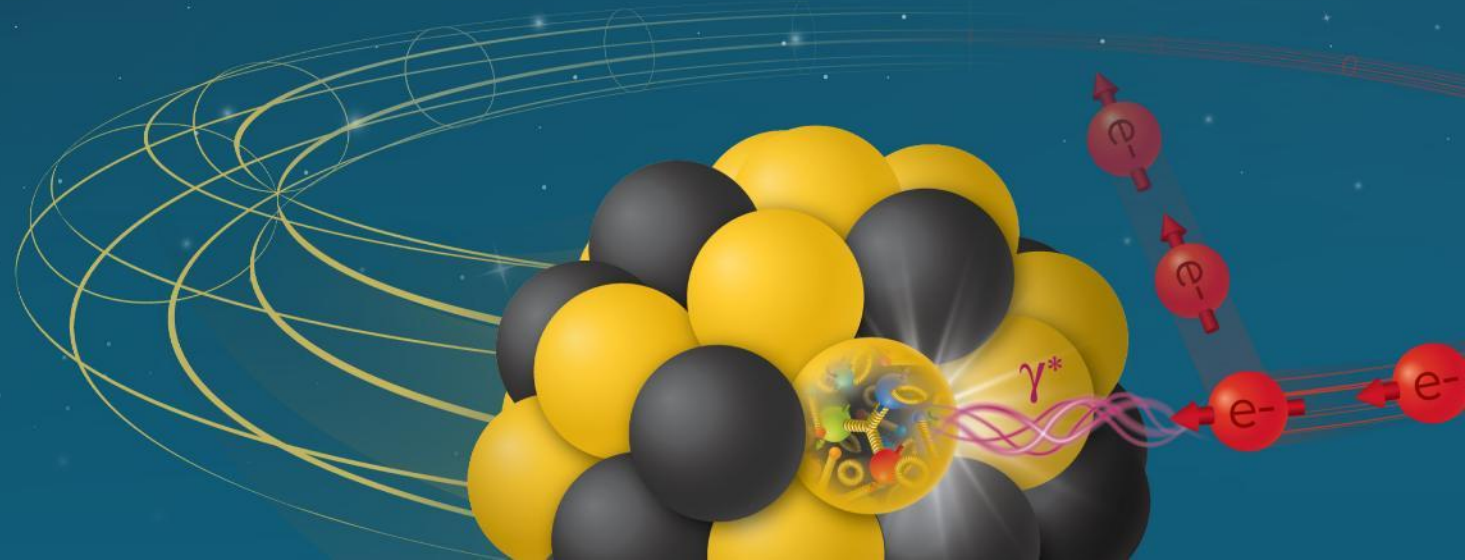


Electron-Ion Collider Design Status

Sergei Nagaitsev
EIC Technical Director

ePIC Collaboration Meeting
January 20-23, 2026

Electron-Ion Collider



Outline

- Requirements
- Design changes
- Present concept
- Summary

EIC Accelerator Performance Drivers

wide center-of-mass energy \sqrt{s} : 20 – 140 GeV :

- map the out nucleon and nuclei structure from high to low x

polarized electron and hadron (p, He-3) beams:

- access to spin structure of nucleons and nuclei
- Spin vehicle to access the spatial and momentum structure of the nucleon in 3d
- Full specification of initial and final states to probe q-g structure of NN and NNN interaction in light nuclei

nuclear beams: d to Pb

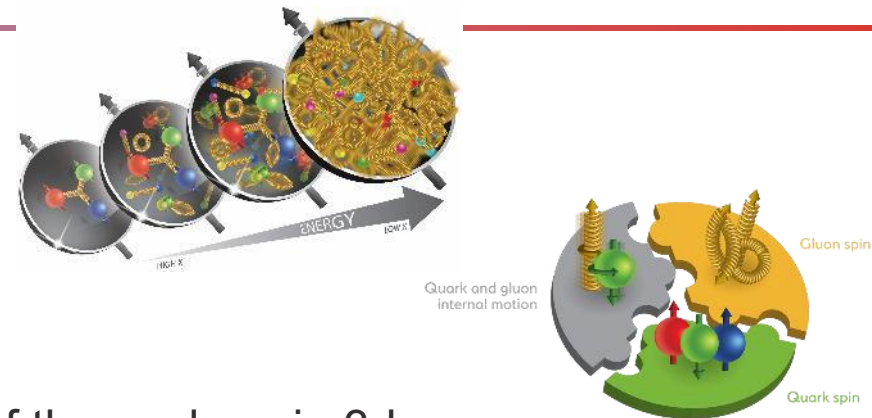
- accessing the highest gluon densities → saturation
- quark and gluon interact with a nuclear medium

high luminosity 10^{33} - 10^{34} $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$:

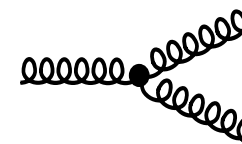
- mapping the spatial and momentum structure of nucleons and nuclei in 3d
- access to rare probes, i.e. Ws

large acceptance (0.2 – 1.3 GeV) through forward focusing IR magnets

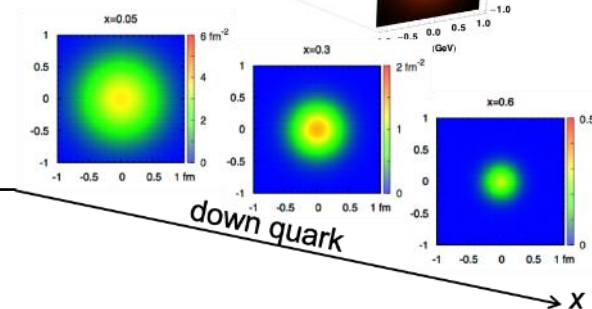
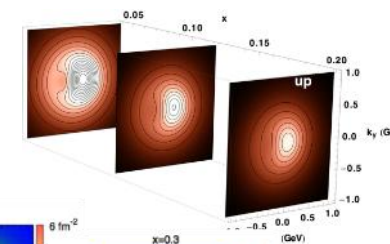
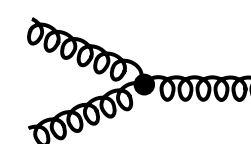
- spatial imaging of nucleons and nuclei



gluon emission



gluon recombination



EIC Accelerator Performance Requirements

- Center-of-mass energies: ~20 to ~140 GeV (e-p)
- High degree of beam polarization (P): ~70%
- Availability of ion beams: from proton to Pb
- Luminosity (L): $10^{33} - 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{sec}^{-1}$
- Possibly more than one IR

Bunch charges: 28 nC (10 GeV, e) and 11 nC (275 GeV, p)

$$L = \frac{N_e N_p}{4\pi\sigma_h\sigma_v} N_b f_0 \approx 1 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1} \quad N_b = 1160; f_0 = 78.3 \text{ kHz}$$

The EIC design and performance parameters address the requirements established by the U.S. Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) Long Range Plans (2015 & 2023)

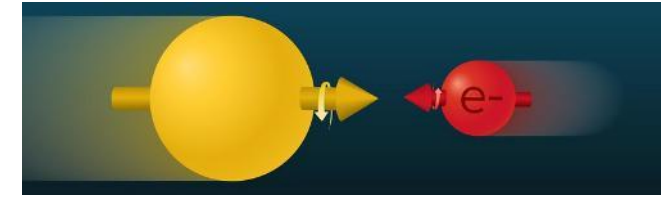
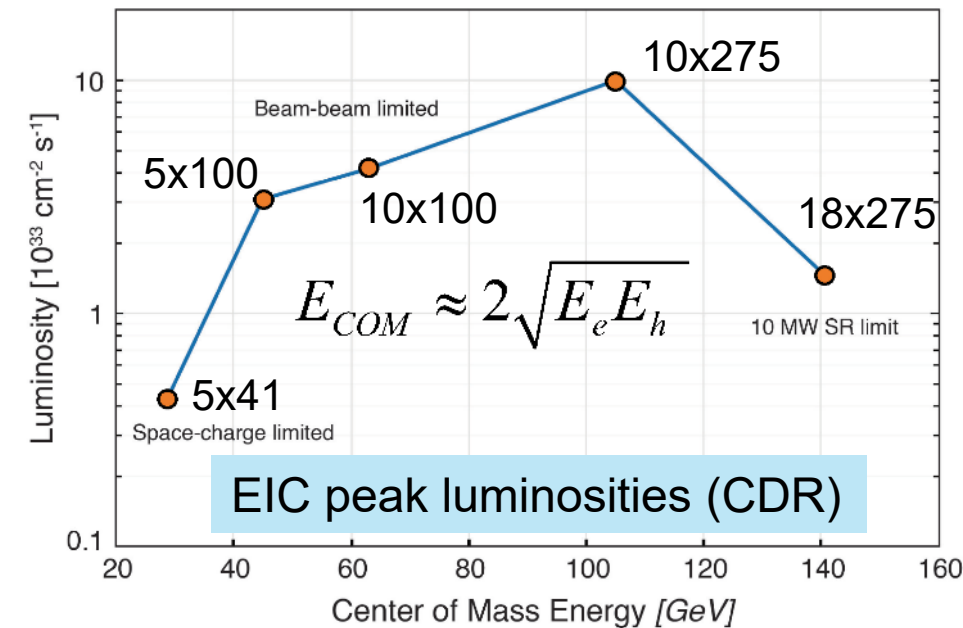


Figure of merit: LP^2 to LP^4



Key EIC Accelerator Concepts, Proposed in the CDR

- Ribbon-like (flat) hadron beam (11:1 transverse emittance & beam size ratio)
- Large crossing angle (25 mrad)
- Beam-beam limits for both beams (0.1 e/ 0.01 p)
- Spin preservation from source to collisions (protons and electrons)
- Very high bunch intensities and circulating beam currents (1 A (p), 2.5 A (e))
- Possible upgrade path: 18 GeV electron capability, high-energy hadron cooling at collisions

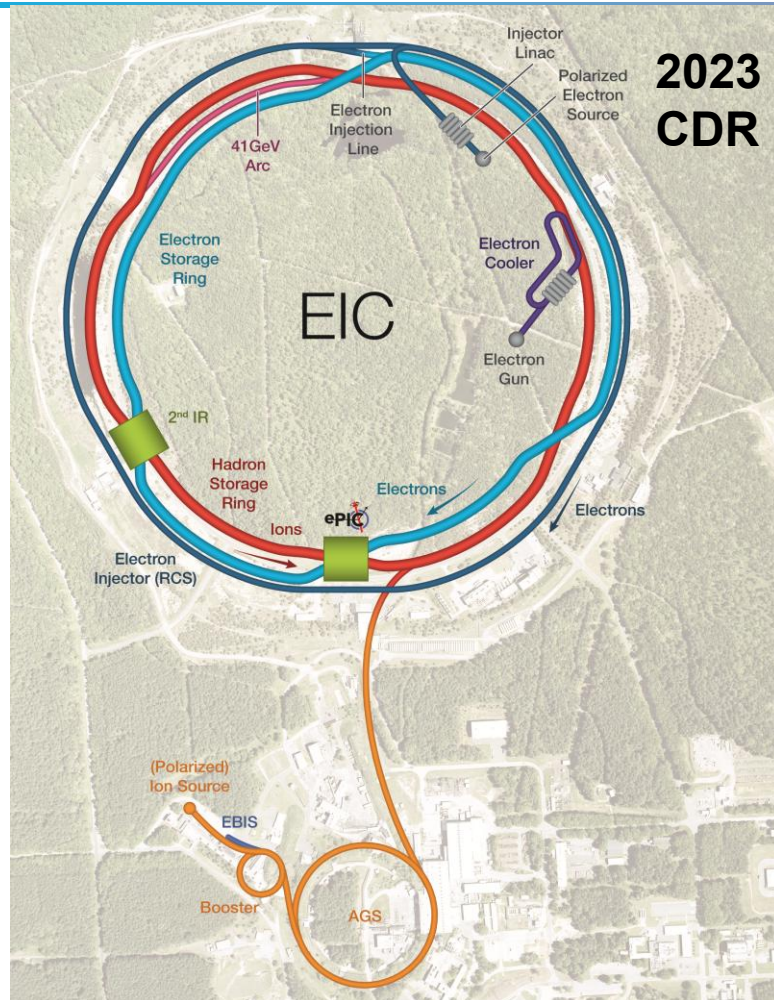
These are the key concepts that allow to attain peak luminosity of $\sim 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and to maintain high polarization at collisions over a broad range of CoM energies

Note: HERA(1992-2007) peak luminosity: $\sim 5 \times 10^{31} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$

