

# SA-ATLAS

Basic Scientific Research for Sustainable Development Goals

Deepak Kar on behalf of James Keaveney (Coordinator, SA-ATLAS)



science & innovation

Department:  
Science and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



***Basic scientific research is the most powerful driver of economic growth***

***Innovation is at the heart of basic science research, and developing new methods and techniques to solve long standing problems represents just that ...***

# The type of R&D matters

Increased R&D spend has largely been in the private domain, focusing on applied research

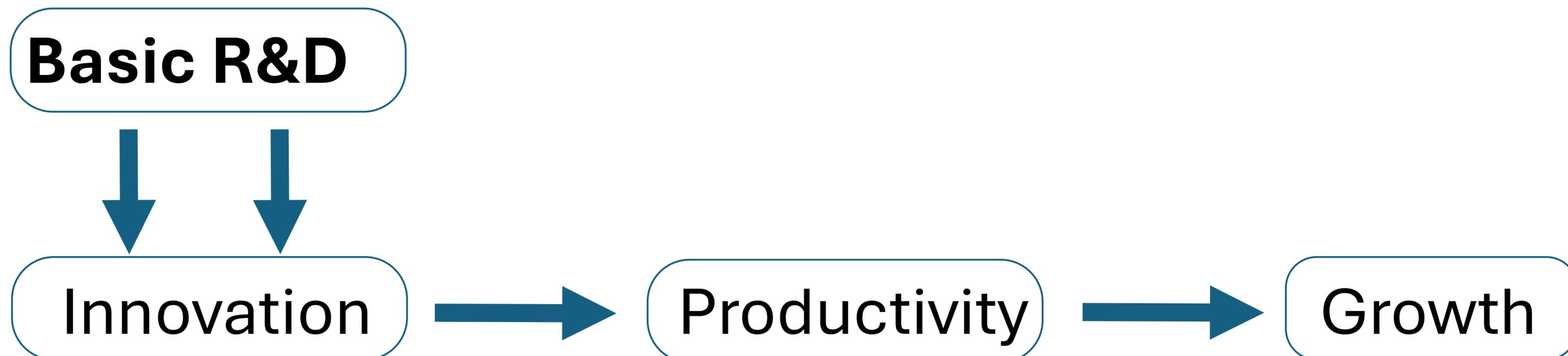
Innovations, occur not in a vacuum but draw on the stock of **basic** scientific knowledge.

- invention of the cardiac pacemaker required a scientific understanding of both human anatomy and electronics
- GPS technology on your smartphone users relies on Einstein's theories of relativity
- extraordinarily rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines, based on decades of prior basic scientific research with massive economic payoff



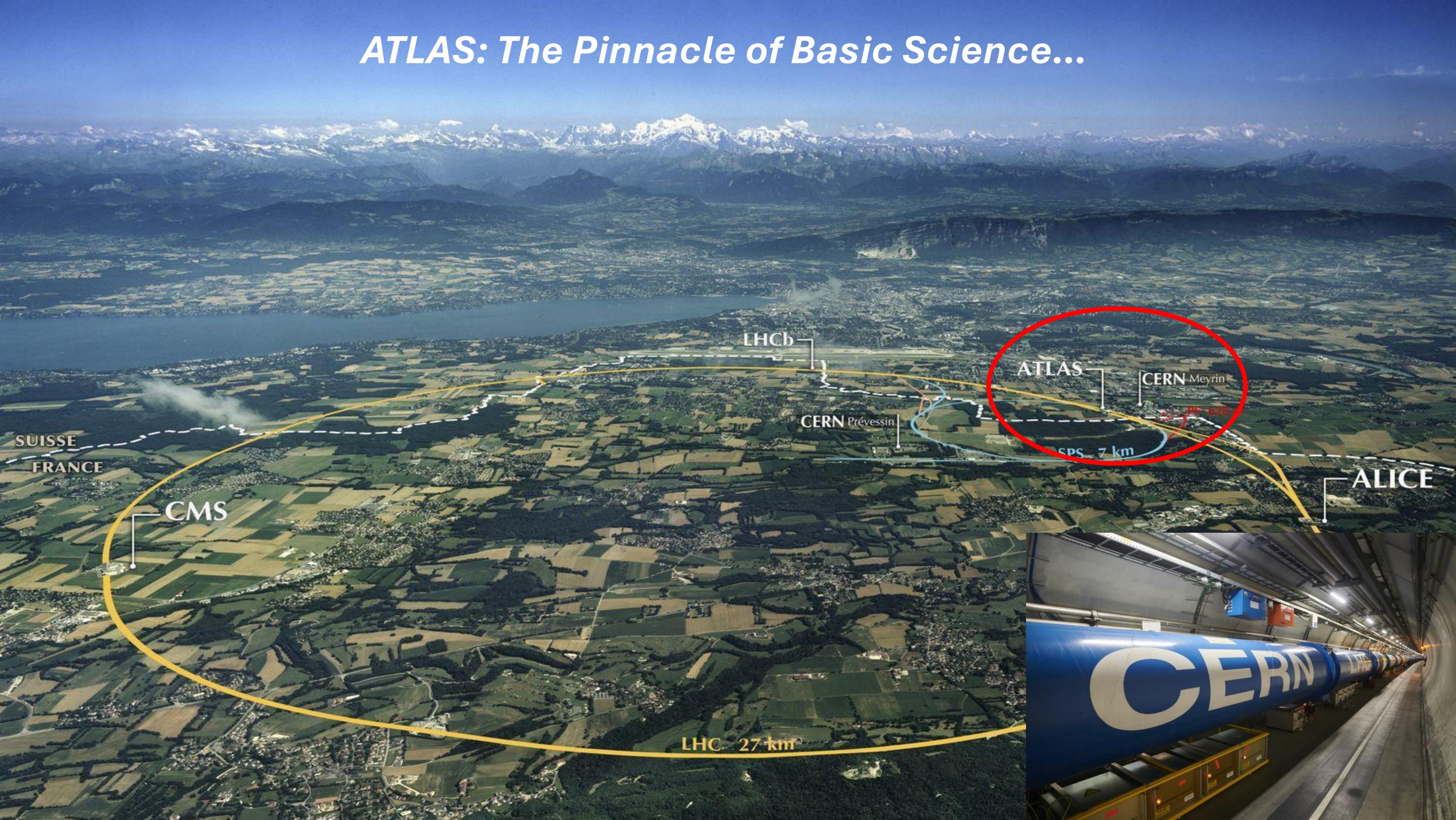
# Conclusions of Report: ***Basic scientific research is a key driver of innovation***

- A 10% increase in domestic (foreign) basic research is estimated to raise productivity by about 0.3 (0.6)%.
- International knowledge spillovers are more important for innovation in emerging market and developing economies than in advanced economies.
- Easy technology transfer, collaboration, and the free flow of ideas across borders should be key priorities.

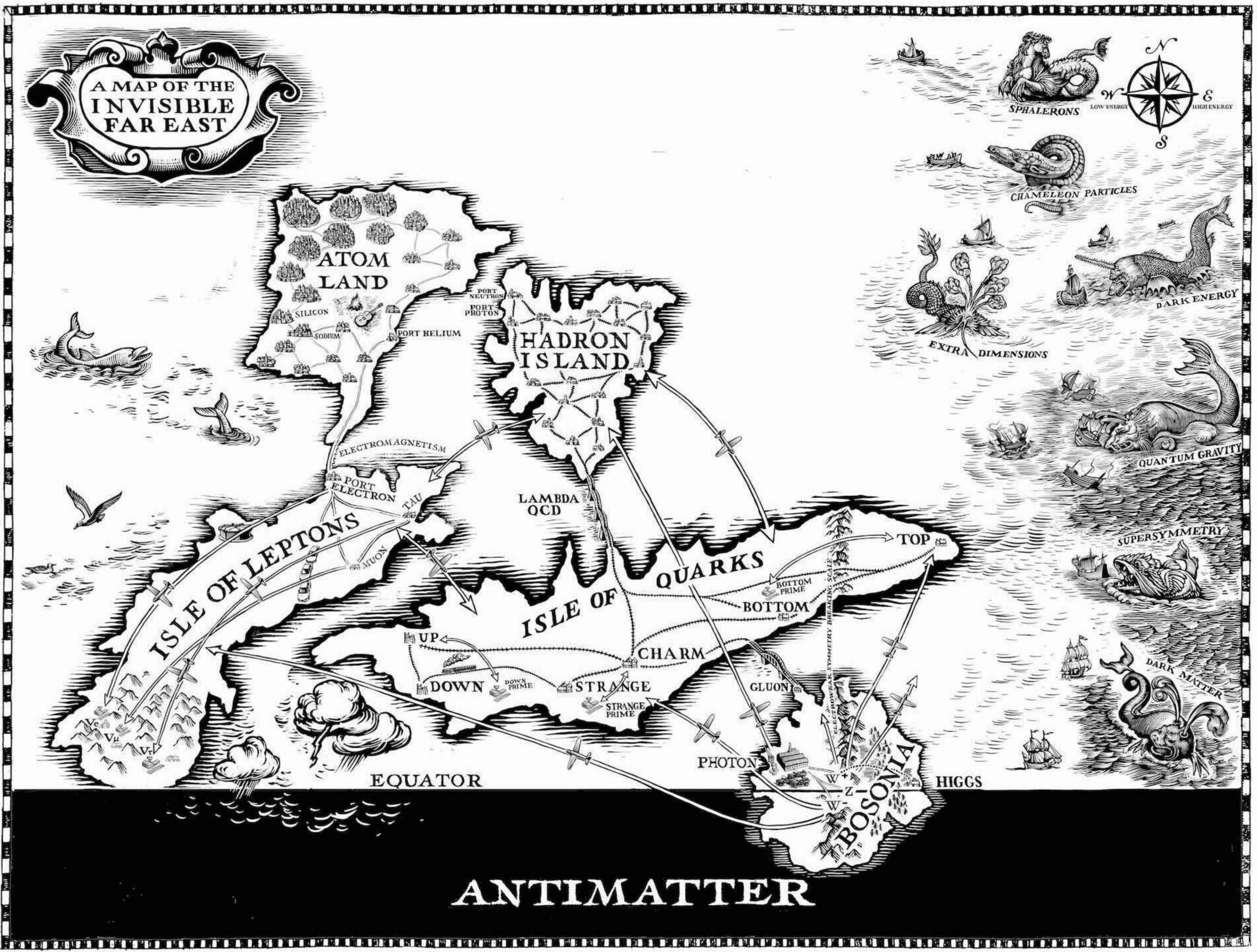


***International co-operation is a  
building block of particle Physics,  
and CERN's founding principle***

# ATLAS: The Pinnacle of Basic Science...



A MAP OF THE INVISIBLE FAR EAST



“ATLAS“ of the invisible, from Jon Butterworth

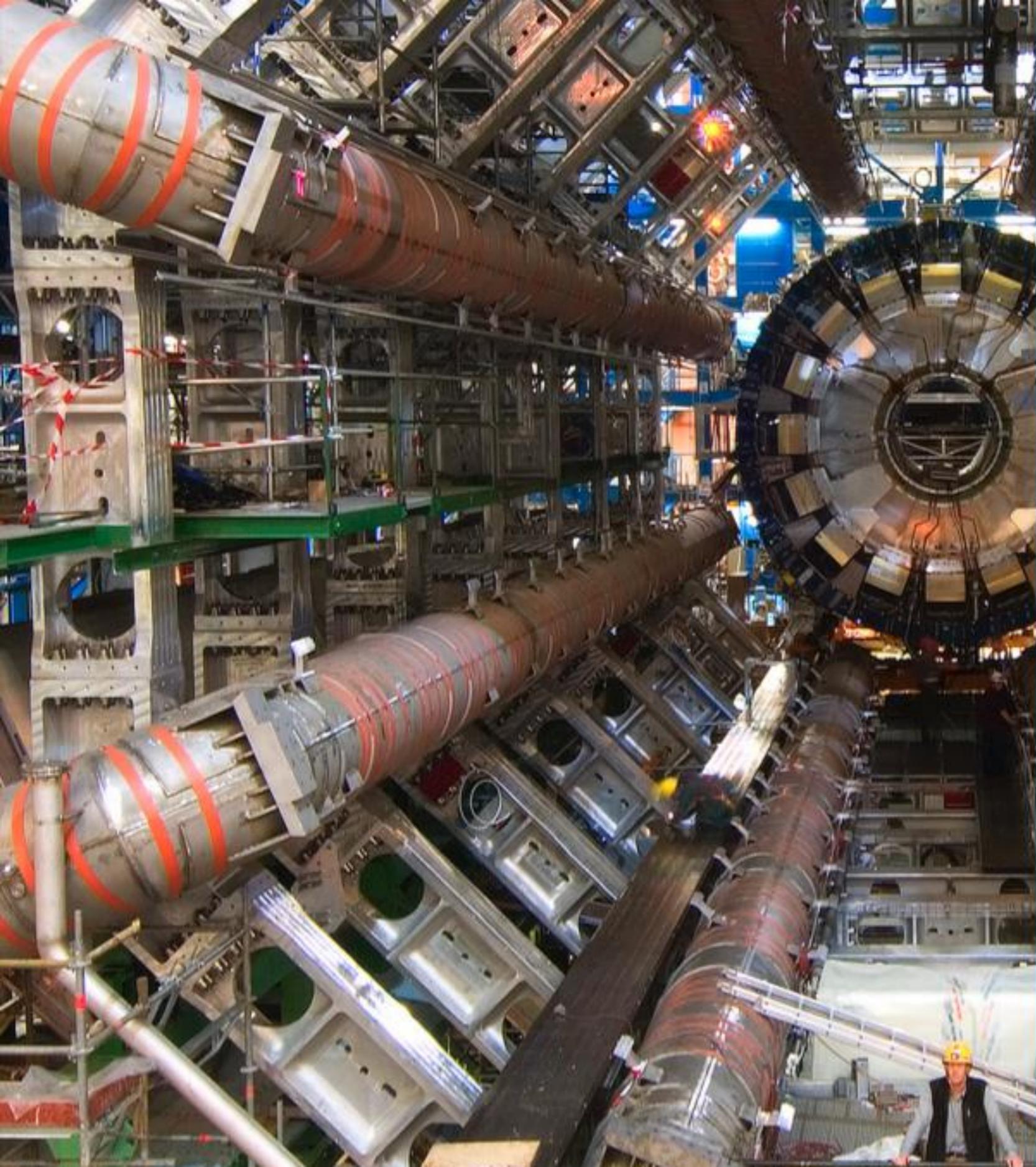


# THE ATLAS EXPERIMENT

ON CERN'S LARGE  
HADRON COLLIDER

---

Discover 30 years of scientific  
accomplishments by ATLAS  
physicists.

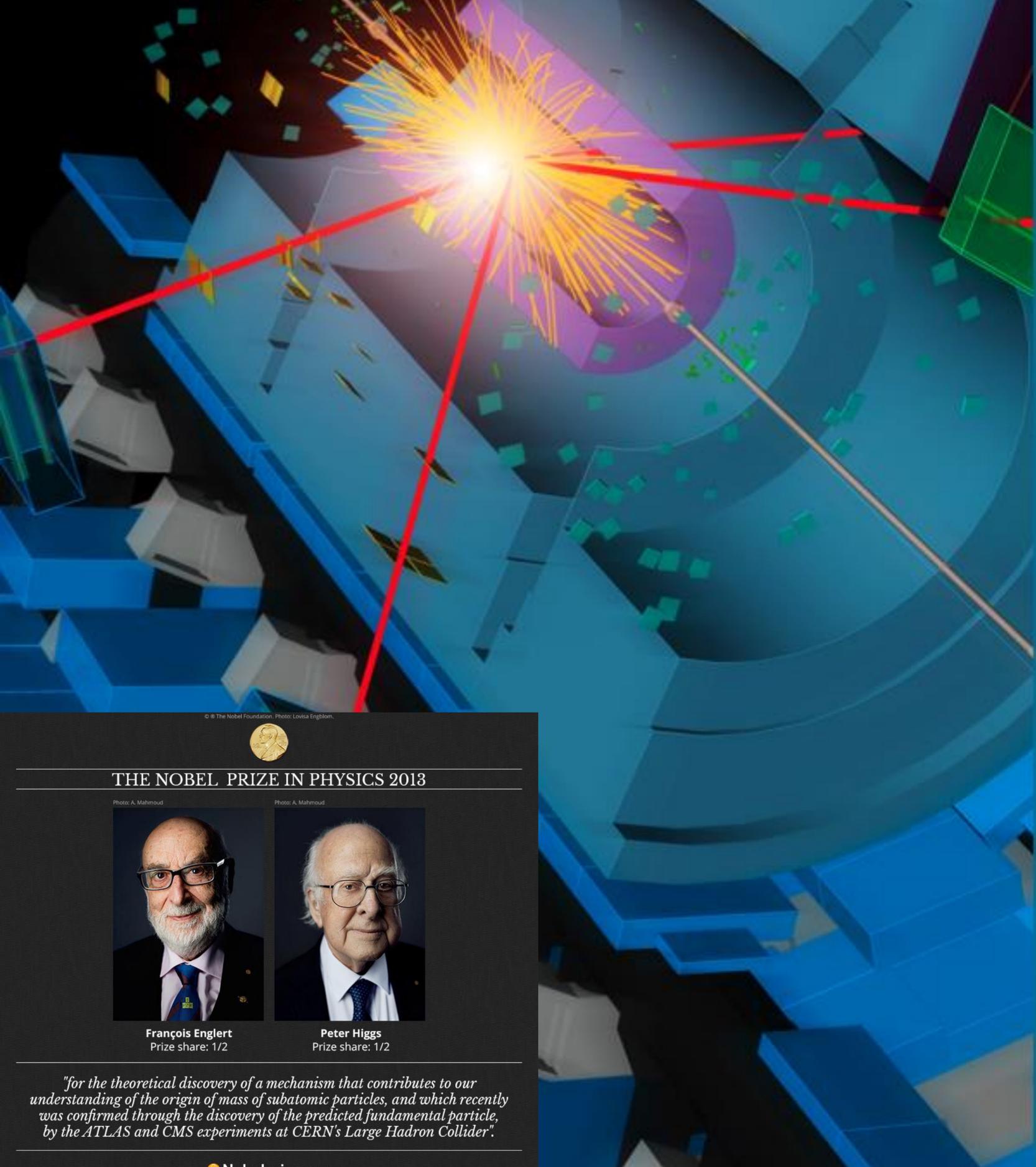


# BUILDING A TITAN OF SCIENCE

1992-2008

---

Taking ATLAS from dream to reality required unprecedented levels of international scientific co-operation.



# BIG BANGS, BEAMS & BOSONS

2008-2015

The LHC era begins! Record-breaking particle collisions lead to the discovery of a long-sought particle.



## THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2013

Photo: A. Mahmoud



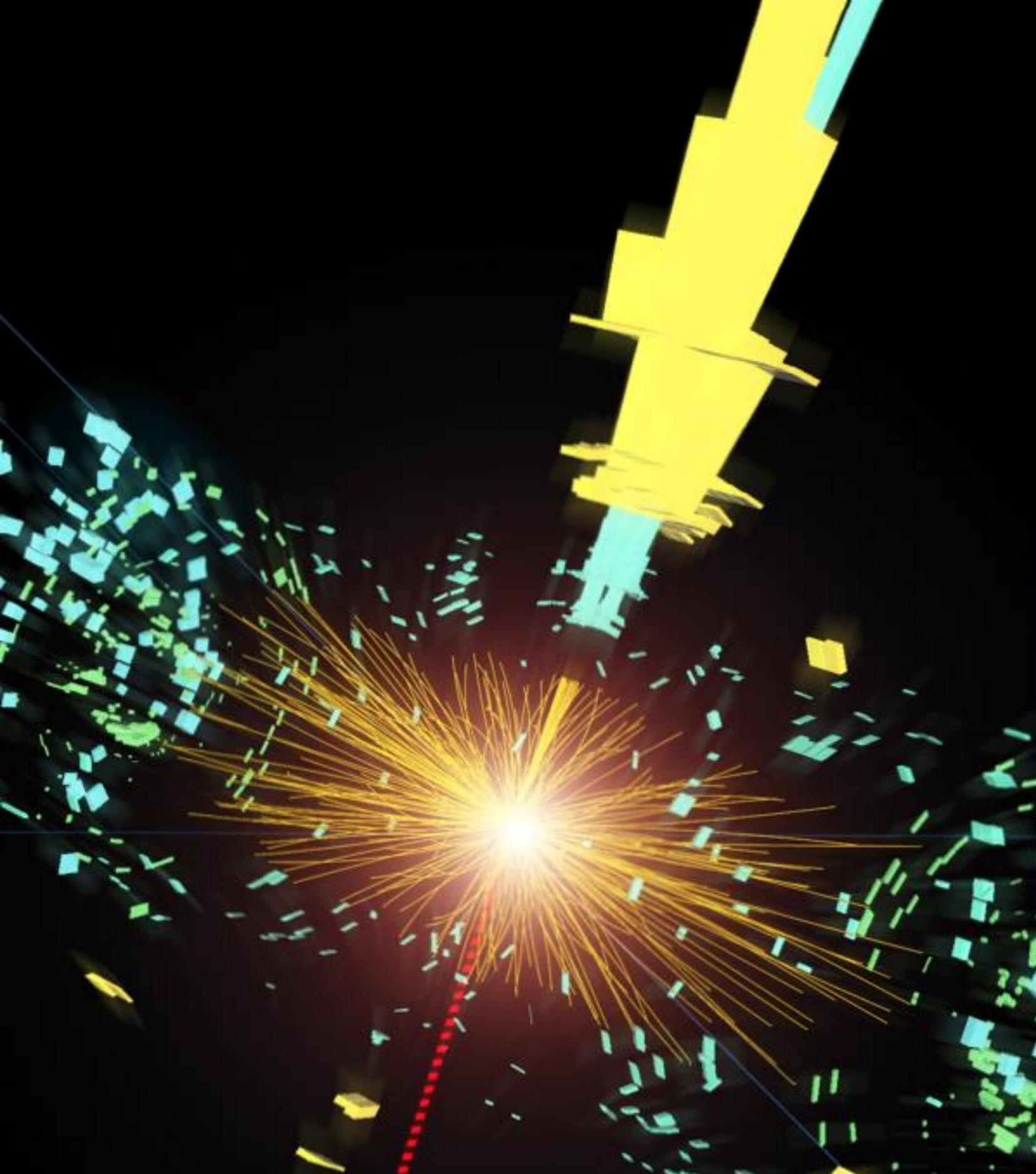
**François Englert**  
Prize share: 1/2

Photo: A. Mahmoud



**Peter Higgs**  
Prize share: 1/2

*"for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles, and which recently was confirmed through the discovery of the predicted fundamental particle, by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at CERN's Large Hadron Collider".*

