

# Achievements of the Joint Research Project UHDpulse – “Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates”

Andreas Schüller

**on behalf of the UHDpulse consortium**



Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt  
National Metrology Institute

Working Group 6.21 “Dosimetry for radiotherapy”



# Disclosure

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, nothing to disclose
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, please specify:





# Joint Research Project UHDpulse



**Titel:** Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates

**Duration:** Sep/2019-Feb/2023

**Coordinator:** Andreas Schüller (PTB)

**Topic:** dosimetry for  
FLASH radiotherapy & proton therapy

**Website:** <http://uhdpulse-empir.eu>



The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

enables European metrology institutes to collaborate with industrial and medical organisations, and academia





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The screenshot shows the article page for 'The European Joint Research Project UHDpulse – Metrology for advanced radiotherapy using particle beams with ultra-high pulse dose rates' published in Physica Medica, Volume 80, December 2020, Pages 134-150. The page includes an outline, abstract, keywords, and a list of authors. A 'Highlights' section is visible at the bottom of the article content, listing key findings: 'Ultra-high dose rate reduces adverse side effects in radiotherapy (FLASH effect)', 'Studies and implementation in practice requires accurate dose measurements', 'An European joint research project was started to develop a measurement framework', and 'Tools for dosimetry of ultra-high pulse dose rate beams will be provided'. The page also features a grid of 15 figures and a Creative Commons license.

Schüller et al., *The European Joint Research Project UHDpulse ...*  
Physica Medica 80 (2020), 134-150  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmp.2020.09.020>



# UHDpulse Partners and Collaborators

## Metrology Institutes



## Irradiation facilities / providers



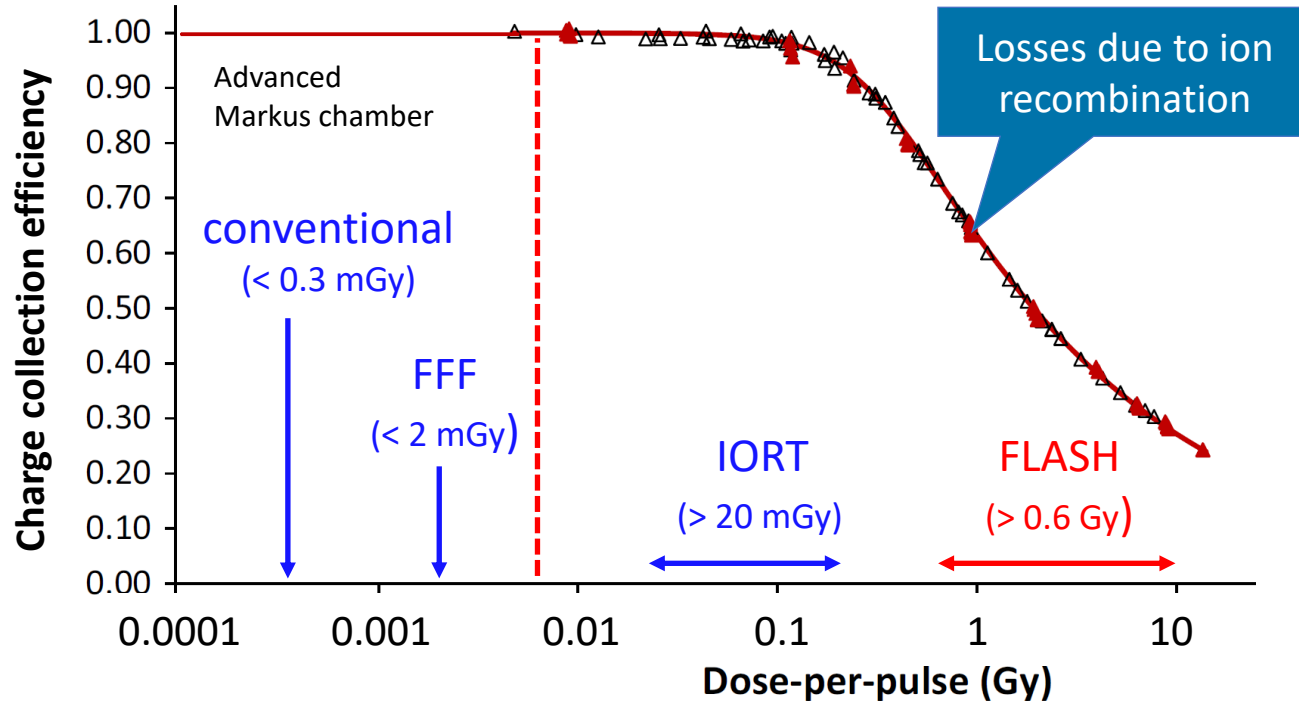
## Detector developers



- 7 Metrology institutes
- 6 Hospitals
- 9 Universities
- 7 Research institutes
- 12 Companies
- + Inspire proton therapy network

# Motivation: challenge dosimetry at FLASH

- Typical performance of ionization chambers



Initial situation:

- **no** active dosimeters for real-time measurements
- **no** formalism for reference dosimetry

# UHPDR reference electron beam



*PTB's Research electron accelerator*

$E = 0.5 - 50 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $t_{\text{pulse}} = 0.1 - 3 \text{ us}$   
up to **12 Gy per pulse** (SSD 0.7 m, 20 MeV)

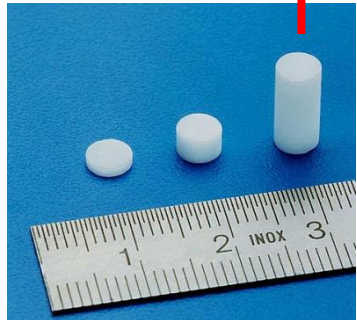
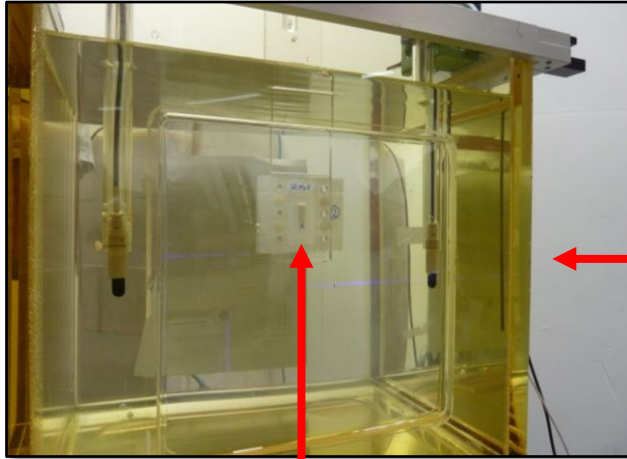


