



# Accelerators for

# AB - NCT

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# Context

- Neutron Capture Therapy requires an intense flux of epithermal neutrons
  - $n + {}^{10}\text{B} \rightarrow \alpha + {}^7\text{Li}$
- Neutrons are produced by nuclear reactions, before moderation
  - $p + {}^7\text{Li} \rightarrow n + {}^7\text{Be}$
  - $d + {}^9\text{Be} \rightarrow n + {}^{10}\text{B}$
- Required energy corresponds to process optimum
  - deuterons: 1.5 MeV
  - protons : 2.5 MeV
- Intensity requirement for acceptable treatment duration
  - 10 mA-20 mA
- Accelerator requirements of NCT = Accelerator requirements of BNCT

# Possible accelerators

- 3 types of accelerators considered to produce beams for AB-NCT
  - Cyclotrons
  - Electrostatic machines
  - Linear accelerators : Radiofrequency quadrupole (RFQ)
- Most inputs from *Workshop of Accelerator Based Neutron Production ABNP*, held in Legnaro (Italy), April 2014

# AB-BNCT projects worldwide

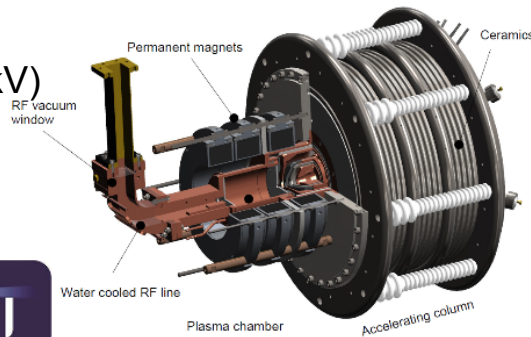
- Major AB-BNCT projects under development or in operation
  - Kyoto university (Japan) : 30 MeV, 1 mA, cyclotron
  - Birmingham university (UK) : 3 MeV, 5 mA, dynamitron
  - Budker institute (Russia) : 2.5 MeV, 10 mA, tandem
  - Argentina, commission atomic energy : 2.4 MeV, 30 mA, tandem
  - Legnaro (INFN) : 5 MV, 30 mA, RFQ

# Ion sources (ECRIS)

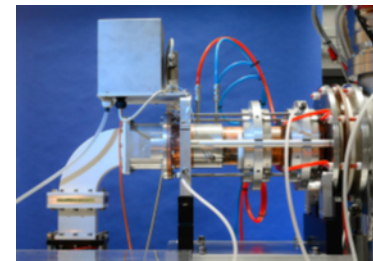
- Specifications : H or D, with 10-20 mA
- Positive ions :
  - Industrial solutions are available :

40mA H<sup>+</sup> @ 60 kV  
(up to 100 mA @ 100 kV)

1200 W - 2.45 GHz



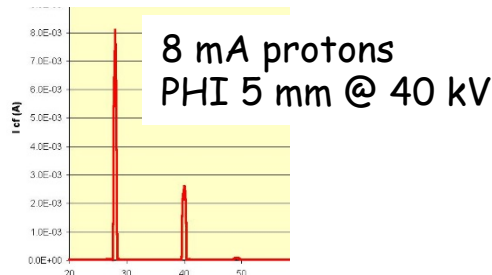
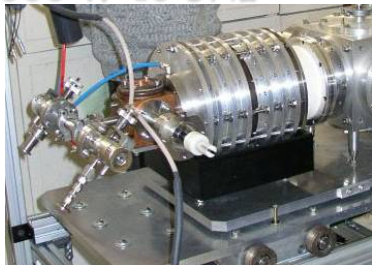
MONOGAM M1000 by Pantechnik  
(used for MYRRHA project)



15 mA H<sup>+</sup>@ 30 keV

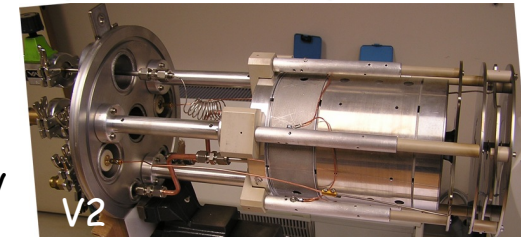
- Many lab solutions also exist:

LPSC (2002) MicroPHOENIX for SPIRAL2,  
300 W-10 GHz



R&D for compact, low power, intense proton sources

SUPERCOMIC  
80 W - 5.8 GHz  
2 mA protons  
PHI 6 mm @ 40 kV

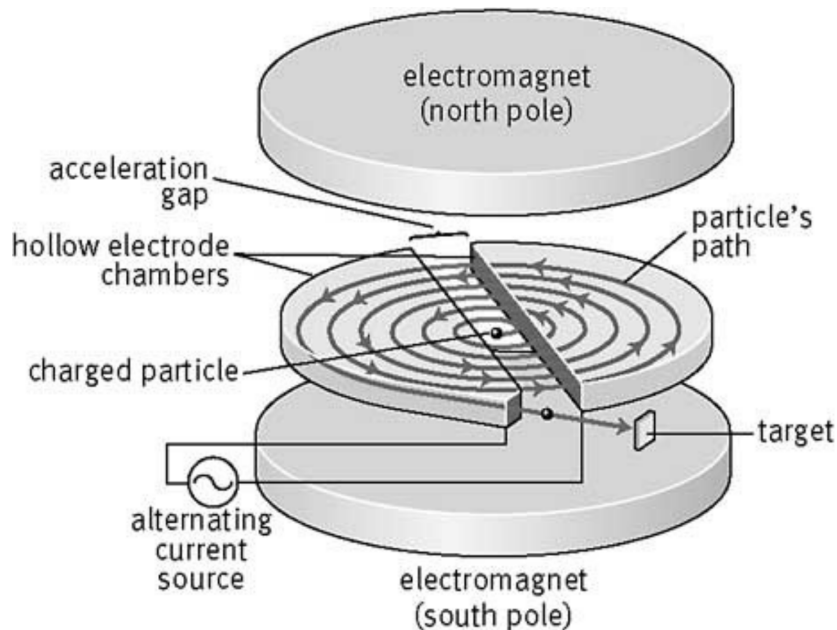


- Negative ions :

- Currents above 10 mA seem achievable, but complicated (reliability?)

# Cyclotrons

- Acceleration in gaps between 2 D-shaped magnetic field region to guide the particles with synchronization particle orbits and RF field
- Typical energies : few MeV and higher → main drawback
- Current limitation : few mA at most
- Commonly produced by industrial companies
- Used in hospitals for hadrontherapy and isotope production



Proton therapy (Sumitomo Heavy Industries)

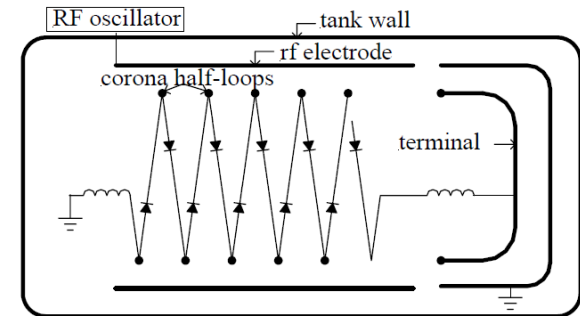
# Kyoto university (Japan)

- Cyclotron HM-30 : 30 MeV, 1 mA proton beam (Sumitomo Heavy Industry)
- Epithermal neutron flux of  $1.2 \times 10^9 \text{ n.cm}^{-2}.\text{s}^{-1}$  with target and moderator
- Cyclotron installed in Innovation Research Laboratory Medical Area (2008)
- Test of neutron production started in March 2009
- After the physical and biological irradiation using small animals and cells, the first clinical trial in the world was started on October 2012

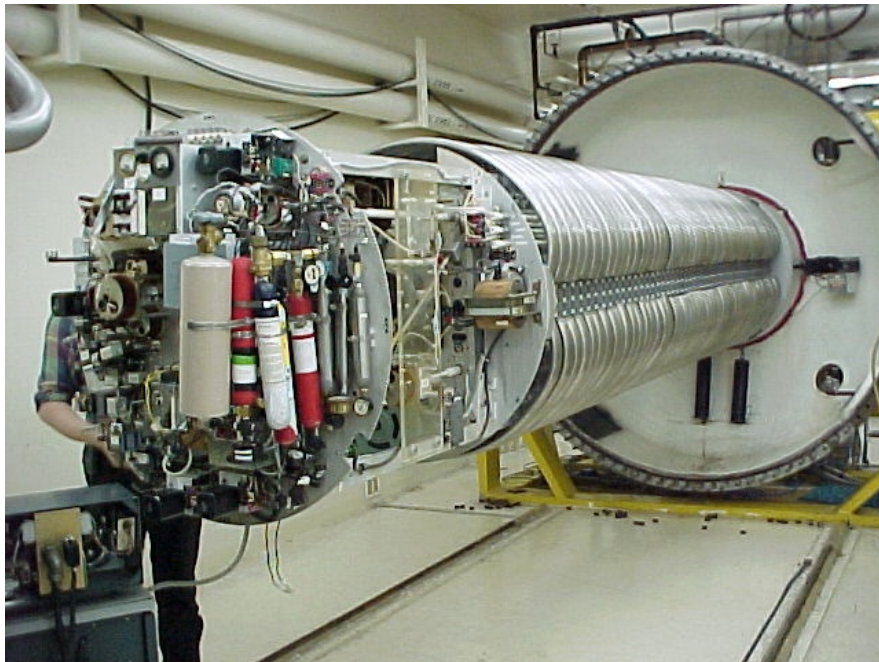


# Electrostatic machines - 1

- Dynamitron : Cockcroft-Walton type
- Single-ended machine with ion source (compact) at HV terminal within tank
- HV generated through rectified RF power
- Typical operating voltages: few MV
- Typical intensities : few mA -tens of mA