Key EIC Accelerator Technology Areas Contributing to MNS

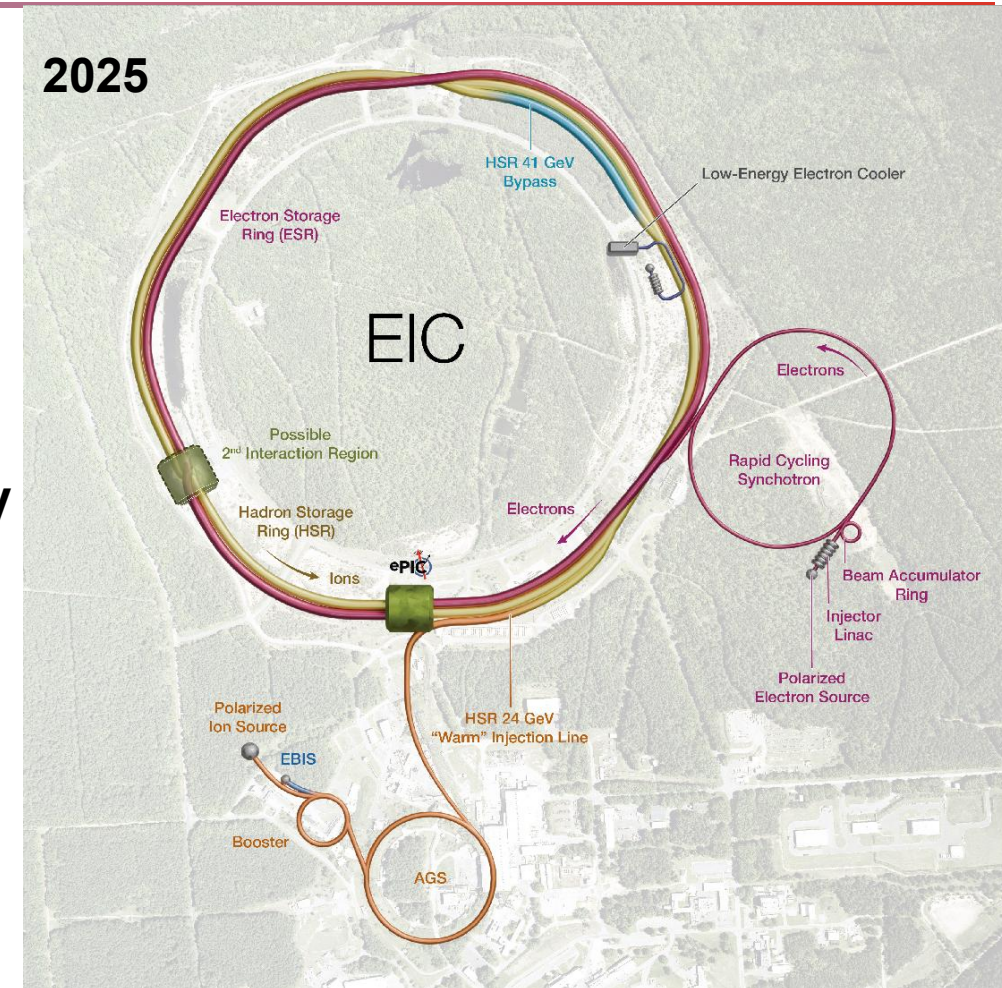
- Hadron Beam Cooling
- Spin-preserving beam optics
 - High polarization for both beams from source to collisions
 - Swap-out injection for electron bunches (at 1 Hz) to maintain high polarization in the ESR
- Crab cavities
 - Large-size, complex geometries;
 - Very tight phase and amplitude noise requirements
- IR magnets
 - Large aperture, One of a kind SC magnets
- Beam instability and impedance control
 - Vacuum chambers, beam screens, kickers, SRF cavities

EIC Design has converged. Stable since Jan 2025



Protons: ~40 – 275 GeV
Electrons: 5 – 18 GeV
 $E_{CM} = 29 - 140 \text{ GeV}$

MNS ✓



Design changes addressed technical uncertainties and risks, and did not change the performance and cost objectives.

Preparing the Accelerator Design for Performance Baseline in 2026

Date	Milestone/Progress
2019	DOE EIC Mission Need Statement (MSN)
2021	EIC Conceptual Design Report
2023	EIC Global Requirements
2023-2024	Design changes reviewed by Machine Advisory Committee and documented by TCCB, CCB, RoDs, System Requirements
2025	Design Converged <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EIC Global Parameters List (draft) – now under version control
2026	Draft Preliminary Design Report posted for August 2025 IPR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final version will be released by Summer 2026

The EIC Accelerator design is stable.

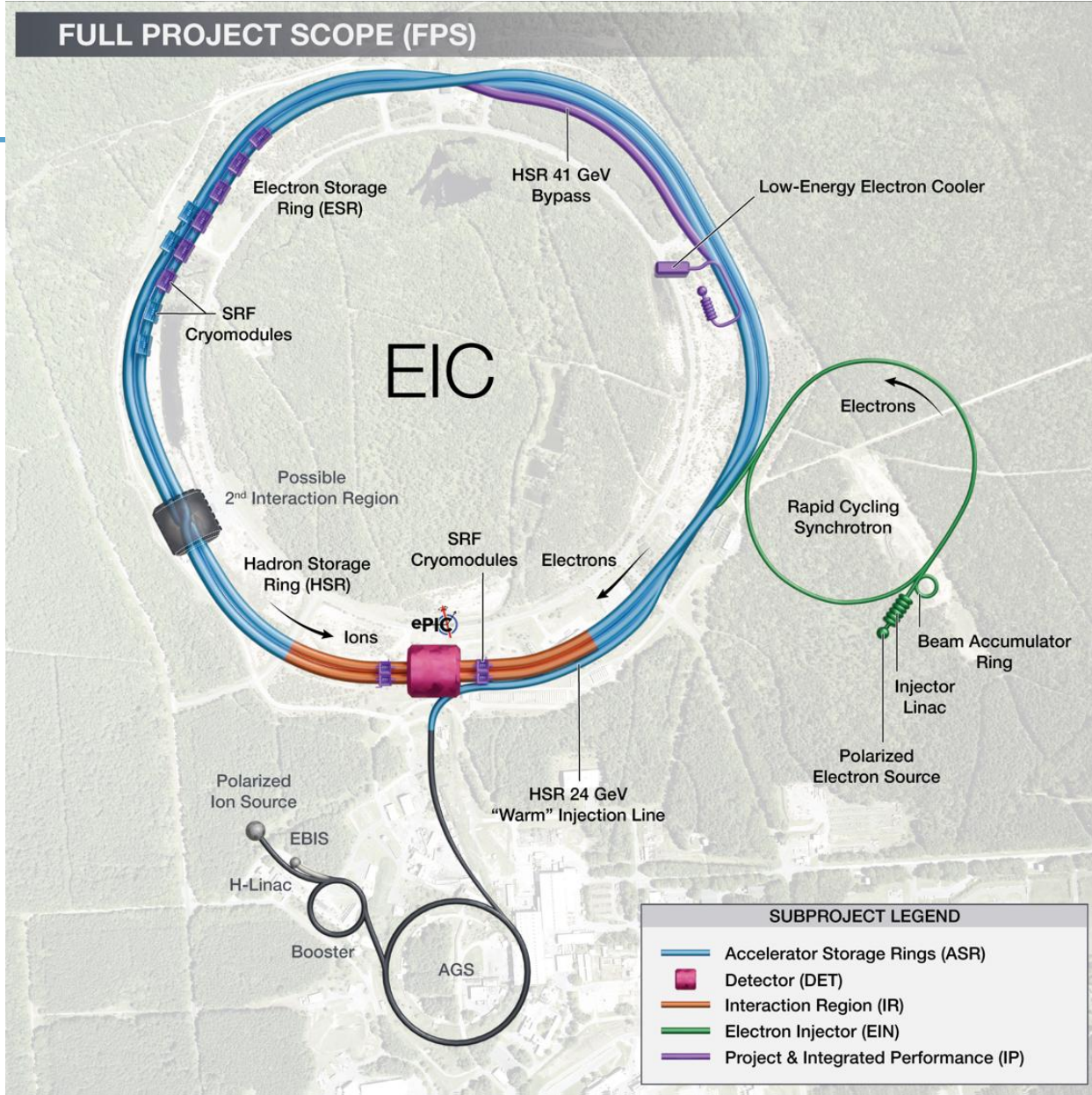
We have a well-defined vision of what is required to build the EIC!

Sub-projects

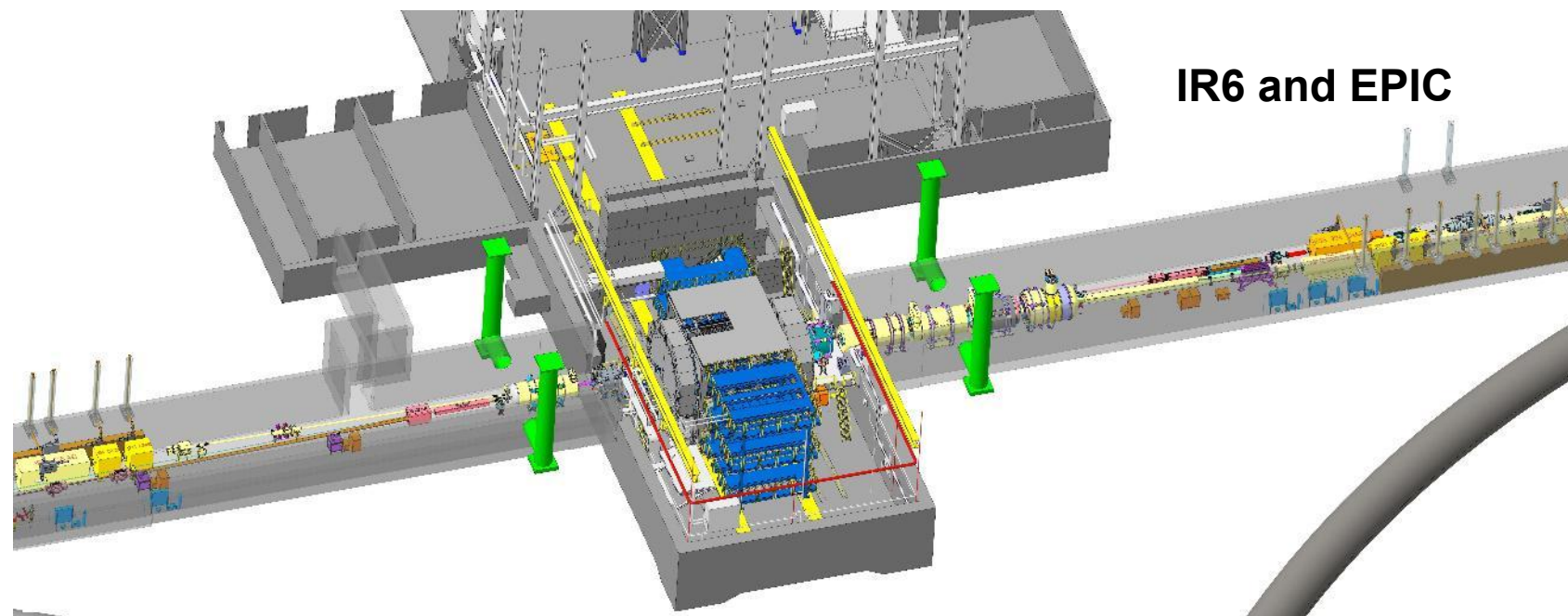
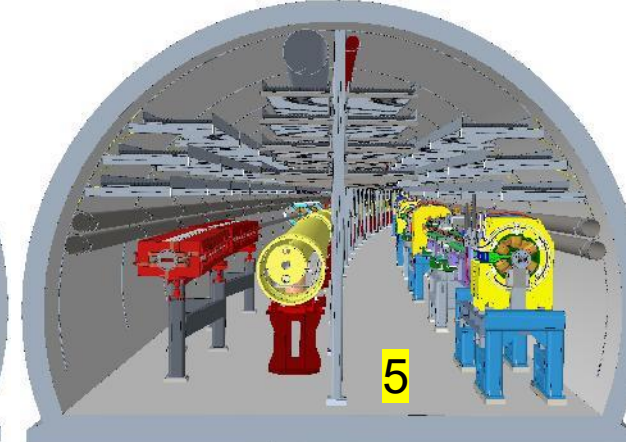
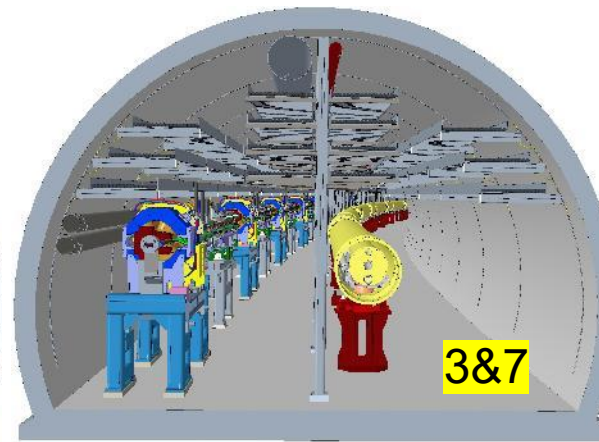
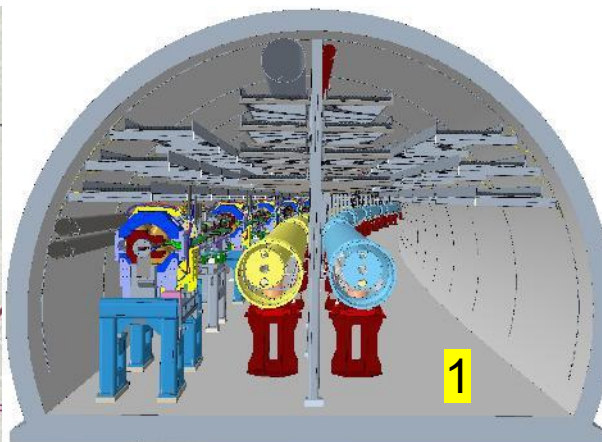
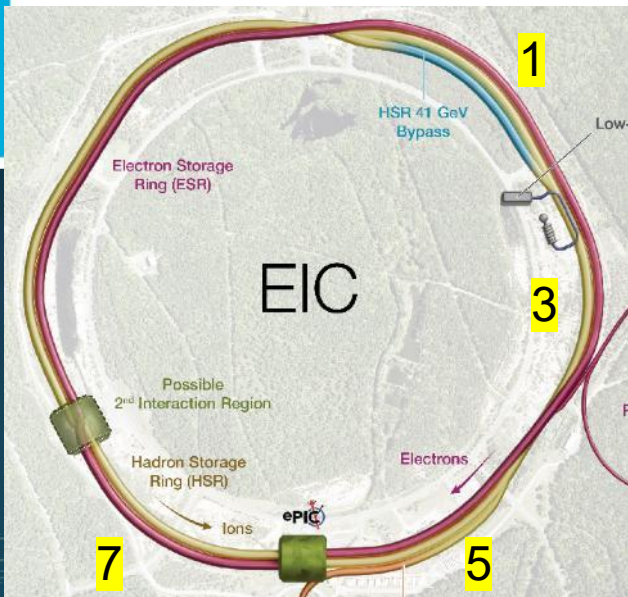
CD-3A, CD-3B, and NYS	Baselined (CD3A). NYS Secure.
Accelerator Storage Rings (ASR)	High design maturity. Low risk.
Electron Injector Complex (EIN)	Medium design maturity. Low risk.
Interaction Region (IR)	Medium design maturity. High risk.
Detector (DET)	High design maturity and cost risk*.
Project & Integrated Performance (IP)	Medium design maturity. Low risk.

