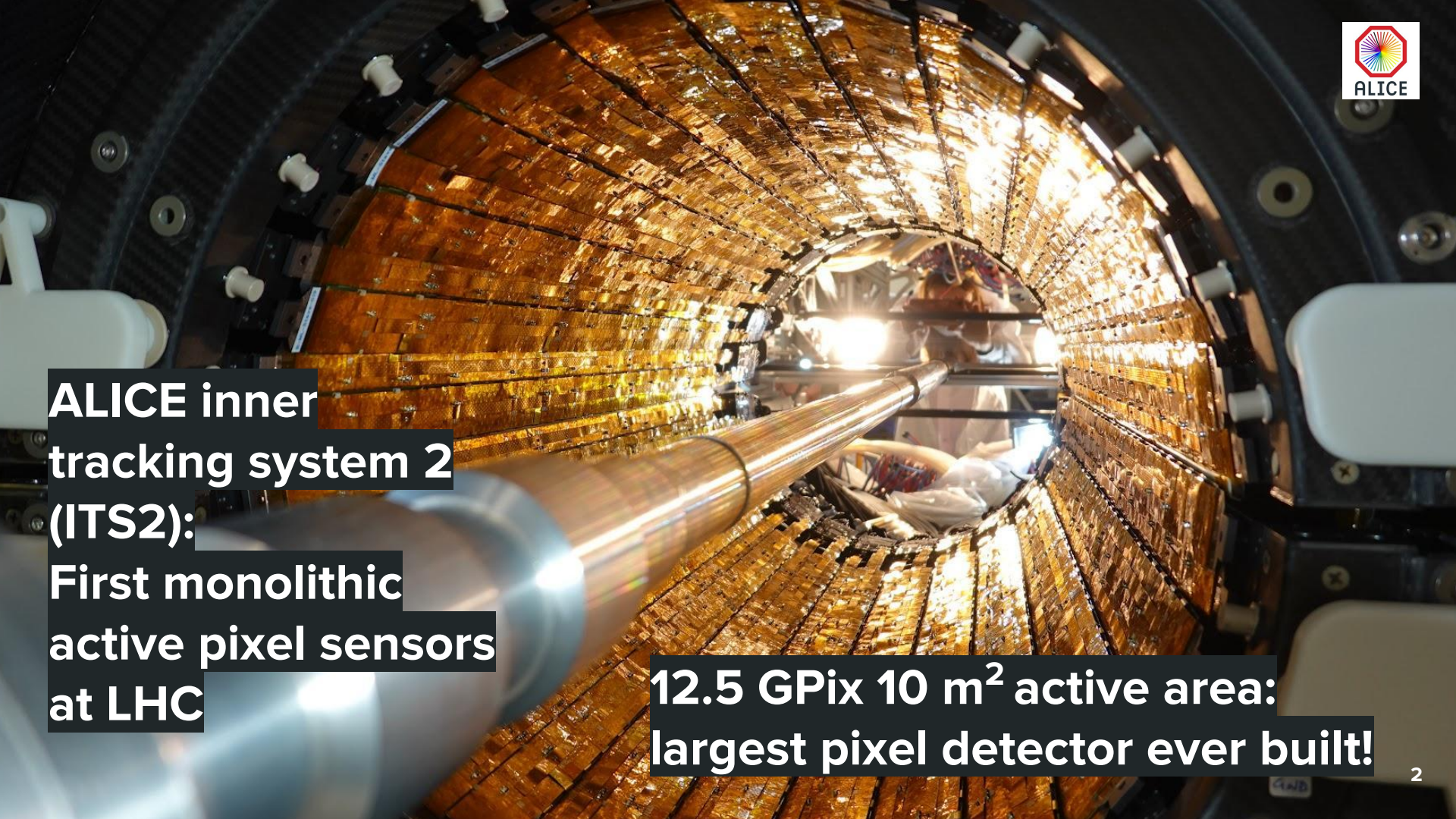


ALICE Detector R&D @Nikhef

Jory Sonneveld for the Nikhef ALICE group





**ALICE inner
tracking system 2
(ITS2):
First monolithic
active pixel sensors
at LHC**

**12.5 GPix 10 m² active area:
largest pixel detector ever built!**



ALICE

Pb-Pb 5.36 TeV

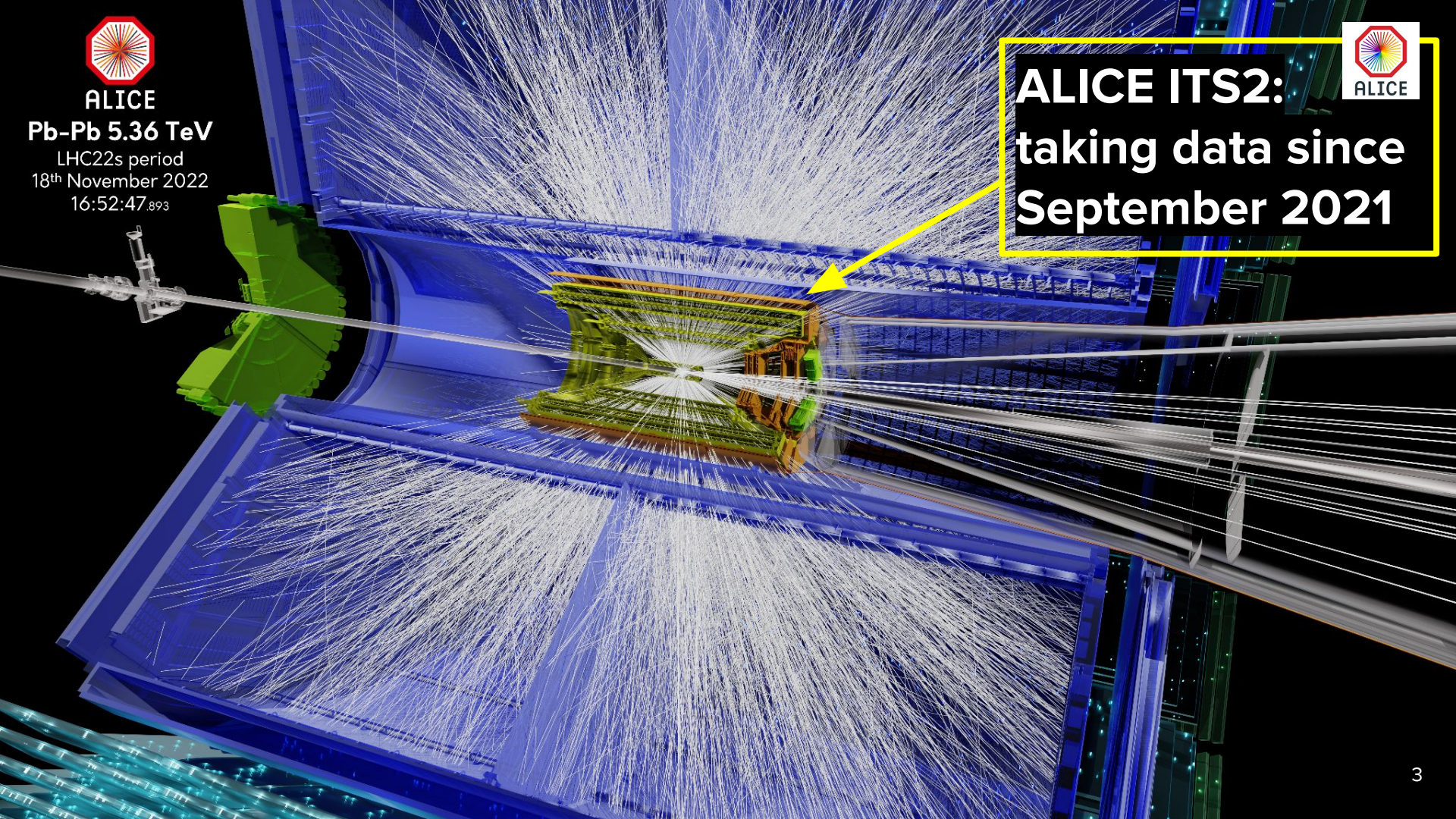
LHC22s period
18th November 2022

16:52:47.893



ALICE

**ALICE ITS2:
taking data since
September 2021**





Three inner tracker
layers to be upgraded
2026-2028



ALICE

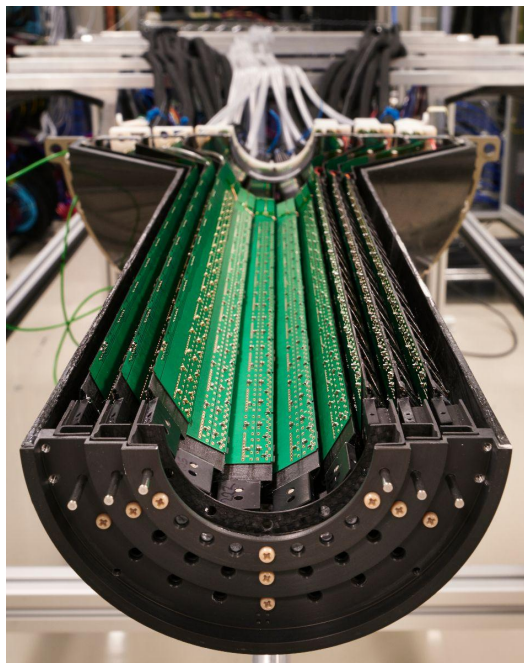
Pb-Pb 5.36 TeV

LHC22s period
18th November 2022

16:52:47.893

Future upgrade of the ALICE inner tracking system

0.36% X_0 per layer



