



EN-MME contribution to the ET project: the vacuum system

Anité Pérez – EN-MME-MM

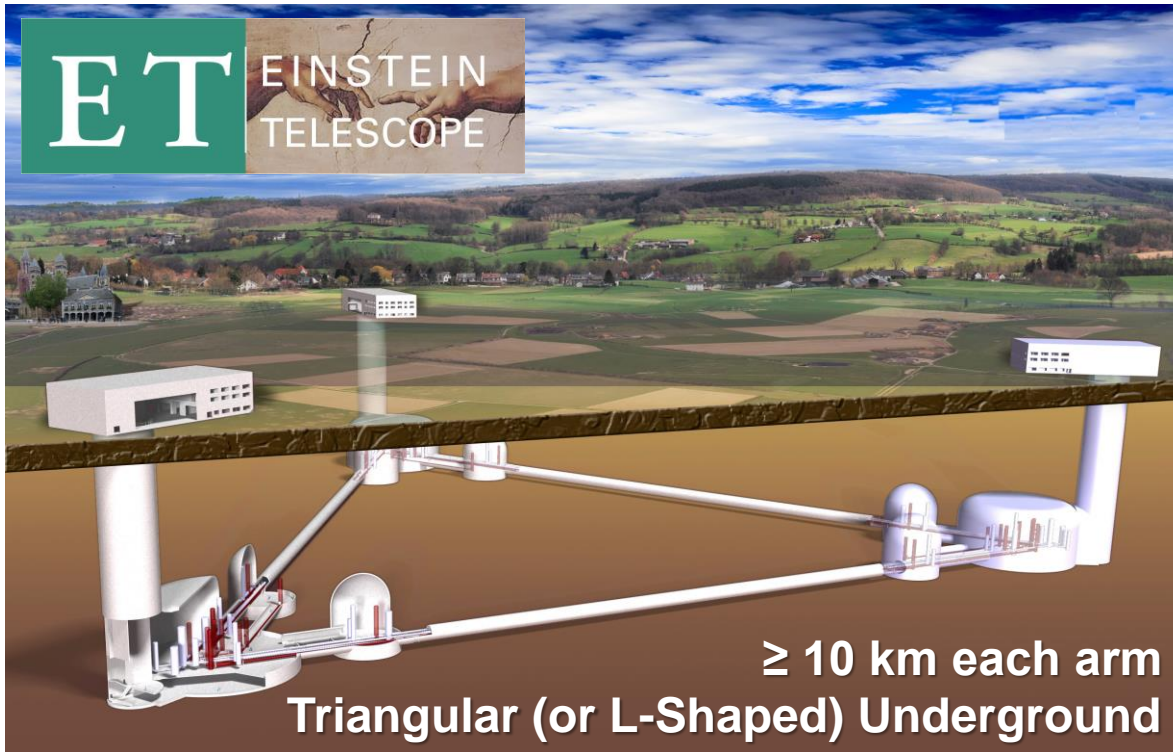
2024-12-06

Outline

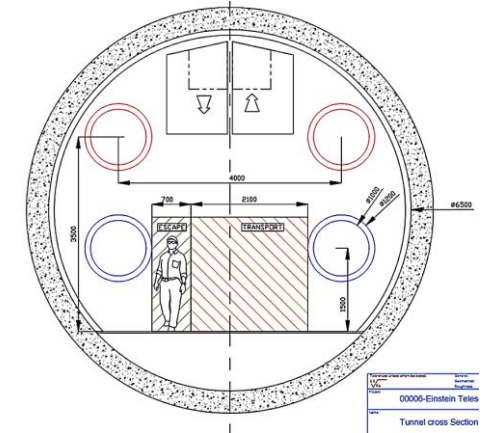
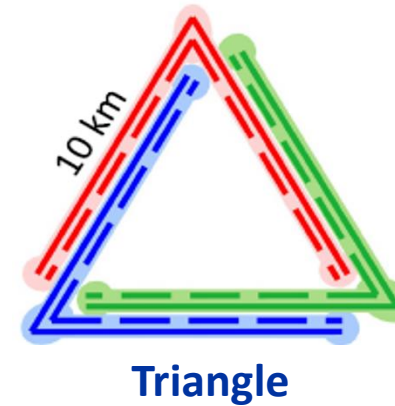
- **Einstein Telescope (ET)**
- **ET Vacuum System**
- **EN-MME contribution**
- **Summary and perspectives**

Einstein Telescope (ET)

Next generation of GW detectors



ET concept



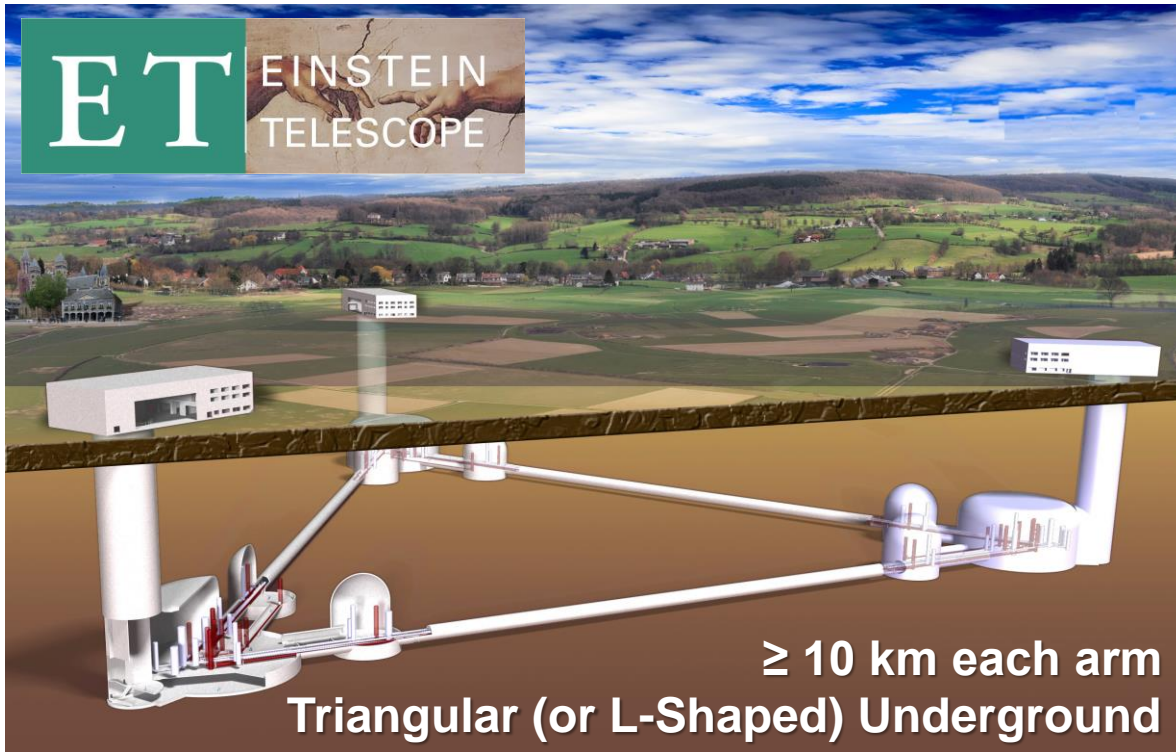
- **Underground Infrastructure: 200 – 300 meter**
- **Probably largest UHV system ever built: 120 km!**

Current detectors observe about one signal per week.

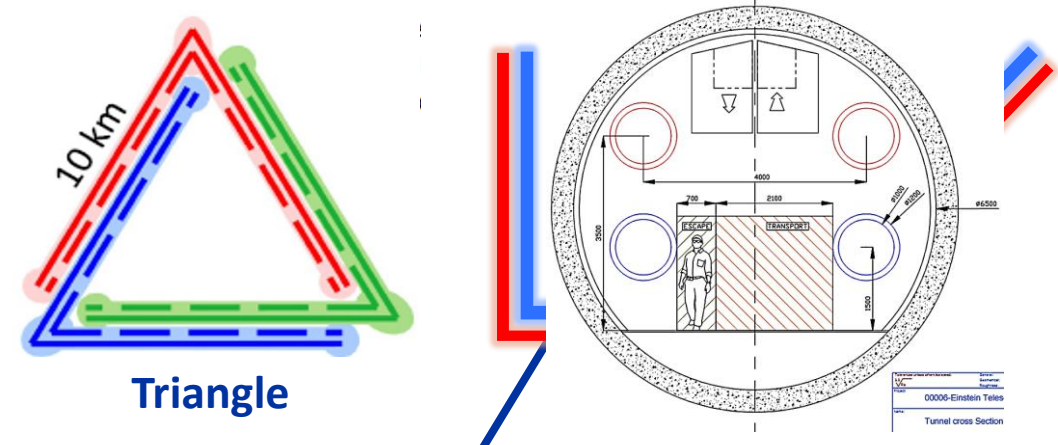
Next generation → 100.000 to 1.000.000 binary black holes mergers per year! And many other new sources!

Einstein Telescope (ET)

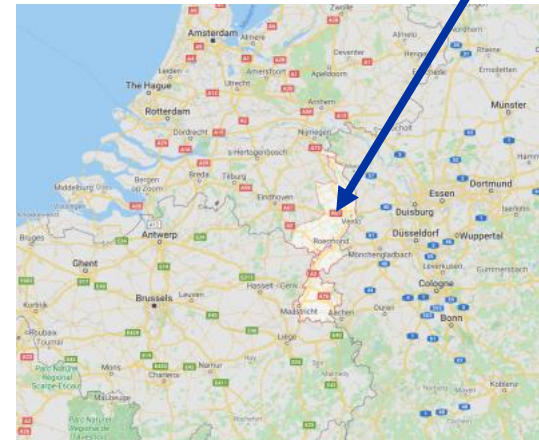
Next generation of GW detectors



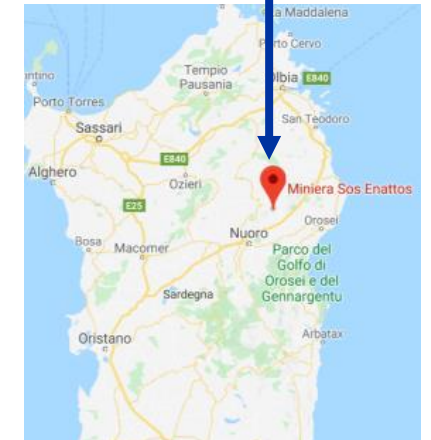
ET concept



- **Two locations** presented their candidature (**NL & IT**)
- Saxony (**DE**) is very present in ET and ETpathfinders



Limburg (NL)



Sardinia (IT)

ET vacuum system



Conceptual Design?

Pilot sector at CERN



MoU in 2022 between CERN, INFN, Nikhef and since 2023 also IFAE

Are there cost-effective alternatives (material, design, manufacturing, post-processing treatments) to achieve the needed vacuum performance?

