

COMPASS Upgrade overview

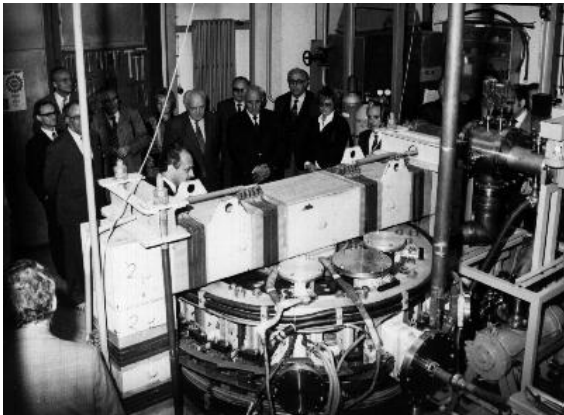
12/2025

INSTITUTE OF PLASMA PHYSICS OF THE CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

U Slovanky 2525/1a, 182 00 Prague 8

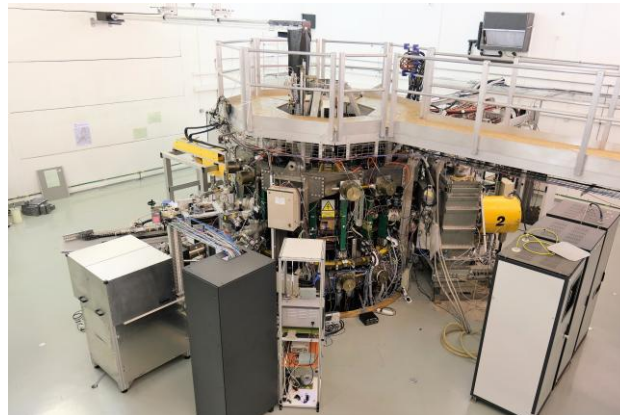
tokamak CASTOR

1977-2006



tokamak COMPASS

2008-2021



tokamak COMPASS-U

under construction



**FUSION
PLASMA**

Research activities build on the long-standing efforts of the international community to master controlled thermonuclear fusion and is part of the worldwide fusion energy research and development.



**LASER
PLASMA**

We operate one of the most powerful laser system in Europe, the Prague Asterix Laser System (PALS) providing unique research conditions for experimental and theoretical studies of laser-produced plasmas.



**PLASMA
CHEMISTRY
AND
MATERIALS**

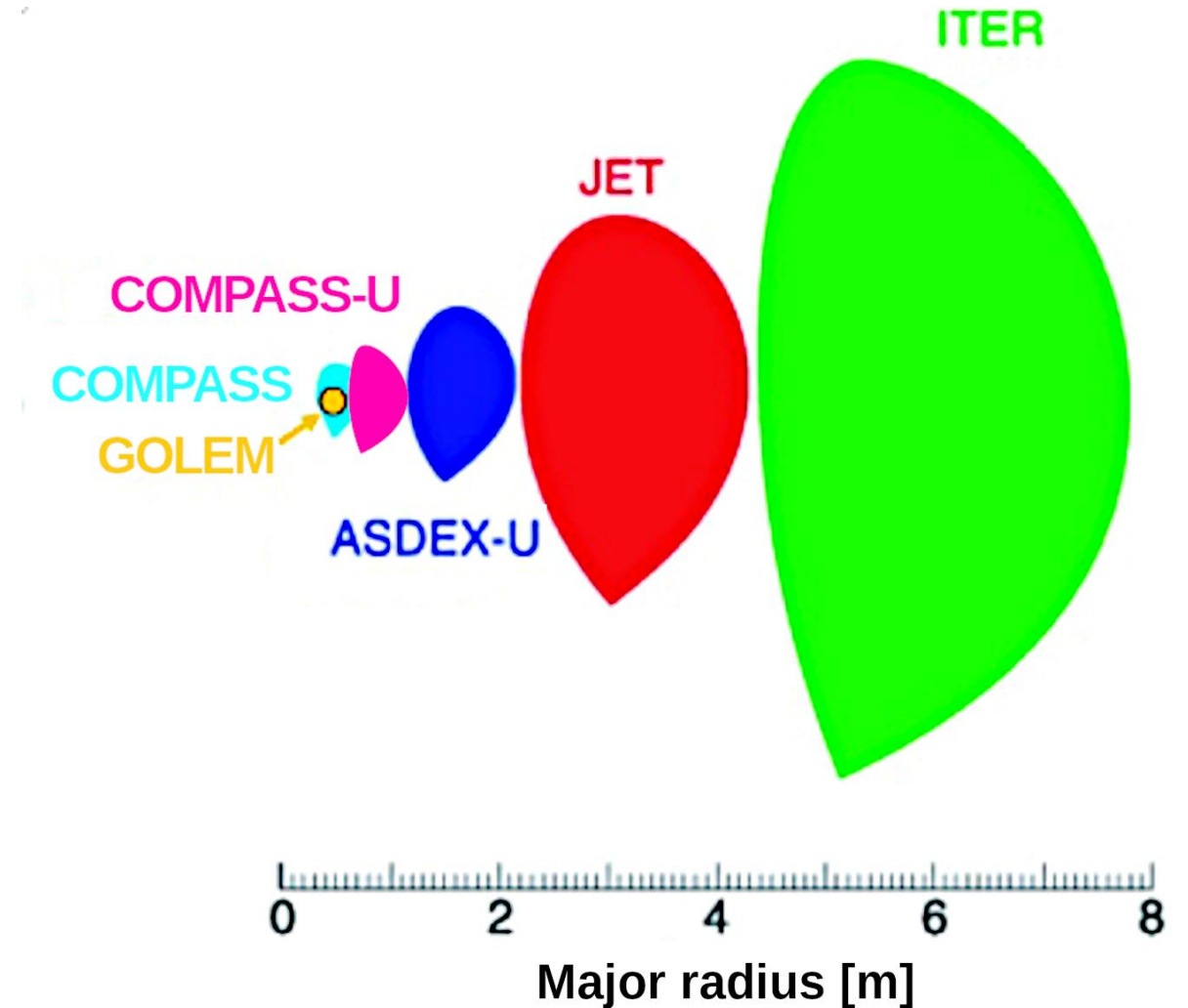
Basic and applied research deals with plasmas generated by pulsed high-voltage electric charges in gases and liquids. Interactions of materials with plasmas and the use of thermal plasmas.



TOPTEC

Research in the field of aspheric and free form optics, precision measurement and subsequent transfer to industrial practice is the main focus of TOPTEC, one of Europe's leading research centres for optical systems.

		COMPASS	COMPASS-U
Toroidal magnetic field	T	1.5 (2.1)	5
Plasma current	MA	0.4	2
Major radius	m	0.56	0.9
Minor radius	m	0.2	0.27
Triangularity		0.4	0.6
Elongation		1.8	1.8
Pulse length	s	0.4	2-10
First wall material		C	W
Plasma shapes		fixed*	variable
NBI heating power	MW	0.6	3-6
ECRH heating power	MW	0	1-8

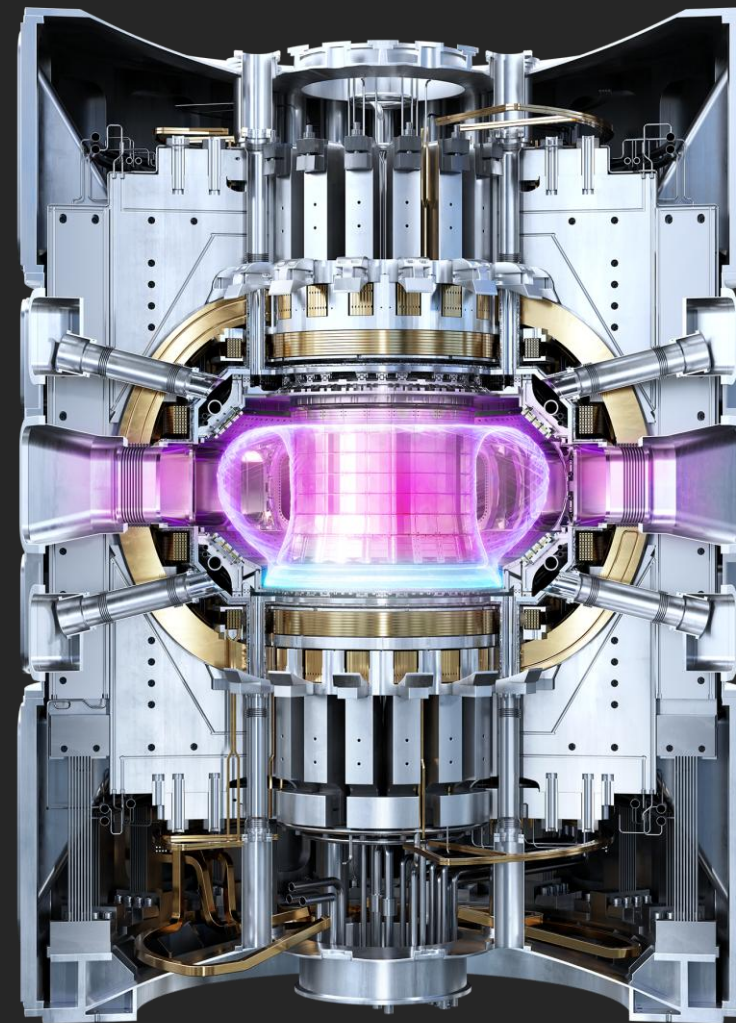


COMPASS Upgrade

Compact flexible device with set of unique parameters to support exploitation of ITER and development of DEMO

Focus on two of the EUROfusion Roadmap missions:

- Plasma regimes of operation
- Heat-exhaust systems
- High magnetic field (5 T), access to advanced confinement modes
- High power fluxes ($\sim \text{GW/m}^2$), high plasma and neutral density in closed divertor
- Hot first wall (500 °C), liquid metal technologies



Main parameters

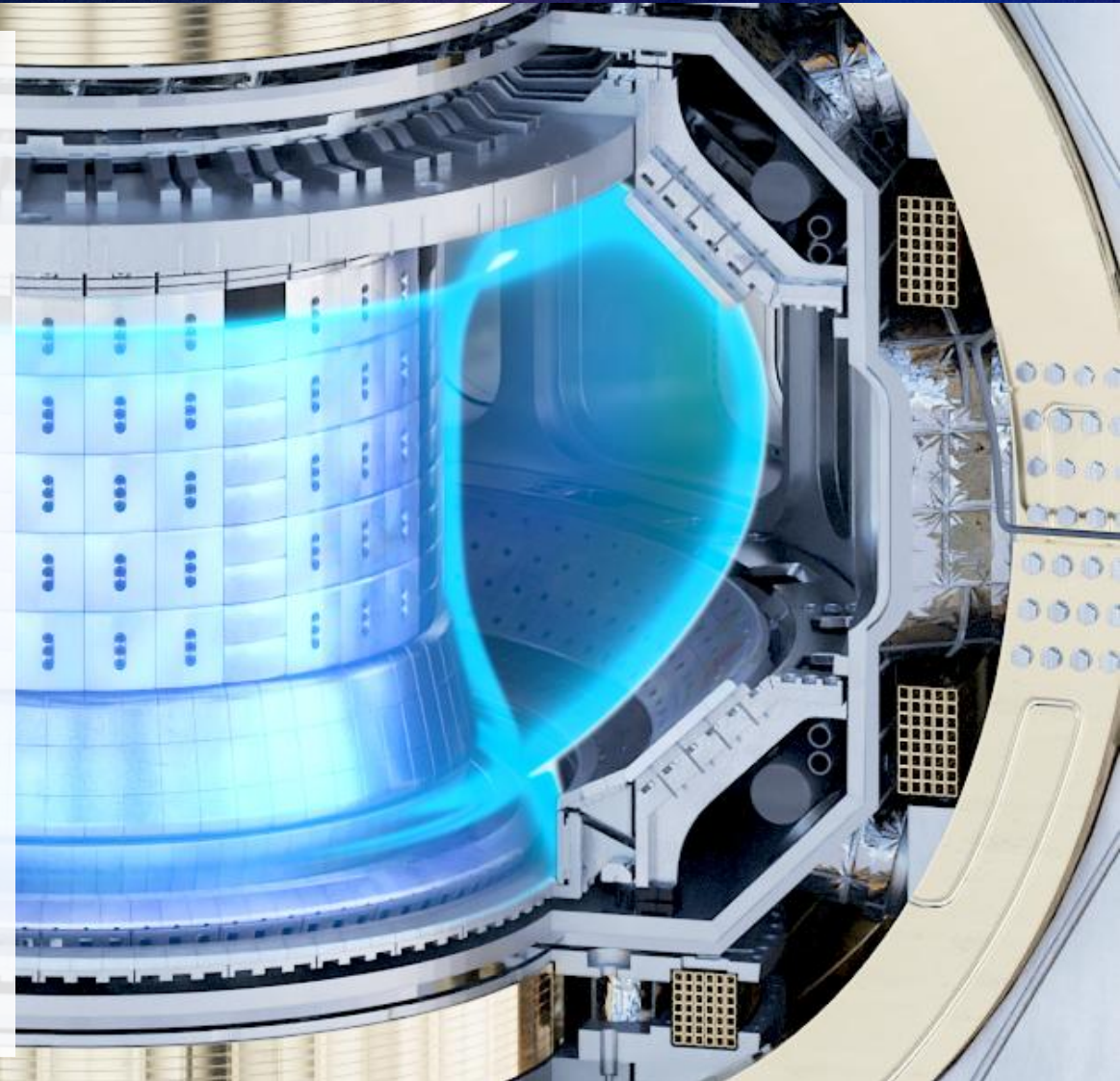
- Toroidal magnetic field $B_t = 5 \text{ T}$
- Plasma current $I_p = 2 \text{ MA}$
- Major radius $R_g = 0.9 \text{ m}$
- Minor radius $a = 0.27 \text{ m}$
- Aspect ratio $A = 3.3$
- Triangularity $\delta = 0.3\text{-}0.6$
- Elongation $\kappa = 1.8$
- Enough space for different divertors
- Metallic first wall
- Vacuum vessel operation temperature up to 500°C

Plasma shapes

- single null, neg. triangularity with limited parameters (Phase 1-2)
- double null (Phase 2-3)
- snowflake, negative triangularity (Phase 3-4)

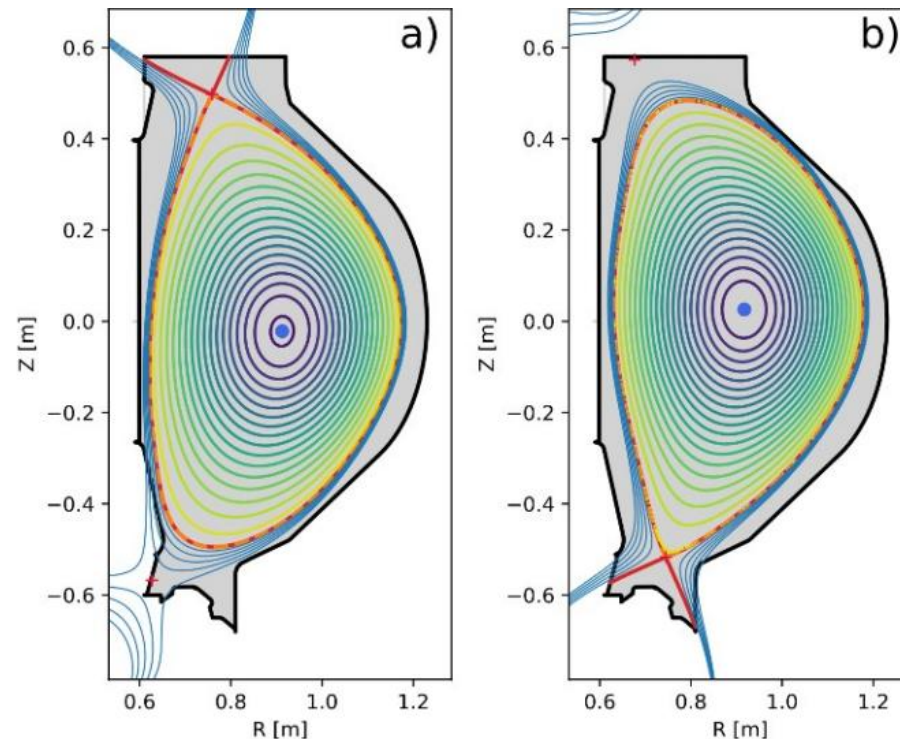
Plasma heating power

- Initial phase $P_{\text{NBI}} = 3 \text{ MW}, P_{\text{ECRH}} = 1 \text{ MW} (P^*B/R \sim 25)$
- Later phase up to $P_{\text{NBI}} = 6 \text{ MW}, P_{\text{ECRH}} = 6 \text{ MW} (P^*B/R \sim 80)$



Name	Scenario	B_T [T]	I_P [MA]	P_{in} [MW]	\bar{n}_e [10^{19} m^{-3}]	q_{95}	β_n	$T_{e,ped}$ [eV]
Early L-mode	#3100	2.5	0.8	0+0	9.0	3.2	0.67	–
Early H-mode	#3210	2.5	0.8	2+0	12	3.6	1.52	840
ITER-like H-mode	#24300	4.3	1.3	3+1	19	3.8	1.19	820
High perf. H-mode	#5400	5.0	1.6	4+2	20	3.4	1.15	1360

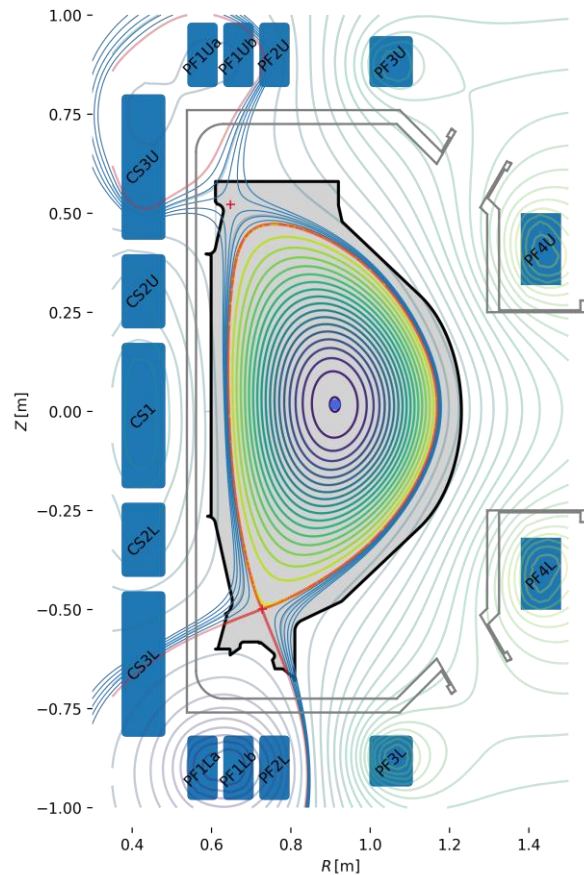
Single null
 $\kappa = 1.8, \delta = 0.5$



