

13 october 2023

Historic site of the European Physical Society (EPS)
L'Institut de Physique Nucl aire d'Orsay (IPN)

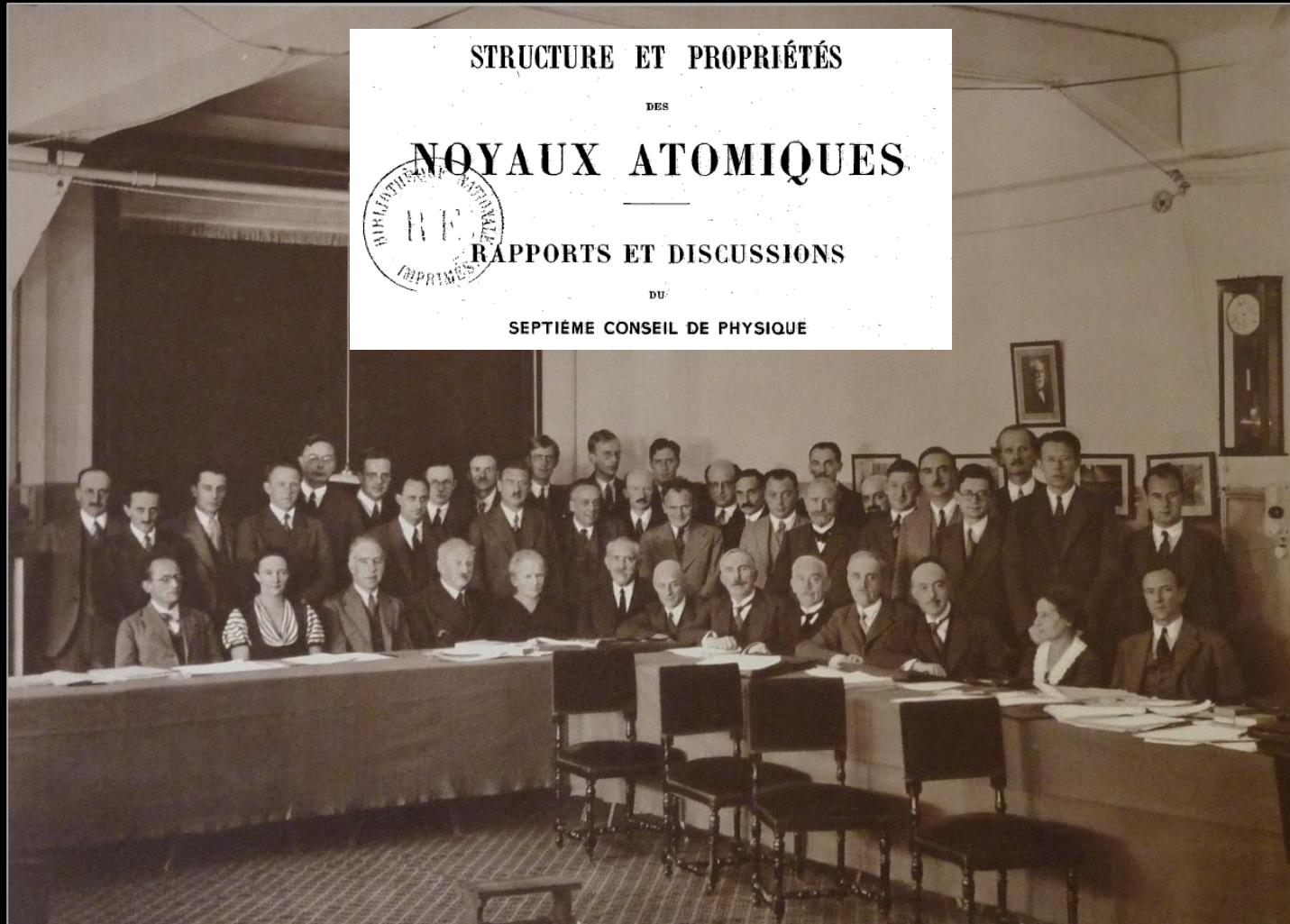
IPN Orsay

A historical overview of the first decades

Jo l Pouthas

joel.pouthas@orange.fr

Nuclear physics in the 1930s



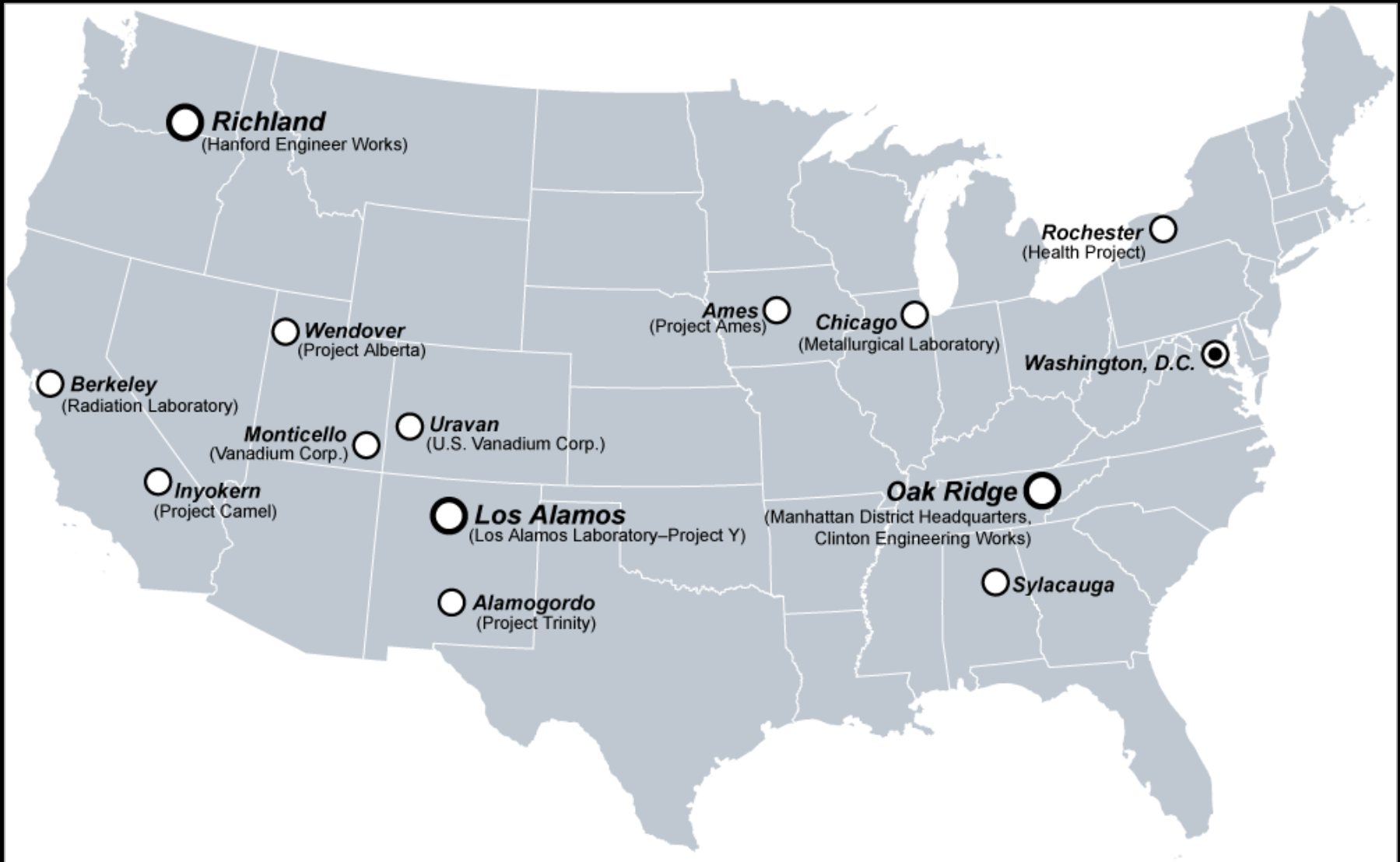
Institut International de Physique Solvay
Bruxelles - 22 au 29 octobre 1933

Nuclear physics in the 1930s



Irène and Frédéric Joliot-Curie in their laboratory in 1935

Manhattan Project



Laboratories and industrial sites of the Manhattan Project

Hiroshima (August 6, 1945)

August 7, 1945

The New York Times LATE CITY EDITION
 NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1945
**FIRST ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON JAPAN;
 MISSILE IS EQUAL TO 20,000 TONS OF TNT;
 TRUMAN WARNS FOE OF A 'RAIN OF RUIN'**

August 9, 1945

Le Monde DERNIERE EDITION
 PARIS, le 7 août 1945
**LES AMERICAINS LANCENT
 LEUR PREMIERE BOMBE ATOMIQUE SUR LE JAPON**
 Une révolution scientifique
 Soixante villes japonaises sont maintenant détruites
 ENTRETENS TURCO-SYRIENS A BEYROUTH
 LE BILAN DE L'EPURATION

Radio-Tokio annonce :
HIROSHIMA
NE COMPTE PLUS UN SEUL ETRE VIVANT
LA BOMBE ATOMIQUE a "brûlé à mort" la ville qui n'est plus que RUINES EFFROYABLES

France-soir DERNIERE
 DEFENSE DE LA FRANCE, BONNE SOUS L'OCCUPATION (14-JUILLET 1941)
 JEUDI 9 AOUT 1945

Le colonel PAUL TIBBETS

DEVANT UN PUBLIC CLAIRSEME
Le Tout-Sigmaringe
 apporte à Pétain son témoignage fidèle

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)



Summer 1946
Atomic Energy Act

August 1, 1946
President Truman
Signing of the Atomic Energy Act



Set up in January 1947

Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique CEA

October 18, 1945

Creation by "Ordonance" of the "Gouvernement provisoire"



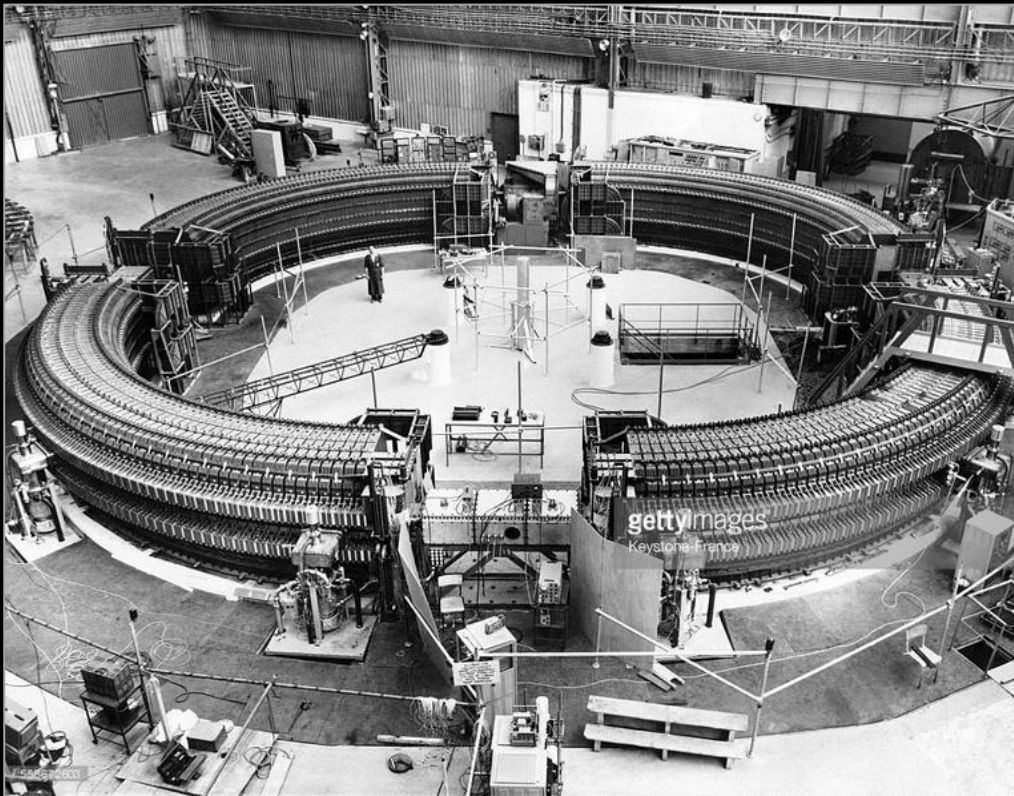
December 20, 1948

Inauguration of the ZOE pile
Fort de Châtillon

Raoul Dautry, Frédéric Joliot
Maurice Surdin

Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique CEA

1952 - Inauguration of the
"Centre d'Etudes Nucléaires" (Saclay plateau)



