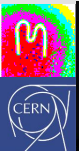


# MEDIPIX AND TIMEPIX READOUT CHIPS

**M. Campbell<sup>1</sup>, J. Alozy, R. Ballabriga, P. Christodoulou,  
A. Dorda, E.H.M. Heijne, I. Kremastiotis, X. Llopart, M. Piller,  
V. Sriskaran, and L. Tlustos**

**CERN, EP Department  
1211 Geneva 23  
Switzerland**

**<sup>1</sup> Honorary Professor at Glasgow University**



### Medipix2 (1999 -> )

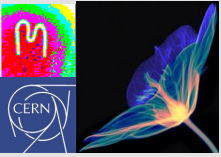
Albert-Ludwig Universität Freiburg, Germany  
CEA, Paris, France  
CERN, Geneva, Switzerland  
Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia  
ESRF, Grenoble, France  
IEAP, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic  
IFAE, Barcelona, Spain  
Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden  
MRC-LMB Cambridge, England, UK  
NIKHEF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
University of California, Berkeley, USA  
Universität Erlangen-Nurnberg, Erlangen, German  
University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
University of Houston, USA  
University and INFN Section of Cagliari, Italy  
University and INFN Section of Pisa, Italy  
University and INFN Section of Napoli, Italy

### Medipix3 (2005 -> )

Albert-Ludwig Universität Freiburg, Germany  
AMOLF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Brazilian Light Source, Campinas, Brazil  
CEA, Paris, France  
CERN, Geneva, Switzerland  
DESY-Hamburg, Germany  
Diamond Light Source, England, UK  
ESRF, Grenoble, France  
IEAP, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czech Republic  
KIT/ANKA, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Germany  
Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden  
NIKHEF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Univesridad de los Andes, Bogota, Columbia  
University of Bonn, Germany  
University of California, Berkeley, USA  
University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand  
Universität Erlangen-Nurnberg, Erlangen, German  
University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
University of Houston, USA  
University of Leiden, The Netherlands  
Technical University of Munich, Germany  
VTT Information Technology, Espoo, Finland

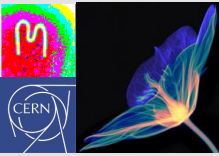
### Medipix4 (2016 -> )

CEA, Paris, France  
CERN, Geneva, Switzerland  
DESY-Hamburg, Germany  
Diamond Light Source, England, UK  
IEAP, Czech Technical University, Prague, Czechia  
IFAE, Barcelona, Spain  
JINR, Dubna, Russian Federation  
NIKHEF, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
University of California, Berkeley, USA  
University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand  
University of Geneva, Switzerland  
University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK  
University of Houston, USA  
University of Maastricht, The Netherlands  
University of Oxford, England, UK  
INFN, Italy

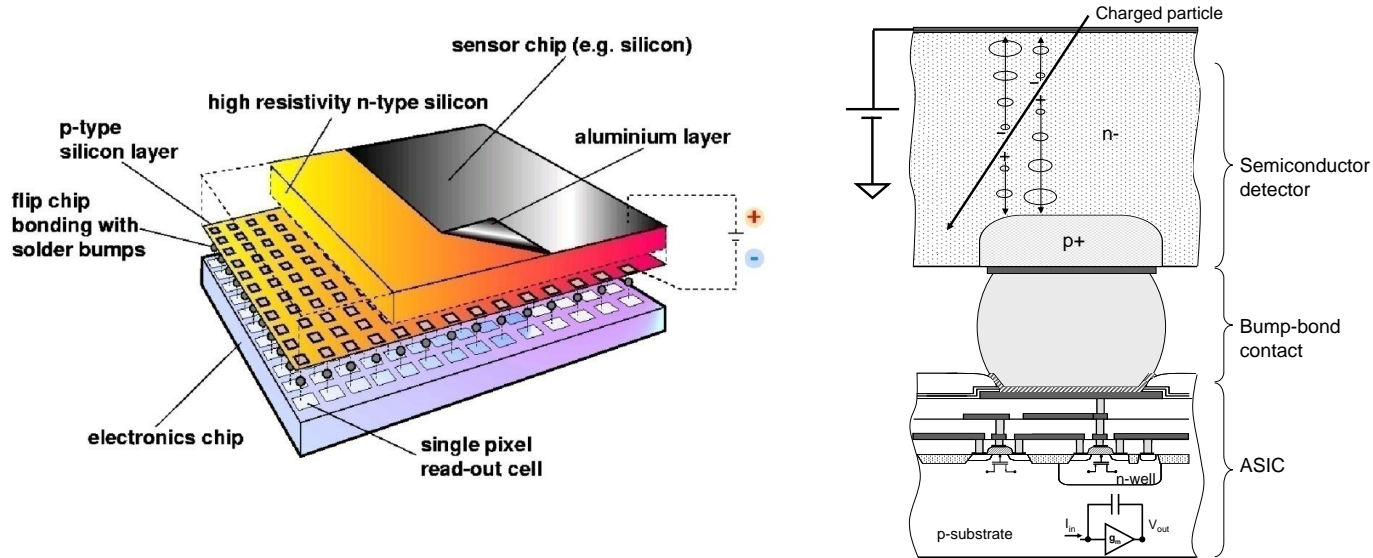


# Outline

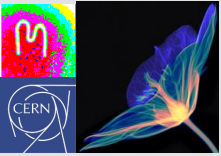
- Introduction
- Some examples of applications (within HEP and outside of HEP)
- Timepix3
- Through Silicon Vias
- Timepix4
- Conclusions and future



# Hybrid Silicon Pixel Detectors



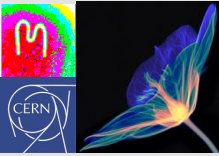
- Noise-hit free images possible (high ratio of threshold/noise)
- Standard CMOS can be used (follow industry)
- Sensor material can be changed (Si, GaAs, CdTe..)
- Semiconductor sensor can be replaced by a **gas gain grid** or MCP



# The Medipix and Timepix ASICs - Timeline

Collaboration	2003	2006	2013	2014	2017	2018	2020	2021	2023?
Medipix2	Medipix2	Timepix				Timepix2			
Medipix3			Medipix3	Timepix3					
Medipix4							Timepix4	Medipix4	

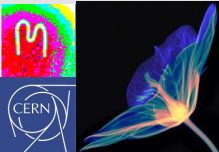
- Medipix chips aim at energy sensitive photon counting and typically use frame-based readout
- Timepix chips are more oriented towards single particle detection



# The Medipix and Timepix ASICs - Timeline

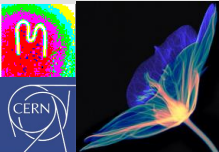
Collaboration	2003	2006	2012	2013	2017	2018	2020	2021	2025?
Medipix2	Medipix2	Timepix				Timepix2			
Medipix3			Medipix3	Timepix3				Medipix4	
Medipix4							Timepix4		
LHCb					VELOpix				VELOpix2

- Medipix chips aim at energy sensitive photon counting and typically use frame-based readout
- Timepix chips are more oriented towards single particle detection
- This talk will focus on the recent Timepix chips and in particular Timepix4



