

# **Ion Sources for Fusion**

W. Kraus

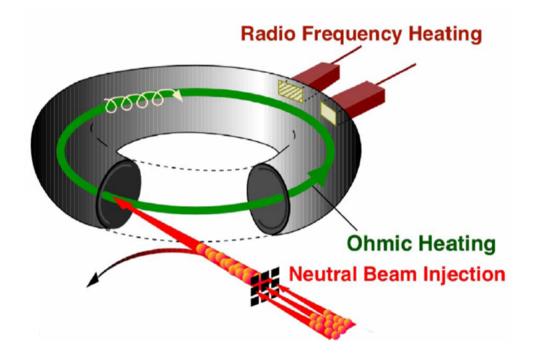
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Ion sources are used in neutral beam injection systems (NBI)

Neutral atoms can penetrate through the confining magnetic field.

Used for Neutral beam heating Current drive Diagnostics beams







- Plasma heating by neutral beam injection
- Positive Ion sources for Neutral Beams
- Negative ion based neutral beam injection
- Beam extraction
- Production of negative ions
- Negative ion sources
- Experimental results with the RF prototype
- Giant source for ITER
- Test facilities



#### NBI heating is dominant in most large past, present, and planned tokamaks

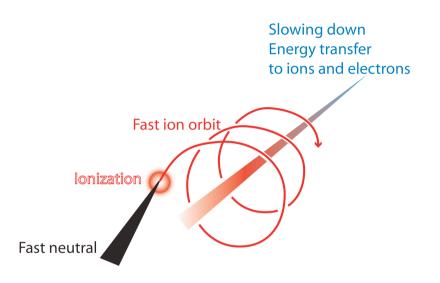
	R <sub>0</sub>	а	I <sub>p</sub> B <sub>t</sub>		Installed heating power (MW)				
	(m)	<b>(m)</b>	(MA)	<b>(T)</b>	P-NBI	N-NBI	ECRH	ICRH	LH
ITER	6.2	2.0	15	5.3	I.	33	20	20	-
JET	2.96	1.25	4.8	3.45	34*	-	-	10	7
JT-60U	3.4	1.1	5	4.2	40	3	4	7	8
JT-60SA	2.97	1.17	5	2.25	24	10	7	-	-
TFTR	2.4	0.8	2.2	5	40	-	-	11	-
EAST	1.7	0.4	1.0	3.5	-	-	0.5	3	4
DIII-D	1.67	0.67		2.1	20	-	5	4	-
ASDEX Upgrade	1.65	0.65	1.2	3.1	20	-	6	8	-

\*recently upgraded



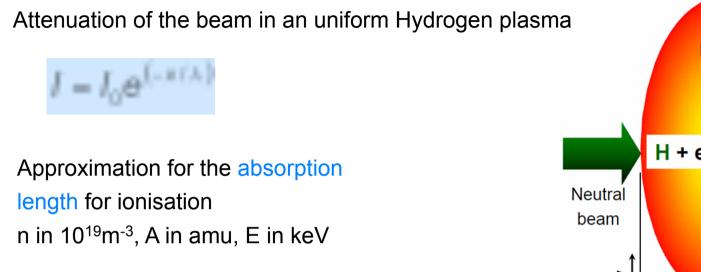
#### Interaction of fast neutrals with the plasma

- ionisation by collisions with plasma electrons and ions
- drift of the fast ions in the magnetic field
- collisions of the fast ions with plasma ions and electrons => slow-down and scattering
- charge exchange collisions with background neutrals

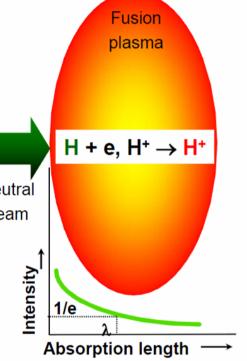


# **Penetration depth**





$$\lambda = \frac{E}{18 \cdot n \cdot A} [m]$$



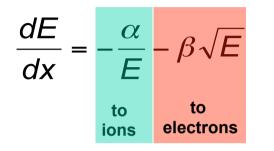
Penetration depth depends on the energy Example AUG: 100 keV D beam,  $n_e = 5x10^{19} \text{ m}^{-3} \Rightarrow \lambda = 0.5 \text{ m}$ 

Fraction not absorbed by the plasma : shine-through determines minimum plasma density

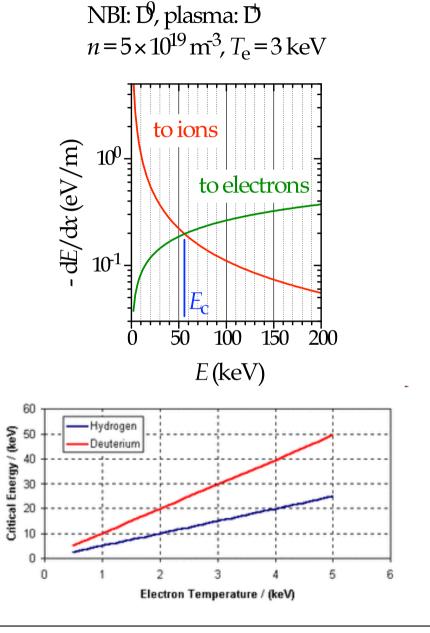
# **Slowing down – power to the ions and electrons**



Change of energy of a fast ion



Stopping by ions and electrons is equal at the "Critical energy" E<sub>c</sub>



 $E_c$  depends on the electron temperature Lower energy of  $E_0/2$  and  $E_0/3$ => lon heating dominates for  $E_0 < 100$ kV



#### Why Current Drive (CD) ?

- Tokamaks: Plasma current is driven inductively (principle: transformer).
   => pulsed operation
  - $\Rightarrow$  for reactor: pulsed energy production, pulsed forces and heat loads on components  $\rightarrow$  reduced lifetime. Therefore aim (e.g. on ITER)
    - "stationary tokamak" completely non-inductive CD
    - enhanced pulse length
       significant part of I<sub>p</sub> non-inductive CD
- Local modification of plasma current profile j<sub>P</sub>(r) to improve plasma confinement (internal transport barriers, improved H-mode) and/or plasma stability (NTM stabilisation)
- Each of the heating systems foreseen for ITER is able to drive plasma current

⇒ "Heating & Current Drive Systems"

# **Principle - Driving Toroidal Plasma Current by NBI**



The toroidally circulating fast ions - when slowing down - represent a

current ("fast ion current")

This fast ion current is modified by the interaction of the fast ions with the plasma, but generally some net current remains:

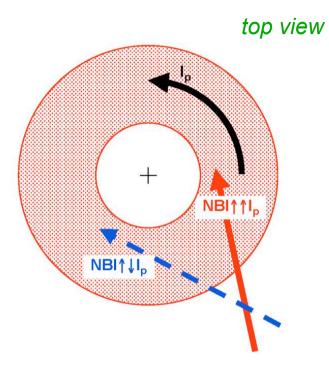
→ Neutral beam driven current

I<sub>NBCD</sub> Current drive efficiency

$$\eta_{\rm CD} = \frac{I_{\rm NBCD} n_e R}{P_{\rm dep}}$$

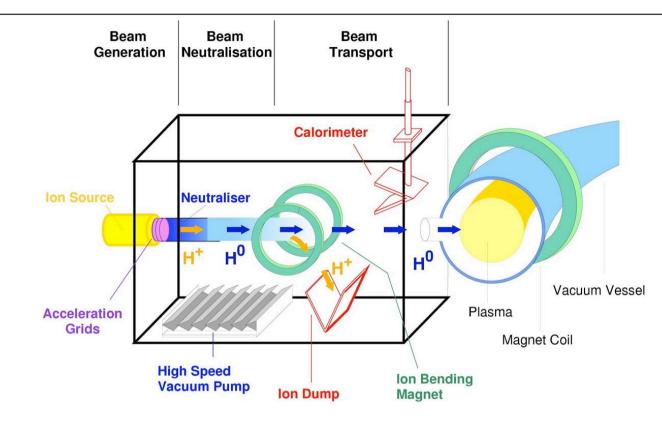
R major radius P<sub>dep</sub> deposition power

At present about 0.2 - 0.3



### **Neutral Beam Systems**



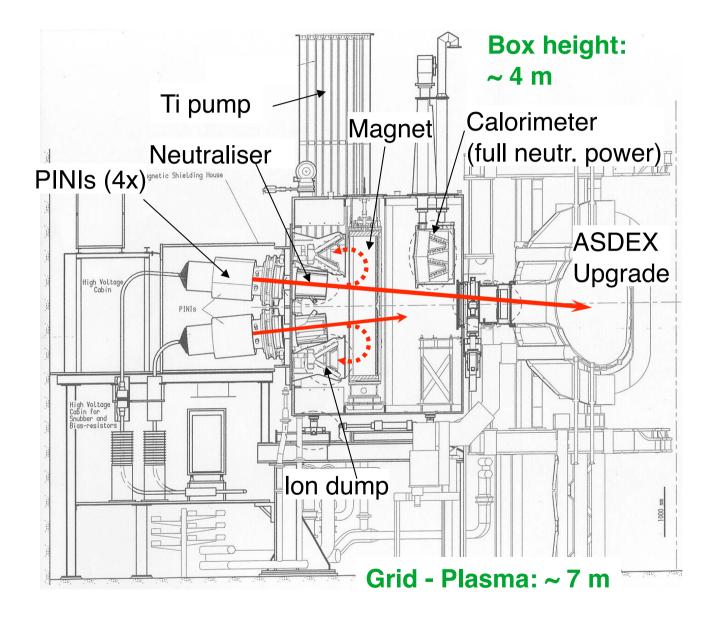


Neutral beams are produced by:

- Powerful ion beam by the ion source and the extraction system
- Neutralisation by charge exchange collisions of the fast ions with the cold gas in the neutralizer
- · Not neutralised part of the beam is deflected to the ion dump
- The beam power is measured by a calorimeter

