



# Radiabeam's high-gradient developments for accelerator applications

**Nanda gopal Matavalam**

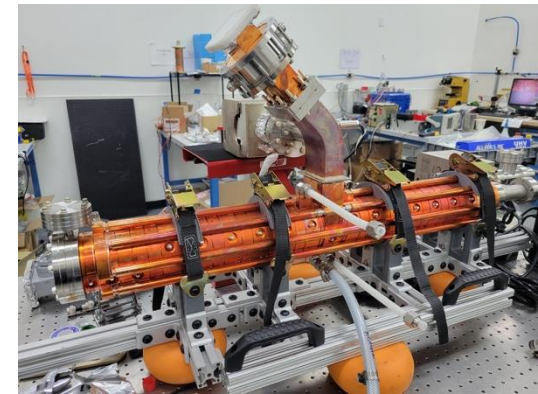
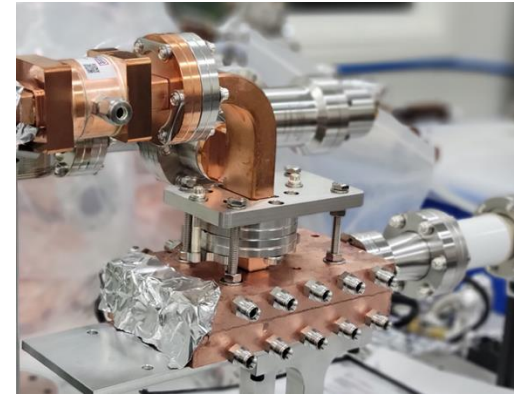
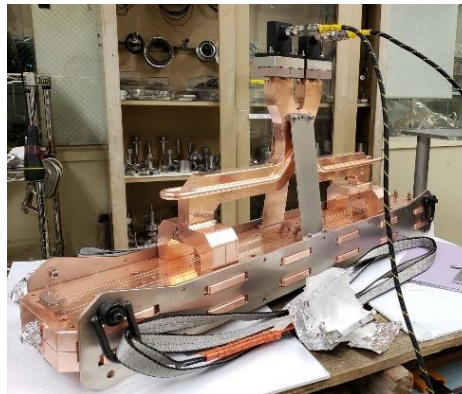
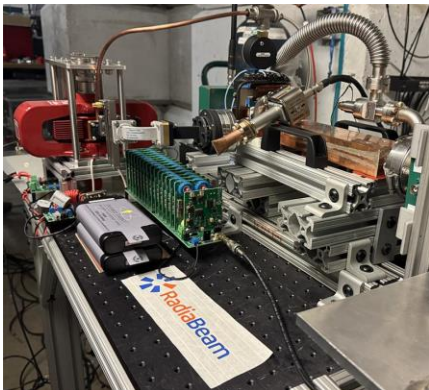
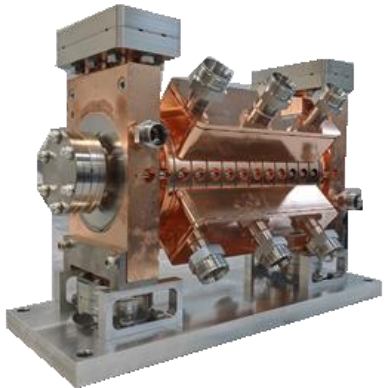
**RadiaBeam**

Advanced Materials for Charged Particle Beams Workshop

July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

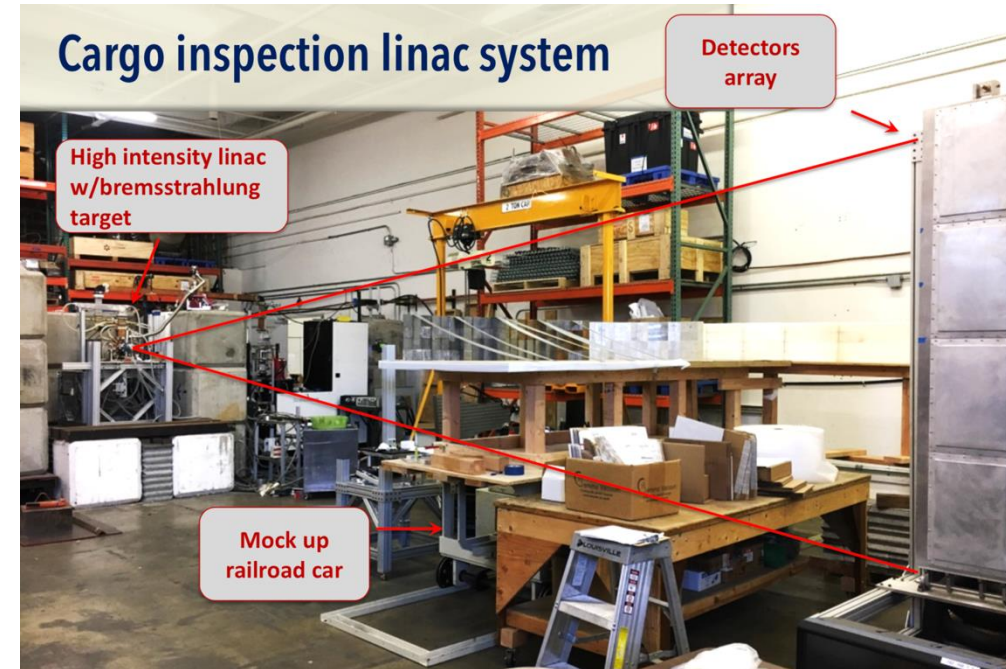
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

- Spin-out of UCLA Physics Department: 2004
  - Santa Monica, California
  - Currently: ~50 employees, 30,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
- Products: accelerator components (RF structures, magnets, diagnostics), medical/industrial accelerator systems, >MeV X-ray systems
- Core competencies
  - RF optimization, design, fabrication, and testing of linear accelerator structures, microwave sources, modulators, and power electronics
  - Custom instrumentation and beamline magnets
  - Cryogenic engineering
  - Teams: R&D, Engineering, Manufacturing, Integration & Testing





- Clean, UHV-quality manufacturing focused on copper
  - In-house machining and chemical-cleaning capabilities
    - Vacuum brazing and electron beam welding: Toll vendors
  - Inspection & testing:
    - Metrology: CMM, conventional metrology
    - Metallography: digital microscope/polishing
    - Vacuum: Leak checkers, calibrated RGA pump cart
    - Magnetics: 3-axis field mapping, vibrating wire
    - RF: dedicated lab with multiple VNA's
- 8MeV X-ray CT scanning: Refractory AM parts & large assemblies
- High pulsed power klystrons S-band, C-band