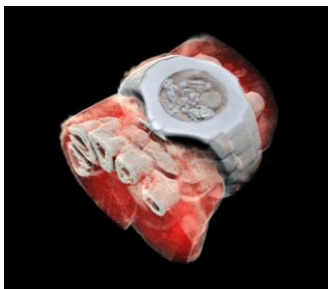
# Timepix Chip family

	Timepix	Timepix2	Timepix3	Timepix4
Tech. node (nm)	250	130	130	65
Year	2005	2018	2013	2019
Pixel size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	55	55	55	55
# pixels (x x y)	256 x 256	256 x 256	256 x 256	448 x 512
Time bin (resolution)	10ns	10ns	1.5ns	200ps
Readout architecture	Frame based (sequential R/W)	Frame based (sequential or continuous R/W)	Event driven or Frame based (sequential R/W)	Event driven or Frame-base (sequential or continuous R/W)
Number of sides for tiling	3	3	3	4



# Applications beyond HEP

## Spectroscopic X-ray imaging



Mars Bio-imaging



InsightArt

## Time resolved X-ray imaging

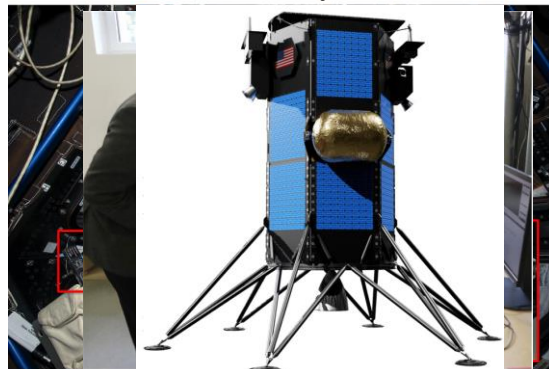


Diamond Light Source

## Background radiation measurements

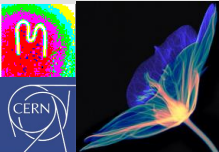


Admira Project



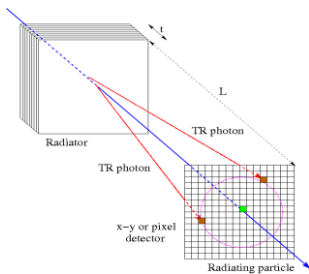
Advacam, Houston, IEAP, NASA



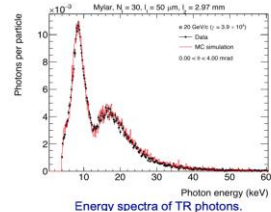
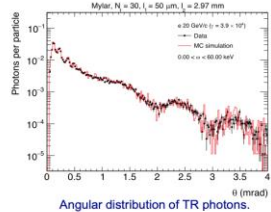
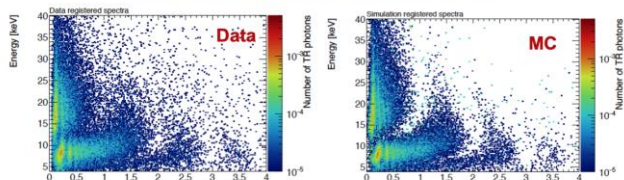


# Examples of applications inside HEP

## Transition radiation measurements

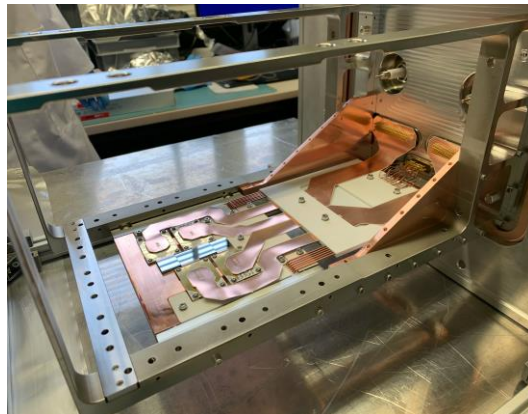


Data/MC comparison. Si sensor. Electrons 20 GeV.  
Mylar radiator 50 μm, 2.97 mm spacing, 30 foils

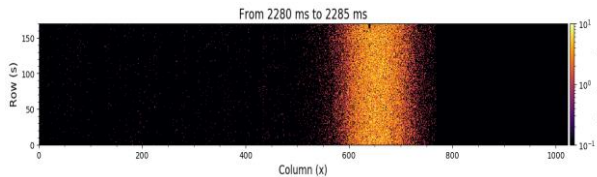


A. Romaniouk et al.

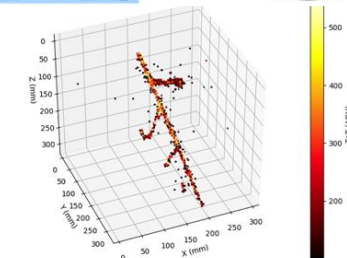
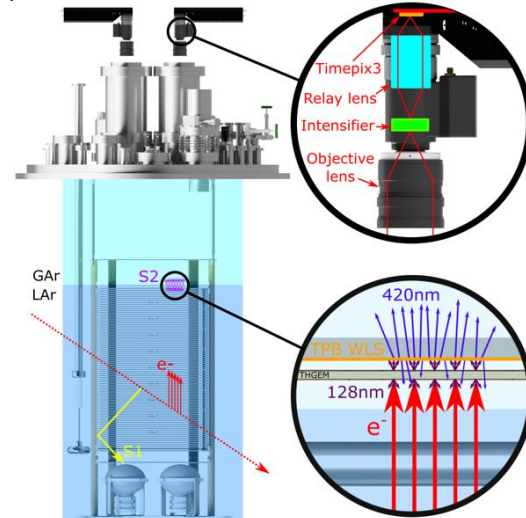
## Beam gas monitoring CERN PS



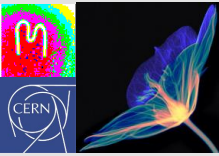
J. Storey, et al.



