



# Beam instrumentation (present and short-term future)

Inaki Ortega (SY-BI), with input from operations and BI experts

Joint Accelerator Performance Workshop 2024 - Montreux

# Beam Gas Curtain monitor

## Status of existing BGC in P4 left

### Successful data taking in 2024 both for Ions and Protons:

- Emittance measurement during the whole cycle
- Values consistent and reproducible
- No jet thickness effect for the horizontal
- OP-GUI implemented for live visualisation

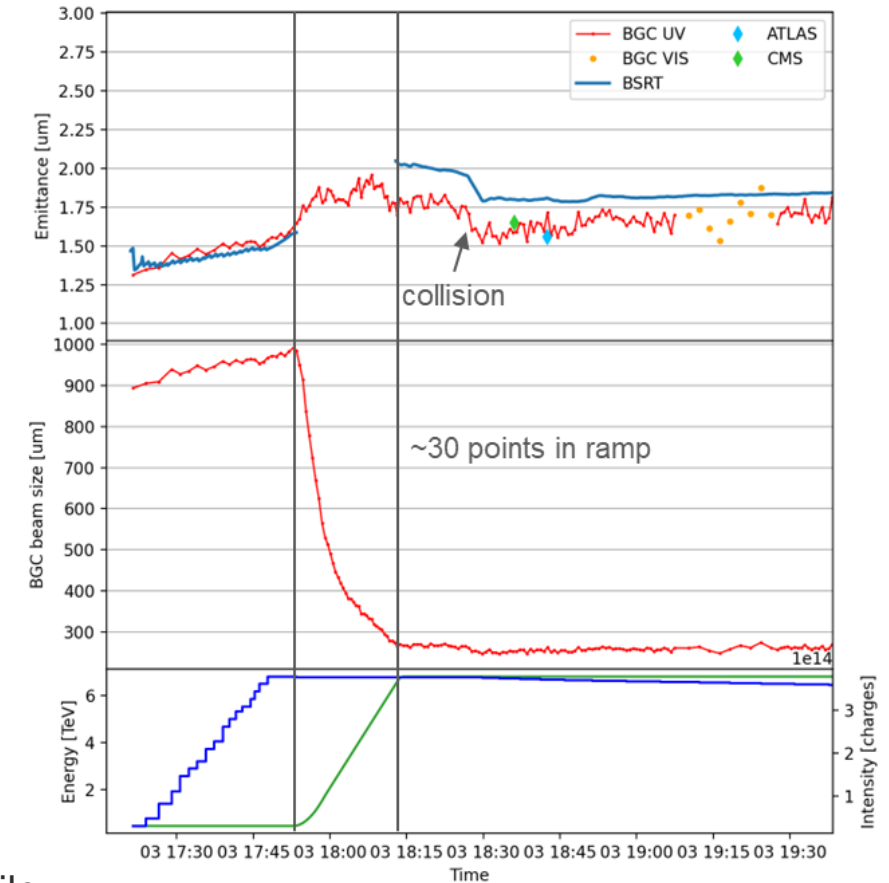
### Known limitations:

- Not able to measure bunch by bunch
- Gas injection not implemented yet in the sequencer
- Optimisation of vertical BGC in progress – works during YETS24/25

### YETS activities:

- Exchange of skimmers 3 and 4 to reduce curtain thickness and improve vertical profile measurement quality
- BLM installation to analyse gas injection-induced losses to study feasibility as halo monitor

Reference: BGC CM: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1468706/>



*BGC measurement through cycle*

# Injectors BWS Status & Plans

## Current Status:

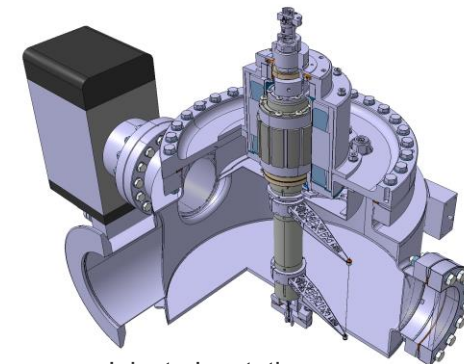
- 17 new rotary scanners installed in LS2: 214k scans since 2021
- All features implemented –including SPS intensity limits to be fully tested in 2025
- Impedance issues covered by **Chiara Antuono on Wednesday morning**

## Main Challenge: Bearing Issues

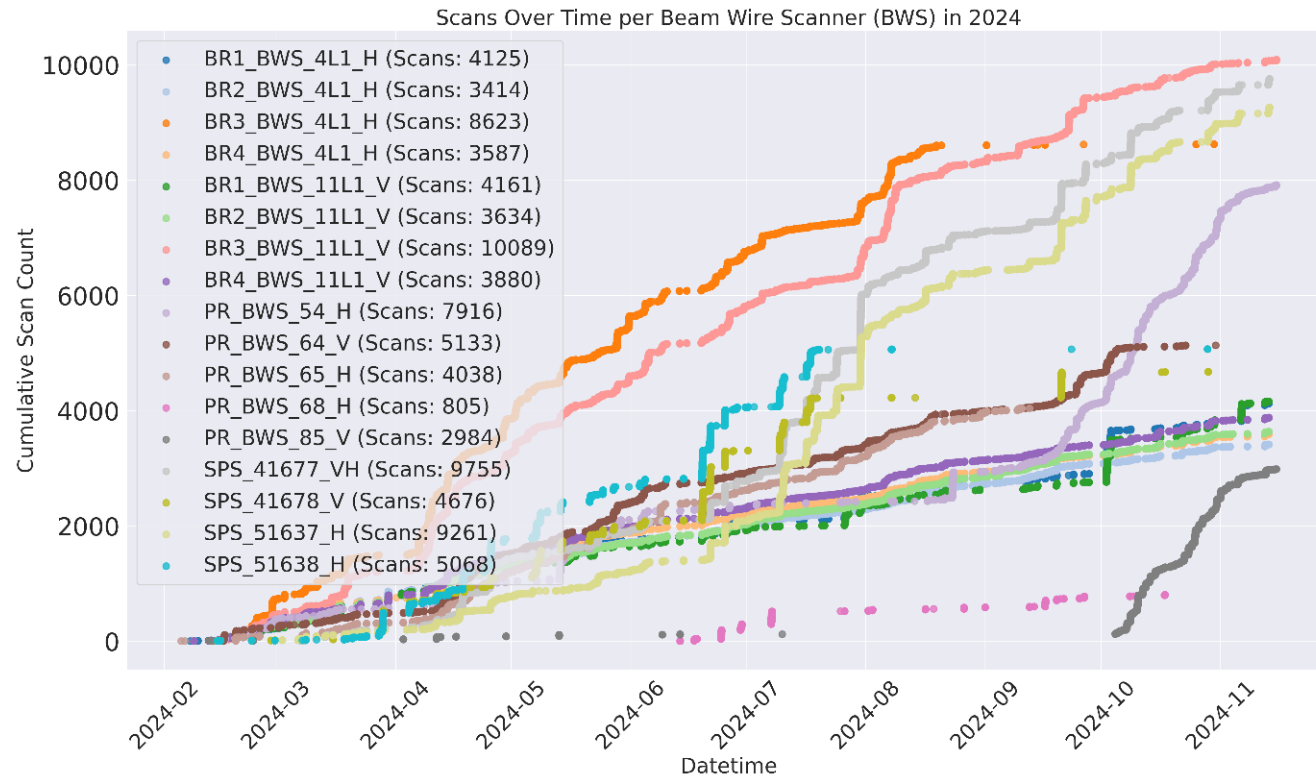
- Limited lifetime of the bearings –6 failures in 2024— with low impact on operation thanks to redundancy
- Bearings behaviour being tested at CERN: custom solution being studied together with the supplier

