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# **High power superconducting electron linear accelerators for industrial applications:**

## **Technology development and experimental results at Fermilab**

Jayakar Charles Thangaraj,  
IARC,  
Fermilab

# Superconducting radiofrequency (SRF) technology and discovery science

## SRF benefits discovery science machines

- High wall-plug efficiency
- High average beam power
- Continuous wave operation

## Continues to progress.....

- Niobium cavities achieve >50 MV/m in 2 K liquid helium
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavities attain >20 MV/m in 4.5 K liquid helium





# Current SRF “science” accelerators are long and complex



**LCLS-II Cryomodule**

~40 feet~school bus (37 cryomodules)



# SRF Technology transition for industrial application

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## SRF tech for discovery science

IARC @Fermilab\*



- SRF accelerator relevant industrial applications? (Market pull)
- Adapt SRF tech for industrial settings? (Technology push via partnerships)

## Broader use of SRF tech for Industrial and commercial application

\*Jlab, Cornell and others are looking into this as well

# IARC is building a simple, compact SRF accelerator for industrial applications

<u>Technology</u>	<u>Energy</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Issues/Potential</u>
Room temperature (Copper ) technology	Few MeV	Up to few hundred kW's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency</li> <li>• Heat loss</li> <li>• Mature technology</li> </ul>
Superconducting linacs (Niobium)	10 MeV	100 kW- 1+ MW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CW</li> <li>• Excellent energy efficiency</li> <li>• “Backbone” technology of choice for &gt; \$1 B class modern science machines</li> <li>• Complex cryogenics</li> <li>• 100 m structures</li> </ul>
Compact SRF (Niobium-Tin)	10 MeV	1 MW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple cryogenics</li> <li>• ~ 1-m structure</li> <li>• <b>All benefits of SRF minus the complexity</b></li> </ul>

# Recent SRF Technology Breakthroughs:

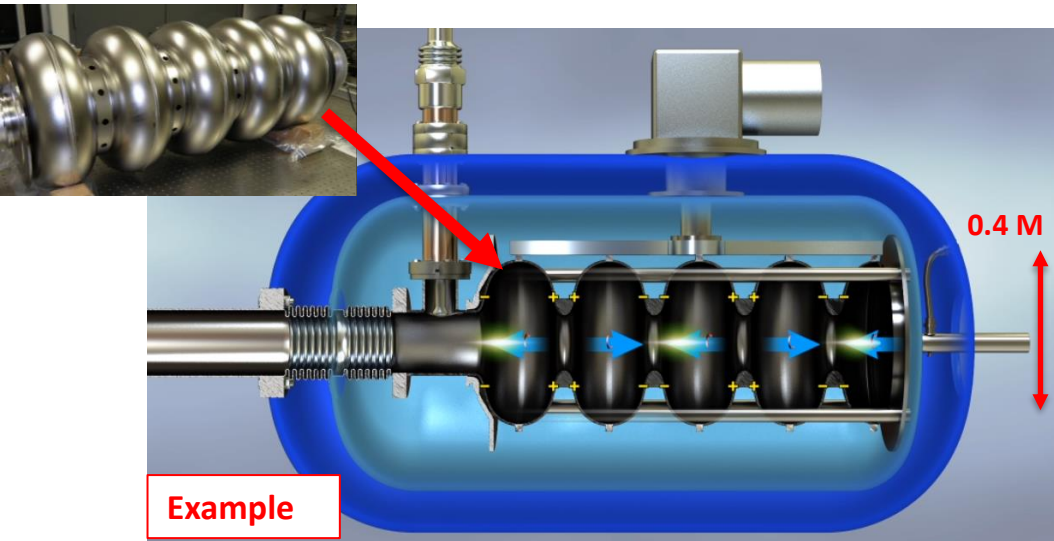
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- Higher temperature superconductors: Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn coated cavities dramatically lower cryogenic losses and allow higher operating temperatures ( e.g. 4 K vs 1.8 K)
- Commercial Cryocoolers: new devices with higher capacity at 4 K enables turn-key cryogenic systems
- Conduction Cooling: possible with low cavity losses → dramatically simplifies cryostats (no Liquid Helium !)
- New RF Power technology: injection locked magnetrons allow phase/amplitude control at high efficiency and much lower cost per watt (covered by Tom Kroc talk)
- Integrated electron guns: reduce accelerator complexity

**Enable compact industrial SRF accelerators at low cost**



# Ideas integrated into a simple SRF accelerator



## Final machine parameters

- Energy:  $\sim 10$  MeV
- Power: 200 kW – 1 MW
- Compact
- Simple, reliable
- Affordable

- 650 MHz elliptical cavity (well understood from PIP-II)
- Modular design scales to MW class industrial applications

**Staged approach: First demonstrate a 20 kW prototype including all the key technologies**

# Food and Medical Sterilization

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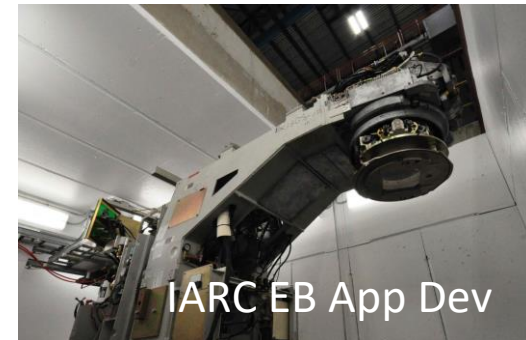
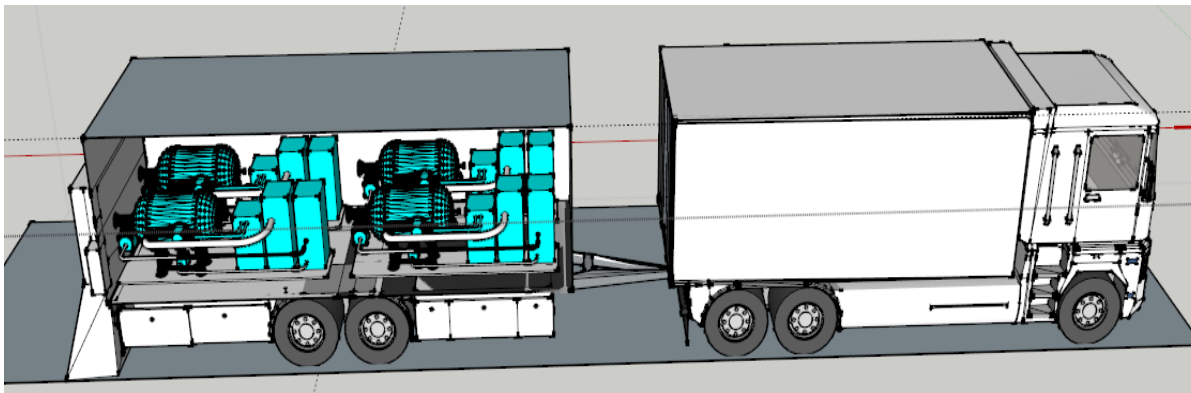
- Electron beams can be used directly or to create x-rays to accomplish many tasks currently accomplished with Co60 radioisotopes
  - FNAL recently completed a study for NNSA on impediments to change.
    - One impediment is the need for high power, reliable, cost effective electron accelerators
- Currently we are designing and building a 650 MHz, 1.5 cell, 20 kW prototype for integration for medical device sterilization
- New Possibilities:
  - Cheap, compact, simple, industrial electron accelerators can enable “in line” sterilization at the point of manufacture