## Optical readout neutrino detector



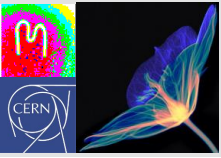
K. Mavrokoridis et al



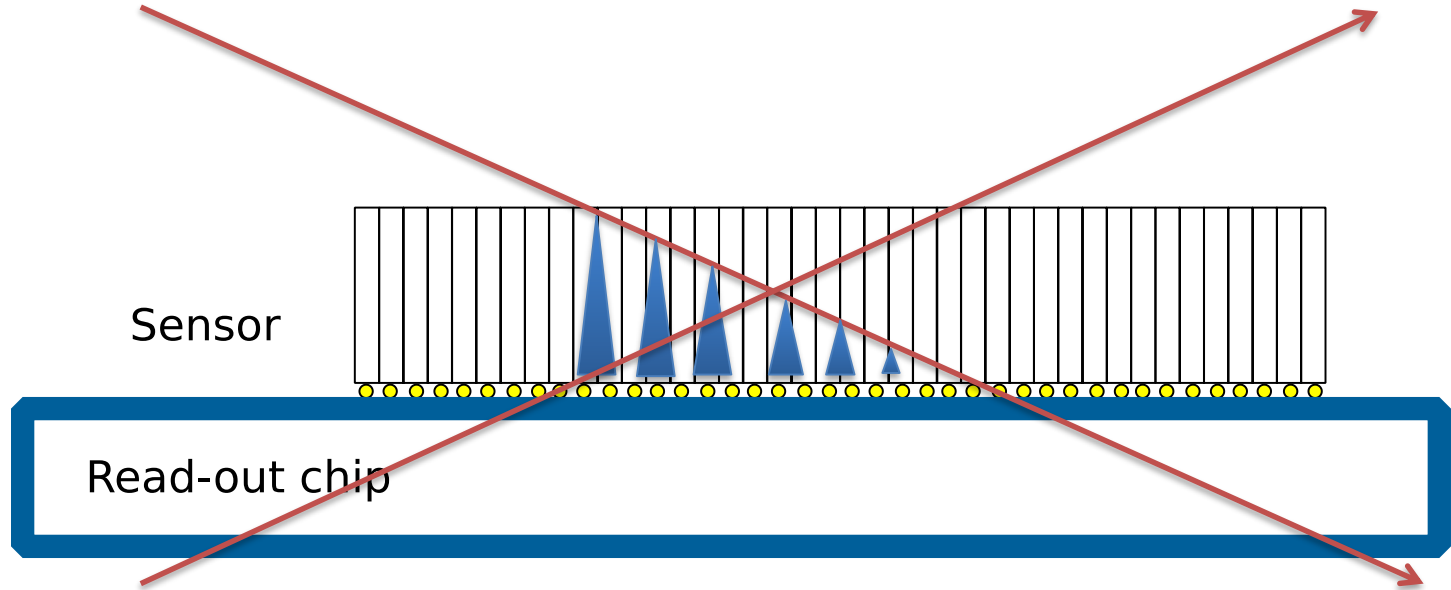
# Timepix3 Specs

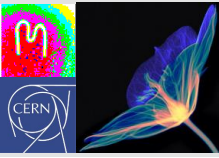
<b>CMOS node</b>	130nm
<b>Pixel Array</b>	256 x 256
<b>Pixel pitch</b>	55 $\mu$ m
<b>Charge collection</b>	e <sup>-</sup> , h <sup>+</sup>
<b>Pixel functionality</b>	TOT (Energy) and TOA (Arrival time)
<b>Preamp Gain</b>	~47mV/ke <sup>-</sup>
<b>ENC</b>	~60e <sup>-</sup>
<b>FE Linearity</b>	Up to 12ke <sup>-</sup>
<b>TOT linearity (resolution)</b>	Up to 200ke <sup>-</sup> (<5%)
<b>TOA resolution*</b>	Up to 1.6ns
<b>Time-walk</b>	<20ns
<b>Minimum detectable charge</b>	~500e <sup>-</sup> → 2 KeV (Si Sensor)
<b>Power power (1.5V)</b>	700 mW/cm <sup>2</sup>
<b>Maximum hit rate</b>	80Mhits/sec (in data driven)
<b>Readout</b>	Data driven (44-bits/hit @ 5Gbps)

