



## 14th HL-LHC Collaboration Meeting

# Qualification of the first Cold Powering System for the HL-LHC triplets

Amalia Ballarino for the WP6a

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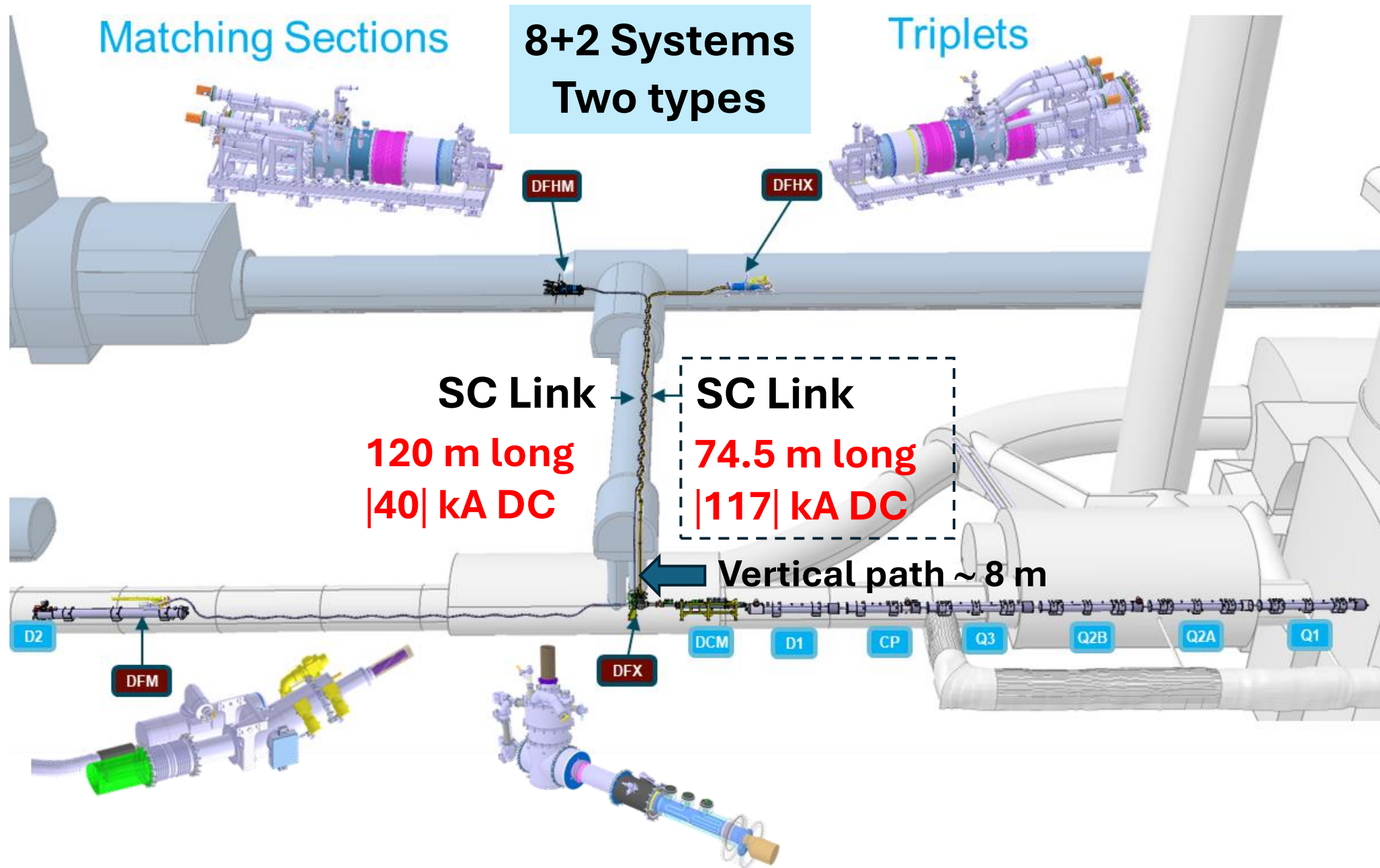