*Beam line with water phantom*

A. Bourguin *et al.* "Characterization of the PTB ultra-high ..."  
*Phys. Med. Biol.* **67** (2022) 085013.  
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/ac5de8>

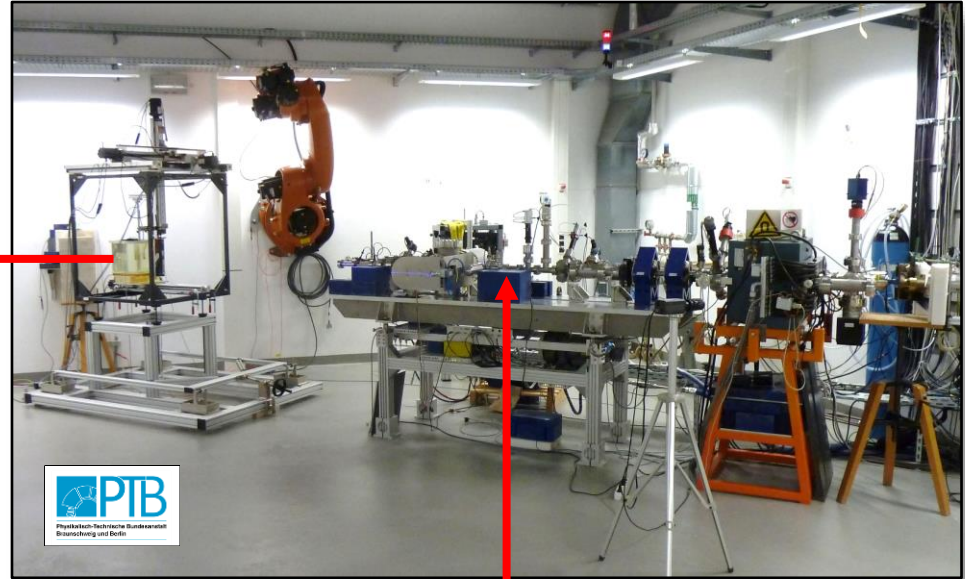


# UHPDR reference electron beam



*Alanine pellets at  
reference depth  
in water phantom*

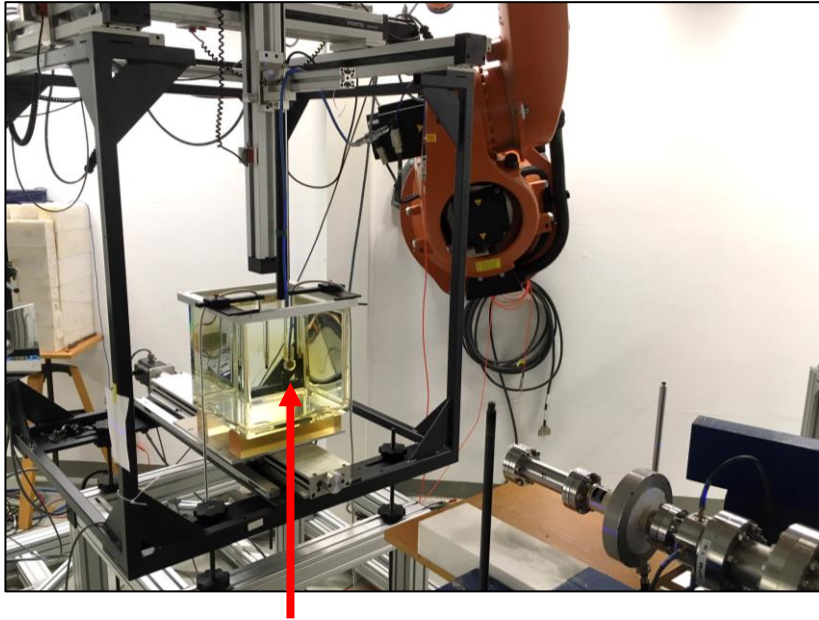
Dose traceable to  
PTB's primary  
standards



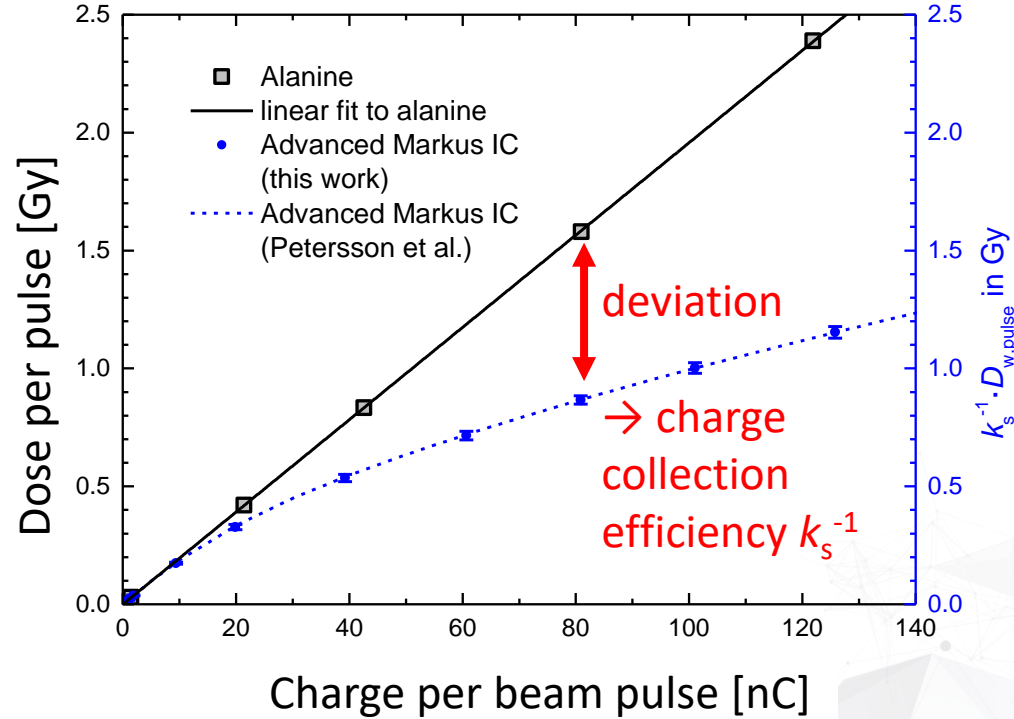
Current transformer (Bergoz ICT): Non-destructive  
absolute beam pulse charge measurement