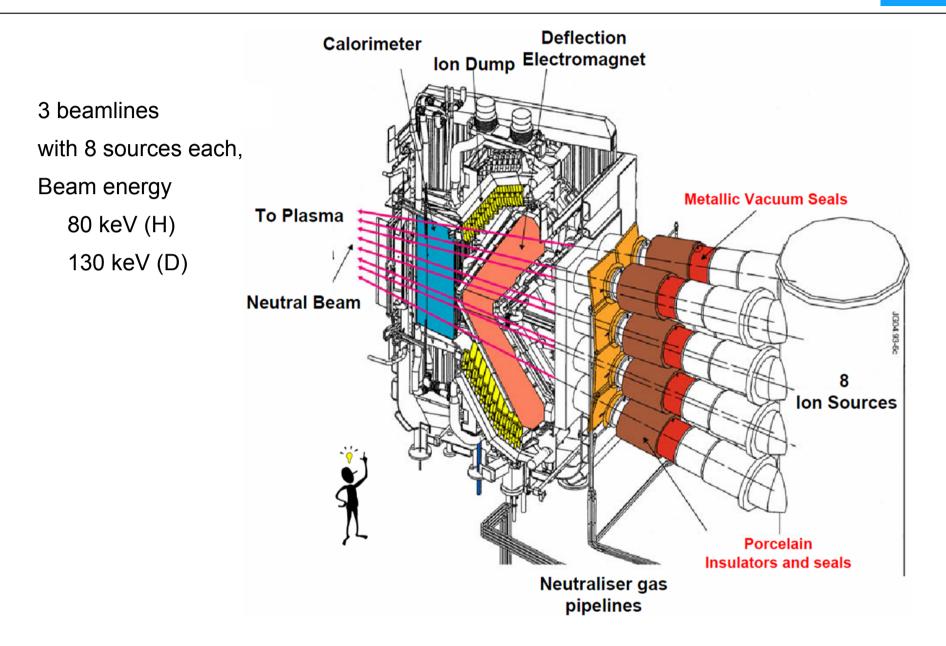
# The ASDEX Upgrade NBI System (Garching, Germany)





# **NBI system of JET (Joint European Torus, Culham, UK)**





# **Residual Ion Dump of ASDEX Upgrade**





### Outline



- Plasma heating by neutral beam injection
- Positive Ion sources for Neutral Beams
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#### **Requirements:**

Beam species	$H_n^+$ , $D_n^+$		
Beam current	30 – 90 A		
Current density	230 – 300 mA/cm <sup>2</sup>		
Beam energy	55 – 160 keV		
Proton fraction (H+, D+)	70 – 90 %		
Pulse duration	< 10 s		
Plasma homogeneity			
on the plasma grid	< +/-10%		

#### Types:

• Arc sources, filament based

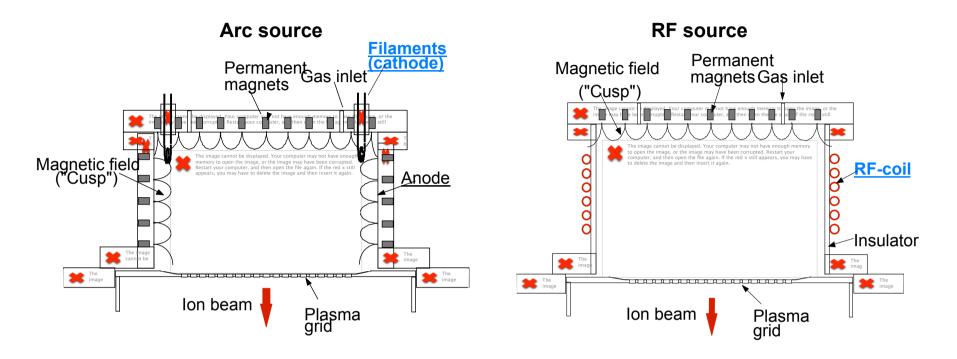
Periplasmatron,

magnetic multipole ion source, "bucket source"

• RF source

### Arc and RF sources





#### Advantages of the RF source

- No filaments => no lifetime limitations
- Cost saving due to the cheaper power supply
- Power supply on ground potential (separation by a transformer)

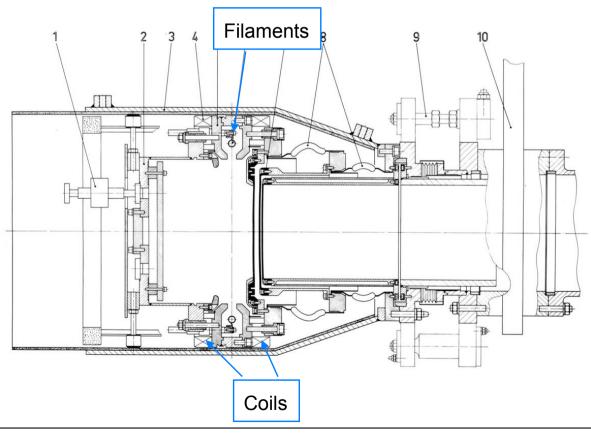
=> RF sources used in the second injector of ASDEX-Upgrade since 1997

## Arc sources: Periplasmatron ion source (Fontenay-aux-Roses)



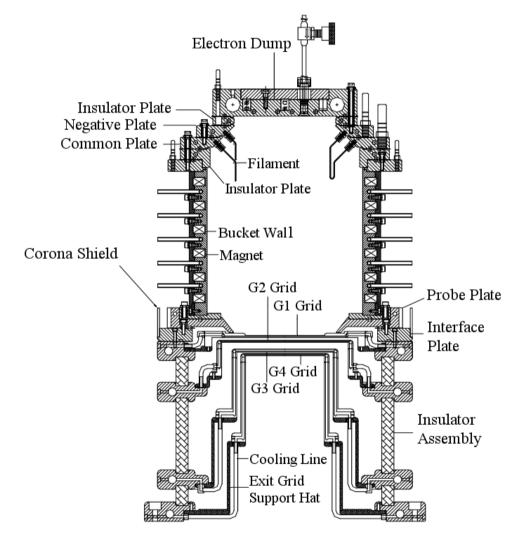
Used on ASDEX (20 A, 55 keV)

- Close to the extraction system radially arranged filaments
- Source back plate as anode
- Cusp field by two coils around the cathode to compensate stray fields and for confinement of the electrons









Upgraded version used at KSTAR (Korea) Accelerator Part : Circular Aperture Grids

- Designed Energy	100 keV (H)
- Designed Current	55 A (H)
- Pulse Length	300 s
- Aperture Size	7.6 mm
- Extraction Hole No.	562
- Beam Size	12.5 x 45 cm <sup>2</sup>
- Transparency	49 %
- Beam Divergence	1 deg

Plasma Chamber : Cusp Bucket

- Current Density > 210 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Plasma Volume 26 x 64 x 32 cm<sup>3</sup>
- Hydrogen Ion Ratio > 80 % (H<sup>+</sup>)
- Filaments (1.2 mm W)
- Max. Arc Power 120 kW

32

#### Arc sources: JT-60-NBI positive ion source



SURGE ABSORBER 쁢ӻ턗 æ æ BACKSTREAM EXTERNAL FIELD MAGNETS (4 kG) W-FILAMENT ARC CHAMBER FILAMENT P/S ARC P/S 120V 2000 A PLASMA GRID-Source plasma EXIT GRID SUPPRESSOR GRID GRADIENT GRID 30k\ 100 kV 40 A Accelerator 아 INSULATOR -3 kV ION BEAM 10cm 20cm 0

Beam energy : 100keV

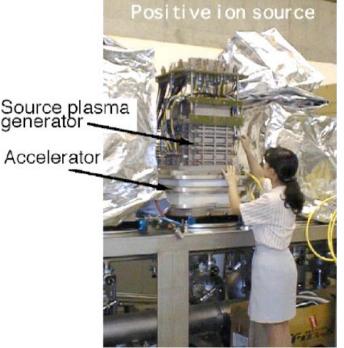
Beam current: 40A

Beam species : D/H/3He/4He

Extraction area : 12 × 27 cm<sup>2</sup>

D+: D2+: D3+ = 90: 7: 3

No of ion sources : 28

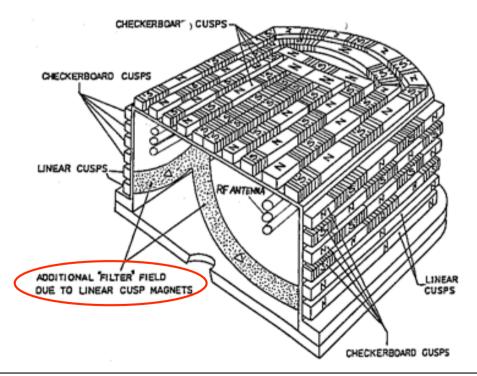


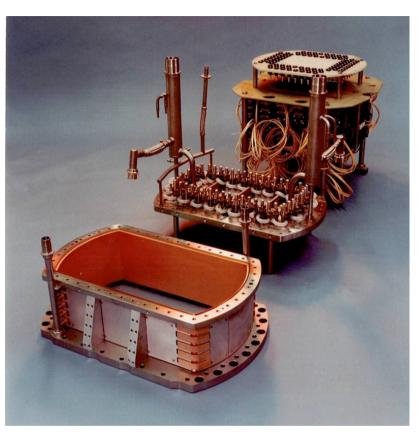


#### Used at ASDEX-Upgrade, Textor, JET

 $\mathsf{I}_{\mathsf{ARC}} \leq 1000 \; \mathsf{A}, \, \mathsf{U}_{\mathsf{ARC}} \sim 120 \; \mathsf{V}$ 

- 24 filaments
- Water-cooled Copper chamber with confinement magnets
- B x L x H = 30 x 60 x 19 cm<sup>2</sup>
- Arc power 120 kW





