

# Global Support Structure (GST) and interfaces

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Andreas Jung, Sushrut Karmarkar, Ben Denos

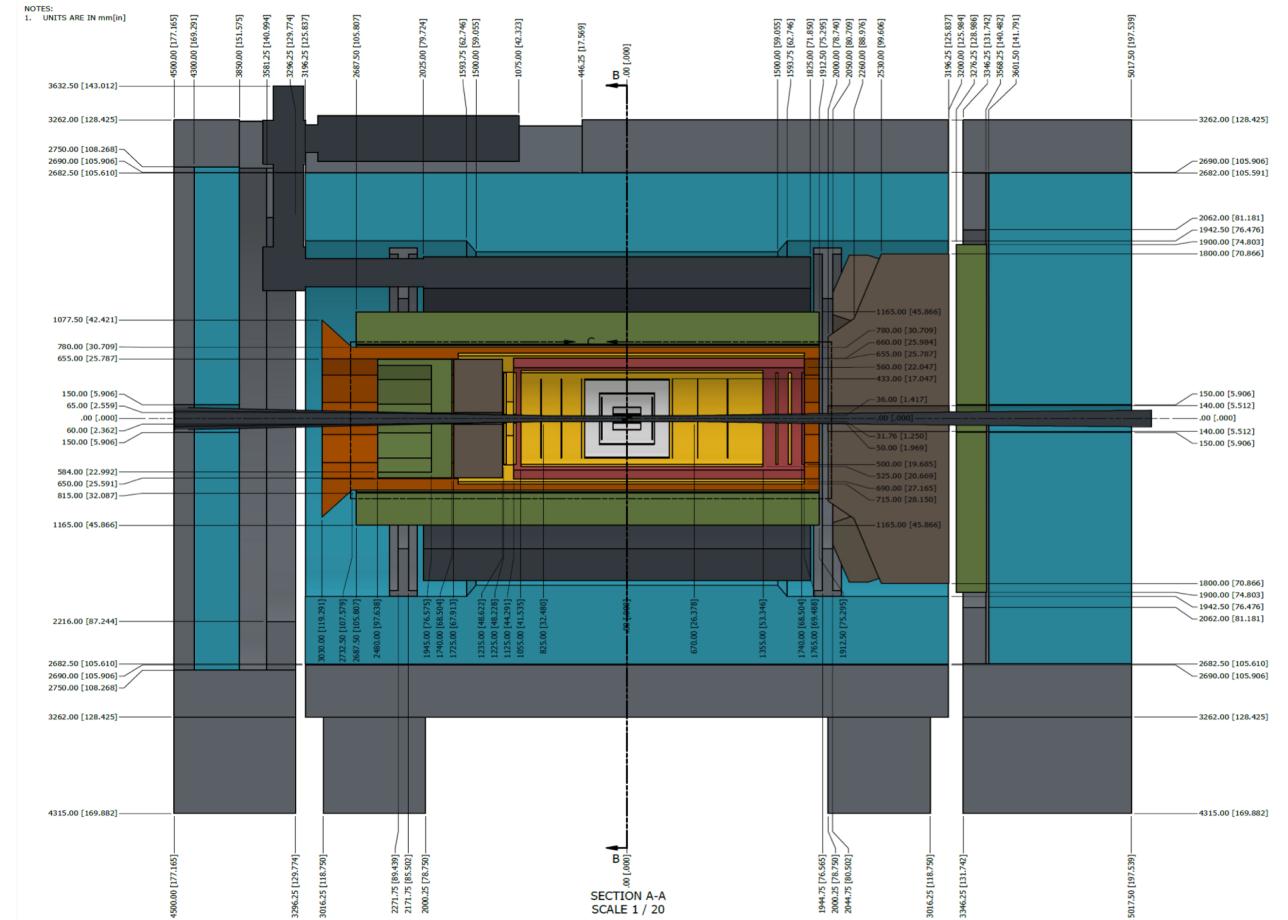
EPIC SVT workshop, Oxford University



# Outline

## Charge 1, 4

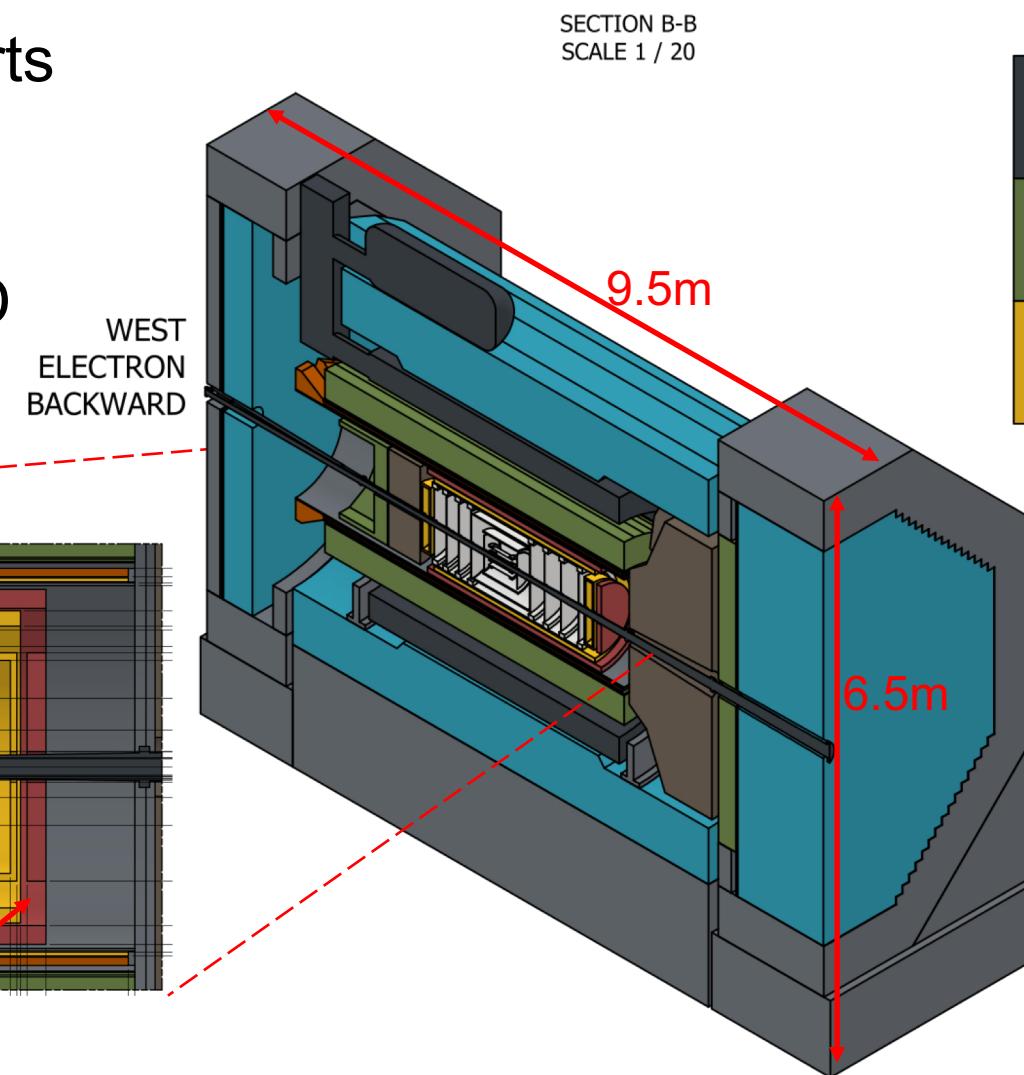
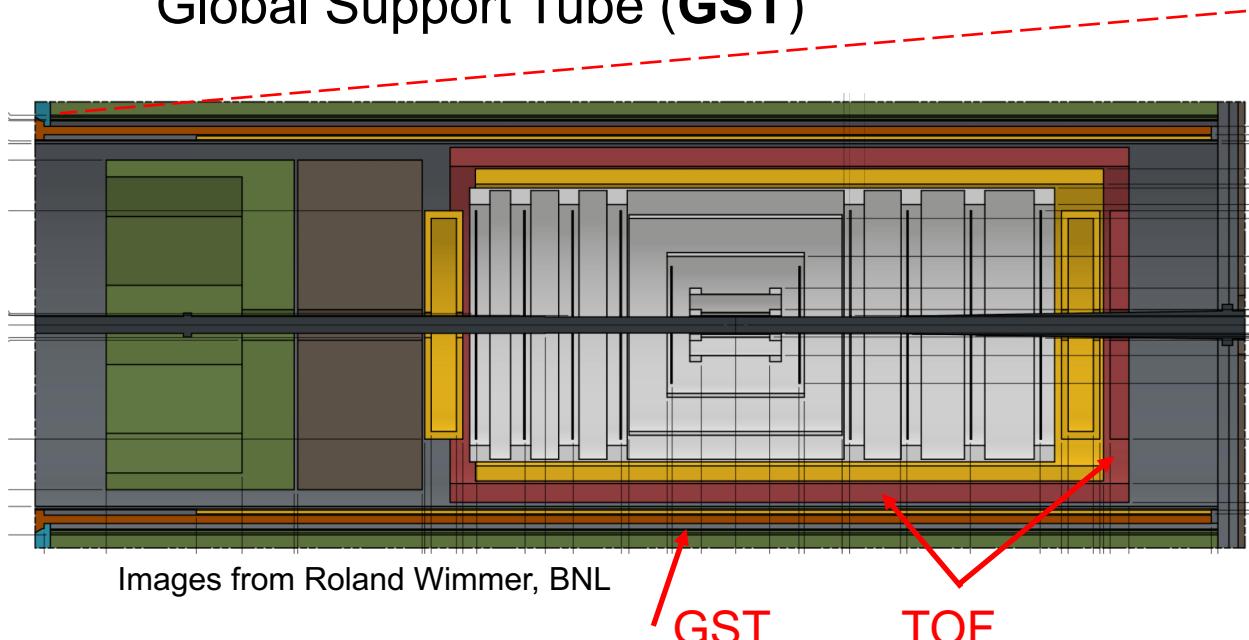
- Introduction
- TOF-LGAD mechanics
  - LGAD-TOF Barrel and Discs
  - TOF tray Integration
- Global Support Tube
  - Design
  - Envelopes & Loads
  - FEA simulations
- Integration & Assembly
  - Inner Detectors + GST
  - For PST+SVT: see Ben's talk
- QA/QC, ES&H
- Summary



# Introduction to Support Structure

Charge 1, 4

- Global Support Tube (**GST**) supports all inner detectors: DIRC, MPGD, TOF, Silicon, EEEMCAL, pfRICH
- Time-of-Flight (TOF) aka AC-LGAD
  - Detectors and services supported by Global Support Tube (**GST**)

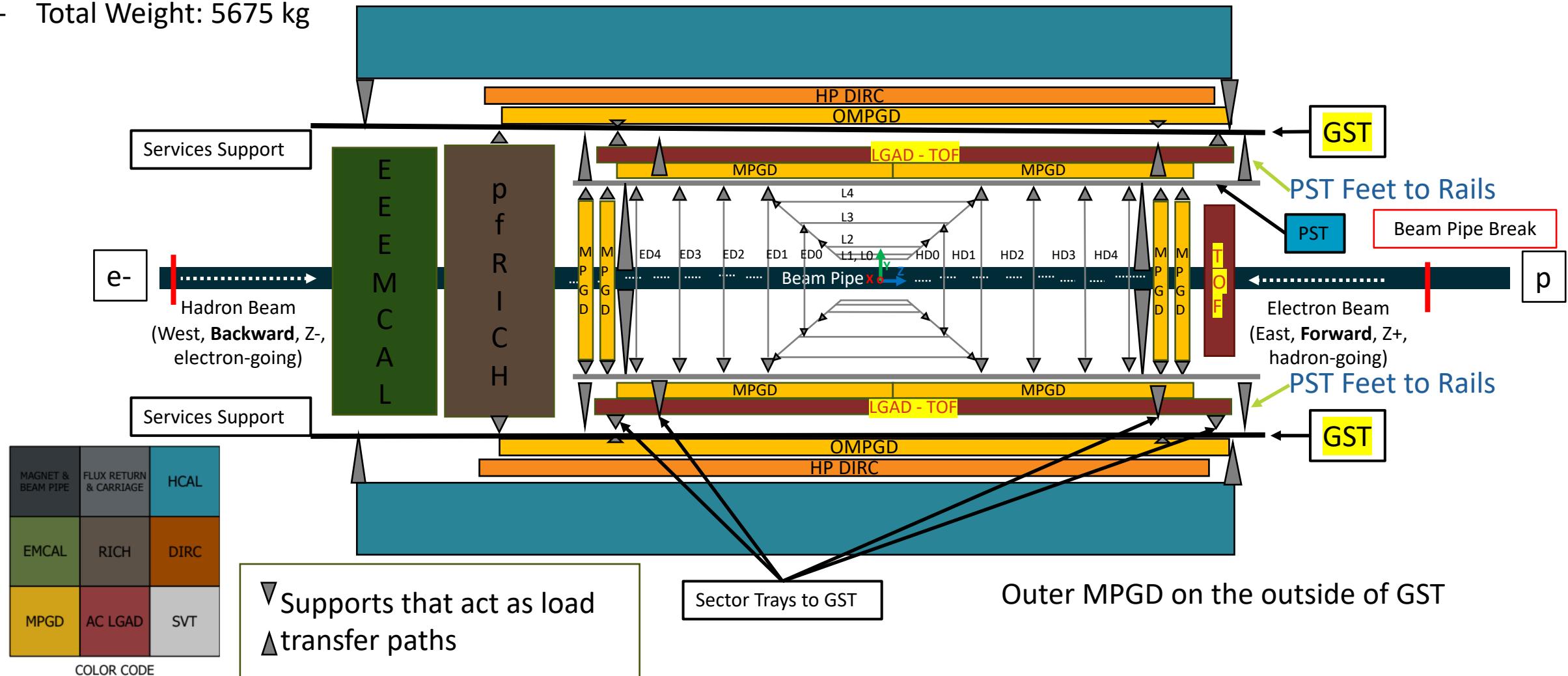


# Inner Detector Support Hierarchy Y-Z View - Oct 2025

NOT TO SCALE

Charge 1, 4

- All masses are on slide 20 of this talk, details on SVT mass are in B. Denos talk
- Total Weight: 5675 kg

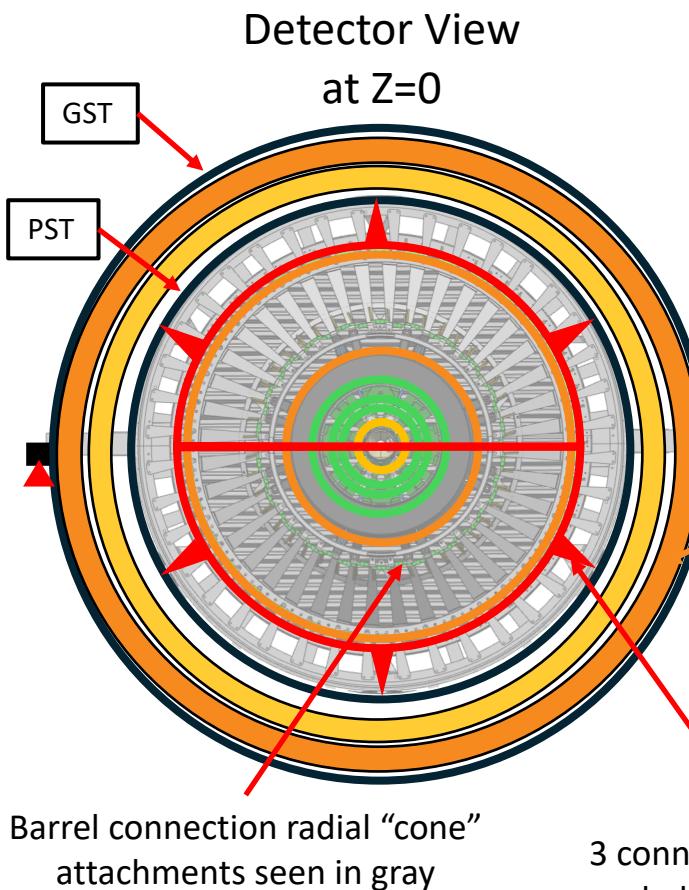


# Inner Detector Support Hierarchy X-Y View - Oct 2025

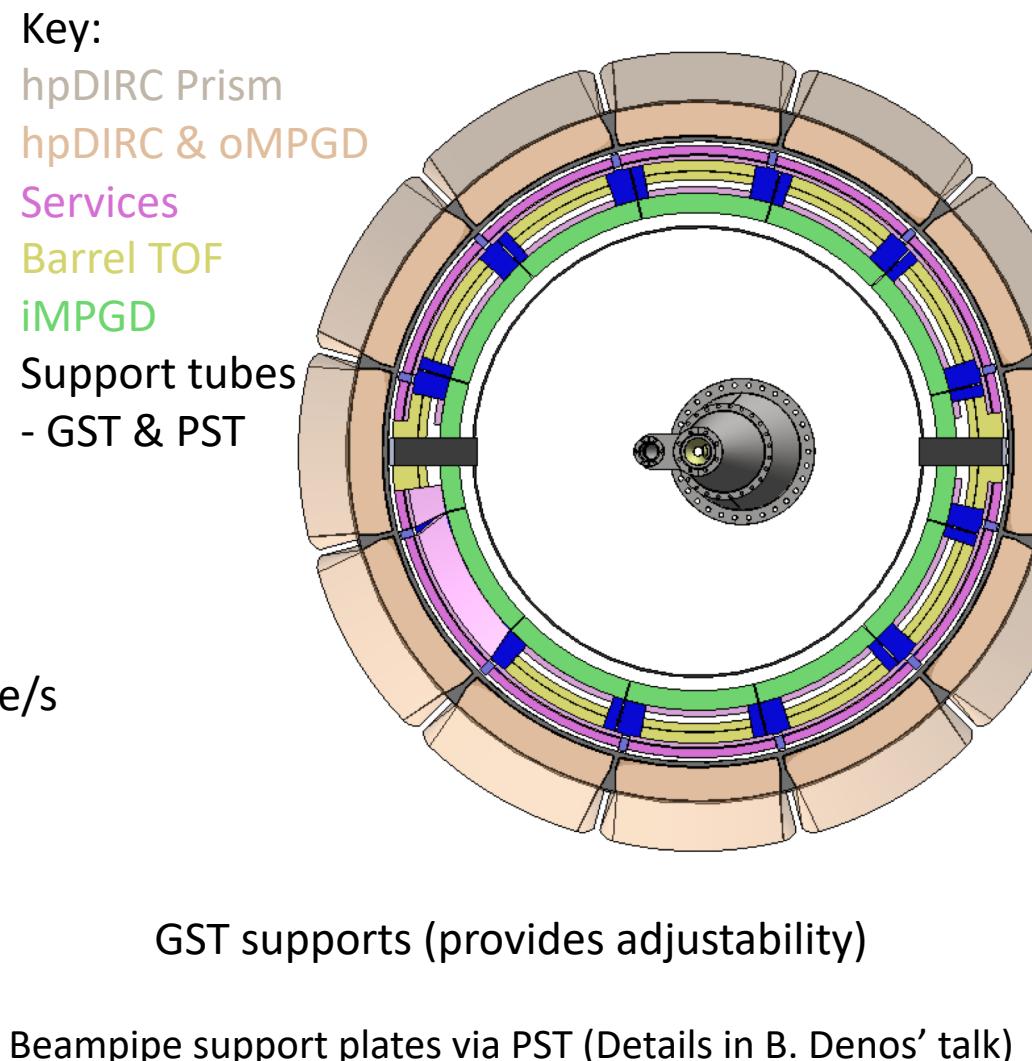
NOT TO SCALE

Charge 1, 4

To ease maintenance and integration the inner detectors (TOF, i- and o-MPGD) follow a 30 degree segmentation!



Key:  
Beam Pipe  
SVT Inner  
Outer Barrel  
SVT Disks  
Inner MPGD  
TOF Barrel  
Composite Support Tube/s



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# Presentation Section 1: Brief Overview of Sub-detector Mechanics (all supported by GST)

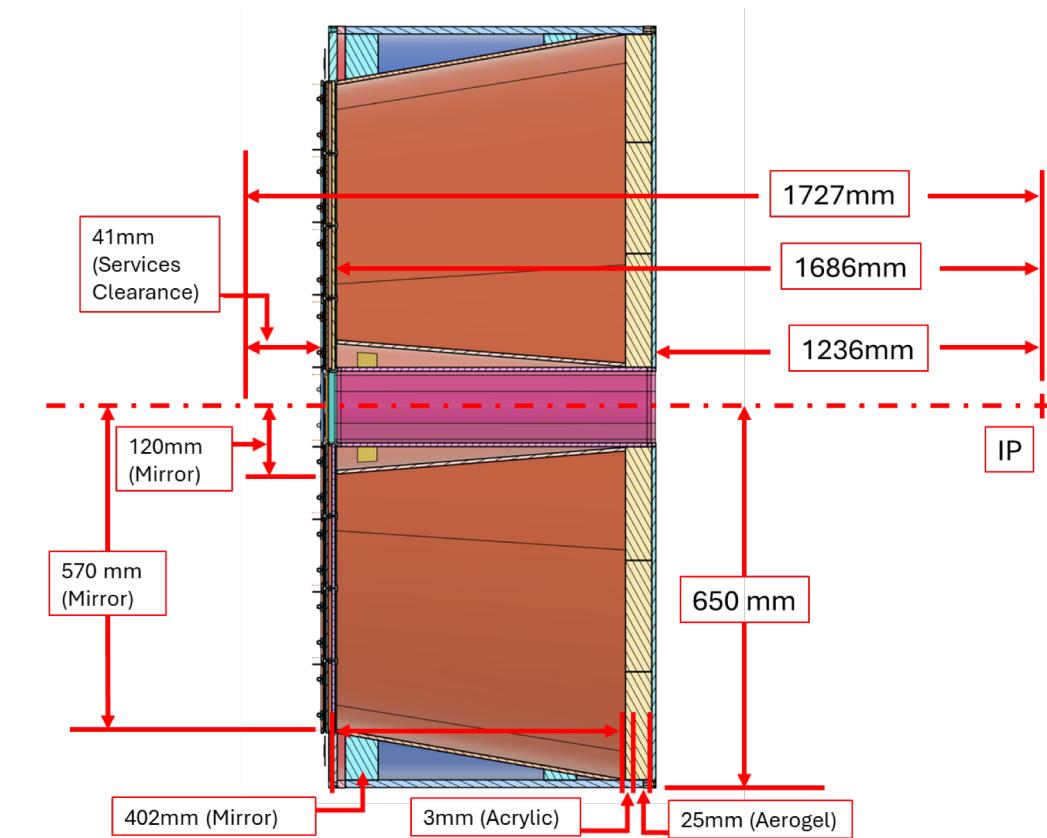
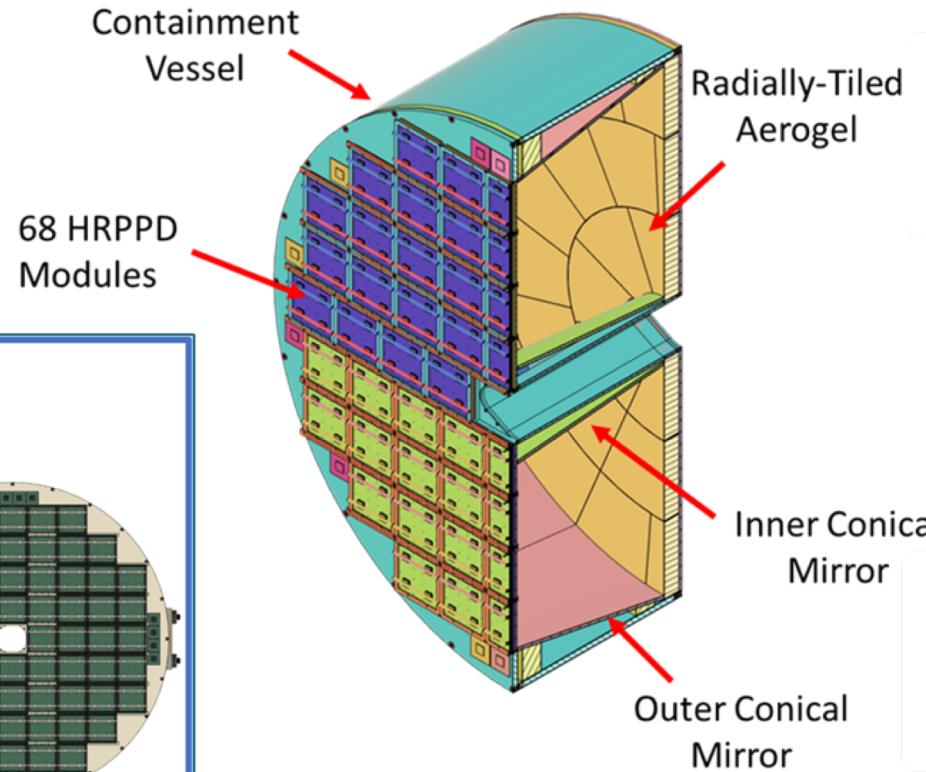
# pfRICH Design

