

DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE



# SPALAX-New Generation: Deployment, Operation and Performances

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CTBTO SnT2017

Science and Technology 2017, 26-30 June 2017, Vienna (Austria)

# Summary

## *Context & Challenges*

*2012 – 2017: From the SPALAX to the SPALAX-New Generation*

*Deployment & Operation*

*Sequence of operations & Performances*

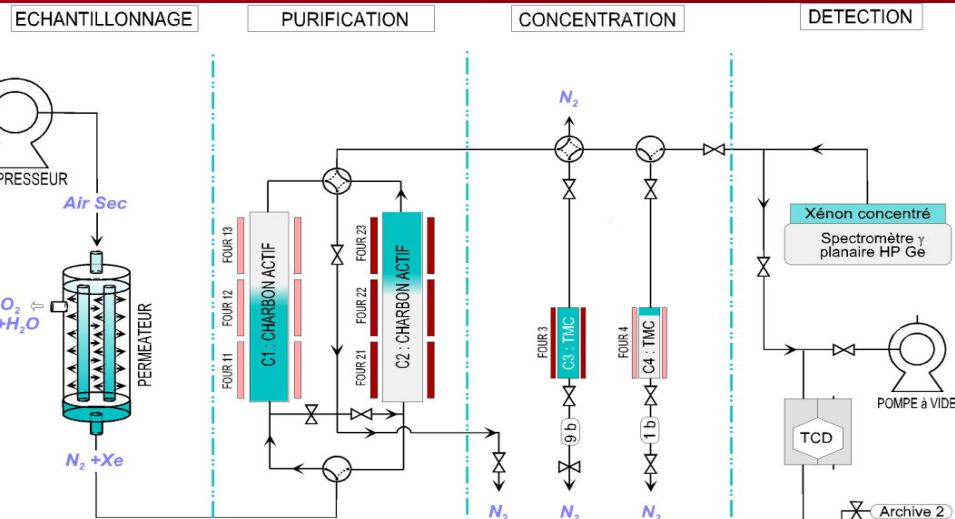
*Roadmap*



# Context



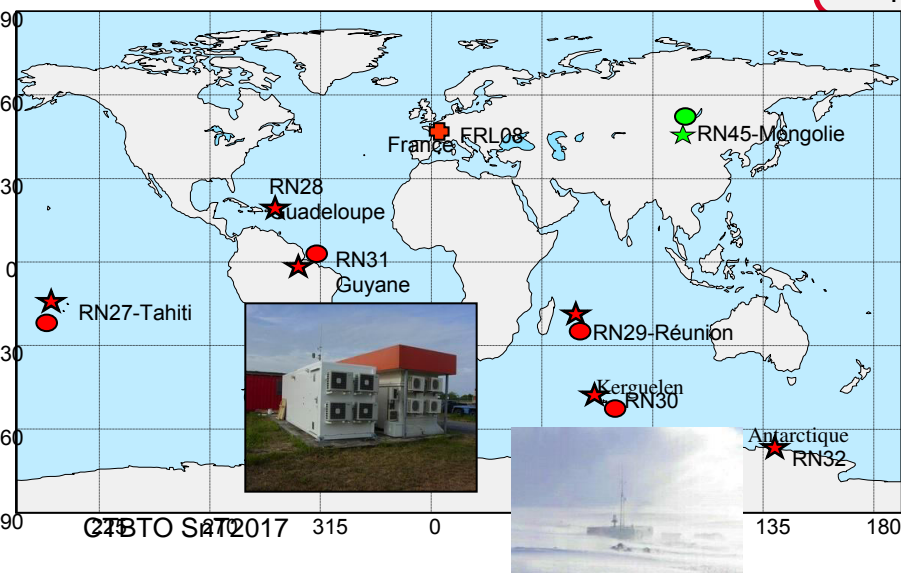
SPALAX, Système de Prélèvement en Ligne avec Analyse du Xénon (CEA/DAM/DIF/DASE, 2004)



Air sampling and purification across membranes

Xe separation and concentration across adsorbant materials

Détection  
131mXe, 133mXe,  
133Xe, 135Xe



## ❖ SPALAX key dates:

CEA/DASE patent: 1999

First industrial version: 2001-2002

SPALAX-DR (Rapid Deployment): 2009

## ❖ SPALAX inside the IMS:

40 noble gas stations to be installed on the IMS

13 SPALAX already installed or to be installed soon (including 10 certified station) + non-IMS systems (Canada, France, CTBTO...)

# Challenges for a new system

✓ High sensitivity for  $^{133\text{m}}\text{Xe}$  and  $^{131\text{m}}\text{Xe}$  detection (**key role in event discrimination**)

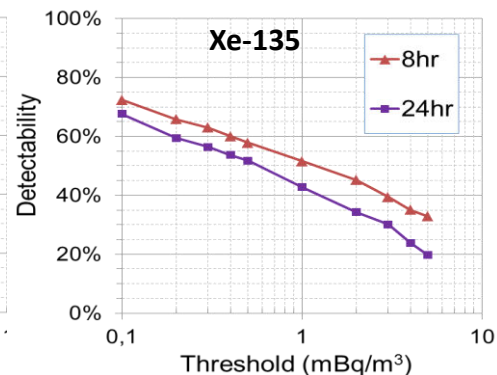
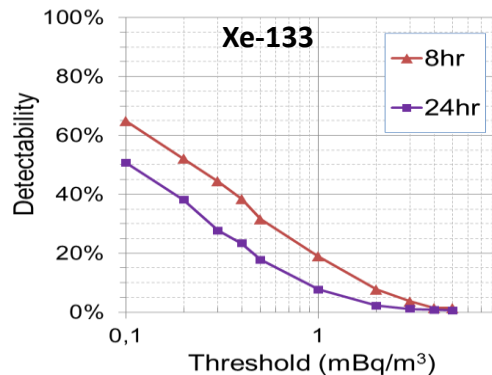
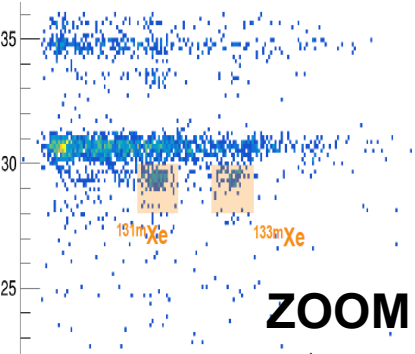
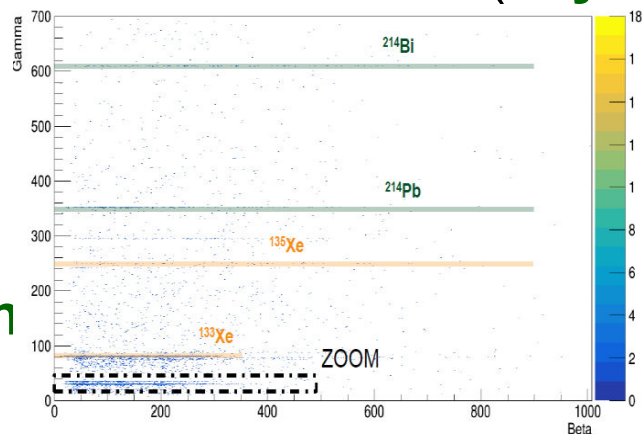
✓ High resolution spectra: **simple analysis, low interference, low correction**

