

# **Modane Underground Laboratory**

**F. Piquemal (CNRS/IN2P3)**

**Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane (CNRS and CEA)**

**Aspera Interdisciplinary workshop  
December, 19 2012  
Durham**

# Modane Underground Laboratory

CNRS and CEA

<http://www.lsm.in2p3.fr>



# Modane Underground Laboratory





# Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane



Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe  
© 2010 Ches/Spot Image  
© 2010 Tele Atlas  
Image © 2010 IGN-France



# Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane

Depth: **4800 m.w.e.**

Surface: **400 m<sup>2</sup>**

Volume : **3500 m<sup>3</sup>**

Muon flux:  **$4 \cdot 10^{-5} \mu.m^{-2}.s^{-1}$**

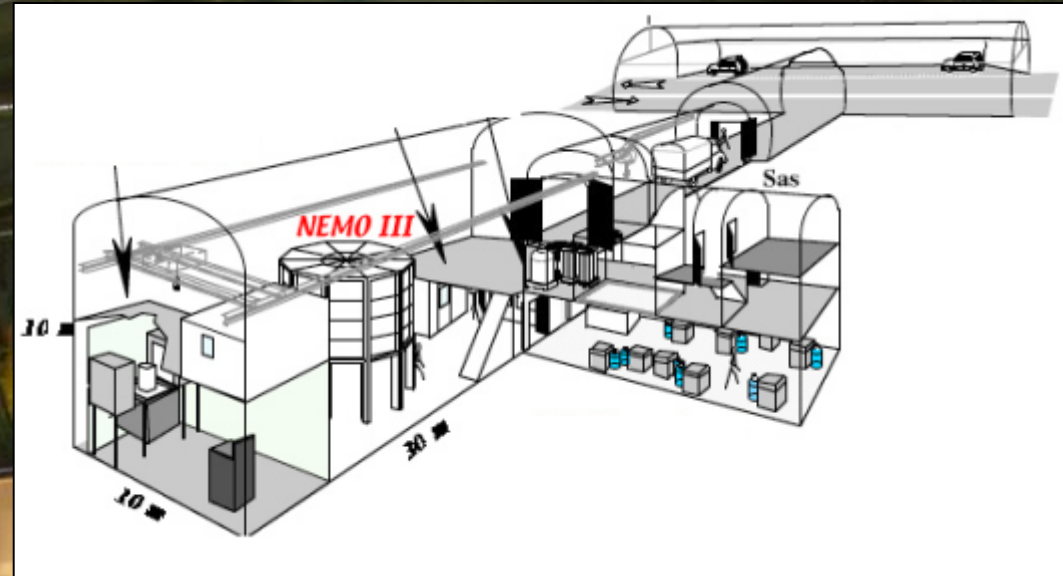
Neutrons:

**Fast flux:  $4 \cdot 10^{-2} n.m^{-2}.s^{-1}$**

**Thermal flux:  $1.6 \cdot 10^{-2} n.m^{-2}.s^{-1}$**

Radon: **15 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>**

Access : **horizontal**



**Budget (full cost): 1 M€/yr**

**Staff: 3 Physicists**

**3 Engineers**

**7 Technicians**

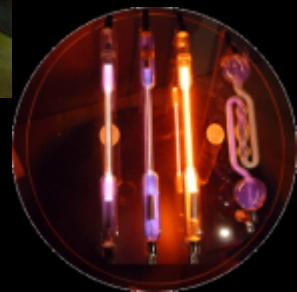
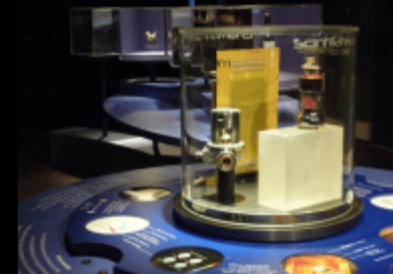
International associated laboratory agreement with JINR Dubna (Russia) and CTU Prague (Czech Republic)



# LSM: external facility

Offices, workshop, outreach space  
and guest rooms

Permanent exhibition  
for general public



2 000 visitors/year





# Laboratoire Souterrain de Modane

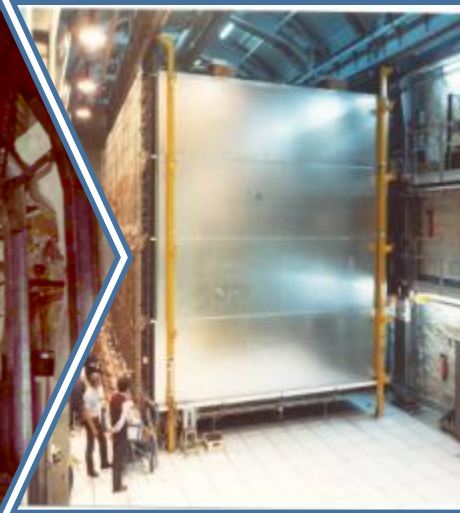
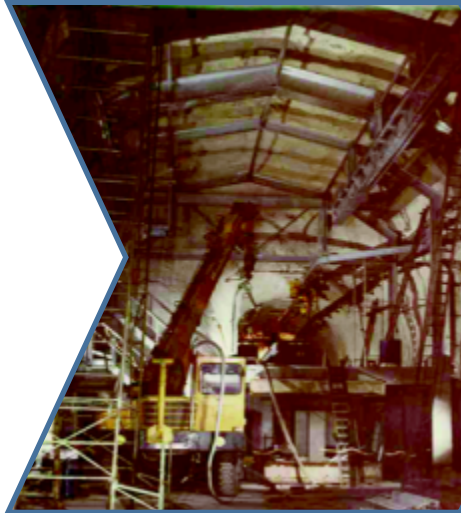
**From a particle physics experiment to a multi-science platform**

1979 - 1981

1982- 1990

1990- 2000

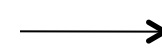
2000 - ....



**Construction**

$\tau_p$  Experiment

**Prototypes**



**Experiments**

## Fundamental physics:

- Proton decay
- Neutrino: double beta decay, double EC
- Dark matter
- Nuclear structure

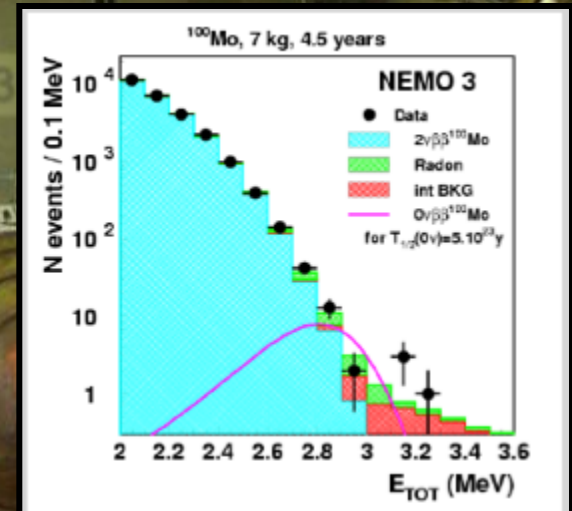
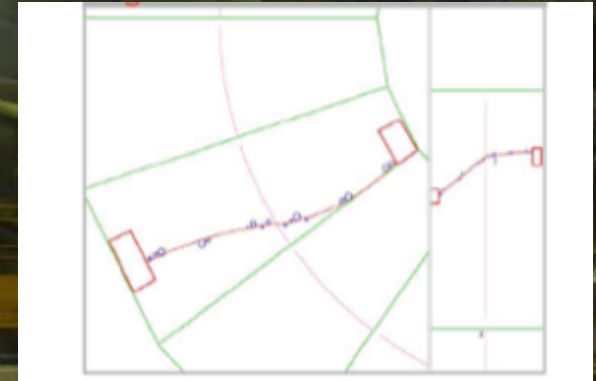
## Multidisciplinary activities

- Ultra low radioactivity measurements  
Environmental sciences, applications, expertises
- Logical test failures in nano/micro-électroniques
- Biology



# Neutrino physics: NEMO -3

Double beta decay : Tracking + calorimeter -  $^{100}\text{Mo}$  7 kg



[2.8 – 3.2] MeV 18 observed events,  $16.4 \pm 1.3$  expected

Stopped in January 2011

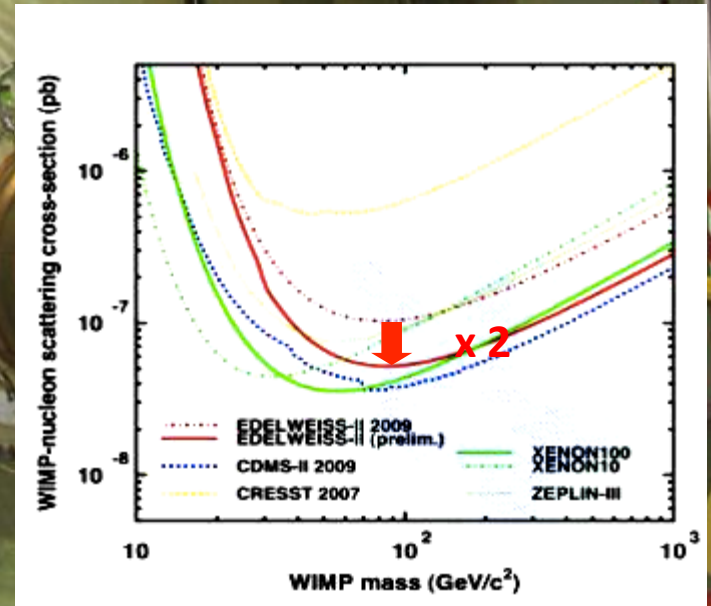
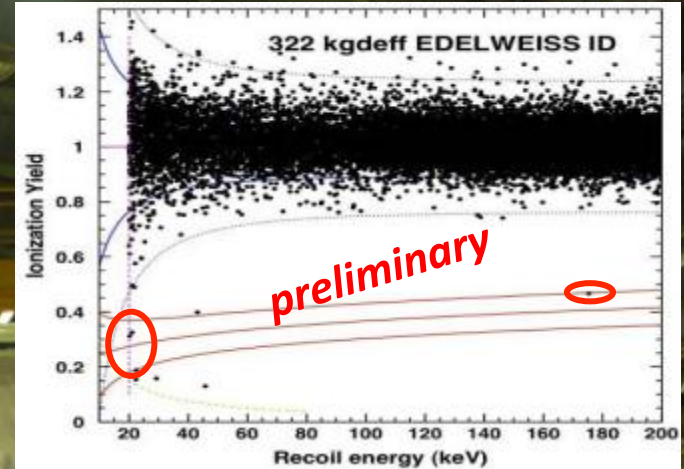
$^{100}\text{Mo}$   $T_{1/2}(\beta\beta 0\nu) > 1.0 \cdot 10^{24}$  y (90% C.L.)  
 $\langle m_\nu \rangle < 0.31 - 0.79$  eV





