

DRD1

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DRD1 EXTENDED R&D PROPOSAL Development of Gaseous Detectors Technologies

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Abstract

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The document provides an overview of the state of the art and challenges for various detectors concepts and technologies, as well as a detailed list of R&D tasks grouped into Work Packages (WPs) that related to the strategic R&D programs to which funding agencies might commit, with related infrastructures and tools necessary to advance the technological goals, as outlined in the ECFA R&D roadmap. The main DRD1 document is structured into chapters, each describing the activity planned by the eight Working Groups (WG), which are the core of the future scientific organization. The current DRD1 proposal concentrates on the collaborative research program for the next 3 years.

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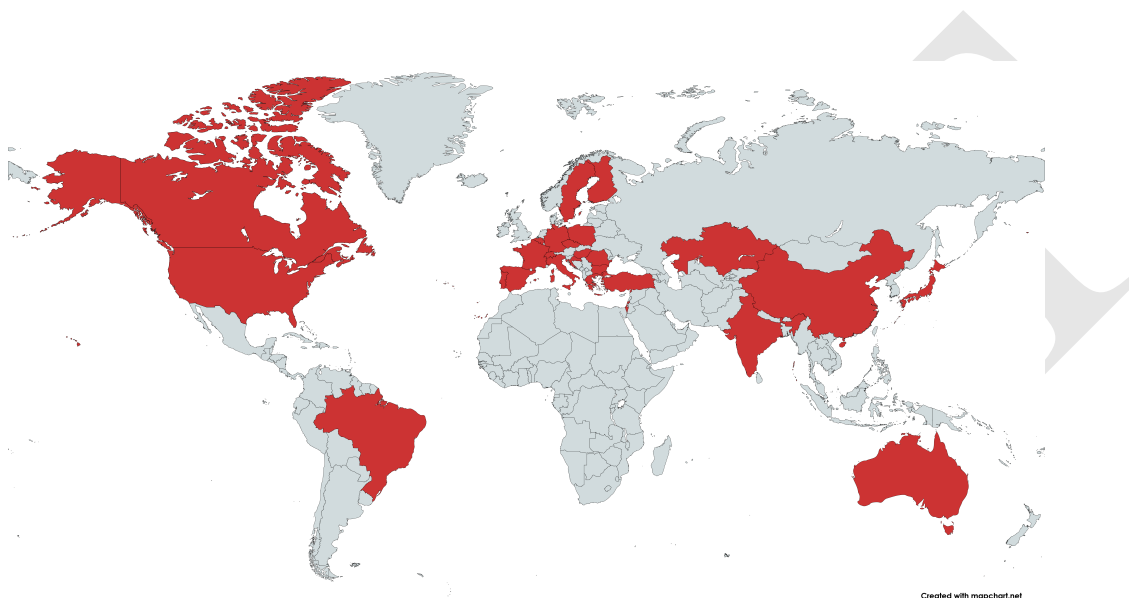


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1741 **4.5 Electronics for Gaseous Detectors [WG5]**

1742 The DRD1 Working Group 5 (WG5) takes responsibility for the development,
1743 application and dissemination of electronic components required to operate and
1744 further advance Gaseous Detectors (GDs). As an integral part of the detector sys-
1745 tem, the tools of WG5 are developed together with the e.g. detector amplification
1746 structures and enable their improvements. After the introduction in Section 4.5.1
1747 and a summary of the state-of-the-art (Section 4.5.2) the major tasks are outlined
1748 in Sections 4.5.3 to 4.5.5 and summarised in Tables 16-18.

1749 WG5 typically differentiates itself from ECFA DRD7 in the sense that it focuses
1750 on GDs and the electronics required for their R&D and application in small- to
1751 mid-size experiments. Methodologically, WG5 is based on the specific require-
1752 ments of DRD1, developments by the community for the community and dissemi-
1753 nation opportunities to future facilities and their experiments. Close exchange
1754 with DRD7 is achieved through the membership of electronic experts in both col-
1755 laborations.

1756 4.5.1 INTRODUCTION

1757 The development of dedicated GD electronics is of major relevance for the ad-
1758 vancement of detectors, their operation, qualification and application in experi-
1759 ments. This is recognised and fully supported by large experiments, which in the
1760 past often profited from merging R&D electronics into their final DAQs as for the
1761 DAQ of the European Spallation Source or the ATLAS New Small Wheel.