Chosen as a technology baseline for ePIC in April 2023

## Major Components:

- Vessel
- Sensor Plane
- Mirrors
- Aerogel Wall

- Shape: 1/2" thick cylinder (12.7 mm)
- Outer Diameter: 1300 mm
- Length: 491 mm
- Precision: < 1 mm radius and length
- Technology: Carbon-fiber composite material with nomex honeycomb core



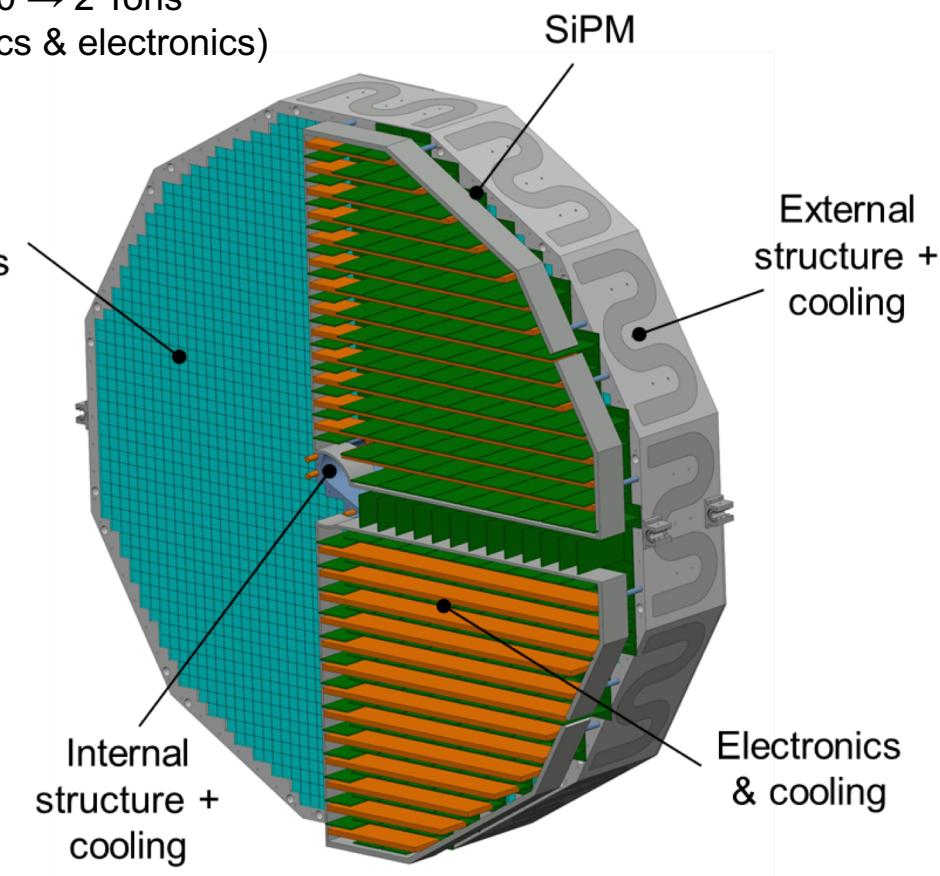
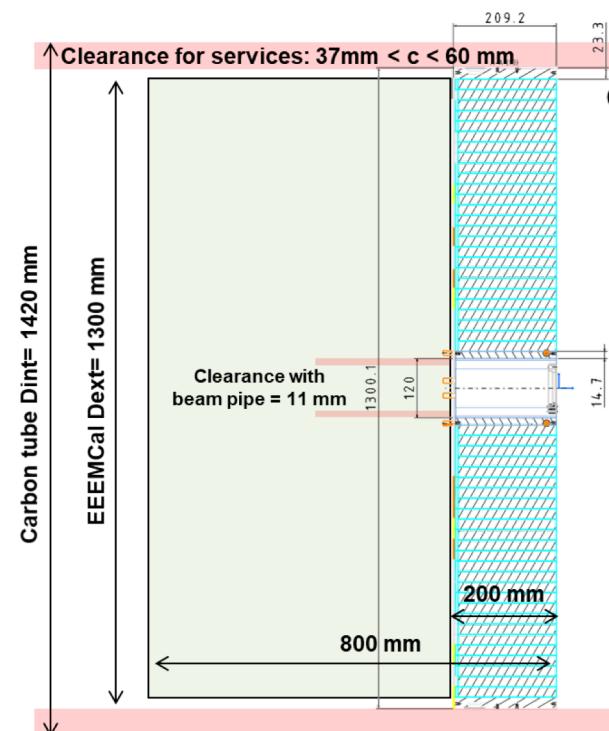
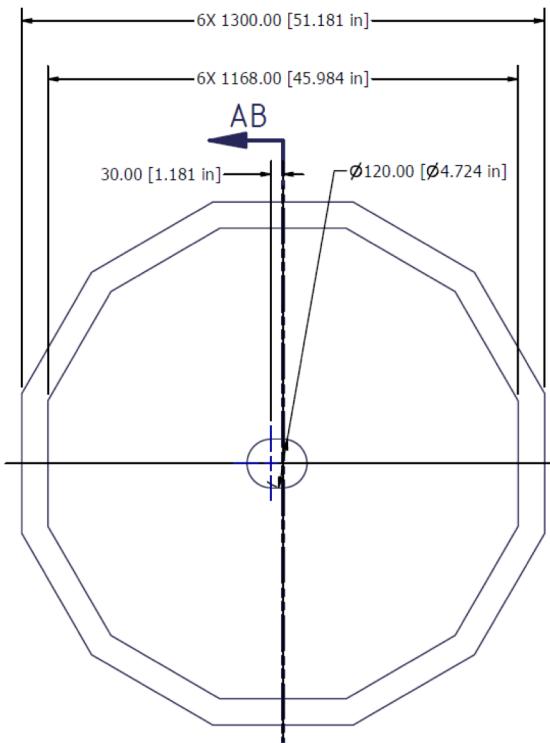
# EEEMCAL Detector Design

## Major components:

- PWO crystals
- External structure (Cooling, FSW coldplates)
- Internal structure (Cooling, copper tubes)
- Front copper plate (Passive cooling)
- Electronics (SiPM + Front end)

## Dimensions:

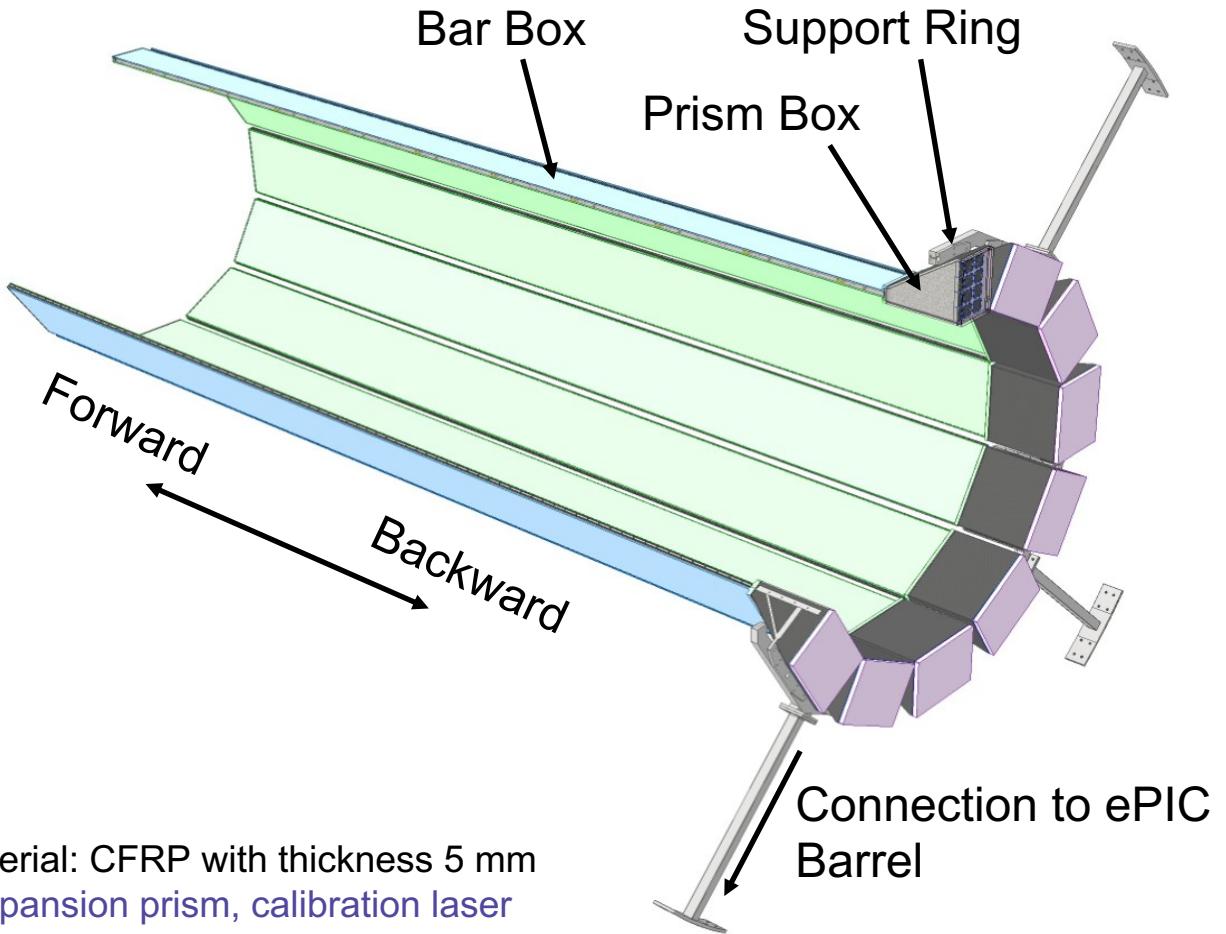
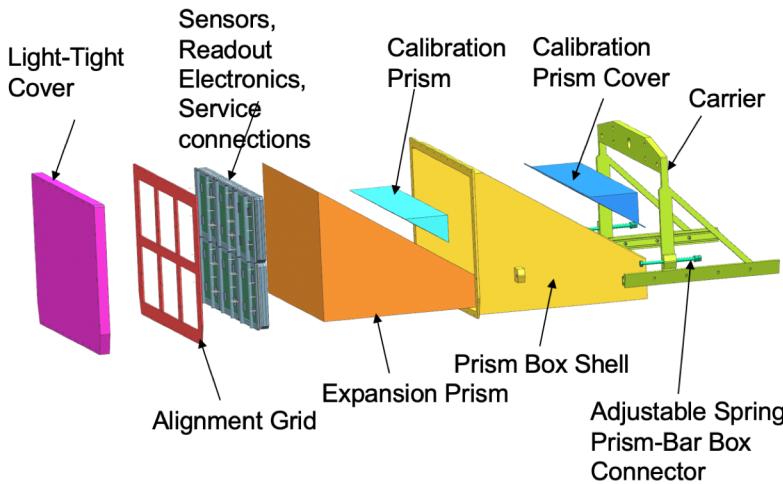
- Outer diameter = 1346 mm (R673 mm)
- Inner diameter = 120 mm
- Length max (with electronics and cables) = 800 mm
- Crystal  $\approx$  700g / Nb of crystals  $\approx$  2750  $\rightarrow$  2 Tons
- Total mass  $\approx$  2,5 Tons (with mechanics & electronics)



# hpDIRC Detector Design

## Bar Boxes:

- CFRP Shell
  - Approximately 4.6m Long
  - Thickness: 1.5 mm – 3 mm (thicker at times)
- Contains Quartz Radiator Bars, Mirrors, and Lenses
  - 10 long bars each formed by 3 short bars and a Light Guide section



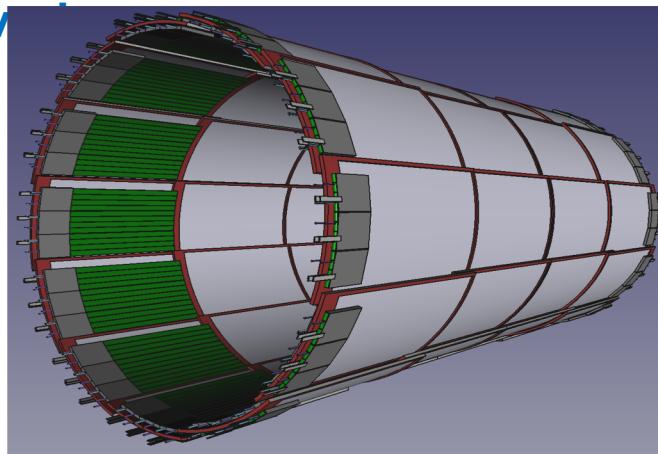
### Readout Box

- Box shell
- Current Material: CFRP with thickness 5 mm
- Contains expansion prism, calibration laser
- Supports sensors, readout electronics, and associated services

# Outer MPGD ( $\mu$ RWELL-BOT) and Inner MPGD aka CyMBaL

## New design for inner MPGD (CyMBaL): 12 sectors with fish scale

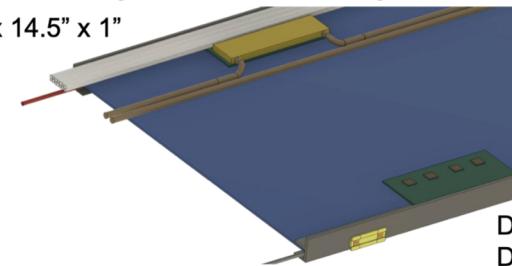
Overview



- New design with 12 sectors for better integration, installation and maintenance together with the barrel time of flight detector
  - 48 tiles: 12 in  $\phi$   $\times$  4 in  $z$
- GST (and TOF trays) provides 4 mount points to inner MPGD (cymbal) per  $z$ -side
  - All services route within iMPGD envelope to outside, TOF is outermost radii and iMPGD is below that as far as services go

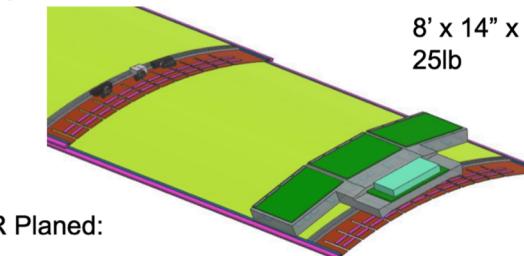
MPGD – Kapton film with composite frame

13' x 14.5" x 1"  
15lb



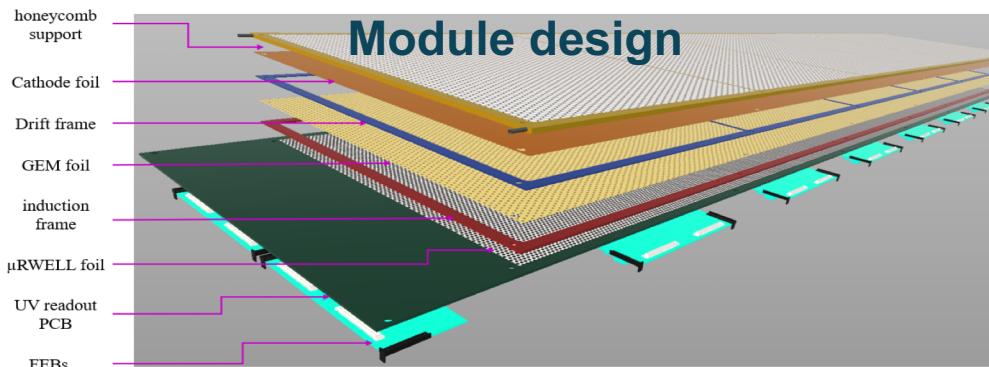
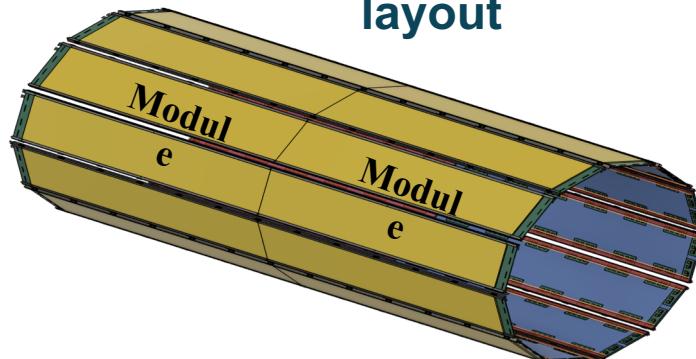
Cymbal – Kapton film with composite frame

8' x 14" x 2.375"  
25lb



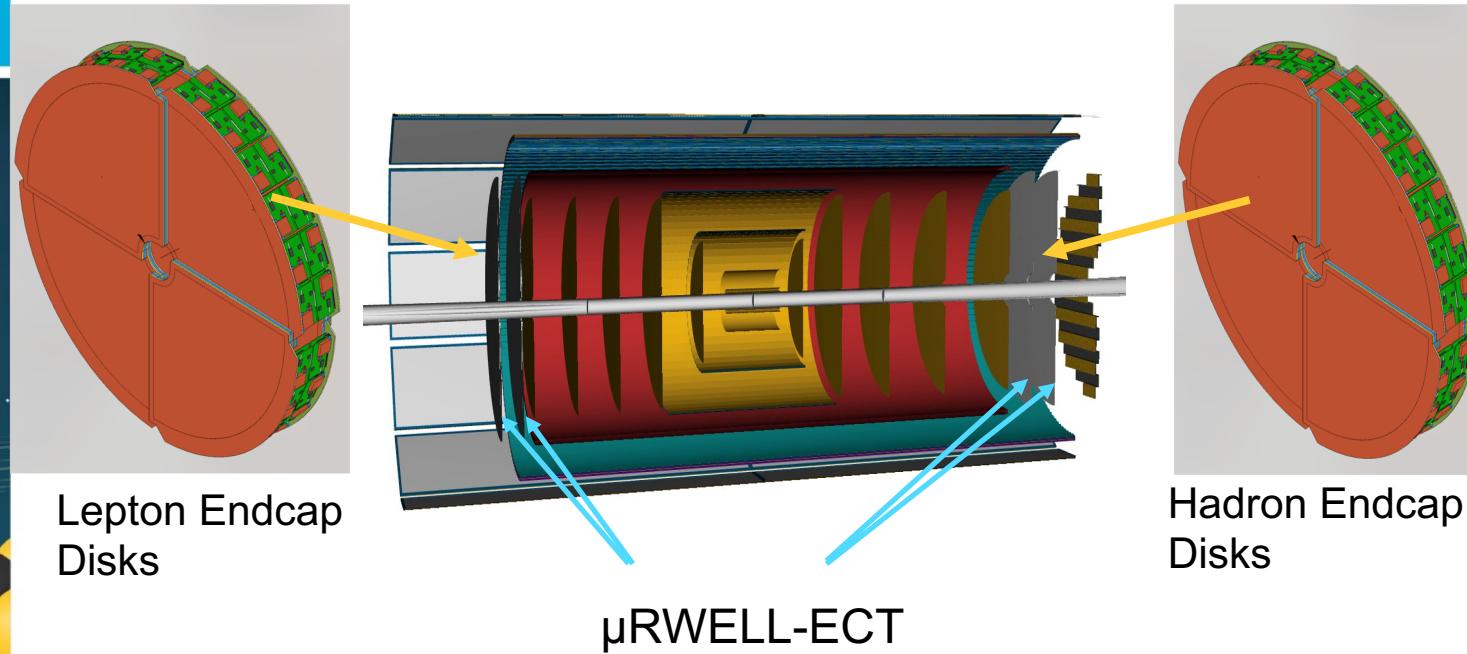
Detector PDR Planed:  
Dec 15, 2026

$\mu$ RWELL-BOT  
layout



## 24 planar detector modules

- 12 sectors in  $r^*\phi \times 2$  modules in  $z \rightarrow$  No overlaps
- $R_{\min} = 72.5$  cm;  $R_{\max} = 75$  cm



Lepton Endcap Disks

Hadron Endcap Disks

$\mu$ RWELL-ECT

**Two MPGD Endcap Tracking (ECT) disks** both in the **hadronic** and in the **leptonic regions** increase the number of hits in the  $|\eta| > 2$  region to improve pattern recognition.

## 16 Quadrant modules

- GEM-  $\mu$ Rwell hybrid configuration guarantees gain higher than  $10^4$
- 2D strip read-out a “COMPASS-like” scheme
- $<150 \mu\text{m}$  intrinsic spatial resolution for perpendicular tracks
- Time resolution  $\sim 10 \text{ ns}$
- Material Budget  $<1 \% X_0$

**On-detector Front End Boards (FEBs)**  
based on SALSA chips

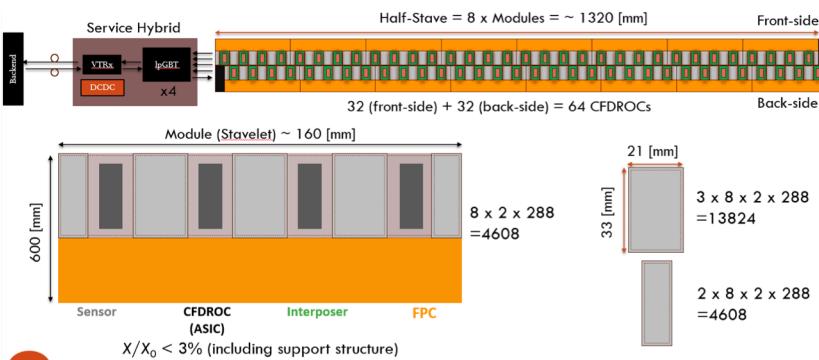
# TOF Sub-Systems

To ease maintenance and integration the inner detectors follow a 30 degree segmentation!

