



CNR-INO

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI OTTICA
CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE

LASERS FOR NOVEL ACCELERATORS

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INFN, Sezione di Pisa, Italy

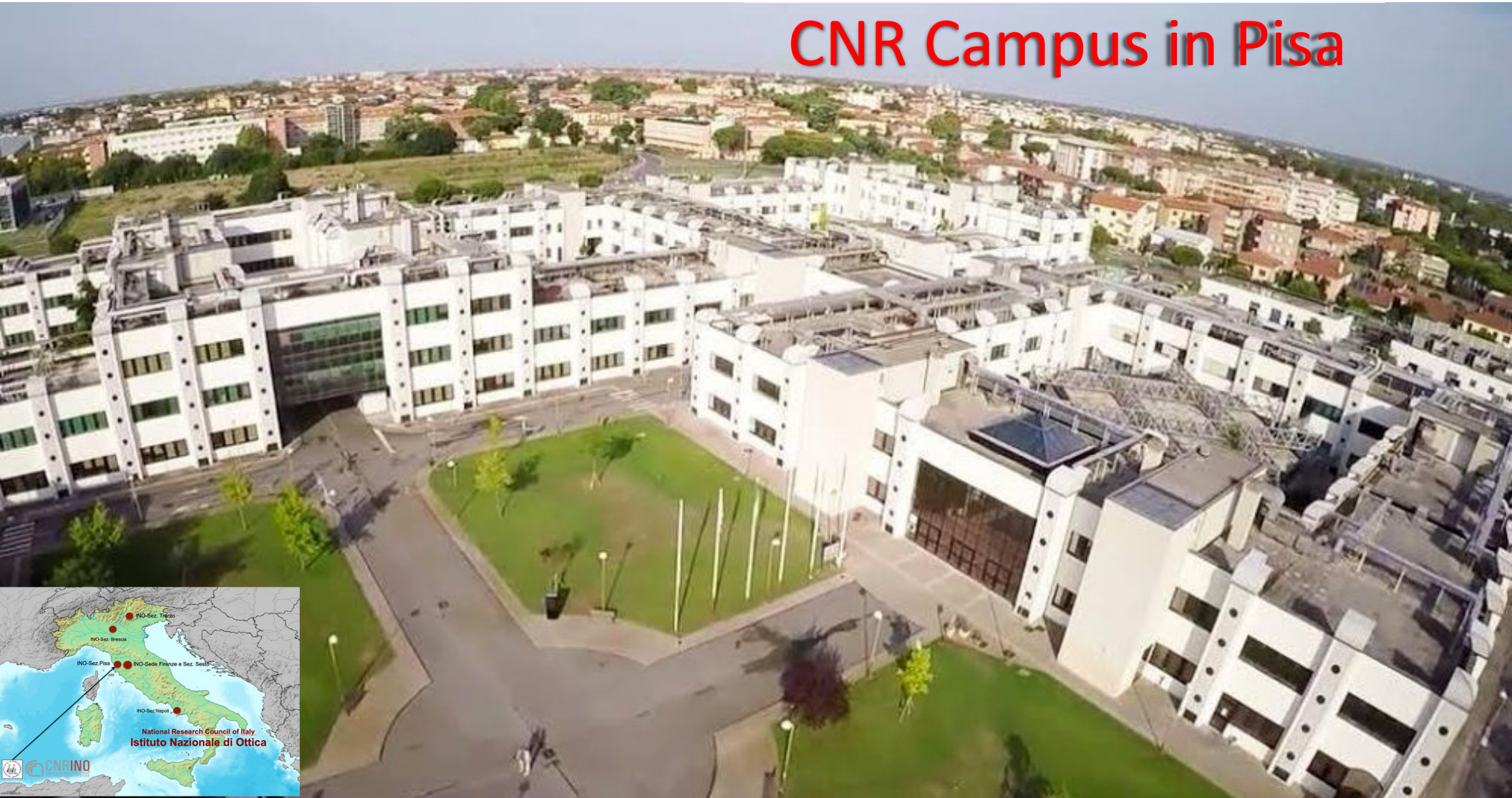
**10th International Particle Accelerator
Conference IPAC19**

MELBOURNE CONVENTION &
EXHIBITION CENTRE, AUSTRALIA

19 – 24 MAY 2019

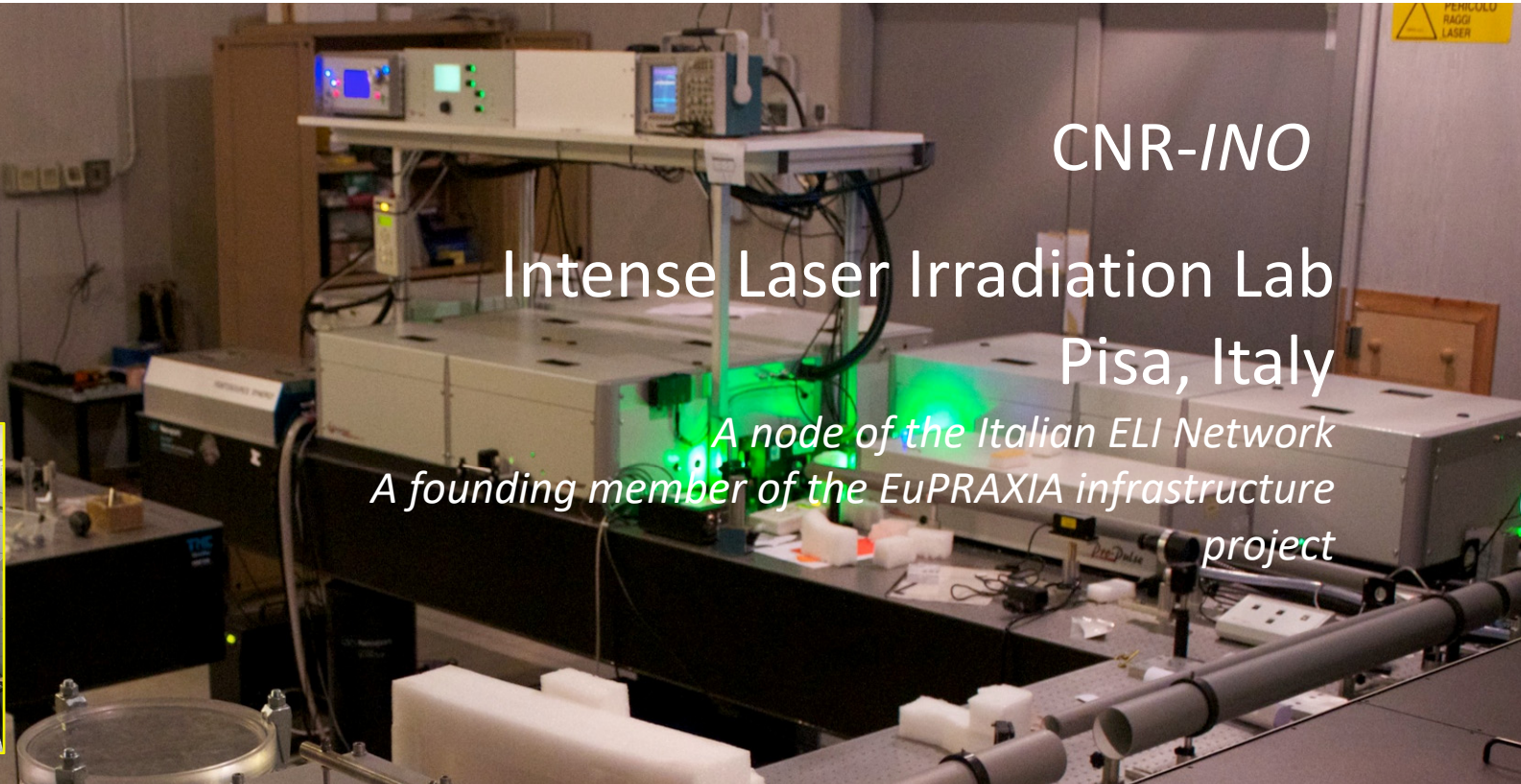
www.ino.cnr.it

CNR Campus in Pisa



 *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*
Area della Ricerca di Pisa

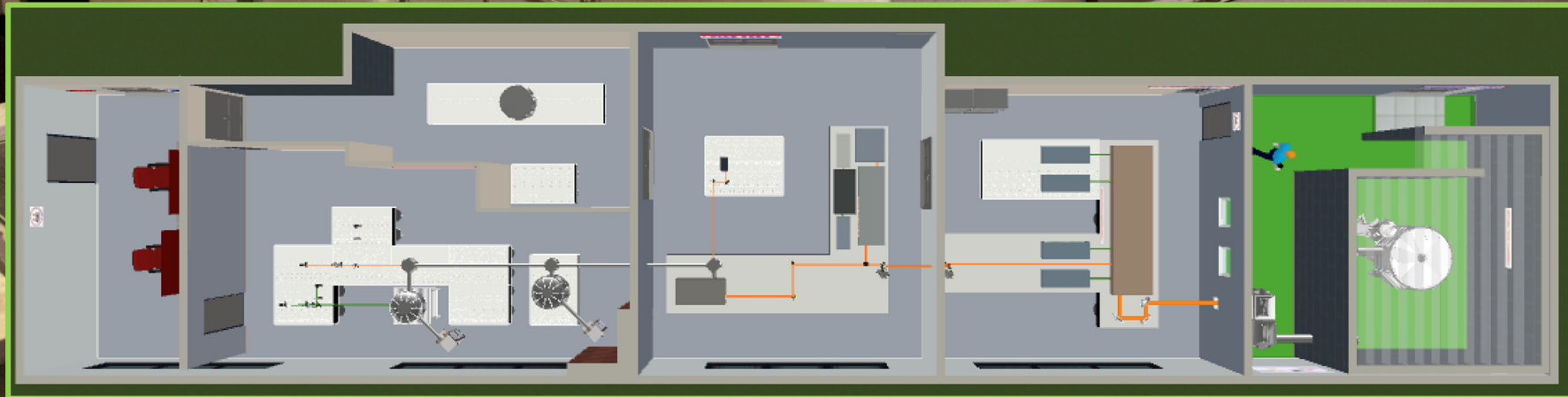




CNR-INO

Intense Laser Irradiation Lab Pisa, Italy

*A node of the Italian ELI Network
A founding member of the EuPRAXIA infrastructure
project*



<http://www.ilil.ino.it>



Intense Laser Irradiation Laboratory

Istituto Nazionale di Ottica – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche



Contents

- High Intensity Lasers
- Laser drivers for plasma accelerators
- Today's viable solution
- Next steps
- Summary

Laser, “a solution seeking for a problem”*

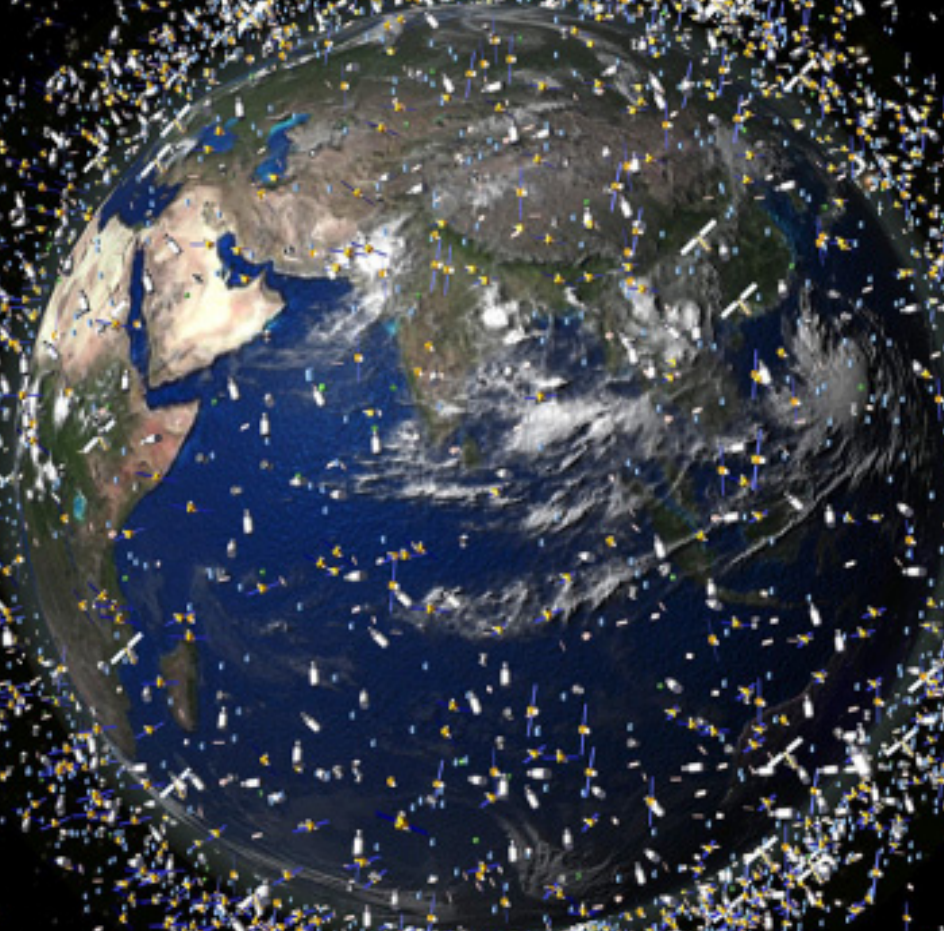
T. Maiman, New York Times, May 6, 1964

LASER DRIVER FOR FAST MINI-PROBES TO
EXTRASOLAR PLANETS

Needs: High average power, high beam quality, coherent “combination” . . .

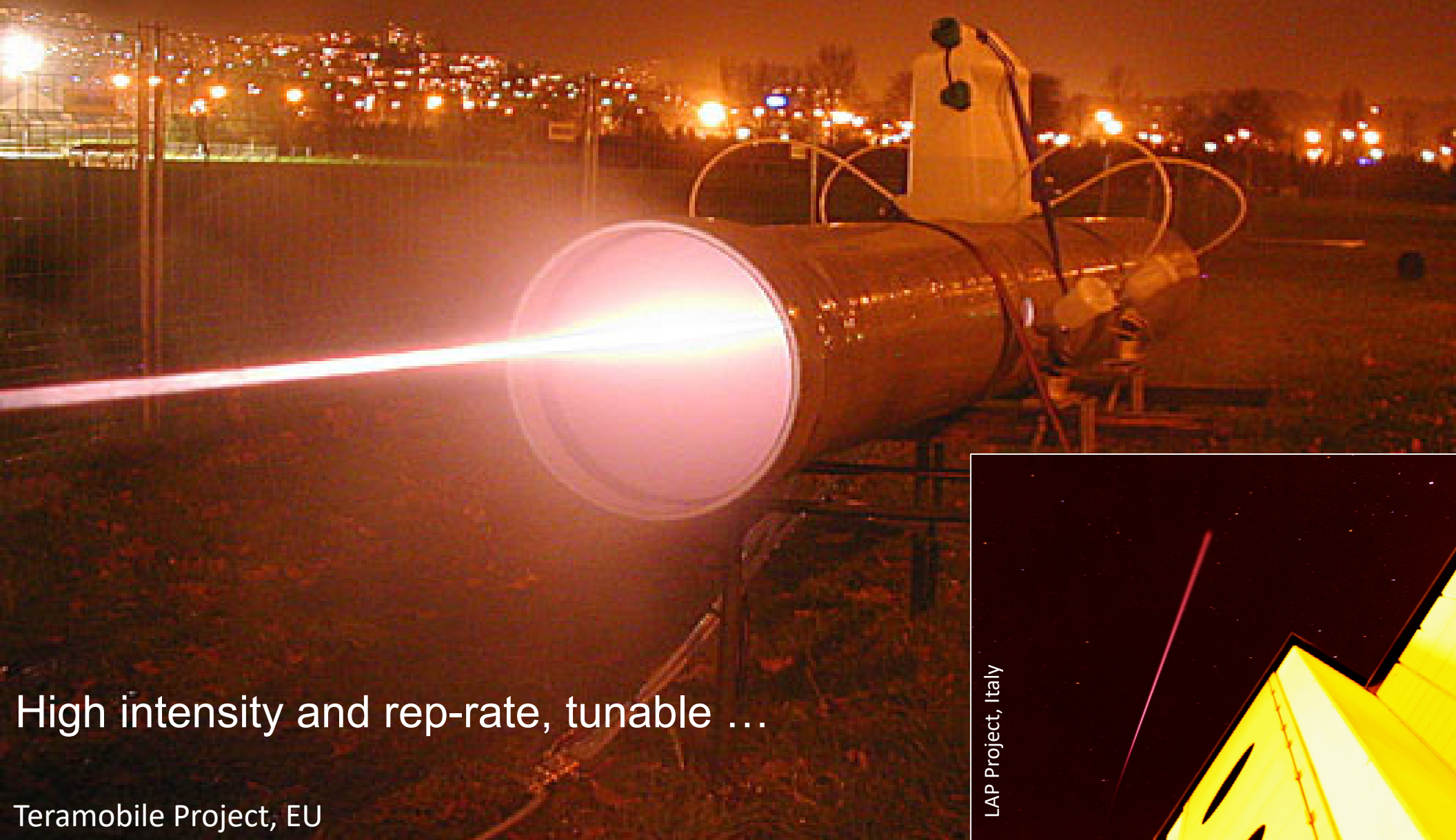
<https://breakthroughinitiatives.org/about>

Laser -driven de-orbiting of debris



High peak and average power; compactness, efficiency ...

