

Wakefield Accelerators: The Path to 10 TeV and Beyond

Spencer Gessner, Staff Scientist
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

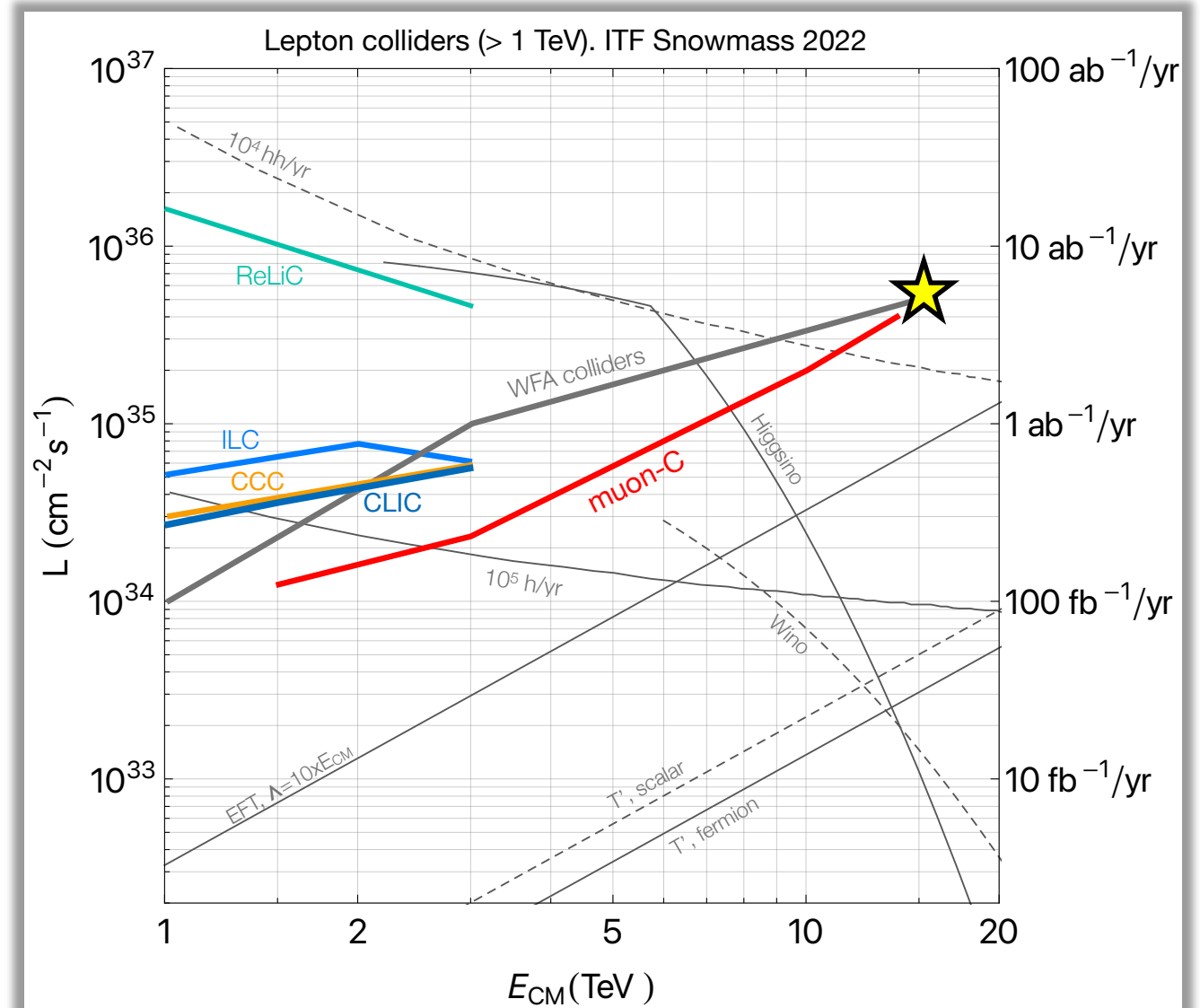
P5 Townhall, May 3, 2023

With input from:
J. Power, P. Piot, C. Jing, X. Lu,
J.L. Vay, J. van Tilborg, T. Gonsalves,
C. Schroeder, E. Esarey, M. Hogan
and
Snowmass AF6 Advanced Accelerator Frontier

Physics Motivation

Energy Frontier Executive Summary

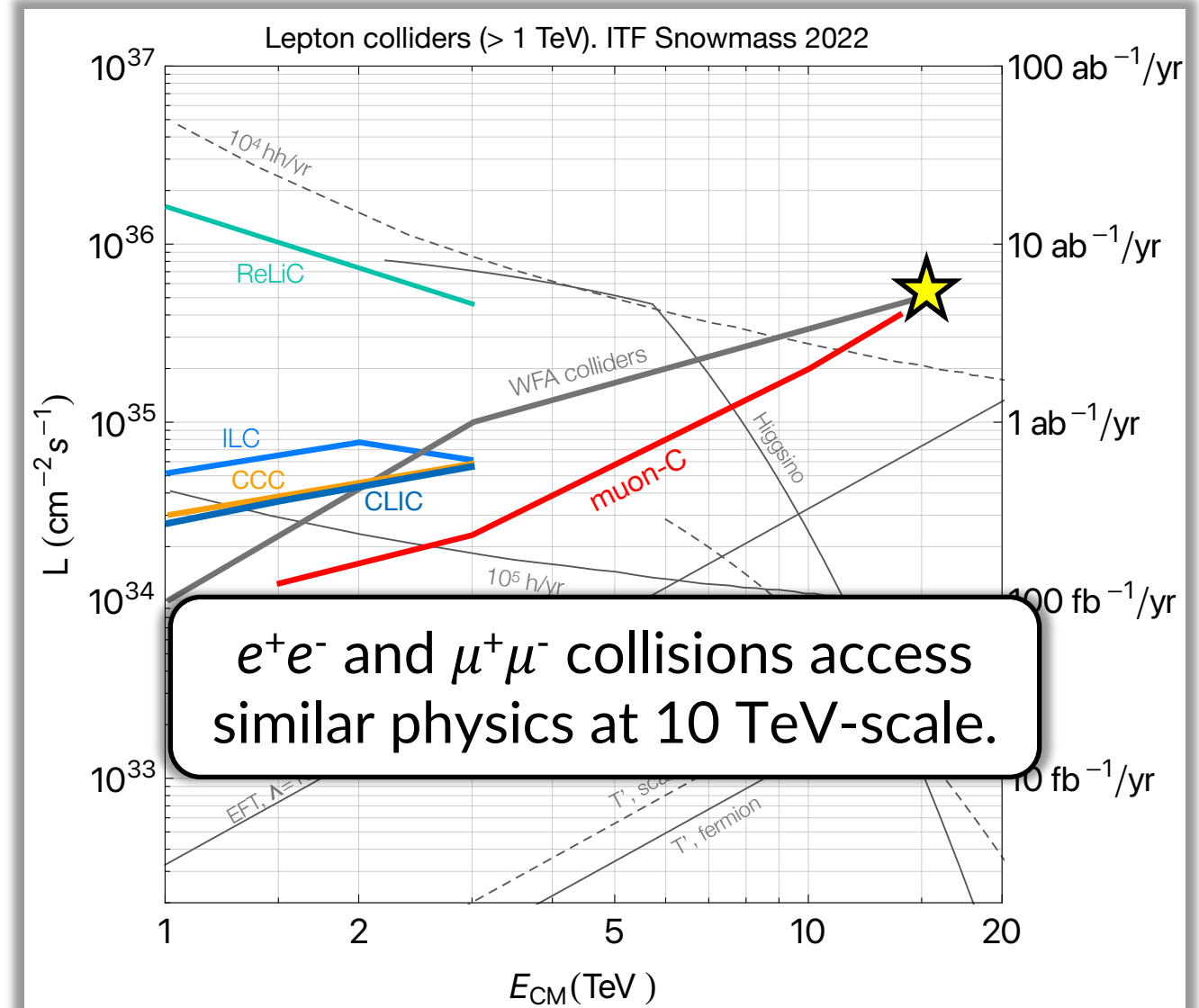
While the naturalness principle suggests new physics to lie at mass scales close to the electroweak scale, in many cases direct searches for specific models have placed strong bounds around 1-2 TeV. Thus, the energy frontier has moved beyond the TeV scale and the exploration of the 10 TeV scale becomes crucial to shed light on physics beyond the Standard Model (SM).



Physics Motivation

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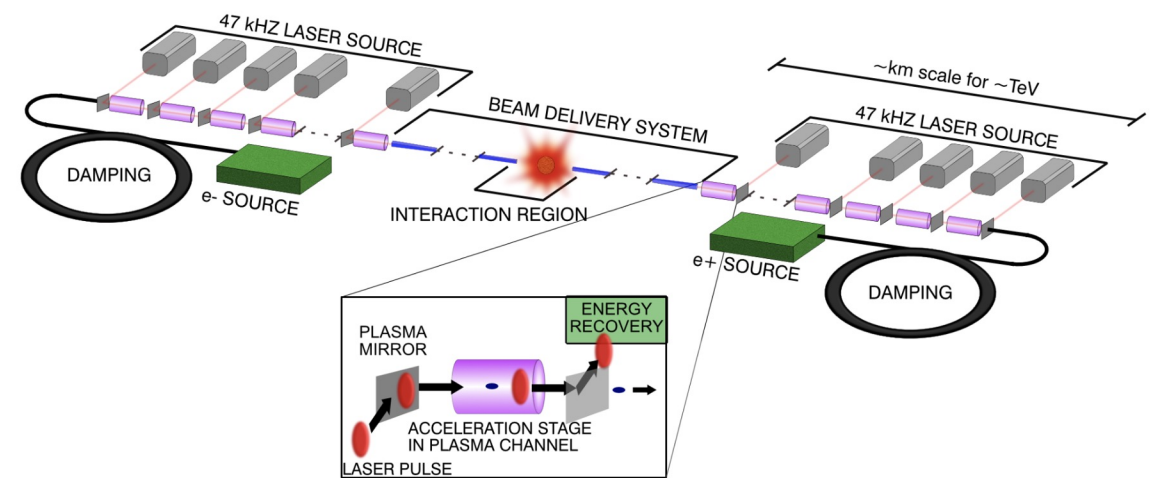
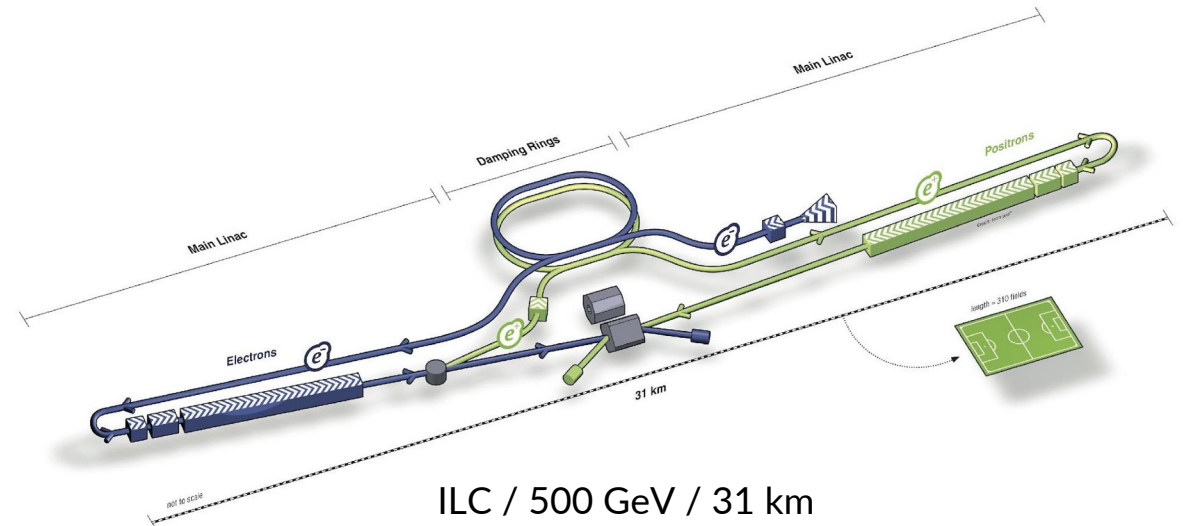
While the naturalness principle suggests new physics to lie at mass scales close to the electroweak scale, in many cases direct searches for specific models have placed strong bounds around 1-2 TeV. Thus, the energy frontier has moved beyond the TeV scale and the exploration of the 10 TeV scale becomes crucial to shed light on physics beyond the Standard Model (SM).



Wakefield Accelerator Mission

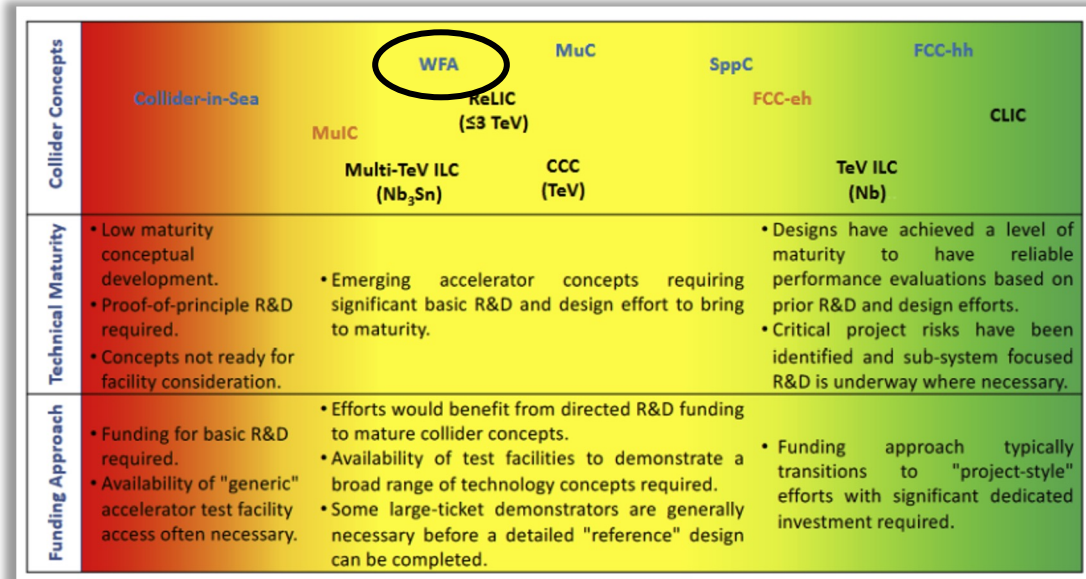
Three goals:

- Reduce the size of future colliders.
- Reduce the cost of future colliders.
- Reduce the environmental impact of future colliders.



Near-Term Outlook

Snowmass AF4 Energy Frontier Colliders



← Less mature More mature →

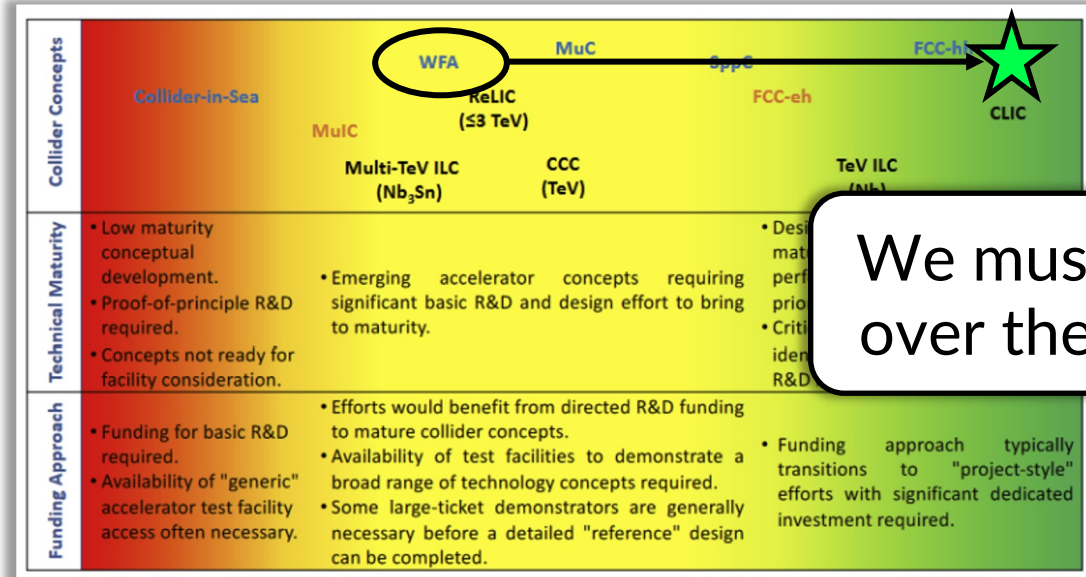
Snowmass Implementation Task Force

Proposal Name	CM energy nom. (range) [TeV]	Lum./IP @ nom. CME [$10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$]	Years of pre-project R&D	Years to first physics	Construction cost range [2021 B\$]	Est. operating electric power [MW]
Muon Collider	10 (1.5-14)	20 (40)	>10	>25	12-18	~300
LWFA - LC (Laser-driven)	15 (1-15)	50	>10	>25	18-80	~1030
PWFA - LC (Beam-driven)	15 (1-15)	50	>10	>25	18-50	~620
Structure WFA (Beam-driven)	15 (1-15)	50	>10	>25	18-50	~450
FCC-hh	100	30 (60)	>10	>25	30-50	~560
SPPC	125 (75-125)	13 (26)	>10	>25	30-80	~400

Regardless of size, cost, and environmental impact, the Snowmass AF4 and ITF Frontiers concluded there are no near-term technologies for reaching 10 TeV parton-scale collisions.

Near-Term Outlook

Snowmass AF4 Energy Frontier Colliders



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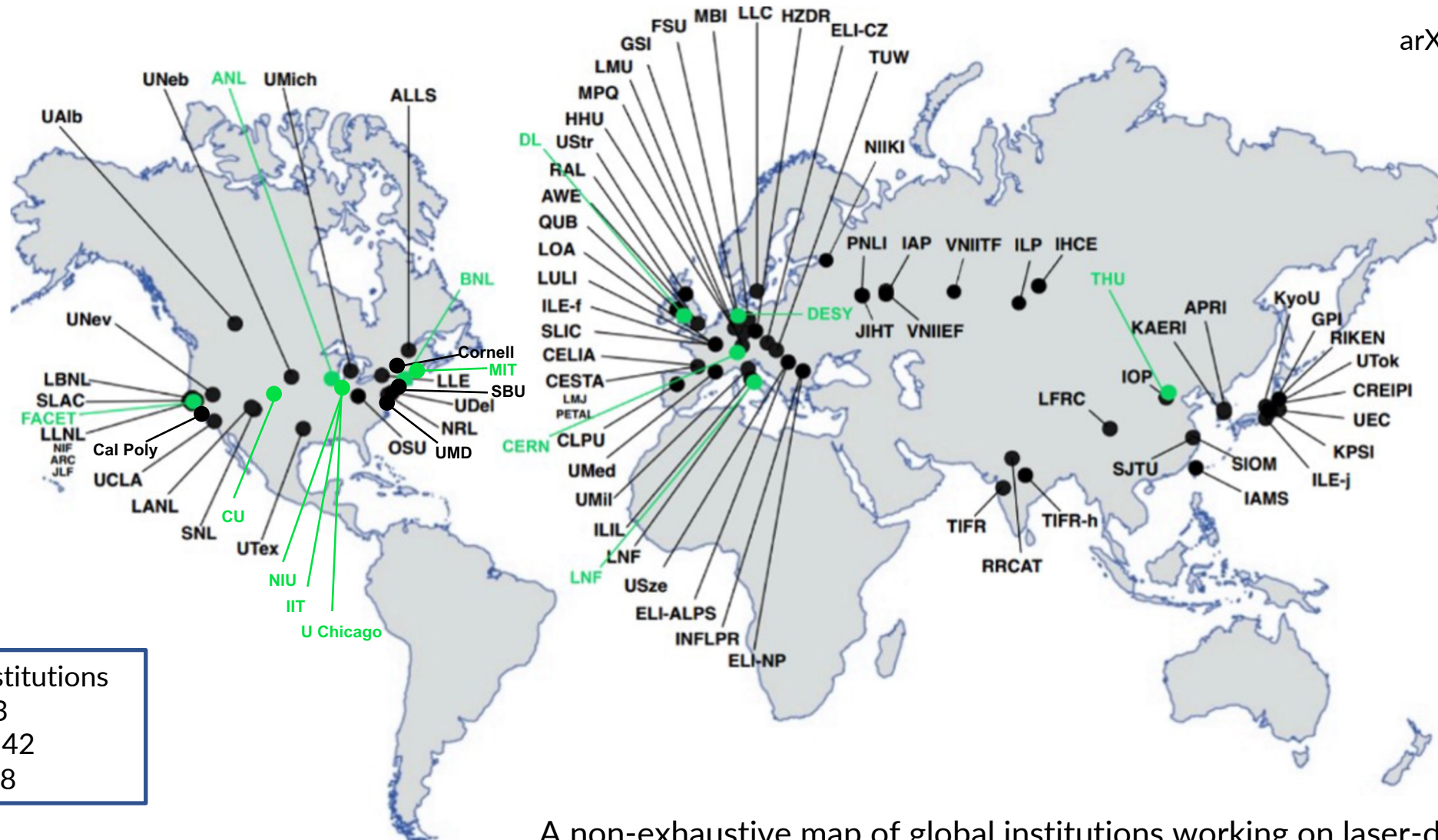
We must pursue R&D over the next decade.