Stability of overall EIC design allowed for an efficient scope split into sub-projects

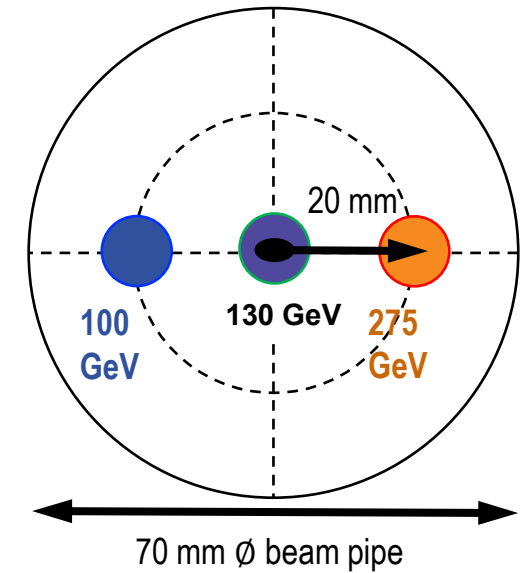
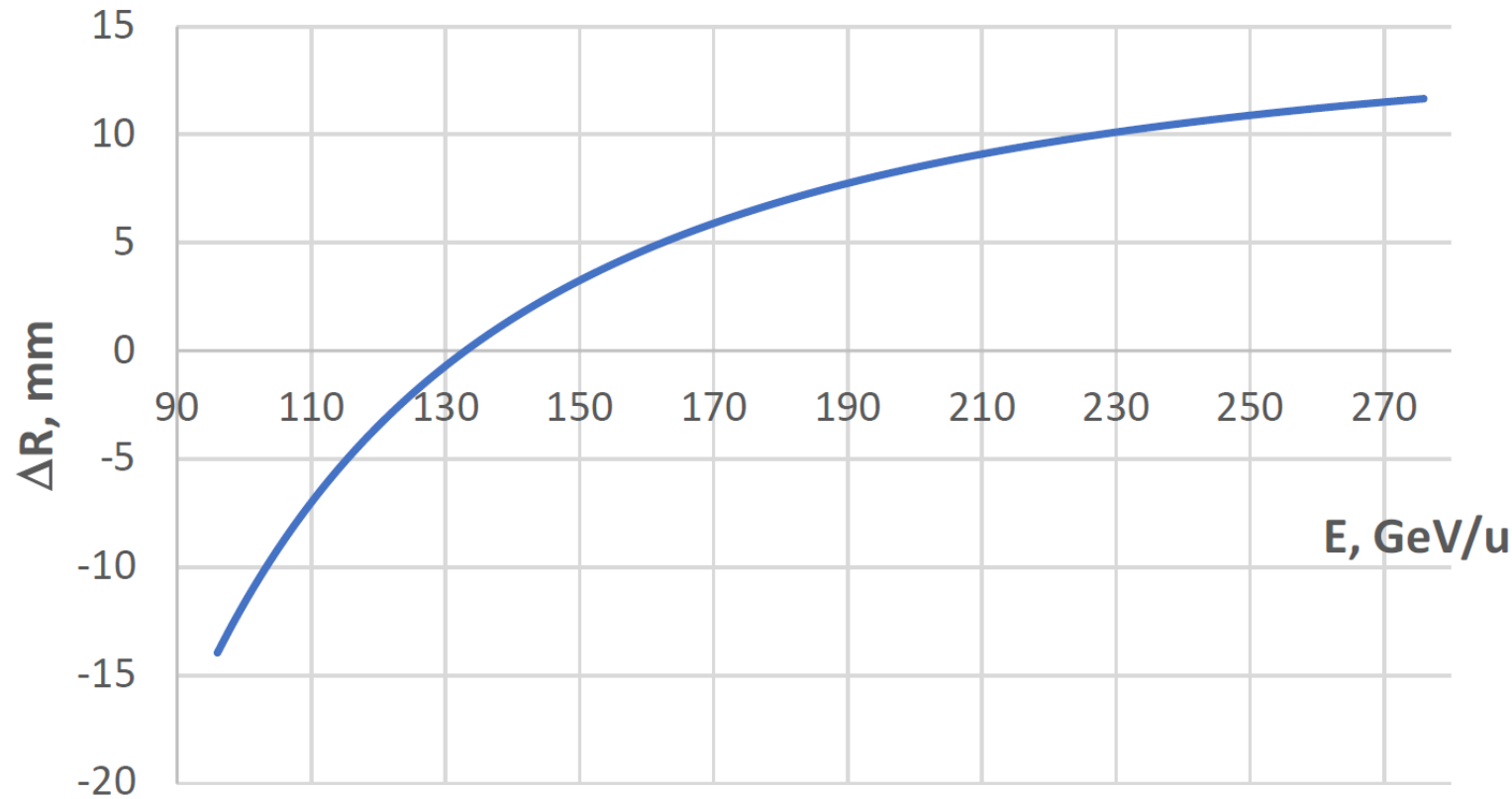
* due to large in-kind contributions, which need to be formalized



Collider Layout



Beam Energy and Average Orbit Radius in the HSR

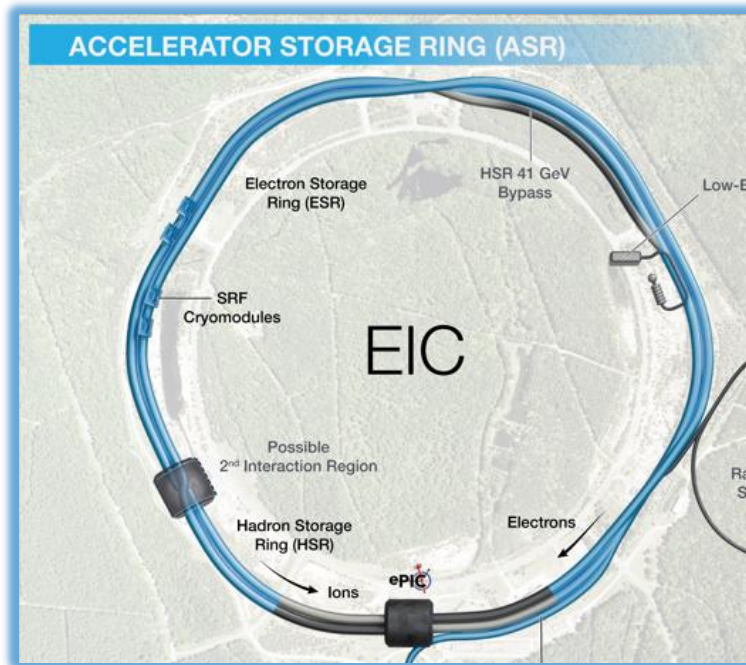


Since the electron revolution frequency is fixed, the hadron orbit must be adjusted with energy to keep the collisions in sync.

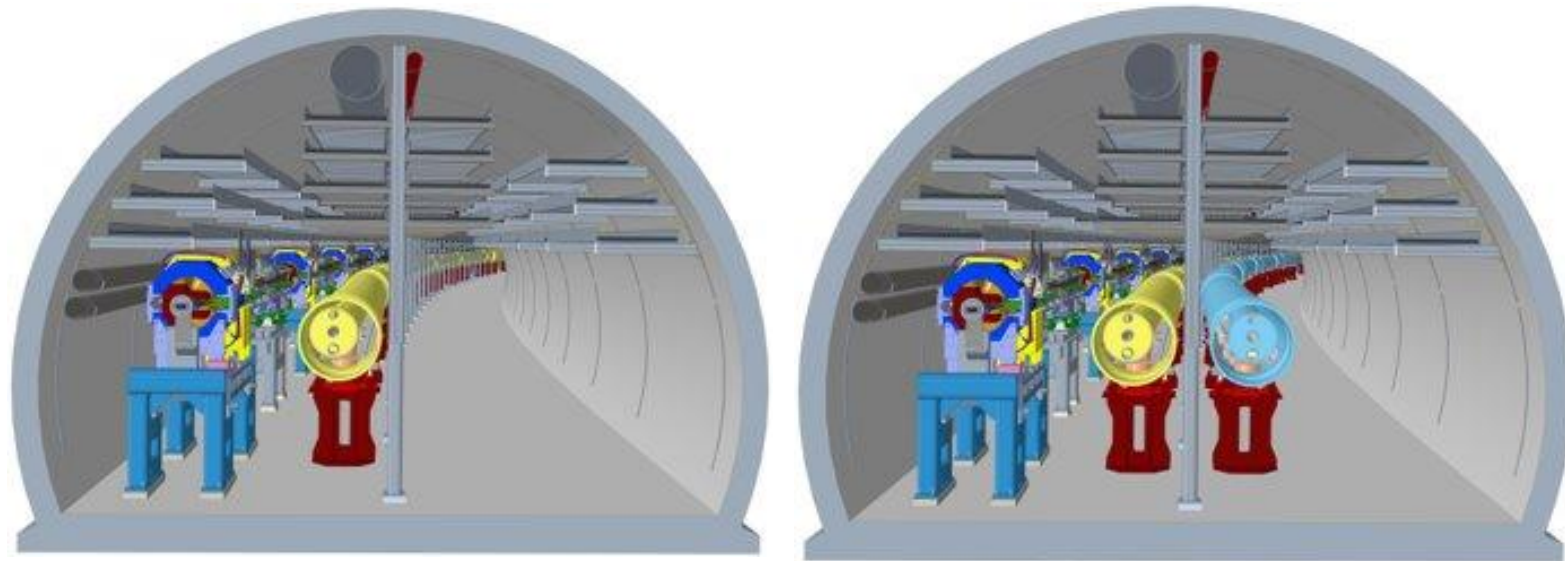
The 41-GeV 'bypass'