## YETS 24/25 Actions:

- End-of-run inspection + IST procedure
- Replace 4 broken scanners (1xPSB, 2xCPS, 1xSPS)



Injector's rotative scanner



# LHC BWS CONS

## 4 legacy units operational (10.3k scans in 2024)

- Uses obsolete electronics and old bellows

## 4 'Hybrid+' units (legacy with improved mechanics and electronics)

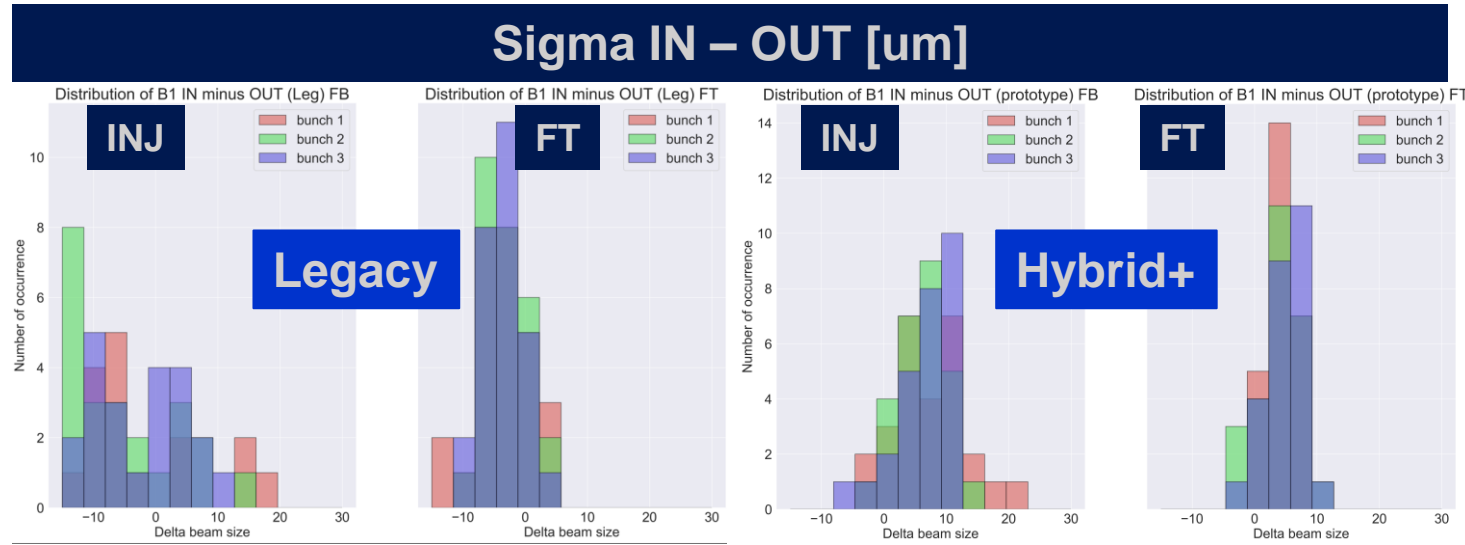
- > 1k scans performed by BI experts
- HW: Beam 1 ready for OP. Beam 2 with DAQ issue generating 'noisy' profiles being investigated
- SW: FESA interface ready for integration in OP application
- Ensures operation up to LS3 – more cons needed for later

## Lots of efforts on new generation of linear BWS

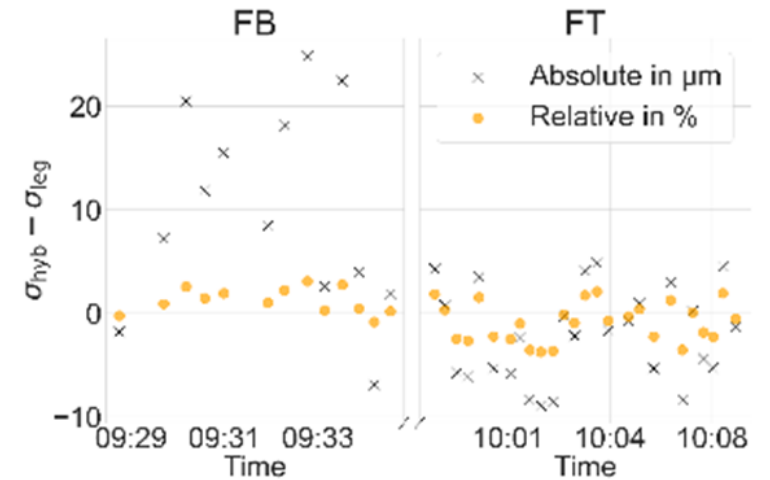
### YETS 24/25:

- Refurbish 3 Legacy scanners with improved bellows
- Fix Beam 2 Hybrid+ issue (likely related to DAQ FW)
- HW and Beam commissioning by BI experts. Plan: handover to OP 4 Hybrid+ after commissioning

