

# WIMP Technology and Infrastructure Introduction

Direct Dark Matter Detection Report Community Feedback  
Meeting

# Backgrounds

## DM direct detection experiments main challenge

### Background minimization

- a few signal events observed during the experiment's exposure yield a high statistical significance
- background-free exposure to enhance discovery potential and avoid misinterpretation of positive signals

### • ER background sources:

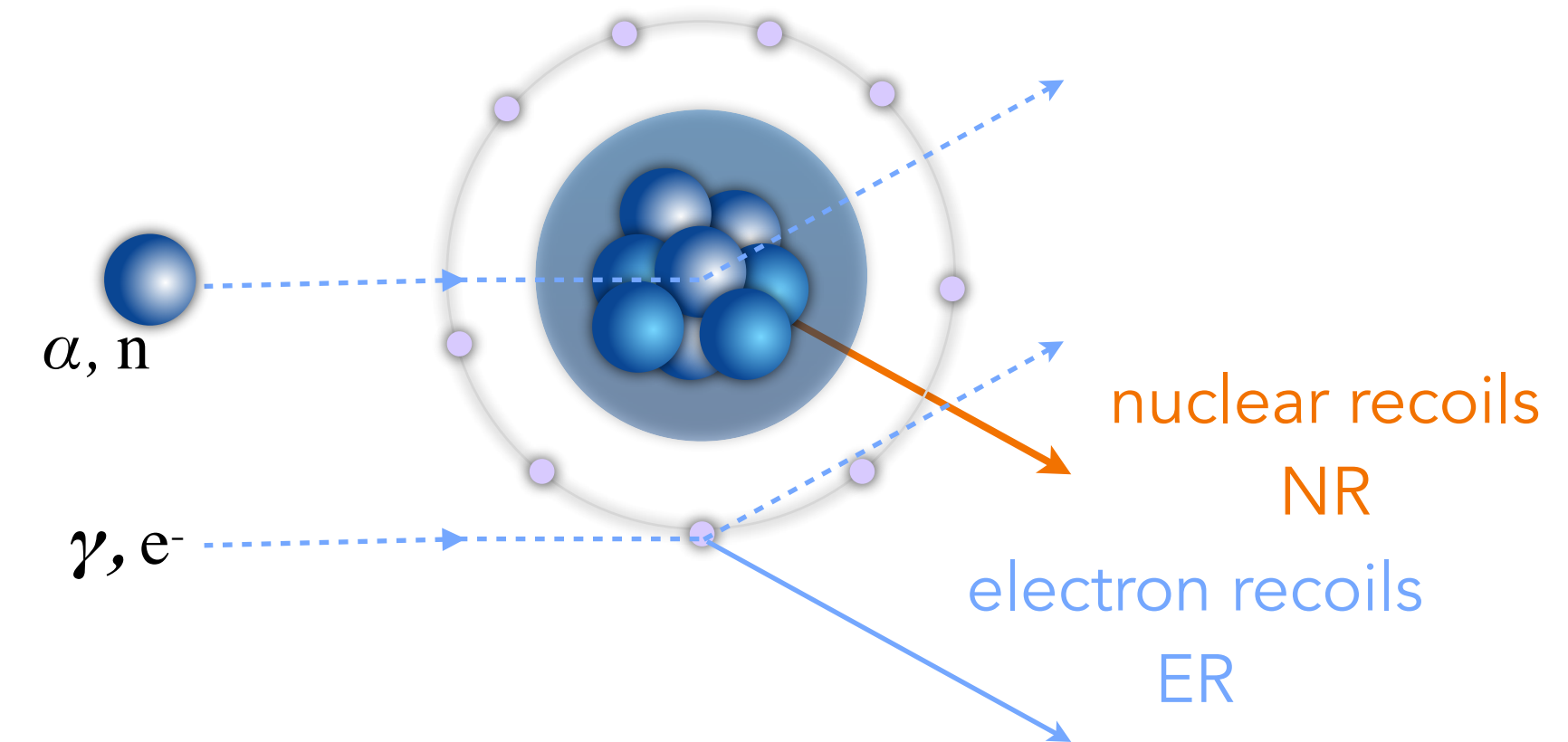
- long-lived natural radioisotopes ( $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{232}\text{Th}$  chains and their daughters, e.g.,  $^{214}\text{Pb}$ ;  $^{40}\text{K}$ )
- cosmogenic activation (e.g.,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ )
- anthropogenic isotopes (e.g.,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{85}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^{110\text{m}}\text{Ag}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ).
- **elastic collisions of low-energy solar neutrinos with atomic electrons**

### • $\alpha$ background sources:

- radioactivity from detector surfaces with a fraction of the  $\alpha$ -energy is lost in insensitive detector regions

### • NR background sources:

- radiogenic neutrons from ( $\alpha;n$ ) and spontaneous fission reactions
- cosmogenic neutrons induced by cosmic ray muons
- **coherent scattering of neutrinos off target nuclei** (*neutrino floor*, no hard limit)



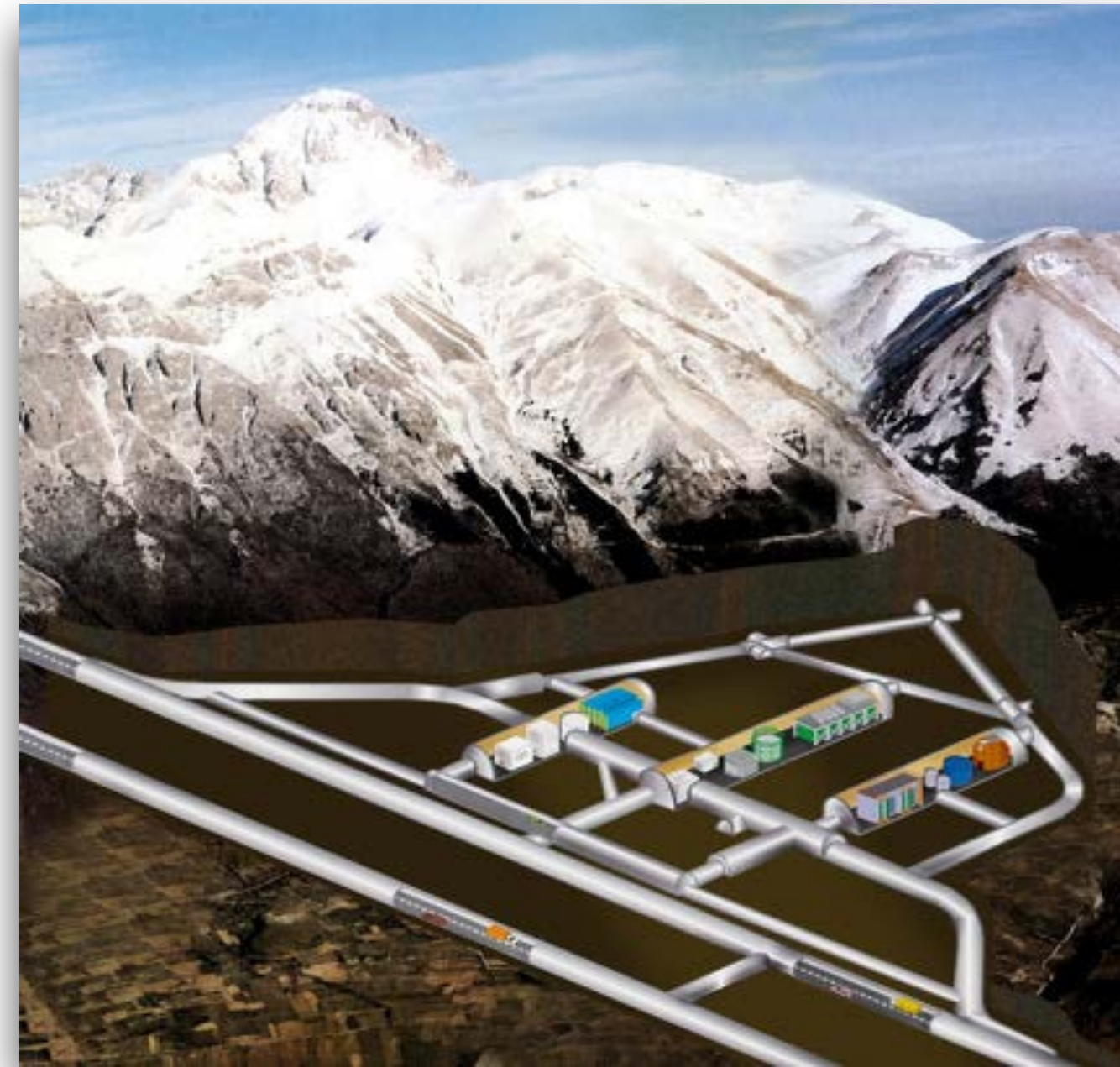
Achieved $^{222}\text{Rn}$ concentrations		
Experiment	Activity/rate	Target
DEAP-3600	0.15 $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$	LAr
PandaX-II	8 $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$	LXe
LUX	66 $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$	LXe
XENON1T	4.5 $\mu\text{Bq/kg}$	LXe

Future DM detectors can also conduct neutrino physics  
→ today's background will be tomorrow's signal