A. Bourguin *et al.*, "Absorbed-dose-to-water..."  
Phys. Med. Biol. **67** (2022) 205011.  
<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/ac950b>

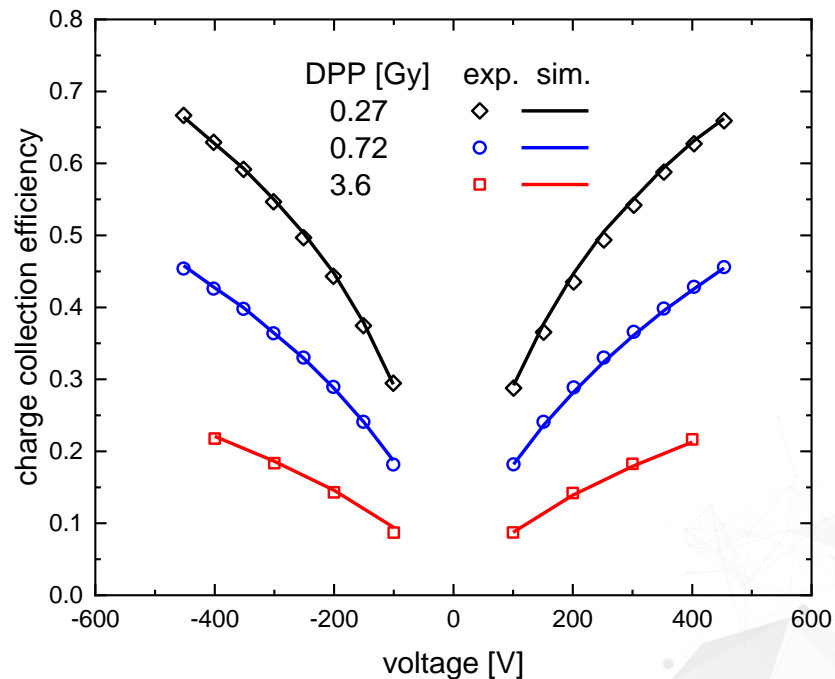
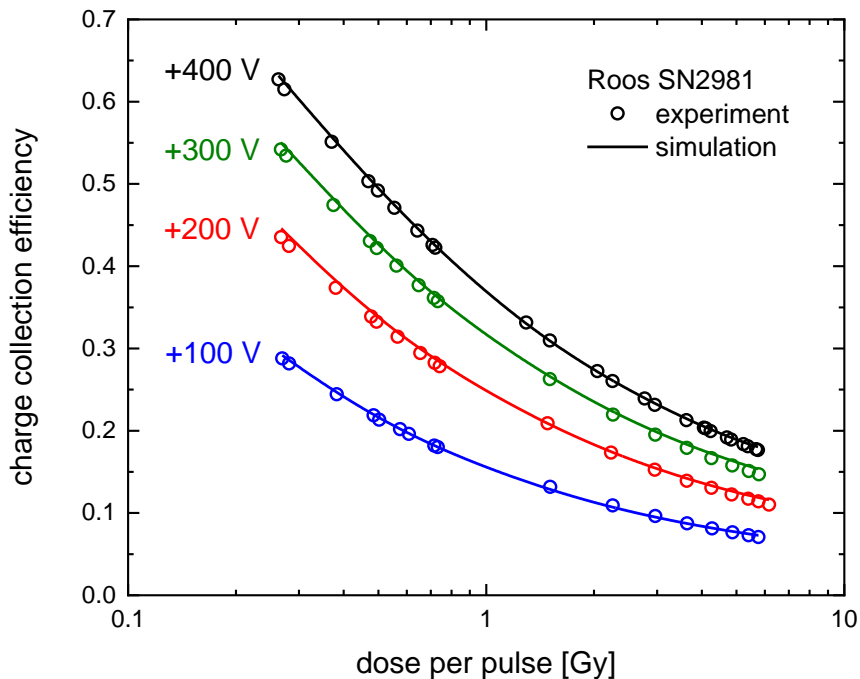