1762 WG5 will, compared to DRD7, address the electronics need during the R&D
1763 phase, where e.g. radiation hardness, high-speed links, data reduction, dense in-
1764 tegration and experiment-specific front-end ASICs with the highest performance
1765 play a subordinate role. The aims are to develop and provide well-suited service
1766 electronics in smaller quantities such as high- and low-voltage systems, moni-
1767 toring equipment (Section 4.5.5) and in particular DAQs (Section 4.5.4) that are
1768 well-supported, can be maintained by the community with limited manpower and
1769 require a short training period until efficient use is reached. In a similar effort,
1770 the development of front-end ASICs for the specific needs of the different GD
1771 technologies (Section 4.5.3) could be supported. This working group, therefore,
1772 is concentrating on developing a platform for R&D detectors and introductory test
1773 systems for large experiments. A community survey has shown that the Scalable
1774 Readout System (SRS) [68] developed by the RD51 Collaboration was a huge
1775 success, and many groups familiar with the system have mentioned that continued
1776 support and development of new features are among the most important tasks of
1777 DRD1. The requests for additions reflect the increased diversity of the community
1778 and range from analogue and discrete readouts to multichannel integrated ASICs

1779 for multi-purpose data acquisition. Also, the application requirements mentioned
1780 in the survey show a large almost uniform distribution of pixel readout, strip read-
1781 out and waveform digitization. Also, non-conventional features like high time
1782 resolutions (sub ns), FPGA-based pre-reconstruction and wide dynamic ranges
1783 are of interest for many groups. Finally, support for noise reduction, ground-
1784 ing, shielding and spark protection was mentioned with similarly high numbers as
1785 other future challenges.

1786 4.5.2 STATUS OF READOUT SYSTEMS FOR GASEOUS DETECTORS

1787 The readout of multichannel gas detectors starts with a Front-End (FE) layer on
1788 the detectors, typically implemented as an array of plugin carrier cards (hybrids)
1789 with a number n_{chip} of ASICs. These integrate each a number n_{ch} of readout
1790 channels and, depending on technology and detector type, convert the primary
1791 charge into voltage signals that can be transmitted over front-end links to a Front-
1792 End Concentrator (FEC) layer, normally located in a crate-powered readout back-
1793 end. Software control, associated with DAQ online software, is responsible for
1794 transmitting user-defined commands and configuration data together with com-
1795 mon clocks and optional triggers and to all ASICs on the front-end. In return,
1796 the ASICs send triggered or untriggered serial channel data over front-end links
1797 to the FECs. A scalable system transmits and receives over one single front-end
1798 link per hybrid to make it a completely independent vertical readout slice with
1799 $n_{chip} \times n_{ch}$ channels connected to one of n_{link} link-ports of a FEC. In order to
1800 avoid a bandwidth limit in the front-end, the link bandwidth must be higher than
1801 the maximum output bandwidth that the ASIC output can provide. A single FEC
1802 can then seamlessly concentrate the stream of event fragments from all connected
1803 ASICs in a single transit buffer integrated inside an FPGA. Single FEC readout
1804 systems hence consist of n_{link} non-saturating, vertical slices with n_{link} front-end
1805 links, concentrating $n_{chip} \times n_{ch} \times n_{link}$ channels with transit lifetimes up to tens
1806 of microseconds before being transmitted to a very high-bandwidth network link
1807 connecting the online system. In general, an array of n_{FEC} FECs transmits over
1808 n_{FEC} network links to a non-blocking network switch to the network port(s) of
1809 the Online system. Small systems with typically a single FEC however can make
1810 use of a Laptop with 1 Gbit network ports controlled by standard DAQ and Con-
1811 trol and data analysis software. Large systems require an online system running
1812 on computers with hundreds of Gigabit I/O capacity and disk arrays to cope with
1813 the incoming bandwidth. Scalable systems can use the same DAQ and control
1814 software both on large or small systems, starting with a single hybrid up to a
1815 number of hybrids at which the I/O capabilities of the connected Online system
1816 start to limit the scalability. Higher scalability can be reached by adding links,
1817 disks, switches and computers to the online system. On the FEC level, the scal-

1818 ing limit can also be reduced by implementing user-defined real-time triggers in
1819 the firmware in the FPGAs, to remove insignificant subevents from the transmis-
1820 sion to the online links. Algorithms are detector specific and must be completed
1821 within the lifetime of the subevents in the FPGA-embedded buffers. The use of
1822 state-of-the-art FPGAs in the next generation of FECs is intended to concentrate
1823 an even higher number of channels to increase both the effective detector regions
1824 and trigger efficiencies.

