

Future opportunities at the CERN Antimatter Factory

D. Gamba, F. Butin, L. Ponce

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09/04/2024 – Future Nuclear and Hadronic Physics at the CERN-AD workshop ([FuPhy2024](#))

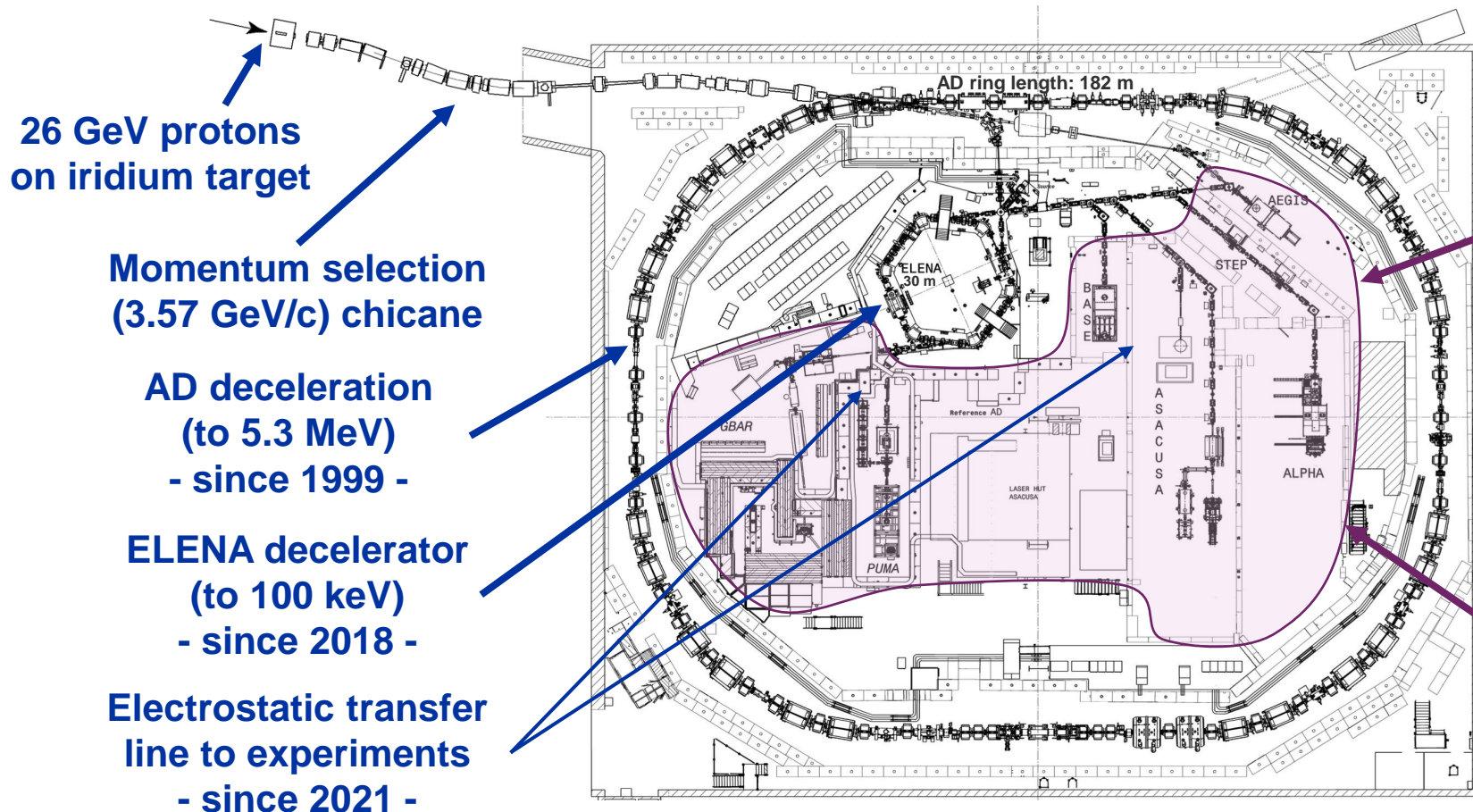
Outline

- **Today's AD/ELENA Facility**
 - What it is and how it works
- **Current Beam Performance**
 - Extrapolation toward possible short time-scale improvements
- **Possible Paths for Extending the Physics Reach of the Facility**
 - Engaging in forward-thinking to match possible future experimental requirements with (minor) changes
 - **DISCLAIMER 1: based on informal discussions only!**
- **Wrapping up and Conclusions**
- **DISCLAIMER 2: most slides based on recent talks at Chamonix 2024 and PBC 2024 workshops. No commitments from CERN for any study/upgrade of AD/ELENA at this stage!**

IMPORTANT: text in RED in this presentation is waiting for YOUR inputs!

AD/ELENA: a Unique pbar Facility!

- The only place in the world with low energy pbars in a synchrotron!
 - It seems unlikely to have similar capabilities elsewhere for the next 10-20 years
- Serving 60 Research Institutes/Universities – 350 Scientists – 6 Active Collaborations



antiprotons

ASACUSA
Antiprotonic helium spectroscopy

BASE, BASE-STEP
Fundamental properties of the proton/antiproton, tests of clock WEP / tests of exotic physics / antimatter-dark matter interaction, etc...

PUMA
Antiproton/nuclei scattering to study neutron skins

antihydrogen

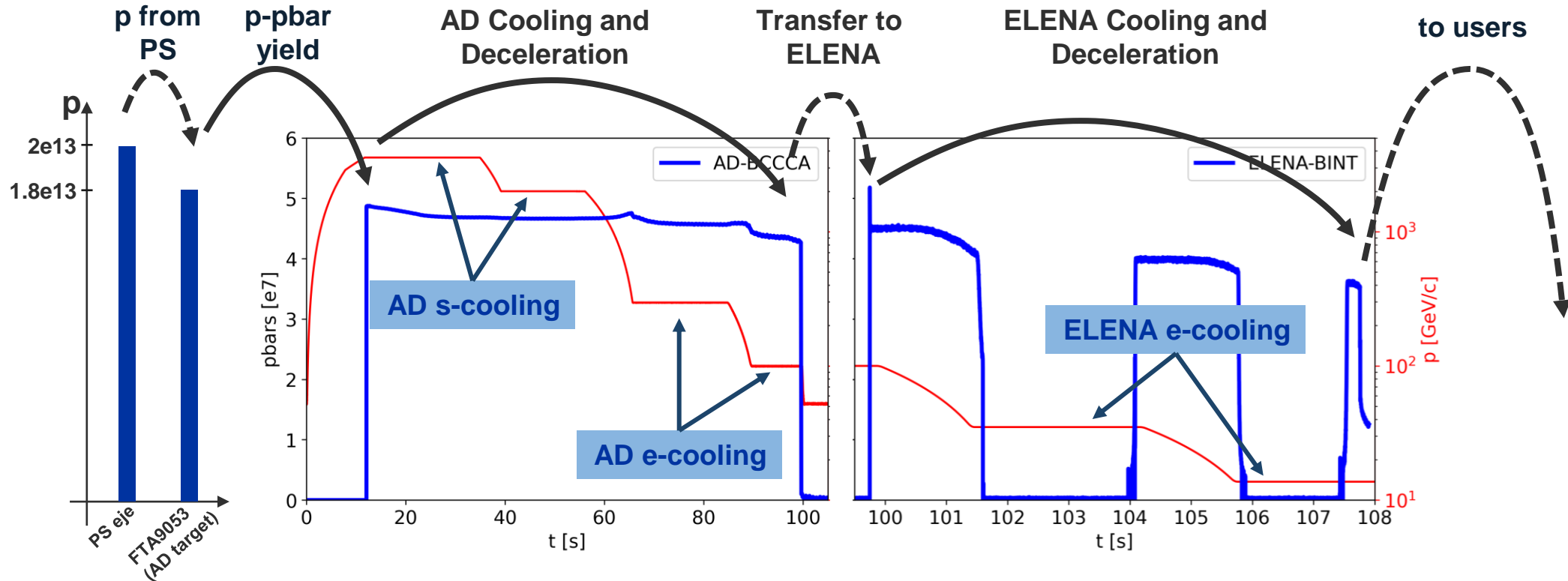
ALPHA,
Spectroscopy of 1S-2S in antihydrogen