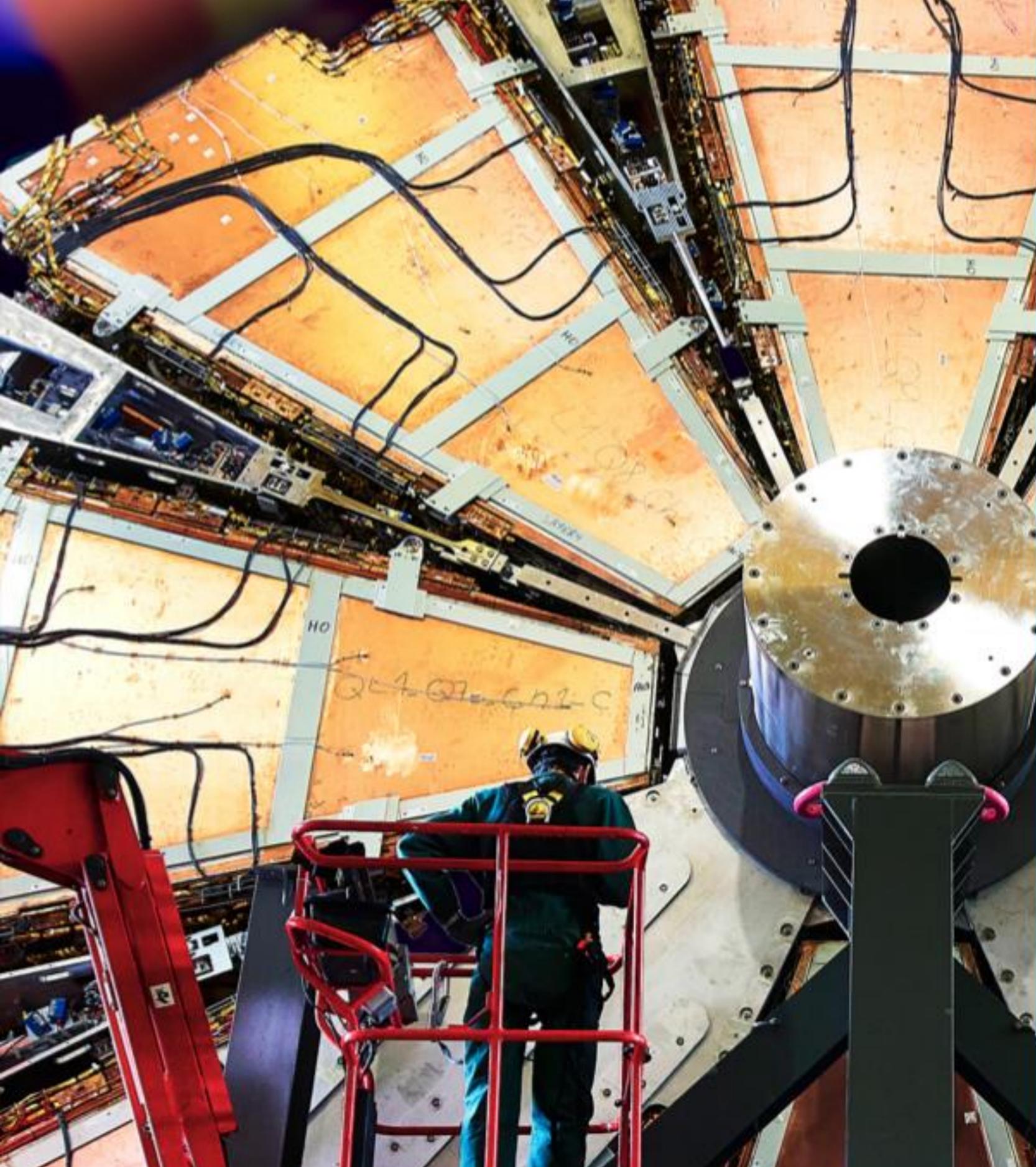


# PARTICLE HUNTING AT 13 TEV

2015-2021

---

The second run of the LHC brought with it a new era of searches and precision measurements for ATLAS physicists.



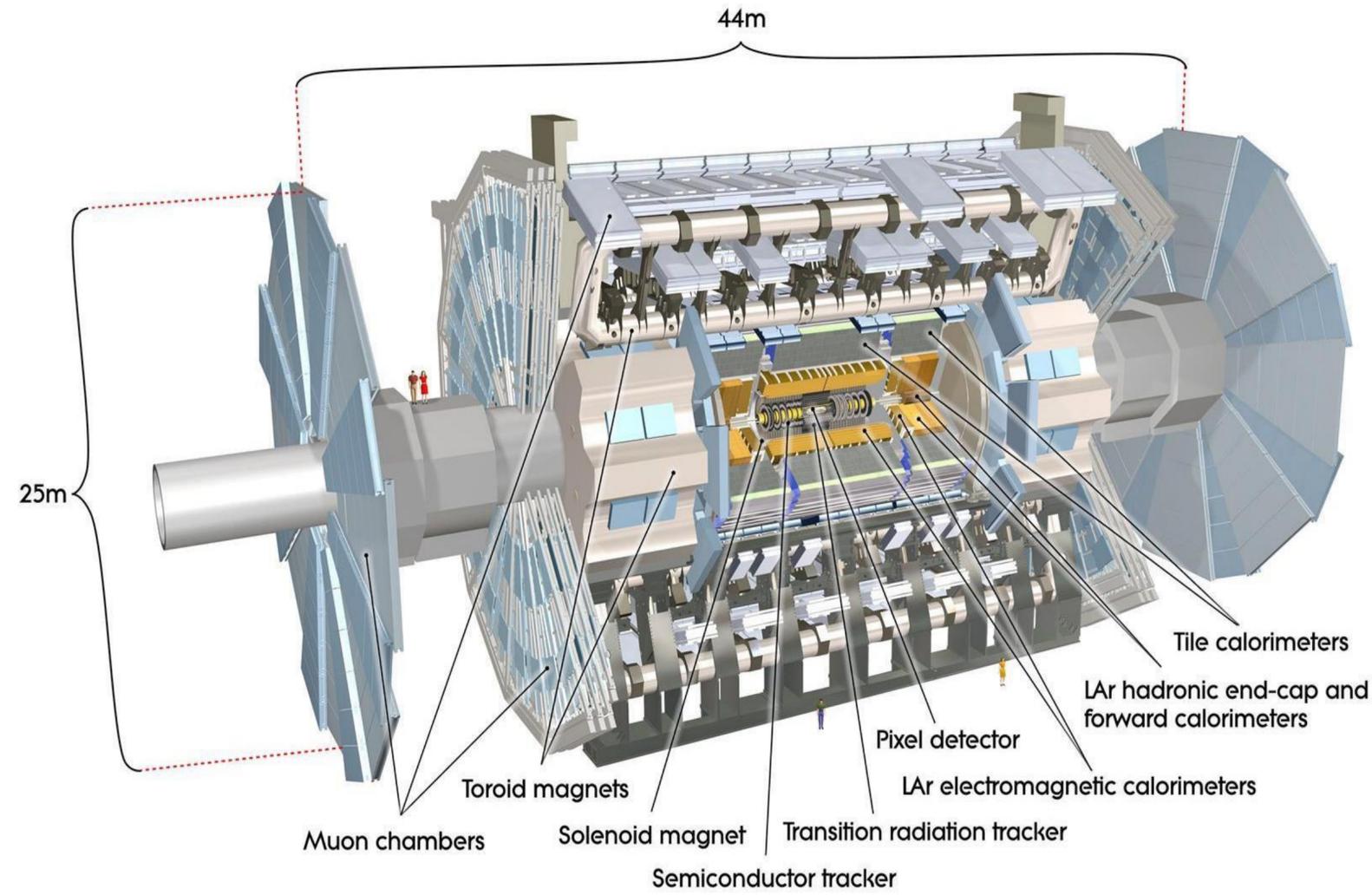
# PUSHING THE ENERGY FRONTIER

## 2021 AND BEYOND

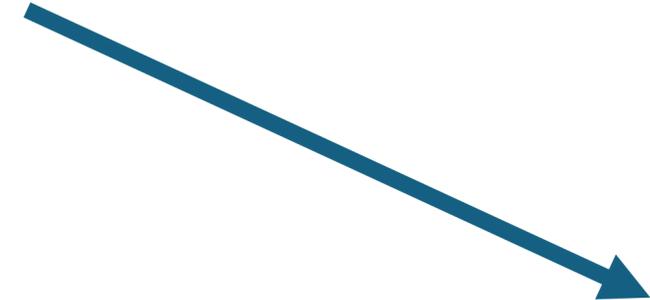
---

The ATLAS experiment begins its third operation period at a record-breaking 13.6 TeV collision energy. In parallel, ATLAS prepares for the High-Luminosity upgrade of the LHC (HL-LHC).

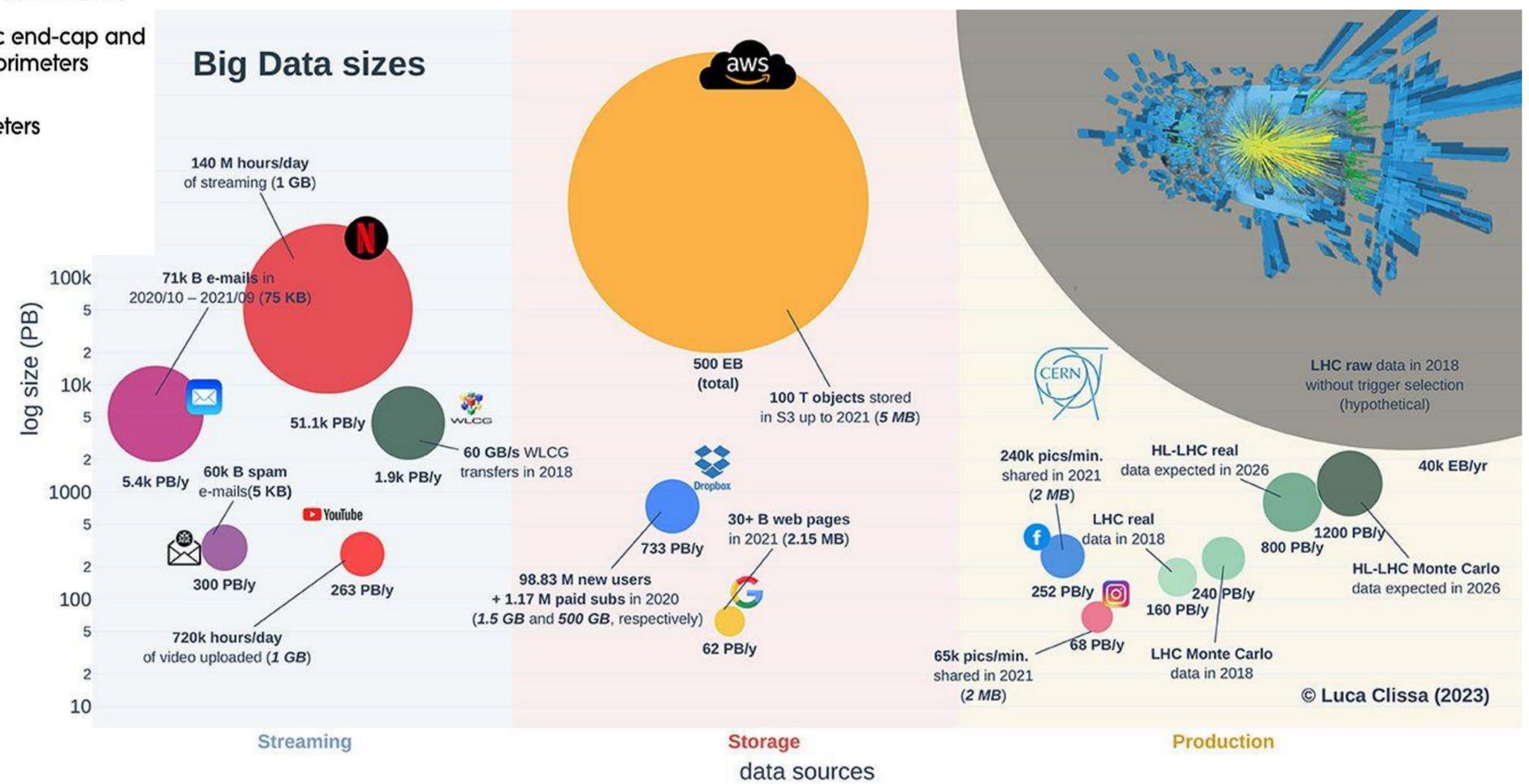
# Basic Science...requires cutting-edge technology



ATLAS Detector



## ATLAS BIG Data



# Basic Science...requires (a lot) of the best scientists & engineers

Status: Jan. 2025

## ATLAS Composition

177 Institutions  
from 40 countries

156 Institutes (single)  
21 Clusters (71 Institutes in Clusters)  
16 Associate Institutes  
243 Institutes  
14 Technical Associate Institutes

- Active ATLAS Members (Physicists, Engineers, Technicians, Students, Administrators)	~	5900
- Scientific Authors		2845
- With PhD, contributing to M&O share		1922
- PhD Students	~	1100
- Master / Diploma Students	~	450

Argentina  
Armenia  
Australia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
Colombia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Mongolia  
Morocco

Netherlands  
Norway  
Palestine  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
Türkiye  
UAE  
UK  
USA  
CERN  
JINR

SA-ATLAS!



# ATLAS Collaboration

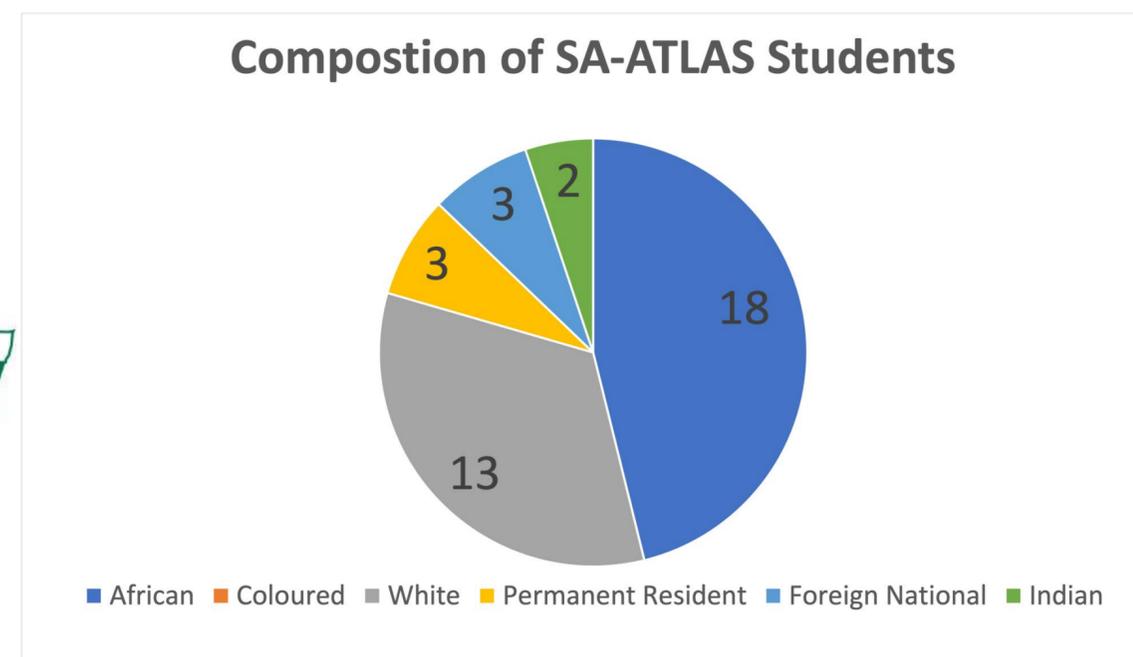
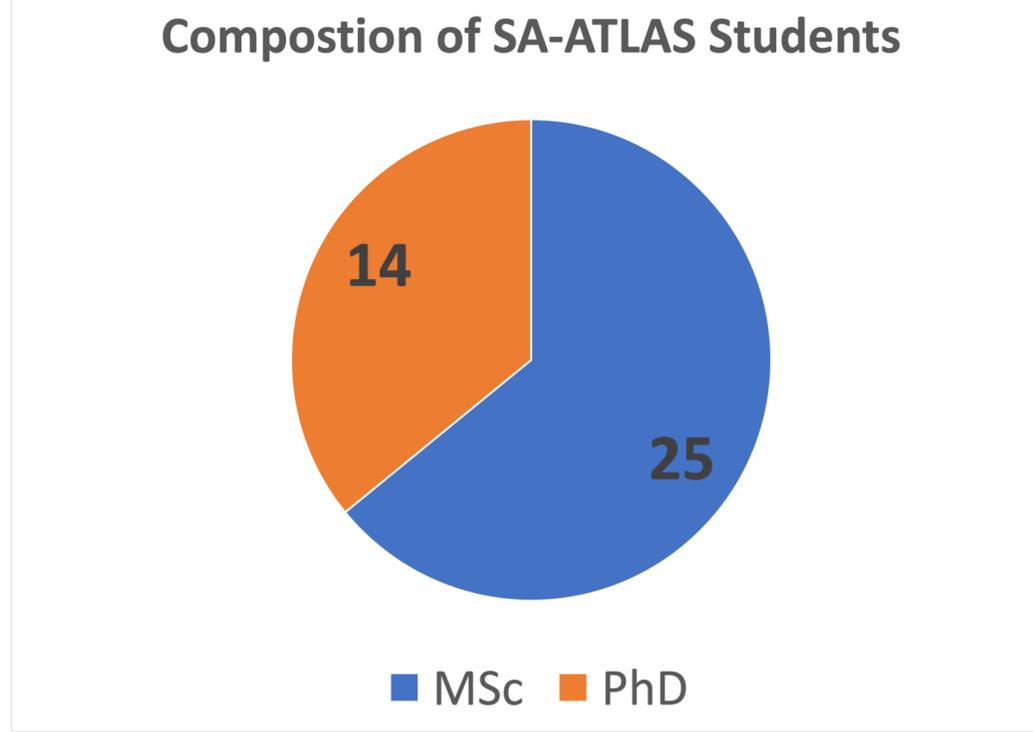
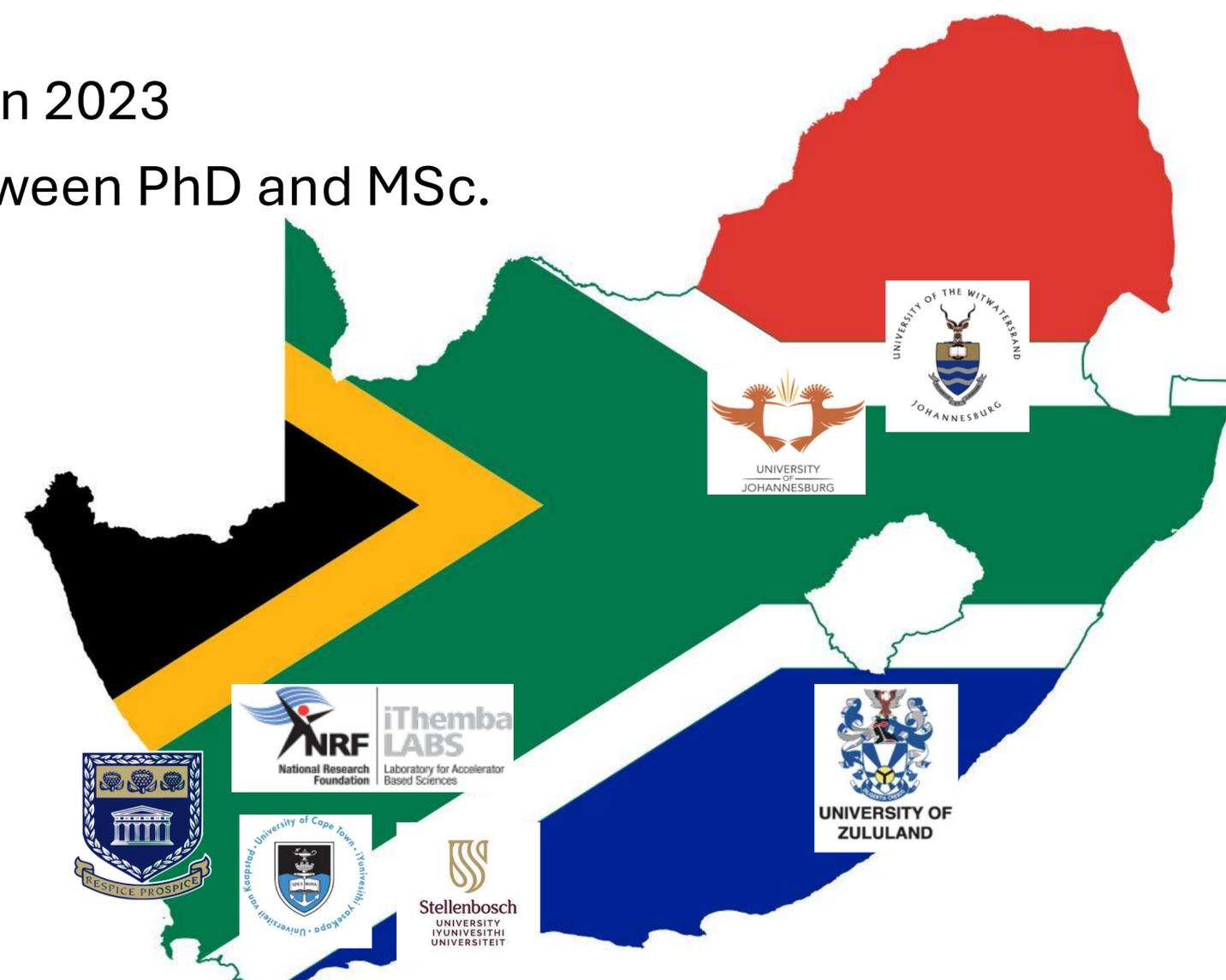
177 institutions (253 institutes) from 40 countries





# SA-ATLAS - Size & Shape

- Institutions – **6\***
- Principal Investigators - **11**
- Postdocs - **5**
- Students - **39**
  - ~10% increase on 2023
  - healthy split between PhD and MSc.
  - diverse cohort



# SA-ATLAS – Leading Basic Science

## Diverse, high-profile contributions

### • Top quark physics

- constraining electroweak couplings and subtle new physics [JHEP 07 \(2023\) 033](#)
- novel top mass measurements using J/Psi [ANA-TOPQ-2018-19](#)

### • Novel searches for Dark Matter

- semi visible jets [arXiv:2305.18037](#)
- searches for new bosons, exotics, Higgs decays
  - ANA-HDBS-2018-55, ANA-HDBS-2021-13, ANA-HDBS-2021-30, ANA-HIGG-2021-05, ANA-EXOT-2023-10

### • New Physics searches using dibosons

- High mass resonances search using Z/gamma [ANA-HDBS-2021-12](#)

### • Higgs (VH(H->bb)) STXS optimisation

- [ANA-HIGG-2020-20](#) [Eur. Phys. J. C 81 \(2021\) 178](#)

**Physics Briefing**

ATLAS confirms mild tension in production of top-quark pairs with a W boson

24 March 2023 | By ATLAS Collaboration

Tags: 2023 winter conferences, top quark, physics results

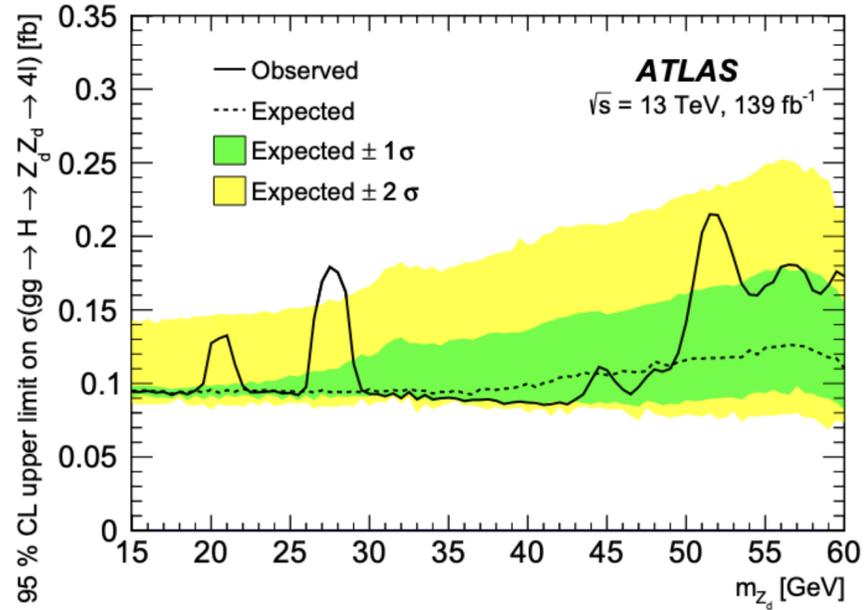
**Physics Briefing**

Not a jet all the way: is dark matter hiding in plain sight?

