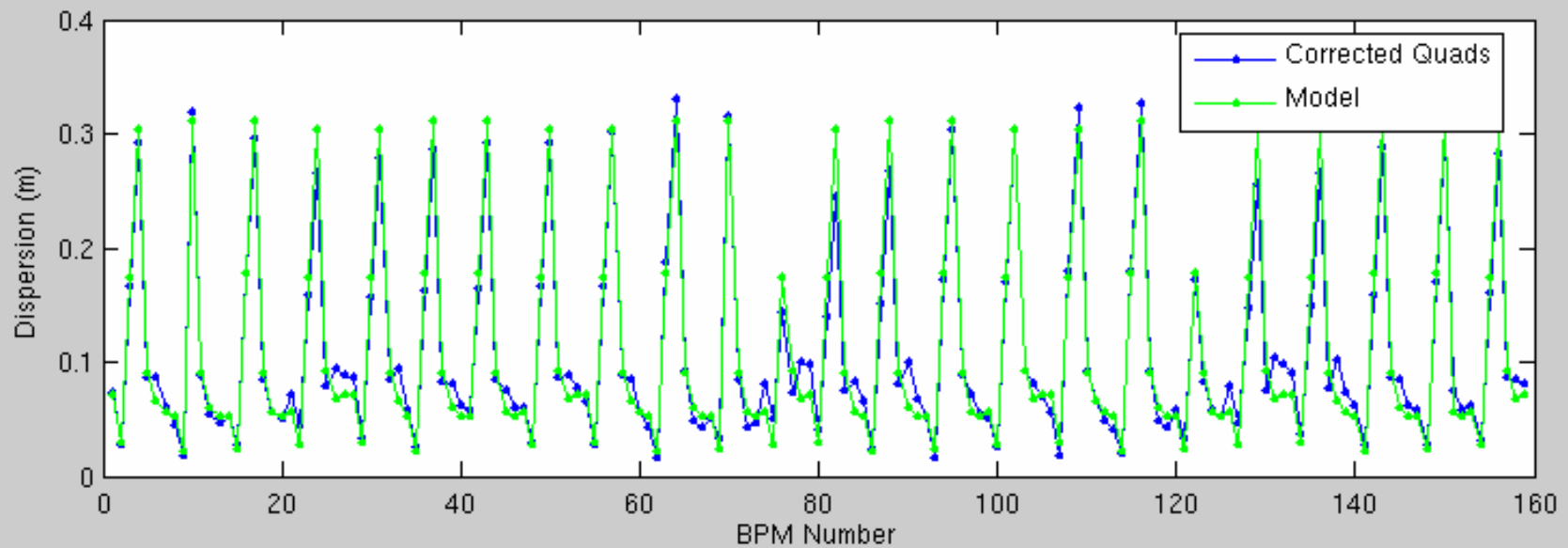
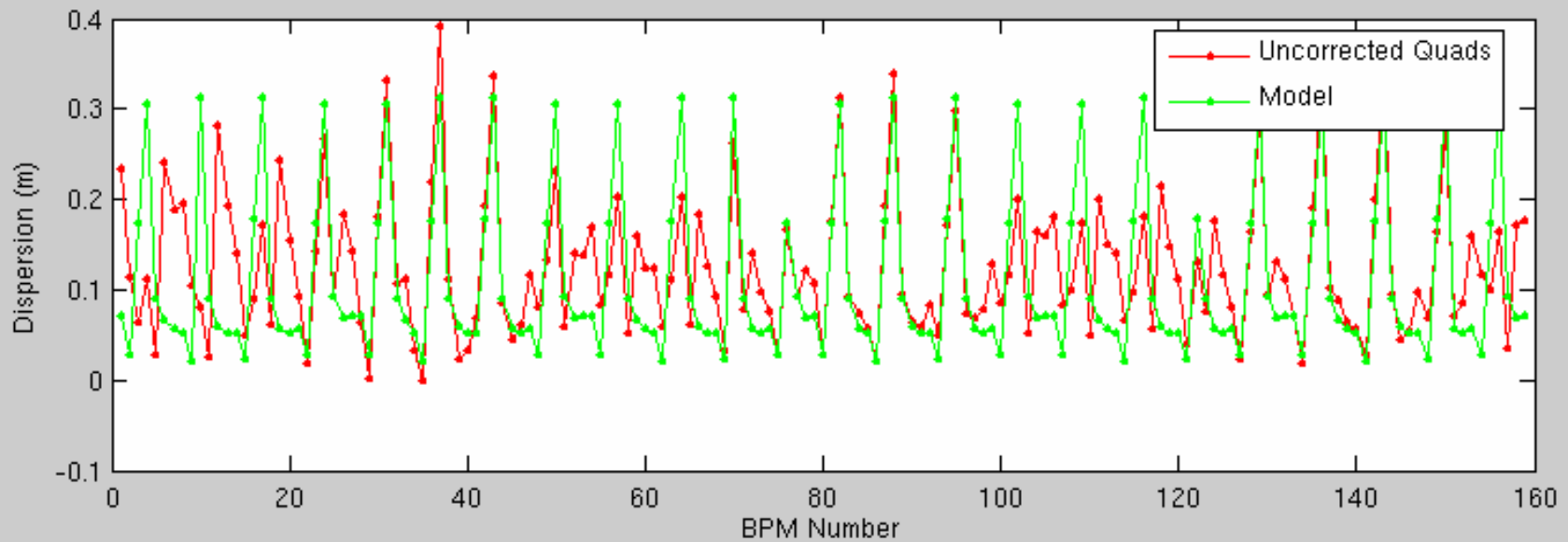
Beta Beat 13/01/2007



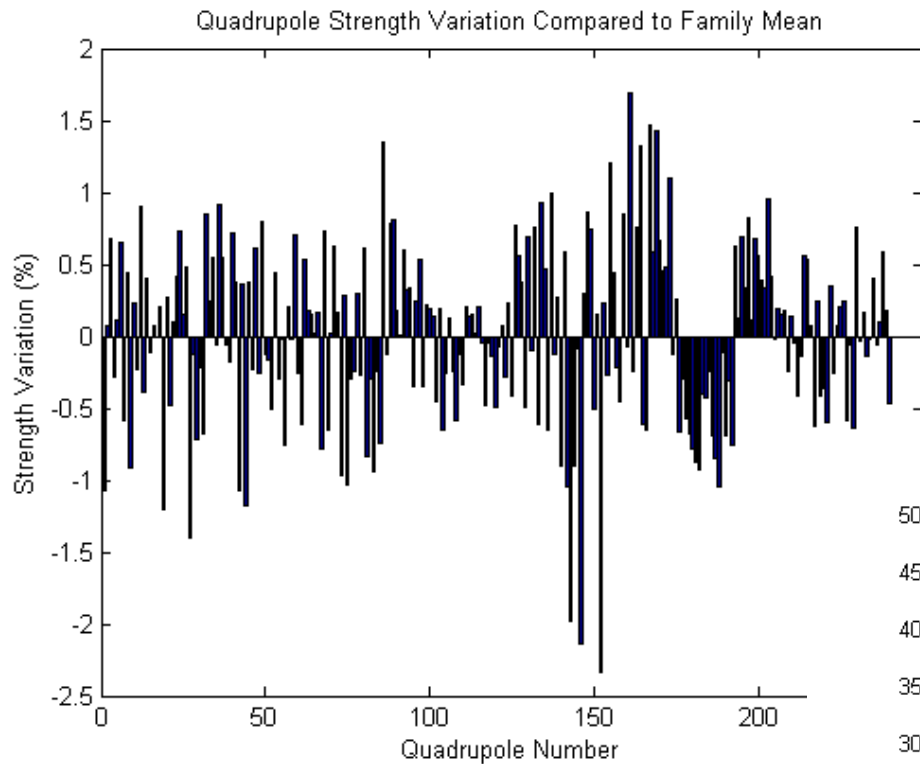
Beta Beat ($v_y(5)=12.3659$, $v_y(0)=12.3632$)



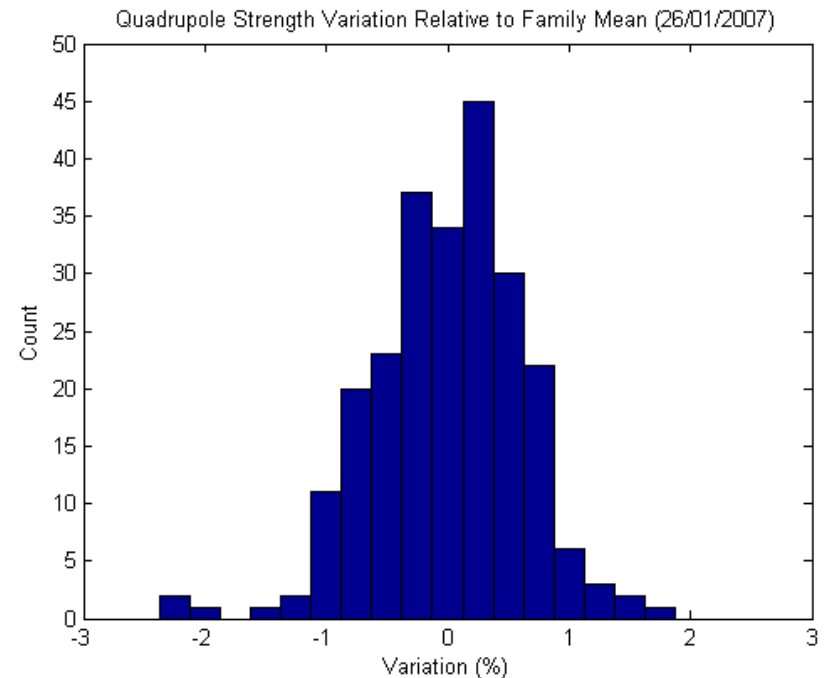
Dispersion – before and after LOCO correction