✓ Good source localisation and high detectability: **high sampling frequency**

*P. Achim, G. Le Petit, S. Generoso, M. Morin, P. Gross (2015). Sample integration time influence on the detection of a  $^{133}\text{Xe}$  and  $^{135}\text{Xe}$  prompt release. International Noble Gas Experiment Workshop, Austin, USA*

✓ High reliability / Easy Operation & Maintenance: **harsh environmental conditions taken into account (feedback from 15 years experience)**

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SPALAX-DR during operation in Kuwait



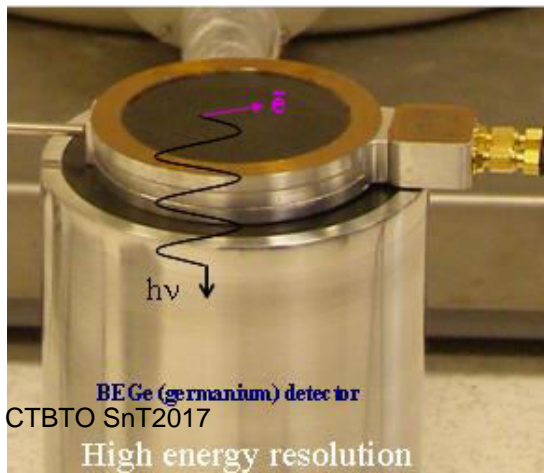
# 2012 – 2017: From the SPALAX to the SPALAX-NG



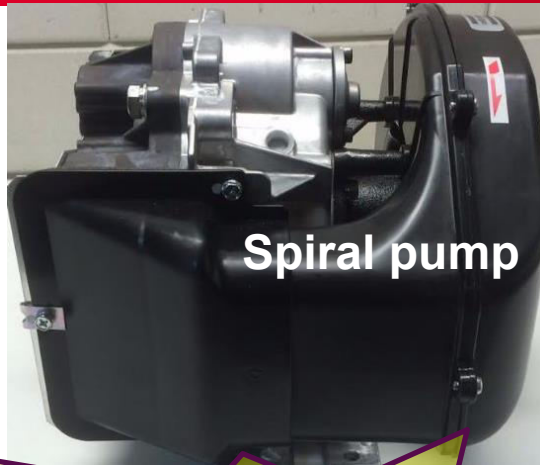
*Sampling stage*

*Purification & Concentration stage*

*Detection stage*



# Sampling stage development



Spiral pump

Old sampling design



New sampling design



Air Liquide membrane



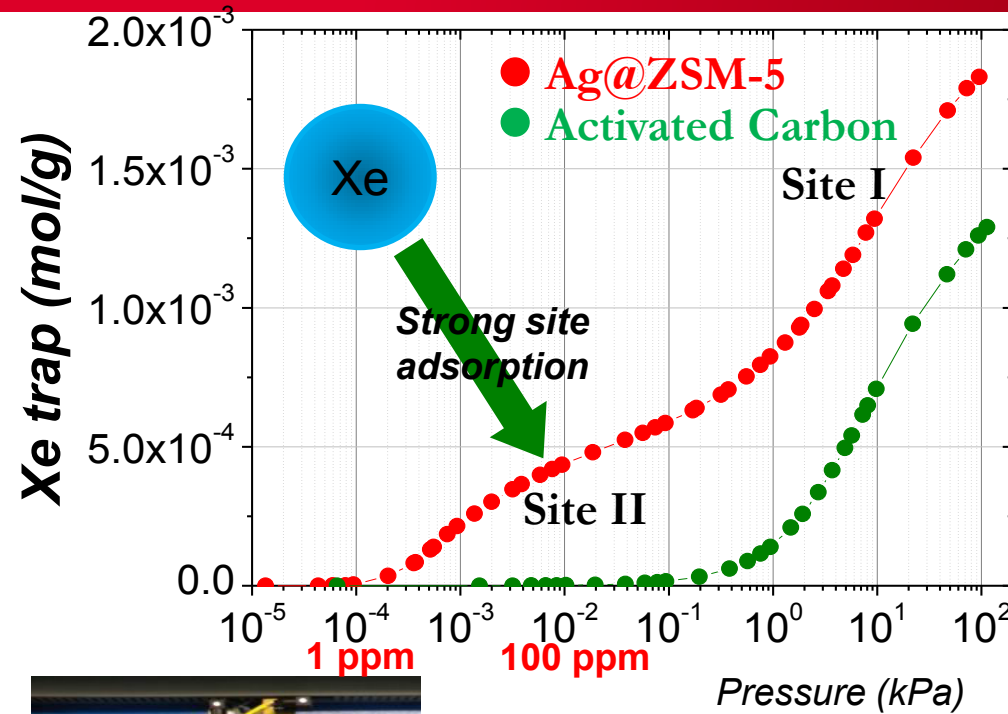
UBE membrane

Sampling  
flow rate X2

Xe enrichment X2

- Larger Xe volume sampled:  $0.2 \text{ cm}^3/\text{h} \rightarrow 0.8 \text{ cm}^3/\text{h}$
- Improved MTBF :  $> + 30 \%$
- Redundancy : 2 compressors operating in parallel