Atmospheric Propagation



LAP Project, Italy

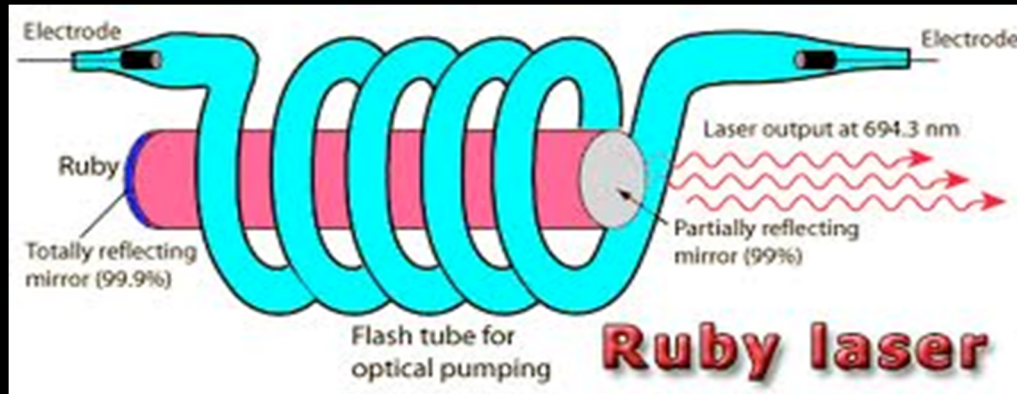
High intensity and rep-rate, tunable ...

Teramobile Project, EU

Lightning control



The origin of lasers in the lab

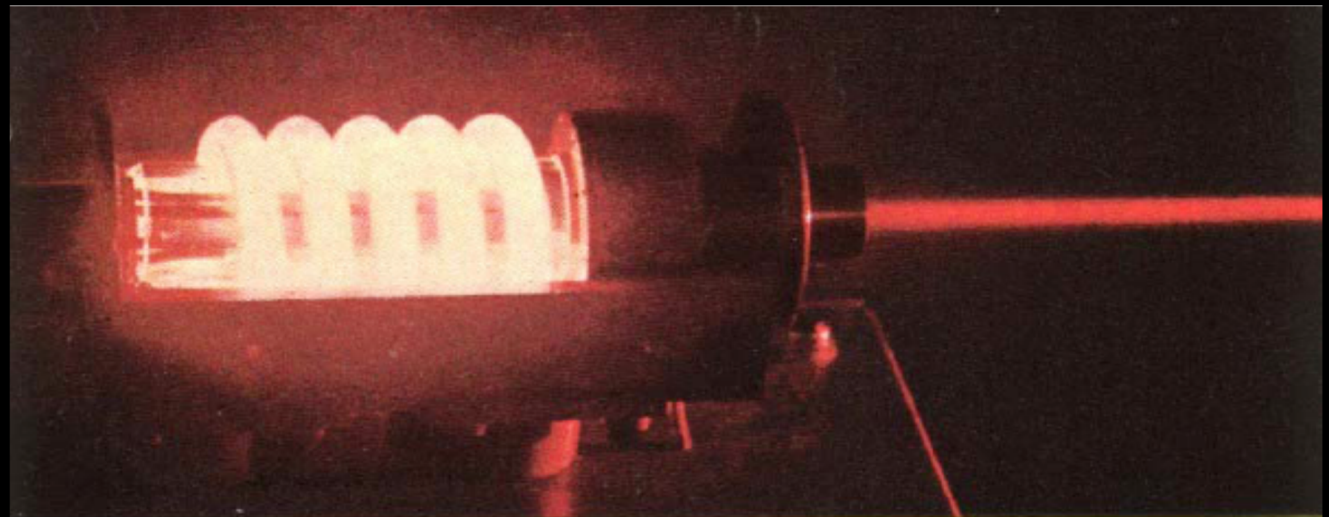


High power laser pulses
 \approx nanosecond pulse duration Q-switch
Power: \approx GW

Theodore Maiman, 1960

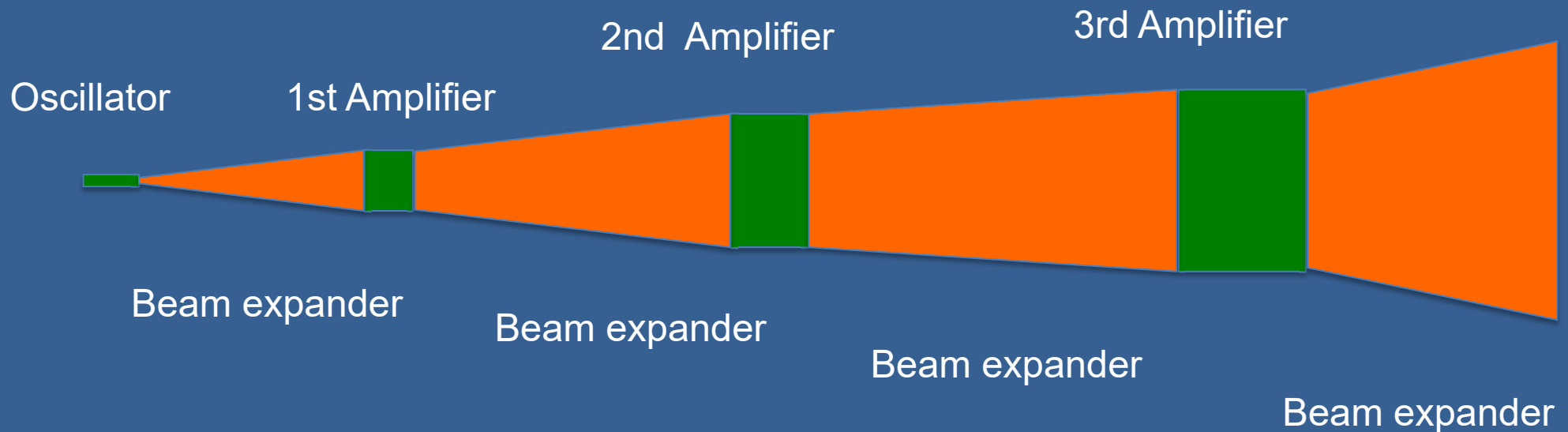


C.H. Townes, N.G. Basov and A.M. Prokhorov, Physics Nobel prize, 1964



DAMAGE constraints FOR AMPLIFICATION

To avoid damage of optics and gain materials, laser intensity must be distributed over progressively larger diameters



Consequence? **“Gigantism”** of high power, high energy lasers ...

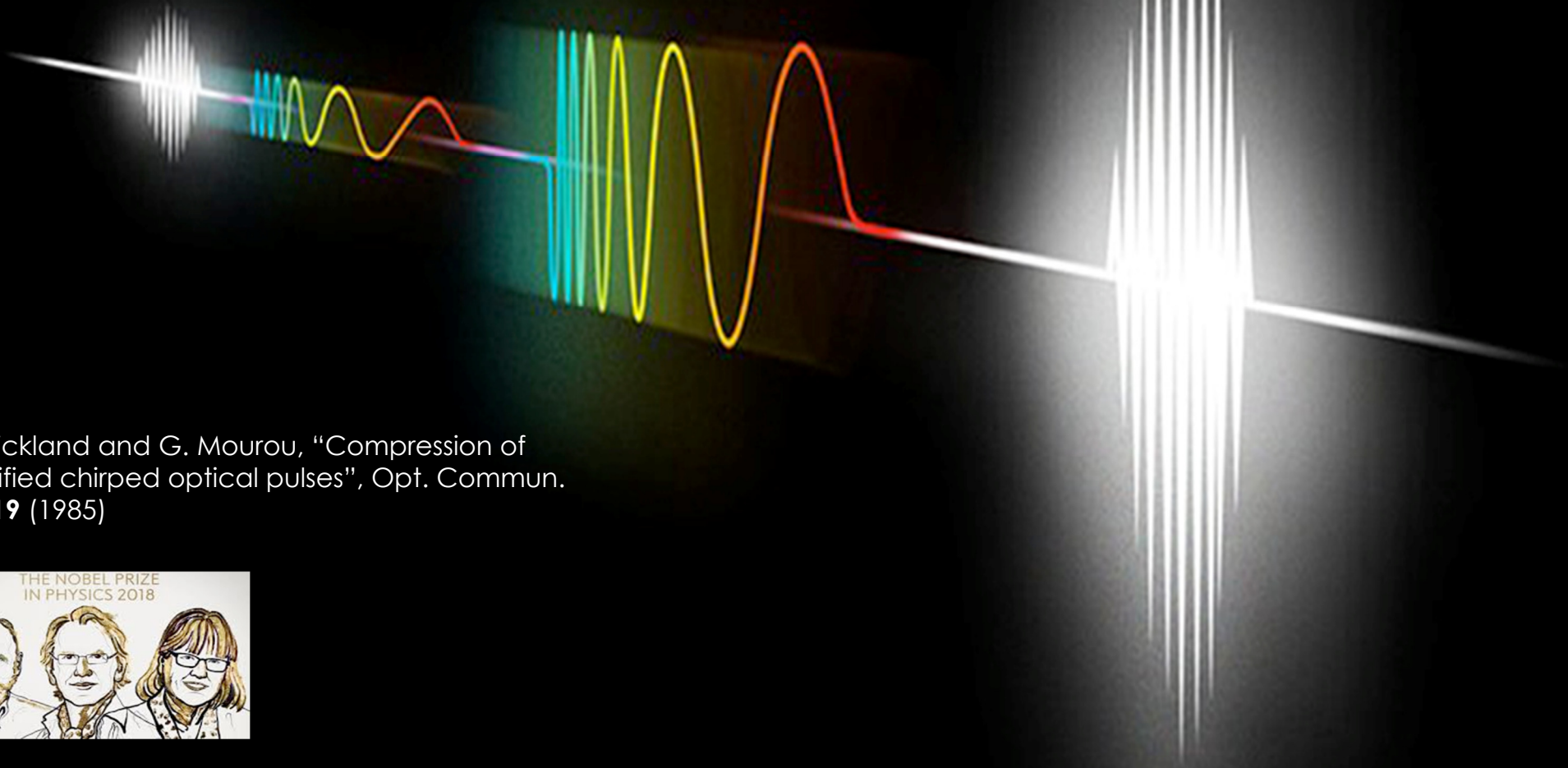
Conventional high power (high energy) lasers have a huge size



Lawrence
Livermore
National Lab.
California, USA

Alternative approach to some laser-matter interaction applications? High power at low energy per pulse.

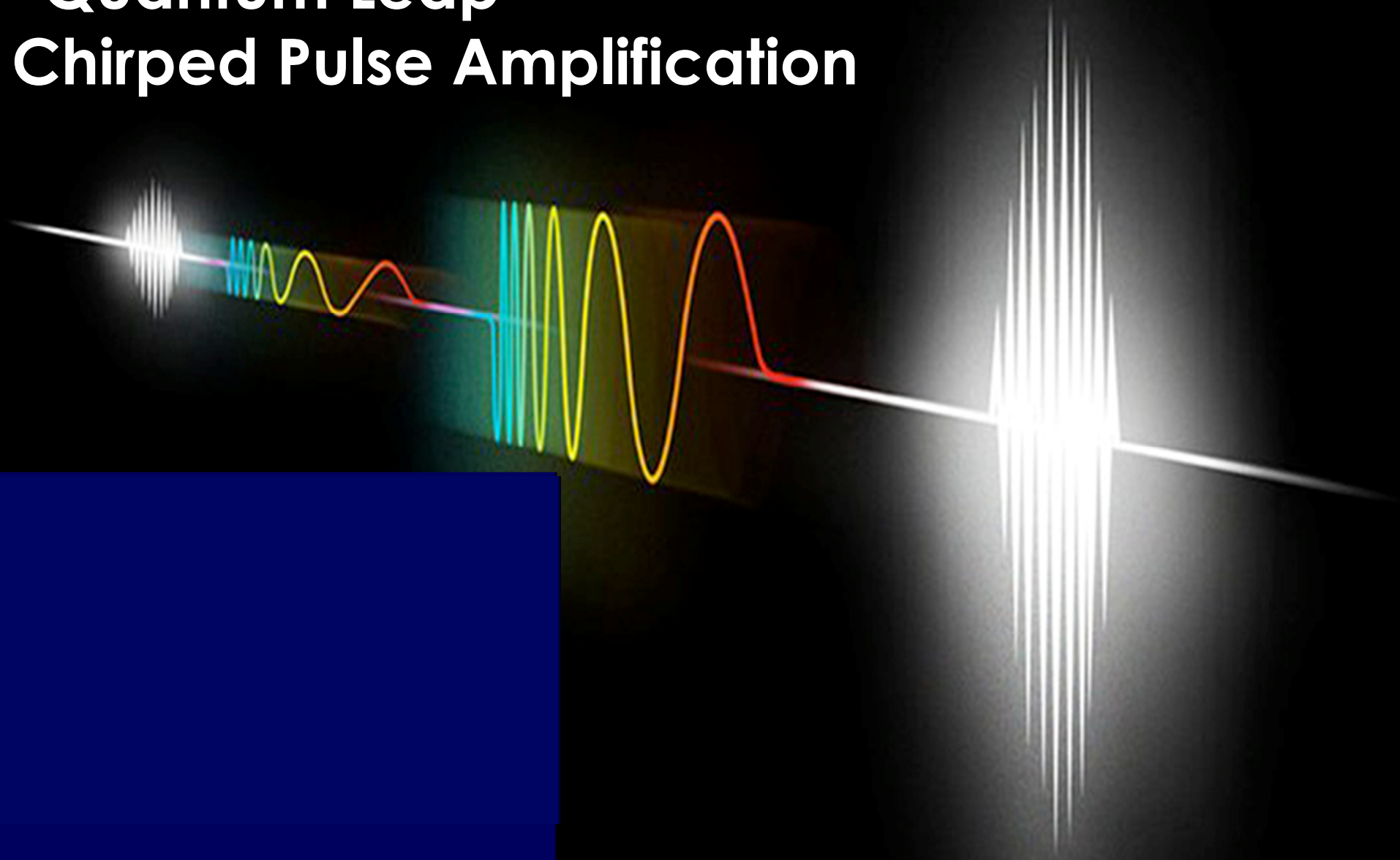
“Quantum Leap” Chirped Pulse Amplification