# In-Situ Cross-Link of Materials

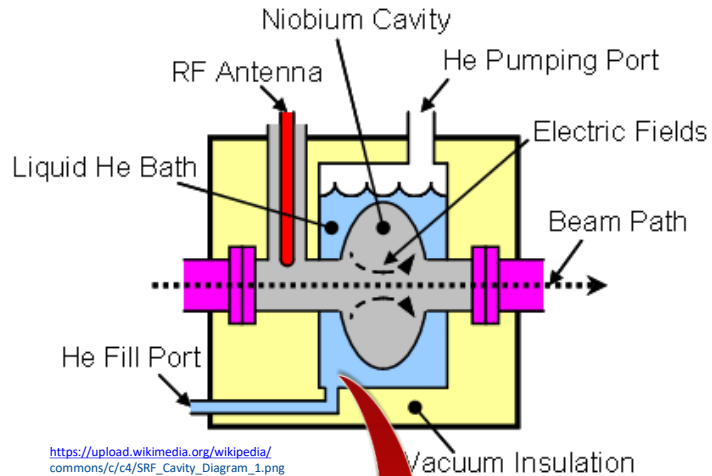
Electron accelerators are widely used to cross link materials

- High power mobile accelerators enable entirely new construction techniques that can alter materials properties after placement
  - e.g. Improve the strength, toughness, and/or temperature range
- One application: Improved Pavement



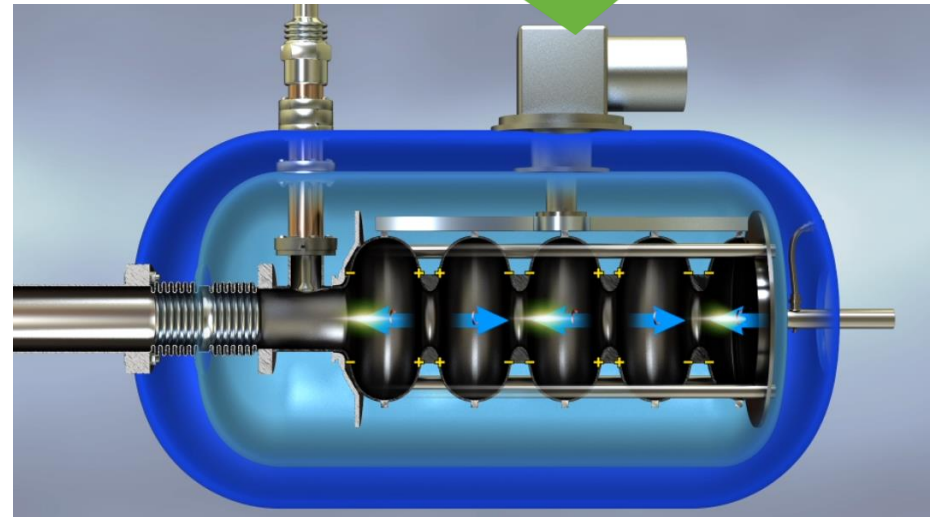
- Collaborating to create a tough, strong binder with improved temperature performance vs bitumen to extend pavement lifetime
- We are designing a 1.3 GHz external injected electron accelerator to deliver 8 MeV beam.

# Vision: Access SRF technology minus the complexity



Take out liquid helium  
(and its complexities)

Cool with a cryocooler  
(simpler refrigerator)



# Constraints from the application side help us push!!

## Electron beam radiation processing applications

- Water/sludge/medical waste decontamination
- Flue gas cleanup
- Medical device sterilization
- Strengthening of asphalt pavements

## Radiation processing requires:

- Beam energy: 0.5-10 MeV
- Beam power:  $\gg 100$  kW

## Industrial settings demand:

- Low capital and operating expense
- Robust, reliable, turnkey operation

[http://accelconf.web.cern.ch/AccelConf/napac2016/talks/thb3io02\\_talk.pdf](http://accelconf.web.cern.ch/AccelConf/napac2016/talks/thb3io02_talk.pdf)

1-meter long SRF linac (niobium or Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavities) operating at 10 MV/m can provide the required energy

Small SRF surface resistance enables continuous wave (cw) operation, leading to high average beam power

At present, SRF accelerators are designed to operate with complex liquid helium cryogenic systems!

# Simplifying SRF cryogenics for industrial settings

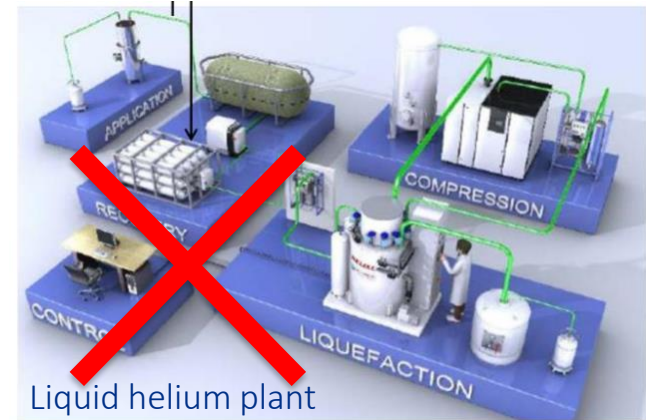
**Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity dissipates ~6-8 W @ ~4.5 K**

(1 m x 10 MV/m cw; 650 MHz/1.3 GHz)



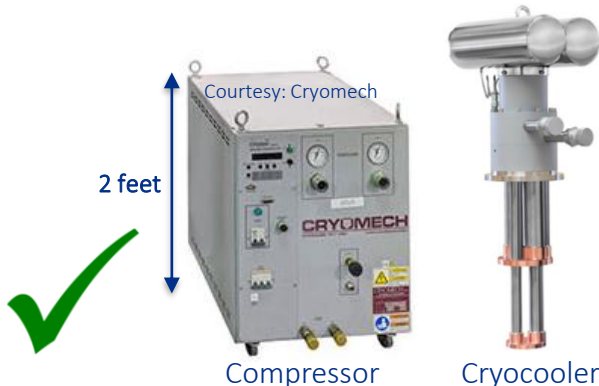
**Use commercial, off-the-shelf 4 K cryocoolers**

(helium plant not required)



## Cryocoolers offer

- Closed cycle cooling at ~45 K and ~4 K
- Compact, small footprint
- Reliability (MTBM > 2 years non-stop operation)
- Turnkey operation (no trained operator needed, turn ON/OFF with push of a button)



