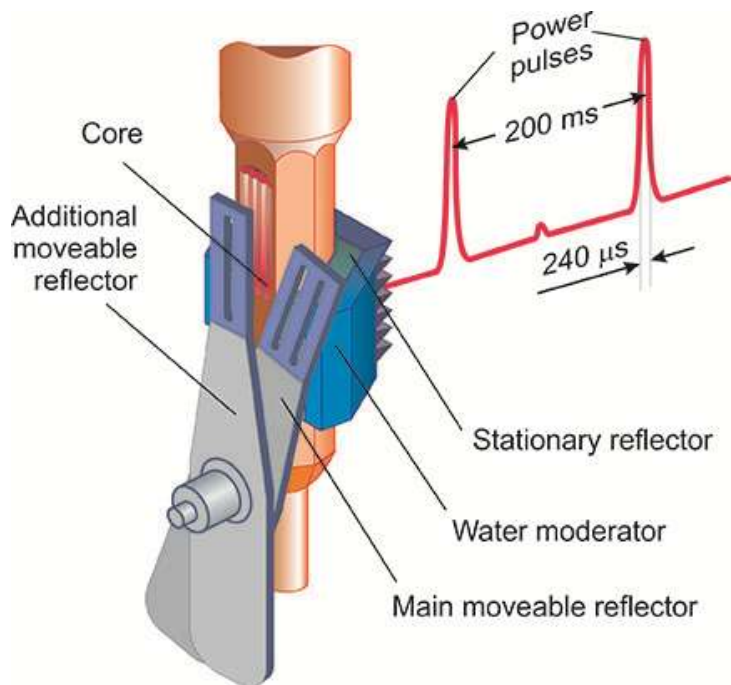


**26-th International Seminar  
on Interaction of Neutrons with Nuclei  
May 28th to June 1st, 2018  
Xi'an, China**

## **Development of neutron detectors for spectrometers of the IBR-2 reactor**

**S. Kulikov, A. Bogdzal, , V. Drozdov, A. Churakov, V. Kruglov**

**Frank Laboratory of Neutron Physics,  
Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna**



# The IBR-2 Reactor

Average power, MW	2
Fuel	PuO <sub>2</sub>
Number of fuel assemblies	69
Maximum burnup, %	9
Pulse repetition rate, Hz	5; 10
Pulse half-width, $\mu$ s:	
fast neutrons	240
thermal neutrons	340

Rotation rate, rev/min:	
main reflector	600
auxiliary reflector	300

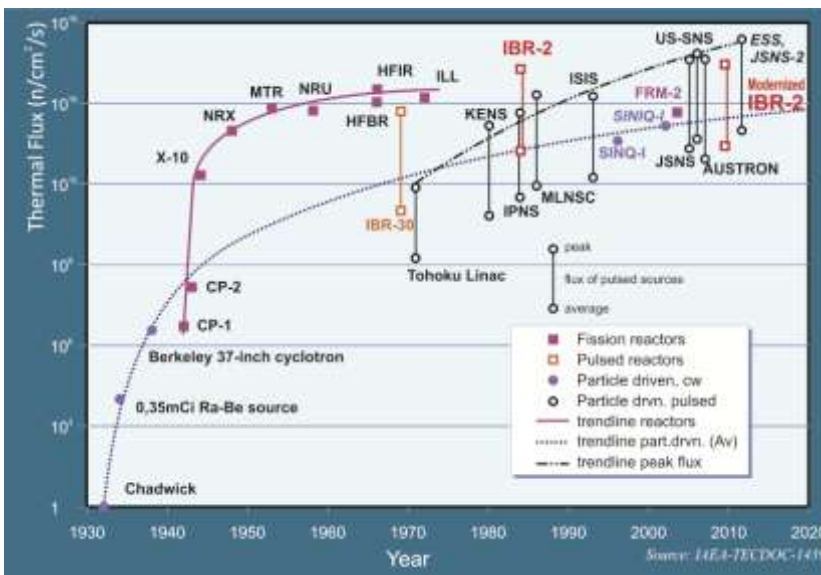
MMR and AMR material                      nickel + steel

MR service life, hours                      55000

Background, %                                  7.5

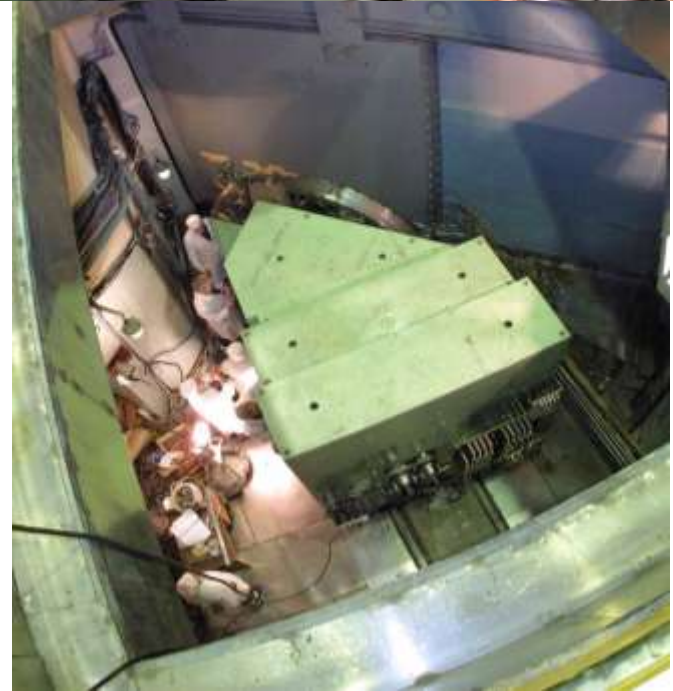
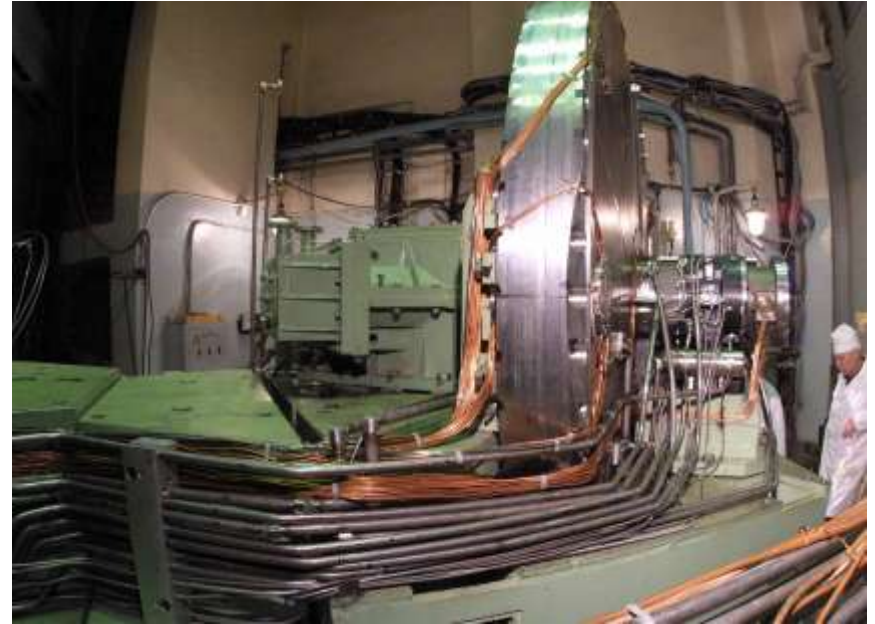
Thermal neutron flux density  
from the surface of the mode-  
rator:

- time average                                   $\sim 10^{13}$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>·s
- burst maximum                                 $\sim 10^{16}$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>·s

