

Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics





SPIN 2021

ELI-NP on the map

Extreme Light Infrastructure (ERDF)







ELI-NP Infrastructure

Operational since 2016

- Experiment building
- Office building
- Guest house
- Cantine
- Access control building

120,000 tons antivibration platform

Largest geothermal system in Europe $\sim 6 \text{ MW}$



Variable Energy Gamma System

0 0 0 0

2 x 10 PW High-Power Laser System







Over 32.000

sqm of built

area and

270.000 cubic

meter of air to condition

2 x 10 PW + 1 x 1 PW Laser Beam Transport System









ELI-NP Research Infrastructure

Advanced studies in basic science ...

- characterization of laser-matter interaction with nuclear methods
- particle acceleration with high power lasers
- nuclear reactions in plasma
- photonuclear reactions, nuclear structure, exotic nuclei
- nuclear astrophysics and nucleosynthesis
- quantum electrodynamics

... and applications – developing technologies for:

- medical applications (X-ray imaging, radioisotopes)
- industrial applications (non-destructive studies with γ)
- material studies with positrons
- materials in high radiation fields



2015

Technical Design Reports

Laser Beam Transport System



Rom. Rep. Phys. Vol. 68 (2016)

ELI-NP Experimental Areas



ELI-NP High Power Laser System (HPLS)



Unique system in the world:

- demonstrated power level 10 PW
- combination of 2 high power lasers

Premiere achievements:

- large Ti:Sapphire crystals <u>20 cm</u>
- large compressor gratings meter size
- ATLAS pump lasers 100 J
- 10 PW laser beam transport system
- 10 PW beam-dump

Laser Beam Transport System (LBTS) 10 PW

Final acceptance: December 2020

 2 x 10 PW + 1 PW beams









HPLS + LBTS @ 10 PW – November 17, 2020





online – more than 200 participants





Spectral characteristics



Spatial characteristics



Time characteristics

ELI-NP Light at Extremes

Most powerful lasers in the world 2 x 10 PW

March 2019

Lasers @ ELI-NP – first laser in the world able to deliver 10 PW pulses

August 2020

Lasers @ ELI-NP - world premiere in generating and transporting 10 PW laser pulses

Dedicated to nuclear physics studies !







(France) Nobel Prize in Physics 2018 together with **Donna Strickland** (Canada)

CPA 1985

ELI-NP @ 10 PW



Laser Peak Powers in the world

Year

ELI-NP Laser-based Commissioning Experiments

Goal: performance test at full power of complete laser driven experimental system (HPLS + LBTS + focusing optics + experimental setups)

Experiments to be led by ELI-NP researchers together with *international expert users*

Part of the project implementation - approved by ELI-NP ISAB

- 100 TW (E4):
 - Four-wave mixing in vacuum, in search of dark matter candidates
 - X ray production through betatron emission
- 1 PW (E5 & E7):
 - Benchmark TNSA proton acceleration
 - Benchmark LWFA electron acceleration
 - Optimization of high charge, stable electron acceleration
- 10 PW solid target (E1):
 - Demonstrate extreme focal intensity through laser-γ conversion ("γ-flash")
 - Demonstrate over 200 MeV proton acceleration (neutron generation add-on)
 - Dense heavy ion beams for nuclear physics
- 10 PW gas target (E6):
 - 10 PW laser wakefield acceleration of multi-GeV electron beams

First Experiments at 100 TW – 2020

Electron acceleration in gas jet & betatron X-ray emission



'Shadowgraphy' The image of the gas jet at the interaction with the 25 fs laser pulse

Gas: He or He + $2\% N_2$ Pressure: 10 - 20 bar

LWFA electron acceleration

courtesy of D. Doria, P. Ghenuche, M. Cernaianu



Max Energy: < 2.5 J Pulse duration: ~ 25 fs Central wavelength ~ 810 nm Beam diameter: ~ 54 mm Laser pointing fluctuation: ~ ±7 μrad

Parabolic mirror: 1.5 m focal length (F# \sim 28) Spot size diameter: \sim 22±2 µm at FWHM

 $I_0 \sim 10^{19} \text{ W/cm}^2$

→ acceleration field of ~1 GeV/cm









First Experiments at 1 PW – 2021



Best focal spot: 3.5 μ m at FWHM



Target wheel: up to 32 targets



Laser irradiance at 1 PW ~ 4.5 x 10²¹ W/cm²

1 PW commissioning experiment: Benchmark of TNSA acceleration at PW class laser and assessment of HPLS performance with solid targets and gas targets