# Dark matter: EDELWEISS

Bolometric technique: Heat + Ionization Ge crystals - 40 kg

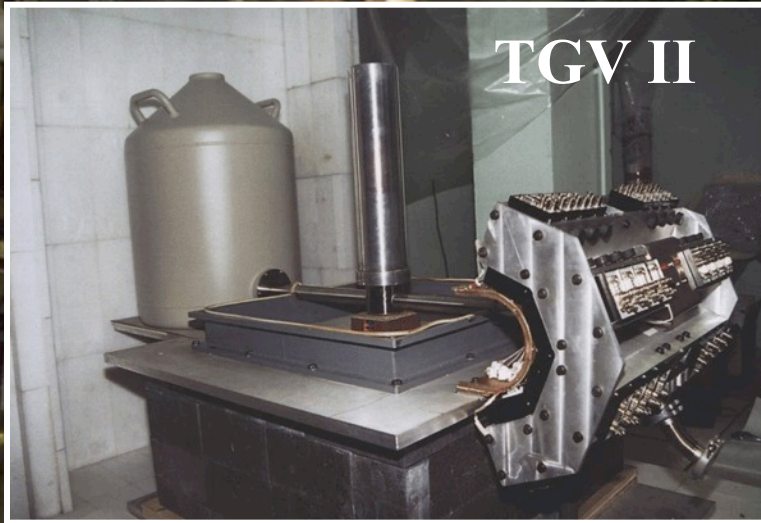


# Other experiments

## **Neutrino physics**

*Double EC search ( $^{106}\text{Cd}$ )*

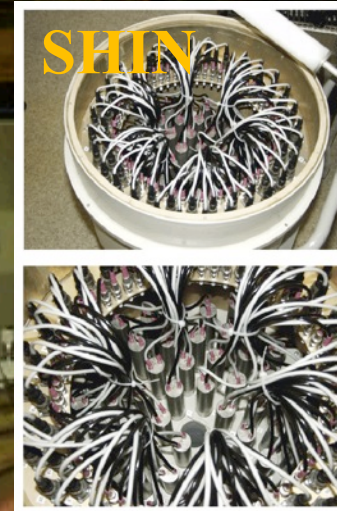
TGV-II (Ge with sheets of  
Double EC candidates)



## **Nuclear physics**

*Super Heavy Element In nature*

SHIN (osmium ore surrounded  
by  $^3\text{He}$  neutron detectors)



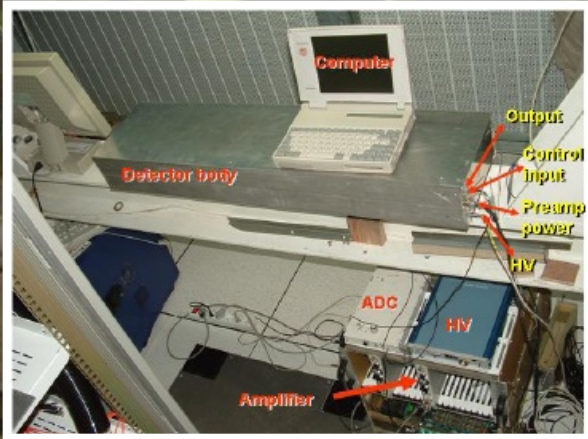
**MIMAC** prototype : Dark matter low pressure TPC for DM directional detection

**SEDINE** Spherical high pressure TPC for supernovae neutrino detection



# Scientific activities @ LSM

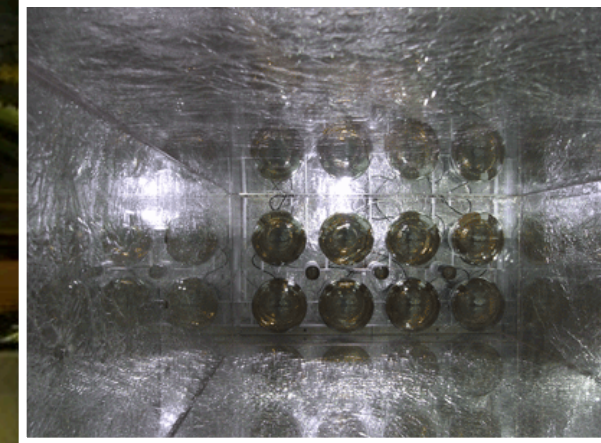
## Neutron detectors at LSM



$^3\text{He}$  counters



Sphere TPC



Gd loaded liquid scintillator

Support from ILIAS TARI for the 3 detectors

Radon detectors – sensitivity  $\sim 1$  mBq/kg  
(electrostatic collection of radon daughters)  
Saga University (Japan) and Dubna (Russia)





# Radon free air factory

Copy from system developed by SuperKamiokande

150 m<sup>3</sup>/h of air with an activity of 20 mBq/m<sup>3</sup> (air in the lab 20 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>)



Build in Czech Republic

**14 HPGe from 7 different laboratories of CNRS , CEA, JINR DUBNA and CTU Prague are available at LSM**



- Material selection for astroparticle physics,
- Environnemental research (oceanography, climat, retro-observation,....)
- Environmental survey
- Applications (wine datation, salt origin,...)
- Developements of Ge detector (ILIAS)



# Interdisciplinary @ LSM

## Use of the ultra-low gamma-ray spectroscopy

Radio-isotopes are used as tracers in the environment or as chronometers for dating of glacial or sedimentary layers.

They are used also for archaeological objects which sometimes require non-destructive measurements

### Some exemples:

- Environmental survey
- Characterization the age of the suspended solids and pollutants associated with them in rivers
- Marine and continental geochemistry
- Characterization of water masses, their origin and age in the ocean
- Retro-observation (effects on human activities on the environment)
- Radioactivity in the atmosphere



# The scientific and societal usefulness of recent (< 250 years) Alpine lake sediment studies

## An overview on LSM – Université de Savoie joint scientific progresses in paleolimnology

Fabien Arnaud  
Charline Giguet-Covex  
Bruno Wilhelm

Jean-Louis Reyss

Marie-Elodie Perga



Concept

Fieldwork

Results

Perspectives

Conclusion

# The concept of “retro-observatory”

*Having a look on yesterday to manage tomorrow challenges*

An underestimated tool to  
make natural areas management policies better  
and to evaluate the impact of current global changes



# In Europe, even remote mountain landscapes are man-made



Chalets d'Ecuelle, 1872 m,  
commune de Passy (Haute Savoie)

# In Europe, even remote mountain landscapes are man-made

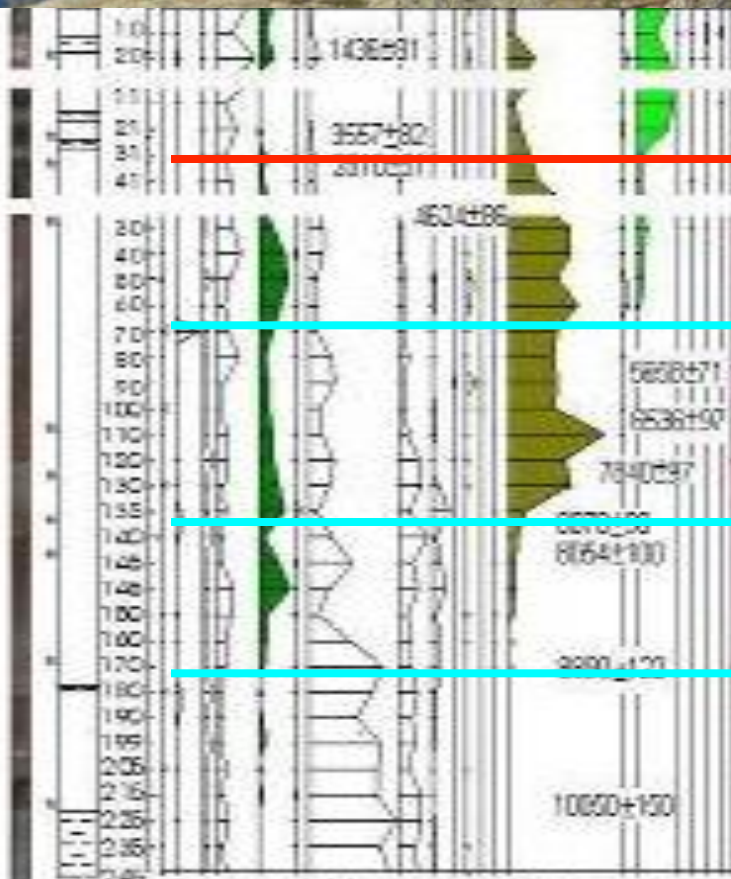
Noisetier

Epicéa

Pin cembro

Sapin

Pollen data, Villy, Haute Savoie, 2250m asl



Epicéa

3600 cal. BP

Open space:  
deforestation

Pin cembro

First forest opening  
(human or climate?)

Epicéa Sapin

5600 cal. BP

Pin cembro

Closing of the  
forest space

Sapin

8000 cal. BP

Pin cembro

8900 cal. BP

Noisetier

Forest  
reconquest



# Interdisciplinary @ LSM

## Use of the gamma-ray spectroscopy

### Applications :

- Characterisation of water (lake, river, underground water) EU directive
- For drug and food administration ex. wine dating, marine salt origin
- Judicial expertises
- Mean age of crustacean livestock for fishing regulation
- .....

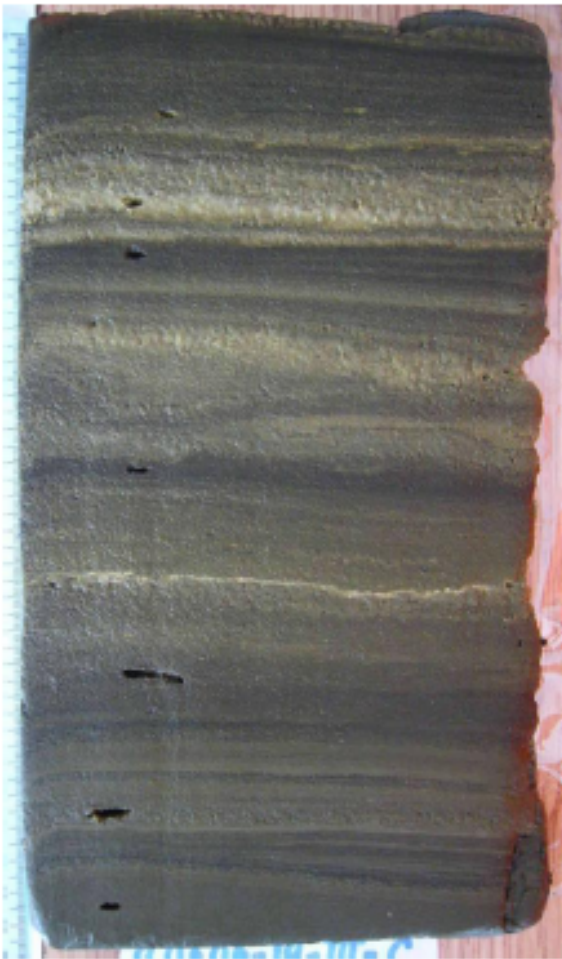
## **Development of a national ultra-low radioactivity platform measurements with**

EDYTEM (University of Savoie/CNRS), LGGE (University of Grenoble / CNRS), LSCE (CNRS/CEA), LPSC (University of Grenoble / CNRS) and LSM

Multi-decadal to centennial scale variability in  
fish scale preservation and burial from  
marine laminated sediments off Pisco, Peru  
during the late Holocene