← Less mature More mature →

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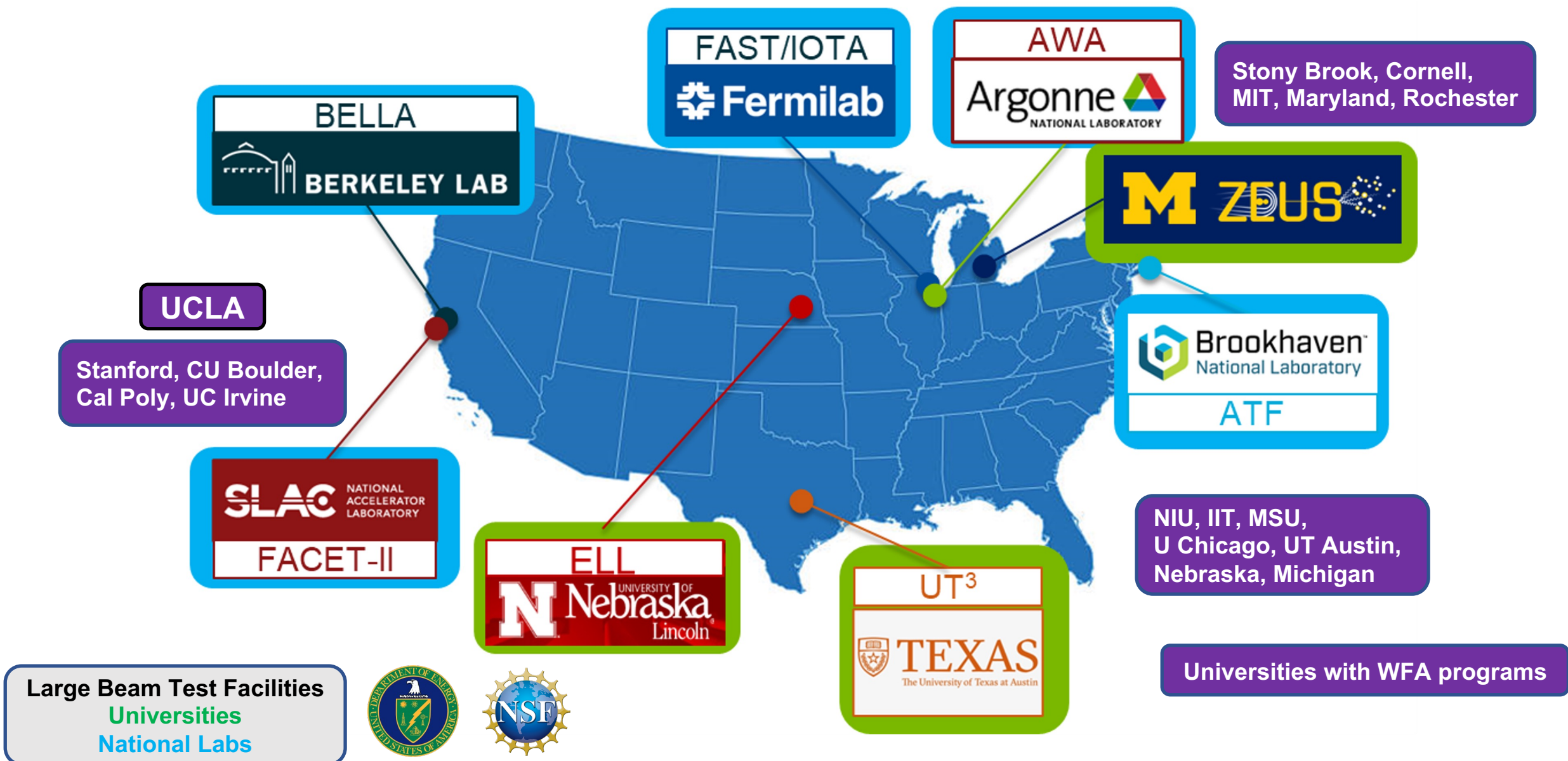
Wakefield Accelerator Research is a Global Enterprise

arXiv:1904.09205



A non-exhaustive map of global institutions working on laser-driven plasma acceleration (**black**) and beam-driven plasma/structure acceleration (**green**).

Wakefield Accelerator Research in the US



Wakefield Accelerator Research in the US



Workforce Development

The Wakefield Accelerator Community addresses state-of-the-art challenges in accelerator physics, attracting young scientists who are looking to have an impact!

Our Beam Test Facilities provide unique opportunities for students to participate in groundbreaking accelerator R&D.

Support for Advanced Accelerator R&D is an investment in the Accelerator Physics workforce.



DOE Early Career Award



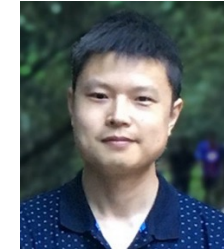
M. Turner
LBNL (2022)



X. Lu
Argonne/NIU (2021)



B. O'Shea
SLAC (2020)



T. Zhou
LBNL (2020)



J. van Tilbourg
LBNL (2016)

NSF Early Career Award



N. Vafaei-Najafabadi
Stony Brook (2020)



M. Litos
CU Boulder (2020)



F. Dollar
UC Irvine (2018)

APS DPB Thesis Prize



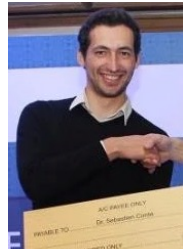
I. Lobach
Argonne (2022)



L. Obst-Heubl
LBNL (2021)



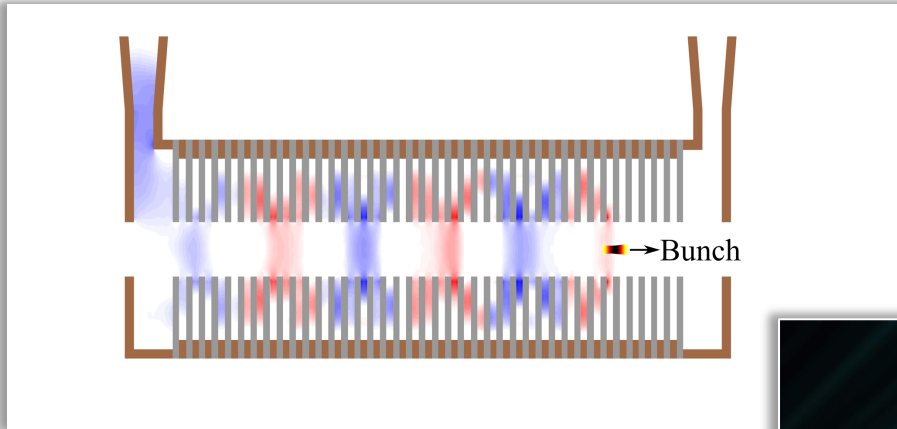
S. Gessner
SLAC (2017)



S. Corde
SLAC (2013)

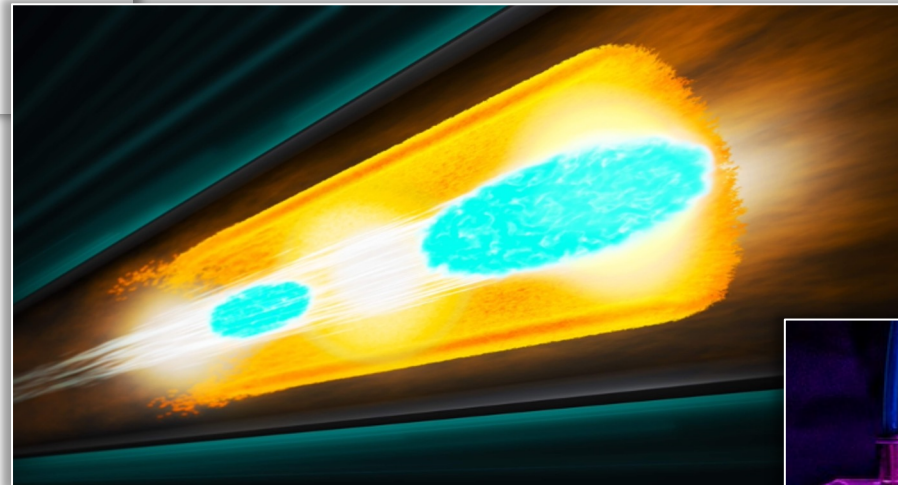
Wakefield Accelerator Technologies

Structure Wakefield Accelerators @ 

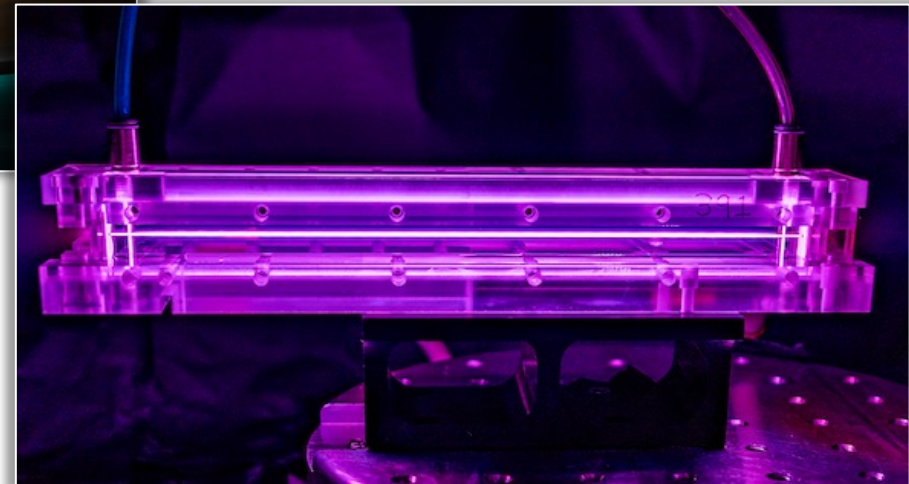


Argonne, SLAC, and LBNL are the stewards of SWFA, PWFA, and LWFA technology in the US, with university participation.

Beam Driven Plasma @ **SLAC**

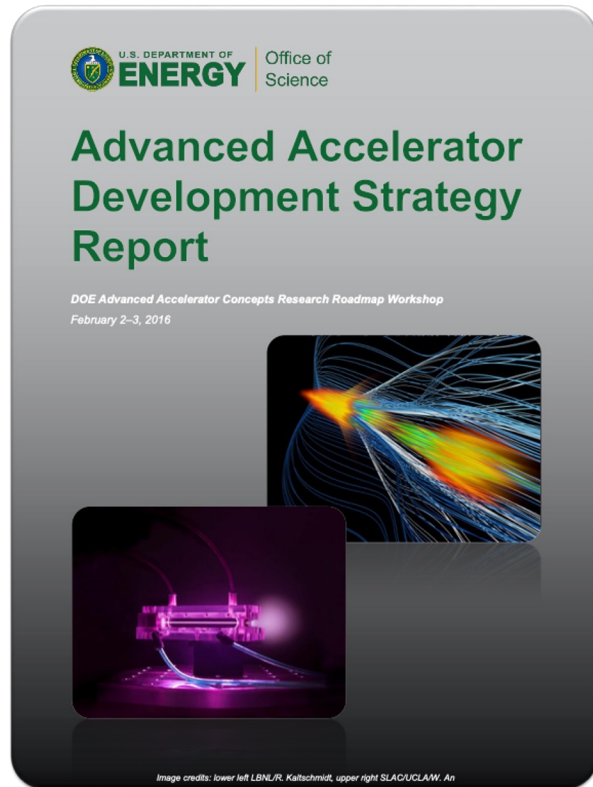


Laser Driven Plasma @ 

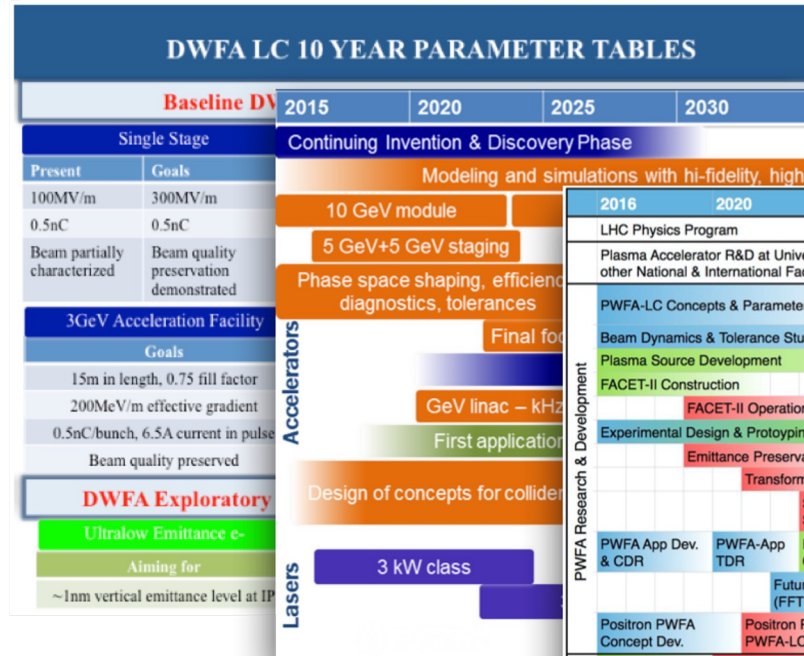


Key advantages:
Ultra-large gradients (1-100 GeV/m)
Ultra-short bunches (suppress beamstrahlung)

Wakefield Technologies Organized Around Common Goals

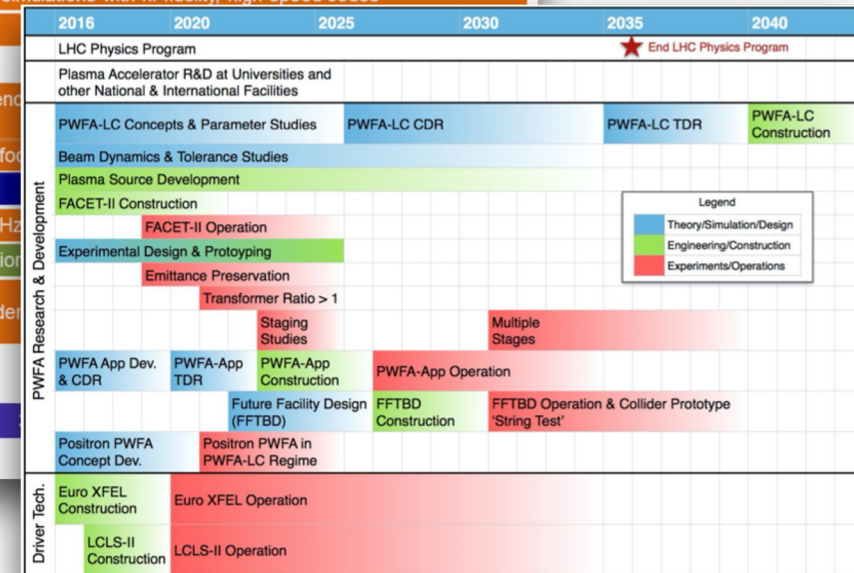


Structure Wakefield Acceleration



Laser-Driven Plasma

Beam-Driven Plasma



Roadmaps were developed in 2016 by the community in conjunction with DOE HEP following last P5 report and ensuing HEPAP Accelerator R&D sub-panel.

Wakefield Technologies Organized Around Common Goals

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of Science

Advanced Accelerator Development Strategy Report

DOE Advanced Accelerator Concepts Research Roadmap Workshop
February 2-3, 2016

Image credits: lower left LBNL/R. Kaltschmid, upper right SLAC/CLAW. An

Structure Wakefield Acceleration

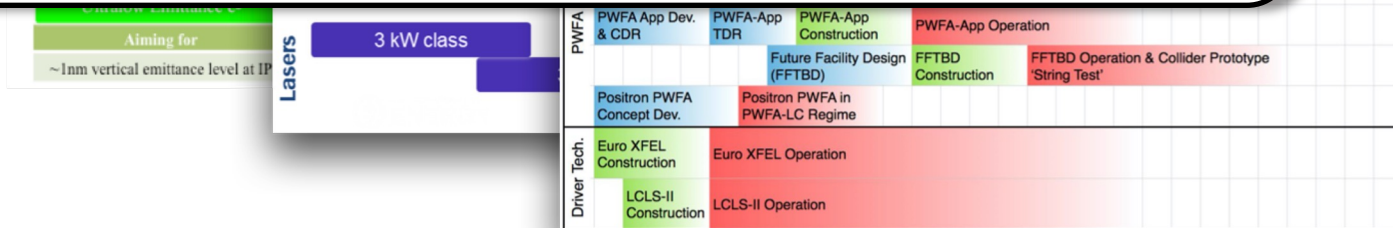
DWFA LC 10 YEAR PARAMETER TABLES

Baseline DV		2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Single Stage							
Continuing Invention & Discovery Phase							
Modeling and simulations with hi-fidelity, high speed codes							
Present	Goals	2016					
100MV/m	300MV/m	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	
0.5nC	0.5nC	LHC Physics Program					
Beam partially	Beam quality	Plasma Accelerator R&D at Universities and					

Laser-Driven Plasma

Beam-Driven Plasma

In Europe, similar roadmaps have been developed as part of ESPP, the Laboratory Directors Group, and the ICFA-sponsored ALEGRO Working Group on Wakefield Colliders.