\* Thanks to V. Gromov, et al. Nikhef, C. Brezina et al., Bonn

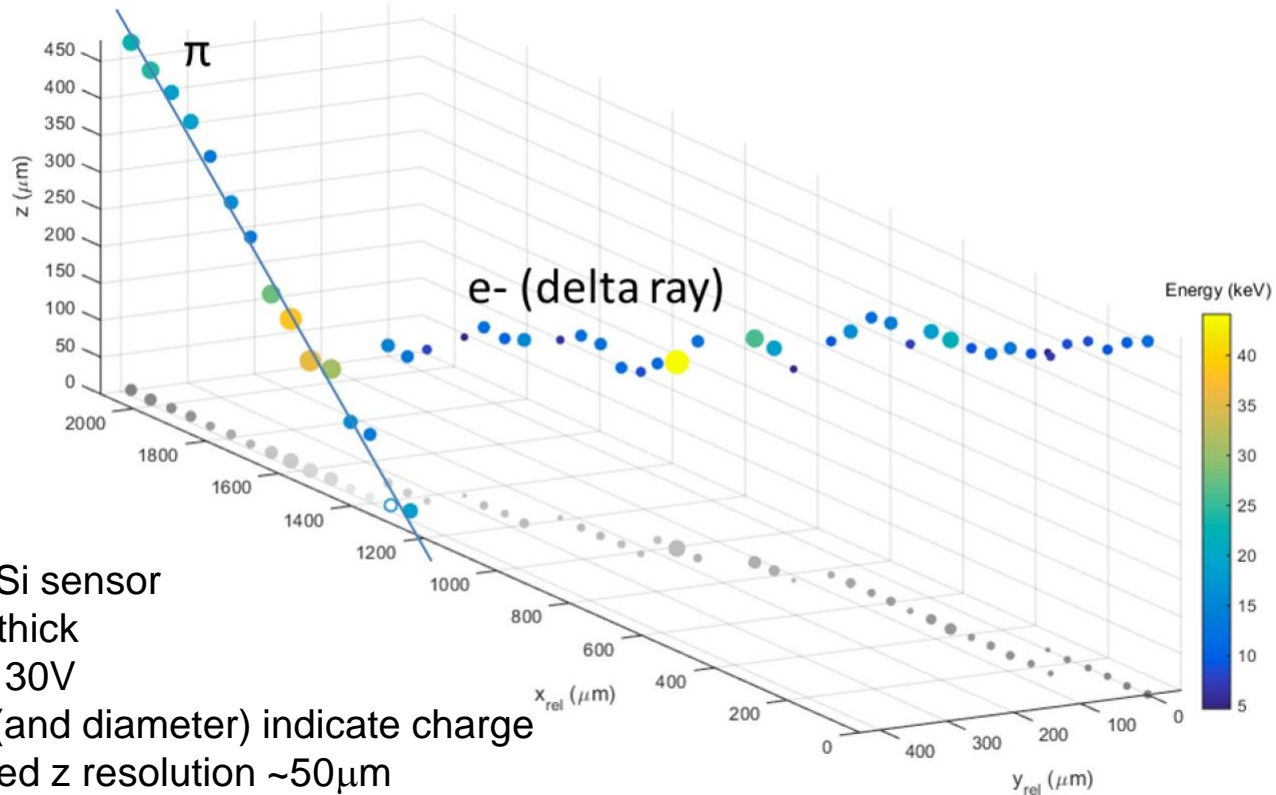


# Tracking in a single Si layer



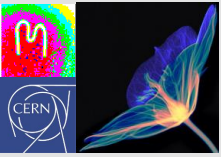


# Test with 120GeV/c Pion Track



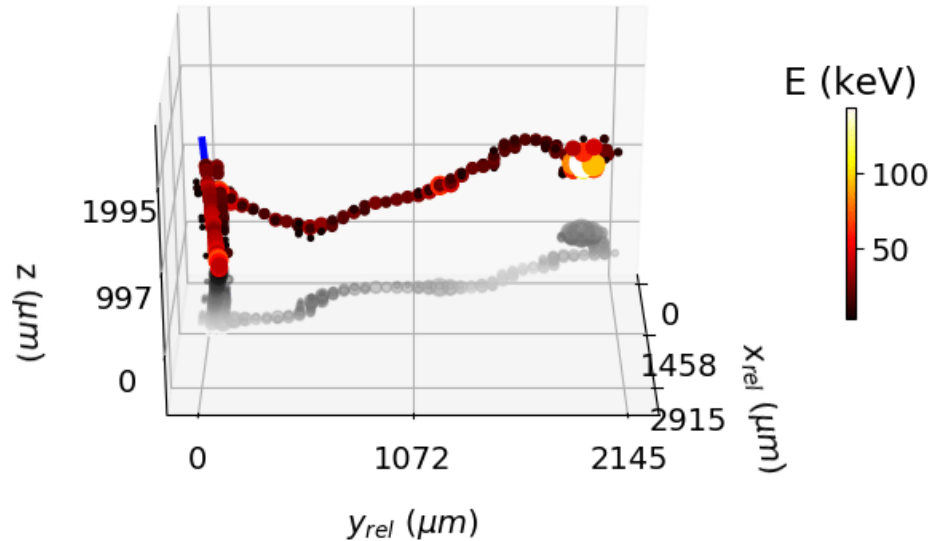
60 deg  
p+ in n Si sensor  
500 $\mu\text{m}$  thick  
 $V_{\text{bias}} = 130\text{V}$   
Colour (and diameter) indicate charge  
Measured  $z$  resolution  $\sim 50\mu\text{m}$

Slide courtesy of B. Bergmann, S. Pospisil, IEAP, CTU, Prague



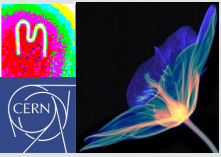
# 3D rendering of traversing particle with delta electron

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = 3.39 \frac{\text{MeVcm}^2}{\text{g}}$$



45 deg  
CdTe sensor  
2mm thick  
 $V_{bias} = 130V$   
Colour (and diameter) indicate charge

Slide courtesy of B. Bergmann, S. Pospisil, IEAP, CTU, Prague



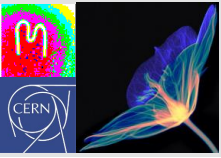
# Through Silicon Via processing of Medipix3/Timepix3

Through Silicon Vias offer the possibility of creating 4-side buttable tiles

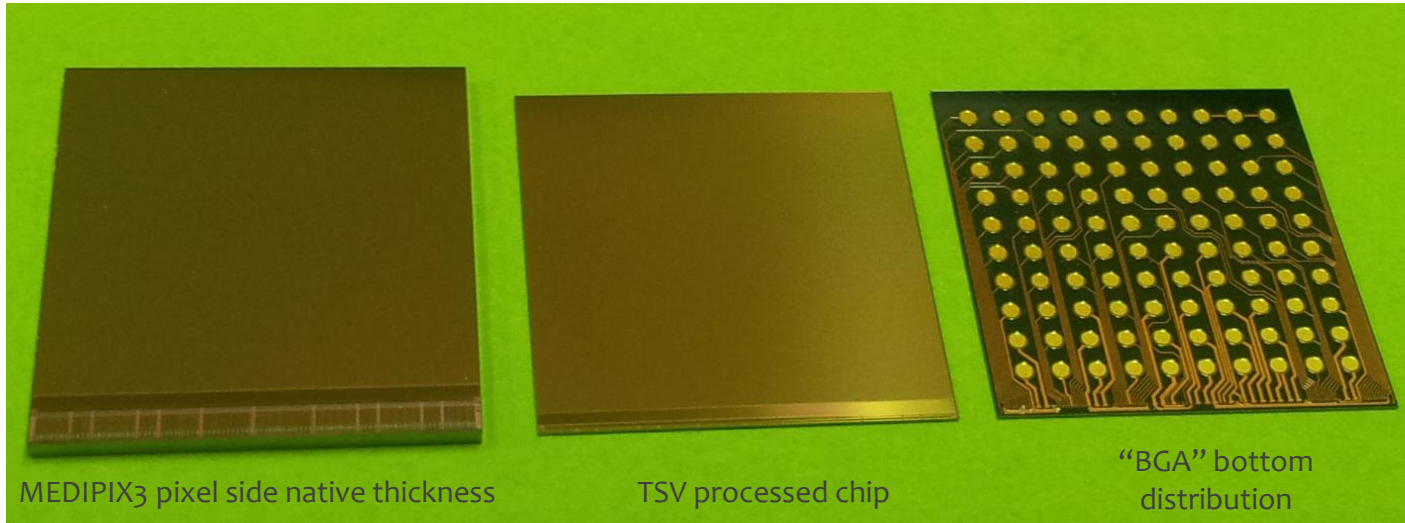
3 projects for been undertaken with LETI

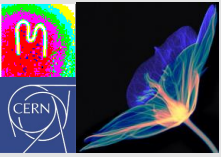
- Funding mainly from Medipix3 Collaboration, AIDA and LCD group

- 1) 2011 - Feasibility of TSV processing on Medipix3 (low yield wafers)
- 2) 2013 - Proof of yield using Medipix3RX wafers (6 wafers)
- 3) 2014 - TSV processing of ultra-thin Medipix3/Timepix3 wafers (50 $\mu$ m)