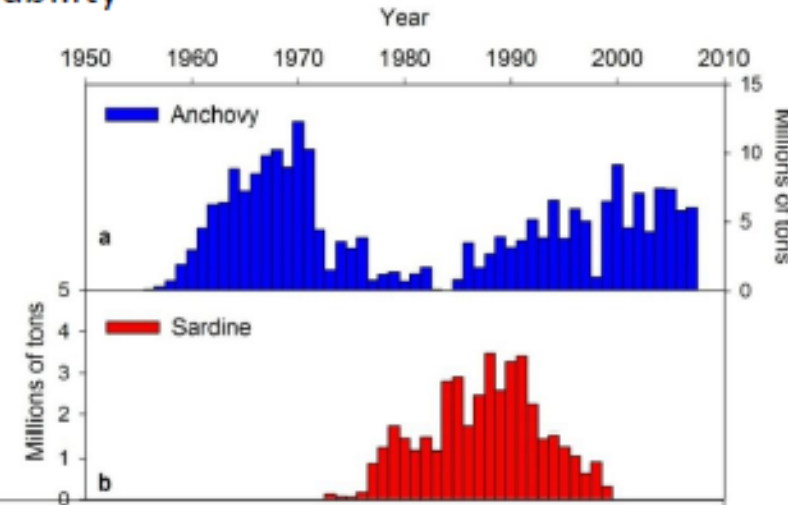
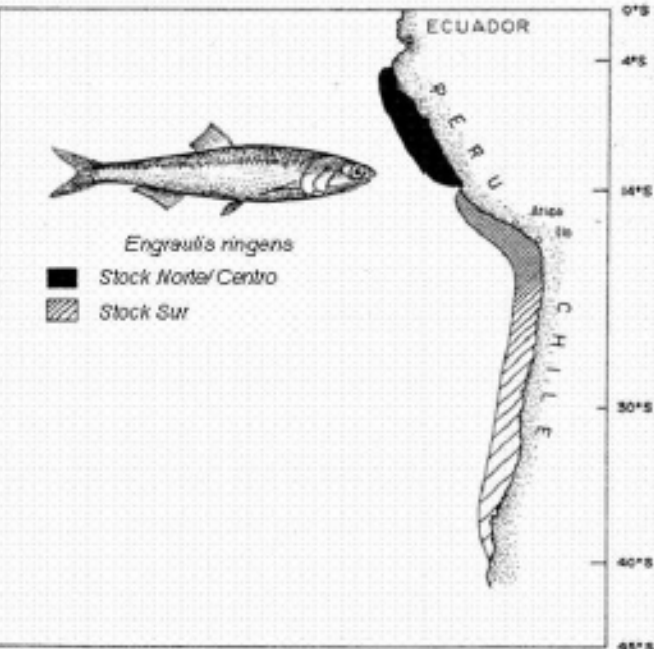
Salvatteci, R.

Paris, October 2010

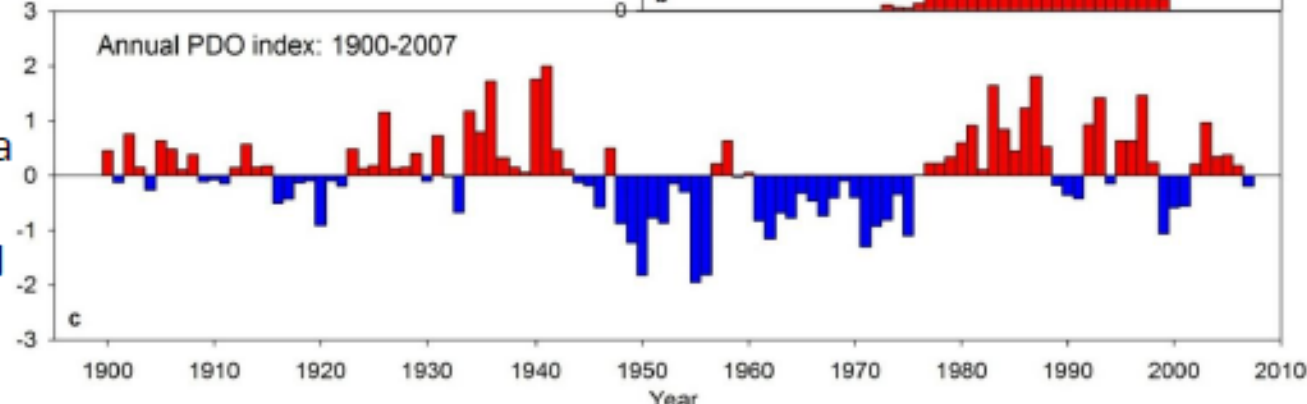


# The Humboldt Upwelling Ecosystem is characterized by strong ENSO variability and the highest pelagic fish productivity

- Continuous coastal upwelling throughout the year
- The northern Humboldt Current System off Peru presently produces about 10% of the world fish catch based primarily on anchovy.
- Anchovy and sardine landings show strong annual and decadal biomass variability



The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) Index is defined as the leading principal component of North Pacific monthly sea surface temperature variability (poleward of 20N for the 1900-93 period).



## Questions regarding the variability in abundance of these 2 species:

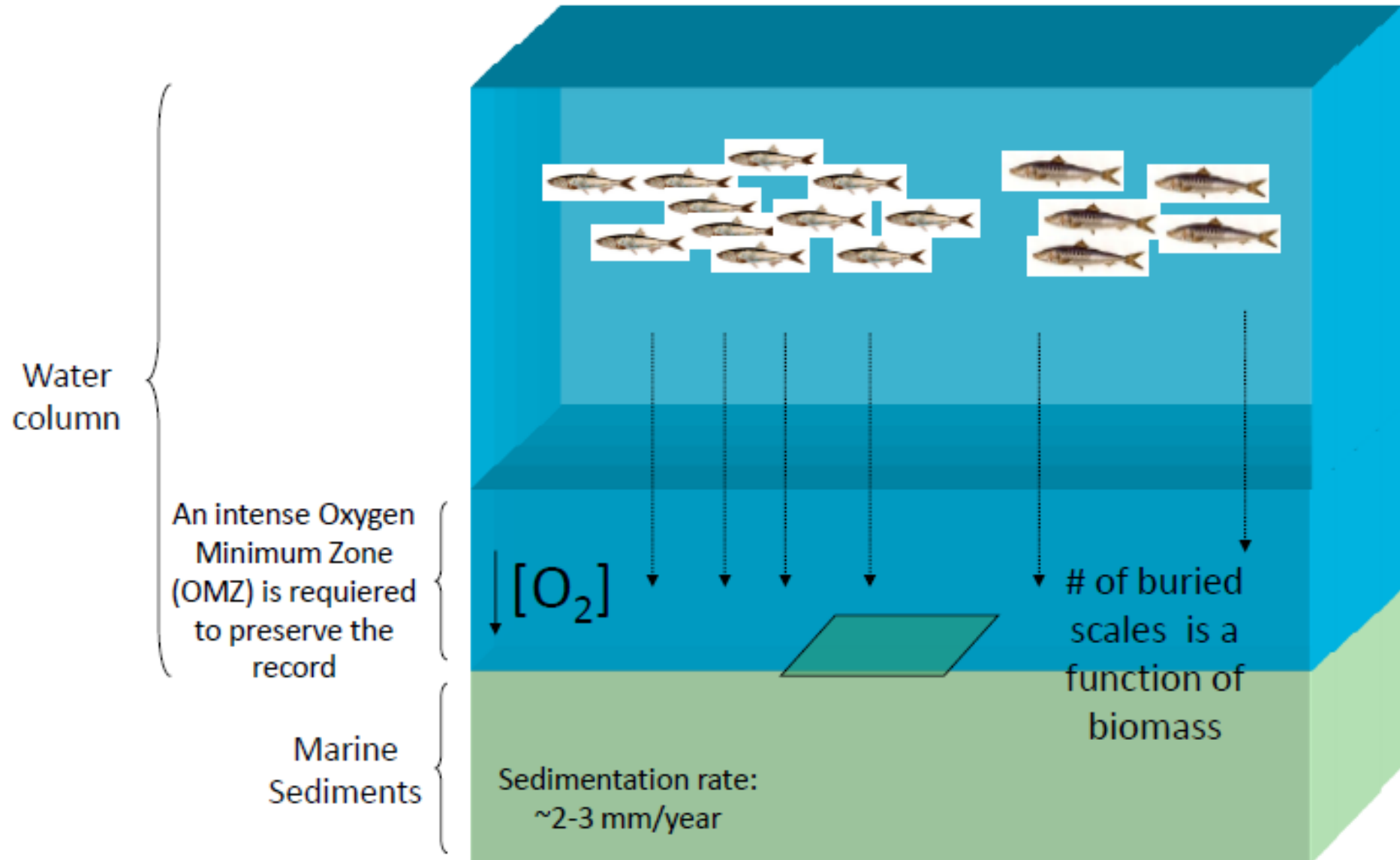
Are changes in populations anchovy and sardine linked or related to climate change?

Global Warming: More upwelling and thus more anchovy?? (Bakun)

Periods of climate instability favors sardine? (Bakun 2008 PO)

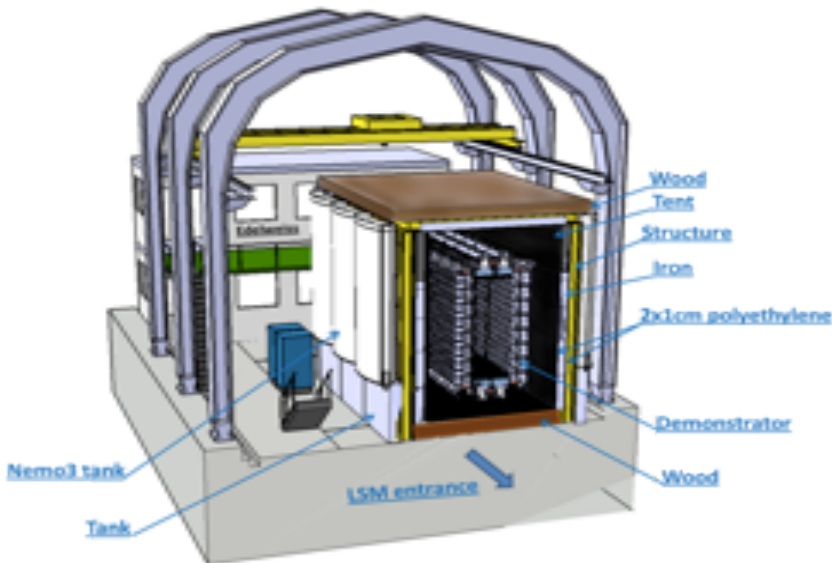
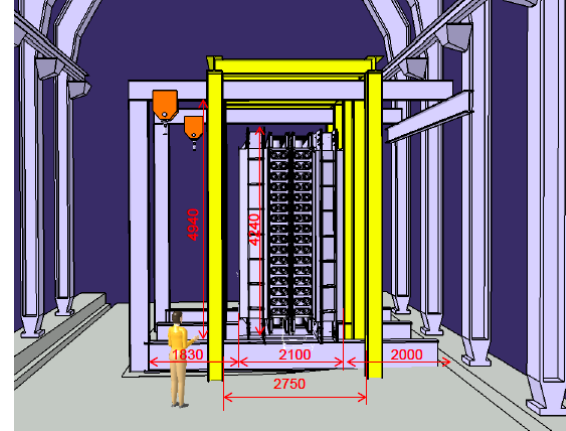
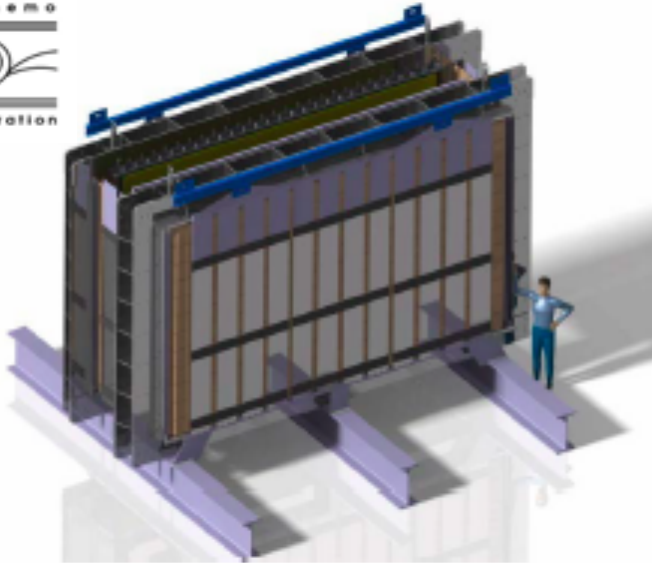
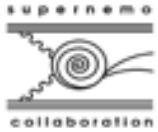
Rapid changes will favor anchovy or sardine?