# Background mitigation strategies

## Reduction

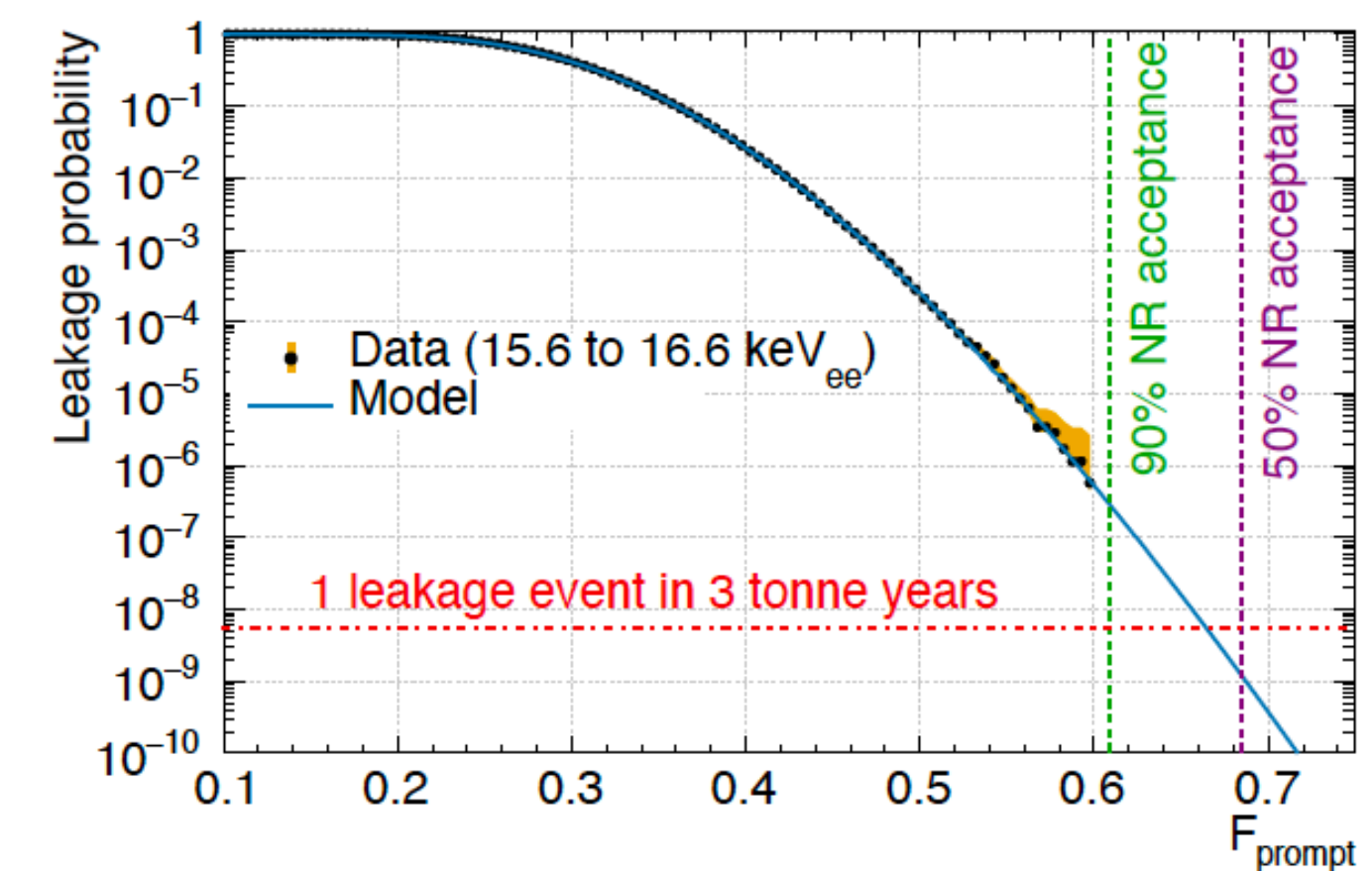
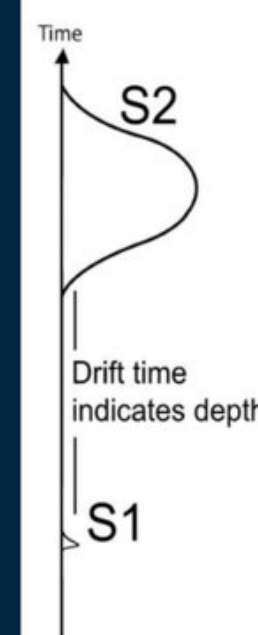
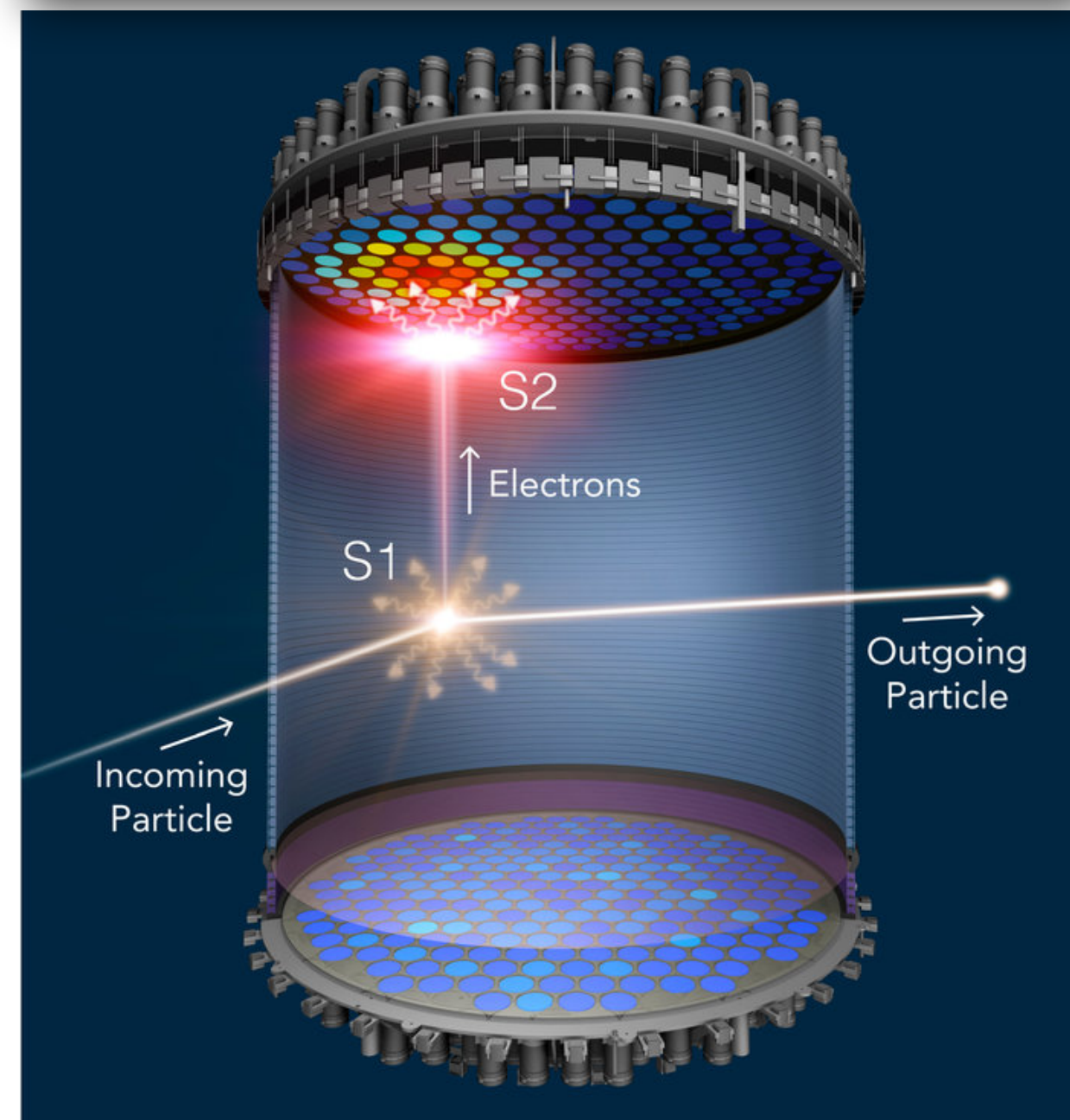
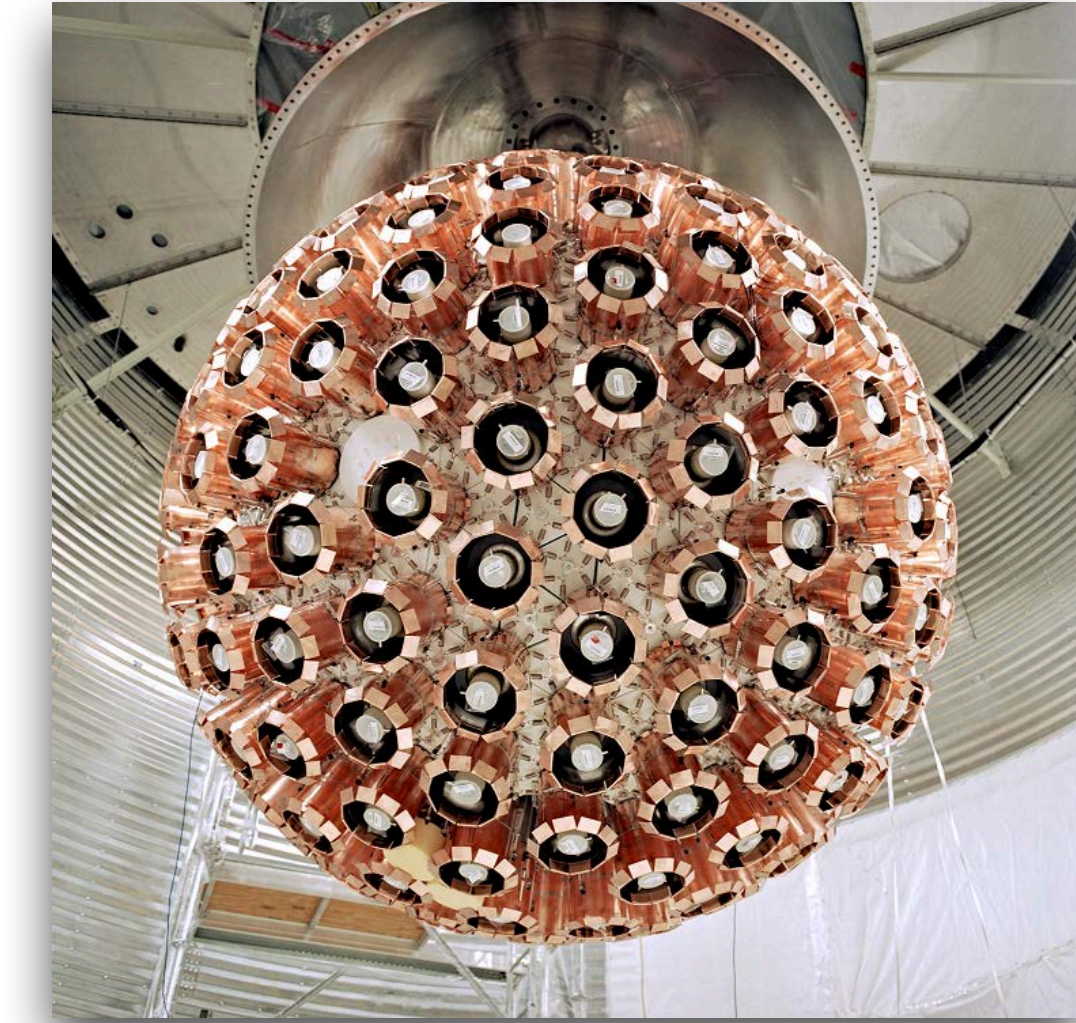
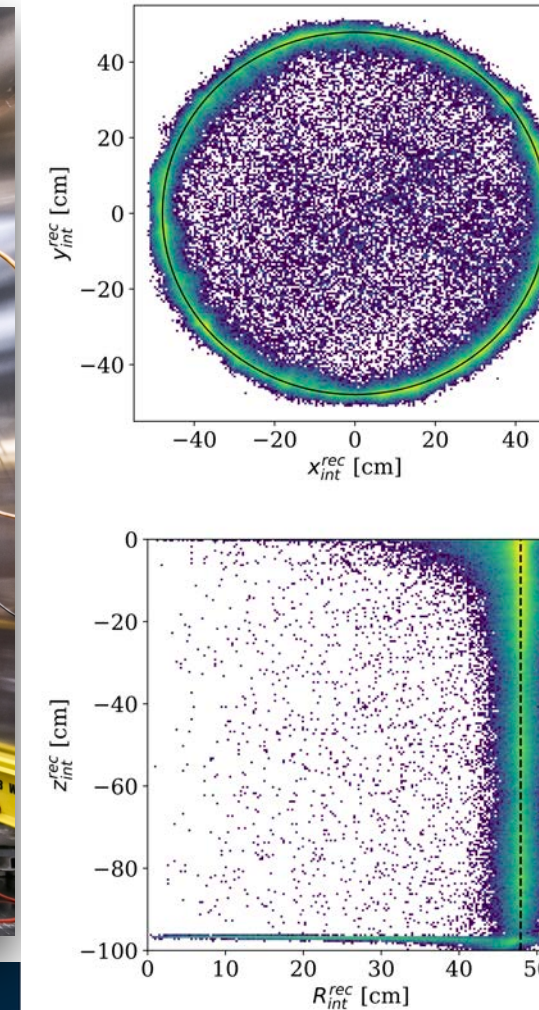
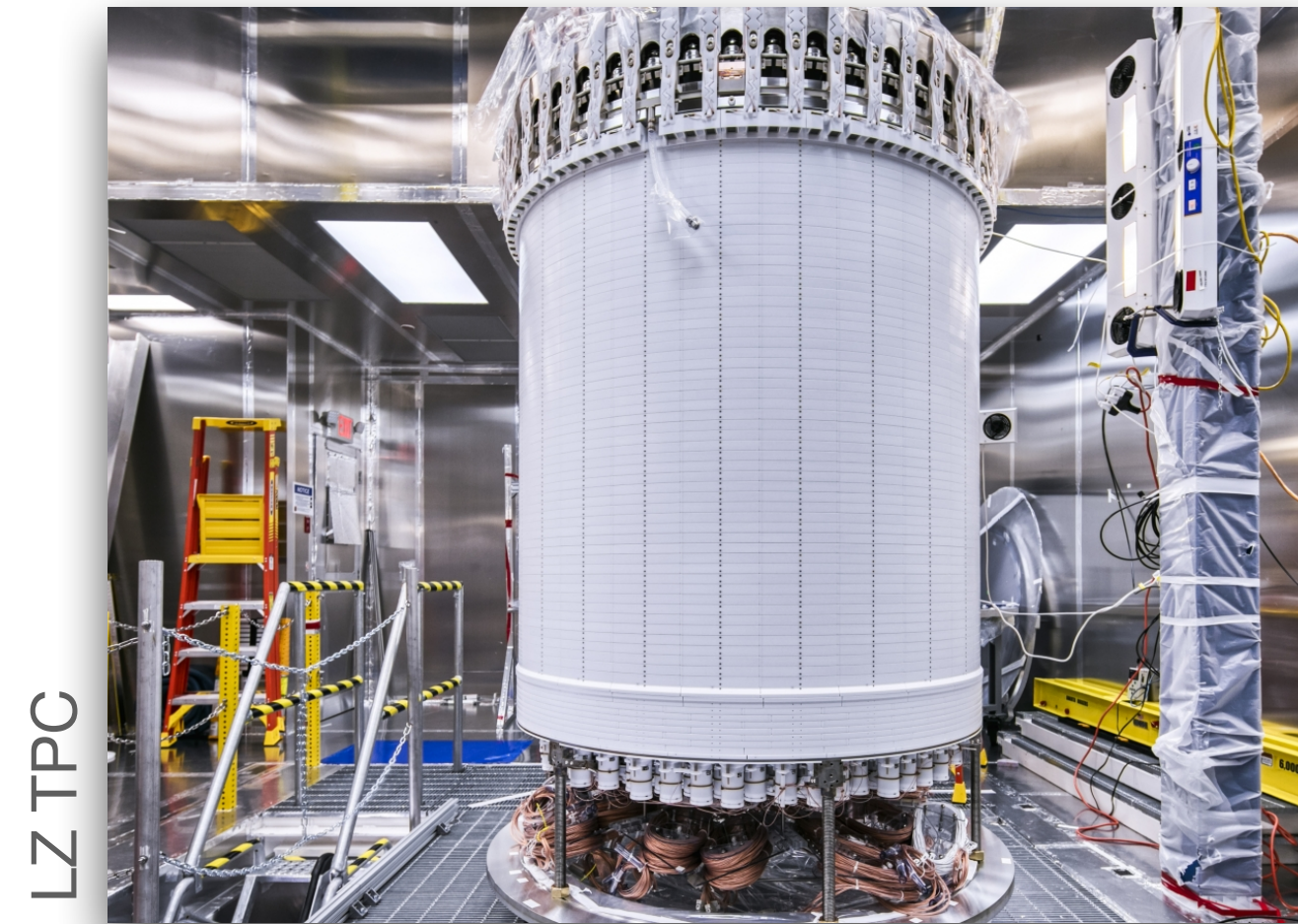
- **Deep Underground Laboratories**
  - cosmogenic neutrons reduction
- **Radiopurity** of detector and target materials
  - material screening
- **Cleanliness**
  - ( $^{222}\text{Rn}$ -abated) cleanrooms
- **Purification** of target material
  - during production process (e.g., crystal growth)
  - at procurement level (e.g., low- $^{39}\text{Ar}$  UAr; cryogenic distillation, chromatography)
  - during data taking



