

# The $\mu$ -RWELL technology for the IDEA MUON and pre-shower system

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On behalf of  
Bologna, Ferrara, LNF, Torino WP5-RDFCC

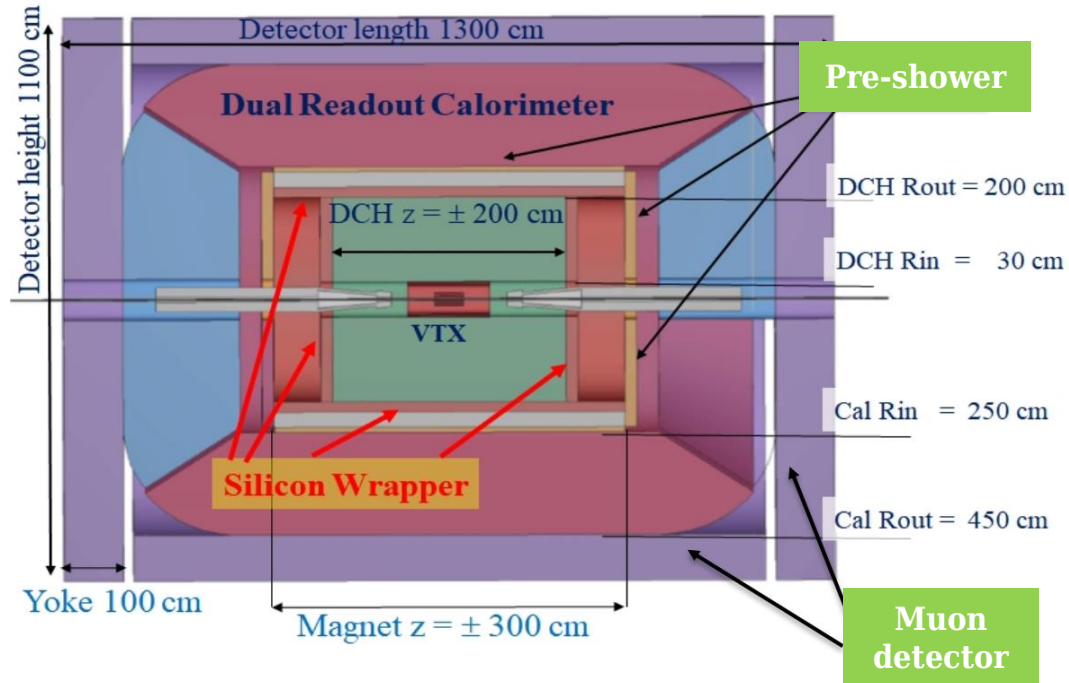
(\*) Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati - INFN,  
Frascati (IT)



# IDEA apparatus & the $\mu$ -RWELL

**Pre-shower:** high resolution detector after the magnet to maximize the energy resolution of the dual readout calorimeter and tag  $\pi^0$  and  $\gamma$ .

**Muon system:** reconstruct and tag the muon using three layers within the iron return yoke, and reconstruct the LLP.



## Requirements

**Tiles:** 50x50 cm<sup>2</sup> with X-Y readout

**Efficiency >98%**

Space resolution:

- 100 $\mu$ m (preshower)
- 500 $\mu$ m (muon)

## Instrumented surface/FEE

**Preshower:**

- 130m<sup>2</sup>, 520 det., 3x10<sup>5</sup> chs. (0.4 mm strip pitch)

**Muon:**

- 1500m<sup>2</sup>, 6000 det., 5x10<sup>6</sup> chs., (1.2mm strip pitch)

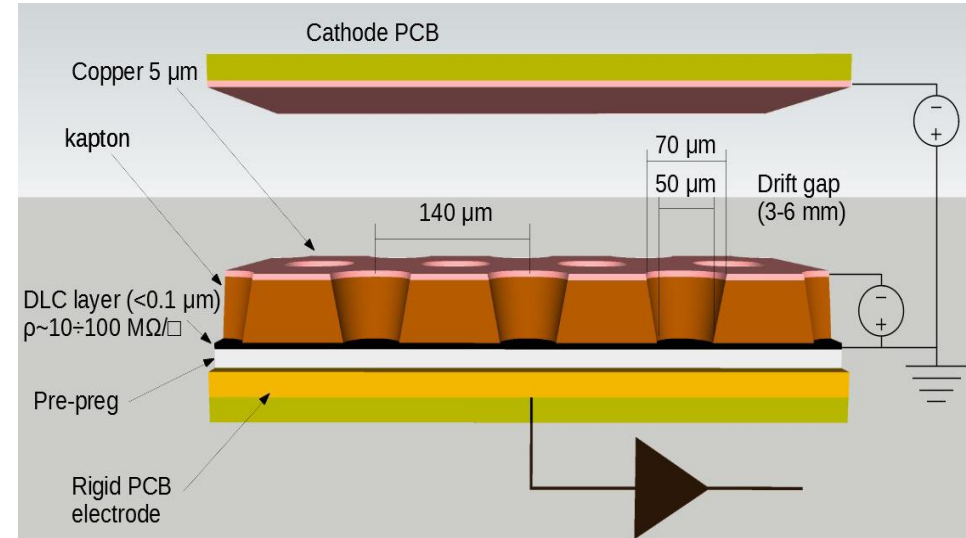
## GOALS

- **Reliability**  $\oplus$  high gain
- **Easy Manufacturing**
- **Mass production**  $\rightarrow$  Technology Transfer to Industry
- **FEE cost reduction**  $\rightarrow$  custom made ASIC

# The $\mu$ -RWELL: the layout

The  $\mu$ -RWELL is a **resistive MPGD**, with a **GEM derived amplification stage**, composed of two elements:

- **Cathode**
- **$\mu$ -RWELL PCB**
- a **WELL** patterned **kapton foil** (with **Cu-layer on top**) acting as **amplification stage**
- a **resistive DLC film** with  $\rho \sim 50 \div 100 \text{ M}\Omega/\square$
- a standard **readout PCB** with **pad/strip segmentation**



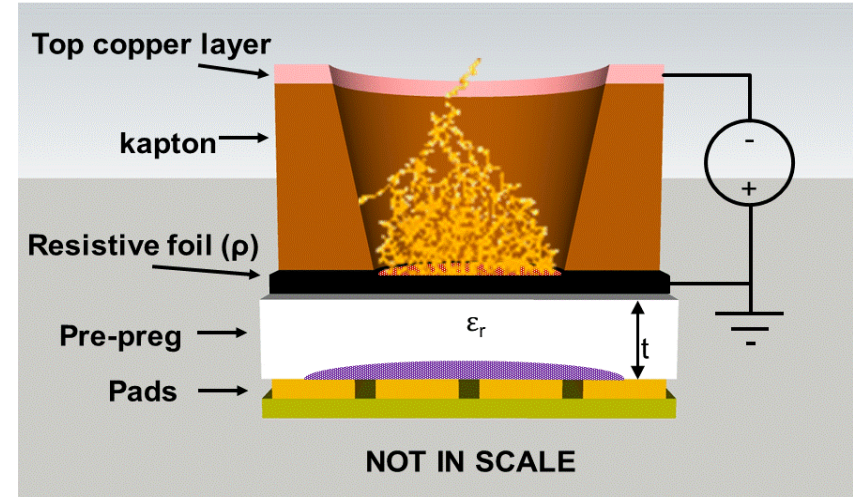
*G. Bencivenni et al., The micro-Resistive WELL detector: a compact spark-protected single amplification-stage MPGD, 2015 JINST 10 P02008*

# The $\mu$ -RWELL: principle of operation

Applying a suitable voltage between **the top Cu-layer and the DLC** the “WELL” acts as a **multiplication channel** for the ionization produced in the conversion/drift gas gap.

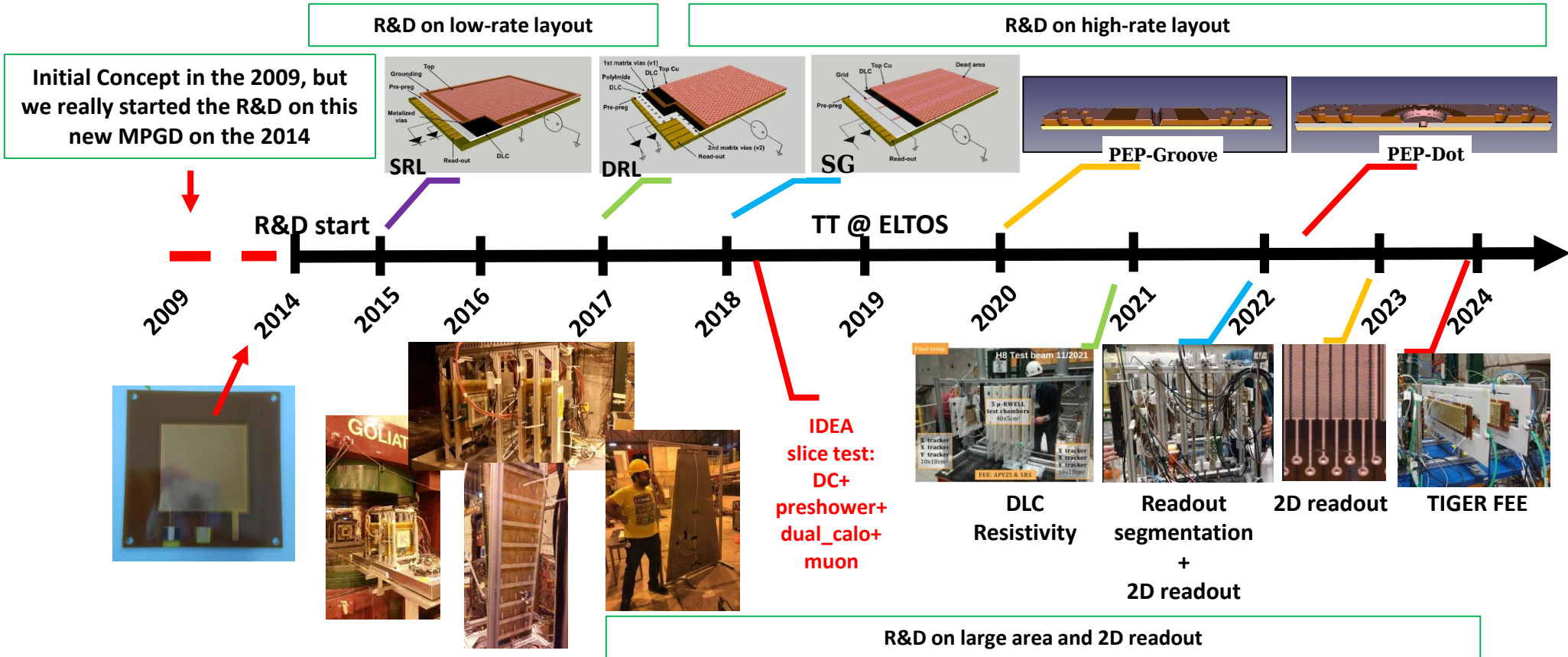
The charge induced on the resistive foil is dispersed with a *time constant*,  $\tau \sim \rho \times C$  [M.S. Dixit et al., NIMA 566 (2006) 281]:

- the **DLC surface resistivity**  $\rightarrow \rho$
  - the **capacitance per unit area**, which depends on the distance between the resistive foil and the pad/strip readout plane  $\rightarrow t$
  - the **dielectric constant** of the insulating medium  $\rightarrow \epsilon_r$
- The main effect of the **introduction of the resistive stage** is the **suppression of the transition from streamer to spark**, with a consequent **reduction of the spark-amplitude**
- As a drawback, **the capability to stand high particle fluxes is reduced**, but **appropriate grounding schemes** of the resistive layer solves this problem (*see High-Rate layouts*)



$$C = \epsilon_0 \times \epsilon_r \times \frac{S}{t}$$

# The R&D steps

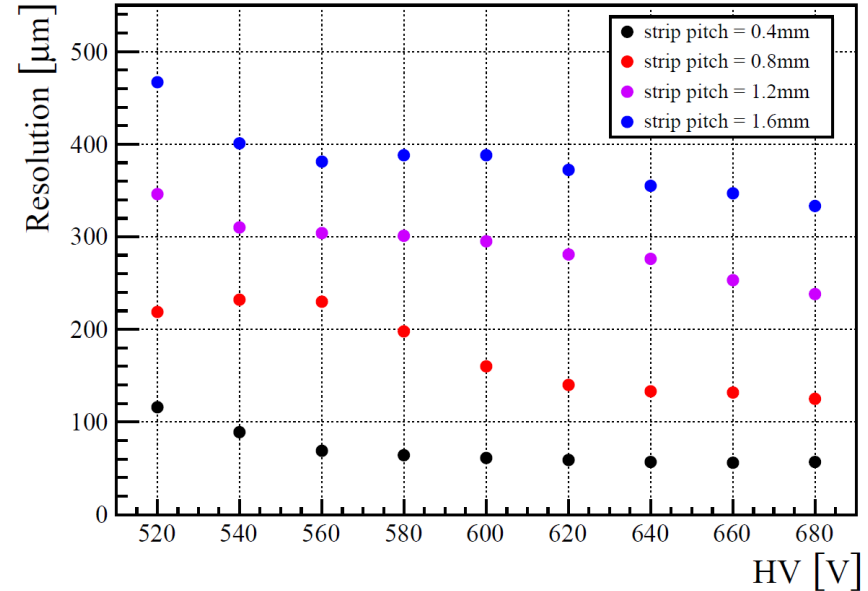
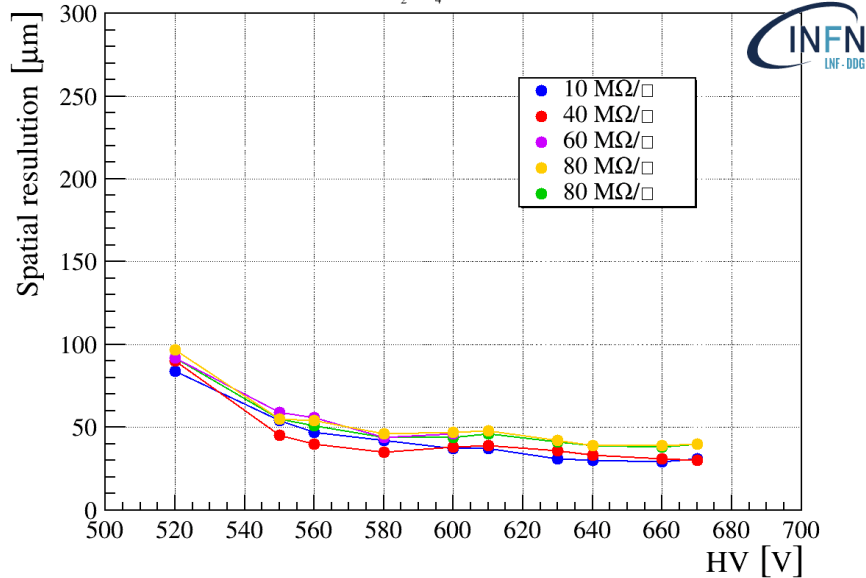


# 1-D Tracking studies

## Resistivity scan

## R/O pitch scan

RD-FCC  $\mu$ -RWELL, Residuals test resolution - 75ADC threshold  
Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub> 45:15:40



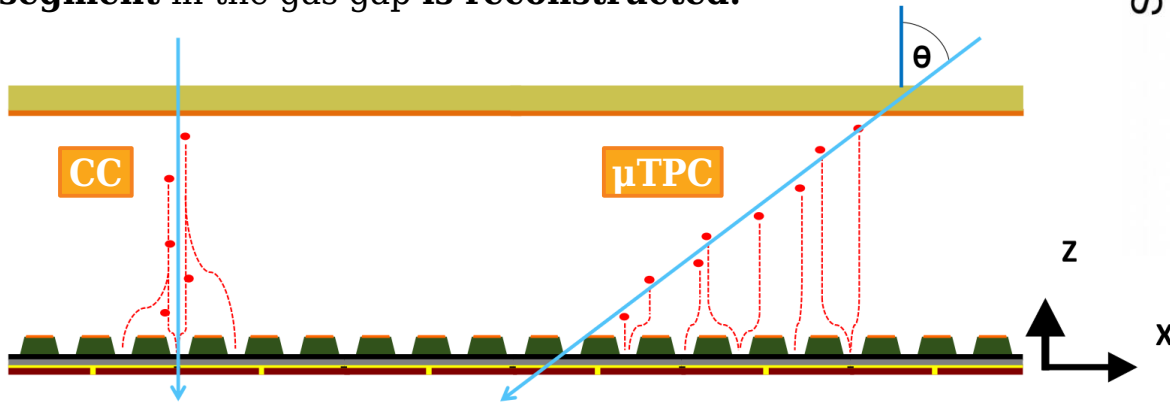
With a **0.4 mm strip pitch** and **0.15 mm strip width**, no effects were observed within this resistivity range. Additionally, DLC resistivity uniformity is not a critical parameter for spatial resolution.

