

The micro-RWELL for high-rate Design, Construction, Performance

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G. Bencivenni et al., The micro-Resistive WELL detector: a compact spark-protected single amplification-stage MPGD, 2015 JINST 10 P02008



The μ-RWELL is a resistive MPGD, with a GEM derived amplification stage, composed of two elements:

- Cathode
- μ-RWELL PCB:

The µ-RWELL

- a WELL patterned kapton foil (with Cu-layer on top) acting as amplification stage
- − a resisitive DLC film with ρ ~50÷100 MΩ/□
- a standard readout PCB with pad/strip segmentation



The **"WELL"** acts as a **multiplication channel** for the ionization produced in the drift gas gap.

The resistive stage plays a crucial role ensuring the spark amplitude quenching, which is essential for stable operation.

Drawback: the capability to **stand high particle fluxes** is **reduced**, but **largely recovered** with appropriate **grounding schemes** of the **resistive layer**.



High-rate layout: principle of operation

To overcome the **intrinsic rate limitations** of the **Single Resistive Layout**, it is necessary to introduce a **high-density grounding network** for the resistive stage (DLC).



Single Resistive Layout (SRL) with edge grounding



Segmenting the DLC with conductive micro-strips/dots with a typical pitch of 1cm: a sort of tiling of the active area using a set of smaller SRL.

High-rate layouts evolution

G. Bencivenni et al., The µ-RWELL layouts for high particle rate, 2019 JINST 14 P05014

2018 - 2020

Extensive R&D has been performed to optimize the DLC grounding, enabling the detector to withstand up to 1MHz/cm²

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Easily engineered, because based on SBU technology

PEP layouts comparison

2022

PEP-Groove: DLC grounding through conductive groove to ground line

Pad R/O = 9×9mm²

Grounding:

- Groove pitch = 9mm
- width = 1.1mm
- → 84% geometric acceptance







2023

PEP-DOT:

DLC grounding through conductive dots connecting the DLC with pad r/outs Pad R/O = 9×9mm² Grounding: - Dot pitch = 9mm

- dot rim = 1.3mm
- \rightarrow 97% geometric acceptance



DOT \rightarrow plated blind vias





Groove vs DOT (X-ray characterization)



660

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Groove vs DOT (test beam characterization)

APV25 based Fee







PEP DOT – time performance (preliminary)

FATIC based Fee



TB-2023 at H8C with **preliminary version of the FATIC chip** (developed by Bari Group) in the framework of the R&D for the **LHCb-Muon upgrade**. A new **test beam foreseen next Nov. '24** with **an updated version of the ASIC**, aiming to reduce the **FEE thr down 3 – 3.5 fC**

Manufacturing high-rate layouts

The **PEP-DOT layout is a rigid-flex PCB** using an **SBU technology-based PCB**, that is **compatible with standard industrial processes**.

The **ELTOS** is the industrial partner **involved in the manufacturing of the μ-RWELL**.

This presents a significant advantage, in view of large-scale production for the Muon upgrade at LHCb.

The **ELTOS SpA** was founded in 1980 in Arezzo, Italy.

The Company has a large experience in the construction of MPGDs, including technologies such as Thick-GEM (THGEM) and MicroMegas.

The **involvement of a private industry** in this R&D **opens the way** for the use of μ -RWELL technology **across various fields of applications.**



Detector Manufacturing flow chart





Detector manufacturing steps



Step 0 – Detector PCB design @ LNF



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Step 1 – CERN_INFN DLC (C.I.D) sputtering machine installed @ CERN

- In operation since Nov. 2022
- Production by LNF-INFN technical crew
- Step 2 Producing readout PCB by ELTOS
 - pad/strip readout

Step 3 – DLC patterning by ELTOS

• photo-resist \rightarrow patterning with BRUSHING-machine

Step 4 – DLC foil gluing on PCB by ELTOS

• Large press available, up to 16 PCBs workable simultaneously

Step 5 – Top copper patterning by CERN

Cu amplification holes image and HV connections by Cu etching



- Step 6 Amplification stage patterning by CERN
 - PI etching → amplification-holes

Step 7 – Electrical cleaning and detector closure @ CERN



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DLC sputtering



The **CID** (CERN-INFN-DLC) sputtering machine, a **joint project between CERN and INFN**, is used for preparing the **base material of the detector**. The potential of the DLC sputtering machine is:

- Flexible substrates up to 1.7m×0.6m
- Rigid substrates up to 0.2m×0.6m

In **2023**, the activity on CID focused on the **tuning** of the **machine on small foils**: very **good** results in terms of **reproducibility and uniformity**.