Compressor

Cryocooler

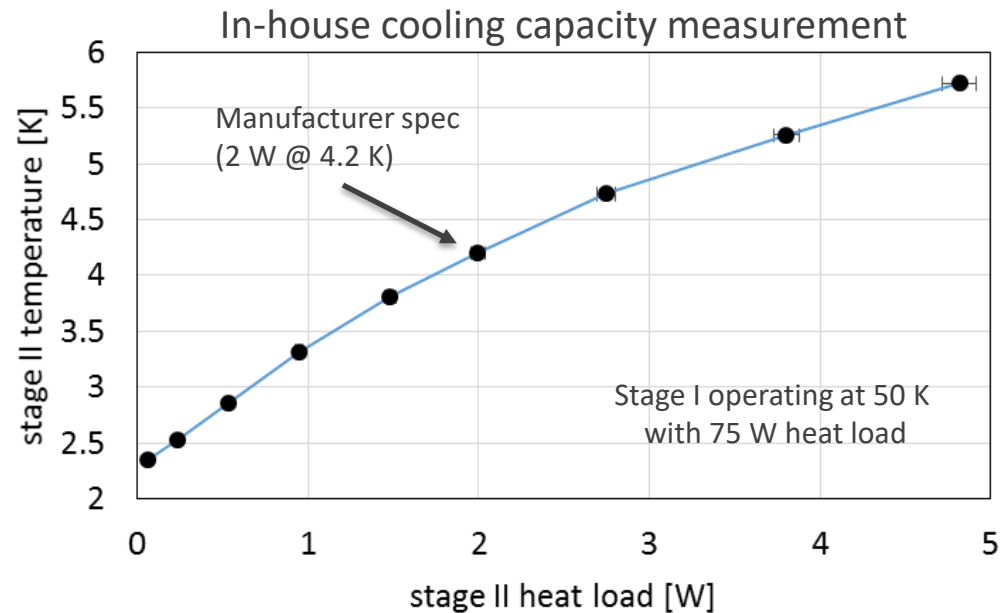


# Push of a button to reach 4.2 K

- Selection, procurement, and test of cryocoolers

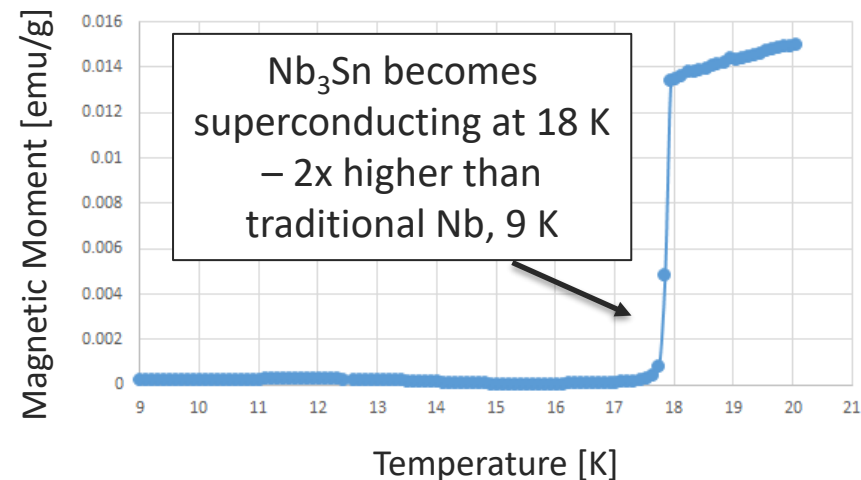
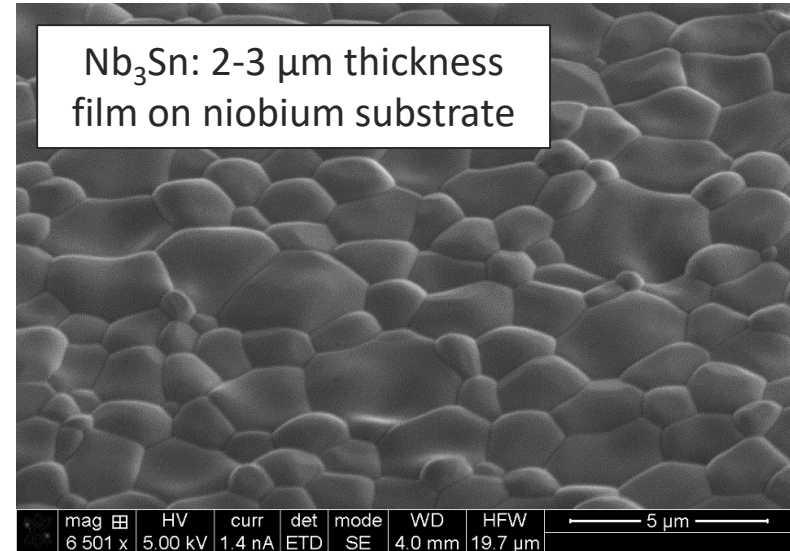
## Cryomech PT420

- Highest cooling power in the market
- Low vibrations, low maintenance



# General concept of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Films

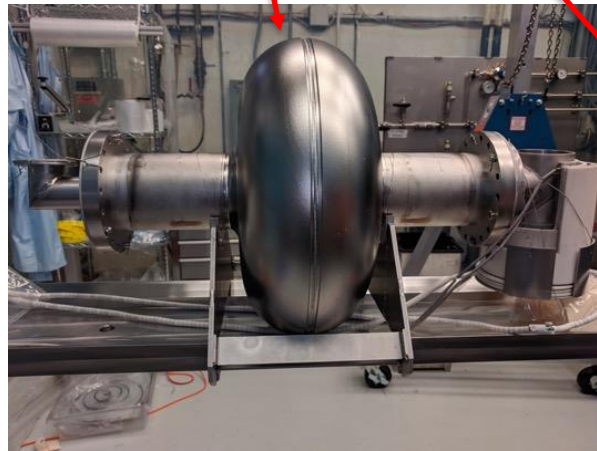
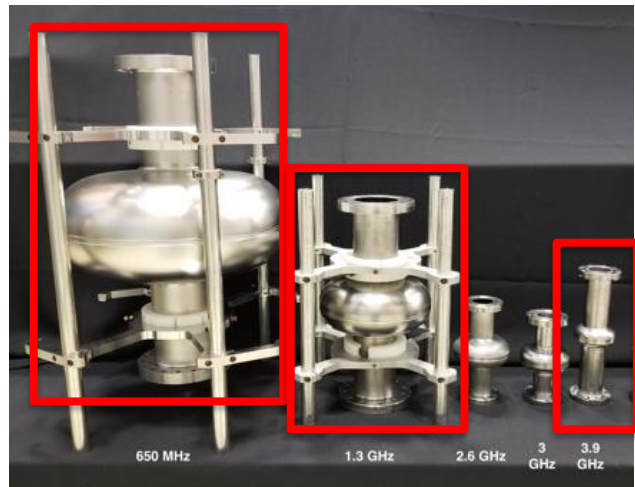
- Traditional niobium has tens of watts of dissipation at 4.4 K
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn film provides ~order of magnitude smaller heat load for same conditions
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn goals:
  - Establish capability of coating cavities with high performance at Fermilab
  - Develop Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn coating at 650 MHz (larger cavity)
  - Develop Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn coating of multicell cavities