# Purification & Concentration development



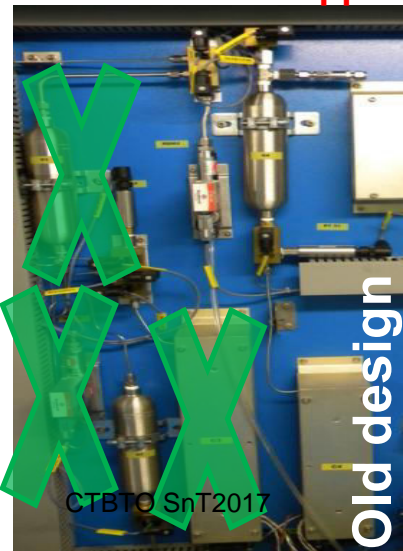
In collaboration with IRCE-Lyon

- 15 x larger retention capacity
- Size and Cost reduction

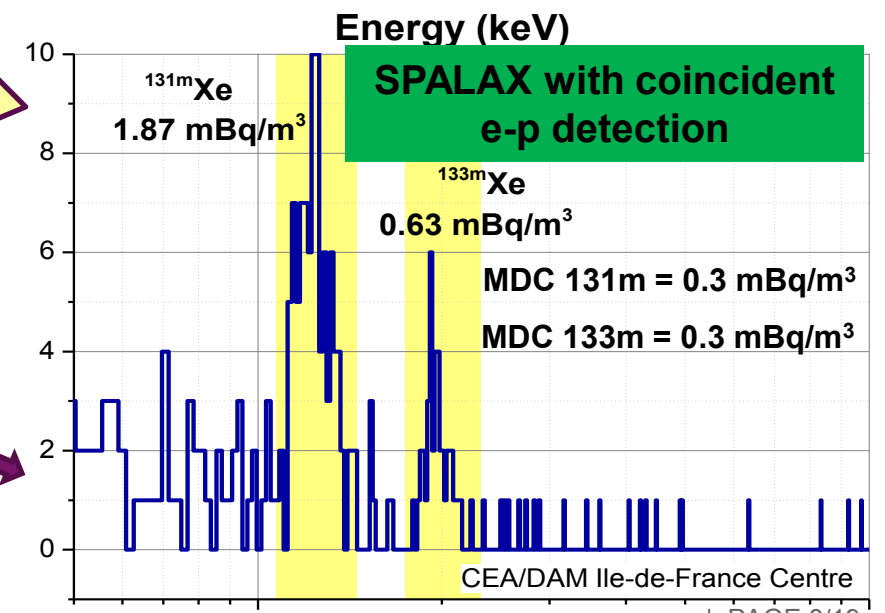
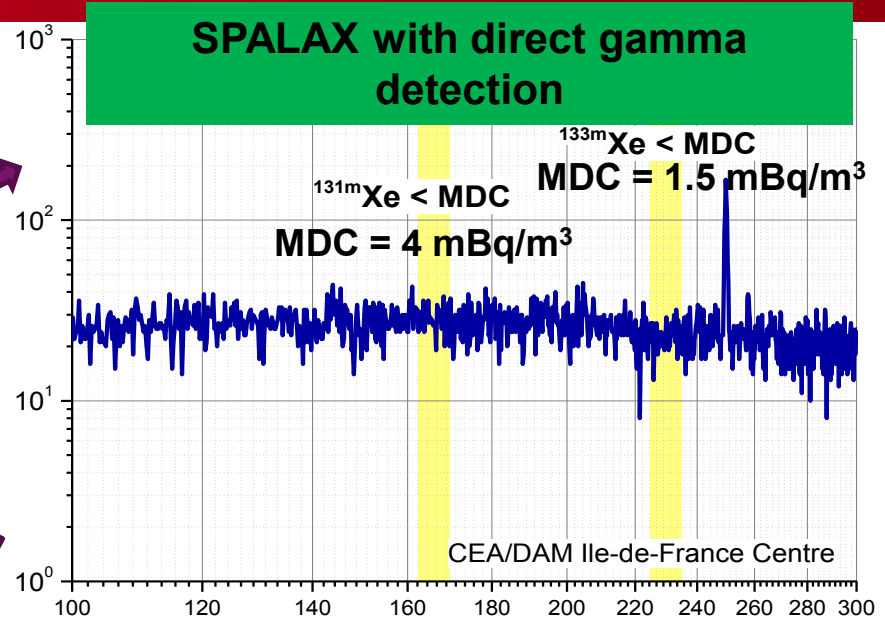
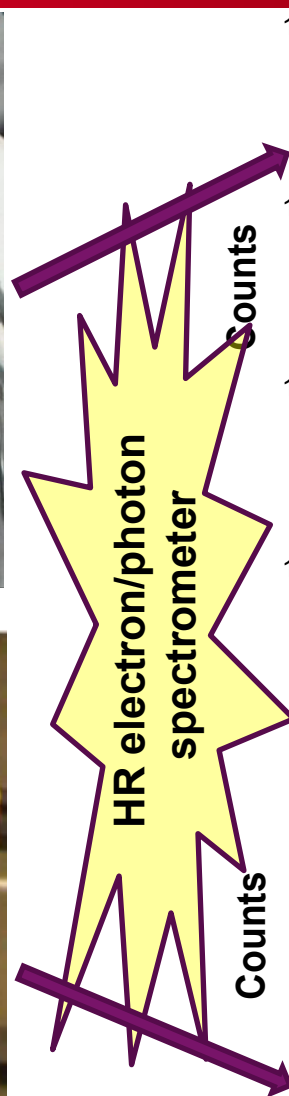
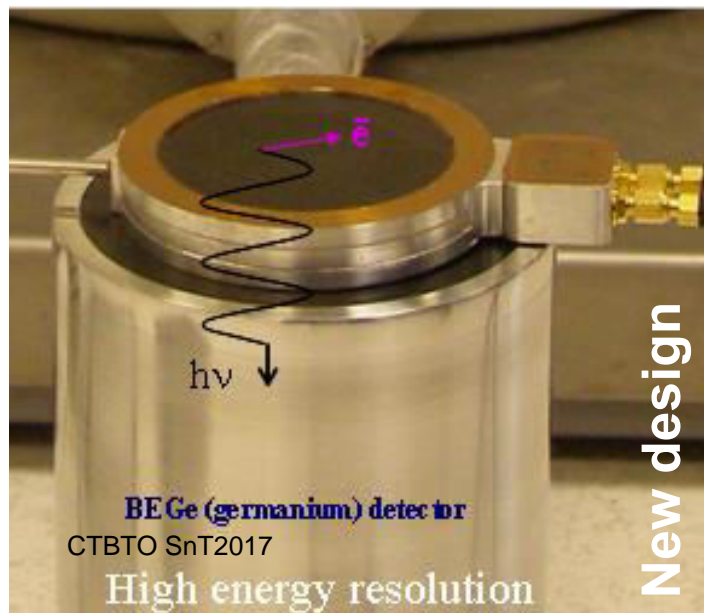
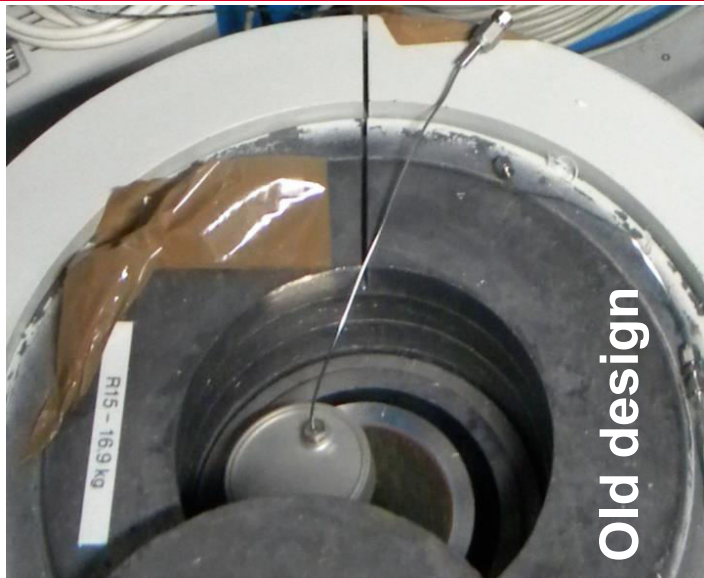
Deliere, L., et al, 2014. Role of silver nanoparticles in enhanced xenon adsorption using silver exchanged zeolites. *J. Phys. Chem. C* 118, 25032-25040