26 May 2023 | By ATLAS Collaboration

Tags: LHCP 2023, new physics, dark matter, physics results

What happens if dark-matter particles are produced inside a jet of Standard-Model particles? This leads to a novel detector signature known as semi-visible jets! The ATLAS Collaboration has come up with a new search for semi-visible jets, looking for them in a general production mode where two protons interact by exchanging an intermediate particle, which is then converted into two jets.



**Physics Briefing**

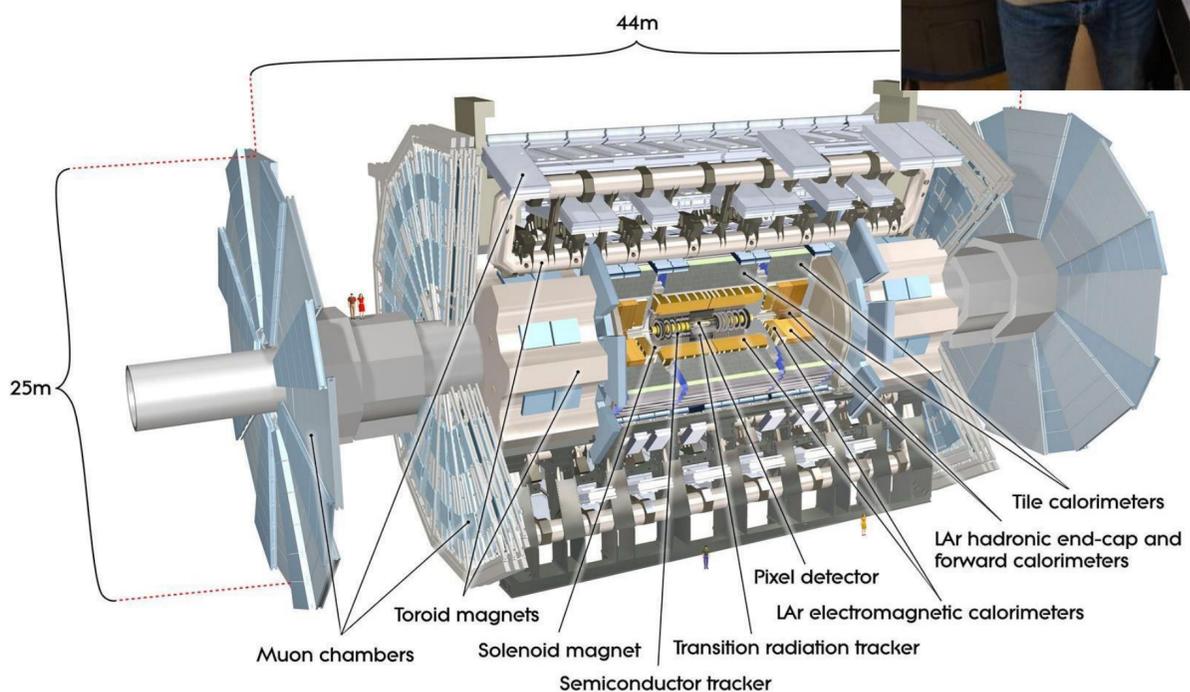
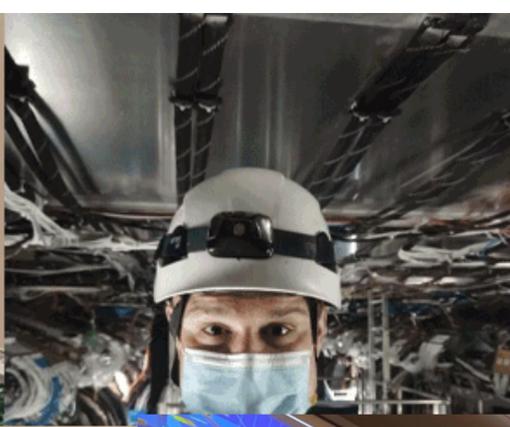
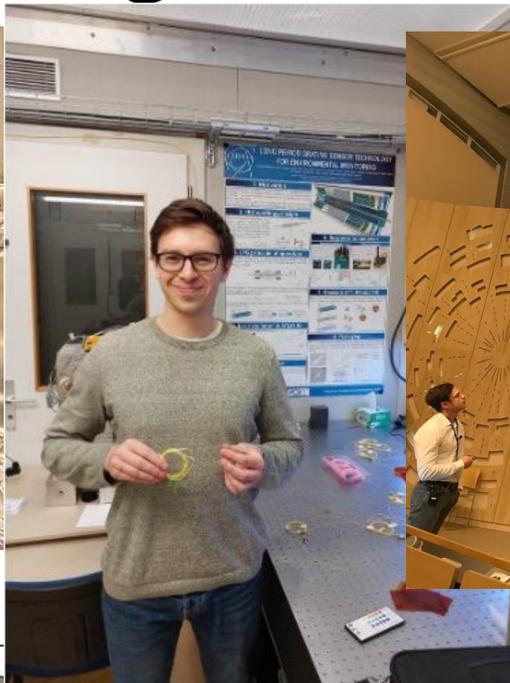
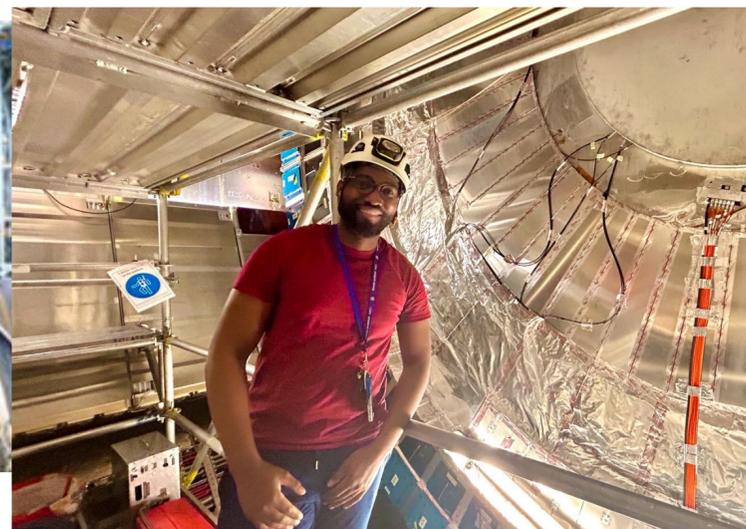
Measuring the beauty of the Higgs boson

7 April 2020 | By ATLAS Collaboration

Tags: Higgs boson, physics results, run 2, Higgs seminar 2020

Two years ago, the Higgs boson was [observed decaying to a pair of beauty-quarks](#) ( $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ), moving its study from the “discovery era” to the “[measurement era](#)”. By measuring the properties of the Higgs boson and comparing them to theoretical predictions, physicists can better understand this unique particle and, in the process, search for deviations from predictions that would point to new physics processes beyond our current understanding of particle physics.

# Basic Science...requires cutting-edge technology



- SA-ATLAS plays a key role in operations with a strong international reputation
  - **Maintenance** activities in **radiation-controlled** environments.
  - **Experts on-call for high- speed electronics and detector control systems.**
- Invaluable **leadership skills** in an international environment



**SA-ATLAS students consistently awarded presentation prizes at South African Institute of Physics...again in 2024!**



J. Keaveney SABC Interview

**Prof Deepak Kar**  
University of the Witwatersrand

Fundamental science is universal. Understanding nature at its deepest level transcends national boundaries. However, being part of the largest science experiment that humanity has ever performed means I can make South African students part of this adventure, make them dream, and enhance the global reputation of the country.



Celebrating 25 Years of Research, Innovation, Impact and Partnerships

**Prof. D Kar recognised by NRF "Stories of Impact"**  
Was awarded Royal Society Wolfson Visiting Fellowship



J. Keaveney OMT New Frontiers Award



**E. Nkadimeng (Wits/iTL)**  
Top 200 Young South Africans (Mail & Guardian)

**National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)**  
2022 - Innovation Award: Corporate Organization



# SA-ATLAS Recent Recognition

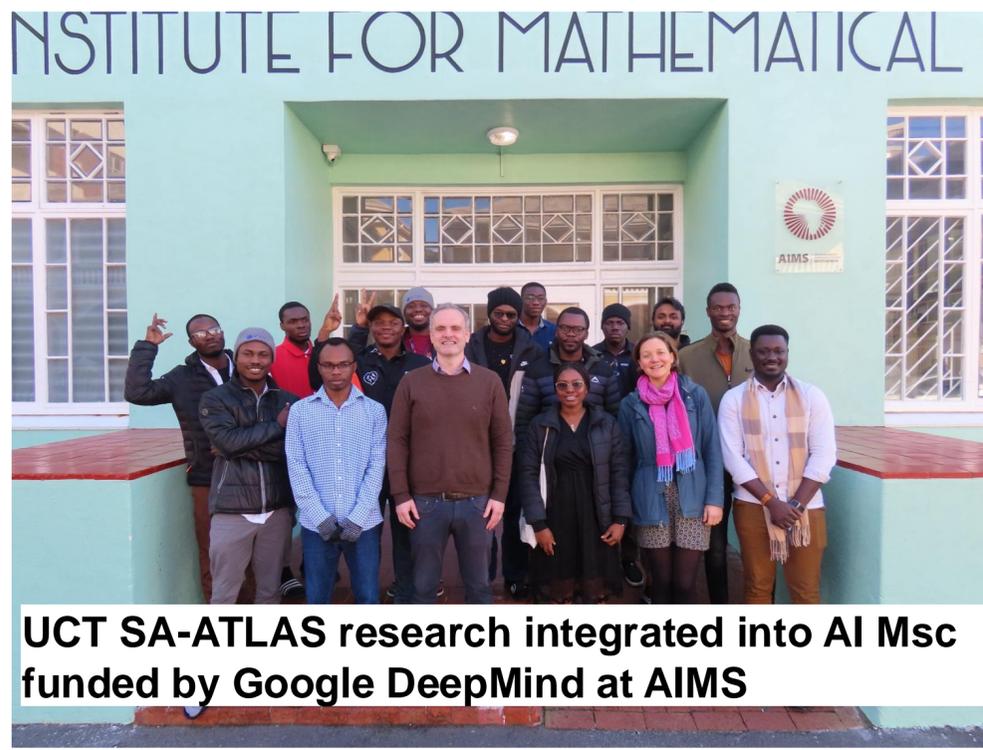
**SA-ATLAS students Thobani Sangweni (UCT) and Clarisse Prat (Wits) accepted to CERN Summer student programme 2024**



**South Africa awarded TIPP conference in 2023**



**Wits Vice-Chancellor's Research Award**



**UCT SA-ATLAS research integrated into AI Msc funded by Google DeepMind at AIMS**



**J. Keaveney UCT College of Fellows Award 2023**



## UCT ATLAS Research Programme of J. Keaveney on Real-Time Artificial Intelligence in the ATLAS Trigger

- Integrated into AIMS new AI4Science MSc programme funded by **\$4.5 Million** from Google DeepMind
- Dr. Claire David (AIMS Academic Director) now Honorary Research Associate at UCT
- Dr. James Keaveney & Dr. Julia Gonski (SLAC/Stanford) teaching 3-week module on data science and Real-time AI to the cream of young African AI Talent



# Increased focus on Machine Learning



QUANTUM LEAP AFRICA

- First unfolding using ML paper from Deepak Kar and collaborators

## Unfolding with Generative Adversarial Networks

Kaustuv Datta (Zurich, ETH), Deepak Kar (U. Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Sch. Phys.), Debarati Roy (U. Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Sch. Phys.)

Jun 1, 2018

11 pages

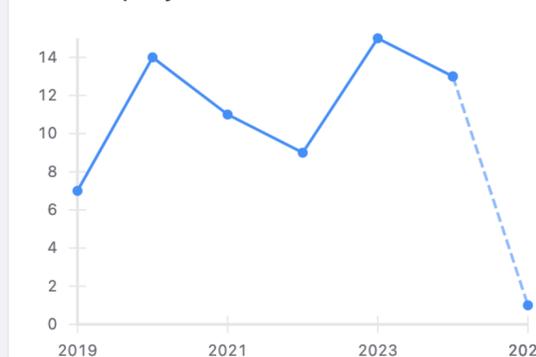
e-Print: [1806.00433](#) [physics.data-an]

View in: [ADS Abstract Service](#)

[pdf](#) [cite](#) [claim](#)

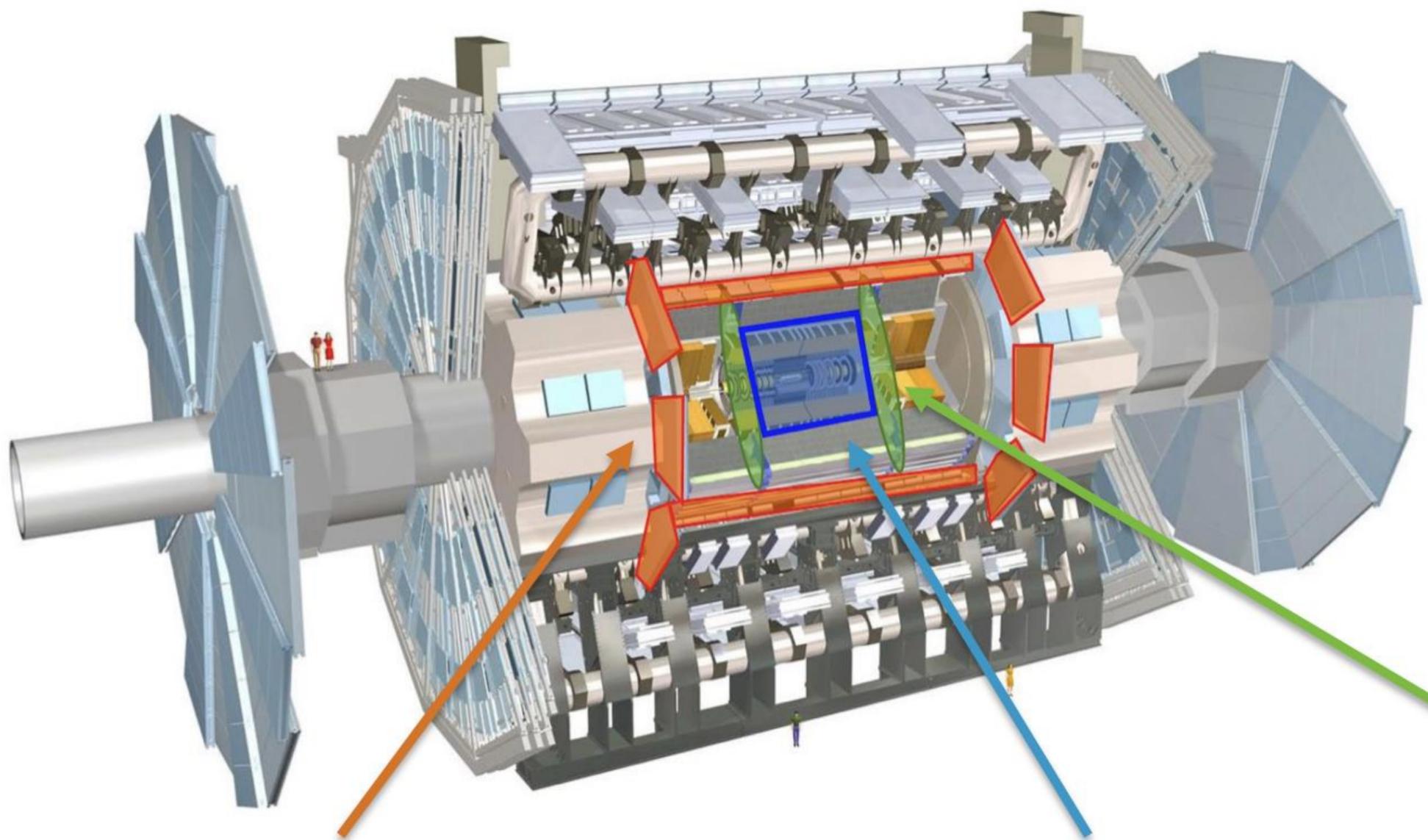
[reference search](#) [↻ 70 citations](#)

Citations per year



- Joint PhD student supported by QLA with Prof. Caterina Doglioni (Manchester)

# Detector Upgrade projects



## Upgraded Trigger and Data Acquisition System

- Single Level Trigger with 1 MHz output
- Improved 10 kHz Event Farm

## Electronics Upgrades

- On-detector/off-detector electronics upgrades of LAr Calorimeter, Tile Calorimeter & Muon Detectors
- 40 MHz continuous readout with finer segmentation to trigger

## High Granularity Timing Detector (HGTD)

- Precision time reconstruction (30 ps) with Low-Gain Avalanche Detectors (LGAD)
- Improved pile-up separation and bunch-by-bunch luminosity

## New Muon Chambers

- Inner barrel region with new RPCs, sMDTs, and TGCs
- Improved trigger efficiency/momentum resolution, reduced fake rate

## New Inner Tracking Detector (ITk)

- All silicon with at least 9 layers up to  $|\eta| = 4$
- Less material, finer segmentation

# TileCal LVPS & PPr



- The *Tile Calorimeter (TileCal)* is a crucial detector within ATLAS
  - Front-end electronics read the data from particle collisions inside the detector.
  - **Low-Voltage Power Supply Bricks** provide power to the front-end electronics of the TileCal.
  - located on the detector and need to be:
    - **Radiation hard, Cost effective, Reliable, Efficient**

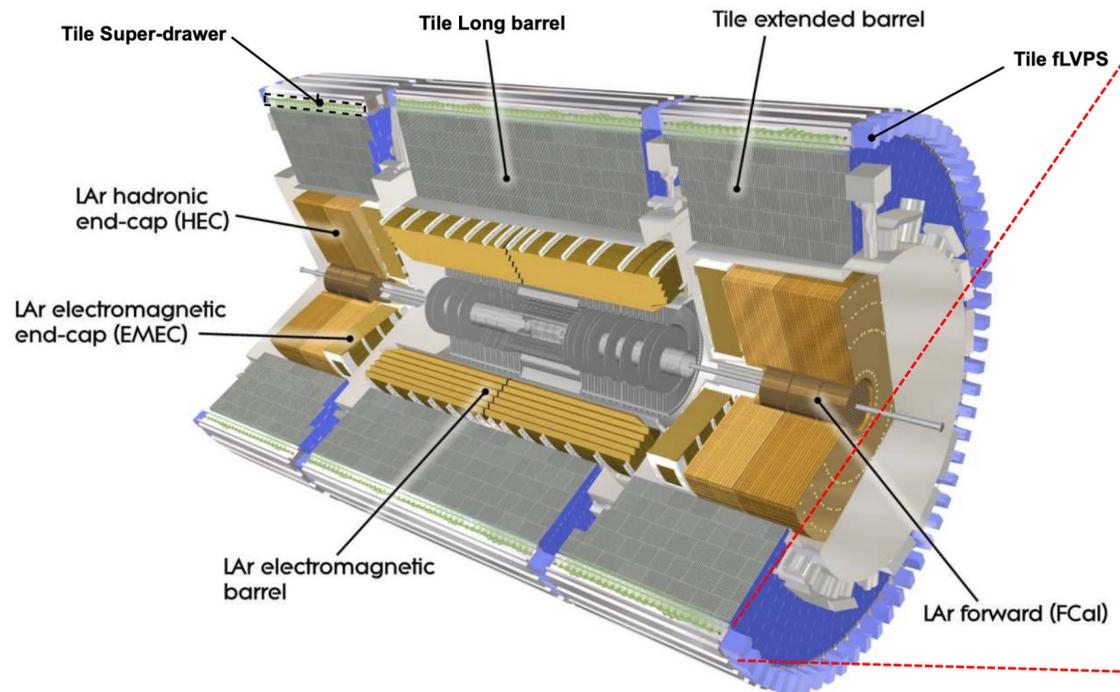


Fig.1 ATLAS inner barrel..