RF Testing



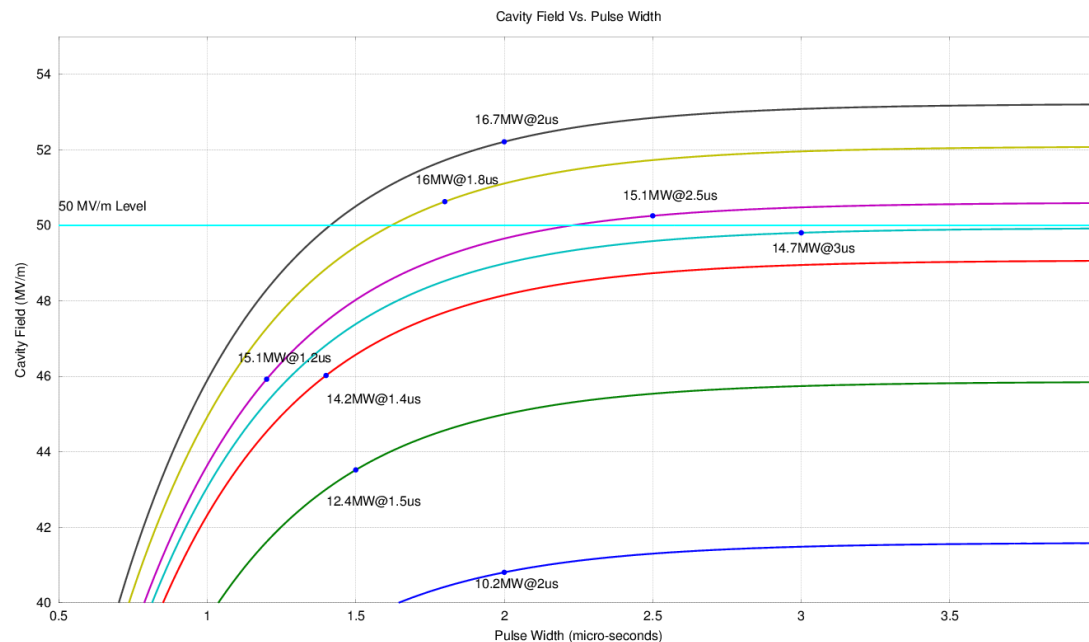
White room manufacturing of copper



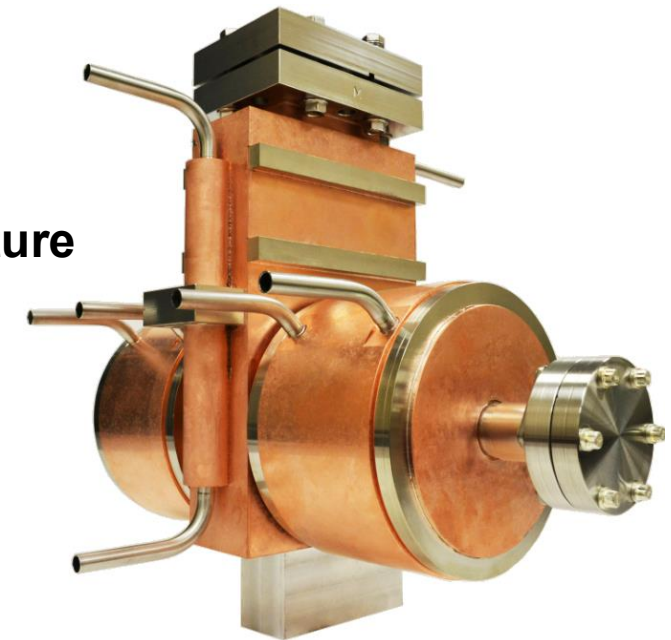
- 2013: We developed an X-band TW deflector cavity (XTD) operating at 11.424 GHz optimized for 100 MeV electron beam parameters at the BNL-Accelerator Test Facility. Peak deflecting voltage 38 MV/m at 20 MW.
- We designed, fabricated and high-power tested a high gradient S-Band accelerating structure (HGS) operating in the pi-mode at 2.856 GHz for  $\beta=1$ 
  - 2013: Initial high-power test at LLNL at 10Hz rep. rate, 1.3  $\mu$ s, 16MW, and max field of 50MV/m
  - 2016: High power test at ANL at 30 Hz rep. rate, 2  $\mu$ s, 16.7MW, and max field of 52.25 MV/m



**X-band deflector**



**HGS structure**

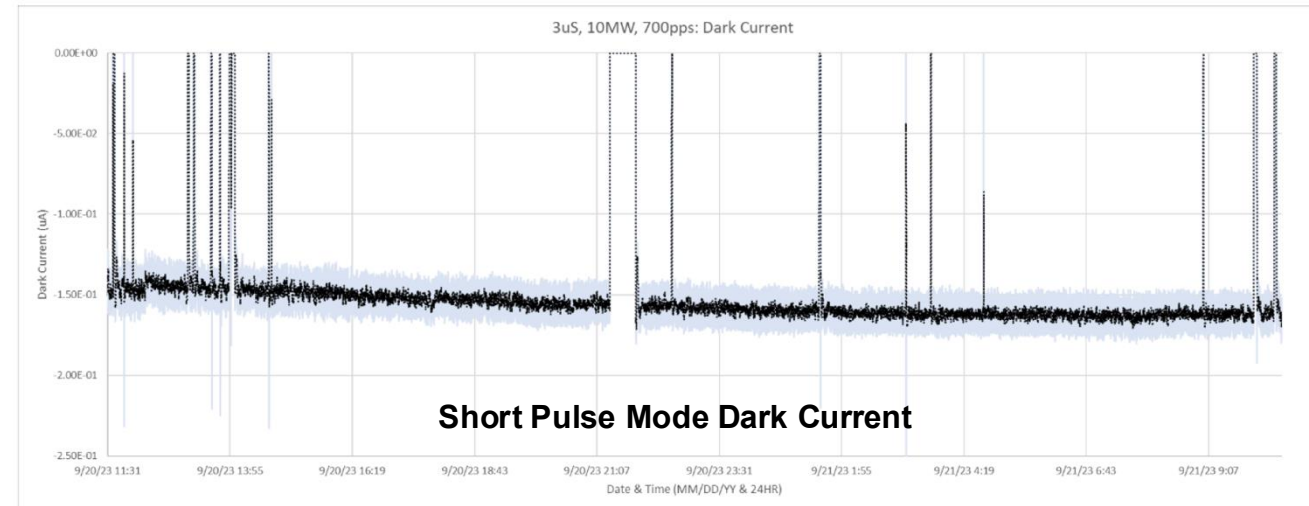




- RadiaBeam is fabricating a total of 8x 1300 MHz speed of light accelerating structures for the Gaertner Linear Accelerator at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).
- The first structure was delivered in 2020 and high power testing was performed at RPI in 2023.
  - Test done at three different operational modes meeting the required performance criteria ( $\sim 1.65\text{E-}8$  BD rate). Additional conditioning of the structure was done up to 15 MW at 5 $\mu\text{s}$ .
- 3 structures to be delivered by the end of the month, and 4 more by the end of the year.



