# Picosecond Timing Measurements with the FERS-5200 TDC Unit

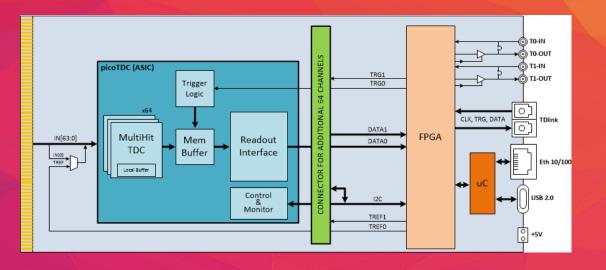




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on behalf of

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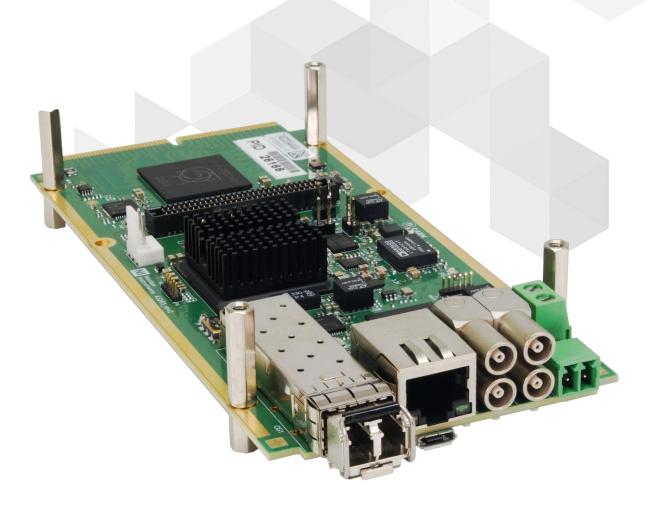




#### Outline

**FERS-5200** 

- FERS-5200 family: project core and architecture
- X5203: picoTDC timing unit
- ToA and ToT data acquisition
- ToT-Based Analysis
- X5203 PET application: the Provision scanner
- Conclusions





#### △ **③ FERS-5200**

#### Front End Readout System 5200: The Core Idea

Compact and Scalable

Multi-channel

Readout Electronics

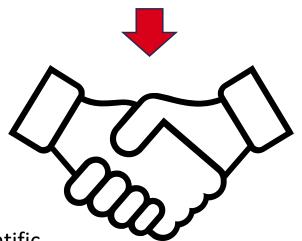
High-granularity
Detectors with
Thousands of Channels