# Progress of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn Films

- Frequency dependence of  $R_{\text{BCS}}$ ,  $R_{\text{res}}$ , quench, sensitivity
- 650 MHz is an interesting step between scaling up from a 1-cell to a 9-cell 1.3 GHz cavity
- Better understand how vapor diffusion process scales with different sized substrates

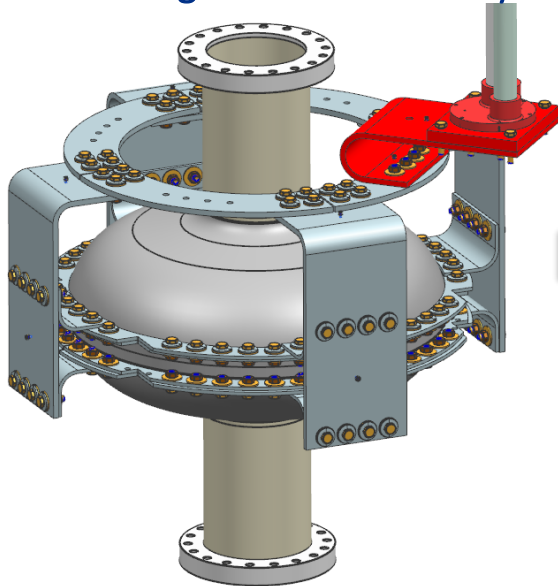
Fermilab Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn SRF program: a number of 1.3 GHz cavities already coated and tested; these are the first 650 MHz and 3.9 GHz cavities



# Design of the conduction link design

Mechanical design; verification *via* multiphysics simulations

Al conduction link bolted to the Nb rings around the cavity

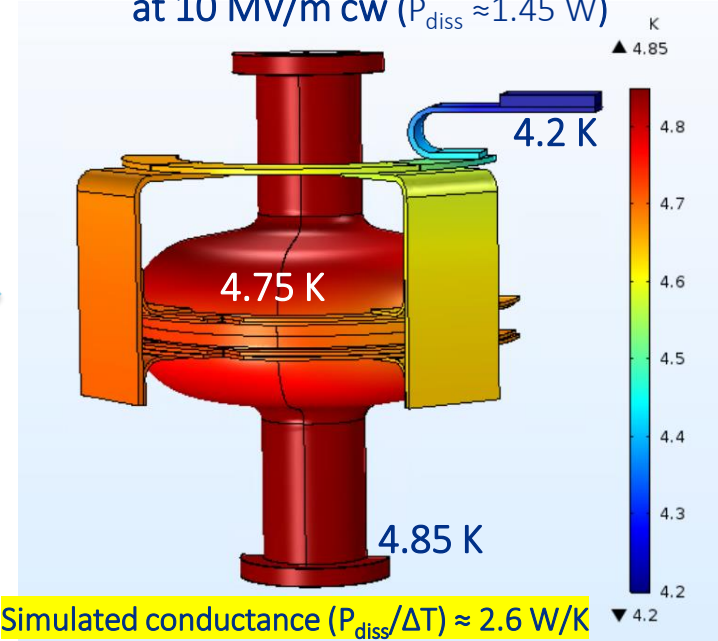


Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn surface resistance  
(BCS from SRIMP + 10 nΩ)

RF + thermal simulations

Thermal conductivities,  
contact resistance,  
cryocooler capacity

Steady state temperature profile  
at 10 MV/m cw ( $P_{\text{diss}} \approx 1.45 \text{ W}$ )



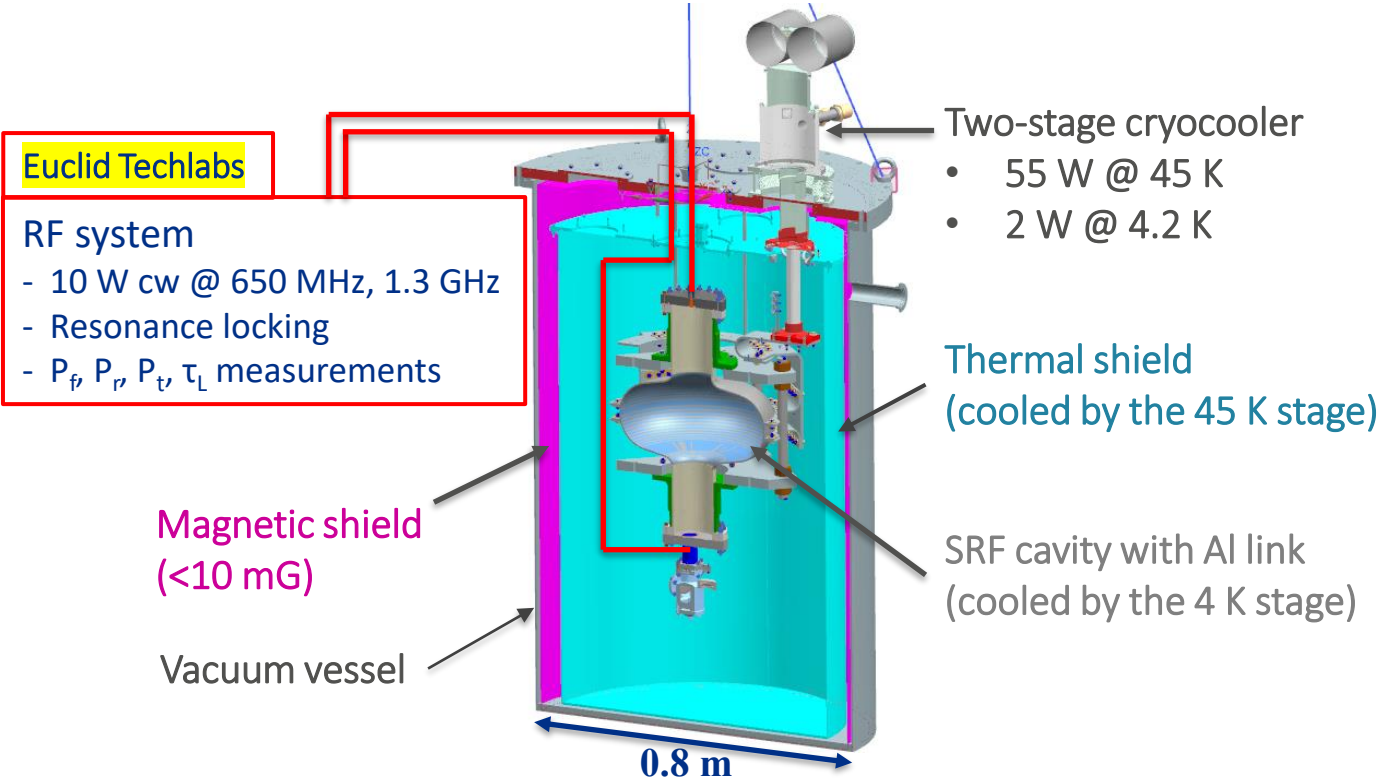
J. Thompson and R.C. Dhuley, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1546003>