"Tent" filter

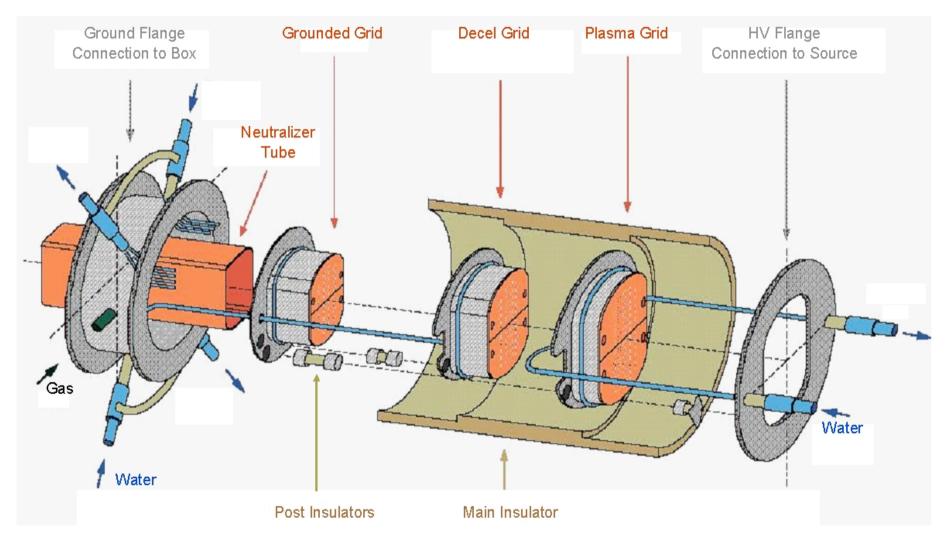
to reduce the electron temperature

=> H<sup>+</sup>/D<sup>+</sup> fraction

# **PINI** extraction system (<u>P</u>lug <u>In</u> <u>N</u>eutral <u>Injector</u>)

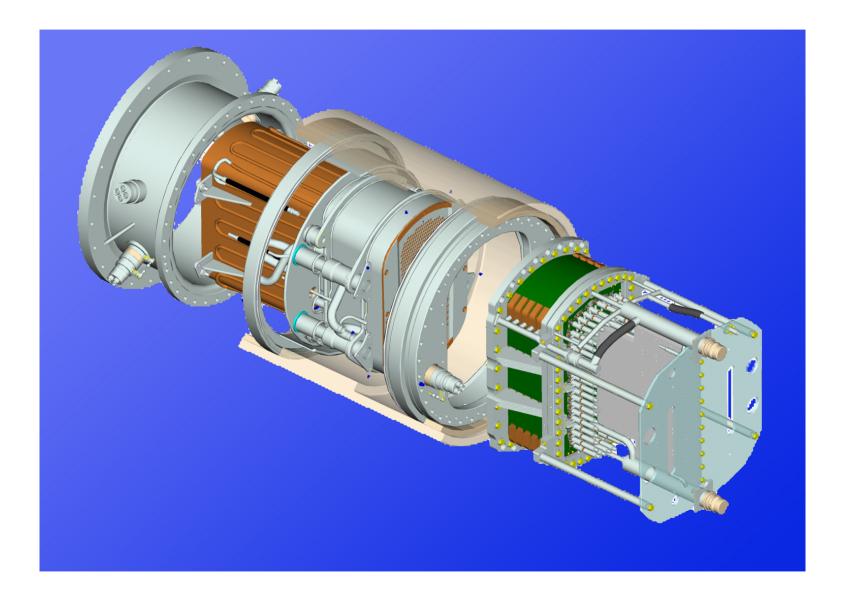


#### Used with the bucket source



### **Bucket source on the PINI extraction system**







#### **Dimensions**

 $B \times H \times L = 32 \times 19 \times 59 \text{ cm}^3$ (=Bucket source)

#### **Beams**

 Hydrogen:
 90 A / 100

 kW / 55 kV

 Deuterium:
 65 A / 80 kW /

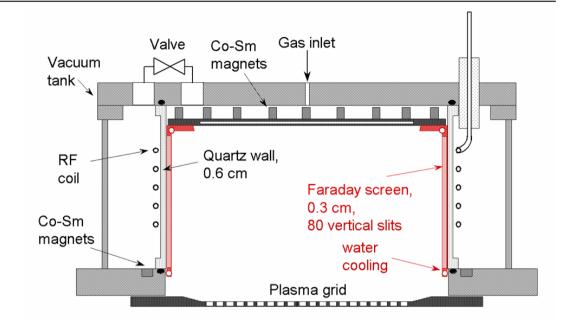
 93 kV

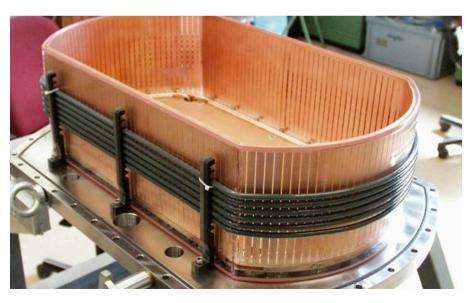
 Pulse duration < 10 s</td>





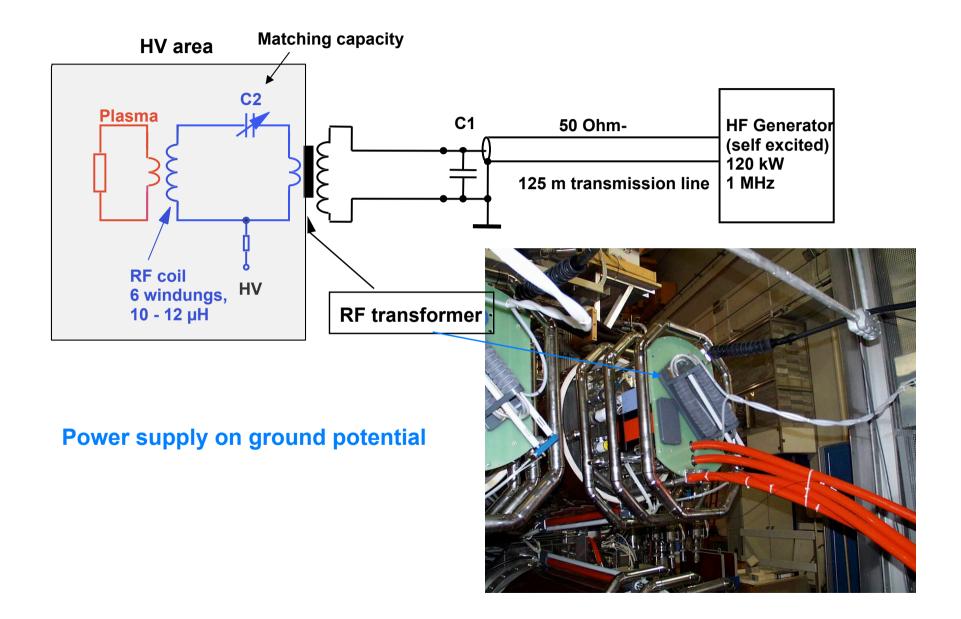
- Water cooled Faraday shield to protect the insulator from physical and chemical sputtering
- Power supply 1 MHz/120 kW
- Quartz insulator in a vacuum tank
- Confinement magnets on the source back plate
- Compatible with the PINI extraction system





# **RF matching**



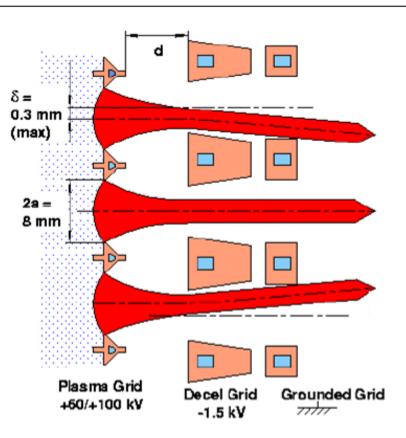


### **Beam extraction**





- Three electrodes
- AUG: 774 apertures, 8 mm diameter
- Extraction area 390 cm<sup>2</sup> in 50.66 x 22.8 cm<sup>2</sup>
- Negative decel voltage reflects electrons from the neutralizer



#### **Child-Langmuir law**

=> Maximal extractable current

$$I = CxV^{3/2}\sqrt{\frac{Z}{M}}\left(\frac{a}{d+x}\right)^2$$



#### **Proof of reliability:**

- 4 RF sources are used in the NBI of the ASDEX-Upgrade-
- Tokamak since 1997
  - no maintainance
  - no malfunction



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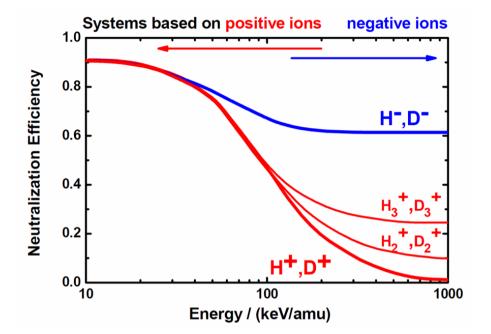
Neutralization efficiency depends on energy and ion species

#### **Positive ions**

Low neutralization efficiency at high beam energy, Different for molecular ions

#### **Negative ions**

Electron weakly bound (0.75 eV) => High neutralization efficiency at high beam energy



Large machines require high energies to achieve the penetration depth, Current drive more efficient at high beam energy ⇒ up to 1 MeV

### ⇒NBI based on negative ions "NNBI"

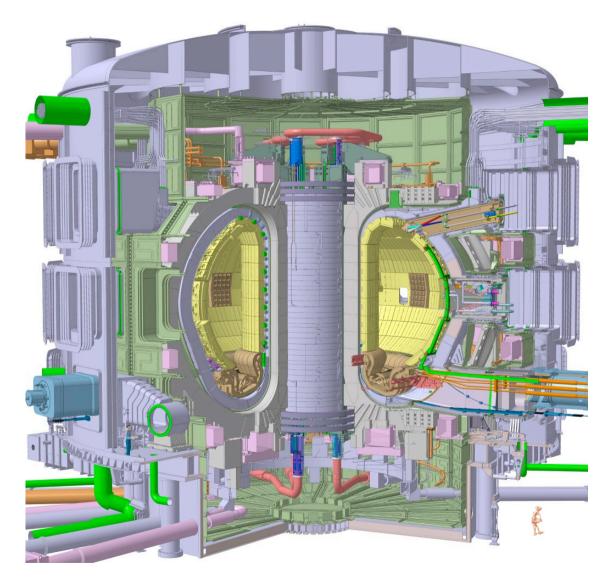
### The ITER Tokamak



#### International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor

6.2 m
2.0 m
840 m <sup>3</sup>
15 MA
5.3 T
500 MW
33 MW
20 MW
20 MW

Under construction In Cadarache, France



# **ITER Negative Neutral Beam Heating Injector**



Two beam lines 16.7 MW per beam line, one source Pulse Length: 3600 s 40400 eren bellows calorimeter Gate valve Residual neutraliser Ion Dump MaMuG accelerator **RF** ion source

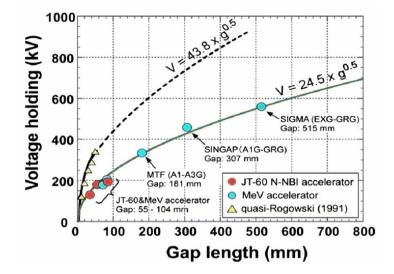
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## **ITER acceleration system**





Breakdown voltage ~  $(gap length)^{1/2}$  $\Rightarrow$  Multistage acceleration is shorter

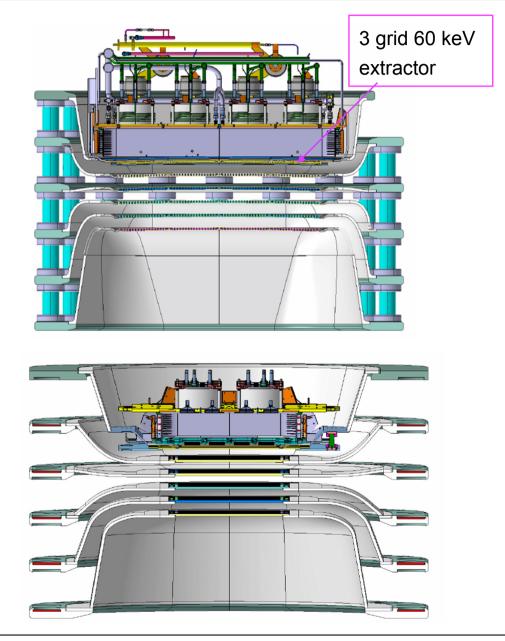
 $\Rightarrow$  for ITER

1 MeV in five 200 keV stages

#### MAMuG

(Multi-aperture and multi-grid)