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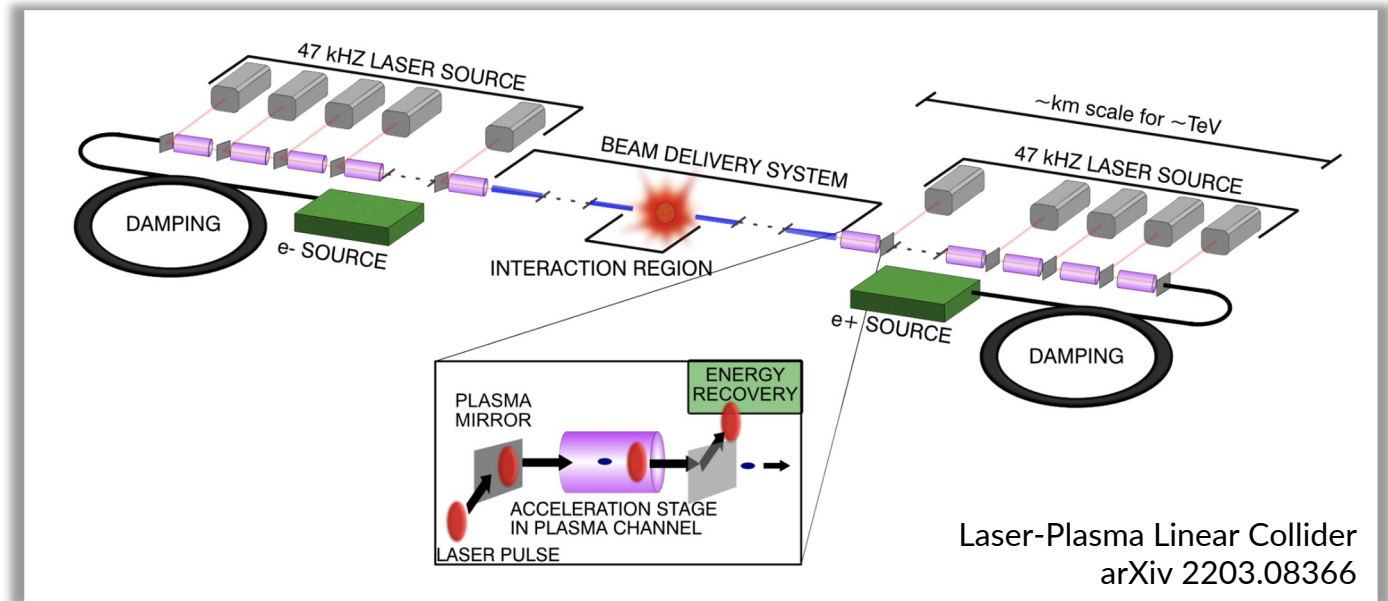
Progress Since Last P5

Goals

High-Gradient

High-Efficiency

Low-Emittance



Progress Since Last P5

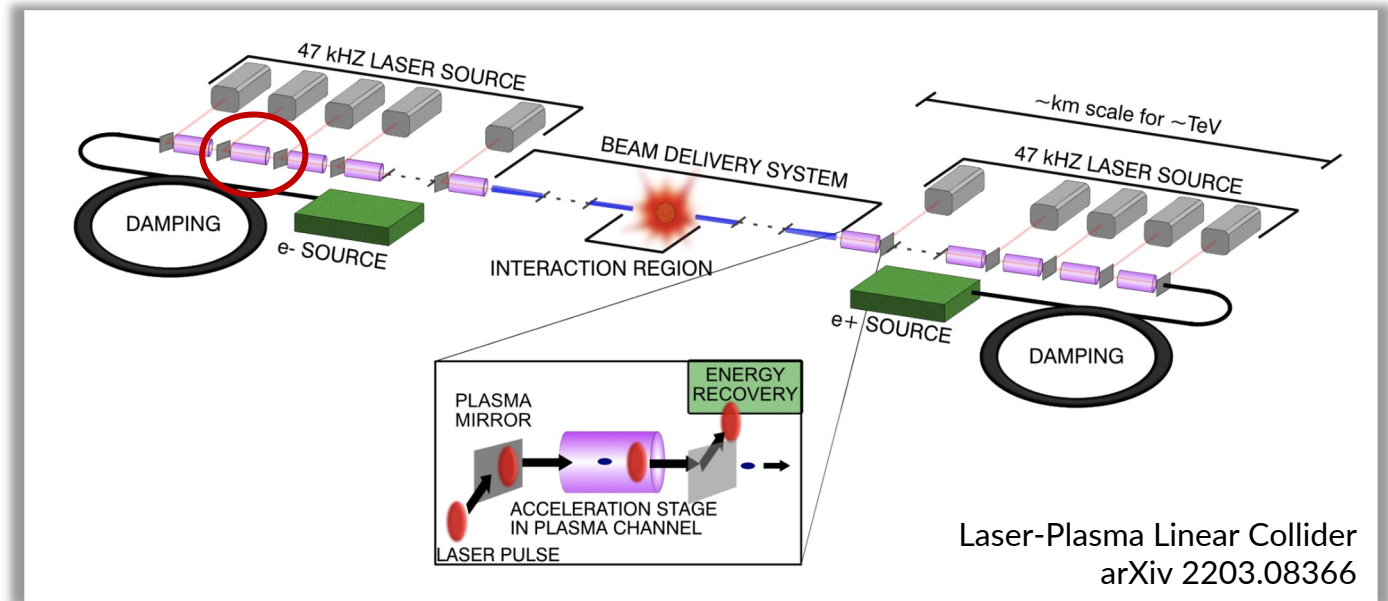
Excellent performance of single-stage accelerators

Goals

High-Gradient

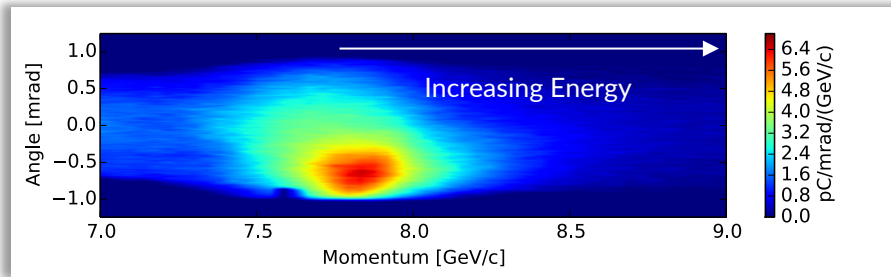
High-Efficiency

Low-Emittance

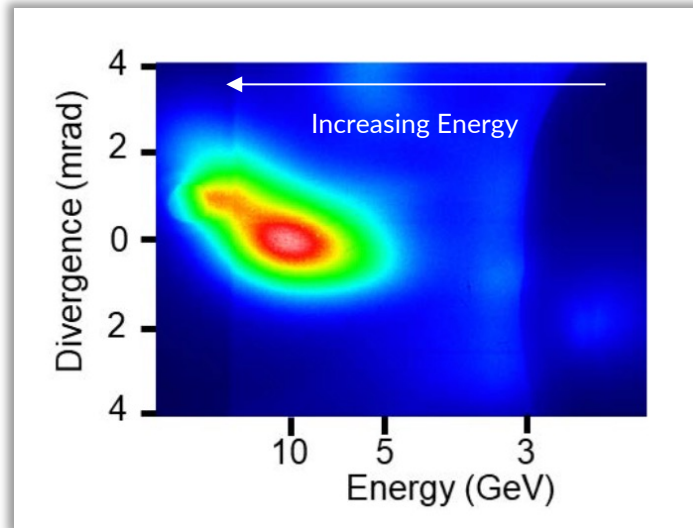


Progress Since Last P5

Excellent performance of single-stage accelerators



8 GeV Energy gain in LWFA
A. J. Gonsalves et al. PRL (2019)



10 GeV Energy gain in LWFA
C. Aniculaesei et al.
arXiv:2207.11492

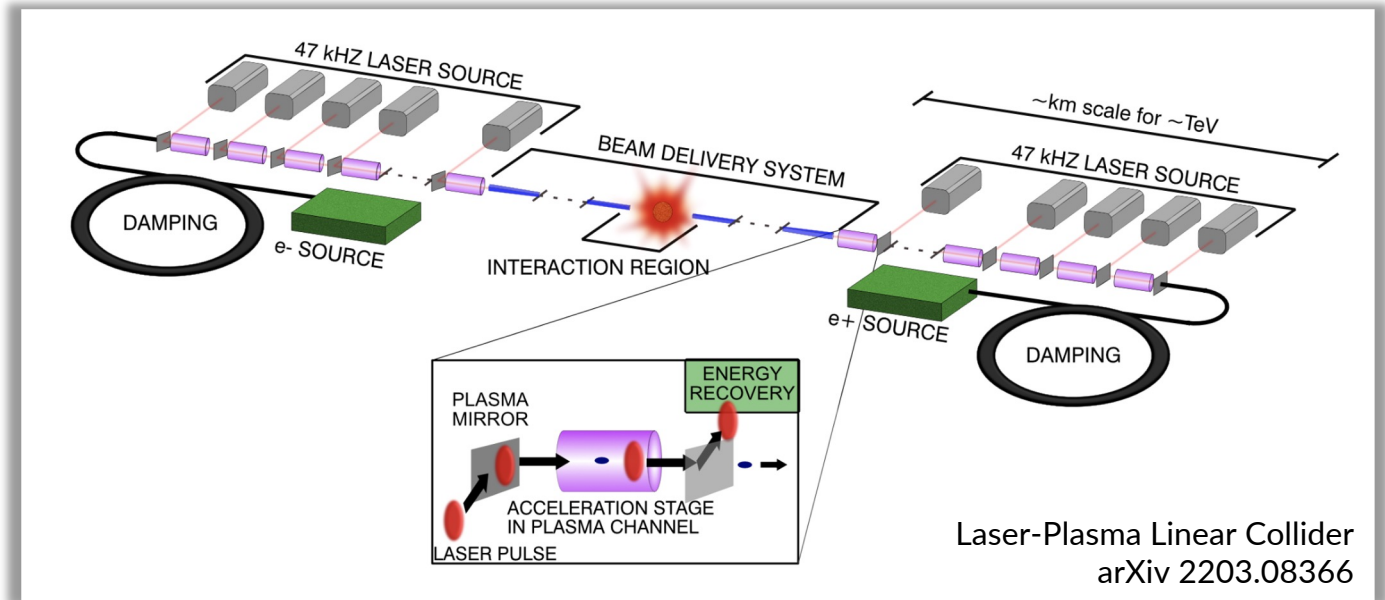


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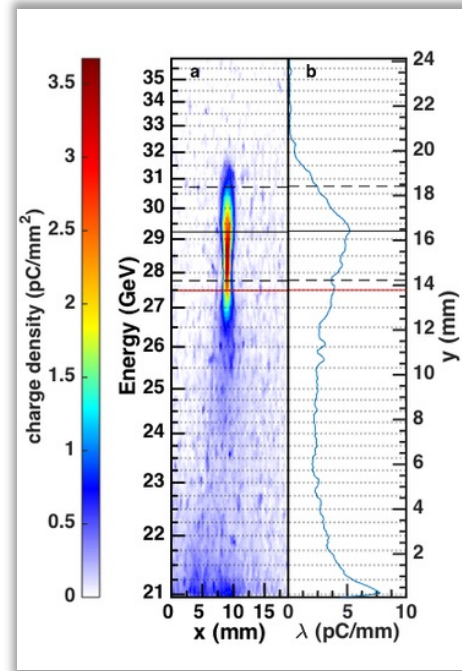
High-Gradient

High-Efficiency

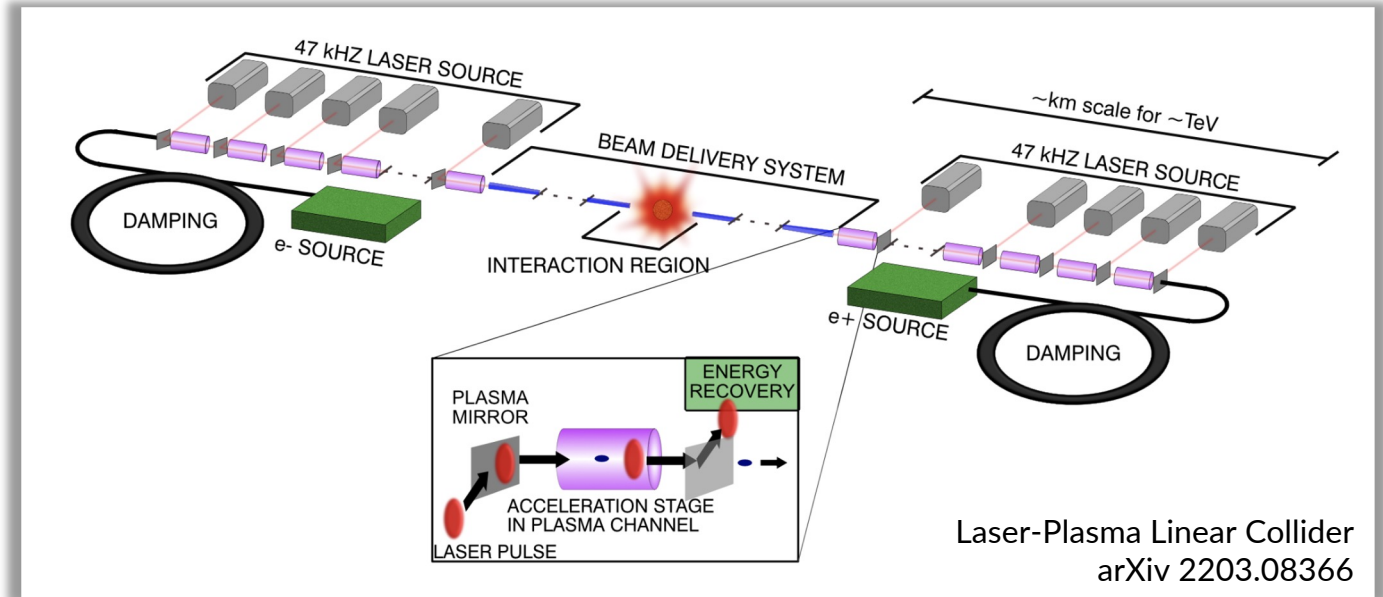
Low-Emittance



2 GeV Energy gain in PWFA
M. Litos et al. Nature (2014)



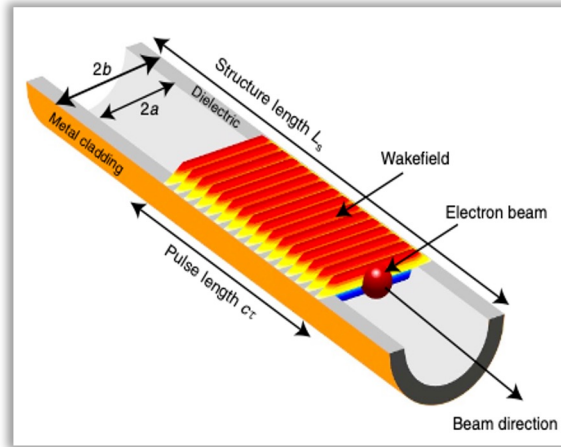
9 GeV Energy gain in PWFA
M. Litos et al. PPCF (2016)



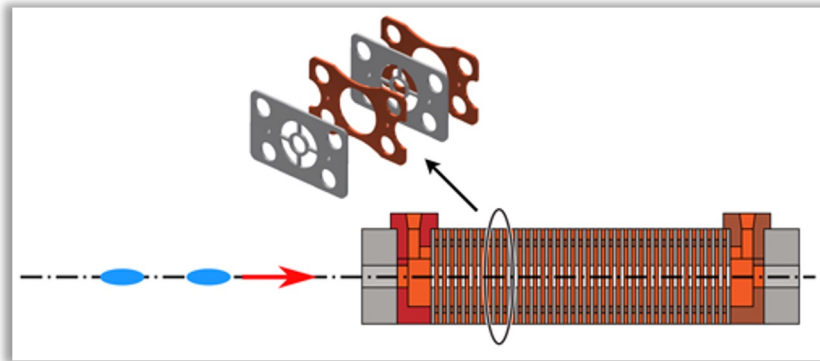
Laser-Plasma Linear Collider
arXiv 2203.08366

Progress Since Last P5

Excellent performance of single-stage accelerators



GV/m SWFA
B. O'Shea et al, Nat. Comm, (2016)



High-Power Metamaterial
X. Lu et al, PRL, (2019)

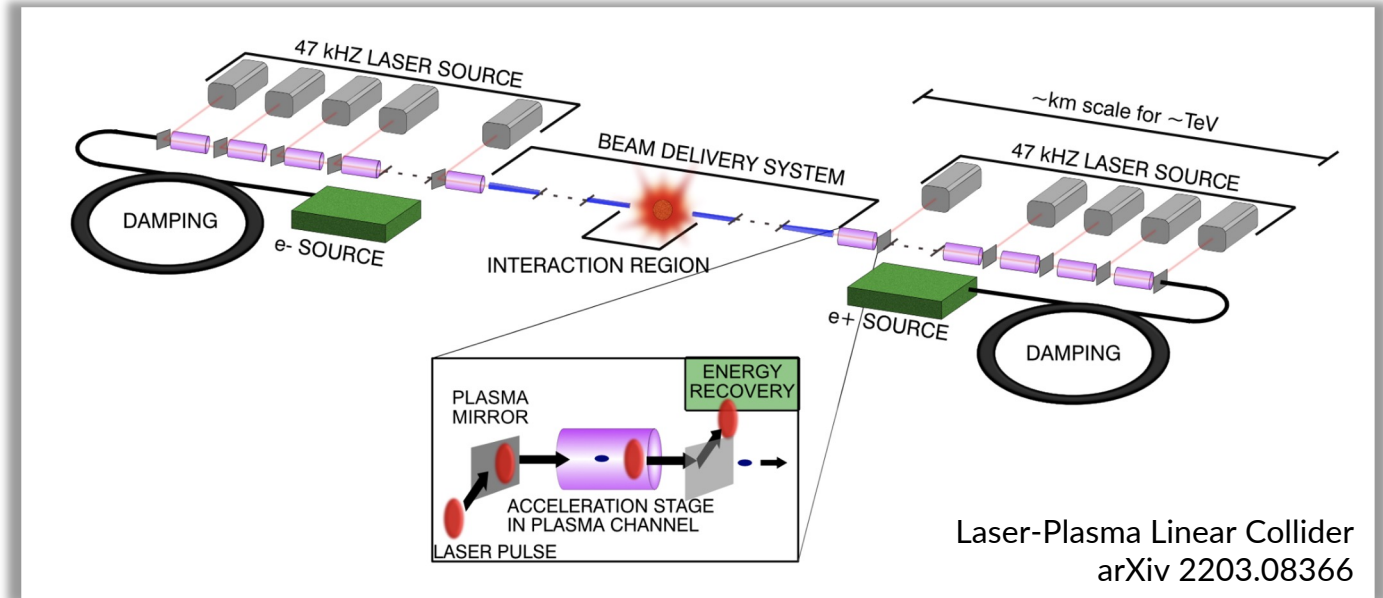


Goals

High-Gradient

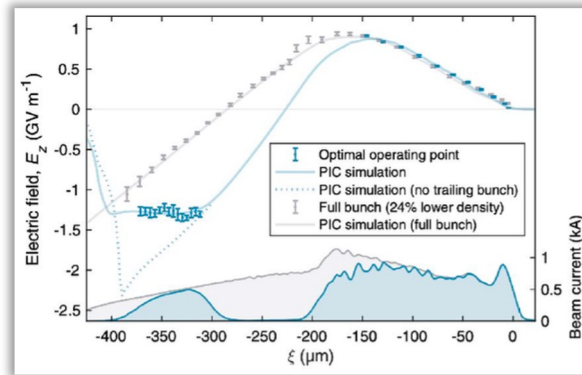
High-Efficiency

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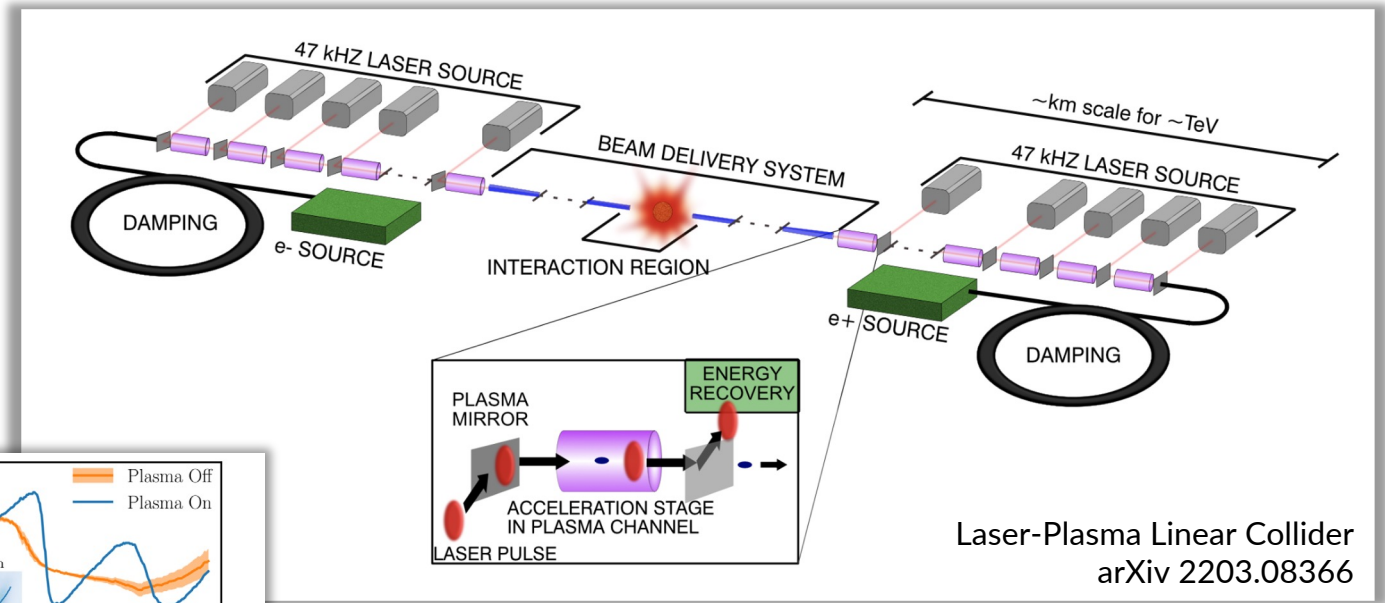
Progress Since Last P5