# Fish scales buried in marine laminated sediments can provide a record of population variability of small pelagic fishes prior to the development of the fisheries





# SuperNEMO demonstrator @ LSM



SuperNEMO Demonstrator:  
Double beta decay

7 kg of  $^{82}\text{Se}$  (or  $^{150}\text{Nd}$ ,  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ )

No background for 2.5 yr of data

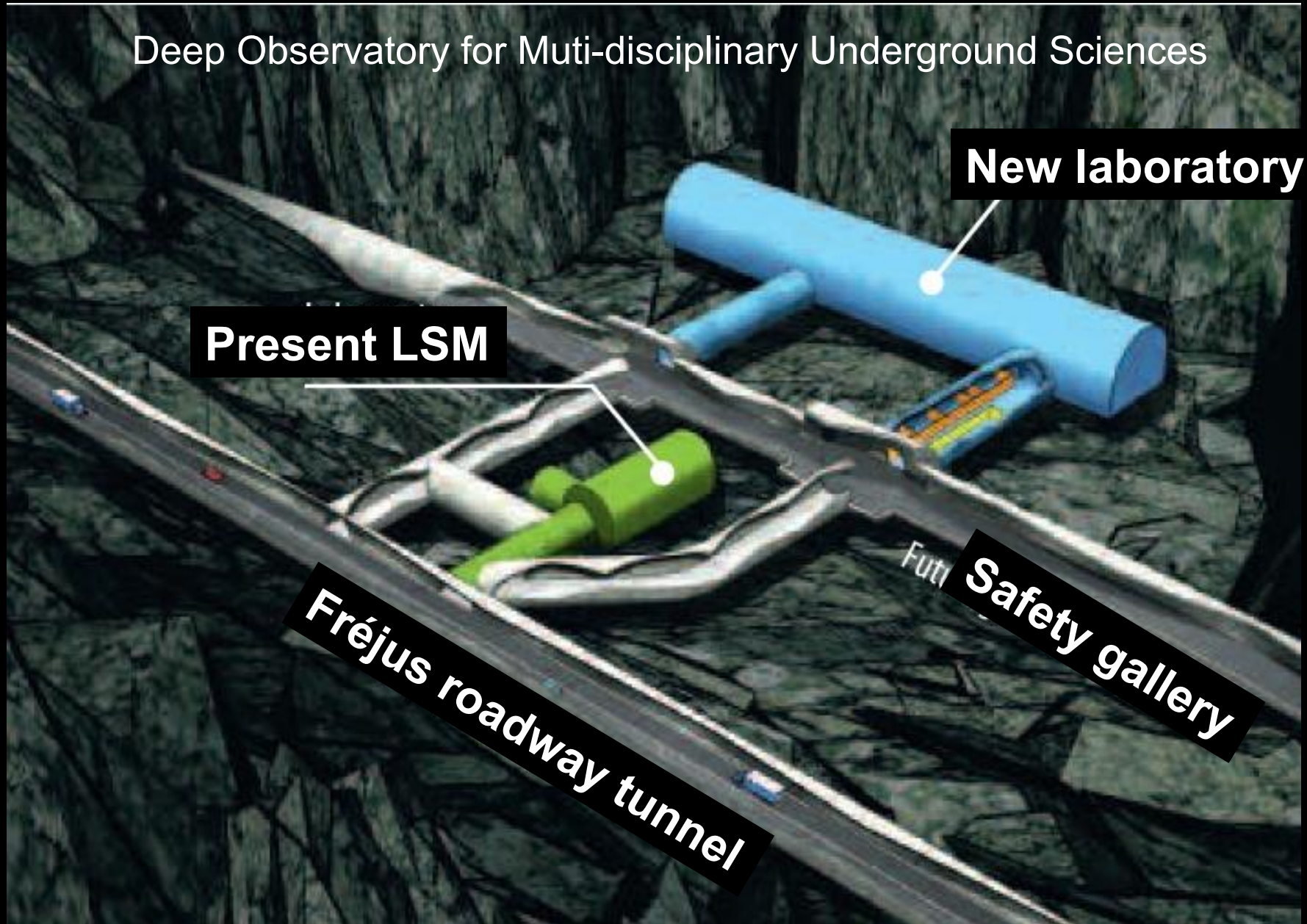
Sensitivity on  $m_\nu$ : 200 – 400 meV





# DOMUS: LSM extension

Deep Observatory for Multi-disciplinary Underground Sciences



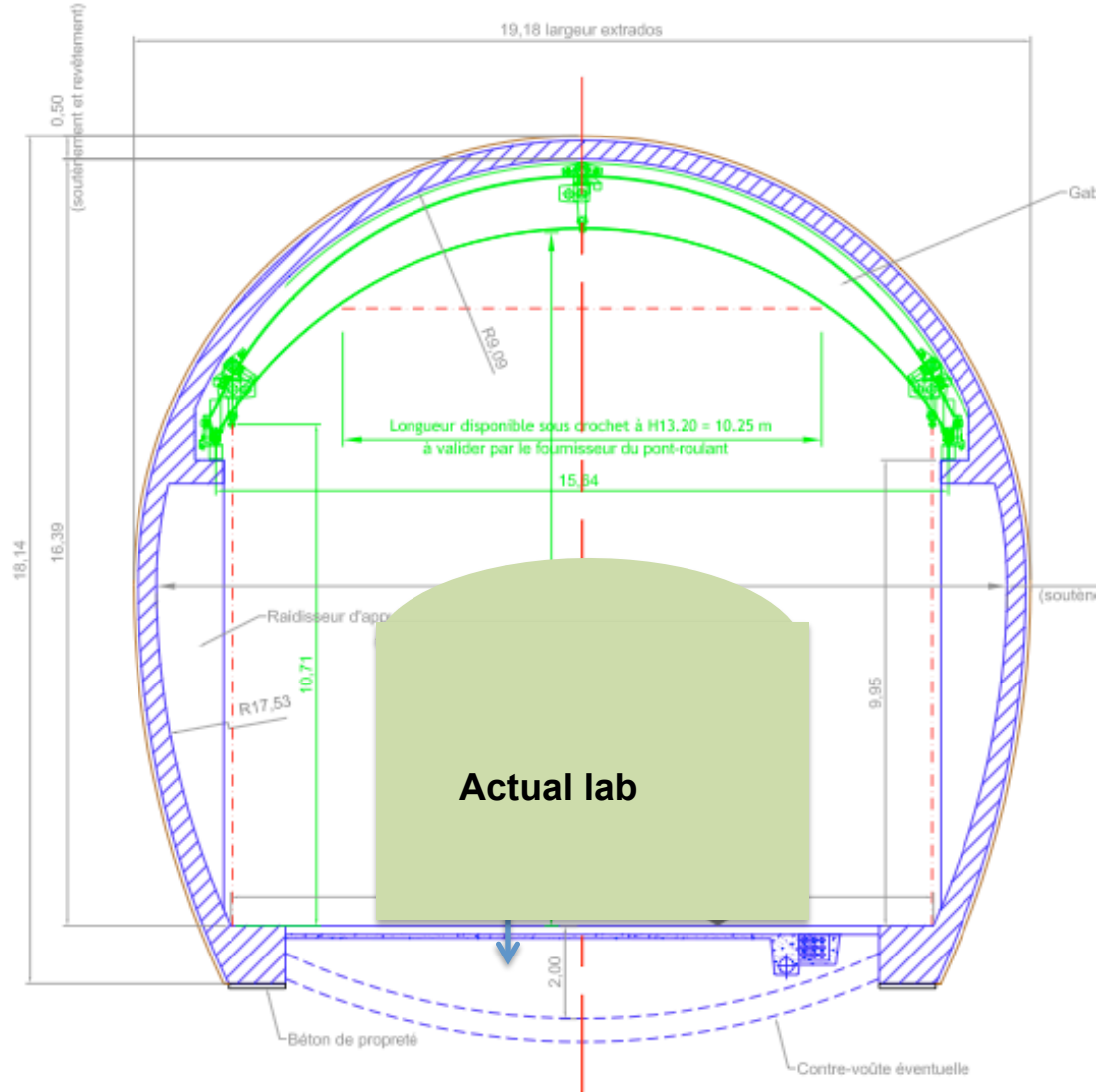
**New laboratory**

**Present LSM**

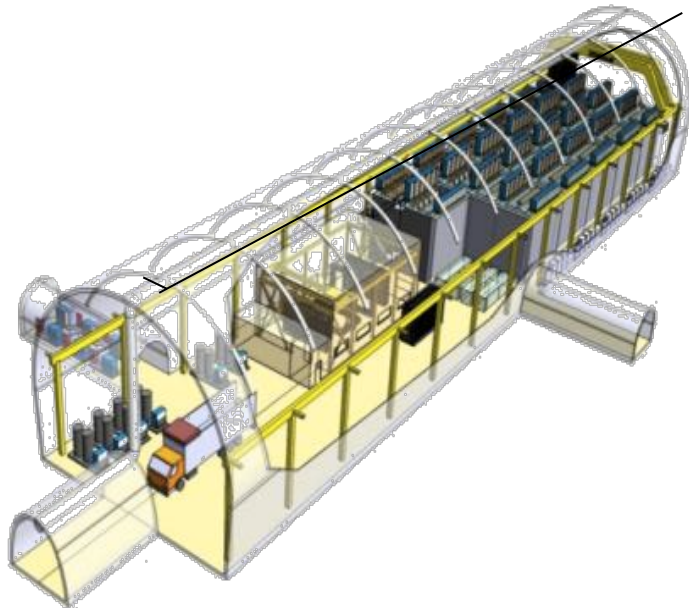
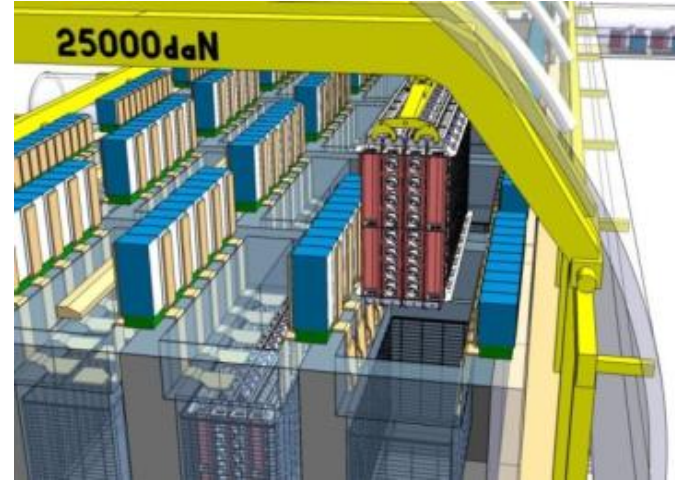
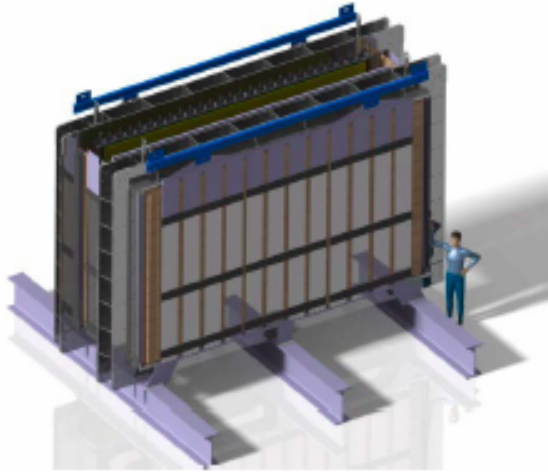
**Fréjus roadway tunnel**