0.33 A (14.4 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> H<sup>-</sup>) at 937 keV have already been demonstrated at JAEA for 2 s



# Secondary particle generation during the acceleration



#### Stripping

Negative ions destroyed by collisions with the back ground gas  $\Rightarrow$  Power loss

Stripped electrons and secondary electrons are accelerated

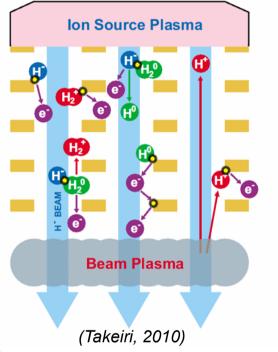
 $\Rightarrow$  High power load on the grids

#### **Backstreaming (positive) ions**

Produced by collisions of electrons and negative ions with the back ground gas => High power load on the source back plate

=> Limitation of the source pressure

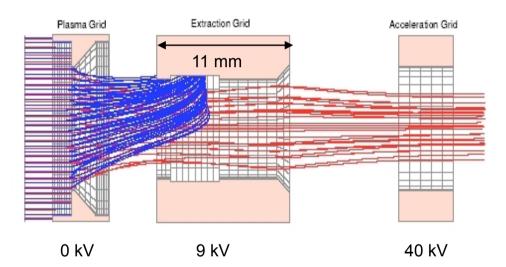
p = 0.3 Pa  $\rightarrow$   $f_s$  = 25%





#### **Co-extraction of electrons**

Electrons are deflected by small permanent magnets to the extraction grid



#### To limit the power load on the grid

=> Limitation of the current of co-extracted electrons

j<sub>e</sub>/j<sub>D</sub>- ≤ 1

### **Giant ion sources for the NNBI**



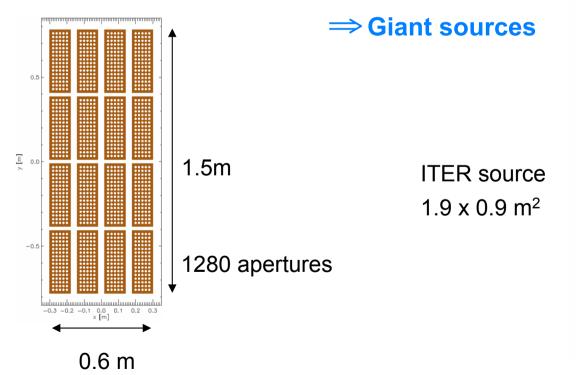
Achieved negative ion current densities: j = 200 A/m<sup>2</sup> D<sup>-</sup>

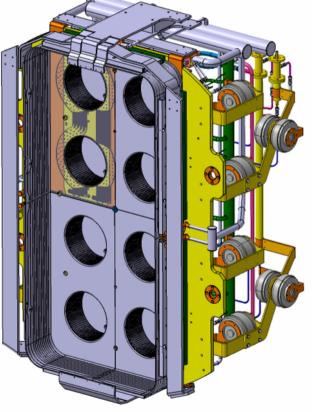
(~1/10 of positive ion systems)

ITER: Required for 16.7 MW at 1 MeV

#### 40 A D-







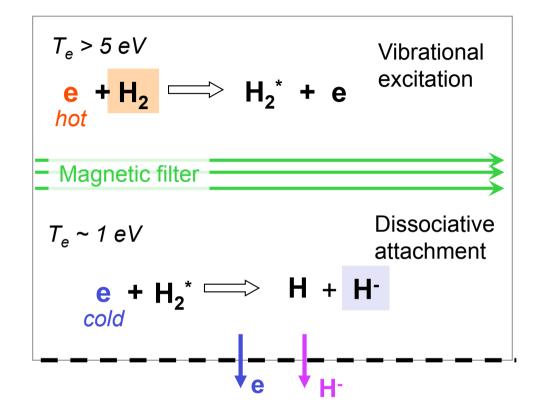
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# **Volume production of negative ions**





#### **Problems**

- Low ion currents < 5 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>
- High source pressure > 0,6 Pa => high stripping losses
- High current of co-extracted electrons

### => not applicable for the NNBI

# Surface production of negative ions



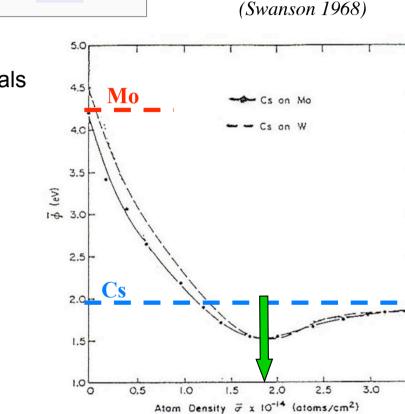
 $H^0, H_n^+$  + surface-e  $\implies$  H<sup>-</sup>

- Conversion rate high at low work function  $\Phi$
- $\Phi$  can be reduced by coating with alkali metals  $\Phi$  [eV]

Cs		1.9
Rb		2.08
K	2.24	
Na		2.28
Li		2.42

Cs coating by Cs evaporation into the source

- $\Rightarrow$  Much higher H<sup>-</sup> current,
  - Much lower current of co-extracted electrons
  - lower pressure possible



3.5

# **Destruction of the negative ions**



Negative ions are fragile, binding energy of the electron is 0,75 eV

H <sup>-</sup> + e → H + 2e			
H <sup>-</sup> + H <sub>i</sub> <sup>+</sup> → neutrals			
H <sup>-</sup> + H → H + H + e			
or H <sub>2</sub> + e			

electron detachment for **hot electrons** with T<sub>e</sub> > 2 eV mutual neutralisation associative detachment

Survival length of H<sup>-</sup> only a few cm

- ⇒ Only negative ions produced on the plasma grid can be extracted
- ⇒ divide source by a magnetic filter field in 'hot' plasma and 'cold' extraction zone

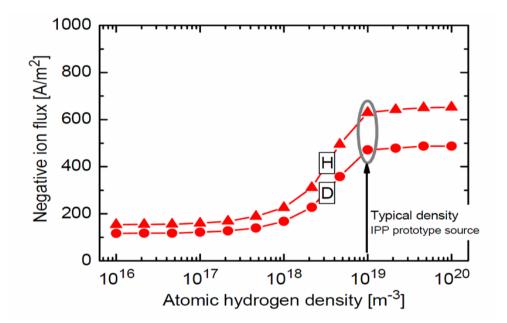


• Production by surface conversion of  $H^0$  atoms greater than of  $H_n^+$  ions

 Negative ion flux from the PG saturates at high atomic density due to space charge limitation
 => plasma needed

• Flux of D<sup>-</sup> ions lower than of H<sup>-</sup> ions under the same plasma conditions

Extraction probability of D<sup>-</sup> ions lower
 than of H<sup>-</sup> ions under the same plasma
 Conditions



<sup>=&</sup>gt; lower D<sup>-</sup> current

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### **Operating NNBI systems**

#### Japan

JT-60 U, JAEA (Japan Atomic Energy Agency) LHD, (Large helical device), NIFS (Nat. Inst. For Fusion Science)

#### Europe

IPP Garching, Germany

#### **Future**

RFX, Padua ITER, Cadarache

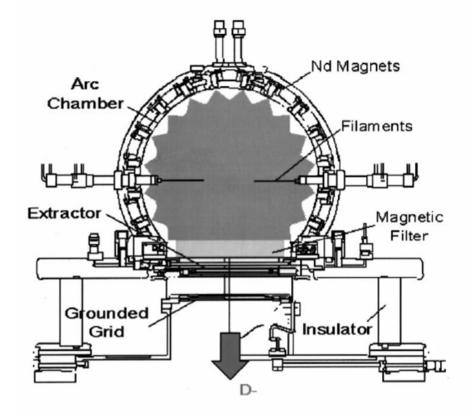
# Kamaboko source (Japan)

Initially part of the reference design of ITER

### Semicylindical chamber shape

- $\Rightarrow$  To minimize plasma loss area  $\Rightarrow$  High negative ion production
- efficiency at low pressure was expected

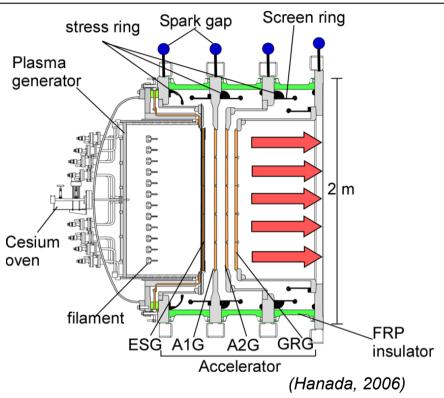
Tested and operational at CEA (Cadarche) and JT-60



## **JT60 source**







Kamaboko type2/3 of ITER source sizeIn operation since 1996

### ~50 high-current filaments

- limited lifetime (100 h)
- frequent remote maintenance, every 2-3 months

**Design:** two sources

22 A, 500 keV, 10 s  $D^-$  ion beams

### **Achieved (2010):**

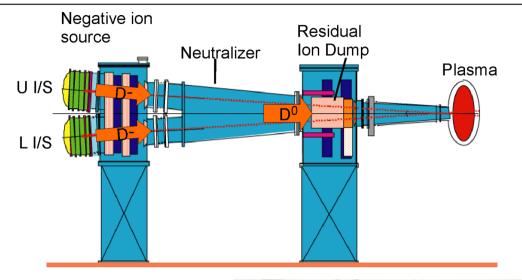
17.4 A or 13 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>, 400 keV, 0.7 s

10 A, 360 keV, 25 s

Problem: voltage holding

# JT-60 negative ion beam line



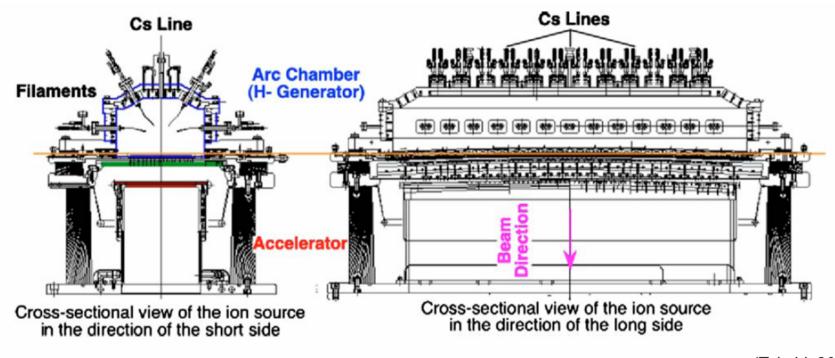


Construction of JT-60SA, first plasma in March 2019



# LHD negative ion source





(Takeiri, 2010)

