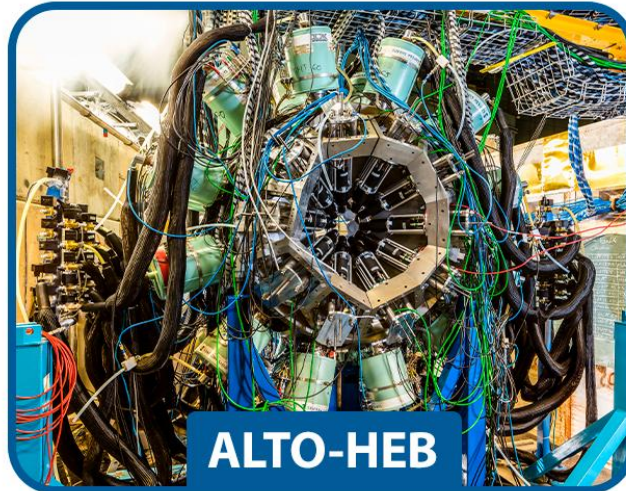
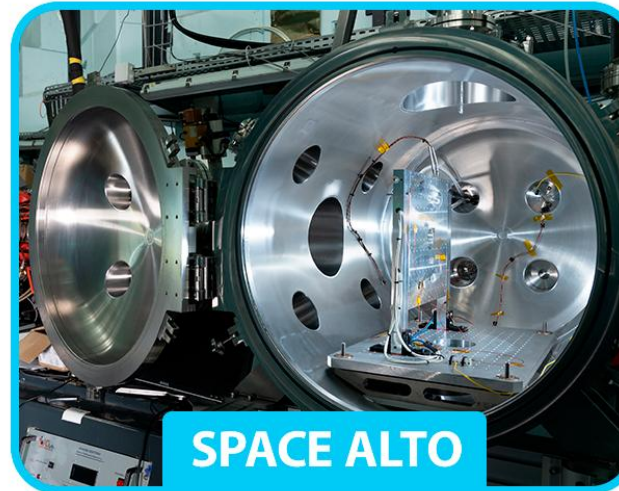




The ALTO research platform of IJCLab



ALTO-HEB



SPACE ALTO



ALTO-LEB

Enrique Minaya Ramirez

Laboratoire de Physique des 2 infinis Irène Joliot-Curie



- ★ User facilities
- ★ Projects
- ★ workshops & common platforms
- ★ Scientific & technical platforms



- **Overview of the ALTO research platform**
- **Current developments**
- **Latest results**

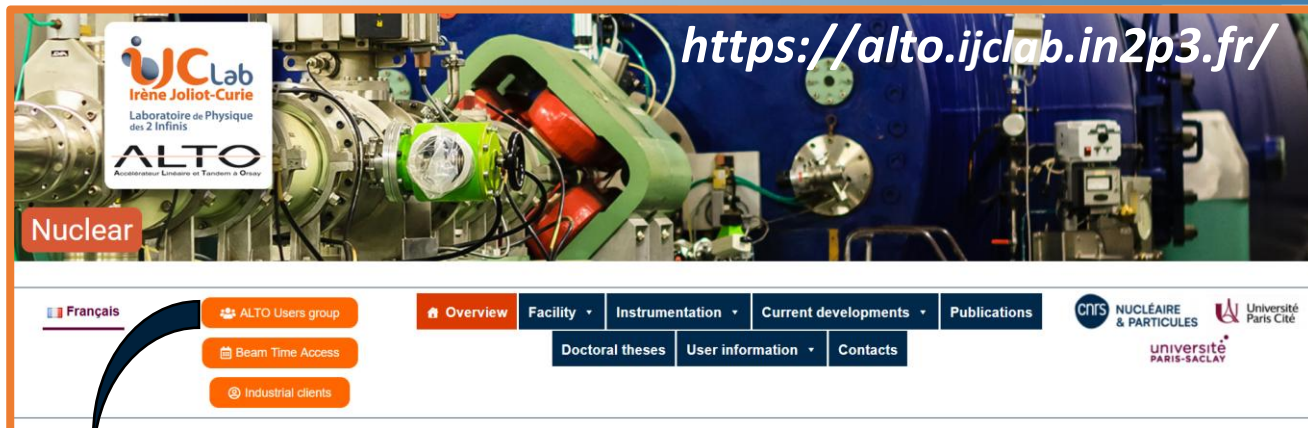


Overview of the ALTO research platform

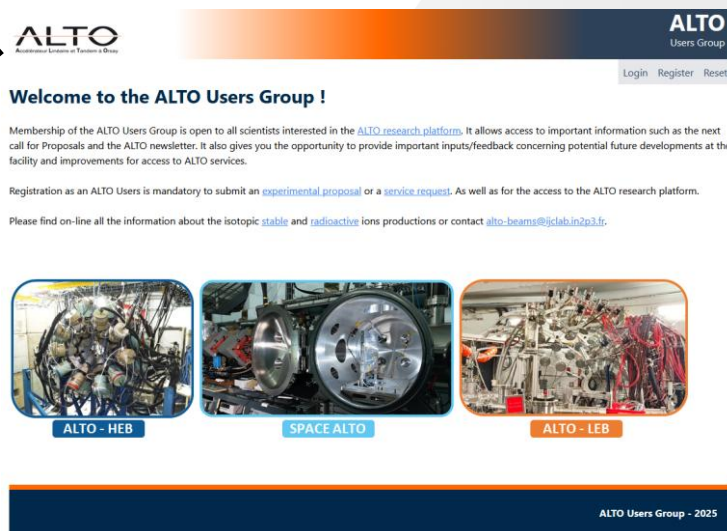




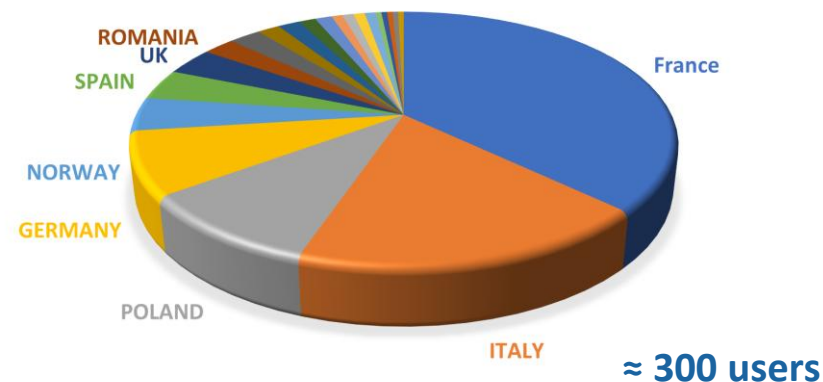
ALTO Users Group



<https://alto-users-group.ijclab.in2p3.fr/>



2026 : ALTO USERS GROUP (22 COUNTRIES)



ALTO Users Group portal :

- ✓ For beamtime request
- ✓ For service request
- ✓ To deposit all documents for the Risk Prevention Service (SPR) before a beamtime



Beam time at ALTO

- Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) → access to ALTO
- Last ALTO PAC : March 2026 (<https://indico.ijclab.in2p3.fr/event/13522/>)
- Period March 2026 – March 2028 → Best rated proposals from 2026 ALTO PAC ≈ 22 weeks of beamtime



Scientific Coordinator :

E. Minaya Ramirez

Technical manager :

A. Said

Thin layers service :

E. Blanc, A. Limongi

Tandem service :

E. Borg, A. Bouafia, F. Fahy,
R. Leplat, M. Mangano, S. Semsoum

Linac service :

F. Debray, S. Jourdain, F. Lemaitre, L. Tranchard



Between 2022 – 2026 : 14 experiments performed at ALTO has been supported by Euro-Labs

ALTO PAC

President

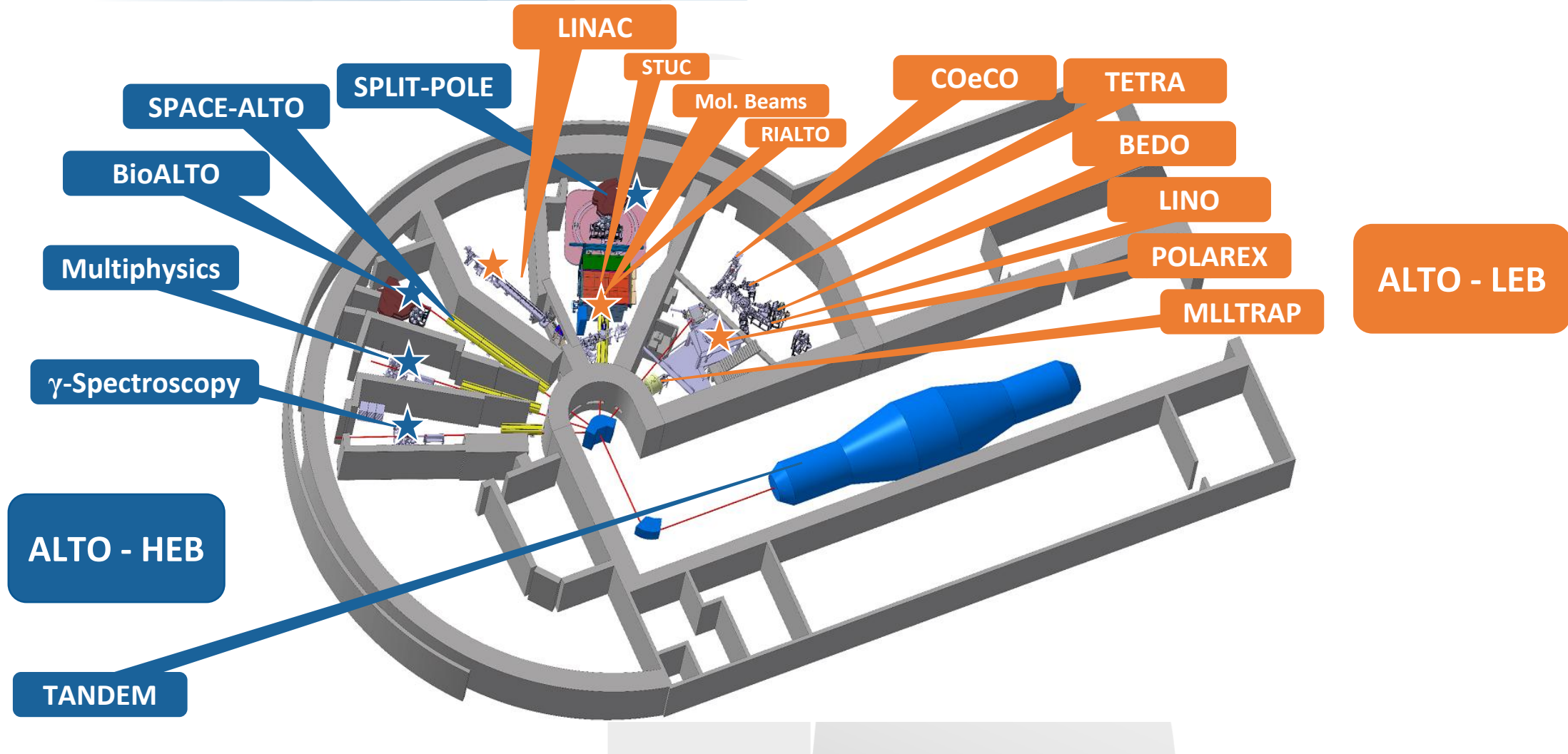
Bogdan Fornal – IFJ PAN – Krakow, Poland

Members :

Michael Block – GSI, Darmstadt, Germany
Wilton Catford – University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom
Denis Dauvergne – LPSC, Grenoble, France
Francois D'Oliveira – GANIL, Caen, France
Jean-Paul Ebran – CEA, Saclay, France
Andrea Gottardo – INFN, Legnaro, Italy
Paul Greenlees – JYFL, Jyväskylä, Finland
Beatriz Jurado – LP2iB, Bordeaux, France
Silvia Leoni – University of Milano, Italy
Caterina Michelagnoli – ILL, Grenoble, France
Marie Vanstalle – IPHC, Strasbourg, France



Overview of the ALTO research platform



After flood of October 2024 :

February 2025 : the LINAC was restarted and a radioactive beam was produced

April 2025 : The Tandem was restarted and stable beams were produced during 2025 and 2026. The last devices impacted by the flood were changed/repared.