Increasing the r/out strip pitch will reduce the spatial resolution:  $\sigma_x \rightarrow \sqrt{12} \otimes \text{pitch}$

# 1-D tracking (inclined tracks)

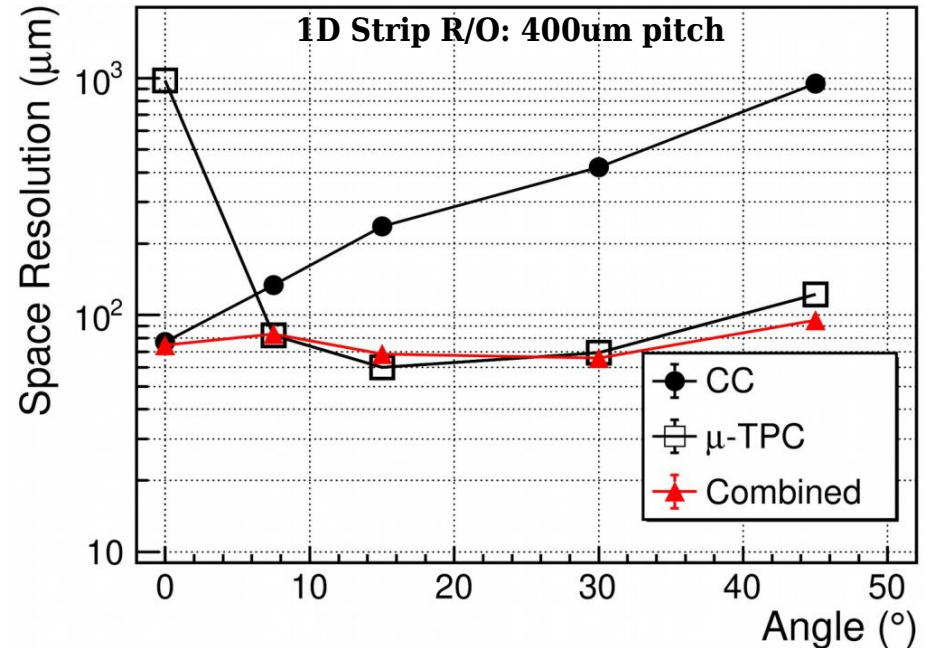
For **inclined tracks** and/or in presence of high B fields, the **charge centroid (CC)** method gives a **very broad spatial resolution** on the anode-strip plane (typical effect observed on MPGDs).

Implementing the  **$\mu$ TPC mode<sup>[1]</sup>**, 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**.



[1] introduced for ATLAS MMs by T. Alexopoulos

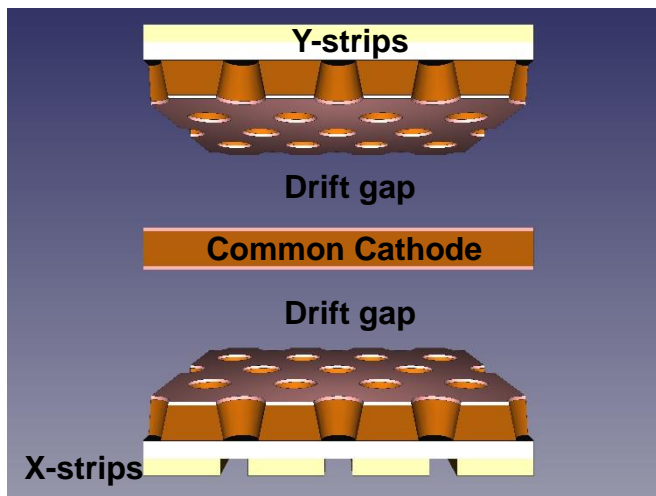
M. Giovannetti et al., *On the space resolution for the  $\mu$ -RWELL*, 2020 JINST 16 P08036



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

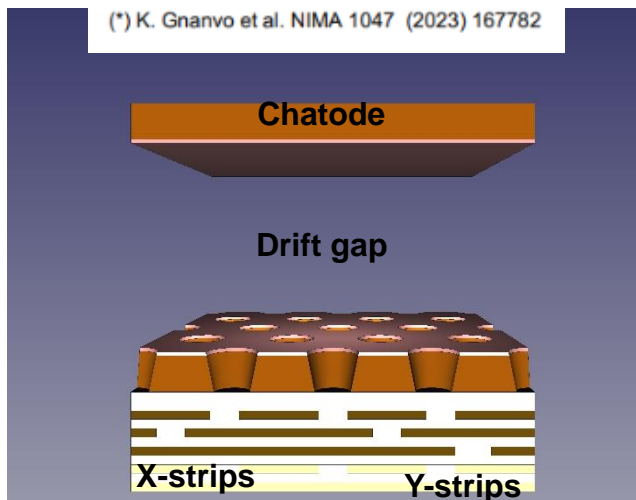
# 2-D Tracking layouts

**N.2 u-RWELLS 1D (2⊗1D)**



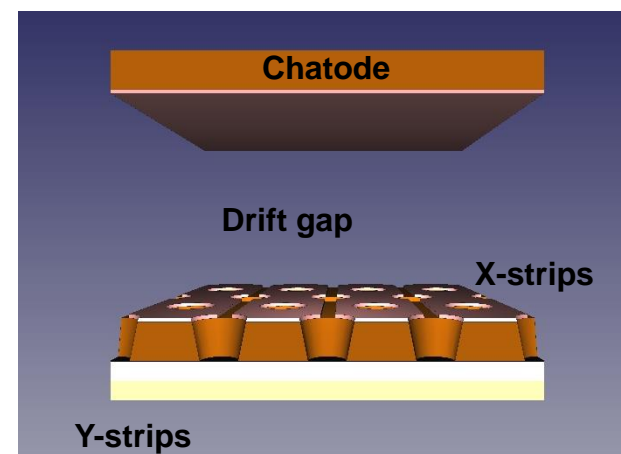
Operation at **lower gas gain** wrt the «COMPASS» r/out (X-Y r/out decoupled)  
- **0.4 mm (0.8mm) X-Y strip pitch** for pre-shower (Muon).

**u-RWELL - Capacitive Sharing r/out**



The **charge sharing** is performed through the **capacitive coupling** between a **stack of layers of pads** and the r/out board.  
- **1.2 mm X-Y strip pitch.**  
**Reduce the FEE channels**, but the **total charge is shared between the X & Y r/out.**

**u-RWELL TOP r/out**



The **TOP-readout layout** allows to work at **low gas gain** wrt the «COMPASS» r/out (X-Y r/out decoupled).  
- **0.8 mm X-Y strip pitch.**  
X strips patterned on the TOP of the amplification stage introduces **dead zone in the active area.**



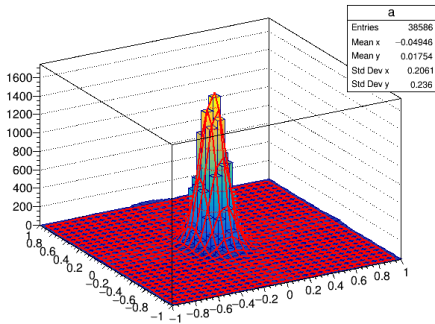
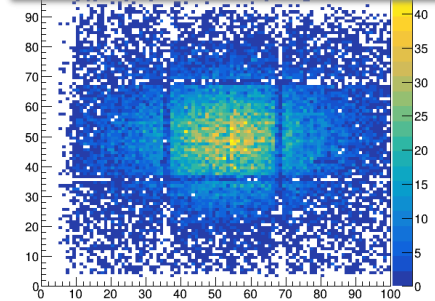
# 2D layouts performance

0.4 mm X-Y strip pitch

PROFILE 2D

RESIDUAL 2D

n.2 1D  $\mu$ -RWELL [2x1D]

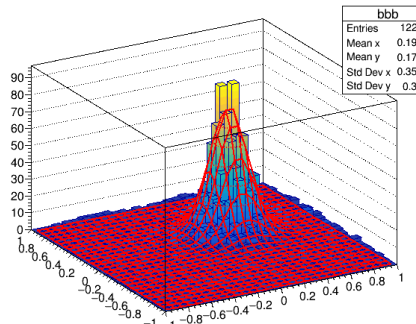
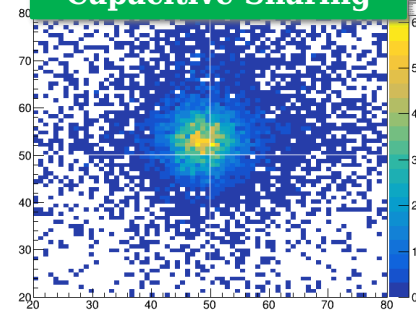


0.4 mm X-Y strip pitch

$$\sigma_X = 85 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\sigma_Y = 121 \mu\text{m}$$

Capacitive Sharing

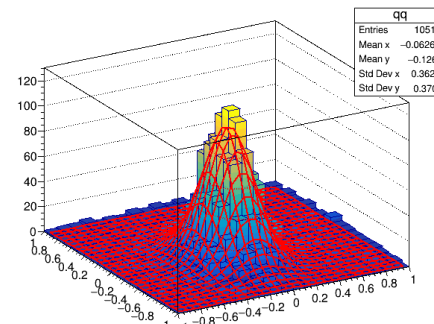
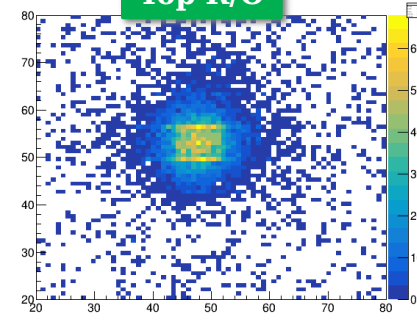


1.2 mm X-Y strip pitch

$$\sigma_X = 142 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\sigma_Y = 147 \mu\text{m}$$

Top R/O



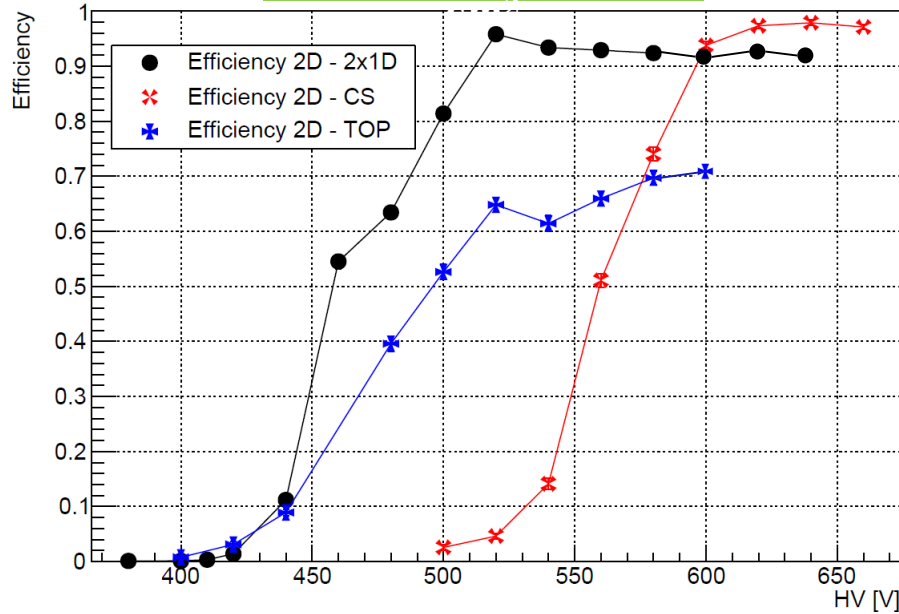
0.8 mm X-Y strip pitch

$$\sigma_X = 173 \mu\text{m}$$

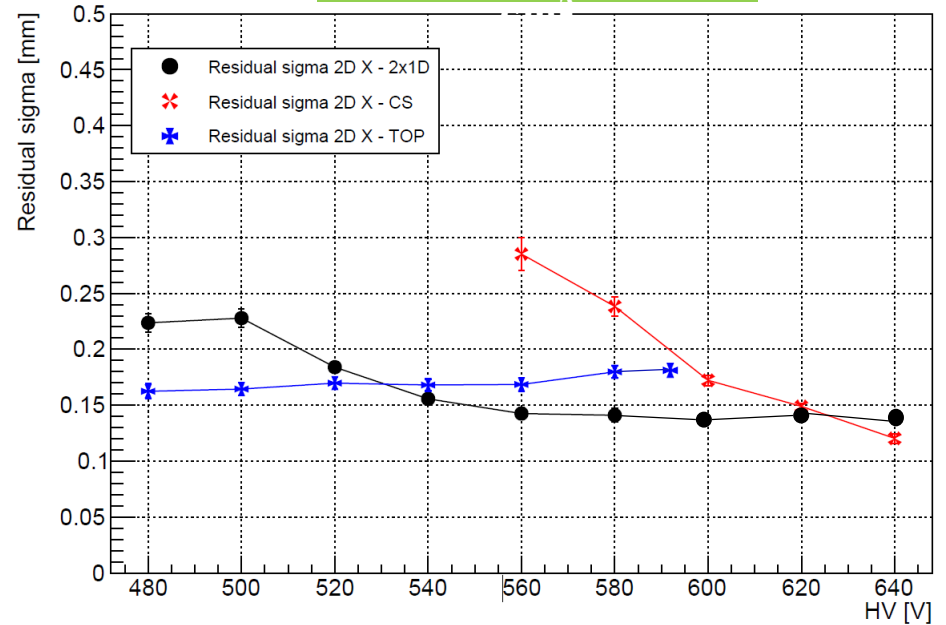
$$\sigma_Y = 250 \mu\text{m}$$

# 2D layouts performance

2D layouts - 10x10



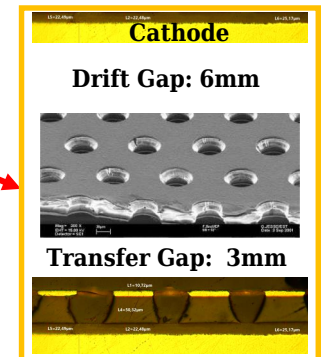
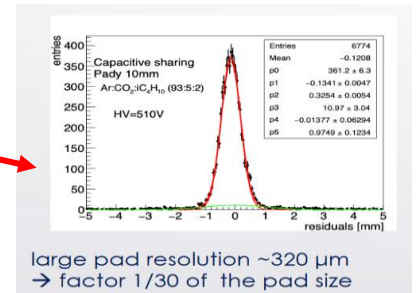
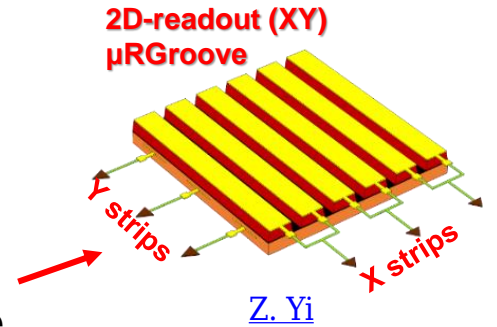
2D layouts - 10x10



- **2x1D:** spatial resolution  $< 200\mu\text{m}$  (pitch 0.8 mm), low voltage operating point  $\sim 520\text{V}$ , efficiency  $\sim 95\%$
- **CS:** spatial resolution  $< 200\mu\text{m}$  (with pitch 1.2 mm), high voltage operating point,  $\geq 600\text{V}$ , efficiency  $\sim 98\%$
- **Top r/out:** spatial resolution  $< 200\mu\text{m}$  (pitch 0.8 mm), low voltage operating point  $\sim 520\text{V}$ , efficiency  $\sim 70\%$

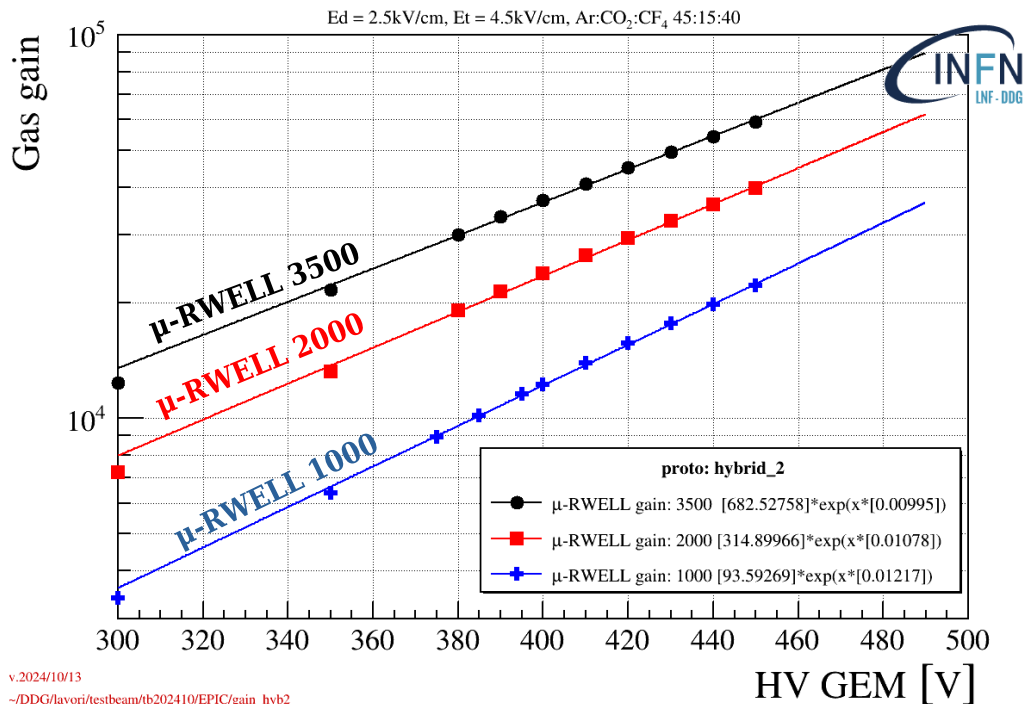
# New technology solutions

- **$\mu$ -RGroove**  $\rightarrow$  evolution of the **top/r-out** layout, where the amplification stage is based on «**grooves**» rather than «**wells**». This design could facilitate the implementation of the **strip readout on the top, without introducing dead-zones** ( **Z. Yi in RD51**).
- **$\mu$ -RWELL with CS layout with pad readout**  $\rightarrow$  new design in which the **readout PCB** is segmented into **pads instead of strips**. This choice allows for collecting **all the charge on a single readout electrode** with an increase of FFE channels (30%). With a pad size of  $\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$ , a **spatial resolution of  $\sim 300 \mu\text{m}$**  has been achieved ( **M. Iodice in RD51**).
- **GEM +  $\mu$ -RWELL with CS layout with strip/pad readout**  $\rightarrow$  a hybrid design featuring a **GEM pre-amplification** stage to **lower the operating point**, greatly **enhancing detector stability** while maintaining **high spatial performance** with millimeter strip-pitches