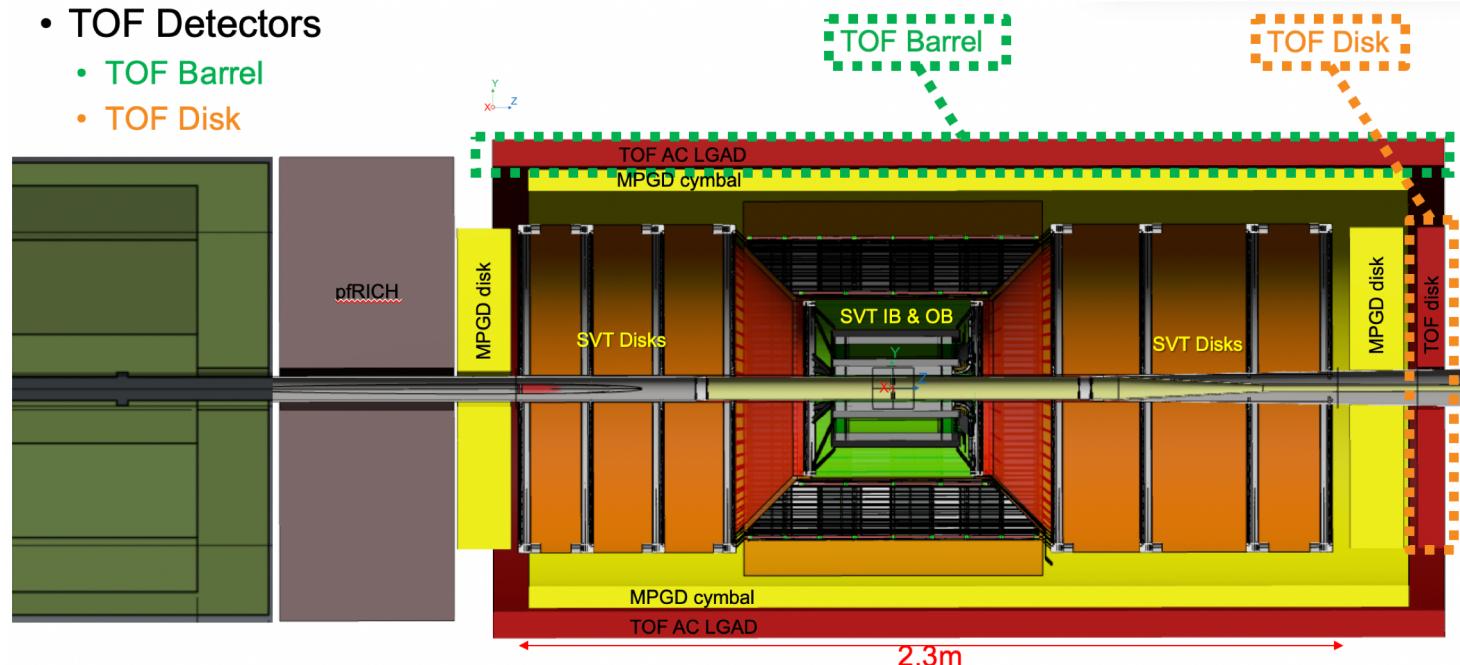
Charge 1, 4

- TOF detector provides particle ID for EPIC
- Consists of AC-LGAD's
- Barrel "stavelet" base unit
  - 60mm wide, 160mm long
  - 2 x 8 stavelets per half-stave of 1270mm (z+) and 1370 (z-) length
    - Includes space for portcards and

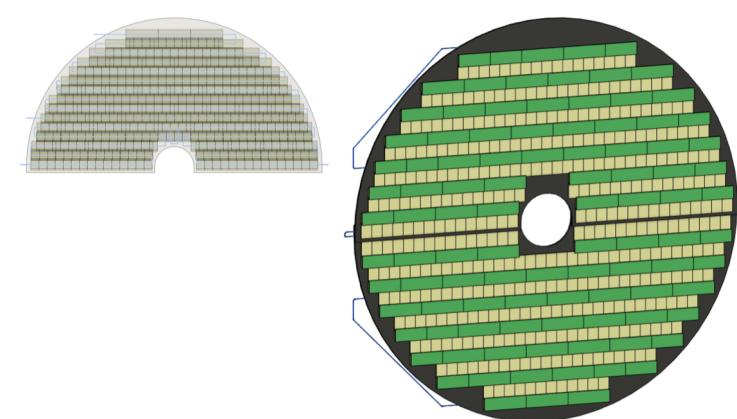
→ 288 half staves yields 4608 stavelets



- TOF Detectors
  - TOF Barrel
  - TOF Disk



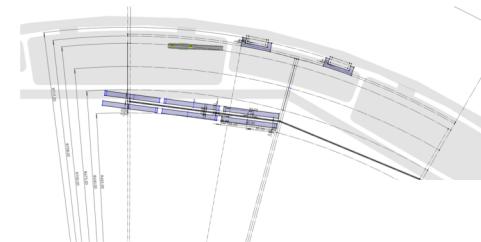
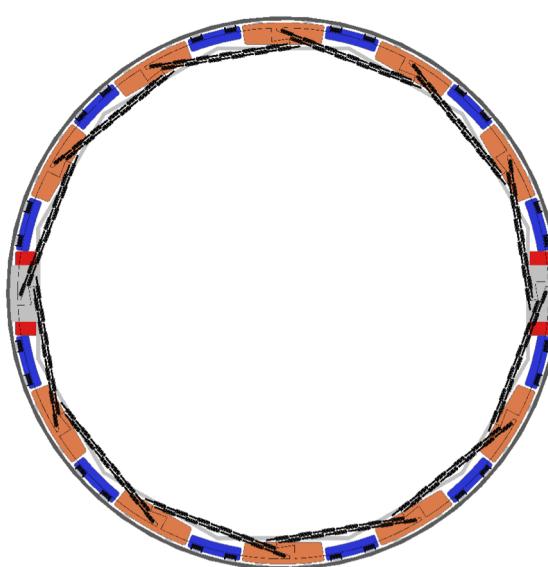
- Forward TOF (disc)
- Sandwich structure with cooling pipes
- Kinematic mount to PST - GST



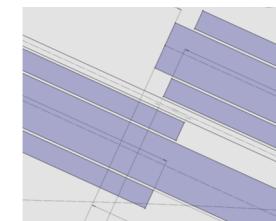
# Barrel TOF & inner MPGD supports

Charge 1, 4, 6

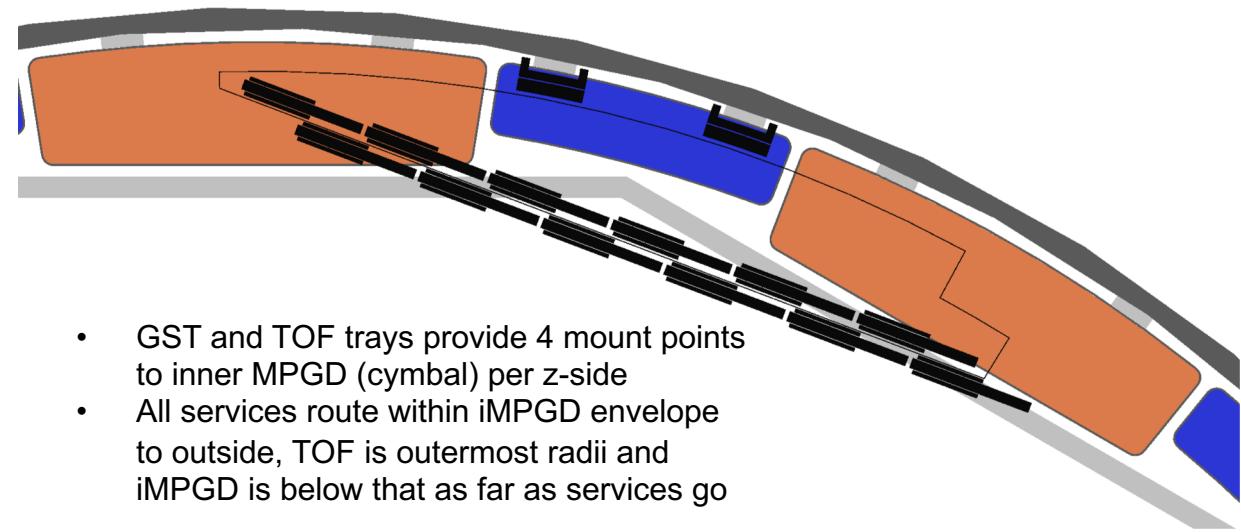
- Tray mounts via top rails to GST
  - Thin line “tracks” a TOF tray, open space inside is for services of TOF
  - Designed for 2mm overlap
- Other solidly filled areas are “reserved” for service of **SVT+oMPGD** and **TOF+iMPGD**



2mm overlap

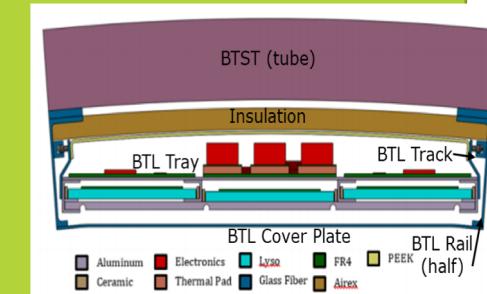


Preliminary & conceptual drawing!



- GST and TOF trays provide 4 mount points to inner MPGD (cymbal) per z-side
- All services route within iMPGD envelope to outside, TOF is outermost radii and iMPGD is below that as far as services go

Updated drawing for support of inner MPGD:  
Example from CMS “trays”



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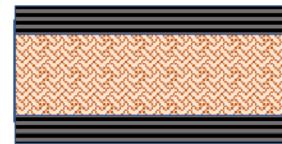
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# Presentation Section 2: Global Support Tube (GST)

# Global Support Structure (GST)

Charge 1, 4, 6

- GST supports the 2 “outer” detector systems (hpDIRC & oMPGD) and all inner detectors, all supported by the Global Support Tube
  - Total weight GST + inner and outer detectors + services: ~ 5600kg
  - For comparison: CMS is similar!
- “Double-decker” sandwich structure with internal beams and I-beam cells
  - Made from honeycomb core and two face sheets on either side bonded to it + 5mm skin further out
  - 2mm face sheets +6mm core
  - ~425kg self weight
- Two Inner detector support rails:
  - 5.3m long (or 2.65m x 2); ~14x20mm cross section
  - Support ~3100 kg inner detectors

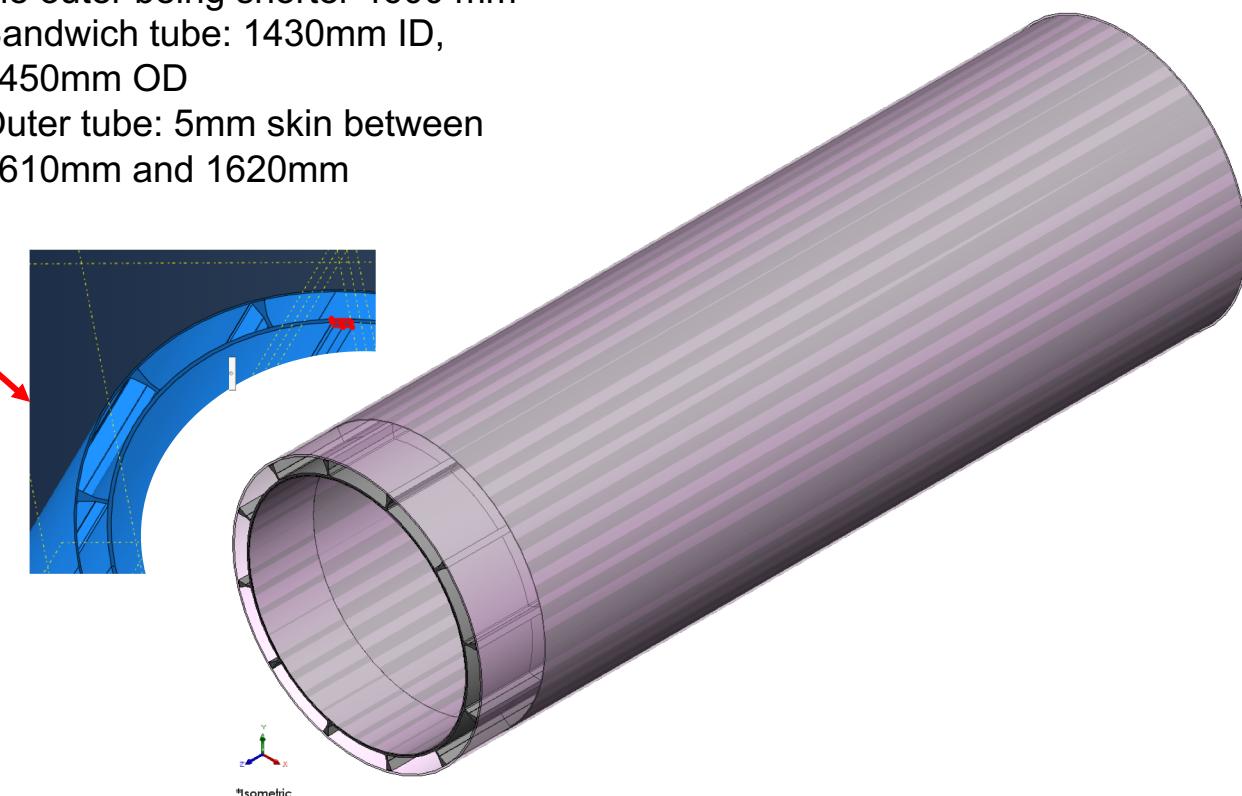


Facesheet = 2mm thick  
HoneyComb = 6 mm thick (1/4 inch)  
Facesheet = 2mm thick

Face sheets:  
“Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer” or CFRP

## Dimensions:

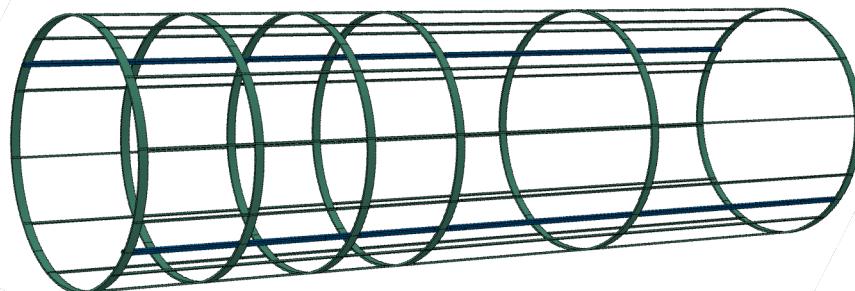
- Structure is 5050 mm long; with the outer being shorter 4600 mm
- Sandwich tube: 1430mm ID, 1450mm OD
- Outer tube: 5mm skin between 1610mm and 1620mm



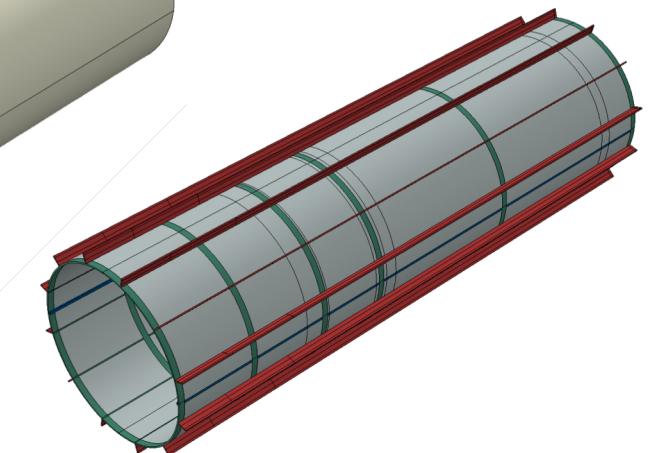
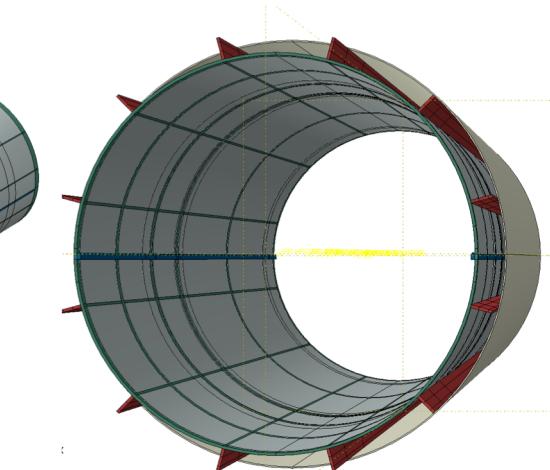
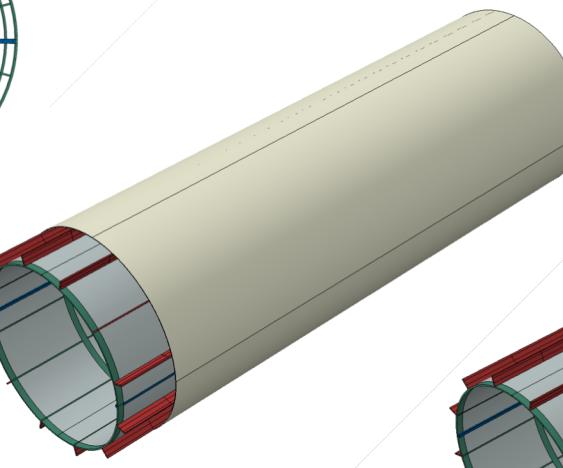
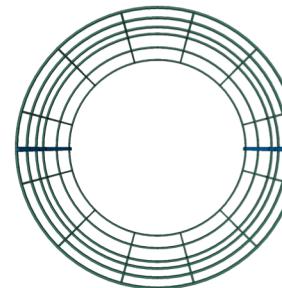
# GST – internal rip structure

Charge 1, 4, 6

- Internal rip structure to stiffen GST as needed to support >5t
- End rings to provide support for GST bracket and to distribute load, more rings in EEEMCal area



Electron direction  
(EEEMCal direction)

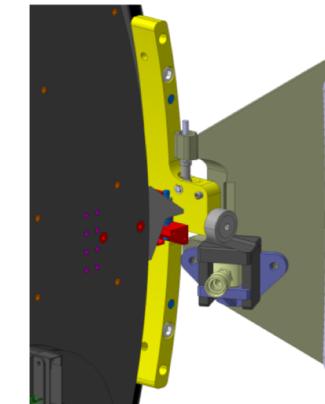
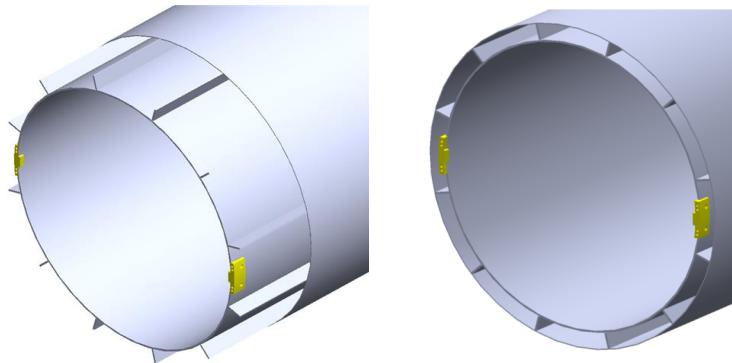


- GST support rails for PST feet

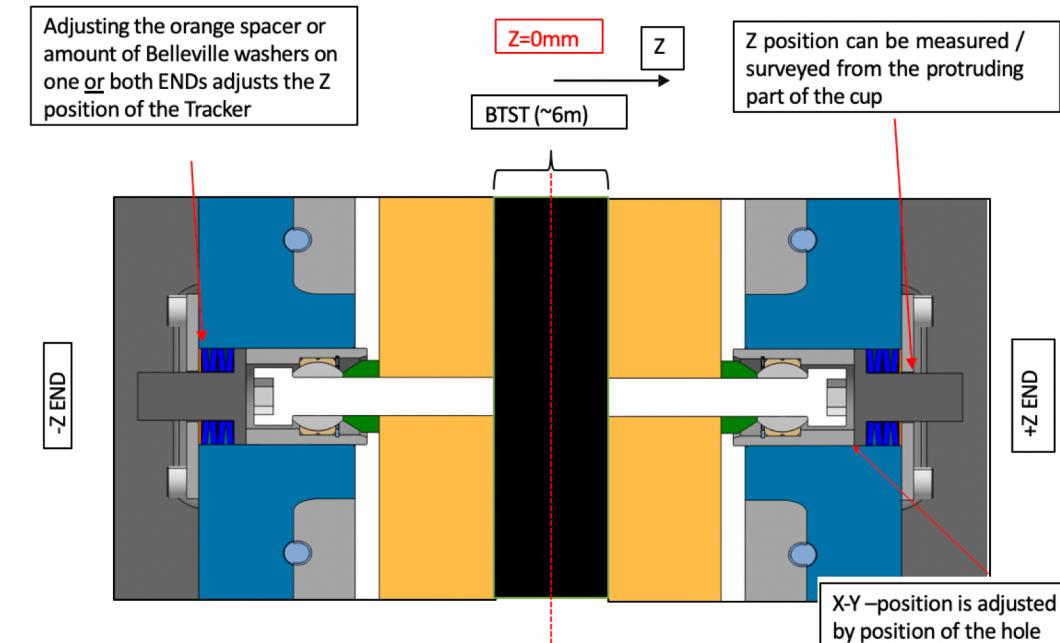
# GST tolerances/constraints and mount points

Charge 1, 4, 6

- Variety of support rails are provided by GST to support
  - PST feet
  - Mountpoints for pfRICH, EEEMCAL
  - GST itself is mounted to HCAL and EMC
  - End rings (50mm massive CRRP) to distribute load of “brackets” for GST support
- Adjustability of PST  $\pm 3$ mm and of GST  $\pm 10$ mm



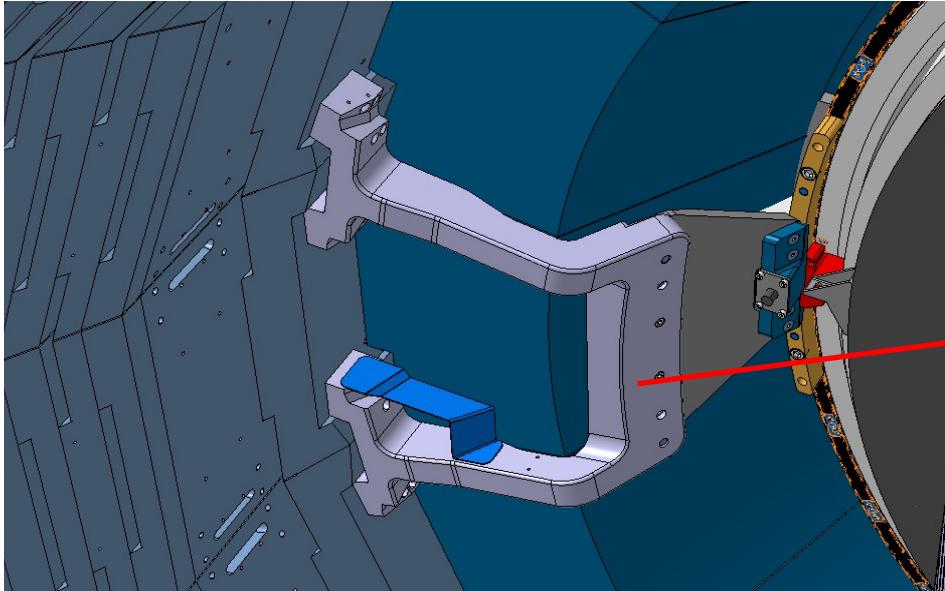
- Envelope inner radius is 715 to 725mm
- Inner installation clearance is 710 to 715 mm
- Inner cylinder (sandwich) is  $z = -1900$  mm to  $+3125$ mm
- Envelope outer radius = 805 to 810 mm
- Outer installation clearance = 810 to 820 mm (this is the clearance between GST and the barrel EMcal (BIC))
- Outer Cylinder (CFRP)  $z = -1900$  to  $+2700$  mm