In parallel a construction work was mandatory by the energy service company. A new pipeline for cooling units was installed. The old cooling units were stopped and replaced by a rental (July 2025). → **impact on the beam time schedule of 2025**

Construction work required by the CNRS DR04 / IFSeM during the period march 2026 – march 2027

- Replacement of control room floor (in progress)
- Replacement of both cooling units (in progress)
- Refurbishment of the platform's heating system (2027)

→ **Sustainability of the facility**

The platform staff also handled the relocation of several equipment

- CNRS has planned other upgrades, as for example the air handling units
- Other upgrades have been done in the vicinity of the accelerators during the construction work



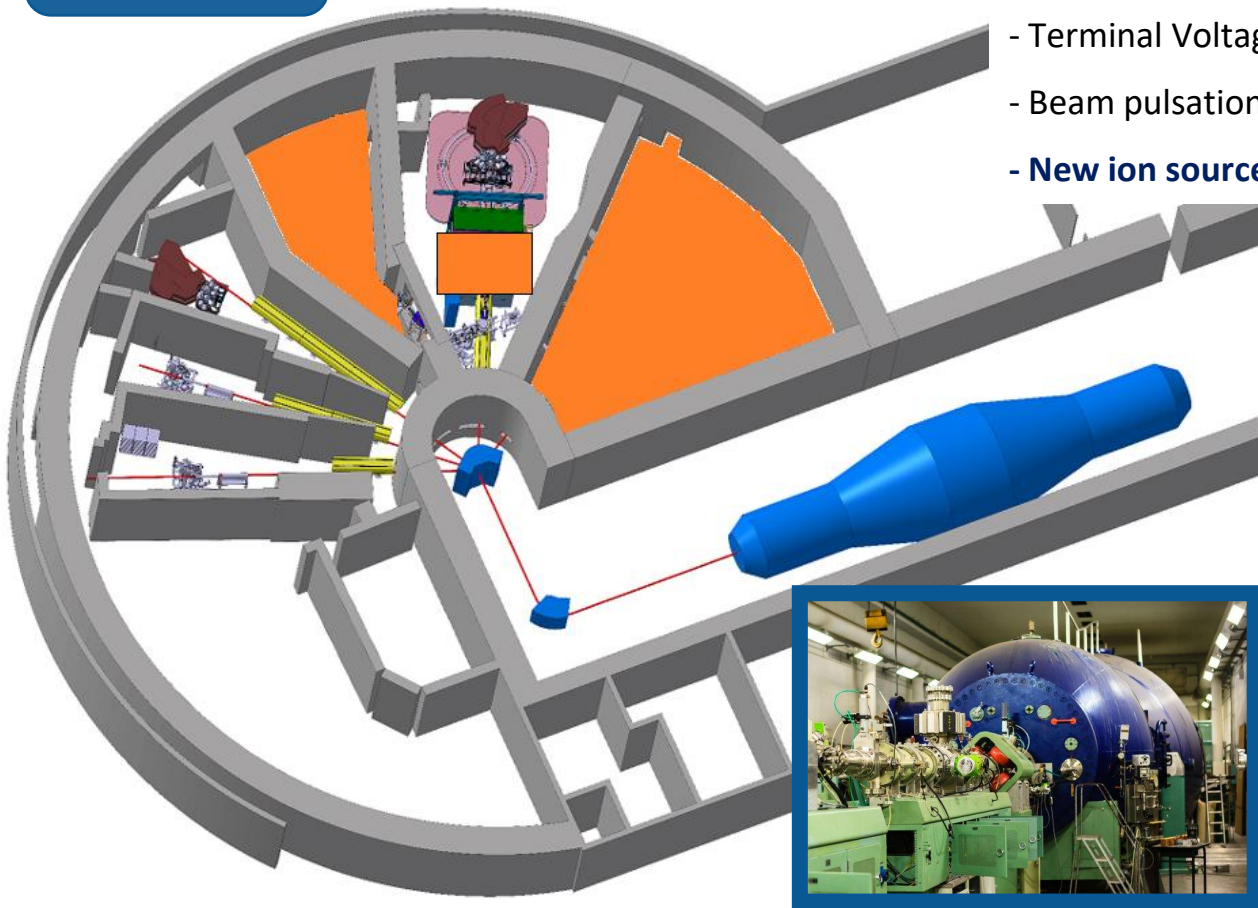


ALTO-HEB : beam production

ALTO - HEB

Tandem Accelerator Stable beams :

- H, ^3He , ^4He , ..., ^{14}C , ... up to ^{197}Au
- Terminal Voltage < **1 MV** et **14.5 MV**
- Beam pulsation system : pulse size **1 - 2 ns**; pulsation period : **100 ns - 100 μs**
- New ion source $\rightarrow$ Intensity x5 $\rightarrow$ Difficult beams (Mg, Ca)



1 H																	2 He																
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne																
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar																
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr																
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe																
55 Cs	56 Ba			72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn															
87 Fr	88 Ra			104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og															
																			57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu
																			89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr

<https://alto.ijclab.in2p3.fr/en/facility/alto-heb-en/heavy-ions/>

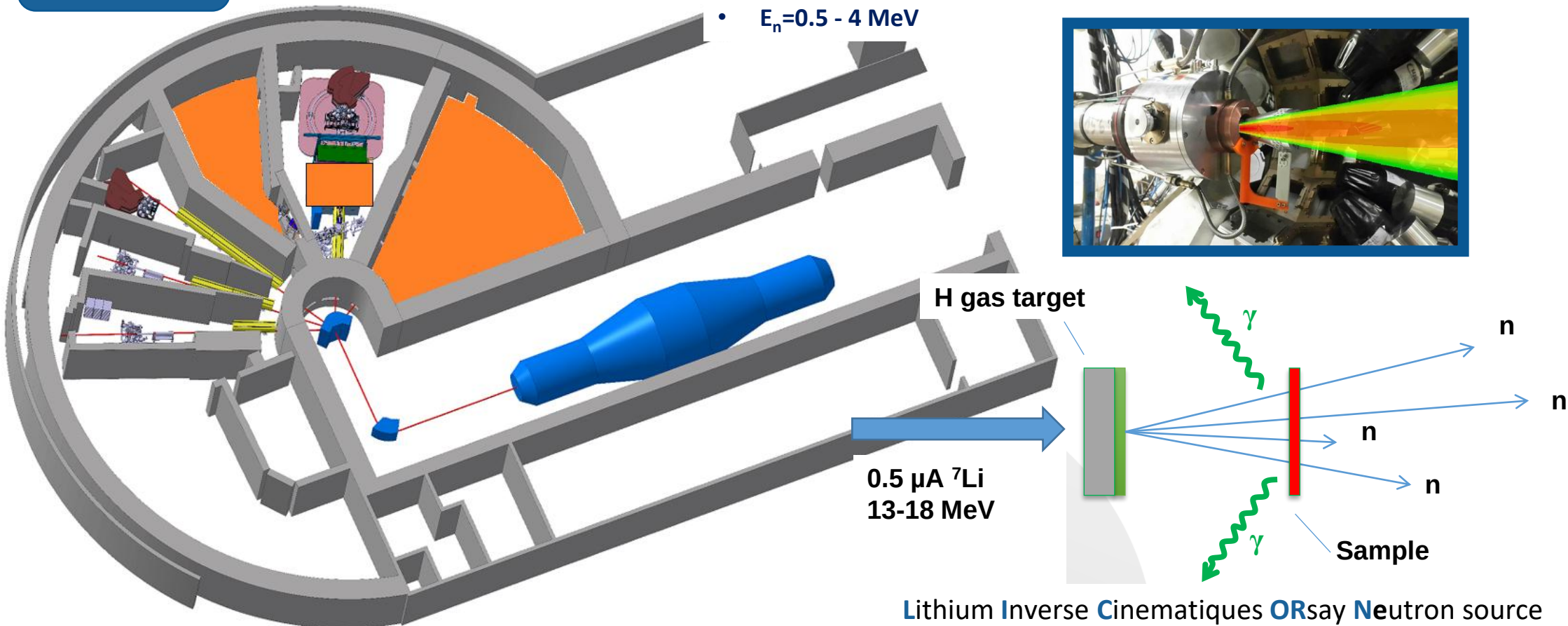
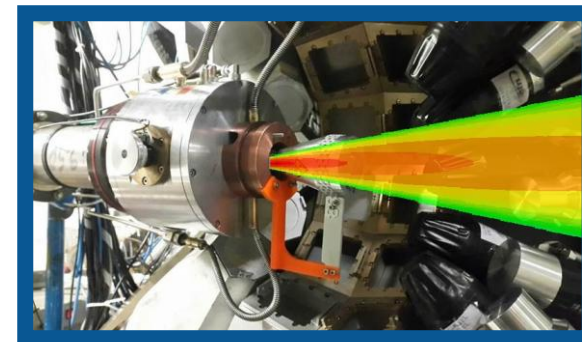


ALTO-HEB : beam production

ALTO - HEB

Unique, naturally directional quasi-monoenergetic neutron source:

- Low background
- High Flux: 10^8 n/s/steradian
- $E_n = 0.5 - 4$ MeV



Lithium Inverse Cinematiques ORsay Neutron source

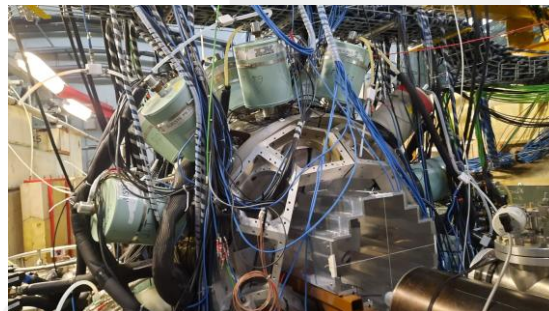


v-Ball2 : campaign at ALTO

2018 – 2019 : First campaign with the high-performance v-Ball γ -ray spectrometer

v-Ball coupled with LICORNE : **J.N. Wilson et al., “Angular momentum generation in nuclear fission”, *Nature* 590 (2021) 566**

Average spins extracted for even–even nuclei produced in fast-neutron-induced fission of ^{232}Th , ^{238}U and the spontaneous fission (SF) of ^{252}Cf $\rightarrow$ fragment spins are uncorrelated, revealing the post-scission nature of the mechanism.



**2022 (week 14) and 2023 (week 25)
Second campaign with v-Ball**

**16 experiments approved, 12 completed,
8 experiments financed by EUROLABS and
ARIEL, 160 international visitors**

- D. Thisse, et al., «Study of N=50 gap evolution around Z=32: new structure information for ^{82}Ge »; [Eur. Phys. J. A59 Letts\(2023\) 153](#)
- K. Miernik, et al., «Fission of ^{215}Fr studied with g spectroscopic methods»; [Phys. Rev. C108 \(2023\) 054608](#)
- M. Ciemala, et al., «Feeding of the Residual States with GDR gamma Decay Studied by nuBall Coupled with PARIS»; [Acta Phys. Pol. B Proc. Suppl. 16 \(2023\) 4-A3](#)
- D. Gjestvang, et al., «Examination of how properties of a fissioning system impact isomeric yield ratios of the fragments», [Phys. Rev. C108 \(2023\) 064602](#)
- G. Pasqualato and J.N. Wilson, “The nu-Ball2 experimental campaign at ALTO”, [Nuclear Physics News, 34 16-20, \(2024\)](#)
- S. Leoni, B. Fornal, N. Mărginean and J.N. Wilson, “Shape isomers: status and perspectives across the nuclear chart”; [Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top. 233, 1061–1074 \(2024\)](#)
- C. Hiver, et al., “High-resolution studies of isomeric states in ^{236}U with the nu-Ball2 spectrometer”; [Acta Physica Polonica 18 2A-25 \(2025\)](#)
- S. Pascu et al., "Fast-timing spectroscopy with the v-ball2 spectrometer", EPJ Web of Conferences 329 (2025) 01010
- K. Miernik et al., " γ spectroscopy of fission fragments from the $^{12}\text{C} + ^{182}\text{W}$ fusion-fission reaction", Phys. Rev. C 113 (2026) 044624 (2026)
- C. Chatel et al., "Inelastic neutron scattering on ^{238}U with γ -ray coincidence spectroscopy", Phys. Rev. C 113 (2026) 064320
- D. Gjestvang, H. Haug et al, "Angular momentum carried by prompt fission neutrons", Accepted to Phys. Rev. C (2026)
- C. Hiver and J.N. Wilson, "Simple semi-empirical parametrization of fission shape isomer half-lives", Proceedings of the Theory-6 Scientific Workshop (2026)
- C. Hiver et al., "Prompt and delayed spectroscopy of the K=4- isomer in ^{236}U ", Submitted to EPJ A (2026)