# Background mitigation strategies

## Rejection

- **Detector Design**
  - choice of appropriate materials
  - material budget optimization
  - shielding
- **Fiducialisation**
  - requires position reconstruction or surface signal discrimination techniques
- **Active rejection**
  - scintillation PSD
  - heat, scintillation, ionisation ratio
  - acoustic rejection (bubble chambers)
  - single scatter & veto

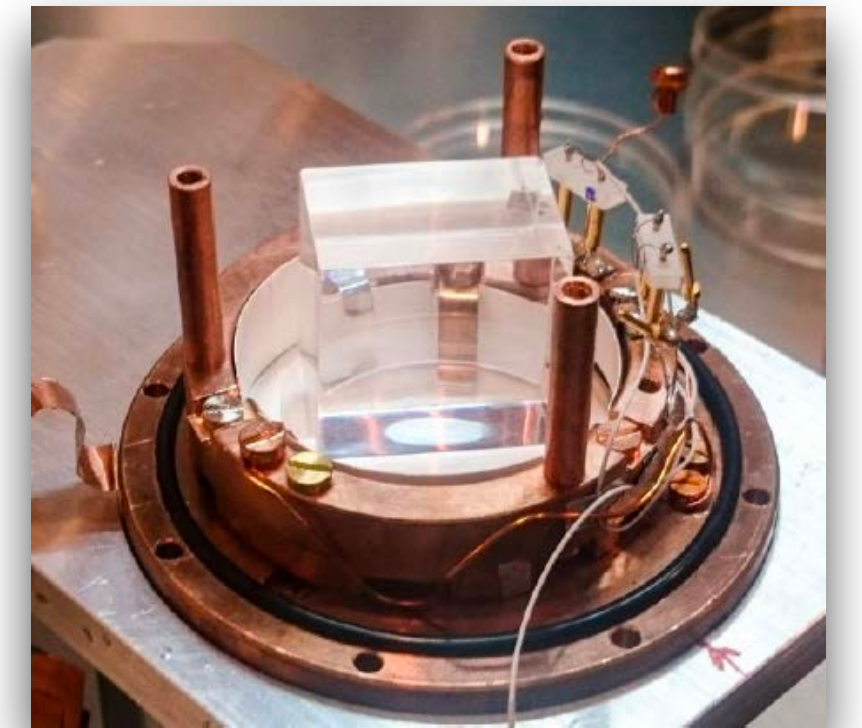
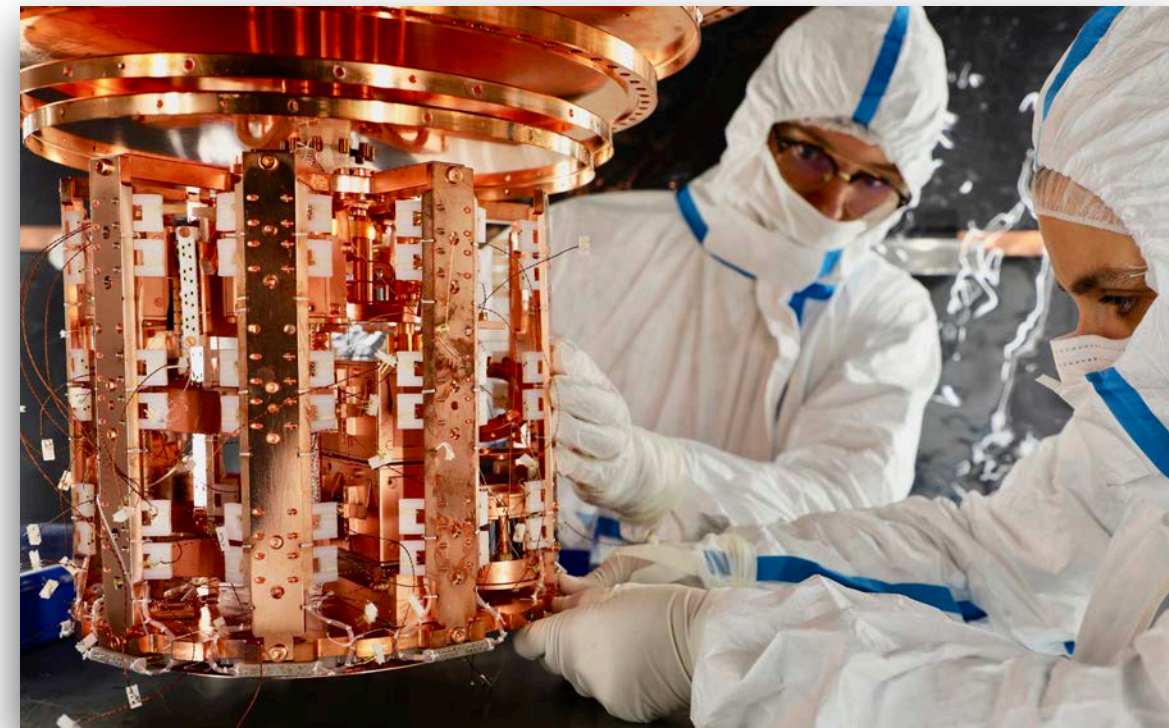


