



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under GA No 101004730.

# Innovative Superconducting Thin Film Coated Cavities

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Paris, 18 April 2024

Cristian Pira 

Reza Valizadeh  Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

*on behalf of iFAST **WP9** Collaboration*

iFAST



# I.FAST WP9 Collaboration



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C.Z. Antoine, S. Berry, Y. Kalboussi, T. Proslie



D. Longuevergne, O. Hryhorenko,



S. Keckert, O. Kugeler, J. Knobloch



S. Prucnal, S. Zhou



X. Jiang, T. Staedler, A. Zubtsovskii



E. Seiler, R. Ries



A. Medvids, A. Mychko, P. Onufrievs



G. Burt, N. Leicester, S. Marks, D. Turner




W. Bradley, S. Simon



R. Berton, D. Piccoli, F. Piccoli, G. Squizzato, F. Telatin

## Associated Partners

 A. M. Valente Feliciano

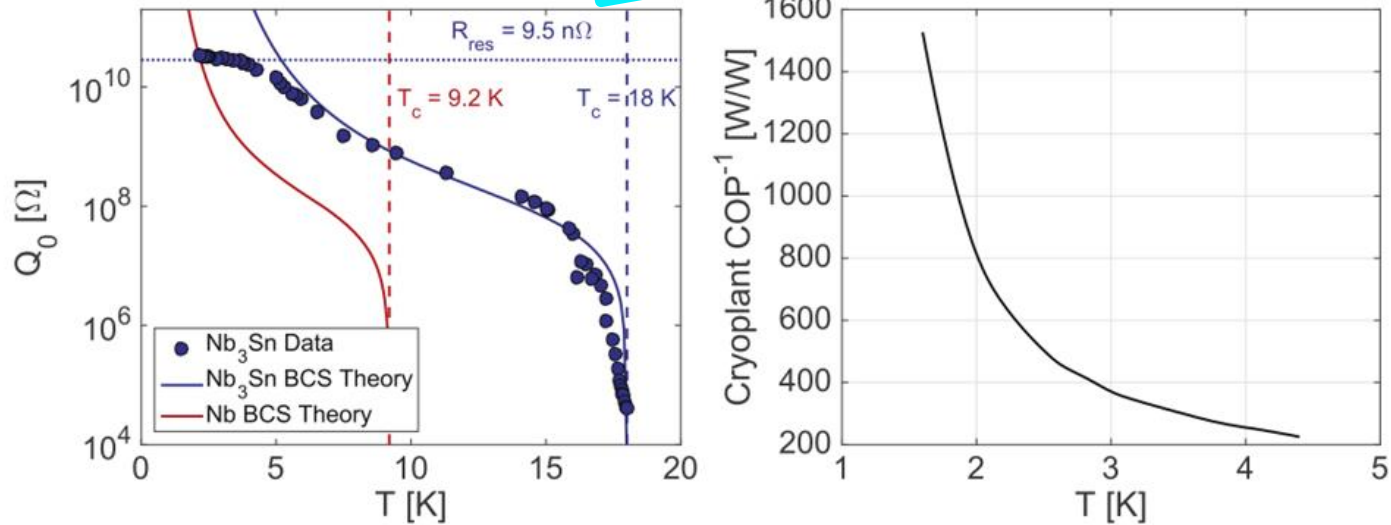
## Informal Partners



# Goal of WP9

**Energy saving** is mandatory for...  
...**cryogenics** is one of the **larger**... in modern SRF accelerators

**MAIN Deliverable (2025):**  
Produce a prototype of high performance  
1.3 GHz thin film SRF elliptical cavity  
 $Q > 1 \cdot 10^{10}$  @ 4.5 K



**Move from bulk Nb @2K to  $Nb_3Sn$  @4.5 K**  
**reduces cryogenic power by a factor of 3**

# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn on Cu: Multiple challenges

- ▶ A15 are Brittle materials
- ▶ Complicate Phase Diagram
- ▶ Low melting point substrate
- ▶ Substrate preparation
- ▶ Interface diffusion
- ▶ Target Production
- ▶ Coating Parameters
- ▶ Trapped Flux
- ▶ Tuning



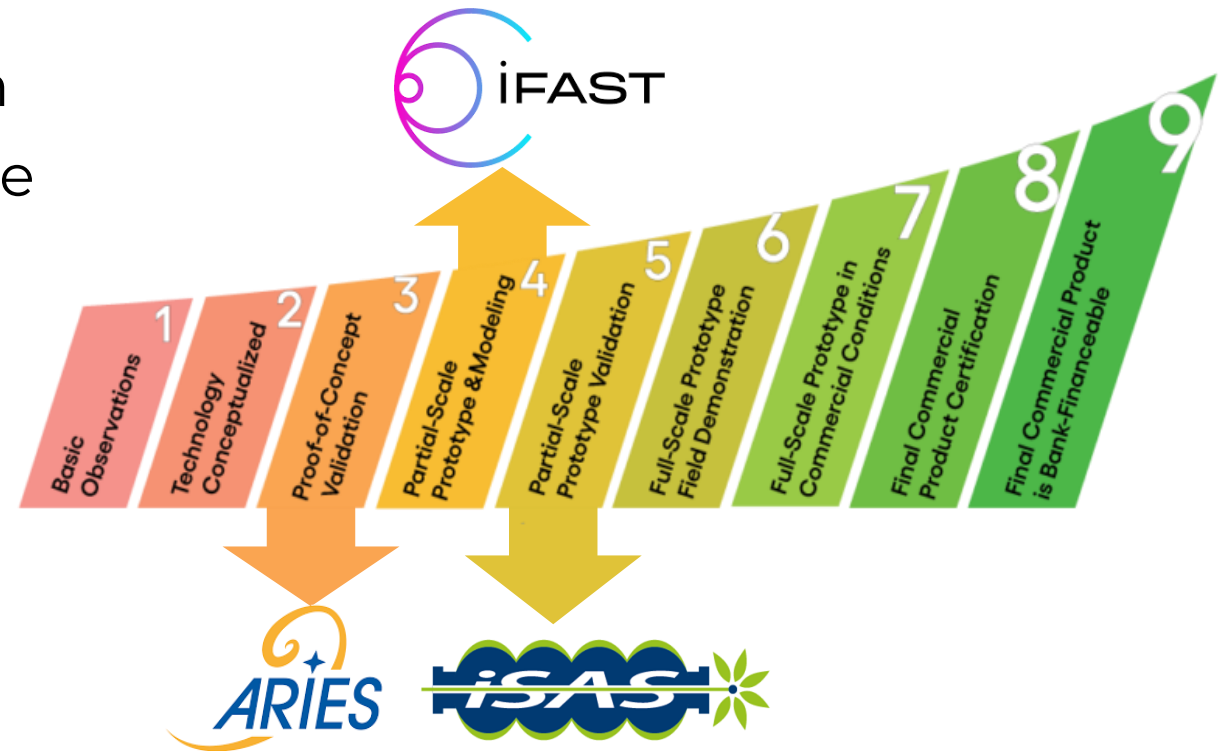
# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn on Cu: Multiple challenges

- ▶ Al5 are Brittle materials
- ▶ Complicate Phase Diagram
- ▶ Low melting point substrate
- ▶ **Substrate preparation**
- ▶ **Interface diffusion**
- ▶ **Target Production**
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# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn on Cu: Multiple challenges

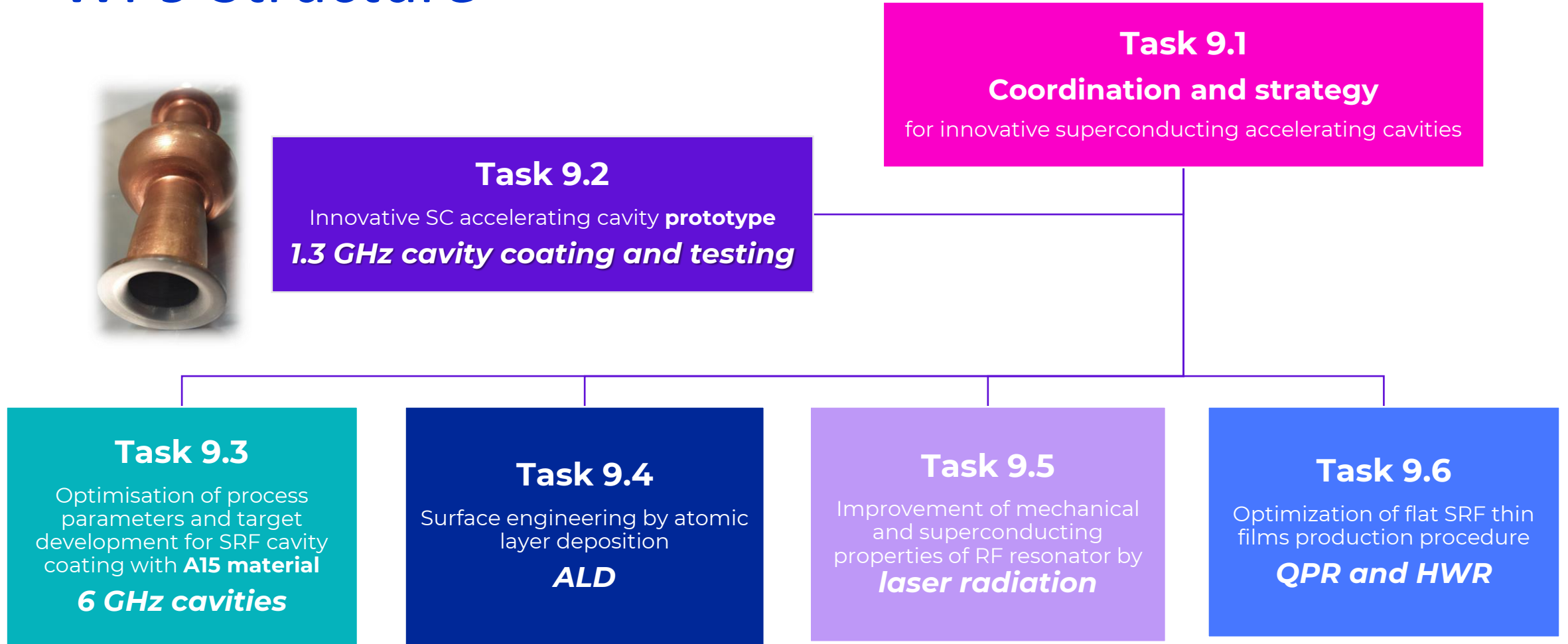
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- ▶ **Coating Parameters**
- ▶ **Trapped Flux**
- ▶ **Tuning**



Started  
in March 2024



# WP9 Structure



## Task 9.1

Task Leaders: **Claire Antoine**



and **Oleg B. Malyshev**



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

# Coordination and Strategy for innovative SC accelerating cavities

WP9 Meetings every 3 months

*On scopes:*

- Preparation of the ESPP R&D roadmap report: done
  - implement our expertise in the organisation of future Int'l thin film R&D
- Leading Implementation of TF SRF theme as a part RF Coordination Panel ongoing
  - aiming to gather all European TF activities together in a common project/collaboration
- Coordinating with DESY/CERN ongoing
- Coordinating with Thin films TTC group ongoing
- Snowmass letter of interest done
- Participating in in SRF 2023 Organising Committees done



**Organization of the 2024 Thin Film SRF workshop** **officially sponsored by IFAST**  
(scientific committee + local organisation) **in progress**

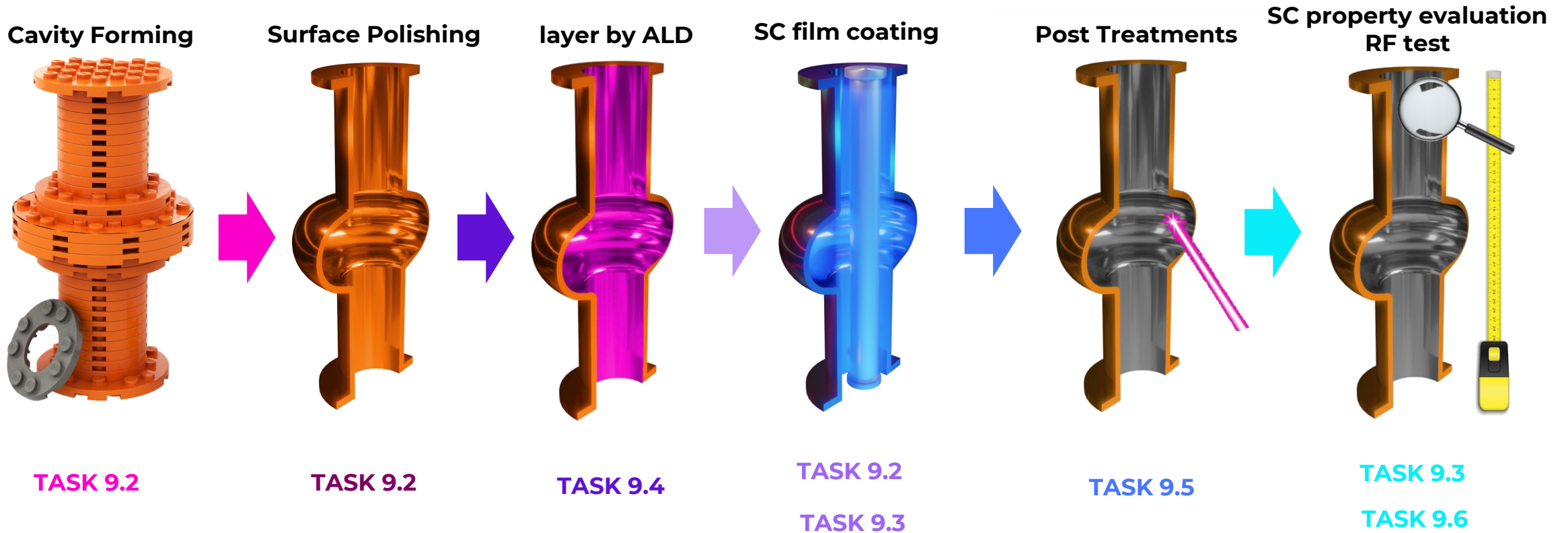
16–20 September 2024 - Université Paris-Saclay, France