\*University of Southampton

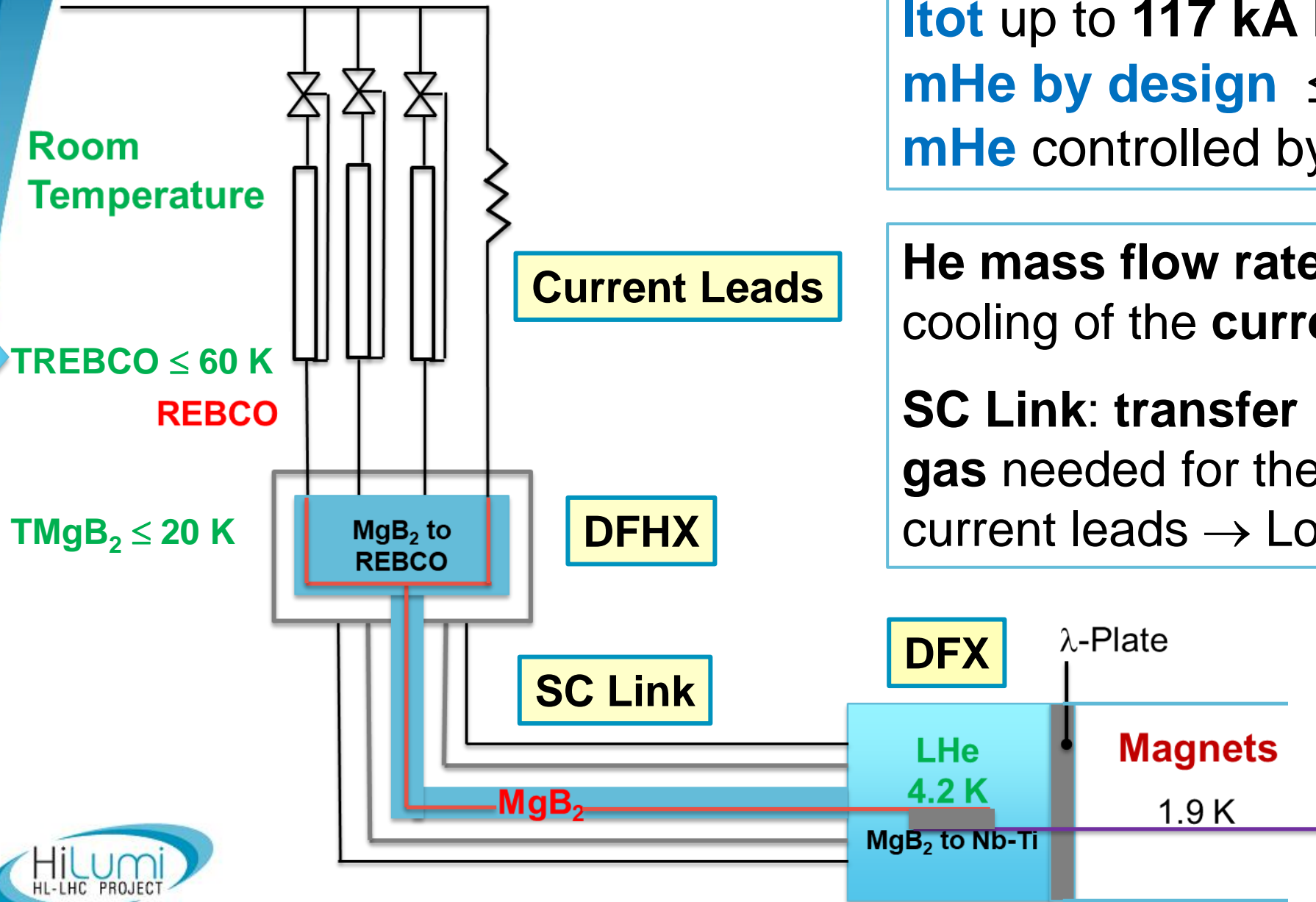
Genova (Italy), 7-10 October 2024



# Powering the HL-LHC magnets



# Cold Powering System for HL-LHC Magnets



**$I_{tot}$  up to 117 kA DC**  
**mHe by design  $\leq 5.5$  g/s**  
**mHe controlled by TREBCO**

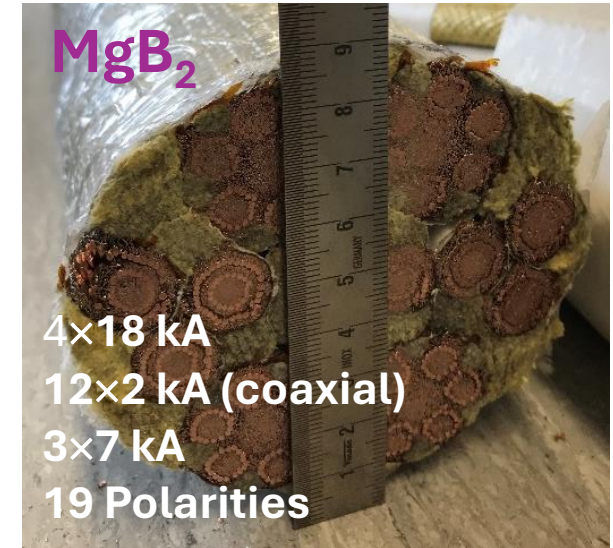
**He mass flow rate** imposed by the cooling of the **current leads**

**SC Link: transfer line for the helium gas** needed for the cooling of the current leads  $\rightarrow$  Low heat load cryostat

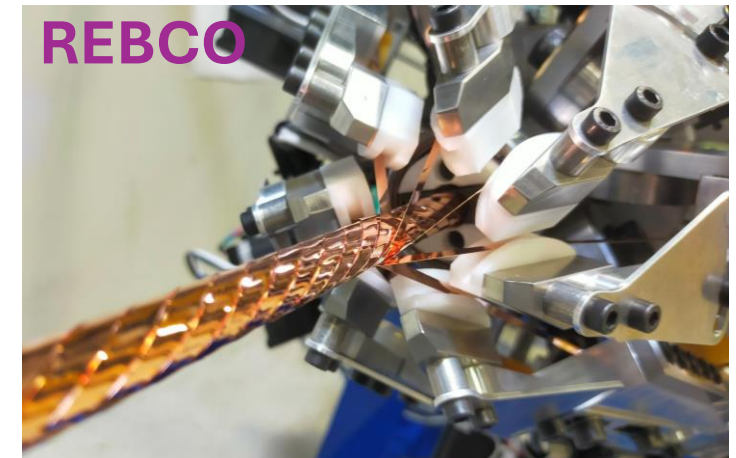
# The Superconducting Link for HL-LHC



| 117 | kA @ 25 K  
 $\Phi \sim 90$  mm,  $\sim 25$  kg/m

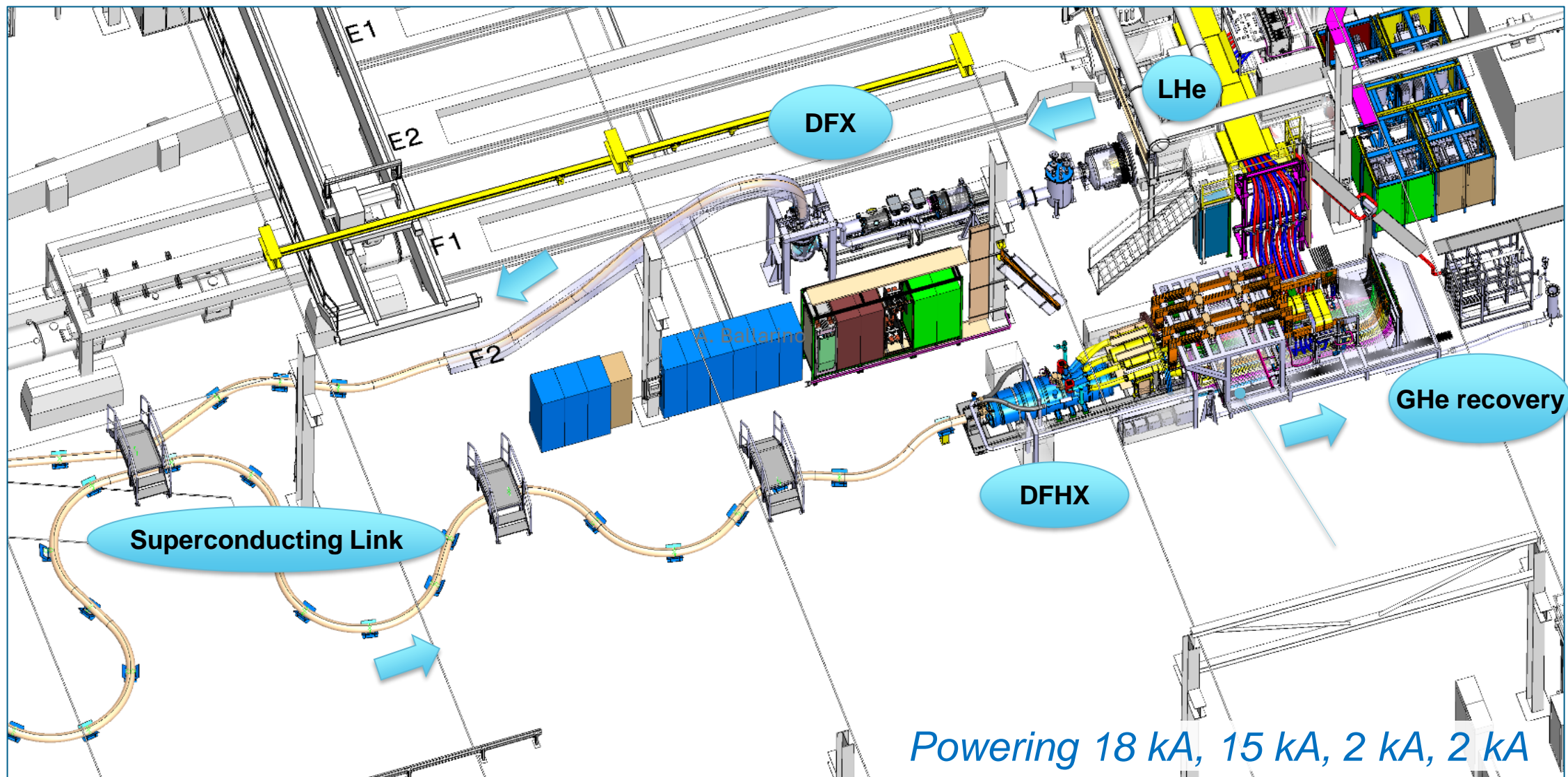


4×18 kA  
12×2 kA (coaxial)  
3×7 kA  
19 Polarities



**MgB<sub>2</sub> wire produced at ASG Superconductors**  
**Superconducting Link cryostat produced at Cryoworld**  
**MgB<sub>2</sub> cabling performed at ICAS/TRATOS**  
**REBCO cabling at CERN**