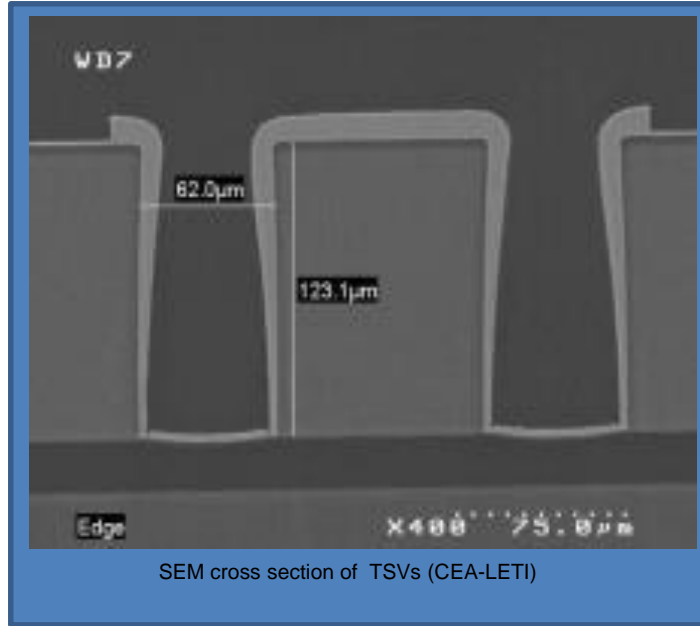


# TSV processing on the Medipix3

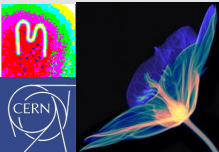




# TSV Process – CEA LETI

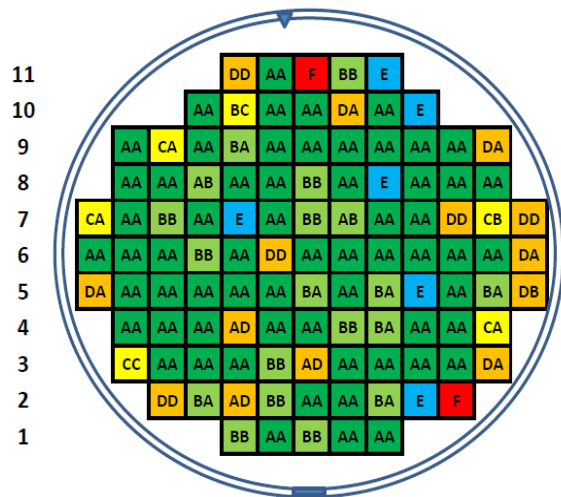






# Yield verification of TSV processed wafers

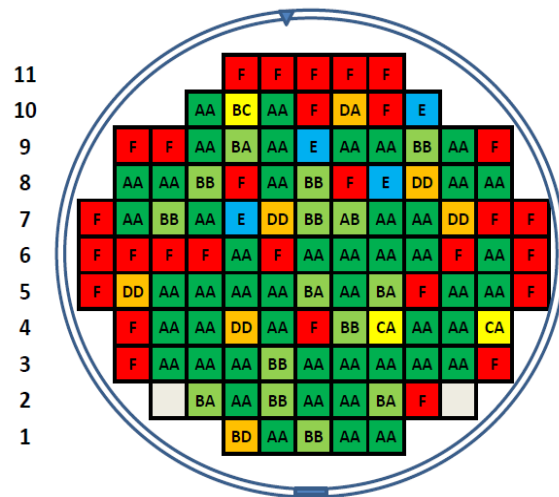
W128\_AZPGBPH\_before\_TSV



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

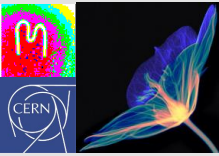
	AA	62	57%
	BB, BA or AB	19	17%
	CC, CA, AC, BC or CB	6	6%
	D	14	13%
	E	6	6%
	F	2	2%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100%</b>

W128\_AZPGBPH\_after TSV



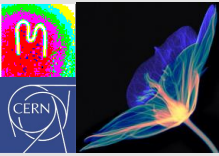
A B C D E F G H I J K L M

	AA	48	45%
	BB, BA or AB	15	14%
	CC, CA, AC, BC or CB	3	3%
	D	7	7%
	E	4	4%
	F	30	28%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100%</b>