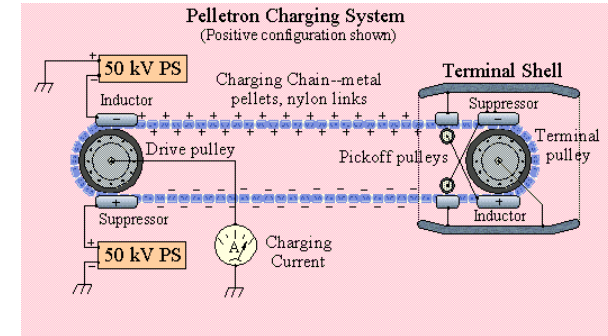
Dynamitron



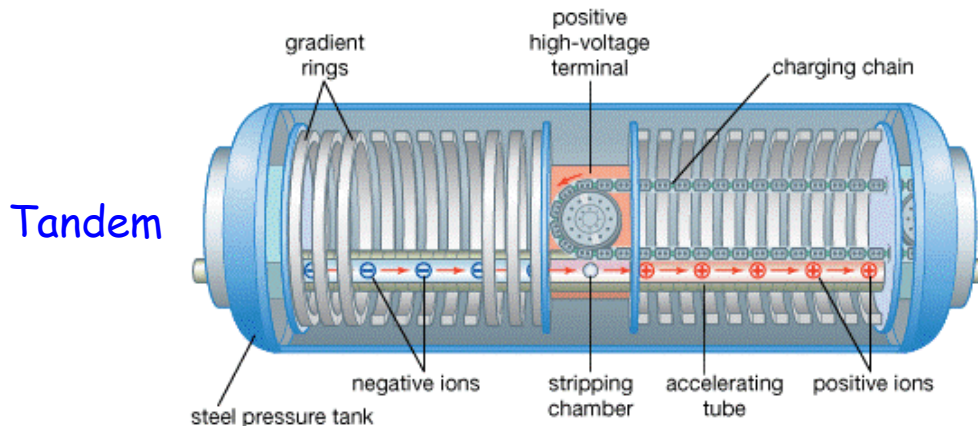


# Electrostatic machines - 2

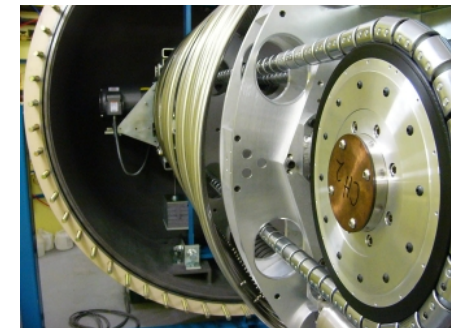
- Van de Graaf type : Pelletron
- HV brought to the terminal by a charging chain
- Single-ended :
  - Positive ion source : high current
- Tandem :
  - Ions charge flipped to be accelerated twice
  - Energy doubled for a given voltage
  - Negative ion source : difficult for high intensities



Pelletron



Tandem

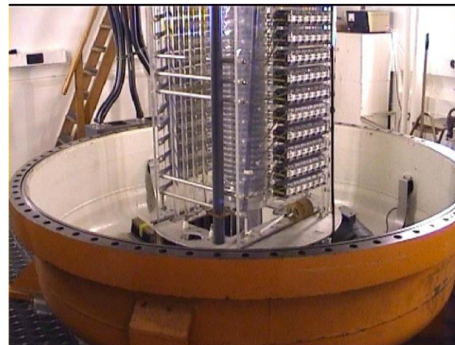
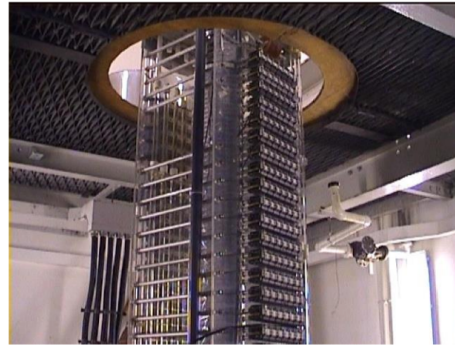


Charging chain

- Commercialized by High Voltage Engineering Europa (HVEE), Netherlands or National Electrostatic Corporation (NEC), USA

# Birmingham university (UK)

- Singled-ended dynamitron, vertical orientation
- Parameters used routinely : 2.8 MV and 1 mA



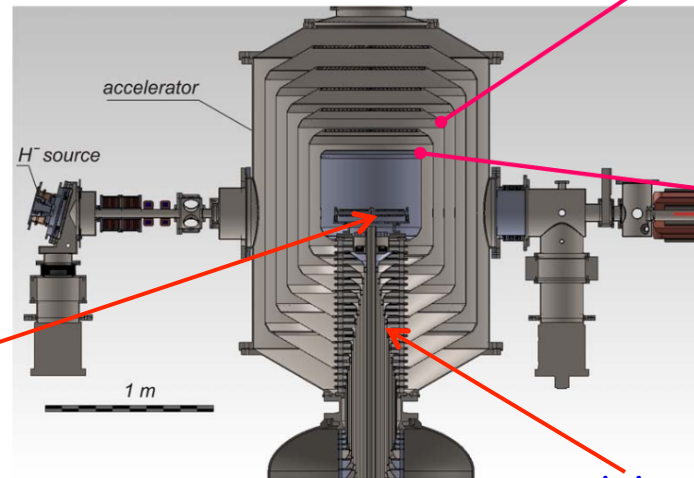
- Status : operational
- Expect ion source from IBA to provide current up to 15 mA