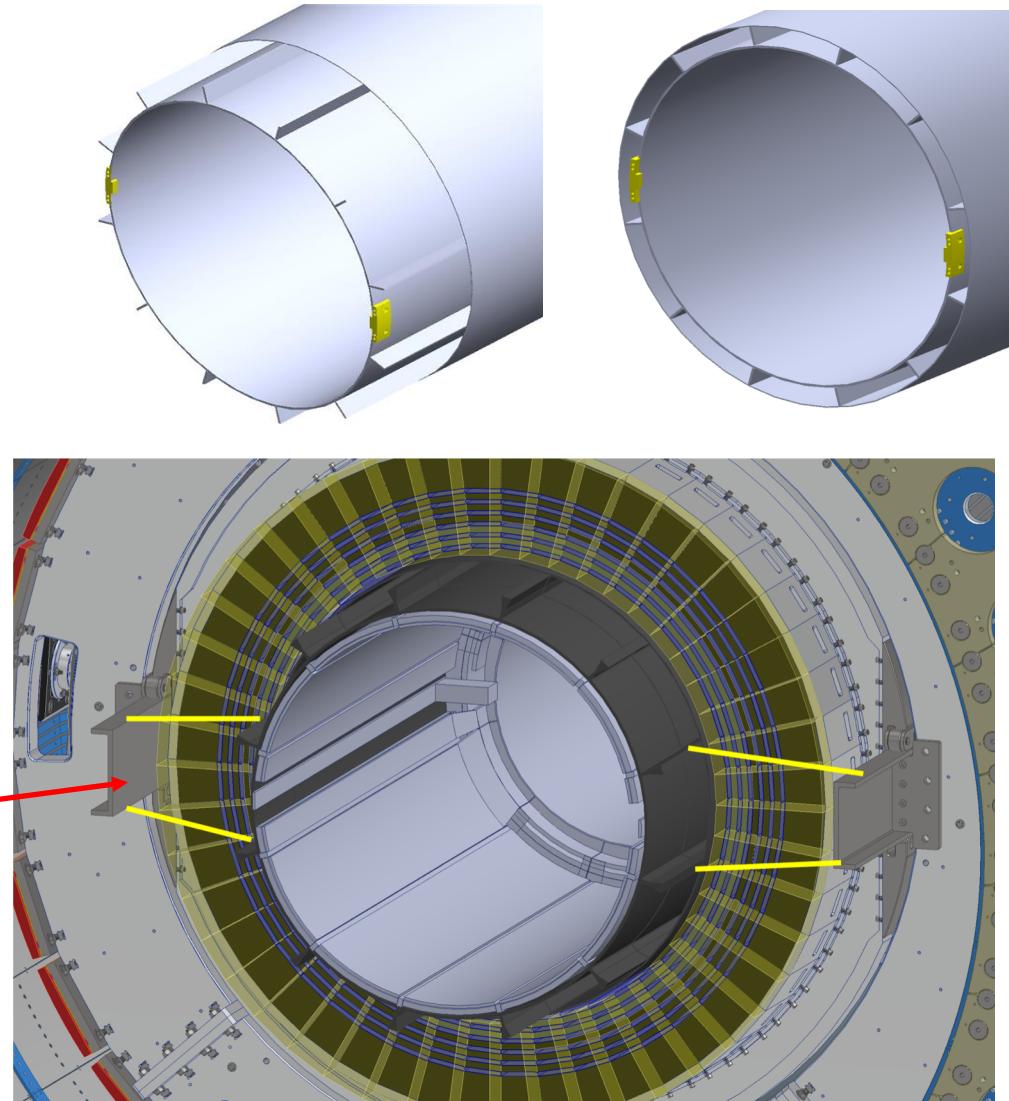
# Support of the Global Support Tube

Charge 1, 4, 6

- Mechanism to support GST is in final design adjustments
- Connector on GST end ring supported by “bracket”
- Bracket allows for adjustability as presented on previous slides

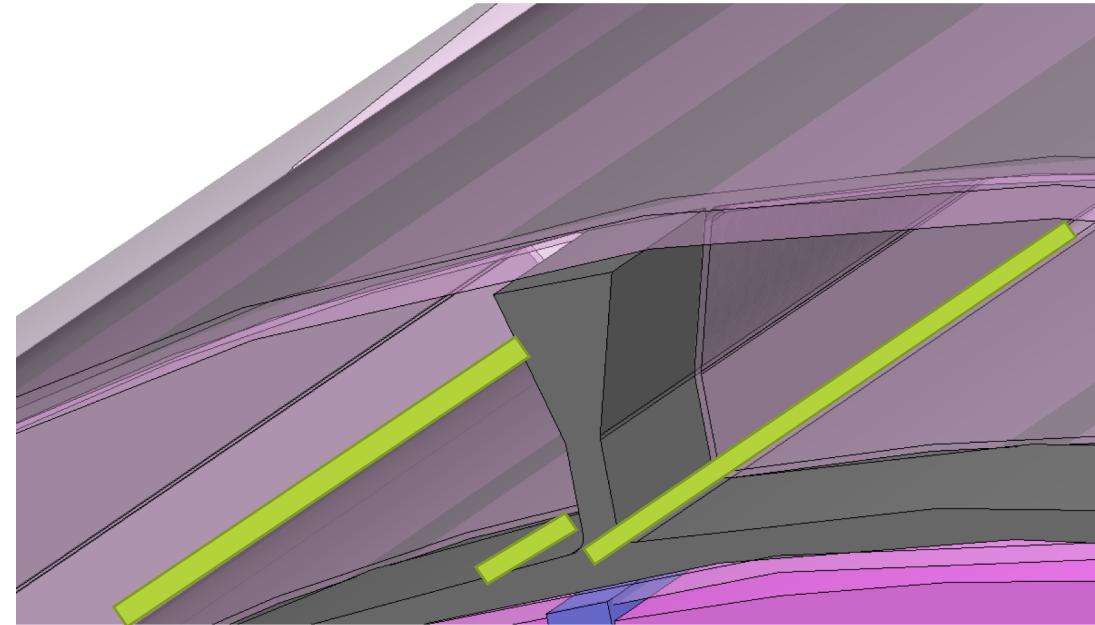


Support bracket via  
C-channel of EMC



# HPDIRC and oMPGD support by GST

- 2mm clearance on installation of the trays into the 12 sectors between the GST inner and outer skins
- GST support “Cavities”
  - GST consists of supports for HP-DIRC and outer MPGD in between inner sandwich and outer skin
  - Provide a temporary mounting plate for interfacing to external rails for integration of hpDIRC and oMPGD
- Inner beams for Insertion trays for barrel TOF and iMPGD (CyMBal)
  - See details on sl 14



- Rails to support hpDIRC & oMPGD
- Pin holes for interfacing temp rails

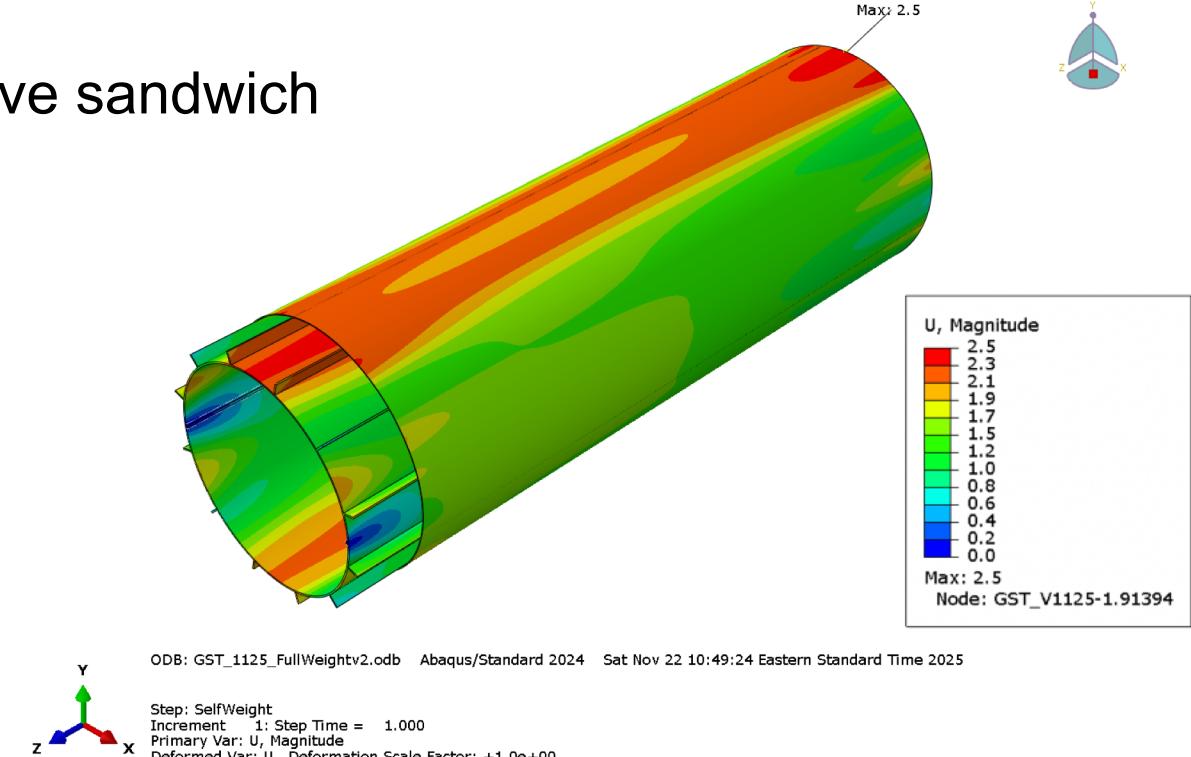
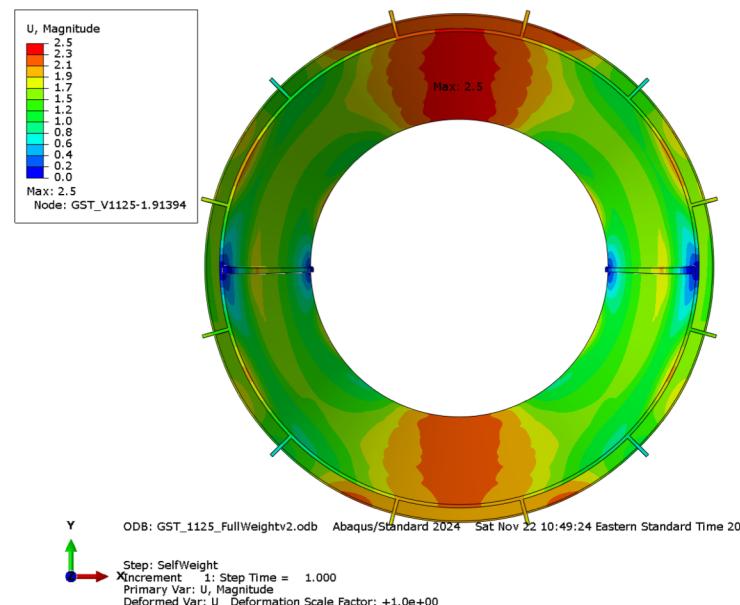
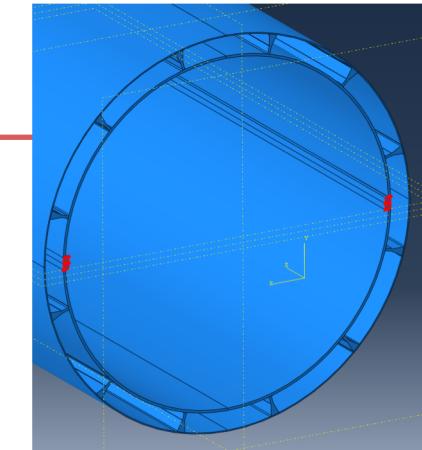
# FEA: Loads of detector systems supported by GST

- Total weight is 5,675 kg
  - Comparable to CMS timing layer + all of the tracker
- Services are included in the respective detector subsystem
  - Additional service mass outside the respective detector volume is added in addition
- GST properties:
  - weight is ~ 420 kg
  - CFRP rails are 5 kg
  - For comparison if made in stainless steel GST weight is 3082 kg (7x GST), and in Al it would 1040 kg (2x GST)

		Load distribution	
		z-coordinate	Mass (kg)
1	EEEMCal Crystals	1842.5	2000
2	EEEMCal Electronics	2212.5	500
3	HPDIRC Bars	425	1400
4	HPDIRC Prisms	3060	400
5	oMPGD	125	100
6	AC LGAD TOF	-212.5	150
7	Cymbal	-212.5	150
8	SVT	-100	285
9	pfRICH	1500	97
10	pfRICH Services	2437.5	13
11	SVT Services Zp	2187.5	50
12	SVT Services Zm	-1725	15
13	Cymbal TOF Services Zp	2150	50
14	Cymbal TOF Services Zm	-1725	15
15	EEEMCal Services Zp	2815	30
16	GST self weight	xx	420
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5675</b>

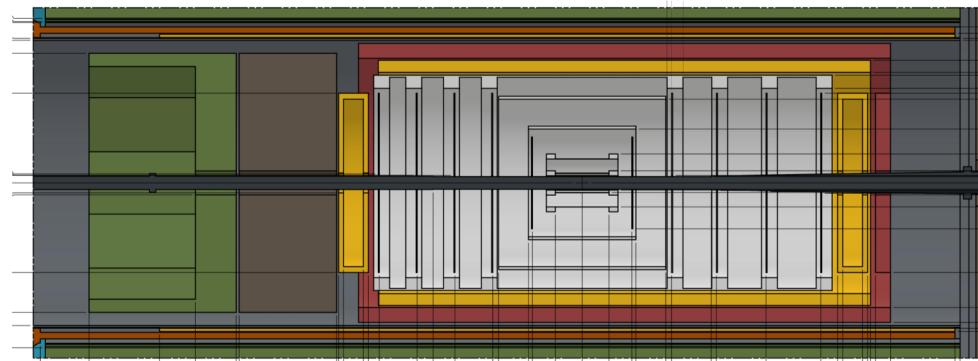
# Finite element analysis of GST

- The current GST design of a composite “double-decker” Carbon Fiber tube can support all inner detector masses within **2.5mm deflection**
- Currently assumed: HM63 + EX1515 matrix (fairly stiff, other choices exist) – Material properties are in backup
- **Sufficient within the envelope!**
- **To come:** Alternative materials and alternative sandwich

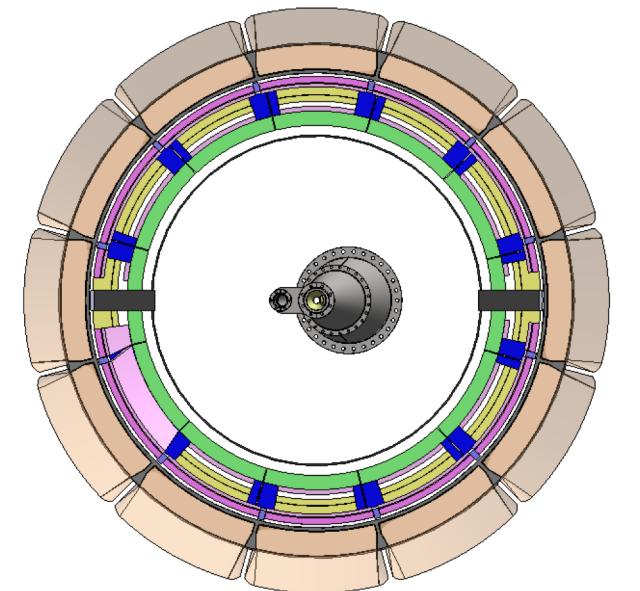


# GST envelope and constraints

- Expected deflections, tolerances, geometric tolerances:
  - Deflections in final operation setup:  $\pm 2.5$  vs  $\pm 2.0$  mm
  - Manufacturing:  $\pm 1.5$ mm, Core:  $\pm 0.5$ mm & Cylindricity of 2mm
    - Face sheets:  $\pm 0.1$ mm + Core yields  $\pm 0.7$ mm max deviation
  - Geometric to fit within envelope in worst case:  $\pm 1.5$ mm
- Envelope is  $\pm 10$ mm for insertion
  - Worst case:  $\pm 1.5$ mm  $\pm 2.5/2.0$ mm =  $\pm 4$ /  $\pm 3.5$ mm
  - Can consider more local add. stiffening structures
- Adjustability of PST  $\pm 3$ mm in x-y and  $\pm 5$ mm in z
  - Tolerance is  $\pm 1$ mm
- Adjustability of GST  $\pm 10$ mm in all directions
  - Tolerance is  $\pm 3$ mm



Key:  
hpDIRC Prism  
hpDIRC &  
oMPGD  
Services  
Barrel TOF  
iMPGD  
Support tubes  
- GST & PST



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## Presentation Section 3: Integration and Insertion/Assembly

Ben's talk includes SVT only assembly

- Details are on the next slide
- Two large sub-assemblies independently integrated
  - PST-SVT sub-assembly staying in one physical location
  - GST with subdetectors installed in EPIC ready to receive SVT sub-assembly

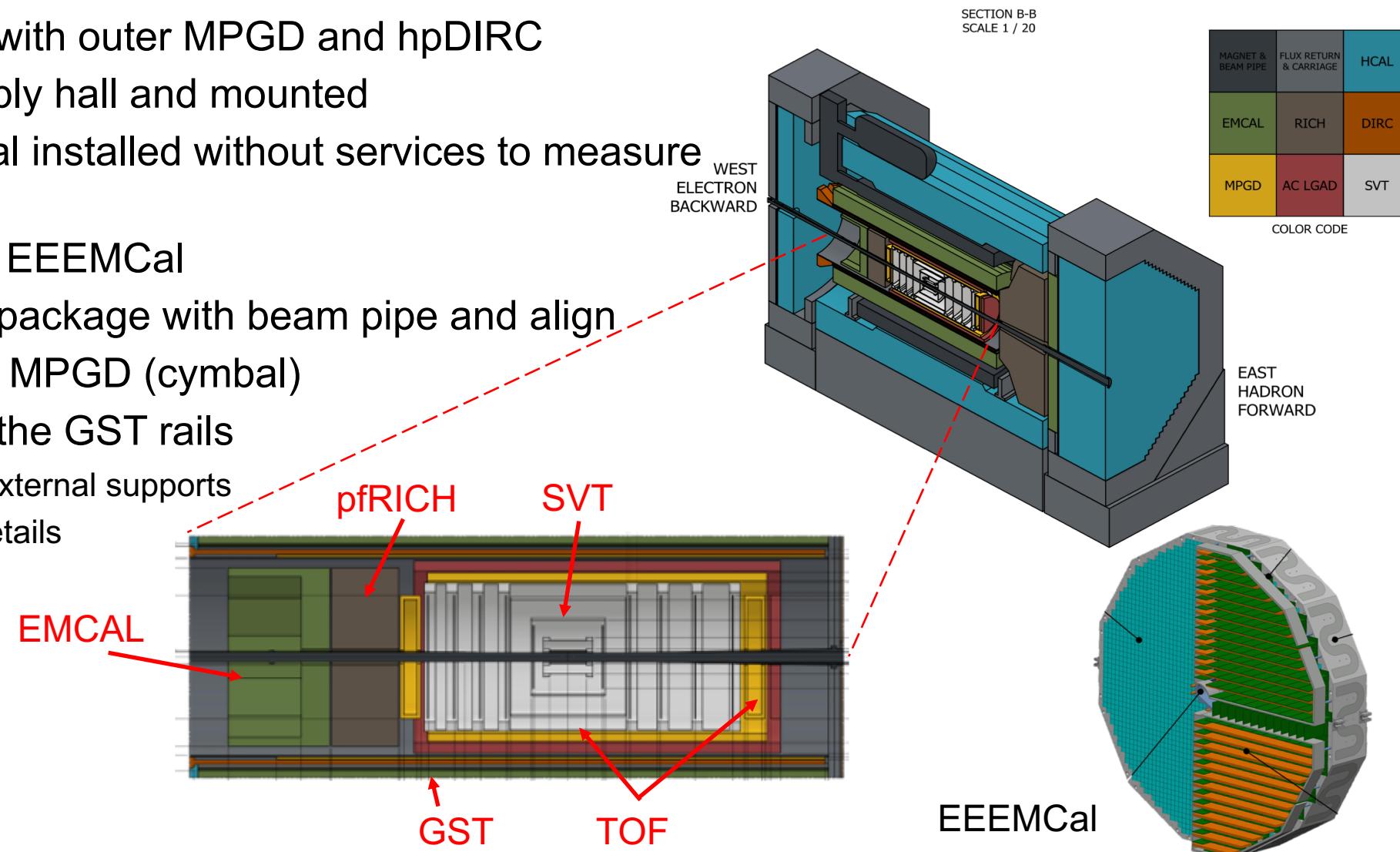
Side remarks:

- Substantial amount of temporary supports needed for beam-pipe, service, cooling, etc
- Temporary structures needed to “slide” / integrate sub-assemblies together and also for final step into EPIC GST structure

# Assembly sequence

Charge 3, 6

1. GST gets integrated with outer MPGD and hpDIRC
2. Moved inside assembly hall and mounted
3. pfRICH and EEEMCal installed without services to measure deflection
4. Remove pfRICH and EEEMCal
5. Install PST and SVT package with beam pipe and align
6. Install TOF and inner MPGD (cymbal)
7. Put PST front feet in the GST rails
  1. Back of PST rests on external supports
  2. See Dan Cacace for details
8. Install pfRICH
9. Install EEEMCal
10. TOF disc

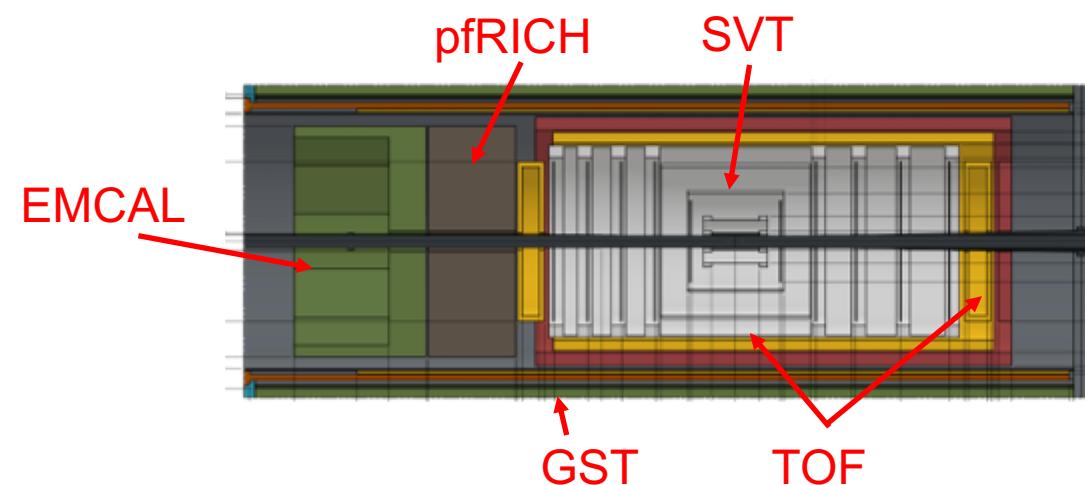


# Assembly sequence – comments / discussion

Charge 3, 6

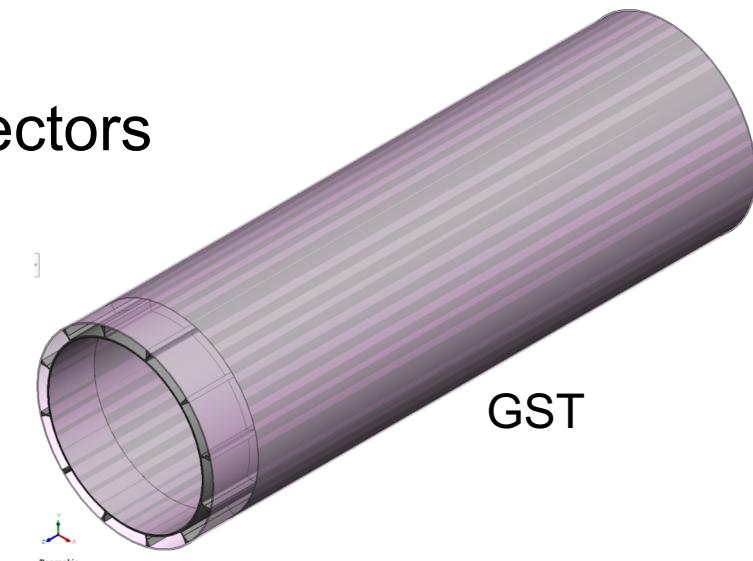
There are arguments for why we suggested to integrate first all into GST, then entire package into EPIC.