**Futur Safety gallery**

# DOMUS project



COUPE AA ech : 1/100

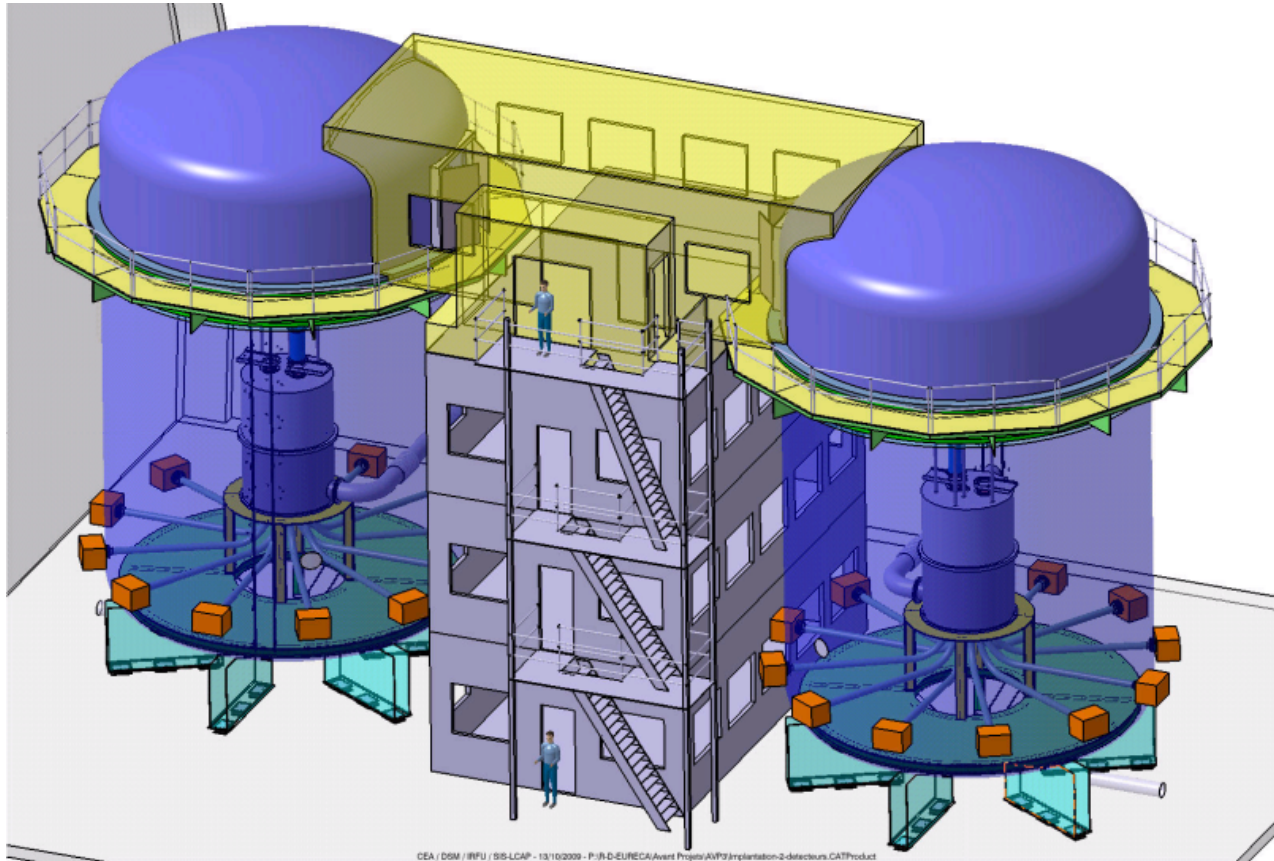


SuperNEMO: Double beta decay

20 modules

100 kg of  $^{82}\text{Se}$  (or  $^{150}\text{Nd}$ ,  $^{48}\text{Ca}$ )

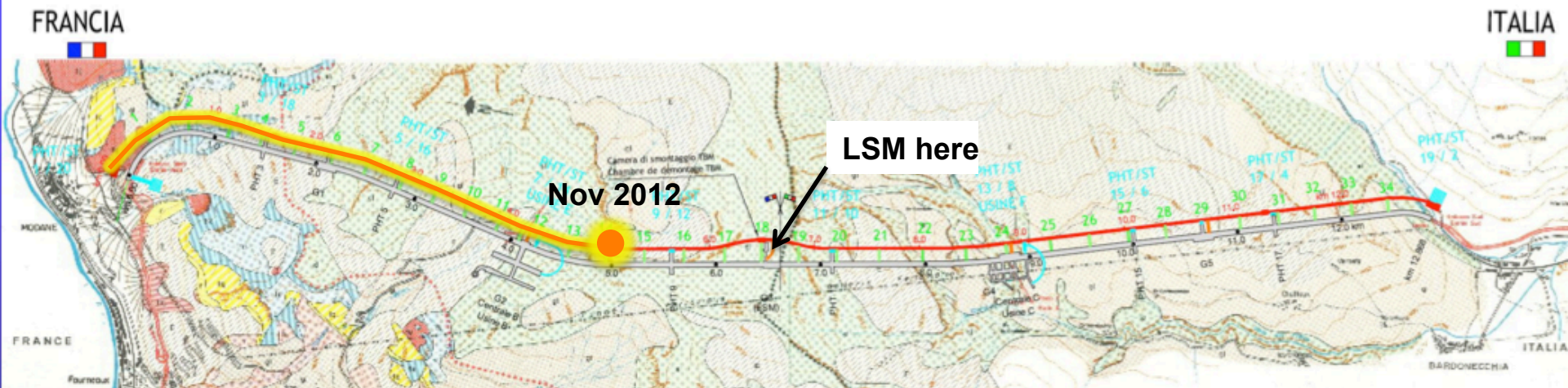
Sensitivity on  $m_\nu$ : 40 – 100 meV



Cryogenic facility

1 ton of Ge bolometers

- Current status of safety gallery
  - About 5.8 km from French entrance
  - Digging at 1 km/month => January at LSM level
  - TBM will go to Italy ?





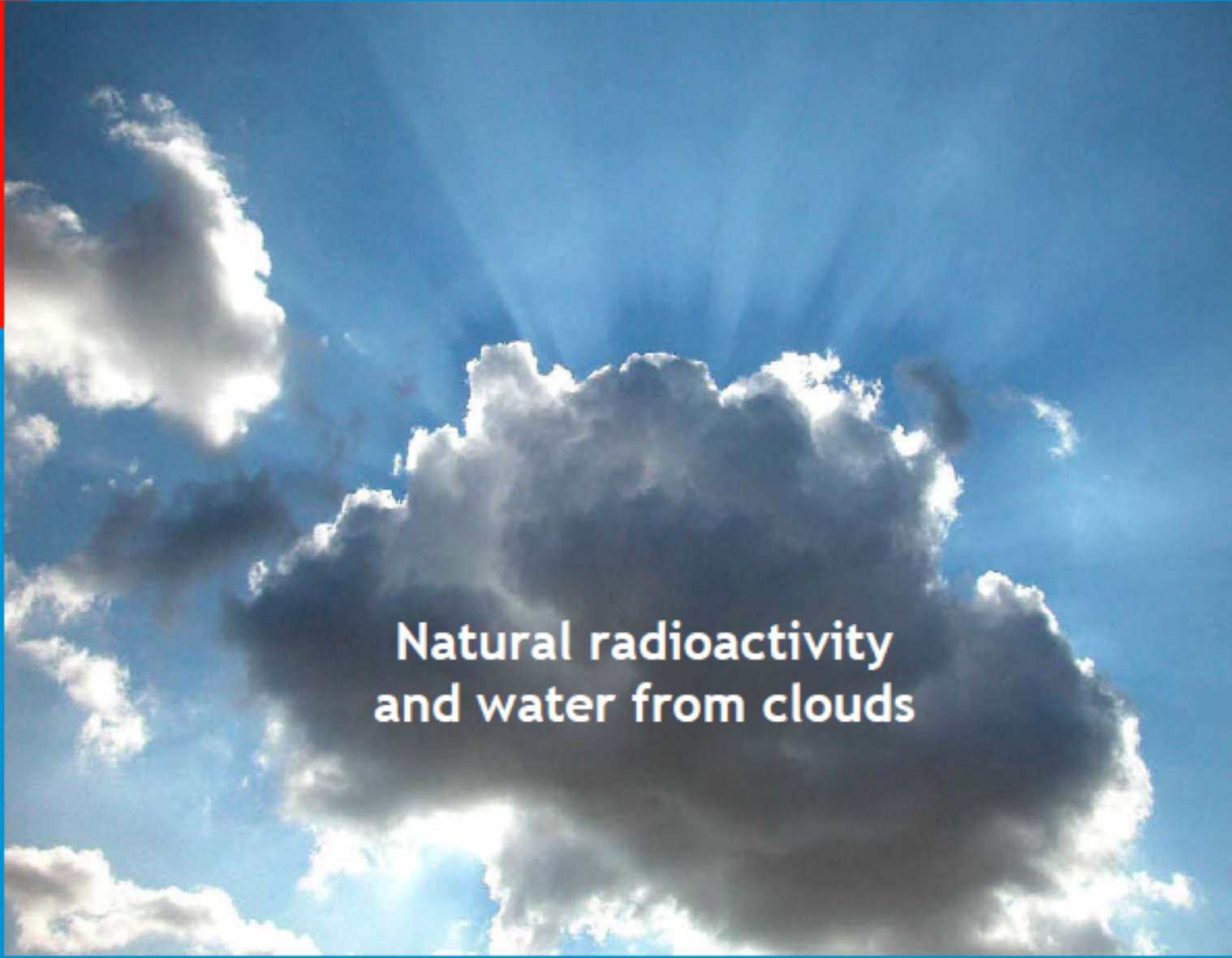
# LSM Extension project

- Safety galery work started in September 2009
  - Excavation of the extension 2014 or 2015.
  - In operation in 2016.
  - Detailed studies funded by Savoie departement and Rhone-Alpes Region
  - Agreement from Ministry and CNRS for the project
  - Funding almost secured (85% already obtained CNRS, Region Rhone-Alpes, FEDER funds)
  - Technical discussion in progress
- 
- A photograph of a large tunnel under construction. The tunnel walls are lined with corrugated metal. In the center, a large yellow truck is visible, and another truck is partially visible to the right. The scene is illuminated by bright lights, creating a high-contrast environment.

