

# Novel-Accelerator-Based Colliders

**Richard D'Arcy**

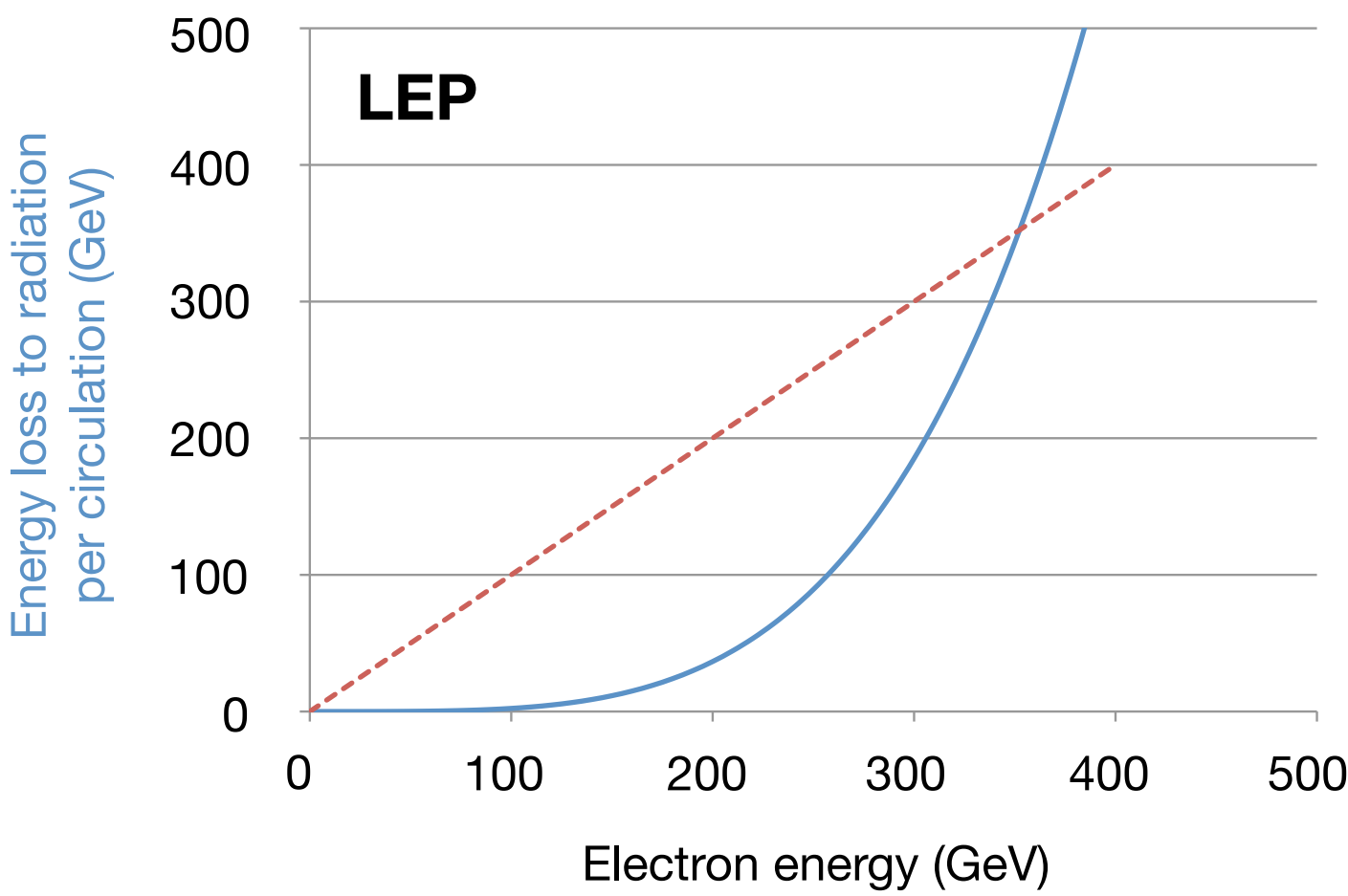
*John Adams Institute, University of Oxford*



UNIVERSITY OF  
**OXFORD**

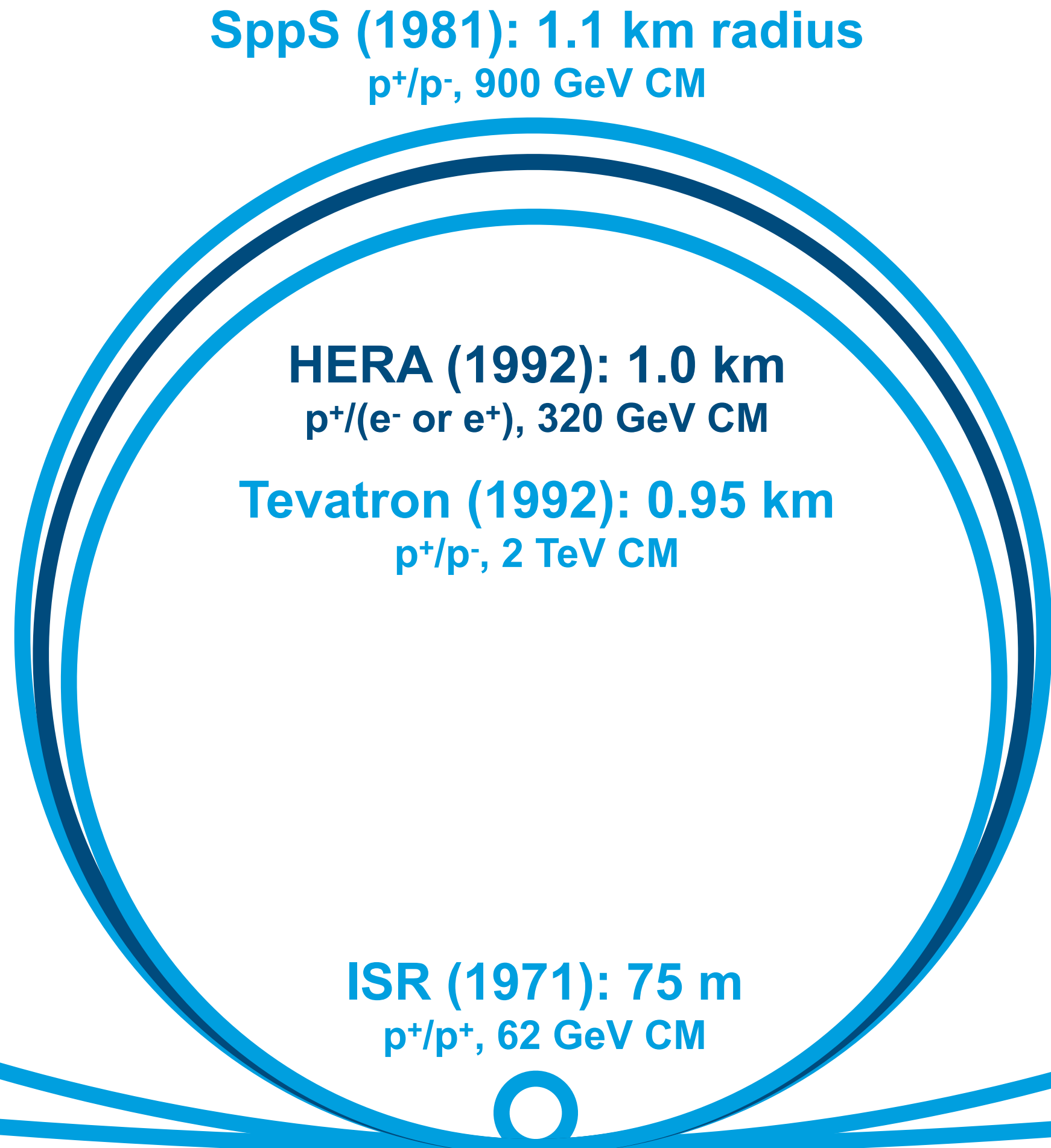
# Particle colliders have been growing in size

Magnet technology and synchrotron radiation cause unfavourable scaling to higher energies



$$\Delta W_{syn} \propto \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{W_{kin}^4}{(m_e c^2)^4}$$

Electron energy (GeV)

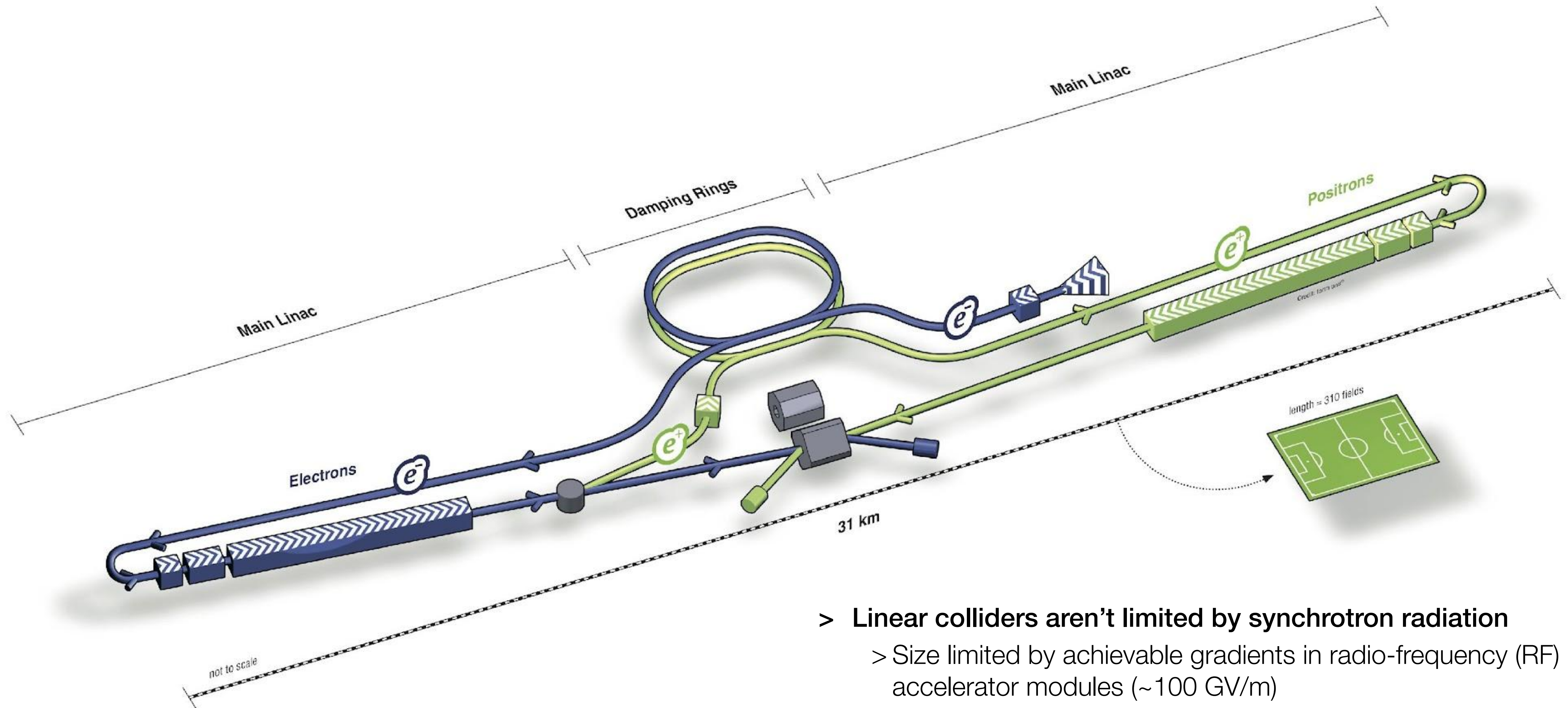


**LEP (1989): 4.3 km**  
e<sup>+</sup>/e<sup>-</sup>, 209 GeV CM

**LHC (2008): 4.3 km**  
p<sup>+</sup>/p<sup>+</sup>, 13.6 TeV CM

**FCC (?): 14.4 km**  
e<sup>+</sup>/e<sup>-</sup>, > 365 GeV CM  
p<sup>+</sup>/p<sup>+</sup>, up to 100 TeV CM

# The next step for electron/positron colliders could be linear

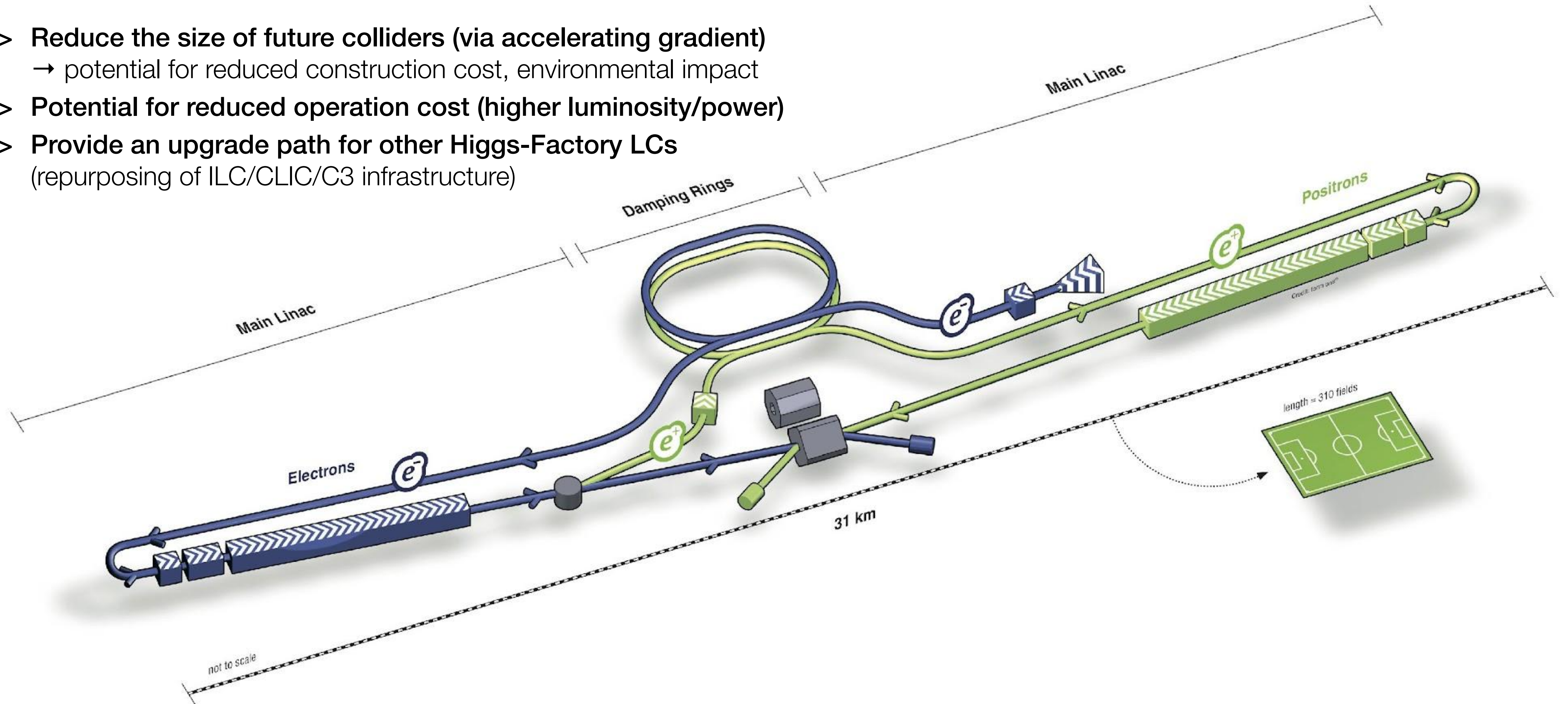


ILC / 500 GeV / 31 km

- > **Linear colliders aren't limited by synchrotron radiation**
  - > Size limited by achievable gradients in radio-frequency (RF) accelerator modules ( $\sim 100$  GV/m)
  - > *Main RF-options*: ILC, CLIC,  $C^3$
- > **Still a significant investment  $\mathcal{O}(10^{10})$  € and scale  $\mathcal{O}(10s)$  km**

