

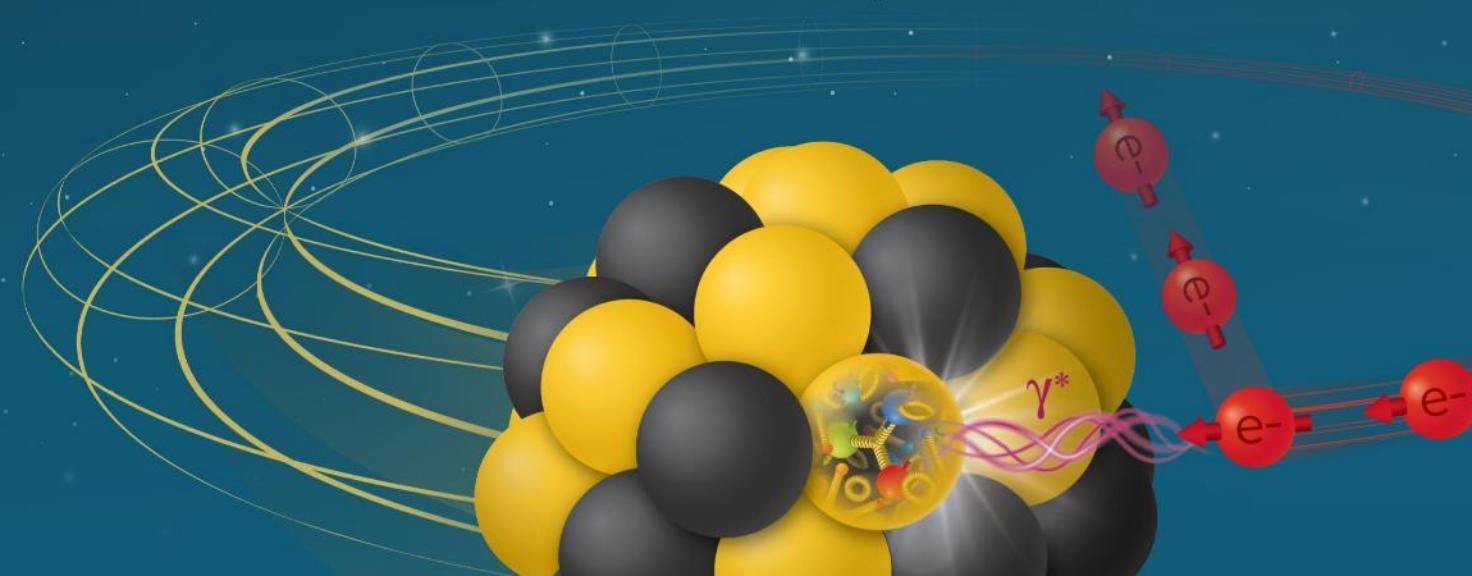


# Electron-Ion Collider Design Status

**Sergei Nagaitsev**  
EIC Technical Director

**ePIC Collaboration Meeting**  
January 20-23, 2026

Electron-Ion Collider



# Outline

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- 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:

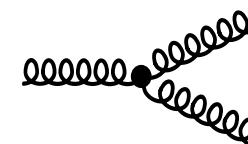
- access to spin structure of nucleons and nuclei
- Spin vehicle to access the spatial and momentum structure of the nucleon in 3d
- Full specification of initial and final states to probe q-g structure of NN and NNN interaction in light nuclei



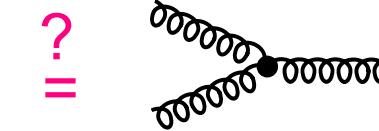
nuclear beams: d to Pb

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

gluon emission

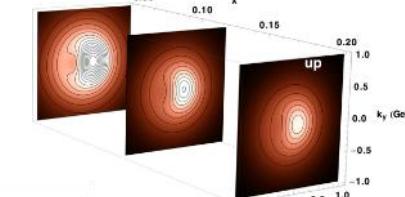


gluon recombination



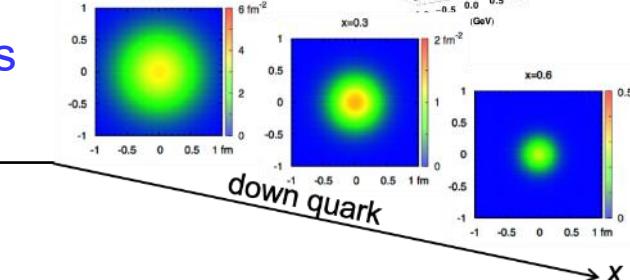
high luminosity  $10^{33}$ - $10^{34}$  cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$  :

- 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



# EIC Accelerator Performance Requirements

- Center-of-mass energies:  $\sim 20$  to  $\sim 140$  GeV (e-p)
- High degree of beam polarization ( $P$ ):  $\sim 70\%$
- 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)

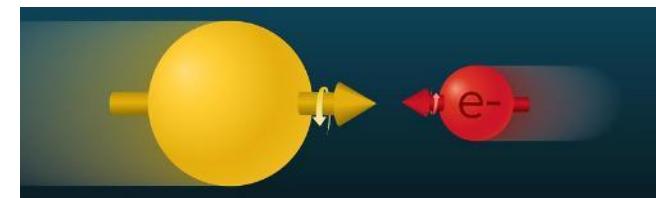
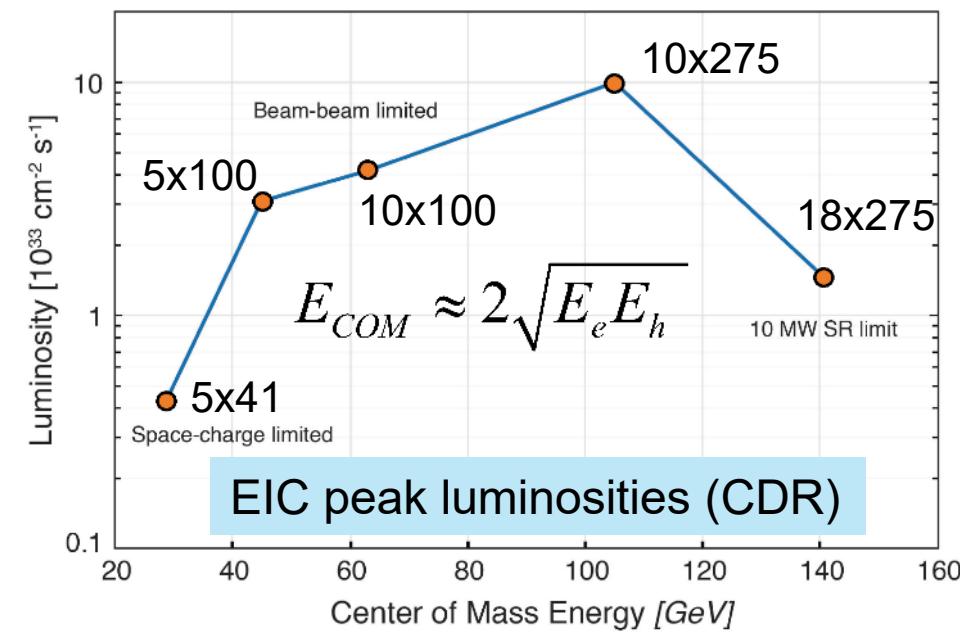


Figure of merit:  $LP^2$  to  $LP^4$



# Key EIC Accelerator Concepts, Proposed in the CDR

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- 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

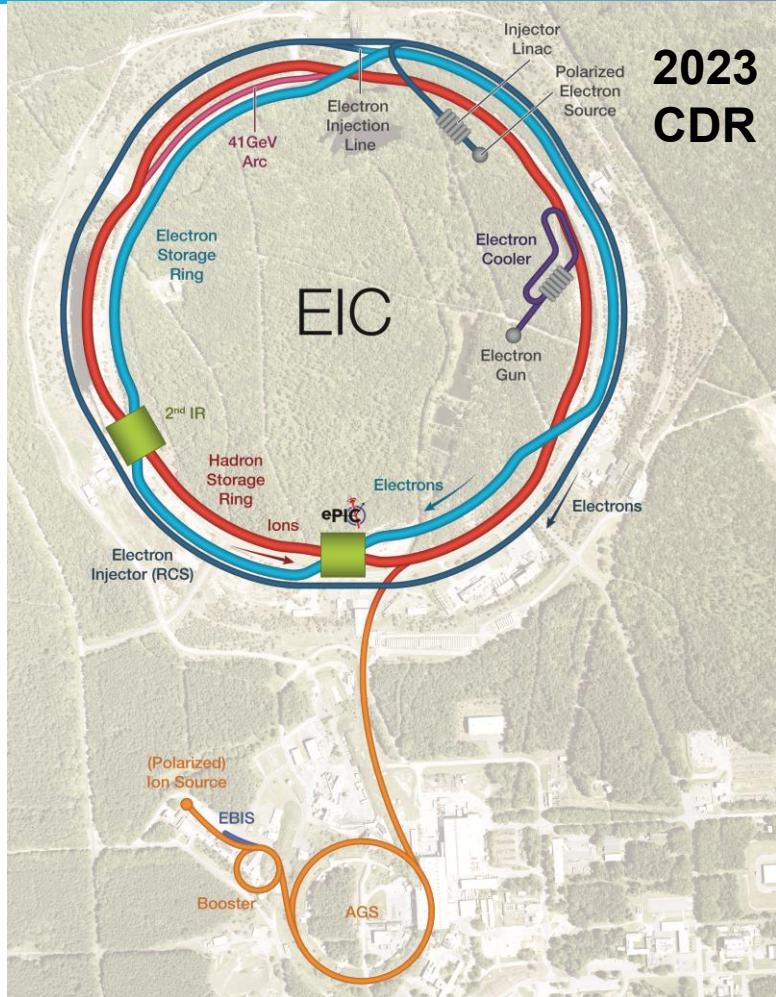
Note: HERA(1992-2007) peak luminosity:  $\sim 5 \times 10^{31} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$

# Key EIC Accelerator Technology Areas Contributing to MNS

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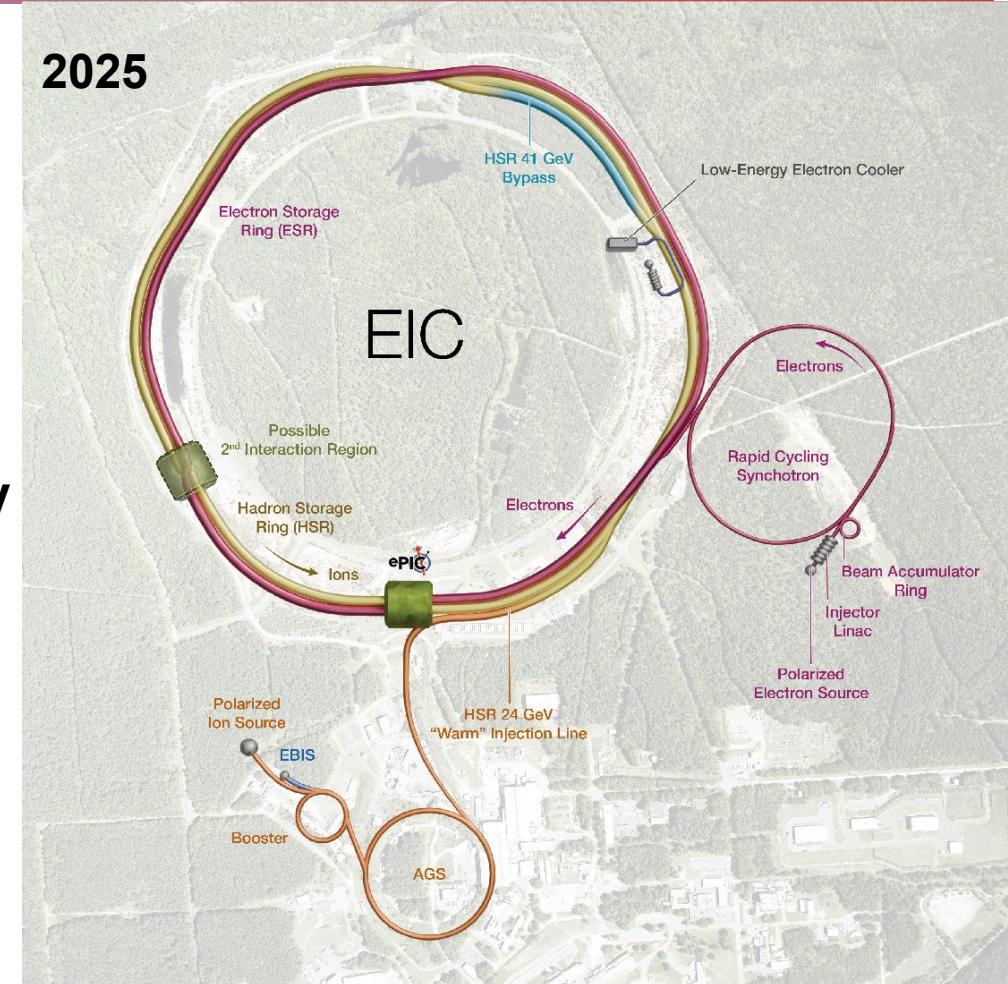
- Hadron Beam Cooling
- Spin-preserving beam optics
  - High polarization for both beams from source to collisions
  - Swap-out injection for electron bunches (at 1 Hz) to maintain high polarization in the ESR
- Crab cavities
  - Large-size, complex geometries;
  - Very tight phase and amplitude noise 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"><li>• EIC Global Parameters List (draft) – now under version control</li></ul>
2026	Draft Preliminary Design Report posted for <b>August 2025 IPR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Final version will be released by Summer 2026</b></li></ul>

