



EPS-HEP 2025



The LHCb PicoCal

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on behalf of the LHCb ECAL Upgrade II R&D Group

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Jul. 07 – 11, 2025

Palais du Pharo

Marseille, France

Outline

1. Introduction
2. R&D and latest test beam results
 - 1) SpaCal-W with polystyrene fibers for LS3
 - 2) SpaCal-Pb with polystyrene fibers
 - 3) SpaCal-W with crystal fibers for LS4
 - 4) Shashlik with fast WLS fibers
3. Summary and conclusion

Outline

1. Introduction

2. R&D and latest test beam results

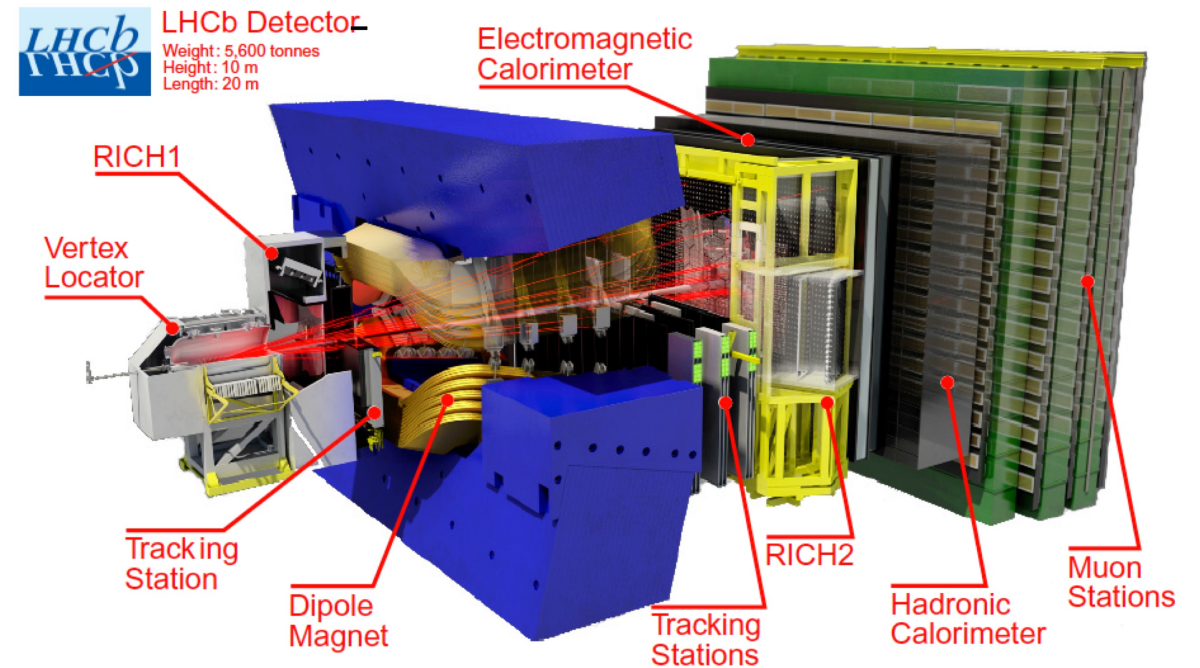
- 1) SpaCal-W with polystyrene fibers for LS3
- 2) SpaCal-Pb with polystyrene fibers
- 3) SpaCal-W with crystal fibers for LS4
- 4) Shashlik with fast WLS fibers

3. Summary and conclusion

LHCb and physics goal

- **LHCb(LHC beauty) is designed for heavy flavor physics at the LHC:**
 - Goal: to look for new physics in CP violation, rare decays and spectroscopy
 - Also, excellent capabilities in other domains:
 - Electroweak physics
 - Heavy ions
 - Fixed target

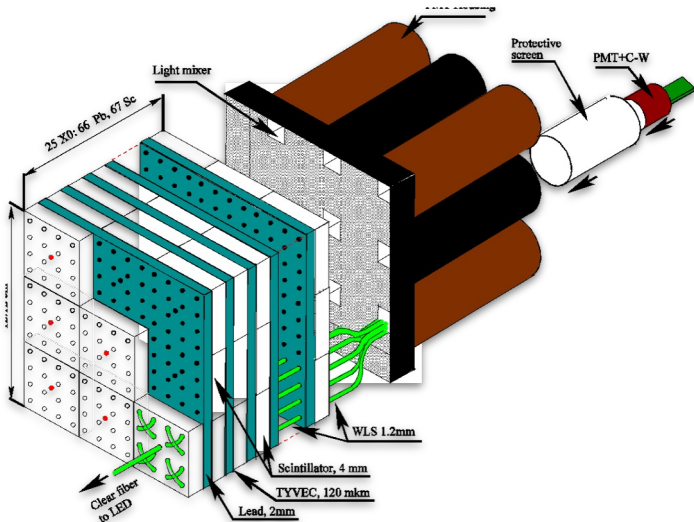
Vertex:	$\sigma_{\text{IP}} = 20\mu\text{m}$
Time:	$\sigma_{\tau} = 45\text{fs}$ for $B_s^0 \rightarrow J/\psi\phi$ or $D_s^+\pi^-$
Momentum:	$\Delta p/p = 0.4 \sim 0.6\%$ ($5 - 100\text{GeV}/c$)
Mass:	$\sigma_m = 8 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ for $B \rightarrow J/\psi X$ ($m_{J/\psi}$ constrained)
Hadron ID:	$\varepsilon(K \rightarrow K) \sim 95\%$ mis-ID $\varepsilon(\pi \rightarrow K) \sim 5\%$
Muon ID:	$\varepsilon(\mu \rightarrow \mu) \sim 97\%$ mis-ID $\varepsilon(\pi \rightarrow \mu) \sim 1 - 3\%$
ECAL:	$\Delta E/E = 10\%/\sqrt{E(\text{GeV})} \oplus 1\%$



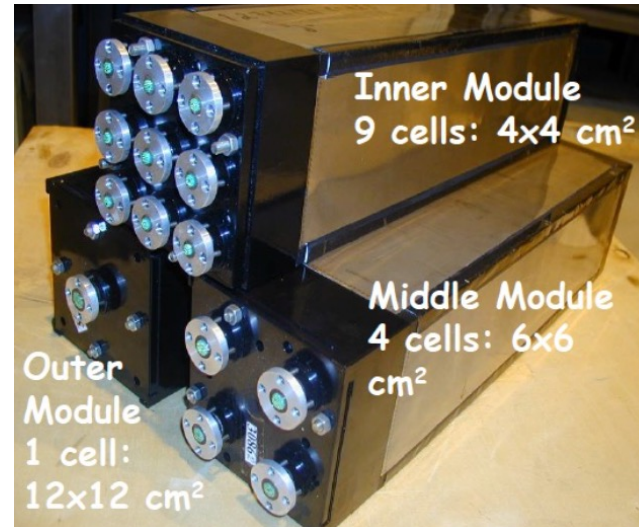
A single-arm forward spectrometer covering $2 < \eta < 5$

The Current LHCb ECAL

- ECAL is essential to all measurements involving neutrals and electrons
- Optimized for π_0 and γ identification in the few GeV to 100 GeV region at $2 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

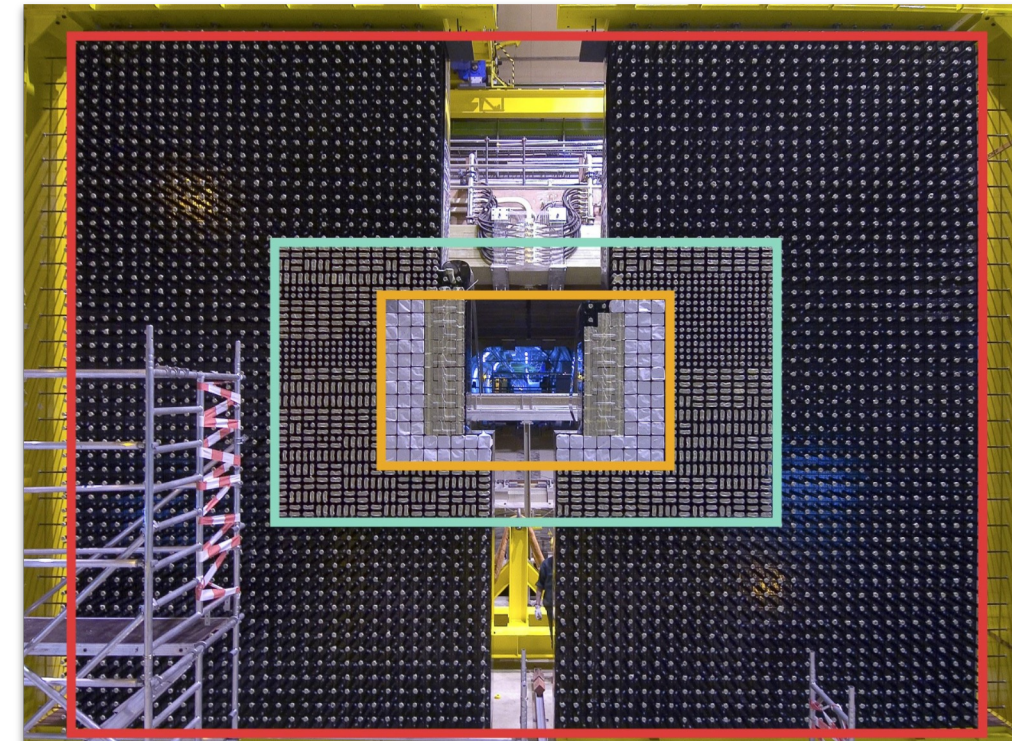


- Shashlik technology used
- Scintillator: Polystyrene - p-terphenyl - POPOP
- WLS fibres: Kuraray Y-11



- Radiation hard up to 40 kGy
- Energy resolution:

$$\sigma(E)/E \approx 10\%/\sqrt{E(\text{GeV})} \oplus 1\%$$



View from the back

- Large array of $\approx 50 \text{ m}^2$ with 3312 modules and 6016 channels

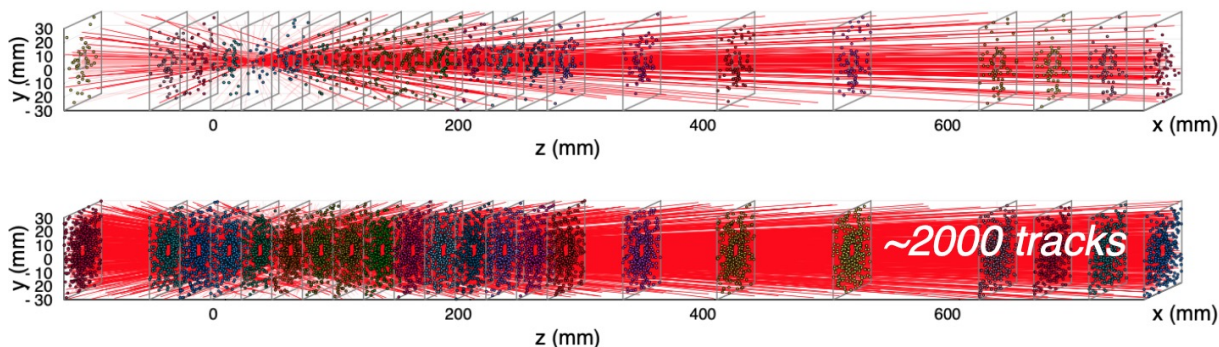
Motivation to upgrade

- To fully use the opportunities provided by the HL-LHC for heavy flavor physics

Run 3			LS3			Run 4			LS4			Run 5					
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041

- Upgrade II to be installed at LS4: $1.5 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
Original design: $2 \times 10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
Run 3: $2 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

Vertex Locator (VELO)



Run 3: pile-up ~6

Upgrade II: pile-up ~40

High pile-up
Radiation hardness

...