Objectives:

- To design and test **technical solutions** that fulfil the ET requirements and **cost effective**
- To manufacture, assemble and test a **pilot sector** (in TT4)
- To write the **TDR**, including cost estimations

ET vacuum system



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Baseline based on VIRGO vacuum pipes [5]:



AISI-304L
4-mm-thick
Ø1.2 m x 15-meter-long
Pipes reinforced with stiffeners & air-fired

ET vacuum system



Baseline based on VIRGO vacuum pipes [5]:



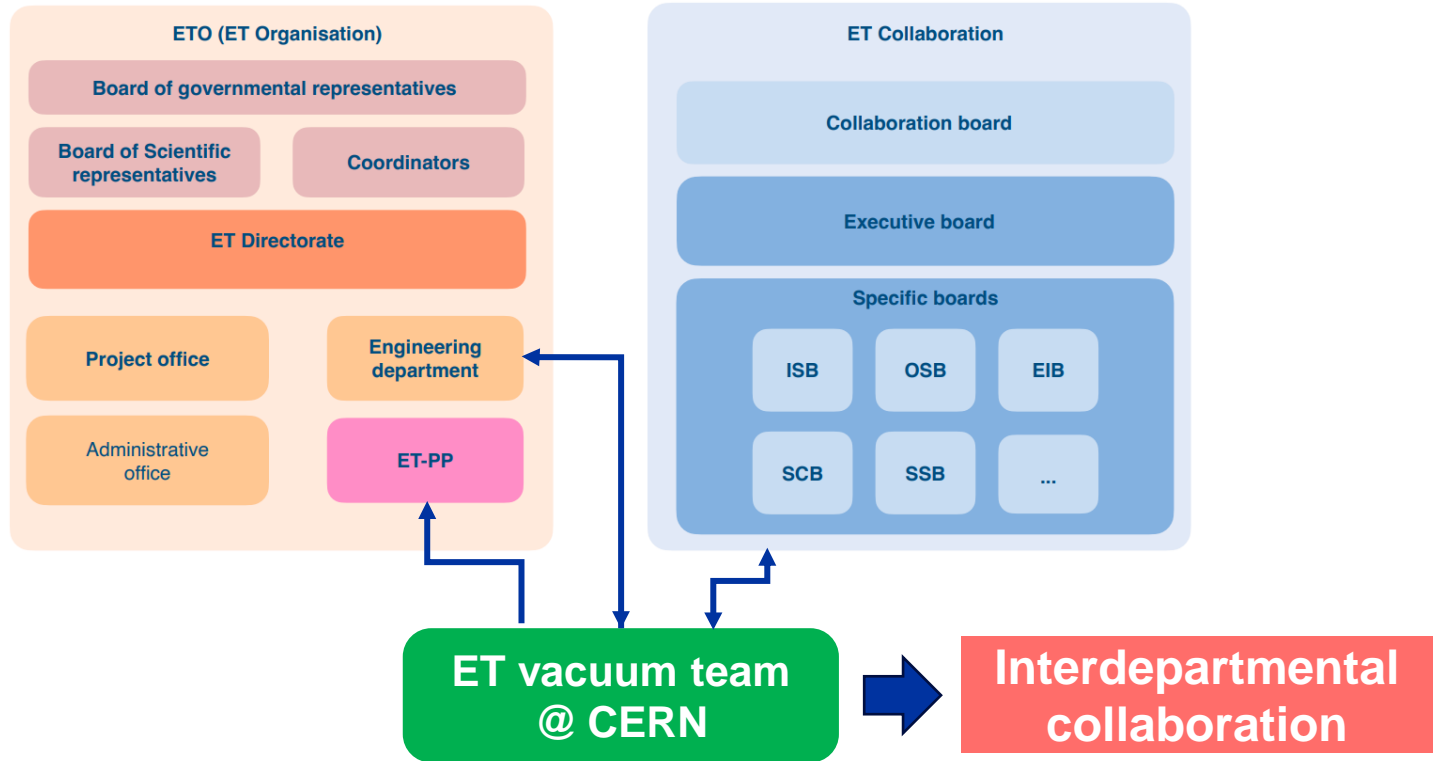
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Main requirements in ET:

- Beampipes of **Ø1 m x 120 km**
- **UHV** (H_2 partial pressure 10^{-10} mbar)
- Fast production and easy to handle in an **underground facility**
- **Supports** capable of holding, aligning and dumping the pipes
- Lifetime **50 years**

ET vacuum system



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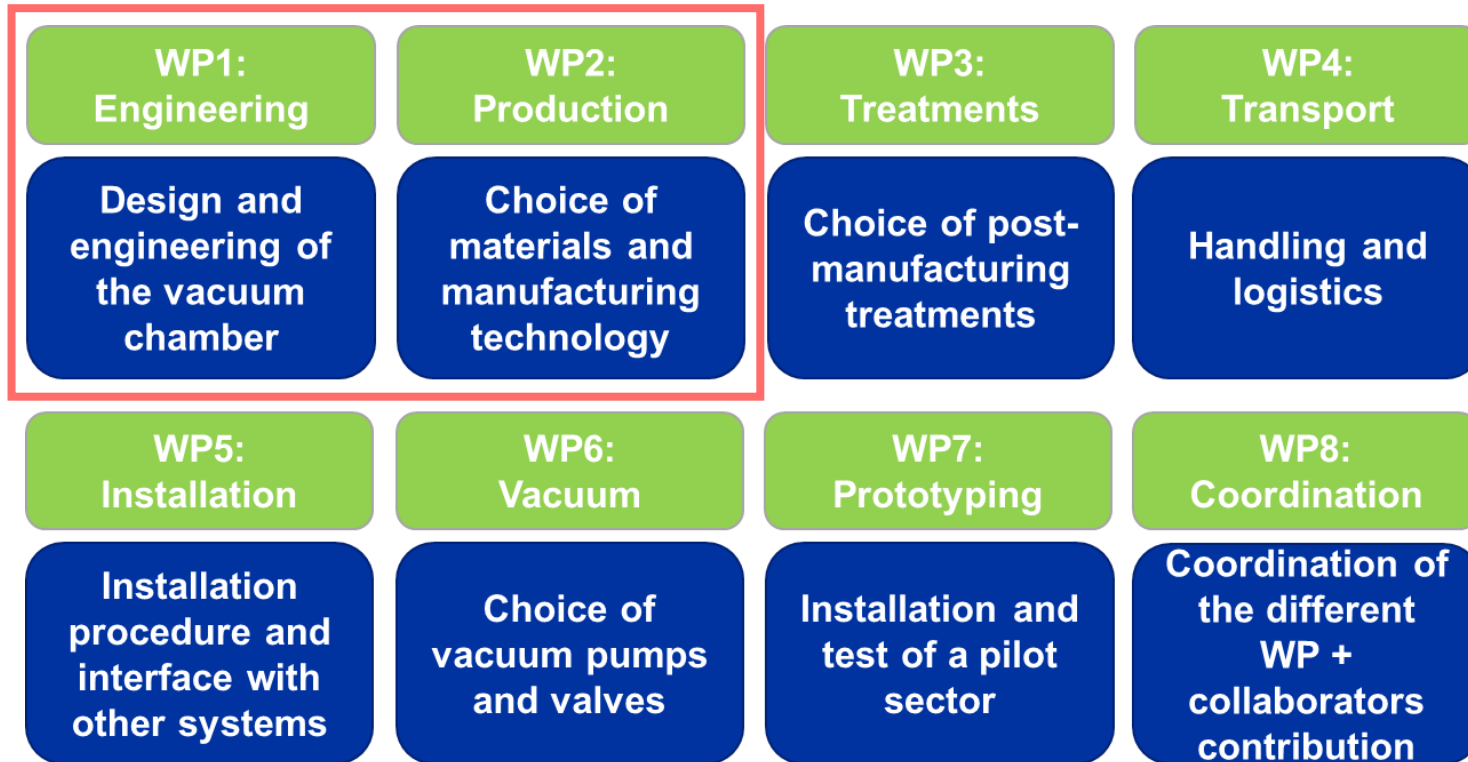
Monthly updates on activities:

ETC: Aniello Grado, Nick Van Remortel

ETO: Patrick Werneke, Fernando Ferroni (Giovanni Bisoffi), Andreas Freise, Mario Martinez

Project leader: Paolo Chiggiato (**TE-VSC**)
Deputy: Anité Pérez (**EN-MME**)

ET vacuum system



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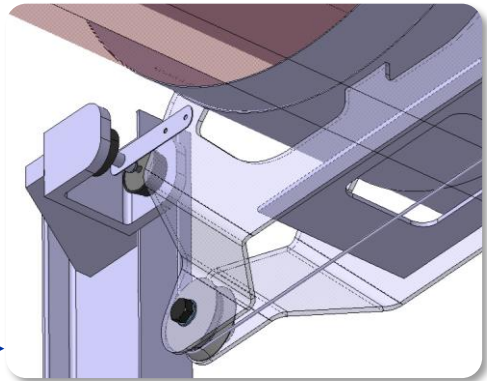
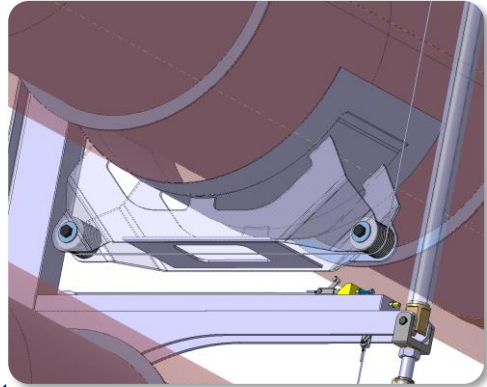
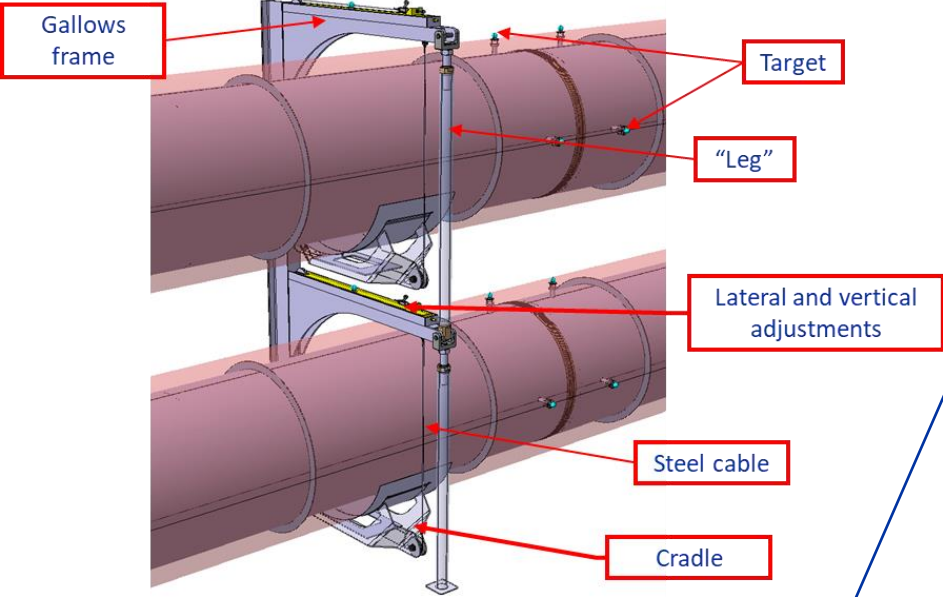
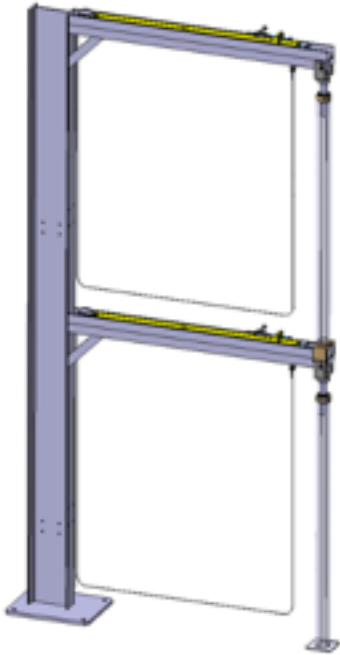
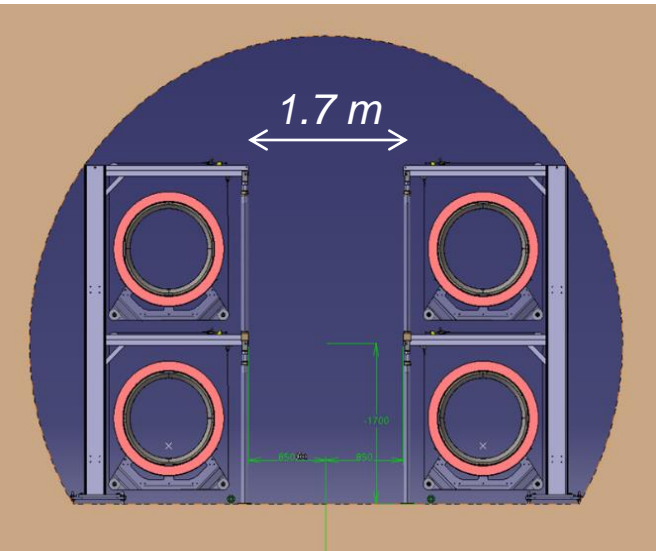
EN-MME activity:

- Design office
- Materials, metrology and NDT
- Mechanical workshop
- Assembly and metal forming
- Technical subcontracting service

EN-MME contribution:

Design and manufacturing drawings for beampipes and supports of pilot sector → Applicable for ET

- In ET, the space required for the supporting structure shall be minimized allowing welding and future inspections
- Vacuum chamber position is adjustable within +/- 20 mm in both directions



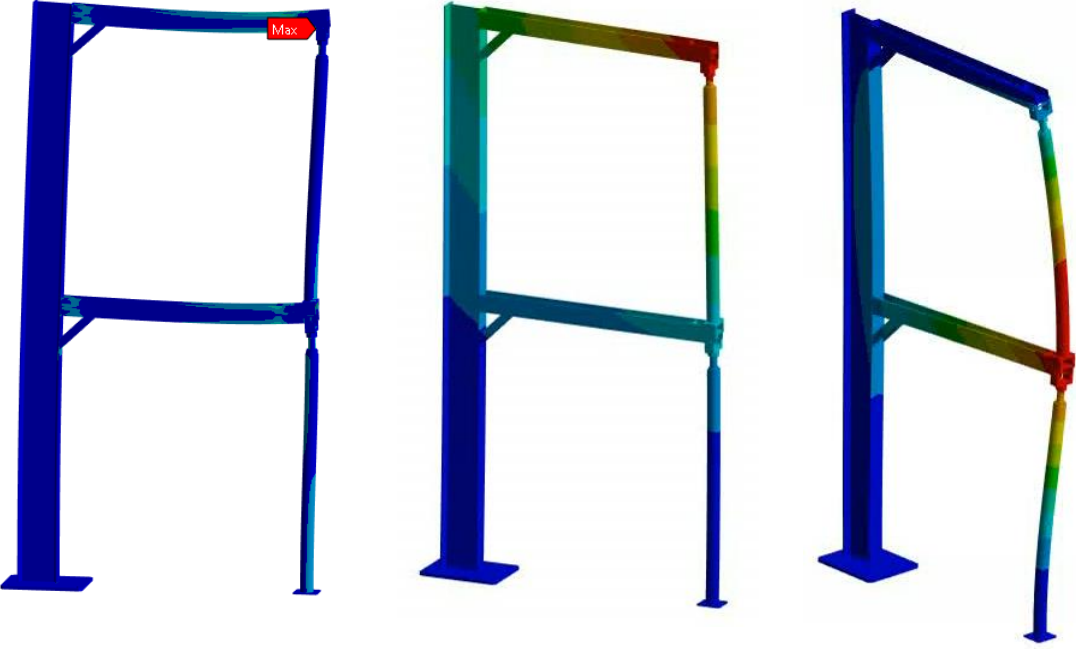
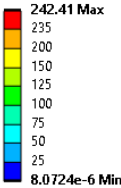
Light supports based on standard beams with additional leg
 Vacuum chambers suspended by cables (high strength synthetic ropes)

The insulated vacuum chambers lies on the cradle
 Conceptual design of dampers

EN-MME contribution:

Finite element studies to optimize the supports dimensions and their positioning

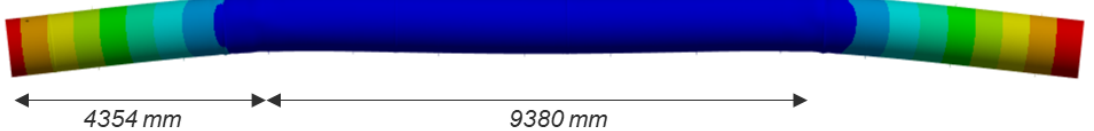
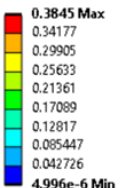
DF: Forces -> wheel - New Load case - Frictional - FXD SUPP
 Equivalent (von-Mises) Stress - Pins
 Type: Equivalent (von-Mises) Stress
 Unit: MPa
 Time: 2 s



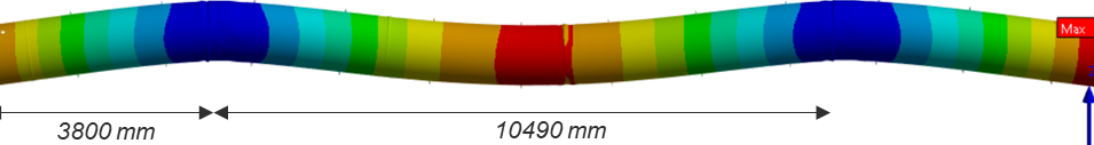
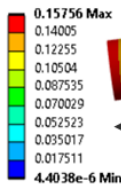
Stresses

Eigenbuckling

T: 18m section with current position of supports + stiffness
 Total Deformation
 Type: Total Deformation
 Unit: mm
 Time: 1 s

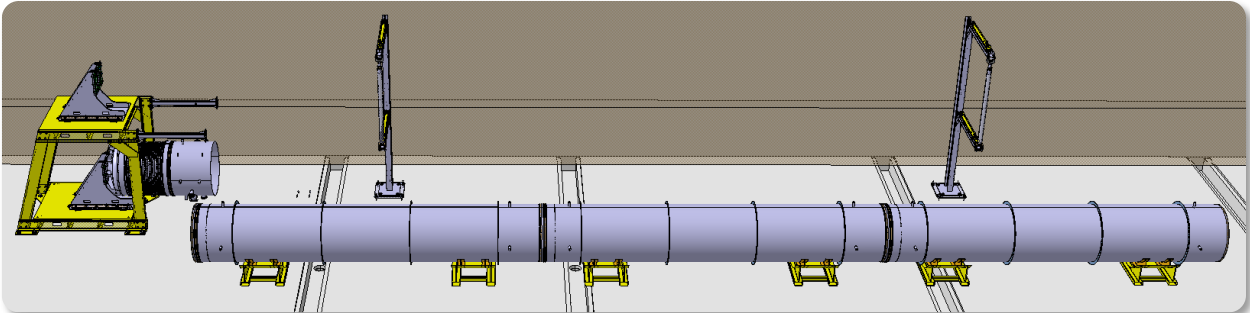


W: OPTIMIZED 18m section with current position of supports + stiffness
 Total Deformation
 Type: Total Deformation
 Unit: mm
 Time: 1 s

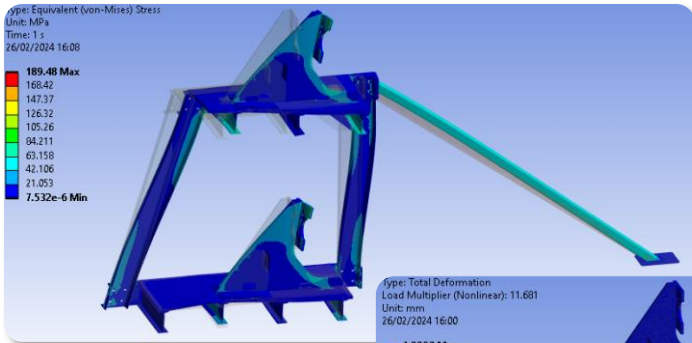


EN-MME contribution:

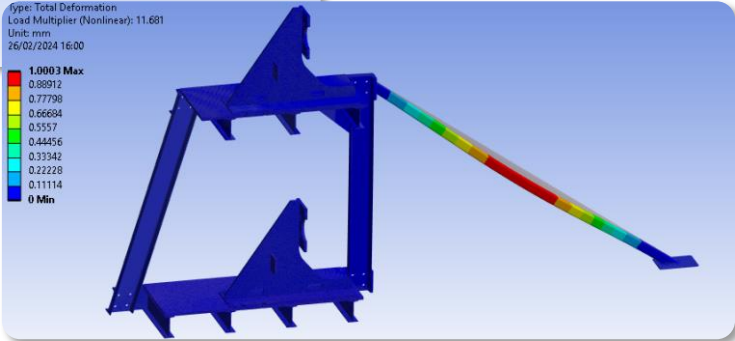
Design of complementary parts, prototypes and supports



