

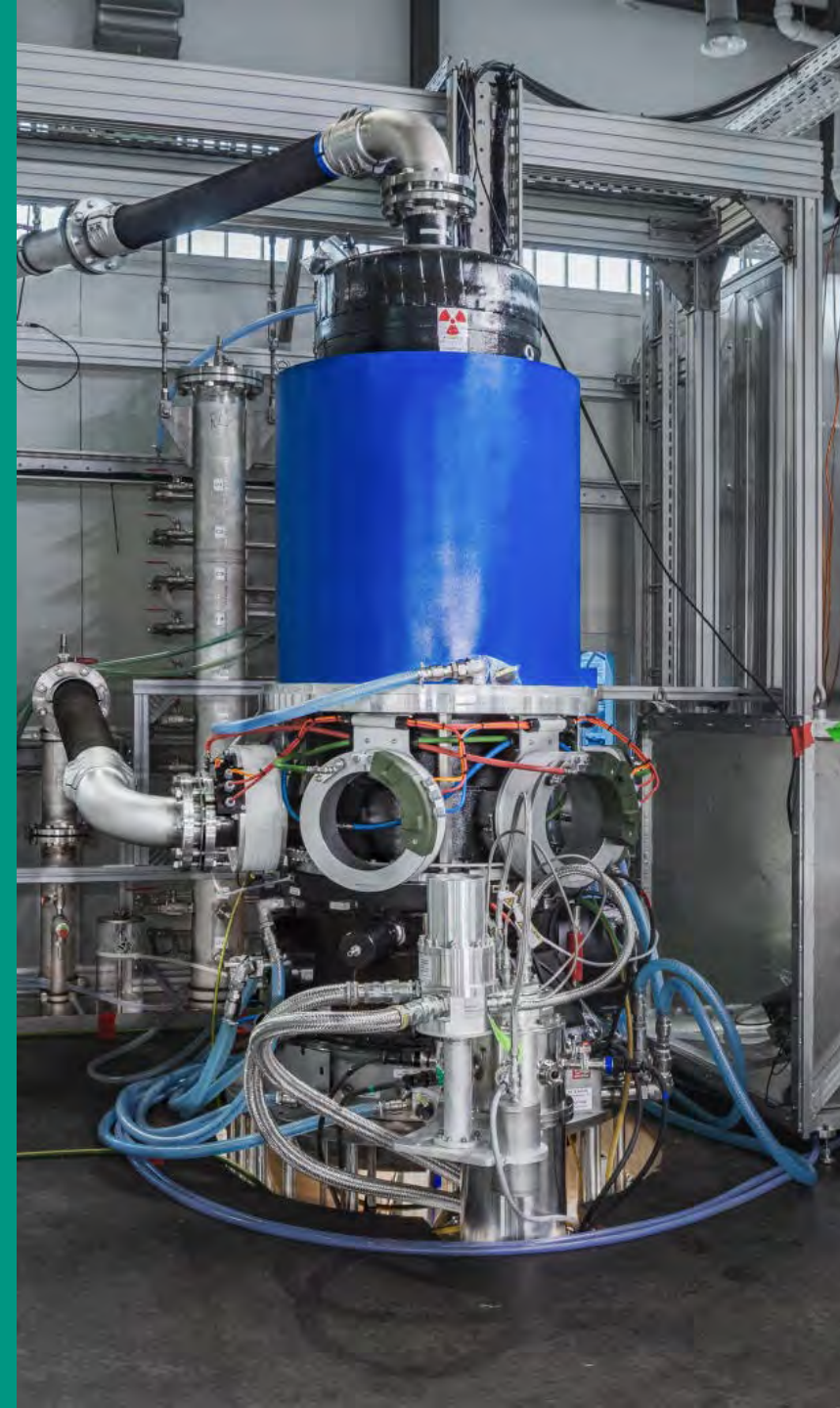
Development of High-Power Microwave Vacuum Electronics at KIT

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VDE ITG IVEW 2026, Bad Honnef, August 27th, 2026



10th VDE ITG International
Vacuum Electronics Workshop
IVEW 2026

and

16th International Vacuum
Electron Source Conference
IVeSC 2026

August 26 – 29, 2026,
Physikzentrum Bad Honnef
Germany

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With funding from the:

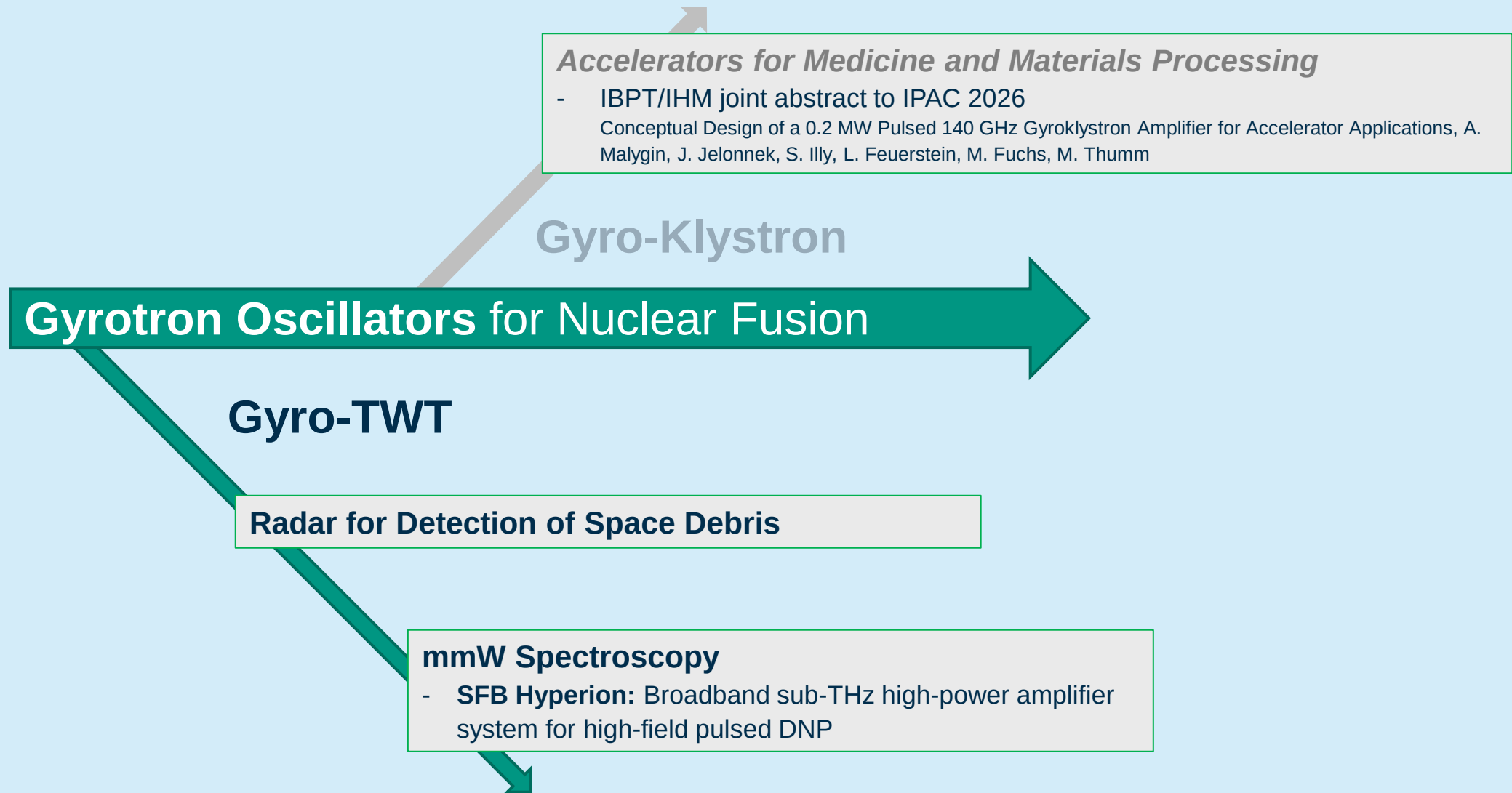


Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space



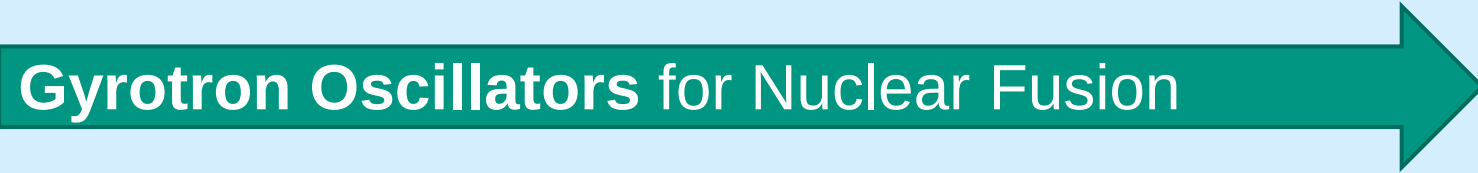
Institute for Pulsed Power and
Microwave Technology (IHM)

KIT Development Paths



KIT Development Paths

Gyrotron Oscillators for Nuclear Fusion



KIT Developments for EC Plasma Heating Systems

EC Launcher (In-vessel)

First Containment System (FCS): Closure plates, Safety Important Component/Class 1 (SIC-1)

Port Cell Transmission Line (TL) (Ex-vessel)

Port cell TL = Ex-vessel FCS: SIC-1 up to diamond window

FCS barrier
(Structural system)

Steering options:

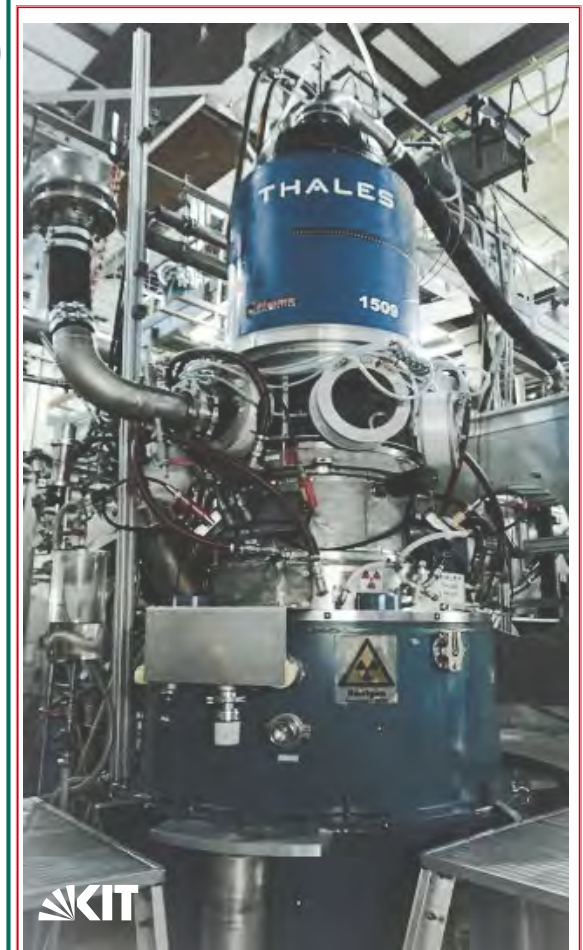
- Mechanical steering
- Electronic frequency steering

Plasma

Diamond
Windows



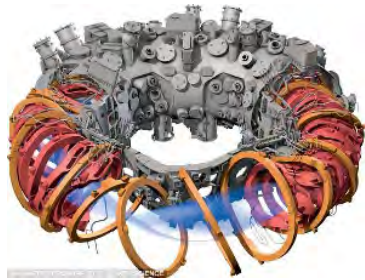
EUROfusion DEMO Launcher Design 2024



Gyrotron

Considered Advances in EC Plasma Heating (< 2024)

W7-X

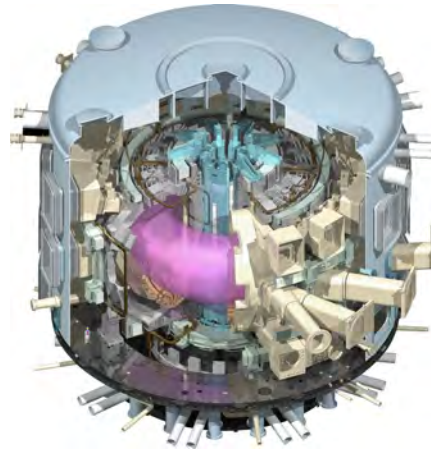


$f_{EC} = 140 \text{ GHz}$

$P_{EC \text{ Sources}} = 10 \text{ MW}$

IPP

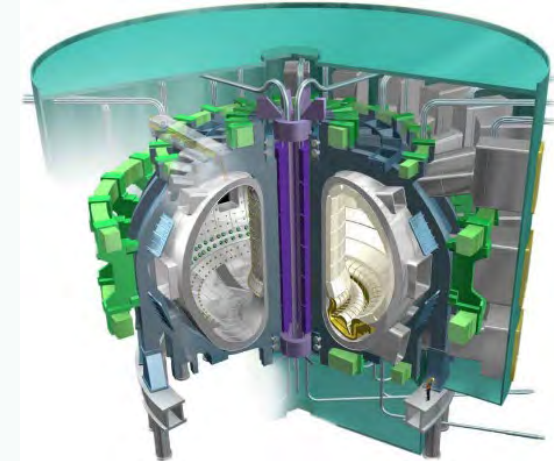
ITER/DTT



170 GHz

24 MW

EU DEMO



136 / 170 / 204 / 240 GHz

> 70 MW

- + multi-purpose operation
- + frequency steering into the plasma
- + operation at long pulses
- + sufficiently high plug-in efficiency

Split of Technology and Exciting Opportunities (>2024)

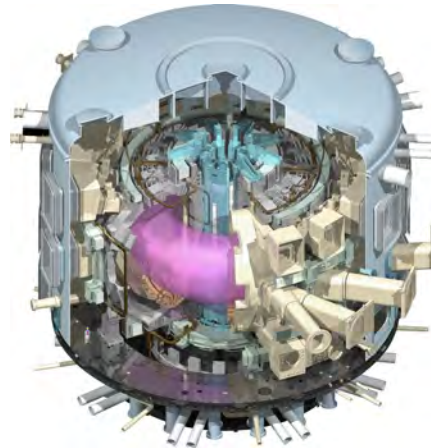
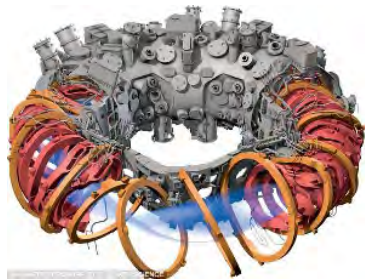
W7-X