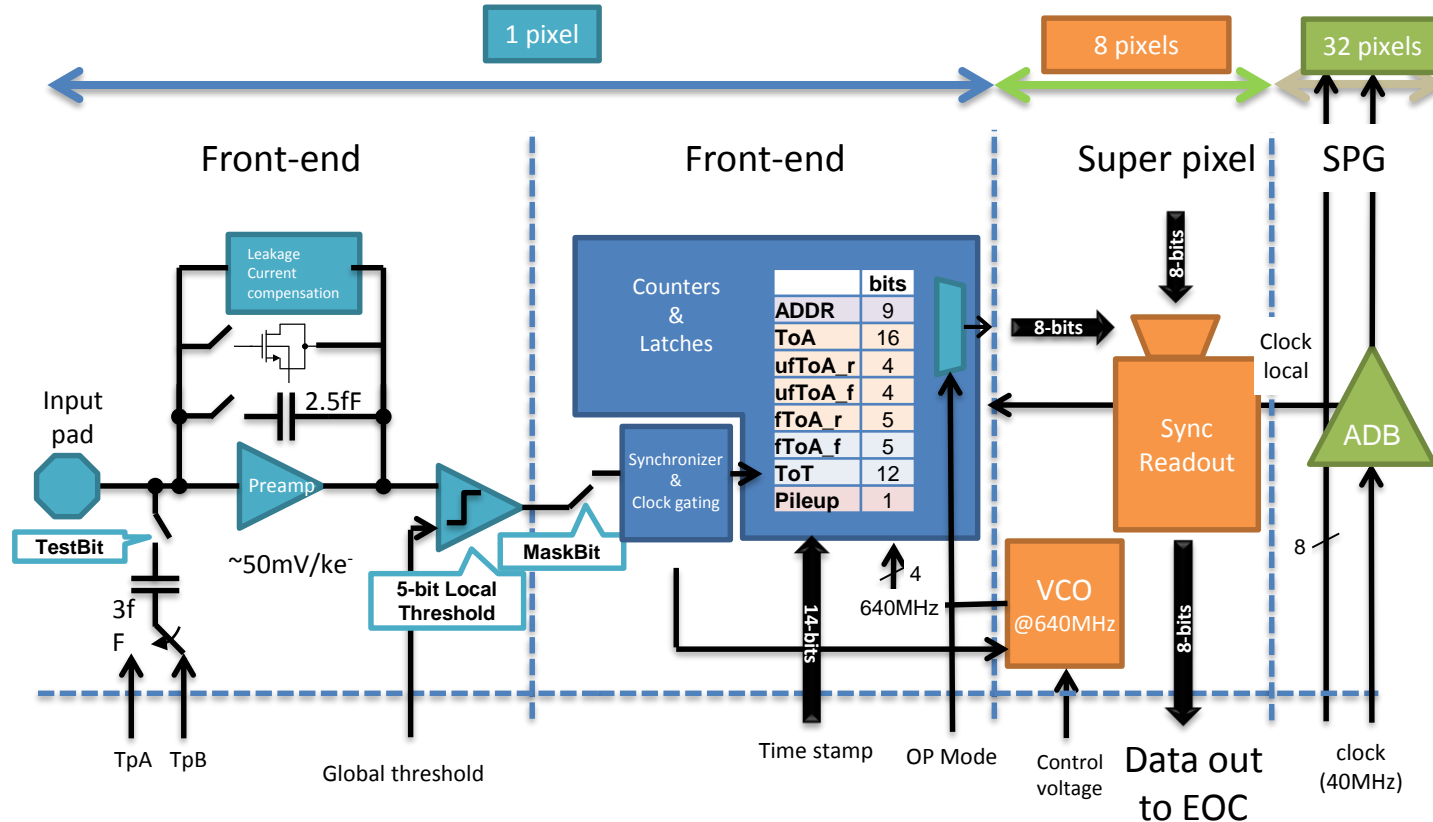


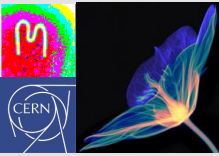
# Timepix3 → Timepix4

		Timepix3 (2013)	Timepix4 (2018/19)	
<b>Technology</b>		130nm – 8 metal	65nm – 10 metal	
<b>Pixel Size</b>		55 x 55 $\mu\text{m}$	55 x 55 $\mu\text{m}$	
<b>Pixel arrangement</b>		3-side buttable 256 x 256	4-side buttable 512 x 448	
<b>Sensitive area</b>		1.98 $\text{cm}^2$	6.94 $\text{cm}^2$	
<b>Readout Modes</b>	Data driven (Tracking)	Mode	TOT and TOA	
		Event Packet	48-bit	64-bit
		Max rate	<80 Mhits/s	<358 MHz/ $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$
		Max pix rate	1.3kHz/pixel	10.6kHz/pixel
	Frame based (Imaging)	Mode	PC (10-bit) and iTOT (14-bit)	CRW: PC (8 or 16-bit)
		Frame	Zero-suppressed (with pixel addr)	Full Frame (without pixel addr) CRW (8-bit / 16-bit) Up to 44 KHz frame @8b
		Max count rate	82 Ghits/ $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$	~800 Ghits/ $\text{cm}^2/\text{s}$
		<b>TOT energy resolution</b>		< 2KeV
<b>Time resolution (bin size)</b>		1.56ns	~200ps	
<b>Readout bandwidth</b>		$\leq 5.12\text{Gb}$ (8 x SLVS@640 Mbps)	$\leq 163\text{ Gbps}$ (16 x 10.24 Gbps)	
<b>Target global minimum threshold</b>		<500 $e^-$	<500 $e^-$	

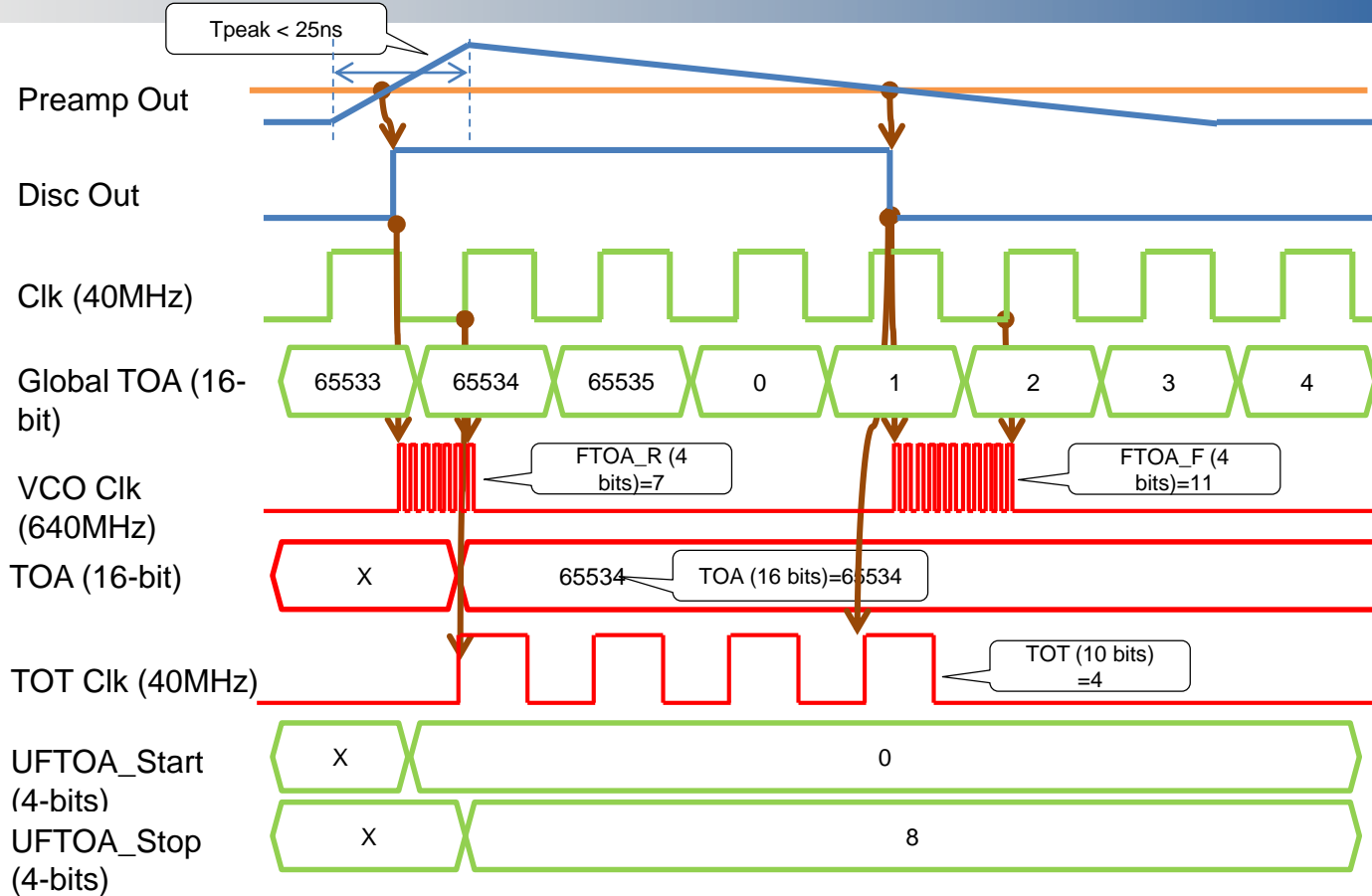


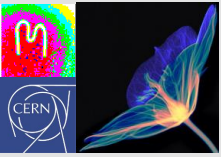
# Timepix4 Pixel Schematic



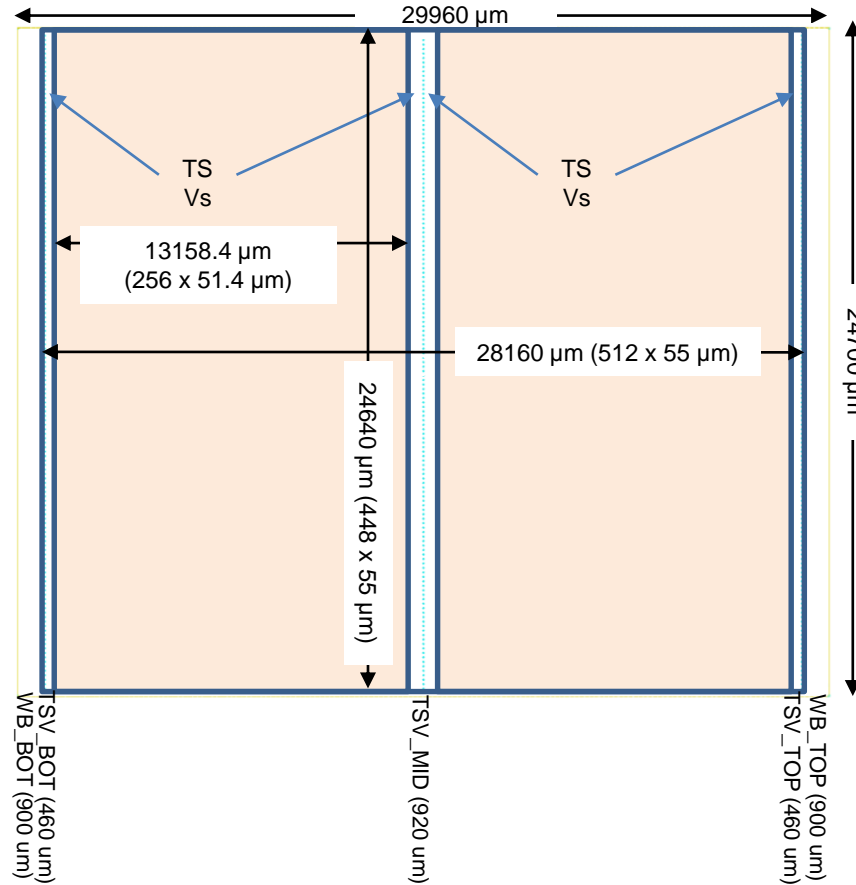


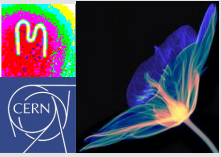
# Pixel Operation in TOA & TOT [DD]