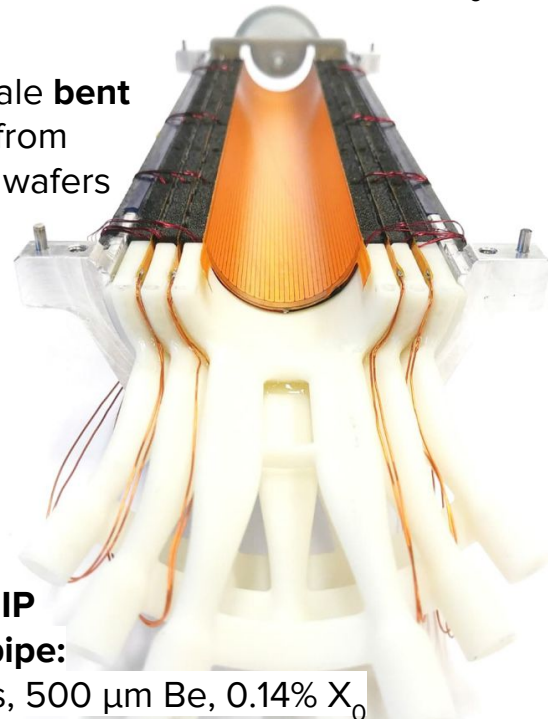
ITS2

Inner three layers with 432 modules to be replaced in 2026-2028

22 mm from IP

Very low material budget! 0.05% X_0 per layer

Stitched, wafer-scale **bent** sensors from 300 mm wafers



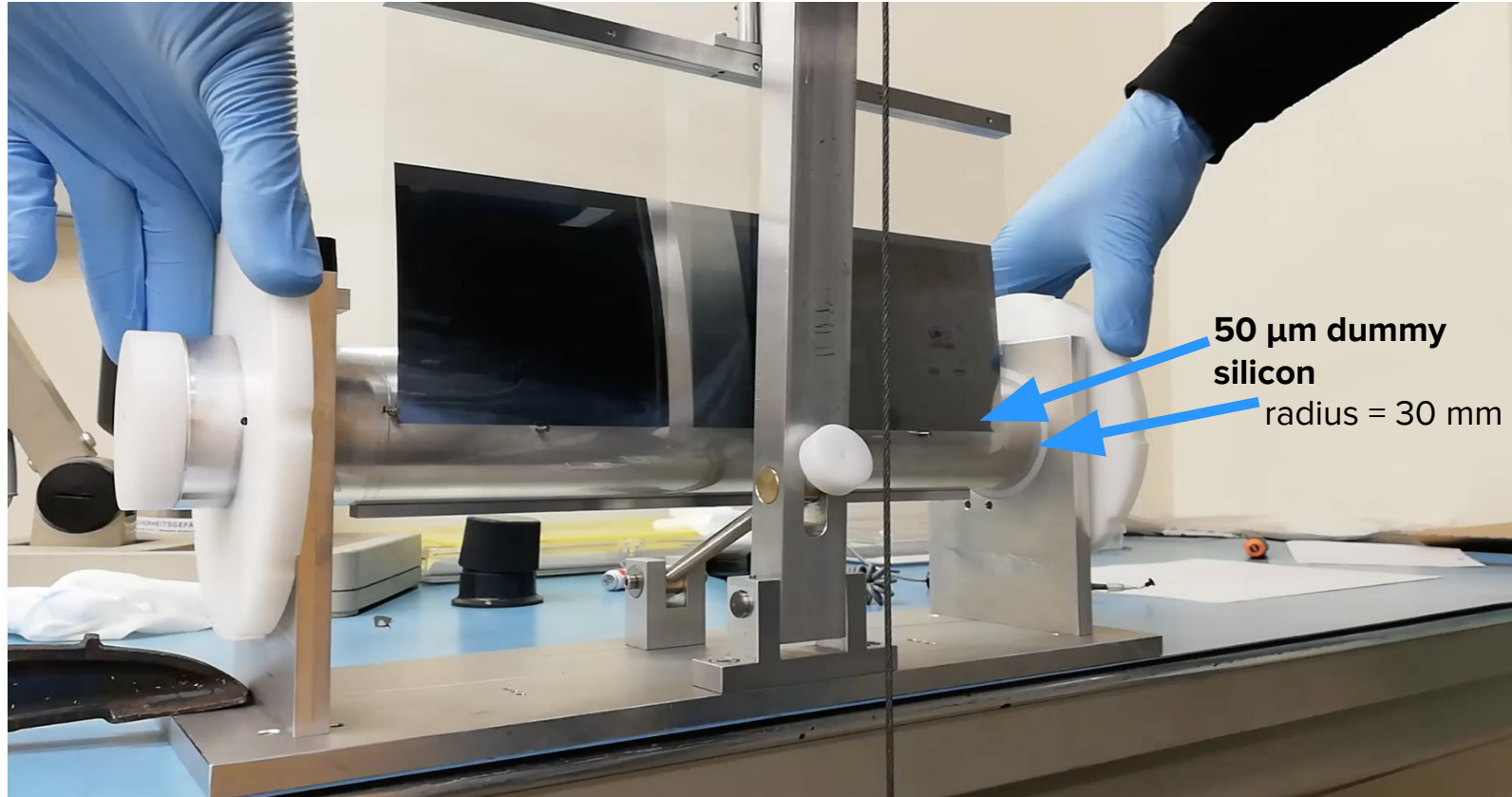
18 mm from IP

New beam pipe:

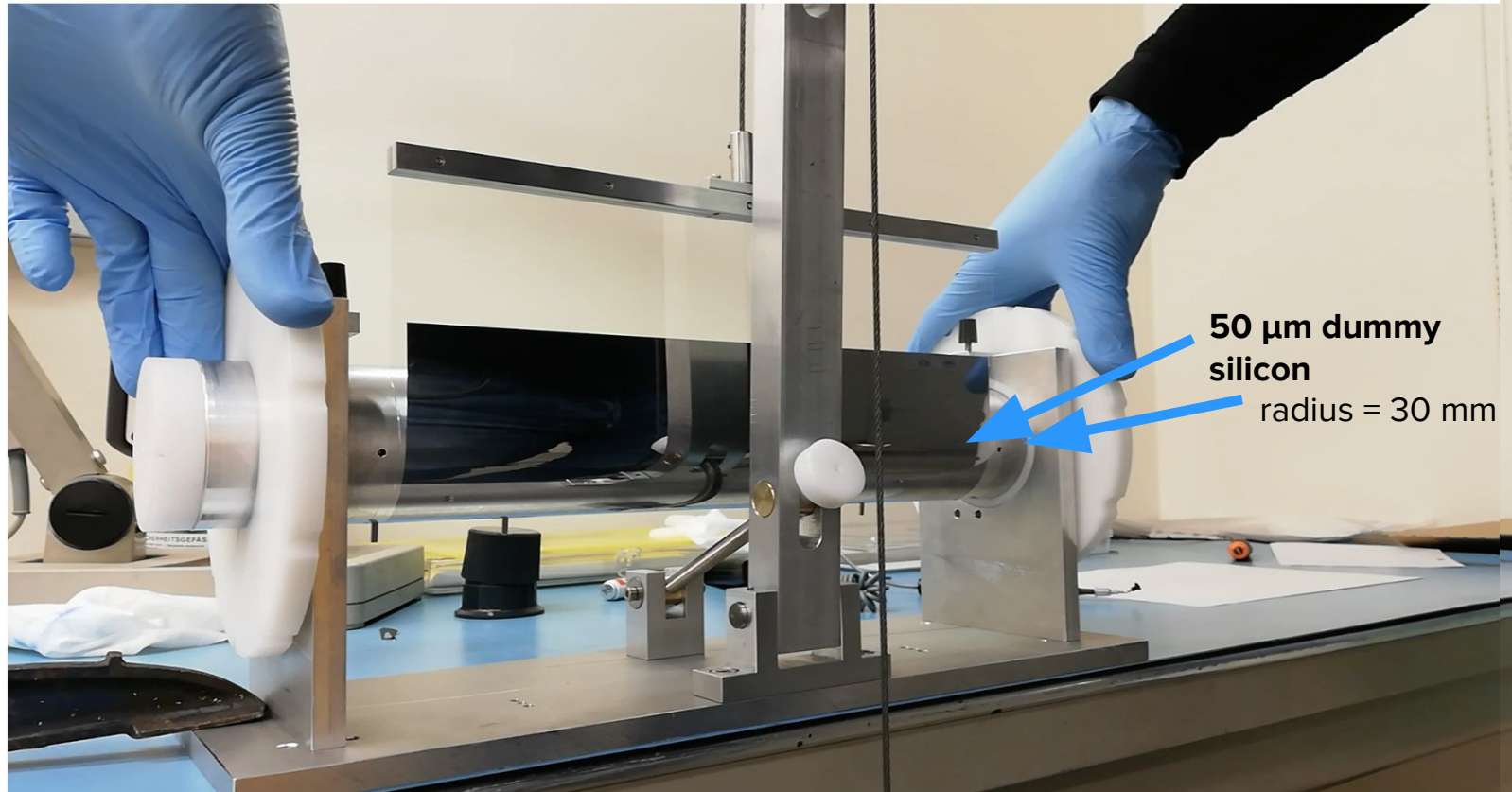
16 mm radius, 500 μm Be, 0.14% X_0

ITS3

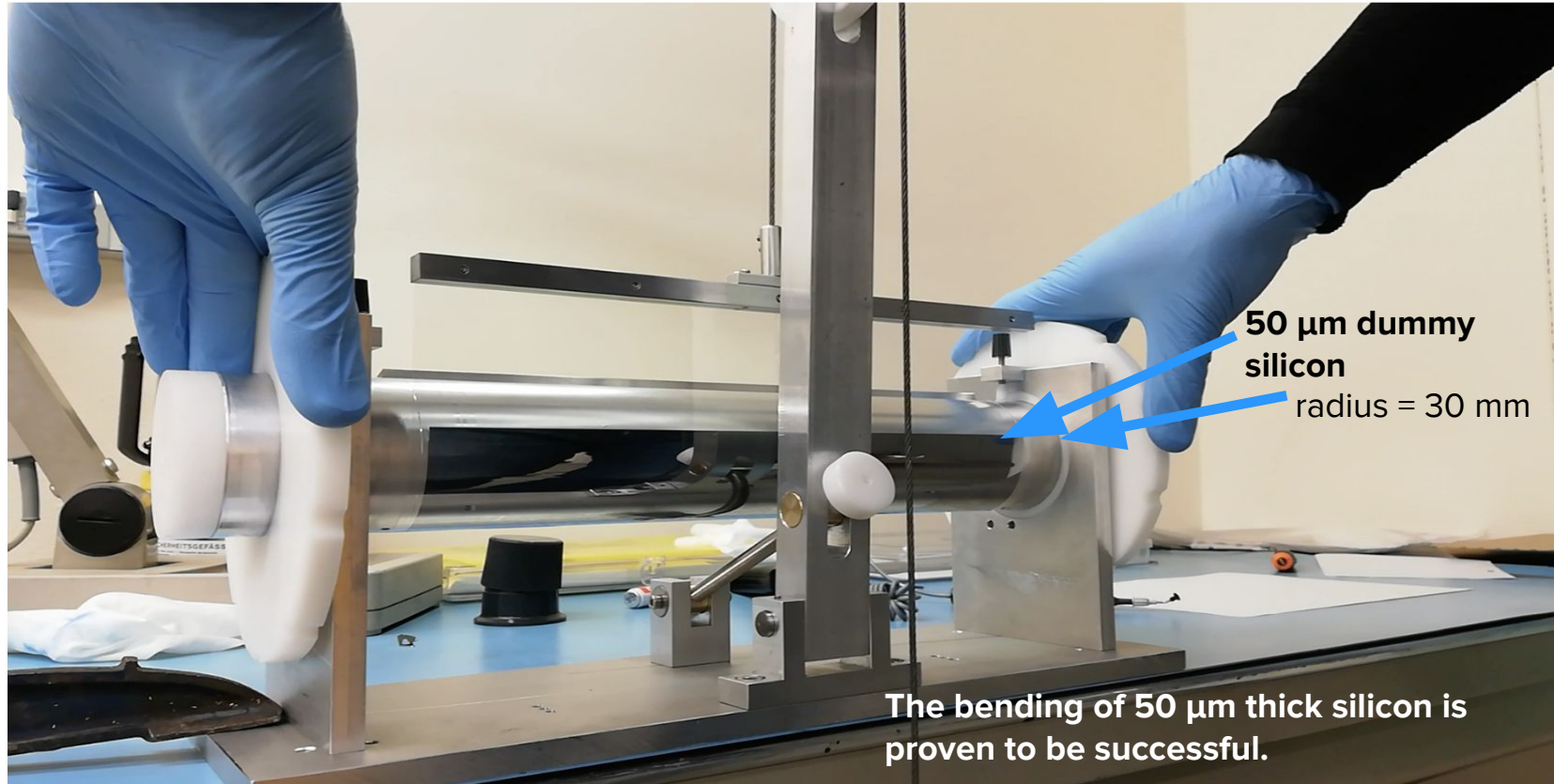
Can we bend these silicon chips?



Can we bend these silicon chips?

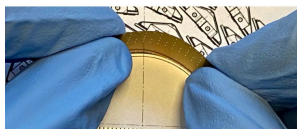


Can we bend these silicon chips?



2028: ALICE ITS3 for Run 4

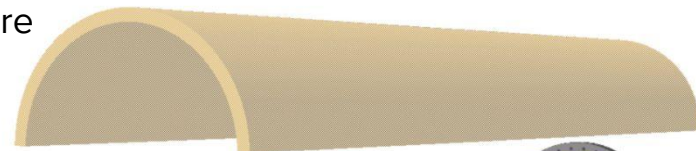
Each half layer is only one pixel sensor!