In 2024, the challenge is the sputtering of large foils.

C.I.D.





z position (cm)



The graphite target

The three external cathodes

Detector manufacturing at ELTOS (I)

Step 2 (@ ELTOS)

1) PCB production

Step 3 (@ ELTOS)

- 1) Photoresist lamination for DLC protection
- 2) Photoresist UV-exposure
- 3) Photoresist developing
- 4) DLC patterning with brushing machine



DLC Kapton Cu









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Detector manufacturing at ELTOS (II)

Step 4: The final manufacturing operation carried out at ELTOS is the **coupling of the DLC foil** and the PCB through a layer of prepreg.

N. 16 prototypes of micro-RWELL were made with 4 different prepreg thicknesses (\oplus 1 special). study of the dependence of the induced signal amplitude as a function of the readout capacitance wrt the amplification stage.





106

1080

Electrical Hot Cleaning



At the end of the manufacturing process at CERN, a **conditioning procedure** is performed:

- Standard PCB washing
- Electrical cleaning in dry air (90°C in an oven) from 300 V to
 680 V (each step with current < 1 nA)
- Detector closure and final test at 600 V in ambient air

Pilot co-production test



The 16 co-produced prototypes have been tested with X-rays:

- 15/16 are fine
- 1/16 needs re-cleaning

Production yield > 93%

Co-production pilot results (I)



- **16** co-produced protos have been delivered and tested
- 10/16 (LNF) + 5/16 (CERN) are fine
- 1/16 should be re-cleaned



Characterized with X-ray gun \rightarrow Gas gain measurement

Co-production pilot results (II)



- 16 co-produced protos have been delivered and tested
- 10/16 (LNF) + 5/16 (CERN) are fine
- 1/16 should be re-cleaned



The gain is maximized for $\rho \ge 30 - 40$ MOhm/square

Prepreg thickness optimization





28µm thick prepreg maximize both the **amplitude of the signa**l induced on the pad readout, and **S/N ratio** (measurement done with APV25)

Summary

The **R&D** on **high-rate layouts for the LHCb upgrade** has been completed:

- the **PEP-DOT** layout shows good performance: gain of **10**⁴, **98%** efficiency, **> 10 MHz/cm²**, **7ns** time resolution
- General parameters of the detector have been set to maximize stability and gain:
 - $\rho \ge 50$ MOhm/square, DOCA = 0.5 0.6mm (dead-zone ~ 1.3mm)
 - prepreg thickness ~ 28μm

WORK

Amplification stage optimization by reducing the **well pitch:** 140μm, 110μm, 90μm

- Large size:
 - M2R1-LHCb (25x30 cm² active area): delivered May '24, X-ray characterization in June/July, test beam in Nov. '24.
 M2R2-LHCb (30x70 cm² active area): design by the end of 2024, production beginning in 2025

The **detector manufacturing process** is nearly finalized:

- Several construction steps are performed by ELTOS
- Detector finalization (Kapton etching, electrical hot cleaning, etc.) is carried out at CERN



The **DLC sputtering machine**, C.I.D., will provide the base material, once the sputtering parameters are optimized



SPARE SLIDES

Technology spread

In the last years there has been a significant spread of the technology among several research groups working on Nuclear and Sub-Nuclear experiments