# GEM + $\mu$ -RWELL

3 different gains for the  $\mu$ -RWELL



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GEM gain  
@ 450V  $\approx$  20

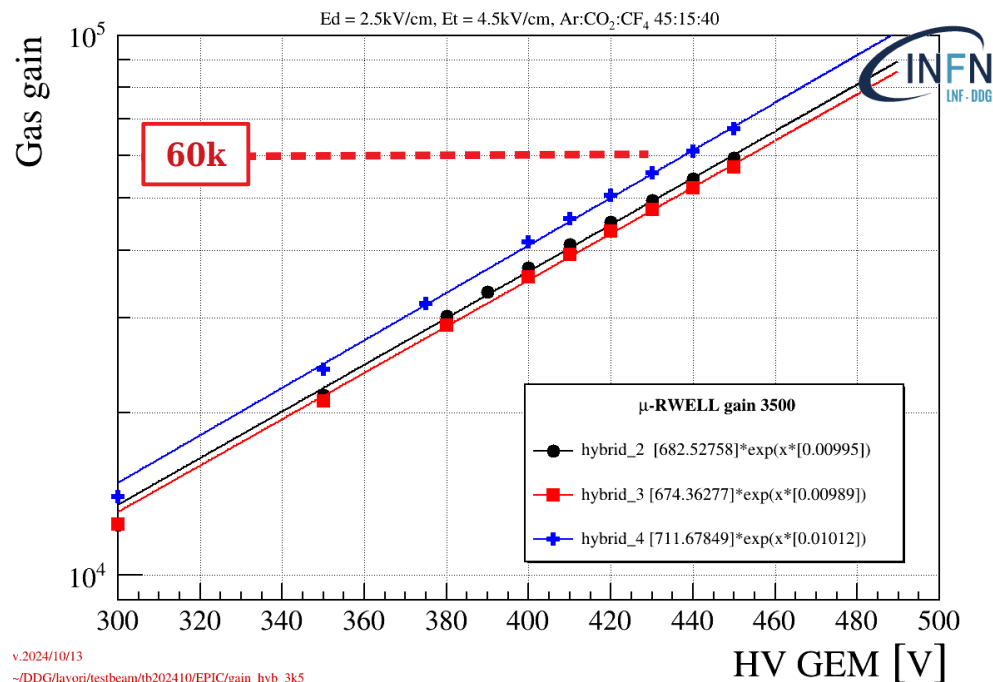
**A very stable detector:** it doesn't show **any hint of instabilities** even at a **gain of 60k**.

We stopped because the FEE saturates.

G. Bencivenni, LNF-INFN – 2<sup>nd</sup> FCC Italy-France Workshop, Venezia 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024

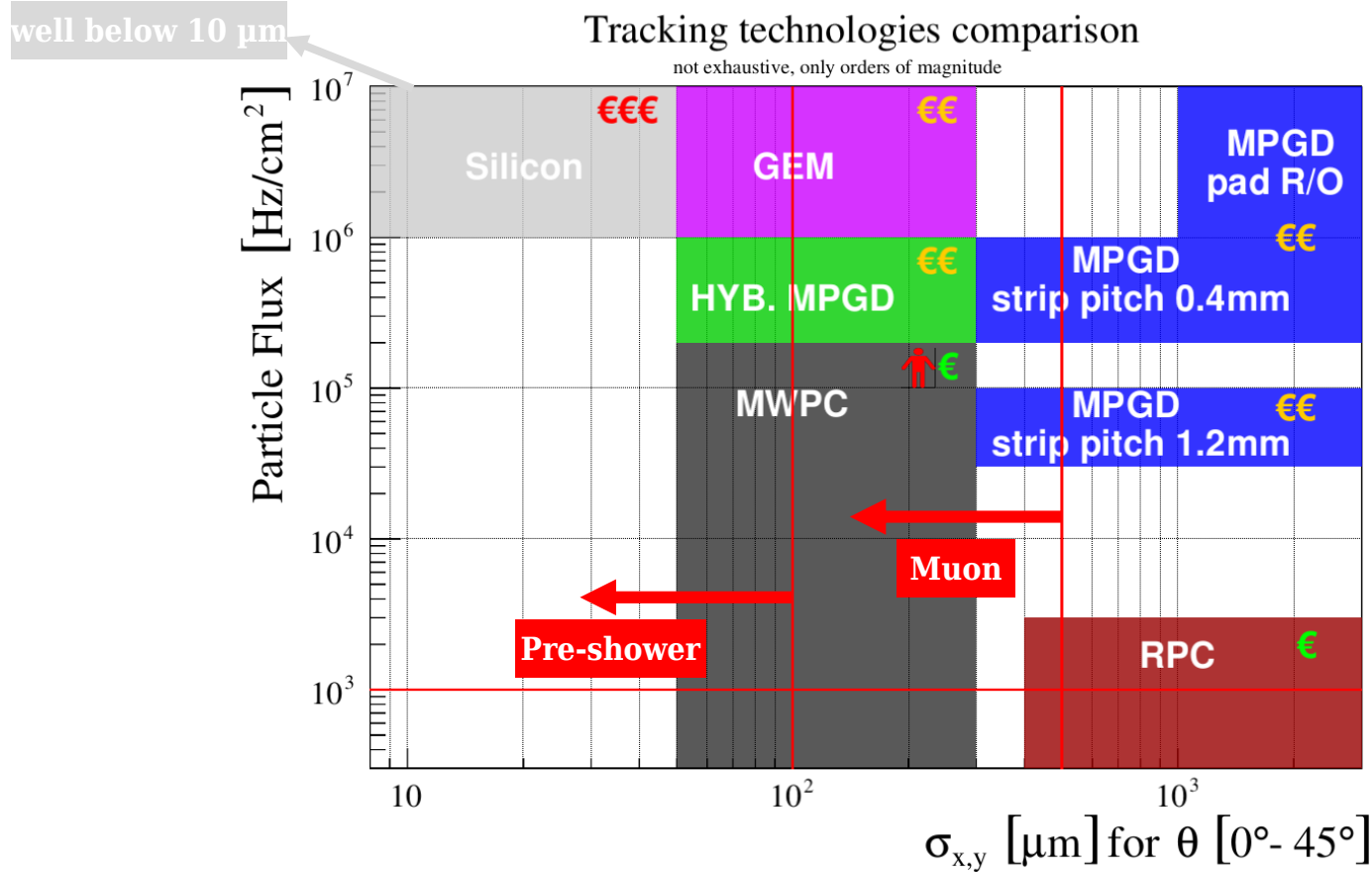
3 different detectors

$\mu$ -RWELL gain @ 3500



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# Tracking technologies comparison



# Technology Transfer to Industry

# Detector Manufacturing & TT

The  $\mu$ -RWELL\_PCB is a rigid-flex PCB based on SBU technology, that is compatible with standard industrial processes.

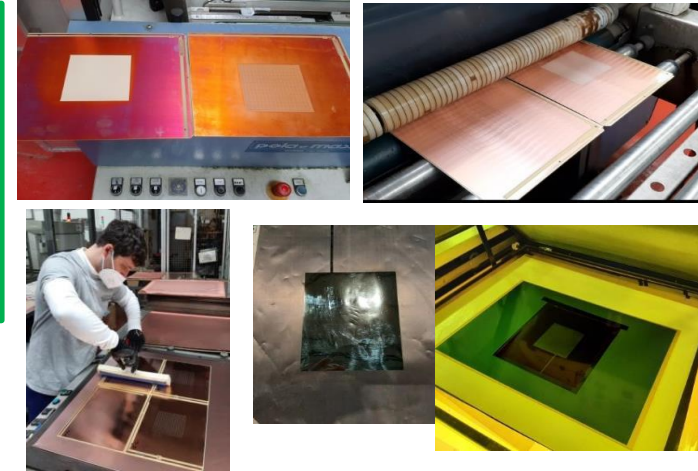
The **ELTOS** is the industrial partner involved in the manufacturing of the  $\mu$ -RWELL.

The logo for ELTOS, consisting of the letters "ELTOS" in a blue, outlined, sans-serif font.

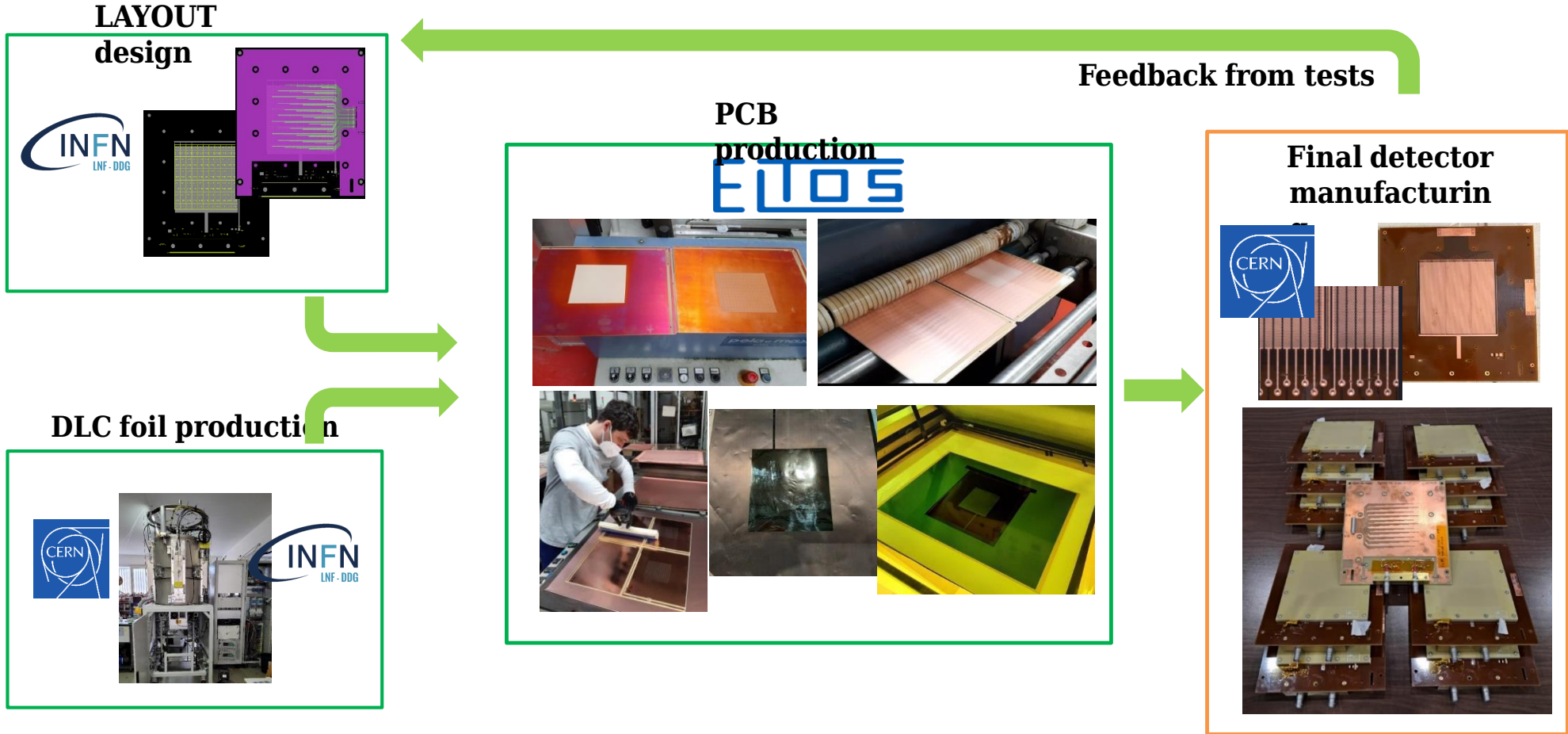
The **ELTOS SpA** was founded in 1980 in Arezzo, Italy.

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  $\mu$ -RWELL technology **across various fields of applications**.



# Detector Manufacturing flow chart





# Detector manufacturing steps



**Step 0** - Detector PCB design @ LNF

**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 → patterning with BRUSHING-machine

**Step 4** - DLC foil gluing on PCB by ELTOS

- Large press available, up to 16 PCBs workable simultaneously

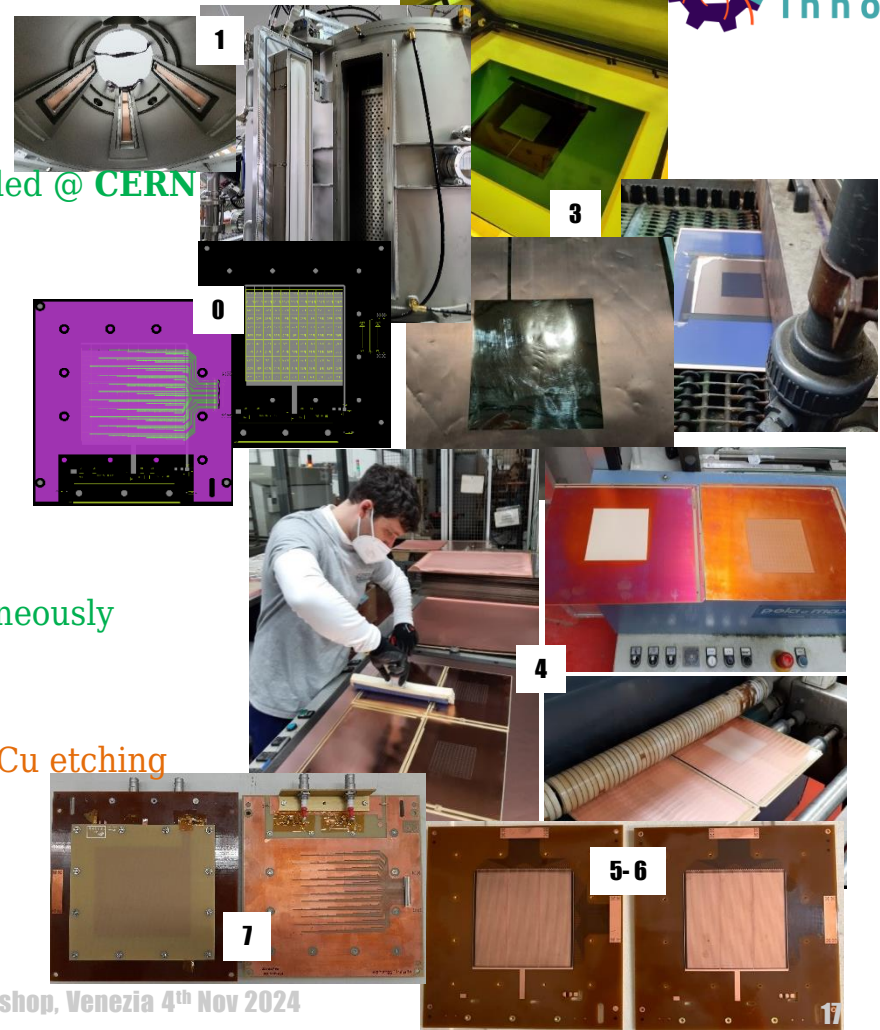
**Step 5** - Top copper patterning by CERN

- Cu amplification holes image and HV connections by Cu etching

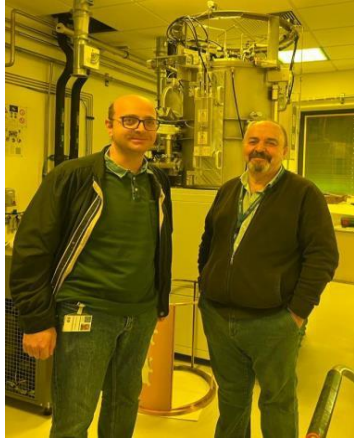
**Step 6** - Amplification stage patterning by CERN