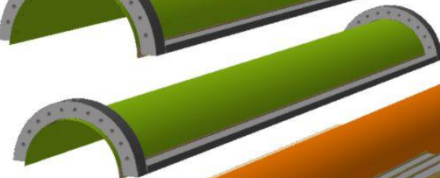
Stitching and bending

- Material: $X/X_0 \approx 0.05\%$
- **6 half-layer sensors** with 3-5 wafer-scale monolithic active pixel sensors (MAPS)
- Half layer sensor of size of $280 \times 53.3 \text{ mm}^2$ in layer 0
- Thinned to $40\text{-}50 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$
- Mechanically held in place by carbon foam
- **Air cooling** to reduce material (now: water cooling)

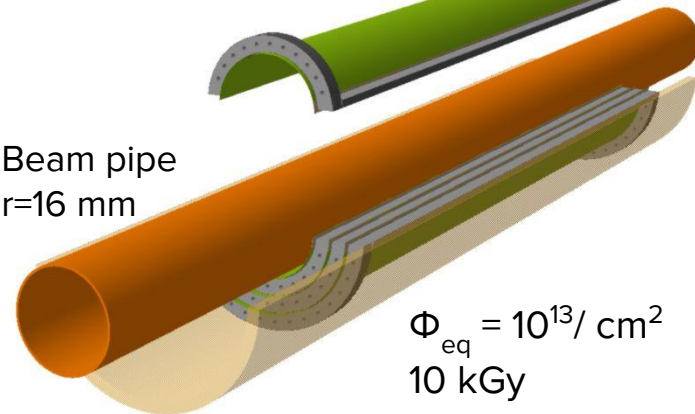
Cylindrical support structure



Half-layer sensor



Beam pipe
 $r=16 \text{ mm}$



$$\Phi_{\text{eq}} = 10^{13} / \text{cm}^2$$

$$10 \text{ kGy}$$

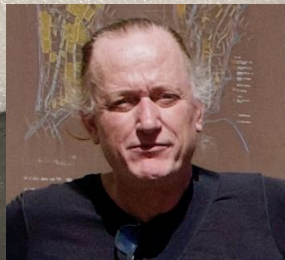
$$2.2 \text{ MHz/cm}^2$$

ITS3 Mechanics and Cooling at Nikhef/Utrecht

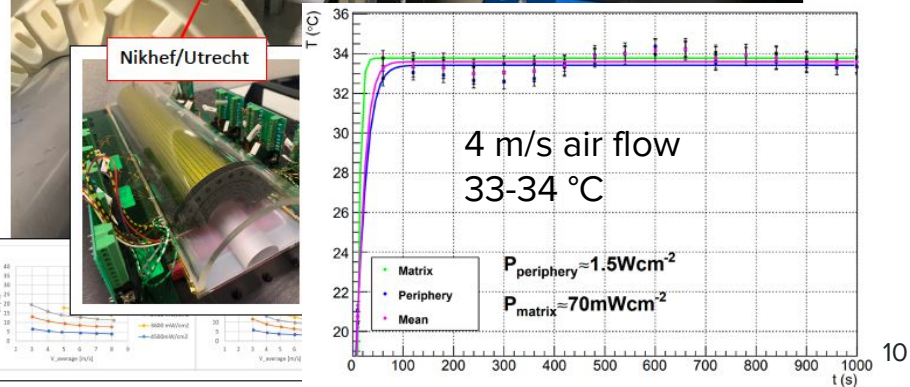
Layer 0 dummy with cooling concept



“Standalone” layer: can be replaced
Optional layer 4!



Wind tunnel studies



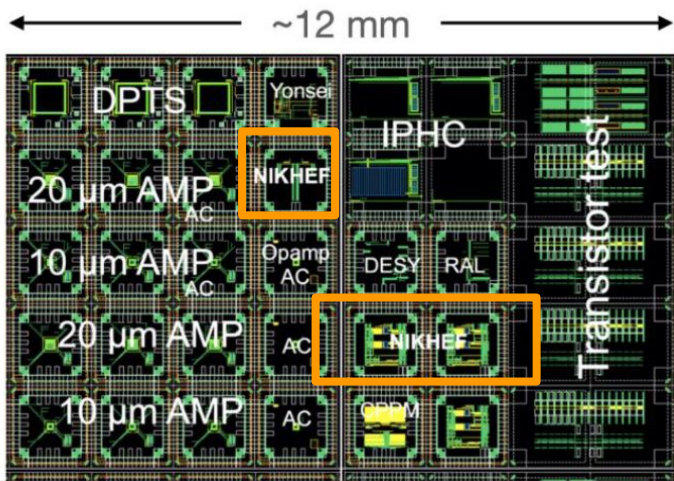
ITS3 ASIC design at Nikhef: ET



First submission 2021 multilayer reticle 1:

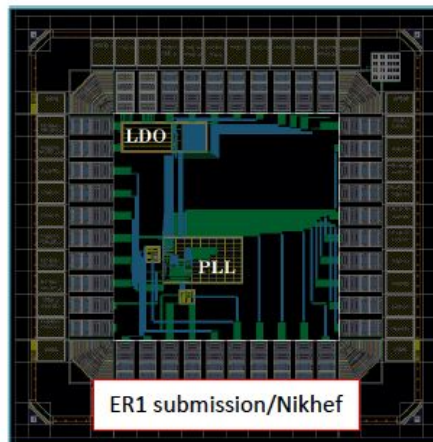
- Bandgap reference circuits
- Temperature sensor
- Voltage controlled oscillator (VCO)

A. Yelkenci *et al* 2023 *JINST* **18** C02017



Engineering run 1: stitched sensors

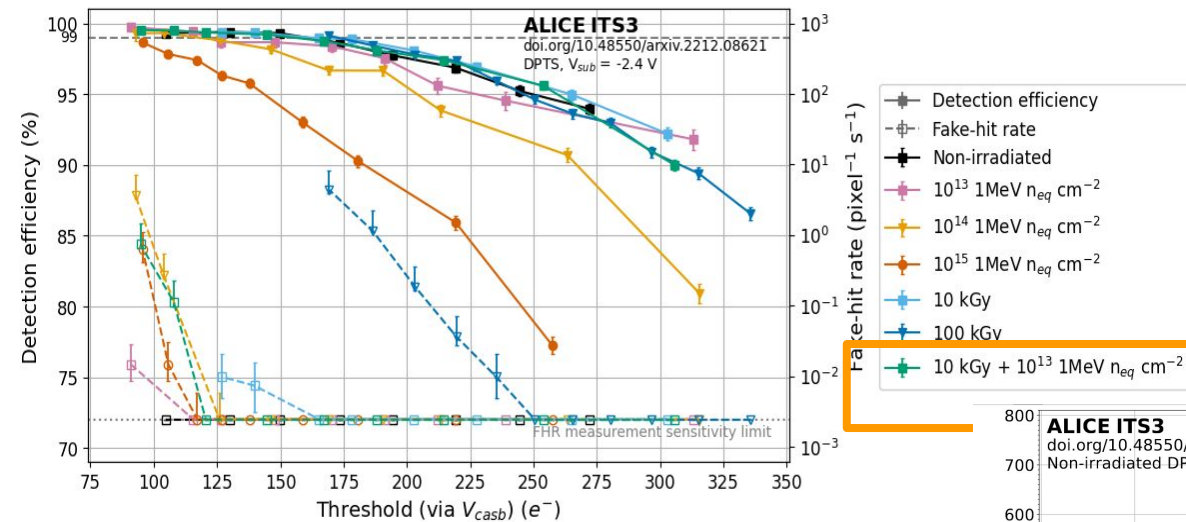
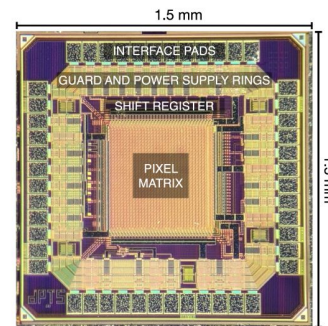
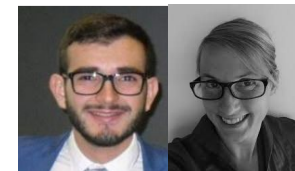
- 2-stage low drop out (LDO) regulator
- phase locked loop (PLL)
- Serializer at 10.28 Gb/s



ITS3 sensor characterization: Detector R&D

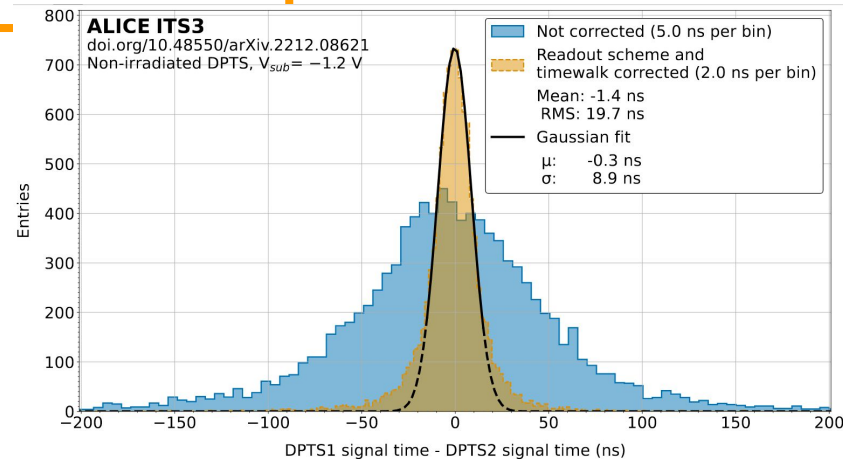
Results published in

[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621)



ITS3 required fluence and dose

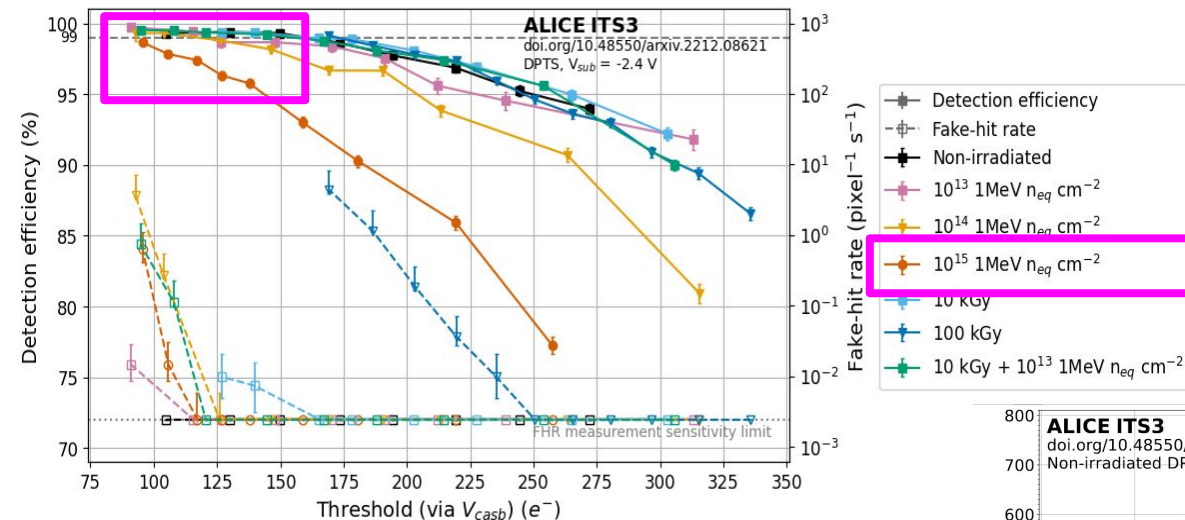
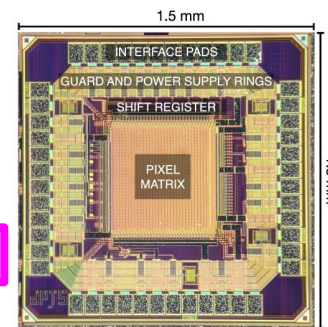
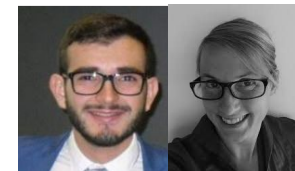
- Operated at room temperature!
- 100% efficient after ITS3 fluence
- Sensor still operable at 99% efficiency at 20°C after $\Phi_{eq} = 10^{15} / \text{cm}^2$