ASACUSA, ALPHA
Spectroscopy of GS-HFS in antihydrogen

ALPHA, AEGIS, GBAR
Test free fall weak equivalence principle with antihydrogen

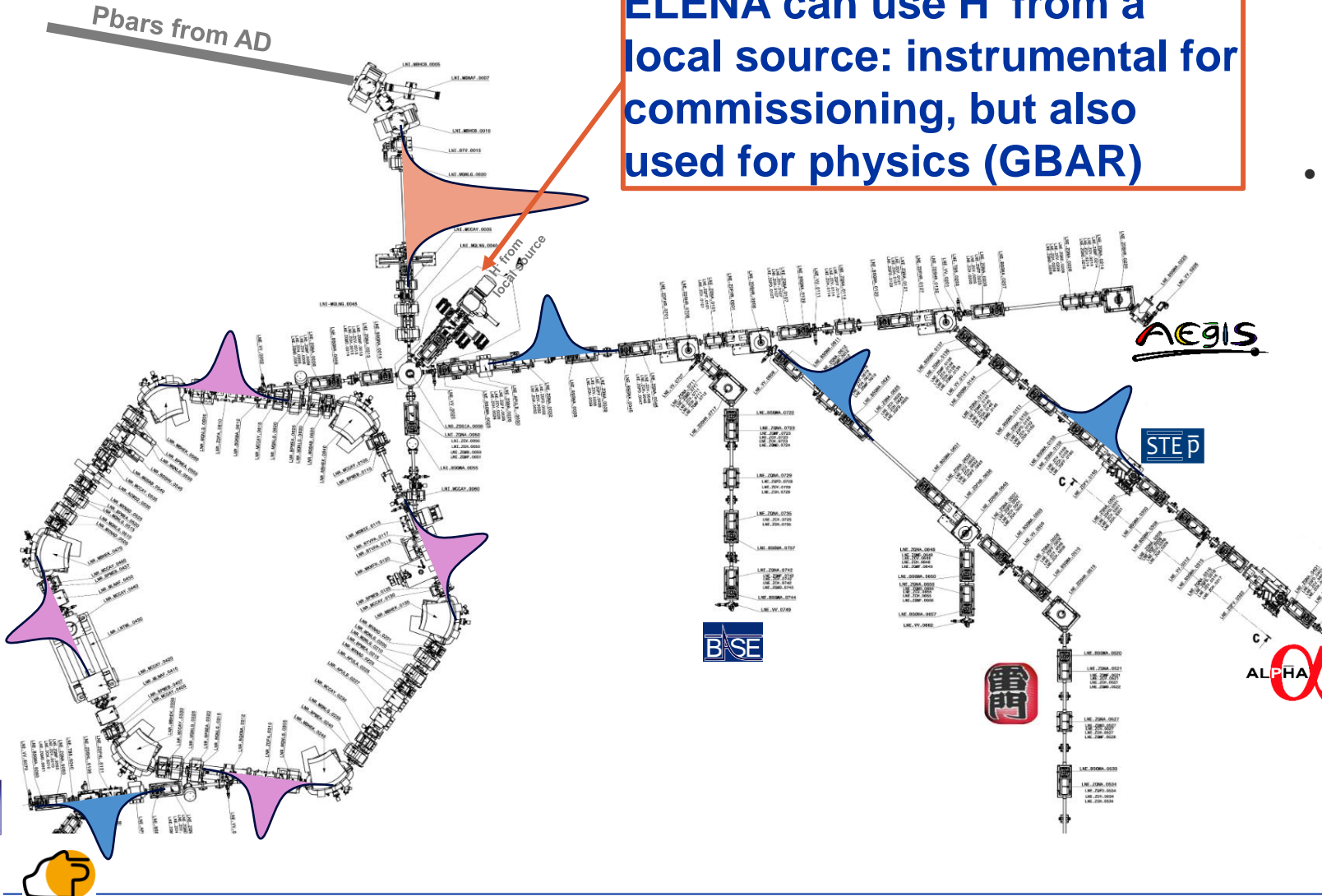
From 25 GeV p to 100 keV pbar: 4e7 pbars/2'

- Generating **pbars** from **26 GeV/c protons** (yield of the order of $3e-6$ pbar/p)
- Up to **80% deceleration efficiency** from **2.75 GeV** (3.57 GeV/c) to **100 keV** (13.7 MeV/c)
 - Thanks to **several stochastic** and **electron cooling** steps
- Up to **4e7 pbars every 2 minutes** delivered to experiments

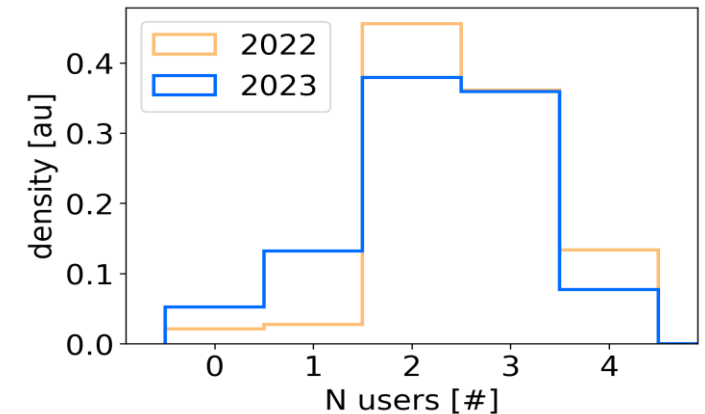


Serving 4 Users at a Time

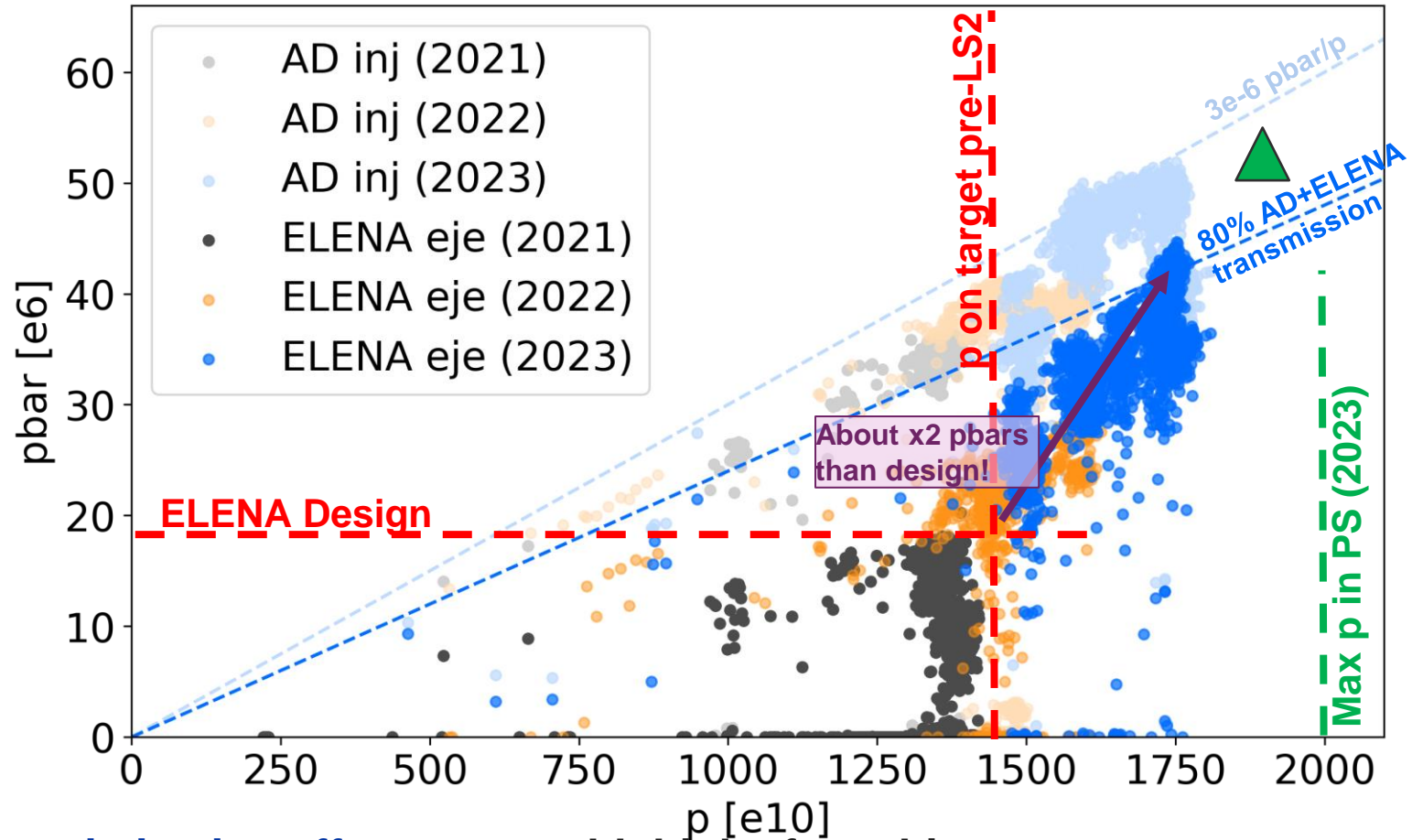
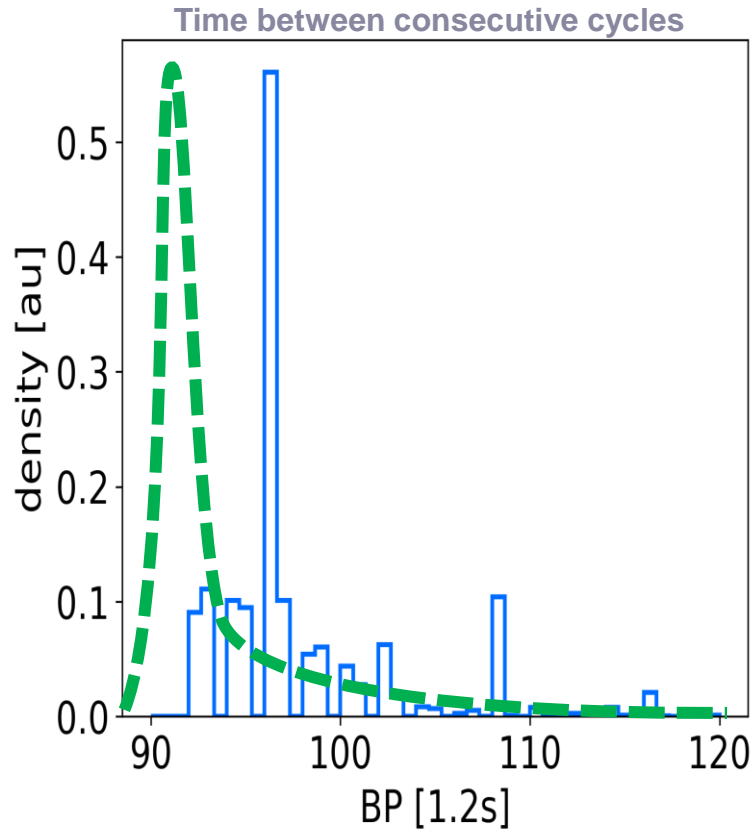
ELENA can use H⁻ from a local source: instrumental for commissioning, but also used for physics (GBAR)



- AD produces 1 bunch at 5.3 MeV
- ELENA: 4 bunches at 100 keV
 - <150 ns FWHM
 - <1e-3 RMS dp/p
 - <4 um emittances (<2 um in 2024?)
- Up to 4 experiments served at the same time with 1e7 pbars/bunch
- 24/7 beam availability was the key game changer for AD users!
- ~30% of bunches “wasted”, but comfortable for (most) experiments present “ELENA R&D” phase...