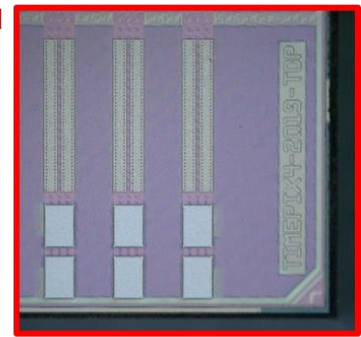
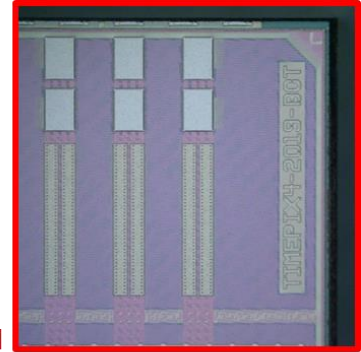
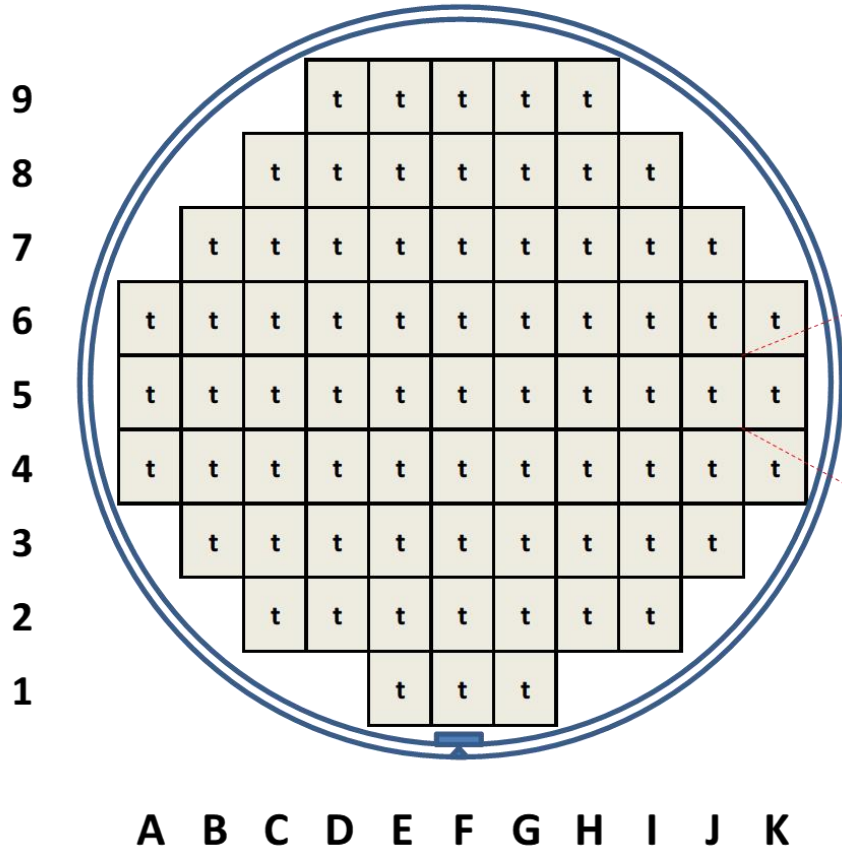