Sensor characterization: Detector R&D

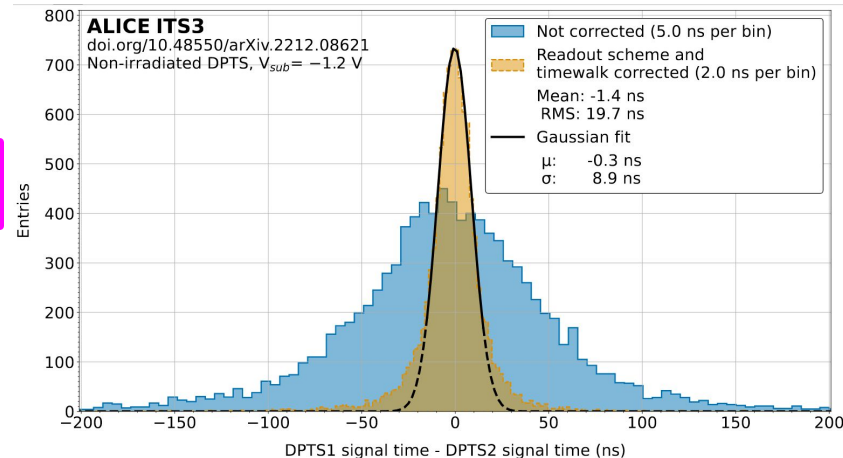
Results published in

[doi:10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621)



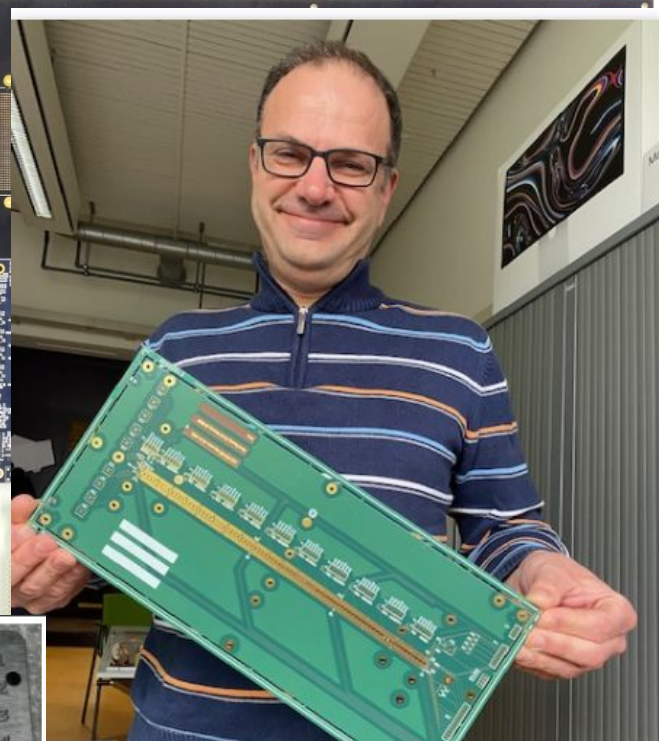
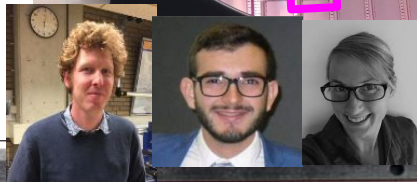
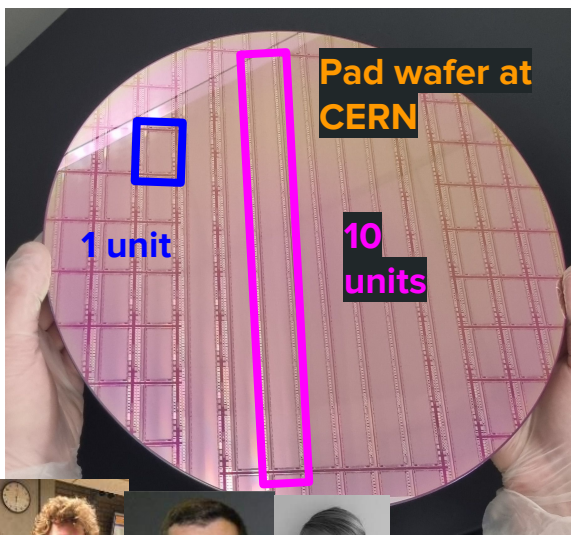
Efficient at room temperature after $100 \times$ ITS3 fluence

- Operated at room temperature!
- 100% efficient after ITS3 fluence
- Sensor still operable at 99% efficiency at 20°C after $\Phi_{eq} = 10^{15} / \text{cm}^2$**



Large structures arriving soon: Nikhef preparations

- First MAPS for high energy physics using stitching
- First full structures will come to Nikhef soon!
- “MOST”: 2.5 x 259 mm, 0.9 MPixel ($18 \times 18 \mu\text{m}^2$)
- Carrier board designed at Nikhef/Utrecht
- Preparing for characterization



Carrier board for MOST



2034 and onward: ALICE3

Exciting Physics & Exciting new Technologies

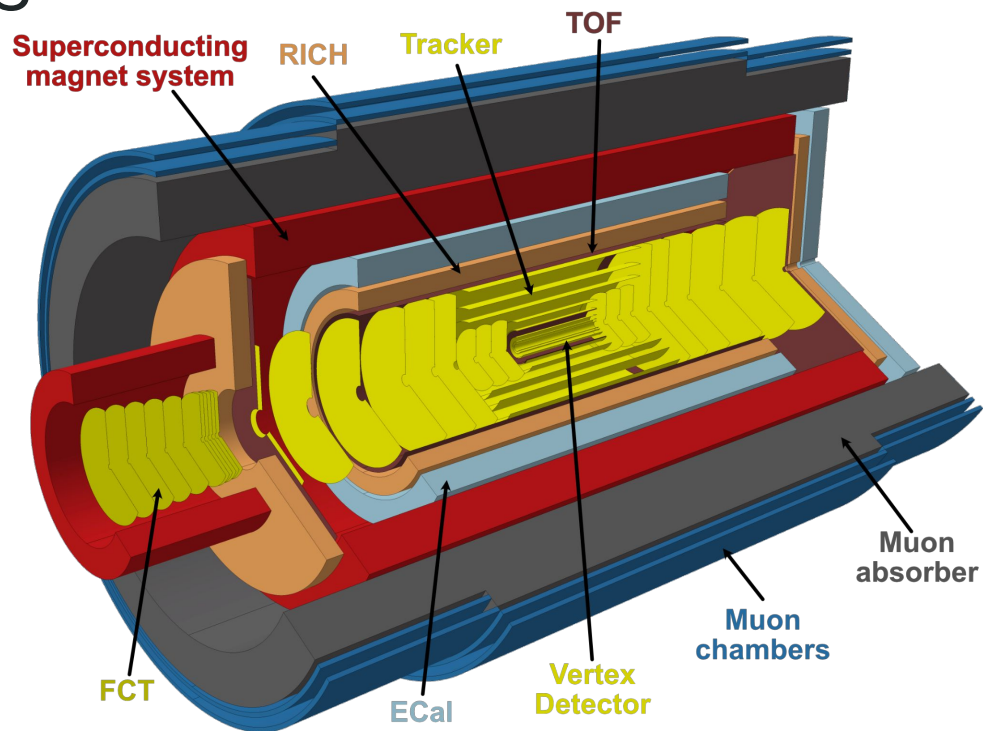
Steering group members
Upgrade Coordinator Chapter convener



Co-coordinator of the
tracker chapter



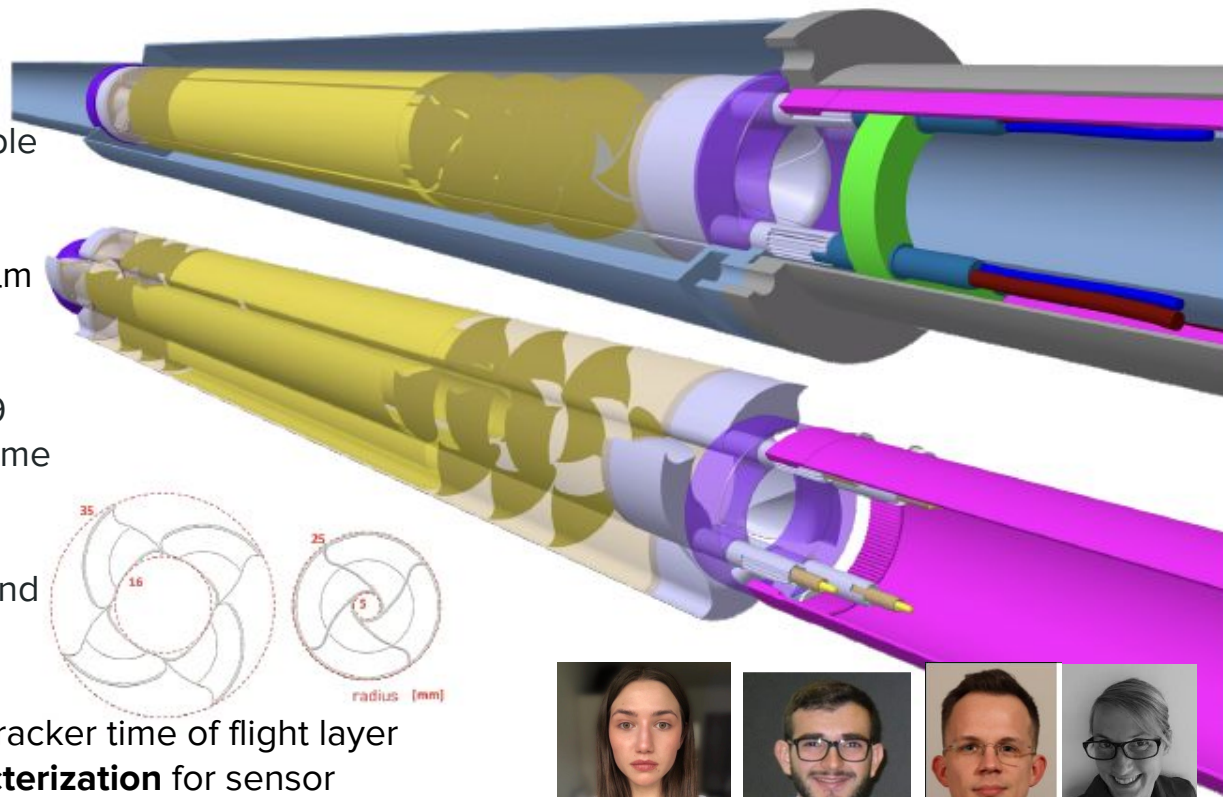
- Compact ($r \approx 2\text{m}$, $z \approx 8\text{m}$)
- Large acceptance, $|\eta| < 4$, $p_T > 0.02 \text{ GeV}/c$
- Superconducting magnet system
- Max field: $B = 2 \text{ T}$ (0.5 T runs foreseen)
- Continuous readout and online processing
- Pointing resolution $\sim 3\text{-}4 \mu\text{m}$ and p_T resolution better than 1% @ $1 \text{ GeV}/c$
- Particle Identification (PID) in a wide range of momenta and $|\eta| < 4$



Innermost layer fluence: $1e16 / \text{cm}^2$: similar to ATLAS, CMS phase 2 constraints
Innermost layer rate: $94 \text{ MHz}/\text{cm}^2$ and maximum power consumption: $70 \text{ mW}/\text{cm}^2$

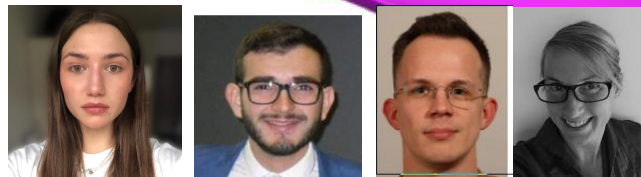
ALICE3 at Nikhef: inner tracker

- Iris in-vacuum retractable vertex tracker at just 5 mm from beam line
- Spatial resolution $2.5 \mu\text{m}$ with $10 \mu\text{m}$ pitch pixels
- 1.5 m^2 inner barrel time-of-flight layer at 19 cm and $|\eta| < 1.75$ with time resolution of 20 ps