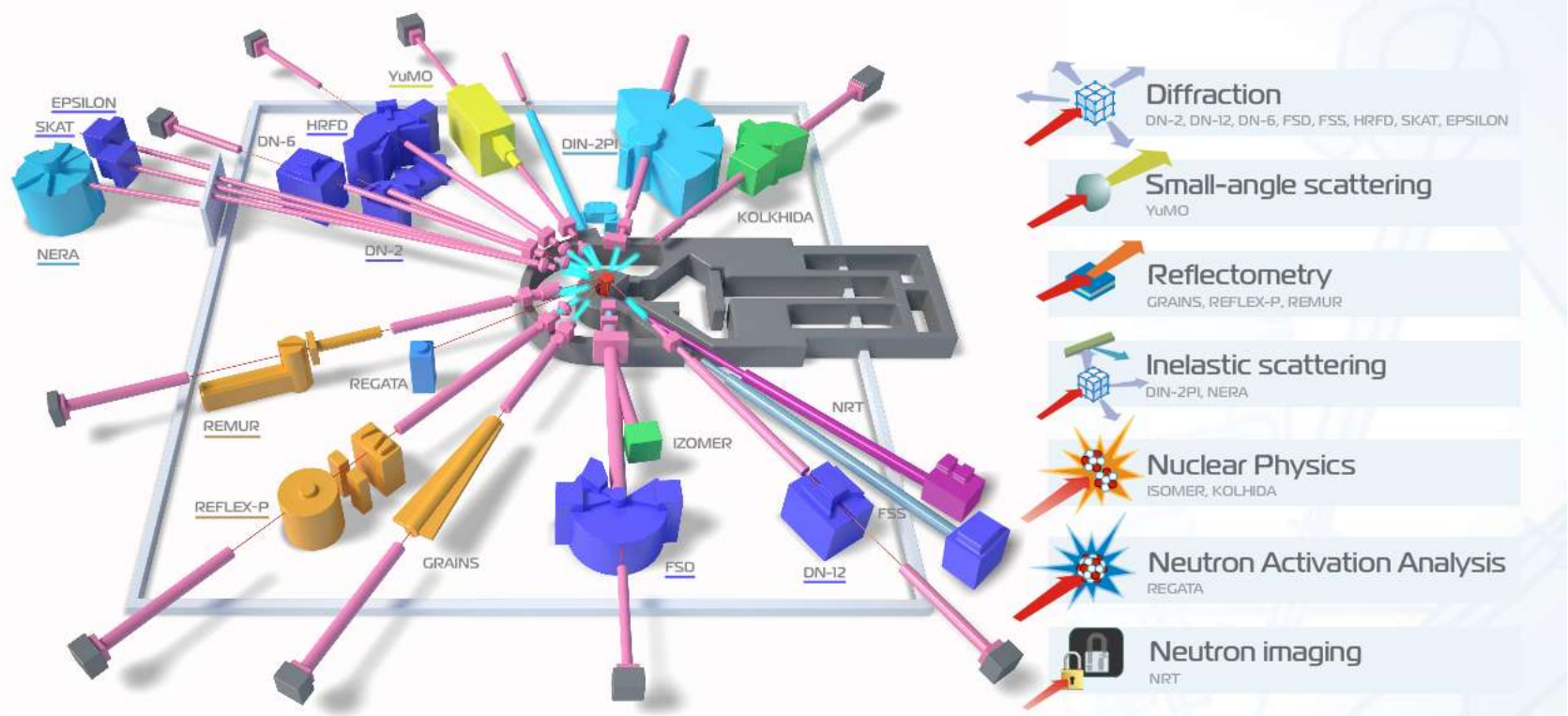


Reactor operation for physics experiments, hr/year  $\sim$ 2500

# Movable reflector



# Facilities at IBR-2 reactor



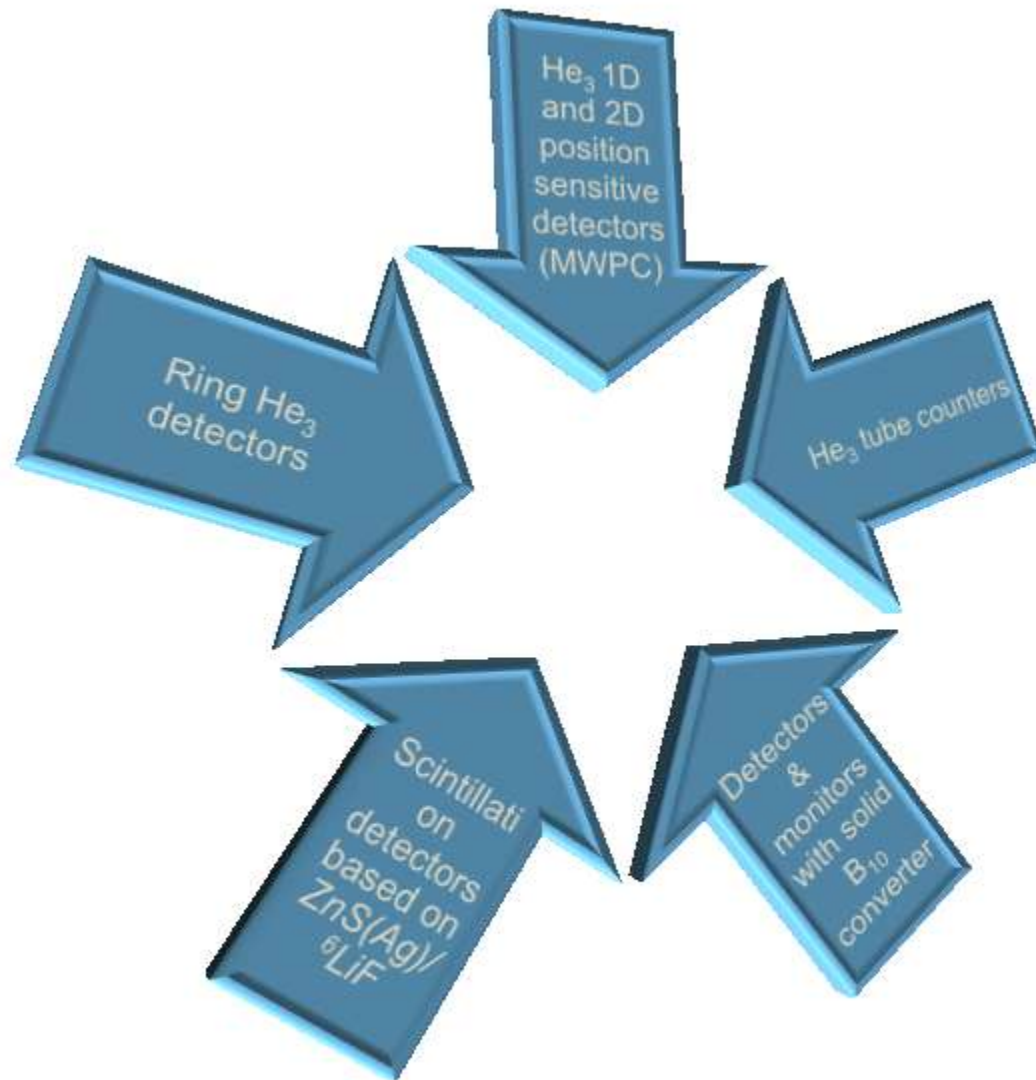
## Major nuclear reactions used for registration of thermal neutrons

Reaction	Cross-section for E=25 meV, barn	Secondary particles	Particle energies MeV	Energy release, MeV
n + <sup>3</sup> He	5333	p <sup>+</sup>	0.57	0.77
		<sup>3</sup> H	0.2	
n + <sup>6</sup> Li	940	<sup>3</sup> H	2.74	4.79
		<sup>4</sup> He	2.05	
n + <sup>10</sup> B	3836	<sup>4</sup> He	1.47	2.3
		<sup>7</sup> Li	0.83	
		γ	0.48 (93%)	
n + <sup>235</sup> U	681	Fission fragments +		1-2

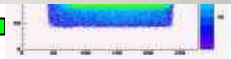
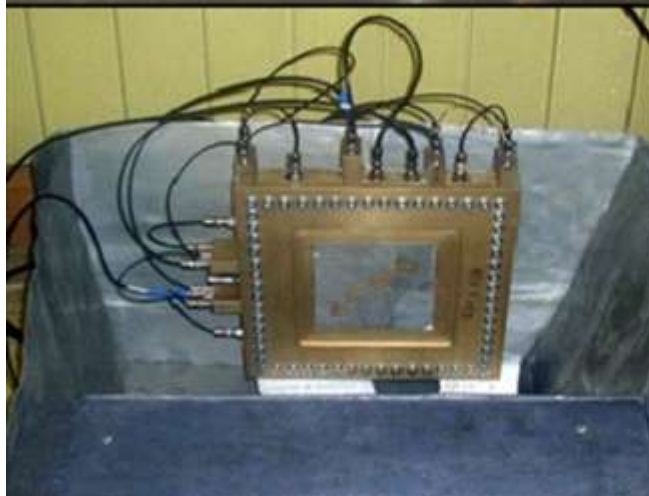
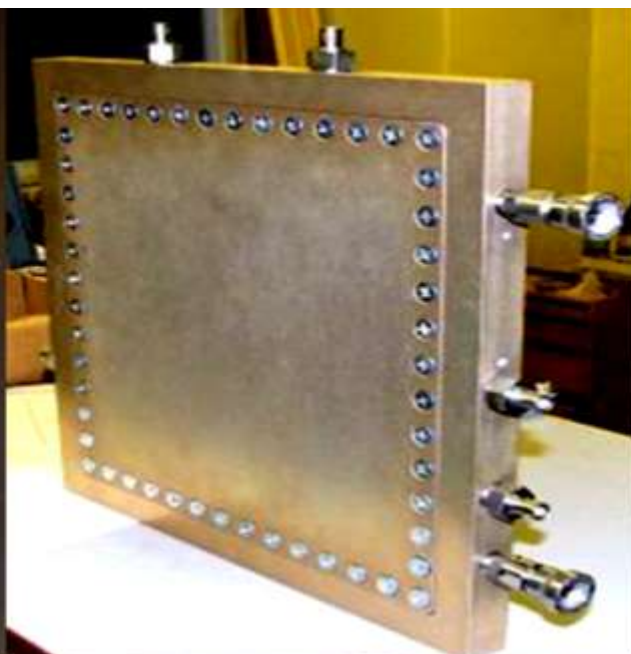
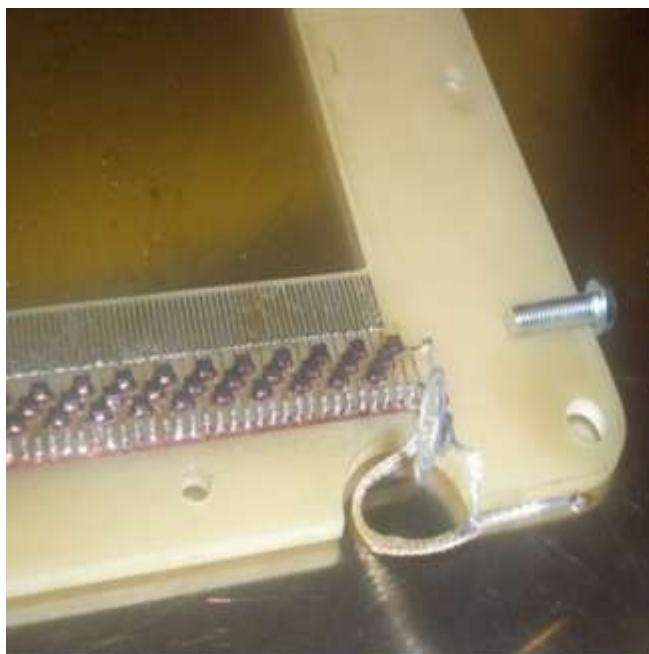
$n + {}^{155}\text{Gd} \rightarrow \text{Gd}^* \rightarrow \gamma\text{-ray spectrum} \rightarrow \text{conversion electron spectrum}$

$n + {}^{157}\text{Gd} \rightarrow \text{Gd}^* \rightarrow \gamma\text{-ray spectrum} \rightarrow \text{conversion electron spectrum}$

