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Design and Digital Twin of INFN's main Nb₃Sn 15T Dipole for CERN's FCC

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CERN is currently investigating the feasibility of a future collider - the Future Circular Collider (FCC)- as a potential successor of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), providing scientists in the field of high energy physics with a powerful discovery tool. A 100 km tunnel hosting a circular electron-positron collider as a first stage towards a 100 TeV proton-proton collider would probe new phenomena coupled to the Higgs and electroweak sectors with unparalleled precision.

To construct such a high center-of-mass energy HC in a tunnel of ~100km in length, dipole magnets with a nominal operation field of ~16T and ~15% margin are necessary. At the state of current available technology, only coil strands made of Nb₃Sn can provide such nominal field levels. Key requirements for the realization of an accelerator of this magnitude are the ability to demonstrate that accelerator-quality magnets can indeed produce such a magnetic field and a substantial reduction of the costs of building and operating superconducting magnets to produce a cost-effective design. INFN developed the main 16T Nb₃Sn dipole of the FCC based on the cos-theta coil design. The baseline design of the superconducting magnet includes a welded stainless-steel skin based on the bladder-and-key concept.

The scope of this work is FEAC, as a third-party, to validate and further study the baseline design in collaboration with INFN and CERN. This paper describes the design concept and the fully parametric multi-physics finite & boundary element (FEM & BEM) model used in the detailed design optimization. The optimized assembly parameters are presented, and the effect of the manufacturing tolerances are studied via a sensitivity analysis performed on geometrical, material and assembly parameters.

Primary author: Mr KOKKINOS, Charilaos (FEAC Engineering P.C.)

Co-authors: FARINON, Stefania (INFN e Universita Genova (IT)); PAMPALONI, Alessandra (INFN Genova); Mr KOKKINOS, SOTIRIS (FEAC Engineering P.C.); Mr LOUKAS, Konstantinos (FEAC Engineering P.C.); Dr GORTSAS, Thodoris (FEAC Engineering P.C.); Prof. POLYZOS, Demosthenes (University of Patras); Mr RODOPOULOS, Dimitris (University of Patras)

Presenter: Mr KOKKINOS, Charilaos (FEAC Engineering P.C.)

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