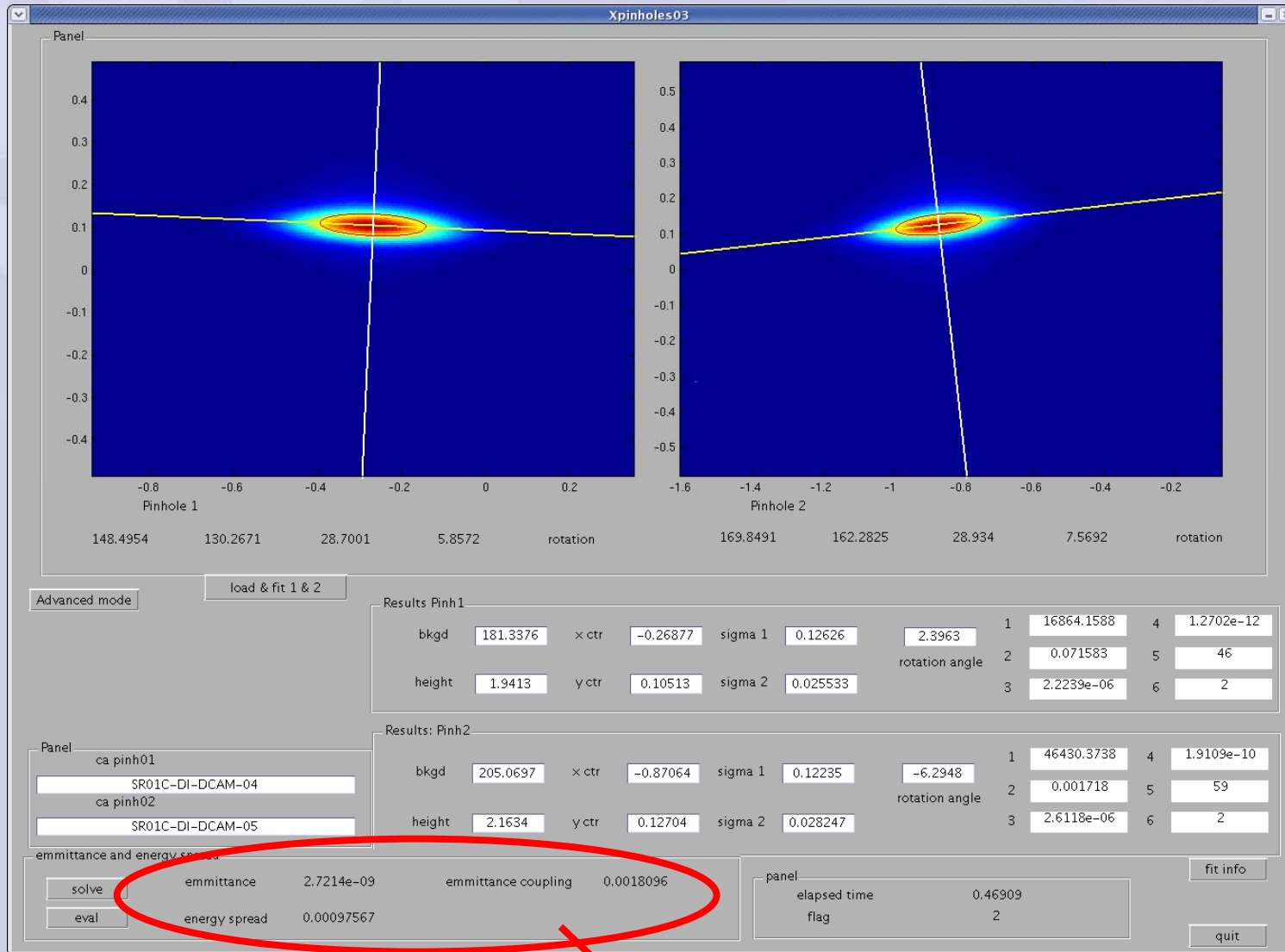
Quadrupole gradient corrections:



Up to 5 % with respect to the nominal calibration, but less than 2 % with respect to the mean for each quad. family



Emittance and Energy Spread agree with expectations:



Automated measurement using two X-ray pinhole cameras

emittance 2.72 nm, energy spread 0.097%, coupling 0.18%

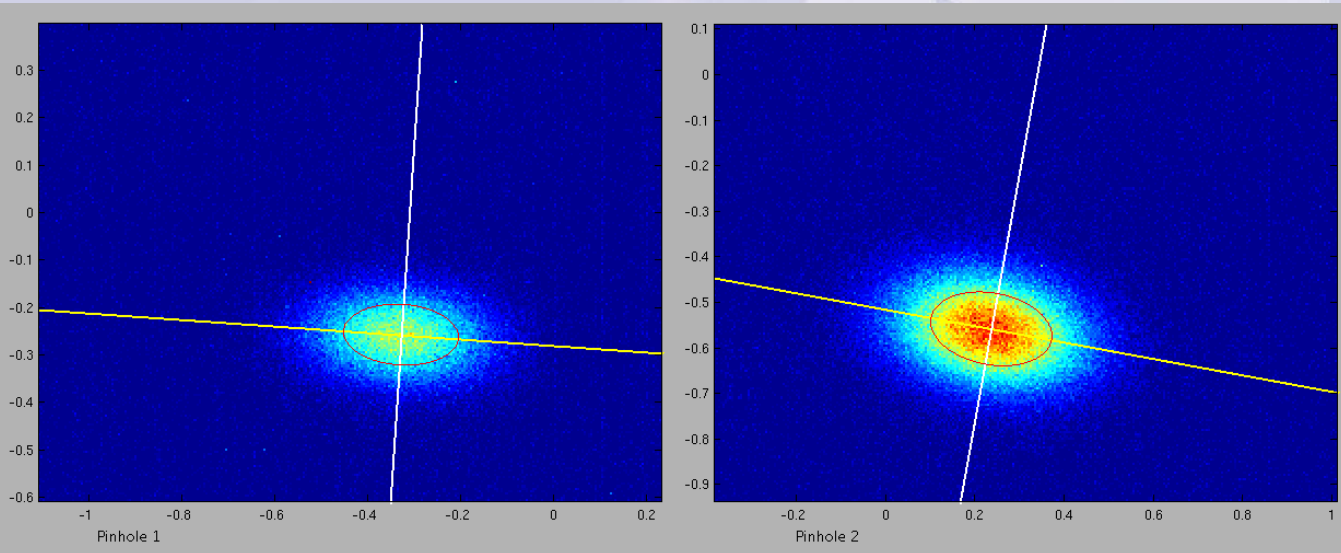
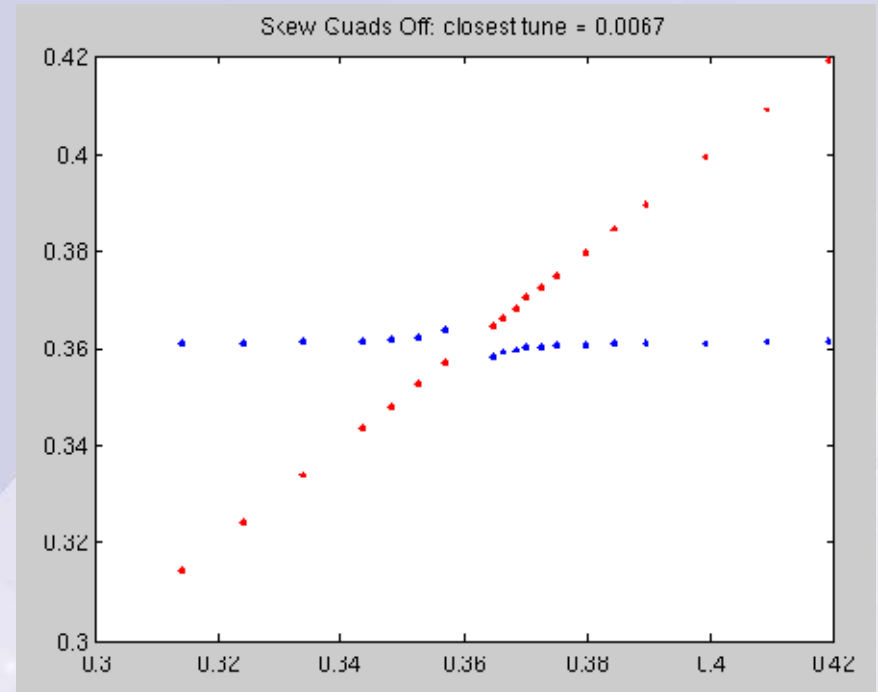
Linear coupling compensation using LOCO

Skew-quads off:

Tune separation = 0.0067

Emittance ratio from betatron coupling at nominal WP = 0.13%

Measured emittance ratio = 1.3 %

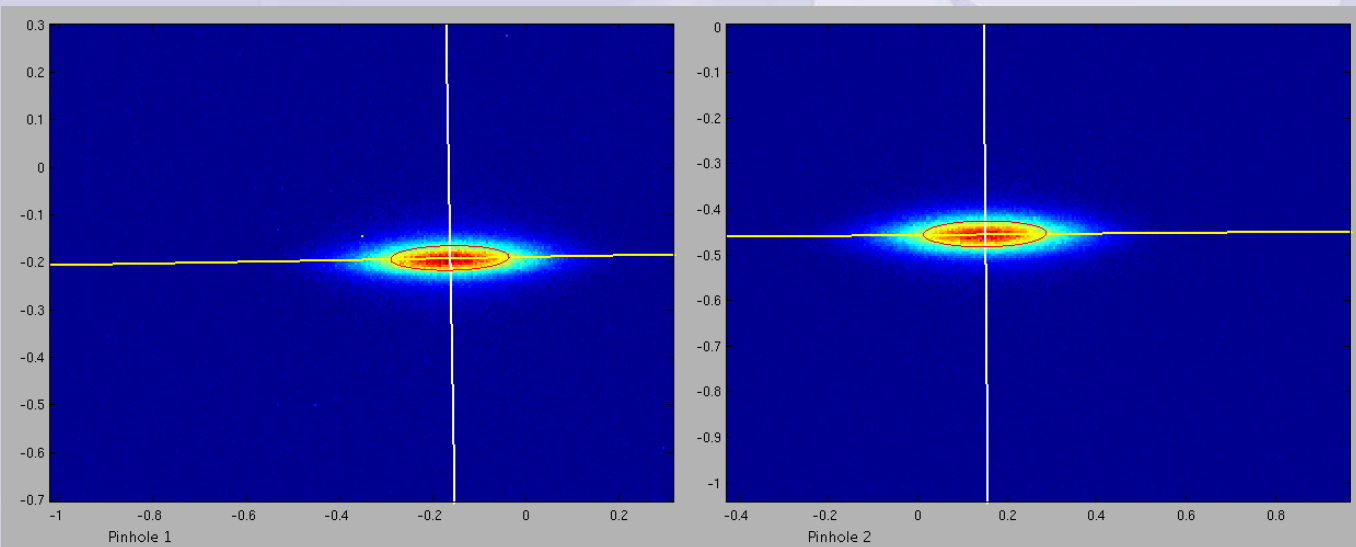
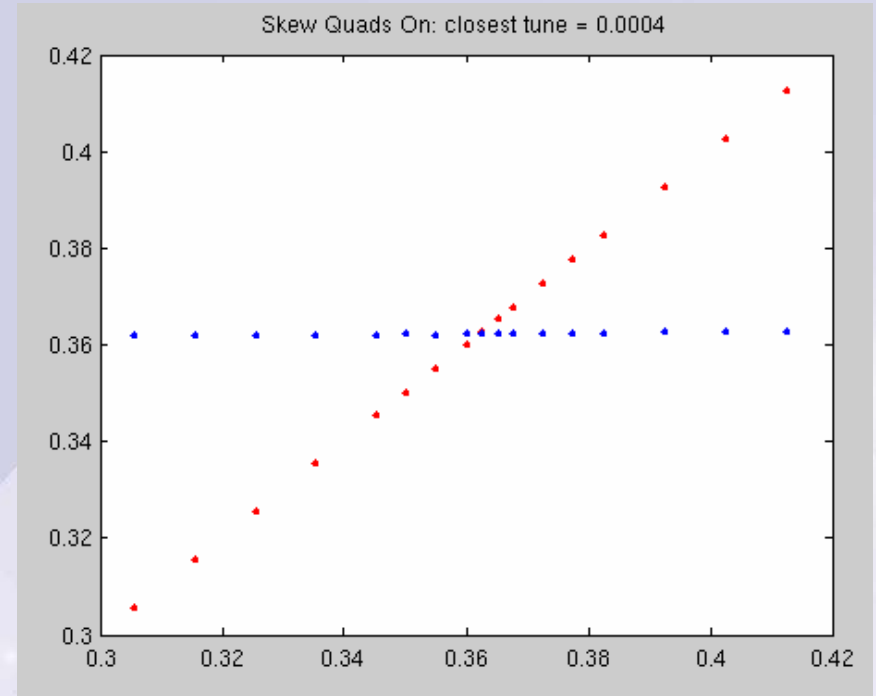