# Detectors of instruments of the IBR-2 reactor

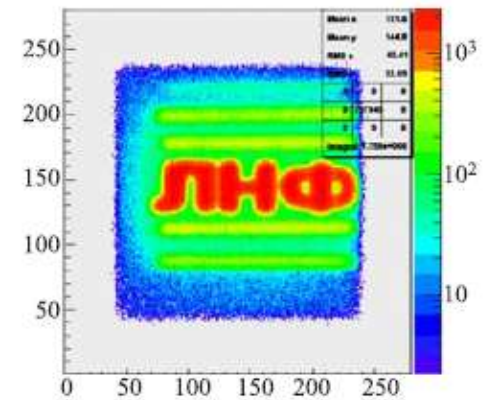
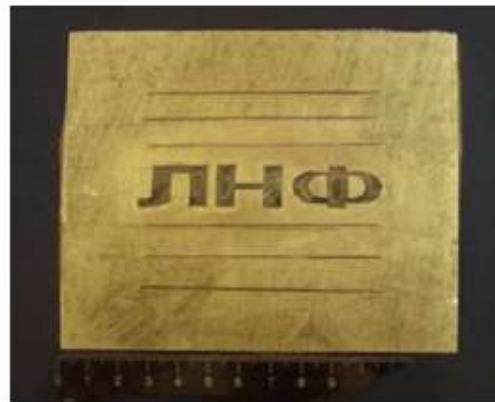
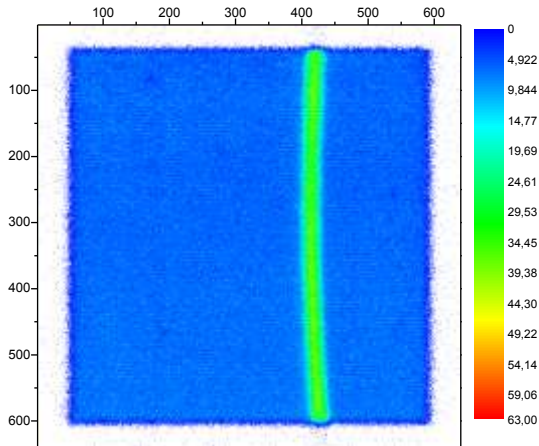
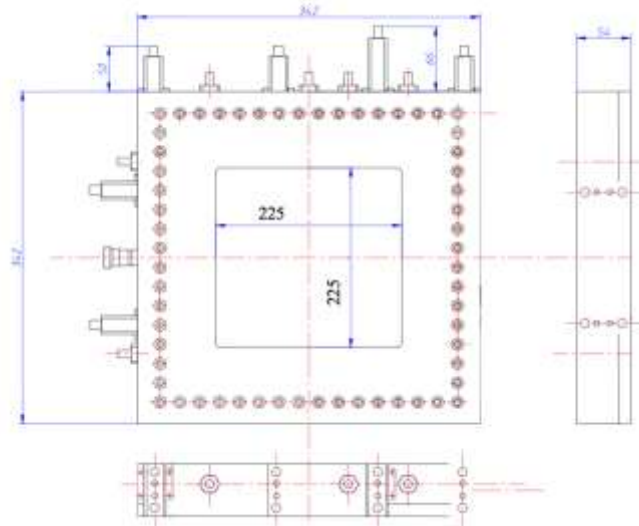


# 2D and 1D position-sensitive detectors (MWPC)



# 2D PSD 200 x 200 and 225 x 225 mm<sup>2</sup>

Type	2 – D MWPC
Active area	200x200 mm <sup>2</sup>
Position resolution	2,0x2,0 mm <sup>2</sup>
Range of neutron wavelength	0,4 - 12 Å
Efficiency for thermal neutrons ( $\lambda=2 \text{ \AA}$ )	65%
Position determination	Delay line



Tests of 2D PSD detectors at Nuclear Physics Institute , NPI ASCR, Řež, Czech Republic

Test measurements with Cd mask «ЛНФ».  
50 mbar He<sub>3</sub> + 950 mbar CF<sub>4</sub>

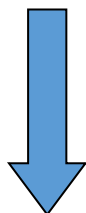


# DAQ systems for 1D and 2D position sensitive detectors



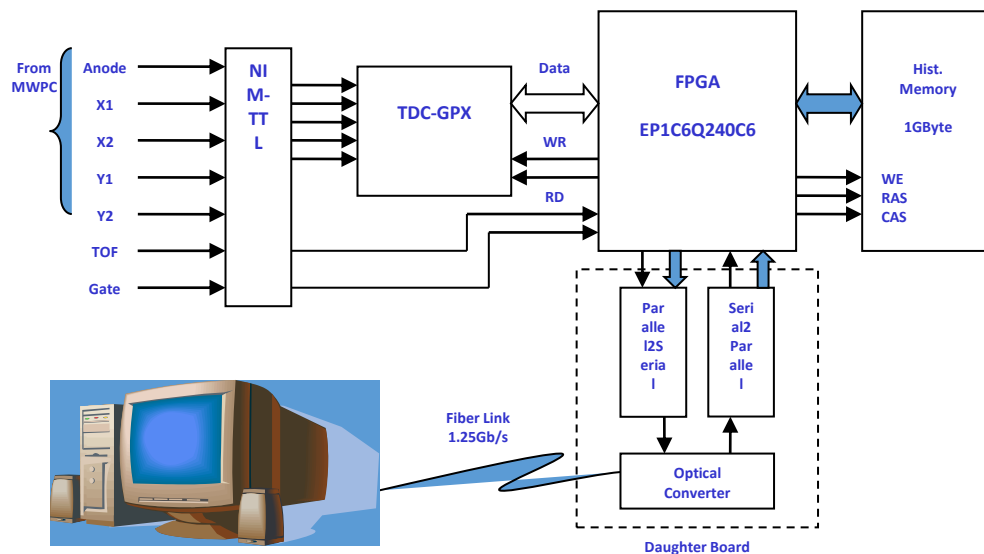
De-Li-DAQ-1 block

- Counting rate up to  $10^5$  ev./sec
- Installation in PCI port in PC
- More than 50 boards have been produced. They installed in FLNP, HMI (Germany), Rzez (Cheh Republic), Kurchatov inst, Troick etc.

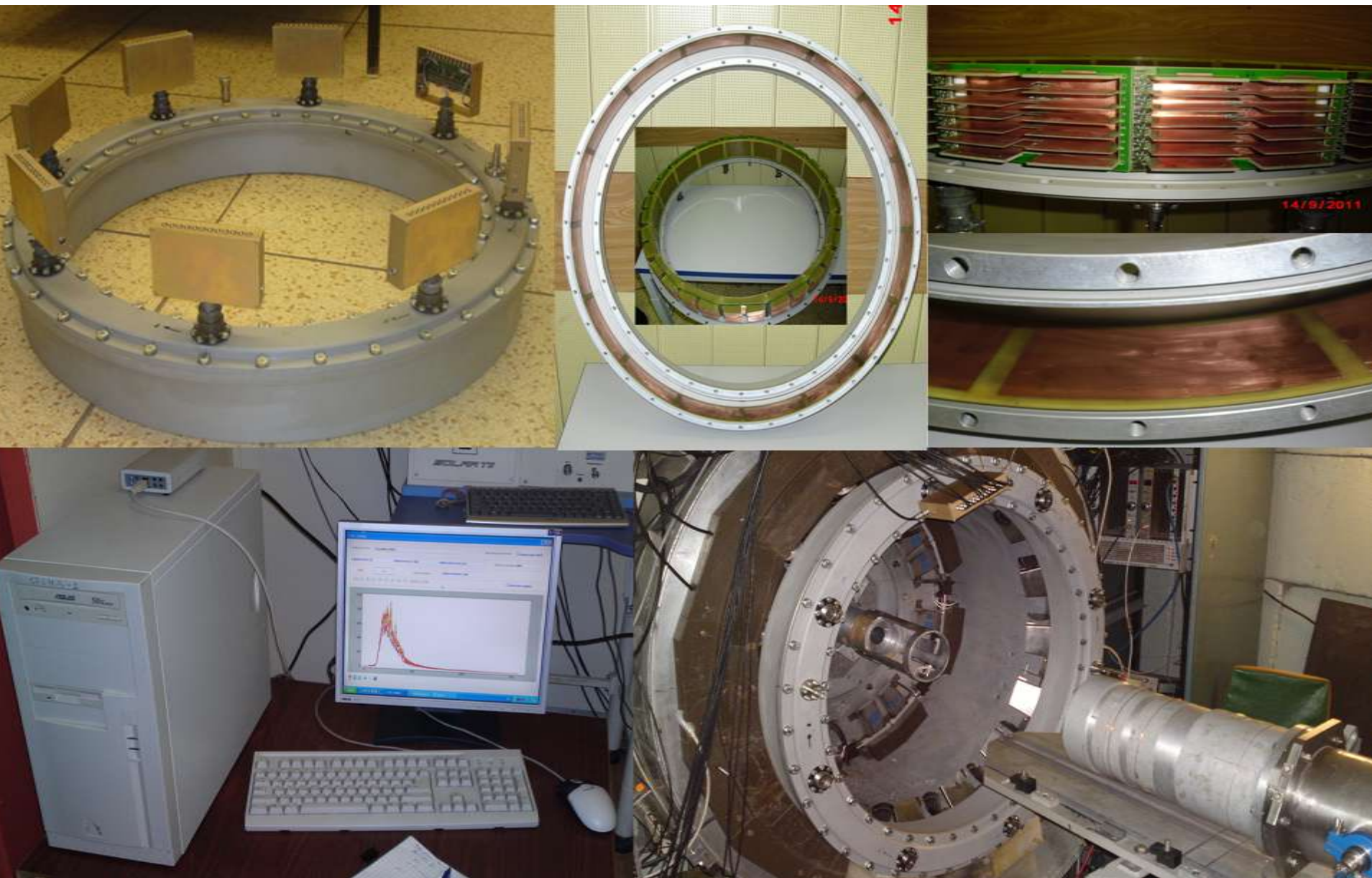


De-Li-DAQ-2 block

- Counting rate  $\sim 10^6$  ev./sec
- Standard NIM installation (power supply)
- PC connection via USB