# The plasma-accelerator (>1 GV/m) mission for particle physics

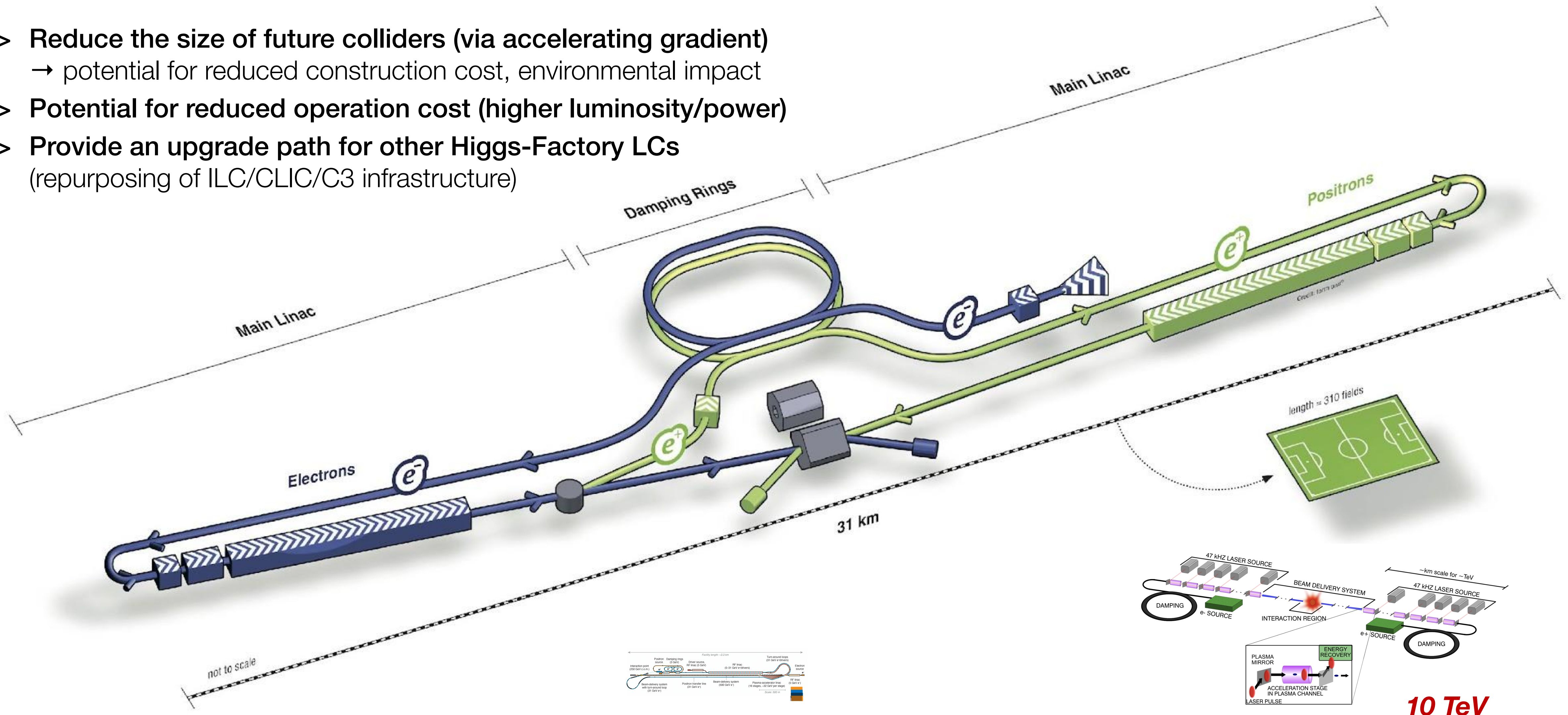
- > Reduce the size of future colliders (via accelerating gradient)  
→ potential for reduced construction cost, environmental impact
- > Potential for reduced operation cost (higher luminosity/power)
- > Provide an upgrade path for other Higgs-Factory LCs  
(repurposing of ILC/CLIC/C3 infrastructure)



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ILC / 500 GeV / 31 km

HALHF / 250 GeV / 3.3 km

Foster, D'Arcy, and Lindstrøm, NJP 25, 093037 (2023)

Energy Frontier Collider / ~~15 TeV~~ / 6.6 km\*

C.B. Schroeder *et al.*, JINST 18 T06001 (2023)

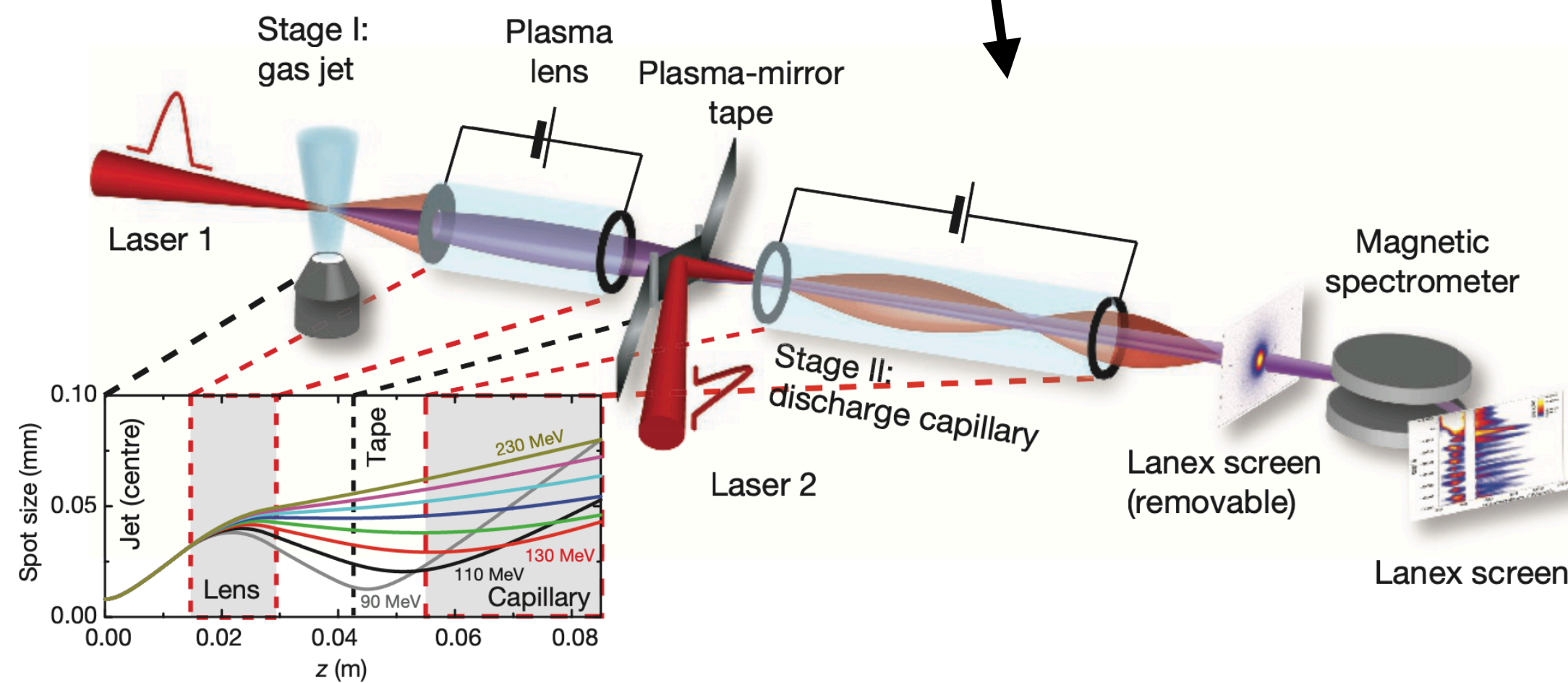
\*for the linac, not including the BDS

# Proof-of-principle progress towards collider readiness

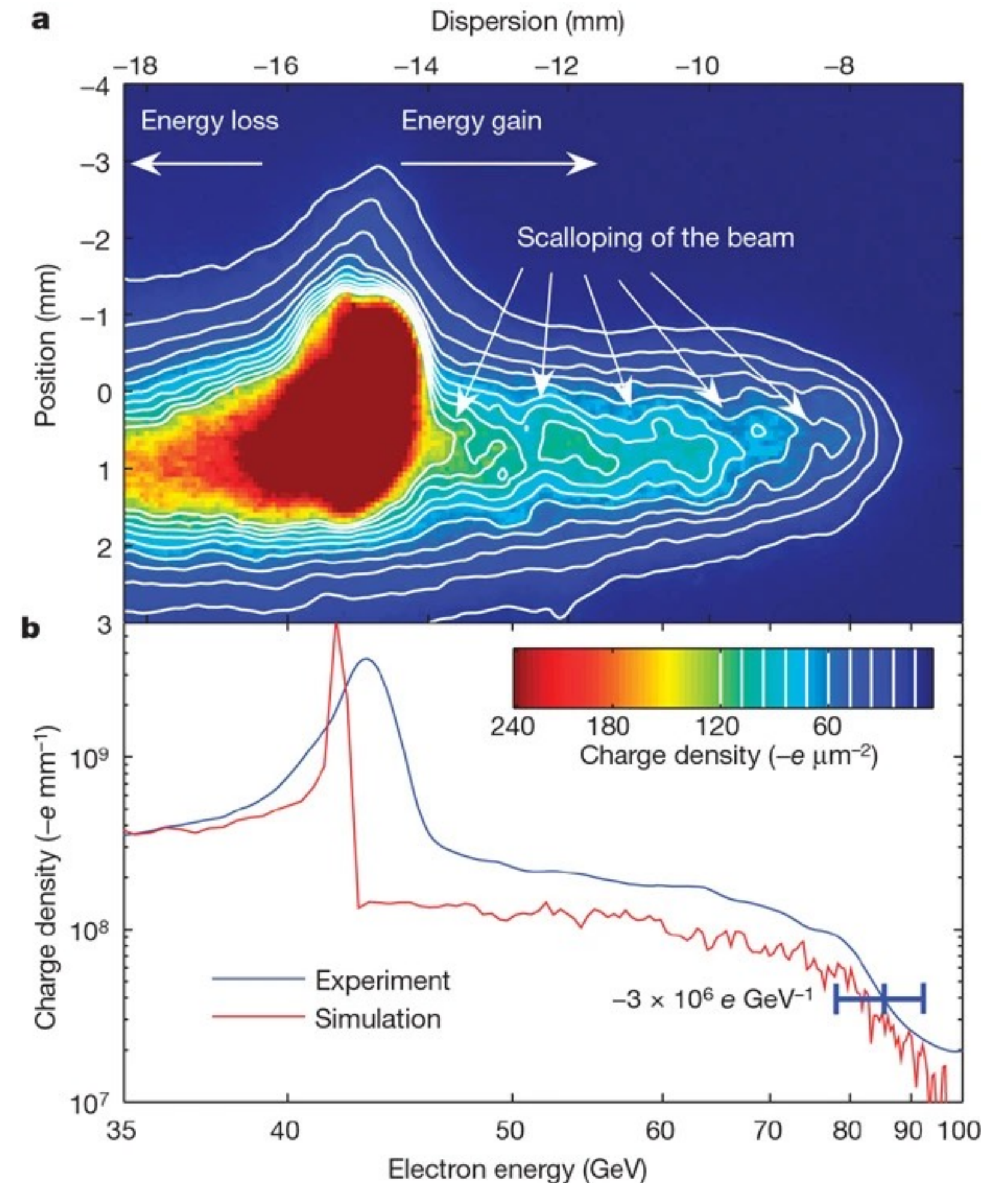
Systematically ticking off the R&D requirements for a collider

> Towards high energy:

- > Large energy gain in a single plasma module
- > Staging of two plasma modules



From: Steinke et al., Nature 530, 190 (2016)



From: Blumenfeld et al., Nature 445, 741 (2007)

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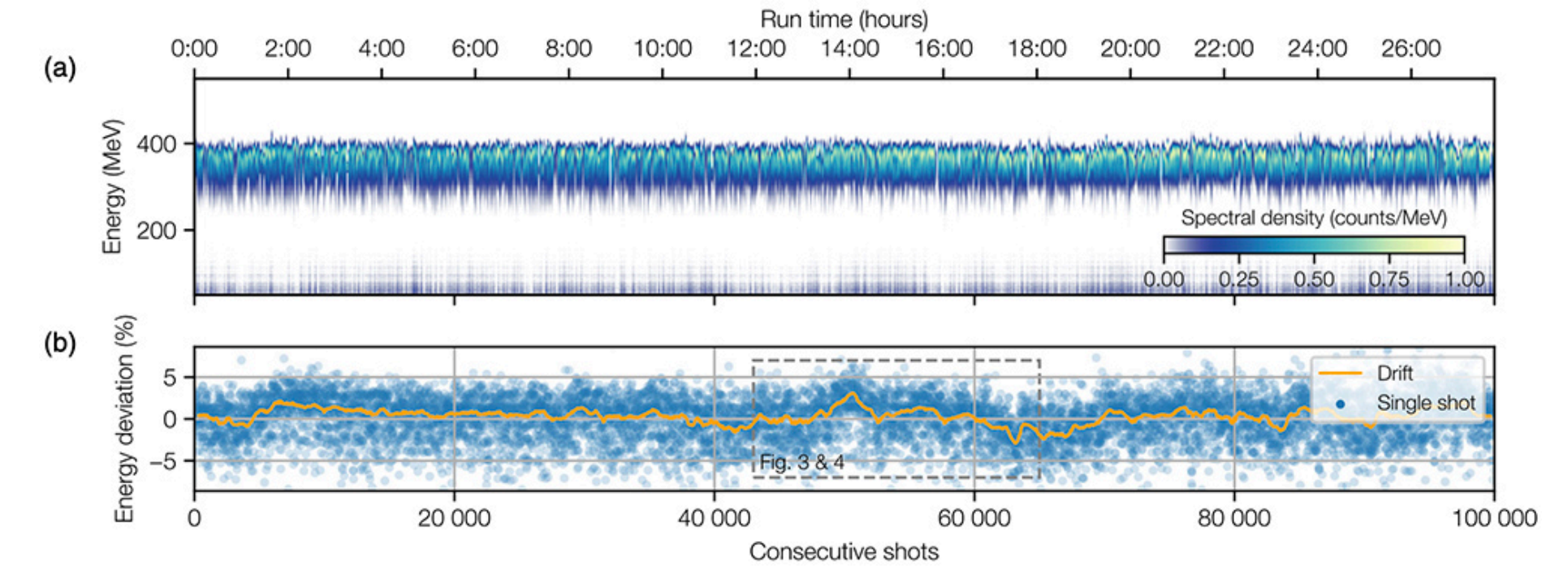
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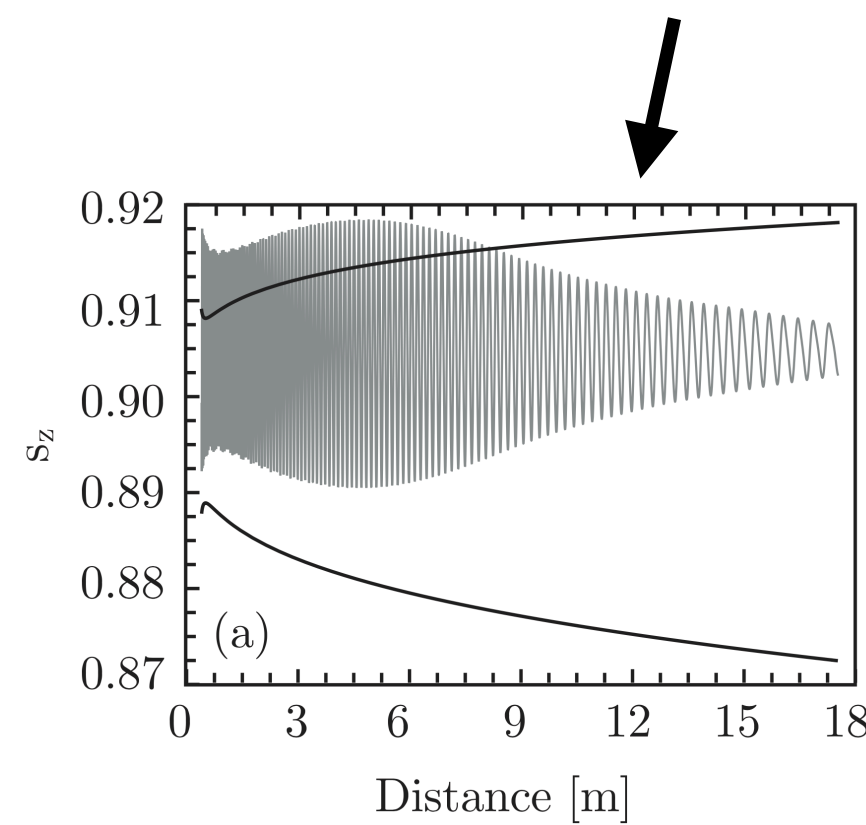
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## > Towards high beam quality (**luminosity**):