Skew-quads on:

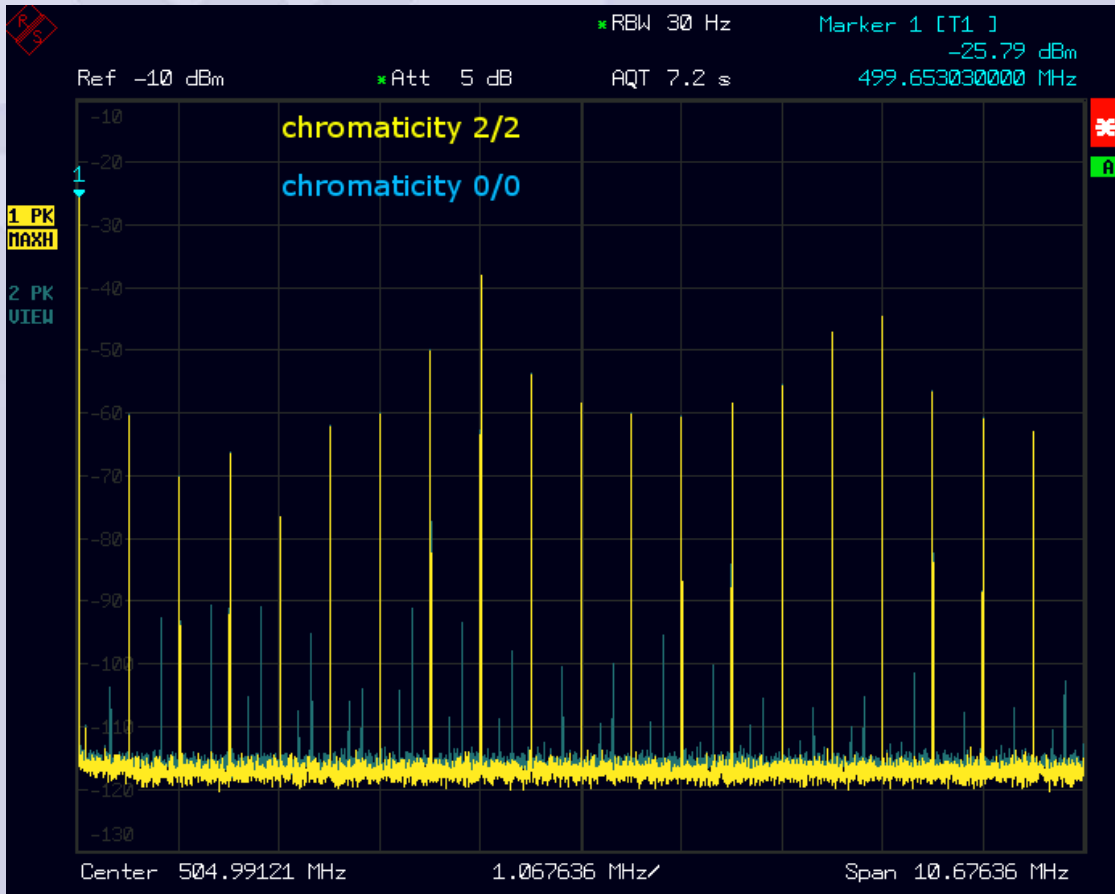
Tune separation = 0.0004

Emittance ratio from betatron coupling at nominal WP ~ 0%

Measured emittance ratio = 0.17 %



Instabilities



Vertical instability visible at 17 mA for zero chromaticity, lower than the predicted Resistive Wall Instability threshold (40 mA).

Increasing chromaticity counteracts the instability.

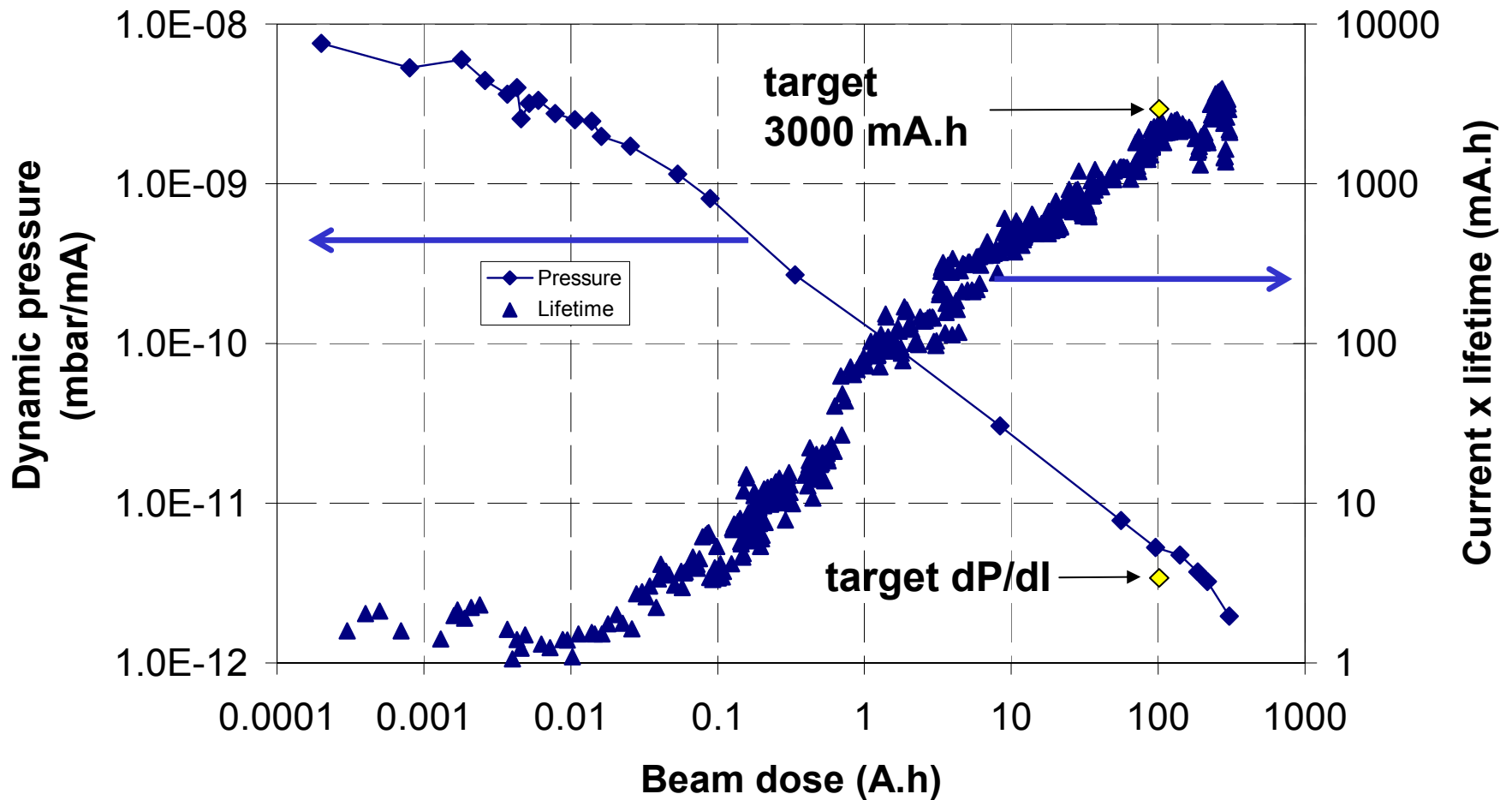
Beam is completely stable up to 250 mA with chromaticity ($\Delta Q/\Delta p/p = + 2$ in both planes).

Eight Insertion Devices are Operational:

| Beamline | ID | Type |
|----------|------|---|
| I02 | U23 | In-vacuum |
| I03 | U21 | In-vacuum |
| I04 | U23 | In-vacuum |
| I06 | HU64 | APPLE-II |
| I15 | SCW | 3.5 T Superconducting Multipole Wiggler |
| I16 | U27 | In-vacuum |
| I18 | U27 | In-vacuum |
| I22 | U25 | In-vacuum |

- In-vac undulators are operational to an initial minimum gap of 7 mm.
- Closed-orbit is corrected automatically to within 1-2 μm as a function of gap (and phase) using trim coils; fast orbit feedback does the rest.
- Users have control of ID gap
- No correction of focussing effects needed so far, including the superconducting wiggler.
- No significant changes in lifetime.

Vacuum Conditioning and Beam Lifetime



Static pressure = $3 \cdot 10^{-10}$ mbar

Dynamic pressure = $6 \cdot 10^{-10}$ mbar at 125 mA, after 300 Ah

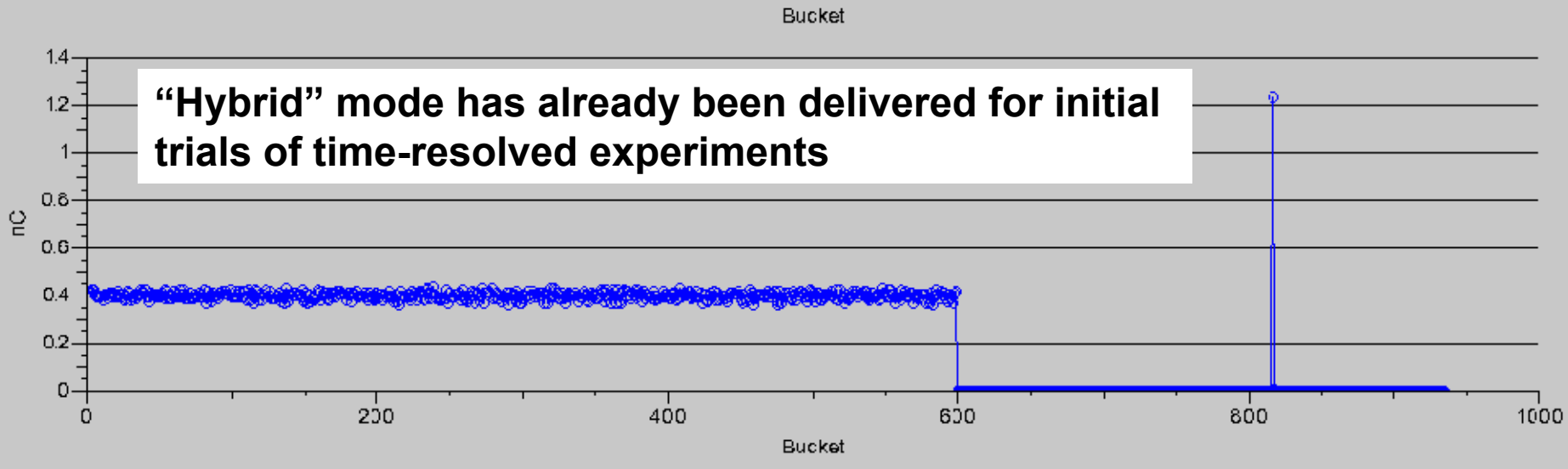
gas composition > 90% H no beam, > 80% H with beam



