



# EUSO-SPB2: Mission Status and Prospects

Lawrence Wiencke  
Colorado School of Mines  
ASAPP  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
Perugia, Italy



3 AM, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, Wanaka N.Z.

	Institution	EUSO-SPB2 Science Team	Work Packages
US	U. Chicago	A. Olinto (PI), R. Diesing, S. Meyer, J. Eser	IR Camera (UCIRC), Gondola, ST
US	Mines	L. Wiencke (Dep. PI), F. Sarazin, G. Filippatos, V. Kungel, T. Heigbes, H. Wistrand, D. Fuhne	Telescopes:(Mech, Testing, Integ, Calib, Field Testing) Optical Test Stand, ST controller, Simulations
US	Iowa	Y. Onel, M. Reno	CT, FT LED systems, Neutrino ToO
US	MSFC	M. Christl, R. Young, P. Alridge	GCC system
US	UAH	P. Reardon, J.Adams, E. Kuznetsov,	Optics Design, Solar Power, CT subsystems,
US	Lehman U.	L. Anchordoqui, T. Paul	MAPMTs, Simulations
US	Ga Tech	N. Otte, E. Gazda, M. Bagheri, O. Romero	CT SiPM camera development
AL	CDTA, CRAAG	M. Traiche (CDTA), M. FOUKA ( CRAAG)	Simulations
CZ	U. Olomouc	C Kerny, M. Pech, P. Schovanek	Mirror Segments for CT and FT
FR	APC	G. Prévôt, S. E. Parizot	FT camera Elementary Cells,
FR	OMEGA	S. Blin	Electronics -ASICS
IT	INFN & U. Napoli	G. Osteria, V. Scotti, L. Valore, F. Guarino	CPU, Fluorescence Detector – DAQ, ....
IT	INFN & U. Torino	M. Battisti, M. Bertaina F. Bisconti, F Fenu H. Miamoto K. Shinozaki	Simulations, lab testing, trigger algorithms
IT	INFN & Univ. Bari	F. Cafagna	Flight (telescope) Software, FT Camera Housing
IT	UTIU	C. Fornaro	Fluorescence Telescope DAQ Software
IT	LNF-INFN, Frascati	M.Ricci	Italian coordinator
JA	RIKEN	M. Cassolino, T. Ebisuzaki, Y. Takizawa	Optics(ACP), PMT testing
Mx	U. Mexico	G. Medina-Tanco	Thermal Modeling
POL	NCBJ	J. Szabelski, L. Petrowski	FT HV system, simulations
RU	MSU	P. Klimov, A. Belov	FT Camera zynq boards
SE	KTH	C. Fuglesang.	FT Camera structure (prototype)
SK	SAS	S. Mackovjak	UV/Vis Monitors



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IT	INFN & Univ. Bari	F...	...tor – DAQ, ....
IT	UTIU		...testing, trigger algorithms
IT	LNF-INFN, Frascati	...Ricci	... (scope) Software, FT Camera Housing
IT			...scence Telescope DAQ Software
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11 Countries participating in EUSO-SPB2



nuSpaceSim Group (Krizmanic et al)

John F. Krizmanic<sup>\*1,2,3†</sup>, Yosui Akaike<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Douglas R. Bergman<sup>4</sup>, Johannes Eser<sup>5</sup>, Sameer Patel<sup>6</sup>, Mary Hall Reno<sup>6</sup>, Andrés Romero-Wolf<sup>7</sup>, Fred Sarazin<sup>5</sup>, Tonia M. Venters<sup>2</sup>, Luis Anchordoqui<sup>8</sup>, Simon Mackovjak<sup>9</sup>, Angela V. Olinto<sup>10</sup>, Lawrence Wiencke<sup>5</sup>, Stephanie Wissel<sup>11</sup>, Alexander Reustle<sup>2,12</sup>

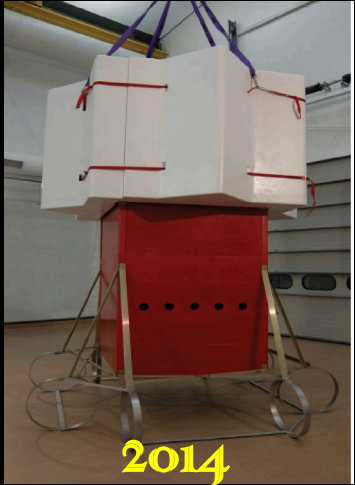




EUSO-SPB2

Telescopes	2	1 Fluorescence (FT)	1 Cherenkov (CT)
Energy Threshold		~3 EeV	~1 PeV
Sensor Type		MAPMT (Hamamatsu)	SiPM Hamamatsu (S14521-6050CN)
Wavelength Sensitivity		UV 300-420 nm (BG3 filter x QE)	no filter (~300-~900 nm)
Time Bin		1000 ns/bin	10 ns
Pointing (zenith angle)		nadir	+2.2, -15.3 about horizontal
FOV (instrumented)		3x(11x11) deg 	6.4x12.8 deg 
Number of Pixels		3x2304=6912 (3 48x48 PDMs)	16x32=512 (16 Vert x 32 Horz)
Pixel FOV (& size)		0.2x0.2 deg (2.8x2.8 mm)	0.4x0.4 deg (6.25 x 6.25mm)
Optics (modified Schmidt)	Spherical Mirror Glass, ROC 1659.8 mm	6 segments common focus + camera corrector/filter	4 segments bifocal separation 2 pixels horizontal
Entrance Pupil	1 m diameter	PPMA corrector plate	PPMA corrector plate
Payload Mass (lbs)	~3000 lbs Science (5625 total payload)	~850 lbs	~750 lbs
Float Height	110,000 ft (33 km, 7 mbar)		Earth limb 5.8 deg below horz.
Launch Location	Wanaka NZ 2023		
Duration Target	100 days		

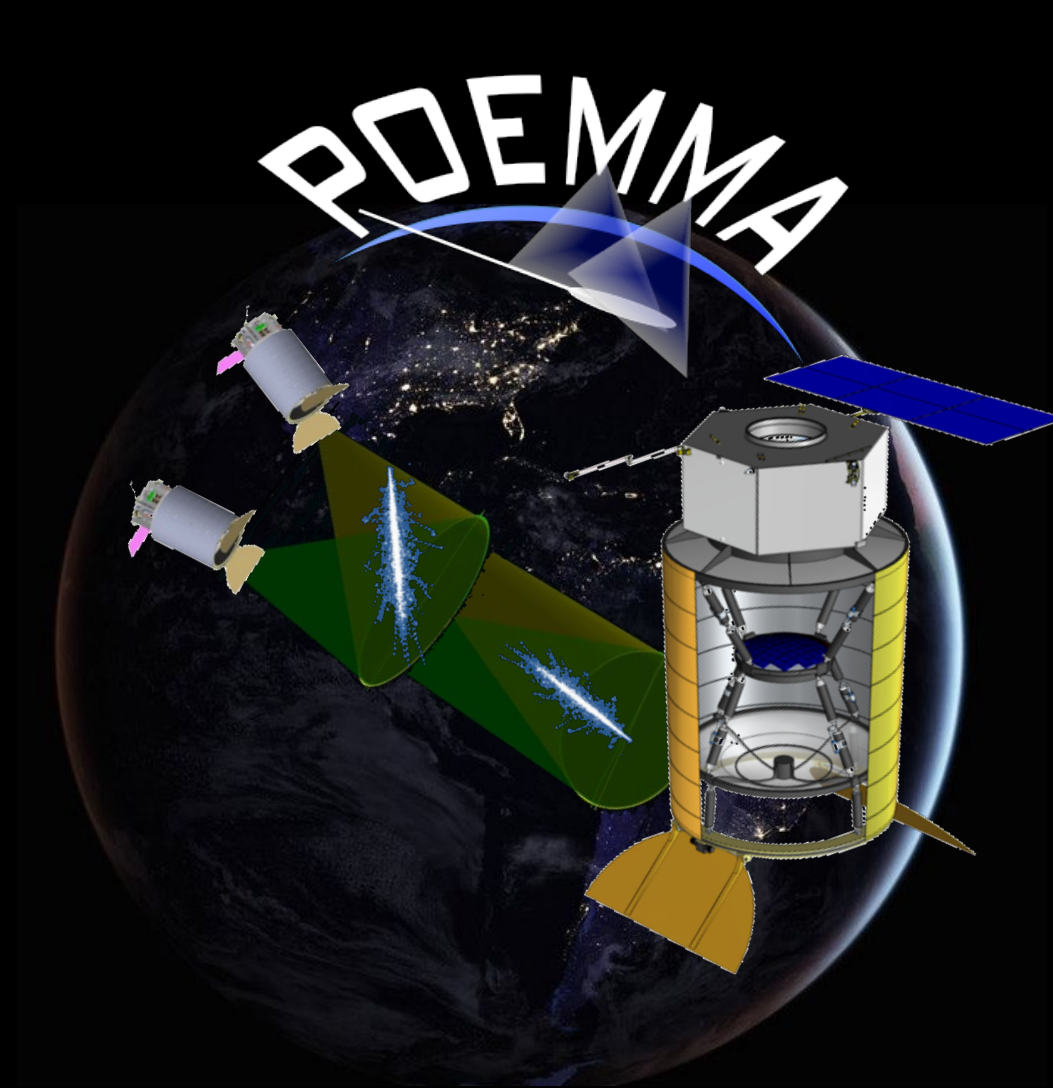
## EUSO-Balloon



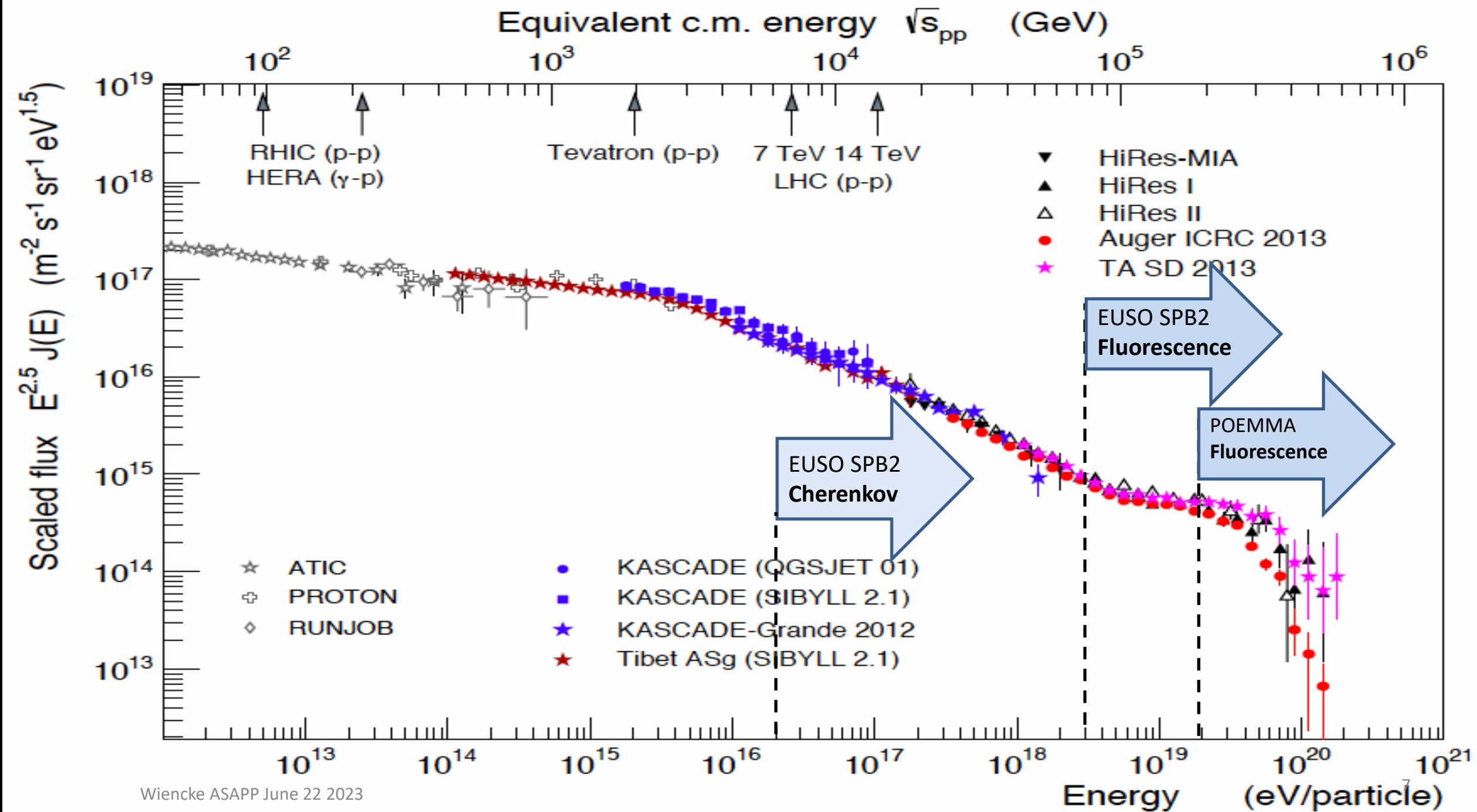
## EUSO-SPB1

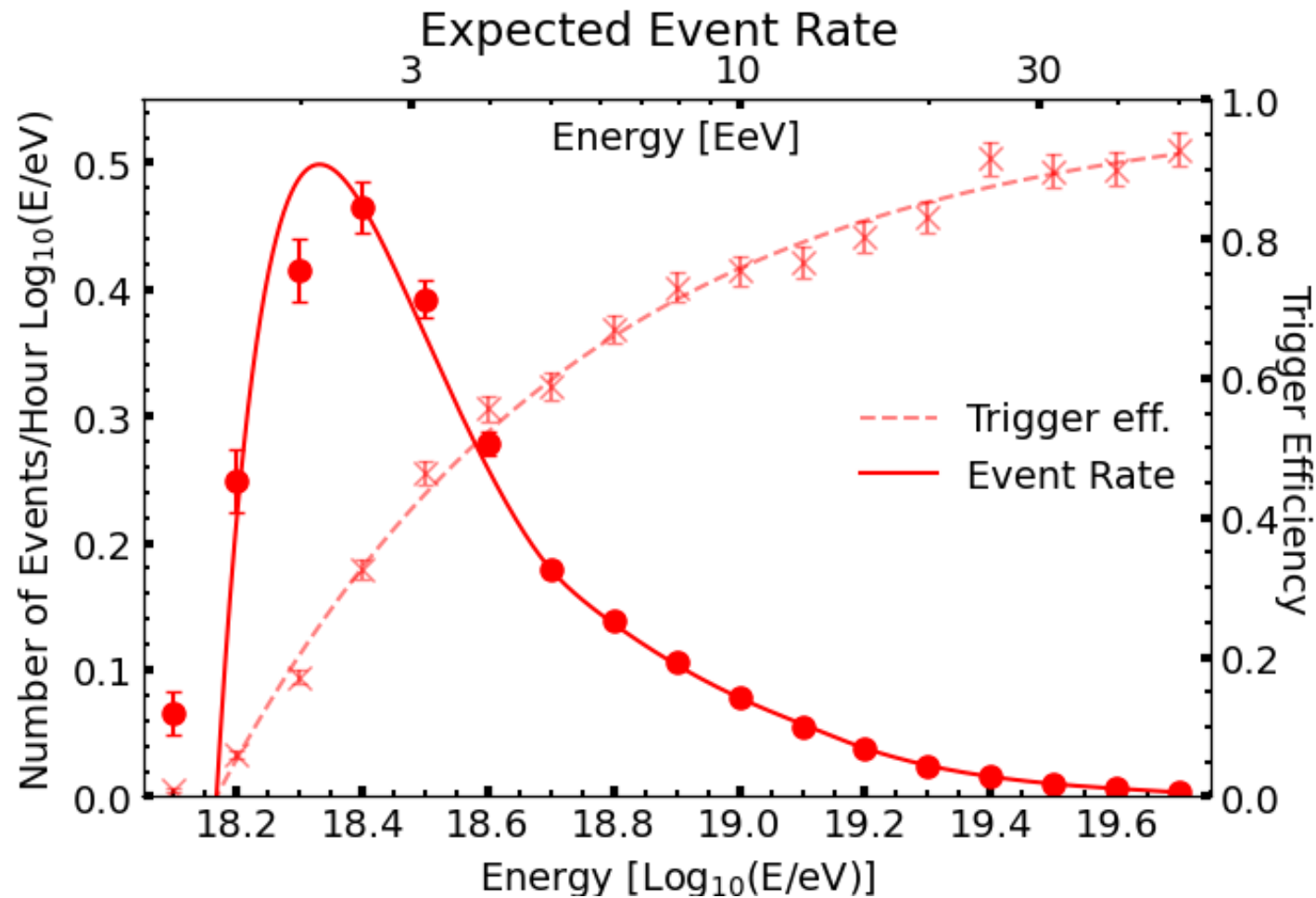


## EUSO-SPB2









Energy threshold:  $\sim 1.5 \text{ EeV}$  with peak sensitivity at  $2 \text{ EeV}$

**$\sim 1$  event per day** ( $< 10\%$  are reconstructible)

On board pre-selection using Neural Network ( $\sim 90\%$  accuracy)