**The EIC Accelerator design is stable.**

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

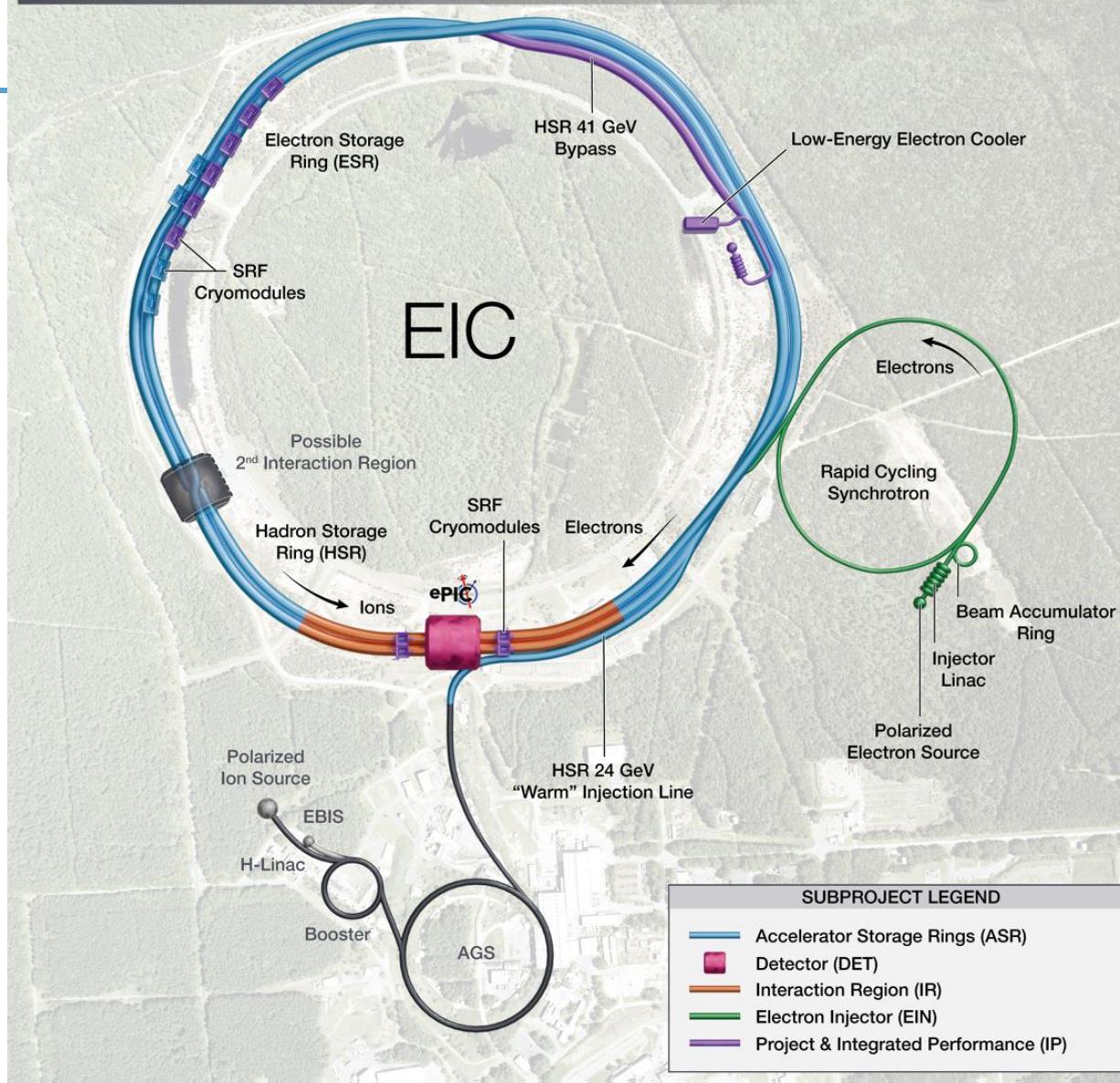
# Sub-projects

Sub-project	Design maturity and risk
CD-3A, CD-3B, and NYS	Baselined (CD3A). NYS Secure.
<b>Accelerator Storage Rings (ASR)</b>	<b>High design maturity. Low risk.</b>
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.

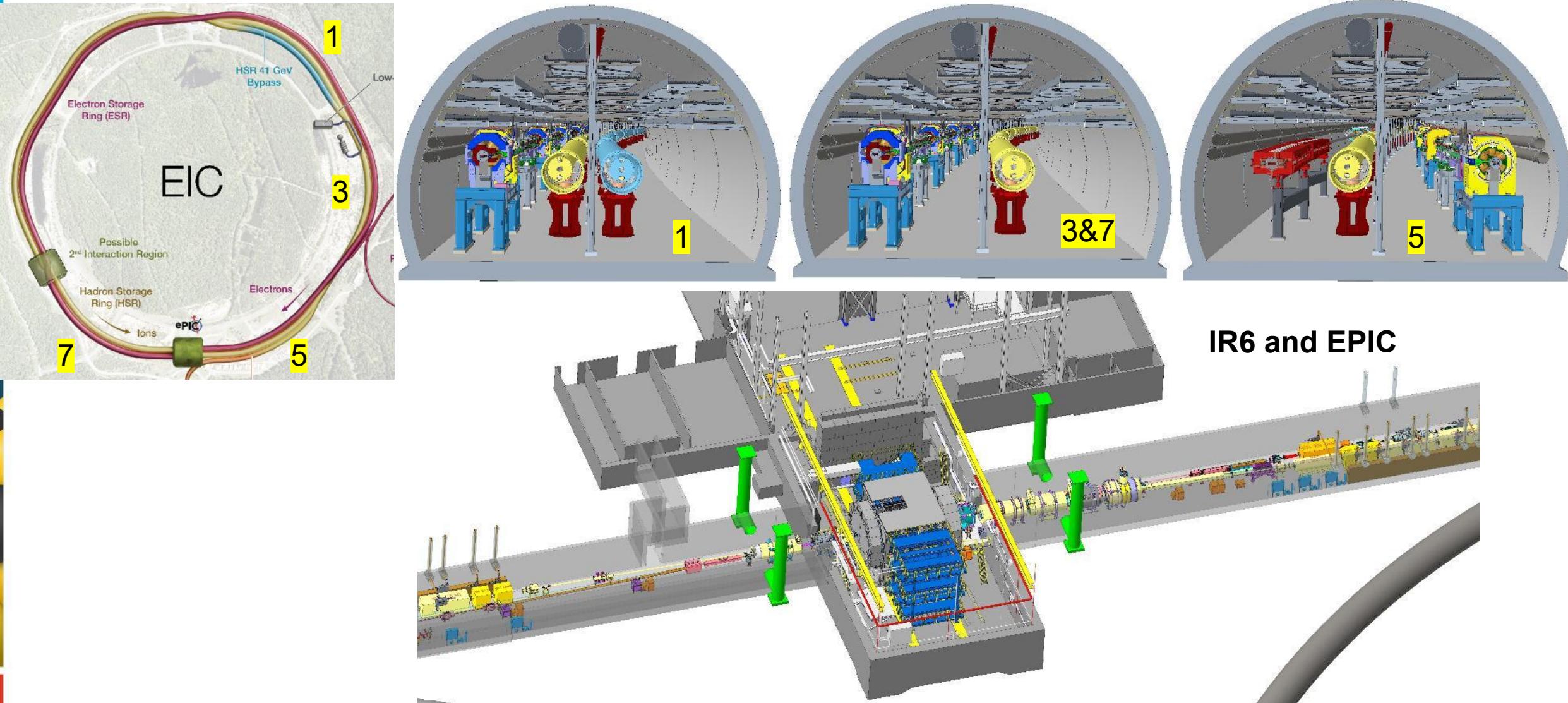
Stability of overall EIC design allowed for an efficient scope split into sub-projects

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

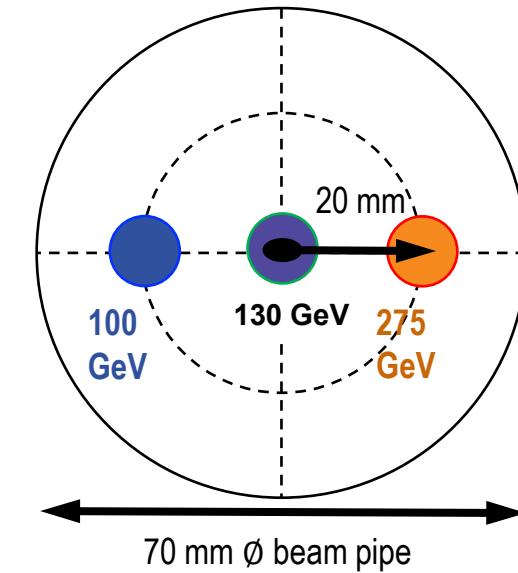
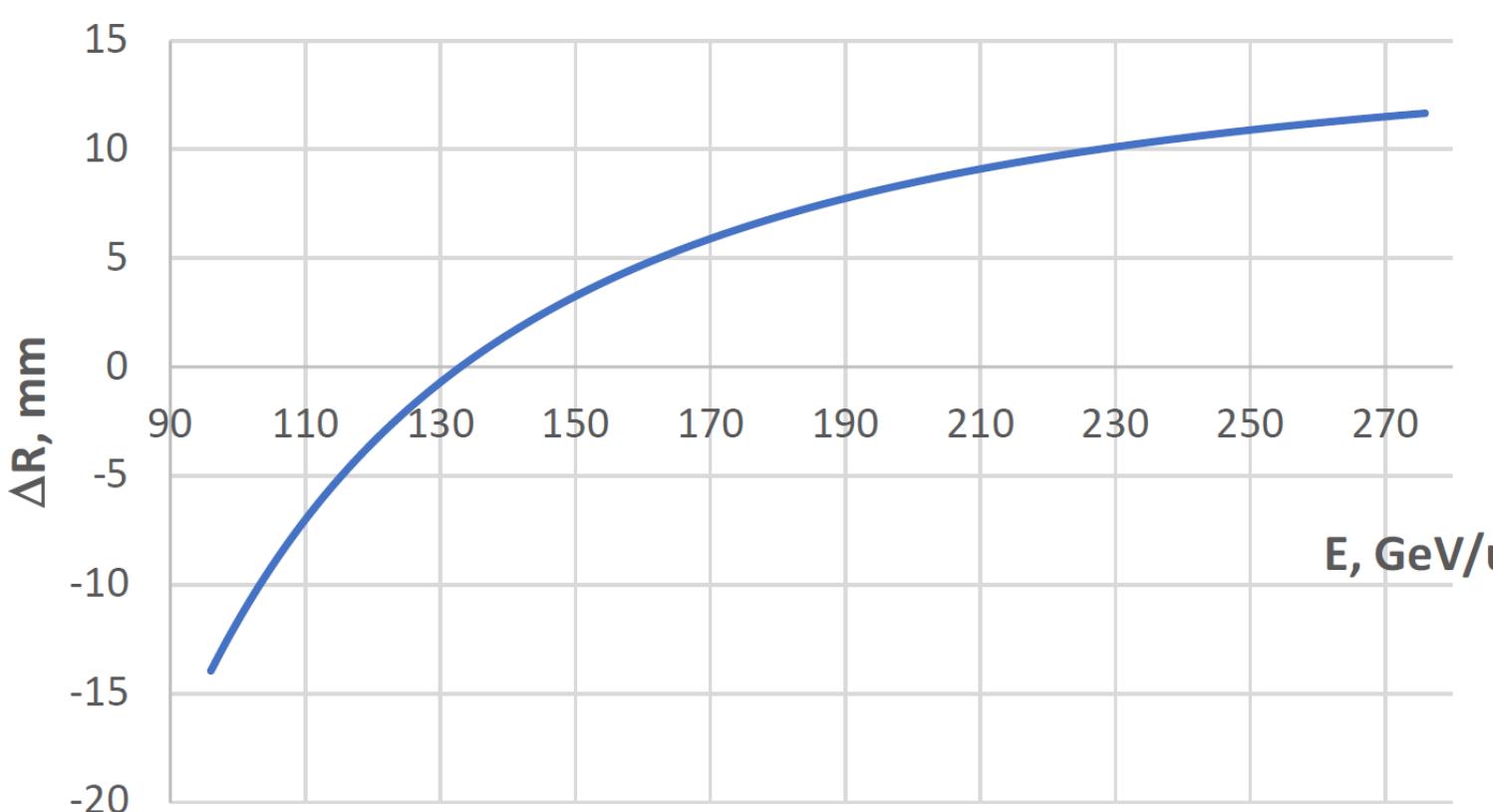
## FULL PROJECT SCOPE (FPS)