Deliere, L., et al, 2016. Adsorption in heterogeneous porous media: Hierarchical and composite solids. *Microp. Mesop. Mat.* 229, 145 – 154

Deliere, L., et al, 2016. Breakthrough in Xenon Capture and Purification Using Adsorbent-Supported Silver Nanoparticles. *Chem. Eur. J.* 22, 1-8



# Detection development





# SPALAX-NG deployment & operation

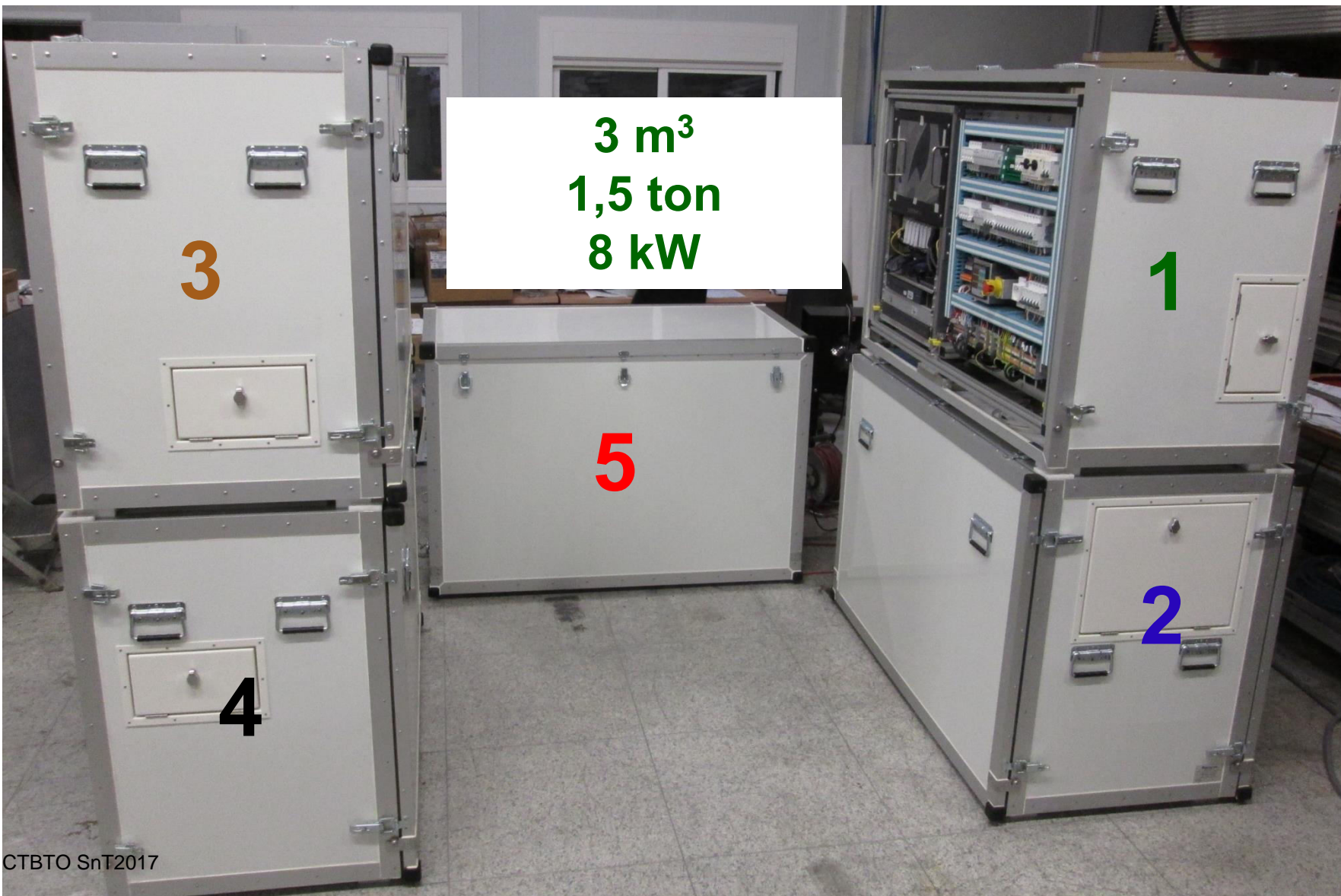
*Designed with our industrial partner*

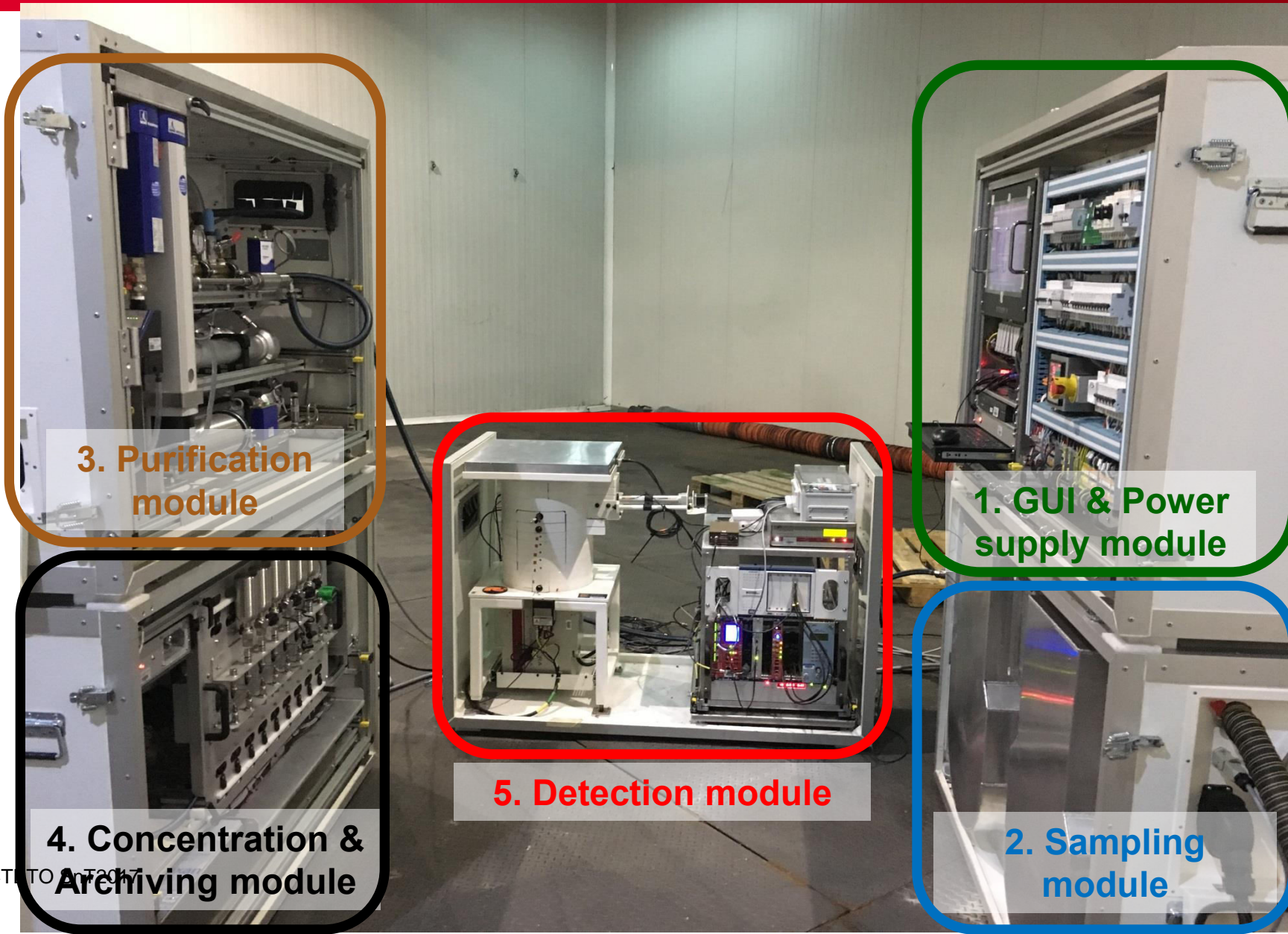


*Installation*



*Operation & Maintenance*





**3. Purification module**

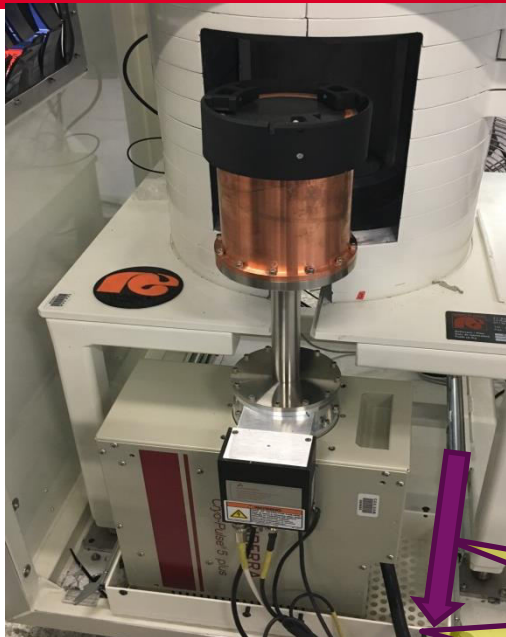
**1. GUI & Power supply module**

**5. Detection module**

**4. Concentration & Archiving module**

**2. Sampling module**

# SPALAX-NG Operation



Removable sub-units on rail

Few "quick" gas and electric connections

**Easy installation – modular / plug&play: no heavy material required**  
**Fast installation → < 2 hours**

Spectro App access    Local or remote control    Operator or expert level    Cycle duration 4,8,12 h

Station Current State: Automatic    Local    Expert    PC : 2017-06-15 12:53:33    Ref. Time (H0) : 10:30:00    SPALAX-NG SNG01    Version 1.0.4    PRODUCTION - PROCESS    Panel views

Process    Archives    Cycles    System    Power    Station    Threshold    SOH    Grafcet    Curves    Querier    Alarms    Historic    Scenario Execution    Scenario Editor    Sequence Editor