1825

1826 **Readout System for MPGDs:** Within the RD51 collaboration, the community
1827 has agreed on a common effort to develop a central readout system: the SRS
1828 (Fig. 5 [69]). It is developed by the community for the community, which also
1829 maintains and further develops it as a system directly usable or adaptable to the
1830 needs of the R&D groups. Improvements and extensions by single or several
1831 groups together are fed back to the whole community. The success of SRS allows
1832 the R&D groups to focus primarily on detector developments. SRS is a scalable
1833 readout concept for MPGD detectors, consisting of a crate-resident SRS backend
1834 and a detector-resident front-end. The SRS paradigm splits the SRS backend and
1835 front-end into fully functional, vertical DAQ slices allowing to start with a single,
1836 128-channel front-end card (= hybrid, $n_{ch} = 128$) connected over an HDMI cable
1837 to a Front-End Concentrator Card (FEC) with link adapter for analogue or digital
1838 front-ends. Small systems can get aggregated in units of 128 channels and oper-
1839 ated with the same DAQ software as required for large systems. The addition of
1840 more 128-channel slices is native to SRS and the reason for the name “scalable”.
1841 By 2023, the MPGD community deployed more than 100 small and large SRS
1842 systems internationally for different research purposes. At CERN, SRS helped to
1843 bootstrap readout and test of detectors of e.g. for ATLAS, ALICE and CMS.

1844 SRS is designed to work with different front-end ASIC technologies, initially im-
1845 plemented with the analogue APV-25, followed by Timepix and since 2019 via
1846 the digital VMM3a ASIC, allowing for higher rates, zero-suppression and a wide
1847 range of configuration settings to match a wider range of detectors. Further SRS
1848 front-ends in preparation are SAMPA and Timepix3. SRS hybrids plug directly
1849 onto detectors via connectors standardized for MPGDs. The VMM hybrid is by
1850 default equipped with general-purpose coolers, dissipating up to 4 Watts per 128
1851 channel hybrid. The readout links are HDMI A-D cables, used for transmission of
1852 very high bandwidth, LVDS-encoded data, configuration, clock and trigger and,
1853 optionally power. With externally supplied power and a small Powerbox, HDMI
1854 links can be as long as 30 m. VMM hybrids transmit 2x 400 Mbps per HDMI
1855 cable, resulting in self-triggered hit rates of up to 8.9 Mhit/s per hybrid. With 8
1856 connected hybrids per FEC, up to 1k channels can be read out per FEC. SRS Mini-
1857 crates can house 2 FEC/DVMM for up to 2k channels. Euro-crates provide slots
1858 and power for up to 8 FEC/DVMM slots for up to 8 k channels. SRS hardware is