Lower single null

$\kappa = 1.8, \delta = 0.6$

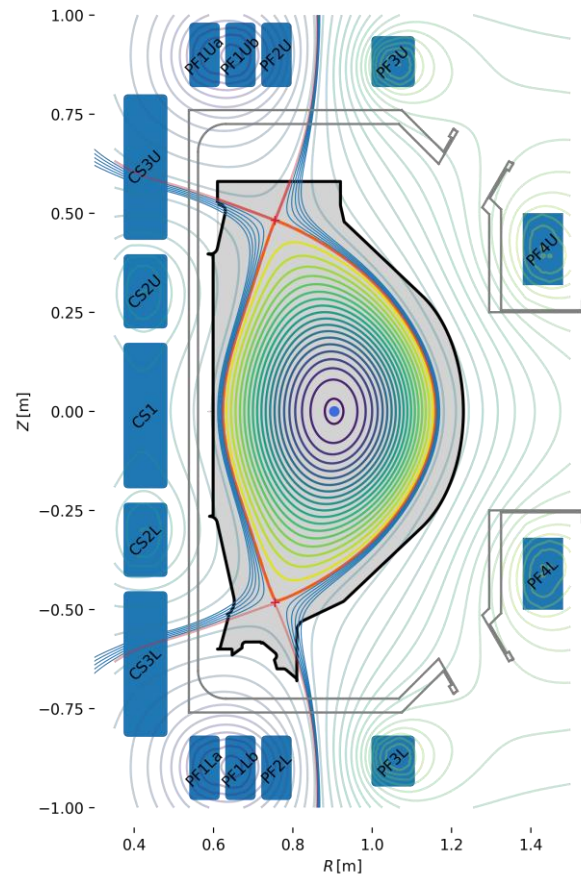
Scenario 6.6, $t = 2.05$ s



Double null

$\kappa = 1.8, \delta = 0.5$

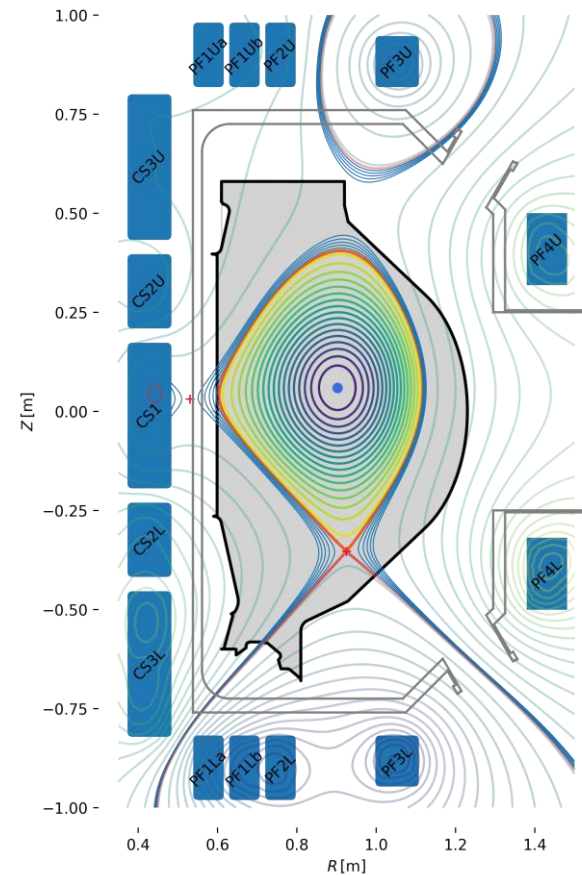
Scenario 7.4, $t = 2.05$ s



Negative triangularity

$\kappa = 1.4, \delta = -0.2, I = 1$ MA

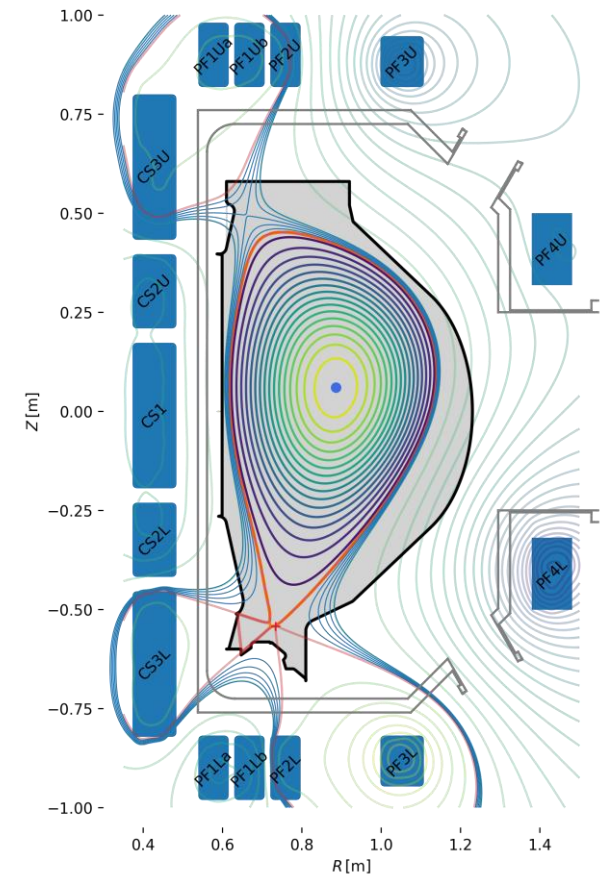
Scenario 11.0, $t = 2.15$ s



Snowflake

$I = 1.5$ MA

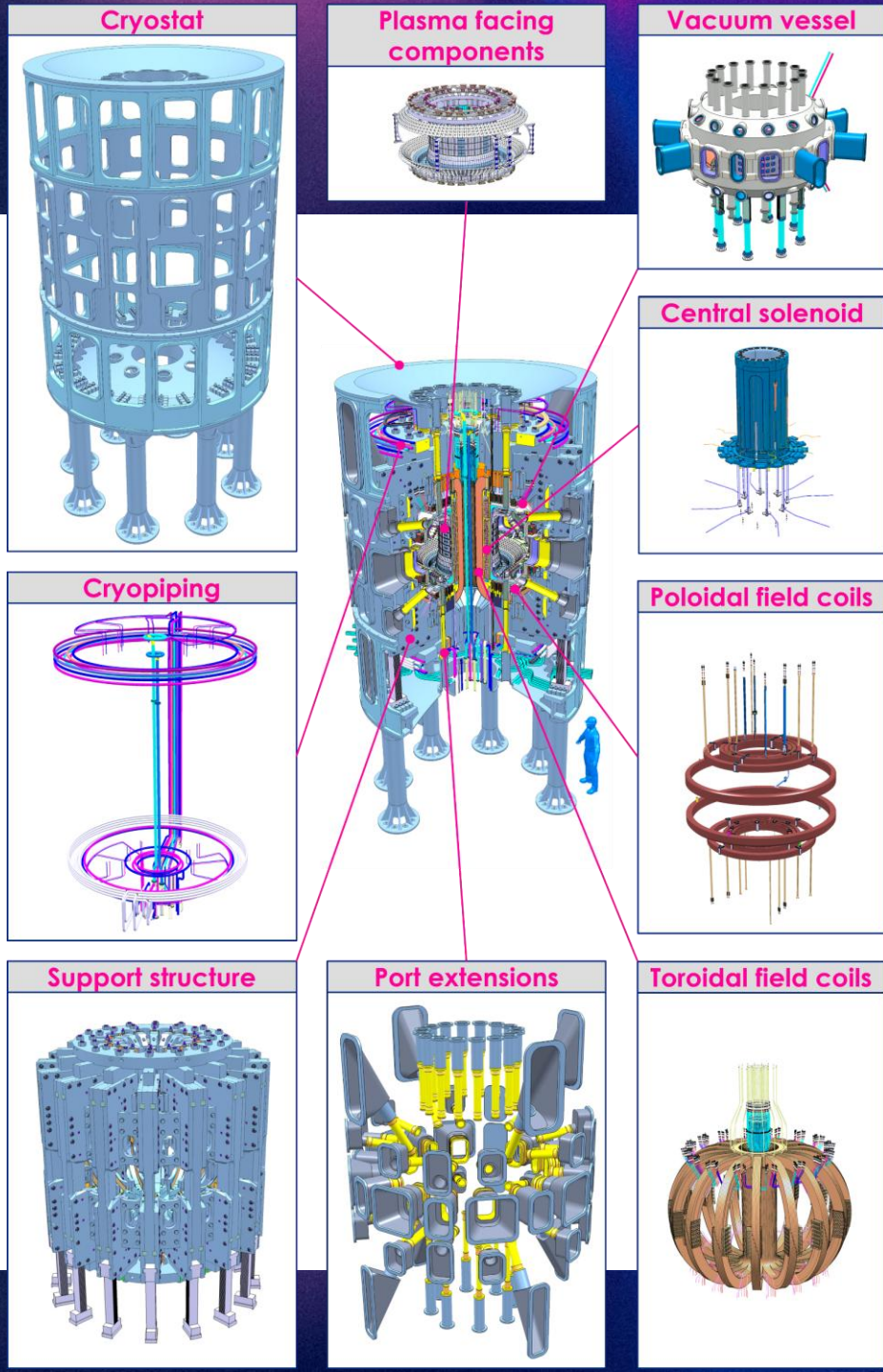
Scenario snowflake, $t = 1.05$ s



Main tokamak systems

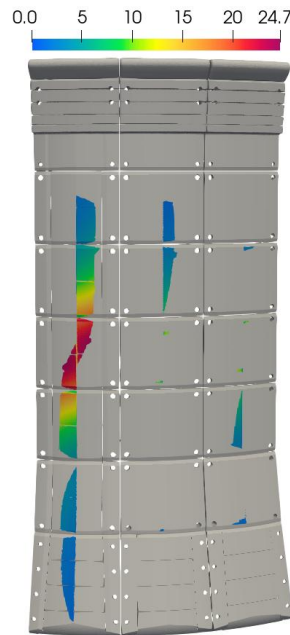
- **Plasma facing components:** Inconel, W-coated Inconel, W
- **Vacuum vessel:** up to 35 mm thick Inconel 625 (500°C)
- **Coils:** CuAg0.1 (OF) and CuCr1Zr cooled to 80K
- Central solenoid (5 segments) and PF coils (4+4) inside the TF
- Dismountable TF coils (sliding and bolted joints)
- **Support structure:** stainless steel AISI 316LN (DIN 1.4429)
- **Cryostat:** stainless steel AISI 304L
- **Cryogenic system:** LN2 heat exchanger, gaseous He, 80 K
- Vacuum vessel human access via large midplane ports

Overall dimensions ~6.6x4.8 m, weight ~300 t

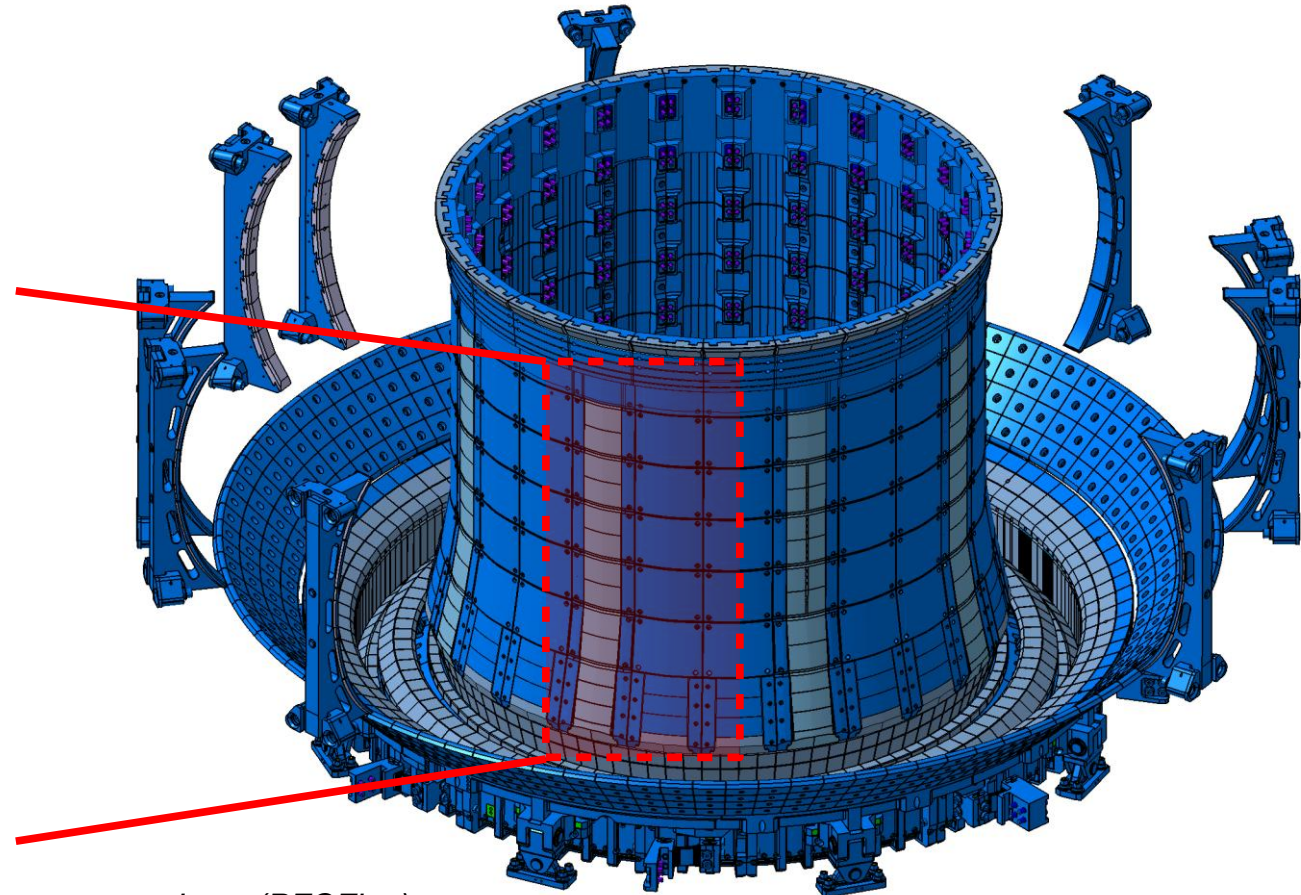


Inner wall limiters

- Plasma tiles for plasma start-up and termination (~ 0.4 s)
- **Tungsten** tiles forming **8 guard limiters**
- **Tungsten-coated Inconel⁷¹⁸** with frontside attachment

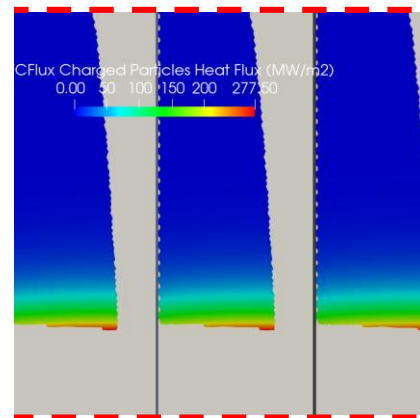
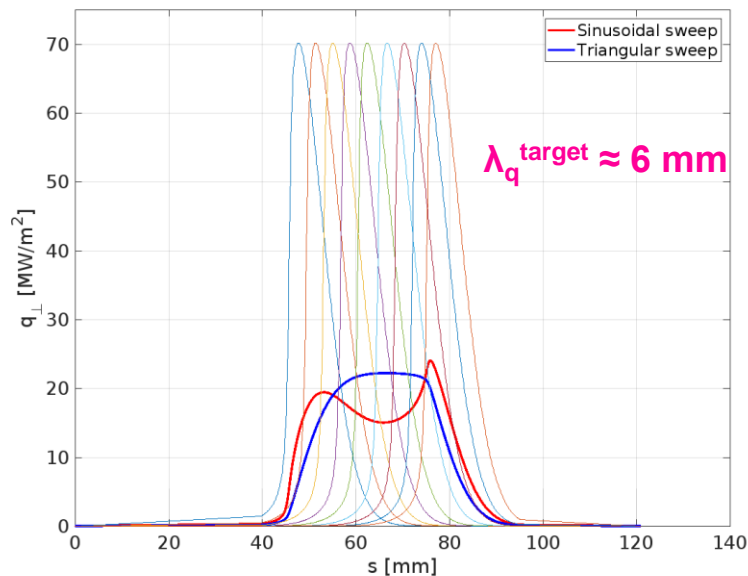


Heat flux distribution during plasma ramp-down (PFCFlux)

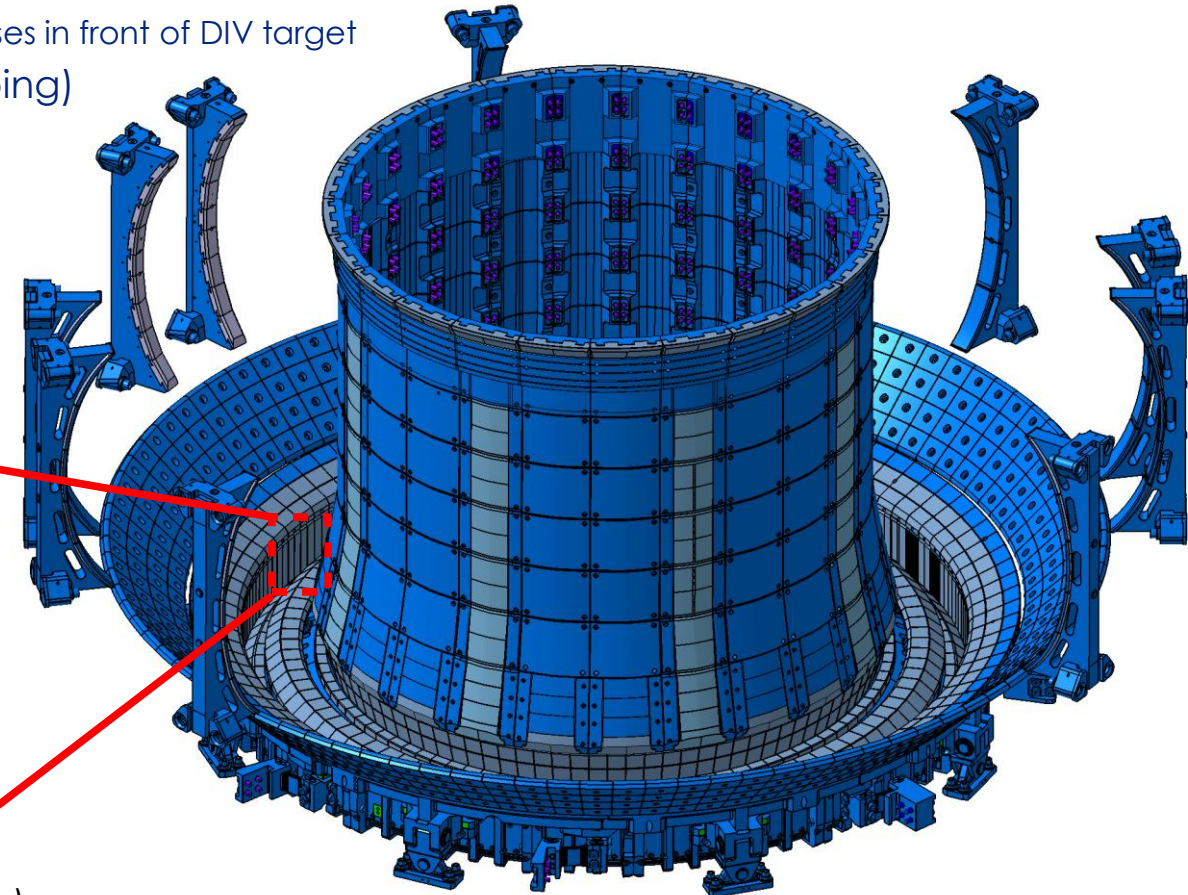


Lower divertor

- Large B_p => extremely peaked heat fluxes, $\lambda_q^{OMP} \leq 1 \text{ mm}$
- Heat loads to divertor $\sim 70 \text{ MW/m}^2$ (taking into account radiative losses in front of DIV target)
=> heat dissipation required (detachment, strike point sweeping)
=> designed for **20 MW/m², 2-3 s**
- **Tungsten** tiles bolted from the cassette back side
- Toroidal bevel of 0.6°

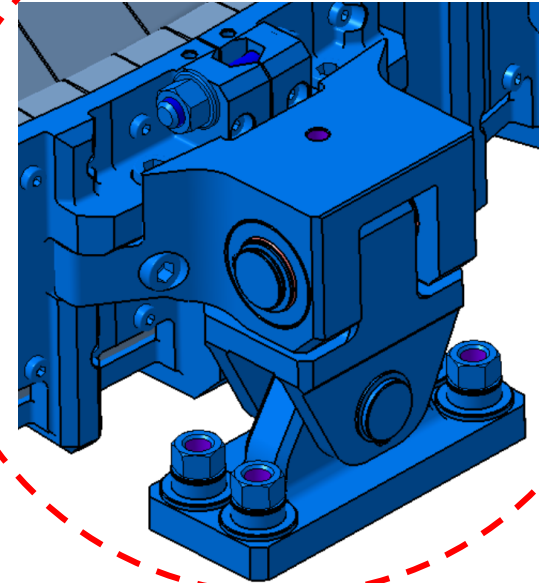
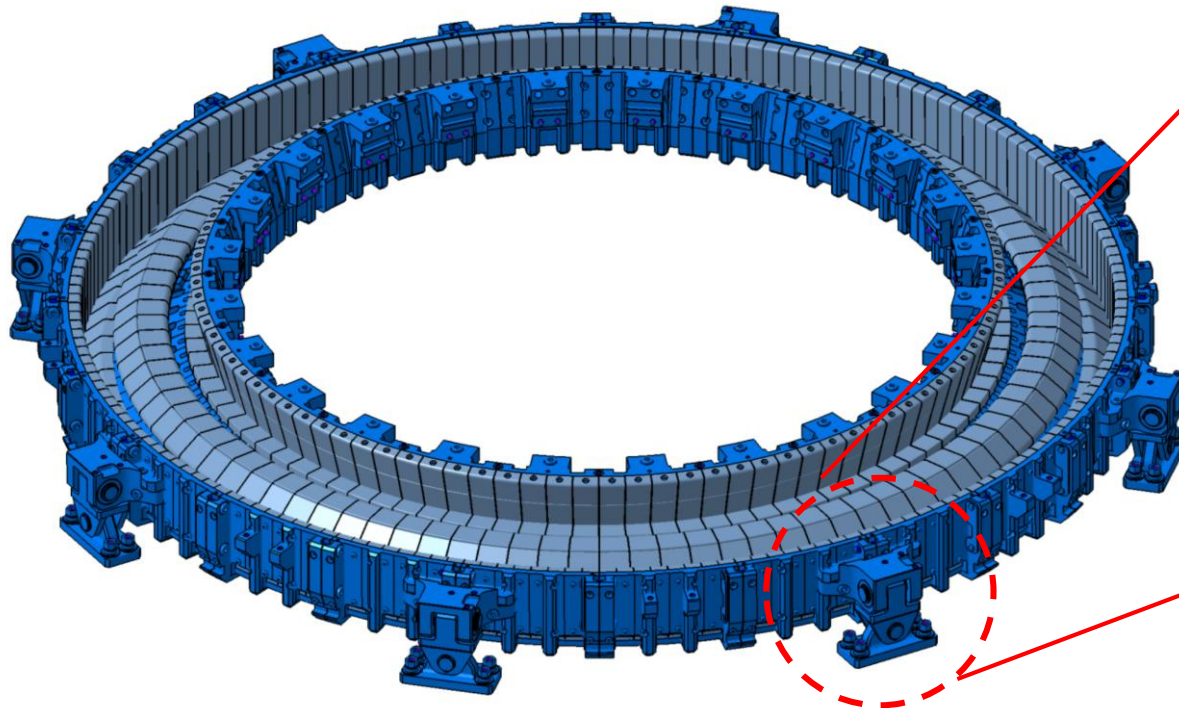


distribution in the divertor (PFCFlux)