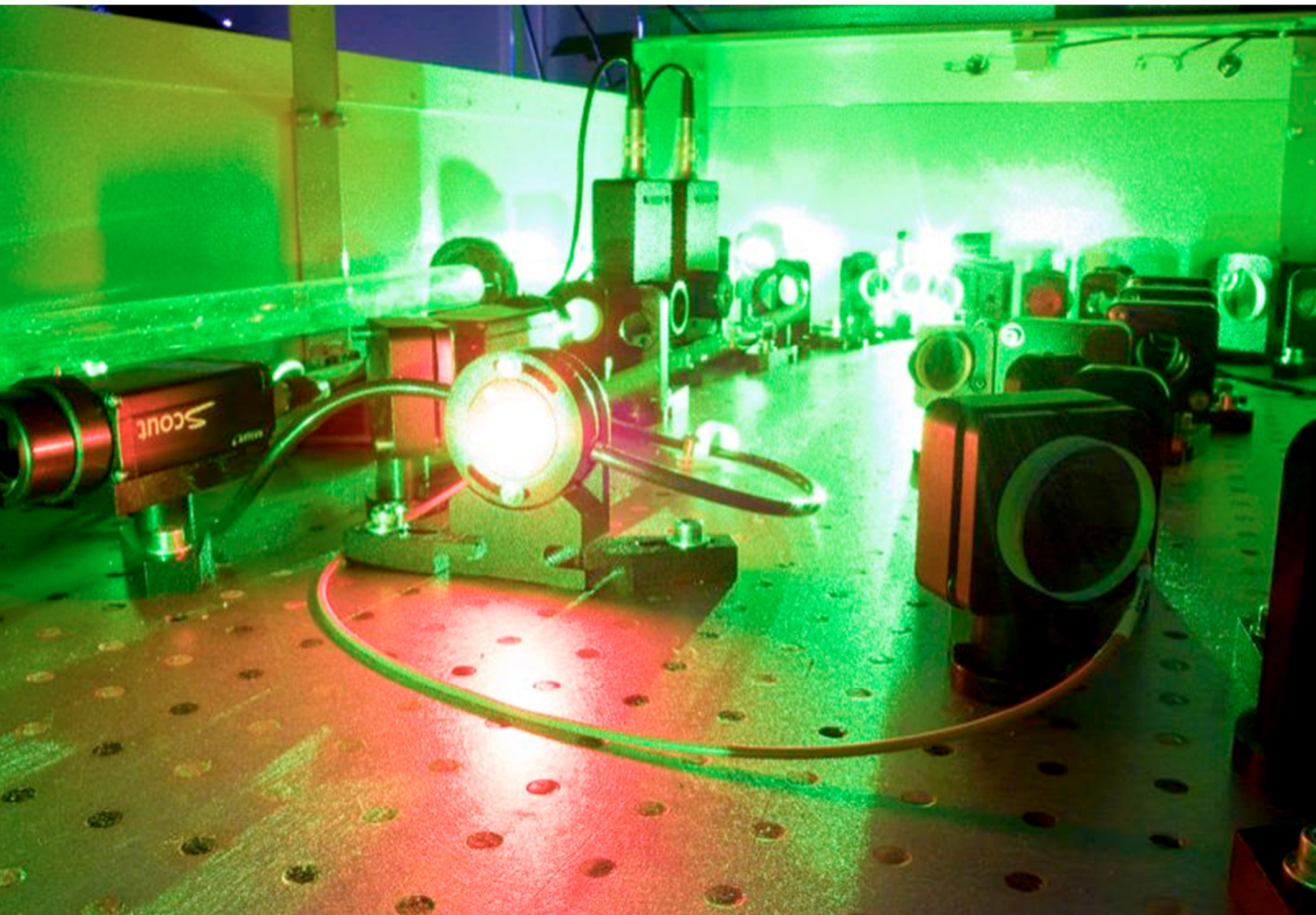


D. Strickland and G. Mourou, “Compression of amplified chirped optical pulses”, *Opt. Commun.* 56, 219 (1985)

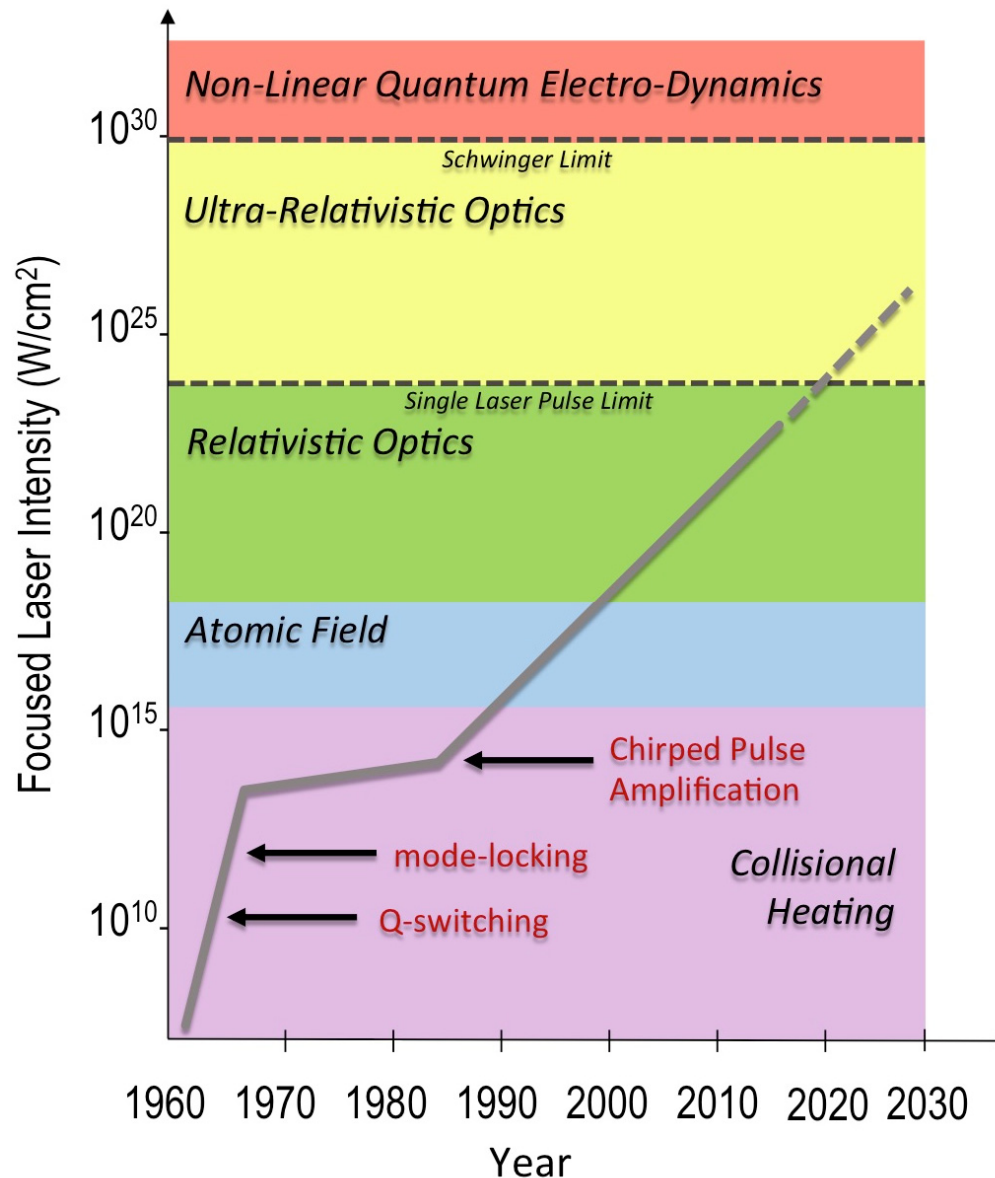


“Quantum Leap” Chirped Pulse Amplification





Evolution of high intensity lasers



ICUIL World Map of Ultrahigh Intensity Laser Capabilities



The original idea of Laser driven acceleration

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 4

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

23 JULY 1979

Laser Electron Accelerator

T. Tajima and J. M. Dawson

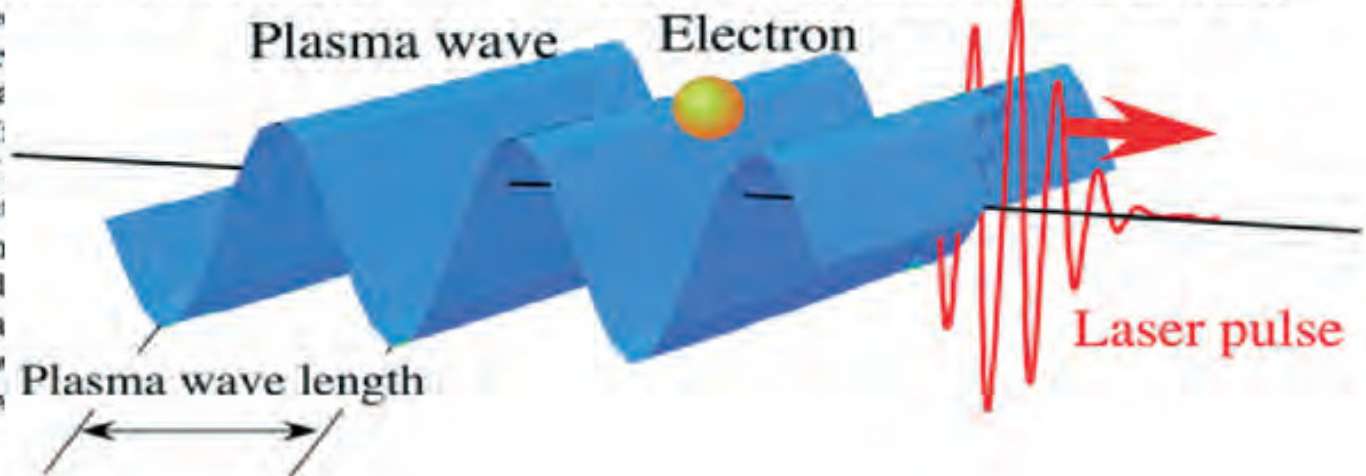
Department of Physics, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024

(Received 9 March 1979)

An intense electromagnetic pulse can create a wake of plasma oscillations through the action of the nonlinear ponderomotive force. Electrons trapped in the wake can be accelerated to high energy. Existing glass lasers of power density 10^{18} W/cm^2 shone on plasmas of densities 10^{18} cm^{-3} can yield gigaelectronvolts of electron energy per centimeter of acceleration distance. This acceleration mechanism is demonstrated through computer simulation. Applications to accelerators and pulsers are examined.

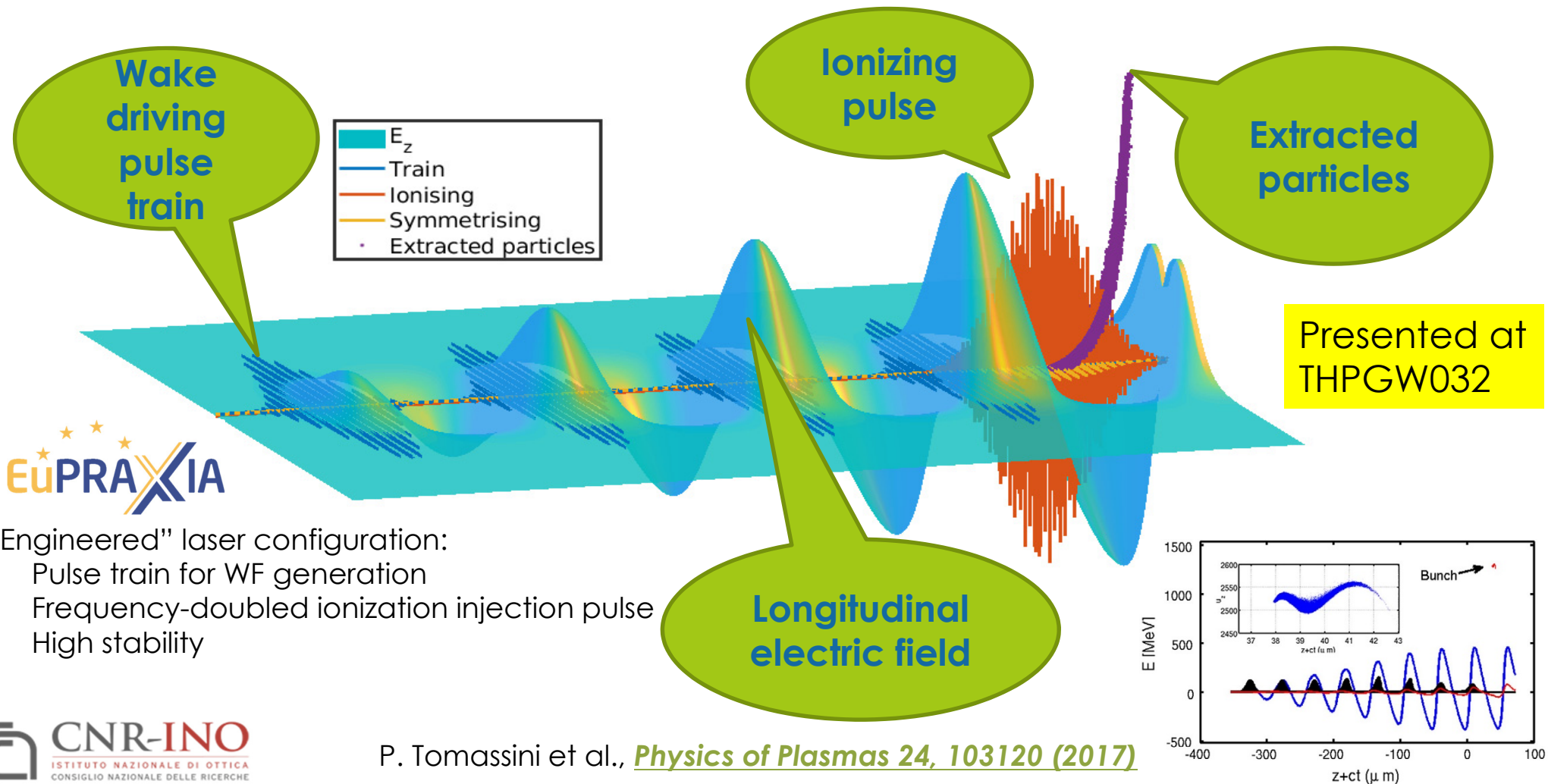
Collective plasma accelerators have recently received considerable attention. Early theoretical investigation of relativistic electron acceleration by moving magnetic fields was considered by Lawson¹ and later by Lawson² in terms of magnetic waves.² In terms of present-day technology for collective acceleration, the present-day electron beam of $\sim 10^7 \text{ V/cm}$ and power density of $\sim 10^{12} \text{ W/cm}^2$ is far below the capabilities of the glass laser. On the other hand, the glass laser is capable of delivering a power density of $\sim 10^{18} \text{ W/cm}^2$, and, as we shall see

the wavelength of the plasma waves in the wake:



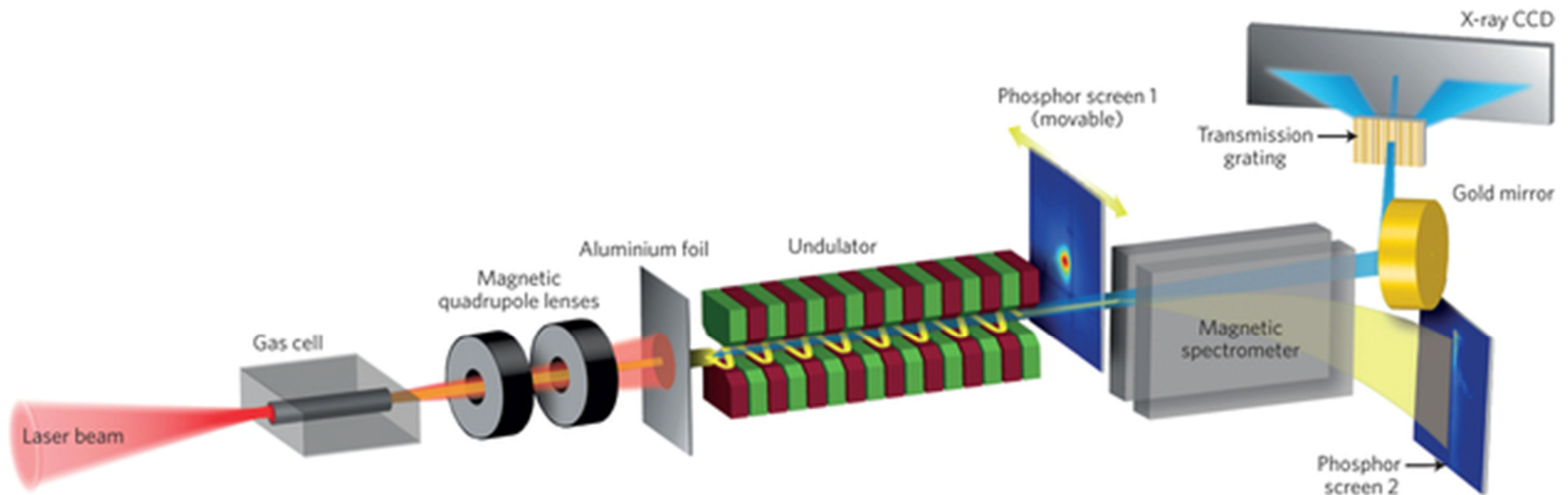
Advanced LWFA schemes

Example of advanced scheme for high quality laser-plasma acceleration: REMPI⁽¹⁾



Plasma based X-Ray Free Electron Laser?

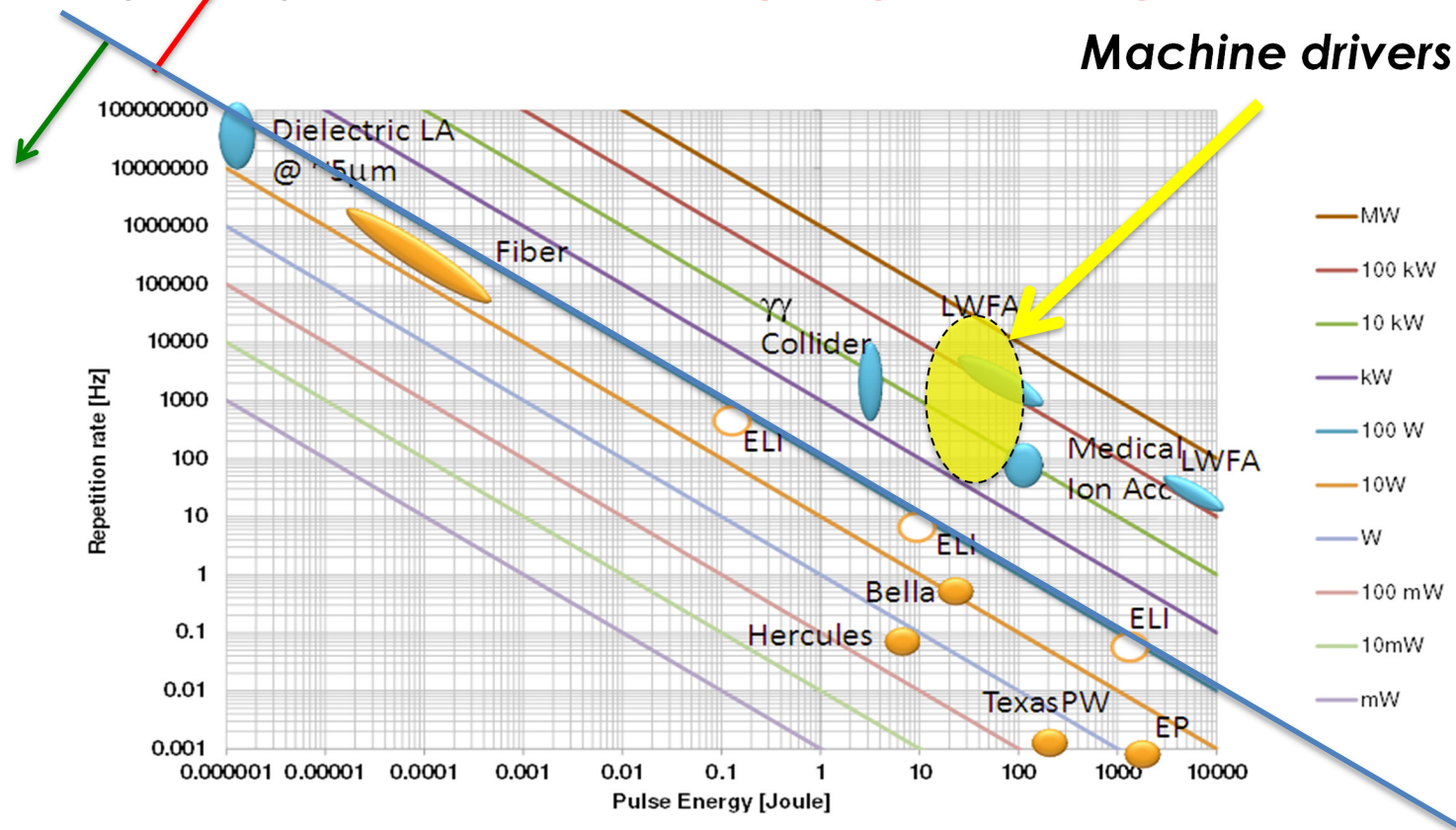
High quality GeV electron beam needed: **a test bed for plasma acceleration**
Great effort world-wide towards this challenging objective (see ME Cuprie's slides)



Aiming at user operation sets mandatory operation boundaries in terms of rep-rate, reliability, up-time, flux excetera. Driving laser is a key enabling component.