This bypass provides access to the lowest HSR energy, 41 GeV

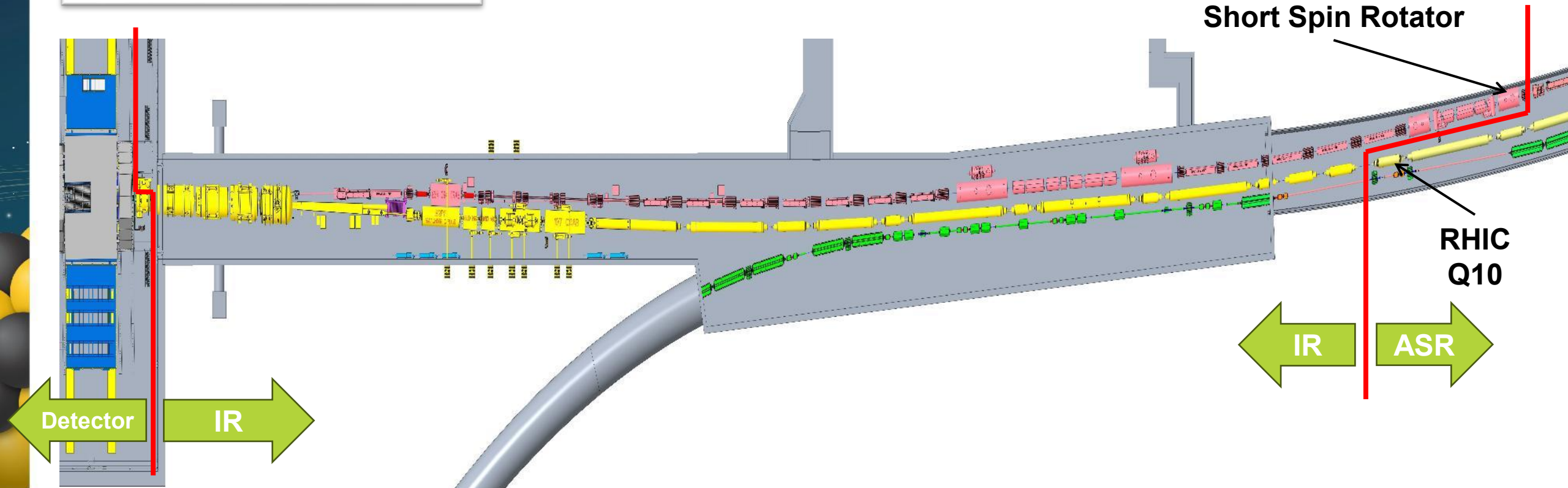
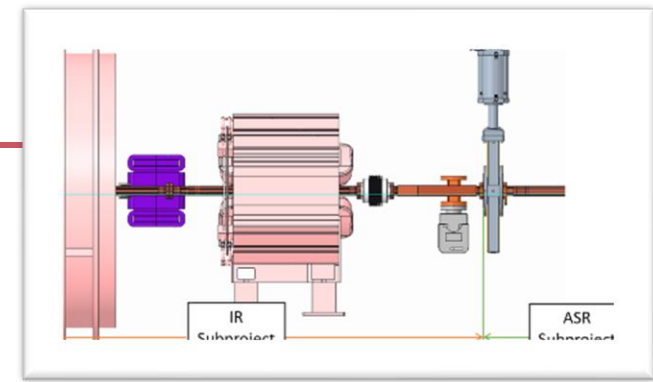
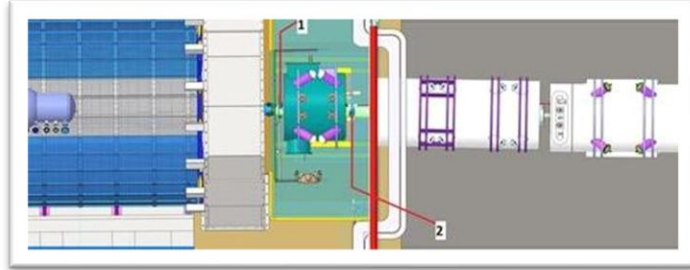
MNS: ✓



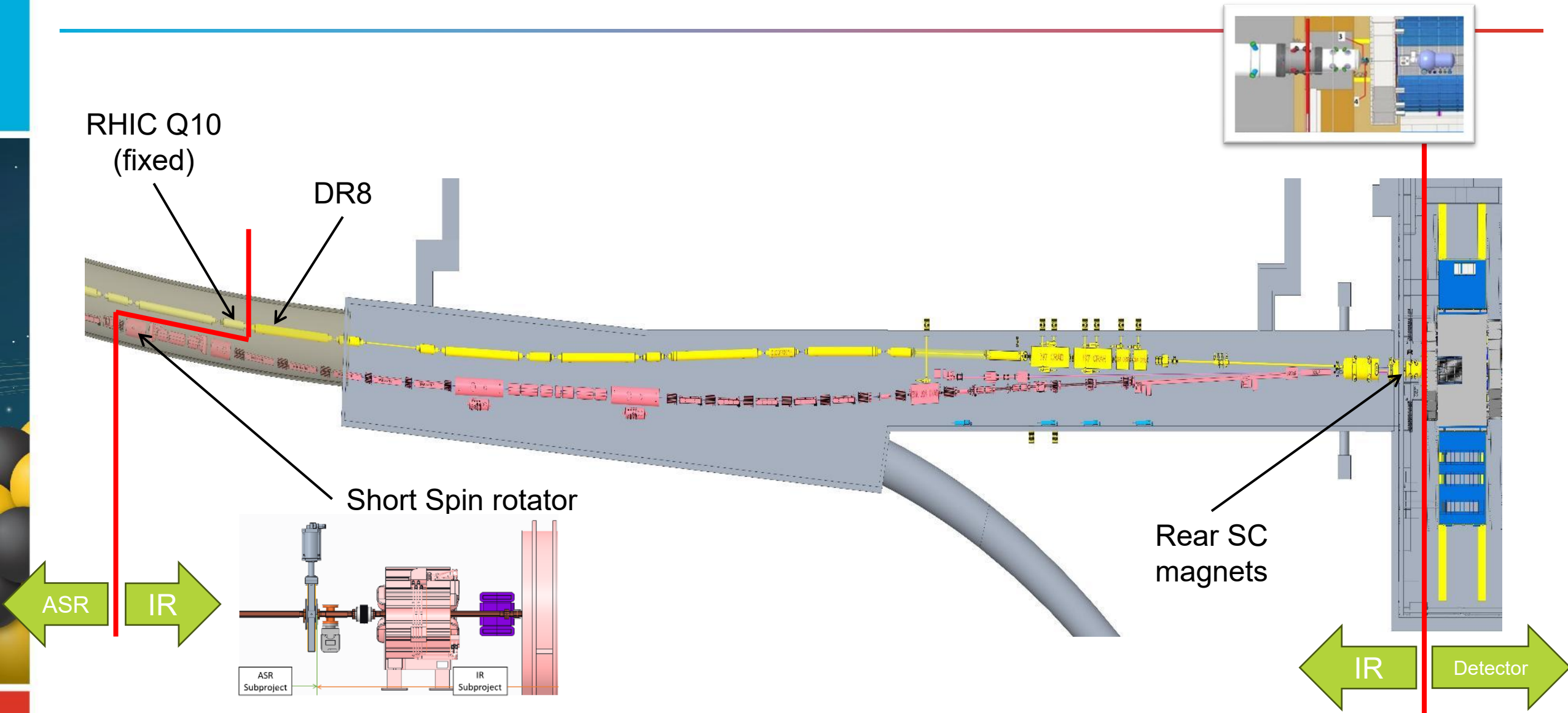
Sector 1 without and with the 41-GeV bypass line



ePIC Interfaces in Sector 5

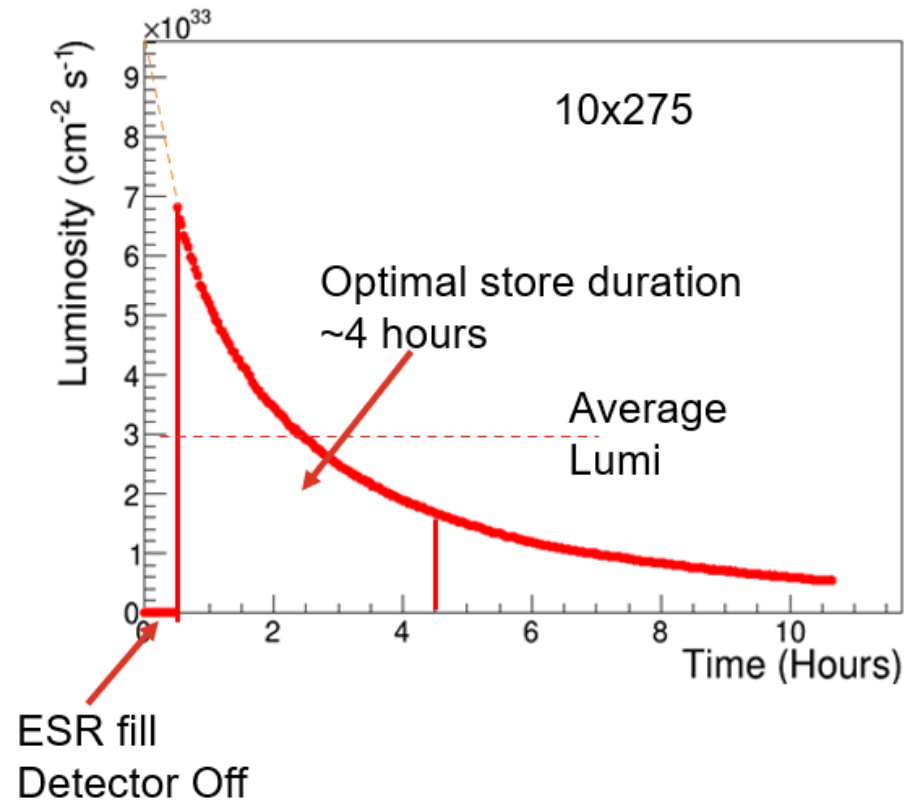


ePIC Interfaces in Sector 7

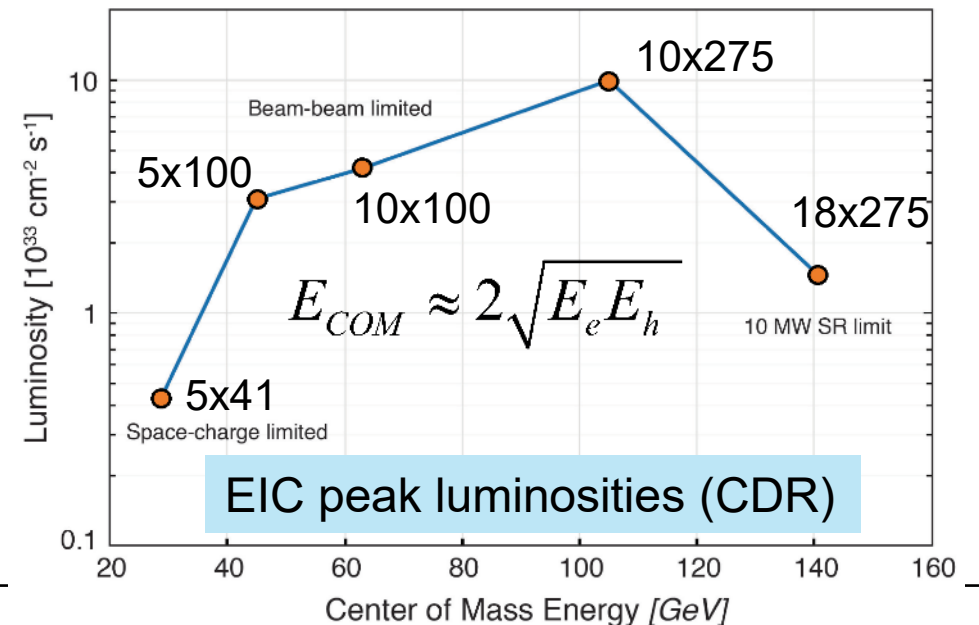


Luminosity Performance Meets the Established Requirements

“Flat” proton bunches allow for high initial luminosity.