# Collider Layout



# Beam Energy and Average Orbit Radius in the HSR

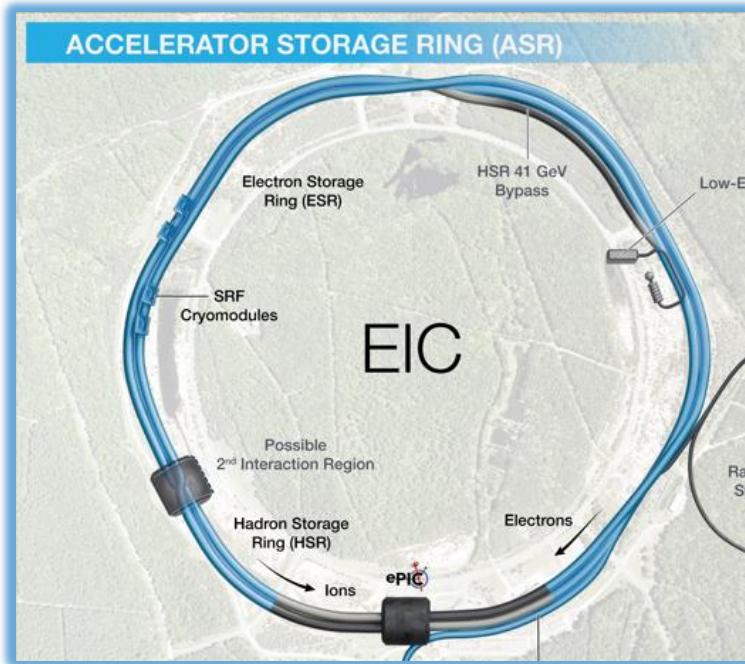


Since the electron revolution frequency is fixed, the hadron orbit must be adjusted with energy to keep the collisions in sync.

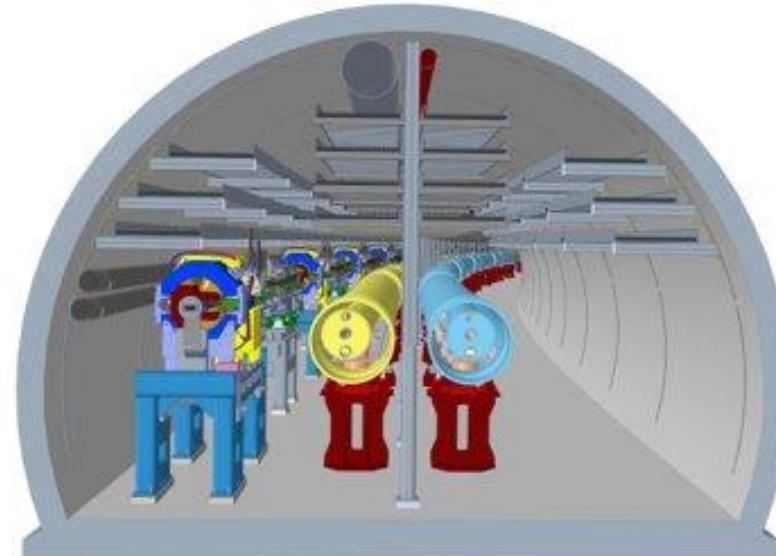
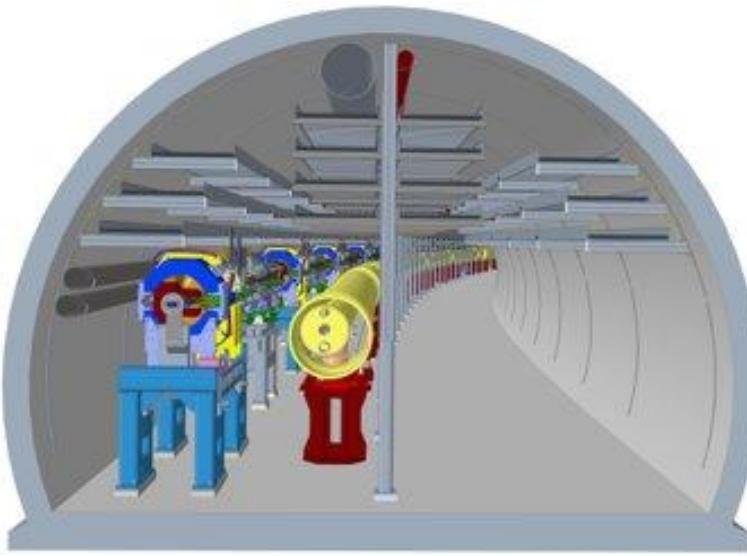
# The 41-GeV 'bypass'

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

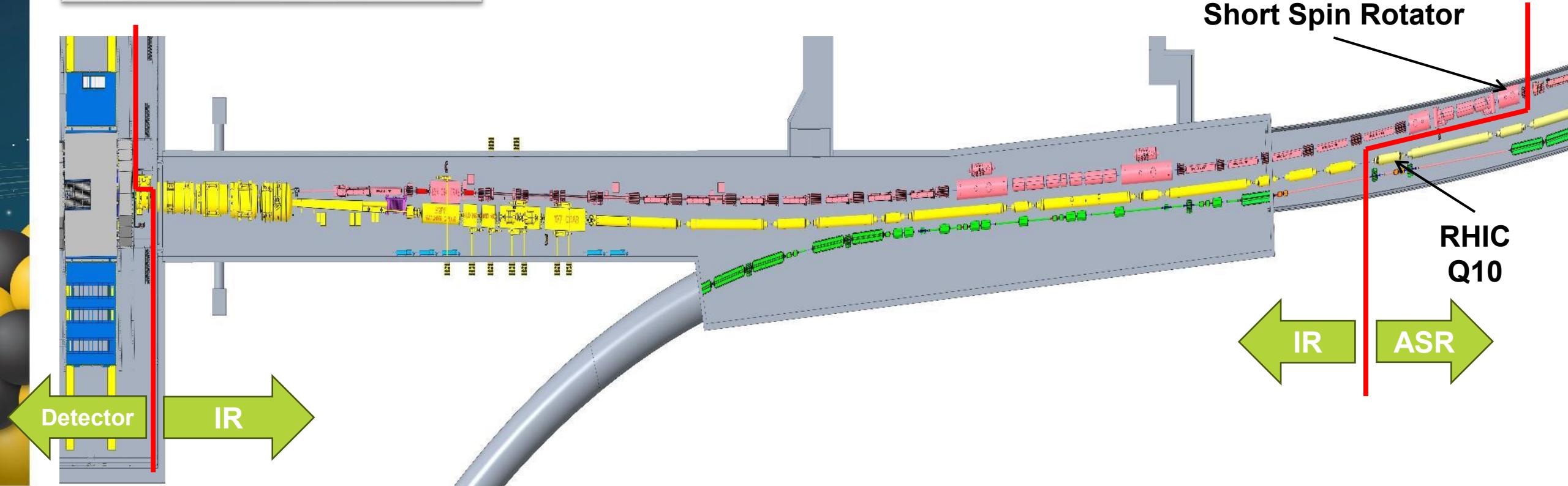
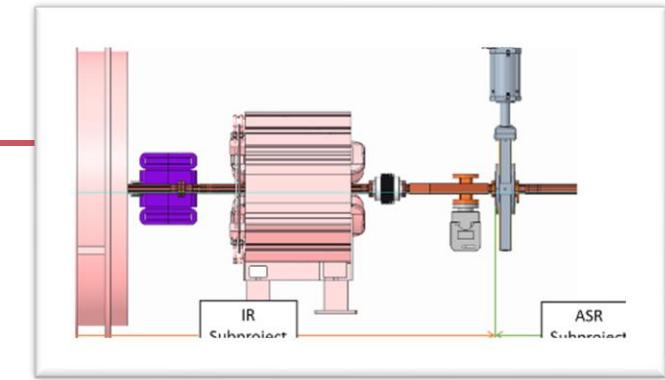
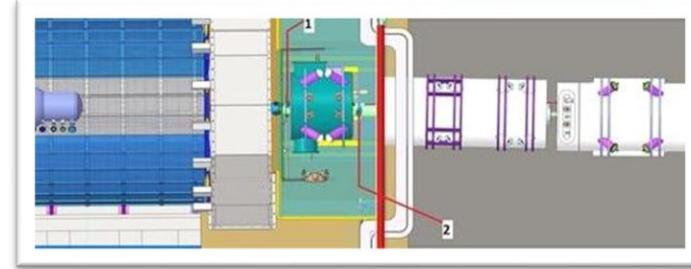
MNS: 