- PI etching → amplification-holes

**Step 7** - Electrical cleaning and detector closure @ CERN



# DLC sputtering



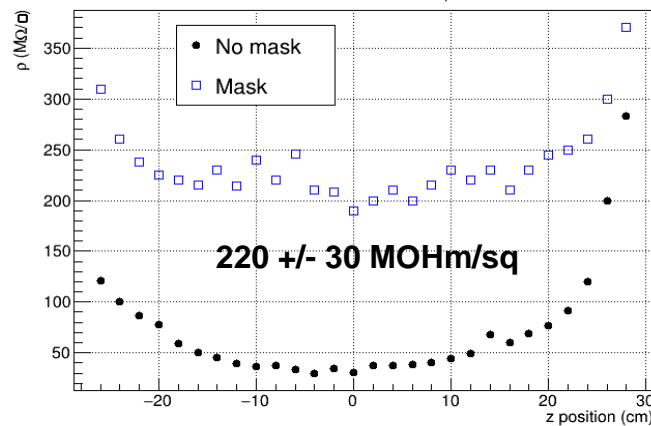
The **CID** (CERN-INFN-DLC) sputtering machine, a **joint project between CERN and INFN**, is used for preparing the **base material of the detector**. The potential of the DLC sputtering machine is:

- **Flexible substrates** up to  $1.7 \times 0.6 \text{m}^2$
- **Rigid substrates** up to  $0.2 \times 0.6 \text{m}^2$

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

In **2024**, the challenge has been the **sputtering of large foils:**

- ✓ **DLC+Cu sputtering on  $0.8 \times 0.6 \text{m}^2$  successfully done (May/June 2024)**
- ✓ **DLC on  $1.7 \times 0.6 \text{m}^2$  large 0/50/0 Apical foils successfully done (June 2024)**
- ✓ **DLC on  $1.7 \times 0.6 \text{m}^2$  large 5/50/0 Apical foils still to be done (July 2024)**



The graphite target **The three external cathodes**

# Electrical Hot Cleaning



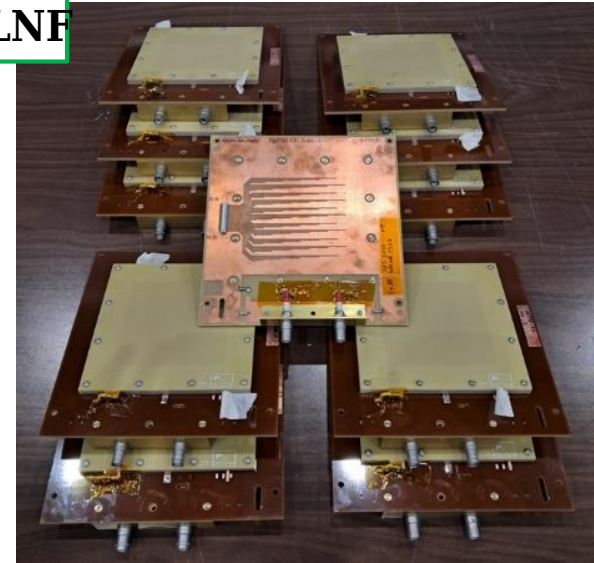
@ CERN

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 700 V** (each step with current < 1 nA)
- **Detector closure** and final **test at 600 V in ambient air**

# Pilot co-production test

@ LNF

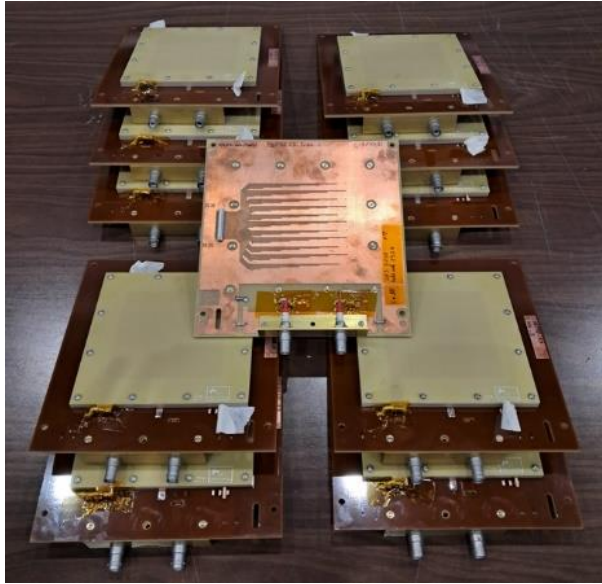


**The 16 co-produced prototypes** have been extensively tested with X-rays:

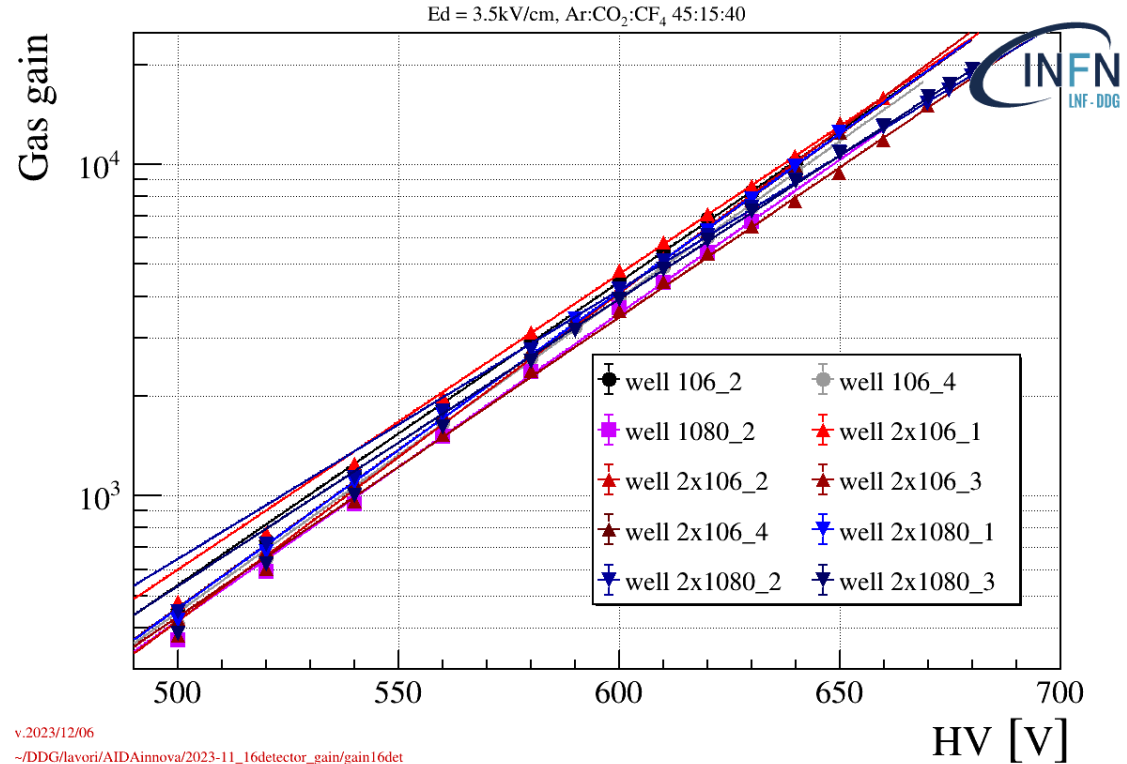
- **15/16 are fine**
- **1/16 needs to be re-cleaned**

**Production yield > 93%**

# Co-production pilot results



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

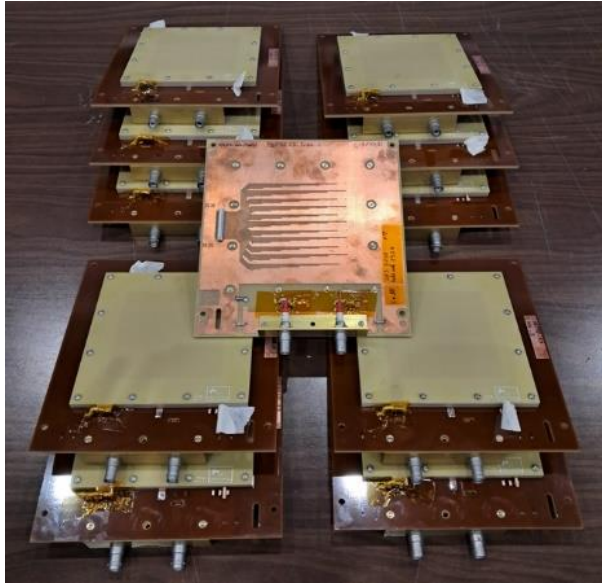


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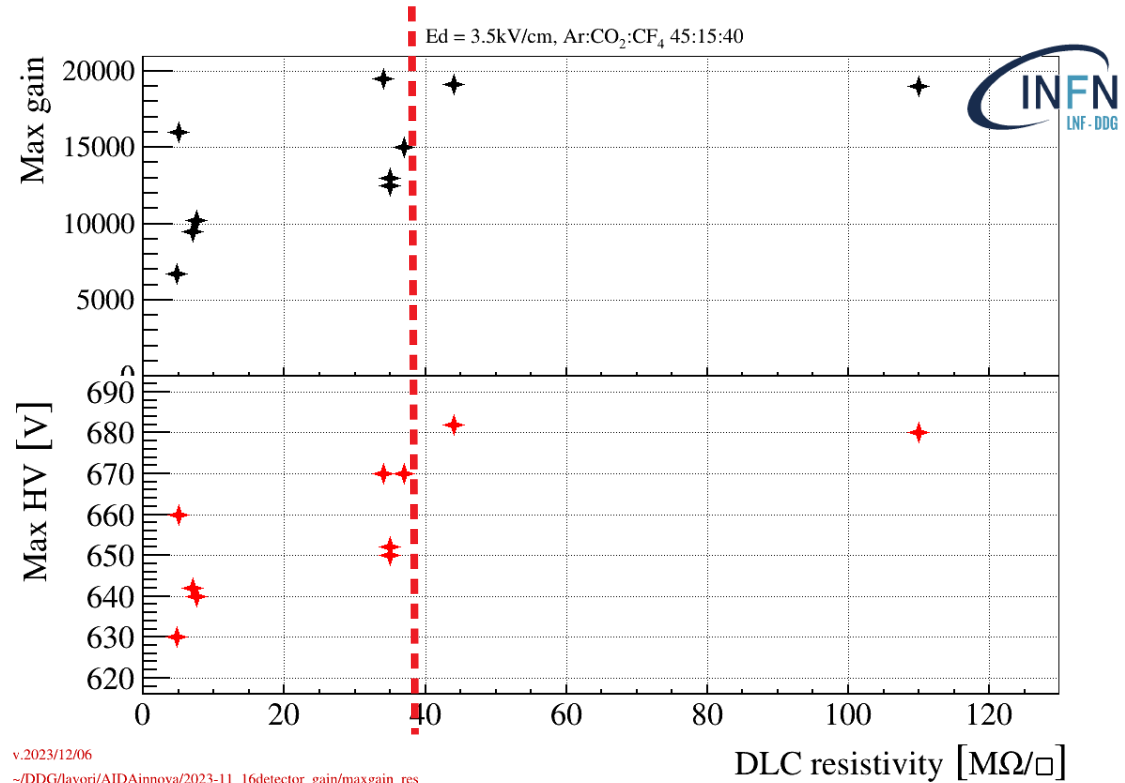
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Characterized with **X-ray gun** → **Gas gain** measurement

# Max-gain vs resistivity



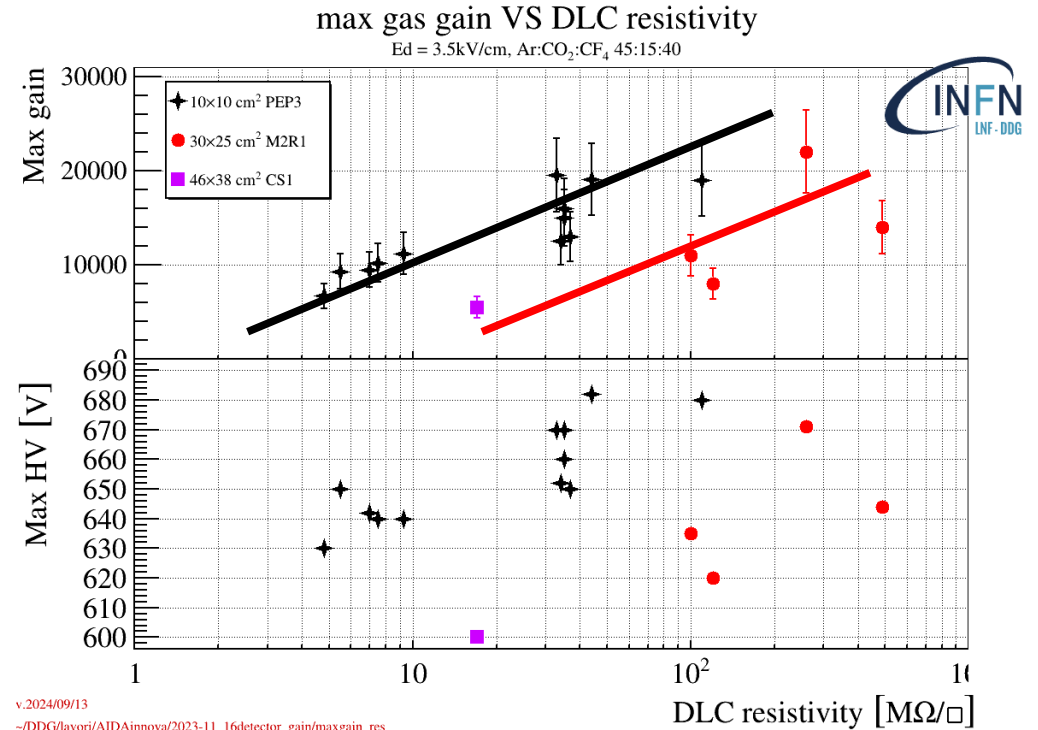
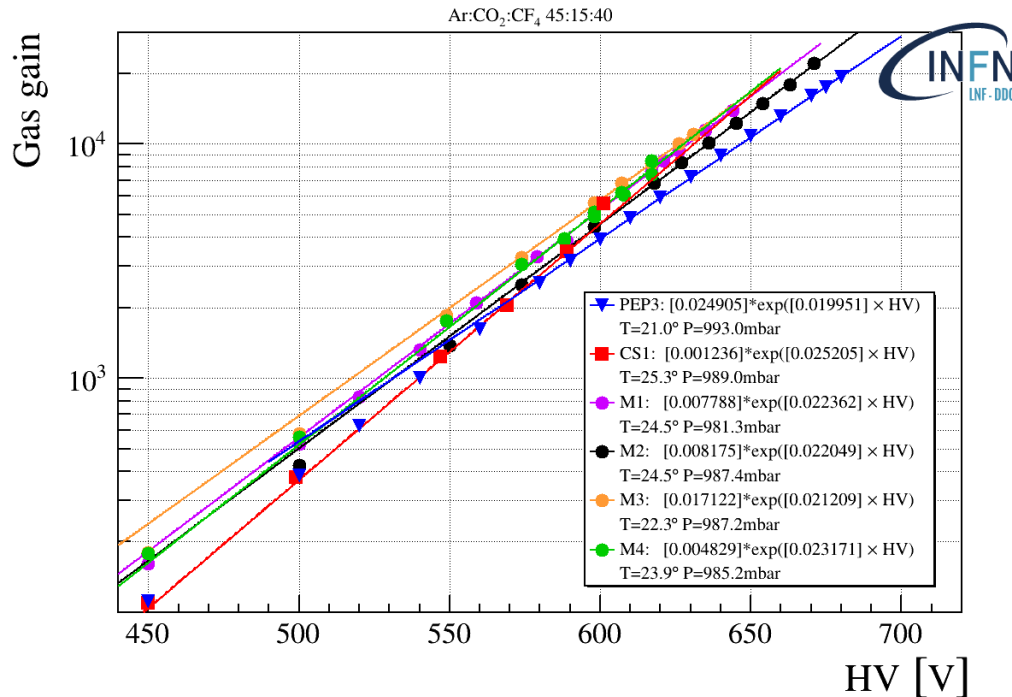
- **16** co-produced protos have been delivered and tested
- **10/16 (LNF) + 5/16 (CERN)** are fine
- **1/16 should be re-cleaned**



The **maximum gain** is larger for  $\rho \geq 40$  MΩ/square

# Max-gain: large size vs small size

CS\_01 13 MOhm/sq, area 46x38 cm<sup>2</sup>  
 M2R1 260 MOhm/sq, area 30x25 cm<sup>2</sup>



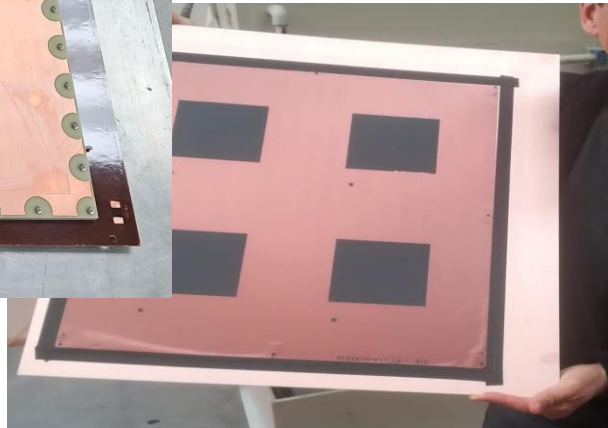
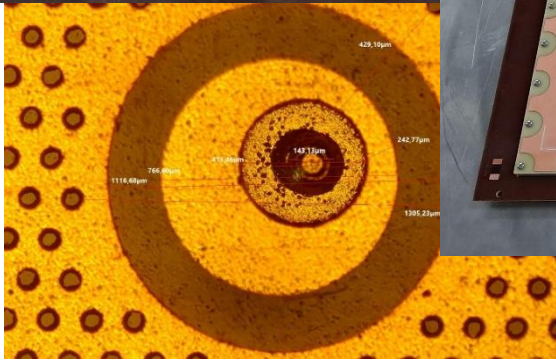
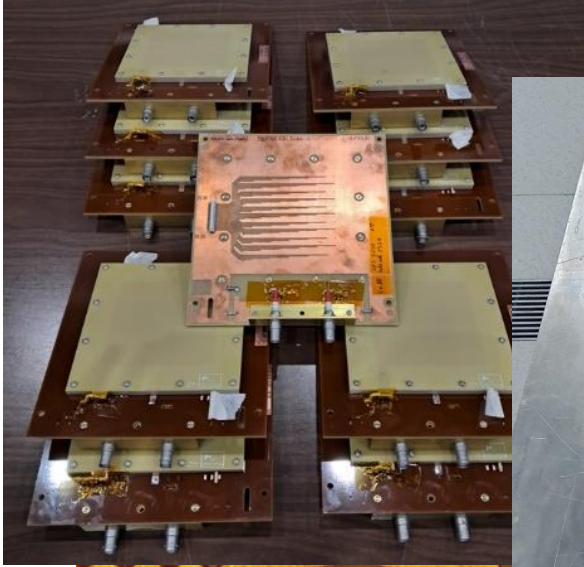
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For large-size detectors, the max-gain increases with the DLC resistivity, although, compared to the small-size detectors, the **gain curve for the larger size is shifted towards lower values.**

# Summary

The  $\mu$ -RWELL is a well-established technology with excellent performance.