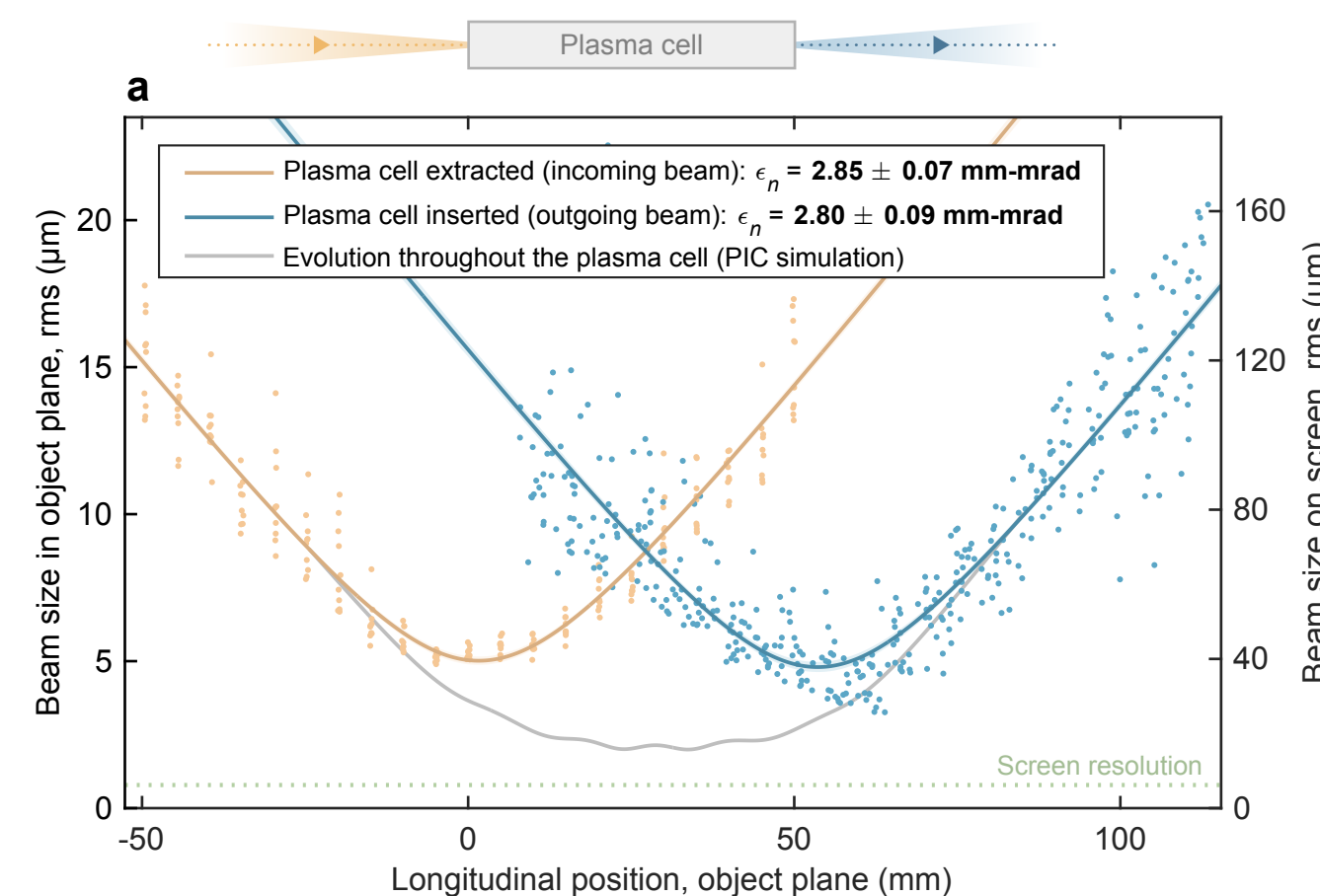
- > Transverse and longitudinal stability
- > Emittance and energy-spread preservation
- > Spin-polarisation preservation



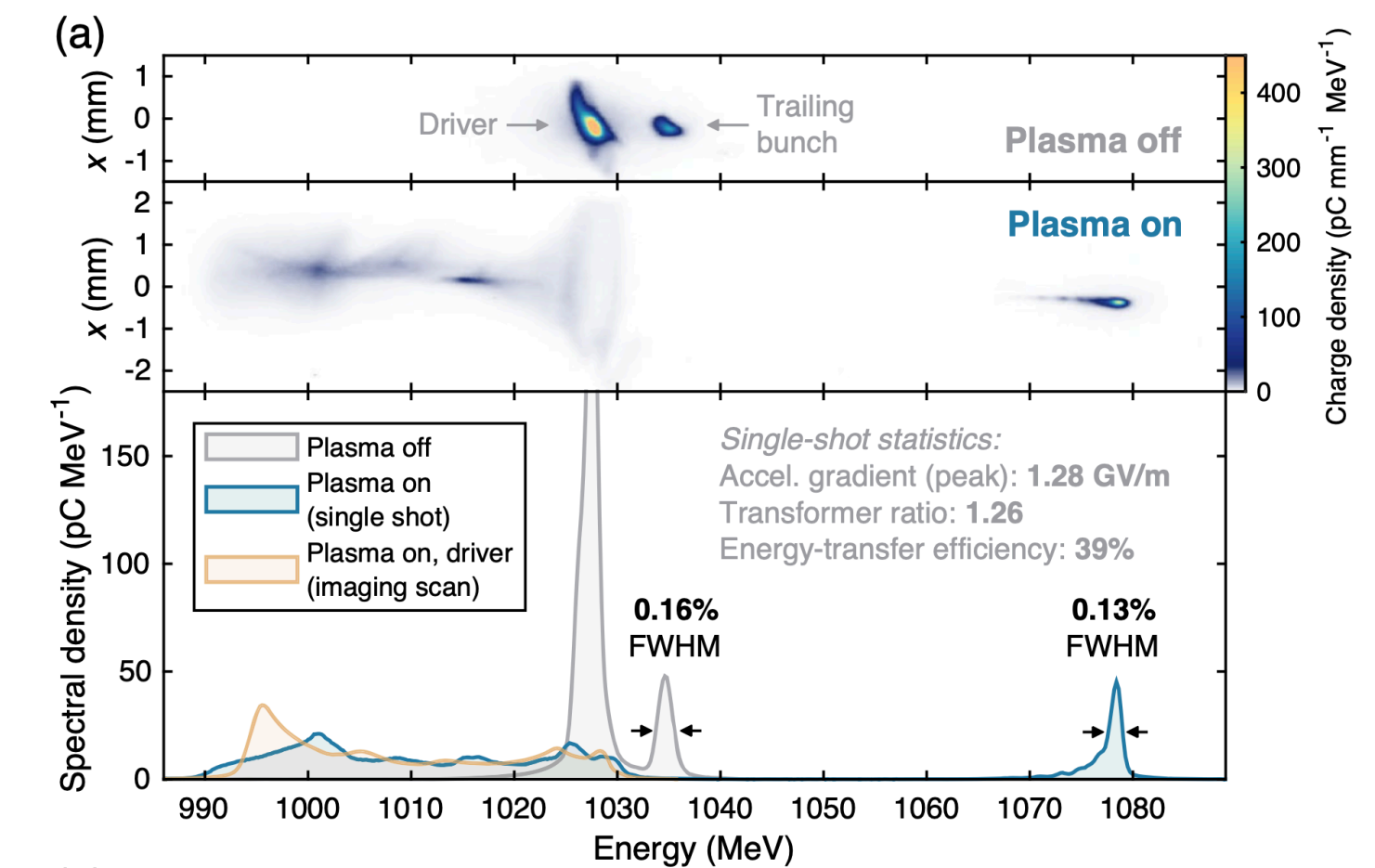
From: Maier et al., Phys. Rev. X 10, 031039 (2020)



From: Vieira et al. PR-STAB 14, 071303 (2011)



From: Lindstrøm et al., Nat. Commun. 15, 6097 (2024)



From: Lindstrøm et al., PRL 126, 014801 (2021)

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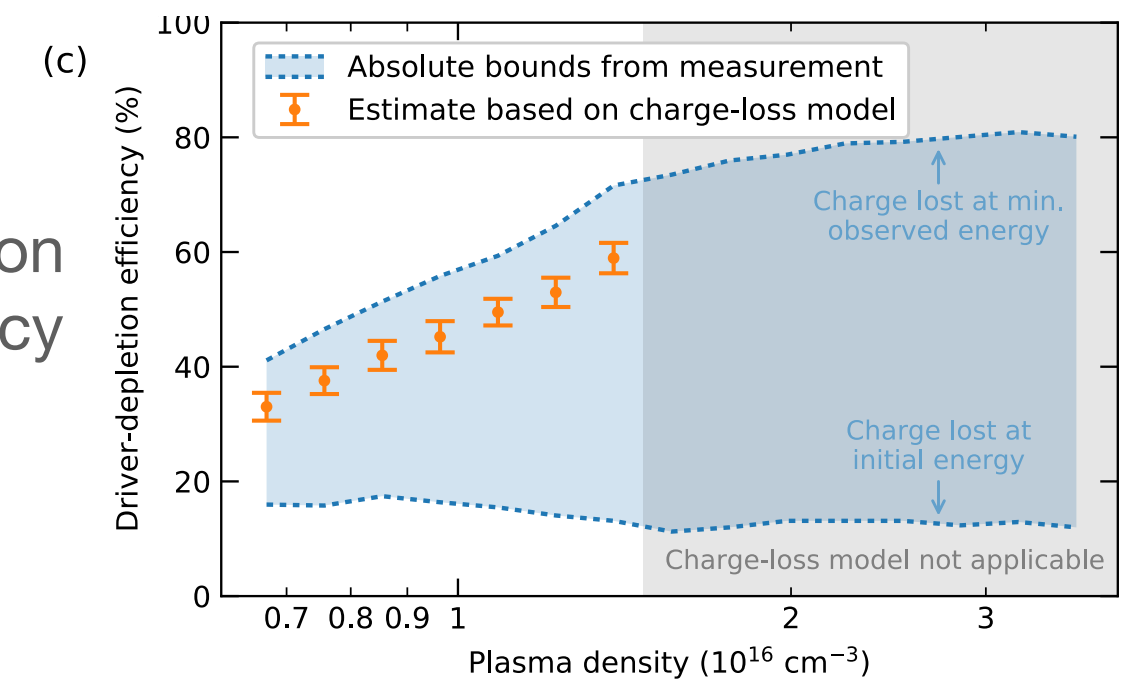
## > Towards high beam power (**luminosity**):

- > High-overall efficiency (wall-plug to beam)
- > Repetition rate
- > Plasma-cell cooling

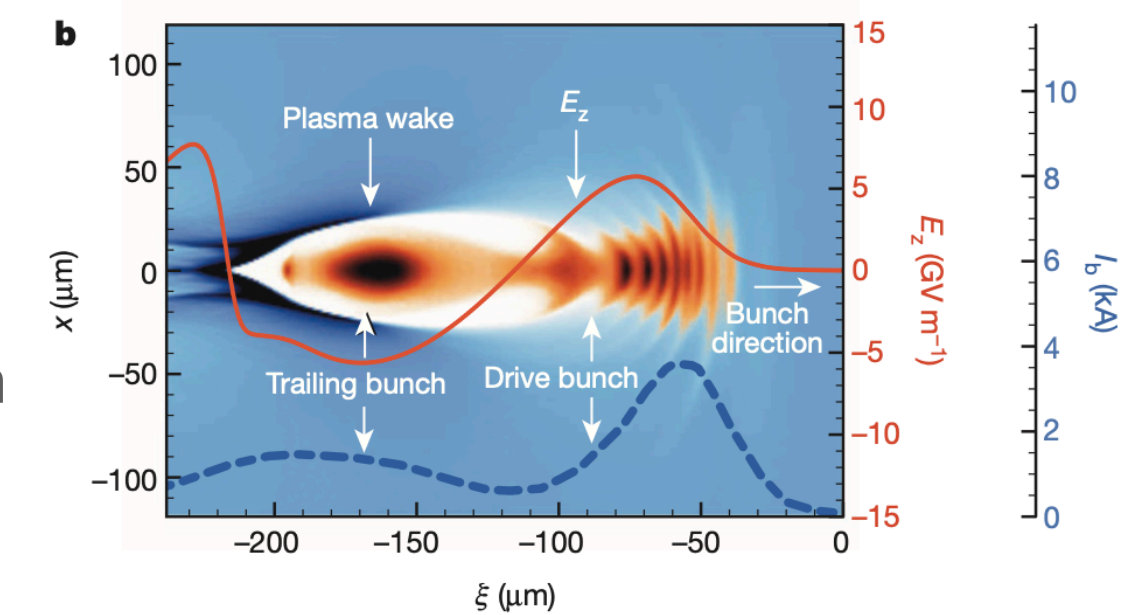
Depletion efficiency

(Must be achieved simultaneously)

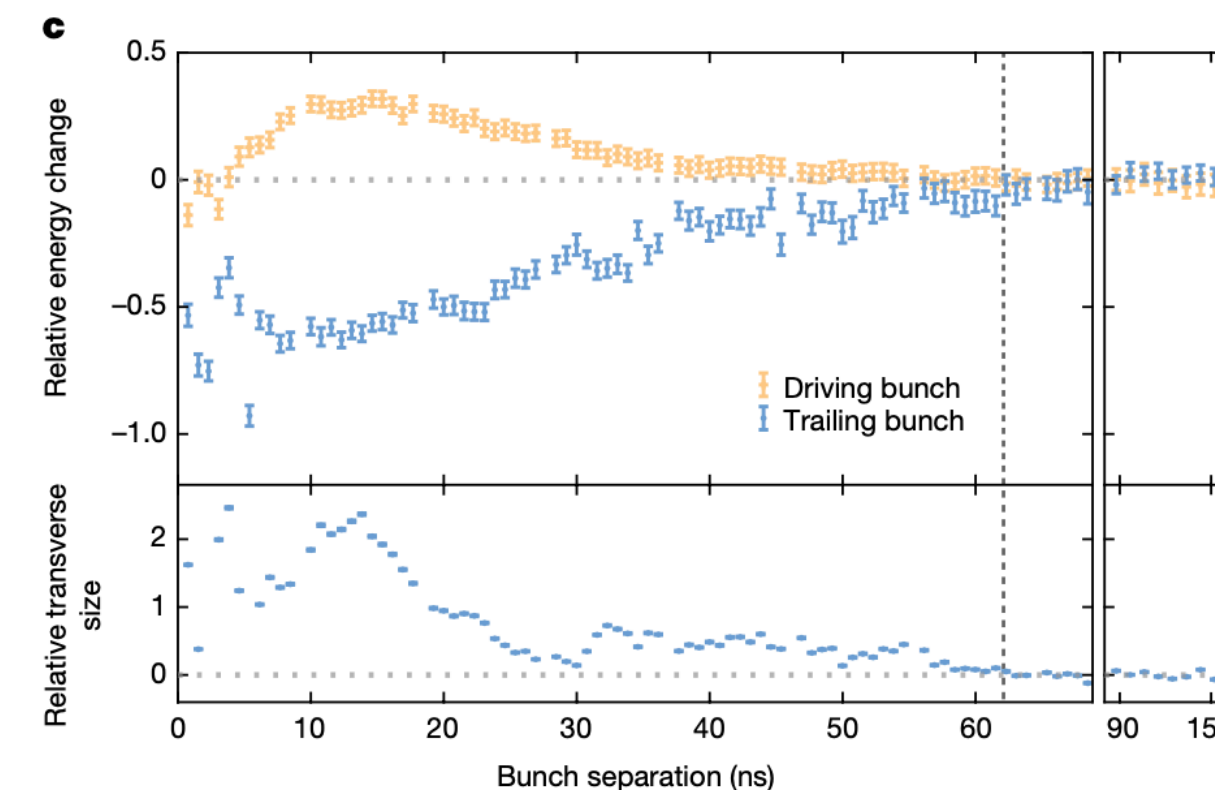
Extraction efficiency



From: Peña et al. PRR (accepted)



From: Litos et al., Nature 515, 92 (2014)



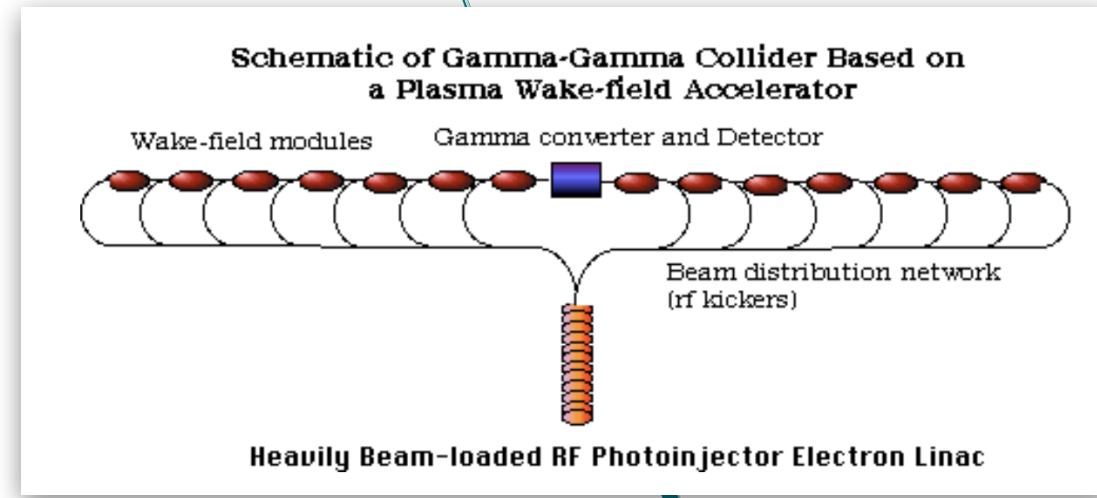
From: D'Arcy et al., Nature 603, 58 (2022)



