



Multiple purpose research reactors for the 21st century

Prof. Dr. Winfried Petry,
Scientific Director of
Forschungsneutronenquelle Heinz Meier Leibnitz (FRM II),
Technische Universität München



Technische Universität München

Multiple purpose research reactors for the 21st century

Prof. Dr. Winfried Petry

Scientific Director

Forschungsneutronenquelle FRM II,

Technische Universität

München

Research reactors for what?

- **Materials testing, fuel development, components testing**
- **Zero power reactors**
- **Generation IV**
- **Training**
- **Radiosotopes**
- **Irradiations, Si-doping, NAA, PGAA, ...**
- **Gain, enlarge (or keep) knowledge in nuclear technology**
- **Beam tube experiments, fundamental & science**
- **.....**

Answer depends on the particular needs!

- **Country with mature nuclear industry playing on the world market**
- **Developing country, which wishes to build nuclear power plants**
- **Country steps out of nuclear power**
- **Nuclear medicine needs isotopes**

In any case a well maintained research reactor is an investment for > 40 years!

- **During > 40 years needs may change**
- **Structural materials will suffer under irradiation, fatigue ...**
- **The construction has to foresee changes ...**
- **A RR must be reparable, easily, each part!**
- **An environment for handling strong radioactive sources is needed**

Involve your future users in the definition, construction, operation ...

- **Build the RR near to your users, near to universities, scientific laboratories, ...**
- **Is there a suitable infrastructure to reach the RR and to transport strong radioactive sources?**

Involve the greater public, explain, be transparent,

- **RRs reactor must be accessible to the larger public at (almost) any time!**
- **Make all problems of the nuclear facility public, immediately, don't hide anything!**

A multiple purpose RR may satisfy most of your needs

... without sacrifices on the performance of the different tasks.

- **Diversity!**
- **A multiple purpose RR should be a user facility.**

A few decisions have to be taken

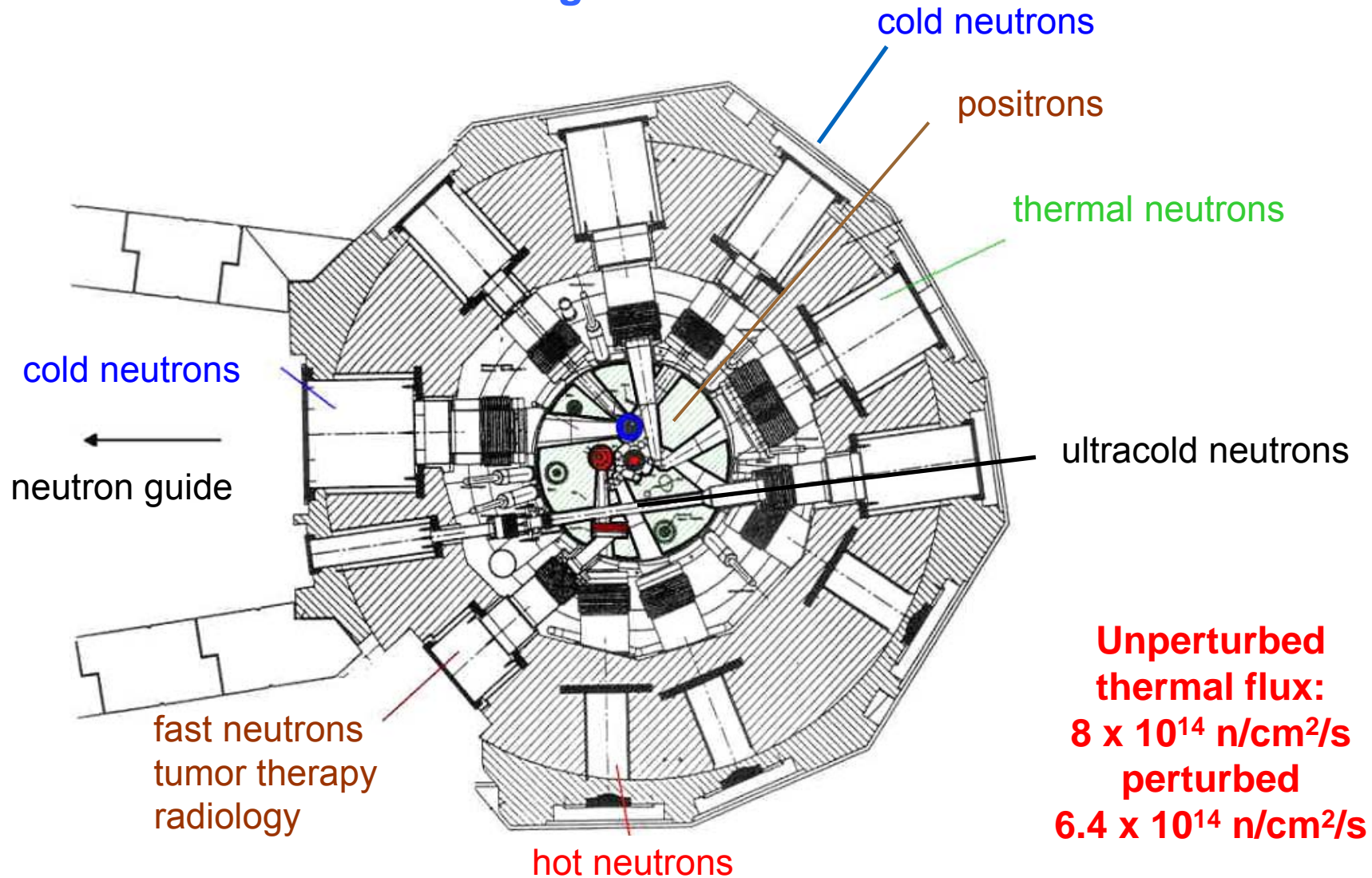
- **$\Phi_{th} > \text{ or } < 3 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$?**
- **Inverted geometry?**
- **D₂O moderator or H₂O/Be reflector?**
- **D₂O much more expensive, Tritium emission!**



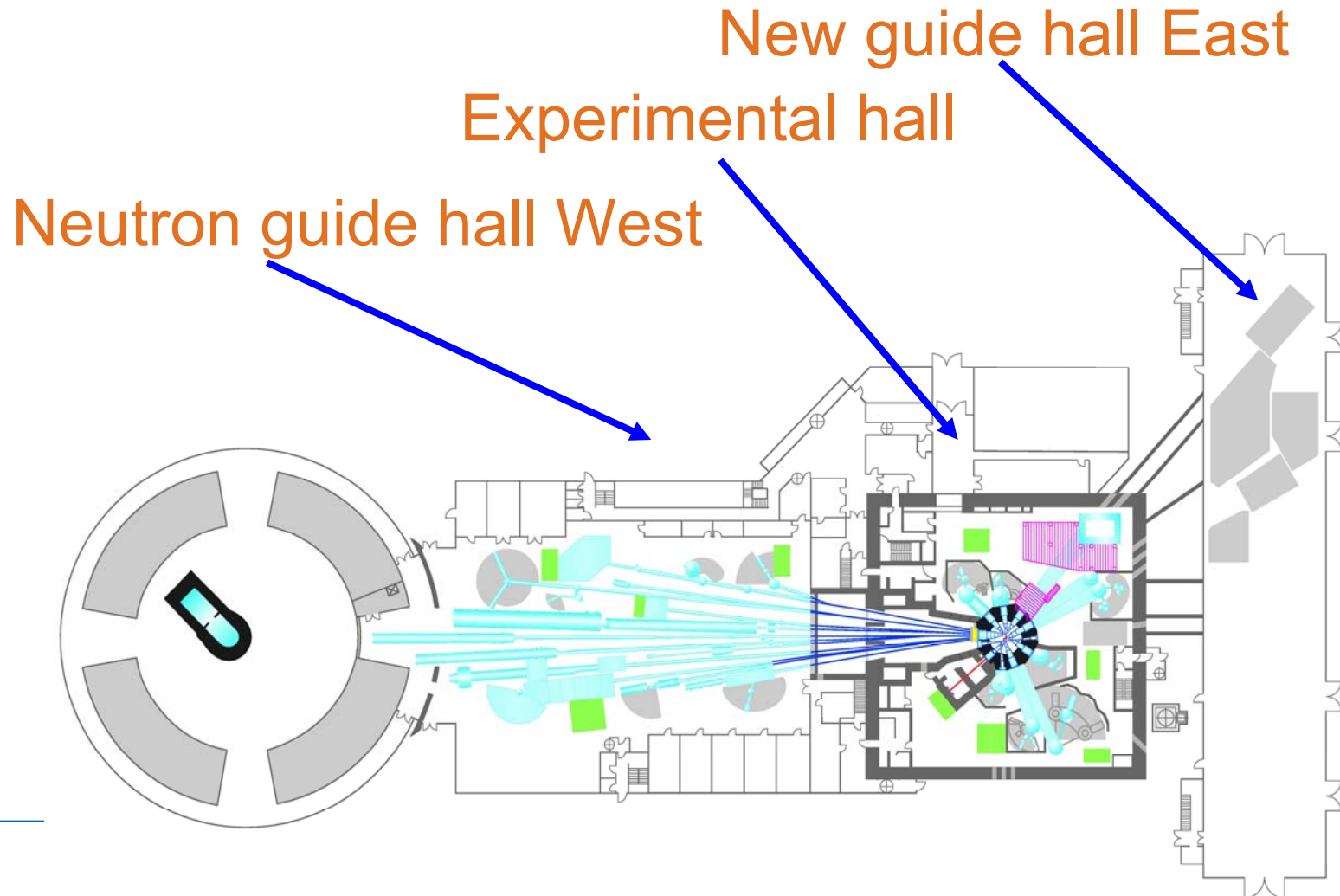
Campus
of the
TUM in
Garching
near
Munich