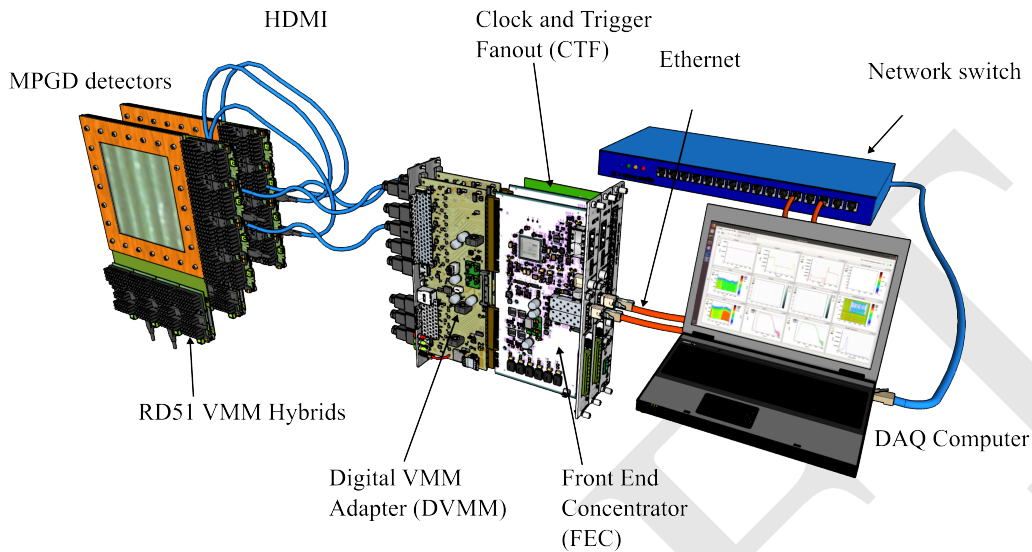


Figure 5: Schematic display of the SRS in the flavour with the VMM as front-end chip. Each of the two exemplary MPGD detectors is read out by eight VMM hybrids (each hybrid: $n_{ch} = 128$, $n_{chip} = 1$). All VMM hybrids of one detector can be connected with each one HDMI cable to the DVMM adapter card of one FEC ($n_{link} = 8$). Several FECs can be connected to a DAQ computer by an Ethernet network switch.

1859 available for CERN users via the CERN store, or alternatively commercially from
 1860 two producers. Detailed SRS documentation on HW, SW and FW with user FAQ
 1861 is available on public drives and GitHub. SRS with the VMM comes with software
 1862 for mid-size systems, data acquisition, online monitoring and data reconstruction
 1863 as input to dedicated analysis. The FEC-to-online links are so far implemented
 1864 via 1 Gbit Ethernet UDP standard via copper or fibre, with a planned firmware
 1865 upgrade for 2.5 Gbit Ethernet. Another firmware project plans to implement the
 1866 ATLAS L0 trigger mode for the VMM front-end to complement the triggerless
 1867 readout mode preferred by most users.

1868

1869 **Readout System for RPCs:** The main feature of an RPC detector is a high tim-
 1870 ing precision related to the fast rise time of the signal. The time resolution can go
 1871 from a few ns for a large gas gap detector down to a few 10s of ps for a multi-gap
 1872 detector. The charge produced in avalanche mode fluctuates from a few pC up to
 1873 ≈ 100 pC). The pickup charge is significantly smaller than the avalanche charge
 1874 and stays within a few 100 fC. The size of the pick-up strips or pads is kept at
 1875 the centimetric range. Reducing it may improve the spatial resolution, but would

1876 reduce the charge amount per strip/pad. This feature defines the typical properties
1877 of RPC electronics:

- 1878 • A pre-amplifier that can be coupled with a shaper
- 1879 • A fast discriminator in a range from 1 to hundreds of fC. In some cases,
1880 like calorimetry applications, multiple discriminator levels can be used for a
1881 semi-digital readout.
- 1882 • A TDC to tag the rising (T_r) (and possibly falling edge - T_f) with a precision
1883 significantly better than the time resolution of the detector to read. The Time-
1884 Over-Threshold ($TOT = T_f - T_r$) can be subsequently used to estimate the
1885 deposit charge by the particle.

1886 As of today, there are numerous readout ASICs, discrete readout systems pairing
1887 a pre-amplifier and a discriminator, and Front-End-Boards in the RPC community
1888 tailored to particular needs. The way the electronics are connected to the pickup
1889 system is also peculiar to each system: soldered coaxial or twisted-pair cables,
1890 commercial connectors, and direct bonding, among others. Most of the RPCs
1891 target a 2D readout. This can be achieved either using pads or using specific ge-
1892 ometries of strips: partitions with short strips, x and y strips or long strips with
1893 double-sided readout, where the relative time of transition of the signal is used
1894 to define the position. Each strategy has its advantages and disadvantages, but it
1895 strongly impacts the design of the electronics.

