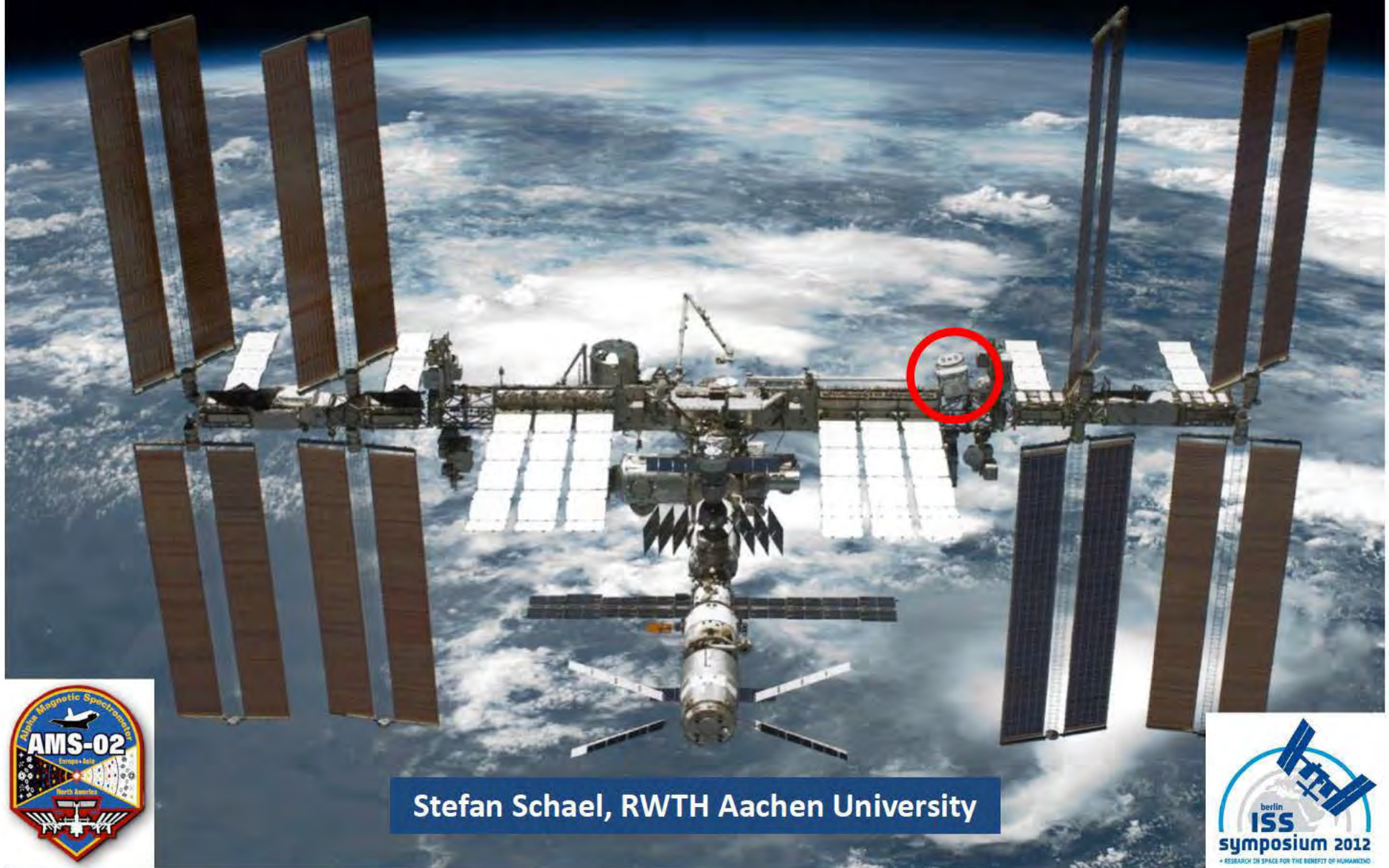


# The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer Experiment on ISS – An endeavor for a Global Research Collaboration



Stefan Schael, RWTH Aachen University





PHYSICS

# The Space Station's Crown Jewel

A fancy cosmic-ray detector, the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, is about to scan the cosmos for dark matter, antimatter and more

By George Musser, staff editor

**T**HE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED COSMIC-RAY DETECTOR TOOK 16 YEARS AND \$2 billion to build, and not long ago it looked as though it would wind up mothballed in some warehouse. NASA, directed to finish building the space station and retire the space shuttle by the end of 2010, said it simply did not have room in its schedule to launch the instrument anymore. Saving it took a lobbying campaign by physicists and intervention by Congress to extend the shuttle program. And so the shuttle *Endeavour* is scheduled to take off on April 19 for the express purpose of delivering the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) to the International Space Station.

Cosmic rays are subatomic particles and atomic nuclei that zip through space, coming from ordinary stars, supernovae explosions, neutron stars, black holes and who knows what—the last category naturally being of greatest interest and the main impetus for a brand-new instrument. Dark matter is one of those possible mystery sources. Clumps of the stuff out in space might occasionally release blazes of particles that would set the detectors alight. Some physicists also speculate that our planet might be peppered with the odd antiparticle coming from distant galaxies made not of matter but of its evil antitwin.

The spectrometer's claim to fame is that it can tell the ordinary from the extraordinary, which otherwise are easily conflated. No other instrument has the combination of detectors that can tease out all the properties of a particle: mass, velocity, type, electric charge. Its closest predecessor is the PAMELA instrument, launched by a European consortium in 2006. PAMELA has seen hints of dark matter and other exotica, but its findings remain ambiguous because it lacks the ability to distinguish a low-mass antiparticle, such as a positron, from a high-mass ordinary particle with the same electric charge, such as a proton.

The AMS instrument is a monster by the standards of the space program, with a mass of seven metric tons (more than 14 times heavier than PAMELA) and a power consumption of 2,400 watts. In a strange symbiotic way, it and the space station have come to justify each other's existence. The station satisfies the instrument's thirst for power and orbital boosts; the spectrometer, although it could never fully placate the station's many skeptics, at least means the outpost will do world-class research. As CERN's Large Hadron Collider plumbs the depths of nature on the ground, the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer will do the same from orbit.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN ONLINE  
For more information on how the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer works, visit [ScientificAmerican.com/may2011/ams](http://ScientificAmerican.com/may2011/ams)

## Time of Flight System 1

**PURPOSE:** Measure particle velocity and charge.  
**DESIGN:** Sheets of transparent polymer that glow when a charged particle passes through.  
**OPERATION:** A pair of these detectors times how fast the particle takes to cover the length of the instrument.

## Magnet

**PURPOSE:** Bend paths of charged particles.  
**DESIGN:** Permanent magnet with a field strength of 0.5 tesla. This magnet replaces the cryogenic superconducting magnet used in the original design, giving the instrument a longer lifetime.  
**OPERATION:** When passing through, a positively charged particle is deflected to the left, a negatively charged one to the right.

## Silicon Tracker

**PURPOSE:** Measure particle charge and momentum.  
**DESIGN:** Nine planes of particle detectors.  
**OPERATION:** The detectors trace out the path of each particle through the magnetic field.

## Transition Radiation Detector

**PURPOSE:** Distinguish low-mass from high-mass particles.  
**DESIGN:** 20 stacked layers of fleece and straw tubes.  
**OPERATION:** As a low-mass particle passes through the fibers in the fleece, it can emit an x-ray, which is detected by a row of gas-filled tubes underneath.

Positively Charged Particles

Negatively Charged Particles

## Anticoincidence Counter

**PURPOSE:** Identify particles that enter from the side.  
**DESIGN:** Cylinder of transparent polymer tiles that glow when a charged particle passes through.  
**OPERATION:** A particle needs to fly the length of the instrument for all the detectors to gather the necessary data. This detector registers particles that enter from the side so that the control system can discard the signal they left in other instruments.

## Time of Flight System 2

## Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detector

**PURPOSE:** Measure particle velocity.  
**DESIGN:** Aerogel and sodium fluoride ringed by light sensors.  
**OPERATION:** The speed of light in aerogel is 5 percent slower than in the vacuum; in sodium fluoride, 23 percent slower. A particle moving nearly at the vacuum speed of the light will emit a distinctive bluish cone of light known as Cherenkov radiation.

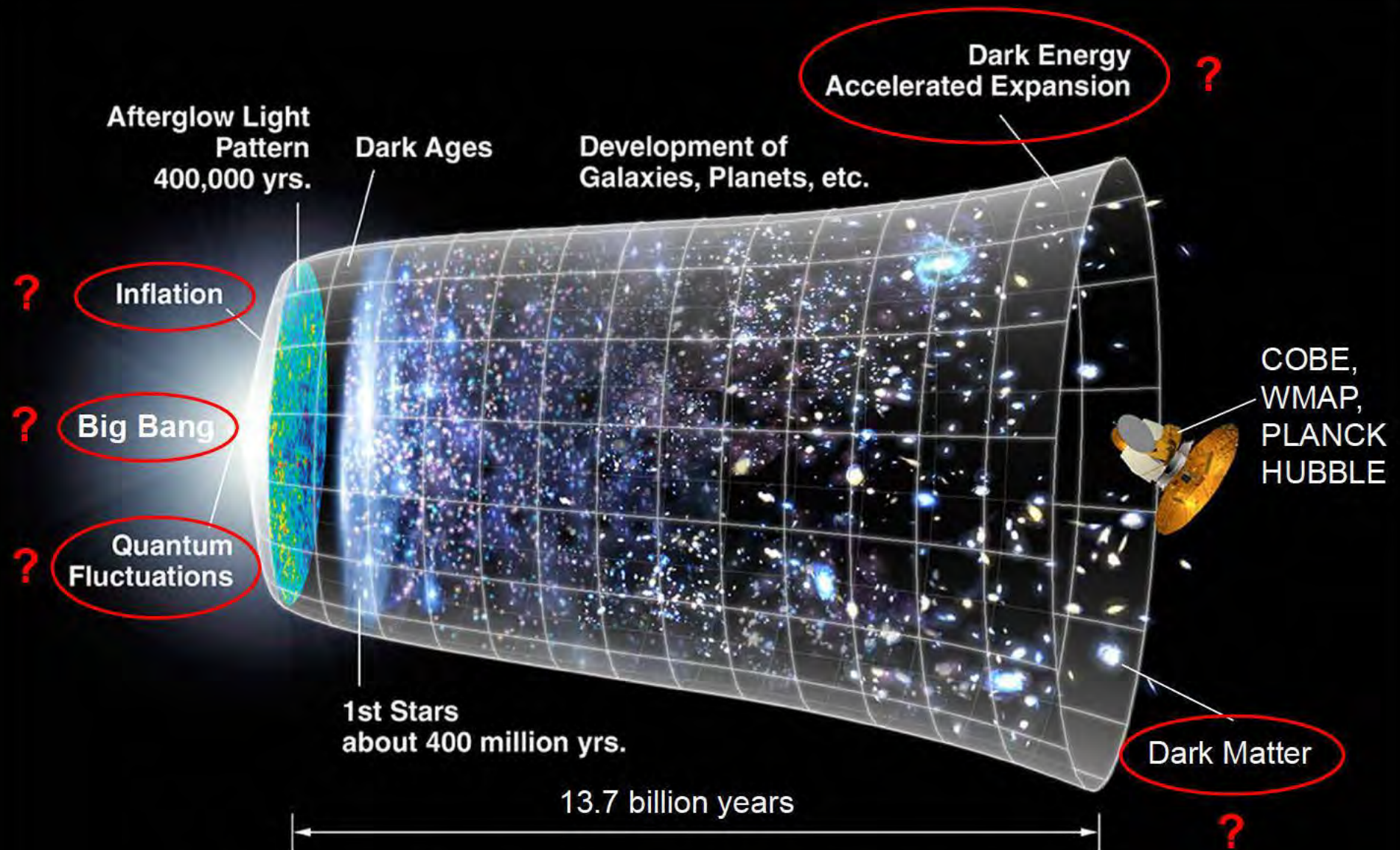
## Electromagnetic Calorimeter

**PURPOSE:** Measure particle type and direction.  
**DESIGN:** Layers of lead foil exposed together with embedded fiber optics.  
**OPERATION:** The particle slams into the material and produces a spray of debris; the nature of the debris identifies the particle. Unlike other instruments, the calorimeter also registers uncharged particles such as photons.

Illustration by Don Foley

From Scientific American, May 2011





ISS Symposium 2012: „Research in space for the benefit of humankind“  
Sustainable development of today's technologies is based  
on continuous efforts in fundamental science



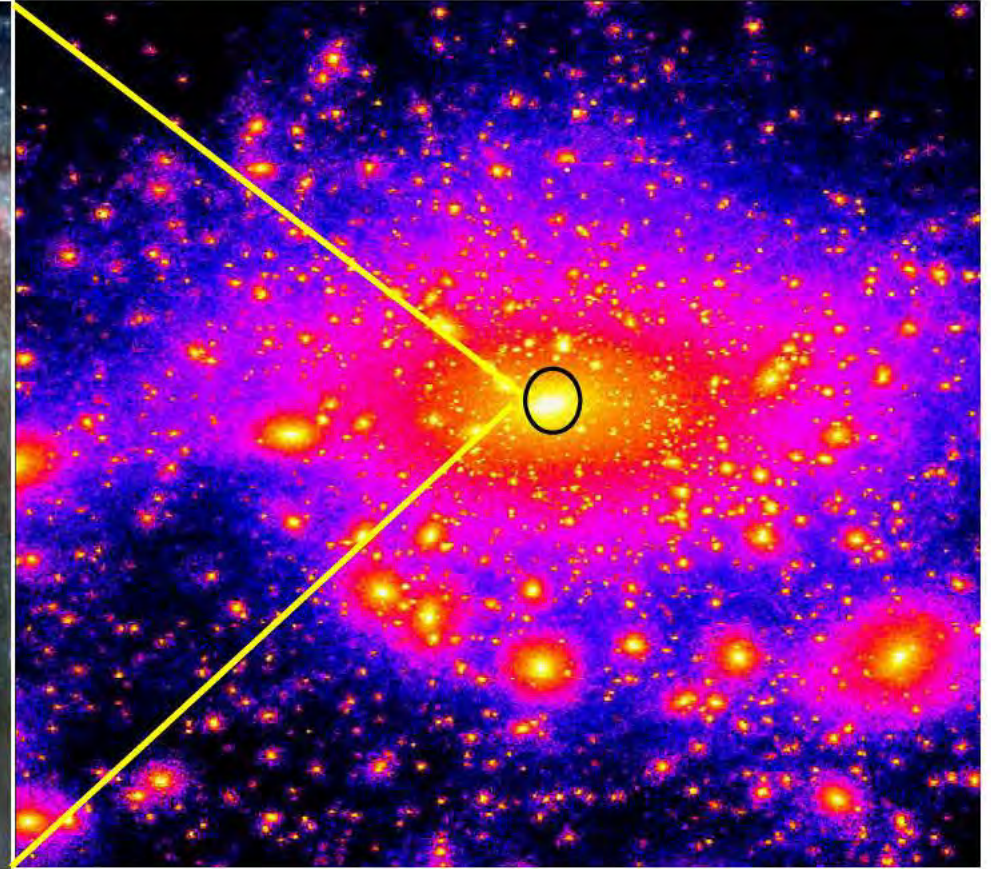
**The scientific goals of AMS include:**

## **The Origin of Dark Matter**

**~ 90% of Matter in the Universe is not visible and is called Dark Matter**

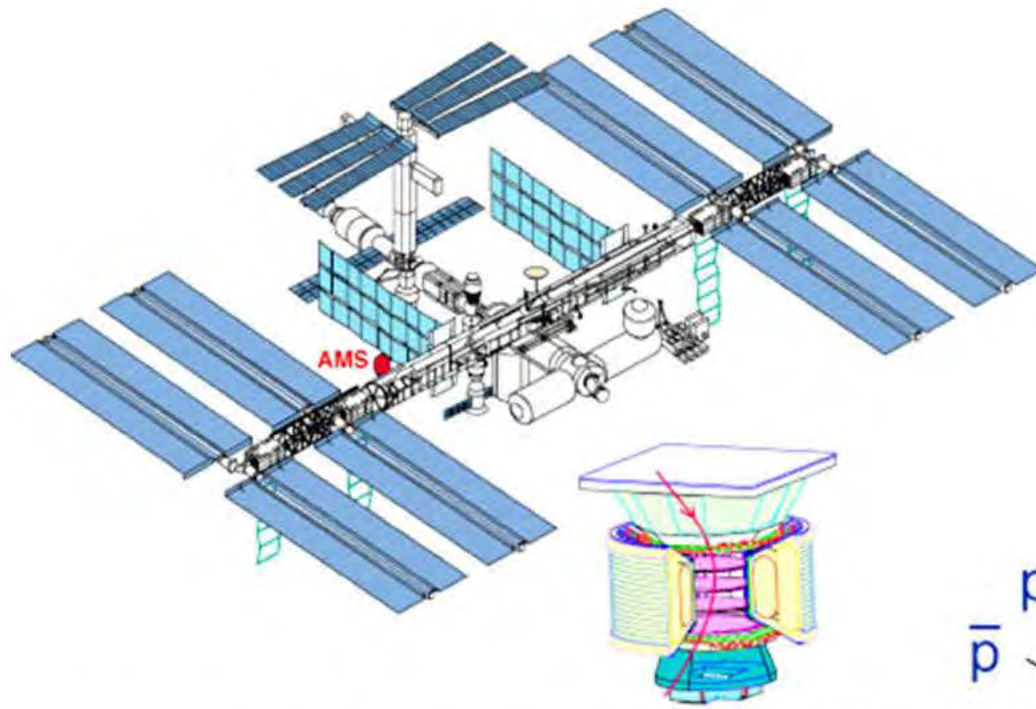


**A Galaxy as seen by telescope**



**If we could see Dark Matter in the Galaxy**





2- Charged component:  
S. Ting, MIT



## 1- Neutral component:

$\gamma, \nu$

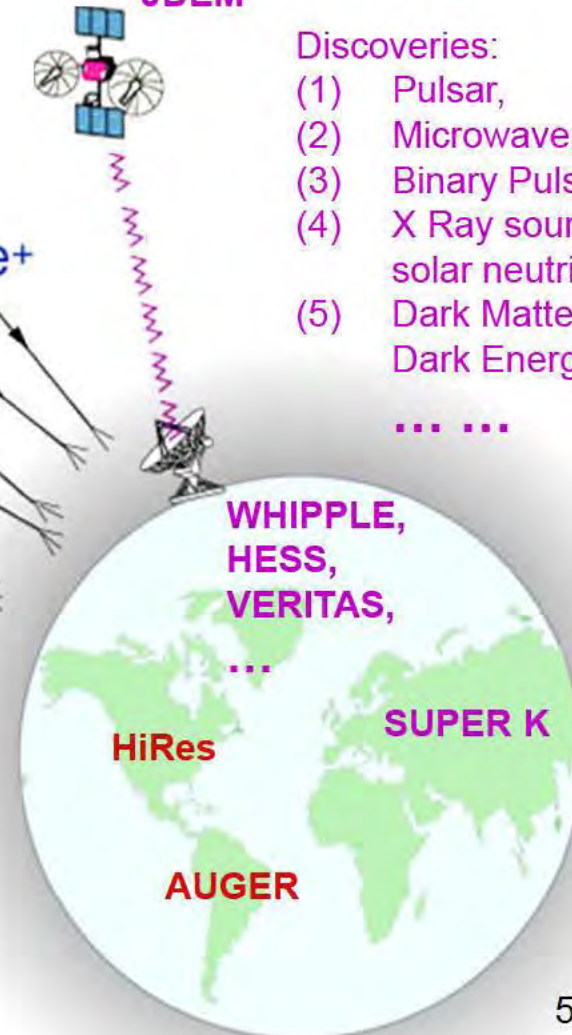
Hubble, Chandra,  
GLAST, JWST,  
JDEM

Discoveries:

- (1) Pulsar,
- (2) Microwave,
- (3) Binary Pulsars,
- (4) X Ray sources,  
solar neutrinos
- (5) Dark Matter,  
Dark Energy

... ..

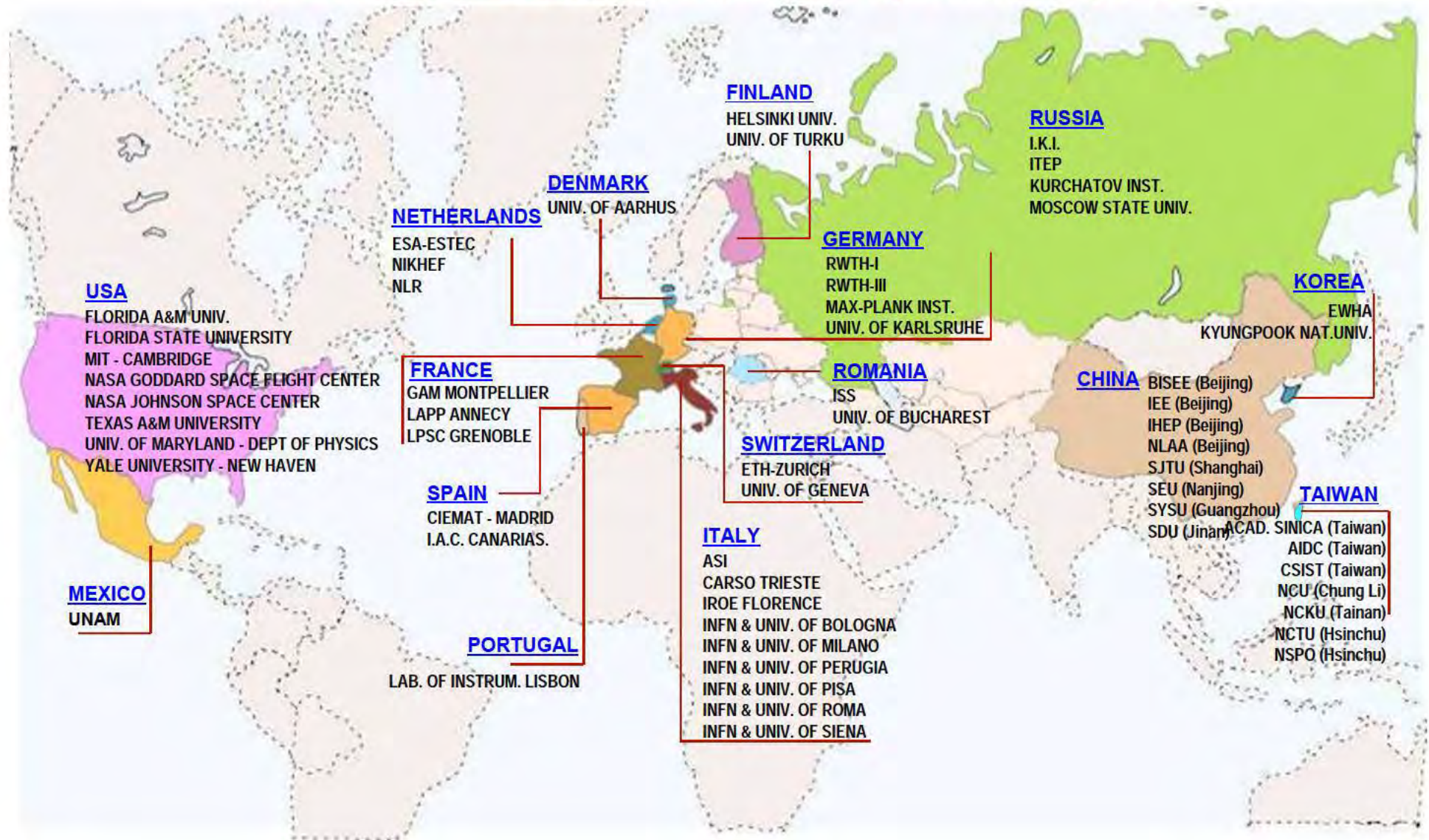
He, Be, C, Fe  
 $\bar{\text{He}}$ ,





# AMS is US Dept of Energy (DOE) led International Collaboration

## 16 Countries, 60 Institutes and 600 Physicists, 17 years



The detectors were built all over the world  
and assembled at CERN, near Geneva, Switzerland



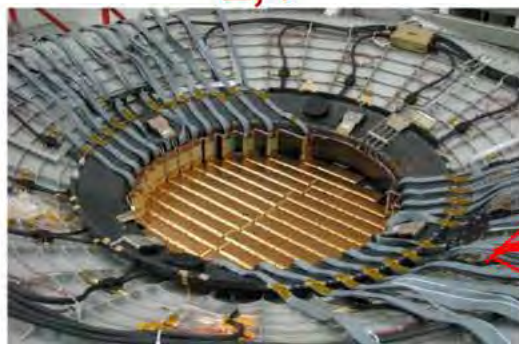
# AMS: A TeV precision, multipurpose spectrometer

TRD

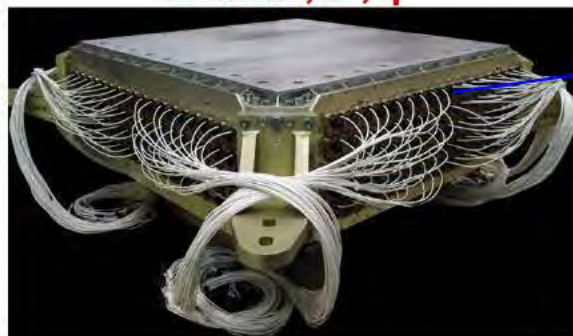
Identify  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$



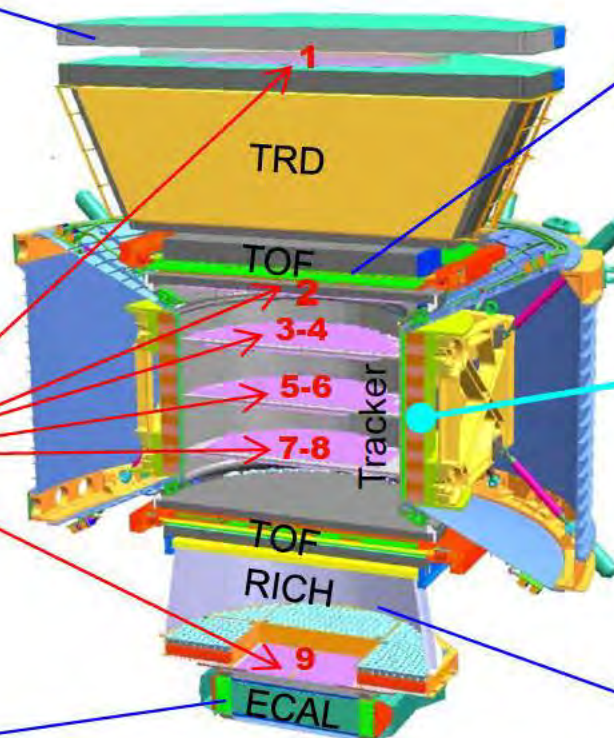
Silicon Tracker  
 $Z, P$



ECAL  
 $E$  of  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$ ,  $\gamma$



Particles and nuclei are defined by their charge ( $Z$ ) and energy ( $E \sim P$ )



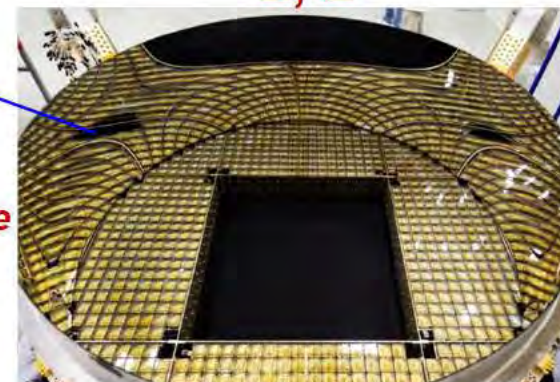
TOF  
 $Z, E$



Magnet  
 $\pm Z$



RICH  
 $Z, E$



$Z, P$  are measured independently by the Tracker, RICH, TOF and ECAL



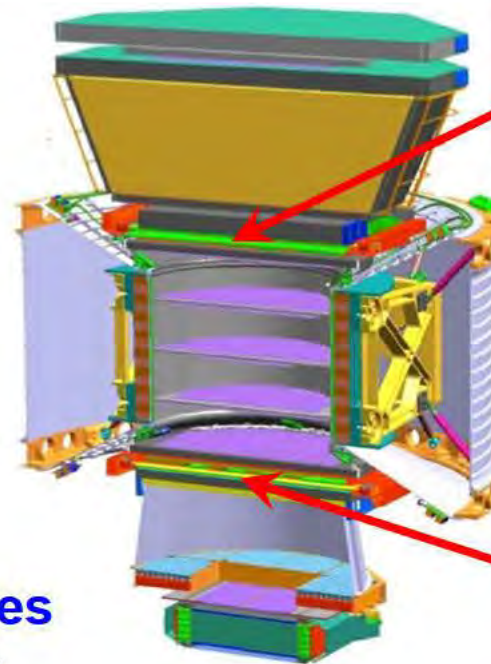
# Time of Flight (TOF)