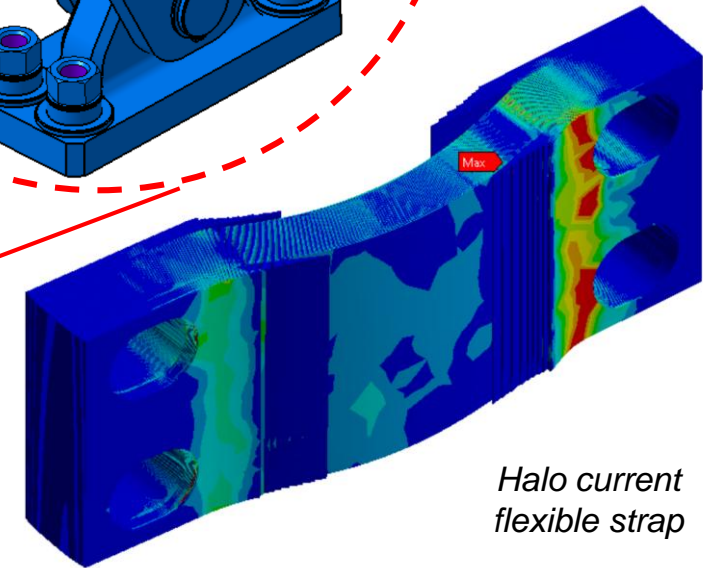


Lower divertor

- Closed lower **cassette divertor** concept
- **24 cassettes**: Inconel 718 support, **bulk tungsten** tiles
- Supported by 8 **A-frames** with WS2 coated **spherical bearings** to allow thermal expansion



A-frame with spherical bearings



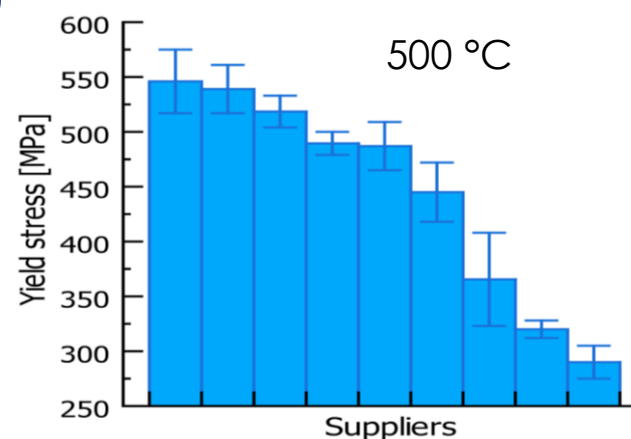
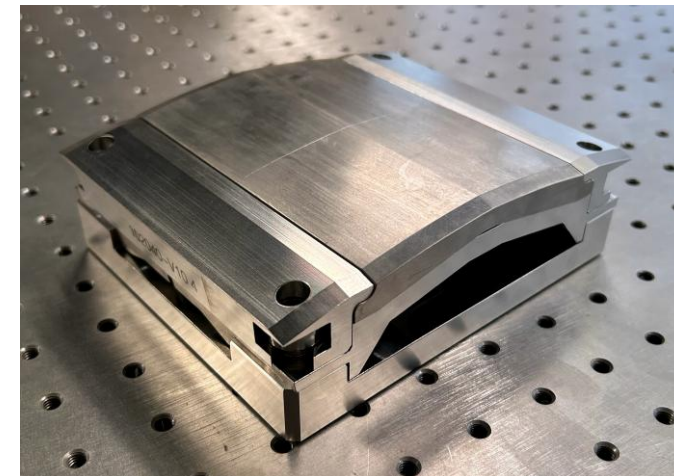
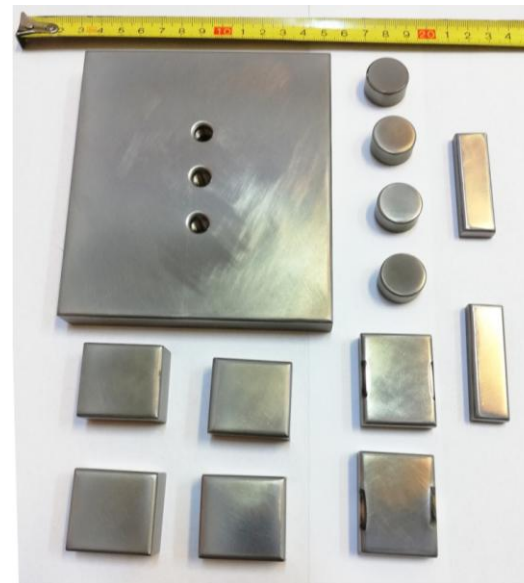
Halo current flexible strap

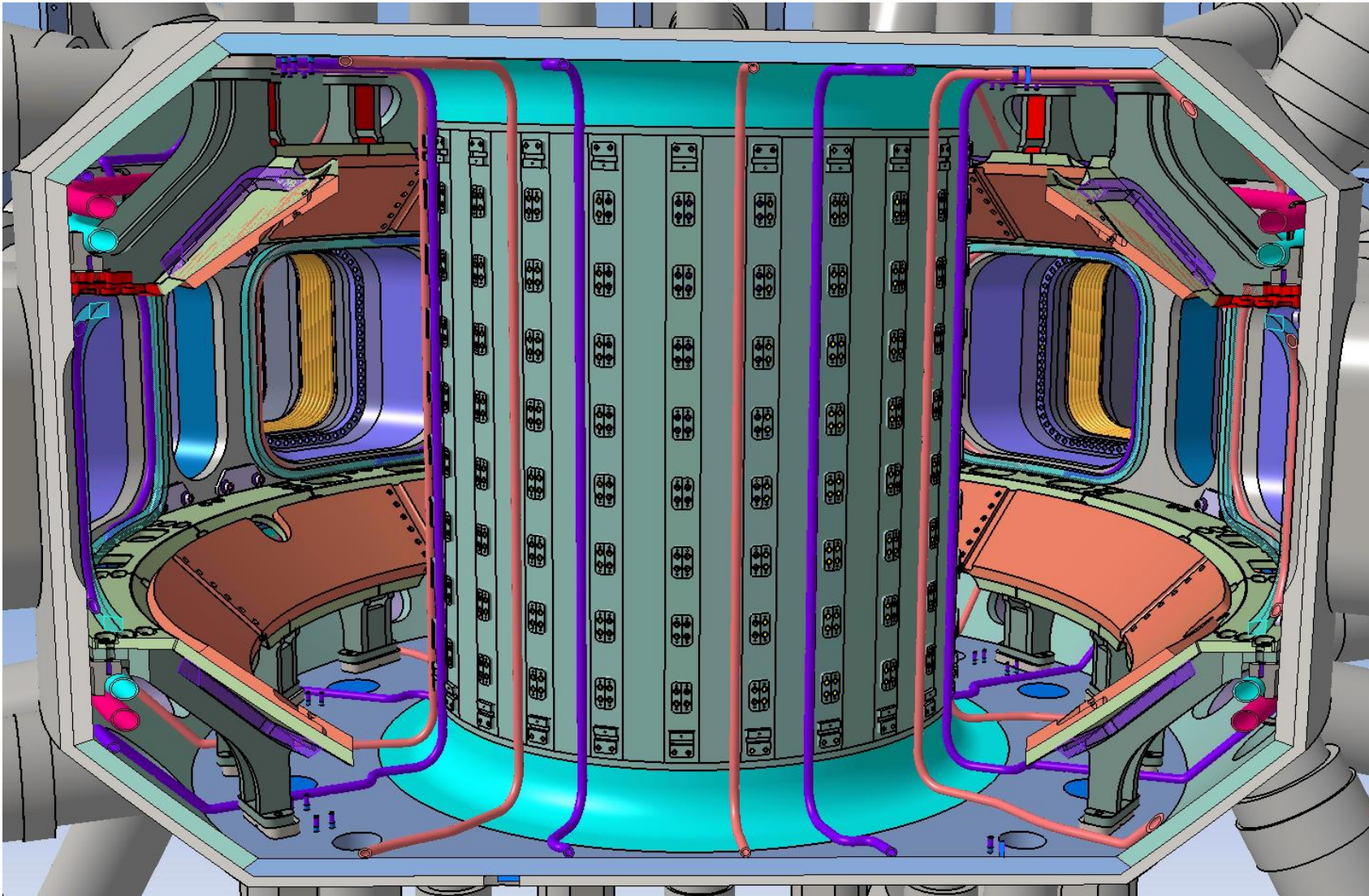
W coating

- W coatings on Inconel⁷¹⁸ have been developed within an in-house R&D program with 3 partners
- 7 – 20 μm coatings based on PVD magnetron sputtering
- No defect (blister/crack/delamination) and good adhesion before/after annealing
- Post-mortem analyses confirm coatings conform to initial requirements + good homogeneity
- W coatings validated by HHF tests in GLADIS (50x 10 MW/m² & 100x 30 MW/m²)

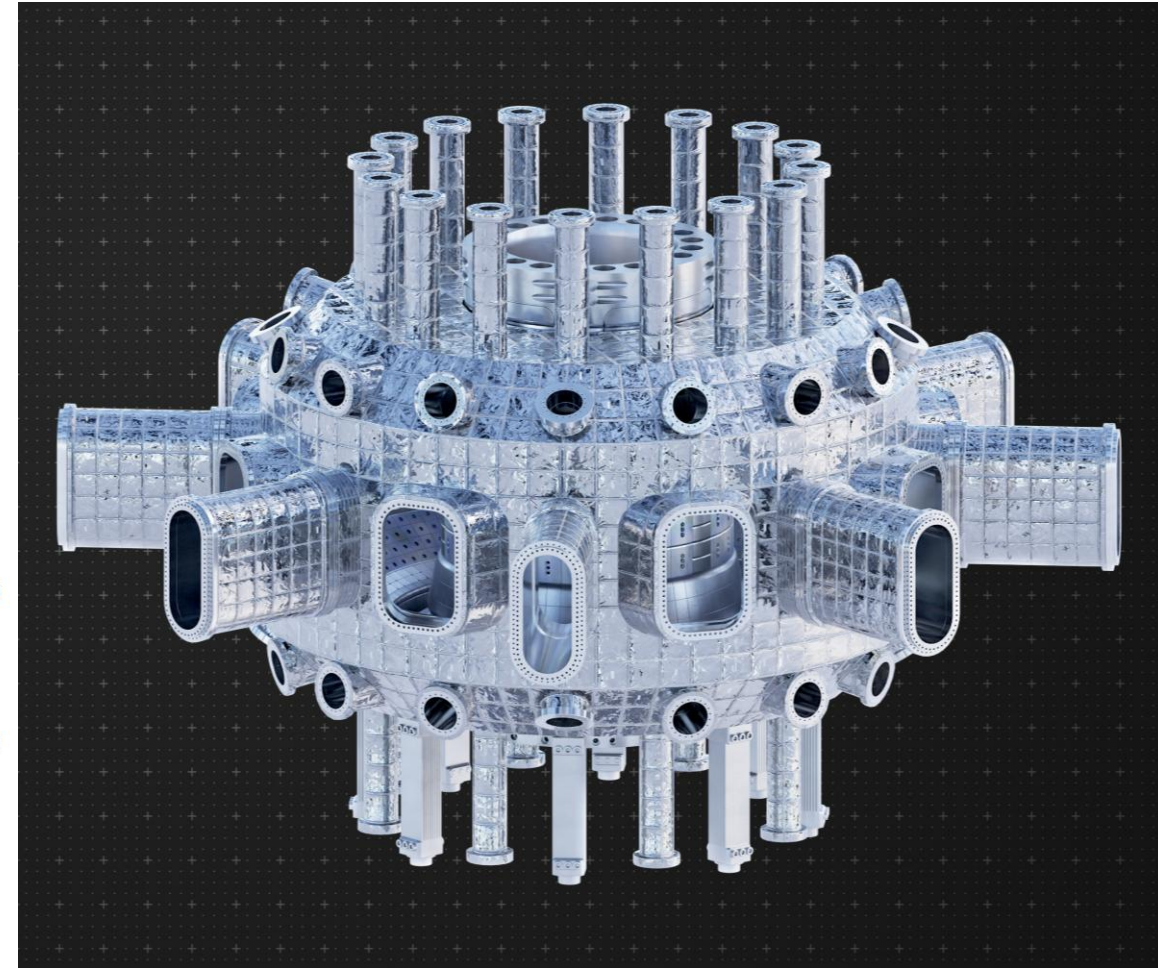
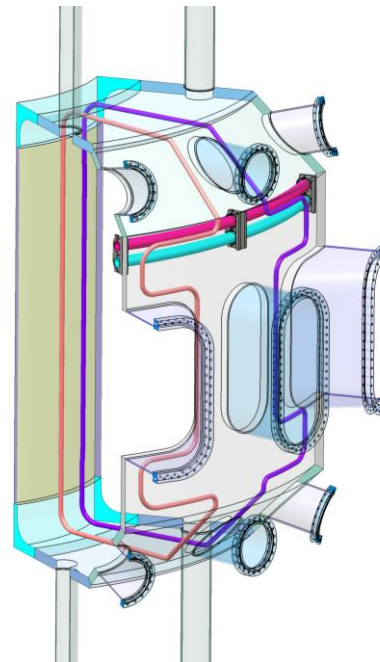
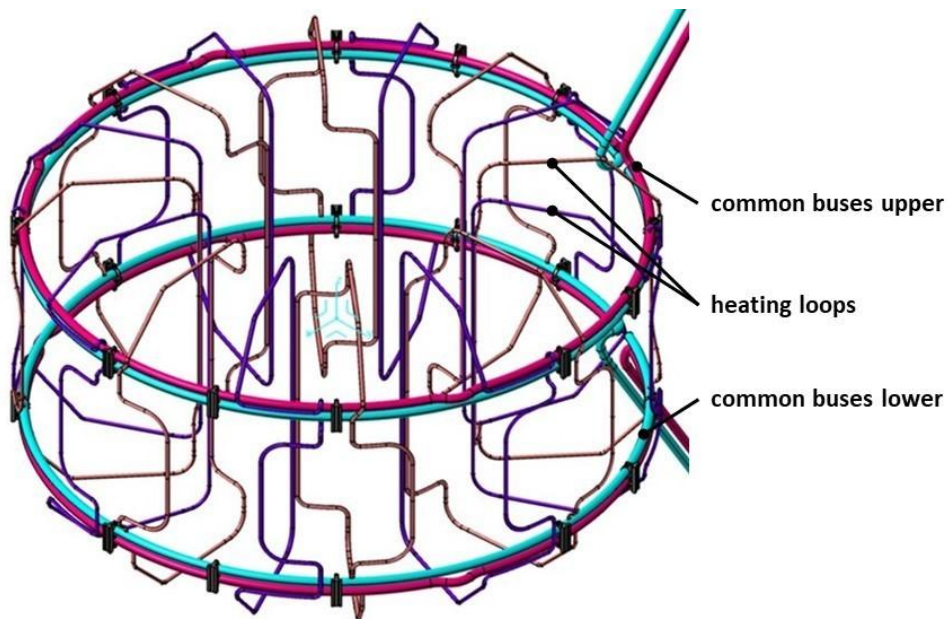
W material testing

- Testing of W from 9 suppliers worldwide
- Testing of real size COMPASS-U bulk W sample tiles

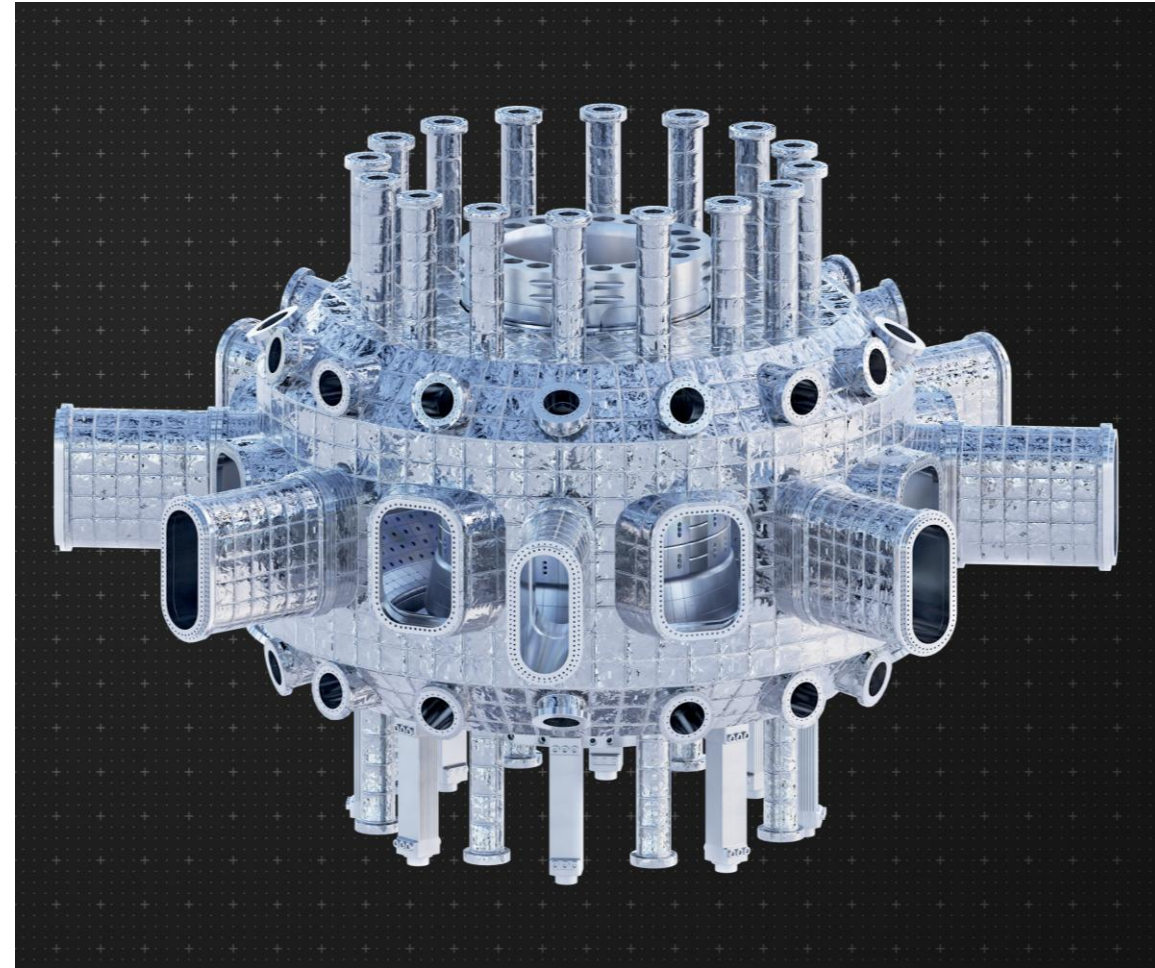
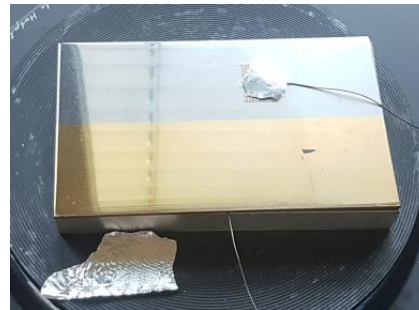




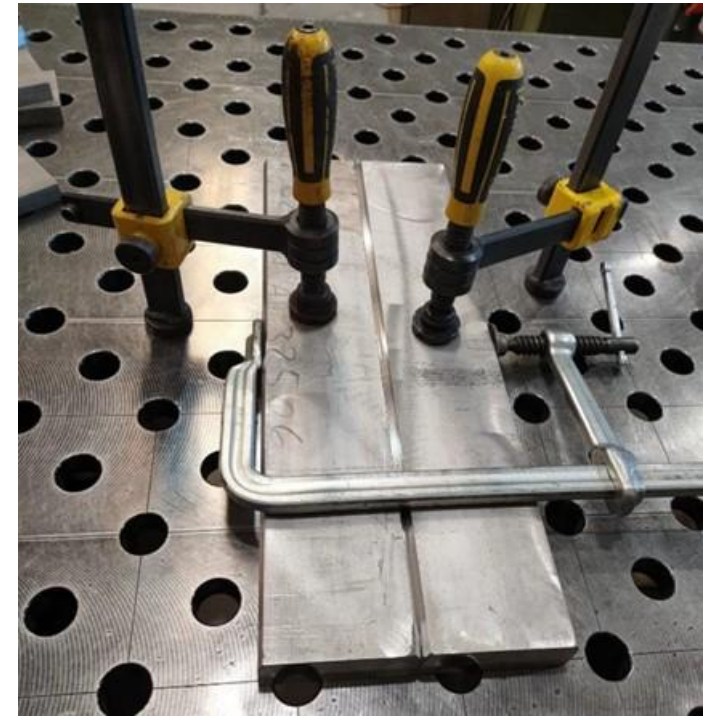
- **Material Inconel 625**, 23-35 mm thick walls
- Total **weight ~10 t**, **outer diameter ~3 m** (without ports)
- **Heating of VV up to 500 °C**, Inconel 625 pipes welded on inside of VV. Gaseous He or CO₂.
- **PFC heated mainly by radiation**
- 8 flexible Inconel 625 supports



- Thermal insulation by 20 mm Multi Layer Insulation (MLI)
- In-house high temperature disruption-proof MLI development
- Testing of Ag and Au coating => decision to polish only

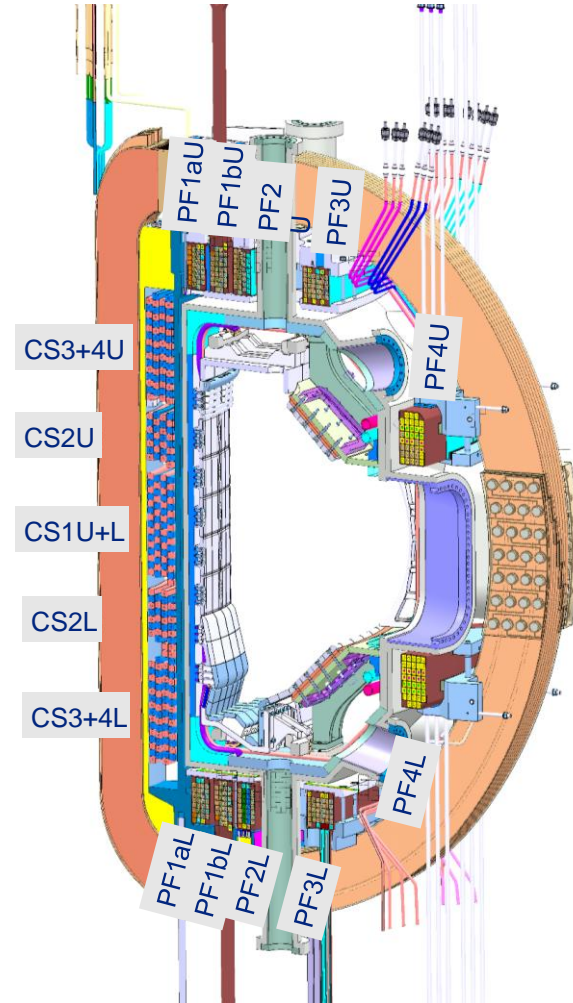


- Manufacturer: **Dal Ben S.p.A., Italy**
- Contract signed in **November 2024**
- Preliminary manufacturing documentation approved in **August 2025**
- Material procurement ongoing, welding samples are being prepared
- **Manufacturing to be finished in December 2026**