SPLIT-POLE

The main fields of investigation addressed with the Split-Pole magnetic spectrometer are the origin of the nuclei in the Universe and the properties of atomic nuclei

Full refurbishment of the SPLIT-POLE

- New system for regulating the power supply to the spectrometer's magnets ($\Delta B/B < 10$ ppm)
- Reaction chamber repaired (new moving window, new seals, new mechanics) and coupled to the spectrometer
- All the belts driving the mechanical systems (acceptance slits, focal plane position, etc.) have been changed

Development and testing of a gas target at the spectrometer's focal plane

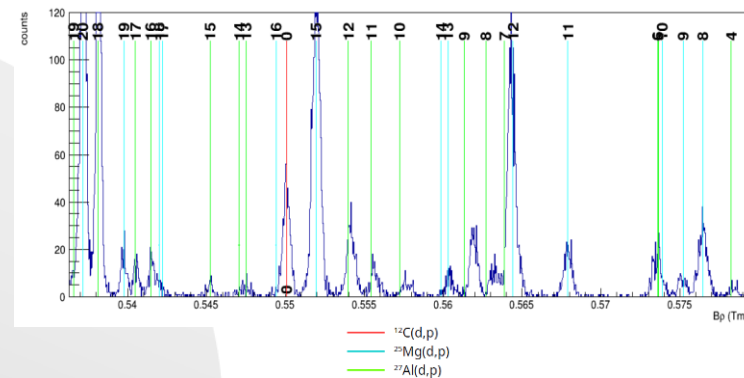
- 200 mbar, 1 cm thick
- used for reactions astrophysical reactions involving gaseous species (Ne, N...)

September 2024 : What is the contribution of classical novae?

→ depends on the $^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$ reaction

The proposal aims at measuring the neutron spectroscopic factors for known resonances in the mirror nucleus of ^{26}Al : ^{26}Mg . These factors will constrain the values of proton widths in ^{26}Al , for which no information is available. This will improve knowledge on one of the 4 key reactions for novae: $^{25}\text{Al}(p,\gamma)^{26}\text{Si}$.

N. de Sereville, F. Hammache, N. Giha et al.





SPACE ALTO (Station Pour l'irradiation des Composants et systèmEs à ALTO)



Goal : increase the added value of ALTO for industrials. First by increasing the thin targets activity and second by delivering specific beam characteristics requested by industrials clients (mostly aerospace industry) for electrons, neutrons, protons and heavy ions.

- ✓ Beam line and sweeping system installed by an external company
- ✓ Dosimetry system integrated
- ✓ A New experimental area with high-performance and exclusively dedicated to the preparation of irradiations was mandatory.

Beams	Energy (MeV)	Maximum flux	Environment test	Irradiated surface
Protons	0.02 - 30	10^{12} p/(s.cm ²)	In air Under vacuum Under gas pressure -170°C to +200°C	from 20 x 20 mm ² up to 30 x 30 cm ²
Electrons	1 - 50	10^{12} e/(s.cm ²)		
Ions	1 - 300	10^{12} ions/(s.cm ²)		
Neutrons	0.5 - 8	10^8 n/s/str	In air	up to 10 x 10 cm ²

A. Said et al.



2025 – 2026 SPACE ALTO

April 2025 : Commissioning of SPACE ALTO with protons of 10 MeV

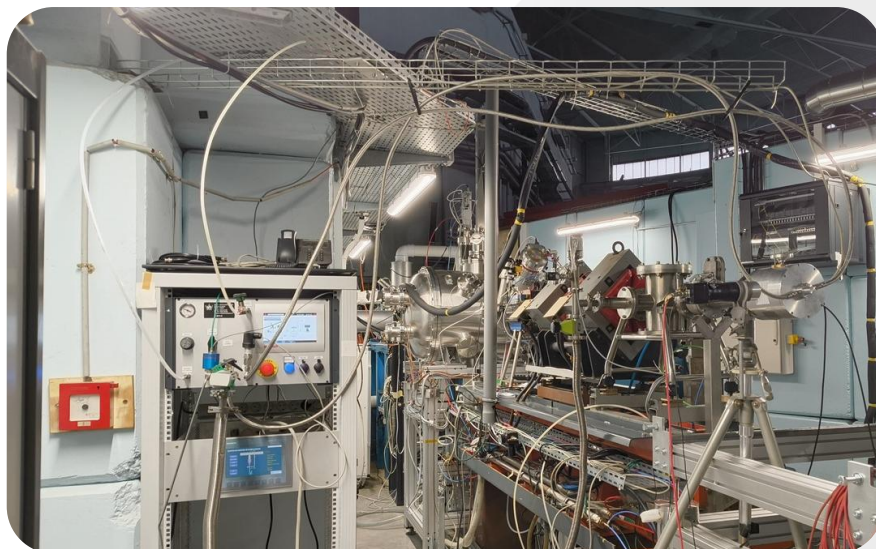


The new scanning system has been used for irradiations of big surfaces



Proton beam: 10 MeV
Flux: 1.03×10^{10} p/(s.cm²)
Fluence: 5×10^{12} p/cm²
Surface area: 8×15 cm
Dosimetry precision: 2%

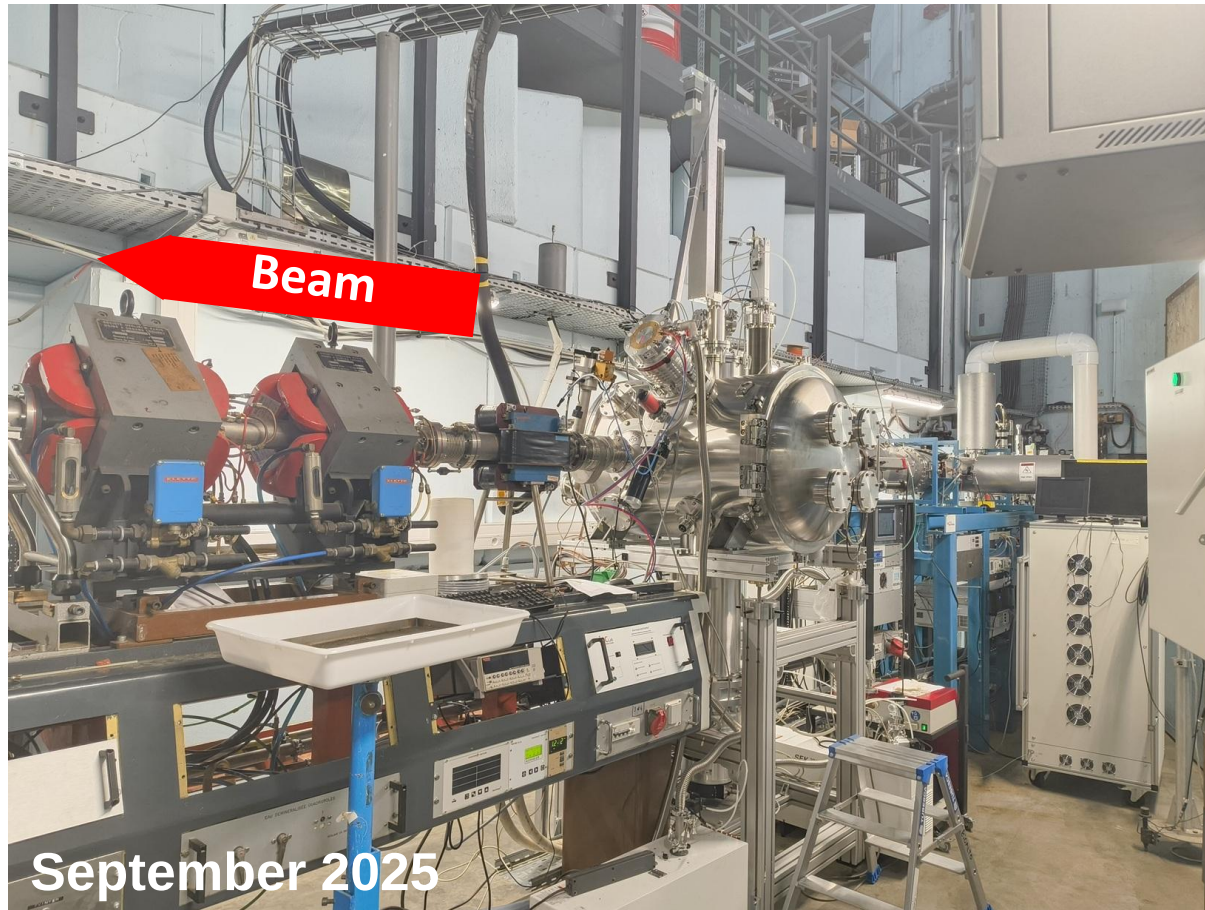
January 2026 : Commissioning of LICORNE in the SPACE ALTO beam line



New gas system and new design successfully validated. Commissioning performed with ⁷Li at 15 MeV and a current of 300 nA at the SPACE ALTO chamber. The gas cell of hydrogen was operated at 1.6 Atm. It was possible to achieve up to 150 000 n/s on the EDEN detector (several meters from LICORNE) and only 5000 gamma counts on the LaBr₃.



SPACE ALTO / BioALTO



Chamber for ions



LICORNE





BioALTO: new beamline @ ALTO dedicated to radiobiological studies

Motivation

- Closure of Van de Graaff accelerator at IP2I and migration of RadioGraaff radiobiology setup to ALTO.
- Accelerator and platform expertise at IJClab (SCALP, ALTO, ...).
- Increased developments in dosimetry and radiobiology at Paris-Saclay University
- Develop a reference facility for hadron therapy research at IJClab in collaboration with the IP2I and the LPSC.
- Promote the research activities carried out in hadron therapy in Ile-de-France.
- Contribute to the network of irradiators on a national scale (Resplendir network).

Requirements of radiobiological experiments:

- ✓ Monoenergetic beams
resolution better than 0.1 MeV
- ✓ Homogeneous irradiation field
within 2% over $\sim\text{cm}^2$
- ✓ Precise dose
- ✓ Precise dose rate
- ✓ Reproducibility
- ✓ Strict irradiation calendar

Possible available beams:

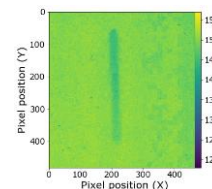
- **Protons**
- ^4He , ^{12}C , ^{16}O and others
- **High dose rate beam (flash)**



- The support of the cell plates and detectors is remote controlled with a robotic arm inside a temperature-controlled enclosure.
- Possibility of irradiating multiple wells without the need to enter the controlled area
- Development in beam monitoring and micro-dosimetry

March 2024 : Characterization of 3D-microdosimeter for the BioALTO platform

- Calibration of 3 chips (each containing 50 sets of 3D-microdosimeter)
- Monoenergetic alpha beam: from 5.75 to 20 MeV
- Validation of the calibration curve for the energies available at BioALTO
- Validation of beam visualisation and comparison with radiochromic films