Mode	RF pulse width ( $\mu\text{s}$ )	Peak Power (MW)	Rep. Rate (Hz)	Breakdown rate
Short pulse	3	10	700	$<1.65\text{E-}8$
High Avg. Power	7	10	250	$1.65\text{E-}8$
Low Energy	3	5	800	$<1.65\text{E-}8$

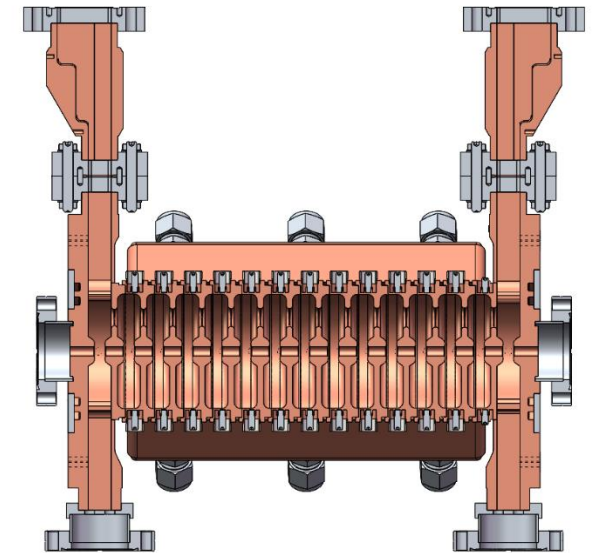
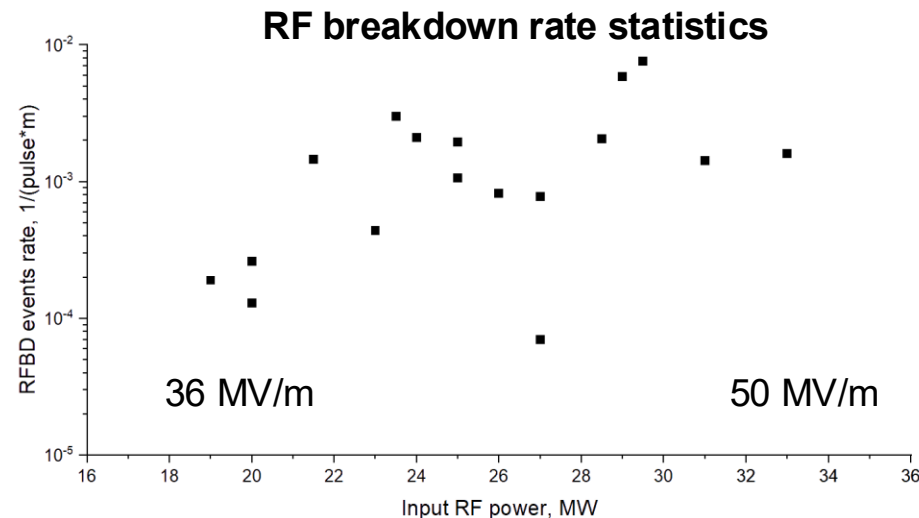


- 2016: Collaboration with ANL to develop an Advanced Compact Carbon Ion Linac (ACCIL) for hadron therapy. Deliver 450 MeV/u in a 45m footprint, required 50 MV/m structures for  $\beta=0.3-0.7$
- 2021: We designed, fabricated, and tested a 15-cell Negative Harmonic Structure (NHS) for  $\beta=0.3$  operating at 2856 MHz
  - High-power test at ANL with 30 Hz rep. rate, 700 ns, achieving 50 MV/m with 33 MW
- 2022: Upgraded NHS design for 1000 Hz rep. rate, 40 MV/m gradient with 20 MW

Parameter	Initial (built)	Flash design
$f_{m=-1}$	2856 MHz	
Rep. rate	120 Hz	1000 Hz
Group velocity	0.12-0.335 %c	0.23-0.43%
Filling time	450 ns	287 ns
Shunt impedance	32 M $\Omega$ /m	47 M $\Omega$ /m
Peak RF Power	33.8 MW	20 MW
Average RF losses	3.9 kW	5.6 kW
Accelerating gradient	50 MV/m	40 MV/m
Peak electric fields	160 MV/m	180 MV/m
Pulse Heating	28 K	12 K