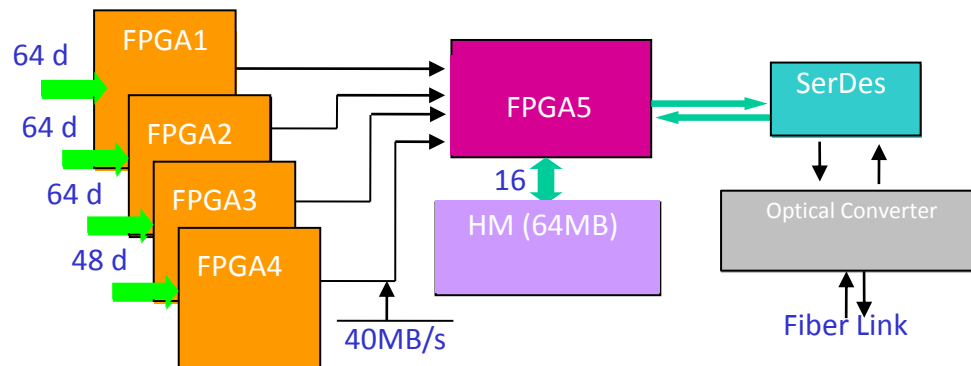


# MULTISECTION RING DETECTOR OF THERMAL NEUTRONS FOR DIFFRACTION STUDIES ON MICROSAMPLES IN AXIAL GEOMETRY

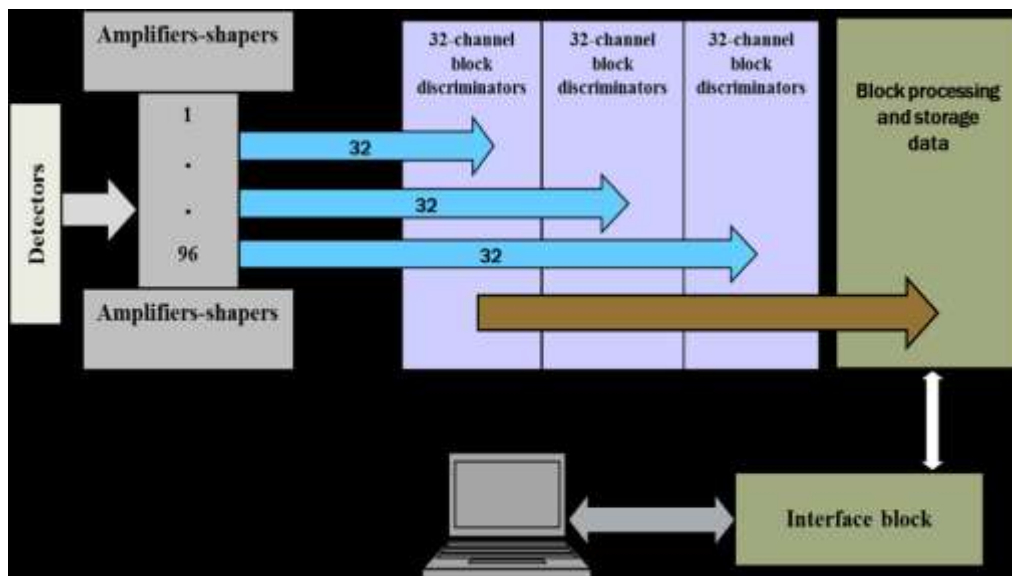


# Detector electronics

- The number of detector elements  $\leq 240$ ;
- The total throughput of system is  $8 \times 10^6$  [ev./s] at 240 detectors in the system or  $3 \times 10^4$  [ev./s] for one detector element;
- The frequency of sampling time is 62.5 [MHz] (16 [ns]) and the stability of the generator is 1 [ppm];
- Events are registered in the absolute time of the experiment, max. time exposition is  $4.5 \times 10^6$  [s];
- Register signaling with the same accuracy as the detector elements: the start of the reactor, the beginning / end of the time window, the end of exposure, etc .;
- Registering an additional 6 external signals (falling and growing front): for example PICK-UP signal from Fourier chopper;
- Histogram memory (64MB) for visualization and operational control of data collection.
- Data transfer between the data acquisition electronics and PC USB interface is performed through a fiber optic line at a rate of 1.25 [Gbit /s].



# Detector electronics

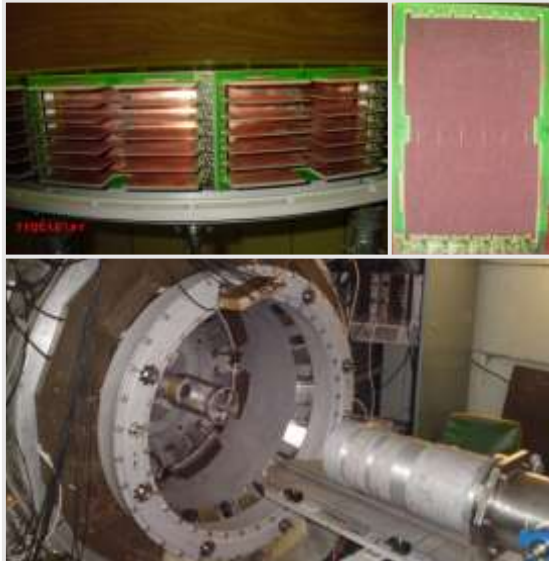


Block of data processing and accumulation:	
Frequency of time sampling of all signals	max. 62.5 MHz
Maximum registration rate	8·10 <sup>6</sup> events/s (~3·10 <sup>4</sup> for one element)
PC interface	USB 2.0
Internal histogram memory	64 Mb
Maximum registration delay relative to reactor burst	0.268 s
Accuracy in specifying the channel width for the histogram memory and the time window duration	16 ns

3×32-channel discriminators	
Preamplifiers and amplifiers:	
Preamplifier type	charge-sensitive
Power	± 12 V
Gain	40
Signal shaping time	1 μs
Output signal polarity	positive
Connectors	LEMO
High voltage	- 1000 V

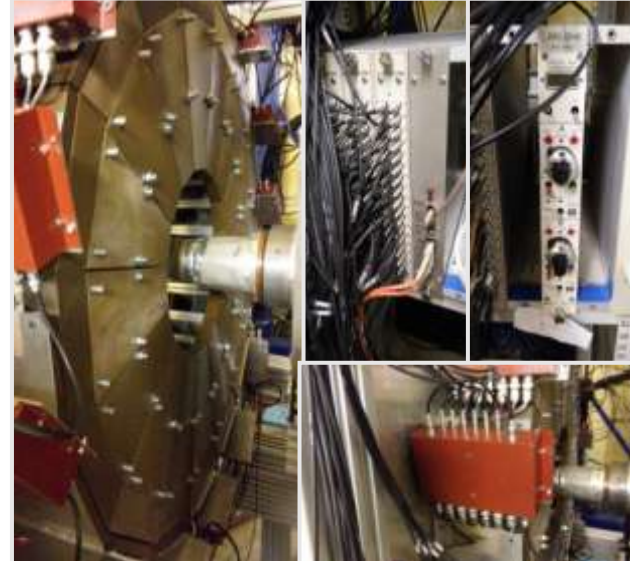
# Detector system for DN-6 diffractometer

**Multi-section ring neutron detector**



- 96 independent detectors in common gas volume;
- 3 modules of 32-channel amplitude discriminators

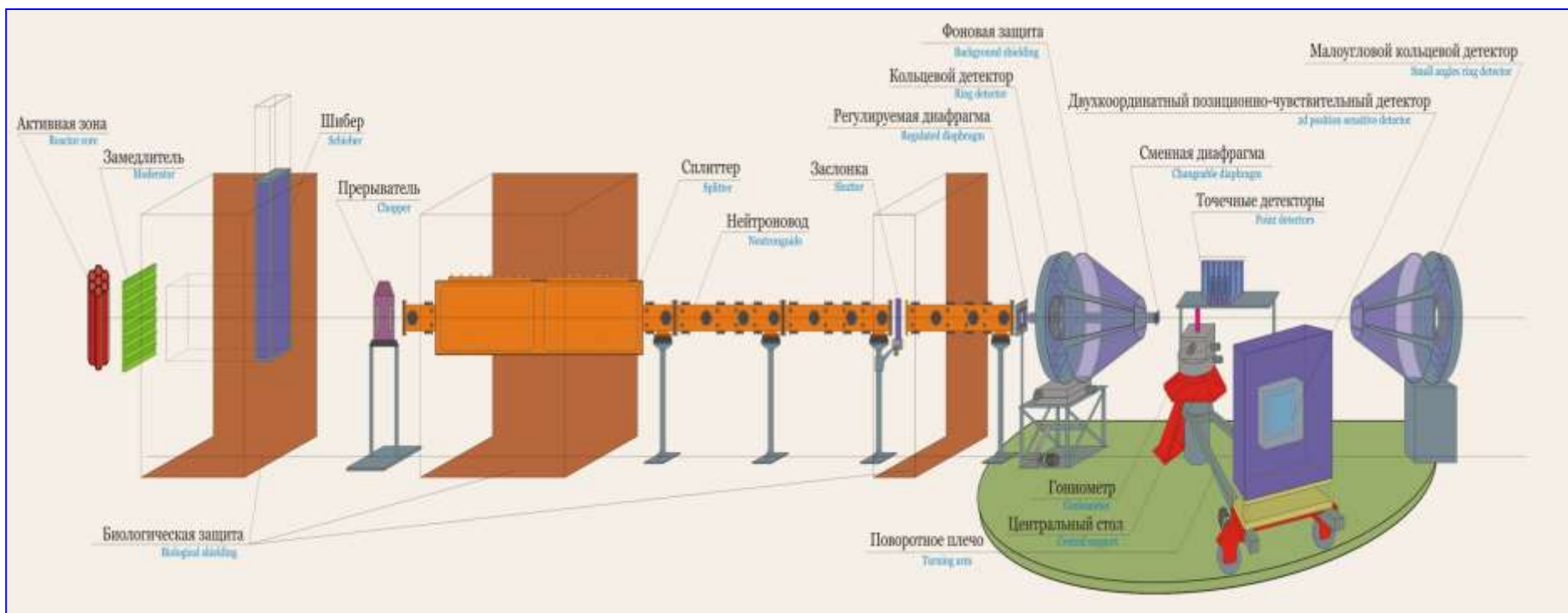
**Ring neutron detector**



- 96 individual helium-3 proportional counters;
- 3 modules of 32-channel amplitude discriminators

**192 – channel data acquisition and accumulation module**

# Real time diffractometer (RTD)



# Detector for small angle neutron scattering at Real Time Diffractometer



The detector is divided into 9 independent equidistant coaxial rings. The cathodes of each ring are divided into 16 independent sectors. The signal pickup is performed from anode wires (shared by all rings) and from each of the 16 cathodes. Thus, this detector system consists of  $144 + 9$  independent detectors.