NEEDED HIGH POWER LASERS

Needs emerging for a PW-class system, with high repetition rate (\approx kHz) and **demanding high average power**



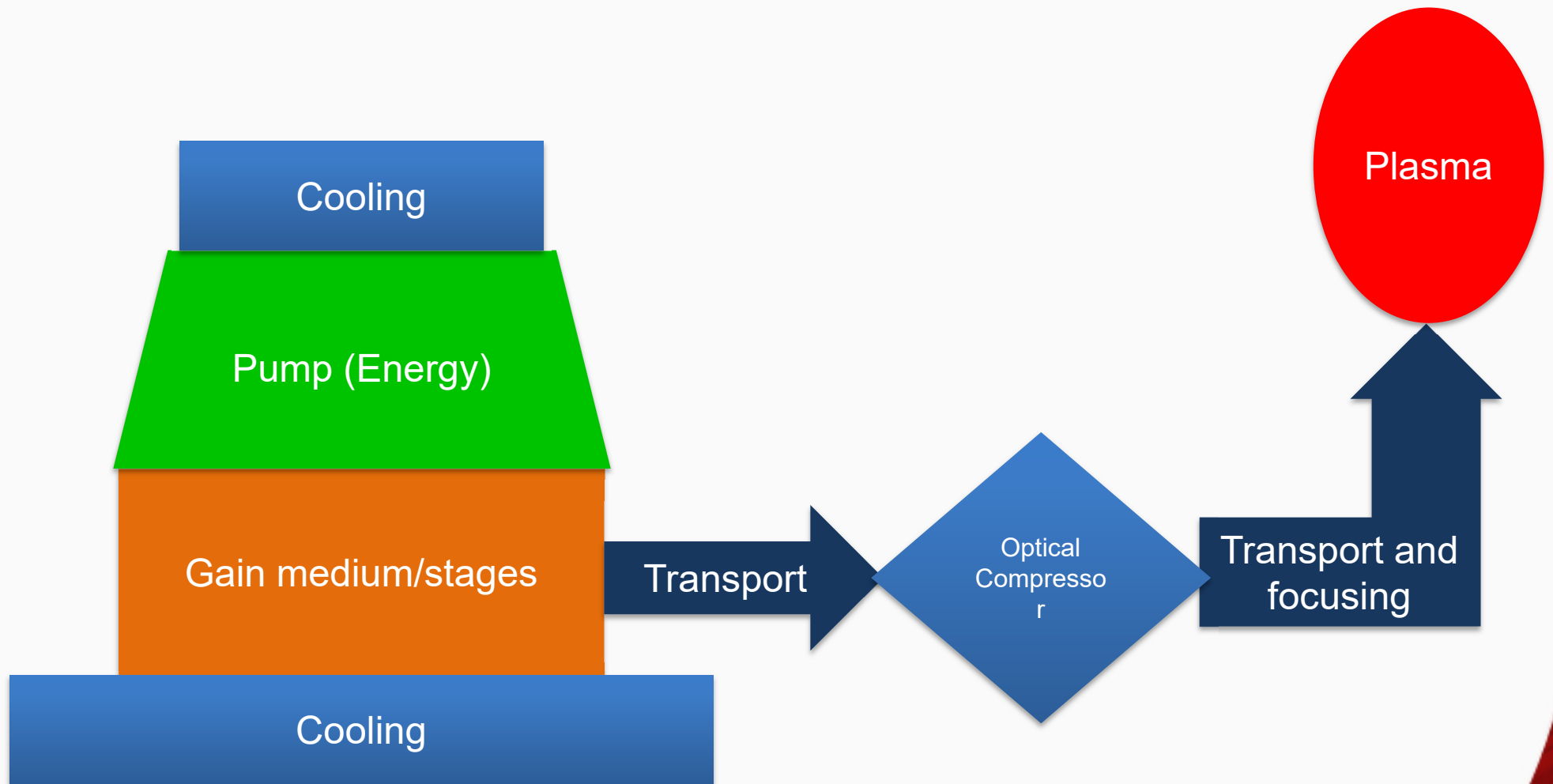
Major effort required to fill the gap between **existing** and **required** laser technology

KEY REQUIRED LASER FEATURES

- Short pulse **PW-kW** laser technology (CPA, diode pumping);
- **High repetition rate** to allow user operation while enabling active stabilization via feedback loops;
- **Average power** ranging from 1kW to 10 kW;
- Controlled **beam transport**, focusing, diagnostics.
- Main **issues**: pump lasers, amplifiers heat management and compressor gratings at high rep-rate.

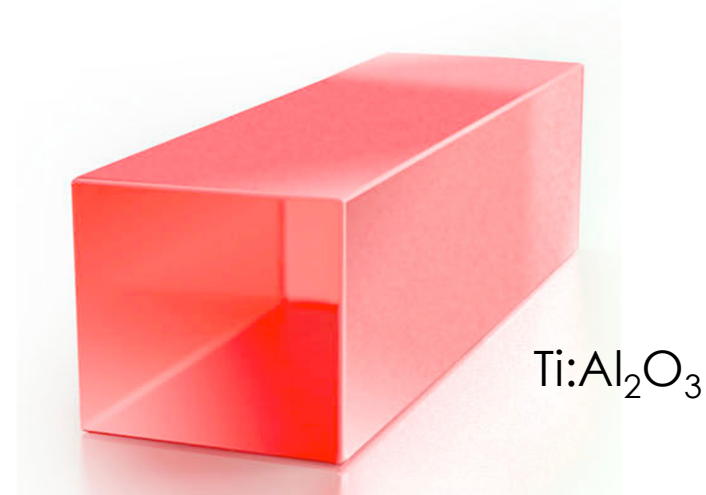
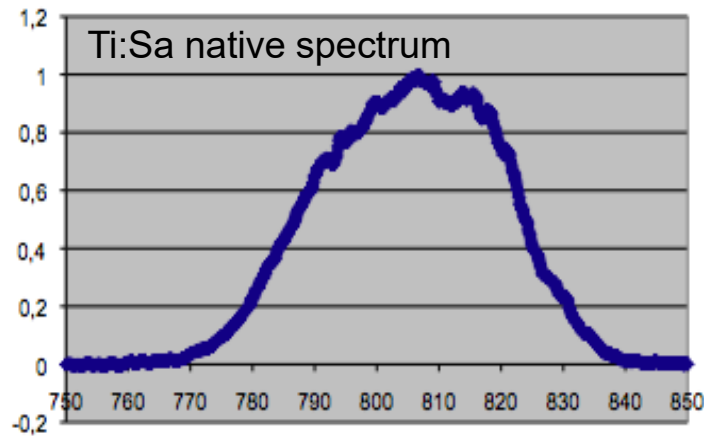


RELEVANT BLOCKS OF A LASER DRIVER



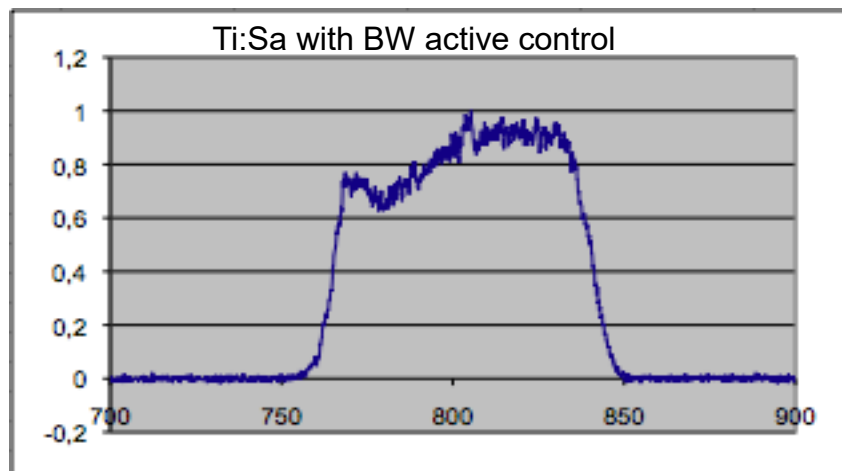
GAIN MATERIAL: TITANIUM SAPPHIRE

Currently, most PW-scale CPA lasers are based on Ti:Sapphire pumped by frequency doubled Nd:YAG lasers



Large gain bandwidth (680 nm – 1080 nm)

- High quantum efficiency
- Long lifetime: 3 μ s
- Thermal conductivity: 35 WK⁻¹m⁻¹
- Pumped in the green



Active bandwidth control crucial to overcome gain narrowing and enable sub-50 fs pulses

KEY PARAMETERS OF LASING MEDIA



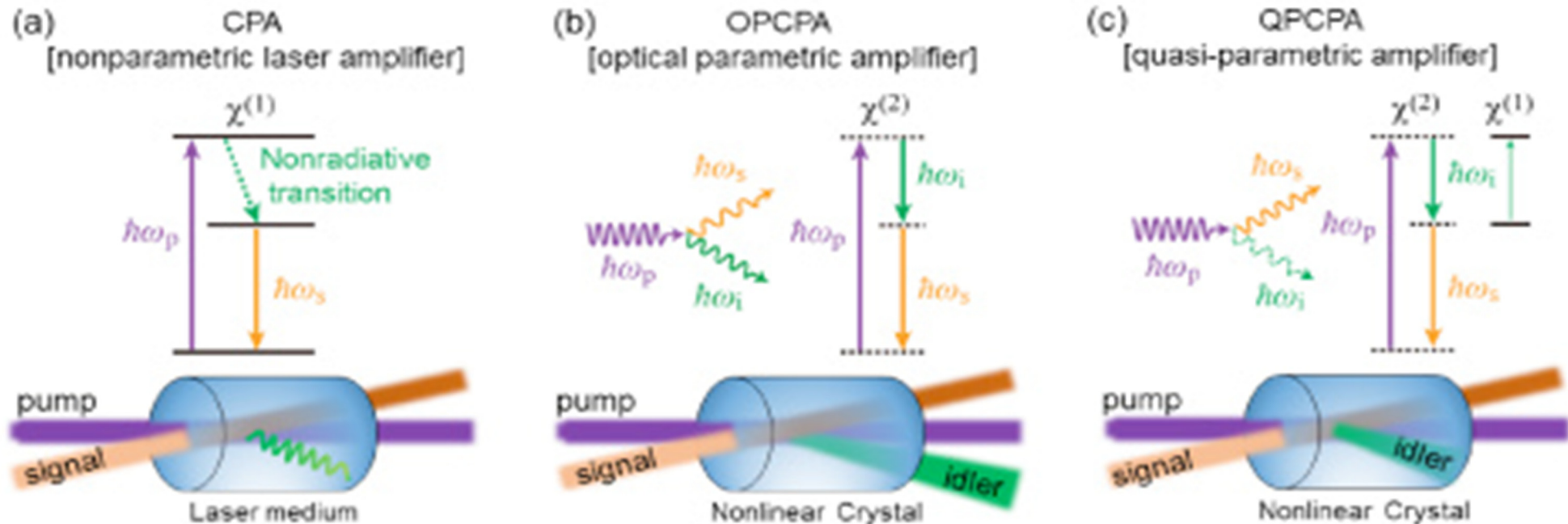
Main parameters governing laser amplifiers:

- Spectral gain **bandwidth**: short pulse duration
- **Thermal conductivity**: limits repetition rate
- Abs. and emis. **cross sections**: gain, pump absorption and saturation
- **Fluorescence lifetime**: sets conditions on pumping
- **dn/dT**: limits beam quality

Crystals	Nd: YAG	Yb: YAG	Ti: Sa	Yb: CaF ₂
Fluorescence lifetime (ms)	0.23	0.96	0.0032	2.4
Stimulated-em. $\sigma (\times 10^{-20}/\text{cm})$	20 to 30	2.1	30	0.2
Fluorescence wavelengths (nm)	1064	1030	660-1100	1033
Absorption wavelengths (nm)	808	940	514 to 532	980
Fluorescence BW (FWHM) (nm)	0.67	10	440	70
Absorption BW (FWHM) (nm)	1.9	>10	200	10
Pumping quantum efficiency	0.76	0.91	0.55	0.5
Saturation fluence (J/cm ²)	0.67	9.2	0.9	80
Thermal conductivity (W/m/°K)	0.14	11	35	9.7
dn/dT (1E-6/K)	7.3	7.8	13	-11.3

ALTERNATIVE APPROACH

Optical Parametric Chirped Pulse Amplification



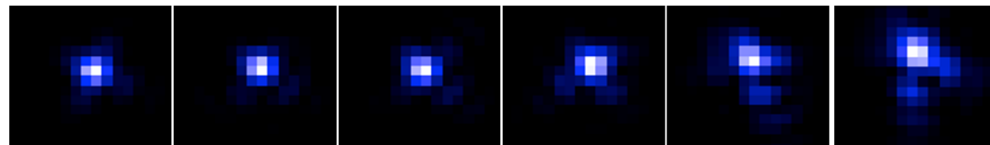
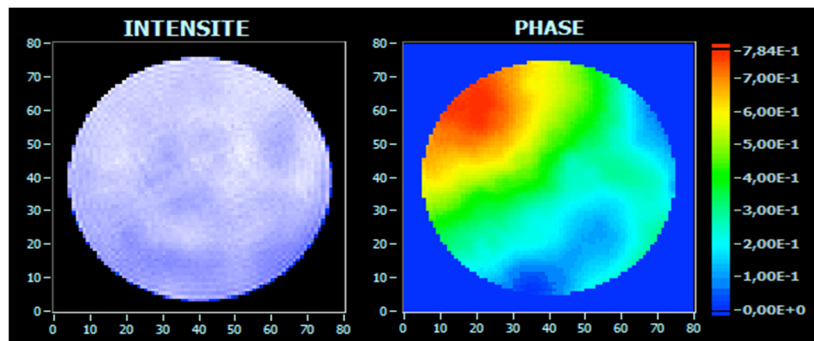
Mainly for ultra-broad-band front-end preamplifiers

FOCAL SPOT BEAM QUALITY

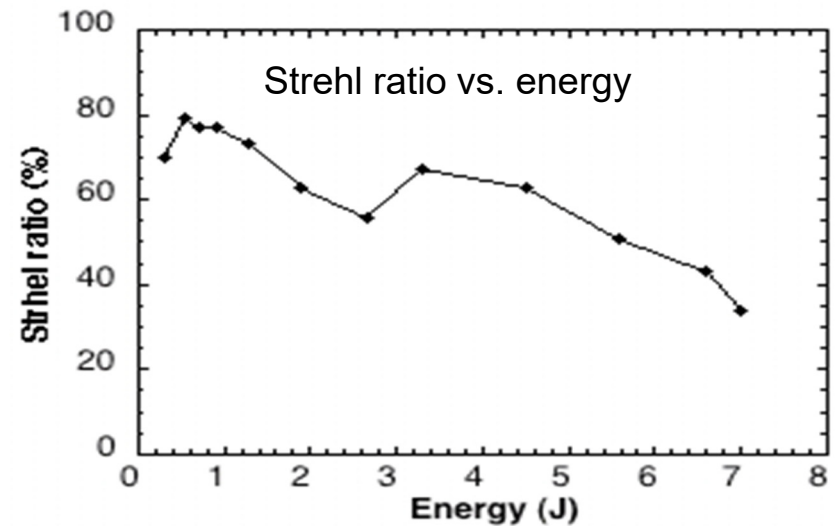
As larger gain media and optics are used, optical aberrations become important and limit the focusability of laser pulses

$$S_r = \frac{\text{Energy in the focal spot}}{\text{Energy in the pulse}} \quad \text{STREHL RATIO}$$