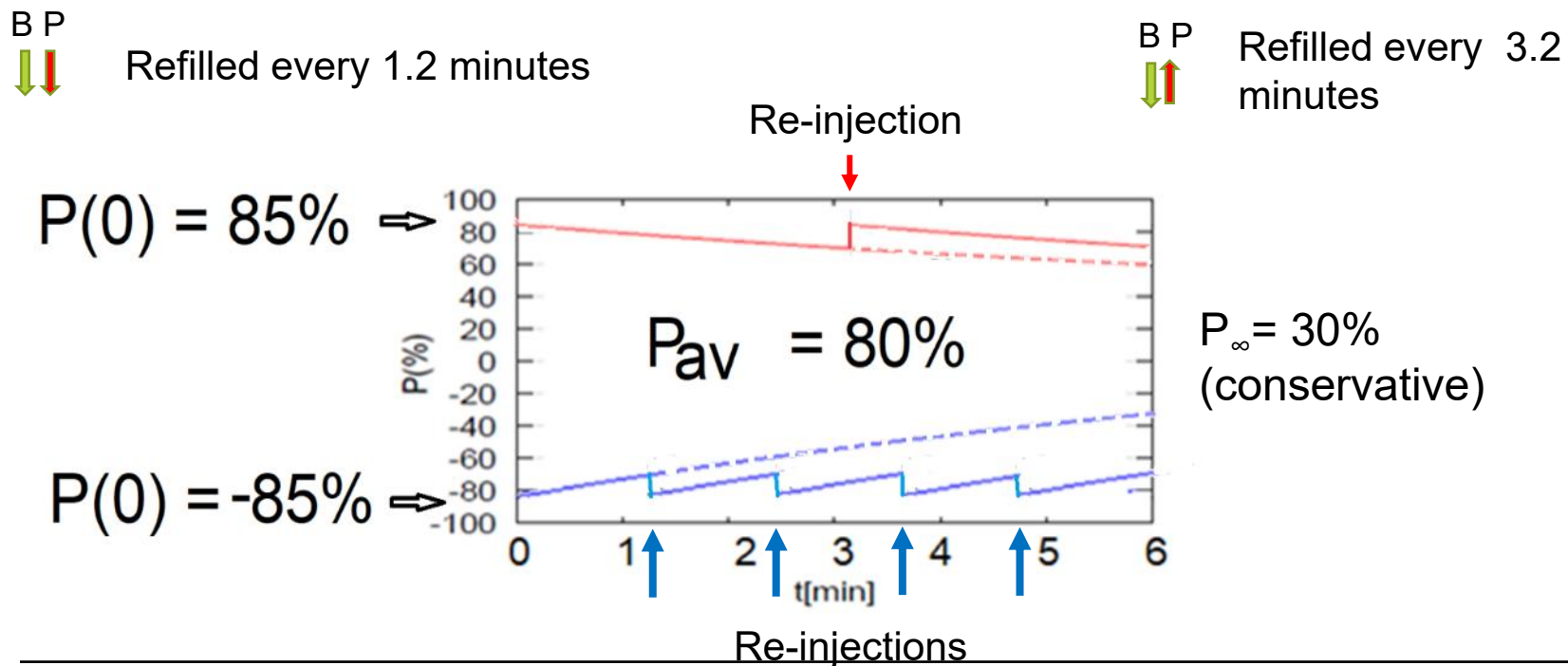


CoM Energy (GeV)	Average Lumi (x10 ³³ cm ⁻² s ⁻¹) (per 4-hour store)
105	3
63	1.2
45	1
140	0.44
29	0.13



Polarization Performance Meets the Established Requirements

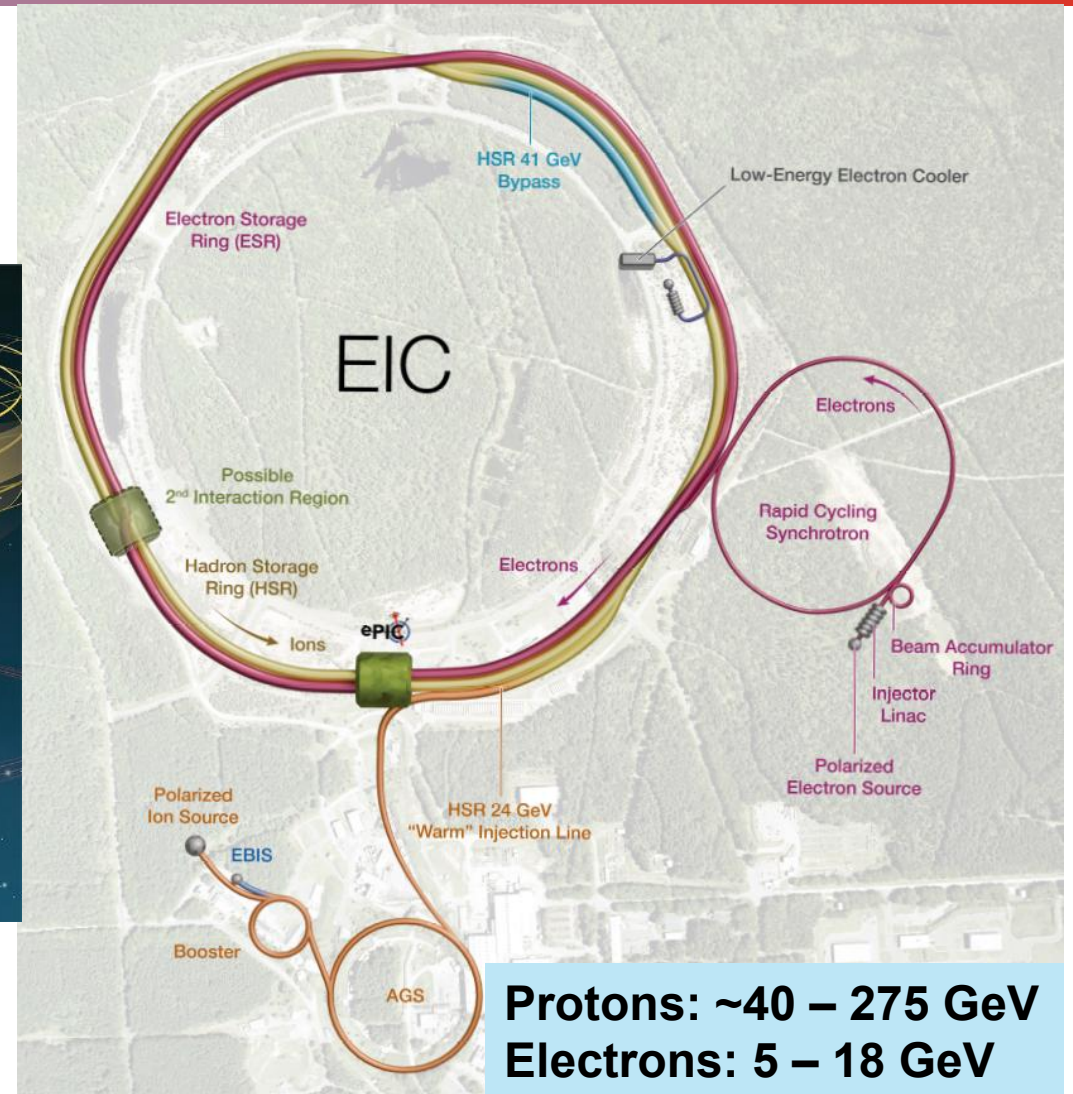
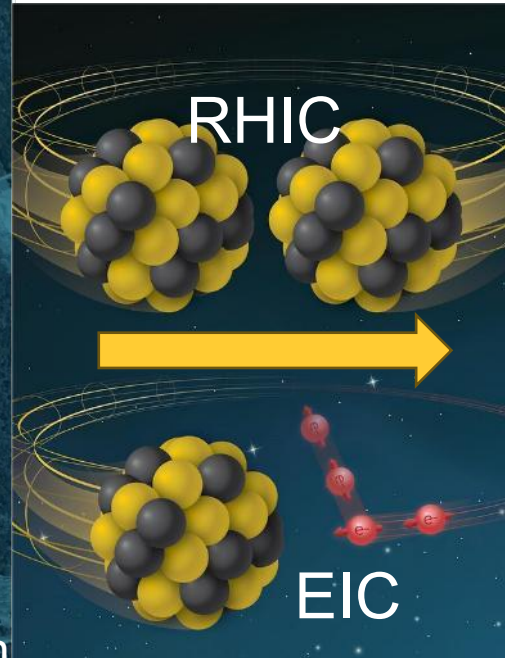
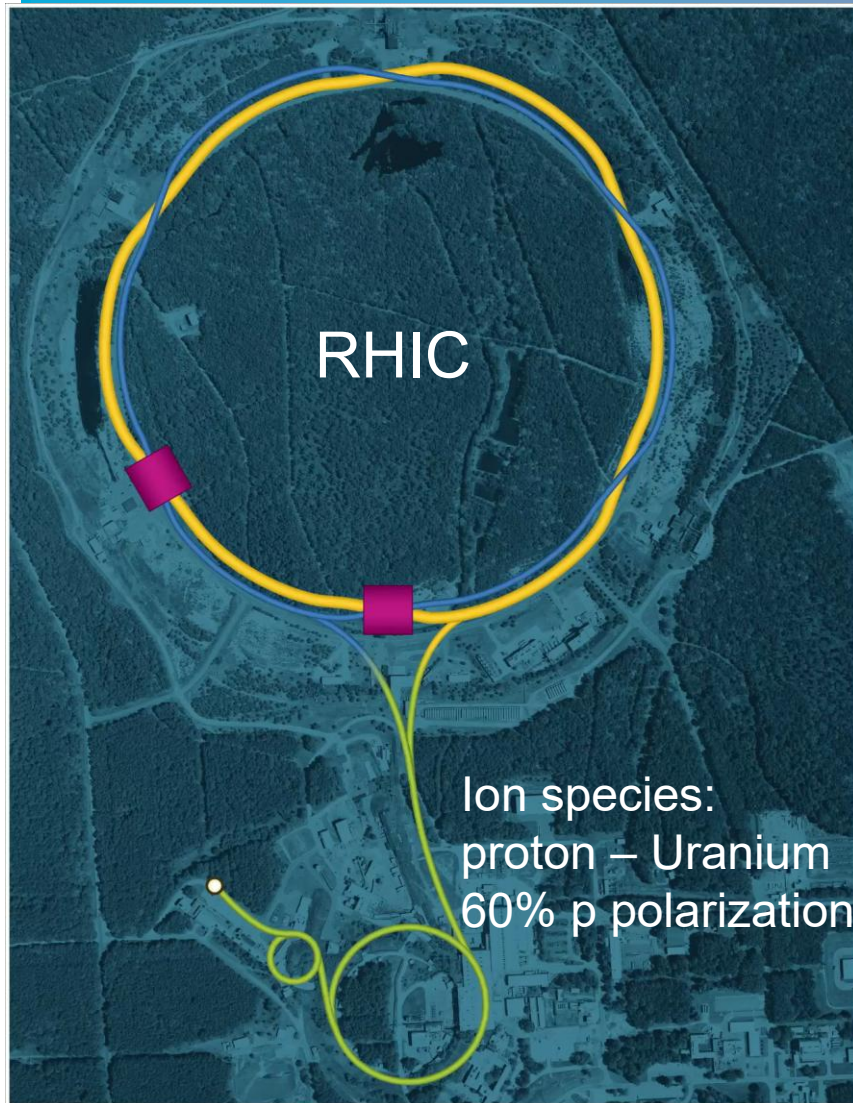
- Frequent swap-out injection of bunches with high initial polarization of 85%
 - Bunch spacing is ~ 10 ns
- Initial polarization decays towards P_∞
- At 18 GeV, every bunch is replaced (on average) after 2.2 min with RCS cycling rate of 1Hz



HSR proton polarization performance also meets the requirements.