Registration deadline is May 24, 2024

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1376902/>



# I.FAST WP9 R&D program cover all the cavity production chain





# Cavity forming

Task 9.2

Task Leader: **Cristian Pira** 

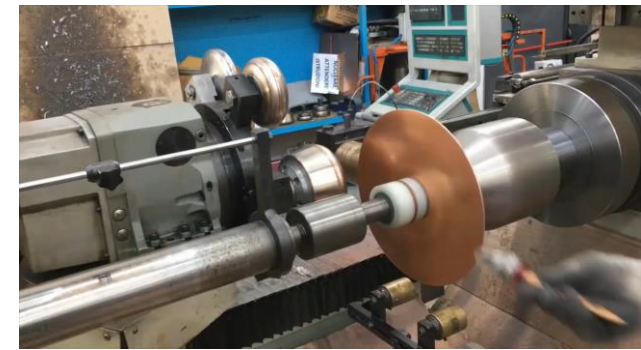
# Seamless Spinning



Forming technology adopted to produce 1.3 GHz (task 9.2) and 6 GHz (task 9.3) elliptical seamless Cu R&D substrates to all partners

## PRIMARY GOAL:

High internal surface quality



### OPTIMIZED PRODUCTION PROTOCOL:

- ▶ CNC machine
- ▶ Reduced Annealing Temperature (400 °C, previous 500 °C)
- ▶ New intermediate Deep Drawing Step

### LAST YEAR RESULTS

- ▶ New design for dies
- ▶ Testing of new dies
- ▶ OFE Copper procurement finished
  - ▶ Ready for 1.3 GHz production

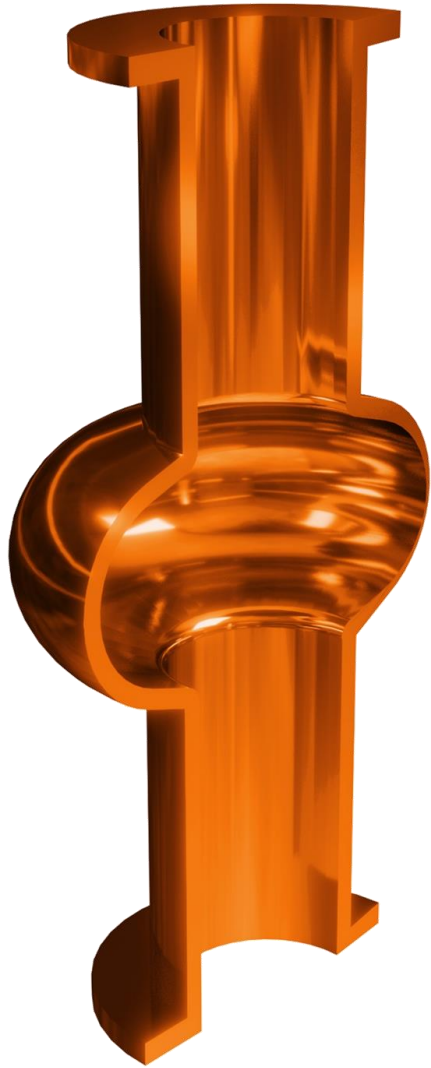


New 1.3 GHz Die for Spinning produced by Piccoli



Cavity Forming



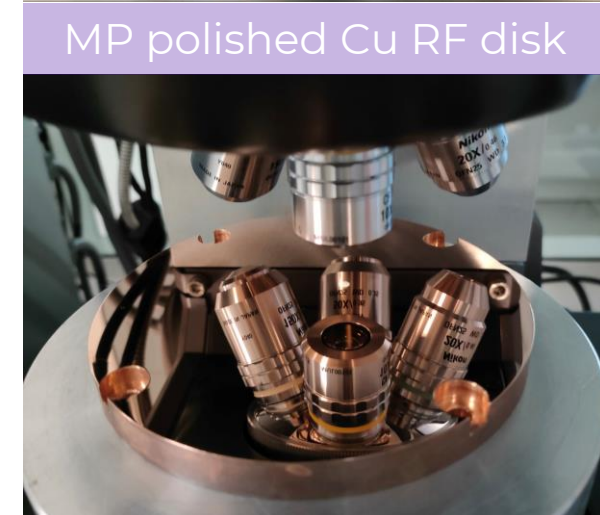
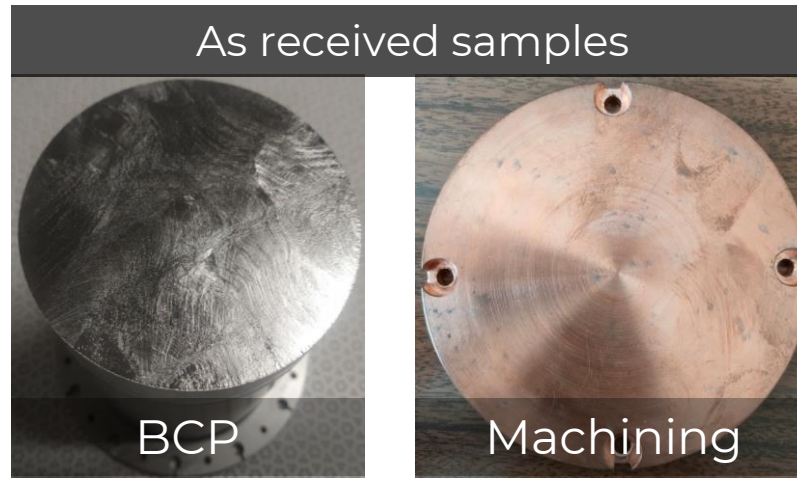


# Surface Polishing

Task 9.2

Task Leader: **Cristian Pira** 

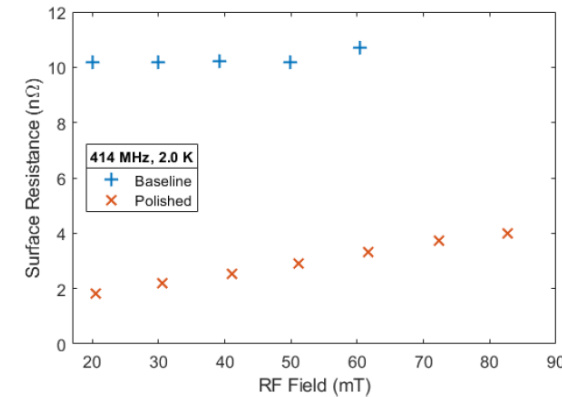
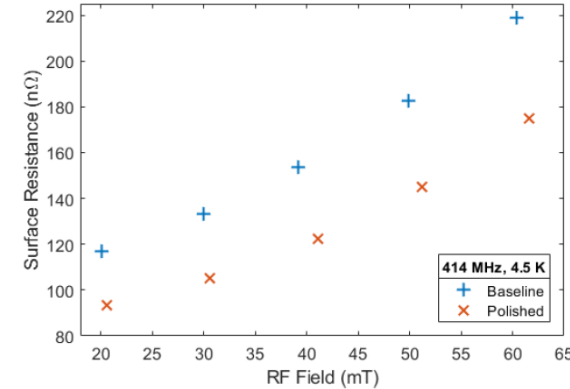
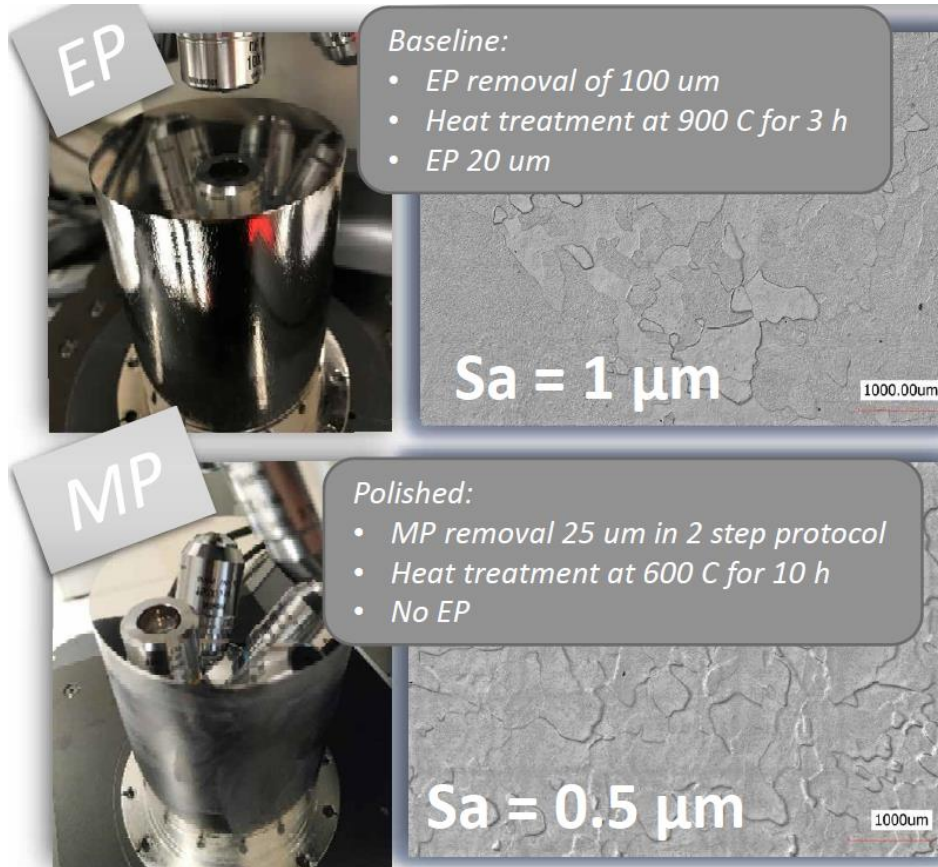
# Methallographic Polishing



Surface Polishing



# Methallographic Polishing



RF test on QPR done in the framework of

## Task 9.5


  
 Helmholtz
   
 Zentrum Berlin

- ▶ Improved surface preparation pushed the RF fields above 80 mT
- ▶ Measurement of  $R_{\text{res}}$  resistance below 1 nOhm
- ▶ Reproducible results (x2 QPR so far)

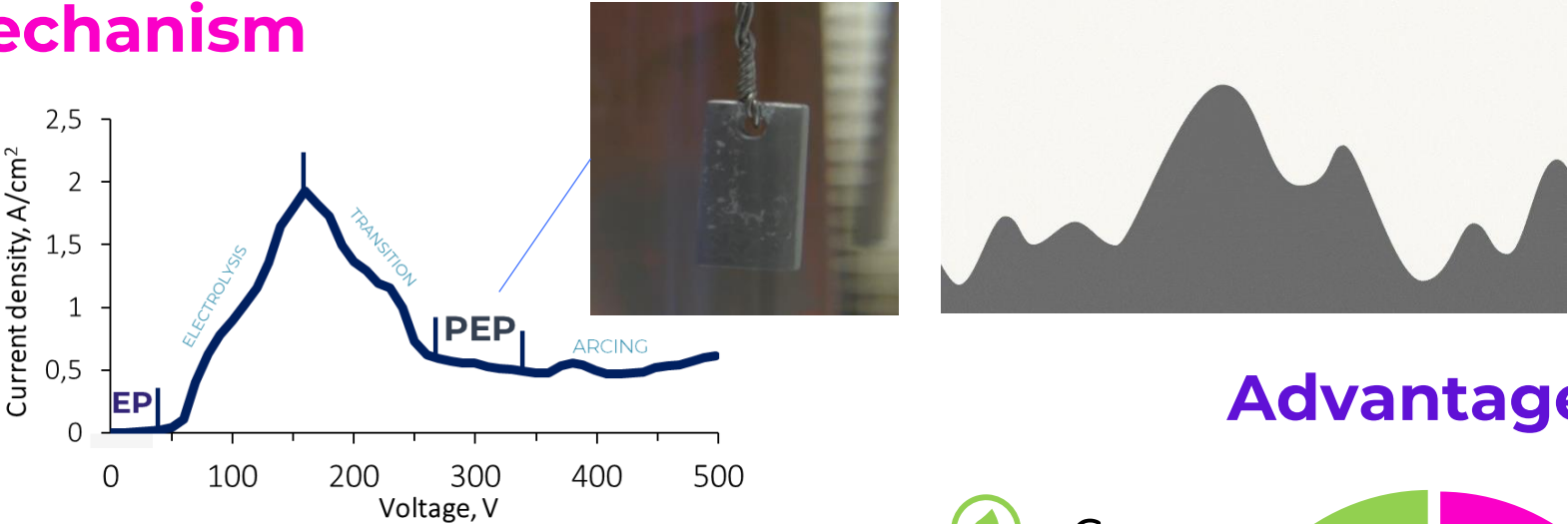


Surface Polishing

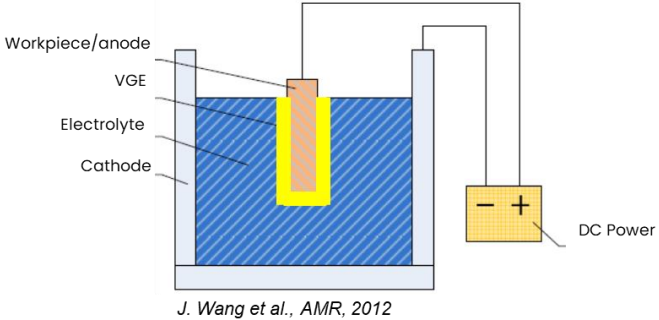


# Plasma Electrolytic Polishing PEP

## Mechanism



Same EP set-up  
Different regime



## Advantages

**Green**  
Diluted water solutions,  
environmentally friendly

**Fast**   
The fastest  
non-destructive  
polishing

Equal thickness removal yield  
lowest roughness among  
competitors

Less sensitive to the  
cathode shape!  
AM compatible

**Efficiency**

**Versatility**



Surface Polishing

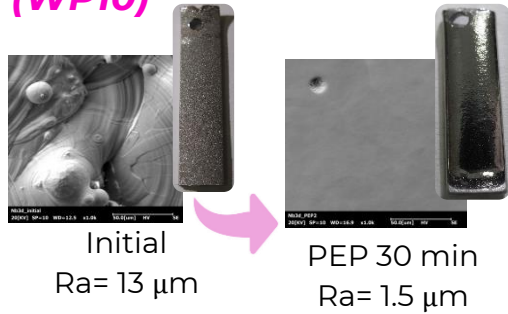


# Plasma Electrolytic Polishing PEP

## Results

1x Nb 3x Cu  
Solution Patentees by INFN

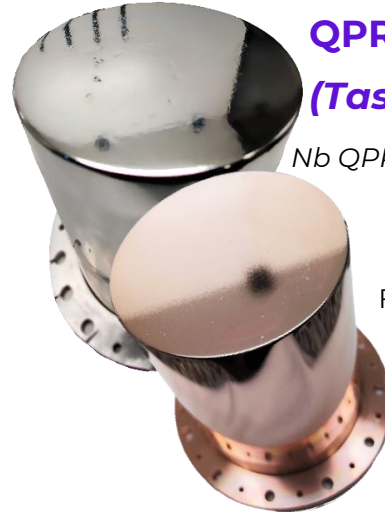
### Additive Manufacturing (WP10)