**Backup**

**IRSN**

INSTITUT  
DE RADIOPROTECTION  
ET DE SÛRETÉ NUCLÉAIRE



## Natural radioactivity and water from clouds

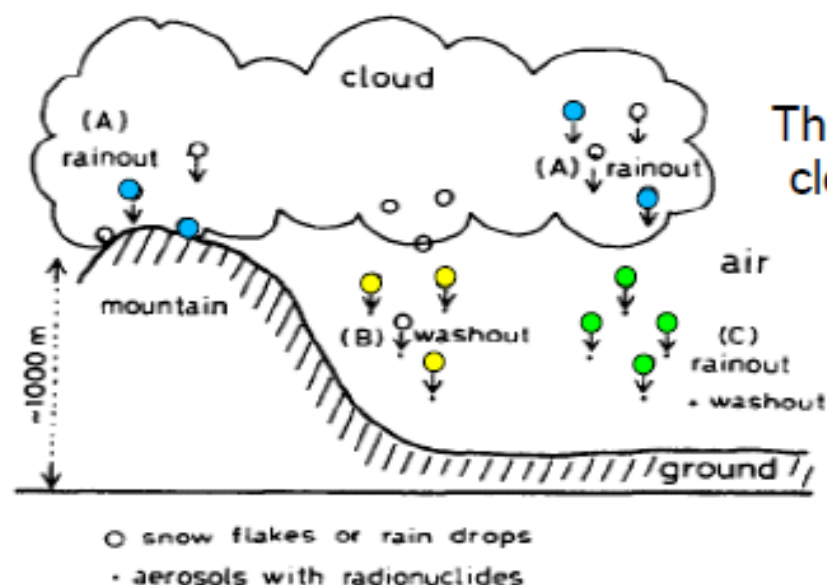
[olivier.masson@irsn.fr](mailto:olivier.masson@irsn.fr)  
[rodolfo.gurriaran@irsn.fr](mailto:rodolfo.gurriaran@irsn.fr)



As part of its mission of environmental monitoring, IRSN carries out studies on the environmental processes that can explain the transfer and the evolution in time of natural and artificial radionuclides present in the atmosphere

The process of leaching of aerosols can explain 90% deposition of radionuclides in the event of accidental release into the atmosphere

*Scavenging of radionuclides in air*



These processes are carried out under the cloud but also in the cloud and are called the wash ("rainout")

Given their size, collection efficiency is 10 to 100 times greater for droplets in the cloud as raindrops that precipitate,

Intra-cloud washing accounts for 25% of total wet deposition from an altitude > 800 m (Lange, 2003)

The IRSN has instruments to collect cloud water at the station's scientific study of the atmosphere at the summit of the Puy de Dome ( OPGC / Laboratoire de Météorologie Physique)



Optical measurement of the  
contains in liquid water  
of the cloud



The volumes collected are very low (few tens of milliliters or less).

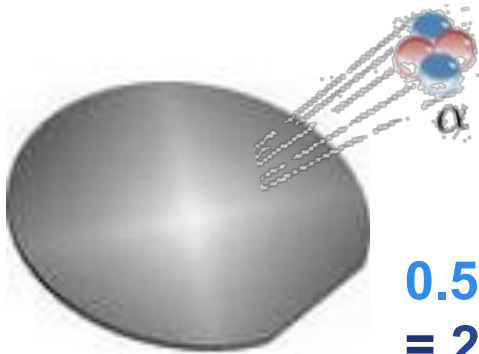
After evaporation, the solids content is set for a measurement geometry XXL long in the detector wells installed at the IRSN LSM

The level of artificial radionuclides in the water droplets in clouds are sampled equivalents (a few mBq / l) to those obtained in rainwater collected in plain

## Soft-Error Rate (SER) Characterization of SRAM circuits induced by alpha-particle emitter contamination

IM2NP-CNRS laboratory has conducted since 2007 a series of underground experiments to quantify the importance of **alpha-particle emitter contamination** in advanced **SRAM** memories

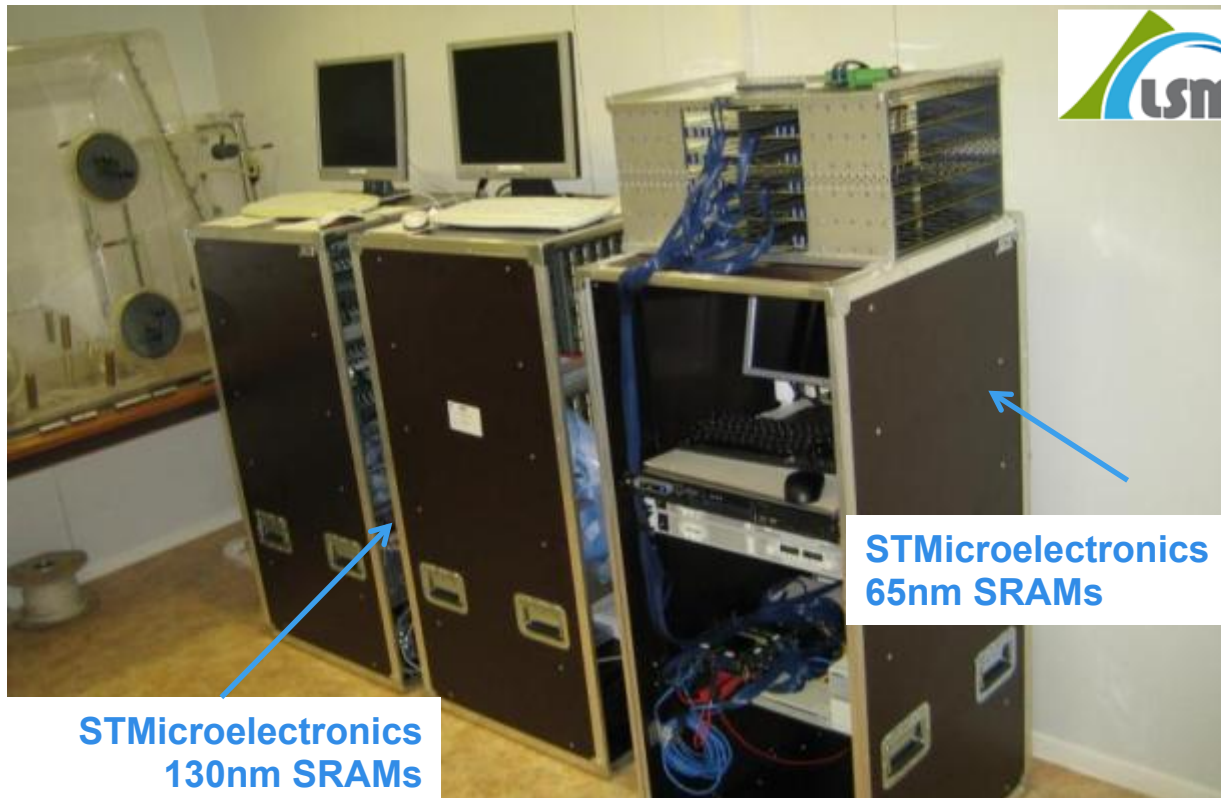
Silicon wafers, ceramic packages and contact bumps are contaminated with Uranium and Thorium elements at ppb concentration levels



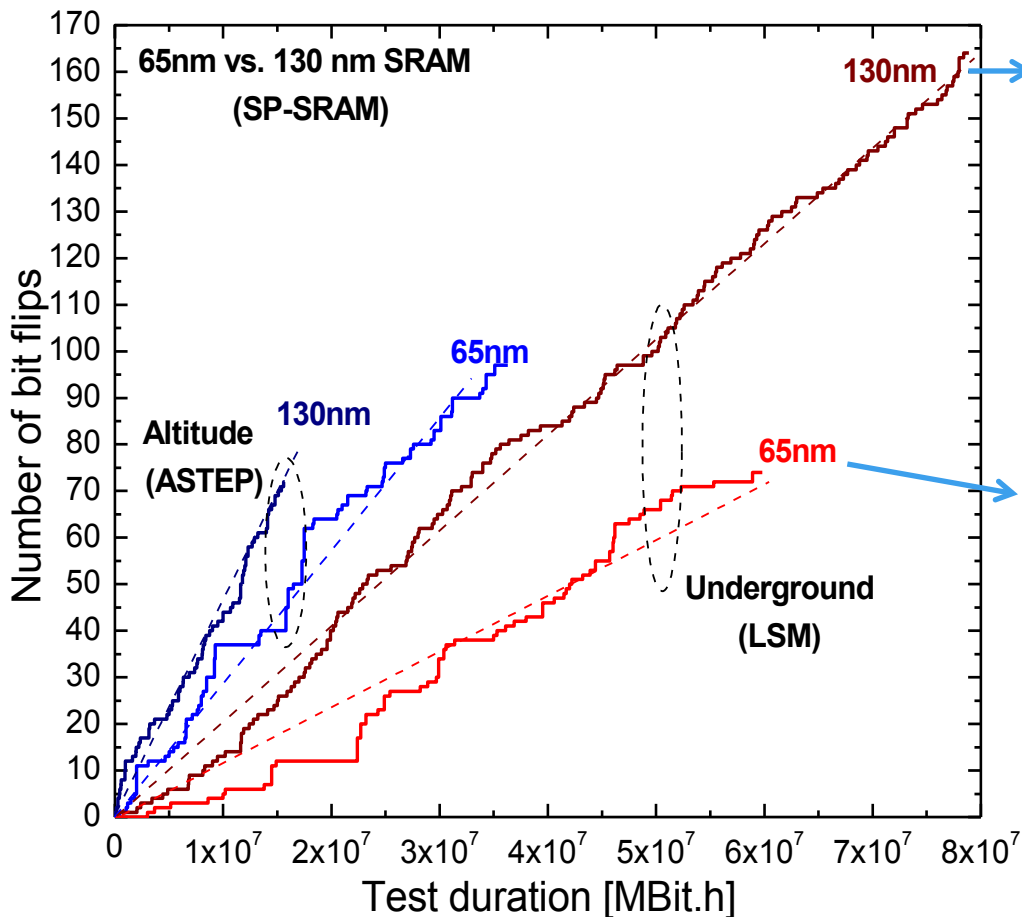
0.5 ppb of  $^{238}\text{U}$  in Silicon  
= 425 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
= 0.18 Bq/kg

0.5 ppb of  $^{238}\text{U}$  in Silicon  
=  $2.28 \times 10^{-3}$  α/cm<sup>2</sup>/h

- ❑ **Real-time experiments** : long-term (several months) exposure of a large amount (Gbits) of circuits to the natural radiation environment
- ❑ **Underground**: to remove the atmospheric neutron contribution (observed soft-errors are expected to be due to alpha particles)