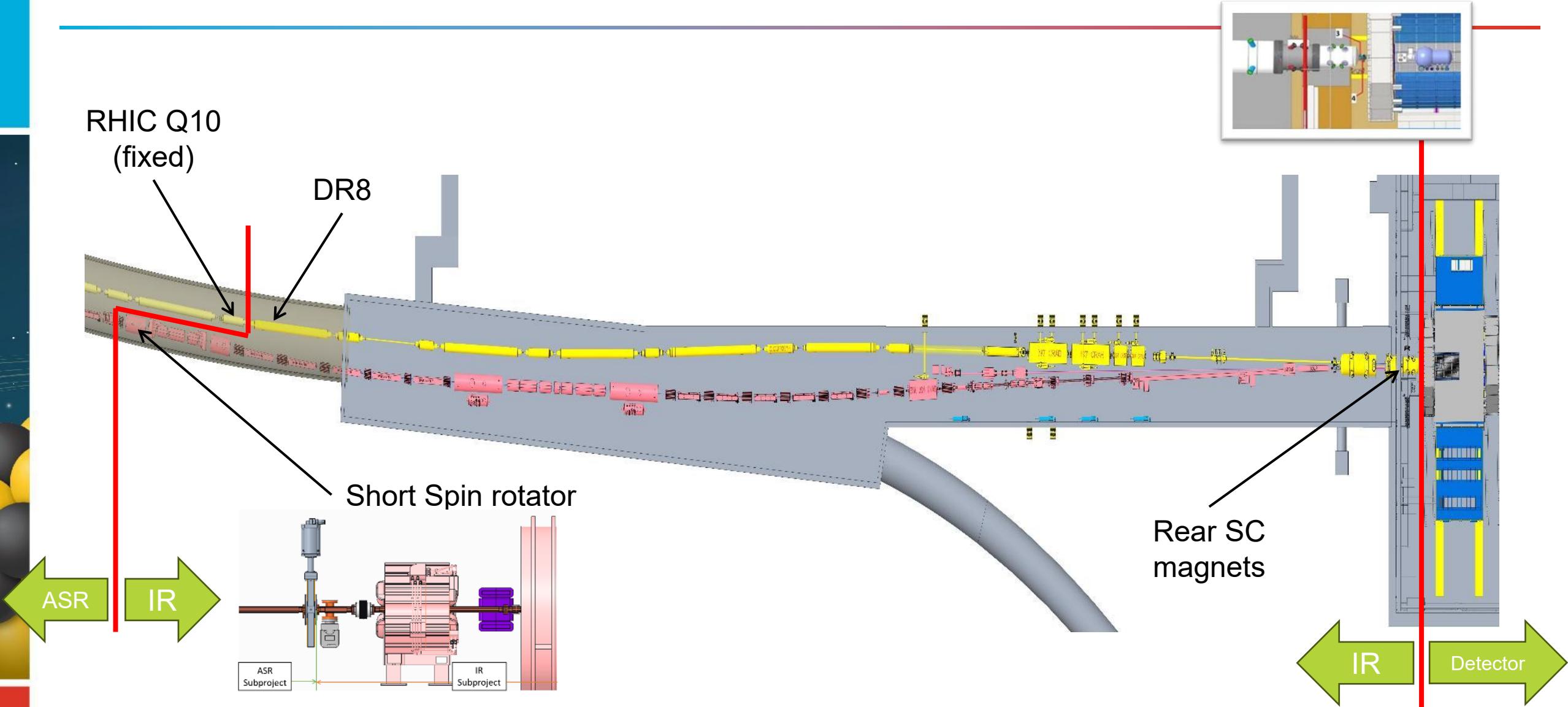
Sector 1 without and with the 41-GeV bypass line



# ePIC Interfaces in Sector 5

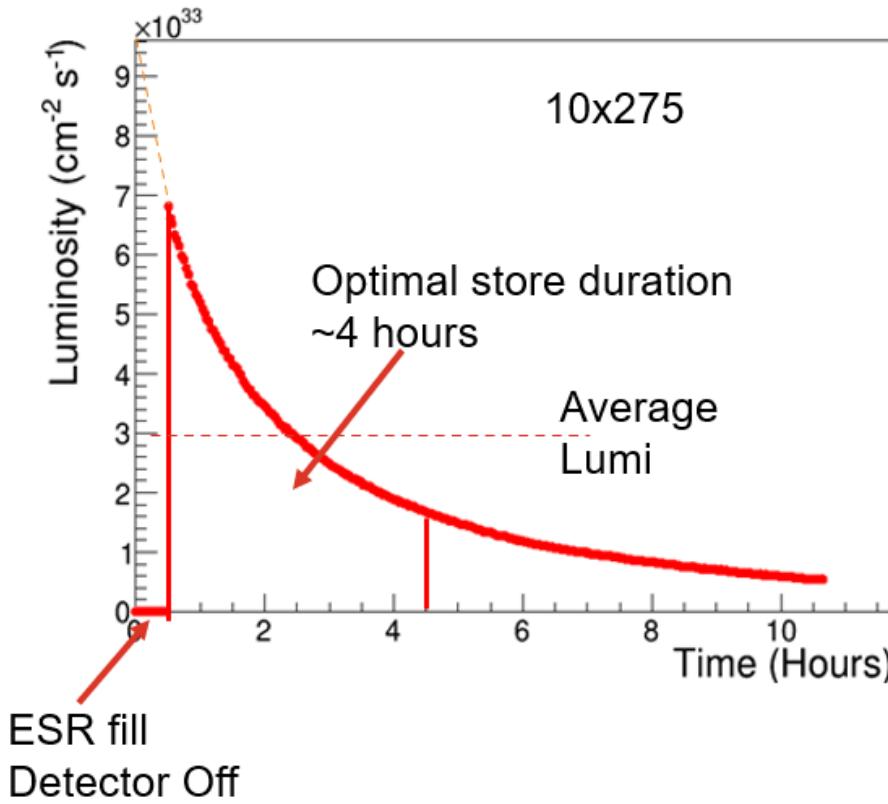


# ePIC Interfaces in Sector 7

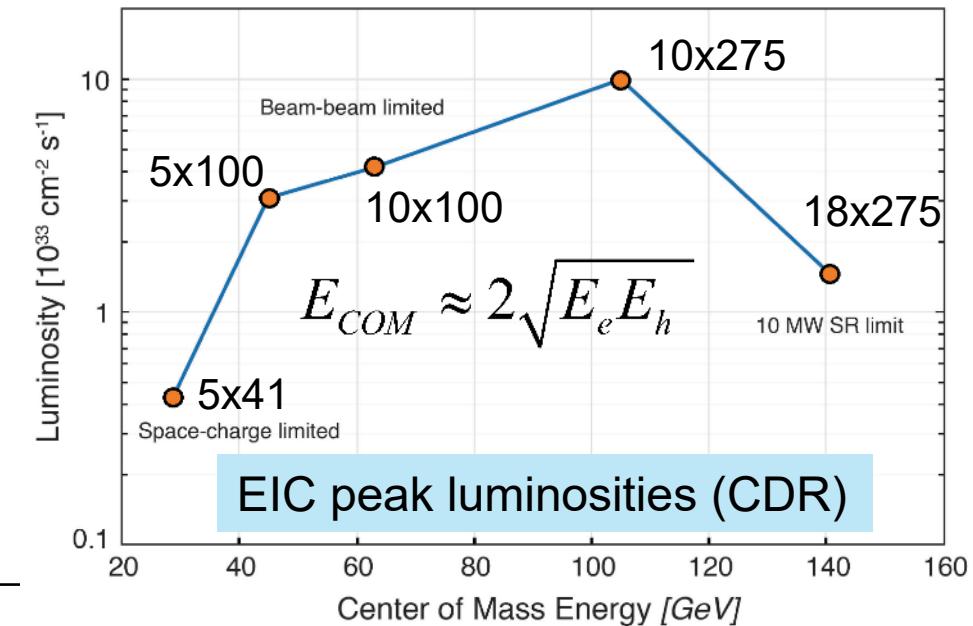


# Luminosity Performance Meets the Established Requirements

“Flat” proton bunches allow for high initial luminosity.

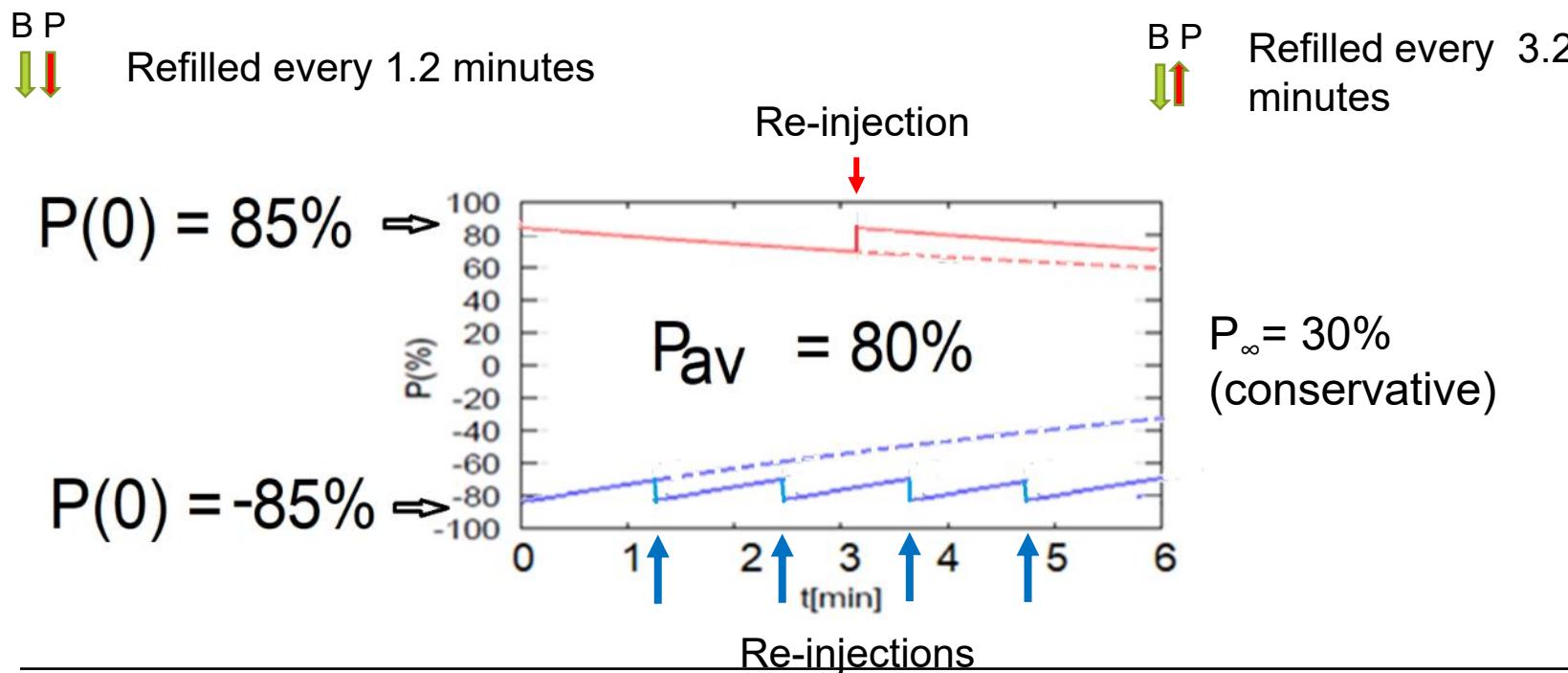


CoM Energy (GeV)	Average Lumi ( $\times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) (per 4-hour store)
105	3
63	1.2
45	1
140	0.44
29	0.13