NHS built for 120 Hz

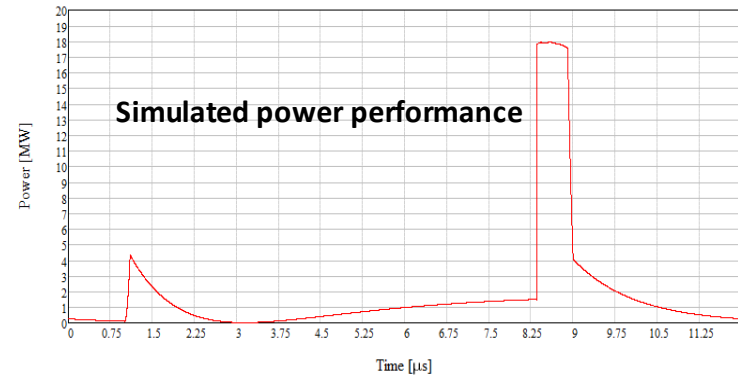
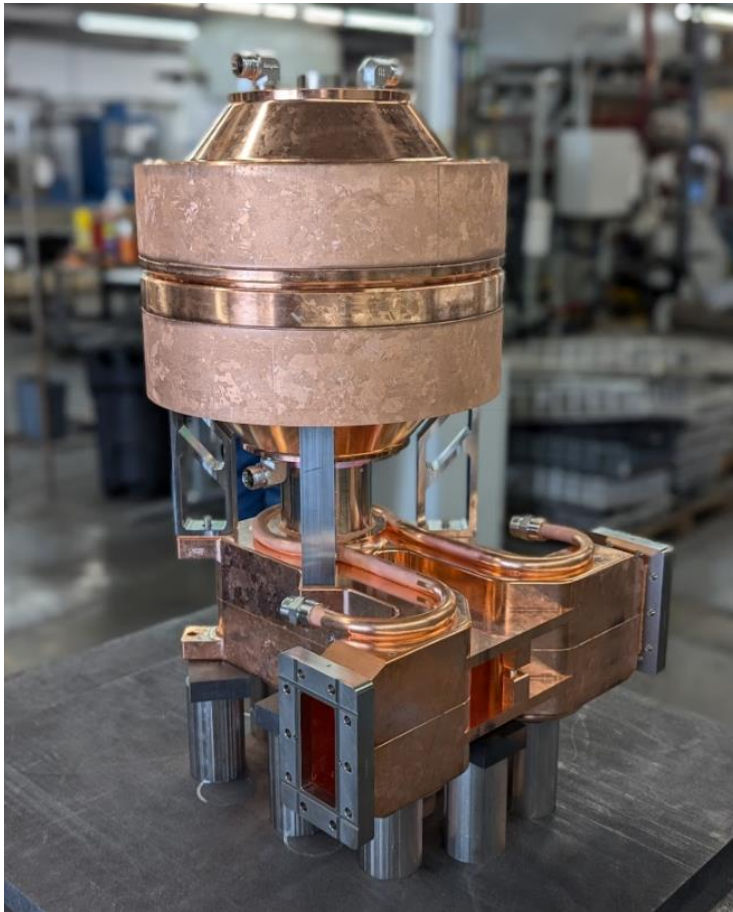


NHS upgraded design for 1kHz rep. rate



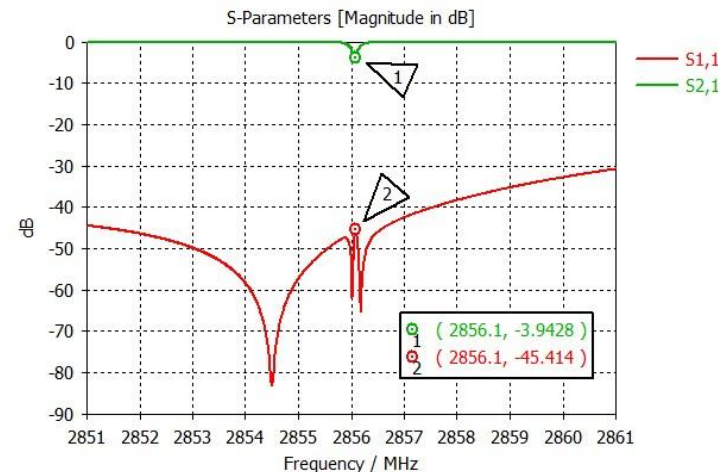
# S-band RF pulse compressor (SLED)

- RadiaBeam developed a 2856 MHz RF pulse compressor to produce multimegawatt peak power using a medical klystron
  - RF design based on a E-plane polarizer and a spherical cavity with  $Q=1 \times 10^5$
  - Expected to generate a flat 18 MW 600 ns flat-top RF pulse with a 7  $\mu$ s 5MW pulse, 62% efficiency
  - RF cold testing has been performed

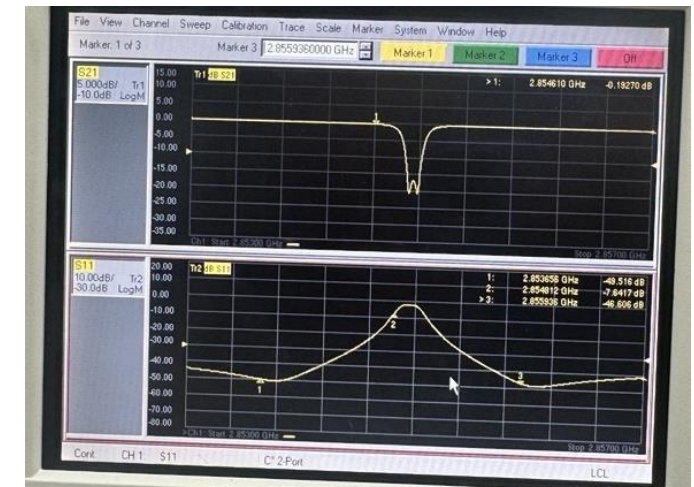


Parameter	Value
Frequency	2856 MHz
Input power	5 MW
Pulse length	7 $\mu$ s
Repetition rate	500 Hz
Duty factor	0.4 %
Opt. Temperature	30°C