Gen. op. Mode

General Operating Mode

Automatic

Stop

Maintenance

Sampling

Start Cycle    Stop Cycle

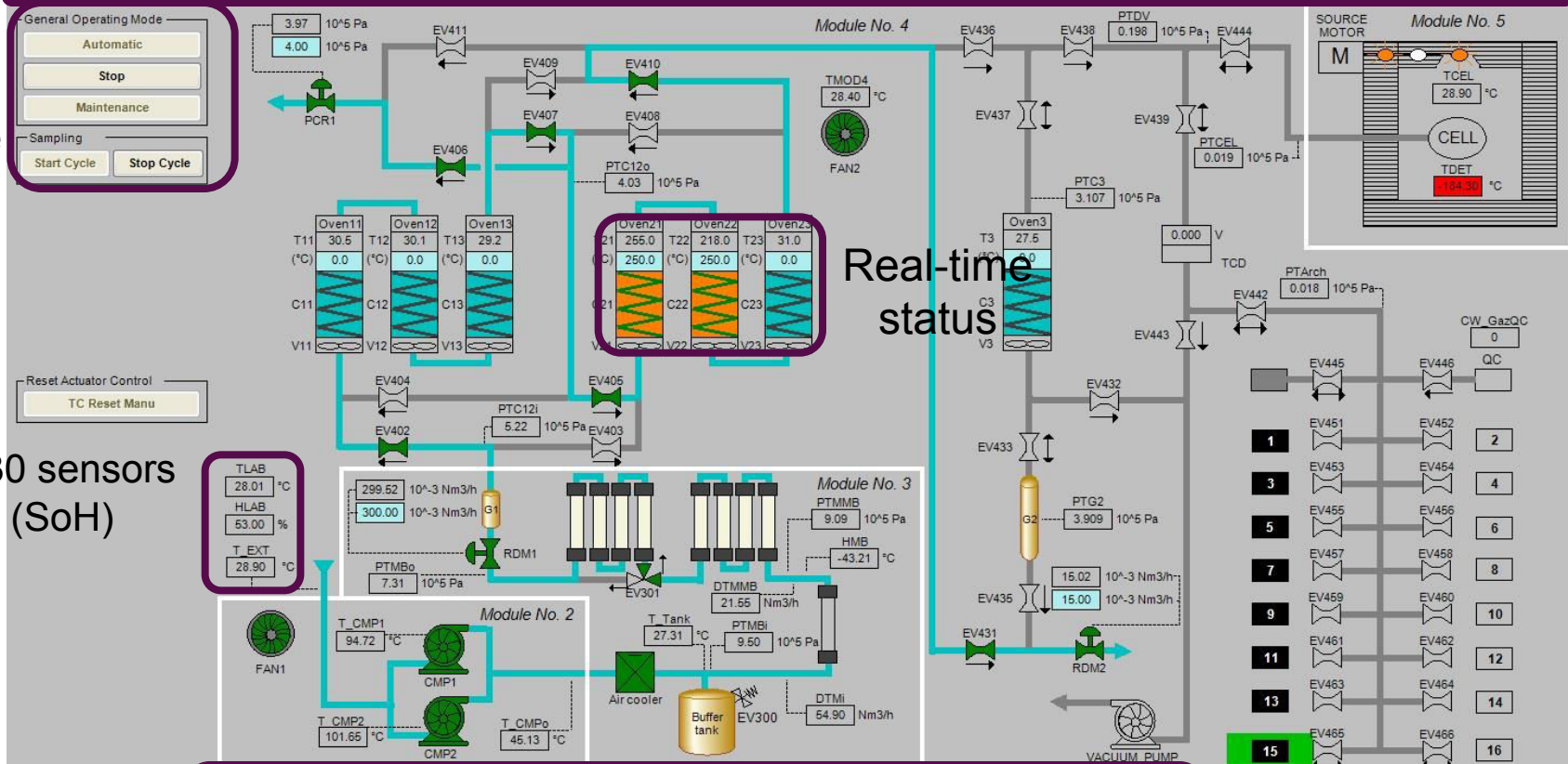
> 30 sensors (SoH)

TLAB 28.01 °C

HLAB 53.00 %

T\_EXT 28.90 °C

Real-time status



Alarms

Present : 1    Unacknowledged present : 0    Inhibited : 1

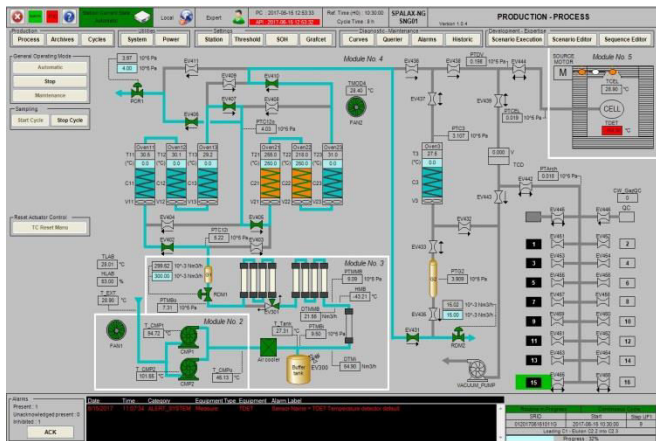
ACK

Date	Time	Category	Equipment Type	Equipment	Alarm Label
6/15/2017	11:07:34	ALERT_SYSTEM	Measure	TDET	Sensor Name = TDET Temperature detector default

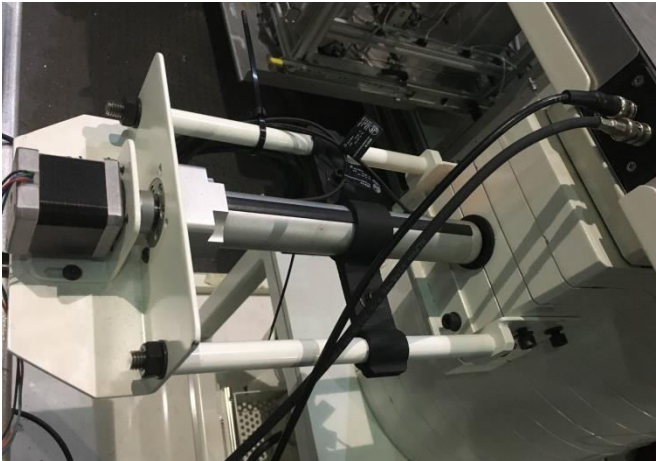
SRID	Start	Step	UF1
01201706151011G	2017-06-15 10:30:00	9	