# Polarization Performance Meets the Established Requirements

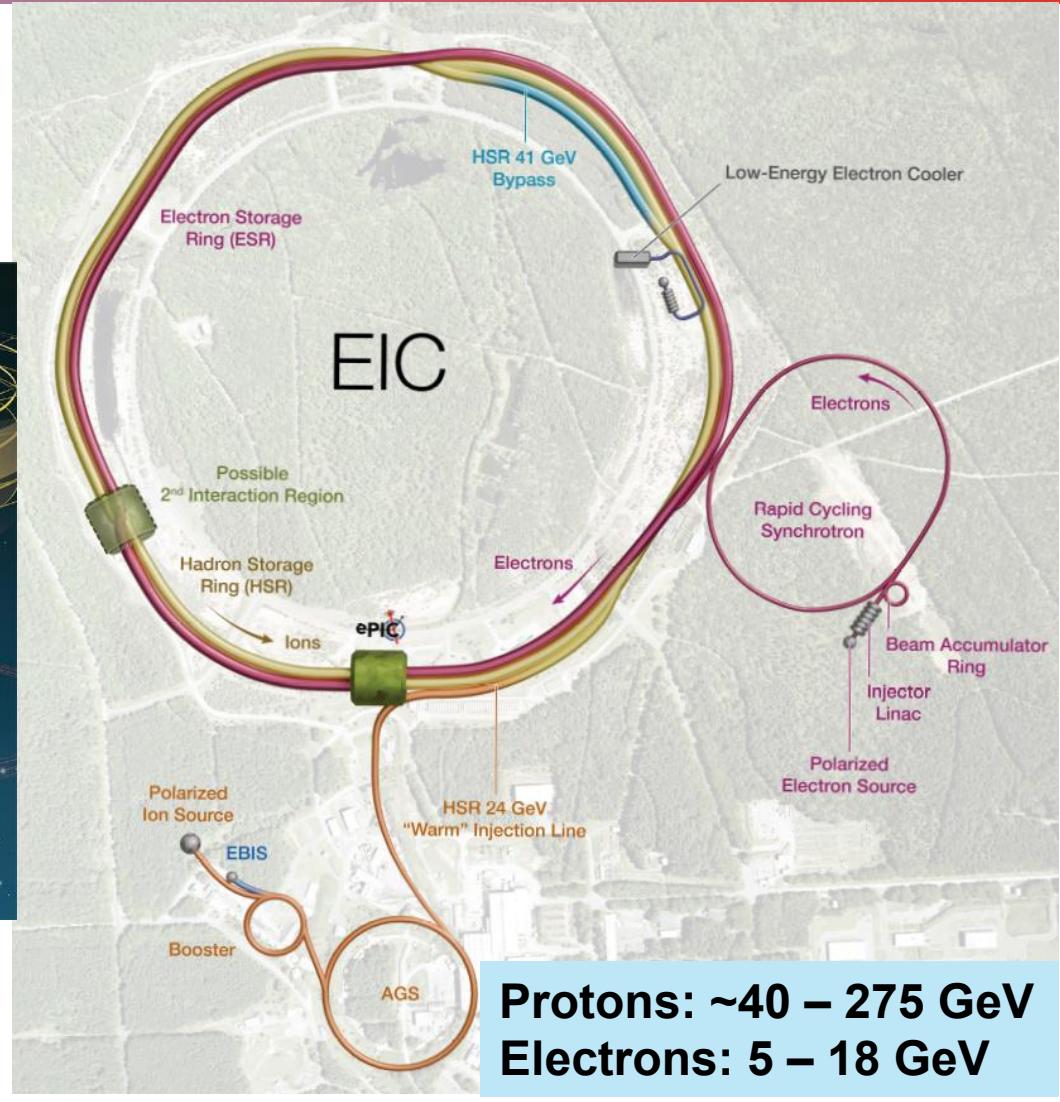
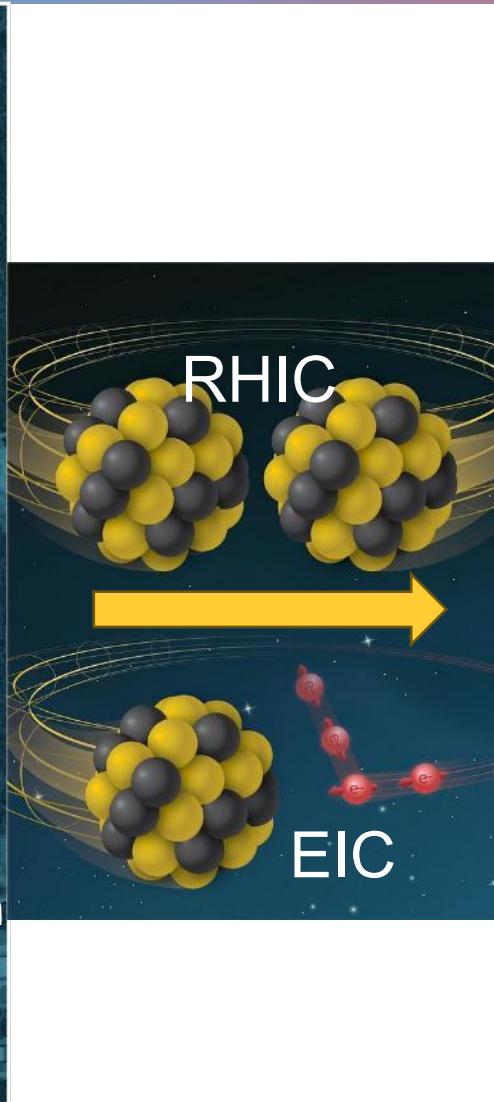
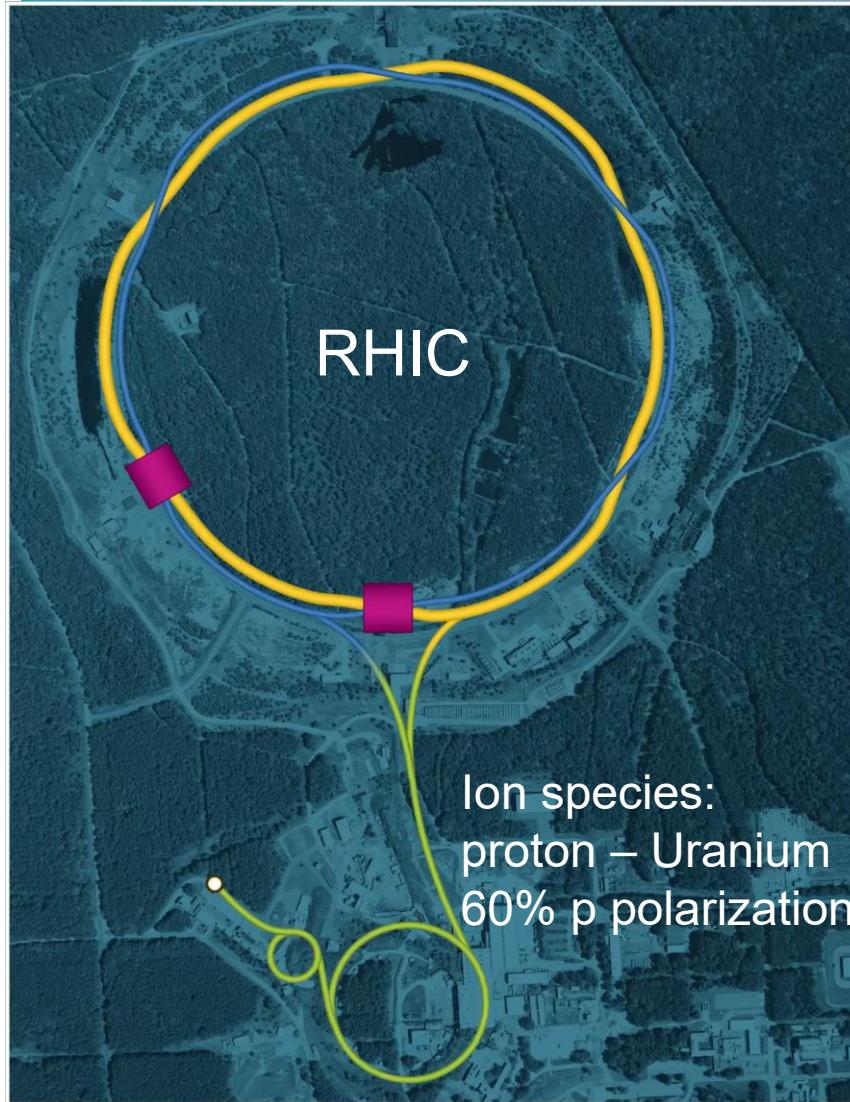
- Frequent swap-out injection of bunches with high initial polarization of 85%
  - Bunch spacing is  $\sim 10$  ns
  - Initial polarization decays towards  $P_\infty$
  - At 18 GeV, every bunch is replaced (on average) after 2.2 min with RCS cycling rate of 1Hz



HSR proton polarization performance also meets the requirements.