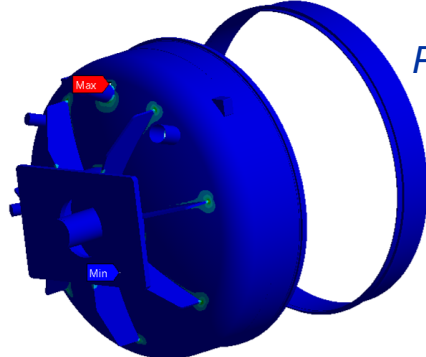
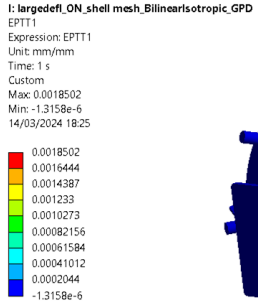
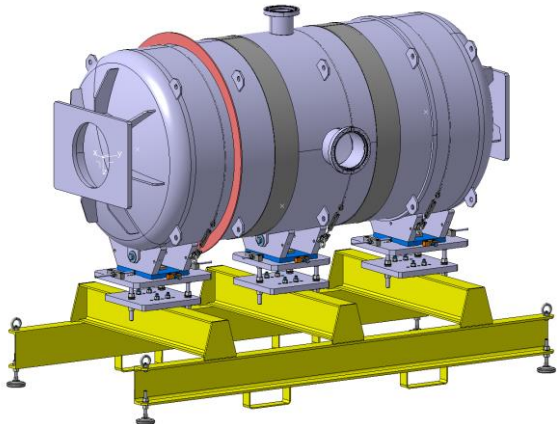
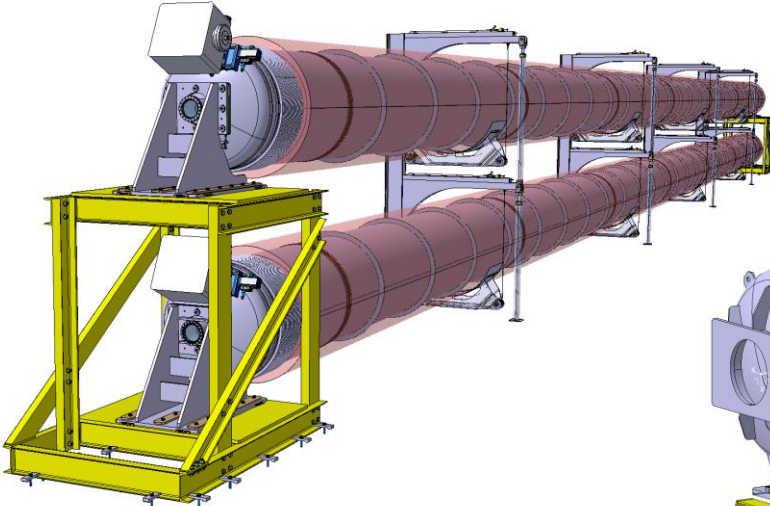
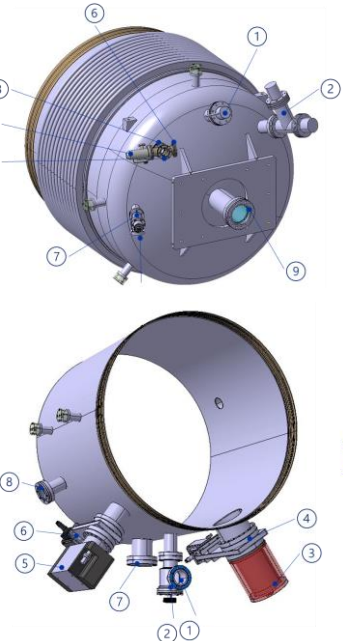
Finite element analysis for end caps end supports



Von Mises stresses



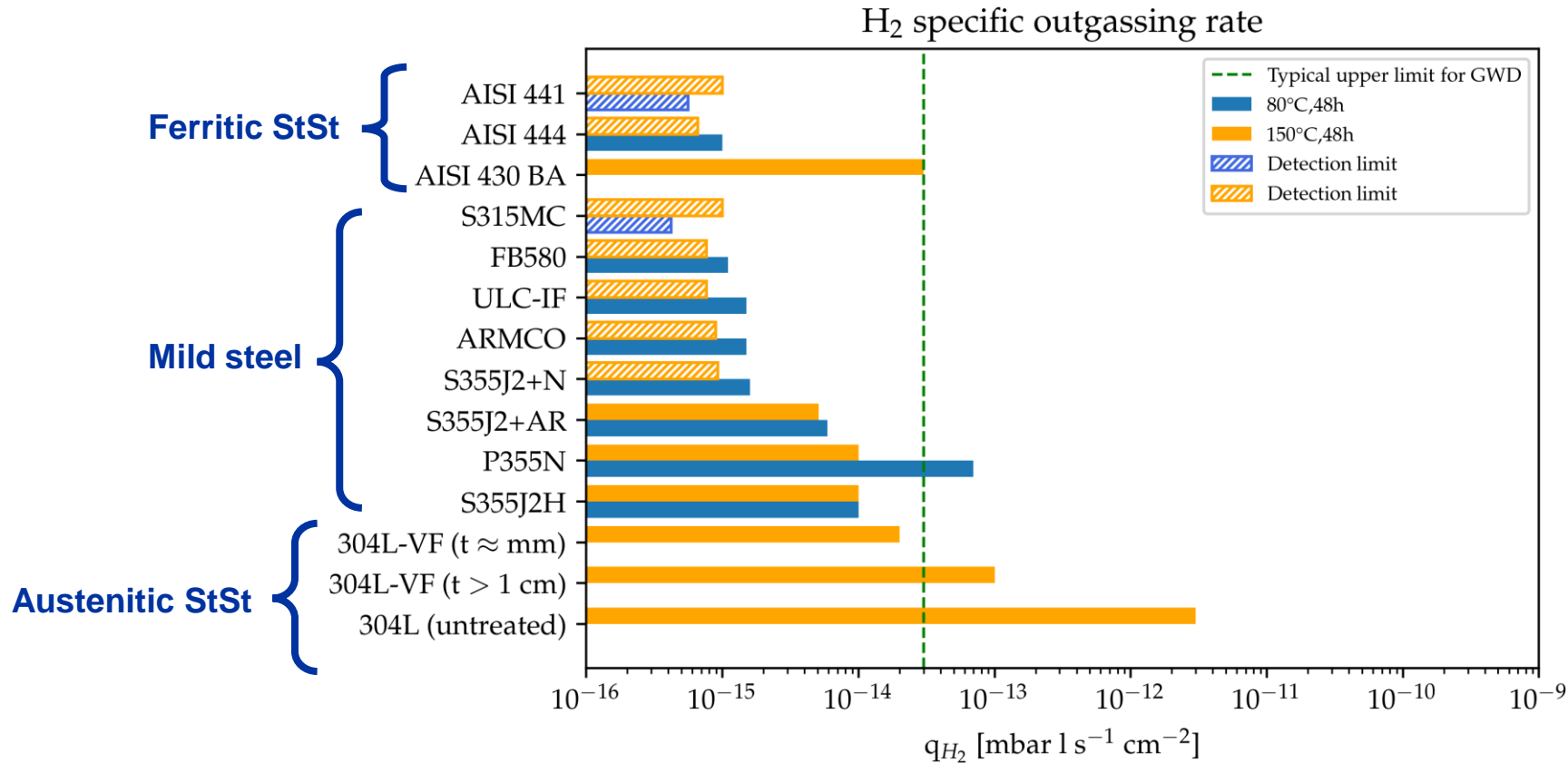
Buckling mode



Plastic strain

EN-MME contribution:

Select alternative materials with low H₂ content/outgassing rate



Measurement error: ±40%; Detection limit: 50% of background

Courtesy of C. Scarcia

The native H₂ content of ferritic grades is comparable to that of vacuum-fired austenitic StSt



Vacuum properties

+

Availability and lower cost

+

Formability and weldability

+

Corrosion resistance



Ferritic StSt AISI 441

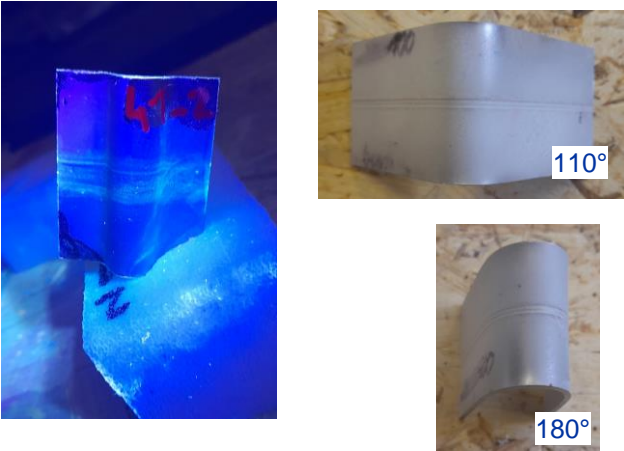
Low C, iron-chromium alloy

With addition of Ti and Nb

EN-MME contribution:

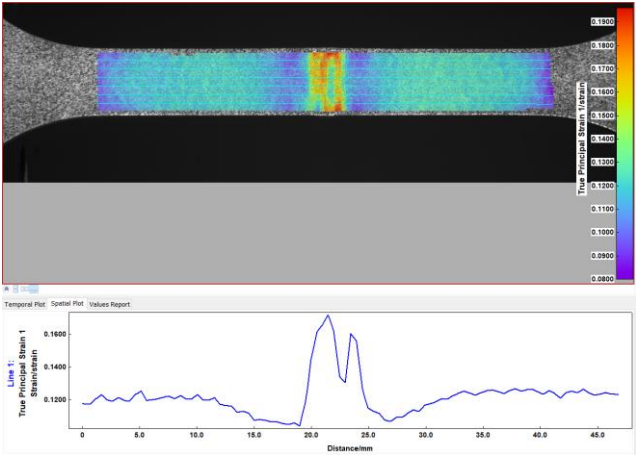
Welding testing and qualification for UHV applications

Non-destructive testing



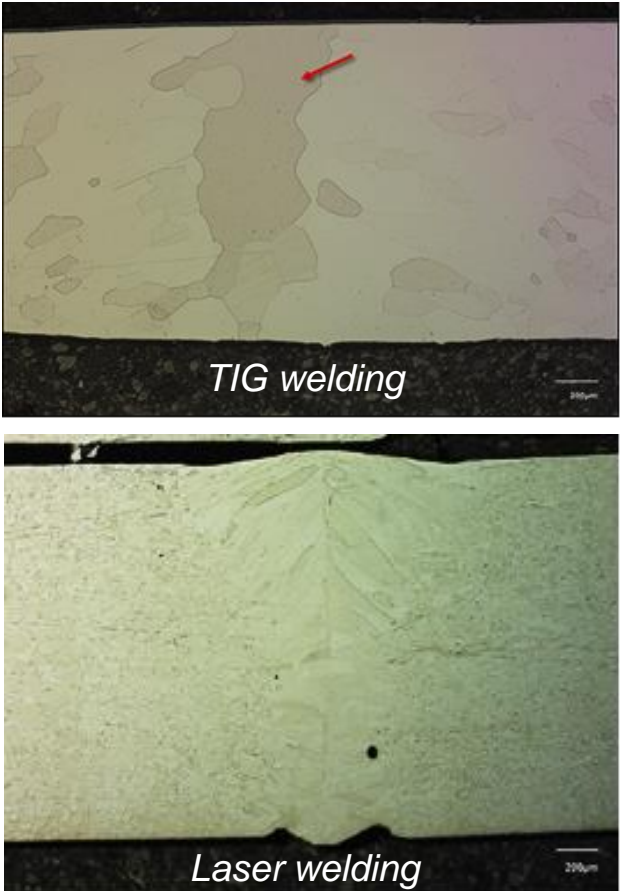
Dye penetrant testing after flexural test