1958 - Saturne
the CEA's
3 GeV proton synchrotron

Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique CEA

1952 - Inauguration of the
"Centre d'Etudes Nucléaires" (Saclay plateau)



MIMAS, Injector to the synchrotron Saturn 2



Pierre Radvanyi

LNS
"Laboratoire National
Saturne"
(Active from 1978 to 1997)

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

CNRS

October 19, 1939

Creation by a "Décret" of the President Albert Lebrun

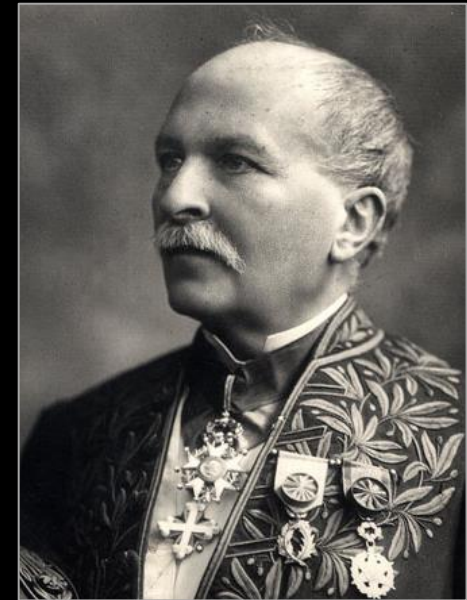
Director



Frédéric Joliot
1944 - 1946



Georges Teissier
1946 - 1950



Gaston Dupouy
1950 - 1957

Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire CERN

December 1951

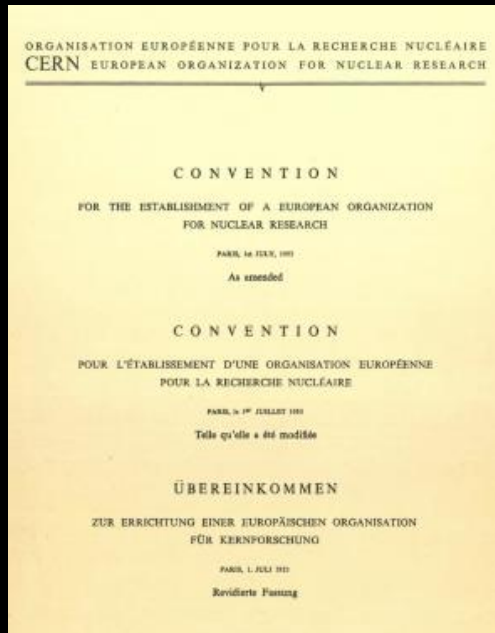
Creation during an intergovernmental meeting of UNESCO in Paris

July 1953

The convention was signed

September 1954

CERN officially came into being



(Subject to ratification
by 12 states)



On 17 May 1954, the first shovel of earth was dug
on the Meyrin site in Switzerland

Source : The history of CERN : <https://timeline.web.cern.ch/timeline-header/89>

Year 1954 in France

June 1954

"Secrétariat d'Etat à la recherche scientifique et au progrès technique"

Henri Longchambon



December 22, 1954

Henri Longchambon delivers the inaugural speech to the Superior Council for Scientific Research

1962 - 1969

Ministère d'État chargé de la Recherche scientifique
et des
Questions atomiques et spatiales

1954 - Proposals for new accelerators



Irène Curie
Director of the "Laboratoire Curie"
of the "Institut du radium"
Paris

Irene Curie

A proton synchrocyclotron
with the Dutch company Philips

Yves Rocard

A linear electron accelerator
with the French company CSF



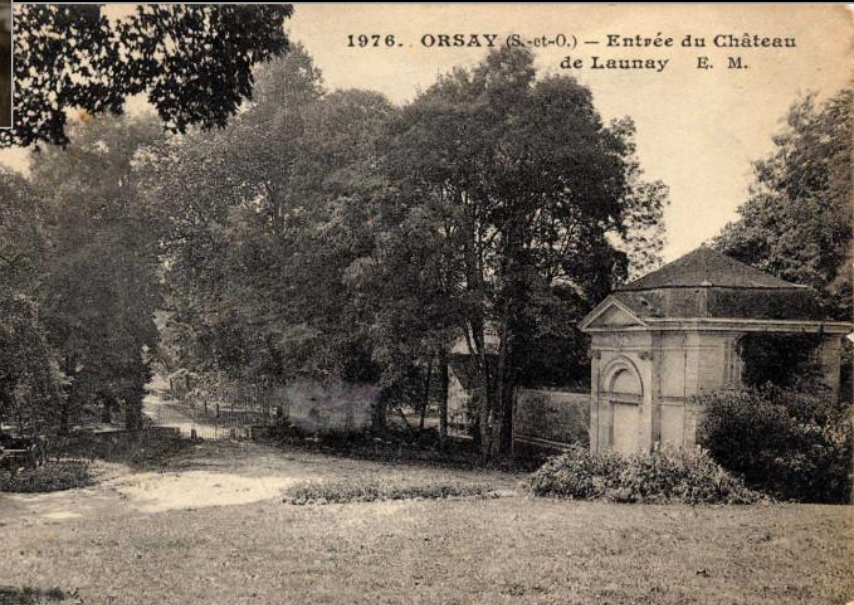
Yves Rocard
Physics Laboratory of ENS
(Ecole Normale Supérieure)
Paris

Choice of land in Orsay



Orsay - Entrance to the
"Chateau de Launay"

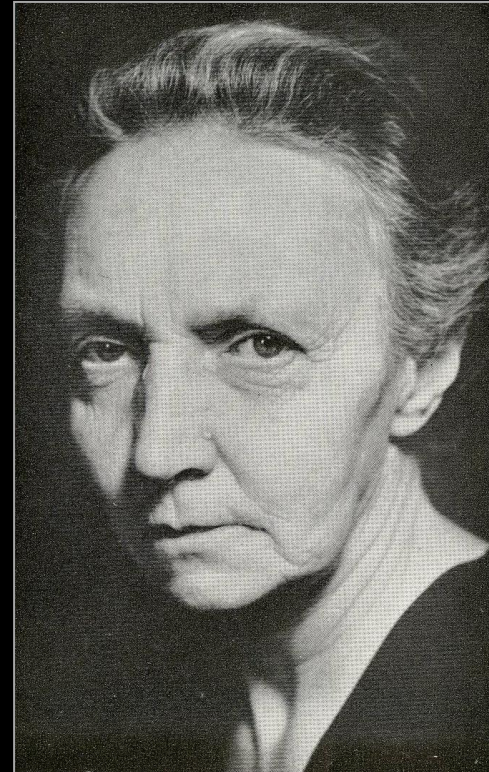
"Ligne de Sceaux"
(Suburban train)



Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay

Director

Irene Curie until March 1956



Frédéric Joliot until August 1958

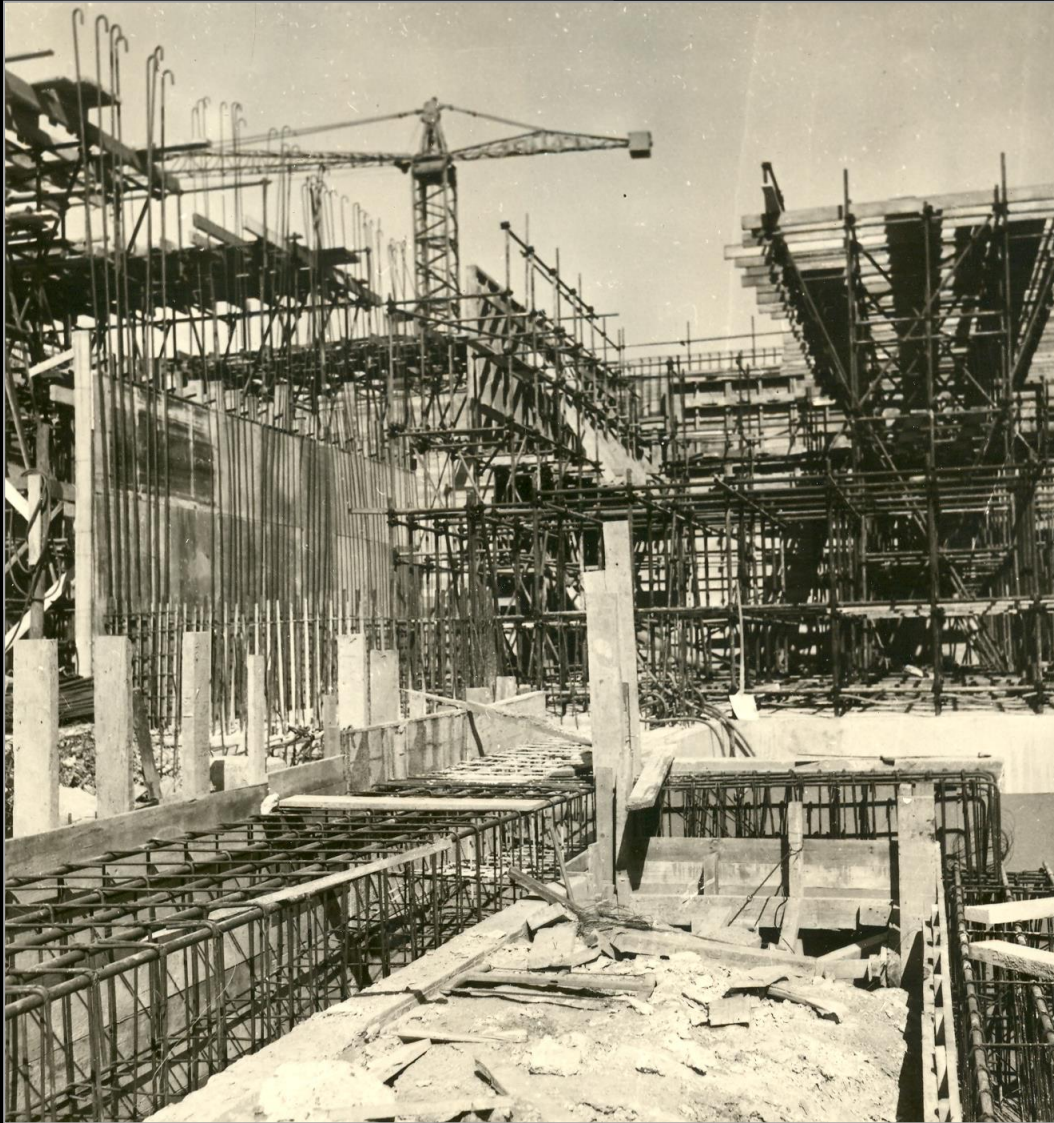
1955

Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay



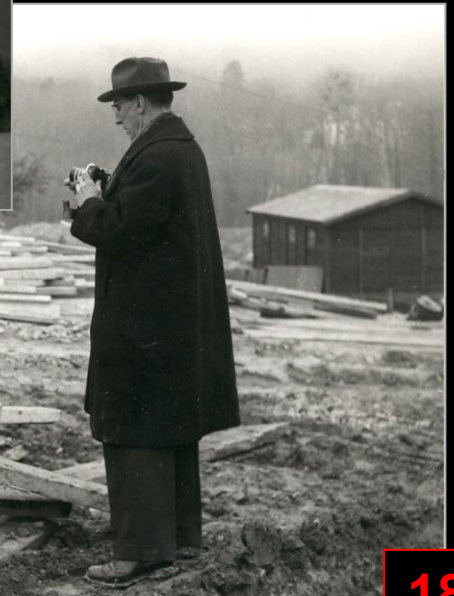
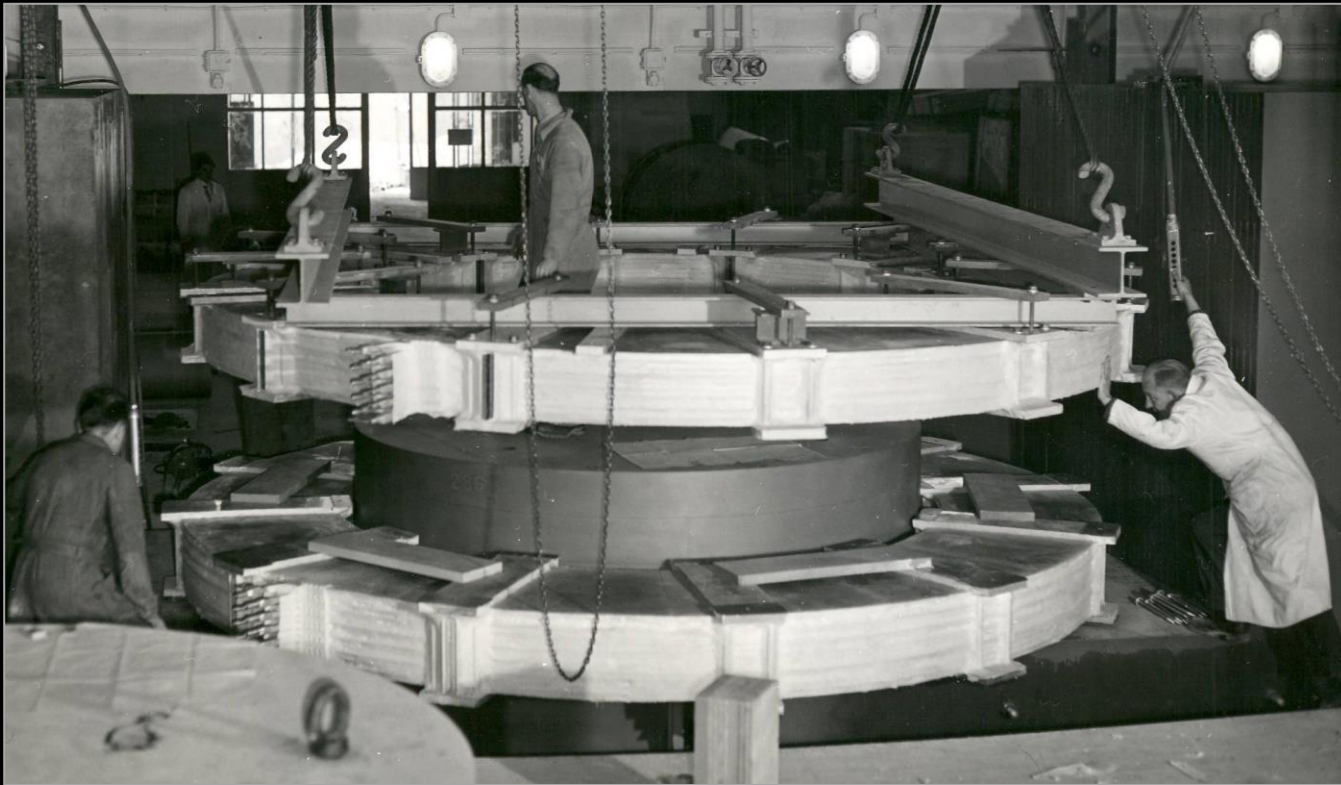
1956

Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay



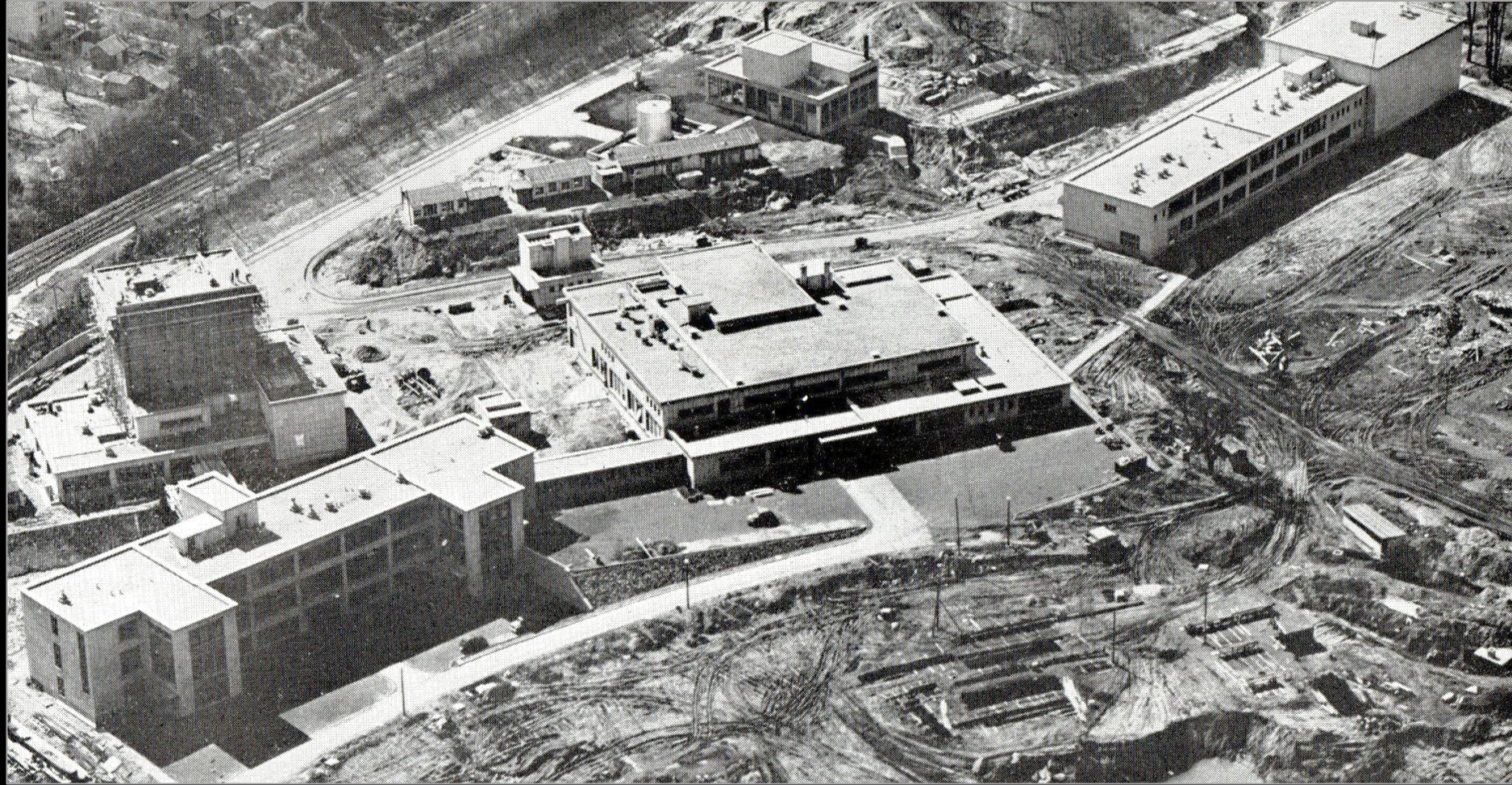
1957

Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay



1958

Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay



1958

Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay



FIGURE 1. — Vue générale des bâtiments. Au fond, de gauche à droite : bâtiment des générateurs haute tension, tour de refroidissement eau du Synchrocyclotron et centrale de chauffage des bâtiments. Devant, de gauche à droite : séparation des isotopes, laboratoire de physique, bâtiment synchrocyclotron/cyclotron et bâtiment spectrographie β et α .

Le nouveau centre de recherches fondamentales en physique nucléaire d'ORSAY

ET LA FORMATION DES CHERCHEURS

par Frédéric JOLIOT-CURIE

Professeur au Collège de France et à la Faculté des Sciences, Directeur du Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire d'ORSAY

Frédéric Joliot-Curie : "Le cadre naturel en pleine verdure où règne le calme est favorable aux recherches fondamentales"

1958

Laboratoire de physique nucléaire d'Orsay

La recherche et l'enseignement en physique nucléaire au Centre d'ORSAY

par Jean TEILLAC

*Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences de Paris
Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire du Centre d'ORSAY*



Jean Teillac

L'équipement des laboratoires de physique nucléaire au Centre d'ORSAY

par Michel RIOU

*Chef de Travaux à la Faculté des Sciences de Paris
Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire du Centre d'ORSAY*



Michel Riou

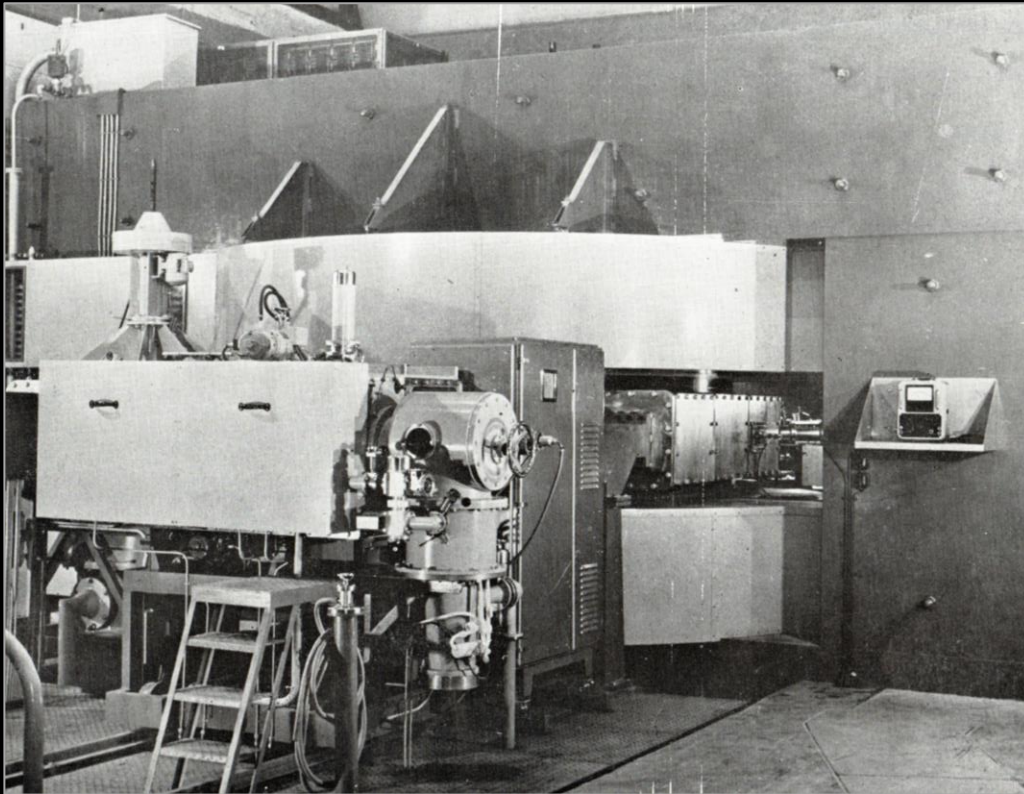
1958

Nuclear physics at the Orsay Center Particule accelerators

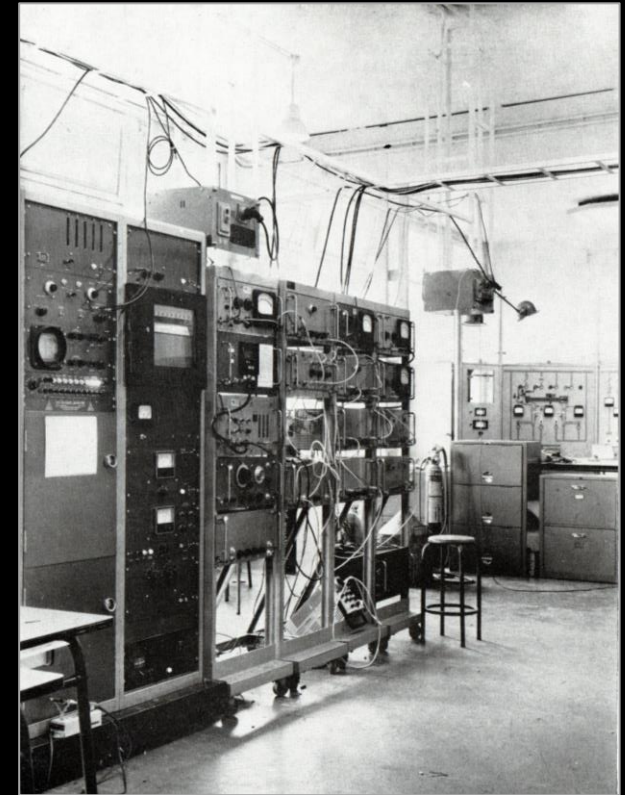
1 - Synchrocyclotron built by Philips

Internal beam since June 4, 1958

External proton beam of 156 MeV soon expected



Synchrocyclotron (HF side)