4.5 µm Al target

Thomson Parabola







Radiochromic film stack



First Experiments at 10 PW – 2022

TNSA regim : accelerating protons above 200 MeV (theory ⇒ sub-GeV proton and 100s MeV/u light ions)

TNSA scaling law and state-of -the-art







Nuclear Reactions in Plasma

Study of electron screening factor in nuclear reactions of astrophysical interest



Nuclear de-excitations in plasma



F. Hannachi et al., CENBG

Nuclear reactions in hot plasma created by laser beams simulating in laboratory the stellar environments

Significant changes in lifetimes are predicted in plasma conditions

ELI-NP VEGA System





ELI-NP VEGA System



Gamma Beam Experiments

Physics Case: photonuclear reactions

Photons with energy of several MeV are complementary to "standard" probes in nuclear physics and excite nuclei in a very selective manner



- Nuclear physics
 - Nuclear structure
 - E.m. dipole response of nuclei
 - Pygmy and Giant Dipole Resonances
 - Photonuclear reactions cross sections
 - Nuclear astrophysics
 - Photofission and exotic nuclei

- Applications
 - Industrial imaging
 - Radioisotopes
 - Material studies with positrons

Gamma Beam Experimental Hall E8





ELIADE = ELI-NP Array of DEtectors



Gamma-ray detection:

8 segmented Clover Ge det. 4 det. LaBr₃(Ce)

- Determine the decay widths of nuclear states
- Low-energy e.m. dipole response in nuclei
 - (e.g., actinides, rare nuclei p-nuclei)
- Study of Pygmy Dipole Resonances
- Study of scissors mode nuclear states



Photoactivation of 180m Ta



^aFixed by the onset of the activation.

Photofission Experiments





ELI–BIC = 4 x highly efficient Frisch gridded twin ionization chambers (mass, charge, kinetic energy of fission fragments) + 8 E– Δ E telescopes

- study of fission barrier (sub-barrier transmission resonances, states in the SD and HD minima, fine structure of *isomeric shelf*)
- identification of ternary fission



A. Krasznahorkay, in: Handbook of Nuclear Chemistry, p.281 (2011)

Gamma Beam Experimental Hall E9

ELIGANT-GN = ELI-NP Gamma Above Neutron Threshold – Gamma Neutron



Gamma rays : 34 LaBr₃ and CeBr₃

Neutrons: 25 ⁷Li glass detectors 36 Liquid Scintilator detectors Study of GDR and PDR decay (e.g., ⁹⁰Zr, ²⁰⁸Pb)

- Data from (γ, n) experiments

- Data from (γ, γ') (*e.g.*, polarization)

- Study of the γ decay to the gs and excited states as a function of excitation energy



Gamma Beam Experimental Hall E9

ELIGANT-TN = ELI-NP Gamma Above Neutron Threshold – Thermal Neutron



I. Gheorghe, D. Filipescu et al.



Neutrons: 28 ³He counters



Systematics of the photonuclear C.S. measurements

- Most of the photoneutron cross section measurements were performed in period 1962 – 1986 using quasi-monochromatic annihilation – QMA photons using positron in flight annihilation at two major facilities:
 - Saclay (France)

- Photonuclear Data Library IAEA 2000
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (USA)
- Large discrepancies in (γ, xn) c.s. measured at the two facilities:
 - $-(\gamma, \ln)$ c.s. are generally noticeably larger at Saclay than at Livermore
 - $-(\gamma, 2n)$ c.s. are generally larger at Livermore than at Saclay.



Transition from implementation to operation



Commissioning experiments

- expert users they contributed to the definition of TDRs
- experiments approved by ELI-NP ISAB in the TDRs
- demonstrate the performance of the systems but also relevant physics

Open access based on scientific merit/evaluation

- evaluation by an international scientific committee
- additional equipment can be considered

Summary

- Laser system fully operational on all outputs / 10 PW LBTS successfully commissioned
- VEGA system under construction to be commissioned in 2023
- Experimental areas E4 (100 TW) and E5 (1 PW) installed and under commissioning
 - First results agree with published data
- Commissioning of experimental areas E1 and E6 (10 PW) will start mid 2022
- User experiments call for proposals foreseen for beginning of 2022
- The research infrastructure will be installed and fully commissioned by the end of 2023







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Extreme Light Infrastructure-Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP) - Phase II



~hank you .

www.eli-np.ro

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