Mechanical testing

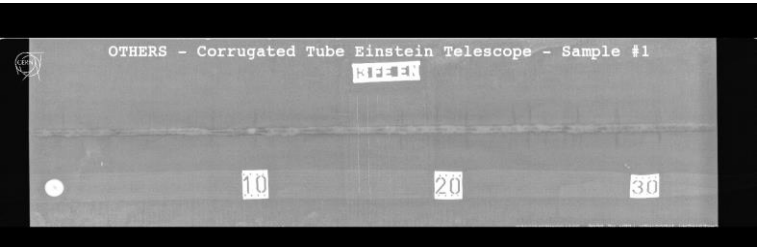


Tensile testing with DIC

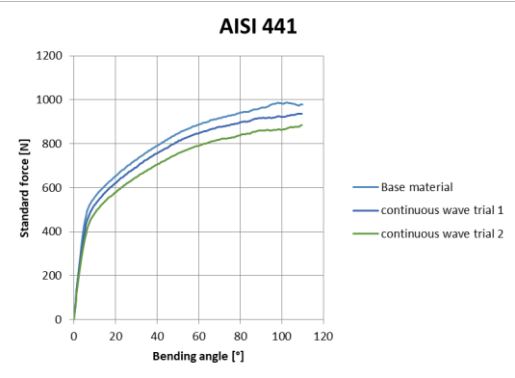
Metallurgical analysis



Optical microscopy on weld's cross sections



Radiography testing



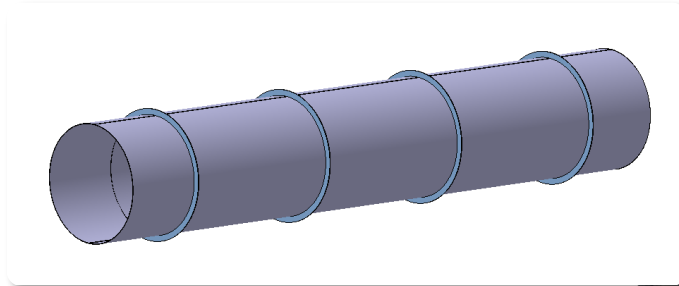
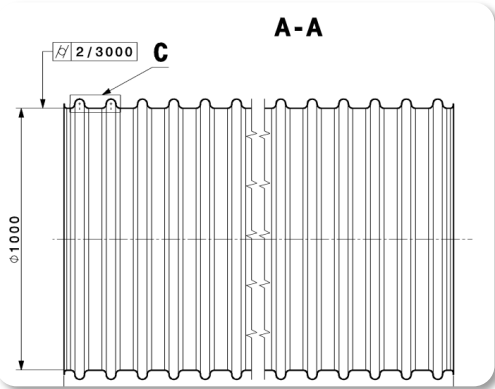
Flexural testing

EN-MME contribution:

Define fabrication and welding procedures applicable to the pilot sector and ET beampipes

Two technical solutions:

Courtesy of C. Garion



Annular corrugation performed at CERN

Corrugated pipes
Thin walls (≤ 2 mm)
Longitudinal welding
Corrugation after welding

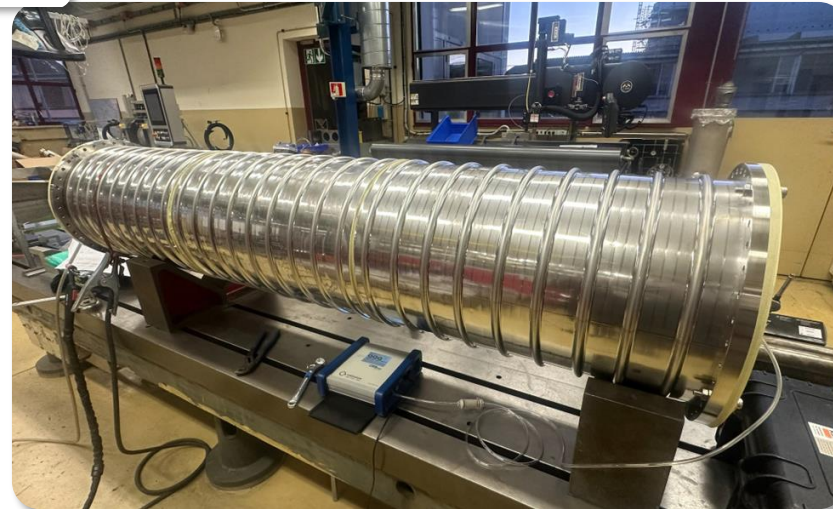


Prototypes

Smooth pipes
4 mm thick
Longitudinal welding
Reinforced by stiffeners



Pilot Sector

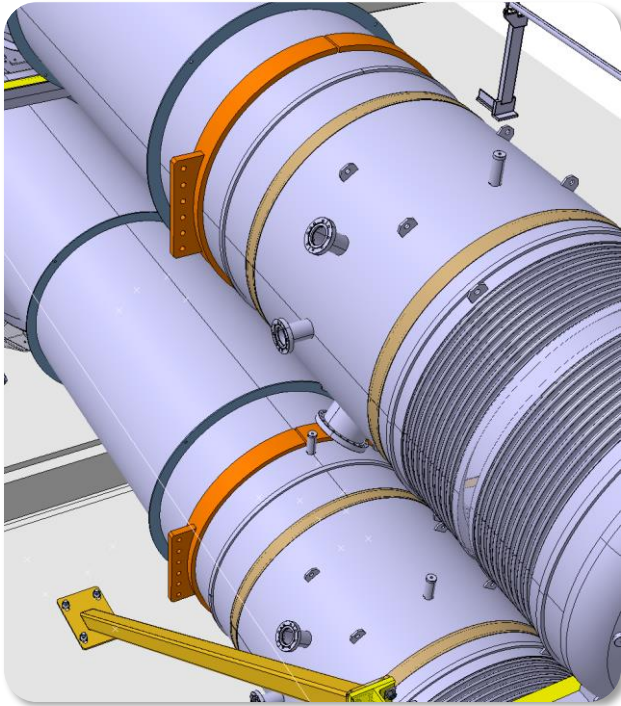


EN-MME contribution:

Manufacture of prototypes, pilot sector components

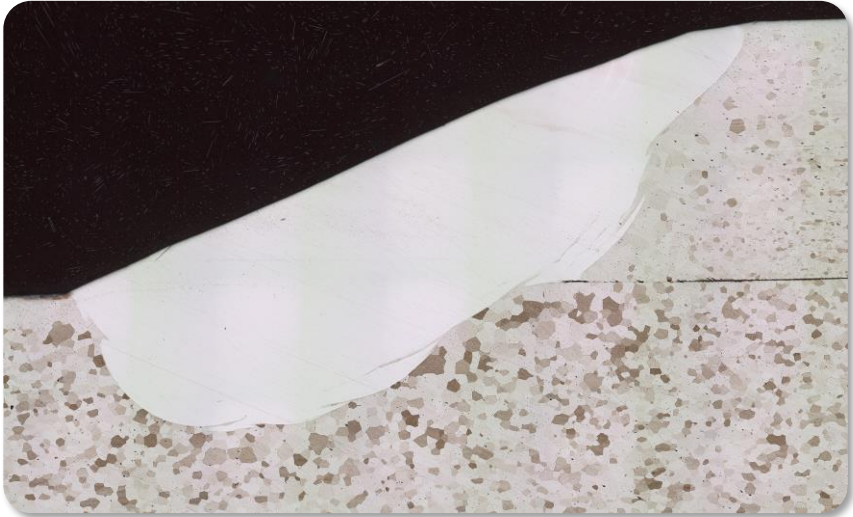
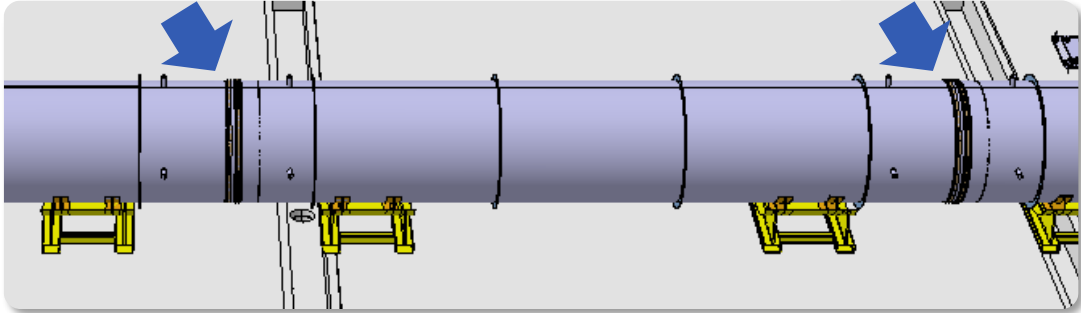


Mock-up manufacturing and assembly



End caps and pumping modules for pilot sector

Propose and test innovative solutions for pipe's connection (also applicable for ET)

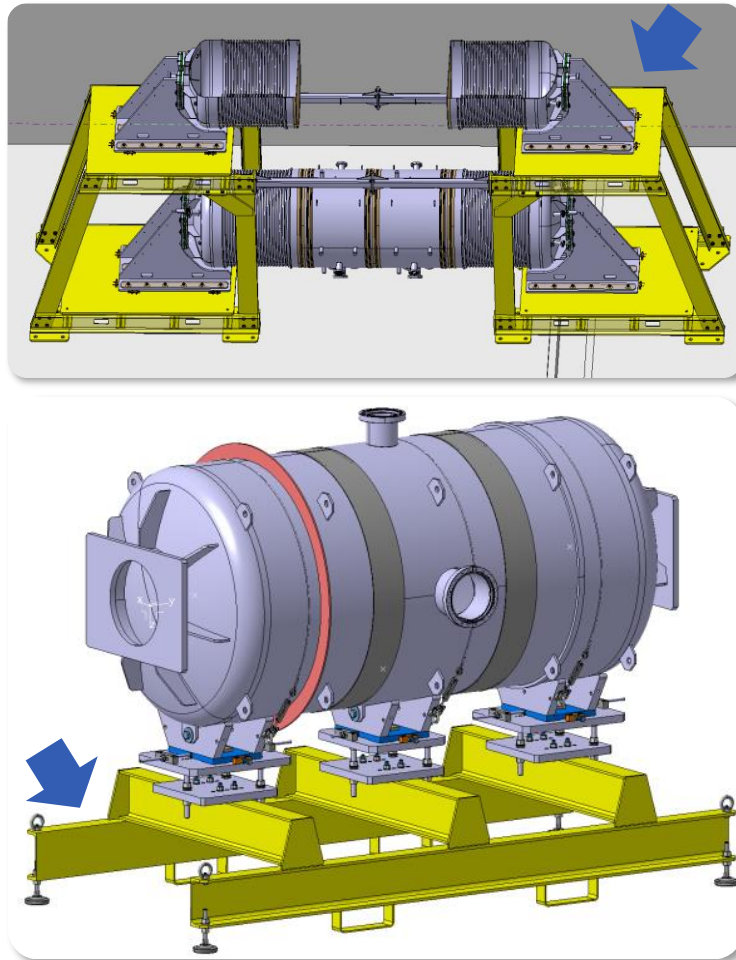
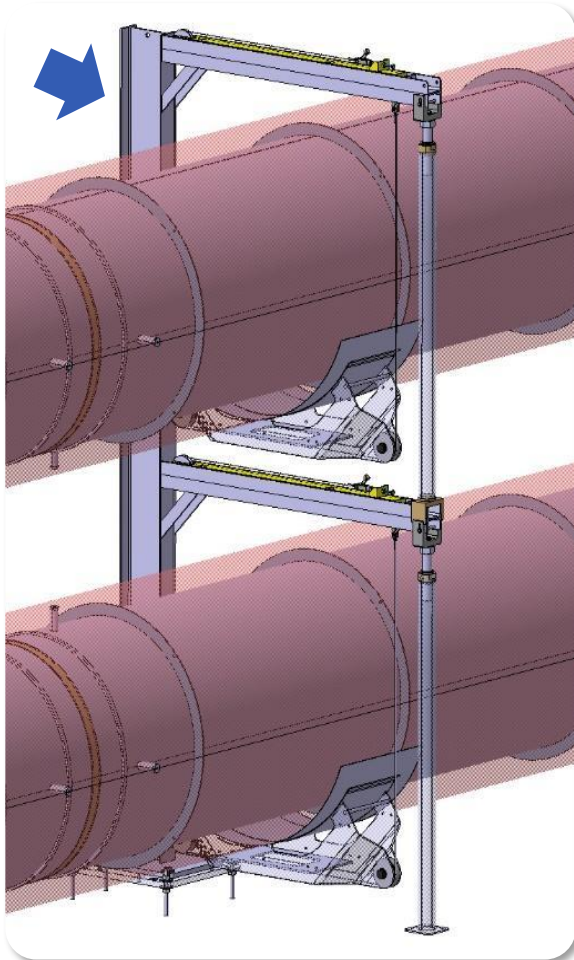