P. Laniece (IJClab), A. Leite (IJClab), M. Beauve (IP2I) et al.,



Radioactive Ion Beams at ALTO

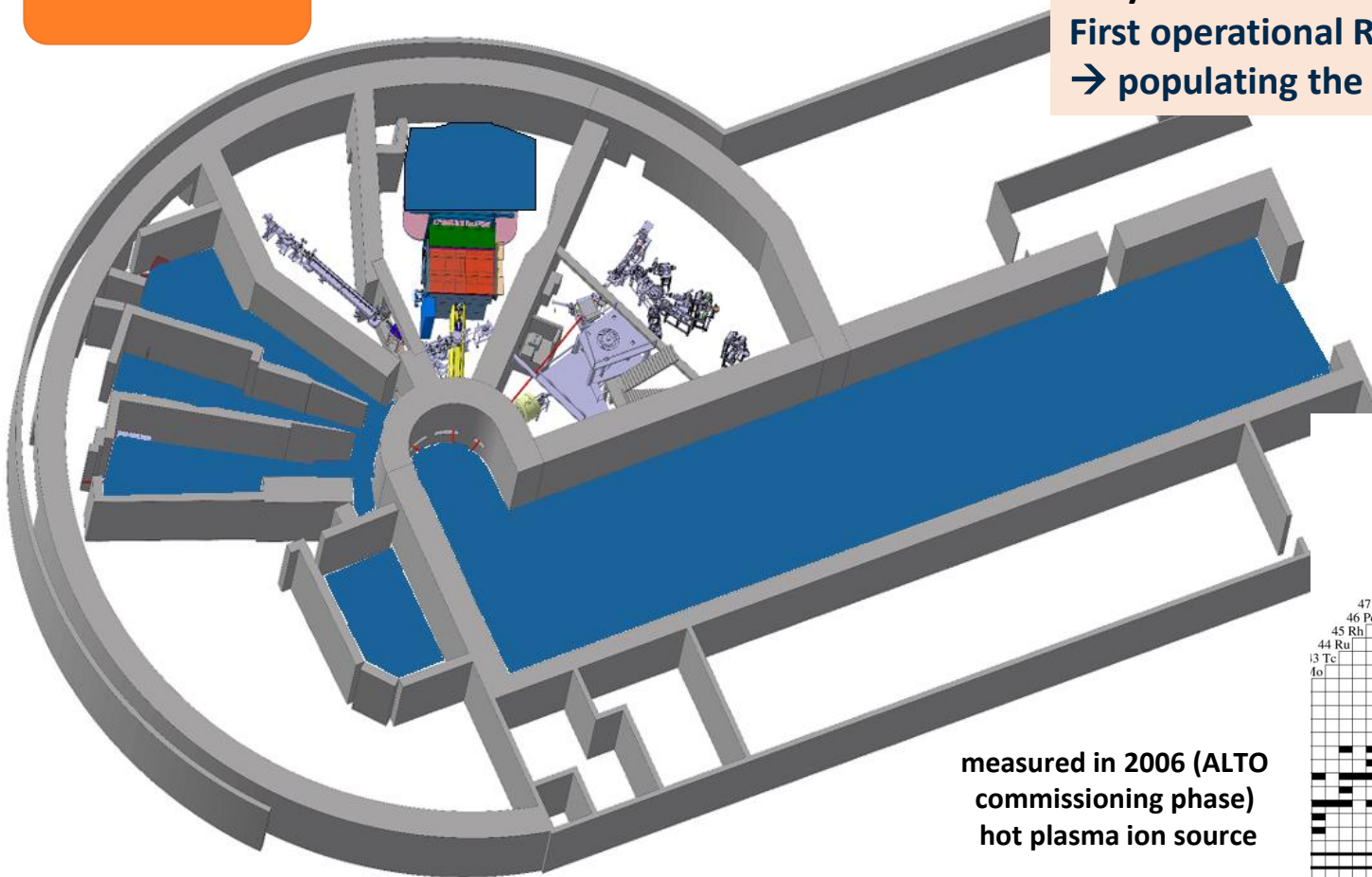
ALTO - LEB

March 2012 : Operating licence from nuclear safety regulator

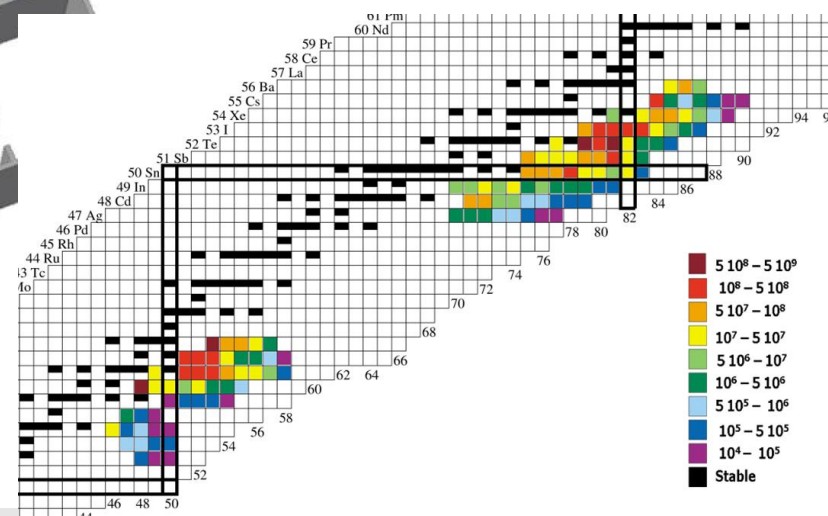
May 2013 : Alto Workshop

First operational RIB facility based on photo-fission

→ populating the GDR of ^{238}U (~ 10^{11} f/s)

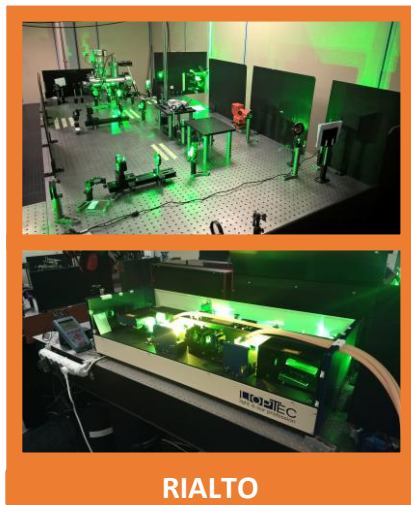


measured in 2006 (ALTO
commissioning phase)
hot plasma ion source

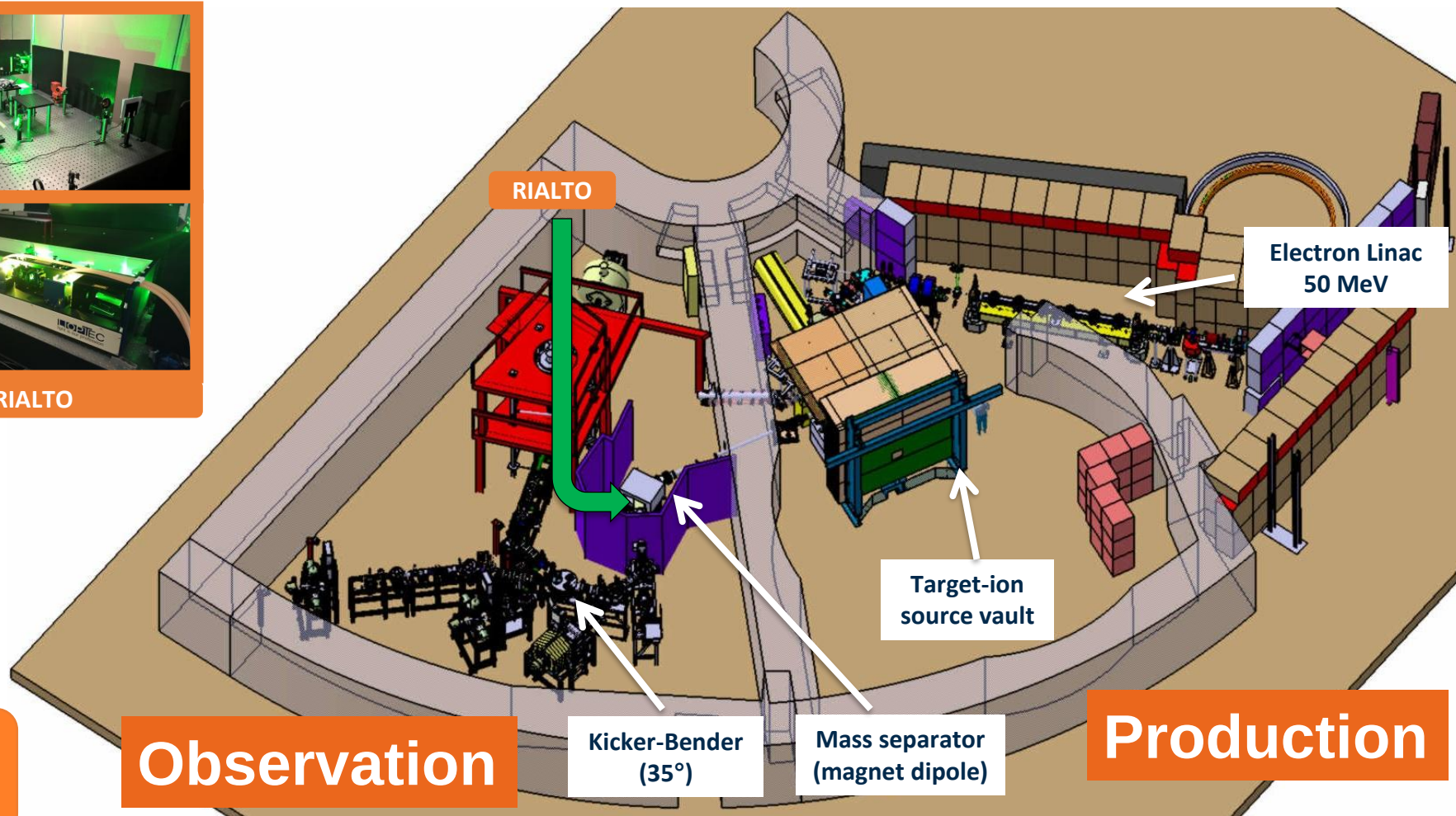




Radioactive Ion Beams at ALTO



RIALTO



ALTO - LEB

Observation

Production



<https://alto.ijclab.in2p3.fr/en/facility/alto-leb/production/>

RIB produced by photofission at ALTO

ALTO - LEB



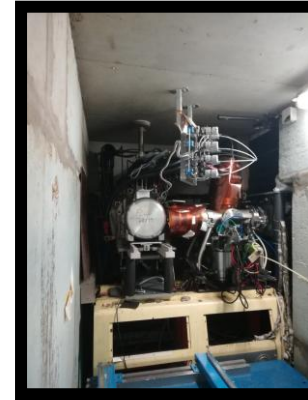


FRISAL project : Robotic Frontend for ALTO-LEB

• Objectives of phase 1

- Increase Frontend reliability for RIB production
- Upgrade of the RIB acceleration from 30 kV to 60 kV
- New Frontend mechanics adapted to the robot
- 2023 upgrade of high power cables
→ stability of the temperature applied on the oven

Summer 2026 : installation and test of new support for the extraction electrode. Commissioning with stable beam by the end of the year
→ Improve the reliability of the RIB production



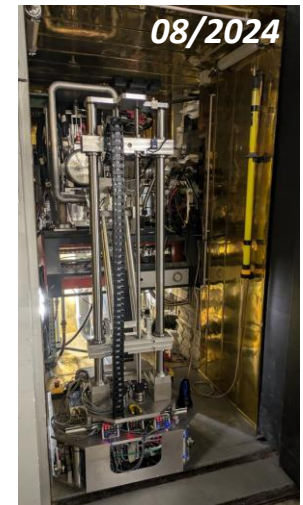
2019



October 2022 : online commissioning

• Objectives of phase 2

- Implementation of the Robot at ALTO-LEB
- Increase the number of RIB experiments
- 2023 : main movements validated
→ advanced tests at ALTO
- Summer 2024 : first test in area of the target-ion source vault