New ECAL technology R&D needed

Motivation to upgrade

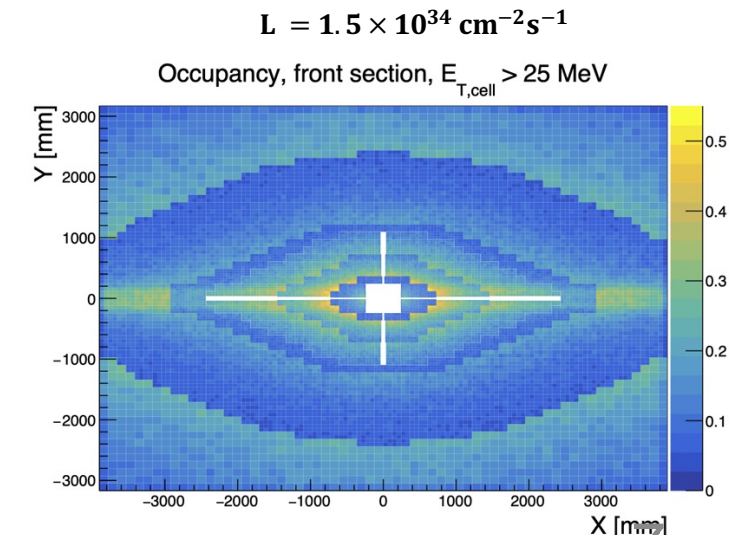
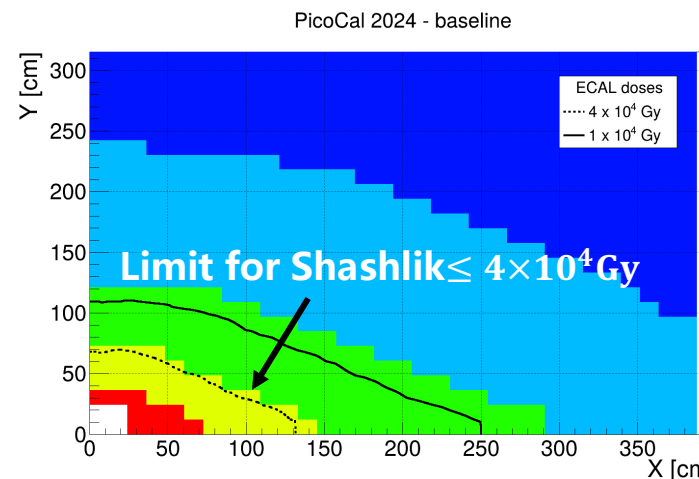
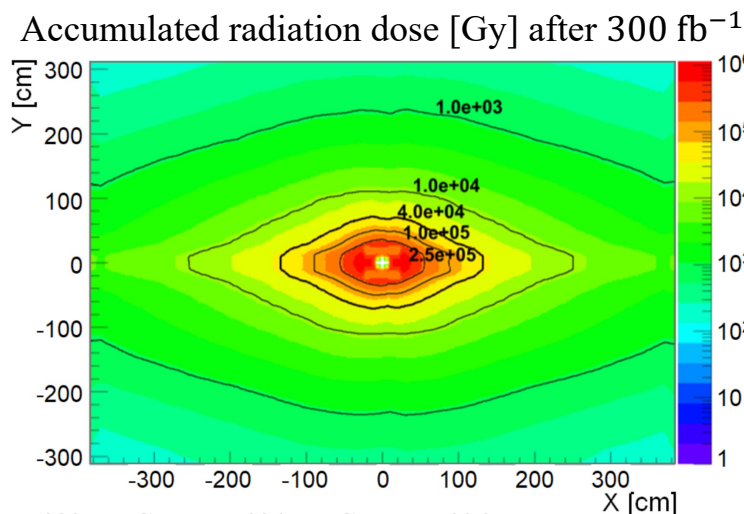
Requirements for the Upgrade II:

- Radiation doses up to **1 MGy** and $\leq 6 \times 10^{15}$ 1 MeV neq/cm² in the centre for 300 fb⁻¹
 - New technologies required for the center

- Pile-up mitigation crucial
 - Timing $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ ps})$ precision
 - Increased granularity
 - longitudinal segmentation

Scintillators R&D needed

- Keep current energy resolution of $\sigma(E)/E \approx 10\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 1\%$



Technologies for ECAL Upgrade II

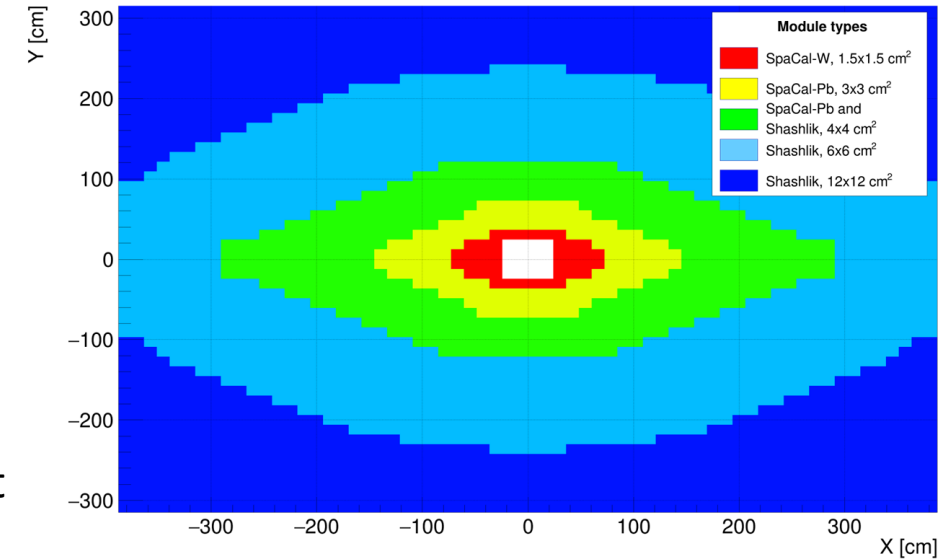
SPACAL technology for inner region.

- **1.5×1.5 cm² cell - W absorber and crystal fibres**
 - Development of radiation-hard crystal fibres
 - Polystyrene fibres for Run 4, then replaced by crystals
- **3×3, 4×4 cm² cell - Pb absorber and plastic fibres:**
 - Need radiation-tolerant plastic fibres

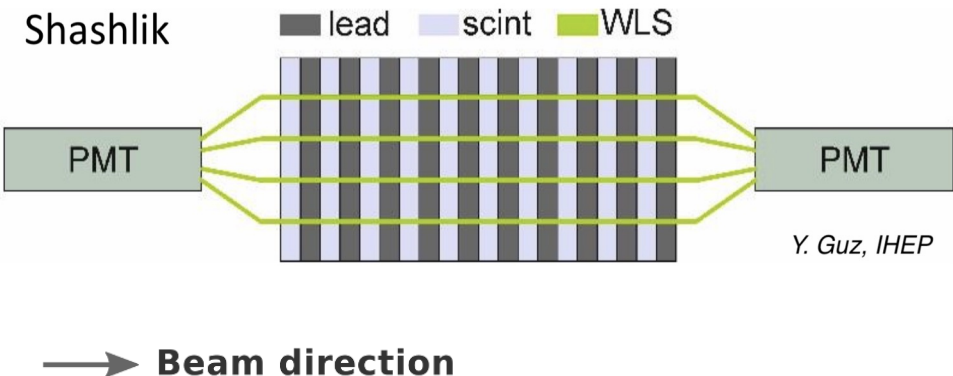
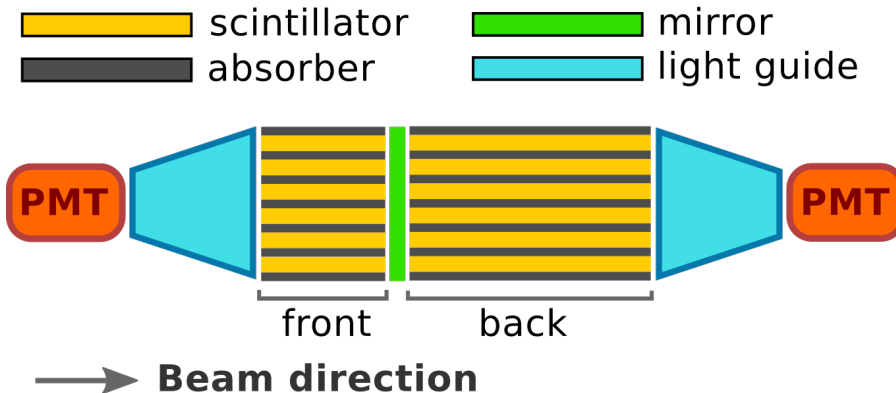
Shashlik technology for outer region

- **4×4, 6×6, 12×12 cm² cell**
 - Timing improved with faster WLS fibres and double-sided readout

PicoCal 2024 - baseline



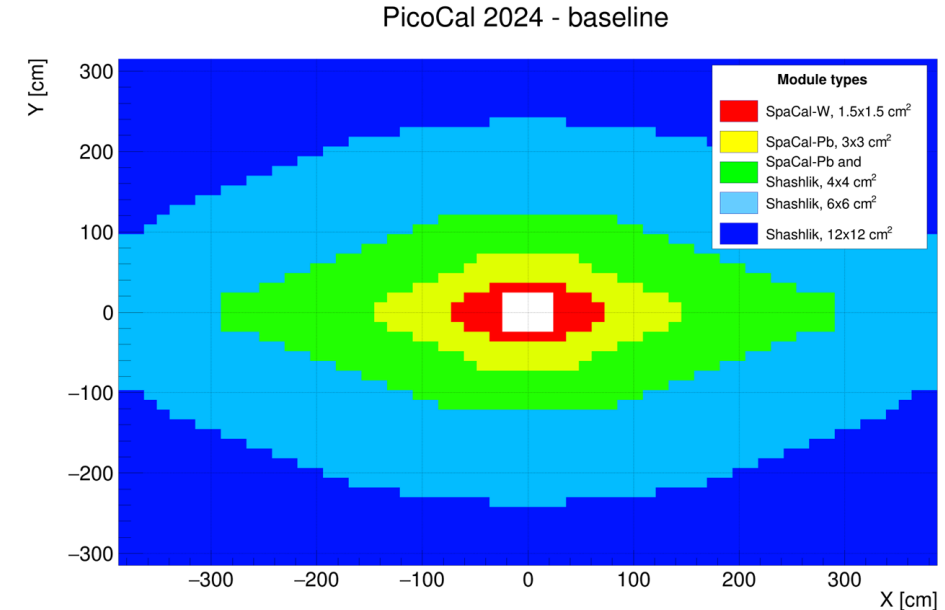
Side view



Y. Guz, IHEP

ECAL configuration to be installed during LS3

- **176 new SpaCal modules in the inner region**
→ This region covers about 35% of photons and neutral pions from B-hadron decays over the ECAL acceptance
- **The existing modules will be rearranged in rhombic areas (32 Shashlik modules with 4×4 cm² cell size will be replaced)**



Cell size:	Modules:	Number of cells:
2×2 cm ²	16 new SpaCal-W modules with plastic fibres	576
2×2 cm ²	16 new SpaCal-W modules with plastic fibres - special shape	480
3×3 cm ²	104 new SpaCal-Pb modules with plastic fibres	1664
3×3 cm ²	40 new SpaCal-Pb modules with plastic fibres - special shape	480
4×4 cm ²	176 existing Shashlik modules	1584
6×6 cm ²	448 existing Shashlik modules	1792
12×12 cm ²	2'512 existing Shashlik modules	2512

The Upgrade Strategy

Run 3		LS3				Run 4				LS4		Run 5					
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041

Run 3 in 2022-Q2/2026:

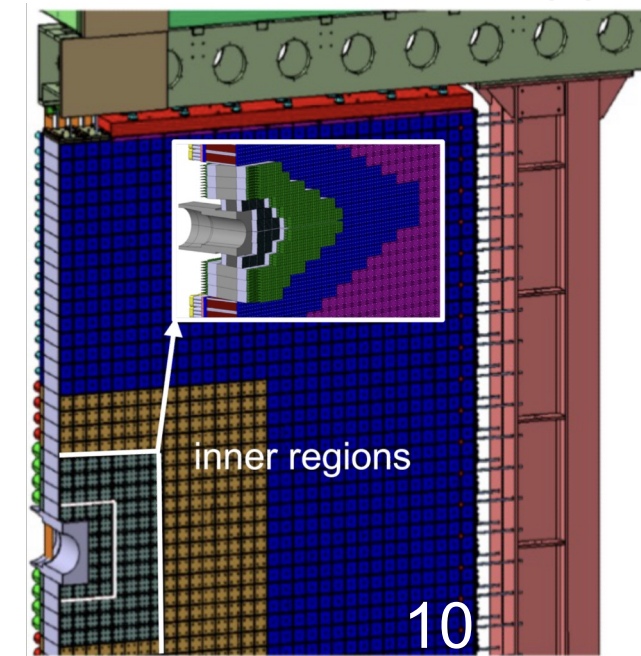
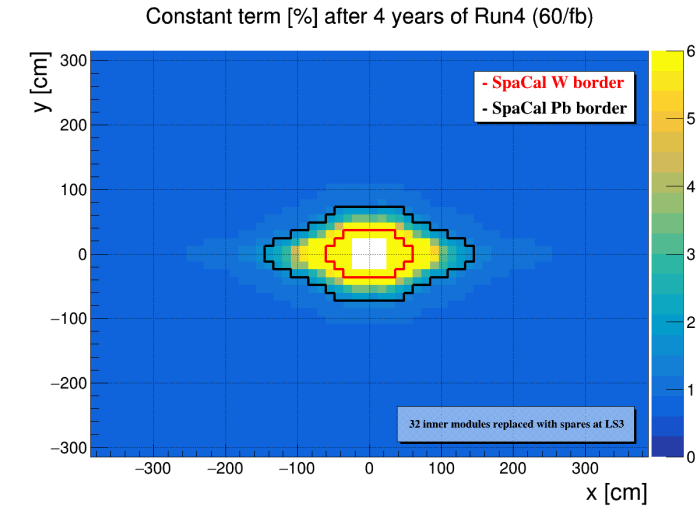
- Run with unmodified ECAL Shashlik modules at $L = 2 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (new 40 MHz readout)

LS3 consolidation in Q3/2026-2029:

- Introduce **single-section rad. tolerant SPACAL** (2×2 and $3 \times 3 \text{ cm}^2$ cells) in inner regions and **rebuild ECAL in rhombic shape** to improve performance at $L = 2 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
 - 32 SPACAL-W & 144 SPACAL - Pb modules with plastic fibres **compliant with Upgrade II** conditions