Cost-effective Readout Systems









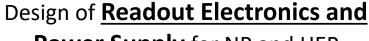




Off-the-shelf **front-end ASIC** for scientific

instrumentation



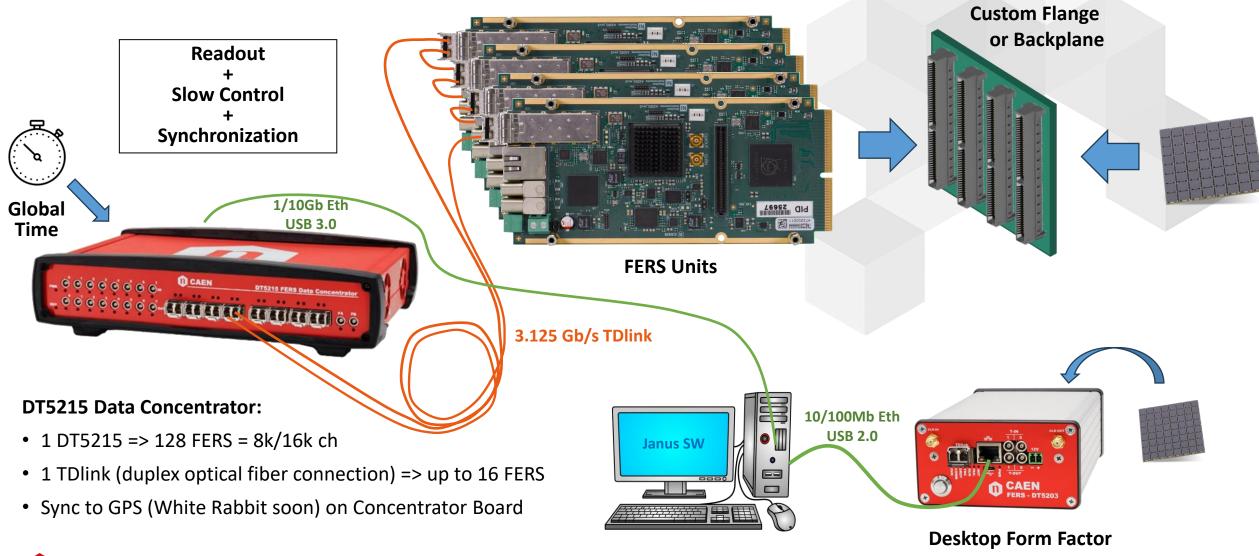


**Power Supply** for NP and HEP



#### FERS-5200 architecture

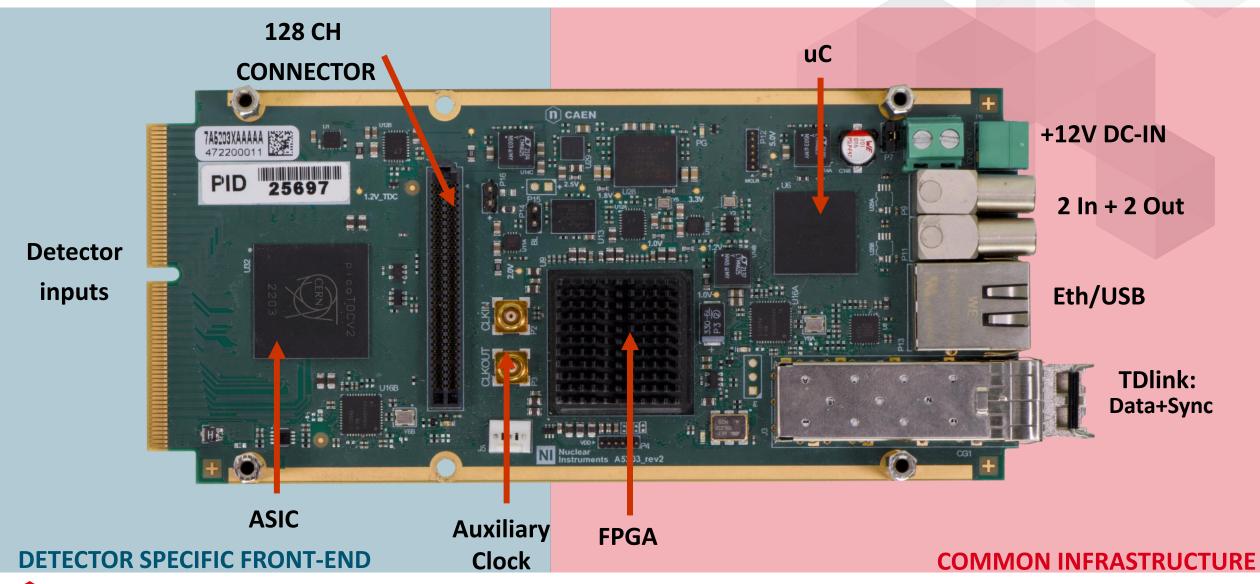






#### FERS A5203: 64/128 channel Readout



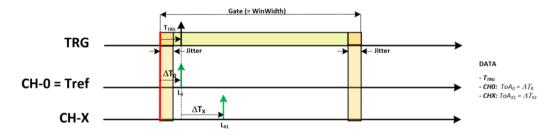


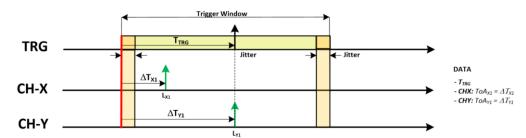






- TDC: 64/128 channels (1 picoTDC = 64 ch), LSB = 3.125 ps, dynamic range = 56 bit (extended by FPGA)
- Inputs: digital, LVDS → Front-End needed
- Output Data: Time of Arrival (ToA), Time over Threshold (ToT)
- Data throughput: up to ~64 Mcps/board (without filters)
- Acquisition modes: Common Start/Stop (Tref=Ch0), Trigger Matching, Streaming





(\*) Tested with A5256 discriminator. Pulse: 0.5 Vpp, 0.8 ns rise time

- DeltaT Resolution (\*):
  - Same board: typ 5 ps RMS
  - Board to board: ~20 ps RMS synchronized by DT5215 Concentrator Board via TDlink
  - Board to board: ~8 ps RMS synchronized by DT5215 Concentrator Board via TDlink, with auxiliary daisy chain/fan out clock cables



#### X5203 Specifications



x5203 Pros	x5203 Cons
<ul> <li>high timing resolution (~ 5 ps), high channel density, almost no dead time</li> </ul>	<ul><li>ToA affected by walk effect</li><li>No energy information (PHA) acquired</li></ul>
<ul> <li>provides ToA and ToT in one word</li> </ul>	<ul><li>-&gt; need for a separate ADC readout chain</li></ul>

#### -> ToT-Based Analysis: Walk correction and PHA

- **ToT** can be used **to correct for time walk** => no need of Constant Fraction Discriminator in hardware
- **ToT** can be used **to reconstruct pulse amplitude**: ToT PHA curve is not linear => need calibration (pulse shape dependent)
- FPGA ToT filter: rejects pulses if ToT < LowCut or ToT > HighCut (remove noise, DCR, saturation...)

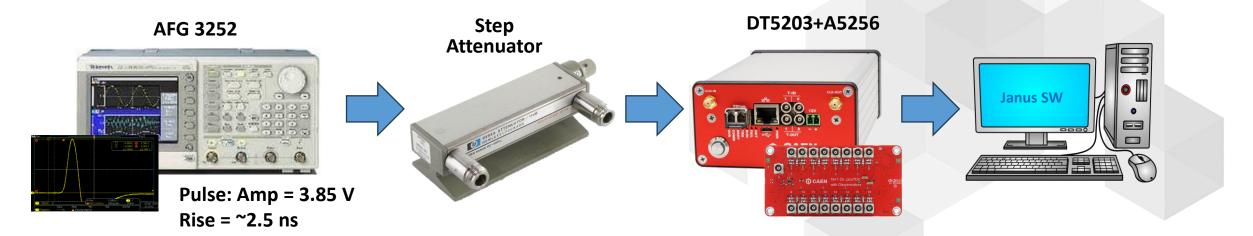
Ongoing feasibility study of the ToT technique for the readout of 5000 PMTs in SAND (DUNE)





#### **ToT Analysis Setup**

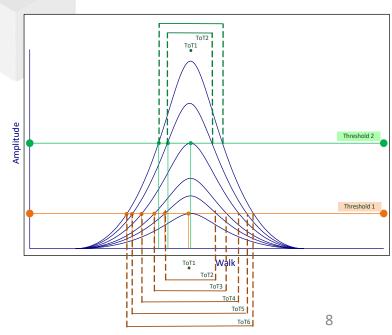




**Common Start Acquisition:** start on Ch0 with fixed amplitude, stop on Ch1 and Ch2 (dual threshold) with variable amplitude (max = 3.85 V). Delay = 13 ns

