



**ISOLDE**

**CERN's Radioactive Ion Beam Facility**

Karl Johnston  
Karl.johnston@cern.ch

# What is ISOLDE?

The On-Line Isotope Mass Separator ISOLDE is a facility dedicated to the production of a large variety of radioactive ion beams (RIBs)

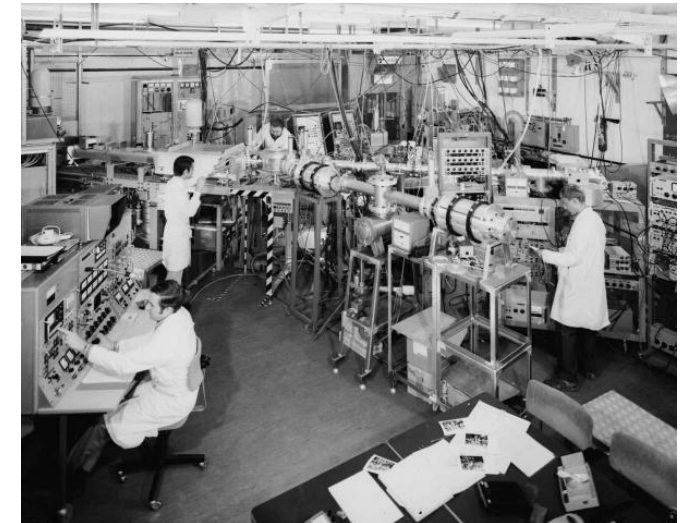
## Isolde history

**Dec 1964: CERN approves the online separator project**

**May 1966: SynchroCyclotron shuts down for the construction of ISOLDE**



**Oct 1967: First proton beams at ISOLDE**



**1972: SC Improvement Program** – doubles the intensity  
(now quite a nice museum)

**1976: New experiments in ISOLDE II**

**June 1983: ISOLDE III approved** – two-stage high resolution separation using two magnets

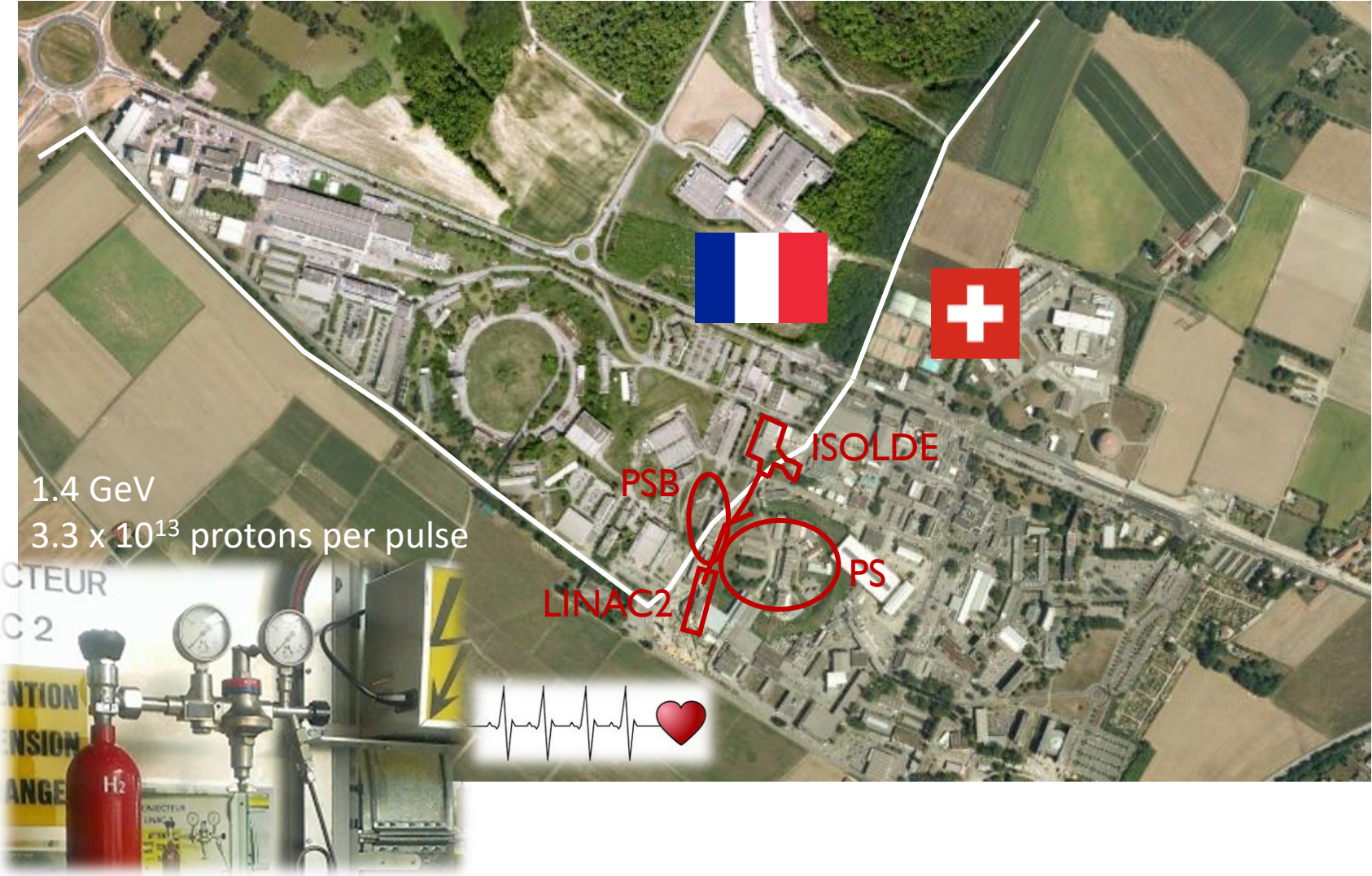


**Dec 1990: The Synchrocyclotron beam ends**

ISOLDE moves to PS booster to utilize CERN's spare proton capacity...



# Why at CERN?





Bulgaria



Belgium



CERN



Denmark



Spain



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Italy



Norway



Romania



Sweden



S. Africa



Slovakia



U. Kingdom



Poland



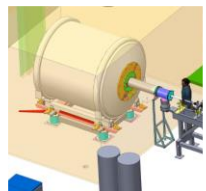
Switzerland



MINIBALL



SCATTERING EXPERIMENTS



ISS



COLLAPS



ISOLTRAP



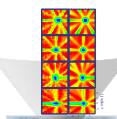
CRIS



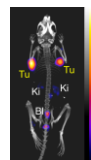
IDS



VITO



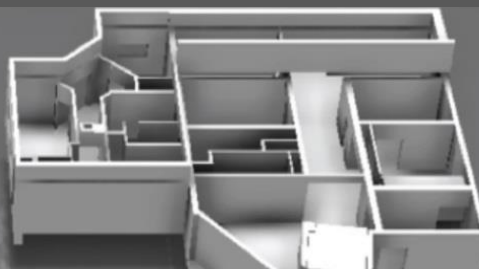
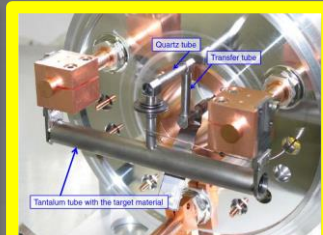
SSP



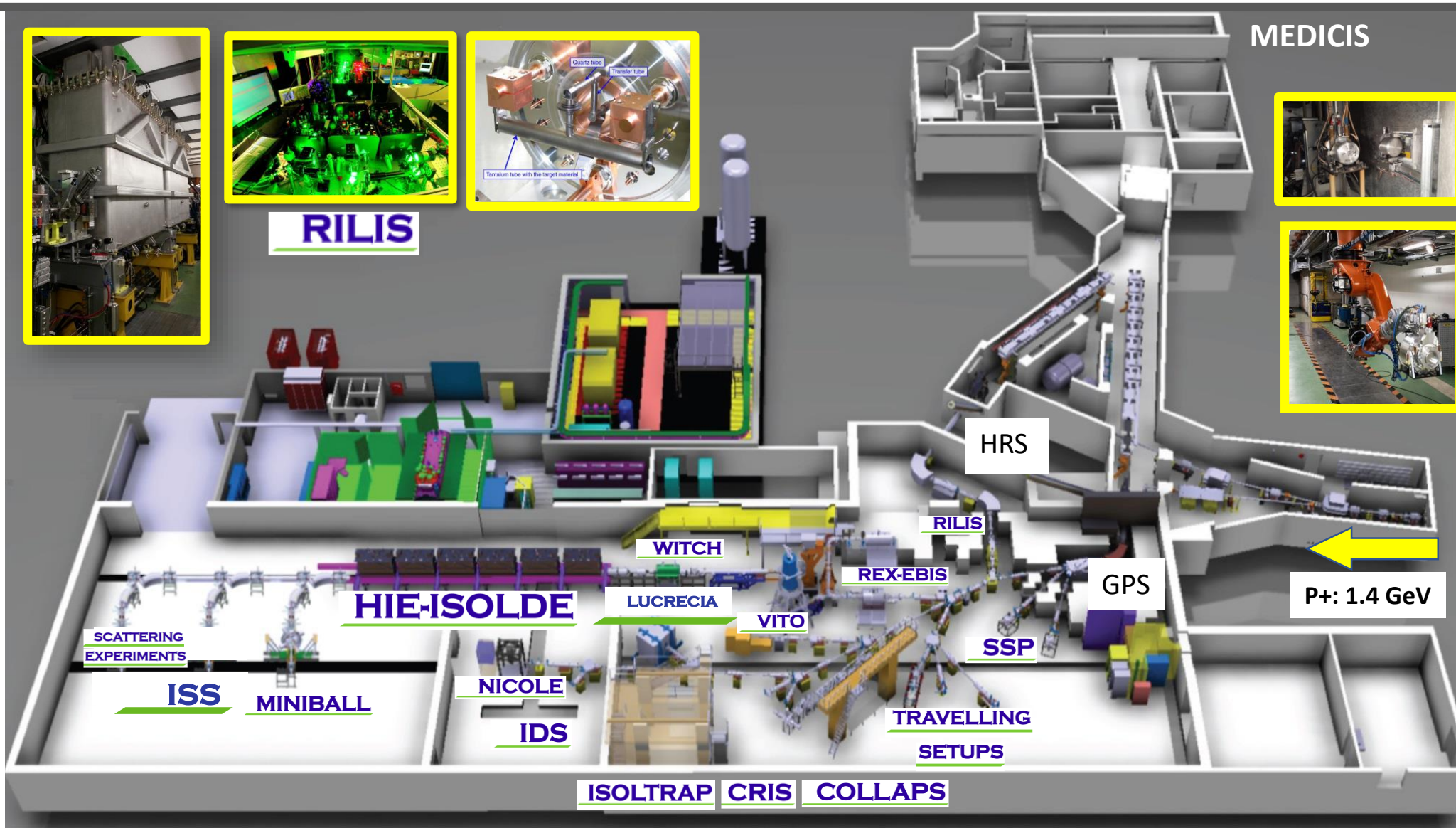
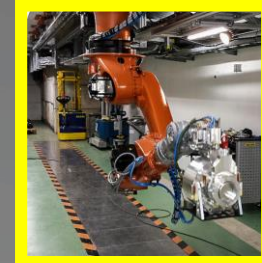
MEDICAL ISOTOPES