1896
1897 **Readout System for TPCs:** Signals in TPCs often have a larger time elonga-
1898 tion because of the longer drift distances and thus larger longitudinal diffusion of
1899 the signals as compared to planar tracking detectors. Therefore, signals have a
1900 higher probability of overlapping. To be able to identify and reconstruct correctly
1901 two overlapping events, the signal is sampled with a Fast Analogue to Digital
1902 Converter (FADC). Pixel-TPCs, due to their low occupancy, are less affected. In
1903 general, TPCs require a trigger signal which starts the time measurement until
1904 the charges arrive at the readout for the correct reconstruction of the third coordi-
1905 nate of the track position. Currently, only very few ASICs fulfil the fast sampling
1906 requirements of traditional TPC readout, most of which have been developed ex-
1907 clusively for large experiments like ALICE. The backend electronics necessary to
1908 operate these chips is complicated and tailored for the corresponding experiments.
1909 Besides, the availability of ASICs can be very limited. Many smaller experiments
1910 cannot find well-suited electronics and are required to either operate ASICs with
1911 inadequate timing properties or have to resort to using electronics designed for
1912 planar tracking detectors. Pixel-TPC developments employ the Timepix ASIC
1913 implemented in the SRS and recently Timepix3, for which the implementation in
1914 SRS is ongoing.

1915

1916 **Readout System for Straw Detectors:** For straw chambers, the main parameters
1917 to consider are the drift time and collected charge. The drift time t_d depends on
1918 straw diameter d_s and wire diameter d_w . For instance, $d_s = 5$ mm and $d_w = 30$ μ m,
1919 results in a maximal drift time of $t_d \approx 50$ ns. For such a configuration, the pro-
1920 duced charge could reach up to 50 fC in Ar/CO₂ mixture. To reduce the drift time,
1921 d_w should increase and d_s decrease, reducing the amplification field and collected
1922 charge. This can be compensated by a larger applied HV, with an increased risk of
1923 discharge. Optimal electronics for a straw tube requires a low threshold sensitivity
1924 of 5-20 fC and a good double pulse resolution, i.e. the ability to separate signals
1925 with a time difference of the order of t_d . This implies a dead time smaller than
1926 t_d of one given electronic channel. The electronic shall contain a TDC module to
1927 resolve the position of the fast signal with a resolution of 1 ns or better. This infor-
1928 mation is used to measure offline the impact parameter of the signal with respect
1929 to the wire (usually referred to as space resolution). A measurement of the posi-
1930 tion of the signal along the wire can be obtained in that case from a double-sided
1931 readout.

1932 4.5.3 FRONT-END CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE FACILITIES, EXPERIMENTS 1933 AND APPLICATIONS

1934 In future, the electronics for **RPC** detectors will meet the challenge of high rates
1935 and faster timing. The usage of RPCs in experiments with a high rate of particles
1936 per cm² is becoming more and more frequent. The development of thinner elec-
1937 trodes with lower bulk resistivity leads to a faster charge evacuation from inside
1938 the gap. It also reduces the screening effect and increases the pick-up charge. A
1939 smaller gas gap allows for the reduction of the produced charge. Consequently, the
1940 discriminator threshold will be reduced to keep the same efficiency. The typical
1941 target for high-rate application is 1-10 fC. It implies excellent control over the de-
1942 tector and electronic noise via innovative grounding schemes. The new electronics
1943 have to cope with much higher transmission rates and the usage of optical gigabit
1944 transmission would become more and more common. The timing challenge is
1945 motivated by the common usage of single-gap and multi-gap RPC detectors such
1946 as TOF or VETO. The increased number of electrodes and gas gaps in multi-gap
1947 RPCs leads to a significant improvement of the timing resolution. This requires
1948 the development or application of higher-precision TDCs, synchronization and
1949 high-precision clock distribution.

1950

1951 For the **TPC** community, a flexible ASIC not adapted to specific operating con-
1952 ditions of a large experiment, implemented in a flexible, well-supported backend
1953 is much sought after and is highly desirable for numerous small experiments and

1954 R&D projects. For the Pixel-TPC with GridPix readout, Timepix3 with simulta-
1955 neous charge and time measurement and an ASIC with optimised pixel size are
1956 key. In addition, TPCs for rare event searches have very diverging requirements.
1957 For example, some of these experiments have to run triggerless, while others need
1958 a continuous readout. For the latter, a trigger signal has to be synchronized to
1959 ASIC clocks. Negative ion TPCs have drift times in the order of milliseconds,
1960 with correspondingly long signal-shaping-time requirements.

1961

1962 **Straw Chambers** require a versatile ASIC including a TDC and an ADC for indi-
1963 vidual channels. It is also important to have at least one analogue multiplexed out-
1964 put channel for debugging and monitoring purposes. This condition implies two
1965 different frequencies to control the TDC (≈ 1 GHz) and the ADC (≈ 40 MHz).
1966 The TDC resolution should be at least 1 ns and ADC few fC/mV and more.