LS4 Upgrade II in 2034-2035 (PicoCal):

- Introduce **double-section rad. hard SPACAL** (1.5×1.5 , 3×3 & $4 \times 4 \text{ cm}^2$ cells) and improve timing of Shashlik modules for a luminosity of up to $L = 1.5 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
 - Innermost SPACAL-W modules equipped with **crystal fibres**
 - Include **timing** information and double-sided readout for pile-up mitigation



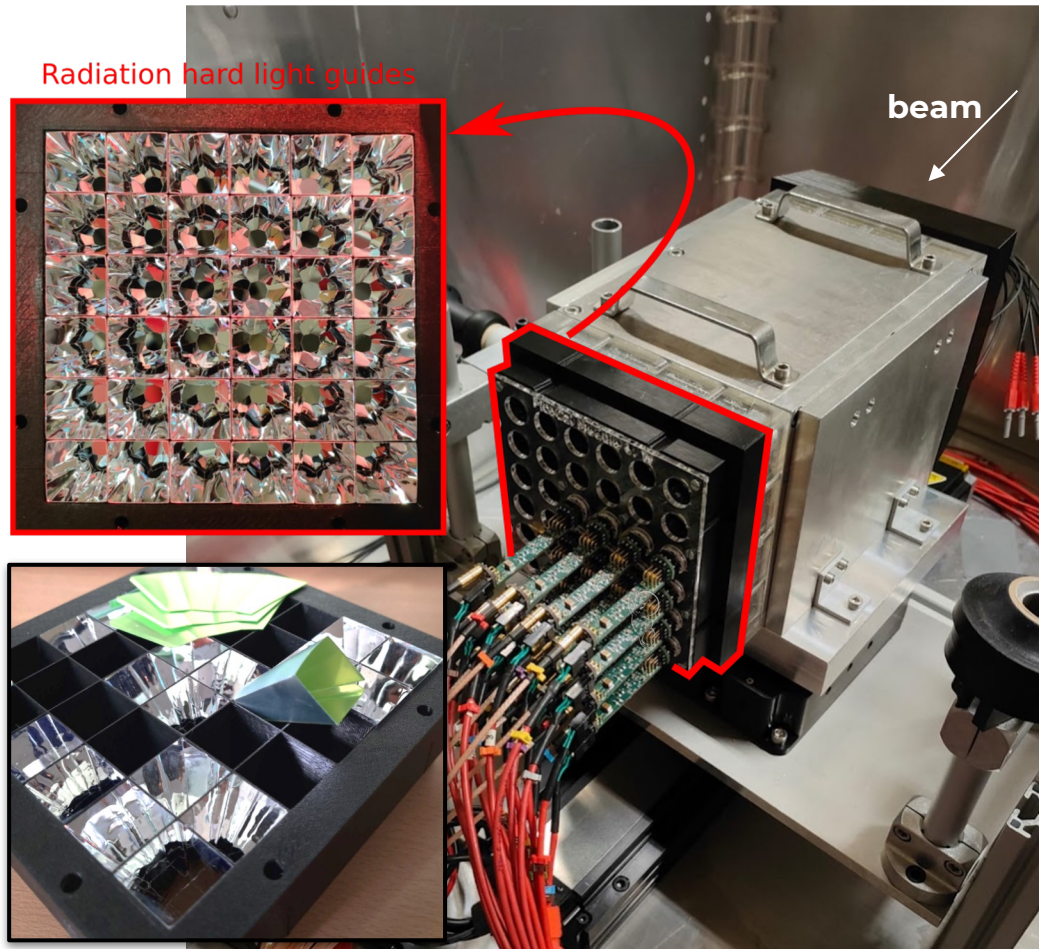
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SpaCal - W Absorber - Polystyrene Fibres



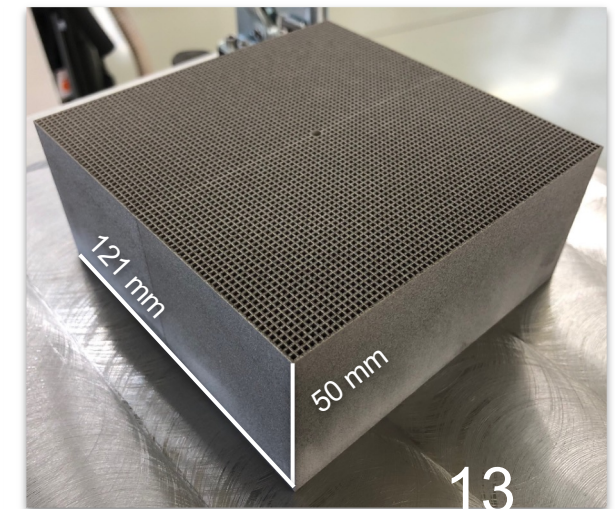
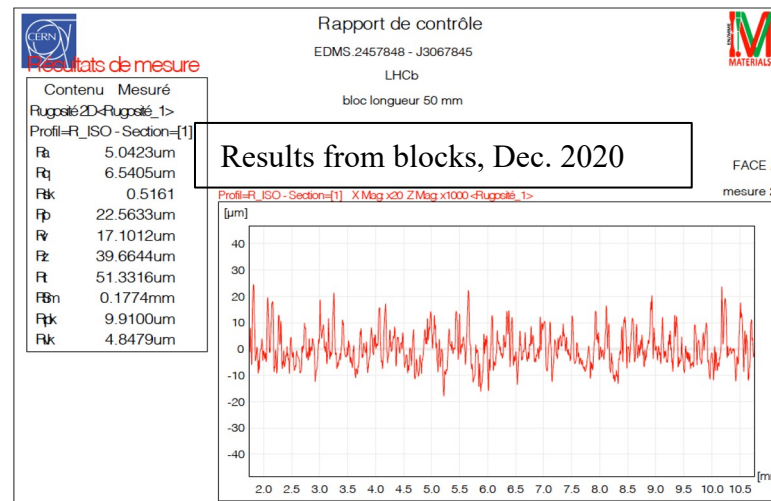
- Full size $121 \times 121 \text{ mm}^2$ *Module 0* assembled at CERN:
- Passive materials:

- 3D-printed W absorber
 - $3 \times 50 \text{ mm} + 1 \times 40 \text{ mm}$ long blocks
 - R&D performed with EOS, Germany
- Very good mean roughness $R_a = 5 \mu\text{m}$ achieved
 - Smooth surface mandatory not to damage fibres
- Radiation-hard “hollow light guides” made of 3M ESR

LS3 Enhancement

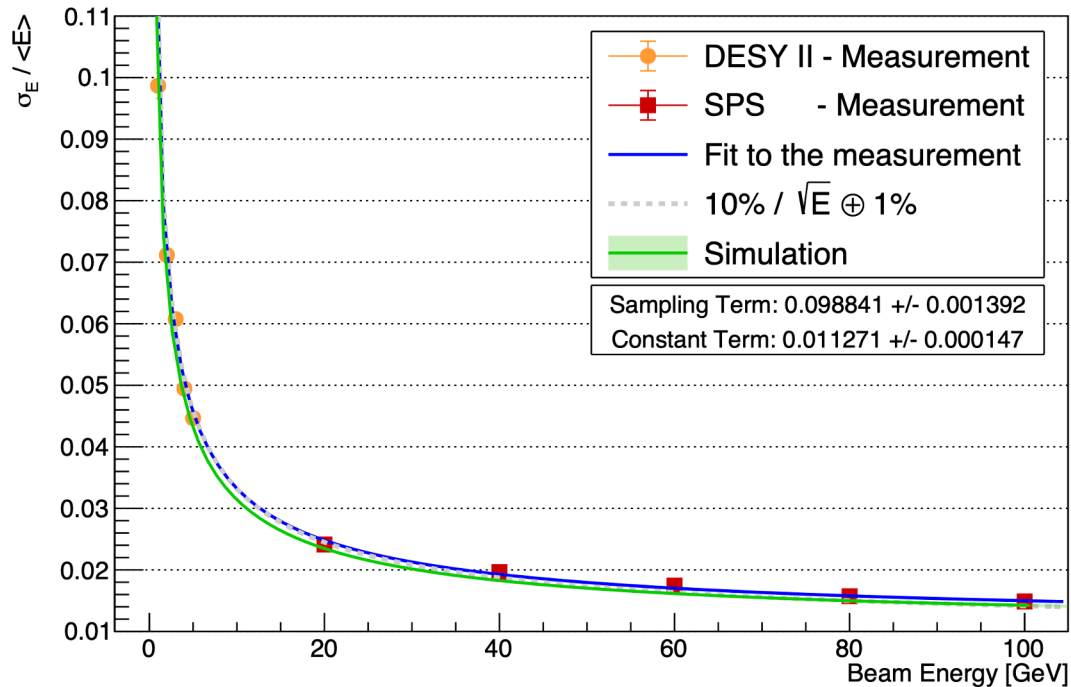
- Active materials:

- Single-cladded Kuraray SCSF-78 square fibres $1 \times 1 \text{ mm}^2$

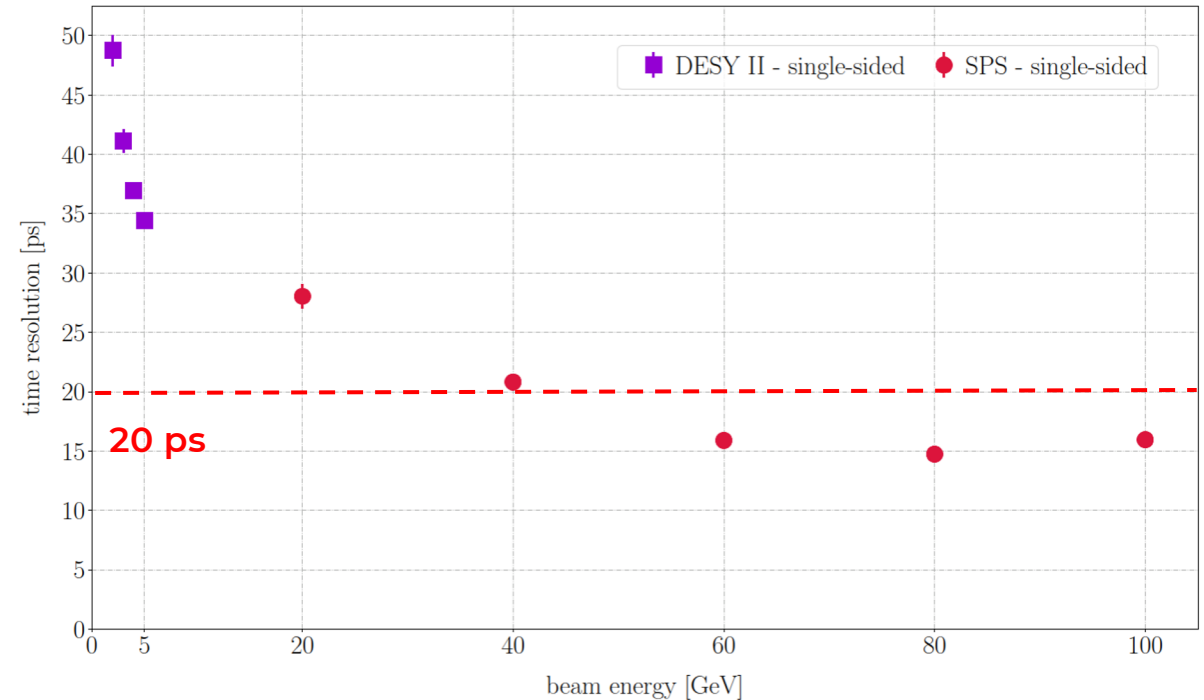


SpaCal - W Absorber - Polystyrene Fibres

Energy resolution



Time resolution



➤ Energy resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:

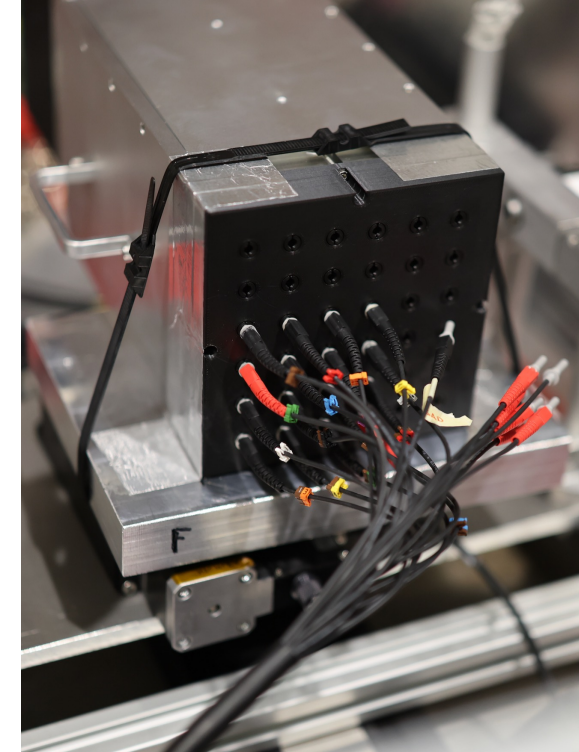
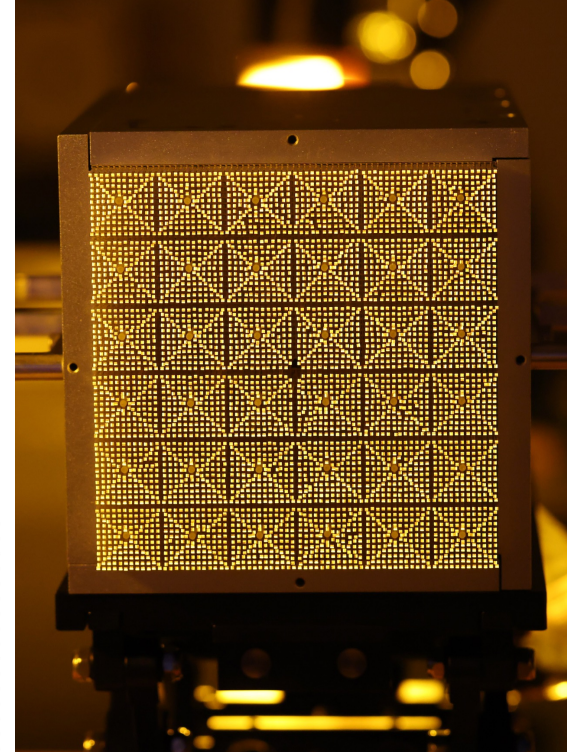
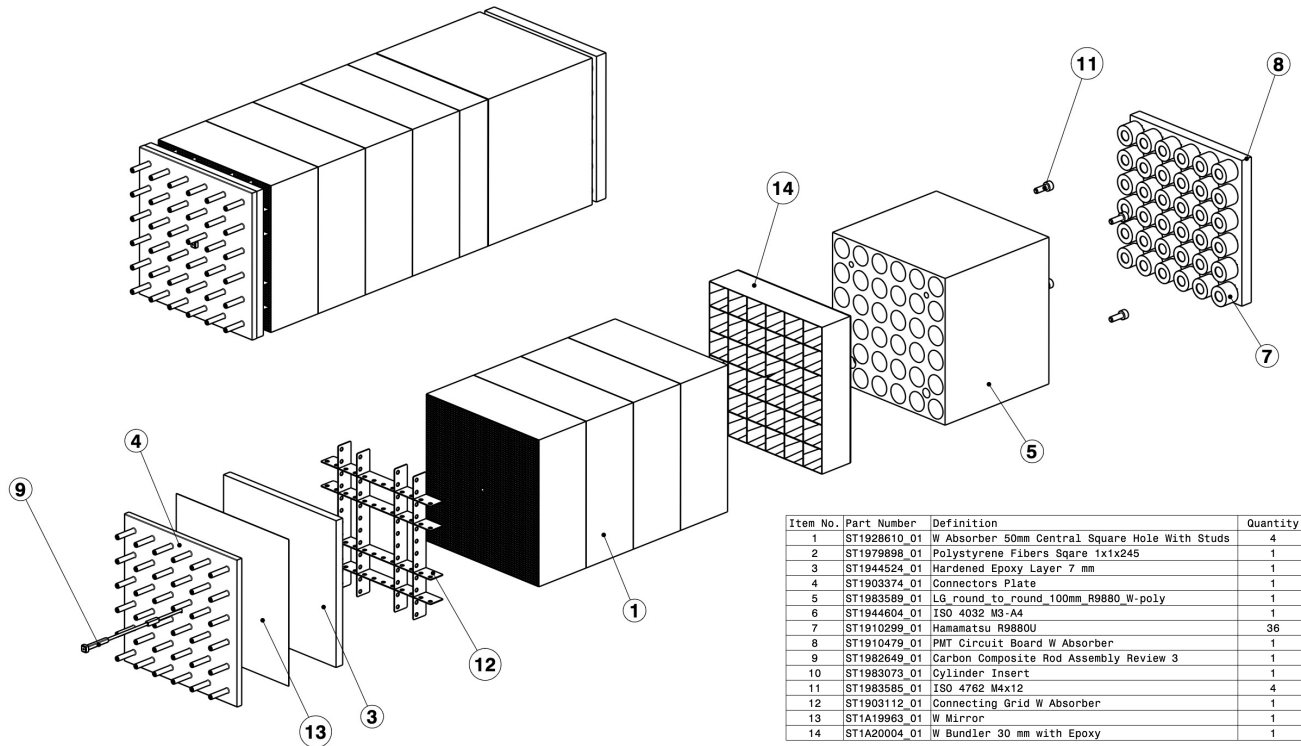
- Noise contribution subtracted
- R14755U-100 PMT
- Symmetric LGs: square to octagon
- Sampling term: $9.9 \pm 0.1 \%$
- Constant term: $1.13 \pm 0.01 \%$
- Very good agreement with simulation

➤ Time resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:

- Multi-Anode(R7600U-M4) PMT with 4 channels
- Asymmetric LGs: square to square
- Single-sided readout
- Time resolution above 40 GeV: better than 20 ps

Performance in line with targets

Ongoing R&D: Assembly for LS3



Test beam in May 2025 at CERN SPS:

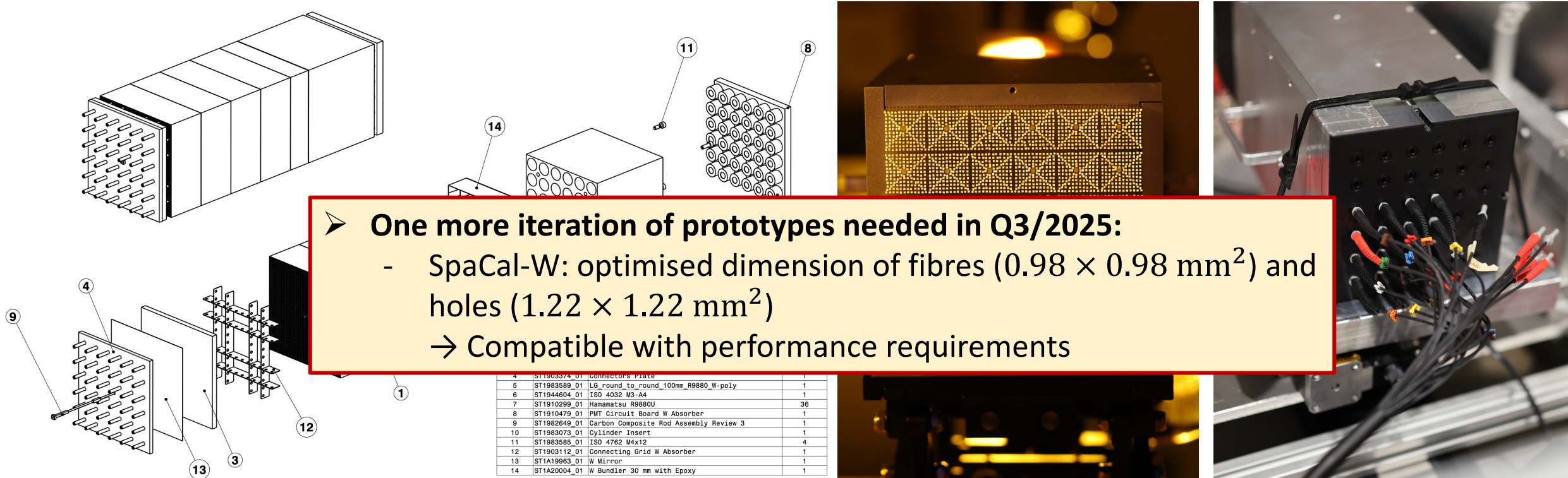
➤ First test of full Run 4 chain with new prototypes:

- W absorbers
- 3HF green plastic fibres (square fibres $1 \times 1 \text{ mm}^2$)
- Optics assembly with bundlers and long "hollow" light guides
- R9880U PMTs



- Cable clipping circuits
- 10 meter signal cables
- Read-out with Run 3 & 4 front-end boards electronics

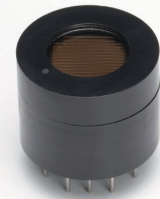
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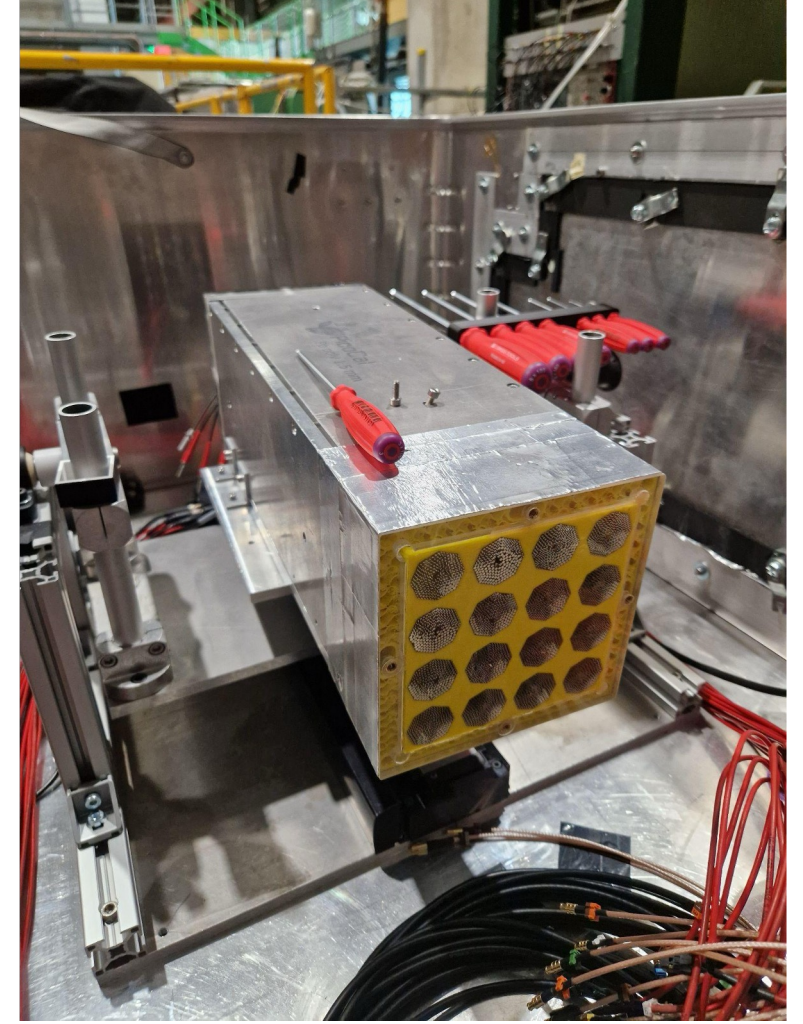
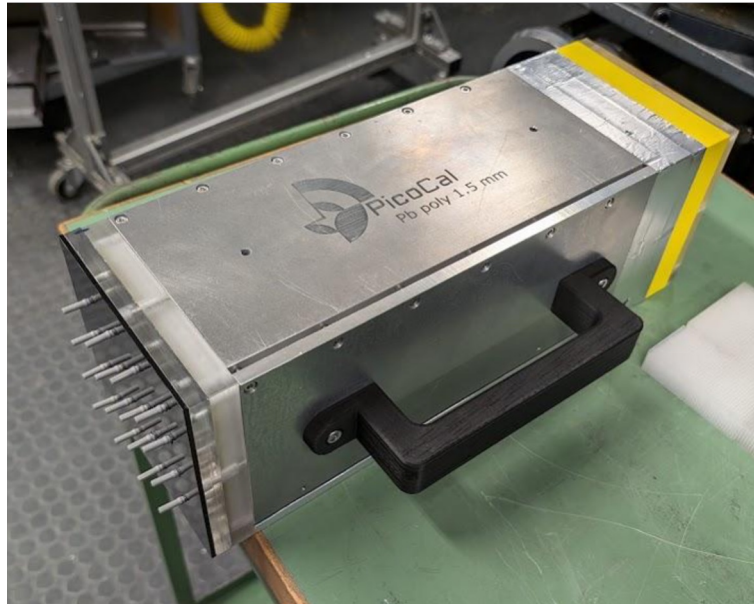
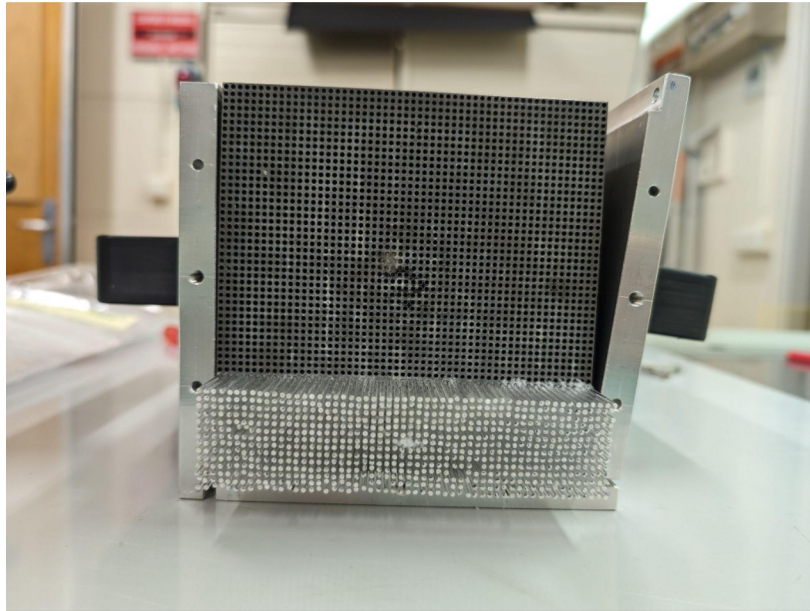
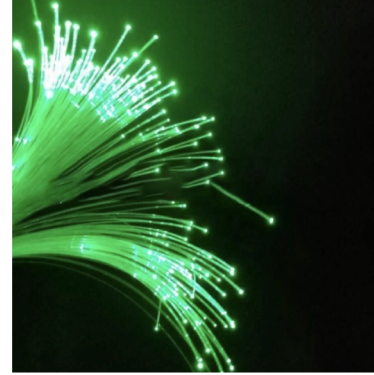
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SpaCal - Pb Absorber - Polystyrene Fibres