RILIS



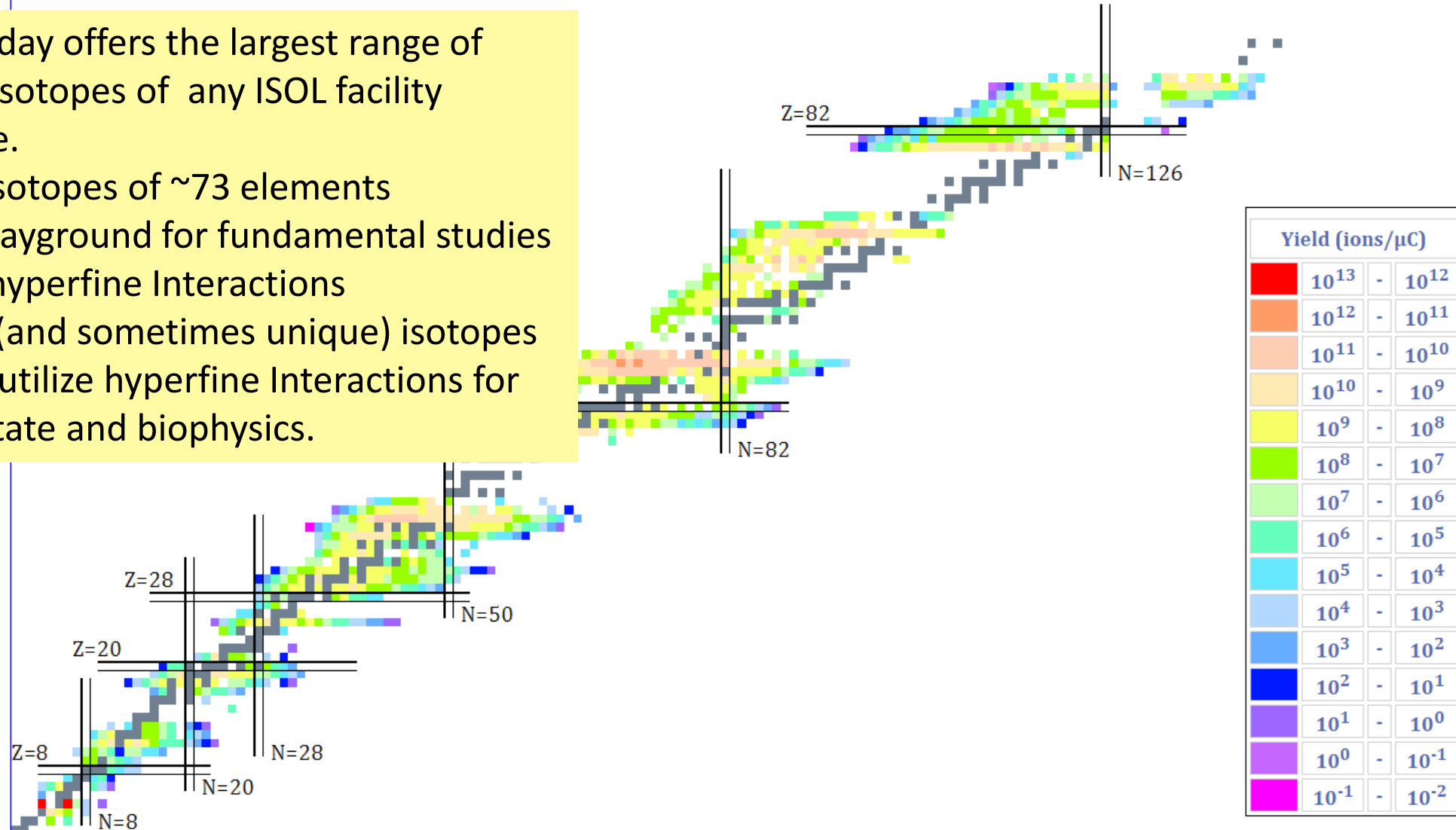
MEDICIS



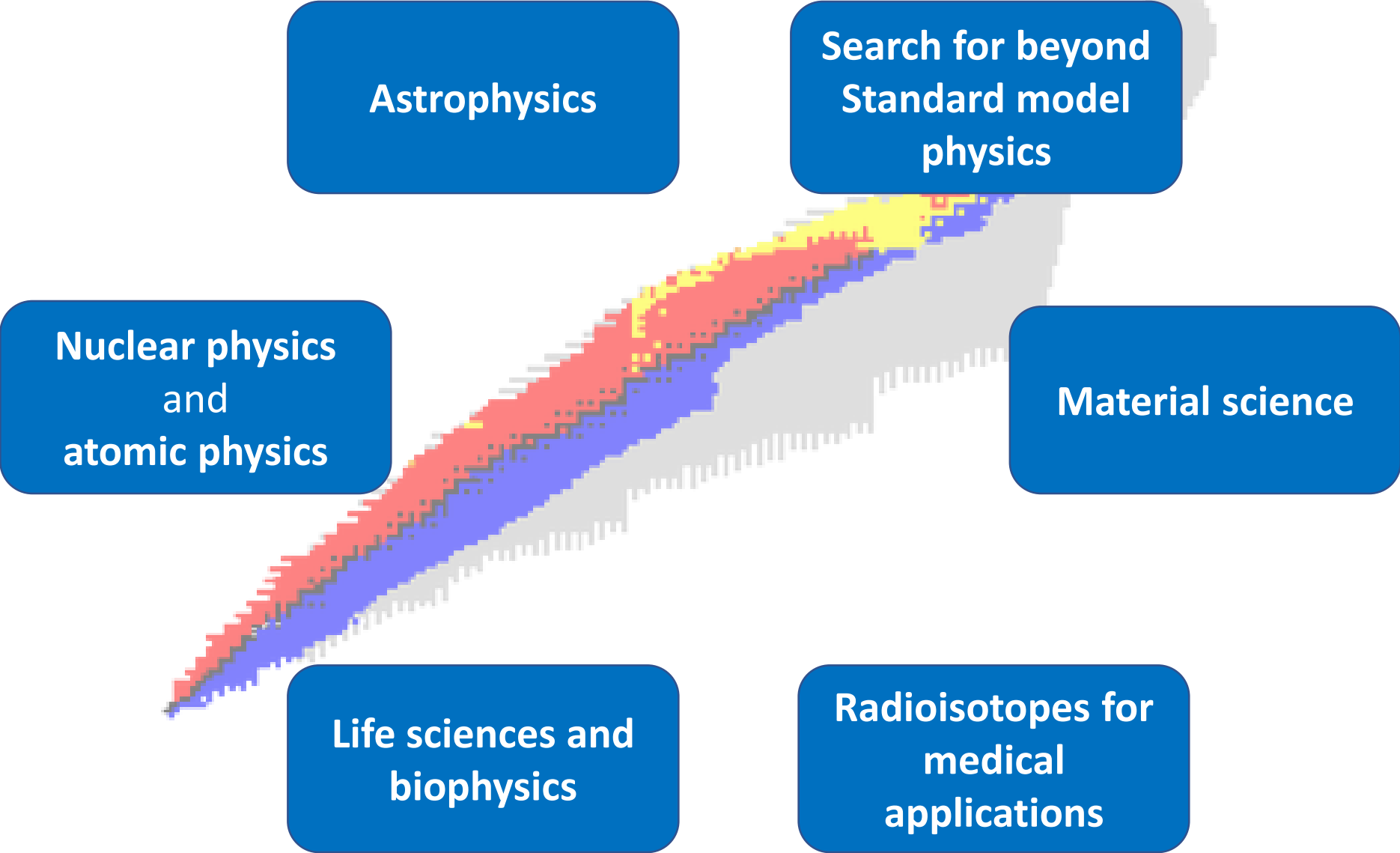
# Nuclear chart for ISOLDE

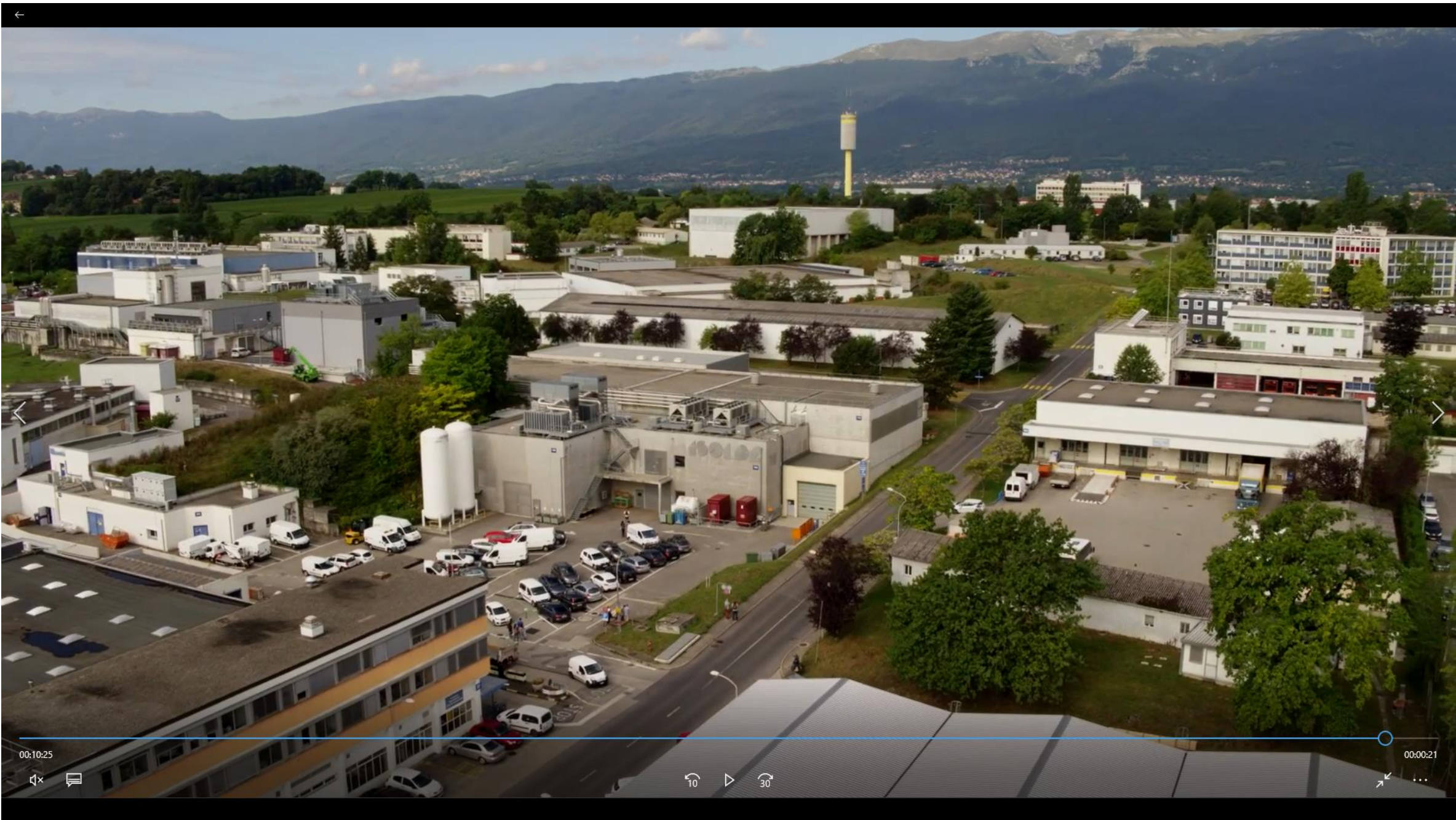
ISOLDE today offers the largest range of available isotopes of any ISOL facility worldwide.

- 1200 isotopes of ~73 elements
- Rich playground for fundamental studies using hyperfine Interactions
- Novel (and sometimes unique) isotopes which utilize hyperfine Interactions for solid state and biophysics.



# Research with radioactive beams at ISOLDE





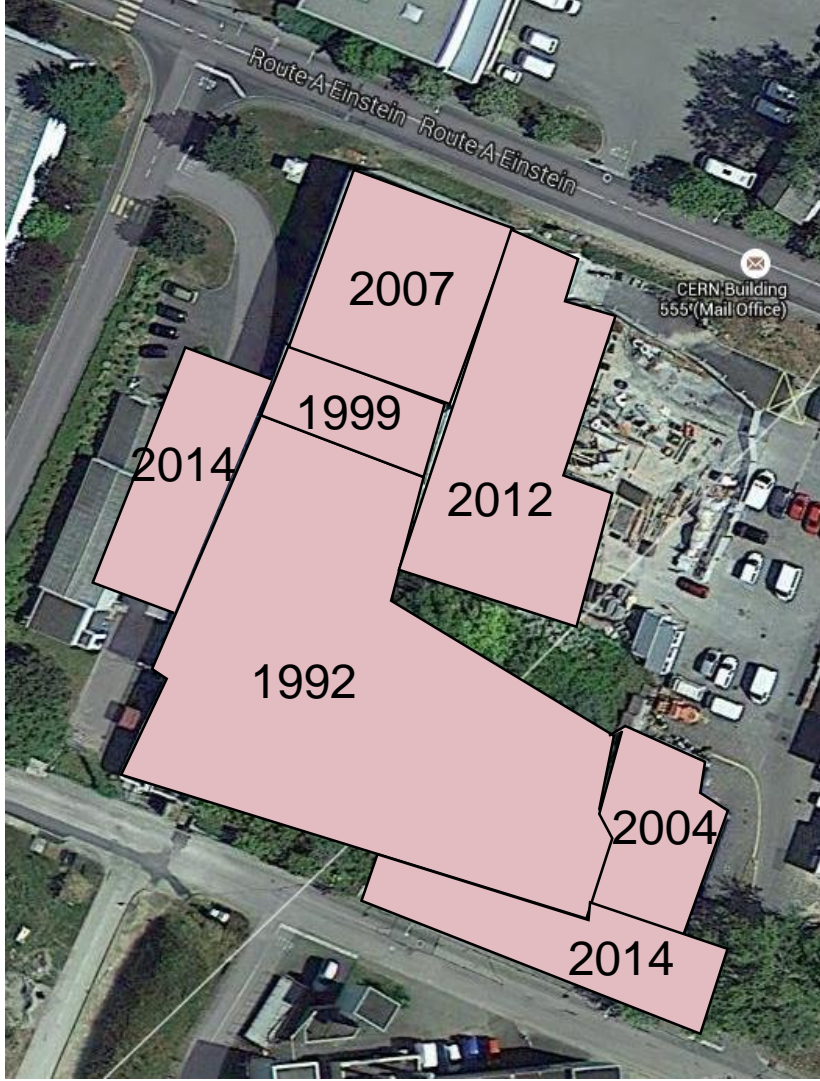
00:10:25



00:00:21







User and Operations facility building



Groundbreaking MEDICIS building

# Production: Modern-day alchemy

◆ High energy (1.4 GeV) protons are impacted onto a thick target e.g.  $^{238}\text{U}$

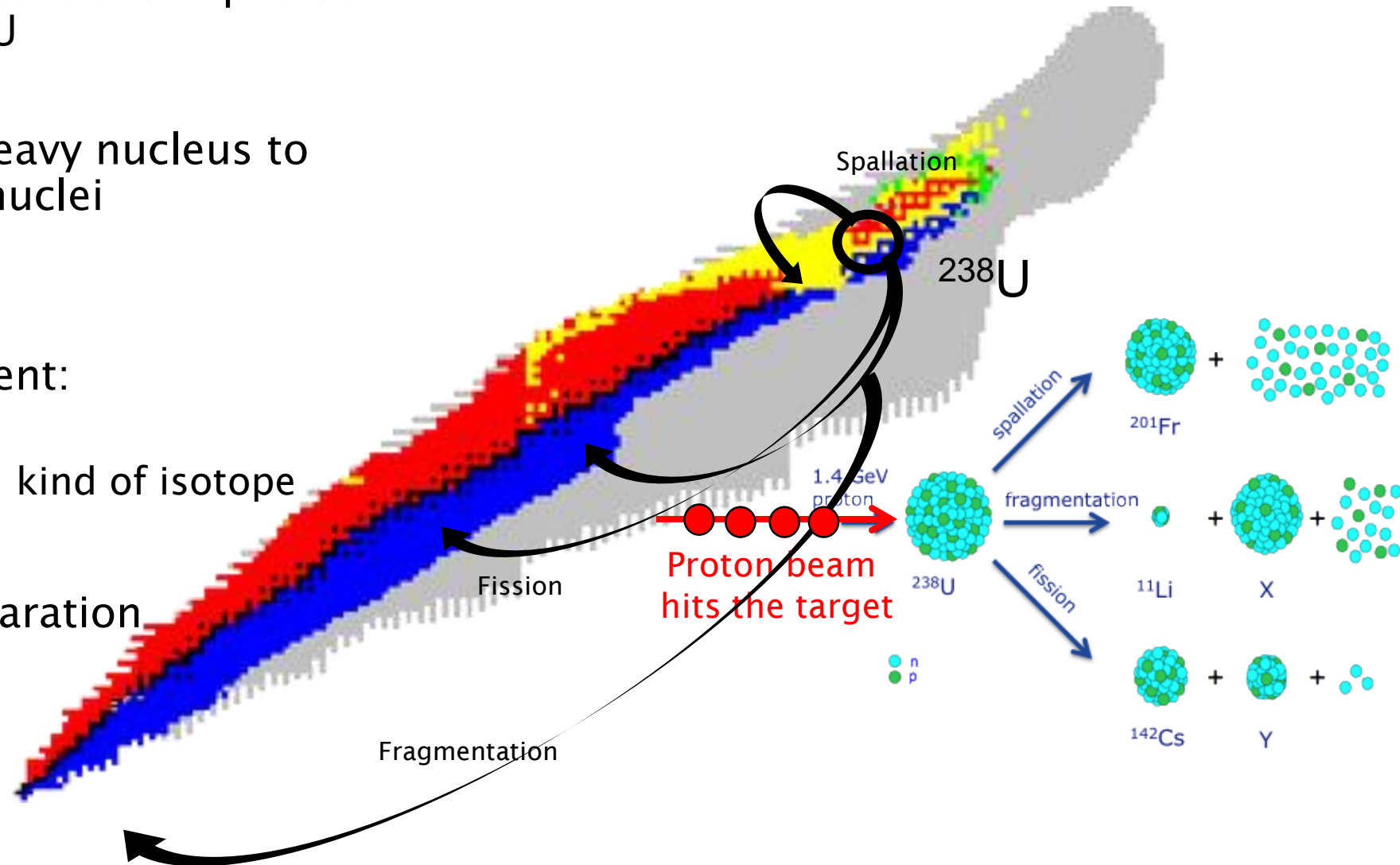
◆ The protons split up the heavy nucleus to produce a wide variety of nuclei simultaneously

◆ Requirements for experiment:

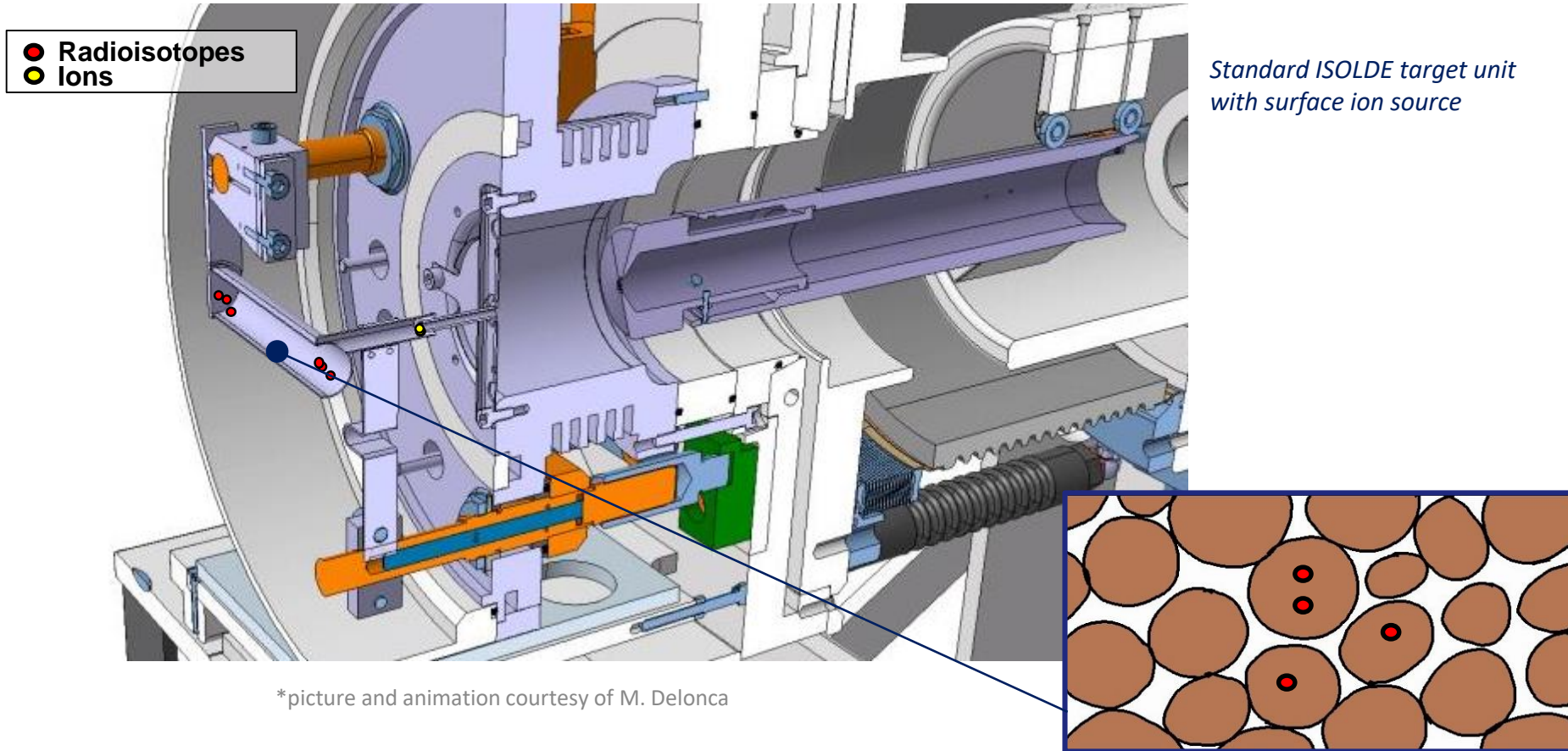
- ◆ High production
- ◆ Pure radioactive beams: 1 kind of isotope

◆ There are 3 stages of preparation

- ◆ Production
- ◆ Ionization
- ◆ Separation



# Production: Targets



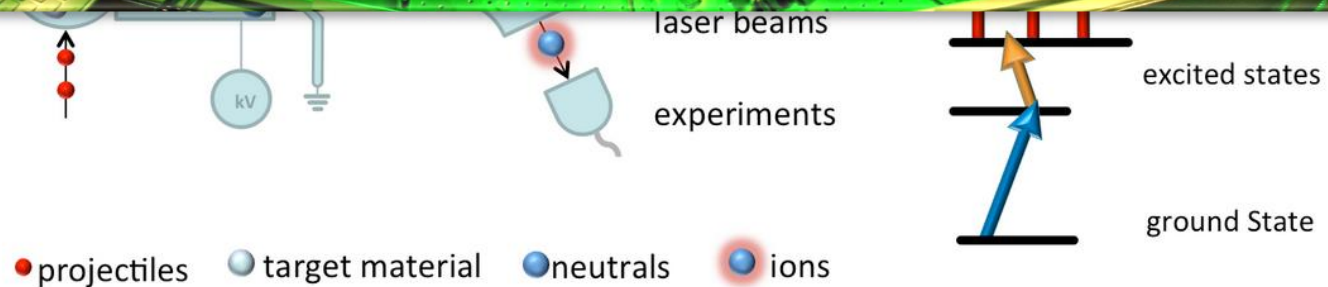
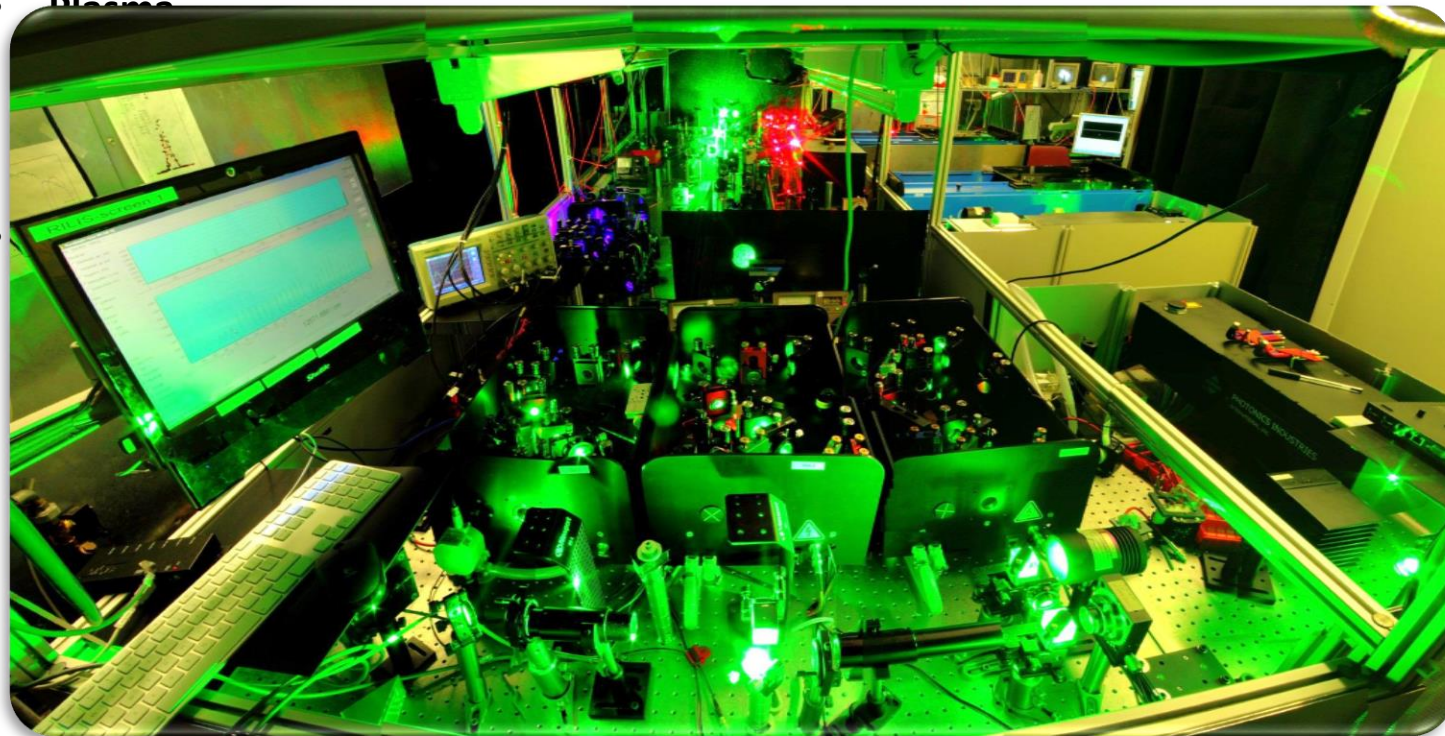
- ◆ Over 120 materials have been tested and/or used as ISOL targets
  - ◆ Choice of target material and ionizer dependent on radioactive beam of interest
- ◆ Target material and transfer tube heated to 1500 – 2000 degrees
- ◆ Operated by robots due to radiation

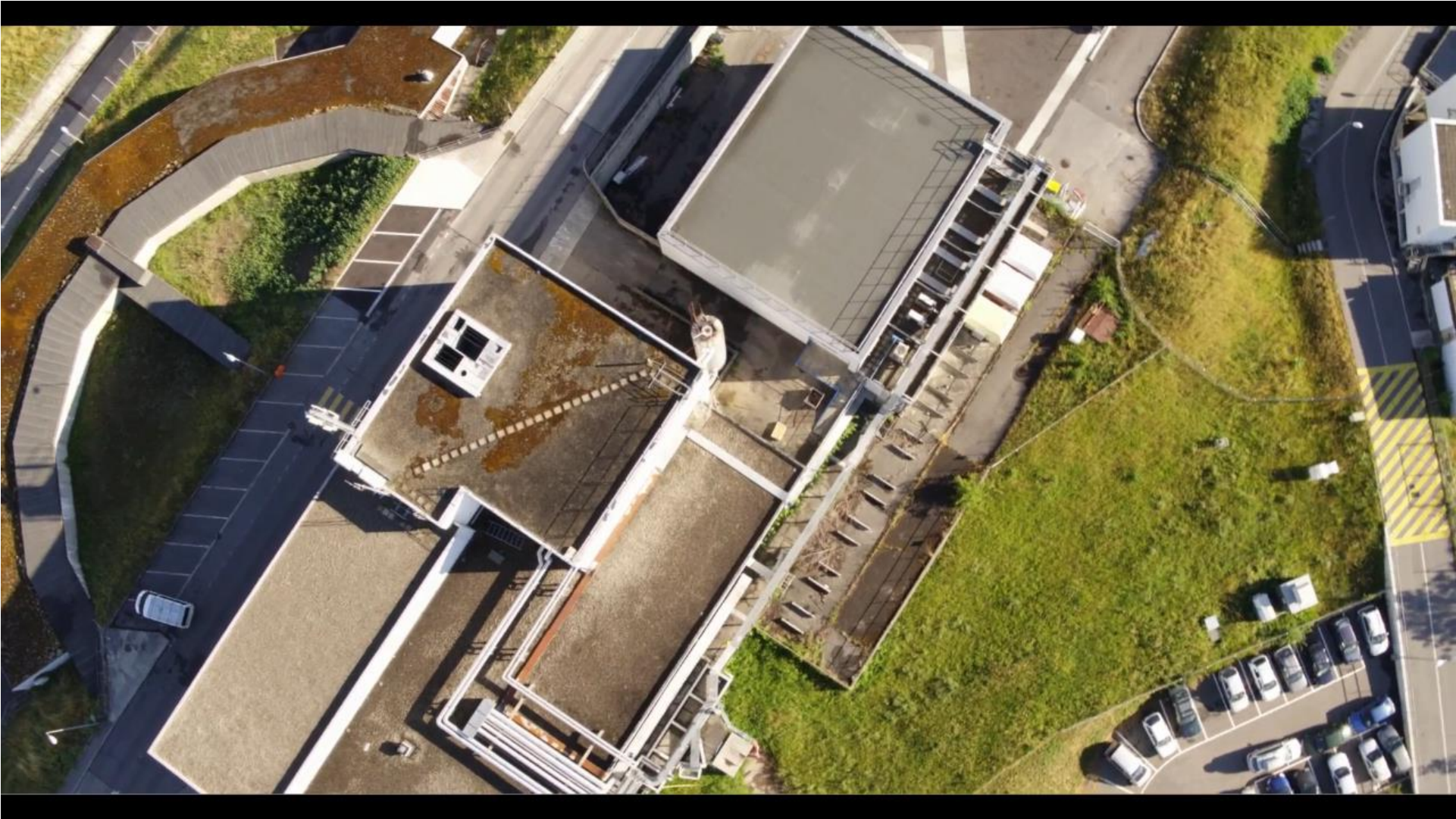
# ISOLDE Robots



# Ion Sources

- **Hot-cavity**
  - W heated at  $> 2000\text{ C}$
  - High ionization efficiencies for some nuclei



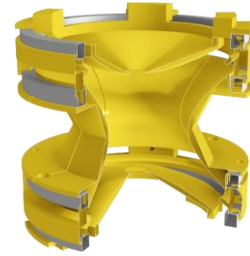


# Experiments with low-energy RIB's



- **Masses**

- ISOLTRAP (Penning trap + MR-TOF-MS)



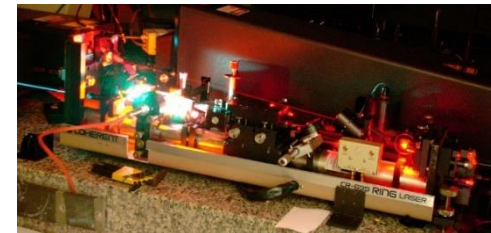
- **Decay spectroscopy**

- Modular and versatile  
Isolde Decay Station (IDS) since 2015



- **Moments, radii and spins**

- LASER SPECTROSCOPY (COLLAPS, CRIS, RILIS)