**YETS 25/26:** new linear scanner prototype for beam tests in 2026 – confirm plans for LS3 CONS



**Hybrid+ vs Legacy comparison in beam sigma measured on same bunches**



**Injection energy**  
 < +20um in absolute  
 < +2% in relative

**Flat Top energy**  
 < +10um in absolute  
 < +4% in relative

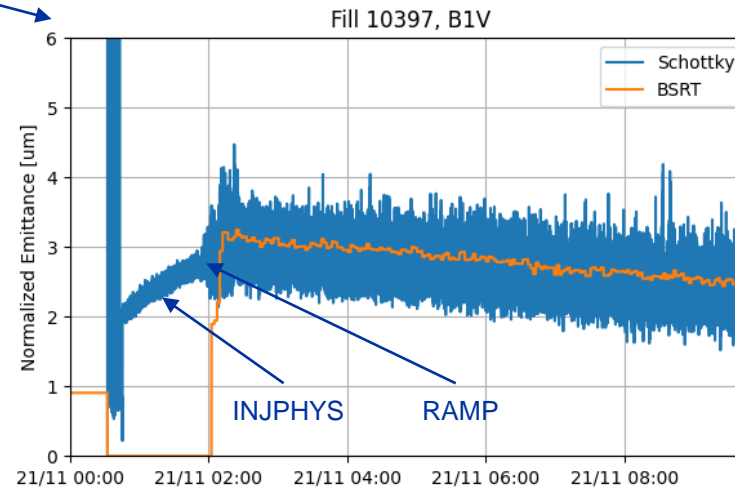
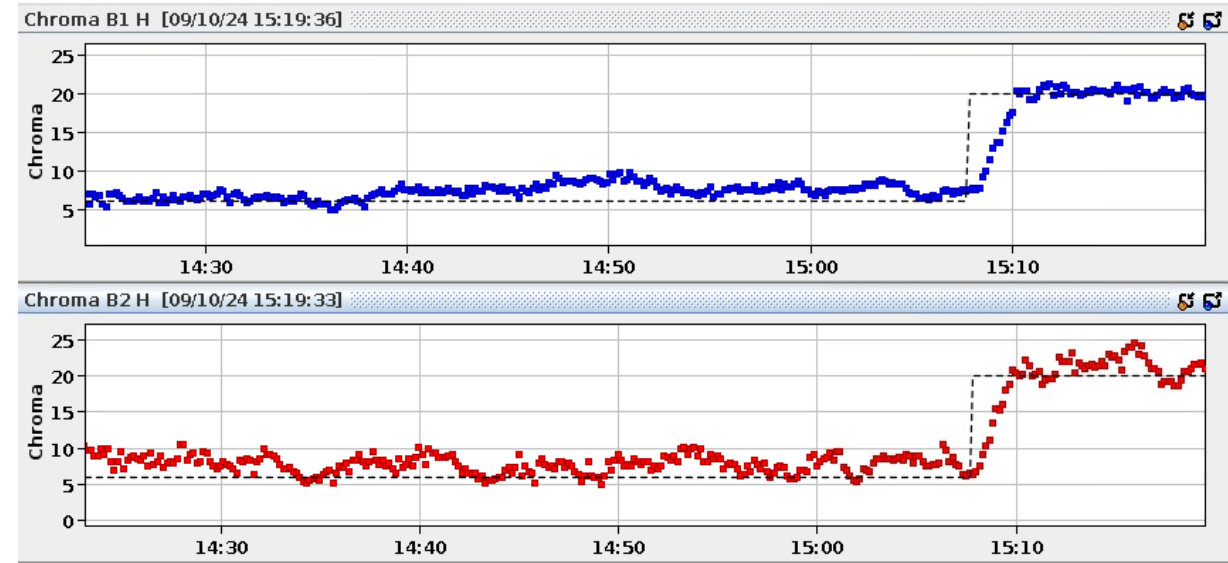
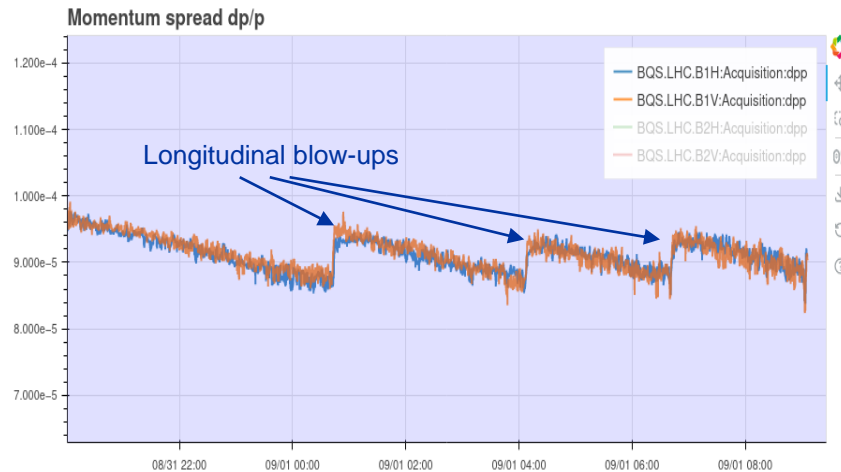
# LHC Schottky

## Schottky Monitor operational!

- Online Q' measurement with **proton** and **ion** beams
- Displayed in OP's LHC AccPit

## Additional measurements:

- Betatron tune, RMS dp/p
- Transverse emittance of **ion** bunches along the whole cycle



## Promising studies ongoing:

- Betatron coupling monitoring
- More realistic Schottky theory
- Machine-learning based analysis

K. Lasocha et al. PRAB 27 (11), 112801  
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 M. Bradicic, CERN-STUDENTS-Note-2024-224

# Other LHC Diagnostics

## BSRL 2024

- DAQ (TDC) failures: new TDC family being procured
- Degradation of signal on B1 due to limitation in collection options. Should be fixed during YETS 24

## BRAN

- Motorisation issues under study, fix planned for LS3
- Improve calibration by performing systematic checks

## BLMs

- Very good availability – keeps improving since LS2
- Several injection issues – more information on Sofia Kostoglou's presentation on Wednesday morning
- Extensive work on thresholds

# Beam Secondary Emission Intensity foils (BSI) calibration

## Absolute calibration studies

- Dependence on radiation and vacuum history: ongoing study
- Dependence on BSI bias voltage levels: study finished in 2024
- Effect of beam size on 'hollow bias foil': ongoing study