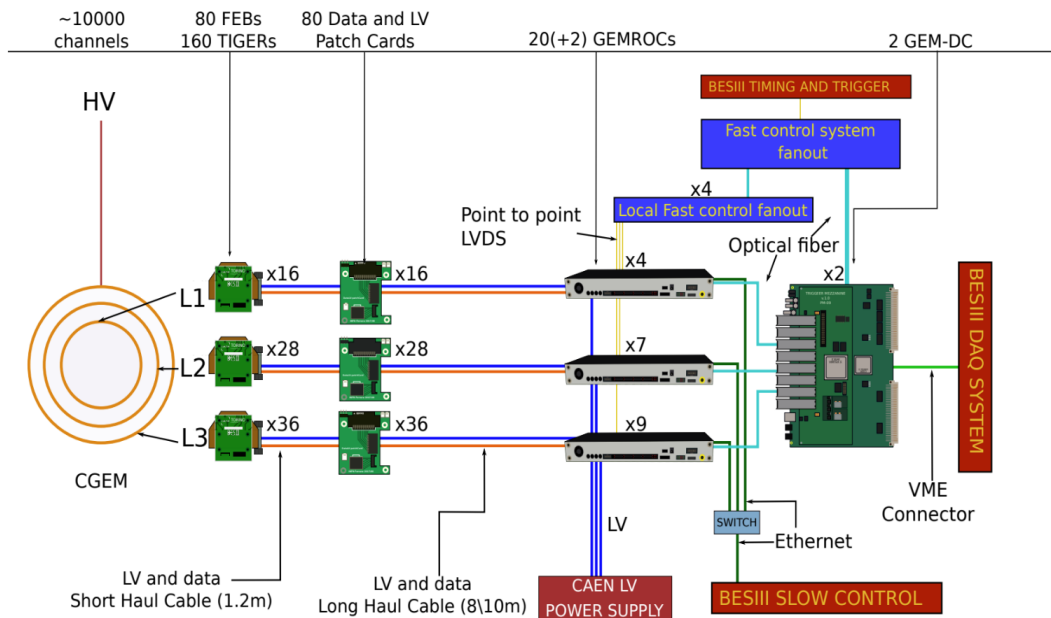
- Several 2D readout layouts have been tested, demonstrating spatial resolution up to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  over a large particle incidence angle range ( $0^\circ$ -  $45^\circ$ ).
- New layouts to improve stability, maximize gain, and enhance overall detector performance are under study.
- A significant effort is being made to well define and simplify the manufacturing process and facilitate the technology transfer to industry.
- The DLC sputtering process — a crucial manufacturing step— is now fully under our control.





**SPARE SLIDES**

# Front end electronics: TIGER



## TIGER chip features

- 64 channels
- Event rate 100 kHz/ch
- Input dynamic range up to 50 fC
- Time resolution < 5 ns
- ENC < 2000 e<sup>-</sup> rms with 100 pF input capacitance

## Readout chain

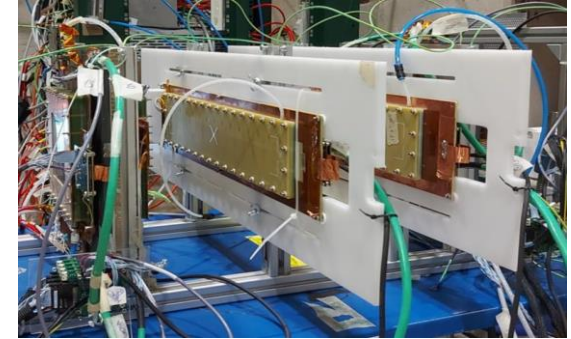
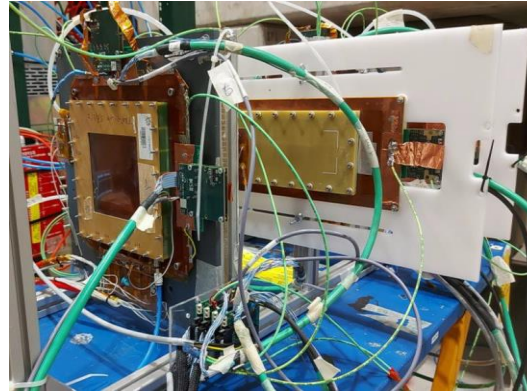
The full readout chain is well known.

A complete setup is under deployment in Beijing for the **BESIII CGEM-IT** where a cosmic ray data taking is ongoing since Dec. 2019

# WP5 2024 – Front-end electronics

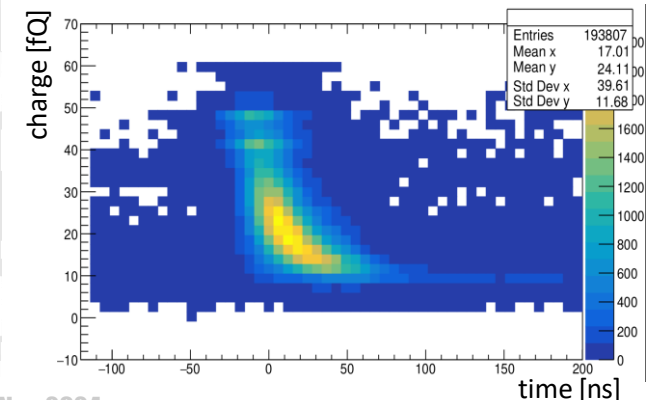
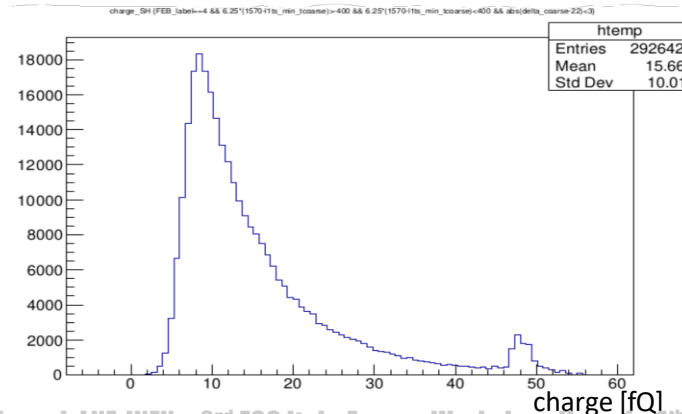
Detector under test:

- Active area = 400x50 mm<sup>2</sup>
- Resistivity = 80 MΩ/□
- Strip pitch = 0.4-1.6 mm
- Strip width = 0.15 mm
- 1D readout



The data taking consisted of HV scan, Drift scan and Thr. scan, with Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub>

Data **analysis is ongoing**, and will be the task of the **next months**

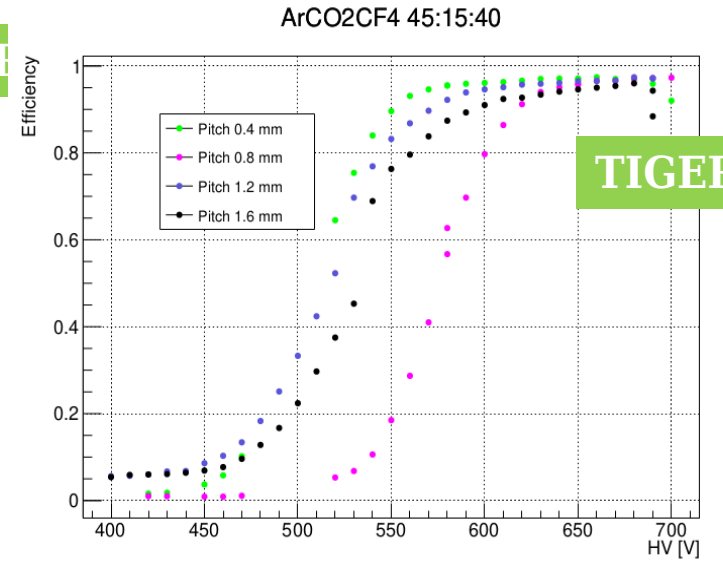
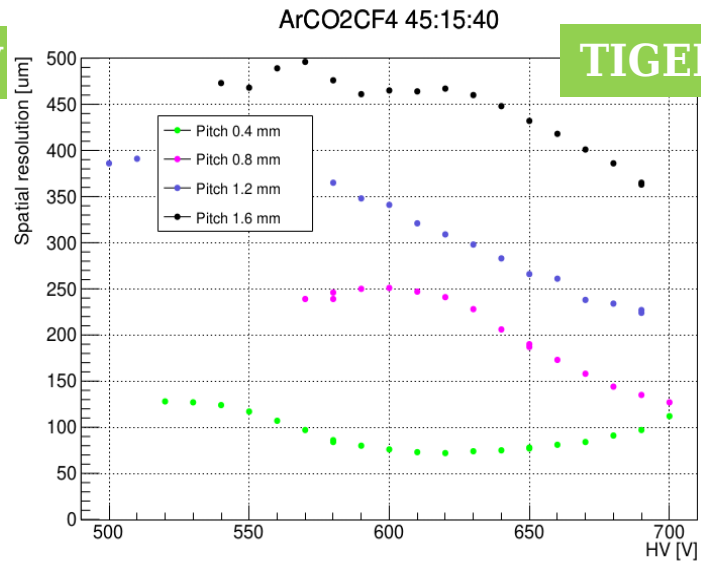
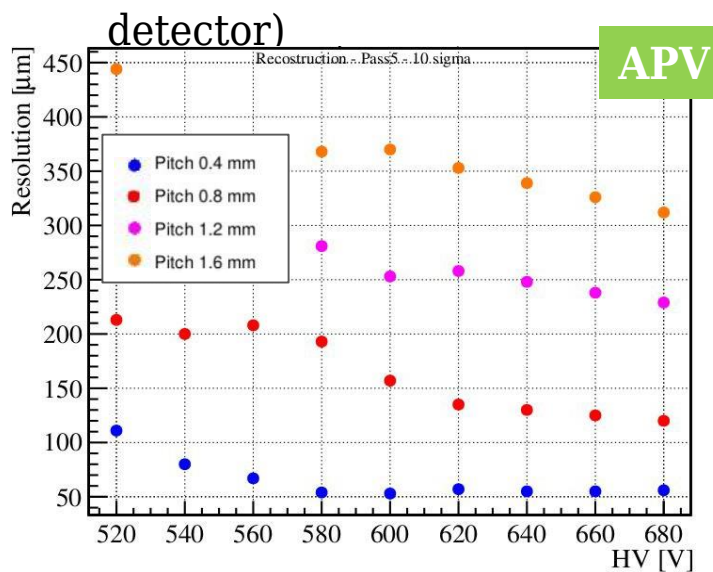


# WP5 2024 – Front-end electronics

Similar results are obtained with **TIGER** electronics and **APV**, even though small differences are present in the two setups (noise, threshold): **1-2 fC with APV and 2-4 fC with TIGER**.

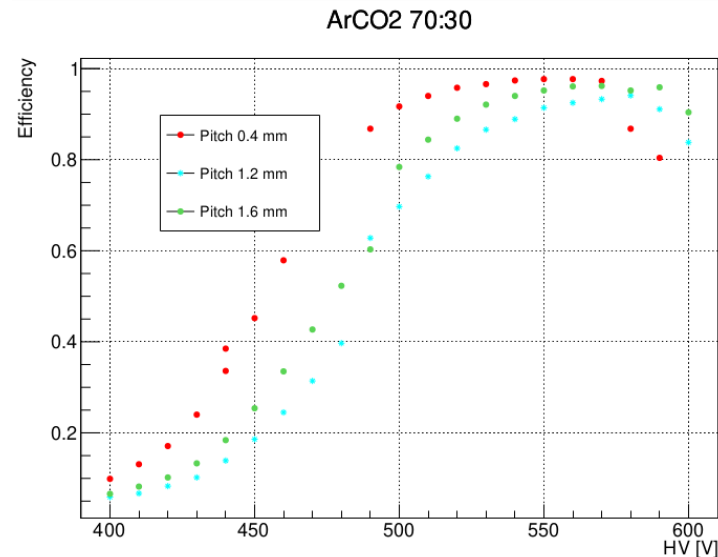
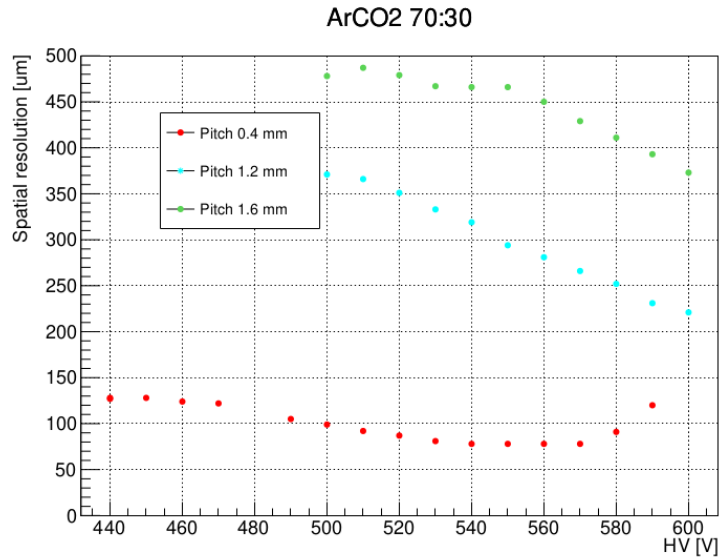
The grounding scheme must be improved in future setups.

A spatial resolution of **100  $\mu\text{m}$**  is achieved with a **0.4 mm strip pitch**, a shift between the efficiency plateaus of **0.4 mm** and **0.8 mm** pitch is observed, as expected (due to larger noise on the 0.8 mm detector)



# Testing CF<sub>4</sub>-free gas mixtures

The gas mixtures based on CF<sub>4</sub> are effective for fast electron drift but are not considered eco-friendly. Alternatives to CF<sub>4</sub> are needed. Here, we compare the performance of a  $\mu$ -RWELL using Ar:CO<sub>2</sub> (70/30) and Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub> (45:15:40). A shift in the working point of approximately 50-100V is observed due to the different Argon ratios, along with a reduction in the plateau width of about 50V.