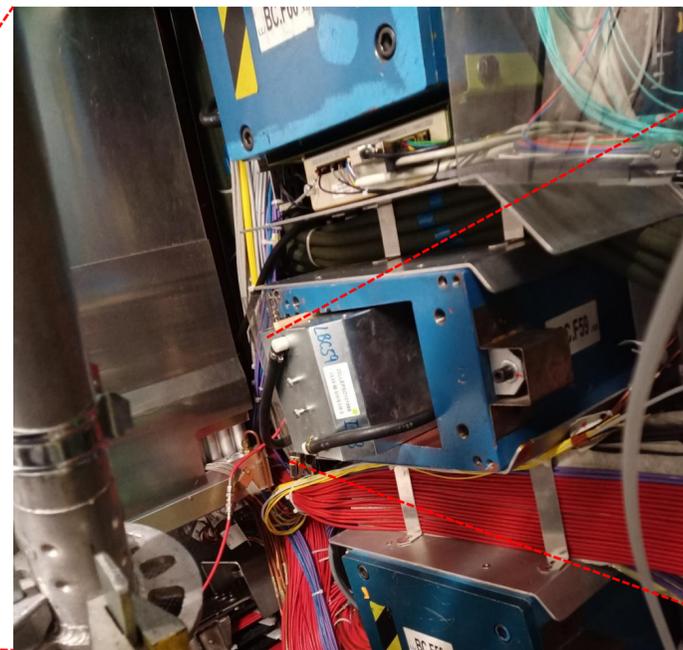


Fig.2 An fLVPS inside TileCal.

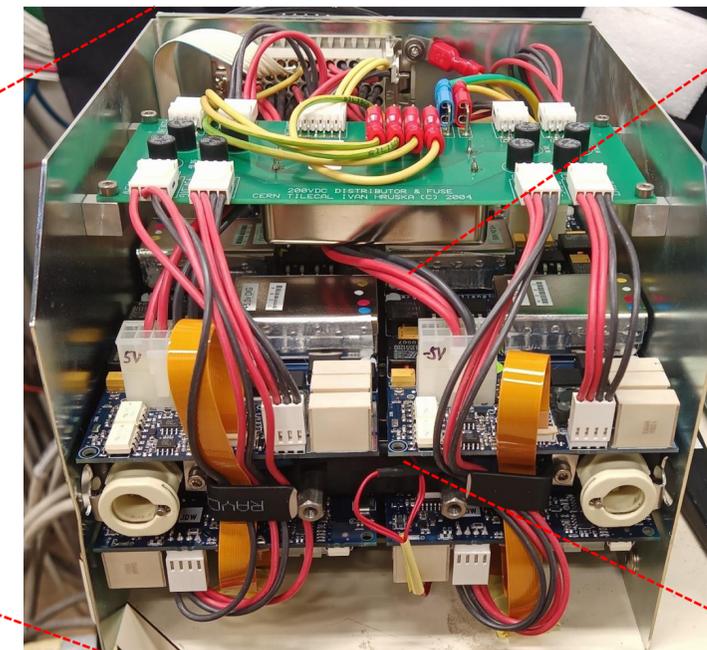


Fig.3 Inside an fLVPS.



Fig. South African Brick

# Design and development of the LVPS



Due to the unique operating conditions of the fLVPS bricks several expert skills needed to be locally cultivated

Expertise have been developed in:

- Radiation hardness certification of electronics.
- Thermal optimization of power electronics.
- Design of high reliability electronics.
- Quality assurance testing of electronics with Artificial Intelligence.

This expertise are relevant to. e.g. the aerospace industry.



Fig.3 TileCal test-beam campaign.

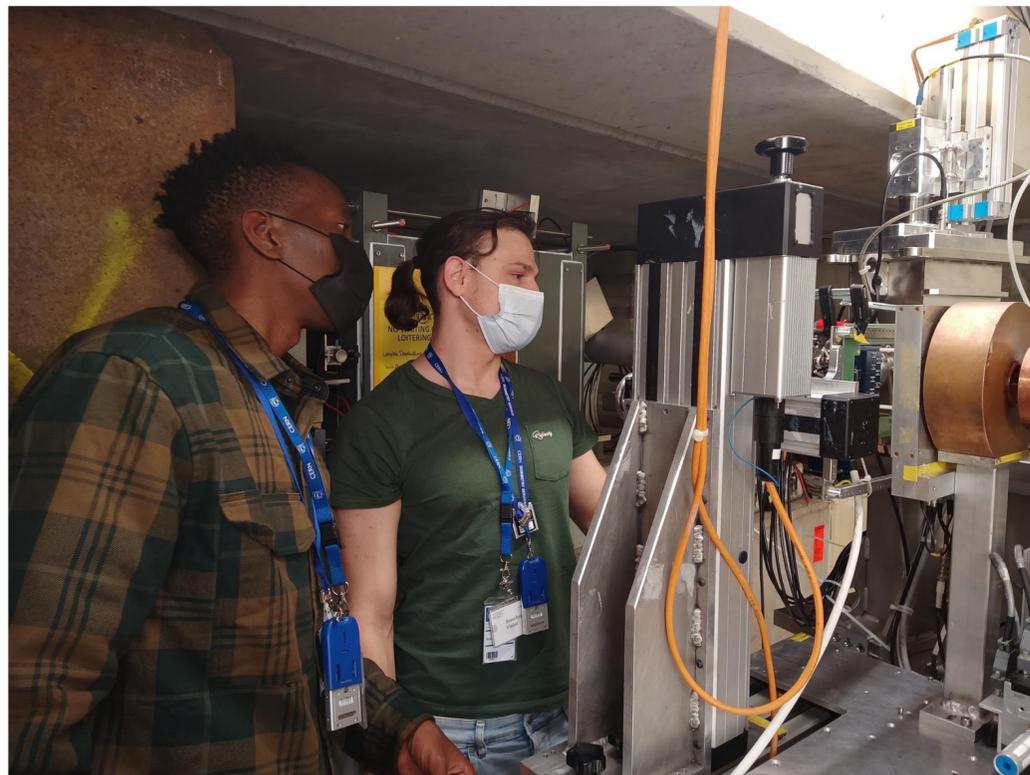


Fig.1 Irradiation campaign at Paul Scherrer PIF.

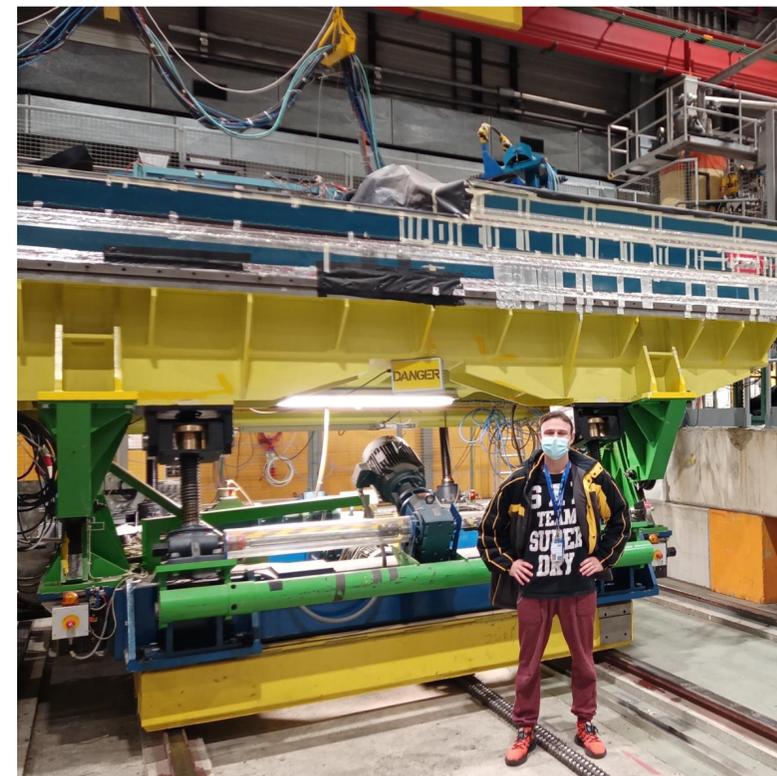


Fig.2 TileCal test-beam campaign.



Fig.4 Brick thermal studies.

# Tech Transfer from TileCal Upgrade

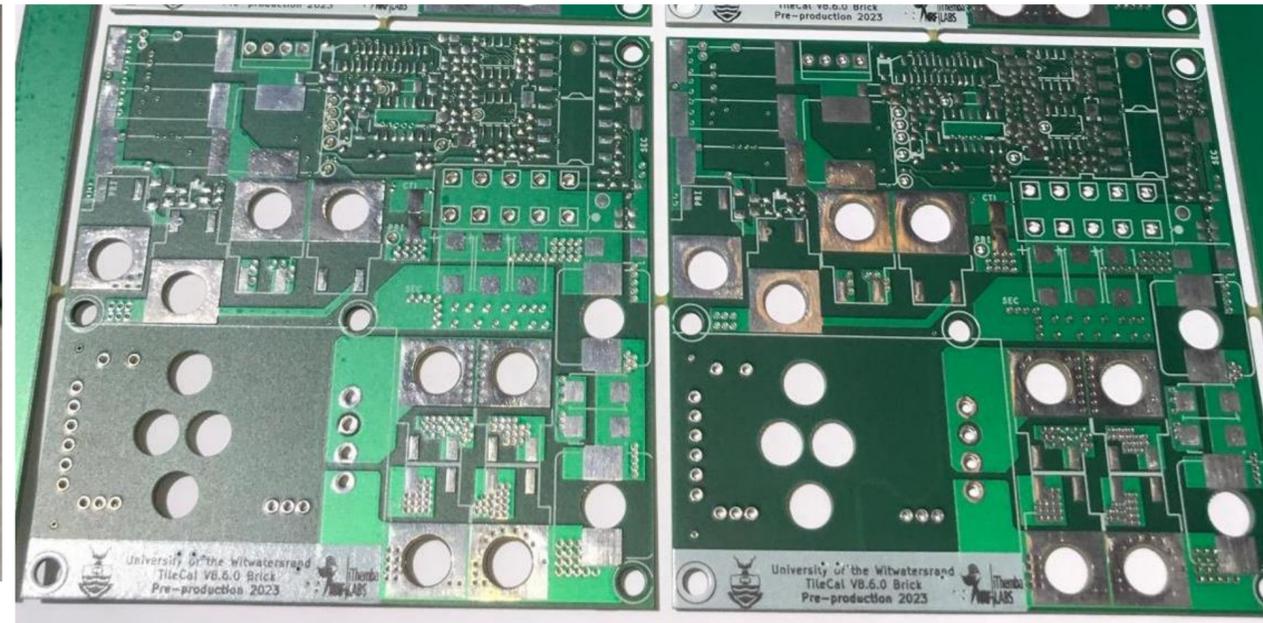
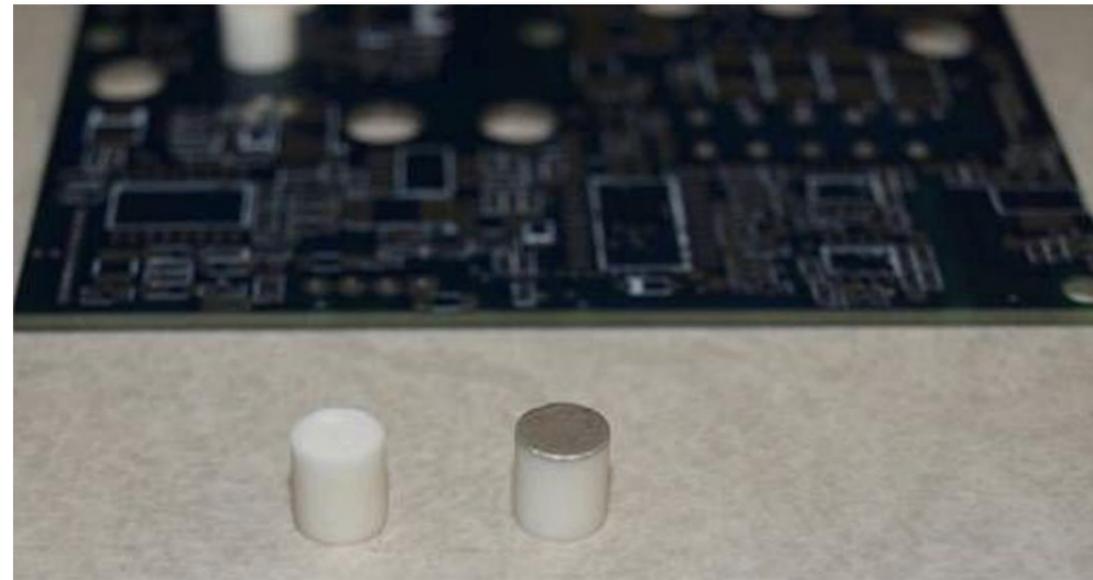


- **Advanced ceramics (Pretoria)**
- **Printed Circuit Board (PCB) production (Cape town)**
- **Electronics production (Pretoria)**

Locally produced elements:  
✓ Printed circuit boards  
✓ Ceramic posts  
✓ Production of final product



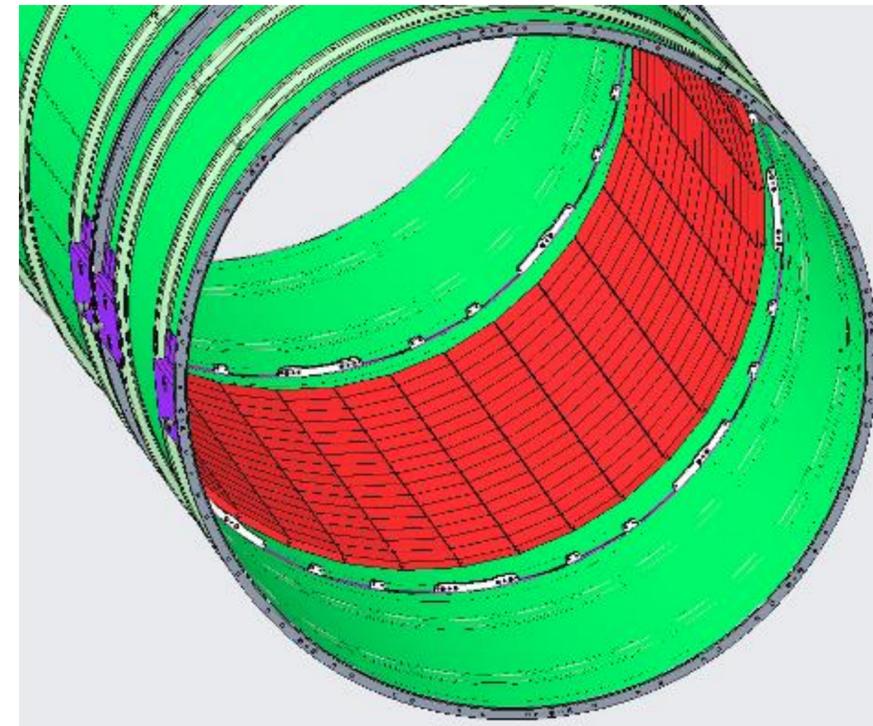
- Key skills being transferred to SA industry for novel electronics production.



# ITk Polymoderator



- UCT producing 3 polymoderators (central & outer barrel and endcaps) to shield the ITk from damaging neutron flux in the HL-LHC
- All raw materials (HDPE) procured and delivered to SAAO Cape Town for fabrication
- Central Barrel completed and delivered to CERN
  - Endcap fabrication and delivery Q3 2024

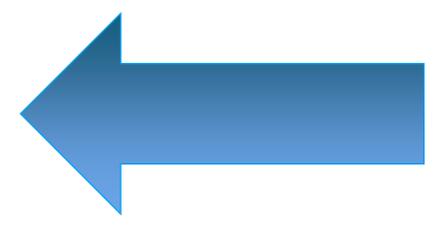
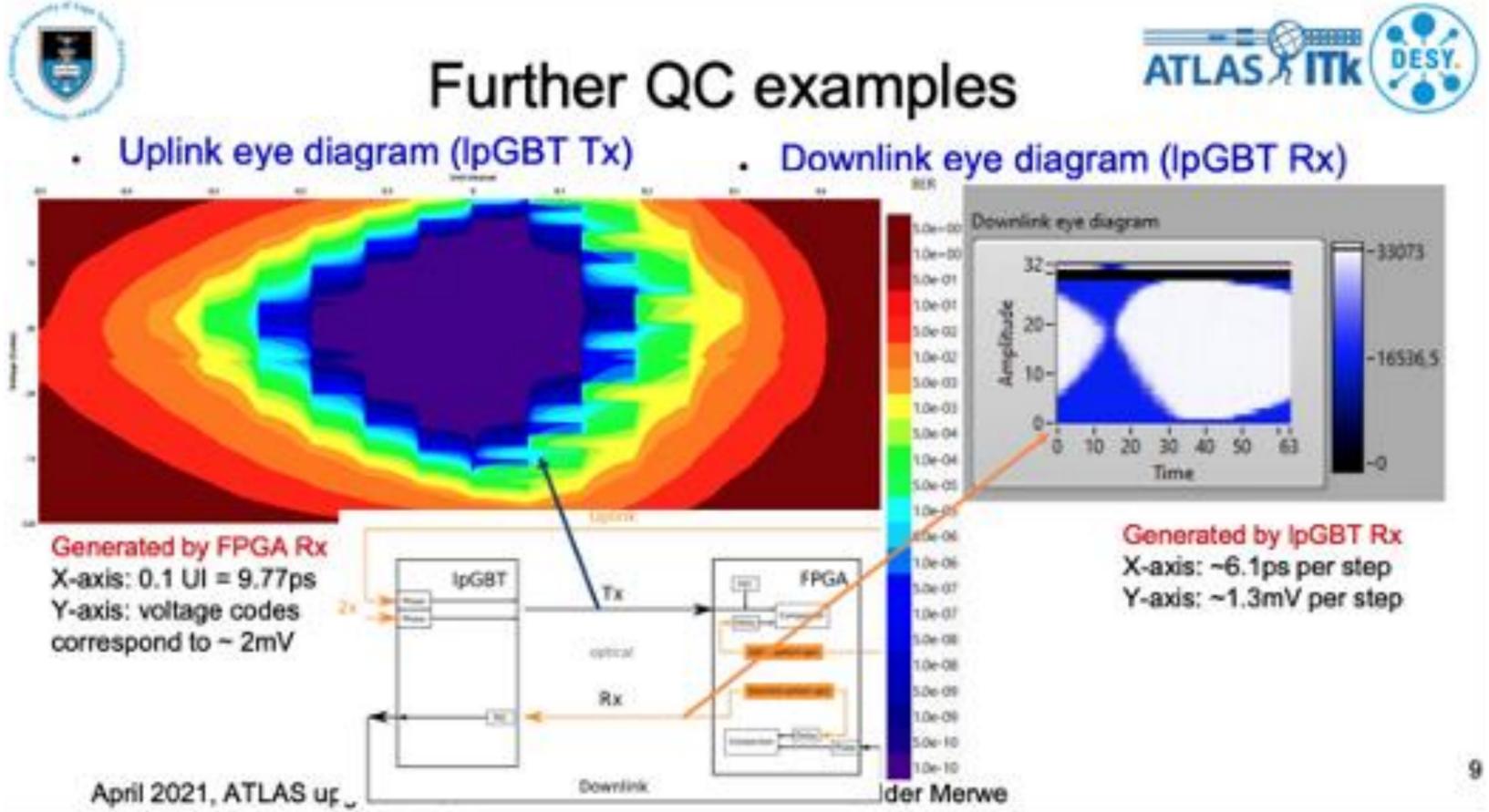
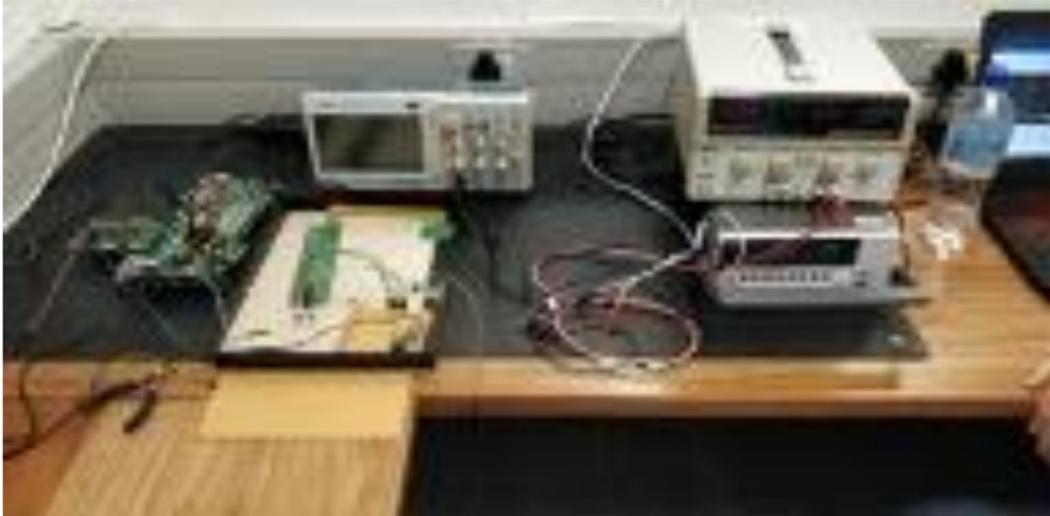


Precision, large area milling on hard HPDE required R&D and innovate approach in Mechanical Engineering

**CERN Dec 2022**

# ITk EoS Cards

UCT group in collaboration with **DESY** developed firmware and test procedures for EoS electronics card production campaign