1967

1968 **uld In general**, detector R&D programs require fast, low-noise, high-bandwidth
1969 and multi-channel (≈ 100) front-end electronics, often including embedded dig-
1970 ital online processing of data. Novel detector readout technologies, like cluster
1971 counting, may require the development of entirely novel front-end topologies as
1972 opposed to the classical charge-preamplifier-discriminator or ADC chain. In ad-
1973 dition, gaseous detectors pose a specific set of challenges to the front-end elec-
1974 tronics design than for other detector technologies, like high-current transient or
1975 spark tolerance, high dynamic range, high-rate capabilities or deadtime mitigation
1976 techniques. These requirements are often conflicting with each other, as empha-
1977 sized previously, making the technological and architectural choices very difficult.
1978 As an example, the ADC design performance benefited greatly from technology
1979 scaling, while, on the other hand, the dynamic range capability of analog circuits
1980 has inherently suffered with scaling. Additionally, it was also observed that archi-
1981 tectural innovation has played a significant role in the performance evolution of
1982 mixed-mode circuits like ADCs, thus signifying that more mature technological
1983 nodes may still benefit from this evolution. This entails a specific front-end elec-
1984 tronics R&D effort tailored to the requirements of GDs, while, nevertheless, in
1985 line with the technological developments the broader high-energy physics scien-
1986 tific community is targeting. Historically, this effort was predominantly conducted
1987 on a project basis with the effort distributed among the community but essentially
1988 uncorrelated, supported mainly by the large research communities of large-scale
1989 high-energy physics experiments. Given the costs of such enterprises, smaller,
1990 blue-sky R&D developments on the other hand, which could not afford the ex-
1991 pense of dedicated electronics development were left often to search for available
1992 ASICs, many times only loosely adapted to their requirements, adding significant
1993 delays and overheads to their projects. As new large-scale experimental collabo-
1994 rations are yet to be formed, this effort may be conducted on a more general basis,

1995 directed towards a set of collaborative directions that can bring together a number
 1996 of research teams with different targets, but with similar technological require-
 1997 ments. Modern design practices and tools favour the exchange of architectural
 1998 blocks in a more collaborative design approach, also as a method to mitigate risks
 1999 and, thus, reduce the costs of complex designs. In this way, a generic MPGD, TPC
 2000 or RPC-oriented front-end can be designed and assembled with the requirements
 2001 of the gaseous detectors community itself, but also leveraging developments of
 2002 the broader high-energy physics community. Another important aspect is that a
 2003 successful detector R&D is only possible while accompanied by adequate elec-
 2004 tronics able to demonstrate the performance evolution. This makes the electronics
 2005 R&D for gaseous detectors a rather short- or medium-term target, but also implies
 that resources need to be allocated accordingly.

Reference	Description	Deliverable Nature
D5.1.1	High-rate RPC electronics	Survey on low-threshold discriminators
D5.1.2	Front-end ASIC for TPCs - WP4	Description of parameters
D5.1.3	Front-end ASIC for straw chambers - WP3	Description of VMM3/3a
D5.1.4	Front-end ASIC for straw chambers - WP3	VMM3b or new ASIC design
D5.1.5	Front-end ASIC for MPGDs - WP1	Community survey on chip requirements

Table 16: WG5 - Objective 5.1: Front End Challenges

2006

2007 4.5.4 PLAN FOR MODERNIZED READOUT SYSTEMS

2008 **Front-End:** As described earlier, various technologies and applications have a
 2009 wide range of specifications for front-end circuits. Some circuits like VMM3a
 2010 or a future potential successor may serve the purpose of many MPGD applica-
 2011 tions, other ASIC front-ends may work better for different applications, from the
 2012 point of view of input coupling or dynamic range, whether they require trigger-
 2013 less, data-driven, continuous or triggered readout architectures. As the sensitivity
 2014 and rate capability increase, the data bandwidth of the front-end links increases
 2015 accordingly. In this respect, copper links are only usable up to a rather short dis-
 2016 tance, even with the use of state-of-the-art equalisation techniques. Therefore,
 2017 optical links remain the best choice. In addition to the increased data-rate ca-
 2018 pability, they also realise an electrical separation between the detector-coupled

2019 front-end and the readout system, which helps to reduce spurious system effects
2020 and simplifies the grounding scheme of the experimental apparatus. On the other
2021 hand, optical links bring several challenges to the front-end design, one is the
2022 increased power required, but also the real estate at the level of the detector front-
2023 end, where space is usually limited. Radiation hardness may also be a concern
2024 in many cases. Several developments are underway in the community to address
2025 these issues, with products already designed and used in the LHC experiments. In
2026 some cases, industrial partners are developing products tailored for specific scien-
2027 tific use together with the scientific community. This opens up opportunities for
2028 bidirectional technology transfer or common developments.