Toward x2 pbar Flux than Design



With **present hardware** and **ongoing optimisation efforts** we could think of reaching:

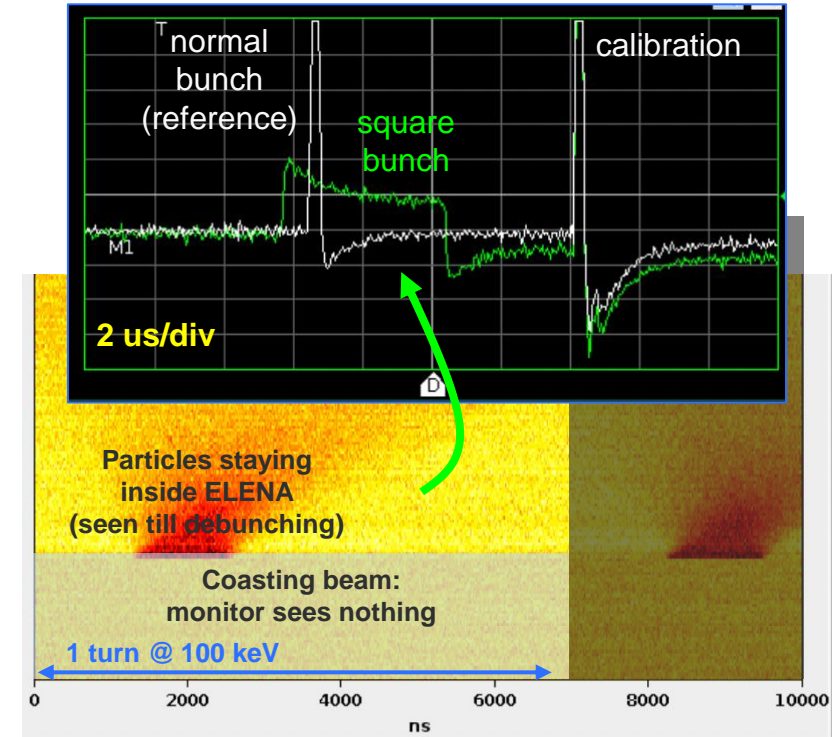
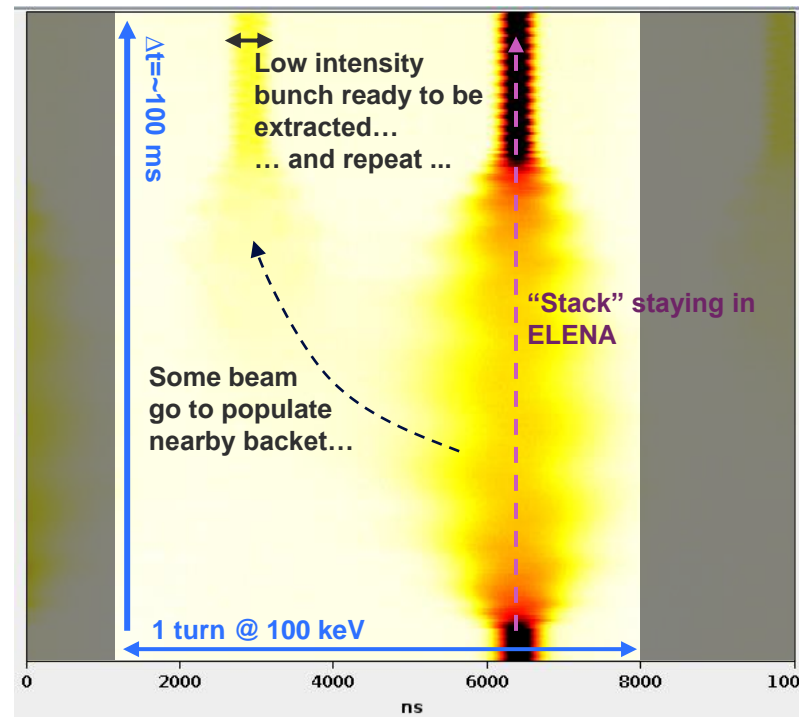
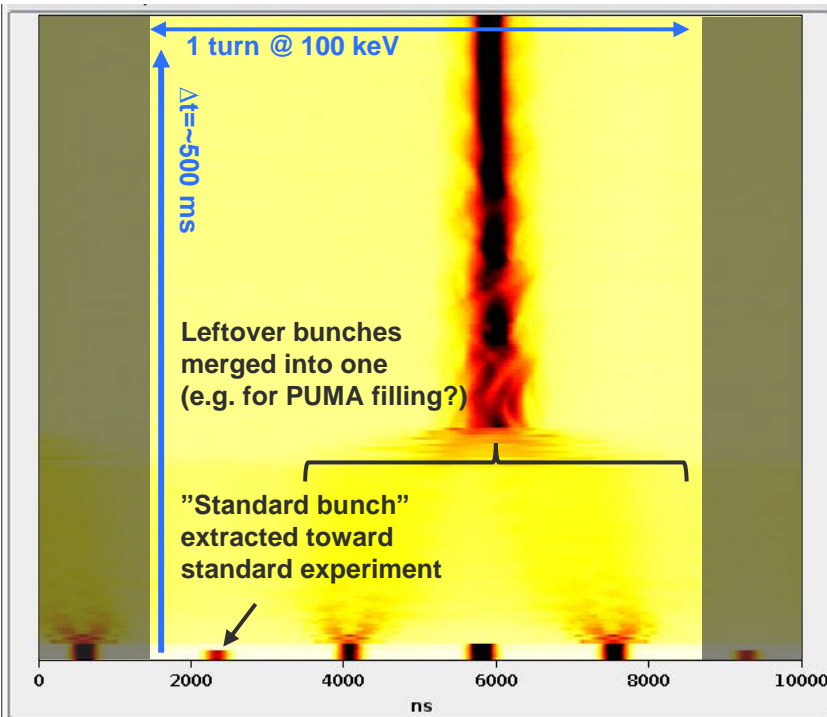
- **10-20% increase in beam intensity** (**stability to be improved** with consolidated hardware/instrumentation)
- **10-20% reduction in cycle length** (stability mainly linked to p production scheduling)

Happy Users with Ambitious Goals. Future is Now !

- **Present users are happy**
 - **No strong request for “better” or “more” beam:** still exploring the potential of ELENA!
 - **Request** for higher **shot-to-shot repeatability, beam availability** and **continuity**
 - Investment in **modern technologies/techniques crucial** for enhanced **beam stability** and **efficient operation** (this includes optics, control, instrumentation, ...)
 - **Paramount** to finalise/pursue **AD consolidation** efforts
 - **This is an opportunity for AD-related upgrades, if requested !**
 - Must ensure a **long term pbar-facility lifespan (20+ years)**
- Most **technological challenges** and **ambitions** are **after the handover point!**
 - See inspiring talk by S. Ulmer at [PBC annual workshop 2024](#)
 - **No clear direction** for new/future (beam) requirements from AD/ELENA
 - **can we anticipate (your) future user wishes ?!**
 - **Time for triggering upgrade studies is now !**

Short-Term Opportunities Leveraging on ELENA

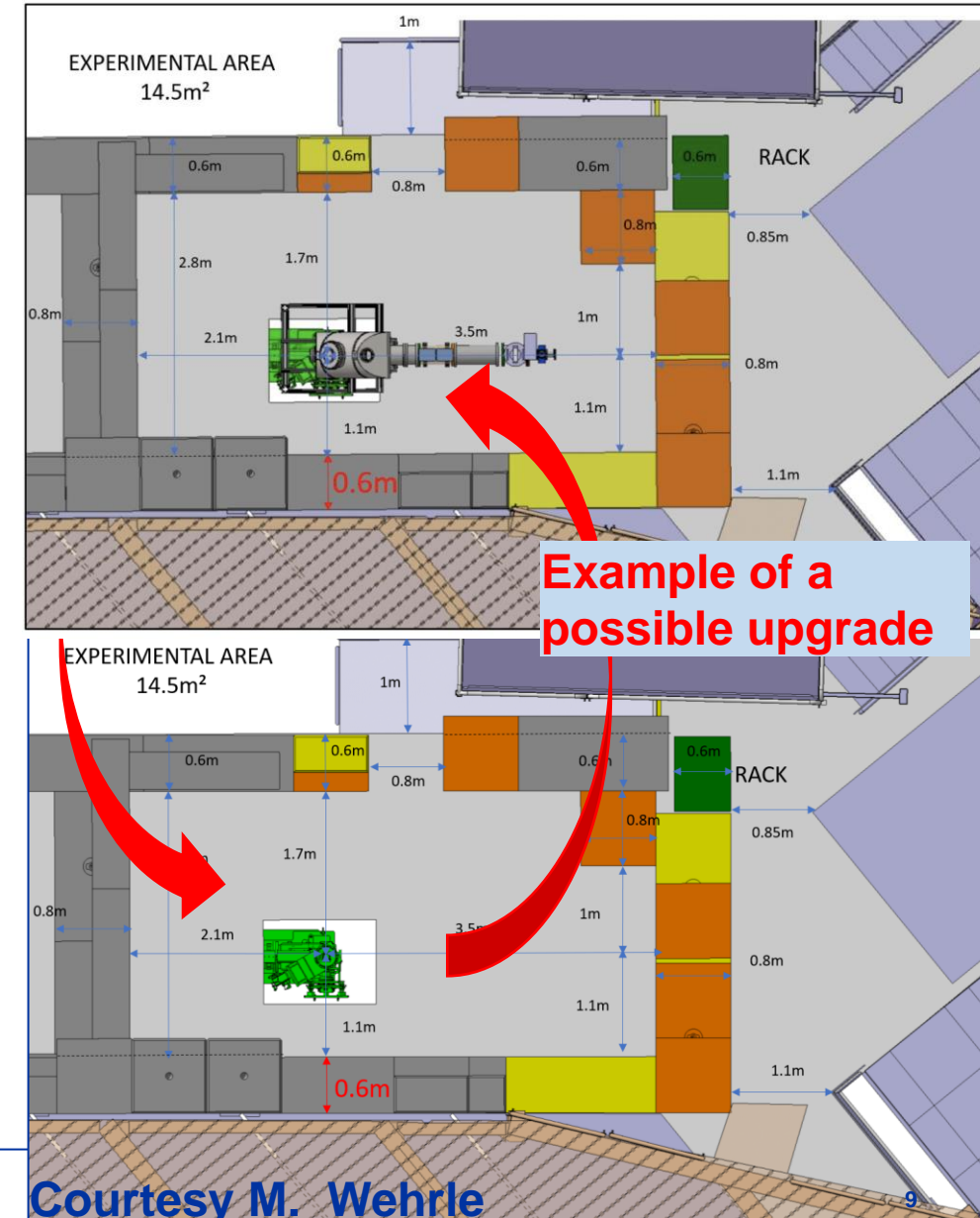
- ELENA still has some un-explored potential at extraction
 - E.g.: producing 1-to-5 bunches (instead of today's 4), or other "exotic" configurations, e.g.:



- Mostly requiring some minor modifications, new logic, tests, ...
 - **We need user (your!) requests well in advance (months) to allow to properly test those schemes!**

TELMAX: a new Test Area for new Ideas and Users

- Refurbishment of the old ATRAP2 area and conversion into a Test Line for Machine And eXperiments:
 - For accelerator equipment tests (e.g. instrumentation)
 - For **experimental equipment characterization** (e.g. foils, detectors R&D/calibration)
 - ...
- The area reorganized to increase usable surface :
 - Standard services will be provided (electricity plugs, demineralized water, compressed air, etc....)
 - Changes described in the ECR: [EDMS 2975107](#)
 - **Normally available by end of 2024 !**
- **Beam-time request strategy being formalized**
 - will normally be regulated by “standard” **SPSC Beam Time Requests** as for other facilities
 - **Start expressing your interest now ! e.g. to [F. Butin](#)**
 - *PS: Possible to add standard CERN diagnostics in the future...*



**If one is allowed to dream...
... looking Beyond the Horizon**

Higher Intensity? e.g x2?

- Already at 80% **AD+ELENA** deceleration efficiency, i.e. up to **20% gain at very most**
- Already at the maximum **p intensity** in the PS:
 - **10% to gain at very most** on PS-to-AD proton transport efficiency
 - Present **target design already at engineering limits** and **radiation levels** close to **limits!**
- **Directly increasing the pbar yield (AD target/horn design? Transport in DI line?)**
 - **Not obvious gain**: lengthly and complex studies requiring dedicated beamtime

One way could be **accumulation at AD injection**

- Tested during early AD times (see [CERN-ACC-Note-2019-0025](#))
- Possible to reach more than **x2 in intensity** (optimistically, up to x10), but **it requires dedicated studies**

Note 1: We might be limited by **radiation levels in the AD hall**

Note 2: **bunch properties** at ELENA extraction will be **affected** (higher emittance, length, ...)

Note 3: **Accumulation in traps?** Your business: probably easier, but also **less efficient on flux...**

Higher Rep. Rate? e.g. x2?

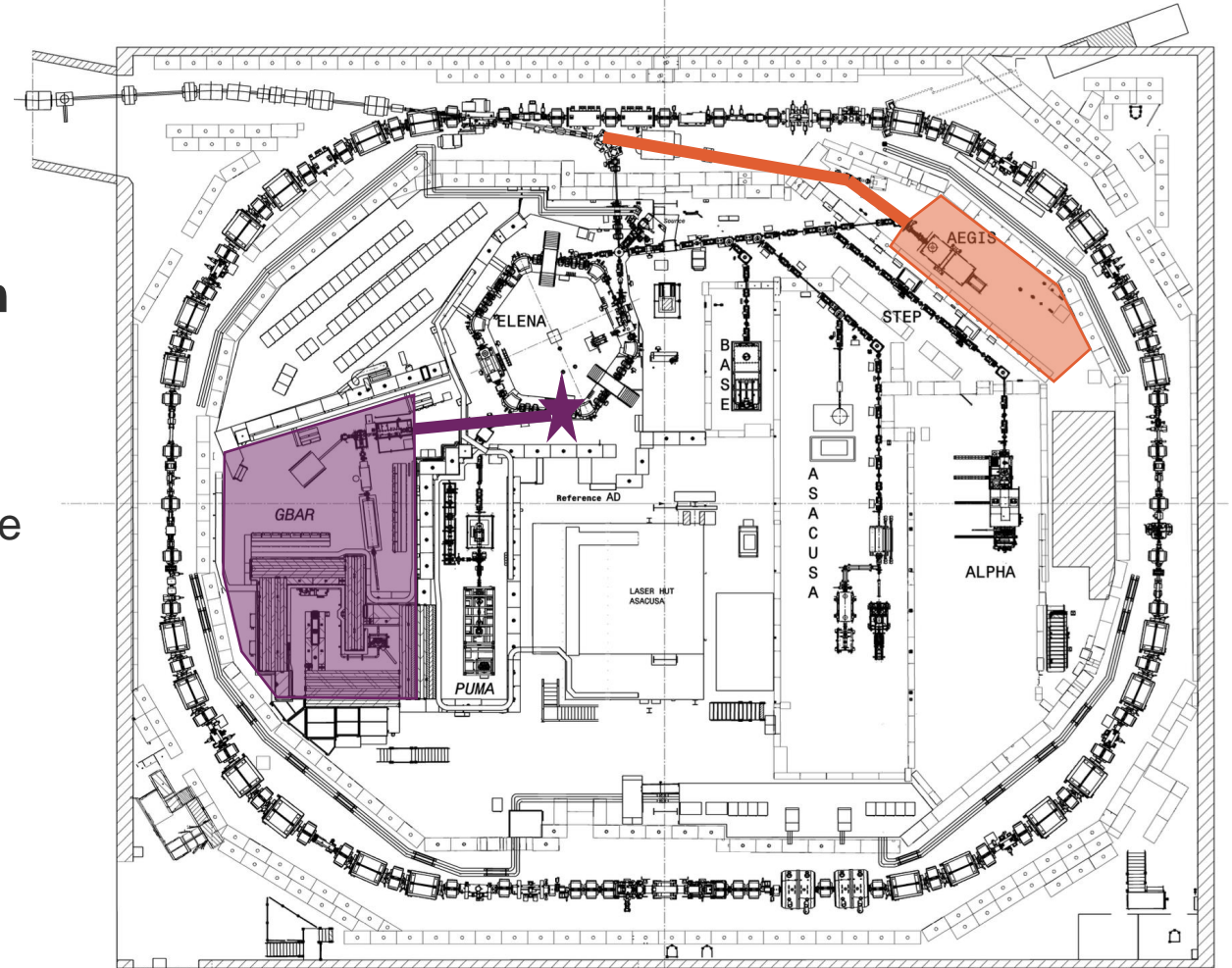
- **Cycle length driven by cooling processes in AD (~50%)**
 - New AD **e-cooler** designed to hopefully gain **10%** on cycle time
 - Maybe possible to save **10%** on cycle time with an “improved” **s-cooling**?
 - Maybe trying **injecting in AD at a lower momentum**?
- **Additional inefficiencies from beam control**
 - Maybe possible to save **10%** on cycle time with “improved” **power converters**?
 - Maybe possible to save **10%** on cycle time with better **beam instrumentaton/controls**?
- **Overall, maybe possible to gain a factor 2, at most** (from 110 to 60 s cycle time)
 - **Investment on hardware/studies needed, if requested!**

Note 1: We might be limited by **radiation levels in the AD hall**

Note 2: It requires also higher use of **proton cycles!**

Different Energy? e.g. from 100 MeV to 50 keV?

- **Note:** RP aspects to be evaluated!
- Considering reviving AD extraction up to 500 MeV/c ($\sim 125 \text{ MeV } E_k$) to, e.g., AEGIS zone
 - It **might require exclusive beam use**, limiting ELENA's multi-user capacity
 - **Could be studied, if requested!**
- **Extraction up to 100 MeV/c ($5.3 \text{ MeV } E_k$) from ELENA?**
 - Requires to install a **more powerful extraction kicker + septum** (as the injection one)
 - **Adaptation or redesign of transfer line(s)** will be required, potentially using new magnets
 - **Could be studied, if requested!**
- **Lower energy possible down to $\sim 85 \text{ keV}$**
 - but **never tested in operation!**
 - **below ($\sim 50 \text{ keV}$?) could be studied, if requested!**



Slow Extraction from ELENA and/or AD?

Courtesy Y. Dutheil et al. – CERN SY-ABT

- In concert with experiment requests at the time, the **ELENA** ring wasn't designed for slow extraction and no studies were done for this
- Presently bunched beam is fast extracted
 - 500 mm long device with 400 mm plates provides ~ 40 kV.m integrated field to achieve 220 mrad deflection
- **Resonant slow extraction** with an electrostatic septum blade to provide continuous spill from ~100 ms to >>1 s **might be possible**
 - Drop-in replacement of present extraction device could reach extraction **up to 450 keV** with a voltage of 10 kV, although **transport** to an experimental area is presently **limited to ~100 keV**
- Slow extraction **from the AD ring may be challenging** due to higher energy and limited space on the ring lattice

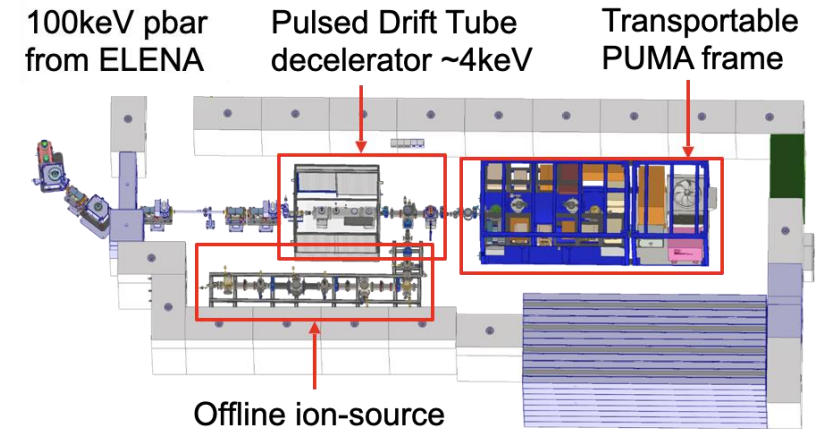
Note 1: Activities need to reach CERN approval before significant resources can be allocated!