- 5 Central solenoid coils
- 5+5 Poloidal field coils
- **Material CuAg0.1 (OF)**, half or full hard hollow conductor
- Insulation: E glass tape + Kapton, epoxy, VPI
- **Cooled down to 80 K** by gaseous He
- Up to **50 kA current**

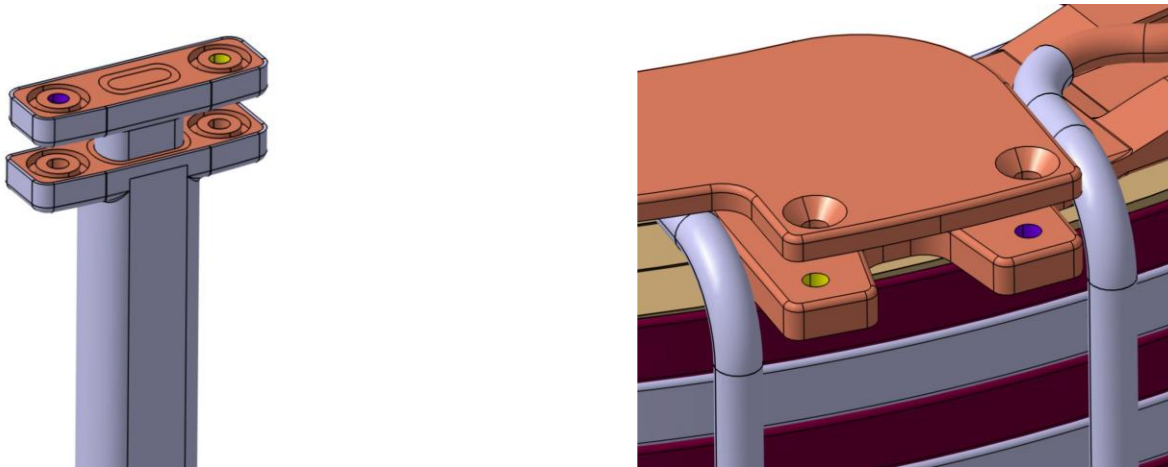
name, qty.	Current range [kA]	Conductor w x h [mm]	D [m]	turns	winding length [m]	cooling segments
2 x CS s	± 50	24 x 21	0.8	29	78	1
3 x CS d	± 50	24 x 21	0.8	61	164	2
2x PF1a	± 25	15 x 15	1.2	32	120	2
2x PF1b	± 25	15 x 15	1.3	32	137	2
2x PF2	± 25	15 x 15	1.5	32	155	2
2x PF3	± 25	15 x 15	2.1	36	233	3
2x PF4	± 30	17 x 20	2.9	40	360	5



Contract signed in 11/2025 with Revol TT Consulting (Slovakia)

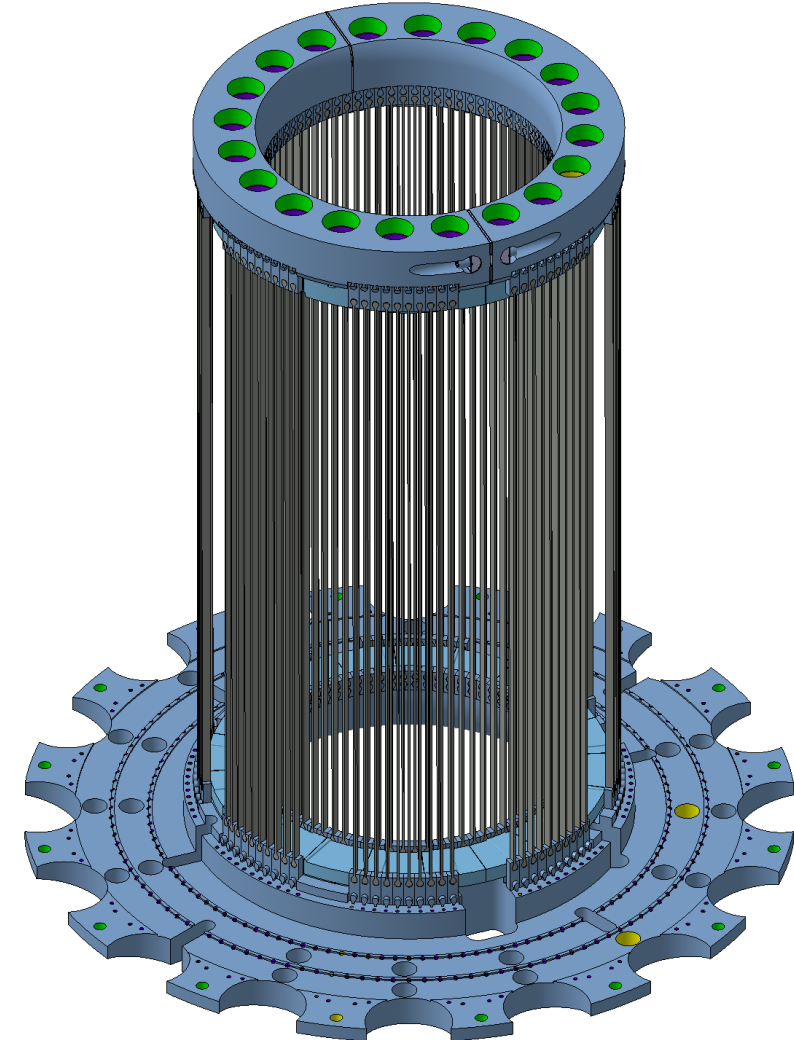
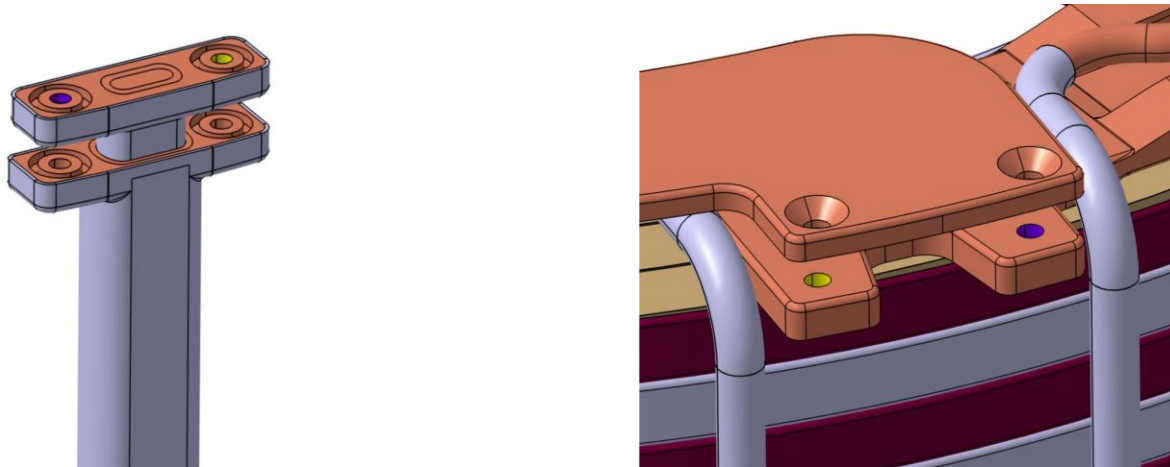
Central solenoid design status

- 3 co-wound double segments + 2 single segments
- Coaxial feeders
- CS compression system (~ 4 MN)
 - superbolts + **2x80 lamellae made of EN AW 2195 aluminum alloy**
 - low loss of preload during cool-down
 - Testing of aluminum lamellae in progress

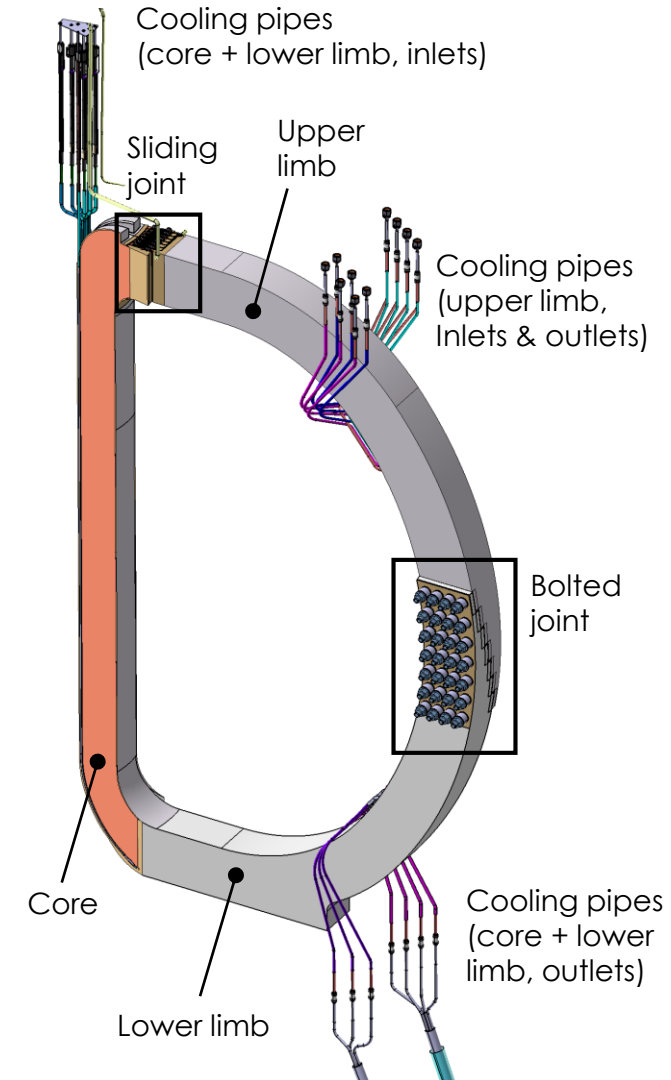
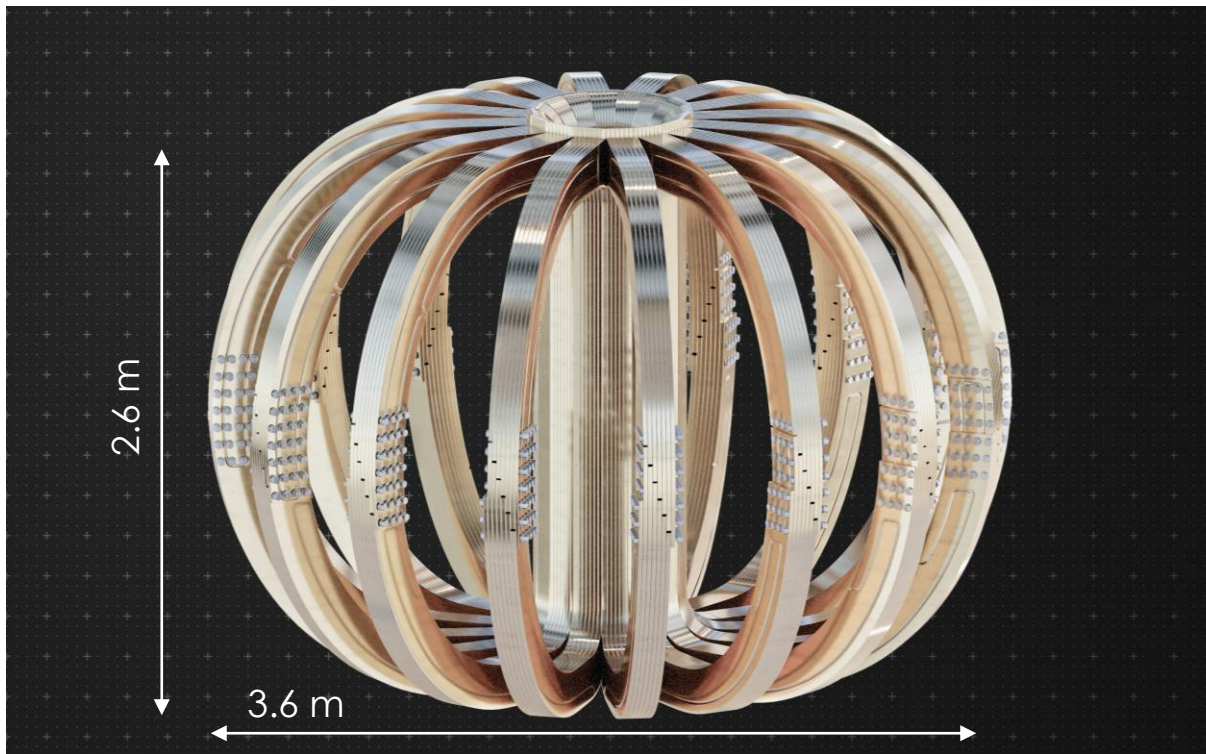


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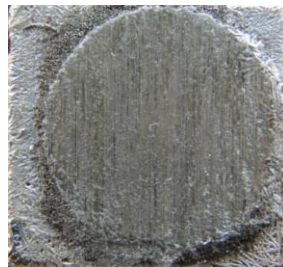
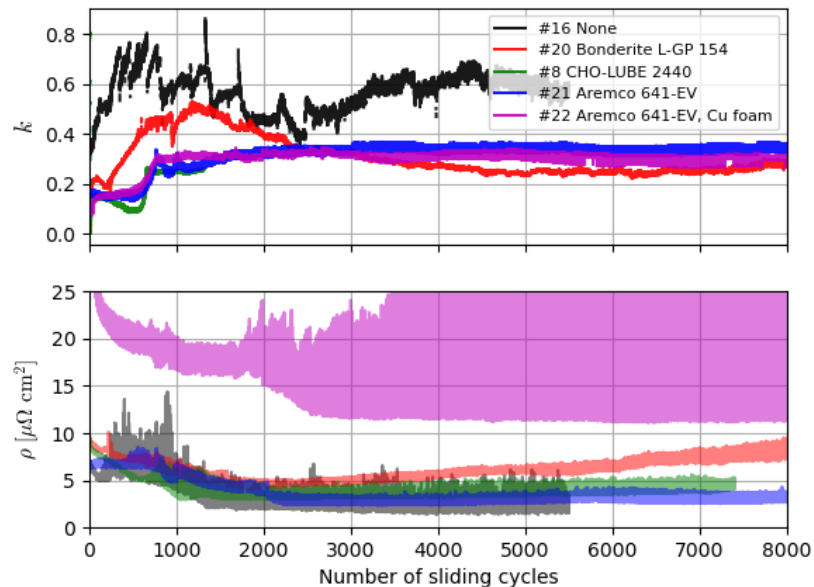


- TF core + 16 upper limbs connected via **bolted and sliding joints**, **200 kA current**
- **Material full hard CuAg0.1 (OF) or CuCrZr**, 16 bundles, 7 turns each
- Insulation: E glass + epoxy resin, Vacuum Pressure Impregnation
- **Cooled down to 80 K**, gaseous He, Cu cooling pipes soldered to machined grooves
- **Radial pre-load** to provide additional TF core compression and prevent shearing

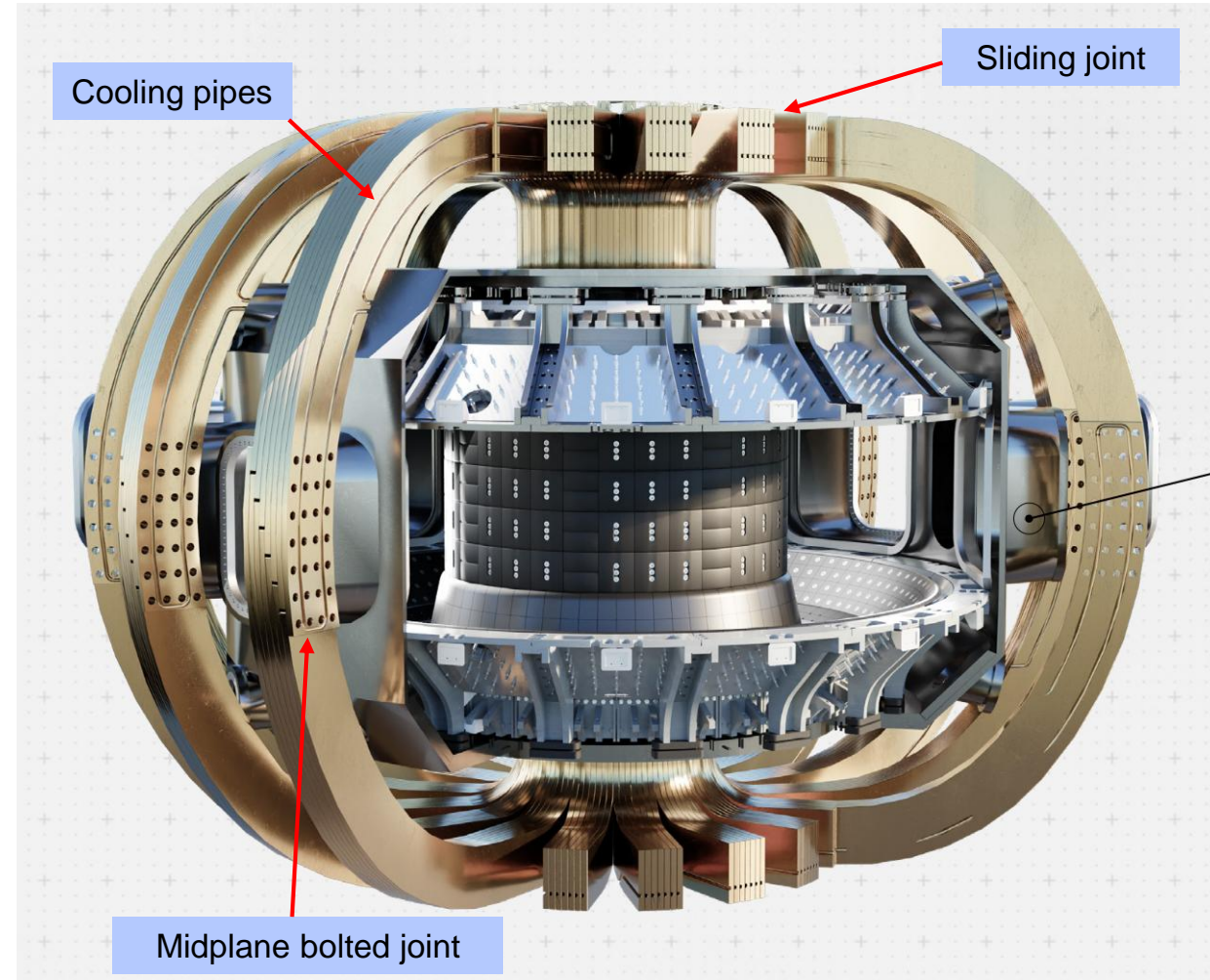


Toroidal field coils sliding joints

- **Sliding joint** based on Alcator C-mod and MAST experience
- **Cu felt** used for good electrical contact
- Vacuum and cryo compatible el. conductive grease needed to prevent cold-welding
- Testing under vacuum, cryogenic temperatures and high current: **7 kA/cm² tested**