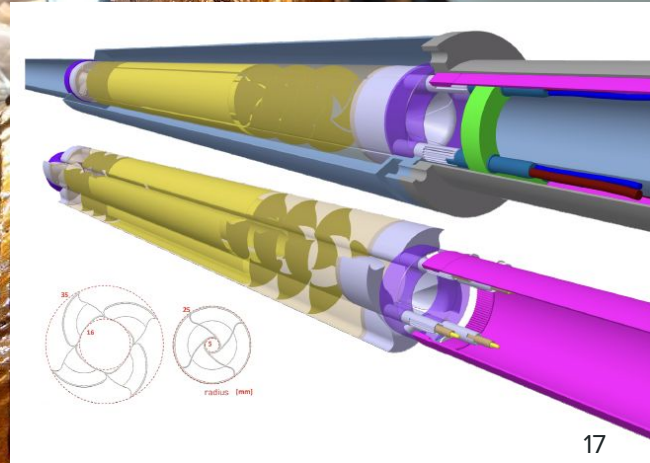
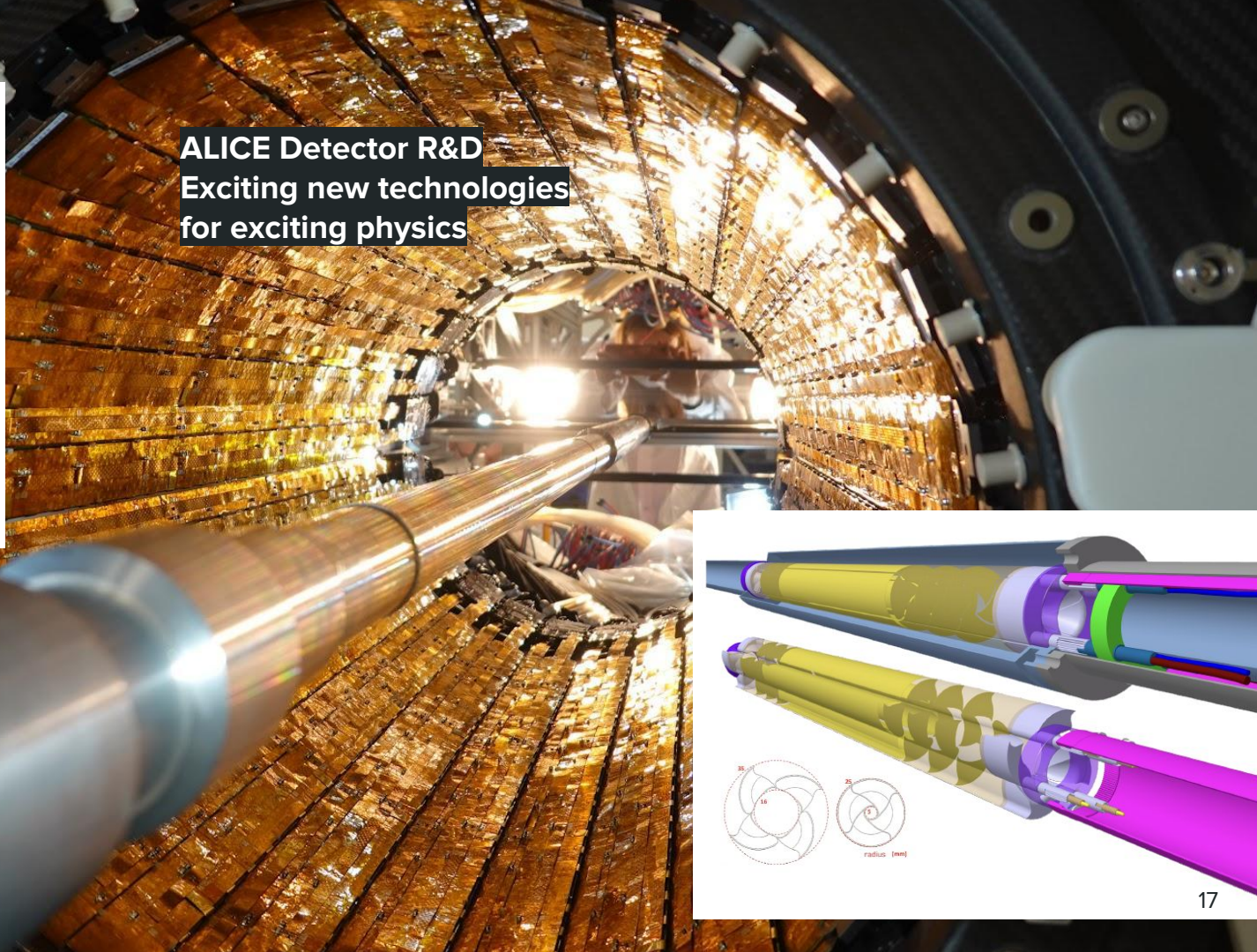
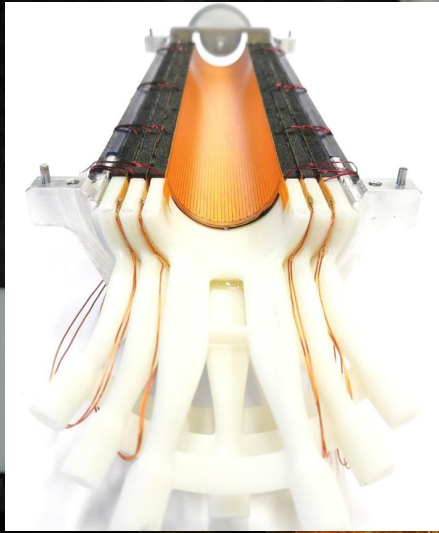


Timing: synergy with LHCb and ATLAS

Nikhef will contribute to inner tracker time of flight layer
Simulations and **timing characterization** for sensor development ongoing at Nikhef



ALICE Detector R&D
Exciting new technologies
for exciting physics



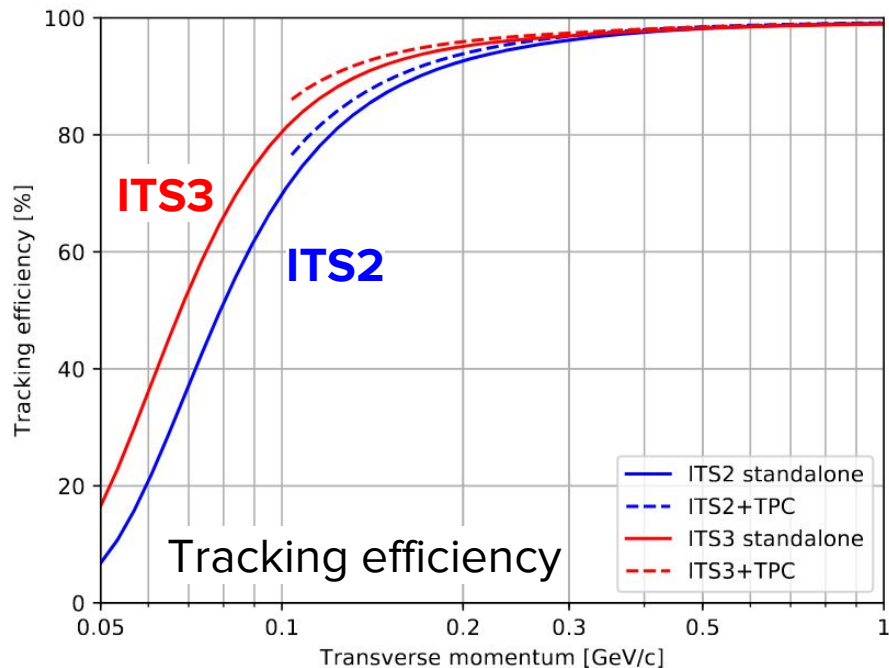
Additional material

ALICE inner tracking system 2 (ITS2)

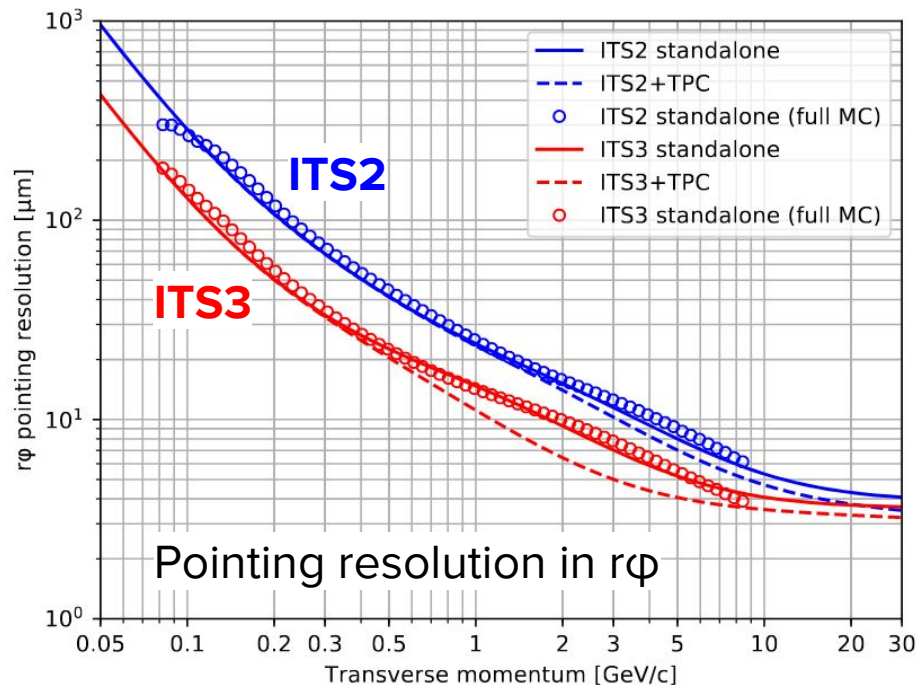


- Inner Tracker: 3 layers, 22-42 mm from IP, 0.36% X_0
- Outer Tracker: 4 layers, 194-395 mm from IP, 1.1% X_0
- Pixels of 27 μm x 29 μm
- 12.5 GPix 10 m² active area
- 24120 chips from 200 mm wafers
- ITS2 (now): 0.36% (inner), 1.1% (outer)