# Technology challenges

## kg to ton scale

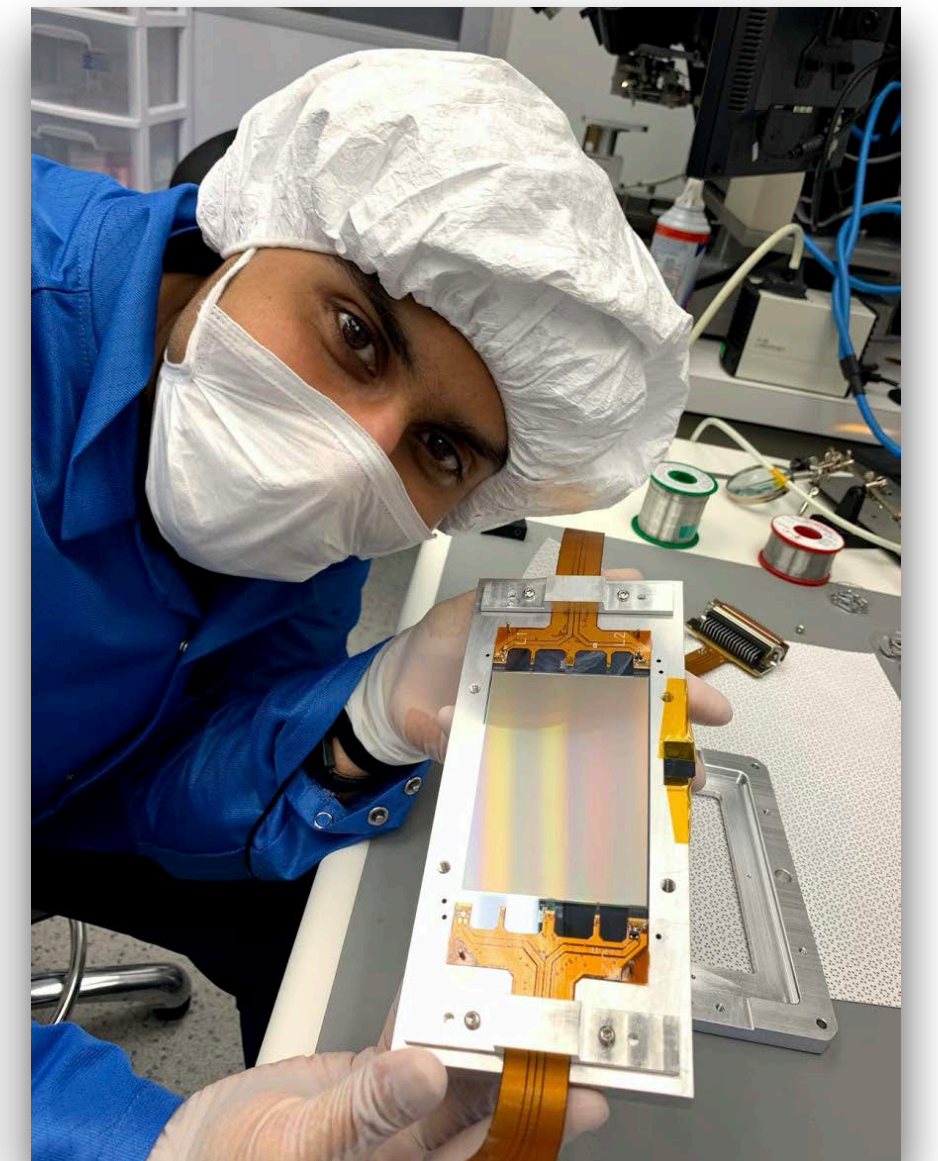
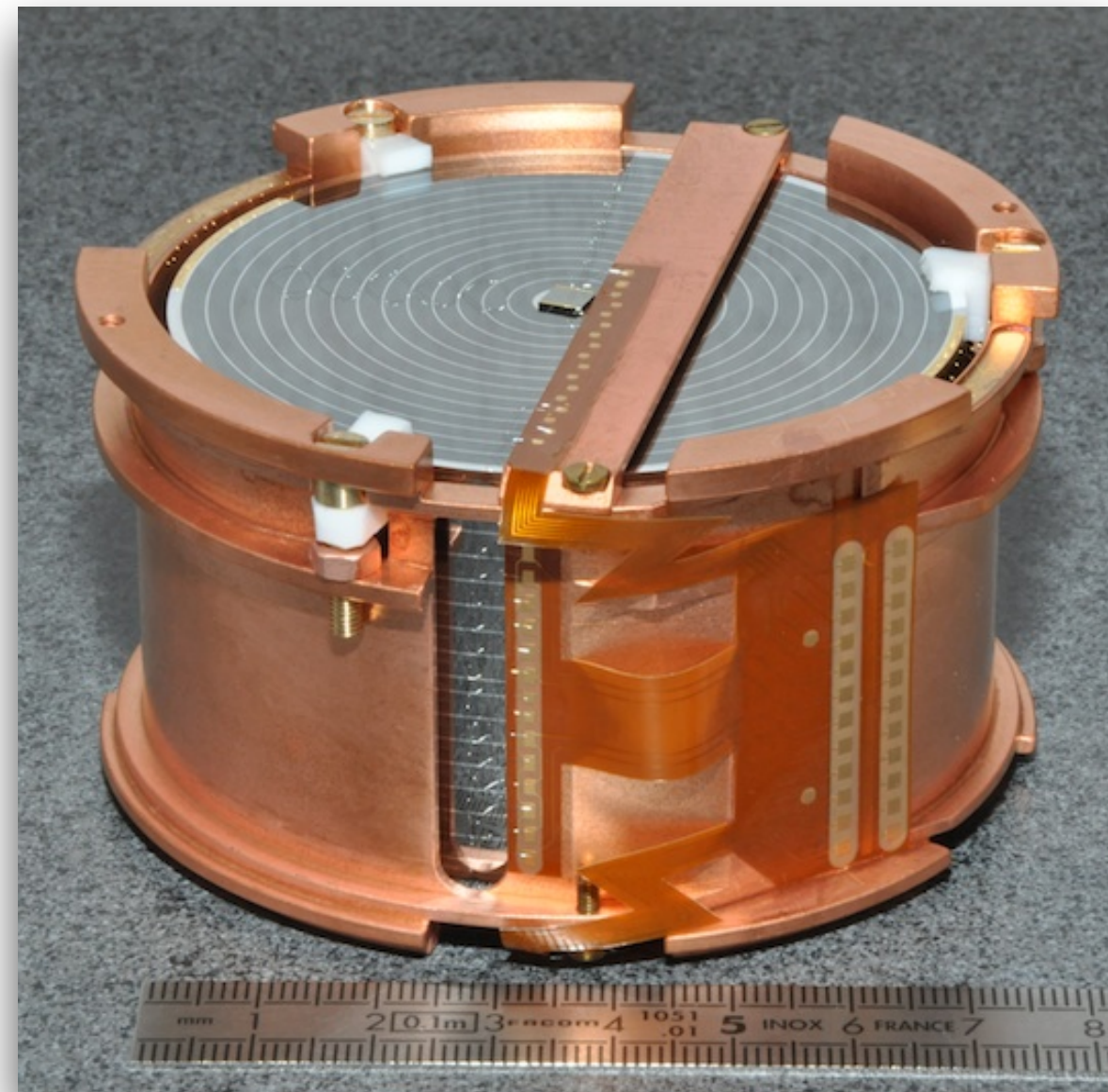
- **Background reduction**
  - powder purification for crystal growth
  - charge leakage reduction
  - **underground crystal growth and detector development**
- **Target mass**
  - scaling (large arrays of detectors)
- **Dry dilution cryostats**
  - need to control mechanical vibrations introduced by PT cryo-coolers
- **R&D on detector techniques**
  - NaI scintillating bolometers
  - heat sensors (TES, NTD) & low-noise electronics
  - skipper CCDs, sub-electron noise
  - sensors & readout techniques for gas chambers
  - scintillating bubble chambers

CRESST



COSINUS

EDELWEISS



DAMIC

# Technology challenges

## multi-ton scale: noble liquids

- **Target inventory**

- Xe procurement challenging due to limited market availability
- Ar depleted of  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  wrt atmosphere to be extracted from underground wells

- **Backgrounds**

- $^{222}\text{Rn}$  concentration in LXe to be reduced to  $<10\%$  of solar neutrinos ( $0.1 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$  - factor 50 wrt XENON1T and 10 wrt XENONnT design goal)
- further  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  depletion in LAr for low mass searches (factor 100 wrt DarkSide-50)

➔ large-volume cryogenics and purification, surface treatment, material selection