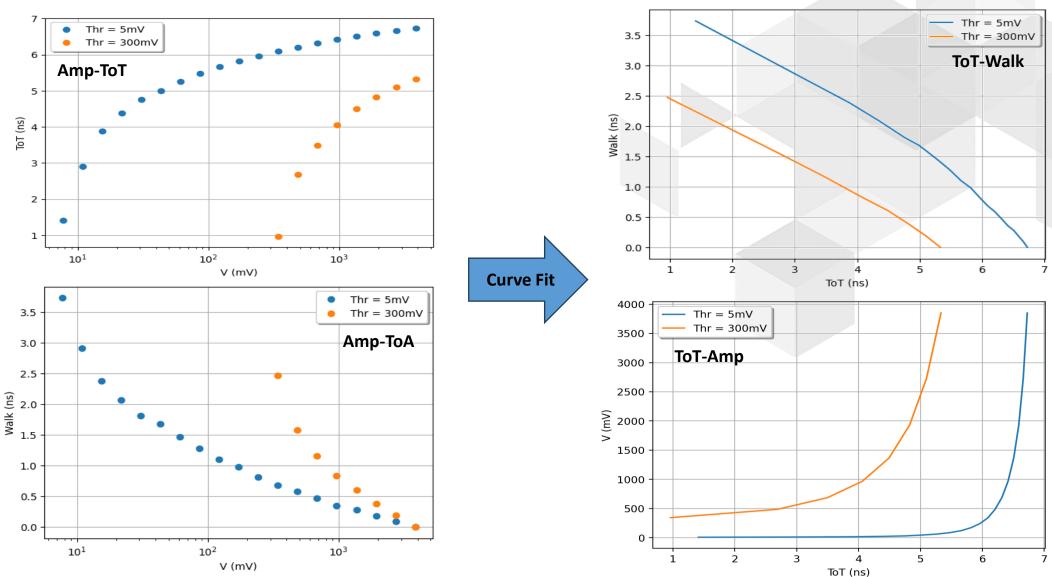
- 1. Sweep: acquire ToT and  $\Delta$ T (ToA) at different amplitudes (from 0 to 54 dB, 3 dB step)
- 2. Fit points and build **ToT-Walk (ToA)** and **ToT-Ampl** curves
- 3. Use curves to **correct Walk** from ToT (replace CFD)
- 4. Use curves to **get Amplitude** from ToT (make ADC from TDC)







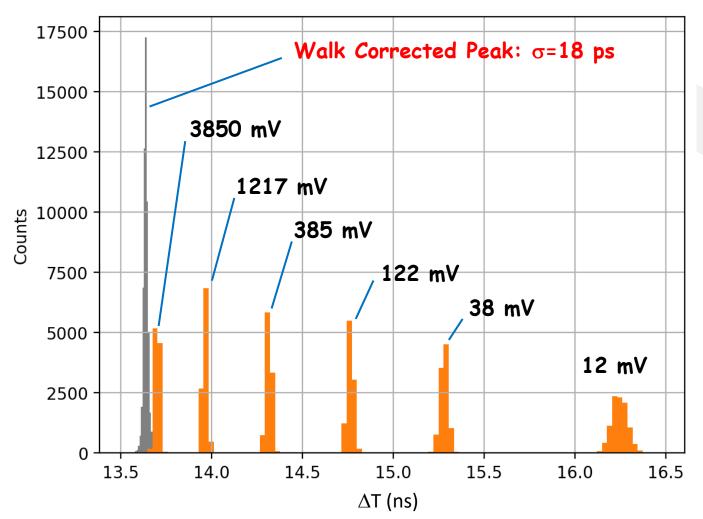
#### ToT calibration curves (double threshold)





#### Walk Correction





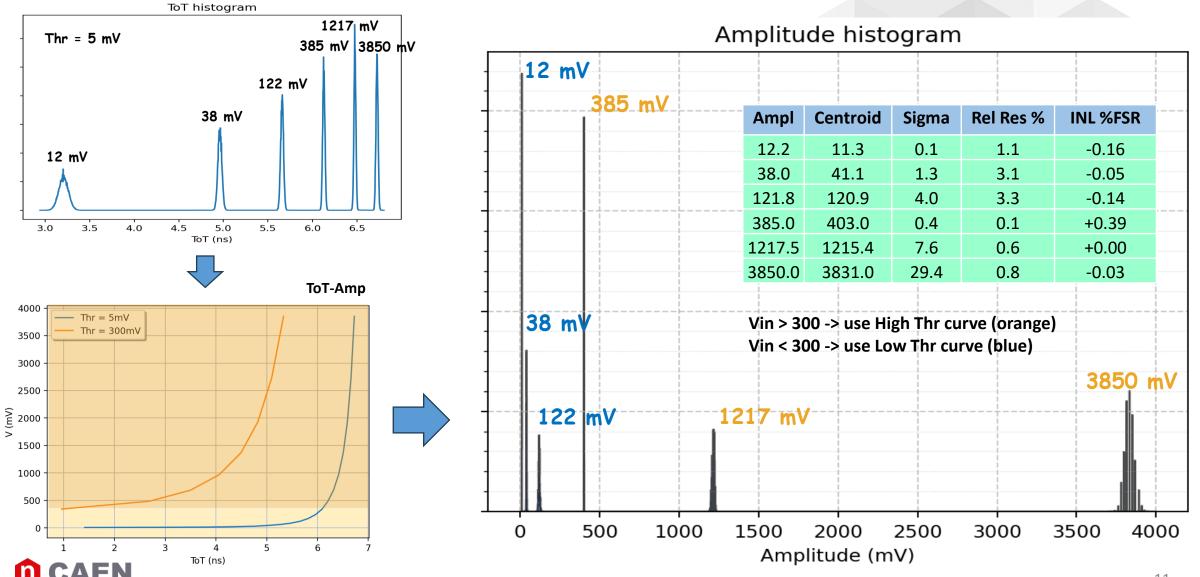
- Pulses at 6 different amplitudes over a 50 dB dynamic range
- ~2 ns spread on  $\Delta T$  (ToA) caused by the walk effect: 6 separate peaks !!
  - → timing resolution totally destroyed
- $\Delta T$  corrected by ToT using a 5<sup>th</sup> order polynomial fit of the **ToT-Walk** points taken at threshold = 5 mV
- Corrected  $\Delta T$  histogram presents one single peak:

18 ps RMS over 50 dB dynamic range



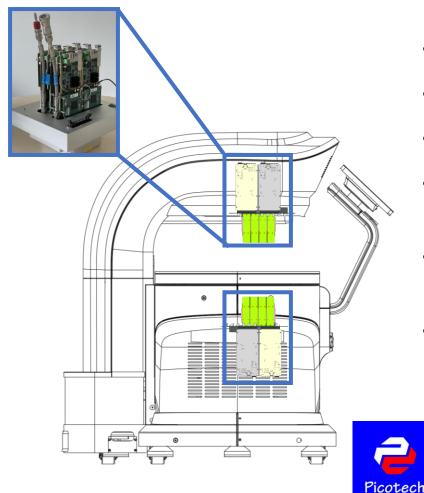
#### **Amplitude Reconstruction**





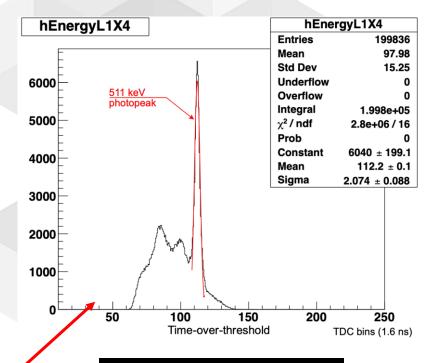
#### The Provision PET Scanner

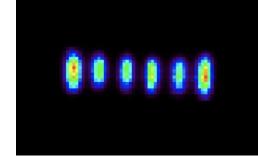




- 2x768 SiPM channels
- 2x6 A5203Bs (128 ch TDC)
- 1 DT5215 Concentrator
- Precise timing and TOT measurement
- High throughput almost zero deadtime
- ToT cut for Dark Count and noise suppression

'Empty' region thanks to TOT filter







#### Conclusions



- ToA and ToT measurements with a resolution of 5 ps RMS
- Walk correction (mimic CFD) possible with single or double threshold:
   18 ps RMS on a 50 dB dynamic range
- Amplitude reconstruction (mimic ADC) requires at least 2 thresholds (2 TDC channels).
   Linearity = ~0.4%. Resolution = ~3%. Possible improvement with a more accurate threshold setting
- Optimal results in the Provision PET scanner: few mm size radioactive sources easily detectable thanks to the x5203 high-time resolution
- Challenge: build ToAVSToT calibration curves in a real data acquisition case
  - → Machine learning ???
- New FERS Units embedding the picoTDC + Radioroc chip: A5204

Psiroc chip: A5205





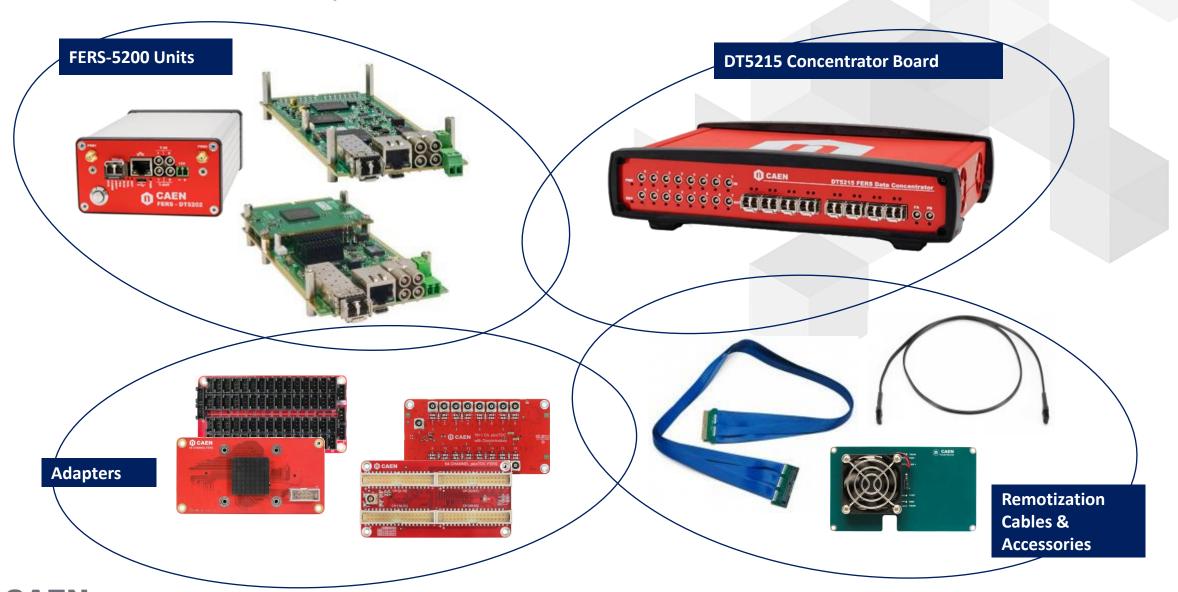
# Thank you!



# Back-up slides

#### FERS-5200 Family







#### FERS Units: A520X(naked)/DT520X(boxed)





- MPPC bias
- Spectroscopy (PHA)
- Timing



A5205

64 ch – Psiroc+picoTDC

A5204

64 ch – Radioroc+picoTDC

A5203

64/128 ch - picoTDC

A5202

64 ch – Citiroc 1A

**COMING SOON** 



- Time Measurements (ToA & ToT)
- Amplitude Estimation



#### Technical Specifications A5204 & A5205



**A5204:** 64 channel SiPM Readout based on Citiroc/Radioroc+picoTDC

- Analog inputs (charge, not voltage)
- All-in-one readout: Preamp + Shaper + Discr + ADC + TDC + HV Bias (20-80 V)
- Dynamic Range: 1 to 2500 p.e.
- Single photon detection (threshold at 1/3 p.e.)
- Timing resolution = 55 ps FWHM (A5204 only)
- Acquisition Modes:Counting, Spectroscopy (PHA), Timing (ToA + ToT), Mixed (PHA + ToA)

**A5205:** 64 channel SSD, GEM, PIN diode readout based on Psiroc + picoTDC

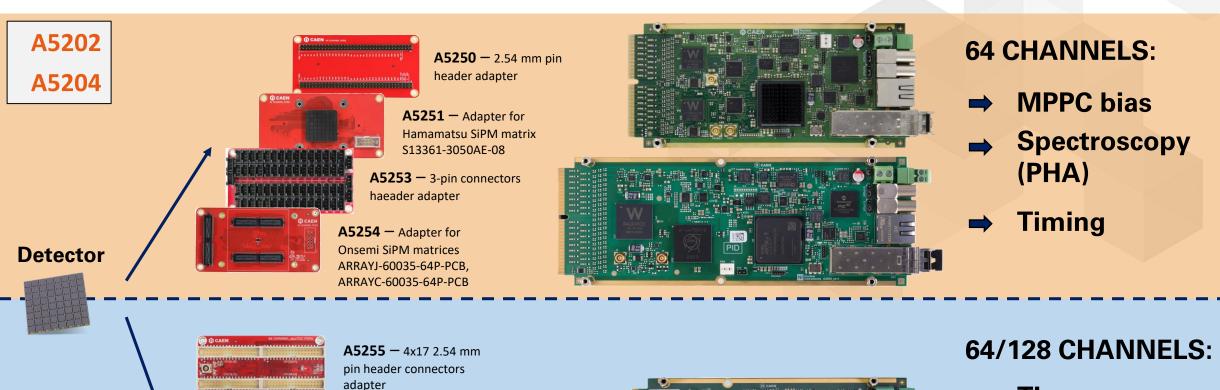
- Pos/Neg inputs. Dynamic range up to 5 pC with PHA, 100 pC with ToT
- Programmable gain: 125 mV/pC up to 4 V/pC. Min trigger threshold = 0.5 fC
- Linearized ToT