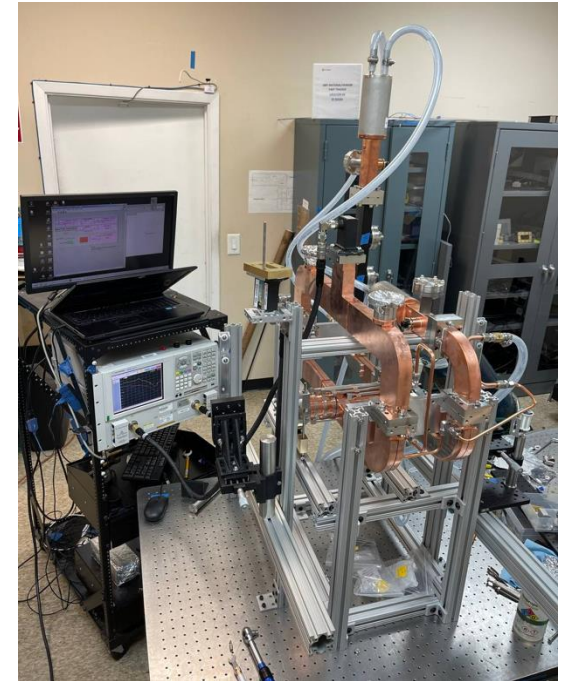
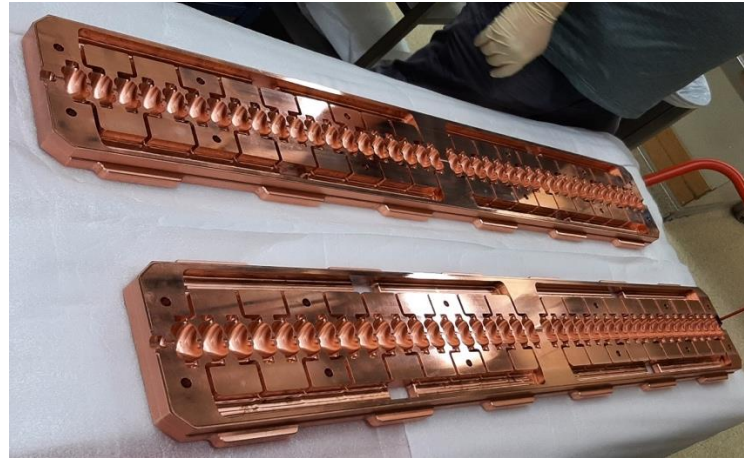
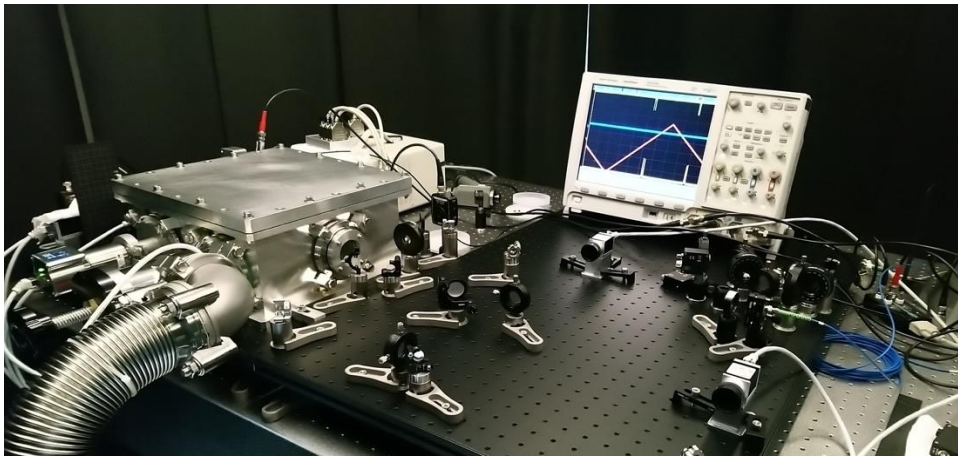
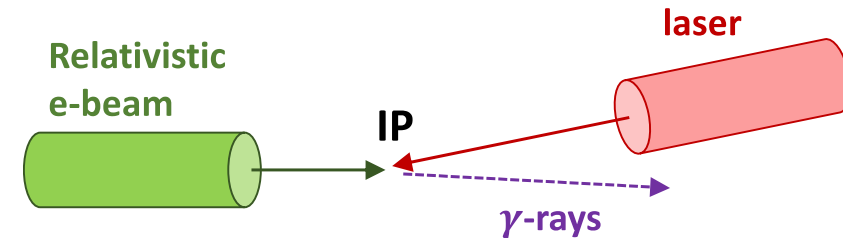
**Simulation S-parameters**



**Measured S-parameters**



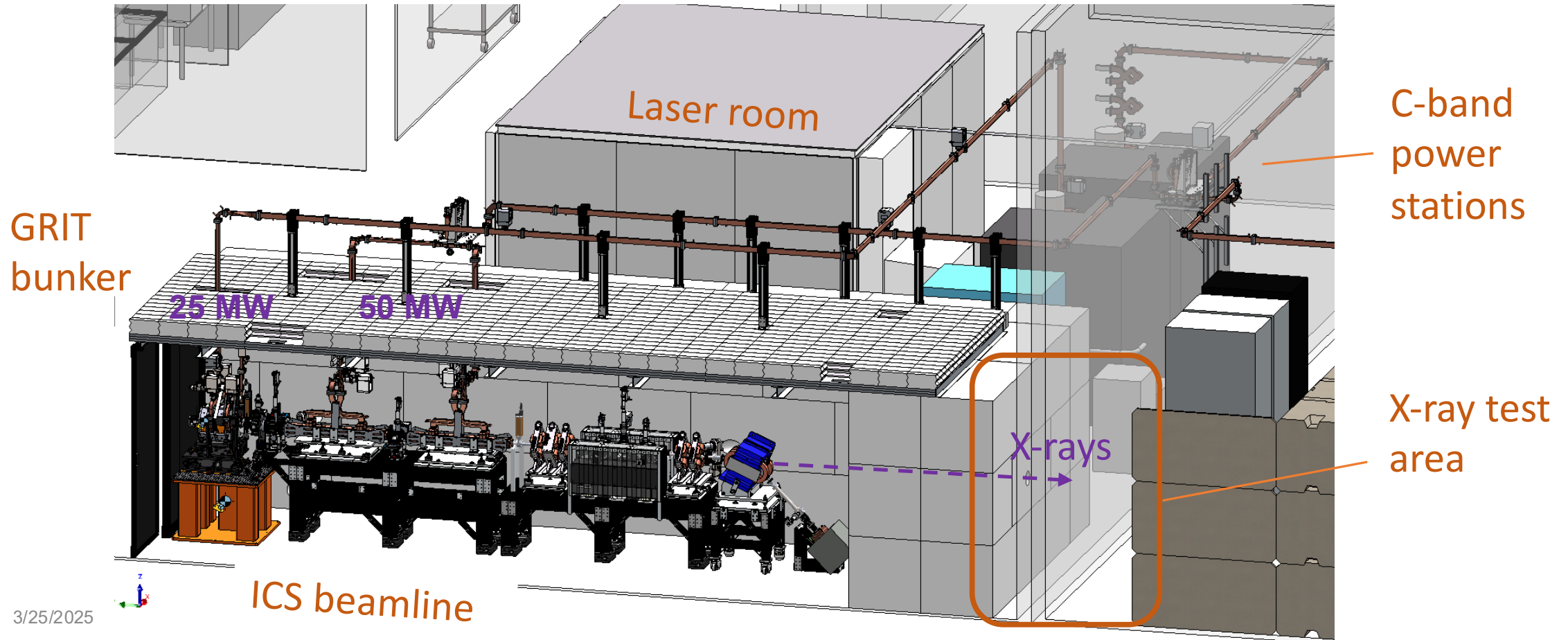
- The Gamma Ray Interrogation Technique (GRIT) program focused on the development high flux hard X-ray compact Inverse Compton Scattering (ICS) sources for medical and inspection applications
- The system's main components:
  - Magma 25 laser system (collaboration with Amplitude)
  - High gradient, 100 MeV, 5712 MHz linac (collaboration with SLAC)
  - Hybrid C-band photoinjector (collaboration with UCLA)