Detector under test at reference depth in water phantom

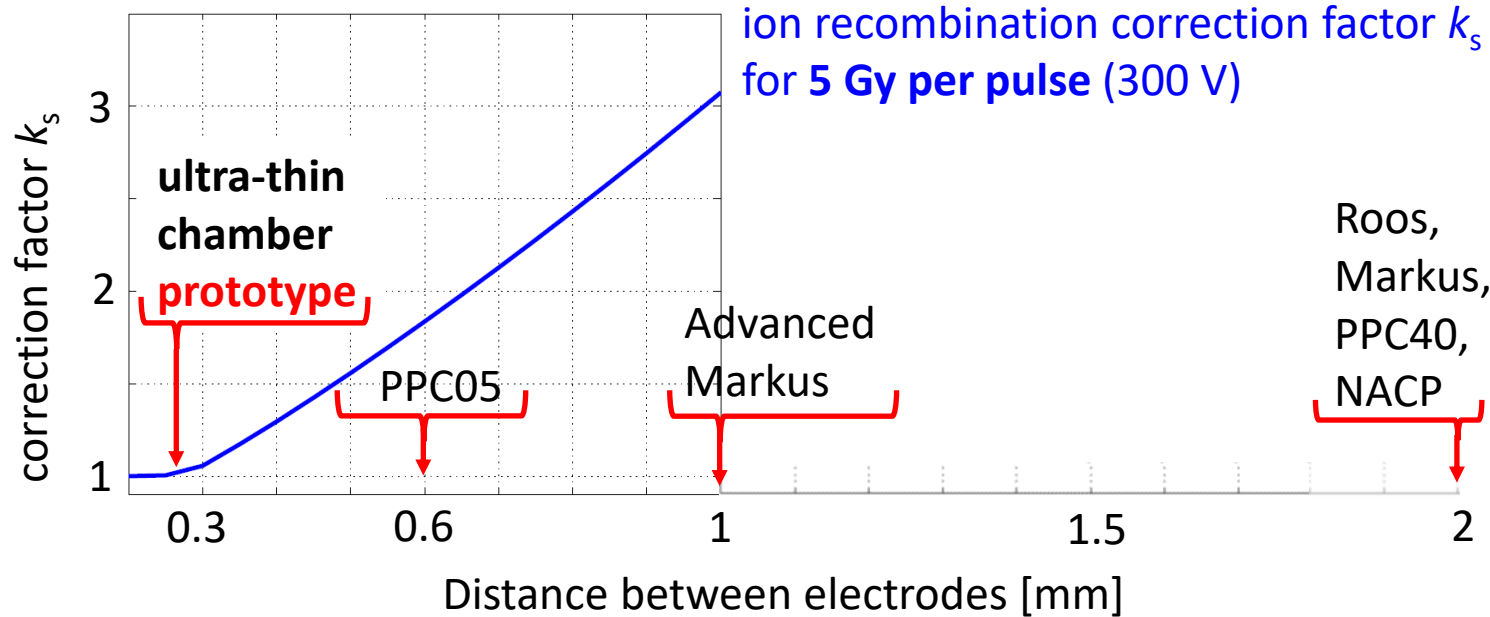


# Calculation of charge collection efficiency



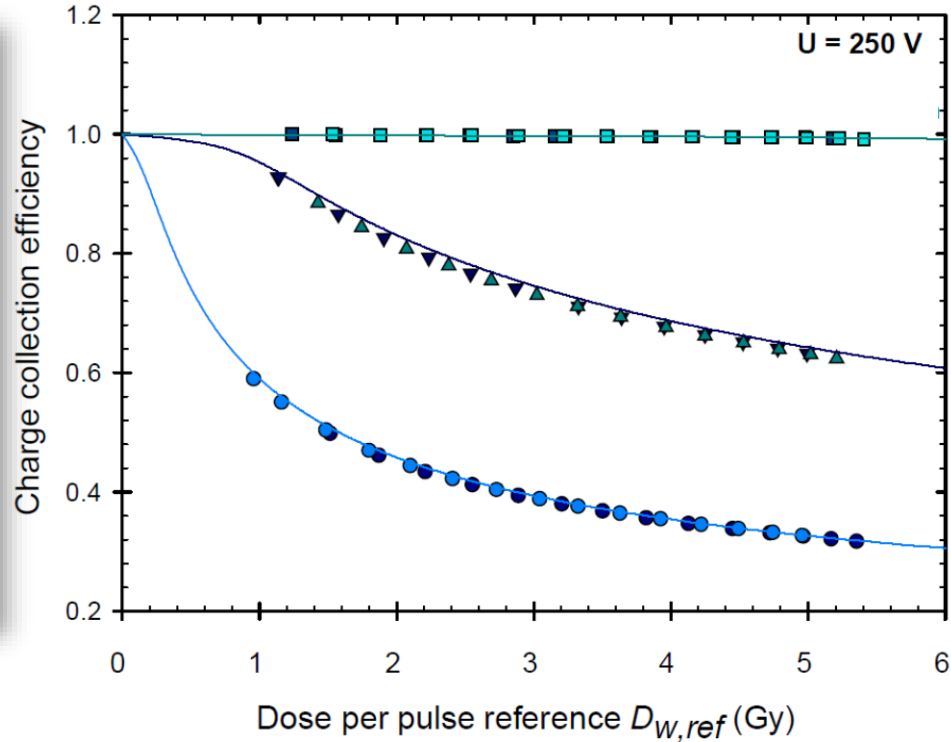
meet Jose Paz-Martín (USC) at poster EPP023, today

# Calculation of charge collection efficiency



meet Faustino Gomez (USC) at poster EPP024, today

# Ultra-thin ionization chamber for FLASH RT



electrode distance

0.25 mm

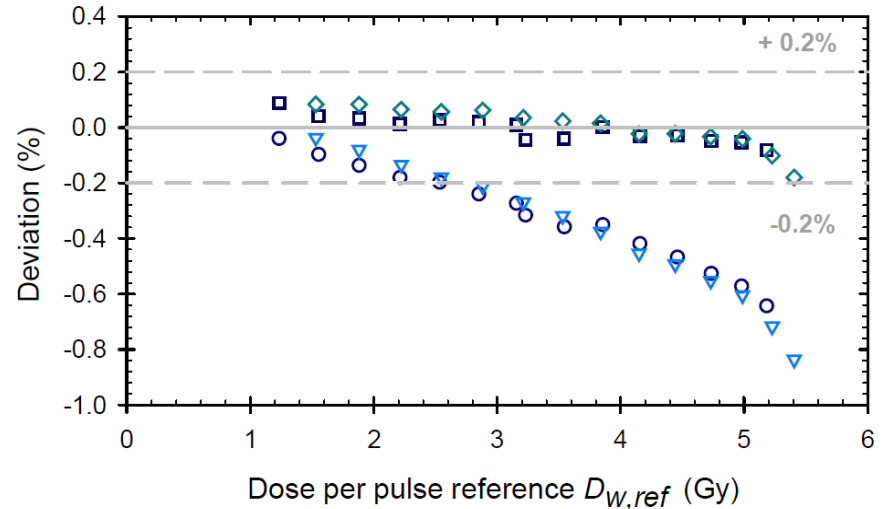
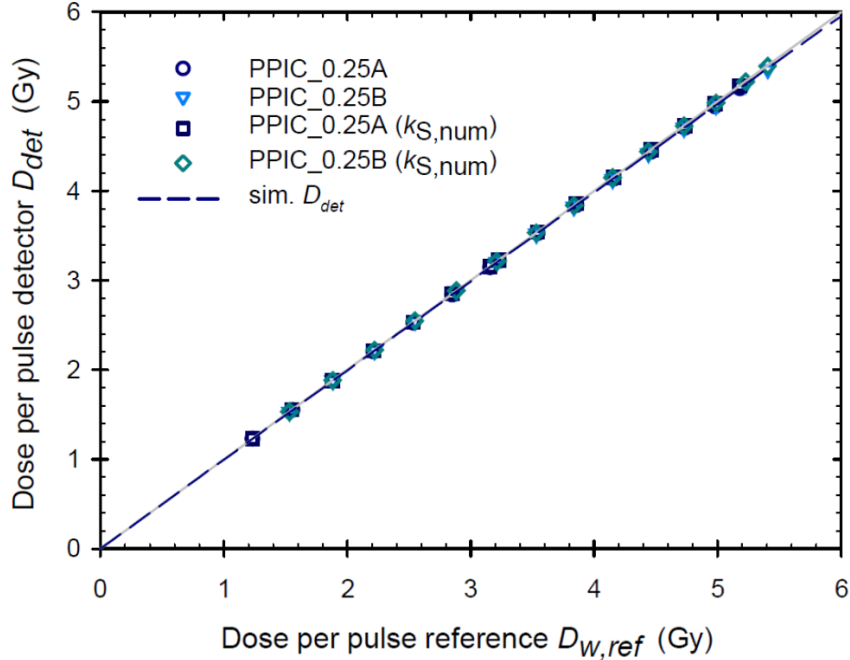
0.5 mm