# Infrastructure



Clean room



Helium-3 purification facility



# New clean room



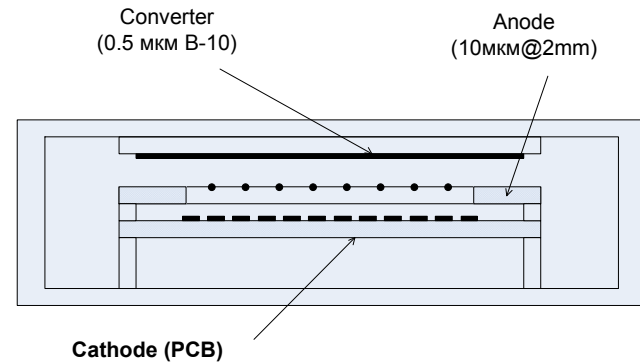
## New clean room



Clean area =  $48\text{m}^2$

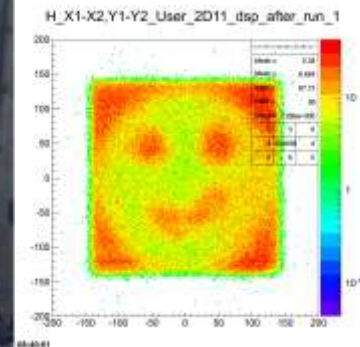
# Prototype with boron converter

- 200x200 0.5 mkm 10B converter made by ESS.
- MWPC with fiberglass cathode.
- Very good uniformity and stability.

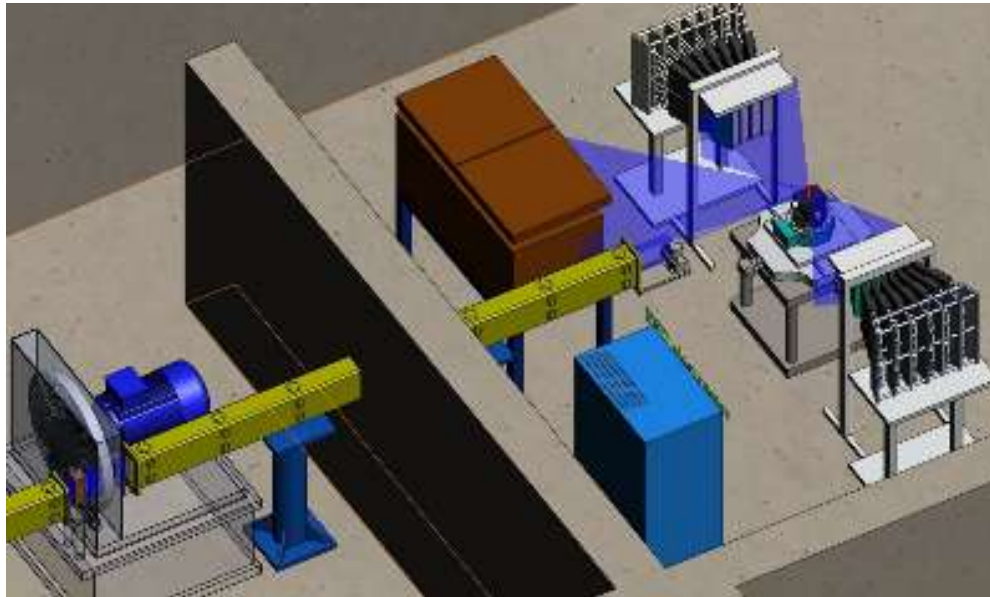


## Benefits:

- For cold neutrons counting (thin entrance window)
- To use in vacuum chambers (low pressure)
- For instruments with better resolution (thin layers)
- For higher count speed (multilayers)

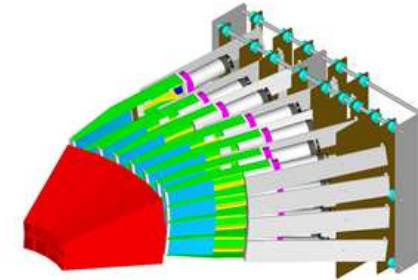
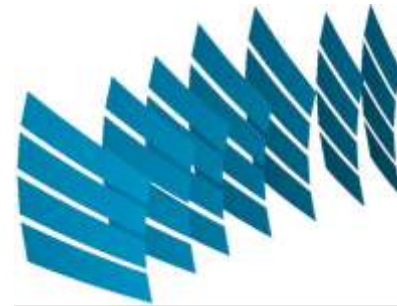


# Fourier Stress Diffractometer (FSD)

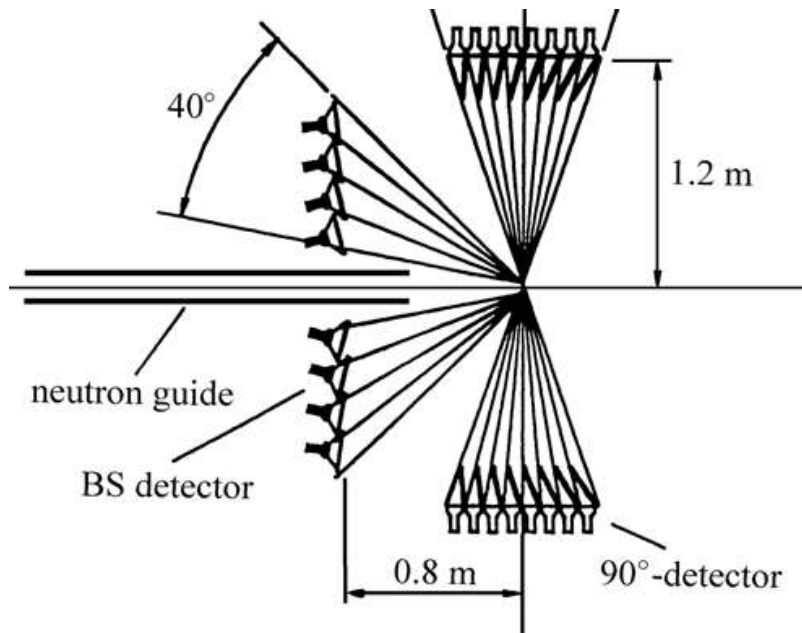


$\text{ZnS(Ag)}^6\text{LiF ND screen, thickness} = 0.42 \text{ mm}$

## 90°- ASTRA detector



Geometry of the ASTRA detector



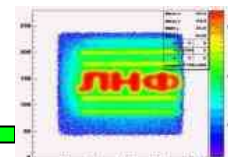
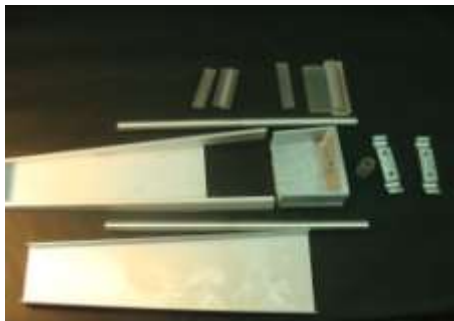
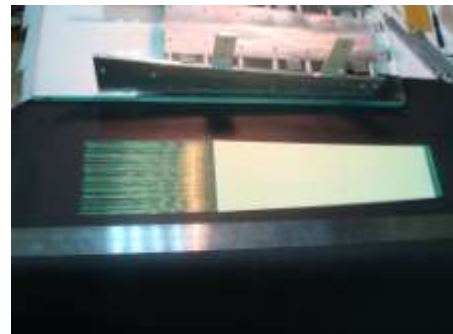
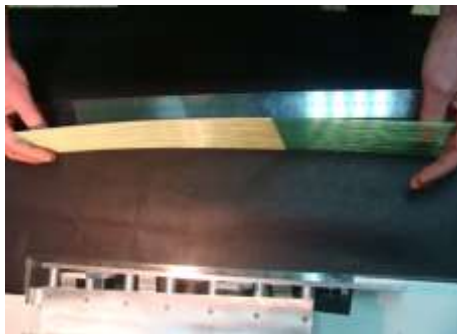
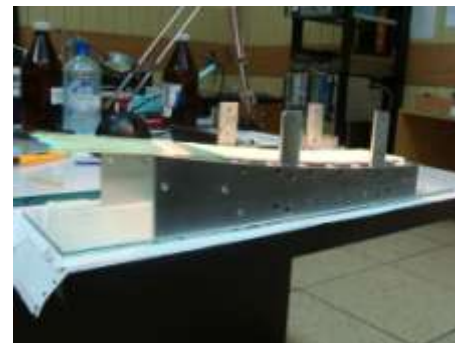
$R = 900 \text{ mm.}$

$\varphi = -2.5\text{deg.} - +2.5\text{deg.}$

No	Angle range $\vartheta$ , deg.
1	110.000 - 103.000
2	101.000 - 96.031
3	95.531 - 91.000
4	89.000 - 84.031
5	83.531 - 79.000
6	77.000 - 73.639
7	73.139 - 70.000