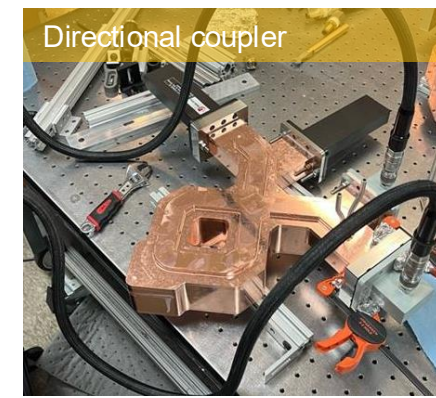
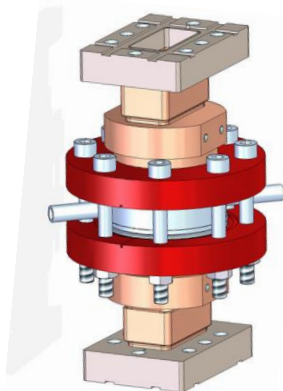


# C-band testing infrastructure overview

- 2 RF stations provide power 25 MW to hybrid gun and 50 MW to 100 MeV linac module
  - The current network supports parallel testing of an additional structure of up to 25 MW
- Laser system supports UV line for photoemission, and IR line for ICS
- Final focus and interaction system, beam dump/spectrometer beamline, and X-ray test station
- EPICS control system

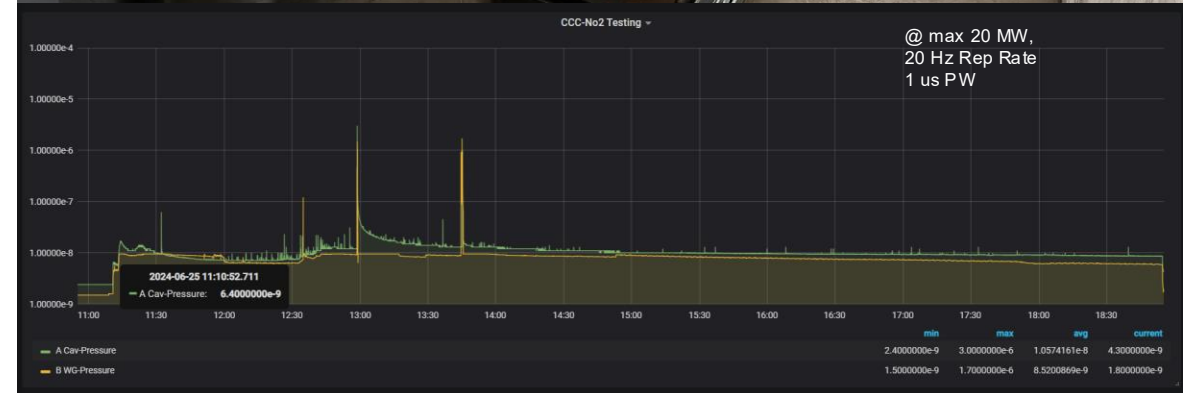
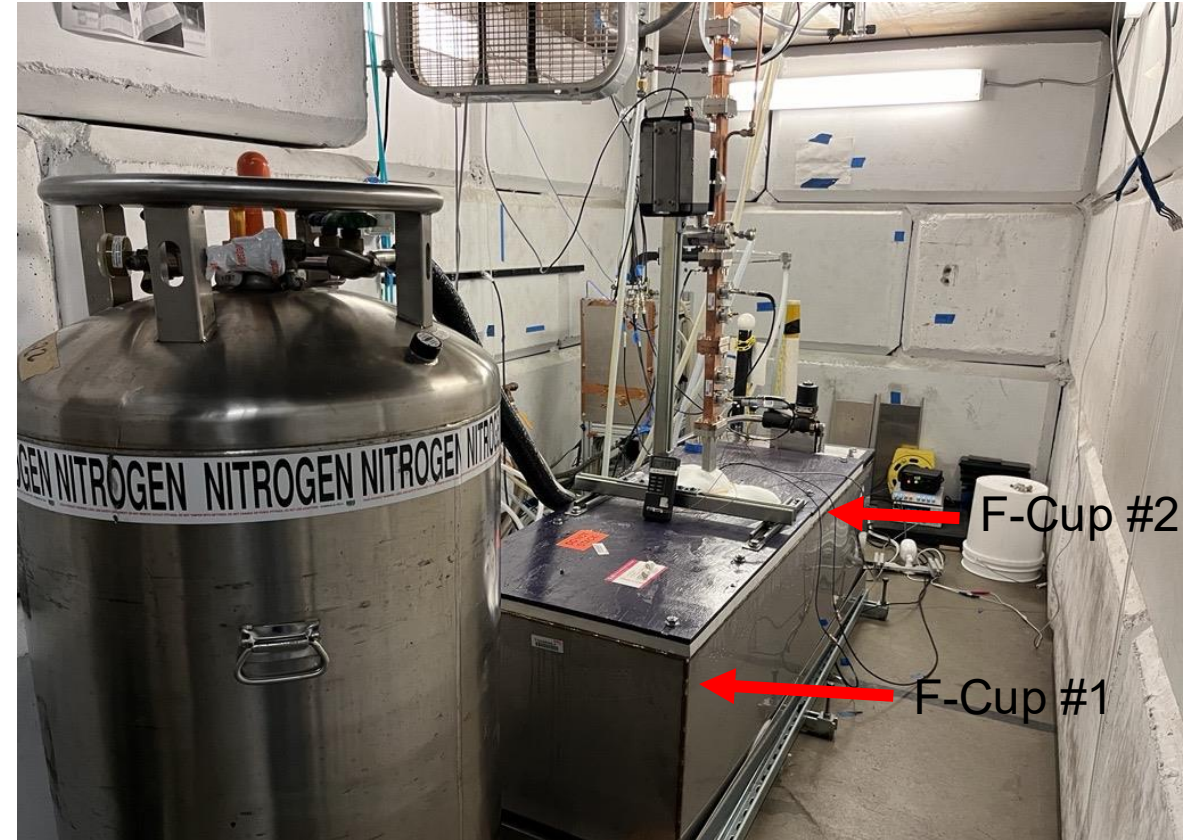
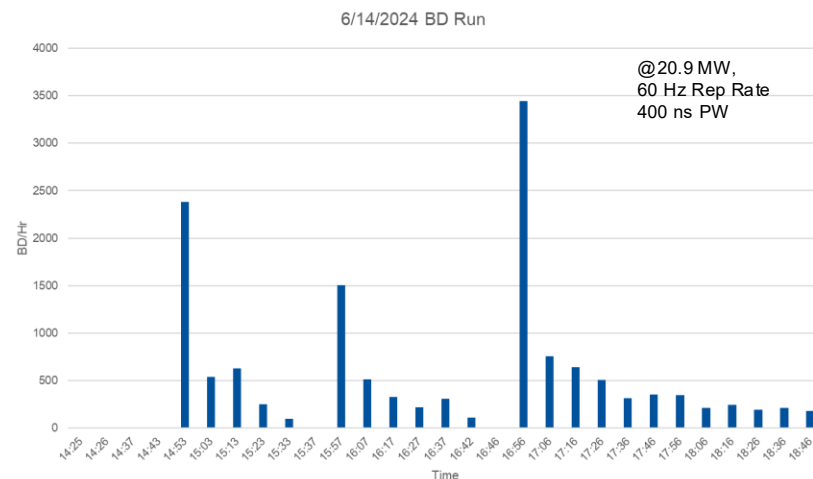