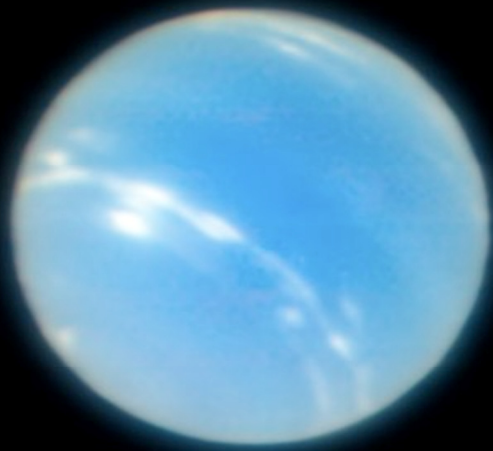
PHASE FRONT DISTORTIONS



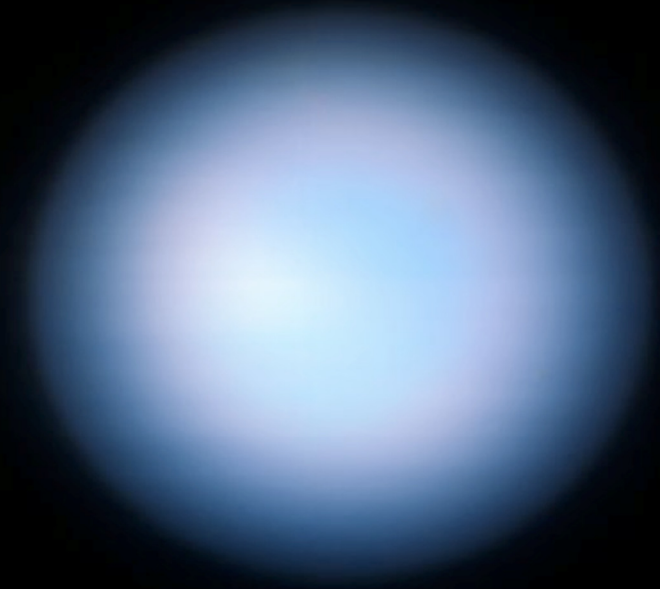
Amplification →



Borrowing Astronomy Adaptive Technology



Adaptive optics



No Adaptive optics

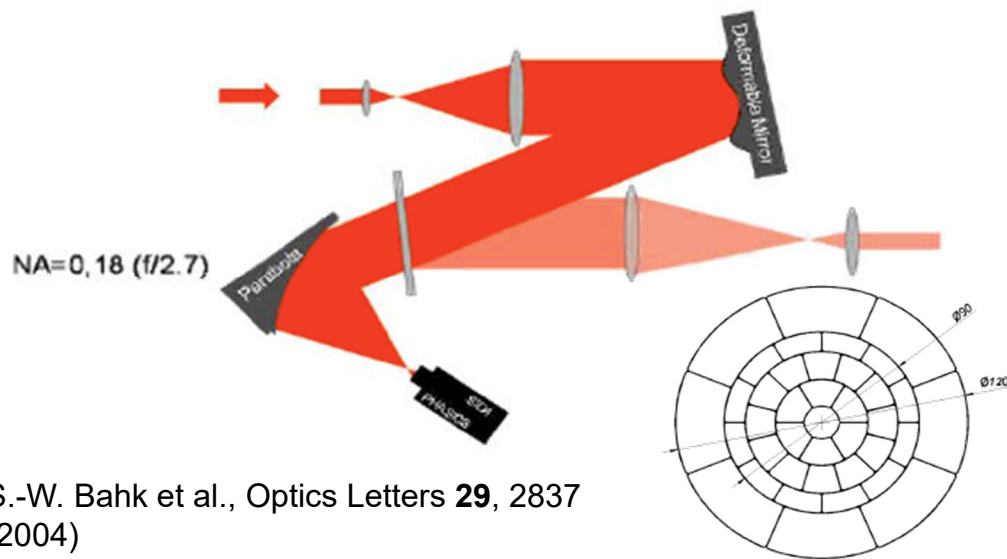
ESO's Very Large Telescope (Paranal, Chile)

ADAPTIVE OPTICS for high power lasers

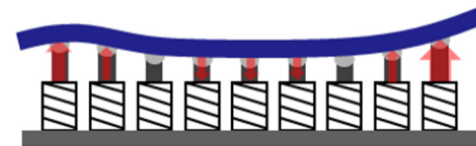
Active spatial phase control technique can be used to **correct severe to moderate phase distortions**;

Sensors are used to measure intensity and **phase map** of the beam;

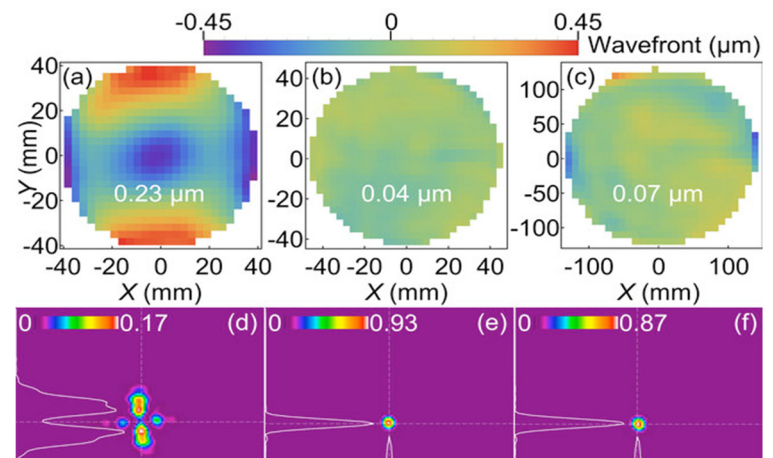
Deformable mirrors are used to correct the measured wave front distortions in a closed loop;



S.-W. Bahk et al., Optics Letters **29**, 2837 (2004)

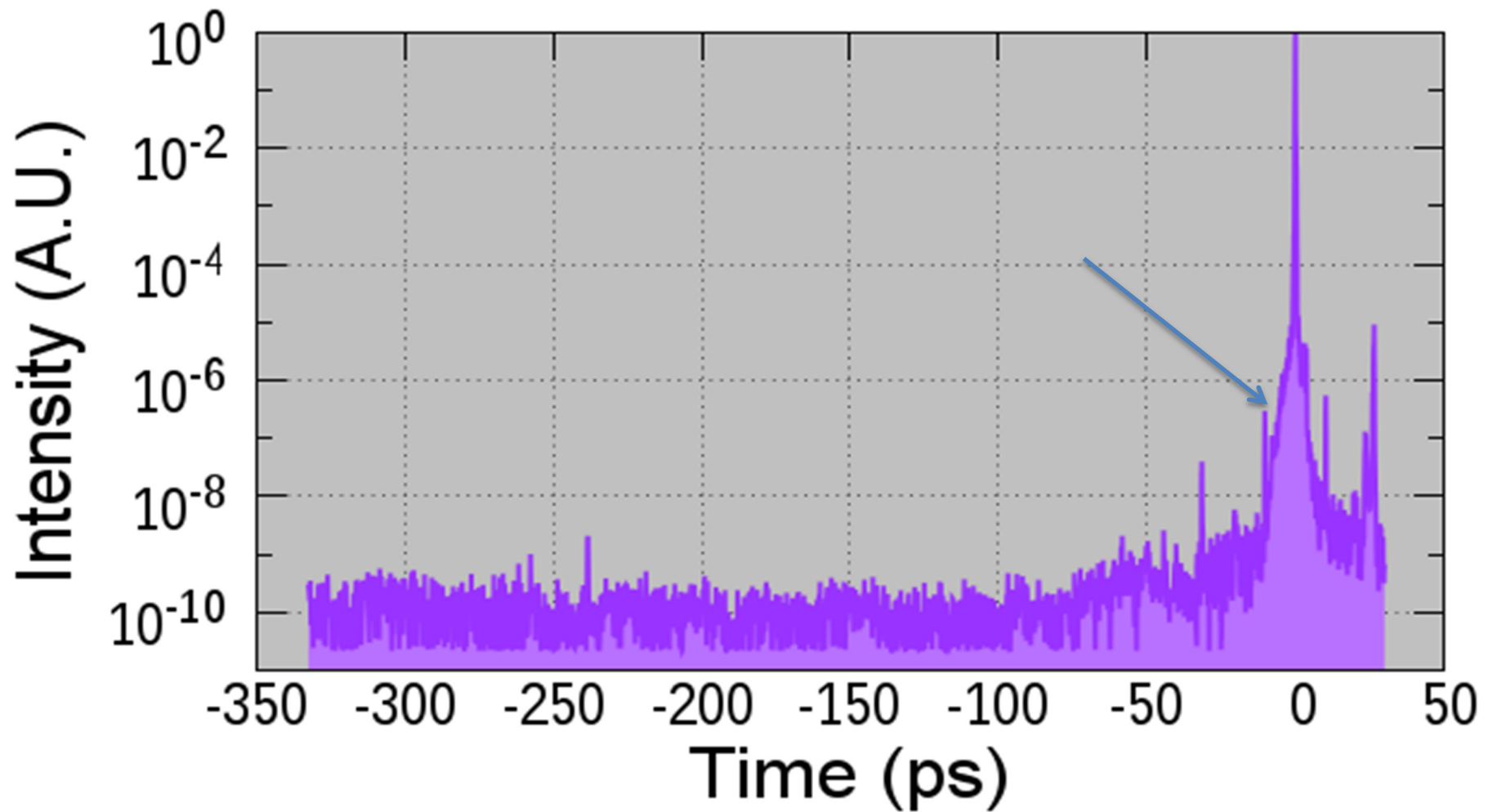


Mechanical actuator modify mirror shape by applying a force on the back of the mirror