**Provides trigger for charged particles**

**Trigger time is synchronized to UTC time to  $1\mu\text{s}$**

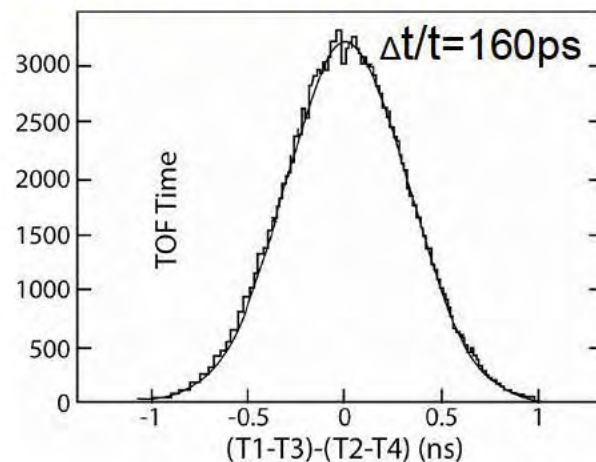
**Measures the time of relativistic particles to 160 picoseconds**



**TOF**

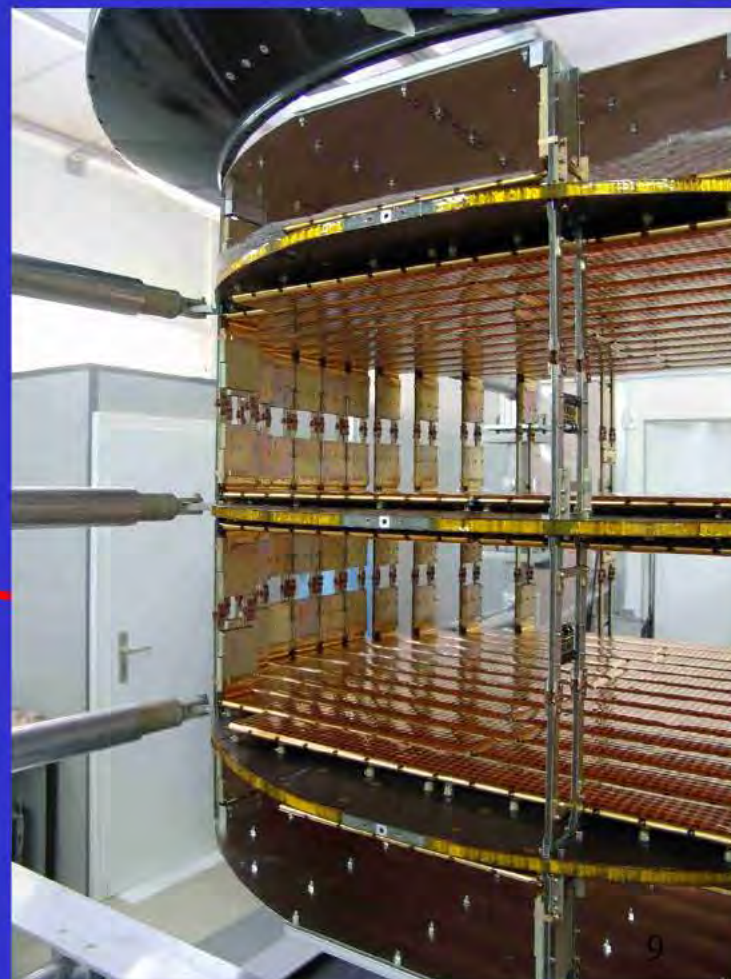
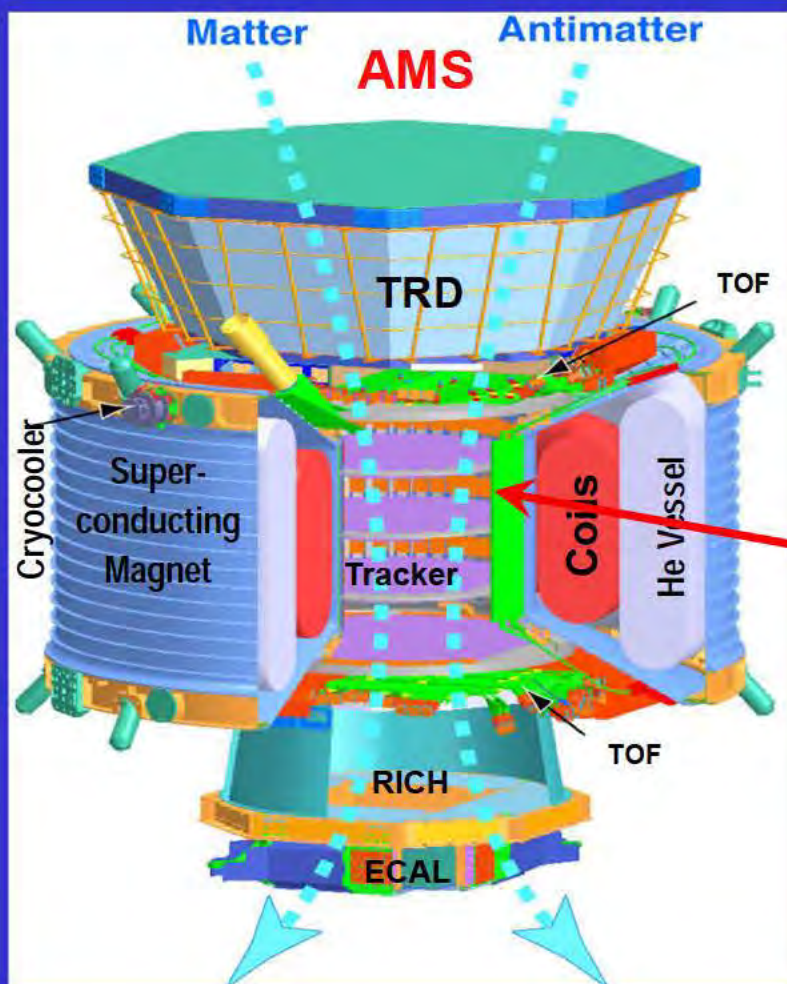


**TOF**



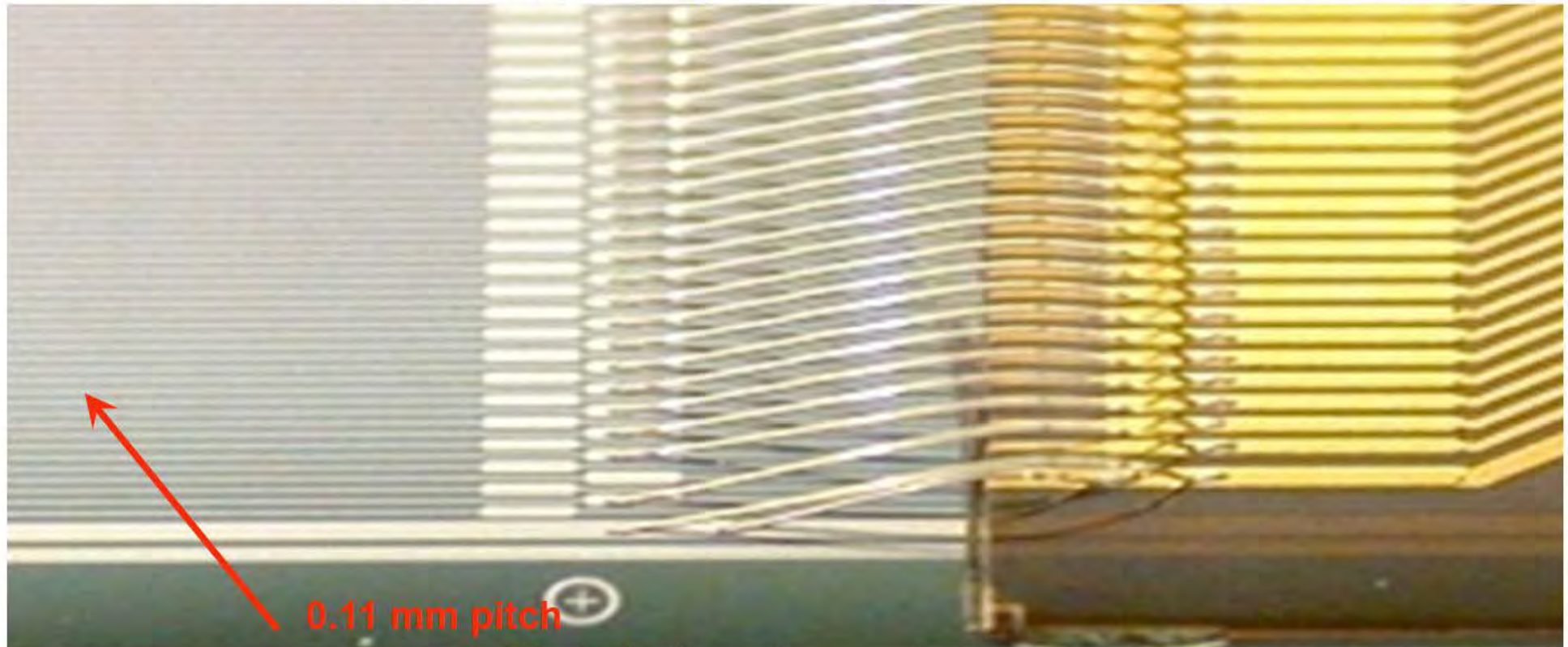


# The AMS Silicon-Tracker





# Silicon Tracker: 9 planes, 200,000 channels



**Construction:**

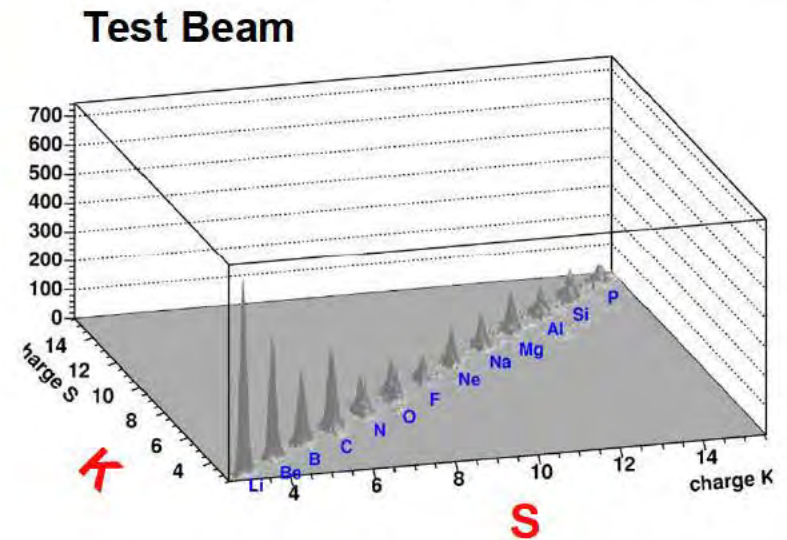
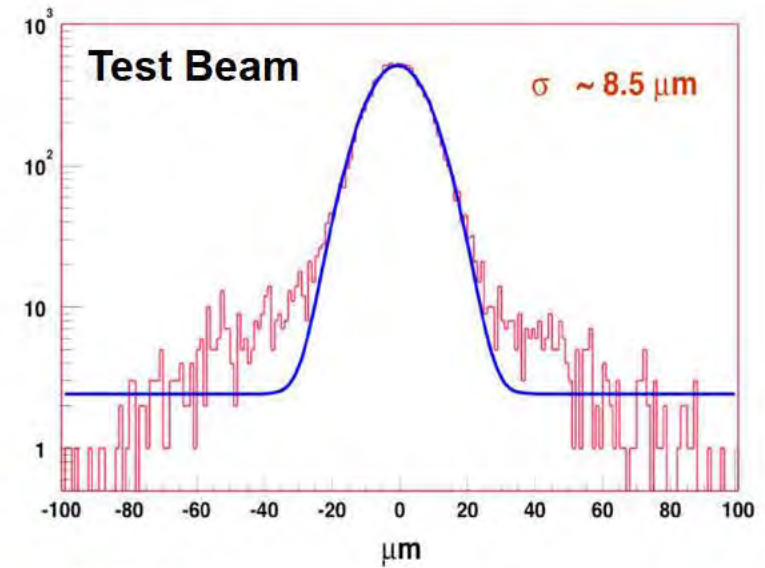
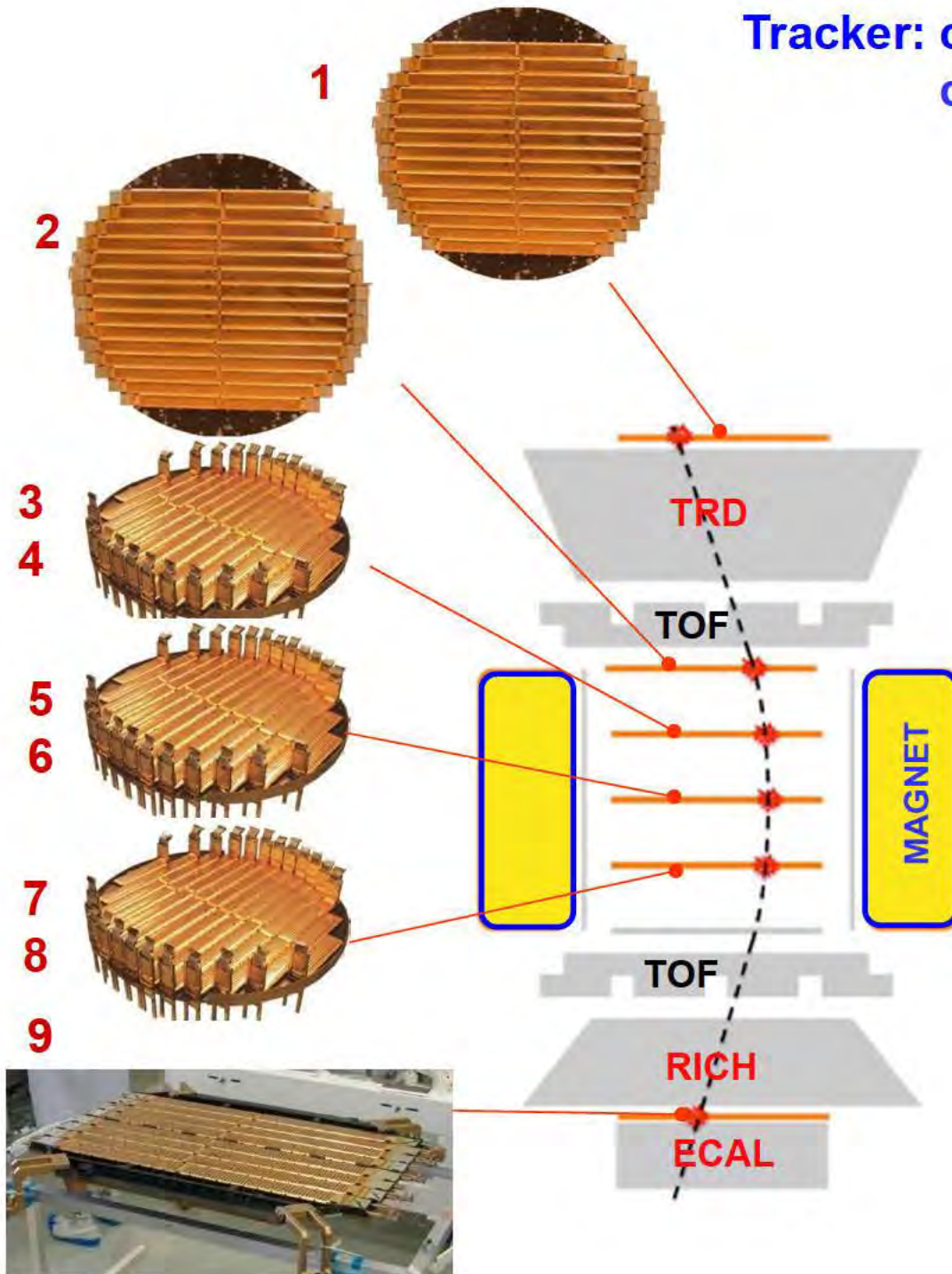
**Mechanical: 50 engineers 3 yrs**

**Electronics: 10 yrs at CSIST**



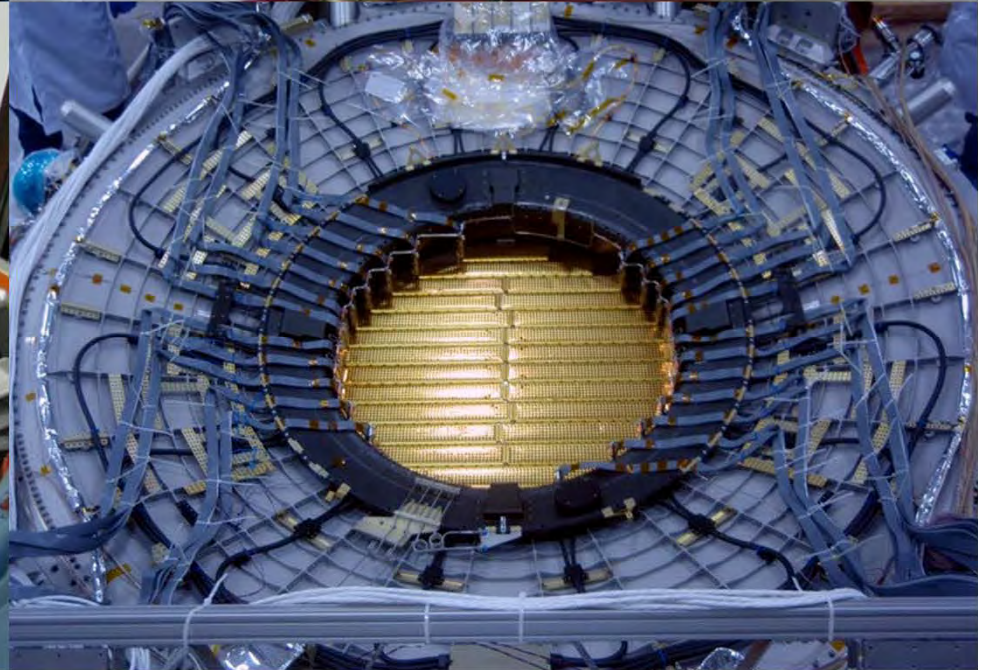
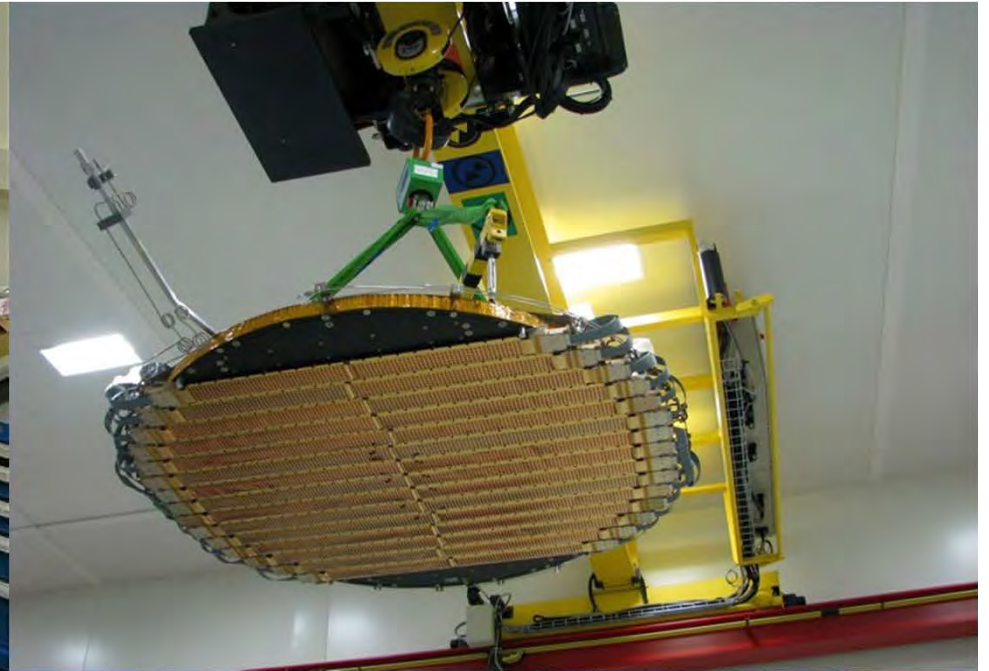
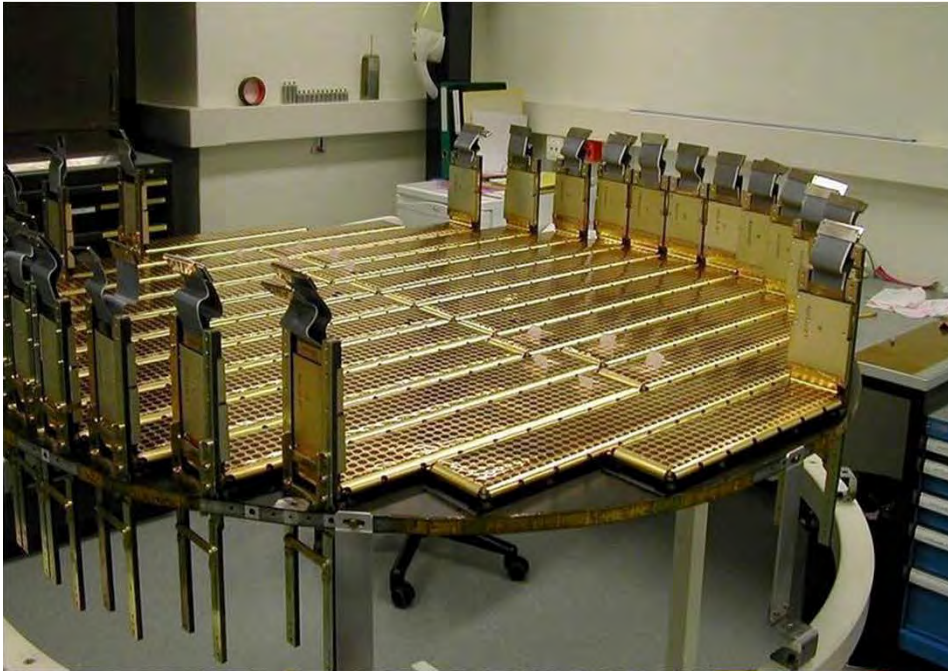


Tracker: coordinate resolution  $0.010 \mu\text{m}$   
 $dE/dX$ : identify nuclei