# The process of production a scintillation counter

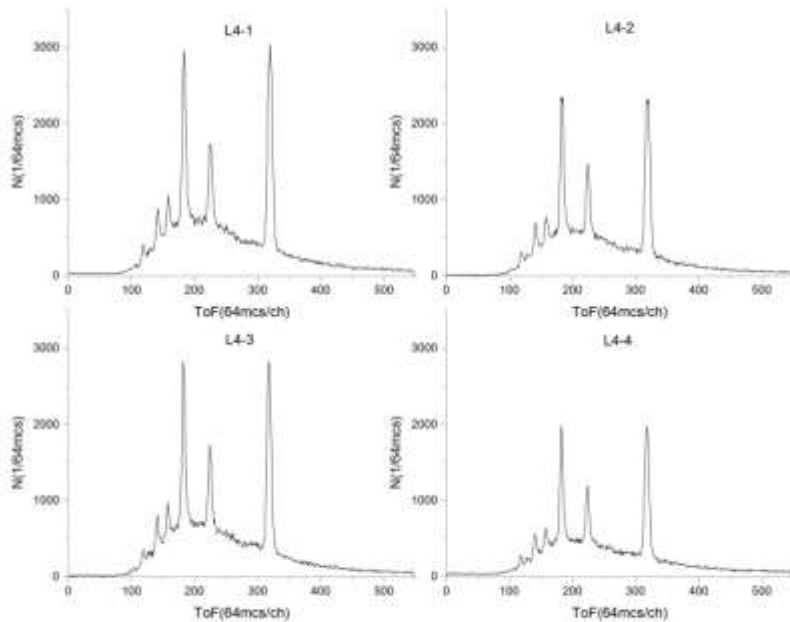
$ZnS(Ag)/^6LiF$  ND screen, thickness = 0.42 mm



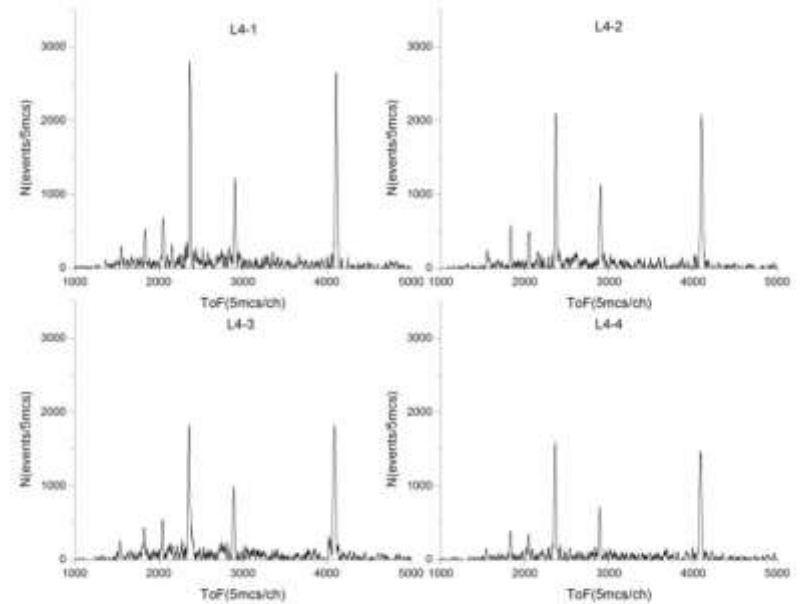
# Fourier Stress Diffractometer FSD



# The detector system ASTRA

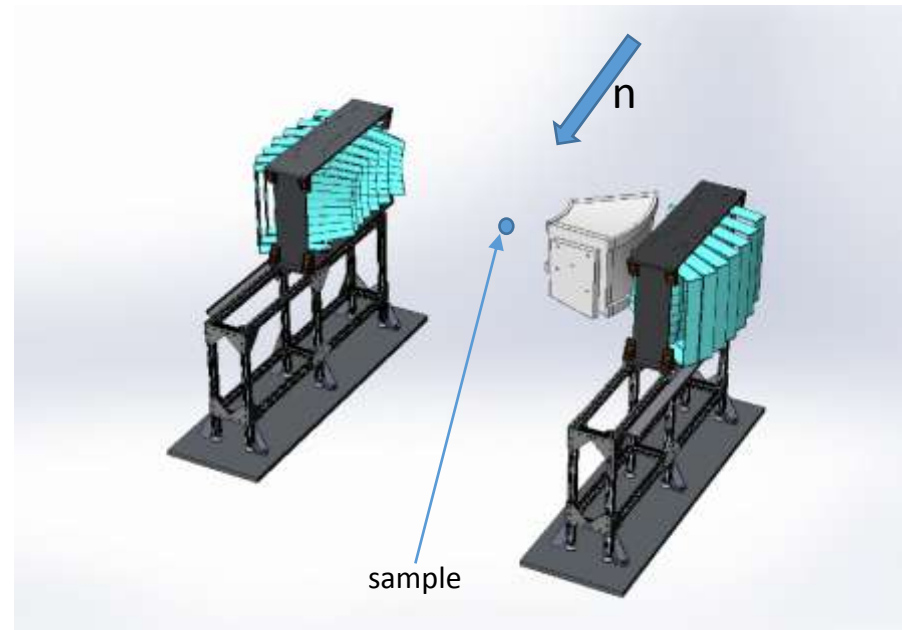
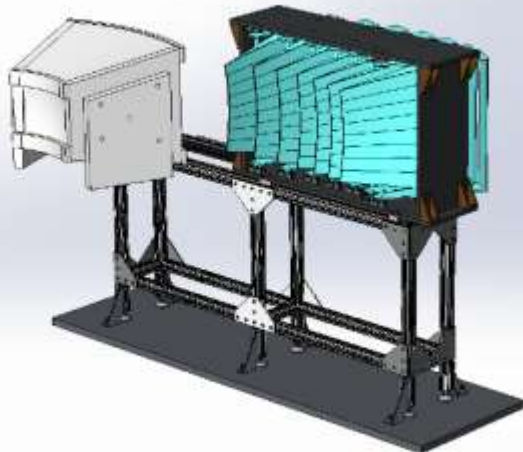
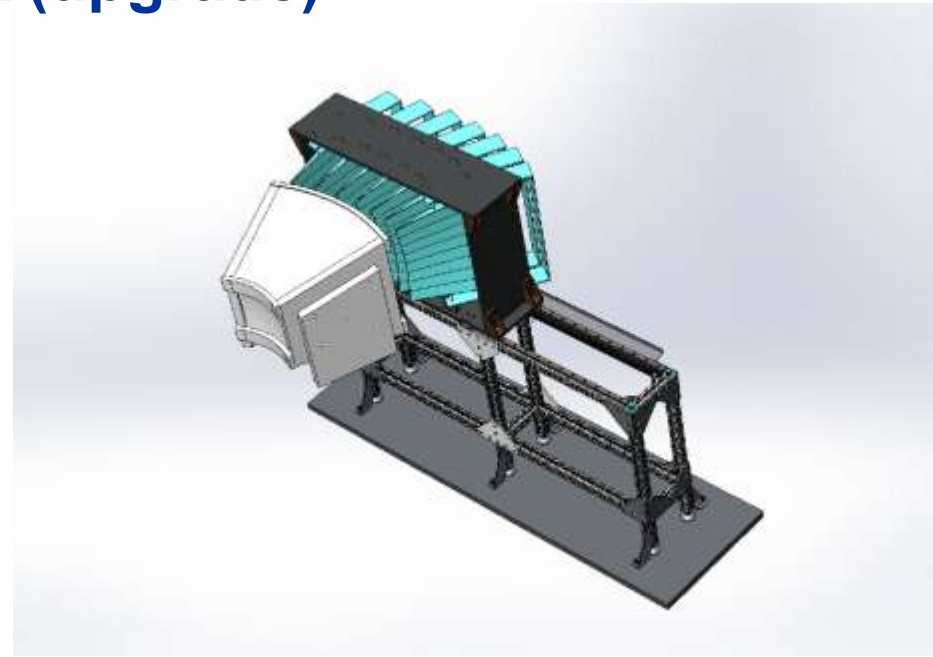


