

Horizon Europe Town Meeting | 2 July 2025 | VERVE LOI | Domenico Colella

Vertexing in Extreme Radiation & Vacuum Environment

Participating institutes CERN and INFN (Bari, Cagliari, Catania, Frascati, Padova, Torino, Trieste)

> **Project leaders** Domenico Colella (University and INFN Bari, Italy) Jochen Klein (CERN)



What is needed to fully exploit potential of LHC?

- LHC provides ideal and **unique environment to study hot QCD** matter and <u>multi-charmed baryon</u> production is a key tool
- Present devices are insufficient
 - Complex multi-stage decay chain in a track-dense environment
 - → Small signal in large combinatorial background
 - Reconstruction of decay vertices is crucial





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Move a light-weight vertex detector inside the beam-pipe











- Technical requirements
 - Bent thin sensors supported by light material (e.g. carbon foam) [mastered within the ITS3 project]
 - Sensors and services integrated in vacuum
 - Movable components to reach minimum distance to primary vertex only during stable beams
 - Sensor performance under high radiation flux







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R&D for low-mass silicon sensors in vacuum

Research objectives

- Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors
- In-vacuum integration of sensors





Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors - In-vacuum integration of sensors

- So far demonstrated close to 99% efficiency after irradiation to 10¹⁵ 1 MeV n_{eq}/cm²
 - ALICE ITS3 test chip (DPTS)
 - Operated at room temperature
 - Pixel pitch: 15 µm



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Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors - In-vacuum integration of sensors

- What's next?
 - Optimize pixel implant structures
 - \rightarrow variations of existing test chips being submitted
 - Study pitch dependence
 - \rightarrow variations at 10, 12 and 15 μ m included in submission
 - Explore behavior at low temperatures
 - \rightarrow cryogenic setups

- Cryogenic setup key requirements
 - Thin entrance/exit window
 - Dry air circulation to avoid condensation
 - Temperature range: 15°C to 25°C
 - Monitoring of temperatures and humidity level
 - Based on Peltier elements and liquid cooling
 - Compact to allow use in beam telescopes





liquid outlet Dry air

Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors - In-vacuum integration of sensors

Studying efficiency in detail: in-pixel measurements

 Probing the charge collection and electric field of a pixel via in pixel efficiency measurements at test beam

 Systematic comparison of test beam and laboratory measurement results to simulations of the pixel implant structures carried out prior to the chip submission







Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors - In-vacuum integration of sensors

• UHV setup assembled in Bari

- Characterization campaign ongoing on a large preliminary set of materials



- carbon foam
- 3D printed aluminium nitride (AIN), alumina (Al_2O_3) and silumin (AlSi)
- optical fiber
- Si wafer
- standard flex circuit







Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors - In-vacuum integration of sensors

- What's next?
 - Outgassing studies for a full IRIS prototype \rightarrow New large volume setup
 - Outgassing studies from internal material (into secondary vacuum) and external wall (into primary vacuum)







Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors - In-vacuum integration of sensors

How to identify and treat outgassing components based on well established procedures:

<u>Residual Gas Analysis (RGA)</u>

Identify desorbed species from detector materials \rightarrow Help understanding outgassing due to mechanical movements (e.g. IRIS opening/closure)



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<u>Thermal Desorption Spectroscopy (TDS)</u>

Monitoring the species desorbing during heat treatment under vacuum \rightarrow Help defining handling procedure during detector construction



Personnel	85 k€/year	2 or 3 PhD (different costs in Italy and at CERN)		
Travel support and workshops	10 k€/year	Start-up and wrap-up workshops		
Consumables/ Hardware	30 k€/year	Radiation studies	 Planning to prepare samples (thinning@dicing, carrier cards, wire bonding, irradiation) 	8 k€
			 Procurement of new readout systems providing higher bandwidth and sampling rate 	60 k€
			 Mechanics (raw material + work) 	20 k€
		Vacuum studies	 Large volume vacuum chamber, flanges, gate valves and consumables 	12 k€
			 Turbo and ion pumps 	20 k€
Indirect cost	31 k€/year	25% of the direct costs		
TOTAL per year	156 k€/year			
TOTAL (4 year)	624 k€			







Backup

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Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors

How to study efficiency in detail, based on prior experience with ITS2/3:

- Probing the electric field configuration and the charge collection of pixel via in pixel efficiency through test beam measurements
- Complementing with laboratory measurements with radioactive source (Fe-55, Sr-90)
- Comparison to simulations

New slide: "Studying efficiency in detail"

- In-pixel efficiency plot -> probing the field configuration and charge collection of the pixel
- Comparison to simulations:
 - Pixel implant structure variations have been simulated prior to submission
 - Laboratory measurements with radioactive sources (Fe-55, Sr-90) complementing the test beam measurements

Also saying based on prior experience with ITS2/3







Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors

- It has been shown that changing the doping profile of the epitaxial layer, the radiation hardness of MAPS can be improved
 - Standard process \rightarrow Operational up to 10¹³ 1 MeV n_{eq}/cm²
 - Modified process \rightarrow Operational up to 10¹⁴ 1 MeV n_{eq}/cm²
 - additional deep blanket low doped implant over the full pixel area
 - Modified with gap process \rightarrow Operational up to 10¹⁵ 1 MeV n_{eq}/cm²
 - ▶ gap in the deep low dose n-implant

well collection electrode PWELL NWELL DFFP Standard DEPLETED ZONE P⁼ EPITAXIAL LAYER SUBSTRATE electrode low dose n-type implant Modified depleted zon epitaxial layer + substrate nwell collection electrode 0.95 0.9 0.85 low dose n-type implan Modified 0.8 with gap 0.65 depleted zone o⁻ epitaxial layer

+ substrate













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Enhancing radiation tolerance of CMOS pixel sensors

- hardness of MAPS can be improved









Research objectives In-vacuum integration of pixel sensors