## Underground results for 130nm and 65nm SRAM technologies



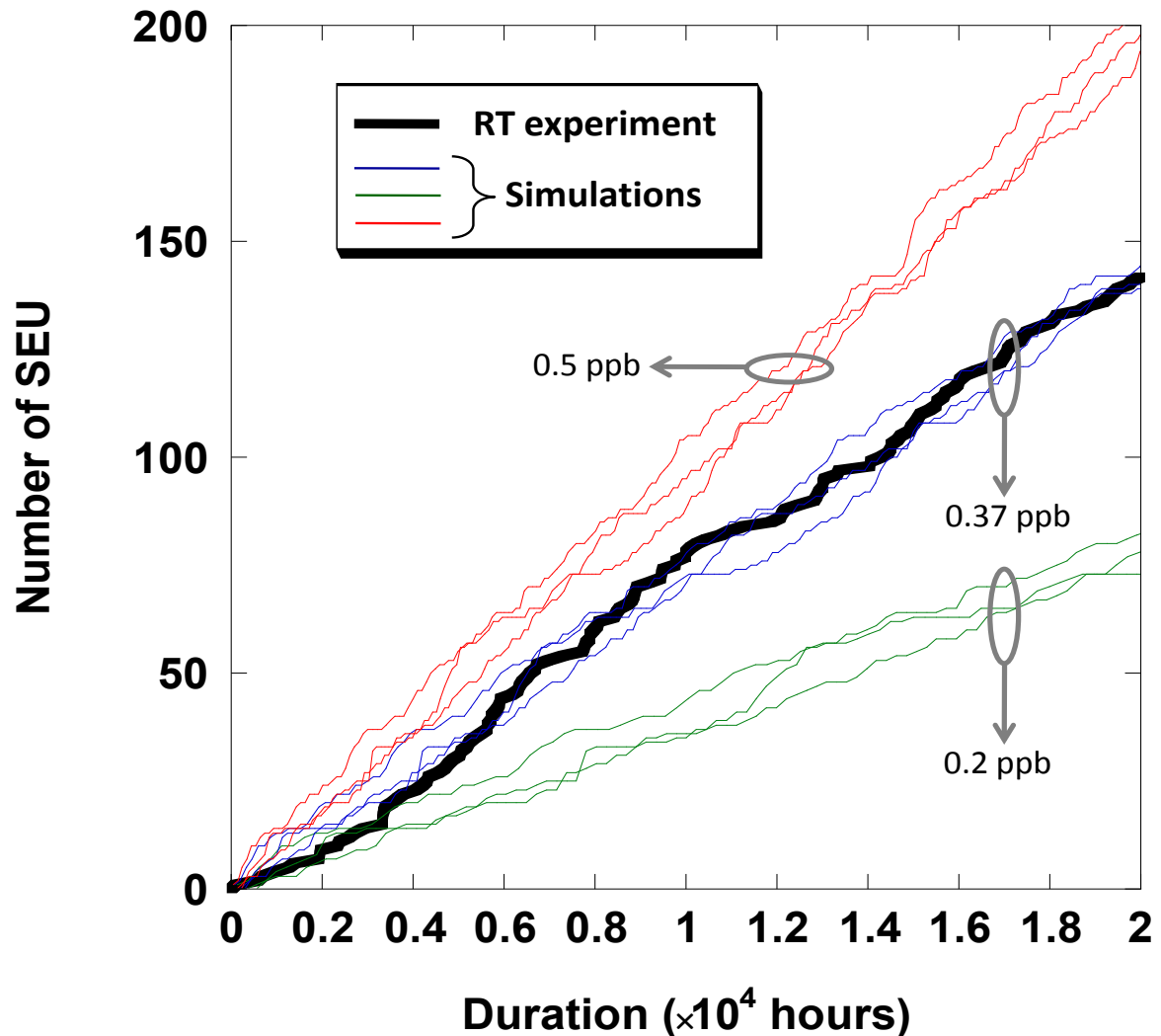
$4 \times 10^{-3} \alpha/\text{cm}^2/\text{h}$

$9 \times 10^{-4} \alpha/\text{cm}^2/\text{h}$

= result of a substantive work performed at technological process integration level (elimination of some materials subjected to alpha emitter contamination).

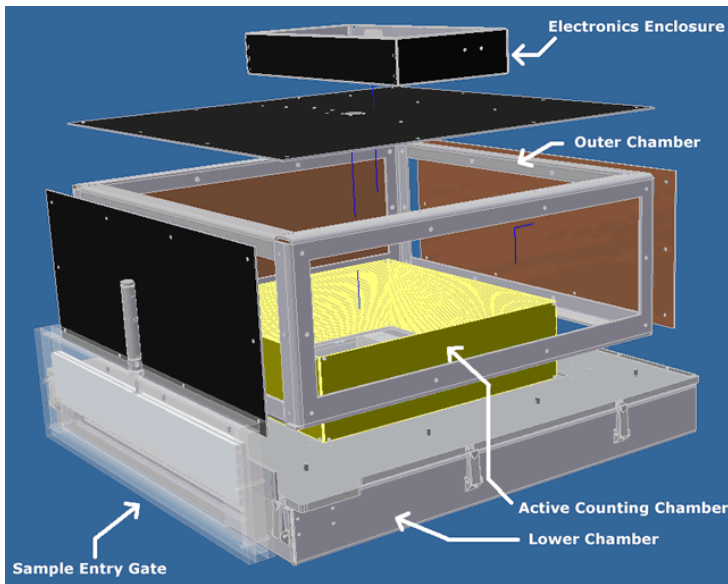
## Monte-Carlo Simulation of Underground Experiments

- Up to 20,000 h of cave characterization
- $\alpha$ -SER reevaluated to 2079 FIT/MBit
- Monte-Carlo simulation gives a contamination level by  $^{238}\text{U}$  impurities of 0.37 ppb
- Very good agreement with wafer-level characterization (alpha emissivity) in the range [0.2-0.5] ppb



## Metrologic characterization of alpha-particle emissivity

□ In collaboration with **XIA LLC** (CA, USA), underground measurements at wafer-level using an **ultra-low alpha-particle counter** developed by XIA



- Measure sample emissivities to **0.0001 /cm<sup>2</sup>/h** and below
- Large sample area - accepting samples up to **1800 cm<sup>2</sup>**





# Applications of low-background gamma spectrometry techniques to sign the geographical origin of food-products

# First example: marine salts

Economical context:  
french atlantic salts (Ré, Guérande, Noirmoutier)  
are protected by a quality control label

Question from the DGCCRF laboratory:

*How to discriminate between french atlantic salts and others salts (mine, Mediterranean, Spain, Portugal...)?*

Analysis of the mineral elements (Na, K, Ca, Mg...)  
done by the DGCCRF lab.

➡ No enough informations to discriminate between all the salts!

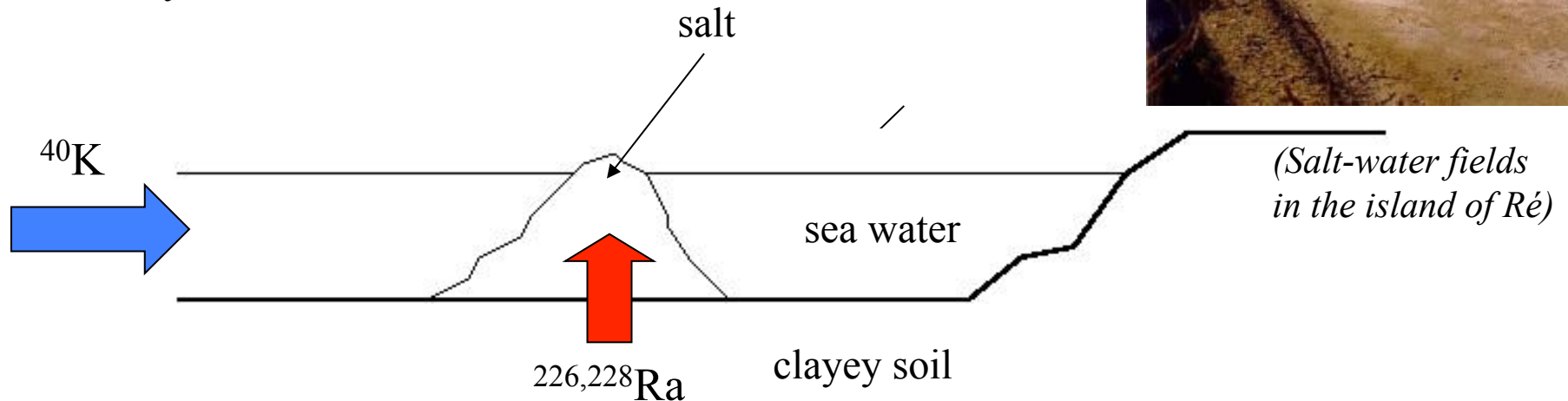
*Could gamma radioactivity measurements bring complementary informations?*



# Possible origins of the radioactivity in the salts

In sea water:

- 0.4 g/l for  $K^+$  ions gives 13 Bq/l of  $^{40}K$ : enough to explain the level of  $^{40}K$  activity
- 1 or 2 mBq/l of  $^{226}Ra$ : not enough to explain the level of  $^{226}Ra$  activity

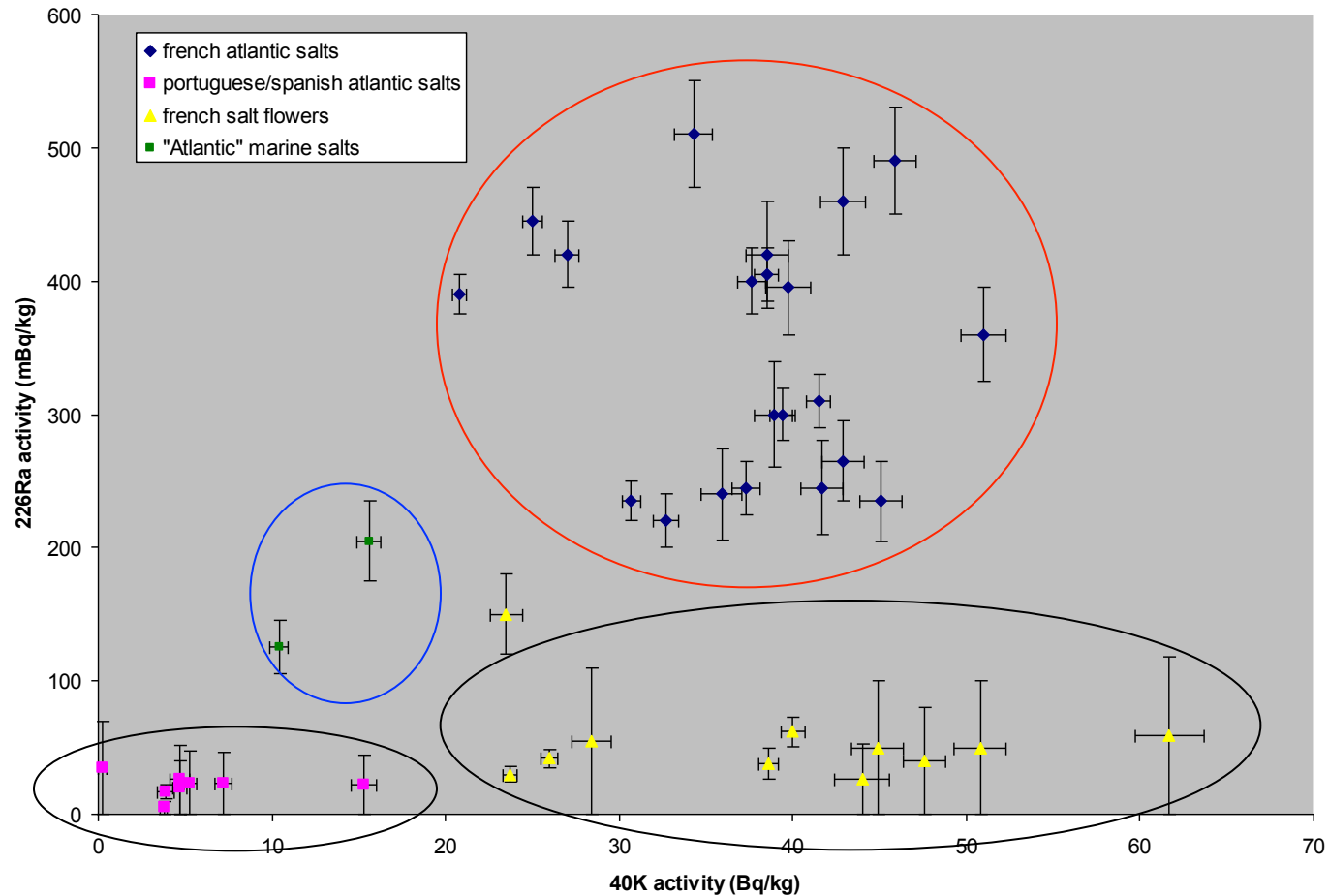


➔ presence of radium isotopes in salts due to diffusion of  $^{226,228}Ra$  from the soil to the salt