IPP

ITER/DTT

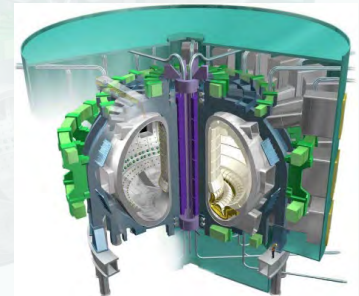


EU



Low-Field Devices with large footprint

≤ 200 GHz



$f_{EC} = 140$ GHz

$P_{EC\ Sources} = 10$ MW

170 GHz

24 MW

Before 2030

15-18 MW

80 MW

≥ 1.5 MW power per gyrotron
(up to 2 MW per unit)

Large gyrotron arrays

136 / 170 / 204 GHz

> 70 MW

≥ 240 GHz, ≥ 1 MW

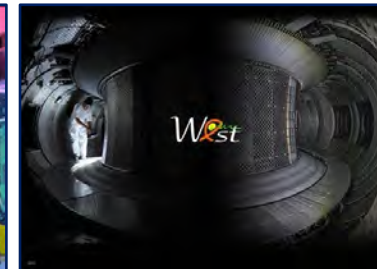
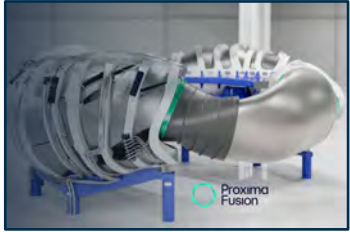
High-Field Compact Devices



UKAEA STEP

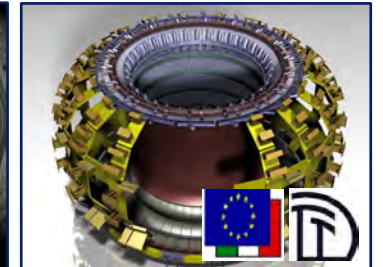
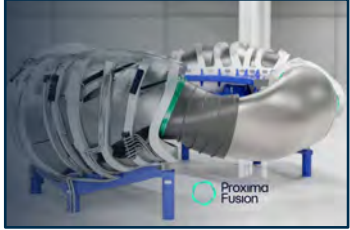


Gyrotron Research and Development at KIT



- Member of European Gyrotron Consortium (EGYC) for ITER
- Partner of IPP for 1 MW and **1.5 MW / 2 MW** developments for **W7-X (BMFTR HiPMiB)**
- **EUROfusion** tasks leader for gyrotron R&D, leading the 2 MW coaxial-cavity gyrotron technology, Multistage Depressed Collector (MDC), operation at 2nd harmonics, electronic stability and frequency control
- Lead in test and validation of megawatt-class gyrotrons (**FULGOR**)
- Partner in gyrotron developments for European and worldwide nuclear fusion experiments such as **TCV, CEA/WEST, DTT** and **GA/DIII-D**
- Project coordinator for **BMFTR** project **HeatQIS** together with **PROXIMA Fusion, Diamond Materials** and **THALES** towards 238 GHz gyrotrons, EC launchers and windows

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1 MW 170 GHz Gyrotron for ITER and Divertor Tokamak Test Facility (DTT)



Pre-prototype validation at KIT

- Up to 1.6 MW at short pulses (ms) demonstrated
- Efficiency ~50 % achieved (with singlestage depressed collector and novel potential elevation structure)

Industrial prototype TH1509U

- 1.03/0.96 MW at 300/1000 s and 45/38 % (measured at F4E teststand, Lausanne)

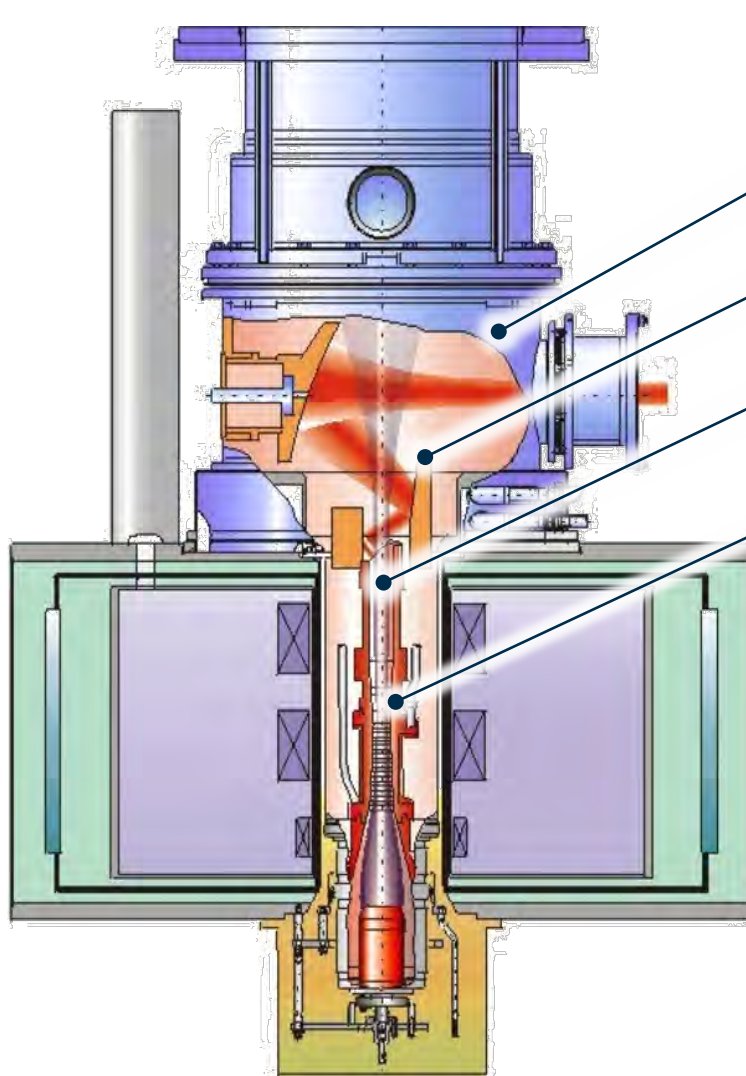


Support of ITER in the final optimization, validation and installation

- Final Design Review for DTT passed in 2024
- Final Design Review for ITER in May 2025



EU Gyrotron Upgrade for ITER (**ITER upgrade** / ITER néo)



New voltage concept

New 4-mirror system

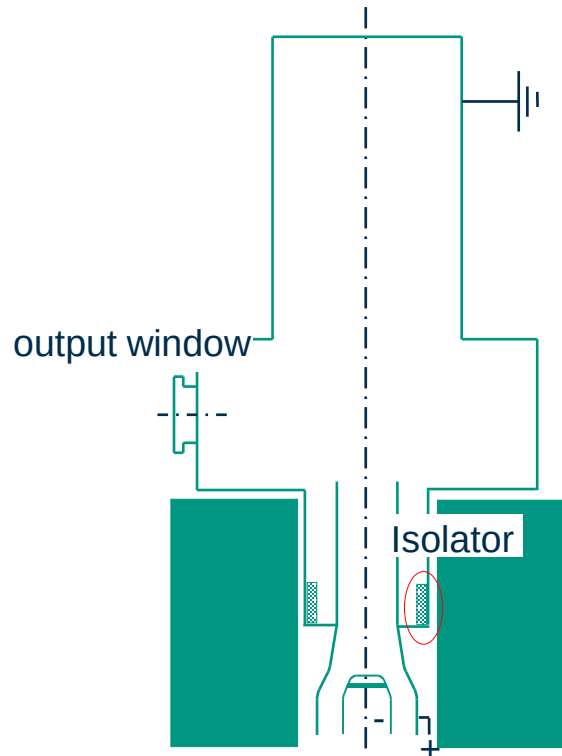
New launcher antenna (mode-converter)

***New cavity mode $TE_{32,11}$ -mode
+ improved cooling capabilities***

New Potential/Voltage Concept – Overview

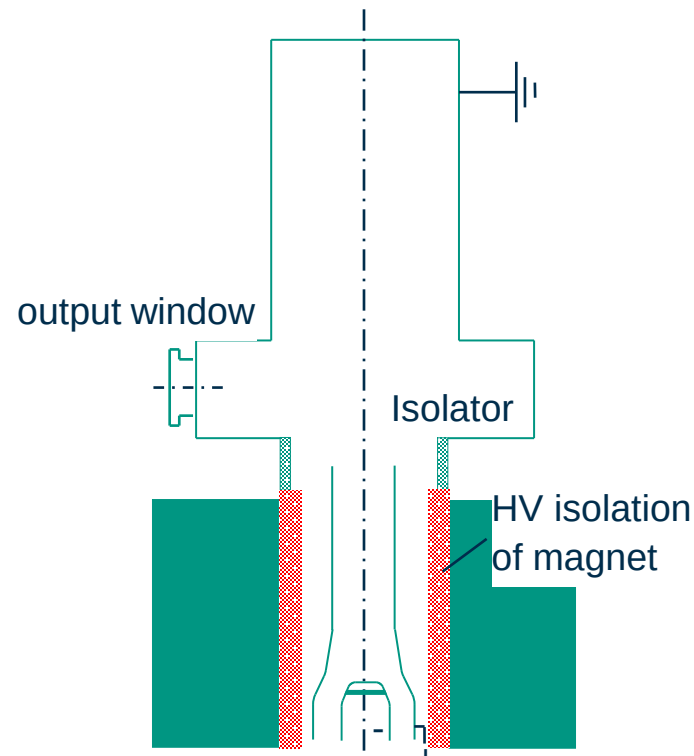
TH1507

- EU (Thales) State-of-the-Art
- Very compact design 🟢
- Poor efficiency 🟡



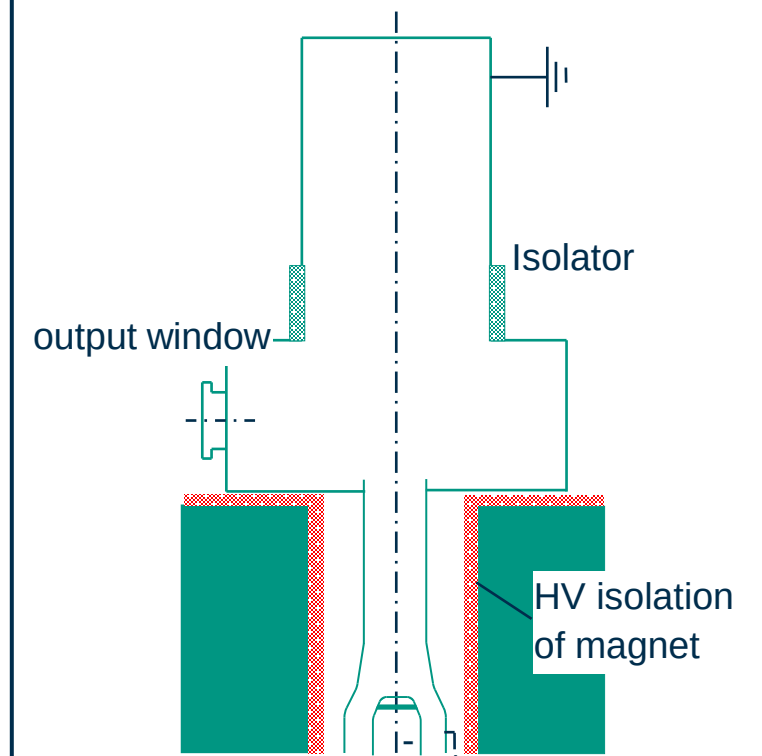
Intermediate

- Competitor State-of-the-Art
- Window grounded 🟢
- Increased efficiency 🟢



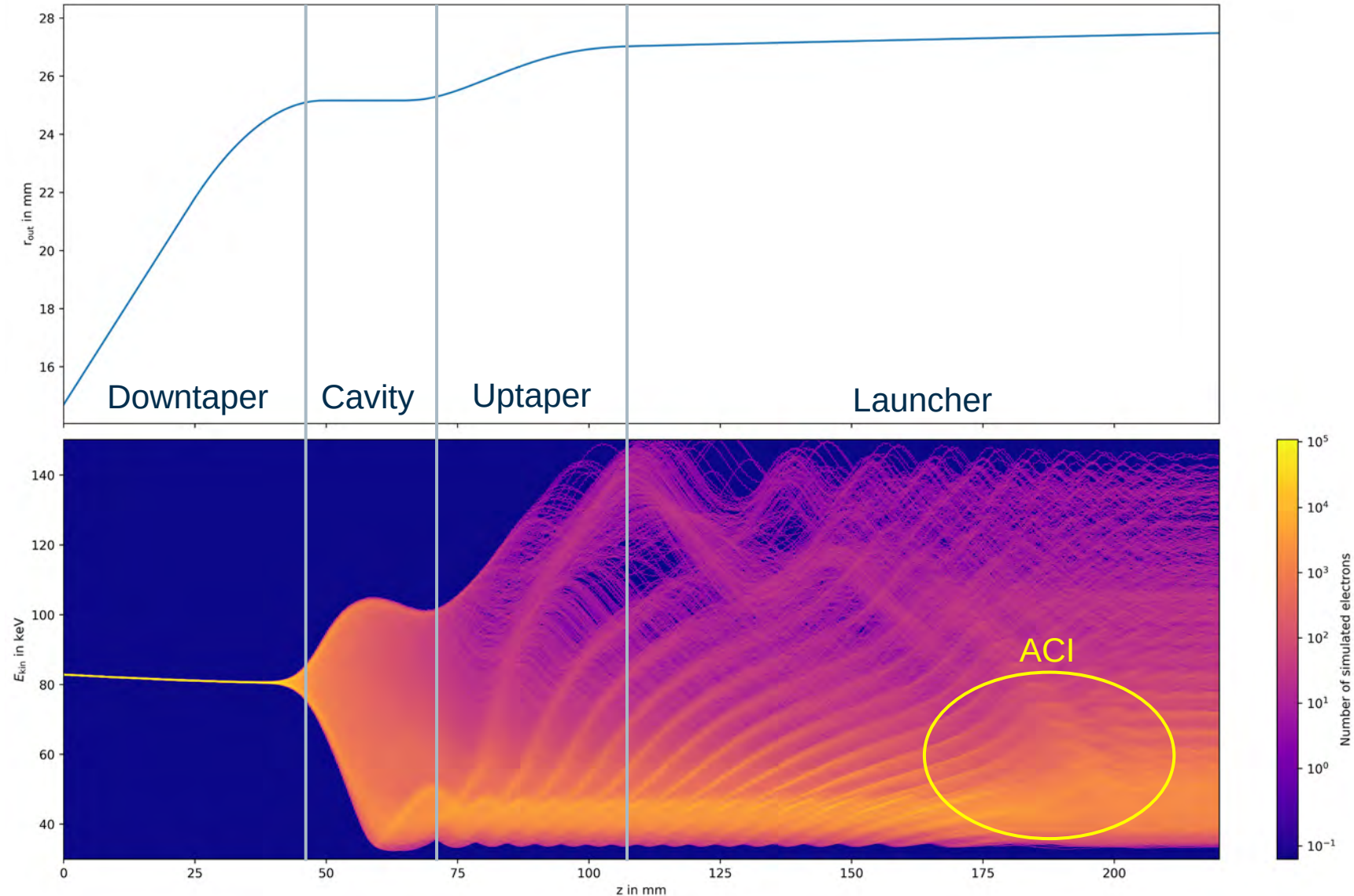
TH1508

- Coaxial tube
- Best concept in terms of efficiency 🟢
- Big technological challenges 🟡