R.C. Dhuley et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TASC.2019.2901252>



# Conduction-cooled SRF cavity measurement setup at Fermilab

R.C. Dhuley *et al.*, *IOP Conf. Ser.: Mat. Sci. Eng.*, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/755/1/012136>

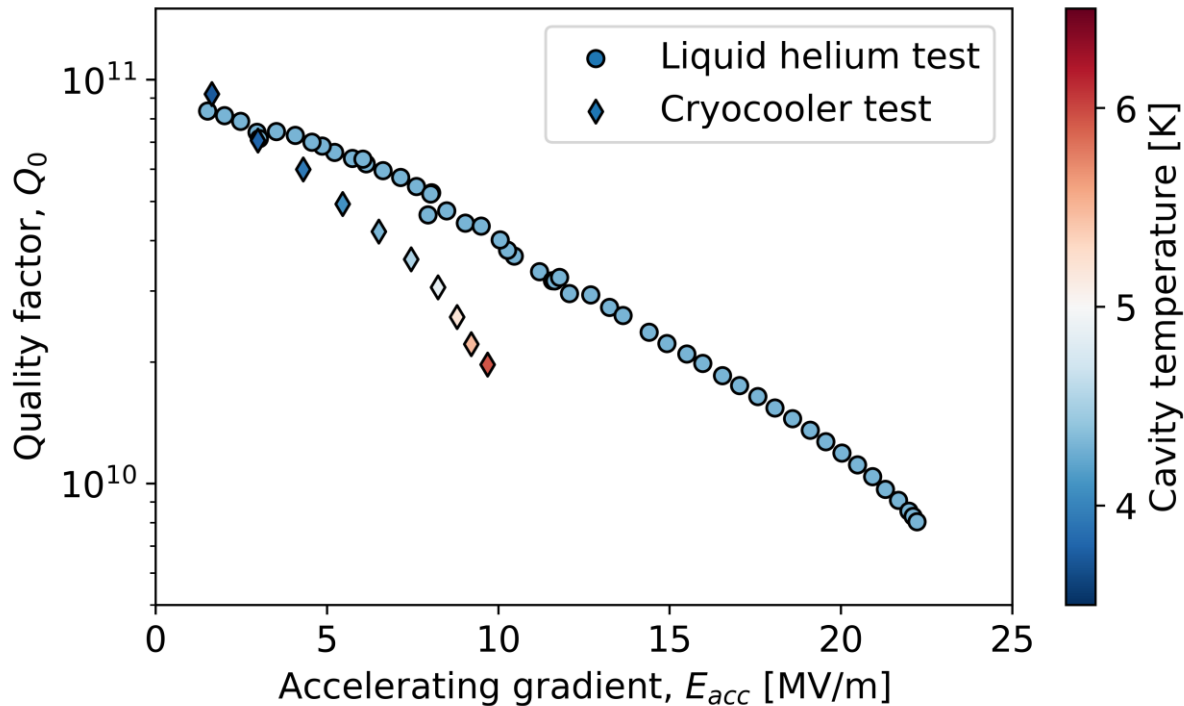


# Recent results for the conduction-cooled Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity

A three-year program initiated by LDRD

R. Dhuley, S. Posen, M. Geelhoed, O. Prokofiev, J. Thangaraj, *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6668/ab82f0>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of Science | Science Highlights

## Cryogen-free Superconducting RF Cavity

A team from Fermilab has demonstrated cryogen-free operation of a niobium superconducting radiofrequency cavity.



Towards cryogen-free SRF particle accelerators

Reached 10 MV/m!!!

This is the backbone technology for the accelerator prototype

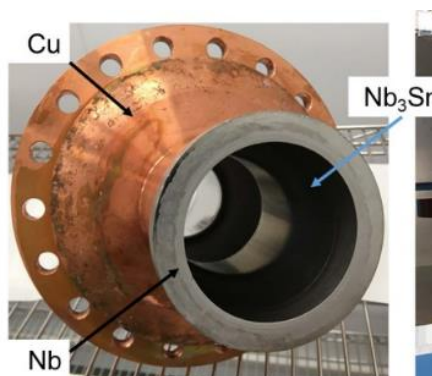
# A new frontier in SRF is simplifying the cooling methods!

