

*A PASSION FOR EXTREME LIGHT*  
*For the greatest benefit to human kind (Alfred Nobel)*



# *Transmutation des Déchets Nucléaires*

*Presented by*  
***Prof. Gérard Mourou***  
*Nobel Prize for Physics, 2018*



Toshiki Tajima



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***Gérard Mourou***

***Donna Strickland***

***PRIX NOBEL de  
PHYSIQUE 2018***



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*How Extreme is Extreme?*  
**PETAWATT LEVEL  $10^{15} \text{ W}$**

*1 PW is 1000 times the total power in  
the global grid, for  $10^{-15} \text{ s}$ !*



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## *How Much Pressure Does a PW Laser Exert?*

*1 PW/1 $\mu$ m spot size  
corresponds to  $10^{23}$  w/cm<sup>2</sup>*

*That is the equivalent of the  
pressure of 10 million Eiffel  
Towers on the tip of your  
finger!!*

*Seriously extreme!*







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## **LA LUMIERE EXTREME:**

Fournit les intensités les plus élevées,

Les champs électriques les plus grands,

Les pressions les plus importantes,

Les accélérations les plus grandes

Les températures les plus élevées

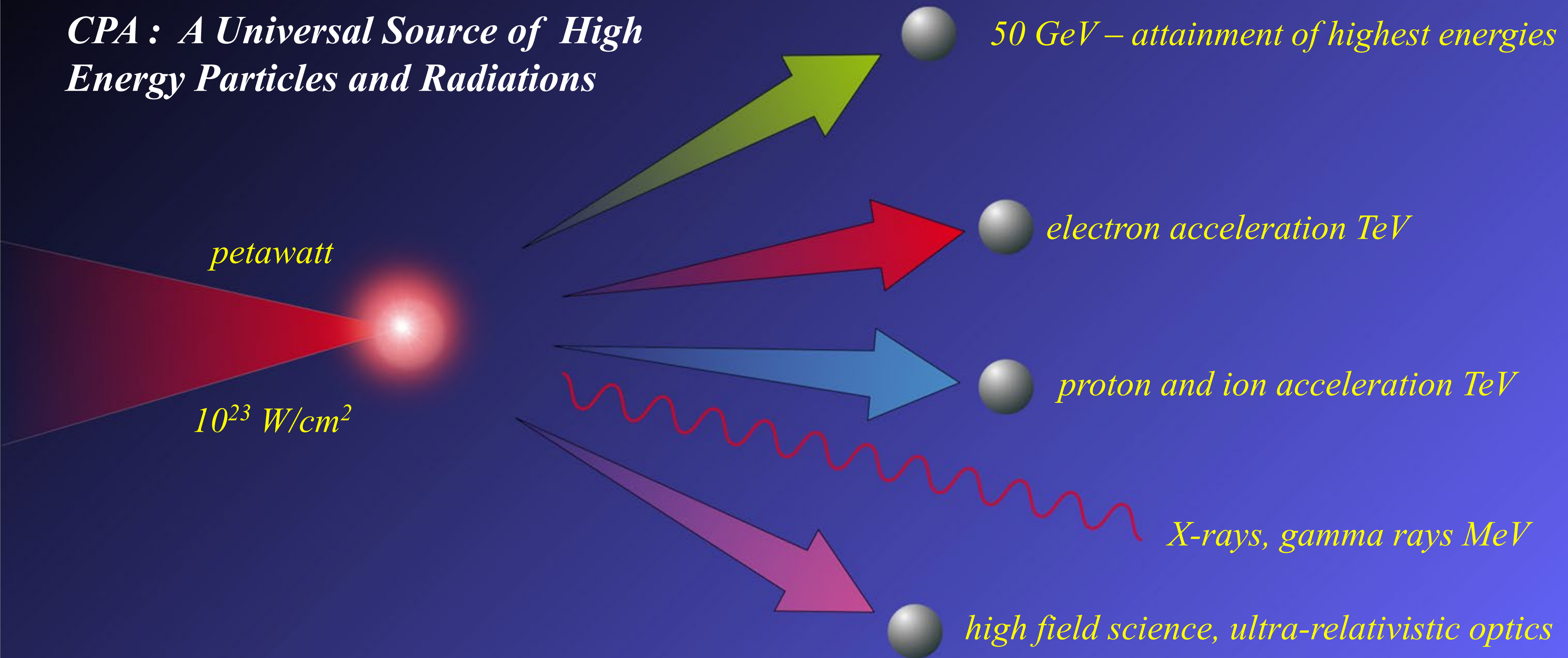
**Elle est la source universelle de particules et de radiations de haute énergie.**

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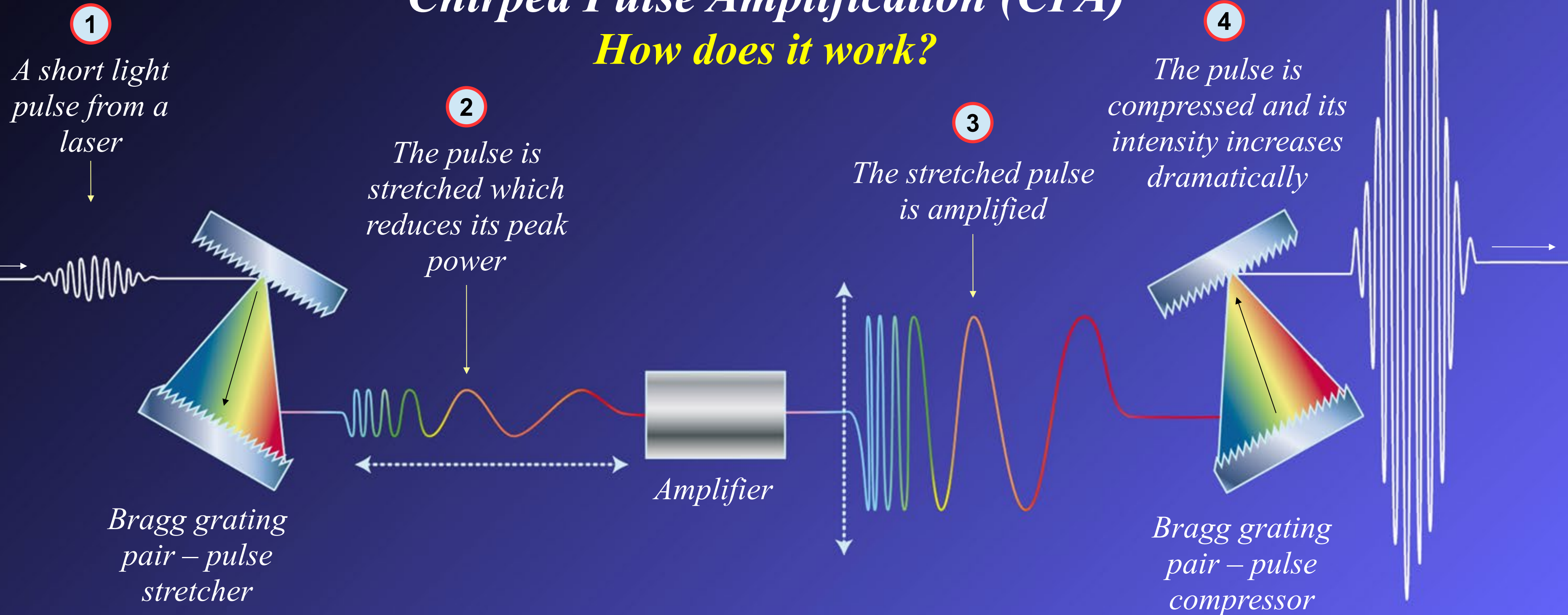