Launcher Design to Mitigate After Cavity Interaction (ACI)

- Undesired interaction between microwave field and electron beam behind the interaction region
- Microwave power partially transferred back to the electron beam resulting in a reduction from 2.4 MW to 2.2 MW
- Investigation of possible measures to mitigate this interaction



ITER Stray Magnetic Field (SMF)

Benjamin Ell

Service Contract with ITER on SMF
IO/25/CT/4300003267

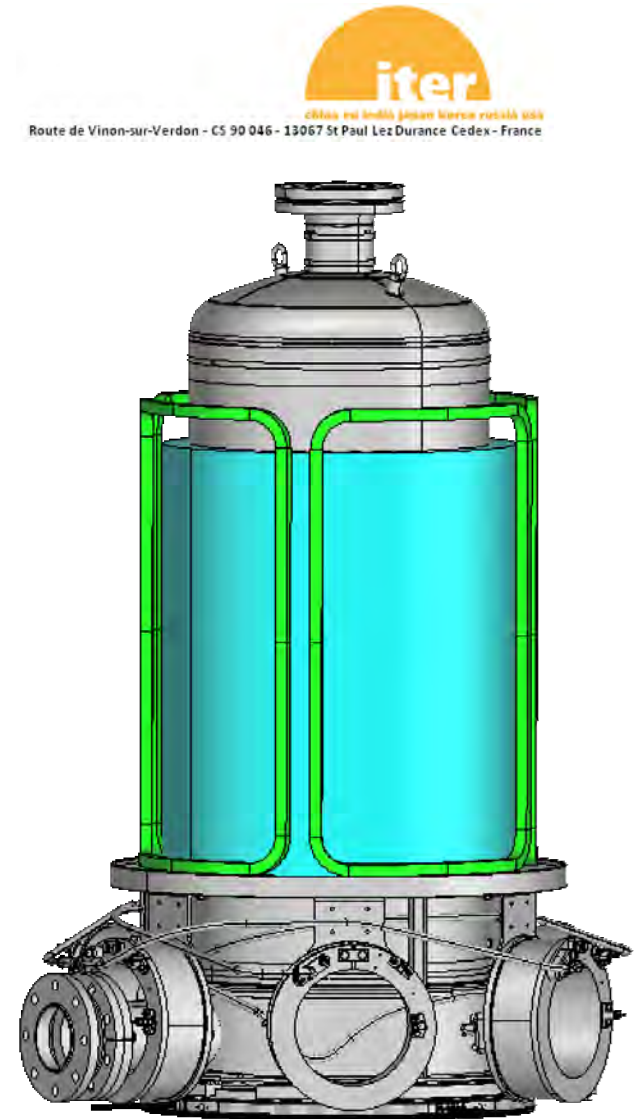
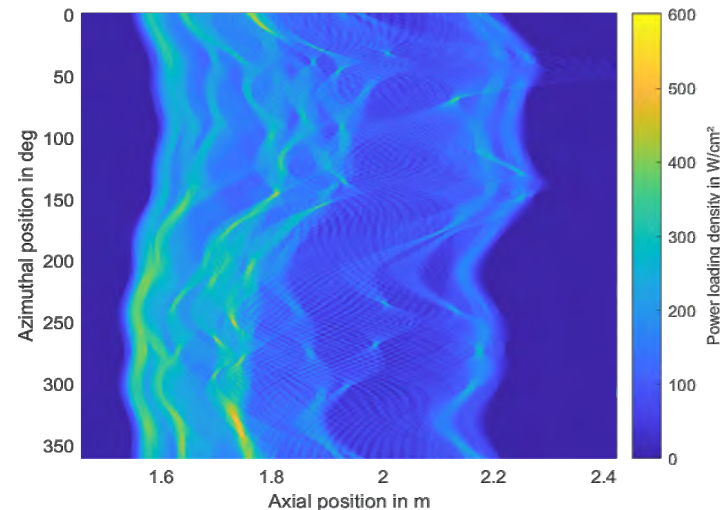
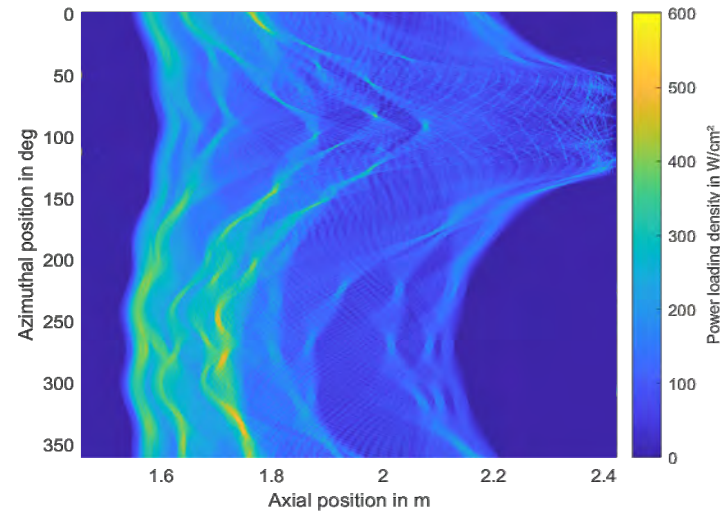
- ECRH upgrade -> more gyrotrons
- Influence of SMF on operation is studied
- ➡ Design of SMF compensation coils
- Operation in harsh environment

First concept for coils is presented

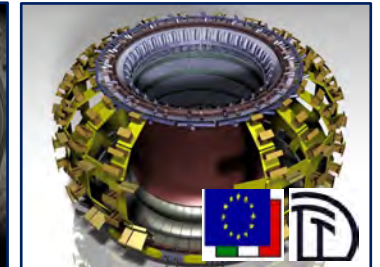
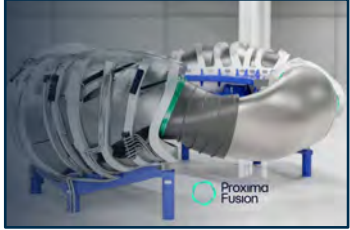
- Simple construction of winding body
- Fast production of first prototype

Outlook for experimental validation

- Verification of coils at CEA
- Gyrotron setup is ready



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1.5 MW 140 GHz Gyrotron for Wendelstein 7-X



KIT 1.5 MW SP
Pre-Prototype

Builds on IPP/KIT Helmholtz Innovation Pool project
“W7-X HiPower”

Pre-prototype validation at KIT

- ≥ 1.5 MW at short pulses (ms) demonstrated

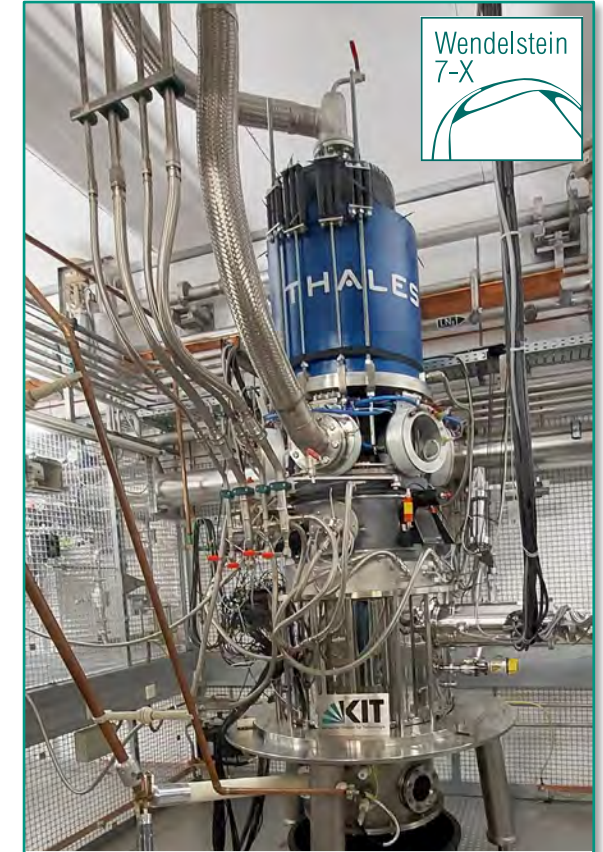
Industrial prototype TH1507U

- Manufacturing of the industrial gyrotron by the industrial partner Thales, France (right)



World record of 1.3 MW / 46 % at 6 min.
verified and tube in operation at W7-X

- ≥ 1.5 MW with improved industrial tube #2 expected
- $\rightarrow$ first step towards 2 MW by moving to $TE_{28,12}$ mode



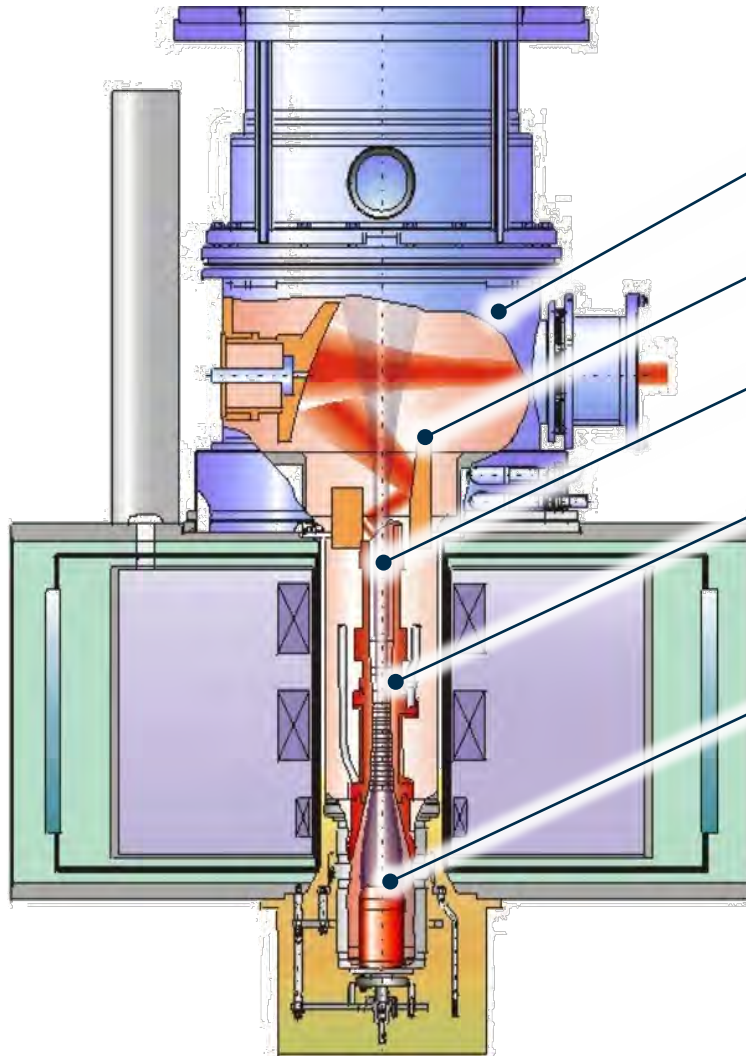
Industrial Gyrotron
TH1507U at W7-X

W7-X Gyrotron Upgrade for 2 MW Operation (BMFTR Project HiPMiB)

With funding from the:



Federal Ministry
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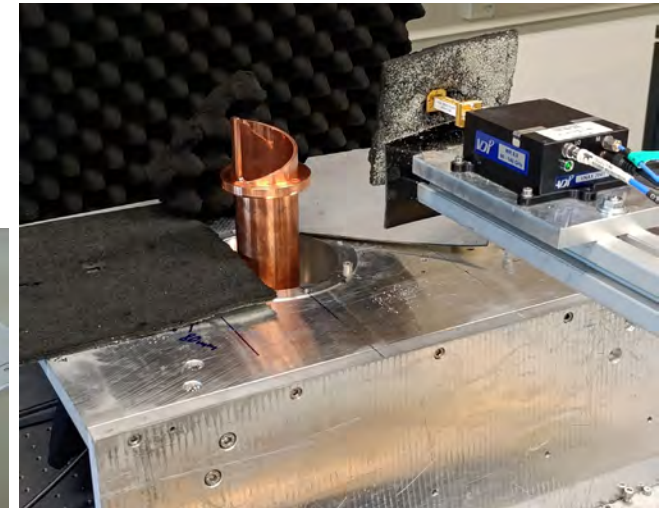
New voltage concept