Present RHIC proton polarization is 60%

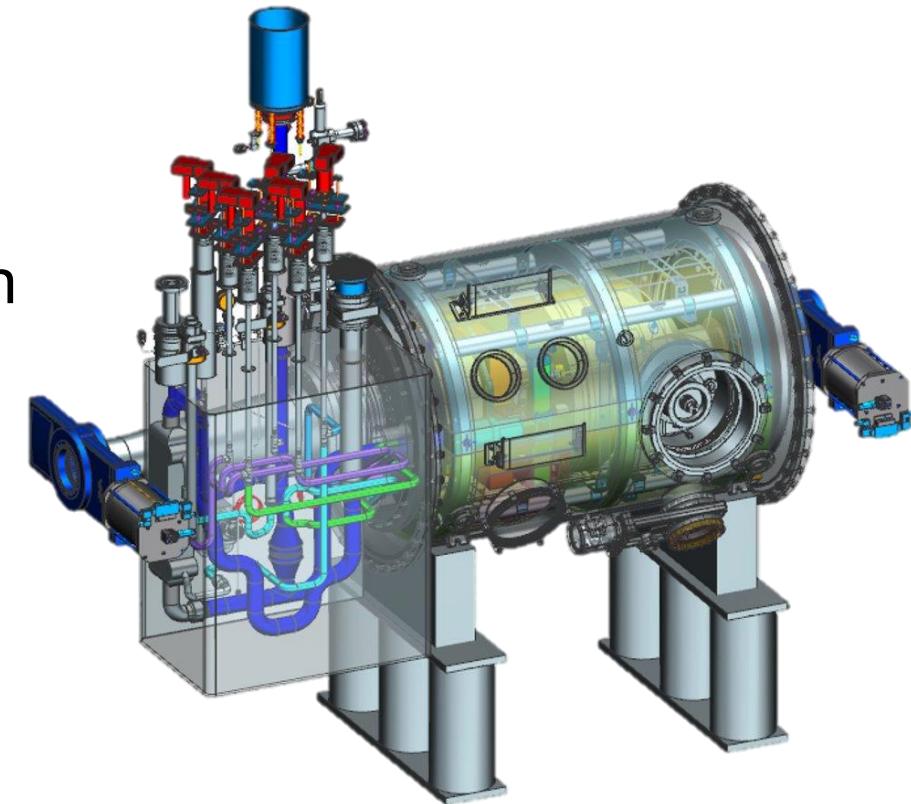
# From RHIC to EIC



# 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



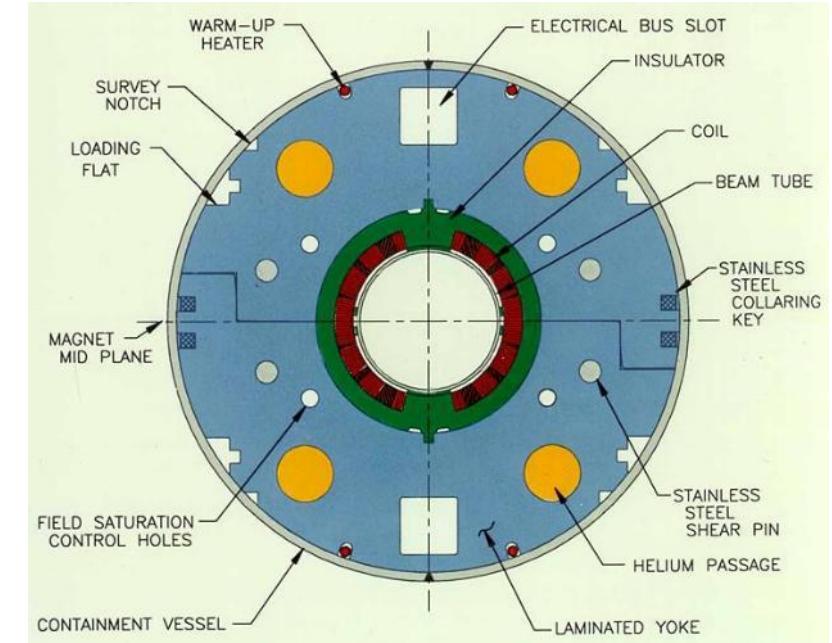
Superconducting Radio Frequency Cavity

# 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 ( $1.2 \times 10^{11}$  ppb)



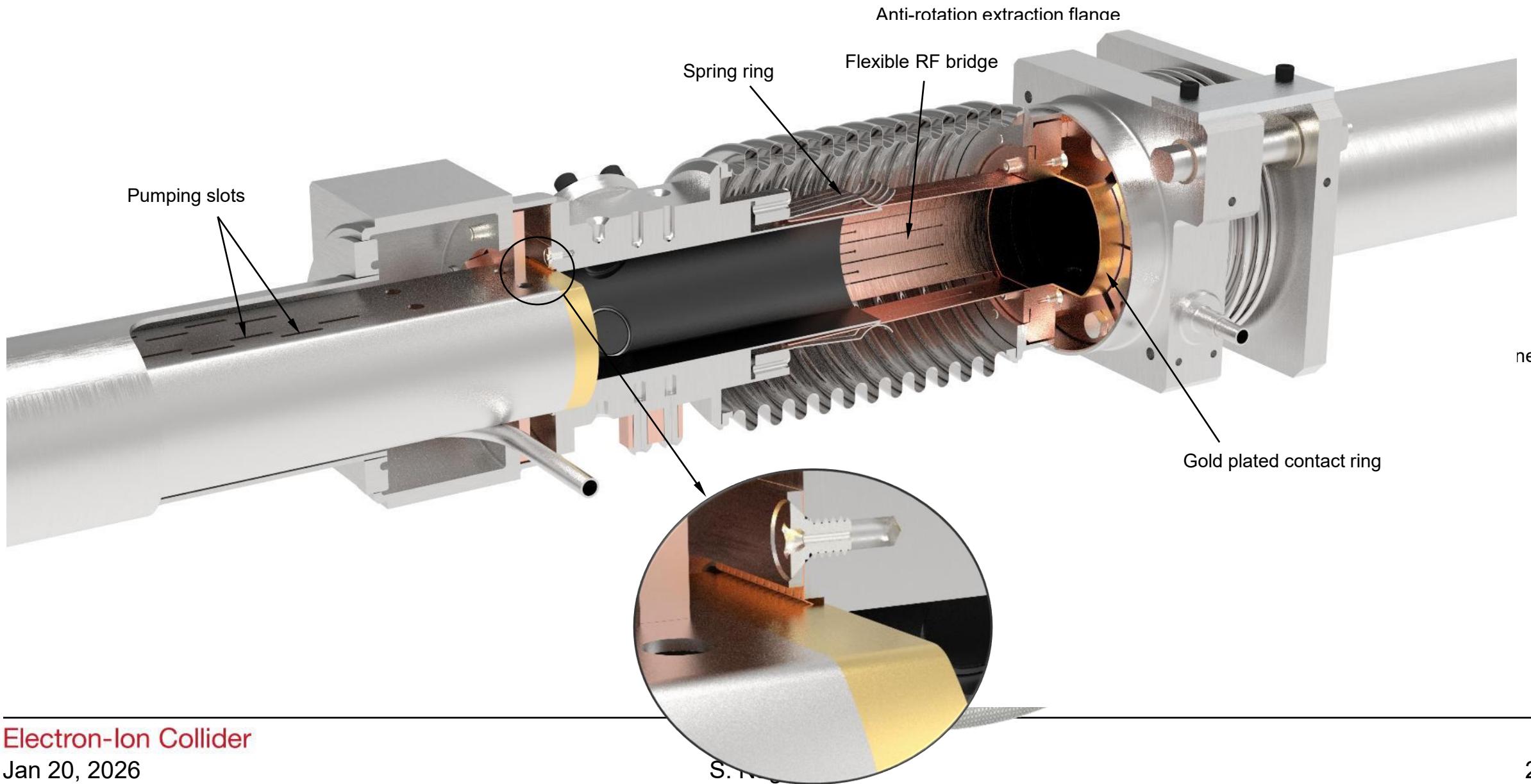
Electron ion collider



Actively Cooled Beam Screen  
CD3A procurement

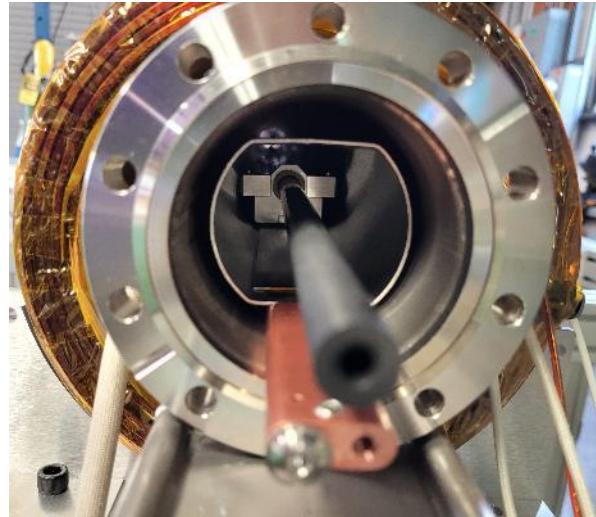


# Magnet Interconnect Assembly

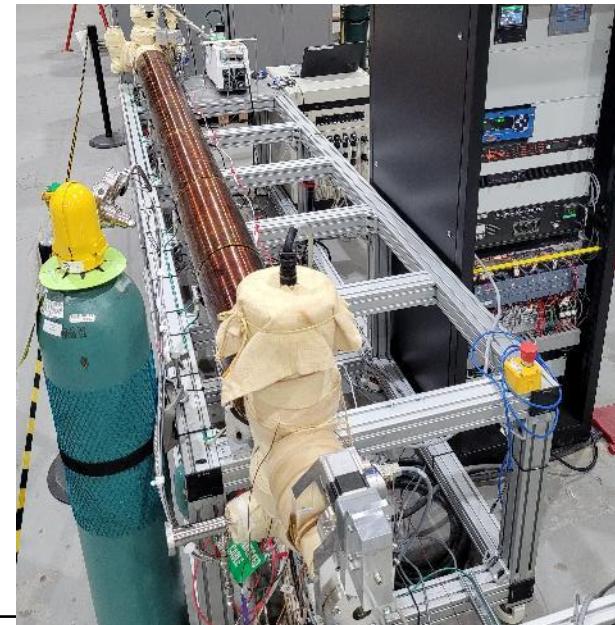


# a-Carbon Coating

- 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



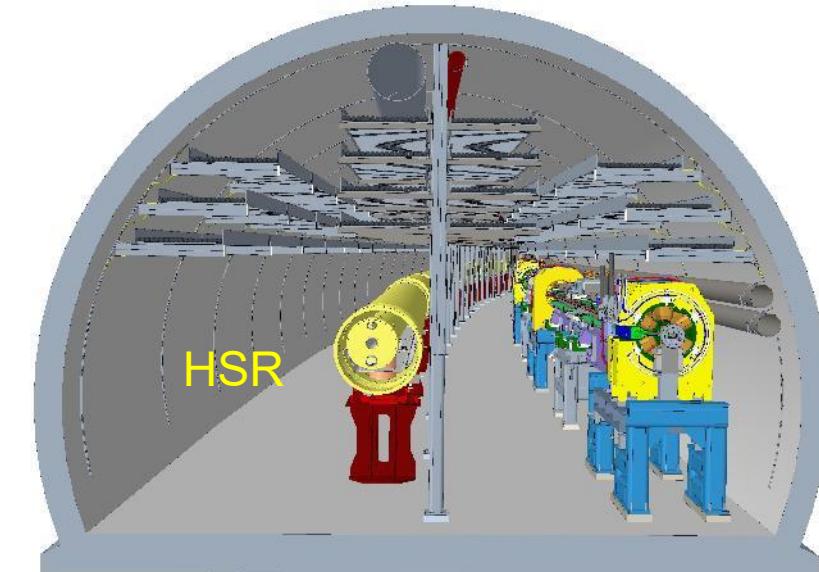
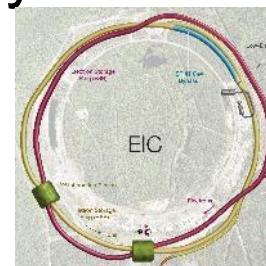
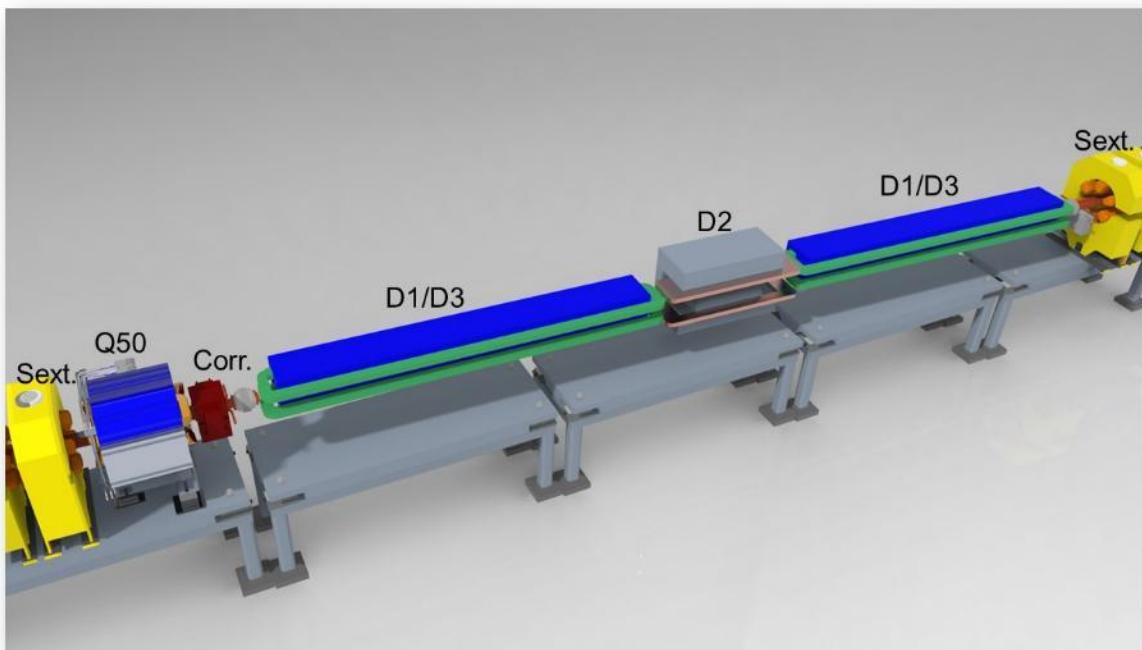
Cleaning facility



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  $\sim 2.5$  A and the synchrotron radiation power of  $\sim 10$  MW

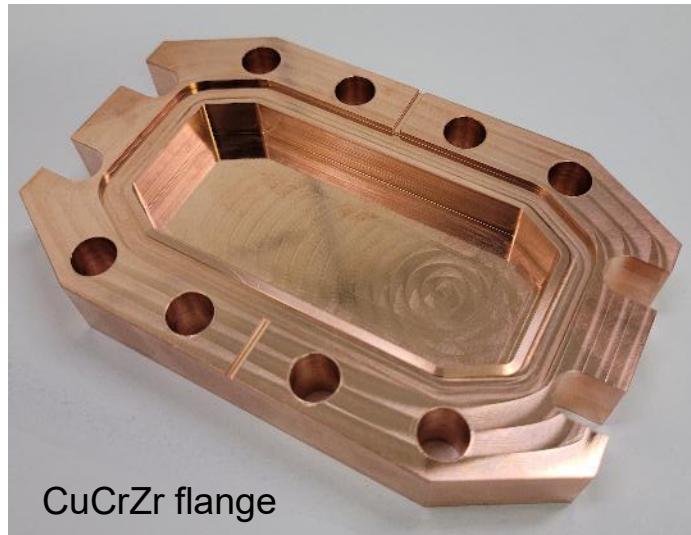


EIC needs **nearly constant (20 to 24 nm) emittance** from **5 to 18 GeV** for optimum luminosity, but equilibrium emittance in an electron storage ring depends on beam energy.