Neutrons of different wavelengths



Foresee plenty of possibilities for extensions



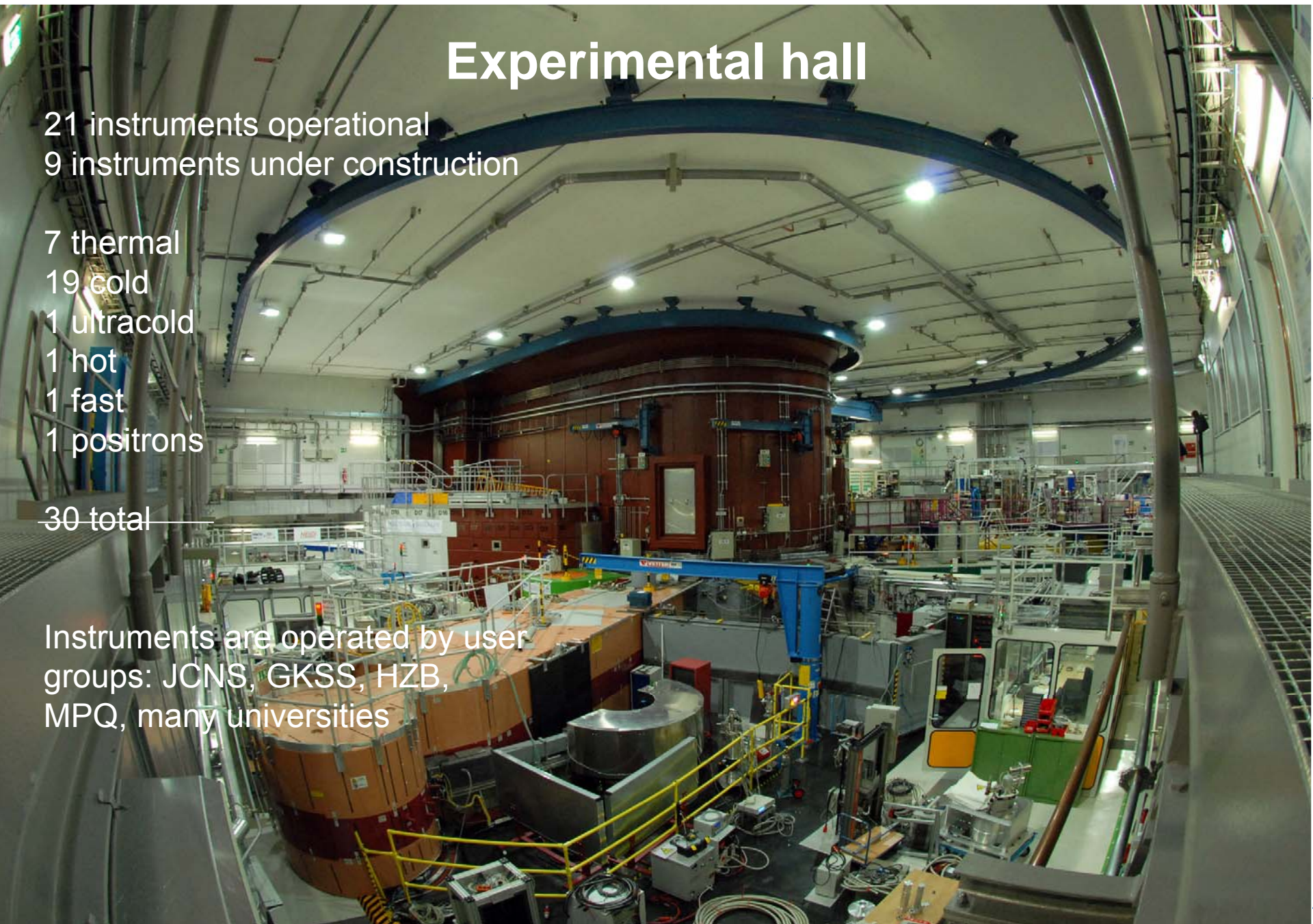
Experimental hall

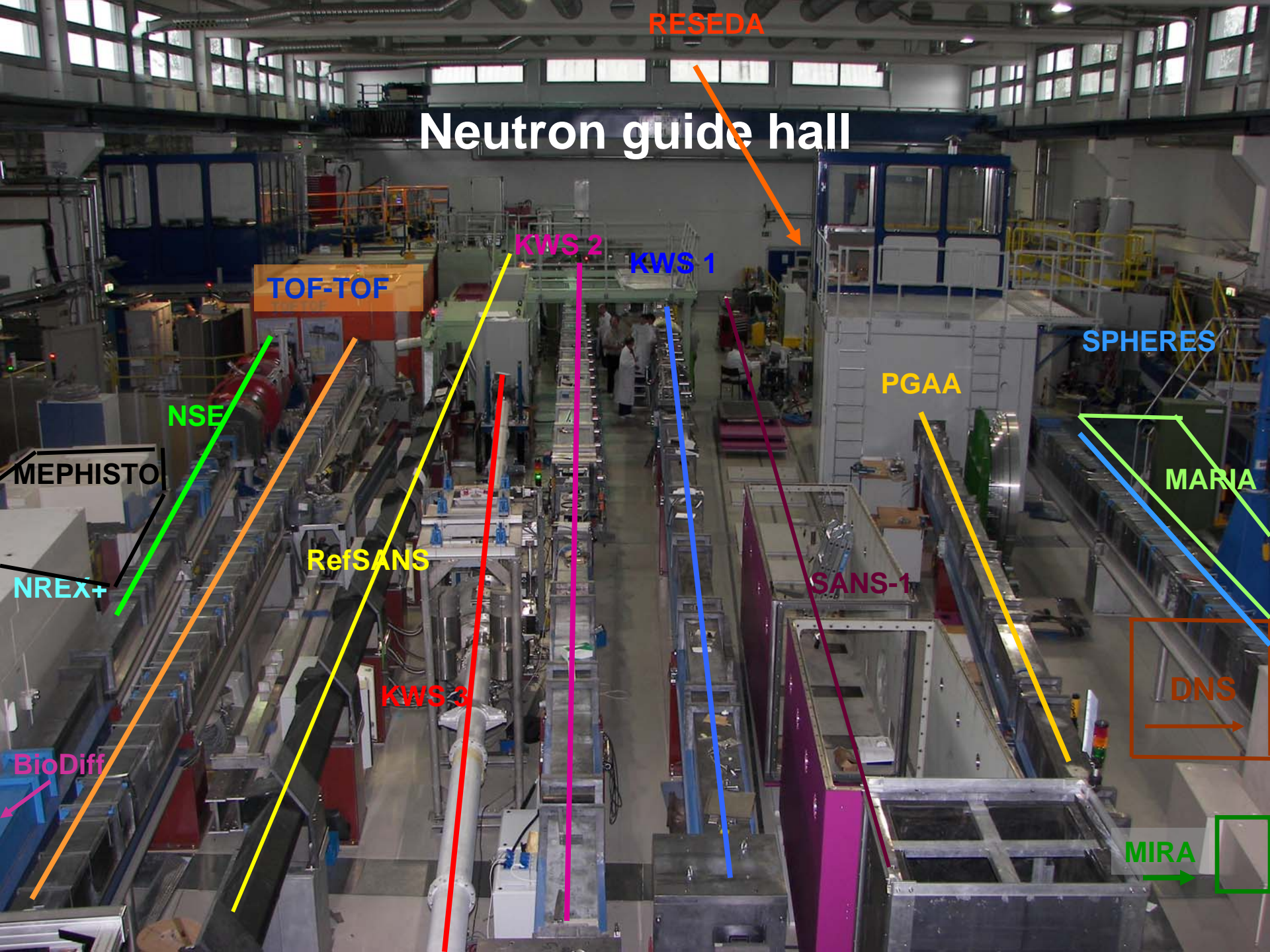
21 instruments operational
9 instruments under construction