# Budker Institute (Russia)

- Vacuum insulation tandem accelerator (VITA)
- High electric field (compactness)
- Remoteness of insulator (high current expected)
- Negative ion source : up to 3 mA



Intermediate electrodes



Gas stripper

Feedthrough insulator

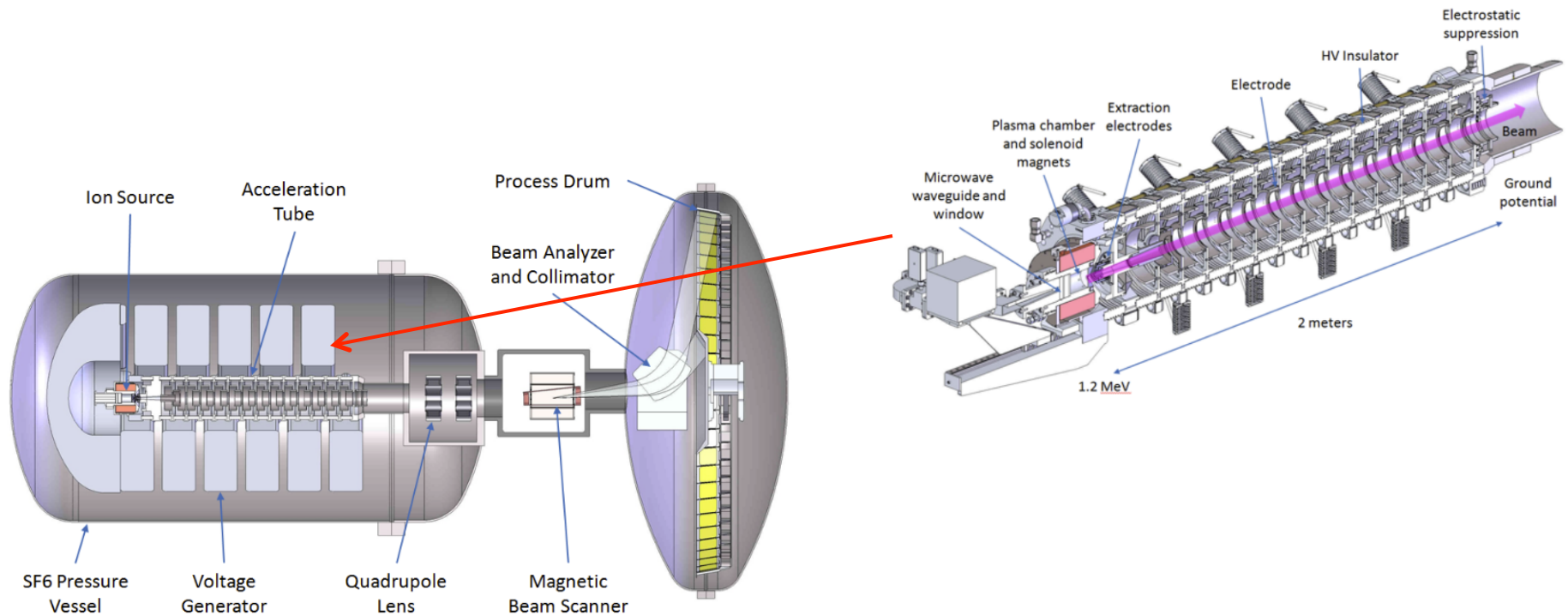


HV electrode

- Status : 2 MeV 1 mA proton beam stable for operation > 1h

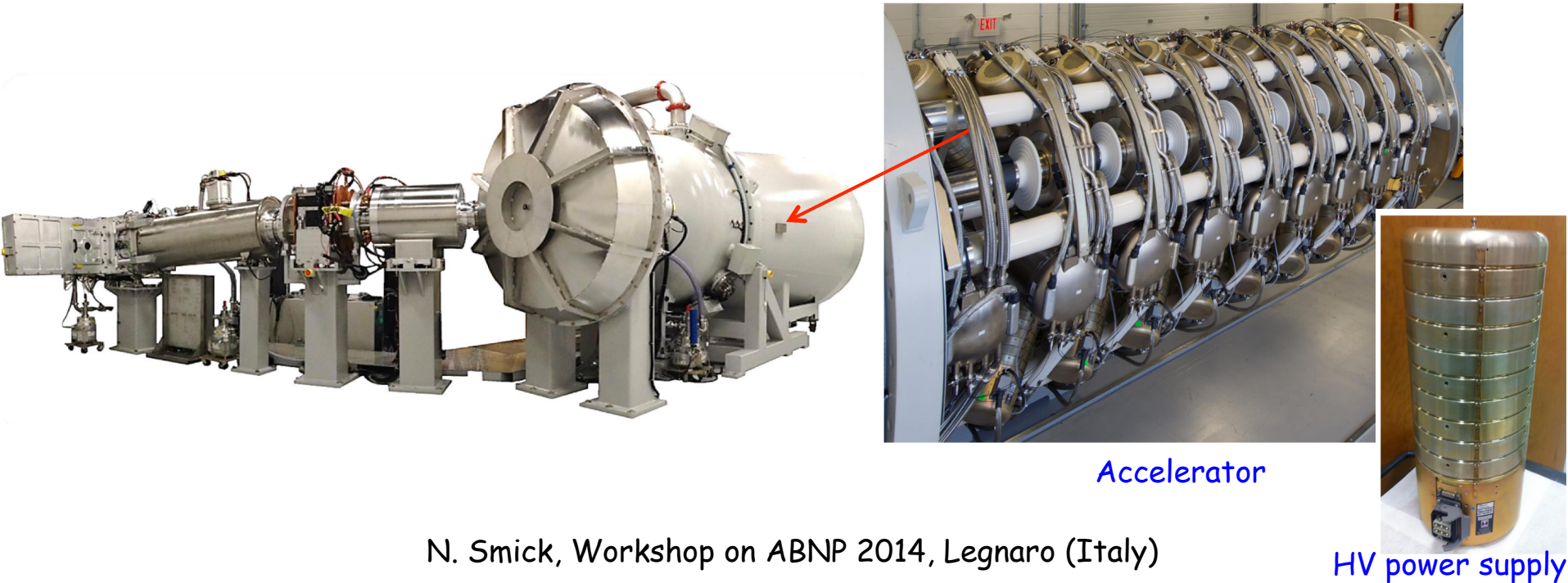
# Dynamitron from GT Advanced Technology - 1