- Mostly driven by supporting now EEEMCal
- 1. Step 0 check “impact” of EEEMCal first
- 2. GST gets integrated with outer MPGD and hpDIRC
- 3. Moved inside assembly hall and mounted
- 4. pfRICH and EEEMCal installed without services to measure deflection
- 5. Remove pfRICH and EEEMCal
- 6. Install PST and SVT package with beam pipe and align
  - Reason is the services routing requires this order
- 7. Install TOF and inner MPGD (cymbal)
  - It needs to be after SVT
- 8. Put PST front feet in the GST rails
  - 1. Back of PST rests on external supports
  - 2. See Dan Cacace for details
- 9. Install pfRICH
- 10. Install EEEMCal
- 11. TOF disc



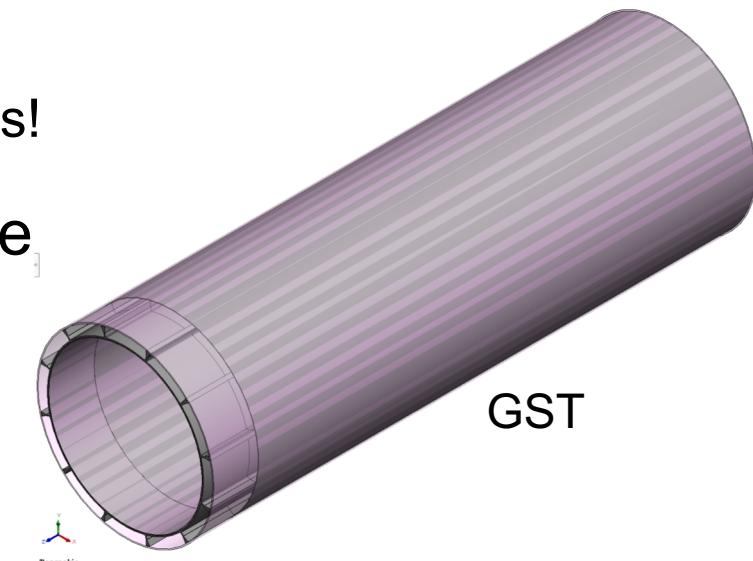
# Next steps

- Mature design for GST adjustment mechanism
- Carry out FEA to study material choice vs deflection
- Prototype & load test to confront FEA vs reality
- Failure mode FEA
- Finalize envelopes for GST and adjustment mechanisms
- Finalize assembly procedure for GST and supported detectors



# Summary

- The current designs for support structures are well developed for the current phase of the project
- The designs are all integrated into the larger central detector model
- The current procedure and approaches for the installation of the inner detectors and their support structures are well developed for the current phase of the project
  - Separation of inner detectors and outer detectors ease separations!
  - Adjustments and optimizations are quickly worked into the larger integrated model
- Next steps:
  - FEA to determine material choice for GST



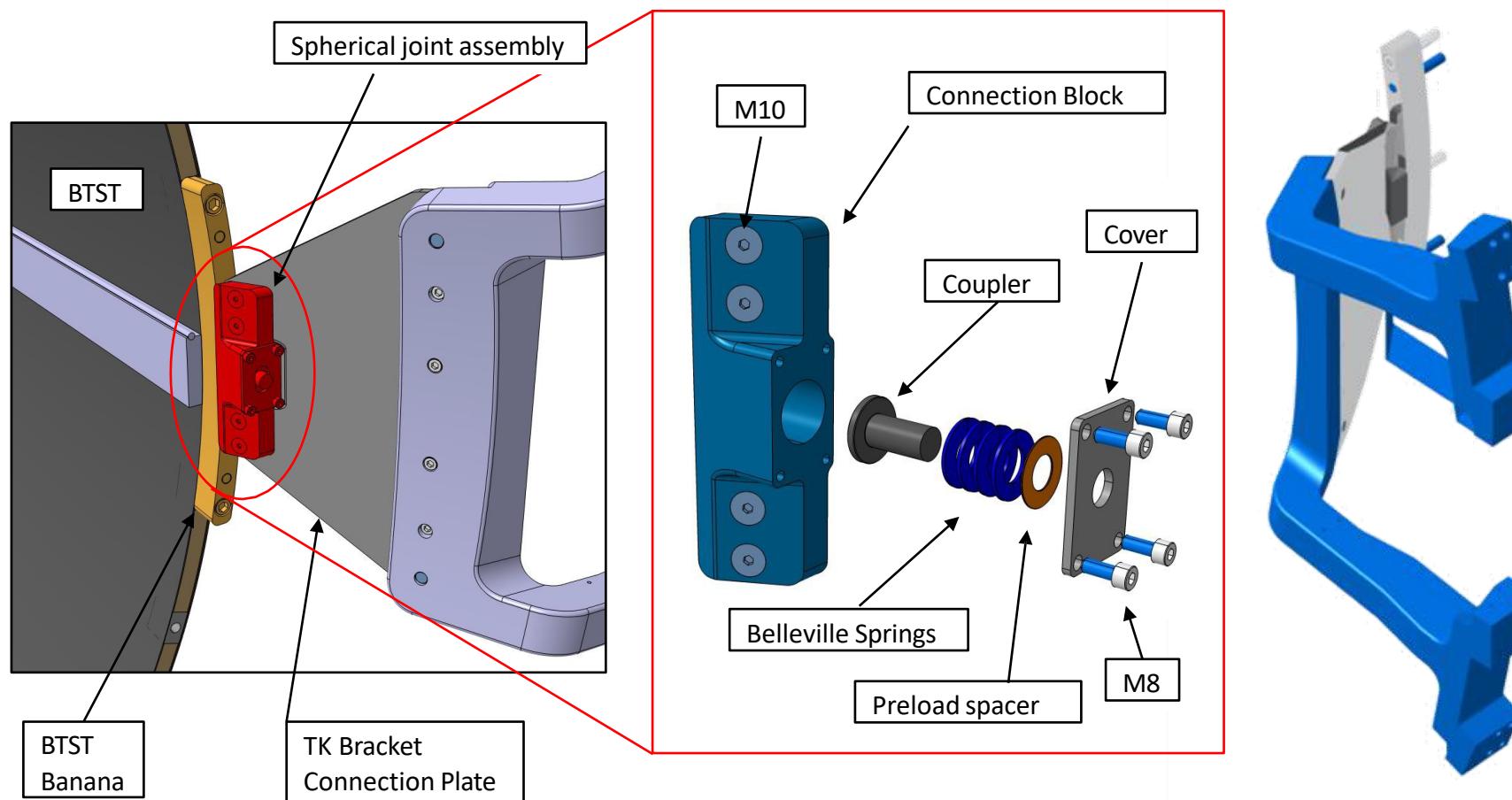
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# Backup

# Periphery interface mapping

- Best existing design via CMS, adopted for EPIC as needed
- The four Tracker brackets support the GST in its final position inside EPIC
- The spherical joint allows the tracker to "settle" without overconstraining



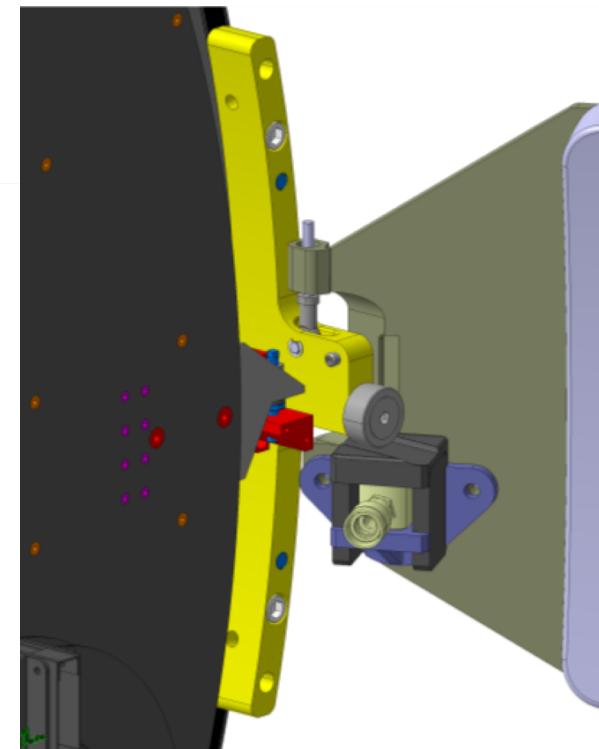
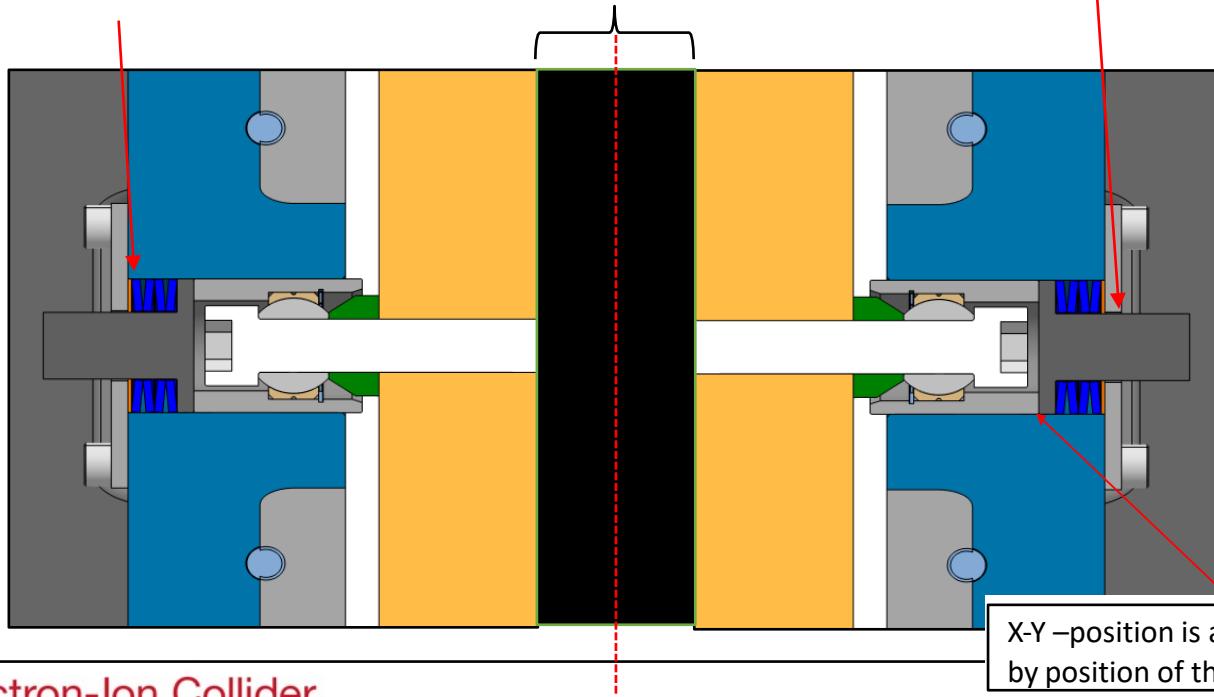
# Periphery interface mapping

- The four Tracker brackets support the GST in its final position inside EPIC
- The spherical joint allows the tracker to "settle" without overconstraining
- The mechanism on the right allows "alignment" by set screws which then gets "mounted" in position with the below mechanism

Adjusting the orange spacer or amount of Belleville washers on one or both ENDs adjusts the Z position of the Tracker

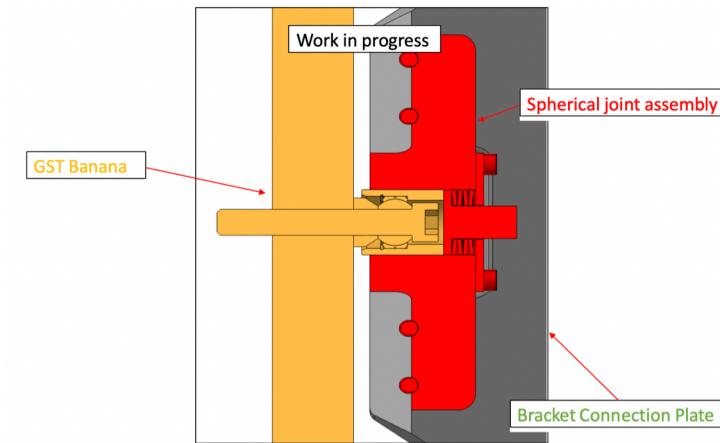
Z=0mm  
BTST (~6m)  
Z

Z position can be measured / surveyed from the protruding part of the cup

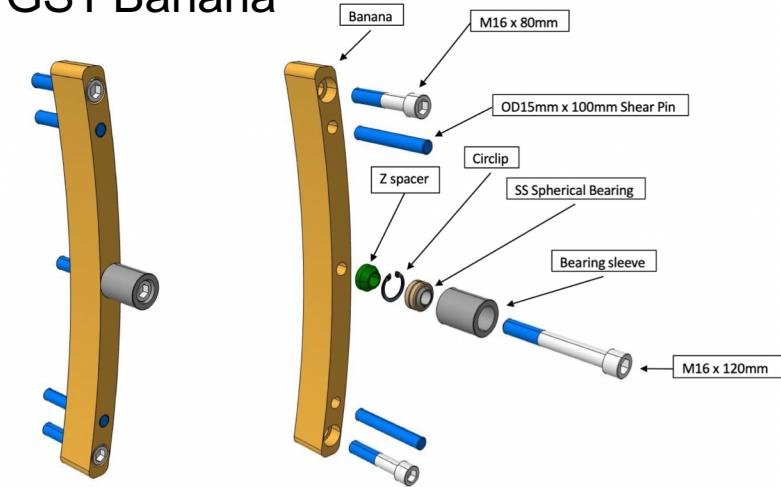


# Detailed drawings on GST adjustment & support

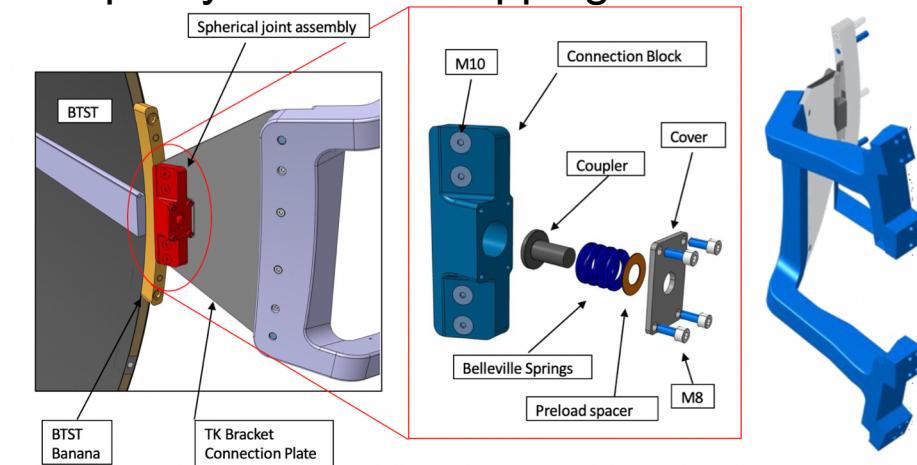
GST Bracket Spherical Joint



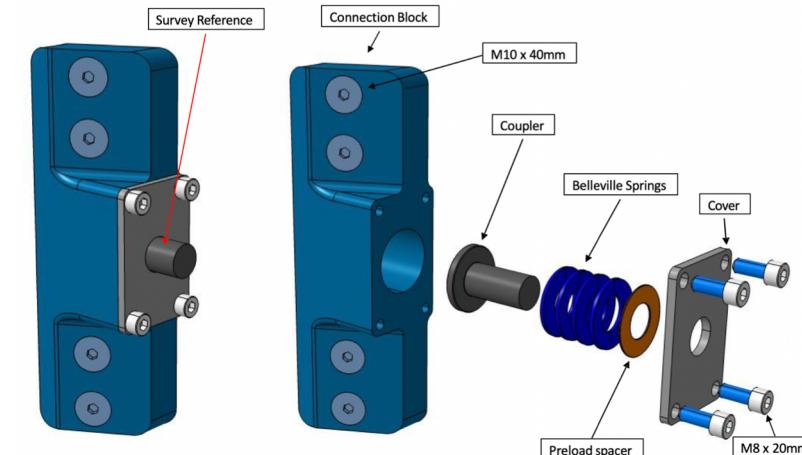
GST Banana



Periphery interface mapping



Bracket Spherical Connection



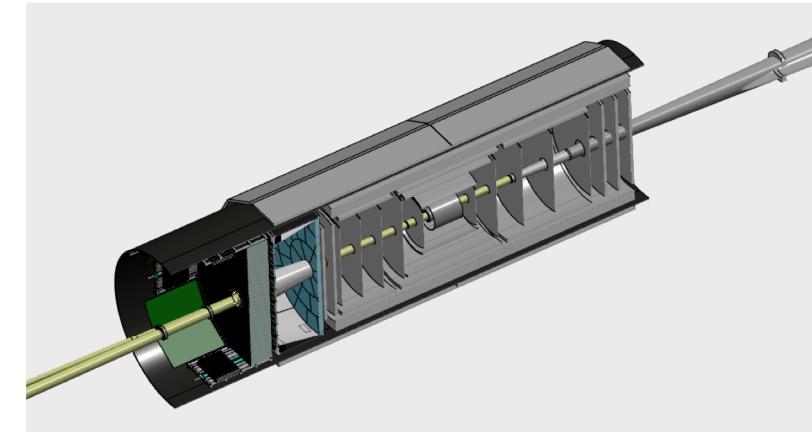
# 2<sup>nd</sup> sub-assembly for Beampipe + SVT

Charge 6

## 1. SVT + inner MPGD disc assembly

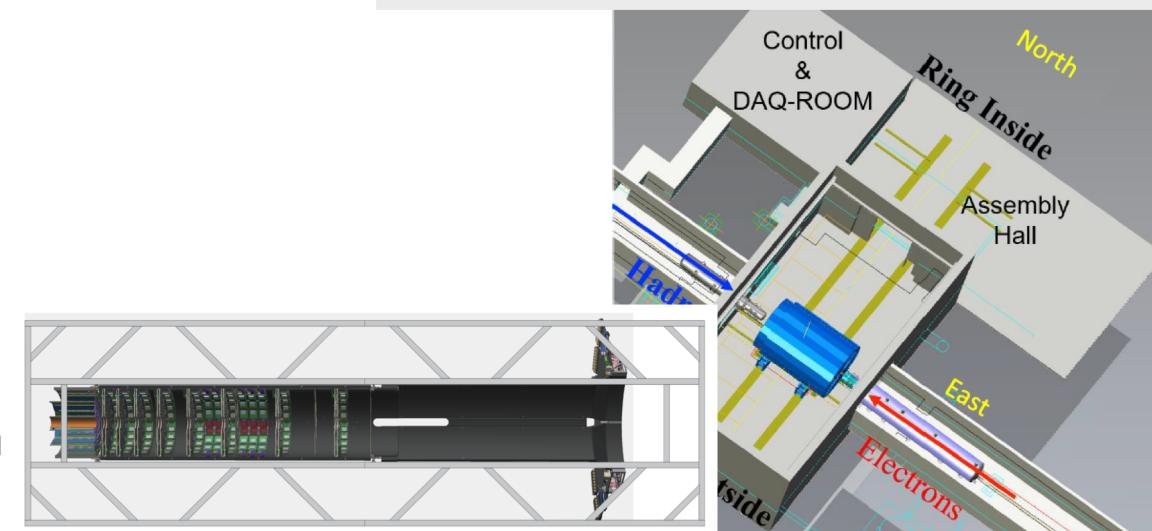
- Temporary supports for beam pipe and services
- Sub-assembly slides into GST rails
  - 4 support feet of PST in PST end ring region are supported by GST rails