7 thermal
19 cold
1 ultracold
1 hot
1 fast
1 positrons

30 total

Instruments are operated by user groups: JCNS, GKSS, HZB, MPQ, many universities





RESEDA

Neutron guide hall

TOF-TOF

NSE

MEPHISTO

NREX+

BioDiff

RefSANS

KWS 2

KWS 1

KWS 3

PGAA

SANS-1

SPHERES

MARIA

DNS

MIRA

The cold neutron source



Liquid deuterium moderator

Volume moderator vessel 25 liters

Volume of liquid D₂ ~ 13 liters

Temperature 25 K

3 beam tubes

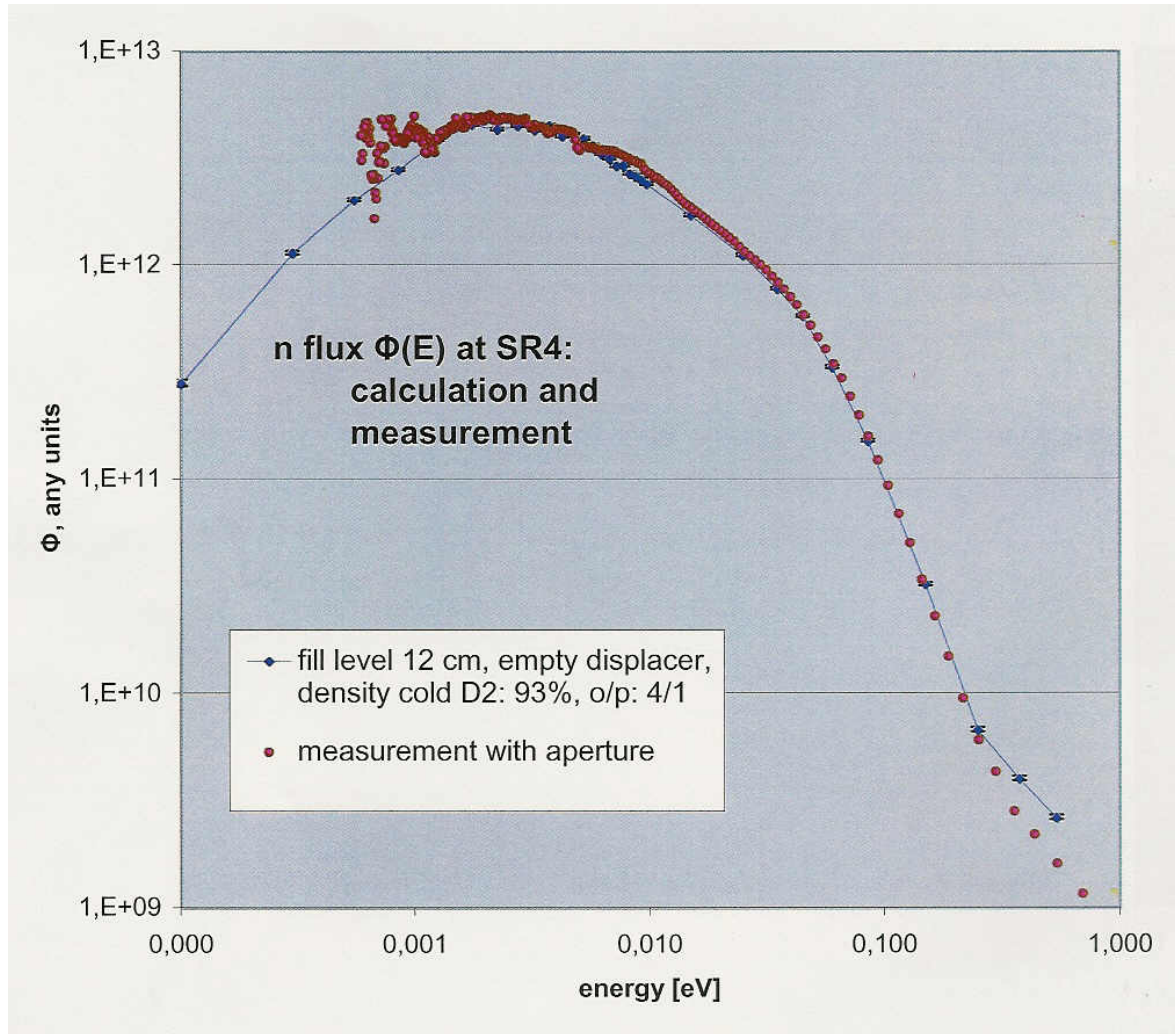
for cold neutron experiments

1 vertical beam tube is not in use

Cooling power total ~ 6 kW

in liquid D₂ 2.7 kW

Measurement of the cold neutron spectral Flux at 20 MW



Perfect agreement
between measurement
and calculation

The hot source



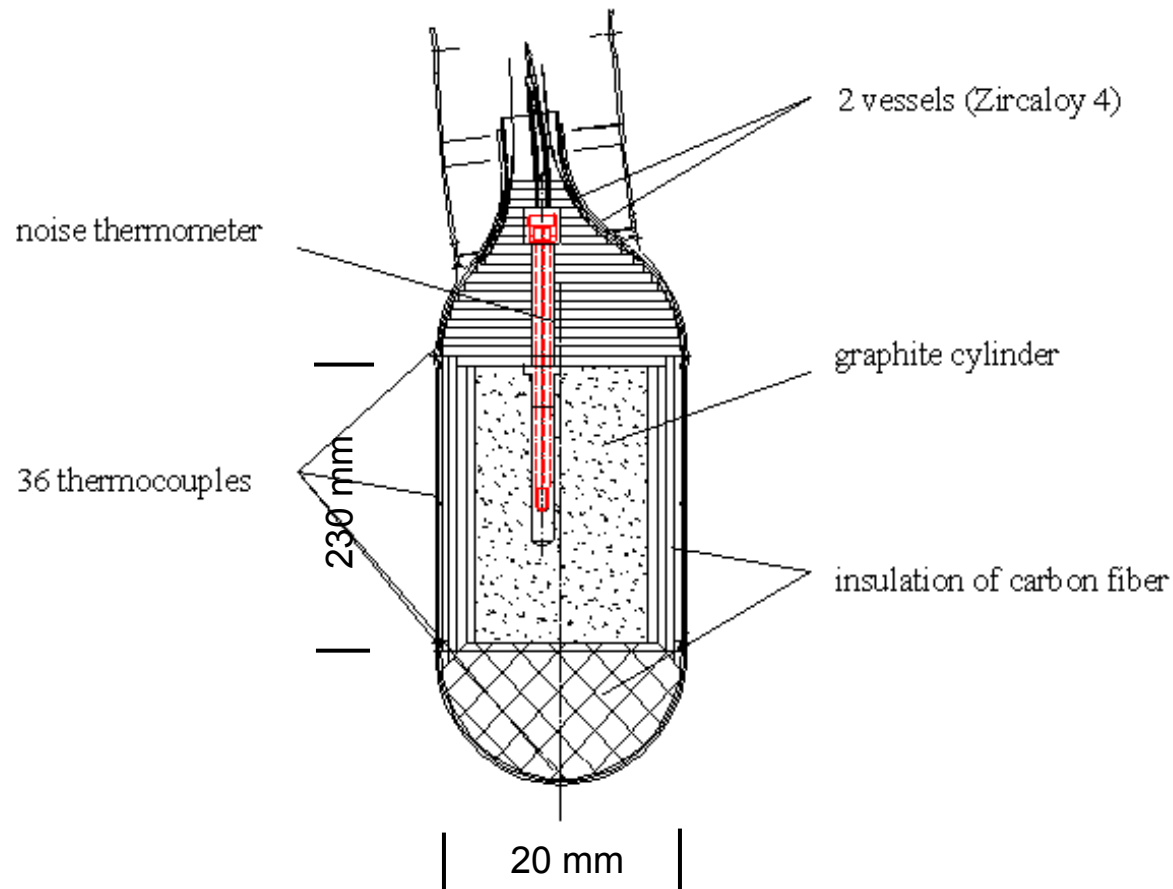
Hot graphite moderator
heated by gamma radiation

Distance from center source
to center of core 42 cm

1 beam tube with neutron
energies 0.1 – 1 eV

$T = 2000^{\circ}\text{C}$ (measured +
calculated)

Graphite moderator of hot source

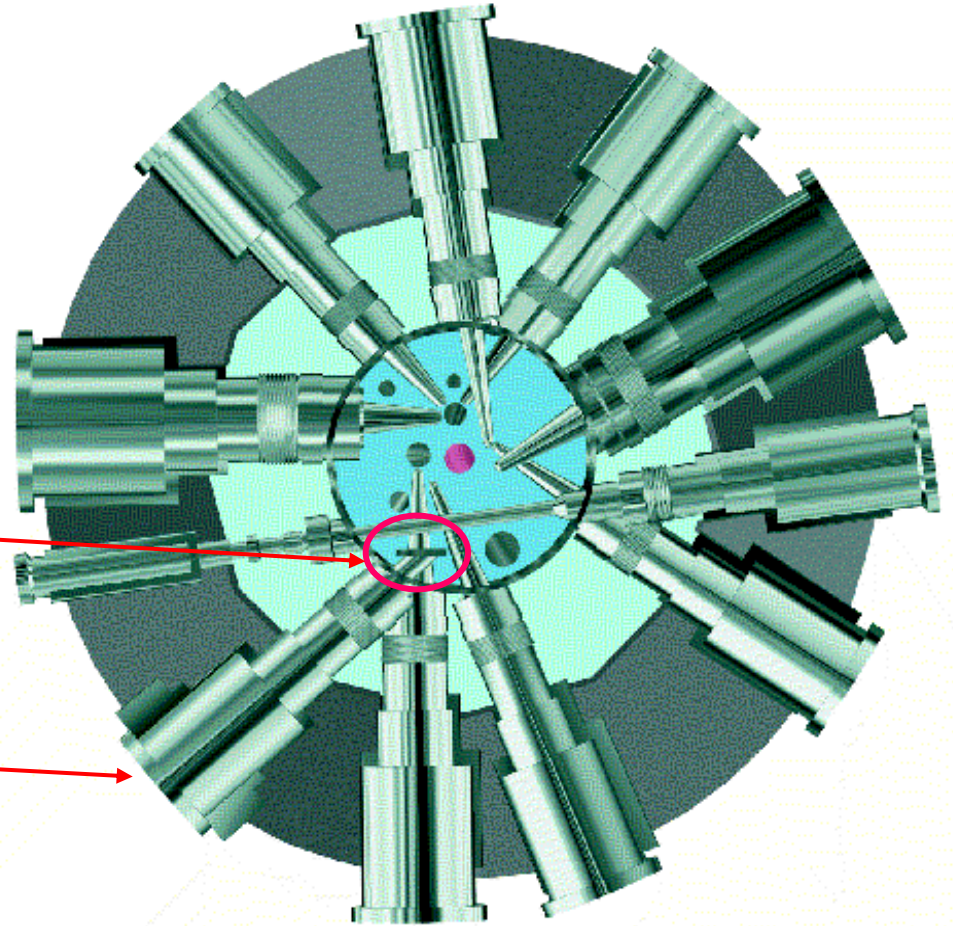


Use of fission radiation in life sciences and materials characterisation

Reactor pool

Uranium converter

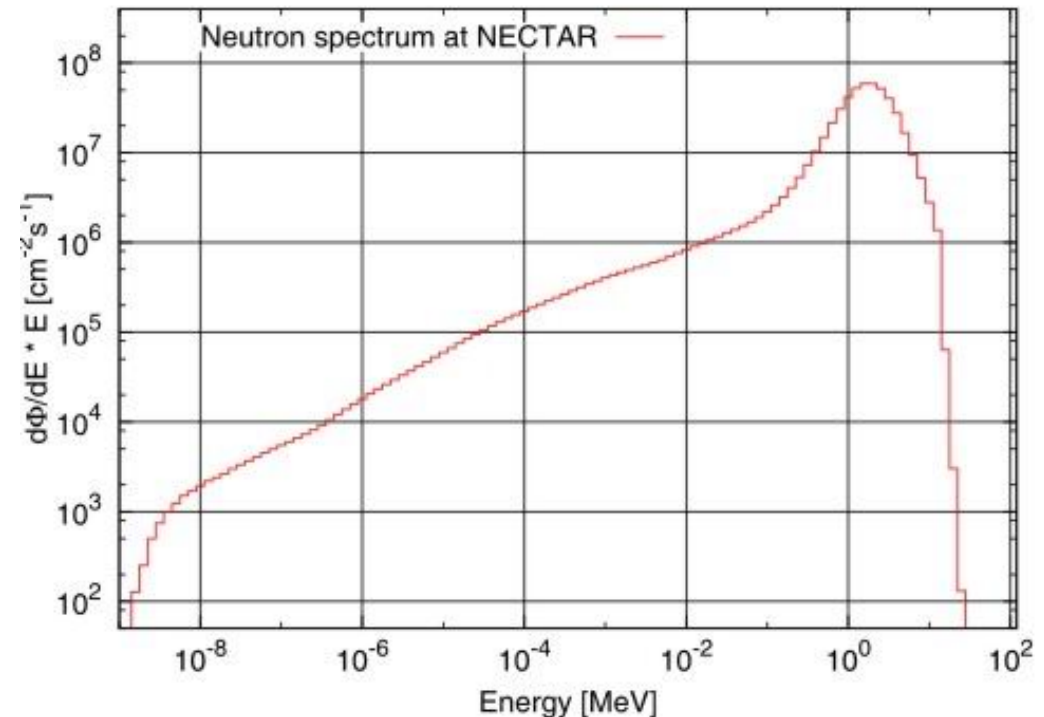
Beam tube SR10



Beam quality: Fast neutron spectrum

- Thermal neutrons (without converter)
- Beam area: 23x18 cm²
- $\Phi_{th} : 3.9 \times 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2}$
- Fast neutrons (with converter)
- Beam area up to 30x20 cm (multi leaf collimator)
- $\Phi_f: 3.2 \times 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-2}$
- Very small thermal neutron fraction
- Filters for adjustment of the n/γ -fraction

Unfolded spectrum



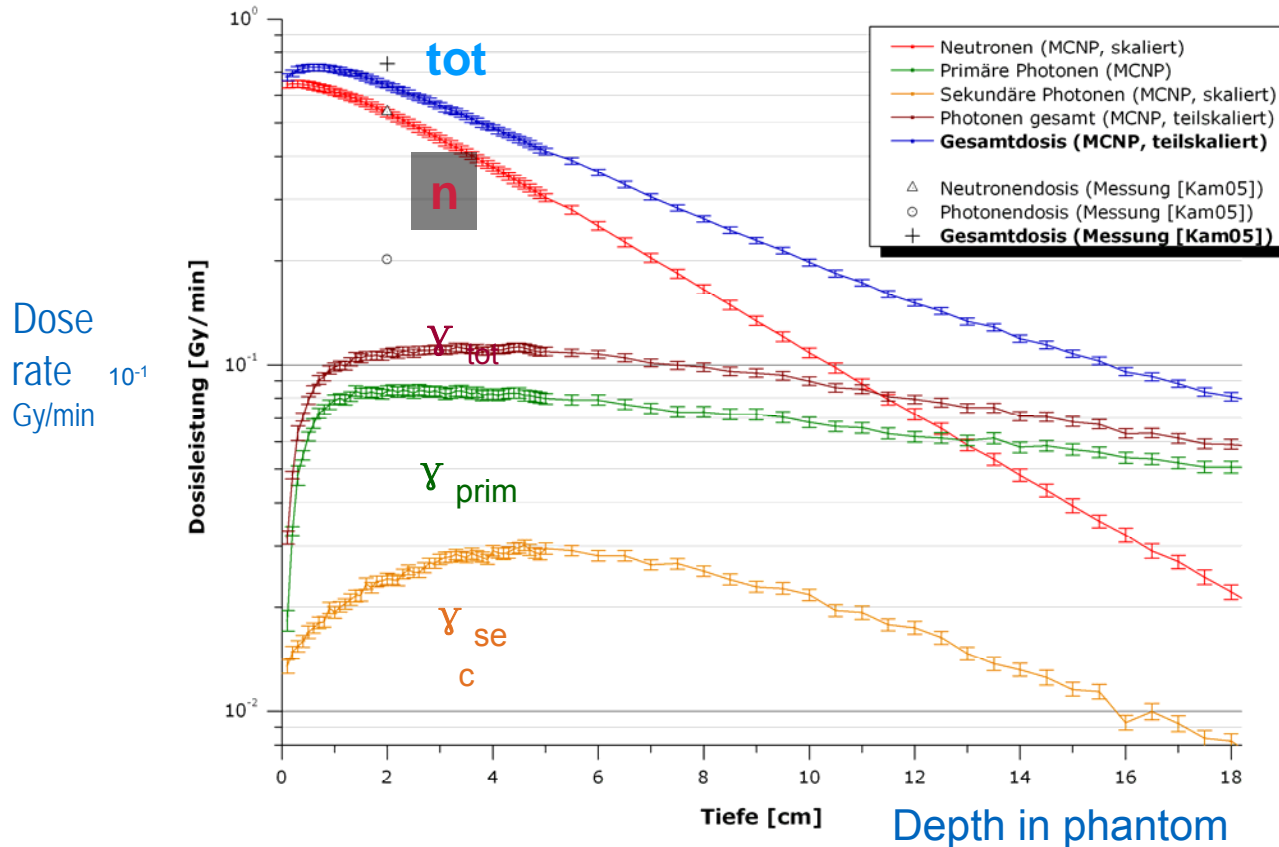
⇒ Watt spectrum plus intermediate neutrons