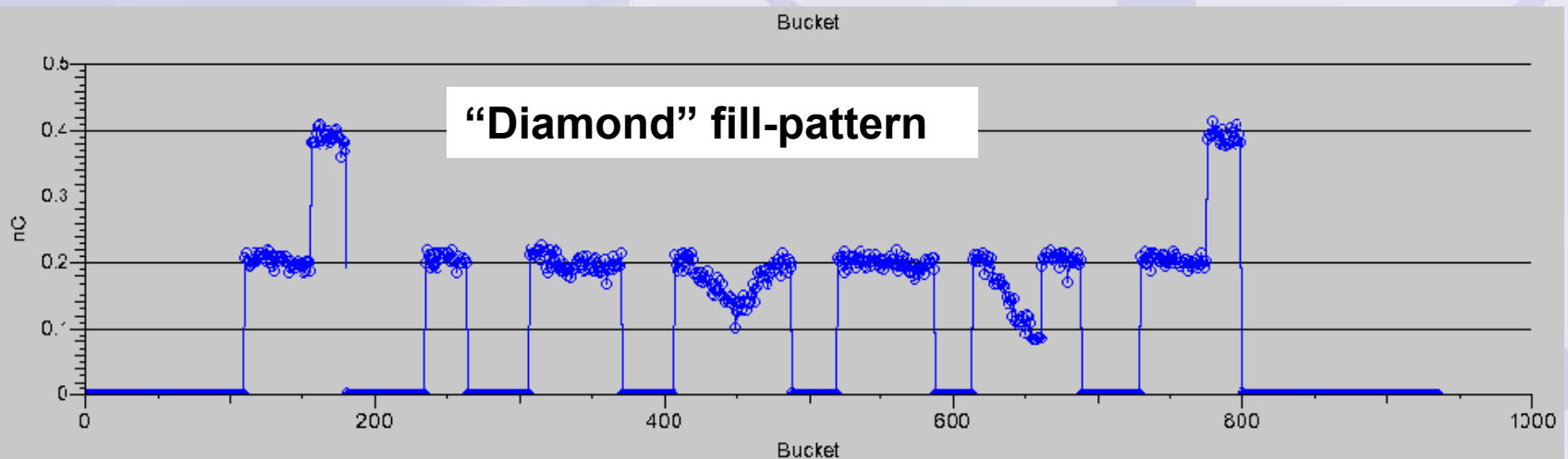
Time Structure

Single bunch injection allows any arbitrary filling pattern to be produced:

“Hybrid” mode has already been delivered for initial trials of time-resolved experiments



“Diamond” fill-pattern

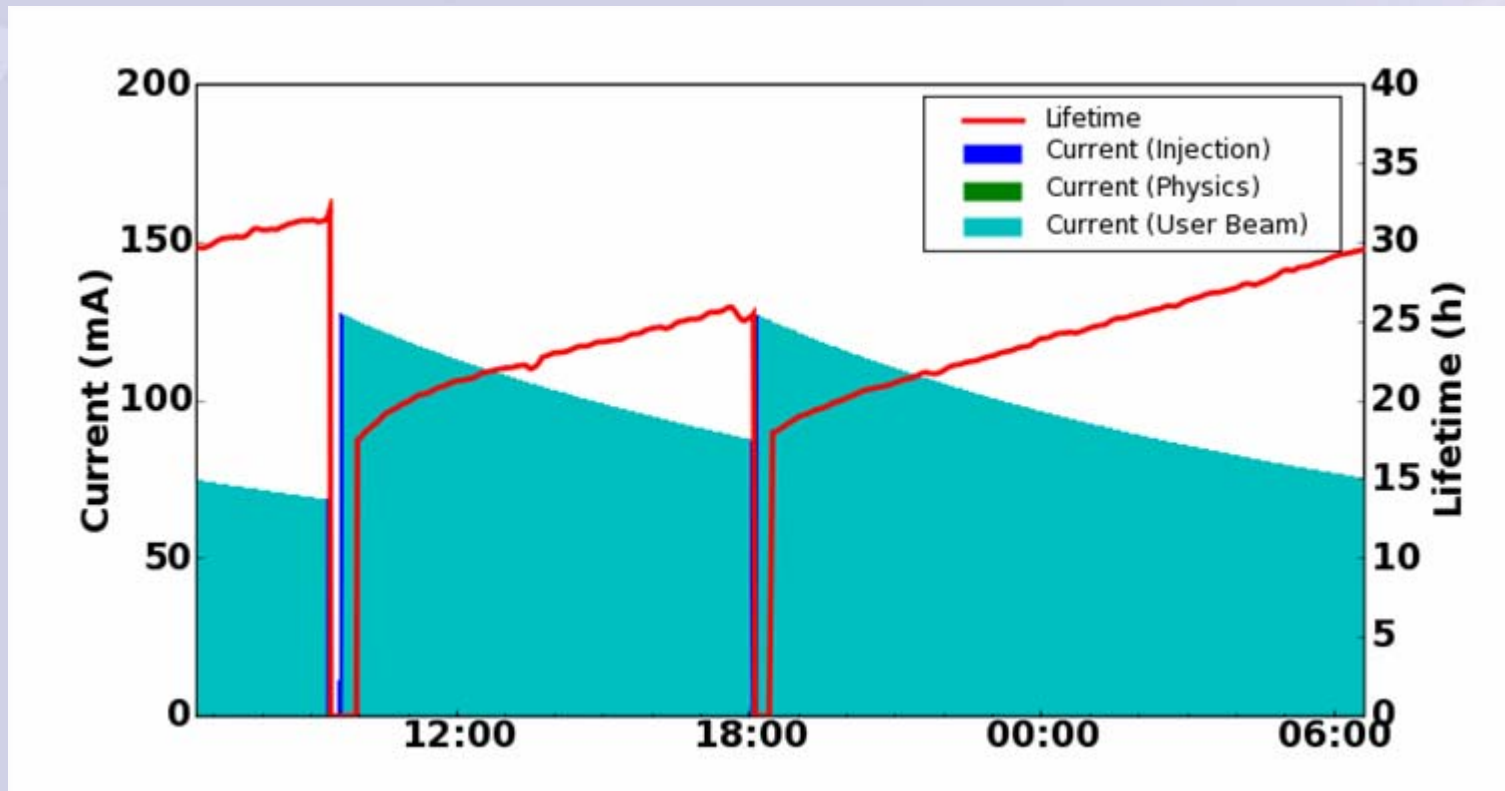


Current Machine Status

| | Target | Achieved | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Energy | 3 GeV | 3 GeV | |
| Beam current | 300 mA | 300 mA | <i>not yet with IDs operational</i> |
| Emittance | | | |
| - horizontal | 2.7 nm rad | 2.7 nm rad | |
| - vertical | 27 pm rad | 4-50 pm rad | <i>coupling can be varied 0.15-2%</i> |
| Lifetime | > 10 h | 12 h at 300 mA | <i>still improving</i> |
| Min. ID gap | 7 mm | 7 mm | <i>all 6 in-vac IDs operational</i> |

“User Mode” Operation

3000 h of User Operation in 2007, 4000h in 2008, 5000 h in 2009
current operation: 125 mA maximum, 2 injections/day

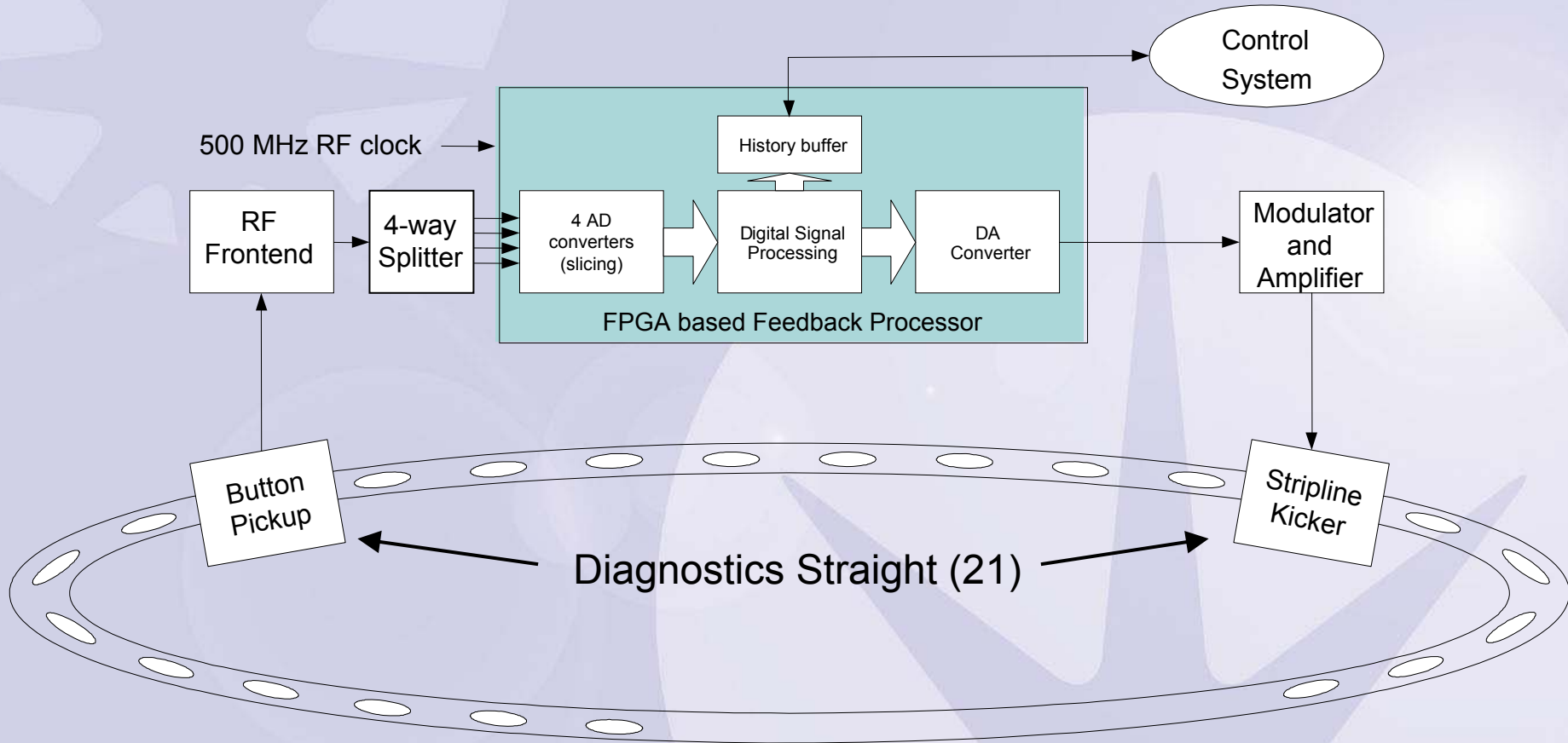


First 6 operating periods: 1944 hours of User Mode with 92% up-time

NB] injection counted as down-time

Under development:

Transverse Bunch-by-Bunch Feedback



Feedback tests:

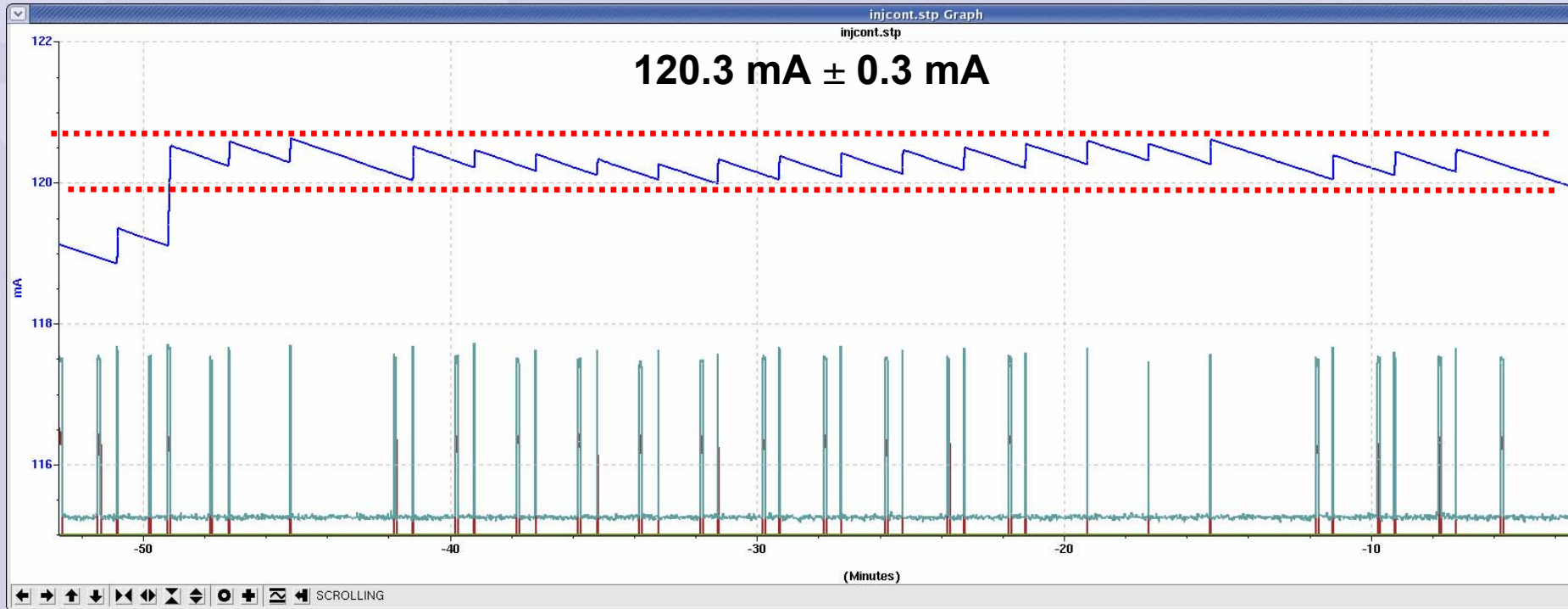


Beam artificially made unstable in both planes:

- 1) **no feedback**
→ **horizontally unstable**
- 2) **feedback in horiz. plane only**
→ **vertically unstable**
- 3) **feedback in both planes**
→ **stable in both planes**

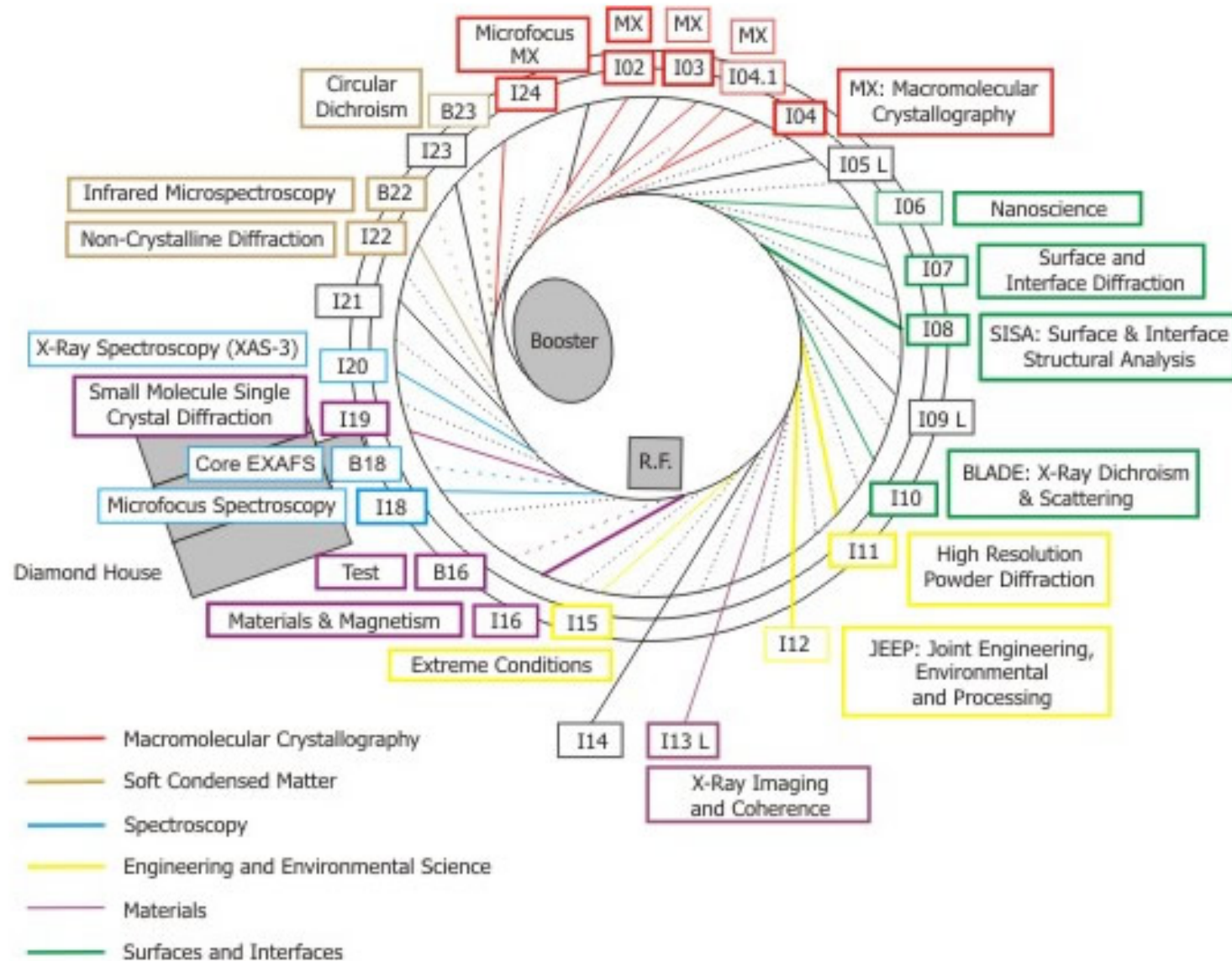
Top-Up

- all systems ready to deliver top-up operationally:

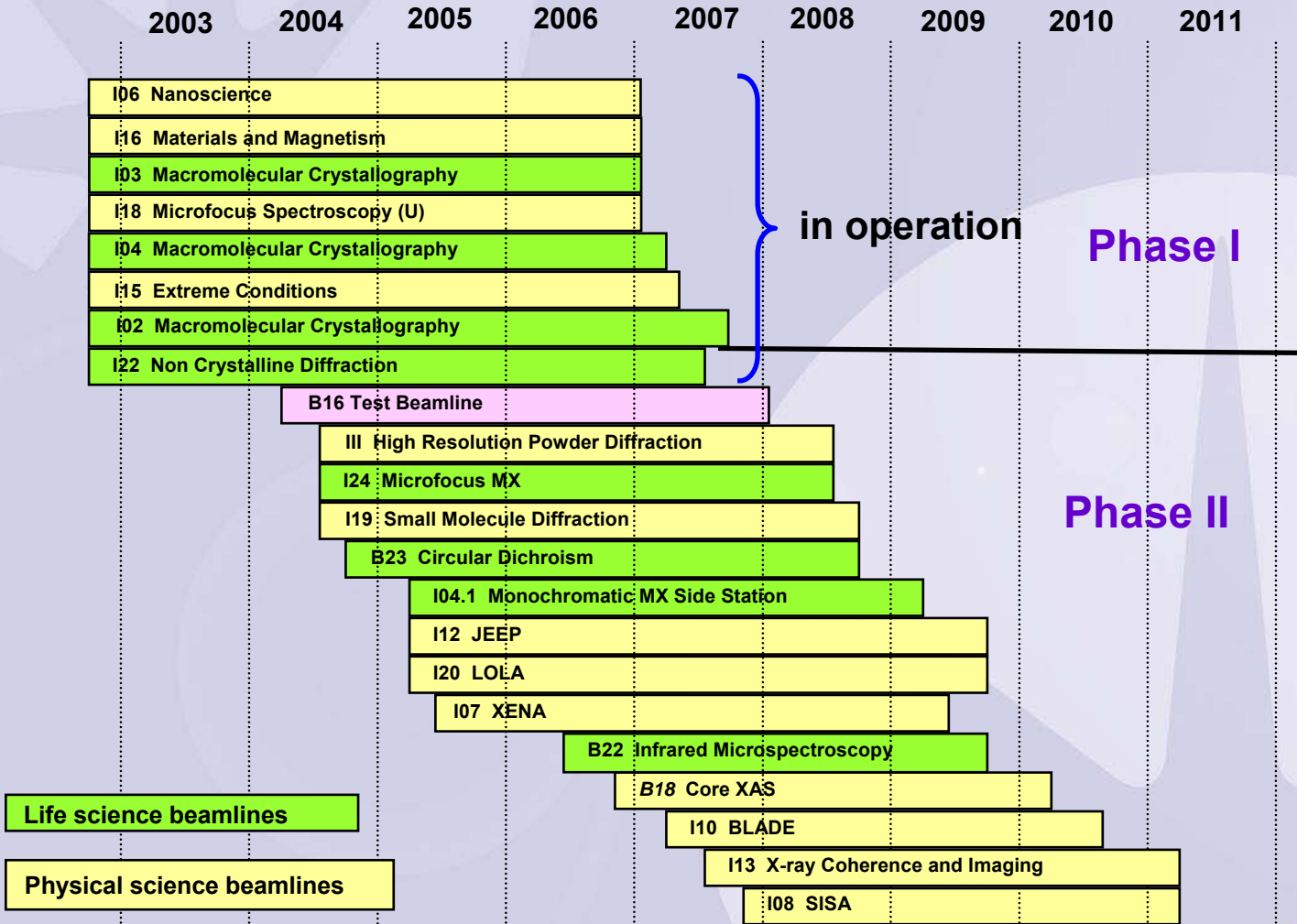


- User tests of the injection transient started
- Safety documentation being prepared