New 4-mirror system

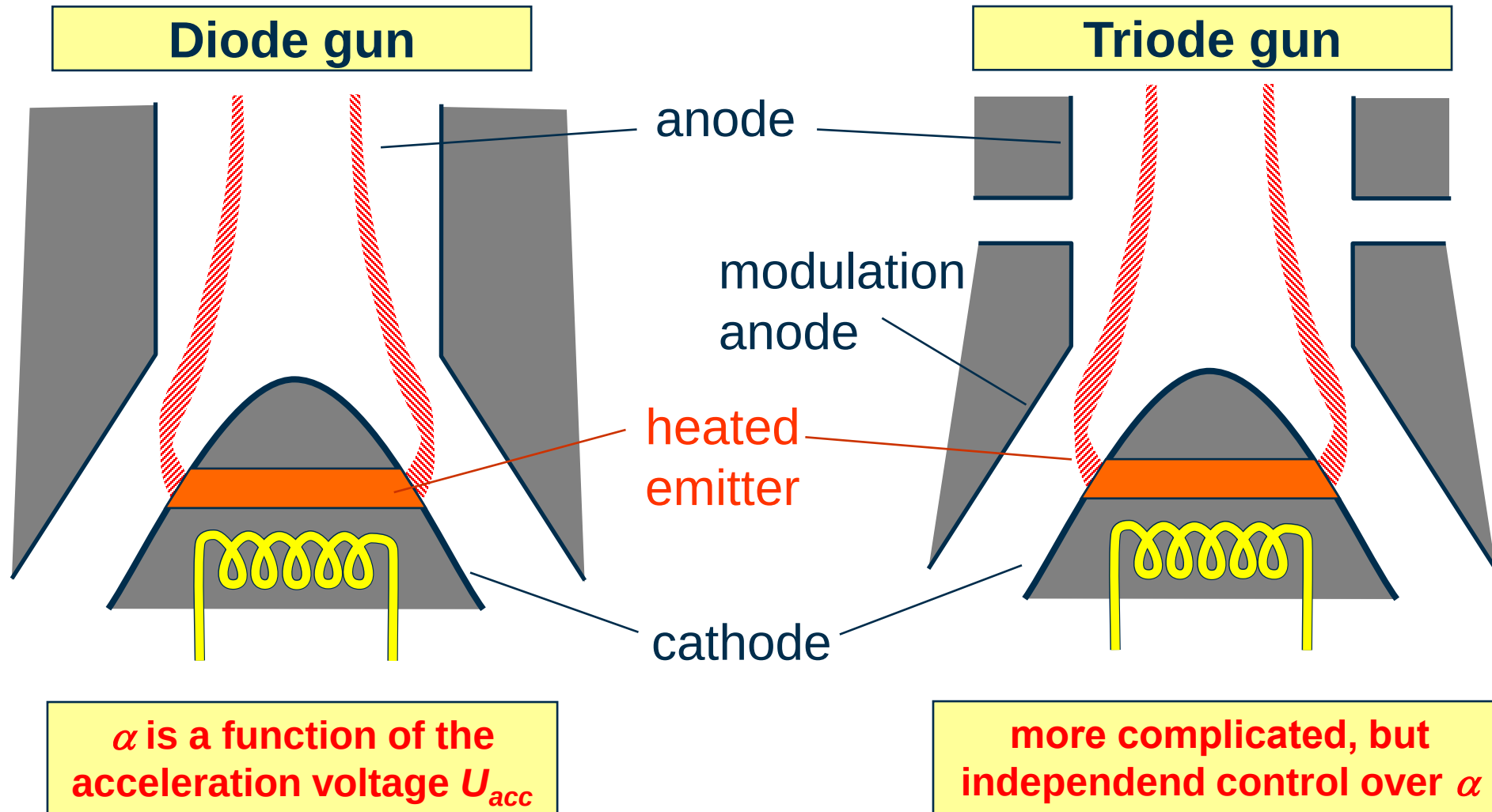
New launcher antenna (mode-converter)

New cavity mode $TE_{28,12}$ -mode

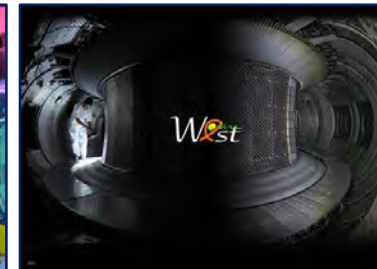
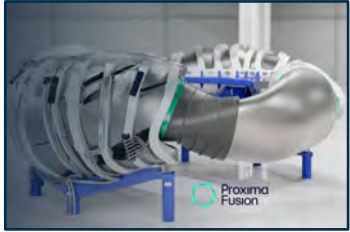
Updated MIG



The Most Secure Option for 2 MW Operation: Triode MIG



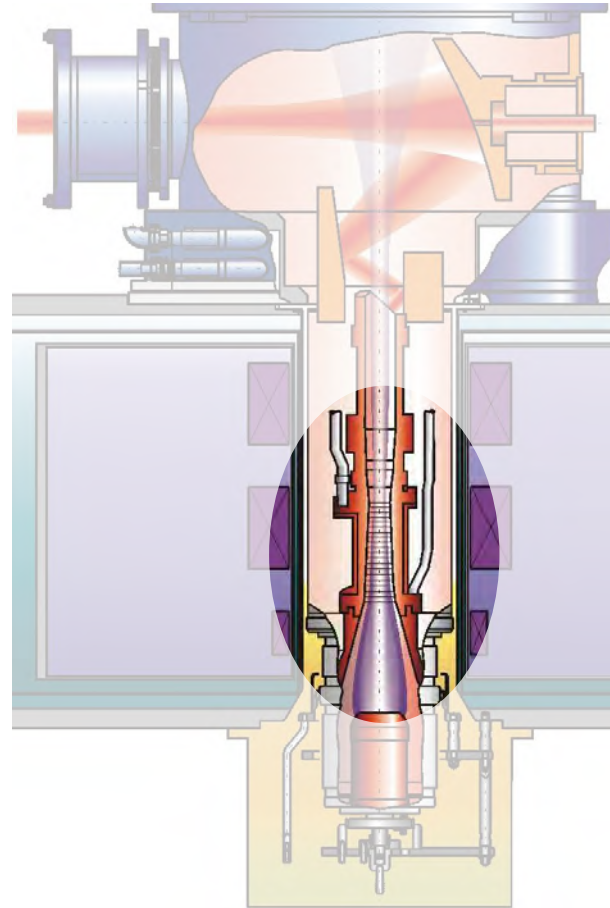
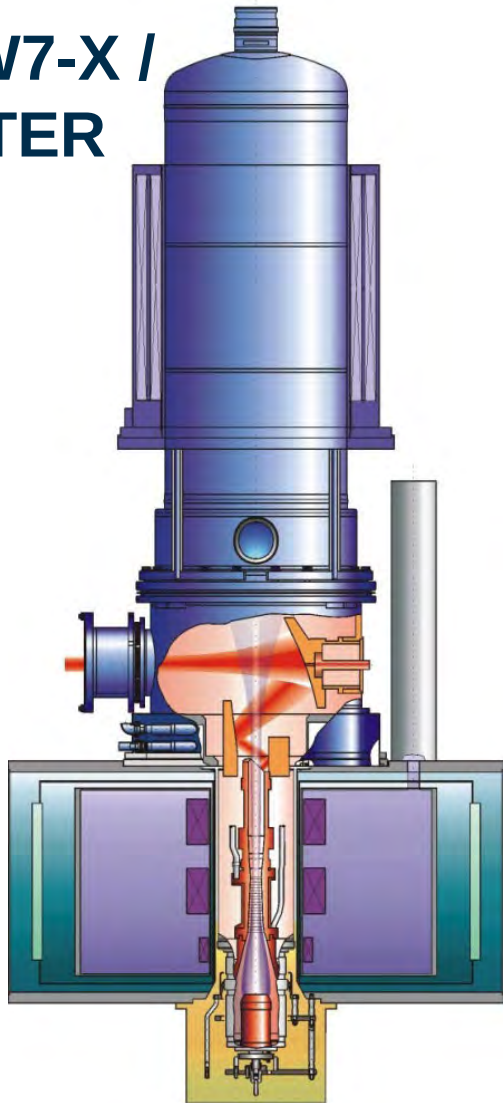
Gyrotron Research and Development at KIT



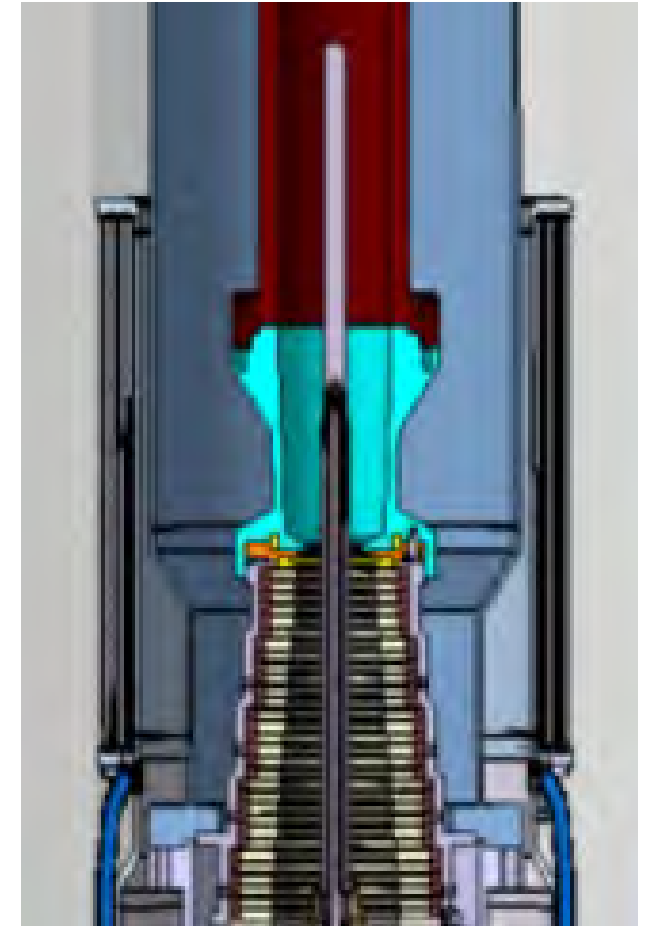
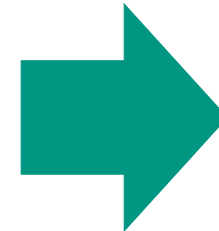
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Towards ≥ 170 GHz and ≥ 1.3 MW Output Power → Coaxial-Cavity Gyrotron Technology