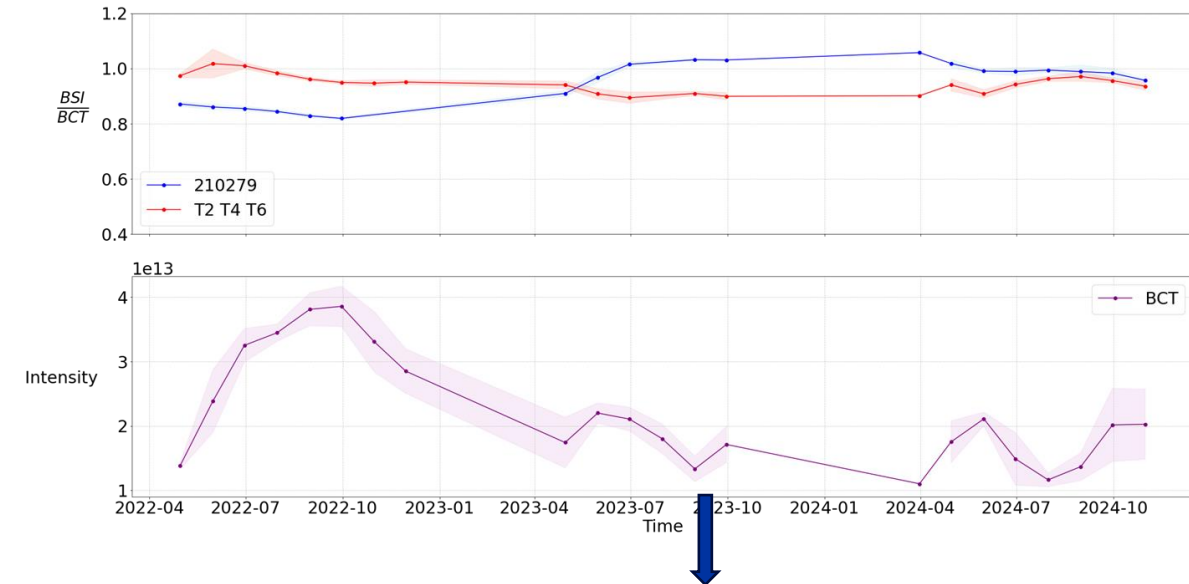
## Calibration with activation foils

- Only available method at present for absolute calibration
- On-going analysis – see M. Van Dijk's presentation on JAPW23 (<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1337597>)
- On-going studies on type of foil
- Request to establish systematic measurements at the beginning and end of the run

## Outlook

- Proposal of new BSI design (e.g. no hole in bias foil) along with calibration procedures as part of NA-CONS
- Other options: BCT, CCC options discussed at BIFT and presented at 355<sup>th</sup> IEFEC (<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1460279/>)
  - Cryogenic Current Comparator needs allocation of resources and R&D

### Average signals per week



Comparison of BCT and BSI needs detailed study of losses at extraction and splitting. Improvements planned for 2025-2026.



# TT20 SEM detectors with ions 2024

## 2024 measurements

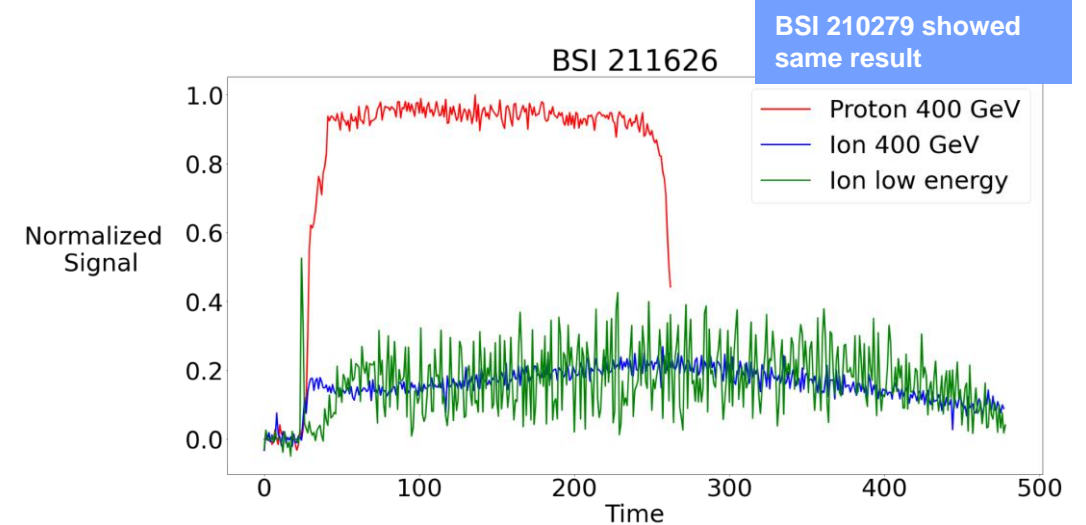
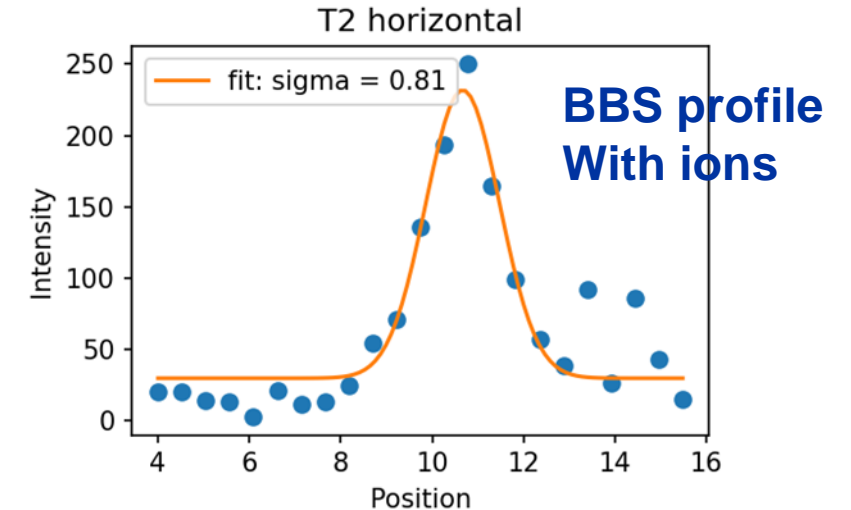
- 2024 Experience with ions: primary line SEMs could be used to steer the beam and validate optics despite 'low' signal
- BSGs (fixed bands) used in one-shot analysis
- BBS (scanning wire in TBIU) required multi-shots but allowed validating beam size at target expected by optics

## Expected vs Measured BSI Signal Ratio (Ions/Protons):

- Expected: 10-15% (based on  $Z^2$ -scaling and BCT normalisation)
- Measured: ~8% (comparing integrated spills)
- Discrepancy: can be due to reduced beam transmission with ions?