Note 2: Already done/planned within experiments at low energy (a few 100 eV) ... and you seems to be happy already



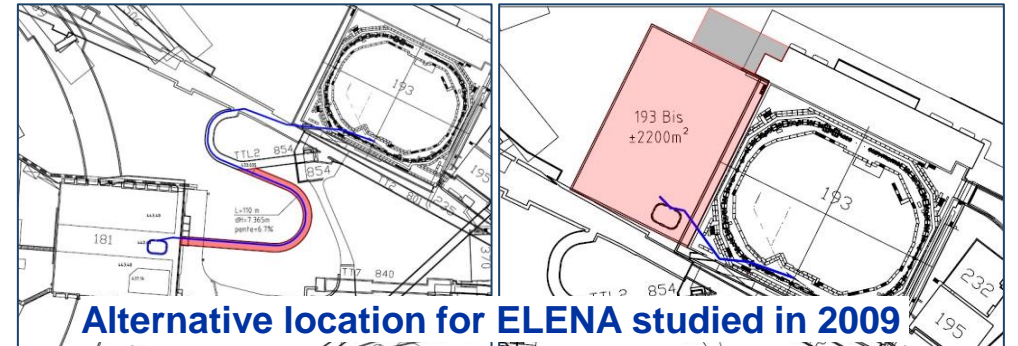
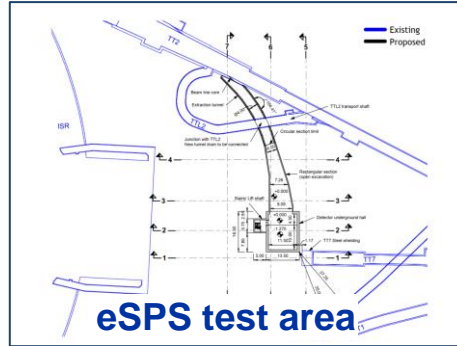
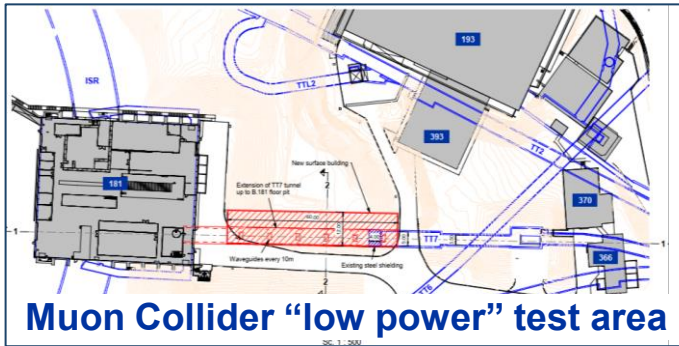
More Off-Site Traps? e.g. a common portable trap?

- **PUMA** and **STEP** plan to fill a trap that will allow to **transport cold pbars to other facilities** (e.g. to ISOLDE for PUMA)
 - **Several challenges to be demonstrated!**
 - For **STEP**, the main reason is to “**escape**” the AD hall’s **electromagnetically noisy environment**
 - **First results** should come soon! [See C. Klink talk](#)
- Will this open **new experimental possibilities?**
 - Shall CERN acquire trap technology and provide “standard” pbar-filled “bottles” for users?
 - **Discarded in the past:** too different user needs... will the PUMA/STEP experience change the picture?
 - **Maybe you could produce a “common” proposal for a general-purpose trap?**

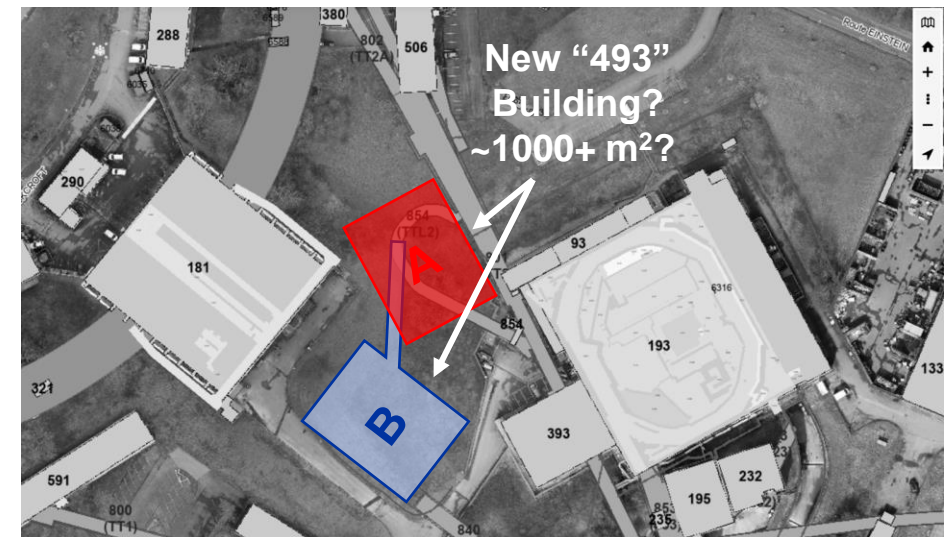


Bigger Exp. Area? e.g. 1000m² more?

- One must be looking outside of the AD hall, looking at other projects:



- **TTL2** is empty and **not useful**, today.
 - What about **new building** (493?) with semi-underground experimental area for "high energy" experiments?
 - It could take **protons** from PS, **pbars** (up to 3.5 GeV/c?) from AD, **e⁻** from **eSPS**?, used as **Muon Collider** "low power" test area? (e.g. A, B, ...)...
 - **Could be studied, if requested!**
- **Hosting a COSY-like ring (184 m) will require some more thinking...**



New Particle types? What about Antideuteron?

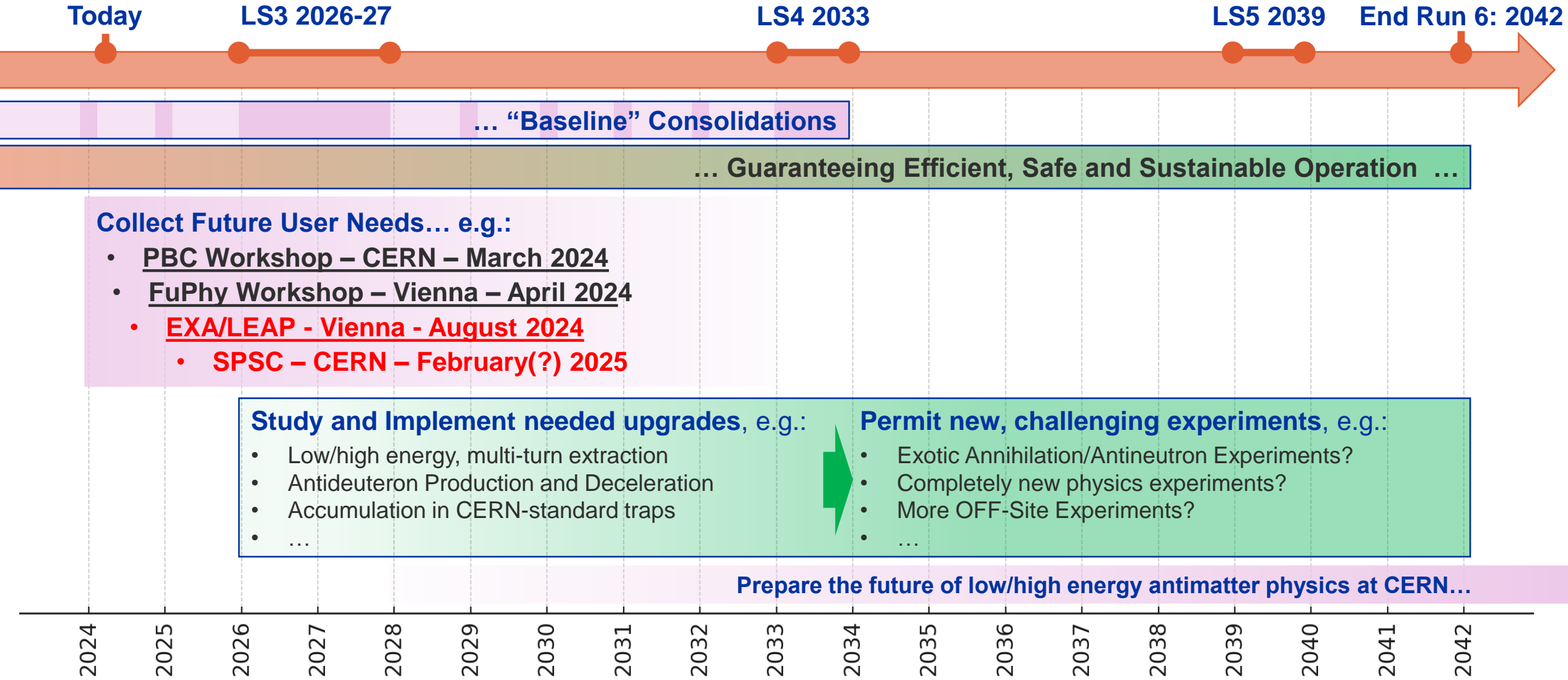
- **From the AD target: Antideuteron**
 - **Maybe** possible to have **10** to **1e4** antideuteron at AD injection **already today**
 - Assuming they could be decelerated/trapped, would those numbers be **interesting?**
 - **S-cooling and RF systems** are the most likely to require some **key modifications to allow deceleration**
 - **A new target and/or full facility might be required**
 - **Could be studied, if requested!**
- **In the experiments** (their core business, but **can AD/ELENA help?**)
 - **Anti-Hydrogen molecule**
 - Might benefit from **higher pbar intensity/shot**
 - **Anti-Neutrons**
 - Typically, requires **slow extraction at high energy (>100 MeV/c) on a target**
 - **Antiprotonic atoms** (see AEGIS, ASACUSA, ...)
 - E.g. production of S(uuddss) hexaquark (dark matter candidate) from pbar - **³He reaction** in a trap
 - Might benefit from **higher pbar flux** (intensity or rep-rate)

Overview of “Independent” Upgrade Cases

- Any of these (except TELMAX) will require well-defined physics experiment cases!
- The actual cost and feasibility of each option will be evaluated if and when required.