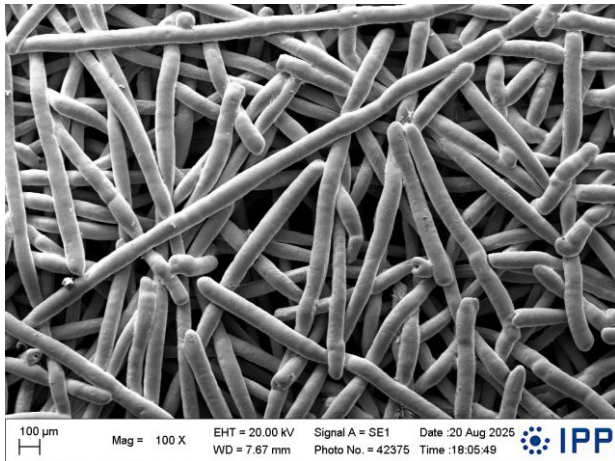


Testing samples of sliding contact

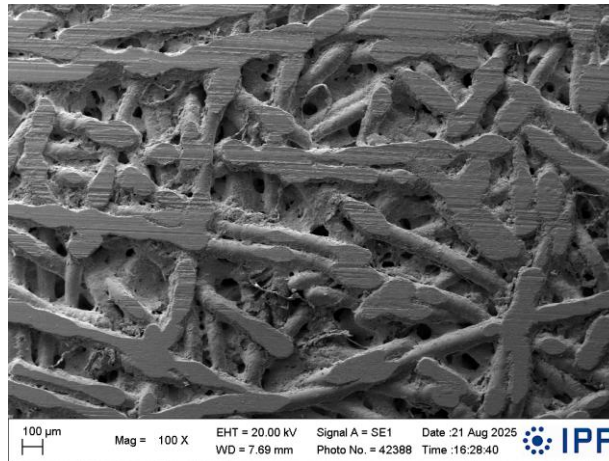


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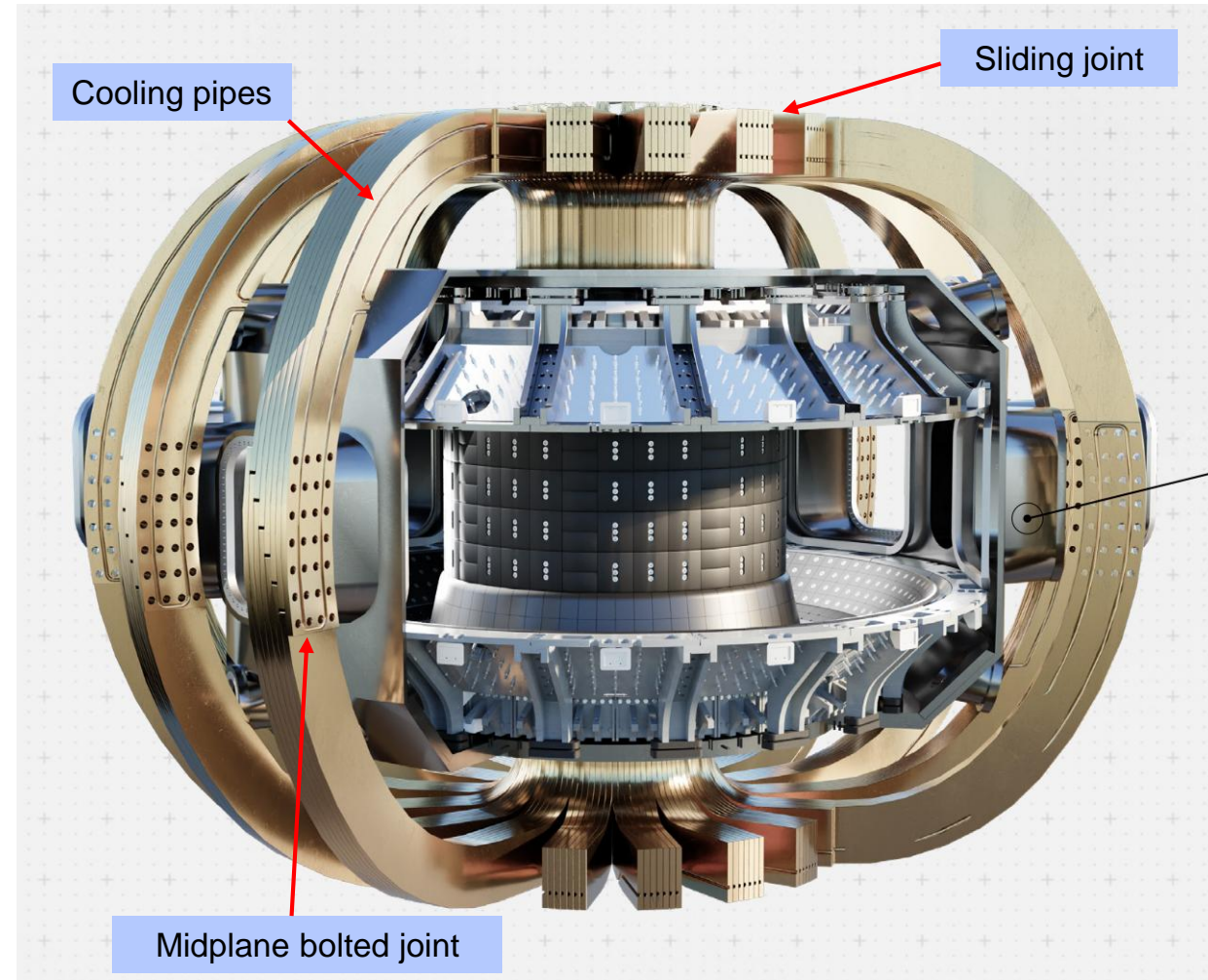


Original

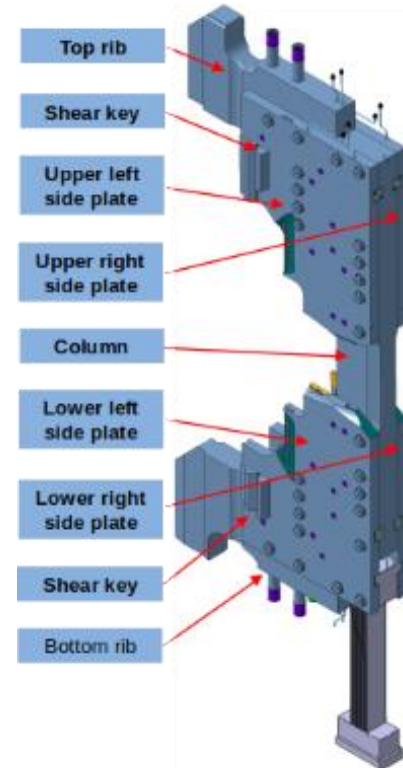
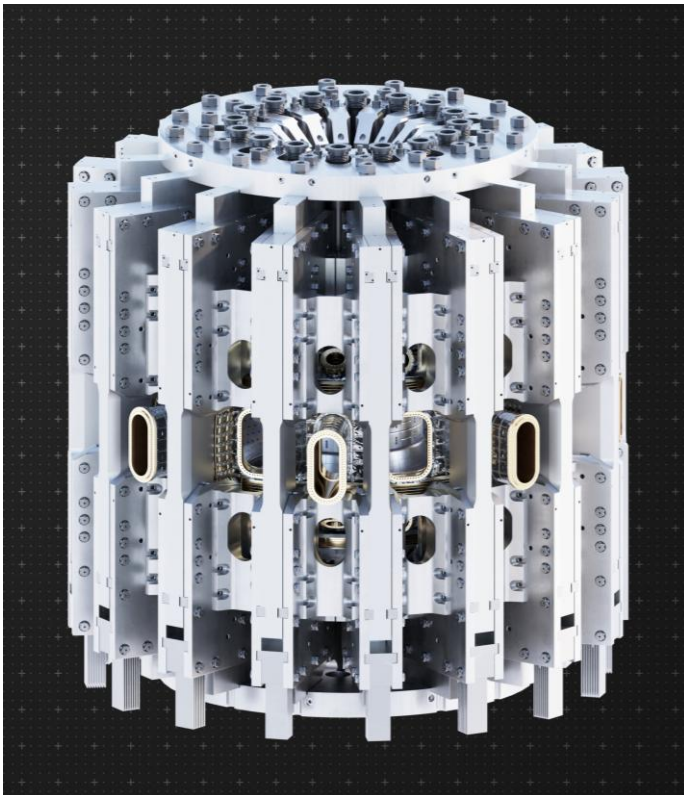


After 12 000 cycles

Silverplated Cu felt



- **Austenitic stainless steel AISI 316LN**, 16 C-frames + flexible supports
- Overall dimensions: **height ~4.4 m, diameter ~4.4 m, total weight ~180 t**
- **Cooled to 80 K**, cooling channels done by deep drilling, gaseous He.
- Cool-down in ~1 week time



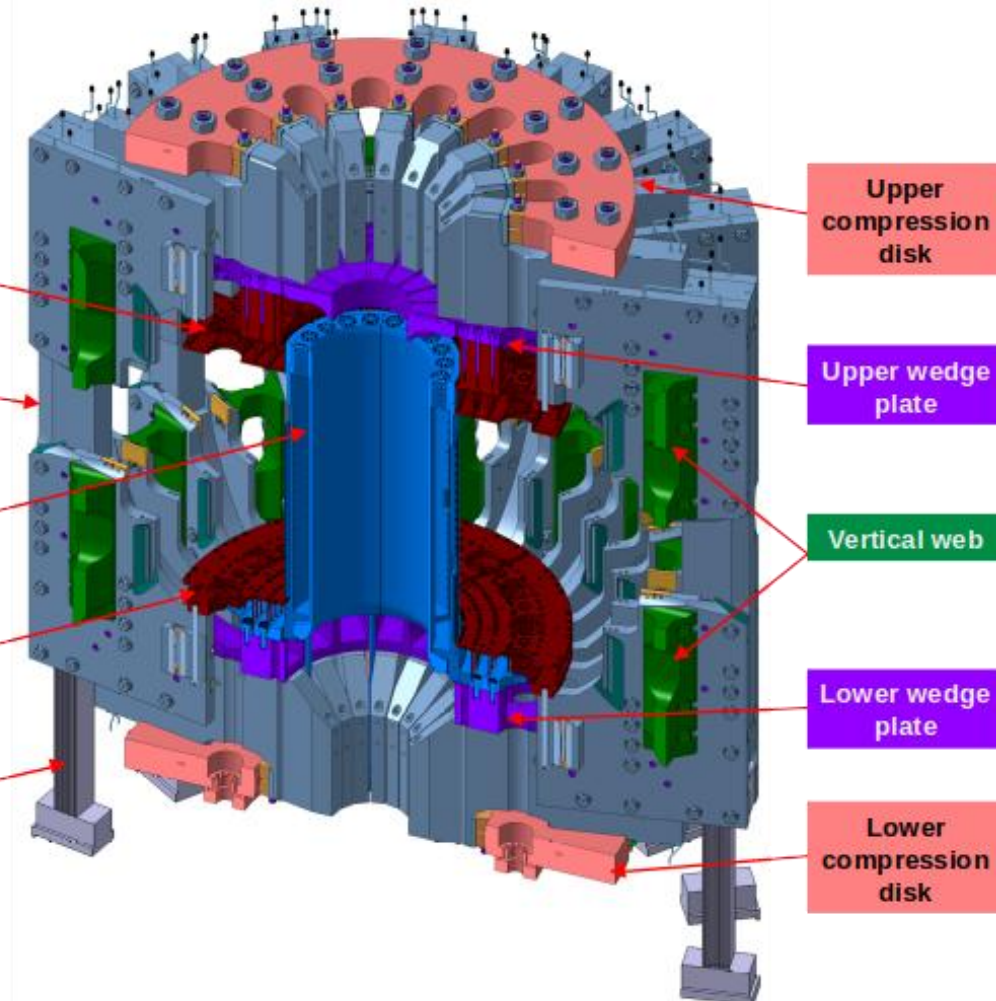
Holder of upper
PF coils 1-3

C-frame

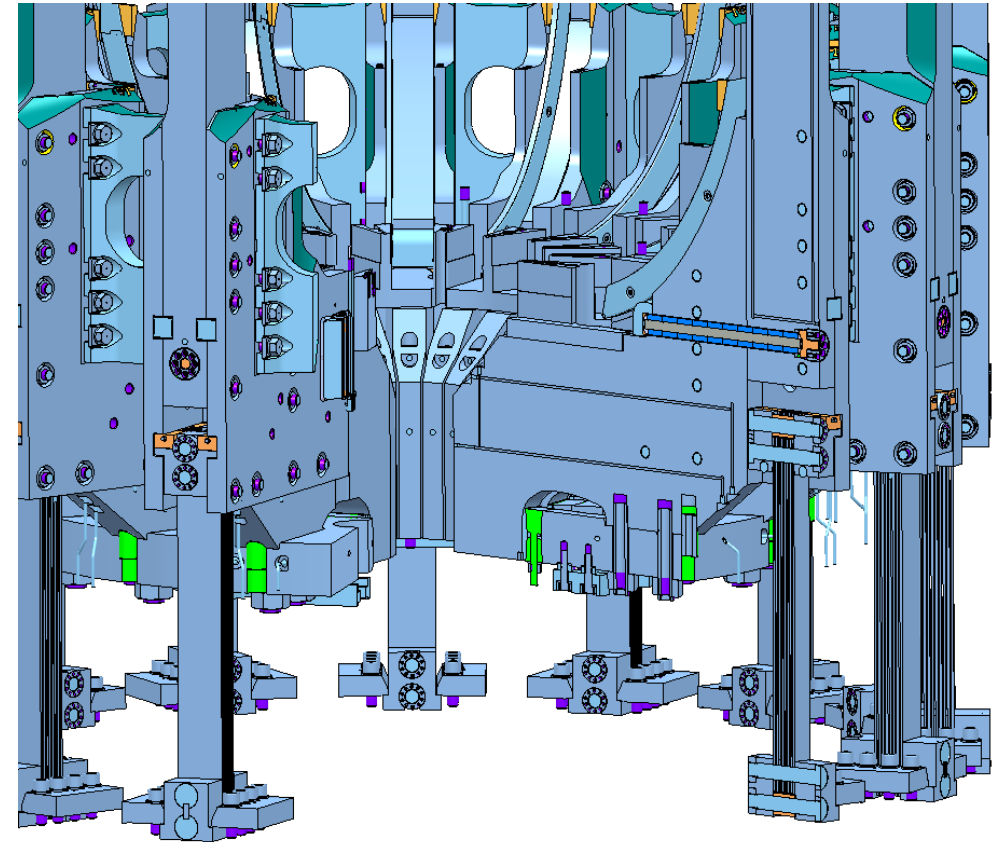
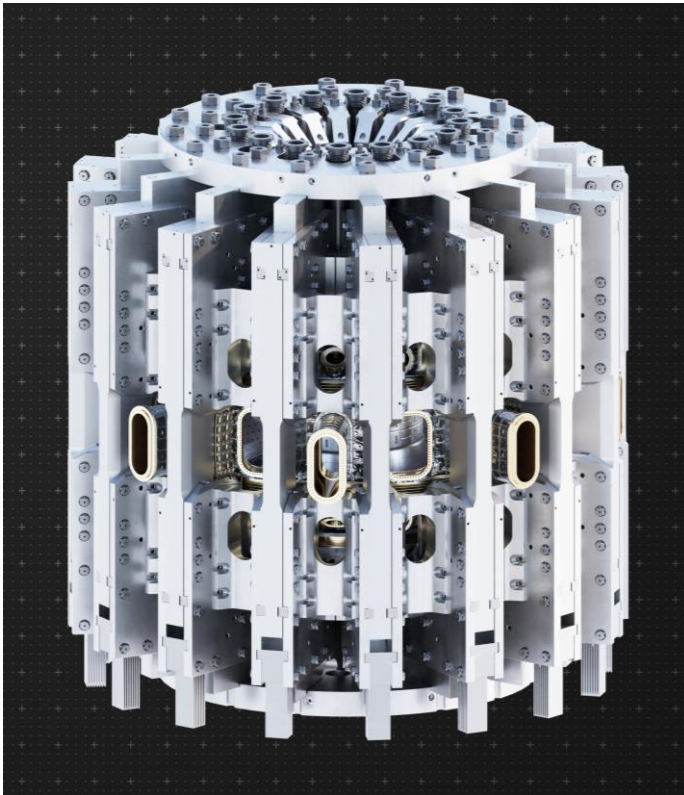
Holder of CS

Holder of lower
PF coils 1-3

Flexible
support

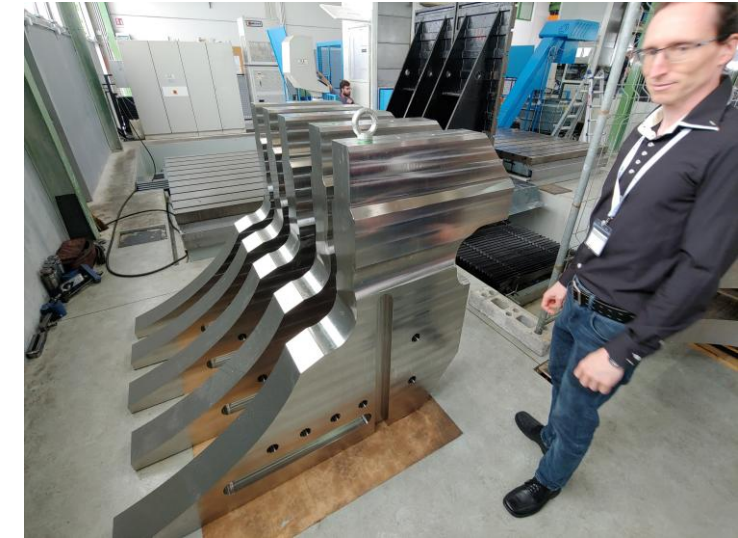


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Support structure manufacturing

- Manufacturer: **Dal Ben S.p.A. Italy**
- Contract signed 12/2023, **manufacturing started 01/2024**
- All forgings finished, machining and final tests of components ongoing
- **Manufacturing to be finished beginning of 2026**
- **Test assembly** in Italy in **Q2 2026**
- **Flexible supports tendered in 2025**





Cooldown after a top performance discharge within 30 min

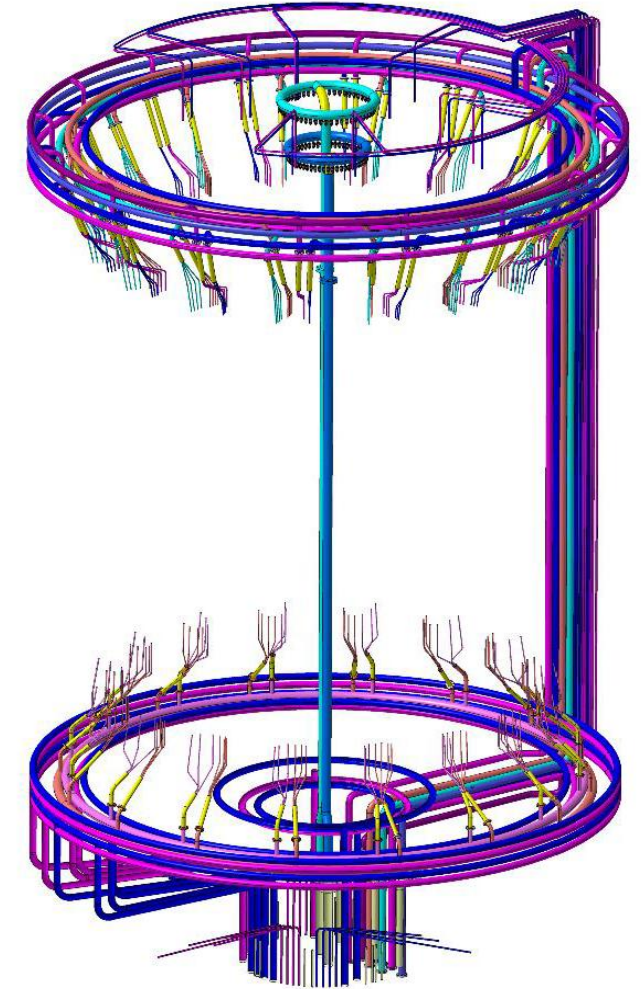
- TF coils ~250 MJ, PF+CS coils ~50 MJ
- => **required cooling power ~200 kW @ 80 K**

Multiple closed gaseous helium loops (6 km inside of cryostat)

- **CS** p_{base} 60 bar, Δp 5 bar, \dot{m} 80 g/s
- **PF** p_{base} 20 bar, Δp 1 bar, \dot{m} 160 g/s
- **TF** p_{base} 20 bar, Δp 0.1 bar, \dot{m} 800 g/s
- **Support structure** p_{base} 20 bar, Δp 0.1 bar

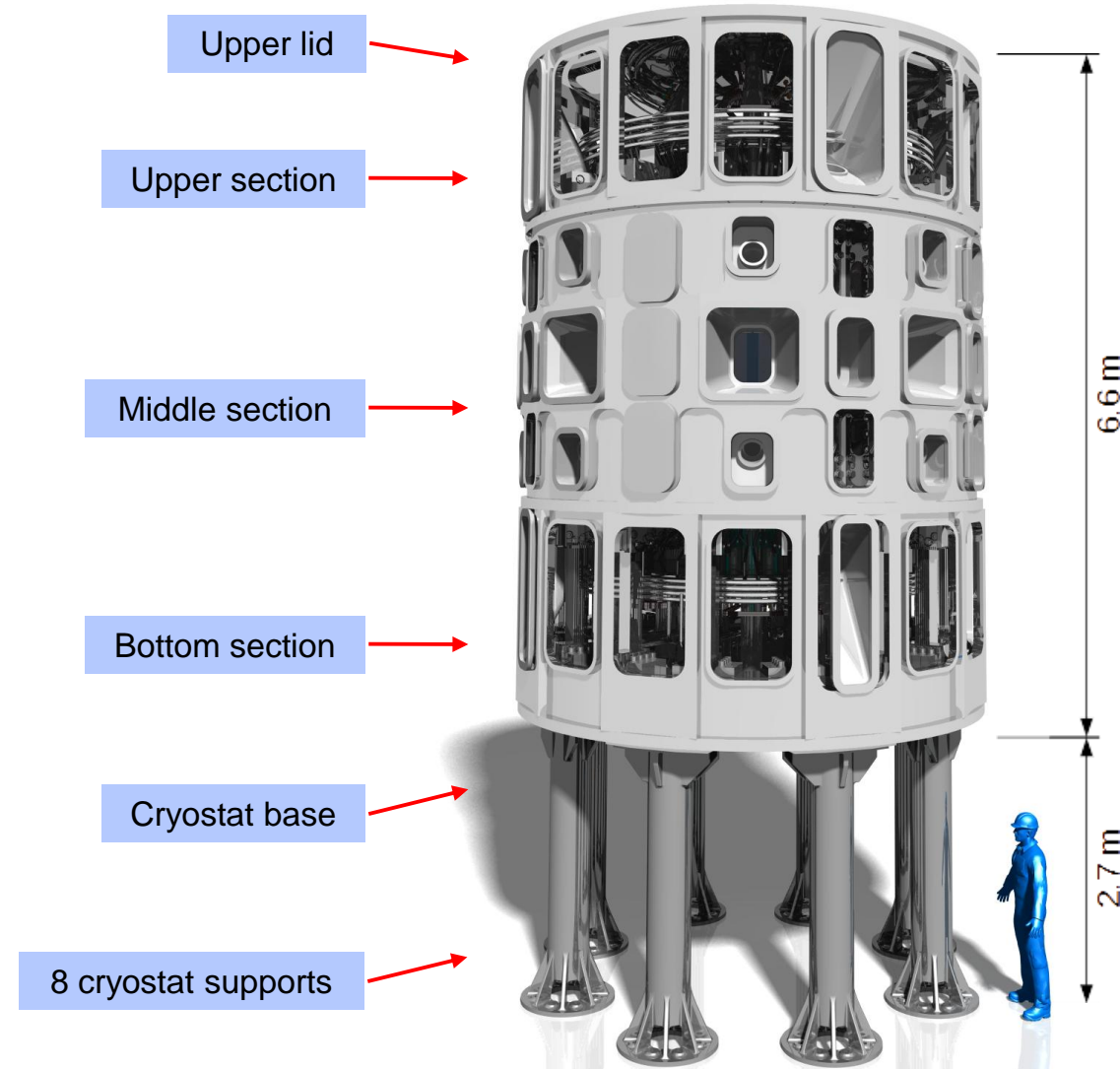
Main „cold source“ – **liquid nitrogen heat exchanger**