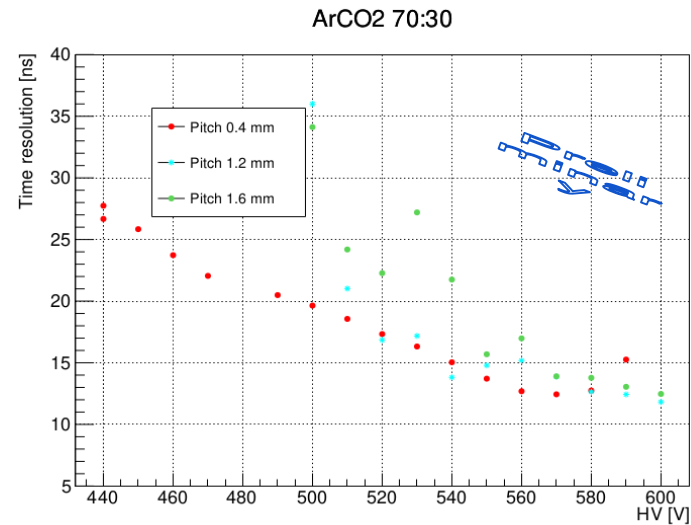
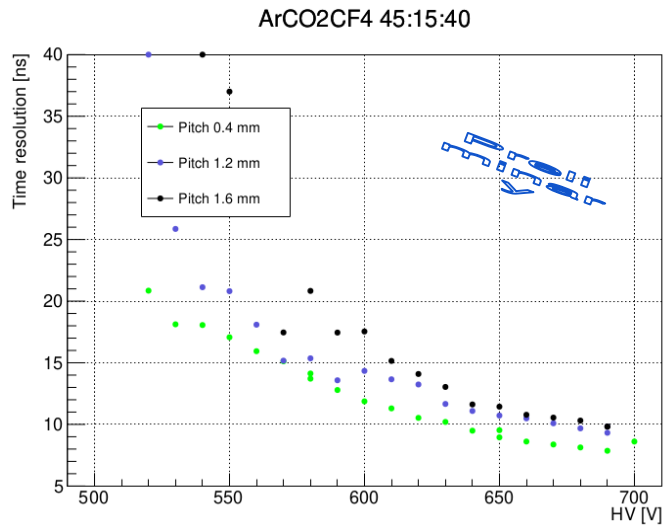


# Testing CF<sub>4</sub>-free gas mixtures

Comparing the time performance of the two gas mixtures:

- **12 ns** is achieved with Ar with **Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>**
- **7.8 ns** is achieved with **Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub>**

The contribution of the electronics (approximately **2 ns**) and time-walk are included.



# Spot Effect for SRL – Manufacturer plot

From the mathematical model of the resistive stage of a  $\mu$ -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 cm<sup>2</sup>** to **50x50 cm<sup>2</sup>** the rate capability should go down few kHz/cm<sup>2</sup>

3. By using a **DLC ground sectoring every 10 cm**, large (50x50cm<sup>2</sup>) detectors could achieve rate capability up to 100 kHz/cm<sup>2</sup>

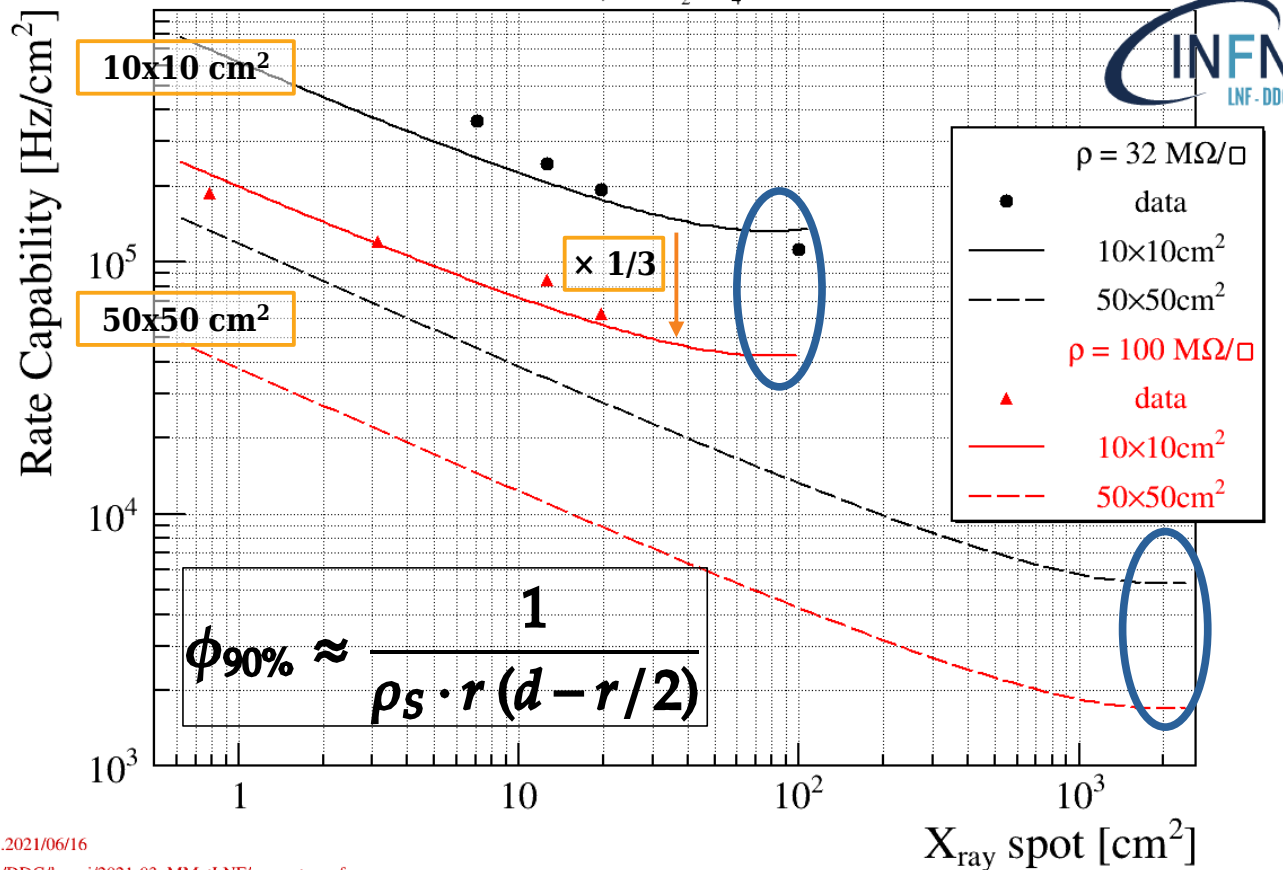
Different primary ionization  $\Rightarrow$

$$\text{Rate Cap. m.i.p.} = 3 \times \text{Rate Cap. X-ray}$$

Cap. X-ray

SRL: Rate Capability vs Spot

Gain = 4000, Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub> 45:15:40



v.2021/06/16

~/DDG/lavori/2021-03\_MMatLNF/rc\_spot\_conf

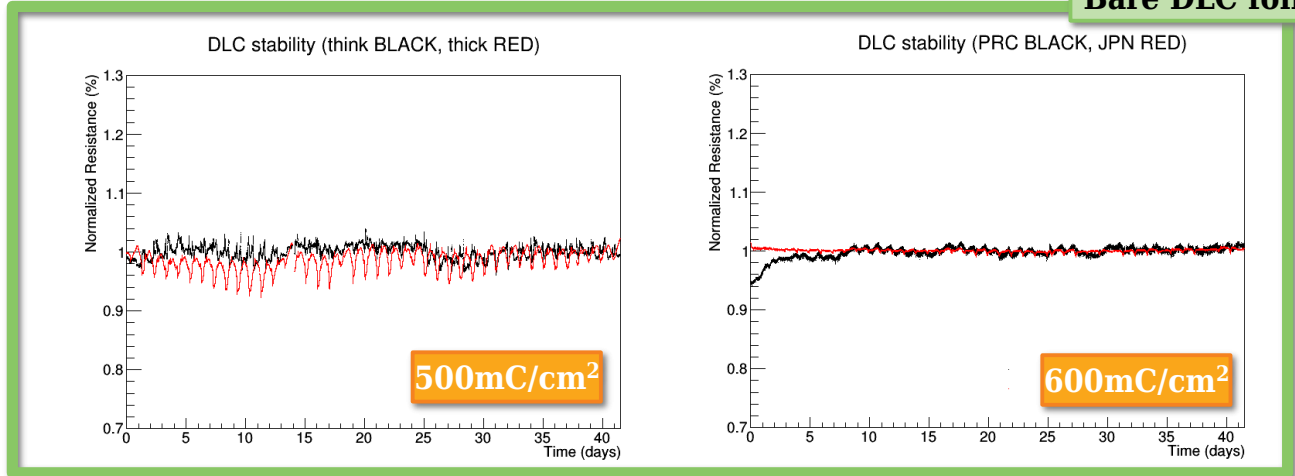
G. Bencivenni, LNF-INFN,



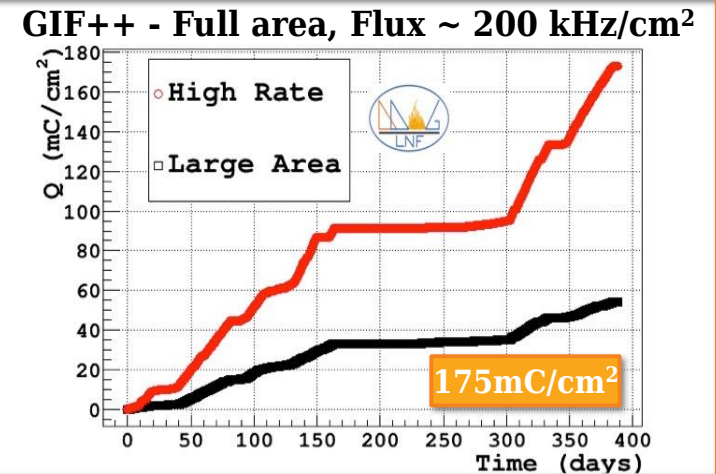
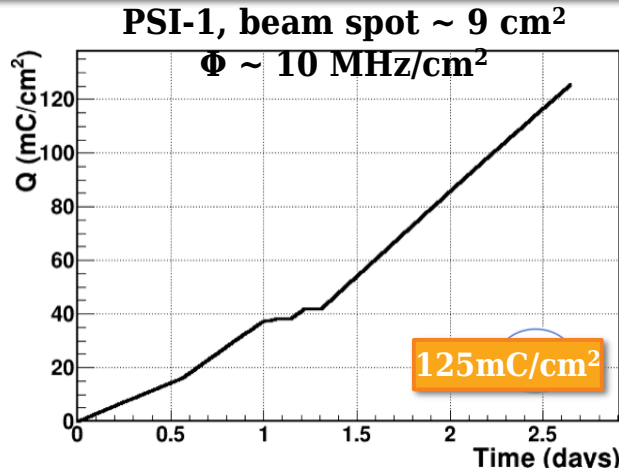
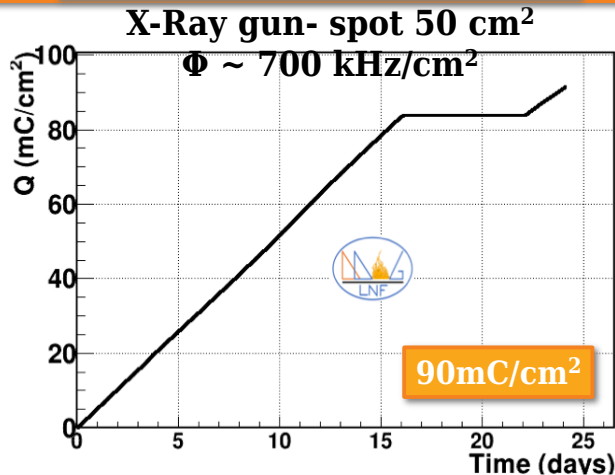
# Irradiation test of DLC and $\mu$ -RWELL

Bare DLC foils

- **DLC foils:** monitoring of the resistivity of two foils under x-ray irradiation.
- **$\mu$ -RWELL detectors:** prototypes irradiated with different radiation.



## $\mu$ -RWELL DETECTORS





# $\mu$ -RWELL + GEM

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



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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/nima](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/nima)



## Development of $\mu$ -RWELL detectors for the upgrade of the tracking system of CMD-3 detector

L. Shekhtman\*, G. Fedotovitch, A. Kozyrev, V. Kudryavtsev, T. Maltsev, A. Ruban

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Novosibirsk State University, 630090, Novosibirsk, Russia

### ARTICLE INFO

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

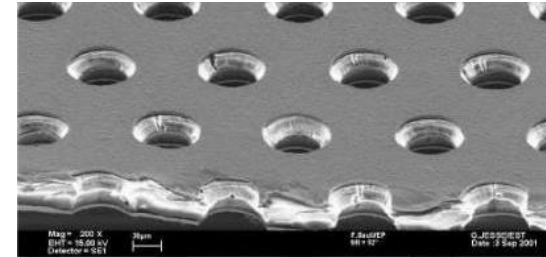
### ABSTRACT

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  $10^5$  have been demonstrated. Time resolution achieved for both prototypes are 7 ns for micro-RWELL and 4 ns for micro-RWELL-GEM.

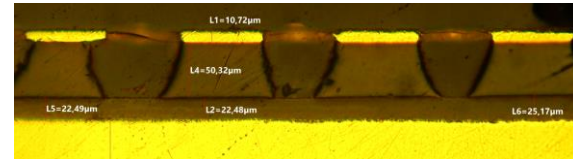
L. Shekhtman, Nuclear Inst. and Methods in Physics Research, A 936 (2019) 401-404



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



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



Developed for **CMD3 upgrade disks** (4 sectors  
 $50 \times 50 \text{cm}^2$ )

The GEM **must be** stretched: sizes larger than  $50 \times 50 \text{cm}^2$  could be critical (depending on the gas gaps size).

# $\mu$ -RWELL + GEM: gas gain

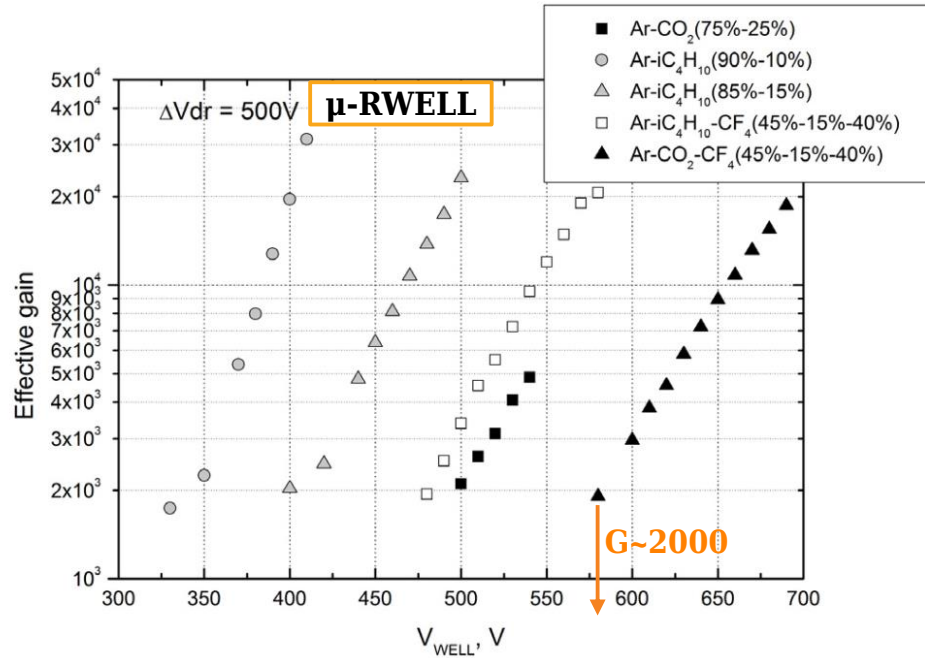


Fig. 4. Gain as a function of voltage on the top electrode of  $\mu$ -RWELL for different gas mixtures. Voltage across the drift gap is 500 V.

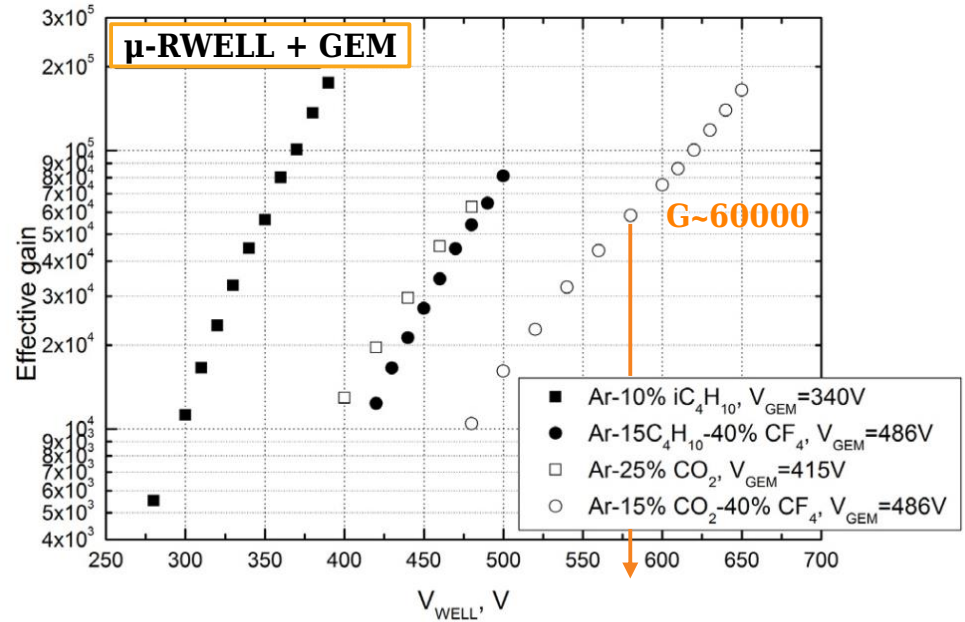


Fig. 5. Gain as a function of voltage on the top electrode of  $\mu$ -RWELL for GEM voltages providing additional gain of 50–100 and for different gas mixtures. Voltage across the drift gap is 500 V.