## Assembly of the AMS Silicon Tracker in Geneva

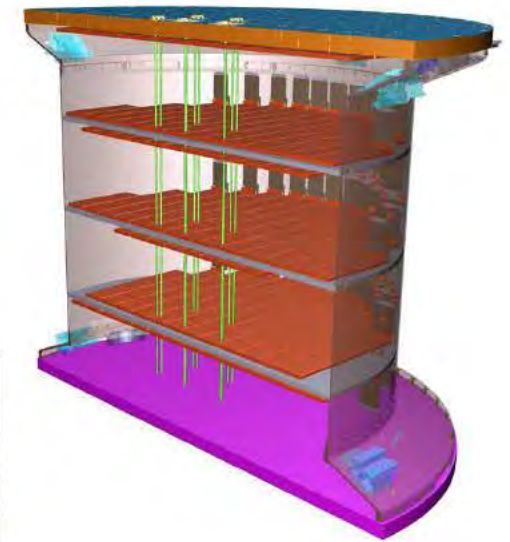




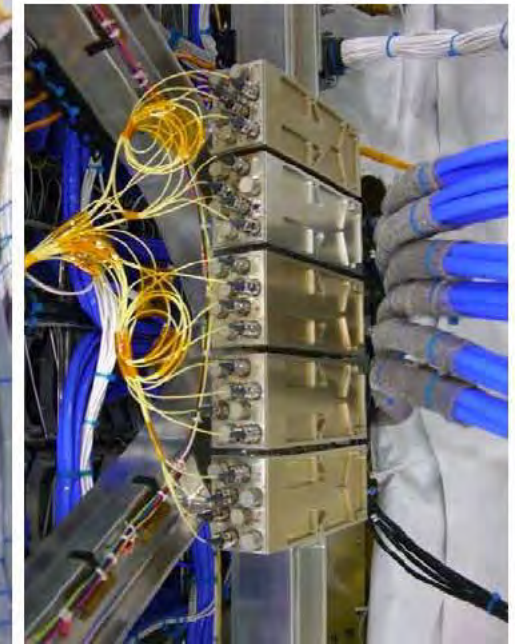


# Tracker Alignment System

accuracy:  $0.003 \mu\text{m}$  with 20 UV lasers



1080 nm



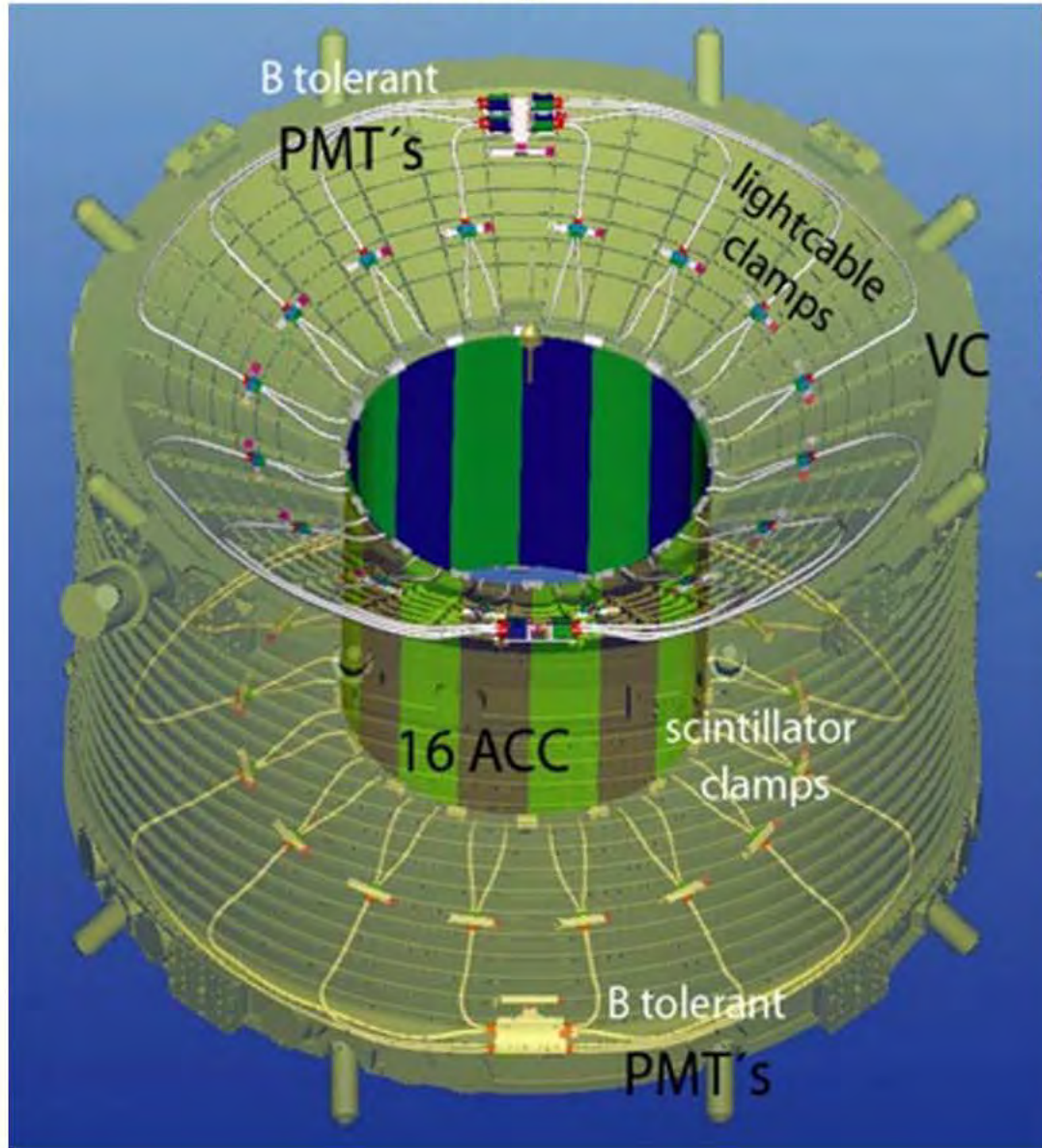
Laser Fiber Couplers



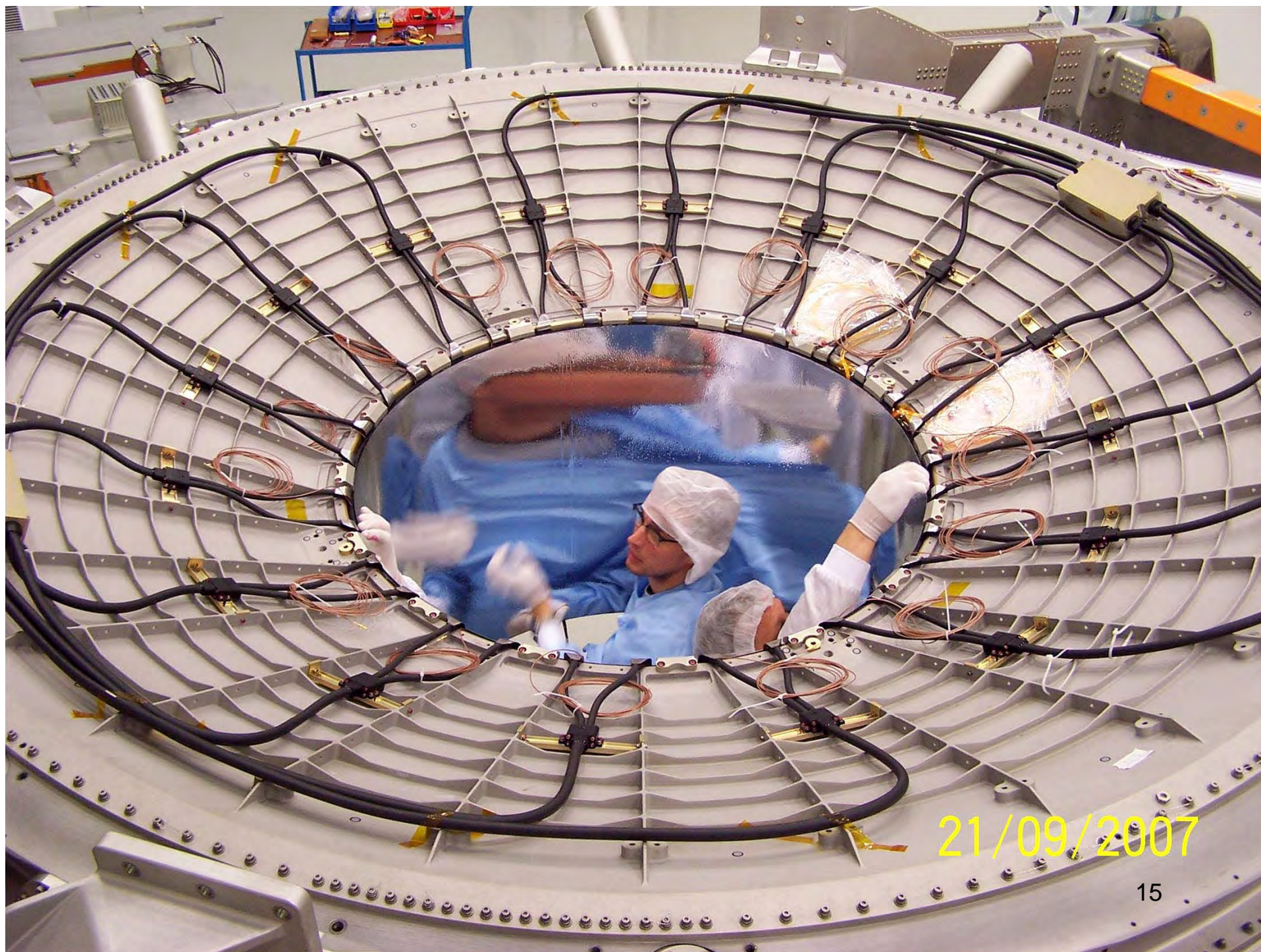


# Anti-Coincidence Counter

Efficiency  $>99.99\%$

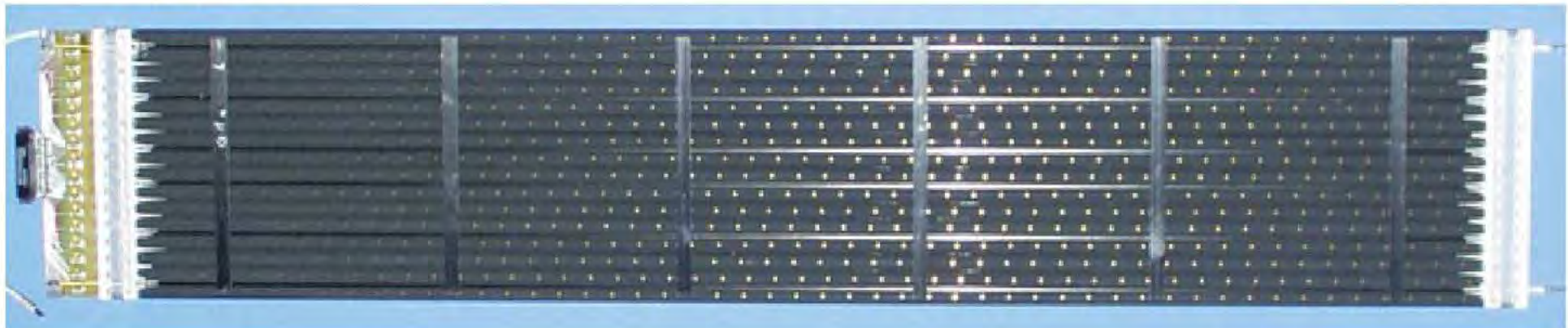
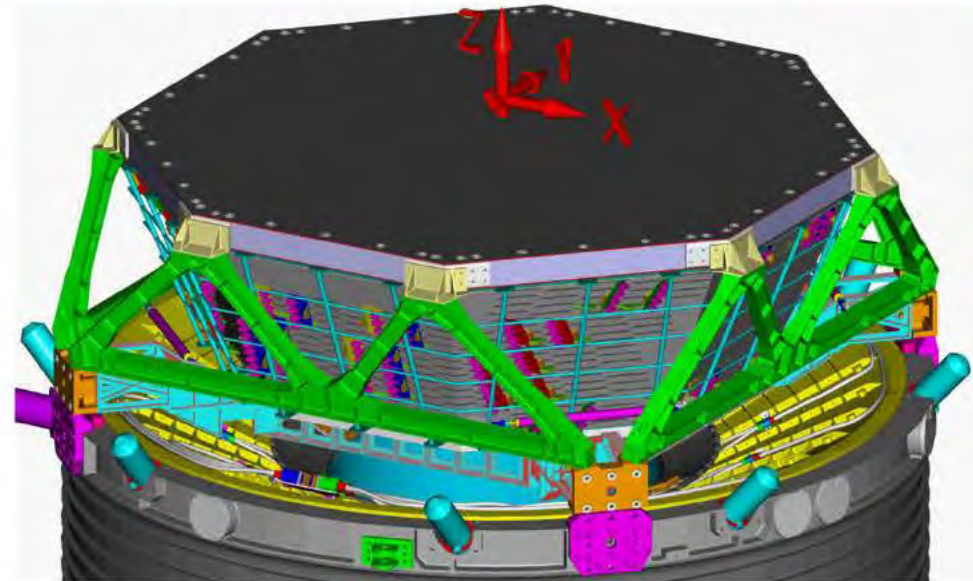
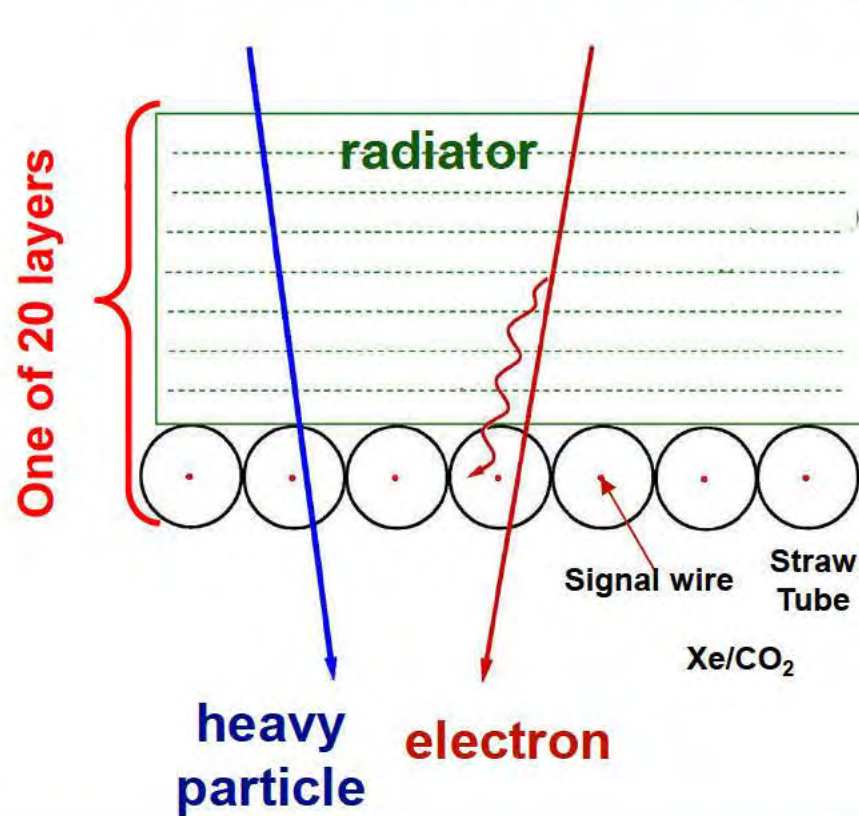








# Transition Radiation Detector (TRD): identifies Positron and Electron

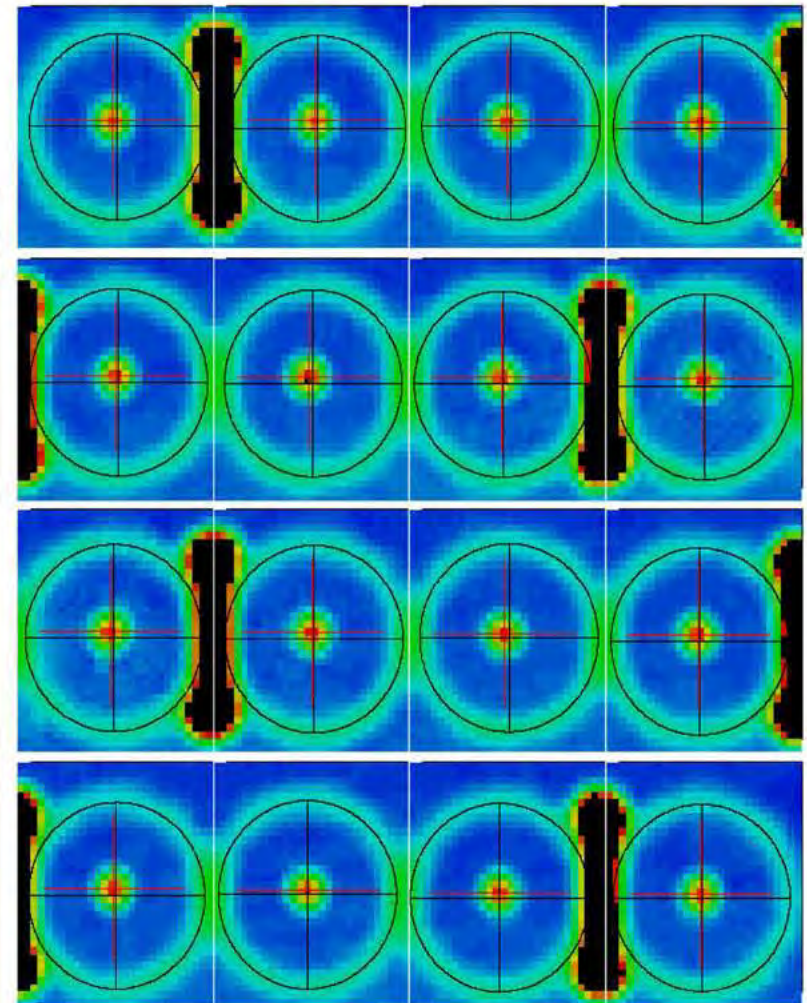
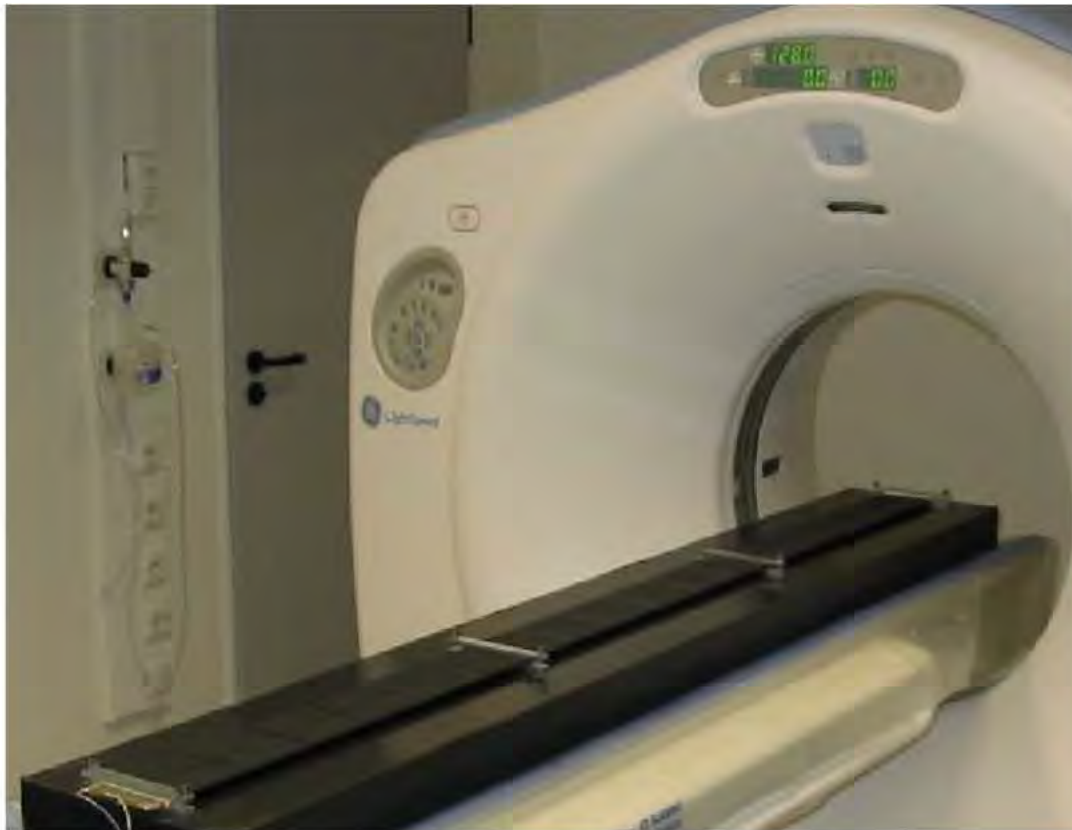




# 9,000 Straw Tube Detector Manufactured



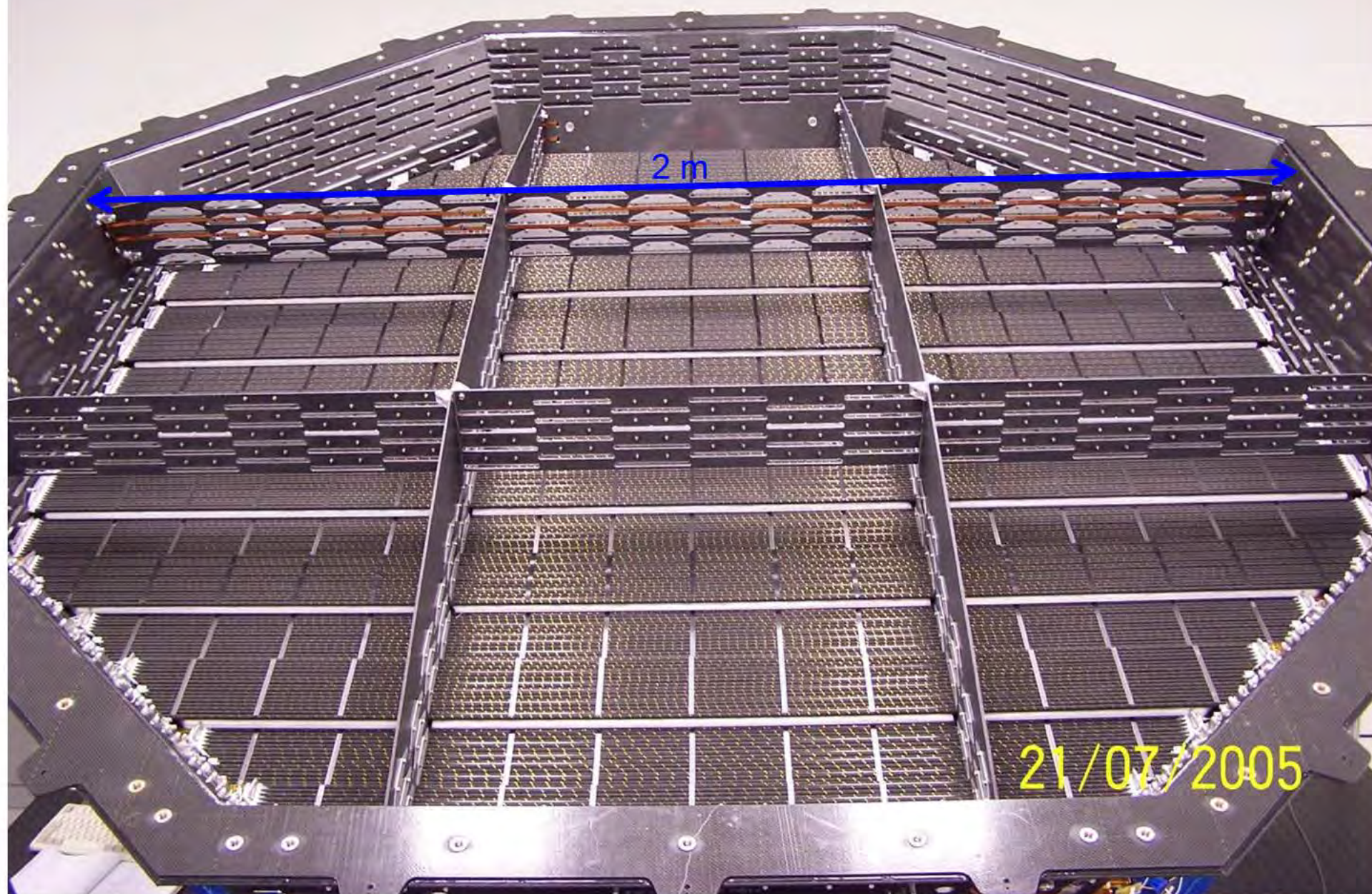
5,248 tubes selected from 9,000,  
2 m length centered to  $100\mu\text{m}$ ,  
verified by CAT scanner







# AMS-02 Transition Radiation Detector

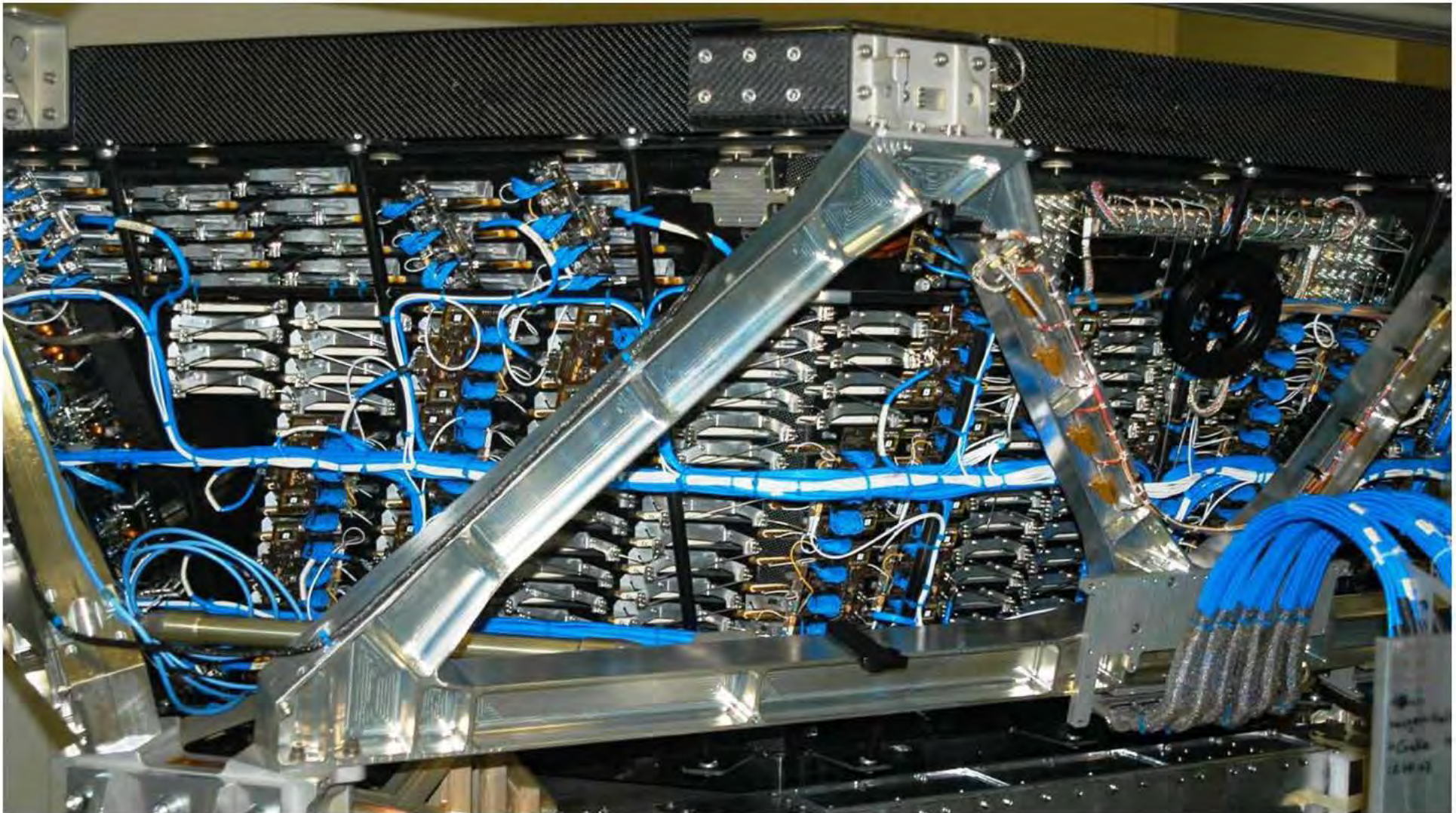




**TRD: 5,248 Pulse Heights**

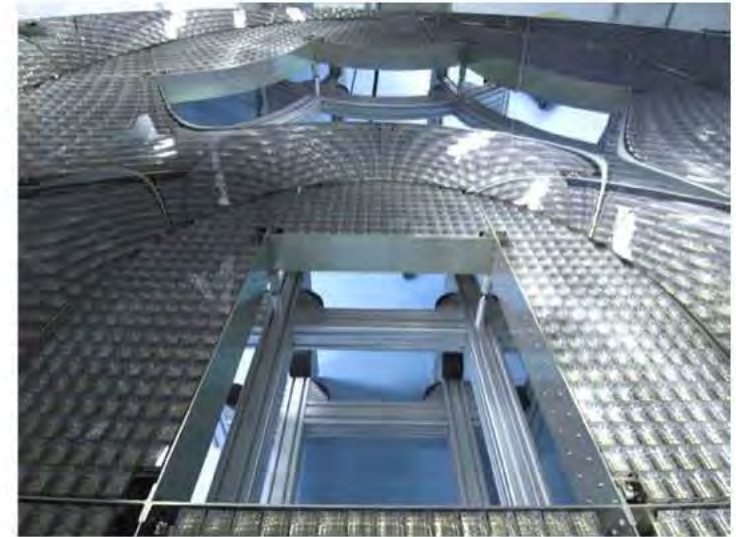
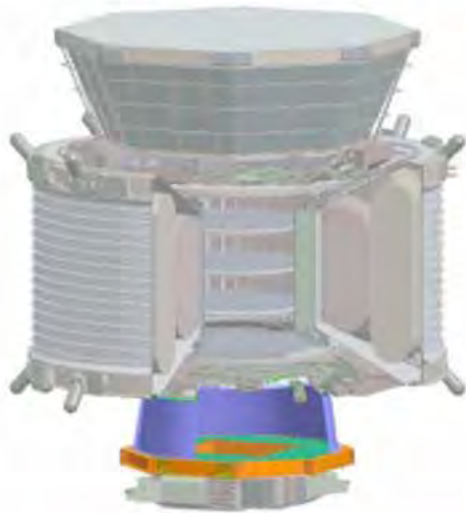
**Precision TRD Gas System: 482 Temperature Sensors,  
24 Heaters 8 Pressure Sensors ensures pulse height stability**

**Onboard processing: 30 computers**

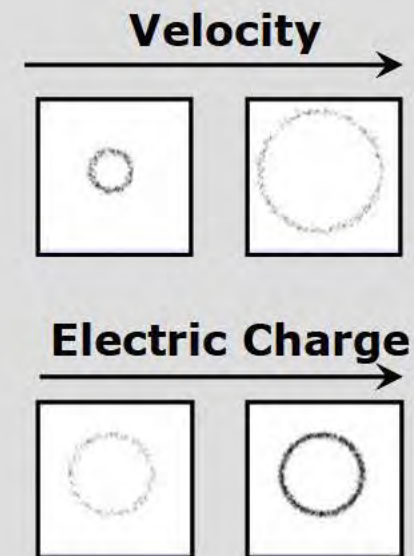
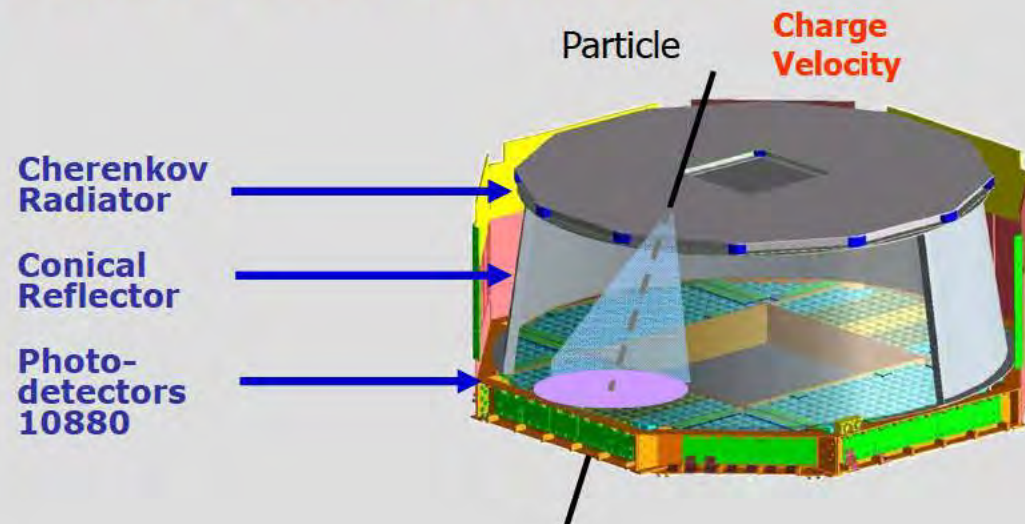