Medical irradiation facility at FRM II



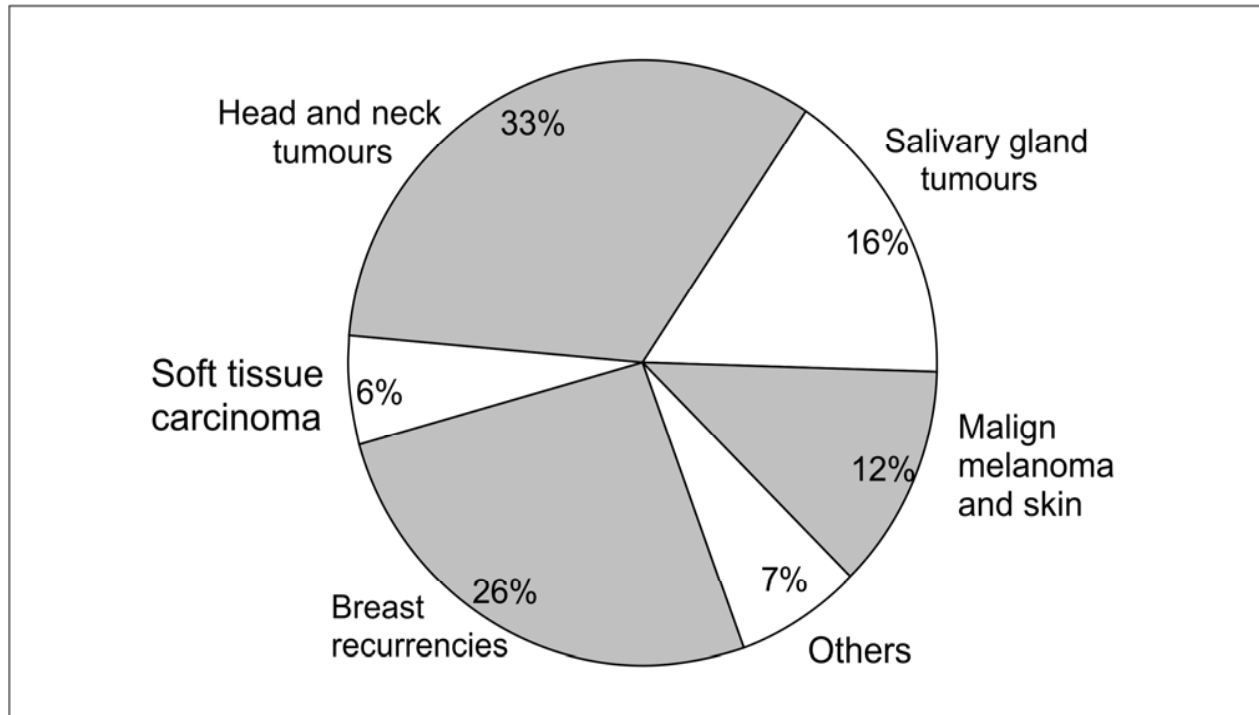
Photo: Gert von Hassel

PE-Phantom: Calculated depth dose curves



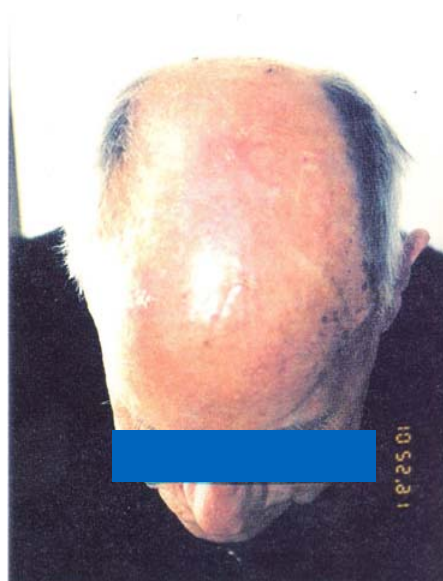
⇒ Surface and near-surface tumours only (head and neck, breast, skin)

Applications of the fast reactor neutron beam Medical applications (“MedApp”)



- FRM (1985-2000): 715 patients, about 2300 fields
- FRM II (since June 2007): 41 patients, about 230 fields (40% curative)
MedApp needed a CE-mark + accordance to „Medizin-Produkte“ legislation

MedApp: Irradiation response



Malignant melanoma, elder patient



Figs.: Th. Auberger, Hospital for radiotherapy, TUM

Laryngeal tumour, 39-year old patient

Neutron computed tomography and radiography (NECTAR)

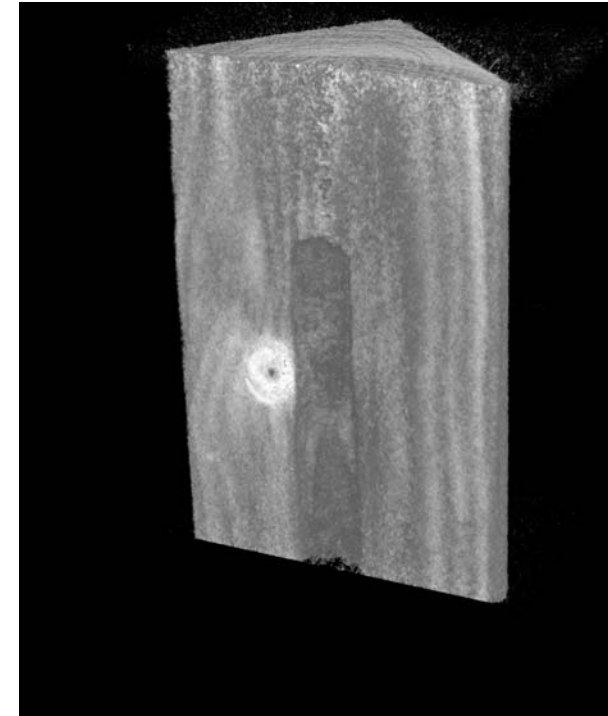
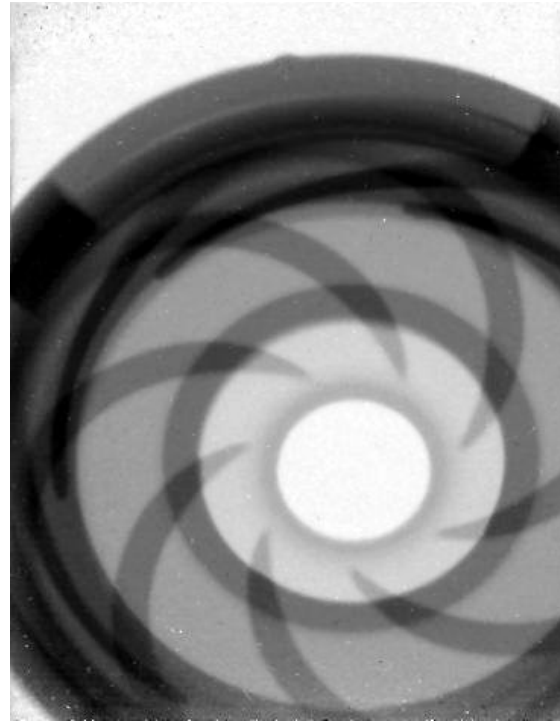
Max. object dimension:
80 cm x 80 cm x 80 cm³
Max. burden: 400 kg