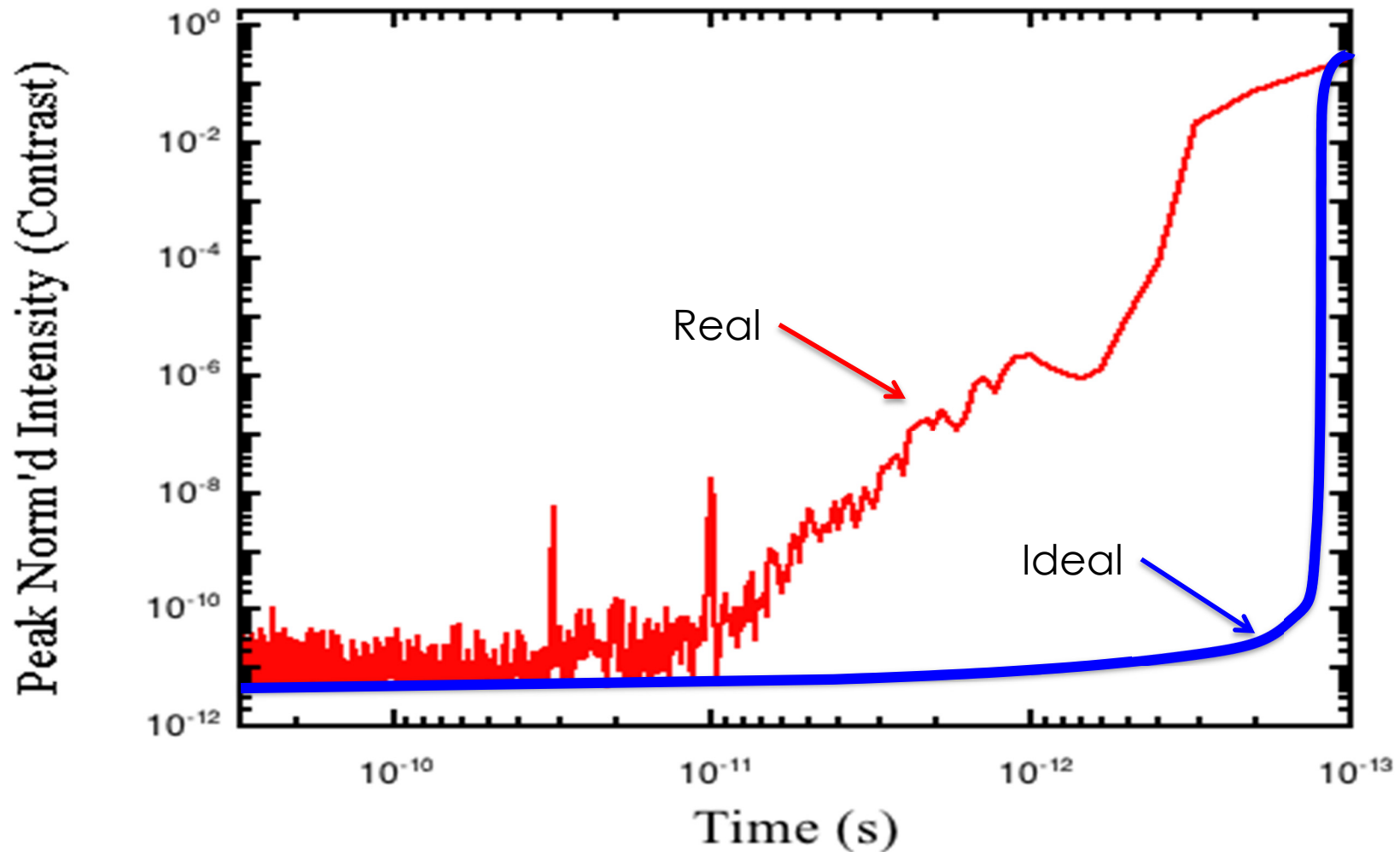


A. PIROZHKOV et al., Optics Express 25, 17 (2017)

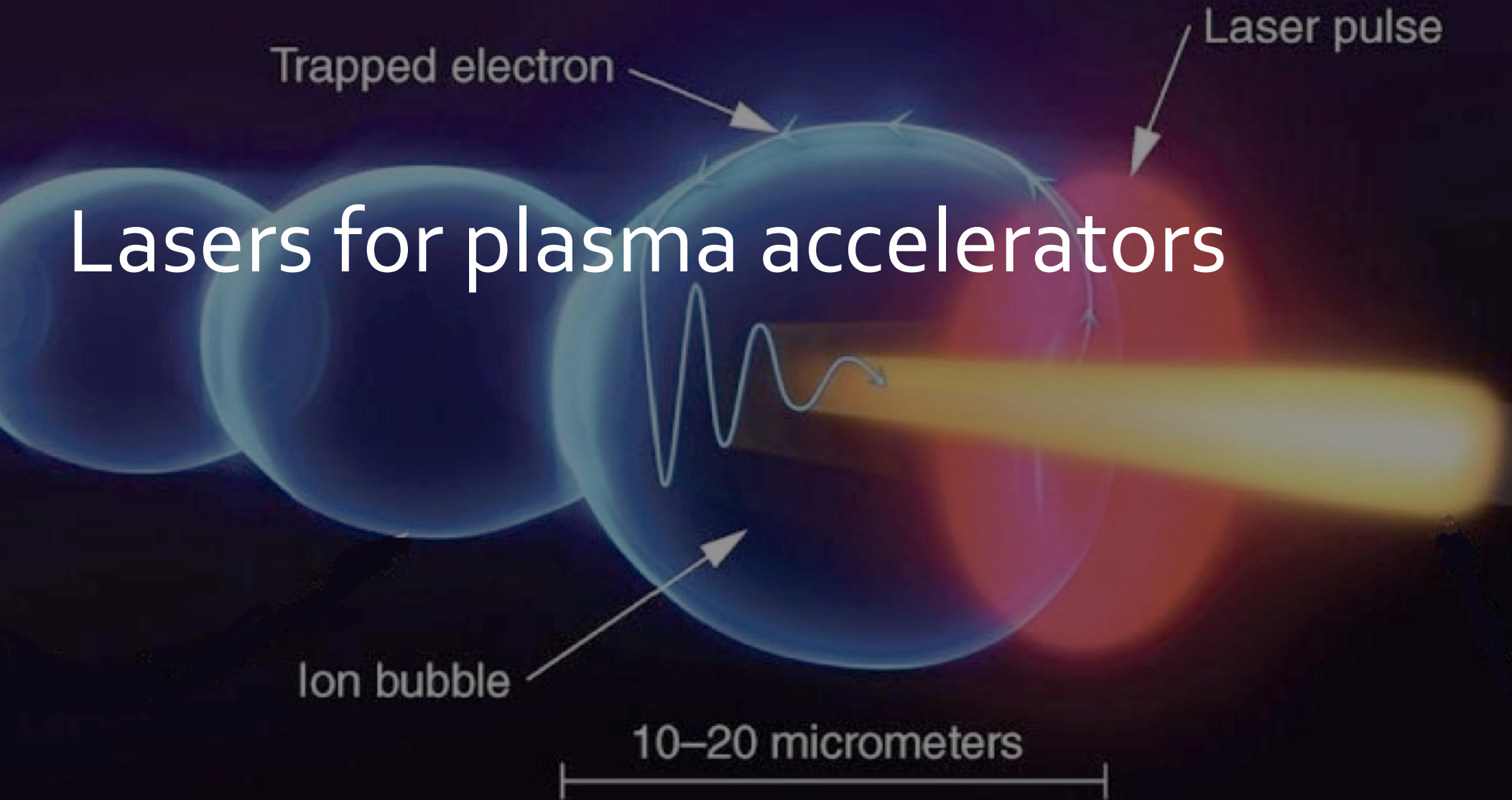
TEMPORAL FEATURES: CONTRAST



LASER CONTRAST: SUB-PS TIME SCALE



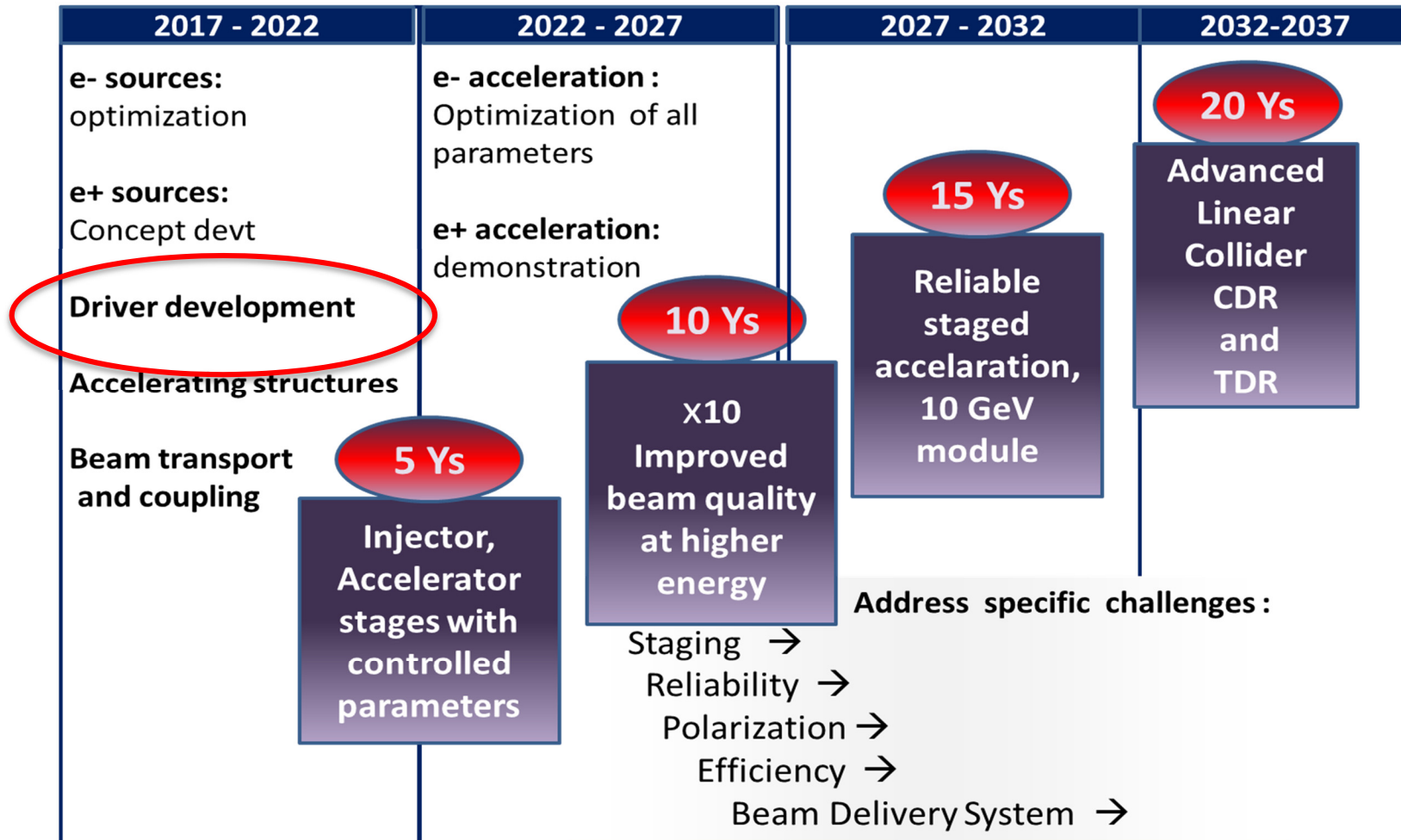
Lasers for plasma accelerators



Roadmap of Advanced and Novel Accelerators



International Committee for Future Accelerators
Panel on Advanced and Novel Accelerators





EUROPEAN
PLASMA RESEARCH
ACCELERATOR WITH
EXCELLENCE IN
APPLICATIONS

**The EuPRAXIA Project:
COMPACT EUROPEAN PLASMA
ACCELERATOR WITH SUPERIOR
BEAM QUALITY**



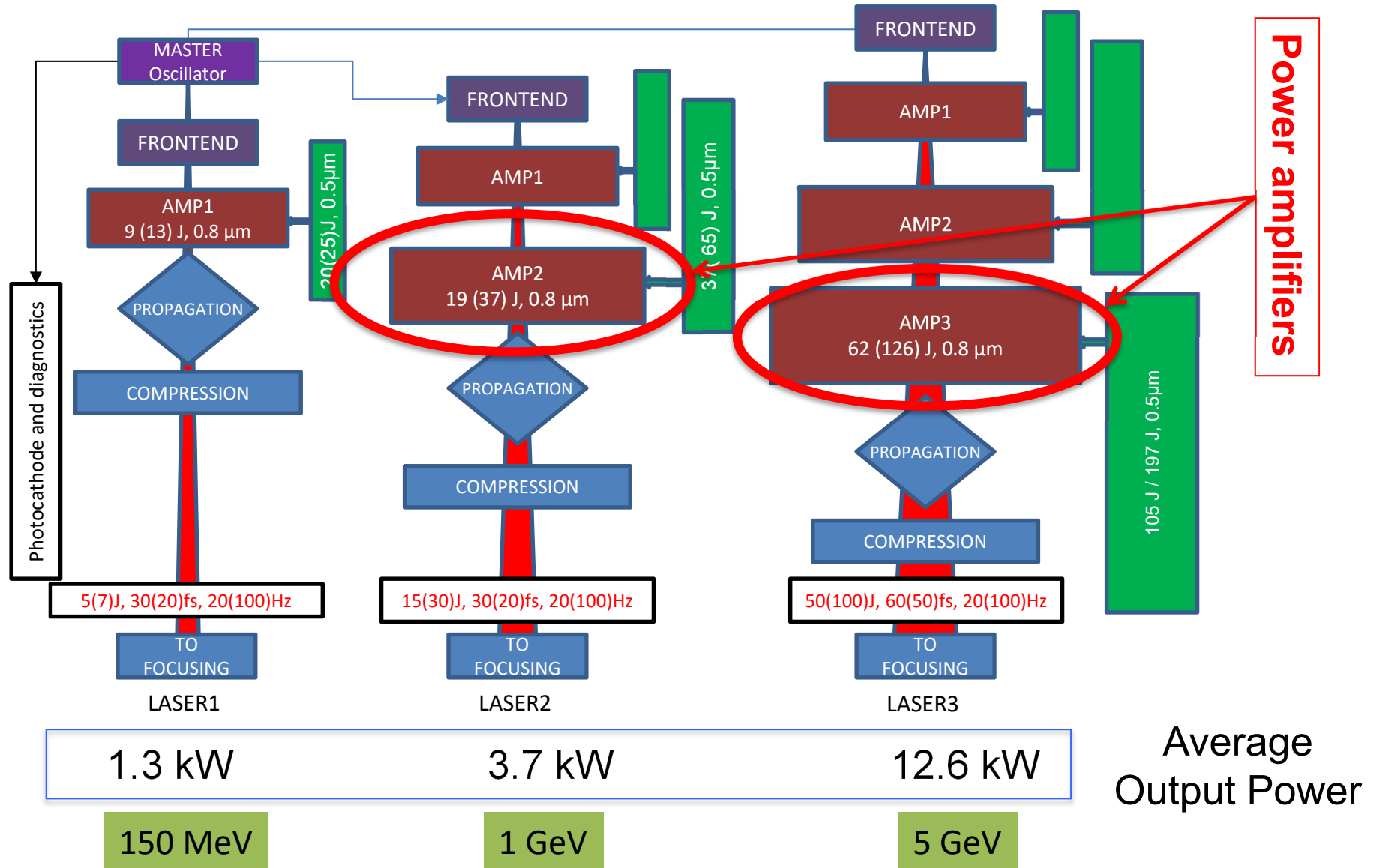
<http://eupraxia-project.eu>

- EuPRAXIA is a **conceptual design study** for a **5 GeV electron plasma accelerator** as a European research infrastructure.
- **FEL requires low (total) energy spread (<1%) and low emittance (<1mm mrad):**
 - **Validate technical components and schemes in plasma accelerator** concepts producing already GeV class beams:
 - **Establish laser driver technology**
 - *Combine efforts with **laser industry and laser institutes** to improve rep. rate & efficiency (incorporate all viable laser technologies with higher efficiency).*

Laser Driver 5 GeV (Laser 3)

Parameter	Label	P0*	P1**
Wavelength (nm)	λ_2 (nm)	800	800
Maximum energy on target (J) *	E_2	50	100
Energy tuning resolution (% of targeted value)	dE	7	5
Shortest pulse length (FWHM) (fs)	τ_2	60	50
Repetition rate (Hz)	f_2	20	100
Contrast at 100 ps	C_1 (100 ps)	1,00E+11	1,00E+12
Contrast at 50 ps	C_1 (50 ps)	1,00E+10	1,00E+11
Contrast at 10 ps	C_1 (10 ps)	1,00E+10	1,00E+10
Contrast at 1 ps	C_1 (1 ps)	1,00E+06	1,00E+08
Contrast at 100 fs	C_1 (100 fs)	1,00E+02	1,00E+03
Number of beams	N_2	1	1
Synchro. to global reference (P-V) (fs)	$\sigma_{\Delta t}$	10	5
Beam intensity distribution (x-y) in focal plane	-	Gaussian	Supergaussian (n=10)
Polarization in focal plane	P_1	linear	linear, circular
Max ellipticity of focal spot (Am/AM)		0.8	0,95
Polarization purity (%)		1	1
Requirement on energy stability (RMS) %	$\sigma_{<E>}$	5	1
Requirement on focal size & Z_L stab. (RMS) %	$\sigma_{<ZL>}$	10	5
Focal spot size stability (on target plane) (RMS) %	$\sigma_{<W0>}/W_0$	20	10
Pointing stability (RMS) (μ rad)	$\sigma_{<x'>}, \sigma_{<y'>}$	5	1

- **up to ten kW** average laser power with PW peak power and high repetition rate;
- **Ti:Sa technology pumped by diode-pumped solid state (DPSSL)** lasers provides a relatively safe ground, with major **industrial** and research endeavour in place;
- **Recent developments**, with DPSSL prototypes pump lasers offer kW performances at the required Ti:Sa pumping wavelength of 0.5 μm ;



Design guidelines

- Modularity: same amplification stages in the different laser chains;
- Scalability: upgrade “simply” by increasing pump energy and rep rate
- **High extraction efficiency (esp. at P1) to reduce pump energy requirements**
- **Thermal management issues**

Design methodology

- Evaluation of the amplification parameters (energy, spectrum, beam size, stability, parasitic lasing) with **numerical simulations** (MIRO – CEA);
- Validation of modelling with existing systems up to multi-J level;
- Preliminary thermomechanical evaluation by means of FEA simulations (LAS-CAD);

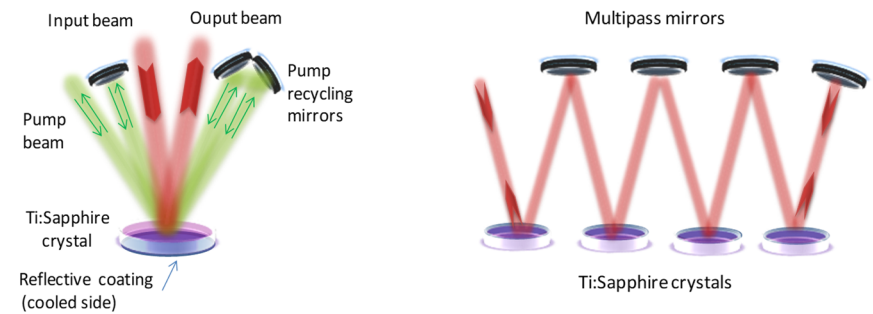
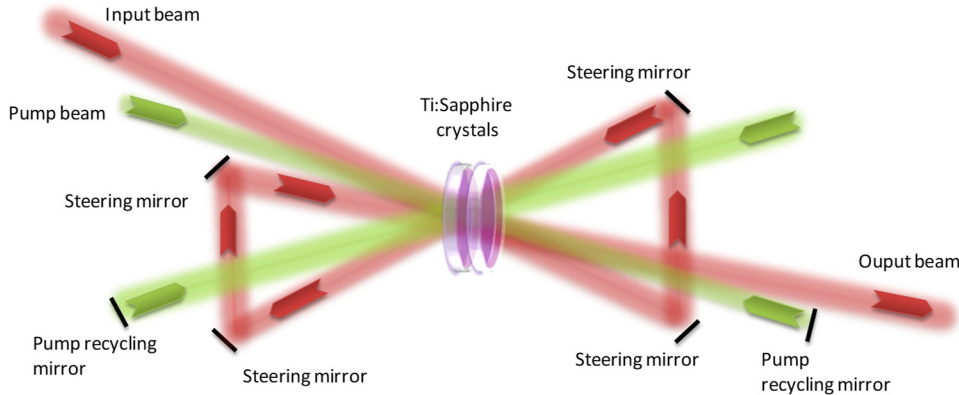
Results

- Main parameters for each stage: pump energy, extracted energy, beam size, spectral shift, parasitic gain ...
- Energy stability vs pump and seed energy fluctuations
- Evaluation of thermal aberrations
- Cooling strategies: liquid flow cooling
- ASE/PL mitigation strategies: Extraction during pumping

Transmission vs. “active mirror” configuration is currently being evaluated to account for thermal management

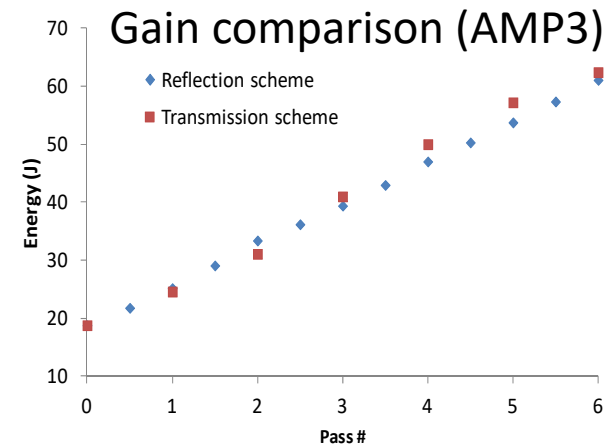
“Active mirror” geometry

Transmission geometry

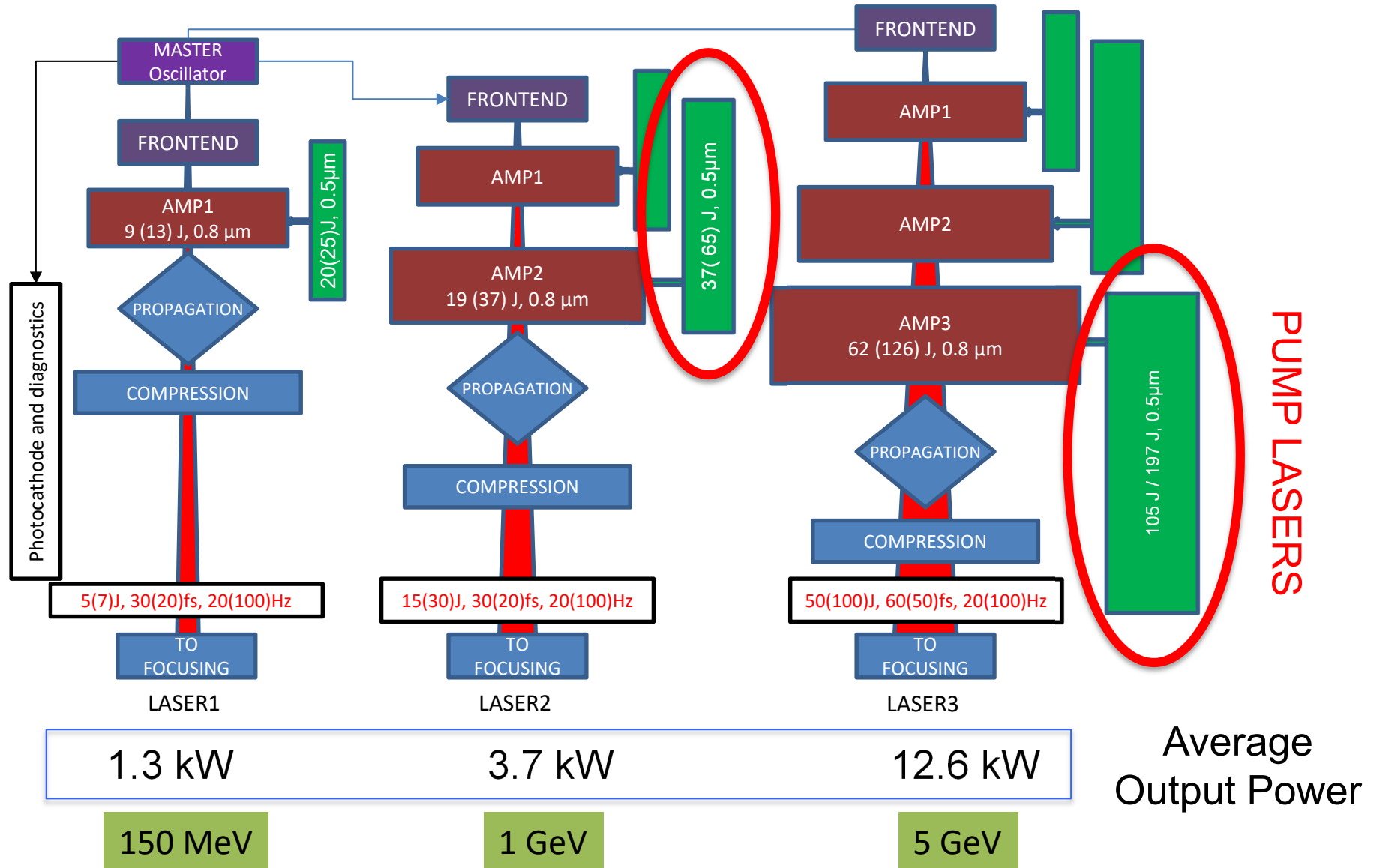


Pro: Well established concept with no propagation through cooling fluid
Con: limited cooling (single face), to be modelled