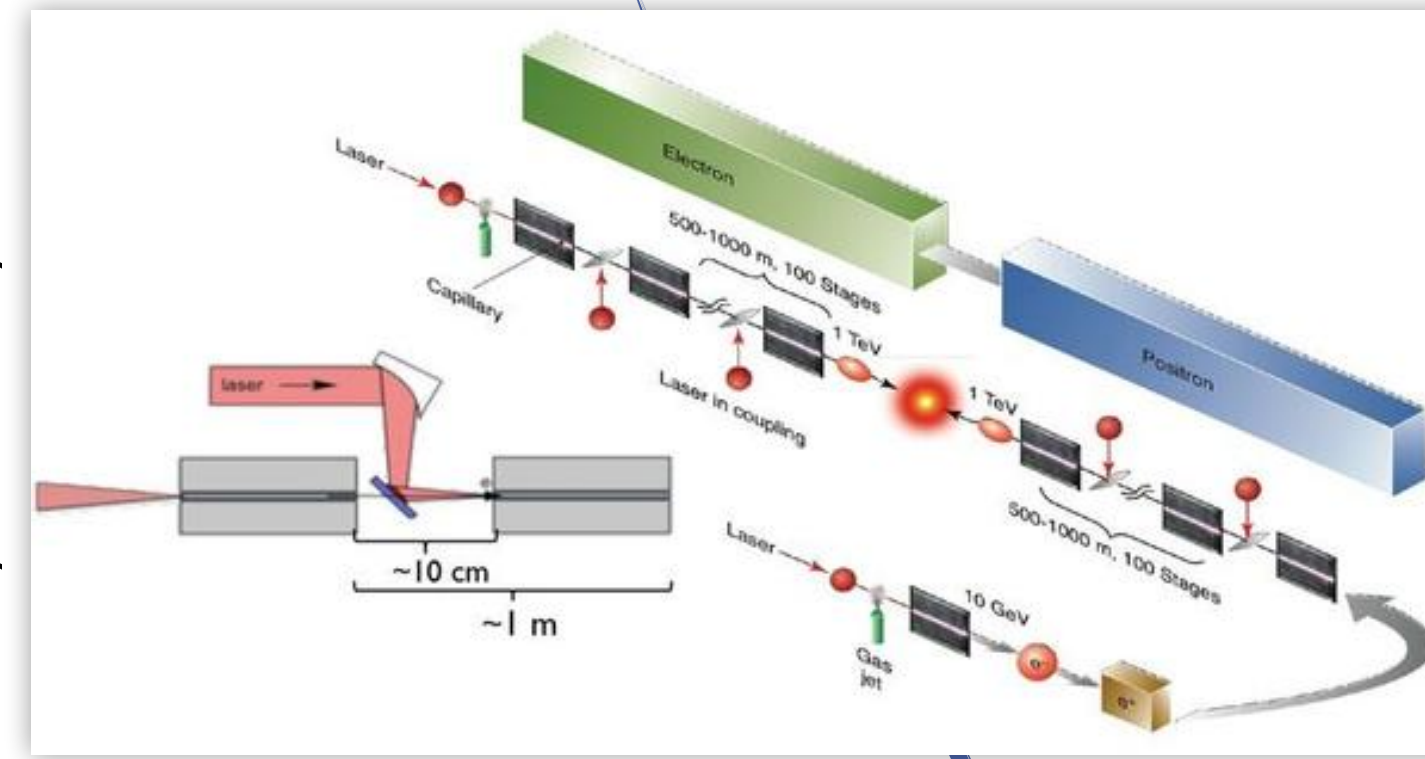
# Significant experimental progress motivates consideration for HEP

Straw-person designs have been a useful exercise to guide R&D over the last decades

Rosenzweig,  
Snowmass 1996



Leemans,  
Physics Today 2009



Seryi, PAC 2009

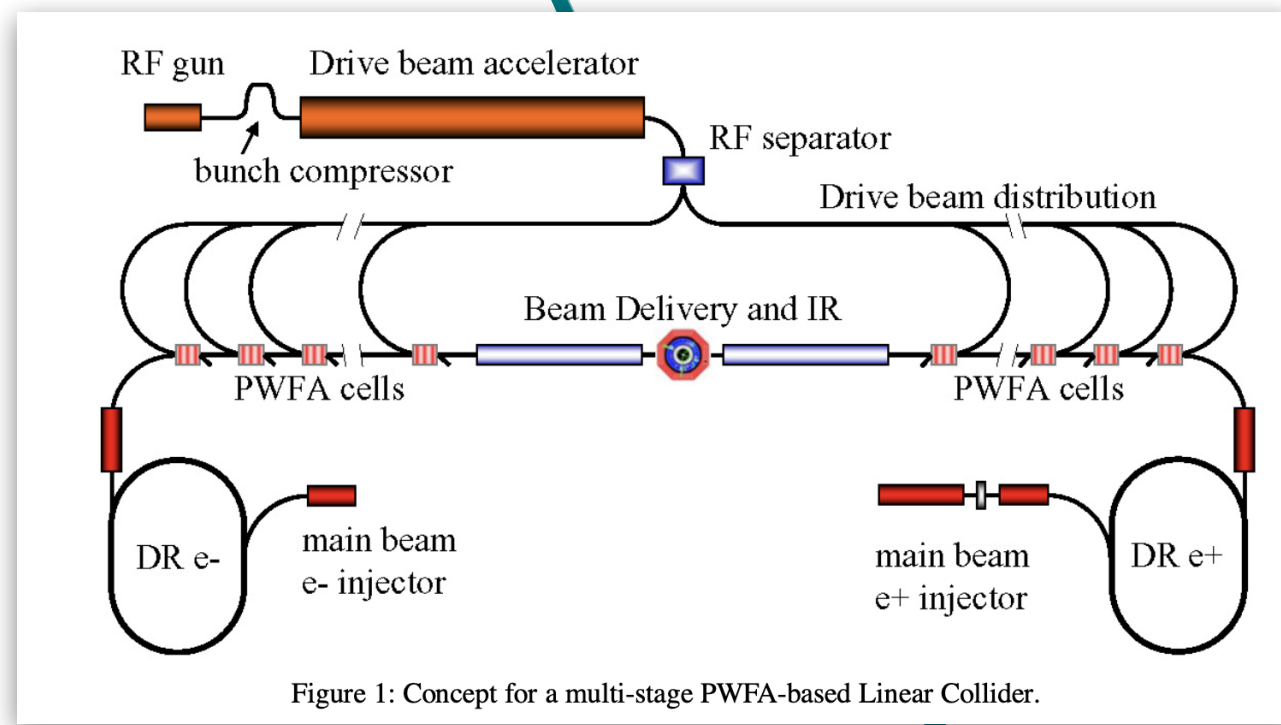
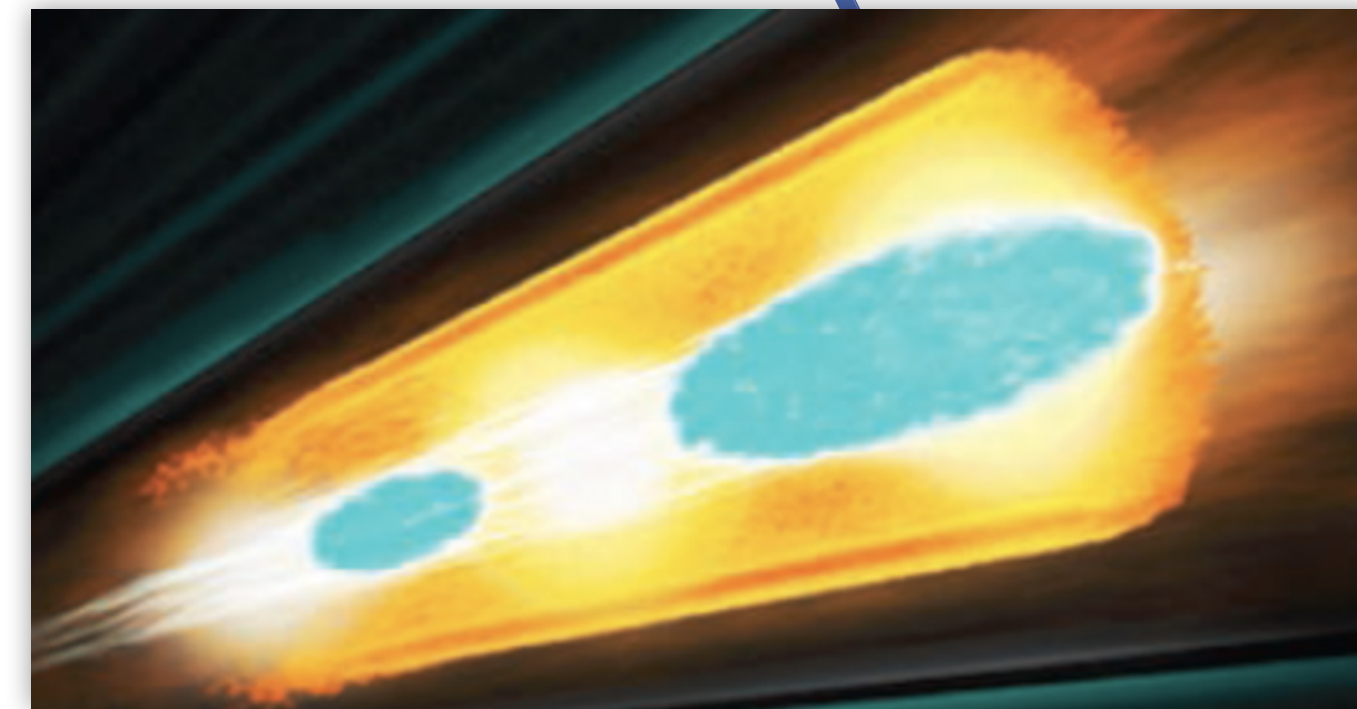


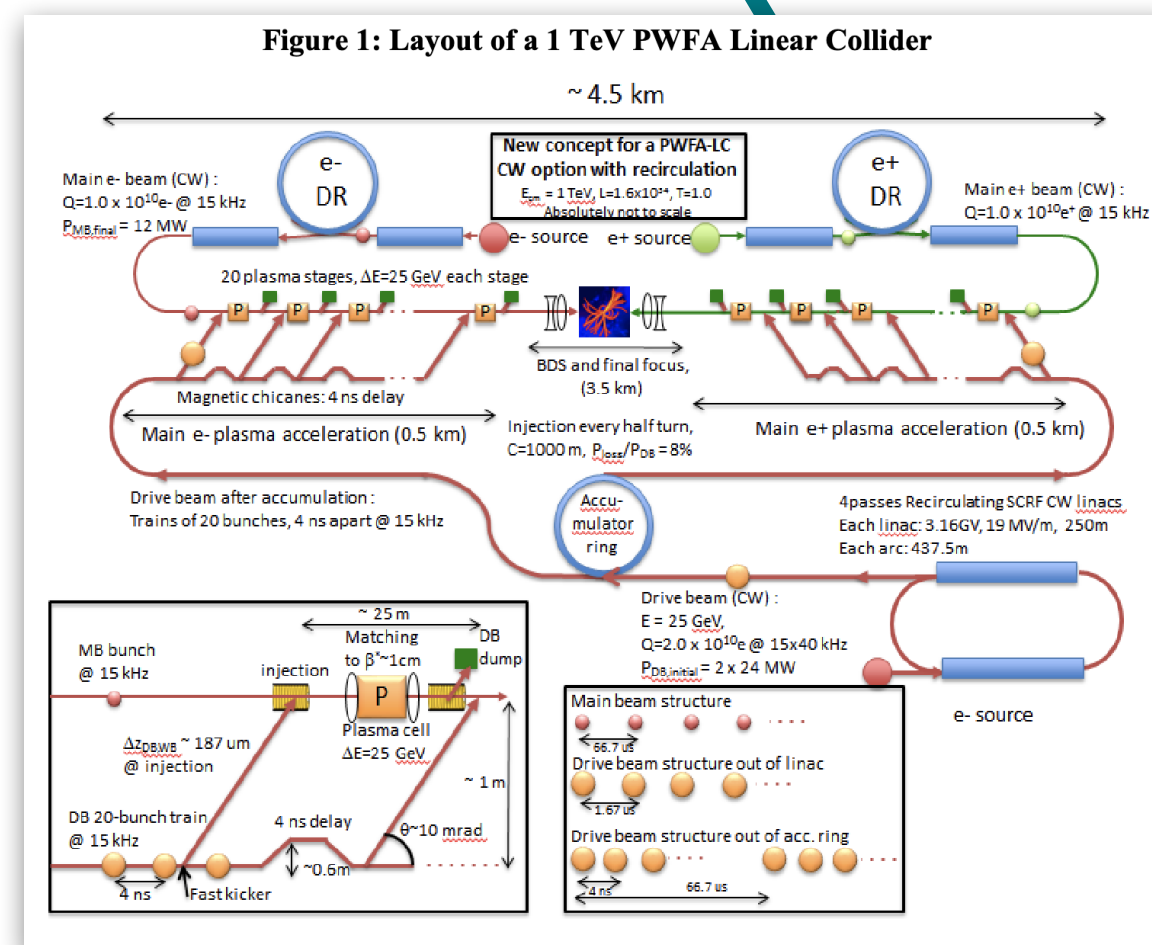
Figure 1: Concept for a multi-stage PWFA-based Linear Collider.