Sleeves testing for pilot sector sections connection

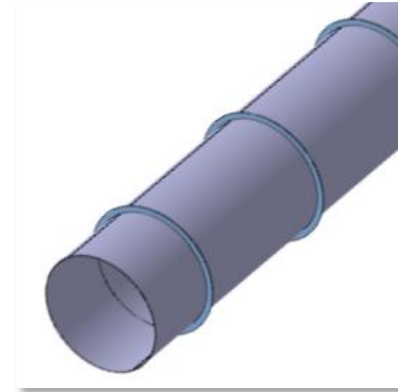


EN-MME contribution:

Sub-contracting the manufacturing of main support system, beampipes and complementary structures



Primary solution:



Smooth pipes
4 mm thick
Longitudinal welding
Reinforced by stiffeners



Pilot Sector
(externalized)

Innovative solution:



Corrugated pipes
Thin walls (≤ 2 mm)
Spiral welding + helicoidal
corrugation simultaneously

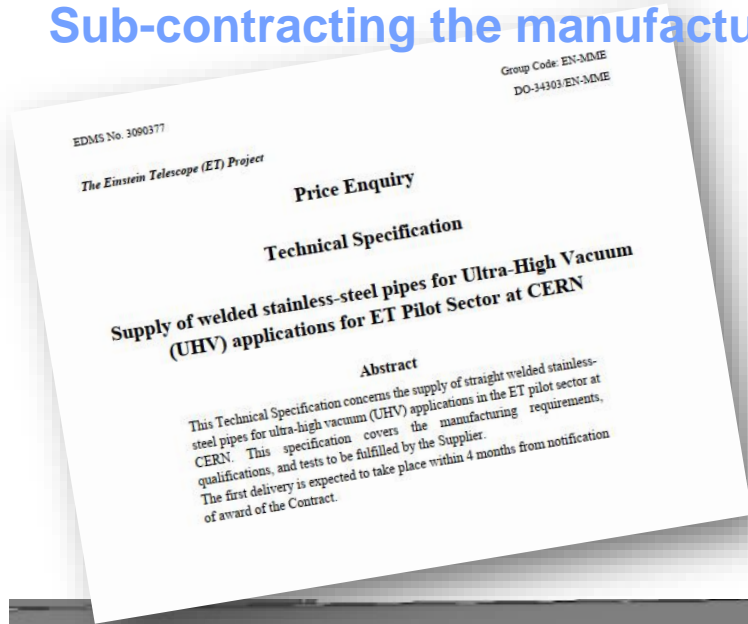


Pilot Sector
(externalized)

Development needed!

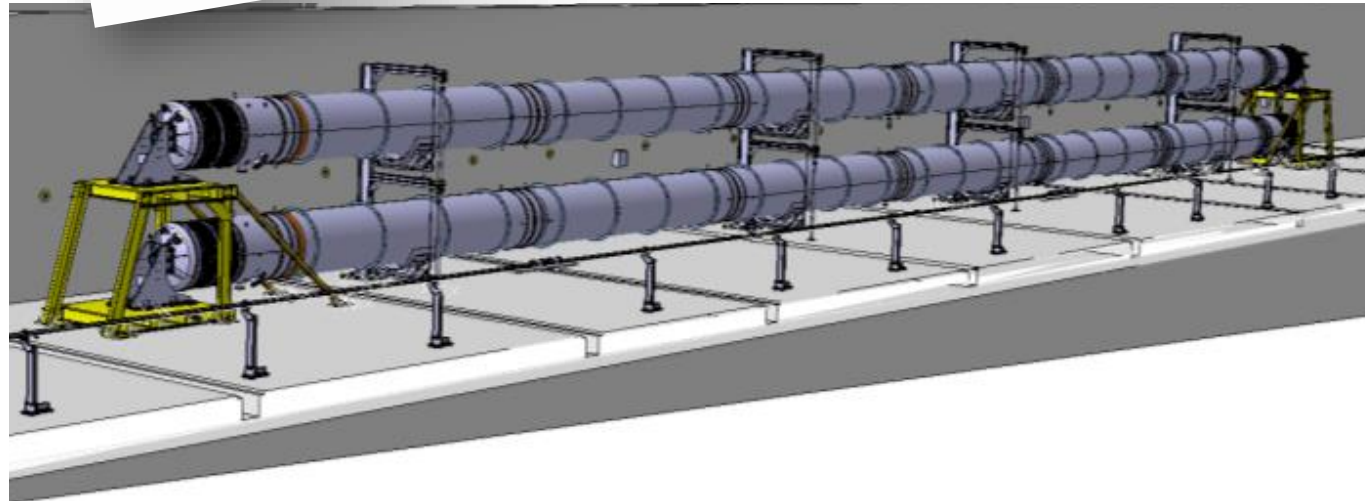
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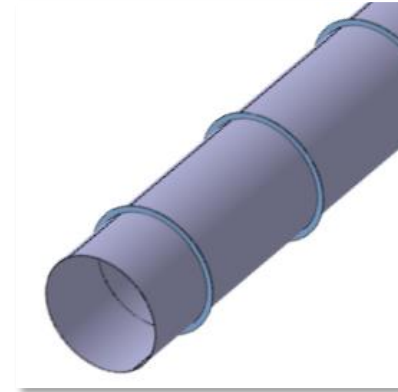


Redaction of technical specifications for the price enquiries and market survey processes

Close follow-up of the production



Primary solution:



Smooth pipes
4 mm thick
Longitudinal welding
Reinforced by stiffeners



Pilot Sector
(externalized)

Innovative solution:



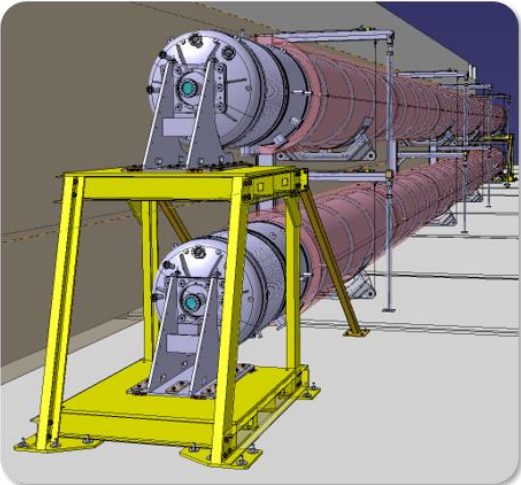
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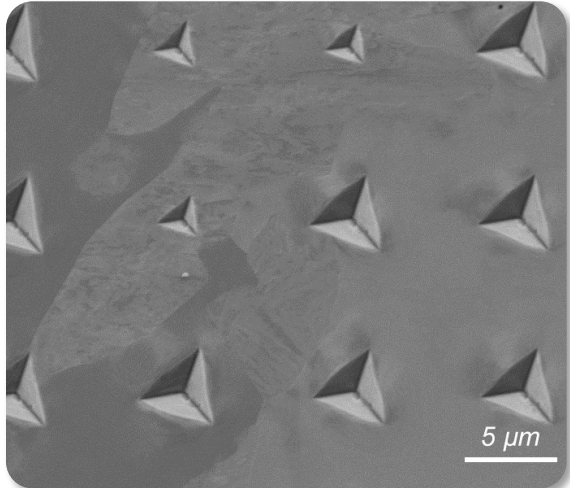
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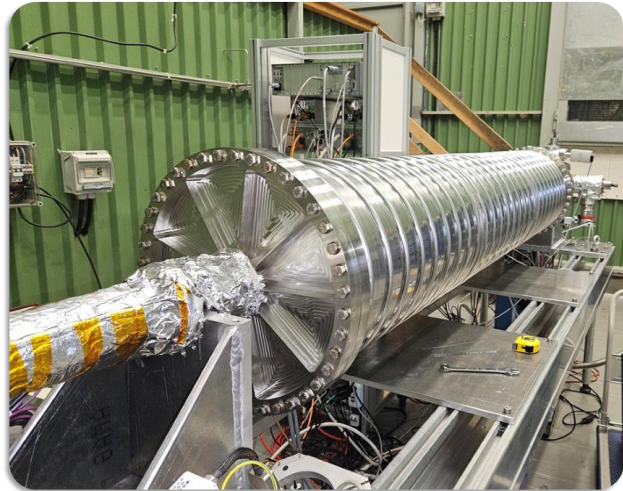
Summary and perspectives



Design, simulations and manufacturing drawings for supports and components



Selection and testing of alternative material (ferritic StSt AISI 441)



Manufacturing parts, welding procedures compatible with UHV



Sub-contracting pilot sector structural support and 1st beamline in ferritic StSt

2025:
Finalize the installation and testing of the pilot sector at CERN + TDR



Corrosion studies



Dust control studies



2nd beamline

Thanks for your attention!