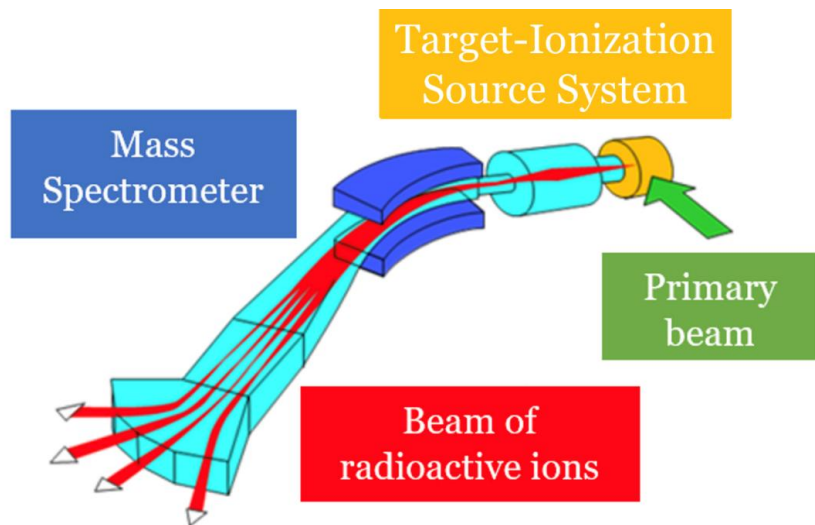




Production of Radioactive Ion Beams at ALTO

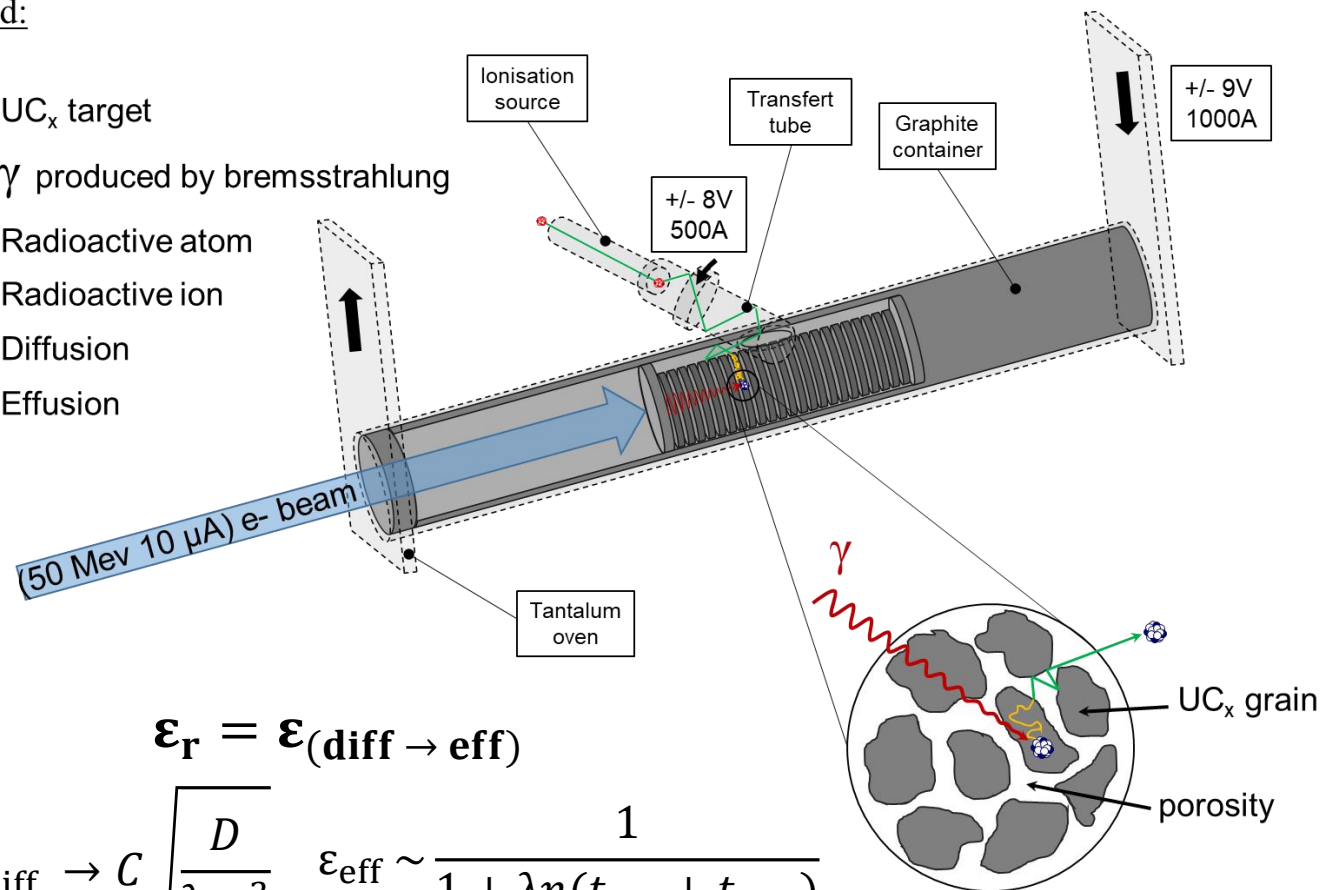
- Strong demand from nuclear physics for exotic beams to study nuclear structure
- Production of radioactive beams at ALTO: ISOL (Isotope Separation On-Line) method

$$I = I_p \cdot \sigma \cdot N \cdot \epsilon_r \cdot \epsilon_{ion} \cdot \epsilon_{tr}$$



Legend:

- UC_x target
- γ produced by bremsstrahlung
- Radioactive atom
- Radioactive ion
- Diffusion
- Effusion



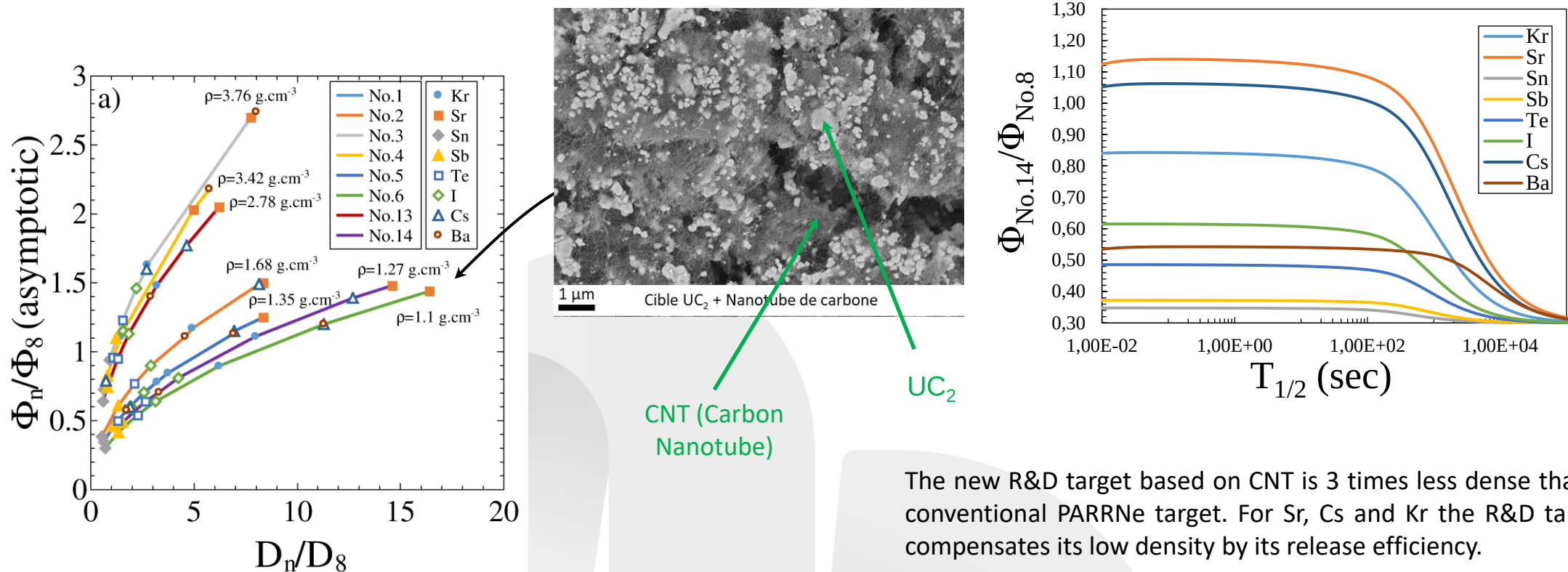
$$\epsilon_r = \epsilon_{(diff \rightarrow eff)}$$

$$\epsilon_{diff} \rightarrow C \sqrt{\frac{D}{\lambda \cdot a^2}} \quad \epsilon_{eff} \sim \frac{1}{1 + \lambda n(t_{vol} + t_{coll})}$$



Production of Radioactive Ion Beams at ALTO

Density and release properties of UCx targets on the fission product yields at ALTO



Exit rates of Kr, Sr, Sn, Sb, Te, I, Cs and Ba isotopes with half-life less than 100 seconds from targets Nos. 1 to 14 relatively to the target No. 8 as a function of the ratio of the diffusion coefficient in the target n over the diffusion coefficient in the conventional target. a) representation of the samples only carburized

The new R&D target based on CNT is 3 times less dense than a conventional PARRNe target. For Sr, Cs and Kr the R&D target compensates its low density by its release efficiency.

J. Guillot, B. Roussière et al., NIM B 468 (2020) 1
J. Guillot, B. Roussière et al., NIM B 440 (2019) 1
J. Guillot, B. Roussière et al., NIM B 433 (2018) 60

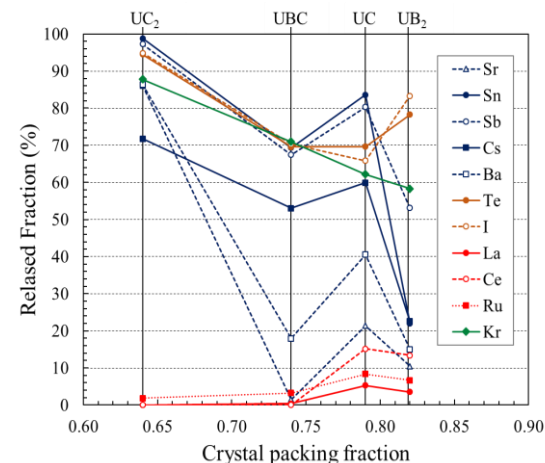
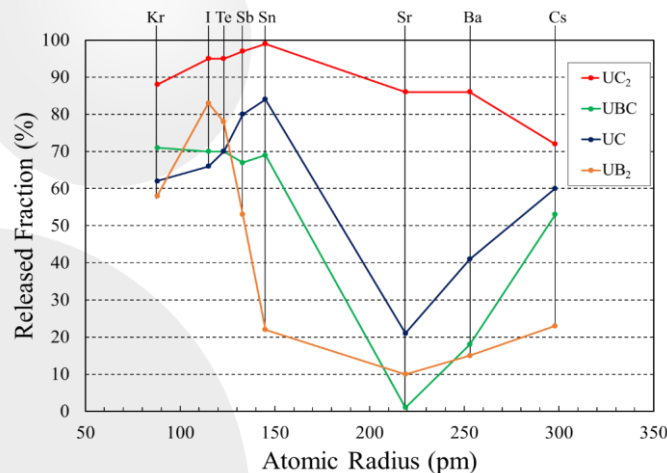
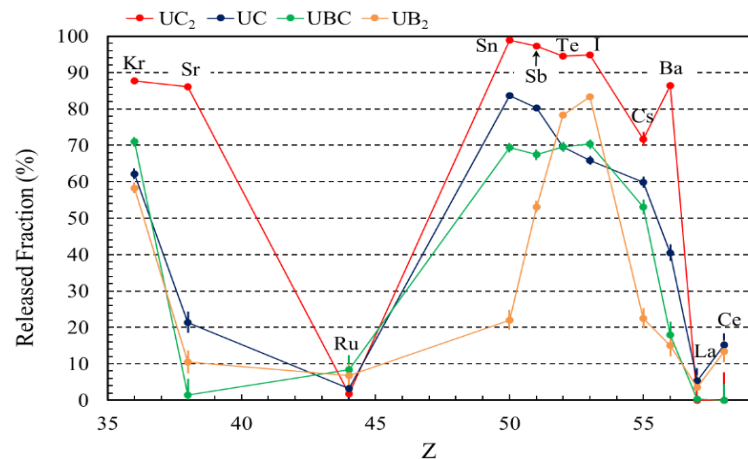


Production of Radioactive Ion Beams at ALTO



STudies of Uranium Compounds (STUC) → Release properties crystal structures

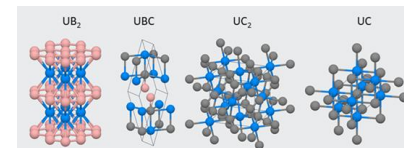
Experiment performed in July 2023 with protons at 26 MeV



In this study, four uranium compounds (UC_2 , UC, UBC and UB_2) were synthesized to investigate the release behavior of 11 fission-derived elements.