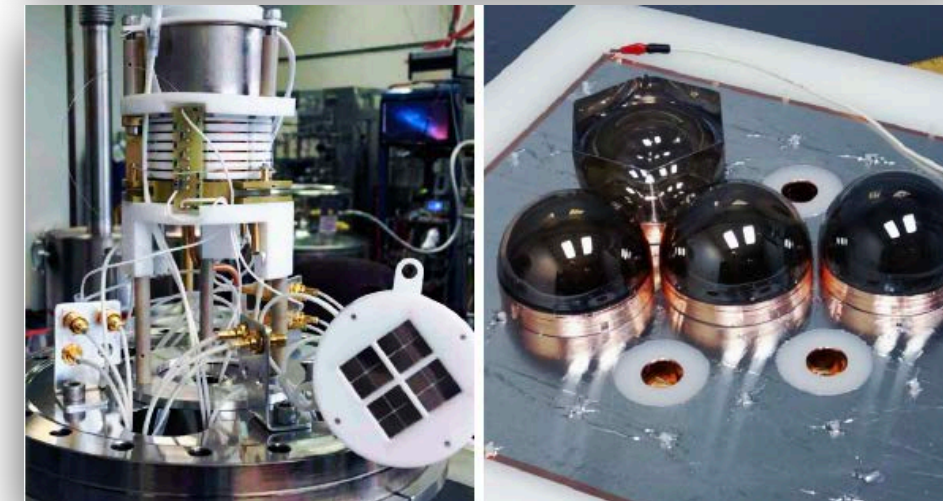
- **Detector**

- large-scale TPC electrodes, HV ft, cryostat technology
- understanding of detector artefacts (e.g. single electron delayed emission)
- optimisation of light collection efficiency
- neutron veto systems based on Gd-loaded water/acrylic or LAB liquid scintillator

- **Photosensors**

- reduce residual radioactivity, decrease dark count rate, increase PDE

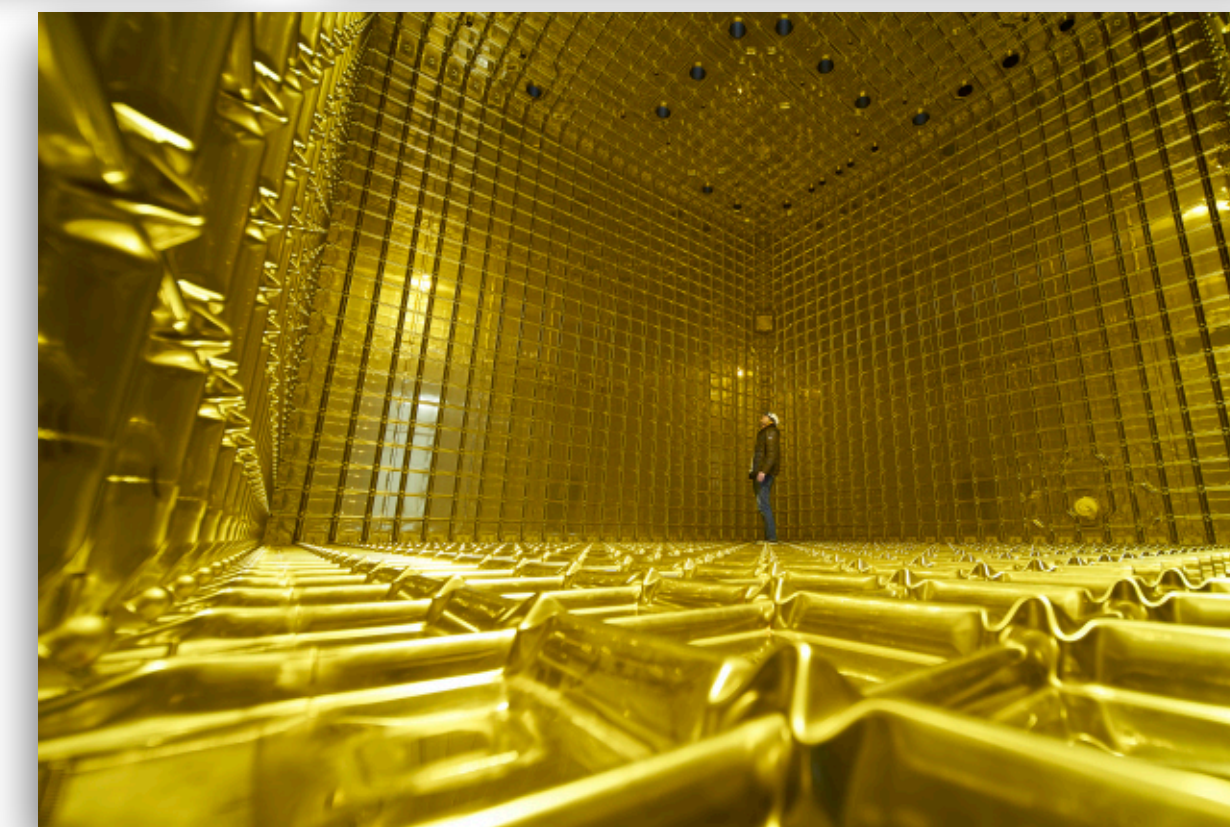
➔ PMTs, SiPMs, hybrid detectors, micropattern detectors