- 1. CLAS12 @ JLAB (USA): the upgrade of the muon spectrometer
- 2. EPIC @EIC (BNL USA): endcap tracker disks based on a hybrid GEM + μ RWELL technology
- 3. X17 @ n_TOF EAR2 (CERN): TPC with a µRWELL based amplification stage, for the detection of the X17 boson
- 4. TACTIC @ YORK Univ. (UK): radial TPC for detection of nuclear reactions with astrophysical significance
- 5. Muon collider: R&D for a digital hadron calorimeter
- 6. CMD3 (RU): GEM+ μ RWELL disk for the upgrade of the tracking system
- 7. UKRI (UK): thermal neutron detection with pressurized ³He-based gas mixtures















μ-RWELL at LHCb

Inner region @ Run5 – Run6 **detector requirements**^[1]

- Rate up to **1 MHz/cm**² on detector single gap
- Rate up to 700 kHz per electronic channel
- Efficiency quadrigap >=99% within a BX (25 ns)
- Accumulated charge in 10y at M2R1 up to 1C/cm²

Detector size & quantity (4 gaps/chamber - redundancy)

• R1÷R2: 576 detectors, size 30x25 to 74x31 cm², 90 m² detectors – 130 m² DLC





Chamber rates on <u>MZRI-RZ</u> (HZ/Cm ²)									
66493	120583	148811	77788						
99470	217584	255560	107048						
147585	321062 538980	508077 340550	170105						
187623	<mark>594044</mark>	<mark>573691</mark>	205862						
193571	496249	<mark>549110</mark>	217988						
143561	341093 <mark>558687</mark>	546084 344551	152596						
103585	209874	248696	114114						
65005	122387	135696	73421						

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Spot Effect for SRL – Manufacturer plot

From the model of the resistive stage of a μ -RWELL:

1. detectors with same size but different resistivity exhibit a rate capability scaling as the inverse of their resistivity.

2. for the SRL, increasing the active area from 10x10 cm² to 50x50 cm² the rate capability should go down to few kHz/cm²

3. By using a **DLC ground sectoring every 10 cm**, **large (50x50 cm²) detectors** could achieve **rate capability** up to **100kHz/cm²** (with X-ray)





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High-rate µ-RWELL – R&D plans

✓ M2R1 design – delivered May 2024

- M2R1 X-ray characterization (June- July 2024)
- Electronic integration, FATIC3 chip based (Sept. 2024)
- Test beam (NA H8C CERN or T10-PS) M2R1 with FATIC3 (Nov. 2024)
- R&D plans:
 - amplification stage optimization (gain vs well-pitch)
 - optimization coupling DLC_foil R/out PCB
 - test of Hybrid layout \rightarrow G-RWELL
 - electrical cleaning optimization (w/Rui)
 - irradiation study a GIF++ (w/CERN Gas Group)

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BOTTOM

ГOР



Co-production pilot test



- **16** co-produced protos have been delivered and tested
- 10/16 (LNF) + 5/16 (CERN) are fine
- 1/16 should be re-cleaned

Detector #	Prepreg type	DLC resistivity	Production status	Max HV/Gain	comments
106_1	1x 106		Cleaning		@ CERN
106_2	1x 106	7.5	Delivered	640/10000	
106_3	1x 106		Cleaning		@ CERN
106_4	1x 106	7	Delivered	640/9500	
1080_1	1 x1 080		Cleaning		@ CERN
1080_2	1x1080	4.8	Delivered	630/6700	
1080_3	1x1080	5	Delivered	n.a.	To be re-cleaned
1080_4	1 x1 080		Cleaning		@ CERN
2x106_1	2x106	35	Delivered	660/16000	
2x106_2	2x106	37	Delivered	650/13000	
2x106_3	2x106	35	Delivered	670/15000	
2x106_4	2x106	34	Delivered	650/12500	
2x1080_1	2x1080	33	Delivered	670/19500	
2x1080_2	2x1080	110	Delivered	680/19000	
2x1080_3	2x1080	44	Delivered	680/19000	
2x1080_4	2x1080		Cleaning		@ CERN

FATIC2 block diagram



Preamplifier features:

- CSA operation mode
- Input signal polarity: positive & negative
- Recovery time: adjustable

CSA mode:

- Programmable Gain: 10 mV/fC ÷ 50 mV/fC
- Peaking time: 25 ns, 50 ns, 75 ns, 100 ns