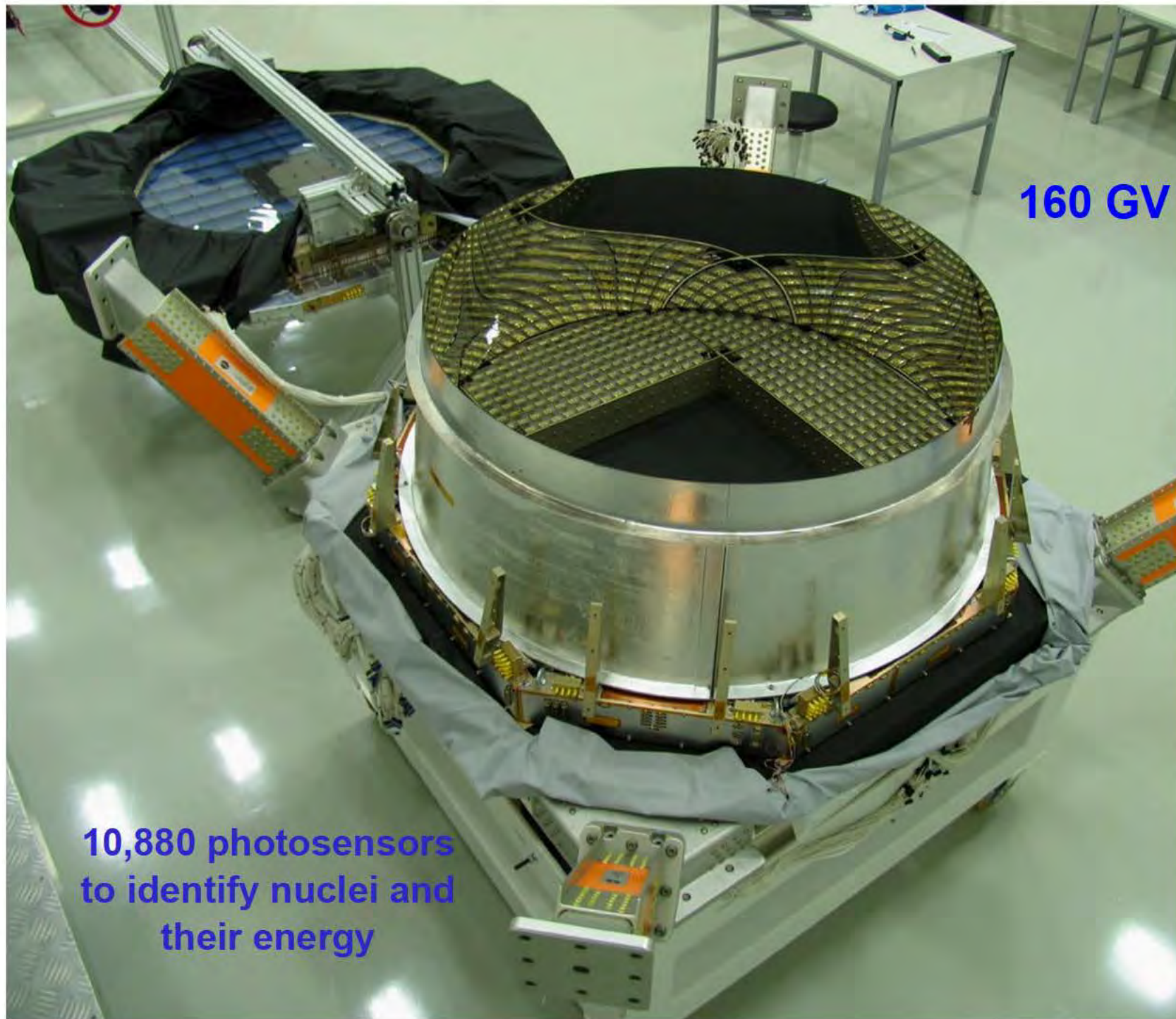
# AMS Ring Imaging CHerenkov (RICH)



## Cherenkov radiation

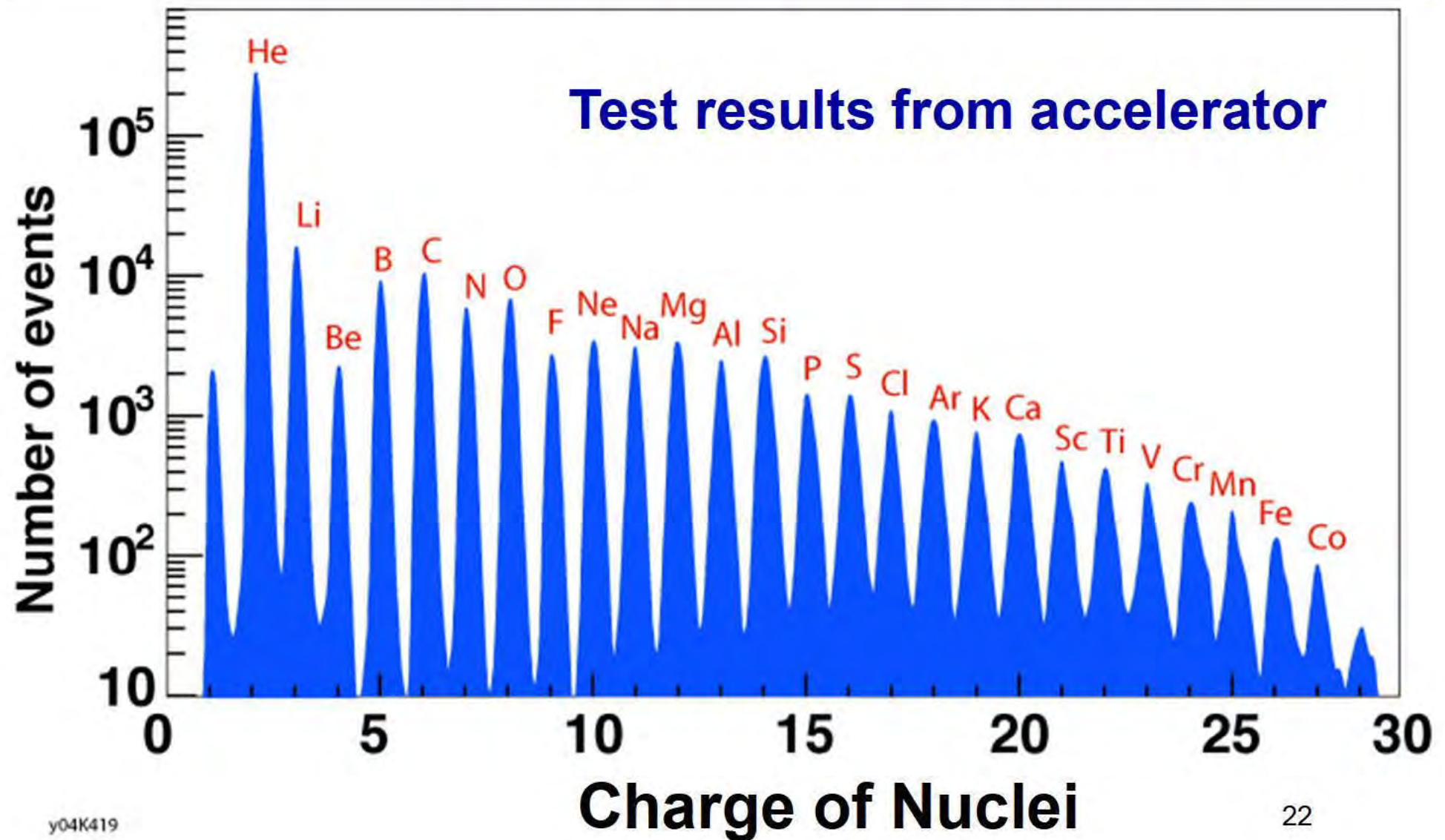








**On the ISS, AMS will measure the composition of high energy Cosmic Rays with extraordinary accuracy**



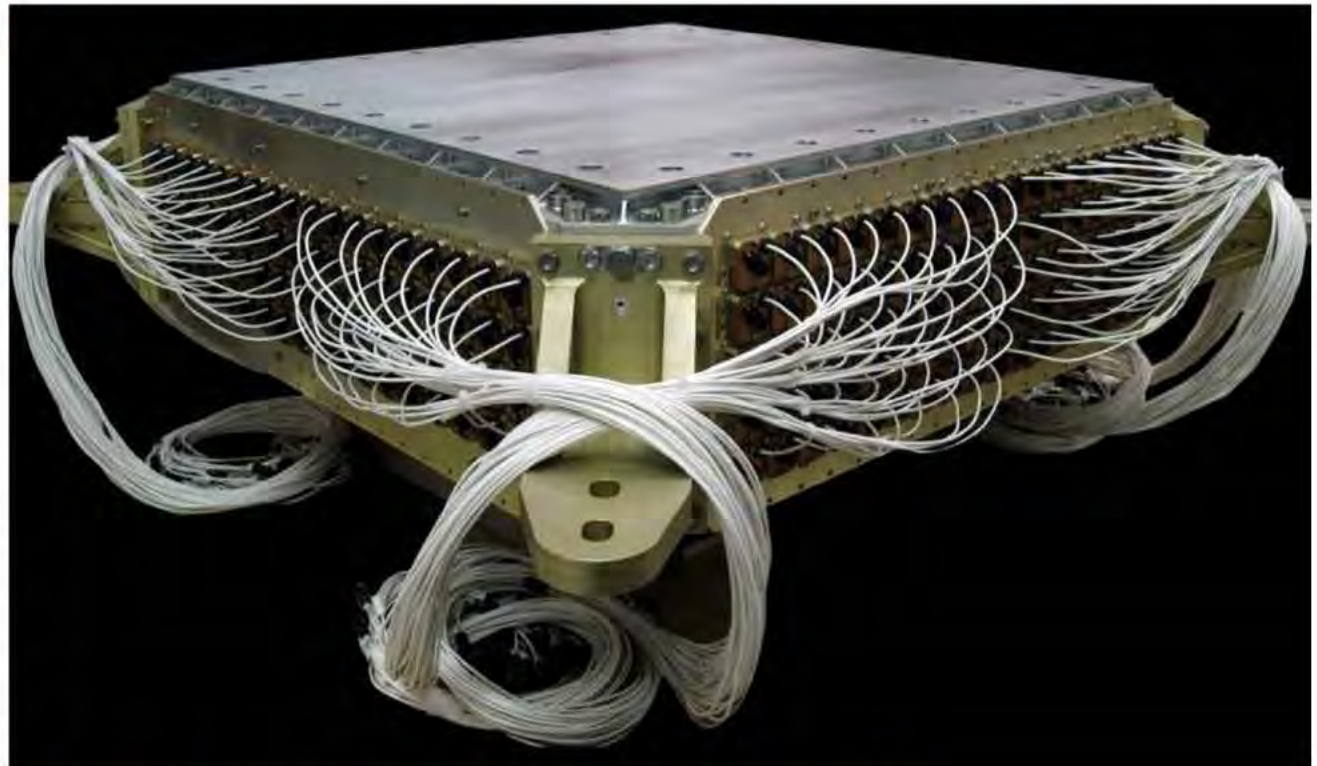
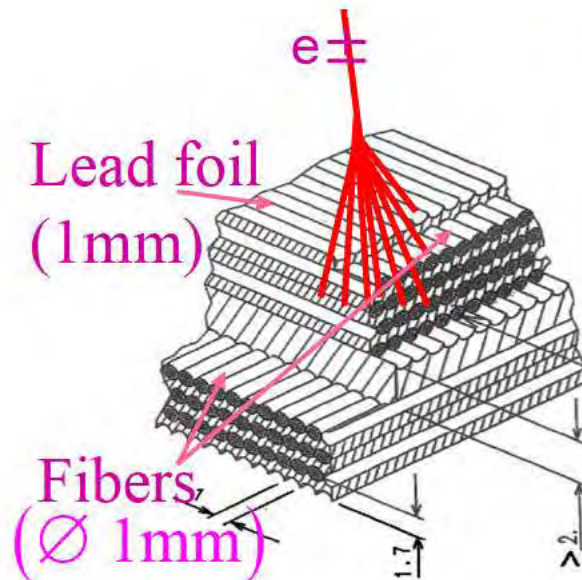




# Electromagnetic Calorimeter (ECAL)

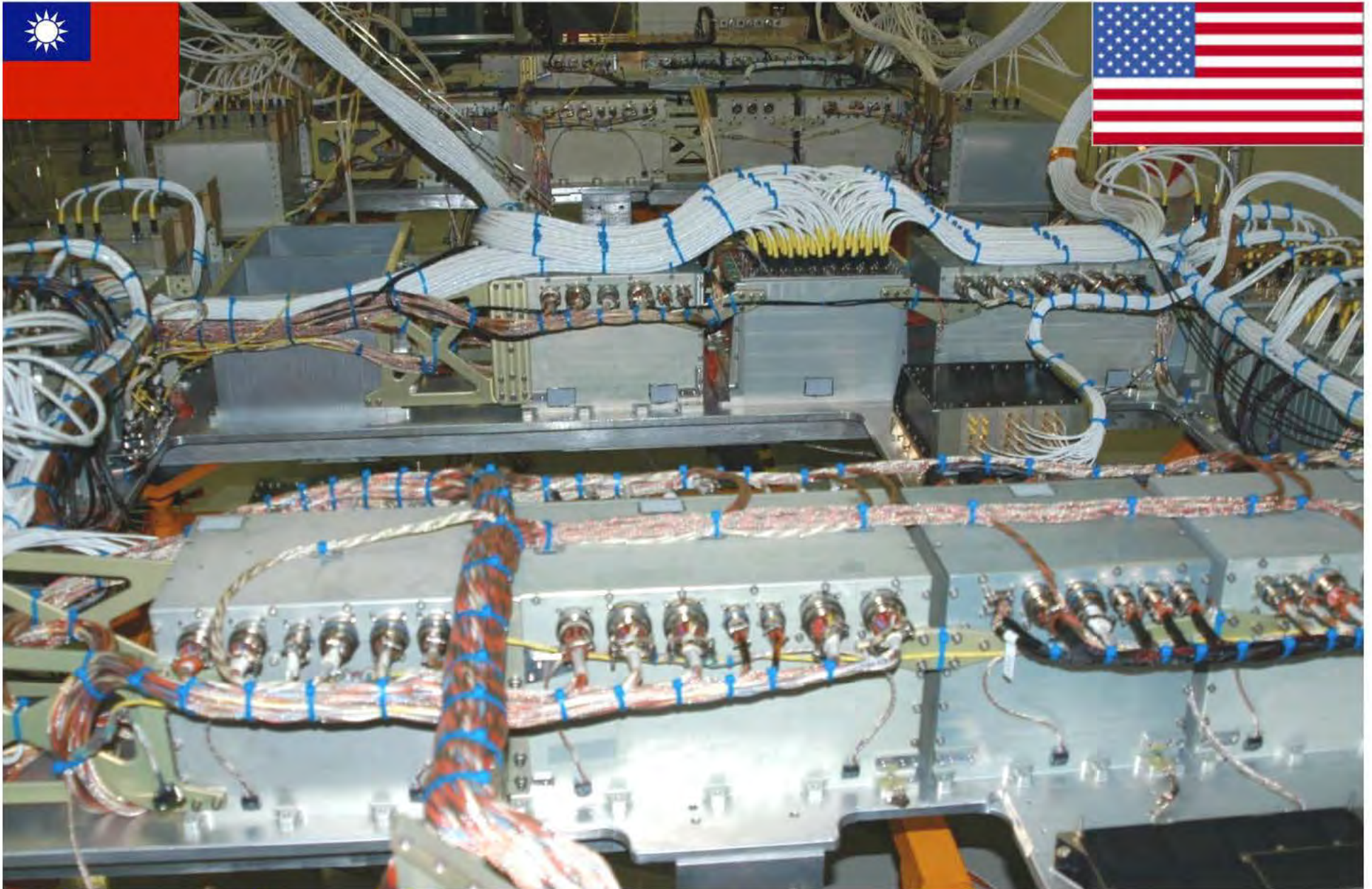


A precision 3-dimensional measurement of the directions and energies of light rays and electrons



50,000 fibers,  $\delta = 1\text{mm}$ , distributed uniformly inside 1,200 lb of lead which provides a precision, 3-dimensional,  $17X_0$  measurement of the directions and energies of light rays and electrons up to 1 TeV



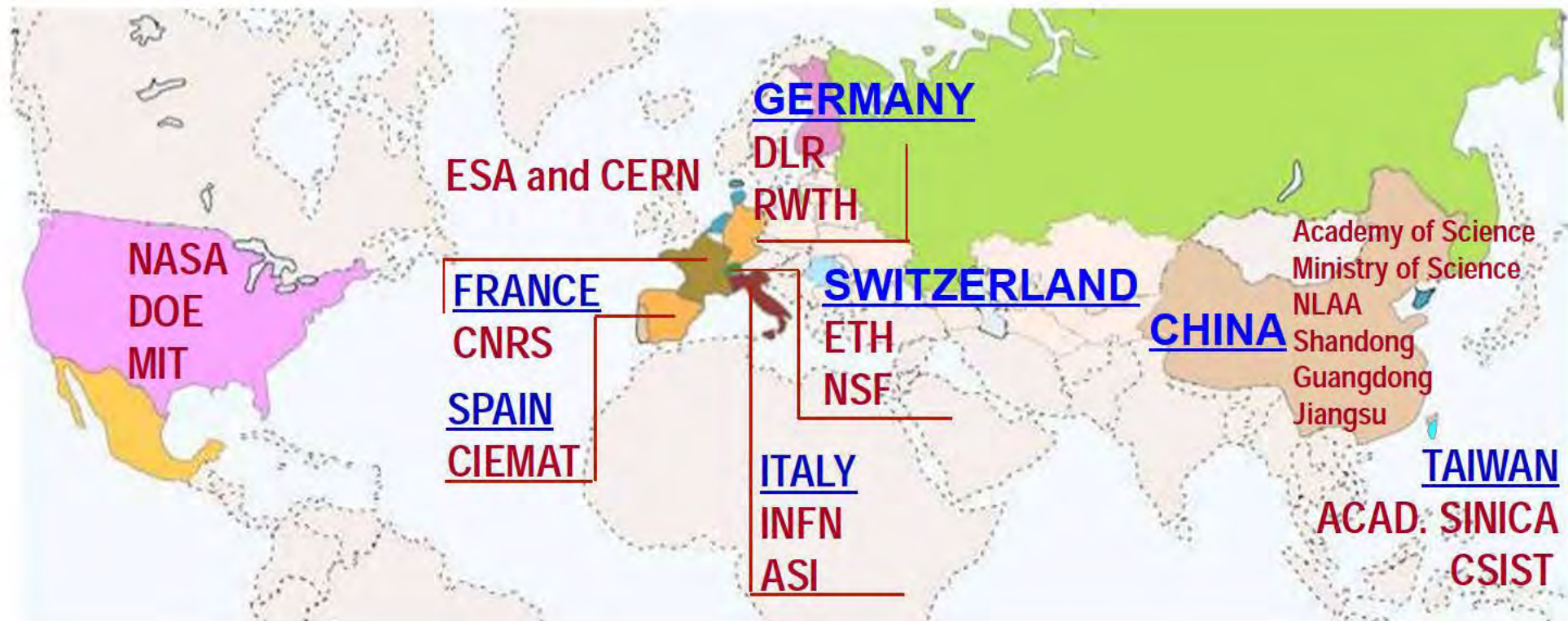


The completed flight electronics  
(650 microprocessors, 300,000 channels)



AMS was suddenly removed from the Shuttle Manifest in October 2005. It was ultimately restored in January 2009 because of:

1. Strong endorsement of the AMS science from reviews by the world's leading scientists
2. Unanimous support from the US Senate and House
3. Major worldwide support from (ESA (J. J. Dordain), DLR (J-D. Woerner), ASI (E. Saggesi), DOE, CERN,...)







## Visit of Senator Bill Nelson to AMS - March 16, 2008



*Dr. B. Accoyer, M.D. , President, French National Assembly*



*Professor G. Bignami, President, Italian Space Agency (ASI)*



*Prof. Dr.-Ing. J-D Woerner, President, German Space Agency (DLR)*



*Dr. M. Serrano, Head, Spanish Space Program (CDTI)*

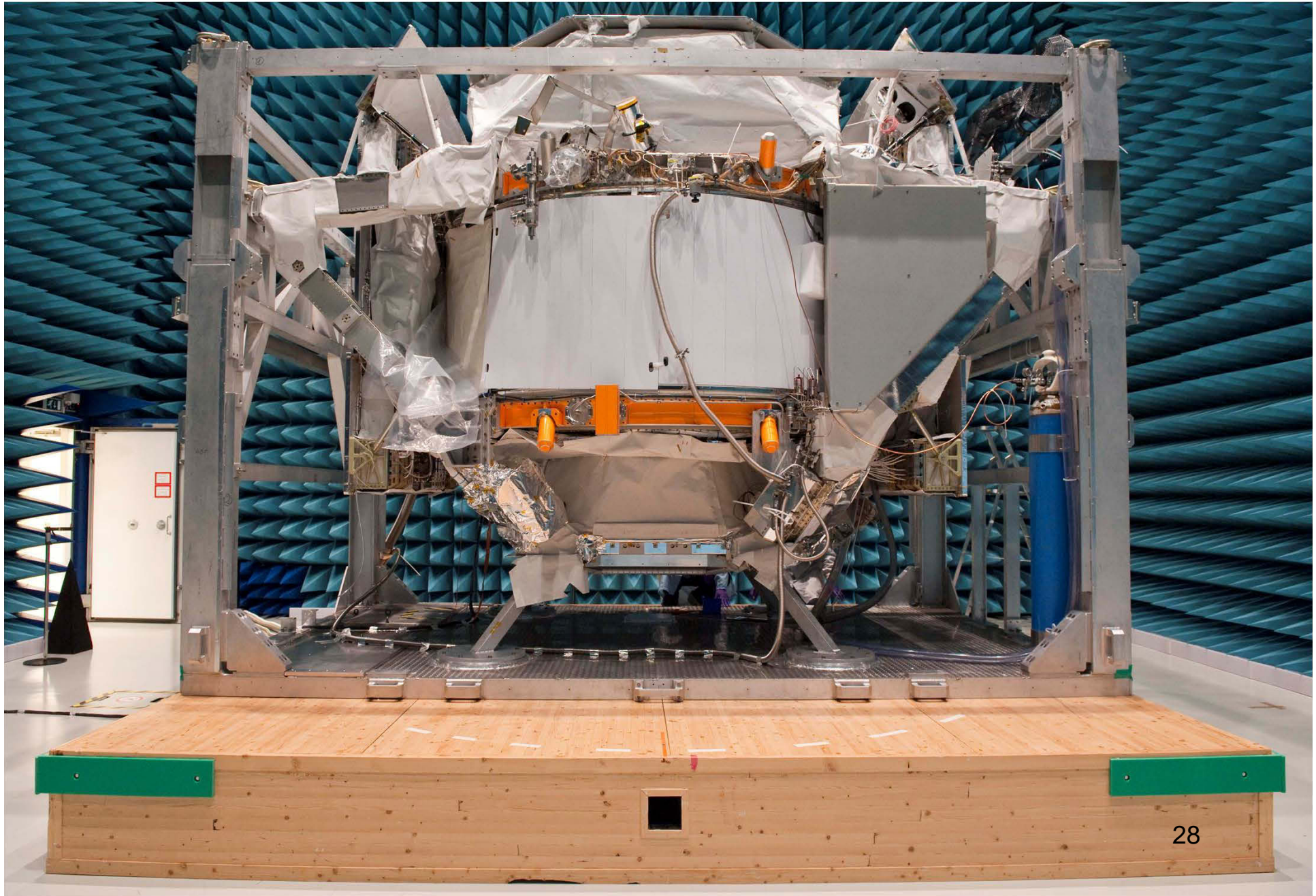




12. February 2010 - 16. February 2010:  
AMS-02 Transport from CERN, Geneva to ESTEC, Noordwijk

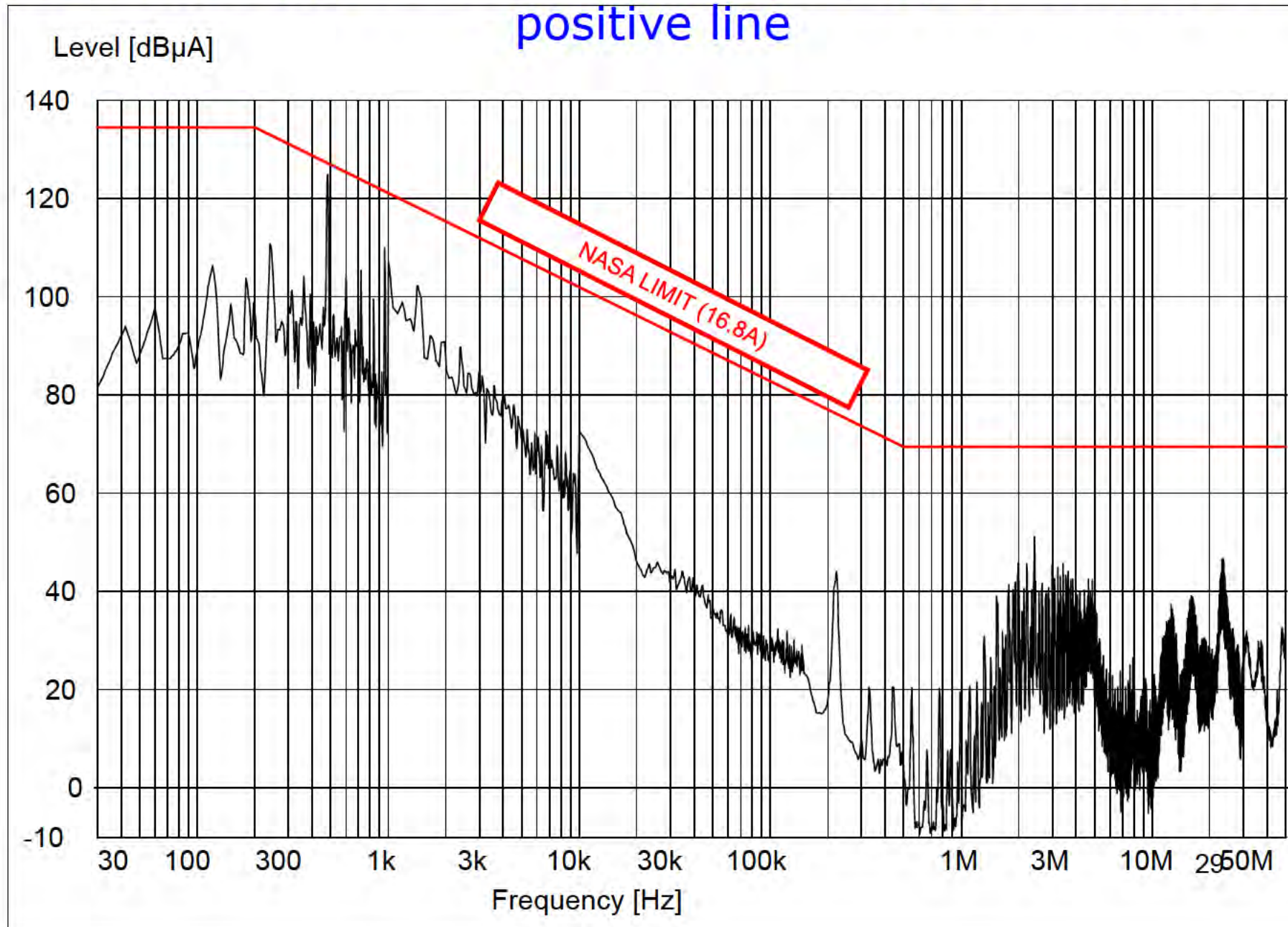


## AMS in the Maxwell EMI chamber at ESTEC



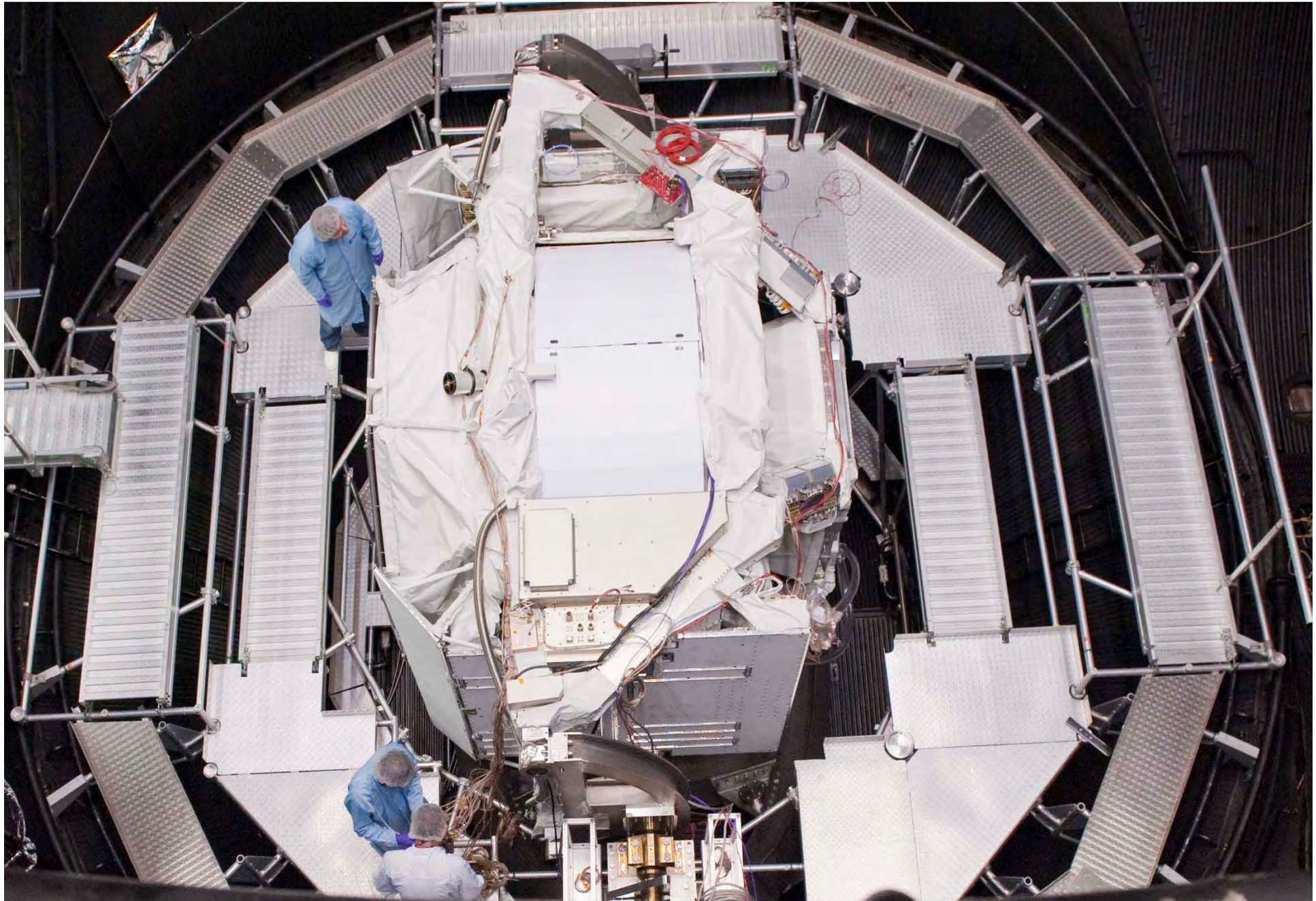


# AMS Conductive Emissions (CE01, CE03) Measurement – positive line





## AMS in the ESA Thermal Vacuum Chamber, Noordwijk, the Netherlands





Michael Braukus  
Headquarters, Washington  
202-358-1979  
[michael.j.braukus@nasa.gov](mailto:michael.j.braukus@nasa.gov)

March 11, 2010

RELEASE : 10-063

## Heads of Agency International Space Station Joint Statement

TOKYO -- The heads of the International Space Station (ISS) agencies from Canada, Europe, Japan, Russia, and the United States met in Tokyo, Japan, on March 11, 2010, to review ISS cooperation.