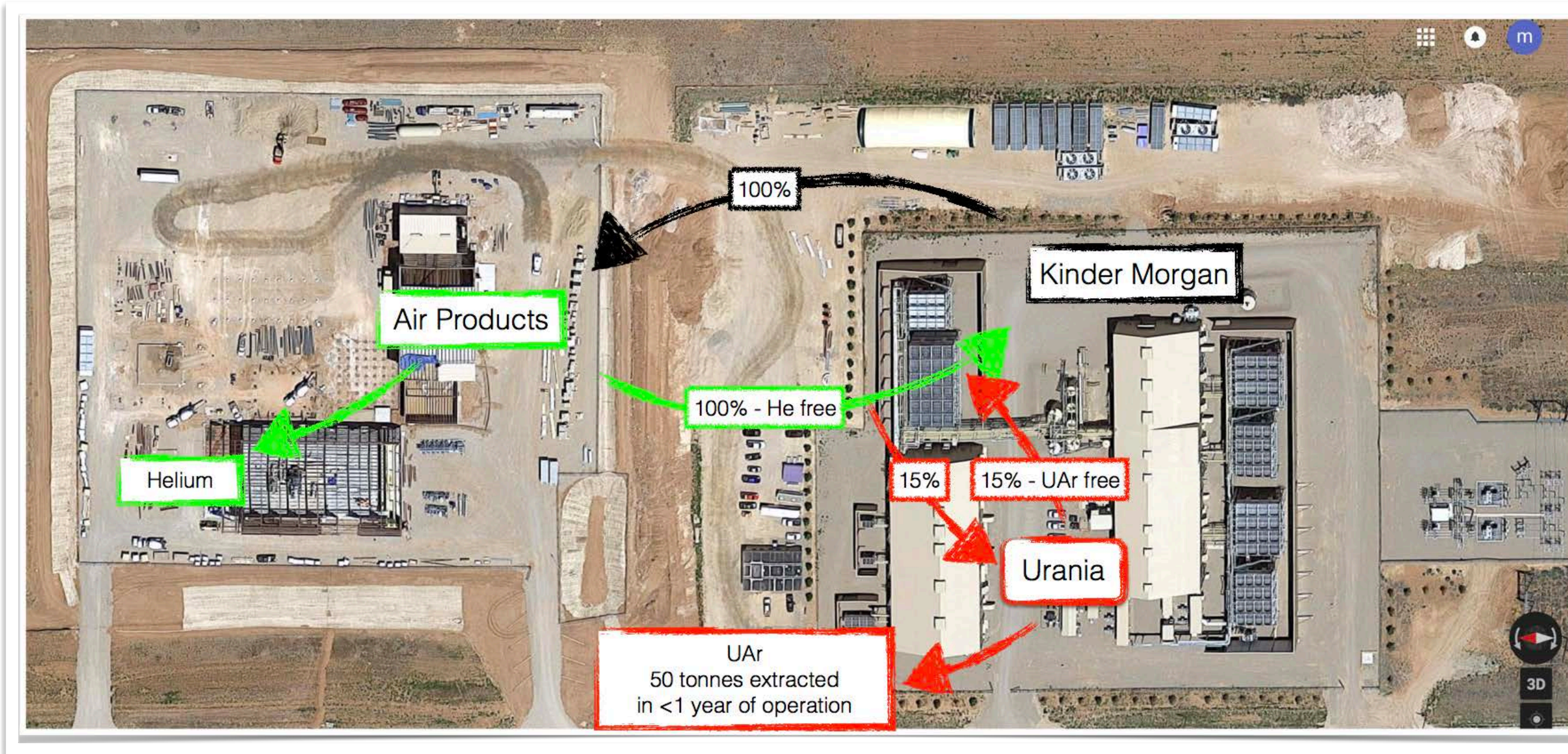
DARWIN



DARKSIDE



# Low radioactivity argon



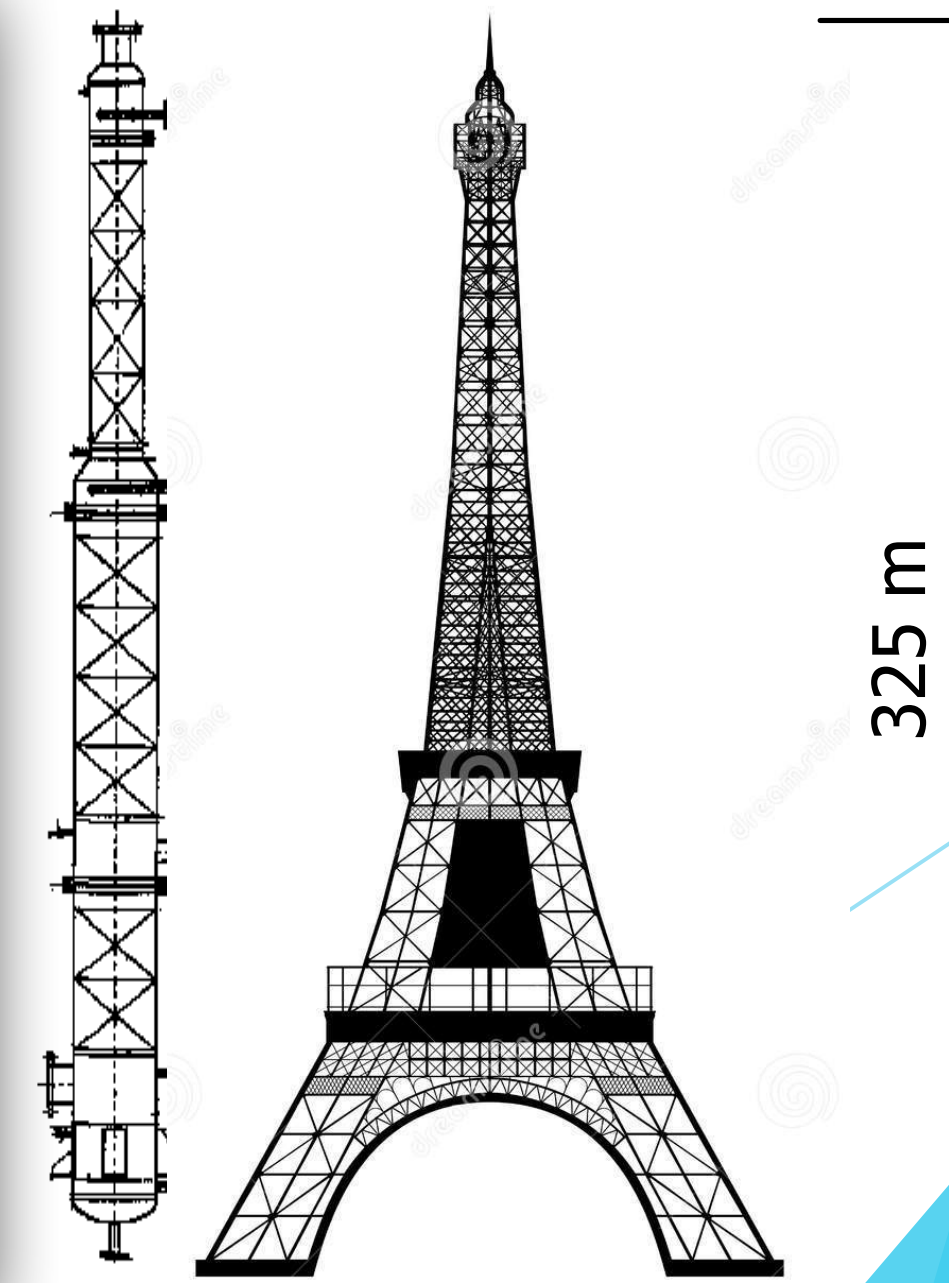
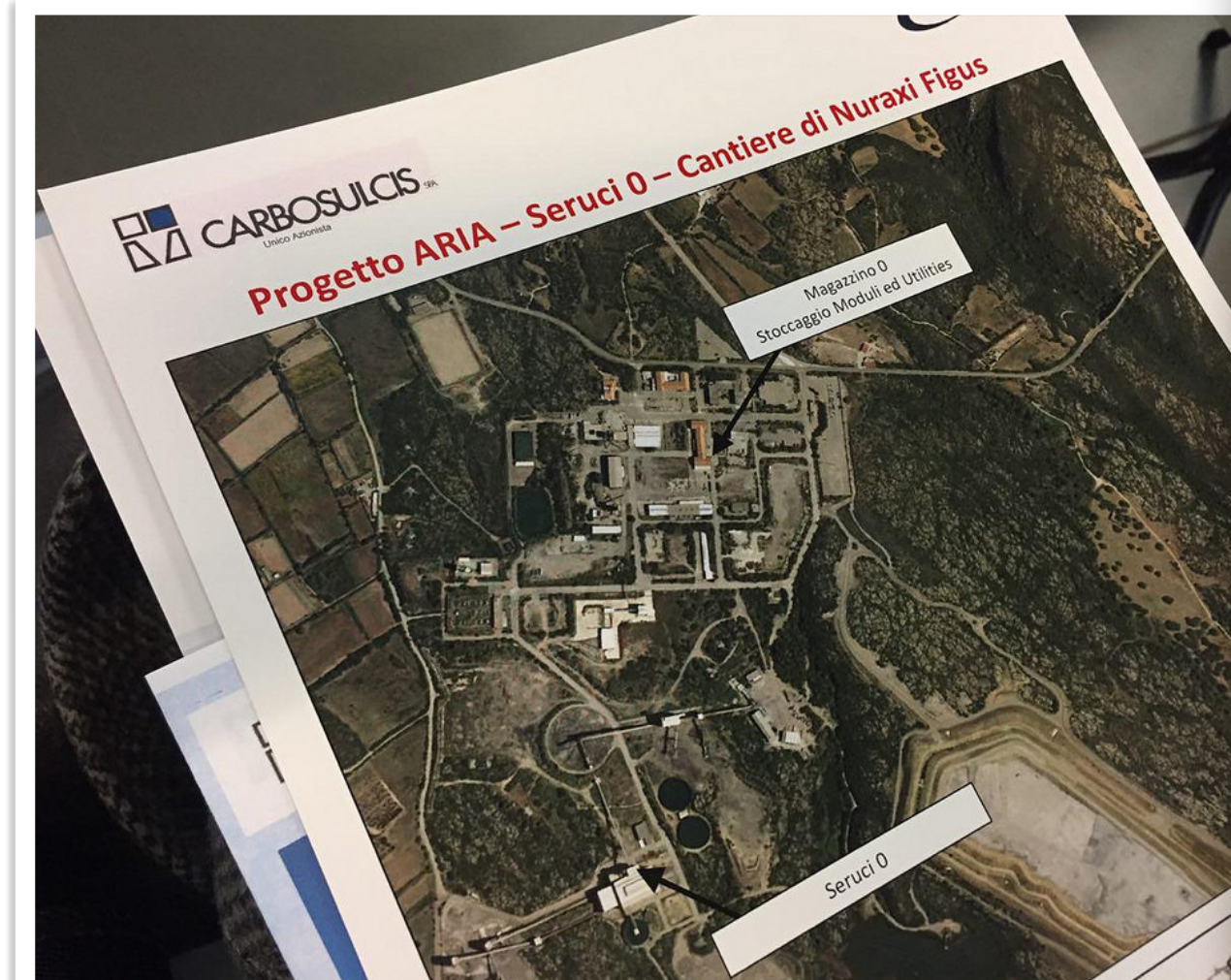
10 kg/day with a depletion factor of 10

- ➔ <1yr to process DS-LM inventory of UAr
- ➔ also rare stable isotopes such as  $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  (medical physics) and  $^{15}\text{N}$  (nuclear reactors)



**URANIA**  
330 kg/day

- ➔ <1yr to for 50 tonnes of UAr
- ➔ can provide UAr for neutrino expts (LEGEND, COHERENT,...)



# Xenon distillation

- Cryogenic distillation column developed for XENON to reduce Kr concentration in Xe to suppress radioactive  $^{85}\text{Kr}$ 
  - delivering gas with a  $^{\text{nat}}\text{Kr}$  concentration of  $<0.026$  ppt, better than required for DARWIN
- Ultra-low (Rn) background gas pumps developed in context of XENON and nEXO
  - ➔ Technology currently being transferred to medical applications (PET)





# Infrastructure

## World-wide underground laboratories



# Infrastructure

## European underground laboratories

- Four major laboratories in Europe
  - ➔ fundamental for the continuation of the ongoing and upcoming projects
- LSM extension proposed (new hall)
- Most important large laboratories for DM searches outside Europe:
  - SNOLAB in Ontario (Canada) ( $3 \times 10^{-6}$   $\mu\text{u}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ,  $>30000$   $\text{m}^3$ )
  - Jinping (CJPL) in Sichuan (China) ( $2 \times 10^{-6}$   $\mu\text{u}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ,  $>200000$   $\text{m}^3$ )
  - SURF in South Dakota (USA)
  - Kamioka in Japan
  - Yangyang in South Korea



Laboratory	LNGS	LSC	LSM	Boulby
Country	Italy	Spain	France	UK
Depth (m.w.e.)	3600	2450	4800	2820
Muon Flux ( $\mu\text{u}/\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ )	$3 \times 10^{-4}$	$3 \times 10^{-3}$	$5 \times 10^{-5}$	$4 \times 10^{-4}$
Volume ( $\text{m}^3$ )	180000	8250	3500	4000
Access Road	Road	Road	Road	Shaft
Personnel	O( 100)	O(10)	O(10)	O(5)
DM Experiment	8	2	3	1