Timing branch:

- ✓ Measures the arrival time of the input signal
- ✓ Time jitter: 400 ps @ 1 fC & 15 pF (Fast Timing MPGD)

Charge branch:

- ✓ Acknowledgment of the input signal
- Charge measurement: dynamic range > 50 fC, programmable charge resolution



Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 936 (2019) 401-404

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Development of μ -RWELL detectors for the upgrade of the tracking system of CMD-3 detector

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Tracking detectors Micro-RWELL Micro-pattern gas detectors ABSTRACT

An upgrade of tracking system of Cryogenic Magnetic Detector (CMD-3) is proposed using microresistive WELL technology. CMD-3 is a general purpose detector operating at the VEPP-2000 collider at Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics and intended for studies of light vector mesons in the energy range between 0.3 GeV and 2 GeV. The new subsystem consists of double-layer cylindrical detector and the end-cap discs. Two prototypes, micro-RWELL and micro-RWELL-GEM were built and tested. Gas amplification of micro-RWELL detector was measured with several gas mixtures and maximum gain between 20000 and 30000 was observed. However, maximum gain is fluctuating from measurement to measurement by a factor of 2 and thus a safety margin of 2-3 is needed to provide reliable operation of the device. In order to increase the signal GEM was added to micro-RWELL, new prototype was tested with the same gas mixtures and gains above 10⁵ have been demonstrated. Time resolution achieved for both prototypes are 7 ns for micro-RWELL and 4 ns for micro-RWELL-GEM.

L. Shekhtman, Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 936 (2019) 401-404

L5=22.49um L2=22,48µm L6=25,17µm Cathode

Drift Gap: Shekhtman 3mm – LNF+Roma2 6mm



Transfer Gap: Shekhtman 3mm – LNF+Roma2 3mm



Developed for CMD3 upgrade disks (4 sectors 50×50cm²)

The GEM **must be** stretched: sizes larger than 50×50cm² could be critical (depending on the gas gaps size).

µ-RWELL + GEM: gas gain





Fig. 4. Gain as a function of voltage on the top electrode of μ -RWELL for different gas mixtures. Voltage across the drift gap is 500 V.

L. Shekhtman, Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 936 (2019) 401-404

Fig. 5. Gain as a function of voltage on the top electrode of μ -RWELL for GEM voltages providing additional gain of 50–100 and for different gas mixtures. Voltage across the drift gap is 500 V.

1-D Tracking



With a **0.4 mm strip pitch** and **0.15 mm strip width**, no effects were observed within this resistivity range. Additionally, DLC resistivity uniformity is not a critical parameter for spatial resolution.

In collaboration with G. Cibinetto, R. Farinelli, L. Lavezzi, M. Gramigna, P. Giacomelli, E. De Lucia, D. Domenci, A. D'angelo, M. Bondi, M. Scodeggio, I. Garzia, M. Melindi



Increasing the R/O pitch will result in a reduction of the spatial resolution

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1-D tracking (inclined tracks)

For inclined tracks and/or in presence of high B fields, the charge centroid (CC) method gives a very broad spatial resolution on the anode-strip plane.

Implementing the **µTPC mode**^[1], using the knowledge of the **drift time** of the electrons **each ionization cluster is projected inside the conversion gap**, and **the track segment** in the gas gap **is reconstructed**.





Combining the CC and μ TPC reconstruction (through a wheighted average) **a resolution well below 100** μ m could be reached over a wide incidence angle range.

M. Giovannetti et al., On the space resolution fo the µ-RWELL, 2020 JINST 16 P08036

[1] introduced for ATLAS MMs by T. Alexopoulos

2-D Tracking layouts

N.2 u-RWELLs 1D ($2 \otimes 1D$)

u-RWELL - Capacitive Sharing r/out

u-RWELL TOP r/out





Operation at **lower gas gain** wrt the «COMPASS» R/out (X-Y r/out decoupled) **Tested @ TB2022** The charge sharing performed through the capacitive coupling between a stack of layers of pads and the r/out board. Reduce the FEE channels, but the total charge is divided between the X & Y r/out. Tested @ TB2023



The **TOP-readout layout** allows to work at **low gas gain** wrt the «COMPASS» r/out (X-Y r/out decoupled).