Beamlines – Science “Villages”



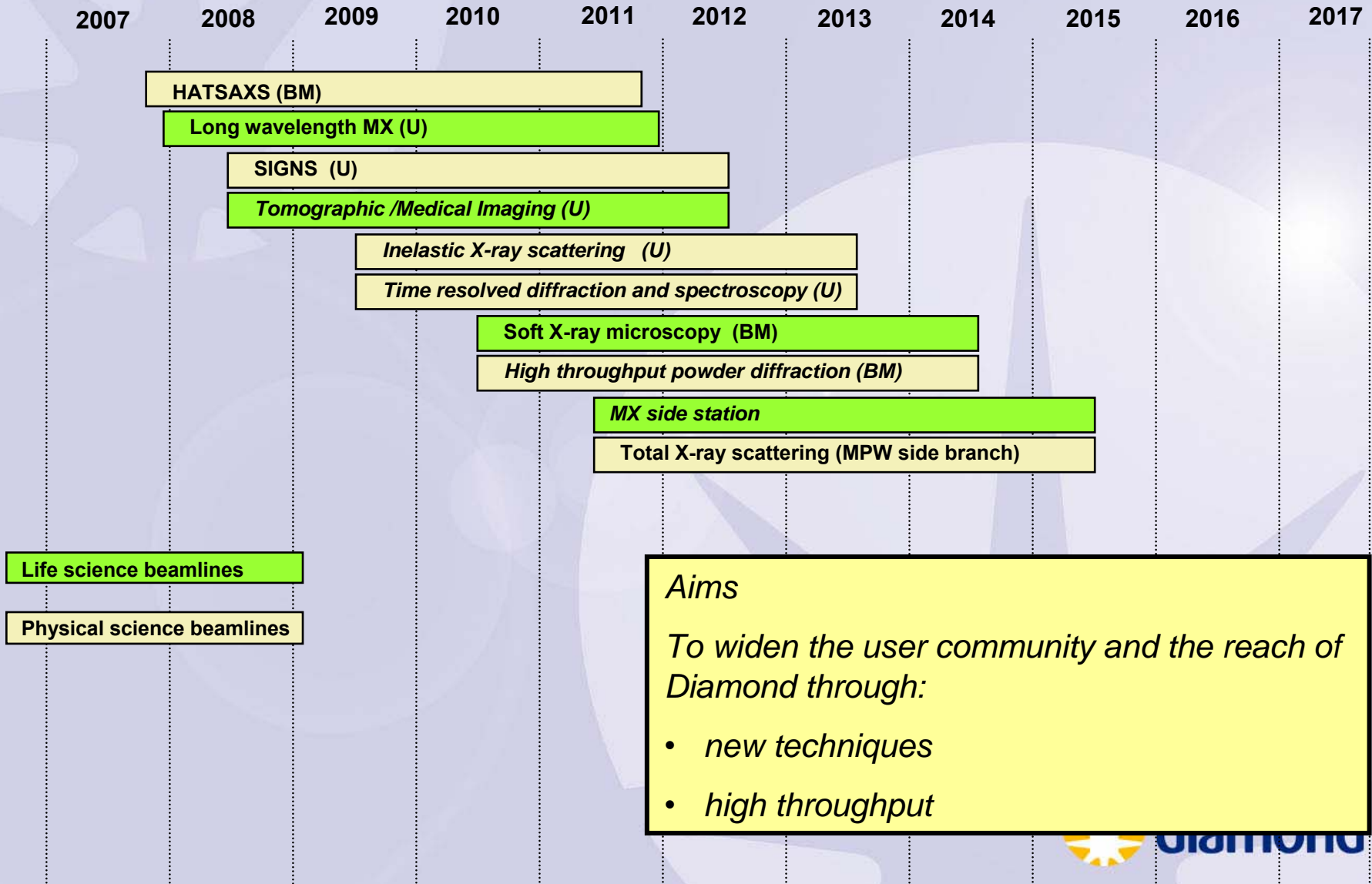
Beamline Programme



Phase I Beamlines

- **I02,3,4** **3-25 keV** **Macromolecular crystallography**
For the determination of the structure of macromolecules with rapid sample through-put.
- **I06** **80- 1500 eV** **Nanoscience**
To study the morphology, chemical and magnetic state of nanostructures with <10 nm resolution.
- **I15** **5-200 keV** **Extreme conditions**
Study of materials at very high temperatures and pressures, typical of planetary interiors and industrial processes.
- **I16** **3-25 keV** **Materials and magnetism**
Study of materials including magnetic systems, high temperature superconductors.
- **I18** **2-13 keV** **X-ray microfocus spectroscopy**
Chemical imaging and structural studies of complex multicomponent systems with sub-micron resolution.

Proposed Phase III Beamline Programme:



Aims

To widen the user community and the reach of Diamond through:

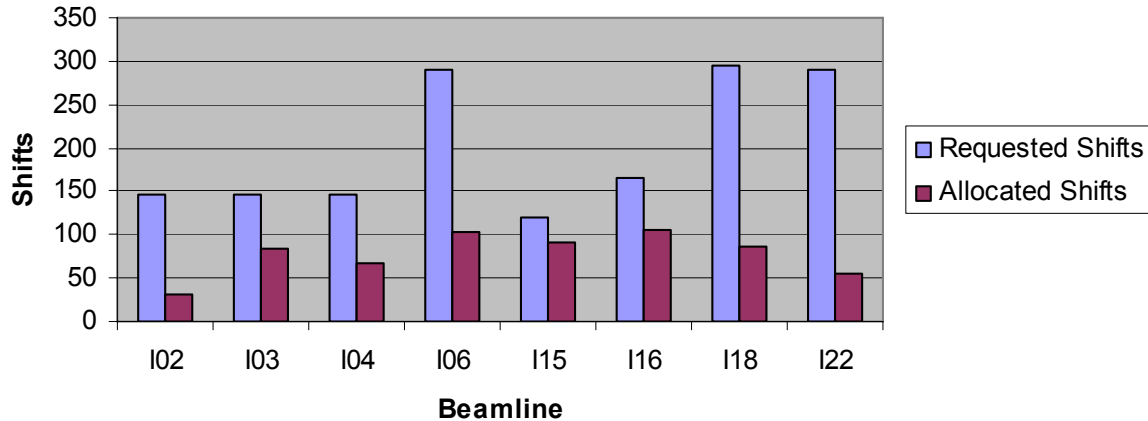
- new techniques
- high throughput

External Users

- **Optimisation phase with “experienced users”:** Jan. – Sep. 2007
- **First Users in Run#1 (Jan/Feb 2007):** Durham, Leicester, London, Oxford
- **Since Jan. ~ 50 sets of experiments have been conducted**
- **Second Call for Proposals: Apr 2007**
(beamtime Oct. '07 – Mar. '08)

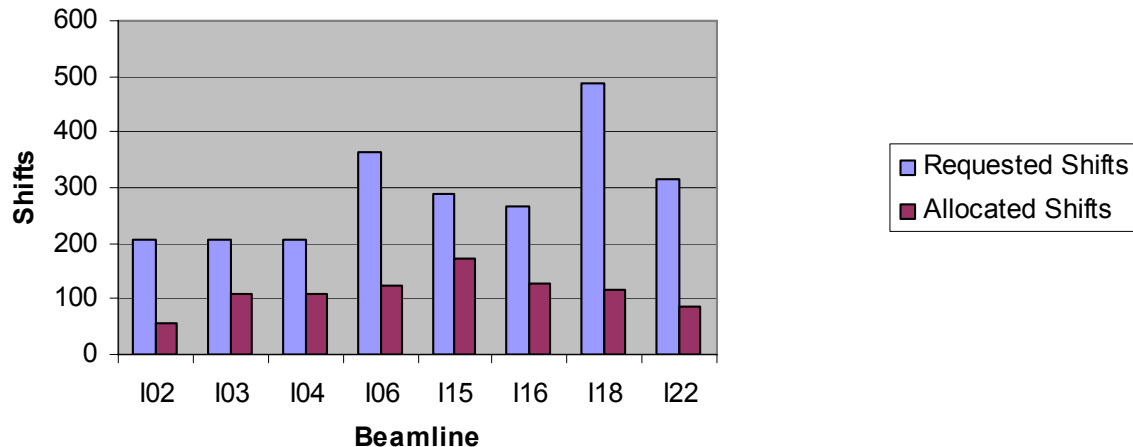
Beamtime Supply vs. Demand

Summary of Demand



**Optimisation Phase:
Jan. - Sep. 2007**

Summary of Demand



**First Regular
Operation Phase:
Oct. 2007 - Mar. 2008**

First Diamond Users – Jan./Feb. 2007

103: Macromolecular Crystallography

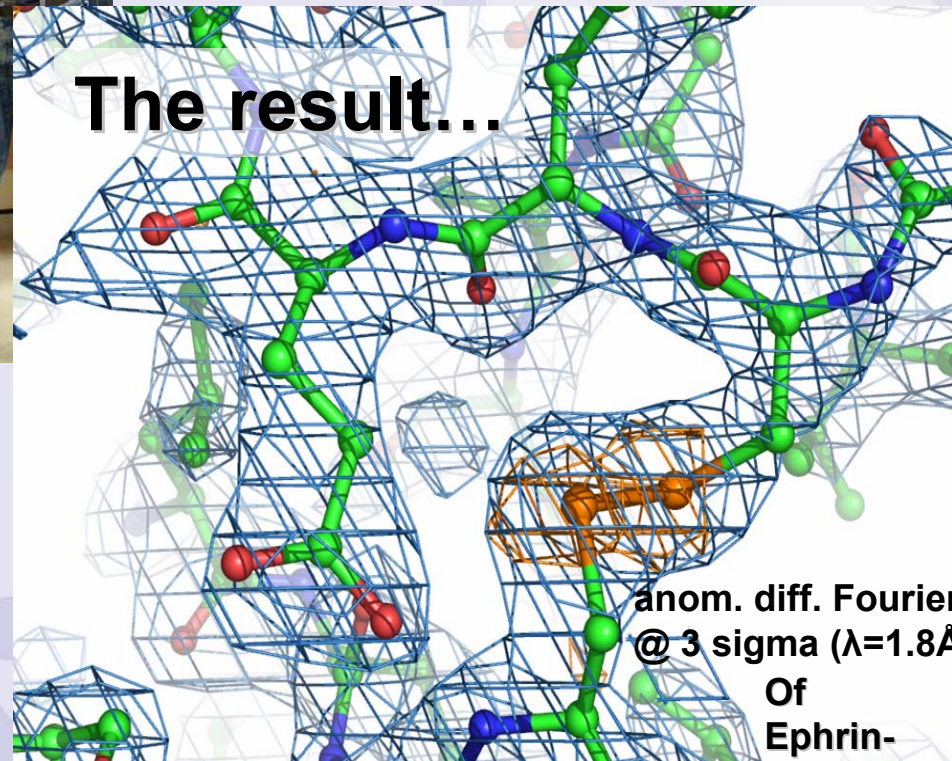


Prof. Dave Stuart,
University of Oxford

Determining the structure of a protein molecule (ephrin) that is linked to the development of cancer.