## Outlook

- It is necessary to understand the limitations, particularly for low-intensity beams
- Find synergies with the upgrade project of the ion complex
- New BSGs for TBIUs funded by NA-CONS

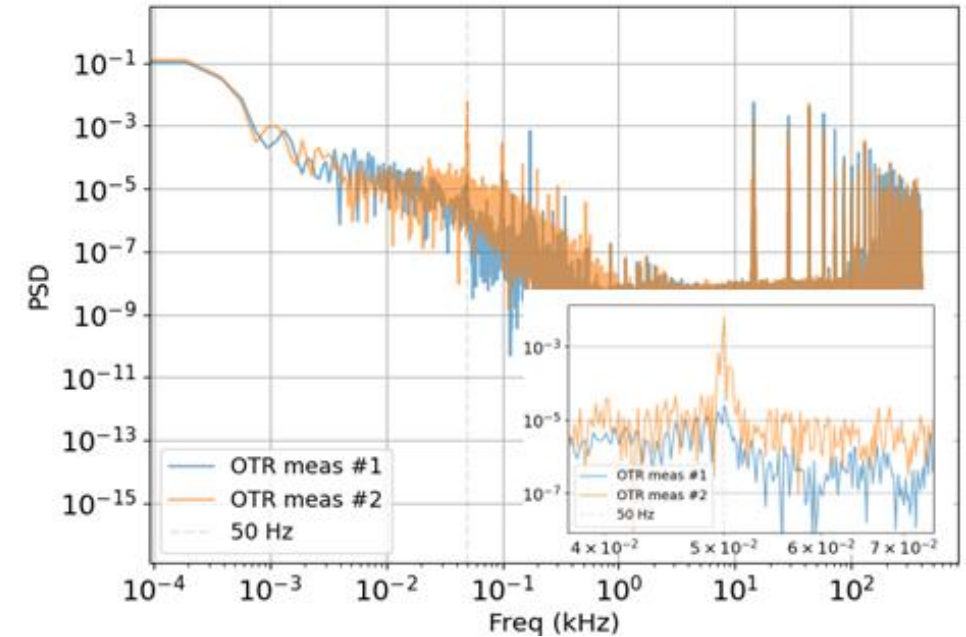




# SPS Spill monitor

## Spill monitor for NA-CONS

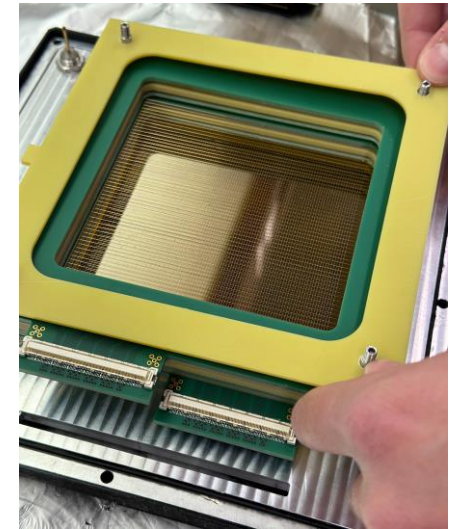
- System based on OTR screen + Photomultiplier tube:  
<https://indico.jacow.org/event/80/contributions/5769/>
- Goal bandwidth of 800 MHz
- DAQ now ready for tracking 200MHz and 800MHz harmonics.
- Outlook for 2025:
  - Make the system fully operational and be an alternative to BSI
  - Reach maximum bandwidth



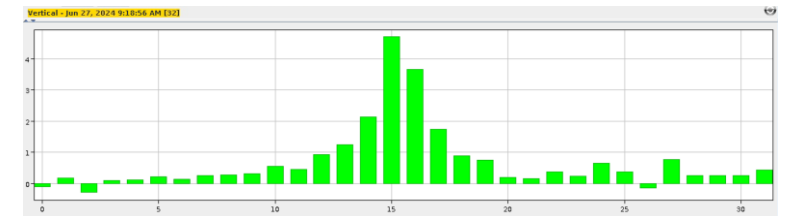
*Plot courtesy of Pablo Arrutia*

# Experimental Areas - Secondary Beamlines

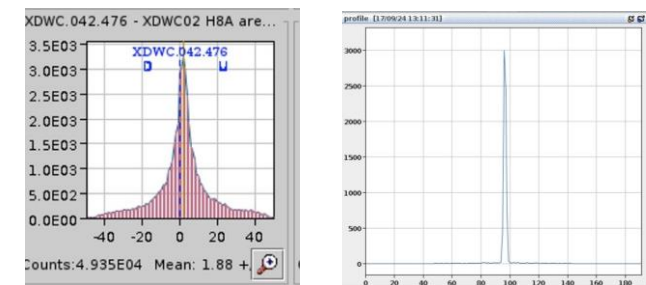
- **CEDAR (Cherenkov Differential Counter)**
  - Deployment of new pressure sensor
  - Improved precision of diaphragm and motor movements
  - Ongoing creation of a test bench for full detector characterisation
- **New Multi-Wire Proportional Chamber prototype**
  - Completed production and testing of new 10cm x 10cm prototype
  - Aiming to produce several 20cm x 20cm units for 2025
- **New scintillating fibre monitor (XBPF) and other R&D beam tests**
  - North Area XBPF with in-vacuum in/out motorisation successfully tested and validated with beam
  - Straw-tube detector for radiation-hard profile monitor and in-vacuum scintillator tile for North Area: several prototypes characterised with beam
- **New XCET (Cherenkov Threshold Counter) beam test**
  - New prototype produced and tested with beam – study still ongoing
- **FISC motor refurbishment**
  - Found replacement motor – integration work in progress



Assembly of the MWPC prototype



Profile from the first 10cm x 10cm MWPC prototype



Profile of a  $10^6$  hadron beam in the North Area measured by a DWC (left) and the XBPF (right)

# Fixed target instrumentation: Limitations and future, feedback from BIFT on upcoming consolidation efforts and items not covered

- **AD-ELENA instrumentation issues and requests** presented at BIFT #10 and being followed-up
  - Examples: Ionisation Profile Monitors (IPM) refurbishment, Target BTV calibration issues (see Davide Gamba's presentation on Monday)
- **ISOLDE**: dedicated BIFT #16. Will need to clarify how to integrate ISOLDE requests and BI CONS plans in a common plan (schedule and resources)
- **ECN3 BI** requests presented at BIFT number #12, including ultra-fast spill monitor for SHiP, target instrumentation and other ...
- **Other items not (yet) covered in BIFT and requiring follow-up:**
  - Upgrade Project of the Ion Complex recently discussed
  - Fully supported analytics tools to help improve performance
- **Feedback from EA operation**
  - Improve communication regarding HWC and IST completion
  - Expert availability needed during commissioning periods and outside working hours

## **BIFT (Beam Instrumentation for Fixed Targets Working Group)**

Indico: <https://indico.cern.ch/category/16541/>

Action list in Jira:

<https://its.cern.ch/jira/projects/BIFT/>

# AD Cryogenic Current Comparator (BCCCA) and E-coolers

## AD E-cooler

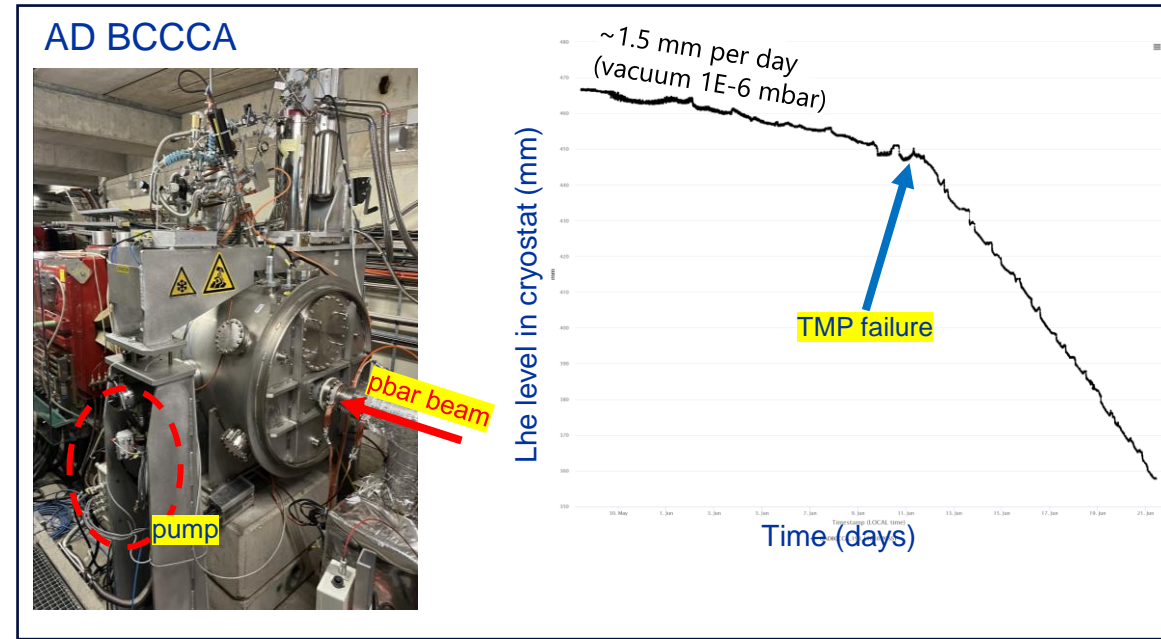
- Cathode supply tripping issue
  - Mitigated by increasing collector voltage by 3%
  - Related to electron beam dynamics at entrance to collector
- Solenoid power supply issue
  - 7 trips in 2024, took 10 hours to repair on 1 occasion
  - CONS in LS3, until then a worrying trend...
- BPM reading drifts being investigated
- Good news: both H & V IPM working

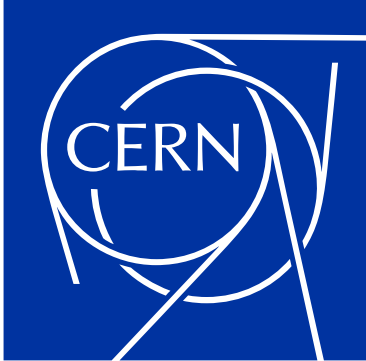
## LEIR and ELENA e-Coolers

- Smooth pbar and Pb ion runs
- 1<sup>st</sup> time Mg ion cooling in LEIR

## AD BCCCA (Cryogenic Current Comparator)

- Pump on insulation vacuum failed -> loss of He
- Temporary fix put in place. Definitive solution deployed during YETS24/25
- Good news: improved reading after applying real B-train signal





[home.cern](http://home.cern)

# Beam Gas Ionisation (BGI) Profile Monitor

Continuous transverse beam profile measurement based on detection of residual ionisation electrons

Instruments installed in the PS (LIU) and SPS (CONS)

## Hardware issues:

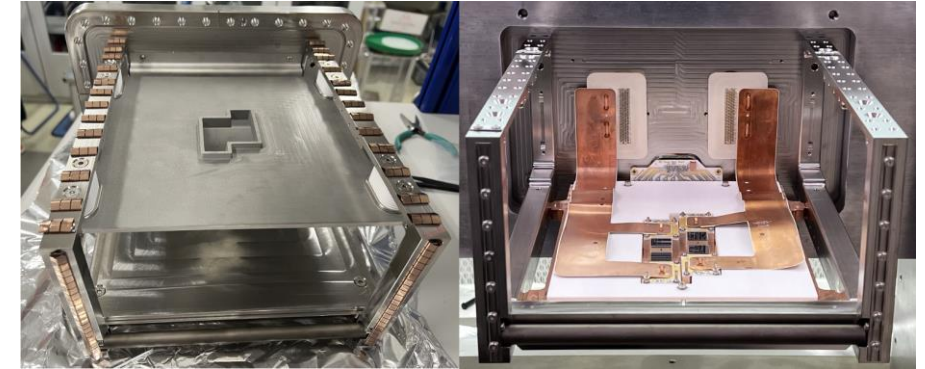
- **EMC issue** of SPS BGI instruments
- **Low gain** of PS BGI-Vertical at injection energy
- **Saturation of Timepix3** due to beam loss & noisy pixels

## Software issues:

- **Stability & complexity** of current FEC + SoC readout system
- **Limited analysis** of Timepix3 data on SoC processor

## Summary of the BGI review

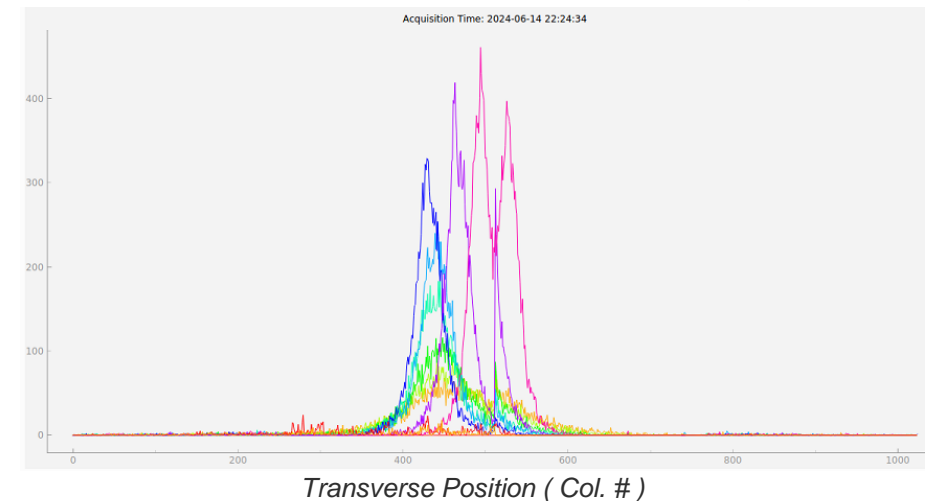
- Recommendation to proceed immediately to new Timepix3 readout architecture (ATS FESA-on-SoC + Server Event Processing), at the cost of reducing deliverables to OP in the short term -> ready by Q4 2025
- SPS EM issue is a significant problem, investigations underway with help of ATS EMC Lab -> SPS BGI-Vertical instrument to be installed in EYETS 24/25