1 mm





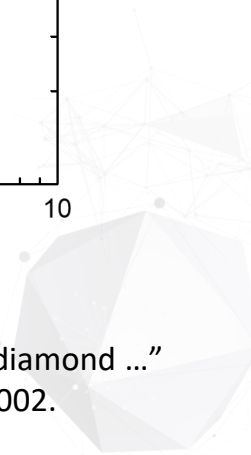
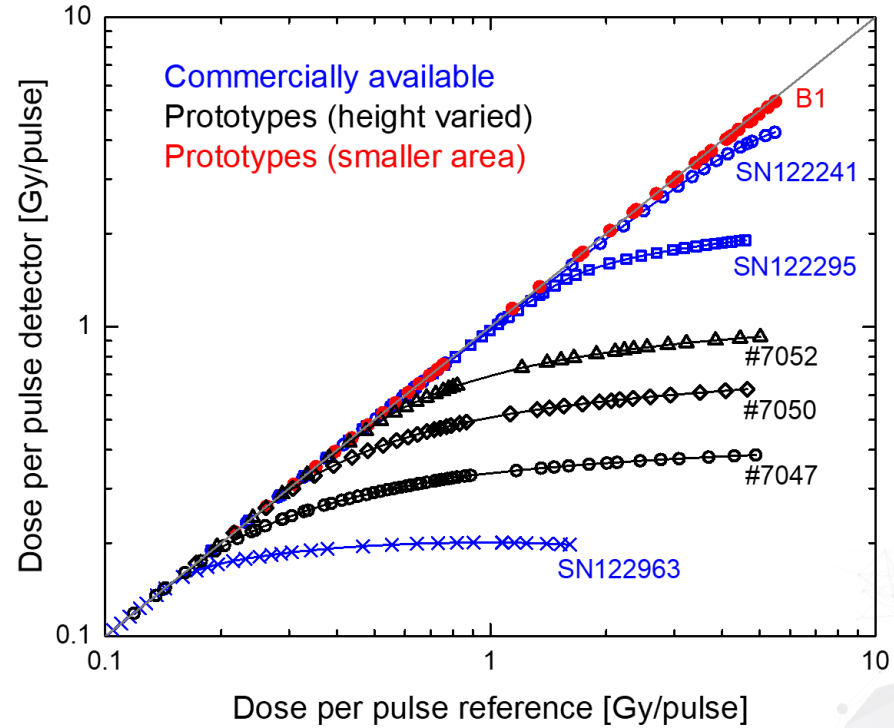
# Ultra-thin ionization chamber for FLASH RT



meet Rafael Kranzer at PTW booth

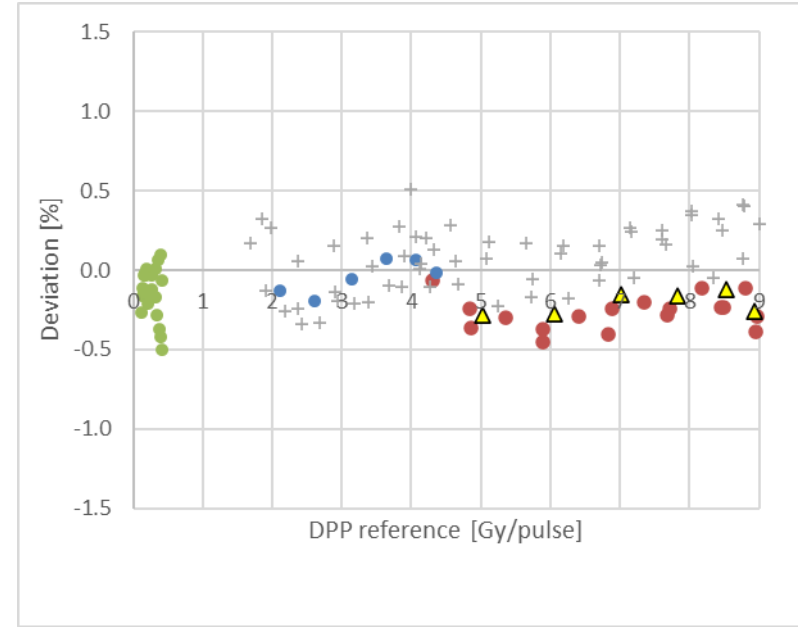
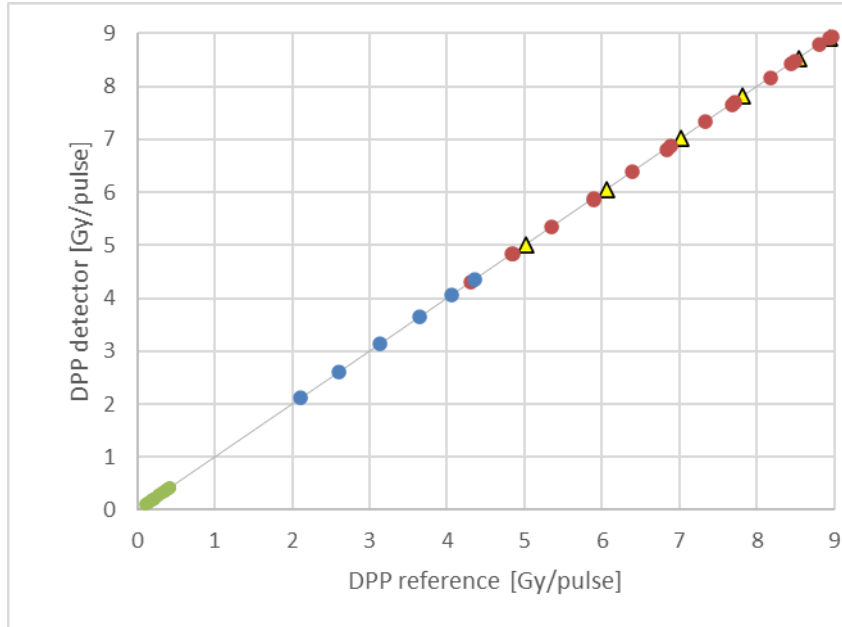