Overall Long-Term Timeline Proposal



PBC Study Group at CERN is a Possible Partner

- CERN has put in place the Physics Beyond Collider Study Group in 2016 to support studies for new experiment/proposals at CERN
 - see for example [ECFA2022](#) and [PBC2024](#) and [PBC official website](#)
- (to my knowledge) no AD/ELENA experiment is presently profiting of this programme
 - **It is the natural interlocutor to assess and possibly fund feasibility studies for new experiments!**

PBC Phase 1 (2016-2020)

Mandate:
"Explore the opportunities offered by the CERN accelerator complex and infrastructure to address some of today's outstanding questions in particle physics through experiments complementary to high-energy colliders and other initiatives in the world."

~100 core members in the Working Groups

PBC Phase 2 (since 2020)

EPPSU recommendations → mandate enhanced with:

- Increase synergies with cosmology, astroparticle, nuclear and atomic physics
- Strengthen collaboration of CERN with large National Laboratories
- Act as central forum of exchanges between theorists and experimentalists

PBC Phase 2: CERN PROJECTS LANDSCAPE AFTER EPPSU

Slides from C. Vallee at [PBC Workshop 2024](#)

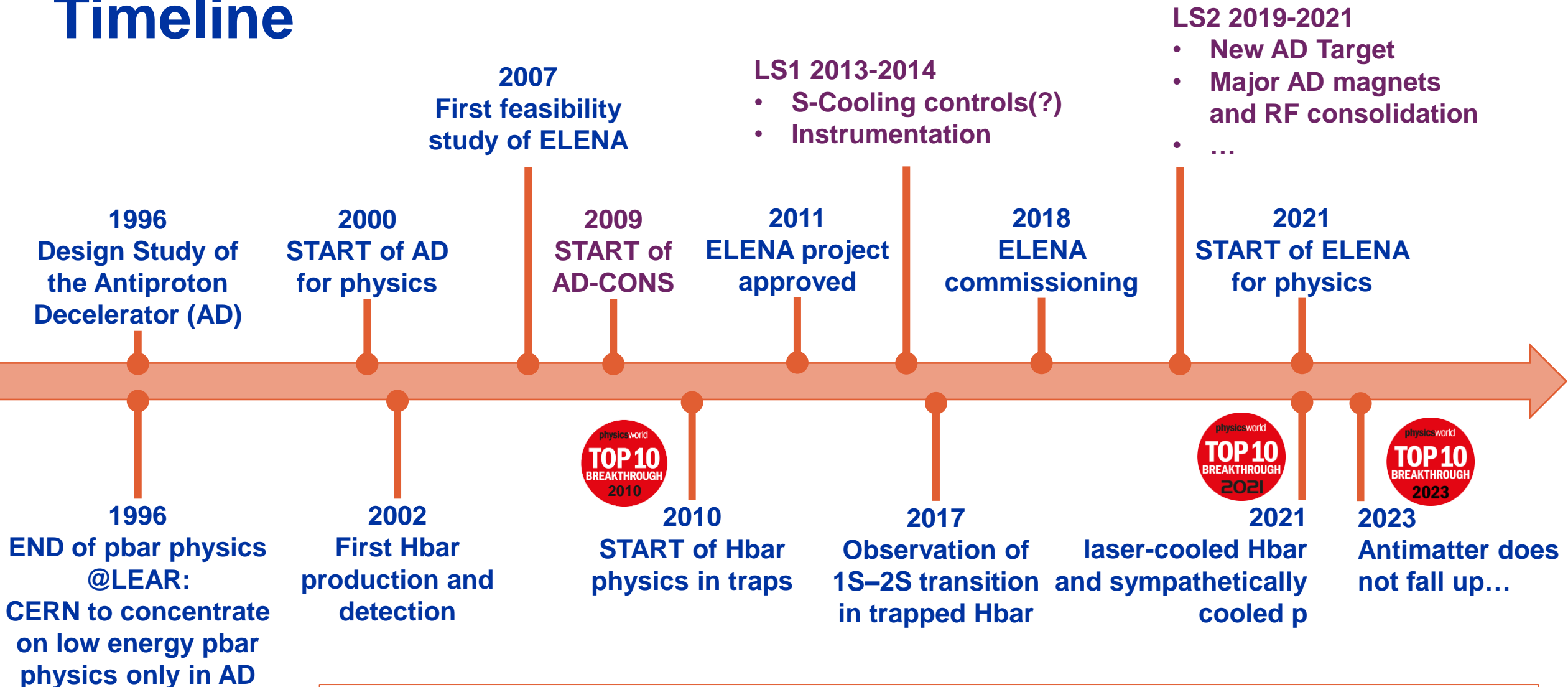
Conclusions

- **AD/ELENA Facility is a unique facility worldwide**
 - **Unique globally**, with no realistic alternative for the next 20+ years.
 - **Consistently delivers $4e7$ antiprotons at 100 keV bi-minute** to six thriving collaborations
 - **High satisfaction** across the physics user community
- **Short-term Prospects**
 - Potential for minor **performance improvements** (+10-20% intensity and repetition rate)
 - We can still **take advantage of some flexibility in ELENA** (e.g. number of bunches/extractions)
 - **Establish the TELMAX Beam test area** to boost component development and **support new/old users**
- **Long-term Prospects**
 - **Extend facility's physics reach is possible**, depending on emerging cases
 - **Hardware consolidation** within AD presents new use case **opportunities**
 - **PBC is an asset framework** to intercept and actualize new requests (e.g. **support feasibility studies**)

Looking forward to new, exciting, yet realistic, user requests to trigger relevant studies!

APPENDIX

Timeline



Timestep between major results/changes: ~5-10 years

How did we get here?

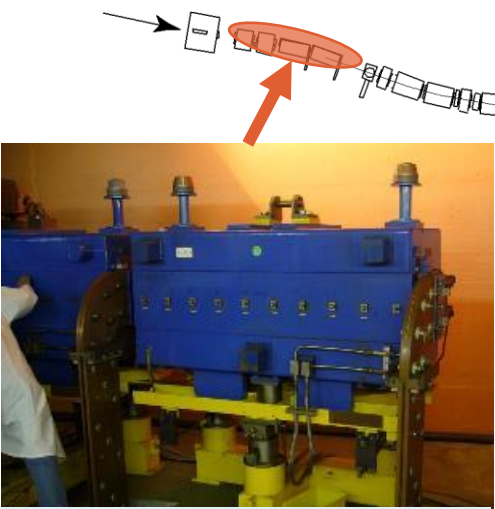
- **Modest investments** relative to CERN's capabilities
 - Leveraging on the possibility of **reusing existing hardware**
- **Exceptional commitment** from a handful of individuals, coupled with the **goodwill** of numerous others
 - **Not turn-key machines:** several **unique technologies/features!**
- **Resilient user community** conducting extensive, intricate, long, and unparalleled experiments on a **restricted budget** and with **scarce resources**
 - Over two decades of **specialized expertise** challenging to replicate
- Made possible by **CERN's** existing infrastructure and expertise

Might be impossible to replicate this anywhere else!

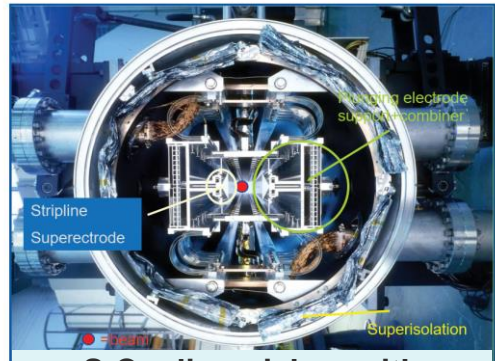
Current Facility Challenges: Infrastructure

- **Hardware Aging, especially the AD!**
 - AD made from **hardware recycled from previous facilities**
 - *Example risk: water leak in special magnet in 2023* disrupted 10% of physics operation time
 - Ongoing **consolidation efforts** since the facility's early days
- **Liquid Helium Demand**
 - Our users are among the **top consumers** of liquid helium at CERN
 - Presently **running at maximum helium capacity**, and often not enough...
- **Space Constraints**
 - **AD hall** predominantly **occupied** by experimental setups
 - **Complex experiments** with **lengthy timelines** (>5 years) from setup to initial results
 - **Limited space** for **new/bigger experiments** and/or **auxiliary installation**,...