Measurement and control room

1958

Nuclear physics at the Orsay Center

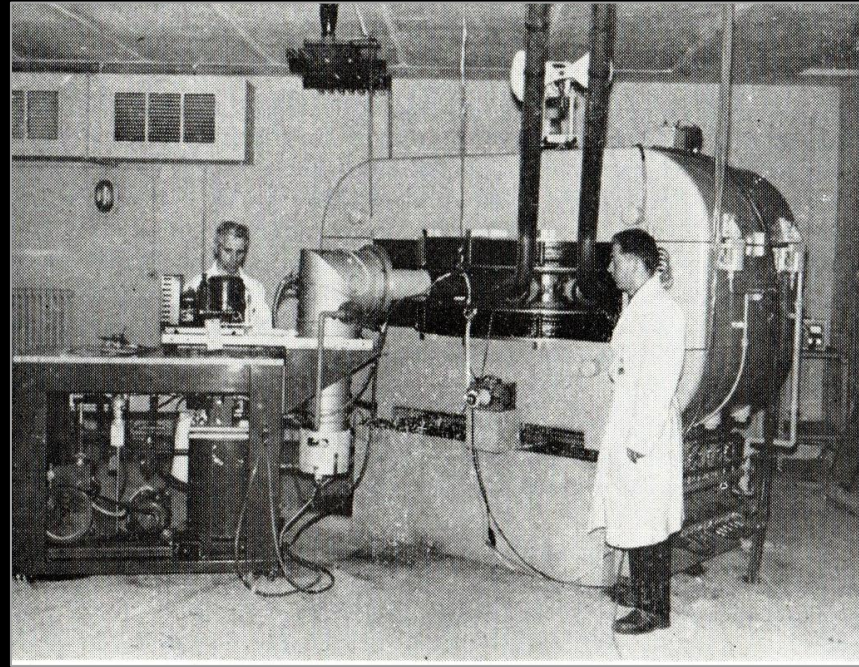
Particule accelerators

2 - Cyclotron of the Collège de France

transferred to Orsay in April 1958

Deutons 7 MeV

Alphas 14 MeV



3 - A variable energy cyclotron

Currently under study

Heavy ions (C, N, O, Ne) 100 MeV (even more)

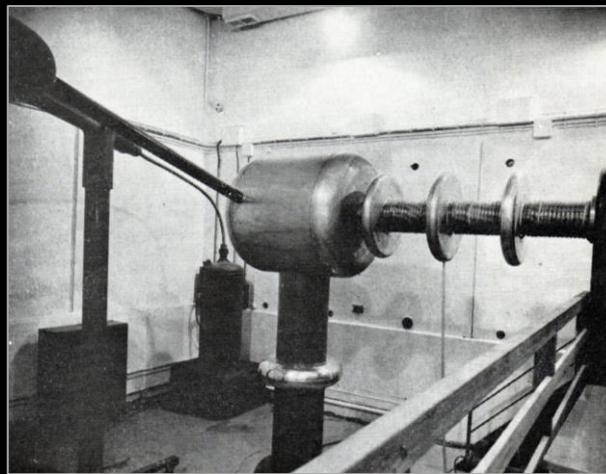
1958

Nuclear physics at the Orsay Center

Particule accelerators

4 - High voltage generators

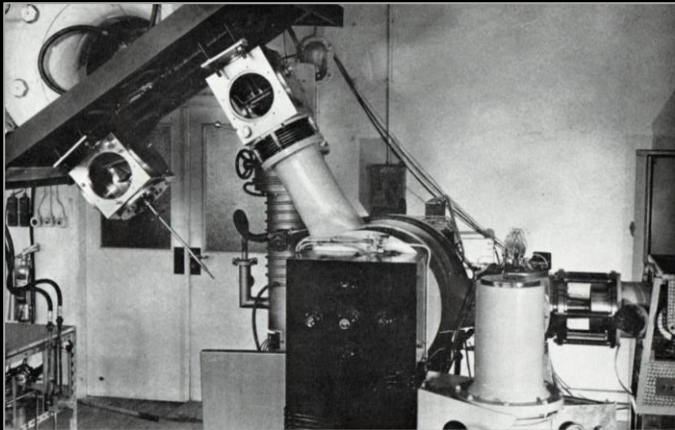
- Cockroft-Walton generator of 150 (-> 300 kV)
- Another of 600 kV built by Sames in Grenoble
- 4 MV generator studied by the Swiss company Haefely



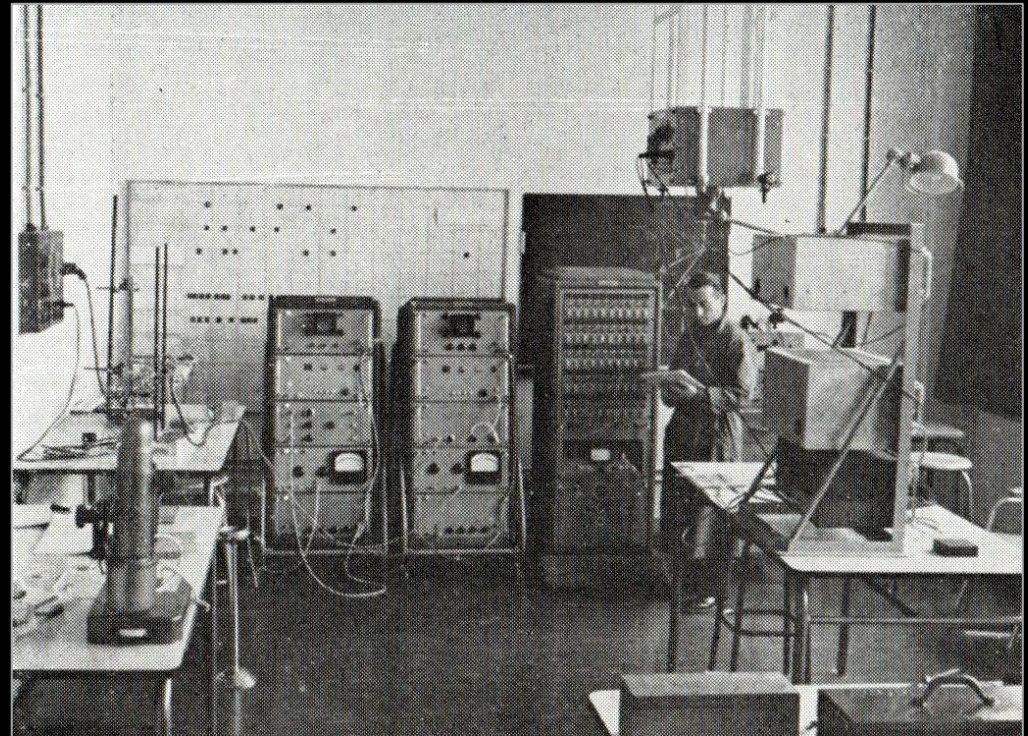
600 keV electrostatic generator

1958

Nuclear physics at the Orsay Center Experimental setups



Electromagnetic isotope separator



Physics room with its detectors
and 50 or 100 channel analyzer

1959

Université de Paris

Institut du Radium

Physique nucléaire
Radiochimie

Annuaire du Laboratoire
Année 1958 - 1959

Laboratoire CURIE

11, Rue Pierre Curie
Paris 5^e

Laboratoire JOLIOT-CURIE

15, Rue Georges Clémenceau
à Orsay (S. et O.)



1966

Faculté des Sciences de PARIS et d'ORSAY

INSTITUT DE PHYSIQUE NUCLEAIRE

Annuaire 1966

Laboratoire CURIE

11, Rue Pierre Curie
Paris 5^e

Laboratoire JOLIOT-CURIE

15, Rue Georges Clémenceau
à Orsay (S. et O.)



1966

FACULTE DES SCIENCES
DE PARIS ET D'ORSAY

institut de physique nucléaire

1- Laboratoire Joliot-Curie

(15 rue Georges Clémenceau 91-Orsay)

2- Laboratoire Curie

(11, rue Pierre et Marie Curie Paris 5ème)

3- IPN de la Faculté des Sciences de Paris

(9, Quai Saint Bernard, Paris 5ème)

4- Laboratoire de Chimie

(4, rue de la Convention 94-Arcueil)



1971

UNIVERSITE DE PARIS-SUD

institut de physique nucléaire

15 rue Georges Clémenceau 91-Orsay

March 21, 1970

Suppression of the University of Paris
Creation of 13 universities

April 14, 1971

Creation of **IN2P3**
Institut national de physique nucléaire et de physique des particules



1971

UNIVERSITE DE PARIS-SUD

institut de physique nucléaire

15 rue Georges Clémenceau 91-Orsay

Laboratory staff

A community of :

Around 200 researchers

Some 450 technical and administrative collaborators

Accelerators

Synchrocyotron 160 MeV Proton

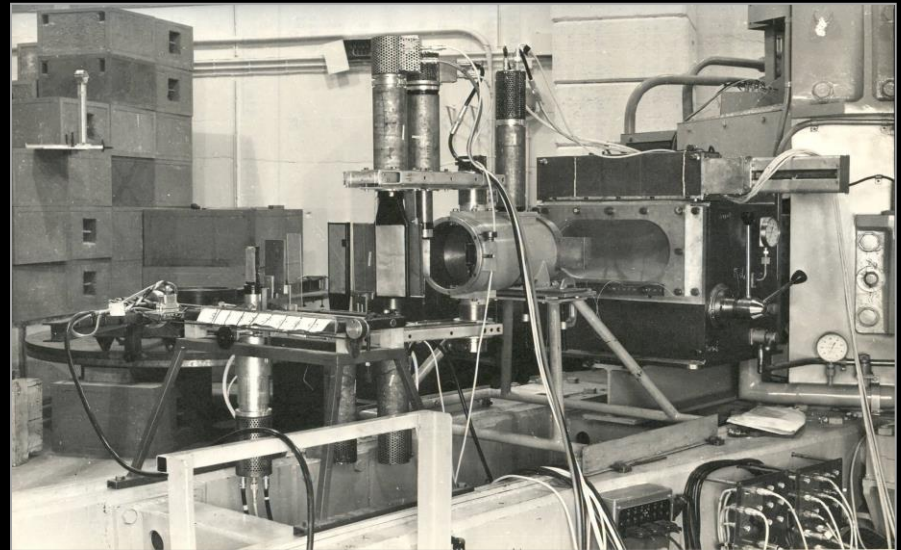
Heavy Ion Variable Energy Cyclotron

Van de Graaff tandem MP (Replacement of the 4 MeV
Van de Graaff stopped at the end of 1971)