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

# Low Mass $\mu$ -RWELL

		Thickness (um)	X0 (cm)	% X0
Anode Support	Cu Ground FEE	3	1.43	0.021
	kapton	50	28.6	0.017
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	FR4	100	19.3	0.052
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	MILLIFOAM	3000	1312.5	0.023
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	FR4	100	19.3	0.052



		Thickness (um)	X0 (cm)	% X0
Amp. stage	Cu	5	1.43	0.035
	kapton	50	28.6	0.017
	DLC	0.1	12.1	0.000
	Pre-preg (106)	50	19.3	0.026

		Thickness (um)	X0 (cm)	% X0
Anode 2D	Cu	5	1.43	0.035
	kapton	50	28.6	0.017
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	Cu	5	1.43	0.035
	kapton	50	28.6	0.017
				<b>0.112</b>

		Thickness (um)	X0 (cm)	% X0
Tile BaseLine	Glue	0	33.5	0.000
	kapton	0	28.6	0.000
	Glue	0	33.5	0.000
	MILLIFOAM	0	1312.5	0.000
	Glue	0	33.5	0.000
	Kapton	0	28.6	0.000
				<b>0.000</b>

<b>Tot. Anode</b>	<b>0.378</b>
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		Thickness (um)	X0 (cm)	% X0
Far. Catehode Support + Cathod	Cu	3	1.43	0.021
	kapton	50	28.6	0.017
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	FR4	100	19.3	0.052
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	MILLIFOAM	3000	1312.5	0.023
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
	FR4	100	19.3	0.052
	glue	25	33.5	0.007
Far. Catehode Support + Cathod	kapton	50	28.6	0.017
	Cu Ground	3	1.43	0.021

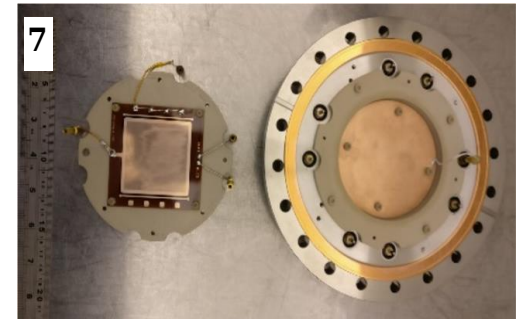
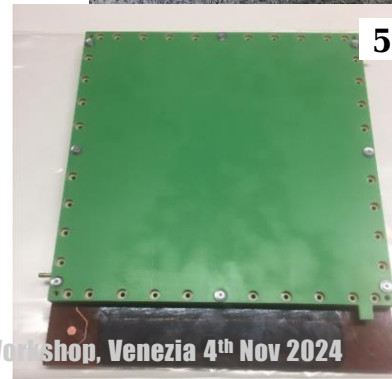
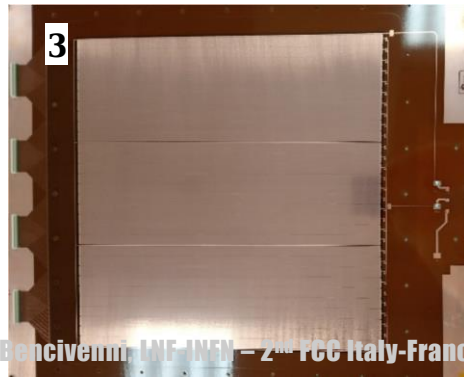
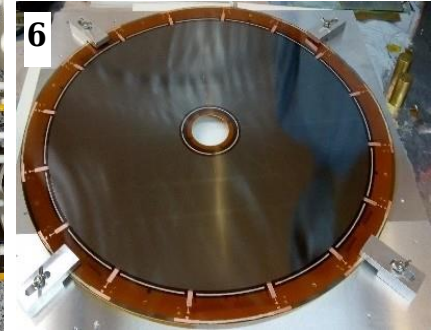
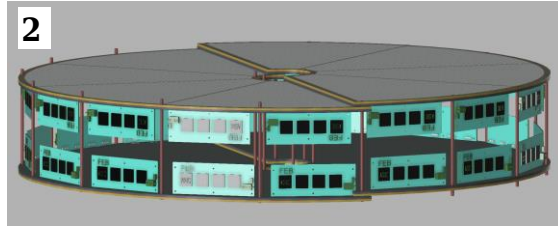
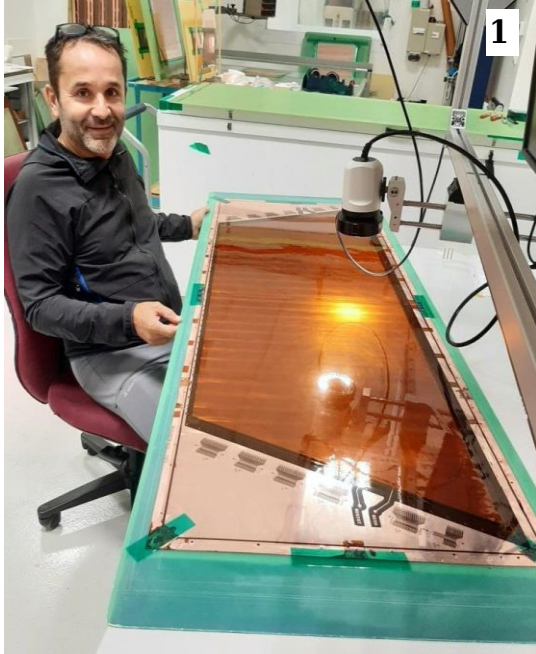
X0 - single	<b>0.611</b>
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X0 B2B	<b>0.99</b>
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# Technology spread

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+ $\mu$ RWELL technology
3. **X17 @ n\_TOF EAR2 (CERN):** TPC with a  $\mu$ RWELL 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+  $\mu$ RWELL disk for the upgrade of the tracking system
7. **UKRI (UK):** thermal neutron detector with pressurized  $^3\text{He}$ -based gas mixture

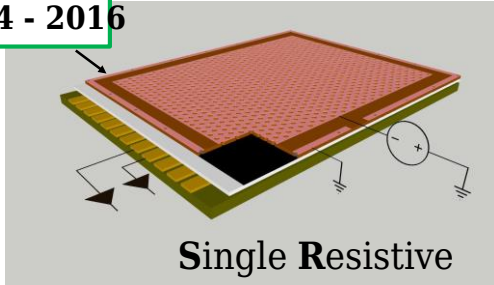


# High-rate layouts evolution

G. Bencivenni et al., *The  $\mu$ -RWELL layouts for high particle rate*, 2019 JINST 14 P05014

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

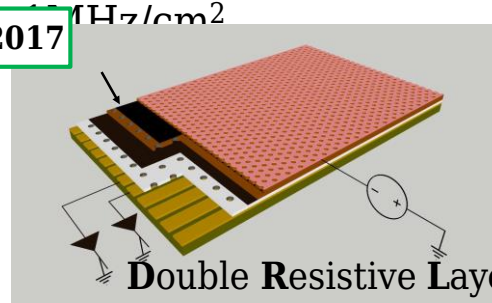
2014 - 2016



Single Resistive Layer

- Single DLC layer with edge conductive line
- 2-D current evacuation
- rate capability  $< 100 \text{ kHz/cm}^2$
- Easy for i

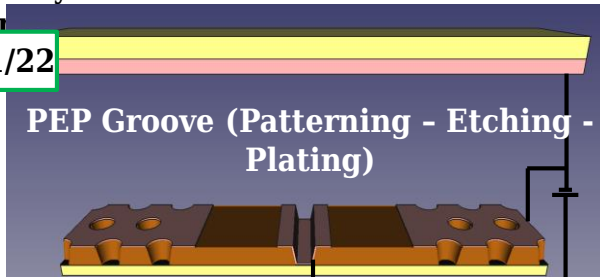
2017



Double Resistive Layer

- Two stacked resistive layers with a double matrix of conductive vias
- 3-D current evacuation
- Rate capability  $> 10 \text{ MHz/cm}^2$
- Complex manufacturing not e

2021/22



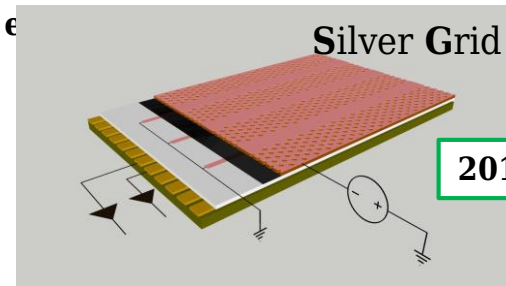
PEP Groove (Patterning - Etching - Plating)

- Single DLC layer
- 2-D current evacuation: conductive grid by etching from the top Cu, through the kapton foil down to the DLC
- No grid alignment issues, scalable to large size - large dead zone ( $>15\%$ )
- Easily engineered, because based on SBU technology

G. Bencivenni, LNF-INFN



Silver Grid



2018 - 2020

- Single DLC layer
- 2-D current evacuation through conductive grid on top DLC layer
- rate capability  $> 10 \text{ MHz/cm}^2$
- Easily engineered, BUT complex Cu+DLC sputtering/alignment

# High-rate layouts: PEP layouts comparison

2022

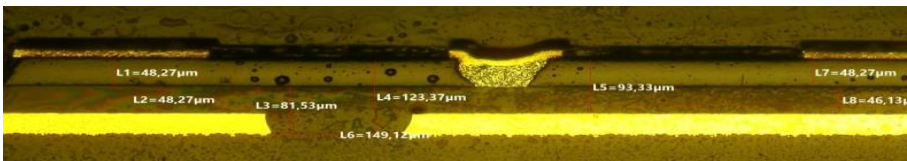
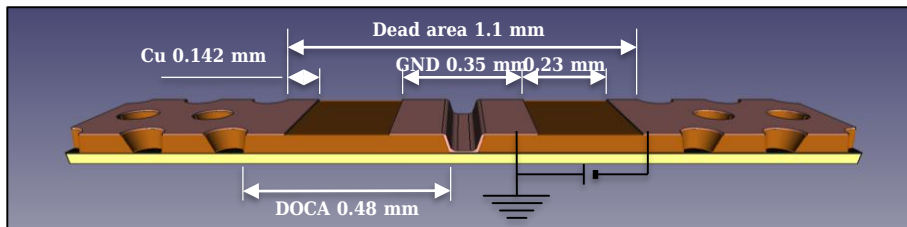
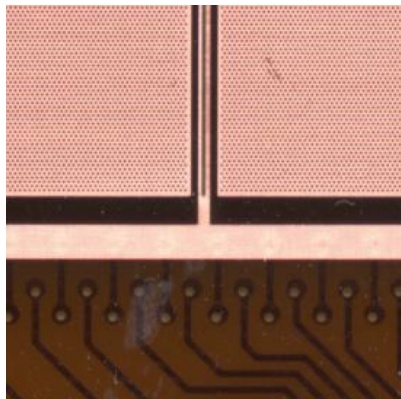
**PEP-Groove:**  
DLC grounding through  
conductive groove to ground  
line

Pad R/O =  $9 \times 9 \text{ mm}^2$

Grounding:

- Groove pitch = 9mm
- width = 1.1mm

→ 84% geometric acceptance



2023

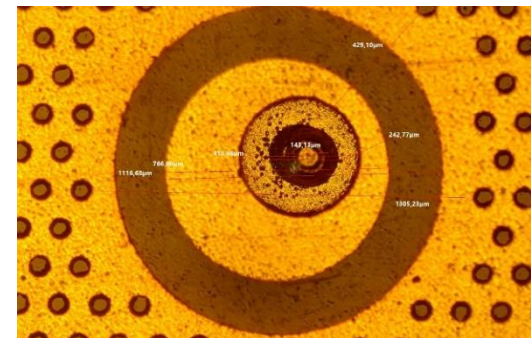
**PEP-DOT:**  
DLC grounding through  
conductive dots  
connecting the DLC with pad  
r/outs

Pad R/O =  $9 \times 9 \text{ mm}^2$

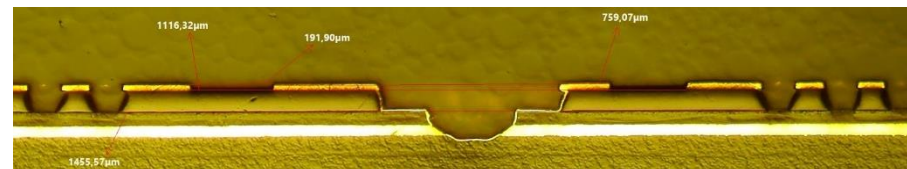
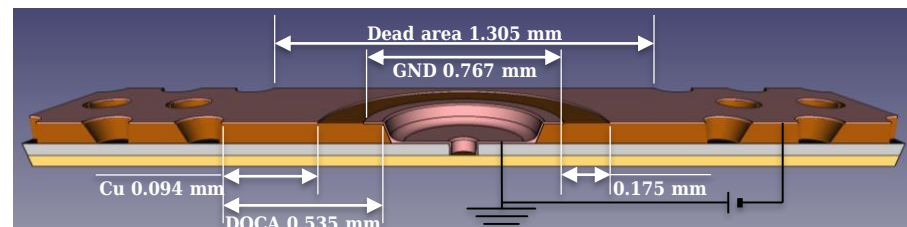
Grounding:

- Dot pitch = 9mm
- dot rim = 1.3mm

→ 97% geometric acceptance



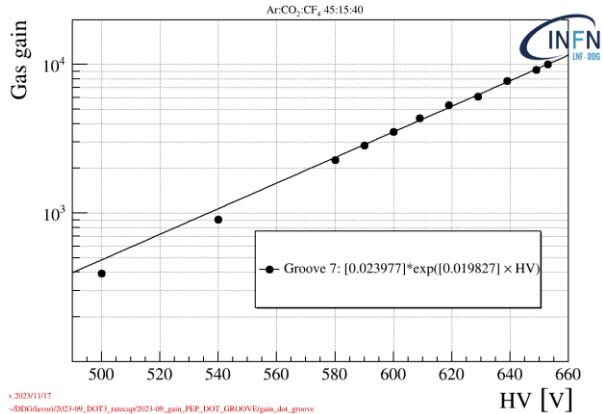
DOT ≈ plated blind vias



# Groove vs DOT (X-ray characterization)

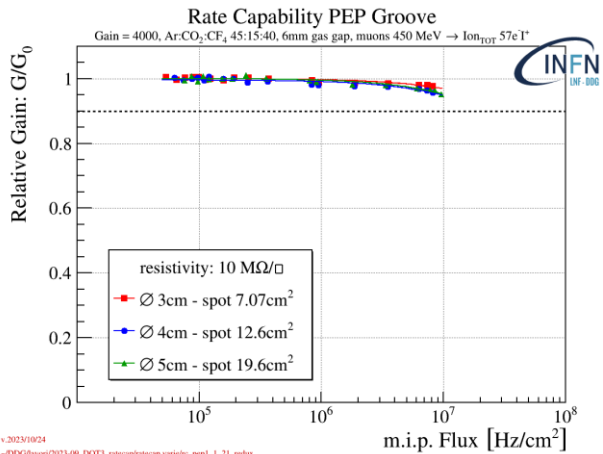
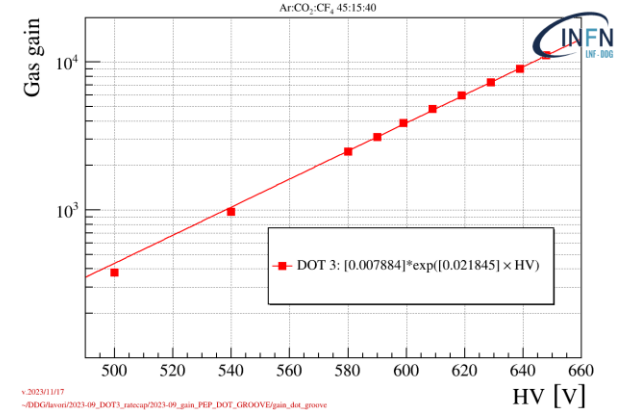
2022

## PEP-Groove layout



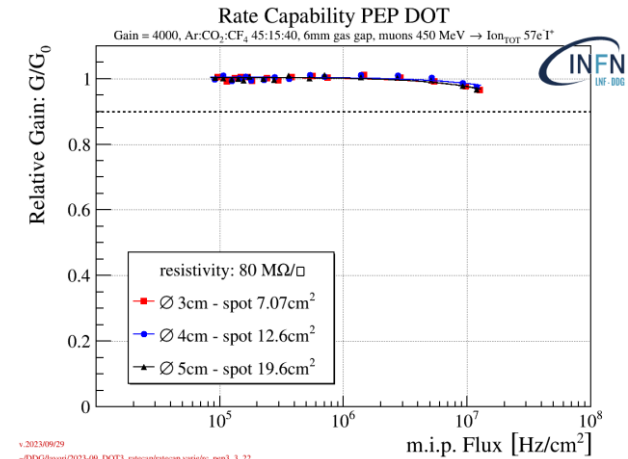
2023

## PEP-DOT layout



Both layouts exhibit **satisfactory performance:**

- **gas gain up to 10<sup>4</sup>**
- **rate capability (@ 90% gain drop) > 10 MHz/cm<sup>2</sup>**, measured with **different irradiation spot size.**