Pro: More efficient (double-side) cooling and reduced complexity;
Con: propagation through flowing cooling liquid



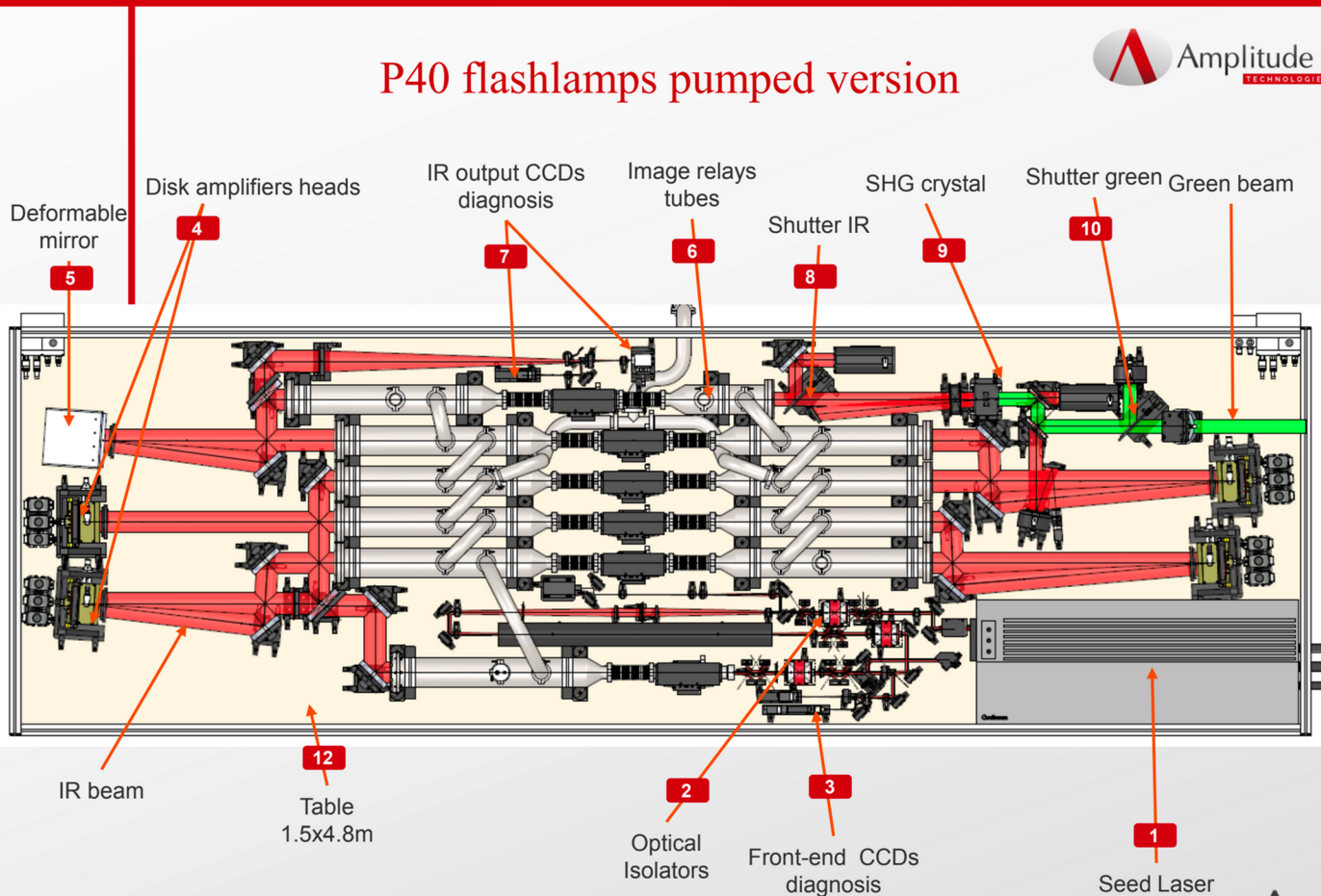
*) Water cooled Ti:Sa amplifier (“Active Mirror” configuration) under development at ELI-HU (After V. Cvyhkov *et al.*, Opt. Lett, **41**, 3017, 2016)
) Fluid (D₂O) cooled Nd:YAG laser, 20 kW CW pump power, D₂O (After X. Fu *et al.*, Opt. Express, **22, 18421 (2014)
 ***) Fluid (Siloxane) cooled Nd:YLF laser, 5 kW CW pump power (After Z. Ye *et al.*, Opt. Express, **24**, 1758 (2016)



- **Industrial** developments of high average power pump lasers;
- DPSSL implementation on currently available **industrial** flash-lamp pumped systems for 20-50 Hz performance;
- Link to available effort in prototyping from **industry** and research labs for enhanced performance;
- **High power diode developments** for future 100 Hz / 1 kHz upgrade.

Industrial unit (P60): conversion to diode pumping fully designed

P40 flashlamps pumped version



Flashlamp pumped Nd:YAG/
DPSSL possible
80 J output energy demonstrated
 @ **10 Hz**, 1064 nm
 60 J SHG energy @ 532 nm :
 design target (**40 J** demonstrated)

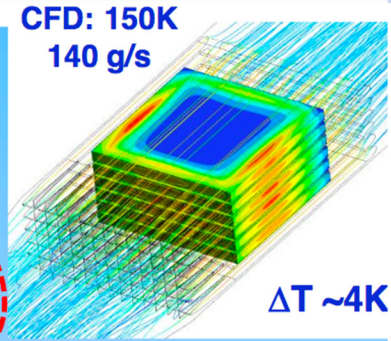
- **Cost of diode still an issue** – currently 5x total (including operational) costs compared to flashlamps.
- Expected to decrease in 5-10 yrs.
- Maintenance free operation for 25-30 yrs.

- 6 x Yb:YAG slabs
- 4-pass relay-imaging design
- NF, FF diagnostics on each pass

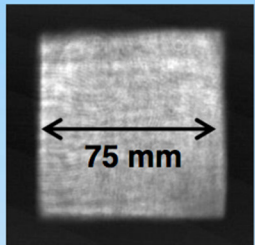


120 mm square
8.5 mm thick

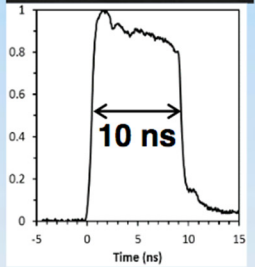
Konoshima Chemical Co.,Ltd.



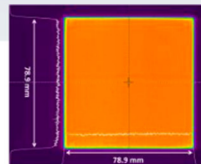
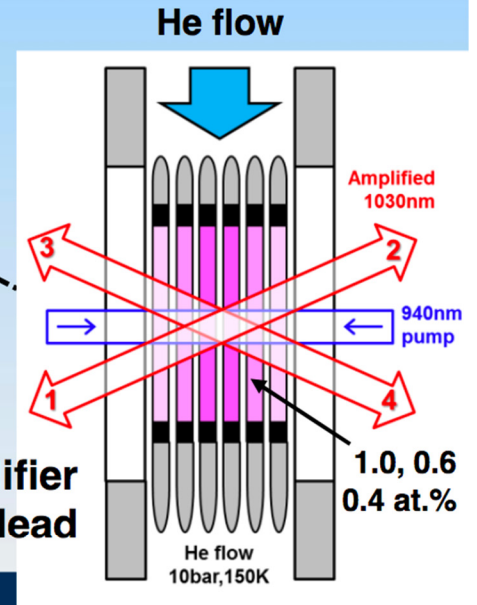
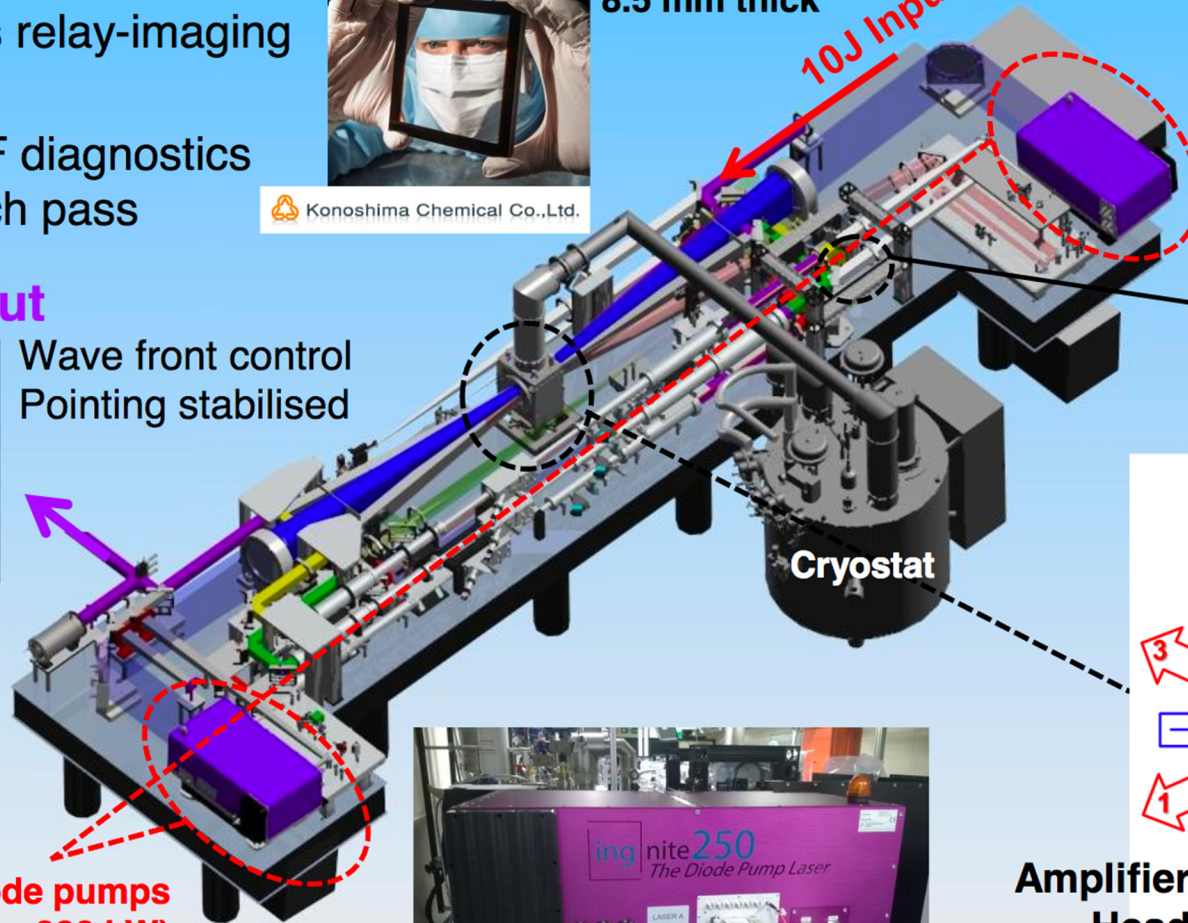
100J output



Wave front control
Pointing stabilised



Diode pumps
(2 x 280 kW)

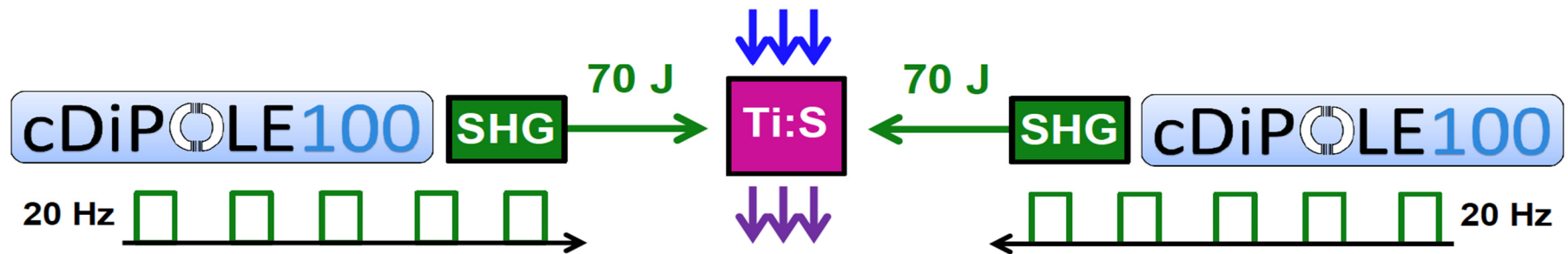


ingeneric

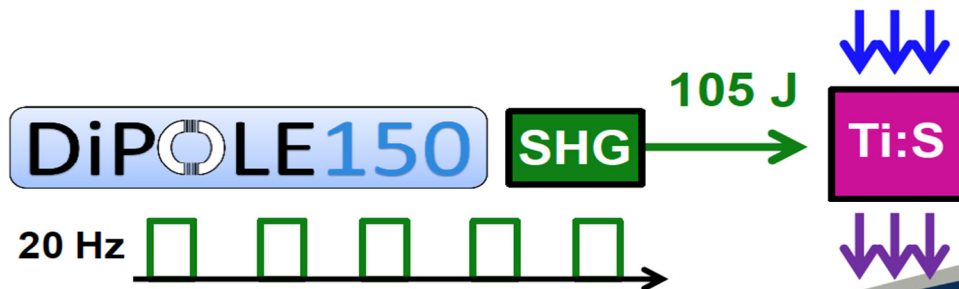
- L3 Baseline: 105 J @ **515 nm**, 20 Hz
 - Operate @ higher fluence \Rightarrow reduce aperture
 - Higher gain \Rightarrow fewer amplifier stages
 - Relax beam quality \Rightarrow higher thermal load (P_{avg} , PRF)
 - 2 x compact-DiPOLE100 @ 20 Hz (5.5 kW load)