X coordinate on the TOP of the amplification stage introduces **dead zone in the active area.**

Tested @ TB2023

Tracking performance





Ð

550

600

650

HV [V]

CS pitch 1.2 mm

- due to the charge spread the working point is shifted to high voltage/gain
- Spatial resolution improves at high gain reaching 150 um with a strip pitch of 1.2 mm

Top-r/out pitch 0.8 mm

 low-voltage/gain operation but low efficiency level due to the geometrical dead zone on the segmented amplification stage

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300 ⊨

200 E

100

0

400

TOP - Y

CS - Y

450

500

Tracking: R&D plans

R&D on tracking μ -RWELL for muons systems at future colliders

- Finalization of the analysis of the 2022-2023 beam tests:
 - $2 \otimes 1D$ layouts
 - 2D \rightarrow 1D \oplus top-readout
 - 2D w/Capacitive Sharing
- R&D plans:
 - amplification stage optimization (gain vs well-pitch)
 - new PCB-RWELL multi-task layout (1D, 2D, Hybrid layouts)
 - hybrid μ -RWELL \rightarrow GEM \oplus RWELL
 - TB-2024 (sinergy with INFN Roma2)



Low X₀ Cylindrical µ-RWELL



eurizon

residual width up

residual width dv

Exploiting the **flexible characteristic of the amplification stage** of the μ-RWELL, as well as the readout (to which it is coupled through the resistive DLC stage), we developed **a low-mass (0.6% X0) modular Inner Tracker for lowenergy positron-electron colliders**, exploiting the **innovative Cylindrical μ-RWELL (C-RWELL) technology.**

> Residual Width [µm] ¹⁰⁰⁰ ¹⁰⁰⁰ ¹⁰⁰⁰ ¹⁰⁰⁰ ¹⁰⁰⁰ ¹⁰⁰⁰

> > 400

200

550 560 570 580



Three roof-tile layout



Roof-tiles assembly



Preliminary CWELL analysis - HV Scan Ed = 2kV/cm, Ar:CO, :CF, 45:15:40

Dinner with Huong



C-RWELL test with cosmics G. Bencivenni, LNF - INFN





Vacuum bag technology

Low Mass **µ-RWELL**

		Thikcness	(um)	X0 (cm)	% X0			Glue	0		33.5	0.000
t t	Cu Ground FEE	3		1.43	0.021		BaseLine	kapton	0		28.6	0.000
	kapton	50		28.6	0.017			Glue	0		33.5	0.000
por	glue	25		33.5	0.007			MILLIFOAM	0		1312.5	0.000
dn	FR4	100		19.3	0.052		Tile	Glue	0		33.5	0.000
le o	glue	25		33.5	0.007		•	Kapton	0		28.6	0.000
ĕ	MILLIFOAM	<u>M 3000 1312.5 0.023</u>							0.000			
◄	glue	25		33.5	0.007							
	FR4	100		19.3	0.052					Tot. A	node	0.378
					0.187							
							hoc	Cu	3		1.43	0.021
							oort + Catl	kapton	50		28.6	0.017
ge	Cu	5		1.43	0.035			glue	25		33.5	0.007
sta	kapton	50		28.6	0.017			FR4	100		19.3	0.052
ġ	DLC	0.1		12.1	0.000		ddn	glue	25		33.5	0.007
An	Pre-preg (106)	50		19.3	0.026		e Si	MILLIFOAM	3000		1312.5	0.023
					0.078		po	glue	25		33.5	0.007
							ath	FR4	100		19.3	0.052
							age	glue	25		33.5	0.007
	Cu	5		1.43	0.035		Far. C	kapton	50		28.6	0.017
20	kapton	50		28.6	0.017			Cu Ground	3		1.43	0.021
ode	glue	25		33.5	0.007							0.233
And	Cu	5		1.43	0.035							
	kapton	50		28.6	0.017						XO - singl <i>e</i>	0.611
					0.112						X0 B2B	0.99