NECTAR: Examples

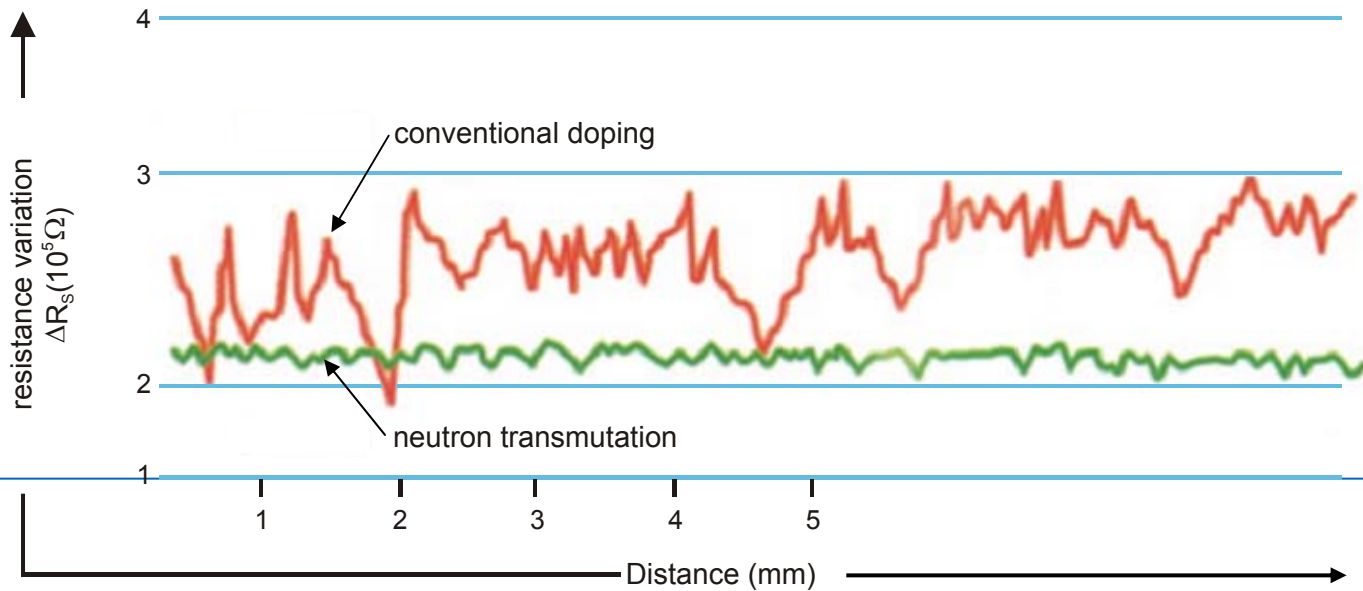
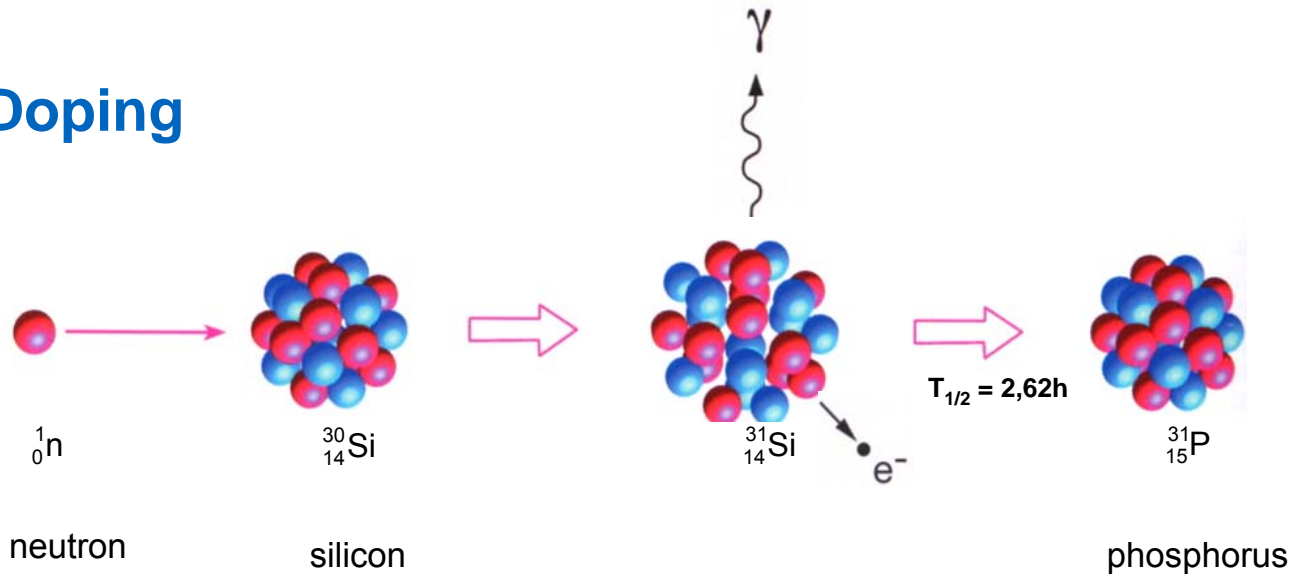


Radiography with n_{fast} of a diffuser

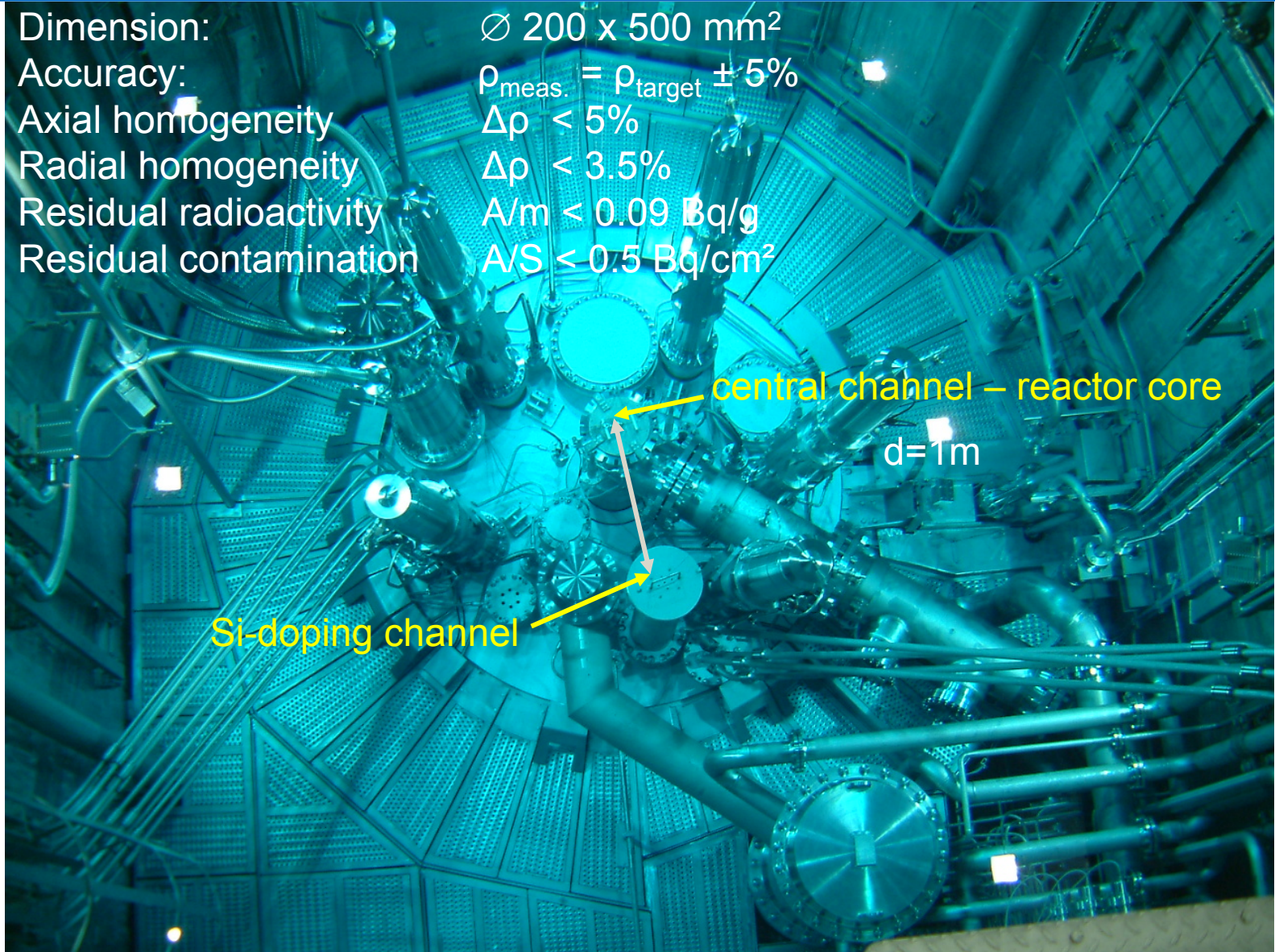


Cut through a 3D-CT of a timber using a collimated neutron beam

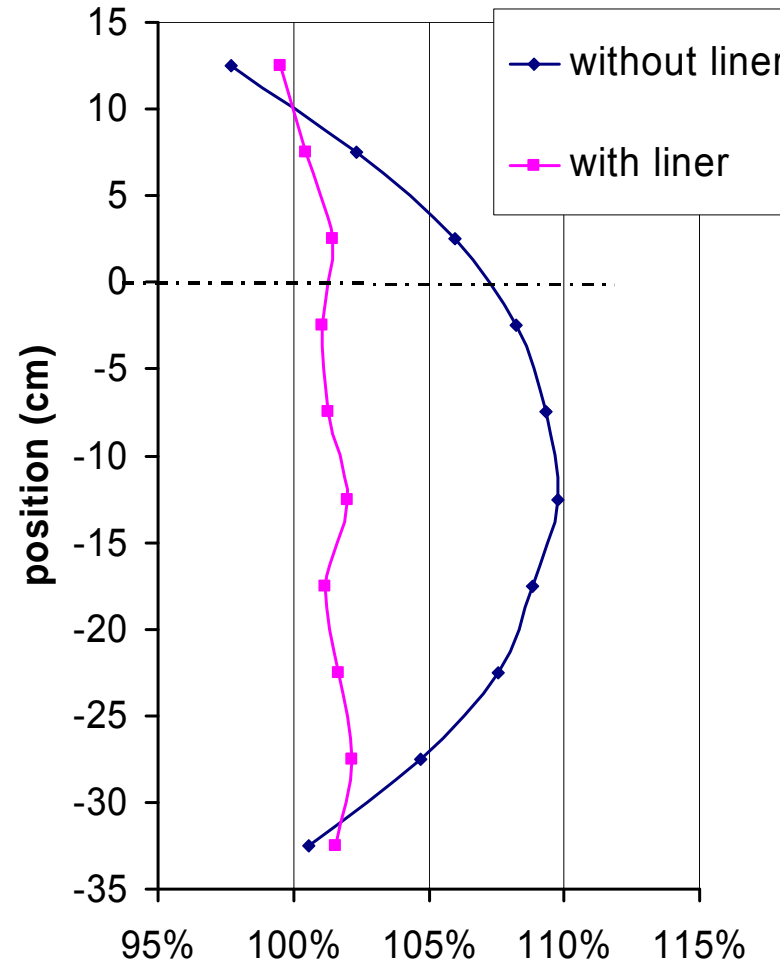
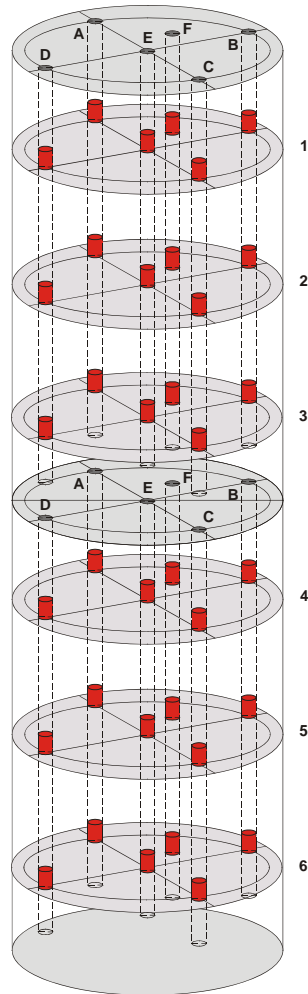
Silicon Doping