Source : Maurice Jean (Director 1966 - 1974) "Annuaire 1971"

Synchrocyclotron

Example of operation Year 1966



Study of cross sections and polarization (1966)

- Physics on the beam2923 hours
- Radiochemistry (Irradiation of 380 targets).....654 hours
- Technical improvements.....856 hours
- Annual maintenance.....343 hours
- Breakdowns.....272 hours

Synchrocyclotron

December 1972 - Major renovation project accepted



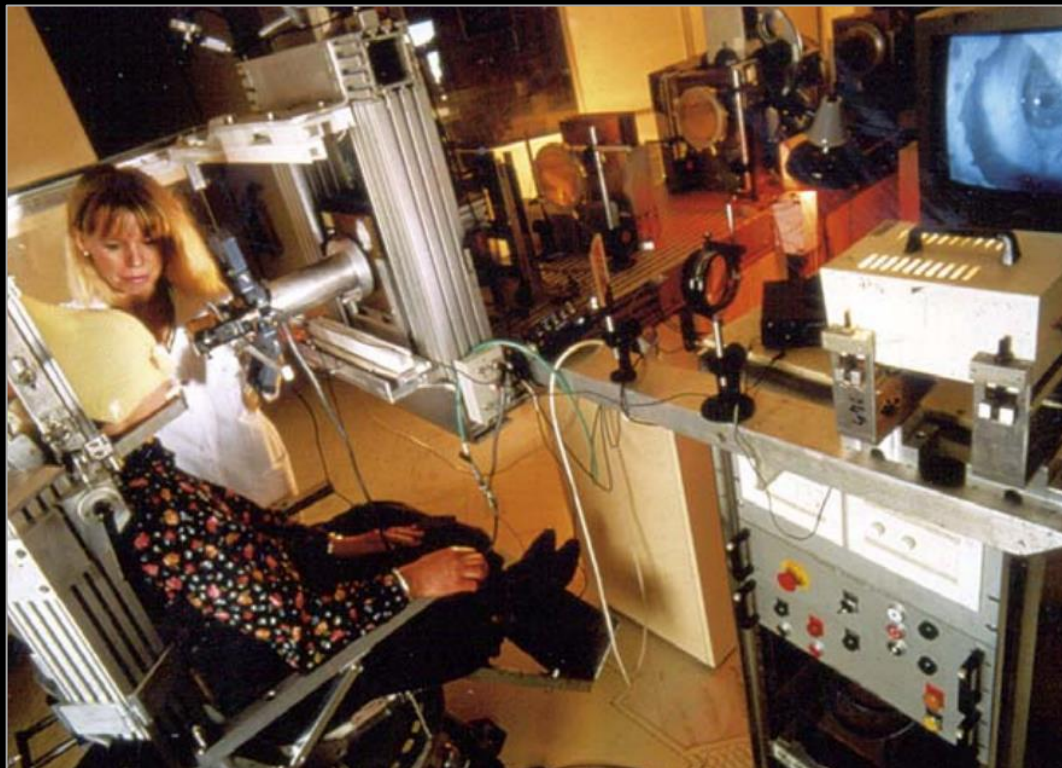
May 1975 - Operation stopped

1978 - Gradual restart for the experiments

Synchrocyclotron

July 1990

Transfer to the CPO (Orsay Proton Therapy Center)



Proton therapy treatment for eye cancer

Heavy Ion Variable Energy Cyclotron CEV (Short name used for CEVIL)

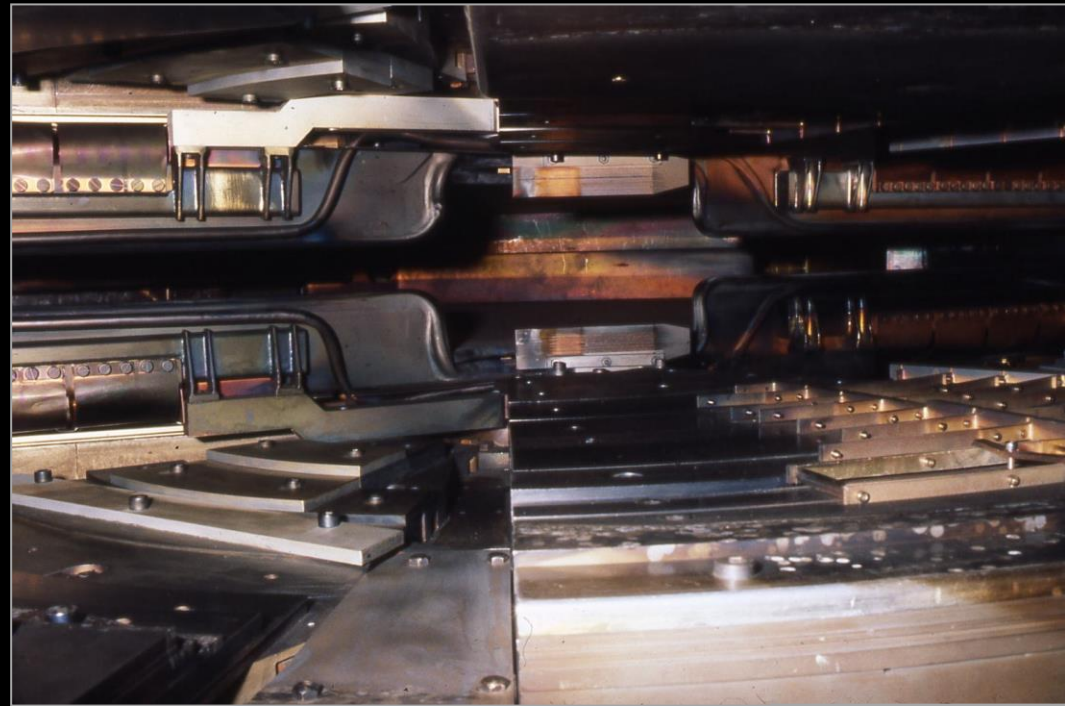
- 1955 First ideas
- 1957 Order of the magnet



Marc Lefort

1965 (April)
Internal beam

1966 (Autumn)
Beam for experiments



View inside
the cyclotron

Source : René Bimbot "IPN : un cyclotron pour les ions lourds".
La revue pour l'histoire du CNRS N°20 (2008)

Linear accelerator injector for cyclotron

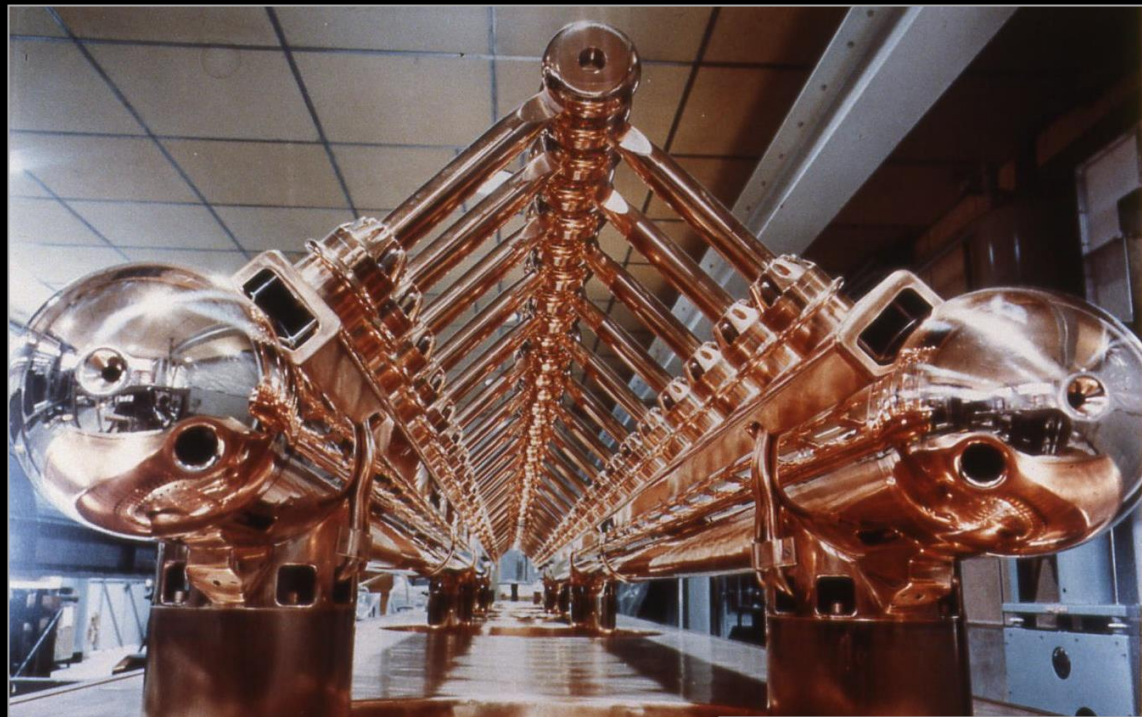
CEV- Short name still used instead of the official "ALICE"

1966 Finalization of the project
(Coupling of 2 accelerators)

1969 Delivery of the
linear accelerator

1970 First krypton beam

1985 End of operation



Linear accelerator
used for the injection
into the cyclotron

Source : René Bimbot "ALICE ou la percée des ions lourds".
La revue pour l'histoire du CNRS N°22 (2008)

Towards electrostatic accelerators

Late 1930's - Ivry

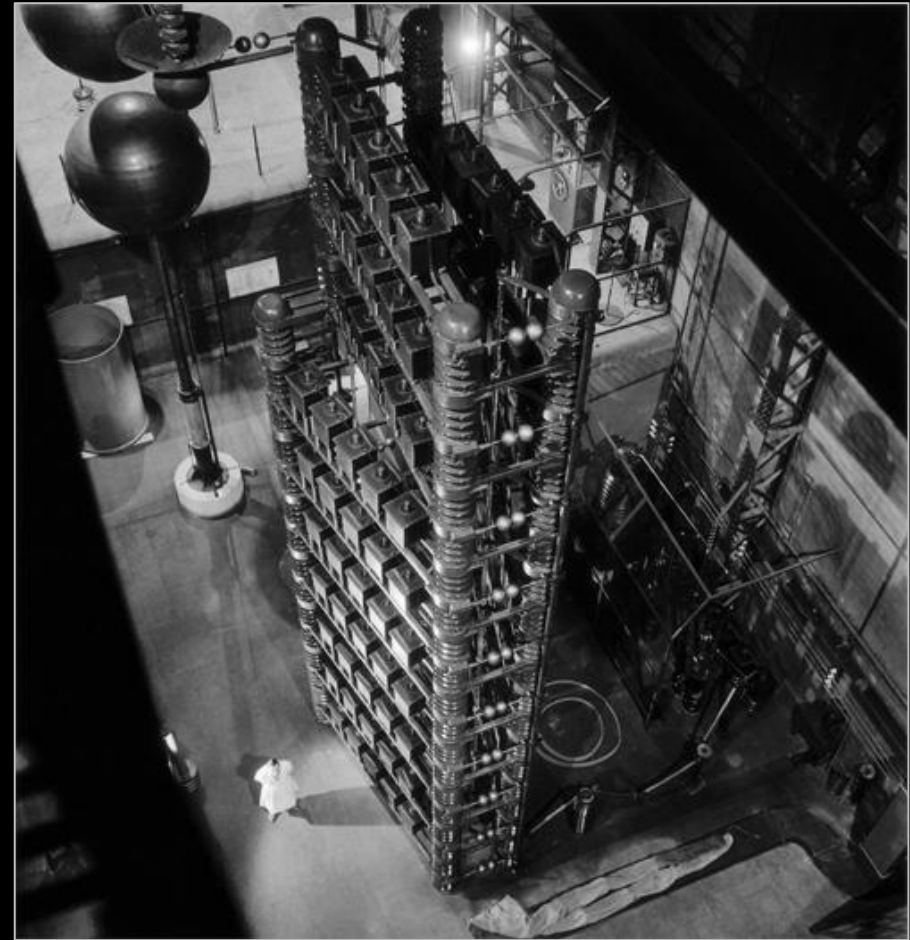
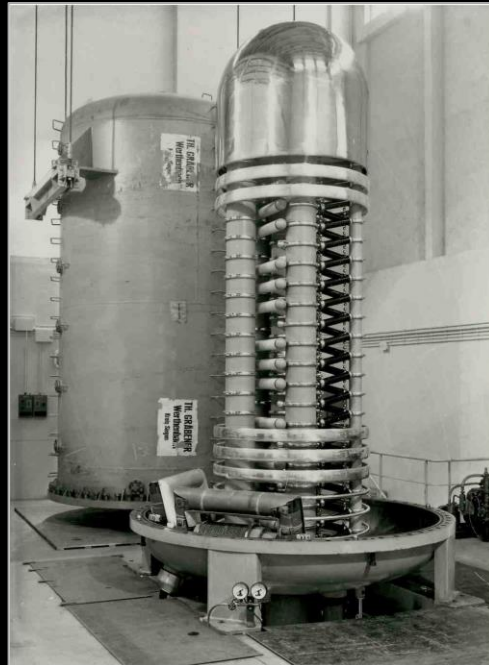
"Laboratoire de synthèse atomique"
(formerly "Laboratoire Ampère")
High voltage of 3 MV