### QPR Samples (Task 9.5)

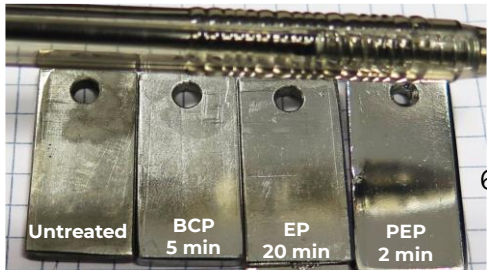
HZB Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin

Nb QPR polishing optimization on-going



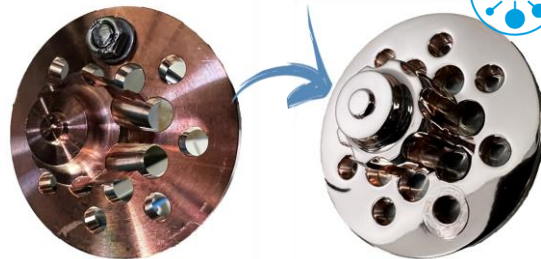
Full Cu QPR ready for coating

### Planar samples



6.5 μm removed

### Cu Photocathodes



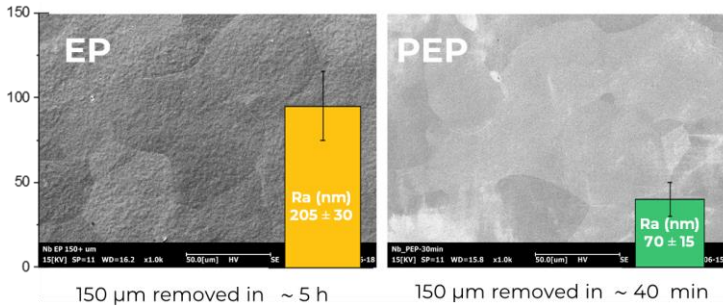
Ra ~ 8 nm!!!

### 6 GHz Cu cavity



No internal cathode!

70 μm removed in 10 minutes  
30 A (100 cm<sup>2</sup> → 1.3 GHz ~ 300 A)



Surface Polishing







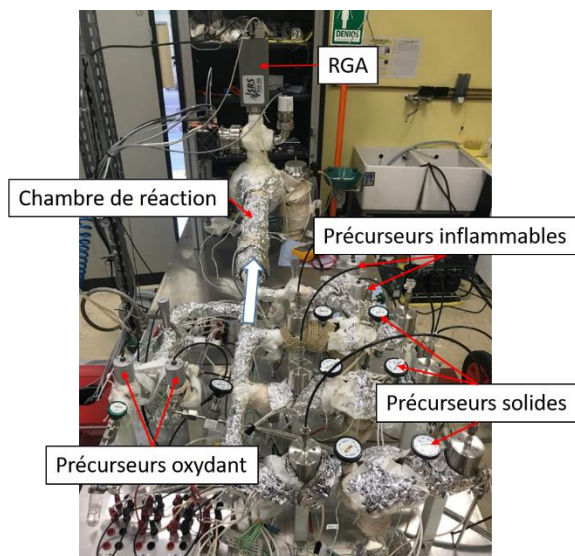
# Atomic Layer Deposition

Task 9.4

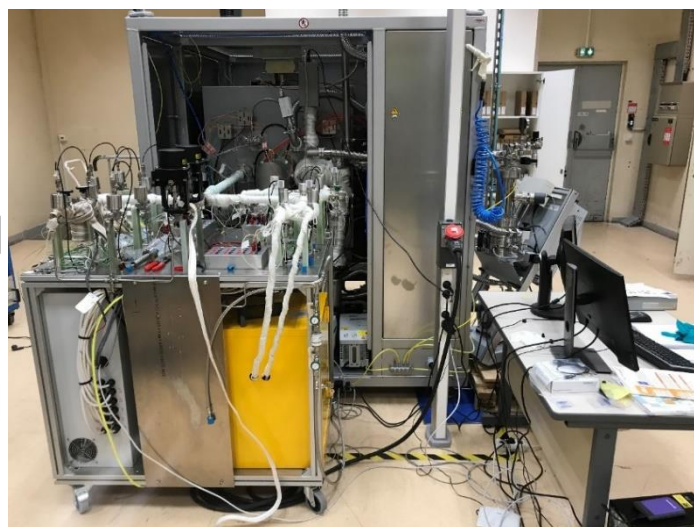
Task Leader: **Thomas Proslie**



# Atomic Layer Deposition Coatings



**Atomic Layer Deposition Research Scale Reactor**



**Atomic Layer Deposition Development Scale Reactor**

- High vacuum oven  $\varnothing \times L$ : 50x110 cm.
- Temperature: 30-450°C
- 8 precursor lines : 4 solids, 2 liquids, 2 gases.
- Chamber adaptation (cavités, QPR).
- In situ: RGA.

- ▶ Engineering superconducting surface for **high Q operation** by Atomic Layer Deposition (**ALD**) and thermal treatments
- ▶ Engineering superconducting surface for **high gradient operation** by ALD and thermal treatments: Doping without chemistry and multilayers



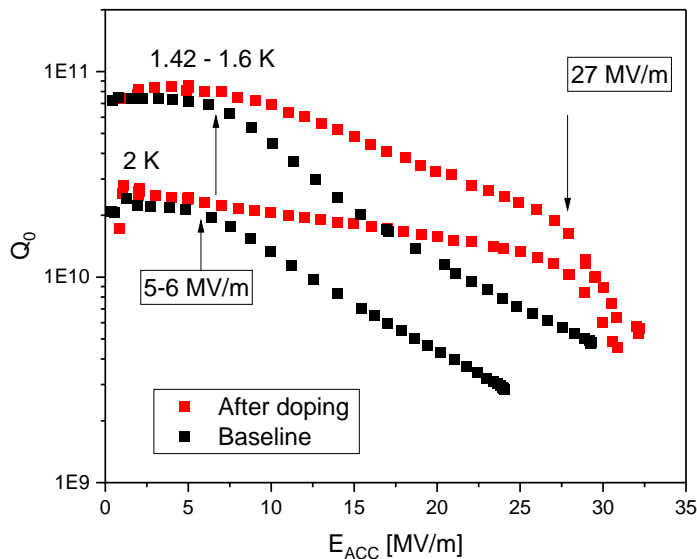
ALD coating



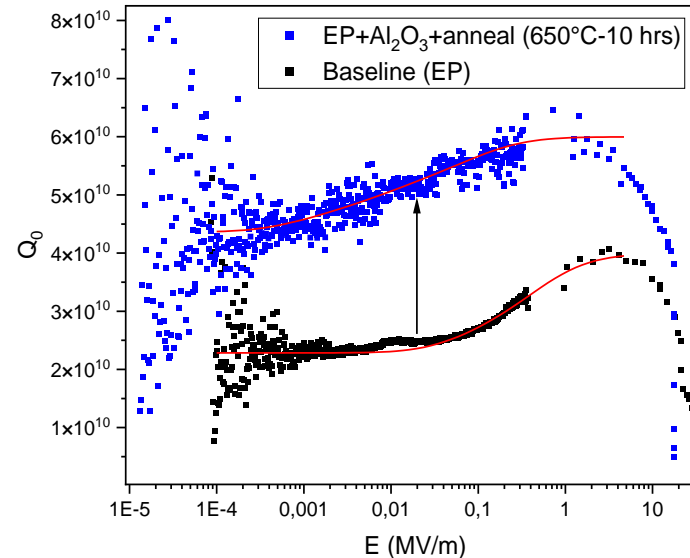
# Atomic Layer Deposition Coatings

- ✓ **Increased  $Q$  at low field** for 3D superconducting resonators **1,3 GHz**. Publication + patent
- ✓ **Increased penetration field** on samples by 24%. First depositions of multilayers in 1.3 GHz cavities
- ✓ **N doped cavity by ALD of NbN**. Optimization underway.  
First depositions of multilayers in 1.3 GHz cavities

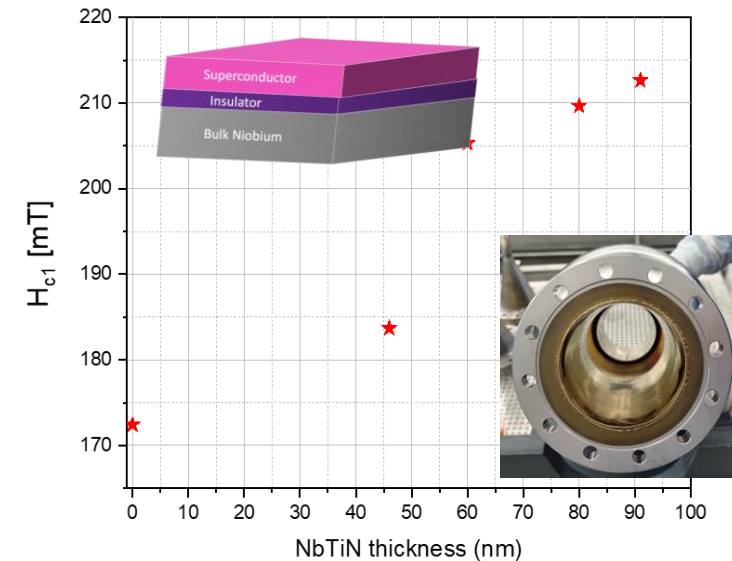
Doping by ALD: NbN (5nm) + thermal treatment