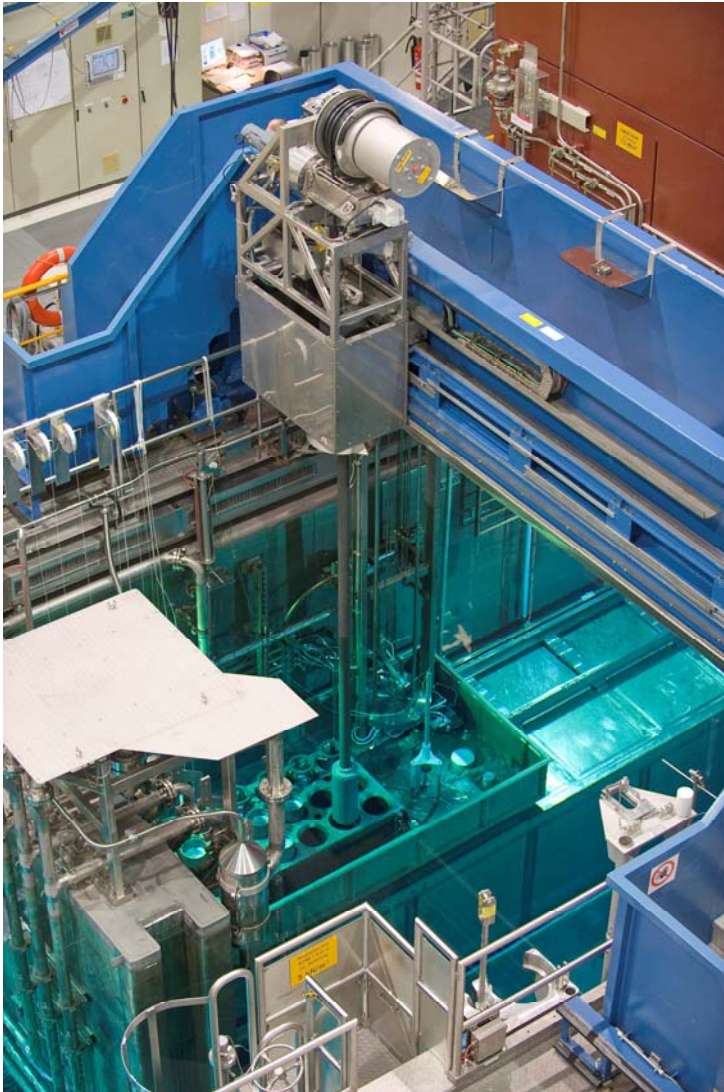
Dimension: $\varnothing 200 \times 500 \text{ mm}^2$
Accuracy: $\rho_{\text{meas.}} = \rho_{\text{target}} \pm 5\%$
Axial homogeneity $\Delta\rho < 5\%$
Radial homogeneity $\Delta\rho < 3.5\%$
Residual radioactivity $A/m < 0.09 \text{ Bq/g}$
Residual contamination $A/S < 0.5 \text{ Bq/cm}^2$



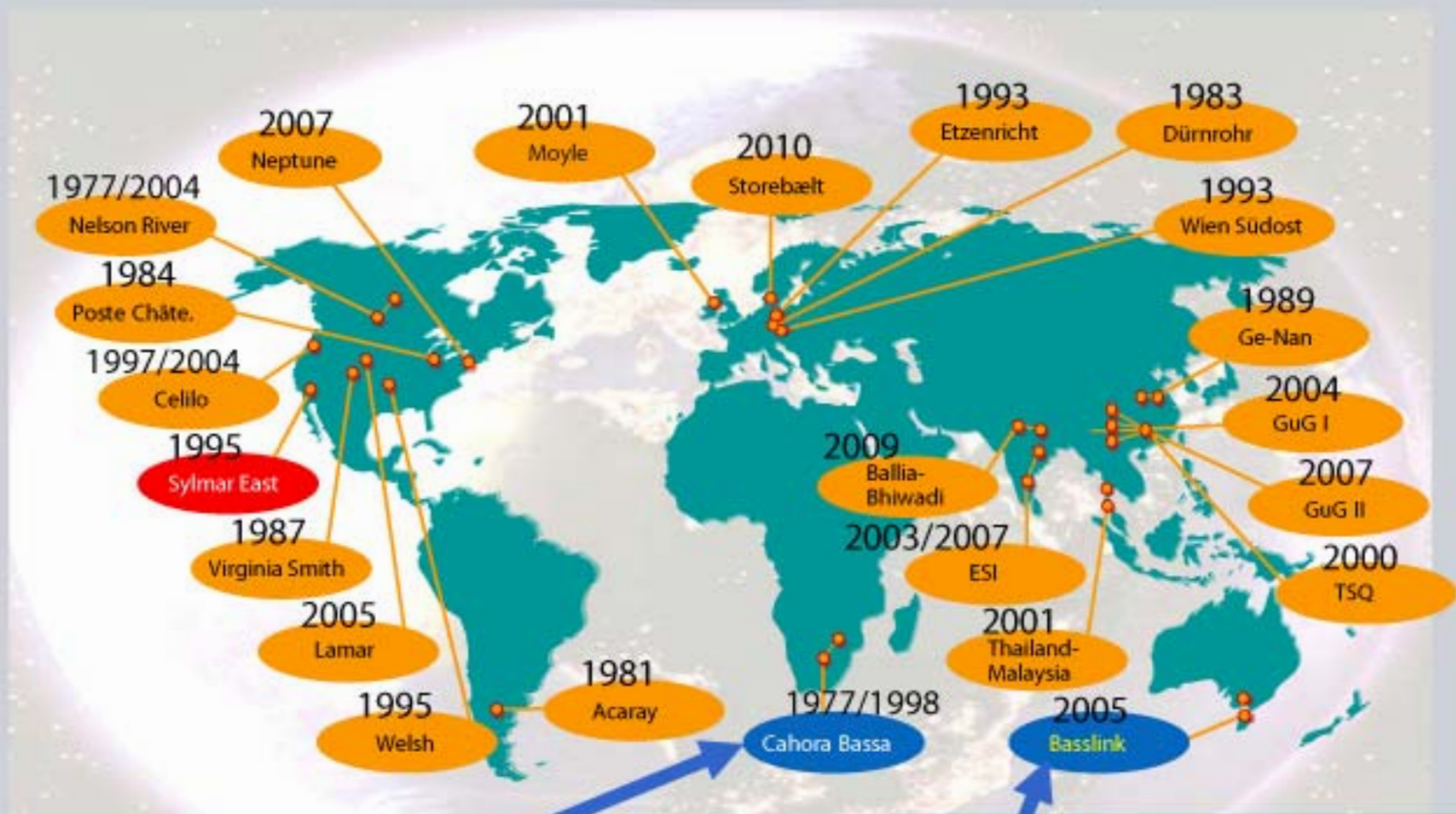
Smoothing of the neutron flux density by a Ni liner