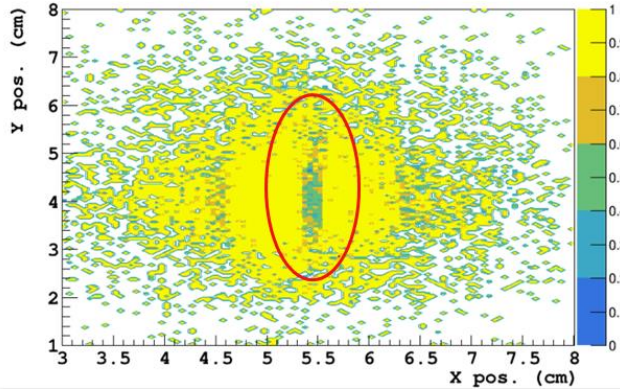
G. Bencivenni, LNF-INFN,

# Groove vs DOT (test beam characterization)

APV25 based Fee

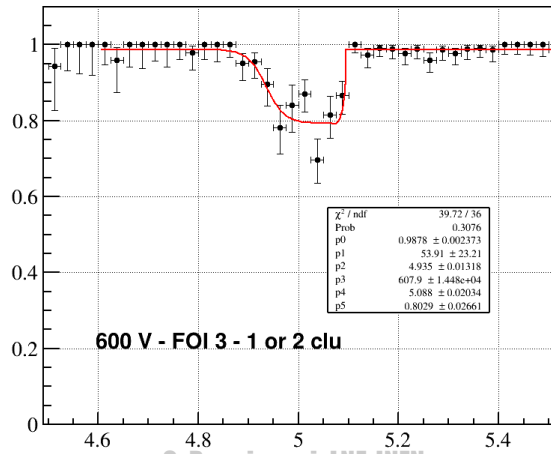
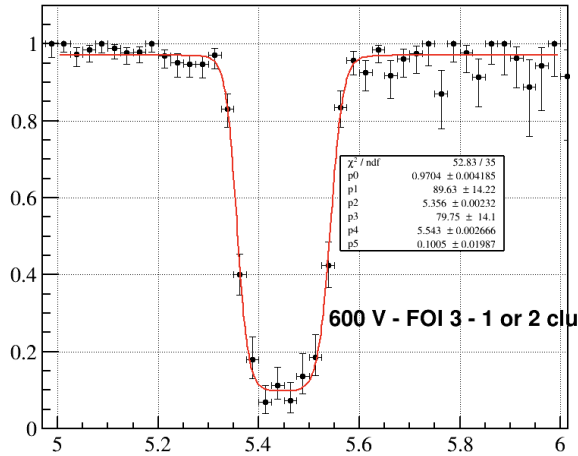
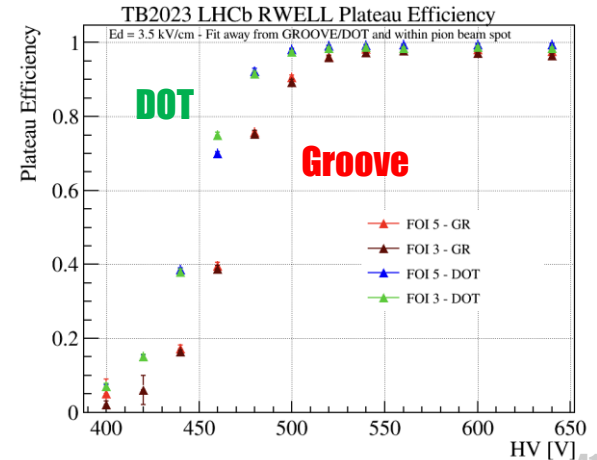
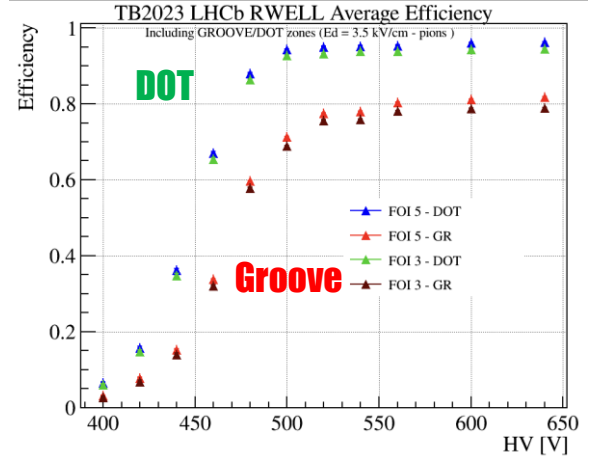
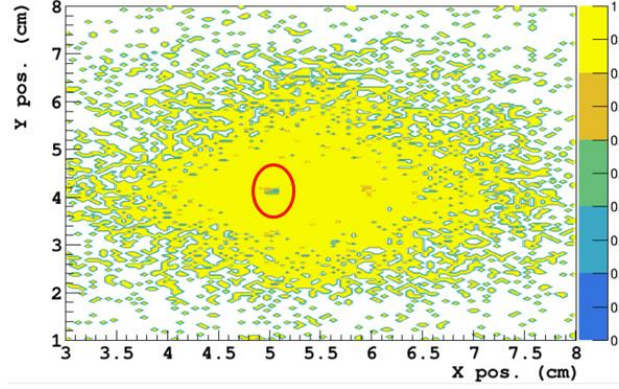
## PEP-Groove layout

Efficiency along XY expected for LHCb GR



## PEP-Dot layout

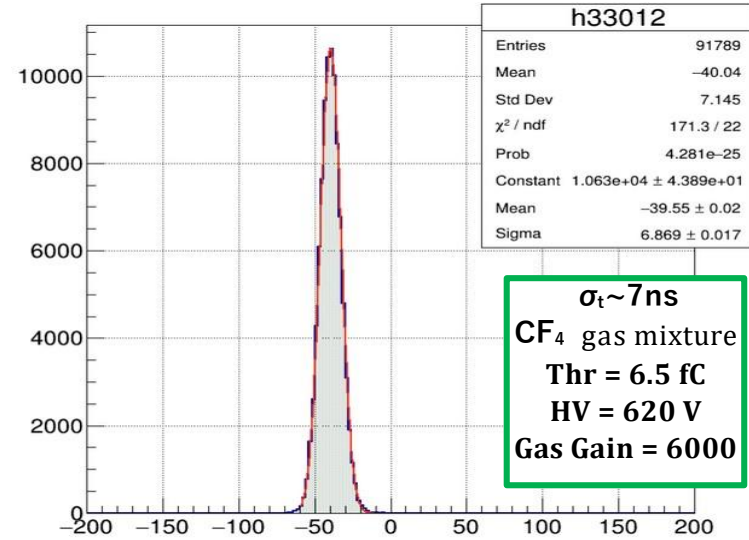
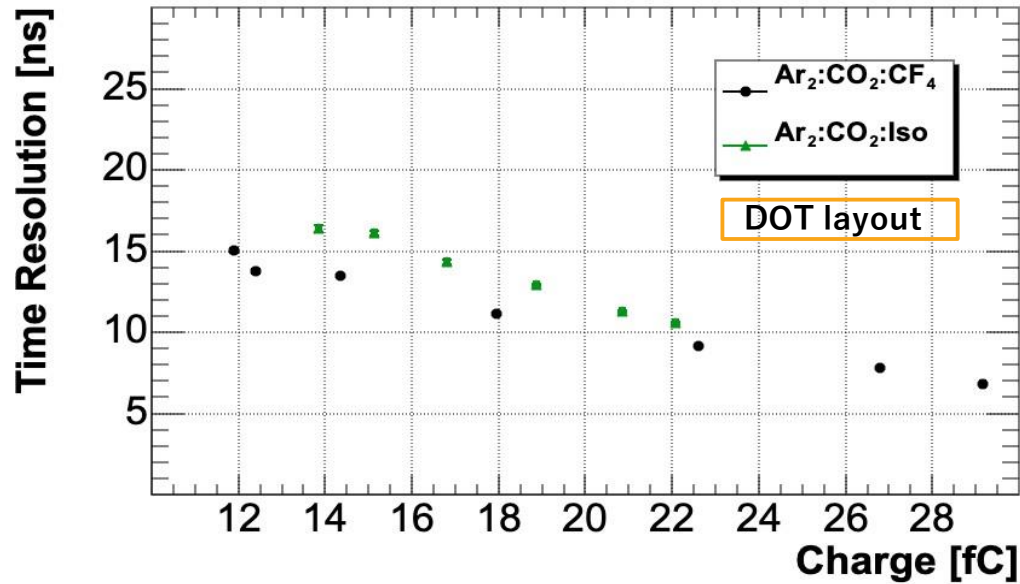
Efficiency along XY expected for LHCb DOT





# 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**

# Detector washing and electrical cleaning

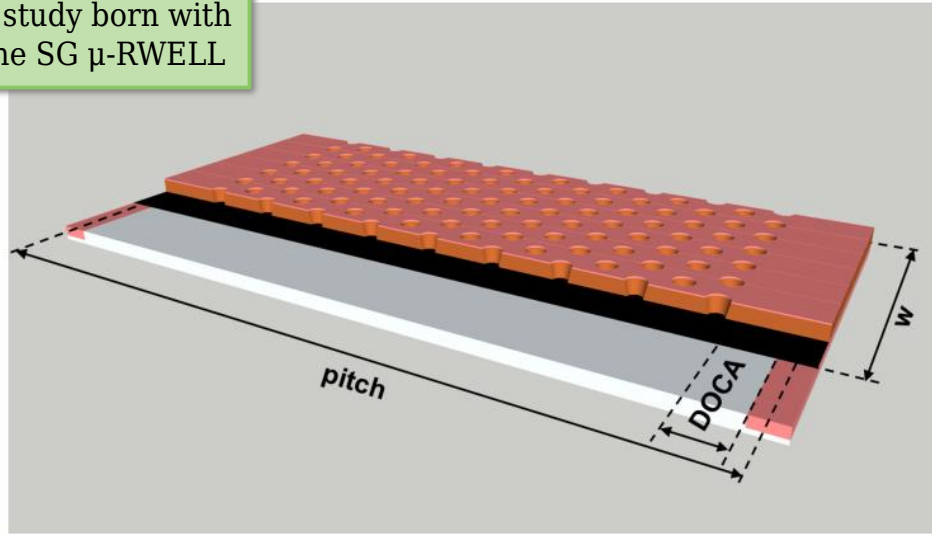
At LNF, we are installing a **detector washing station** with a stainless-steel tank and a high-pressure car-washing machine using deionized water.

After washing, the detector is placed in an **oven at 90°C**. After 24 hours, it is gradually powered by increasing voltage from 300V to 680V, following Rui's guidelines.



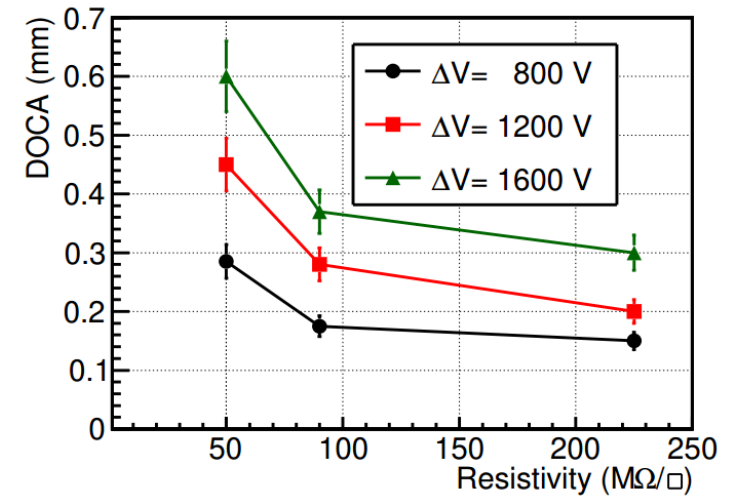
# The DOCA

A study born with the SG  $\mu$ -RWELL



Cross-section of a  $\mu$ -RWELL with a conductive line on the DLC (High-Rate scheme).

The concept of **DOCA** (Distance-Of-Closest-Approach) before discharge is fundamental for the **stability** of the detector. The **DOCA** is defined as the **distance between** the edges of the **conductive lines** and its **closest amplification hole**.



The **DOCA (before discharge)** as a function of the DLC **resistivity**, for different **voltages**.

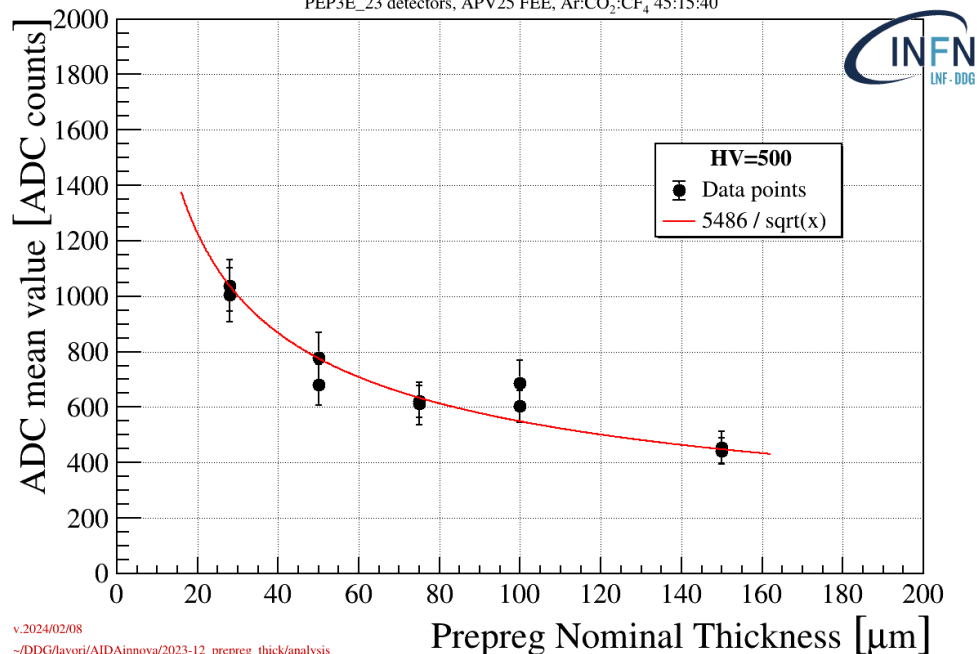
The study has been performed with a custom tool, with two thin conductive movable tips.



# Prepreg thickness optimization

Preliminary results for Prepreg thickness scan

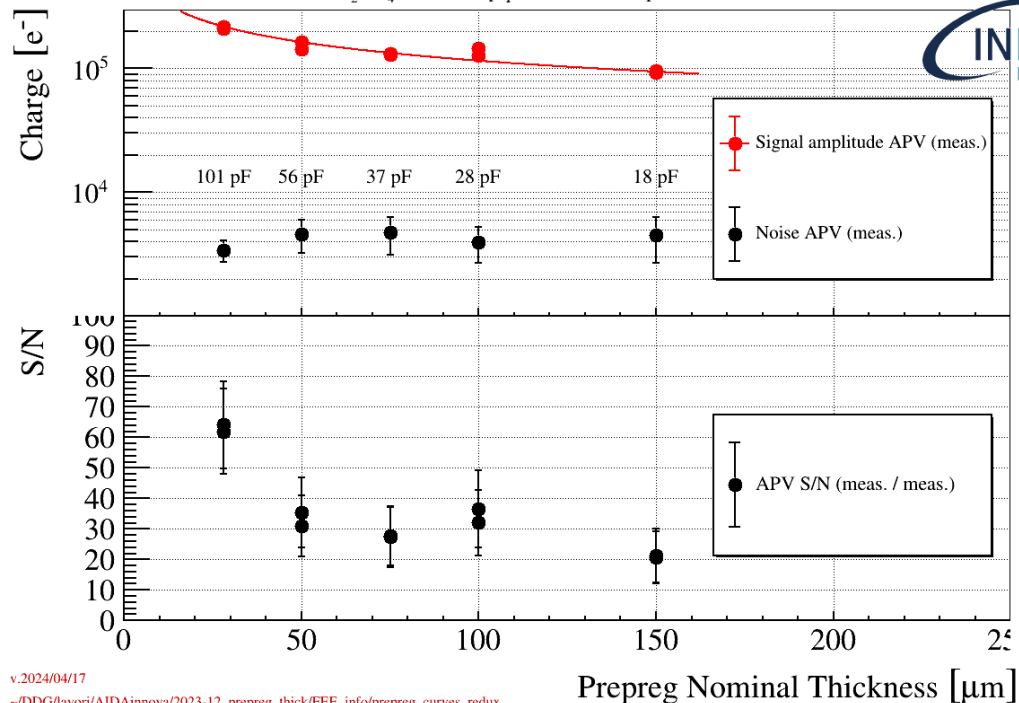
PEP3E\_23 detectors, APV25 FEE, Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub> 45:15:40



v.2024/02/08  
~DDG/lavori/AIDAInnova/2023-12\_prepreg\_thick/analysis

Prepreg Thickness Study - 9×9mm<sup>2</sup> pad

G = 200, Ar:CO<sub>2</sub>:CF<sub>4</sub> 45:15:40, eps<sub>r</sub>= 4.0, APV@3.3pF: 1ADC=210e<sup>-</sup>, 6250<sup>-</sup> = 1FC



v.2024/04/17  
~DDG/lavori/AIDAInnova/2023-12\_prepreg\_thick/FEE\_info/prepreg\_curves\_redux

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