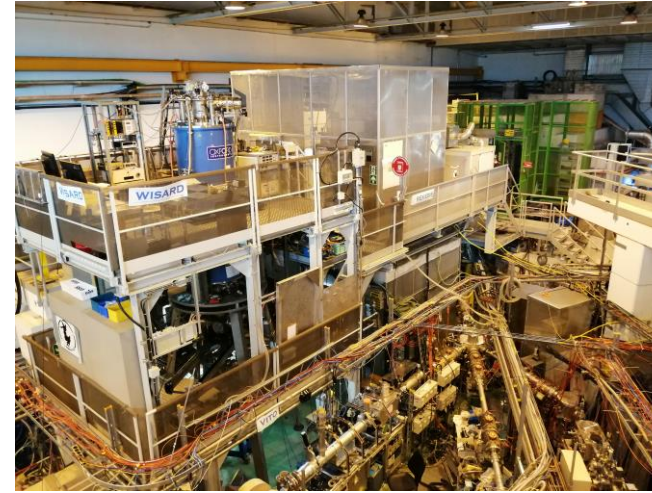


# Experiments with low-energy RIB's

- **Fundamental Interaction Studies**

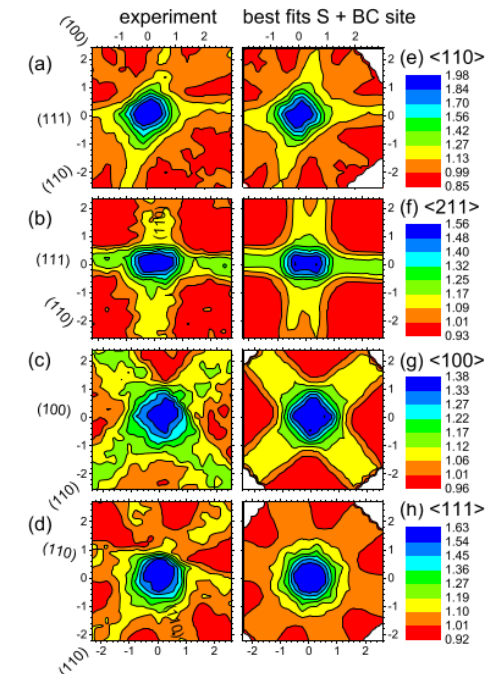
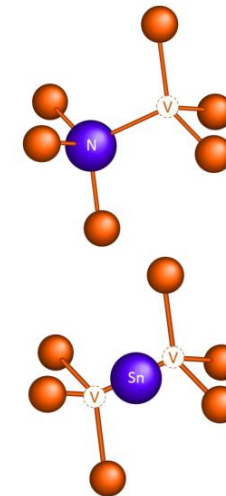
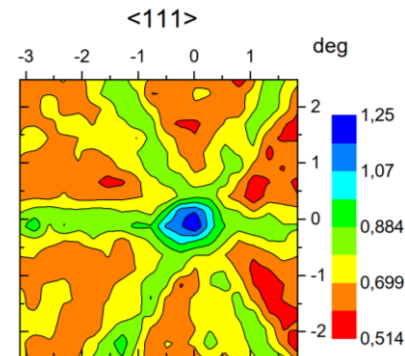


- WISArD experiment



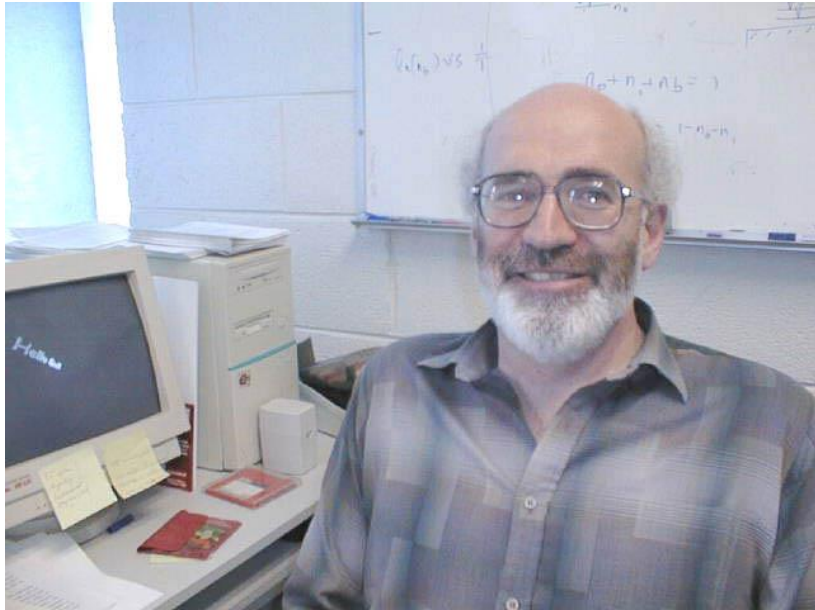
- **Material research with short lived isotopes**

- Emission channeling, PAC,  $\beta$ -NMR, Mossbauer





**Martin Henry**  
**Defects in Semiconductors**  
**and Radioactivity:**  
**The early years**



J. Phys.: Condens. Matter 6 (1994) L643–L650. Printed in the UK

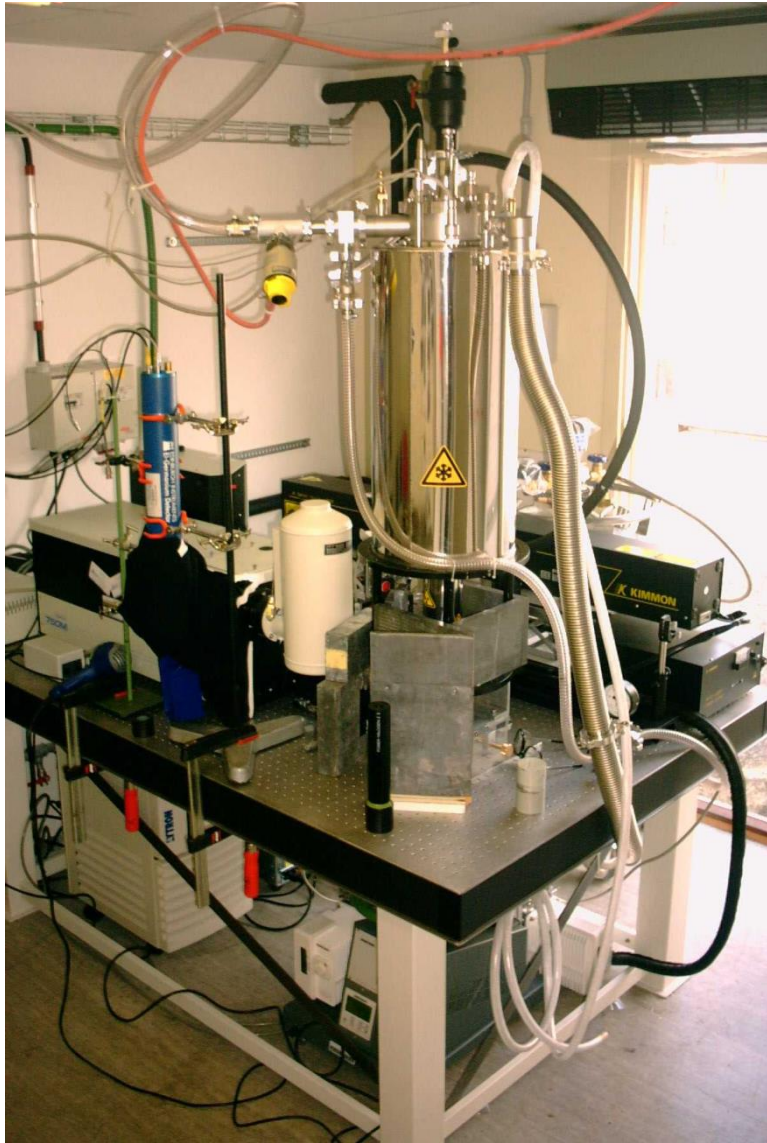
**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Radioactive isotopes for photoluminescence spectroscopy—  
<sup>111</sup>In in silicon**

S E Daly†, M O Henry†, K Freitag‡ and R Vianden‡

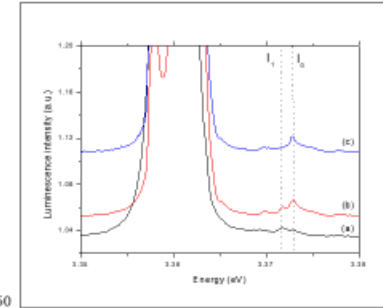
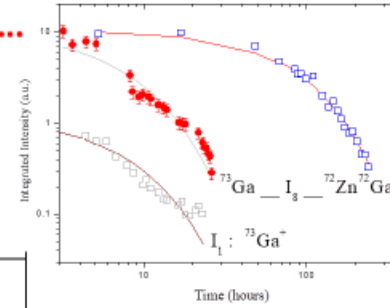
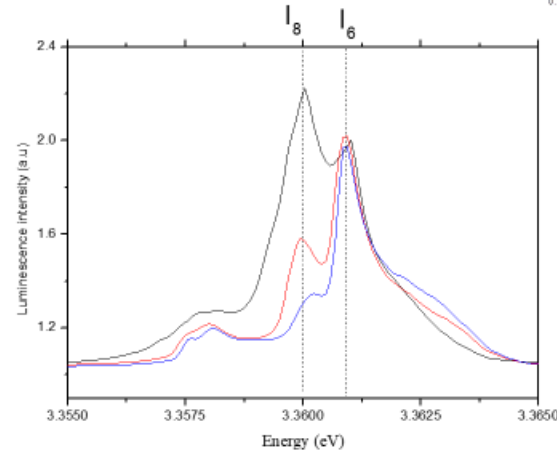
† School of Physical Sciences, Dublin City University, Collins Avenue, Dublin 9, The  
Republic of Ireland

‡ Institut für Strahlen und Kernphysik der Universität Bonn, Nussallee 14–16, D 53115 Bonn,  
Germany



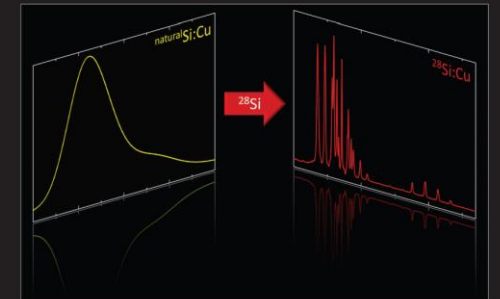
Ga identified as a donor in ZnO....

K. Johnston *et al* Phys Rev B 73 165212 (2006).



NOVEMBER 2011 VOLUME 110 NUMBER 8

# JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS



Photoluminescence of deep defects involving transition metals in Si:  
 New insights from highly enriched  $^{28}\text{Si}$   
 by M. Steger, A. Yang, T. Sekiguchi *et al.*



### REX-ISOLDE + MINIBALL : Octupole deformation in $^{220}\text{Rn}$ and $^{224}\text{Ra}$

L.P. Gaffney et al, *Nature* 497 (2013) 199

Candidates for searches for permanent EDMs:

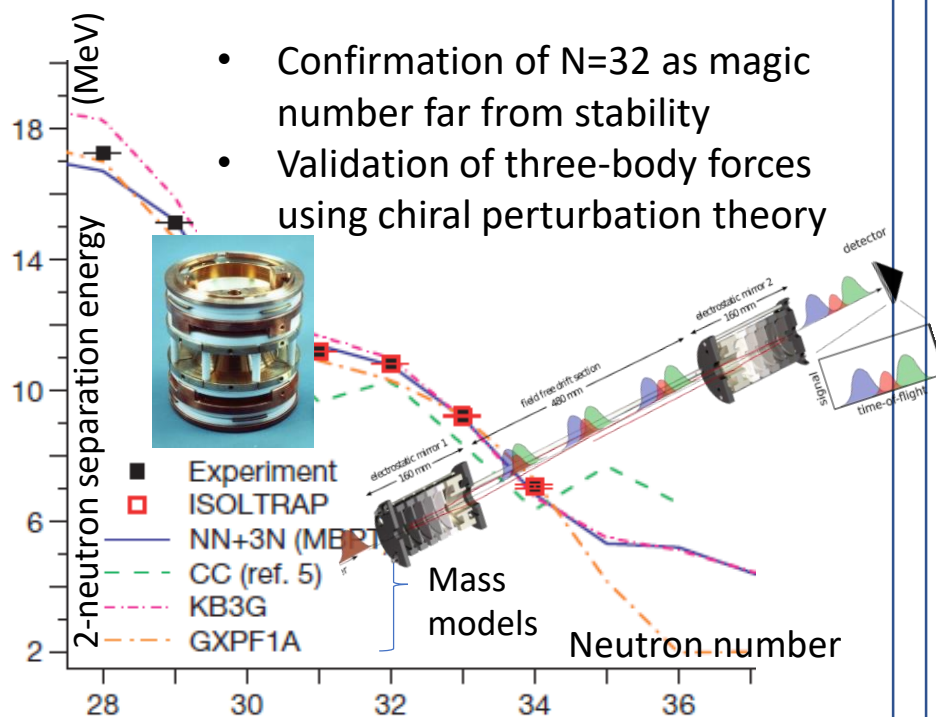
- Radon-221 not suitable
- Radiums-223 and 225 - promising



### ISOLTRAP: Mass of $^{54}\text{Ca}$ and 3-body forces

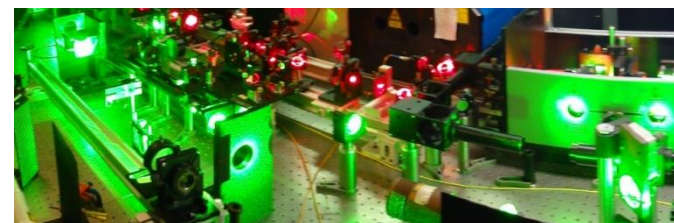
F. Wienholtz et al, *Nature* 498 (2013), 346

- Confirmation of  $N=32$  as magic number far from stability
- Validation of three-body forces using chiral perturbation theory

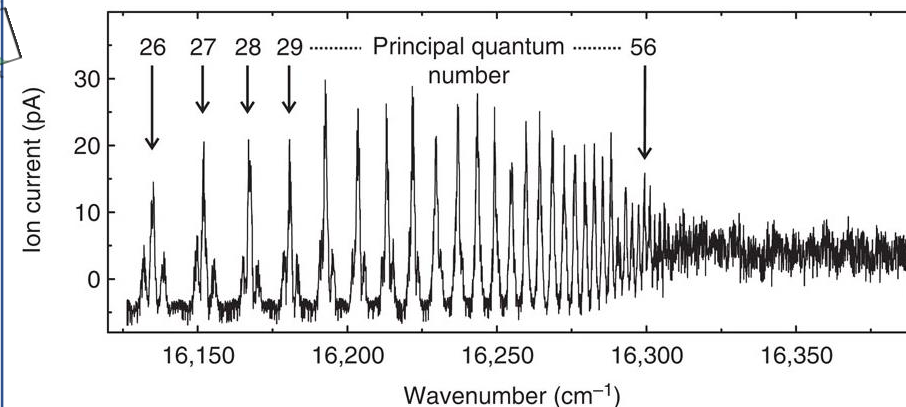


### RILIS: Ionisation potential of Astatine

S. Rothe et al, *Nature Communications* 4 (2013), 1835



Least abundant element on Earth  
High-precision study via Rydberg states

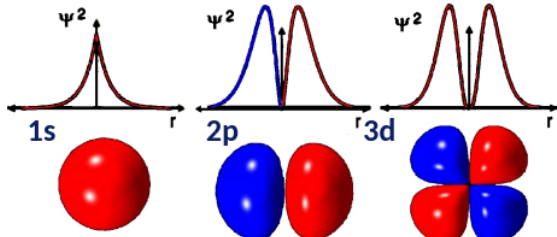




# Why Molecules?

→ New windows into the study of the atomic nucleus, and the fundamental particles and interactions of nature!