W7-X /
ITER

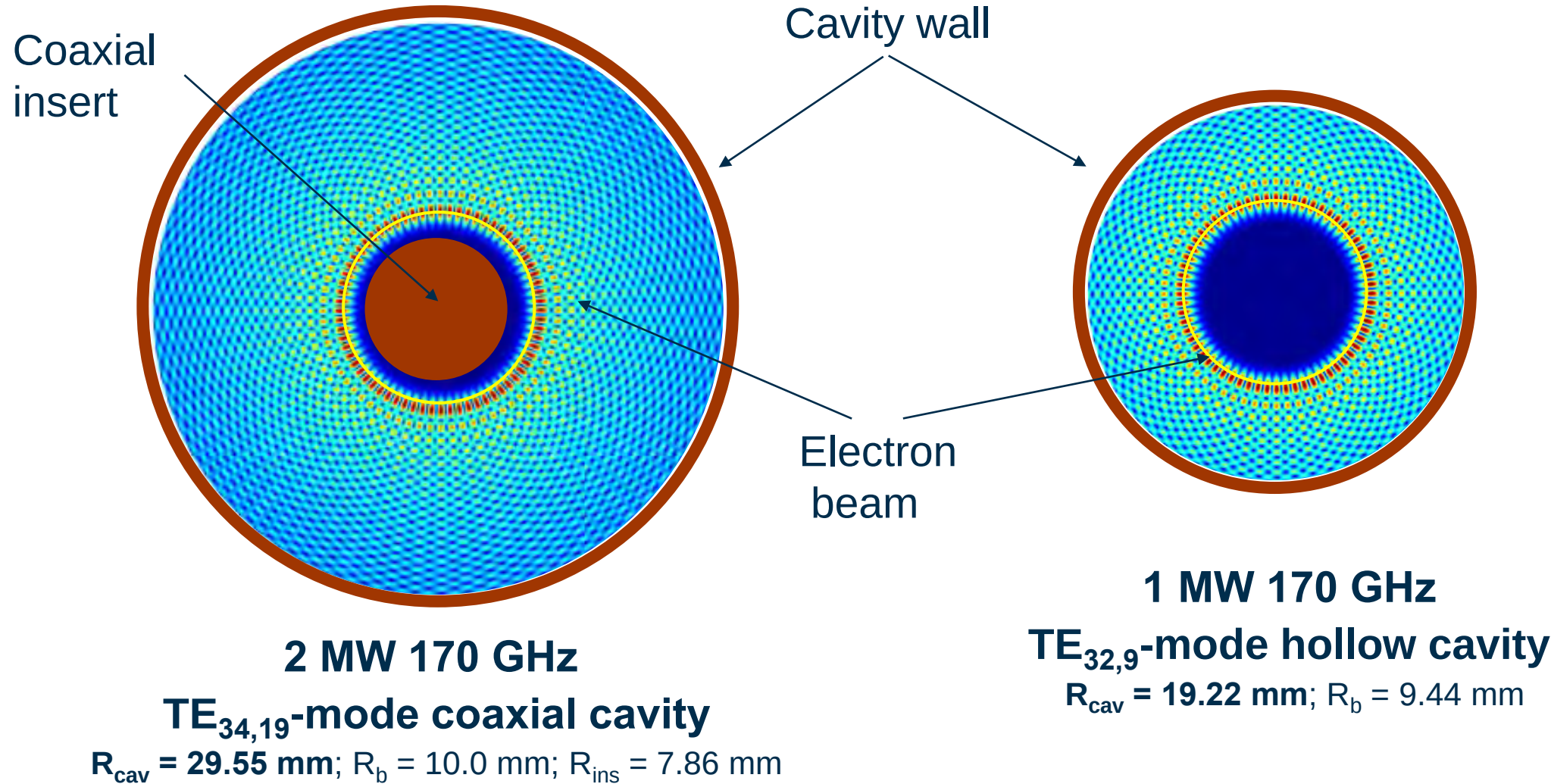


Hollow cavity

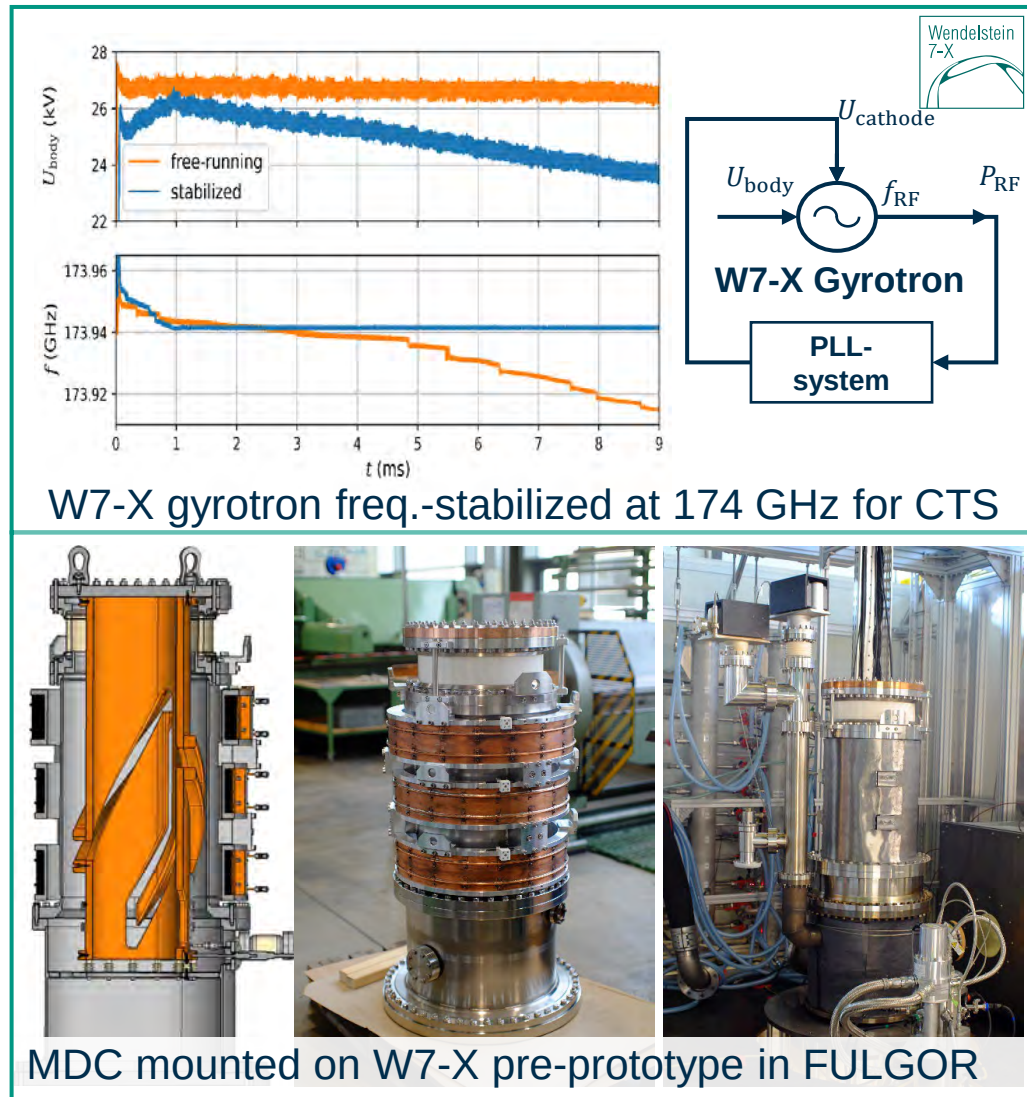


Coaxial cavity

$TE_{34,19}$ -Mode $\leftrightarrow$ $TE_{32,09}$ -Mode



EUROfusion Developments towards DEMO



- 2 MW (< 1 s) modular coaxial pre-prototype prepared for test at longer pulses ≥ 50 ms
- FULGOR prepared, 10.5 T gyrotron magnet arrived and SAT approved
- First Multistage Depressed Collector (MDC) mounted onto W7-X SP pre-prototype and installed into CEA magnet for test in FULGOR (bottom)
- Collaboration with IPP on Engineering Grant on PLL-controlled gyrotrons led to world-first 174 GHz diagnostics tool for W7-X (top)
- Together with NKUA two enabling research project (ENR) on gyrotrons operating at 2nd harmonic of electron cyclotron frequency
- FULGOR gyrotron test stand in full operation

Multi-Stage Depressed Collectors (MDCs) – Mandatory to Increase the Total Gyrotron Efficiency η_{total}

Interaction efficiency: $\eta_{\text{int}} \approx 35 \%$

- Limited by pitch factor
- Optimization limited

Transmission efficiency: $\eta_{\text{RF}} \approx 90 \%$ (estimated)

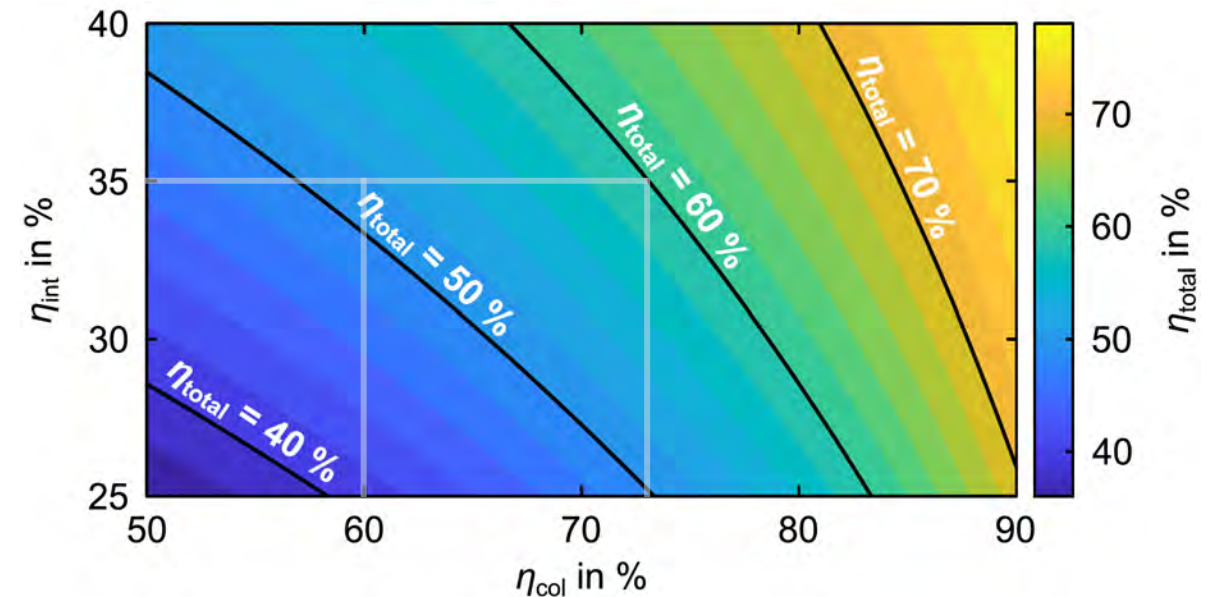
- After cavity interaction
- Ohmic losses
- Stray radiation

Collector efficiency: $\eta_{\text{col}} \approx 60 \%$

- State-of-the-Art SDC
- Recovered power / spent beam power

➡ Multistage Depressed Collector (MDC)

$$\eta_{\text{total}} = \frac{\eta_{\text{int}} \cdot \eta_{\text{RF}}}{1 - (1 - \eta_{\text{int}}) \cdot \eta_{\text{col}}}$$



Multistage Depressed Collector (MDC) in Gyrotron

Challenges for gyrotron MDC

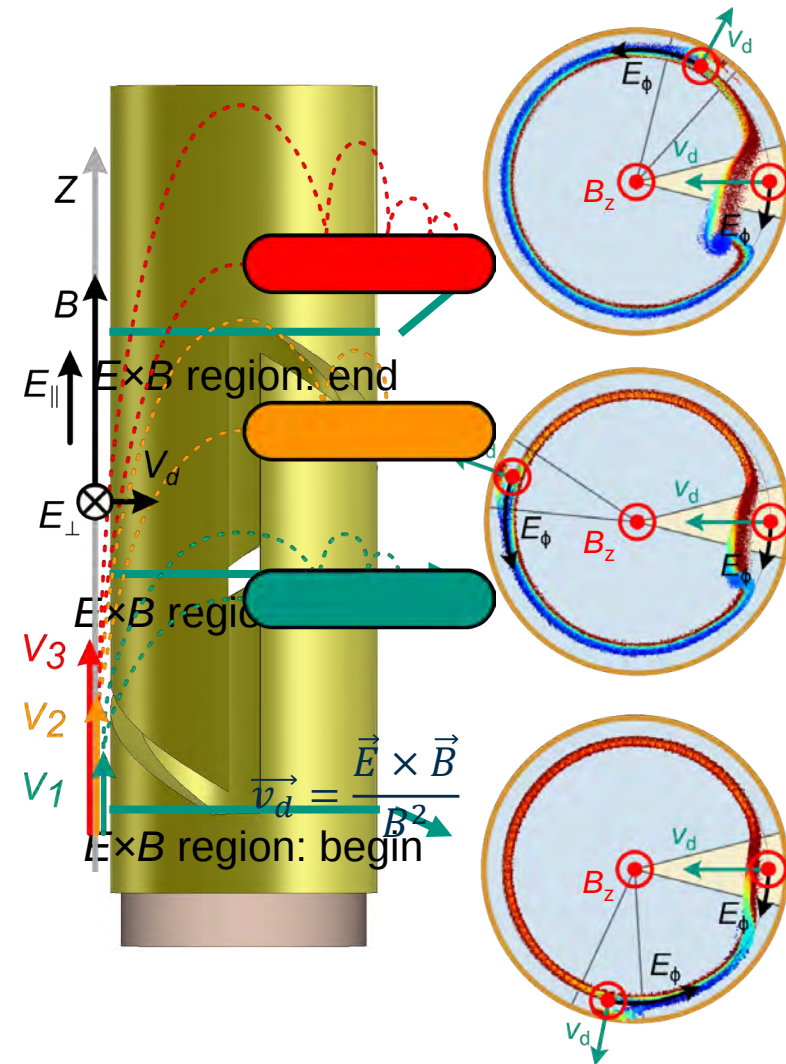
- Electrons are confined by magnetic field
- Axis-symmetric MDCs used in TWTs and klystrons are not reasonable

Solution for MDC in gyrotron

- Sorting electrons with $E \times B$ drift
- Spatial separation by kinetic energy

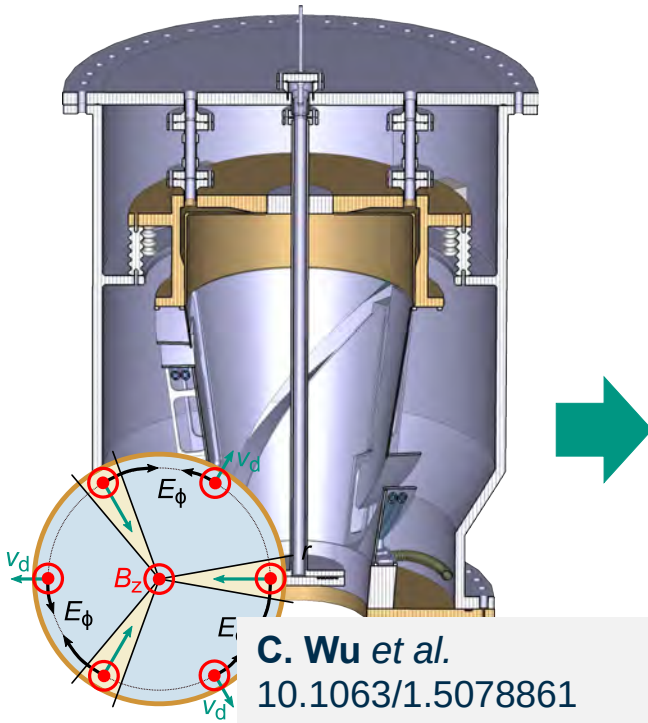
Basic design

- Non-axisymmetric E -field
- Most electrons drift radially outwards
- 1st electrode at bottom for slow electrons
- 2nd electrode at top for fast electrons

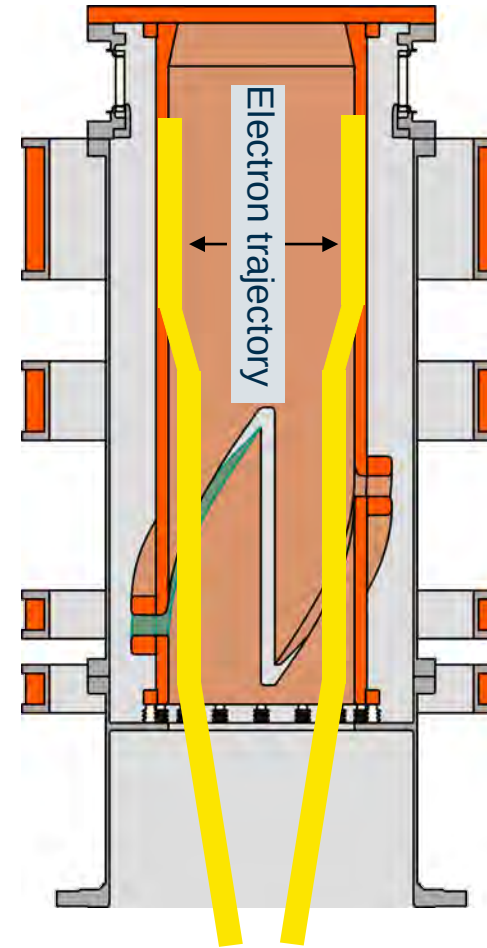
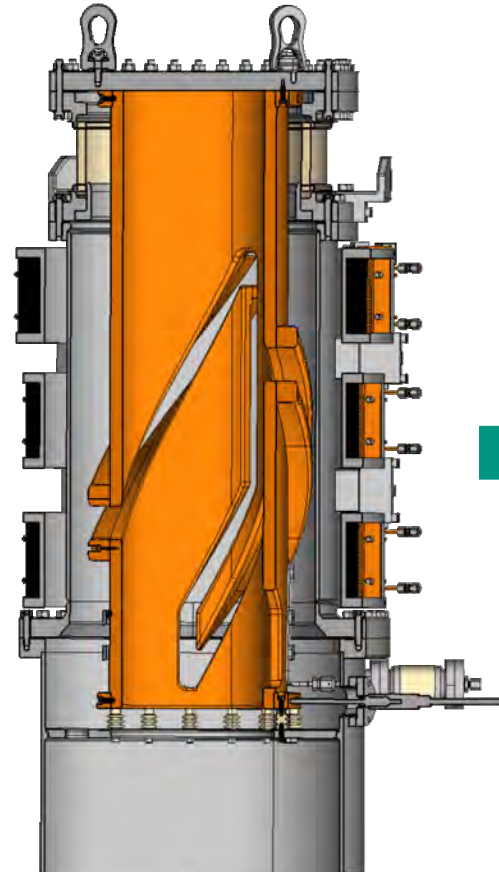


From Short-Pulse MDC to a CW Compatible Design

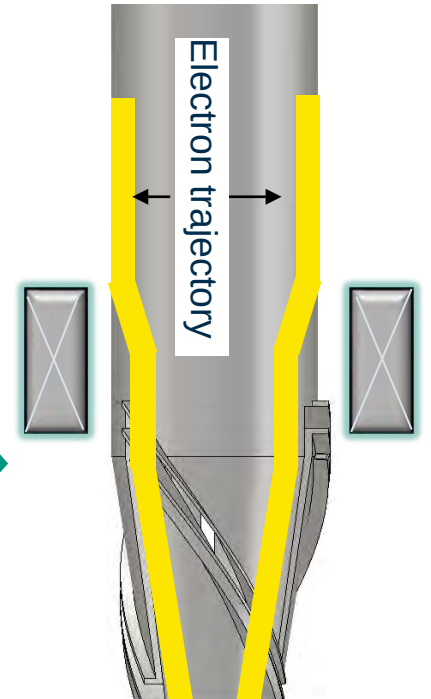
- Triple helix for reduced length
- Helical extensions for reduced reflected current



