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Hardware commissioning of HIE ISOLDE in 2016

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After the first successful physics run with radioactive ion beams at HIE ISOLDE, in October 2015, the staged deployment of the linac continued in 2016 by adding a second cryomodule and by refurbishing the first one. During the physics run with one cryomodule, the second cryomodule was being assembled. The refurbishment of the first cryomodule was made necessary to overcome limits imposed by thermal instabilities of the fundamental coupler lines. A modified design for the power couplers was developed and implemented on all the cavities, after extensive validation tests in a vertical cryostat. The paper will describe the lessons learnt from the first commissioning campaign, in particular concerning the fundamental power coupler, the solution adopted, and the results of the 2106 commissioning campaign with two cryomodules, which will allow to reach 5.5 MeV/u for all the species available at ISOLDE.

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