**LNGS still largest UG lab in the world**

# Deep Underground Laboratories (DULs)

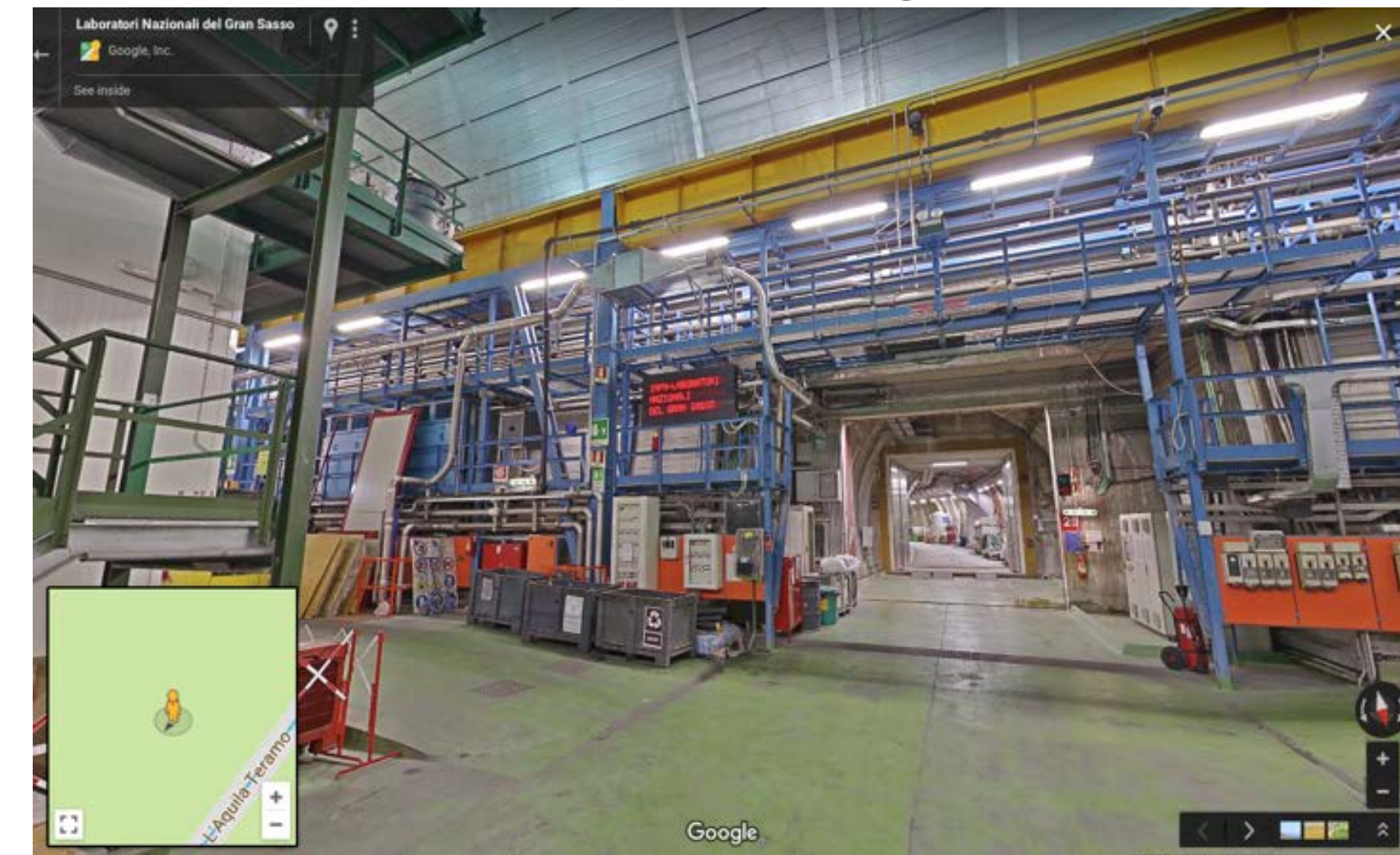
## Facilities

➔ Also for DBD, solar  $\nu$ , supernova  $\nu$ ,

..., with similar requirements

- **Underground space**
  - shields
  - storage facilities (e.g. ReStoX, ARGUS)
- **Materials radiopurity**
  - germanium spectroscopy from 1 mBq/kg to 50 mBq/kg
  - ICP-MS from 1 to 10 mBq/kg
  - radon detection and mitigation systems, Rn-free cleanrooms (mBq/m<sup>3</sup>)
  - specific detectors developed by individual research groups or within international collaborations (e.g. BiPo-3, GeMPI, DArT)
- **Dedicated infrastructures**
  - copper electroforming units
  - clean underground workshops
  - advanced 3D printing facilities
  - radiopure SiPM packaging facilities
  - crystal growth facilities
  - underground test platforms and large-volume mK-cryostats

virtual tour: <https://www.lngs.infn.it/en>



LNGS



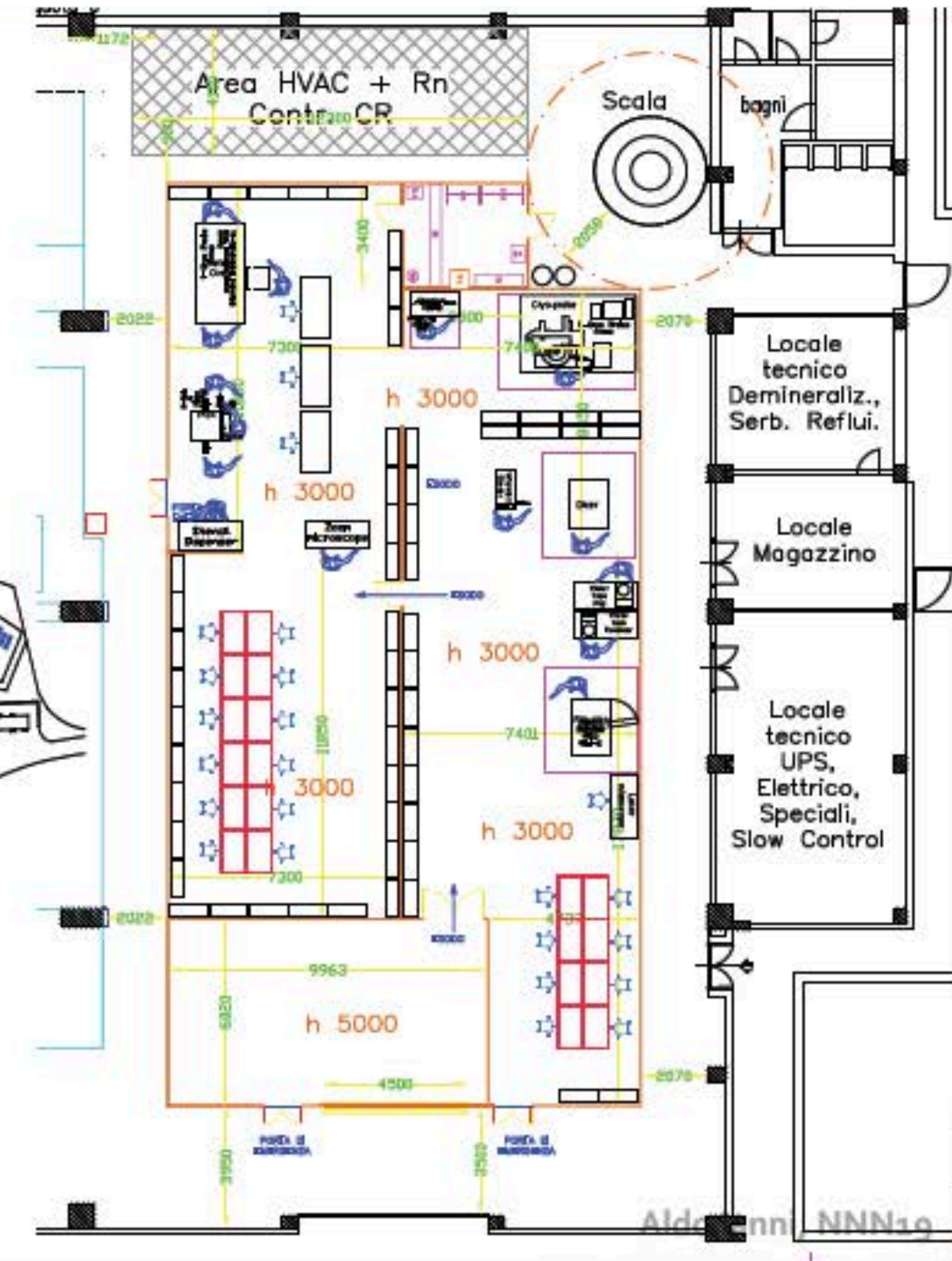
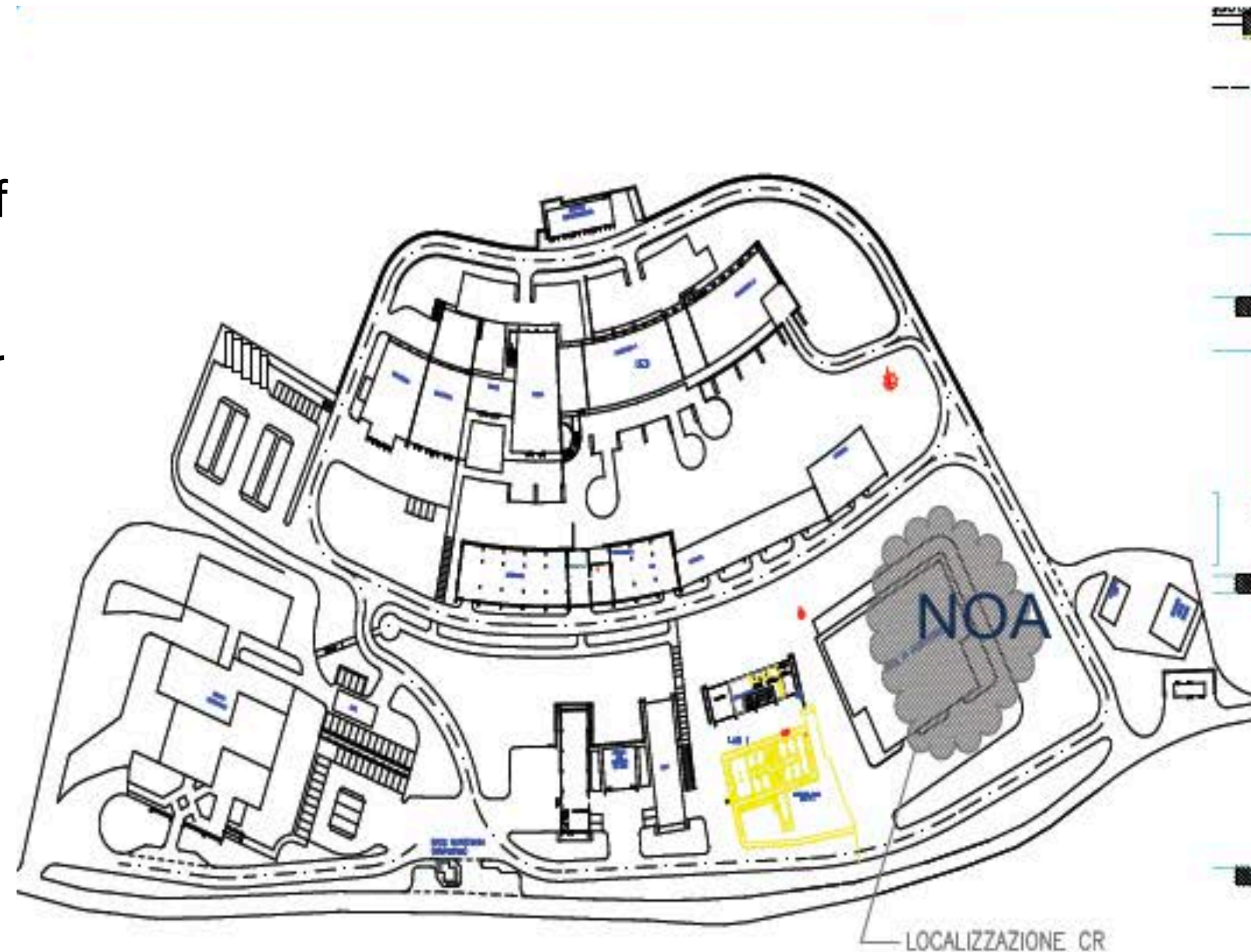
LSC

# Nuova Officina Assergi @ LNGS

## Radioclean packaging for cryogenic applications



- 400 m<sup>2</sup> radon-free ISO6 cleanroom on surface at LNGS
- top quality equipment for the packaging of silicon devices
  - cryogenic and room temperature wafer probing
  - dicing
  - fully automated flip-chip bonding
- radio-pure processes for SMD PCB productions
- space available for detector assembling in radon-free environment



➔ Utility for large-scale LAr and LXe detectors (DUNE, LEGEND, nEXO, NEXT, DARWIN, ...)