High Q studies for Qubits and accelerators

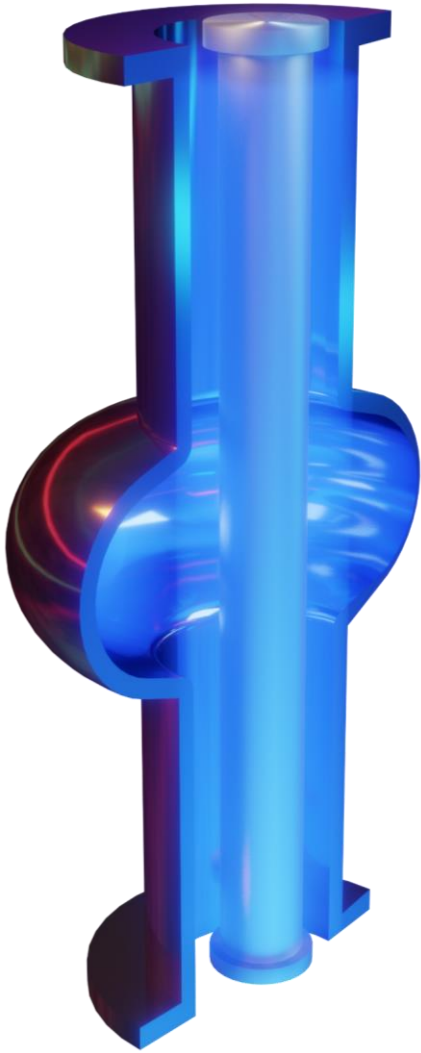


High Gradient for accelerators increased penetration field



ALD coating





# SC Thin Film Development

## Task 9.2

Task Leader: **Cristian Pira** 

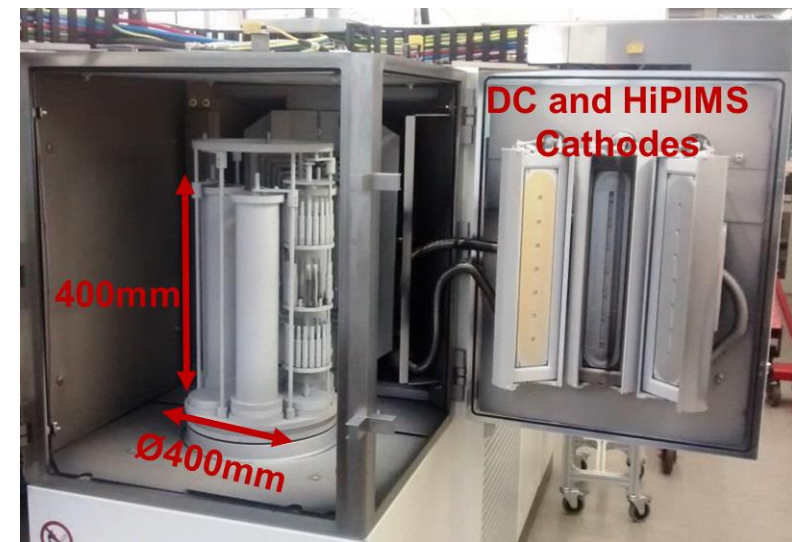
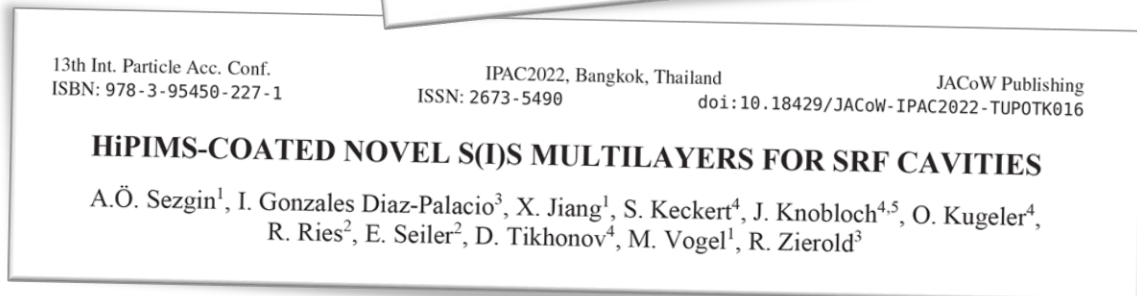
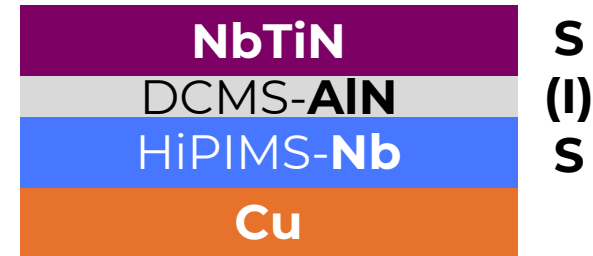
## Task 9.3

Task Leader: **Reza Valizadeh** 

# NbTiN Coatings

From **NbN** to **NbTiN** by HiPIMS

Goal: **SS or SIS structure** by PVD+ALD



SC coating



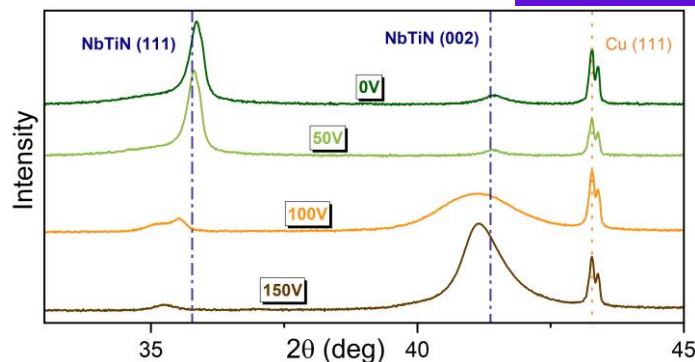
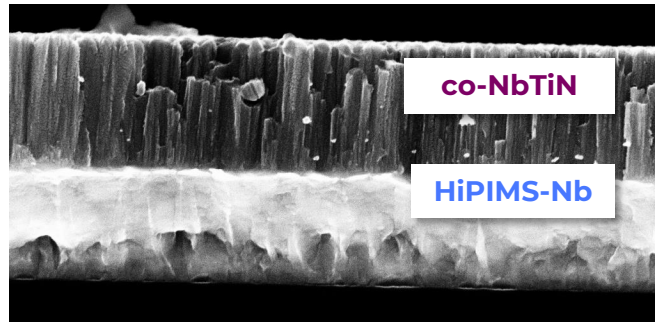
Courtesy of A. Zubitsovskii

# NbTiN Coatings

by DC/HiPIMS co-sputtering

## SS multilayer structure

co-NbTiN / HiPIMS-Nb / Cu

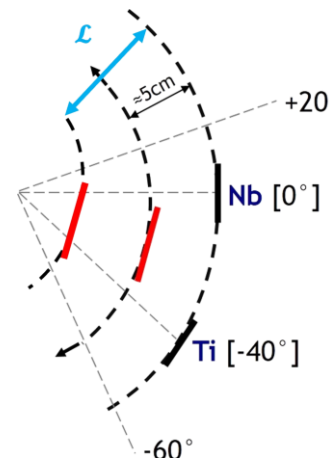


Substrate bias:

co-NbTiN:  
Parameter Optimization:

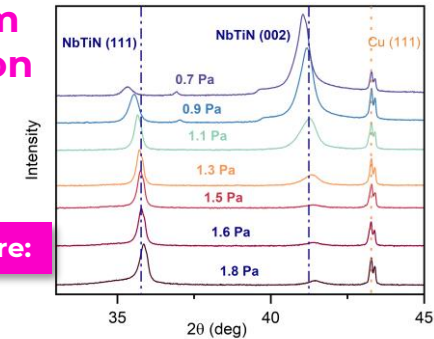
Deposition Angle (composition)

"Nb<sub>0.73</sub>Ti<sub>0.27</sub>N" at 1.3 Pa → T<sub>c</sub> = 14.3 K  
"Nb<sub>0.82</sub>Ti<sub>0.18</sub>N" at 1.1 Pa → T<sub>c</sub> = 15.1 K

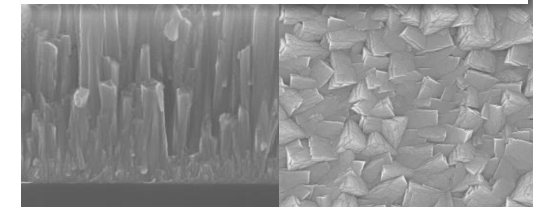


Decreased pressure leads to film densification

Deposition pressure:

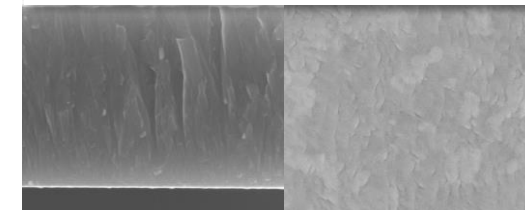


Deposition pressure: 1.8 Pa



Pronounced columnar structure - Rough surface

Deposition pressure: 1.2 Pa



Nanocrystalline structure - Denser grain packing

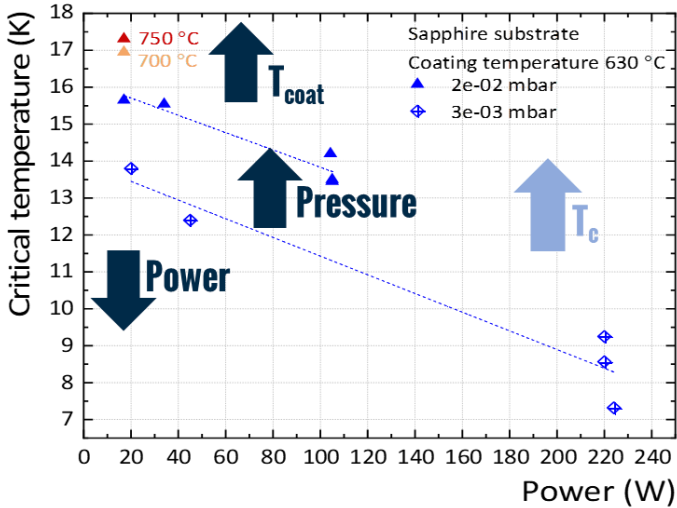


SC coating



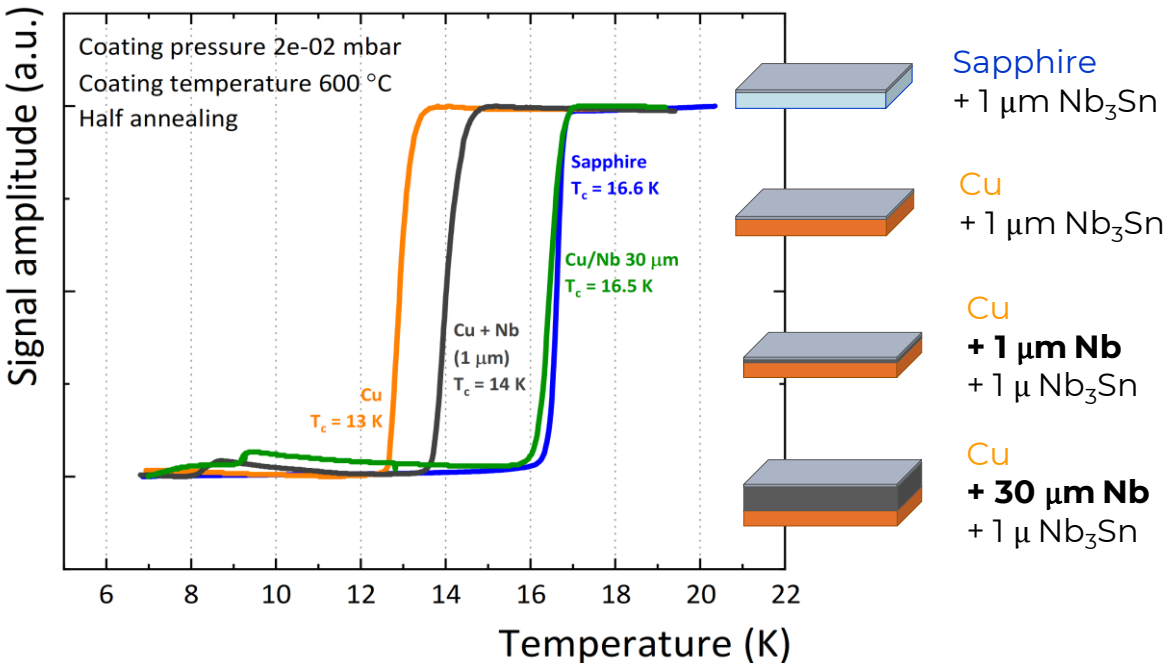
# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Coatings

## Long R&D phase on PVD Parameter Optimization

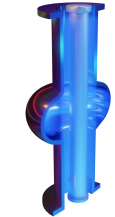


### Optimized Coating Recipe

- Nb Thick Barrier Layer > 30 μm
- Coating Parameters:
  - Pressure = 2\*10<sup>-2</sup> mbar
  - Power = 16 W
  - T substrate ≥ 600 C



**A thick Nb buffer layer accommodate the Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn coating**  
**Coating performance validation on Nb substrate**



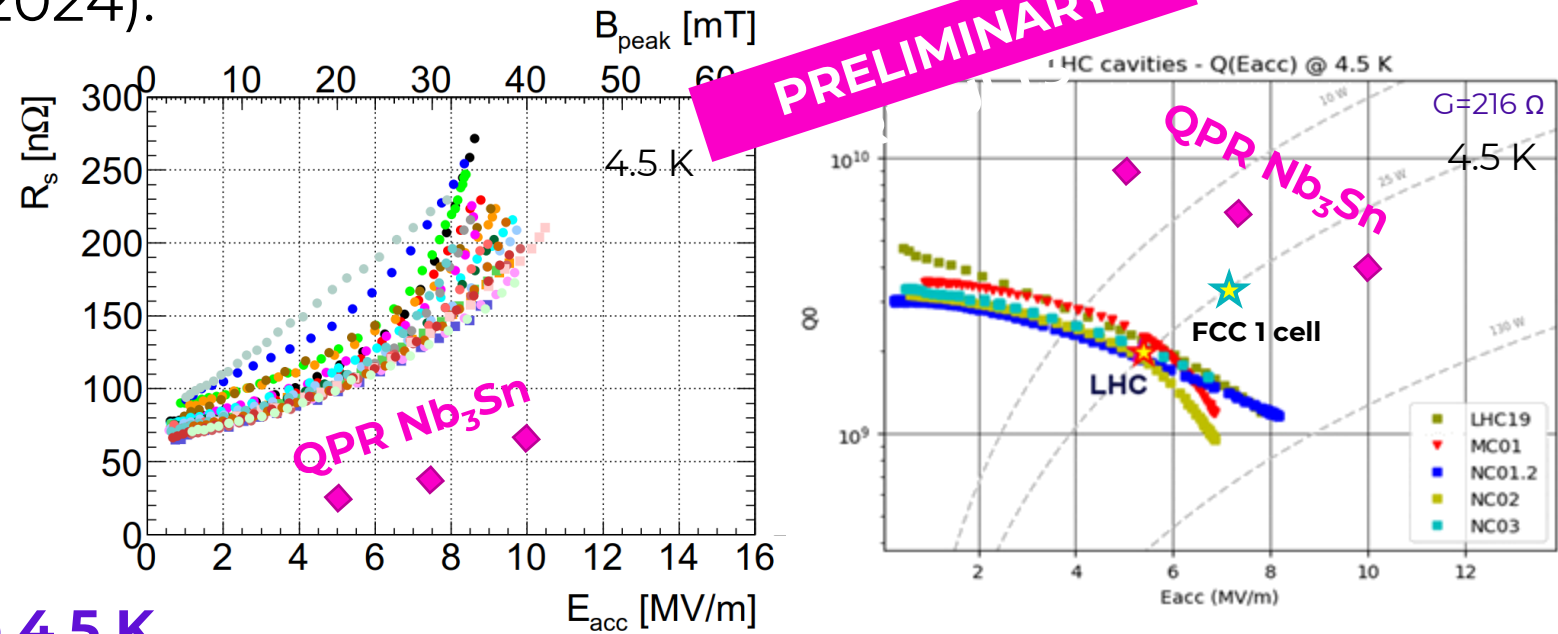
SC coating



# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Coatings



Last results (March 2024):