University of Oxford



anom. diff. Fourier
@ 3 sigma ($\lambda=1.8\text{\AA}$)
Of
Ephrin-
EphR

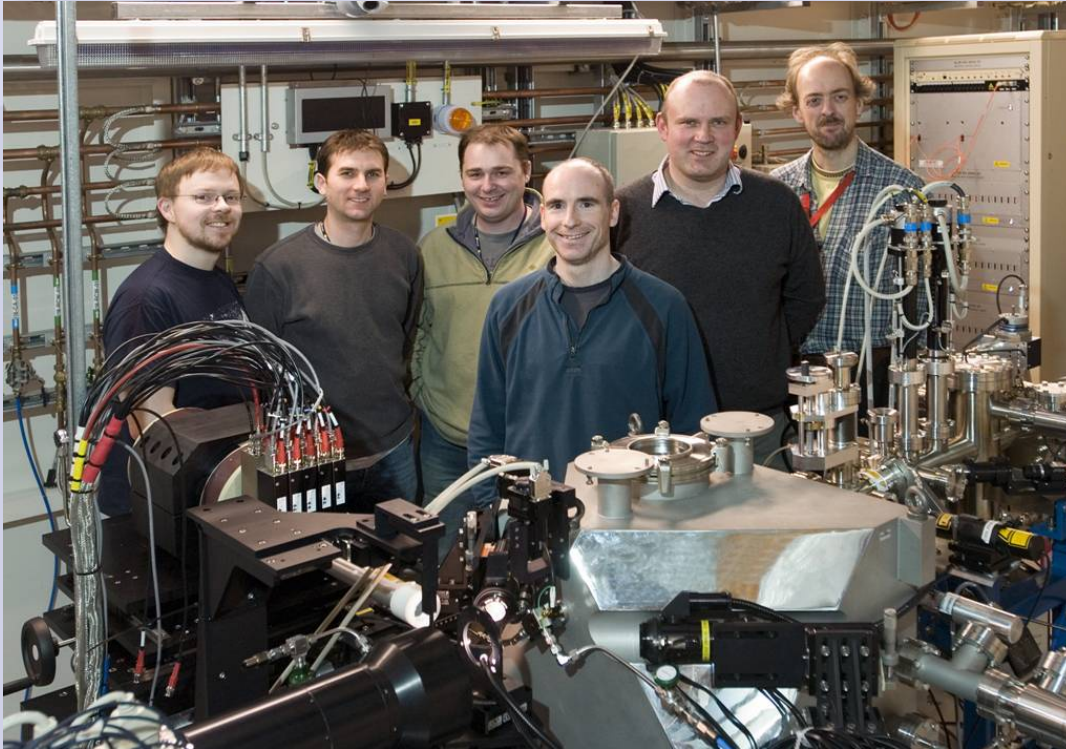
I16: Materials and Magnetism



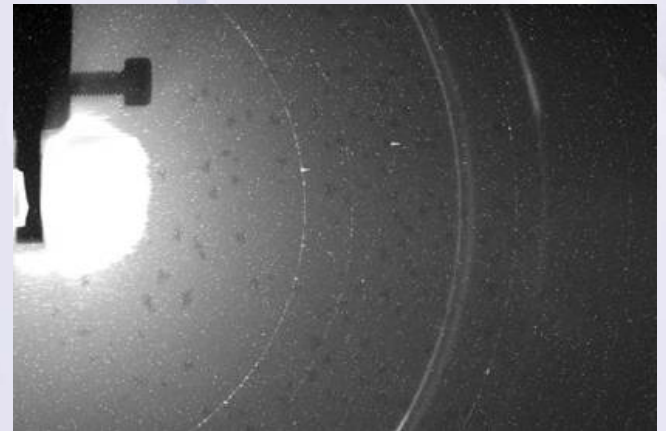
**Prof. Brian Tanner,
University of Durham**

**Examination of new thin-film
magnetic sensors used in magnetic
storage devices**

I18: Microfocus Spectroscopy

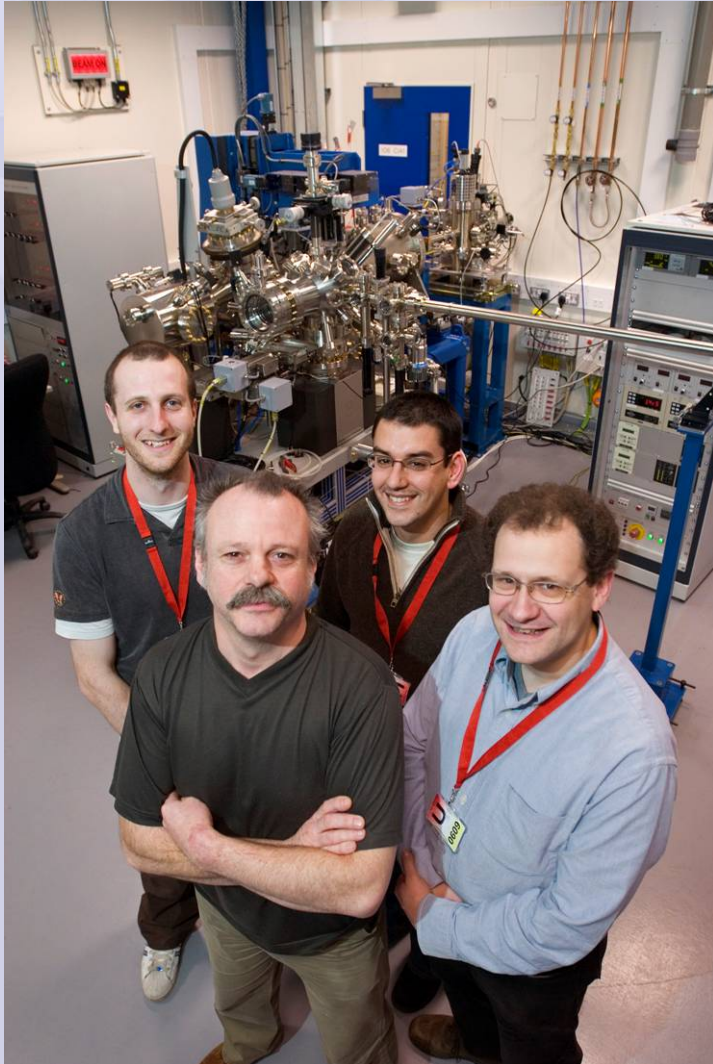


**Dr Paul Schofield,
Natural History Museum**



**Examining the composition
and structure of the Santa
Catharine meteorite**

I06: Nanoscience



**Prof. Chris Binns,
University of Leicester**

**Studying the properties of
magnetic materials with
very high spatial resolution
using a Photo-Emission
Electron Microscope.**

Media response....

The Abingdon Herald Feb. 8th 2007

£260m project on time and budget

By Chris Buratta

The Guardian 7th February 2007

Diamond's brilliance lures top scientists

Synchrotron is UK's most expensive science project
Most brilliant light source known to science

James Randerson
Science correspondent

It is the most expensive publicly funded science project in the country and researchers hope it will shed light on everything from the inner workings of cells to the way planets form.

Research at the Diamond synchrotron got under way in earnest yesterday in south Oxfordshire, with scientists queuing up to use its state-of-the-art facilities.

At about a million times brighter than its predecessor, Diamond is the most brilliant light source known to science, with a greater spectrum of super-bright light than anything in the universe.

It is this dazzling glow that will allow scientists to peer in much greater detail at tiny structures.

First in the queue are researchers investigating the fine structure of meteorites, a molecular switch on the surface of cells that could be used to combat cancer, and super-magnetic materials that could be used to improve computer hard disks.

What all these projects share is the need for unimaginably bright radiation to investigate the molecular structure of materials in great detail.

Diamond does this by accelerating packets of 10m electrons to close to the speed of light and whizzing them round a magnetic ring more than 500 metres in circumference.

As they spin they give off electro-magnetic radiation such as visible light, x-rays and infra-red radiation. These beams are

used to make out details of tiny structures.

The £380m project has been funded mainly from public money, with a chunk from the Wellcome Trust charity.

Dave Stuart at the University of Oxford is one of the first to use the facility. His team is examining a pair of molecules embedded in the outer membrane of human cells.

When they come together they release a signal into the cell that controls how it divides and develops.

"The puzzle is to understand how they interact and whether that gives you clues to how the signalling is started," he said.

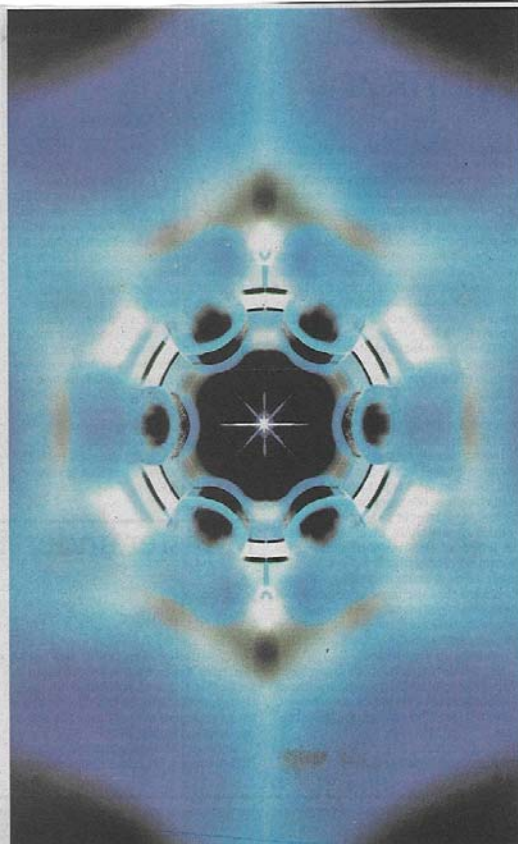
The signalling mechanism is crucial in, for example, the formation of brain tissue, but it also has a hand in forming blood vessels around cancer tumours. If the researchers can work out how to stem that growth they could starve a tumour.