# flashDiamond





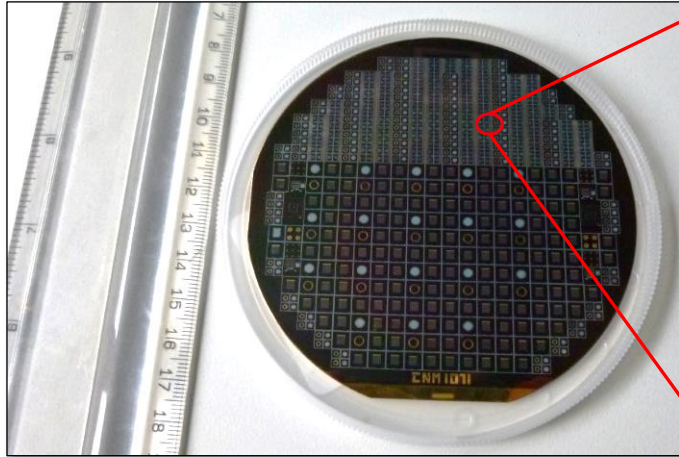
# flashDiamond



M. Marinelli et al.  
 “Design, realization, and ...”  
 Med. Phys. **49** (2022) 1902.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.15473>

G. Verona Rinati et al.  
 “Application of a novel diamond ...”  
 Med. Phys. **49** (2022) 5513.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.15782>

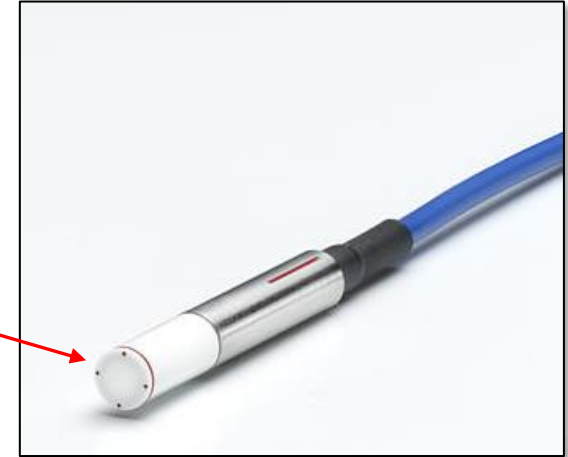
# SiC diodes for FLASH dosimetry



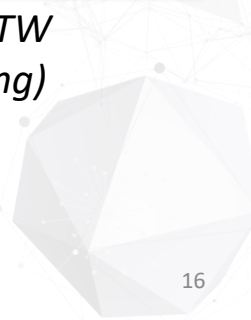
4" SiC wafer



1 mm diode

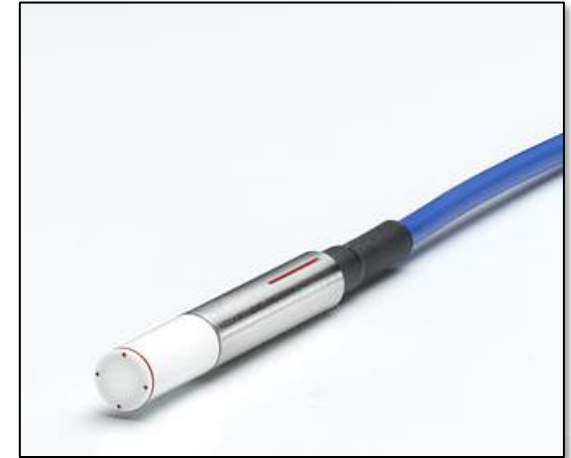
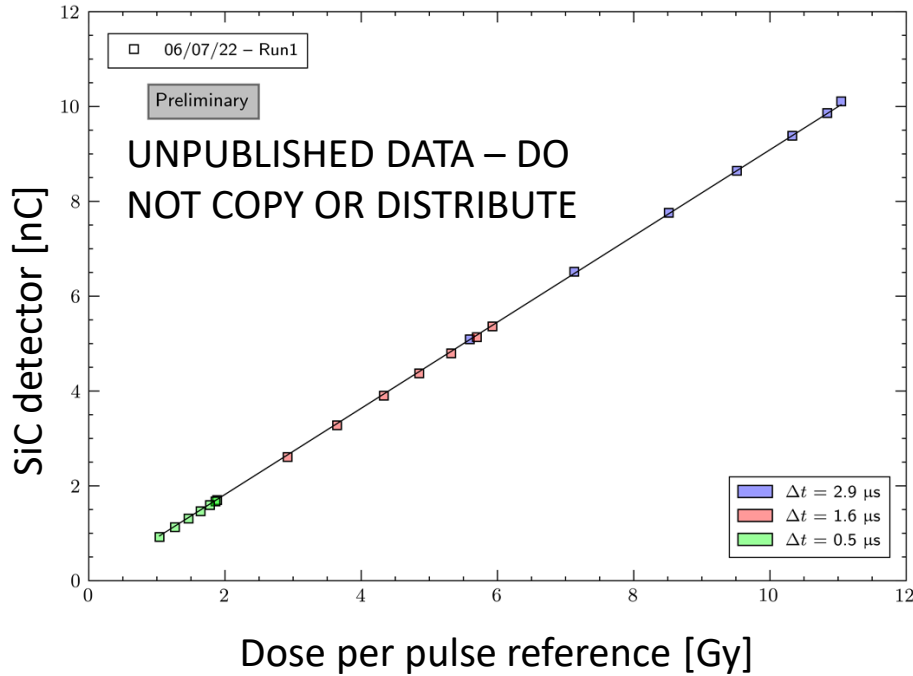


Encapsulation by PTW  
(microSilicon housing)