**COMING SOON** 

#### Different combos for all customers' needs







**A5256** — 16+1 channel single threshold, 8+1 channel dual threshold edge discriminator adapter





- Time **Measurements** (ToA & ToT)
- **Amplitude Estimation**

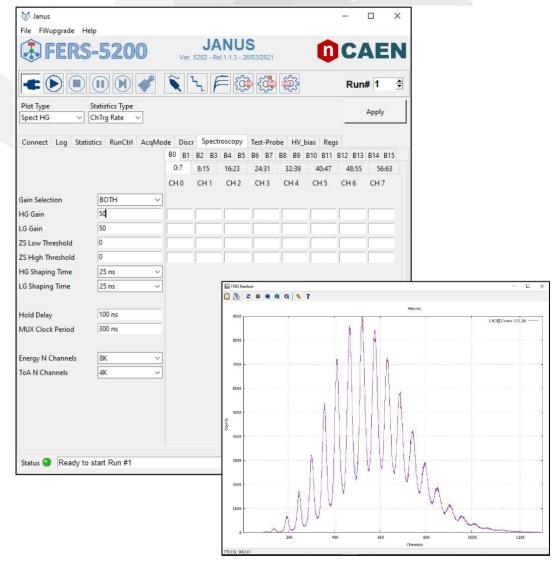




#### Janus Software



- Open source software for multi-board configuration and data readout
- Specific Janus version for each FERS unit (Janus 5202, Janus 5203, ...) with common FERSlib library
- SDK for user customization (lib + demo) [COMING SOON]
- GUI (Python) and console mode based on C/C++ readout programs
- Multi parametric Jobs and Runs with time or counts preset
- Output files: lists in .bin or .csv format, spectra, raw data
- Off-line runs for Post-processing and Event Building
- Live plots (with gnuplot) and statistics monitor
- Up to 300 MB/s data throughput (with DT5215 Concentrator via USB 3.0 or 10 Gb Eth)





#### A5203 Technical Specification Table (1)



MECHANICAL	Weight 40 g (A5203 with spacers mounted); 163 g (A5203B with spacers mounted)	<b>Dimension</b> 73.0 W x 30.0 H x 174.5 L mm <sup>3</sup> 73.0 W x 25.0 H x 174.5 L mm <sup>3</sup>
TDC INPUT	A5203: 64 channels (1 edge connector type HSEC8-170) A5203B: 128 channels (2 edge connectors type HSEC8-170)  • Mating connector: Samtec HSEC8-170-01-S-DV  • Input Type: reduced LVDS  • Input voltage: Min = -40 mV	
TIMING RESOLUTION	LSB = 3.125 ps  • $\Delta T_{RMS} = \sim 5$ ps. Tested with LVDS signals, two passive splitters and delay  • $\Delta T_{RMS} = \sim 7$ ps. Tested with pulse generator (1 Vpp, 0.8 ns rise/fall), pass  • $\Delta T_{RMS} = \sim 20$ ps with variable amplitude pulses (30 mV to 1 V) and walk	sive splitter and 5 ns cable delay
DYNAMIC RANGE	Time measurement dynamic range in picoTDC:   • Leading Edge only: $T_{LEAD} = 24$ bits (FSR = $\sim 52  \mu$ s)*   • Leading + Trailing Edge: $T_{LEAD} / T_{TRAIL} = 24$ bits (FSR = $\sim 52  \mu$ s)*   • Leading + ToT8: $T_{LEAD} = 19$ bits, $T_{TOT} = 8$ bits (LSB size and FSR can be • Leading + ToT11: $T_{LEAD} = 16$ bits, $T_{TOT} = 11$ bits (LSB size and FSR can be Coarse time stamp in FPGA (56 bits @ 12.6 ns) con be combined with pice measurement to a maximum dynamic of 64 bit (streaming acquisition mo *26bits (FSR = $\sim 210  \mu$ s) optional	programmed) oTDC data to extend the full scale range of the time
ACQUISITION MODES	Common Start: TDC ch0 is the common start that opens the acquisition gate and represe measurements: $T_{LEAD} = \Delta T_N = T_N - T_0$ . The gate width is programmable by Output Data: $T_{LEAD}$ or $T_{LEAD}$ , ToT Common Stop: Same as common start, but ch0 is used as a common stop that closes the Output Data: $T_{LEAD}$ or $T_{LEAD}$ , ToT Trigger Matching: The trigger signal (typ. from TO/T1 inputs) defines an acquisition window window will be recorded. Multi-hit acquisition is supported. All time meass = 25.6 ns), while the relative time between the hits keeps the TDC timing in Output Data: $T_{LEAD}$ or $T_{LEAD}$ + $T_{TRAIL}$ or $T_{LEAD}$ +ToT Streaming: Continuous hit recording, without any gate or trigger windowing. All hit till (minimum LSB = 3.125 ps) and saved in the form of a sorted list.	v software. Any hit falling outside the gate will be discarded. The acquisition gate: $\Delta T_N = T_0 - T_N$ . With programmable width and offset. All hits falling into the urements are referred to the Coarse Trigger Time Stamp (LSB resolution (minimum LSB = 3.125 ps).