Three injectors with two sources each Operating since 1998 Design: 30 A, 180 keV, 1 s (one source) Achieved: 37 A or 340 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>, 190 keV, 1.6 s

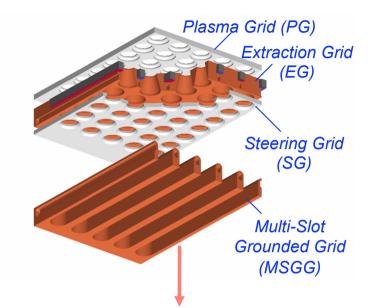


#### **Problem:**

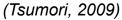
High power load on the grounded grid

#### **Solution**

Slots instead of apertures in the grounded grid

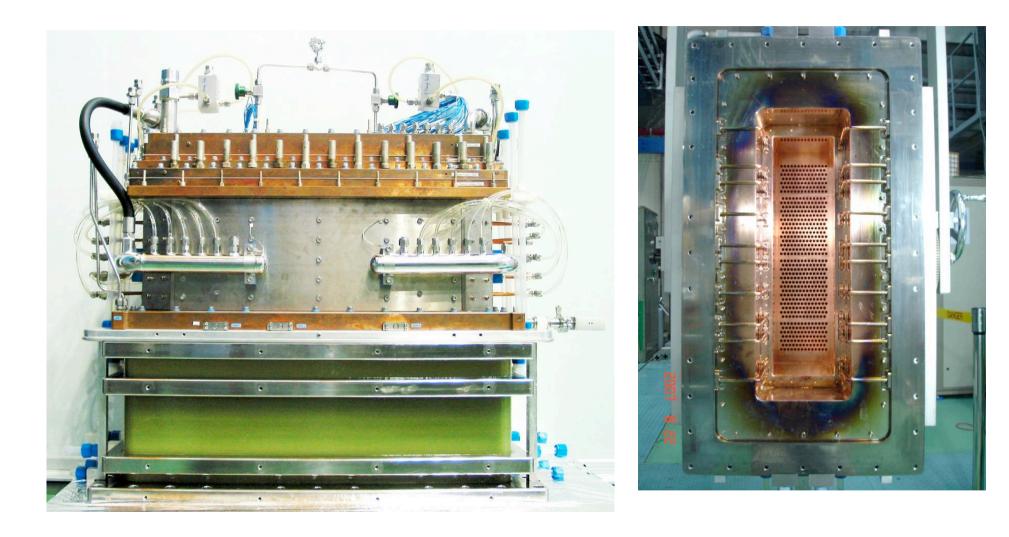




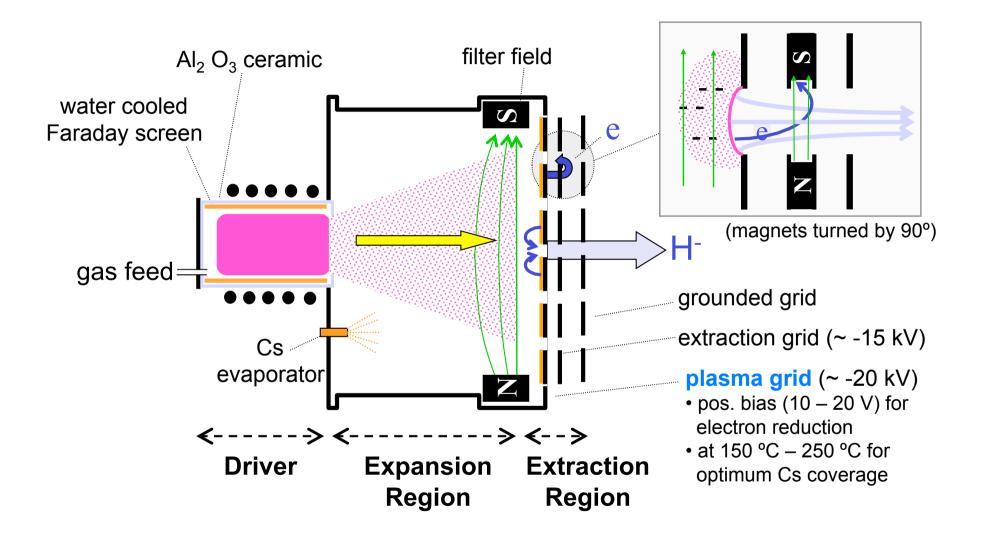


### **Photos of the Constructed LHD Ion Source**



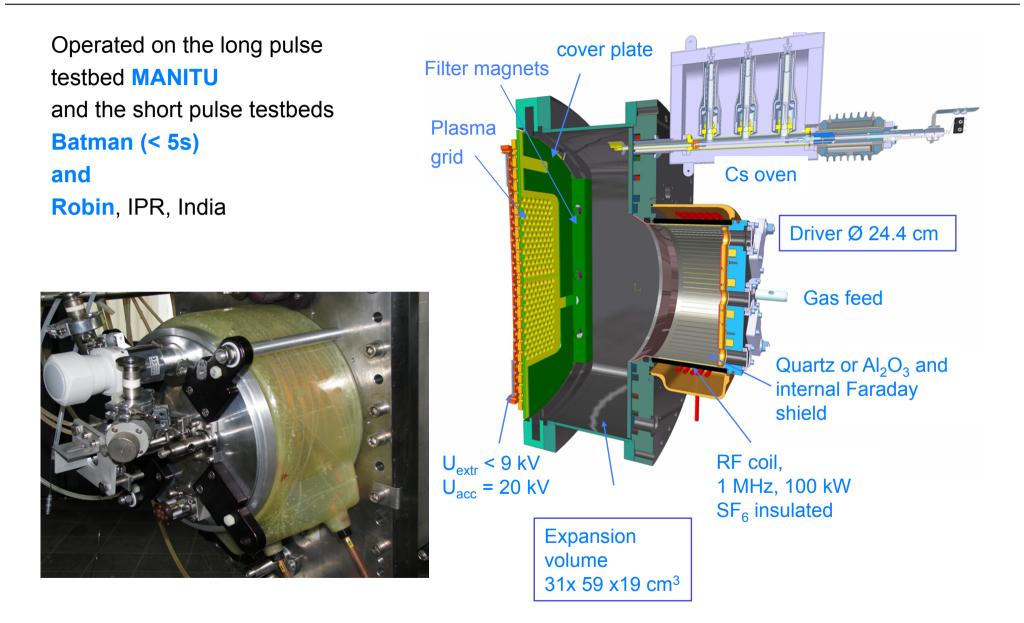






# **Design of the IPP prototype RF source**



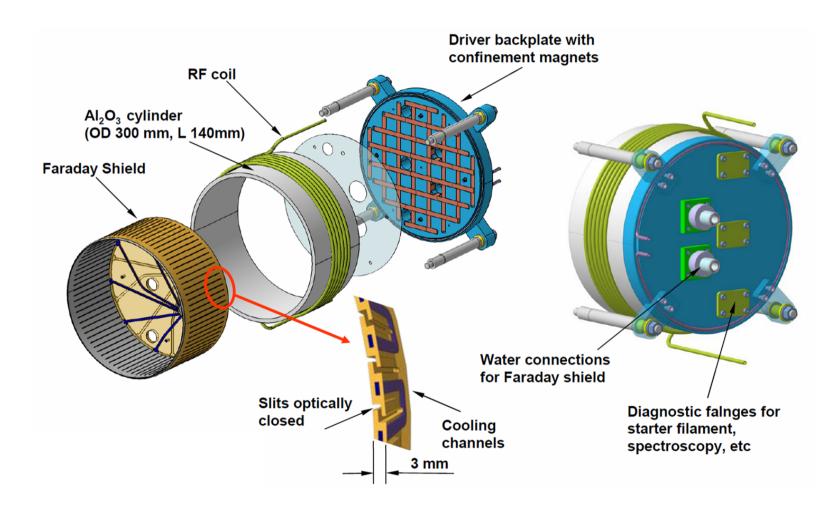


# **Driver design**



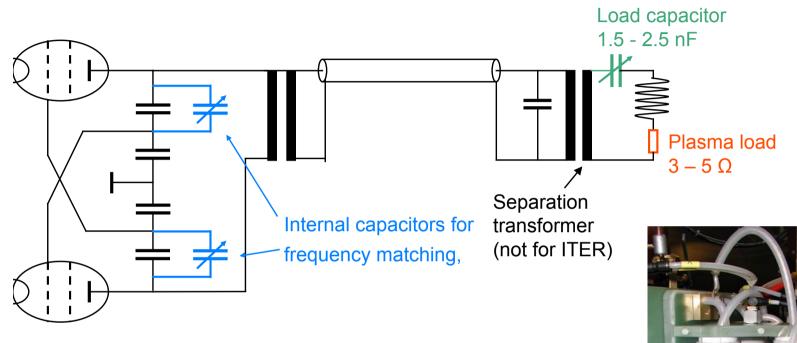
Used in all NNBI RF sources

High power density  $P_{RF}/V \sim 10 - 15 \, kW/l$ 



# **RF matching**





Self-excited 1 MHz oscillator

- + Frequency matching possible
  - => no remote controlled capacitors at the source
- Limited frequency stability



# **Filter field concepts**

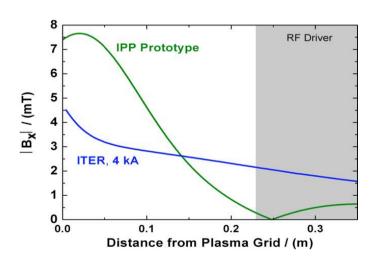


#### **Small sources**

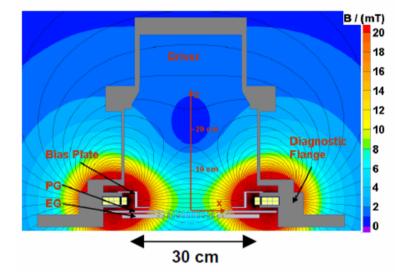
Filter field generated by permanent magnets close to the PG

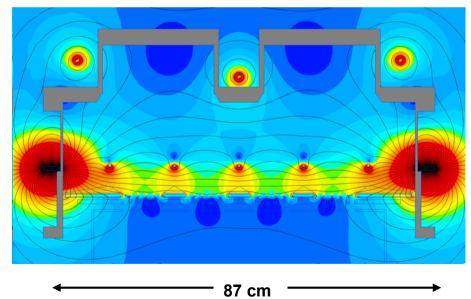
#### Large sources

- ITER: Current through the plasma grid (4kA) "PG Filter"
- => lower field close to the PG, larger range
- => new concepts to be tested