References

[1] [Video | Ripples in Spacetime Pond | LIGO Lab | Caltech](#)

[2] [What is an Interferometer? | LIGO Lab | Caltech](#)

[3] ET collaboration, Einstein Telescope preliminary cost book, 2020

[4] ET Science Team, Einstein gravitational wave Telescope conceptual design study, 2011

[5] Ultra high vacuum beam pipe of the Einstein Telescope project: Challenges and perspectives. A. Grado et al. *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology* (2023)

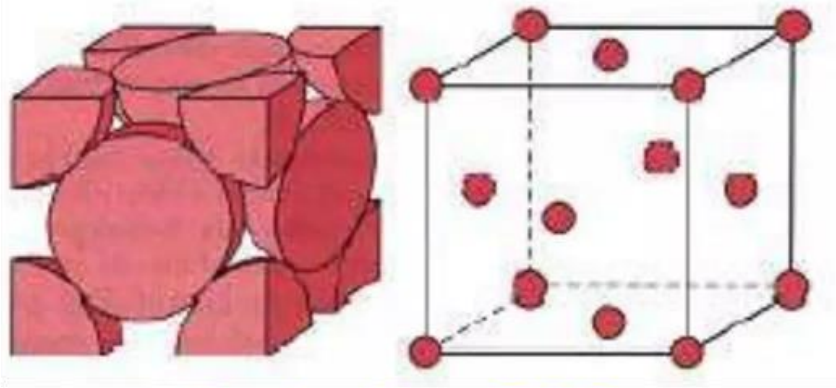
[6] Outgassing properties of vacuum materials for particle accelerators. P. Chiggiato

[7] *Vacuum for Accelerators: Introduction to Materials and Properties*. S. Sgobba

[8] Study of selected mild steels for application in vacuum systems of future gravitational wave detectors. C. Scarcia et al. *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology* (2024)

EN-MME contribution:

Select alternative materials with low H₂ content/outgassing rate



Austenite - FCC

(used in Virgo [5], LIGO and ET baseline)



Air bake-out 410°C
on finished tubes (15 m long)
5 days cycle in electrical furnace

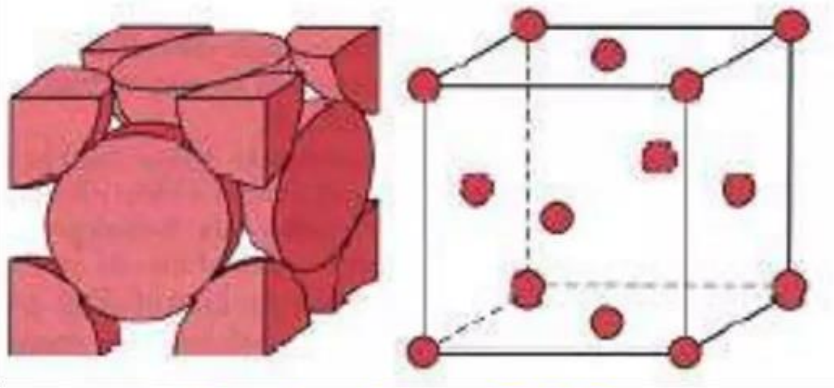


Production Bottleneck!

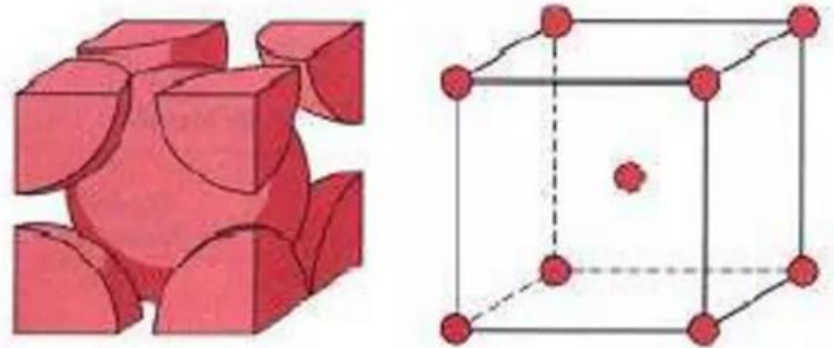
- Austenitic StSt, specifically **AISI 304L**, are a standard material for UHV applications in scientific equipment. To reduce H₂ outgassing at RT to acceptable levels **high-temperature treatments (firing)** are needed [6, 7]
- The methods applied to reduce the H₂ outgassing in current GWD include **ex-situ heating** at high temperatures in a vacuum or air furnace (vacuum or air firing) and **in-situ bakeout** at medium temperatures [5]

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Austenite - FCC



Ferrite - BCC

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- The methods applied to reduce the H₂ outgassing in current GWD include **ex-situ heating** at high temperatures in a vacuum or air furnace (vacuum or air firing) and **in-situ bakeout** at medium temperatures [5]
- **Ferritic - bcc - structures** present lower residual H₂ and higher diffusivity compared to the **close-packed fcc** resulting in a faster degassing at lower temperatures ($\leq 150^{\circ}\text{C}$) [8]

Broader CERN involvement

- **Vacuum system:** MoU in 2022 between CERN, INFN, Nikhef and IFAE → Dedicated activity ongoing and sharing the knowledge with **Cosmic Explorer**
- **Civil engineering:** MoU in 2023. CERN will provide consultancy and technical support towards the creation of the **TDR for the civil engineering and technical infrastructure for 2026**

Beampipes for Gravitational Wave Telescopes
Workshop (CERN, March 2023)

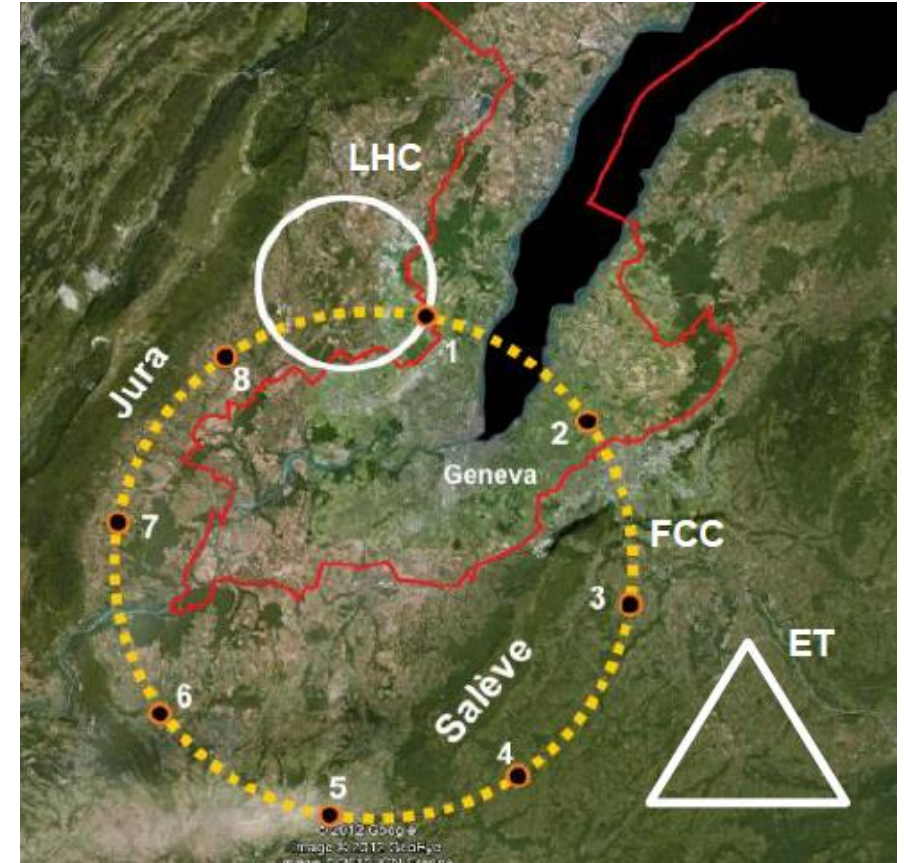


ET Civil Engineering Workshop
(CERN, April 2024)



Broader CERN involvement

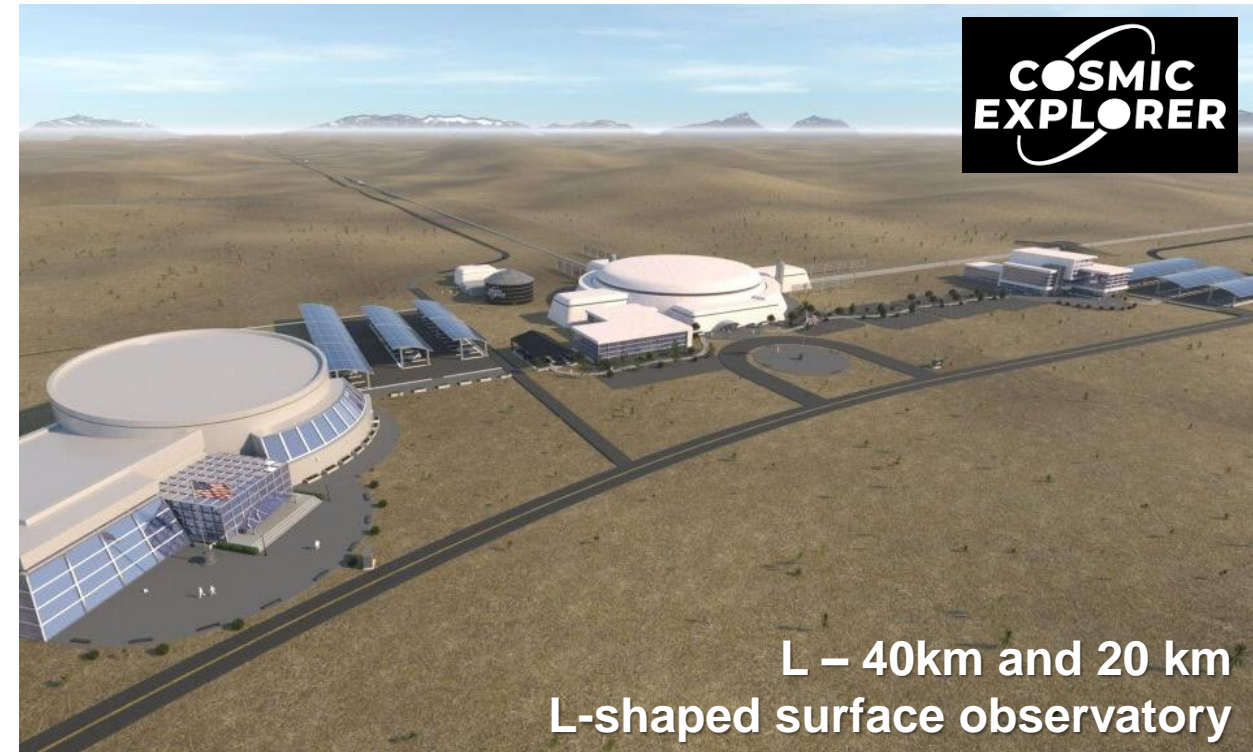
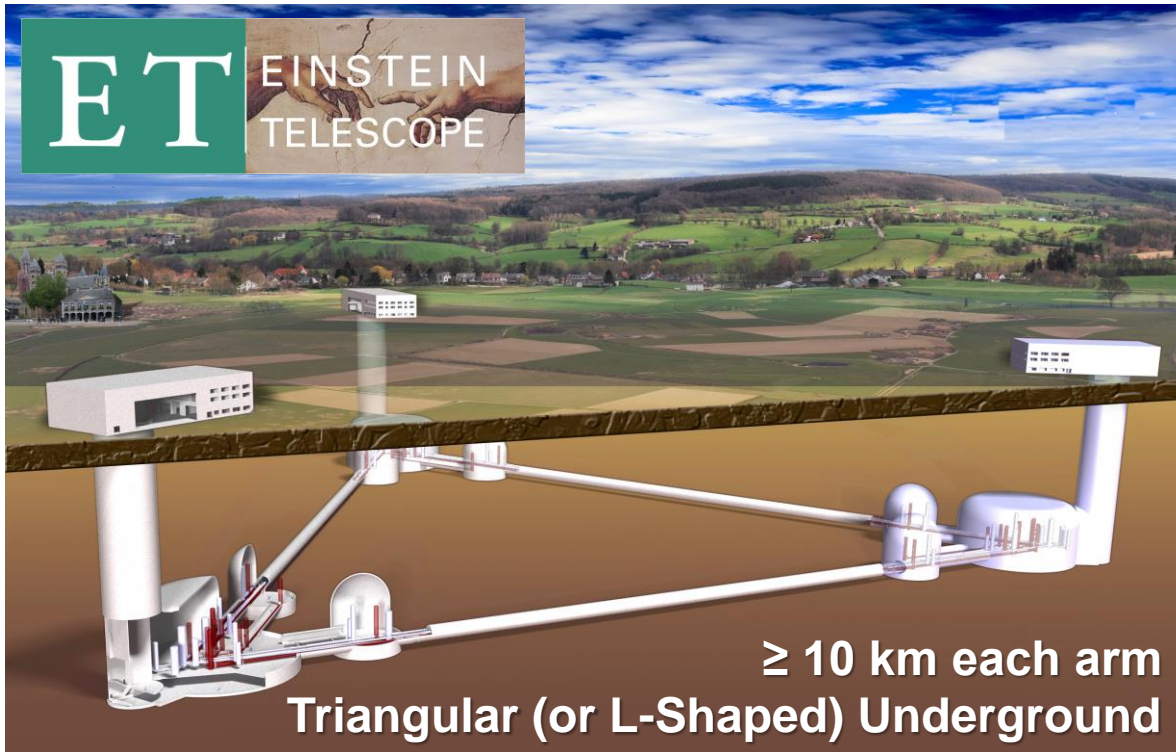
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- **Document management:** Project management required specific tools (i. e. EDMS) and CERN is providing support for a pilot study
- **Engineering support:** Discussions are ongoing for a dedicated support for the design of the technical infrastructure
- **Other subjects** related to occupational health and safety, integration, planning, support for costing, cryogenic infrastructure, survey...