## Atoms

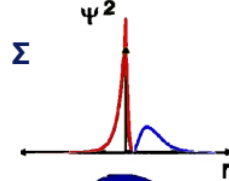


Figures modify from Orbitron ©2002 M. Winter (U. Sheffield)

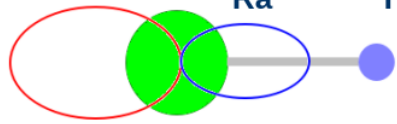
Ra<sup>+</sup>



## Molecules



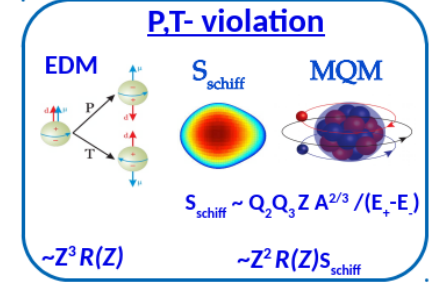
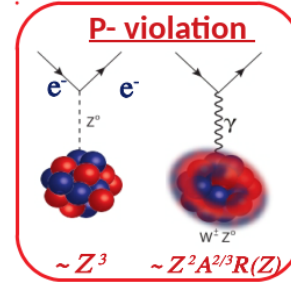
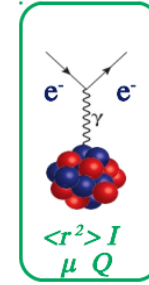
Ra<sup>+</sup>



- Parity violation > 10<sup>10</sup>
- Parity and Time reversal violation > 10<sup>3</sup>

[ACME. Nature 562. 355 (2018)]

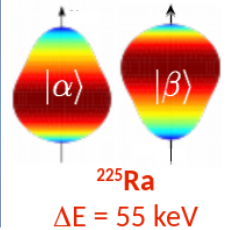
# Why Molecules?



|               |                 |                  |                   |                      |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Molecules → x | 10 <sup>N</sup> | >10 <sup>5</sup> | > 10 <sup>3</sup> | (x 10 <sup>5</sup> ) |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|

Exotic nuclei → Nuclear amplification (>10<sup>3</sup>)

- Large Z, A
- Max. Q<sub>2</sub>Q<sub>3</sub>
- Min. (E<sub>+</sub>-E<sub>-</sub>)

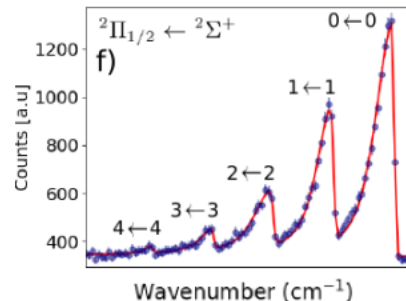
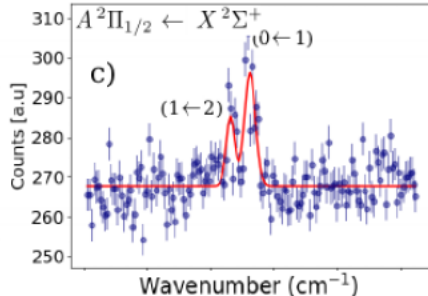
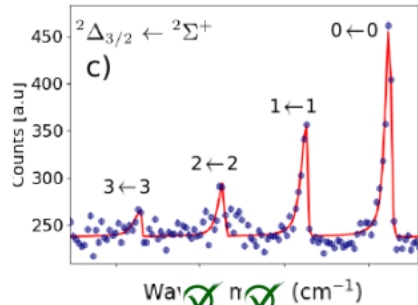
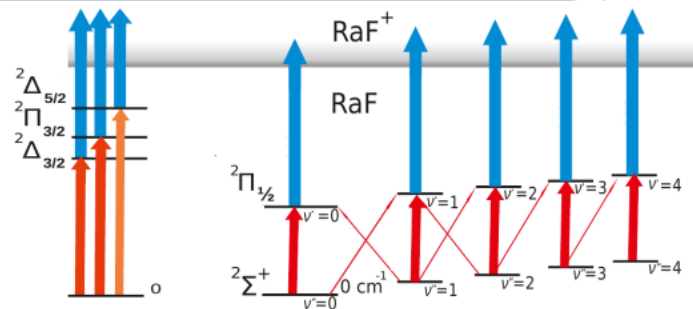
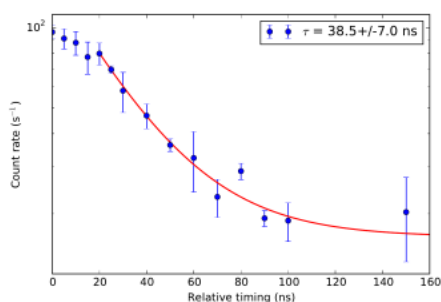


[Gaffney et al. Nature 497, 199 (2013)]

Exotic molecules → **Best of all worlds**  
... BUT, are experimentally unknown!

## Recent results

- I. Low-lying structure ✓
- II. Feasibility of laser cooling?
  1. Dominant  $f_{00}$ ?  $\rightarrow f_{00}/f_{ij} > 0.97$  ✓
  2. Short-lived excited state ( $T_{1/2}$ )?  $\rightarrow T_{1/2} < 50$  ns ✓
  3. Electronic states of lower energy (E)?  $\rightarrow 2000$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  above ✓



$$H_{\text{mol}} = H_e + H_{\text{vib}} + H_{\text{rot}} + H_{\text{sr}} + H_{\text{hfs}} + H_{\text{PV}} + H_{\text{PTV}} \quad \text{[Garcia Ruiz et al. Nature 581, 396 (2020)]}$$

“Hot” molecules can be super cool!

nature

Article | Open Access | Published: 27 May 2020

## Spectroscopy of short-lived radioactive molecules

R. F. Garcia Ruiz, R. Berger, [...] X. F. Yang

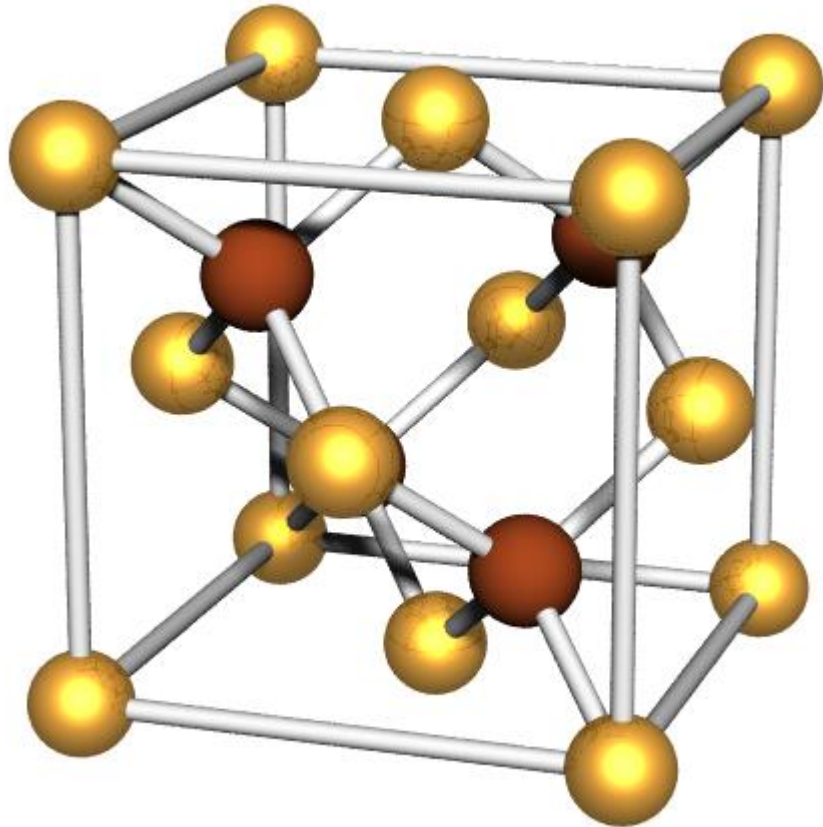
Nature 581, 396–400(2020) | Cite this article

8120 Accesses | 145 Altmetric | Metrics

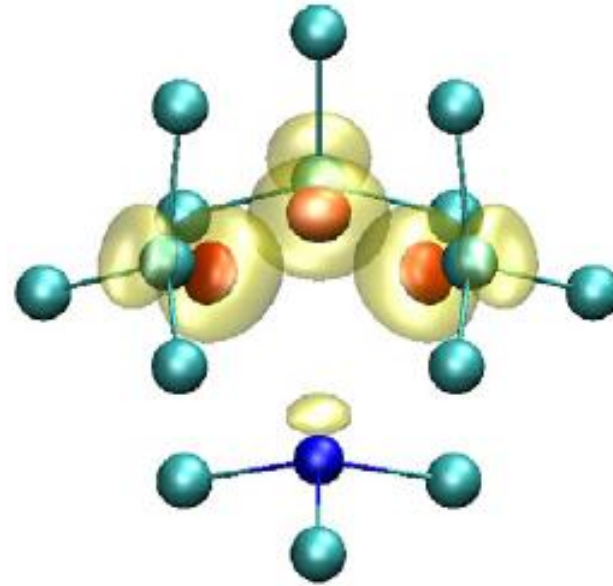
$$H_{\text{mol}} = H_e + H_{\text{vib}} + H_{\text{rot}} + H_{\text{sr}} + H_{\text{hfs}} + H_{\text{PV}} + H_{\text{PTV}}$$



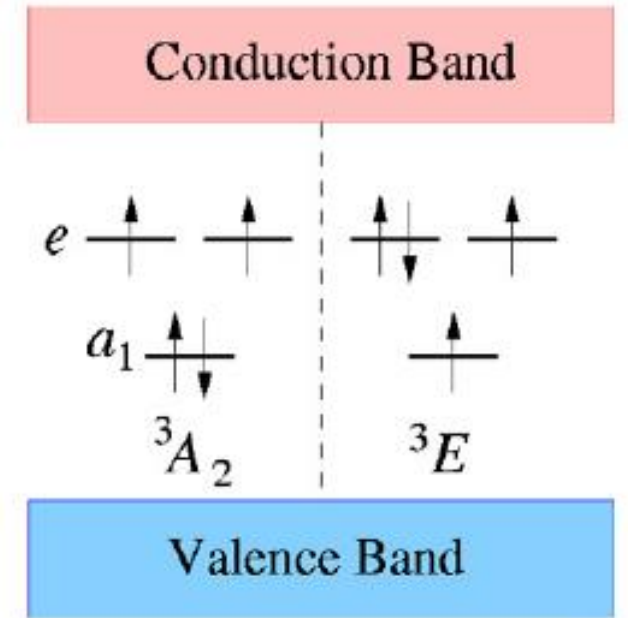
# Solid state physics in a nutshell



Structural information: location of atoms in lattice



(a)



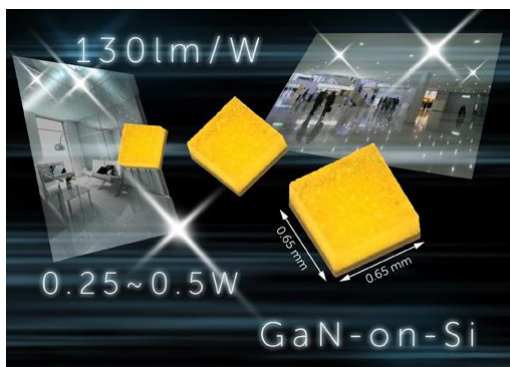
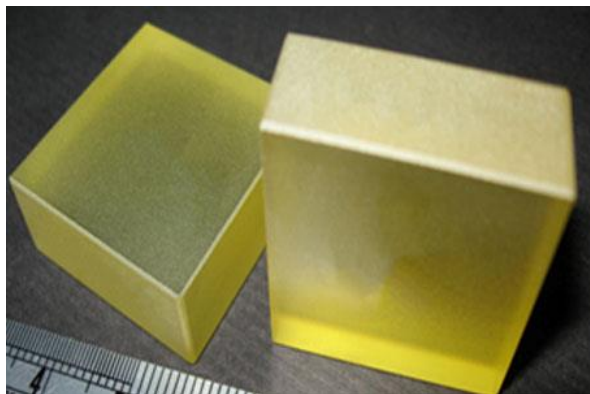
(b)

Electronic information: what states are the electrons?

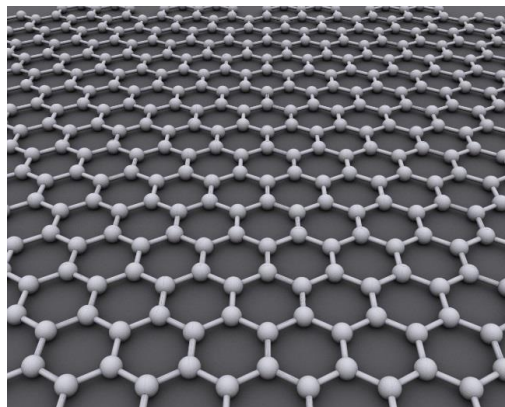


# Materials being studied

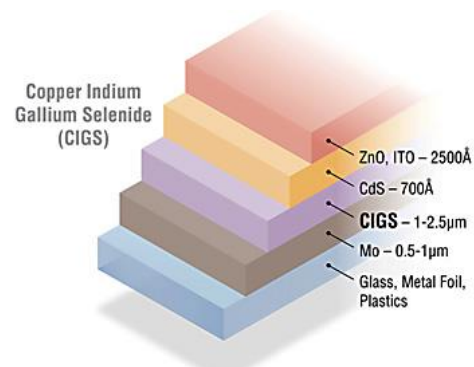
## Semiconductors



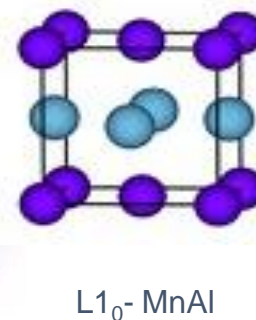
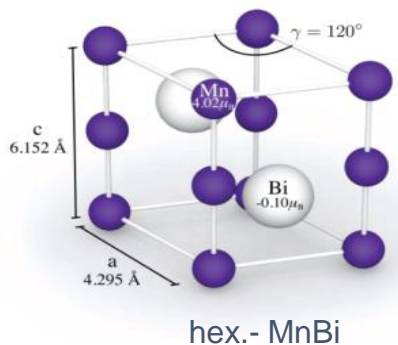
# 2D materials