- Hyperion™ : commercial solution proposed by GT Advanced Technology
- H<sup>+</sup> implanter for solar cells
- Design specifications : protons, 2 MeV, 50 mA, CW (single-ended)
- Power supply concept (Directly Driven Electrodes) to limit perturbations from beam loss on accelerating electrodes and enhance beam intensities



# Dynamitron from GT Advanced Technology - 2

- Status (April 2014) : 33 mA at 2 MeV and 50 mA at 1.87 MeV



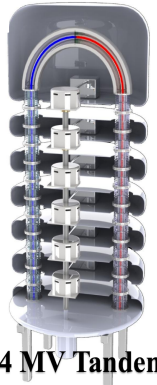
- From New Hampshire Business Review (oct 16, 2015):
  - GT AT filed for bankruptcy in oct 2014 (failed contract for Apple)
  - GT AT to sell its Hyperion technology to Neutron Therapeutics Inc. for \$M 1.1

# High current dynamitron from IBA

- IBA : Ion Beam Applications, world leader in accelerators for cancer diagnostics and treatment
- 2005 : BNCT project with Japan (Yagami Seisakusho Corporation)
  - R&D for dynamitron, gantry, Li target and BSA
  - Proton dynamitron at 2.5 MeV, 20 mA
  - Very limited business and project cost
    - scope reduced to 15 mA (2012), dynamitron functional
    - end of BNCT at IBA
- Second dynamitron for Silicon slicing for photovoltaic applications
  - machine developed for protons at 4 MeV, 15 mA
  - company went bankrupt (SIGEN)
  - accelerator was functional

# Tandem-ESQ (Argentina)

- Different accelerators under development, including
  - 700 kV tandem
  - **1.4 MV tandem (or single-ended)**
- Folded tandem (vertical orientation) with 1.4 MV terminal in air
- Electrostatic quadrupoles (ESQ) to provide beam focusing
- Ion source: protons
  - Tested on teststand : 30 mA
  - Transported through 200 kV machine up to 10 mA
- 700 kV tandem : assembly underway
- 1.4 MV tandem under development



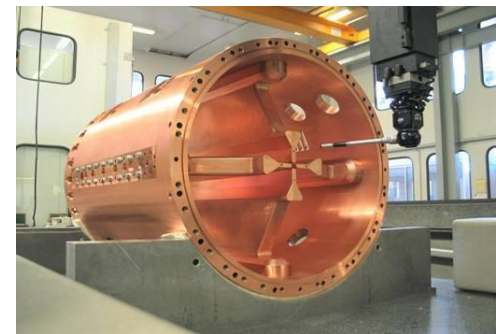
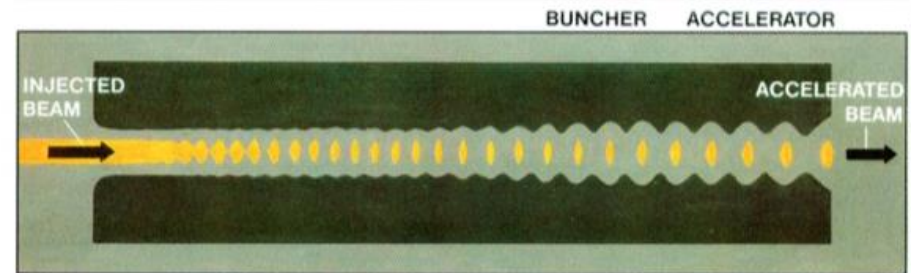
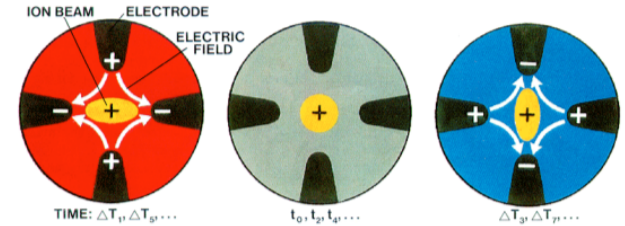
1.4 MV Tandem  
Accelerator  
or single ended