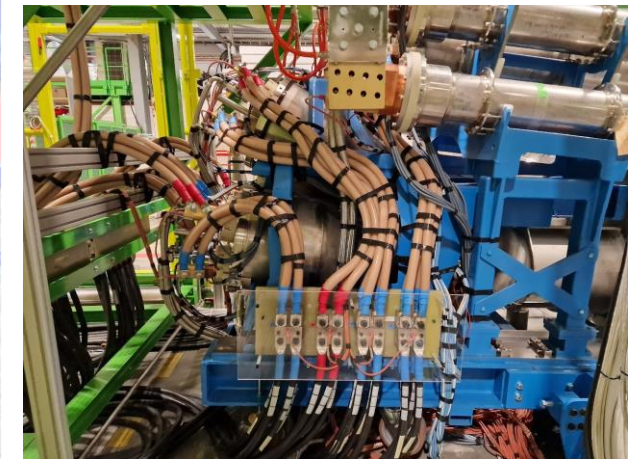
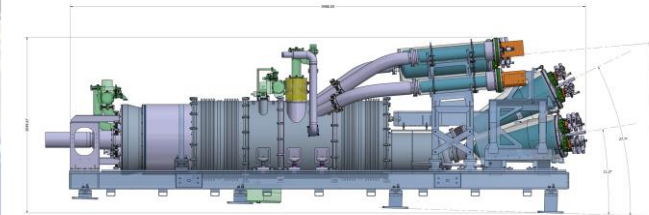
# Cold Powering System in the SM-18



# Cold Powering System in the SM-18

DFHX

- System assembly in the SM-18
- Not a "Prototype" – spare system for HL-LHC
- Many "first time" – cryo, vacuum, mechanical, electrical..



Superconducting Link  
Bending radius  $\geq 2 \text{ m}$   
 $Q \sim 1.6 \text{ W/m}$