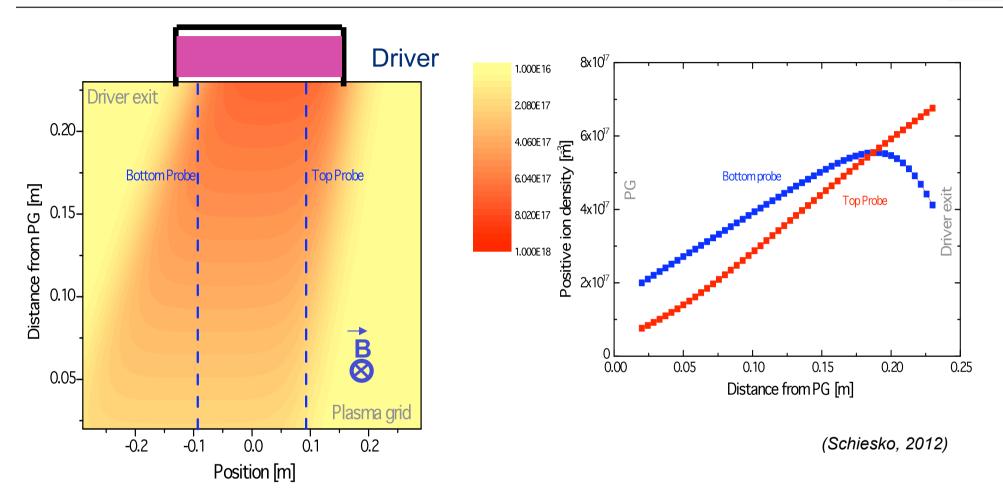


#### **IPP Source**





# Drifting plasma in presence of a perpendicular magnetic field

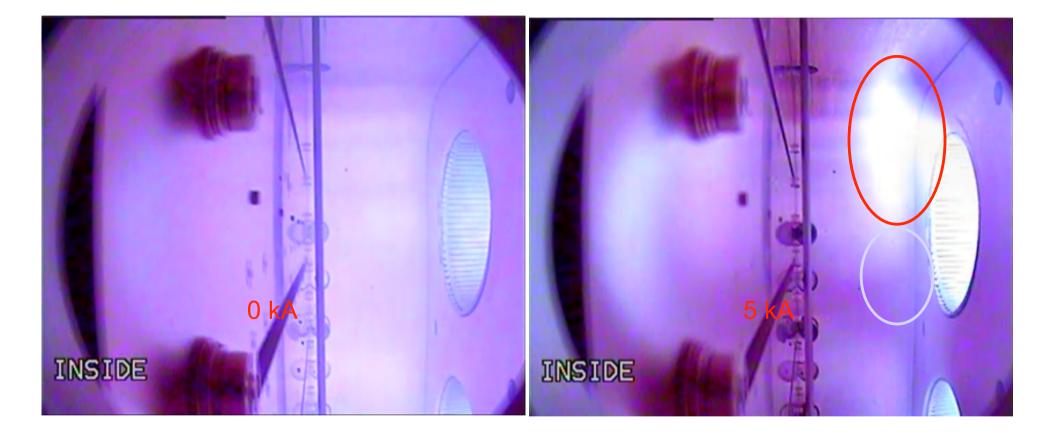


Plasma drifting downwards (or upwards)

Combination of several cross B drifts

 $\Rightarrow$  Inhomogeneous plasma density close to the plasma grid



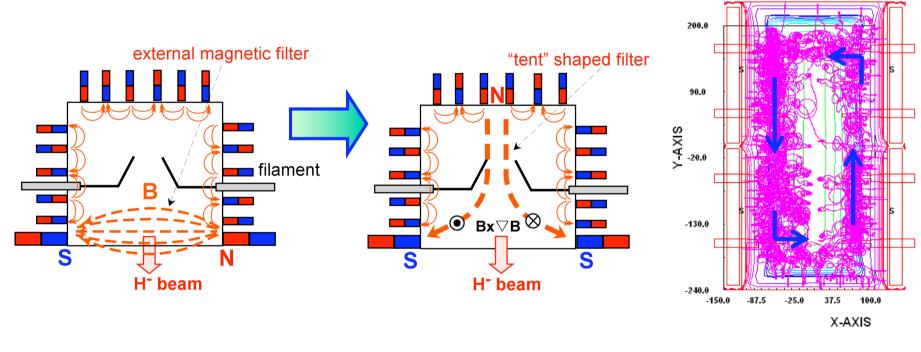


Without magnetic filter

With 5 kA PG filter

# **Compensation of the plasma drift in arc sources**

- Individual control of the arc and filament voltages according to the intensity of local arc discharges (LHD)
- Tent filter configuration (JT60)
  - => Drift is closed azimuthally



(Inue, 2007)

# Outline

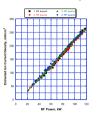


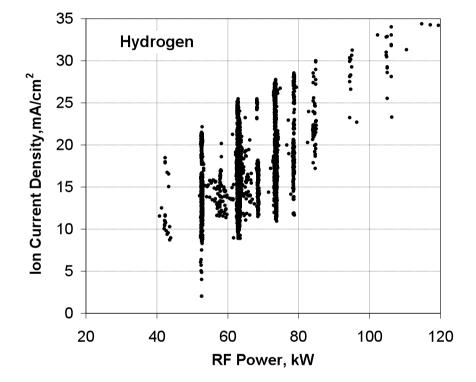
- Plasma heating by neutral beam injection
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### Volume production of **positive** Hydrogen ions

Surface production of **negative** Hydrogen ions





4 positive ion sources of the AUG NBI,

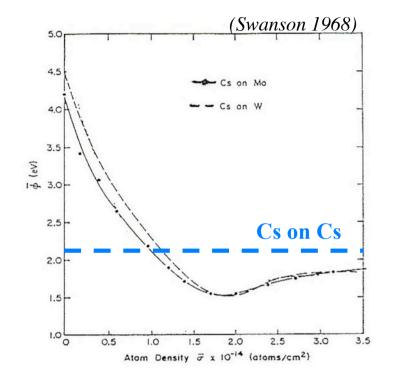
max. current 100 A

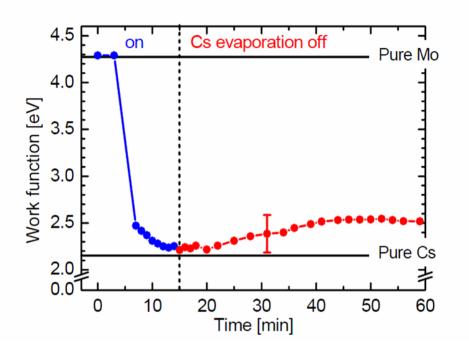
### Reproducibility very good

Two months experimental campaign with the negative ion prototype source, max. current 4 A

**Poor reproducibility** 







Minimum at 0.6 mono layer **not** achievable under vacuum conditions of the source (10<sup>-6</sup> mbar)

=> WF of Cs bulk material 2.14 eV

WF degrades under after stop of the evaporation

=> Detoriation by impurities in the

background gas (Cu,  $O_2$ ,  $H_2O$ , ...)

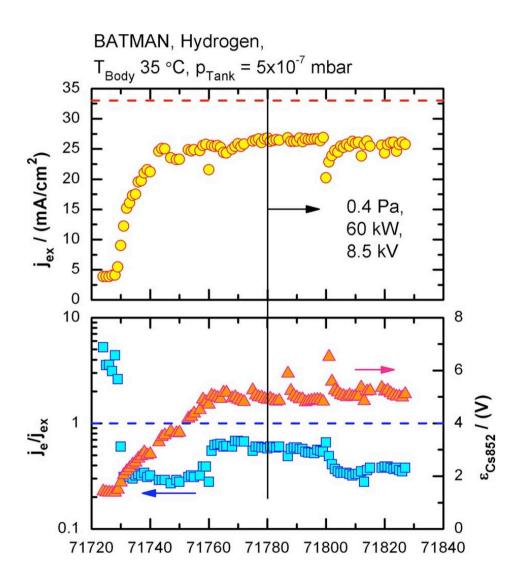
=> Constant Cs evaporation required



### **Conditioning procedure:**

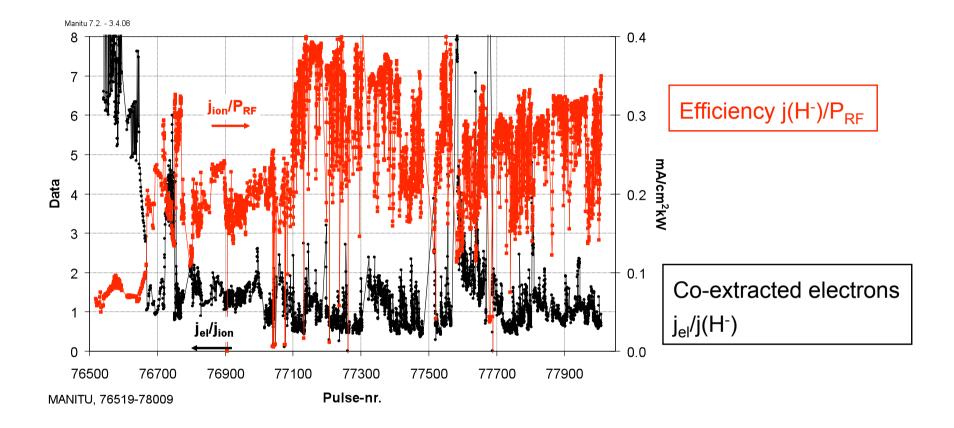
Optimize  $t_{Pulse}$ ,  $t_{Pause}$ , Cs evaporation rate

- => reduction of electron current, increasing ion current
  - Faster conditioning at low background pressure
  - Plasma grid temperature >140°
  - Source body temperature 35° to avoid trapping of Cs on the walls



# Long pulse conditioning at MANITU





- Large variation of the currents at the same parameters
- Long-term degradation by impurities