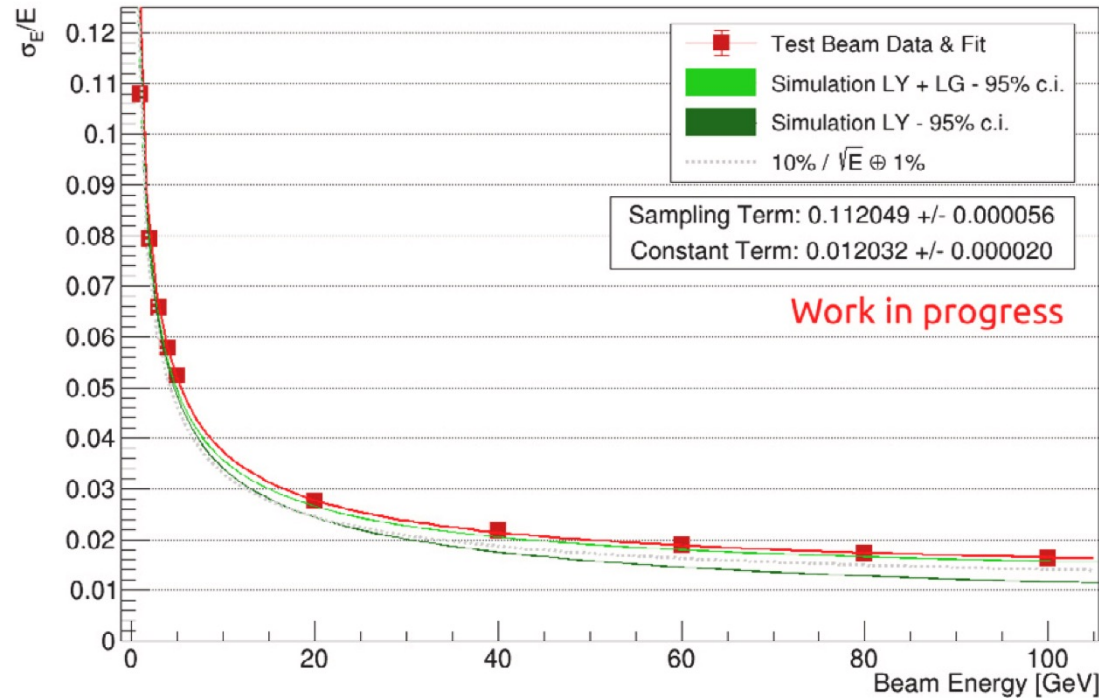
➤ Module 0 prototype assembled in June 2024

- Pb casting technology for absorber production
- Kuraray 3HF green fibres Ø 1.5 mm

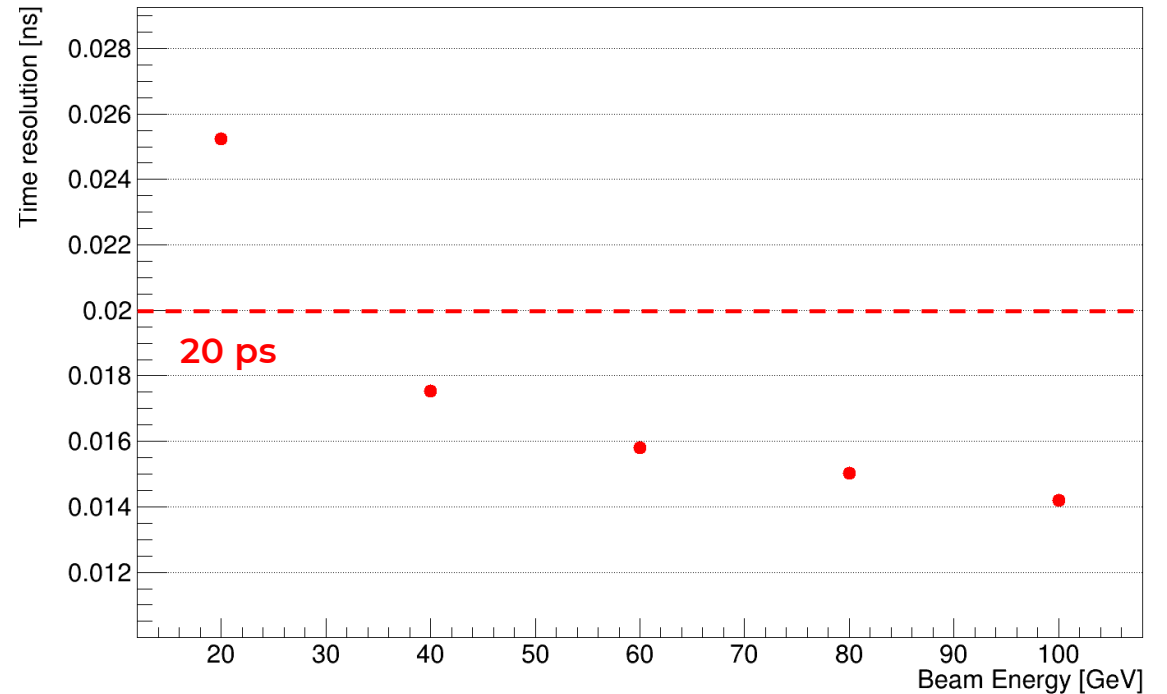


SpaCal - Pb Absorber - Polystyrene Fibres

Energy resolution



Time resolution



➤ Energy resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:

- R11187 PMT
- Symmetric LGs
- Single-sided readout
- Sampling term: $11.2 \pm 0.1 \%$
- Constant term: $1.20 \pm 0.01 \%$
- Very good agreement with simulation

➤ Time resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:

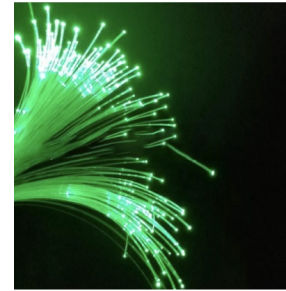
- Multi-Anode(R7600U-20) PMT with 4 channels
- Asymmetric LGs
- Double-sided readout
- Time resolution above 20 GeV: better than 20 ps

Performance in line with targets

Ongoing R&D: Plastic Scintillator

➤ 3HF-based green fibres are a candidate material for the Upgrade II:

- Better radiation tolerance than SCSF-78 matches requirements
- However, longer decay time affects time resolution

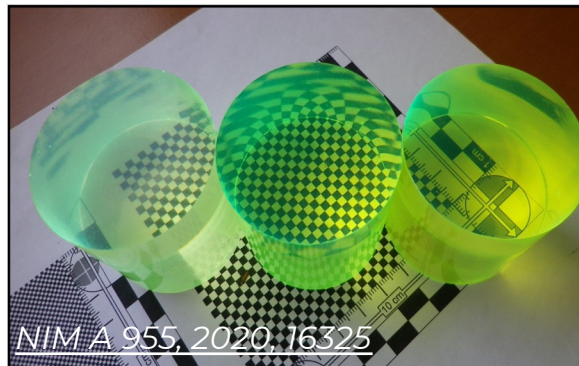


➤ Required:

- Radiation hardness up to 100-200 kGy (hadrons)
- Fast timing performance
- Cost effectiveness

➤ R&D ongoing on **alternative materials**:

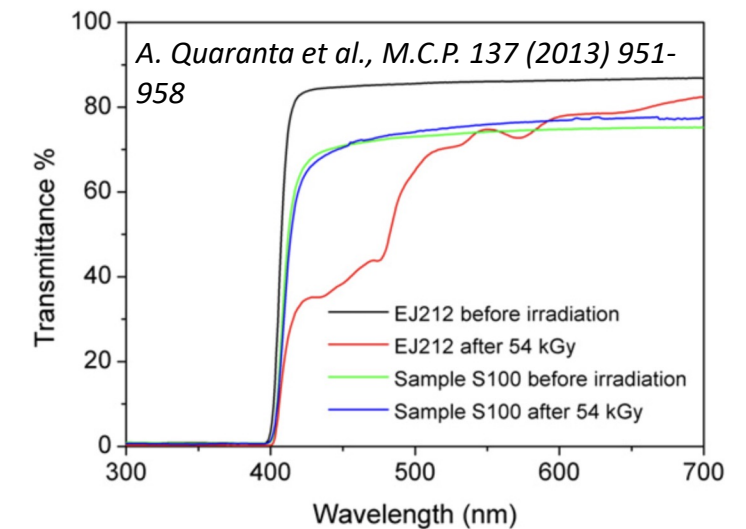
- Hosts other than polystyrene
- Green emitters
- Scintillating glasses



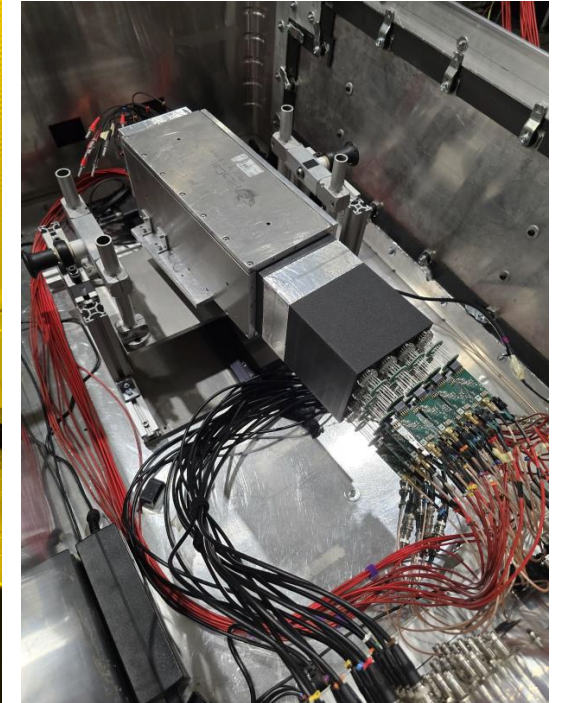
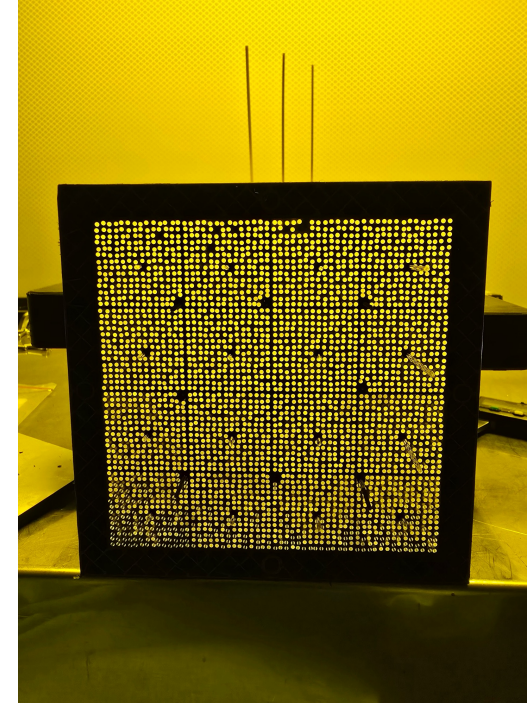
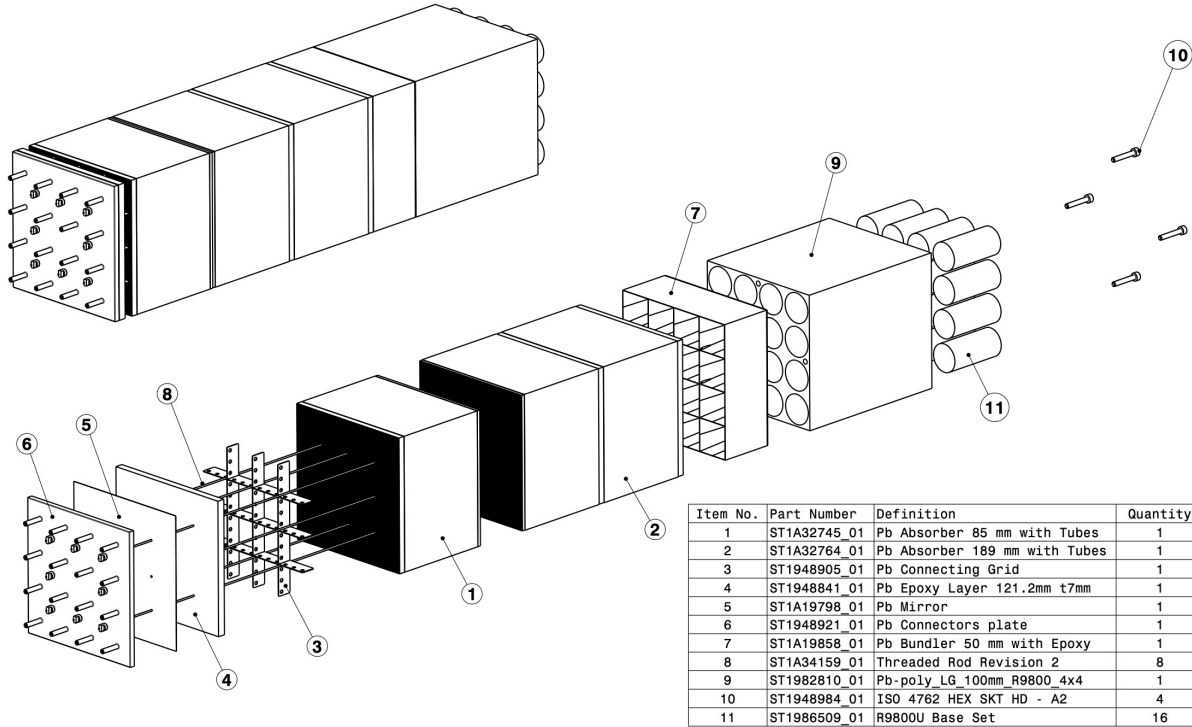
Formulations¹⁾