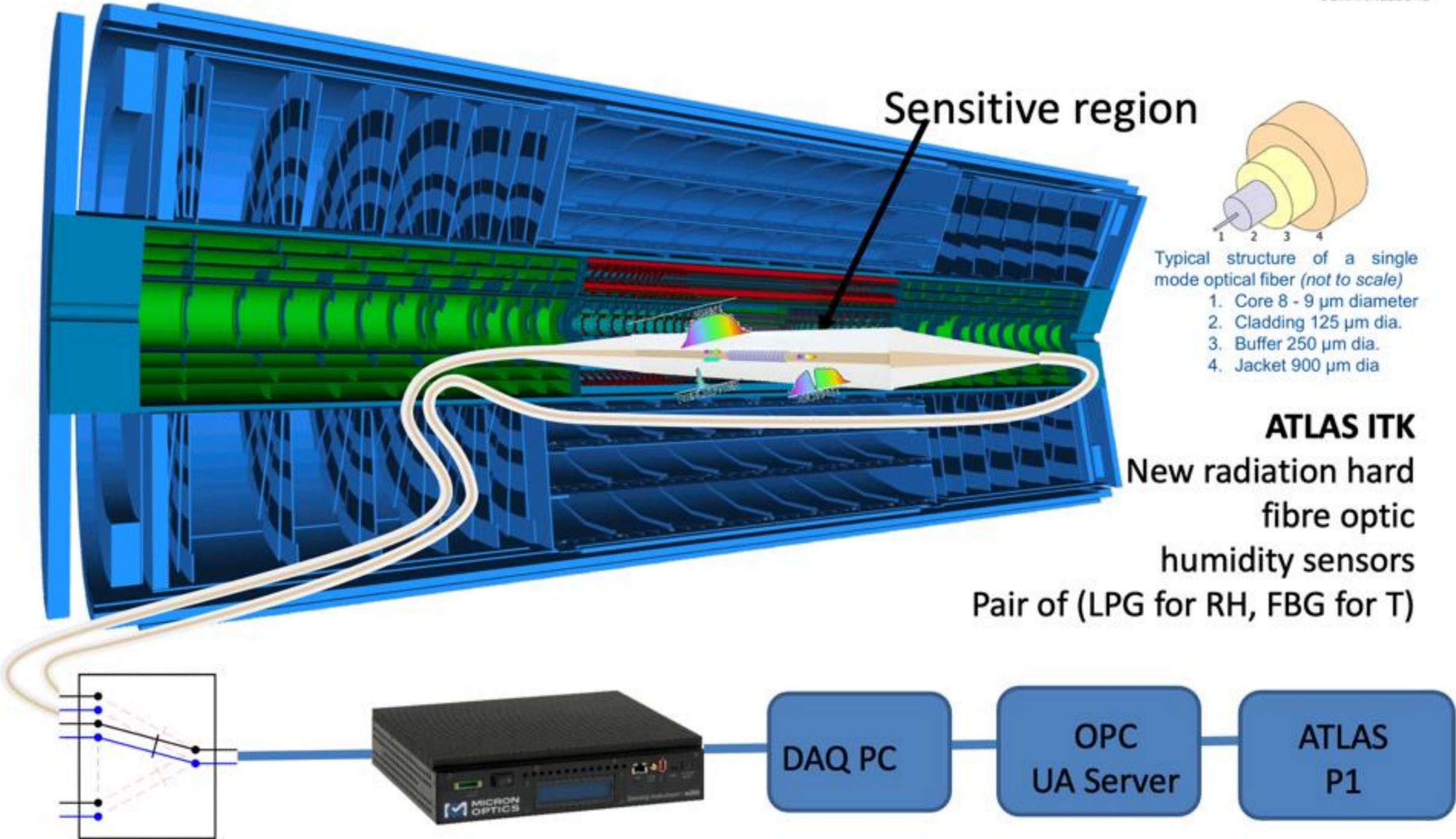


automated generation of statistical uplink eye diagram tests of high-speed links developed entirely at UCT -> UCT firmware now in heavy usage in EoS production @ DESY

# Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS)... Keep ATLAS Dry !



UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG



# Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS)... Keep ATLAS Dry !

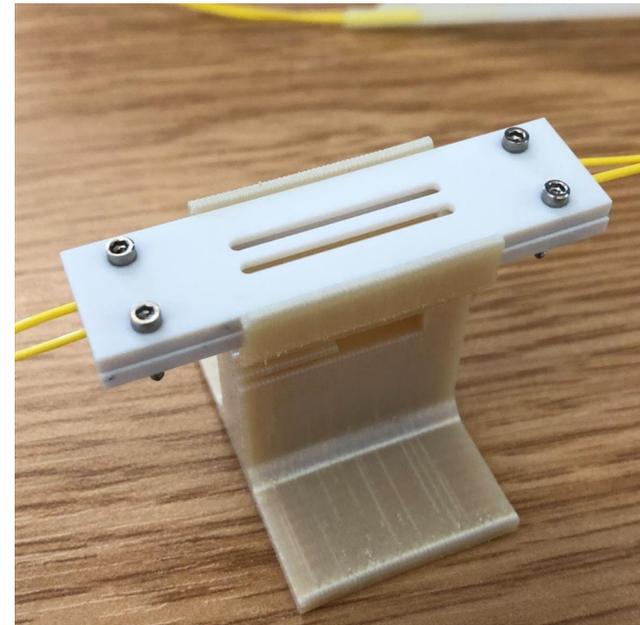


Figure: Fos Package, 3D-printed bracket holding the NeoCeram package with fibre optic sensors, and sacrificial sensors inset on the sides



Special delivery from UJ & UWC...

...Of first ITK FOS!!

**Huge milestone in FOS project, congratulations to the UJ & UWC Team**



# Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS)... Keep ATLAS Dry !



Special delivery from UJ...

...Of first ITK FOS!!

**Huge milestone in FOS project, congratulations to the UJ & UWC Team**



## SA-ATLAS Upgrade Projects

**TileCal LVPS & PPr**

**ITk Fiber Optic Sensors**

**ITk EoS Cards**

**ITk Polymoderator**



## Resulting Tech-Transfer Projects

**IoT AirQuality**

**FOS in reactors**

**minPET**

**$\mu$ CT**

**picoPET**

# Tech transfer: AI\_r: An African Solution for AI Health



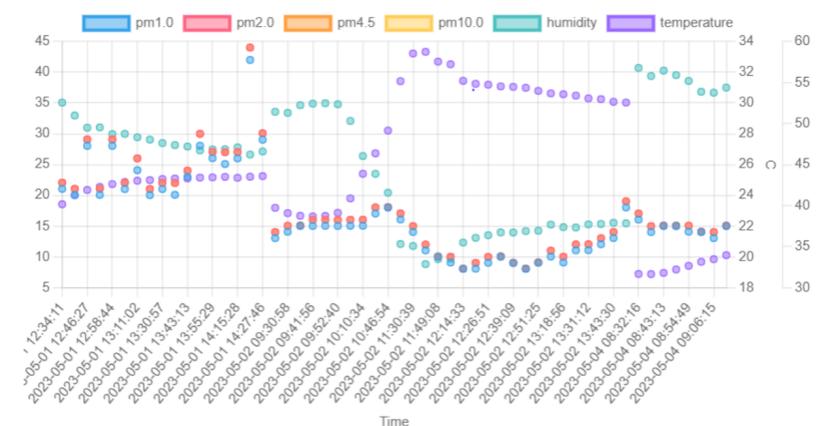
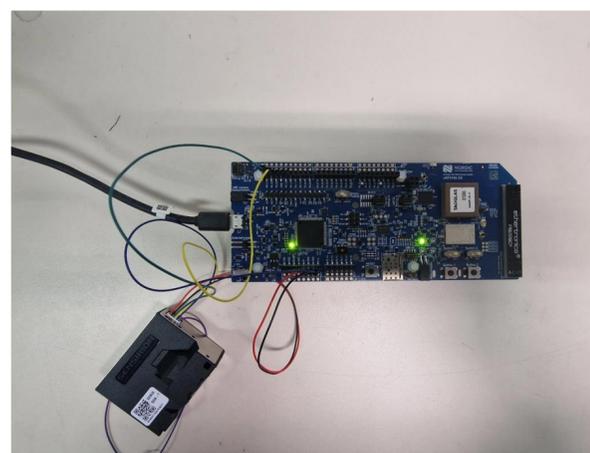
AI\_r is an integrated system

<https://www.sacaqm.org>

Air Quality Sensor

IoT Communication through 4G + LoRa

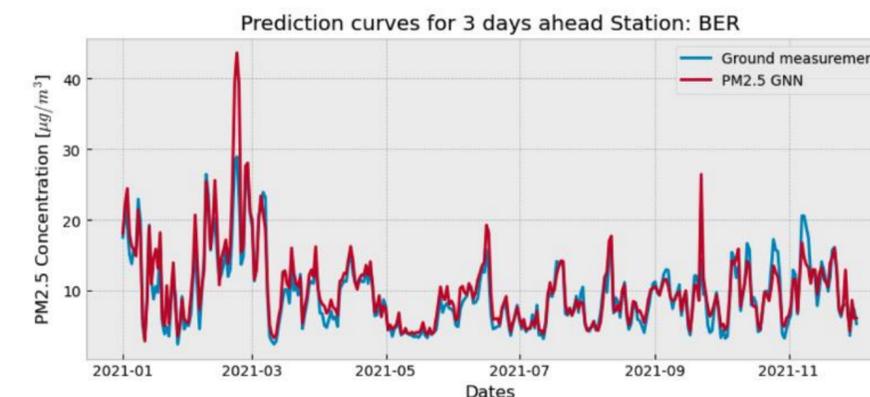
Dashboard + AI modelling



Predictive Deep Learning

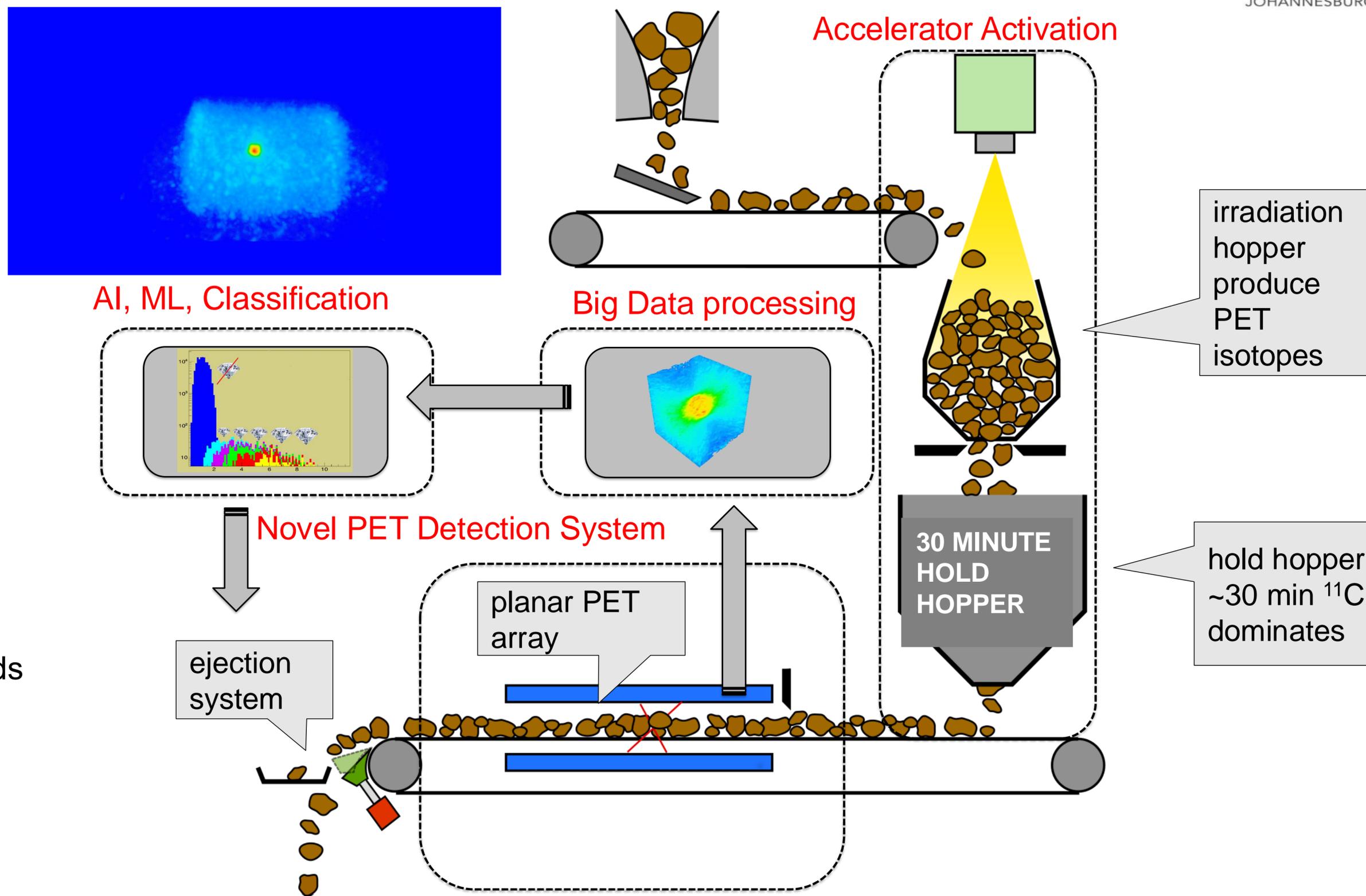


GC-0036



Cost of hardware is at least 2.5 times cheaper than competitors in the market. No offerings in the market provide integrated AI-modelling.

# Tech transfer: MinPET – Finding diamond in Rock



Technology to “see” diamonds enclosed in Kimberlite

2 patents granted in 2022

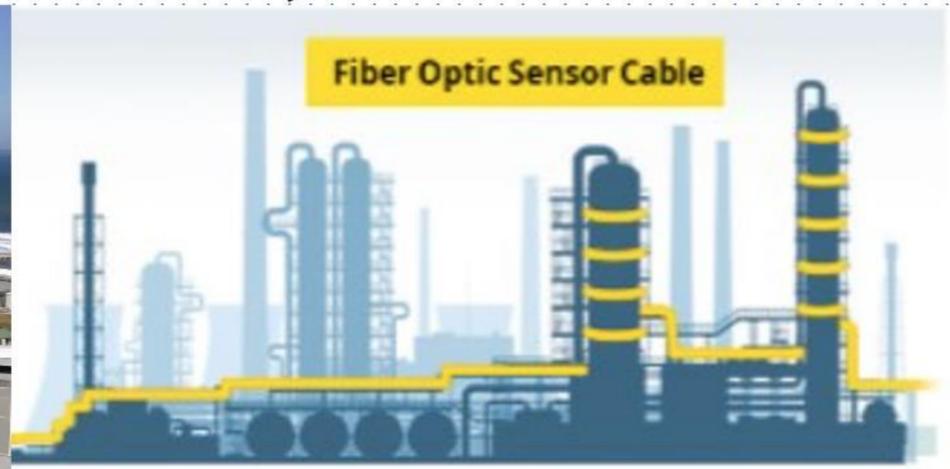
# Tech transfer: FOS in reactors



## Fiber Optic Sensors for Remote Sensing in Nuclear Reactors radiation hard, multi-sensor, 4IR



Koeberg Nuclear Power Station



Our Funding Application with ESKOM  
**R1.8 million** approved.  
Need to arrange joint IP Treatment



- UJ DMES Research Team
- UJ Tech Transfer Office
- UJInvnt



Developing novel 4IR capable smart sensors: first of a kind, in-core, real-time & online, radiation resistant optic fibers – to perform high spatial resolution measurements for physical parameters e.g., **dose, water level**, etc.

A joint MoA with Necsa for R&D, also preferred service provider to ESKOM. Funding of R2.2 M from ESKOM and R1.1 M from UJ



# muCT – muon tomography for South Africa

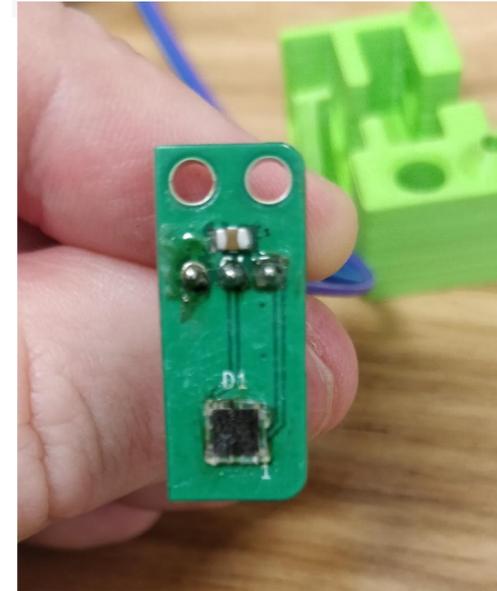


***muCT*** - project to take particle physics detector technology and create real-world, commercialisable concepts.

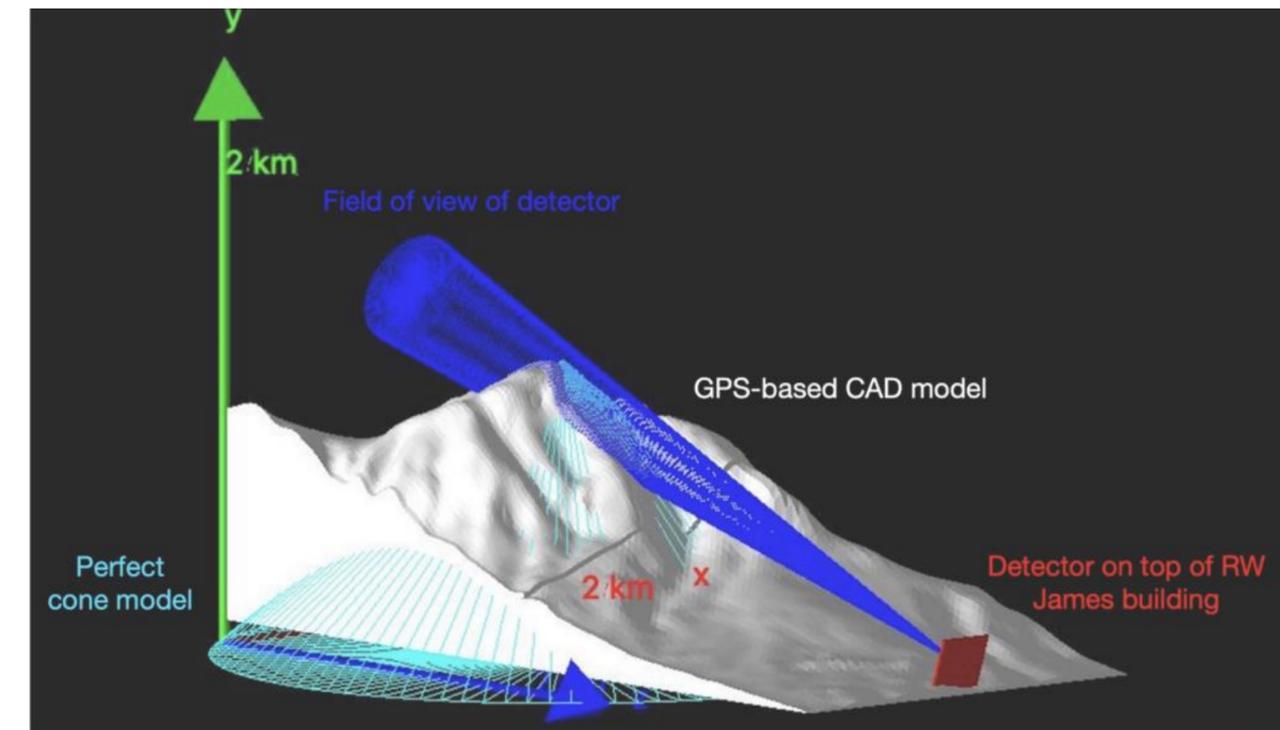
**1.1 M ZAR** awarded to J. Keaveney from UCT URC for ATLAS EoS project  
**500k ZAR** awarded to J.Keaveney from UCT Innovation Builder Fund  
**260k ZAR** from UCT to fund MSc student

Novel detector concept for Muon Tomography using plastic scintillators

- technology from the LHC with a real-world application
- Huge commercial potential in SA, IP creation
- collaboration spawned from on ATLAS EoS card for ITk



## SA-CERN Tech. Transfer in action!



# Bringing Fundamental Physics into the Real World

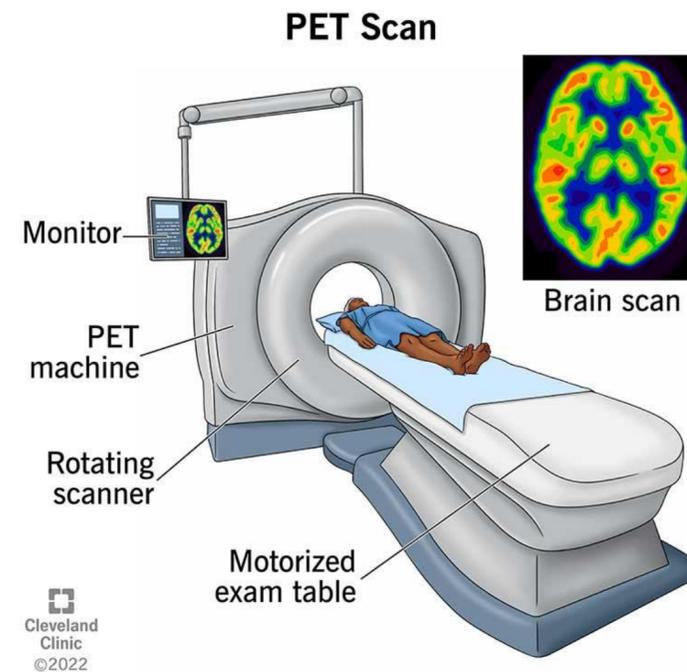
**OMT**  
OPPENHEIMER  
MEMORIAL TRUST



- Inaugural New Frontiers Research Award
- 5 year, 7.5M grant to apply particle physics technology to low-cost PET cancer imaging for South Africa



Basic Scientific Research the fertile ground for **innovation**



A **Huge Thank You** to the DSI/NRF/SA-CERN for providing the scientific platform for this opportunity!



Dr James Keaveney is a particle physicist at the University of Cape Town and the inaugural recipient of the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust New Frontiers Research Award.