Michel Langevin

1960's - Orsay

4 MeV
Van de Graaff



3 MV generator
(Photo Doisneau published in 1942)

Van de Graaff Tandem MP

1966 Start of the studies

End of 1972 Operation at 8 MeV

1975 Operation at 13 MV

... And finally 15 MV

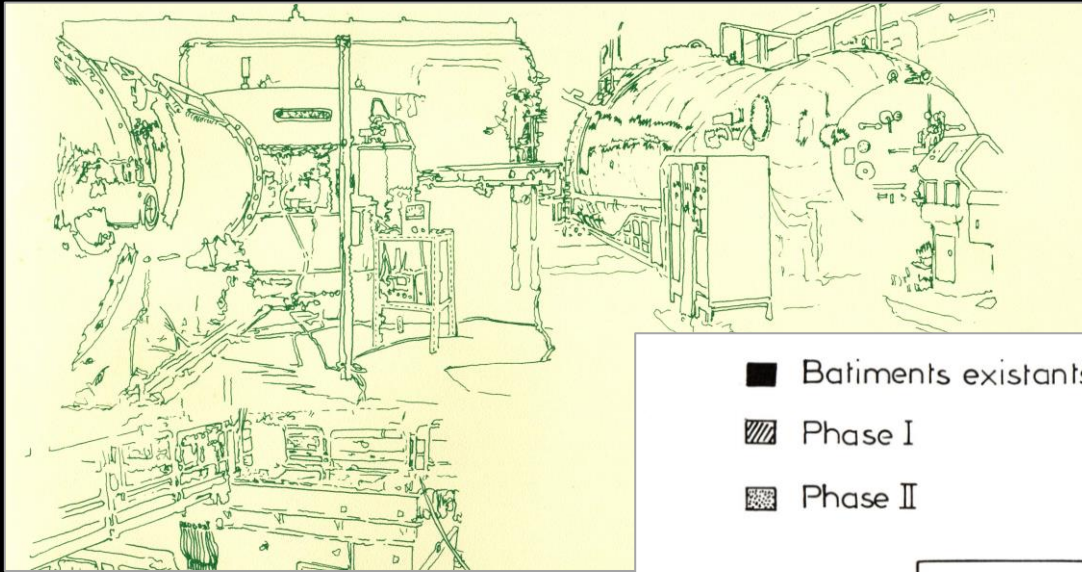


Delivery of the Tandem to Orsay in 1971



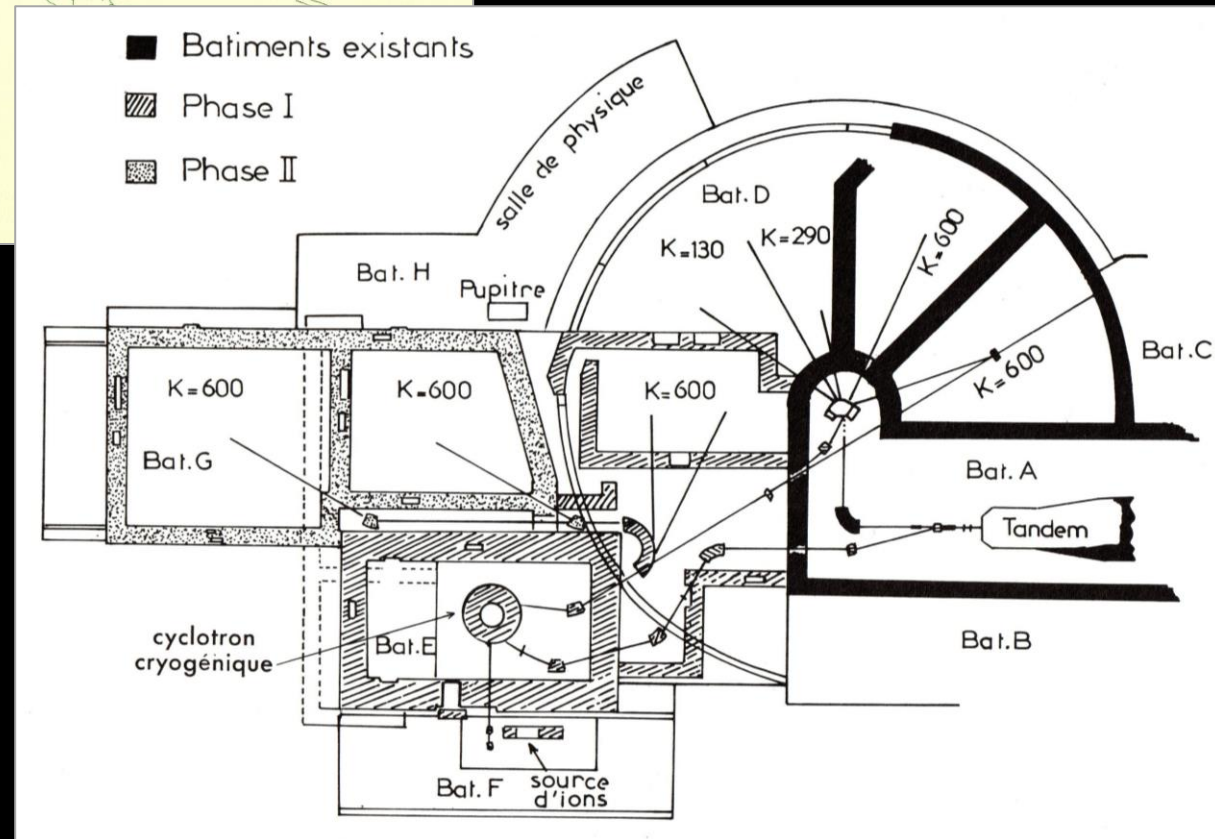
15MV Van de Graaff Tandem Accelerator

New accelerator project including the Tandem



June 1980

Start of the studies for a Superconducting Cyclotron with the Tandem as injector



Proposed lay-out of the accelerator

AGOR - Accelerator Groningen Orsay

1986 to 1994

Construction of AGOR
(Cryogenic cyclotron)
in the
Building 107 (formerly CEV)



April 1994 - IPN Orsay- First beam out



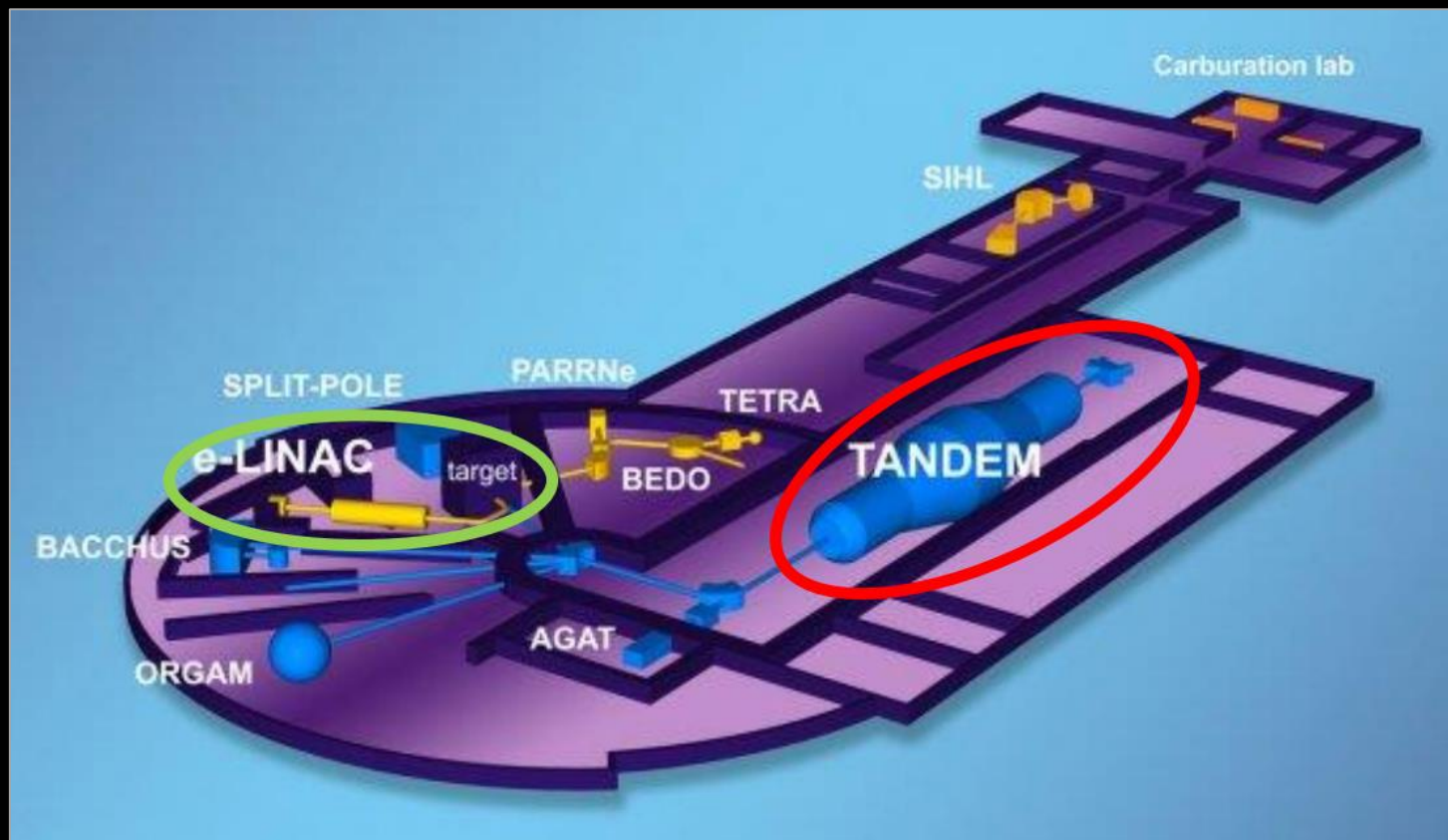
Supraconducting Cyclotron AGOR

ALTO (Acclérateur Linéaire et Tandem Orsay)