Present RHIC proton polarization is 60%

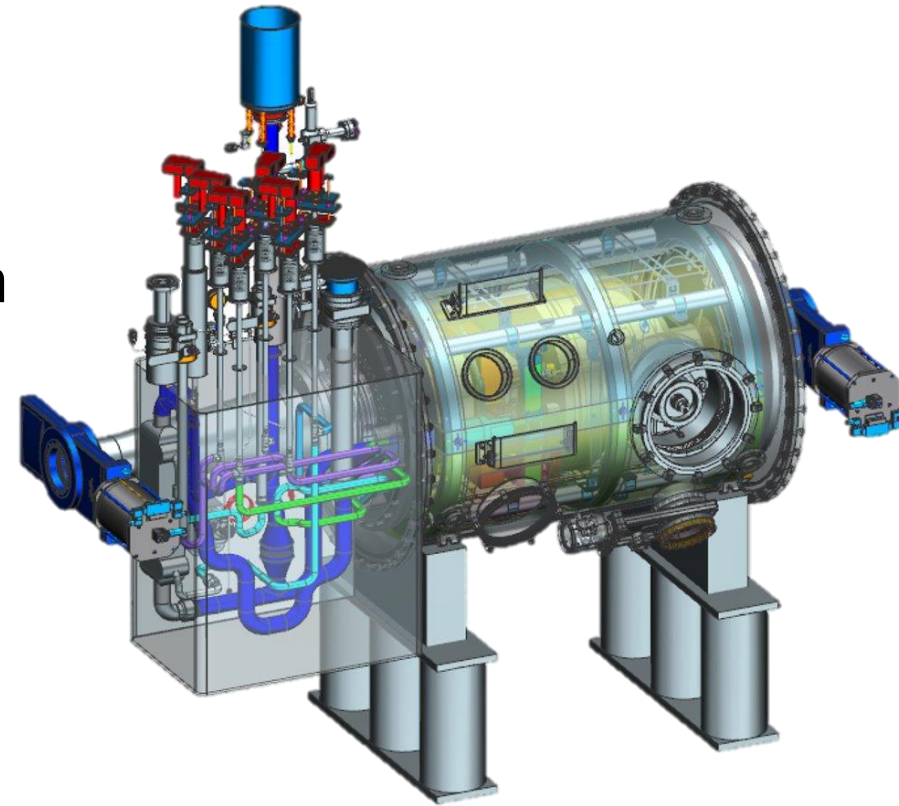
From RHIC to EIC



From RHIC (Yellow Ring) to EIC HSR

Tripled beam current, shorter bunch length, shorter bunch distance, 'flat' beams with small vertical emittance

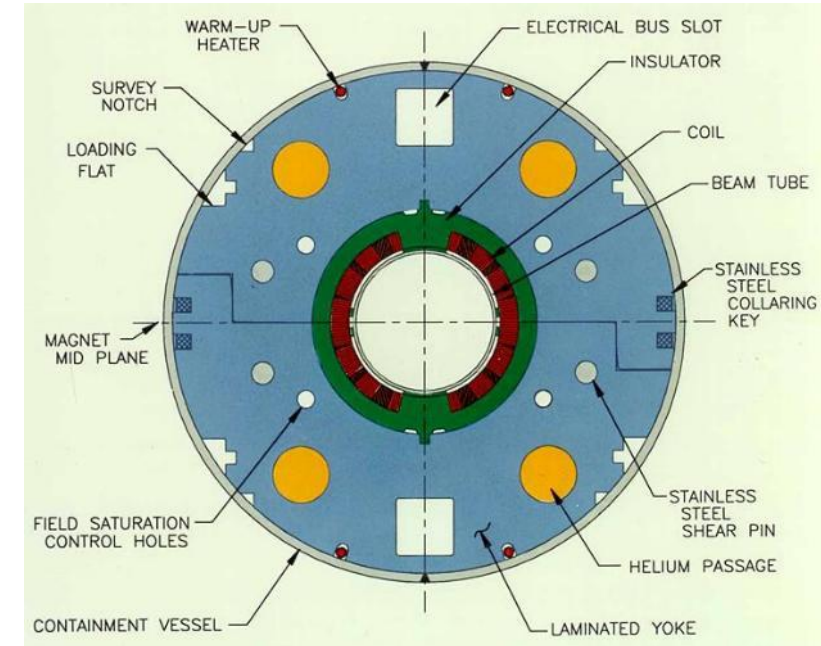
- EIC HSR to be **composed of existing arcs** of the Yellow RHIC ring (remove unused magnets)
- **Insert sleeves** coated with copper and amorphous carbon into superconducting magnet beam pipes to improve conductivity and reduce secondary electron yield (-> electron cloud)
- Add **new RF cavities**
- Add **hadron cooling** to create flat beam
- Add **crab cavities, new IR SC magnets**
- Add a **collimation system**
- Add **extra 'snakes' for spin control**



Superconducting Radio Frequency Cavity

RHIC magnets conversion to EIC

- Existing RHIC cold bore beam pipes are stainless steel
 - High surface resistance -> Excessive resistive wall heating
 - High secondary electron yield (SEY) -> Electron cloud formation
- New parameters required for EIC
 - High stored beam current (.72 A vs .27 A)
 - Reduced bunch length (60 cm vs 600 cm)
 - Short bunch spacing (10 ns vs 108 ns)
 - High bunch charge (1.2×10^{11} ppb)

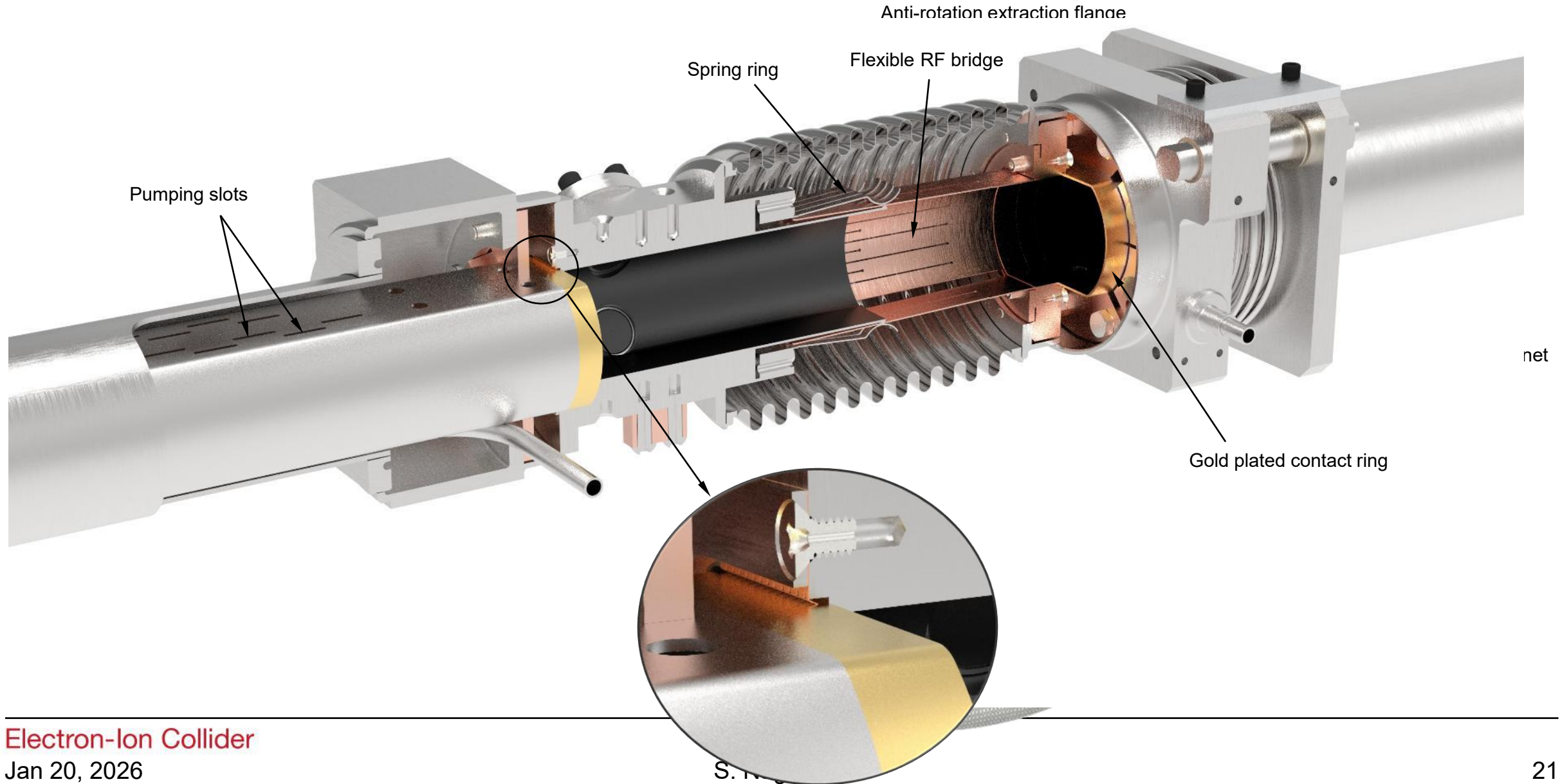


Actively Cooled Beam
Screen

CD3A procurement

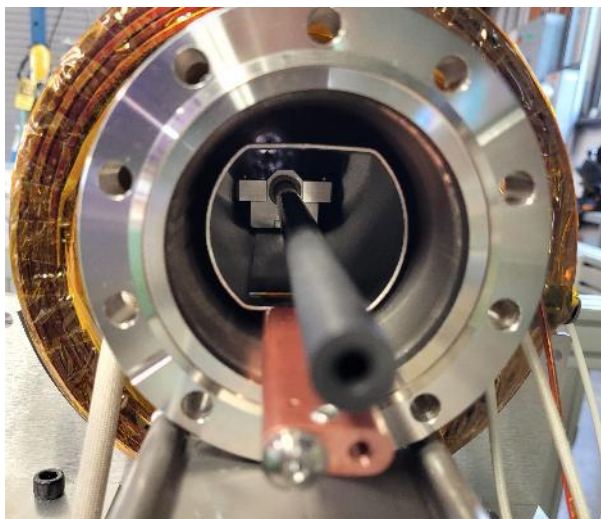


Magnet Interconnect Assembly



a-Carbon Coating

- Proof of principle coating system
 - Cycle time meets production requirements
- Design of full length (11m) system completed
 - Assembly in process
- Clean tent area for production nearing completion
- Ultrasonic cleaning equipment (11m) commissioned



Graphite target inside beam screen



POP horizontal coating system
S. Nagaitsev



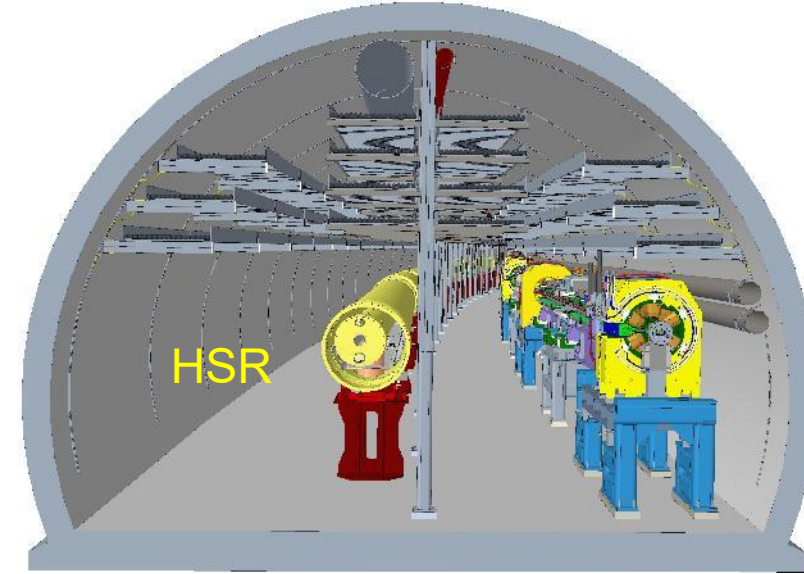
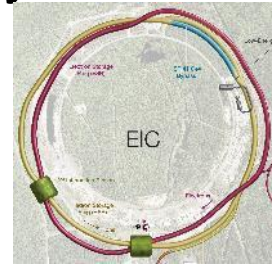
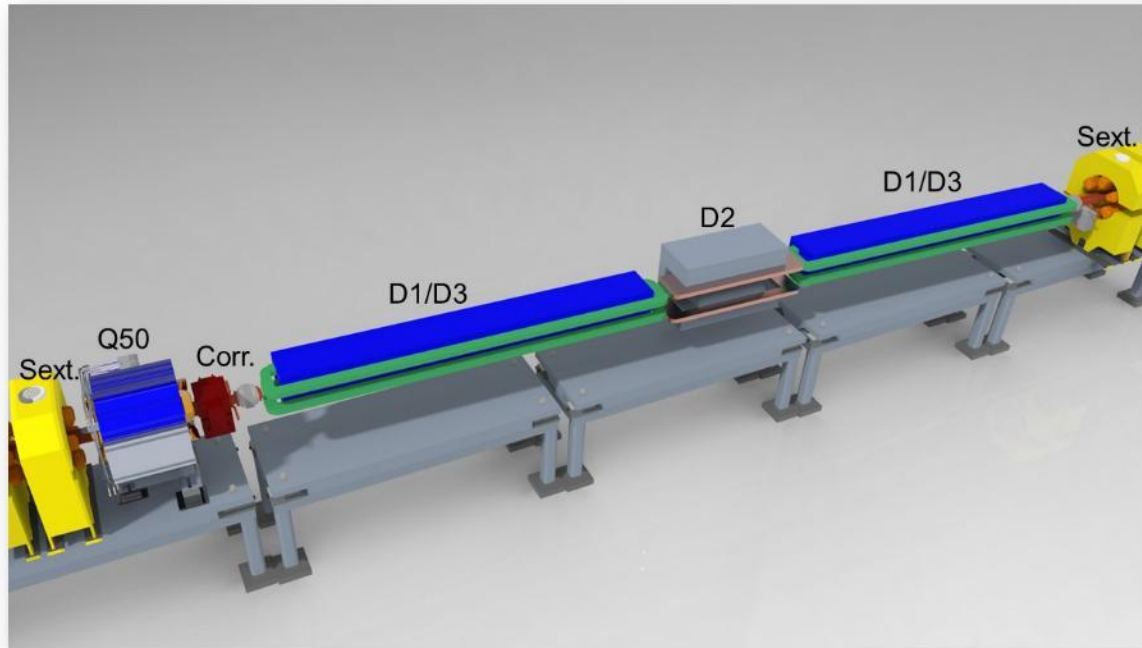
Cleaning facility