## CPA: A Universal Source of High Energy Particles and Radiations





## Chirped Pulse Amplification (CPA) How does it work?



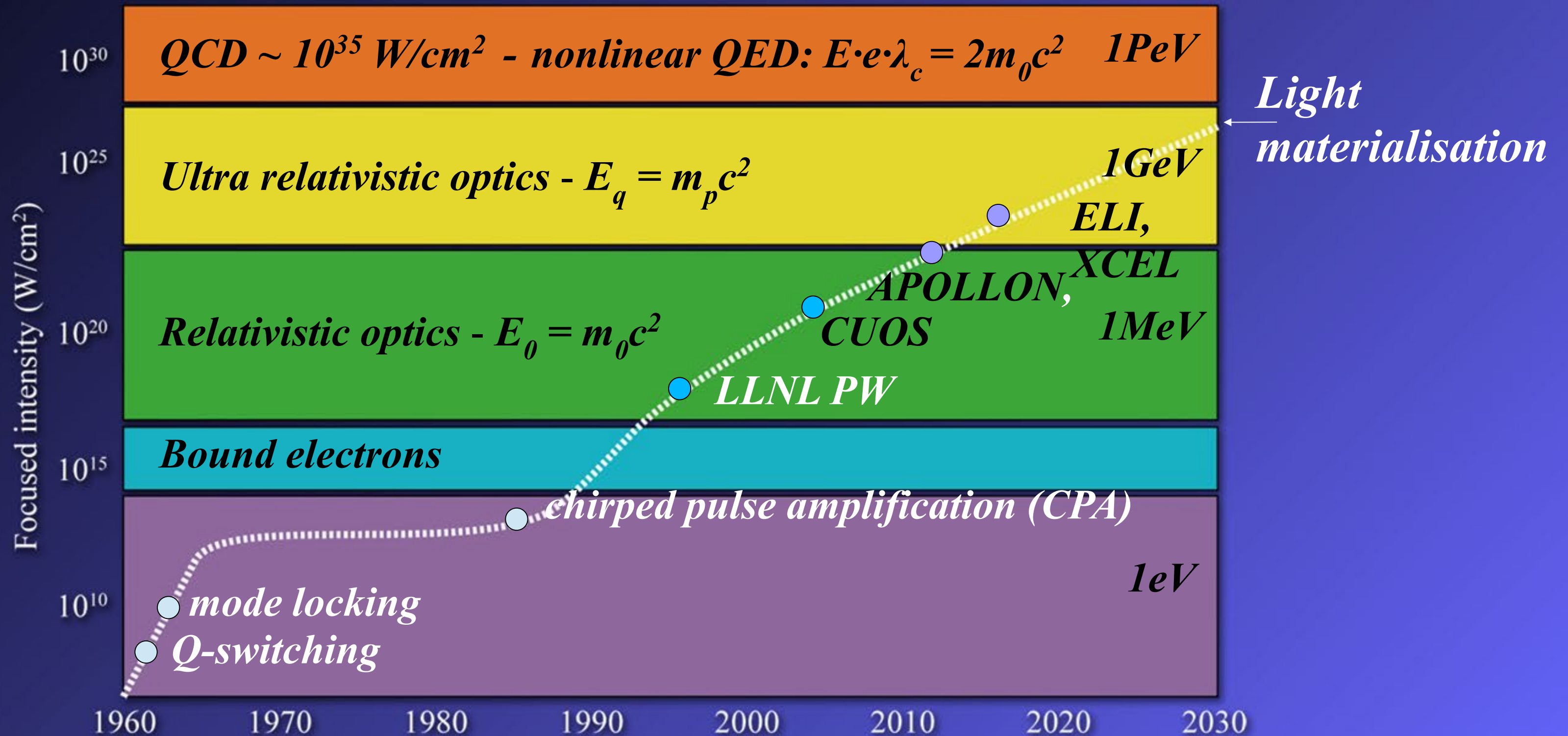


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## Extreme light ultra high intensity roadmap







# *ACCELERATION DE PARTICULES*



*laser pulse*

*electrons*

*plasma wave*

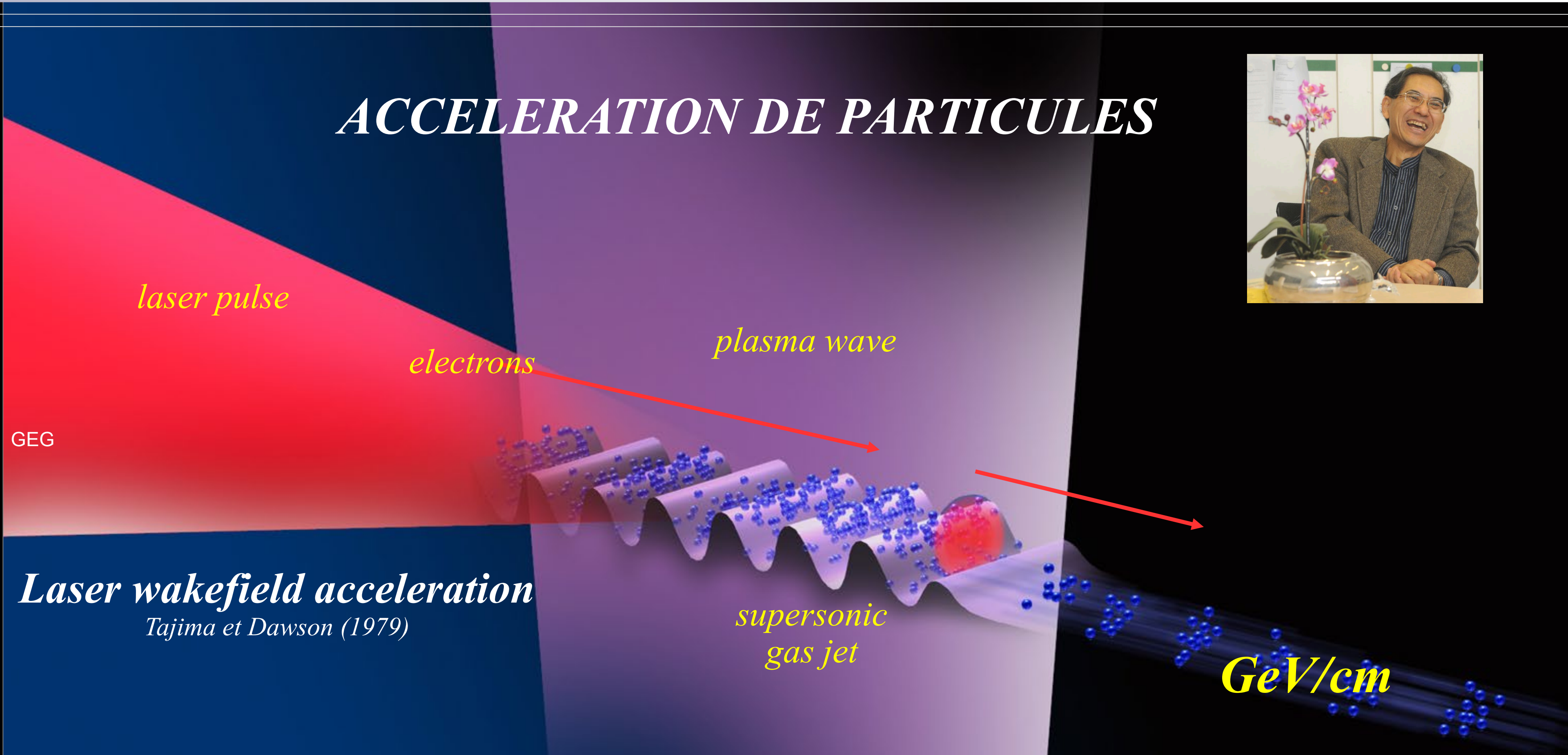
*supersonic  
gas jet*

*GeV/cm*

GEG

*Laser wakefield acceleration*

*Tajima et Dawson (1979)*





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## Synchrotron SOLEIL 3GeV





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## *Giant wakefield acceleration in solid*

*Tajima et Dawson (1979)*

*Laser-particle accelerations to the TeV/cm level become possible*

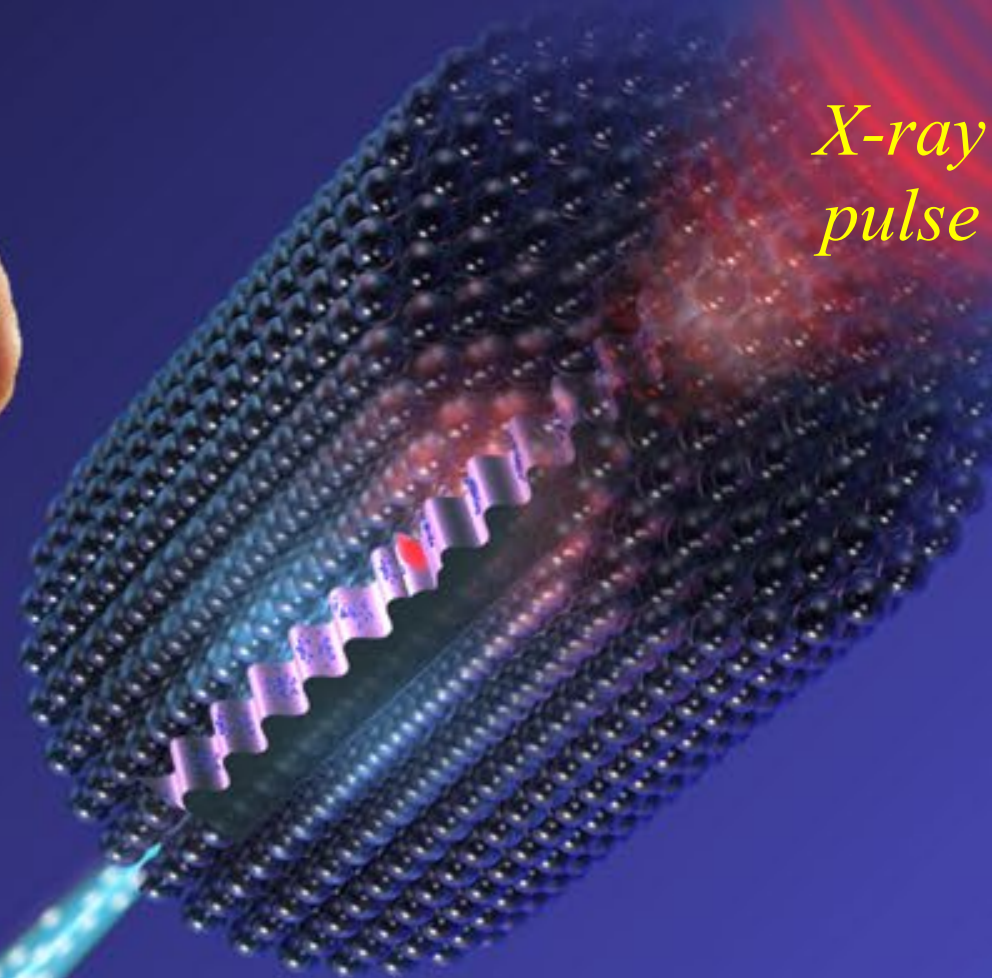
*X-ray  
pulse*

### *Tomorrow*

- \* visible laser induced wakefield*
- \* about 100 metres long*
- \* the size of a football pitch*

### *Beyond tomorrow*

- \* laser induced X-ray wakefield*
- \* about TeV/cm*
- \* the size of a microchip*