Schroeder, NIM A  
2016



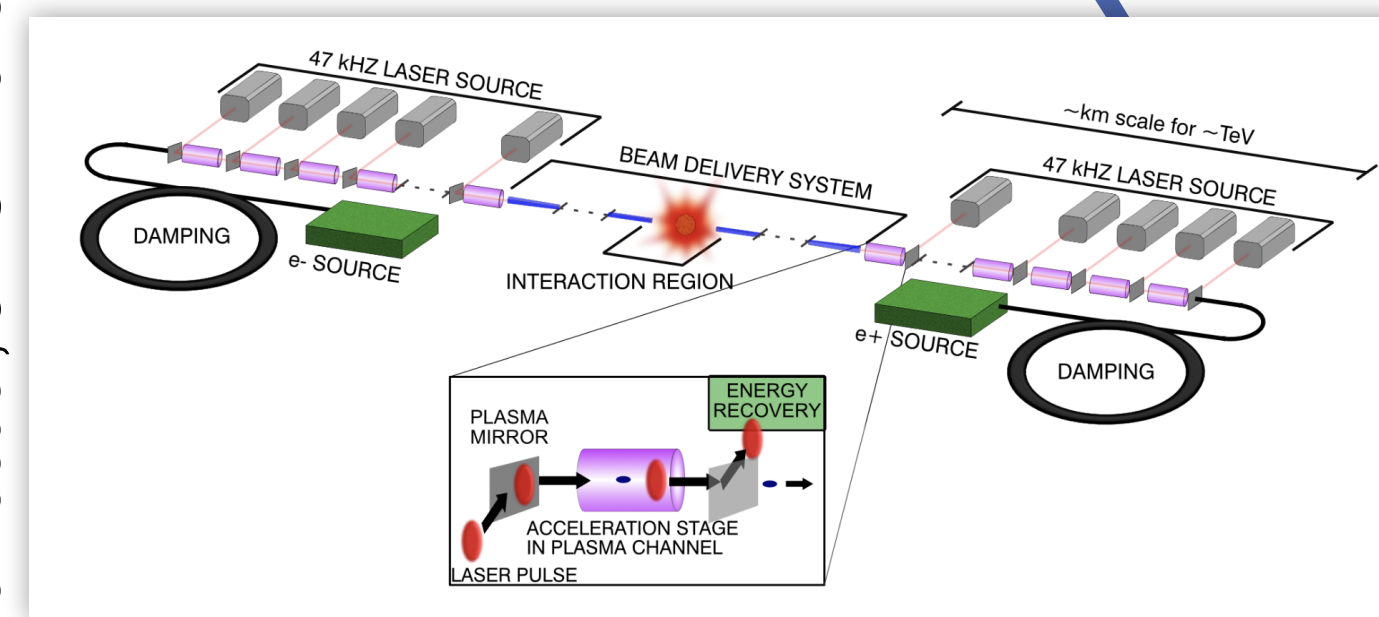
increasing realism/  
complexity

Adli, Snowmass  
2013



Beam-driven

Schroeder, JINST 2023

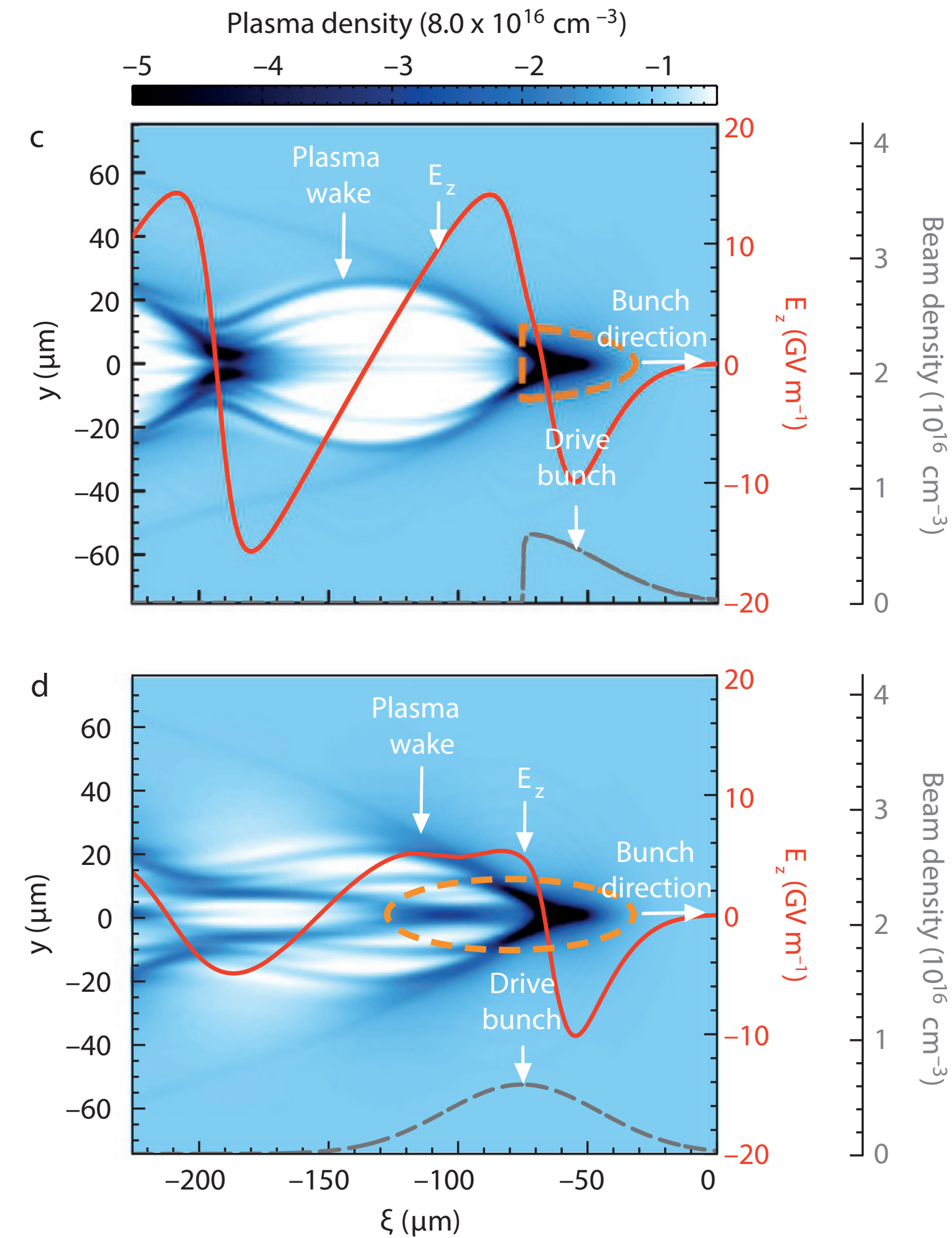


Laser-driven

# One key stumbling block in each concept: *positron acceleration*

The positron challenge is created by charge asymmetry (high mobility of light plasma electrons vs. heavier ions)

- > Positron acceleration has been demonstrated
  - > Several schemes proposed to improve beam quality
    - but lack of  $e^+$  test facilities
- > Positron acceleration in plasma lags behind electron acceleration
  - > Currently, *luminosity per power* still  $\sim 1000x$  below RF and  $e^-$
- > **Main challenge:** *Electron motion* (equivalent to ion motion for  $e^-$  but plasma electrons are lighter)

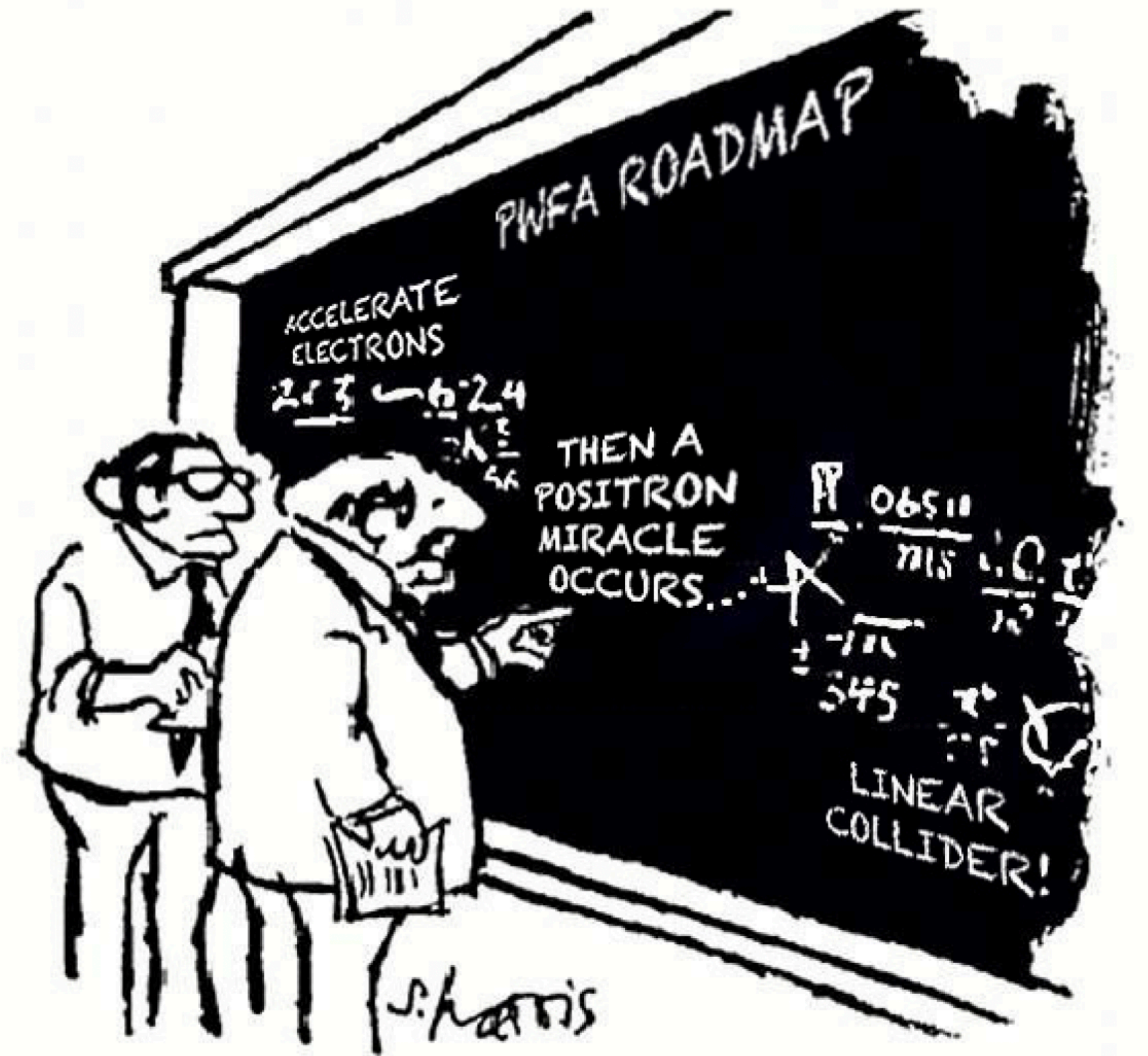


Source: Corde et al. Nature 524, 442 (2015).

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Adopted from S. Harris and C. Lindstrøm

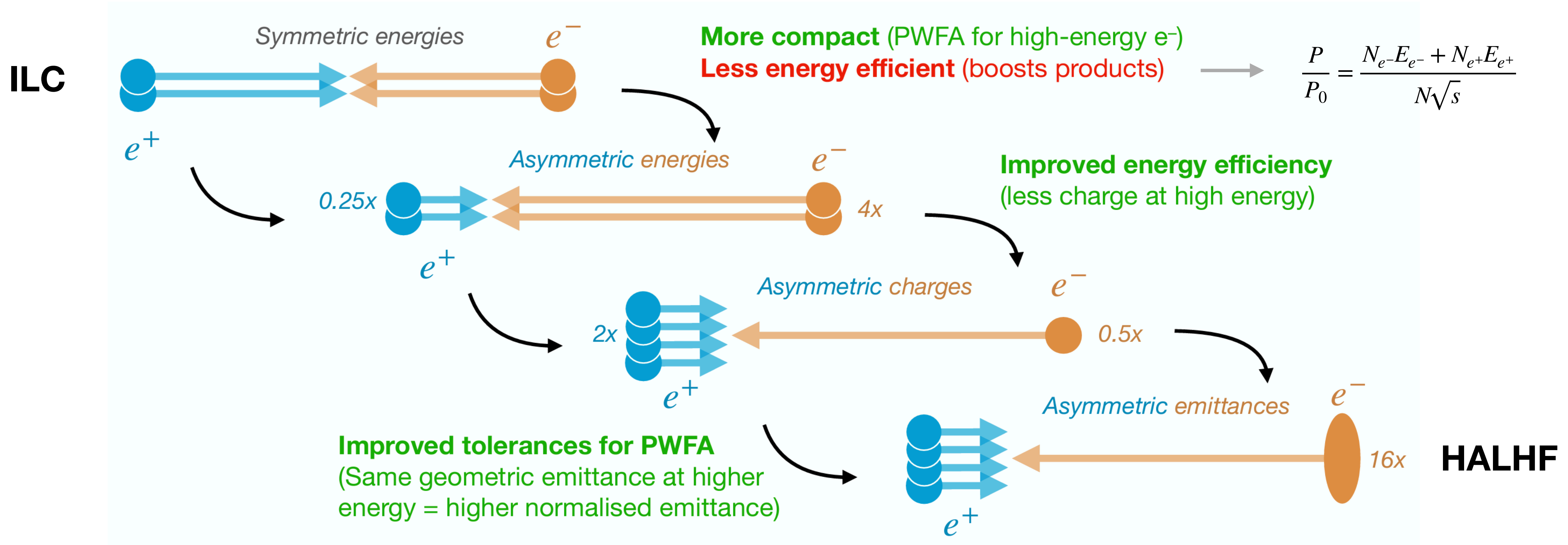
*The pragmatic approach:*

**use plasma to accelerate electrons**

***but RF to accelerate positrons***

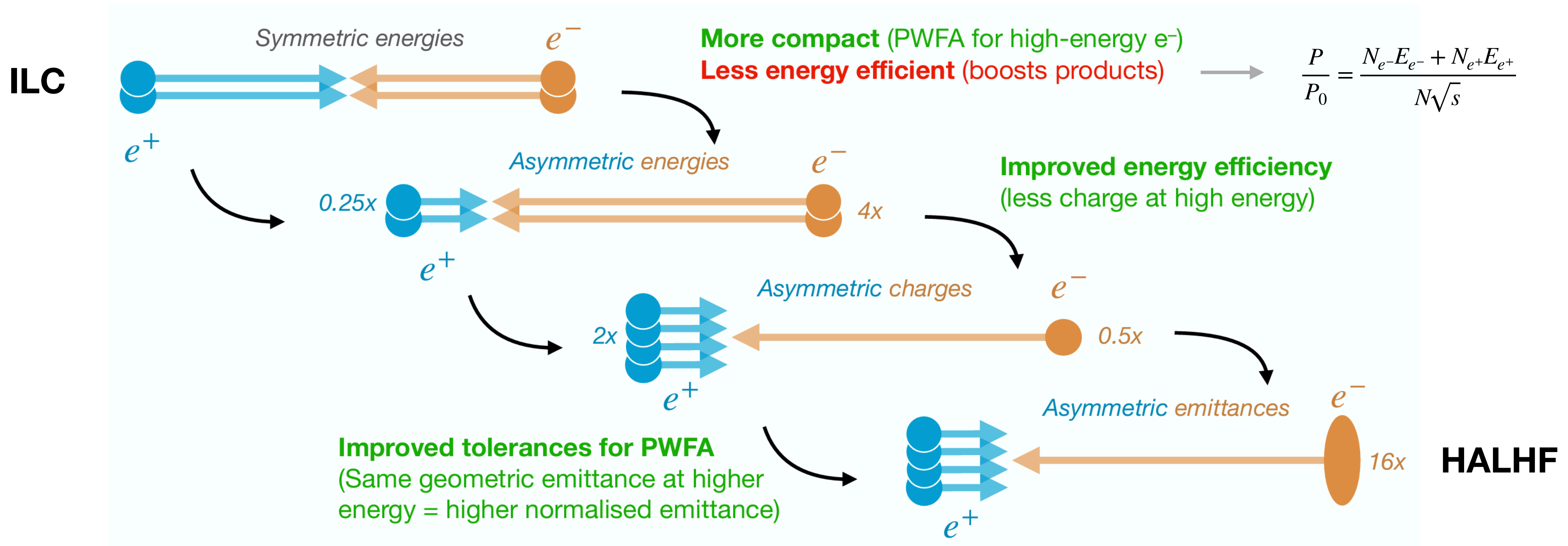
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In fact... the more asymmetries, the better!



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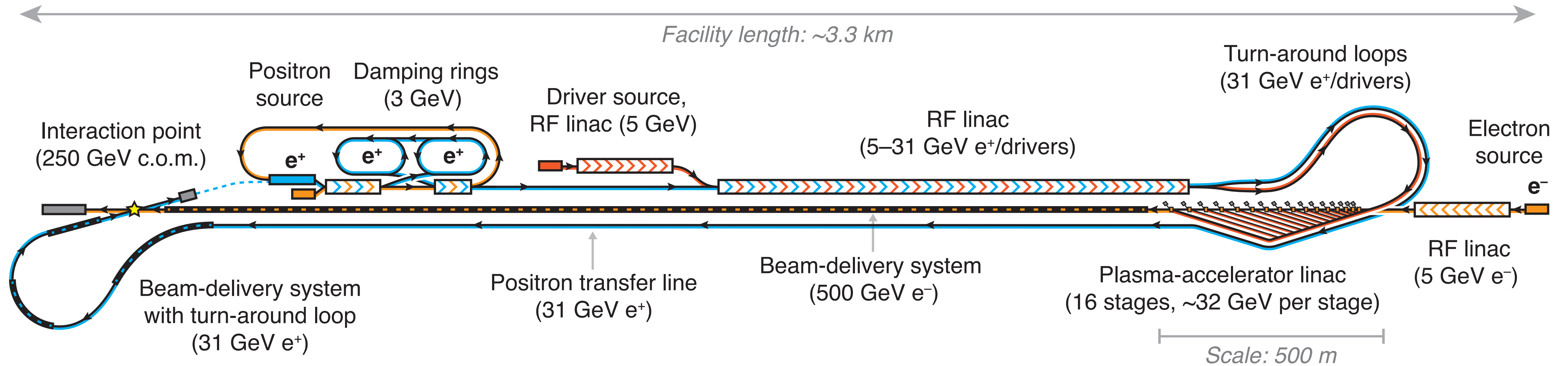
In fact... the more asymmetries, the better!