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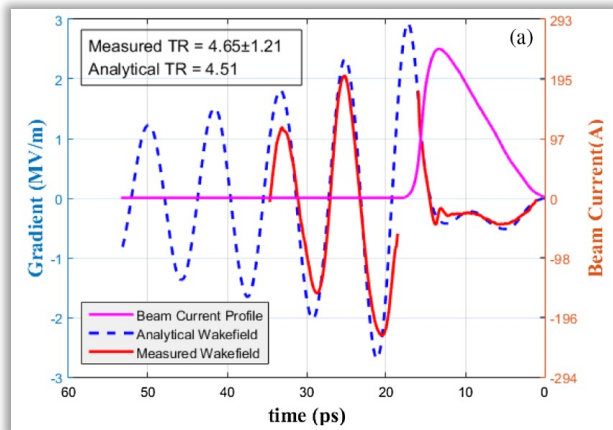


High-Efficiency, low energy spread
C. A. Lindstrom et al. PRL (2021)

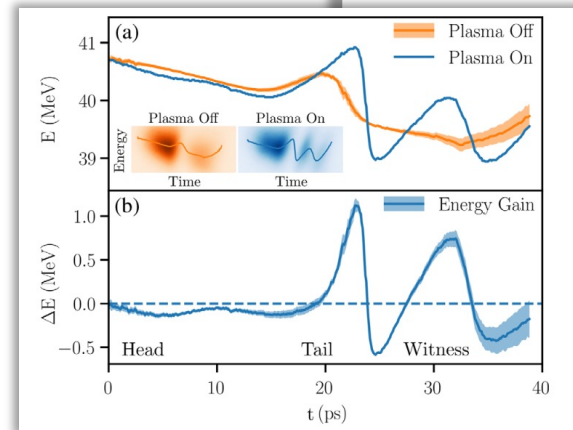
Goals
High-Efficiency
 High-Gradient Low-Emittance



Laser-Plasma Linear Collider
arXiv 2203.08366



SWFA: Transformer Ratio = 5
Q. Gao et al. PRL (2018)



PWFA: Transformer Ratio = 8
R. Roussel et al. PRL (2020)

Progress Since Last P5

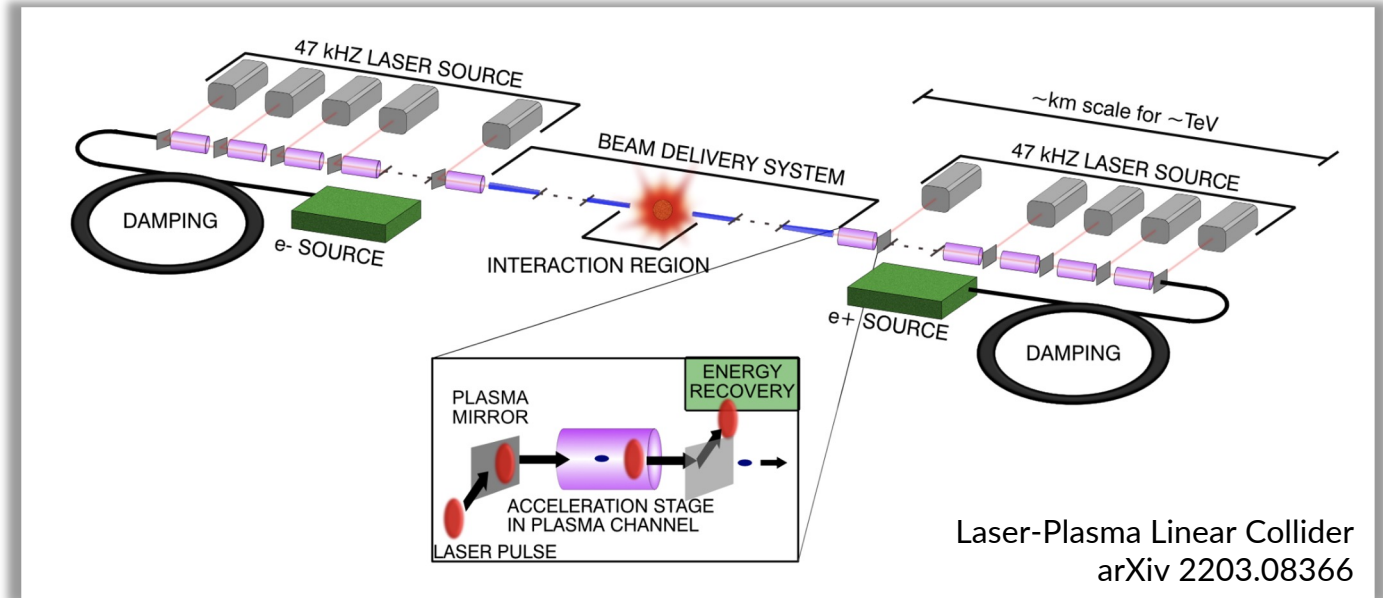
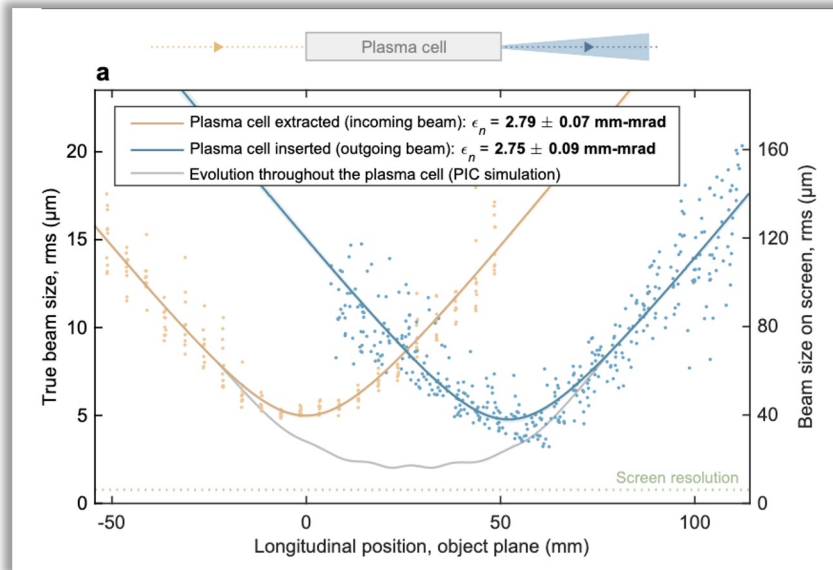
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High-Gradient

High-Efficiency

Low-Emittance



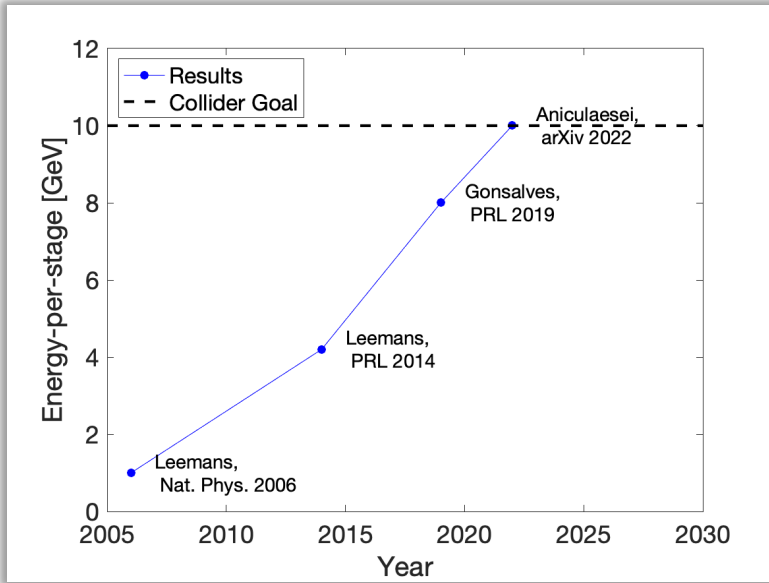
Laser-Plasma Linear Collider
arXiv 2203.08366

Emittance Preservation
C. A. Lindstrom et al. (2022)
doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-2300900/v1

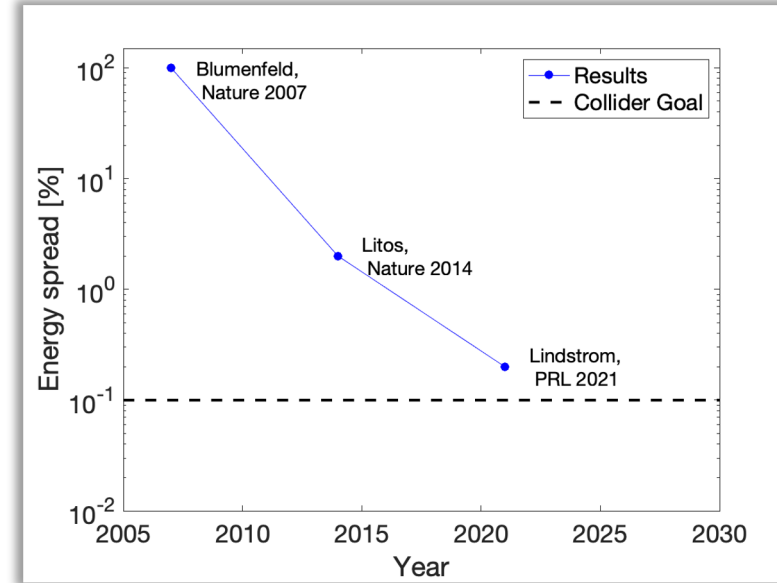
Progress Since Last P5

Excellent performance of single-stage accelerators

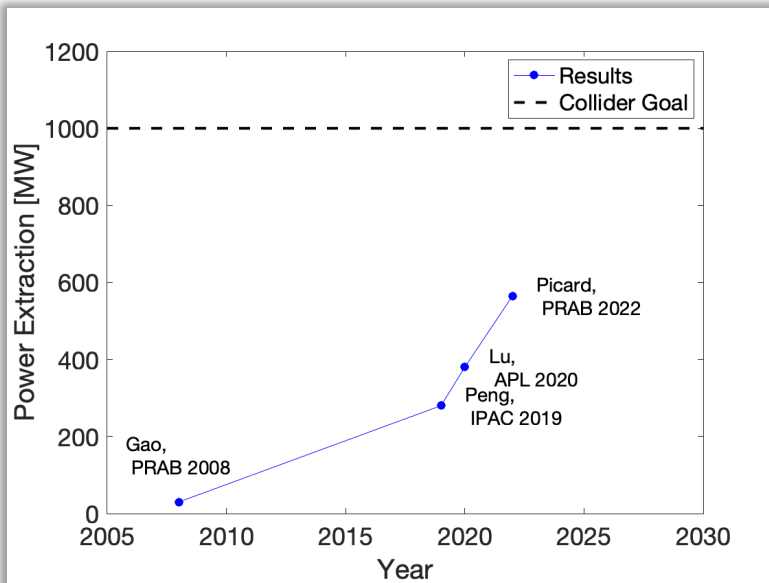
Laser-Driven Plasma



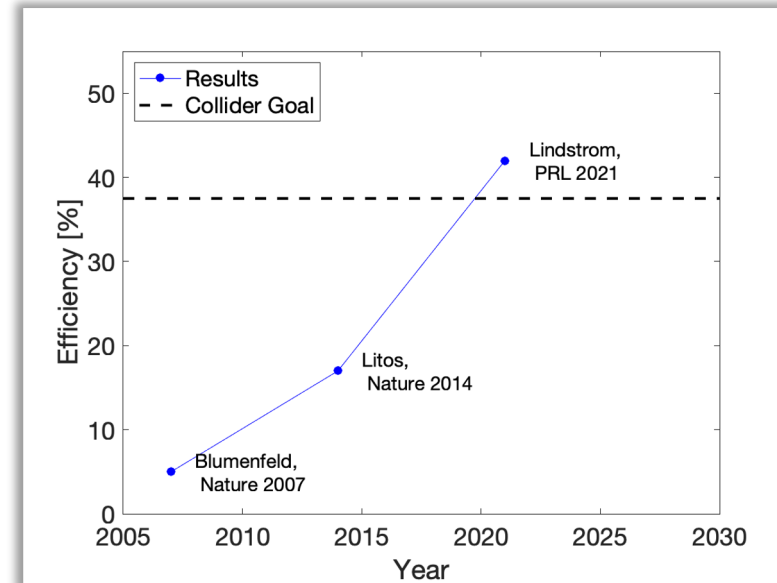
Beam-Driven Plasma



Structure Wakefield



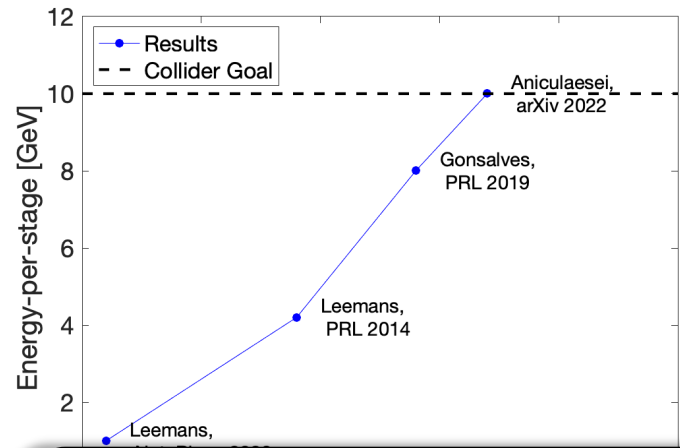
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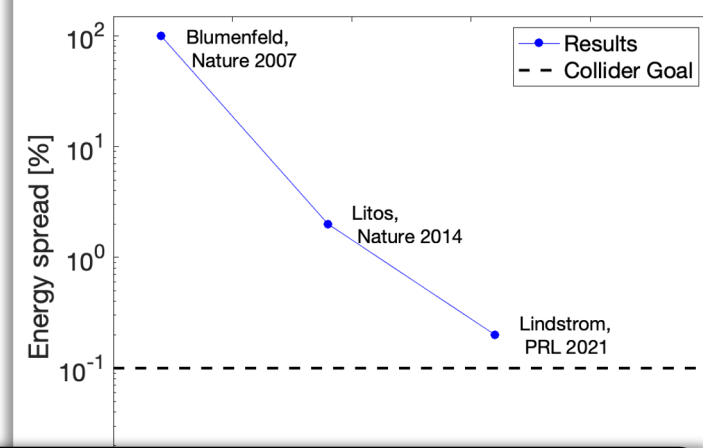
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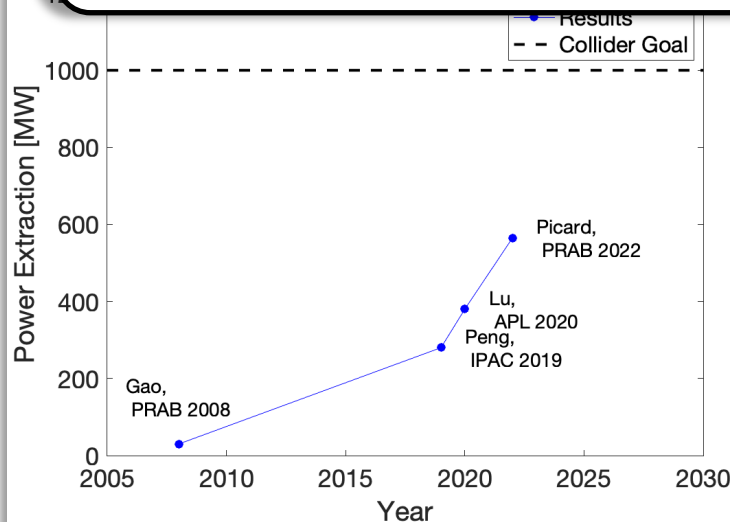


Beam-Driven Plasma

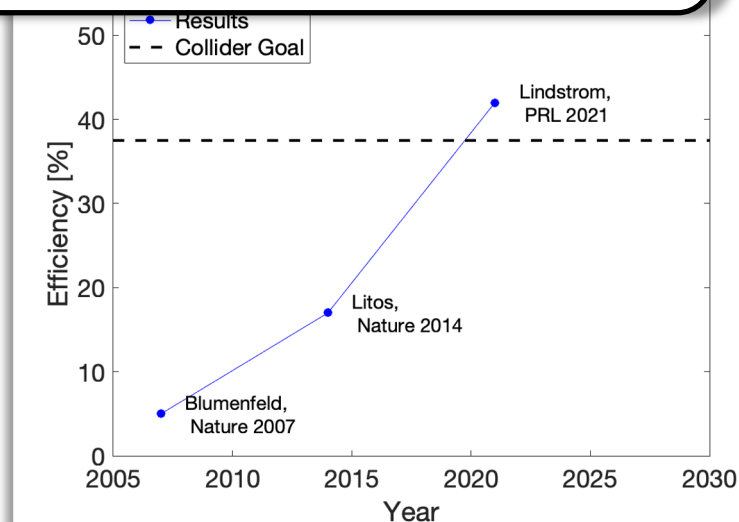


Wakefield Accelerators are approaching and *exceeding* individual parameters needed for a future multi-TeV collider.