700 kV tandem

# RFQ

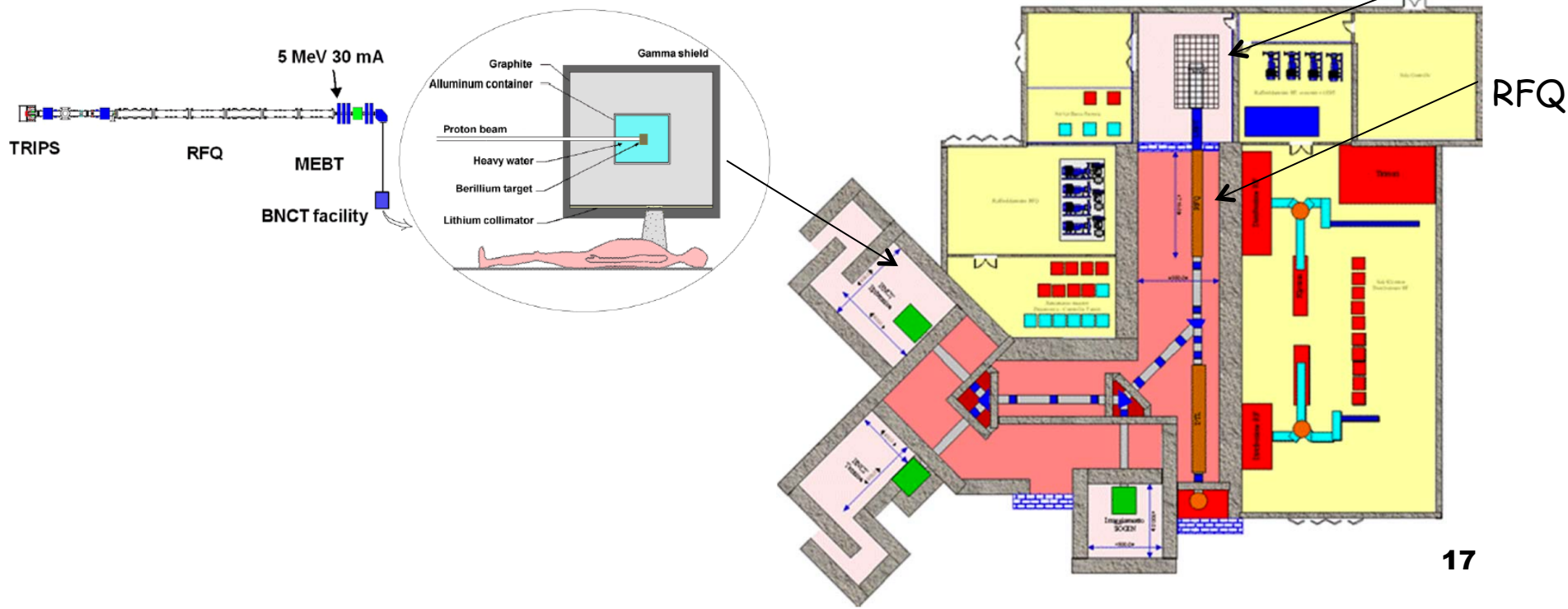
- RFQ : Radio-Frequency Quadrupole
- High current linear accelerator
- Combined function structure:
  - Bunching : DC beam  $\rightarrow$  RF buckets
  - Radial focusing
  - Acceleration
- Output energy : several MeV
- Current : up to 100 mA (IPHI)
- See next talks by
  - Jérôme Schwindling (CEA activities)
  - Jean-Michel Lagniel (SPIRAL2 RFQ)