- Analysis of the experimental results showed that crystal packing fraction and atomic size influence the release of the elements.
- Krypton, a noble gas, shows a linear relationship between its release fraction and the crystal packing fraction.

In contrast, the release of the other elements is influenced in a complex way by the chemical environment and the atomic size. A study of the correlations between the physico-chemical properties of the elements revealed that chemical properties control the mobility and reactivity of elements.



J. Guillot, B. Roussière et al., "Impact of UC_2 , UC, UBC and UB_2 target compositions on the release of fission products", NIM B 559 (2025) 165600.



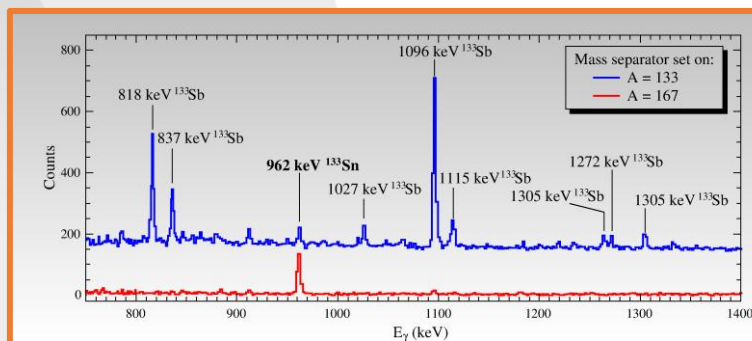
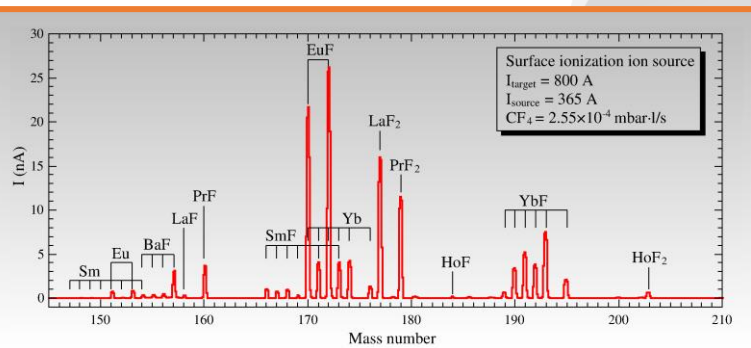
Molecular Beams at ALTO

Interest of the molecular beam technique:

- ✓ To improve the release of refractory elements by forming molecular compounds more volatile than the elements
- ✓ To purify by mass-separation a beam by forming a chemical compound with only one of the isobars
- ✓ To reduce the effusion time

Experimental procedure

Molecular beams are obtained at ALTO by adding CF₄ or S in gaseous form into the graphite container well adapted to the short target configuration and composed of three parts: the gas inlet section, the target chamber and the tube for the entry of the electron beam. CF₄ is introduced using a gas-inlet system composed of four calibrated leaks manually adjustable, without any electronic component inside and thus resistant to the hard on-line running conditions. S is introduced using an ancillary oven located inside the target + ion-source system.

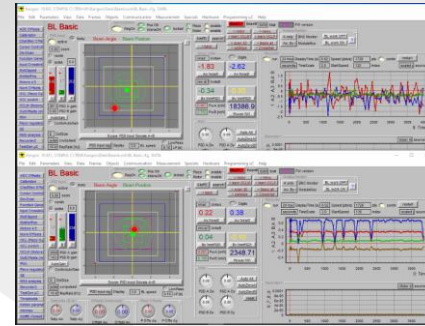
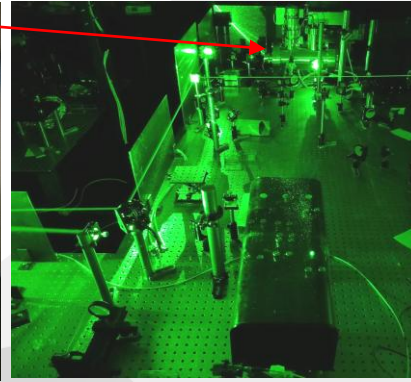
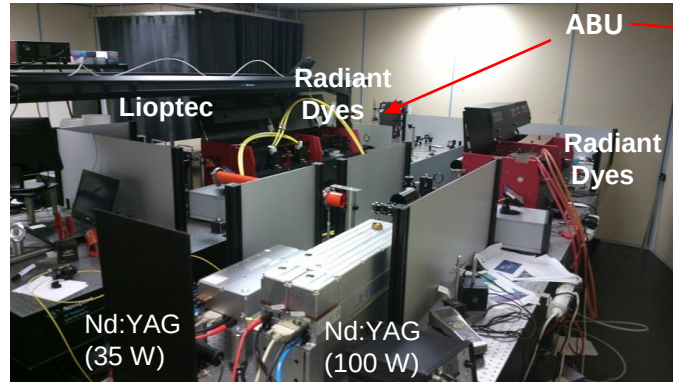


B. Roussière, et al.

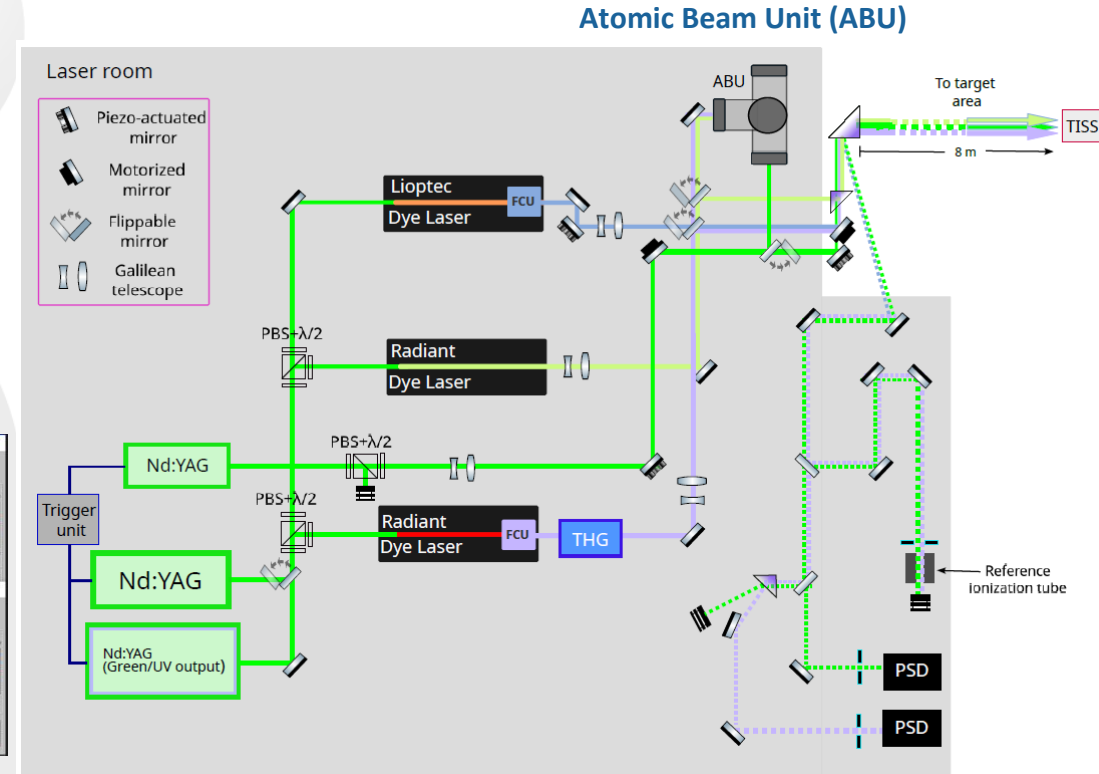


RIALTO : Laser Resonance Ionization Technique

- 3 Edgewave Nd:YAG pumping laser (532 nm – 355 nm, 100W-32W-80W, 10 kHz rep rate, 10 ns pulse width)
- 2 Radiant Dyes + 1 Lioptec dye laser (540-900 nm), up to 5 W@20 W pumping, 10 ns pulse and 3 GHz linewidth
- 2 BBO doubling and tripling units (200- 475 nm), < 1 W



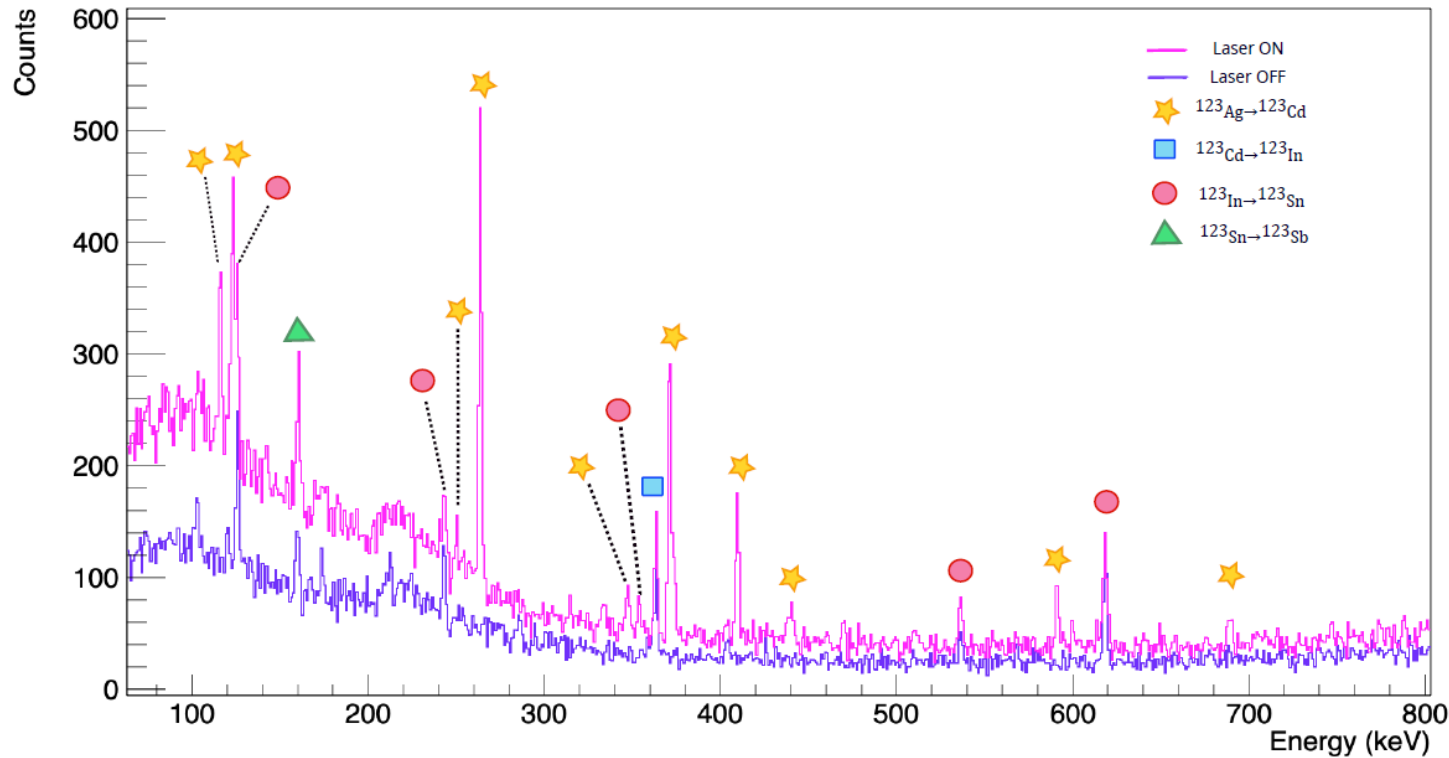
- Beam Distribution System upgraded
- Beam Stabilization System upgraded
- Tripling frequency for Zn, Sb
- Switch between both laser schemes performed



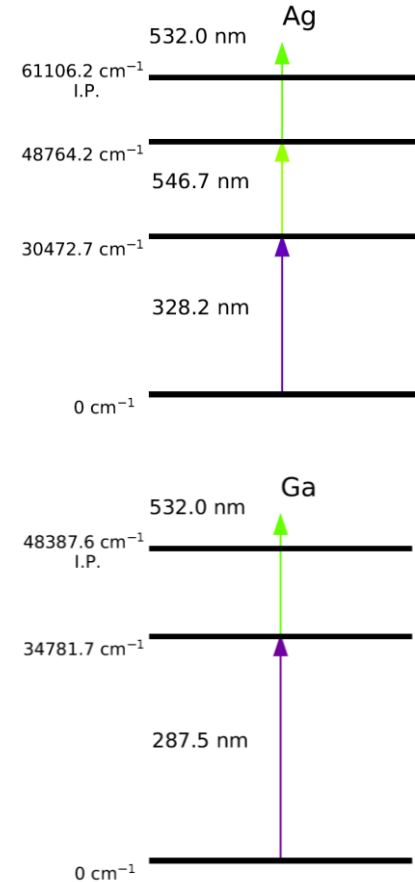
F. Le Blanc et al.