ITS3: more precise vertexing and tracking



Large improvement especially at low p_T

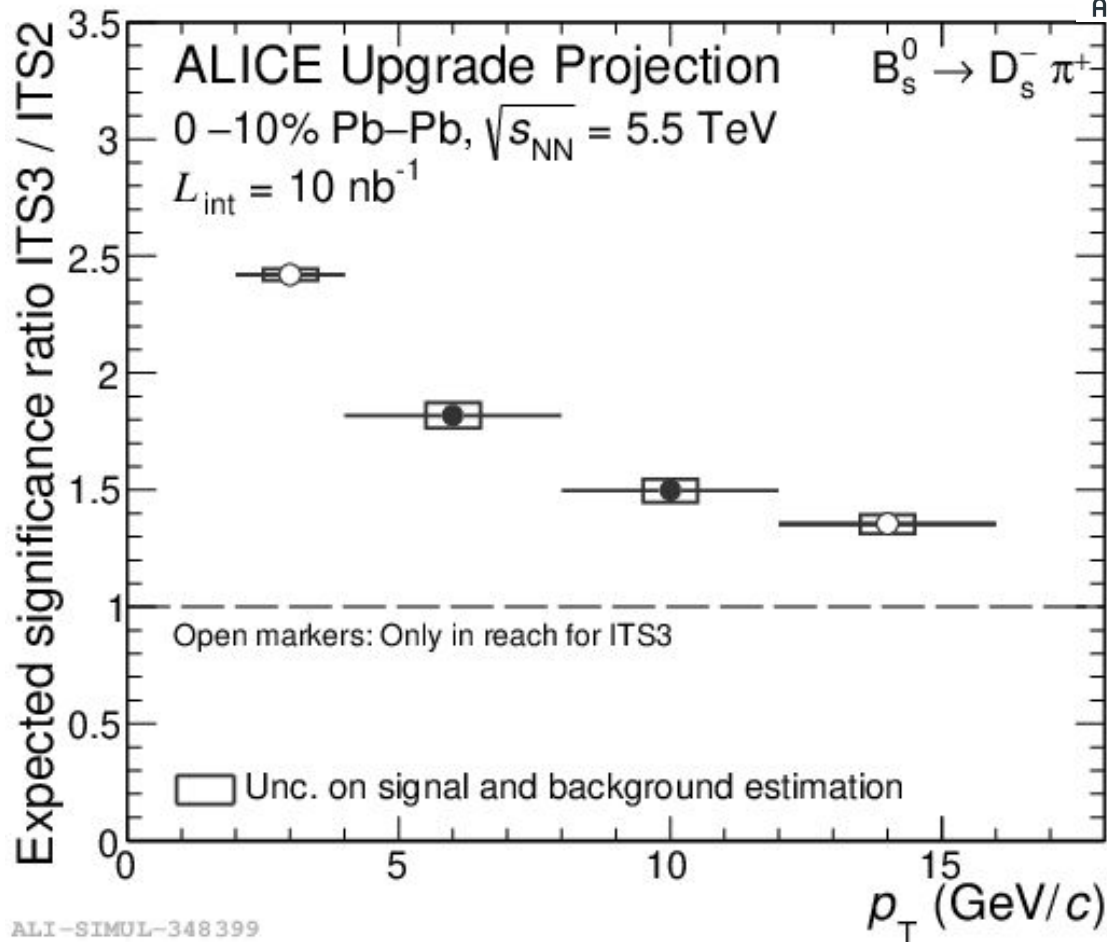


Factor 2 improvement over all momenta

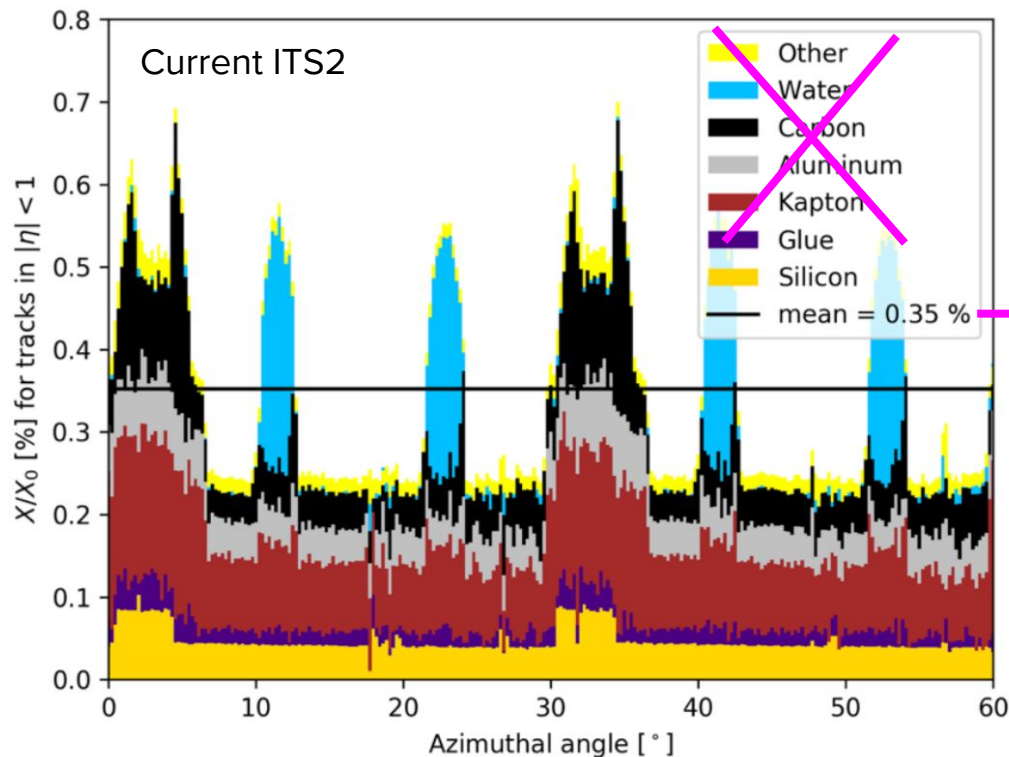
Strange beauty particles

- For studies of hadronisation in heavy ion collisions
- The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) Experiment made first measurement $B_s^0 / B_{\text{not } S}$ in Pb Pb collisions vs pp collisions – with large uncertainties
- ALICE [also measured this](#)
- Both see an enhancement, but no significant observation
- Large improvement with ITS3
- ITS3 can extend measurement to lower p_T

This all thanks to a close proximity to IP and a very low material budget!



Remove “unnecessary” material from ITS2



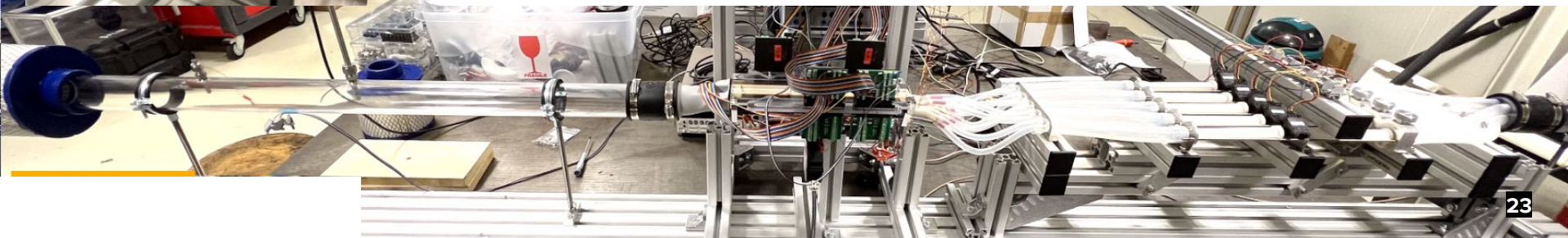
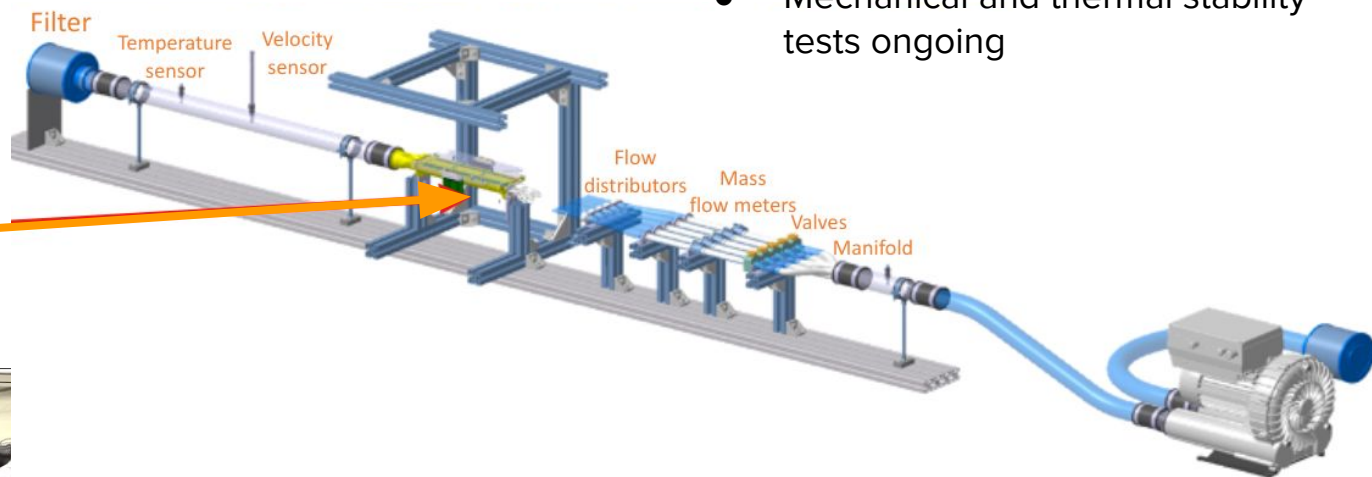
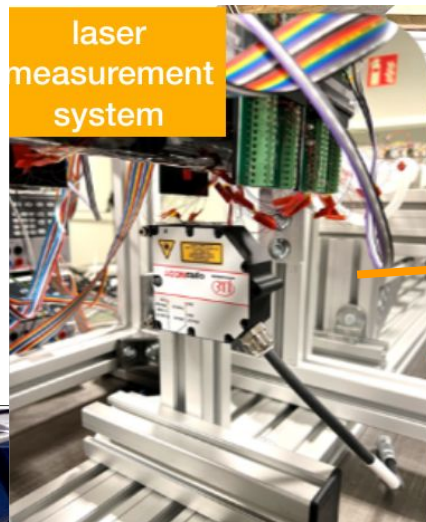
- Circuit board (kapton, aluminum): not required if power and data are integrated into the silicon

Mean 0.05% per layer

- Water cooling → replace with air cooling. Requires $< 20 \text{ mW/cm}^2$
- Less mechanical support (carbon, glue) needed for large, bent sensors!

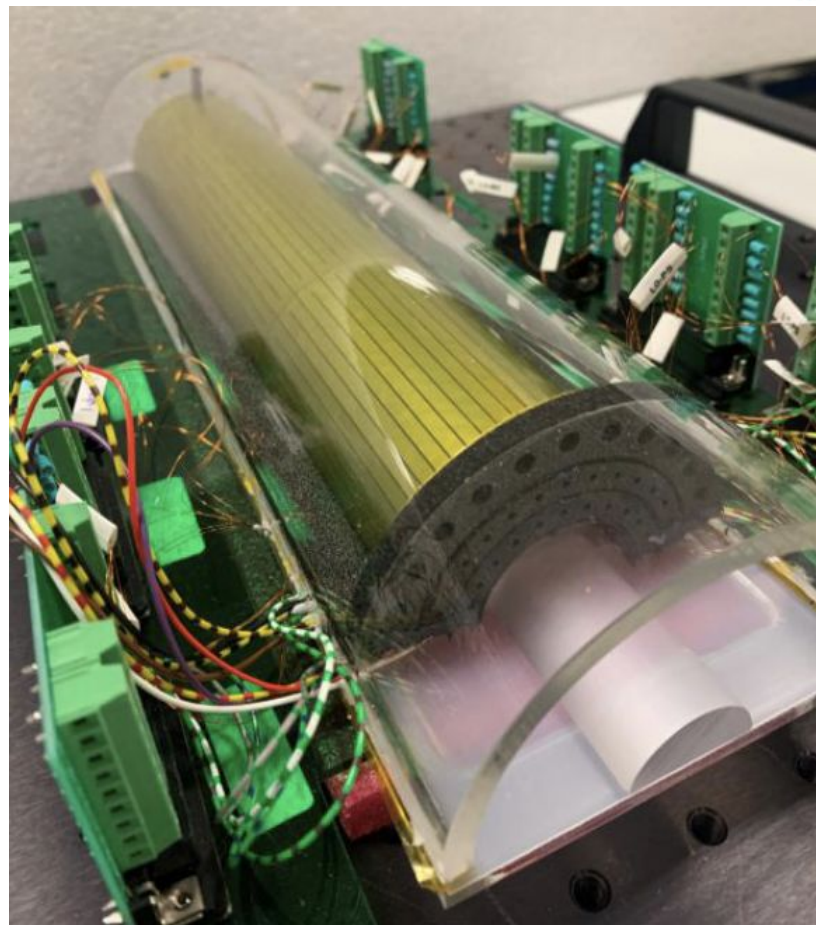
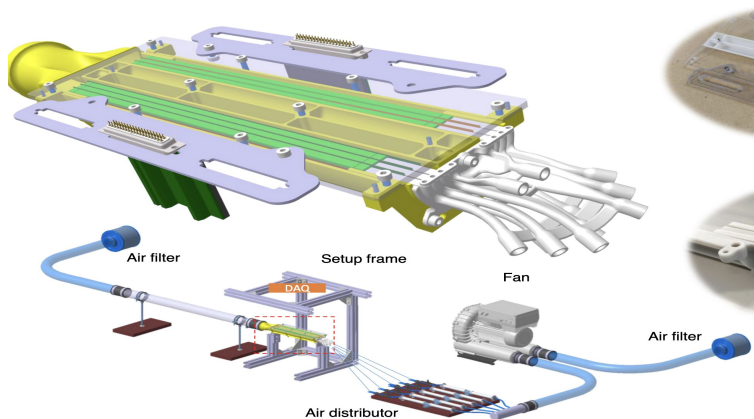
Testing the air cooling