#### A5203 Technical Specification Table (2)



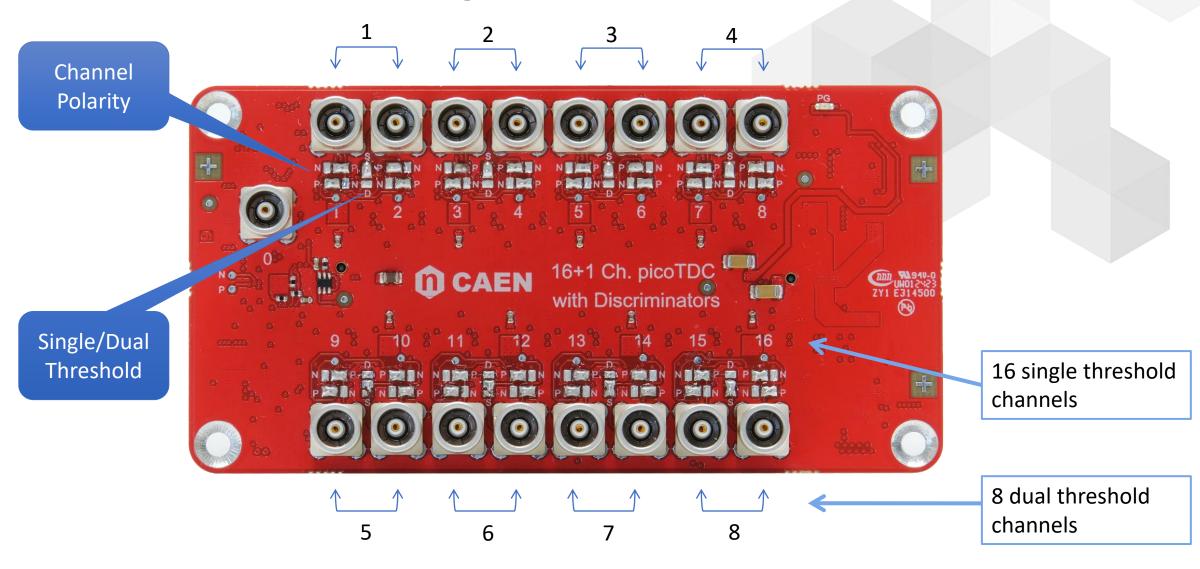
FPGA TRIGGER TIME STAMP	<ul> <li>56-bit counter, 25,6 ns step</li> <li>up to 128 boards can be synchronized with the DT5215 FERS-CB by sending a time stamp reset signal via TDlink</li> </ul>	
FRONT PANEL I/Os	<ul> <li>T0-IN, T1-IN: LEMO-00 connector, NIM or TTL (terminated to 50 Ω)</li> <li>T0-OUT, T1-OUT: LEMO-00 connector, TTL (50 Ω termination required)</li> <li>Jumpers for IN-OUT bypass and termination removal (daisy chaining).</li> <li>Functions (SW programmable): Trigger, Acquisition Start/Stop, Sync, Busy, Veto, Signal inspection, etc</li> <li>T0/T1 inputs can be used to drive TDC - Ch0 = Tref (possible degradation of the resolution because of the FPGA temperature dependence)</li> </ul>	
FRONT PANEL LEDs	GREEN: Power-ON, Init-Done, Run, Trigger, Data Ready, TO-IN, T1-IN ORANGE: Event Overrun (rejected triggers because received while busy) RED: Failure (missing clock, over-temperature, etc)	
INTERNAL PULSER	Fast reduced-LVDS output (one signal only) with programmable frequency and width, for debug purposes	
COMMUNICATION INTERFACES	USB USB2.0: microUSB connector Bandwidth = ~3 MB/s  • Ethernet connector, type Rj-45. Supports 10/100 Mbit/s connection to a PC Bandwidth = ~2.5 MB/s  • Ethernet connector, type Rj-45. Supports 10/100 Mbit/s connection to a PC Bandwidth = ~2.5 MB/s  • Small Form Factor Pluggable (SFP+) transceiver component for optical connection (3.125 Gbit/s). TDlink CAEN proprietary protocol allows for multi-board synchronization, slow control and data readout • Data Concentrator DT5215 required	
FIRMWARE	<ul> <li>Firmware of FPGA upgrade via USB or Ethernet (or TDlink COMING SOON)</li> <li>Firmware of µC upgrade via Ethernet only</li> </ul>	
SOFTWARE	Readout SW Fully controlled by the Janus 5203 open source software for Windows* and Linux*.  It can run in console mode (C program, with console commands and gnuplot display for plots) or connected to a GUI (Python) that implements user friendly configuration panels and run controls.  Janus 5203 can acquire, plot and save output files with ToA, ToT histograms, as well as list files (trigger timestamp, ToA and ToT for each channel).  Web Interface  Board information and monitoring, Ethernet configuration.	
POWER REQUIREMENTS	Single power supply: +12 V. Accepted voltage range: MIN +7 V, MAX +15 V  (110 V/220 V AC/DC converter provided with Desktop version only)	
POWER CONSUMPTIONS	700 mA @ +12 V, i.e ~ 8.4 W (A5203 - 64 channels) tbd (A5203B - 128 channels)	