ToF- spectra of low resolution



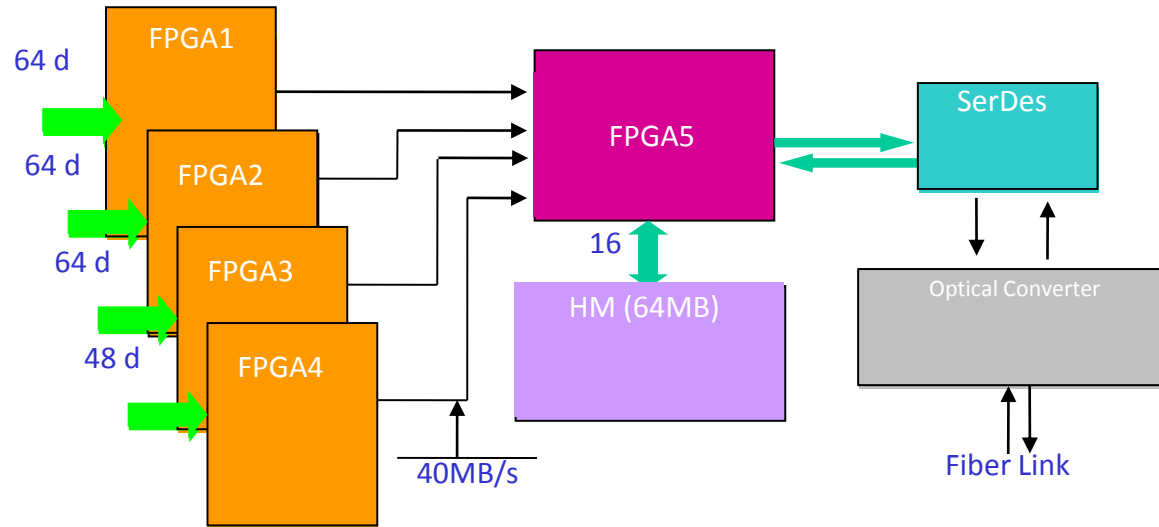
ToF- spectra of high resolution

# The detector system ASTRA (upgrade)



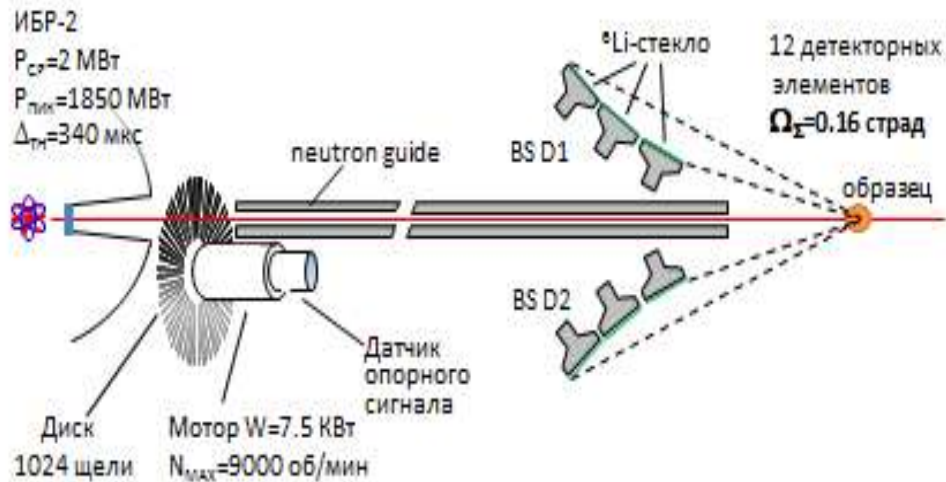


# DAQ electronics for multi-point detector (MPD)

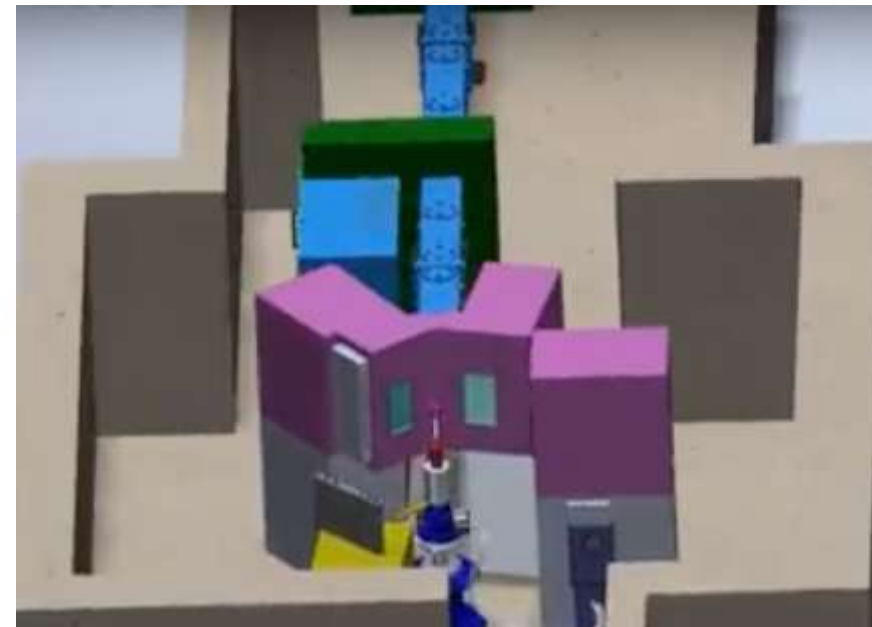


- Maximal amount of detectors – 240;
- Maximal counting rate -  $8 \cdot 10^6$  ev./sec.;
- Standard NIM installation (power supply)
- List mode
- PC connection via USB 2.0

# High resolution Fourier Diffractometer HRFD



$$R = \Delta d/d \approx 0.001$$



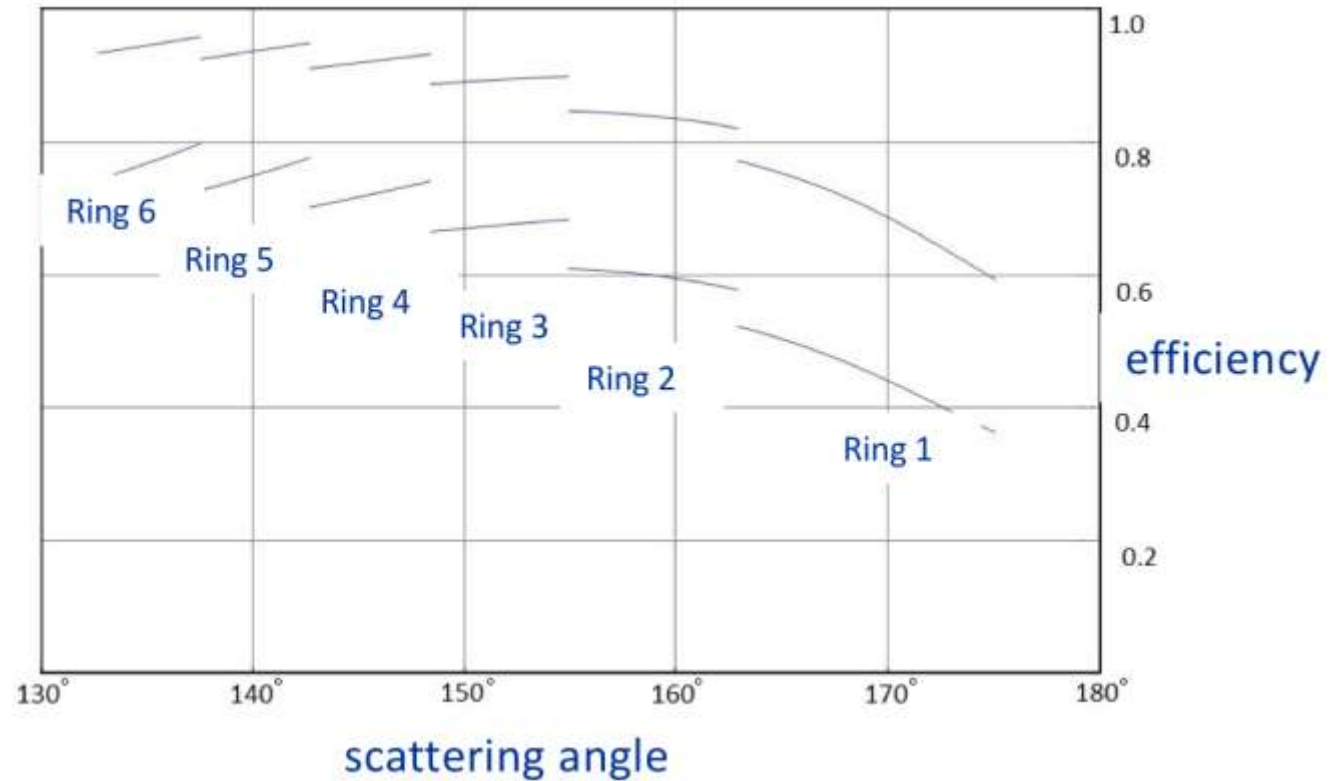
Disadvantages of current back scattering detector:

- current solid angle of detector  $\sim 0.16 \text{ sr}$ ;
- a high sensitivity to  $\gamma$ -background ( ${}^6\text{Li}$  glasses).

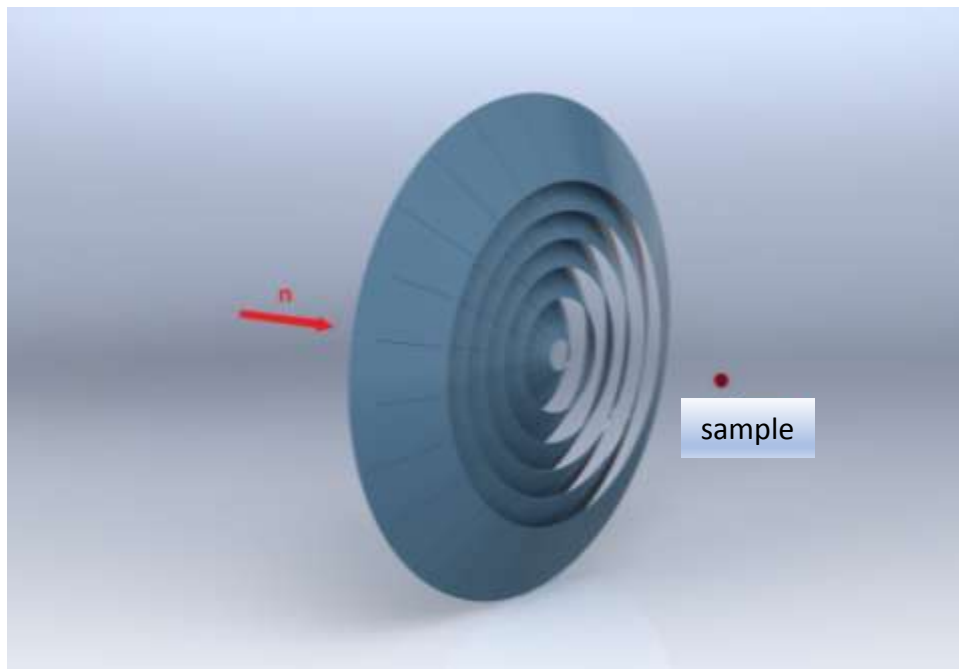




# Dependence of the detector efficiency on the scattering angle



## 3D graphic presentation of a large-aperture backscattering detector.



$$\Delta d/d \approx 0.001$$

$\varnothing_{\text{samp}}, \text{ mm}$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$\langle \Delta_1 \rangle$	$4.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.9 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$\langle \Delta_2 \rangle$	$4.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$\langle \Delta_3 \rangle$	$5.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.6 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$\langle \Delta_4 \rangle$	$5.5 \times 10^{-5}$	$7.9 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$\langle \Delta_5 \rangle$	$5.8 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$
$\langle \Delta_6 \rangle$	$6.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.2 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$

Geometric contribution to the total resolution of the diffractometer.

$\langle \Delta_i \rangle = 2.36\sigma_i$  – error value for the i-th ring of the detector.