With the assembly of the ISS nearing completion and the capability to support a full-time crew of six established, they noted the outstanding opportunities now offered by the ISS for on-orbit research and for discovery including the operation and management of the world's largest international space complex. In particular, they noted the unprecedented opportunities that enhanced use of this unique facility provides to drive advanced science and technology. This research will deliver benefits to humanity on Earth while preparing the way for future exploration activities beyond low-Earth orbit. The ISS will also allow the partnership to experiment with more integrated international operations and research, paving the way for enhanced collaboration on future international missions.

The heads of agency reaffirmed the importance of full exploitation of the station's scientific, engineering, utilization, and education potential. They noted that there are no identified technical constraints to continuing ISS operations beyond the current planning horizon of 2015 to at least 2020, and that the partnership is currently working to certify on-orbit elements through 2028. The heads of agency expressed their strong mutual interest in continuing operations and utilization for as long as the benefits of ISS exploitation are demonstrated. They acknowledged that a U.S. fiscal year 2011 budget consistent with the U.S. administration's budget request would allow the United States to support the continuation of ISS operations and utilization activities to at least 2020. They emphasized their common intent to undertake the necessary procedures within their respective governments to reach consensus later this year on the continuation of the ISS to the next decade.

In looking ahead, the heads of agency discussed the importance of increasing ISS utilization and operational efficiency by all possible means, including finding and coordinating efficiencies across the ISS Program and assuring the most effective use of essential capabilities, such as space transportation for crew and cargo, for the life of the program.

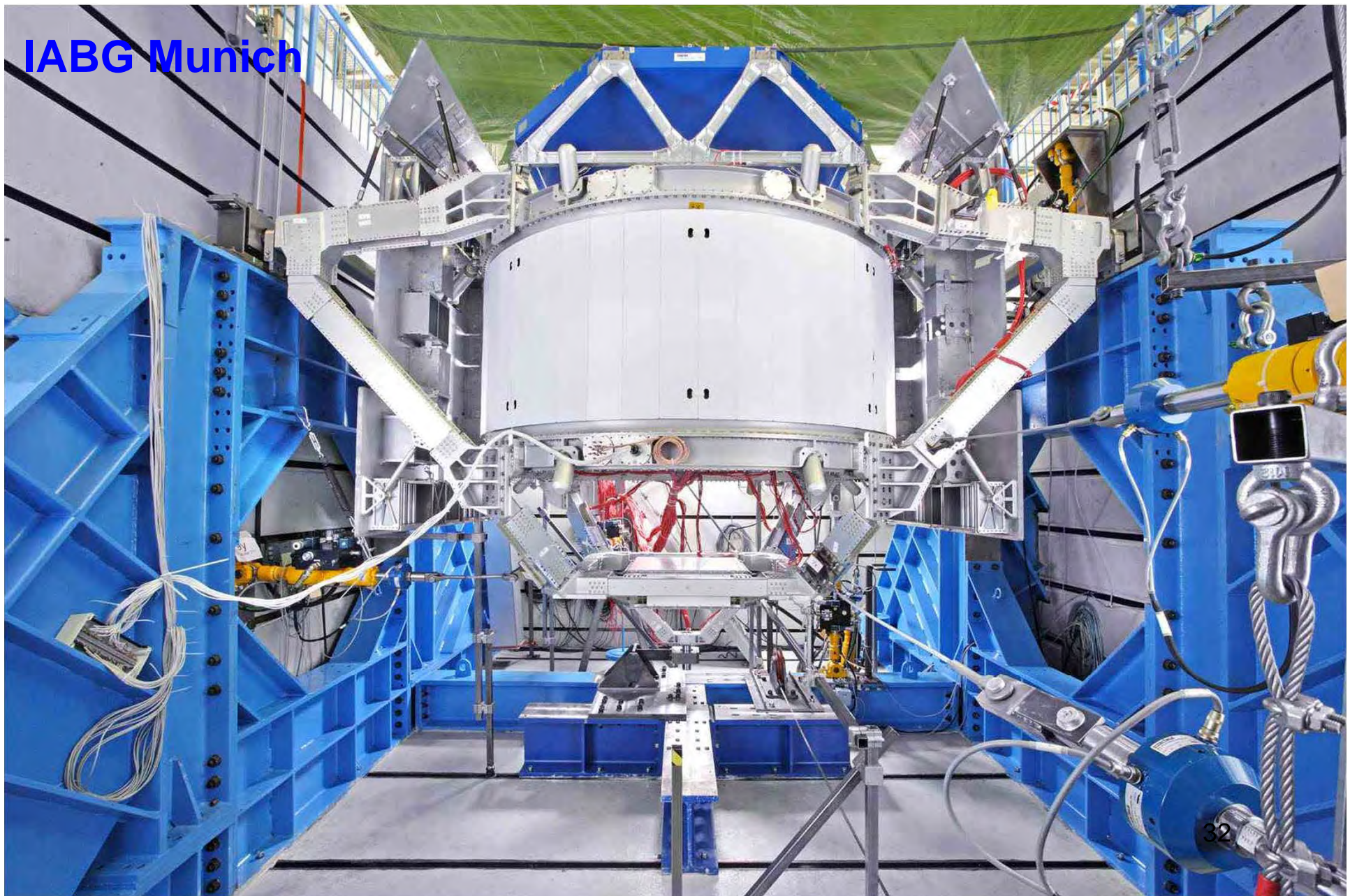
For the latest about the International Space Station, visit the Internet at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/station>

- end -



For AMS-02, Two Magnets were built:  
One for Space Qualification Tests in Germany and Italy











**NASA Associate Administrator for Space Operations William Gerstenmaier visited AMS on 19 June 2010 and reviewed the progress.**

**Other visits:**

***1 June 2011,  
10 May 2011,  
26 October 2010,  
15 February 2010,  
19 January 2010,  
5 July 2009,  
1 November 2007,  
12 May 2003***





**5m x 4m x 3m**

**7.5 tons**

**300,000 electronic channels**

**650 processors**

**TRD**

**AMS**

**Silicon layer**

**TOF 1, 2**

**Magnet**

**7 Silicon layers**

**TOF 3, 4**

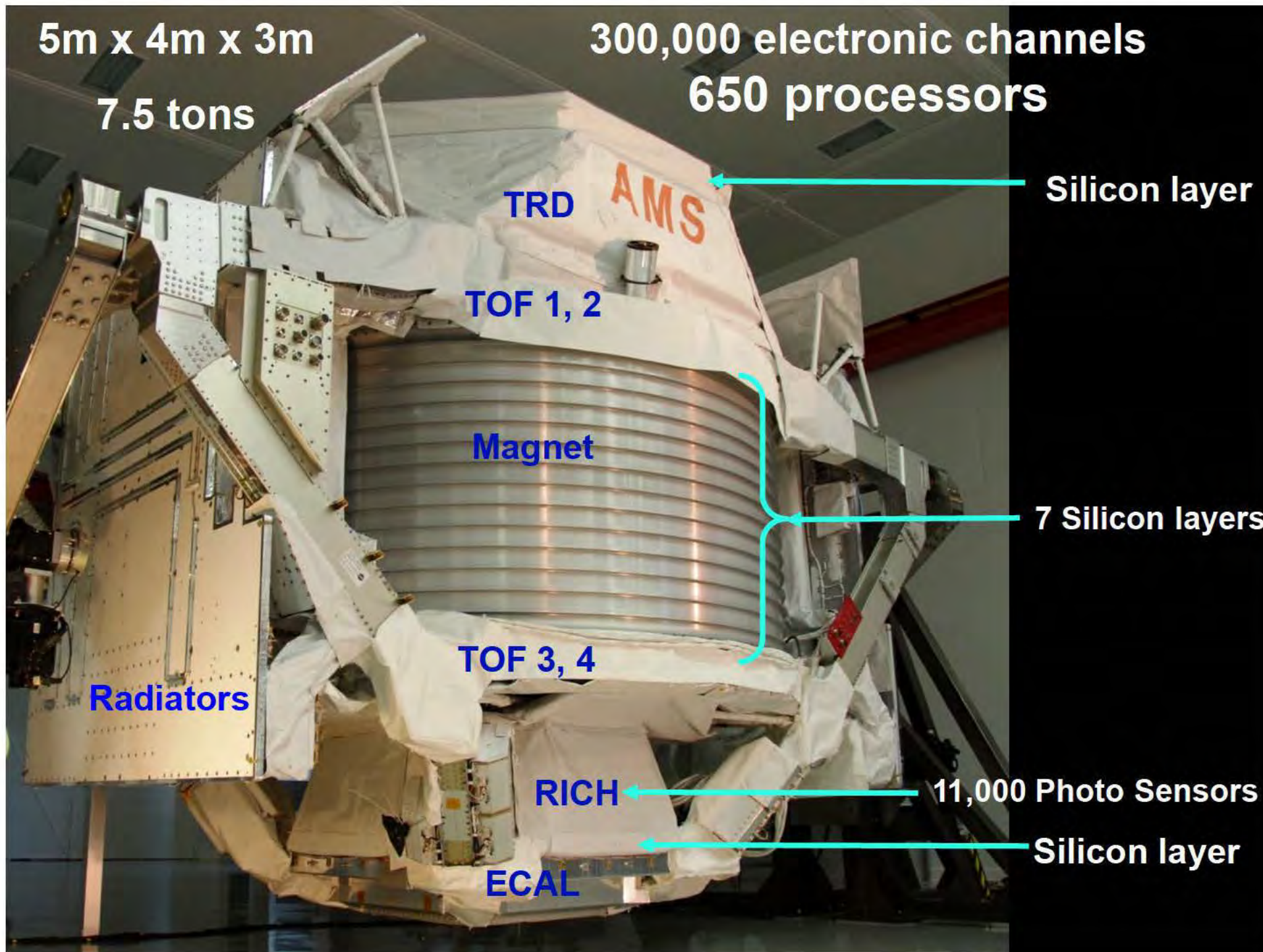
**Radiators**

**RICH**

**11,000 Photo Sensors**

**ECAL**

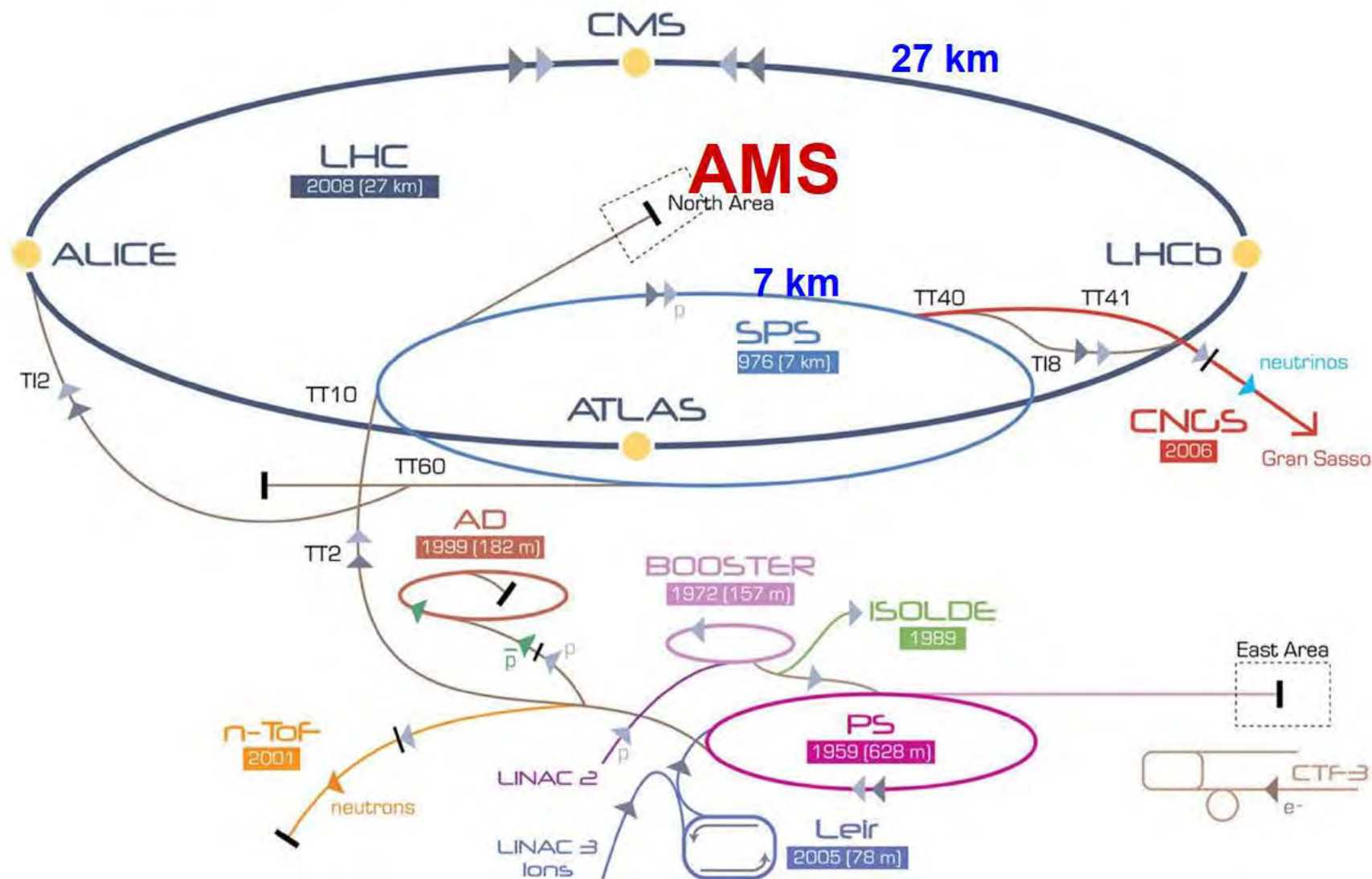
**Silicon layer**





# Test at CERN

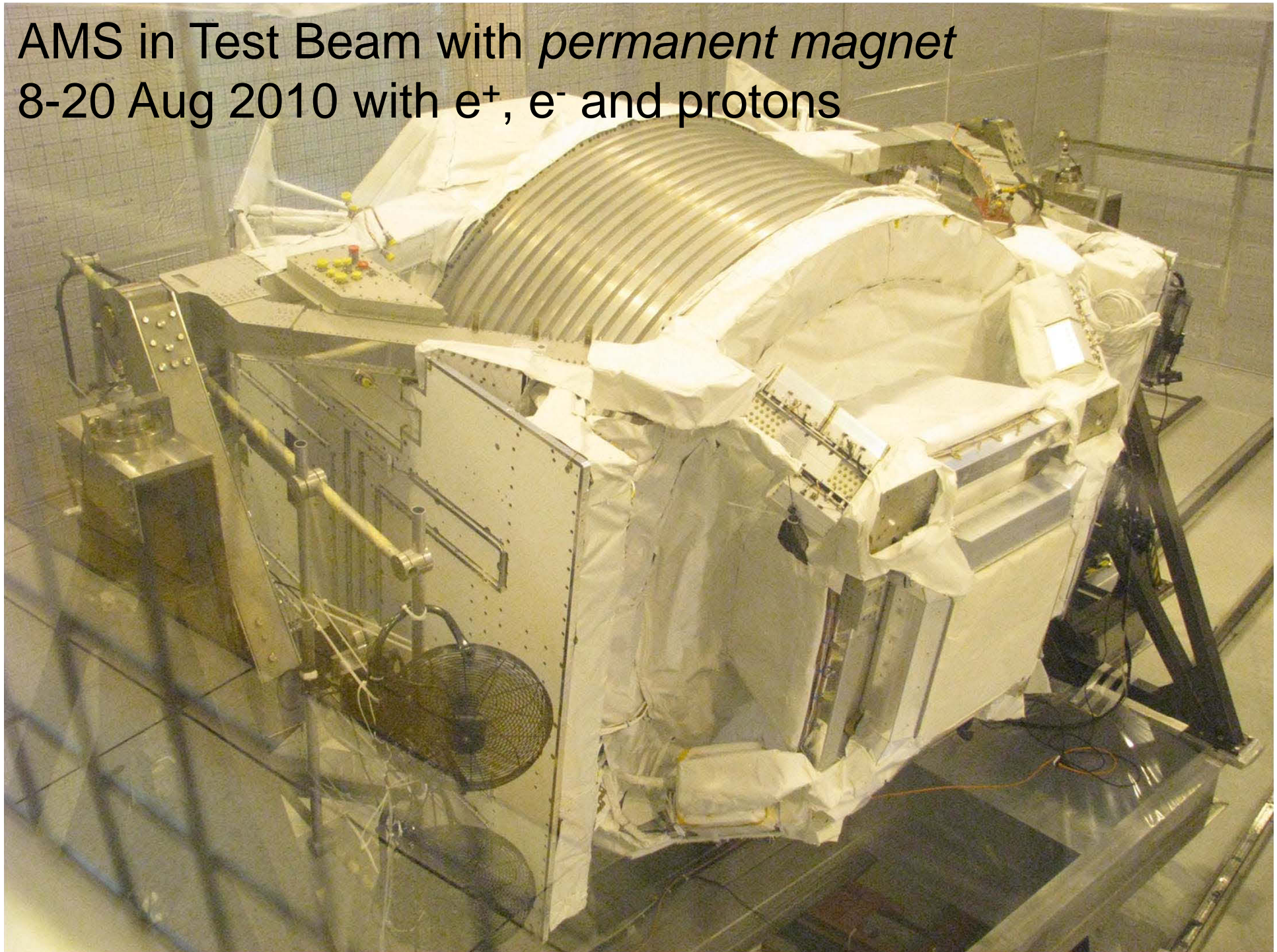
## AMS in accelerator test beam Aug 8-20, 2010



CERN Accelerator Complex

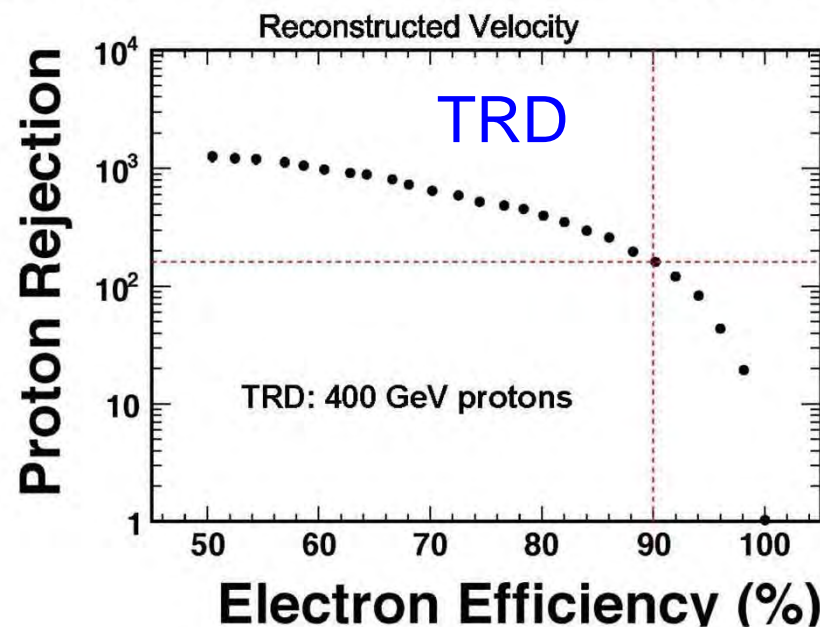
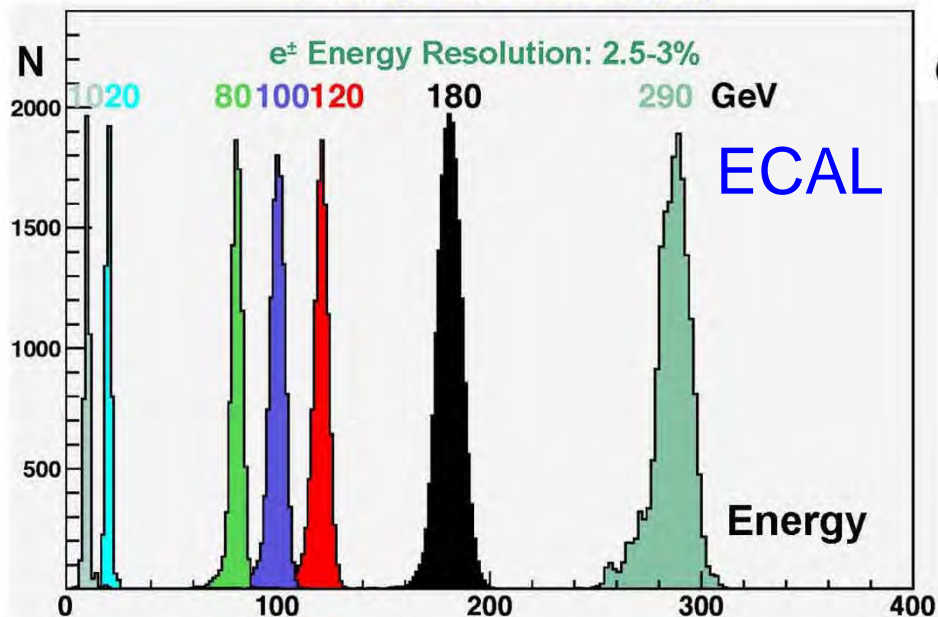
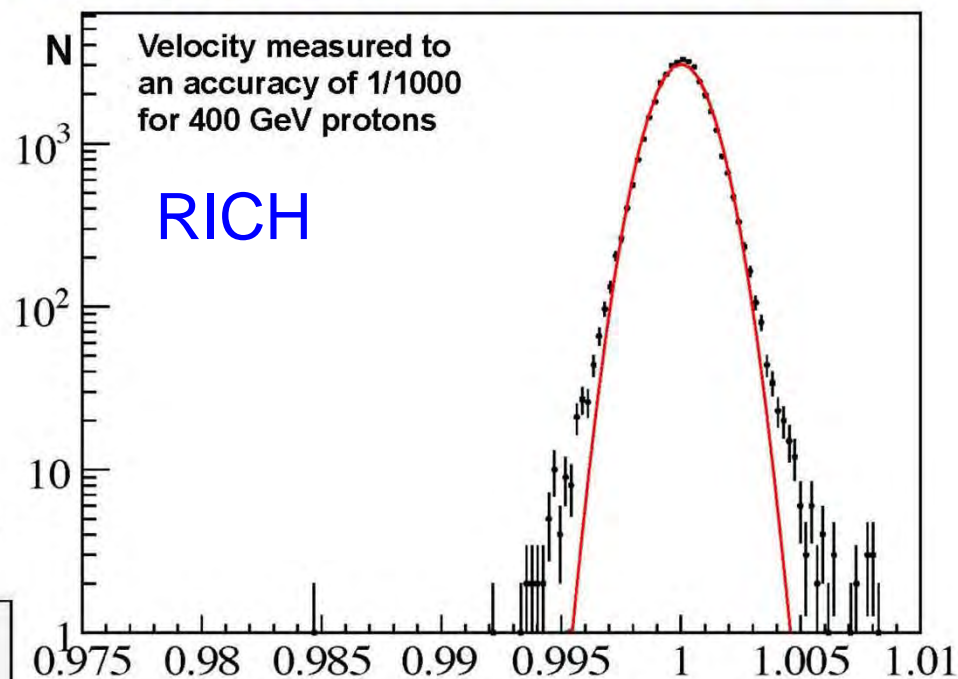
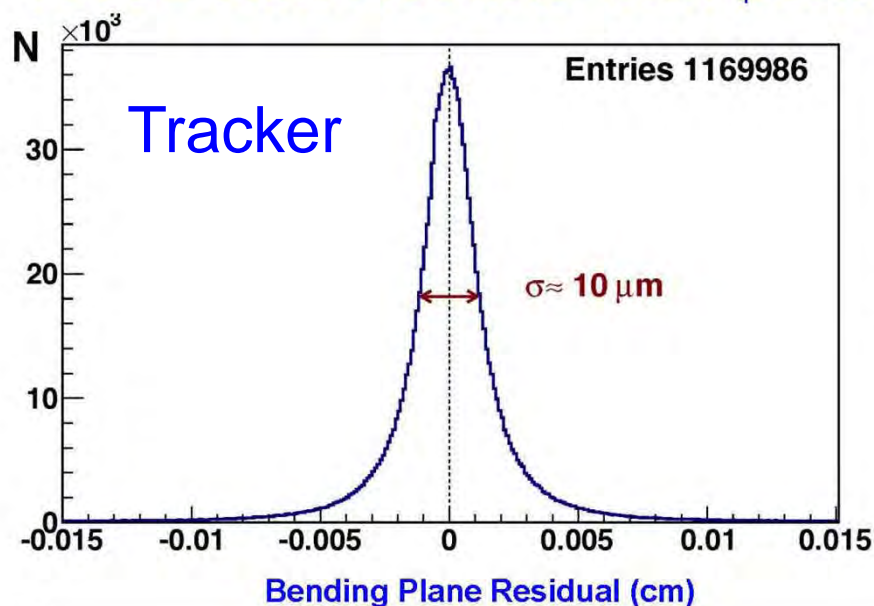