See Talk by Ben Denos



## Next integration steps:

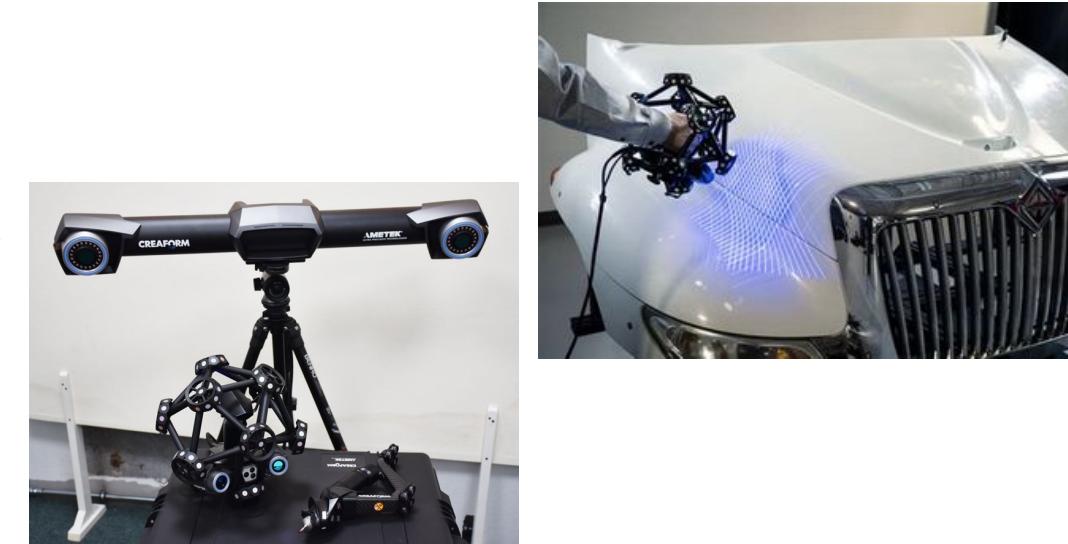
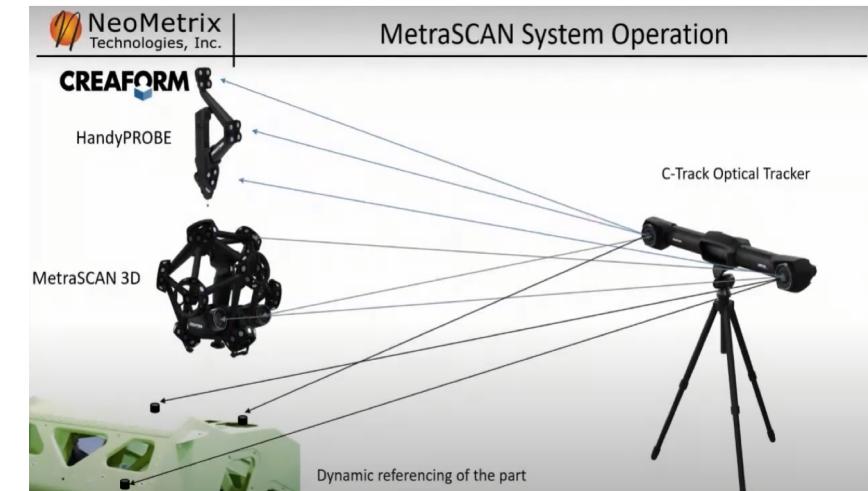
- Follow PST subassembly with pfRICH, than EEEMCAL
  - Needs temporary support for cables & beam pipe of PST subassembly, e.g. "antlers"
  - Needs installation jigs to slide pfRICH and EEEMCAL into GST
- Install outer MPGD barrel and hpDIRC with GST in place
  - Needs rails & kinematic mounts to avoid stress on either one of them



# QA/QC and installation metrology

Charge 3, 6

- Metrology and loading case scenarios based on realistic EPIC parameters
  - Rely on existing experience with CMS HL-LHC projects: ITST, SC & BTST projects
  - Large area metrology system “Creaform MetraScan” (received!)
    - Best circular fit and deviations point-by-point from expected one
- Metrology and deformation studies
  - Deformation only studies (safe loads)
  - Adjust FEA to match deformation only
  - Compare to FEA to reproduce data
- **Predict** behavior of full structures in all aspects & measure all
  - Deformation only + FEA match
  - Loading scenarios + FEA match
  - Predict and extrapolate to CMS conditions

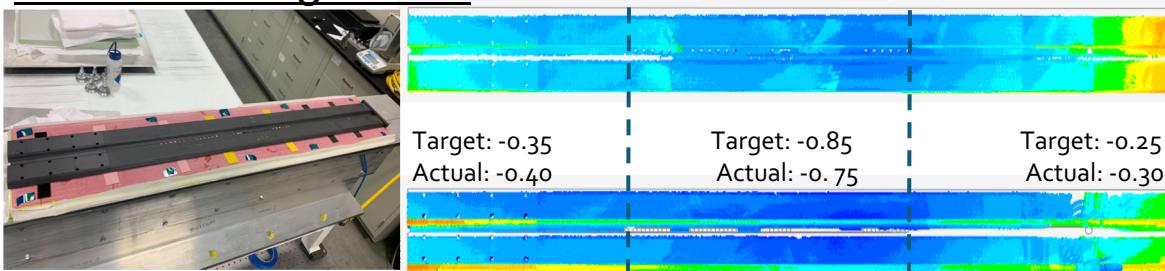


# QA/QC procedures informed by CMS experience

Charge 3, 6

- Following best practice and lessons learned from CMS upgrade projects
  - Iteration of FEA of manufacturing method, performance under load, metrology
  - QA/QC during and at end of the process → repeat!
- Prototyping using non-final materials
  - Smaller prototypes with final material, FEA driven
- Met tolerances – we typically achieve:
  - 1 – 2mm cylindricity (~ 6m length & 2.4m diameter)
  - $< 500\mu\text{m}$  cylindricity (Solid skin tube)
  - 50-100 $\mu\text{m}$  parallelism (Rail/Track alignment)

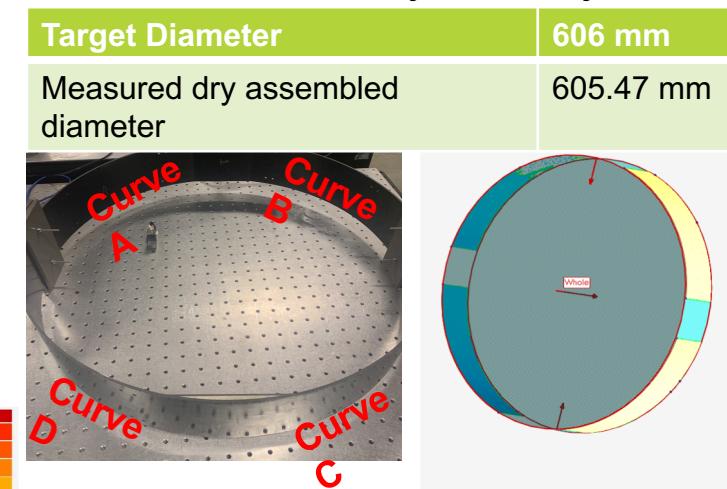
## ITST track alignment:



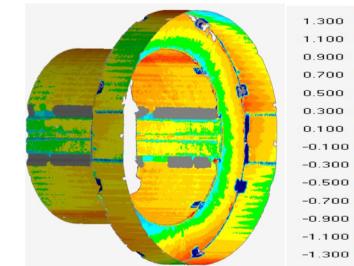
## Electron-Ion Collider

ePIC SVT workshop, December 15-19, 2025

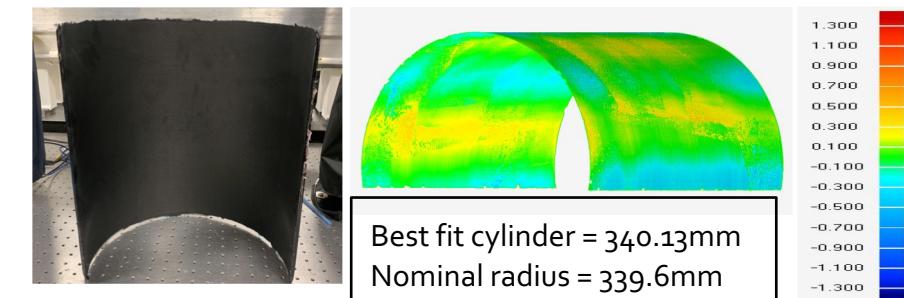
## CMS IT tube end section cylindricity:



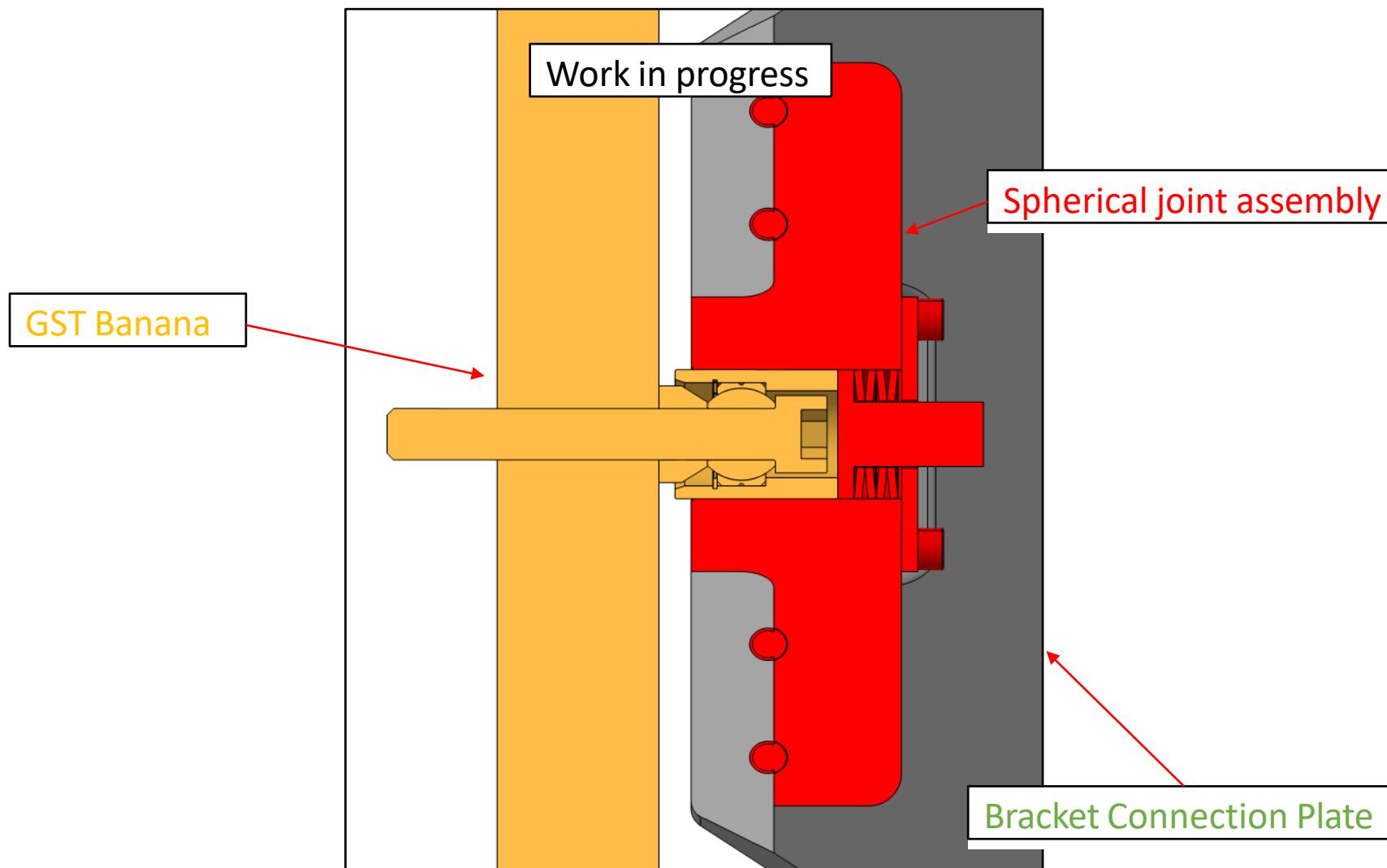
## Tube transition to mid section:



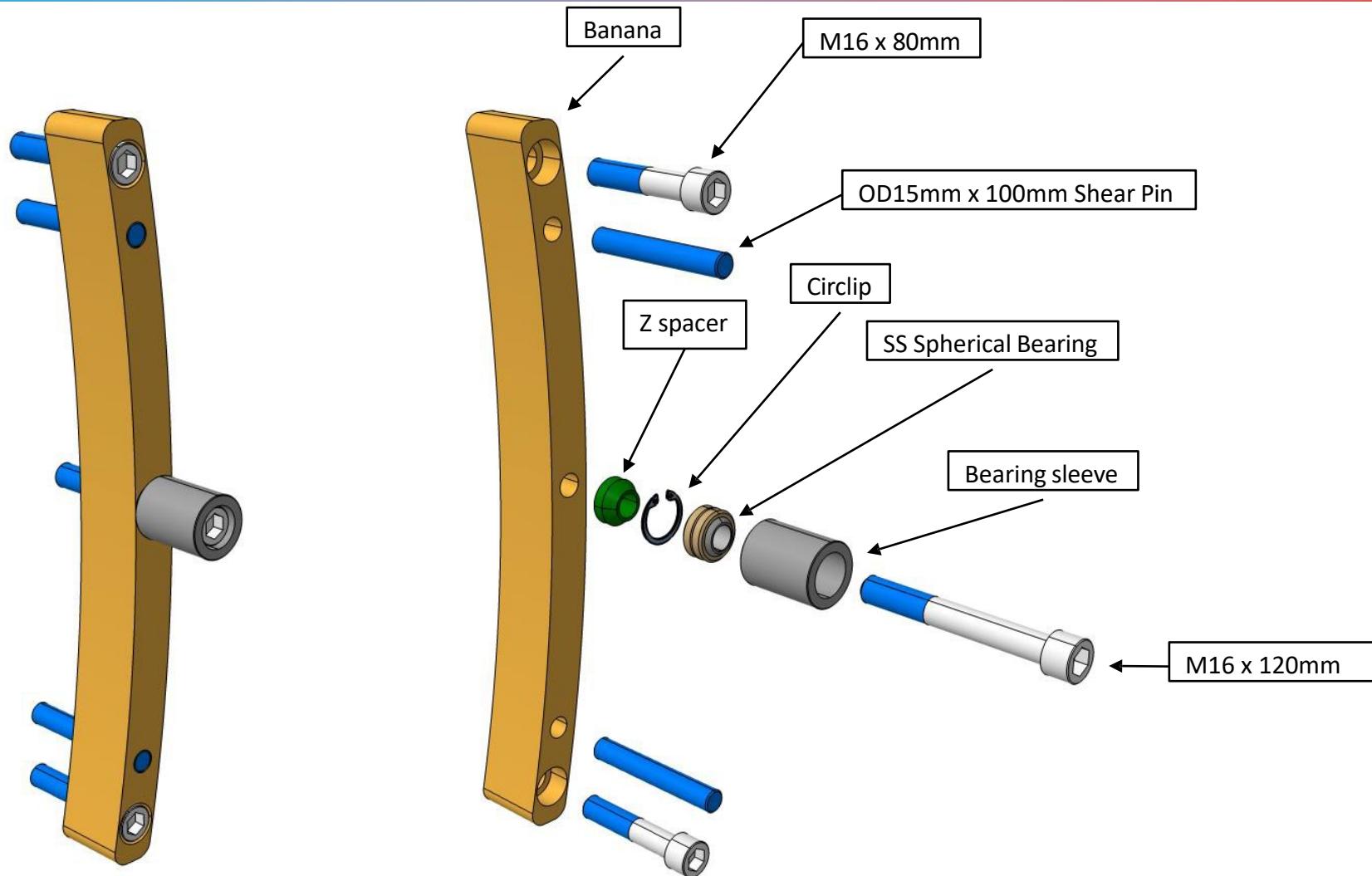
## Pixel Service Cylinder cylindricity:



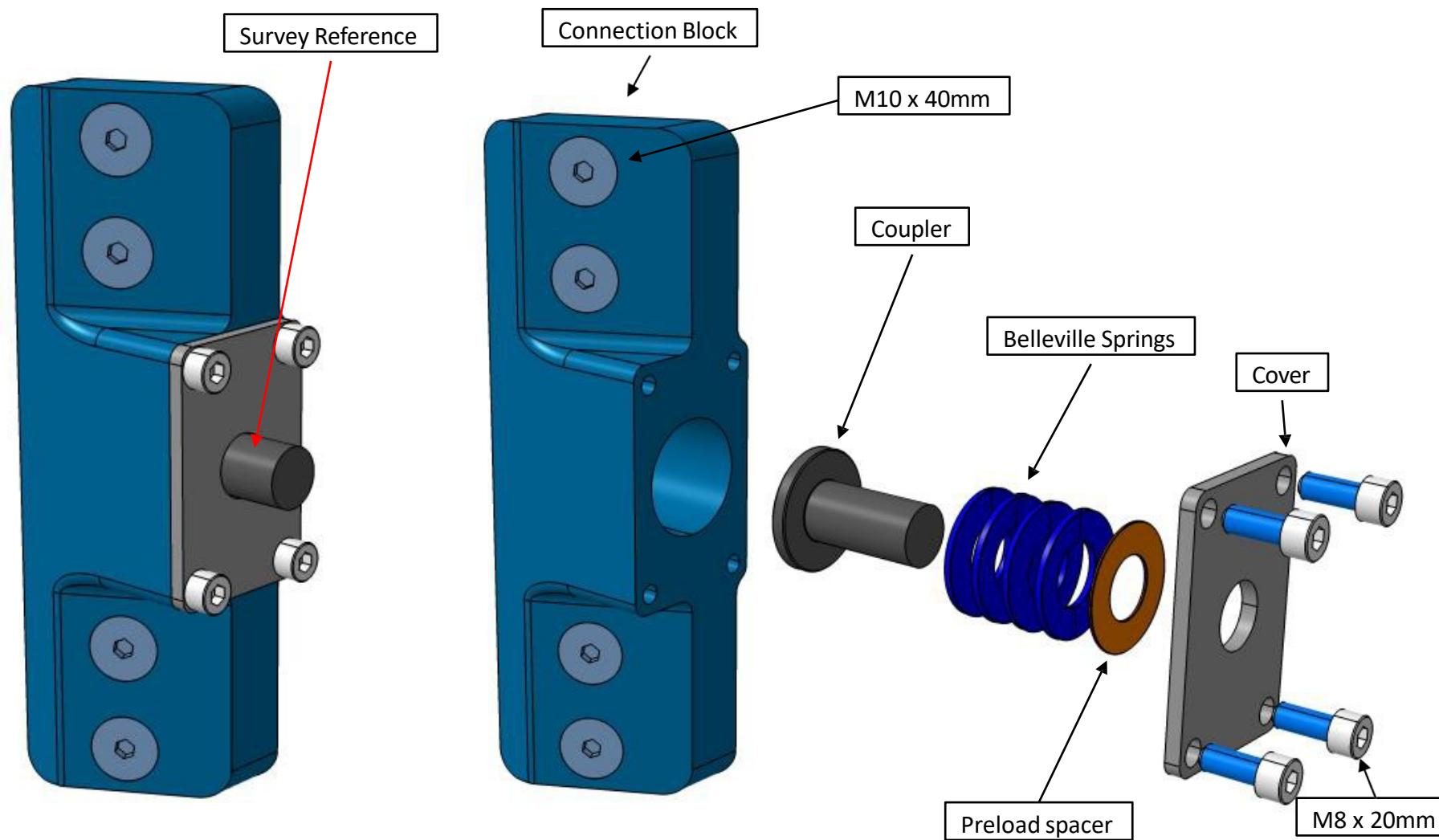
# GST Bracket Spherical Joint

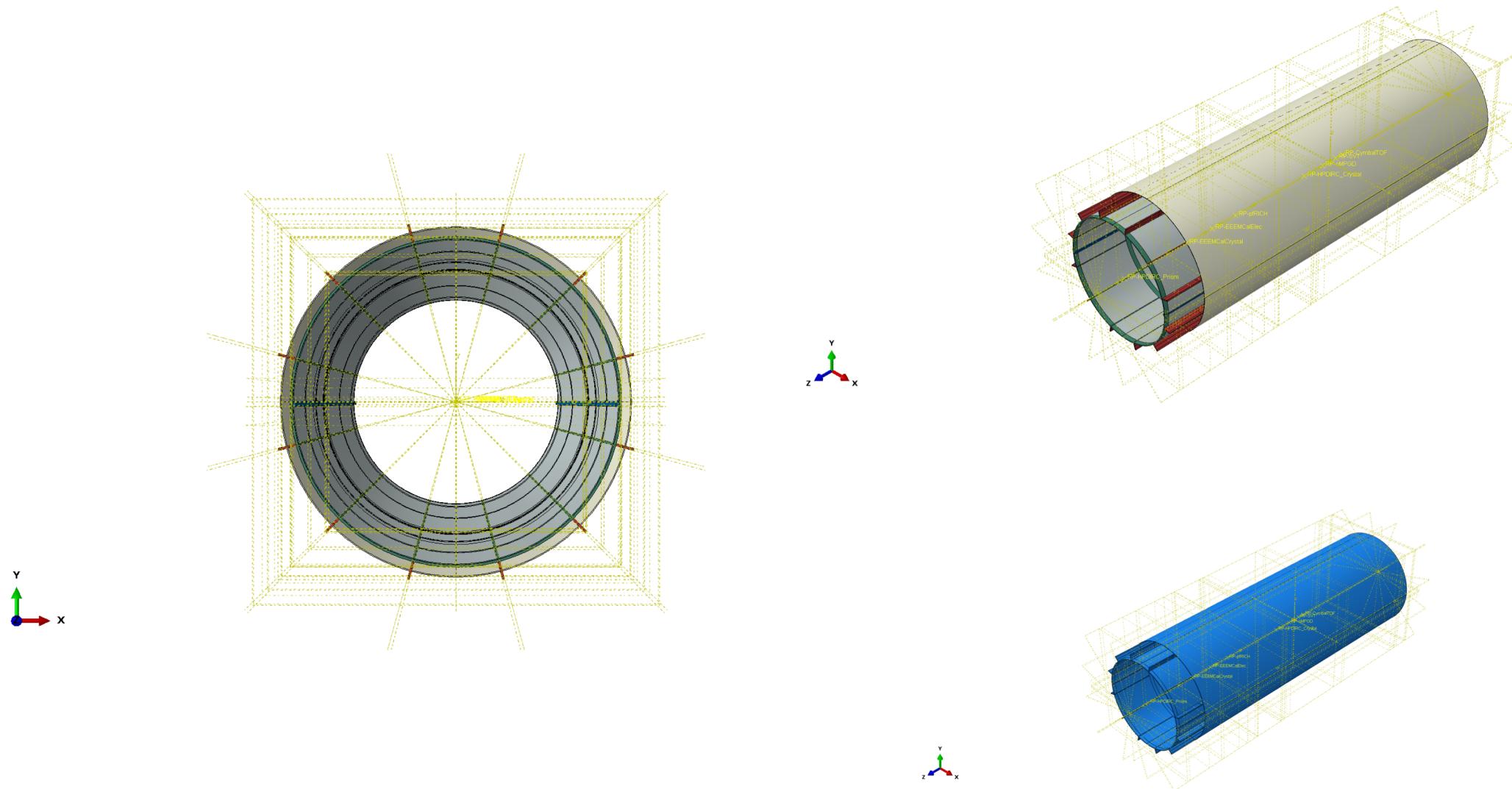


# BTST Banana

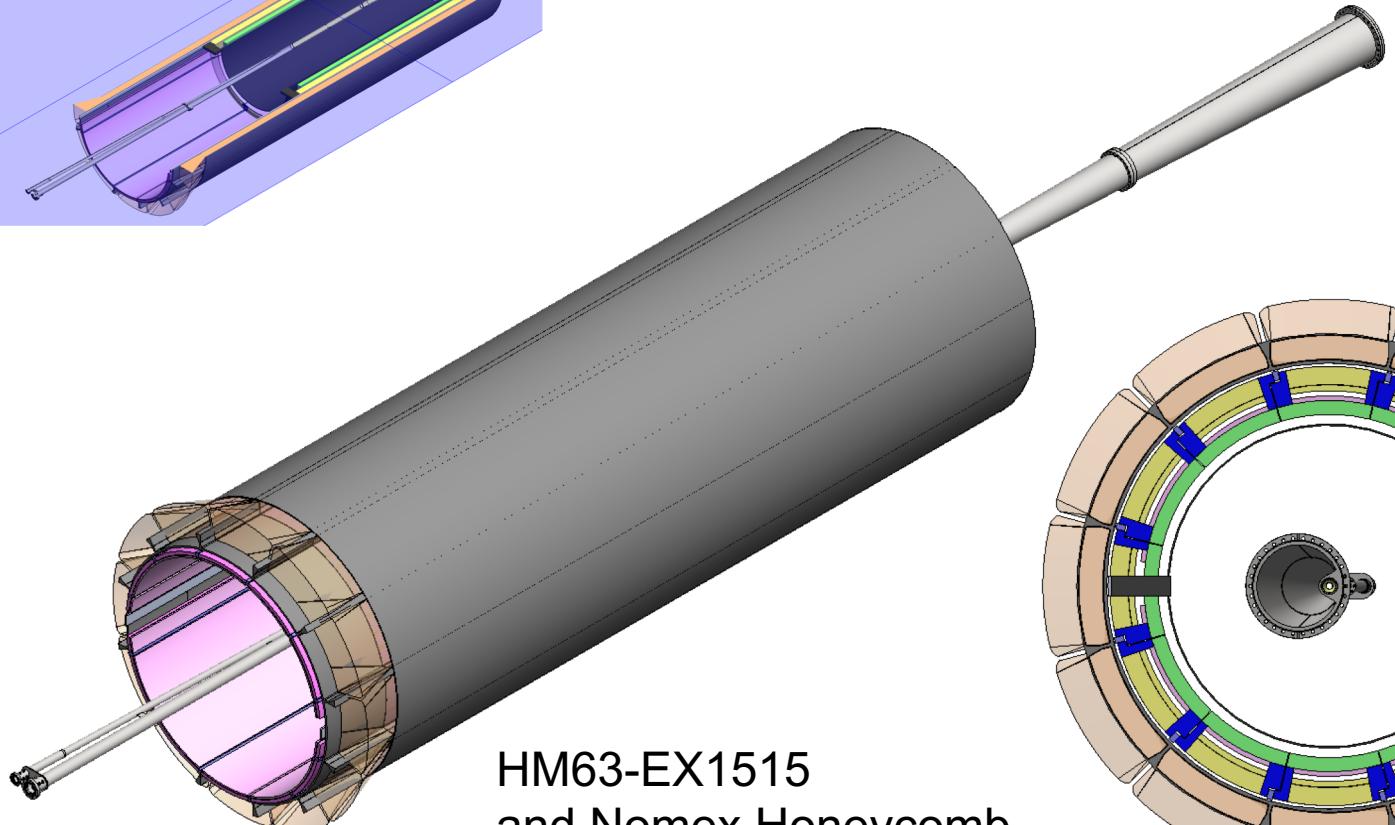
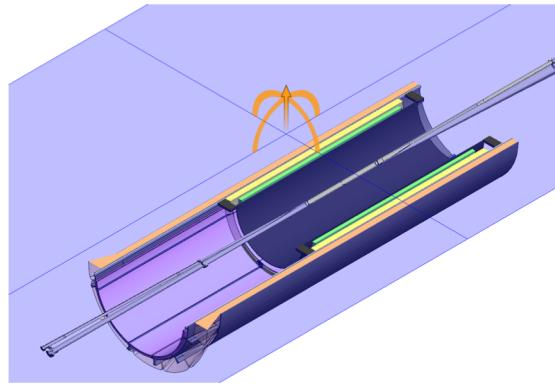