Handling – semiautomatic irradiation



High voltage DC current transport over long distances

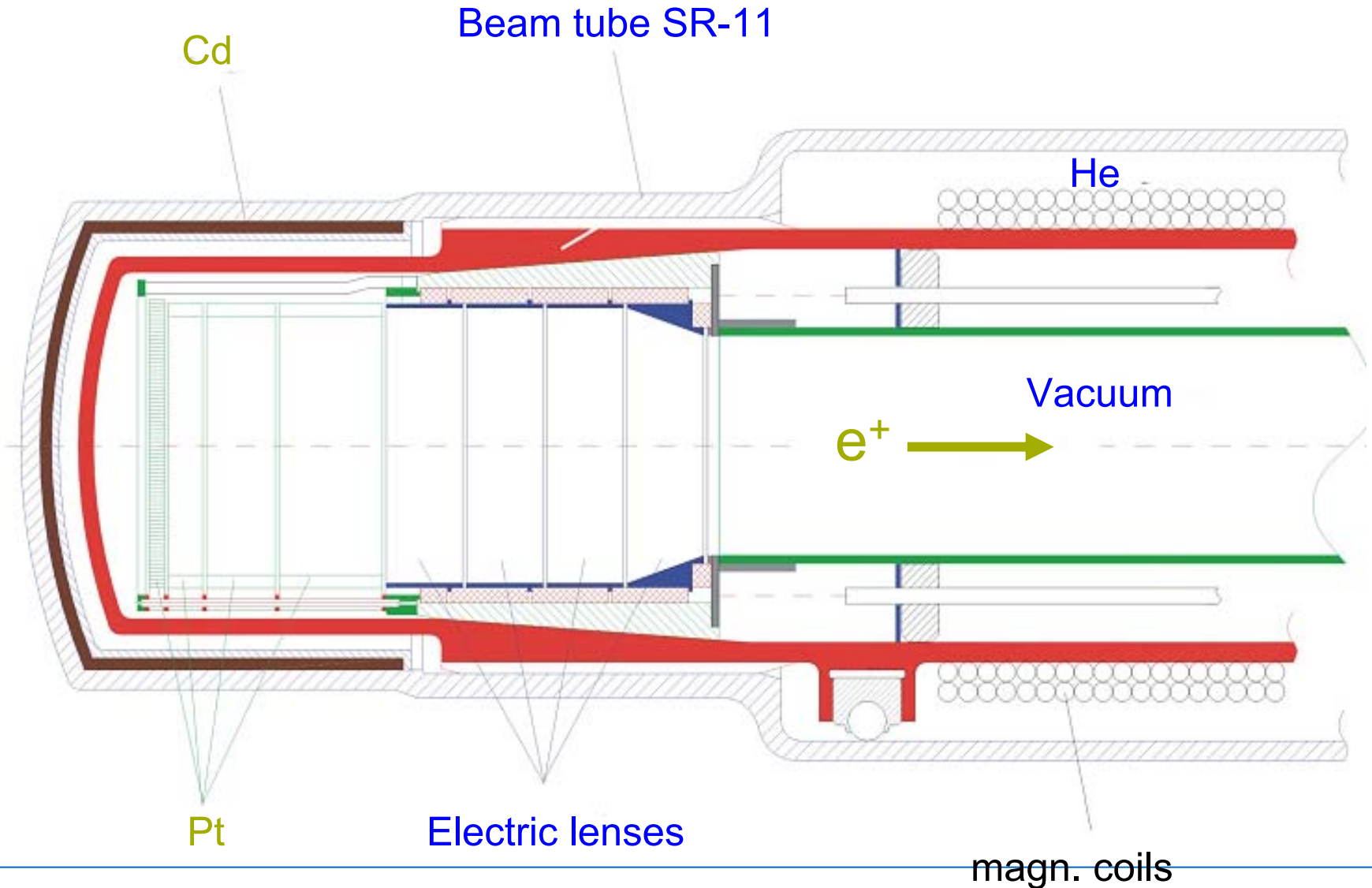


Erste HGÜ Fernübertragung mit > 500kV DC Leitungsspannung

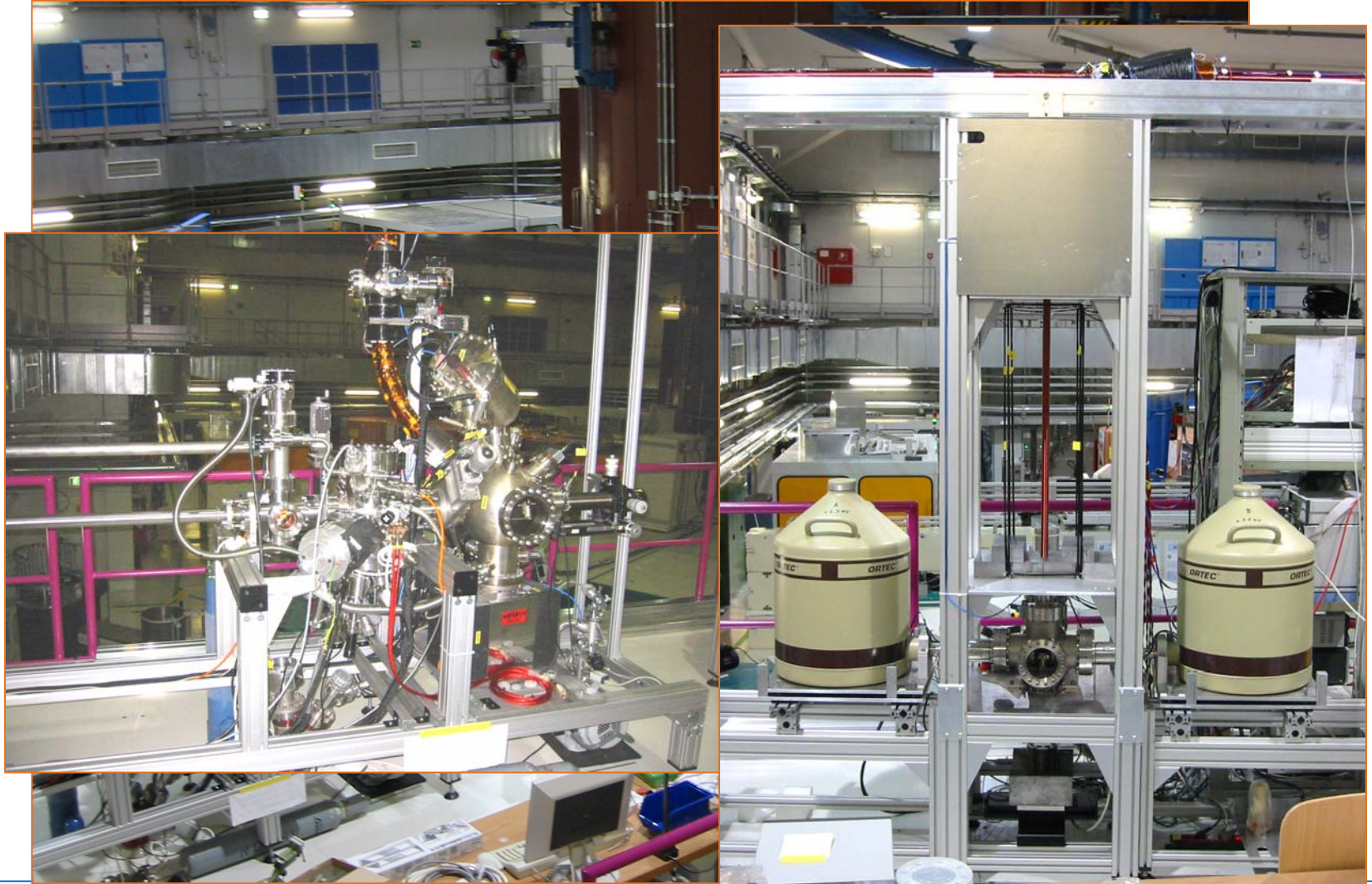
Längste Seekabelstrecke in Betrieb

Irradiation services

Facility	Sample Conveying	Φ_{th} (cm ⁻² · s ⁻¹)	Φ_{th}/Φ_f	Irradiation Period	Positions
Fishing line	manually	1.2 · 10 ¹³	1.2 · 10 ³	10 minutes ... days	1
Standard Rabbit Irradiation System RPA	pneumatic (CO ₂)	4.8x10 ¹² 7.3x10 ¹³	6.66x10 ⁴ 1.3x10 ³	30 seconds ... hours	2 × 3
Capsule Irradiation Facility KBA	hydraulic (pool water)	7.7 · 10 ¹³ 1.3 · 10 ¹⁴	7.7 · 10 ² 3.3 · 10 ²	minutes ... days	2 x 5
Silicon Doping Installation SDA	mechanically automatized	2x10 ¹³	?	10 minutes ... 1 day	1
control rod position	isotope production	6x10 ¹⁴ fast	-	52 days	1



$$\Phi_{\text{th. pos.}} = 9 \times 10^8 \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1} \text{ at } E_{\text{pos.}} = 0 \dots 30 \text{ keV}$$



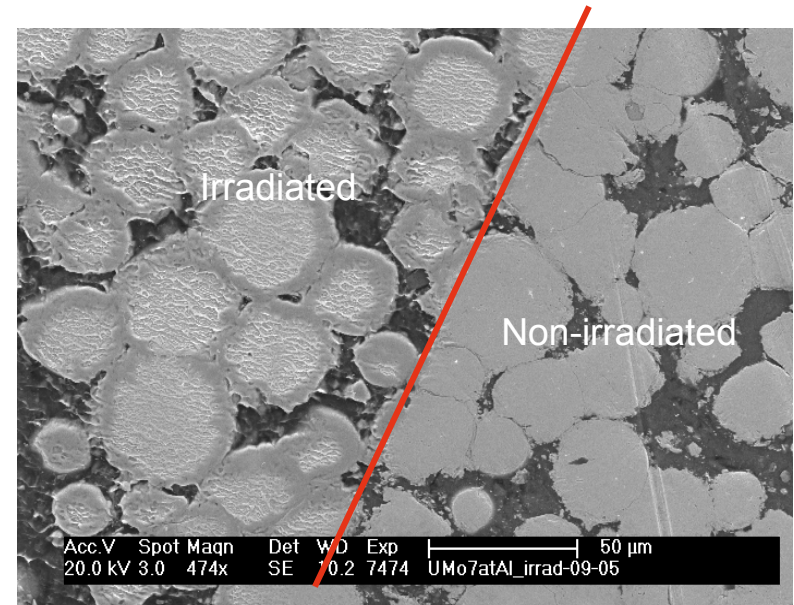
Testing new high density fuel by ion beams

Maier-Leibnitz Beschleuniger Laboratorium
heavy ion accelerator



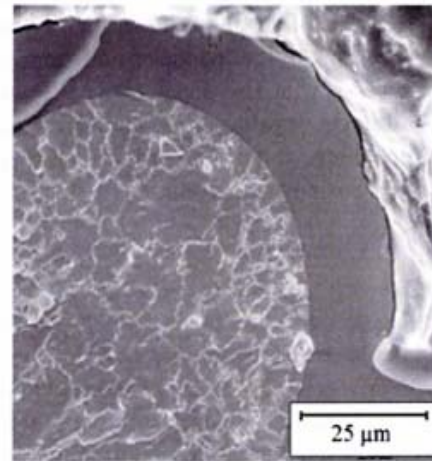
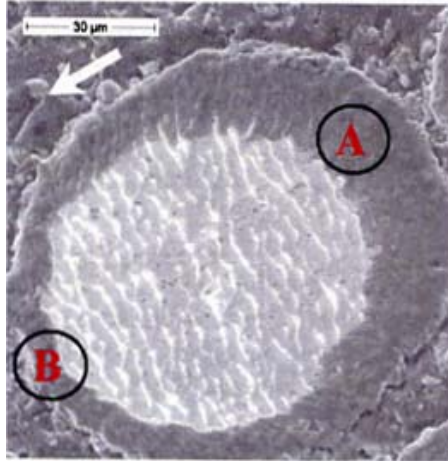
- Irradiation with 70 MeV Iodine ions

U7wt%Mo-Al



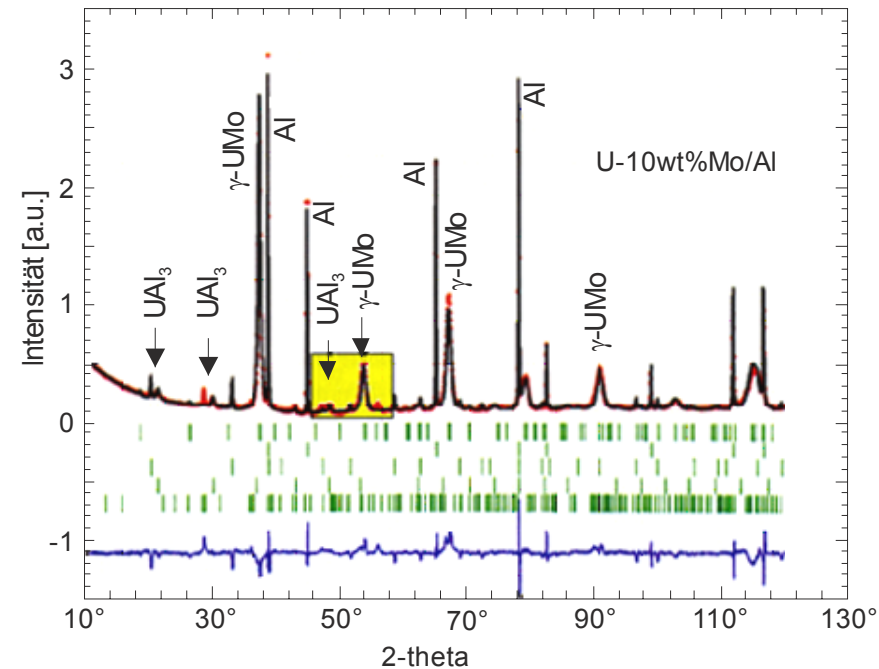
- Heavy ion irradiation induces the growth an UMo/Al interaction layer
- Average thickness of interdiffusion layer: 7.6 μm

Identification of the UAl_3 interdiffusion layer

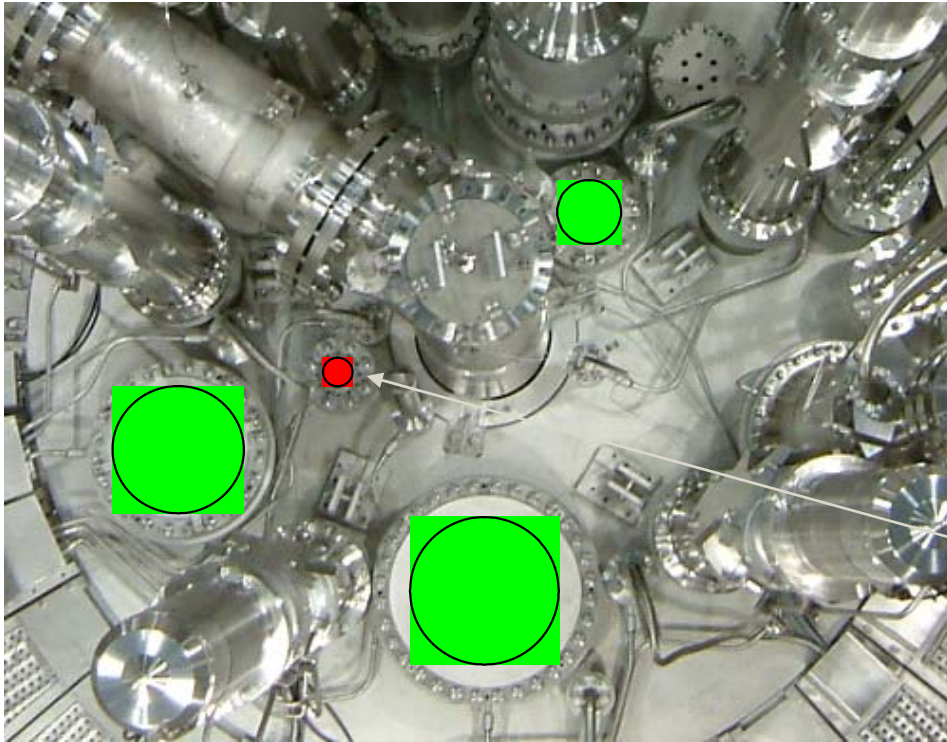


Heavy ion irradiation simulates the metallurgical processes during in-pile irradiation