AMS in Test Beam with *permanent magnet*  
8-20 Aug 2010 with  $e^+$ ,  $e^-$  and protons





# Test Beam Results with permanent magnet – 8-20 Aug 2010

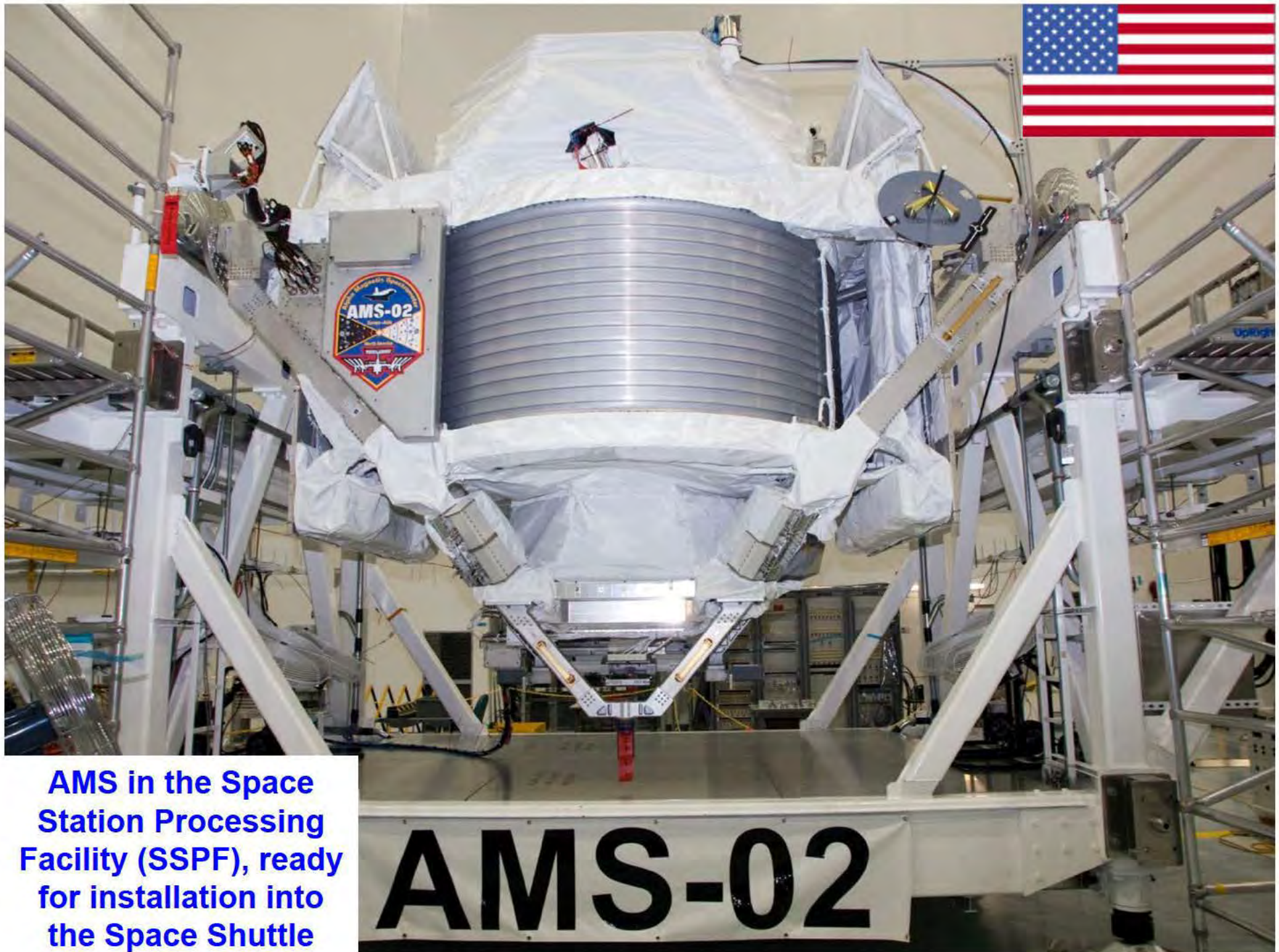




A US Air Force C-5 Galaxy  
has been used for transport  
from Geneva to KSC  
25. August 2010







**AMS in the Space Station Processing Facility (SSPF), ready for installation into the Space Shuttle**

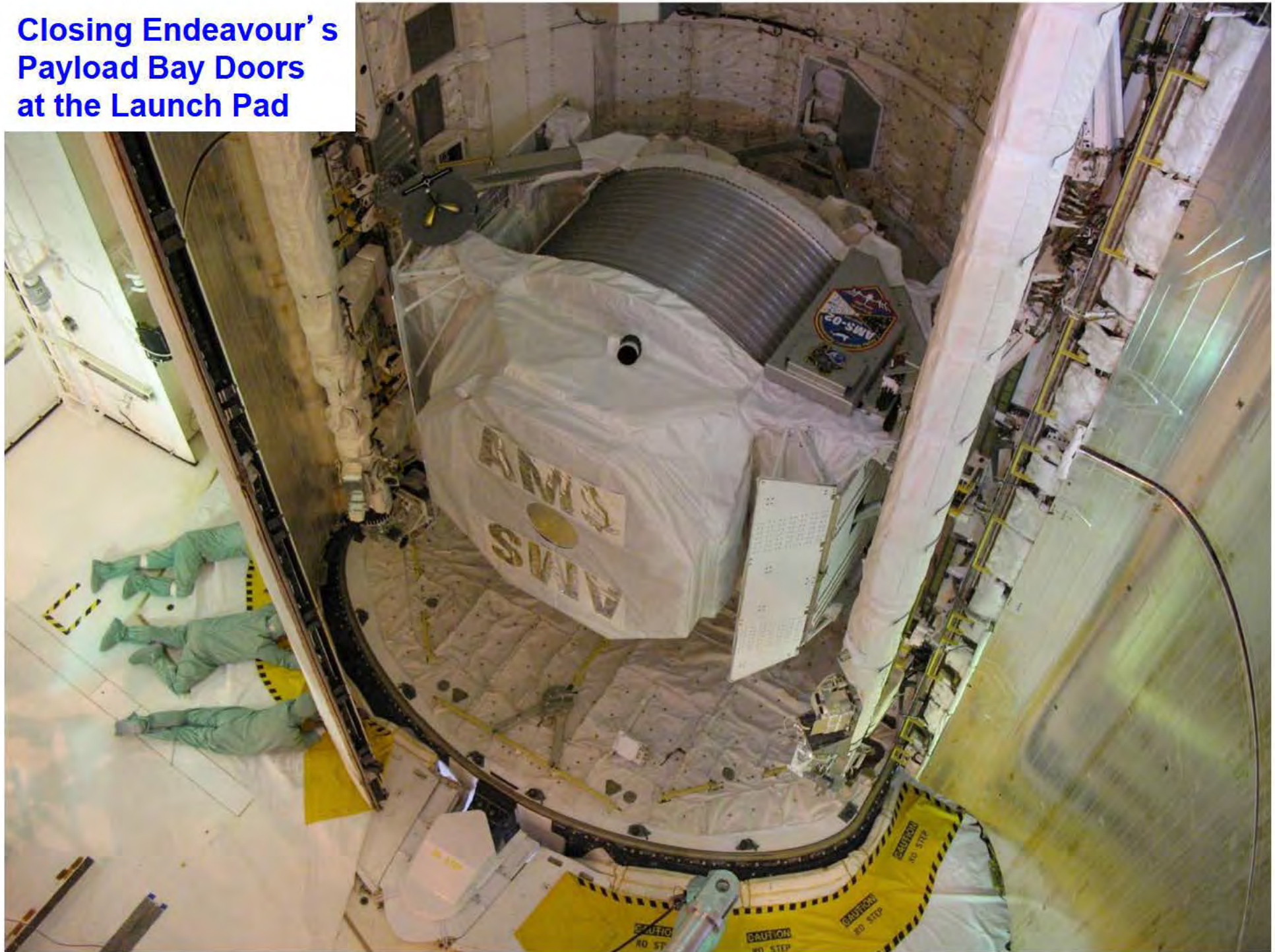




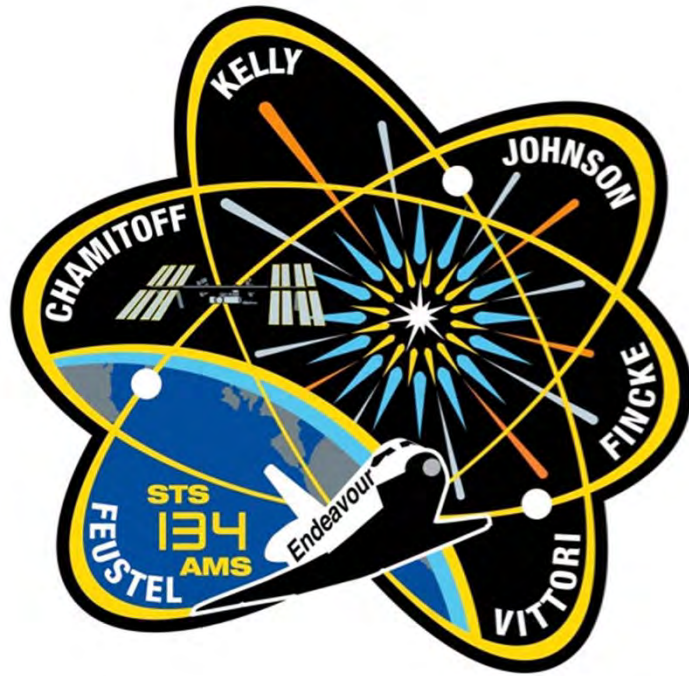
AMS



## Closing Endeavour's Payload Bay Doors at the Launch Pad







The STS-134 crew leaves  
the Operations & Checkout  
building on their way to the  
Launch Pad, May 16, 2011







**STS-134 launch May 16, 2011 @ 08:56 AM**

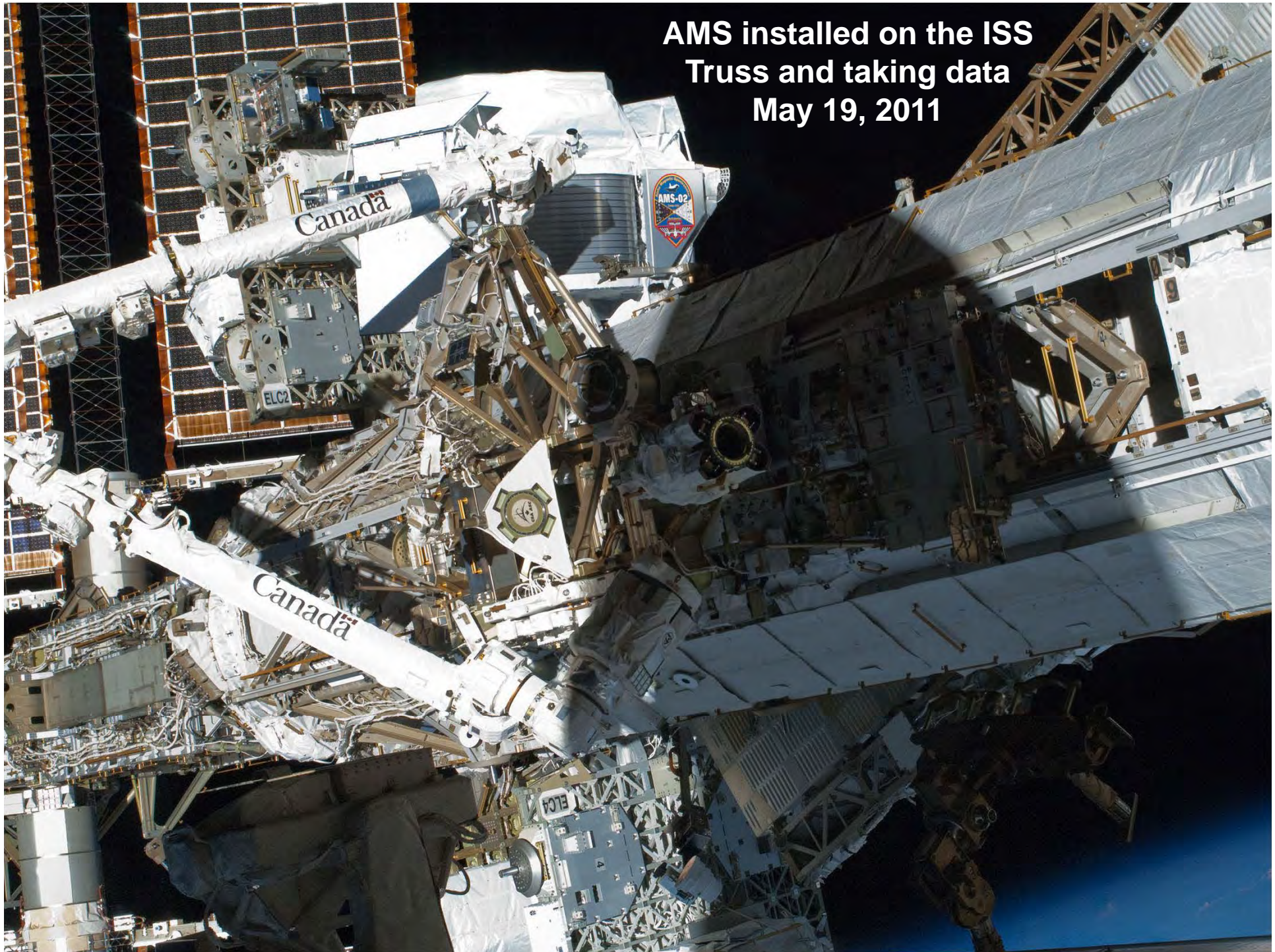




Endeavour approaches the International Space Station



**AMS installed on the ISS  
Truss and taking data  
May 19, 2011**

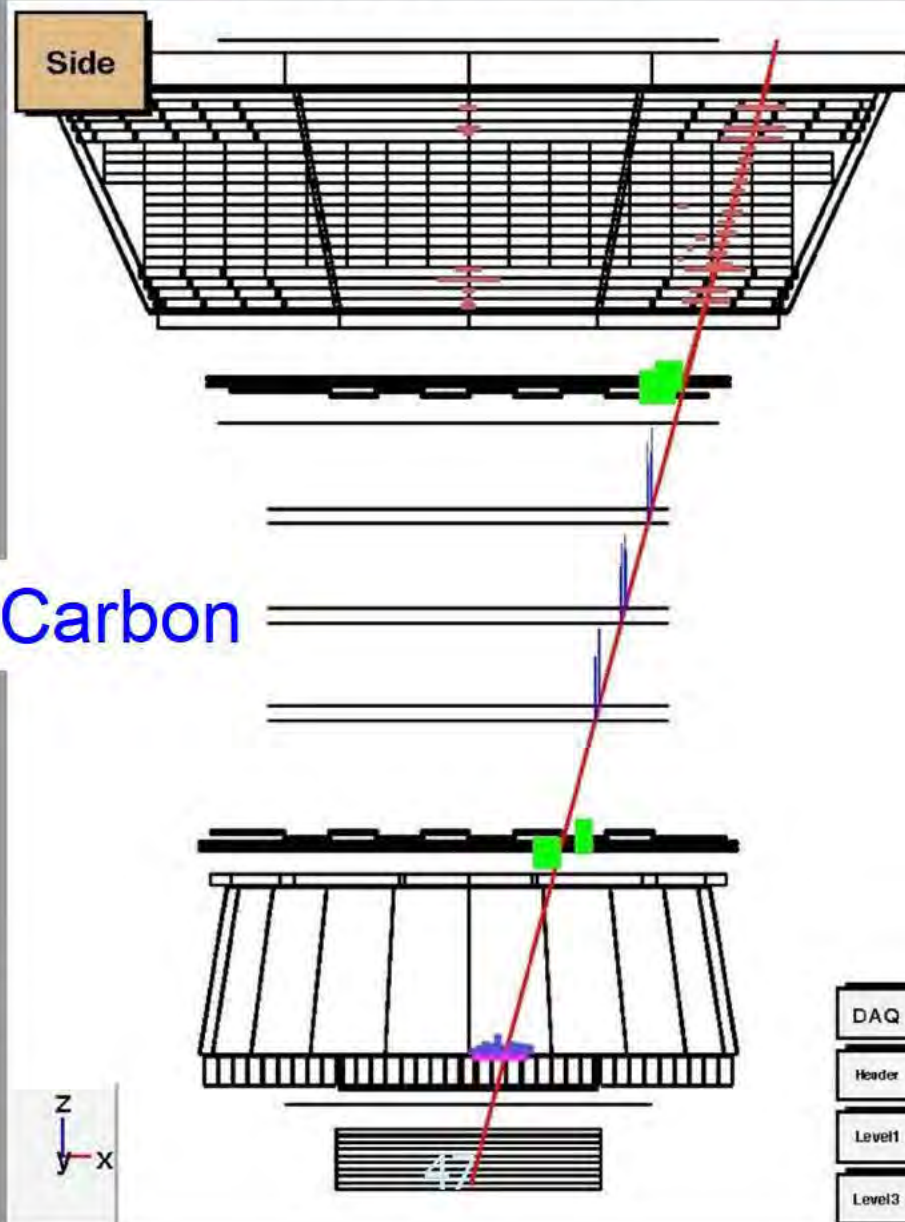
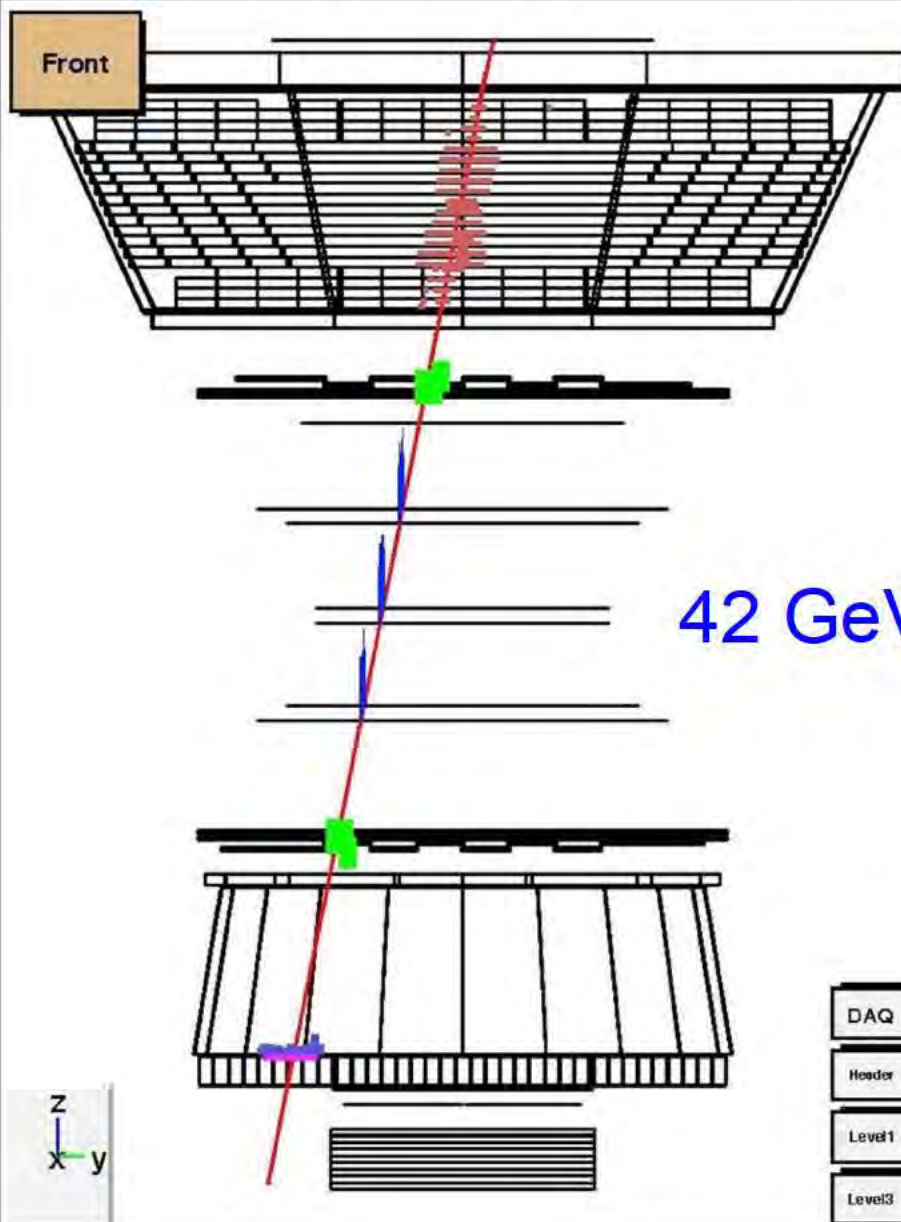




**May 19: AMS installed on ISS 5:15 CDT, start taking data 9:35 CDT**

AMS Event Display

Run 1305815610/ 224169 Thu May 19 16:42:29 2011 Geneva



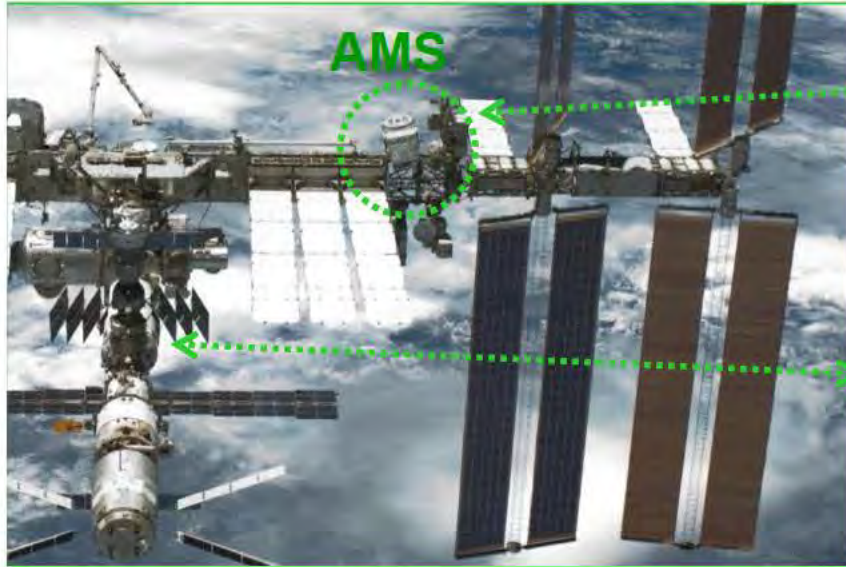




JSC, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2011



# AMS Operations



AMS



Astronaut at ISS AMS Laptop



TDRS Satellites

## Flight Operations Ground Operations

**Ku-Band**  
**High Rate (down):**  
Events <10Mbit/s>

**S-Band**  
**Low Rate (up & down):**  
Commanding: 1 Kbit/s  
Monitoring: 30 Kbit/s



AMS Payload Operations Control and  
Science Operations Centers  
(POCC, SOC) at CERN



AMS Computers  
at MSFC, AL



White Sands Ground  
Terminal, NM



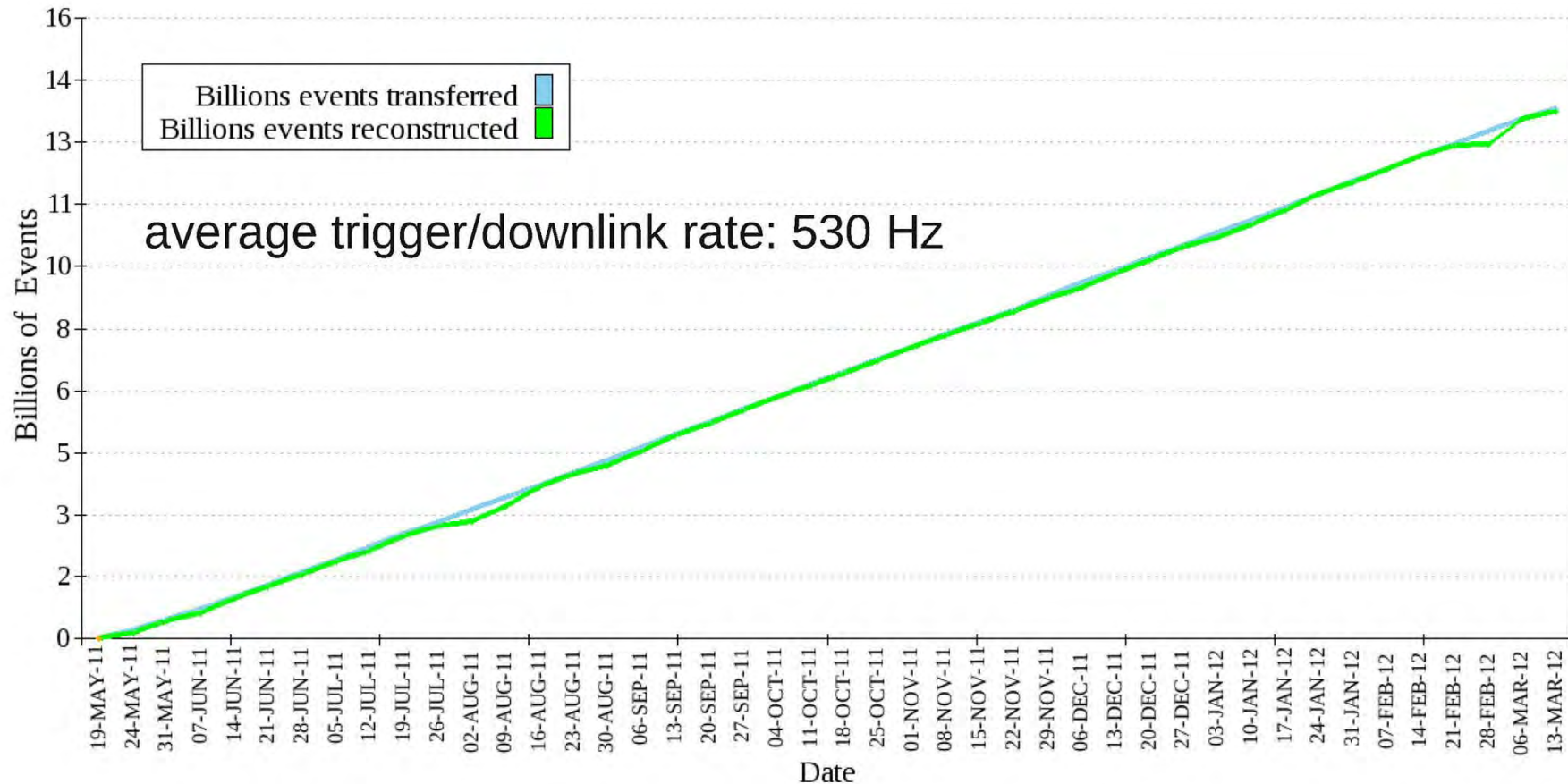


**S. Ting    C. Bolden    R. Heuer**

**General Charles Bolden, NASA Administrator, inaugurated  
AMS Payload Operations Control Center (POCC), June 23, 2011**



- **The detectors function exactly as designed**
- AMS collected over 13 billion events over the first 10 months
- Data taking has been continuously active except a few hours.



Every year, we will collect  $16 \cdot 10^9$  events  
and in 10-20 years we will collect  $160\text{-}320 \cdot 10^9$  events.

This will provide unprecedented sensitivity to search for new physics.