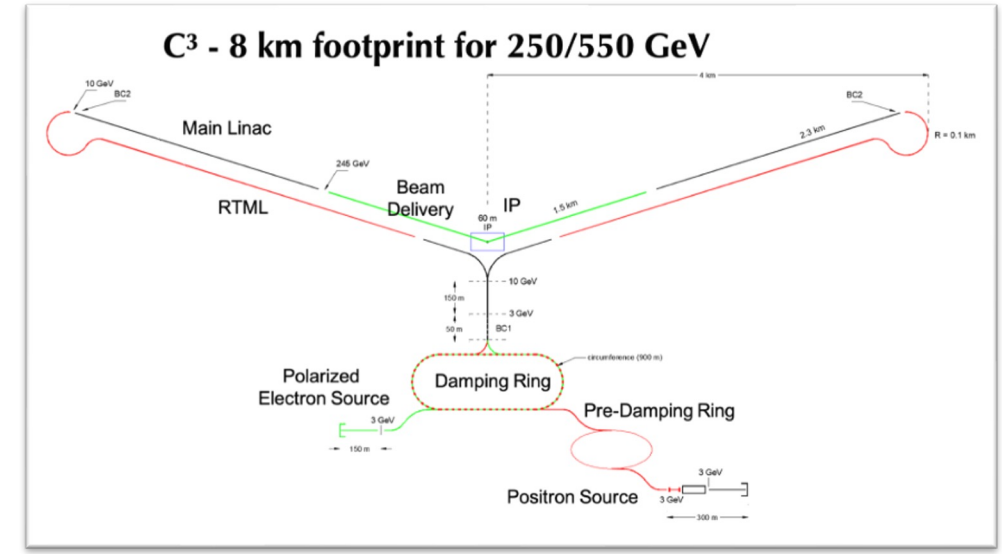
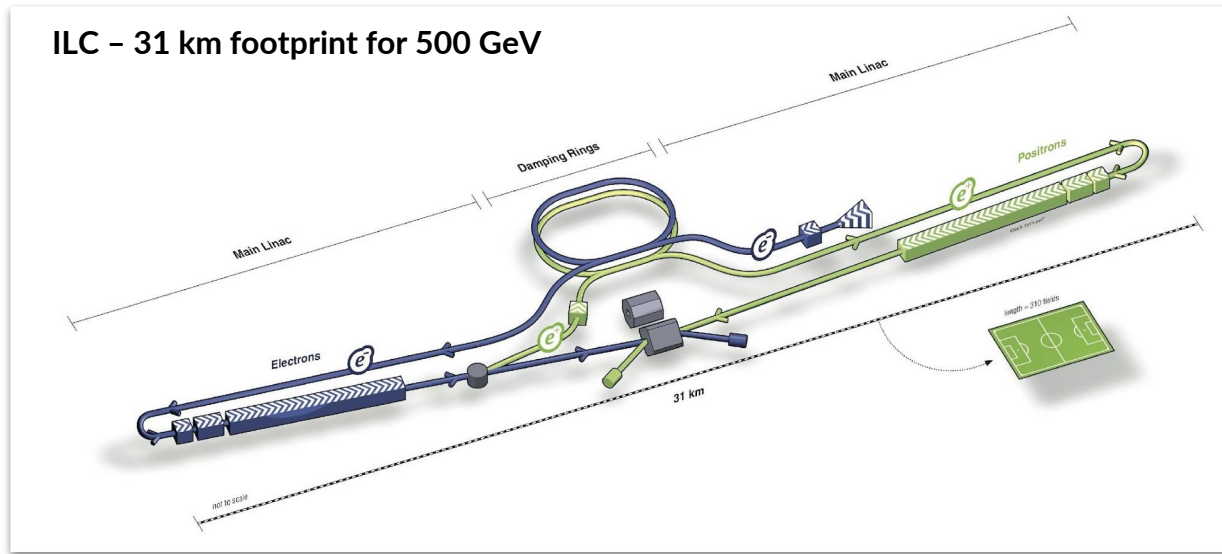
Structure Wakefield



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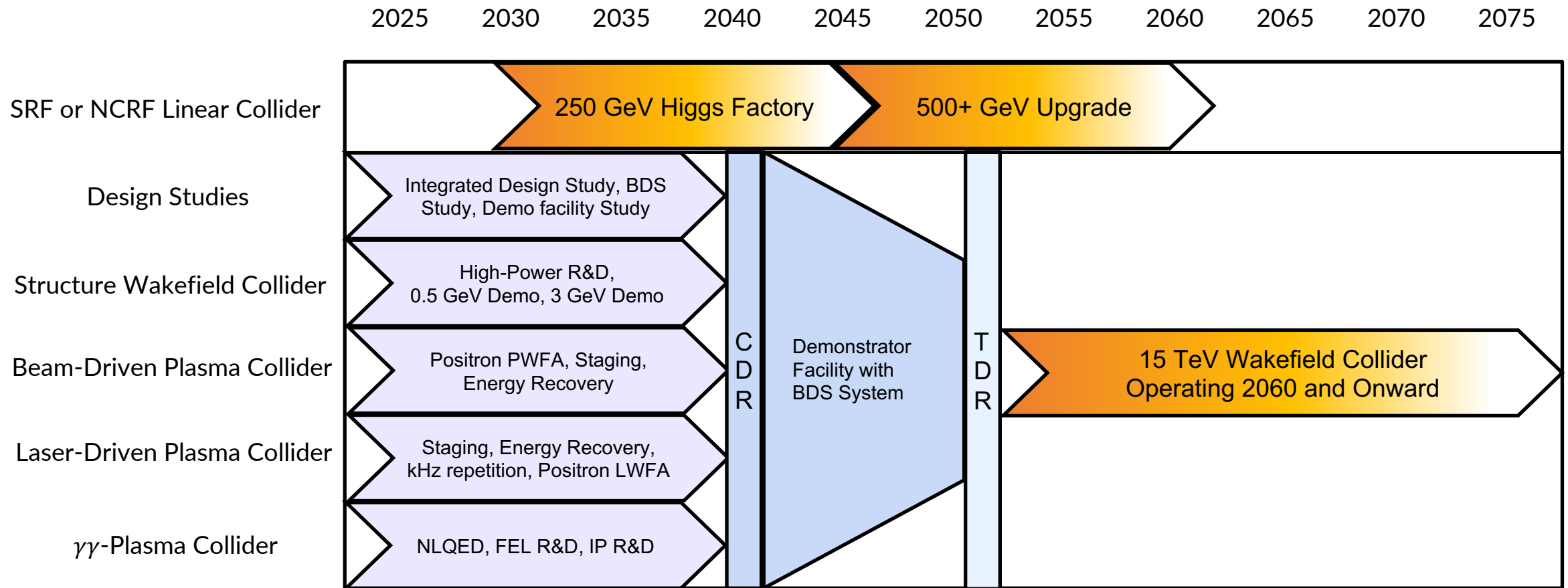


The Path to 10 TeV and Beyond



A 10 TeV-scale Wakefield Collider could extend the energy reach of a Linear Collider Higgs Factory based on SRF or NCRF technology.

The Path to 10+ TeV



Wakefield Accelerators can be developed in parallel with the operation of Linear Collider Higgs Factories to provide a staged upgrade path to the energy frontier.

The Next Steps

Challenges

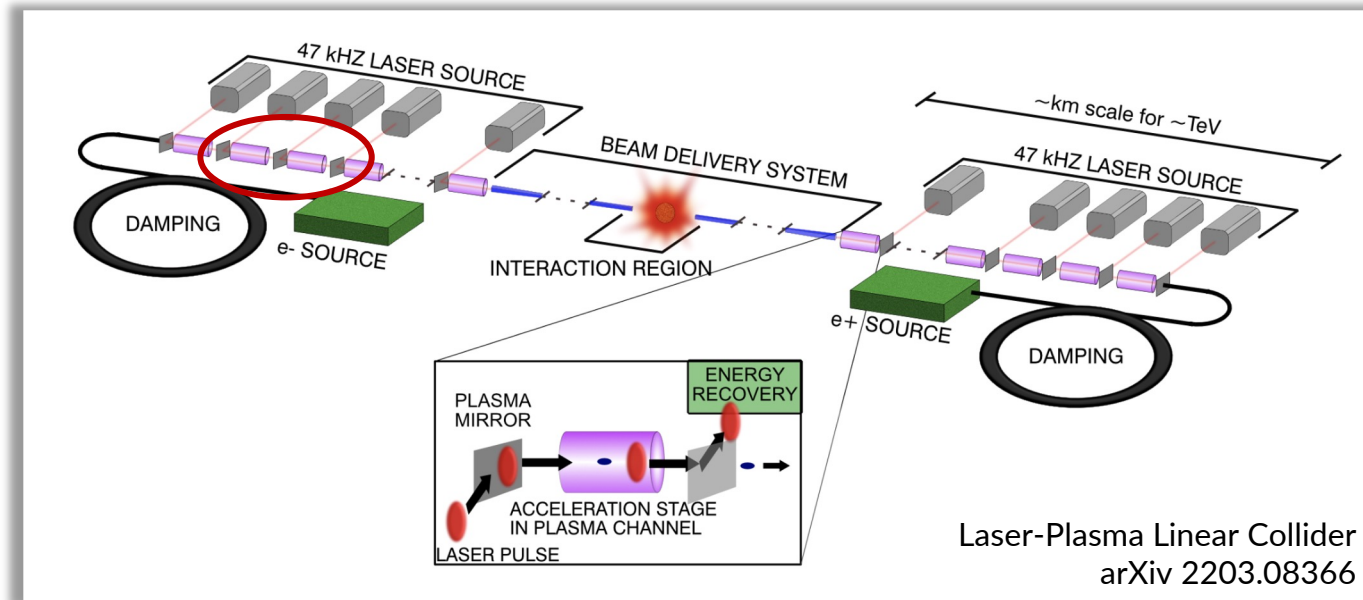
Staging

Repetition Rate

Positron Acc.

Energy Recovery

Beam Delivery Syst.



Some of the next steps in the R&D path are achievable at existing facilities, while others are not.

The Next Steps: Staging

A proof-of-principle demonstration of staging was performed at LBNL in 2016.

BELLA is well-positioned to demonstrate GeV-scale staging with the existing facility.

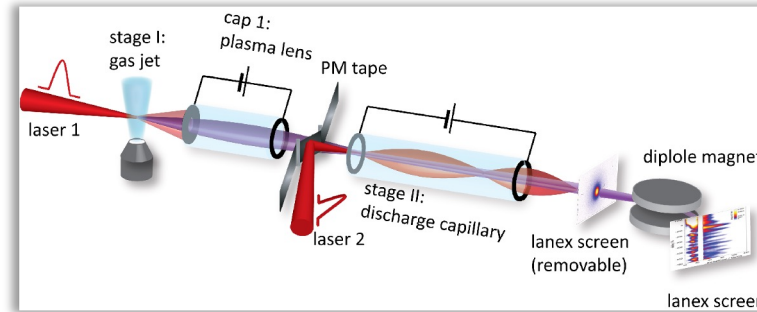
AWA plans a 0.5-GeV demo followed by a 3-GeV fully-featured module.

Ask to P5: Upgrade AWA facility for 0.5 GeV demonstrator.

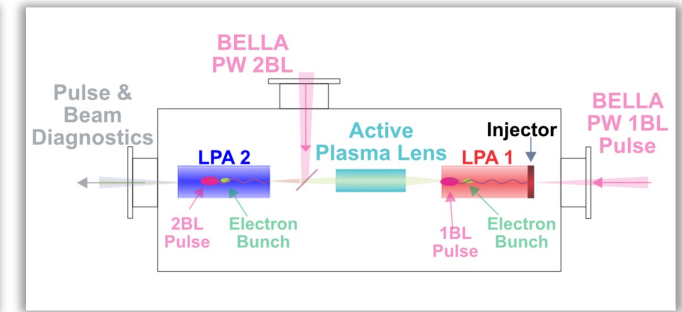
FACET-II can study beam transport in and out of a single stage.

Future Request: Facility for demonstrating two or more PWFA stages.

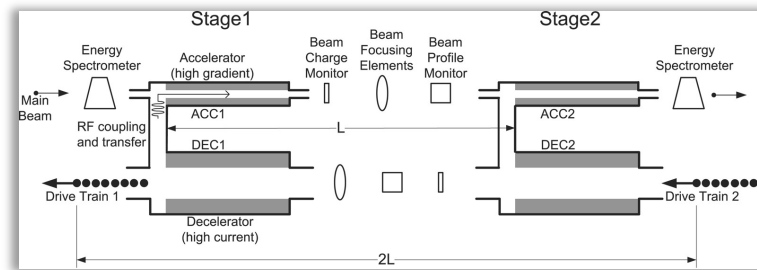
Note to P5: PWFA Staging experiment may be possible at C³ Demo facility.



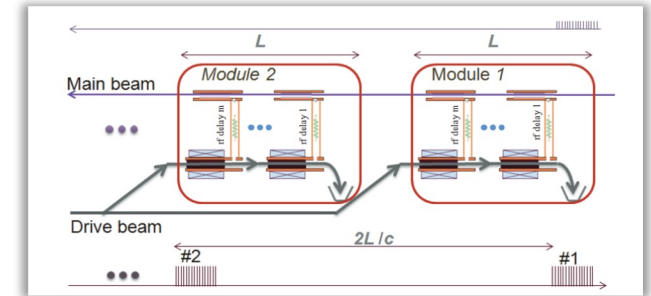
100 MeV-scale of LWFA Accelerators
S. Steinke et al. Nature (2016)



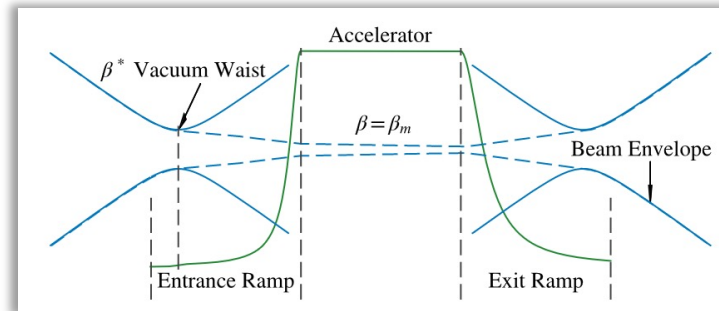
GeV-scale staging schematic



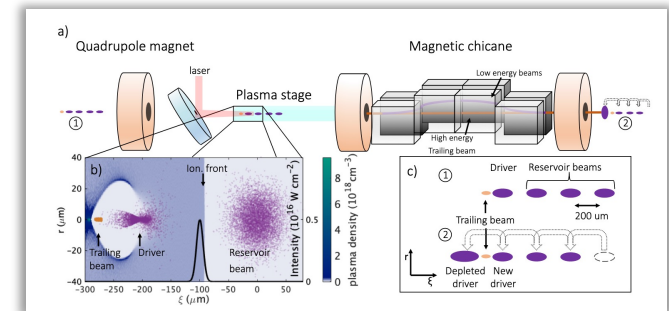
SWFA Staging Experiment
C. Jing et al NIM A (2018)



SWFA 0.5 GeV Staging Demo
C. Jing and G. Ha, JINST (2022)



Beam matching with plasma ramps
R. Ariniello et al. PRAB (2019)



Laser-gated multistage plasma accelerator
A. Knetsch et al. arXiv:2210.02263

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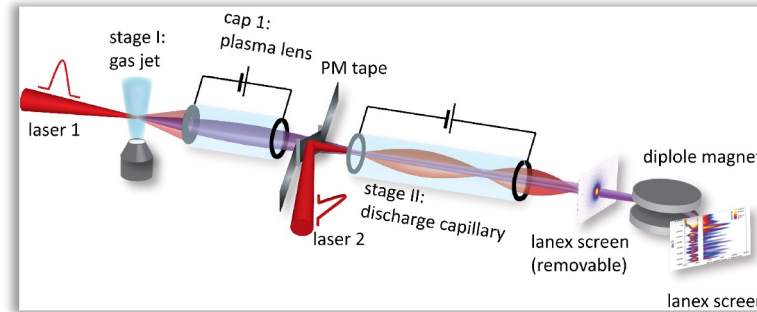
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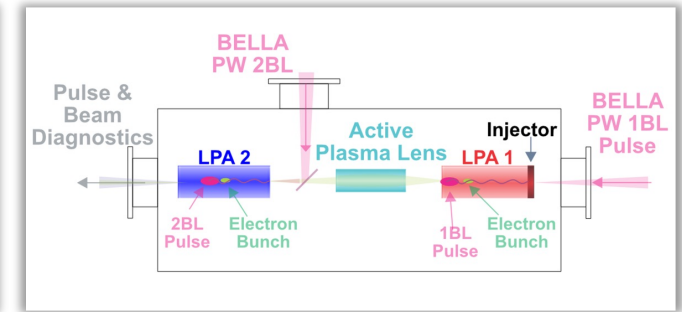
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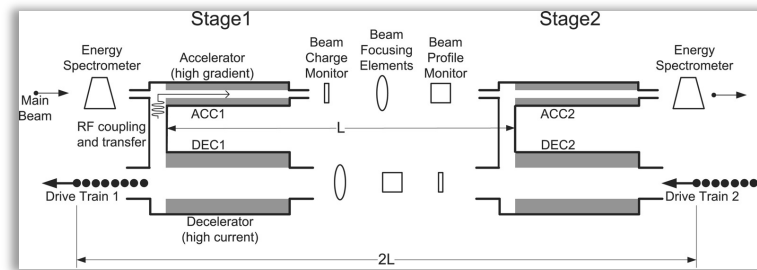
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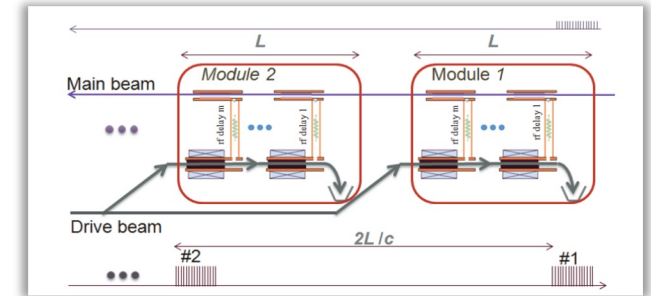
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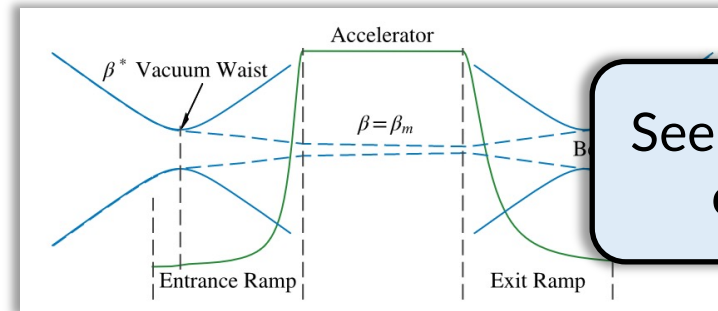
GeV-scale staging schematic



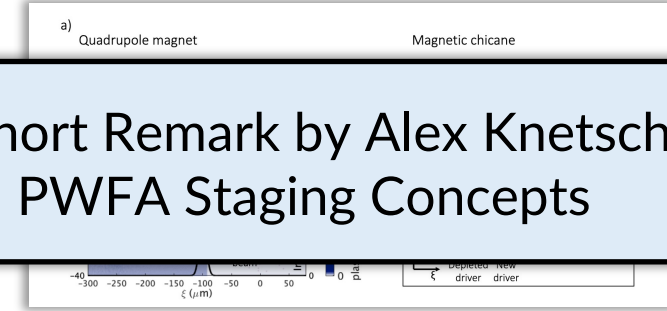
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See Short Remark by Alex Knetsch on PWFA Staging Concepts

The Next Steps

Challenges

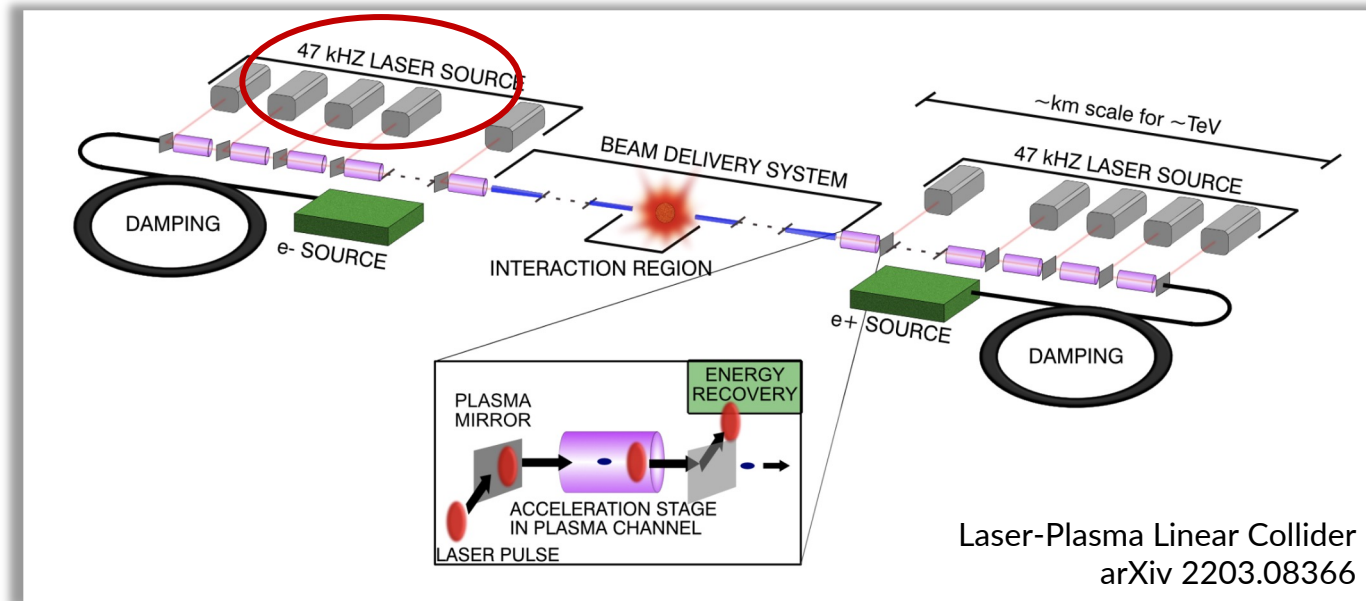
Staging

Repetition Rate

Positron Acc.