# Cherenkov Telescope: Direct CR (Method)

• Showers develop at high altitudes

– 90° zenith: 300g/cm<sup>2</sup>

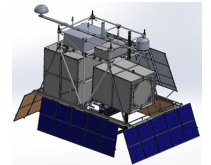
$$E_{thr} = \frac{m}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{n(z)^2}}}$$

• Minimal atmospheric attenuation

– Aerosols end ~5km

– Maximal ozone 20-30km

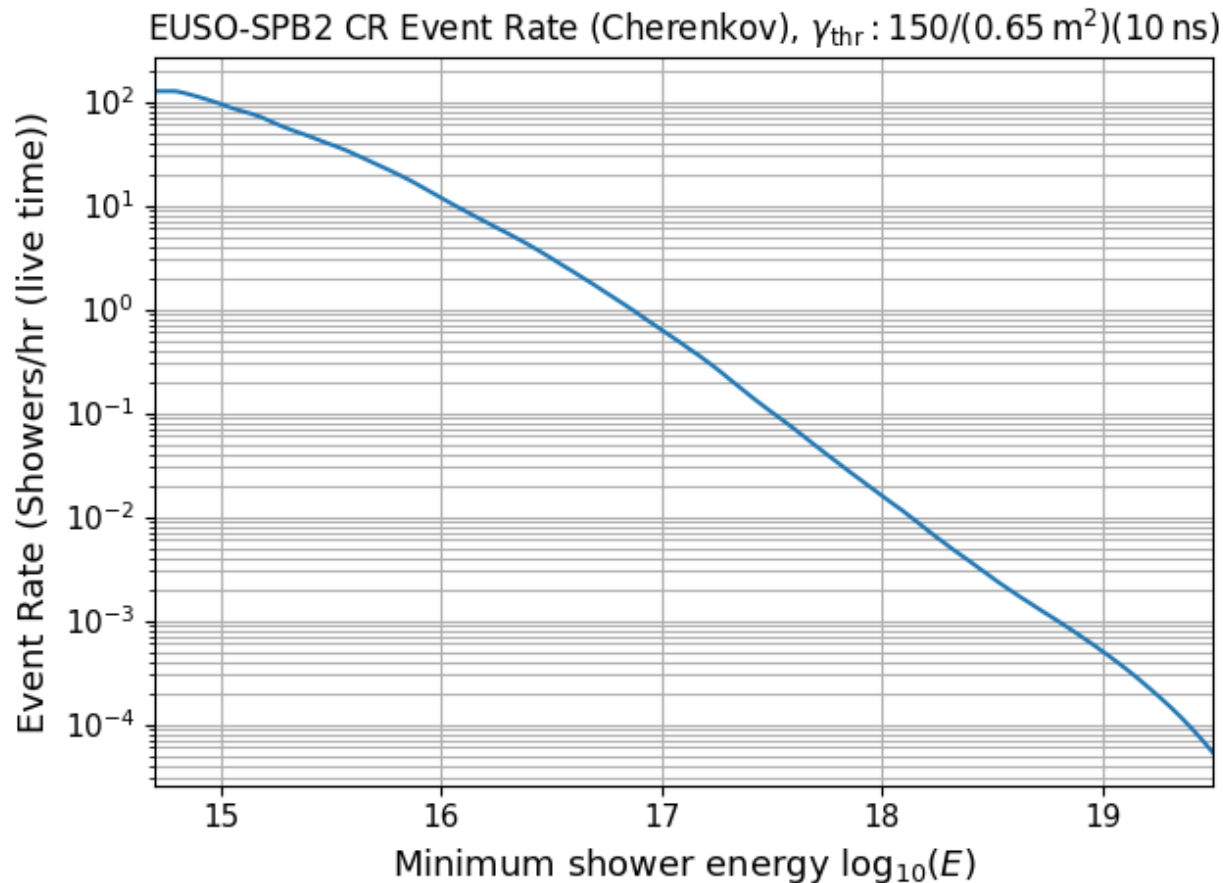
• Full Monte Carlo simulation performed using signals calculated by EASCherSim (Cummings et. al. PRD 2021)



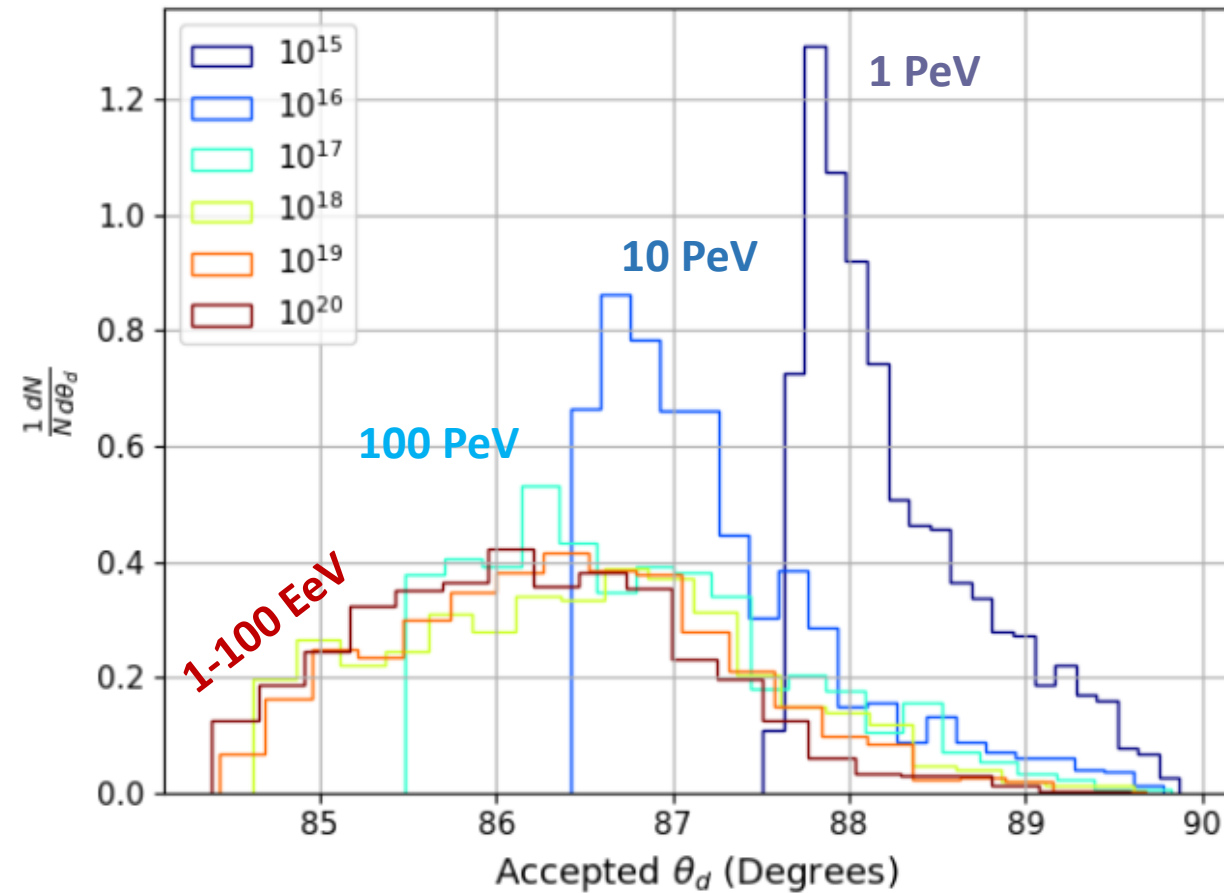
# CT Science: Direct CR (Simulation)

- Low energy threshold ( $\sim 1$  PeV)
- Hundreds of events per hour of live time
- Angular acceptance energy dependent
- High energy events observable near limb

Cummings, Aloiso, Eser, Krizmanic:  
PRD 104, 063029 (2021)



In situ benchmark for Cherenkov method

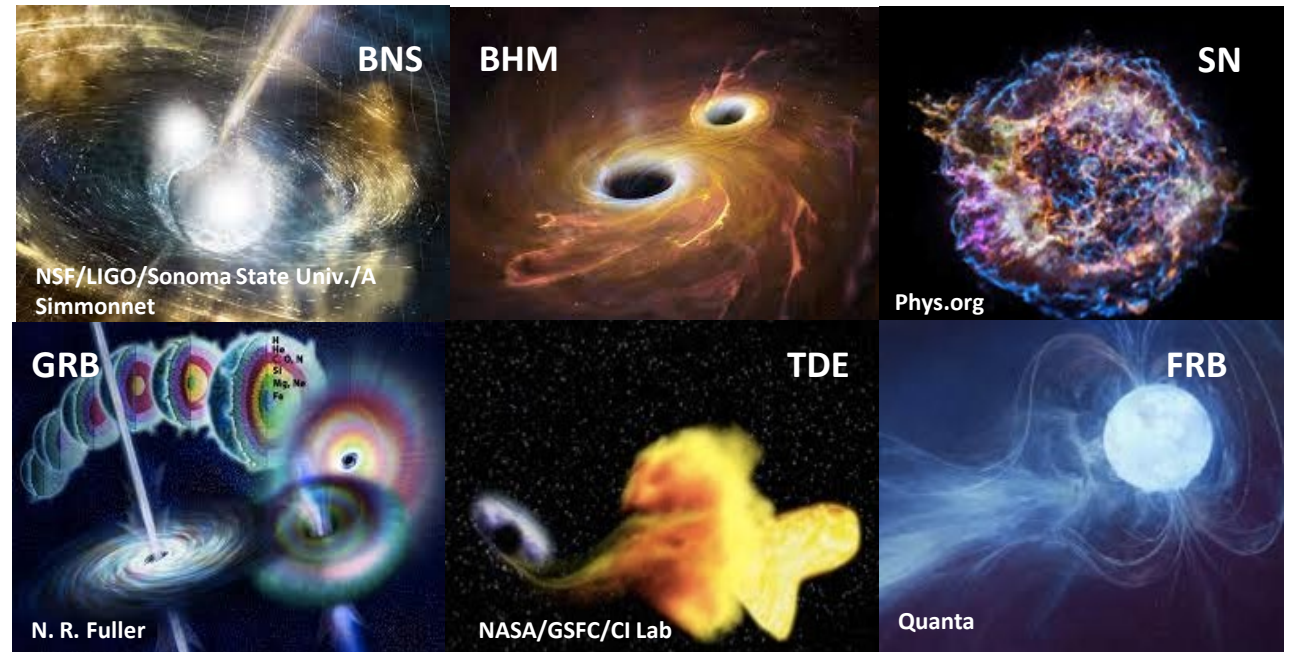




**“Below the Limb: the CT measures optical background signals and searches for Cherenkov light from Extensive Air Showers caused by Earth skimming Very-High-Energy (VHE) tau neutrinos ( $E > 10$  PeV) from transient astrophysical events”**

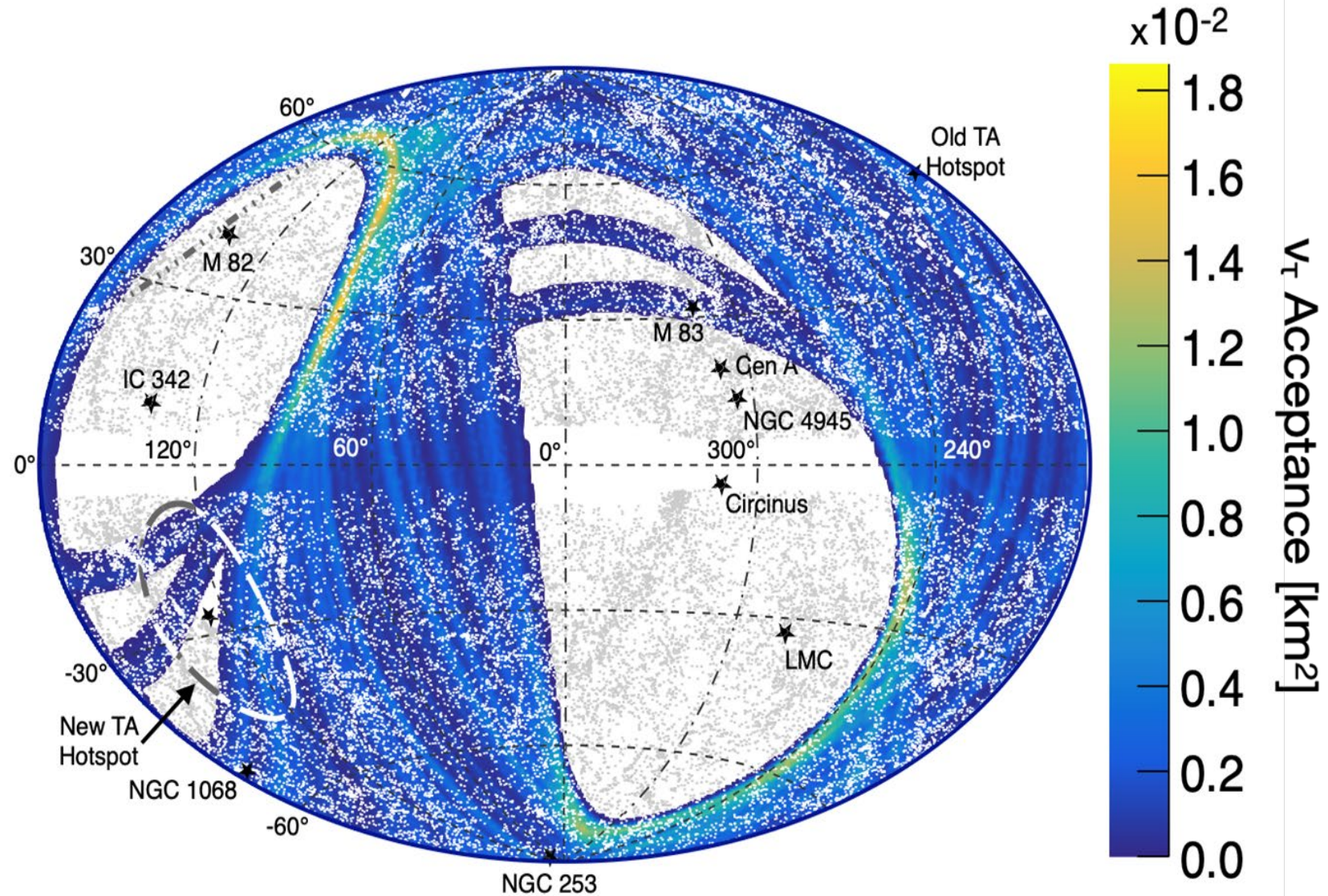
**Transient astrophysical events of interest:**

- Binary Neutron Star Merger (BNSM)
- Black Hole Merger (BHM)
- Gamma Ray Burst (GRB)
- Tidal Disruption Event (TDE)
- Supernovae
- Blazar Flares
- Fast Radio Bursts (FRB)
- Active Galactic Nuclei



Observing Period O4 for gravitational wave  
experiments started May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# ToO: Acceptance Sky Map (100 day Flight)





May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, EUSO-SPB2 Launch, Wanaka NZ