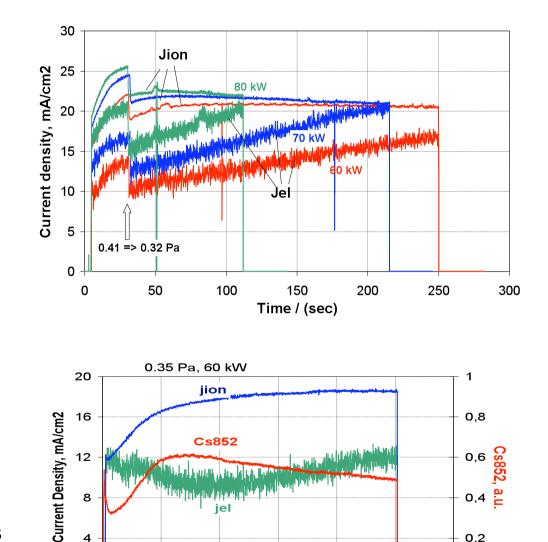
# **Electron currents in long pulses**

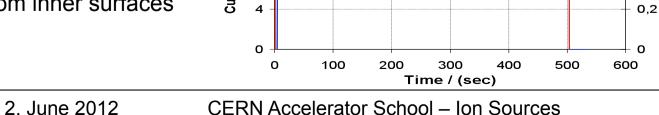


- Ion currents more stable than electron currents,
- but saturate at high power
- Electron currents increase steeper at high power
- ⇒ In long pulses high load on the extraction grid
- $\Rightarrow$  Reduction of the power
- $\Rightarrow$  Lower ion currents

W. Kraus

Electron current in long pulses correlated to Cs dynamics (Cs released from inner surfaces of the source)







### 1. Conditioning

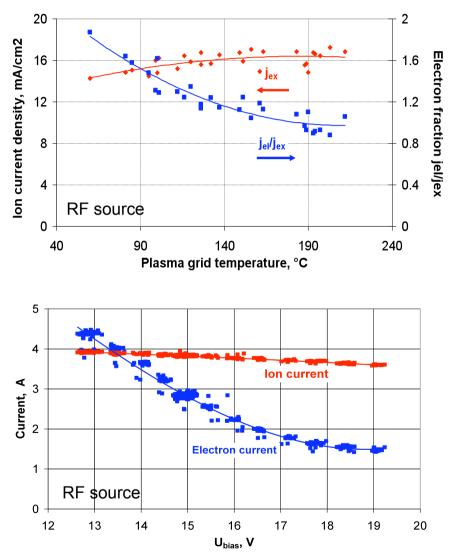
Plasma cleaning of the plasma grid surface

+ Cs evaporation

### 2. Plasma grid temperature

RF source: Minimum temperature > 150°(?),

- up to 220° no significant change,
- in arc sources much higher plasma grid temperature required > 250°
- => Effect of tungsten coating ?
- 3. **Positive biasing** the plasma grid with respect to the source
- Electron current more sensitive
- Dependence on the bias voltage is different according to the Cs conditions



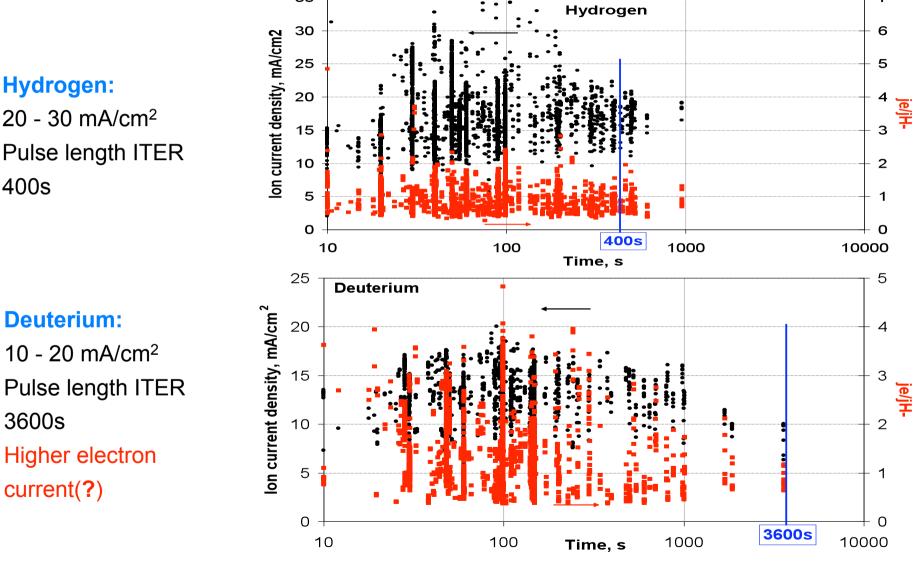
35

Hydrogen: 20 - 30 mA/cm<sup>2</sup> Pulse length ITER 400s

**Deuterium:** 

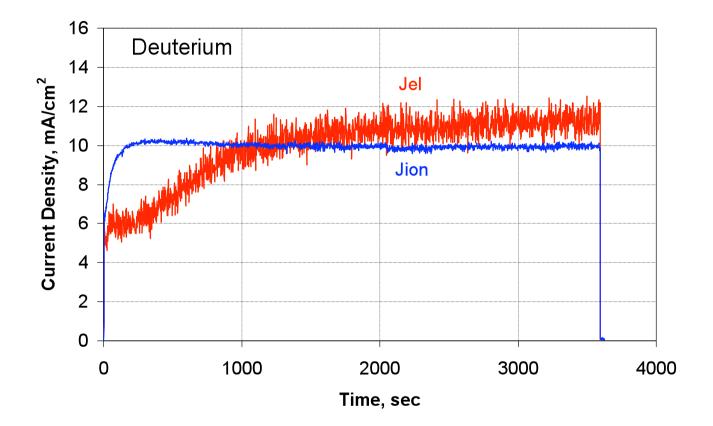
3600s

current(?)



7





0.3 Pa, 45 kW, J<sub>ion</sub>= 10 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>

Stable long pulses at reduced power

# Outline



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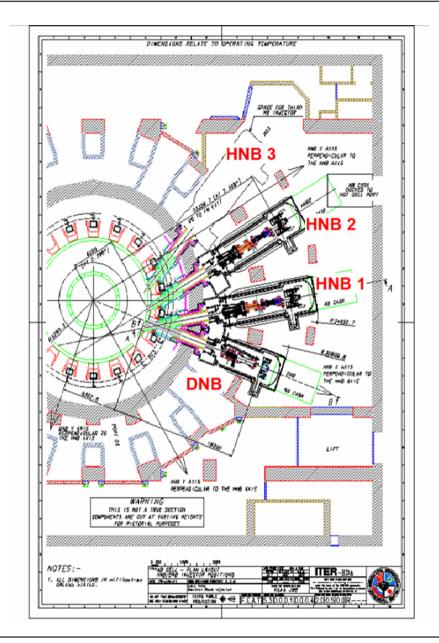


#### Heating beams HNB

33 MW injected power
2 (later 3) tangential injectors
1 MeV
3600 s
I(D<sup>-</sup>)= 40 A (one beamline)

**Diagnostic beam DNB** by IPR, India 3 MW, 100 keV, negative ions!  $I(H^-) = 60 \text{ A}$ , same source type

Requirements for the HNB ion sources					
Accelerated current density					
20 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> (D <sup>-</sup> )					
24 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> (H <sup>-</sup> )					
j <sub>el</sub> ∕j <sub>ion</sub> <1, at 0.3 Pa					
Durations: 3600s (D <sup>-</sup> ), 400s (H <sup>-</sup> )					

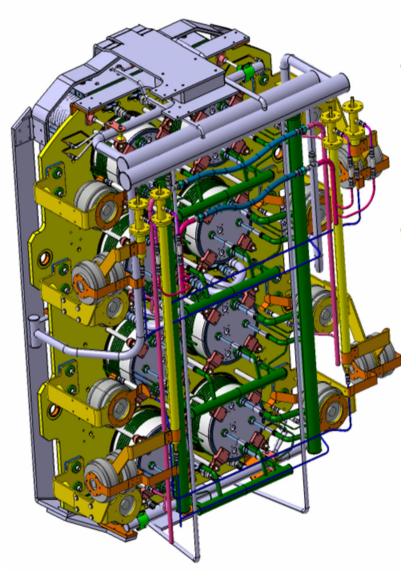


# In 2007 RF Source was chosen for the reference design of ITER



### **Reasons for the decision:**

- No regular maintenance intervals necessary
   Important in the radioactive environment
- Simpler and possibly cheaper
  - much fewer components on HV
  - much fewer vacuum feedthroughs
- No tungsten coating of the walls
  - => Lower Cs consumption
- Proof of reliability by 10 years operation of RF sources in the positive ion based NBI of the AUG tokamak
- Required H<sup>-</sup>/D<sup>-</sup> current densities have been achieved with a small scale prototype at low source pressure (<0.3 Pa) in short pulses (> 4s) on the test facility BATMAN (IPP)



### **Design of the ITER RF source**



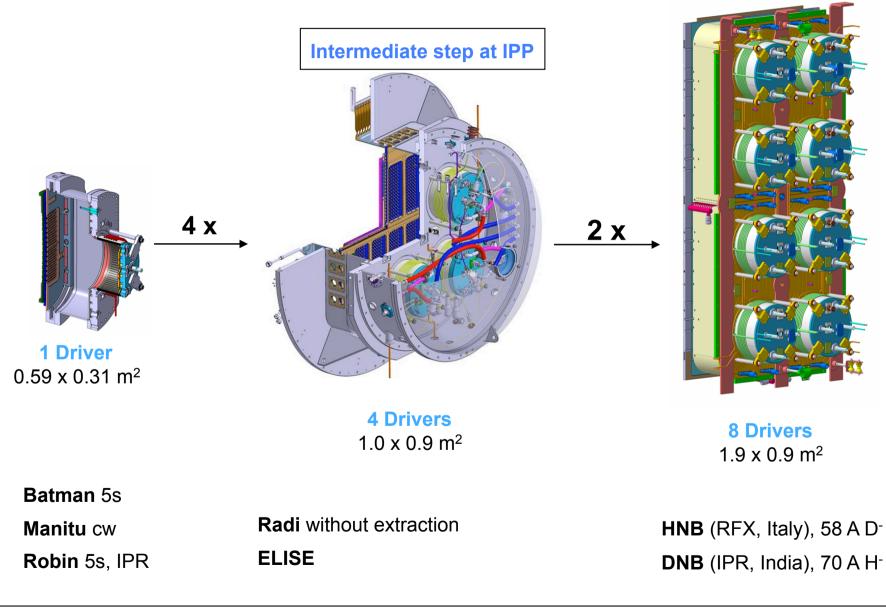
#### Test of

- the modular concept: multi driver large expansion volume,
- RF power supply with two drivers in series,
- new filter field concepts,
- optimized extraction system

#### **Benefits of large sources**

- Larger driver diameter reduces neutral depletion,
- Expanding plasmas of the multi drivers overlap
  - => Higher plasma density in the expansion chamber
  - => higher efficiency