Loading C1 - Elution C2.2 into C2.3

Progress : 32%

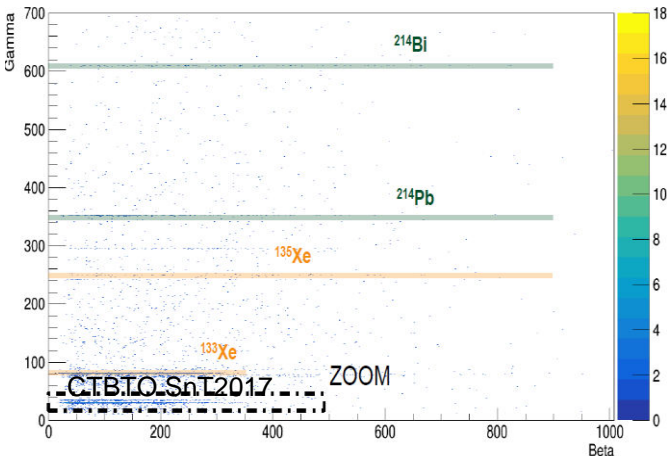


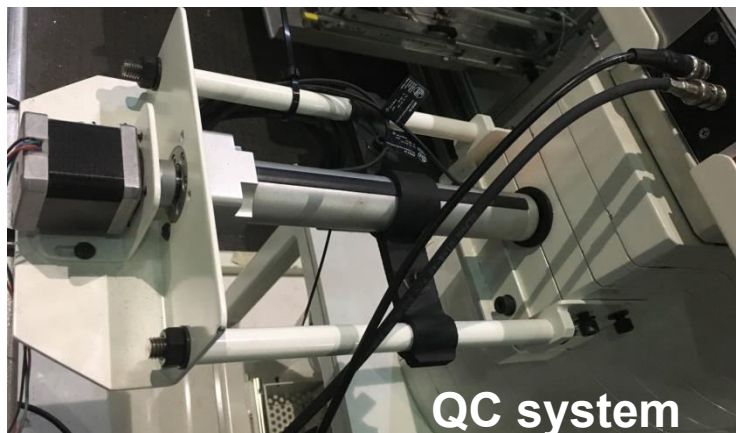
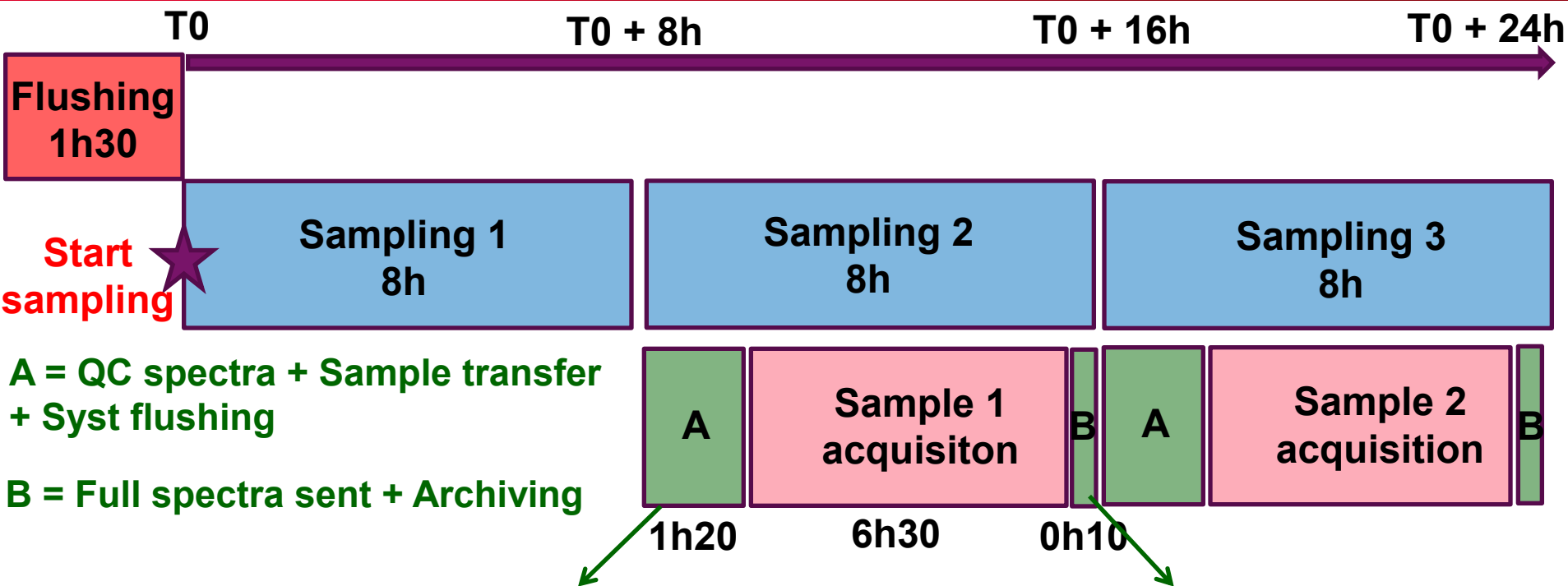
# SPALAX-NG chronogram & performances