Twenty first century

ALTO Platform

Association with the Tandem of a
Linear electron accelerator





1975

UNIVERSITE DE PARIS SUD
LABORATOIRE ASSOCIE A L'IN2P3

institut de physique nucléaire

Directeur : Michel Riou
Professeur à l'Université Paris Sud

Division de Physique nucléaire

Directeur : Mme Nadine Marty
Professeur à l'Université Paris Sud

(74)

Division des Hautes Energies

Directeur : Marcel Vivargent
Directeur de Recherches au CNRS

(24)

Division de Radiochimie

Directeur : Marc Lefort
Professeur à l'Université Paris Sud

(28)

Division de Physique Théorique

Directeur : Mme Nicole Vinh Mau
Maitre de Recherches au CNRS

(51)

Number of scientists (CNRS and University)

Total : 177

Source : "Annuaire" (Activity report) 1975

1975

UNIVERSITE DE PARIS SUD
LABORATOIRE ASSOCIE A L'IN2P3

institut de physique nucléaire

Departure of the high energy division for the LAPP in Annecy



"Laboratoire d'Annecy de Physique des Particules" (LAPP)
(Official creation in January 1976)

1975

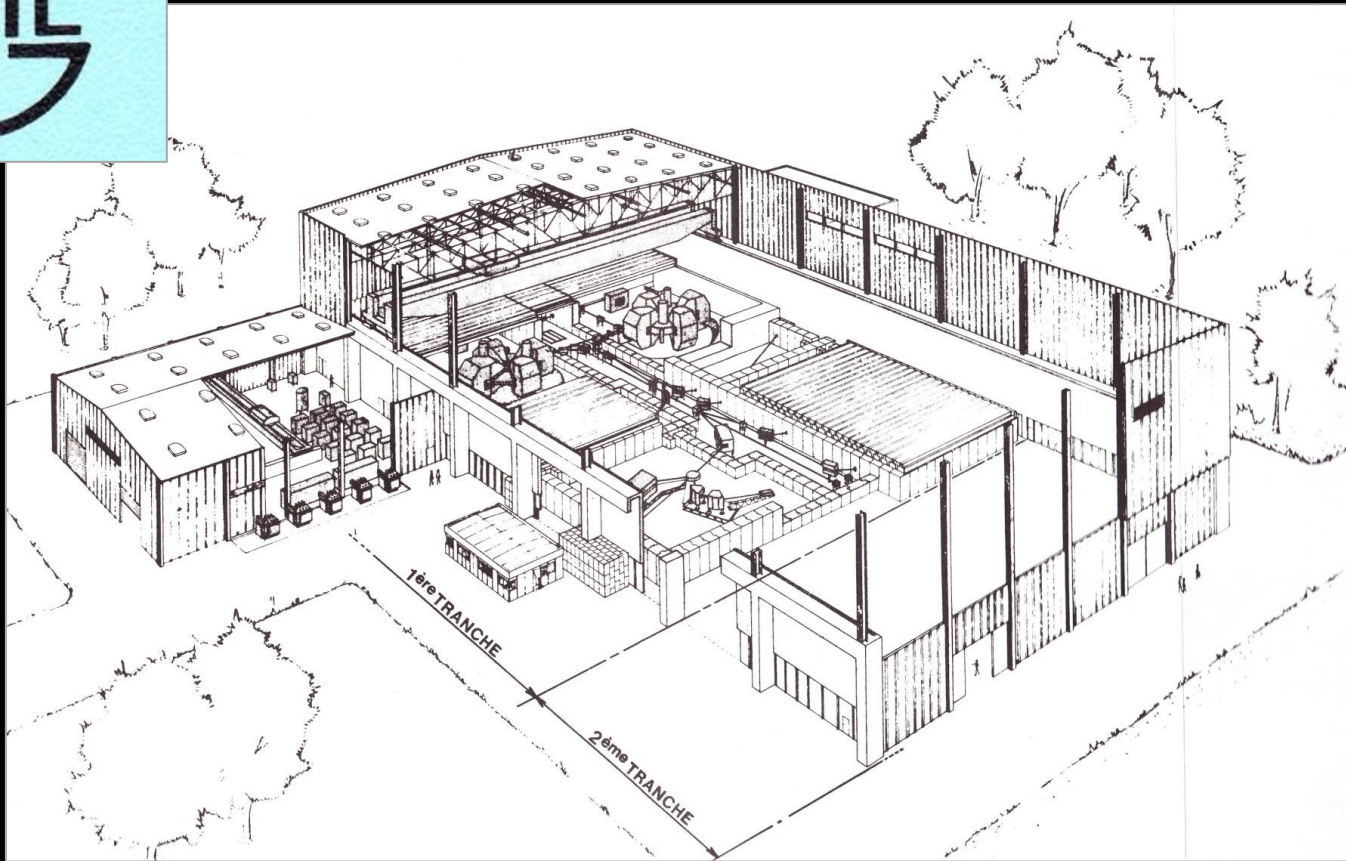
September



Government decision to build GANIL in Caen



Marc Lefort



Claude Detraz

"Grand Accélérateur National à Ions Lourds"
(Figure in the April 1975 report)

IPN - Emergence of new laboratories

1962 Creation of the CSNSM

(Centre de Spectrométrie Nucléaire et de Spectrométrie de Masse)

- Permanent Magnet Laboratory (CNRS Meudon Bellevue)
- Isotopic Separation and Mass Spectrometry Team of René Bernas (IPN Orsay)



René Bernas



Luc Valentin

1980s

Instruments for

- In vivo imaging of small animals
- Clinical imaging



2006 Creation of the IMNC

(Imagerie et Modélisation en Neurobiologie et Cancérologie)



1984

institut de physique nucléaire

(Laboratoire mixte de l'Université Paris-Sud et de l'IN2P3)

Directeur : Xavier Tarrago
Directeur de recherches au CNRS

Division de Recherche Expérimentale

Directeur : Michel Vergnes
Directeur de recherches au CNRS

6 Groups

Physics at Synchro-Isocèle

Nuclear structure by reactions

Nuclear physics with heavy ions

Nuclear chemistry

Physics at intermediate energies

Radiochemistry

Division de Physique Théorique

Directeur : Robert Vinh Mau
Professeur à l'Université P et M Curie

"A little less than half of the
experimental work was done
on the national accelerators
GANIL and SATURNE"

Source : Xavier Tarrago
Director 1982 - 1988

1999

INSTITUT DE PHYSIQUE NUCLEAIRE ORSAY

Directeur : Sydney Gales

Directeur de recherches au CNRS

Division de Recherche (DR)

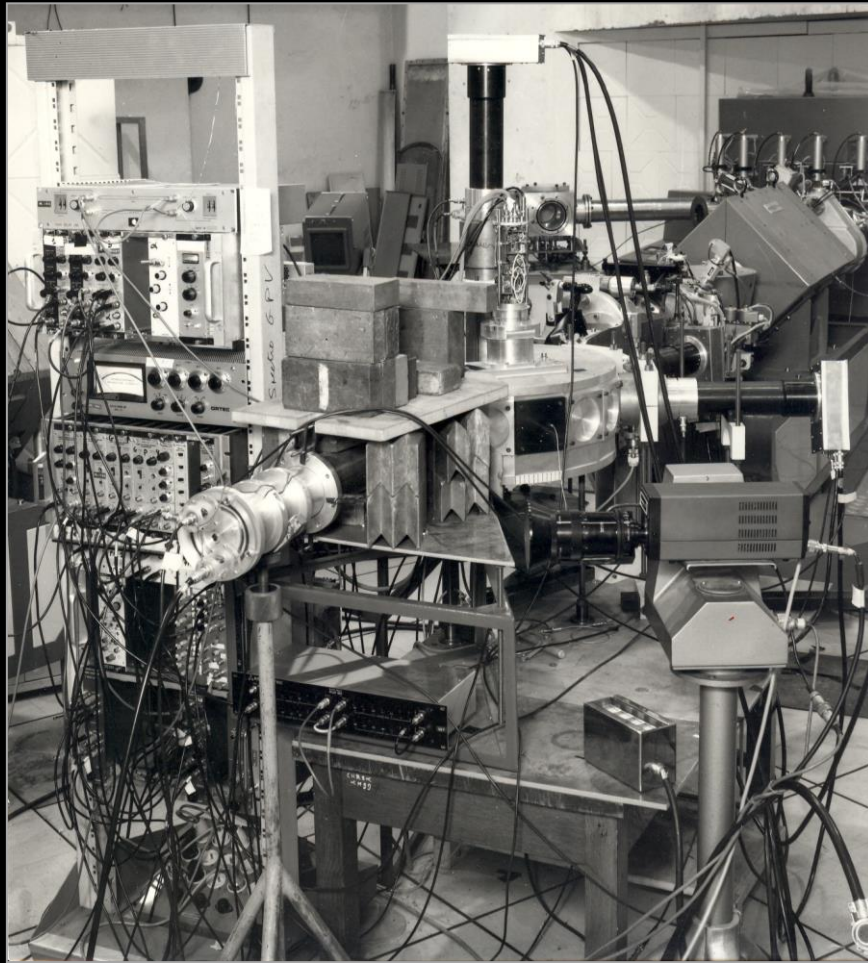
Directrice : Nimet Frascaria

Professeur Université Paris XI

Energies intermédiaires	(EI)	Intermediate energies
Interfaces Physique Biologie	(IPB)	Physics biology interfaces
Noyaux Ions Matière	(NIM)	Nuclei Ions Matter
Noyaux, Déformations Exotiques	(NODE)	Nuclei, exotic deformations
Physique Hadronique Avec Sonde Electromagnétique	(PHASE)	Hadronic physics with electromagnetic probe
Physique Nucléaire des Ions Lourds	(PNIL)	Nuclear physics of heavy ions
Radiochimie	(RC)	Radiochemistry
Structure Nucléaire par Réactions	(SNR)	Nuclear structure by reactions
Physique Théorique	(PHT)	Theoretical Pysics

Experimental setups

Examples in physics with heavy ions



"Time of flight" reaction chamber at CEV

1970's

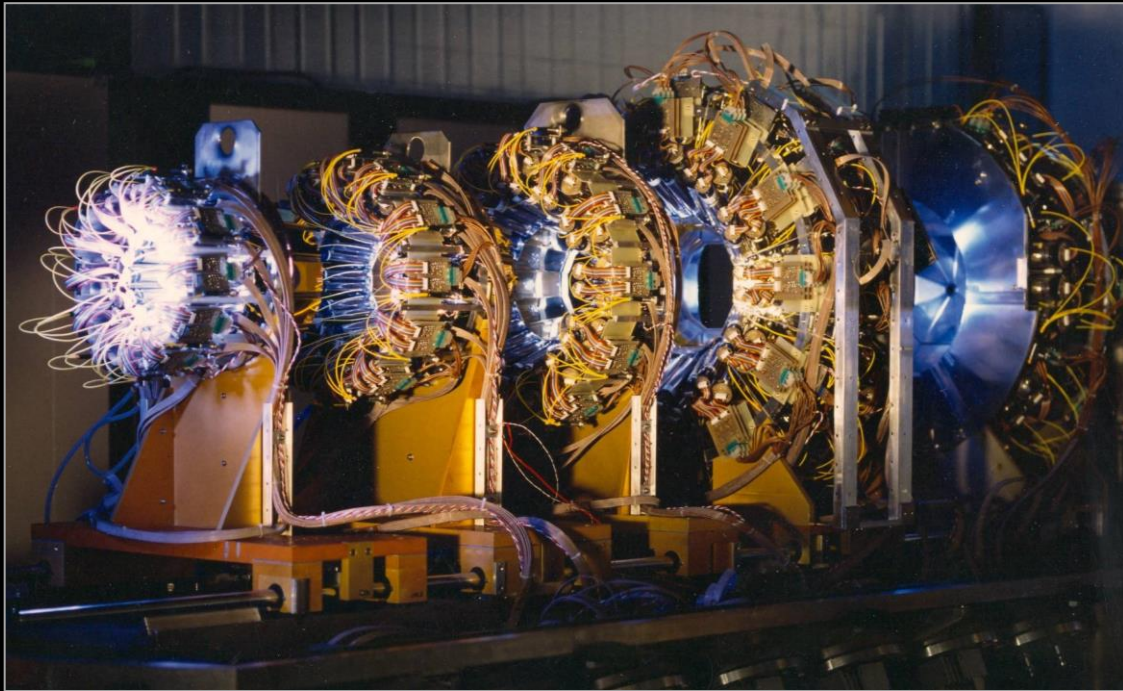
CEV (IPN Orsay)