**Rs of 23 nΩ @ 20 mT @ 4.5 K**  
**Quench >70 mT @ 4.5 K**

Data of LHC cavities from: W. Venturini, TTC Meeting 2018, Milan (Italy)

**Equivalent to a Q of  $9 \cdot 10^9$  @ 5 MV/m @ 4.5 K**  
**Almost 1 order of magnitude better than LHC!!!**  
*Room for improvement*



RF test on QPR done in the framework of **Task 9.5**



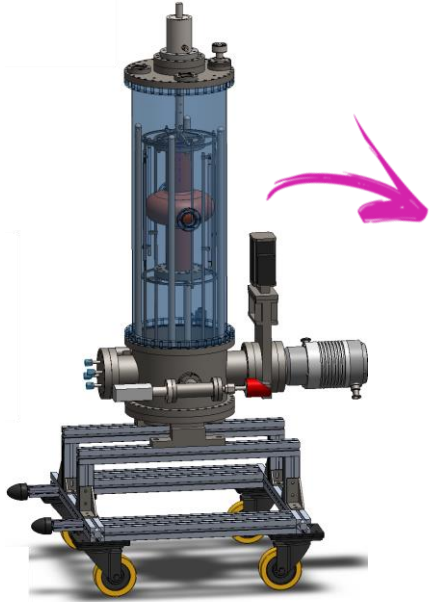
SC coating





# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Cathode and System Development

## *Path to final prototype*



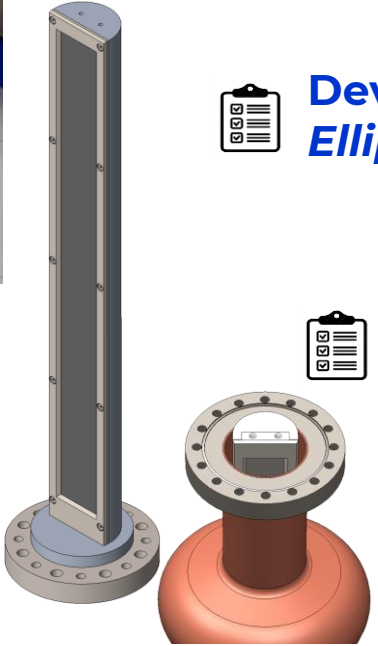
**Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn on bulk Nb to validate coating performances**



**Develop Nb thick coating on 1.3 GHz Elliptical Cavities**

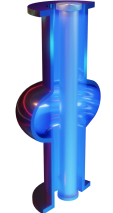


**Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn on Cu with thick Nb coating on 1.3 GHz Elliptical Cavities**



▶ 1.3 GHz Vacuum system ready

▶ Magnetron source commissioned



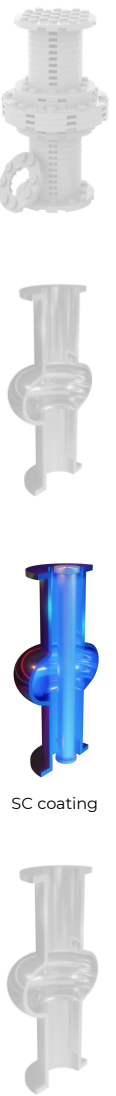
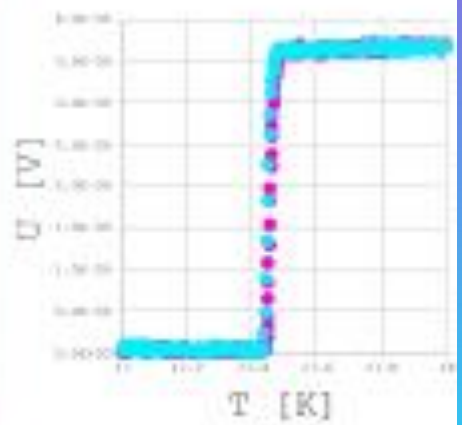
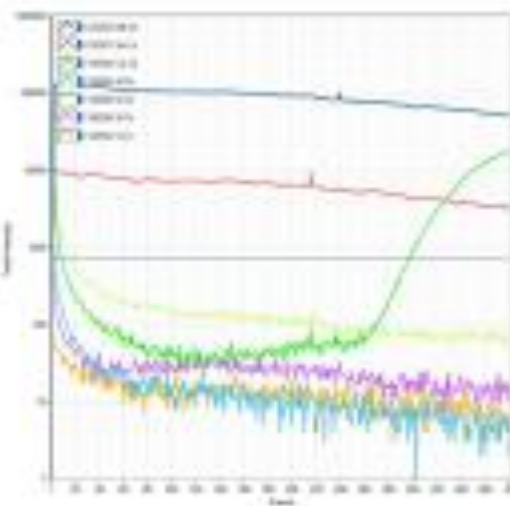
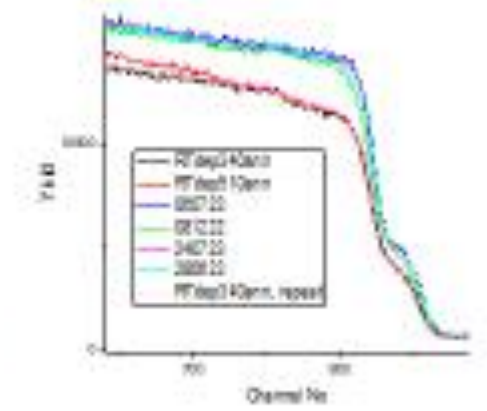
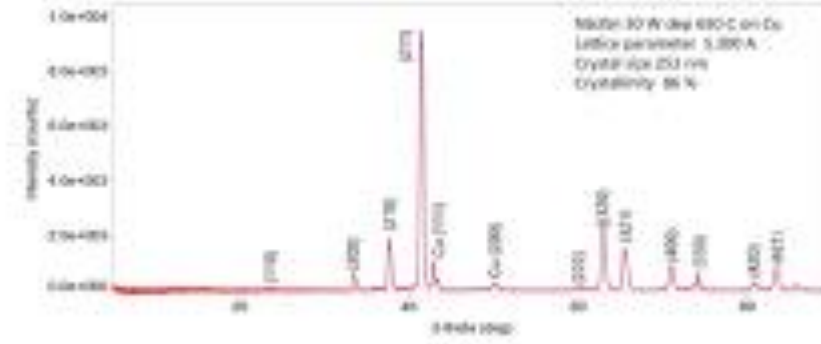
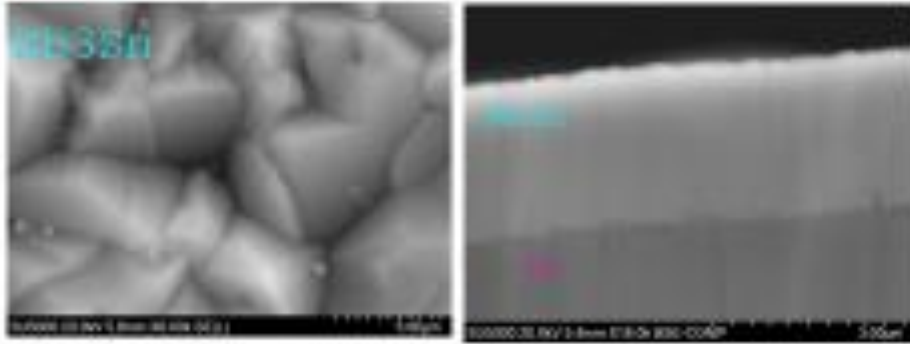
SC coating



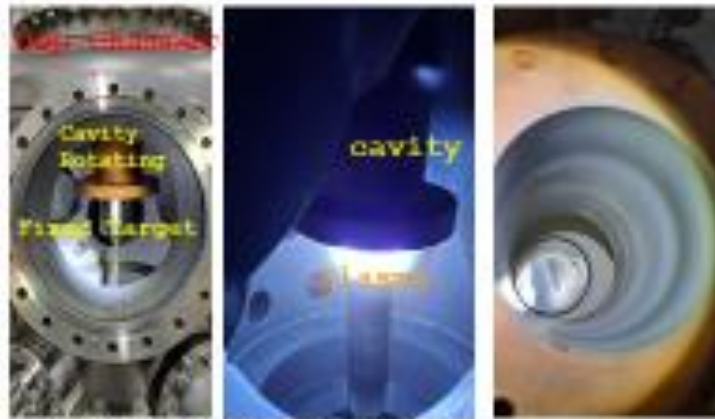
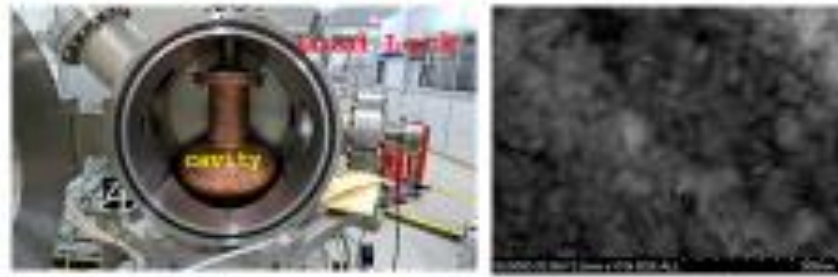
# Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Coatings



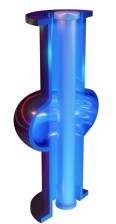
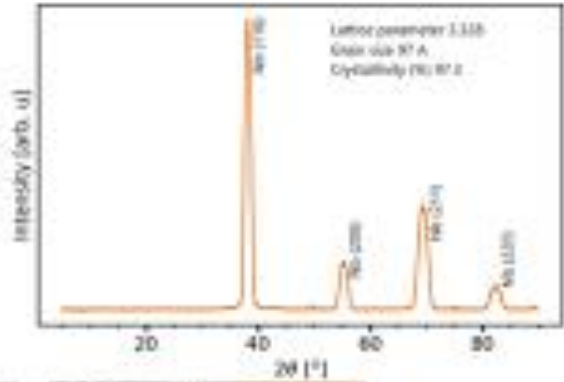
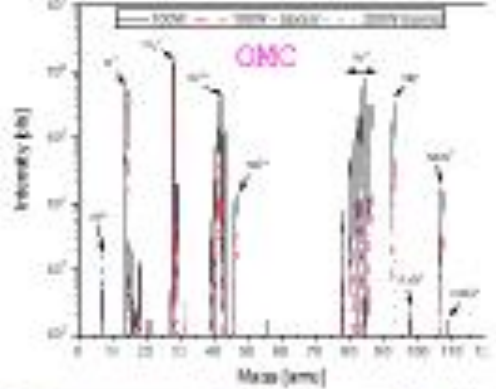
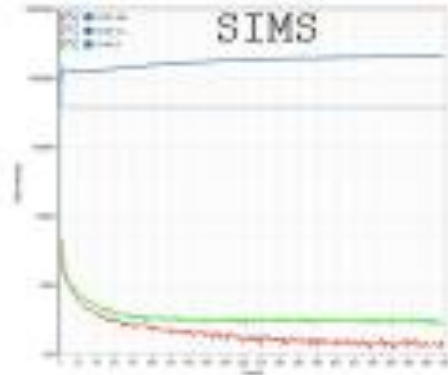
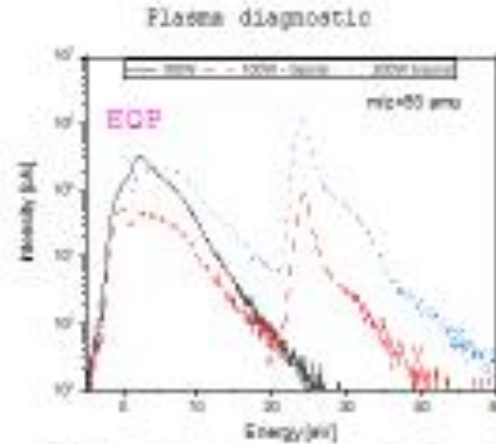
Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council