- RF network is rather complex
  - 2 Canon 5.712 GHz E37212 Klystrons driven by Scandinova K300 Modulators provide 25MW & 50MW to 100Hz, 1.2 $\mu$ s
  - 2 Phase Shifter Power Splitters (PS2) fully designed and manufactured by SLAC
  - 8x SLAC designed High Directivity Directional Couplers (6x manufactured by RadiaBeam)
  - 3D printed loads SLAC designed and manufactured by RadiaBeam
  - Variety of loads/windows from CML/Mega/Nihon Koshua/Custom
  - Multitude of WG components built in-house
  - WR187 straights/bends/pumps outs
- Tested multiple commercial components at high power for the first time. Many windows and loads failed, providing valuable feedback to vendors for improvements.
- Developed some components in-house (directional coupler, loads, windows, all SLAC designed)
- Very productive collaboration with SLAC on C-band high power components development



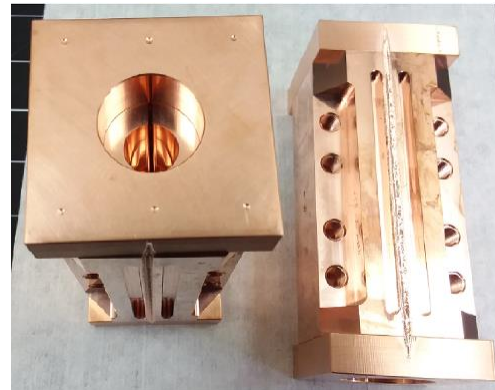
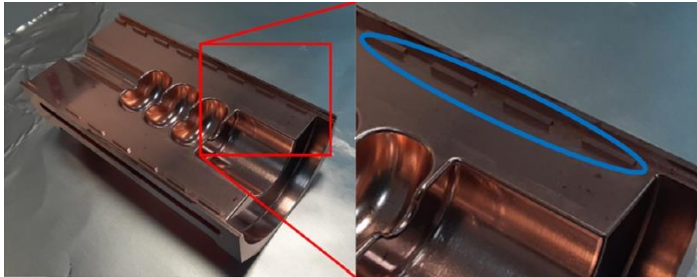
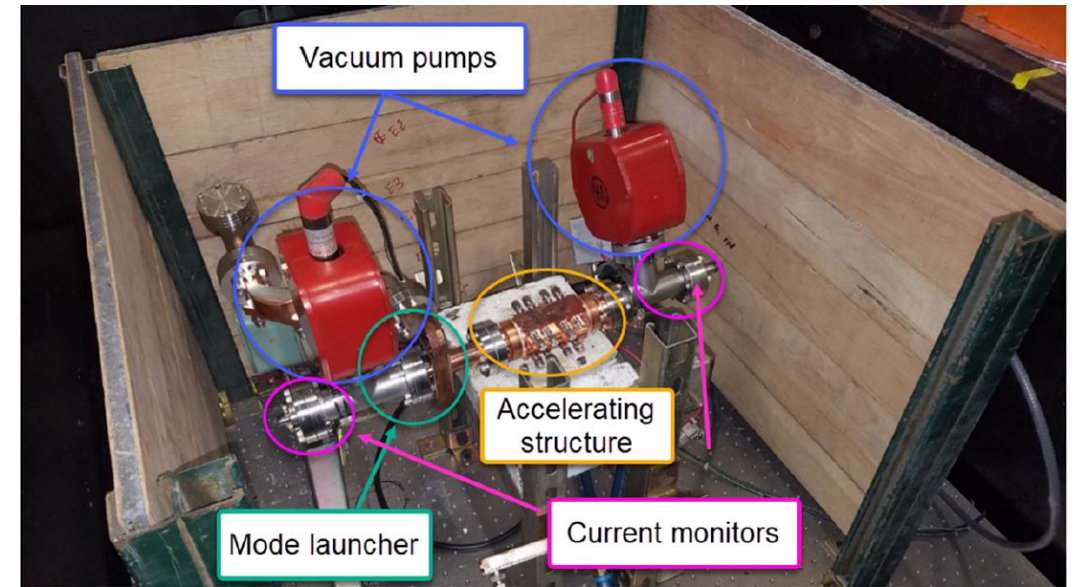


- 25 MW C-band power station was used to test SLAC C3 5712 MHz linac structures
- Conditioned 3x structures while monitoring breakdown rate and vacuum. Breakdown rate declined over the conditioning period.
  - SN1: Conditioned up to 15 MW, 100 Hz, 1  $\mu$ s pulse width at RT
  - SN3: Conditioned up to 10 MW, 100 Hz, 1  $\mu$ s pulse width at 77 K. Failure of a vacuum window stopped progress.
  - SN2: Conditioned up to 20 MW, 20 Hz, 1  $\mu$ s pulse width at 77 K. ~80 hours conditioning, more run time can improve BD rate.