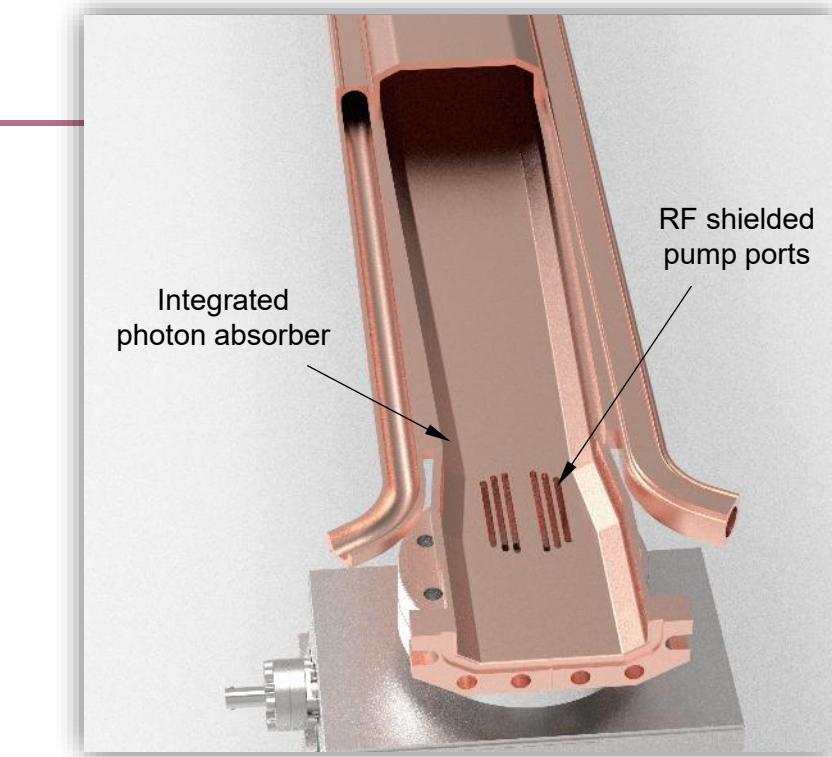
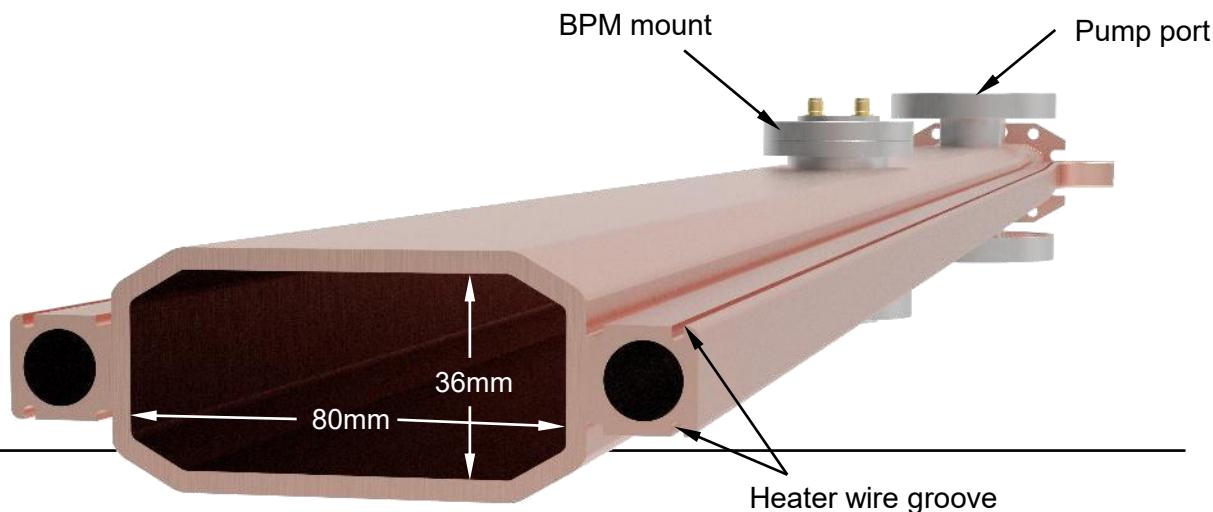
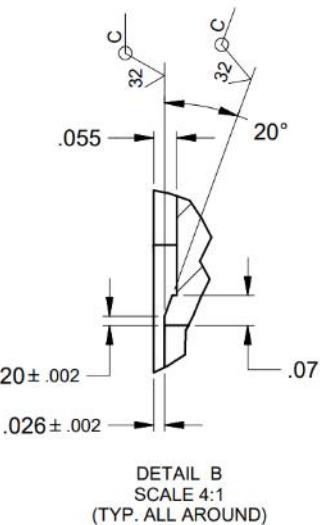
We will use 'super bends' (reverse bends) for emittance control below 10 GeV

# 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



CuCrZr flange



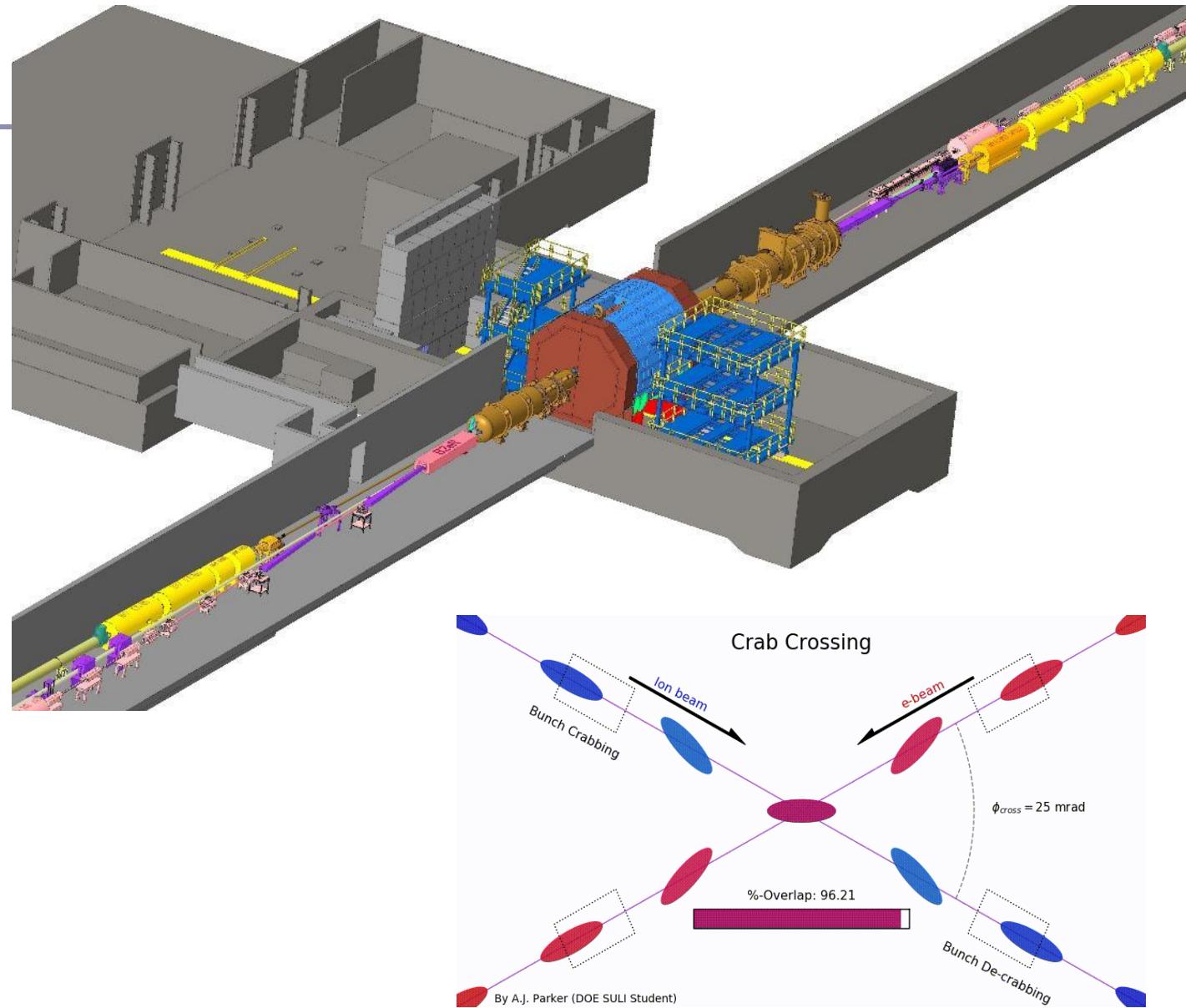
# EIC IR Layout

## High Luminosity:

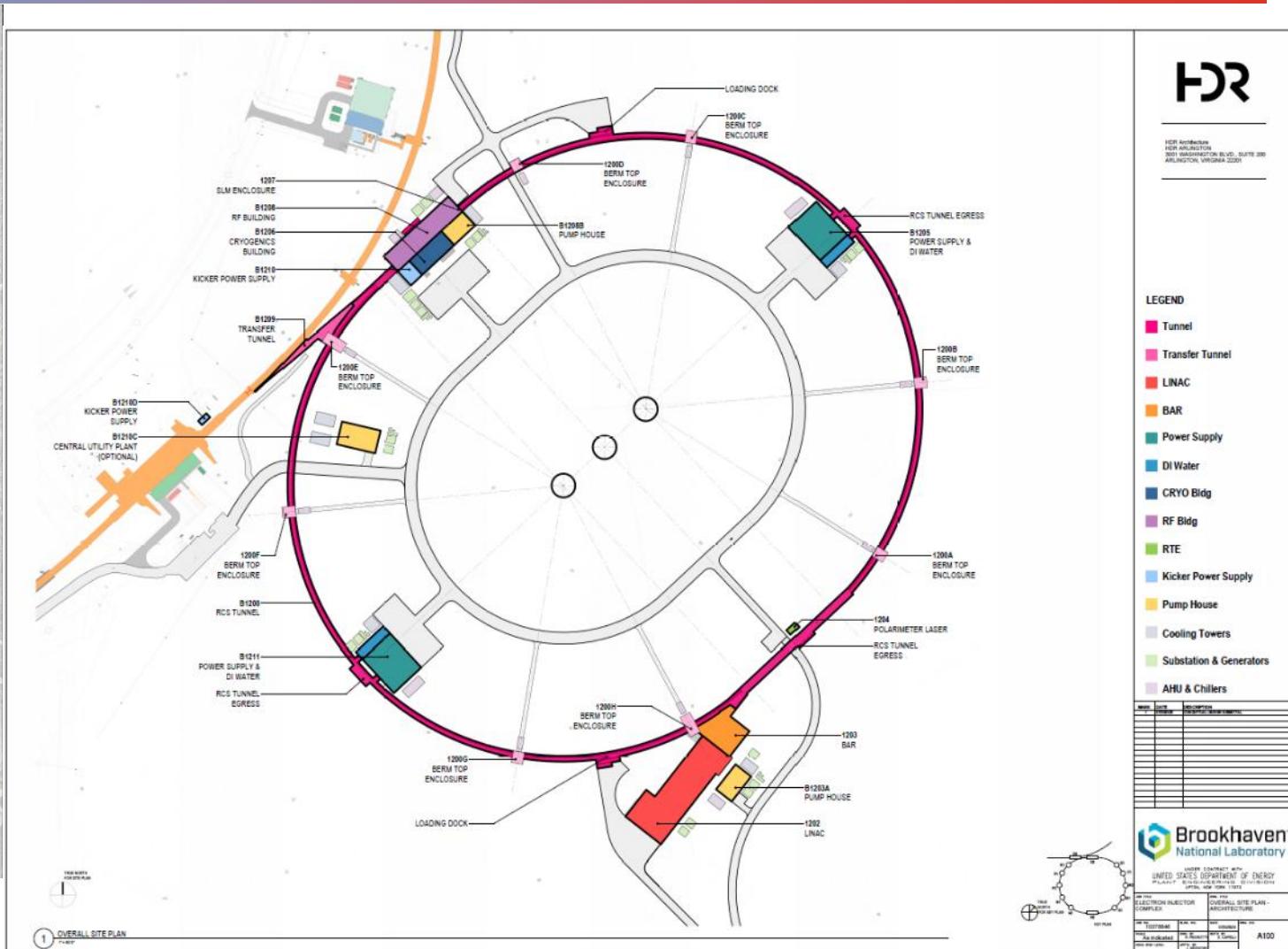
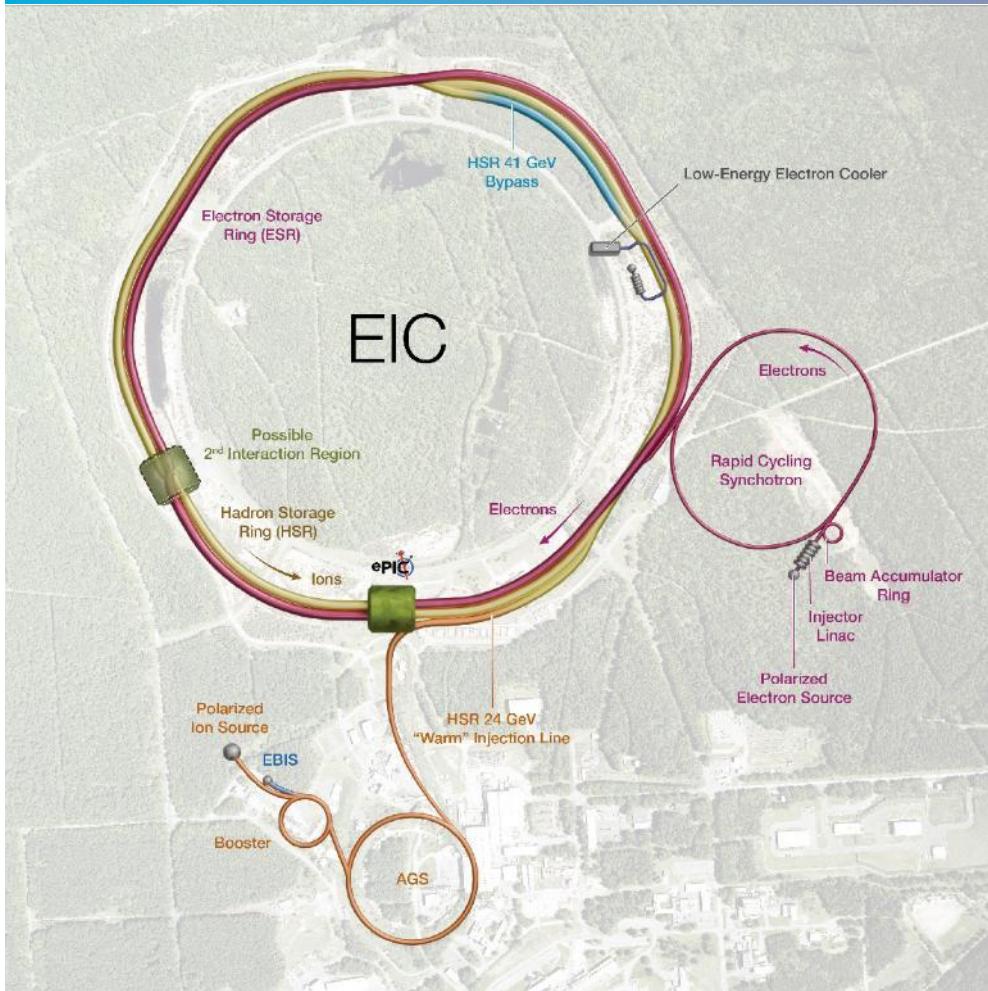
- 25 mrad crossing angle
- Small  $\beta^*$  for high luminosity with limited IR chromaticity contributions
- Large final focus quadrupole aperture