Discovery of the
"deep inelastic" reactions

5 Scientists

Experimental setups

Examples in physics with heavy ions



"INDRA multidetector" (In operation since 1993)

1990's

GANIL (Caen)

INDRA

Hot nuclei and
multifragmentation

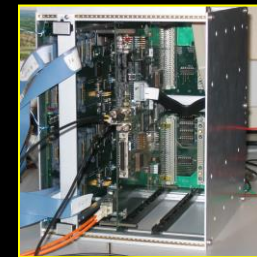
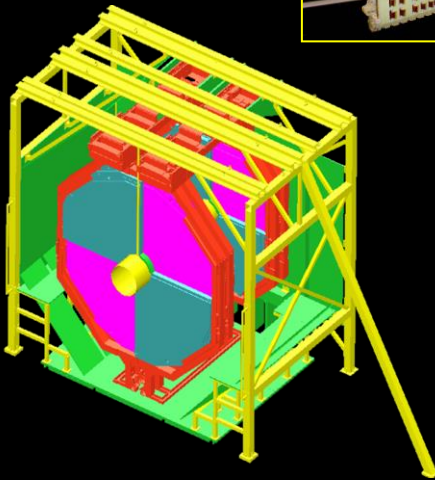
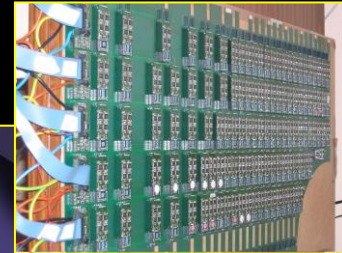
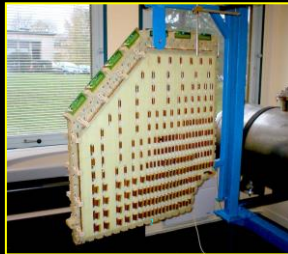
50 Scientists

Experimental setups

Examples in physics with heavy ions

2000's CERN (Geneva) Quark-gluon plasma on ALICE

1000 Scientists



"Muon Arm" of the ALICE Detector
with IPNO contributions (Trajectory wire chambers)

IPN Orsay - Technical staff

At the beginning

Transfer from laboratories

Laboratoire Curie (Institut du radium)

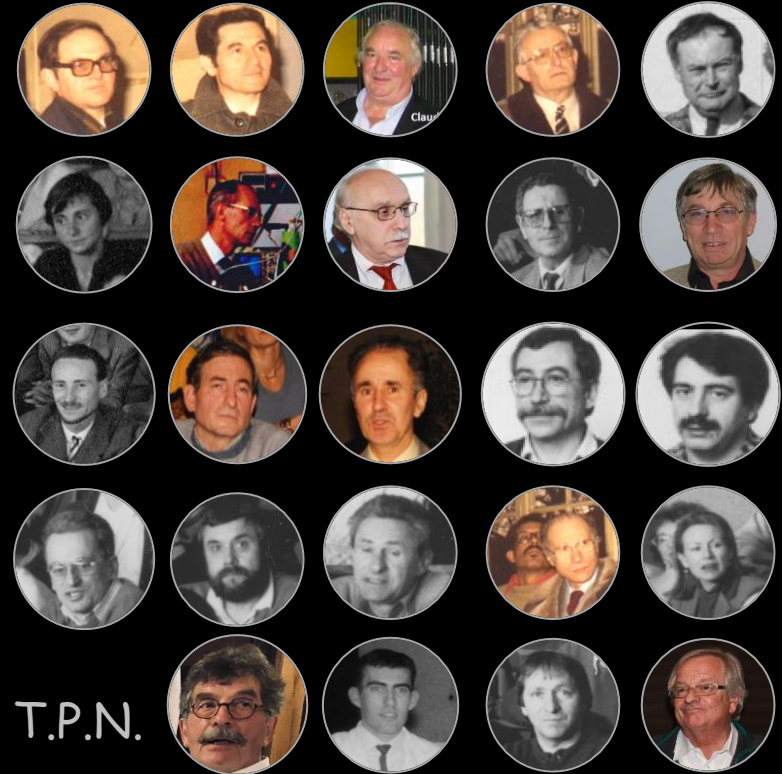
Physique et Chimie Nucléaire (Collège de France)

Laboratoire de Synthèse Atomique (CNRS)

Rapid growth

Recruitment of
engineers, technicians
and administrative staff

"ITA" of CNRS and "TPN"



Some of the "TPN" engineers

Around 450 people in the early 1970s
(67 engineers in 1975)

Technical staff - Organization - 1970's

Operation and development of accelerators.

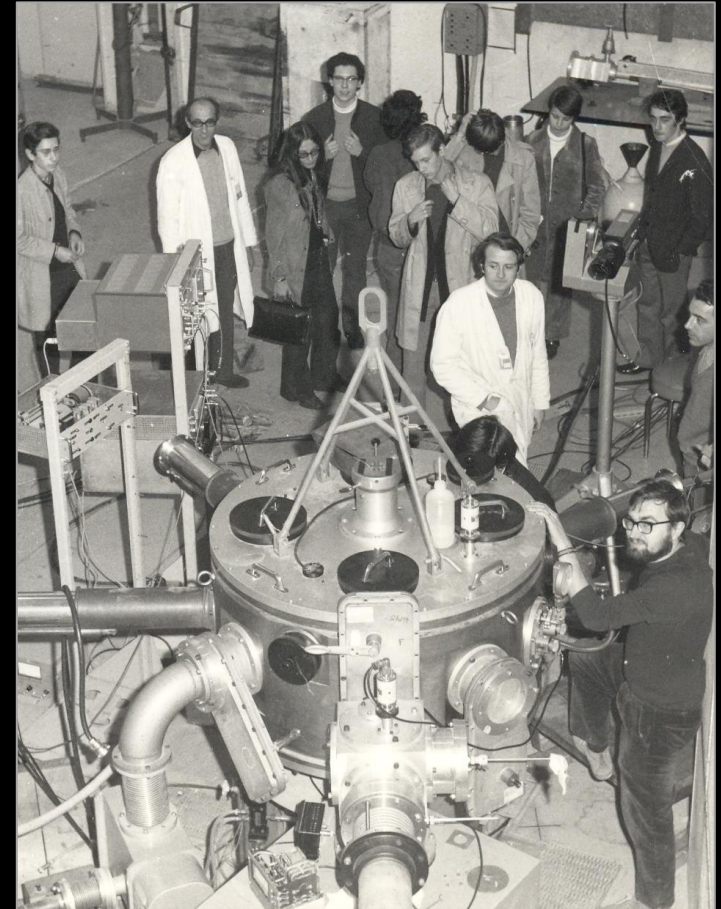
CEV/ALICE
Tandem MP
Synchrocyclotron

General technical services

Electronics for physics (SEP)
Electronics accelerator (SEA)
Mechanics (SRM)
Low temperature (SBT)

Other services

Radiation protection
Library. Edition and photography
Administrative support distributed among the different groups



CEV -Installation of a reaction chamber

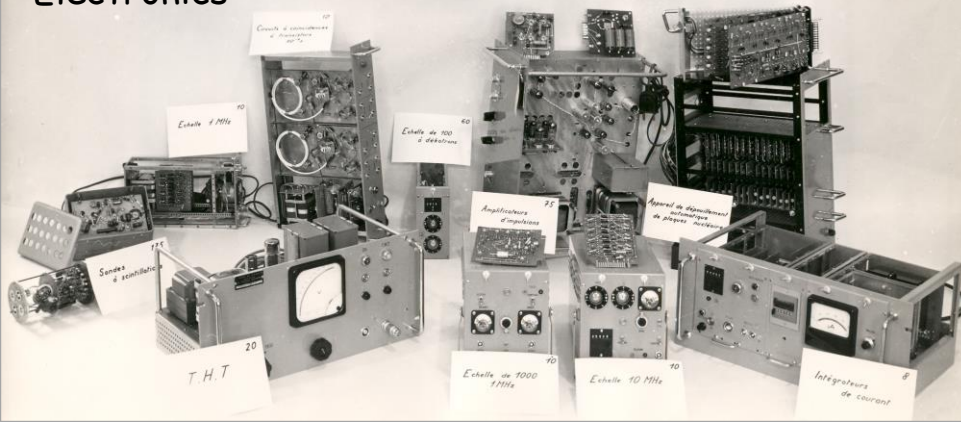
Technical staff - 1970's

Design
but also
Manufacturing possibilities
on site



Mechanics. Manufacturing workshop

Electronics



IPN Orsay staff in 1977

144 - Teachers - Researchers

(University) (CNRS)

(Average age : 39,5 years)

69 - Nuclear Physics (26 Univ. 43 CNRS)

51 - Theoretical Physics (25 Univ. 26 CNRS)

24 - Radiochemistry (10 Univ. 14 CNRS)

444 - Technical and administrative Collaborators

251 TPN 174 ITA-CNRS 19 Others

(Average age : 40 years)

61 - Engineers

238 - Technicians

70 - Preparers and workers

42 - Administrative

33 - Laboratory and service staff

Source : "Information IPN" (Internal document)
N° 17 - May 1977



Meeting of IPN staff on the occasion of the first release of the synchrocyclotron beam in June 30, 1977



Technical staff - Organization - 1999

R&D Accelerators (RDA Ca)
Supra cavities

R&D Accelerators (RDA FE)
Exotic beams

R&D Detectors (RDD)

Low temperature (SBT)

Electronics for physics (SEP)

Partly Mechanics Design office (SRM)

Computing (S2I)

Accelerator TANDEM

Radiation protection (RP)

→ Accelerator Department (DA) in 2000



1995

Superconducting cavities
for accelerators

1998



IPN Orsay - Historic Site - Archives



Many archives kept in different places in the laboratory

Significant sorting work necessary before final archiving
Started in the 1990s
Coordination : H el ene Langevin

Scanning in progress



Building 103
"Pigeonnier"



Sorting center



Definitive archives

Building 100
Basement

Frédéric Joliot-Curie

1958



« Il y a vingt-cinq ans à peine [In the 1930s], la recherche fondamentale avait, dans une certaine mesure, le caractère artisanal si favorable à l'épanouissement de la personnalité.

La nécessité d'explorer de plus en plus profondément la matière a conduit à inventer des moyens techniques de plus en plus puissants, dont beaucoup sont volumineux et complexes. Rapidement l'artillerie lançant les projectiles : hautes tensions, cyclotron, bétatron, synchrocyclotron, synchrotron, appareils volumineux et lourds, prit place dans les laboratoires. Un personnel technique nombreux devint indispensable pour assurer leur fonctionnement. (...)

Dans cette transition de l'échelle artisanale à l'échelle industrielle, il me semble indispensable d'être conscient de ces dangers et de trouver les conditions d'utilisation de l'équipement qui n'étoufferont pas le chercheur.

On ne peut faire œuvre originale à la chaîne. »

Frédéric Joliot-Curie - Le nouveau centre de recherches fondamentales en physique nucléaire d'Orsay - "L'AGE NUCLEAIRE", N° 11 & 12, July-August and September-October 1958



1988 - "Amphi" de l'IPN Orsay