# SiC diodes for FLASH dosimetry

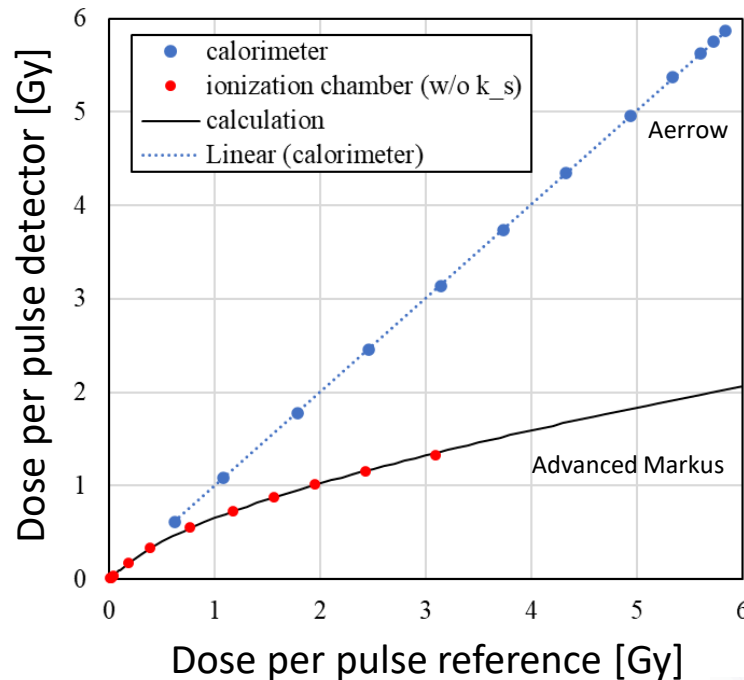
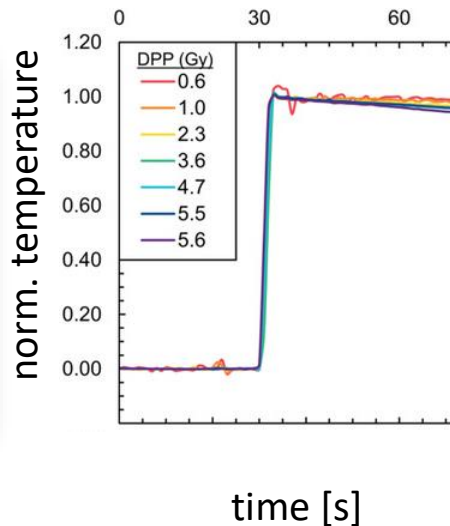


talk by Celeste Fleita (CSIC), Friday

# Graphite probe calorimeter “Aerrow”



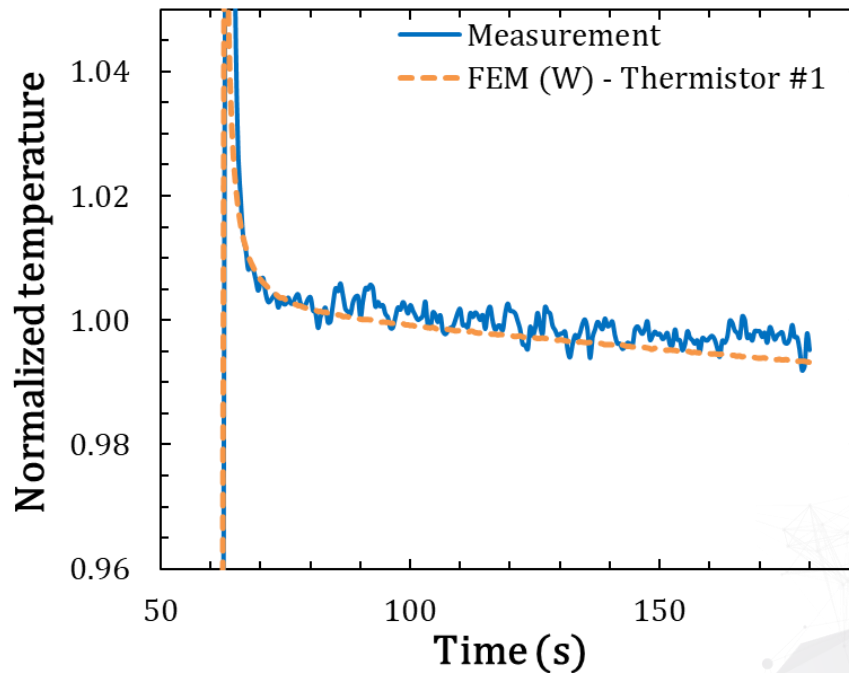
Calorimeter Aerrow  
(and ionization chamber)