Fermilab



- 650 MHz
- welded niobium rings

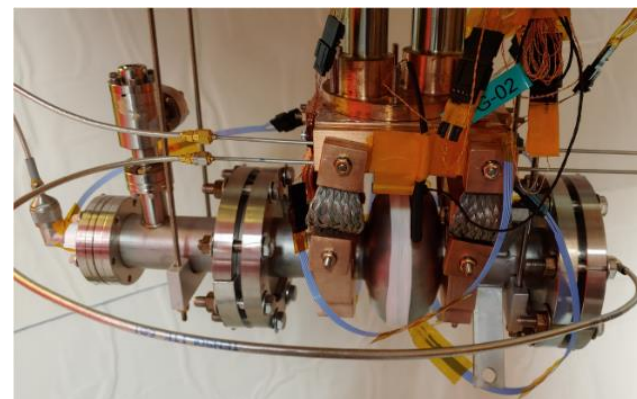
Jefferson Lab



<https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/755/1/012136>

- 1.5 GHz
- Cold sprayed + electrodeposited copper

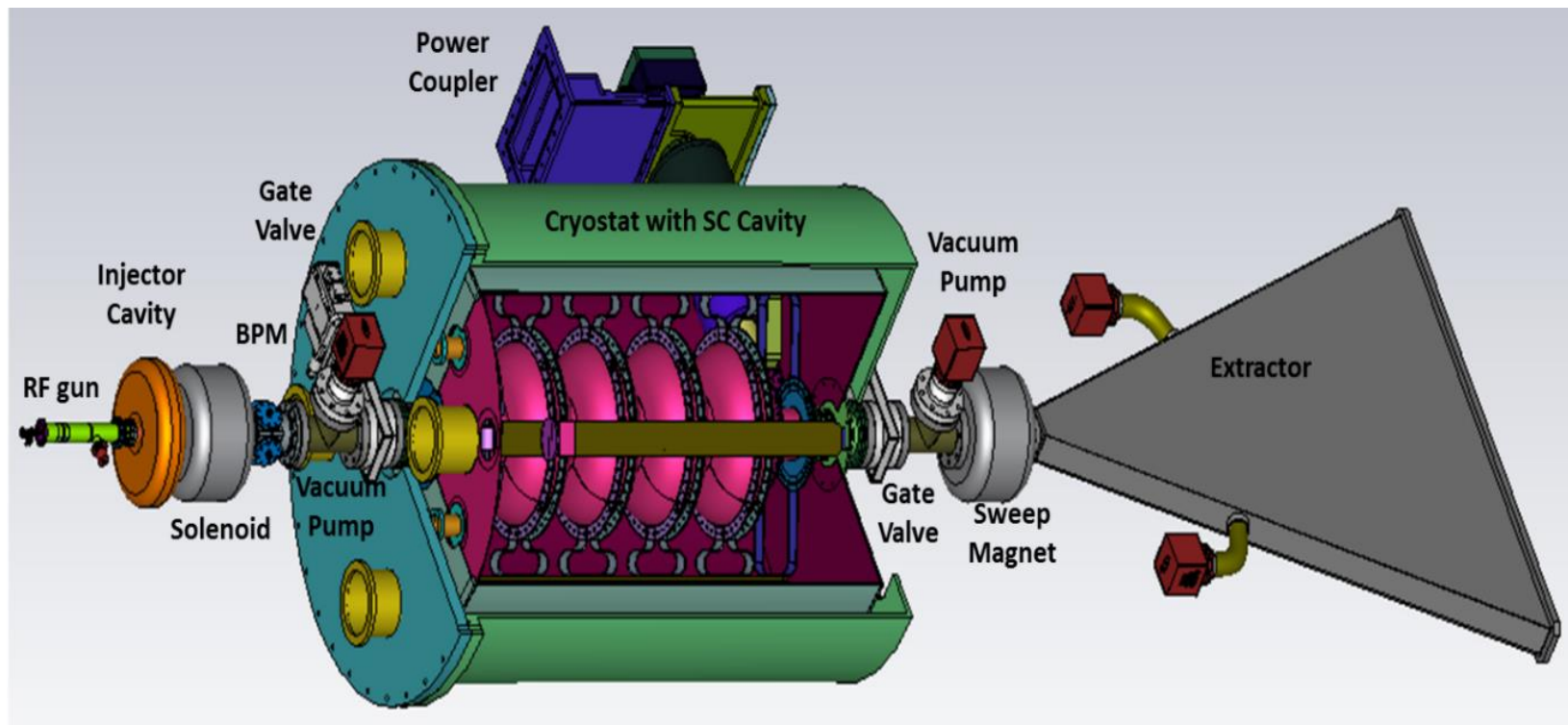
Cornell University



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.11755>

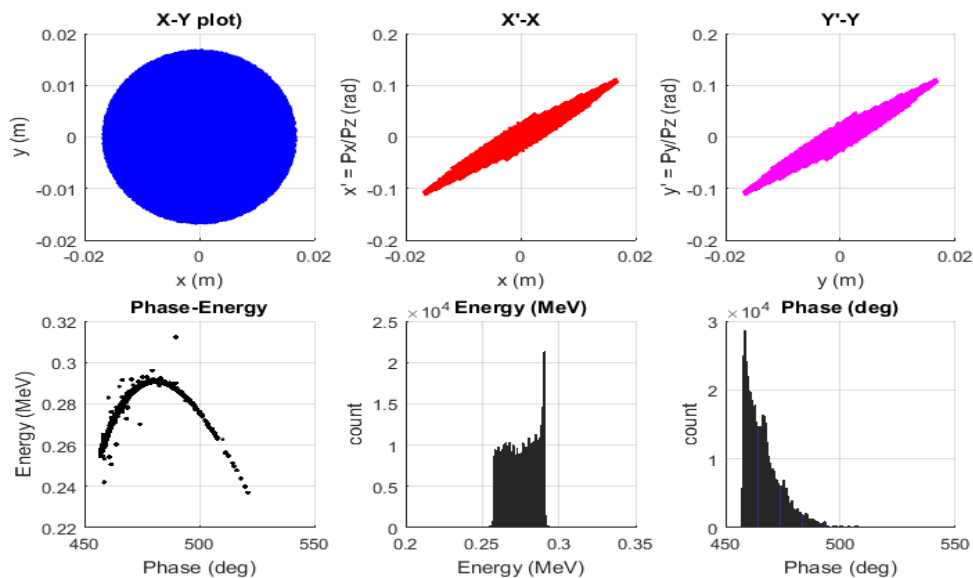
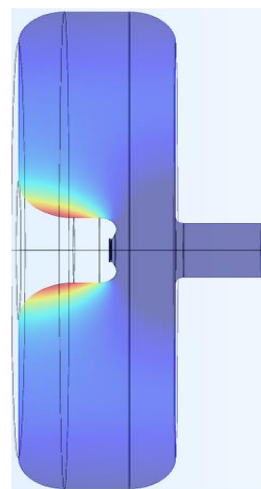
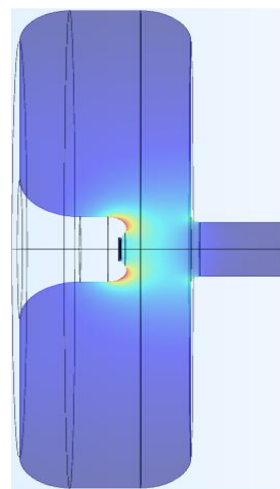
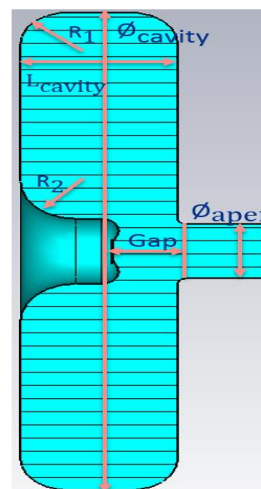
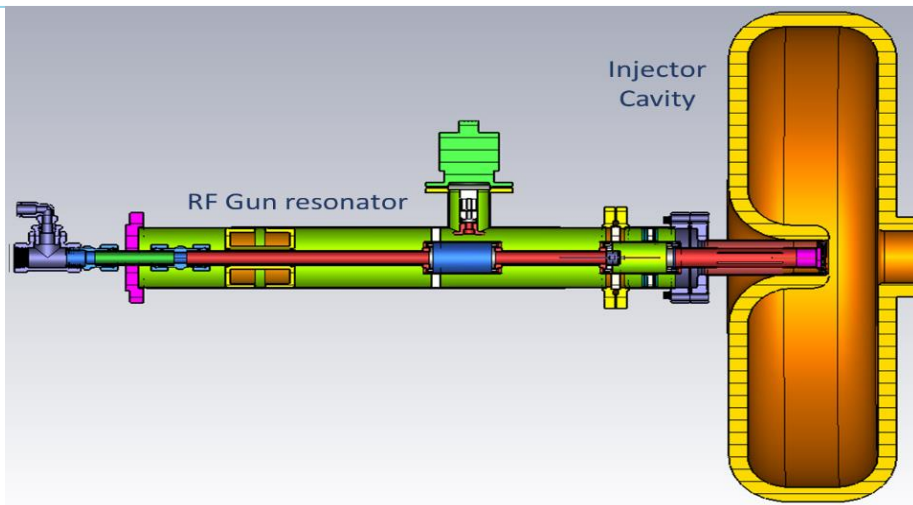
- 2.6 GHz
- Copper clamps