# Deep Underground Laboratories (DULs)

## Coordination

Increasing size of experiments calls for larger investment of human, technological and financial resources

### ➔ Need for a global strategy for international collaboration:

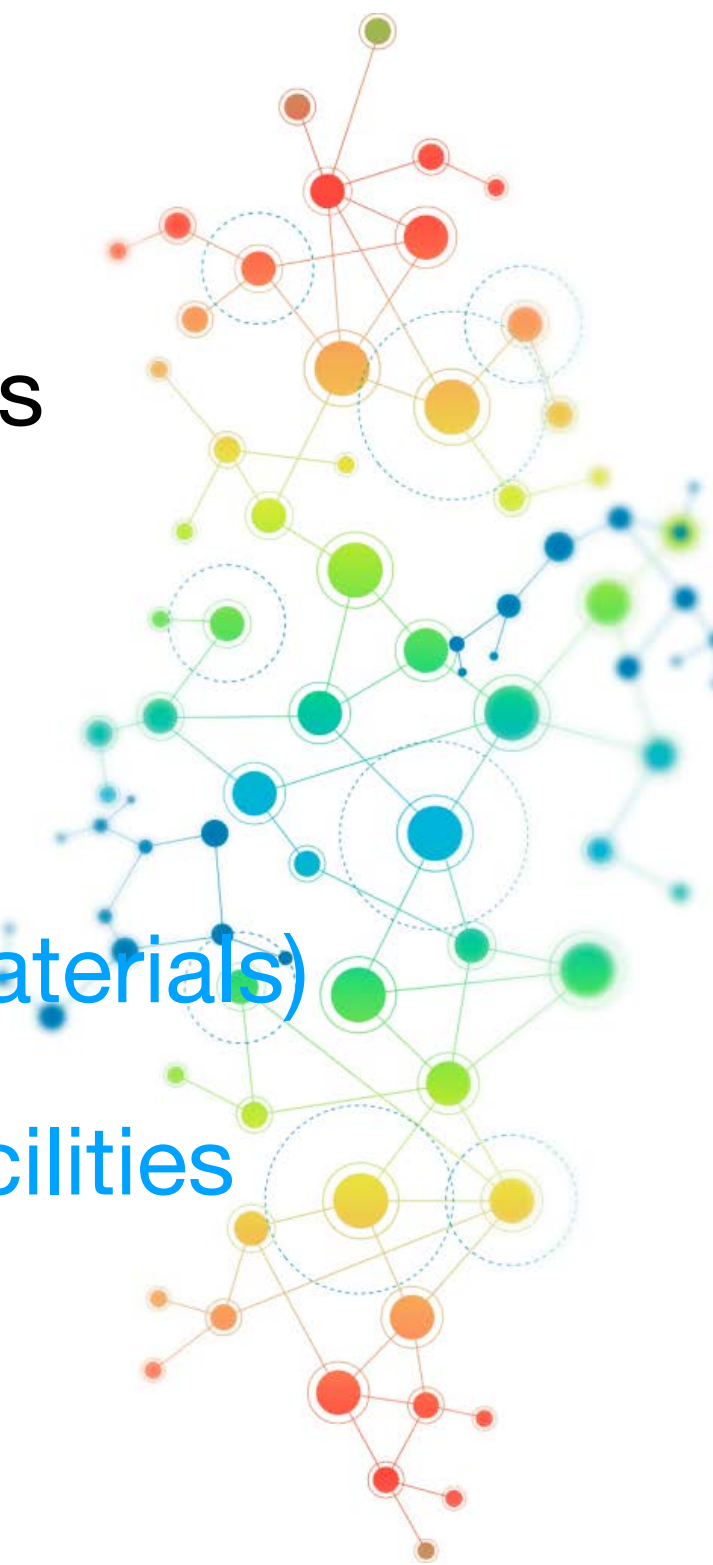
- specialized national laboratories → “network” by pooling resources and expertise
- supranational structure, on the CERN model, “distributed” across different experimental sites

### ➔ Transnational network across DULs

- common regulations
- operational standards and procedures (security, safety, management of resources and materials)
- open access policies, sustainable collaboration and shared infrastructure and support facilities

### Networking previous attempts:

- DULIA: attempt to establish a network between LNGS, LSC, LSM, Boulby and CallioLab
- SNOLAB + LNGS: proposal for an *Underground Global Research Infrastructure*



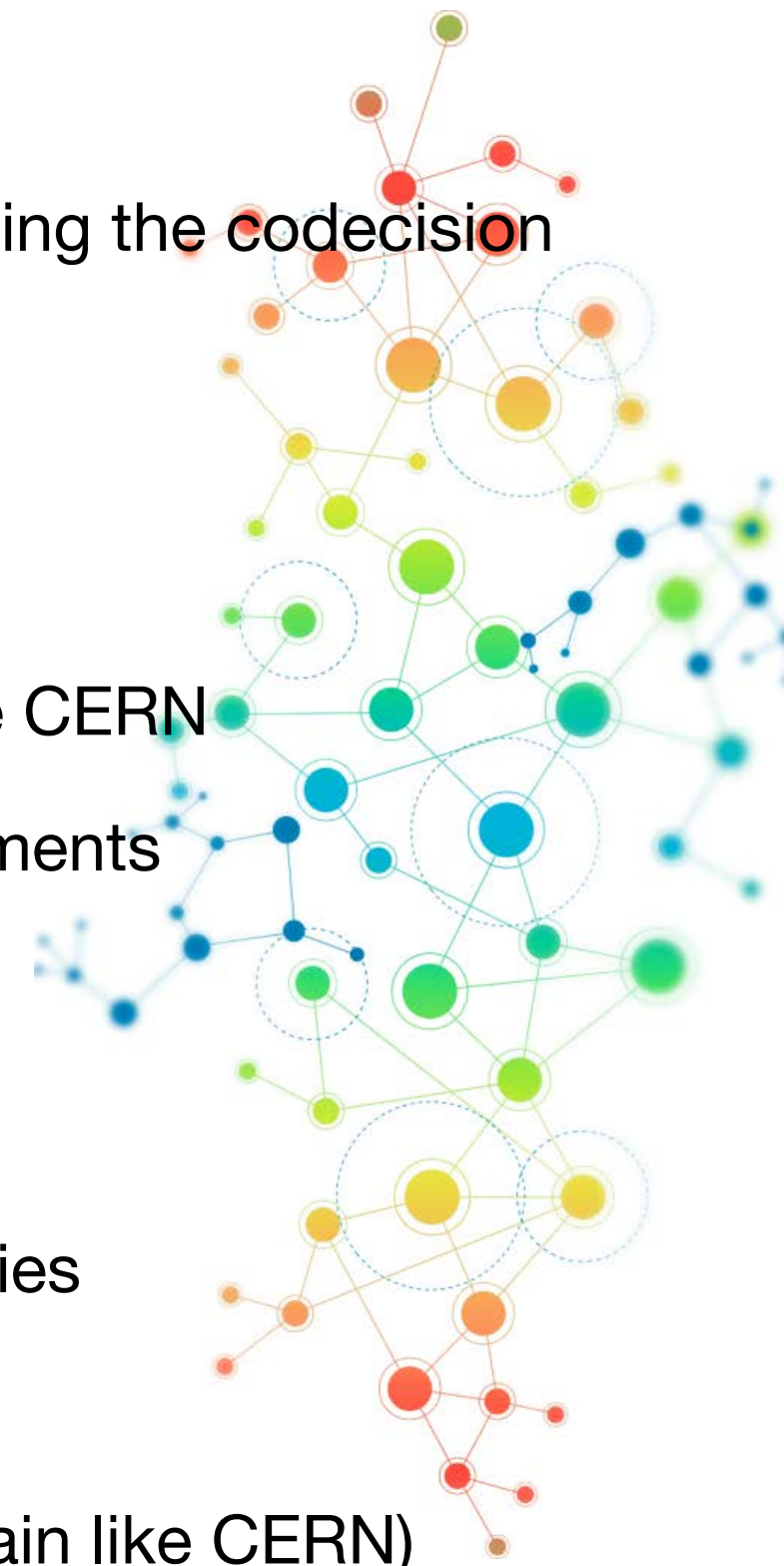
# European Laboratory of Underground Science

## A strategic initiative

- Proposal for a distributed but integrated structure of underground laboratories
- Coordinated environment for astroparticle physics in Europe and beyond
- Leveraging synergies and existing infrastructure & know-how
- Promoting new cross-disciplinary initiatives
- Crucial to further development of Underground Science infrastructures

### European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

- **Strategic empowerment**
  - Member States can benefit from introducing the **codecision** procedure in the supranational scenario
- **International organisation**
  - VAT exempt and duty free
  - with its own procurement procedures like CERN
  - more flexible to adapt to specific requirements
- **Governance** defined by the Statute
- **Funding** improved
- **Open access** for associated and third countries
  - simplified access rules
  - researcher and knowledge exchange (again like CERN)



# European Laboratory of Underground Science

## Fostering cooperation between APPEC community, DULs and CERN

- **Direct detection synergic with accelerator searches at CERN**
  - LHC and DD experiments probe complimentary range in WIMP and mediator masses
  - discovery of new particle at LHC would need confirmation to prove it is the cosmological DM
  - discovery of WIMP in DD would boost construction of a new-generation particle collider
- **Technologies**
  - cryostat technology
  - large-volume cryogenics and purification
  - TPC design and optimization, high voltage delivery
  - SiPM + cold electronics
- **Increased collaboration**
  - common challenges with LAr neutrino detectors (DAQ, optics, etc.)
  - large overlap of European LAr neutrino and dark matter communities



➔ CERN open to DM community to enhance synergies resulting from development of common technologies

# Key Points

- Achieving background levels below neutrino floor main challenge for next generation DD experiments
- Technology innovations push forward ultra low background techniques with potential interdisciplinary benefits
- Advanced infrastructures distributed in national underground laboratories
- Emerging need to improve coordination among DULs
- Strategic initiative to establish and operate an European Laboratory of Underground Science