Wiencke ASAPP June 22 2023

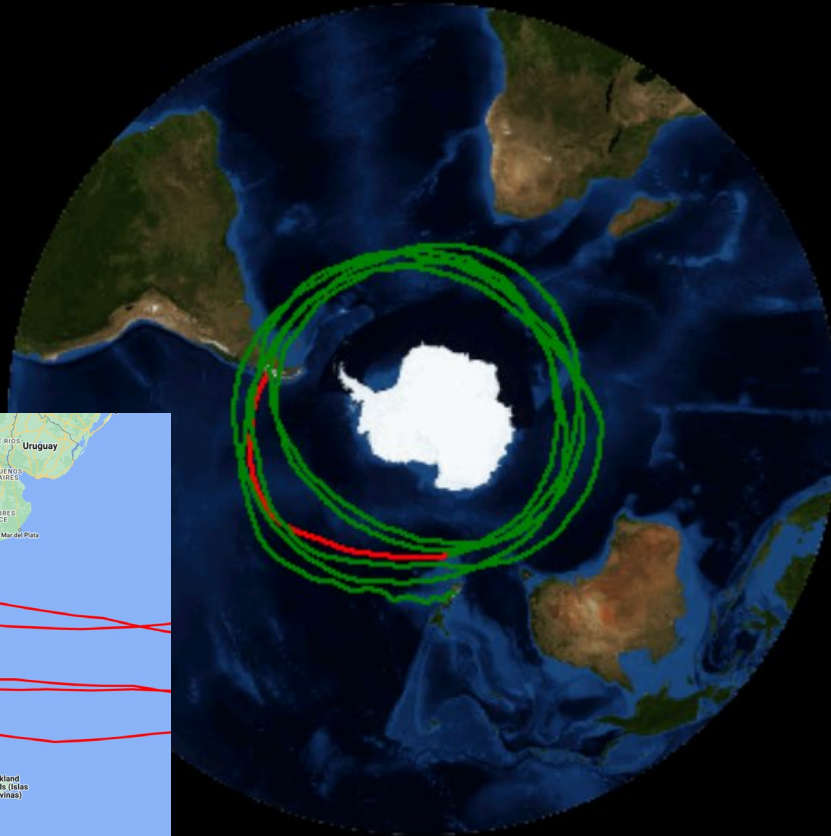


# 2023 Wanaka, New Zealand NASA Long Duration Balloon (LDB) Operations



728NT - SN08 - SUPERBIT Balloon Tracking

729NT - SN09 - EUSO 2 Balloon Tracking



Flight Ended

Total Flight Time

39 Days 13 hours 35 minutes

Launched April 15, 2023

Wiencke ASAPP June 22 2023

Launched May 13, 2023



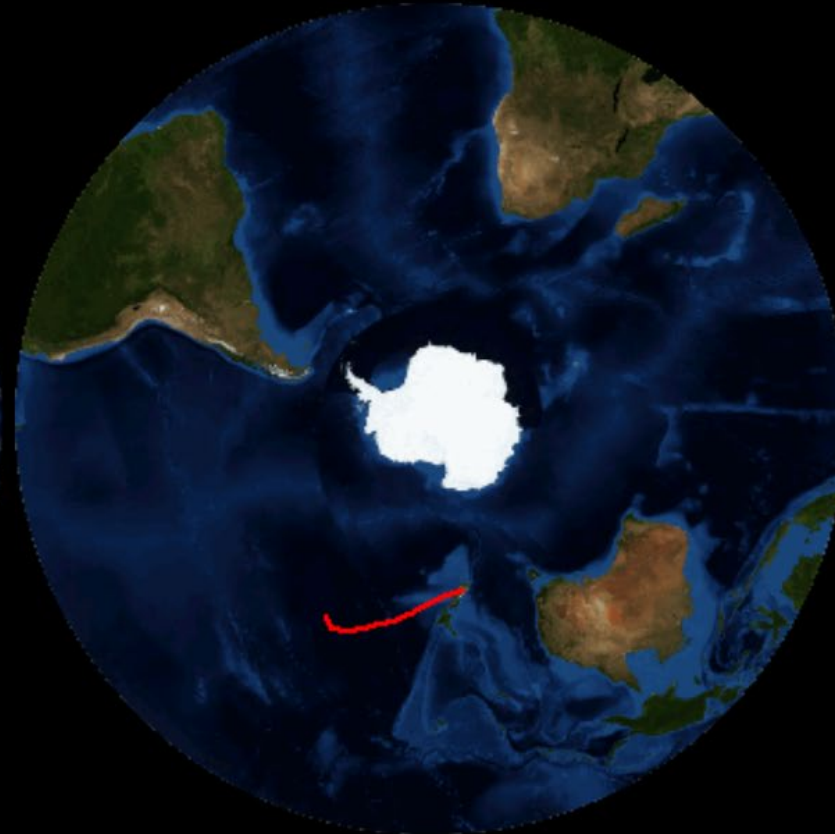
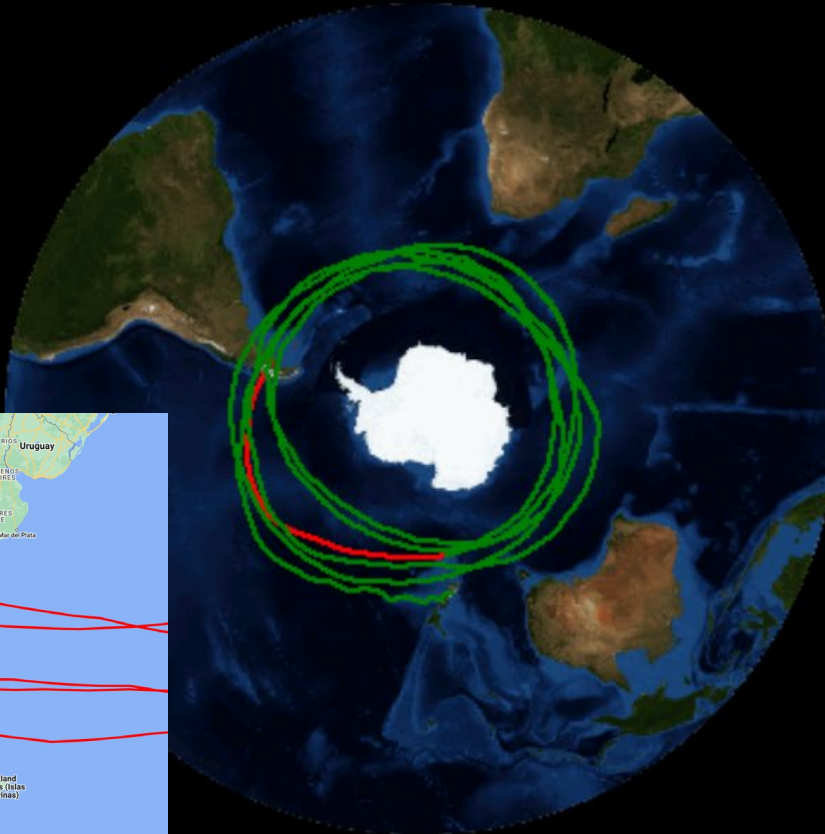


# 2023 Wanaka, New Zealand NASA Long Duration Balloon (LDB) Operations



728NT - SN08 - SUPERBIT Balloon Tracking

729NT - SN09 - EUSO 2 Balloon Tracking



Flight Ended  
Total Flight Time

39 Days 13 hours 35 minutes

Launched April 15, 2023

Flight Ended  
Total Flight Time

1 day 12 hours 53 minutes

Launched May 13, 2023

Wiencke ASAPP June 22 2023

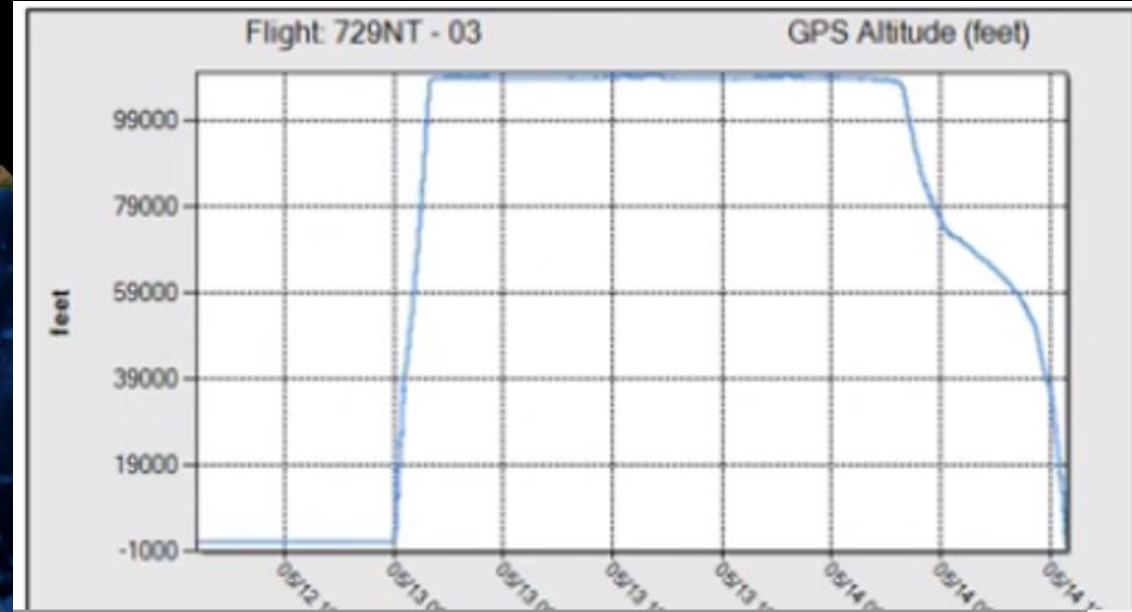
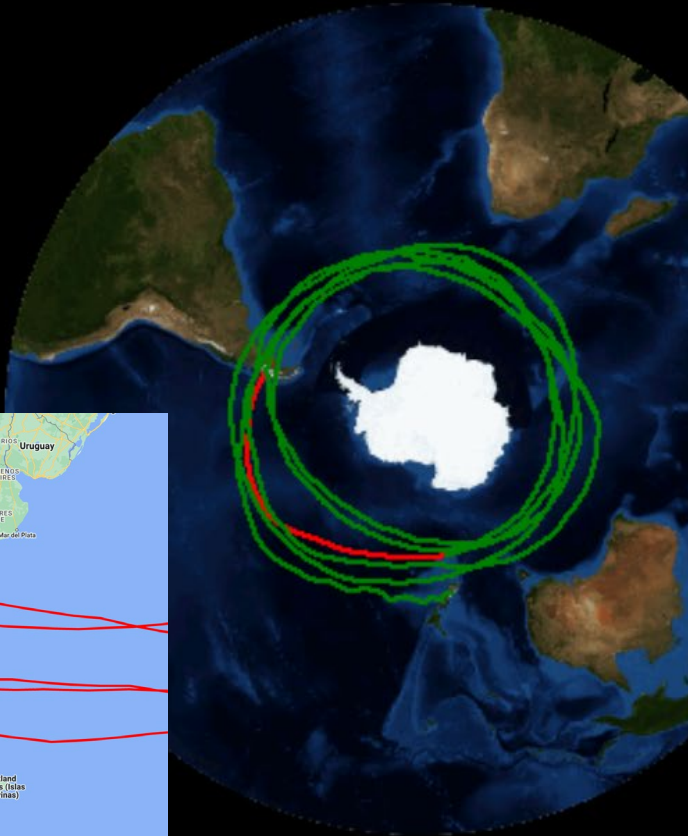


# 2023 Wanaka, New Zealand NASA Long Duration Balloon (LDB) Operations



## 728NT - SN08 - SUPERBIT Balloon Tracking

## 729NT - SN09 - EUSO 2 Balloon Tracking



Flight Ended  
Total Flight Time  
39 Days 13 hours 35 minutes  
Launched April 15, 2023

Flight Ended  
Total Flight Time  
1 day 12 hours 53 minutes  
Launched May 13, 2023

Wiencke ASAPP June 22 2023



However, despite all of this.....

Following 5 years of preparations, science case development, extensive field tests, NASA reviews, 4 stages of payload integration, and hard work, especially by our post-docs, students, technical staff

## **We delivered an ambitious payload.... on time, on weight, it flew, and it worked**

At 5625 lbs, the total mass, including our payload was very close to the 5500 lbs targeted,  
we flew 600 lbs ballast as planned (probably gave us a few more hours)

Our solar power system worked at float altitude

Our instruments turned on and worked at float altitude -

Cherenkov Telescope, Fluorescence Telescope, IR Camera, also Shutter/tilt

We collect data with all instruments over two nights with moon down. - 57 GB downloaded

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## **We were well-prepared to support a long flight and meet our well-developed ambitions science goals UHECRs, HECRs Backgrounds, Neutrino Searches through Target of Opportunity (ToO)**

Shifter training performed, documented, shift schedule in place

ToO scheduling in place

System experts had lots of experience with operations

Control/commanding flight software well-tested and working

## EUSO-SPB2: 2023 ICRC Presentations

1	oral	Overview and First Results of EUSO-SPB2	Johannes Eser, jeser@uchicago.edu
2	oral	The EUSO-SPB2 Cherenkov Telescope - performance and preliminary results	Eliza Gazda, egazda6@gatech.edu
3	oral	EUSO-SPB2 Fluorescence Telescope in flight performance and preliminary results	George Filippatos, gfilippatos@mines.edu
4	oral	CRs above limb SPB2	Austin Cummings, alc6658@psu.edu
5	poster	Tests and characterisation of the KI trigger: a trigger system for fast events on EUSO-SPB2 Fluorescence Telescope	Hiroko Miyamoto miyamoto@to.infn.it
6	poster	Machine Learning approaches for the EUSO-SPB2 FT	George Filippatos, gfilippatos@mines.edu
7	poster	EUSO-SPB2 Fluorescence Telescope Calibration and Field Tests	Viktoria Kungel, kungel@mines.edu
8	poster	Neutrino Target of Opportunity Sky Coverage and Scheduler for EUSO-SPB2	jonatan-posligua@uiowa.edu
9	poster	Simulating Geomagnetic Effects on Muon-Induced Extensive Air Showers to be measured by the EUSO-SPB2 Mission	Duncan Fuehne, dfuehne@mines.edu
10	poster	Commissioning, Calibration, and Performance of the Cherenkov Telescope on EUSO-SPB2	Oscar Romero, oromero@gatech.edu
11	poster	The Data processor of the SPB2 Fluorescence Telescope: In flight performance	Valentina Scotti, valentina.scotti@na.infn.it
12	poster	ToO Overview	Tobias Heibges, theibges@mines.edu
13	poster	ToO Source Catalog	Hannah Wistrand, hwistrand@mines.edu
14	poster	UCIRC2 IR Camera System	Rebecca Diesing, rrDiesing@uchicago.edu



## EUSO-SPB2 Milestones 2022

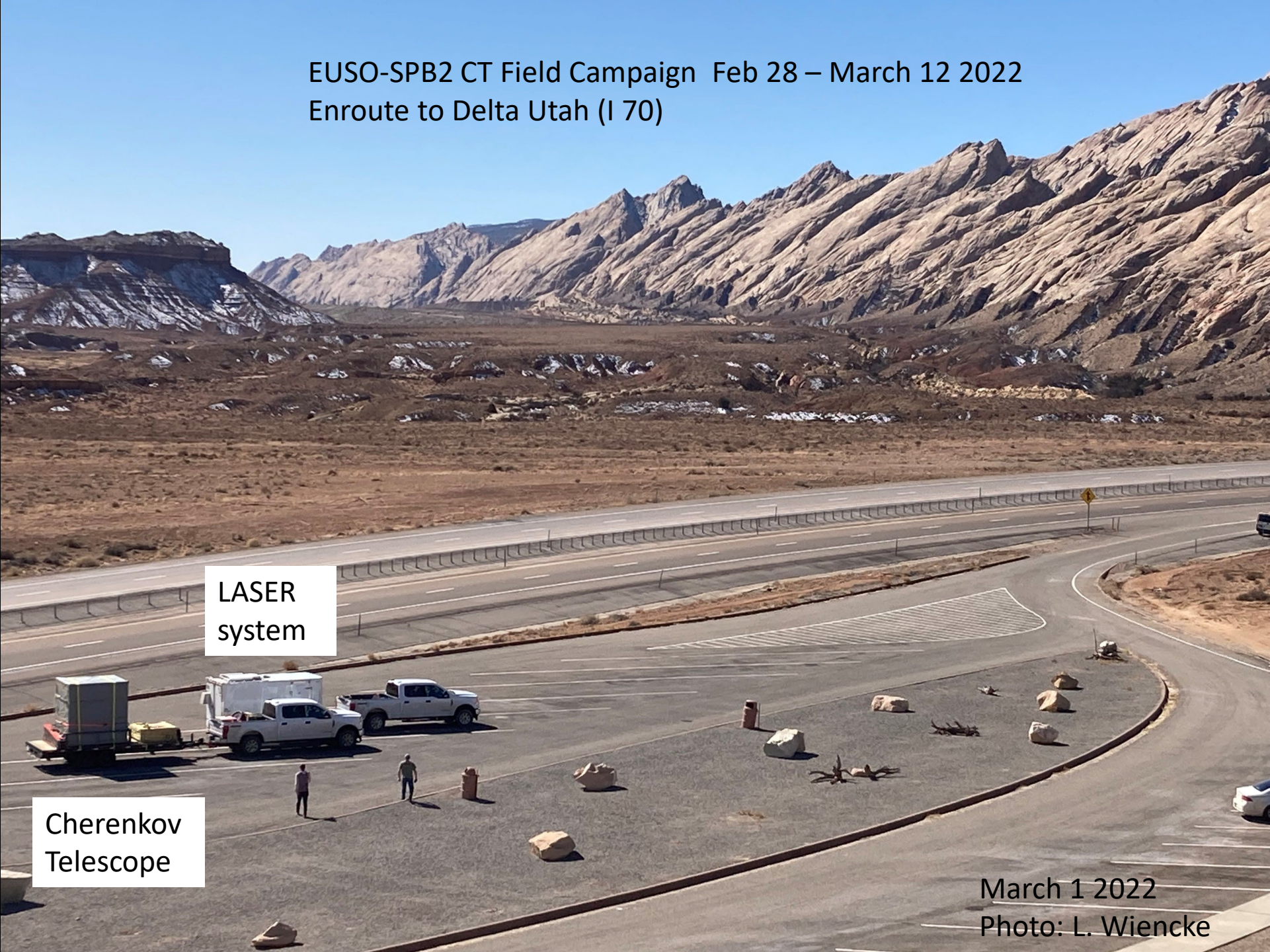
- Feb/Mar 2022
  - **CT integration at Golden, pack, CT assembly, Field Test @ TA**
- July
  - **Payload integration phase 1** (GCC, Power, FT camera, CT camera, UCIRC)
- Aug/Sept
  - **FT integration at Golden, pack, FT assembly, Field Test @ TA**
- Oct
  - **Payload integration phase 2** with Gondola, full CT, FT, UCIRC, ST
  - **Pack & Load 3 trucks of equipment** for Palestine Tx. NASA's CSBF
- Oct/Nov
  - **Unpack, assemble** telescopes, gondola, Payload at CSBF
  - **Hang tests, Comms & Compatibility Tests, T-Vac (CT camera, ST)**
  - **Take it all apart. Pack for NZ** + export documentation (from hell)
- Dec
  - **3 containers depart from CSBF Palesting Tx for Wanaka Nz**

EUSO-SPB2 CT Field Campaign Feb 28 – March 12 2022  
Enroute to Delta Utah (I 70)