Energy Recovery

Beam Delivery Syst.



The Next Steps: Repetition Rate

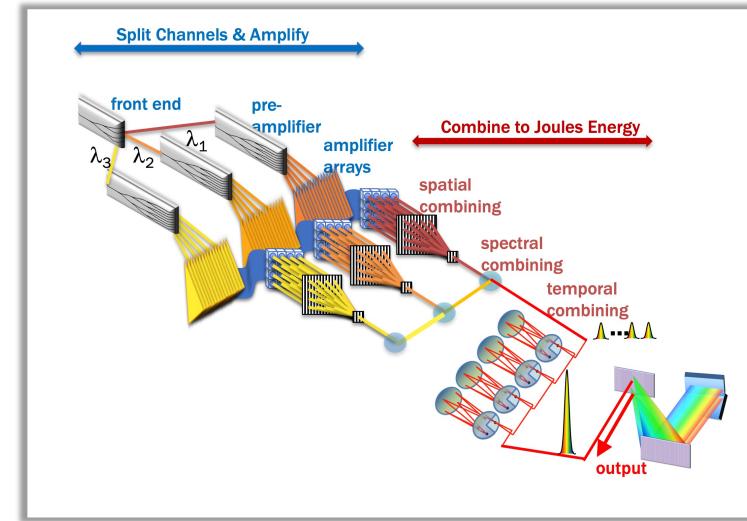
kHz-class lasers require new technology, such as fiber-combined lasers. kBELLA will:

- Demonstrate efficient driver for LWFA
- Demonstrate active feedback for precision LWFA.
- Enable kHz rep-rate applications.
- Address the cost of driver technology.
- High-rep rate operation also provides valuable information for beam-driven plasma accelerators.
- Basis for a user facility.

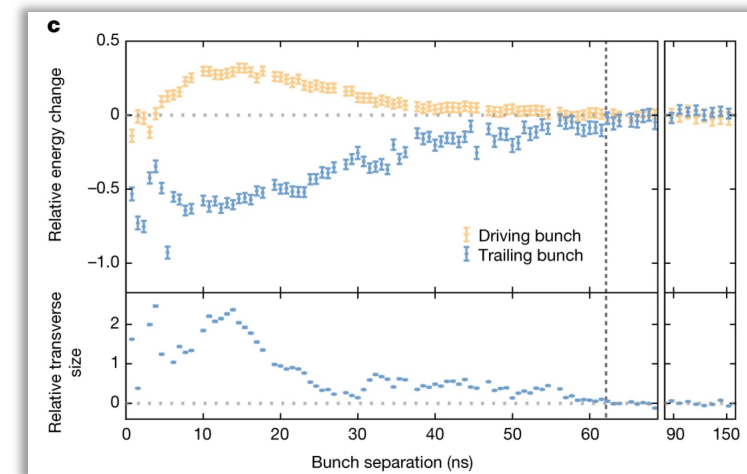
Ask to P5: Support for kBELLA upgrade to demonstrate LWFA with kHz-class lasers.

Fast plasma recovery time was demonstrated at FLASHForward at DESY.

FLASHForward is well-positioned to study MHz-scale repetition rates with beam-driven plasma accelerators.



Fiber-combination of lasers
T. Zhou ECA 2020



Fast Recovery Time
R. D'Arcy et al. Nature (2022)

The Next Steps

Challenges

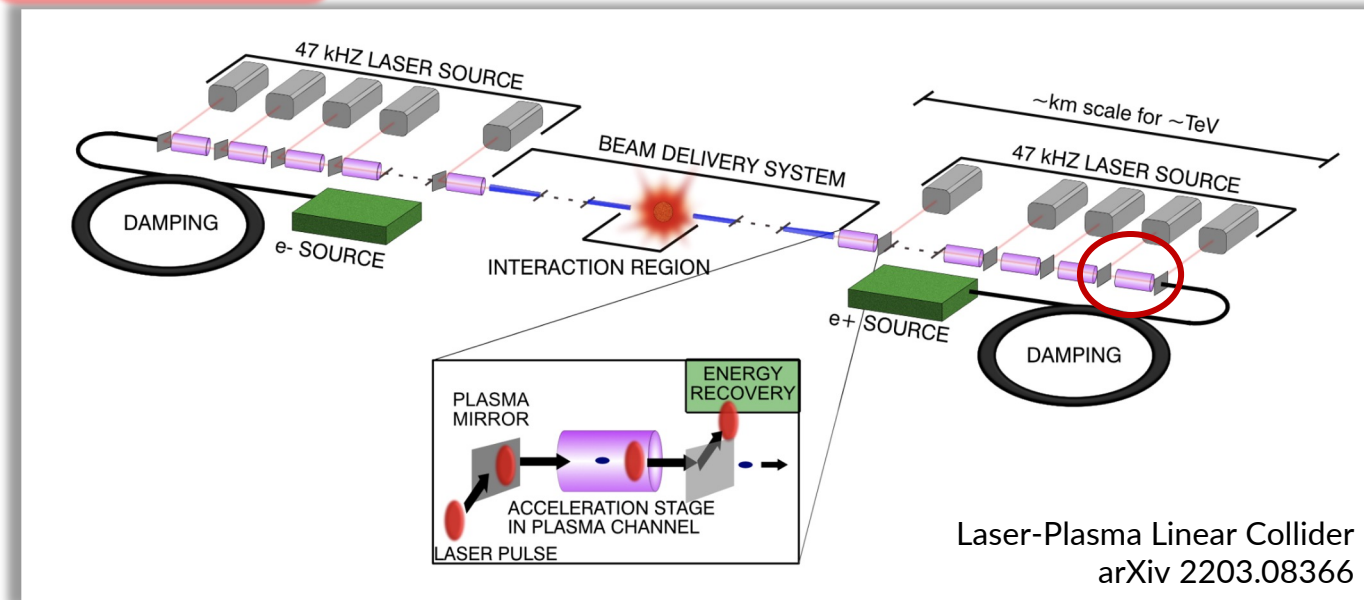
Staging

Repetition Rate

Positron Acc.

Energy Recovery

Beam Delivery Syst.



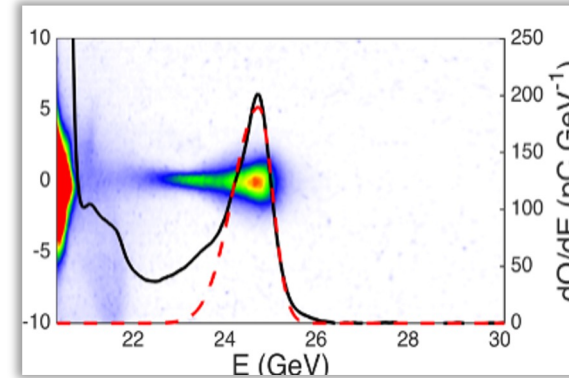
The Next Steps: Positron Acceleration

Major advances at FACET (2014-2016) on our understanding of positron acceleration in plasma.

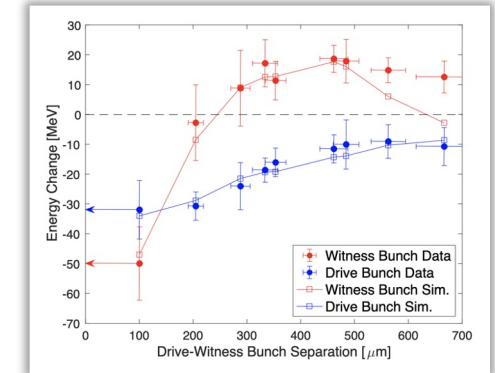
SLAC is the only lab that pursues positron PWFA research, leveraging SLC infrastructure.

Research at FACET inspired novel ideas for high-quality, stable acceleration of positrons in plasma.

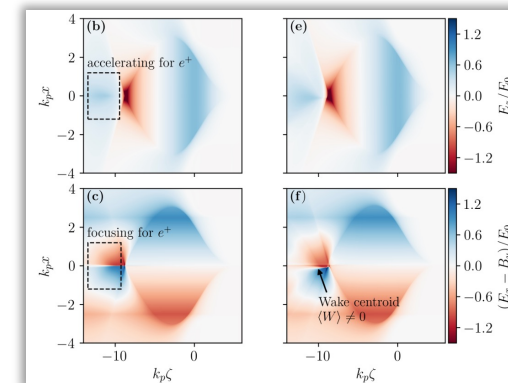
Ask to P5: Support for the FACET-II Positron Upgrade to demonstrate high-quality acceleration of positrons in plasma.



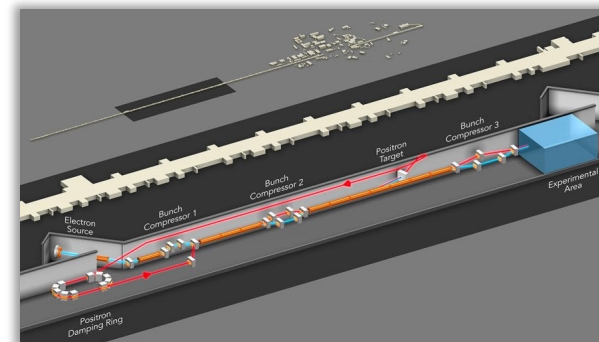
S. Corde et al, Nature (2015)



S. Gessner et al, arXiv:2304.01700



S. Diederichs et al, Phys. Rev. Acc. Beams (2022)



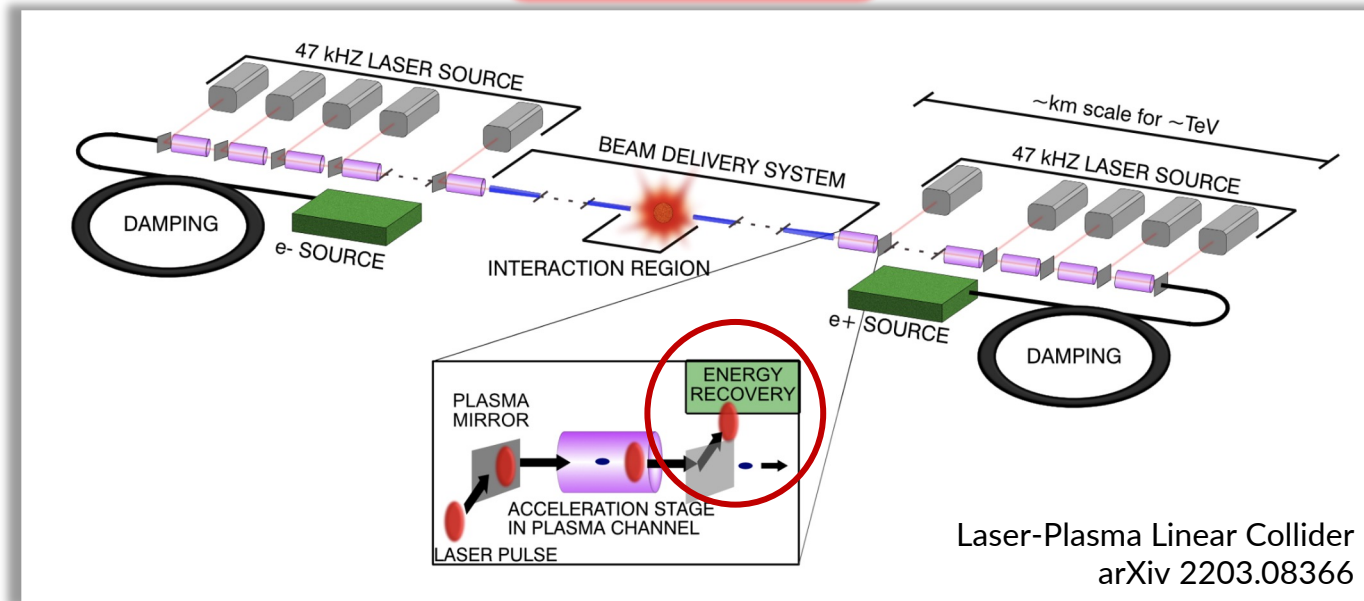
See DESY Letter of Support for Positrons at FACET-II at end of talk.

The Next Steps

Challenges

Staging Repetition Rate

Positron Acc. **Energy Recovery** Beam Delivery Syst.

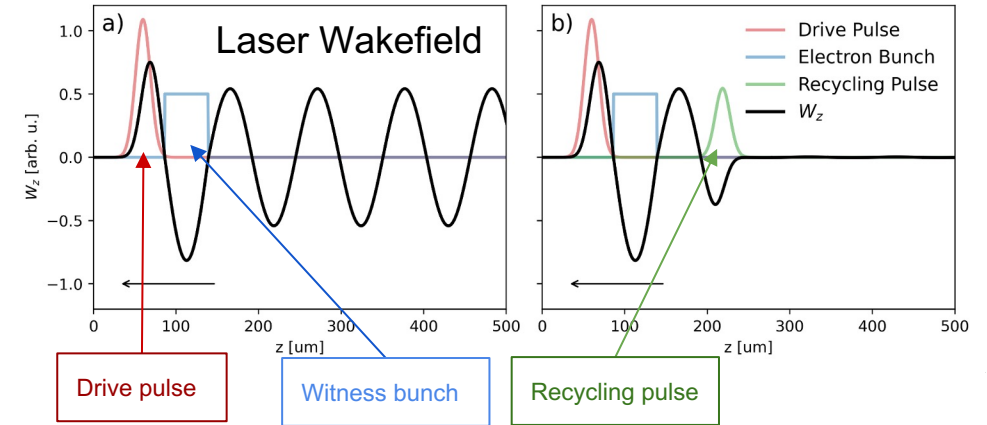


The Next Steps: Energy Recovery

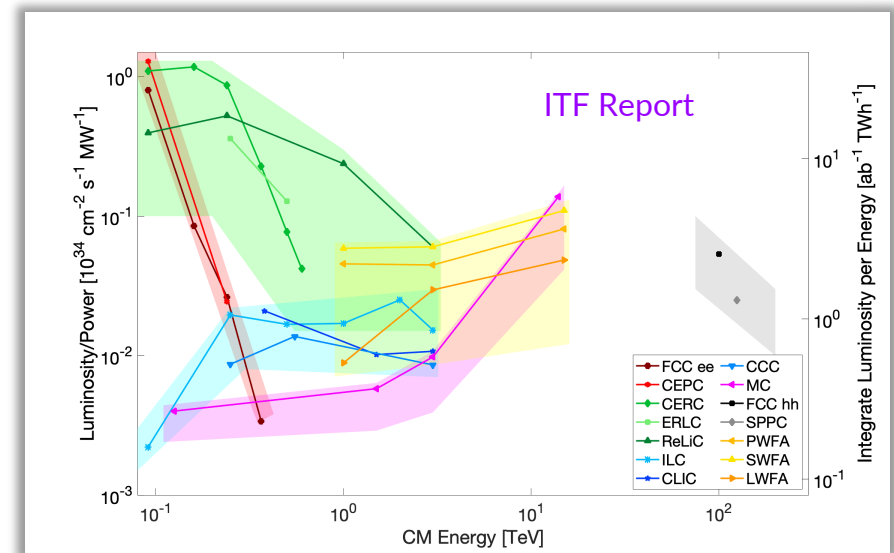
Energy recovery is a critical technology for laser-driven plasma accelerators and positron acceleration in plasma.

Energy recovery maximizes the possible luminosity while minimizing the carbon footprint of the collider.

BELLA is well-positioned to address energy recovery R&D.



M. Turner, LBNL, Early Career Award
Energy Recycling for Green Plasma-Based Collider

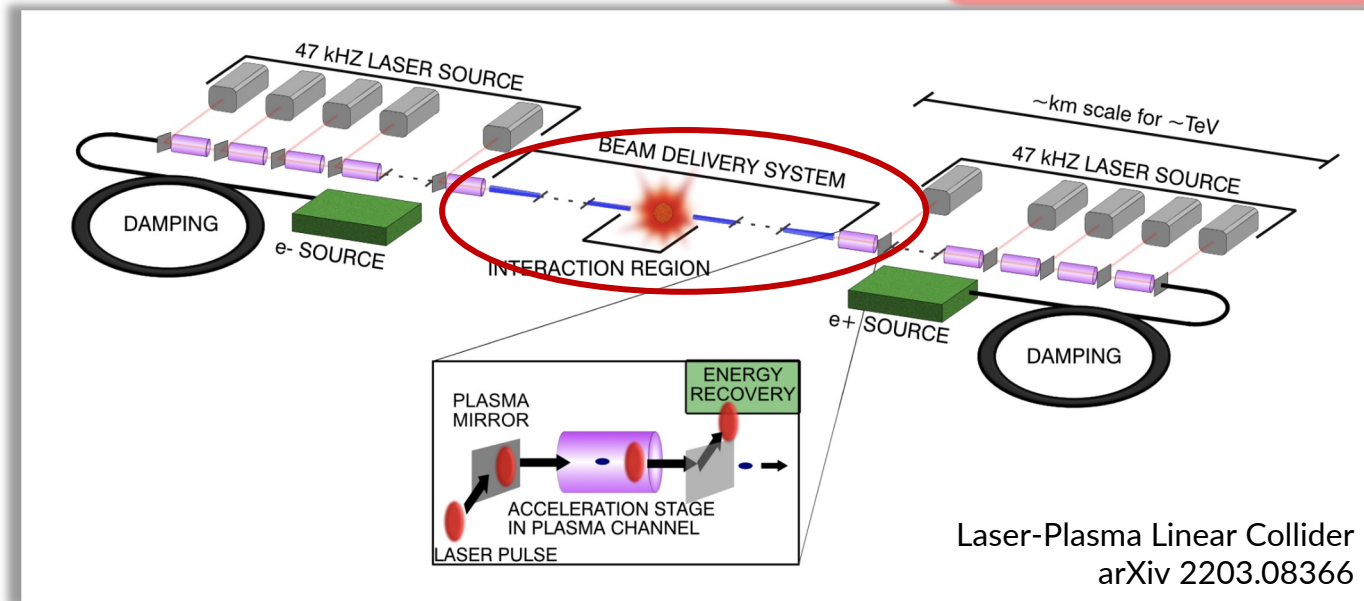


The Next Steps

Challenges

Staging Repetition Rate

Positron Acc. Energy Recovery **Beam Delivery Syst.**



The Next Steps: Beam Delivery System

The scaling of Beam Delivery Systems to ultra-high energy is a unique challenge.