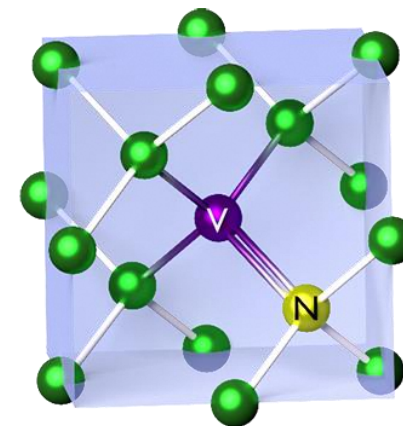
# Solar cells



# Future magnetic materials

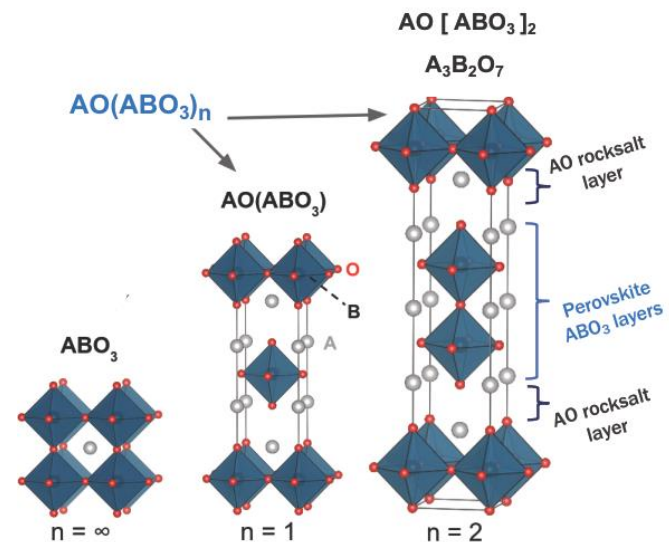


# Quantum bits



# Multiferroics

## Ruddlenden-Popper



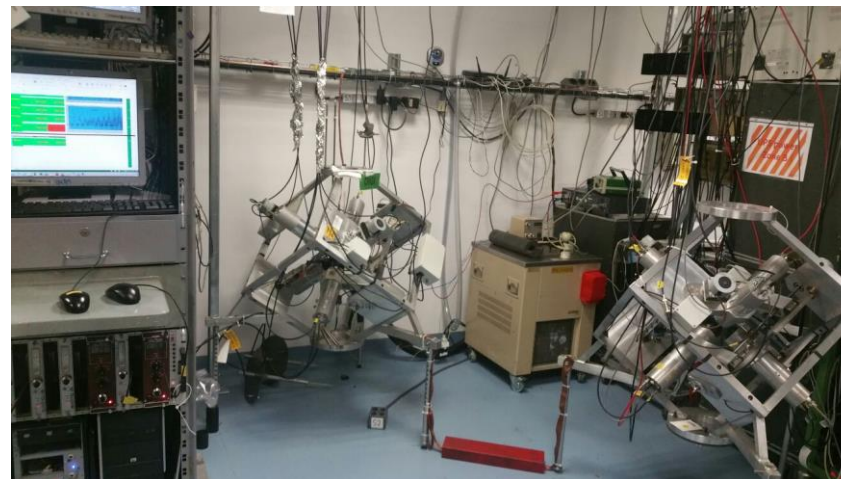


# Use of radioactive isotopes in materials science:

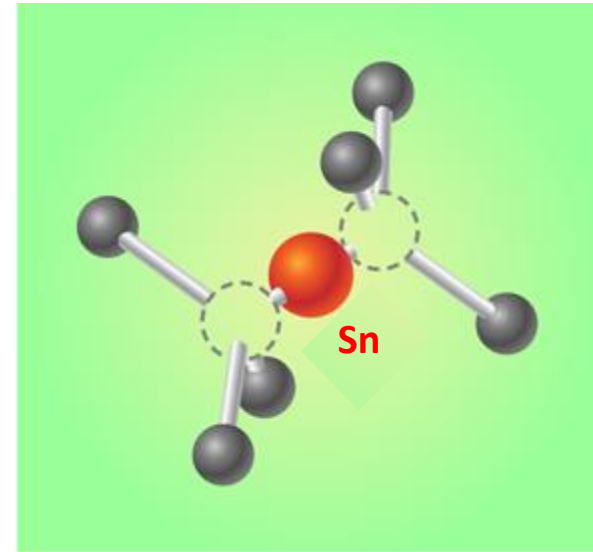
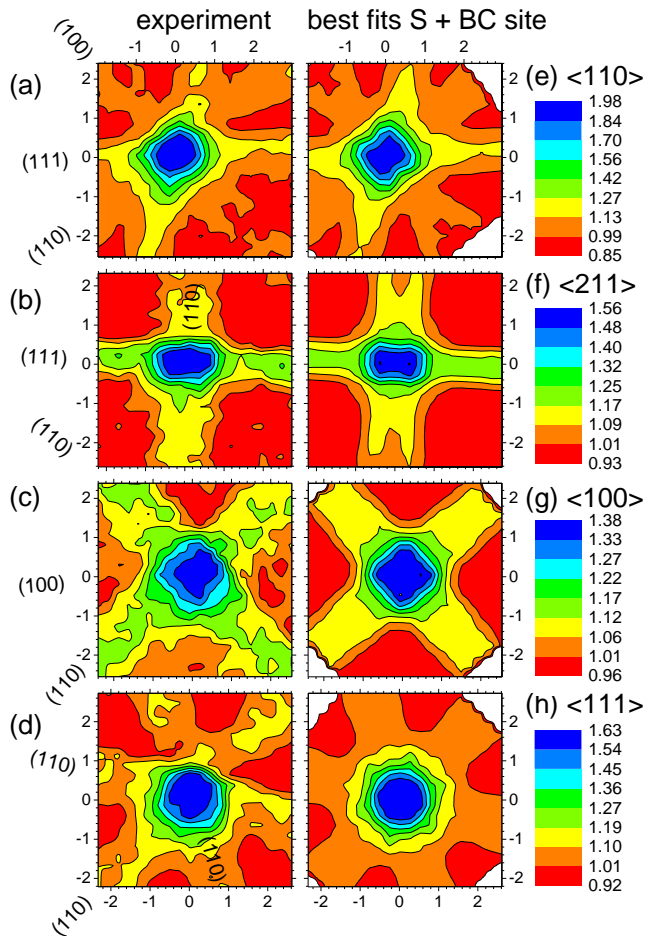
- **Nuclear radiation acts as “marker” for a specific element:**
  - Radiotracer diffusion
- **Half-life of nuclear decay correlates with signal intensity from “classical” spectroscopy:**
  - Photoluminescence (PL)
  - Deep Level Transient Spectroscopy (DLTS)
  - Hall-effect
- **Nuclear radiation transmits information with atomic resolution:**
  - Mössbauer Spectroscopy (MS)
  - Perturbed Angular Correlation (PAC)
  - Emission Channeling lattice location (EC)
  - Beta Nuclear Magnetic Resonance ( $\beta$ -NMR)



# Offline labs based at ISOLDE



# $^{121}\text{Sn}$ -vacancy: identification and quantification



- 30% of the implanted Sn in split vacancy configuration!
- Sn exactly at the bond-center (precision of 0.04 Å)
- Other IV elements (ongoing):  $^{31}\text{Si}$ ,  $^{73}\text{Ge}$ ,  $^{121}\text{Sn}$ ,  $^{209}\text{Pb}$

# Magnesium-Vacancy Optical Centers in Diamond

Emilio Corte,<sup>∇</sup> Greta Andrini,<sup>∇</sup> Elena Nieto Hernández, Vanna Pugliese, Ângelo Costa, Goele Magchiels, Janni Moens, Shandirai Malven Tunhuma, Renan Villarreal, Lino M. C. Pereira, André Vantomme, João Guilherme Correia, Ettore Bernardi, Paolo Traina, Ivo Pietro Degiovanni, Ekaterina Moreva, Marco Genovese, Sviatoslav Ditalia Tchernij, Paolo Olivero, Ulrich Wahl,\* and Jacopo Forneris\*

Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsp Photonics.2c01130>

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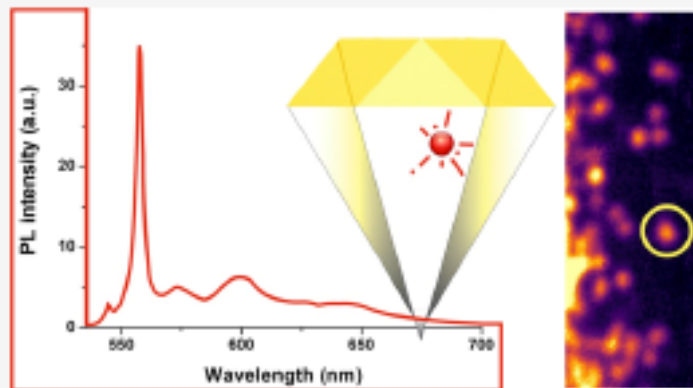
Metrics & More

Article Recommendations

Supporting Information

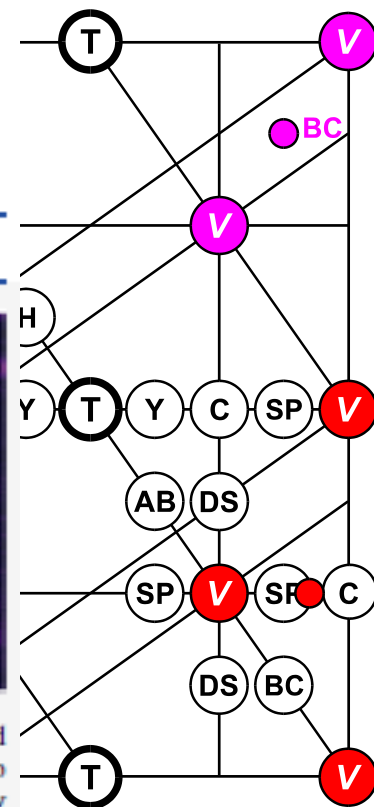
**ABSTRACT:** We provide the first systematic characterization of the structural and photoluminescence properties of optically active centers fabricated upon implantation of 30–100 keV Mg<sup>+</sup> ions in synthetic diamond. The structural configurations of Mg-related defects were studied by the electron emission channeling technique for short-lived, radioactive <sup>27</sup>Mg implantations at the CERN-ISOLDE facility, performed both at room temperature and 800 °C, which allowed the identification of a major fraction of Mg atoms (~30 to 42%) in sites which are compatible with the split-vacancy structure of the MgV complex. A smaller fraction of Mg atoms (~13 to 17%) was found on substitutional sites. The photoluminescence emission was investigated both at the ensemble and individual defect level in the 5–300 K temperature range, offering a detailed picture of the MgV-related emission properties and revealing the occurrence of previously unreported spectral features. The optical excitability of the MgV center was also studied as a function of the optical excitation wavelength to identify the optimal conditions for photostable and intense emission. The results are discussed in the context of the preliminary experimental data and the theoretical models available in the literature, with appealing perspectives for the utilization of the tunable properties of the MgV center for quantum information processing applications.

**KEYWORDS:** diamond, ion implantation, magnesium, color centers, emission channeling, lattice location



axes in diamond

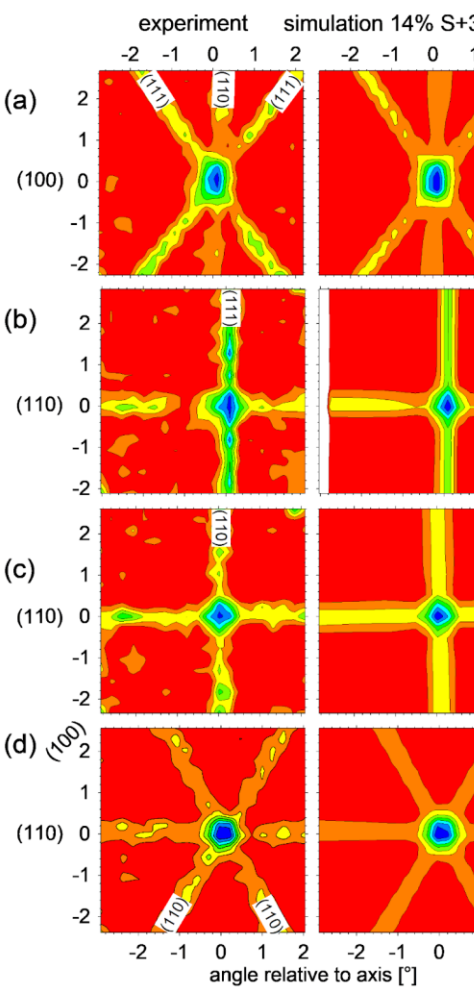
{110} plane in diamond lattice



MgV  
~30%

MgV<sub>2</sub>  
??%

ISW, 30.11.2022



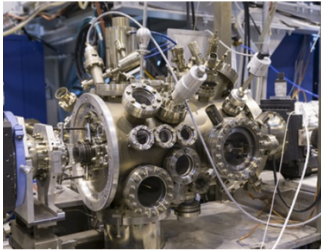
T<sub>i</sub>=800°C



# Future possibilities: available in 2022-23

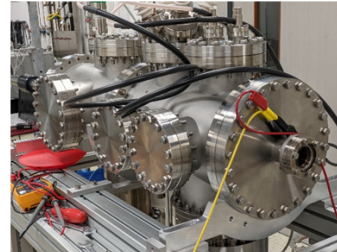
## ASPIC

Surface/interface  
Modification & characterization



## ASCII

Ultra-low energy implantation  
Control of probe isotopes



## PAC

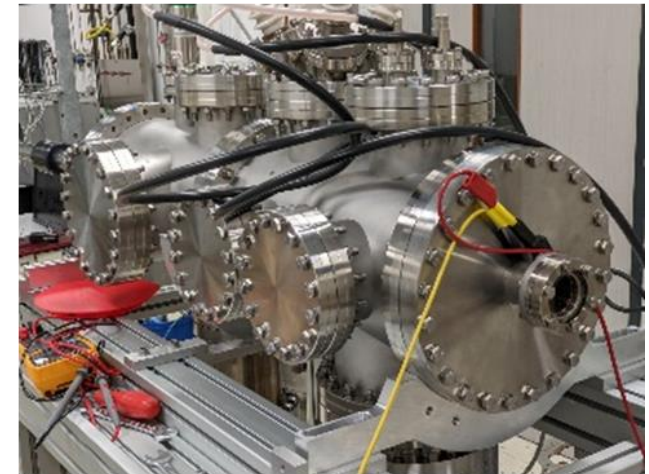
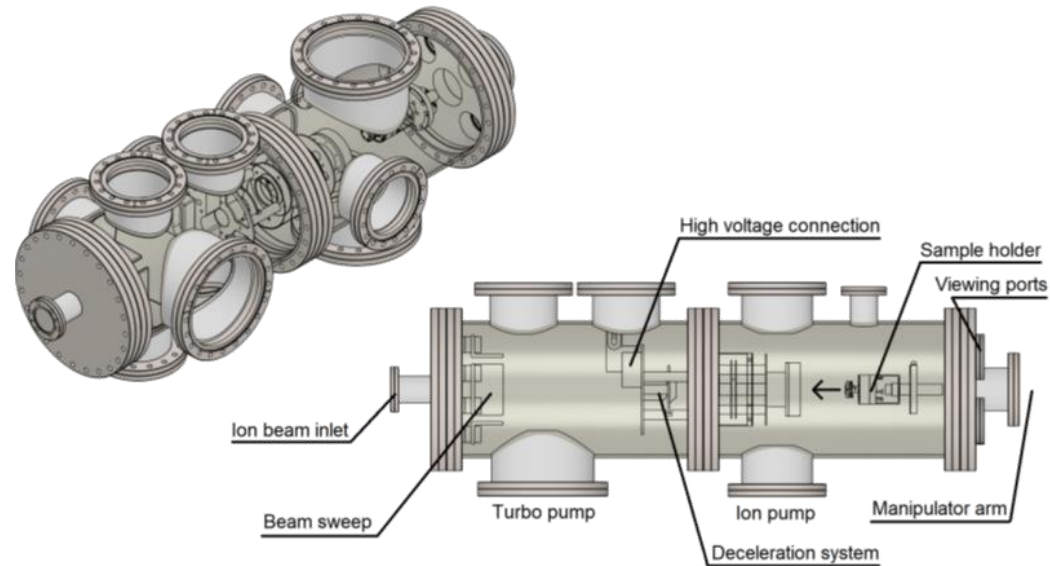
(atomically) local information