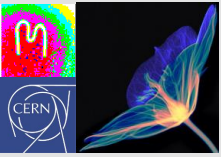
# Timepix4 Floorplan



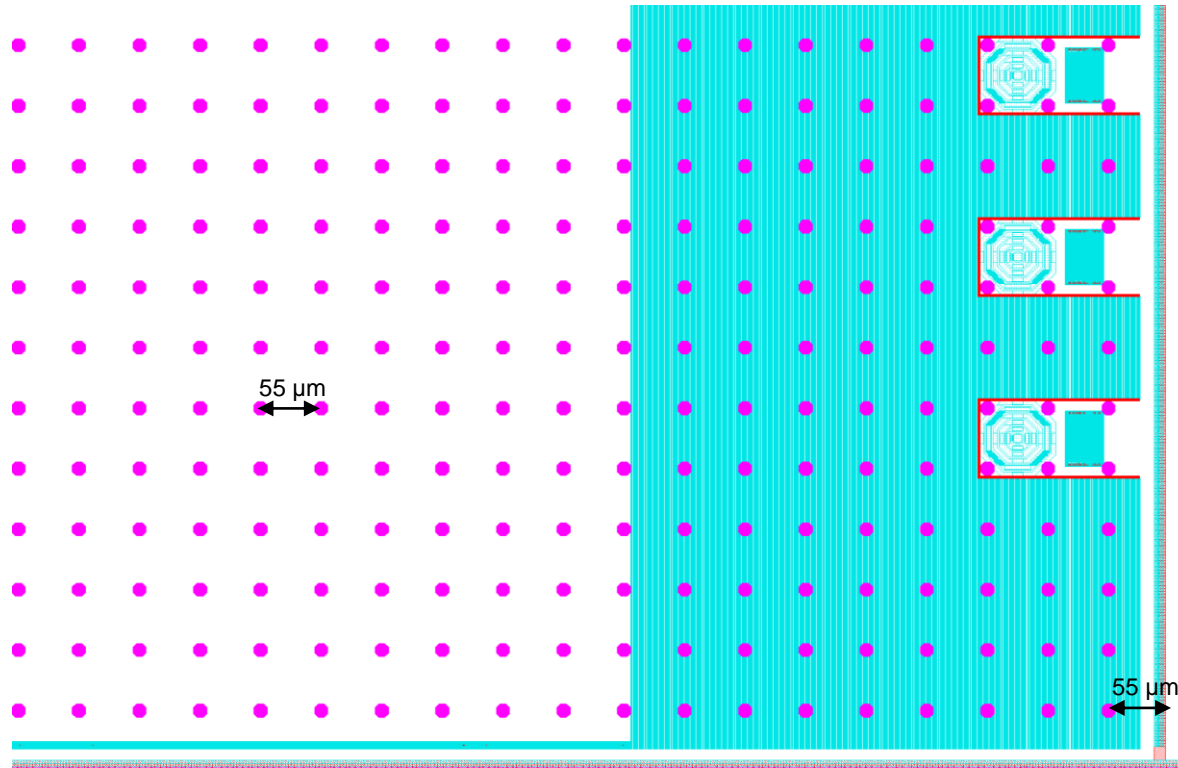


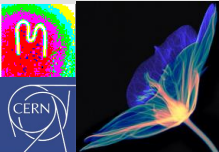
# Timepix4 wafer map



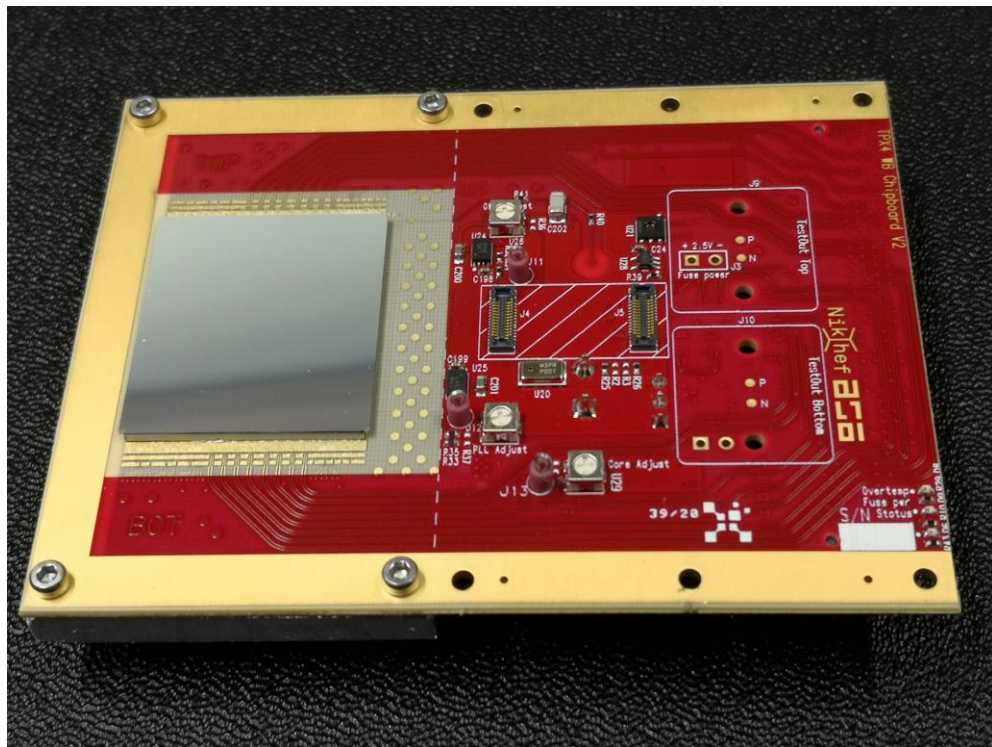


# TSV (on M1) and BUMPs (on M10)

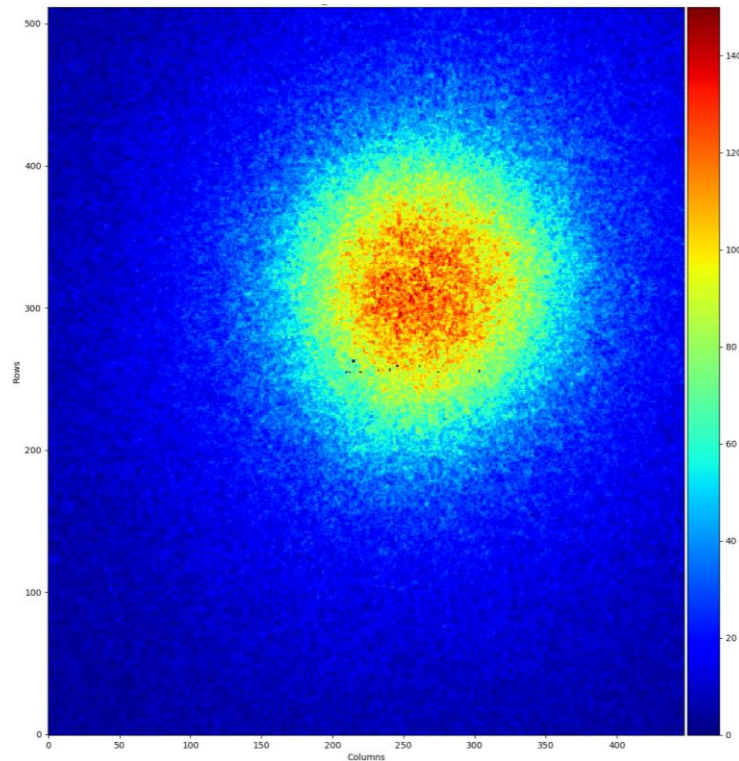




# Timepix4 – works! 😊

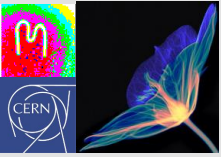


10s exp.  $^{90}\text{Sr}$



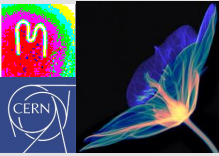
Threshold  $\sim 800e^-$   
6.1 M packets @ 5 Gbps





# Summary of the evolution of Timepix chips

- With each new generation more functionality has been added to readout chips
- In particular, we moved from frame-based readout (Timepix and Timepix2) to event driven readout (Timepix3 and Timepix4)
  - Requires excellent signal to threshold ratio
  - Escapes the need for high frame rates to obtain precise hit time tagging
- This – possibly unique feature – has opening many new applications in particle detection
- With Timepix4 (combined with TSVs and edgeless sensors) we can cover large areas seamlessly
- Such a feature may be especially useful for the gas detector community



# Some references and links

“An introduction to the Medipix family ASICs,” R. Ballabriga, M. Campbell, X. Llopart, *Radiation Measurements* 136 (2020) 106271

“VeloPix: the pixel ASIC for the LHCb upgrade,” T. Poikela et al. *Journal of Instrumentation*, Volume 10, January 2015

[MARS Bio-imaging](#)

[InsightArt](#)

[Advacam cameras](#)

[Diamond Light Source detector group](#)

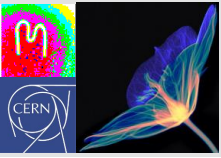
[Admira project](#)

“Development of a rest gas ionisation profile monitor for the CERN Proton Synchrotron based on a Timepix3 pixel detector,” S. Levasseur et al., *Journal of Instrumentation*, Volume 12, February 2017

“Optical Readout of the ARIADNE LArTPC Using a Timepix3-Based Camera,” Adam Lowe et al *Instruments* 2020, 4(4), 35;

“Registration of the transition radiation with GaAs detector: Data/MC comparison,” J Alozy et al, 2020 J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 1690 012041

3D reconstruction of particle tracks in a 2 mm thick CdTe hybrid pixel detector,” Bergmann, B., Burian, P., Manek, P. *et al. Eur. Phys. J. C* 79, 165 (2019).



# Thank you for your attention!