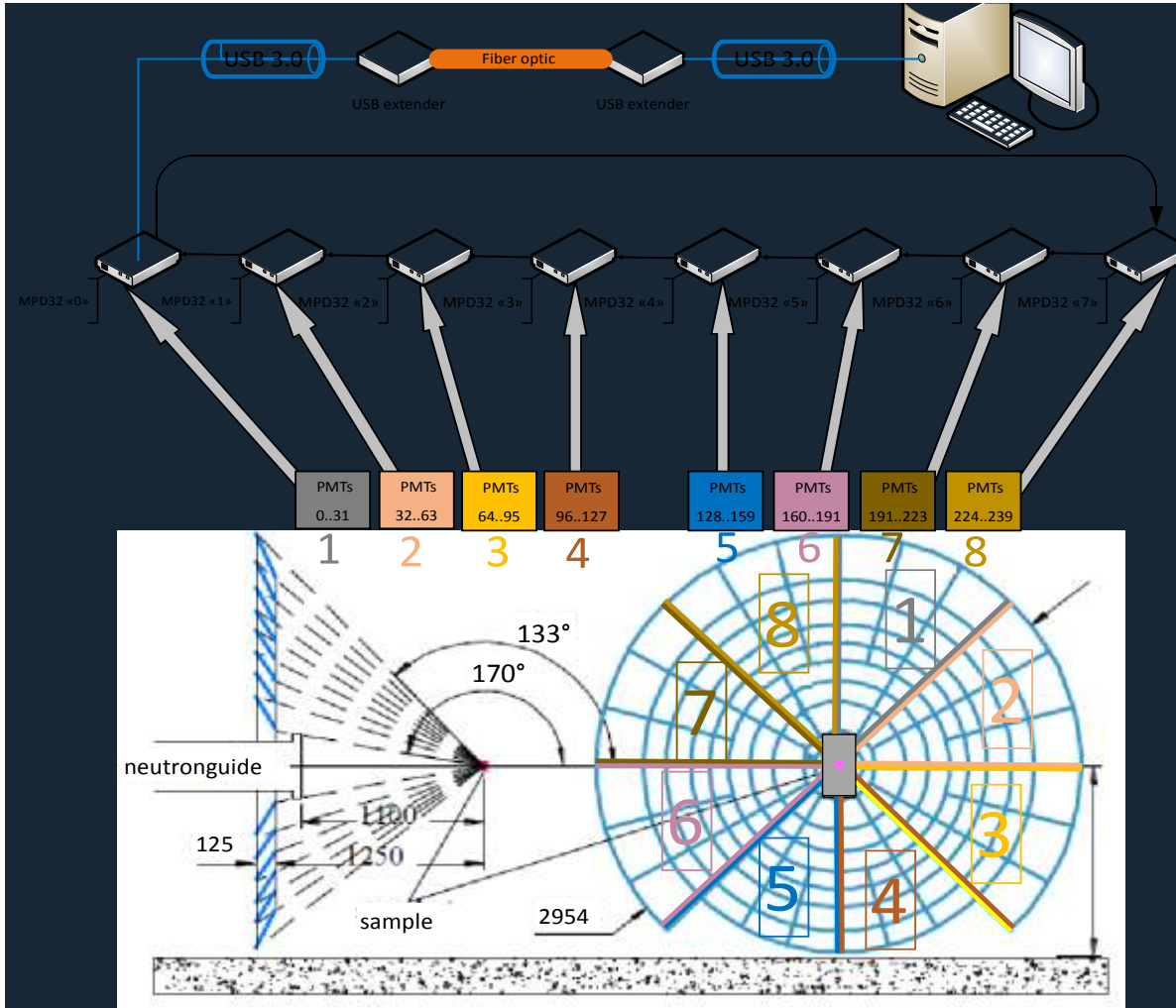
# The main materials and equipment

- **Photomultipliers ; 216**
- **The surface of scintillator  $S > 10 \text{ m}^2$**
- **The approximate length of fibers  $L=36000 \text{ m}$**
- **HI voltage (CAEN)**
- **2 NIM crates**
- **Pre-amplifiers and Data Acquisition and Accumulation System 216 Independent detectors. The system is designed in the NIM standard. In its full configuration, it consists of 8 units of amplifiers-discriminators with 32 inputs.**



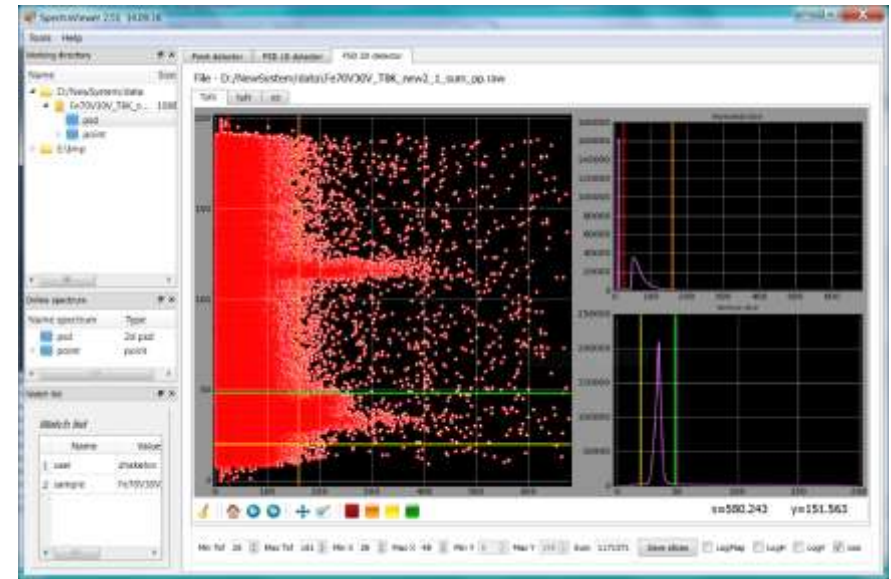
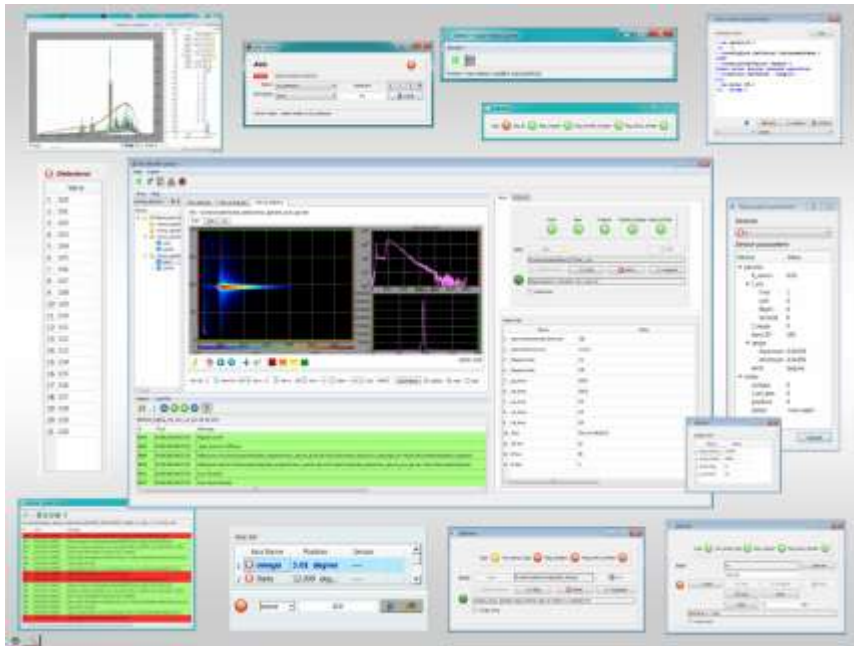
Element of the scintillation screen (white plate) together with the optical wavelength shifting fibers glued to it on both sides.

# DAQ electronics for multi-point detector (MPD)



- MPD-32 combines discriminator and encoder for 32 analog inputs
- USB3.0 interface with optical fiber extender
- maximum data rate  $6 \cdot 10^7$  event/sec
- high speed (2.5 Gb) interunit interface for linking several MPD-32 to common USB3.0 port.

# Software Sonix+ and Web remote system



The control over experiments and the visualization of neutron data are realized in a single user interface of the software package based on the software tool kit Sonix+ together with a specialized graphical interface developed using PyQt and Matplotlib.

The software package includes:

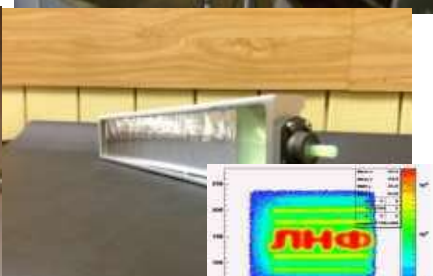
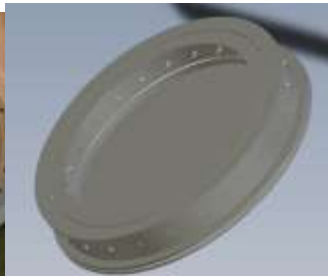
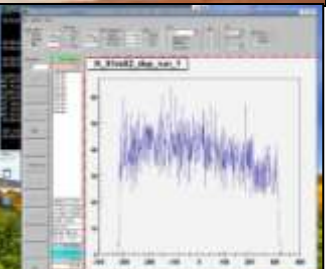
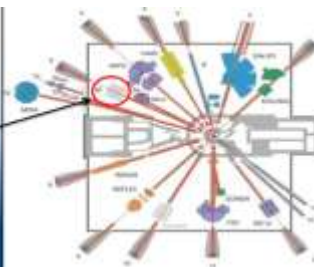
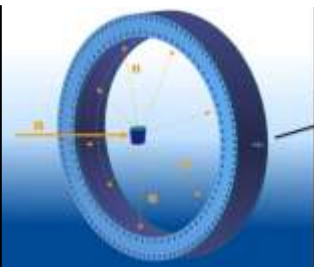
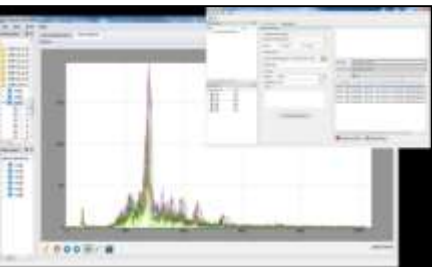
- modules for controlling experiments (start, stop, start a sequence of experiments);
- the module for visualization of accumulated data;
- the module for input of data on an experiment or a series of experiments;
- additional software for summarizing data on various series of experiments and individual rings of the gas detector, for converting raw data into ASCII text data format.





# Welcome to Dubna





*Thank you for your attention!*