↙ possible difference of level of radioactivity in clay from France to Portugal

In marine salts: « salt flowers » are most expensive and better taste for cooking

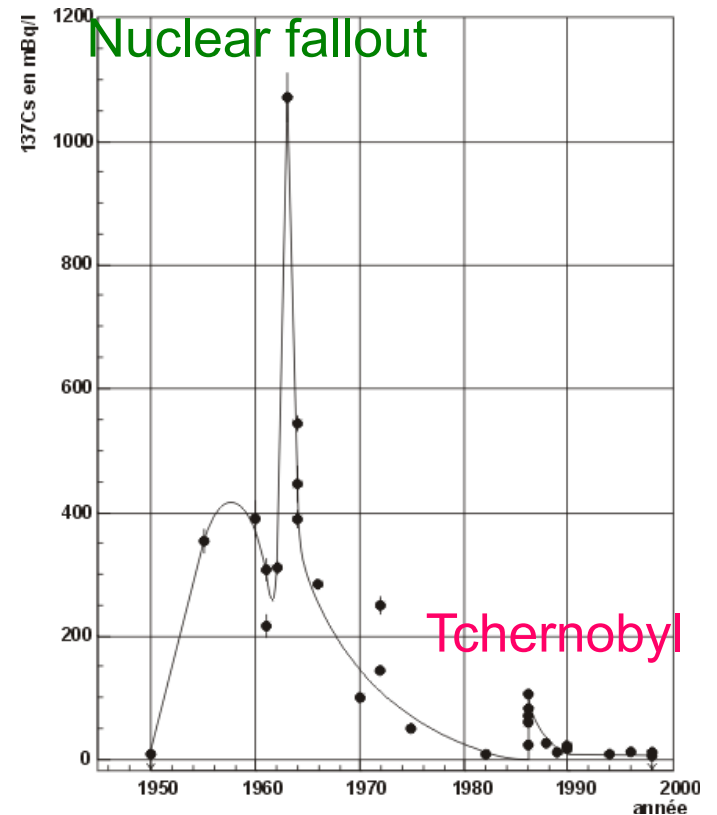
This salt is collected at the surface of the salt-marine fields



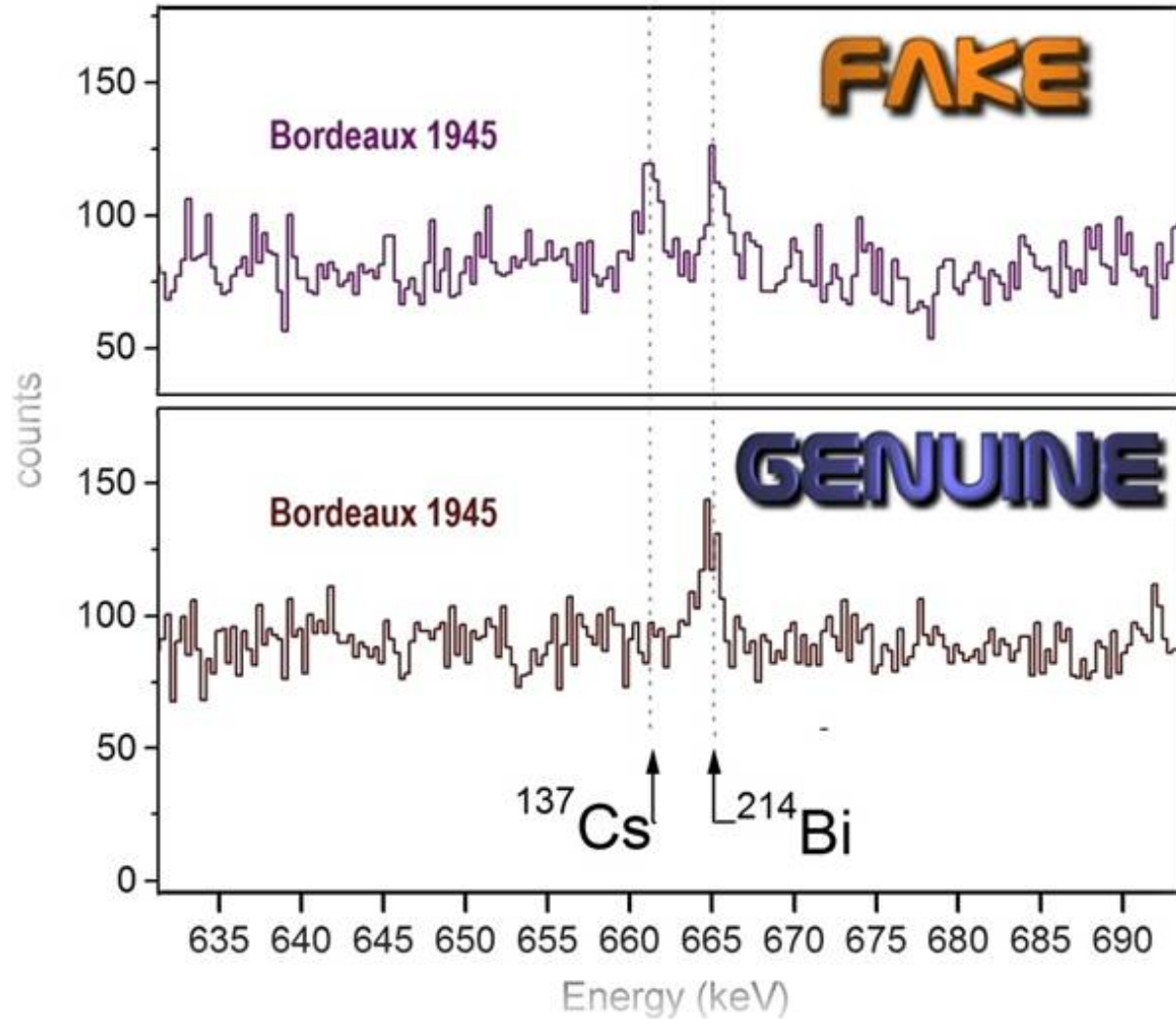
# Wine datation by $^{137}\text{Cs}$ measurement

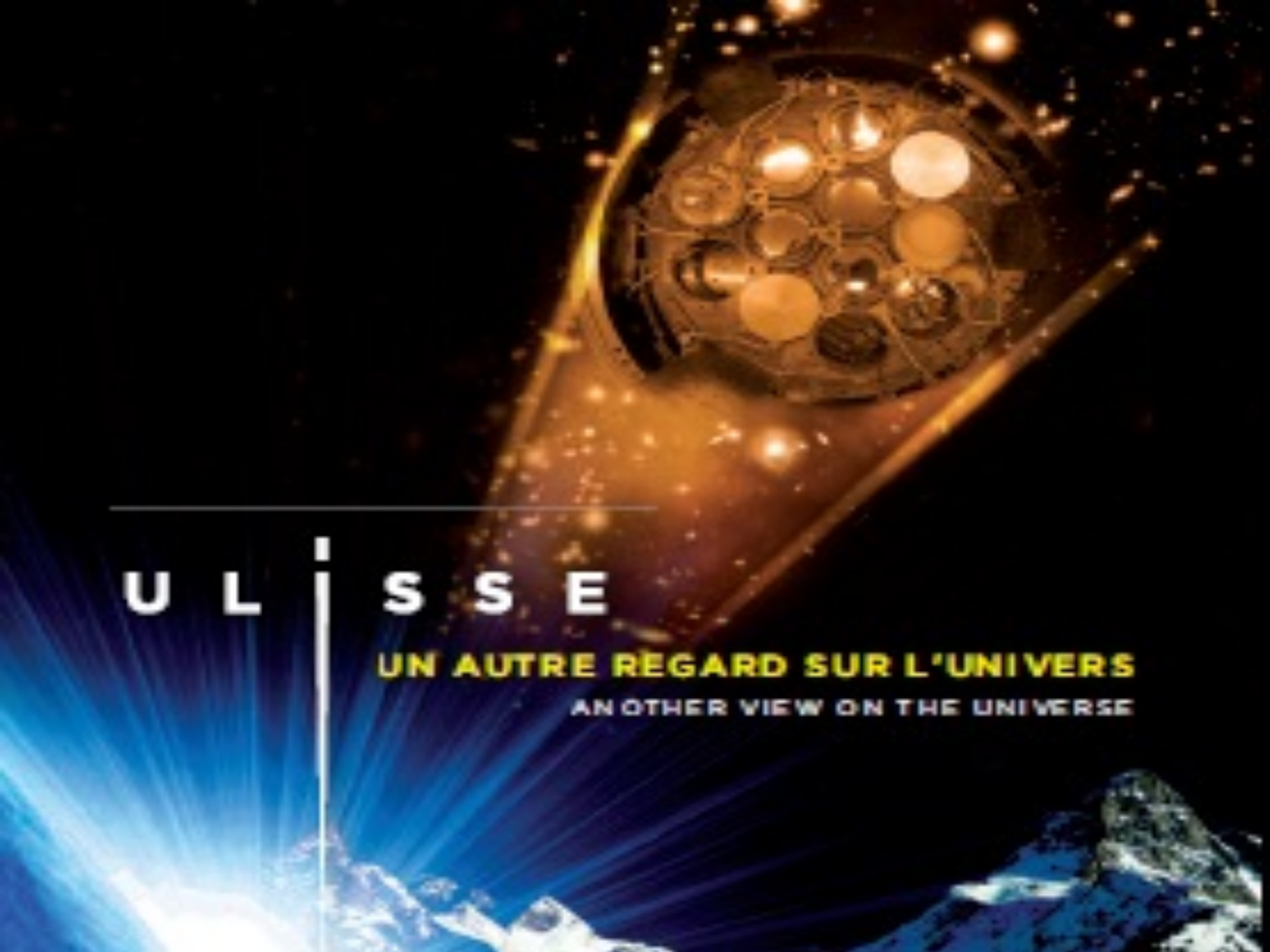
Developed by Ph. Hubert (Centre d'etudes Nucleaires de Bordeaux-Gradignan)

Châteaux  
“Lafite”  
&  
“Margaux”  
1900 ?



Comparison of 2 magnums  
*same château and same vintage?!?*



The image features a large, golden-colored spacecraft, the Ulisse probe, in the upper right quadrant. It has a circular array of instruments on its nose. The background is a dark space filled with stars and a bright, glowing blue and white nebula or starburst in the lower left. The overall color palette is dominated by gold, blue, and black.

U L I S S E

**UN AUTRE REGARD SUR L'UNIVERS**

AN OTHER VIEW ON THE UNIVERSE



# Summary and outlook

Ultra-low gamma-ray spectrometry has a lot of potential for environmental Research and survey

Improvements for material selection for particle physics or astroparticle allows to improve also the sensitivity for the other science and to open new methods

Interest for science like micro/nano microelectronics

Discussion in progress with biologists and geophysicists for the extension

There is not so many labs where you can perform research on particle physics, oceanography, retro-observation, logical failure from natural radioactivity, wine datation,.....

Deep Underground Infrastructures are rather new (~30 years), certainly a large potential to welcome other sciences (How was able to predict at the time of Taup Experiment in LSM than 30 years later LSM will use to follow water columns in the ocean...)