[Published results in 2025] RIALTO : Laser Resonance Ionization Technique



Experiment performed in November 2023

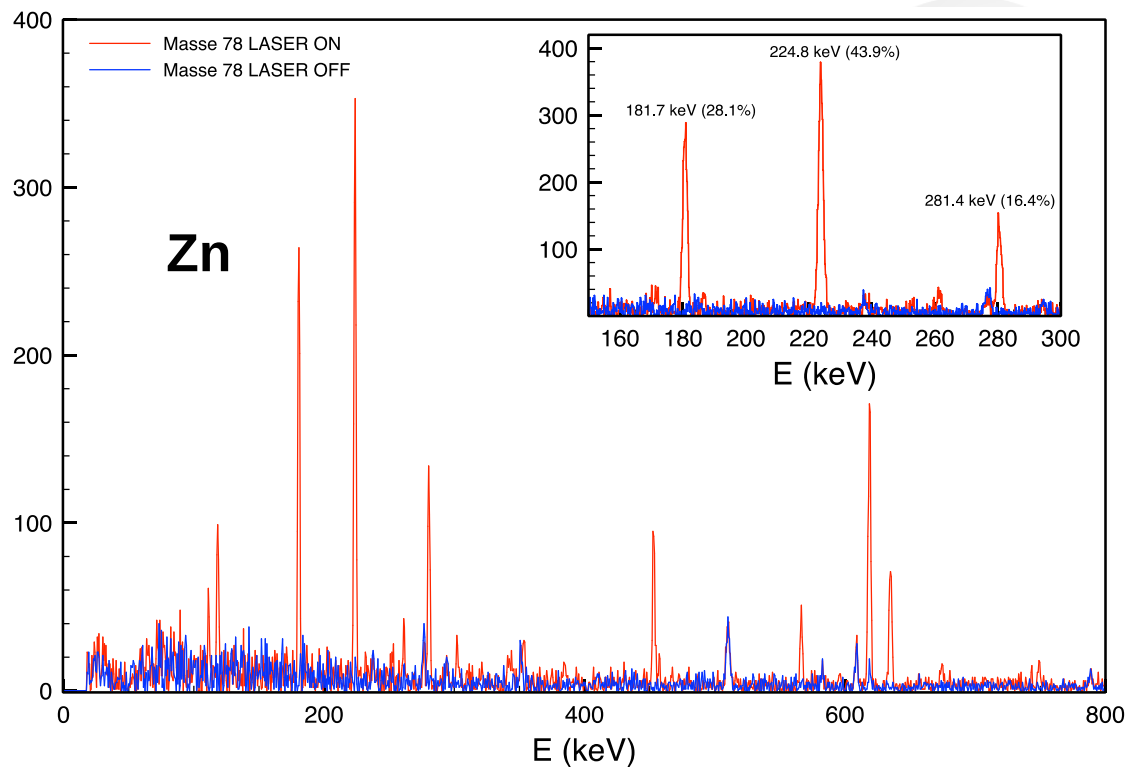


A. Segovia-Miranda et al., "Upgrades of the RIALTO facility and recent laser-ionized beams of radioactive gallium and silver isotopes", NIM A 1080 (2025) 170785.



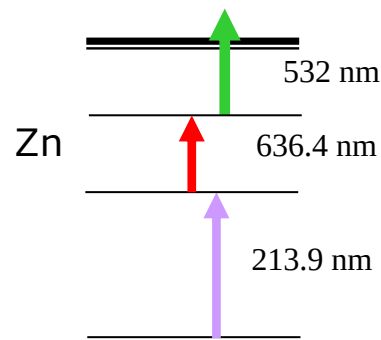
[New development] RIALTO : Laser Resonance Ionization Technique

Radioactive beams of Zn and Ga at ALTO

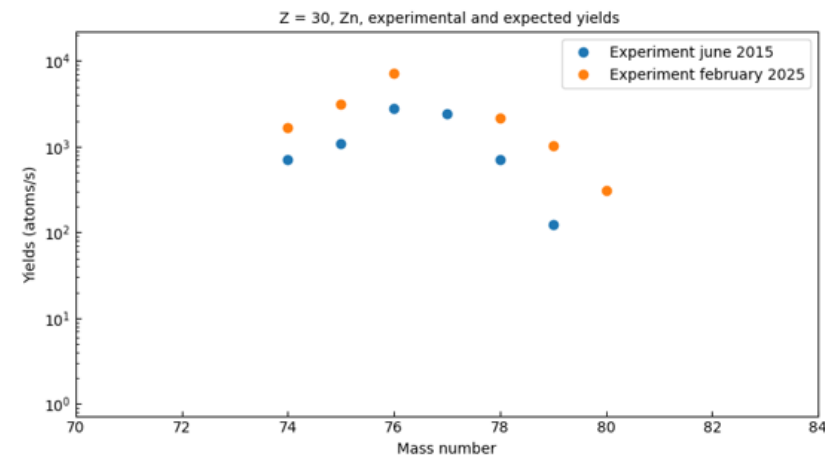


Experiment performed in February 2025

→ Development of Cd laser scheme in progress



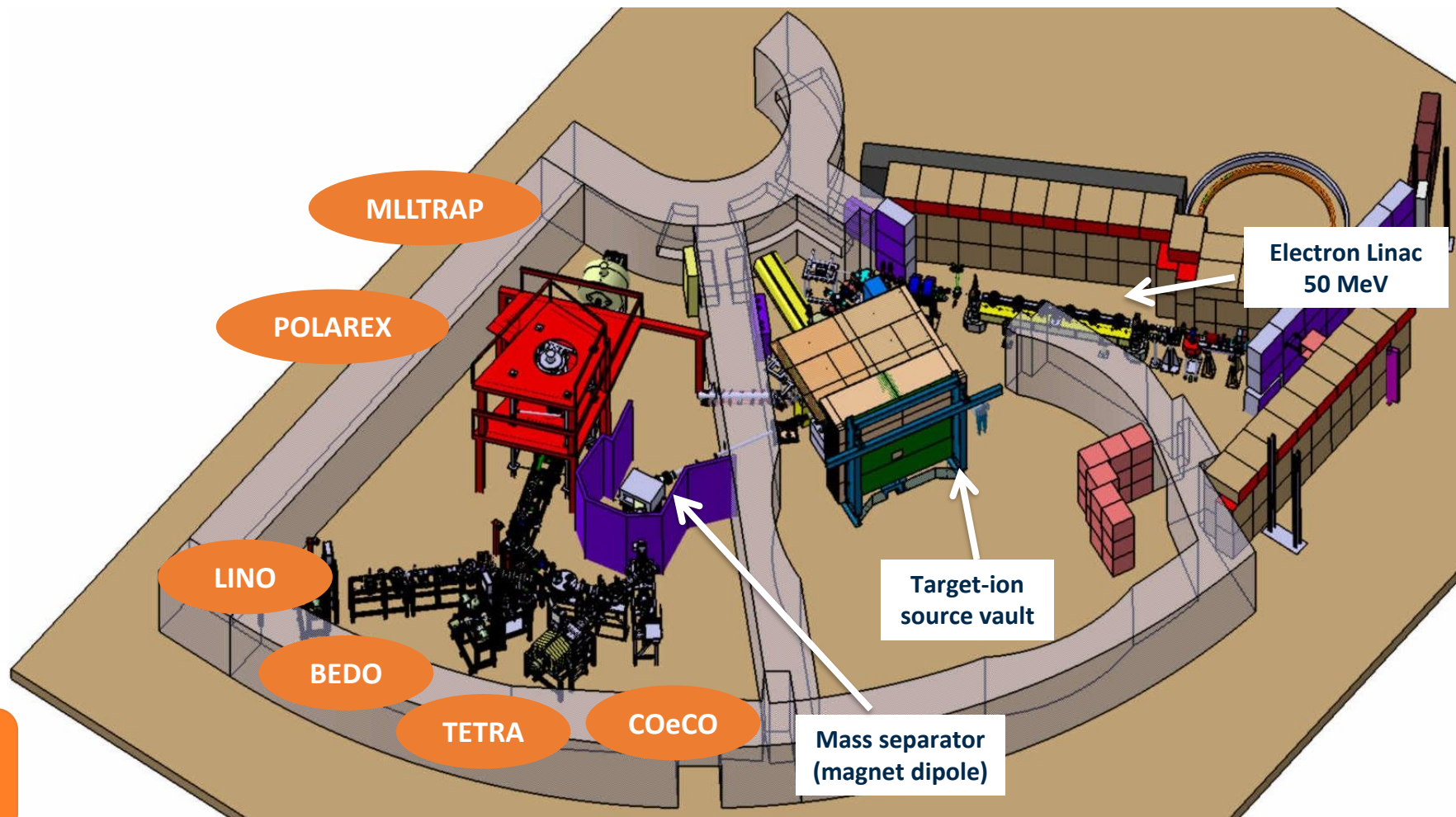
Zinc production (available online)



J. Guillot



Radioactive Ion Beams at ALTO



ALTO - LEB



LINO (Laser-induced nuclear orientation (μ, Q, J^π))

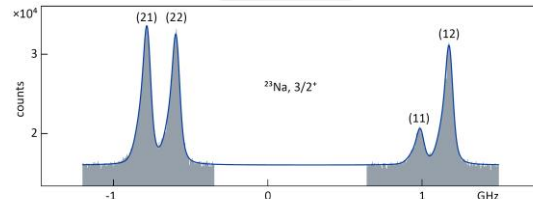
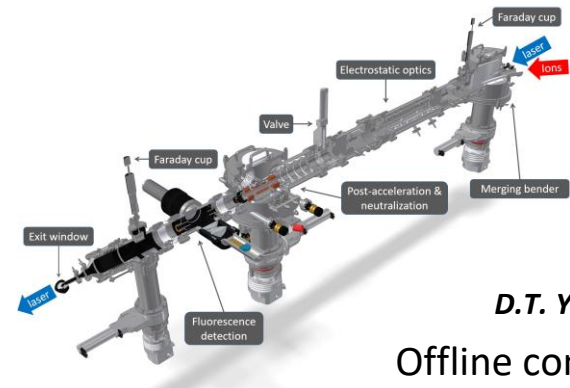
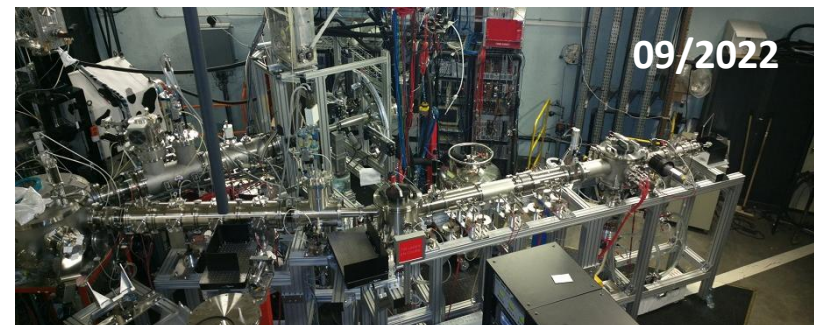


Figure 2. Fluorescence spectrum of the D_1 line in ^{23}Na ($J^\pi = 3/2^+$). Each transition is denoted in parentheses by the total angular-momentum quantum numbers of the lower and the higher state, respectively. The frequency scale is relative to the fine-structure splitting.