# Bracket Spherical Connection

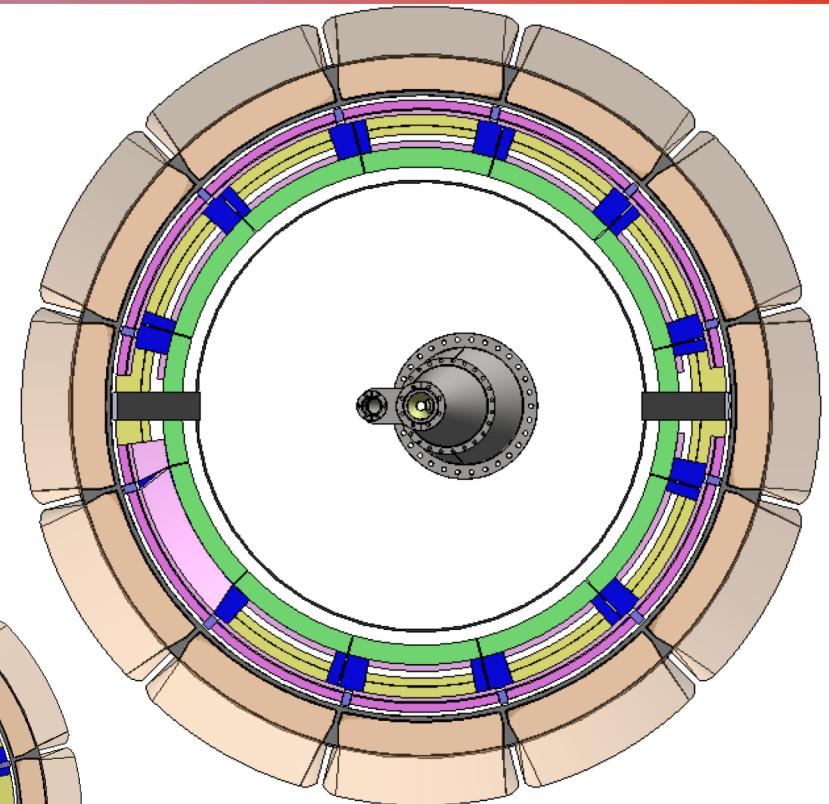
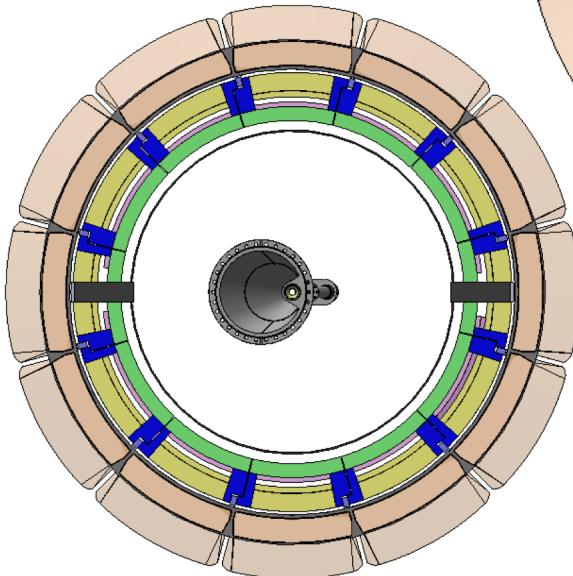




# Envelope Overview / CAD

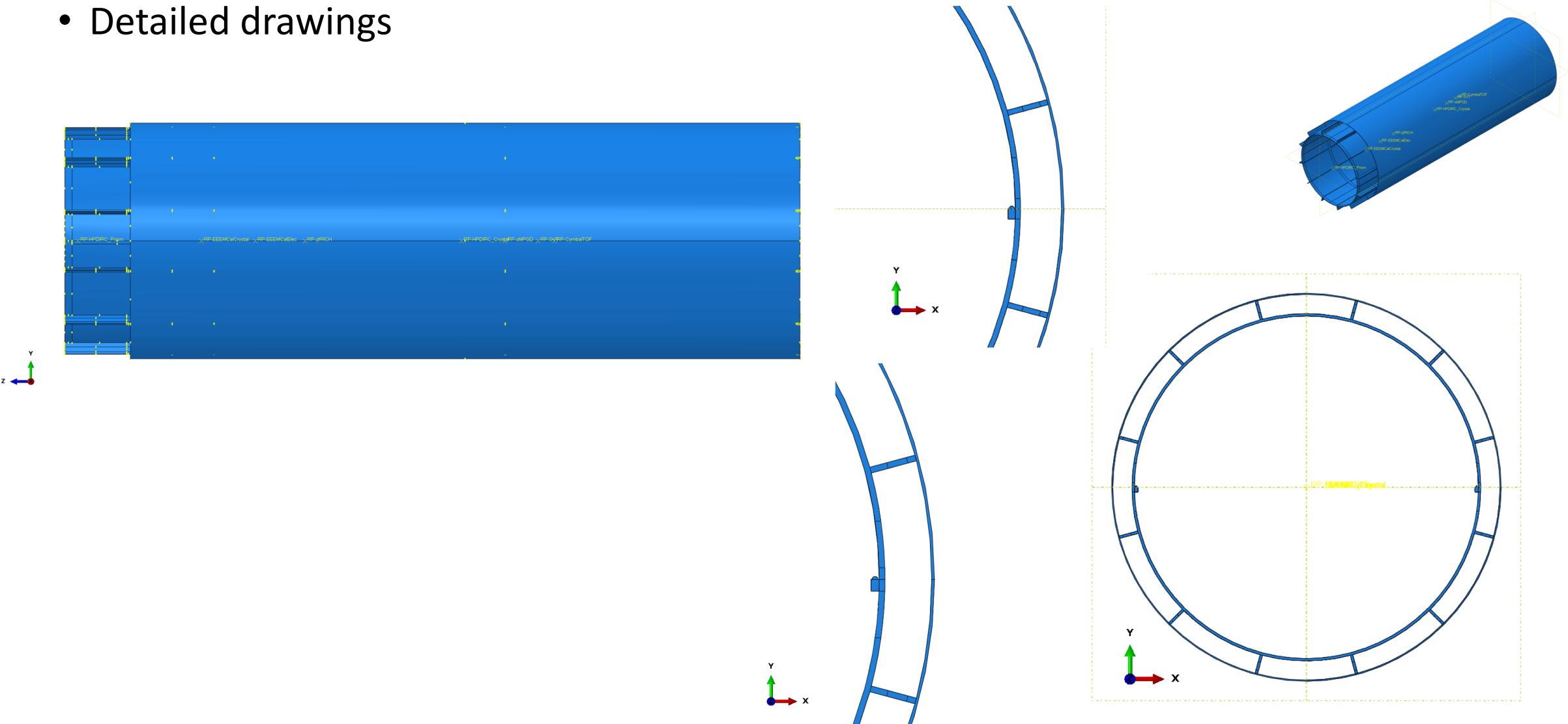


HM63-EX1515  
and Nomex Honeycomb



# GST – additional drawings

- Detailed drawings

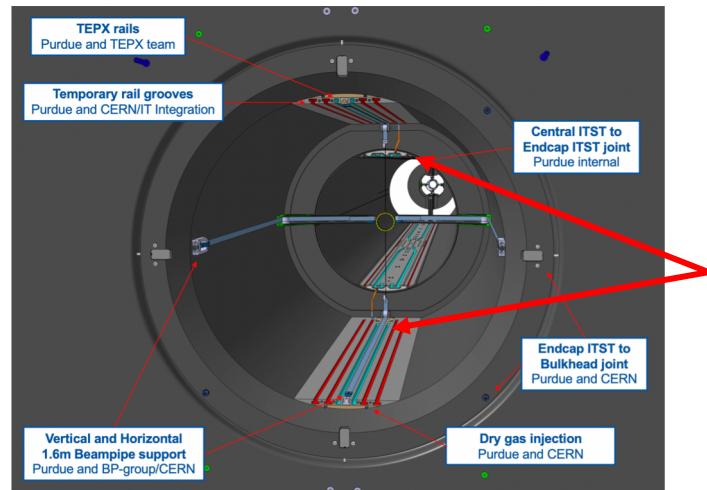


# Beampipe support

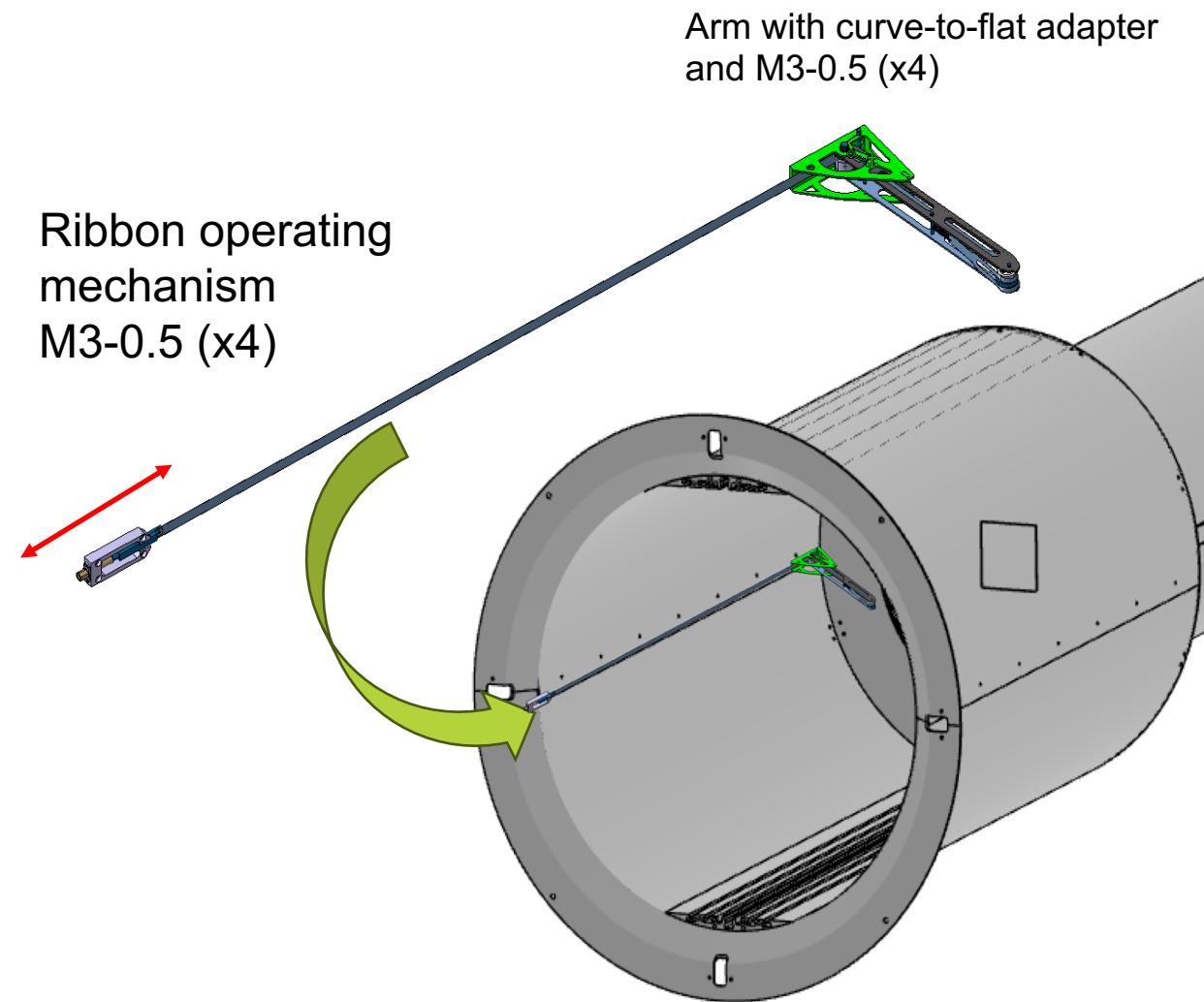
Charge 3, 6

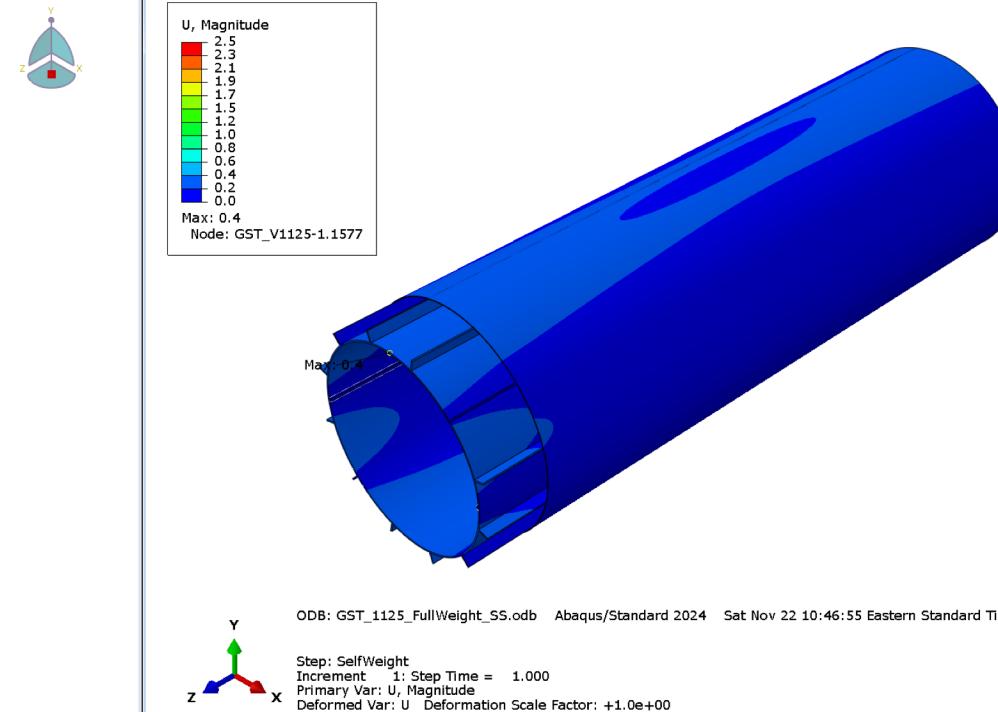
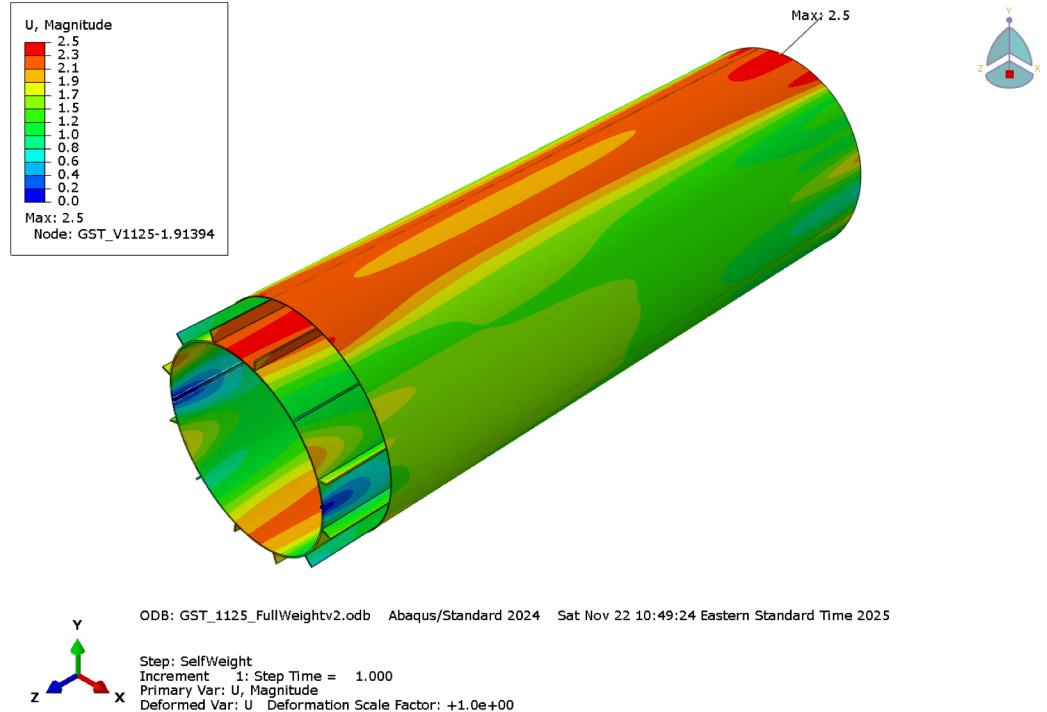
Example of the CMS permanent beam pipe support at  $z = 1.6\text{m}$

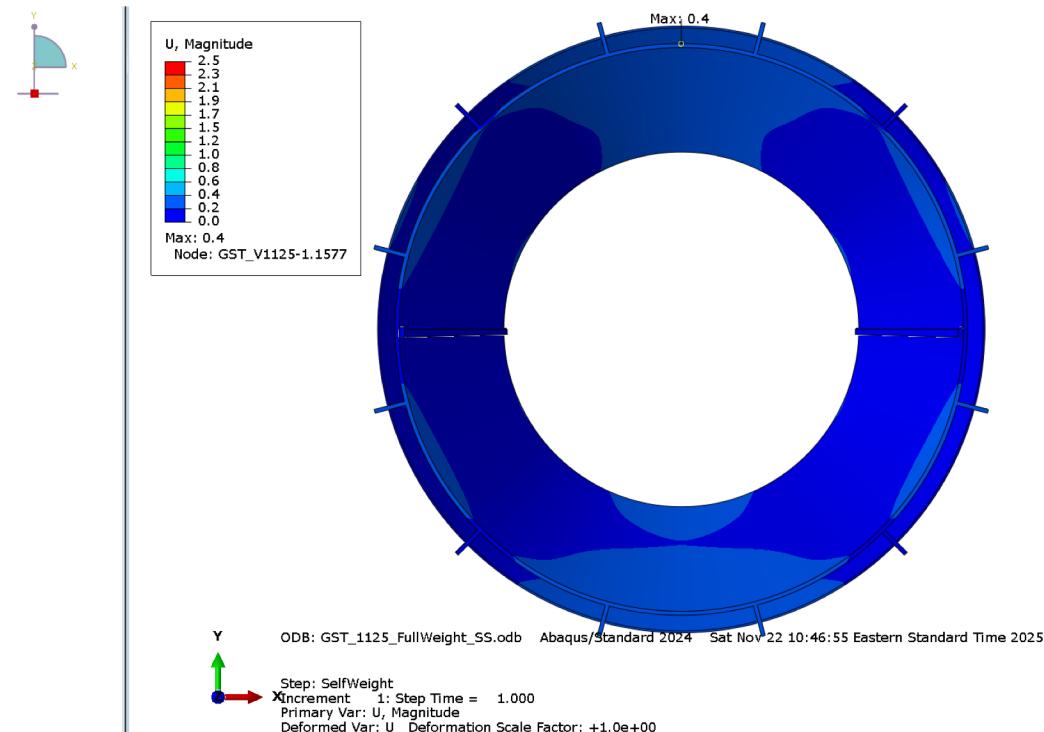
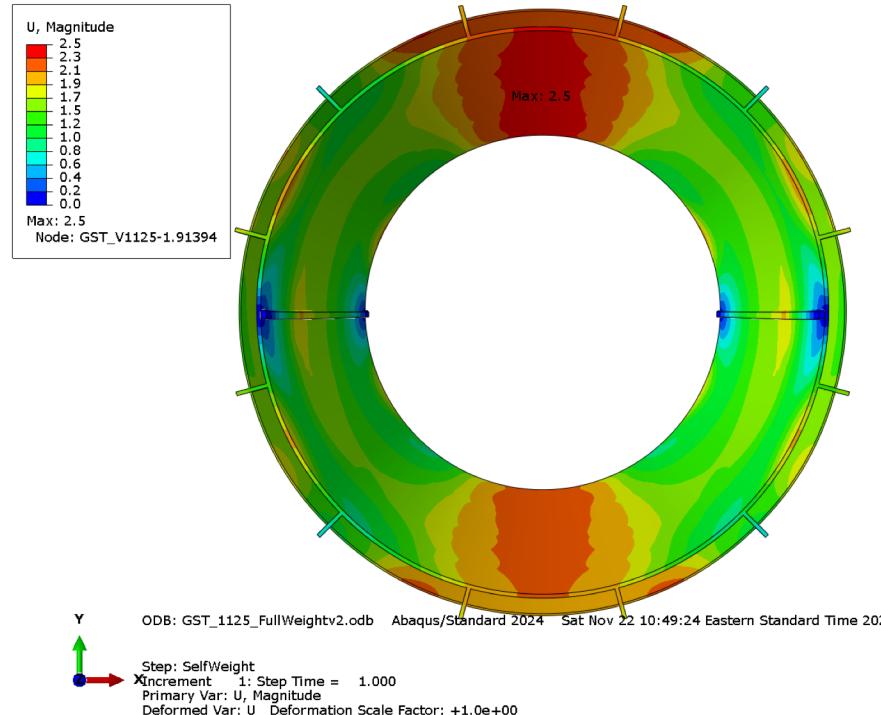
- For the arm we want to bond a curve-to-flat adapter with inserts 4x M3 inside the ITST.
  - At the moment, precise  $z$ -locations are yet to be determined, not critical