2029

2030 **Backend:** SRSe is the planned extension of SRS, providing significantly higher
2031 readout bandwidth with up to 20 Gbit per eFEC to the online computing system
2032 and adding FPGA-embedded trigger processing in the new extended FEC card,
2033 named e-FEC. This unified SRS backend card can be housed/powerd in the ex-
2034 isting SRS crates and combines a FEC and link adapter on a single card. For
2035 backward compatibility, the eFEC has 8 configurable HDMI ports, allowing to
2036 connect VMM hybrids. For upgrades, 12 new SFP link ports will connect new
2037 SRS hybrids, predominantly via optical fibres. Link protocols between the front-
2038 end and back-end will be implemented in firmware.

2039

2040 **Firmware:** While the dimensions and complexities of circuits have increased,
2041 programmable digital circuits have evolved a lot over the years, from relatively
2042 simple mesh-distributed computing elements to novel emerging architectures that
2043 employ more complex or specialized computing units linked by network back-
2044 bones. This evolution was proven beneficial in many cases. This architectural
2045 evolution was accompanied by a hardware description language evolution, which
2046 almost aims for a unification of the hardware description language and the com-
2047 puter language paradigms. While this union is still not perfect in many aspects,
2048 it is of particular importance in our physics-driven scientific community. It al-
2049 lows applying computer programming skills to develop FPGA firmware. In the
2050 same optic, FPGA and CPUs are now more closely coupled together in local or
2051 remotely distributed acceleration systems. There are several ongoing efforts to-
2052 wards implementing common abstraction mechanisms or data transport technolo-
2053 gies like Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA) that may be successfully used
2054 in data acquisition systems and heterogeneous data processing systems that imple-
2055 ment novel technologies as machine learning online processing with e.g. neural
2056 networks. Building on top of these developments in synergy with DRD7, the aim
2057 is to develop firmware packages for the future SRS system that offer interchange-
2058 able and scalable processing libraries including protocol encoding and decoding
2059 which are community driven and as much as possible application agnostic.

2060

2061 **DAQ:** In a first phase, the DAQ for SRSe needs to be bootstrapped from the exist-
2062 ing DAQ software (including data acquisition, online monitoring and reconstruc-
2063 tion), firmware and slow controls for FECs with and VMM front-end. A general-
2064 ized front-end link interface and a high-bandwidth online link upgrade are to be
2065 added. Taking advantage of the recent Xilinx Ultrascale FPGAs with embedded
2066 processors, DDR4 memory can be added and interfaced to the Linux operating
2067 system on the FPGA or an embedded CPU.

2068

2069 **Testing (Radiation Hardness, Rate Compatibility):** Until now, the radiation
2070 hardness of electronics was a second-order concern in the electronics design of
2071 gaseous detectors. Either the frontend boards were localized far away from the
2072 colliding beams being used as muon detectors, or they were used in low rate/low
2073 radiation experiments such as TPCs or wire chambers at LEP or Dark Matter
2074 search physics. The increasing usage of gas detectors in proton collisions, heavy
2075 ions, sometimes very close to the beam axis for increased acceptance, for calorime-
2076 try, or tracking in high luminosity fixed target experiments requires particular care
2077 for the design of on-detector electronics. Depending on the application, radiation-
2078 tolerant design and commercial components can be sufficient, or radiation-hard
2079 custom components might be required. Irradiation facilities to test electronics are
2080 located all around the world, since they require secondary particle energies from
2081 a few keV to a few 100 MeV. Many of them (mainly in Europe) are clustered into
2082 the RADNEXT network (<https://radnext.web.cern.ch/>) pioneered by CERN, oth-
2083 ers such as CHARM are available at CERN. RADNEXT maintains a database of
2084 tested components. Many facilities designed for medical applications can also be
2085 used for electronics testing. Depending on the radiation environment of the ex-
2086 periment, gamma photons, thermal neutrons, or high-energy neutrons/hadrons can
2087 be required. For the high particle rate expected in muon detectors of future facili-
2088 ties, a dedicated irradiation infrastructure to test the detector itself and emulating
2089 the appropriate rate might be required. An example of such a facility is GIF++ [70]
2090 at CERN. In that case, the electronics are to be tested for deadtime generated by
2091 heavy data rates, and space-time resolution to separate Minimum Ionising Parti-
2092 cles (MIPs) from background particles. Detector timing resolution can be tested in
2093 facilities with single particle guns and low jitter, such as HZDR [71] in Germany.
2094 Together with WG7, these new challenges and requirements for the electronics
2095 can be addressed.