Dimensions comparison

What's the Einstein Telescope?

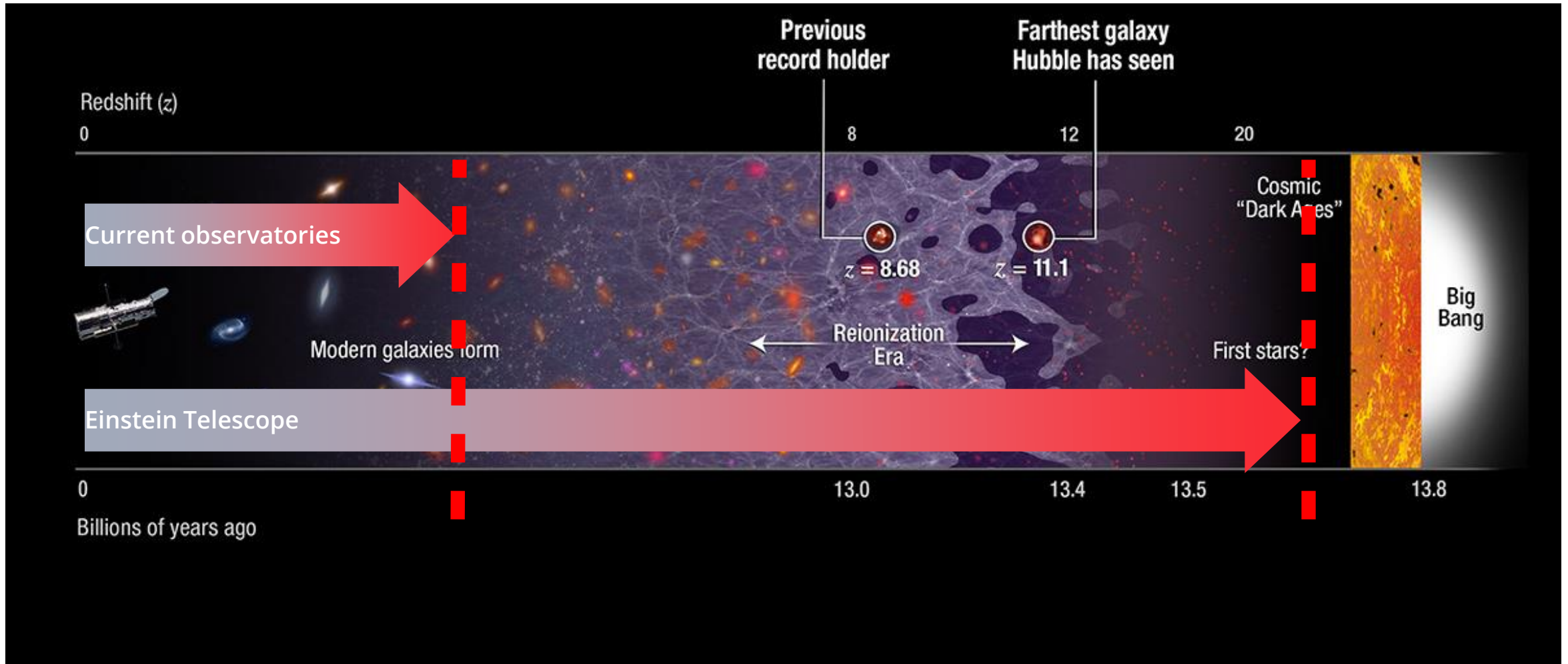
Next generation of GW detectors



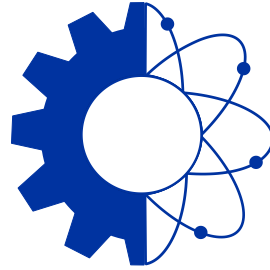
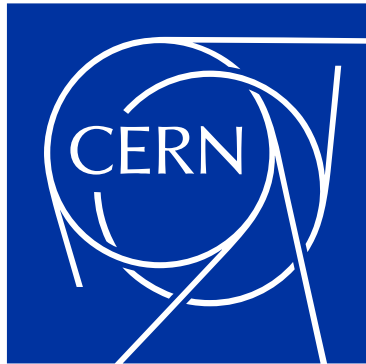
Current detectors observe about one signal per week.

Next generation → 100.000 to 1.000.000 binary black holes mergers per year! And many other new sources!

Let's push the Universe exploration!



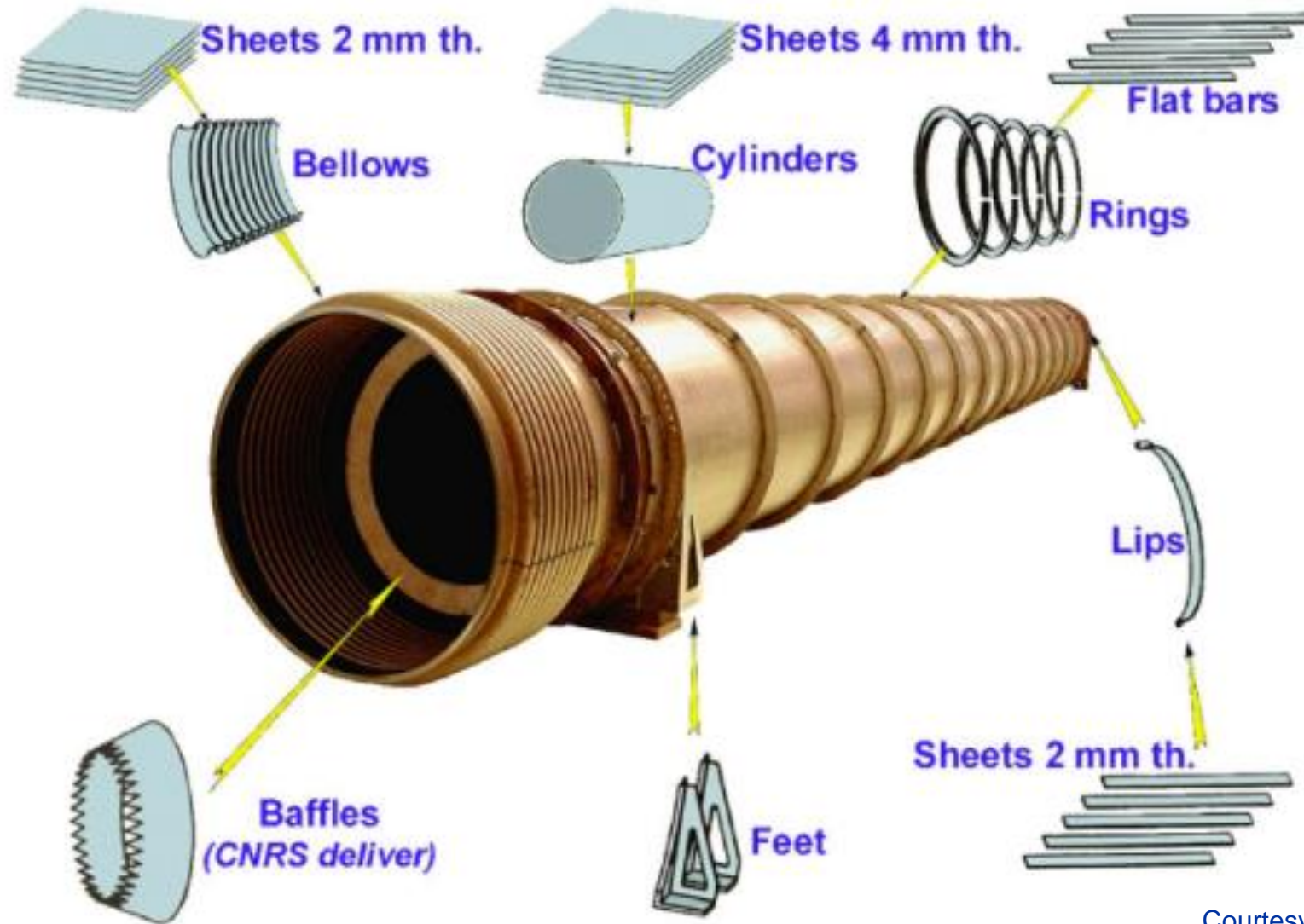
Courtesy of P. Werneke



**ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT**

home.cern

Virgo Pipes



Courtesy: A. Pasqualetti