Vertical BP  
supports at 1.6m





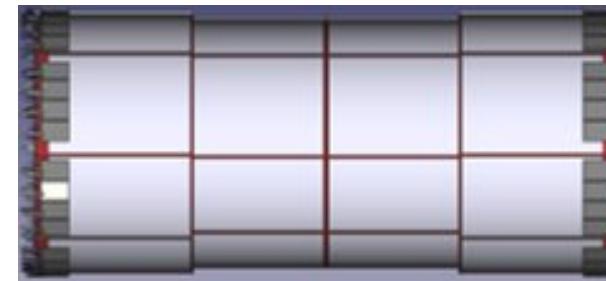


# Scope Definition

- MPGD trackers use MicroMegas for the inner barrel and  $\mu$ RWELL technology for the outer barrel and endcaps
- In the barrel, each tracker is segmented in 12 sectors in Phi
  - Micromegas (CyMBaL) has 4 modules in the z direction and total of 48 modules, whereas  $\mu$ RWELL has 2 modules in z direction with a total of 24 modules
  - $\mu$ RWELL Disks have 2 layers in each direction of Z and 4 modules in Phi, adding to 16 modules
- Each MPGD detector readout with SALSA frontend electronics and equipped with all services, including cooling and gas system

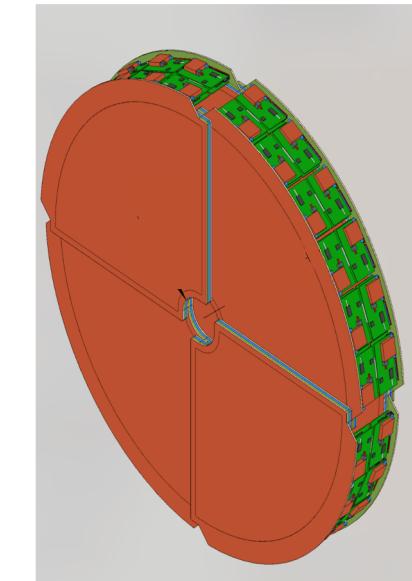
**Outer Barrel MPGD Tracker**

MicroMegas

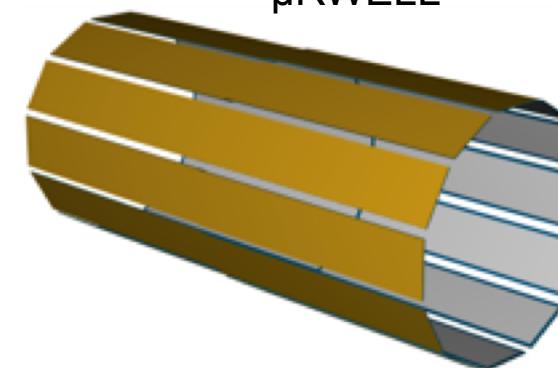


**Endcap MPGD Tracker**

$\mu$ RWELL

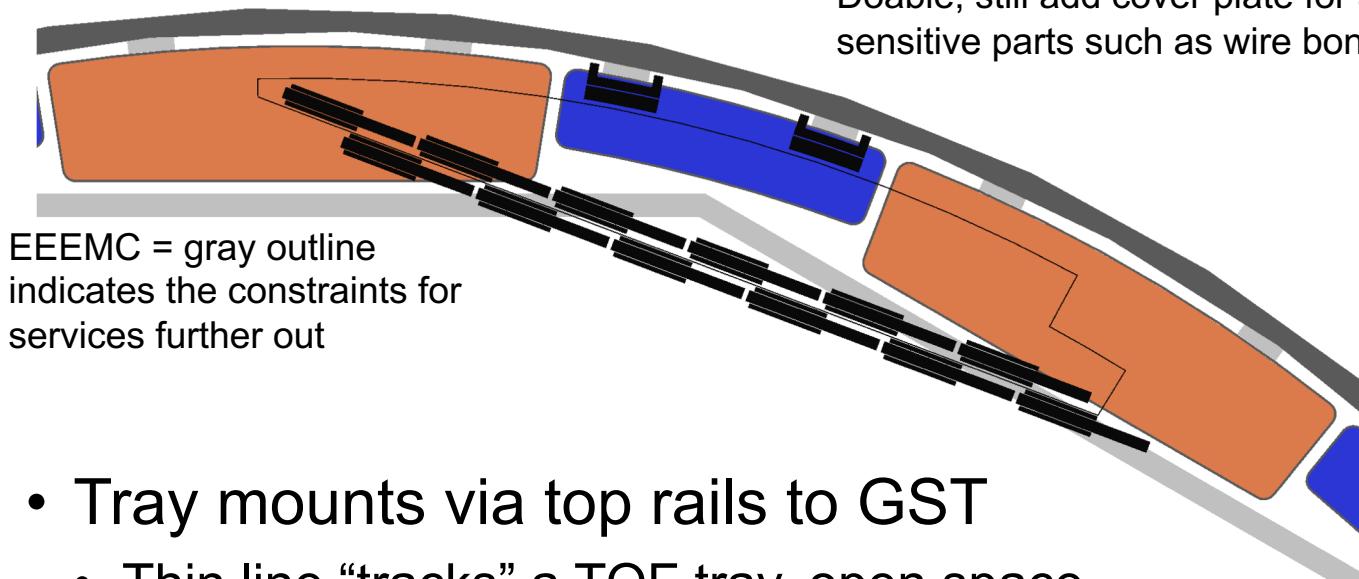


$\mu$ RWELL



# Support of the barrel TOF staves: 12 trays

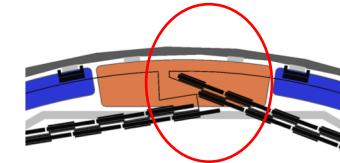
- 10mm clearance is closest distance
- Doable, still add cover plate for any sensitive parts such as wire bonds



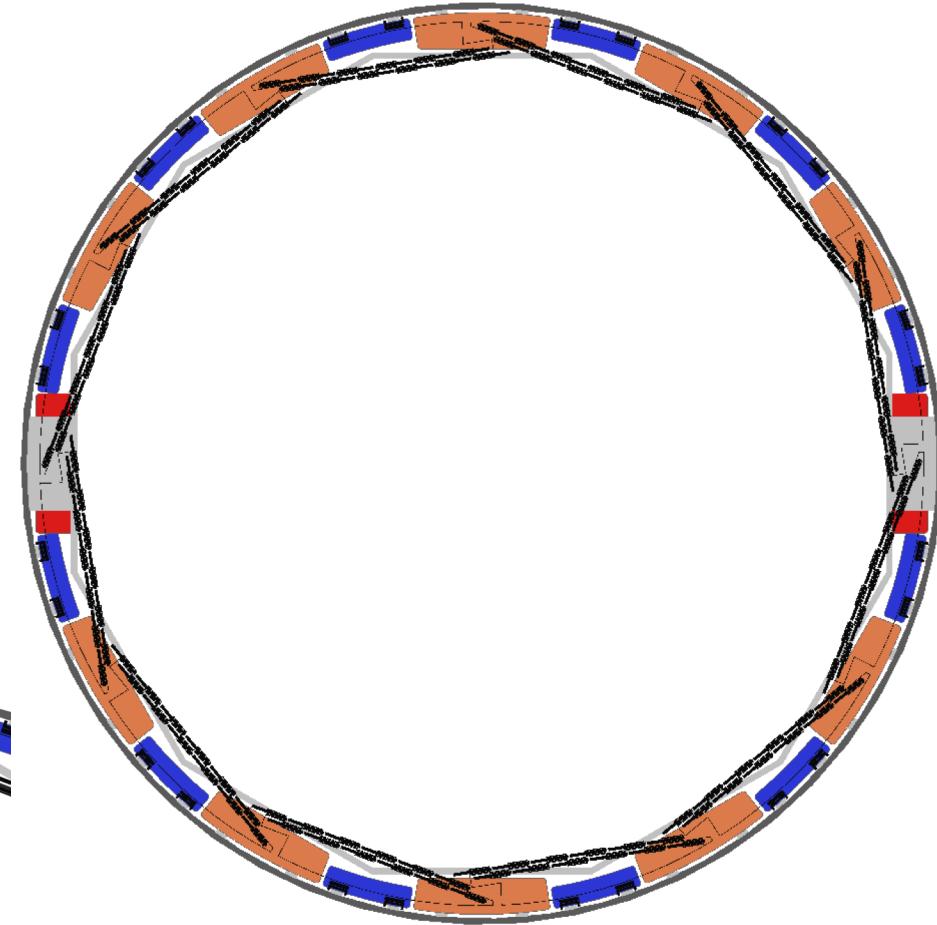
EEEMC = gray outline

indicates the constraints for services further out

- Tray mounts via top rails to GST
  - Thin line “tracks” a TOF tray, open space inside is for services of TOF
  - Designed for 2mm overlap
  - Other solidly filled areas are “reserved” for service of **SVT+oMPGD** and **TOF+iMPGD**

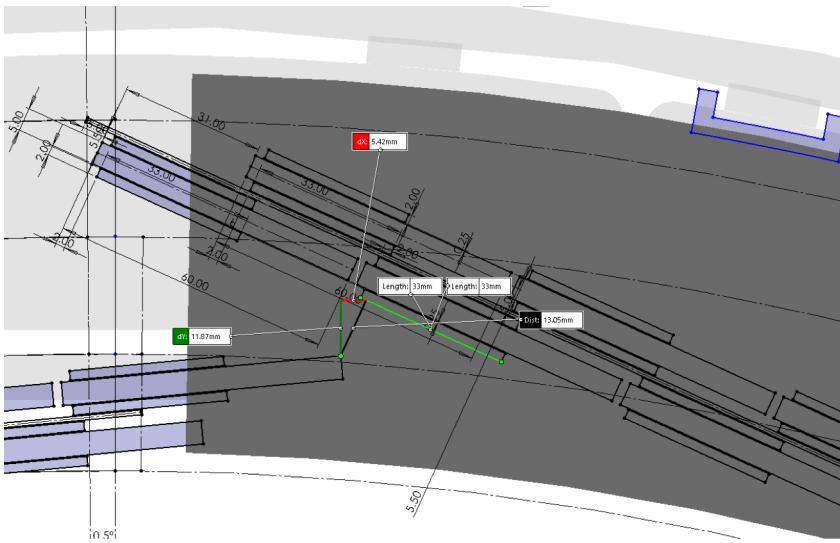


Orange = mostly SVT + inner MPGD discs  
Blue = TOF + inner MPGD barrel ("Cymbal")

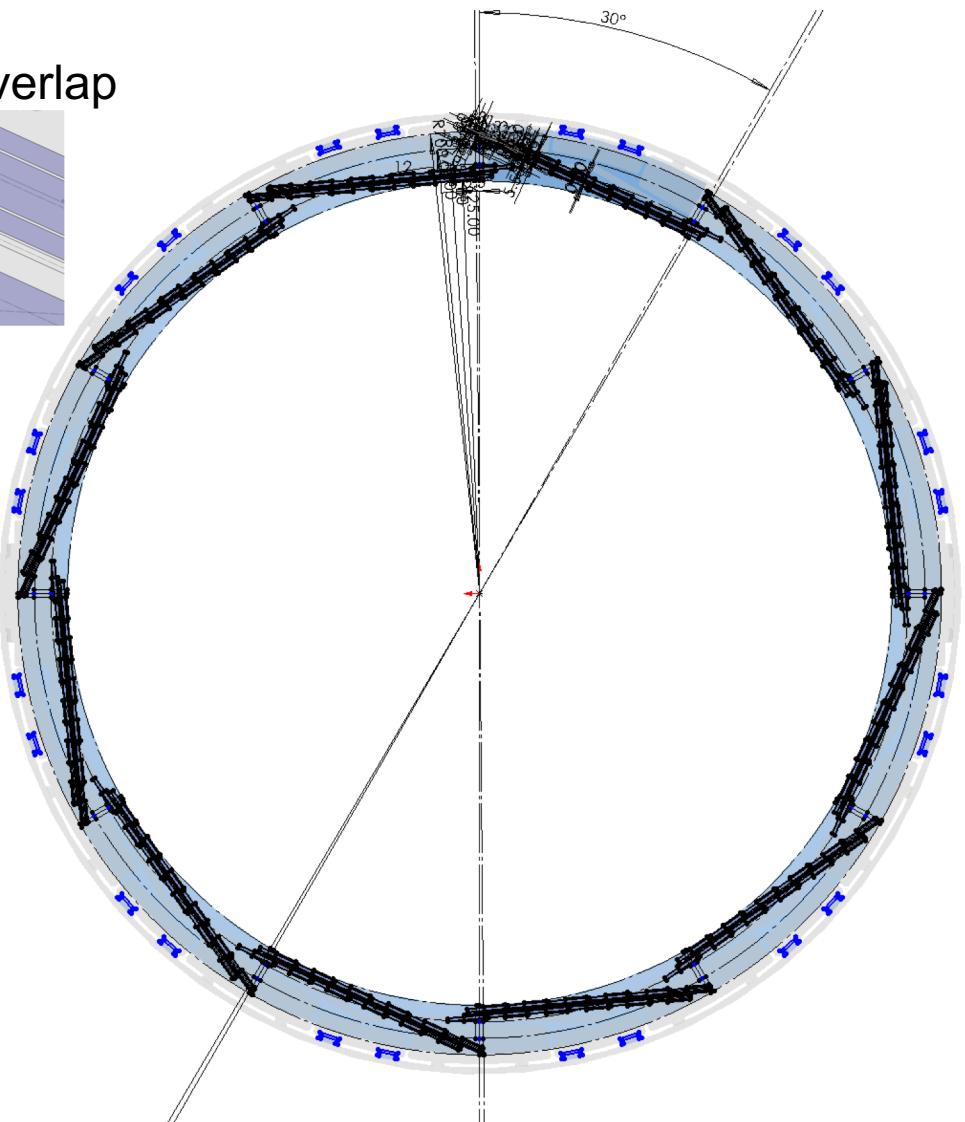
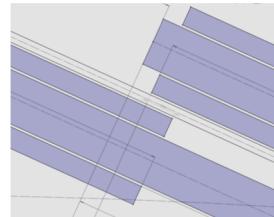


# TOF – Design considerations

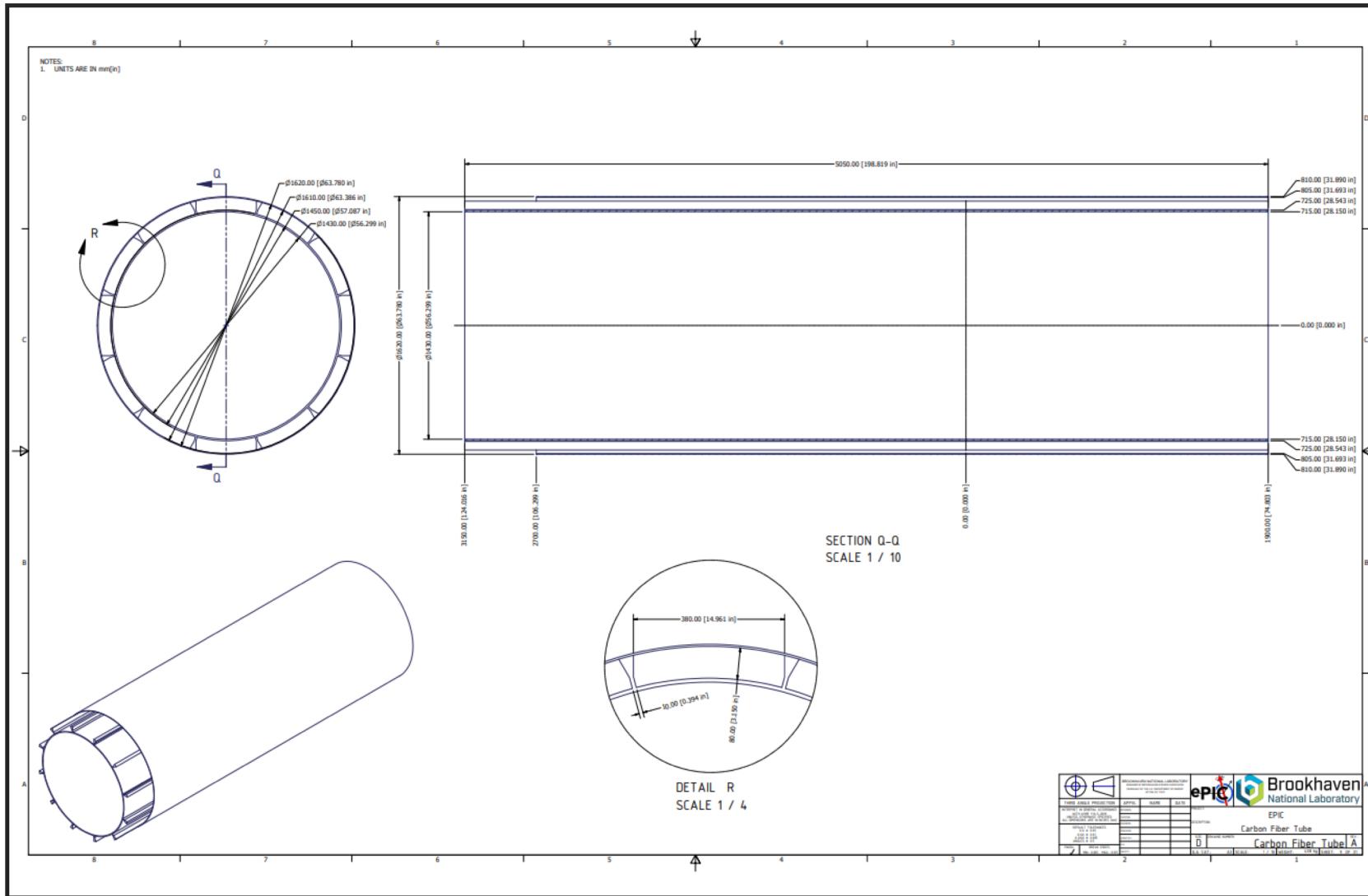
- Detector modules need to overlap to guarantee coverage in r-phi
  - Designed for 2mm overlap
- Integration/Assembly
  - 10mm clearance is closest distance
  - Doable, still add cover plate for any sensitive parts such as wire bonds



2mm overlap



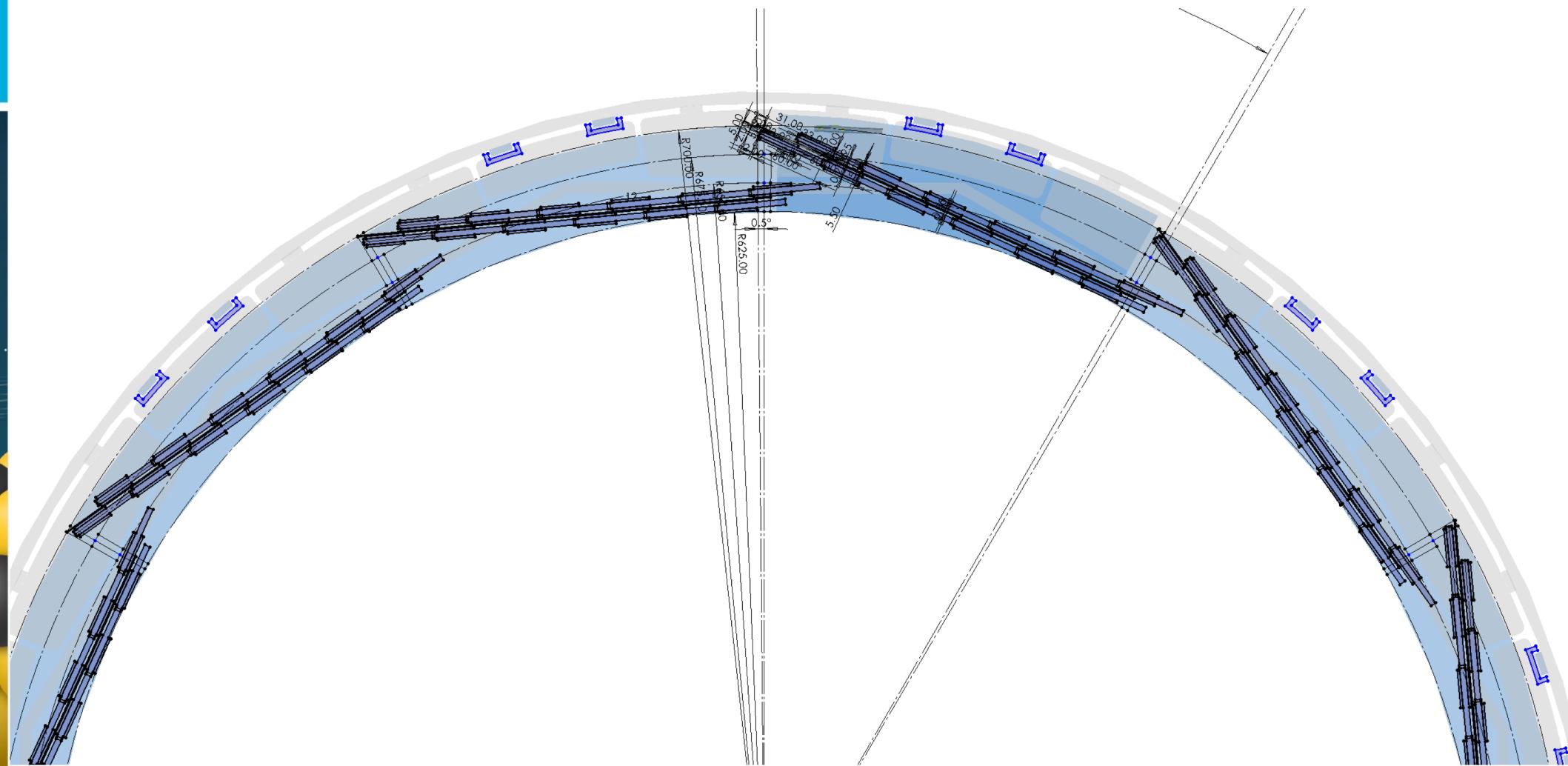
# GST CAD Drawings



## Electron-Ion Collider

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# Closest clearance is 10mm



# Detector Integration Layout

Charge 3, 6