LASER  
system

Cherenkov  
Telescope

March 1 2022  
Photo: L. Wiencke

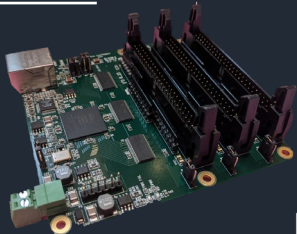




# The Cherenkov Camera

Read-out Electronics

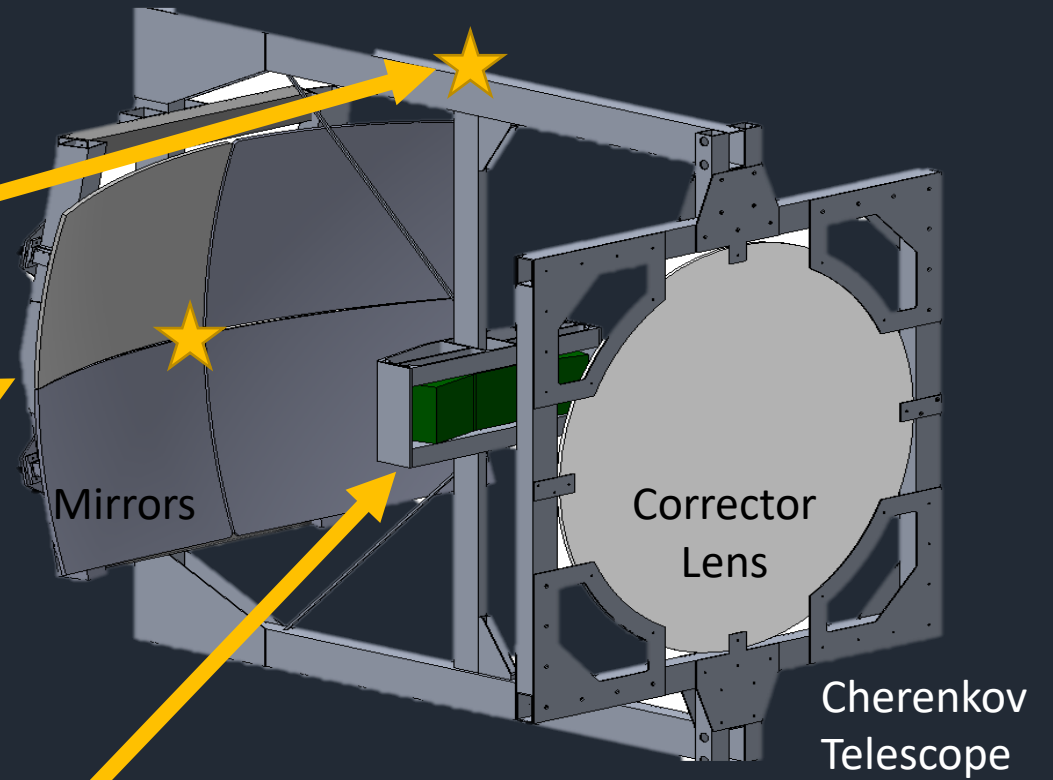
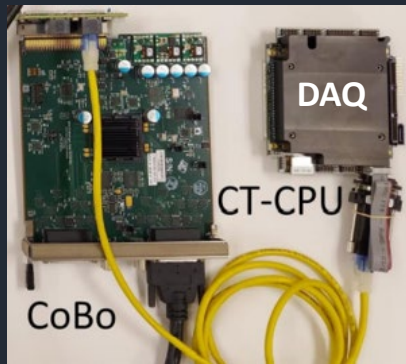
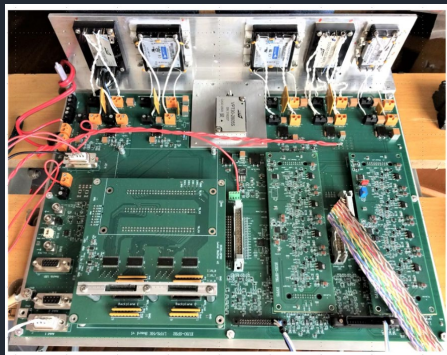
Trigger Board



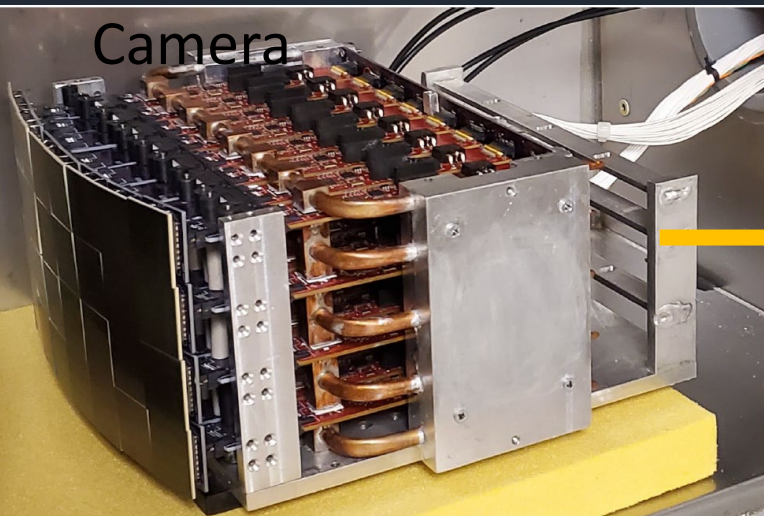
Digitizer Board



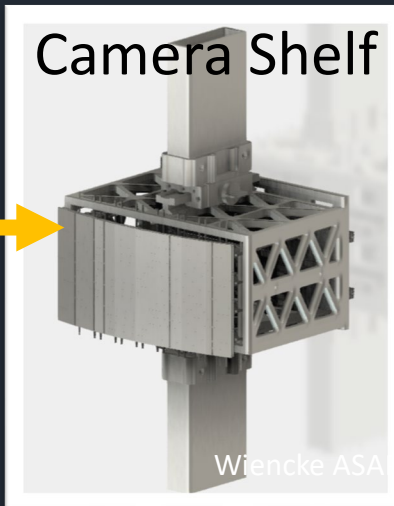
Power Module



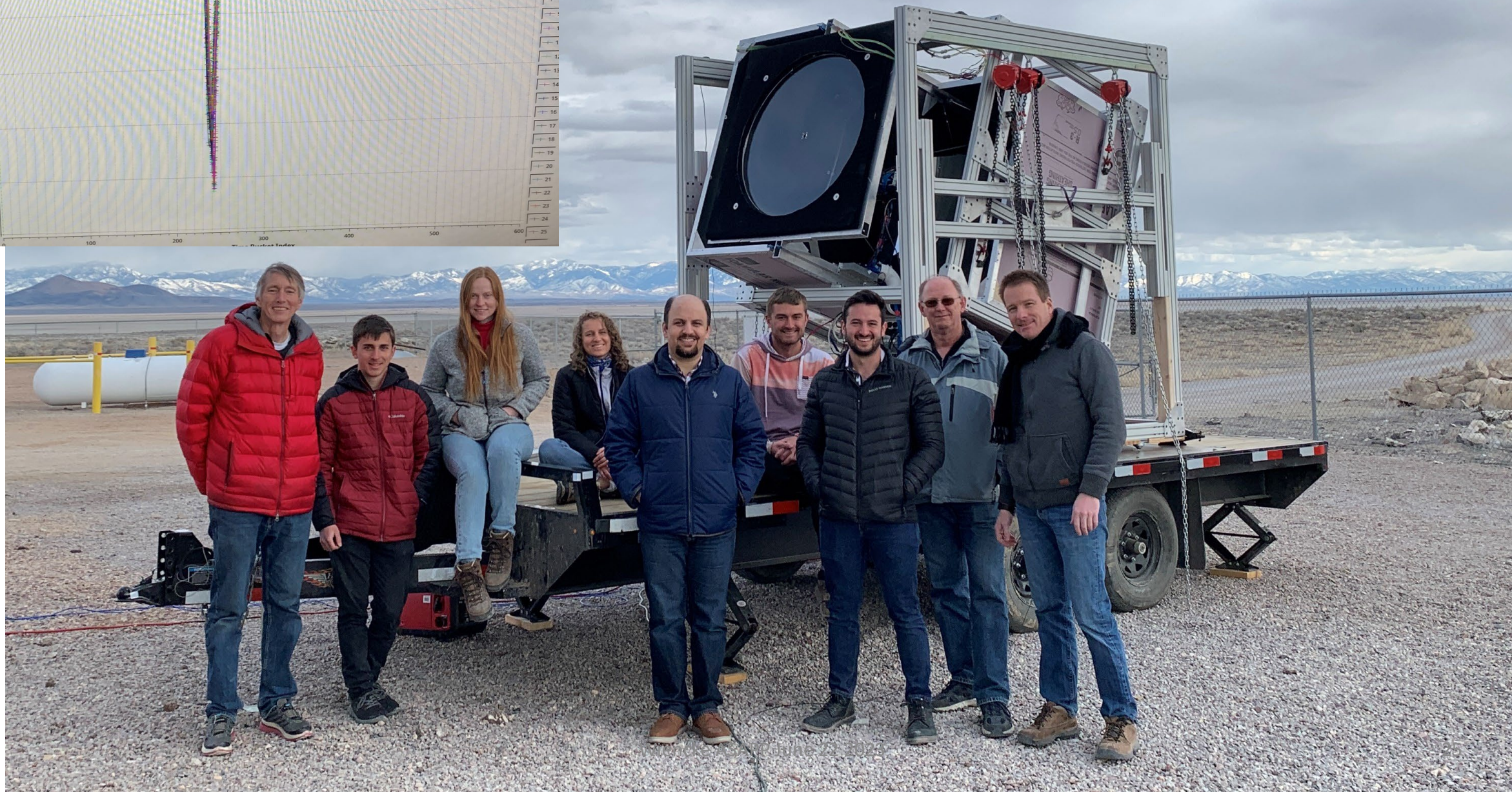
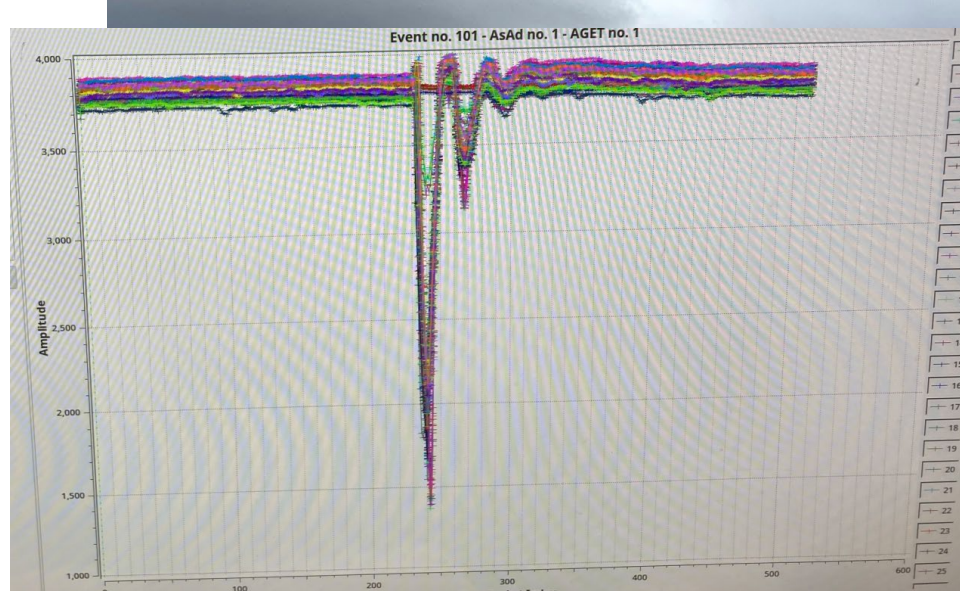
Camera



Camera Shelf





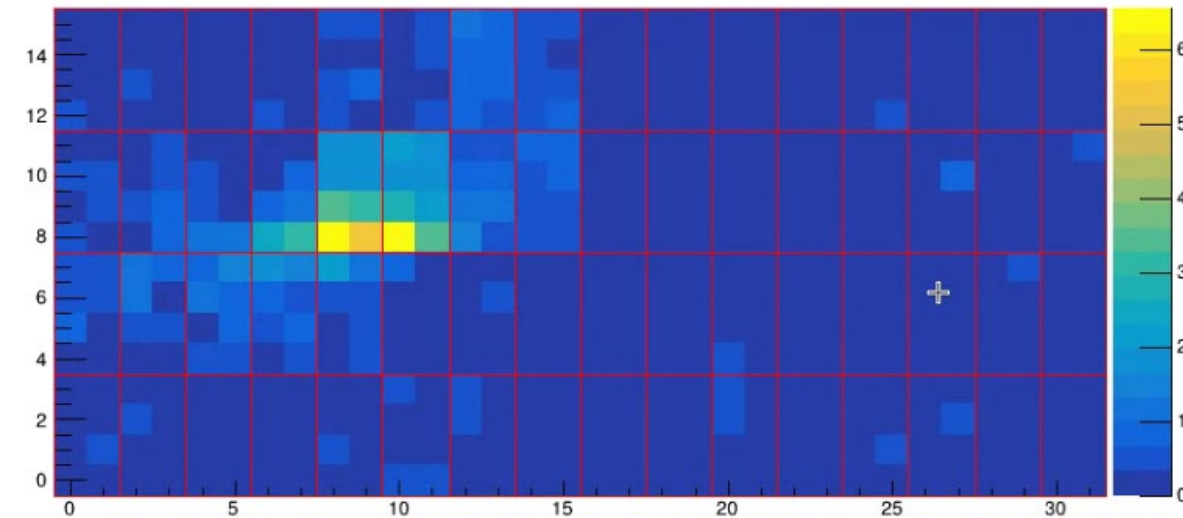




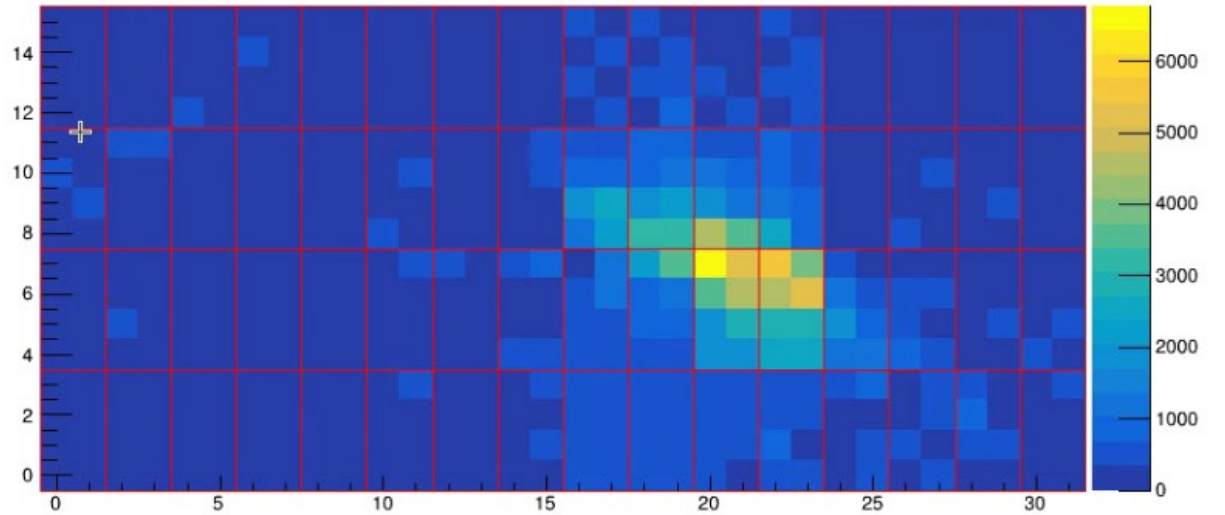
# EUSO-SPB2 Field Test March 2022:

## 2 example **cosmic ray events**: TeV-ish Energy Scale

MUSIC\_ID: 37 MUSIC\_Channel: 0 Pixel ID: 296



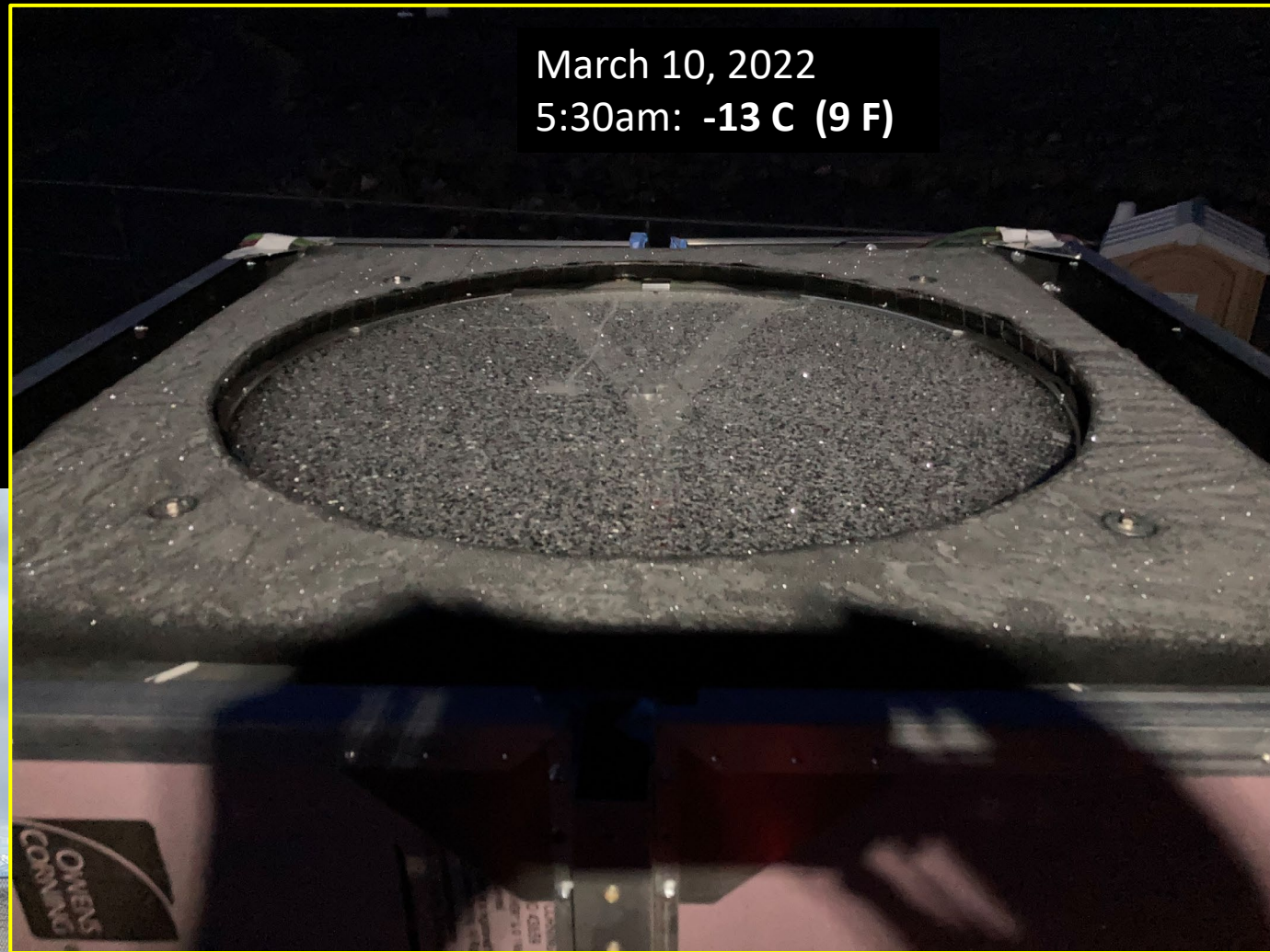
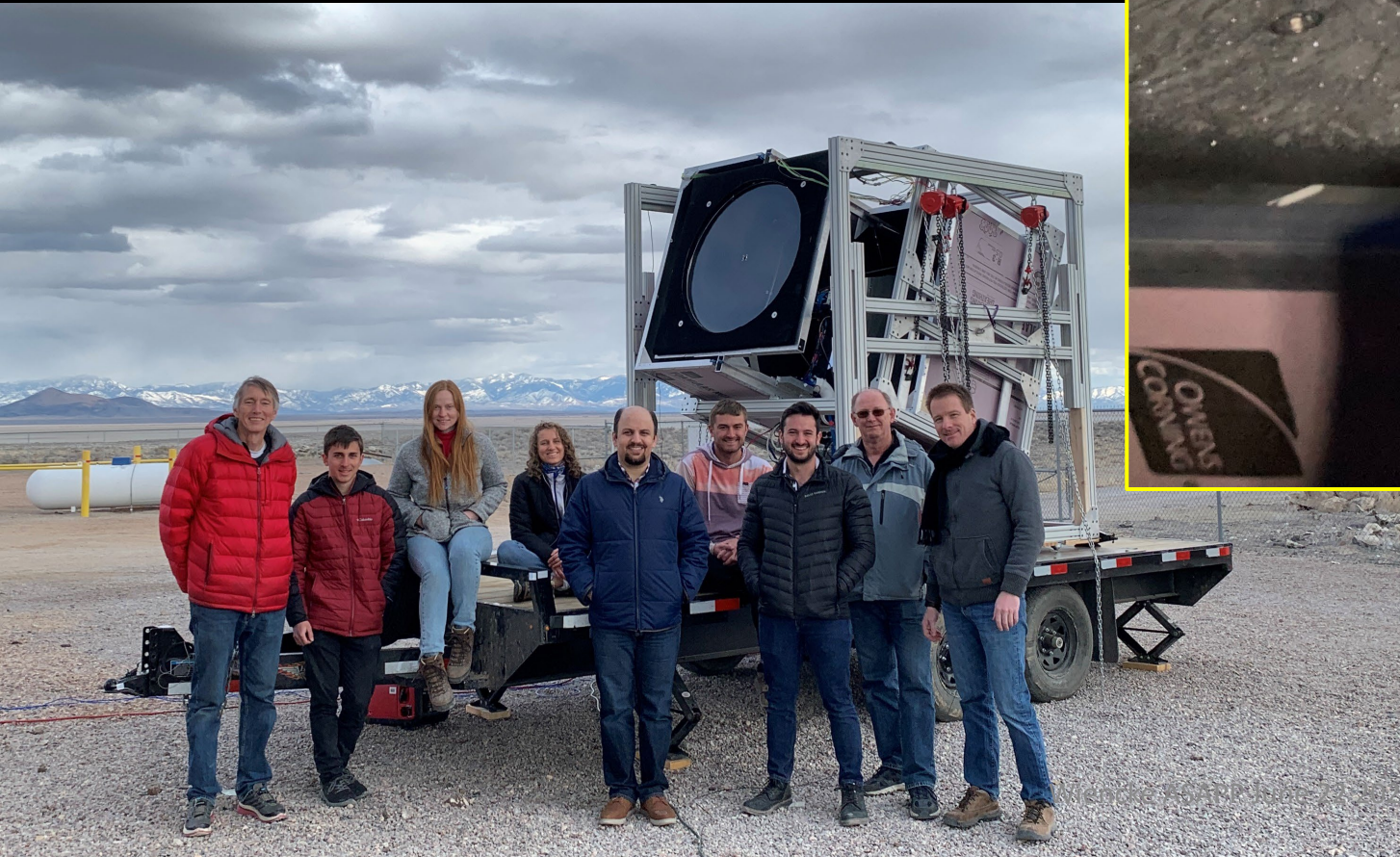
MUSIC\_ID: 36 MUSIC\_Channel: 4 Pixel ID: 292





Yes, there really is frost in the desert.

Real-time data analysis would have caught this.



March 10, 2022

5:30am: -13 C (9 F)

A clear and very cold night.  
We were still seeing some cosmic ray events  
through the frost.

Lots of data from other nights with no<sub>27</sub> frost.



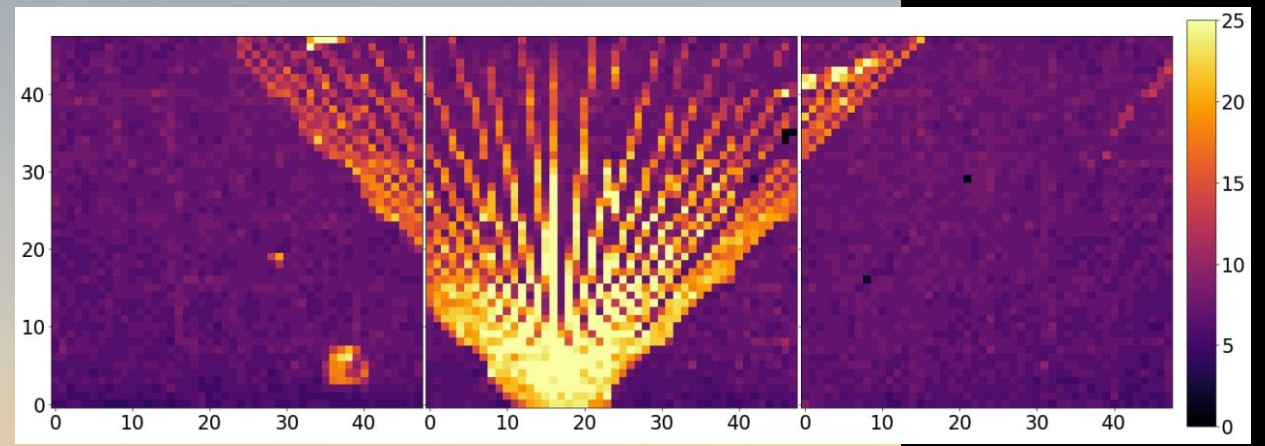
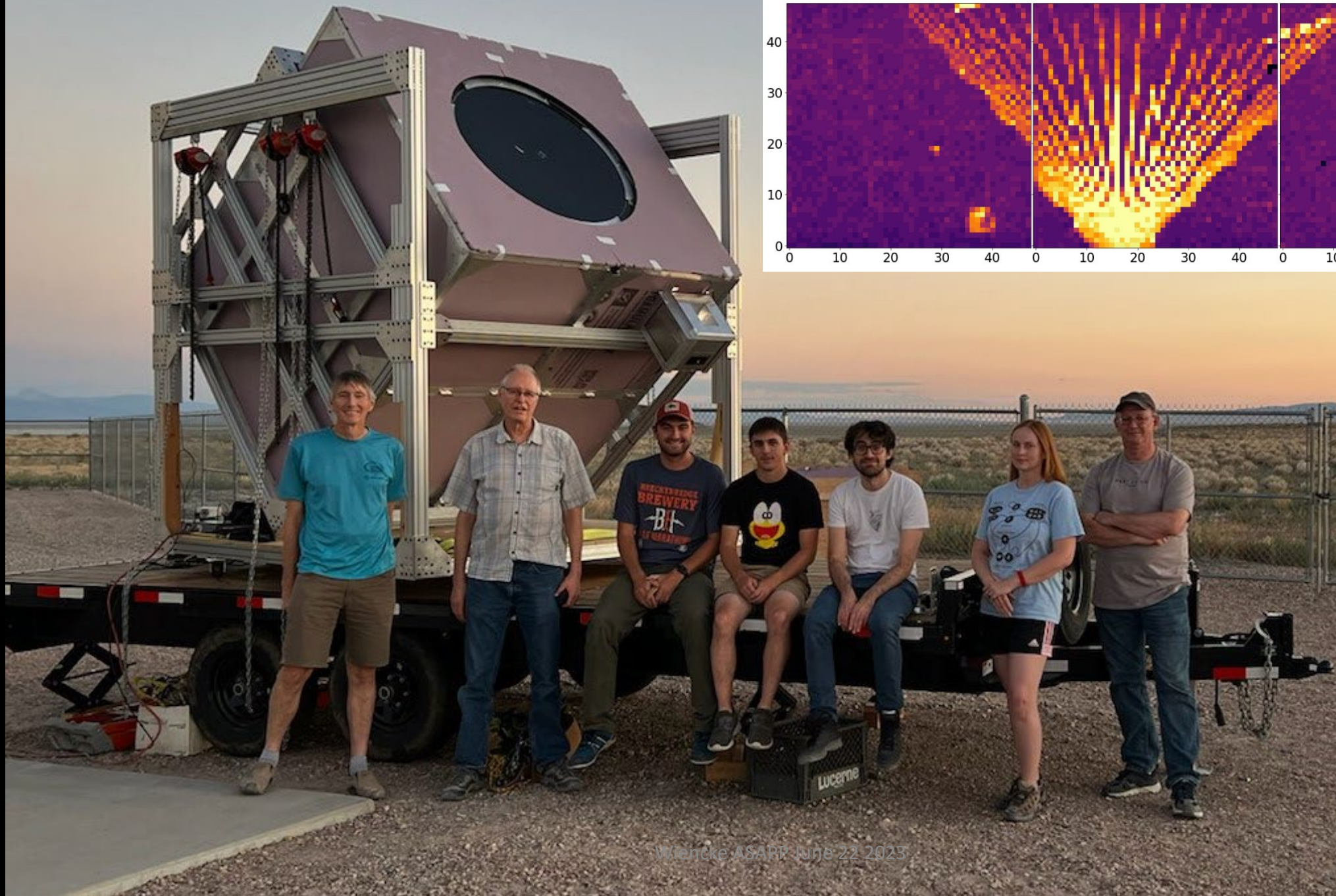
March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 6 am 10F  
Detector disassembly and packing



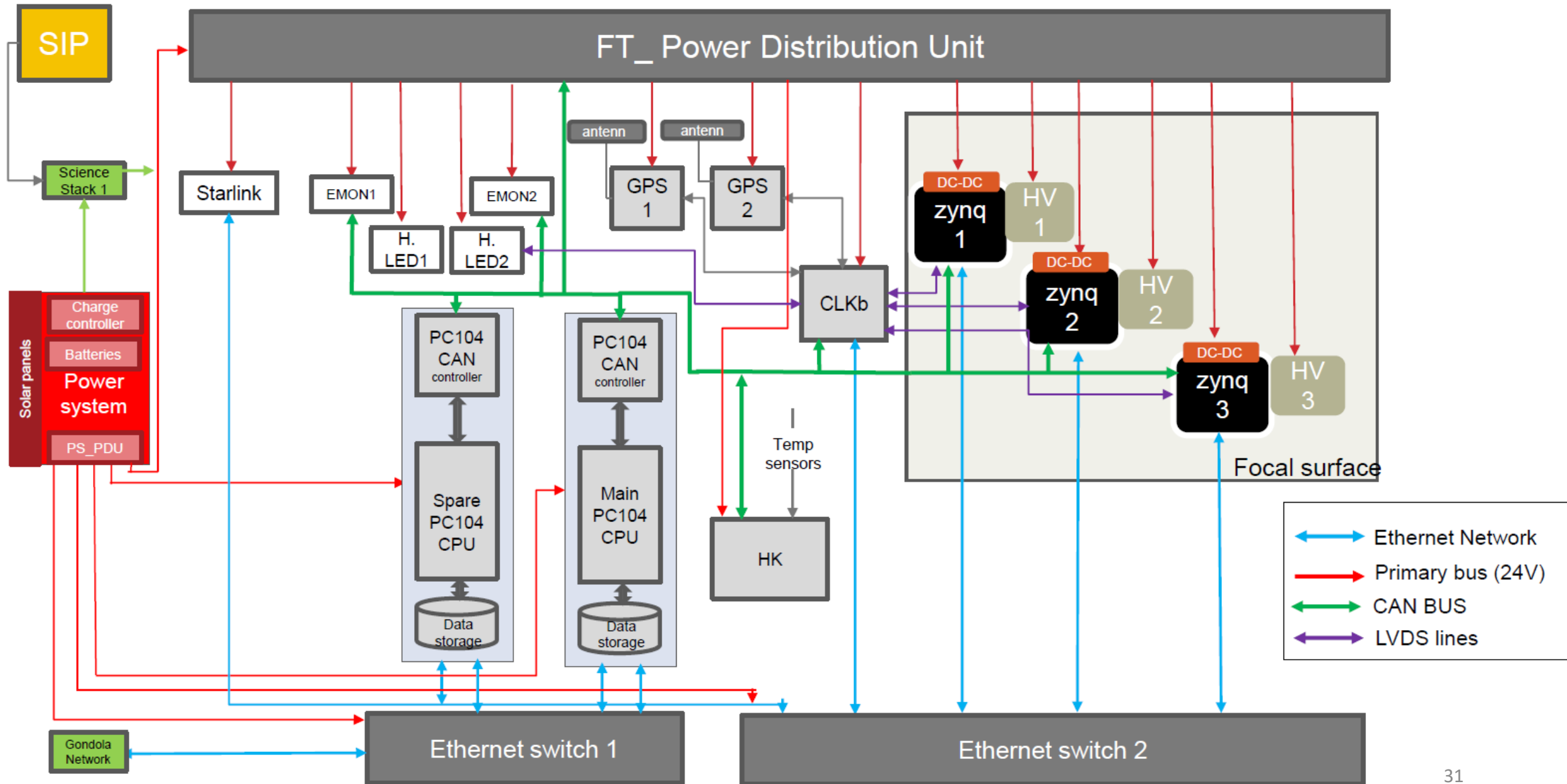


## EUSO-SPB2 Milestones 2022

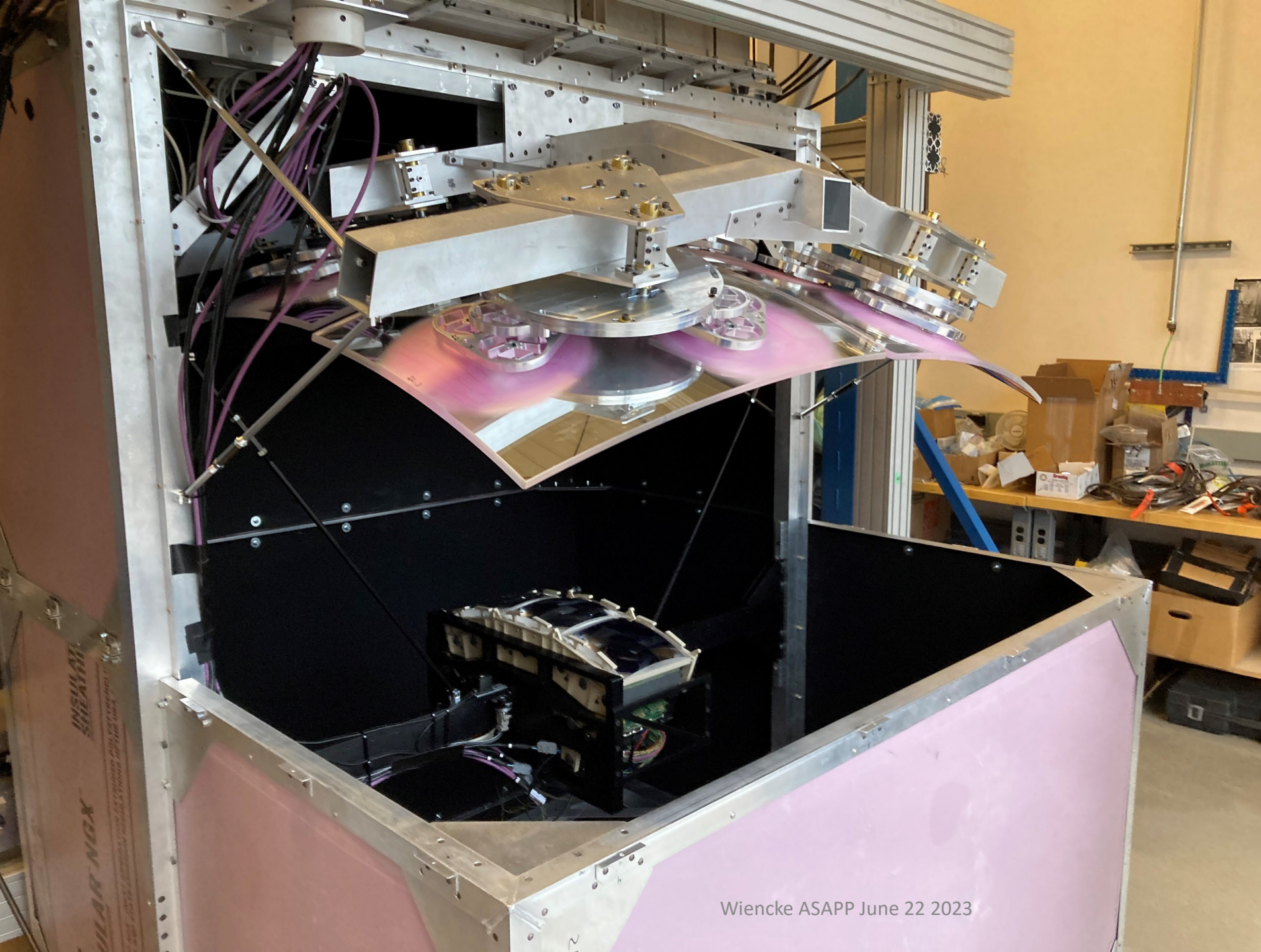
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# FT ARCHITECTURE AND DP