- ~50 m³ of LN₂ per day at full parameters



Cooling collectors

- **Stainless steel cryostat** (AISI 304L)
- **Volume ~100 m³**, weight ~50 t
- Cylindrical shape with **large service ports** for maintenance
- Tokamak is placed on top of the cryostat base
- **8 massive steel supports** attached to the 0.8 m thick steel-reinforced concrete slab of the experimental hall
- **Multilayer thermal insulation** on the inner surface
- **Manufacturer selected in 11/2025**



Flywheel generators

- Existing flywheel generators (50 MVA, 50 MJ each)
- Two new flywheel generators (108 MVA, 195 MJ each)

PF coils

- 85 MW, 90 MJ from flywheel
- IGBT H-bridges

TF coils

- 140 MW, 340 MJ
- thyristor converters

Auxiliary heating + reserve

- 38 MW, 58 MJ

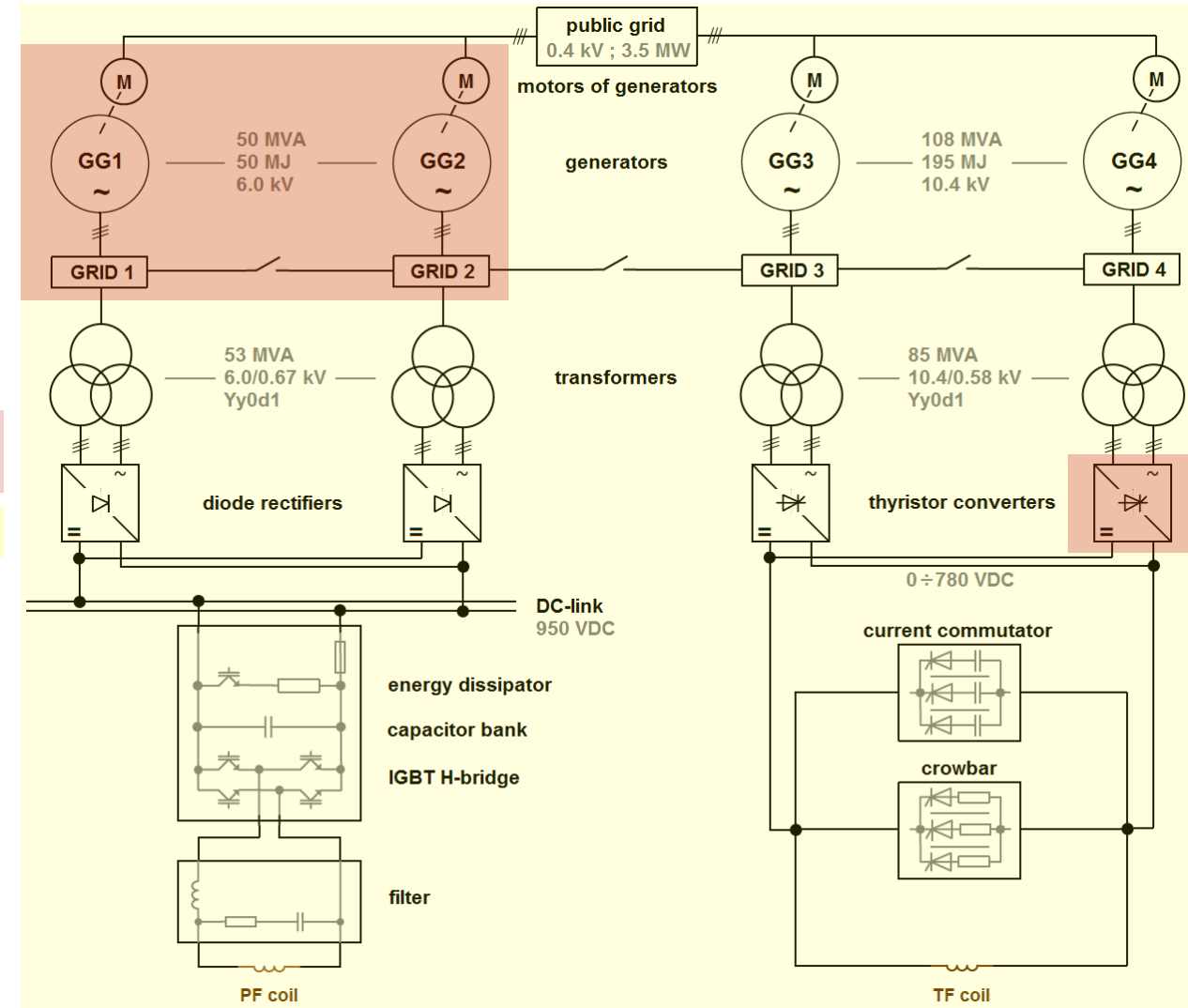
In total: 268 MW, 490 MJ

Manufacturer: **ELEKTROTECHNIKA, a. s., Czech Republic**

All components manufactured

Installation ongoing

Schematic overview of the power supply system.



Main manufacturer: **TES VSETIN a.s., Czech Republic**

Manufacturer of stator winding: **Partzsch elektromotoren GMBH, Germany**

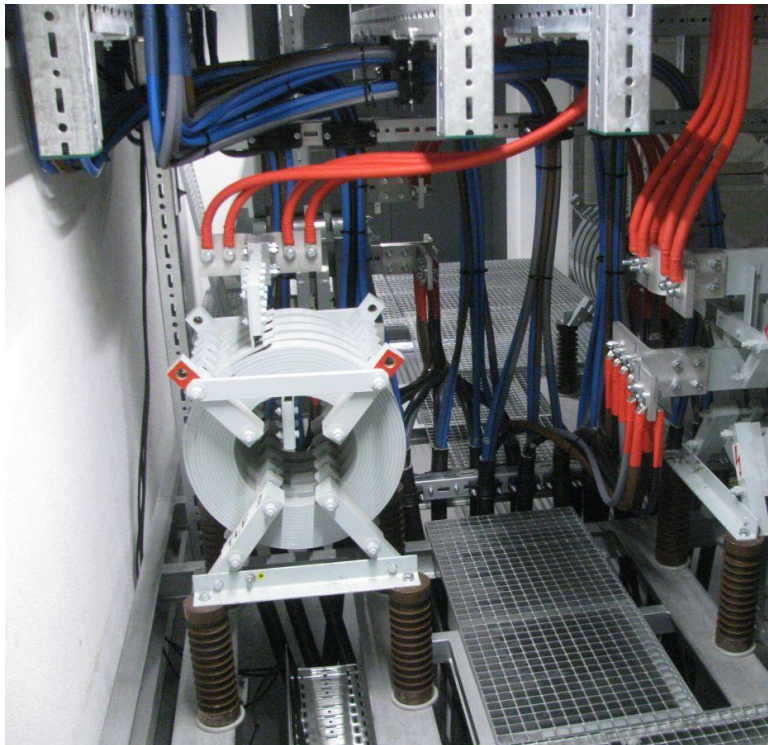
Manufacturer of flywheel: **ISMEC s.r.l., Italy**

	Old GG1,2	New GG3,4
Electric energy	50 MJ	195 MJ
Nominal power	50 MVA	108 MVA
voltage	6 000 V	10 400 V
current	4800 A	6000 A
Max. speed	1700 rpm	1700 rpm
Weight	60 tons	130 tons



Power Supply System installation

- started in 10/2023 in Halls A and E
- will continue in Halls B and D by the end of 2025
- new flywheel generators installed in 09/2024 and 10/2025

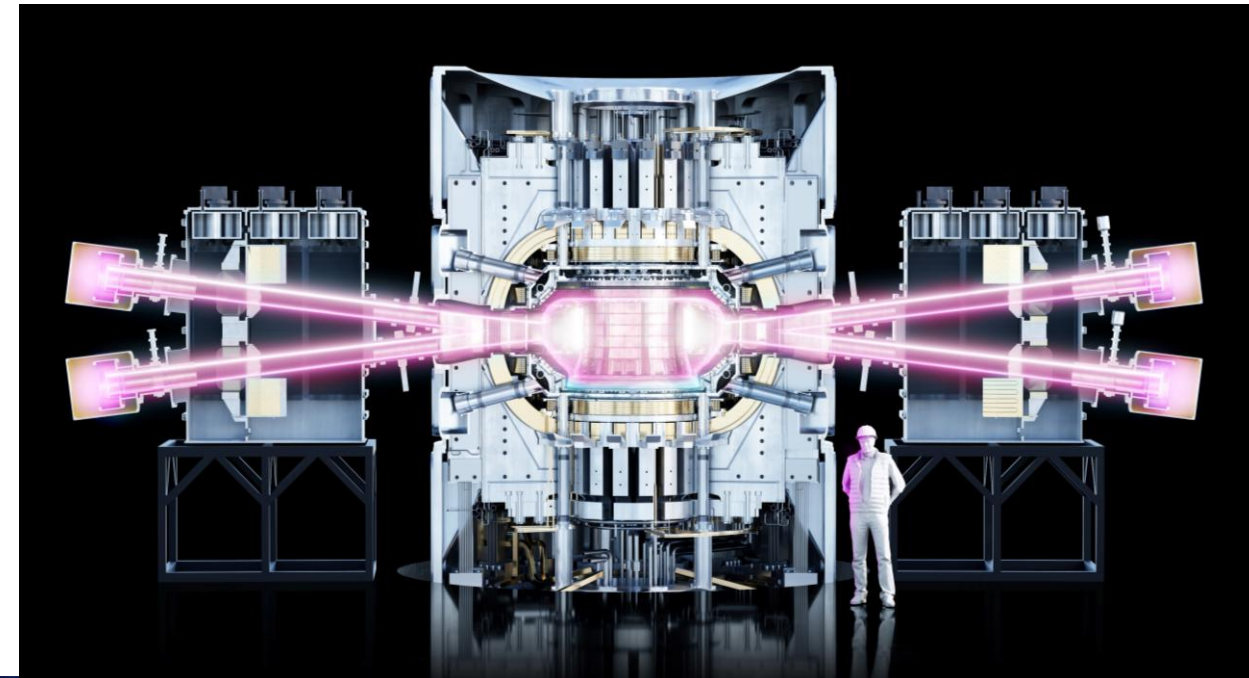
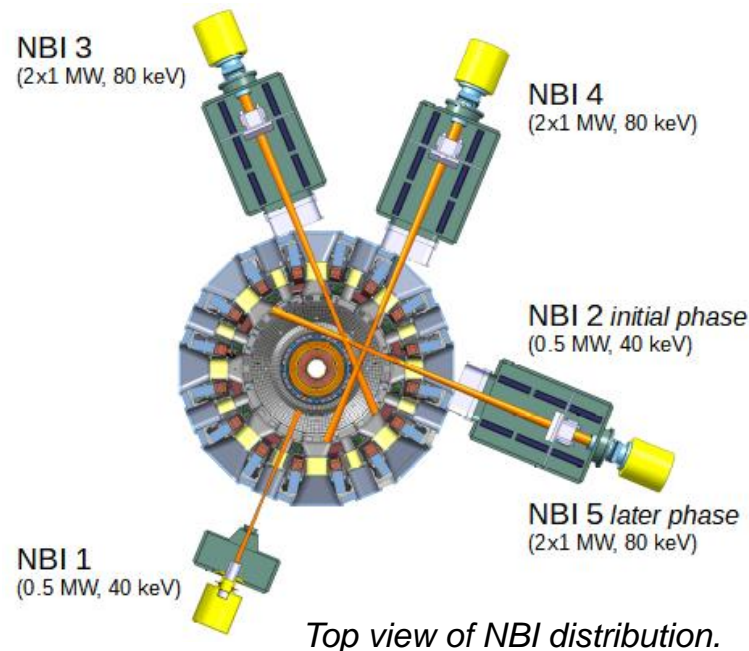


Power Supply System installation

- started in 10/2023 in Halls A and E
- will continue in Halls B and D by the end of 2025
- new flywheel generators installed in 09/2024 and 10/2025



- **NBI @ 80 keV**, 2 MW units (consisting of 2 ion sources)
- 2 ion RF sources above each other **inclined by $\sim 7^\circ$ from horizontal plane**
- Aiming between magnetic axis and HFS wall - **tangency radius $R < 0.65$ m**
- COMPASS 0.3 MW @ 40 keV NBI will be used for diagnostic purposes
- NBI 4 (and NBI 5) on a stand **movable to counter-injection**
- **1 MW unit was delivered in 2021** by BINP Novosibirsk and tested on COMPASS
- **Additional 2 MW under construction** (frozen because of EU-RF mutual sanctions) => **internal development started**



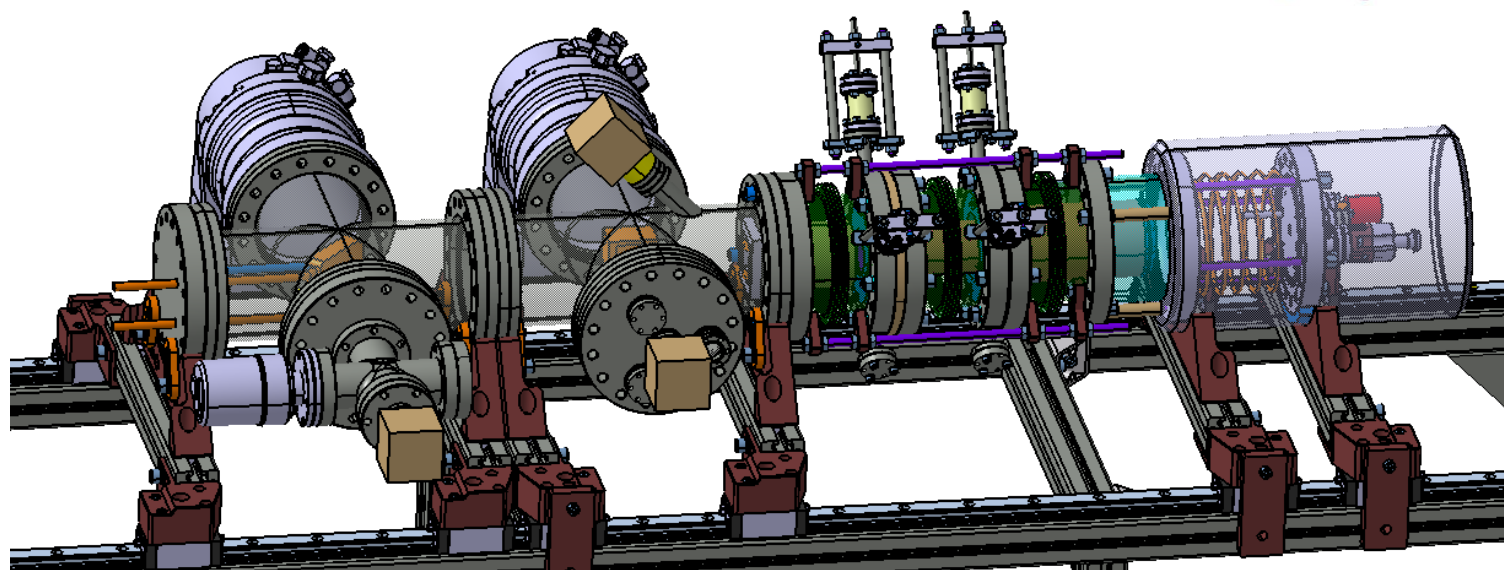
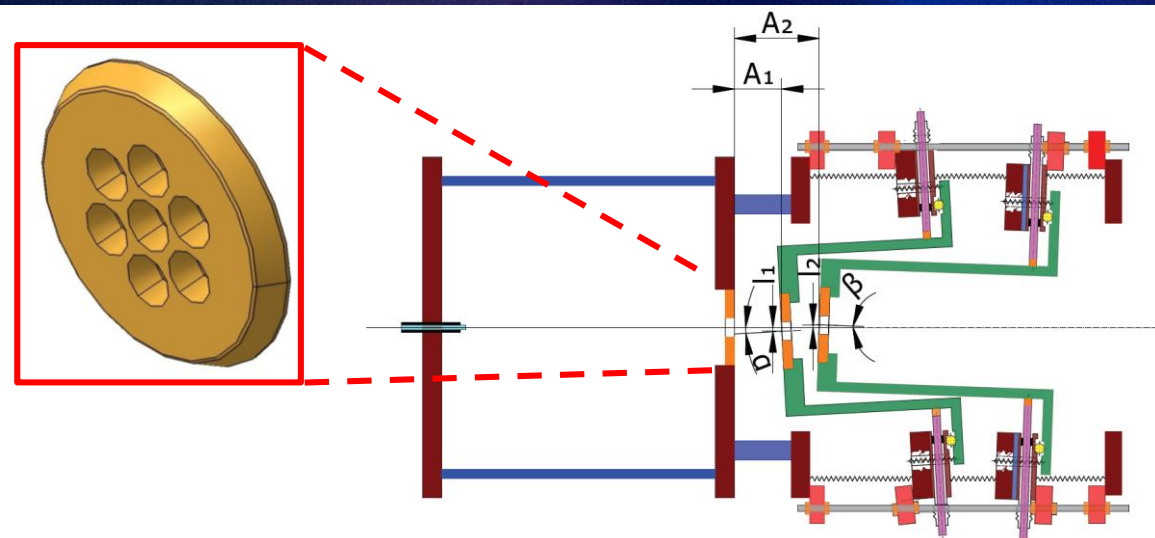
Benchtop Neutral Beam Experiment – NIBBLER

Goals

- Optimization of the **ion optics**, including geometry, surface finish, and manufacturing tolerances.
- Gaining experience with **RF systems** and their integration into the NBI.
- Development of the **control system**

Parameters

- **Easily exchangeable grid inserts:**
 - diam up to 35 mm
 - Up to 7 beamlets
- up to **100 keV**
- **6 degrees of freedom for grids positioning**
- Solid state 500 W RF source



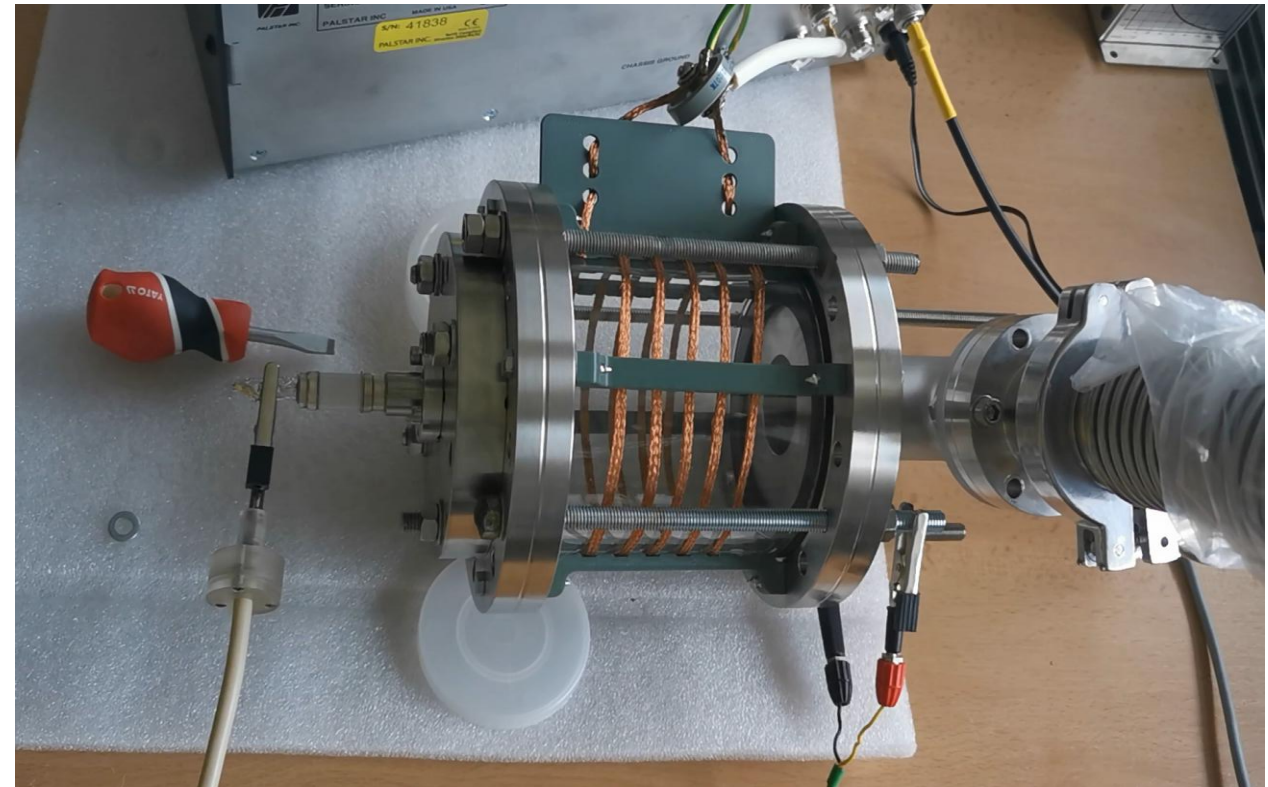
Benchtop Neutral Beam Experiment – NIBBLER