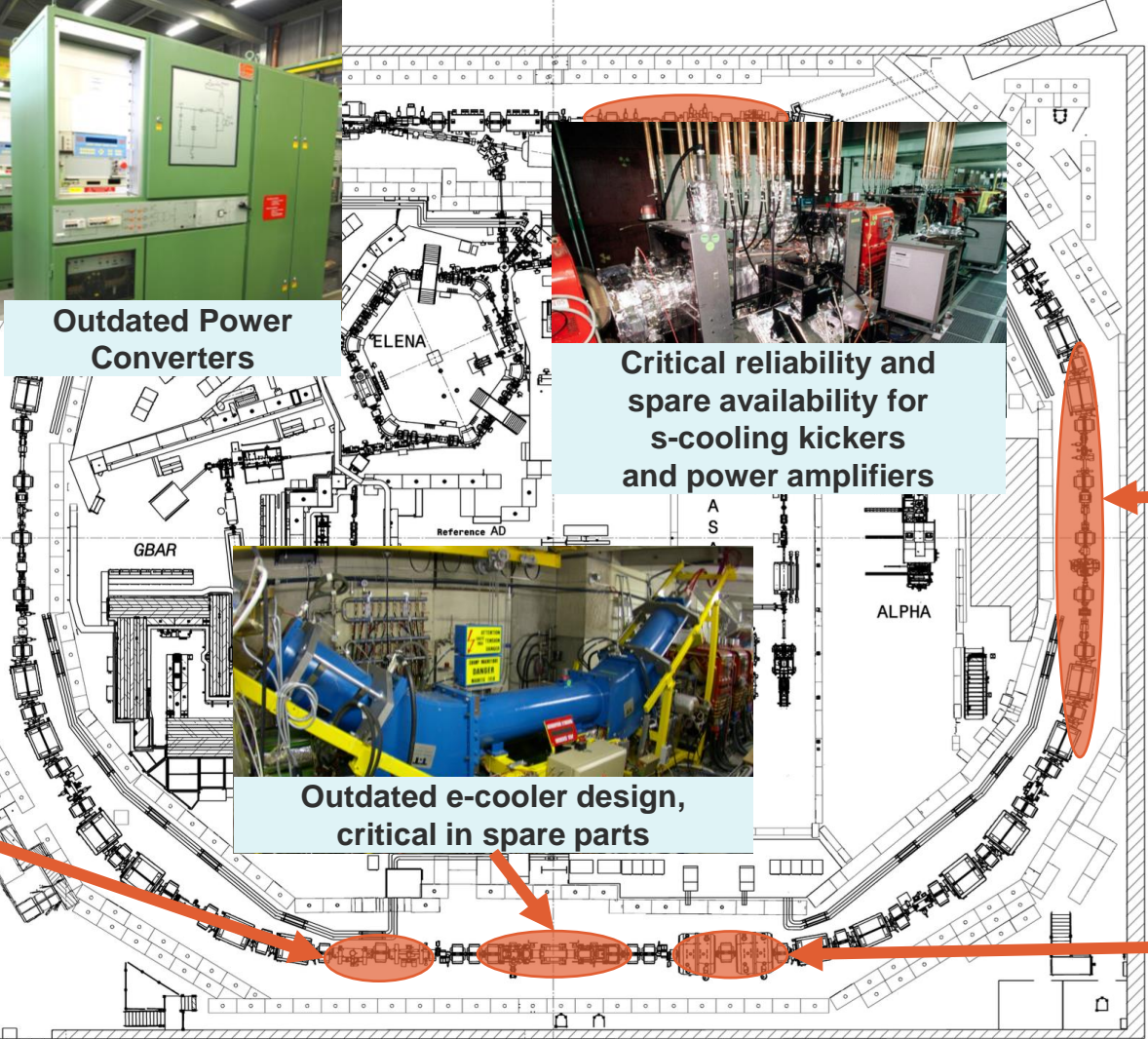
Hardware: Most Critical/Aged Items



Injection line magnets with high risk of breakdown and no spare



S-Cooling pickup with no spares, limited know-how



Outdated Power Converters

Critical reliability and spare availability for s-cooling kickers and power amplifiers

Outdated e-cooler design, critical in spare parts



AD magnets consolidation being finalised



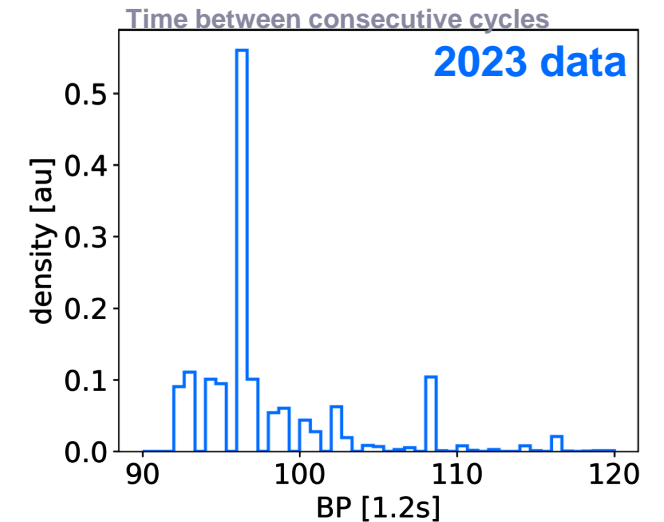
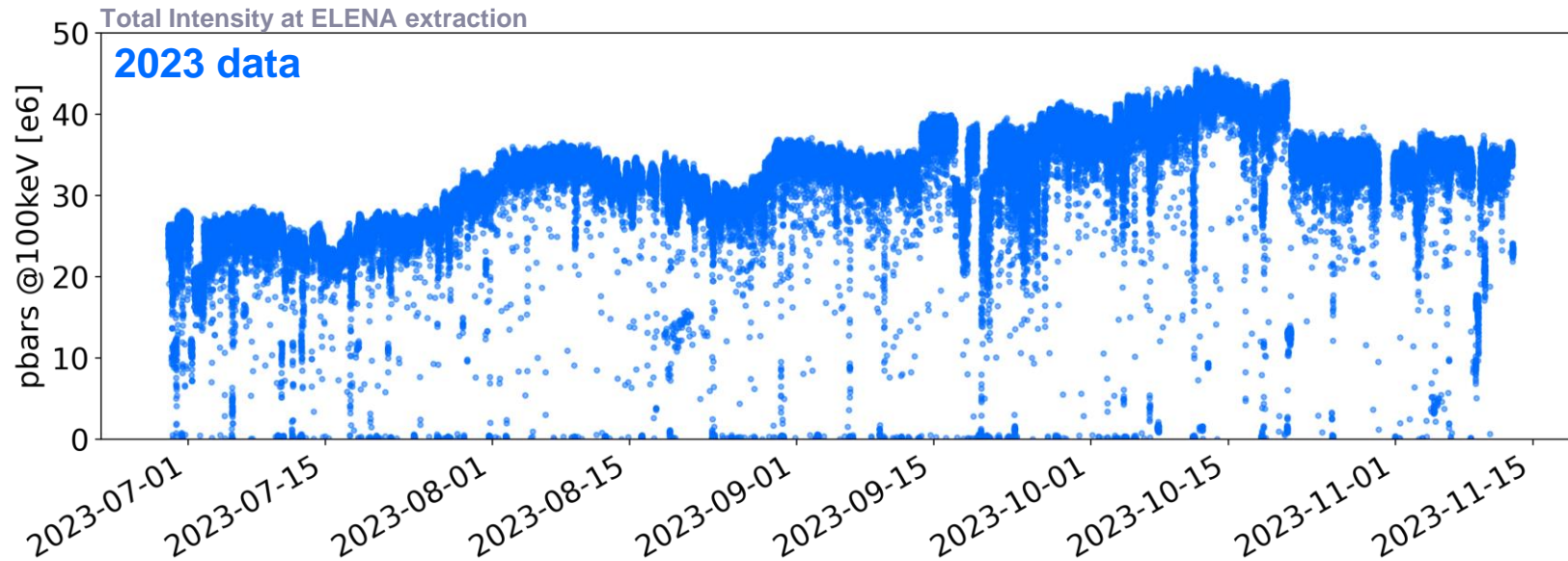
Outdated LLRF and HLRF for C10 cavities



Outdated (and not very "green") cooling and ventilation systems

Main user requirements: stability and reproducibility!

- Main request: stable intensity of more than 25e6 pbar every ~120 s (typically, higher flux is better)
 - Acceptable to have slow intensity drifts over time scales of days/weeks

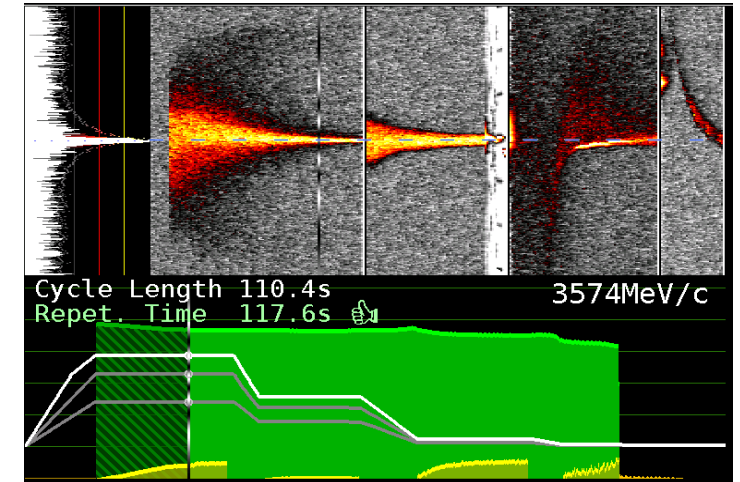


- In practice, quite some **intensity variation/fluctuation** (>20%!) over the year
 - Slow improvements thanks to motivated operation team
 - Slow/fast degradations due to natural drifts and hardware faults/issues
 - Shot-to-shot fluctuations due to non-reproducibility of several sub-systems
- Also, **repetition rate variation** driven by PS super-cycle composition and beam scheduling strategy
 - Not much we can do about it, but CERN-timing long-term plans to upgrade protons scheduling strategy

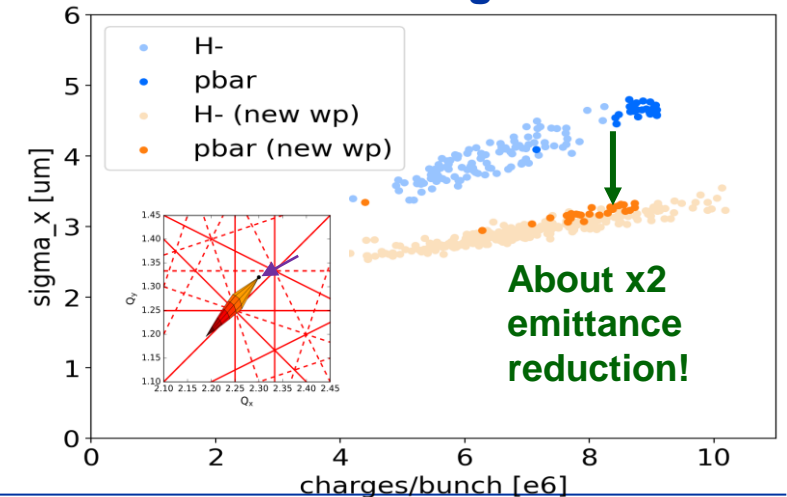
Current Facility Challenges: Beam Control

- **Challenges in Beam Diagnostics** in measuring very **low intensity** and **low energy** beams
 - **Mainly relying on Schottky and Intensity measurements**
 - i.e. indirect measurement of many possible faults/effects
 - **Only destructive transverse beam profile measurements**
- **Dedicated operation team :**
 - **Maintain high machine availability**
 - E.g. Finding solutions to run without BHZ-TRIM in 2022...
 - **Obtain the best performance from existing hardware**
 - E.g. toward ELENA design emittances, ...
 - **Respond to user needs**
 - E.g. Optimise beam transport from ELENA to traps ...
 - **Follow-up constant consolidation needs, often unique systems**
 - E.g. electron and stochastic cooling consolidations ...