With the R7.5-million Oppenheimer Memorial Trust New Frontiers Research Award, I aim to follow UCT Nobel laureate Allan Cormack's example to make cutting-edge, life-saving and life-changing medical imaging cheaper, safer, more precise and available to all.

# Capacity Development: even beyond SA

## CHACAL 2024: Computing in HEP and Applications CNRS-Africa Lectures

15-27 Jan 2024, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

A new school funded by CNRS France-Africa international cooperation programme.

- Monte Carlo methods and Event Generator masterclasses
- Re-interpretation tools
- Machine learning: from basics to expert use, in HEP and beyond
- Quantum computing in HEP

- Aimed at PhD students in HEP (early postdocs and advanced masters students considered)
- Lecturers from leading universities in European and South Africa
- No registration fee
- Meals and accommodation provided
- Bursaries available for travel for students from within Africa



More info and  
sign-up!

Image create by DALL-E using prompt:  
"a jackal face composed of a web of  
thousands of colourful data connections"

Organising committee:  
Deepak Kar (Witwatersrand, ZA)  
Louie Corpe (Clermont-Ferrand, FR)



***Students from 10 African countries,  
renowned international lecturers***

# Growing SA-ATLAS

New PI Dr. Rachid Mazini (Wits), Loan Truong (UJ), Kevin Barends (UCT)

New Postdoc Ryan McKenzie (Wits), Ryan Atkins (UCT-AIMS)

Dr Pedro Mafa (UNISA) completing ATLAS authorship task and moving towards PI status



- **SA-ATLAS expanding its footprint into AIMS, Muizenberg**
  - AIMS new MSc in “AI for Science” generously funded by **\$4.5 M** grant from Google DeepMind
  - UCT ATLAS Particle Physics established as the fourth research pillar of this programme
  - Exceptional opportunity for our student to participate in the global cutting edge of AI



# Conclusion

***Basic scientific research is the most powerful driver of economic growth***

***The ATLAS experiment sits at the pinnacle of basic research with opportunities across the STEM spectrum***

***JOIN US!***

Backup

# UCT, SA-ATLAS & AIMS



Dr. David Francis, CERN, ATLAS Resources Coordinator

Dr. Ulrich Paquet, AIMS Director, Google DeepMind

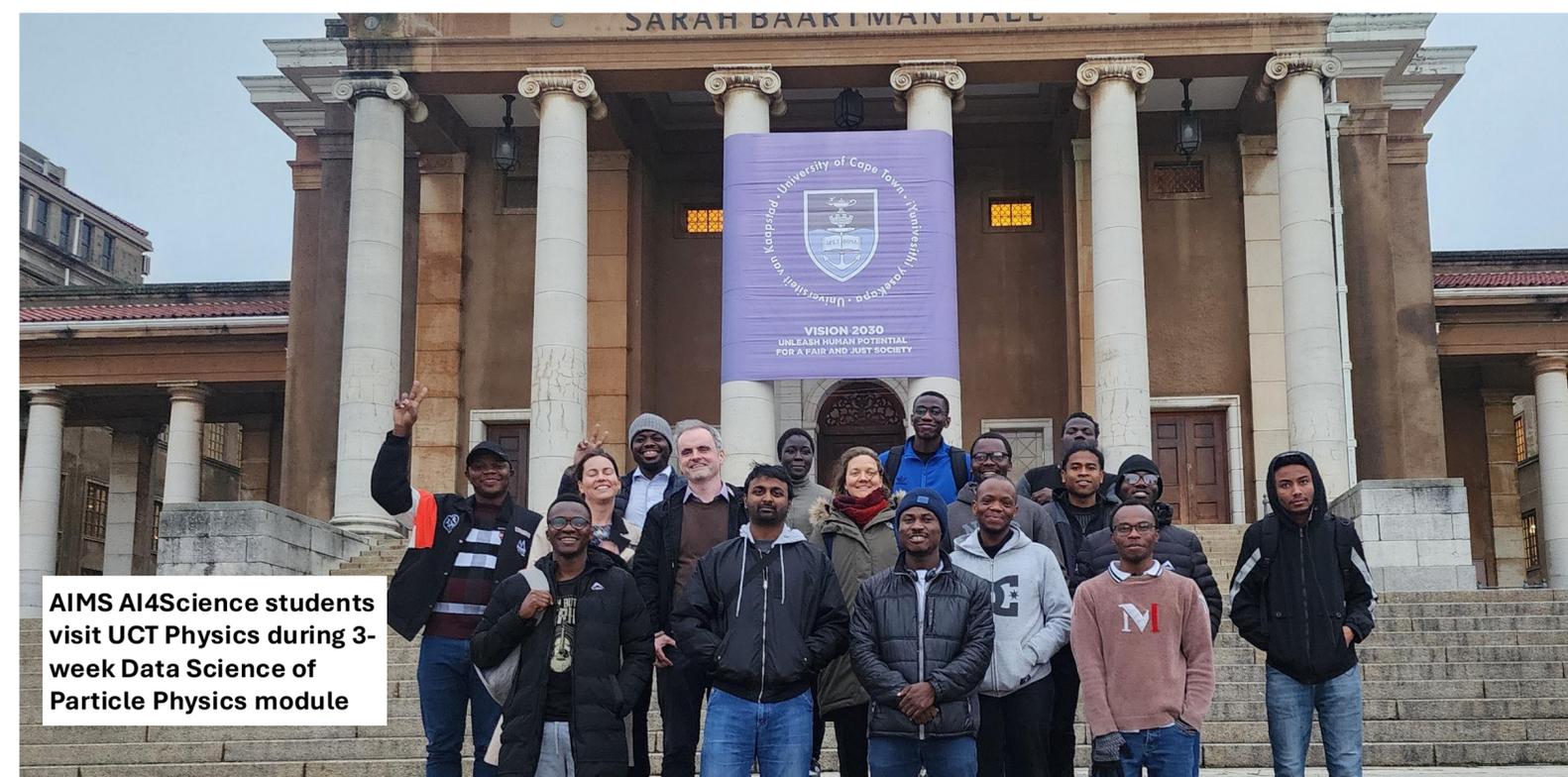
Dr. Benedetto Gorini, CERN, ATLAS

Dr. Andreas Höcker, CERN, ATLAS Spokesperson

Dr. Claire David, AIMS Academic Director, UCT ATLAS



UCT-CERN Seminar of Real-Time Artificial Intelligence in ATLAS experiment from Dr. Julia Gonski (SLAC/Stanford)



AIMS AI4Science students visit UCT Physics during 3-week Data Science of Particle Physics module



April 2024 - UCT-CERN Seminar "Free Energy is all you need" from world-renowned AI expert Dr. Max Welling (Uni Amsterdam)

Outreach

# Outreach!



Phenomenal Physics event at UCT for 200+ High School Learners

**Relaunched UCT CERN Research Centre to host public lecture**

10 NOVEMBER 2023 | STORY THANDILE XESI. PHOTO ISTOCK. Read time 1 min.



**UCT News survey**  
Please take a moment to give us your feedback.

**Do you access UCT news content via:**

- campus communications
- social media
- UCT News site
- UCT student site
- UCT staff site
- UCT main site

**SUBMIT**

**Most read**

- **Nobel Laureate Professor Abhijit Banerjee delivers open lecture**  
09:30, 5 March 2024
- **DSA to host Welcome Festival**  
16:40, 5 February 2024
- **Summer School serves up a feast during annual festival of...**  
11:21, 17 January 2024
- **2024 First-Year Campus Reception**  
15:40, 16 January 2024
- **Opera UCT, Cape Town Opera to stage reimagined 'La Traviata'**  
13:00, 20 October 2023

**The New Lecture Theatre (NLT) will host the relaunch of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) CERN Research Centre on 24 November. The event will be marked by a public lecture.**

→ Titled "Journey to the Origin of Matter and Universe", the lecture will centre around particle physics, with a special focus on the Large Hadron Collider.

The event features guest speaker, Dr Andreas Hoecker, the spokesperson of the A Toroidal LHC Apparatus (ATLAS) experiment at CERN, who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in elementary particle physics. With a background in physics and a PhD from Orsay, France, Dr Hoecker has been a key member of CERN since 2005.

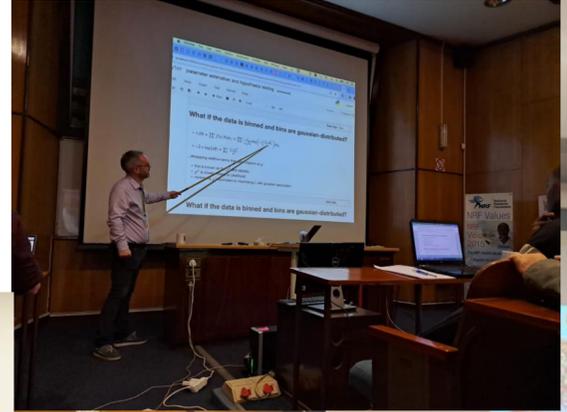
The research at CERN explores the theory of the Quark-Gluon Plasma, a unique state of matter that existed moments after the Big Bang. It also delves into the properties of the Quark/Higgs boson using the ATLAS experiment.



ACP/ASP 2023



Visit of ATLAS experiment Management Team to SA-ATLAS, Nov 2023



CHACAL 2024 School at Wits, co-funded by CNRS, France



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PHYSICS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

# ATLAS open data at UCT

public access to data, simulation, and software to for education



[atlas.cern/Resources/Opendata](https://atlas.cern/Resources/Opendata)

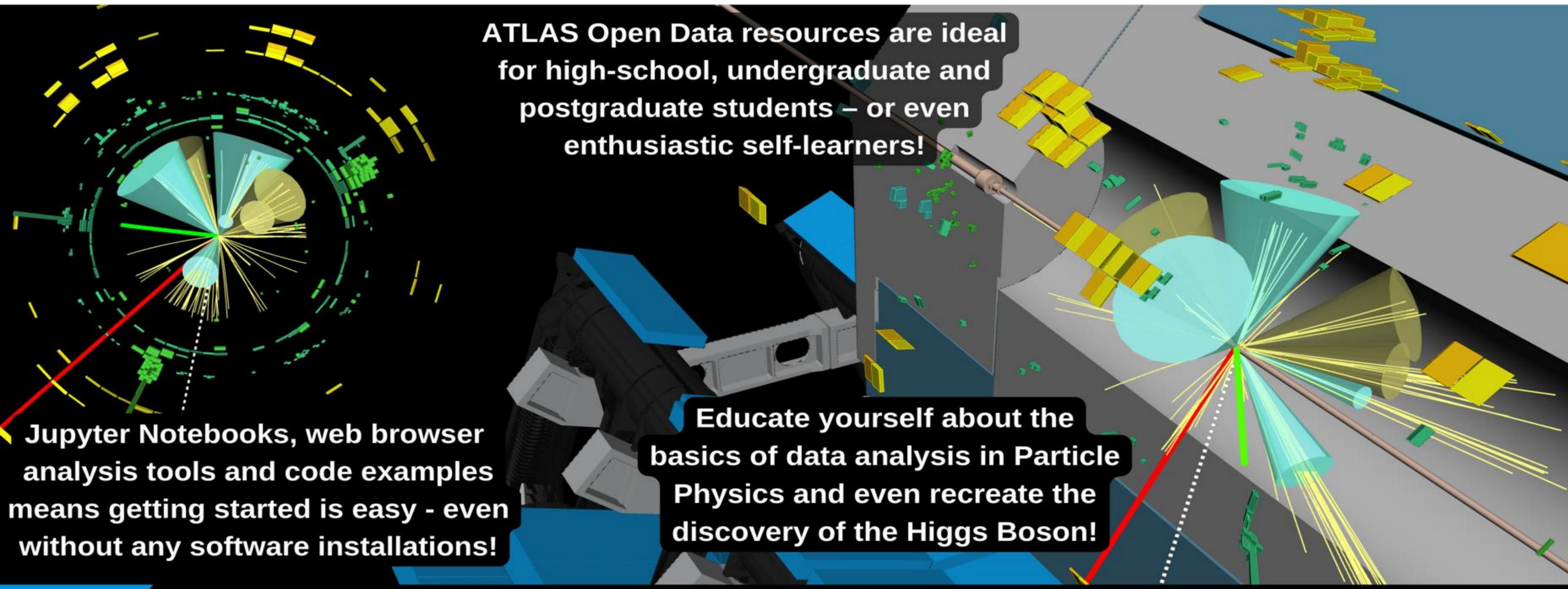


At UCT, we use ATLAS open data to deepen students' understanding of data analysis in particle physics

ATLAS Open Data resources are ideal for high-school, undergraduate and postgraduate students – or even enthusiastic self-learners!

Jupyter Notebooks, web browser analysis tools and code examples means getting started is easy - even without any software installations!

Educate yourself about the basics of data analysis in Particle Physics and even recreate the discovery of the Higgs Boson!



# Tech transfer: MinPET - Now acquiring R100M for the CDR

Accelerators, Detectors, High-throughput electronics, Big Data, Simulation (Geant4), Data quantitative visualization (ROOT), High Performance Computing, AI



4IR Technology to “see” diamond enclosed in kimberlite. Other related technologies in medicine, mining, waste, homeland security

National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) 2022 - Innovation Award: Corporate Organization



2 Patents Granted in 2022  
Innovation beyond MinPET

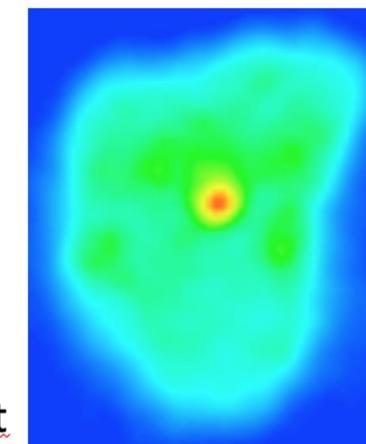
- **XRT on Steroids:** Method of Multiple Source and Detector Gamma Ray Tomographic Radiography
- **Poly-PET:** Materials Analysis Method and System



UJ DMES Research Team  
UJInvnt  
UJ Tech Transfer Office



95mm kimberlite 0.91 ct

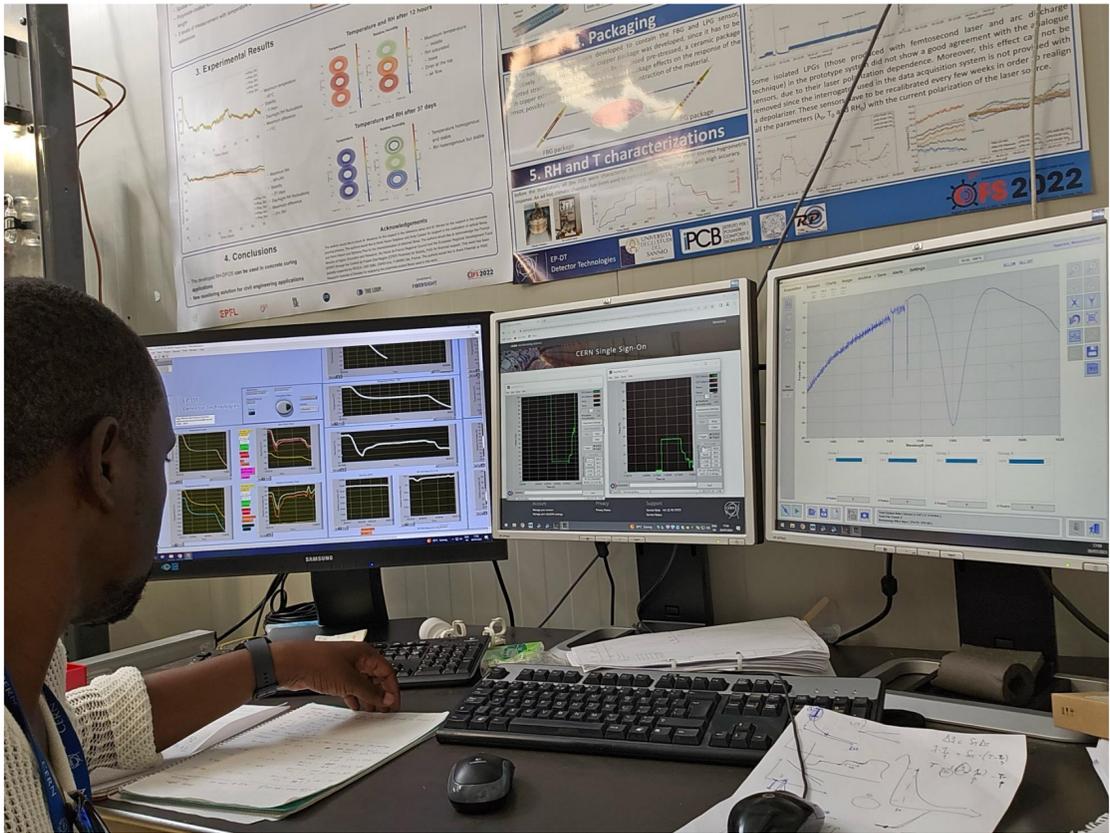


UJ takes leadership in Innovation and Commercialization

Begins de-risking spend with work packages for the International Technology Partners and building the UJ Research Team



# Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS)... Keep ATLAS Dry !



UJ @ CERN: Fibre Optic Lab

# A brief history of SA-CERN

- SA-CERN launched in December **2008**, celebrating **15** years in December 2023
- South African involvement in CERN, experiments (ATLAS, ALICE, ISOLDE) through a cluster approach
  - With THEORY and TECH TRANSFER making up the *5 pillars* of SA-CERN
- SA-CERN Coordination Committee manages the programme on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation, as a National Strategic programme, hosted at iThemba LABS (natural home)
- Programme managed by the Deputy CEO of NRF and resource allocation and administration managed at iThemba LABS

# A brief history of SA-CERN

- Objectives:

- Increase opportunities for the South African community to establish a solid presence at CERN
- Use the SA-CERN and CERN platforms to grow the **human capacity development** through the number of researchers, post doc and students partaking in the physics research at CERN
- Increase opportunities for SA researchers to contribute to major scientific output and discoveries from
- Participate in major research equipment and instrumentation upgrades at CERN
- Establishment of local infrastructure for CERN-related research
- Technology transfer from training and expertise development via involvement in technical activities at

- Annual budget of R4m (CHF200k) in 2008 increasing to R30m (CHF1.5m) in 2023

- SA-CERN participated in Phase 1 upgrades as a cash contributor, and graduated to largely in-kind co

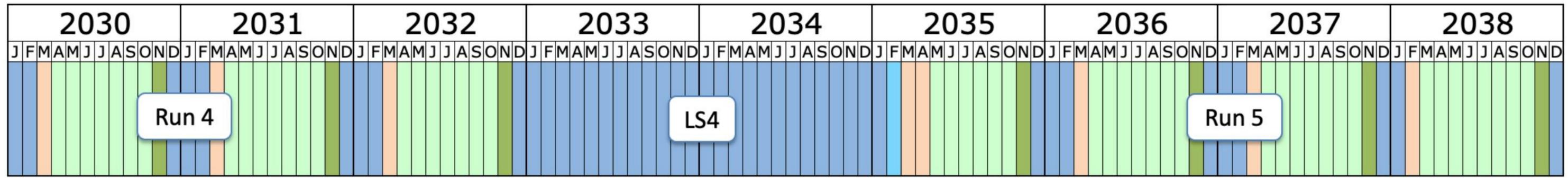
- **Positive for local impact and tech transfer**

# SA-ATLAS Phase II Upgrade Commitments

FOS Production/qualification/Installation

Polymoderator fabrication, delivery, installation

TileCal LVPS Production, integration, installation



Last updated: January 2022

- Shutdown/Technical stop
- Protons physics
- Ions
- Commissioning with beam
- Hardware commissioning/magnet training

**Significant person power needed at CERN in 24/25/26 for integration/installation**

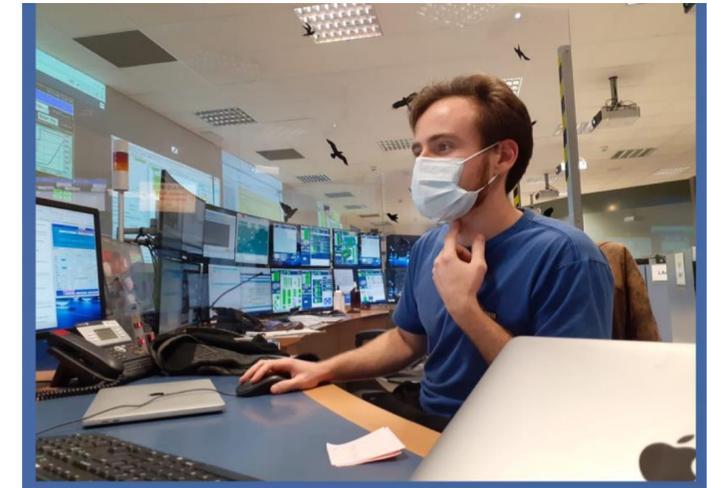
# Status of SA-ATLAS upgrade commitments

# Detector Operations



- 100s of Physicists and Engineers oversee the daily operation of the ATLAS experiment
- **SA-ATLAS** plays a key role in operations with a **strong international reputation**.
  - **Maintenance** activities in **radiation-controlled** environments.
  - **Experts** on-call for **high-speed electronics** and **detector control systems**.
- Invaluable **leadership skills** in an international environment

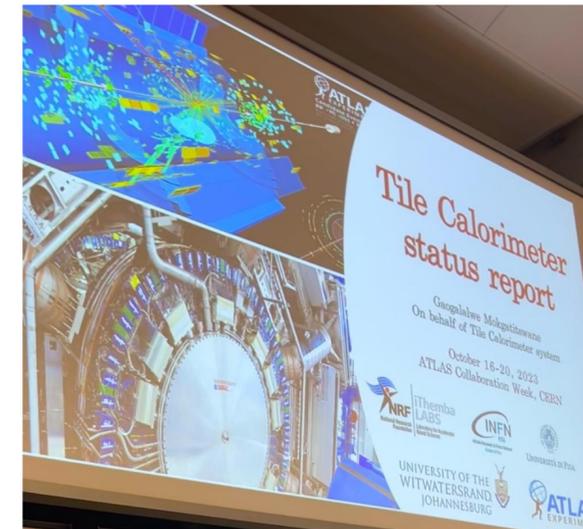
Run control 2022



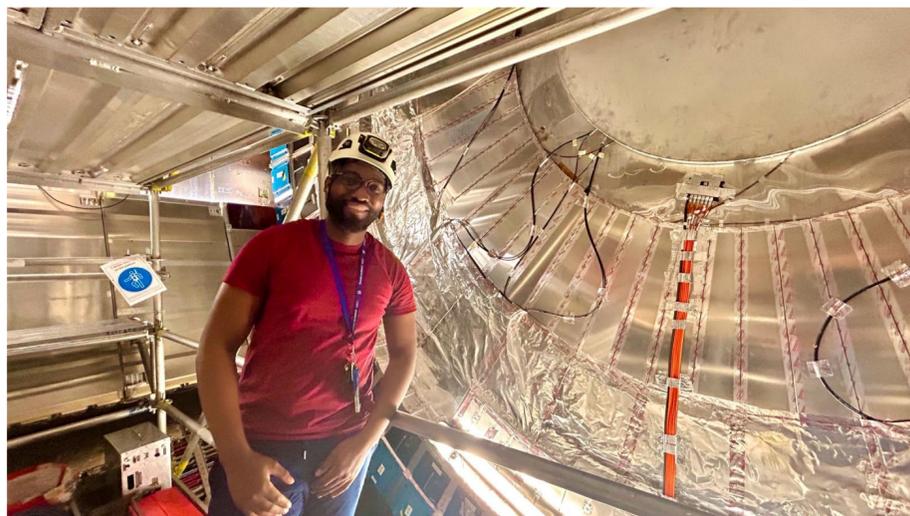
SA-ATLAS punches well above its weight in leadership in the day to day running of ATLAS



TileCal Run coordinator 2023



TileCal Run coordinator 2022



# TileCal LVPS & PPr



- Wits producing and qualifying significant fraction of LVPS & PPr for TileCal
- 1 SA-CERN postdoc to be engaged on this project at 90% level
- Status:
  - about to pass the Final Design Review (FDR) focusing on radiation hardness
- Status
  - LVPS Pre-production (10% of the total) (Q1-Q2 '23)
  - LVPS Production Readiness Review, (Q3-Q4 '23)
  - LVPS Full Production will take place end of 2023 in to 2024.
  - PPr FDR Q2 2023. Pre-production in 2023, production in 2024.