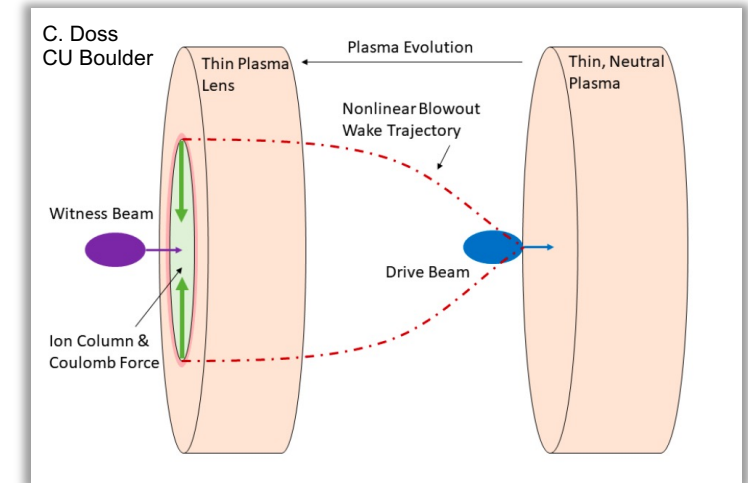
FACET-II and BELLA have research programs that address plasma lenses for compact BDS.

Beamstrahlung effects must be addressed and understood in the multi-TeV regime.

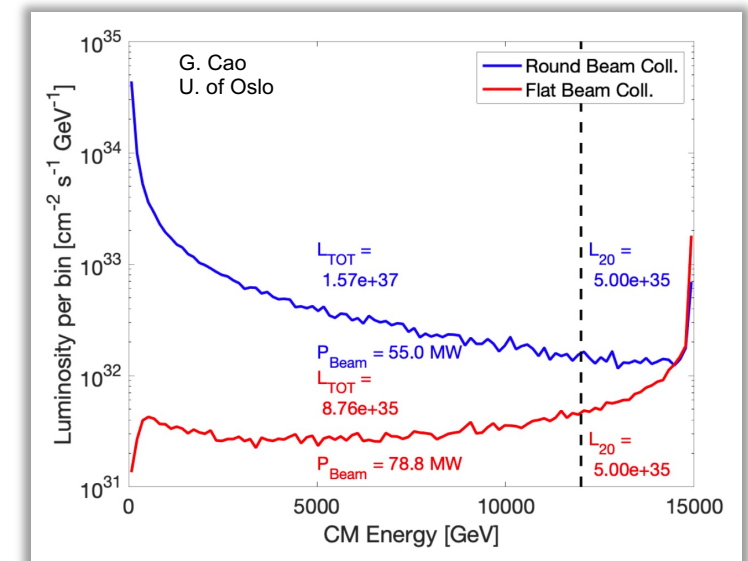
We have formed a new collaboration to use state-of-the-art Particle-in-Cell codes to examine beamstrahlung at ultra high energy (arXiv:2305.00573).

Ask to P5: Support for multi-TeV beamstrahlung studies from the newly-formed National Collider R&D initiative.

Plasma Lens for Compact Focus



Luminosity Spectrum at Large γ



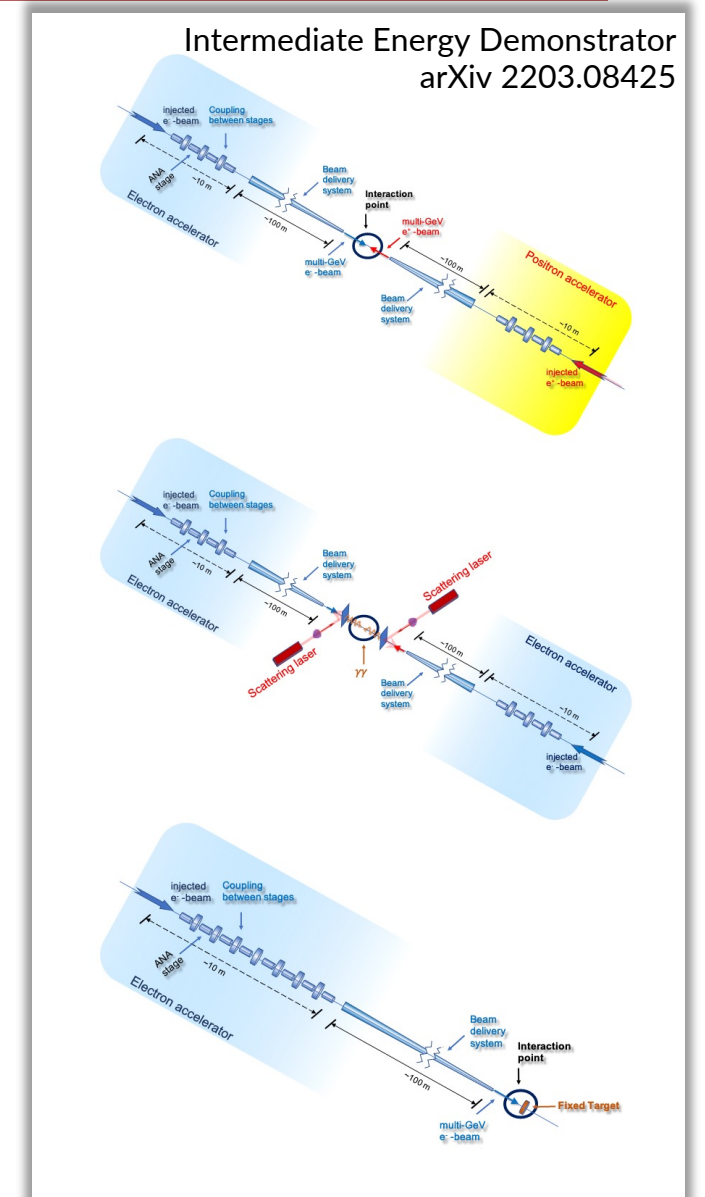
The Next Steps: Design Study and Demo Facility

In the near-term, the Wakefield Accelerator Community plans to contribute to self-consistent design studies of future colliders and near-term applications, alongside our European colleagues.

Ask to P5: The Wakefield Accelerator Community requests support for an Integrated Design Study from the newly-formed National Collider R&D initiative.

Before a Wakefield Collider at 15 TeV is built, an intermediate facility is needed.

Future Request: An intermediate energy facility with multiple stages and novel BDS design will be used to demonstrate Wakefield Accelerator technology while pursuing near-term HEP applications.



Particle-in-Cell Simulations



WarpX 2022 Gordon Bell Prize winner

ACM GORDON BELL PRIZE
presented by John West (ACM)

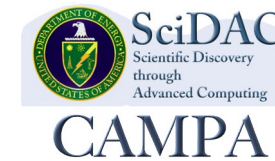
Pushing the Frontier in the Design of Laser-Based Electron Accelerators with Groundbreaking Mesh-Refined Particle-In-Cell Simulations on Exascale-Class Supercomputers

University of Paris, Saclay, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, ARM, Bull, Los Alamos National Institute, Advanced Technology Center, CEI, REN

on the world's largest supercomputers

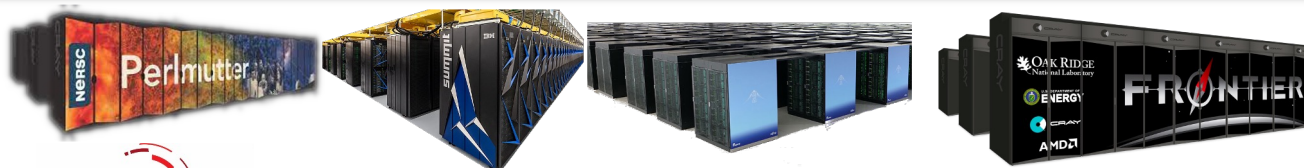
A group of award winners standing on a stage in front of a large screen displaying the prize information.

US-wide, Europe-wide & international collaborations



are developing the next generation of simulation tools.

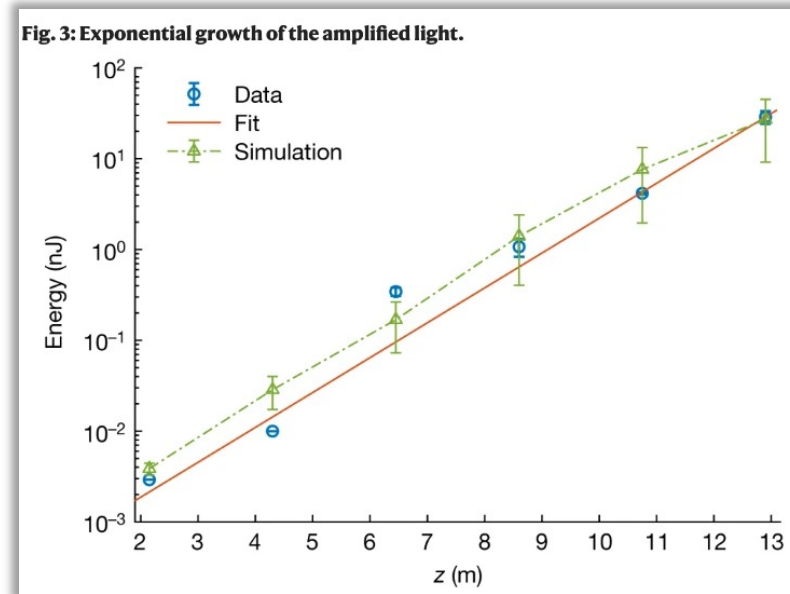
- Novel community integrated ecosystem of codes is being assembled for design of conventional, AAC and hybrid colliders.
- From fast reduced/surrogate models for design to large scale first-principle for studies.



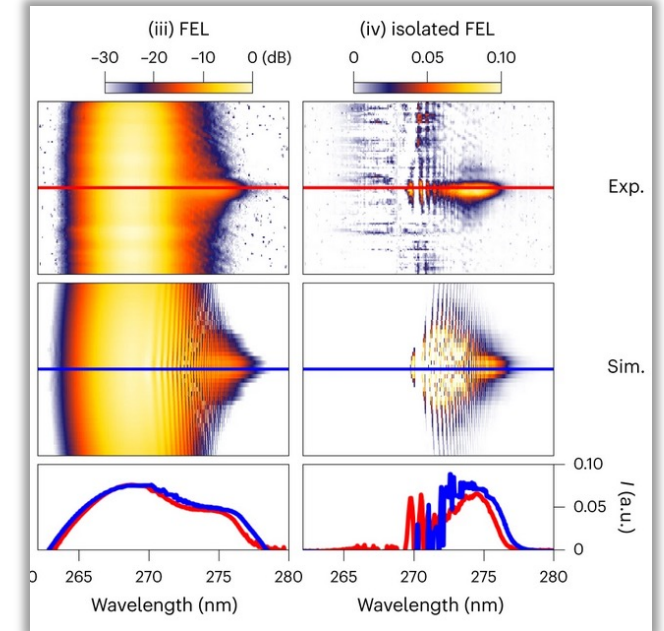
Near Term Applications



W. Wang et. al. Nature (2021)



R. Pompili et. al. Nature (2022)



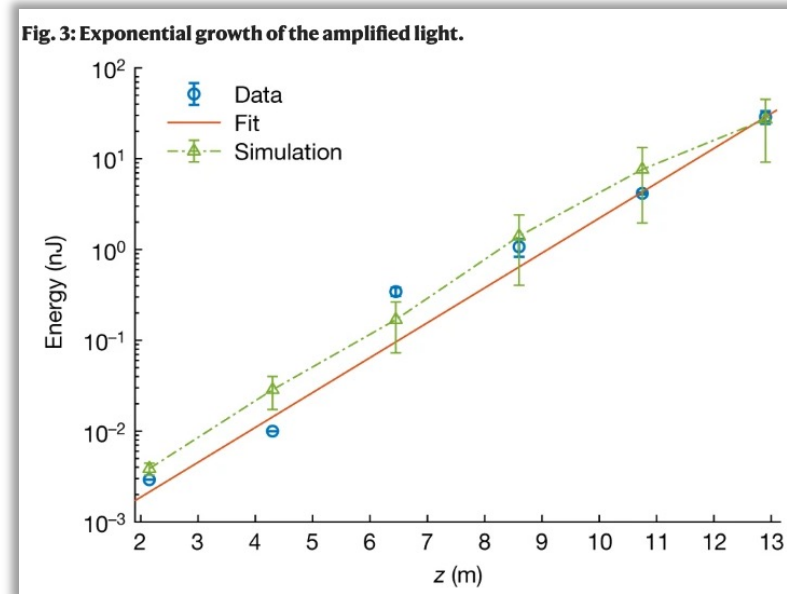
M. Labat et. al. Nat. Phot. (2022)

Three demonstrations of plasma-driven FEL within one year, all outside of U.S.

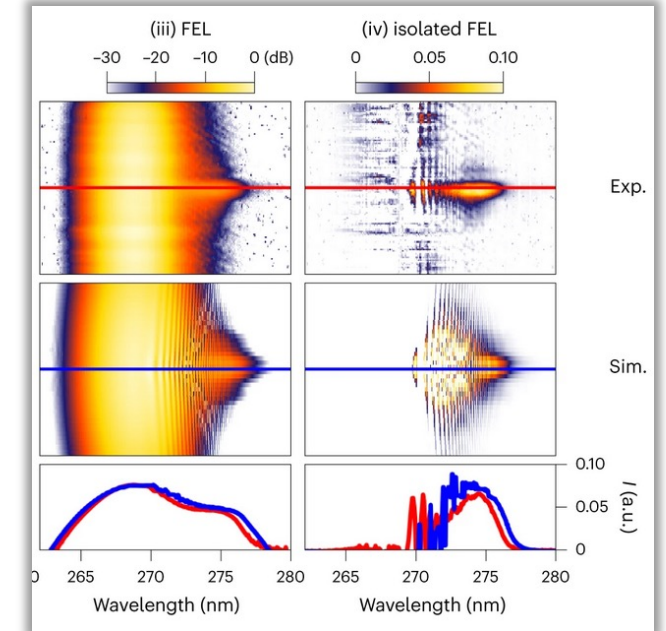
Near Term Applications



W. Wang et. al. Nature (2021)



R. Pompili et. al. Nature (2022)



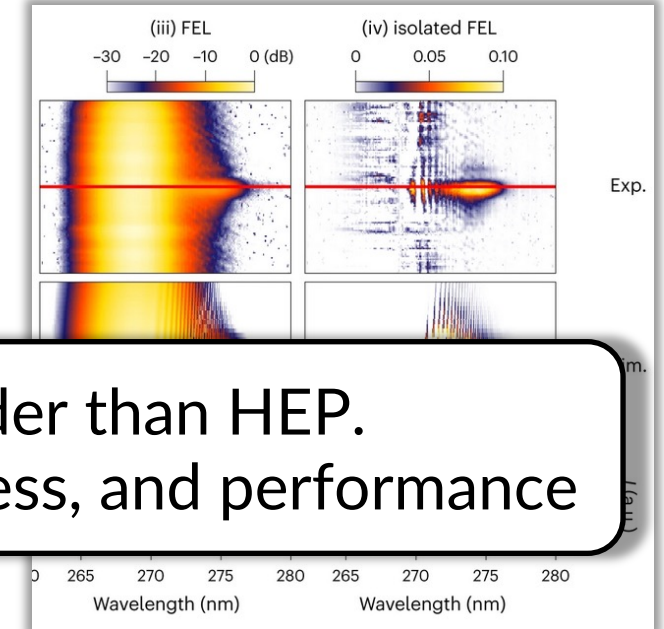
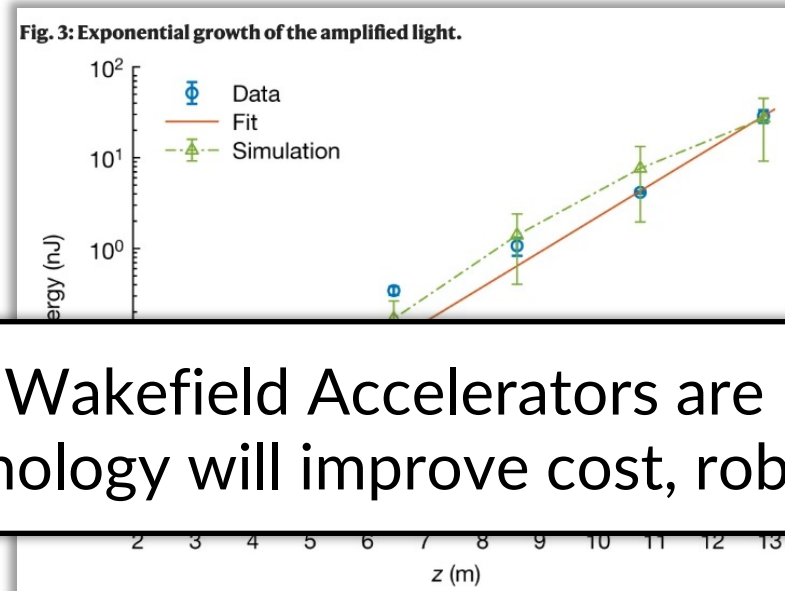
M. Labat et. al. Nat. Phot. (2022)

Three demonstrations of plasma-driven FEL within one year, all outside of U.S.

FEL gain observed at LBNL last month!

Near Term Applications

See Short Remark by Claudio Emma on Near-Term Applications



Applications of Wakefield Accelerators are broader than HEP. More uses of this technology will improve cost, robustness, and performance

W. Wang et. al. Nature (2021)

R. Pompili et. al. Nature (2022)

M. Labat et. al. Nat. Phot. (2022)

Three demonstrations of plasma-driven FEL within one year, all outside of U.S.

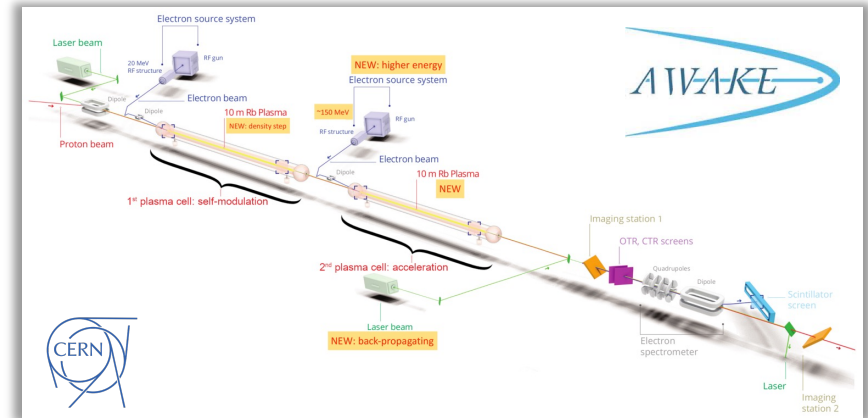
FEL gain observed at LBNL last month!