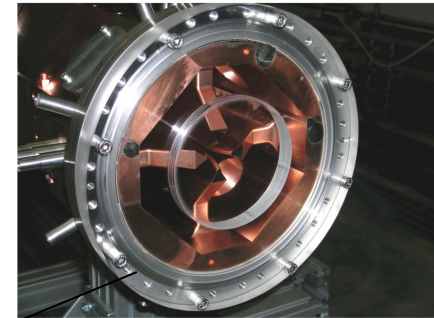
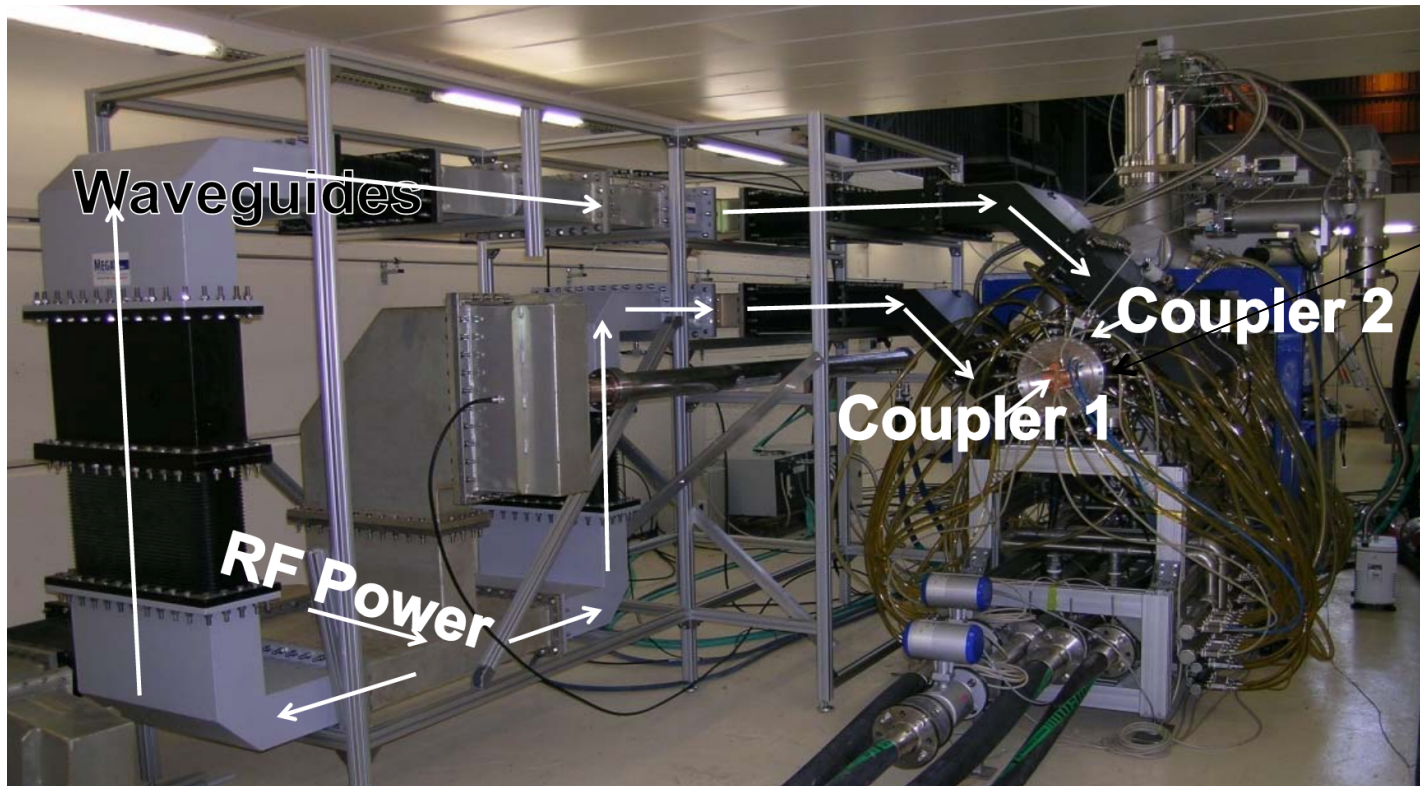
# INFN Legnaro (Italy) - 1

- Selective Production of Exotic Species (SPES) : radioactive ion beams to study nuclear physics and astrophysics
- Facility under construction at INFN-LNL
- Ion source (TRIPS) : 50 mA of protons at 80 keV
- Radio Frequency Quadrupole (RFQ) : 5 MeV
- High-power beryllium target in the center of the Beam Shaping Assembly
- Expected intensity : approximately  $10^{14}$  n.s<sup>-1</sup>