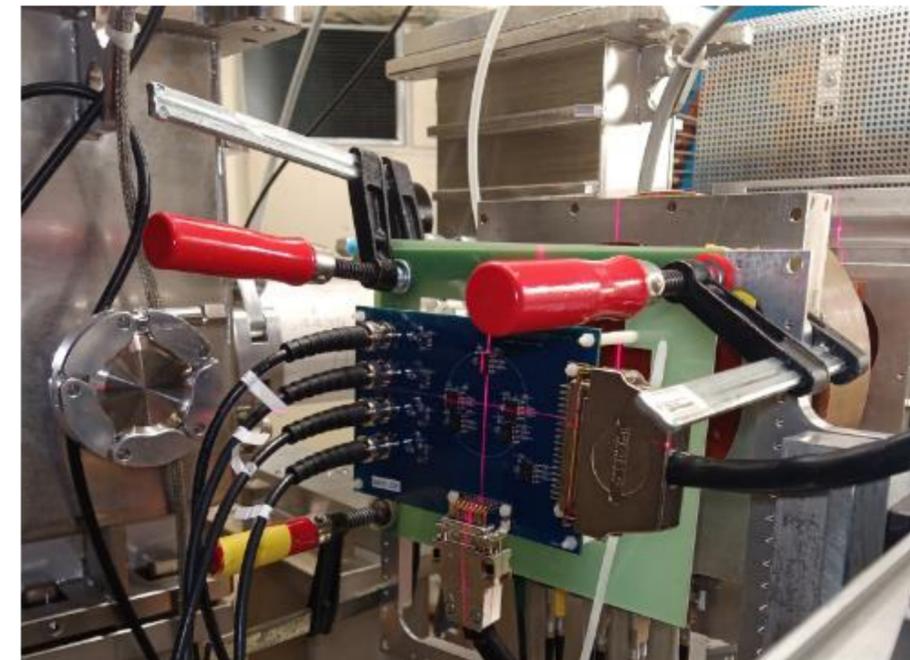
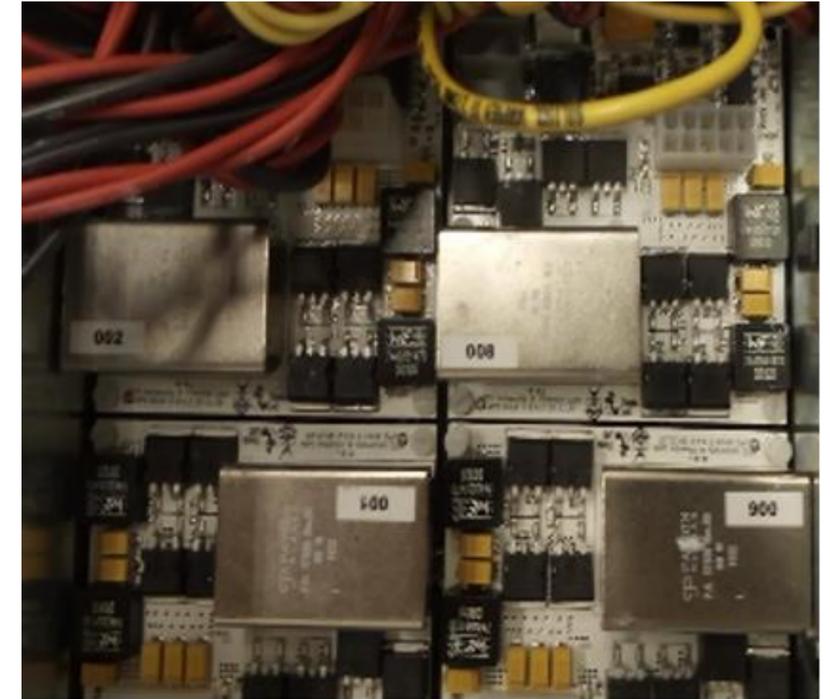


Figure: The most recent LVPS Box prepared for vertical slice tests in Building 175 at CERN. Eight WITS Low Voltage power supplies were installed to power the Phase-II Upgrade module electronics (right).

In February 2023, the AMC1300 chips underwent radiation testing at PSI with a flux of  $2E8$  p/cm<sup>2</sup>/s. With a constant input voltage of 0.2V, and an output of 1.64V was expected for all chips.

# ITk Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS)

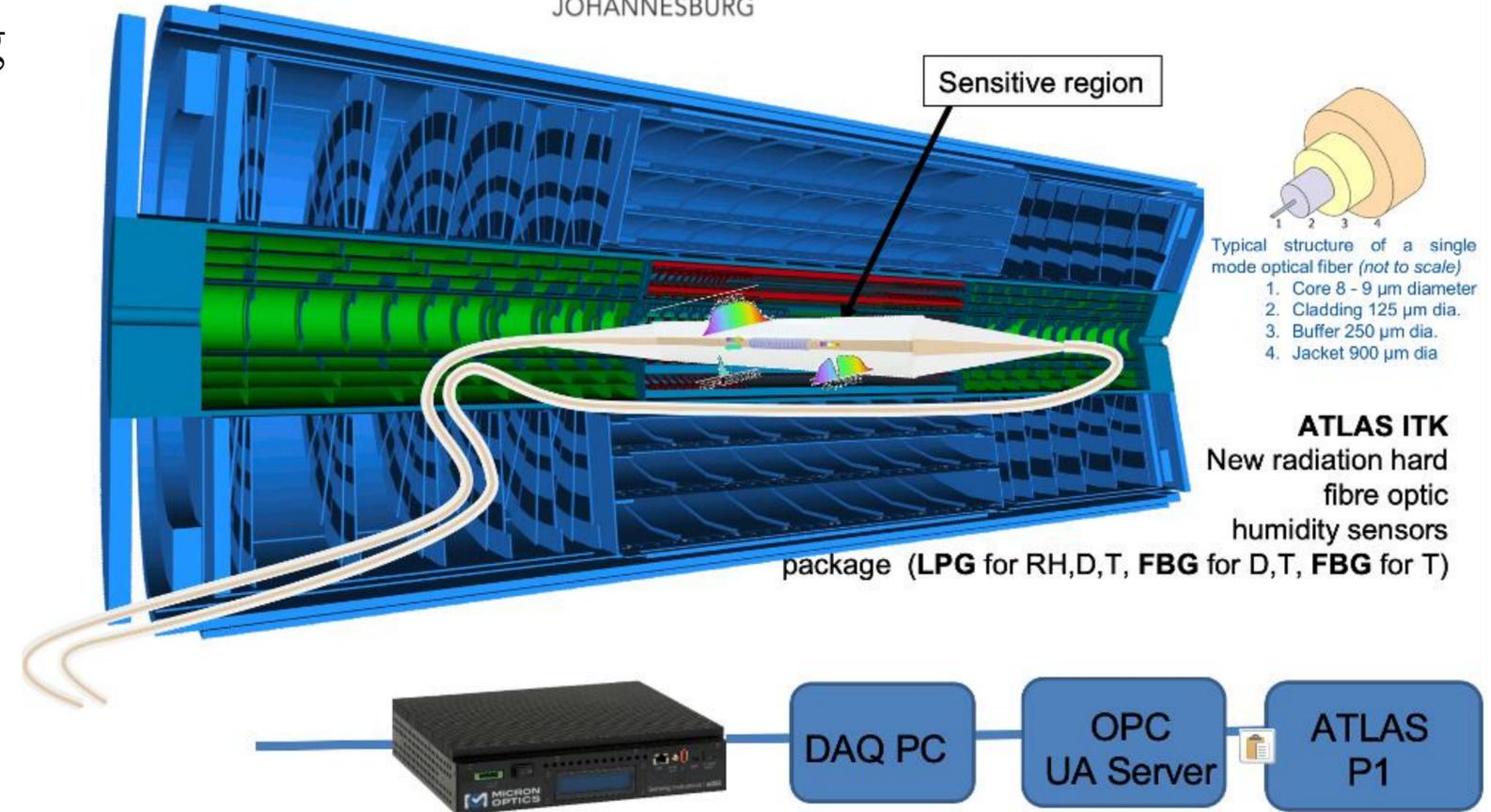


UNIVERSITY  
OF  
JOHANNESBURG

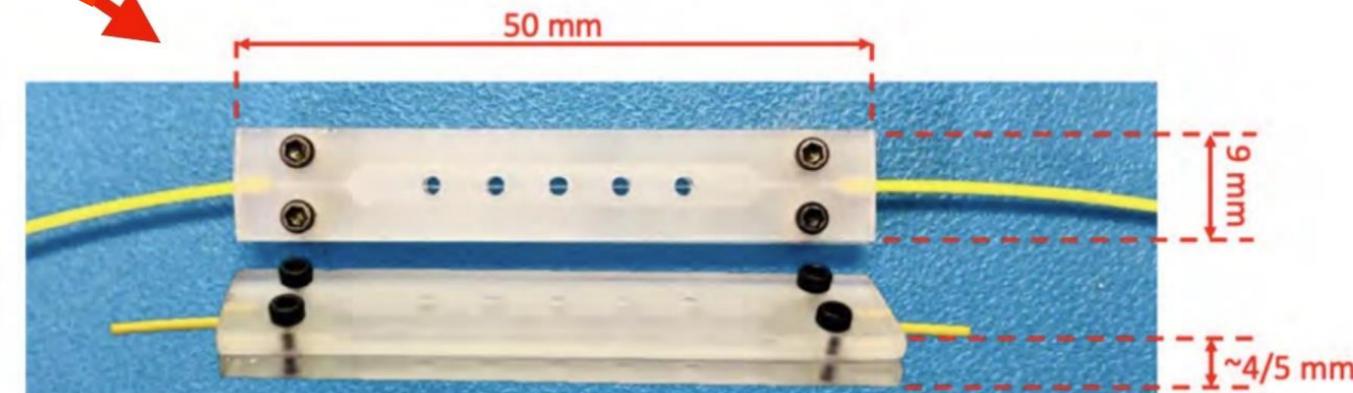
- UJ committed to in-kind contribution of production & qualification of radiation-hard FOS for humidity sensing

Sensor based on industry-standard fibres with signification fabrication and qualification requirements, e.g. precision ceramic packages

Development, testing production and characterisation to happened at CERN & UJ



- Role for local industry to machine ceramic straining mounts



# SA-ATLAS Today



## VIRTUAL INAUGURATION OF ELECTRONICS RESEARCH LABORATORY AT UNIZULU

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
**Time:** 11H00 am (SA time)  
**LIVE WEBINAR**  
**Venue:** Zoom (Link)  
Meeting ID: 635 1094 1511 Passcode: 400672

## Programme

**Master of Ceremony:**  
*Prof Unathi Kolanisi*

**UNIZULU INTRODUCTION: (5 min)**  
*Professor S Seepo: DVC*

**Welcome from UNIZULU Management: (10 min)**  
*Professor X. Mtsose - Vice-Chancellor*

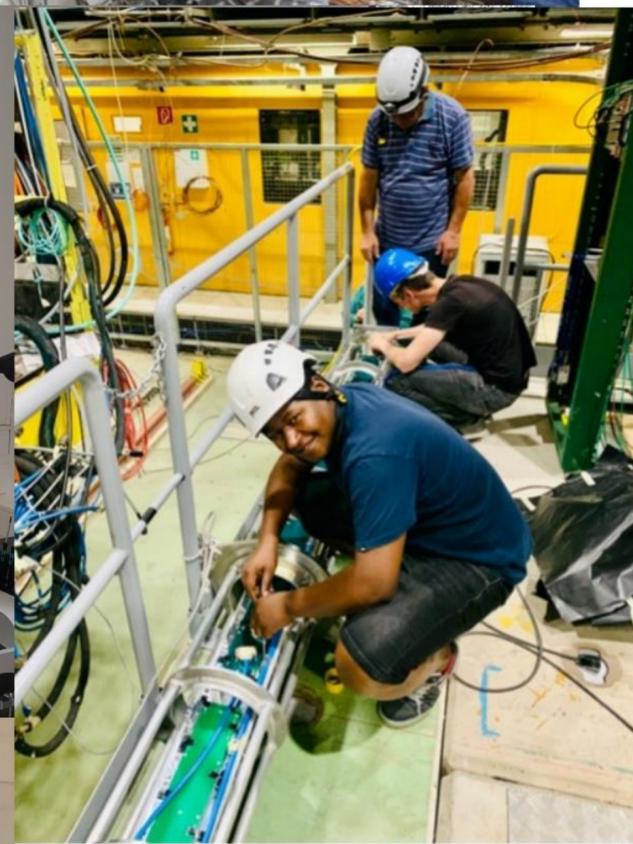
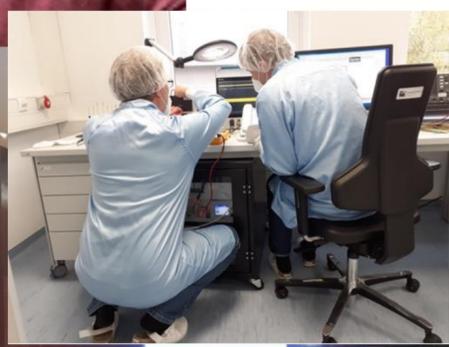
**A note from Faculty (Dean): (10 min)**  
*Prof Khoboso Lehloeny*

**NRF/DSI/SA-CERN: (10 min)**  
*Dr Faical Azaiez (Chair SA-CERN)*

**CERN: (10 min)**  
*Dr Oleg Solovyanov (Project Leader of TileCal)*

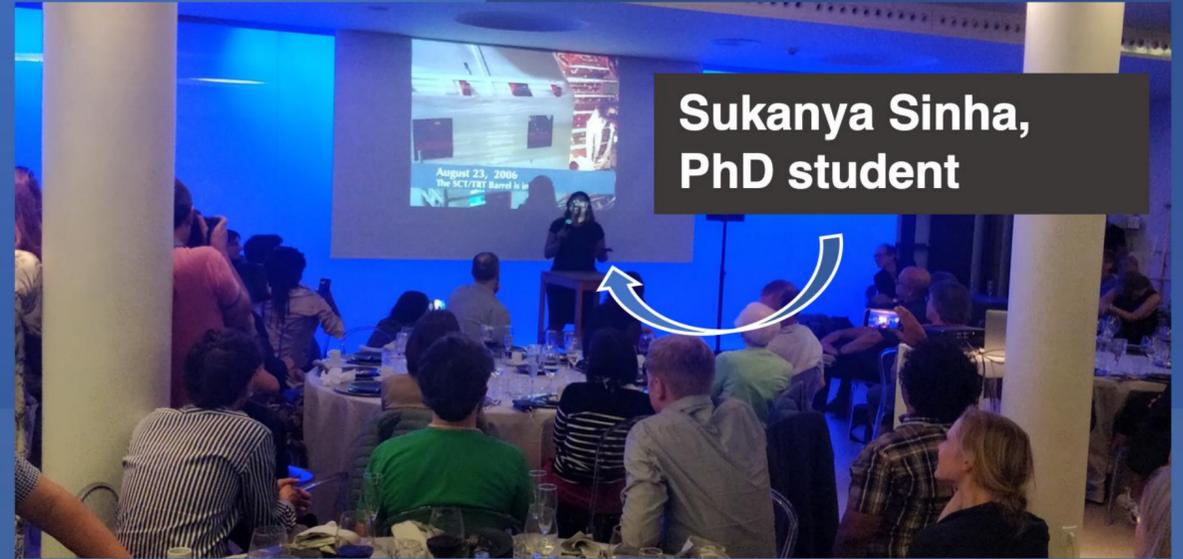
**Lab Streaming (Department): (10 min)**  
*Dr B Kibirige*

**Vote of Thanks: (5 min)**  
*Dr TP Jili (HoD Physics)*



And looking at uncovered topologies is hard.

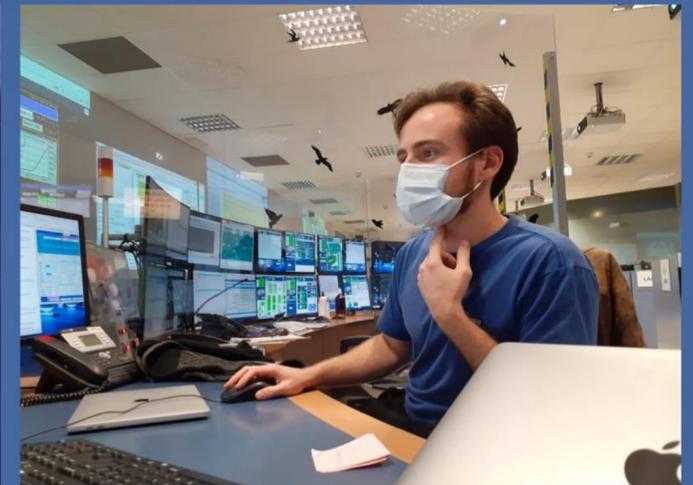
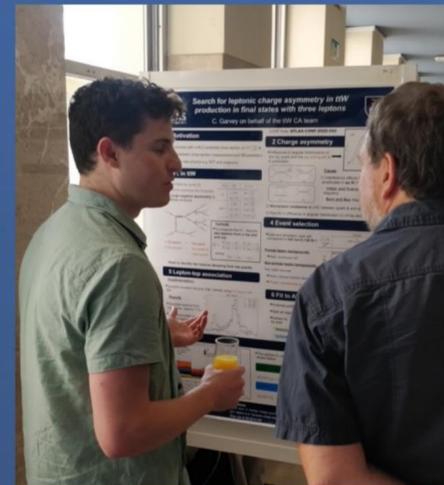




Sukanya Sinha,  
PhD student



Cameron Garvey,  
PhD student



# Tech transfer: Air Quality Monitoring via AI & IoT



**SACAQM** is an international consortium that was founded with the goal of bringing together government institutions, research institutions, and the private sector into a mutually beneficial ecosystem to deliver an industry-disrupting AI-powered IoT air quality monitoring and prediction system

Synergy with monitoring of ATLAS detector with IoT technologies



Backup

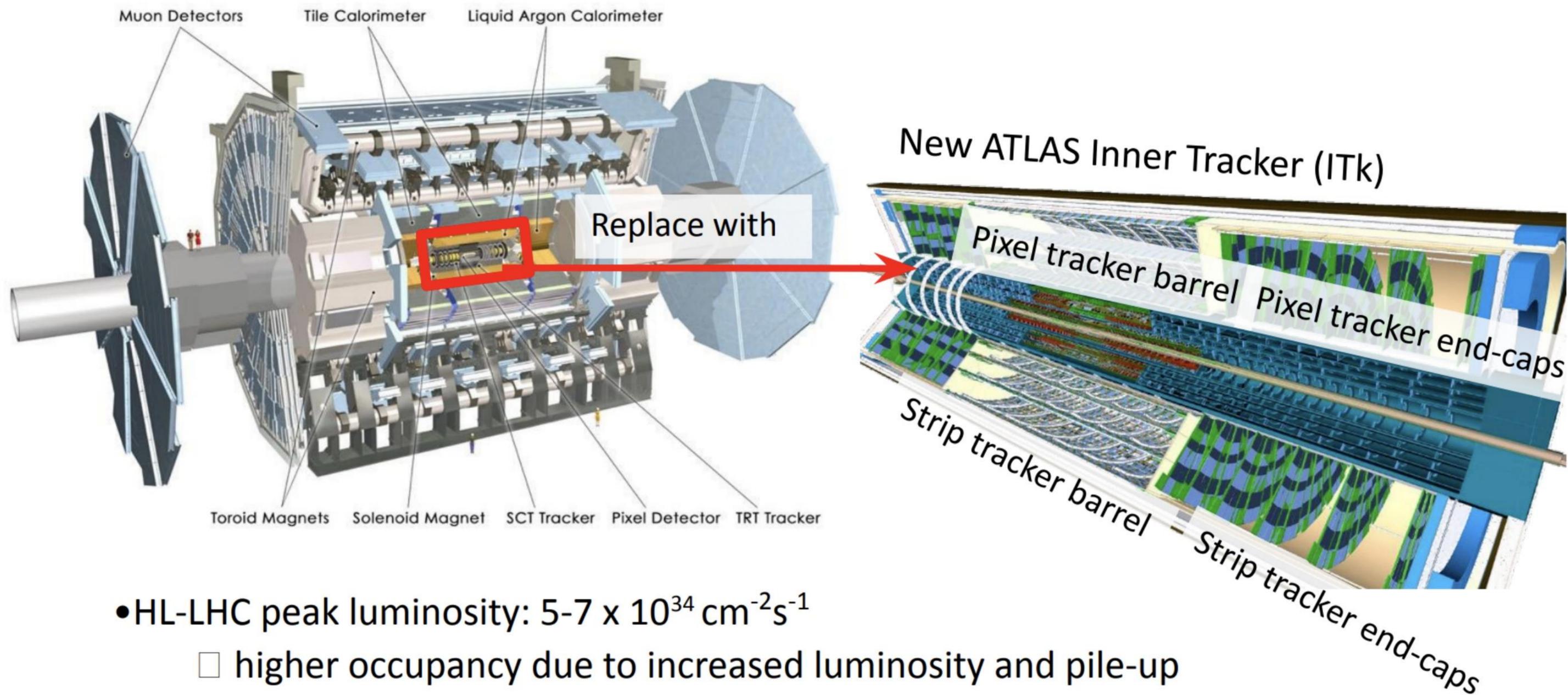


Sukanya Sinha, PhD student



Cameron Garvey, PhD student





- HL-LHC peak luminosity:  $5-7 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ 
  - higher occupancy due to increased luminosity and pile-up
- Required radiation tolerance: factor 20 increase
- Higher granularity: 5000 million channels (ID: 100 million)
- Larger solid angle coverage:  $180 \text{ m}^2$  area of silicon
- Minimised multiple scattering: require  $< 1\% X/X_0$