### Objective

Instruments aboard the Extreme Universe Space Observatory on a Super Pressure Balloon 2 (EUSO-SPB2) search for signatures from ultra-high energy cosmic rays (UHECRs) and tau neutrinos. Interaction between the Earth's atmosphere and UHECRs produce faint light sources that are detected using a fluorescence telescope. A field test in the Utah desert studied limitations of this instrument and the impacts of known light sources. This analysis focuses on the data collected when the telescope was orientated vertically upwards and rotated in azimuth while a laser pulsed overhead, Fig. 1. A virtual flat field characterized and removed events to study instrument limitations.

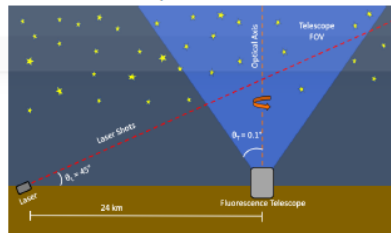


Figure 1: Sketch of the September 1st field test geometry. A full rotation would ensure laser light across the entire focal surface.

### Data Structure and Triggering Events

The ROOT data analysis framework recorded and stored events. When an event triggers the telescope, it records 64 frames, or gate time units (GTU), before and after the event. The field test data contained 2094 events. To remove triggering events, the center twenty GTU were removed.

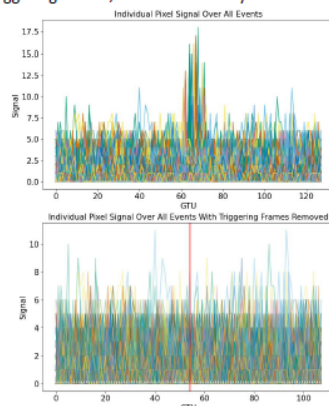


Figure 2: An individual pixel that observed a laser pulse showed that the laser events occurred in the center of the 128 GTU. Removing the center 20 frames deleted the triggering events by accounting for data structure variations.

### Results

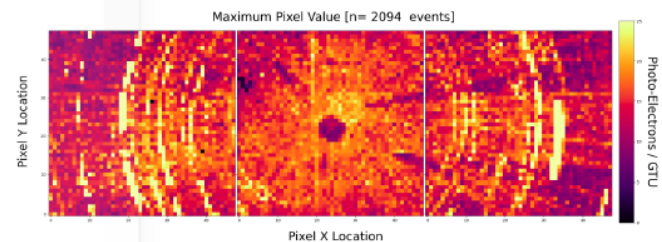


Figure 3: Maximum pixel value observed over a full rotation. Star light caused the brightest pixel values while laser light covered most of the field of view.

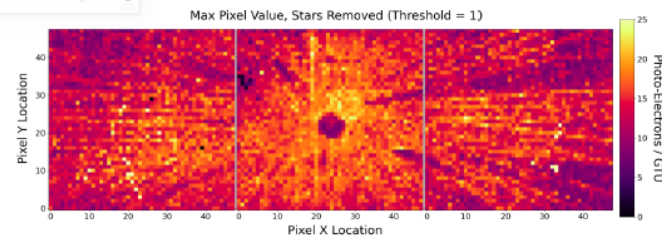


Figure 4: The star deletion code swept over each pixel for consistently high signals. The most success occurred with a scanning threshold of 1 photo-electron/GTU.

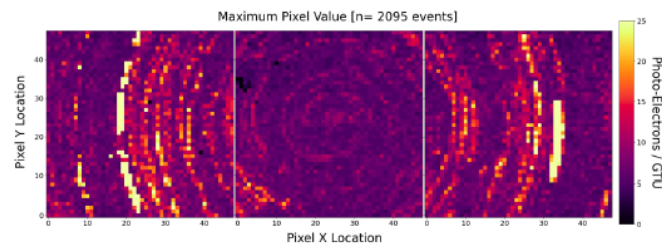


Figure 5: The center 20 frames containing triggering events were removed to observe stars clearly.

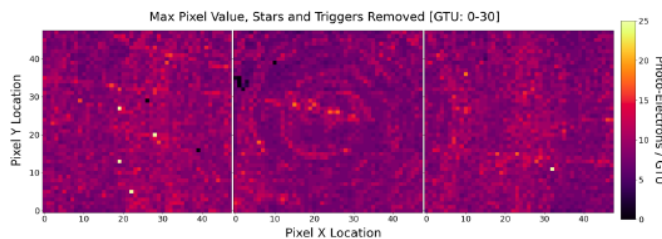


Figure 6: In the virtual flat-field, distant star light and a few remaining laser shots are still visible. Only the first 30 GTU of the data set were considered to reduce data structure complexity.

### Flat-Fielding

The mean and standard deviation without stars or laser tracks present provided information on pixel behavior in the absence of light sources. For each event, only the first 30 GTU were included.

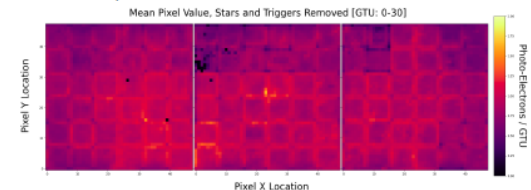


Figure 7: Mean plot with triggering events and stars removed. Note the visibility of the photomultiplier tube geometry.

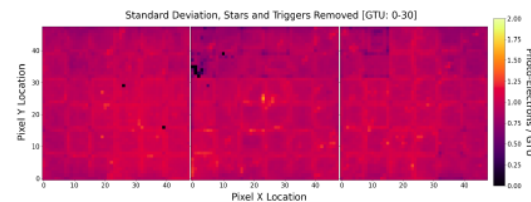


Figure 8: Standard deviation with triggering events and stars removed. Low variability in photon count data was observed.

### Conclusion

The virtual flat fielding techniques were effective in removing laser events and distant star light. The top third of the telescope's field of view appeared consistently darker which implied wiring or electronic differences. Individual photomultiplier geometry was observed when plotting pixel mean, Fig. 7, and standard deviation, Fig. 8. These highlighted differences in photo-electrons/GTU values across pixels. Known variations and the ability to remove consistently bright light sources aids in understanding UHECR events during EUSO-SPB2's flight. Future analysis of flight data will utilize virtual flat-fielding techniques to single out and study UHECR events.



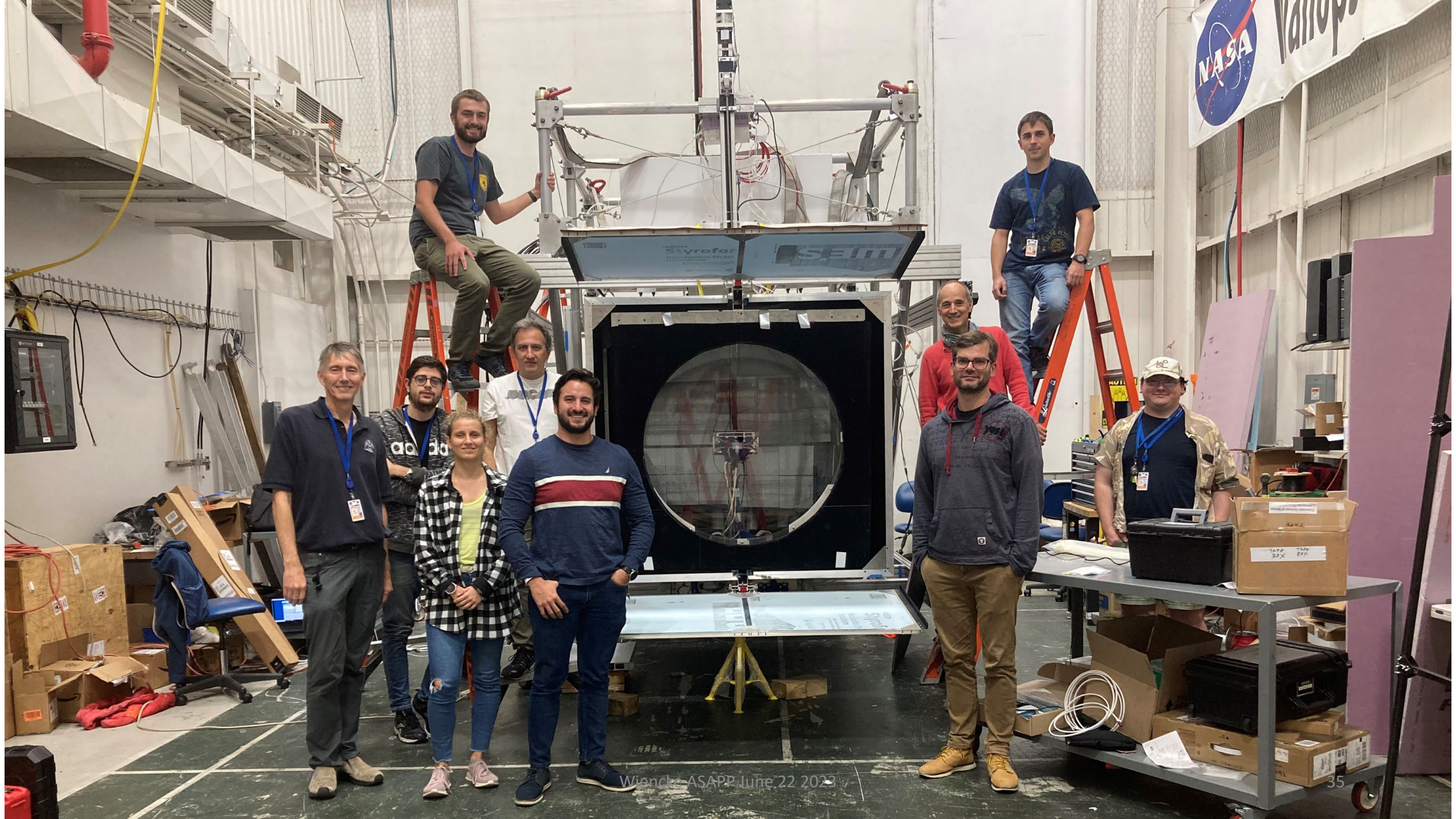
Figure 9: EUSO-SPB2 payload assembled in Wanaka, New Zealand prior to its launch in Spring, 2023.



## EUSO-SPB2 Milestones 2022

- Feb/Mar 2022
  - **CT integration at Golden, pack, CT assembly, Field Test @ TA**
- July
  - **Payload integration phase 1** (GCC, Power, FT camera, CT camera, UCIRC)
- Aug/Sept
  - **FT integration at Golden, pack, FT assembly, Field Test @ TA**
- Oct
  - **Payload integration phase 2** with Gondola, full CT, FT, UCIRC, ST
  - **Pack & Load 3 trucks of equipment** for Palestine Tx. NASA's CSBF
- Oct/Nov
  - **Unpack, assemble** telescopes, gondola, Payload at CSBF
  - **Hang tests, Comms & Compatibility Tests, T-Vac (CT camera, ST)**
  - **Take it all apart. Pack for NZ** + export documentation (from hell)
- Dec
  - **3 containers depart from CSBF Palesting Tx for Wanaka Nz**







## EUSO-SPB2 Milestones 2022

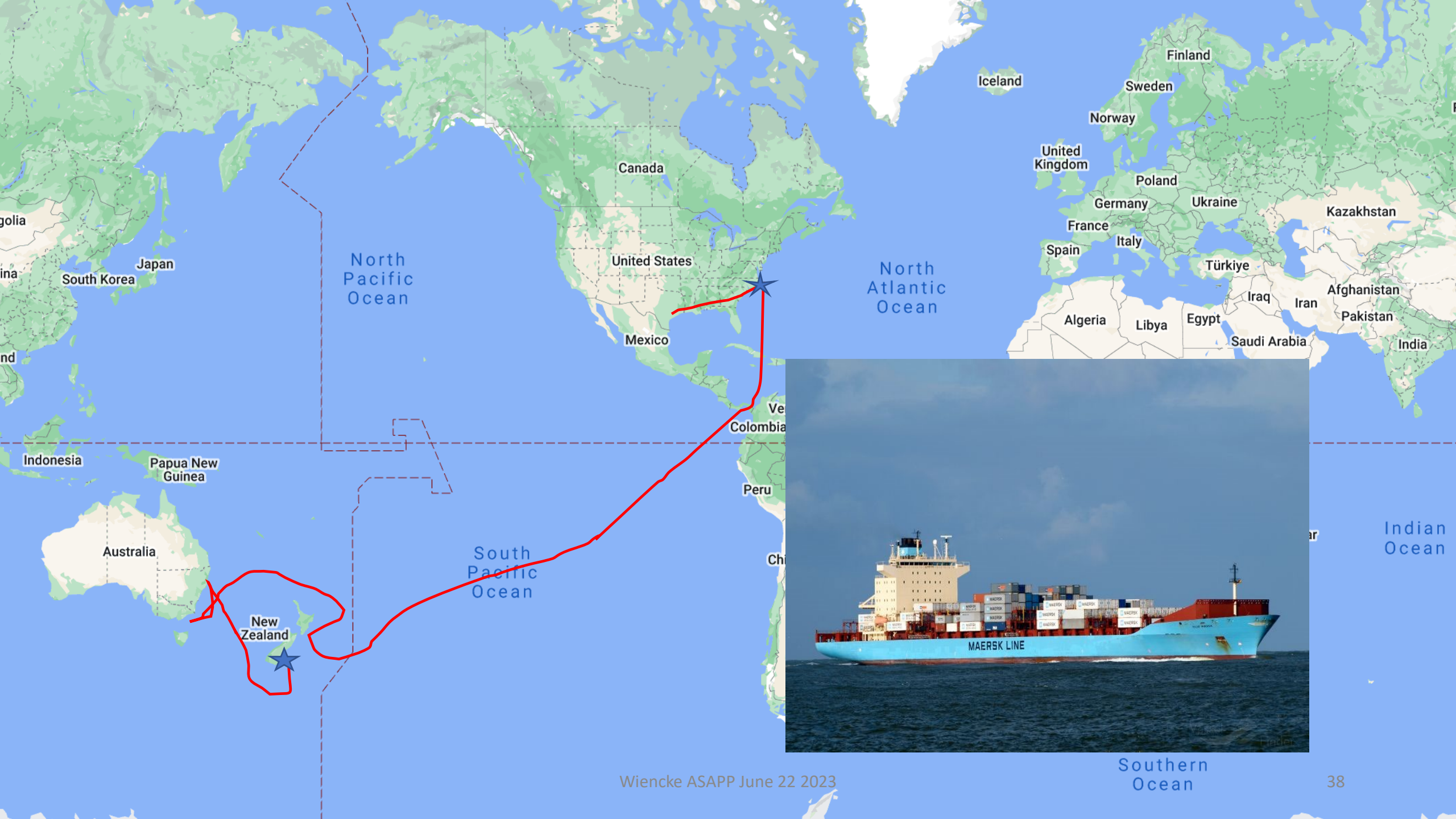
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# EUSO-SPB2 Shipping Containers (packed) Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, Palestine Tx, Nov 20 2022