- Setup commissioned
- Mechanical and thermal stability tests ongoing



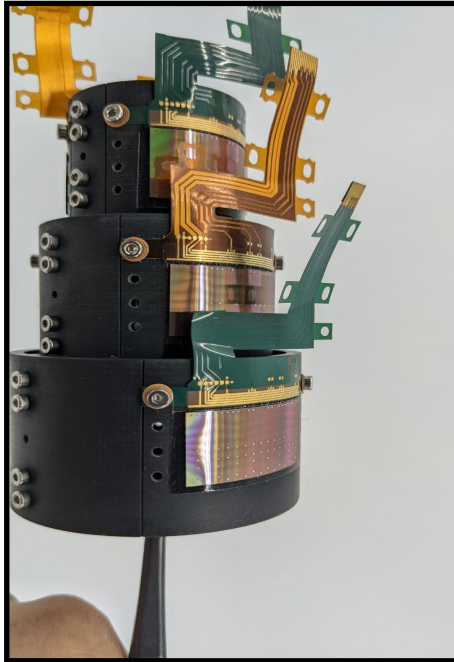
Air cooling

- Thermal and stability tests ongoing
- Development of models based on heating elements
- Placed in custom wind tunnel to study thermal and mechanical properties

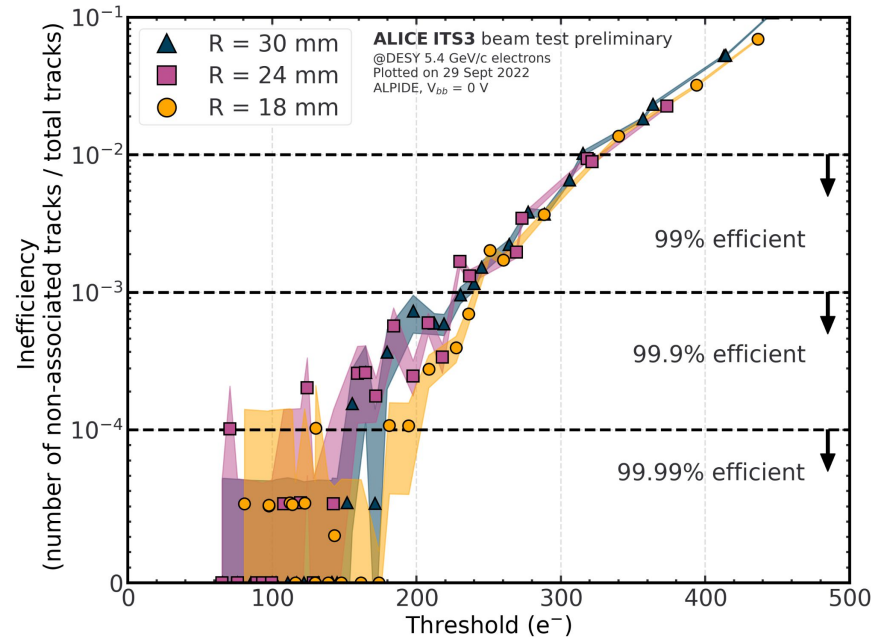


Beam test studies with bent sensors

- Bending silicon wafers and functional ALPIDEs is now routine
- Full mock-up of the final ITS3: “ μ ITS3” bent to ITS3 radii tested
- Spatial resolution uniform among different radii
- Efficiency and resolution consistent with flat ALPIDEs

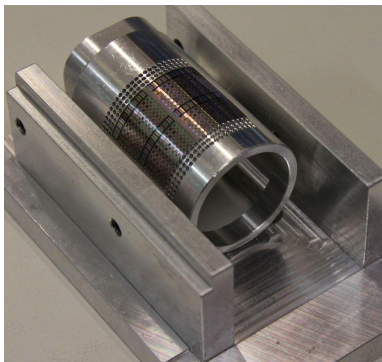


More results in [doi:10.1016/j.nima.2021.166280](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2021.166280)

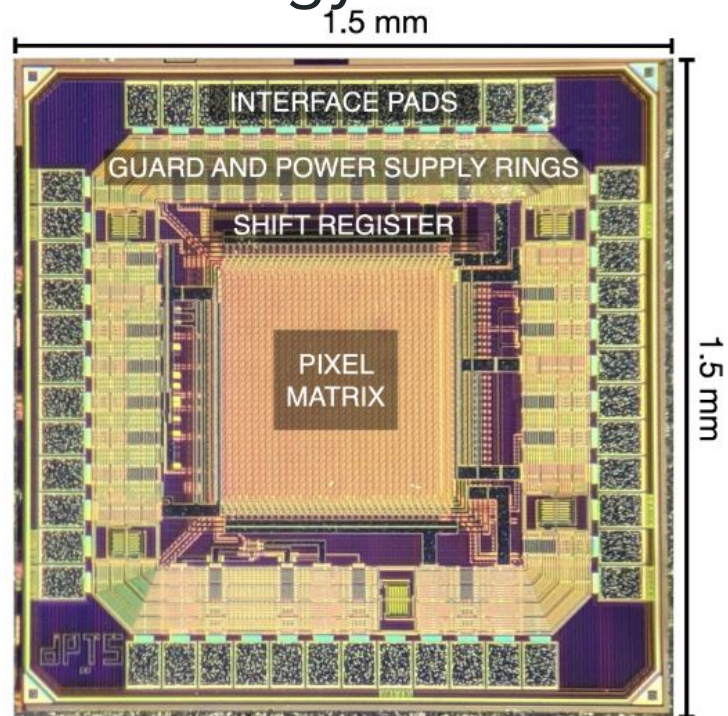


Characterization of new 65 nm technology for ITS3

- Several submissions, prototype of final wafer-scale chip expected 2024
- Now investigating many different small prototypes from a multi-layer reticle to qualify 65 nm technology
- One such prototype is a digital pixel test structure that acts as a technology demonstrator
- Results published: [doi:10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2212.08621)



First chips bent to 18 mm radius and successfully tested with Fe-55 source



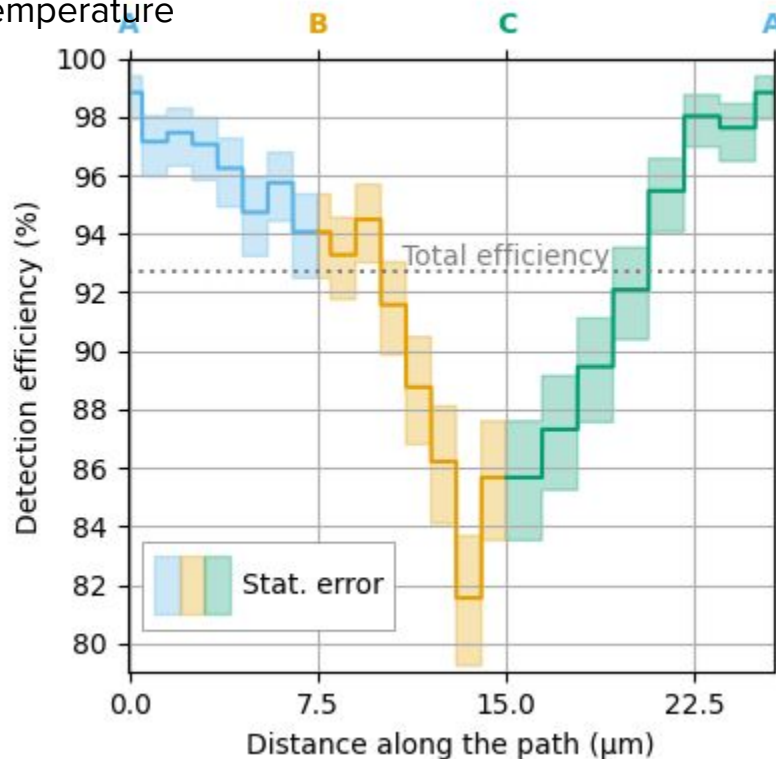
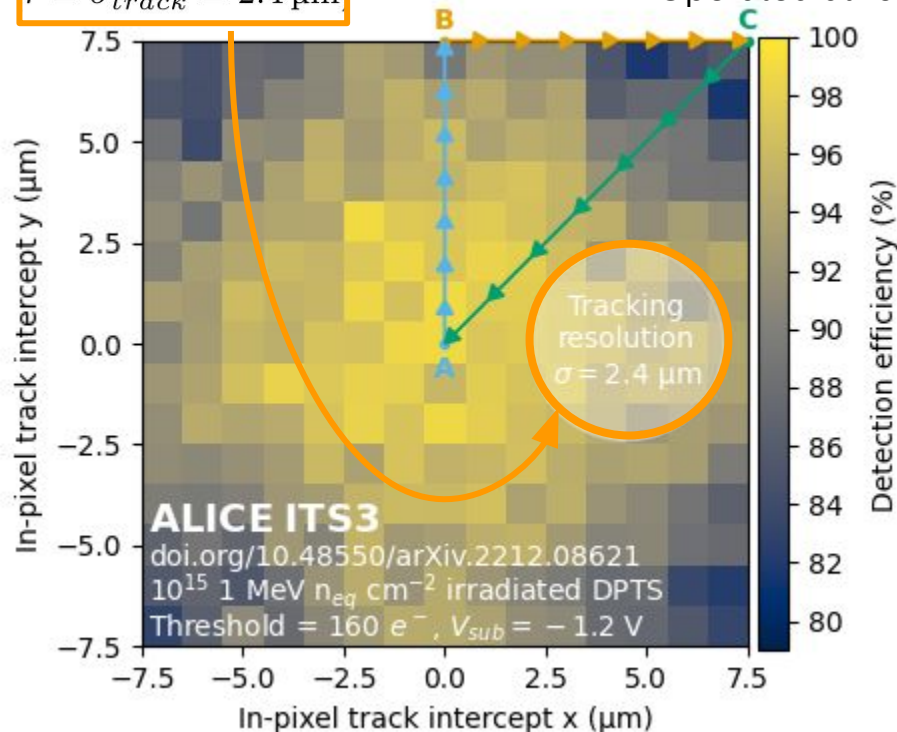
- 32 by 32 pixels with asynchronous digital readout
- $15 \times 15 \mu\text{m}^2$ pixels whose position is time encoded in the readout