Kuraray Datasheet

Description	Emission		Decay Time [ns]	Att.Leng. ²⁾ [m]
	Color	Spectra Peak[nm]		
SCSF-78	blue	See the following figure	2.8	>4.0
SCSF-81	blue	437	2.4	>3.5
SCSF-3HF(1500)	green	530	7	>4.5



Ongoing R&D: Assembly for LS3



Test beam in May 2025 at CERN SPS:

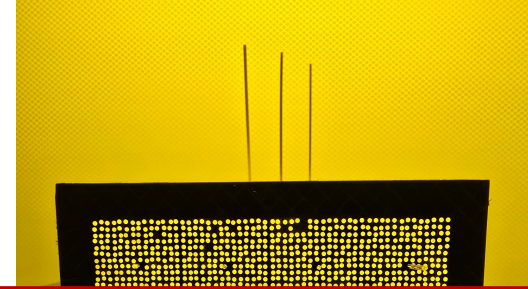
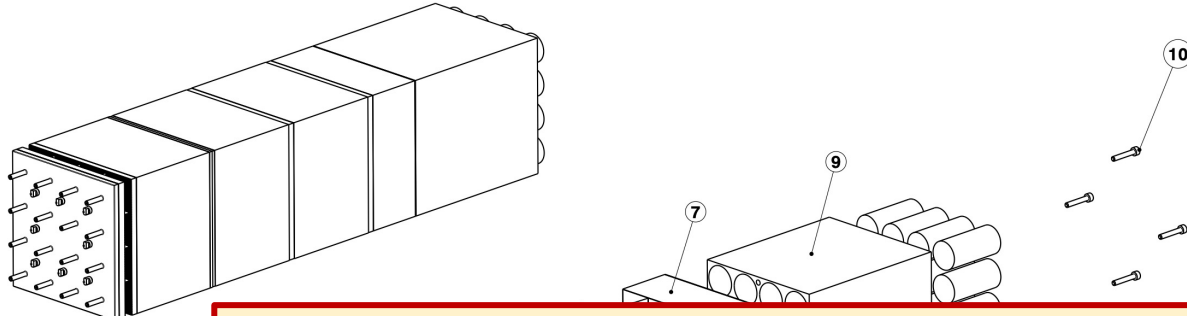
➤ First test of full Run 4 chain with new prototypes:

- Pb absorbers
- 3HF green plastic fibres (round fibres $\varnothing=1.5$ mm)
- Optics assembly with bundlers and long “hollow” light guides
- R9800 PMTs

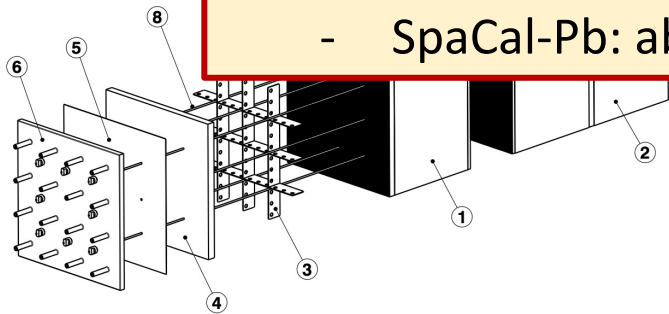


- Cable clipping circuits
- 10 meter signal cables
- Read-out with Run 3 & 4 front-end boards electronics

Ongoing R&D: Assembly for LS3



- **One more iteration of prototypes needed in Q3/2025:**
- SpaCal-Pb: absorber made with 4 copper matrices



Item No.	Part Number	Definition	Quantity
1	ST1A32745_01	Pb Absorber 85 mm with Tubes	1
2	ST1A32764_01	Pb Absorber 189 mm with Tubes	1
3	ST1948905_01	Pb Connecting Grid	1
4	ST1948841_01	Pb Epoxy Layer 121.2mm t7mm	1
5	ST1A19798_01	Pb Mirror	1
6	ST1948921_01	Pb Connectors plate	1
7	ST1A19858_01	Pb Bundler 50 mm with Epoxy	1
8	ST1A34159_01	Threaded Rod Revision 2	8
9	ST1982810_01	Pb-poly_LG_100mm_R9800_4x4	1
10	ST1948984_01	ISO 4762 HEX SKT HD - A2	4
11	ST1986509_01	R9800U Base Set	16



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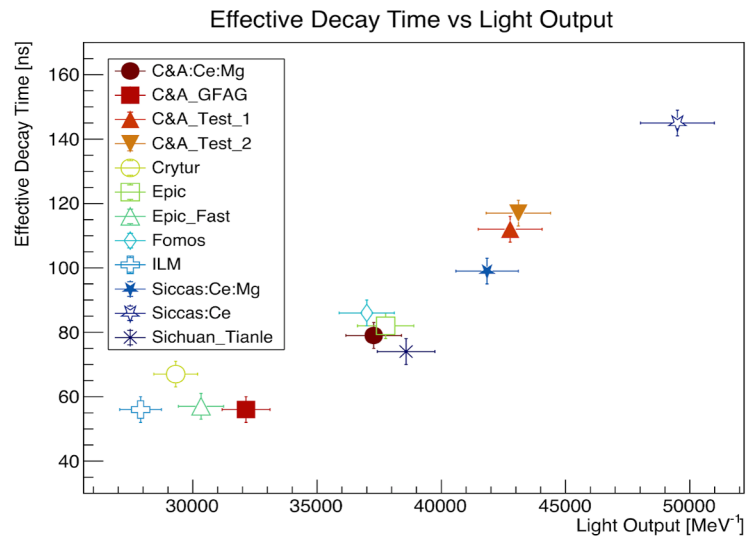
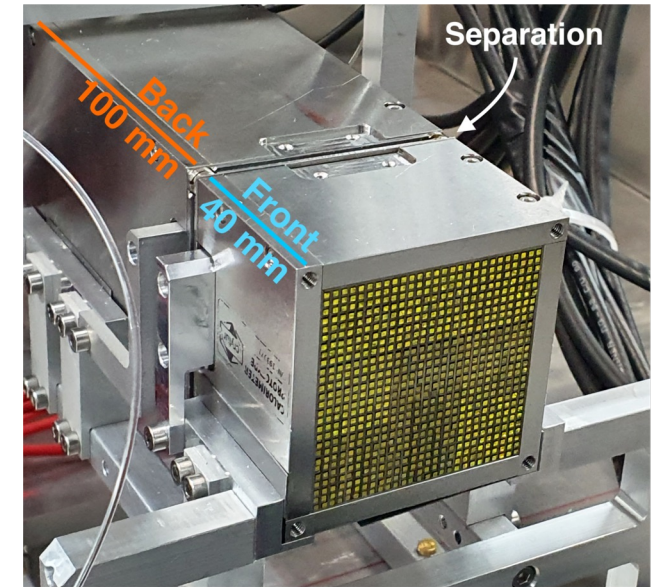
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SpaCal - W Absorber - Crystal Fibres

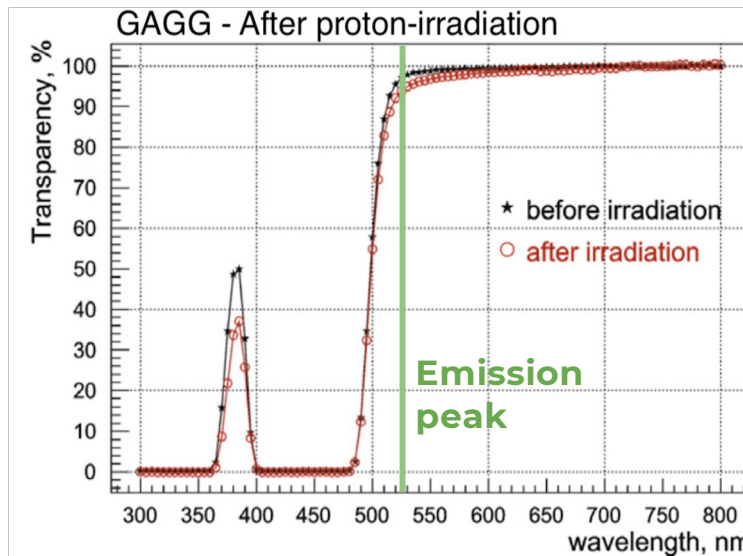
SPACAL prototype with **W absorber** and **garnet crystals**

➤ Module details:

- Absorber in pure tungsten 19 g/cm³
 - 9 cells of 1.5×1.5 cm²
 - 4 + 10 cm long
 - Reflective mirror between sections
 - Squared garnet crystal fibres (1×1 mm² cross section)
- (R_M ~ 1.5 cm)
(7 + 18 X₀)



NIM A 1000, 165231 (2021)



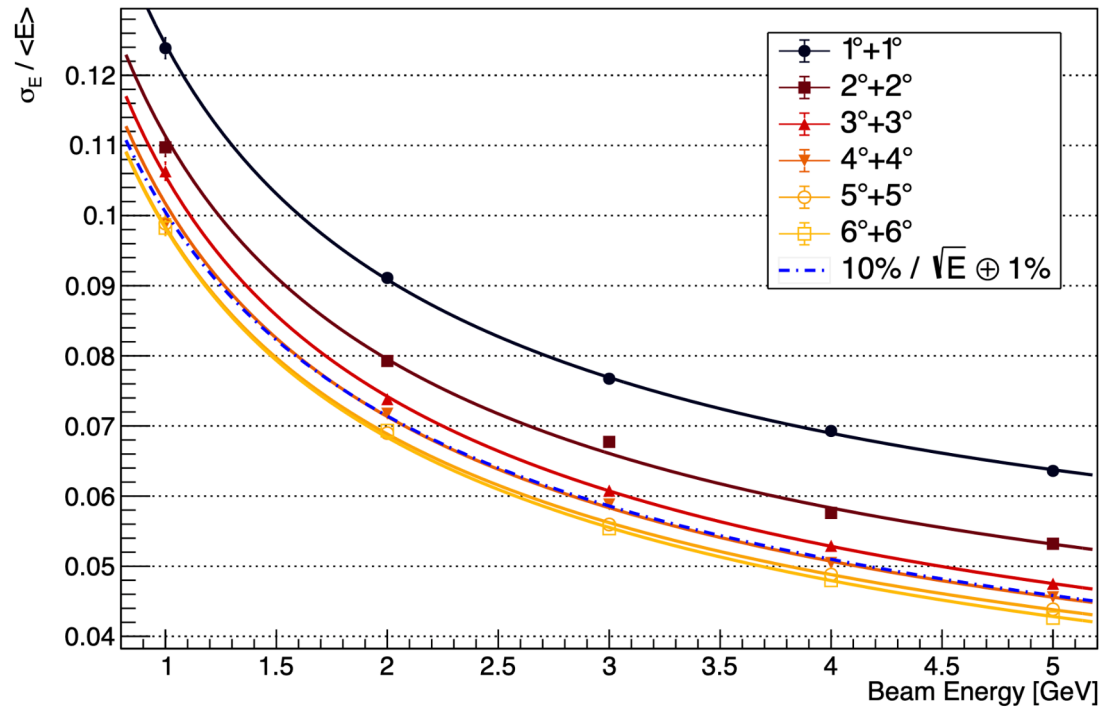
NIM A 816 (2016) 176

GAGG as scintillating material

- High light output and relatively fast decay time (~50 ns)
 - Tunable scintillation properties
- Radiation hardness tested up to 1 MGy