## EUSO-SPB2 Milestones

- Feb 12
  - Containers reach Wanaka NZ
- Feb, March,
  - Reassemble Gondola and ground support mechanical
  - Clean optics, reassemble Telescope opto-mechanical
  - March 18<sup>th</sup>
    - Visit by NASA Administrator Bill Nelson
  - Data collected with FT and CT outside hanger and pointed same direction
- April
  - April 2<sup>nd</sup> Telescopes installed in Gondola
  - April 3<sup>rd</sup> V. Kungel defends PhD Thesis –First for EUSO-SPB2
  - Payload declared flight ready, following flight readiness review (April 29<sup>th</sup>)
- May 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 Launch
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt, limited by trajectory safety analysis numbers



# EUSO-SPB2 Wanaka NZ



















Wincore ASAP June 22 2023

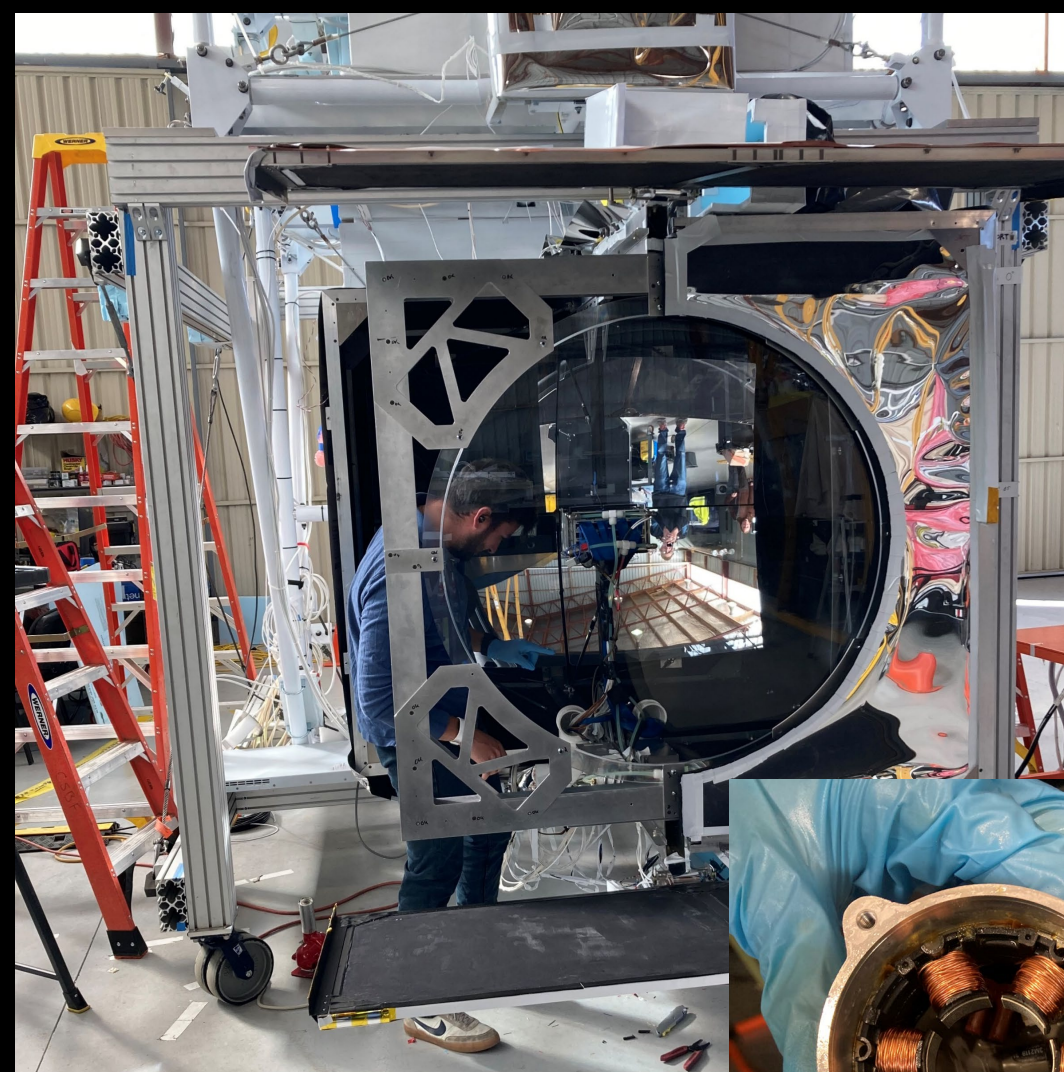




Wiencke ASAPP June 21, 2023







Wiencke ASAPP June 22 2023







## EUSO-SPB2 Milestones

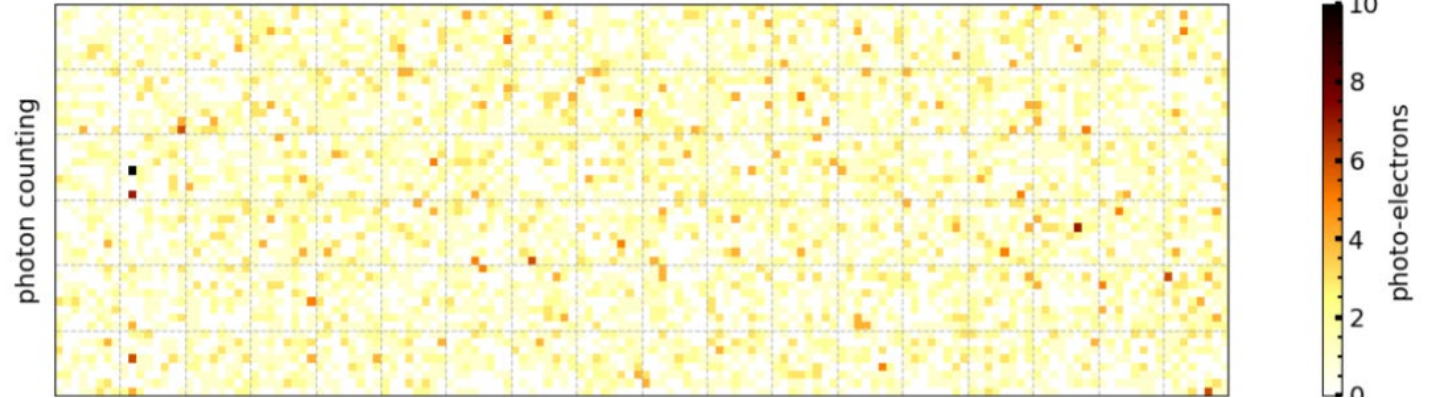
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2am May 12 2023,  
Wanaka NZ

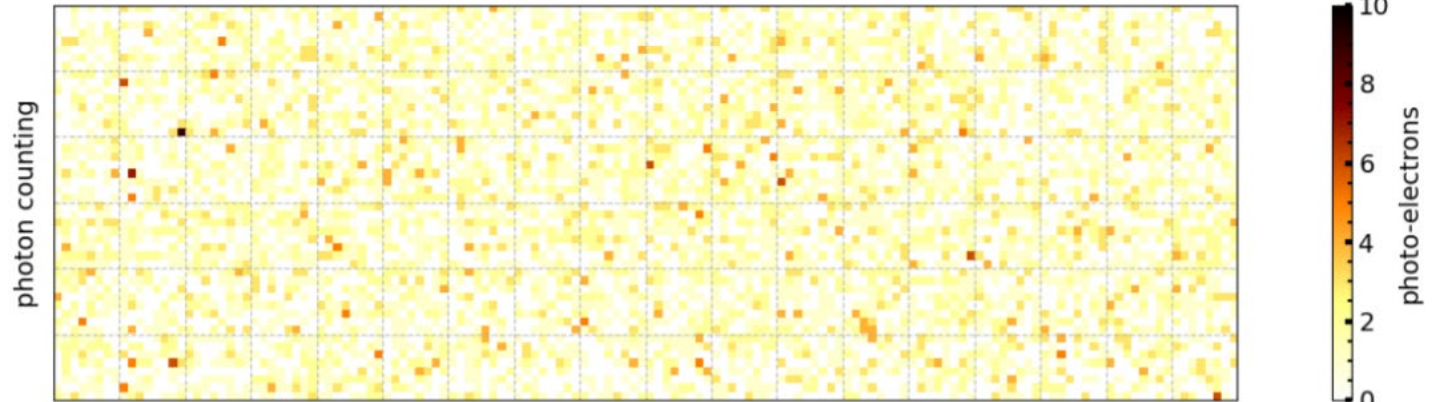




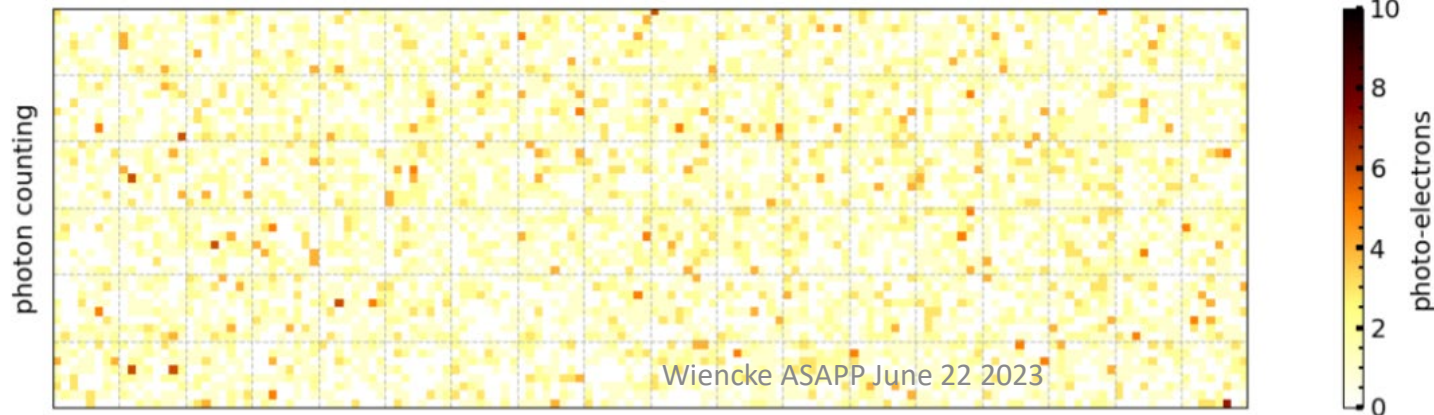
Event #16040 ; UTC Time 14 May 2023 06:30:23.8608 ; GTU in packet 50



Event #16040 ; UTC Time 14 May 2023 06:30:23.8608 ; GTU in packet 53



Event #16040 ; UTC Time 14 May 2023 06:30:23.8608 ; GTU in packet 55



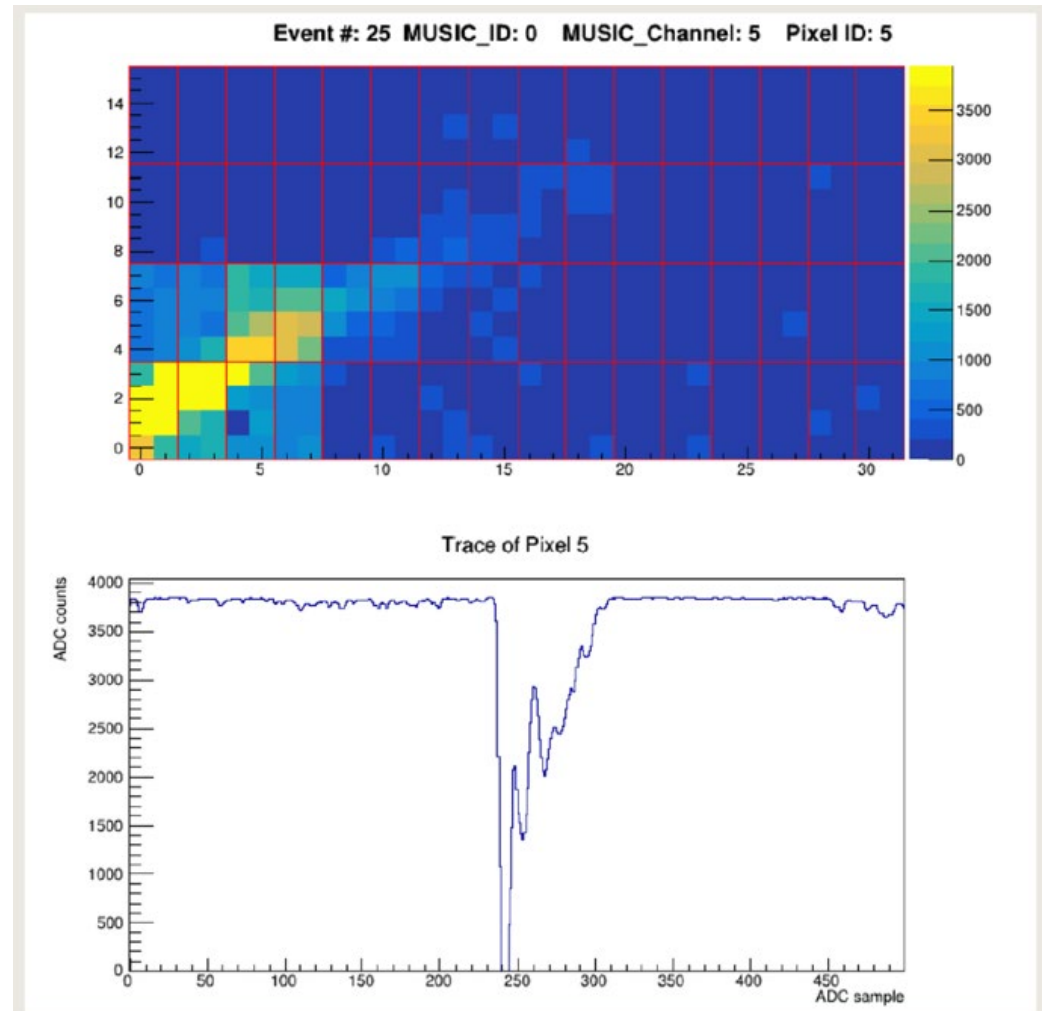
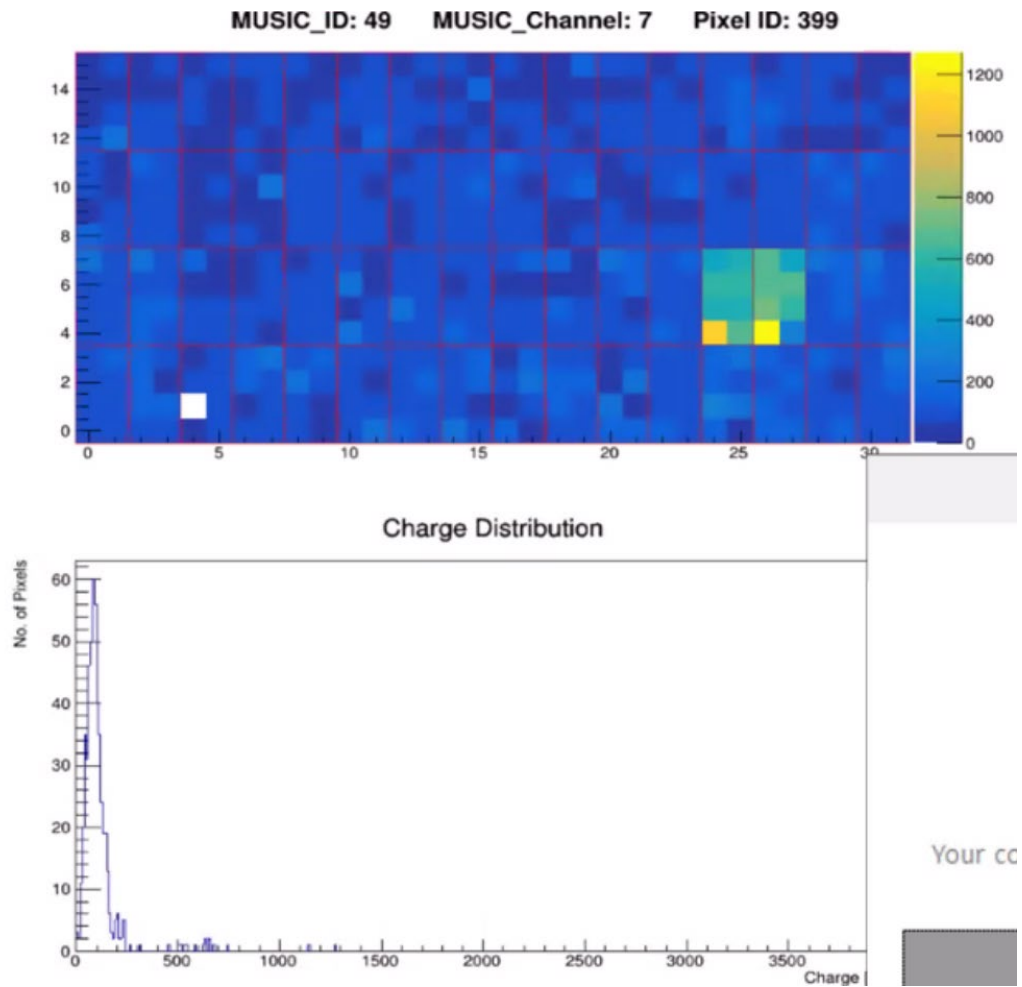
Wiencke ASAPP June 22 2023