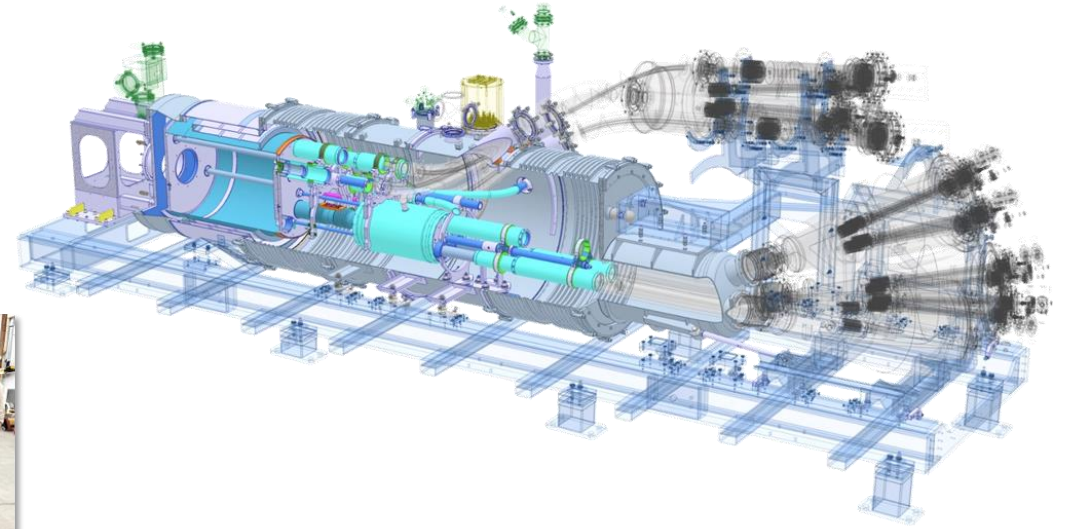
Cooling with GHe: no thermal shields

Instrumentation signals: 304 voltage taps and 105 temperature sensors

# Contributions from our collaborators

University of Southampton - DFX

Uppsala University/RFR – Three components of DFHX

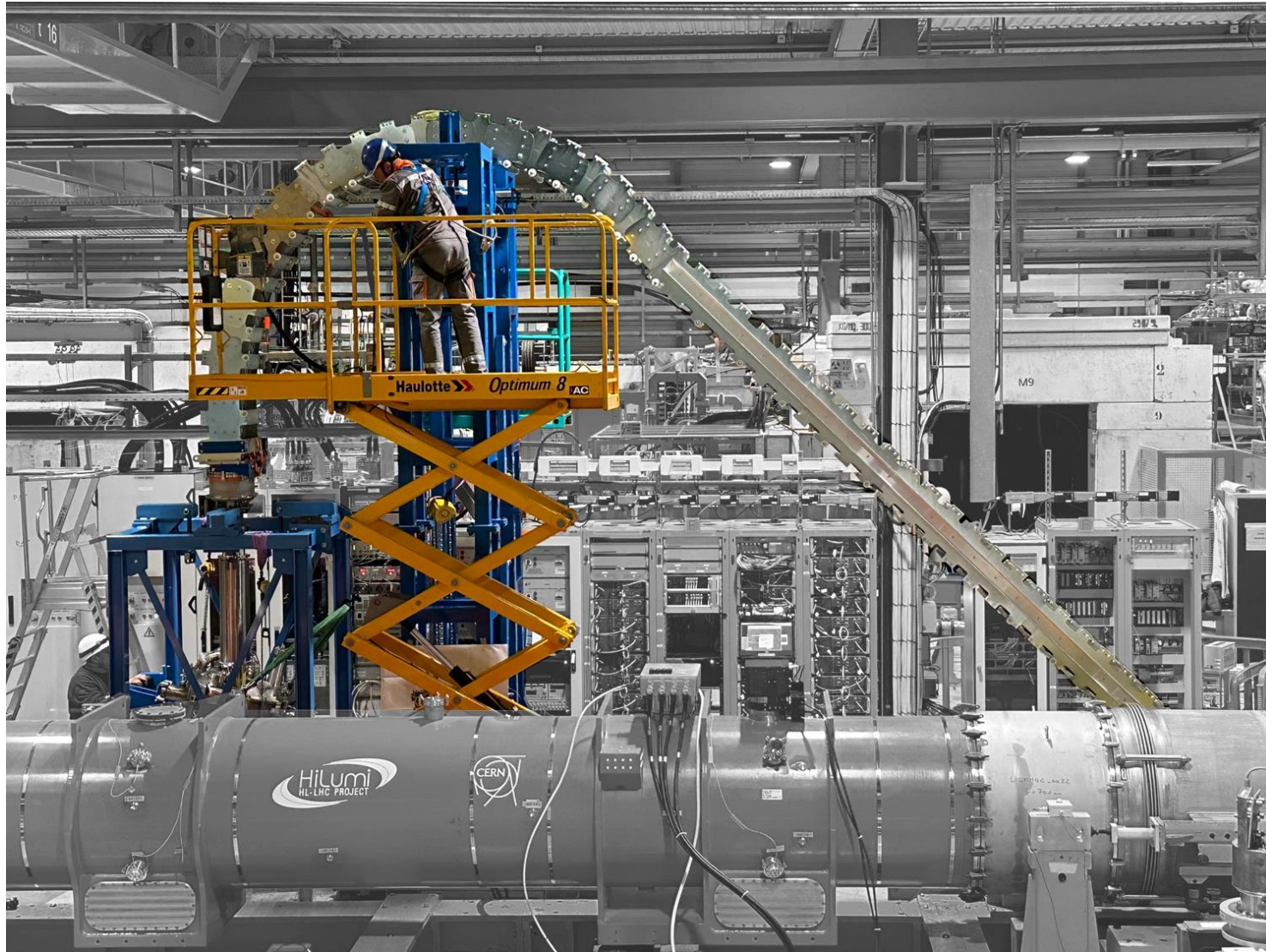


## CERN Main Workshop

- Manufacturing/assembly of resistive parts of current leads
- Manufacturing of mechanical components of DFHX
- Welds in the SM-18

**A successful collaborative effort**

# Vertical Path of Superconducting Link





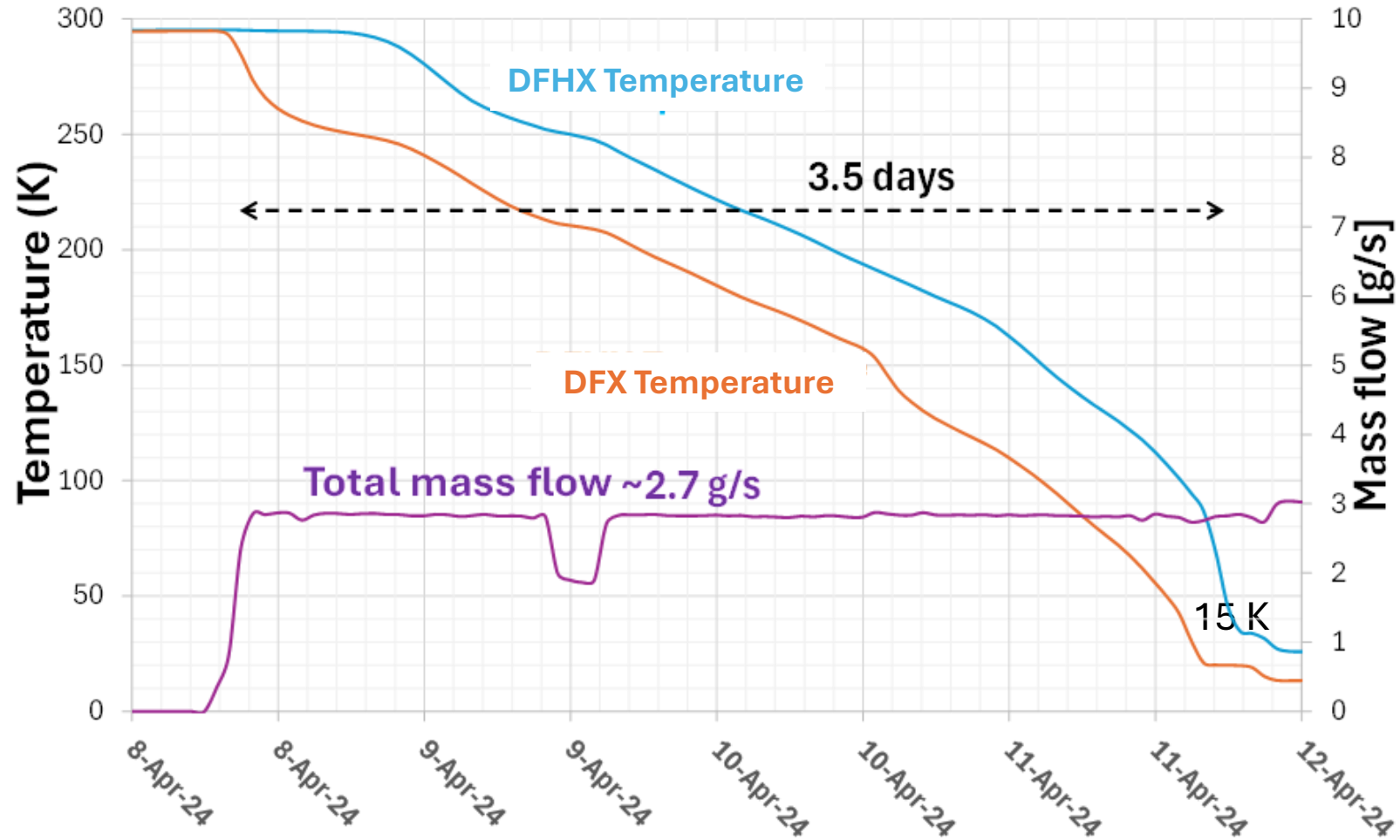
# Cool-down

After the **pressure test** (4.6 bara) and the **leak test** (helium leak rate better than  $1.0 \times 10^{-8}$  mbar·l·s<sup>-1</sup>), **cool-down** to nominal cryogenic conditions was performed