## A5256 Focus

#### A5256 Hardware Configuration







### A5256 Technical Specification Table



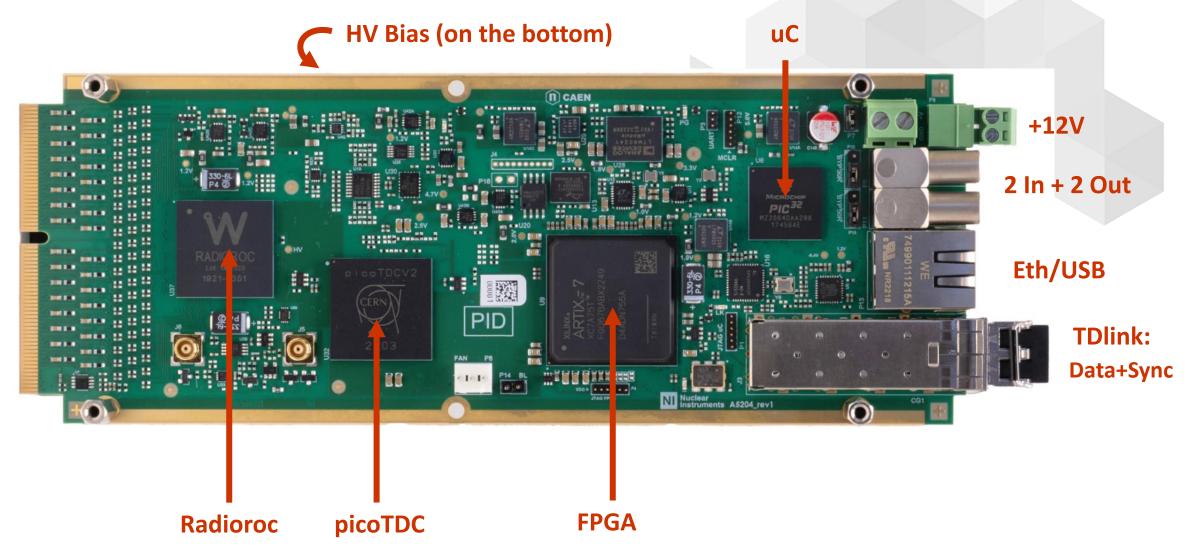
Inputs	Single Threshold: 16+1 inputs positive/negative polarity, 50 $\Omega$ impedance Double Threshold: 8+1 inputs positive/negative polarity, 50 $\Omega$ impedance
Min/Max Input Voltage	- 4 V / +3 V
Min Detectable Signal	1.5 mV
Threshold Range	-1.2 V / +1.2 V
Threshold Step	0.61 mV
Timing Resolution	A5256 mounted on A5203: $\Delta T_{RMS} = ~7 \text{ ps. Tested with a pulse generator (1 Vpp, 0.8 ns rise/fall pulses), one passive splitter and delay cables.}$ $\Delta T_{RMS} = ~20 \text{ ps. with variable amplitude pulses (30 mV to 1V) and walk correction by ToT.}$
Non-Linearity	≤ 0.18 % typ.
Efficiency	<2 mV typ. (3 mV max)  Measured with 150 mV signal, with 1.6 ns rise time
Mechanical	Dimension: 103.0 W x 53.0 H x 23.6 L mm <sup>3</sup> Weight: 89 g
Environmental	Environment: Indoor use Operating Temperature: 0 °C to +40 °C Storage Temperature: -10 °C to + 60 °C Operating Humidity: 10% to 90% RH non condensing Storage Humidity: 5% to 90% RH non condensing Altitude: <2000 m Pollution Degree: 2 Overvoltage Category:    EMC Environment: Commercial and light industrial IP Degree: IPXO enclosure, not for wet location
Regulatory Compliance	EMC: CE 2014/30/EU Electromagnetic compatibility Directive Safety: CE 2014/35/EU Low Voltage Directive
Power Requirements	+3.3 V and +12V taken from the A5203 edge connector
Power Consumptions	5.6 W (470 mA consumption on the +12V power of the A5203)