Pagonakis et al.
10.1109/TPS.2008.917943



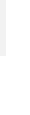
Optimized CW MDC



.2026

J. Jelonnek et al., Development of High-Power Microwave vacuum Electronics at KIT, VDE ITG IVEW 2026, Bad Honnef, August 27th, 2026

Institute for Pulsed Power and Microwave Technology (IHM)



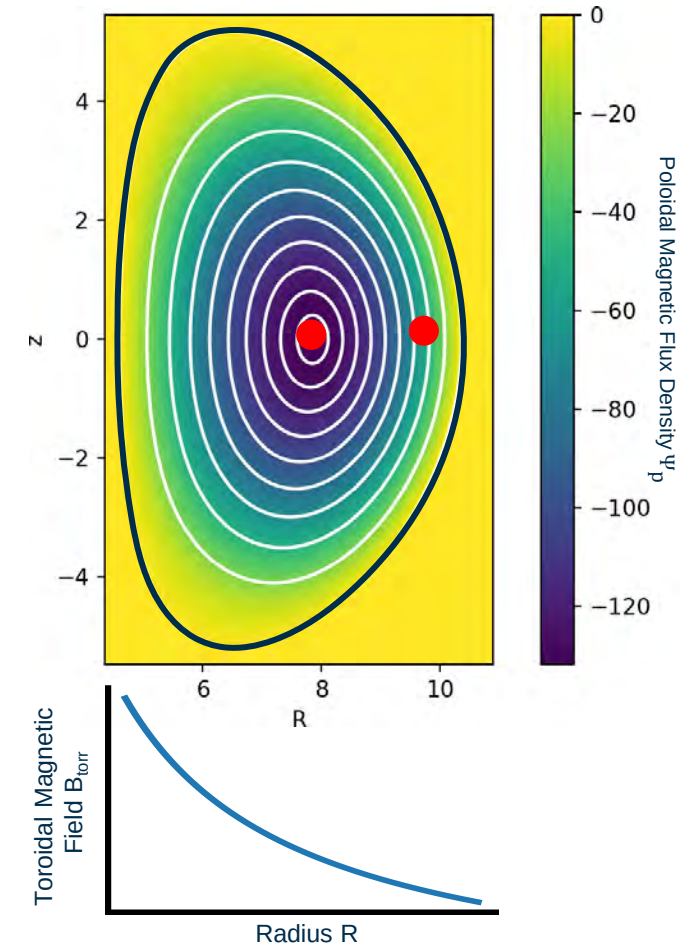
EUROfusion Enabling Research

Towards a New Generation of 2nd Harmonic Gyrotrons



- **AWP-21 (2021-2024):** New generation of megawatt-class fusion gyrotron systems based on highly efficient operation at the second harmonic of the cyclotron frequency
- **AWP-24 (2024-2026):** Novel dual-harmonic gyrotrons for DEMO featuring fast switching between distant frequencies: concept elaboration and experimental demonstration of key elements

Target: Plasma center heating and mitigation of radiative instabilities with the **same gyrotron, transmission line and launcher**



Technologies Considered within EUROfusion AWP-24

AWP-24 (2024-2026): Novel dual-harmonic gyrotrons for DEMO featuring fast switching between distant frequencies: concept elaboration and experimental demonstration of key elements

Target: A MW class gyrotron operating at 1st harmonic ($s = 1$) and at 2nd harmonic ($s = 2$) of the electron cyclotron frequency → **Fast (sub-second) switching between distant frequencies**

Following two enabling technologies are included:

1. The **coaxial-type cavity technology** that is specifically adapted to the operation at 2nd harmonics in combination with advanced inner and outer corrugations
2. The **Multistage Depressed Collector (MDC) technology** based on $E \times B$ drift concept

Novel Concepts for Advanced Fast Switching Between Harmonics

- Cavity (2nd harmonic TE2, 1.55 MW @ 170 GHz) tested for:
 - also 1st harmonic TE1 operation
 - the design of a fast-switching scenario

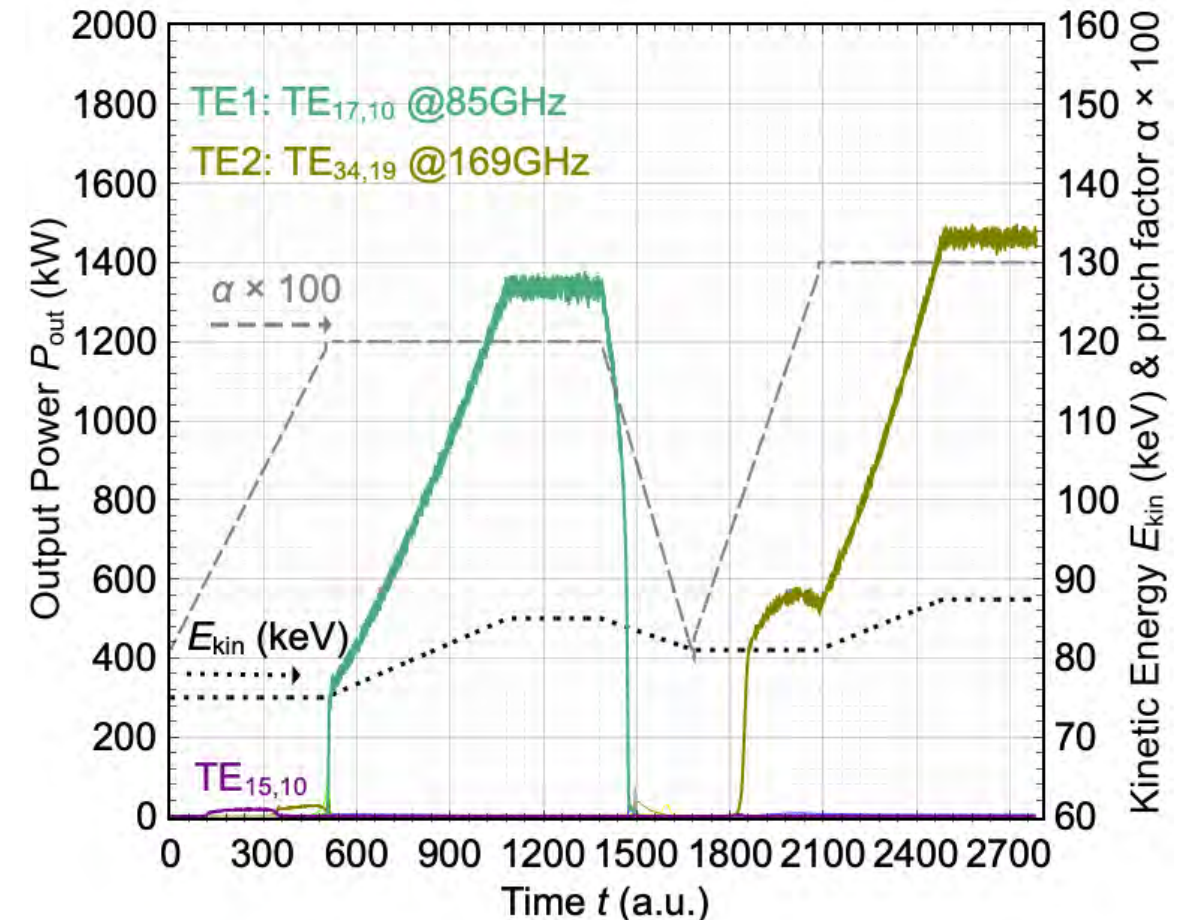
■ Table I: Operating Points

	E_{kin} (keV)	I_b (A)	B_{max} (T)	Pitch factor α	<i>Eigenvalue</i>
TE _{17,10}	85	95	3.475	1.2	53.00
TE _{34,19}	87	95	3.475	1.3	105.19

■ Table II: Performance

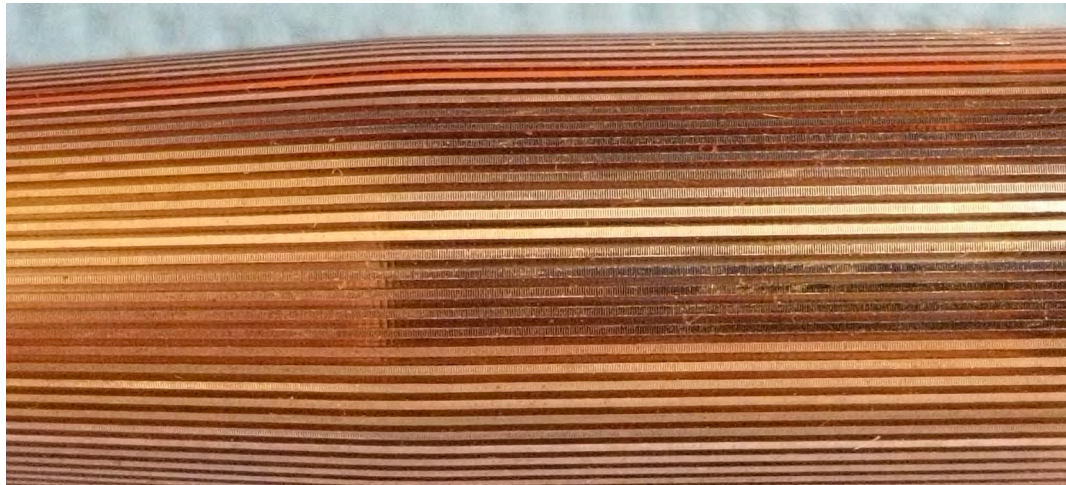
	P_{out} (MW)	efficiency	ρ_{out} (kW/cm ²)	ρ_{in} (kW/cm ²)
TE _{17,10}	1.35	18%	0.5	1.35
TE _{34,19}	1.45	19%	2.1	0.39

Multimode simulations demonstrate the fast-switching scenario between the TE1 and the TE2 mode by varying the electron-beam parameters (E_{kin} , α)



Design and Manufacturing of a Complex Shaped Insert

- Manufacturing of a short pulse cavity
- Novel mechanical design and manufacturing of a modular insert



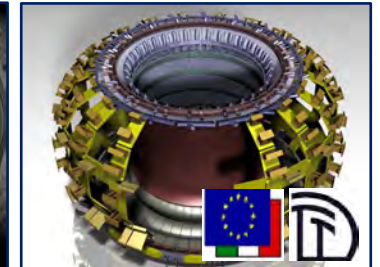
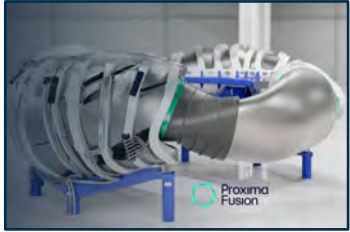
L. Feuerstein et al., Enhanced Suppression of First Harmonic Competing Modes in Harmonic Coaxial Gyrotron Cavities with Tapered Corrugation Depth. J Infrared Milli Terahz Waves 47, 21 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10762-026-01128-1>

Status on the Experiment

- Installation of the manufactured parts in the KIT short pulse coaxial prototype finished
- Superconducting magnet cooled down
- Conditioning phase has started
- **Status: First measurements campaign done**



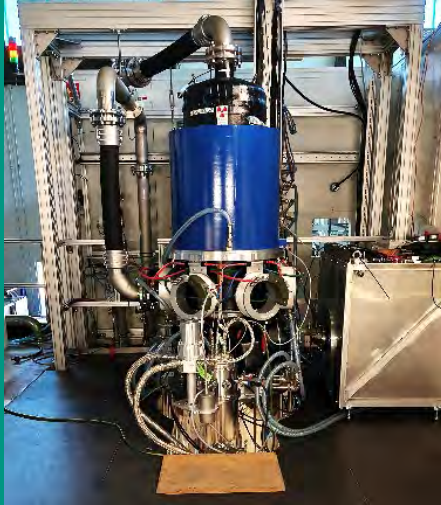
Gyrotron Research and Development at KIT



- Member of European Gyrotron Consortium (EGYC) for ITER
- Partner of IPP for 1 MW and 1.5 MW / 2 MW developments for W7-X (BMFTR HiPMiB)
- EUROfusion tasks leader for gyrotron R&D, leading the 2 MW coaxial-cavity gyrotron technology, Multistage Depressed Collector (MDC), operation at 2nd harmonics, electronic stability and frequency control
- **Lead in test and validation of megawatt-class gyrotrons (FULGOR)**
- Partner in gyrotron developments for European and worldwide nuclear fusion experiments such as TCV, CEA/WEST, DTT and GA/DIII-D
- Project coordinator for BMFTR project HeatQIS together with PROXIMA Fusion, Diamond Materials and THALES towards 238 GHz gyrotrons, EC launchers and windows

Gyrotron Test Stand(s) at IHM

FULGOR



WEST



EAST



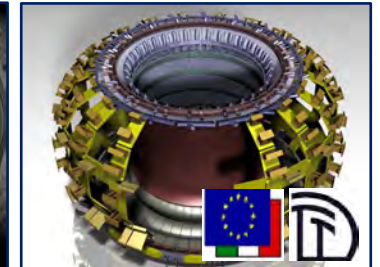
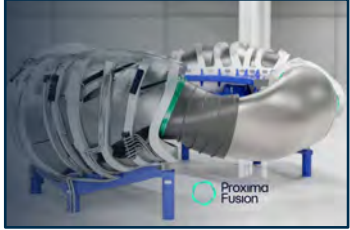
Simultaneous
operation