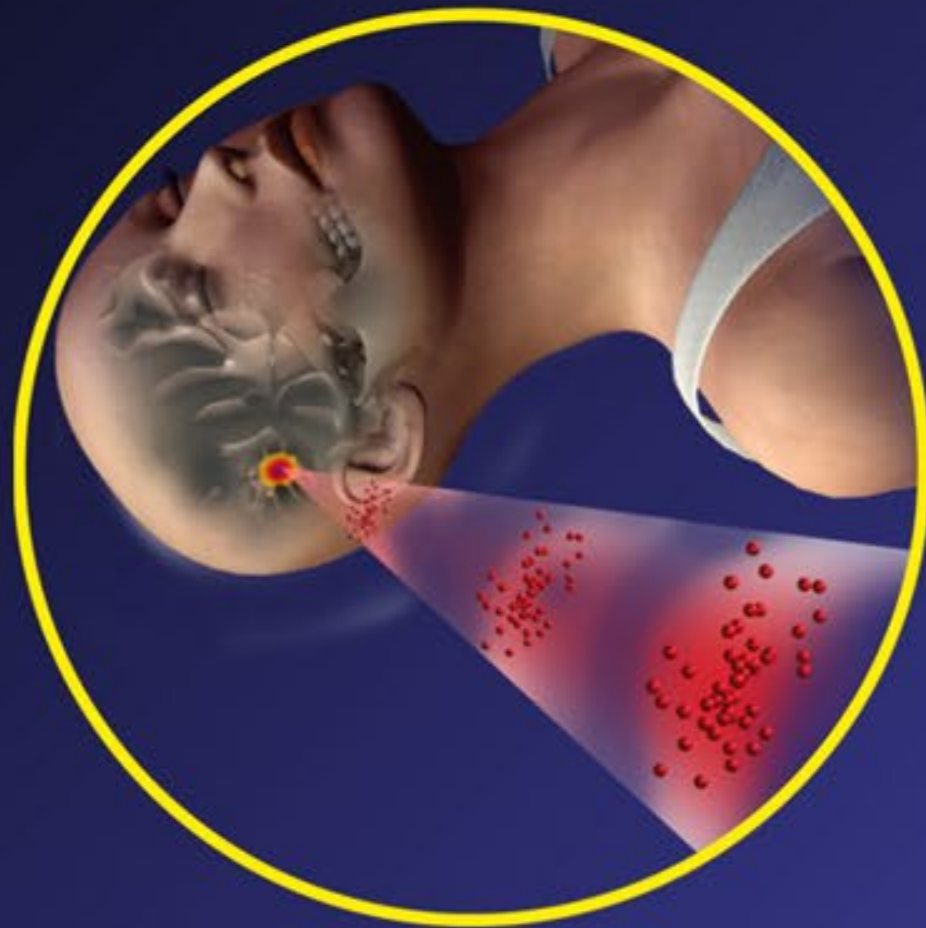
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## *CPA in Nuclear Medicine*

### *Proton therapy*



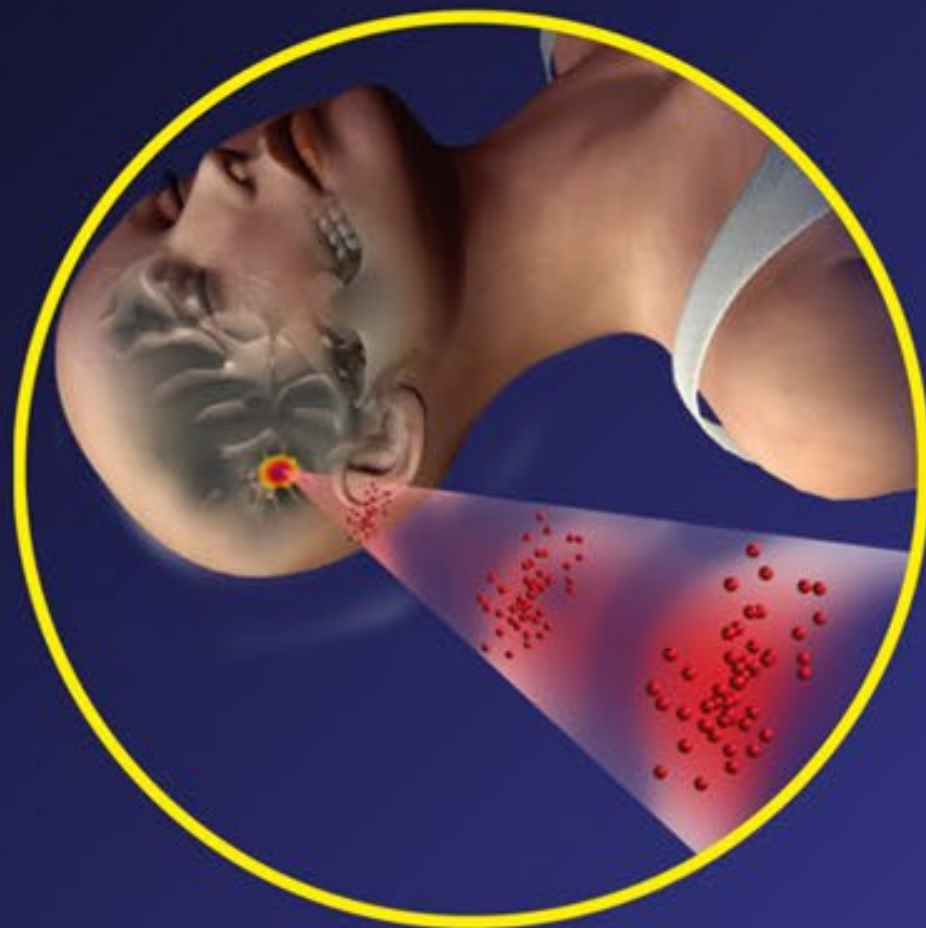
*Extreme light technology  
will be tens of times more  
compact, more precise and  
less expensive*





## *CPA in Nuclear Medicine*

### *Proton therapy*



*Extreme light technology  
will be tens of times more  
compact, more precise and  
less expensive*

### *Nuclear therapy*



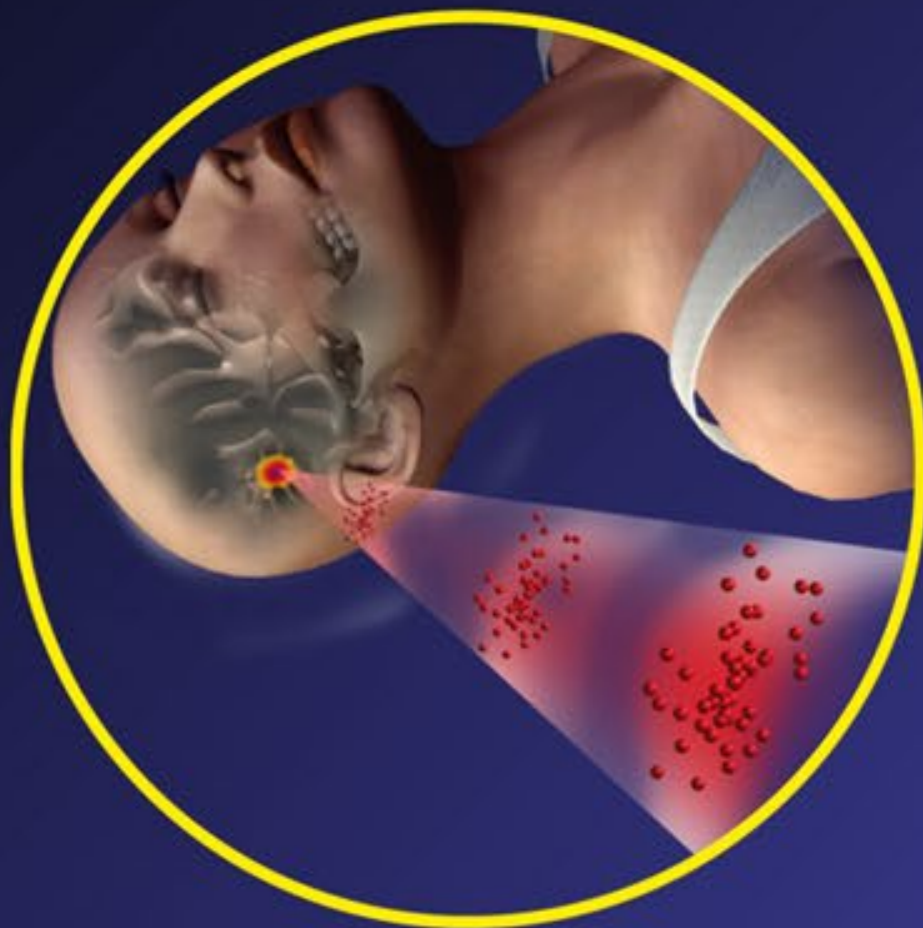
*Radionuclides are  
used to implant  
radioactive pellets  
directly into a tumour*





## *CPA in Nuclear Medicine*

### *Proton therapy*



*Extreme light technology will be tens of times more compact, more precise and less expensive*

### *Nuclear therapy*



*Radionuclides are used to implant radioactive pellets directly into a tumour*

### *Nuclear diagnostics*



*When a scanner needs a radioisotope, extreme laser acceleration in the clinic would make this fast and safer*