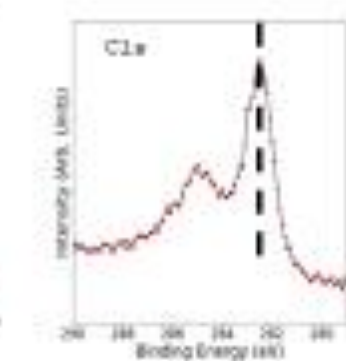
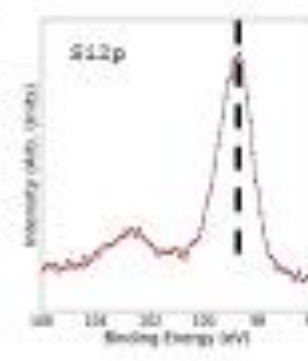
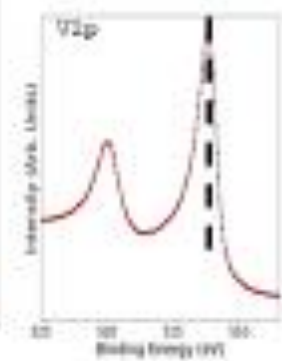
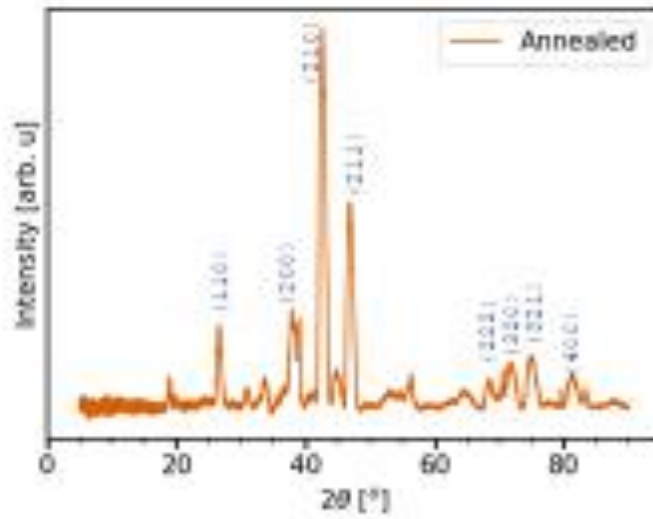
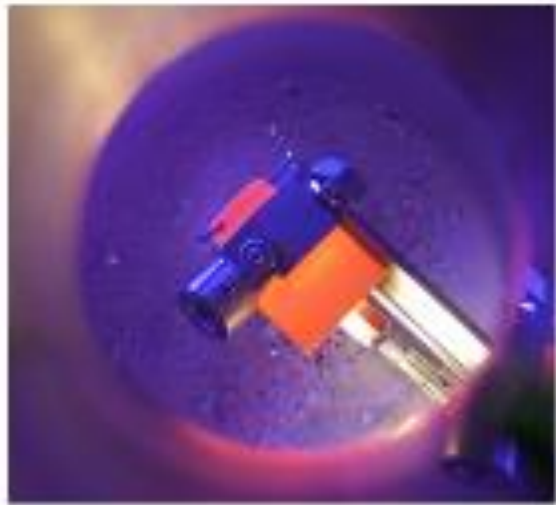
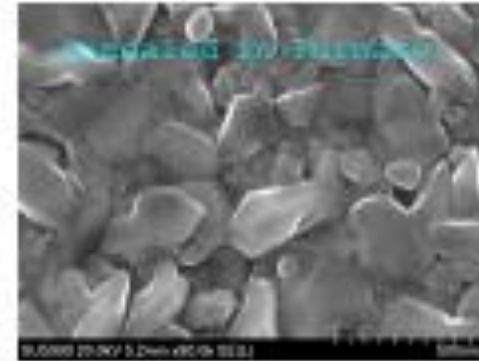
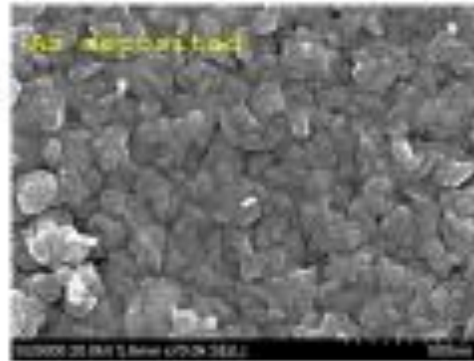
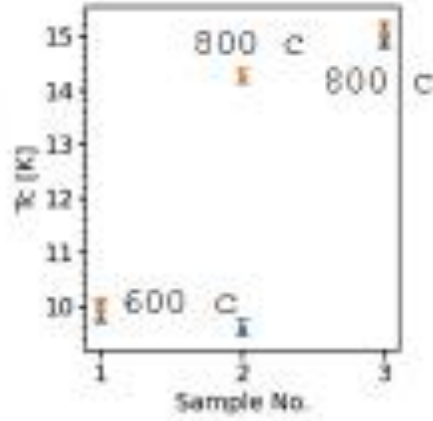
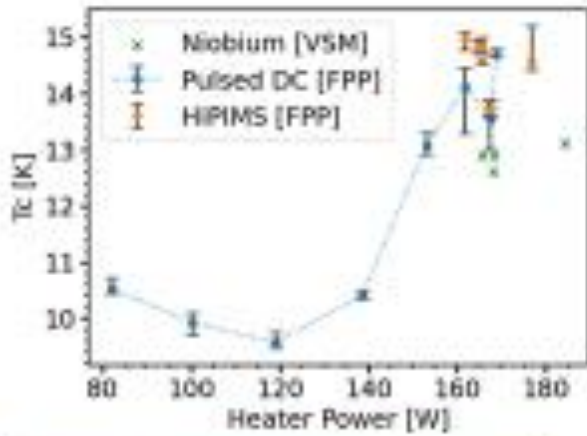
# Cavity Coatings 1.3 GHz and 6 GHz



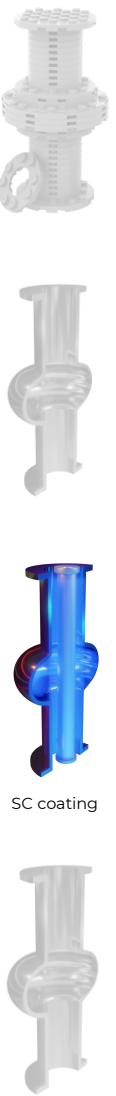
1.8 GHz Cavity deposition system

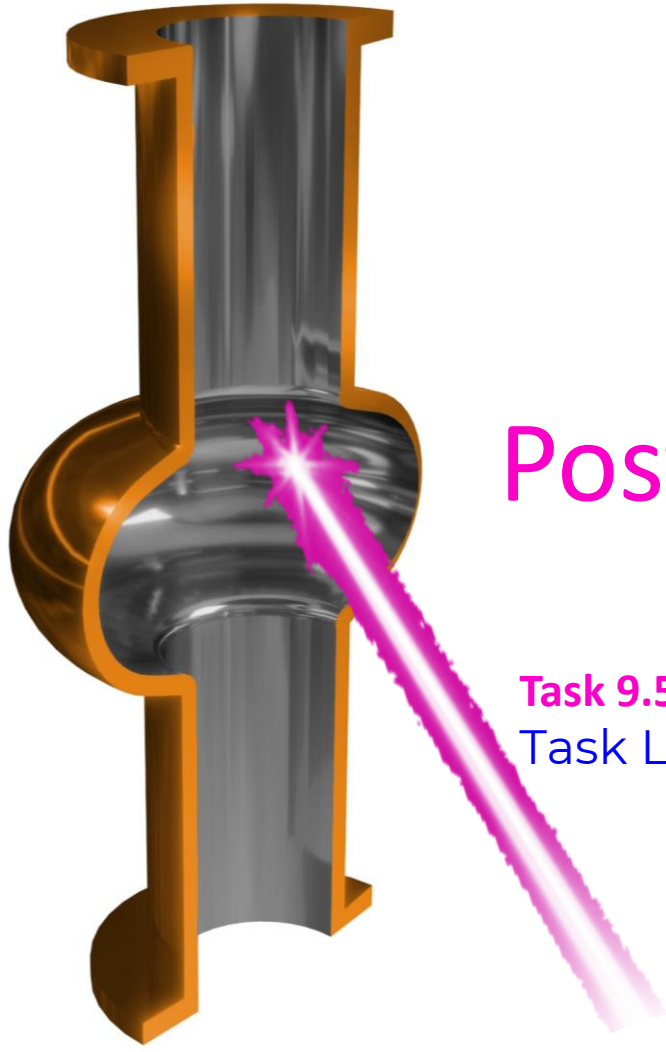


# V<sub>3</sub>Sn Coatings



Oxygen present on the surface but not present after sputtering. Carbon present after sputtering.





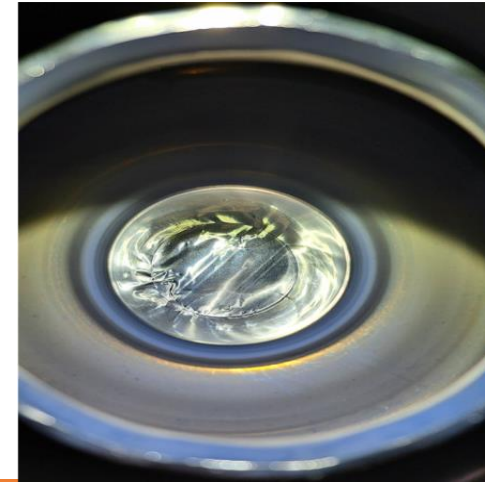
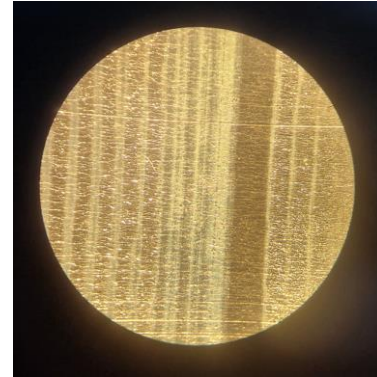
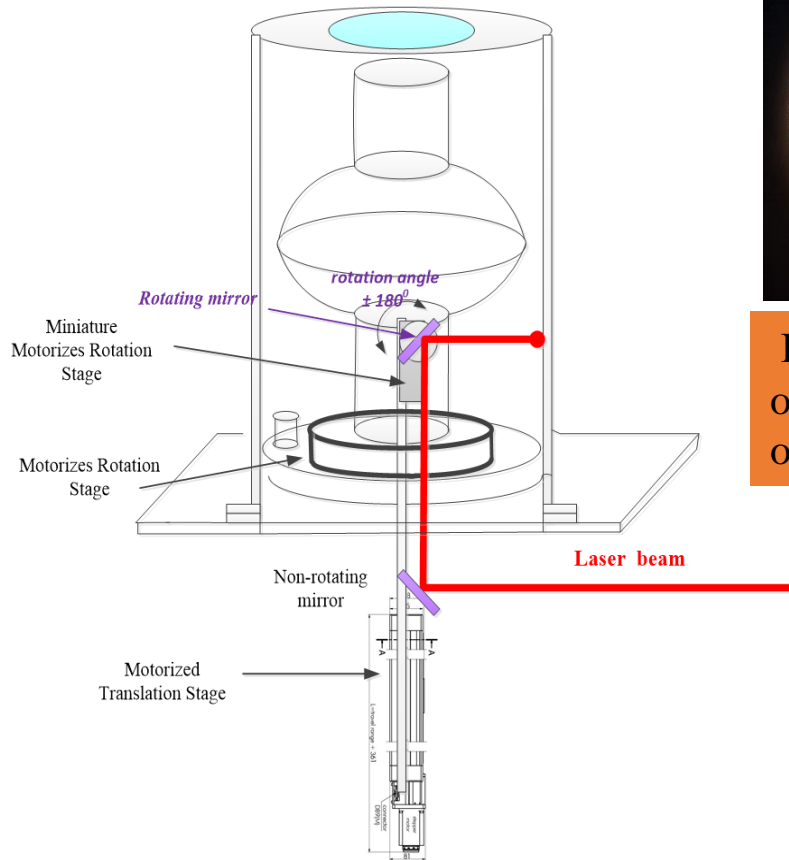
# Post Processing

Task 9.5

Task Leader: **Arturs Medvids**

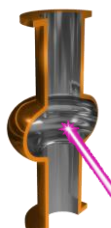
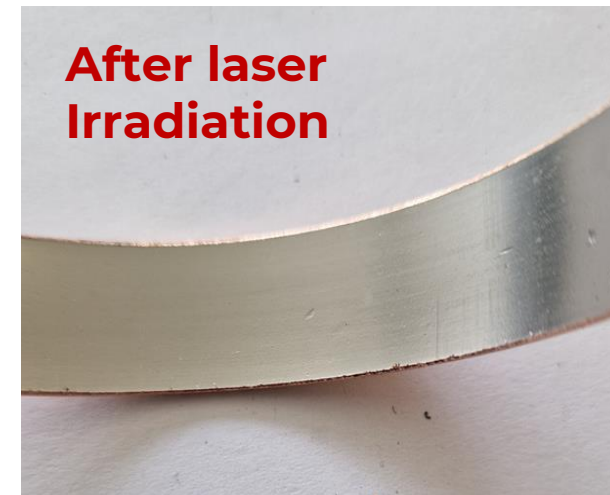


# Laser Annealing



Irradiation lead to an increase of Nb hardness and a decrease of Cu hardness

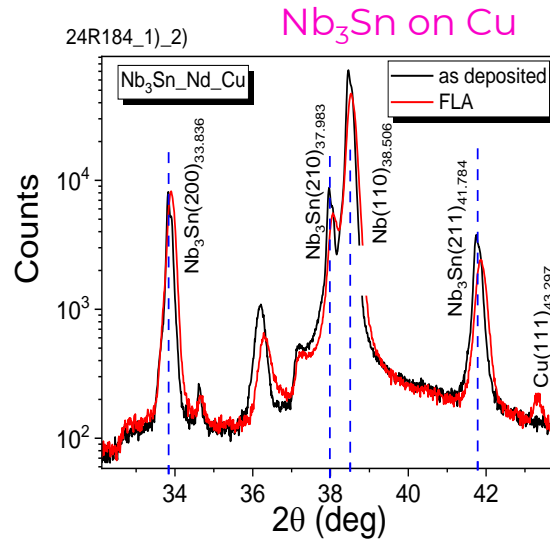
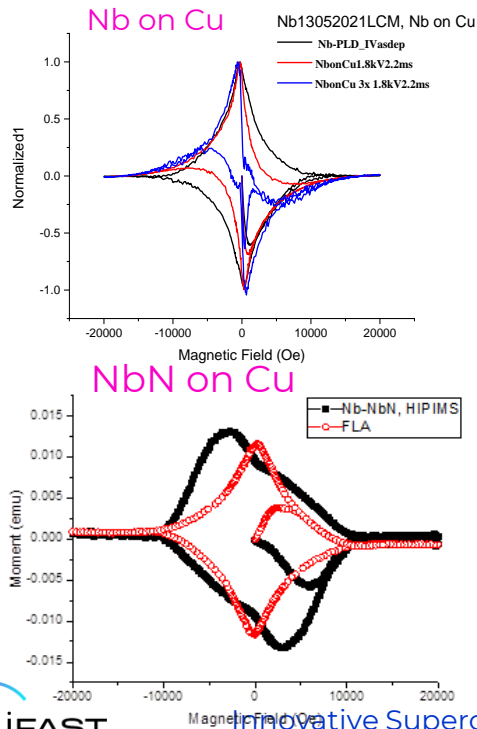
**1.3 GHz cavity prepared at INFN and Coated UKIR delivered to RTU**