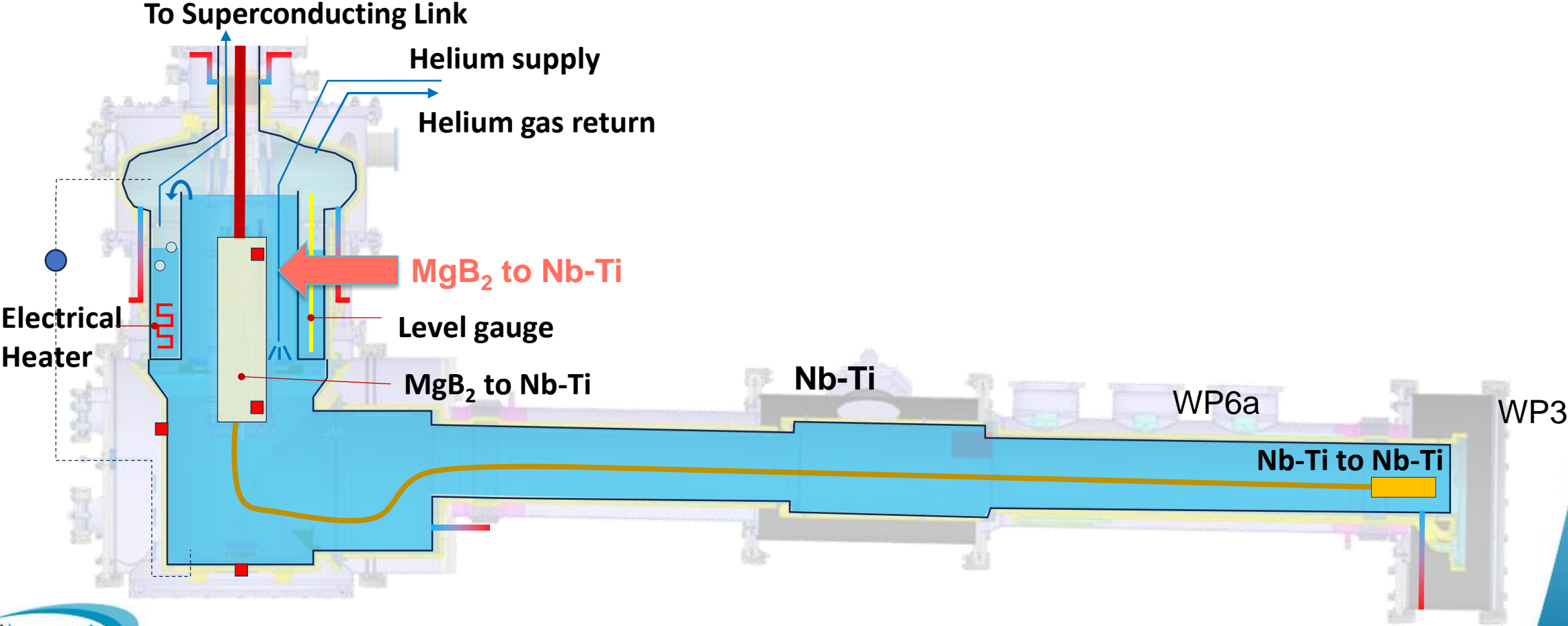
$\Delta T \leq 50$  K  
from RT to 160 K

$\Delta T \leq 70$  K  
from 160 K to 15 K

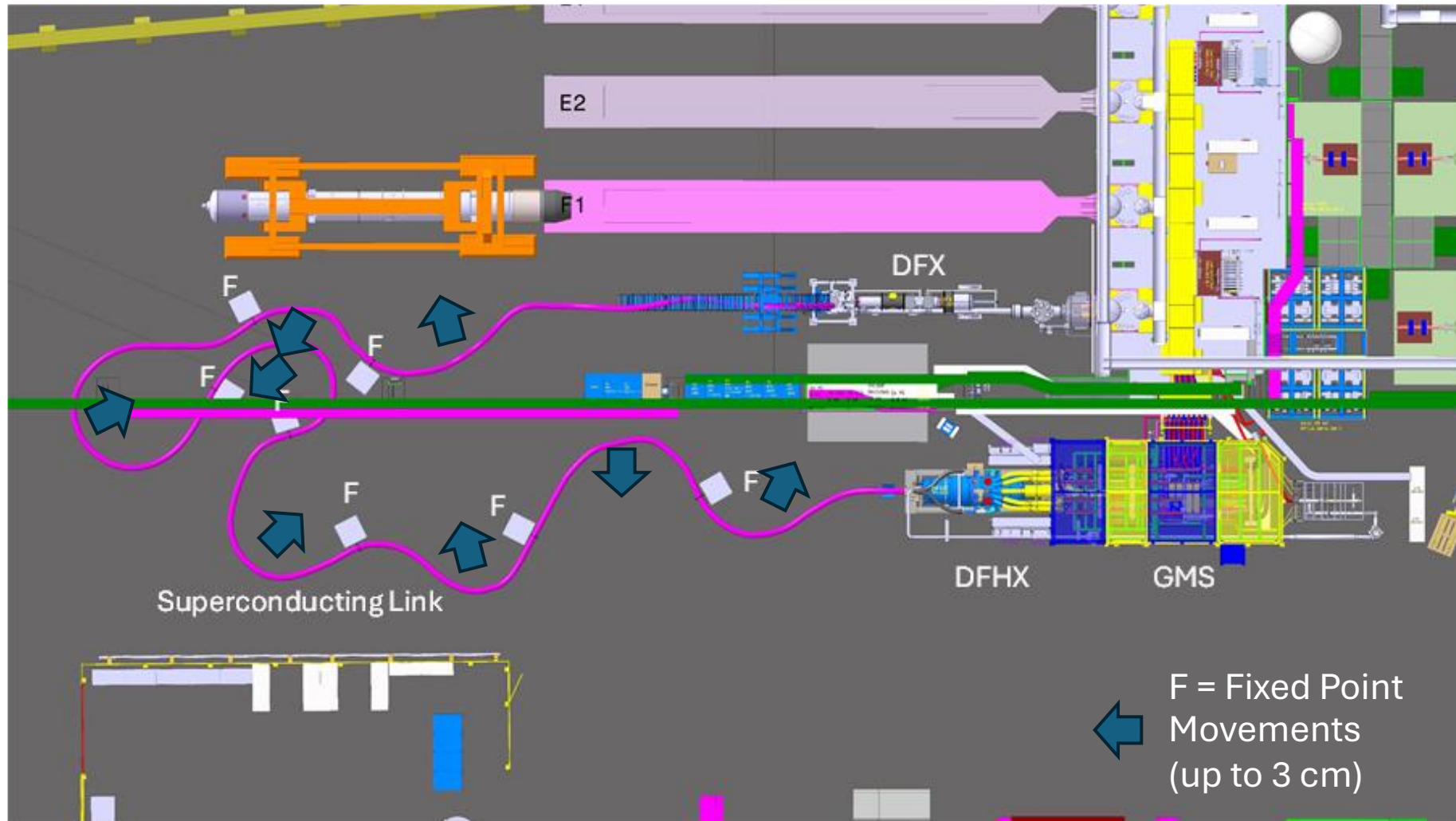
$m = 2$  g/s - 3 g/s



# Layout of DFX



# Dealing with Thermal Contractions



**Two thermal cycles** (from room temperature to cryogenic conditions) followed by **powering** of all circuits. Repetitive performance