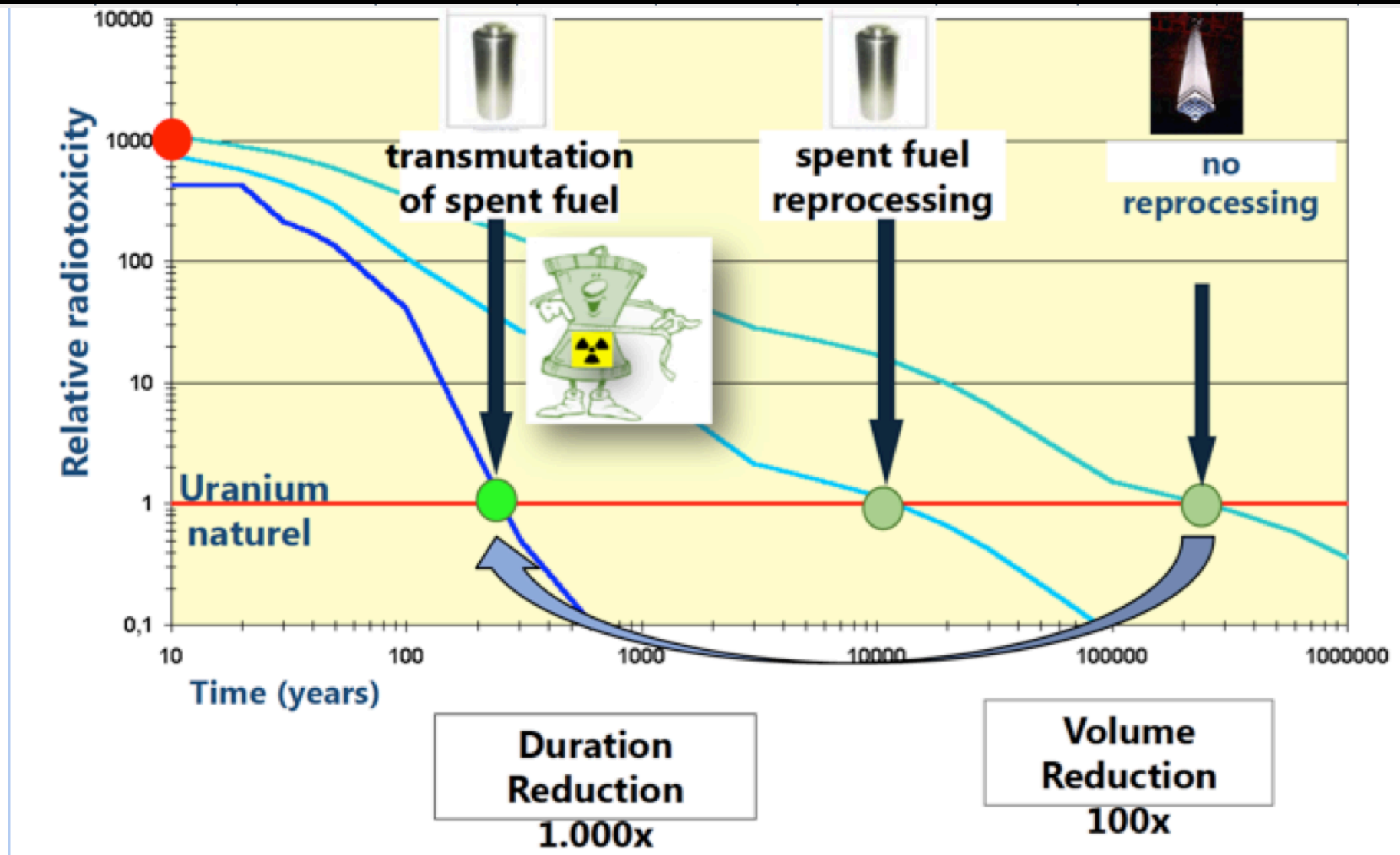
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## *CPA Mitigating Nuclear waste*





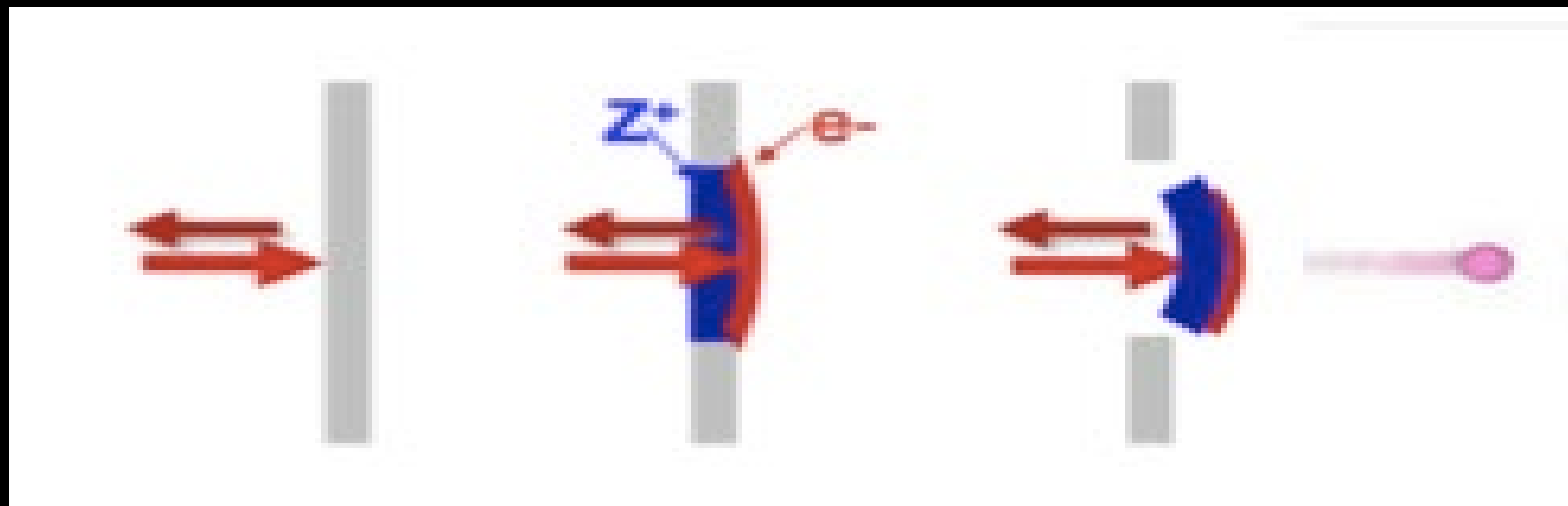


**Figure 1:** The radiotoxicity of the spent nuclear fuel may be reduced from the level of no reprocessed case to a level reduced by about 1000 times if we transmute the spent fuel. This is why the substantial benefit may be gained by the transmutation. [10],[11]