# Priorities in SA-ATLAS

- Human capacity development & transformation
- Upgrade projects
  - ITk Polymoderator
  - TileCal Low Voltage Power supplies
  - ITk Fibre Optic Sensors
- Roadmap to 2027 and beyond

# Human capacity development & transformation

- **7 Principal Investigators**



- **4 @ Wits/iTL**

- X. Ruan resignation 2022, replacement process ongoing



- **2 @ UJ & UNISA & UWC**

- **1 @ UCT**



- S. Yacoob resignation 2022, replacement process ongoing -> ad posted for 2 positions

- PI numbers directly limit HCD with a severe need for postdoc person power
- Should be back up to 10 PIs within ~ 12 month with corresponding increase in student numbers

# ITk Polymoderator

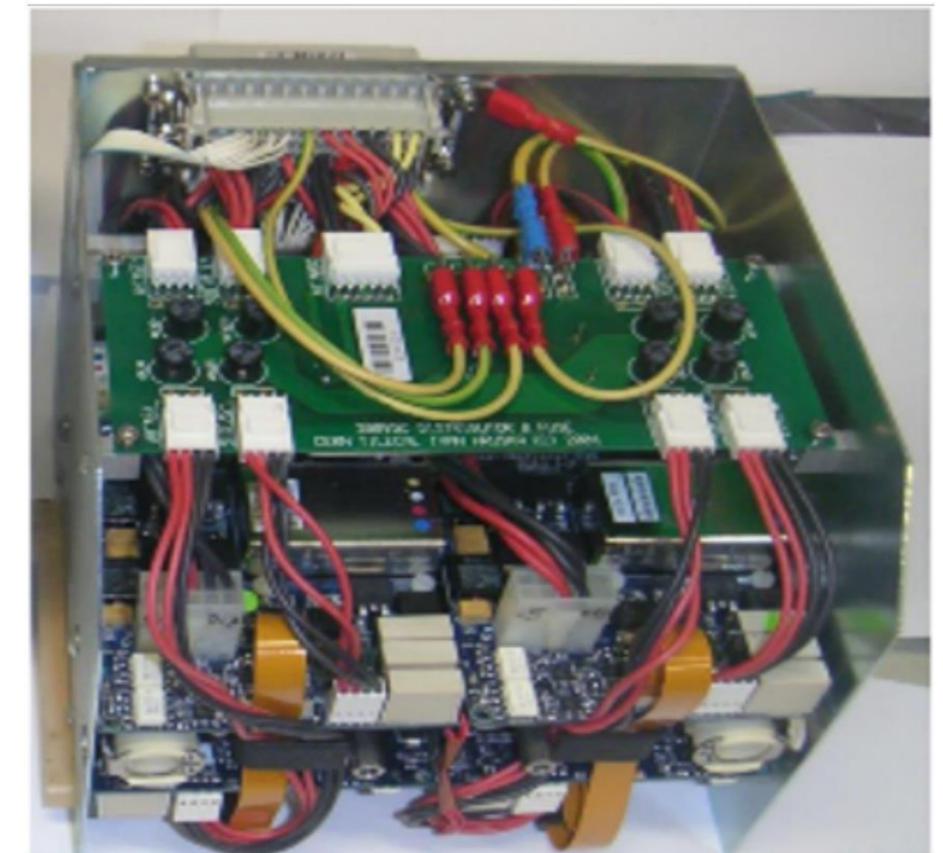
- UCT committed to producing 3 polymoderators (central & outer barrel and endcaps) that shield the ITk from damaging neutron flux in the HL-LHC
- Status:
  - Central Barrel design complete
  - **All** raw materials procured and delivered to Cape Town in sheet form
  - Precision machining and fabrication of tiles for Central Barrel ongoing at SAAO, Cape Town -> **ready for delivery to CERN Dec 2022**
  - Outer barrel and Endcap designs almost complete
  - Designs for outer barrel Al spark shields & bracket/rail supports not yet defined, (role for SA-ATLAS postdoc)



# TileCal LVPS & PPr



- Wits producing and qualifying significant fraction of LVPS & PPr for TileCal
- 1 SA-CERN postdoc to be engaged on this project at 90% level
- Status:
  - about to pass the Final Design Review (FDR) focusing on radiation hardness
- Near-term
  - LVPS Pre-production (10% of the total) (Q1-Q2 '23)
  - LVPS Production Readiness Review, (Q3-Q4 '23)
  - LVPS Full Production will take place end of 2023 in to 2024.
  - PPr FDR Q2 2023. Pre-production in 2023, production in 2024.



# ITk Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS) I

- UJ committed to in-kind contribution of production & qualification of radiation-hard FOS for humidity sensing in ITk
- Sensor based on industry-standard fibres with significant fabrication and qualification requirements, e.g. precision ceramic packages
- Efforts towards local production via SA companies has not been successful e.g. funds of order **200K ZAR** needed to test SA industry capacity via prototypes
- Local sensor development requires Interrogator unit
  - ~ **775K ZAR**
- Significant tech-transfer in place: MoUs NECSA, ESKOM to develop sensors for nuclear reactors

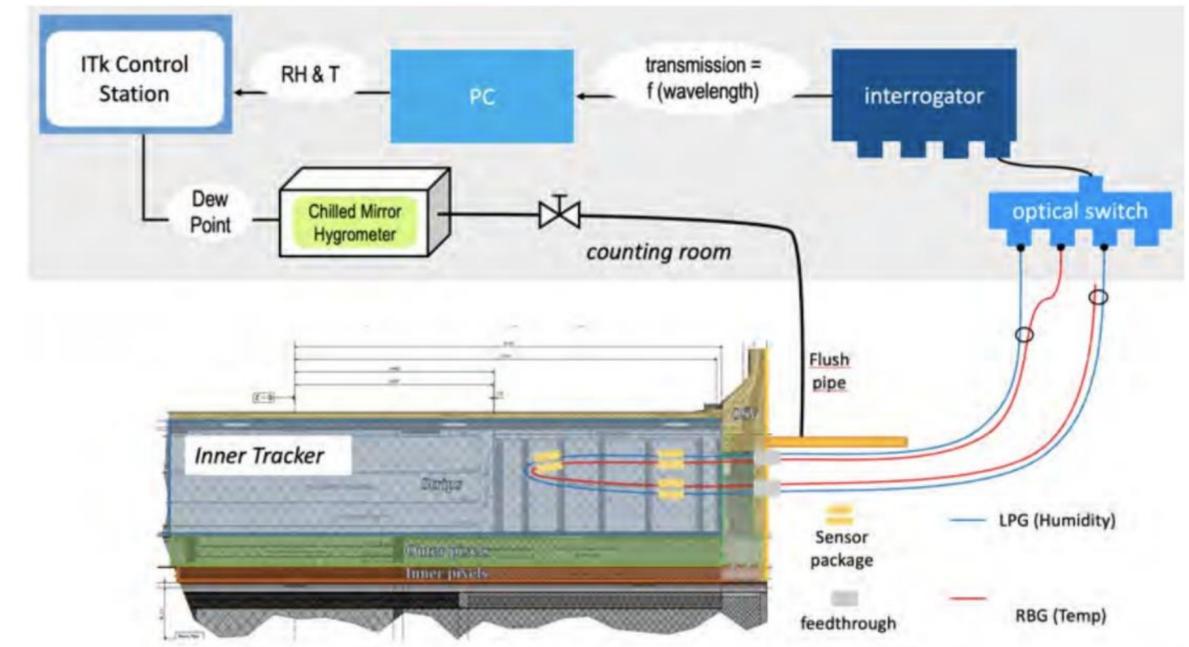
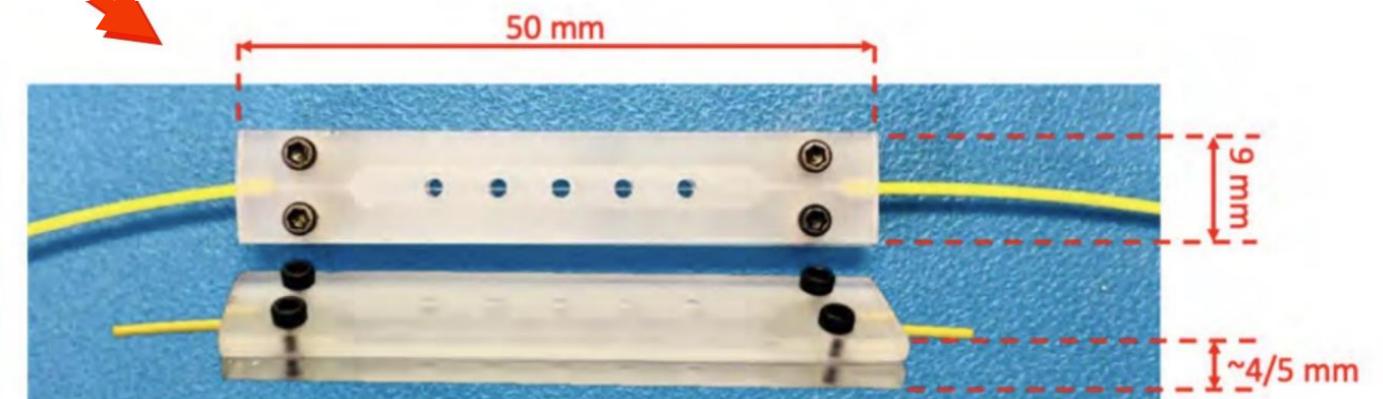


Figure 3.1: Overview of the whole readout chain. The sensor placement and fibre routing is conceptual. This detail is considered more carefully below.



# ITk Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS) II

- Status
  - UJ & SA-ATLAS have not yet set up local development of FOS
    - efforts to procure interrogator/develop **local** package fabrication over 2020/21 have stalled
  - ITk project management expresses concerns about production readiness and SA commitments
  - UJ & ITk proposed that production happens at CERN with SA person power
  - significant change of plans and reduction in in-kind contribution

# ITk Fibre Optic Sensors (FOS) III

- Rather urgently need a firm directive on next step
- Options:
  - **A)** We go with the UJ/ITk plan: production happens at CERN with SA person power
  - **B)** We find a compromised plan that maximises SA in-kind contribution but keeps project on schedule, e.g.
    - ceramic packages made by SA industry
    - sensors produced and fully qualified in UJ lab -> requires procurement of interrogator unit ~ 775K ZAR.

# Beyond the next 5 years

- **Strengthening the academic pipeline**
  - Significant difficulties across all fields in retaining the best students in academia with lucrative offers from industry
  - How is this being addressed nationally?
    - nGAP (new generation of academics) programme from DHET
    - structured, fast-tracked programme to take exceptional students/postdocs to junior faculty level with clear equity considerations
    - Funding partnership between DHET and host university
    - A similar scheme within SA-CERN would have enormous potential

# Human Capacity Development - degrees awarded



**Dr. Kevin Barends, PhD awarded Feb 2023**

*A measurement of the Top Quark Mass using events containing a J/Psi meson with the ATLAS experiment*

- Immediately hired in Data Science consultancy position in Cape Town



**Senzo Msutwana, MSc awarded March 2023**

*Development of a Data-Quality Early-Warning system for ATLAS using Machine-Learning*



**Max van der Merwe, M.Eng. awarded Dec 2022**

*Investigating the Optical Link Performance of the End-of-Substructure Card of the ATLAS ITk and its Susceptibility to SEUs*

- Immediately hired in Data Science position with Tripco in Cape Town

# Human Capacity Development - degrees awarded



## **Hannah van der Schyf, MSc awarded March 2023**

Searches for Dark Matter using semi-visible jets with ATLAS

- Continuing on to PhD at Wits with Deepak Kar
- Hannah and Deepak's CERN summer project was picked in the first round, they will supervise a summer student.



## **Chris Lee, M.Phil**

*Fast Operational Context Switching for Very Large Scale High Performance Computing Systems*

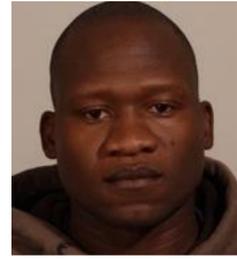


## **Xola Mapekula, MSc.**

*Search for a heavier Higgs like boson and a dark force boson using the ATLAS experiment*

- Continuing with PhD at UJ

# Human Capacity Development - theses submitted



**Joshua Choma PhD thesis submitted**

*The application of weakly supervised learning in the search for heavy resonances at the LHC*



**Humphry Tlou, PhD thesis submitted**

*Implementation of the DAQ software for the ALTI module in the ATLAS TileCal and the search for new physics in the four lepton final state*



**Finn Stevenson**

*Leveraging Machine Learning in the Search for New Bosons at the LHC and Other Resulting Applications.*



**Nkosiphendule Njara**

*The development of a burn-in test station at Wits for the Phase-II upgrade of the Tile Calorimeter of the ATLAS experiment.*



**Thuso Mathaha**

*The use of Machine Learning in search for new physics at the ATLAS and applications to model COVID-19*

# Human Capacity Development



## Wandile Nzuz

Completed her honours including ATLAS project with the best marks in the class

- started masters at Wits with Deepak Kar



## Dillon Lewis

Completed his honours including ATLAS project with the best marks in the class

- Accepted to PhD at Cambridge, UK with full funding

# Human Capacity Development

## ATLAS OpenData at UCT

[james.keaveney@uct.ac.za](mailto:james.keaveney@uct.ac.za)



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

- Presentation by JK to the ATLAS Outreach group on usage of ATLAS OpenData in the undergraduate lab
- UCT is the leader within ATLAS
- Fantastic opportunity to reach out to next gen. of postgrad students... we should expand to other SA institutes!



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PHYSICS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

## Kinematic Reconstruction Techniques and Searching for Signals of Toponium in ATLAS OpenData

Kyra Kummer  
KMMKYR001  
Supervisor: Dr J Keaveney

Department of Physics  
University of Cape Town

Advanced Physics  
PHY3004W

September 2022

### Abstract

The dilepton decay of top and anti-top systems ( $t\bar{t}$ ) is analysed, with the aim of investigating the potential presence of toponium within the ATLAS detector. A series of cuts [1] are applied to data from an ATLAS OpenData  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV data set. Kinematic reconstruction techniques are employed to reconstruct the invariant mass distribution of the original  $t\bar{t}$  system using the experimental data. The experimental distribution is compared with the distribution from the currently accepted model for the dilepton decay of  $t\bar{t}$ , and with the results of [1]. It is hypothesised that a disagreement between the experimental distribution and the  $t\bar{t}$  model distribution may be attributed to the presence of toponium in the experimental data. This would present as an increase in the ratio of toponium events to  $t\bar{t}$  events with application of successive cuts. A  $\chi^2$  analysis was performed to quantify the goodness of fit of the  $t\bar{t}$  model to the experimental data, with the successive application of cuts to the data. It was concluded that the ratios of toponium events to  $t\bar{t}$  events obtained from the analysis of the ATLAS OpenData data set do not follow the trend seen in ref. [1], while the  $\chi^2/dof$  statistic improved with successive cuts, suggesting the absence of a potential toponium signal within the ATLAS OpenData data set, as would be detected by the analysis undertaken within this report.

- Cultivating the next generation of SA-postgrads with projects at the third-year and Honours level
- Exploring the possibility of running this lab internationally with Uni Manchester, UK.



# Scientific outputs

PHYSICAL REVIEW D  
covering particles, fields, gravitation, and cosmology

Highlights Recent Accepted Collections Authors Referees Search Press About Editorial Team

Open Access

Constraining the SMEFT with a differential cross section measurement of  $tWZ$  production at the HL-LHC

James Keaveney  
Phys. Rev. D **107**, 036021 – Published 28 February 2023

Article References No Citing Articles PDF HTML Export Citation

ABSTRACT

A prospective measurement of the differential cross section of  $tWZ$  production with respect to the transverse momentum of the  $Z$  boson using a general-purpose detector at the high-luminosity Large Hadron Collider (HL-LHC) is described. The response of a general-purpose detector at the HL-LHC is simulated and used to estimate the uncertainties and covariances of the differential cross section measurement. Constraints on the Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT) enabled by the measurement are estimated. A parametric model of the differential cross section in the SMEFT is constructed and is used to determine the expected posterior probability function of six SMEFT Wilson coefficients and the expected 95% Bayesian credible intervals for each coefficient and pair of coefficients. The intervals suggest that for all coefficients, the measurement will provide competitive but weaker constraints than those derived from other HL-LHC measurements involving top quarks and  $Z$  bosons. However, as the measurement is simultaneously sensitive to a unique set of SMEFT

Issue  
Vol. 107, Iss. 3 – 1 February 2023

Check for updates

Reuse & Permissions

Single-author (J. Keaveney) paper on prospects for  $tWZ$  production as a fertile ground for new physics searches at the High-Luminosity LHC  
**Published in Physical Review D Feb 2023**



JK invited to give seminar at CIEMAT, Madrid on search for subtle signs of new physics in the top quark - Higgs boson interaction

EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH (CERN)

ATLAS EXPERIMENT

Submitted to: Phys. Lett. B.

CERN-EP-2022-260  
21st December 2022

**Measurement of the charge asymmetry in top-quark pair production in association with a photon with the ATLAS experiment**

The ATLAS Collaboration

A measurement of the charge asymmetry in top-quark pair ( $t\bar{t}$ ) production in association with a photon is presented. The measurement is performed in the single-lepton  $t\bar{t}$  decay channel using proton-proton collision data collected with the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN at a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV during the years 2015–2018, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The charge asymmetry is obtained from the distribution of the difference of the absolute rapidities of the top quark and antiquark using a profile likelihood unfolding approach. It is measured to be  $A_C = -0.003 \pm 0.029$  in agreement with the Standard Model expectation.

UCT-led ATLAS analysis on charge asymmetries in  $ttW$  production submitted to JHEP Feb 2023.



# Scientific outputs

Deepak Kar presented a seminar *Novel probes for dark matter at the LHC* at Uni. Edinburgh on 17th February 2023

B. Mellado invited to give a plenary talk at the Zurich Phenomenology Workshop 2023, Zurich, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2023.

B. Mellado invited to give a plenary talk at the IAS Program High Energy Physics, Institute of Advanced Studies, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, February 2023.

# Student achievements



Cameron Garvey leading QC data management for ITk EoS card production.

- Invited for extended stay at DESY (**partially at DESY's expense**) to lead QC campaign for EoS card production in August 2023
- Presented status of complete EoS data analysis structure to close out his ATLAS Qualification Task at recent ITk week

PhD student, Ryan McKenzie appointed Run Coordinator of the Tile Calorimeter Jan 2023.

Ryan gave a plenary on behalf of the TileCal community at the ATLAS Collaboration week on February 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Status of the EoS in the ITk production database

C. Garvey on behalf of the DESY, NBI and UCT EoS team

07 Mar 2023

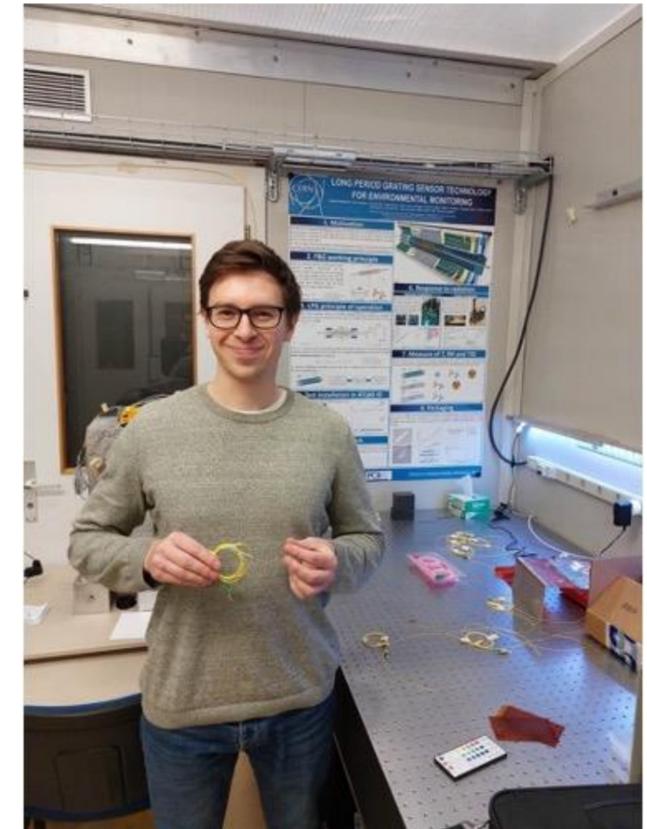


# Student achievements



Matt Connell: began working the EP-DT Lab at CERN on Fibre Optic Sensors for humidity monitoring in the ITk.

- Trained in cutting and splicing of fibres.
- Illustration of different fibre optic layers (core, cladding, buffer, sleeve), demonstration of mechanical properties e.g. flexibility and strength, size, length.
- Crucial for development of **local** activities at UJ



Deepak and Hannah's CERN summer project was picked in the first round, they will supervise a summer student in 2023