D.T. Yordanov et al., Journal of Instrumentation, 15 06004 (2020)

Offline commissioning of LINO @ ALTO → October 2019



16/07/2026 : LINO moved to GANIL



March 2026



April 2026



11 Letters of intent associated to LASAGN

UNION (Understanding the size of the nucleus)



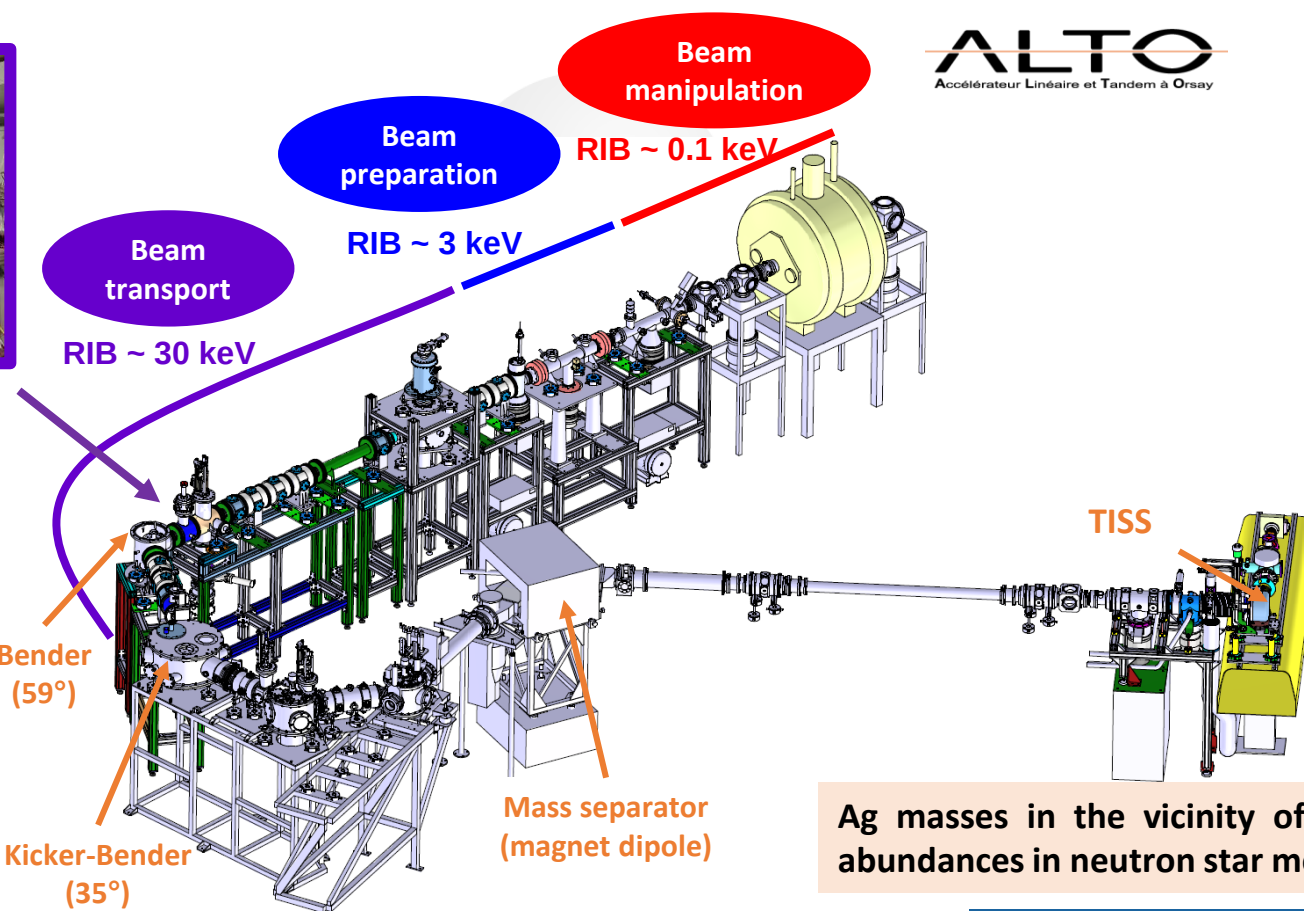
Laser spectroscopy for nuclear structure at DESIR
→ Upgrade LINO toward a CRIS-like setup

L. Lalanne et al.



ALTO-LEB : MLLTRAP

ALTO
Accélérateur Linéaire et Tandem à Orsay



Ag masses in the vicinity of $N = 82 \rightarrow$ impact r-process abundances in neutron star merger event

Beam transport optimization towards all sections with two stable ion sources.

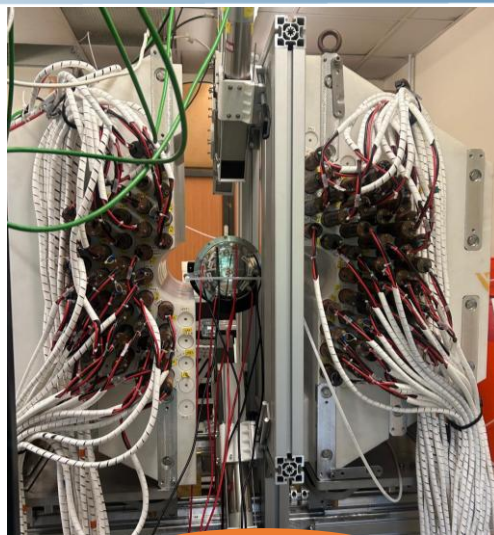
E. Minaya Ramirez et al.



4 Letters of intent associated to MLLTRAP



COeCO



TETRA



BEDO / MONSTER

G. Tocabens, M. Lebois, I. Matea et al.

COeCO : identification station → conversion electron spectroscopy (COeCO)

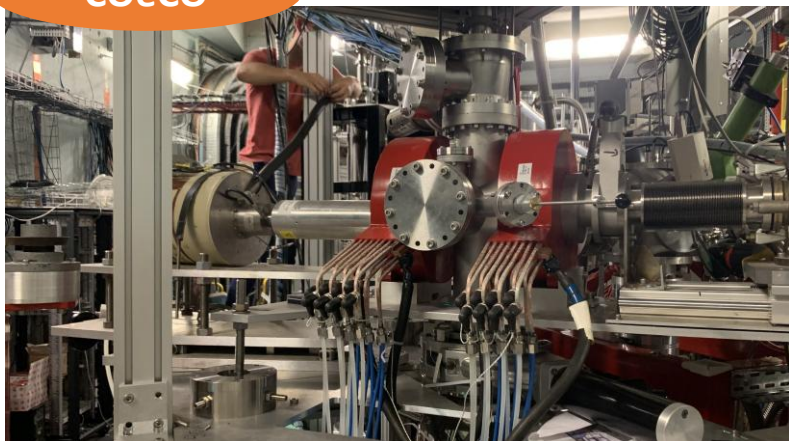


**4 Letters of intent
associated to COeCO**

TETRA : neutron detection / 80 ^3He tubes $\epsilon(^{252}\text{Cf}) = 53\%$ borated polyethylene shielding

BEDO : (**B**ETA **D**ecay studies in **O**rsay) / up to 5 Ge detectors ($\epsilon = 5\text{-}6\%$) 4π β trigger /Fast-timing studies using LaBr_3 detectors

COeCO



Conversion electron spectroscopy was performed in two Zr isotopes in the transitional region around $N = 60$, ^{98}Zr and ^{100}Zr .

This experiment enabled to reinvestigate electric monopole transitions strengths between first excited 0^+ states and ground-state.

A new value for the half-life of the first excited state in ^{98}Zr as well as new branching ratios for the two transitions depopulating the first excited 0^+ state in ^{100}Zr were reported.

These new measurements allowed to extract two new values for the strengths of the E0 transitions, $\rho_2 (0^+_2 \rightarrow 0^+_1)$, lower than reported values in literature. Validation and comparison with beyond-mean-field (5DCH-D1M) theoretical calculations, which qualitatively support the experimental findings but show limitations in deformation predictions.

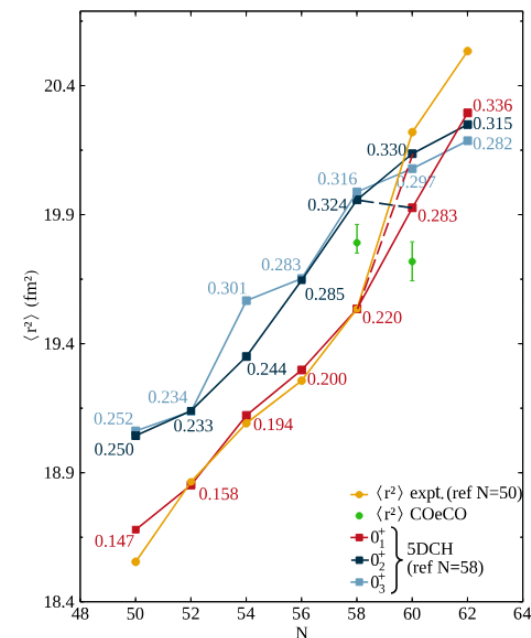


FIG. 7. Comparison between experimental (yellow full circles) and theoretical values—computed within the 5DCH model using the Gogny D1M interaction—(full squares) for the mean-square charge radii of Zr isotopes as a function of neutron number. The values for the first excited 0^+ states obtained in this work are reported as green full circles. Computed values for the β_2 deformation parameter are indicated in color. Theoretical values are normalized to the experimental value for ^{98}Zr , at $N = 58$; see text for details and explanations on the dashed lines.



ALTO-LEB : TETRA / BEDO / MONSTER

TETRA

Neutron counter used to investigate β -delayed two-neutron emission of ^{84}Ga .

The response of the TETRA detector was studied using Monte Carlo simulations to develop new methods for extracting information about the neutron energy spectrum.

→ Prediction of the average energy of β -delayed neutrons from ^{82}Ga

November 2023

BEDO / MONSTER



February 2025



The **MO**dular **N**eutron time-of-flight **S**pectrom**ETER** (MONSTER) was used to verify the validity of these new methods by directly measuring the neutron energy spectrum of ^{82}Ga

E. Cantacuzène et al., " New methods for recovering β -delayed neutron spectral information with a ^3He long counter: TETRA benchmarked with MONSTER at ALTO", Eur. Phys. J. A (2026) 62:189

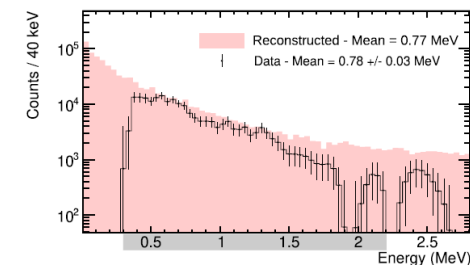
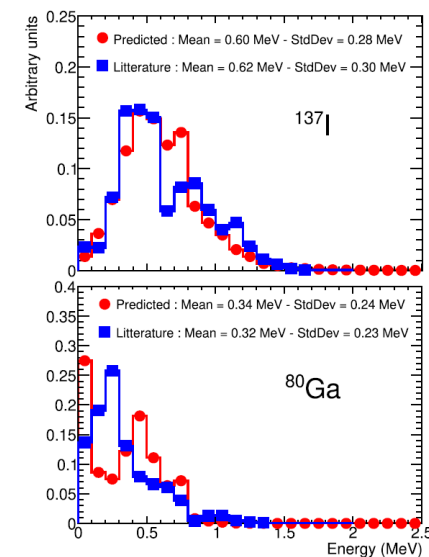


Fig. 12 ^{82}Ga neutron-energy spectrum corrected for the MONSTER and the β detector efficiencies. The data is compared to the IBUM reconstructed spectrum. The mean was computed in the energy region overlined in grey (0.28 MeV - 2.2 MeV)



Summary

- Project of reliability and sustainability of ALTO ongoing
- R&D on stable and radioactive beams
- SPACE ALTO is now in operation
- Installation of new instruments for short and long periods
- Next ALTO PAC in March 2028

2018



2021



2027

ALTO Workshop and
Users meeting 2027

Thank you for your attention !