# Powering Scheme

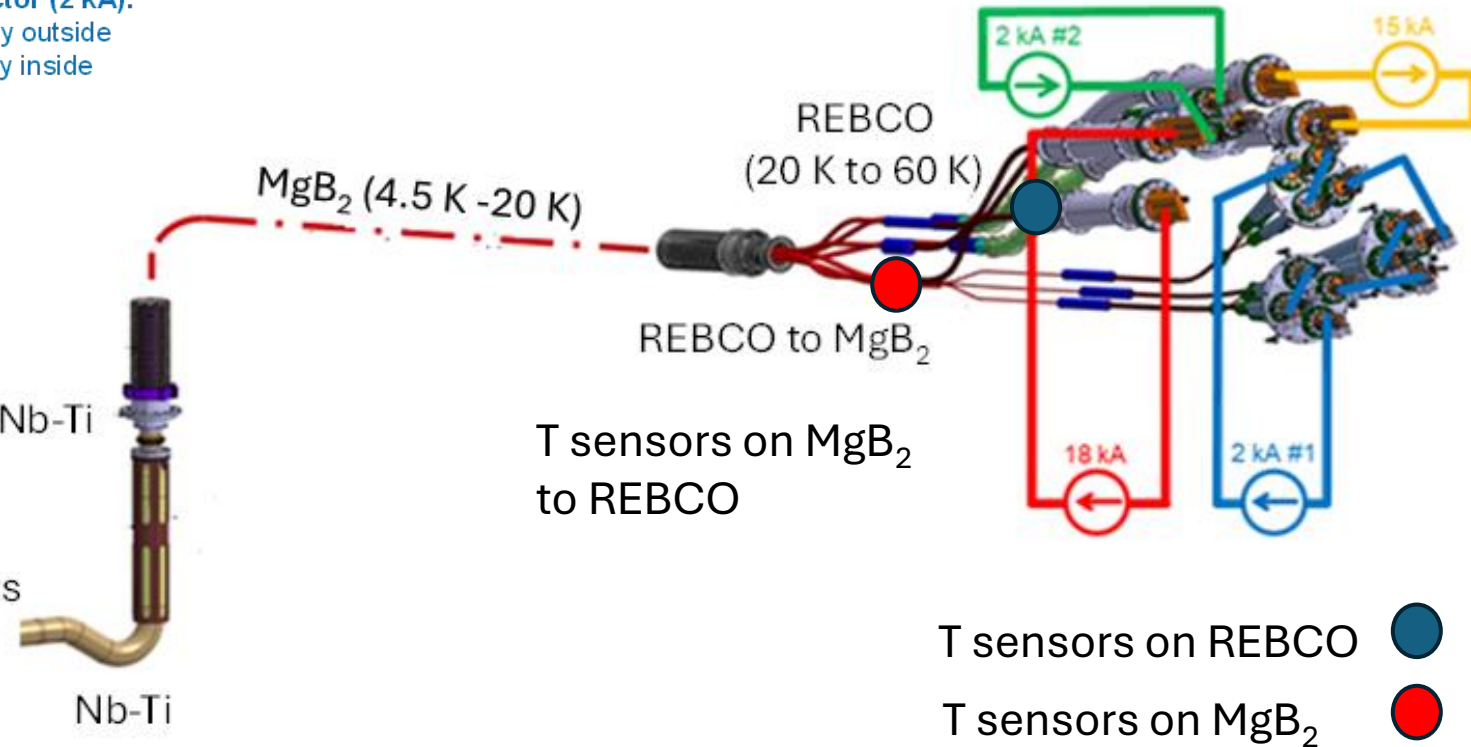
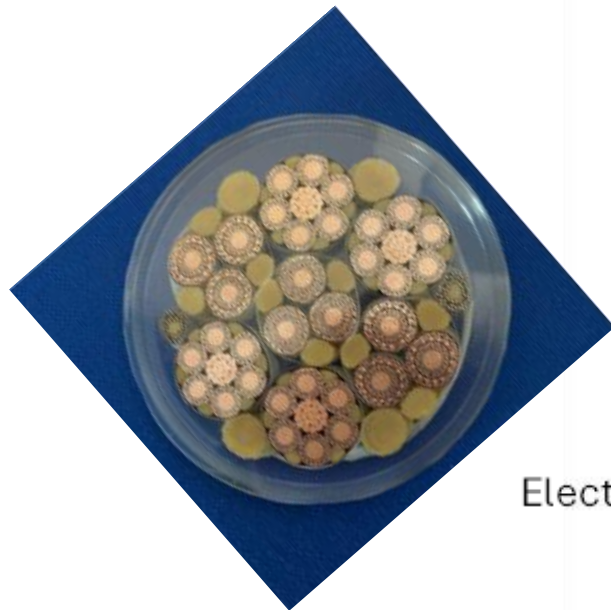
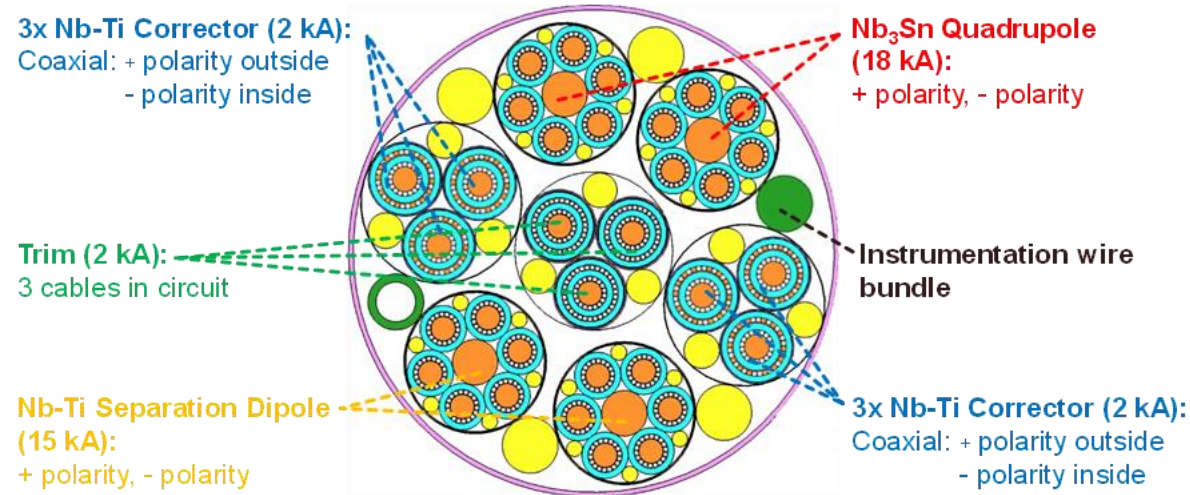
## Four power converters:

**18 kA** –  $I_{HL-LHC} = 16.23$  kA (Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn quadrupole)

**15 kA** –  $I_{HL-LHC} = 12.11$  kA (Separation dipole)

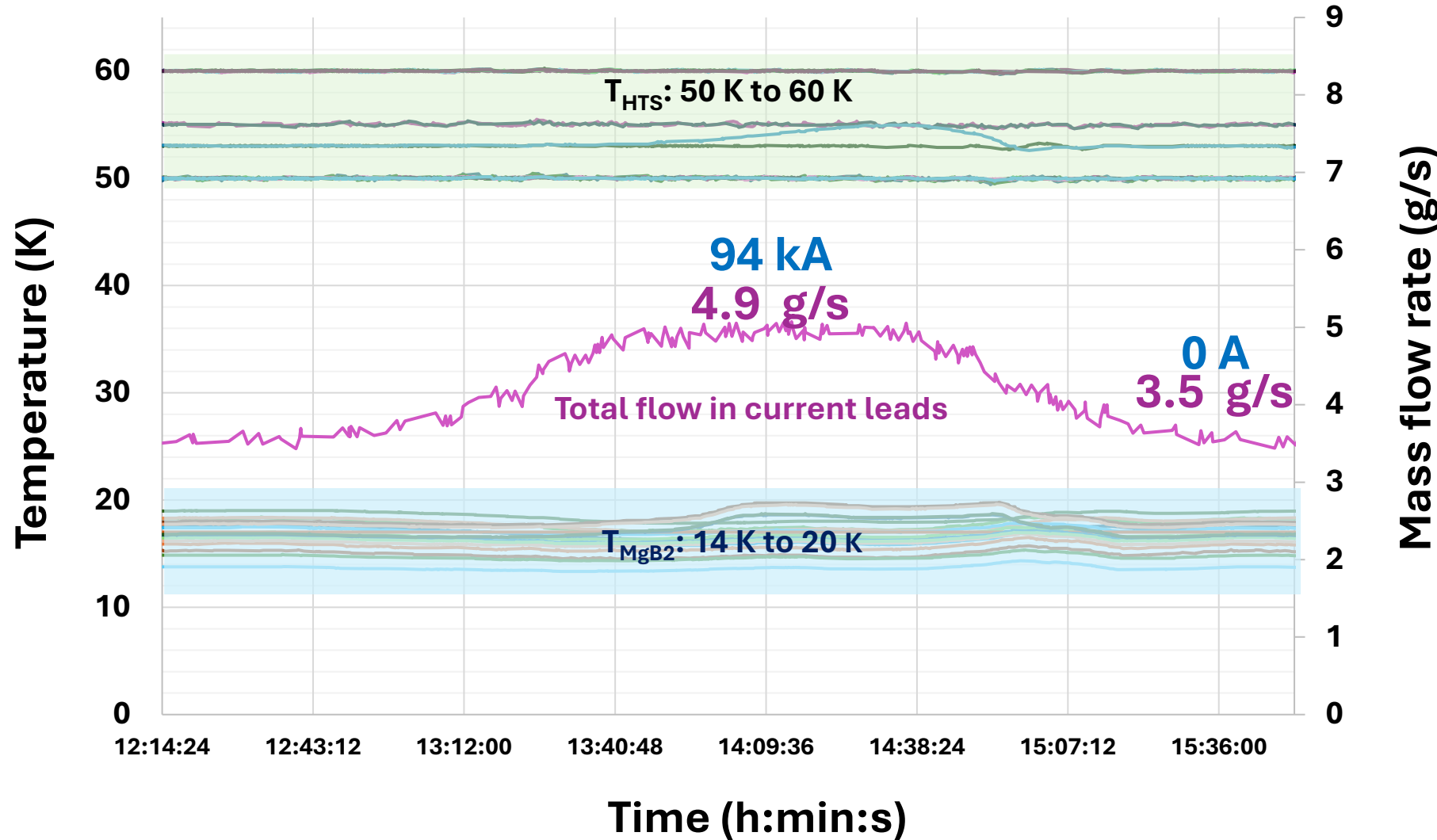
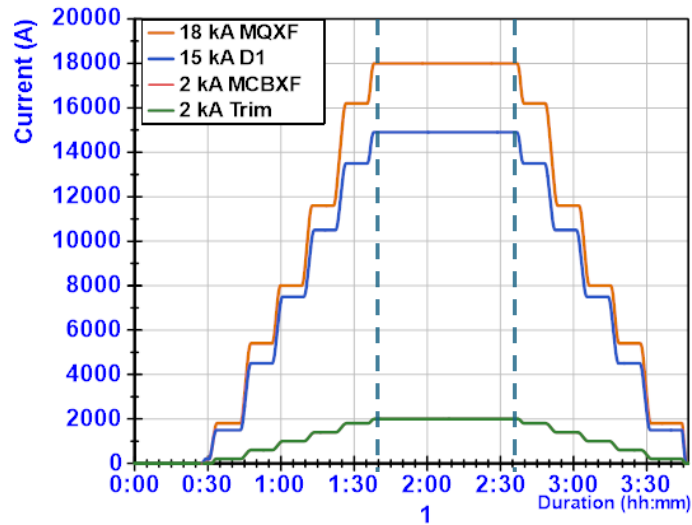
**2 kA** –  $I_{HL-LHC} = 2$  kA (Trim)

**2 kA** –  $I_{HL-LHC} = 1.74$  kA (Correctors)



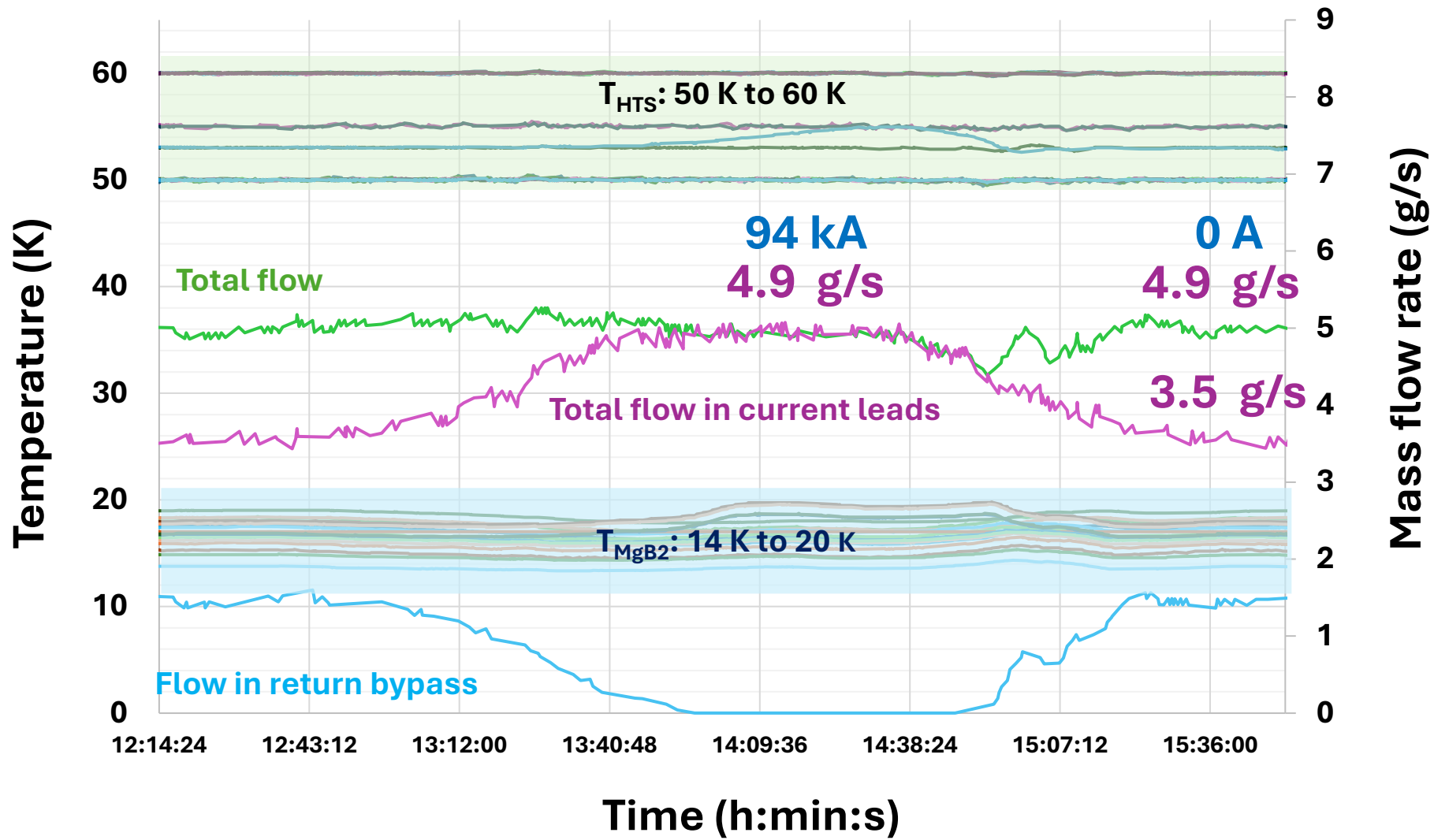
Maximum current delivered by the power converters: **94 kA**