SpaCal - W Absorber - Crystal Fibres

Energy Resolution



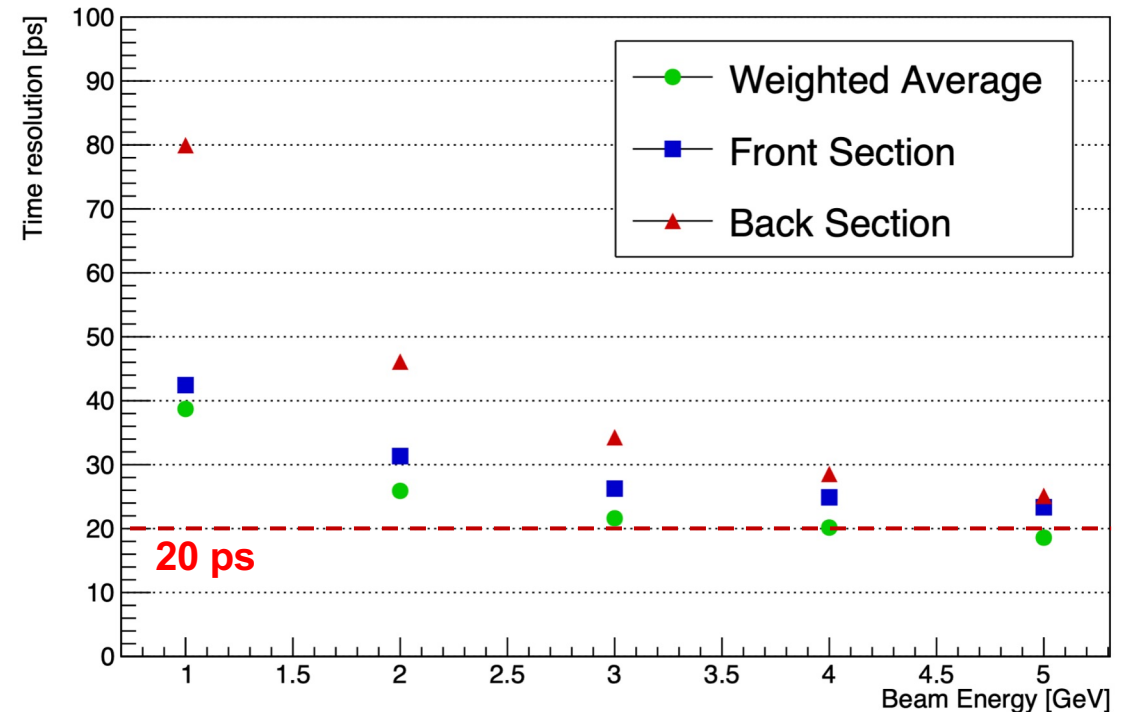
- Resolution improves increasing the incidence angle

- **Energy resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:**

- Sampling term: $10.2 \pm 0.1 \%$
- Constant term: $1 - 2 \%$

Performance in line with targets

Time Resolution C&A GFAG

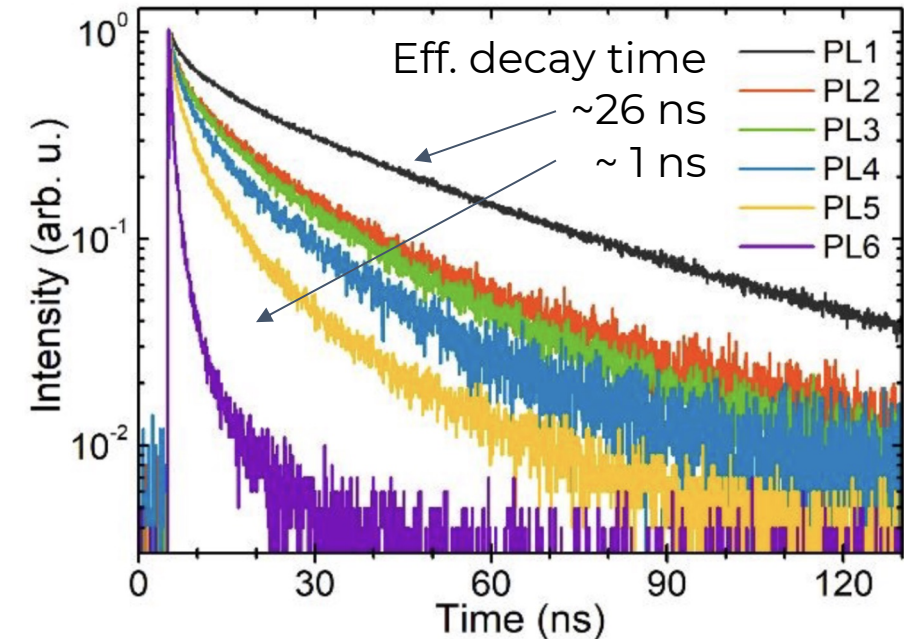


- Time stamps obtained using CFD algorithm

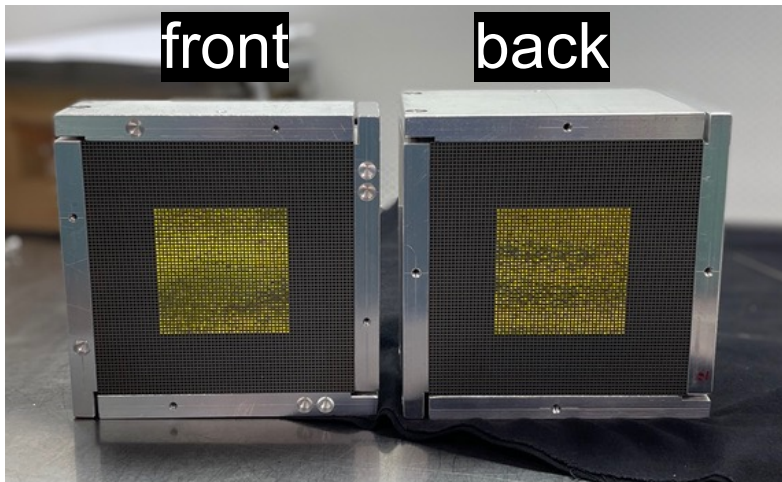
- **Time resolution C&A GAGG at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:**

- Measurement in direct contact with MCD(R7600U-20) PMTs for ultimate performance
- Double-sided readout
- $18.5 \pm 0.2 \text{ ps @ } 5 \text{ GeV}$

Ongoing R&D: Accelerating Scintillation

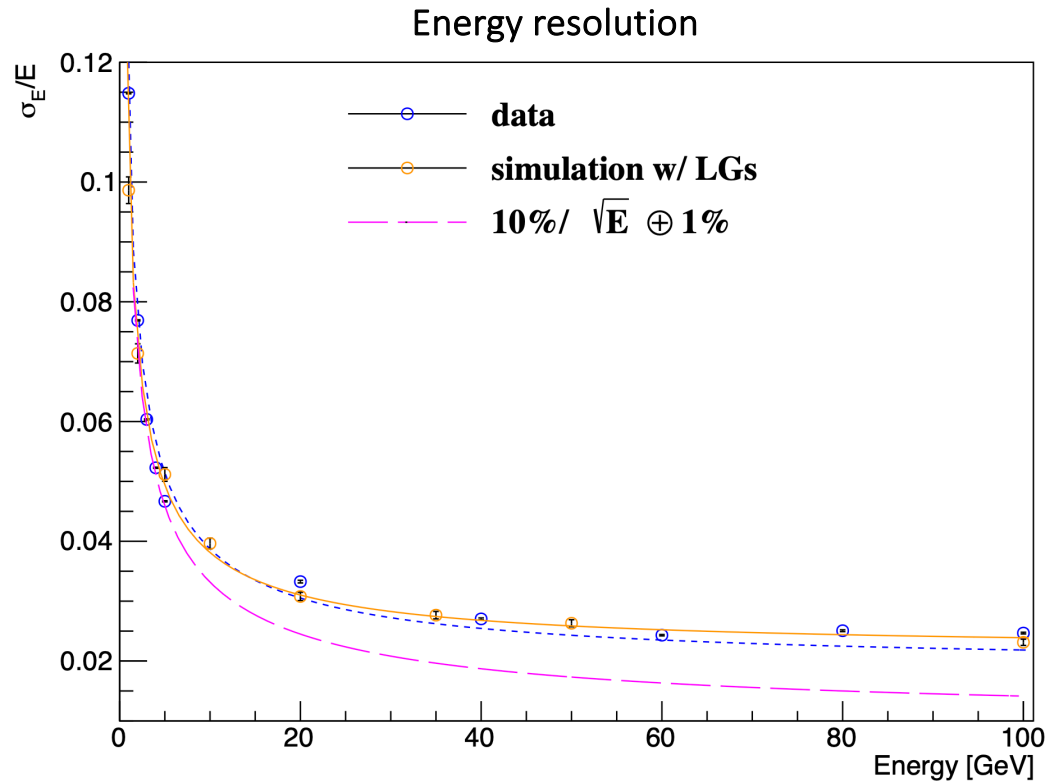


Material Advances, 2022, 3, 6842



- **The issue:** current commercial GAGG has scintillation decay time > 40 ns
 - Mitigate spill-over effect on time resolution
- **Novel GAGG compositions developed to quench scintillation**
 - Light yield reduced
 - Decay time accelerated
 - Time resolution kept competitive
- **R&D to produce large-size and homogeneous Czochralski ingots**
- **Collaboration with:**
 - SiPAT, China
 - FZU and Crytur, Czech Republic
 - European project TWISMA including CERN, ILM & UCB, and ISMA
- **The Second prototype in June 2024**
 - SiPAT GAGG with decay time ~ 20 ns
 - 3D-printed absorber with LaserAdd, China
 - Under characterisation in testbeam

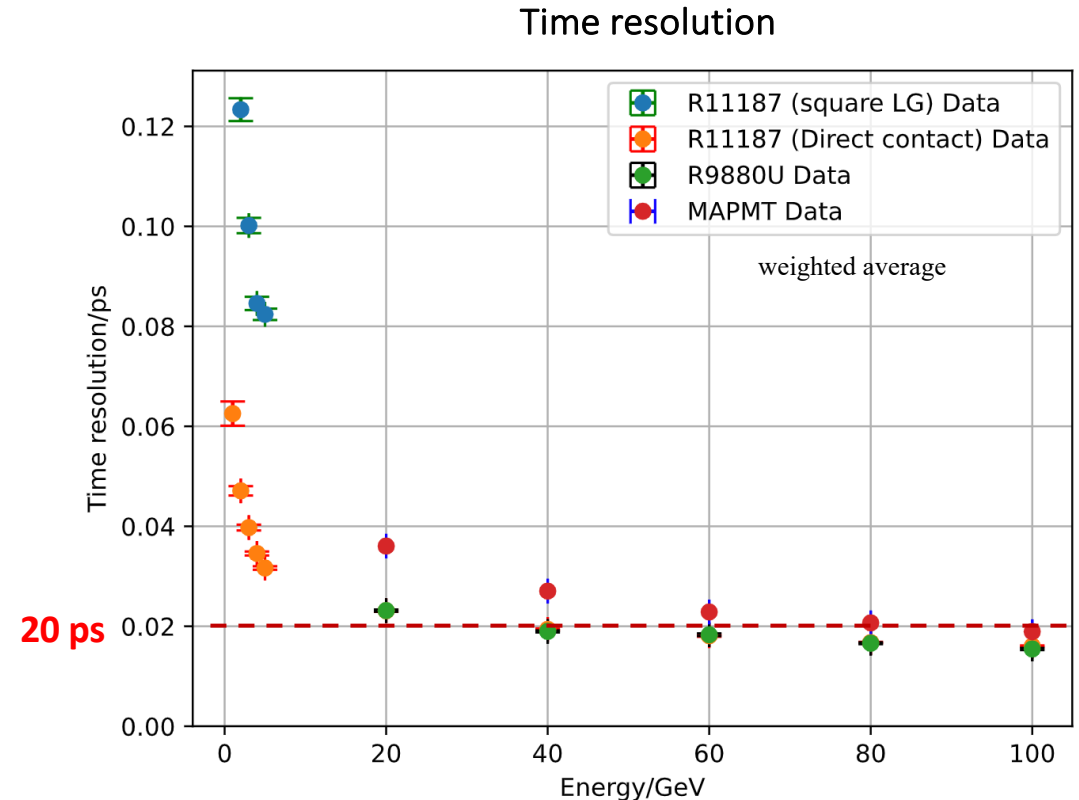
SpaCal - W Absorber - Crystal Fibres



➤ **Energy resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:**

- Sampling term: $10.6 \pm 0.2 \%$
- Constant term: $\sim 2 \%$

**First measurements performed with non-optimal configuration
degradation of energy and time resolution expected**



➤ **Time resolution SIPAT GAGG at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:**

- R11187 (Direct contact) and R9880U have similar performance (< 20 ps when > 20 GeV)
- MAPMT and R11187 (square LG and only front part) much worse in time resolution

Outline

1. Introduction
2. R&D and latest test beam results
 - 1) SpaCal-W with polystyrene fibers for LS3
 - 2) SpaCal-Pb with polystyrene fibers
 - 3) SpaCal-W with crystal fibers for LS4
 - 4) Shashlik with fast WLS fibers
3. Summary and conclusion

Shashlik R&D

➤ Current LHCb Shashlik modules have good time properties

➤ Improvements:

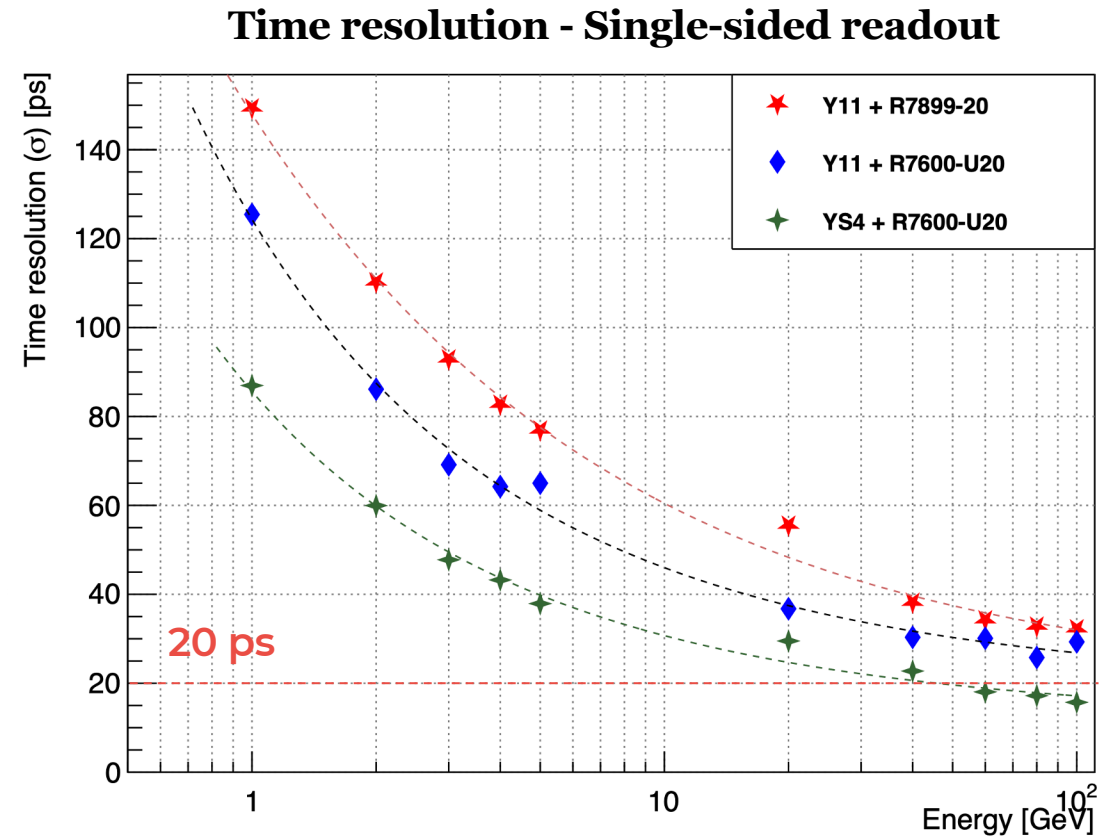
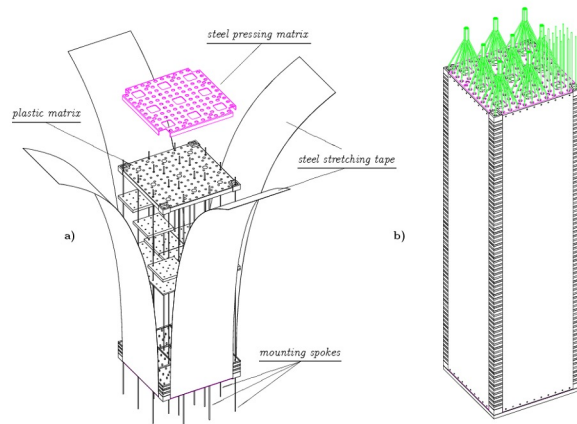
— Replacing WLS fibres (Kuraray)

- Y-11 (7 ns decay time) ← Current LHCb
- **YS-2** (3 ns decay time)
- **YS-4** (1.1 ns decay time)

— Double-sided readout

➤ Time resolution at $3^\circ+3^\circ$:

- Current(R7899-20) and faster(R7600-20) PMT
- Time resolution above 40 GeV: **better than 20 ps** (single-sided readout)



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Summary and conclusion

The LHCb ECAL needs to be enhanced and upgraded during the LHC LS3 and LS4

- The innermost 176 modules need to be replaced in **LS3** due to radiation damage
 - **SpaCal** with Tungsten/Lead absorber and plastic fibres meets the requirements
- The **Upgrade II in LS4** introduces **picosecond-level timing** and more demanding **radiation hardness requirements**
 - Better than 20 ps achieved with Shashlik and SpaCal at high energy
- **Comprehensive R&D ongoing (also interesting for other future projects)**
 - Test beam measurements with prototypes
 - Detailed Monte Carlo simulations
 - Study of novel absorber production techniques
 - Study of suitable LGs, bundlers, PMTs and development of readout electronics
 - Investigation of new radiation-hard and fast scintillators



Thanks for your attention!

Back up

Updated CERN accelerator schedule

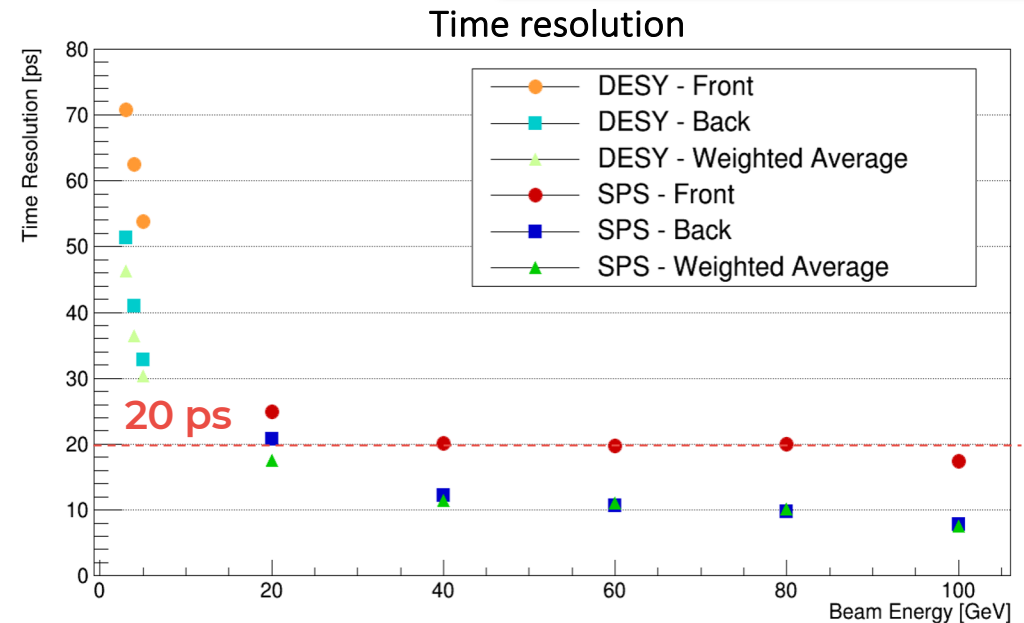
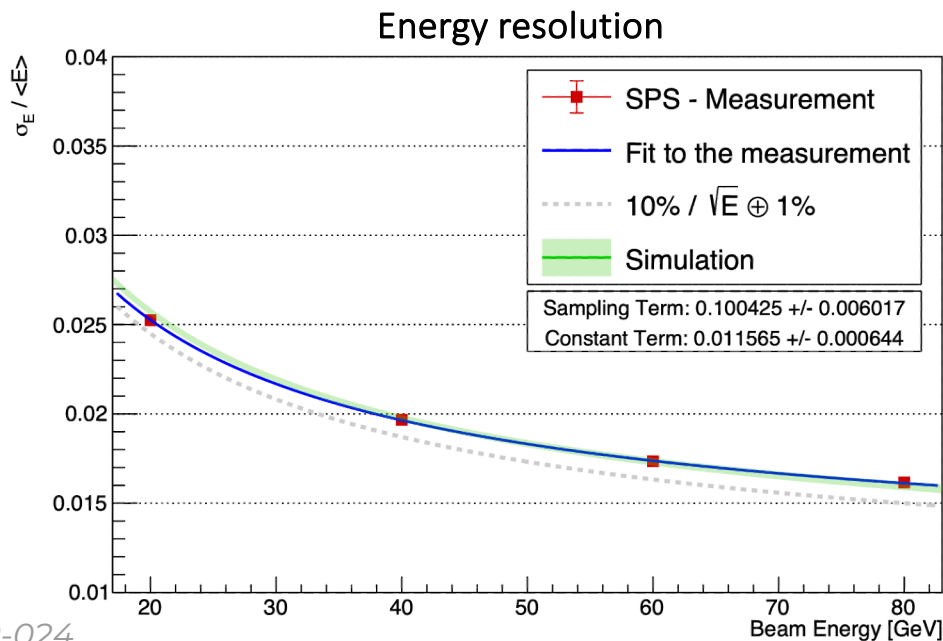
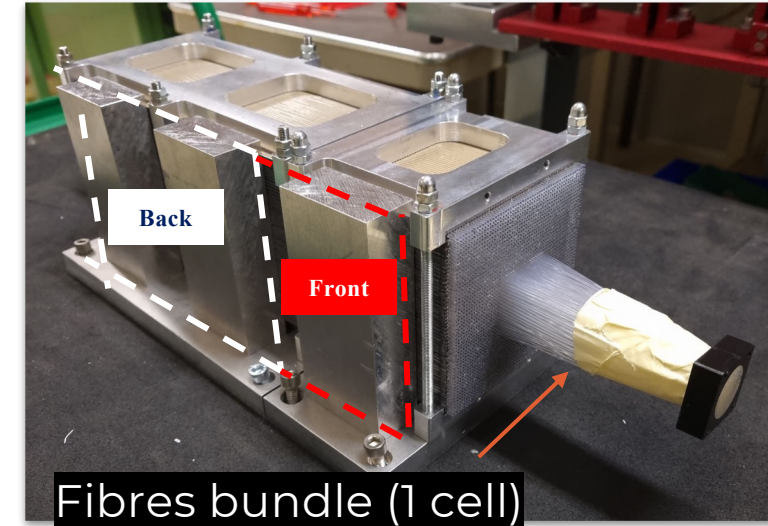
Long Term Schedule for CERN Accelerator complex



- Run 3 extended till end of June 2026
- LHC restart for Run 4 in 2030
- LHC LS4 moved by one year to 2034-35
- LS5 becomes EYTES
- Also impact on SPS test beams!

SpaCal - Pb Absorber - Polystyrene Fibres

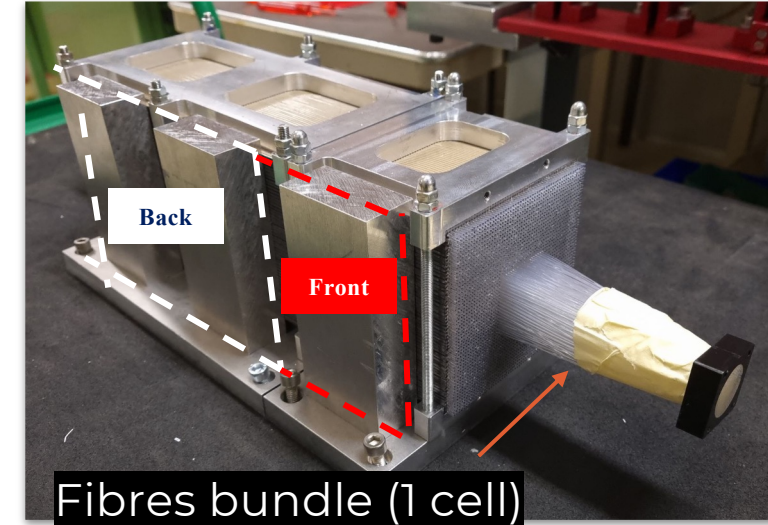
- **Pb absorber** and **polystyrene fibres**:
 - 8 + 21 cm long (7 + 18 X_0)
 - Reflective mirror between sections
 - Kuraray SCSF-78 round fibres $\varnothing = 1.0$ mm



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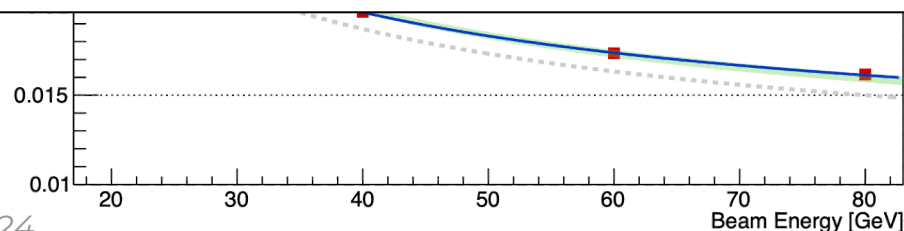
Performance in line with targets



Energy resolution

➤ Energy resolution at 3°+3°:

- Noise contribution subtracted
- Sampling term: $10.0 \pm 0.6 \%$
- Constant term: $1.16 \pm 0.06 \%$
- **Very good agreement with simulation**



Time resolution

➤ Time resolution at 3°+3°:

- Measurement in direct contact with fast MCD(R11187) PMTs
- Double-sided readout
- Time resolution above 20 GeV: **better than 20 ps**