BGI instrument - Field cage

BGI instrument - Timepix3 HPD's

## SPS BGI-H: Beam Profile Evolution of LHC3 Cycle



# SPS BGI's: Situation Today & After YETS 24/25

## Situation Today

### BGI Horizontal

- Instrument installed with “Diamond” RF shield
- Magnets in doublet configuration

### BGI Vertical

- Prototype instrument installed
- Magnets in doublet configuration



## After YETS 24/25

### BGI Horizontal

- Same instrument with “Diamond” RF shield
- External HV countermeasures
- Magnets in triplet configuration (\*)

### BGI Vertical

- New instrument with “Denser” RF shield
- External HV countermeasures
- Magnets in triplet configuration (\*)

(\*) ECR 3168184 "Modification of magnetic bump for operation of the BGI profile monitors in SPS LSS5."

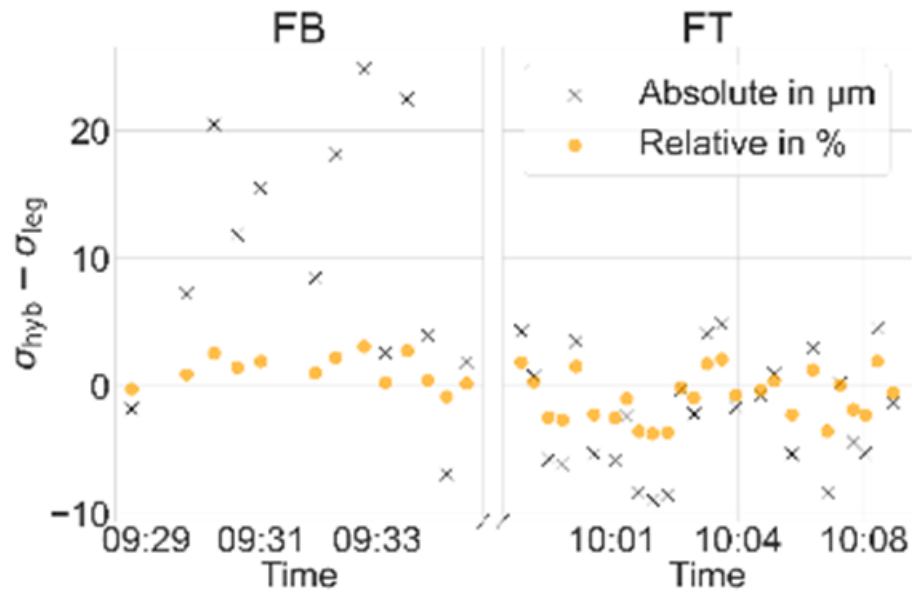


# LHC BLM Thresholds

- BLM Thresholds Working Group: <https://indico.cern.ch/category/8964/>
- 20 BLMTWG some combined with CollWG and/or MPP and 13 ad-hoc meetings
  - 10 concentrated on ion run beam loss limitations
- BLM ECRs 2024:
  - LHC-BLM-ECR-0080 BLM thresholds for the new detectors in IP7 for Beam 1 on the passage wall
  - LHC-BLM-ECR-0081 BLM thresholds increase of RS12 for collimation losses
  - LHC-BLM-ECR-0082 BLM thresholds increase in IR3 at the start of beam energy ramp
  - LHC-BLM-ECR-0083 BLM thresholds for Proton Quench Test at 6.8 TeV
  - LHC-BLM-ECR-0084 BLM thresholds modifications for the proton-proton reference run at 2.68 TeV
  - LHC-BLM-ECR-0085 BLM thresholds for the LHC Pb-Pb ion run at 6.8 TeV in 2024