Coating Facility

EIC Electron Storage Ring

- Electron Storage Ring (ESR) consists of six **FODO**-cell arcs, and six straight sections (IRs)
- High-intensity (28 nC), short (7 mm) bunches add many interesting accelerator challenges
- Circulating beam current ~ 2.5 A and the synchrotron radiation power of ~ 10 MW

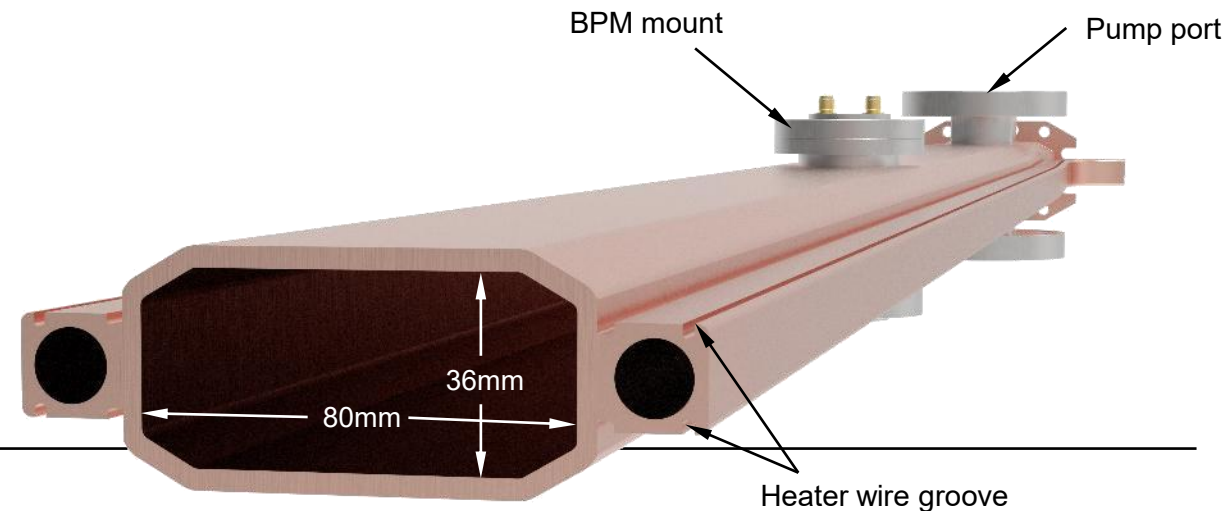
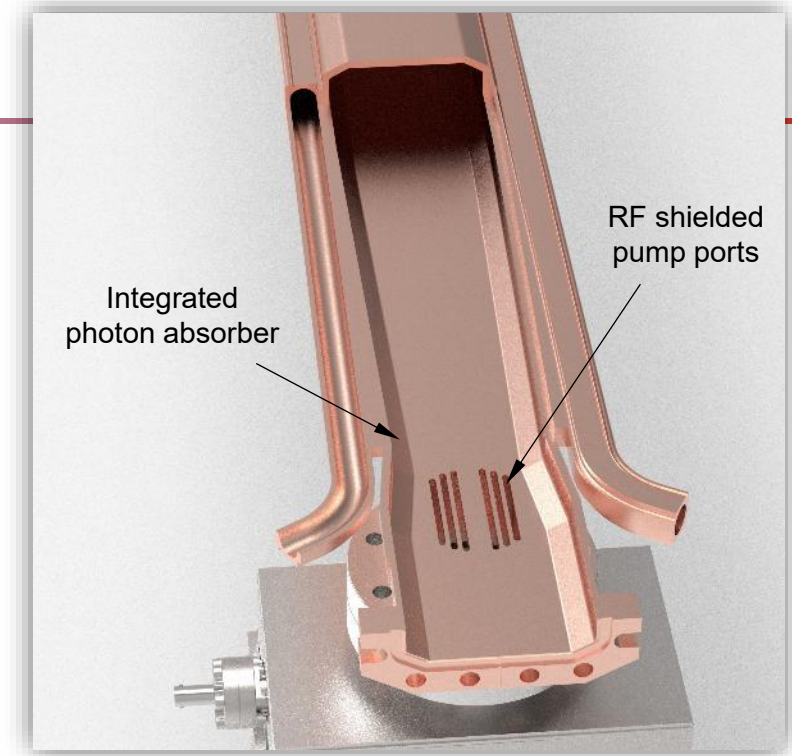
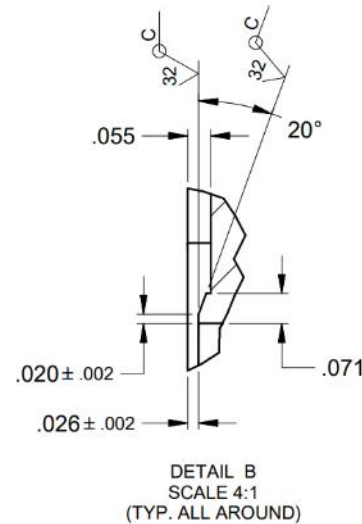


EIC needs **nearly constant (20 to 24 nm) emittance from 5 to 18 GeV for optimum luminosity**, but equilibrium emittance in an electron storage ring depends on beam energy.

We will use 'super bends' (reverse bends) for emittance control below 10 GeV

ESR Chamber Detail

- Beam channel 80mm x 36mm [3.15" x 1.42"]
- Chamber material: OFS copper (C10700)
- Water cooling channels joined by e-beam or laser welding
- Internal surfaces are NEG coated
- Photon absorber formed at end of chambers
- CuCrZr flanges with combination RF-vacuum seal



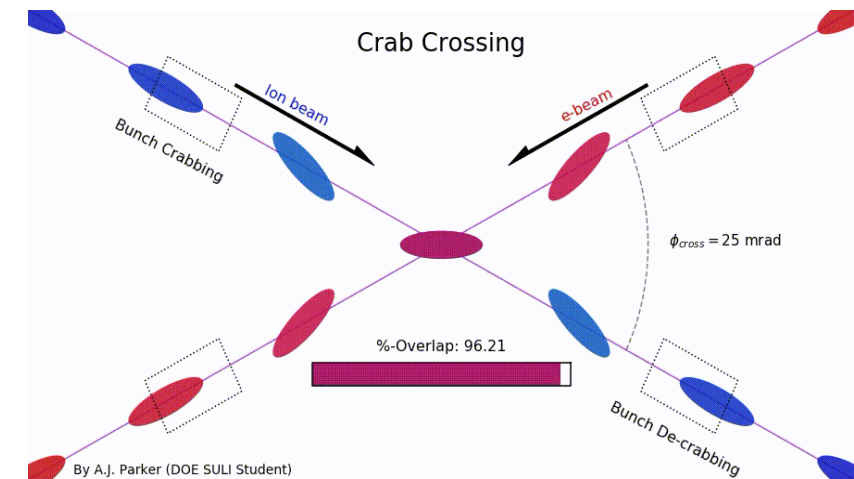
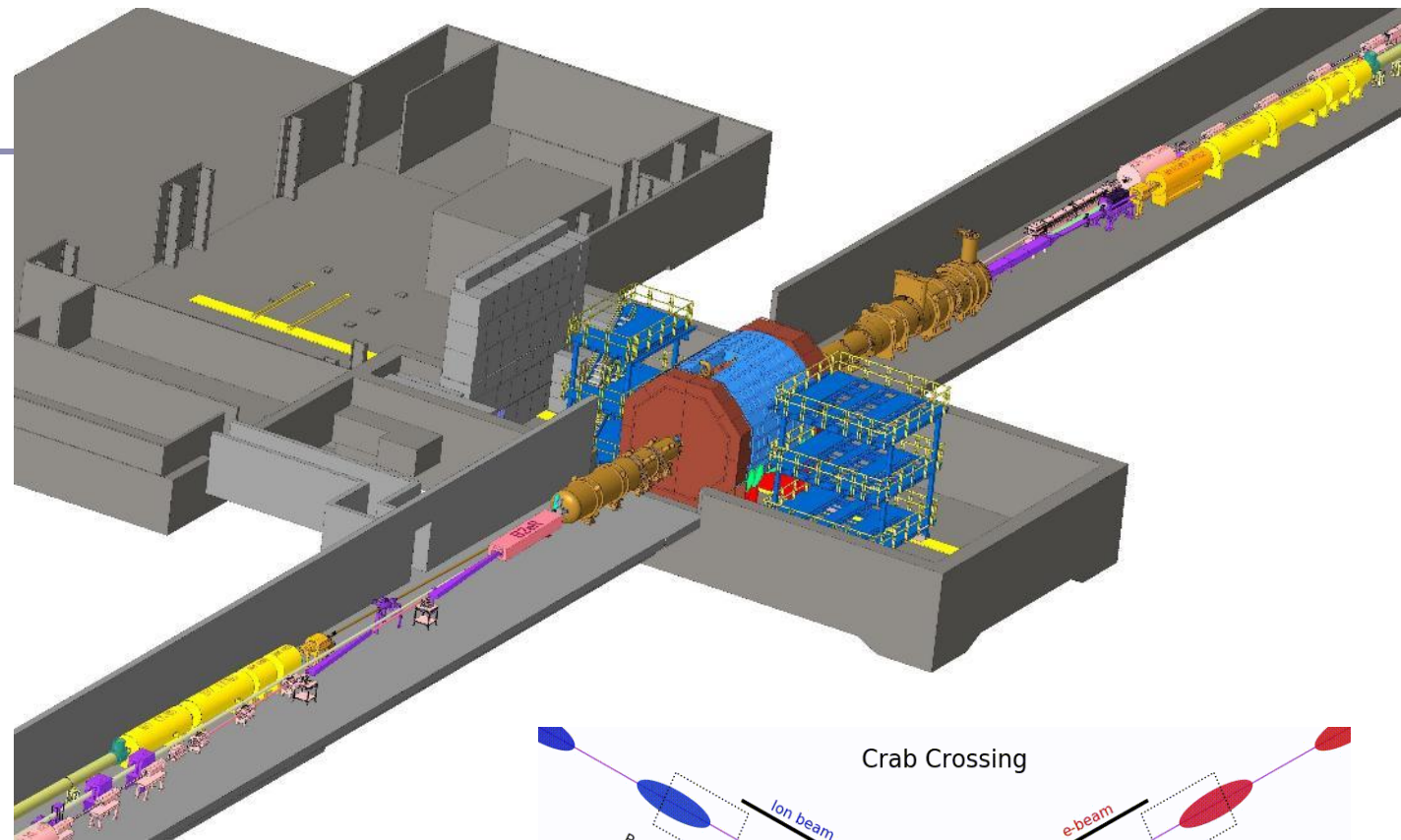
EIC IR Layout

High Luminosity:

- 25 mrad crossing angle
- Small β^* for high luminosity with limited IR chromaticity contributions
- Large final focus quadrupole aperture