FT example data

6912 photon-counting  
channels working

Searches for EeV cosmic  
ray events in progress

# PeV Cosmic Ray Candidate Triggers Recorded by the Cherenkov Telescope looking above the limb

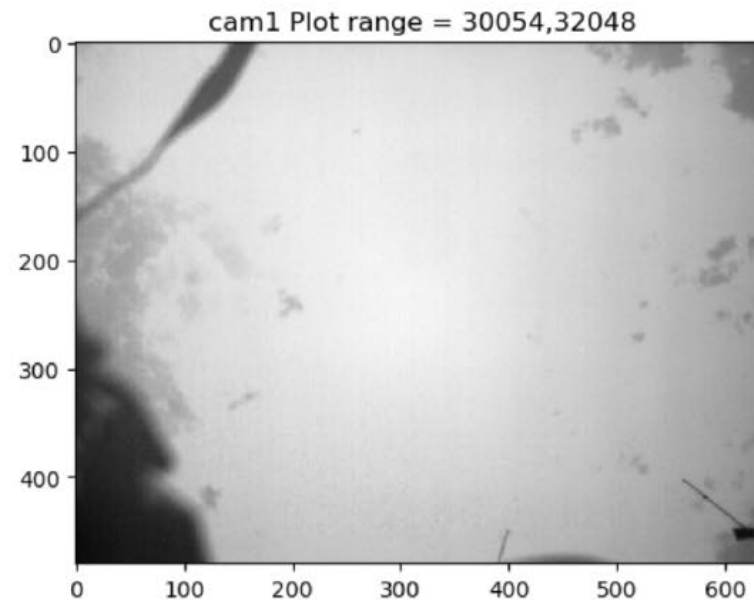




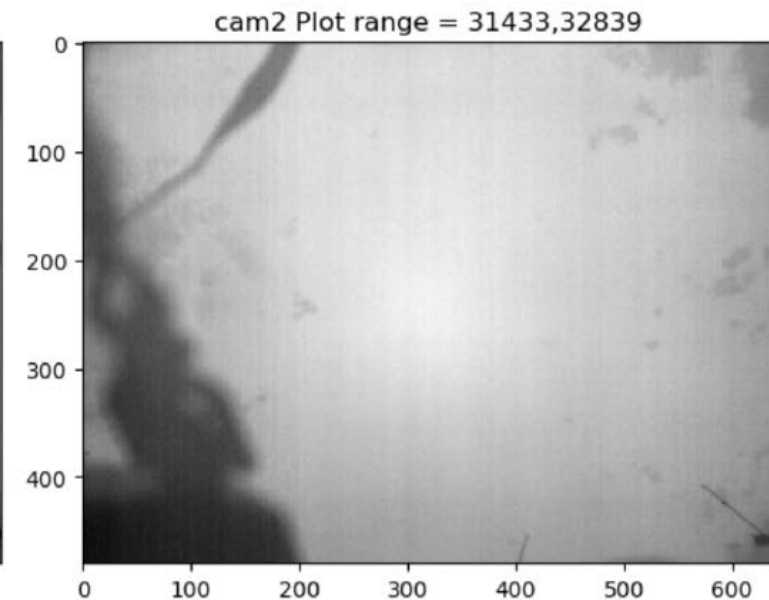
Example Data from our IR Camera System  
Points Nadir to measure cloud top height

Raw image

Camera 1



Camera 2



For balloon experiments, Starlink will likely be transformational

EUSO-SPB2 Data Downloaded  
May 13,14 2023

**TDRSS:**

CT: 168

FT: 302

IR: 61

Total: 531MB

**StarLink:**

CT: 16,506

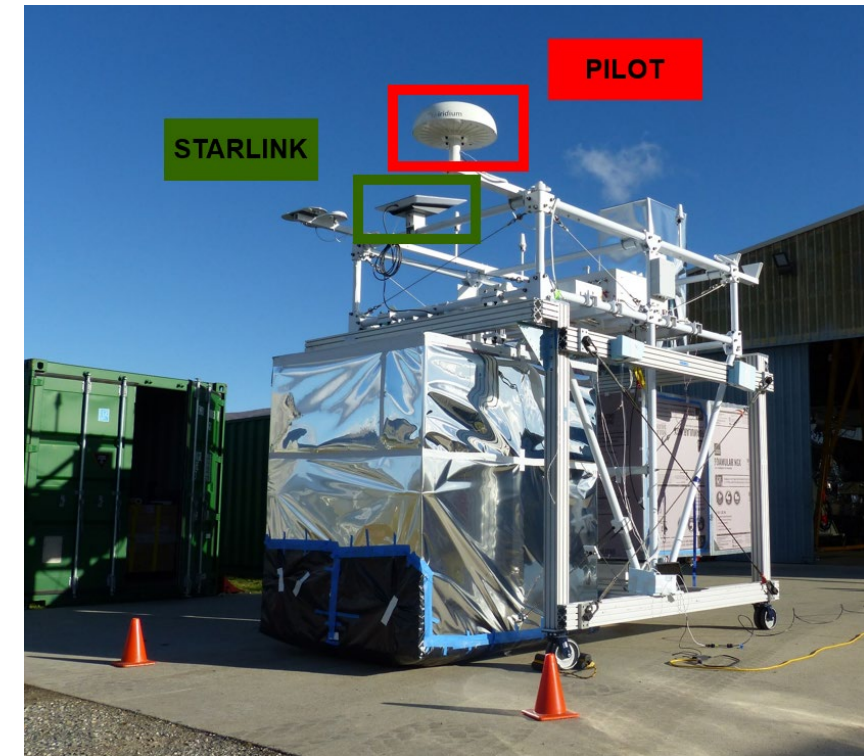
FT: 40,441

IR: 450

Total: 57,397MB

## STARLINK MARITIME

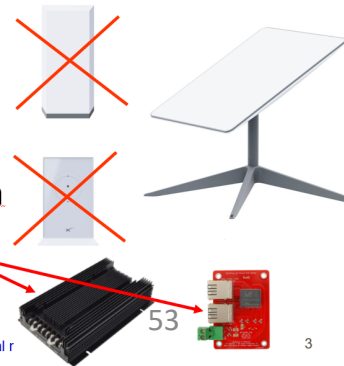
Global maritime coverage with up to 220 Mbps download while at sea. Starting at €292/mo with a one-time hardware cost of €2,874.



Francesco Cafagna (U. Bari, Italy)

### Starlink

- The standard kit includes an antenna, a power supply (featuring PoE – Power Over Ethernet) and a Wi-Fi router.
- Both power supply and router were substituted by a DC-DC converter and a passive PoE adaptor.
- CSBF requested a complete isolation between the Starlink and the SIP networks.



EUSO and SuperBIT each received a unit in Wanaka as a test





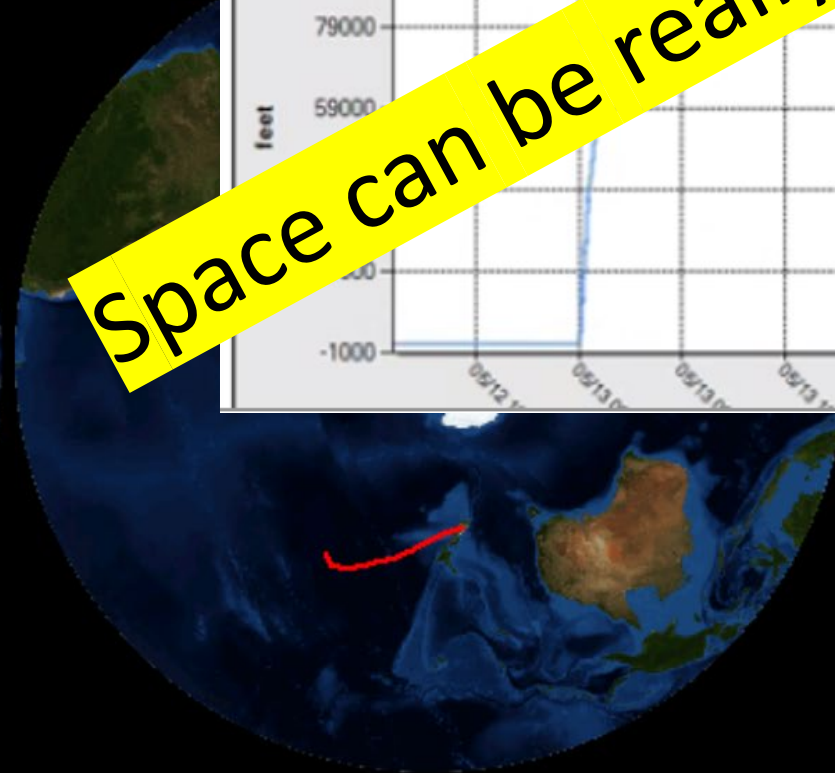
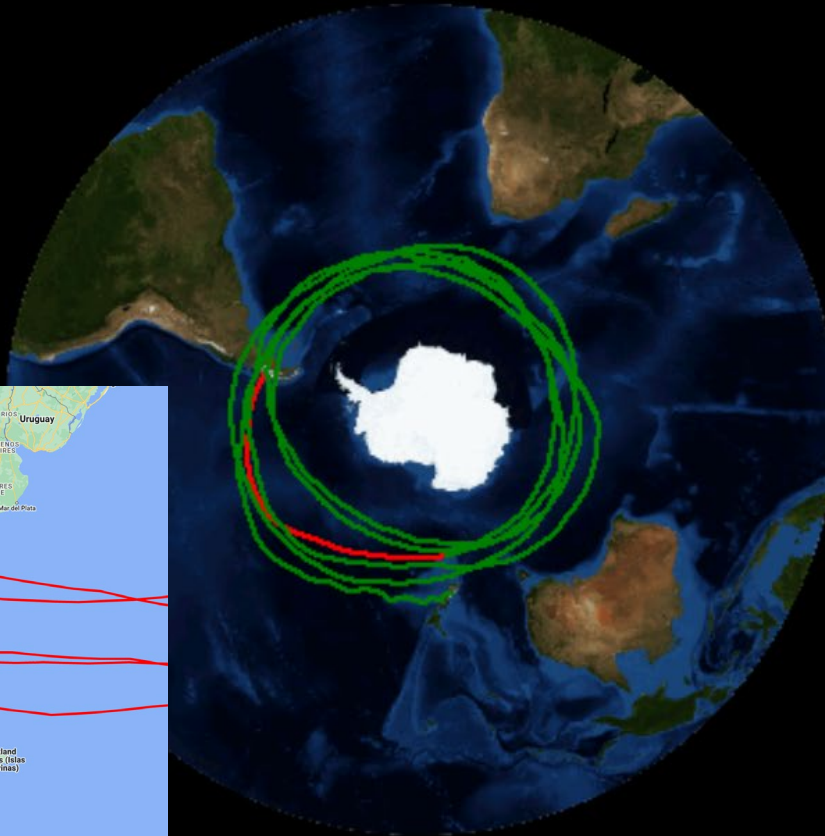
# 2023 Wanaka, New Zealand NASA Long Duration Balloon (LDB) Operations



## 728NT - SN08 - SUPERBIT Balloon Tracking

## 729NT - SN09 - EUSO 2 Balloon Tracking

Space can be really hard



Flight Ended  
Total Flight Time  
39 Days 13 hours 35 minutes  
Launched April 15, 2023

Flight Ended  
Total Flight Time  
1 day 12 hours 53 minutes  
Launched May 13, 2023

## **We delivered an ambitious payload on time, flew it, and it worked**

At 5625 lbs, the total mass, including our payload was very close to the 5500 lbs targeted,  
we flew 600 lbs ballast (gave us another few hours)

Our solar power system worked at float altitude

Our instruments turned on and worked at float altitude -

Cherenkov Telescope, Fluorescence Telescope, IR Camera, also Shutter/tilt

We collect data with all instruments over two nights with moon down. - 57 GB downloaded

## **We were well-prepared to support a long flight and meet our science goals**

**UHECRs, HECRs Neutrino Searches through Target of Opportunity (ToO)**

Shifter training performed, documented, shift schedule in place

ToO scheduling in place

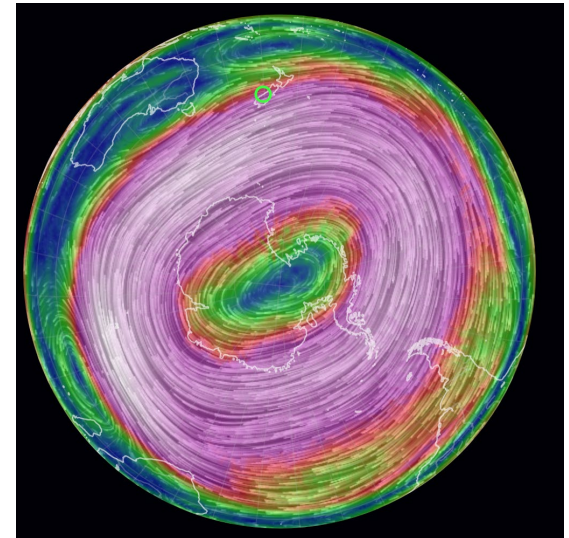
System experts had lots of experience with operations

Control/commanding flight software well-tested and working

**Also... gravitational-wave detectors started O4 on May 24<sup>th</sup> [link](#)**

11 days after EUSO-SPB2 May 13th launch, and 4 days after new moon,

Stratospheric circulation  
remains strong







# Backup Slides



## **What went wrong with the balloon?**

Leak at or near the top of the balloon.

That's why the ballast had little/no effect.

## **What caused the leak?**

Unknown at present

Some possible causes include a manufacturing defect, handling, something in the launch process

## **How is NASA investigating?**

Collected witness statements and photos from launch

Formed two GSFC Review Boards

QRB (Quality review board) to investigate manufacturing defects

ARB (Anomaly review board) to investigate launch prep and sequence

(5/31/23) letters delivered to QRB and ARB with charges from NASA/WFF head

Final reports due 11/1/23





Wiencké ASAPP June 22 2023

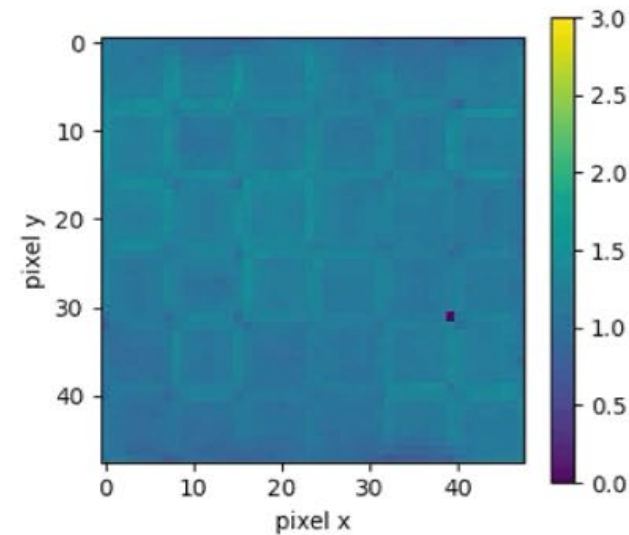
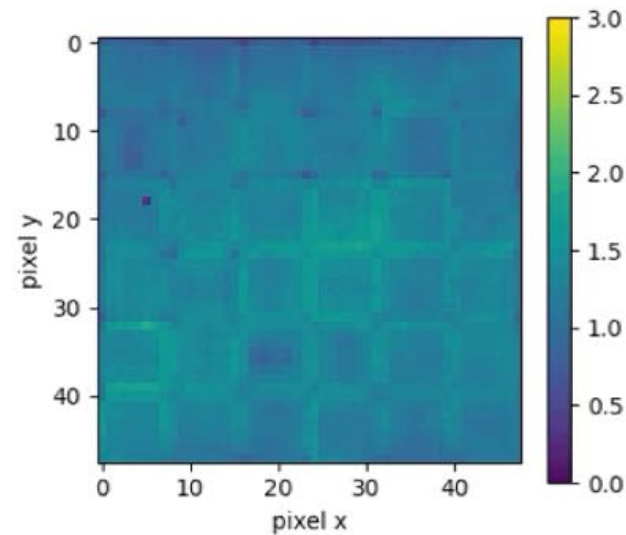
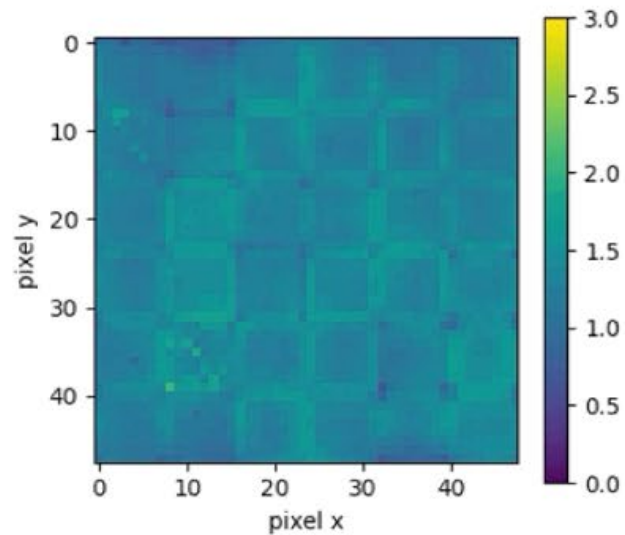


59



# Take home message

May14<sup>th</sup>\_a  
(04h40 UTC)



We were so beautiful!