CRYOGENIC 10.5 Tesla gyrotron magnet



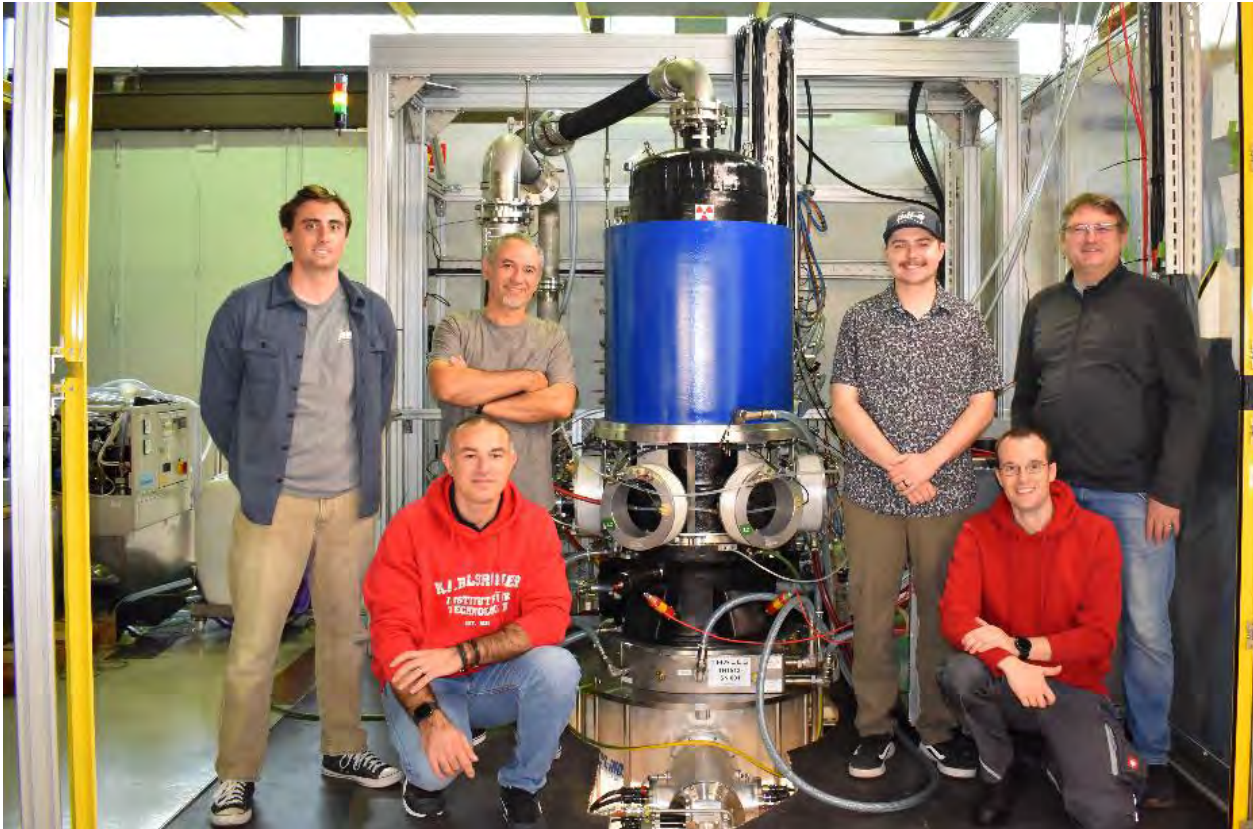
- **B. Baumann et al**, "VECTOR BASED MAGNETIC AXIS DETERMINATION OF SOLENOIDS FOR GYRO-DEVICES" (W22T)

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GA DIII-D Gyrotron (SN 01) – 117.5 GHz, 1 MW (10 s)



GA DIII-D 117.5 GHz, 1 MW CW

f	117.5 GHz
B_c	4.7 T
P_{rf}	1 MW
Mode	TE _{24,8}
efficiency	42%
Pulse length	10 s
Magnets	Cryo free SCM - Cryomagnetics
Goal	FAT

- ➔ A. Leggieri et al., “PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE GYROTRON DEVELOPMENTS FOR CEA AND GENERAL ATOMICS” (W3I, Invited)

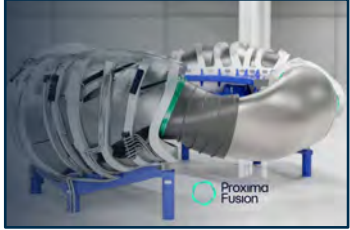
CEA WEST Gyrotron (SN 03) – 105 GHz, 1 MW (60 s)



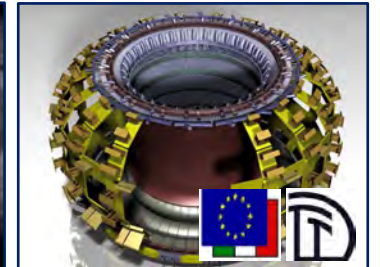
CEA WEST 105 GHz, 1MW CW	
f	105 GHz
B_c	4.13 T
P_{rf}	1 MW
Mode	TE _{20,8}
Efficiency	40%
Pulse length	60 s
Magnets	Cryogen free SCM - Cryomagnetics
Goal	FAT

- ➔ A. Leggieri et al., “PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE GYROTRON DEVELOPMENTS FOR CEA AND GENERAL ATOMICS” (W3I, Invited)

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Key Components of EC Plasma Heating Systems

EC Launcher (In-vessel)

First Containment System (FCS): Closure plates, Safety Important Component/Class 1 (SIC-1)

Port Cell Trans

Port cell TL = Ex-ves
SIC-1 up to diamond window

FCS barrier
(Structural system)

Heat^{IS} AP 2:

Diamond disks for gyrotron microwave power extraction and safety-critical torus windows

Steering options:

- Mechanical steering
- Electronic frequency steering

Plasma

Heat^{IS} AP 3:

Design of an Electron Cyclotron (EC) launcher for efficient microwave power coupling into the plasma

Heat^{IS} AP 1(a):

238 GHz / 1,7 MW (100 s) gyrotron demonstrator

Diamond Windows

Heat^{IS} AP 1(b):

Conceptual design of a HTS gyrotron magnet

cher Design 2024



Gyrotron

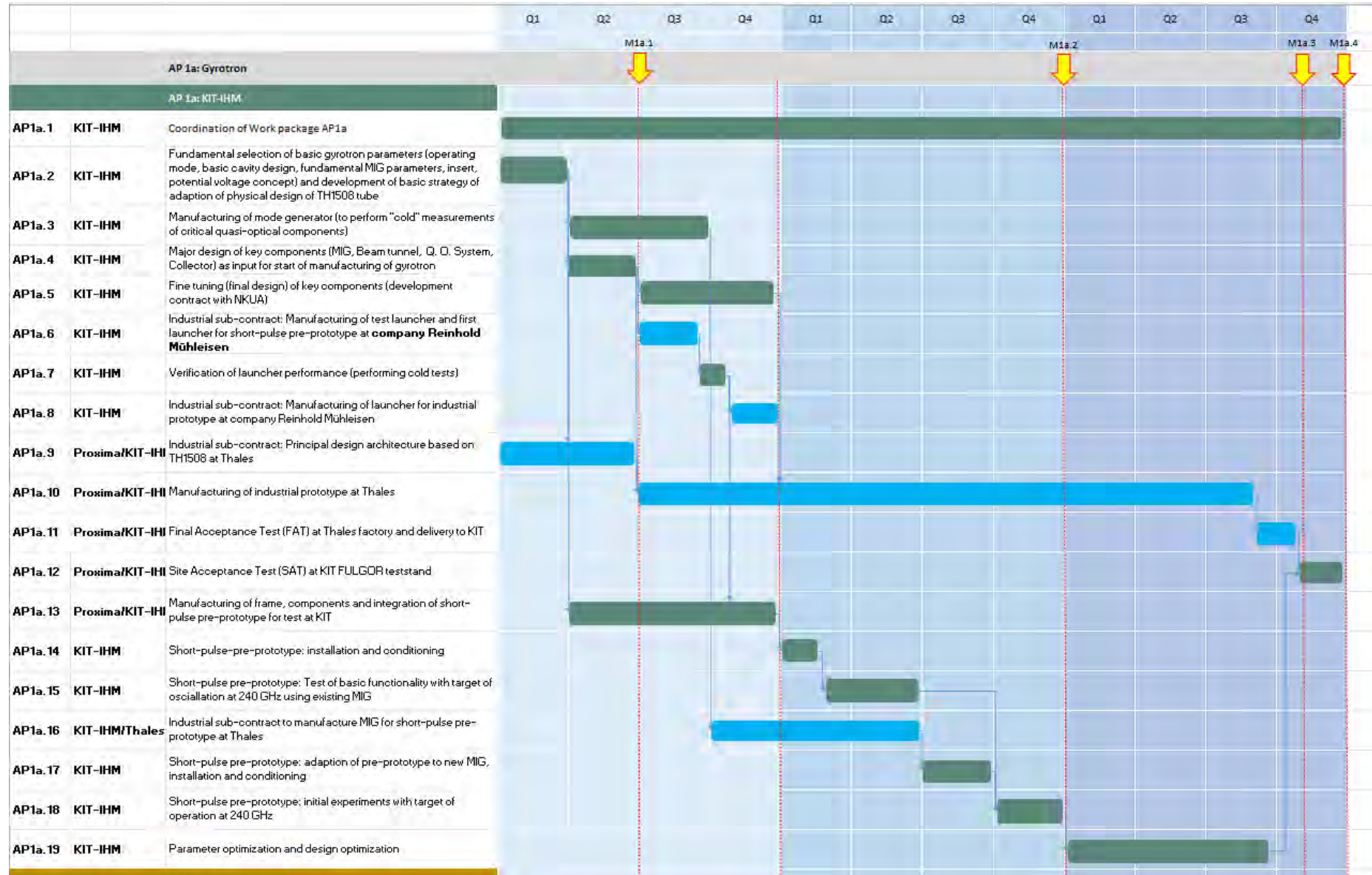
Sub Projects (Teilvorhaben)

● Responsible

○ Contributor

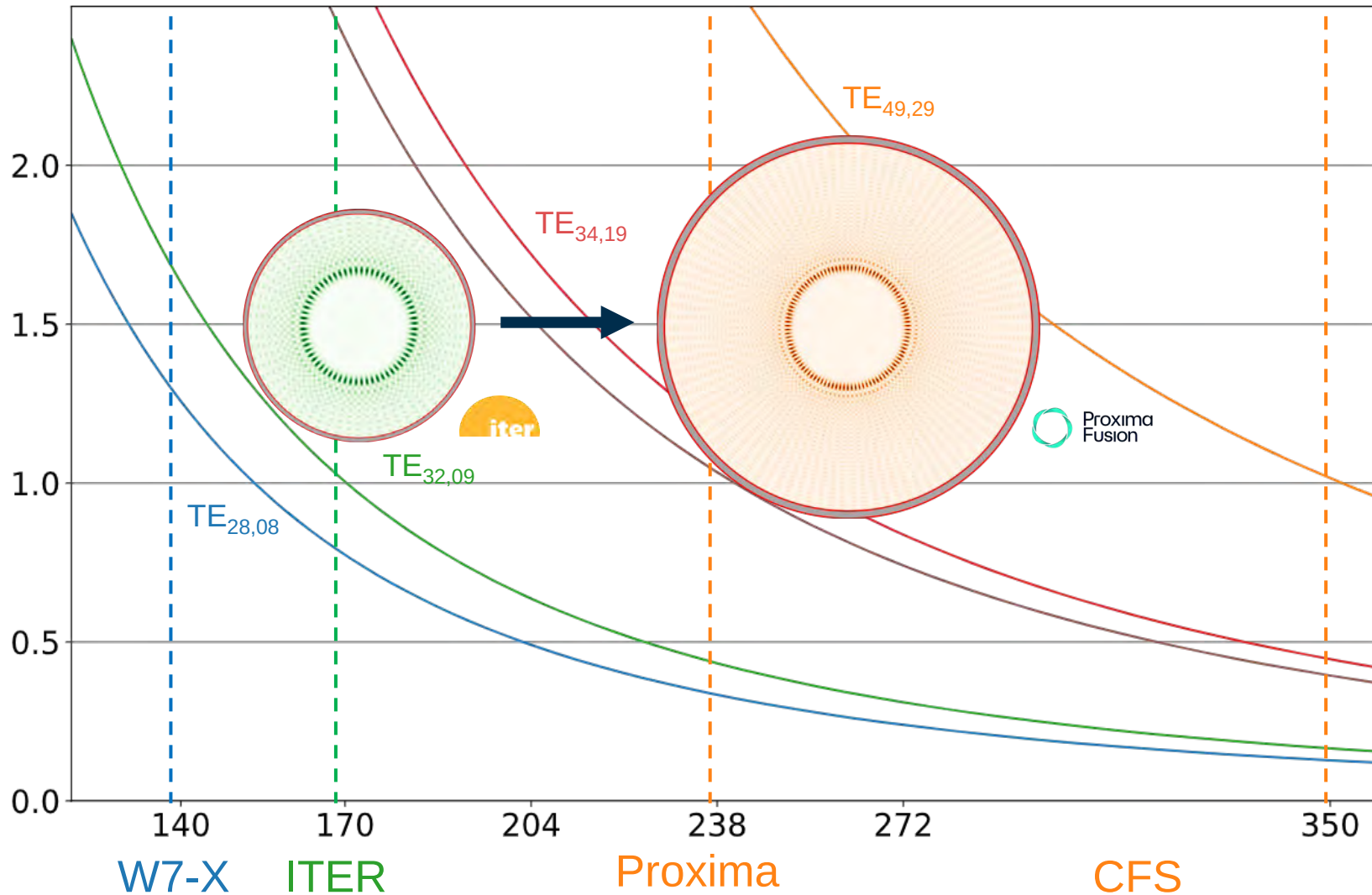
	Teilvorhaben 1 KIT (GFA) John Jelonnek Dirk Strauss	Teilvorhaben 3 KIT (UA) Jens Gibmeier	Teilvorhaben 2 Proxima Fusion Lucio Milanese	Teilvorhaben 4 Diamond Materials Eckhard Wörner
Task 1a: „Gyrotron“	<i>KIT IHM</i> Physical design of a 240 GHz, 1.7 MW gyrotron Manufacturing a SP demonstr. Test and verification at KIT		Subcontract of the industrial demonstrator Support in design and test	
Task 1b: „Magnet“	<i>KIT IHM</i> Magnet profile definition		Major design	
Task 2: „Diamant“	<i>KIT IAM-AWP/MMI</i> Diamond disk characterization	KIT IAM-WK XRD analysis		Manufacturing process optimization Manufacturing of diamond disks
Task 3: „Launcher“	<i>KIT IAM-AWP</i> Launcher structural design		Major design	

WP #1a „Gyrotron“



- **A. Schmidt et al.**, "EVALUATION OF A LOW VOLTAGE HIGH CURRENT OPERATION POINT FOR A HIGH-FREQUENCY AND VERY-HIGH ORDER MODE GYROTRON" (**W16T**)
- **M. Misko et al.**, "QUASI-OPTICAL MODE GENERATOR FOR THE VERIFICATION OF A 238 GHz TE_{49,29} -MODE GYROTRON LAUNCHER ANTENNA" (**W18T**)