	$E$ (GeV)	$\sigma_z$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$N$ ( $10^{10}$ )	$\epsilon_{nx}$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$\epsilon_{ny}$ (nm)	$\beta_x$ (mm)	$\beta_y$ (mm)	$\mathcal{L}$ ( $\mu\text{b}^{-1}$ )	$\mathcal{L}_{0.01}$ ( $\mu\text{b}^{-1}$ )	$P/P_0$
<b>ILC:</b>	125 / 125	300 / 300	2 / 2	10 / 10	35 / 35	13 / 13	0.41 / 0.41	1.12	0.92	1
<b>HALHF:</b>	31.3 / 500	75 / 75	4 / 1	10 / 40	35 / 140	3.3 / 13	0.10 / 0.41	1.01	0.58	1.25

# HALHF: A Hybrid, Asymmetric, Linear Higgs Factory

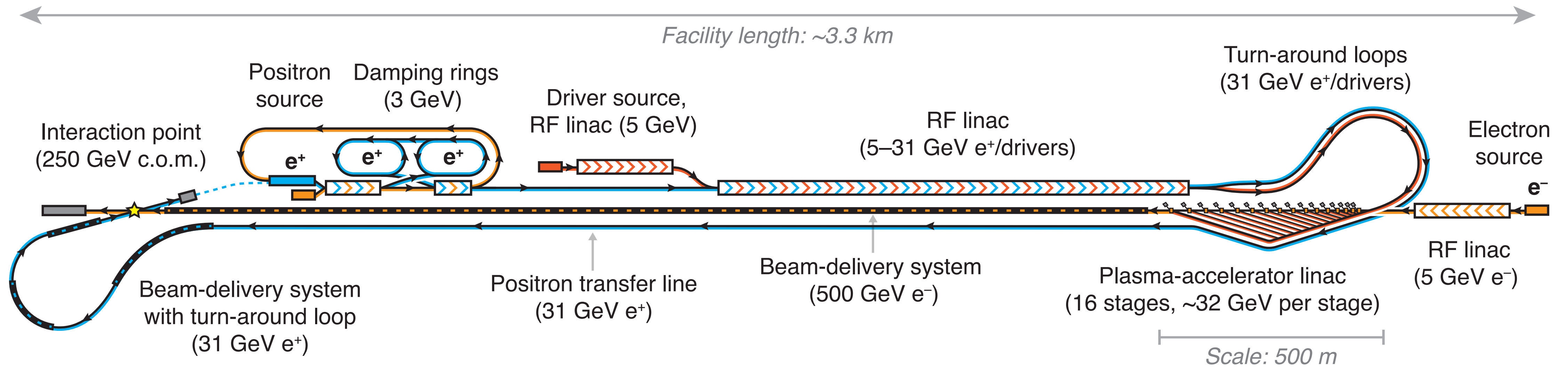
Utilising plasma technology for a compact and cost-effective Higgs factory



Source: [Foster, D'Arcy and Lindstrøm, New J. Phys. 25, 093037 \(2023\)](#)

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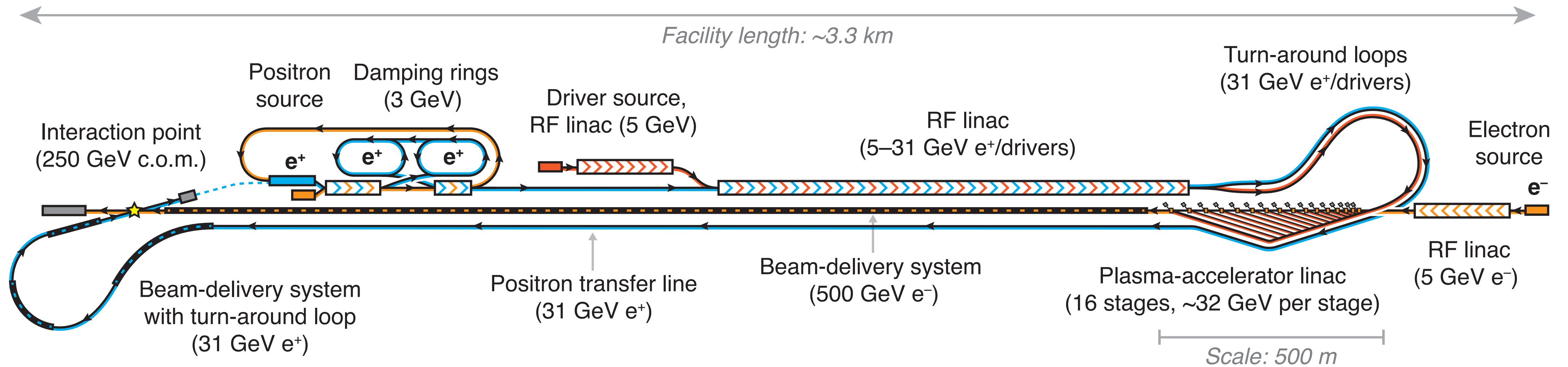
- > **Beam-driven:** Use  $e^+$  RF linac for accelerating  $e^-$  drivers (dual-purpose)
- > **Overall footprint:** ~3.3 km
  - > Length dominated by  $e^-$  beam-delivery system
  - > Fits in most major particle-physics laboratories
- > **Impact:** potentially 4x cheaper and greener than counterparts based solely on RF





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# Rough cost estimates for HALHF

- > Scaled from existing collider projects (ILC/CLIC) where possible → not exact
  - > European accounting (2022 \$): **~\$1.9B** (~1/4 of ILC TDR cost @ 250 GeV)
  - > US accounting (“TPC”): **\$2.3–3.9B** (\$4.6B from ITF model for RF accelerators)
- > Dominated by conventional collider costs (97%) — **PWFA linac only ~3% of the cost**

Subsystem	Original cost (MILCU)	Comment	Scaling factor	HALHF cost (MILCU)	Fraction
Particle sources, damping rings	430	CLIC cost [76], halved for $e^+$ damping rings only <sup>a</sup>	0.5	215	14%
RF linac with klystrons	548	CLIC cost, as RF power is similar	1	548	35%
PWFA linac	477	ILC cost [46], scaled by length and multiplied by 6 <sup>b</sup>	0.1	48	3%
Transfer lines	477	ILC cost, scaled to the ~4.6 km required <sup>c</sup>	0.15	72	5%
Electron BDS	91	ILC cost, also at 500 GeV	1	91	6%
Positron BDS	91	ILC cost, scaled by length <sup>d</sup>	0.25	23	1%
Beam dumps	67	ILC cost (similar beam power) + drive-beam dumps <sup>e</sup>	1	80	5%
Civil engineering	2,055	ILC cost, scaled to the ~10 km of tunnel required	0.21	476	31%
			Total	1,553	100%

- > Estimated **power usage is ~100 MW** (similar to ILC and CLIC):
  - > 21 MW beam power + 27 MW losses + 2×10 MW damping rings + 50% for cooling/etc.

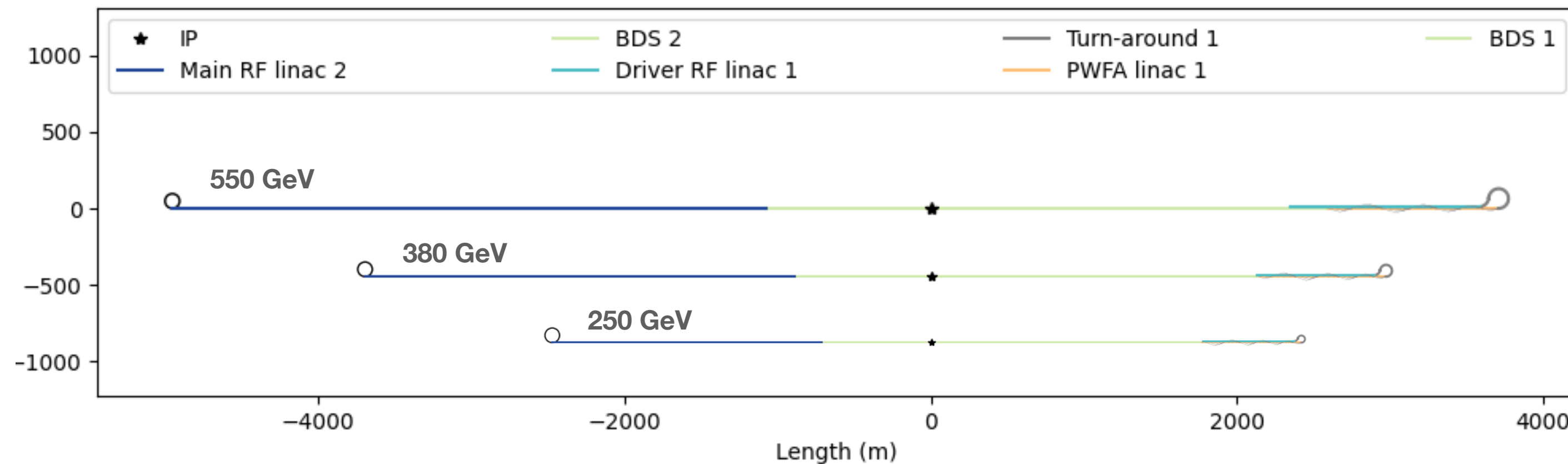
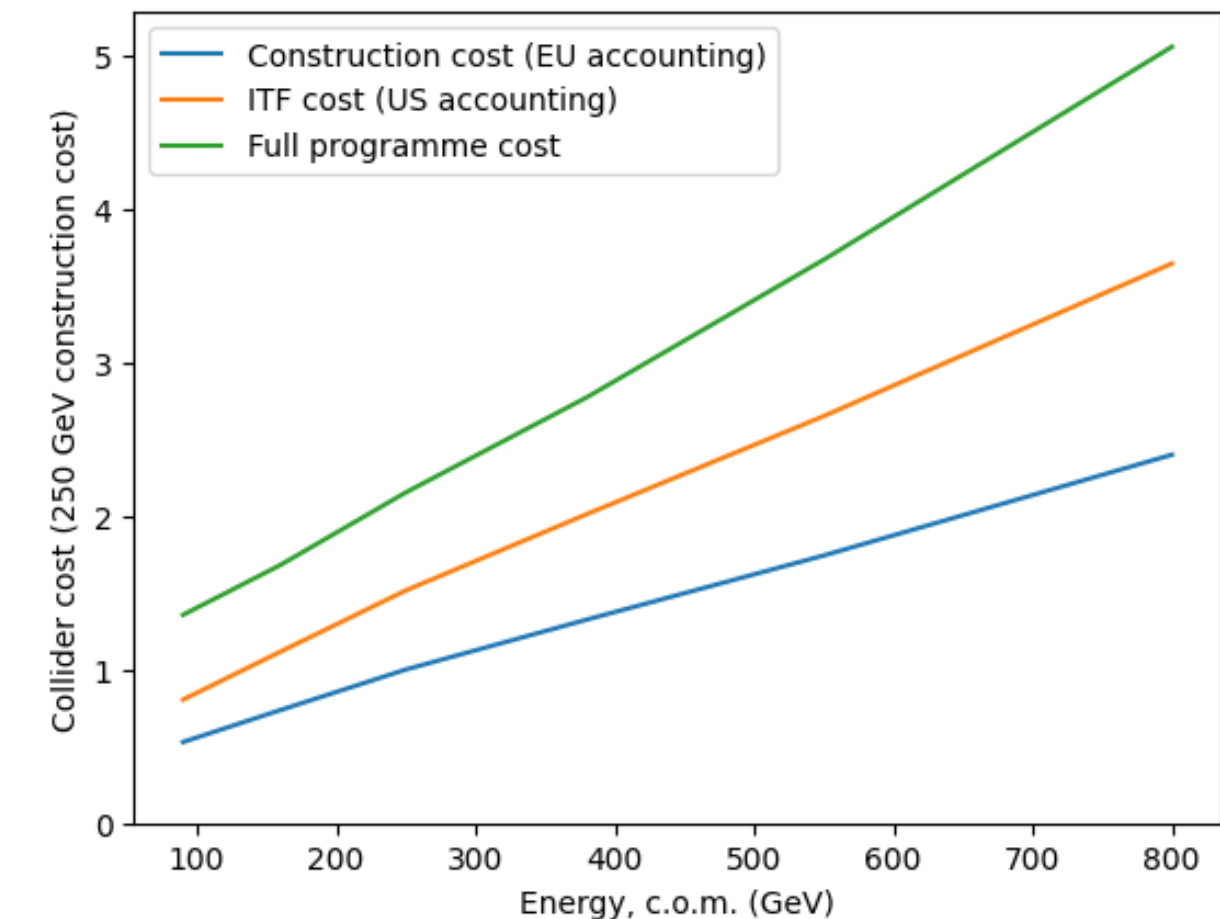
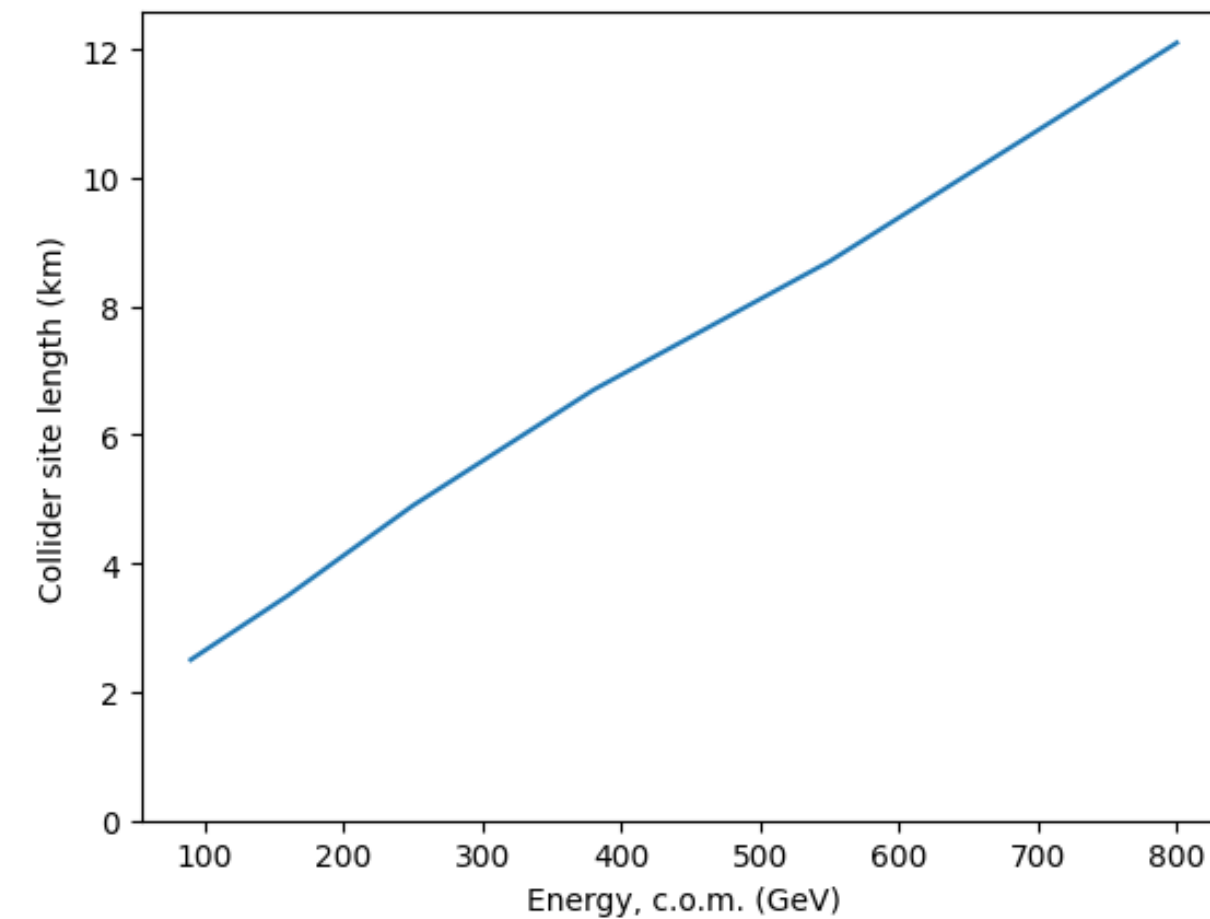
# 380 GeV, 550 GeV, and beyond?

How does the length and cost scale with energy?

> Higgs-physics motivations for higher energies:

Energy c.o.m. (GeV)	Length (km)	EU / US / Full Programme Cost (norm. cost units)
250 (HZ)	4.9	1 / 1.5 / 2.2
380 (ttbar)	6.7	1.3 / 2.0 / 2.8
550 (HHH)	8.7	1.7 / 2.7 / 3.7
800	12.1	2.4 / 3.6 / 5.1

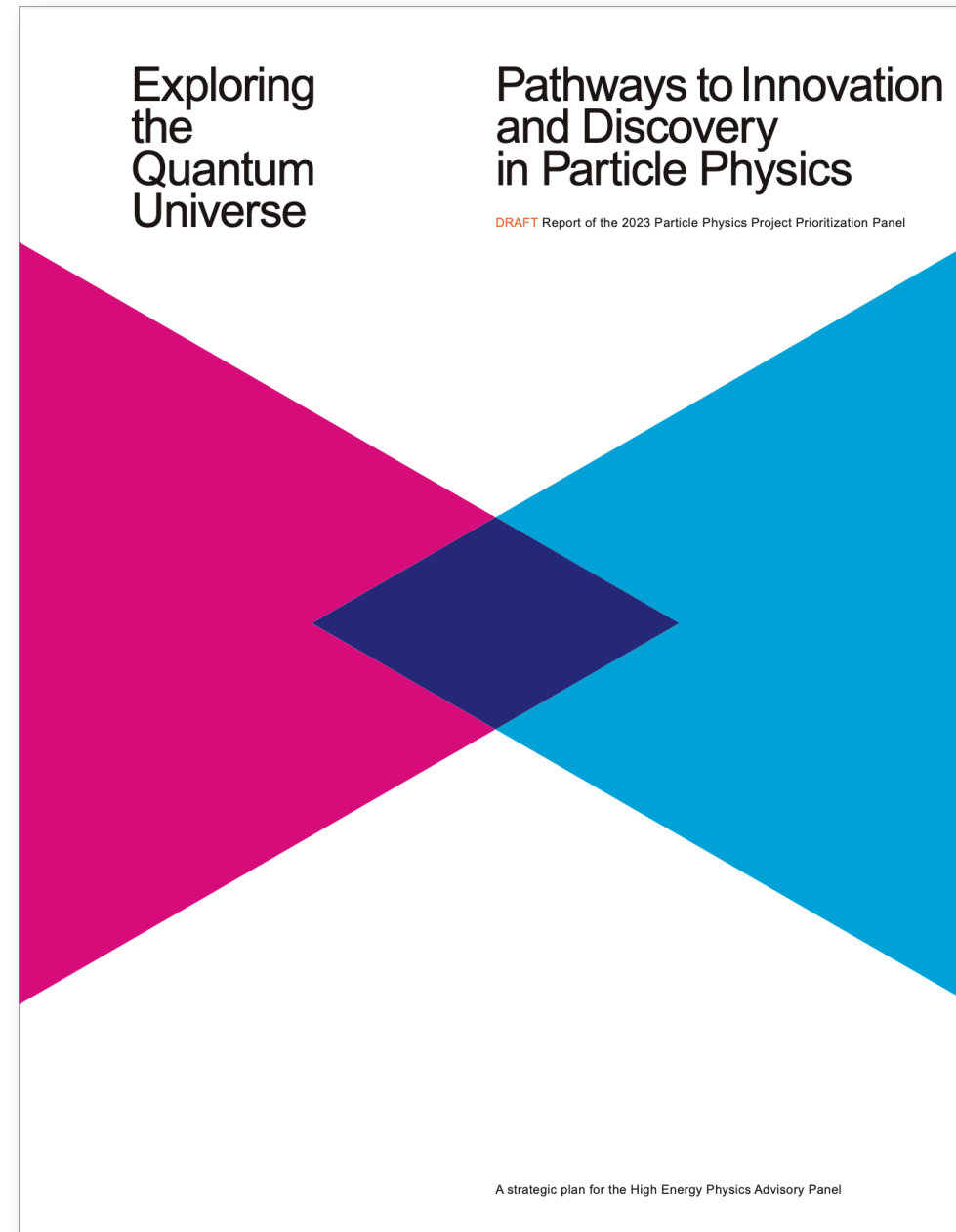
Bayesian optimisation framework developed to optimise the footprint for cost (build + run)



> But HALHF does not scale to the energy frontier → a multi-TeV collider will have to be symmetric again...