## A5204 Focus

#### FERS A5204: 64 channel SiPM Readout

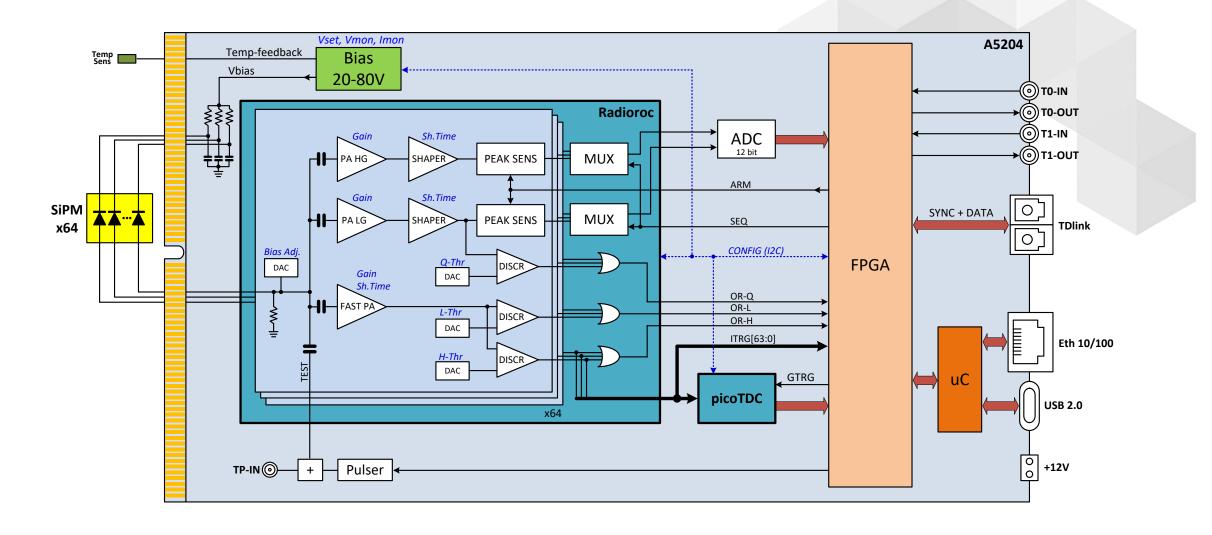






#### **FERS-5200**

### A5204: block diagram





#### A5204 Technical Specification Table (1)



MECHANICAL	Weight 161 g (A5204 with spacers mounted);	<b>Dimension</b> 72.8 W x 22.0 H x 208.5 L mm <sup>3</sup>
INPUTS	64 channels Input edge connector type Samtec HSEC8-170 Mating connector: Samtec HSEC8-170-01-S-DV Signal polarity: Positive Each SiPM input has two pins:  Cathode with HV bias (min = +20V, max = +80V)  Anode closed to -100 ohm, feeding the Radioroc inputs	
HIGH VOLTAGE (SiPM Bias)	HV module for SiPM biasing (A7585D) HV Range: +20V/+80V, Max 10 mA Individual bias adjustment on channel basis (8 bit DACs, LSB = -2 mV, a Automatic temperature feedback for SiPM gain stabilization	djust range = 550 mV)
	Spectroscopy:  The common trigger initiates the peak sensing detection and A/D convolutions.	ersion (12 bit) on all channels simultaneously. Conversion time =
	-10 µs. Output Data: Trigger time stamp, Trigger ID, PHA (Low and/or H Counting:	
	32 bit counters, up to 200 MHz. Common trigger defines dwell time (i.e windows. Internal period trigger from 16 ns to -34 s. Output Data: Triggavailable. Counters are automatically reset after each trigger.	
	Timing (Common Start):	
ACQUISITION MODES	The Tref signal (T0, T1 inputs) is a common start that opens the acquisit acquired as $\P T$ from Tref and, optionally, as ToT for PHA estimation. Out	
	Timing (Common Stop):	
	Same as common start, with Tref used as a common stop that closes the trigger (look back acquisition).	e acquisition gate. Acquired events are those ones arrived before
	Timing (Trigger Matching):	
	The common trigger signal defines an acquisition window with program recorded. Multi-hit acquisition is supported. Output Data: Trigger time s	_
	Timing (Streaming):	
	Continuous hit recording, without any gate or trigger windowing. All hit saved in the form of a sorted list. Output Data: ToA or ToA+ToT	time measurements are expressed as 64 bit time stamps and
	<b>High Gain:</b> Min = 5, Max = 80, 16 steps (1 step = 5)	
SENSITIVITY (GAIN) - SPECTROSCOPY	<b>Low Gain:</b> Min = 0.5, Max = 8, 16 steps (1 step = 0.5)	
	<b>Short Range:</b> Min = 20 ns, Max = 300 ns, 16 steps (1 step = 20 ns)	
SHAPING TIME - SPECTROSCOPY	<b>Long Range:</b> Min = 80 ns, Max = 1200 ns, 16 steps (1 step = 80 ns)	



#### A5204 Technical Specification Table (2)



DYNAMIC RANGE - SPECTROSCOPY	Up to 2000 photo-electrons @ 10 <sup>6</sup> SiPM gain
SELF TRIGGERS - TIMING & COUNTING	Dedicated fast preamps + discriminator for SiPM pulse detection. Trigger down to 1/3 p.e.  Fast Preamp Gain: Min = 15 (BW = 480 MHz), Max = 100 (BW = 55 MHz), 32 steps Discriminator Dual Threshold: Range = 278 mV; 1024 steps, 1 step = 0.27 mV
TIMING RESOLUTION - TIMING & COUNTING	55 ps FWHM on a single p.e.  Time Stamp Range: 64 bit  Intrinsic timing resolution of picoTDC = 3.125 ps LSB
ToT - TIMING & COUNTING	Time over Threshold (ToT): 1% linearity energy measurement up to 2000 p.e.
COUNTING - TIMING & COUNTING	Photon counting up to 200 Mcps per channel  MCS mode with programmable dwell time: from 16 ns to -34 s
TRIGGER LOGIC	Global trigger common to 64 channels: used in Spectroscopy mode to start Peak acquisition, in Timing mode to generate the acquisition windows (Gate). Trigger-less acquisition only in Streaming mode.  Global Trigger Sources:  OR of self-triggers = OR(0.63)  Plane coincidence: OR(0.31) AND OR(3263)  Paired channels: AND(0.1) OR AND(23) OR AND(6263)  Majority with programmable threshold  External trigger (TO-IN, TI-IN, LEMO, TTL/NIM)  Internal periodic trigger with programmable frequency
TIME STAMP & SYNCHRONIZATION	Acquisition Trigger Time Stamp: 56 bit, step = 8 ns Two synchronization modes:  • TO or TI IN-OUT daisy chain: max jitter = 100 ns • fiber optic (TDlink) and DT5215 Concentrator: up to 128 boards, max jitter 50 ps
FRONT PANEL I/Os	<b>T0-IN, T1-IN:</b> LEMO-00 connector, NIM or TTL (terminated to 50 $\Omega$ ) <b>T0-OUT, T1-OUT:</b> LEMO-00 connector, TTL (50 $\Omega$ termination required)  SW selectable IN-OUT bypass and termination removal for daisy chaining <b>Functions</b> (SW programmable):  Trigger, Acquisition Start/Stop, Sync, Busy, Veto, Signal inspection, etc
FRONT PANEL LEDs	GREEN: Power-ON, Init-Done, Run, Trigger, Data Ready, TO-IN, TI-IN  ORANGE: Event Overrun (rejected triggers because received while busy)  RED: Failure (missing clock, over-temperature, etc)



### A5204 Technical Specification Table (3)



INTERNAL PULSER	Radioroc provides a test input pin that can be internally connected to the pre-amplifier inputs, channel by channel. The test signal can come from an external signal (MCX connector on the PCB) or generated by an internal pulser with programmable amplitude. The internal pulser can be trigger by TO/T1 IN or by the internal periodic trigger.	
COMMUNICATION INTERFACES	USB USB2.0: microUSB connector  Bandwidth = ~ 3 MB/s  Ethernet  Doptical Link  Small Form Factor Pluggable (SFP+) transceiver component for optical connection (3.125 Gbit/s).  Tollink CAEN proprietary protocol allows for multiboard synchronization, slow control and data readout  Data Concentrator DT5215 required	
FIRMWARE	Firmware of FPGA be upgraded via USB or Ethernet Firmware of $\mu$ C can be upgraded via Ethernet only	
SOFTWARE	Readout SW Fully controlled by the Janus 5204 open source software for Windows* and Linux*. It can run in console mode (C program, with console commands and gnuplot display for plots) or connected to a GUI (Python) that implements user friendly configuration panels and run controls.  Janus 5204 can perform multiple board acquisition of PHA energy spectrum (Low and High Gain). ToT spectrum (represents PHA in timing mode) DT spectrum, with event building based on trigger ID or time stamp.  Live Display: channel hit count and rate, trigger rate, lost triggers, data throughput, acq. time, etc Plots: PHA, DT, ToT, hit rate, 2-D heat map with channel hit rates or PHA.  Output Files: histograms (spectra), list files (PHA, ToA, ToT, DT), Run Info, Sync file.  Web Interface Board information and monitoring, Ethernet configuration.	
POWER REQUIREMENTS	Single power supply (+12 V). Regularly working in a range between +7 V and +15 V 110V/220V AC/DC converter provided with Desktop version only.	
POWER CONSUMPTIONS	t.b.d.	