## 1.03 TeV electron

AMS Event Display

Run/Event 1315754945 / 173049 GMT Time 2011-254.15:31:15

front  
view

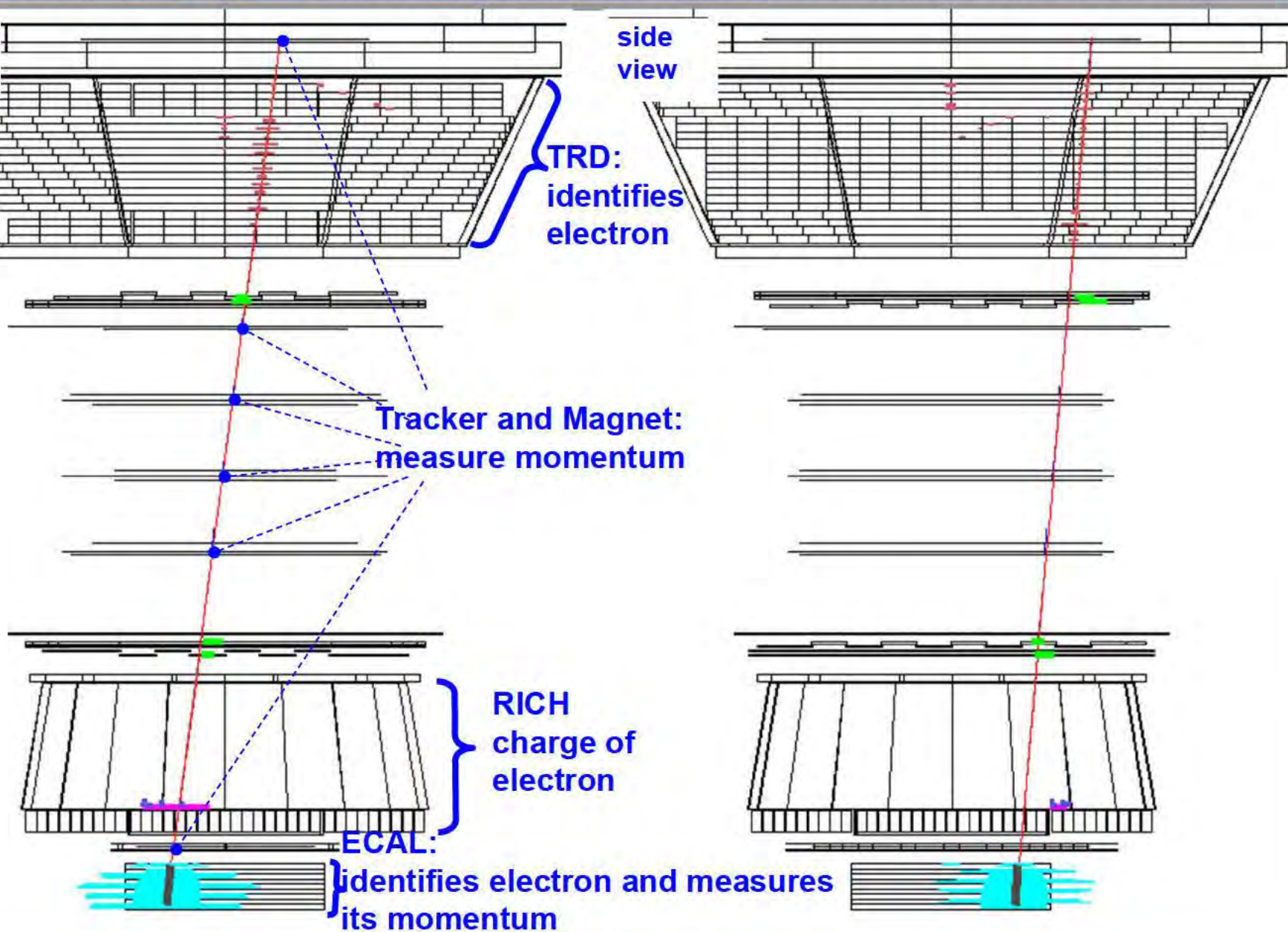
side  
view

TRD:  
identifies  
electron

Tracker and Magnet:  
measure momentum

RICH  
charge of  
electron

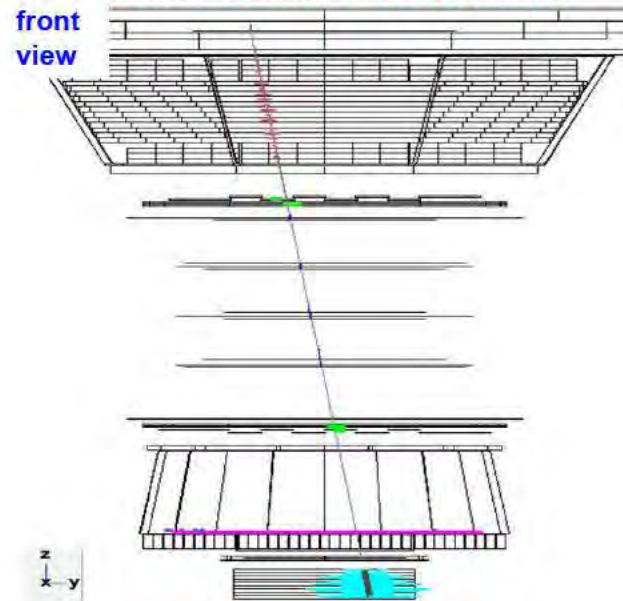
ECAL:  
identifies electron and measures  
its momentum



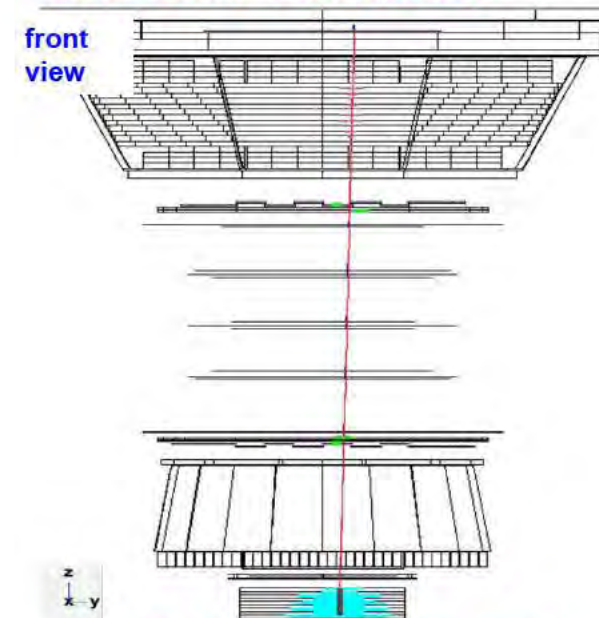


## AMS data: High energy $e^\pm$

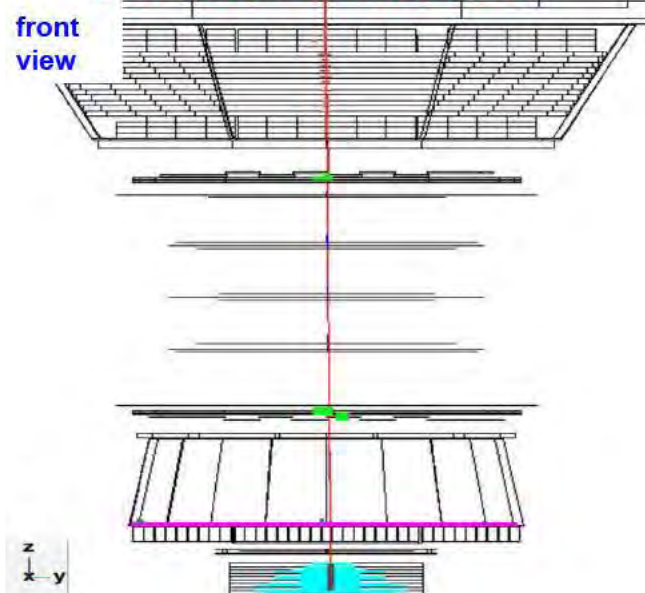
### 205 GeV Positron



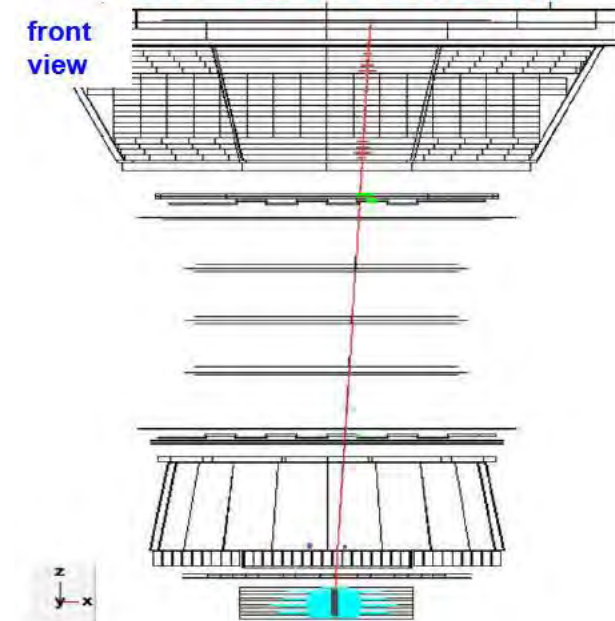
### 369 GeV Positron



### 388 GeV Positron

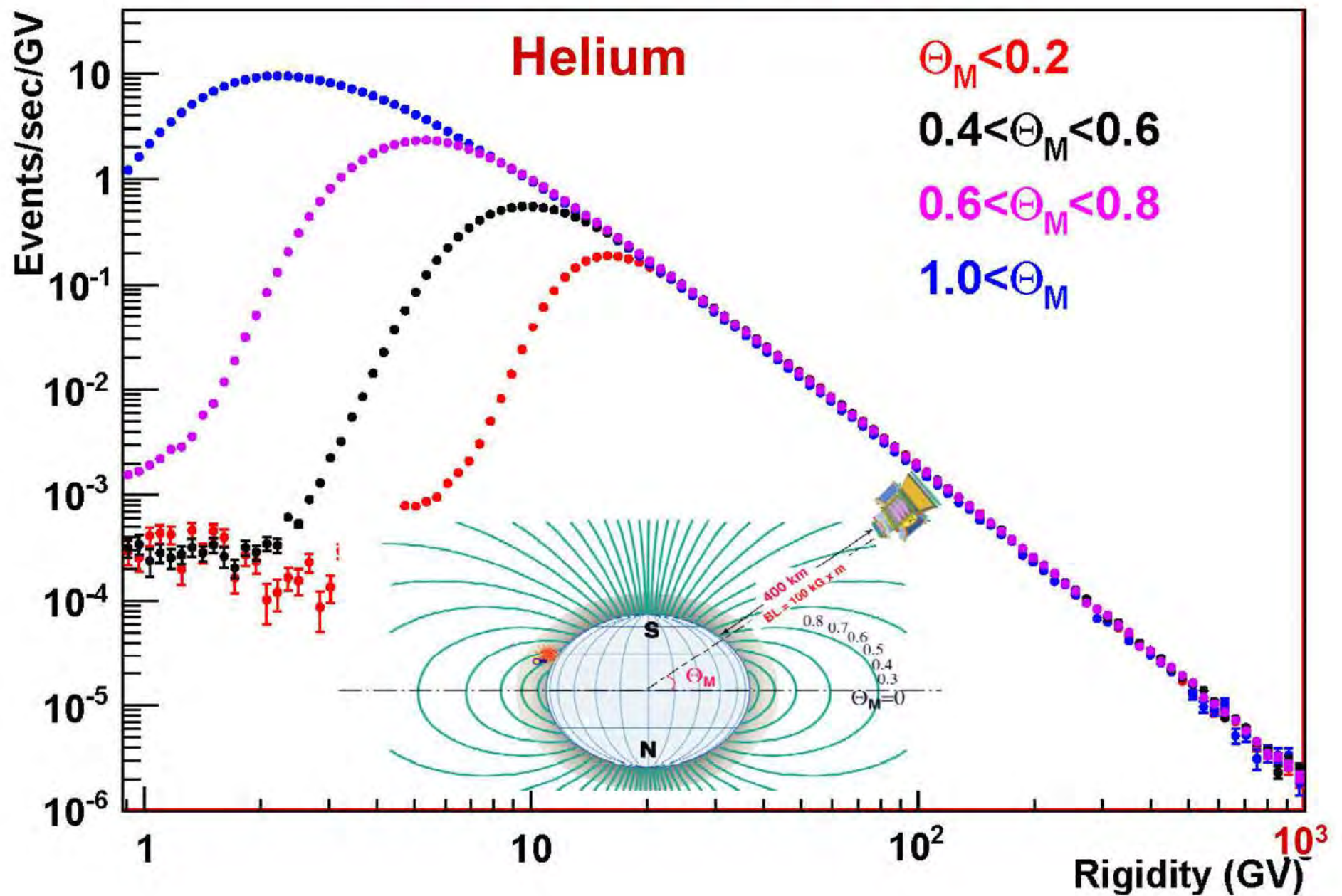


### 424 GeV Positron



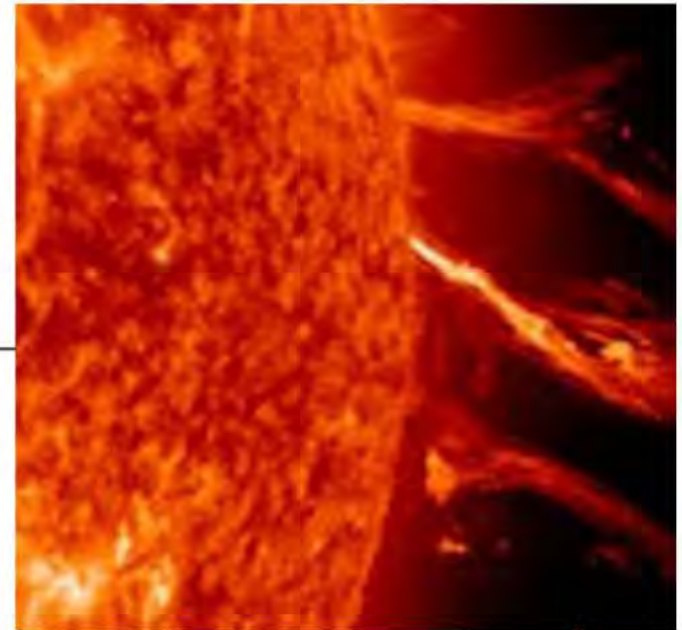
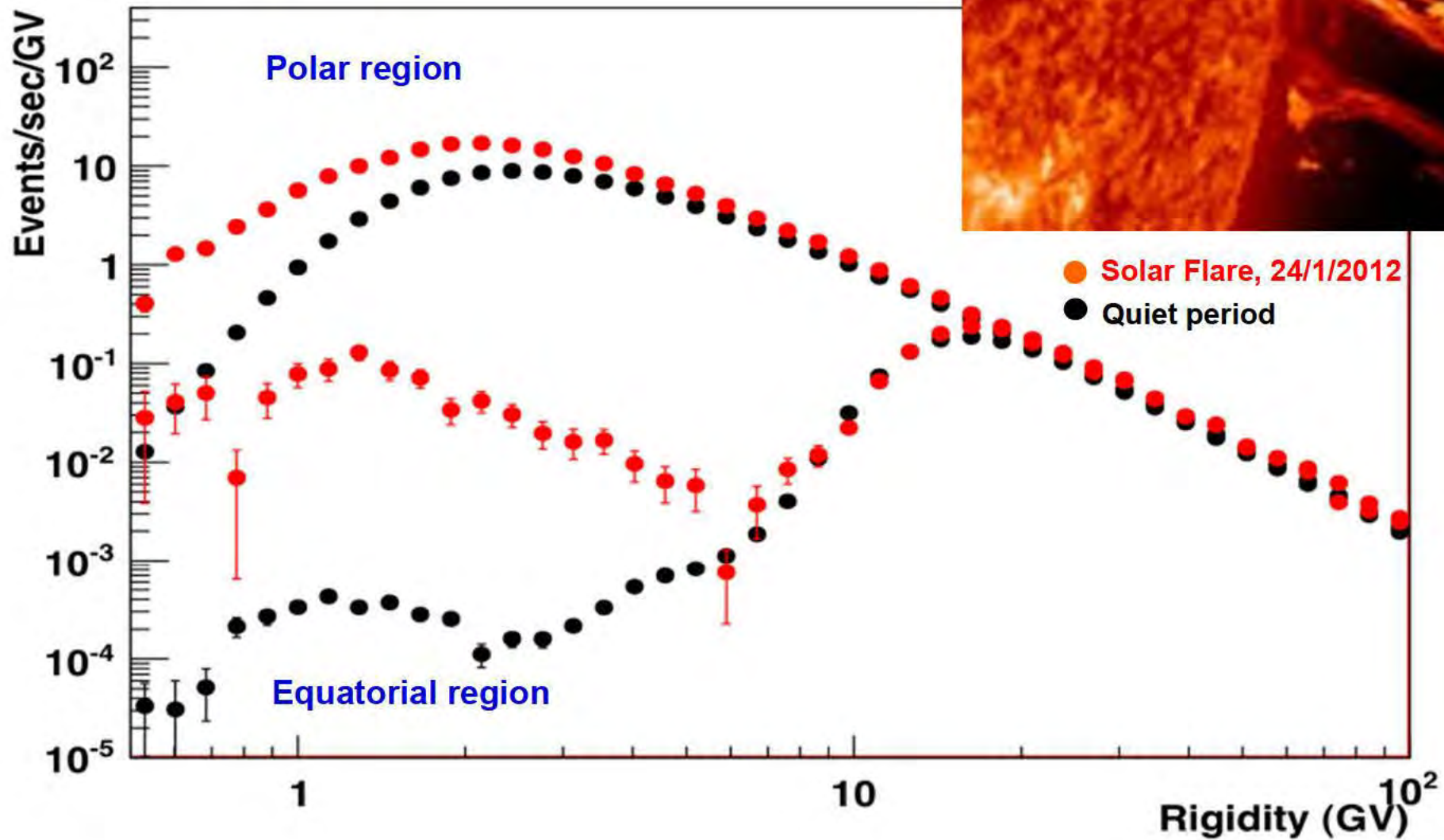


## Data from AMS on ISS

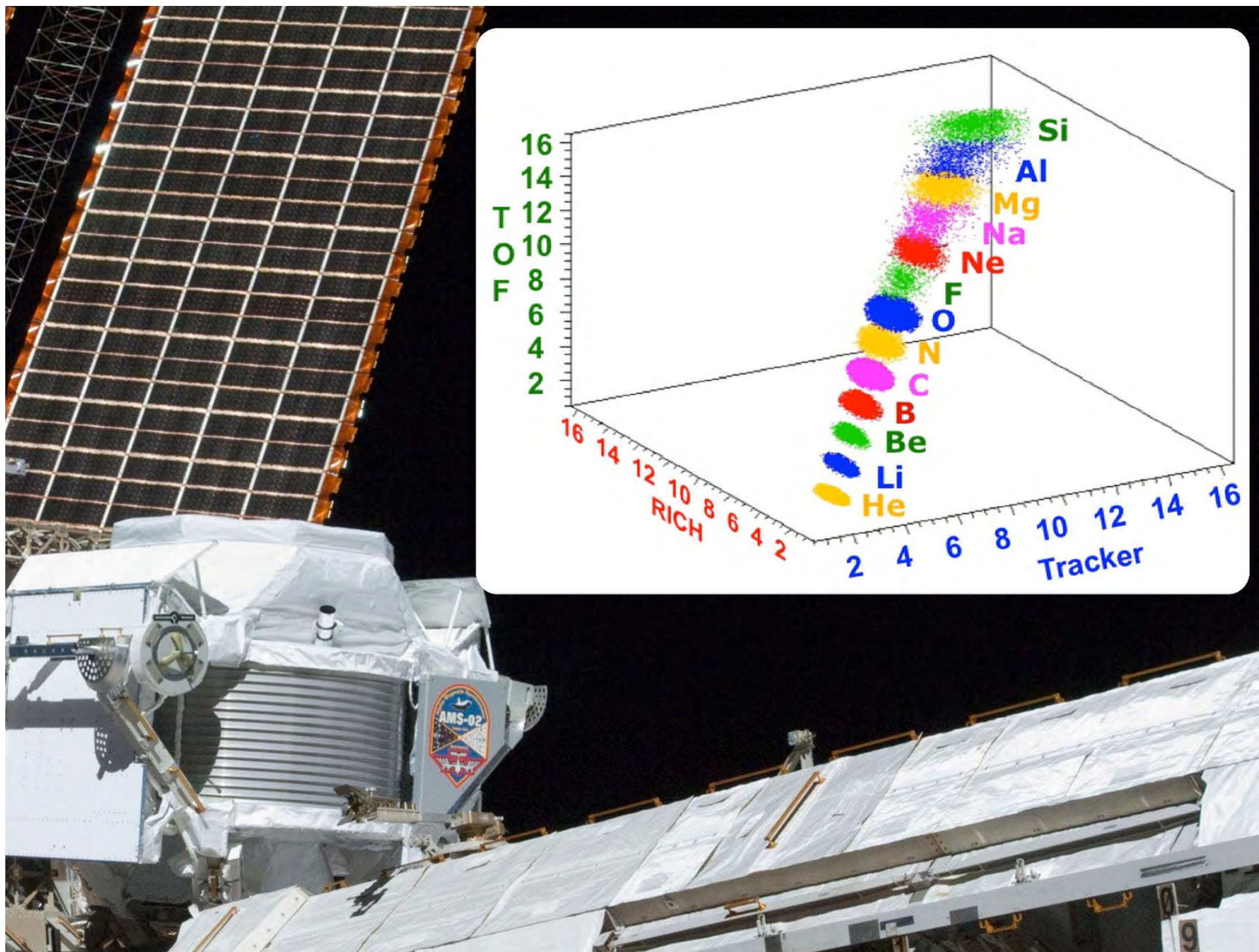




## AMS data: He rate and Solar Flare









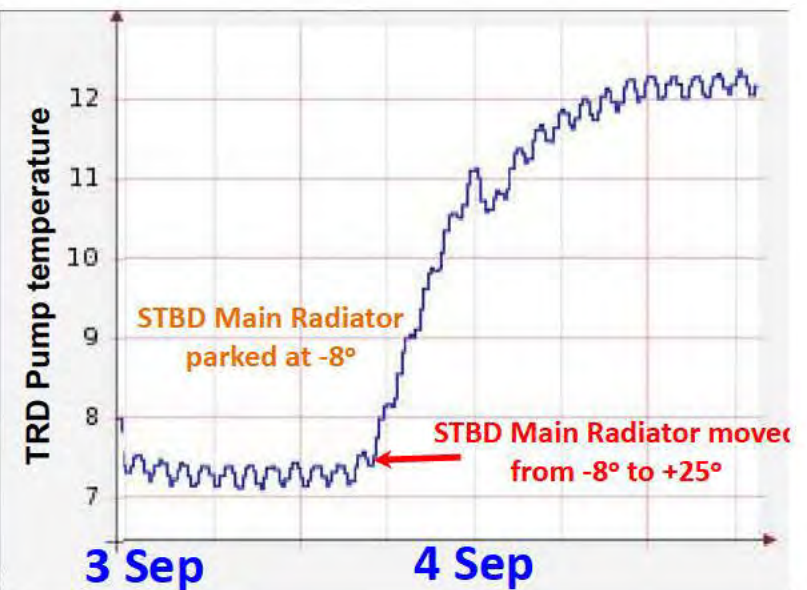
## Thermal variables:

- ISS Radiator positions
- ISS attitude changes (primarily for visiting vehicles)

Visiting Vehicles  
(Soyuz or Progress)

STBD Main Radiator

+25°



Ken Bollweg NASA/JSC

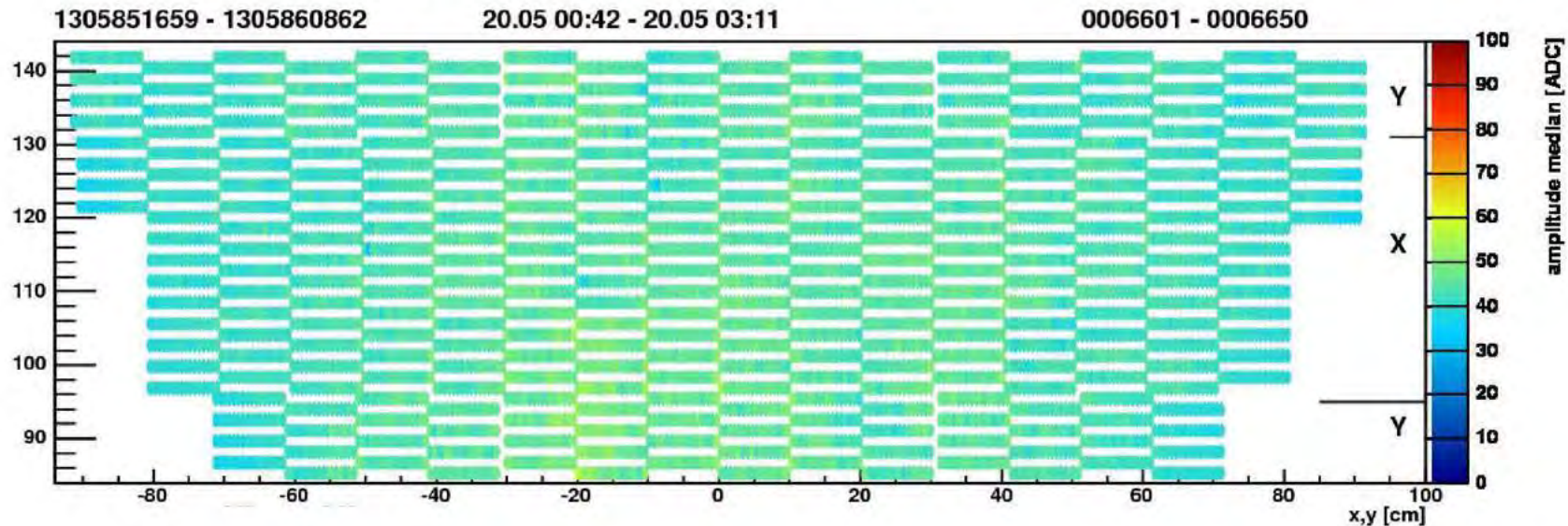




# TRD Operation on ISS

All 5248 TRD channels operational

TRD-Straw Amplitudes for hits on particle track:

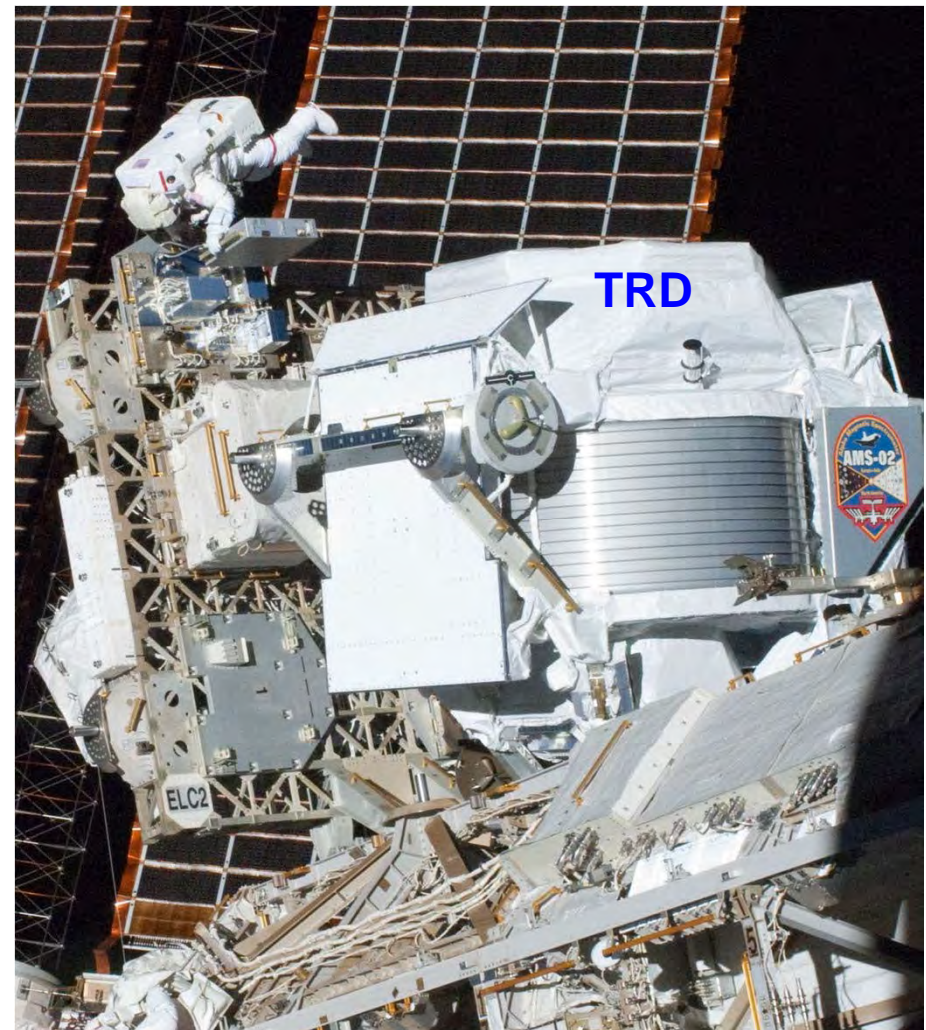
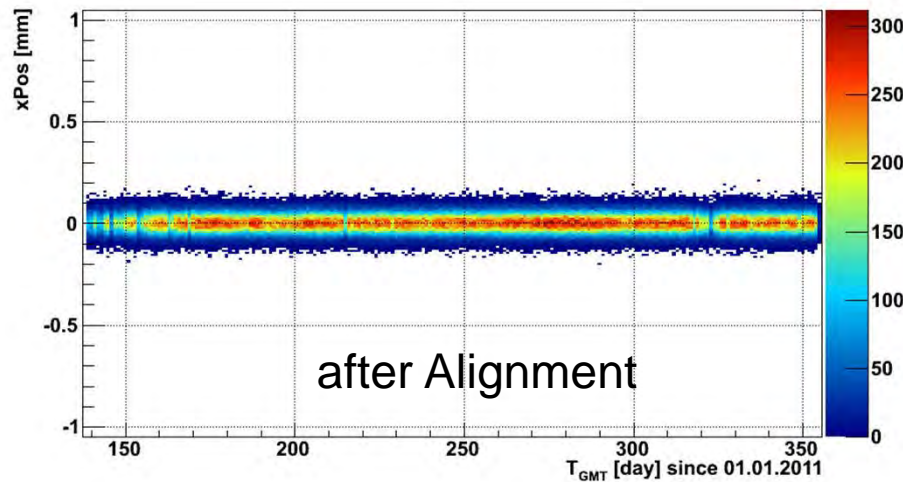
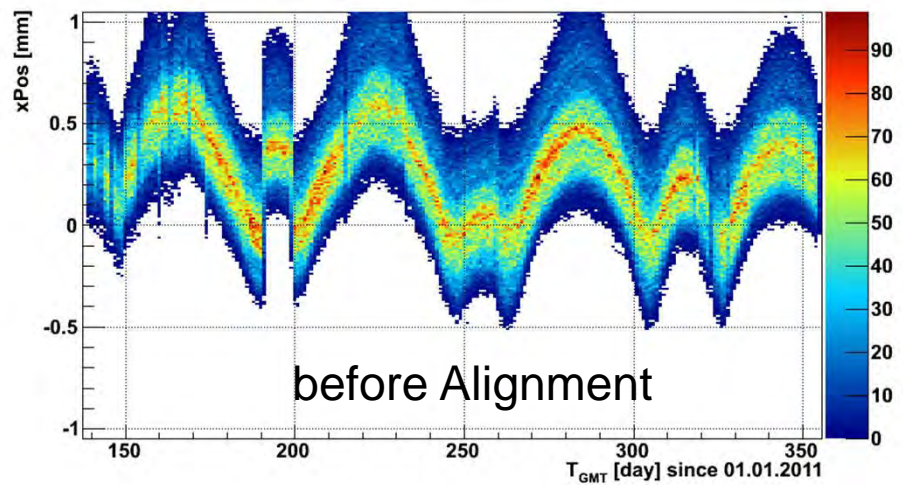


Gas-Losses: 4.2 mbar/d

CO<sub>2</sub> Storage: 5 kg:    Sufficient for more than 17 years

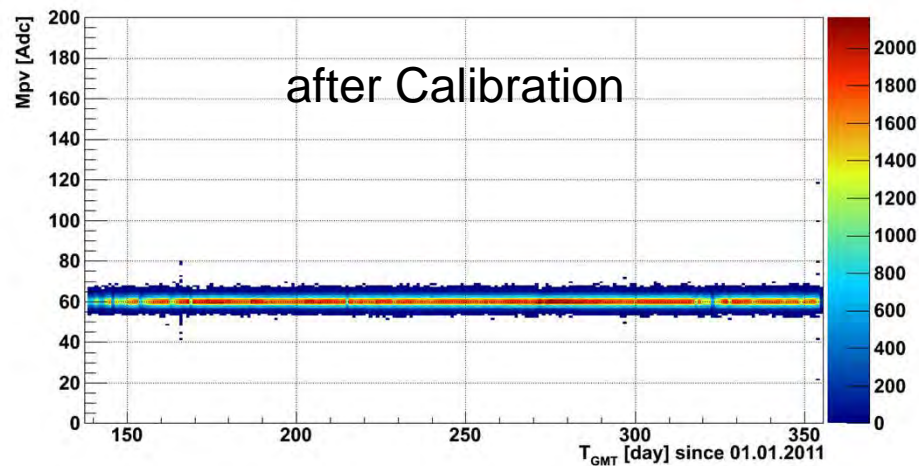
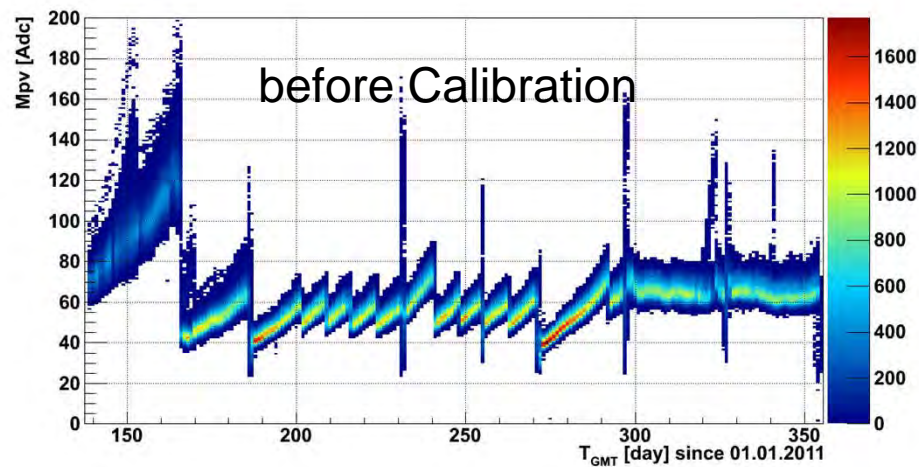


- Due to temperature variations the TRD is moving on top of the inner tracker by up to 1 mm.
- We can use protons for alignment to an accuracy of 0.04 mm for each straw module.



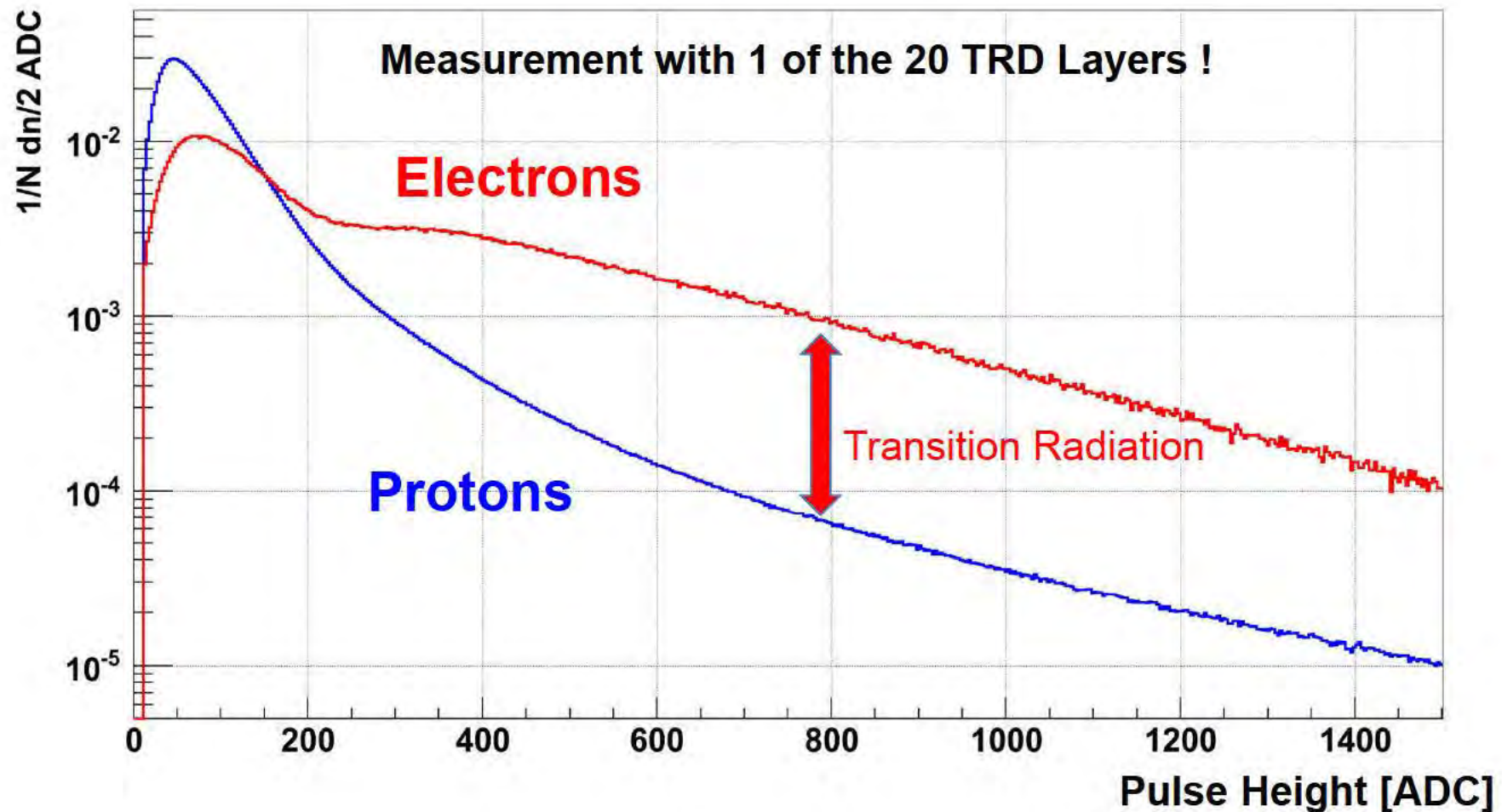


- Due to temperature, pressure, gas composition and HV changes the TRD detector response is changing
- We can use cosmic ray protons to calibrate the detector response to 3% accuracy.





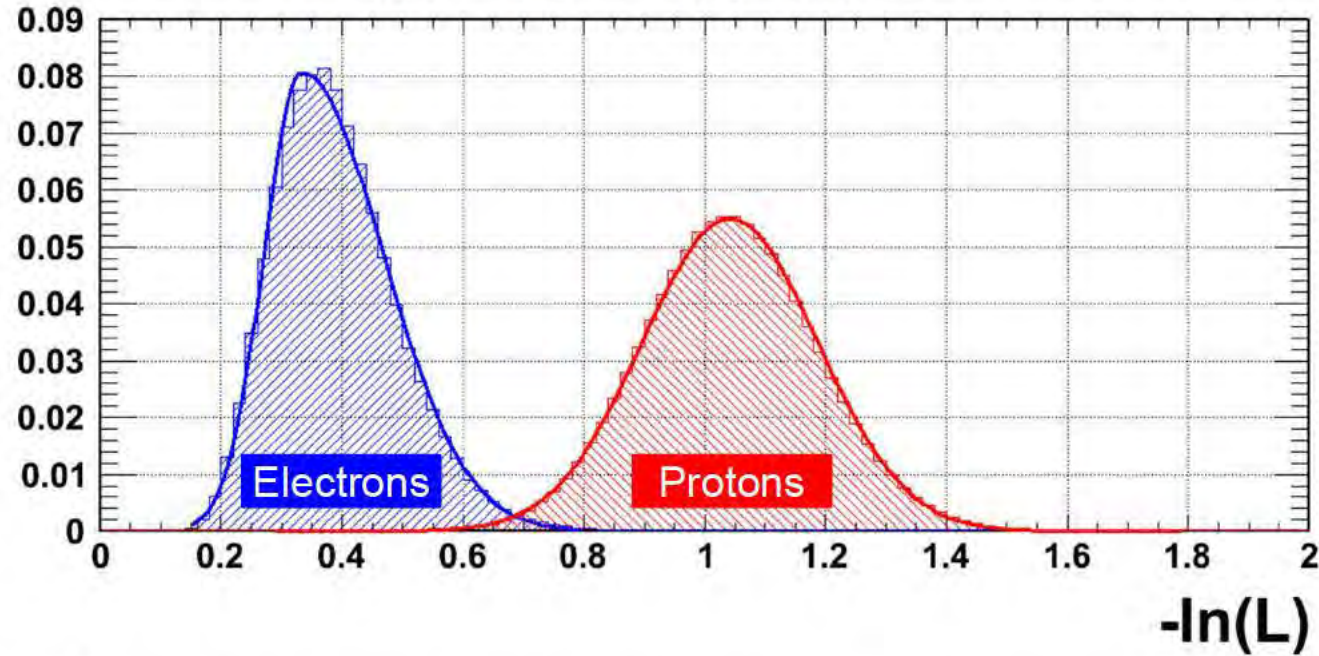
- Use the AMS Tracker and Electromagnetic Calorimeter to define a clean Electron and Proton sample.
- Study the TRD response in Space and determine the particle identification power from space data directly !





# AMS TRD Data on ISS

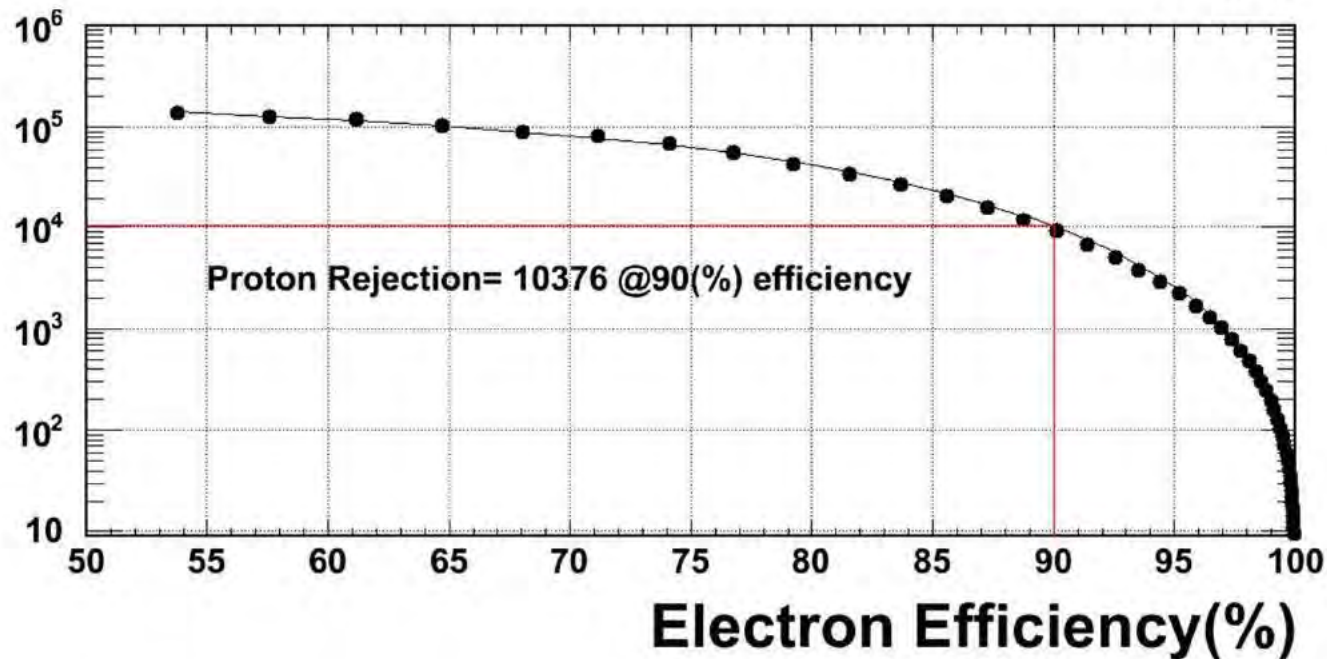
$1/N \, dn/dx$



$$\bar{P}_{e/p} = \sqrt{\prod_i^n P_{e/p}^{(i)}(E)}$$

$$L = \frac{\bar{P}_e}{\bar{P}_p + \bar{P}_e}$$

Proton Rejection





# AMS Physics Potential

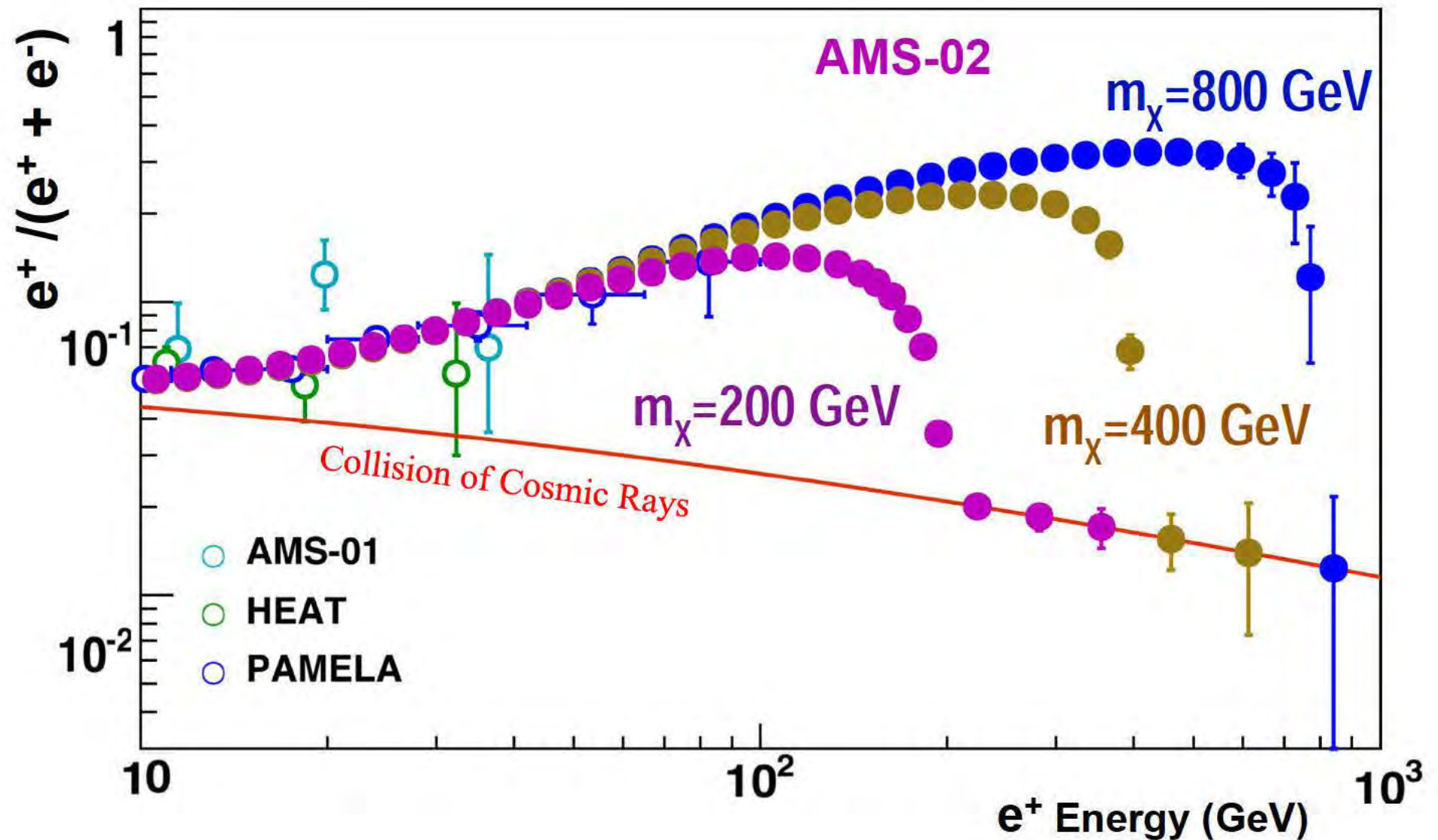
- **Searches for primordial antimatter:**
  - Anti-nuclei:  $\bar{\text{He}}$ , ...
- **Dark Matter searches:**
  - $e^+$ ,  $e^\pm$ ,  $\bar{p}$ , ...
  - simultaneous observation of several signal channels.
- **Searches for new forms of matter:**
  - strangelets, ...
- **Measuring CR spectra – refining propagation models;**
- **Identification of local sources of high energy photons (~TeV):**
  - SNR, Pulsars, PBH, ...
- **Study effects of solar modulation on CR spectra over 11 year solar cycle**
- ...

*“The most exciting objective of AMS is to probe the unknown;  
to search for phenomena which exist in nature  
that we have not yet imagined nor had the tools to discover.”*

*S. Ting*

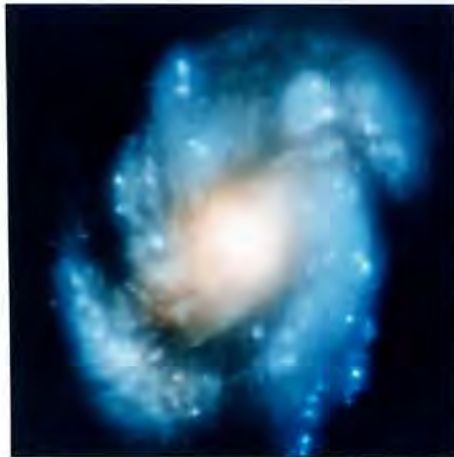


## What can we expect from AMS ?





# Hubble Space Telescope ↔ AMS

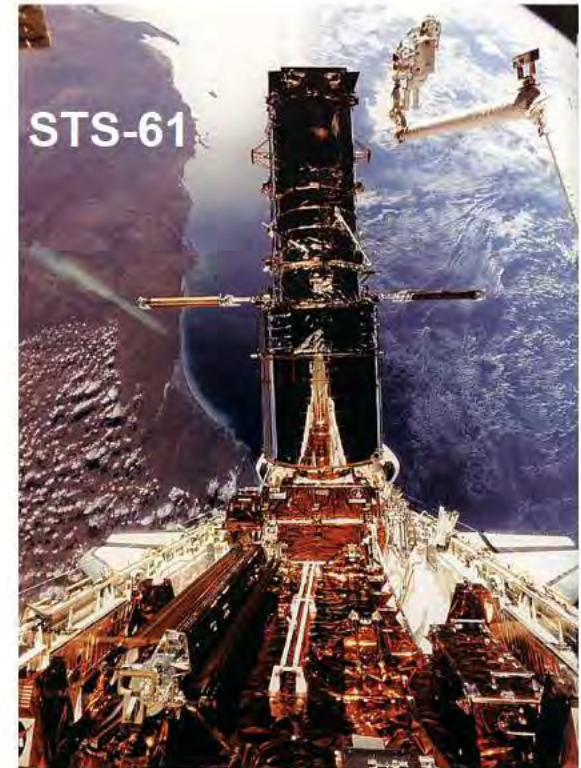


Wide Field Planetary Camera 1



Wide Field Planetary Camera 2

Could we imagine upgrades for AMS which would enhance the scientific program in a similar way ?

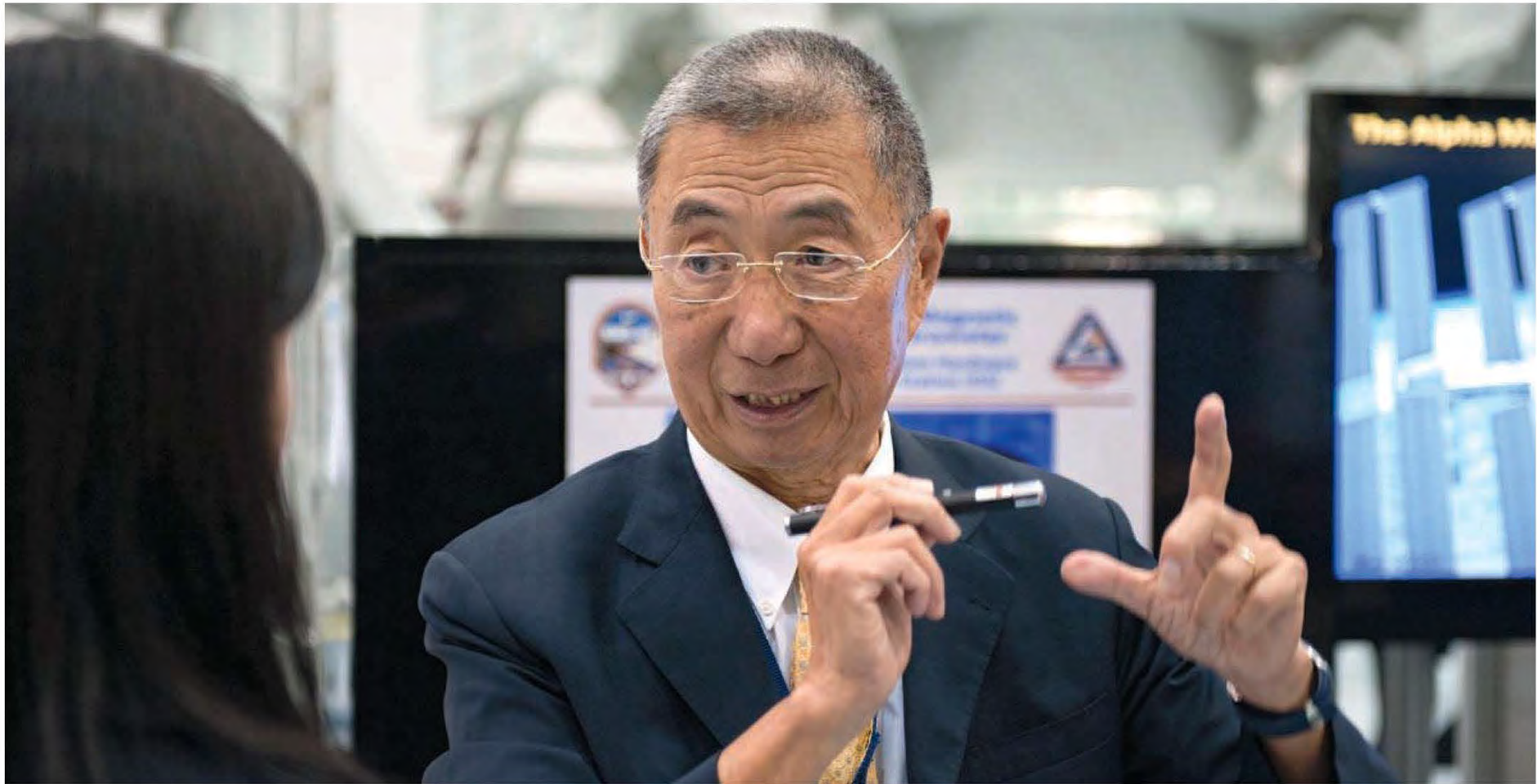


	Start	SM1	SM2	SM3A	SM3B	SM4
<b>Datum</b>	Apr 1990	Dez 1993	Feb 1997	Dez 1999	Mar 2002	Mai 2009
<b>Mission</b>	STS-31	STS-61	STS-82	STS-103	STS-109	STS-125
<b>Shuttle</b>	Discovery	Endeavour	Discovery	Discovery	Columbia	Atlantis
<b>Bahnhöhe</b>	618 km	590 km	596 km	603 km	577 km	567 km
<b>Reboost</b>		+ 8 km	+ 15 km		+ 6	
<b>Instr. 1</b>	WF/PC	WFPC2				WFC3
<b>Instr. 2</b>	GHRS		STIS			STIS (R)
<b>Instr. 3 (axiale Pos.)</b>	HSP	COSTAR				COS
<b>Instr. 4</b>	FOC				ACS	ACS (R)
<b>Instr. 5</b>	FOS		NICMOS		NICMOS Kühler	
<b>Gyroskope</b>	6	4 (R)	2 (R)	6 (R)	2 (R)	6 (R)
<b>Photovoltaik</b>	SA1	SA2			SA3	





## AMS - An endeavor for a Global Research Collaboration, but ...



**Undeniable.** By sheer determination, Samuel Ting kept the project alive, all agree.



## The Cosmos is the Ultimate Laboratory.

Cosmic rays can be observed at energies higher than any accelerator.