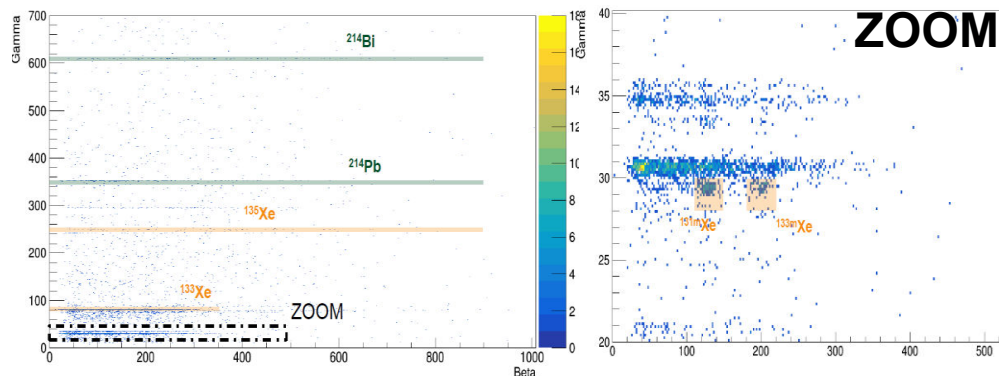
## Sequence of operations

## Performances



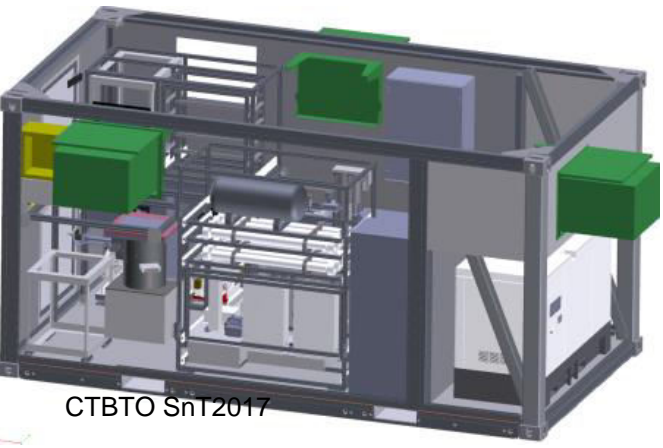
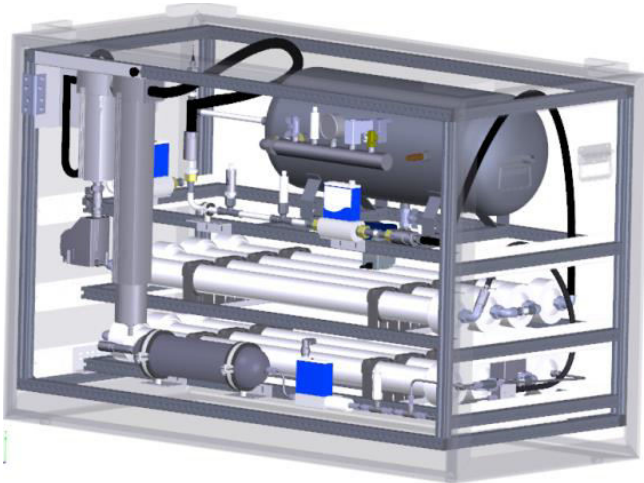


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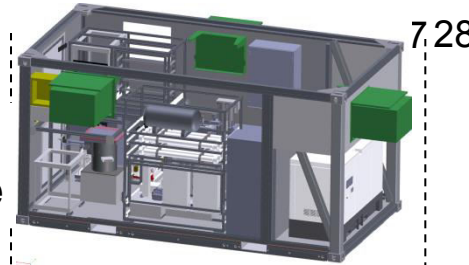
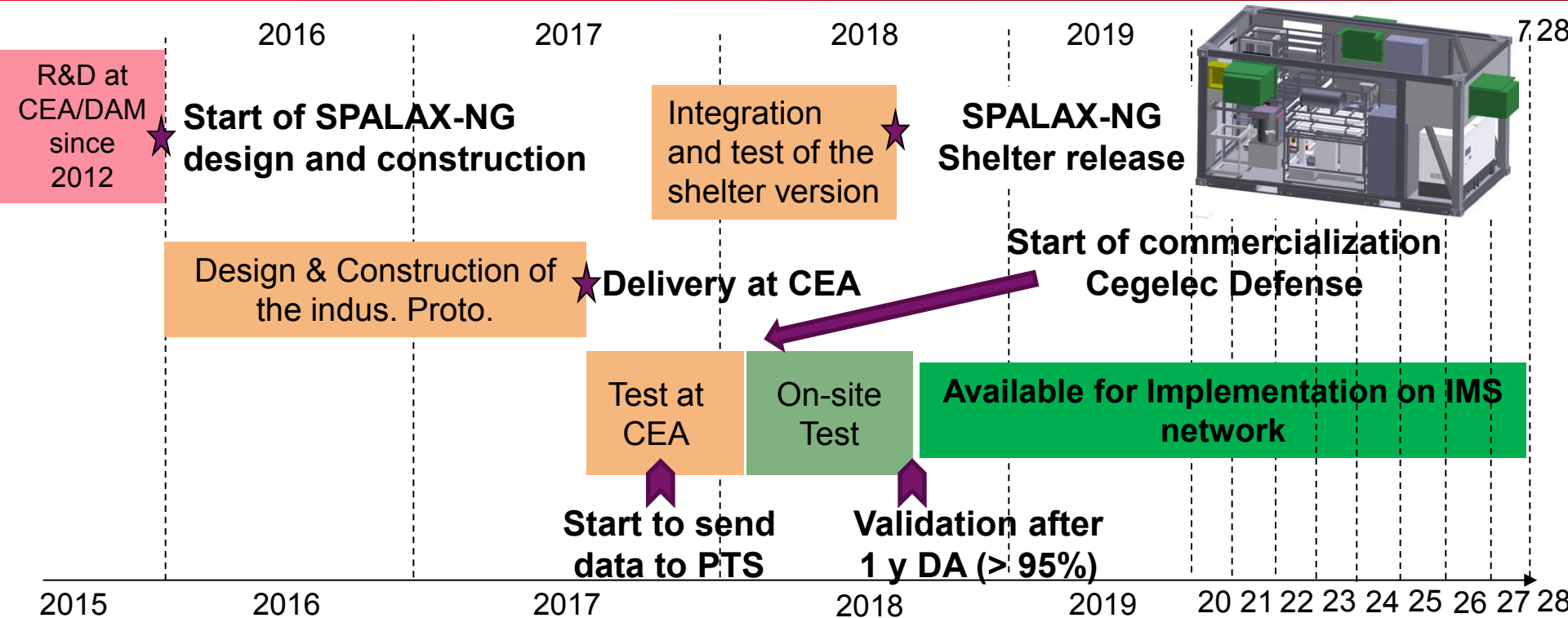


		SPALAX	SPALAX-NG
Power		6 kW	8 kW
Sampling Frequency		24 h	8 h
Xe volume		3.5 cm <sup>3</sup>	5 cm <sup>3</sup>
Spectrometer		High Res. $\gamma$ /X	HR e- $\gamma$ coincidences
MDC (mBq m <sup>-3</sup> )	<sup>133</sup> Xe	~0.3	~0.3
	<sup>131m</sup> Xe	~4.0	~0.3
	<sup>133m</sup> Xe	~1.5	~0.3
	<sup>135</sup> Xe	~0.3	~0.3



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# Roadmap



# Thank you

CEA team: Thomas Philippe, Gilbert Le Petit,  
Antoine Cagniant, Olivier Delaune, Philippe Gross,  
Guilhem Douysset, Christophe Moulin

Health Canada team

PTS / Engineering & development section

PTS / IDC

Industrial partner Cegelec Defense