research into

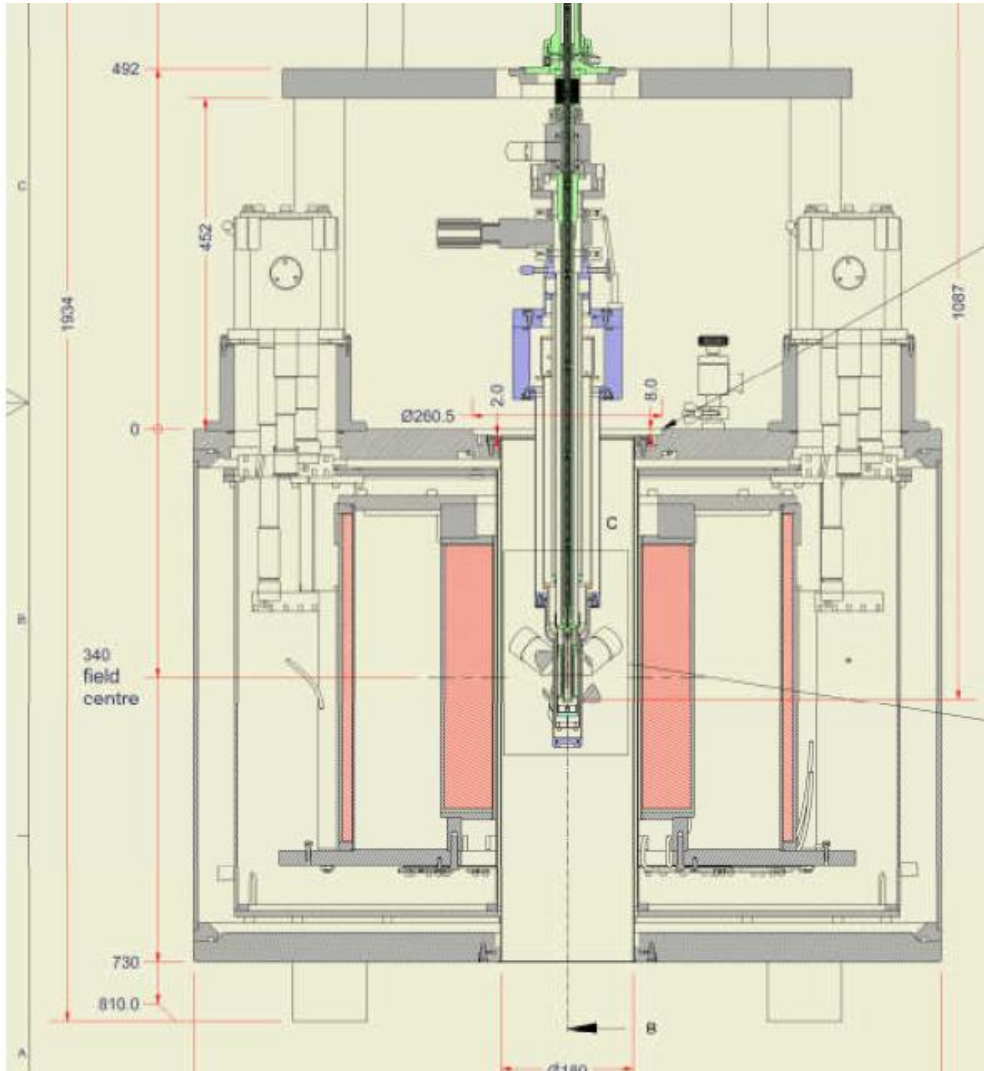
2D materials

- ASPIC's Ion Implantation chamber
- Decelerates ions from 60 keV to  $\leq 20$  eV

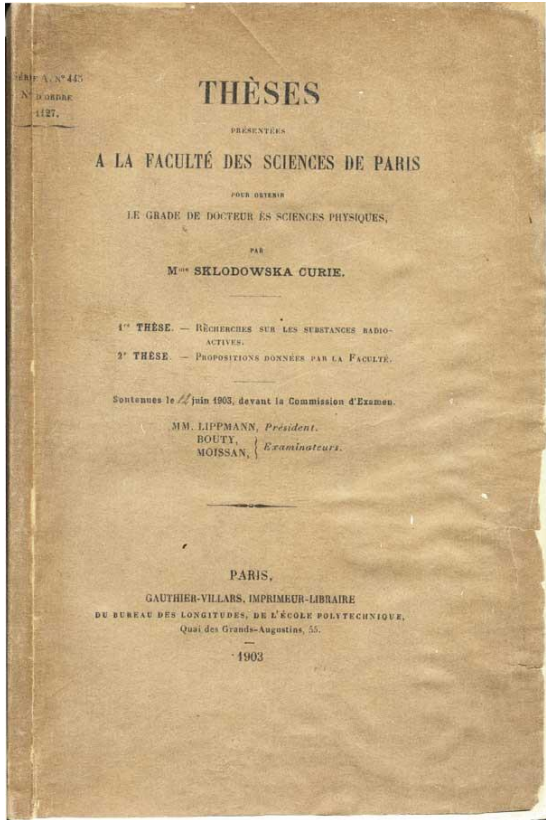




# High field magnetic spectrometer to study magnetic materials using PAC



## The early days



Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
1867-1934



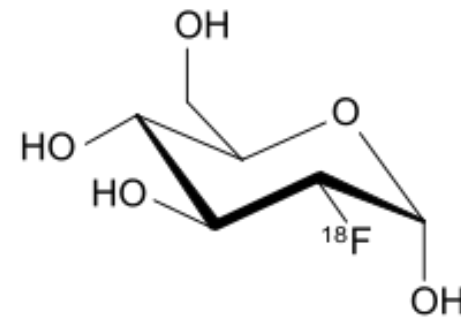
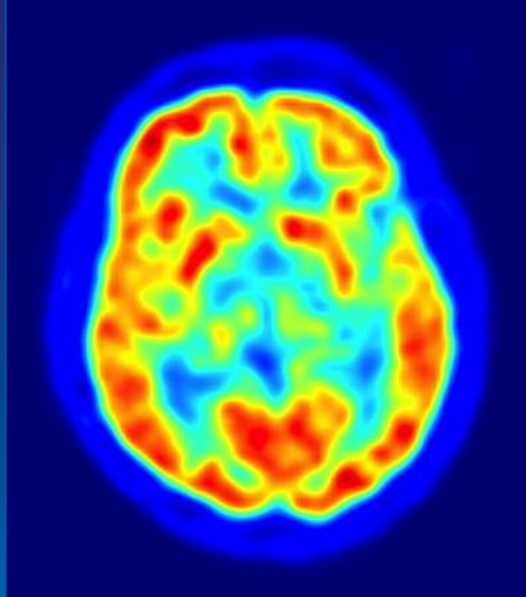
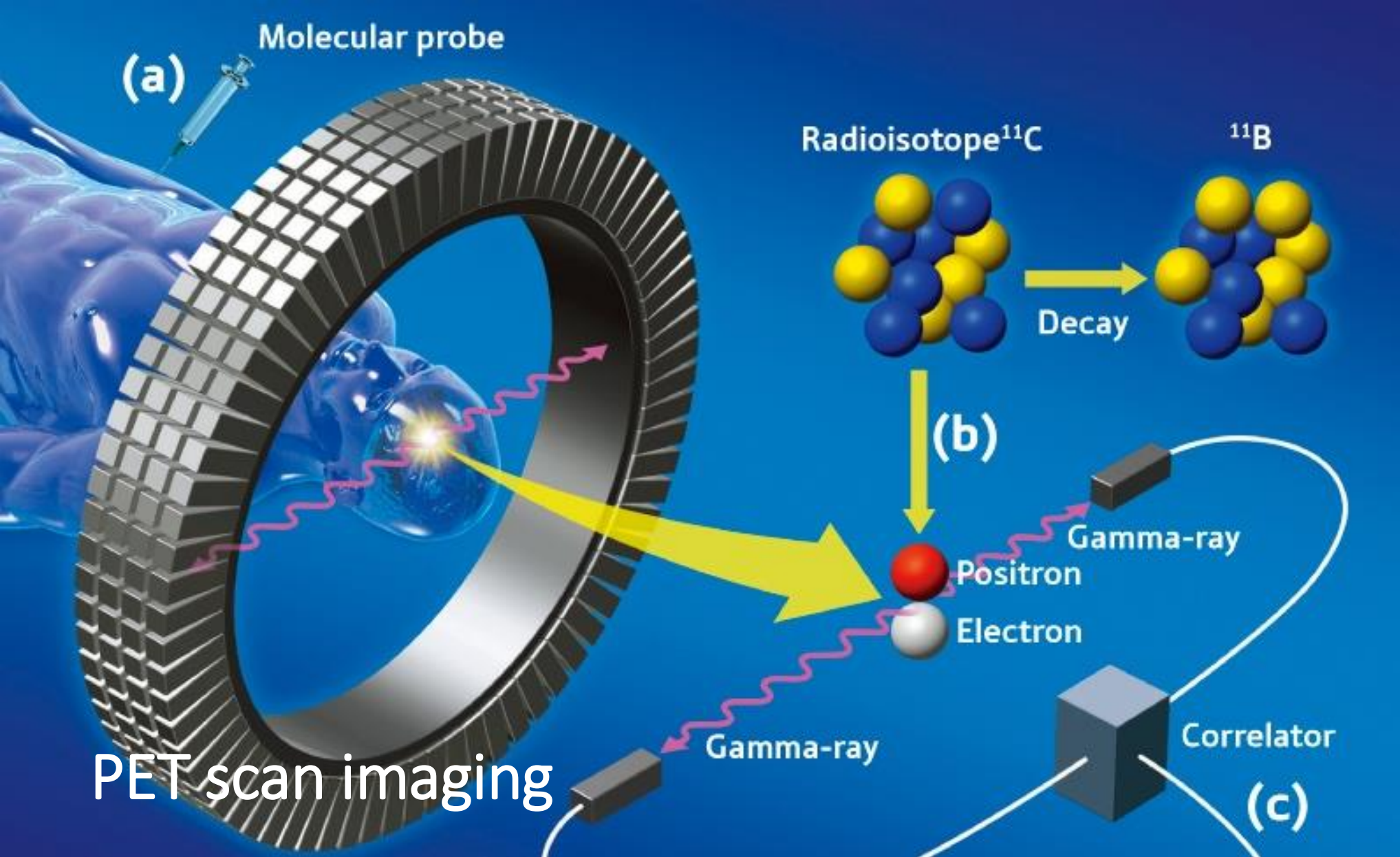
Published:  
May 12<sup>th</sup> 1921  
© The New York Times



# MME. CURIE PLANS TO END ALL CANCERS

Says Radium Is Sure Cure, Even  
in Deep-Rooted Cases, if  
Properly Treated.

Courtesy prof O. Ratib



Fluorodésoxyglucose ( $^{18}\text{F}$ )

# PET-CT scan imaging

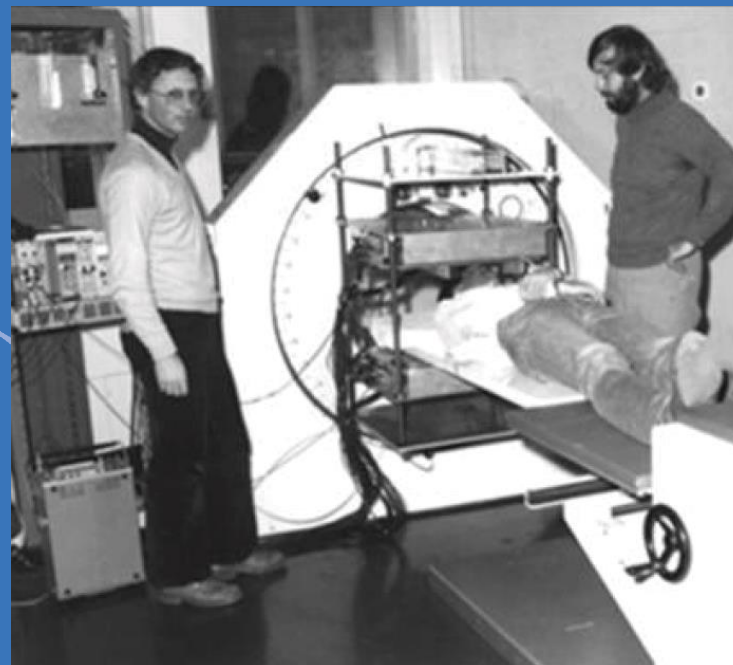
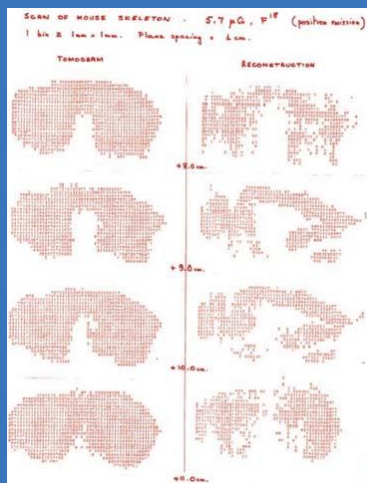
1977