# *Low Hanging Fruit: High Energy Proton Generation*

GeV Proton Generation

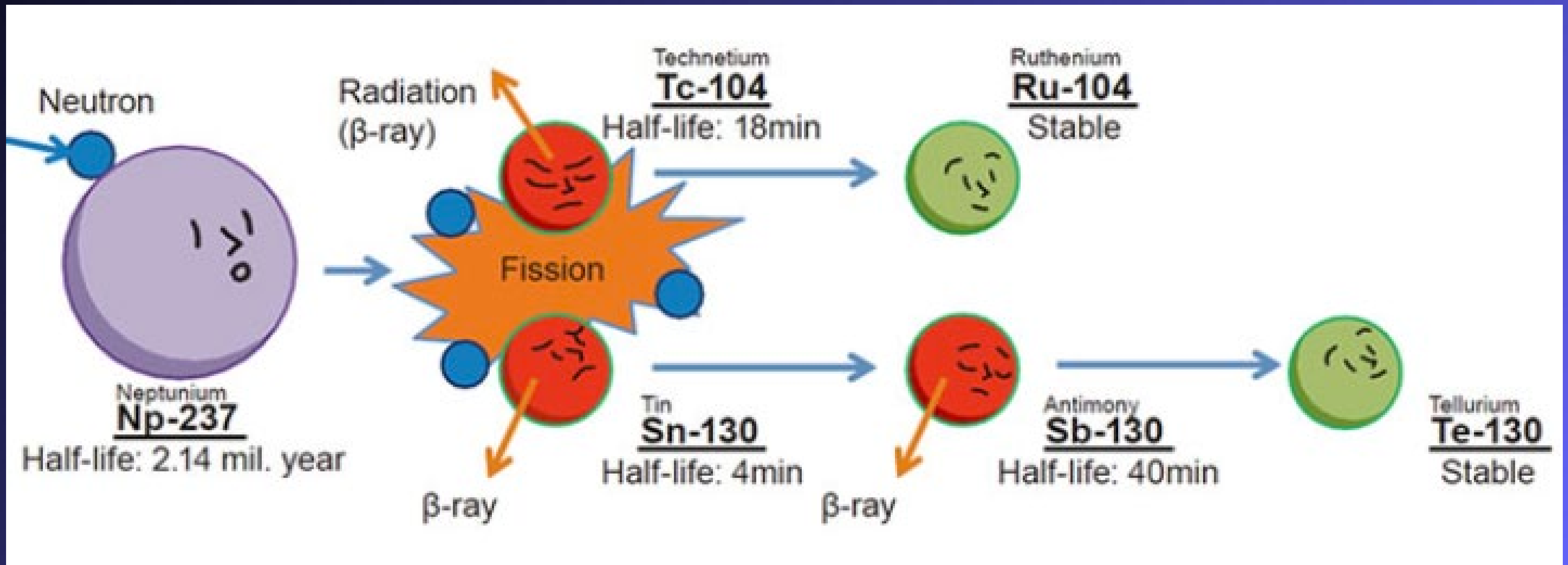


*MeV-GeV*





## NUCLEAR TRANSMUTATION CONCEPT



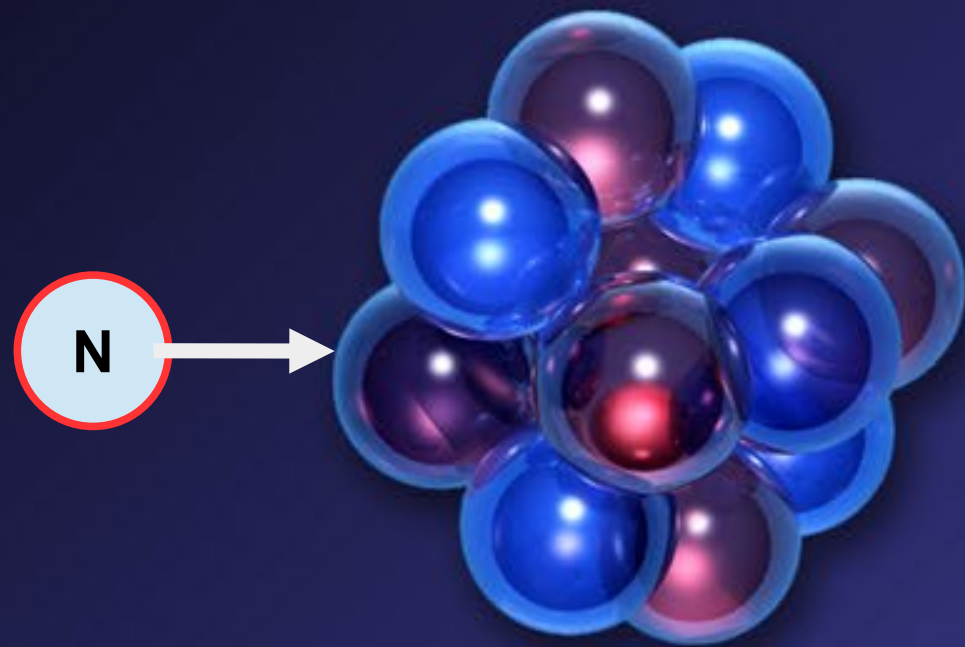




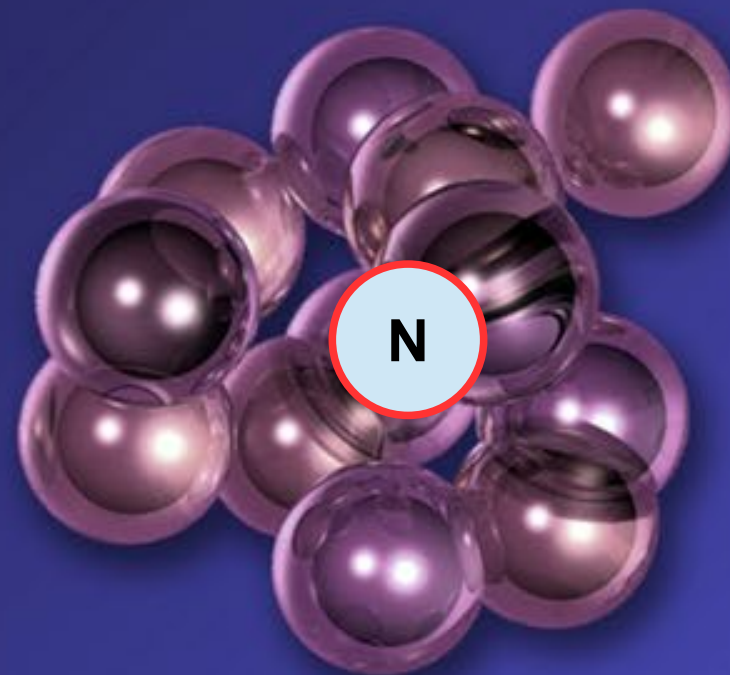
## *CPA Transmutation of Nuclear Waste*

*For example*

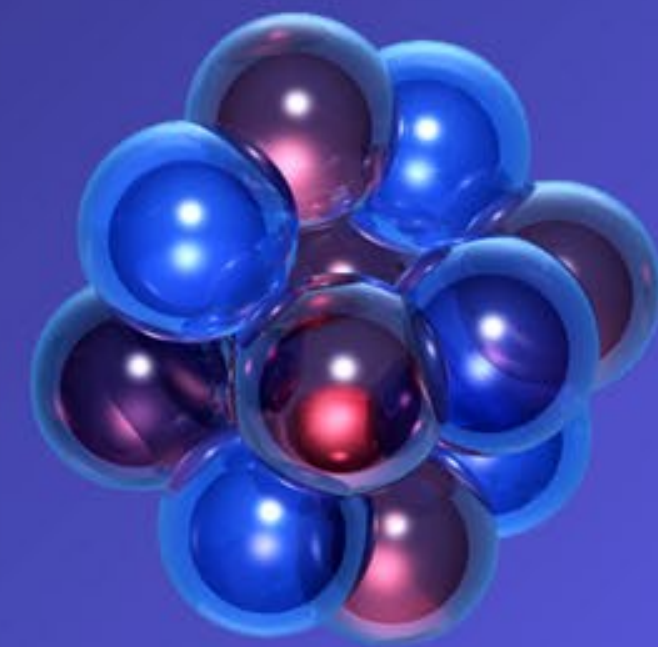
- \*  $^{99}\text{Tc}$  (Technetium) half-life of 200 000 years
- \*  $^{100}\text{Tc}$  has a half-life of 16 seconds
- \* it decays to a stable  $^{100}\text{Ru}$  (Ruthenium)



*Isotope A*  
 $T = 200\ 000\ \text{years}$



*Isotope B*  
 $T = 16\ \text{secs}$



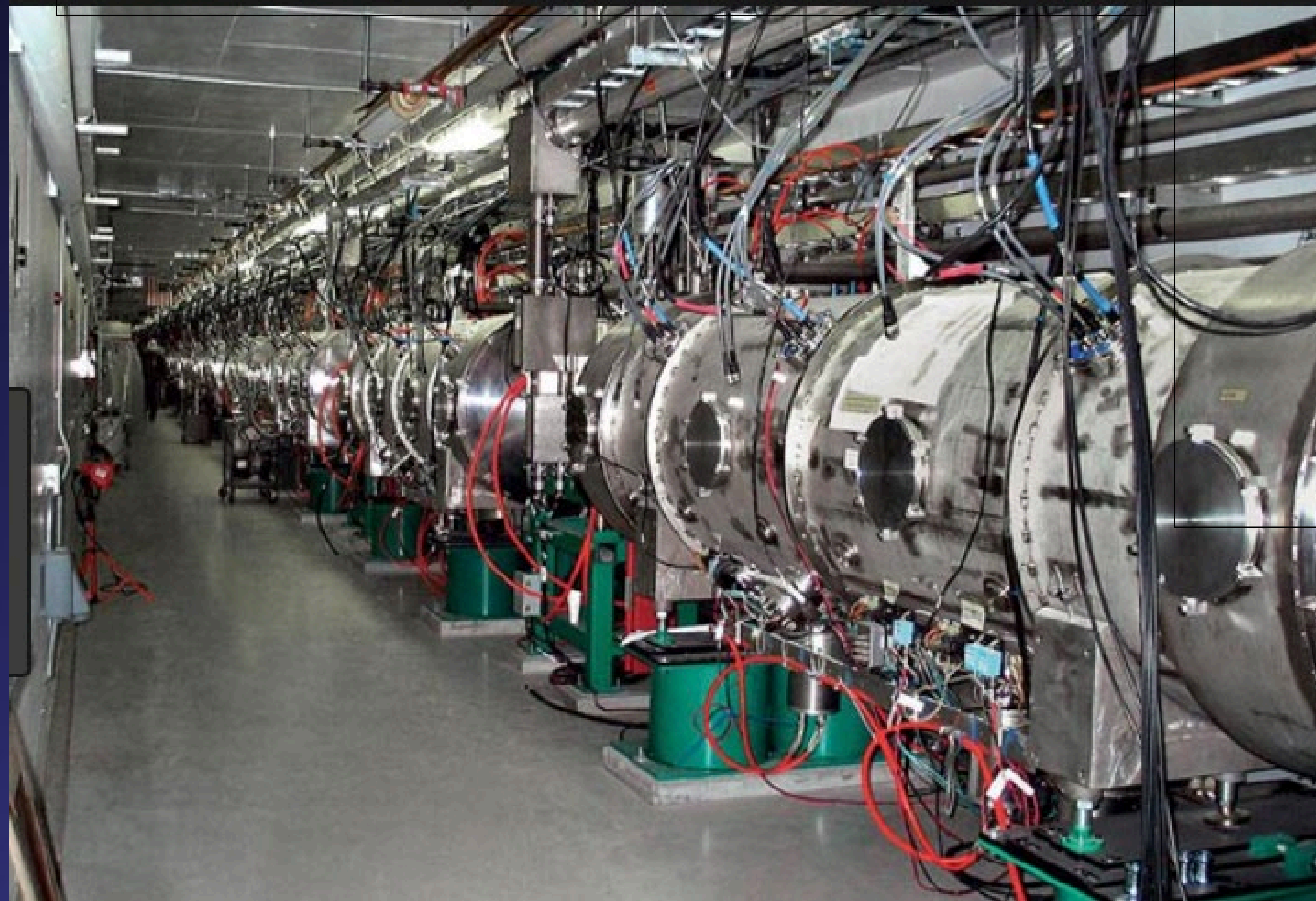
*Isotope C*  
*no radiation*



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**RELATIVISTIC PROTON ACCELERATOR  
for  
TRANSMUTATION**



**Projet MYRRHA**



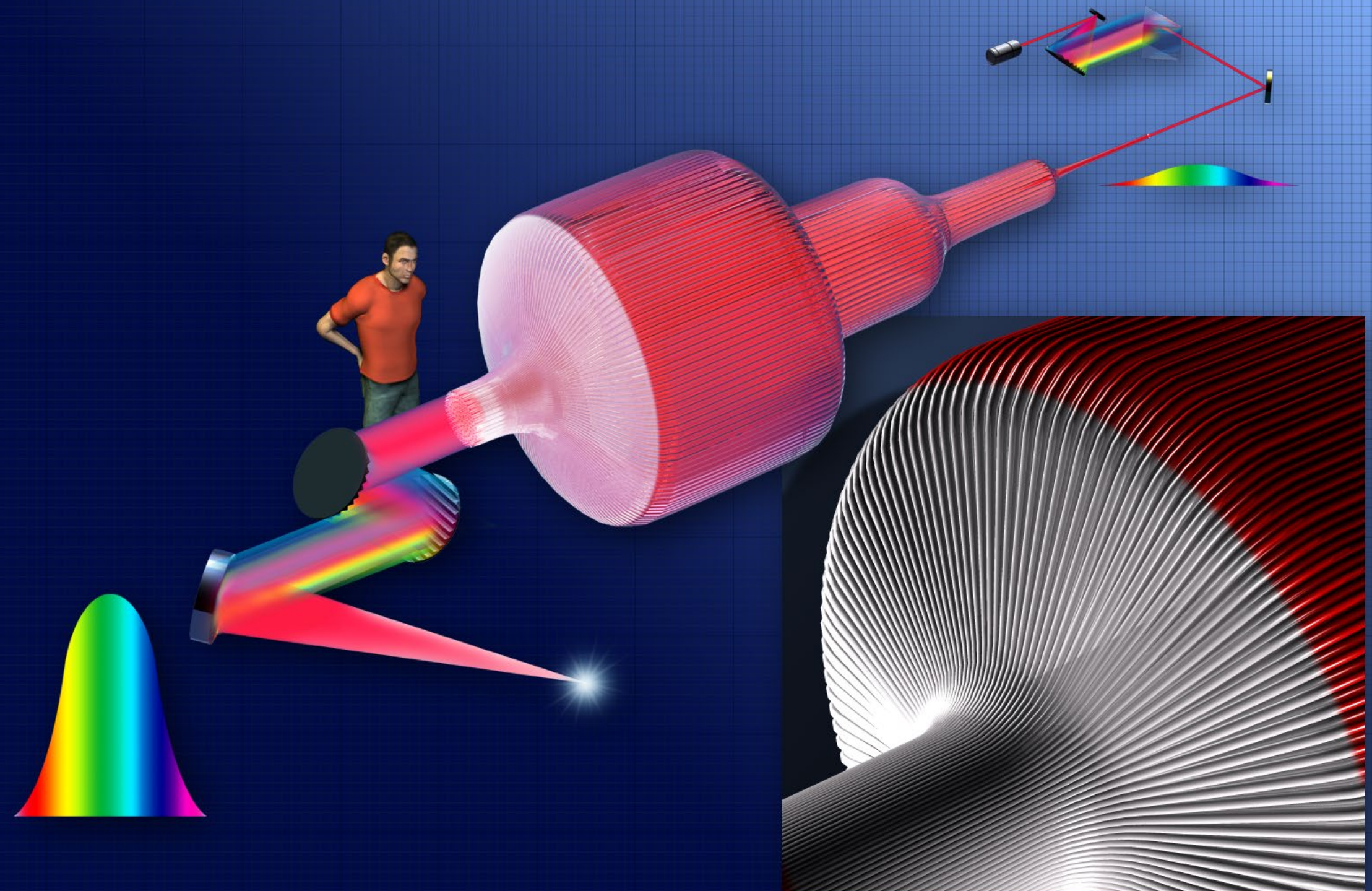
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**CAN**