# Cryogenic and Electrical Performance (1/2)



Mass flow rate dominated by requirement of optimized current leads:  $\sim 0.05 \text{ g}/(\text{s}\cdot\text{kA})$

# Cryogenic and Electrical Performance (2/2)



**High voltage tests** (2.3 kV among polarities and between each polarity and the ground) in nominal cryogenic conditions **successfully performed** (leakage currents < 10  $\mu$ A)

# Room Temperature Terminations

**18 kA hold: ~2 h**

Temp. increase: ~3 °C



**18 kA hold: ~2 h**

Temp. increase: ~5 °C



**2 kA hold: ~2 h**

No temp. increase



Maximum 5 °C increase at maximum current, no condensation during any operating condition (both at zero current and with current)

# Splices

REBCO to MgB<sub>2</sub>, GHe @ 20 K

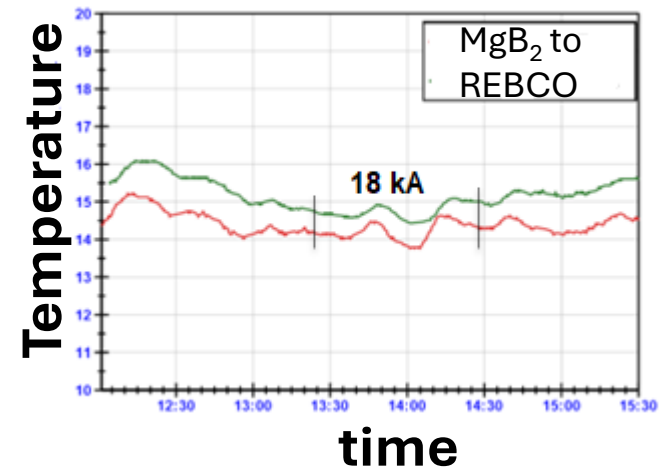
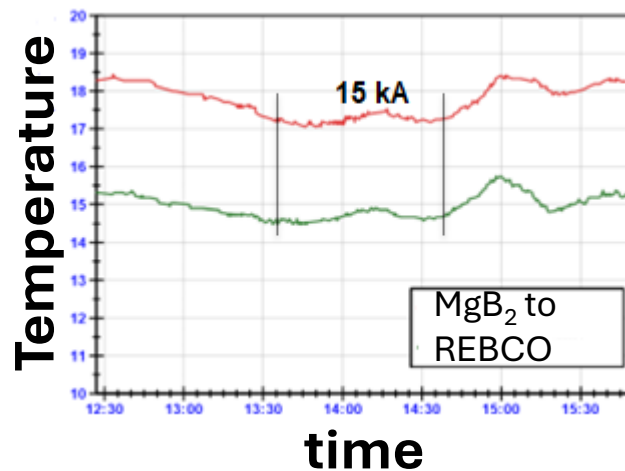
MgB<sub>2</sub> to Nb-Ti, LHe @ 4.5 K

Nb-Ti to Nb-Ti, LHe @ 4.5 K

Circuit	REBCO to MgB <sub>2</sub> splices		MgB <sub>2</sub> to Nb-Ti splices		Nb-Ti to Nb-Ti splices	
	R <sub>splice</sub> measured	R <sub>splice</sub> expected	R <sub>splice</sub> measured	R <sub>splice</sub> expected	R <sub>splice</sub> measured	R <sub>splice</sub> expected
18 kA	1.4 ± 0.1 nΩ	1.5 - 2.2 nΩ	1.4 ± 0.1 nΩ	≤ 1.8 nΩ	0.9 ± 0.1 nΩ	≤ 2.0 nΩ
15 kA	1.7 ± 0.1 nΩ		1.4 ± 0.3 nΩ		0.9 ± 0.1 nΩ	
2 kA - Trim	4.3 ± 0.8 nΩ	4.5 - 6.5 nΩ	1.4 ± 0.2 nΩ	≤ 3.5 nΩ	1.2 ± 0.1 nΩ	
2 kA - Correctors	10.1 ± 1.1 nΩ	9.0 - 13.0 nΩ	2.4 ± 1.4 nΩ	≤ 6.0 nΩ	1.1 ± 0.3 nΩ	

**Stable performance, no overheating, temperature of splices independent of current (± 1 K)**

## MgB<sub>2</sub> to REBCO





# Transient Behavior

## Successfully validated:

- **Cryogenic requirement during transients**

Capability of operating **without liquid helium supply during 10 minutes** with MgB<sub>2</sub> to Nb-Ti splices immersed in liquid helium. Capability of producing **up to 10 g/s of GHe**

- **Electrical requirement (cross talks)**

**Absence of cross talk among circuits** – via electro-magnetic coupling. Fast discharges (up to 100 A/s) of the 2 kA circuits do not trigger the quench protection system of any of the other circuits

- **High Voltage insulation**

Each circuit tested at **5 kV** in air, **2.3 kV** in nominal cryogenic conditions, and **1.1 kV** in GHe at room temperature. Measured leakage currents 100 times lower than specified limit

# Re-spooling/Transport of SC Link + DFHX

Compactness of DFHX and flexibility of the SC Link enable **assembly and qualification** of the Systems **at the surface** (before installation in the LHC underground)



See presentation of Y. Leclercq on Wednesday (WP6a in String)

# Conclusions

- The **first Cold Powering System for the HL-LHC Triplets** has been **successfully validated**: cryogenic, electrical and mechanical performance all met design parameters. **Robustness** of the system in different operating modes was proven
- The system transferred up to **|94| kA** (maximum current delivered by power converters) **in DC mode** and in nominal cryogenic conditions: **MgB<sub>2</sub> @ 20 K** and **REBCO @ 60 K**. Operation of MgB<sub>2</sub> is up to 29 K and of REBCO up to 70 K (**~ 10 K temperature margin**)
- Components of the Cold Powering Systems have been **industrialized**. They are today in an **advanced phase of series production**, and several series productions are completed (recently DFHX components)
- The system has been opened, re-spooled, transported and **installed in the String**. This was also a good exercise for what will have to be done for the tunnel installation



**A phantastic team !**

***Thanks for your attention !***

Acknowledgements:

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C. Bertone and E. Richards and the **EN-HE transport team**

Our collaborators: **University of Southampton** and **University of Uppsala**

