



An Update on the Colossus mK Platform at Fermilab

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction to the Superconducting Quantum Materials and Systems Center at Fermilab and the goals of the Colossus project
- Cryogenic and mechanical layout
- Expected performance metrics
- Current status and expected timeline





Introduction to SQMS

- One of five centers set up under the National Quantum Initiative, hosted by Fermilab with partners at National Labs, universities and industry
- Overall goal is to "understand the physics and materials origin of coherence limiting factors" – in other words, to explore the underlying phenomena that control the lifetime of the quantum states in the devices
- A promising path to achieving long lifetime is to adopt a three-dimensional architecture coupling a superconducting qubit to a superconducting radiofrequency cavity





Quantum computing with 3-D structures

- One focus area for SQMS is the development of "qudit" devices, where a 2-D superconducting circuit couples to multiple degrees of freedom in a 3-D cavity
- Long cavity lifetimes have been previously demonstrated at mK temperatures (see Romanenko *et al.* 2020) – addresses the coherence time issue
- Results in a physically large object at mK temperatures



Niobium TESLA cavities of increasing frequency





Colossus General Arrangement



- Key feature of the system is the 2-meter diameter cold plate at the 20-mK stage
- 20-mK cold volume is 5 cubic meters, enclosed by a copper thermal shield for stray light control in the experiment space
- Internal structure consists of 6 progressively colder plates with thermal shields
- Vacuum top plate now a flat head (replacing the dished head in the conceptual design) to allow more space for services and feed throughs.





Colossus Facility



- Conceptual design made use of an existing vacuum chamber (pictured)
- Now plan to replace with a new, larger vessel, although will still use the same work platform





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Transfer line assembly

Cryogenics Plant





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Overview of the Cryogenics System

- Thermal architecture consists of three distinct systems:
 - Liquid nitrogen supplied at 80 K to the first cold plate
 - Liquid helium supplied at 4.8 K, with some flow diverted inside the cryostat through an additional heat exchanger and JT valve to produce a superfluid stage
 - Sub-1 K stages provided by multiple Helium-3 dilution circuits
- Very high cooling power is available from the cryogenic plant, while multiple Helium-3 circuits operating in parallel overcomes the performance limitations in the operation of the individual heat exchanger stacks.





Mechanical Layout

80-K Plate (Liquid Nitrogen) 5-K Plate (Helium) 2-K Plate (Superfluid Helium)

MC1 Plate (100 mK)



Vacuum chamber (3.4m diameter, 4.5m tall)

1-K Plate (Still)

MC2 Plate (20 mK)

20-mK space (2m diameter, 1.5m tall)



Mechanical Layout



Thermal Staging

- Nominal temperatures and sizes of each thermal stage of the Colossus cryostat are tabulated below.
- Thermal shields are installed at all stages except the MC1 stage at 100 mK

Stage	Nominal Temperature	Diameter / mm	Shield?
Vacuum Vessel	300 K	3600	Yes
Thermal Shield	80 K	3000	Yes
Helium Stage	5 K	2800	Yes
Superfluid Helium Stage	2 K	2500	Yes
Still	1 K	2300	Yes
MC1	100 mK	2200	No
MC2	20 mK	2000	Yes







Interstage Supports

- Each cold plate in the cryostat are suspended with a system of four fiber-reinforced bars.
- Attached with stainless brackets and rollers that allow rotation.
- Bars are arranged radially to compensate for shrinkage on cooling
- Supports are designed to carry a load approaching 40,000 kg – allows later installation of cold high-density shielding.







Helium Cryoplant

- Platform will use an existing helium cryoplant, specified at 625 W @ 4.7 K
- Existing transfer line will be replaced to reduce losses and improve the helium quality delivered to Colossus
- Addition of a pumping skid adds 2-K
 operation to the plant
- More information in Tatkowski et al.



Existing cryoplant, with expansion engines, valve box and 2000-liter storage dewar





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Helium-3 System

- Dilution cooling at the lower most plate will be provided by up to 10 dilution "cores" procured from a commercial vendor, each providing up to 20-50 μW @ 20 mK at the MC2 layer
- Discussions with vendors to procure these units is underway – this will be a competitive procurement
- Additional information in James et al.



Still 0.6K~ 0.7K Continuous heat exchanger 0.05K~ 0.07K Intermediate cold plate 0.04K~ 0.05K Silver heat exchanger 0.02K~ 0.03K

Mixing chamber 0.01K or lower

Image: Janis Research Company





Helium-3 System

- Still pumping and condensing lines are designed to be modular, with assembly and leak checking on the bench before integration with the cryostat.
- Inlet capillaries wrap onto a common heat intercept plate at each of the upper thermal stages.
 - Precooling at 80 K and 5 K
 - Condensation at 2 K
- Bellows couplings for flexibility and thermal contraction between stages.







Expected Heat Loads and Performance

Stage	Nominal Temperature	Expected Quiescent Load *	Available Cooling Capacity
Thermal Shield	80 K	155 W	9 kW +
Helium Stage	5 K	50 W	200 W
Superfluid Stage	2 K	3.74 W	10 W
Still	1 K	1.2 mW	100 mW
Mixing Chamber MC1	100 mK	138 μW	3 mW
Mixing Chamber MC2	20 mK	1 μW	300 μW

* Excluding experimental wiring

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Current Status and Timeline

- Detailed, final design is underway
- Procurement of long-lead items and fabrication expected to start towards the end of 2023
- Initial assembly and commissioning of the cryostat with limited mK capability expected in 2025
- Upgrade to full mK system in 2026-2027 depending on continued funding of the SQMS program





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