# 10 TeV pCM wakefield collider

## P5 prioritises accelerator R&D toward a future 10 TeV pCM collider



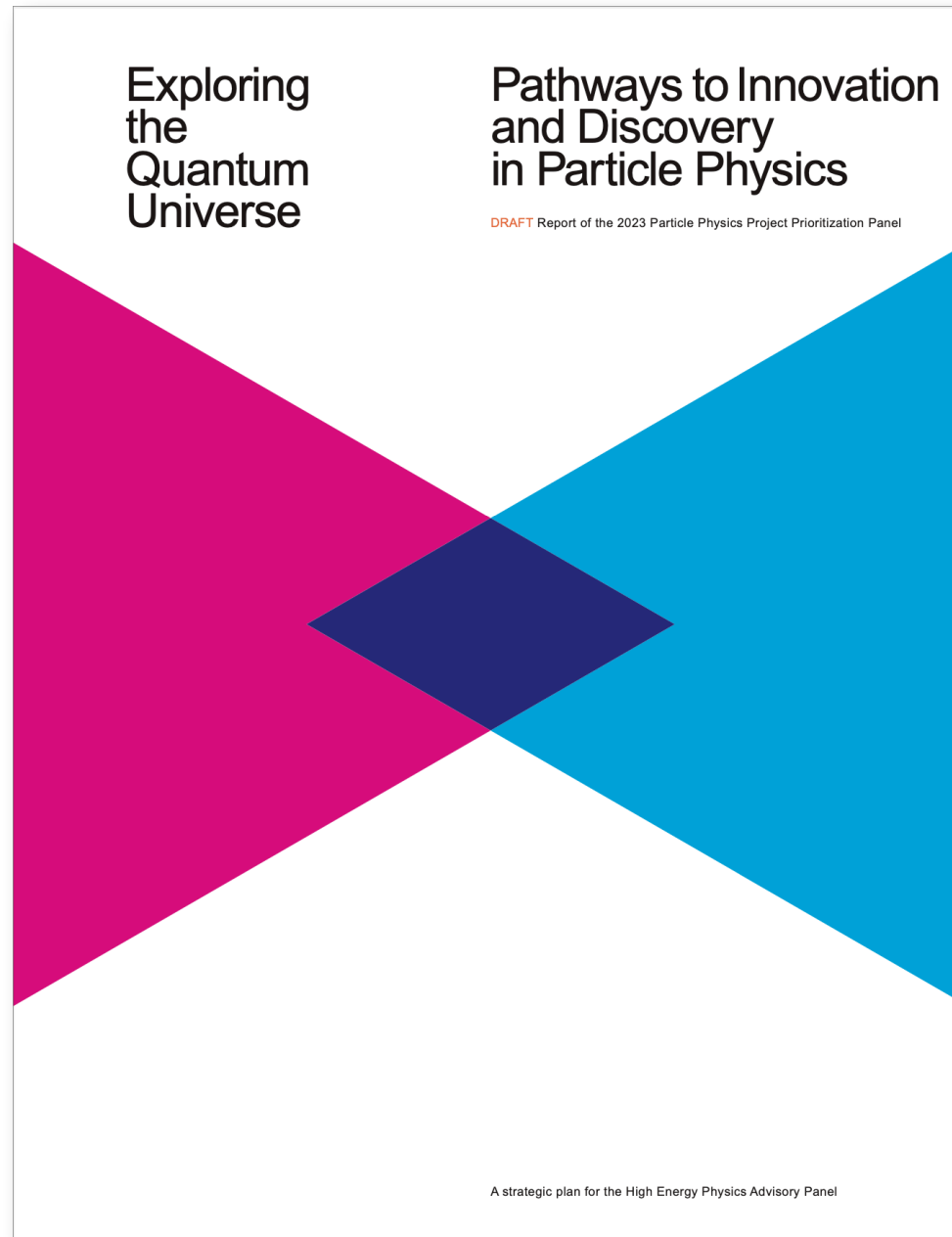
**Recommendation 4:** Support a comprehensive effort to develop the resources—theoretical, computational and technological—essential to our 20-year vision for the field. This includes an aggressive R&D program that, while technologically challenging, could yield revolutionary accelerator designs that chart a realistic path to a **10 TeV pCM collider**.

Investing in the future of the field to fulfill this vision requires the following:

- a. Support vigorous R&D toward a cost-effective 10 TeV pCM collider based on proton, muon, or possible wakefield technologies, including an evaluation of options for US siting of such a machine, with a goal of being ready to build major test facilities and demonstrator facilities within the next 10 years (sections 3.2, 5.1, 6.5 and Recommendation 6).

# 10 TeV pCM wakefield collider

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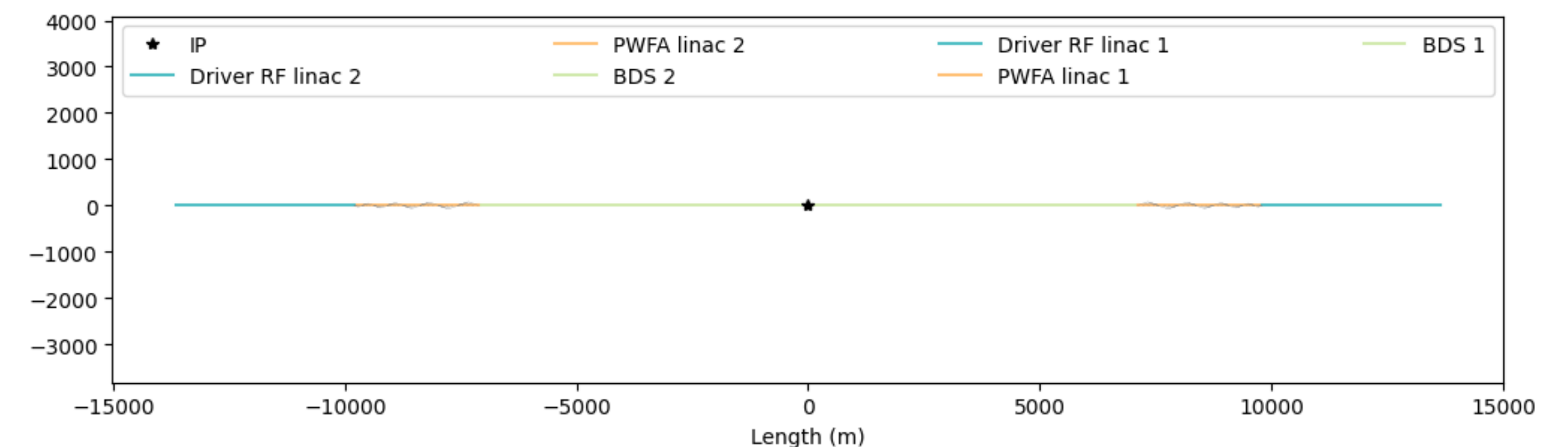
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> Same tools developed for HALHF can be used for a 10 TeV-scale  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  collider using two  $e^-$  beams and similar PWFA linacs

- > *Estimated length: ~27 km (BDS is ~14 km)*
- > *Luminosity and cost is difficult to estimate due to unknowns in gamma conversion (should not be scaled from HALHF)*



*The pragmatic approach:*

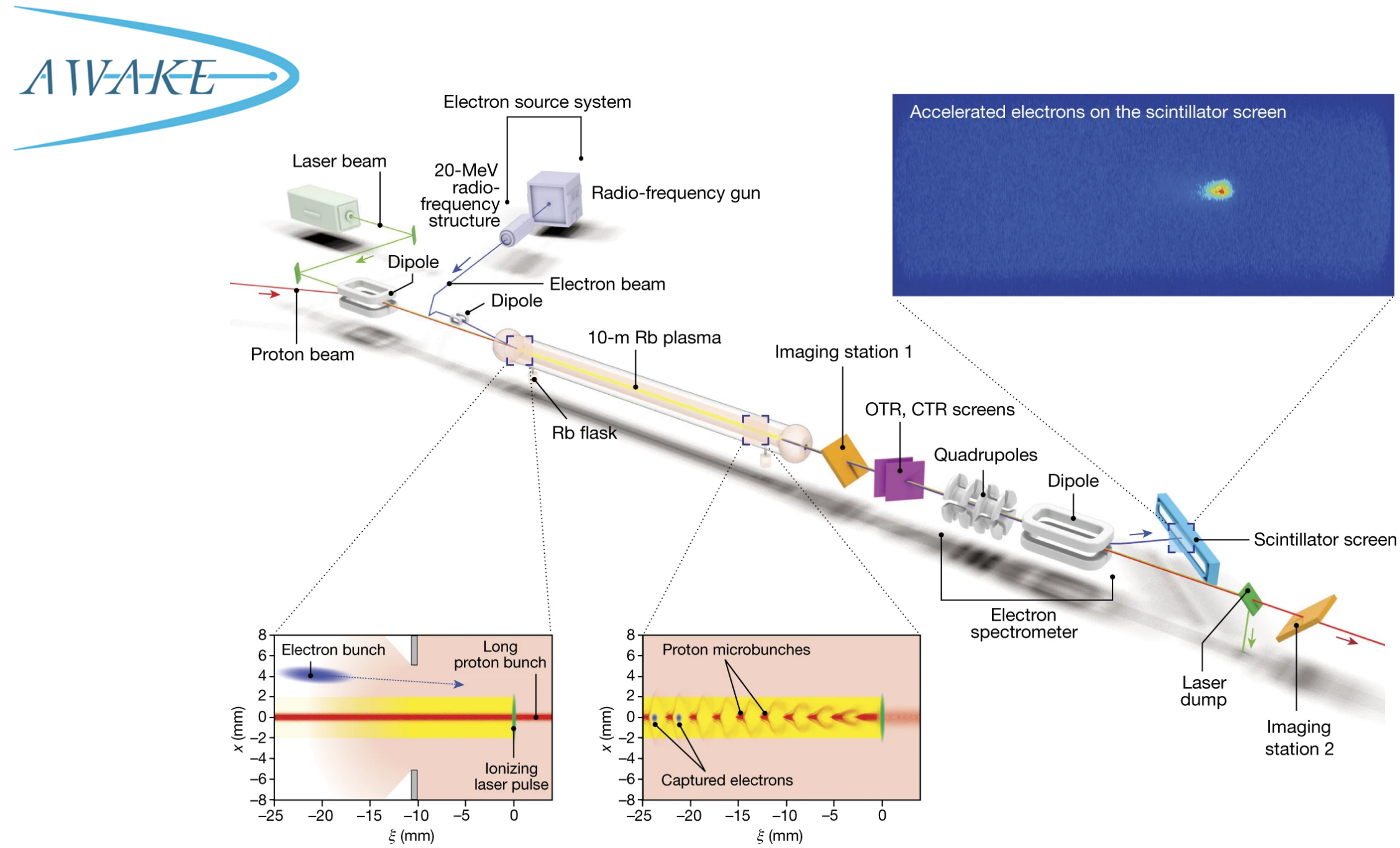
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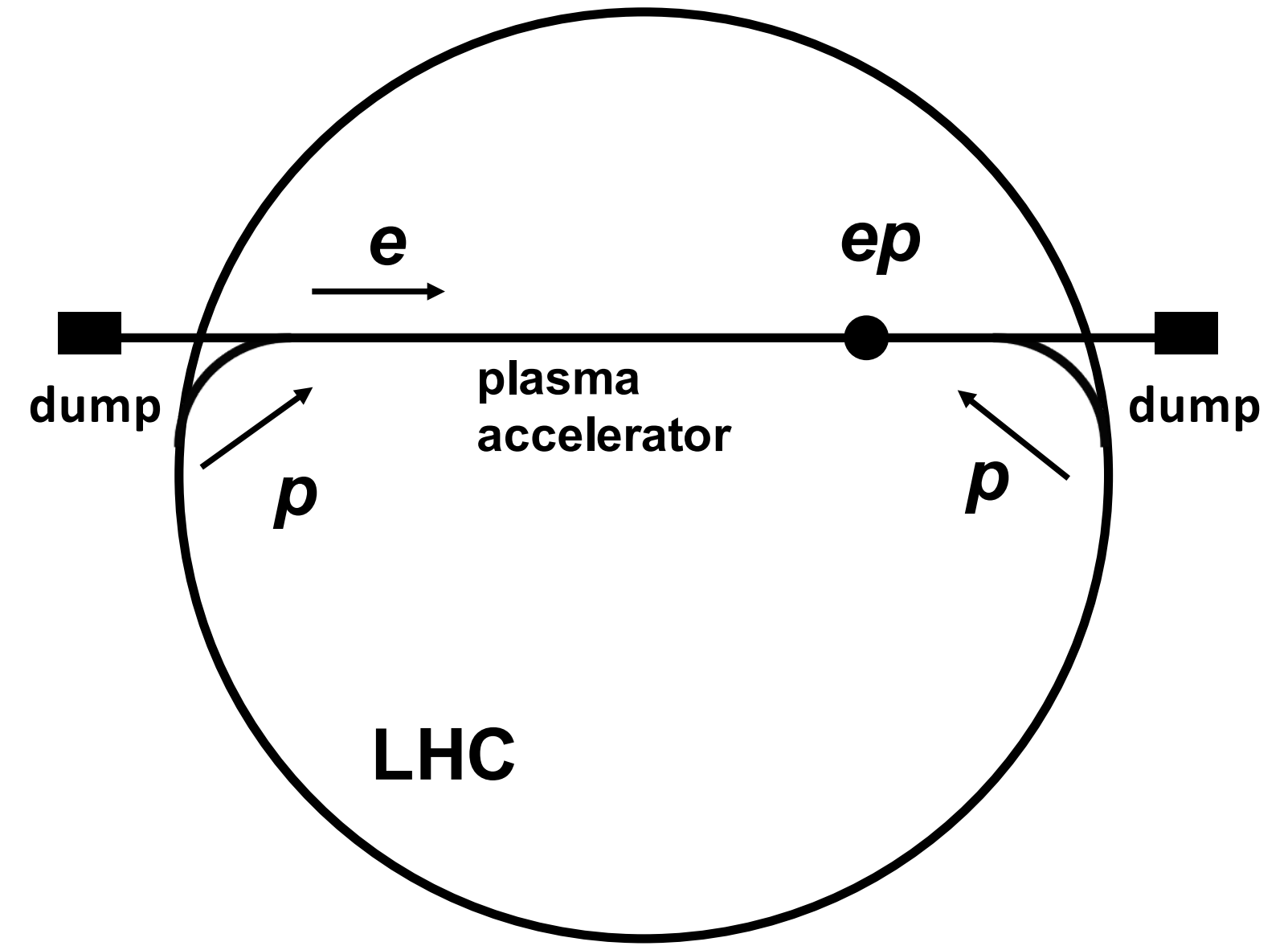
***protons***

# Energy-frontier (multi-TeV CM) electron-proton collider

Leveraging excellent progress in proton-driven plasma accelerators at AWAKE



From: Adli et al. (AWAKE Collab.), Nature 561, 363 (2018)



From: A. Caldwell & M. Wing, Eur. Phys. J. C 76, 463 (2016)

- > Acceleration to 2 GeV is a great achievement
- > Experiment not optimised for electron injection
- > **Next goal:** acceleration to high energy with high quality

- > **First application:** fixed-target experiments for dark photon searches
- > **Ultimate application:** very high-energy (9 TeV CM) electron-proton collider
- > **Moon-shot application:** proton-driven plasma-based Higgs Factory (Farmer et al., arXiv:2401.14765)