In-pixel detection efficiency after $\Phi_{eq} = 10^{15} / \text{cm}^2$

Track spatial resolution:

$$r = \sigma_{track} = 2.4 \mu\text{m}$$

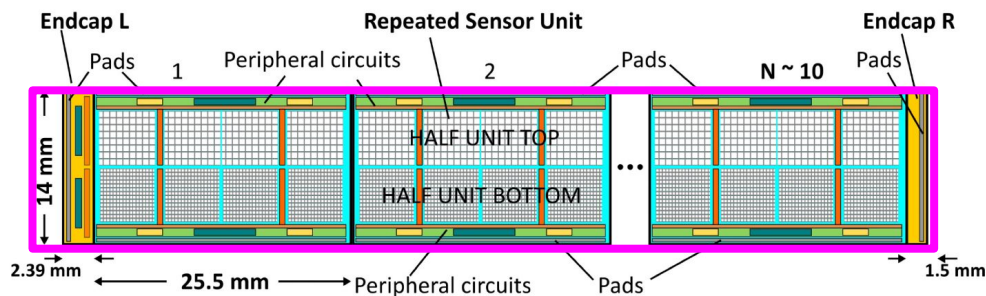
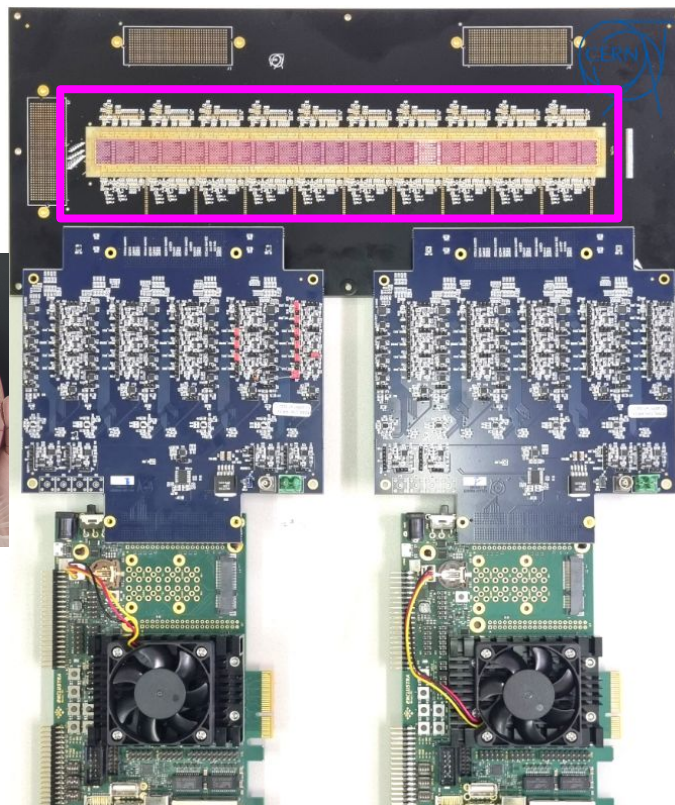
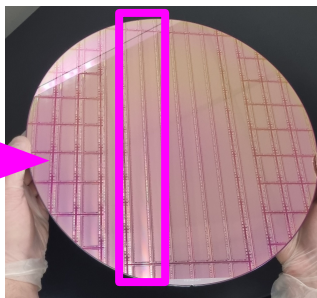
- Threshold $160 e^-$
- Operated at room temperature



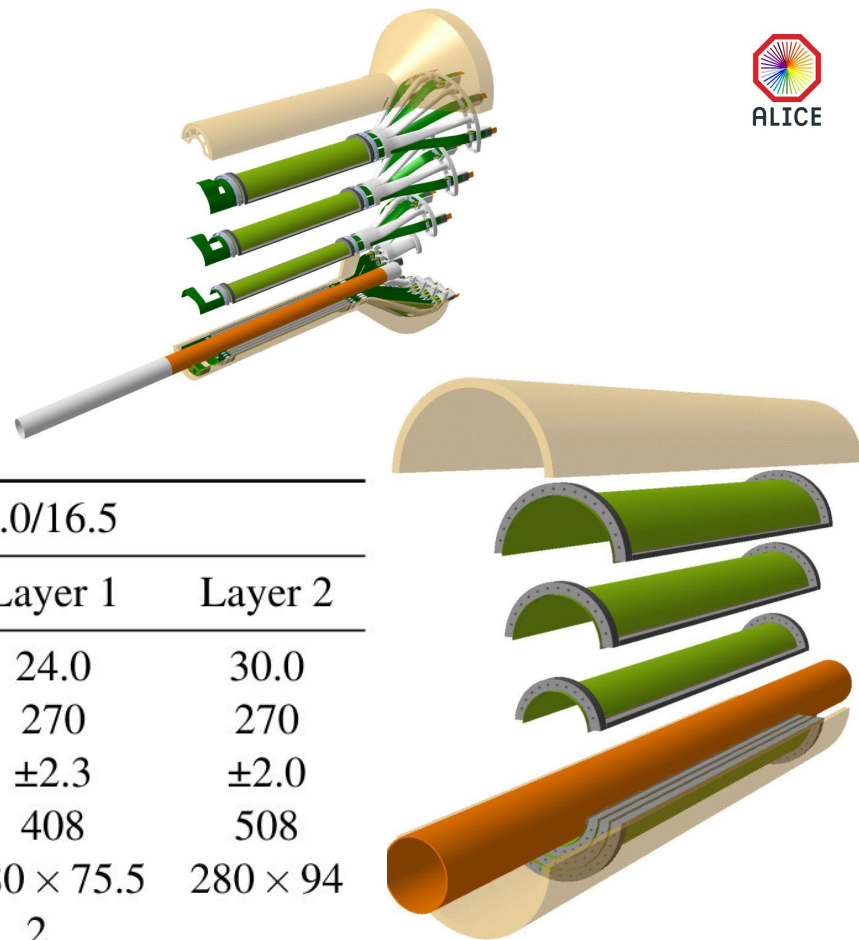
Efficiency loss as expected: occurs in corners far from collection electrode. No charge sharing.

Stitched sensor prototypes

- 2 different structures, MOSS and MOST
- MOSS 14 x 259 mm², 6.72 MPixel structure
- MOST 2.5 x 259 mm², 0.9 MPixel structure
- Full structure will be 2.5 times as large
- Pixels of 22.5 x 22.5 μm² and 18 x 18 μm²
- To be tested for yield and uniformity
- Pad wafer at CERN
- First full wafers arriving soon



ITS3 geometry



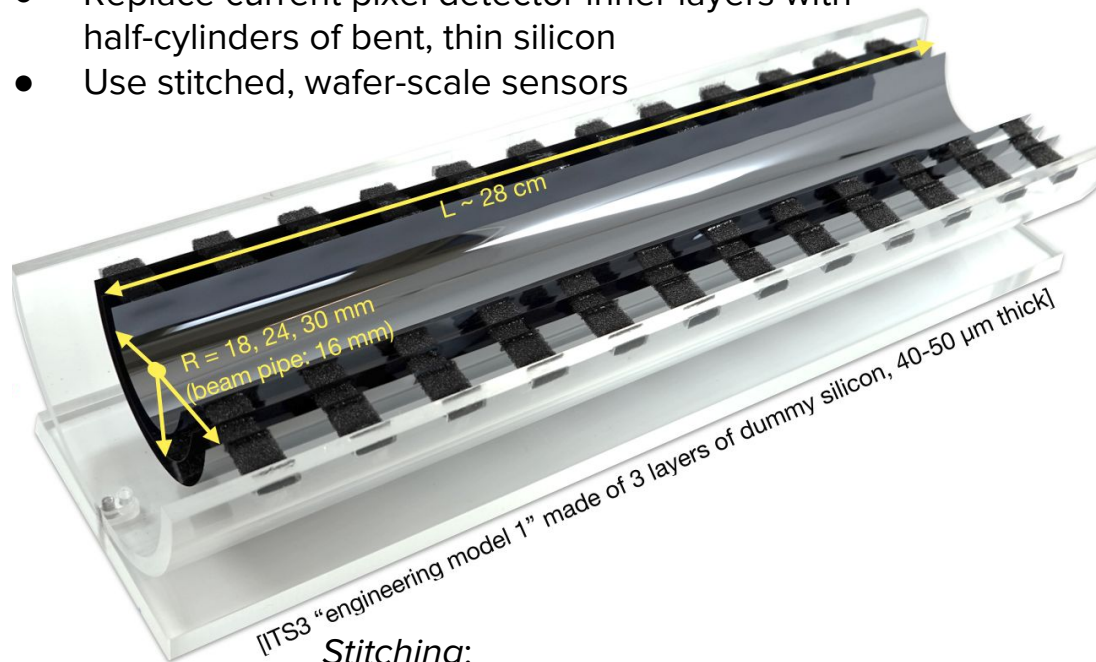
Beampipe inner/outer radius (mm)	16.0/16.5		
IB Layer parameters	Layer 0	Layer 1	Layer 2
Radial position (mm)	18.0	24.0	30.0
Length (sensitive area) (mm)	270	270	270
Pseudo-rapidity coverage ^a	± 2.5	± 2.3	± 2.0
Active area (cm ²)	305	408	508
Pixel sensors dimensions (mm ²)	280×56.5	280×75.5	280×94
Number of pixel sensors / layer	2		
Pixel size (μm^2)	$O(15 \times 15)^b$		

Current inner tracking system ITS2 inner three layers



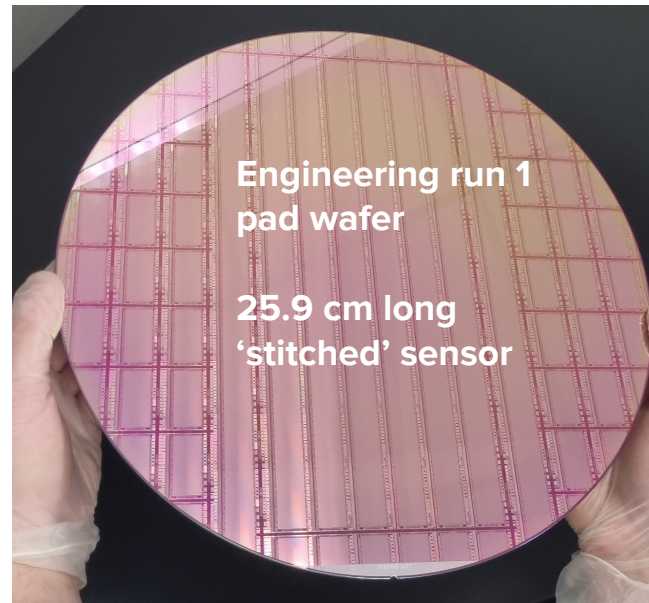
ITS3: three new, ultralight, truly cylindrical layers

- Replace current pixel detector inner layers with half-cylinders of bent, thin silicon
- Use stitched, wafer-scale sensors



Stitching:

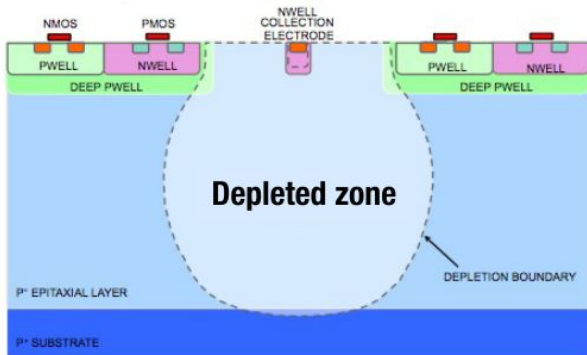
- put design blocks together during processing of silicon
- Can make chip larger than the field of view of the lithographic equipment



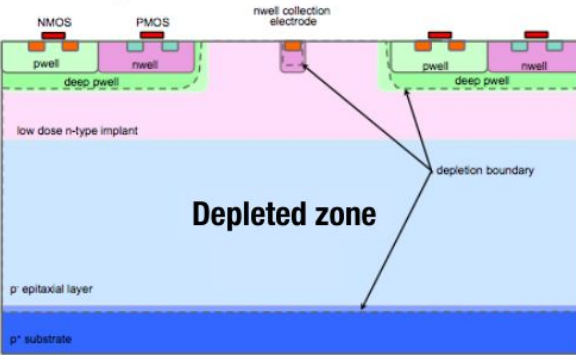
Different process modifications

- Motivated by better charge collection
- Higher speed may serve for monolithic sensors with timing functionality that could be applied in ALICE3

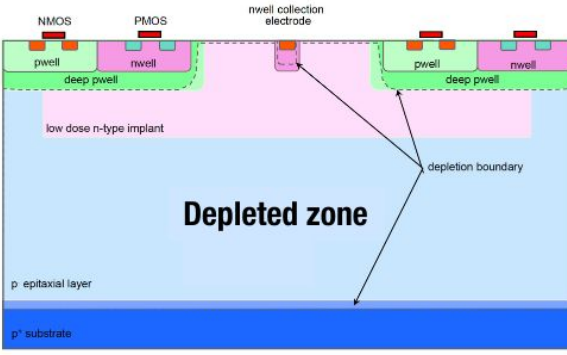
Standard process



Modified process



Modified process with gap



Charge sharing

Charge Collection efficiency and speed

Particle identification improves with precise timing