Peak Power TW  
Average Power MW  
Efficiency: 40%

Projet EP-Thales







## CONCLUSION

1. La lumière extrême offre des possibilités considérables, à la recherche, l'innovation mais aussi à l'industrie française et européenne.
2. Elle a eu un énorme impact sur l'industrie française du laser. Elle a permis à celle-ci d'innover et de dominer le marché mondial.
3. Je suis heureux qu'avec le CNRS et la Commission Européenne nous ayons pu réaliser les projets ELI et Apollon et contribuer à l'unification de la science dans les pays émergents de l'Union Européenne.
4. Heureux aussi de contribuer au leadership de la recherche Française et Européenne dans le monde.



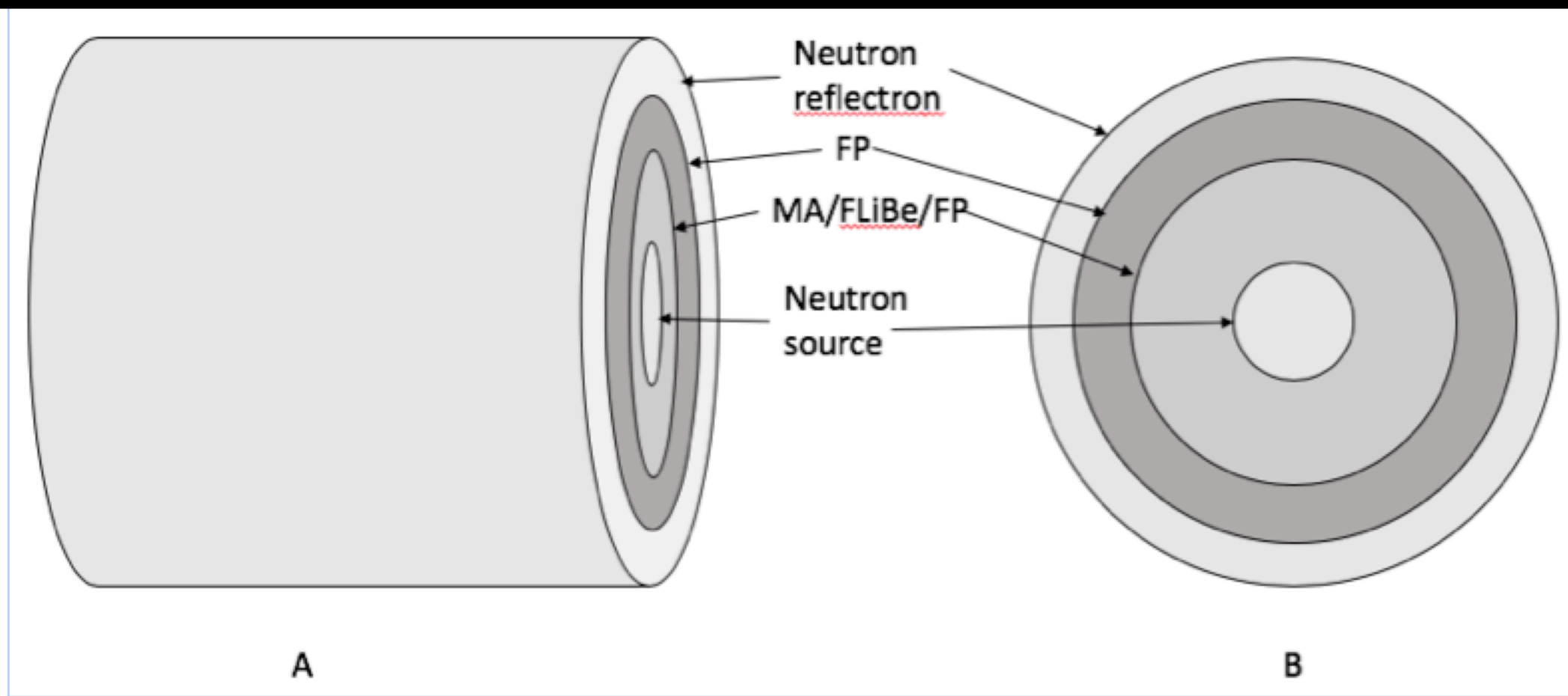
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*And the Best is Yet To Come !*





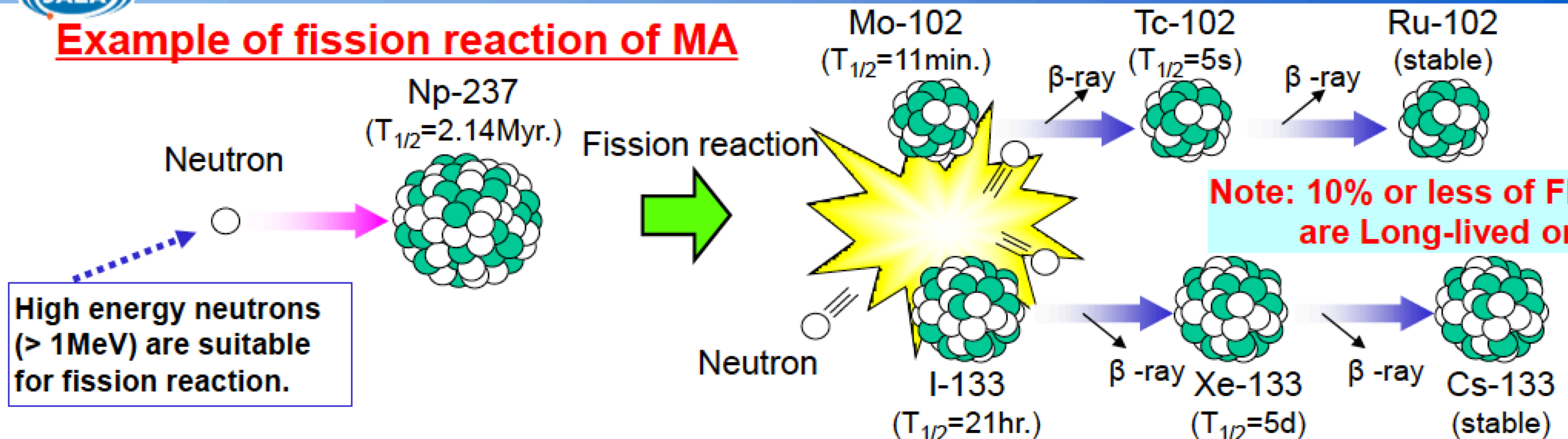
**Figure 2.** The structure of the liquid state layers of the solution (FLiBe) with TRU and FP surrounding the central fusion neutron source. The schematics, whose more functional details are shown in Fig. 9.

# NUCLEAR TRANSMUTATION CONCEPT

## How to Transmute MA and LLFP



### Example of fission reaction of MA





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*Changing the Future With CPA  
Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI)*