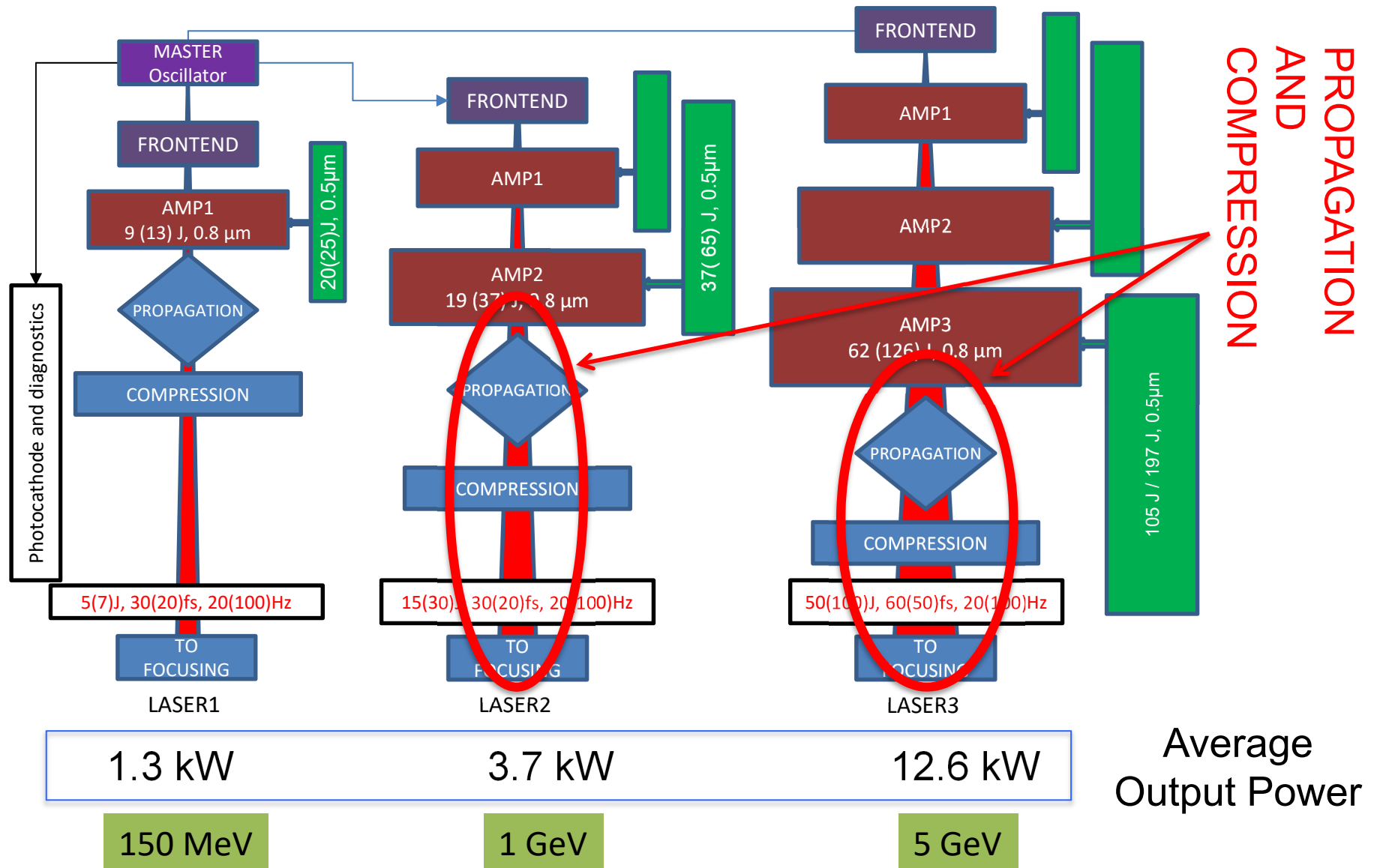
Compact

**Simpler
& more
affordable**

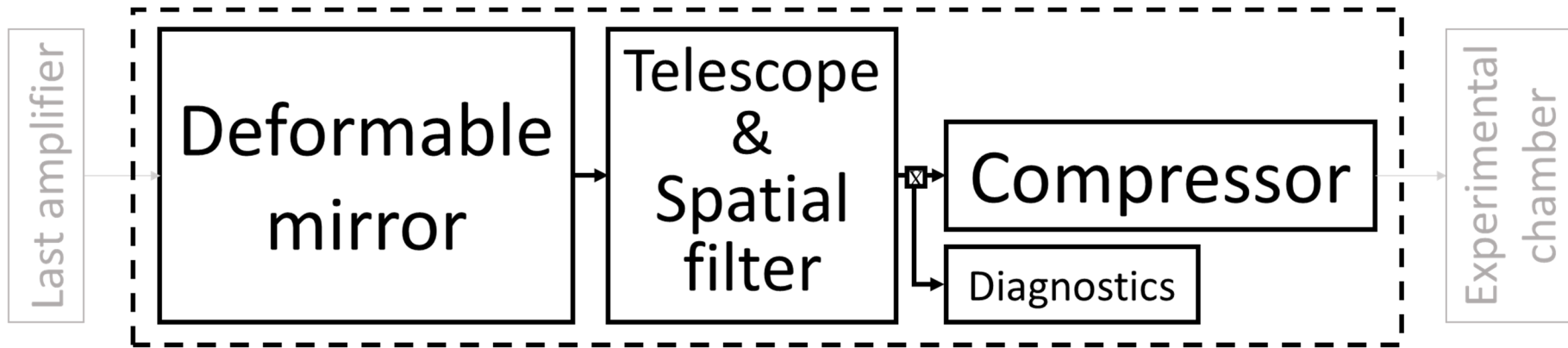


or 1 x DiPOLE150 @ 20 Hz (8 kW load)

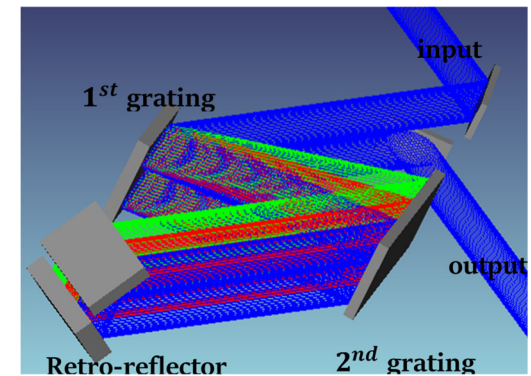
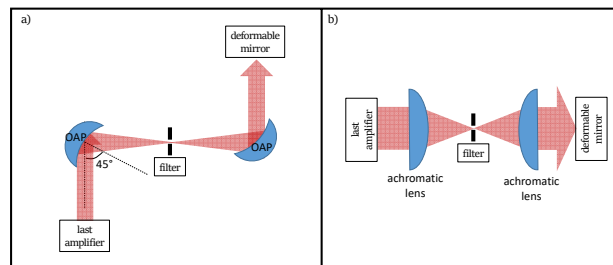
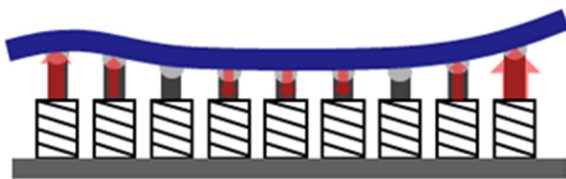




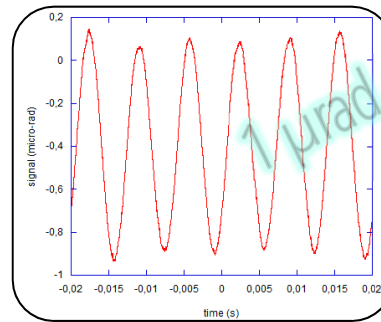
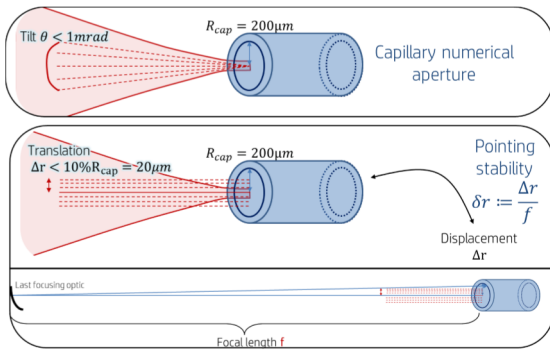
Main challenges: large optics, **mechanical stability**, **cooling of gratings**, beam quality control, **beam pointing stability** ...



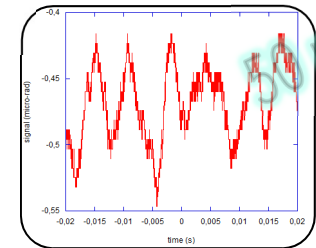
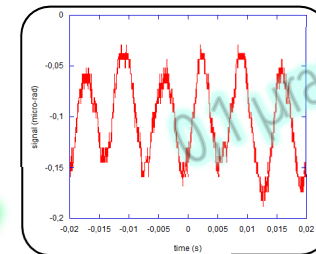
R&D at existing laser labs (APOLLON(FR), RAL(UK), ILIL(IT) etc ...)



Requirements for beam pointing stability are extremely demanding (1-5 μrad). Both passive and active control will be required. Prior to the implementation of control strategies, tools are being developed to **measure pointing stability** performances at EuPRAXIA facilities and labs.



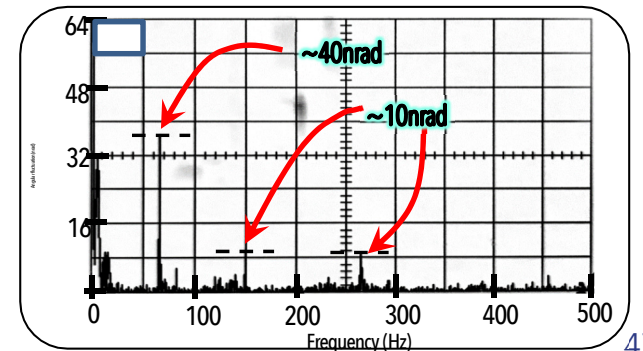
Laser angular fluctuations footprints at 150 Hz



Environmental angular noise of about 30 nano-rad

up to the **MHz regime** and more

Spectral analysis of the laser fluctuation.



We already detect <100nrad fluctuations

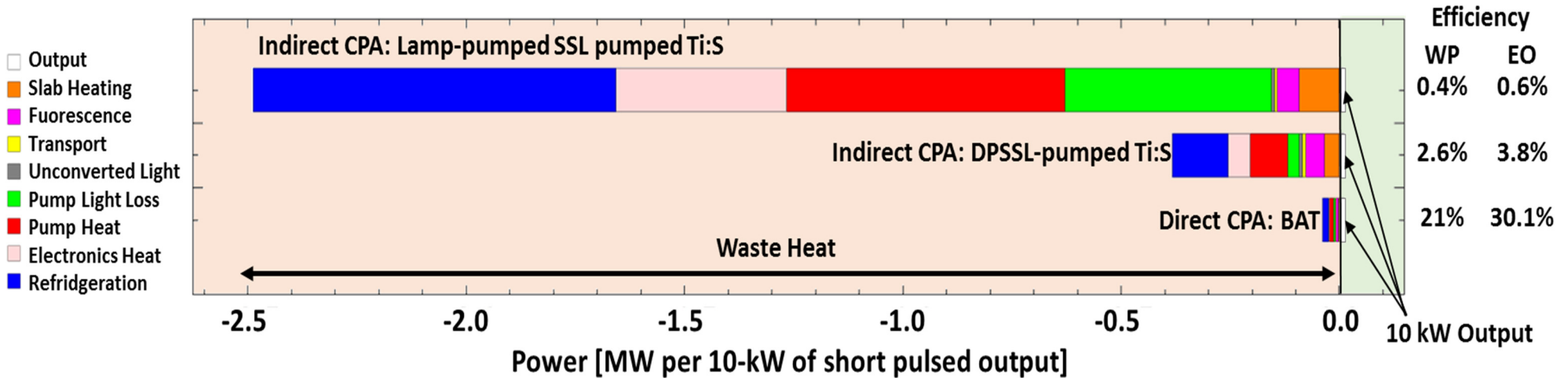
Z. Mazzotta, F. Mathieu
in collaboration with
S. Cialdi, D. Cipriani, S. Capra
of Università degli studi di Milano.

- Laser driver for a plasma accelerator designed to **seamlessly drive** a user laser-plasma accelerator;
- Current required drivers, 100-1kHz Hz, 10-100J, is **beyond existing technologies**;
- Conceptual design relies on the **latest industrial** and lab components of high power lasers;
- 20 Hz operation relies on demonstrated components (**TRL 5 to TRL 7**);
- 100 Hz operation (**TRL2 to TRL3**) is evolving along with **diode pumping developments (prototyping)**;
- Heat management of amplifier head (**TRL3-TRL4**) requires validation at the relevant component scale.

- **Other technologies are developing** aiming at >kW, higher rep. rates, higher average power levels and even more efficient configurations (k-BELLA@LBNL, Kaldera@Desy, LEAP@CELIA ...);
- **Fiber laser technology** offers the best WPE >50% in CW mode and **coherent combination** is being developed (FSU Jena-Fraunhofer IOF and Ecole Polytechnique-Thales in France). Suited for lower energy per pulse >10 kHz or for future upgrades; see also XCAN project;
- **Direct Chirped Pulse Amplification** with lasing media **pumped directly by diodes** is ideal for higher efficiency and higher rep-rate;

- Plasma accelerators will require higher and higher repetition lasers with high efficiency. Direct pumping of lasing medium with diodes is most efficient:

Direct CPA required for >100Hz due to wall-plug efficiency limitations.



C. Siders et al., EAAC 2017



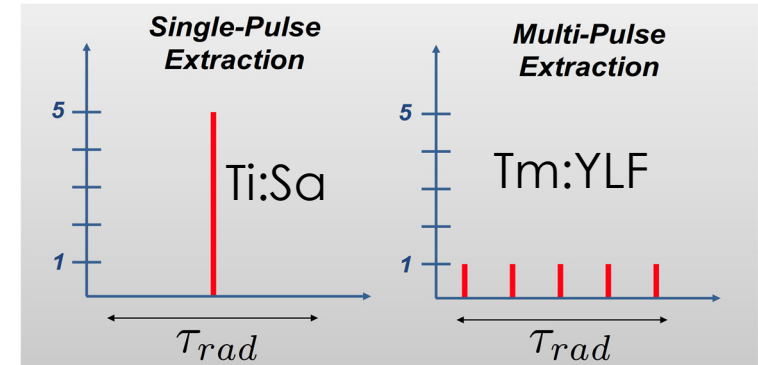
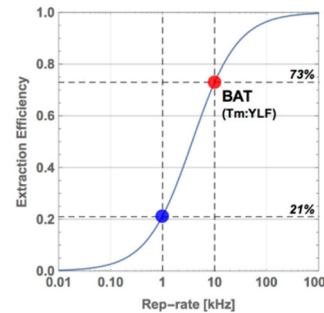
We need a **gain medium** that can support amplification on a large bandwidth and can be pumped **directly** with diode lasers.

Crystals	Nd: YAG	Yb: YAG	Ti: Sa	Yb: CaF ₂
Fluorescence lifetime (ms)	0.23	0.96	0.0032	2.4
Stimulated-em. σ ($\times 10^{-20}/\text{cm}$)	20 to 30	2.1	30	0.2
Fluorescence wavelengths (nm)	1064	1030	660-1100	1033
Absorption wavelengths (nm)	808	940	514 to 532	980
Fluorescence BW (FWHM) (nm)	0.67	10	440	70
Absorption BW (FWHM) (nm)	1.9	>10	200	10
Pumping quantum efficiency	0.76	0.91	0.55	0.5
Saturation fluence (J/cm ²)	0.67	9.2	0.9	80
Thermal conductivity (W/m/°K)	0.14	11	35	9.7
dn/dT (1E-6/K)	7.3	7.8	13	-11.3

- **Available direct CPA concepts (Yb:CaF₂, Yb:YAG ...)** limited in pulse duration, heat extraction and scaling;
- Developments in progress also with Tm:YLF

A possible solution: Tm:YLF

- **Currently under investigation(*): Tm:YLF**
 - Emission at 1,9 μm , eye safe;
 - Ultrashort pulse (<100 fs);
 - High peak power \approx PW;
 - High average power (scalable from kW to 300 kW);
 - Direct pumping at 808 nm, using diodes operating in CW mode (available and scalable);
 - Multi-pulse extraction at high repetition rate > 10 kHz; Ideal for accelerator technology;
 - High efficiency;
 - Mature material technology (crystal growth);



Tm: YLF Full specifications

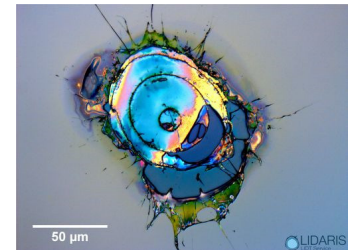
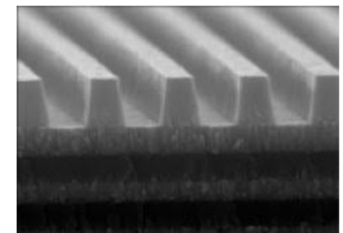
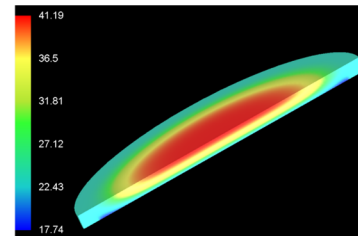
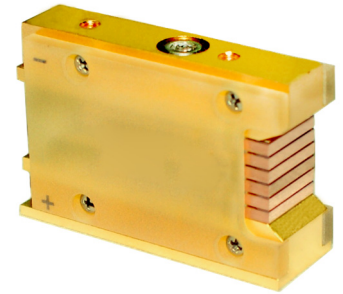
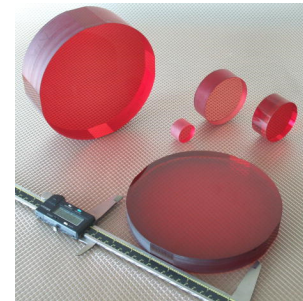
Absorption peak wavelength	792 nm
Absorption cross-section at peak	$0.55 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2$
Absorption bandwidth at peak wavelength	16 nm
Laser wavelength	1900 nm
Lifetime of 3F4 thulium energy level	16 ms
Emission cross-section @1900 nm	$0.4 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2$
Refractive index @1064 nm	$n_o=1.448, n_e=1.470$
Crystal structure	tetragonal
Density	3.95 g/cm ³
Mohs' hardness	5
Thermal conductivity	6 Wm ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
dn/dT	$-4.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ (/c) K}^{-1}$
Thermal expansion coefficient	$10.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ (/c) K}^{-1}$
Typical doping level	2-4 at.%

High Efficiency enabled by multipulse extraction

Relatively new approach for short pulse operation: needs R&D, but promising

EuPRAXIA laser relies on industrial development in:

- Pumping technology: diode (direct or indirect) pumping;
- Gain media: material should be industrially available at laser quality, scalable in size and capable of supporting large bandwidth and efficient cooling;
- Grating technology to improve for higher damage threshold and smaller beam size
- Optics Damage threshold
- Thermal load, management, dissipation
- Vacuum technology
- Mechanical stabilization (active and passive);



Major R&D and technology transfer to embed in final systems

SUMMARY

- *Nobel winning, ultraintense CPA laser technology:*
 - *30+ years of impressive developments;*
- *Correlated progress of laser-plasma acceleration;*
- *FEL-quality Laser-Plasma acceleration approaching;*
- *Today's technology leading to viable driver (EuPRAXIA);*
- *Progressing towards kW-kHz with higher efficiency;*
- *Building a credible route for first generation of high quality, laser-driven plasma accelerators.*

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