# ms-Flash Lamp Annealing (IFAST Innovation Fund Project)

## Material crystallinity improved in all thin film superconductor tested

- On Nb and NbN coatings FLA produce a narrower hysteresis curve
- On Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn coatings FLA improve lattice parameter (closer to bulk values)

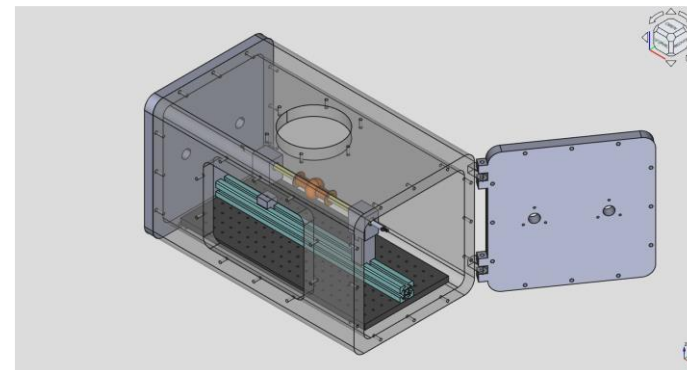


## FLA system for 6 GHz cavities

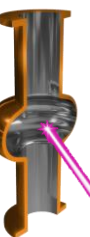
- Holding System Ready
- Vacuum system commissioned



Holding system for the flash lamp and cavity



3D design of the complete system



Post Processing



# SC Properties Evaluation

Task 9.3

Task Leader: **Reza Valizadeh**

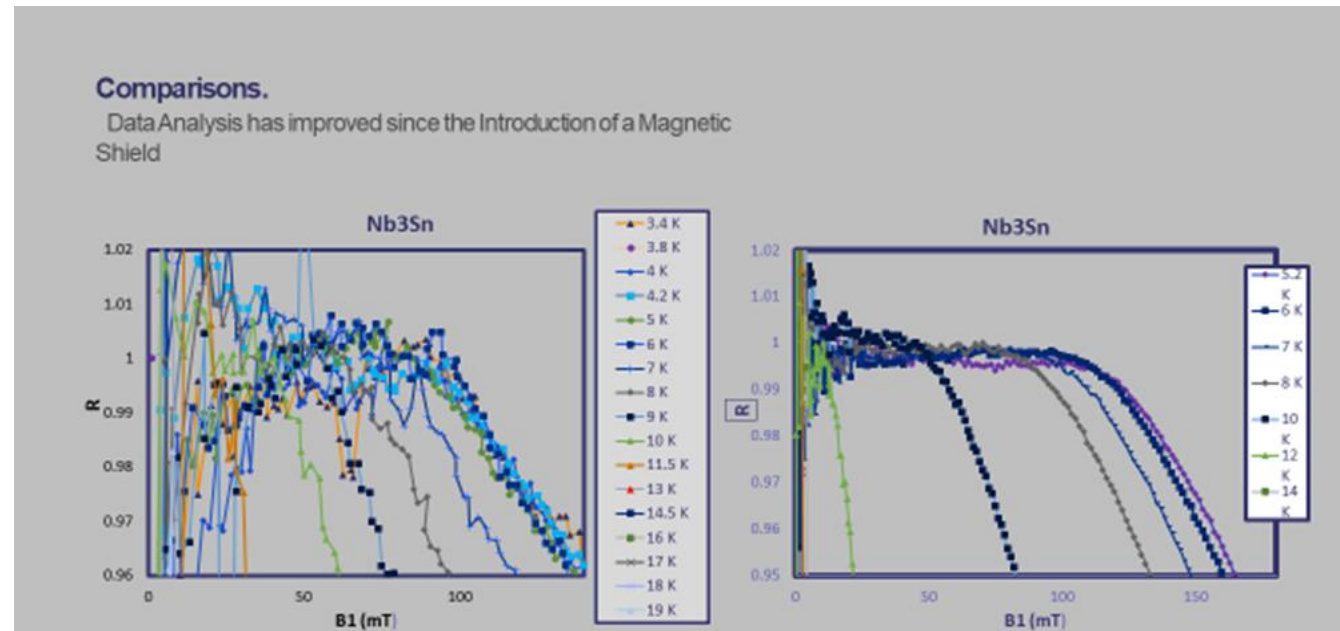




# Magnetic Field Penetration



- ❖ Larger sample up to 10 cm diameter can be examined
- ❖ No indentation on the film in centre
- ❖ Magnetic shield made huge improvement in result quality



Courtesy of L. Smith



# DC/AC Superconducting Properties Evaluation



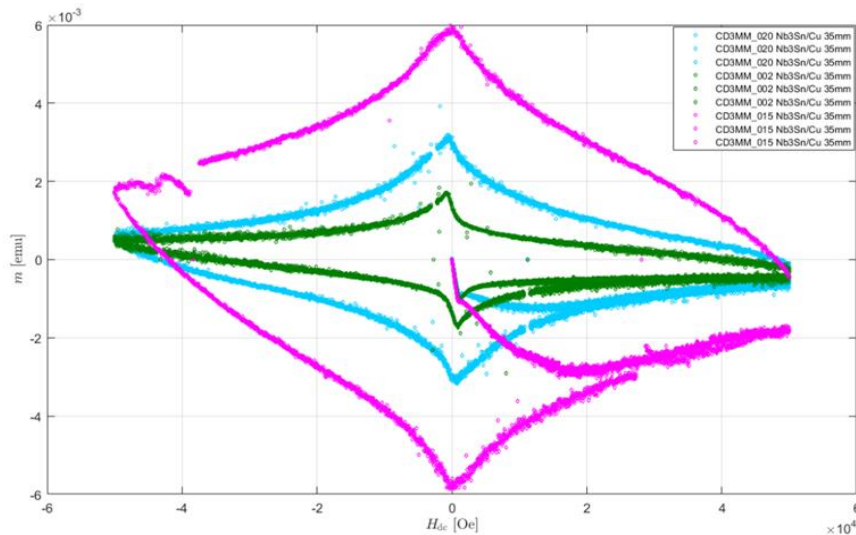
## DC magnetisation measurements

Vibrating Sample Magnetometer

Small planar samples (~ 2x2 mm – cutting)

## AC magnetisation measurements

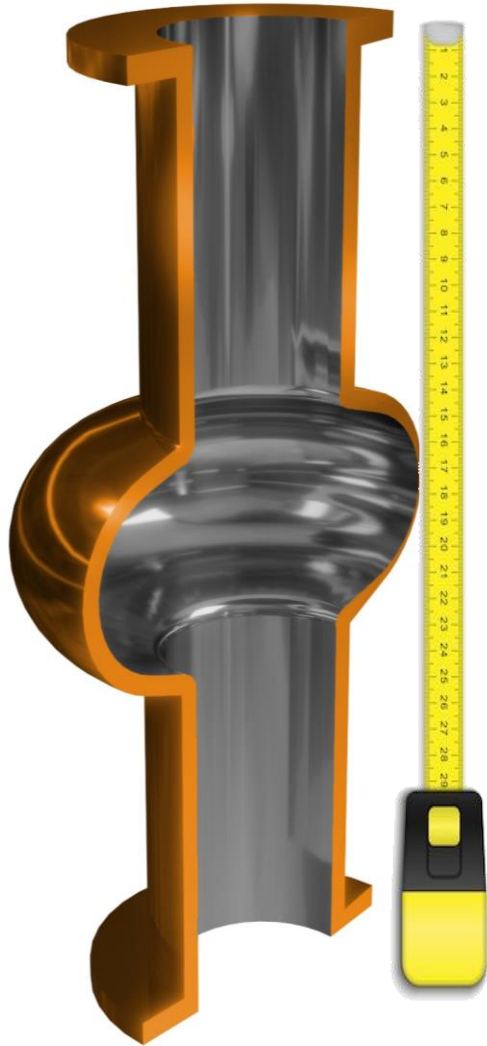
- Susceptibility – temperature scans
- Tc of different films in Multilayer and SIS samples



<b>Nb3Sn</b> Substrates: Cu, Sapphire  STFC 1.12.2023 series  Reza	Cu_28_06_23	160	17
	Cu_06_07_23	530	16.5
	Cu_24_07_23	350	17
	Cu_08_12_23	300	16.7
	Sapp_28_06_23	50	17.5
	Sapp_06_07_23	60	17.5
	Cu_RTdep_510C	430	14.7
	Sapp_24_07_23 Cu_RTdep_340C	930 -	17.5 -
<b>Nb3Sn</b> Substrate: Cu 12.1.2024 series STFC D.Seal	Cu_CD3MM-020	610	16.8
	Cu_CD3MM-002	740	16.8
	Cu_CD3MM-015	580	16
<b>Nb3Sn</b> Substrate: Cu, Sapphire 8.2.2024 series INFN Dorothea Fonesu	Cu_Run33	300	13.2
	Cu_Run33_50Nb	700	9.3 + 16.8
	Sapp_Run33	860	16.8

**A quality control check for all the samples made within IFAST WP partners**



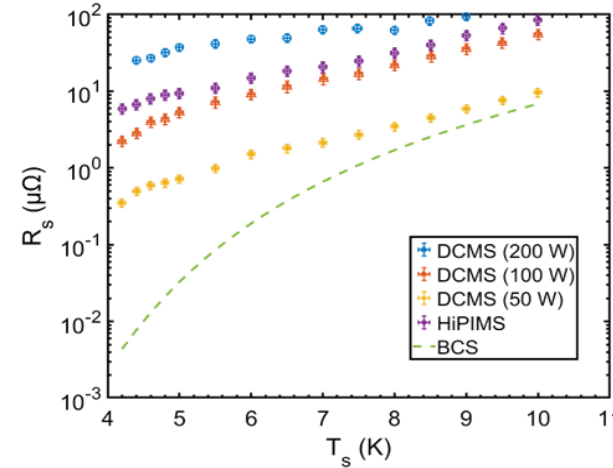
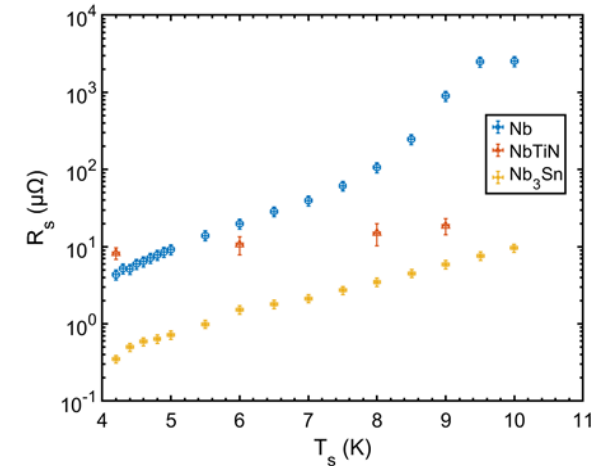
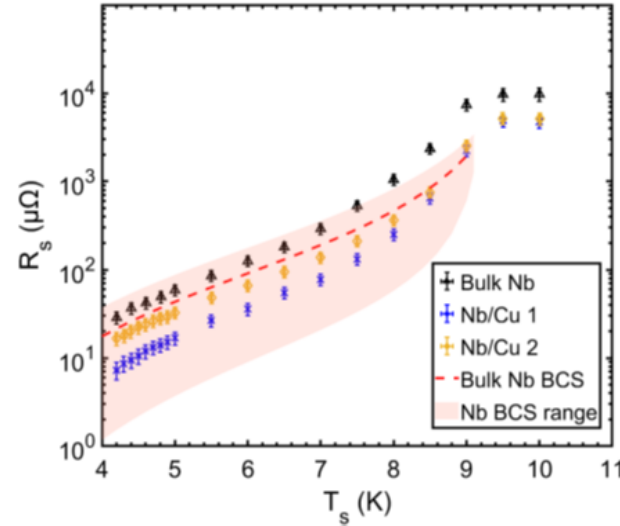
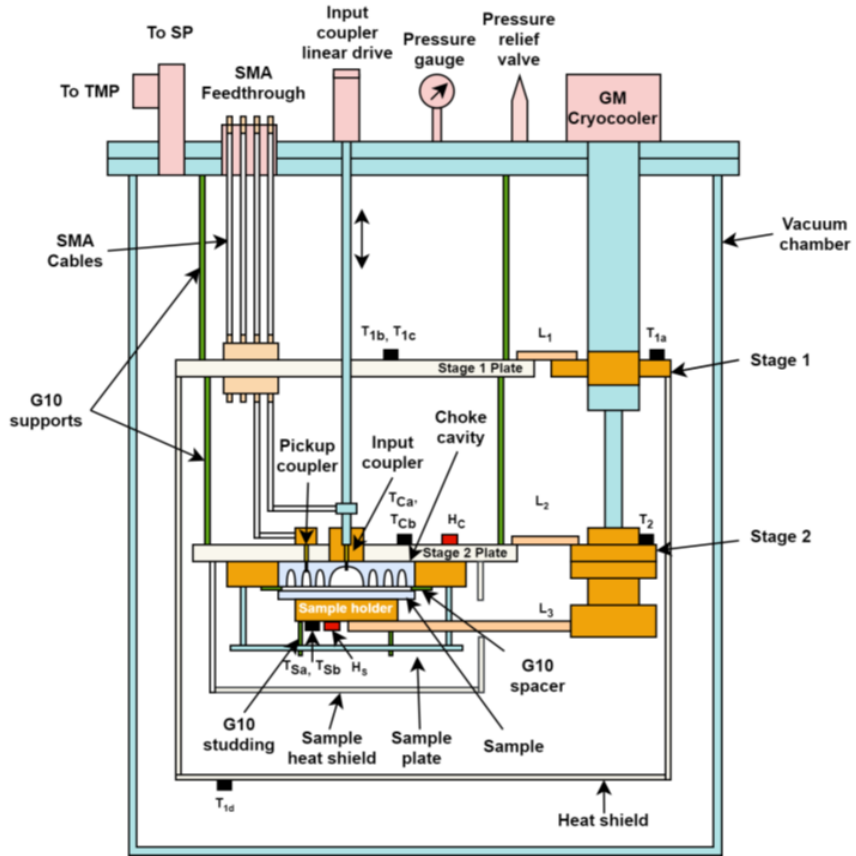