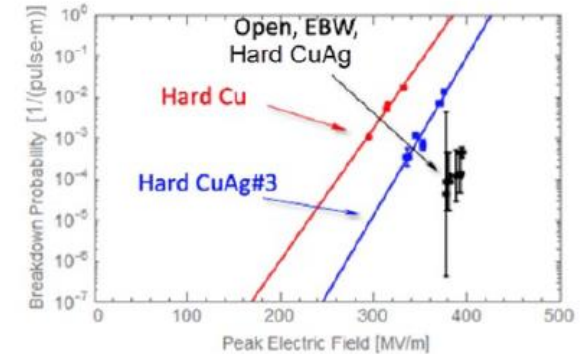
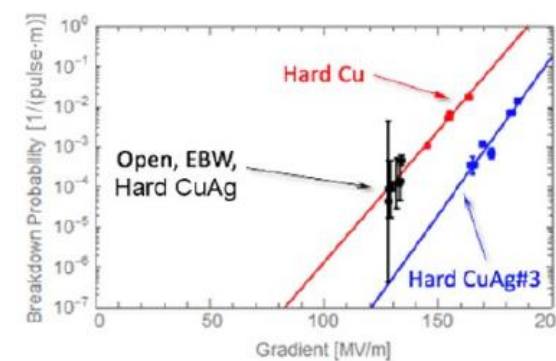


- We developed high-gradient X-band accelerating structure adapting the split approach and Electron Beam Welding (EBW)
  - SW 3-cell structure operating at 11.424 GHz
  - Utilized hard copper alloys to improve high-gradient performance over traditional annealed copper structures
- Test performed at SLAC with 600 ns, 60 Hz, up to 3.7 MW demonstrated 140 MV/m gradient with surface peak fields of 400 MV/m, BD rate  $10^{-4}$ /pulse.m
- The split feature results in higher surface fields compared to conventional structures at the same breakdown rate, it provides a great potential for cost reduction of their fabrication

Test setup at SLAC

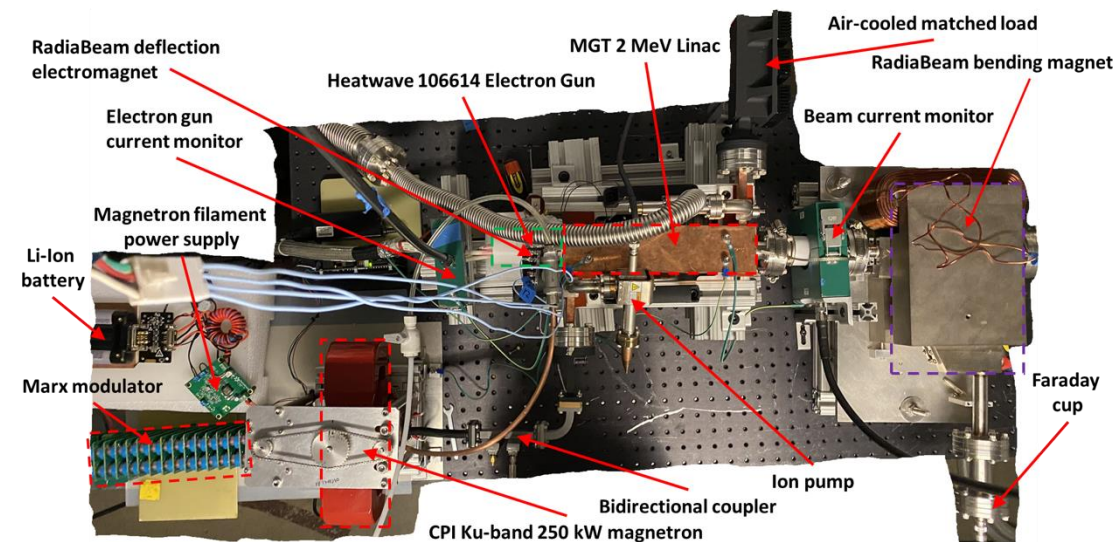


Comparison of EBW split structure with conventional multiple cell structure at 600 ns





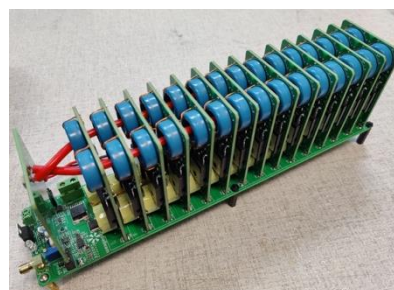
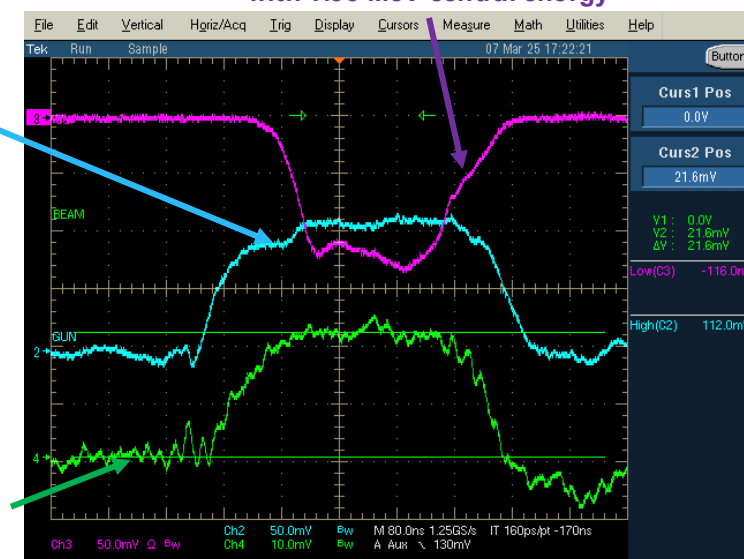
- RadiaBeam has developed a first-of-its-kind hand-portable TW Ku-band (15.1GHz) linac using a split structure approach
  - Up to 2 MeV electron energy to replace Co-57, Ir-192, Cs-137 and X-ray tubes for NDT and Nuclear Safeguard applications
  - ~ 23 kg, > 1 cGy/min @ 1 m
  - 24 kV solid-state Marx modulator ~1.5kg
  - Uses an air-cooled Ku-band magnetron
  - Can be operated from battery or small generator
- We have achieved 1.8MeV beam at 300 Hz rep. rate



Accelerated current  
at the Faraday cup after bending magnet  
with 1.33 MeV central energy

105 mA  
Injected  
current

16.0 mA accelerated  
current  
at the beam current  
monitor



- For over 15 years, RadiaBeam has been developing custom accelerator components from L-band to Ku-band for industrial, and medical applications. We offer comprehensive services encompassing design, manufacturing, high-power testing, and beamline testing.
- Our state-of-the-art C-band facility, capable of supporting up to 50MW, opens the door to a wide range of cutting-edge experiments and technology development programs.
- We're open to new collaborations. Come explore the possibilities with us!