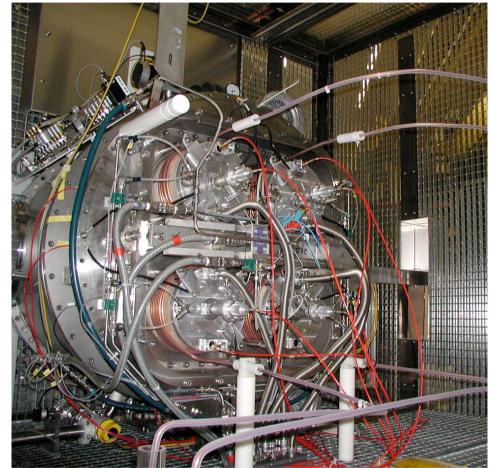
# **RADI source**



- About full width and half the height of ITER source (0.76 x 0.8 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Two drivers in series supplied by one 1MHz/180kW RF generator
- No Cs evaporation
- No beam extraction

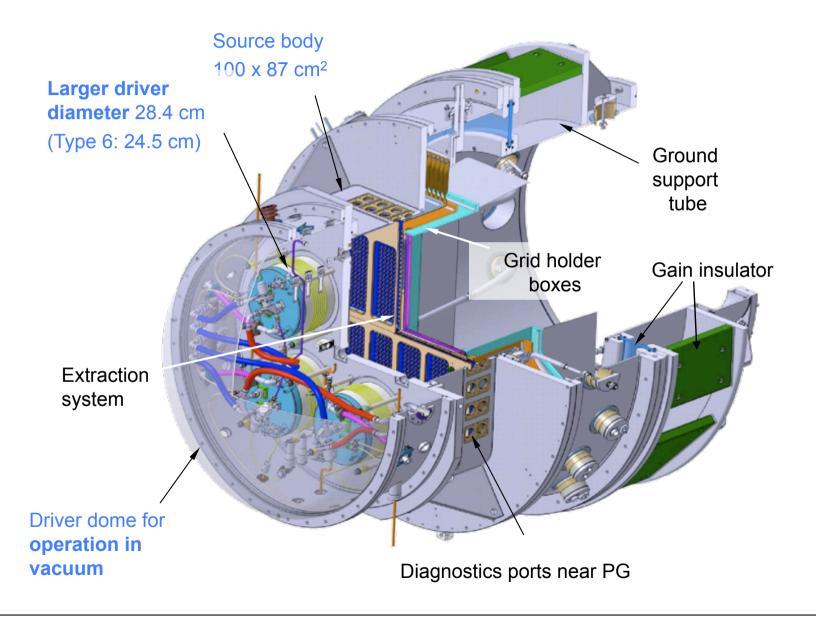
#### Achieved

- 2 x 130 kW operation
- Homogenous plasma density
- Low pressure operation 0.2 0.3 Pa



# ELISE ion source (Extraction from a Large Ion Source Experiment)

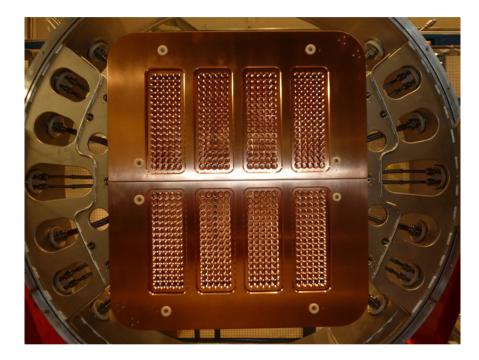


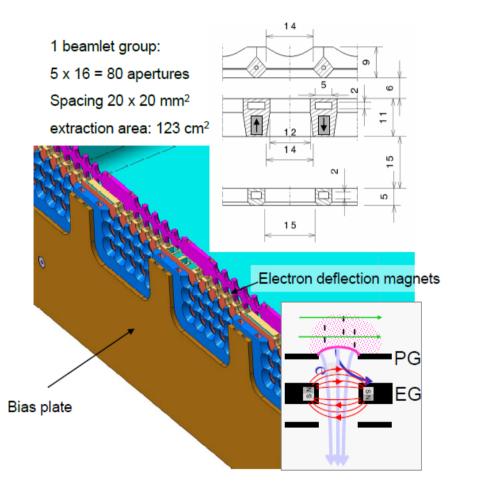


# **ELISE extraction system**



#### 4 beamlet groups



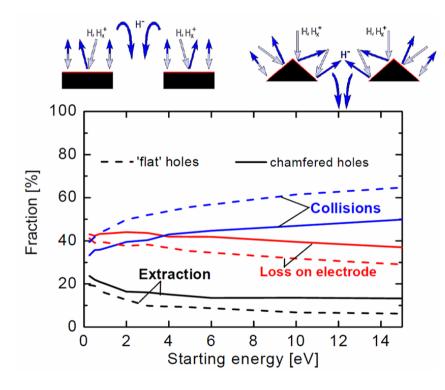


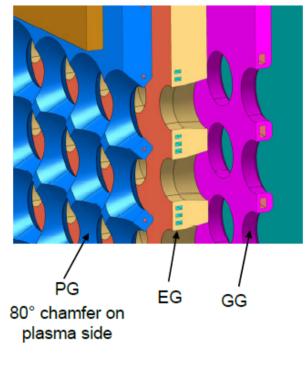
# **ELISE: Shape of plasma grid apertures**



#### **Chamfered apertures**

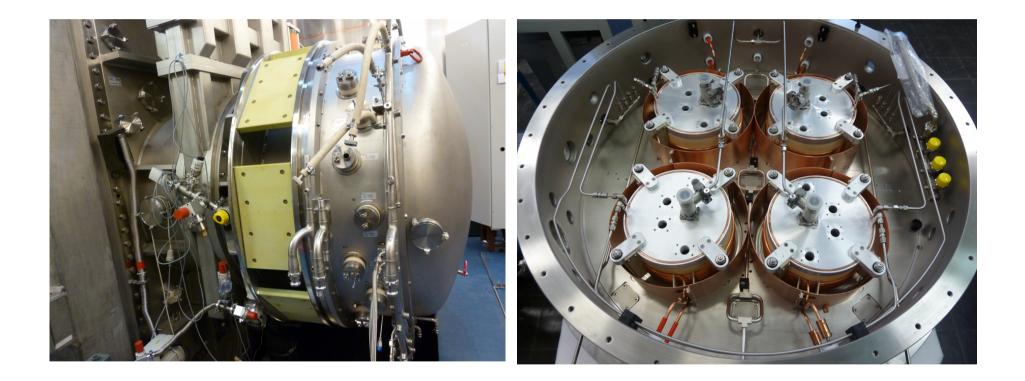
- Less collisions with particles
- · Less losses on the electrode
- => Higher extraction probability







Commissioning in June 2012 RADI and MANITU shut down in August 2011



# Outline



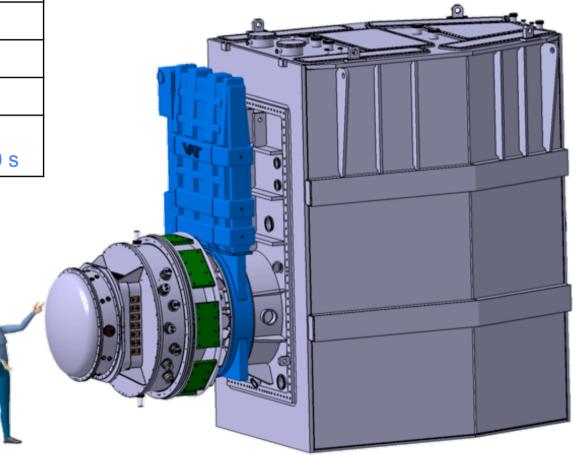
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		ITER (rf)	LHD (arc)	JAEA JT60U (arc)		JAEA MV TF (arc)	IPP (rf source)	
Species		D⁻	H.	D.	H.	H-	H.	D.
Energy	MeV	1000	180	400		937		
Voltage holding	MV	1000	190	50	00	1000		
Source height	m	1.95	1.45	1.22			0.59	
Source width	m	1.55	0.35	0.64			0.3	
No. of apertures		1280	770	1080				
Accelerated current	Α	40	30	17		0.33	1	.4
Source power	kW	800	180	350			100	
Extracted current density	A/m <sup>2</sup>	285	250			144		280
Pulse length	S	3600	2	:	2	2	3600	4



Extraction area	1000 cm <sup>2</sup>			
Acceleration voltage	60 kV			
Extraction voltage	<12 kV			
Ion current	20 A			
RF power	2 x 180 kW			
Plasma on time Beam extraction	3600 s 10 s every 180 s			



### Gate valve

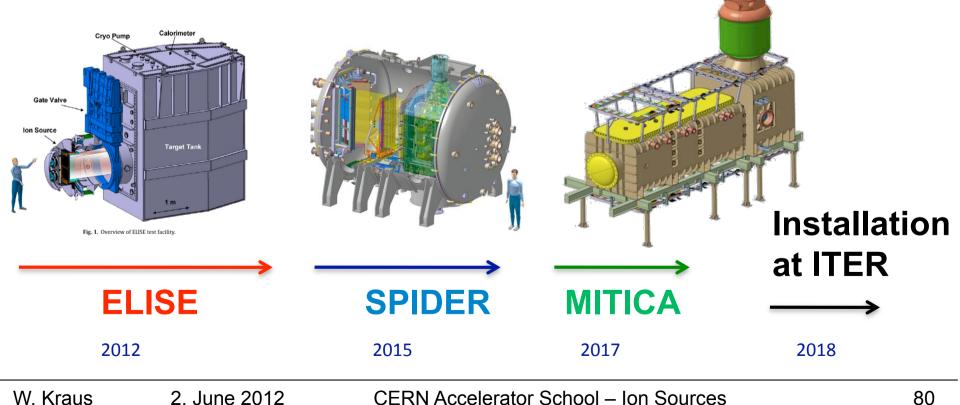
=> no deterioration of Cs during cryo regeneration



 ELISE (IPP Garching): Half-size ITER-type source in cw operation with 60 kV/10s beam extraction.

 $\rightarrow$  to assess spatial uniformity of negative ion flux, validate or alter source concept

- SPIDER (RFX, Padua): Full size ITER source with full extraction voltage 100 keV,  $3600s \rightarrow$  to validate or alter source and extractor
- MITICA (RFX, Padua): Full size ITER source, 1 MeV, 3600s  $\rightarrow$  to validate or alter accelerator and beamline components
- DNB source test facility (Ghandinagar, India), Full size ITER source, 100 keV, 3600s





• Positive ion sources have reached a high degree of performance and reliability.

- Future fusion reactors require giant high power ion sources in which the negative ions are produced on Cs-adsorbed surfaces with low work function.
- The present development concentrates on the ITER NBI source which will produce 40A /1MeV beams for 3600s. The RF source was chosen for the ITER reference design due to the maintenance free operation and because the individual target values have been achieved with a small prototype.
- The further development of sources of ITER relevant size will be carried out in the next years on new large testbeds at IPP Garching and RFX Padua.