*Alan Jeavons and David Townsend*

Alan Jeavons and David Townsend

built and used in Geneva Hospital

a PET system based on  
high-density avalanche gas chambers  
HIDACs



Courtesy Ugo Amaldi

CMASC - UA - 30.3.16



3

<https://home.cern/news/news/knowledge-sharing/forty-years-first-pet-image-cern>

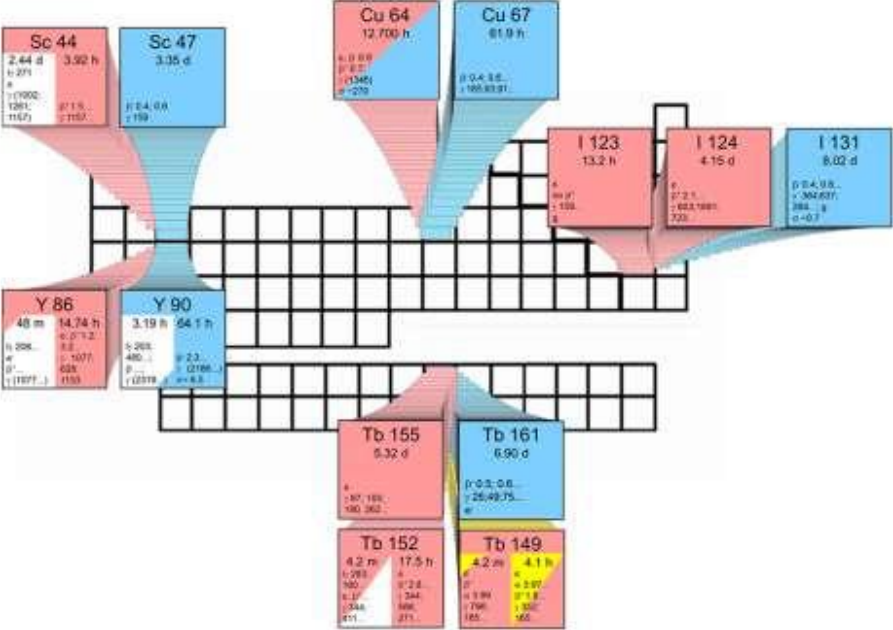
# Nuclear Physics : ISOLDE and MEDICIS

14 years ago – now :  
Innovative radioisotopes



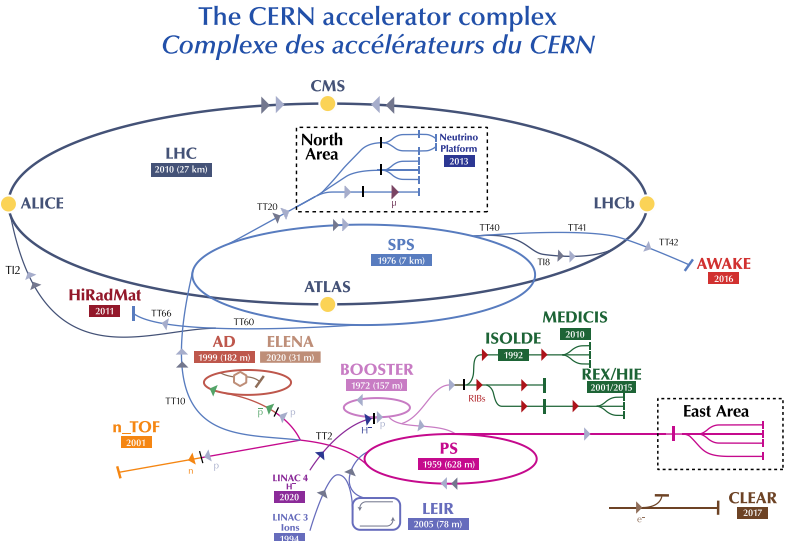
Matched pairs for theranostics

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Tb 149</b><br>4.2 m    4.1 h<br>e<br>β*<br>α 3.99<br>γ 796;<br>165... | <b>Tb 152</b><br>4.2 m    17.5 h<br>γ 283;<br>160...<br>e; β*...<br>γ 344;<br>411... |
| <b>Tb 155</b><br>5.32 d<br>e<br>γ 87;<br>105;...<br>180, 262             | <b>Tb 161</b><br>6.90 d<br>β 0.5; 0.6...<br>γ 26; 49; 75...<br>e                     |

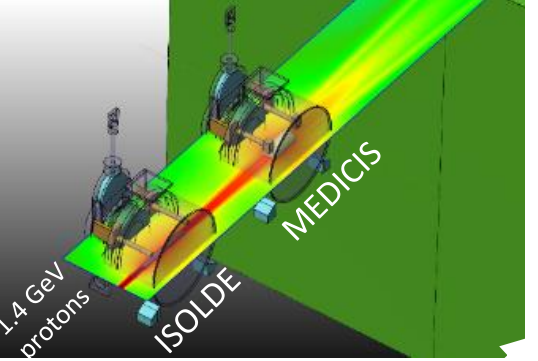




# Mass separation as applied in MEDICIS in a snapshot

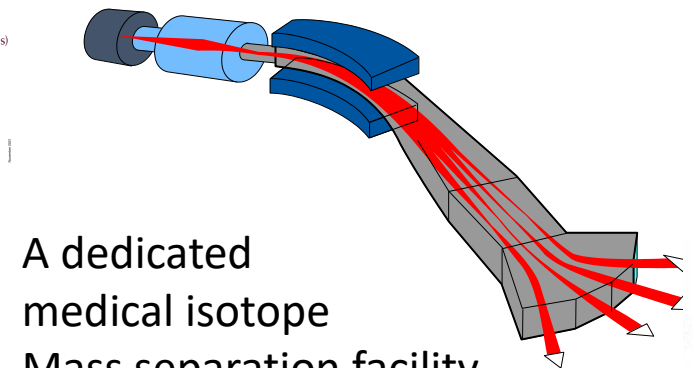


“Free” proton beam  
(otherwise lost in the dump)

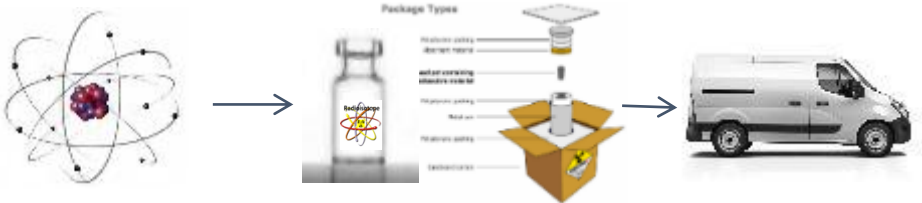


Some MEDICIS isotopes :

High activity Sm-153, Ba/Cs-128, Tm/Er-165

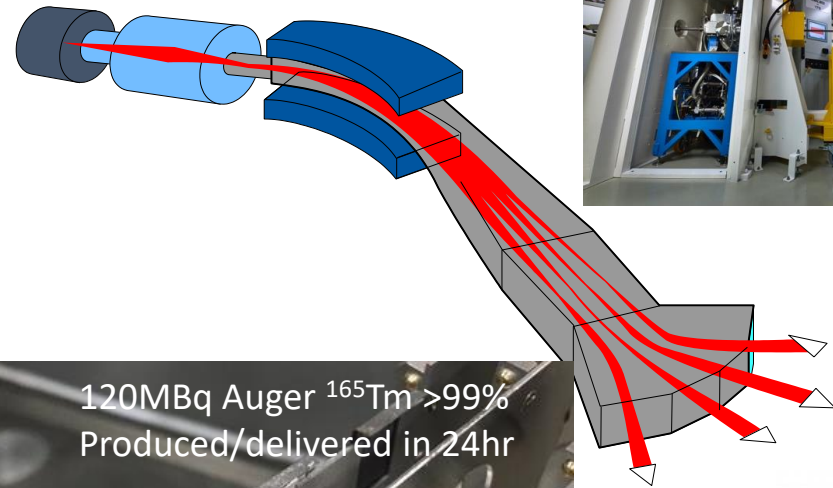


A dedicated medical isotope Mass separation facility in Europe.

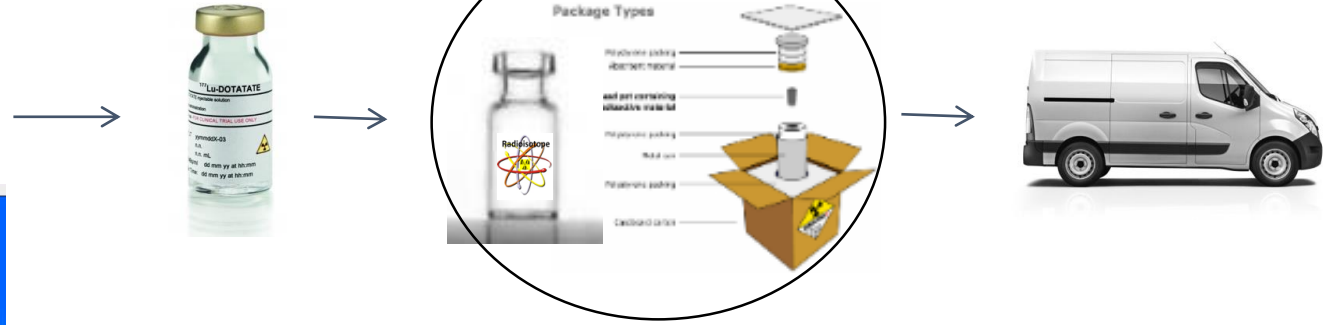
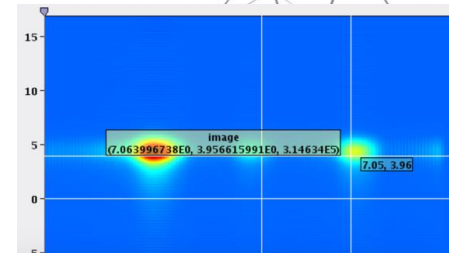
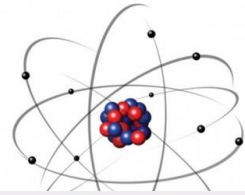


From CERN- MEDICIS to the lab/Hospital

# From CERN- MEDICIS to the lab/Hospital



|        |   |           |   |       |             |       |
|--------|---|-----------|---|-------|-------------|-------|
| Gd-149 | @ | 9.28E+000 | D | 0.632 | 8.36E+005 ± | 14.9% |
| Tb-149 | @ | 4.12E+000 | H | 0.964 | 1.71E+006 ± | 9.4%  |
| Er-165 |   | 1.04E+001 | H | 0.894 |             |       |
| Tm-165 | @ | 1.25E+000 | D | 0.979 | 1.21E+008 ± | 6.3%  |



Isotope separation for experiment MED011  
from external 168/169Er source

From CERN- MEDICIS to the lab/Hospital  
(Countries: BE, CH, FR, PK, PT, LV, UK)



# How to supply “novel” radionuclides with mass separation

- **PRISMAP** proposes to federate a consortium of high energy cyclotrons, research reactors, and isotope mass separation in

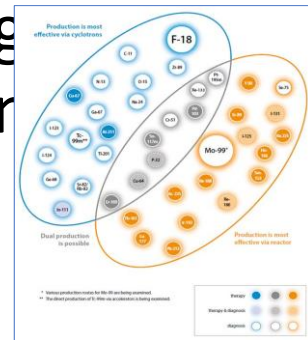
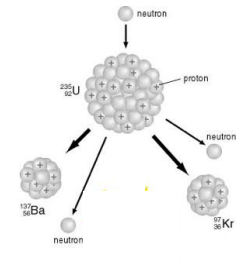
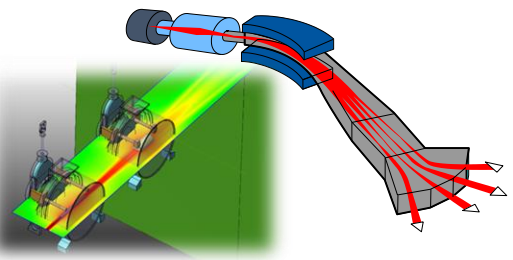
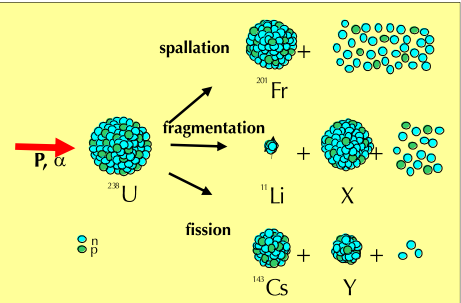


Figure 31 : Main medical radioisotopes production process

European Commission  
**ENER/17/NUCL/SI2.755660**  
**(2018)**



$$I_{[pps]} \sim F_{[pps]} S_{[barn]} N_{[g/cm^2]} \quad \text{production rate}$$

$10^{10}pps$     $100 \times A$  ( $6 \cdot 10^{14}$ )    $1mbarn$     $1g/cm^2$  for  $A_{target}=30g/mol$

$$I_{[pps]} \sim F_{[pps]} S_{[barn]} N_{[g/cm^2]} e \quad [%]$$

$$\frac{dN'}{dt} = n v \sigma_{act} N_T$$

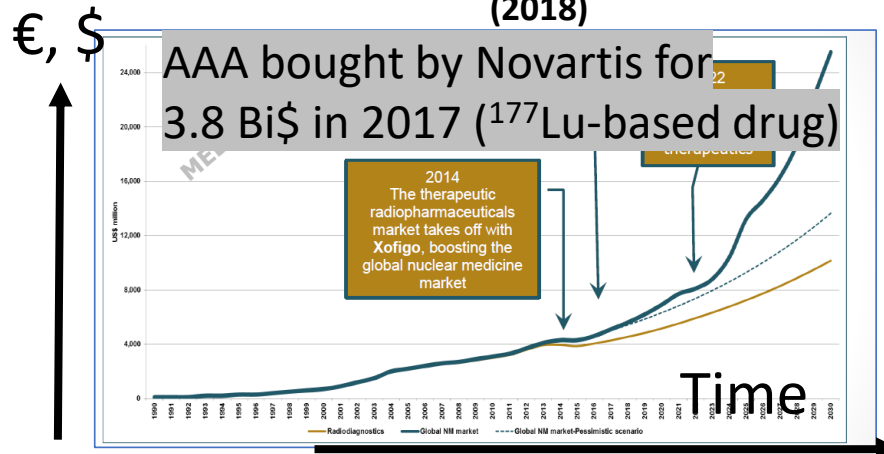


Figure 8: Possible market evolution for radiotherapeutics – source MedRaysIntell (2016)

Economics, Innovators

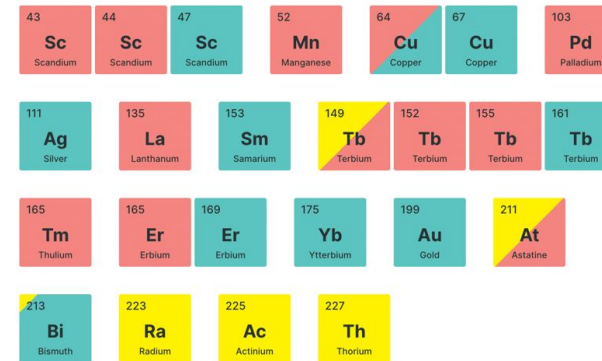
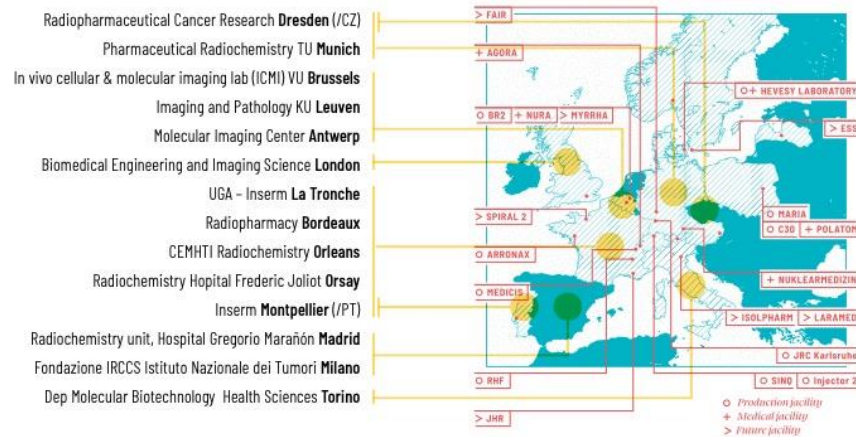
# PRISMAP – The European medical radionuclides programme (2021-2025)

<https://medical-radionuclides.eu>

- Achievements in 2022:

- 15 projects for biomedical research with novel radionuclides were selected for services across Europe

[www.prismap.eu/access/user-projects](http://www.prismap.eu/access/user-projects) (BE, CZ, DE, ES, FR, IT, PT, UK)



PRISMAP is invited to present research needs in the field of novel biomedical radionuclides to the EU Commissioner for research and education Mariya Gabriel