European Efforts

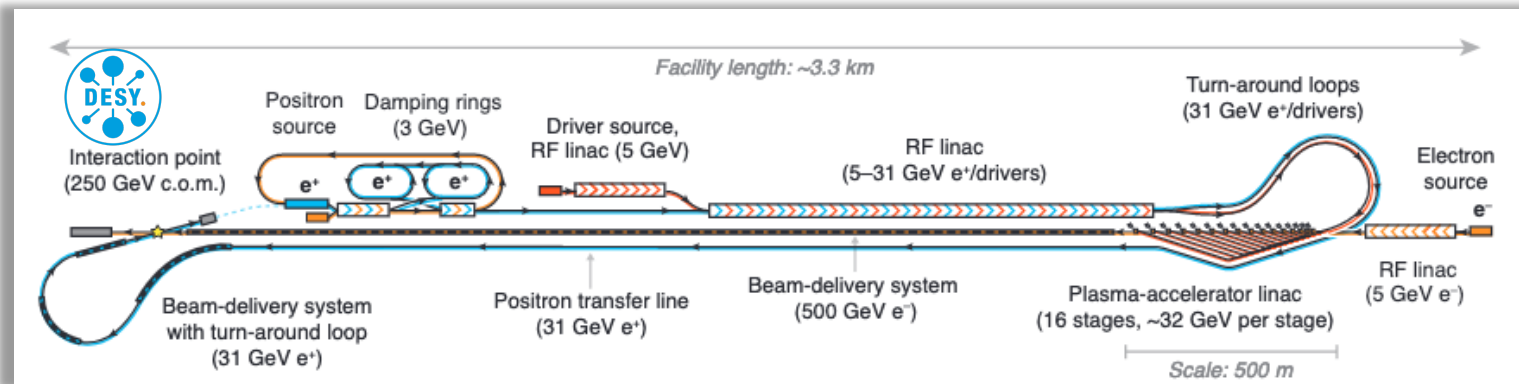
Europe is moving ahead with major Wakefield Accelerator projects, such as AWAKE at CERN, and EuPRAXIA User Facility at INFN, which is on ESFRI Roadmap.

New ideas like Hybrid PWFA Boosted Higgs Factory will be covered in an Integrated Design Study.

Support from P5 is critical for keeping pace with our European Partners!



AWAKE: Proton-driven PWFA for experiment at CERN aims to generate O(100) GeV electrons for Dark Sector searches.



Plasma Collider Boosted Higgs Factory, B. Foster et al. arXiv:2303.10150



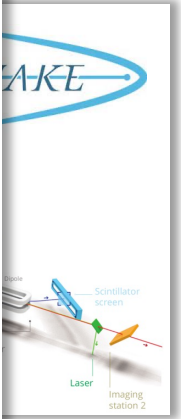
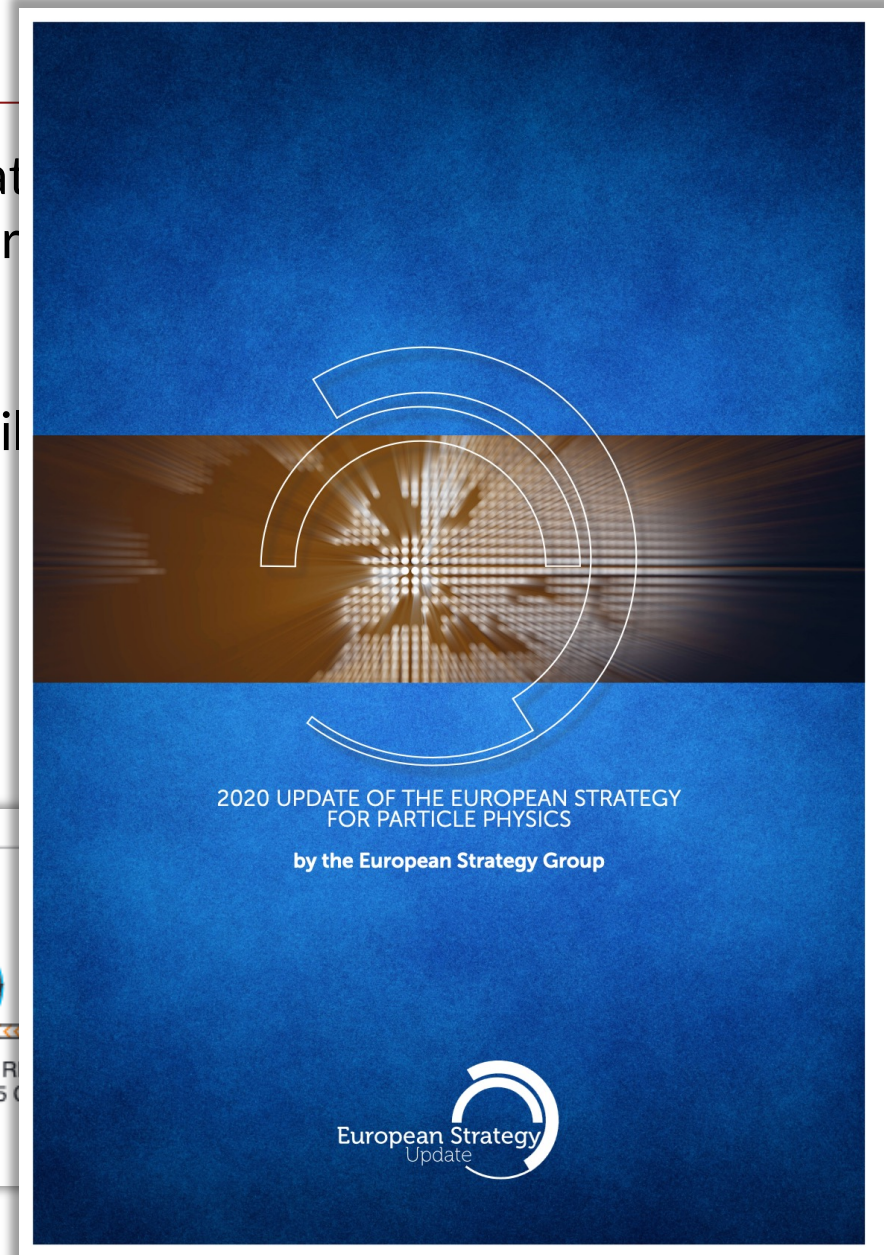
EuPRAXIA Plasma Accelerator User Facility at INFN

European Efforts

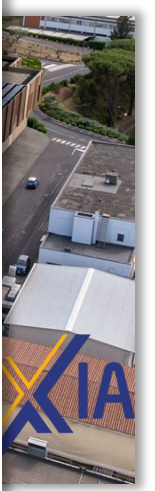
ESPP High-priority future initiatives:

Innovative accelerator technology underpins the physics reach of high-energy and high-intensity colliders. It is also a powerful driver for many accelerator-based fields of science and industry. The technologies under consideration include high-field magnets, high-temperature superconductors, plasma wakefield acceleration and other high-gradient accelerating structures, bright muon beams, energy recovery linacs.

The European particle physics community must intensify accelerator R&D and sustain it with adequate resources.



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ns for



y at INFN

Plasma Collider Boosted Higgs Factory, B. Foster et al. arXiv:2303.10150

Facility Upgrade Summary

The **AWA Upgrade** will demonstrate a 0.5-GeV module as the basis for a future multi-TeV collider.

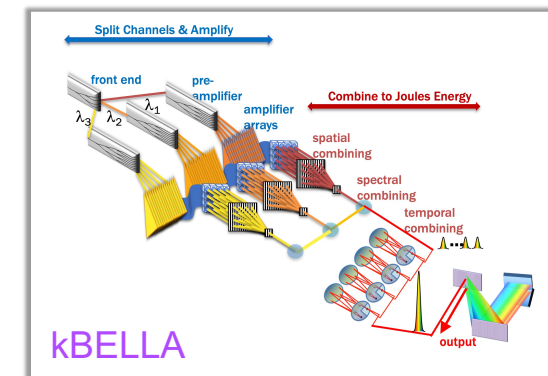
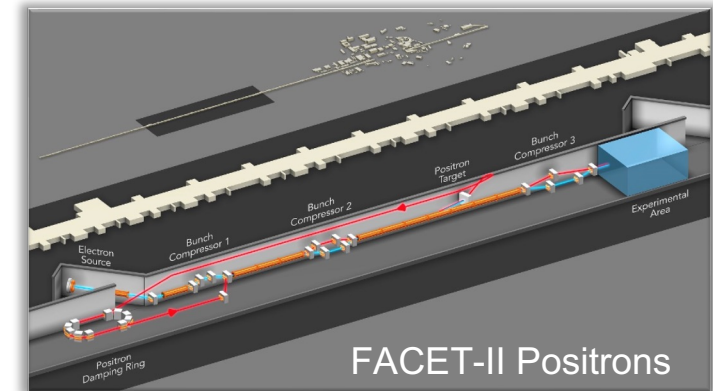
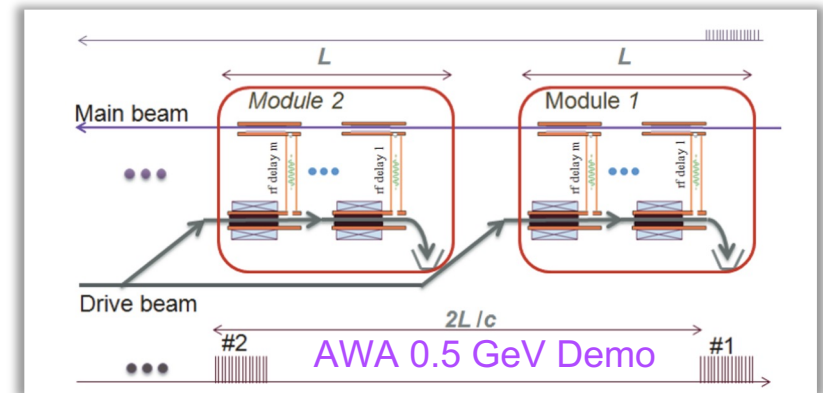
- Cost estimate is approx. \$15M.
- Internally costed for ANLHEP strategic planning exercise.

The **FACET-II Positron Upgrade** will enable electron beam-driven positron acceleration in plasma. FACET-II is the only facility in the world that can support this research.

- Received CD2 approval. Descoped in 2018.
- Listed in last P5 and ARDS reports.
- Cost estimate is approx. \$50M + 5 years of operation.

kBELLA will enable kHz rep-rate precision LWFA. This addresses major risks for a multi-TeV collider and enables near term applications.

- Costed by FESAC and LBNL review.
- Listed in last P5 and ARDS reports.
- Cost estimate is approx. \$100M



Risk-Retirement Table

- R&D underway
- Facility Upgrade Planned
- R&D planned
- Possible at Future Facility

There are plans to address much of the risk to a 10 TeV-scale collider at existing Test Beam Facilities.

However, there are key R&D advances that require facility upgrades.

Facility upgrades are key to retiring risks for the 10 TeV-scale collider.

Upgrades will enable near-term HEP applications!

		Existing Facilities			Planned Facilities			Future Facilities		
		AWA	FACET-II	BELLA	AWA 0.5 GeV	FACET-II Posi.	KBELLA	PWFA Staging	AWA 3 GeV	BDS Demo
SWFA	High-Power R&D	●			●				○	
	High-Efficiency	●			●				○	
	Drive beam generation								○	
	High-Quality multistage	○			●				○	
	Novel BDS									○
PWFA	High-Quality single-stage		●			●		○		
	In-out coupling		●			●		○		
	Controlled injection		●							
	High Repetition Rate	FLASHForward						○		
	Positron PWFA					●				
	Staging							○		
	Energy Recovery		○			●				
	Novel BDS		○							○
LWFA	High-Quality single-stage			●		●				
	Staging			●		●				
	Controlled injection			●		●				
	High Repetition Rate					●				
	Positron LWFA			○						
	Energy Recovery			○		●				
	Novel BDS									
γγ	NLQED	●	○							○
	FEL R&D	○	○							
	IP Design									○

Risk-Retirement Table

- R&D underway
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There are plans to address much of the risk to a 10-TeV scale collider at existing Test Beam Facilities.

However, there are key R&D advances that require facility upgrades.

		Existing Facilities			Planned Facilities			Future Facilities		
		AWA	FACET-II	BELLA	AWA 0.5 GeV	FACET-II Posi.	KBELLA	PWFA Staging	AWA 3 GeV	BDS Demo
SWFA	High-Power R&D	●			●				○	
	High-Efficiency	●			●				○	
	Drive beam generation								○	
	High-Quality multistage	○			●				○	
	Novel BDS									○
PWFA	High-Quality single-stage		●		●			○		
	In-out coupling		●		●			○		
	Controlled injection		●							
	High Repetition Rate	FLASHForward						○		
LWFA	High-Quality									
	Staging			●			●			
	Controlled injection			●			●			
	High Repetition Rate						●			
	Positron LWFA			○						
	Energy Recovery			○			●			
γγ	Novel BDS									
	NLQED	●	○							○
	FEL R&D	○	○							
	IP Design									○

See Short Remark by Doug Storey on Addressing R&D at FACET-II.

Facility upgrades are key to retiring risks for the 10-TeV scale collider.

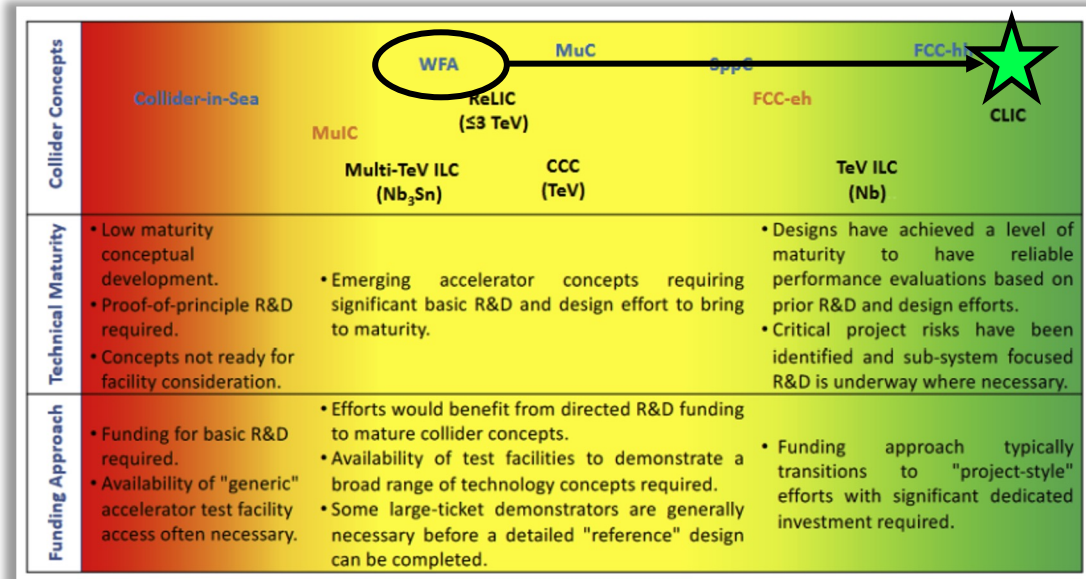
Upgrades will enable near-term HEP application!

Requests to P5 in Support of 10+ TeV Collider

1. Strengthen support for Wakefield Accelerator R&D through the HEP GARD program.
 - Critical for Workforce Development.
 - Continue to retire R&D risks.
2. Support for upgrades to Beam Test Facilities. Retire the next generation of risks.
 - AWA 0.5-GeV Demonstrator Upgrade.
 - FACET-II Positron Upgrade.
 - kBELLA kHz LWFA Upgrade.
3. Support for an Integrated Design Study on future Wakefield Colliders, in collaboration with our European Partners, with funding through the new National Collider R&D initiative.

Conclusion:

Snowmass AF4 Energy Frontier Colliders



Snowmass Implementation Task Force

Proposal Name	CM energy nom. (range) [TeV]	Lum./IP @ nom. CME [$10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$]	Years of pre-project R&D	Years to first physics	Construction cost range [2021 B\$]	Est. operating electric power [MW]
Muon Collider	10 (1.5-14)	20 (40)	>10	>25	12-18	~300
LWFA - LC (Laser-driven)	15 (1-15)	50	>10	>25	18-80	~1030
PWFA - LC (Beam-driven)	15 (1-15)	50	>10	>25	18-50	~620
Structure WFA (Beam-driven)	15 (1-15)	50	>10	>25	18-50	~450
FCC-hh	100	30 (60)	>10	>25	30-50	~560
SPPC	125 (75-125)	13 (26)	>10	>25	30-80	~400

The only way to make our 10+ TeV dreams a reality is by committing to Accelerator R&D today.

Acknowledgements

Eric Esarey, Carl Schroeder, Jeroen van Tilborg, Tony Gonsalves, Jean-Luc Vay



Chunguang Jing, Philippe Piot, Xueying Lu, John Power



Mark Hogan



The Snowmass AF6 Conveners:

Cameron Geddes, Ralph Assmann, Pietro Musemecci, Mark Hogan

Snowmass AF6 Report: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.13279>

Synergies

There are many synergies between Wakefield Accelerator Research and other Collider Concepts being discussed today:

- The C³ Demo Facility can host the first beam-driven plasma staging experiment.
- Generic Particle-in-Cell (PIC) codes are being adapted to address beamstrahlung physics at very high energies. These codes will be capable of simulating ILC, CLIC, and C³ collisions with much greater detail.
- PIC codes may also be needed for modeling muon beam-plasma interaction in ionization cooling channels.
- Wakefield Accelerators can provide low-emittance electron beams for collisions or positron beam sources.

Letter from DESY in support of Positrons at FACET-II

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
A Research Centre of the Helmholtz Association



DESY | Accelerators, Notkestr. 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Wim Leemans
Director Accelerator Division
Member of the Board of Directors
wim.leemans@desy.de
Tel. +49 40 8998 2010

25 April 2023

Letter of support for the upgrade of the SLAC FACET-II facility to include the capability to utilize positron beams

Dear members of the Particle Physics Projects Prioritization Panel,

With this letter, we would like to express our full support of and strong interest in the upgrade of the SLAC FACET-II facility to include the capability to utilize positron beams for experimentation. This upgrade is both timely, owing to the great progress achieved in the field over the last decade, and of highest importance for the prospects of plasma accelerator technology in future particle physics colliders.

Plasma accelerators can sustain extremely large accelerating gradients, potentially enabling compact and cost-effective linear electron-positron colliders. The efficient acceleration of positron beams with collider-relevant parameters in such accelerators is complex and has been identified as one of the major challenges on the path toward a plasma-based collider (see, e.g., the [European Strategy for Particle Physics Accelerator R&D roadmap](#)). Owing to the absence of test facilities for plasma-based positron accelerator R&D, the experimental progress worldwide has stalled with the end of FACET operation in 2016.

Since the last experiments at FACET, the community has developed various new plasma-based positron concepts such as using plasma columns^{1,2,3,4}, asymmetric beams in hollow plasma channels⁵, warm quasi-hollow plasma channels⁶, or the utilization of the back of the blowout wake^{7,8}. Despite showing promising results in terms of stability and beam quality in simulations, these new concepts need to be tested and validated in experiments. We fully expect that only the fruitful interplay between theory,

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
Notkestraße 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany
Location Zeuthen
Platanenallee 6, 15738 Zeuthen, Germany
www.desy.de

HELMHOLTZ

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(Delegate of the
Directorate for Innovation)



25 April 2023
Page 2 of 2

simulations, and experiments can yield the progress required for a plasma-based collider. While we are willing to contribute to both theory and simulations, the positron upgrade at FACET-II is currently the only viable experimental option to enable plasma-based positron accelerator research worldwide.

We consider the positron upgrade at FACET-II to be important and timely to maintain the high momentum in the plasma-based community. An experimental facility is a significant and necessary step toward a plasma-based collider, and we fully support extending the experimental capabilities of FACET-II in this direction. Furthermore, the proposed upgrade enables relevant advanced accelerator research in other fields such as in structure-based wakefield positron acceleration.

With this letter we want to express our strongest support for the planned positron upgrade at FACET-II.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Wim Leemans

Dr. Maxence Thévenet

Dr. Jens Osterhoff

Dr. Severin Diederichs

HELMHOLTZ