# Outlook and plans

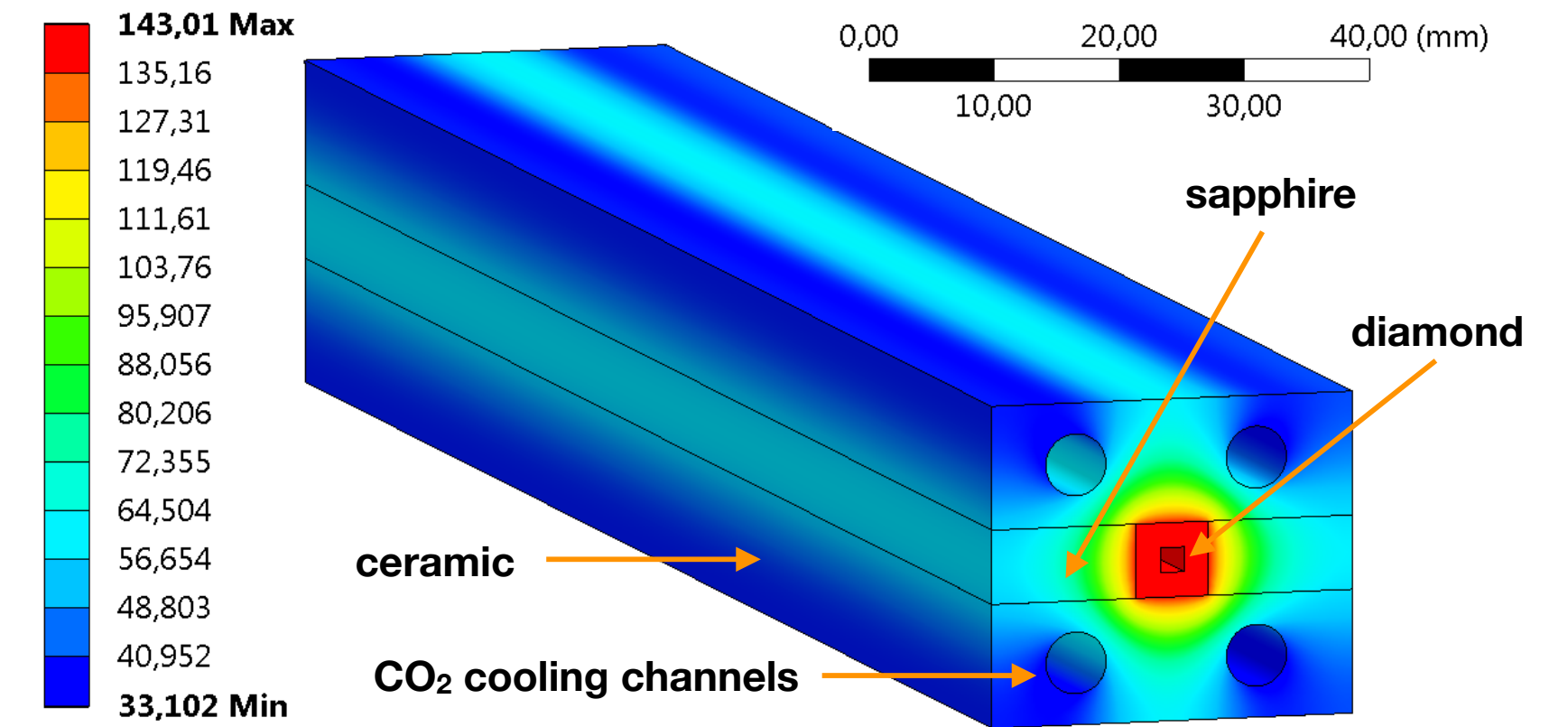




# Many innovations and developments still required

Decouple the challenge to leverage existing facilities whilst planning for new ones

- > *Experimental R&D in existing facilities:*
  - > Single-stage operation with large energy gain and beam-quality preservation, with high overall efficiency
  - > High repetition rate (optimised bunch-train pattern)
  - > **High average power (plasma heating, cell cooling)**
  - > Achromatic transport between stages



Concept for cooled plasma cells.  
Image credit: R. D'Arcy

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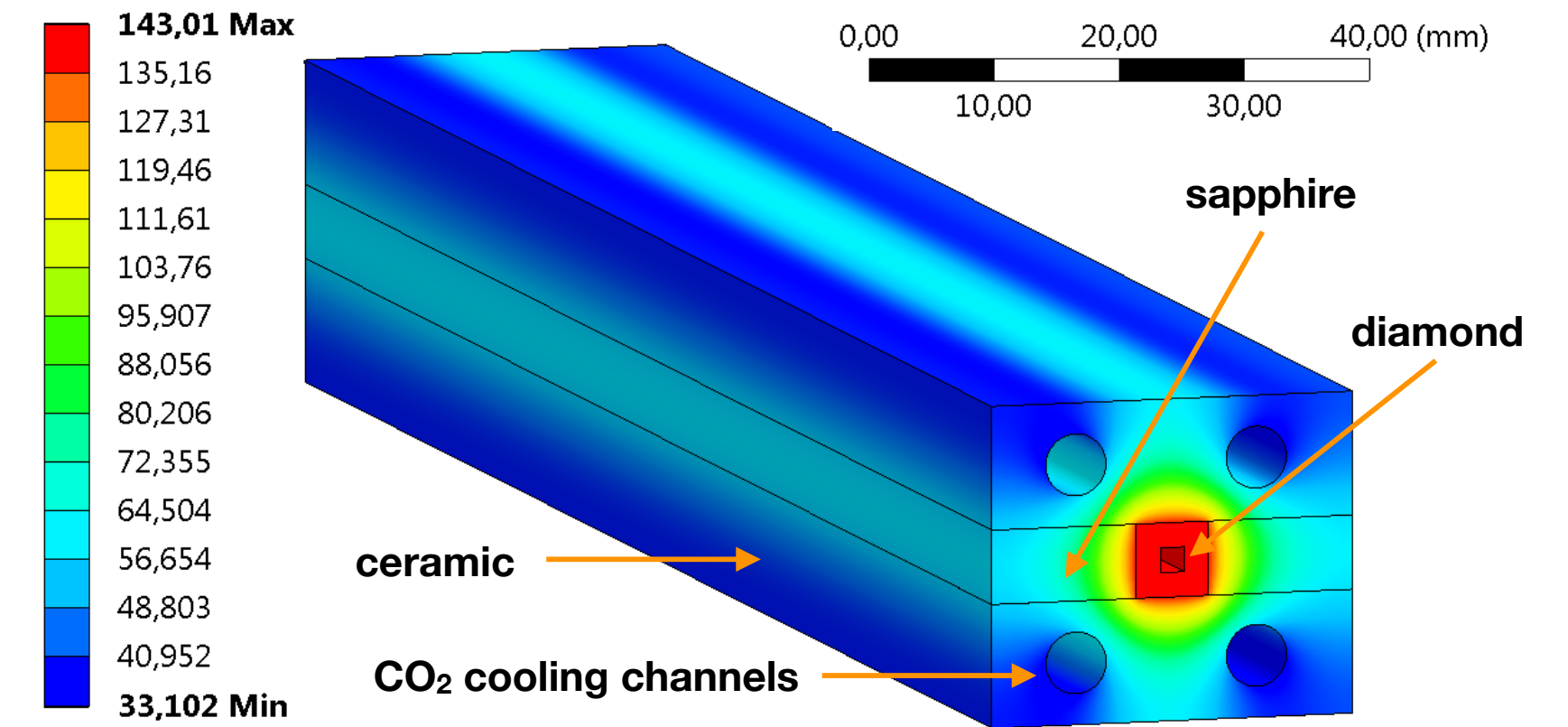
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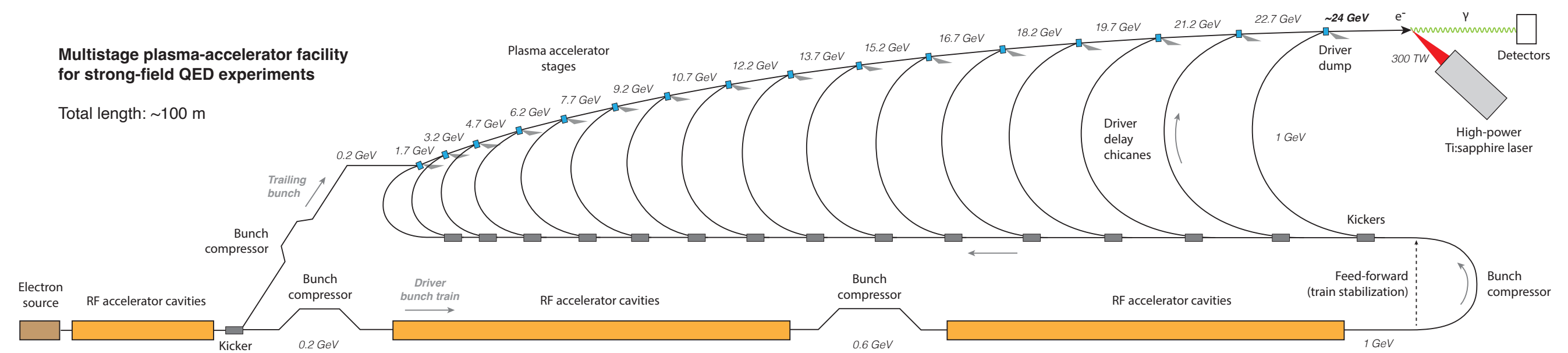
> *Required new experimental facilities:*

> **Multi-stage demonstrator facility**

- >  $O(\$10-100M)$  depending on final energy
- > *Conceptual design in progress*
- > Spin polarisation



Concept for cooled plasma cells.  
Image credit: R. D'Arcy



Concept for multi-stage demonstrator facility with strong-field QED experiment.  
Image credit: C. A. Lindstrøm

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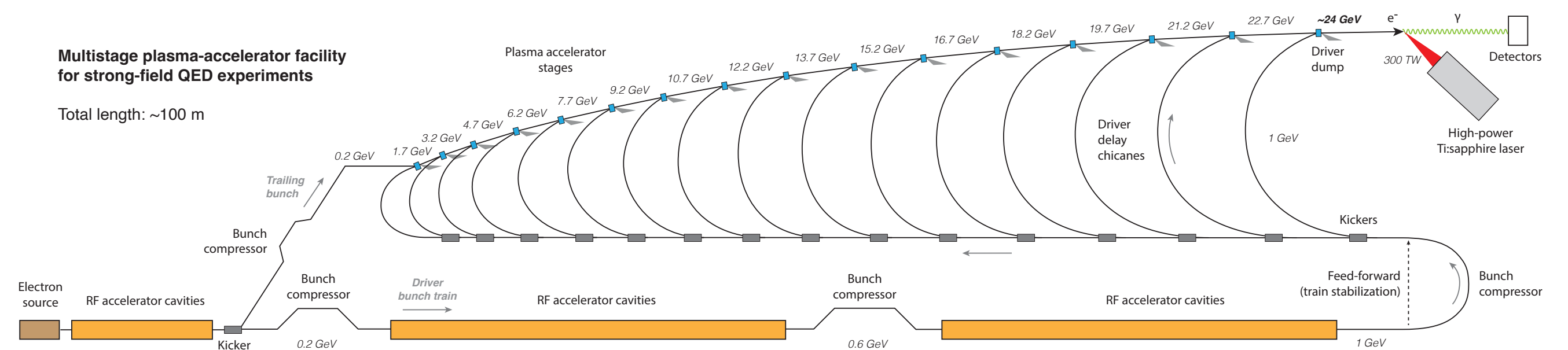
## Possible intermediate infrastructures for HEP use:

- > Strong-field QED experimentation
- > Plasma-based electron linac for LHeC
- > Fixed-target experiment for dark-matter search
- > Test-beam facility for detector development

## > Required new experimental facilities:

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Concept for multi-stage demonstrator facility with strong-field QED experiment.

Image credit: C. A. Lindstrøm

# A staged approach to plasma-based collider readiness

The LDG Plasma-Accelerator R&D Roadmap for the ESPP Update



Single-stage accelerators (proton-driven)

Timeline (approximate/aspirational)		
0–10 years	10–20 years	20–30 years
<b>Demonstration of:</b> Preserved beam quality, acceleration in very long plasmas, plasma uniformity (longitudinal & transverse)	<b>Fixed-target experiment (AWAKE)</b> Dark-photon search, strong-field QED experiment, etc. (50–200 GeV e <sup>-</sup> )	(Facility upgrade) ↓
	<b>Demonstration of:</b> Use of LHC beams, TeV acceleration, beam delivery	
		<b>Energy-frontier collider</b> 10 TeV c.o.m. electron–proton collider

R&D (exp. & theory)  
 HEP facility (earliest start of construction)

Multistage accelerators (Electron-driven or laser-driven)

Timeline (approximate/aspirational)				
0–5 years	5–10 years	10–15 years	15–20 years	20+ years
<b>Pre-CDR &amp; CDR (HALHF)</b>  Simulation study to determine self-consistent parameters (demonstration goals)  First proof-of-principle experimentation	<b>Demonstration of:</b> Scalable staging, driver distribution, stabilisation (active and passive)	<b>Multistage tech demonstrator</b> Strong-field QED experiment (25–100 GeV e <sup>-</sup> )	(Facility upgrade) ↓	(Facility upgrade) ↓
	<b>Demonstration of:</b> Preserved beam quality, high rep. rate, plasma temporal uniformity & cell cooling	<b>Avg. power tech demonstrator</b> X-ray FEL (20 GeV e <sup>-</sup> )		
	<b>Demonstration of:</b> High wall-plug efficiency (e <sup>-</sup> drivers) & spin polarisation  <b>R&amp;D into conventional-accelerator &amp; particle-physics concepts</b>		<b>Higgs factory (HALHF)</b> Asymmetric, plasma–RF hybrid collider (250–380 GeV c.o.m.)	
	<b>Demonstration of:</b> Energy-efficient positron acceleration in plasma, high wall-plug efficiency (laser drivers), ultra-low emittances, energy recovery schemes, compact beam-delivery systems		<b>Multi-TeV e<sup>+</sup>–e<sup>-</sup>/γ–γ collider</b> Symmetric, all-plasma-based collider (> 2 TeV c.o.m.)	

Feasibility study  
 R&D (exp. & theory)  
 HEP facility (earliest start of construction)

# Additional funding is required to achieve all proposed R&D

## The LDG Plasma-Accelerator R&D Roadmap for the ESPP Update

### ESPP Roadmap for Plasma Accelerators — Working Packages and Required Resources

WP No.	Workpackage	Postdocs	Other Resources required
1.1	Overall collider concepts (Higgs Factory)	1	Buying time of coordinators Access to computing resources
1.2	Beam driven electron linac – integrated simulations	2	Buying time of coordinators Access to computing resources
1.3	Laser driven electron linac	3	Funding for joint meetings Access to computing resources
1.4	Positron acceleration	1	Experimental consumables Access to computing resources
1.5	Spin preservation	1	Experimental consumables Access to computing resources
1.6	Final focus system	1	TBD
1.7	Sustainability analysis	1	TBD
2.1	High-repetition rate laser-driven plasma module (coordination)	1	Funding for joint meetings
2.2	High rep-rate laser drivers	4	Resource for prototypes
2.3	High rep-rate targetry	2	Resources for testing concepts, Facility Access
2.4	LPA-experimental facility design (EPAC, CALA, ELI)	2	Resources for testing concepts, Facility Access
3.1	Electron-beam driven PWFA – experiment (FLASHForward/CLARA)	2	2 postdocs to realize/approximate HALHF-relevant parameters in today's operational test experiments
3.2	Proton-driven PWFA (at AWAKE)	2	Continued funding
4.1	Early High energy physics experiments	2	Access to computing resources

#### > *Opportunity:*

- > A compelling list of goals and activities
- > New activities are often leveraged by significant in-house activities at major labs

#### > *Key challenge:*

- > Progress is being made with percent-level input from existing academics and researchers e.g. pre-CDR document and ESPP update document for HALHF
- > But we need to acquire an **extra ~3M€/yr for ~5 yrs** for all the necessary R&D for HALHF and AWAKE
- > Funding required for people, hardware, HPC, etc.

# Conclusions

- > Plasma accelerator technology is of high interest for the future of particle physics
  - > Reduce the size of future colliders (reduced construction cost, environmental impact)
  - > Upgrade path for Higgs-Factory linear colliders (repurposing of ILC/CLIC/C<sup>3</sup> infrastructure)
- > The community is making progress to deliver self-consistent concepts
  - > Higgs Factory → HALHF collaboration is pioneering system integration and optimisation (**ESPP**)
  - > Energy Frontier → 10 TeV pCM wakefield collider end-to-end design effort launched in US (**P5**)
- > What is needed for these studies to be successful?
  - > Continued international AAC community engagement
  - > Close partnership with particle physics theorists & experimentalists (physics case, detectors)
  - > Targeted funding (primarily personnel)
- > An opportunity for UK leadership
  - > World-leading expertise in novel-accelerator research
  - > State-of-the-art novel-accelerator facilities (e.g. EPAC, CLARA) at open-minded labs (e.g. RAL, Daresbury)