To determine the structure of the signalling molecules Professor Stuart's team first needs to make a crystal of the proteins and then bombard that with x-rays. The problem in the past was that they needed to transport the fragile crystals to a synchrotron in Grenoble in south-eastern France.

Proteins that span the outer membrane of cells are notoriously difficult to crystallise in large quantities, but because Diamond is so powerful, even a small amount will do.

Another of the first users is Paul Schofield in the department of mineralogy at the Natural History Museum. He is studying the molecular structure of a meteorite, Santa Catharina, which was discovered in 1875 on the island of Sao Francisco off the coast of Brazil.

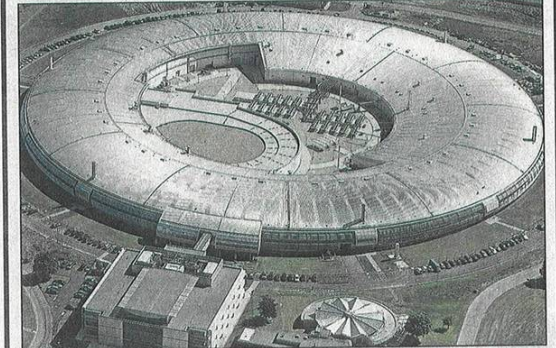
Scientists believe the lump of rock is part of the remnants of a planetoid that blew apart around 140m years ago and dropped to Earth between 10,000 and 100,000 years ago.



An artist's impression of the view down the Diamond synchrotron in Oxfordshire

Daily Mail, Friday, February 9, 2007

It cost £260m, is the size of five football pitches and is the most remarkable British scientific project in decades



Magical doughnut: The new Oxfordshire lab will be able to study atoms in extraordinary detail

YOU CALL THAT MICROSCOPE?



by Michael Hanton

SCIENCE EDITOR

BY ONE reckoning this picture shows the most powerful torch in the world — a device that can create the brightest light in the known universe, ten billion times more brilliant than the sun.

It can produce a man-made beam of radiation so intense that it would be visible the other side of the cosmos, if it were to be pointed in the right direction.

Welcome to Diamond — the largest scientific instrument to be built in Britain for decades. Constructed on the site of the old RAF Harwell airfield in Oxfordshire (from which the Pathfinder missions for D-Day took off), it has cost — so far — £260 million.

And after four years in construction it has finally opened for business, as scientists started the first of many research projects that will harness its astonishing capabilities to shed new light — quite literally — on the world around us.

Over the next 30 years, it is hoped that Diamond will revolutionise everything from the way that computer microchips are built to the manufacture of new drugs.

So what exactly is this giant building — the size of five football pitches — that sits like a beached flying saucer, near the little town of Didcot?

Well, to properly understand how the machine works you really need a degree in physics — preferably a doctorate.

Its official name is a "synchrotron microscope" — the biggest,

most expensive and most powerful of its kind on the planet.

But the very basic principles are simple enough. In essence, Diamond is a combination of a super-powerful torch and microscope.

It works by firing electrons, the sub-atomic particles that carry electrical charge, around a vast ring about 1,800ft in circumference. Inside this ring, they are then accelerated by gigantic powerful magnets until they are travelling at around 999 million mph — nearly the speed of light.

As the electrons reach these astonishing velocities, they are vibrated by more magnets, causing them to throw out intense and highly-focused beams of radiation — whether in the form of visible light, infra-red beams or x-rays.

These beams, just a fraction of a millimetre across, are then channelled away from the main ring down into adjacent research rooms, just like water being sent down aqueducts, where they are then used by scientists to illuminate whatever sample they want to study — for example, a human cell or a tiny dust particle.

To put it very simply, this super-bright light allows researchers to probe the most fundamental properties of the object being studied, right down to an atomic scale.

Diamond is certainly a versatile

instrument. The first experiment, being conducted by scientists from Durham University, is using x-ray beams generated by the machine to find new ways of building silicon chips for machines like the iPod.

In future projects, the Natural History Museum has booked time to peer into the insides of meteorites, while police forces will be able to use Diamond as the most powerful forensic instrument in history.

A minute splatter of blood or a human hair from a crime scene can be analysed, atom by atom, to help scientists identify any evidence that conventional microscopes may have missed.

Because Diamond can peer with such precision, it will also be an invaluable tool for archaeologists.

SCIENTISTS at Cardiff University plan to examine the 11th-century Norman survey of England, to see what lies beneath the visible text. And the Dead Sea Scrolls, mysterious Biblical-era texts, will also fall under Diamond's needle-eyed scrutiny.

Jointly funded by the British taxpayer and by scientific charity the Wellcome Trust, it will also have numerous less routine uses. Similar, less powerful, machines abroad have already been used to develop AIDS drugs, and it is hoped that Diamond will be able to help analyse and develop vaccines and retroviral drugs.

Fast and costly as it may be, this is a landmark that has ushered in a whole new chapter in British scientific exploration.

Daily Mail, 9th February 2007

The Public Response ...

Now this is what we should be spending money on, not the Dome, or an out of control Olympics, but cutting edge science.

Remember when Britain had something to be proud about, when we led the world in Industry and Science?

- Dino Fancellu, Epsom

What a nice change! Something the British can be proud of. Well done you boffins.

- Chris., Harlow, U.K.

Nothing short of a triumph. It's a great day for Britain and science.

- Steve Barker, Chippenham, Wiltshire

Probably built on time, to budget, and it works. That must mean an MP wasn't in charge of this project.

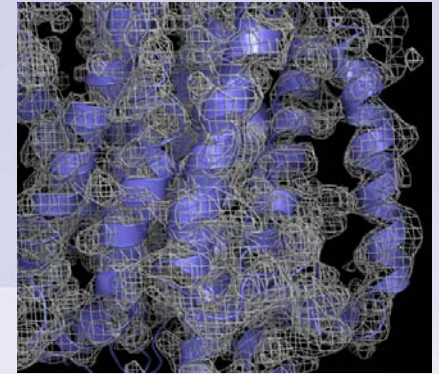
- Tony, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, UK

I03/I04 Feb-Sep. 2007 – 25 experiments performed

A multidrug efflux pump from pathogenic bacteria

Imperial College London and Diamond Membrane Protein Laboratory

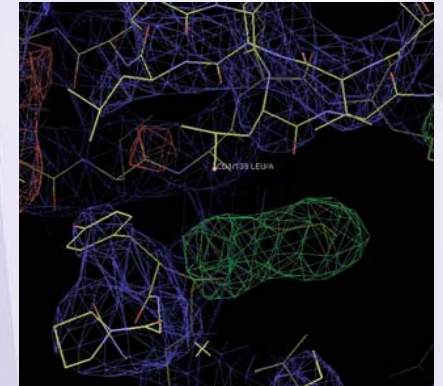
Bacteria that develop resistance to drugs cause great problems in the treatment of infection and disease worldwide. An early success at Diamond Light Source has been with crystals of **a multidrug efflux membrane protein** ...



Inhibitors of Aurora-A Protein Kinase for the Treatment of Cancer

Institute of Cancer Research, London

Aurora-A is an essential enzyme, which is required for human cells to multiply. Aurora-A has higher activity than normal in many human cancers and is **a target for the development of anti-cancer drugs**



Crystal structure determination of Superoxide Dismutase from *C. elegans*.

University of Leeds, University of Malta

Superoxide Dismutase (SOD) is **a key enzyme that is responsible for removing harmful oxygen radicals from cells** by catalysing their breakdown into hydrogen peroxide and water

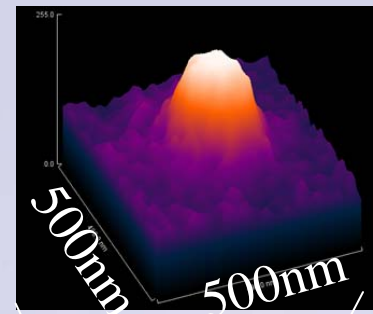


I06: Nanoscience - 9 User Groups

Loss of long-range magnetic order in Fe nanoparticle thin films

C. Binns, Univ. Leicester

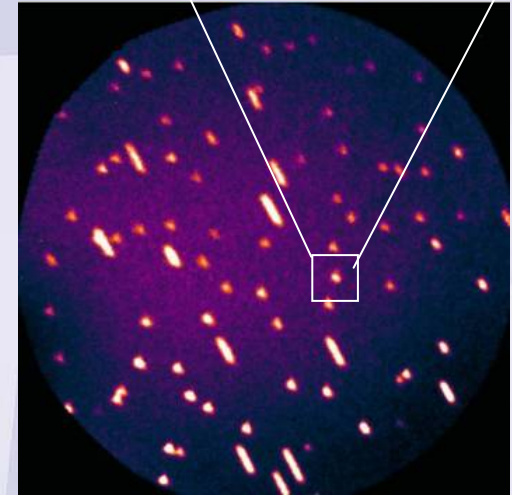
Such films should find application in the recording industry ...



Pd Nanoclusters and Nanowires grown on TiO₂

G. Thornton, University College London

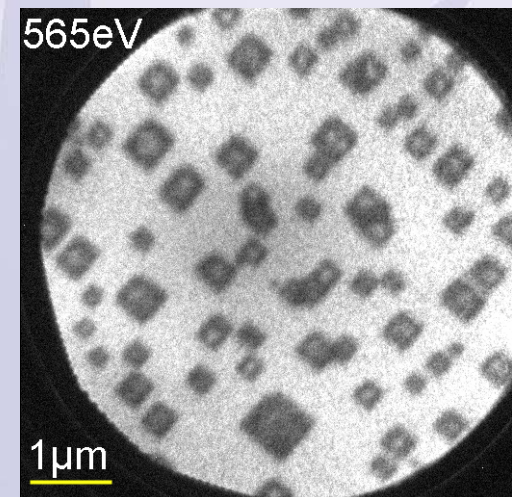
Conducting nanowires will form crucial components in nanoscale electronics ...



Cr Clusters grown on W

R. Bennett, Univ. Reading

Chromium is important as an adhesion layer and the oxides find use in magnetic recording media, catalysts and gas sensors ...



'Super-scope' to see hidden texts

By Liz Seward
Science reporter, York



Last Updated: Thursday, 13 September 2007

The hidden content in ancient works could be illuminated by a light source 10 billion times brighter than the Sun. The technique employs Britain's new facility, the Diamond synchrotron, and could be used on works such as the Dead Sea Scrolls or musical scores by Bach.

Intense light beams will enable scientists to uncover the text in scrolls and books without having to open - and potentially damage - them.

The research was presented at the British Association science festival.

“There are some parts of the Dead Sea scrolls which have not been unrolled”

Professor Tim Wess

Telegraph.co.uk

Diamond synchrotron to use x-rays to examine Dead Sea Scrolls

By Nic Fleming and Roger Highfield

Last Updated: 5:01pm BST 12/09/2007



... the Future's Bright !



Pioneering research into materials, medicines
and the environment.

wellcometrust

<http://www.diamond.ac.uk>



Science & Technology
Facilities Council