2096

2097 **Portable μ SRS:** There is interest (so far from the muography community) in
2098 small and portable frontend readout nodes for readout of small gas detectors from
2099 inaccessible confined spaces and over long distance. Limited numbers of channels
2100 ($<1k$) per μ SRS node eliminate the need for crate-based frontend concentrators

2101 if the bandwidth of a common network switch is sufficient to transfer the data
 2102 from all connected nodes to the DAQ. Individual uSRS nodes can transmit self-
 2103 triggered event data at high rates ($>1\text{MHz}$). The optional fibre interconnection
 2104 between nodes provides clock synchronization and common control from a sin-
 2105 gle, SoC-controlled master node. A first implementation is the uROC with two
 2106 HDMI ports for readout of 256 VMM3a channels with 1Gbit/s ethernet uplink
 and 30 Watt USB-C power delivery.

Reference	Description	Deliverable Nature
D5.2.1	SRSe WP1-8	eFEC
D5.2.2	SRSe WP1-8	VMM software and firmware migration
D5.2.3	SRSe - WP1-8	DAQ and reconstruction software
D5.2.4	SRSe	Testing and integration
D5.2.5	Common DAQ/SRS WP1,4	SAMPA implementa- tion
D5.2.6	Common DAQ/SRS - WP4	Timepix3 implementa- tion
D5.2.7	Common DAQ/SRS	<i>RPC front-end imple- mentation(tbd)</i>
D5.2.8	SRS upgrades	2.5 Gbit Ethernet and L0 trigger β
D5.2.9	Portable, Connected μ SRS nodes	readout of distributed, small detectors over long distance

Table 17: WG5 - Objective 5.2: Modernised Readout System

2107

2108 4.5.5 TOPICS BEYOND THE READOUT SYSTEMS

2109 In addition to the readout electronics described in the previous sections, many ad-
 2110 ditional electronics devices are needed to operate a particle detector successfully.
 2111 In particular, gaseous detectors require several high voltage stages, for which a
 2112 fine current monitoring system is necessary to detect discharges and prevent any
 2113 damage to the detector caused by increased currents. To protect the readout elec-
 2114 tronics in case of discharges spark protection for each channel should be included
 2115 to save the ASIC, which is generally laid out for much lower voltages than the
 2116 gas amplification stage. Another large area of expertise necessary for operat-
 2117 ing gaseous detectors is noise reduction, which is based on correct grounding,

2118 shielding and low-noise power supplies. This requires a lot of experience and
 2119 knowledge, which has to be passed on to younger generations of researchers and
 2120 extended with new techniques and materials available today. The working group's
 2121 tasks would also include the dissemination of these concepts and introducing ev-
 2122 eryone interested in the art of a good experimental setup in synergy with WG8.
 2123 Finally, gaseous detectors also require a good knowledge of the environmental
 2124 parameters, which have a significant impact on the performance of the detectors.
 2125 Therefore, monitoring systems to record a variety of parameters are needed to
 2126 provide the data for corrections studied in WG3 and allow offline or potentially
 2127 even online calibration of detector parameters. A new and interesting approach is
 2128 the use of CPU within a System on Chip (SoC) device to measure and correct for
 such comparably slowly changing parameters.

Reference	Description	Deliverable Nature
D5.3.1	MPGD HV - WP1	Stabilised voltage di- vider
D5.3.2	MPGD LV - WP1-8	PBX
D5.3.3	Monitoring - WP1-8	SoC investigation

Table 18: WG5 - Objective 5.3: Beyond Readout System

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