# INFN Legnaro (Italy) - 2

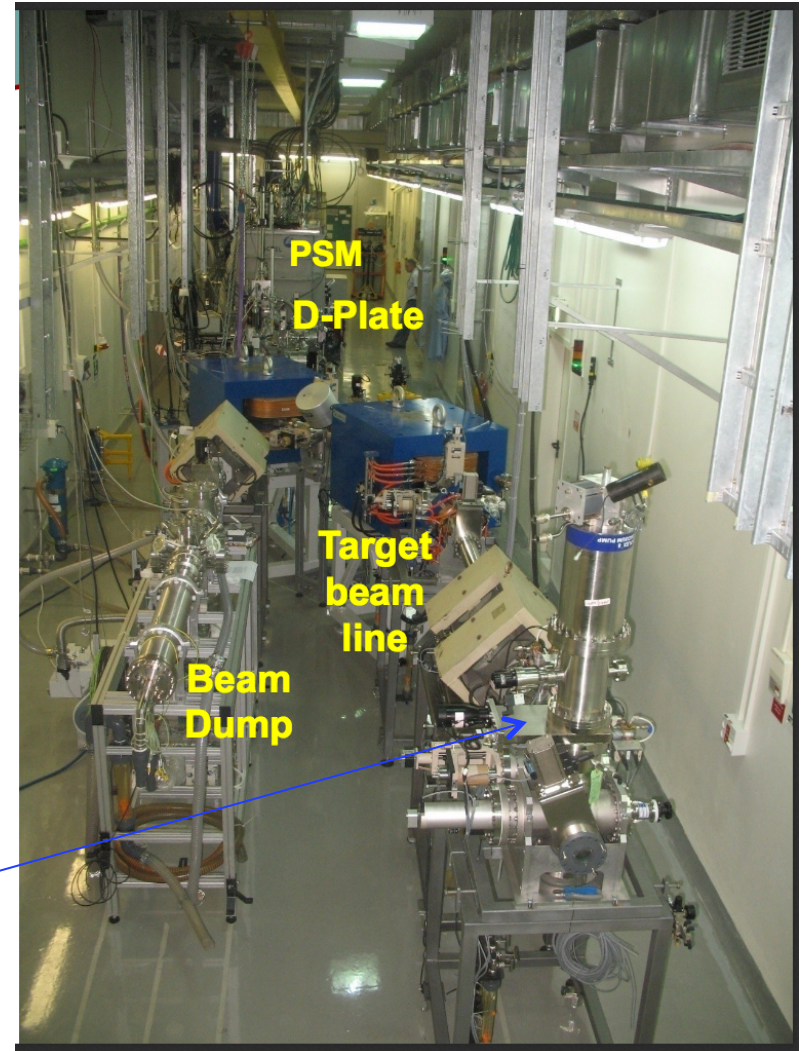
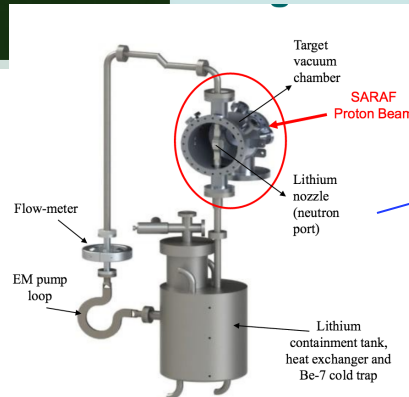
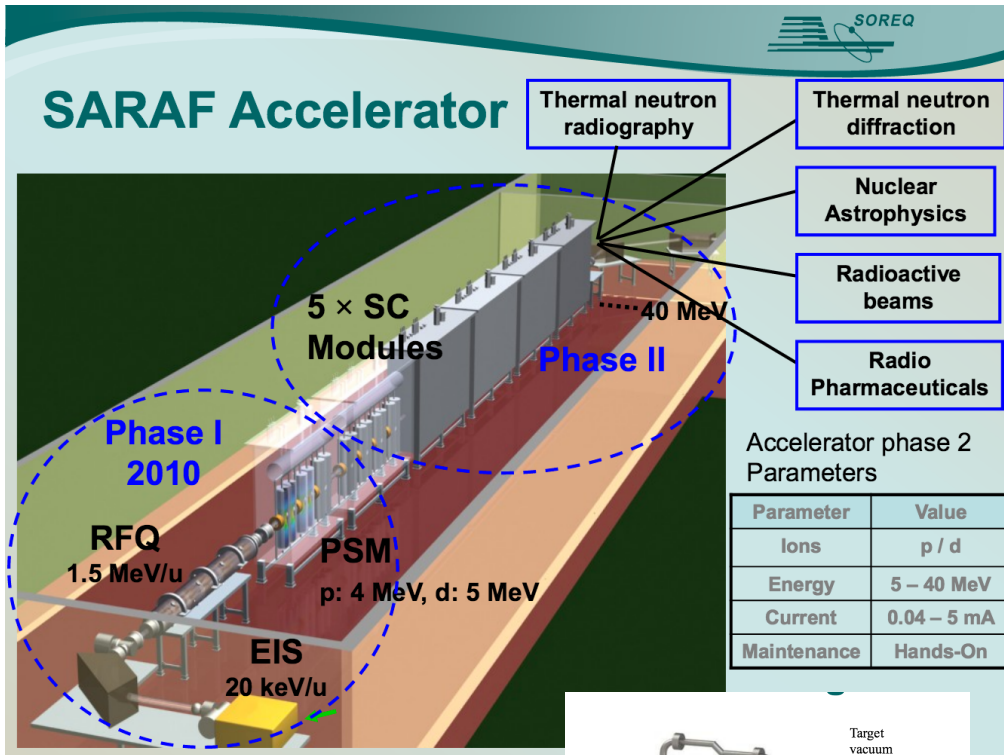
- Accelerator commissioning under way
- RFQ successfully passed the RF power tests :
  - Stable operation at nominal conditions (60kV)



# SOREQ - 1

- Soreq Applied Research Accelerator Facility (SARAF) : nuclear physics, astrophysics, material science, radiopharmaceuticals, therapy ....
- SARAF: protons or deuterons 5 mA, up to 40 MeV
- Make use of SARAF phase I (until 2019) for NCT
  - source, LEBT, RFQ, PSM (6 superconducting cavities HWR 176 MHz)
  - phase I : p (4 MeV) or d (5 MeV)
  - Liquid Li target to study feasibility of AB-NCT
- Current status of SARAF : phase I functional
  - RFQ : CW proton or pulsed deuterons
  - high power target

# SOREQ - 2



# Conclusions

- Many accelerator options to meet the specifications of AB-NCT
- Solutions developed by industry and research communities
- Multiple projects under development, construction and in operation
  - Presented here
  - Projects in Japan: Tsukuba (Japan) : RFQ+DTL, 8 MeV, 10 mA, ...
  - Others ...
- RFQ by IAP Frankfurt
  - RFQ for MYRRHA project, under construction:
    - protons, 1.5 MeV (176 MHz)
    - possible extension for AB-NCT?
  - FRANZ :
    - ambitious neutron source project : 2 MeV protons, 50-200 mA
    - RFQ (700 KeV) + IH-DTL (8 gaps)
- RFQ developed by CEA-Saclay including SPIRAL2



Thanks for your attention