## A CASE: CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OF A 10-MEGAWATT ELECTRON BEAM IRRADIATION FACILITY





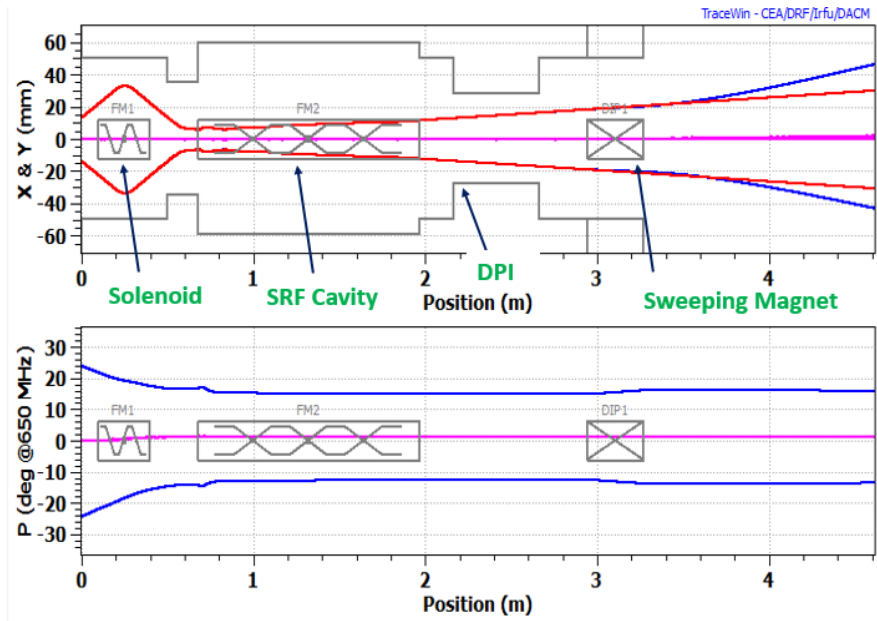
# Beam parameters at the end of injection section.



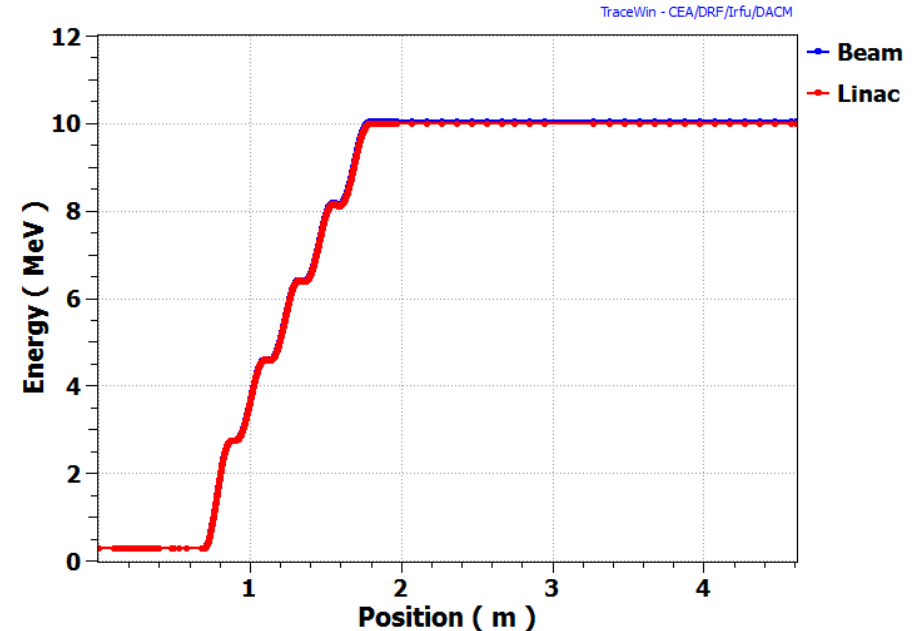
Parameter	Value, mm
$\phi_{\text{cavity}}$	308
$\phi_{\text{aperture}}$	35
$R_1$	20
$R_2$	24
Gap	29.6
$L_{\text{cavity}}$	68.2

# Beam Envelope Simulation from external injection (10 MW)

## 3 $\sigma$ beam envelopes



## Beam Energy

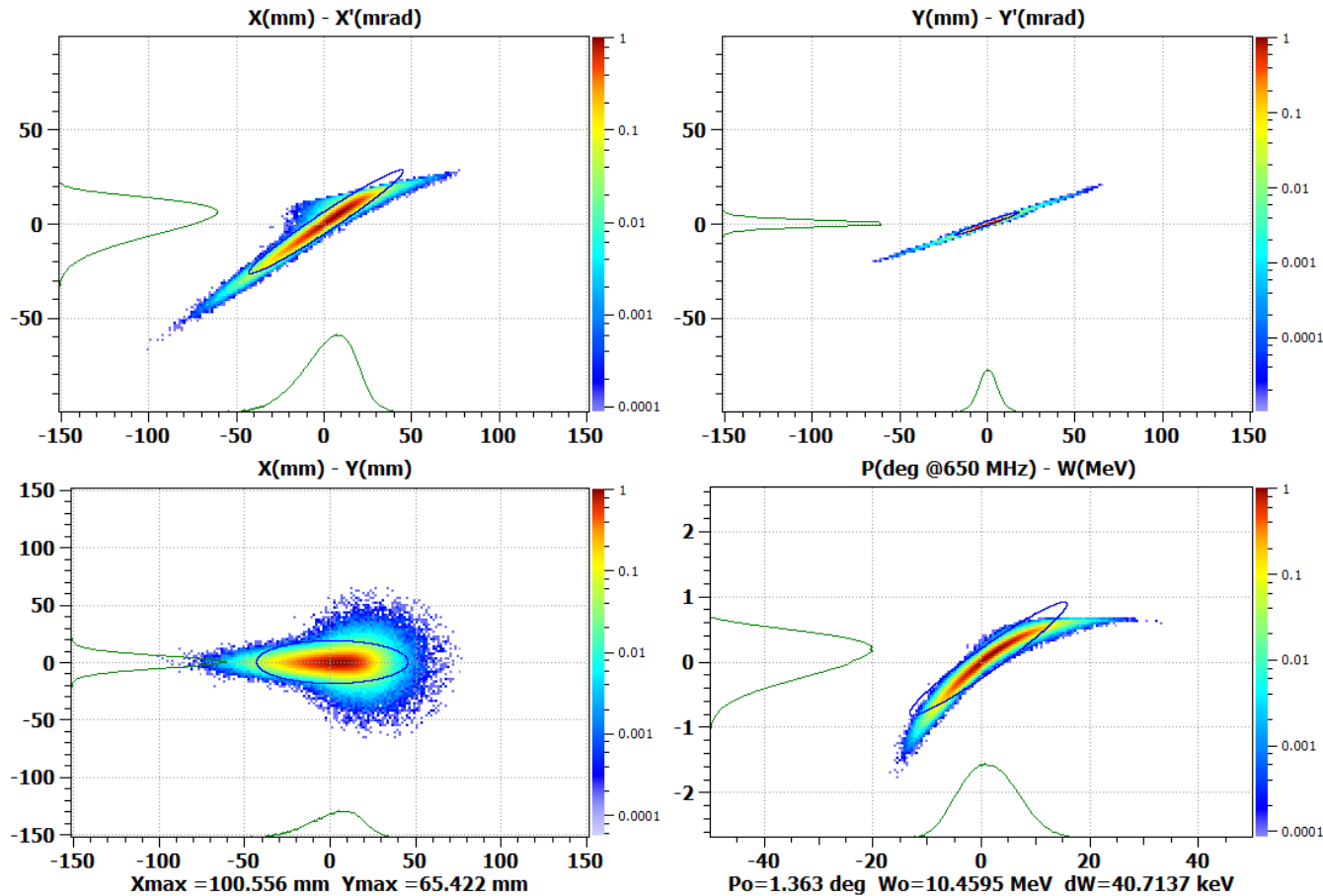


- Beamdynamics simulation was performed using TRACEWIN.
- 1M macro particles corresponds to 100mA beam current was tracked through the beamline.
- Initial distribution was generated using Twiss parameters and beam emittance obtained from RF gun simulation .