Goals

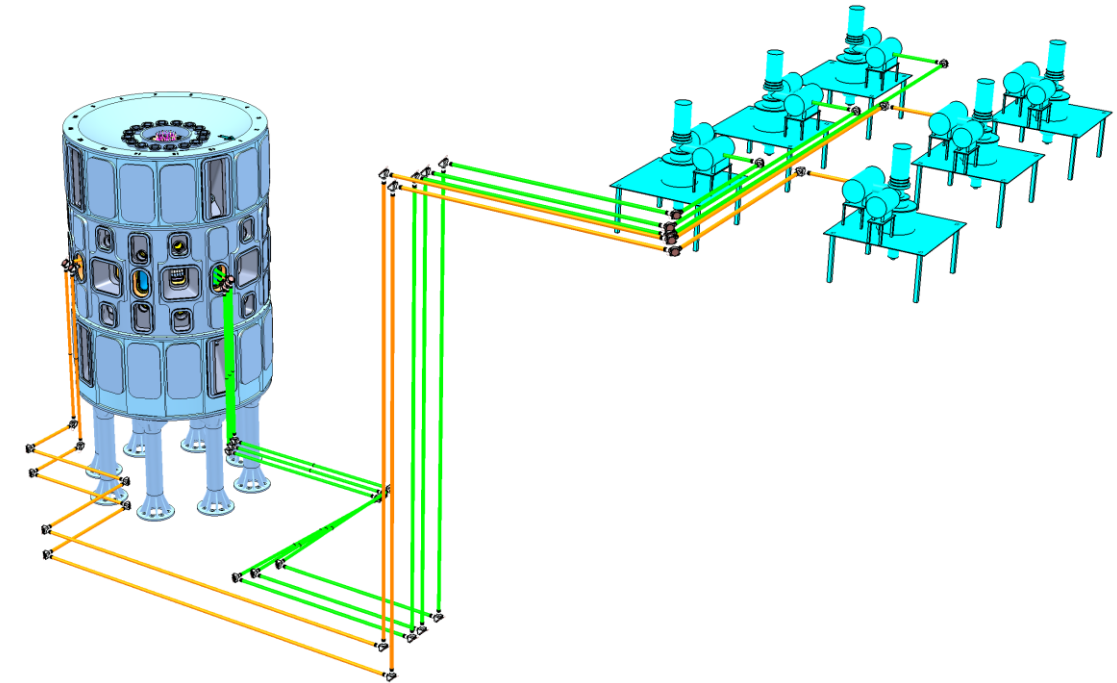
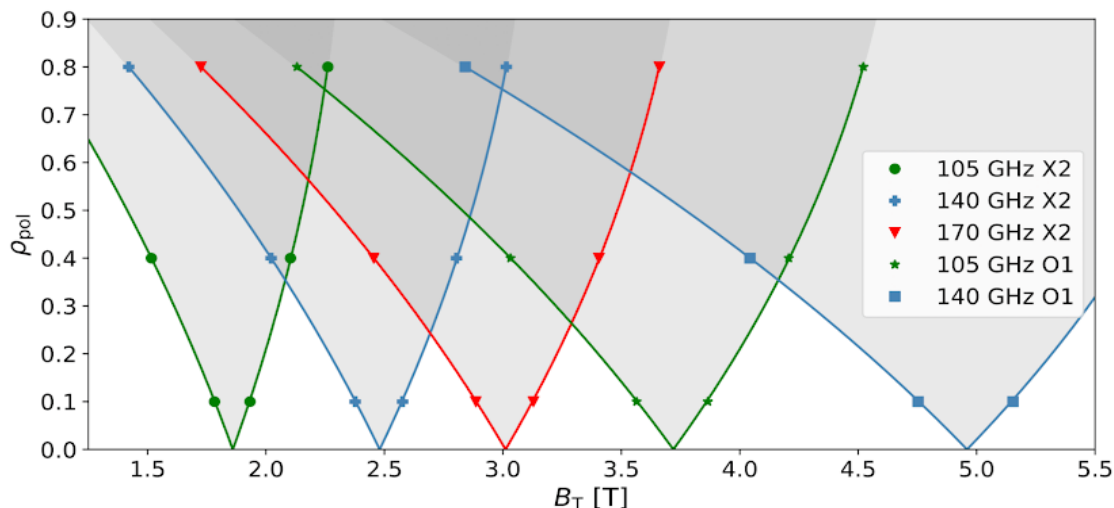
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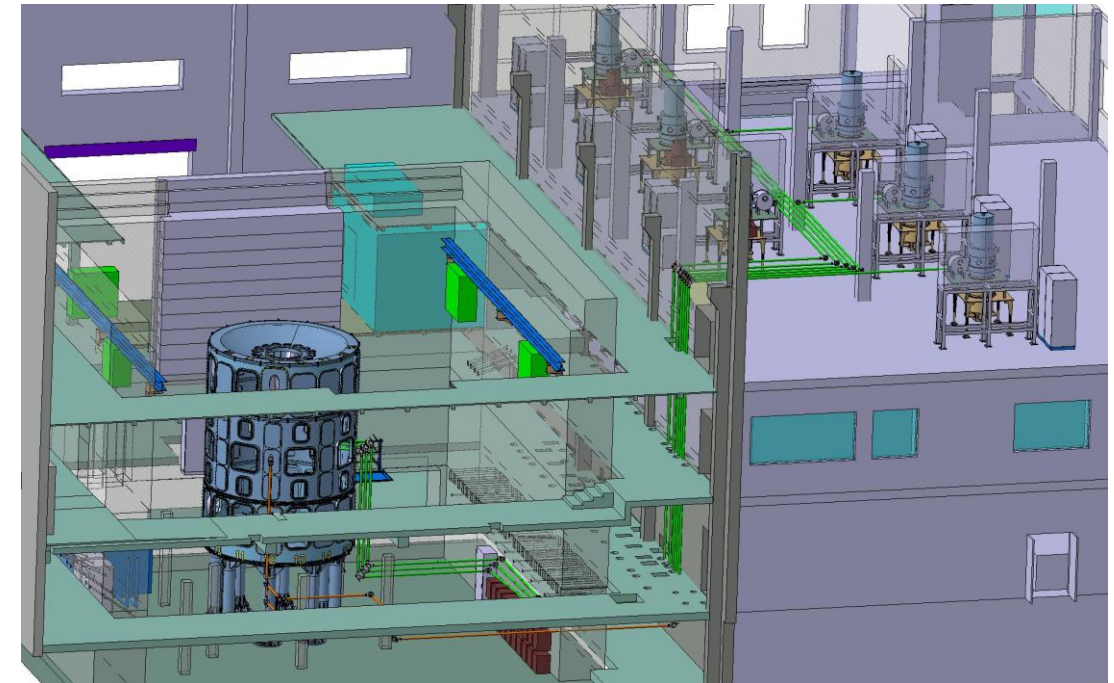
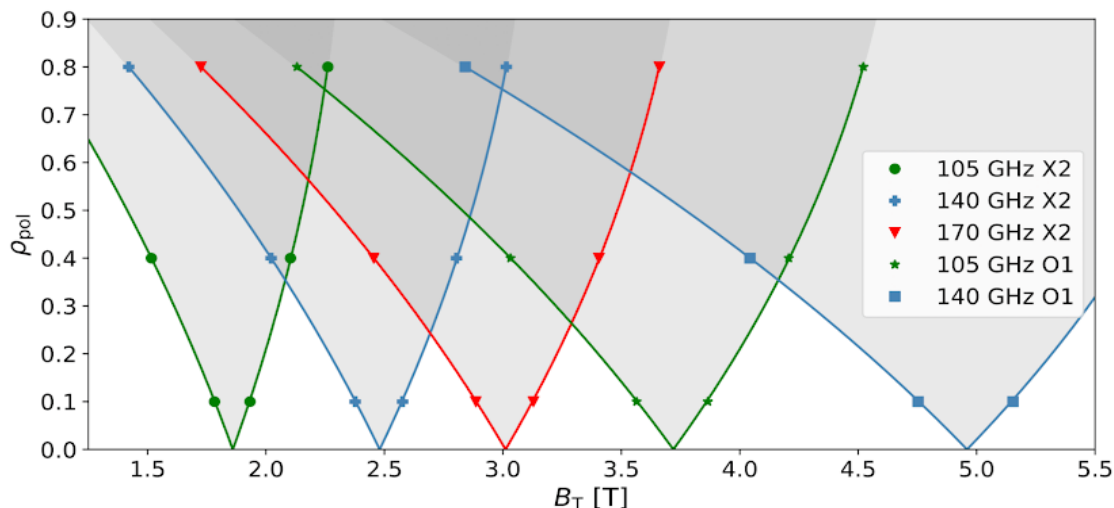


- **Multifrequency gyrotron:** ~105, 140, 170 GHz
- **1MW** @140 GHz
- **15 s** pulse length, up to 1 kHz power modulation
- **Transmission line:** evacuated 63.5 mm corrugated waveguide, total length ~30 m, 6-9 miter bends (water cooling)
- **Launchers:** at large equatorial port, steering mirrors (fixed mirror for initial operation)
- **Density limit:** 140 GHz ~ $2.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$, 170 GHz ~ $3.6 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}^{-3}$



B [T]	n [m ⁻³]	Operation mode	f [GHz]
2.5	1.1×10^{20}	X2	140
3.0	1.7×10^{20}	X2	170
3.8	1.3×10^{20}	O1	105
4.3	2.0×10^{20}	O1, toroidal steering	140
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1st gyrotron for COMPASS Upgrade is manufactured by **KyotoFusioneering** (Japan), design based on the ITER gyrotron

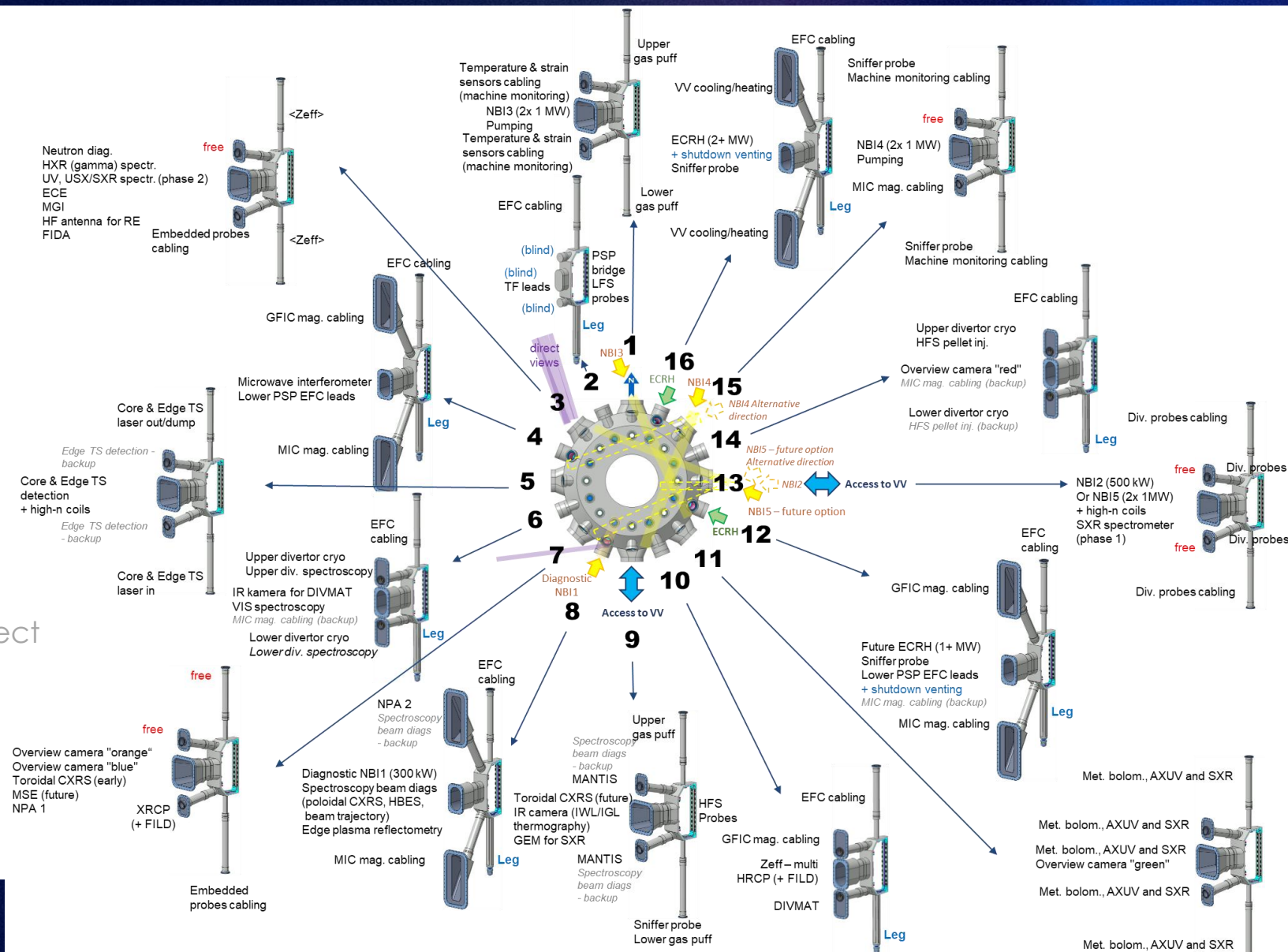
Frequency	Power	Pulse length
104 GHz	0.8 MW	5 s
137 GHz	0.9 MW	15 s
170 GHz	0.8 MW	5 s

- Central EC deposition is effective at preventing impurity accumulation when power is large enough
- 1.4 MW NBI + 0.9 MW ECRH sufficient to enter H-mode (METIS, ASTRA)
- ECRH can reduce the critical field for breakdown to prevent early RE generation or save loop voltage

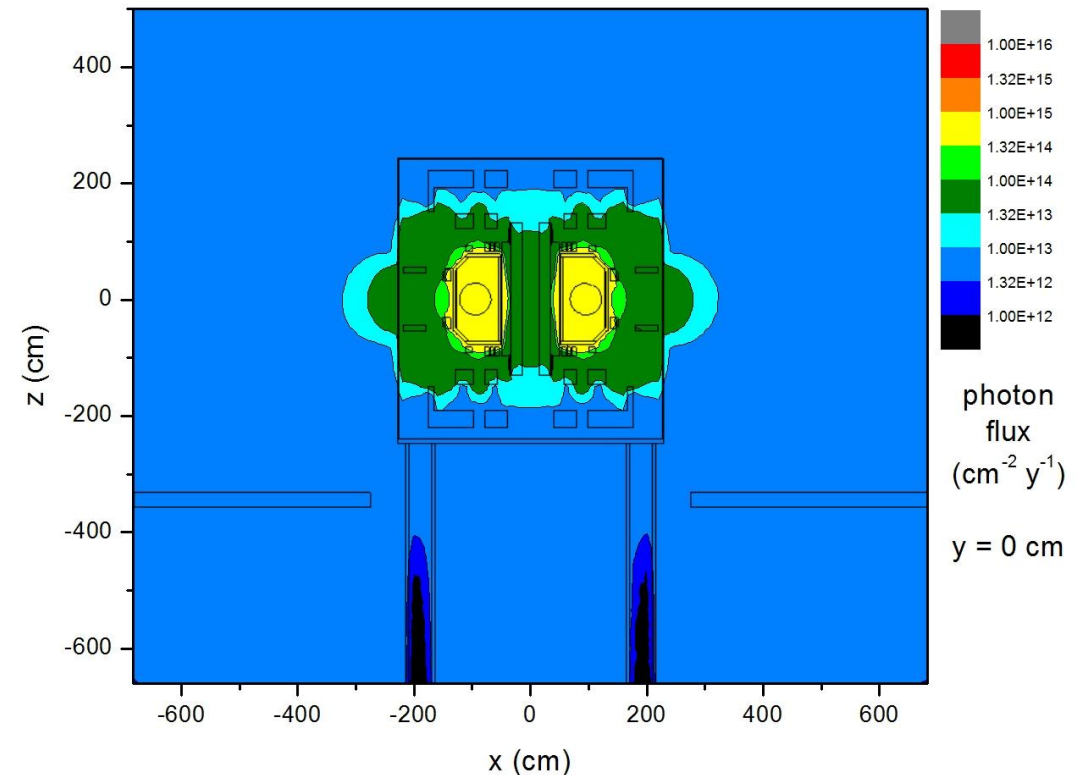
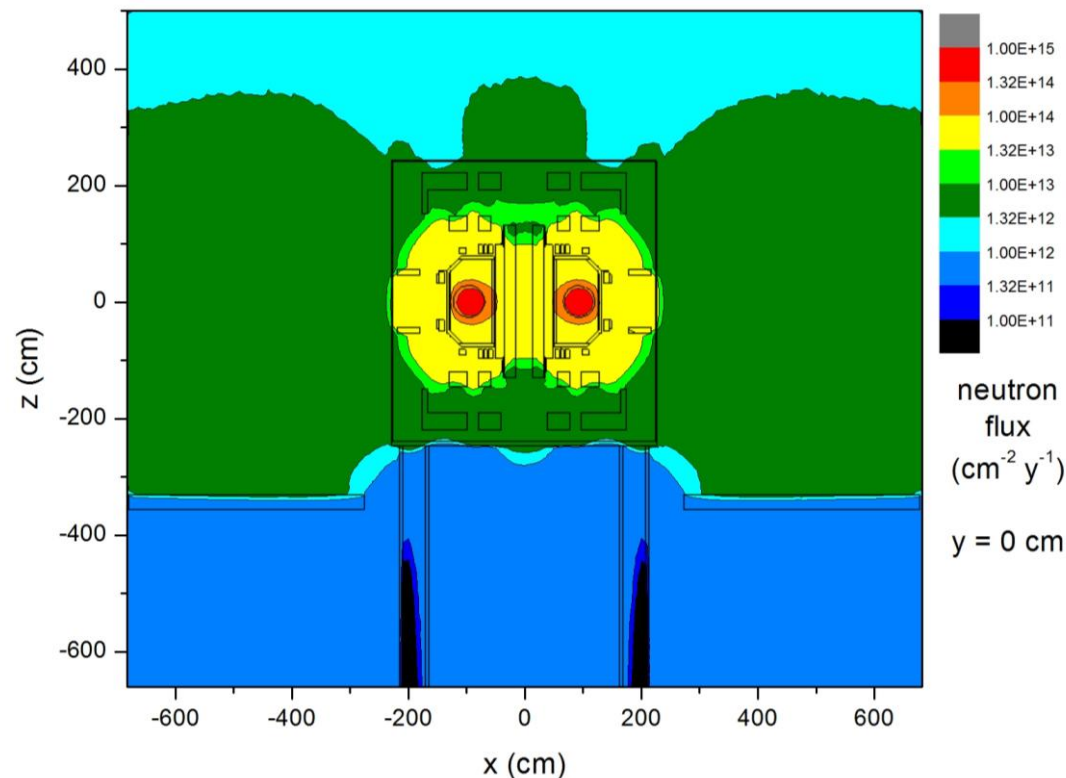
Schedule of 1st gyrotron:

- FAT and delivery **before end of 2026**
- Assembly and commissioning in 2027





- The majority of ionizing radiation will come from **beam-target produced neutrons** during NBI operation.
- The expected neutron rate **1×10^{14} to 1.8×10^{15} neutrons/s** (4 MW NBI)
=> yearly production of 3×10^{18} neutrons for the expected scenario distribution.
- Monte Carlo simulations** were carried out with the MCNP code to calculate both the neutron and gamma fields inside the experimental hall (IFJ PAN, Poland)