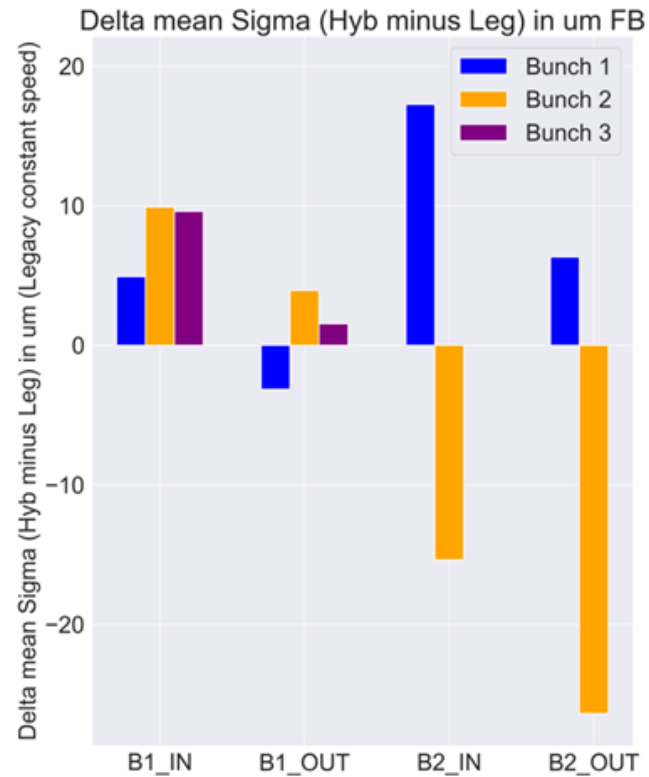
# LHC BWS – Legacy vs Hybrid+

## Hybrid – Legacy



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Flat Top energy  
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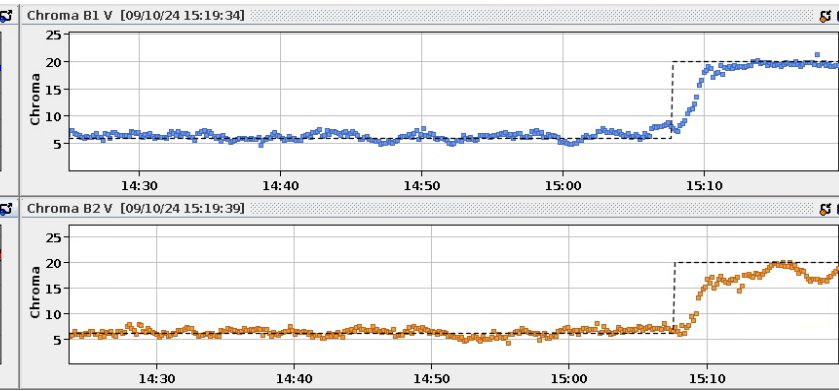
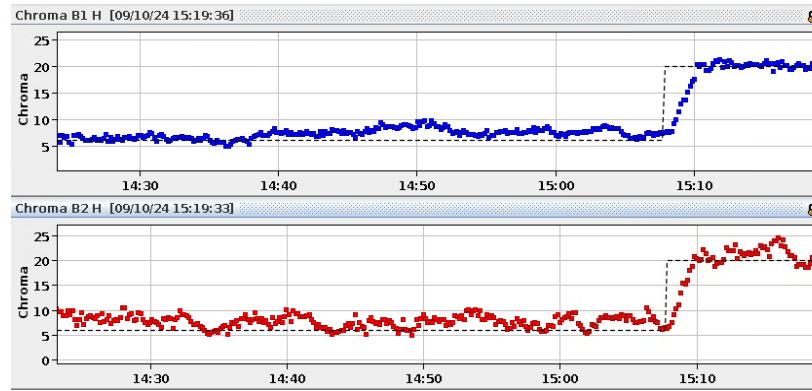
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## Additionally measuring:

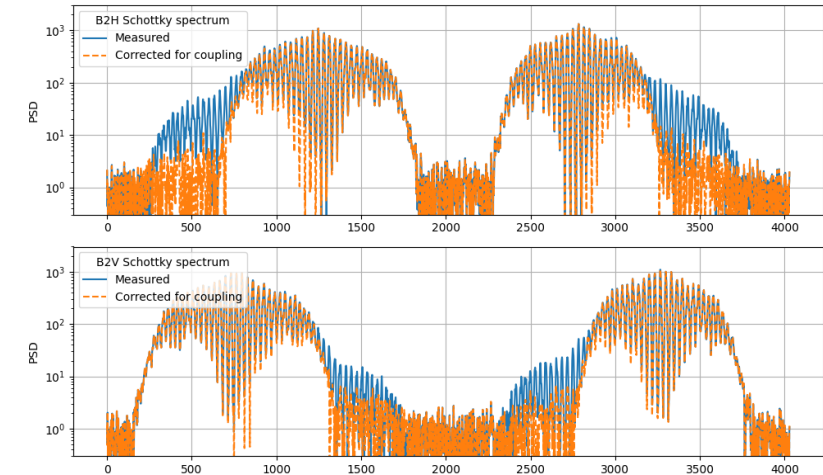
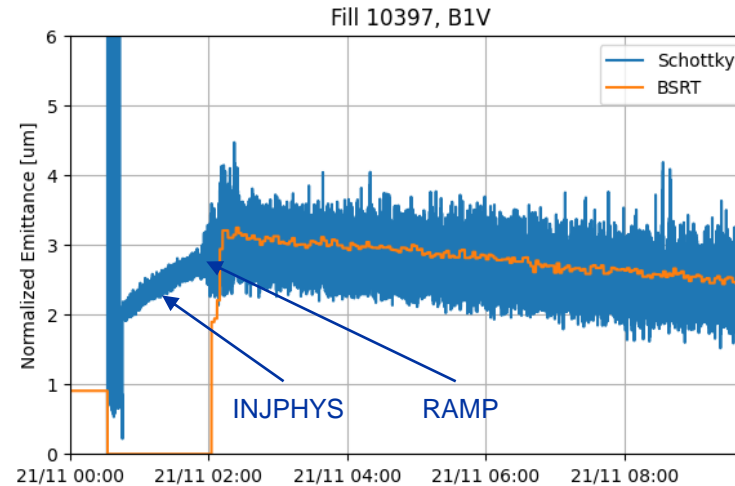
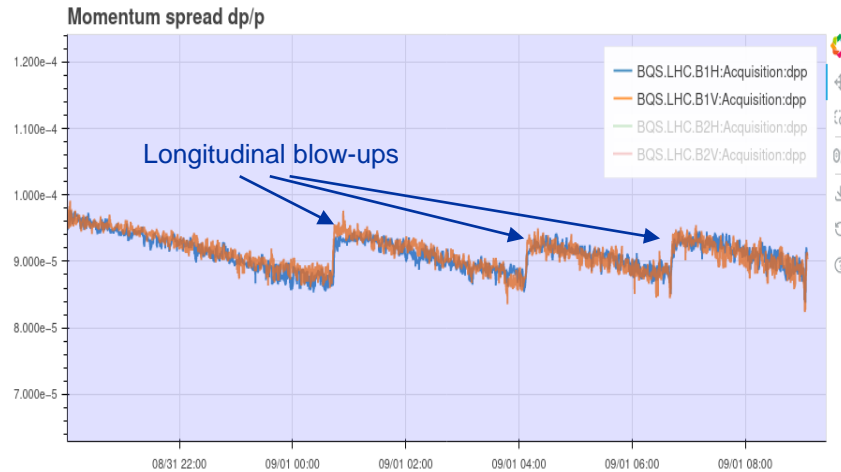
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# Original list of topics proposed by session chairs:

- **Focus up to 2026**
- **BSI measurement status & overview**
- **BGI plans after review**
- **Experimental Areas: Limitations and future, feedback from BIFT on upcoming consolidation efforts and items not covered**
- **Missing instrumentation ('known unknowns'), where do we need R&D or resources?**
- **Compatibility with future beams? Ions? 'Attention needed'?**

# EA feedback to SY/BI (2024 + 2025)

- More clear HWC and ISTs completion
- XWCM spare strategy
- In case of planned commissioning in the weekend / days off, expert availability to be regulated.
- Strategy for intensity calibrations (include XSEC) - CCC (?)
- Test bench for CEDAR/XCET optics commissioning without beam --> On EA
- But for pressure and BI/related --> SY/BI
- Operational issues with XCEDs (pressure sensors ...)
- Possibility of interventions outside working hours for critical equipments like CEDAR or XCET that experiments rely on. Piquet service ?
- Ion Beam Instrumentation for low-energy --> F. Roncarolo
- FISCs