Schottky and Intensity (BCCCA) in AD

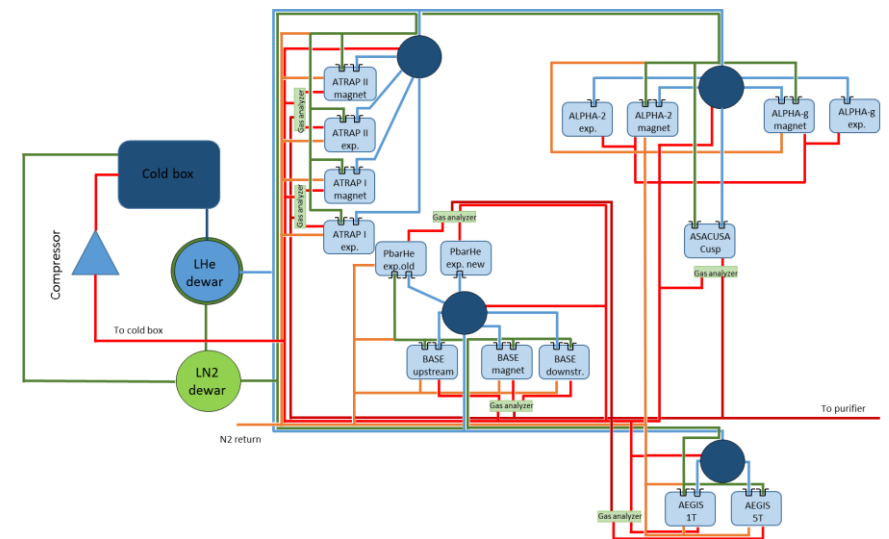
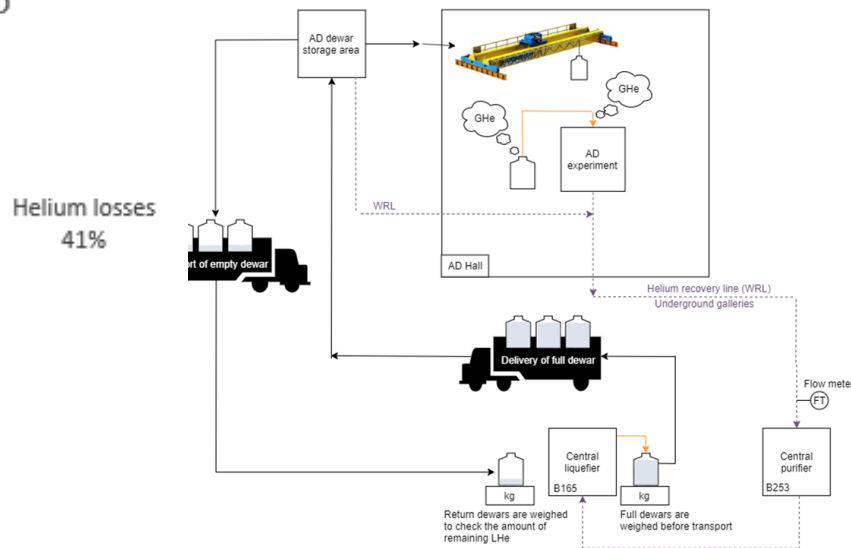
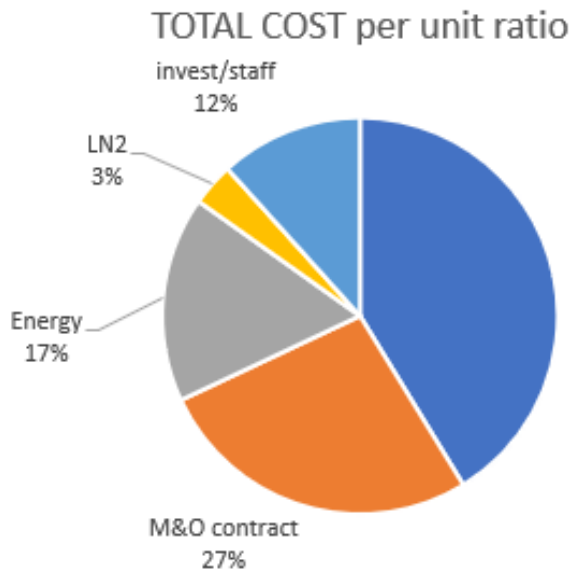


Toward ELENA design emittances!

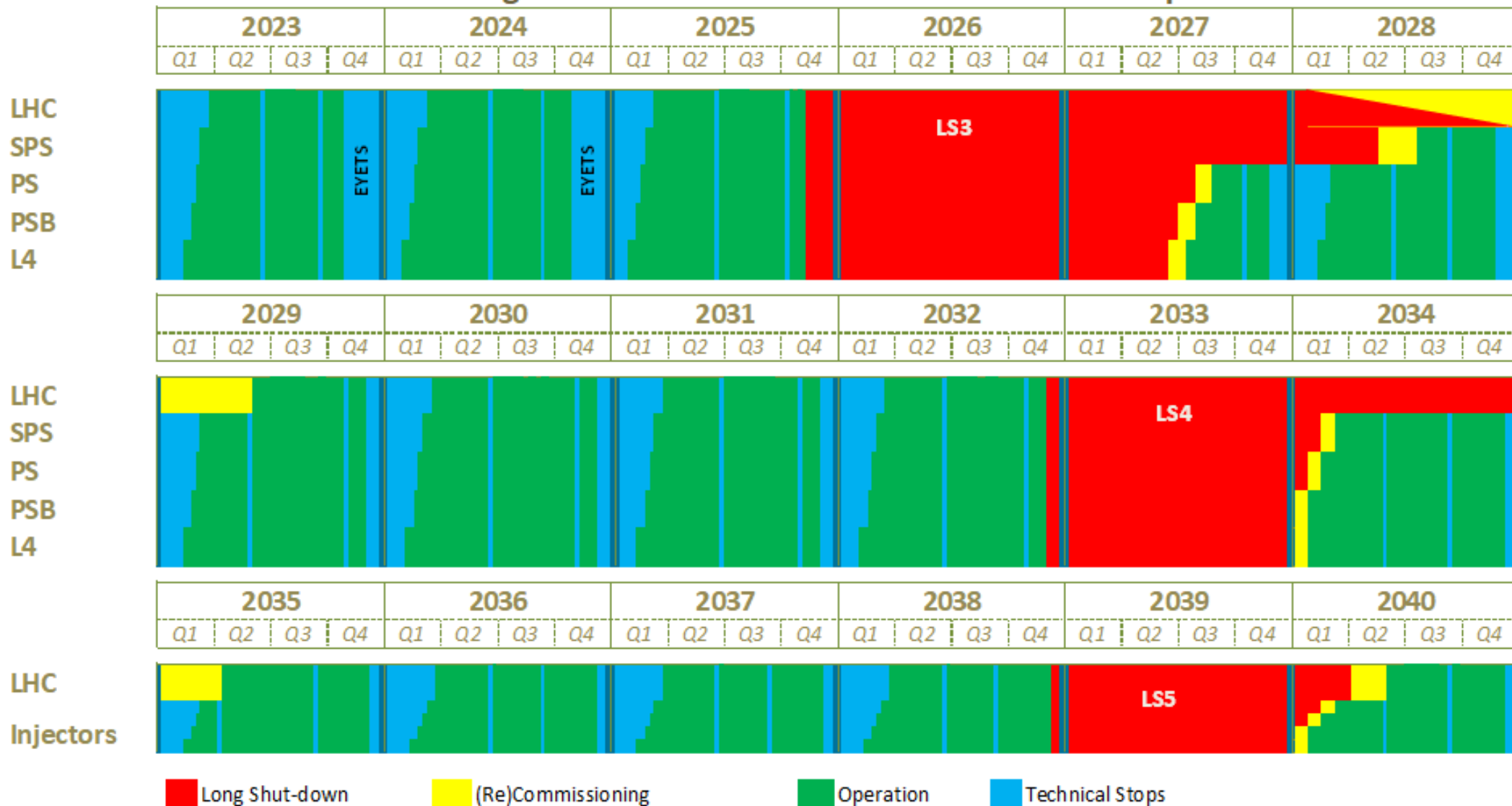


Users Helium Consumption

- **CERN cost in 2022: ~2 MCHF for ~700x500L dewars of LHe**
 - “Constantly” at 20 dewars/week delivery (CERN max capacity: 25 Dewars/week)
 - ~3140 m³/year of gHe (roughly 88 kCHF), mainly needed for pressurize Dewars for LHe transfer
- **Alternative cooling methods, e.g. cryocoolers, will require long/costly RD program**
- **Closed circuit system with local liquefier:**
 - Addresses distribution and safety concerns, offering a more eco-friendly solution!
 - **Cost 8.3 MCHF + 8.5 FTE (only possible after LS3), savings 0.6 MCHF/year!**



Long Term Schedule for CERN Accelerator complex



■ Long Shut-down
 ■ (Re)Commissioning
 ■ Operation
 ■ Technical Stops