## 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"



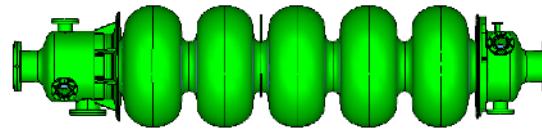
# Electron Injector



# 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.

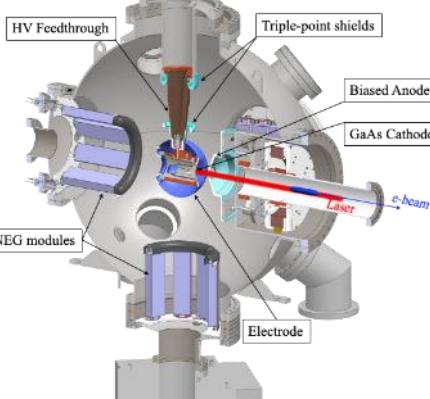


RCS SRF Cavity, 591 MHz

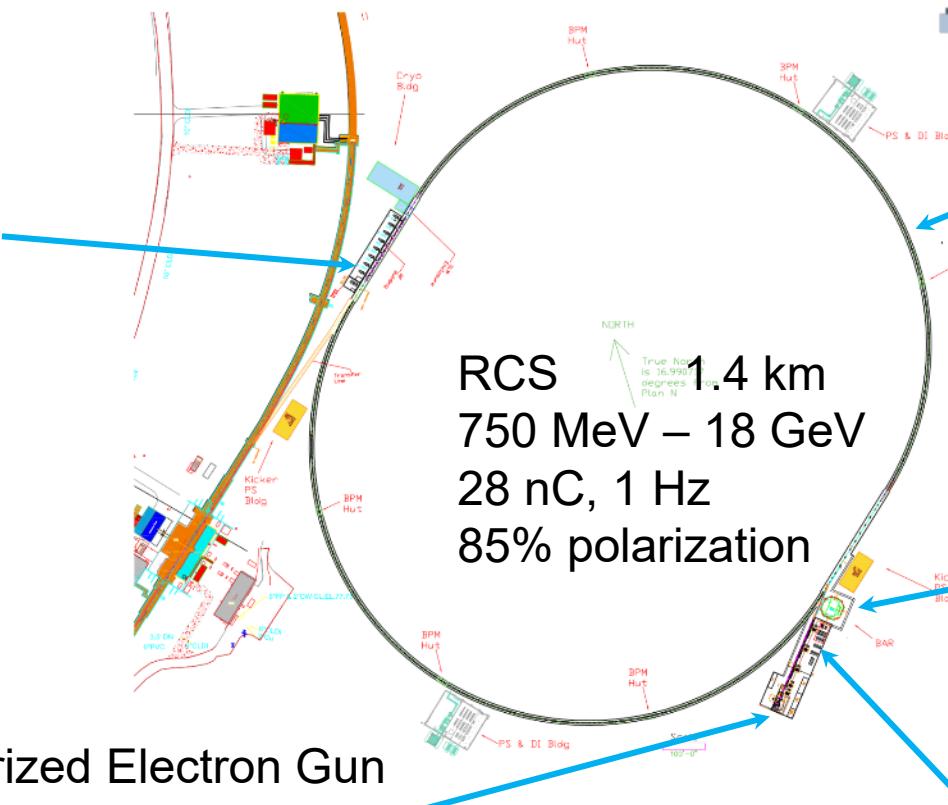
RESEARCH ARTICLE | JUNE 17 2024  
High-intensity polarized electron gun featuring distributed Bragg reflector GaAs photocathode 

Erdong Wang  ; Omer Rehman  ; Jyoti Biswas  ; John Skaritka  ; Patrick Inacker  ; Wei Liu  ; Ronald Nepol  ; Matthew Penrice 

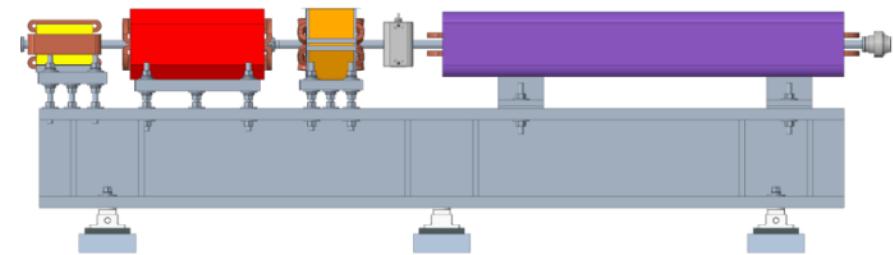
[Check for updates](#)  
Appl. Phys. Lett. 124, 254101 (2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0216604>



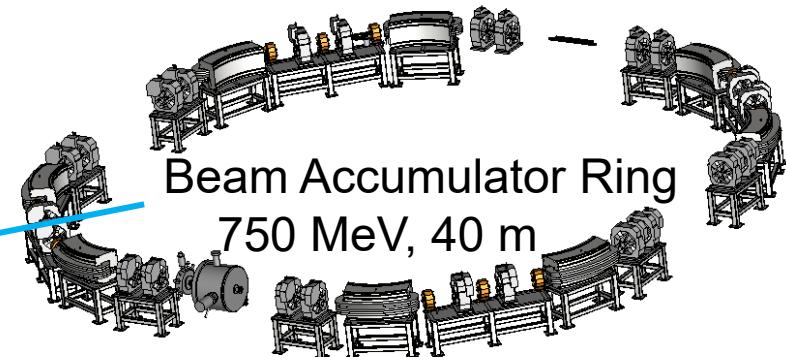
Polarized Electron Gun  
1-nC, 30 Hz



RCS  
1.4 km  
750 MeV – 18 GeV  
28 nC, 1 Hz  
85% polarization



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



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:  $E_{cm} = 28 - 140 \text{ GeV}$
- Large Ion Species Range: protons – Uranium
- Large Detector Forward Acceptance and Low-Background Conditions
- Possibility to Implement a Second Interaction Region (IR)

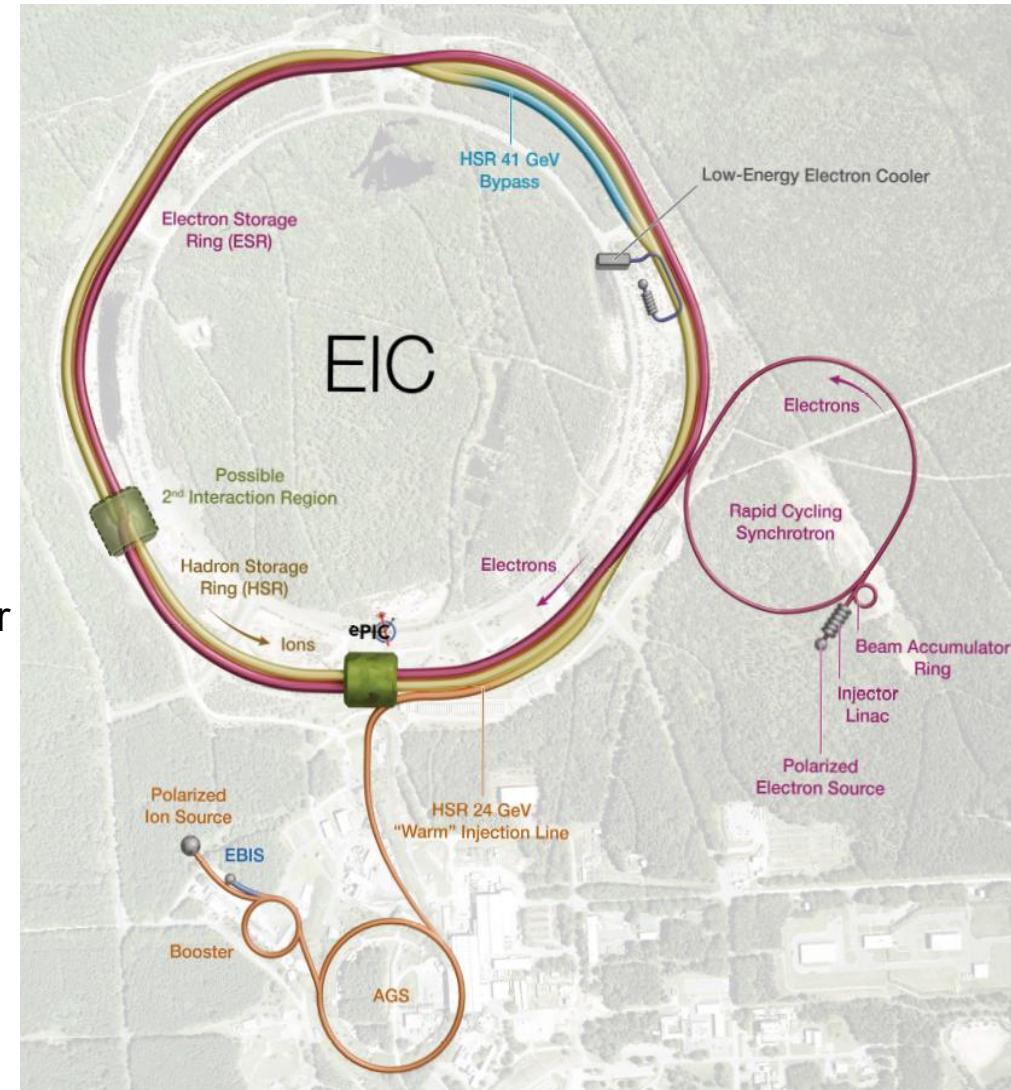
## Accelerator Status at a glance:

- ✓ 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

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- 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!**