From „170 GHz“ to „238 GHz“ and from „1 MW“ to „2 MW“

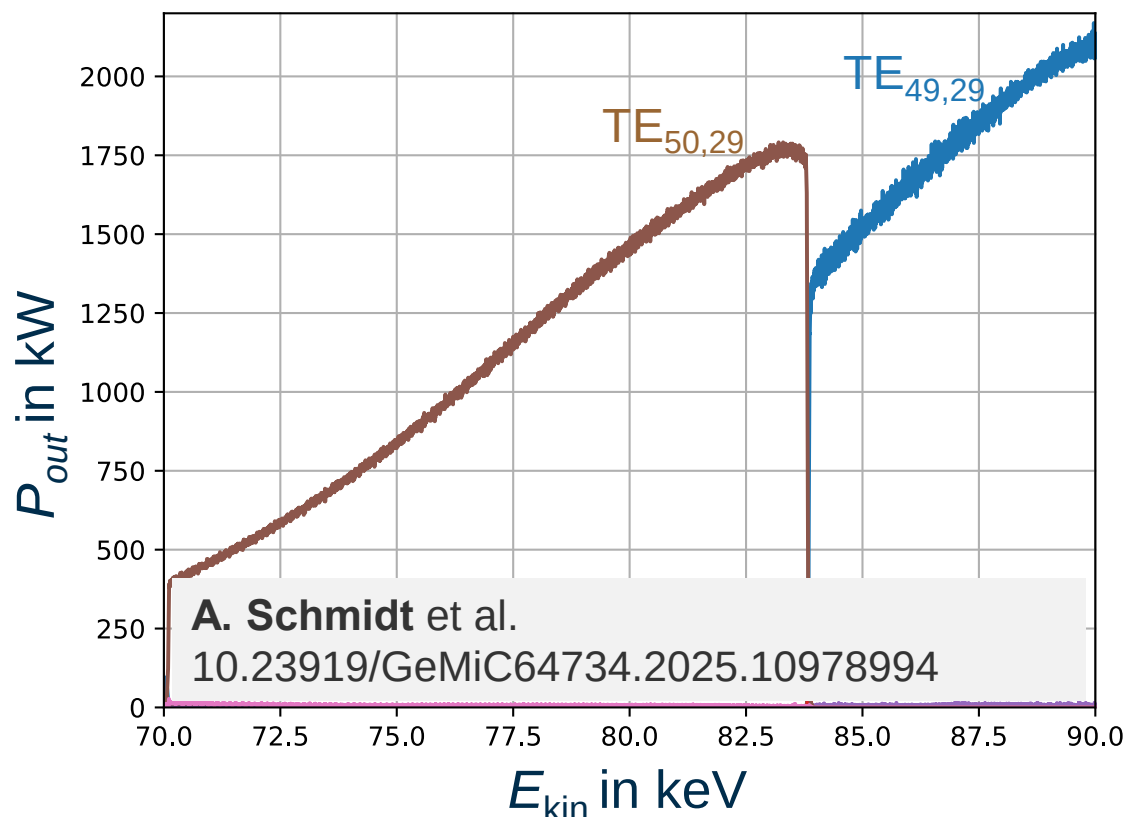


$$\rho \sim f^{\frac{5}{2}} \cdot \left[\chi_{m,p}^2 \cdot \left(1 - \frac{R_{\text{caustic}}}{R_{\text{cavity}}} \right)^2 \right]^{-1}$$

Q	1400
L/λ	9
ρ	$2 \frac{\text{kW}}{\text{cm}^2}$
σ	$1.73 \cdot 10^7 \frac{\text{S}}{\text{m}}$

Interaction Simulation of a TE_{49,29} –Mode Cavity at 238 GHz

- Self consistent time-dependent multi-mode simulation: ROCK^[1]
- Using electron beam parameters from ESRAY^[2]
- Considering over 40 competing modes

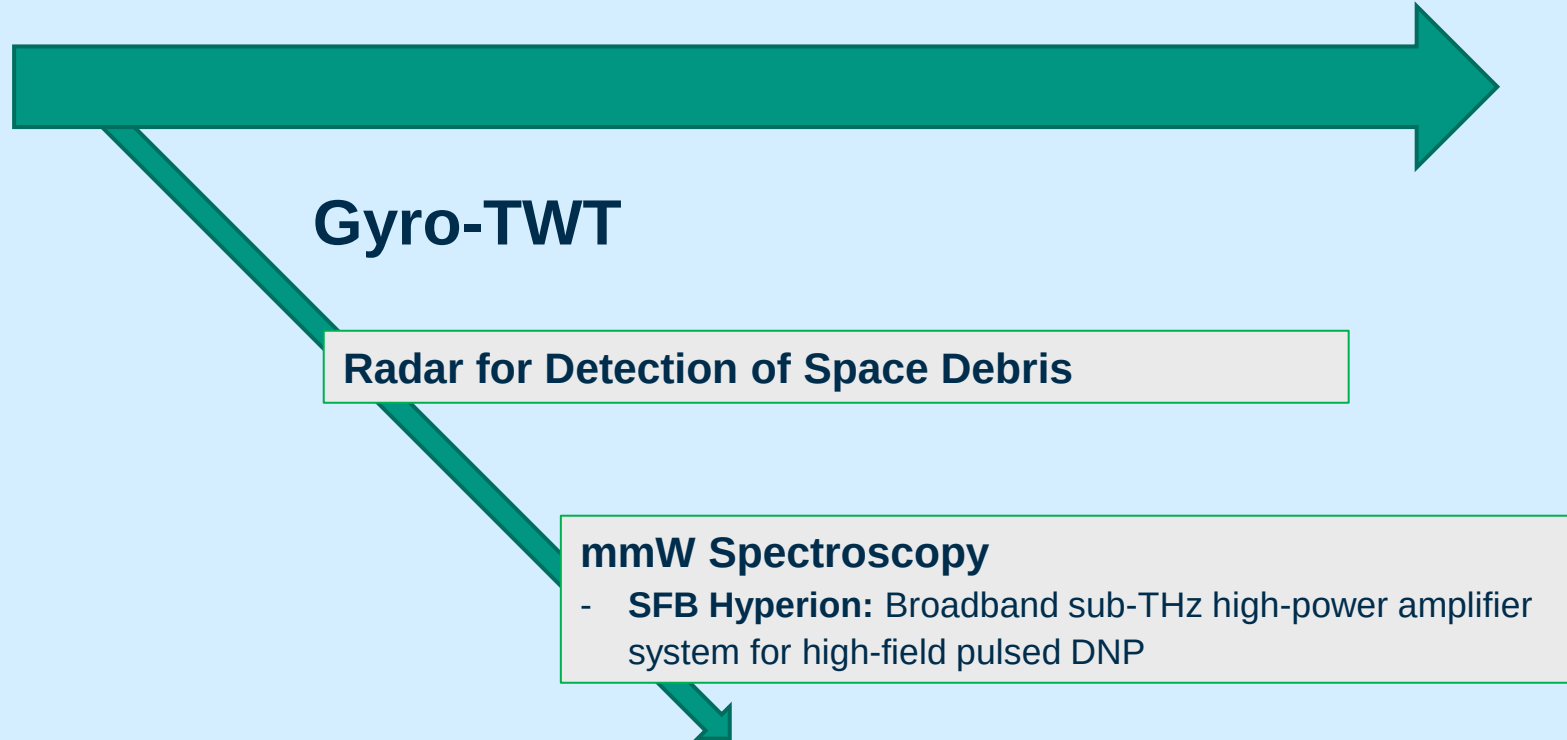


Parameter	Value
B	9.62 T
U	90 kV
I	63 A
α	1.3
P	2.1 MW
$\eta_{\text{interaction}}$	37 %
ρ	2.1 kW/cm ²

C. Wu et al., ROCK: a flexible gyrotron cavity simulation toolkit using an accuracy-improved time-dependent self-consistent multimode interaction model, *Journal of Infrared, Millimeter, and Terahertz Waves*

S. Illy et al., Gyrotron electron gun and collector simulation with the ESRAY beam optics code. 1-2. 10.1109/IVEC.2015.7223779

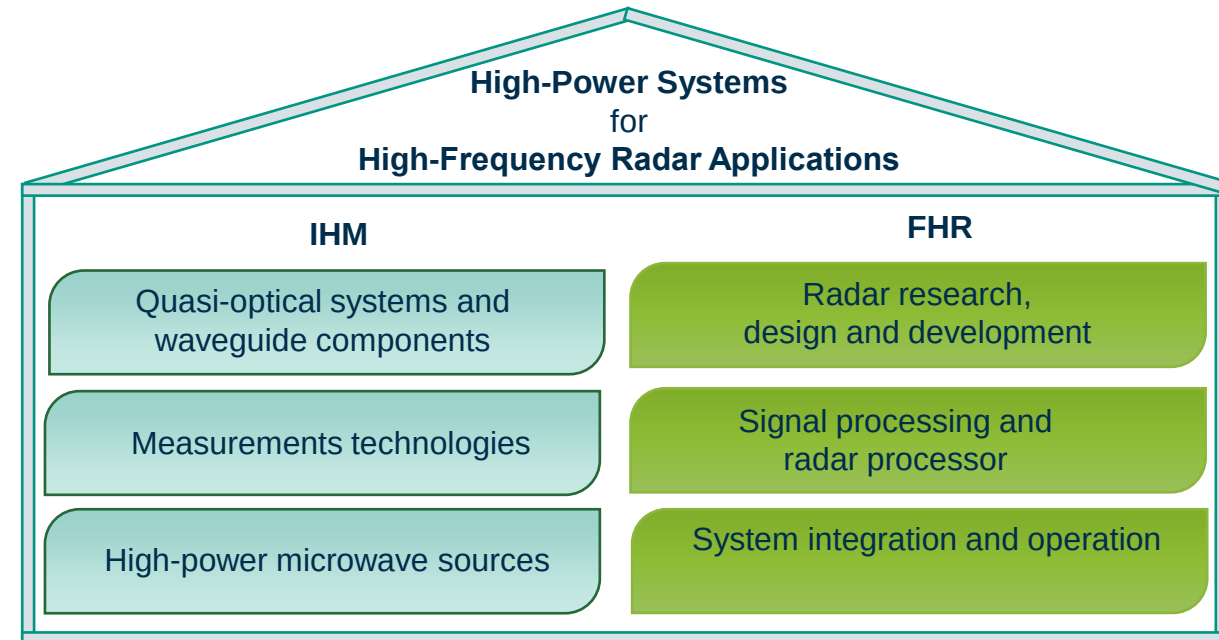
KIT Development Paths



Fraunhofer FHR Research Group at KIT



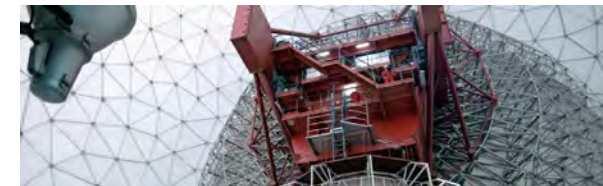
Dr.-Ing. Alexander Marek



Kooperation IHM und FHR
(Fraunhofer-Institut für Hochfrequenzphysik und Radartechnik)

High-Power Systems for High-Frequency Radar Applications

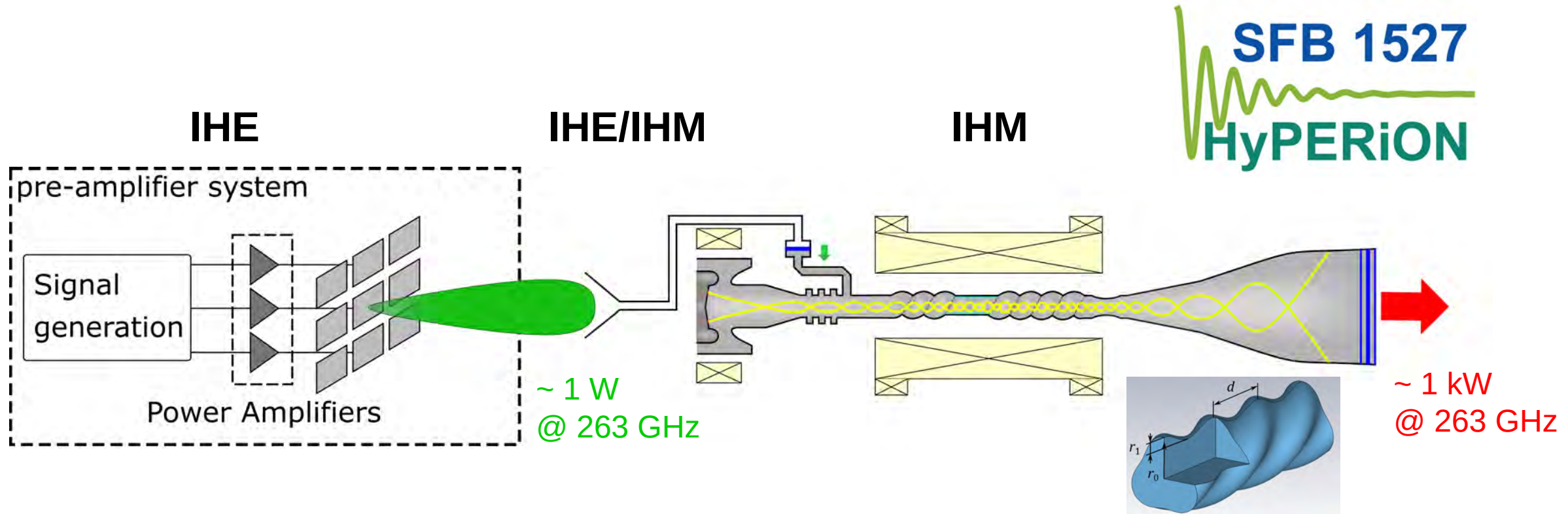
**Future radar methods and technologies for space
observation**



<https://youtu.be/M-tLJWzrzZU>

- **A. Marek**, "Ka-BAND UPGRADE OF TIRA: THE FUTURE OF RADAR SPACE OBSERVATION IN EUROPA" (W23T)

Hybrid Broadband Sub-THz High-Power Amplifier System for High-field Pulsed DNP



- **M. Vöhringer et al.**, “ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF A GYRO-TWT TEST STAND UP TO 263 GHz AT IHM” (**W20T**)
- **B. Bischofberger et al.**, “NOVEL BROADBAND FREQUENCY AND AMPLITUDE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM FOR 263 GHz GYRO-TWT AMPLIFIERS” (**W19T**)

Presentations Related to R&D at KIT

- **A. Leggieri et al.**, “PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN COLLABORATIVE GYROTRON DEVELOPMENTS FOR CEA AND GENERAL ATOMICS” **(W3I, Invited)**
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