# Beam Simulation from external injection (10 MW)

TraceWin - CEA/DRF/Irfu/DACM

Ele #37 [4.3145 m] NGOOD : 999573 / 1000000



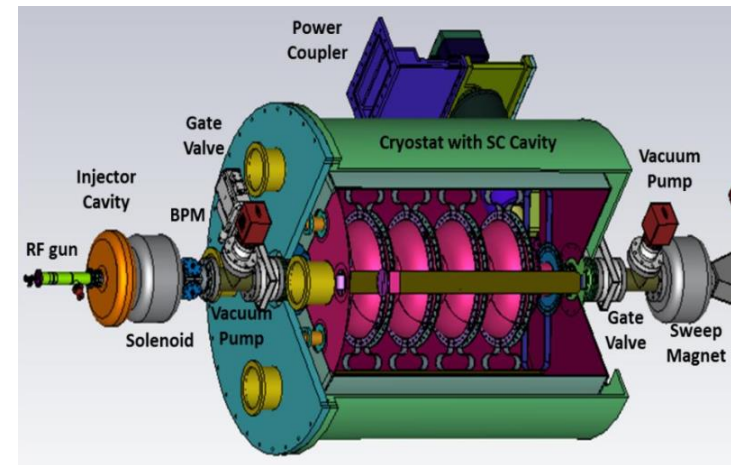
- Output beam distribution at the end of the beamline (very low losses!)

# Design of a 10 MeV, 1000 kW (100 mA) module

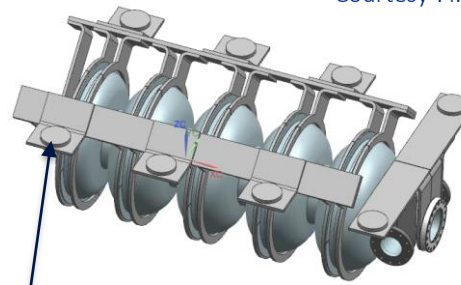
PI: Ram Dhuley

- ✓ RF design of a 5-cell 650 MHz cavity
- ✓ Beam transport simulations (external injection 300 keV --> 10 MeV)
- ✓ Estimation of 4 K heat load, cryocooler selection
- ✓ Design and thermal simulations of conduction link
- Cryostat design and integration (thermal and magnetic shield, vacuum vessel, couplers)
- Cost assessment

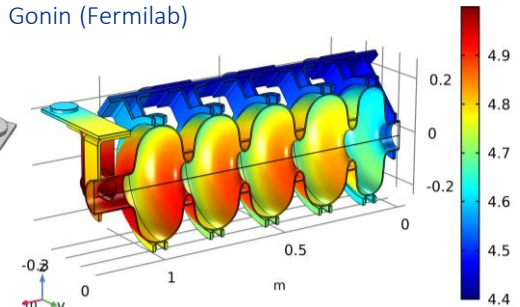
euclid  
BEAMLABS



Courtesy : I. Gonin (Fermilab)



8 x PT420 mounting pads



Courtesy : R. Kostin (Euclid Techlabs)



# Cost economics of SRF industrial accelerators

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1. What type of cost? CAPEX or OPEX? Application driven.  
e.g. Mobile or in-line or contract. Energy and power varies.

2. What is the TRL and trends? Where is the cost driver?

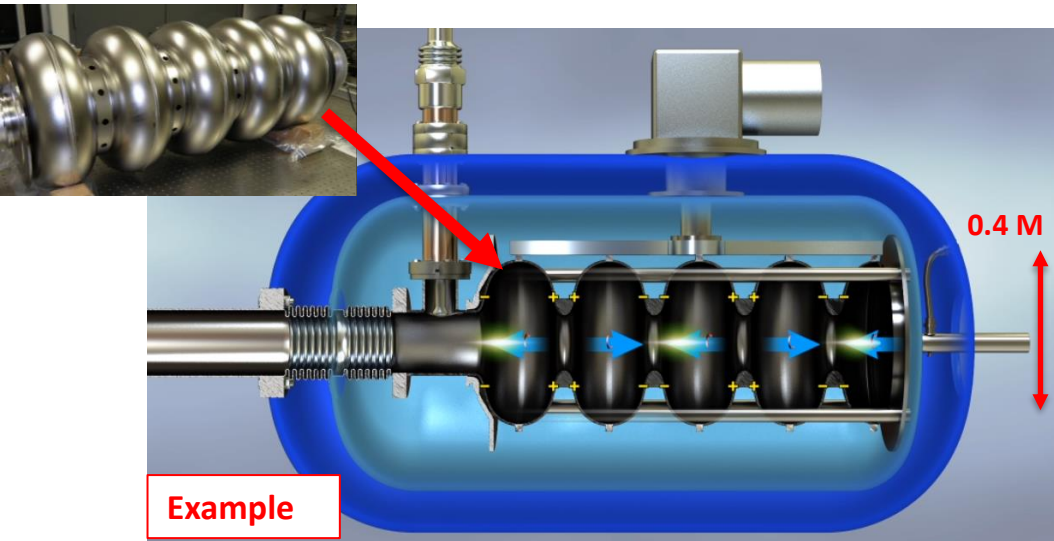
- The major cost-driver is the RF source for MW application. **A cheap, long-lifetime, high-efficiency RF source** will be significant cost-saving technology for most high-volume application.
- Nb3Sn tech allows more gradient but to reap need higher capacity cryocooler.  
Space typically is not an issue for non-portable applications

3. Overhead: Safety and redundancy for certain application? Stand-by module, shielding, complementary assets

**\*\*Warning\*\***: Most of this at R&D". SRF Tech and customer/application expectations should be kept in focus



# A simple SRF accelerator for industrial application



## Final machine parameters

- Energy:  $\sim 10$  MeV
- Power: 200 kW – 1 MW
- Compact
- Simple, reliable
- Affordable

The IARC at Fermilab has partnered with U.S. government agencies to create the first article of an entirely new class of industrial SRF-based electron accelerators that use no liquid cryogenes

Thank you!!!