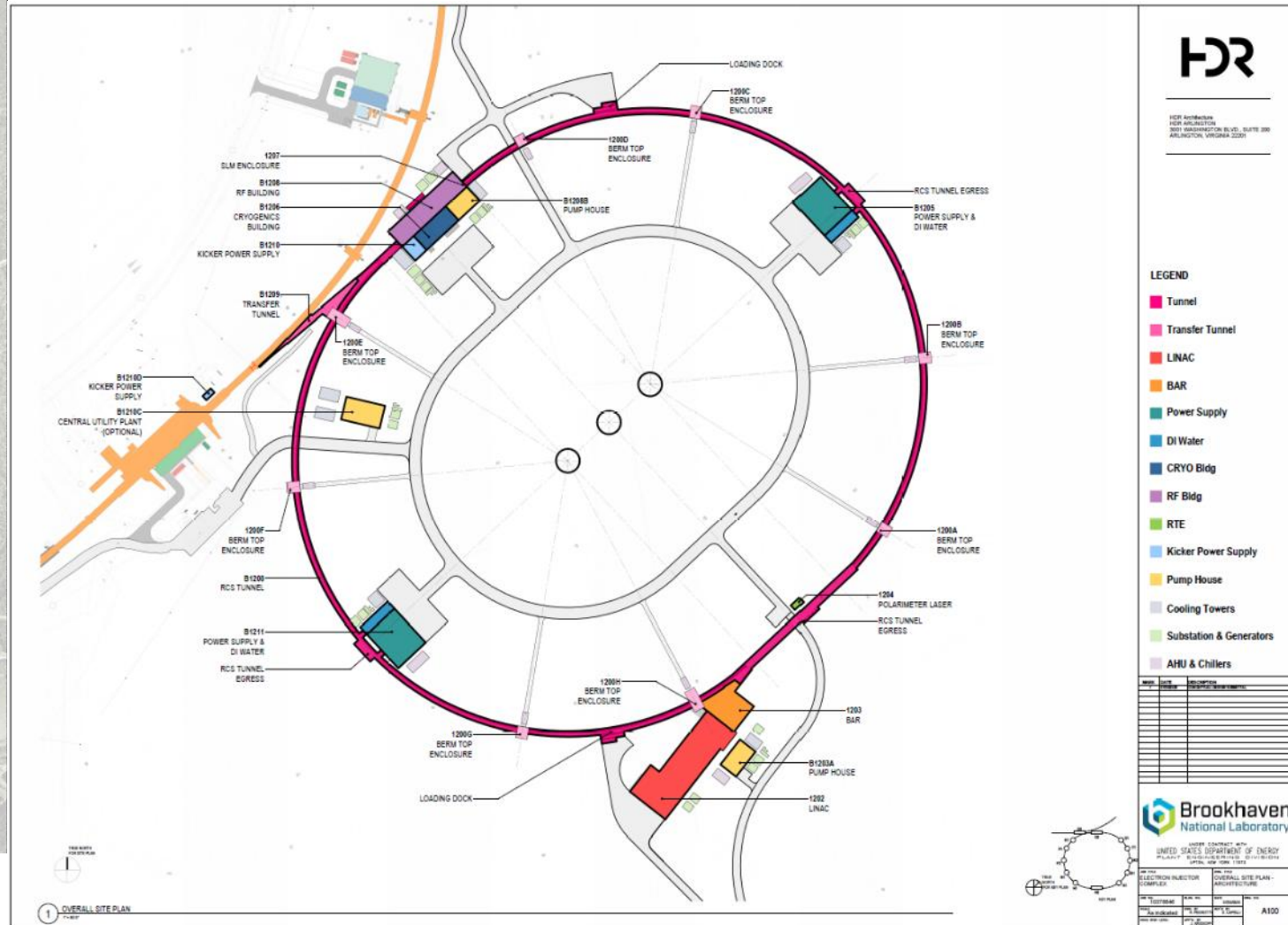
Machine Detector Interface

- Large detector acceptance
- Forward spectrometer
- No magnets within - 4.5 / +5 m from IP
- Space for luminosity detector, neutron detector, “Roman Pots”



The diagram illustrates the layout of the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Key components and regions shown include:

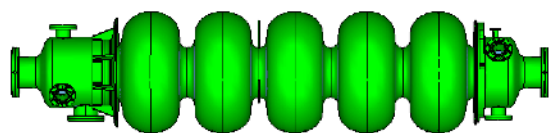
- Electron Storage Ring (ESR):** The main circular ring for electron beams, shown in purple and pink.
- Hadron Storage Ring (HSR):** The main circular ring for ion beams, shown in orange and yellow.
- Interaction Region:** The central area where the electron and ion beams collide.
- Injection and Acceleration Systems:**
 - AGS (Alternating Gradient Synchrotron):** The existing ion source and accelerator.
 - Booster:** A small ring used to pre-accelerate ions.
 - Polarized Ion Source:** The source of polarized ion beams.
 - EBIS (Electron Beam Ion Source):** A source for electron beams.
 - HSR 24 GeV "Warm" Injection Line:** A line connecting the AGS to the HSR.
 - HSR 41 GeV Bypass:** A bypass line for the HSR.
 - Low-Energy Electron Cooler:** A device for cooling the electron beam.
 - Rapid Cycling Synchrotron:** A synchrotron for rapid cycling of electron beams.
 - Beam Accumulator Ring:** A ring for accumulating electron beams.
 - Injector Linac:** A linear accelerator for electron beams.
 - Polarized Electron Source:** The source of polarized electron beams.
- Other Labels:**
 - Electrons:** Indicated by arrows pointing into the ESR.
 - Ions:** Indicated by an arrow pointing into the HSR.
 - Possible 2nd Interaction Region:** A potential second collision point.



Electron Injector

Concept modeled after the ANL APS-U injector

Function: Deliver electron bunches of up to 28 nC at a 1 Hz repetition rate for injection into the ESR at various energies of 5 – 18 GeV.



RCS SRF Cavity, 591 MHz

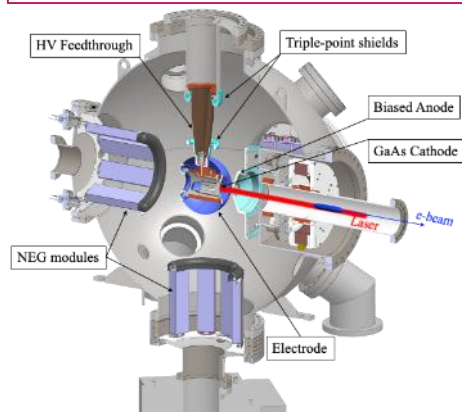
RESEARCH ARTICLE | JUNE 17 2024

High-intensity polarized electron gun featuring distributed Bragg reflector GaAs photocathode

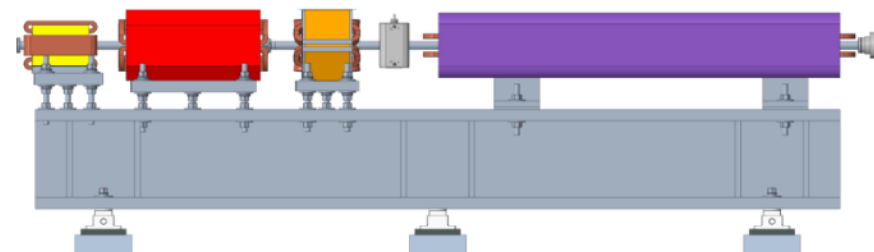
Erdong Wang¹; Omer Rahman²; Jyoti Biswas³; John Skarika⁴; Patrick Inacker⁵; Wei Liu⁶; Ronald Napoli⁷; Matthew Parocchia⁸

Check for updates

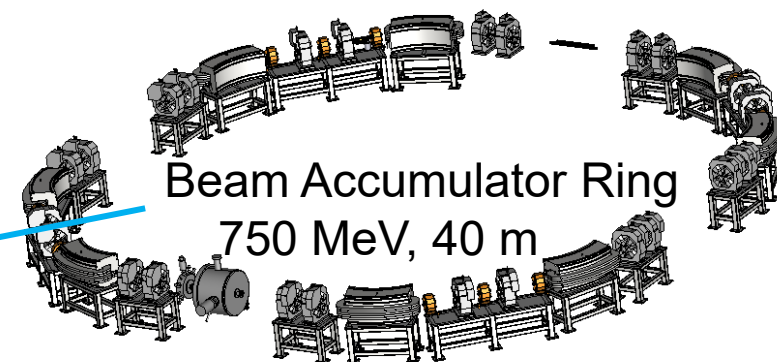
Appl. Phys. Lett. 124, 254101 (2024)
<https://doi.org/10.1063/52116604>



Polarized Electron Gun
1-nC, 30 Hz



RCS magnet assembly
Vacuum chamber: stainless steel, copper coated (50 μm)



Beam Accumulator Ring
750 MeV, 40 m

S-band linac, 750 MeV, 30 Hz, 1 nC single bunch

Present EIC Concept (2026)

Ultimate EIC Performance Parameters:

- High Luminosity: $L = 10^{33} - 10^{34} \text{cm}^{-2}\text{sec}^{-1}$
- Highly Polarized Beams: 70%
- Large Center of Mass Energy Range: $E_{\text{cm}} = 28 - 140 \text{ GeV}$
- Large Ion Species Range: protons – Uranium
- Large Detector Forward Acceptance and Low-Background Conditions
- Possibility to Implement a Second Interaction Region (IR)

Accelerator Status at a glance:

- ✓ Polarized ion/proton source
- ✓ Ion injection and initial acceleration systems – Linac (200 MeV), Booster (1.5 GeV), AGS (25 GeV)

UPGRADE Hadron Storage Ring (40-275 GeV) – HSR

NEW Electron Pre-Injector (750 MeV linac)

NEW Beam Accumulation Ring (750 MeV) – BAR

NEW Electron Rapid Cycling Synchrotron (0.75 GeV – top energy) – RCS

NEW Electron Storage Ring (5 GeV – 18 GeV) – ESR

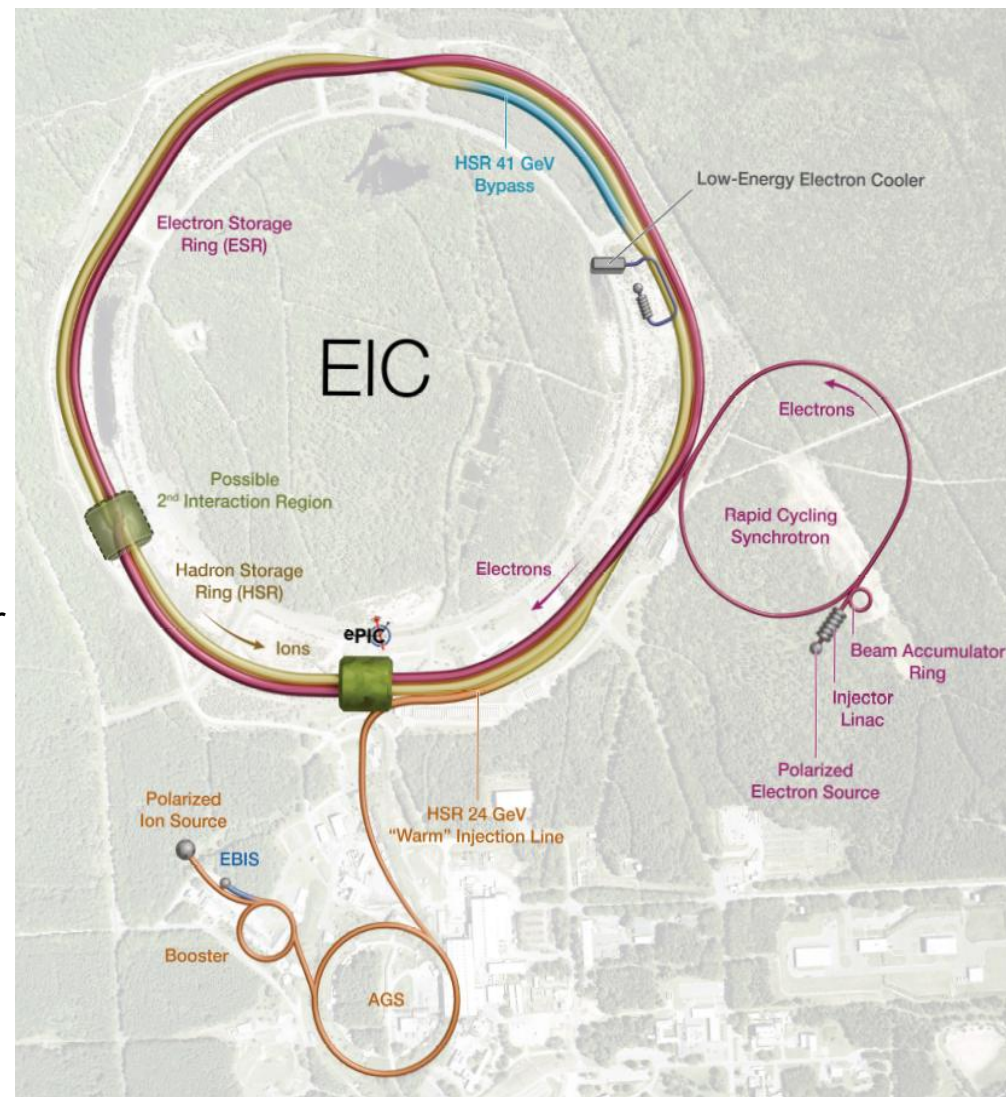
NEW Interaction Region(s) – IR

NEW Hadron Cooling System

Electron-Ion Collider

Jan 20, 2026

S. Nagaitsev



Protons: ~40 – 275 GeV
Electrons: 5 – 18 GeV

Summary

- EIC is a unique, high-energy, high-luminosity, polarized beam collider that will be one of the most challenging and exciting accelerator complexes ever built – the only new collider in the next decades.
- Since the publication of the 2021 CDR, the project has implemented several design changes to advance design maturity and reduce risk, without affecting the established preliminary performance and cost objectives.
- The EIC design is stable and complete.
- Subproject scope is well developed, designs are mature, Long-lead procurements are in execution since 2024.

**We now have a well-defined vision of what is required
to build the EIC!**