# RF Measurements

Task 9.6

Task Leader: **Oliver Kugeler** **HZB** Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin

# Sample RF test with 7.8 GHz Choke cavity

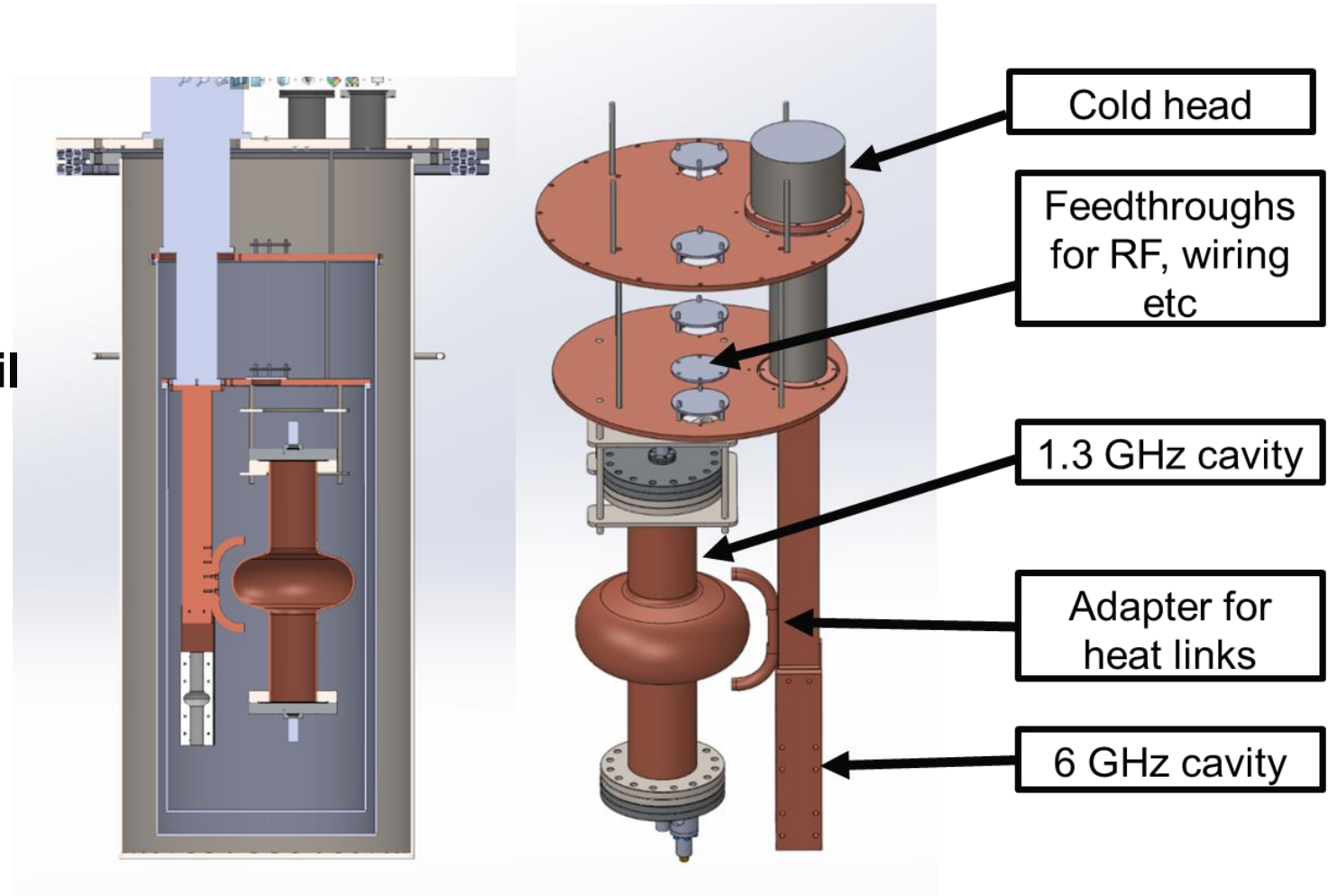


RF measurements

# Low Power SRF Test

- **All main components manufactured and delivered**
- **Aim to begin vacuum & cryo tests by end of April**
- **RF System to be developed**

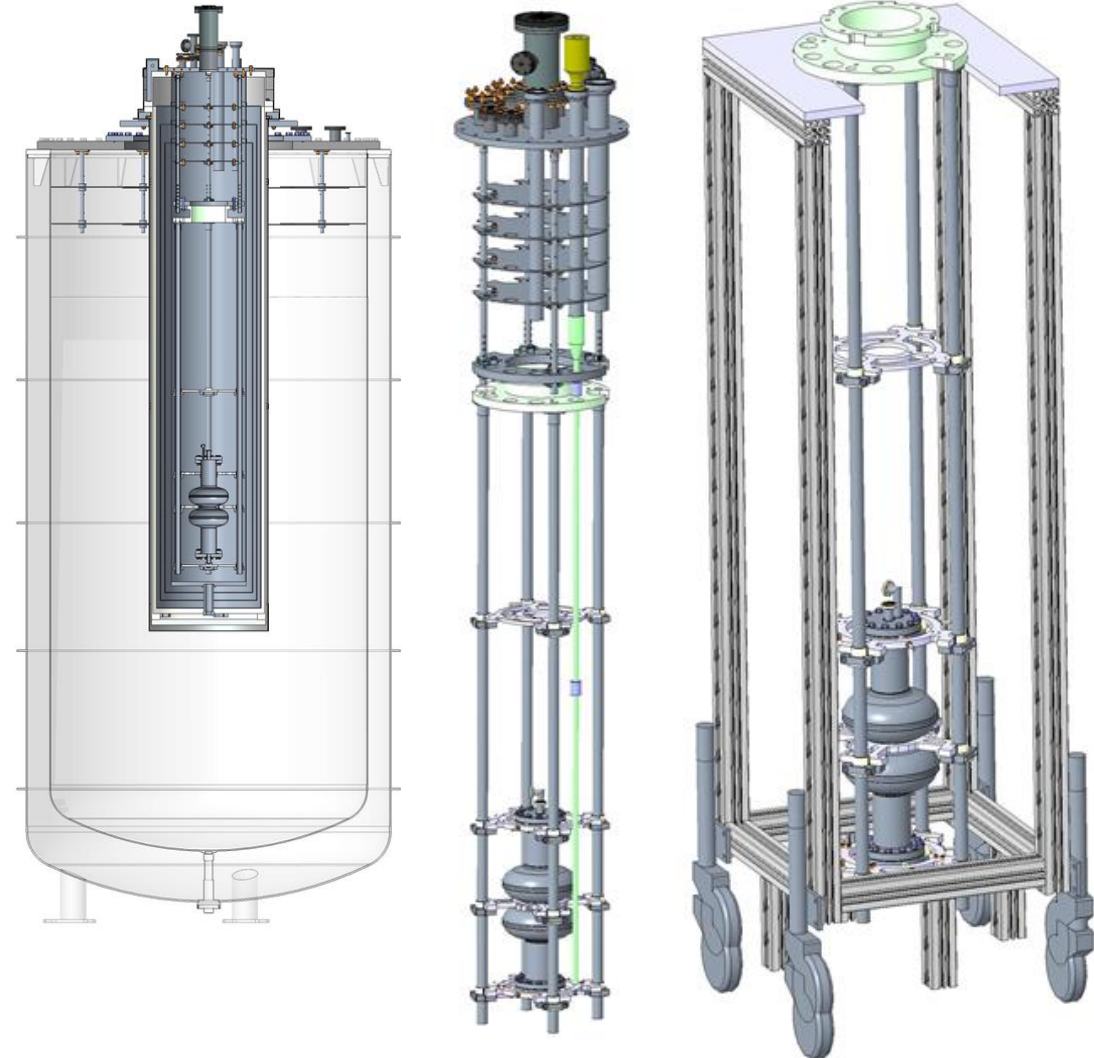
A single system for 1 – 8 GHz  
New LU postdoc to be in charge of this from next week



RF measurements

# 1.3 GHz High power RF Facilities

- **Designs completed & in manufacturing stage**
- **RF System:**
  - A single system for 650 MHz, 700 MHz and 1.3 GHz
  - $P \leq 200 \text{ W}$
- **Aim to commission in June/July with 2-cell bulk Nb 1.3 GHz cavity previously tested at Fermilab**



RF measurements

# WP9 Status

IFAST WP9 Milestones		
MS	Description	Month
37	International thin film workshop organisation in Sep. 2024 (web site + Report) <i>(Postpone to data mistake in Grant Agreement)</i>	28 ↓ <b>42</b> (Oct. 2024)
38	First seamless copper 1.3 GHz cavity produced as substrate for the coating of the SC film (Report)	12
39	Coating facility built and tested at STFC, USI and INFN (Report)	12
40	Construction and operation of the cavity dedicated ALD system (Report)	24
41	A facility for laser operation for complex 3D treatment is tested on 1.3 GHz cavity (Report) <i>(Postpone to technical challenges)</i>	36 ↓ <b>43</b> (Nov. 2024)
42	ARIES samples prepared for renewed SC film deposition (Report)	6

IFAST WP9 Deliverables		
D	Description	Month
9.1	Thin-Film SRF roadmap report. Summaries of the results obtained within the workpackage and prospective inspired from WP advances as well as discussions at TF-SRF 2022. <i>(Postpone to data mistake in Grant Agreement)</i>	35 ↓ <b>45</b> (Jan 2025)
9.2	RF test on coated resonant cavity. Resonant cavity coated and tested with an alternative material to Niobium with a $Q_0 > 10^9$ at 4.2 K and 1.3 GHz. <i>(Postpone to technical challenges)</i>	46 ↓ <b>48</b> (Jan 2025)
9.3	First 6 GHz cavity coated and characterised. Results from the morphological <b>and SC characterisation of first coated cavity</b> with an alternative material to Niobium. <i>(Postpone to technical challenges)</i>	36 ↓ <b>42</b> (Oct 2025)
9.4	Deposition of superconducting multilayers on cavities. 1.3 and 3 GHz Nb and Cu cavities coated and tested with multilayers.	46
9.5	1.3 GHz Nb-coated cavity irradiated by laser in Ar atmosphere and RF tested. Increasing of the field of magnetic flux entry in Nb coated 1.3 GHz cavity irradiated by laser in argon atmosphere. Standard RF testing	45
9.6	Test of thin-film samples. Four thin film samples reprocessed by 4 different techniques and tested with QPR.	46

# WP9 Outputs in 2023

## Disseminations



Plenary Talk

*Claire Antoine* - R&D in Superconducting RF: Thin Film Capabilities as a Game Changer for Future Sustainability

Posters from partners



Plenary Talks

*Cristian Pira* – Progress in European thin film activities

*Oleksandr Hryhorenko* - Recent advances on metallographic polishing for SRF application

*Yasmine Kalboussi* - Surface Engineering by ALD for Superconducting RF Cavities (**Early Career Inv. Award Winner**)

Posters from partners

Daniel Seal "Optimisation Of Niobium Thin Film Deposition Parameters For SRF Cavities (**3<sup>rd</sup> prize Best Student Poster**)"

## Various Workshop and Seminar Talks

## Publications

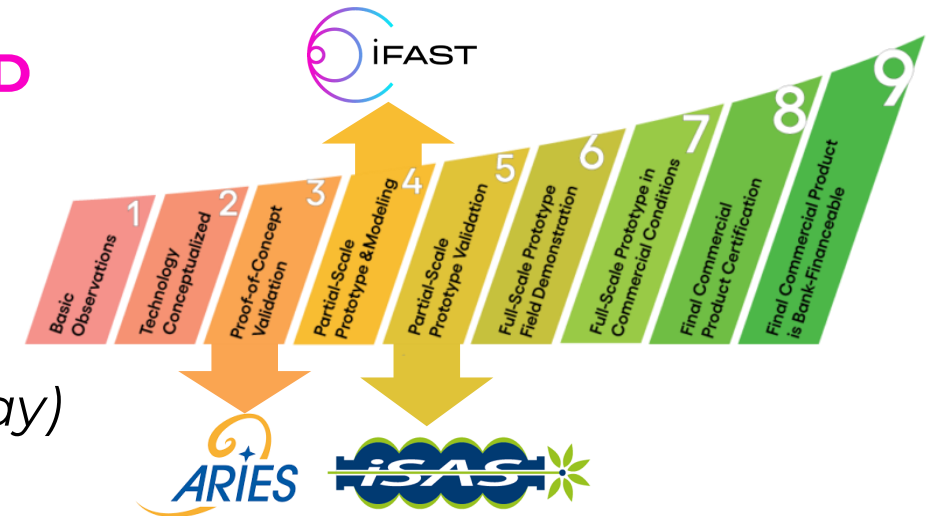
2 Publications in International Journals

More than 20 conference proceedings



# Conclusions

- **On track** with Deliverables and Milestones  
(minor delays due to technical challenges)
- WP9 Collaboration Team demonstrate:
  - **Optimum partners collaboration** within each task and between the tasks
  - **Collaboration extended** to new partners (HZDR, CERN, DESY)
- **Creating new opportunities to continue the R&D**  
on thin film cavities and move it to **higher TRL**
- **Strongly potential interest of industry**  
on Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn for SRF  
(see Michael Pekeler's presentation on Wednesday)



**2024 Thin Film SRF workshop, 16–20 September 2024, Paris**

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1376902/>



WP9 Innovative Superconducting Thin Film  
Coated Cavities

# Thank you!



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