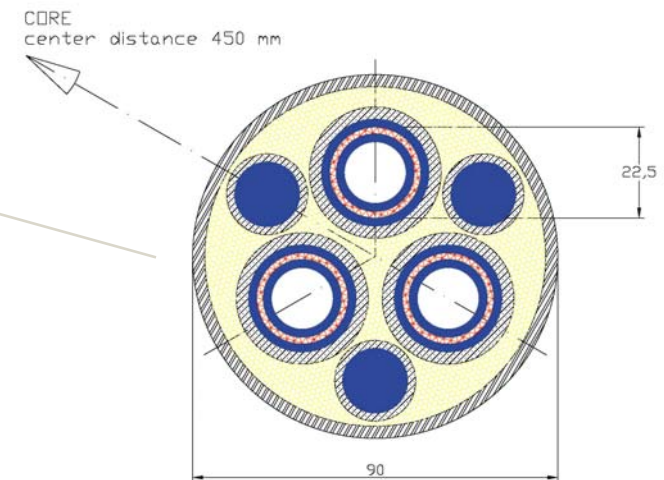
Identification of the metallurgical composition



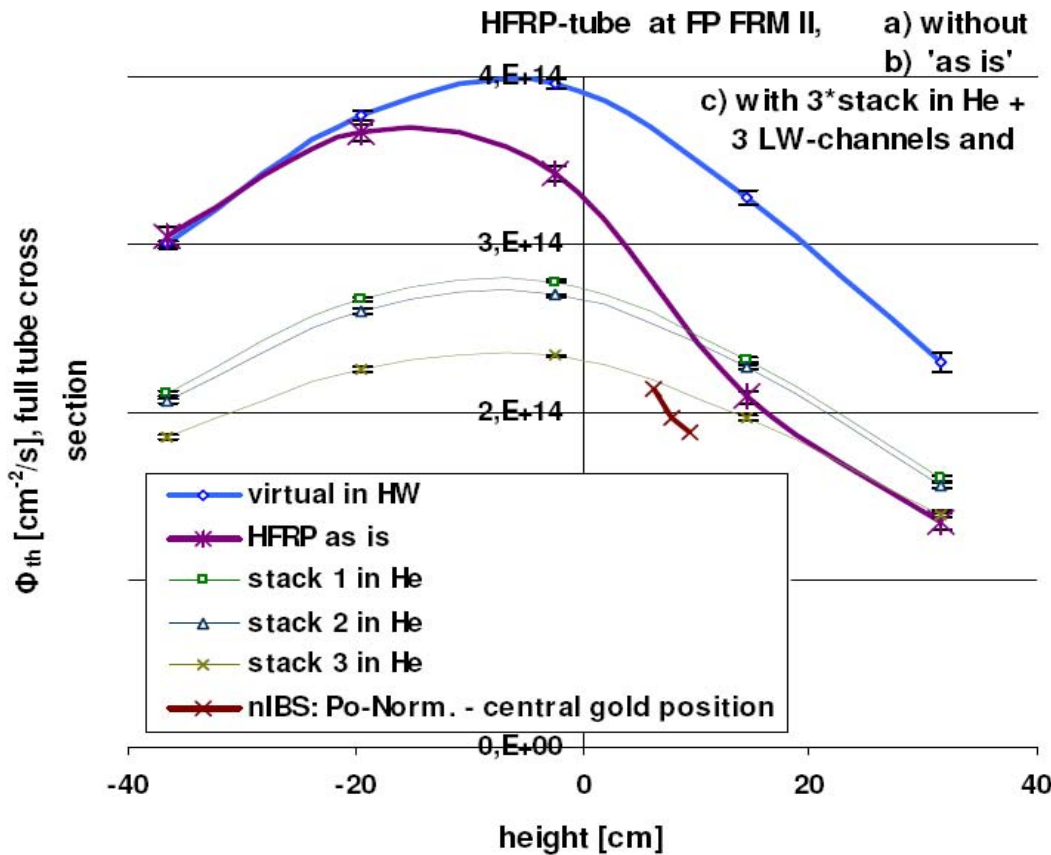
Feasibility study Mo-99 production at FRM II



Definition of the most suitable irradiation channel

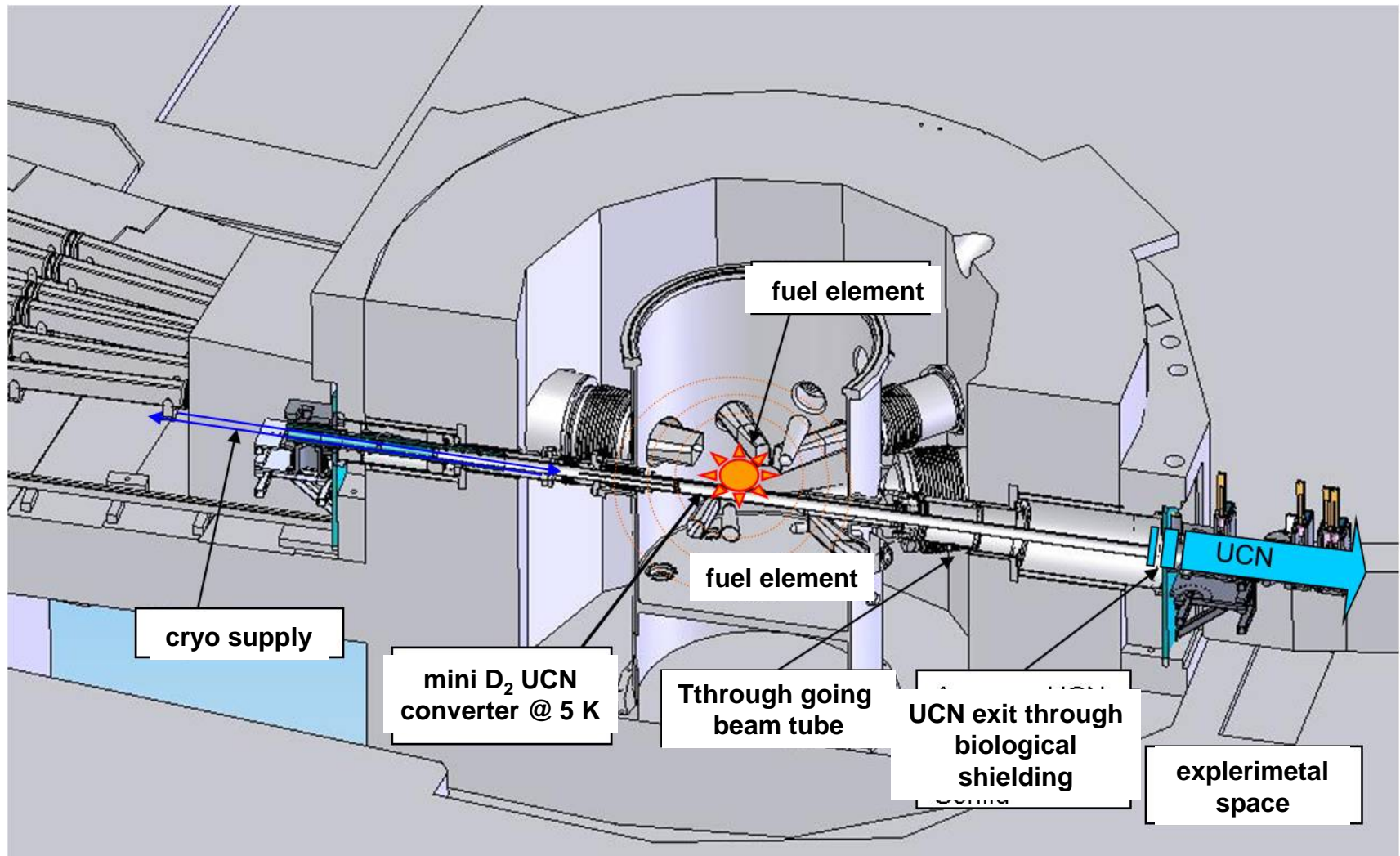


Thermal neutron fluxes at HFRP-tube



- Averaged Φ_{th} $2.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
- Saturation activity of Mo-99 $8.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ s}^{-1}$ equivalent 22 kCi
- After 6 d irradiation 17 kCi
- ... and 6 d decay time 4 kCi

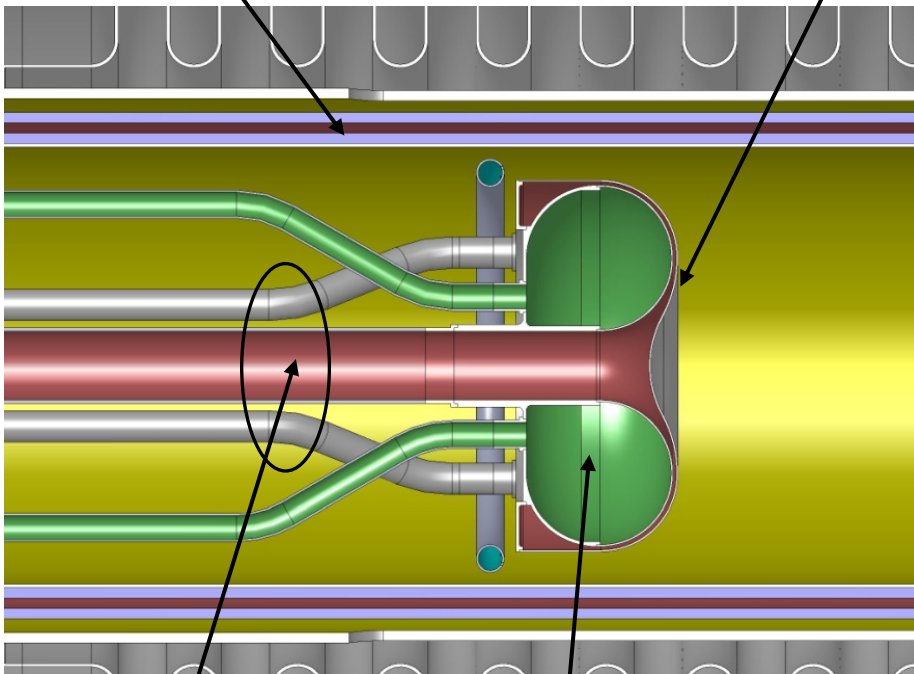
Ultra Cold Neutron source @ FRM II



Expected performance of UCN source

In-pile tube is a UCN guide

D₂ is frozen on the outer surface



5K He loop

H₂ pre-moderator

	UCN source FRMII Exit of beam port	Experiment al hall PENeLOPE
Flux density [UCN cm ⁻² s ⁻¹]	$7.0 \cdot 10^4$	$6.2 \cdot 10^4$
Flux [UCN s ⁻¹]	$8.0 \cdot 10^6$	$7.0 \cdot 10^6$
Max. UCN density [UCN cm ⁻³]	$1.2 \cdot 10^4$ (V = 100 dm ³)	$3.0 \cdot 10^3$ (V = 700 dm ³)



Names to be mentioned

- **Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Gläser**
- **Prof. Dr. Klaus Böning**
- **D. Anton Axmann**
- **Gert von Hassel**
- **Prof. Dr. Klaus Schreckenbach**
- **Guido Engelke**
- **Dr. Ingo Neuhaus**
- **.....**