**ELI Beamlines**  
*Dolní Břežany, Czech Republic*

**ELI Attosecond**  
*Szeged, Hungary*

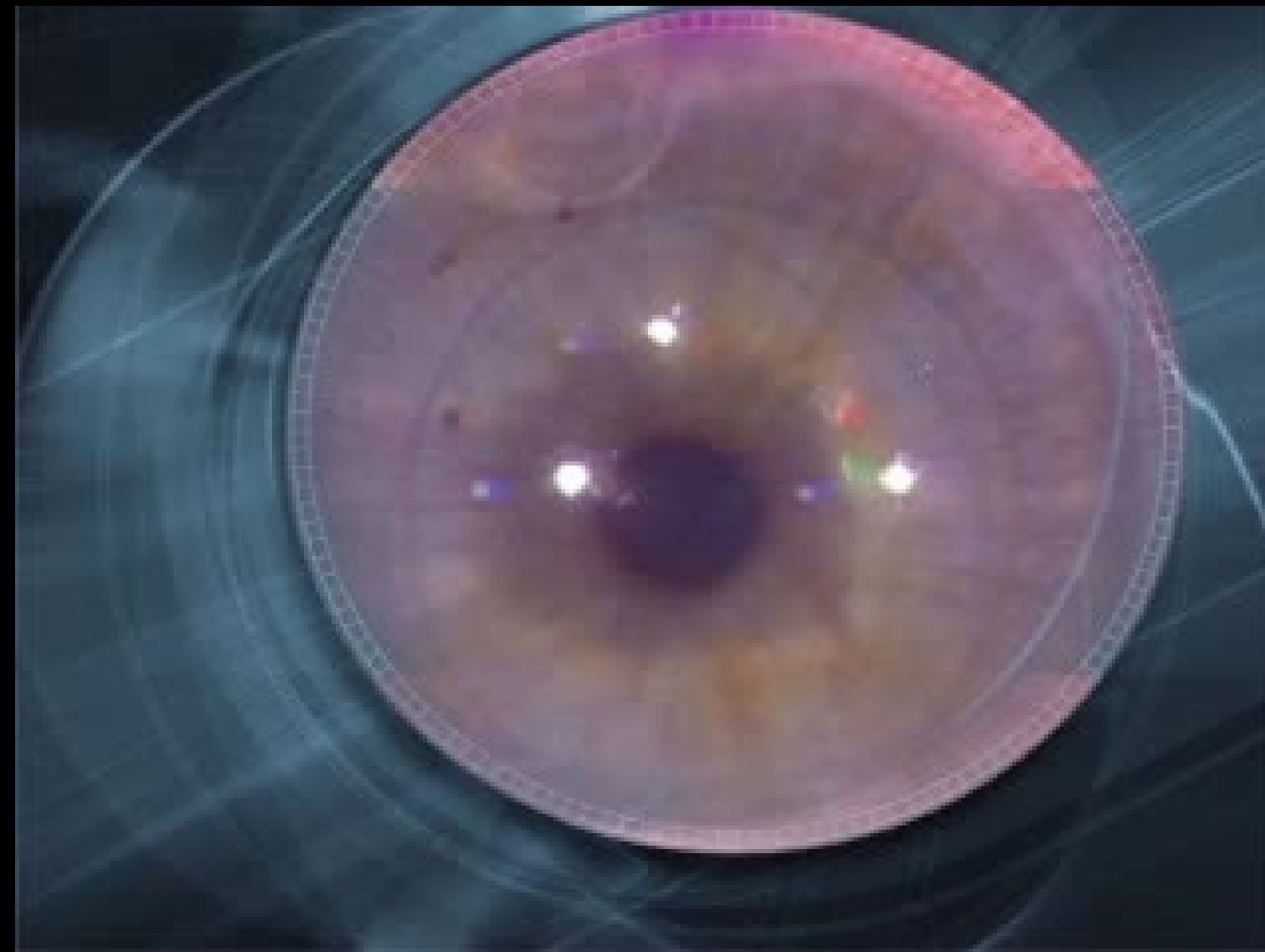
**ELI Nuclear Physics**  
*Magurele, Romania*

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## *Intralase flap creation*



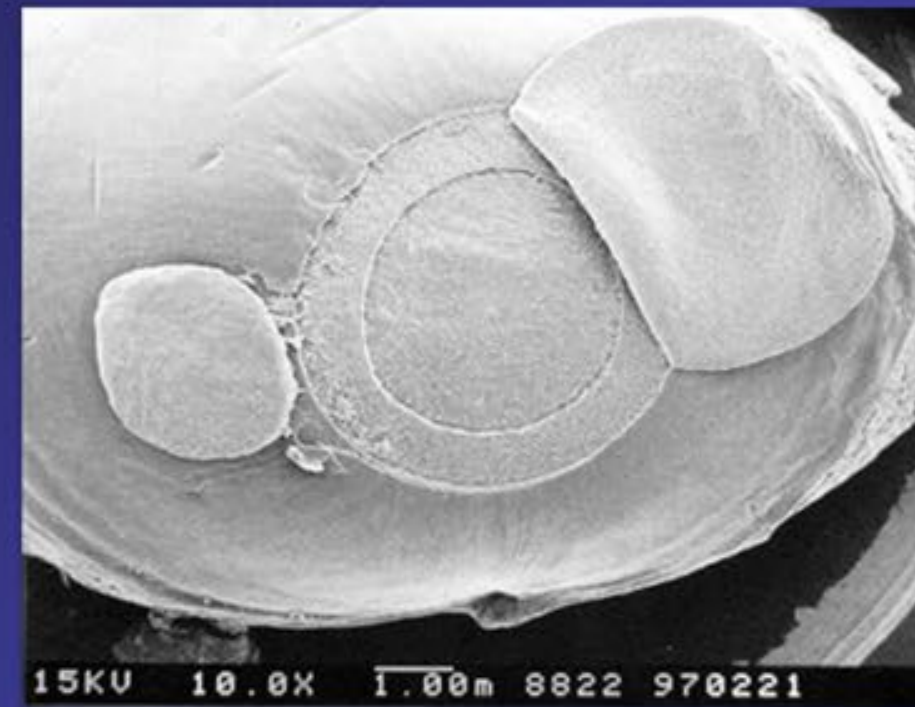
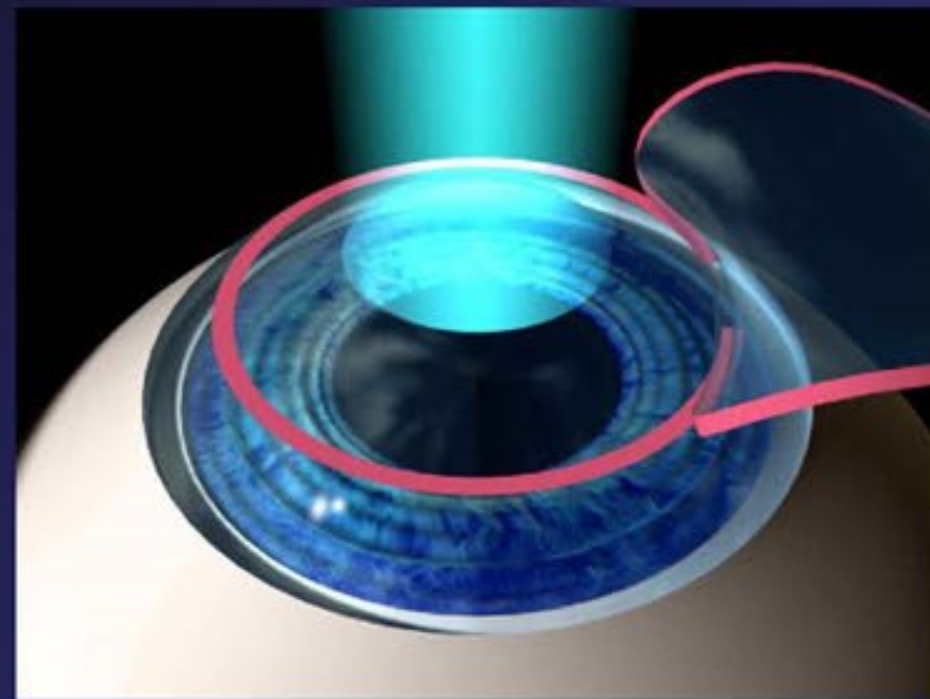


# *A PASSION FOR EXTREME LIGHT*

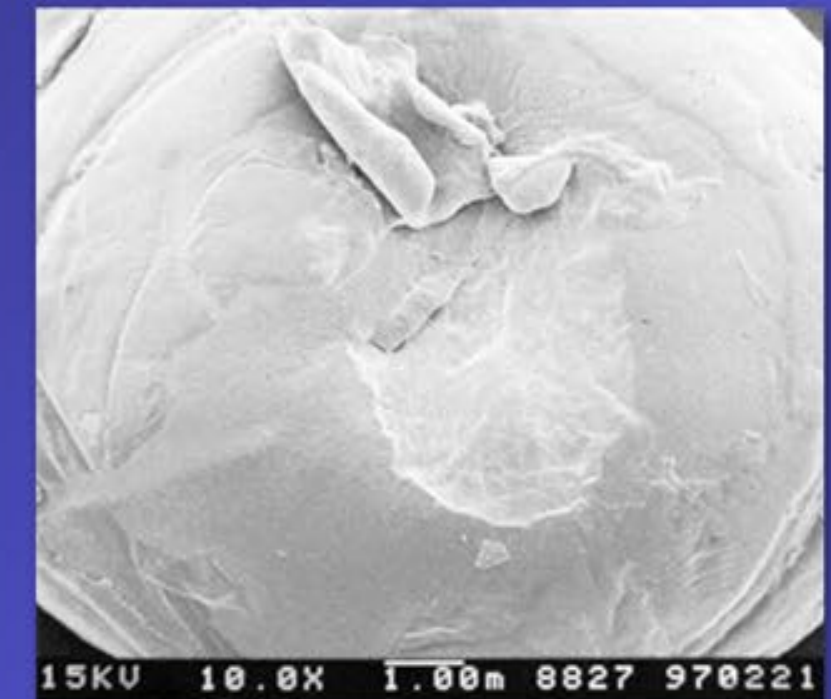
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*CPA femtosecond lasers revolutionised ophthalmology  
24 million eye operations since 2001!*