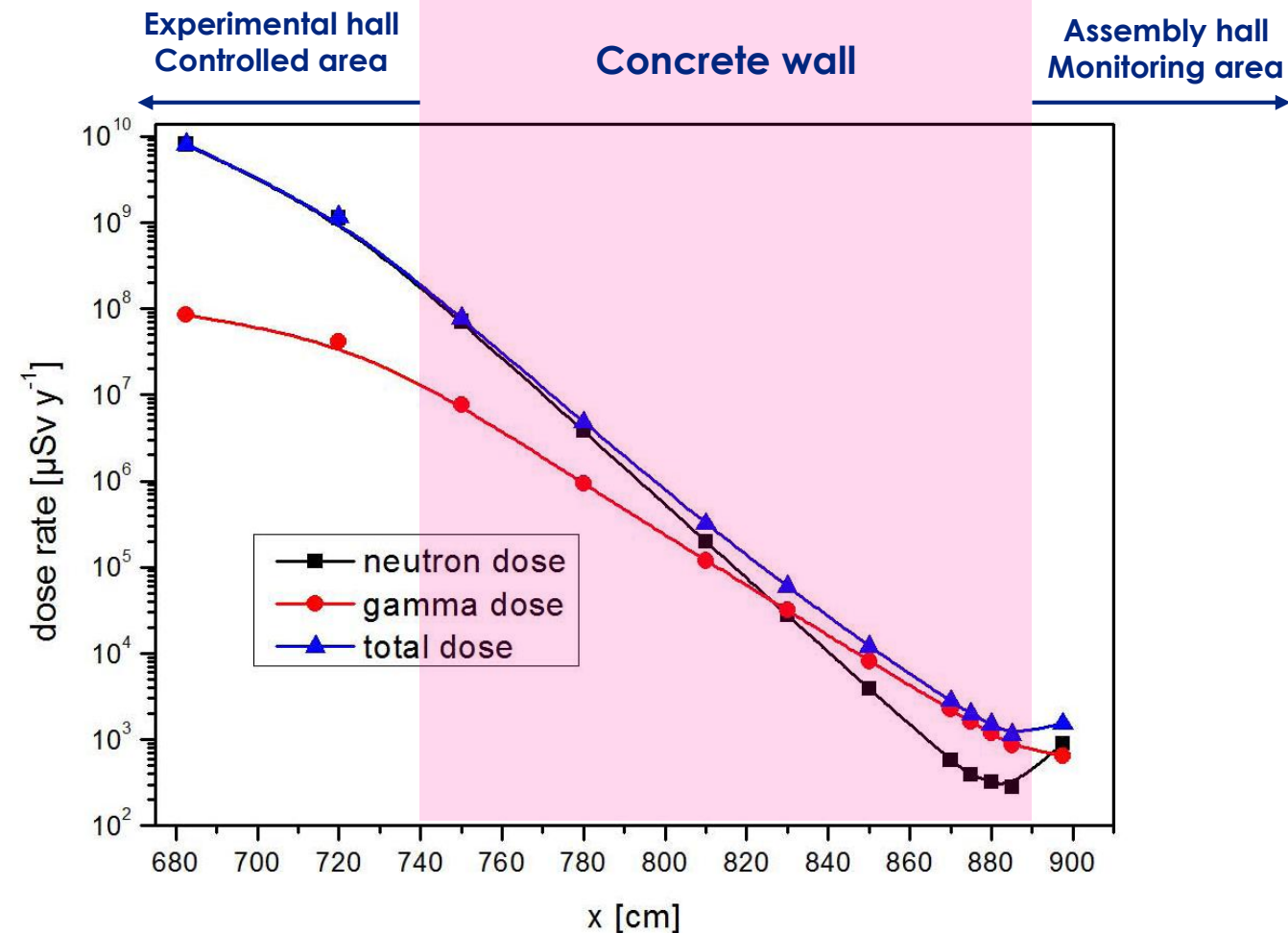
Experimental hall radiation shielding

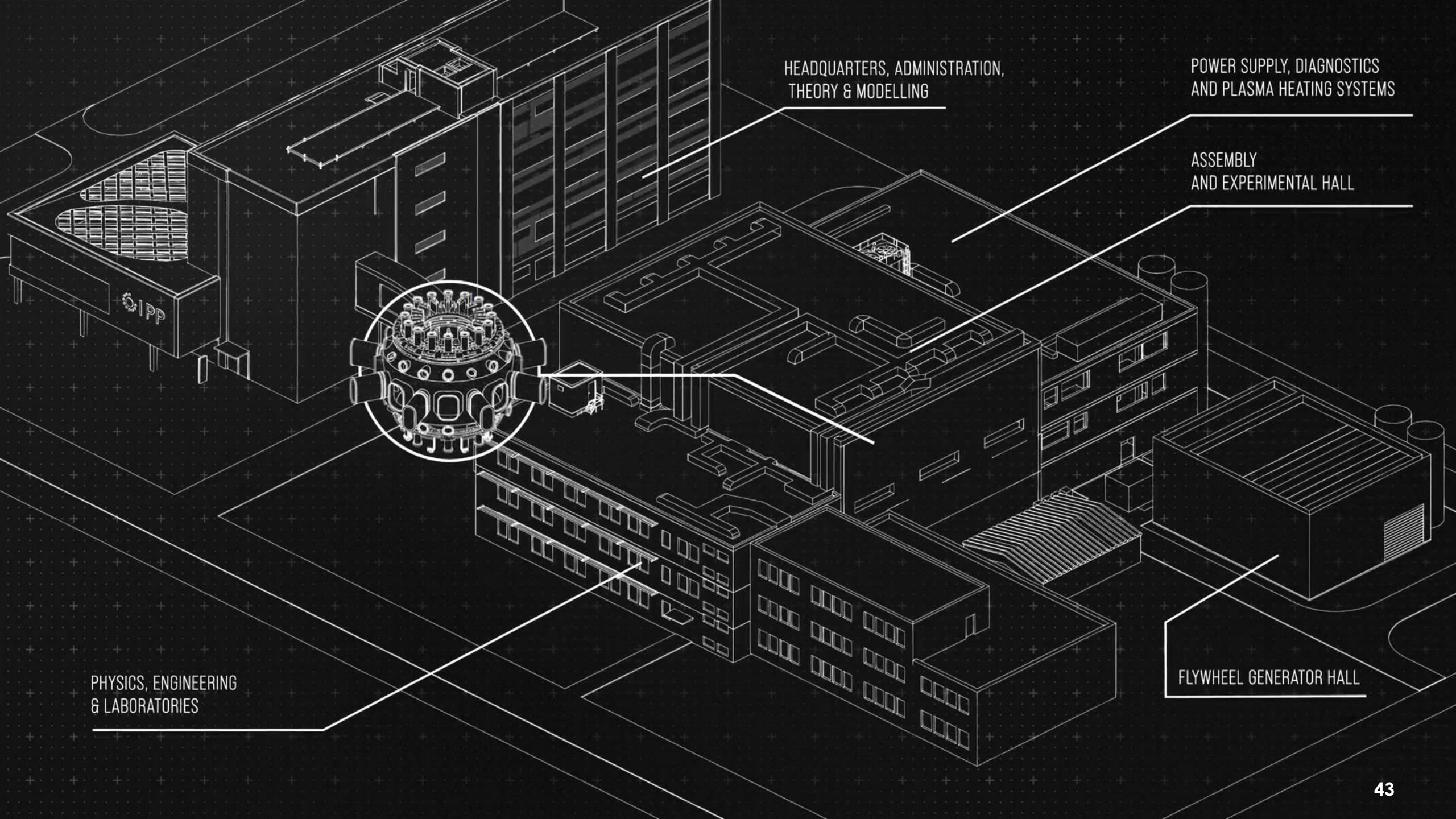
Custom concrete mixture for the shielding walls :

- **Hydrogen content** >1%wt
- **Boron content** > 0,03%

This was achieved by

- **Particular source of aggregate** – higher hydrate mineral content
- **Increased cement fraction** – binds more water in the resulting concrete
- Added **boron compound** – B_4C used





HEADQUARTERS, ADMINISTRATION,
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POWER SUPPLY, DIAGNOSTICS
AND PLASMA HEATING SYSTEMS

ASSEMBLY
AND EXPERIMENTAL HALL

FLYWHEEL GENERATOR HALL

PHYSICS, ENGINEERING
& LABORATORIES

Construction works

Phase 1:

12/2021-06/2023 ✓

- Modifications of the assembly (A) and experimental (E) halls
- Additional 90 cm of concrete (1.5 m in total) with enhanced fraction of cement and boron carbide addition for better shielding performance
- 2 sliding doors (27 tons and 11 tons)
- New 0.8 m thick base concrete slab, new concrete floor, new concrete ceiling
- Additional steel floor in the assembly hall

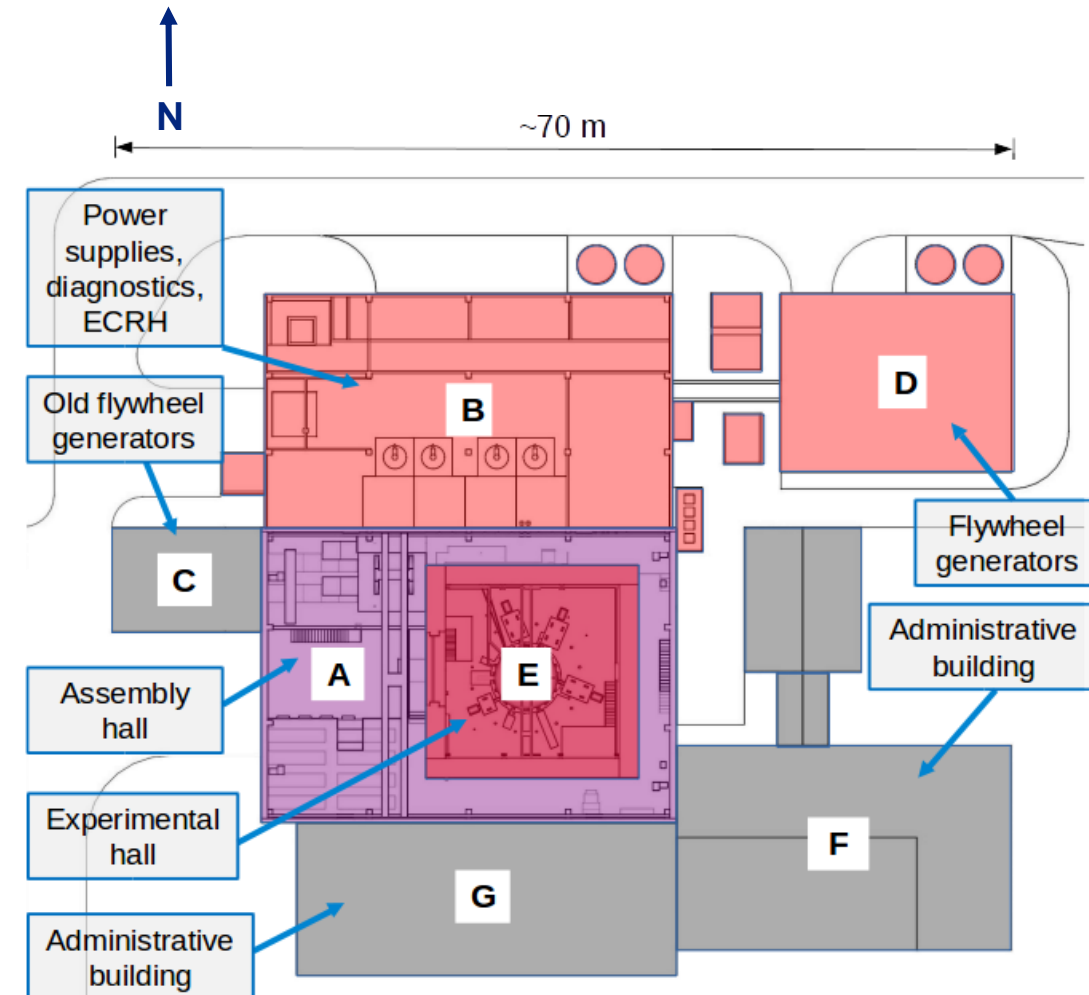
Phase 2:

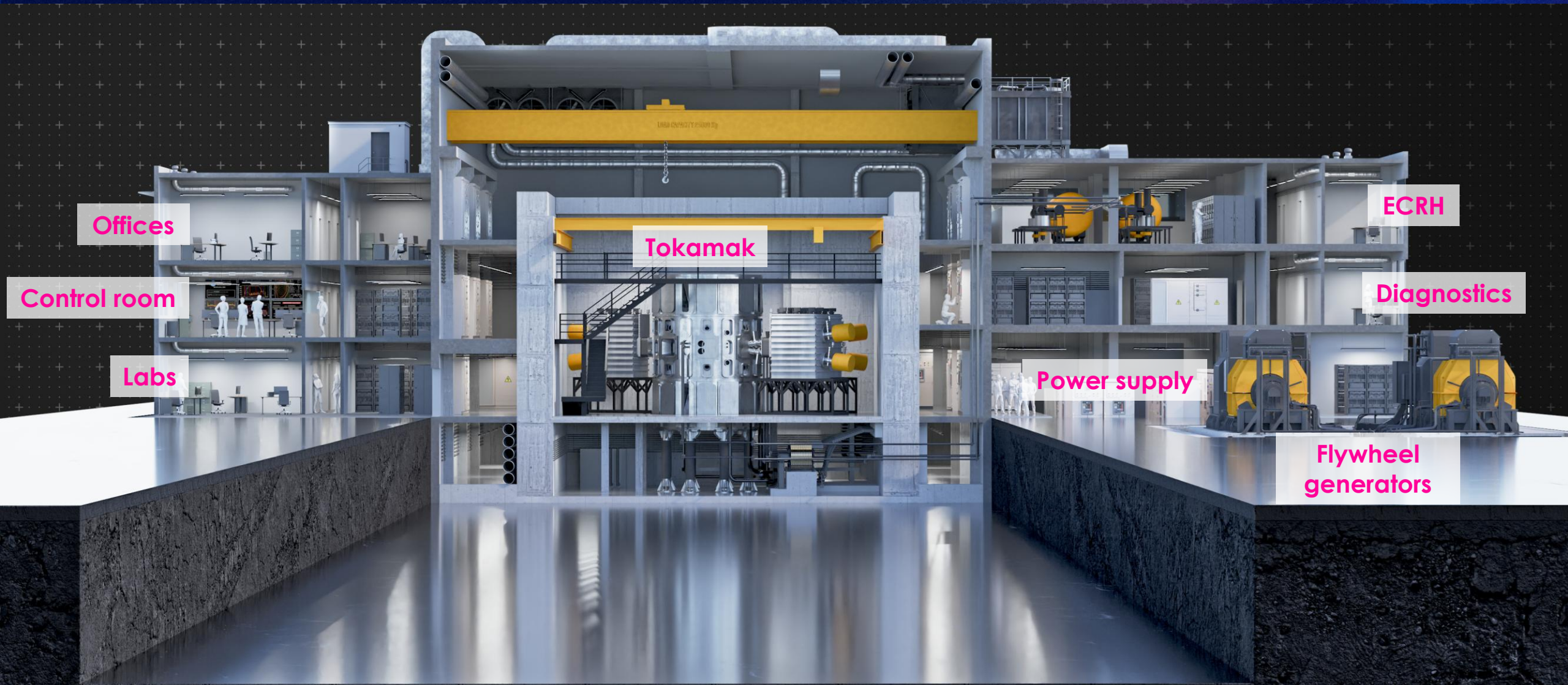
06/2023-10/2024

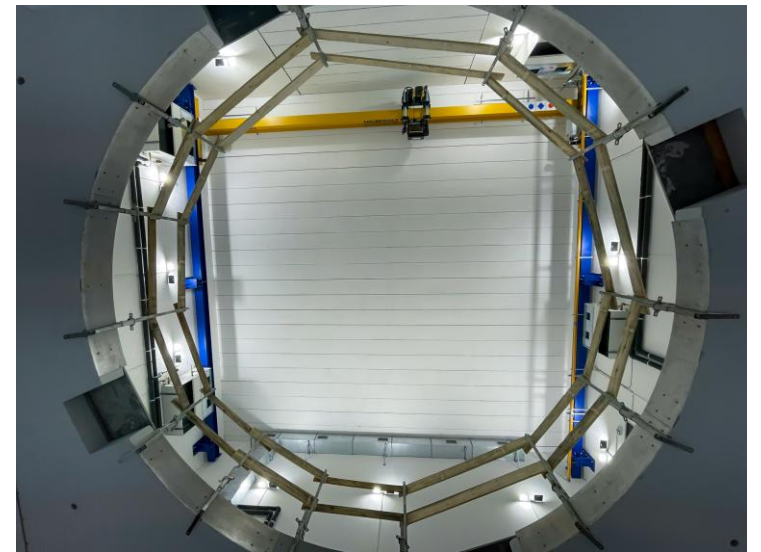
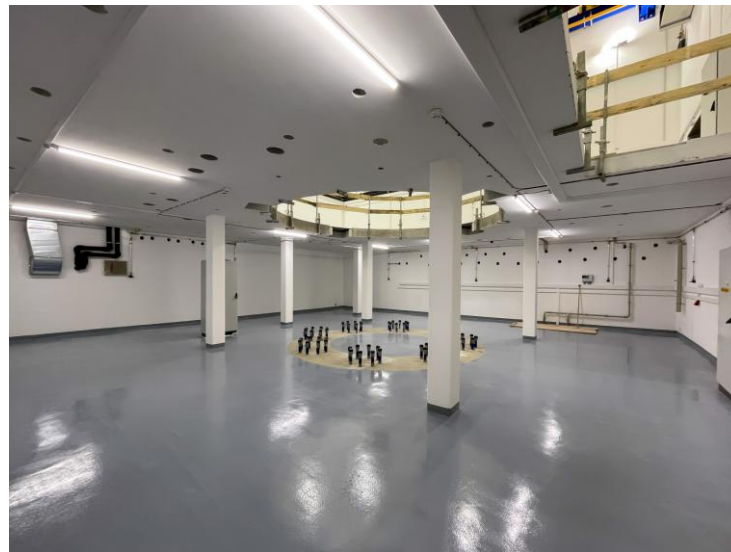
- New hall for power supplies, diagnostics and ECRH (B)
- New hall for flywheel generators (D)
- New liquid nitrogen reservoirs, cooling stations, transformers etc.

New 22 kV power line

2024 ✓







Power Supply System, diagnostics, ECRH

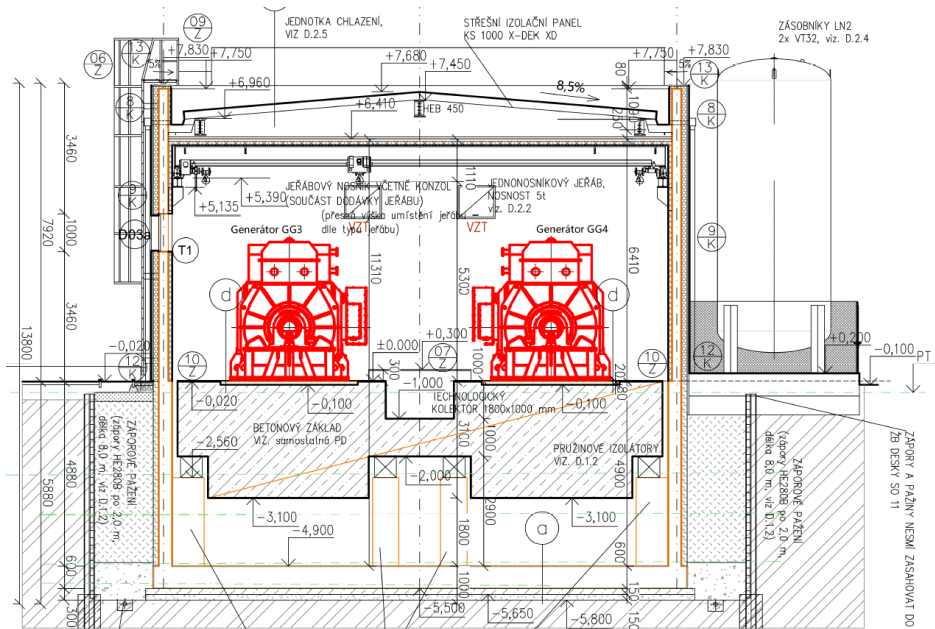


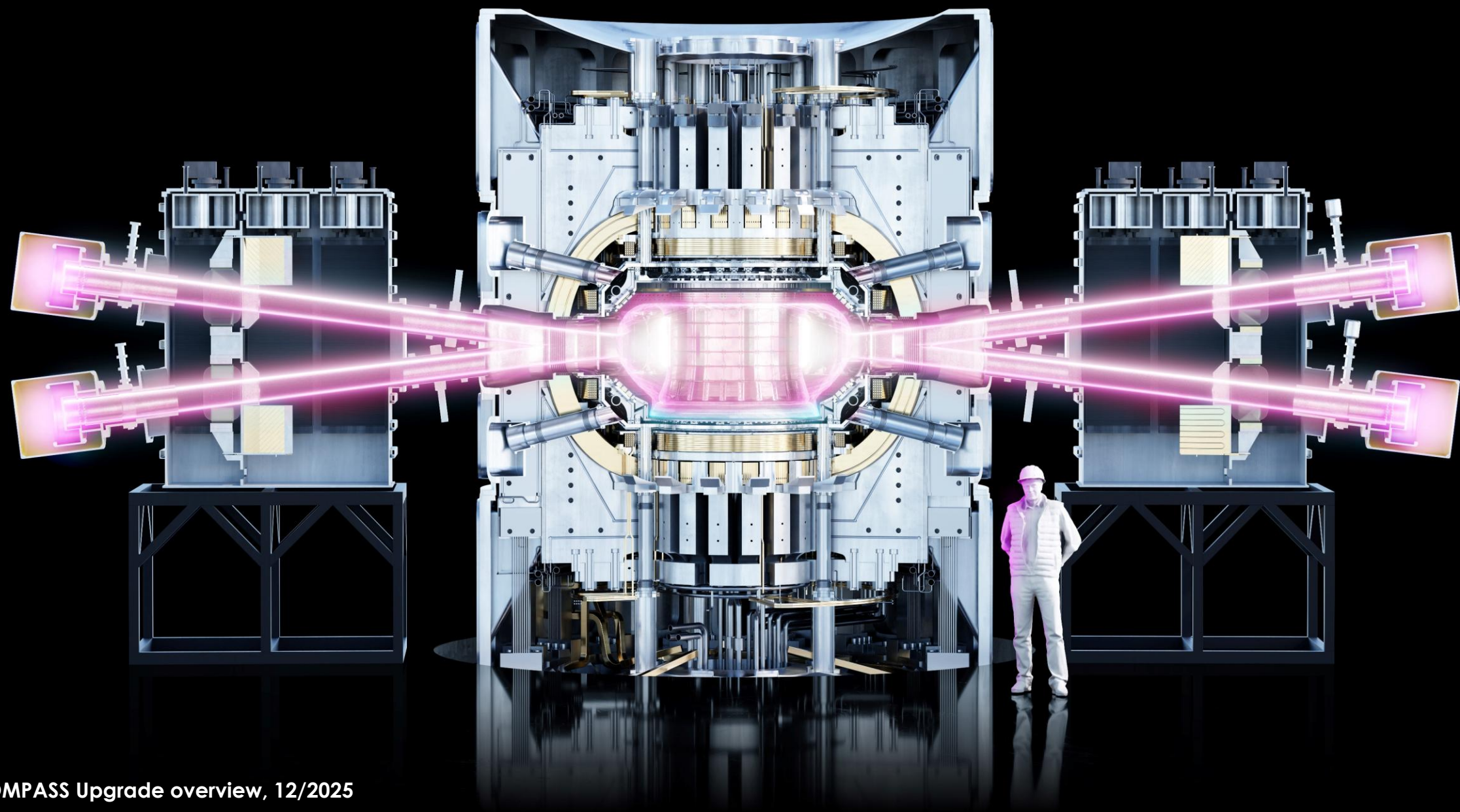
Flywheel generators



Block under the new flywheel generators

- size 13 x 14 x 3 m, **total weight ~ 1100 tons** (including 60 tons of steel rebars)
- Floating on **24 spring boxes**
- Each flywheel connected to block with **92 rods M64** through the block (length of 3.5 m)







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the European Union



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AND SPORTS

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