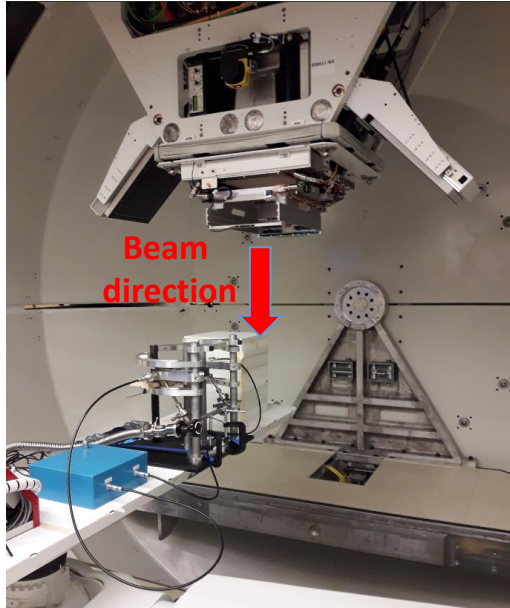
# Water calorimeter



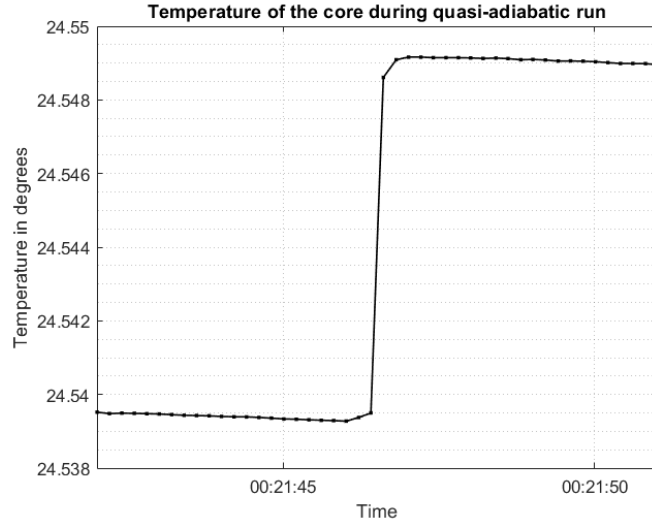
*PTB's primary standard of the unit Gy*



talk by Alexandra Bourgouin (PTB), Tomorrow



*NPL's graphite calorimeter  
in Cincinnati Proton Centre*

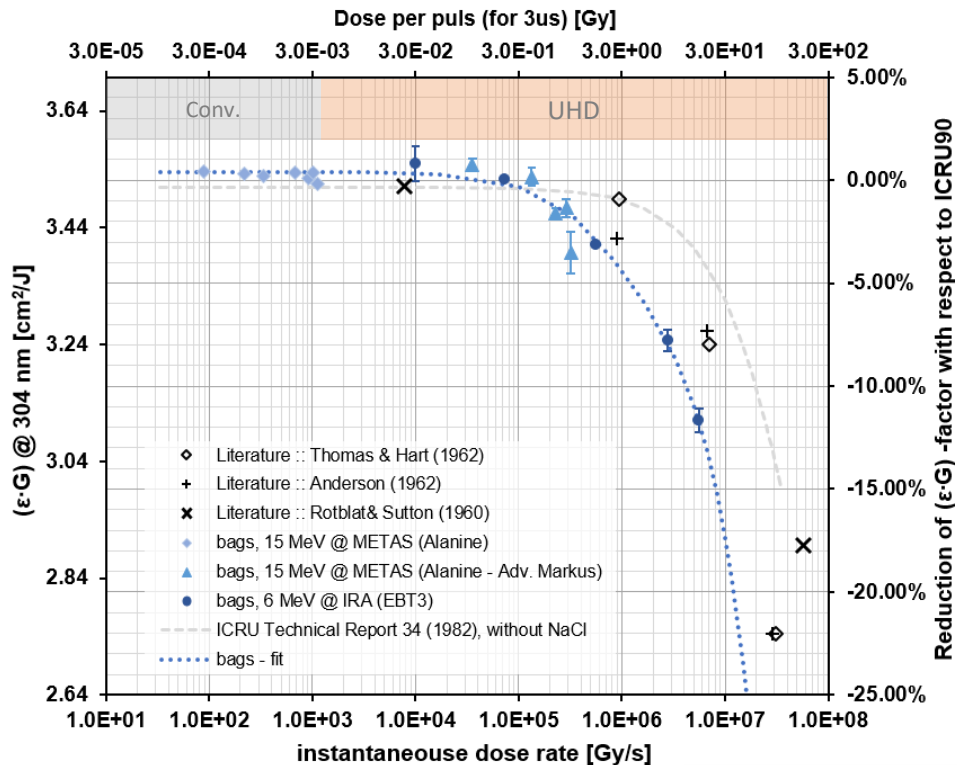


see talk "FLASH Metrology" by  
Anna Subiel (NPL), Friday

→ **First ever calorimetry measurements in UHDR proton beam**

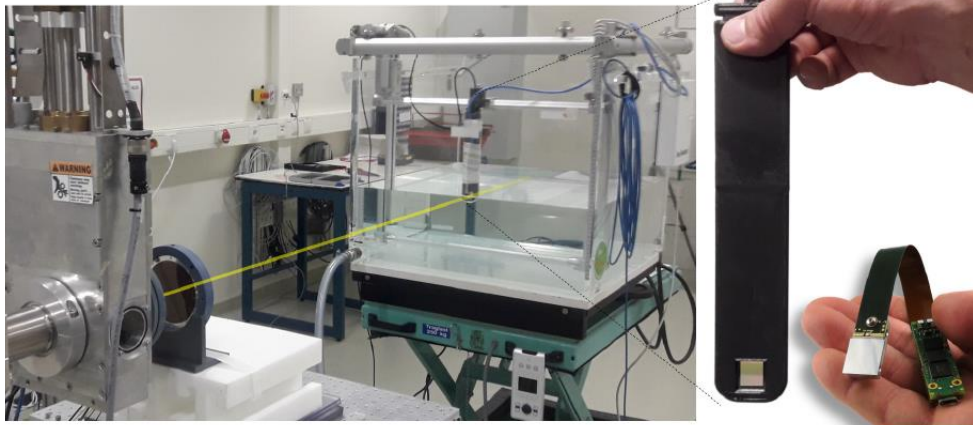
- Established the correction factors required for absolute dosimetry of FLASH proton beam radiotherapy (Lourenço et al., 2022 (under review))
- Measurement uncertainty of 0.9% ( $k=1$ ) – in line with clinical requirement
- Underpinned the FDA approval and provided the hospital with confidence to commence clinical implementation of this novel technology

# Fricke Dosimeter

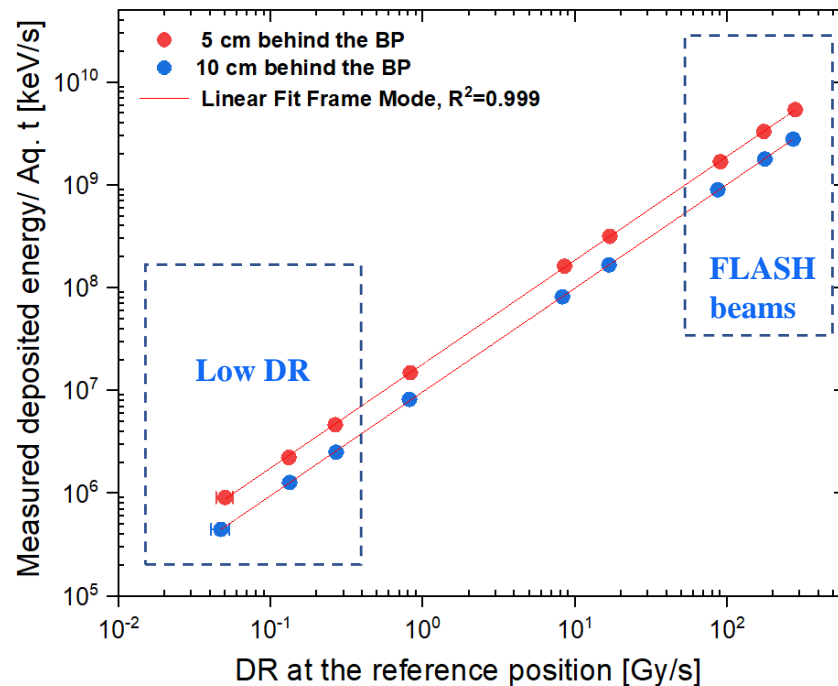


see e-poster of Franziska Frei (METAS)

# TimePIX3 detector



*MiniPIX TPX3 Flex in a water phantom in an ultra-high dose rate proton beam*





# Achievements of UHDpulse



<http://uhdpulse-empir.eu/>

up to now

27 Peer-reviewed publications (open access)

63 Oral presentations

16 Poster

40 Other publications



The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

This project (18HLT04) has received funding from the EMPIR programme co-financed by the Participating States and from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

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