*300 femtosecond*



*50 picosecond*



## *High Precision Micro Machining*

*A femtosecond (fs) laser will cut the material without damaging it*



*continuous  
wave laser*



*nanosecond  
laser*



*femtosecond  
laser*

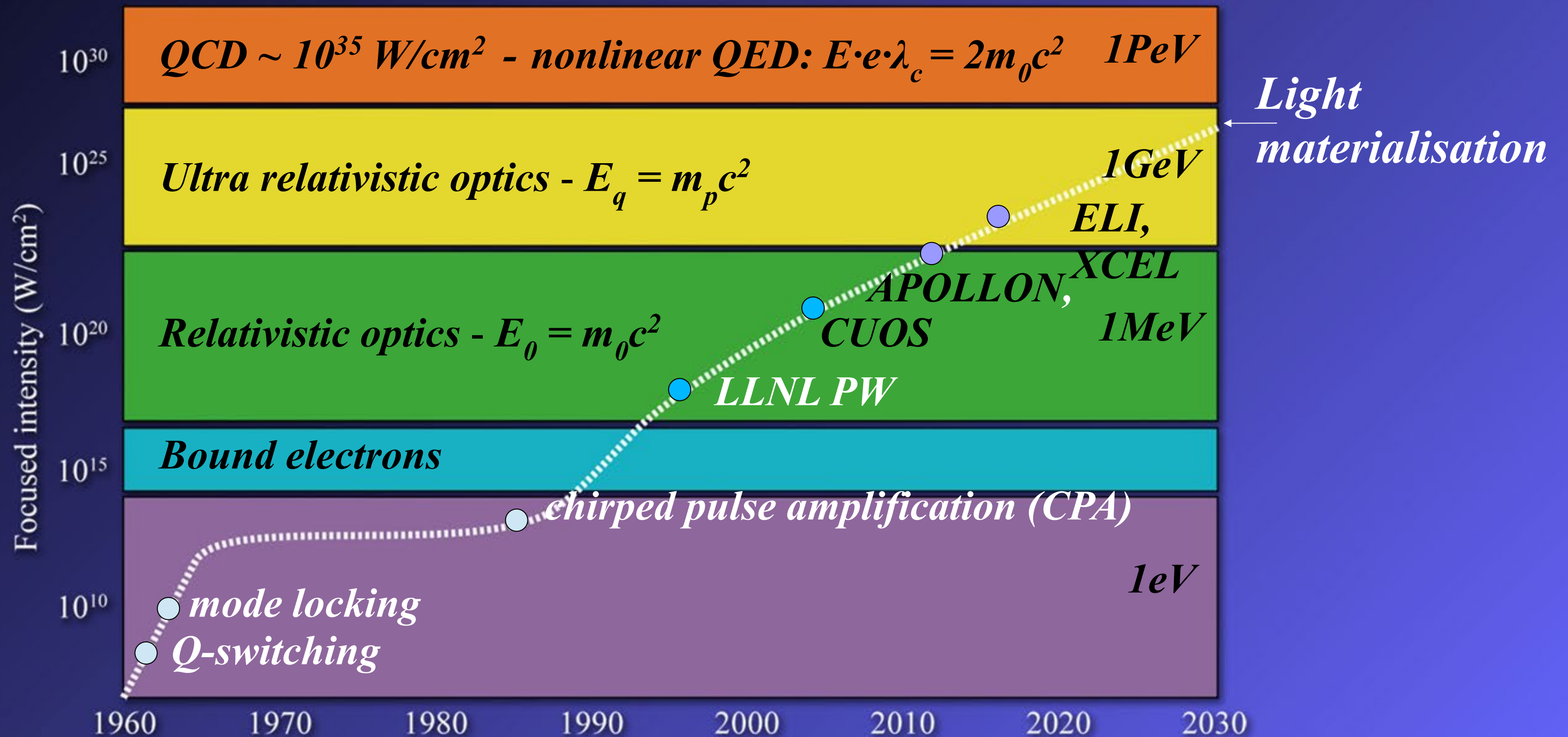


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## Extreme light ultra high intensity roadmap



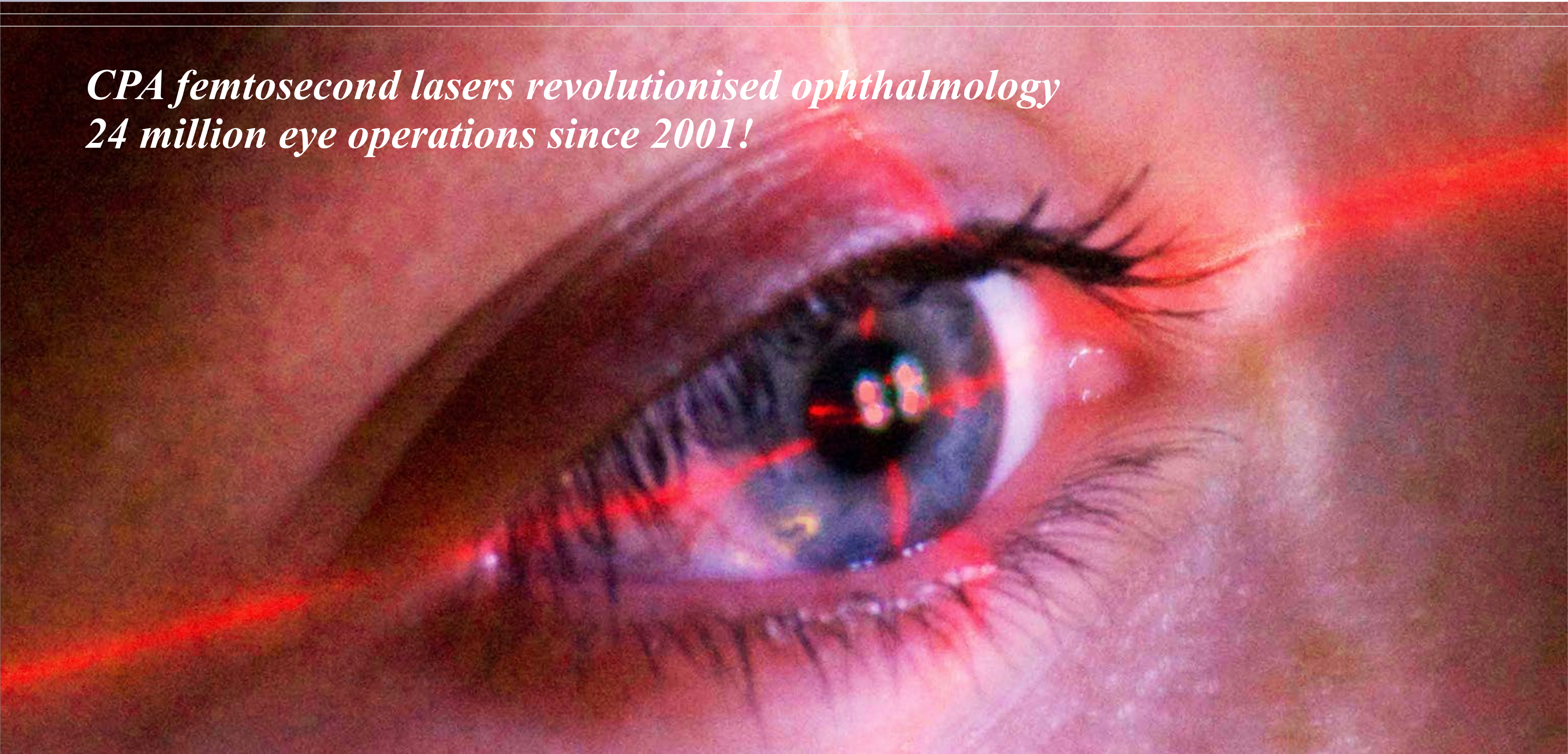


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24 million eye operations since 2001!*

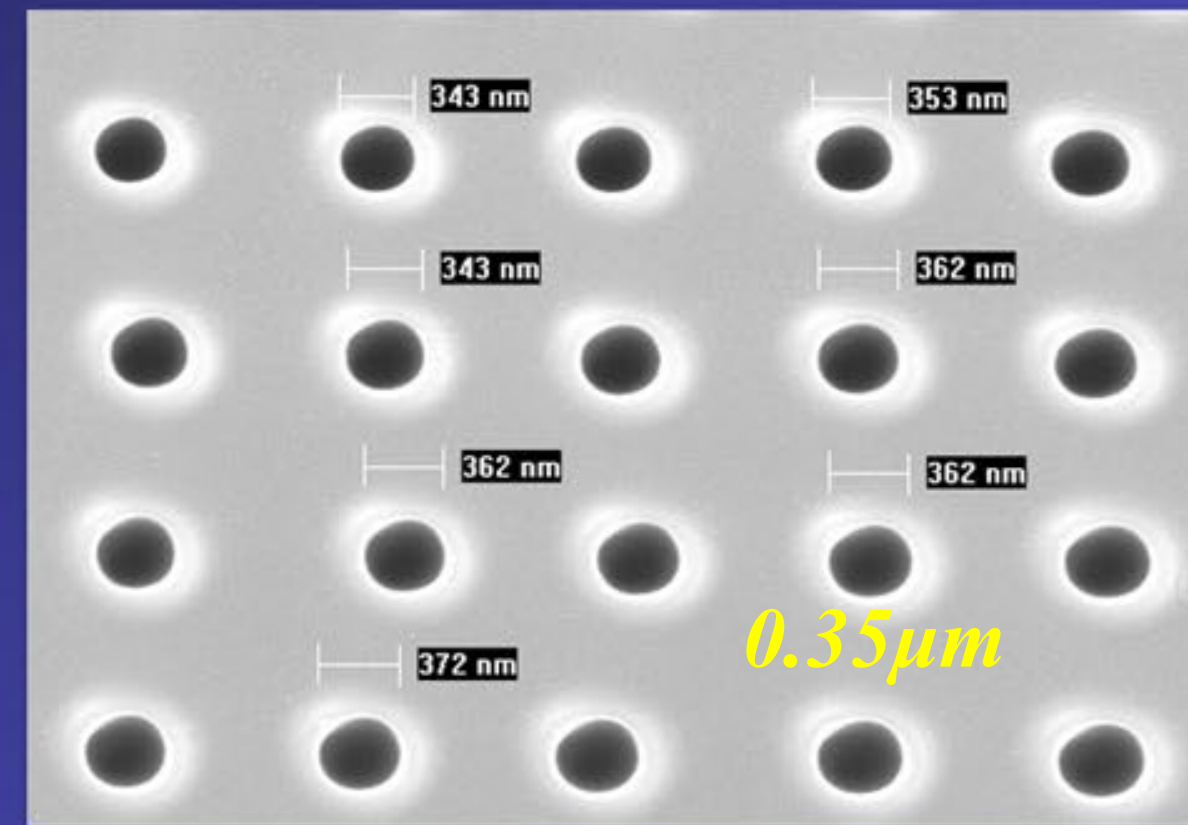
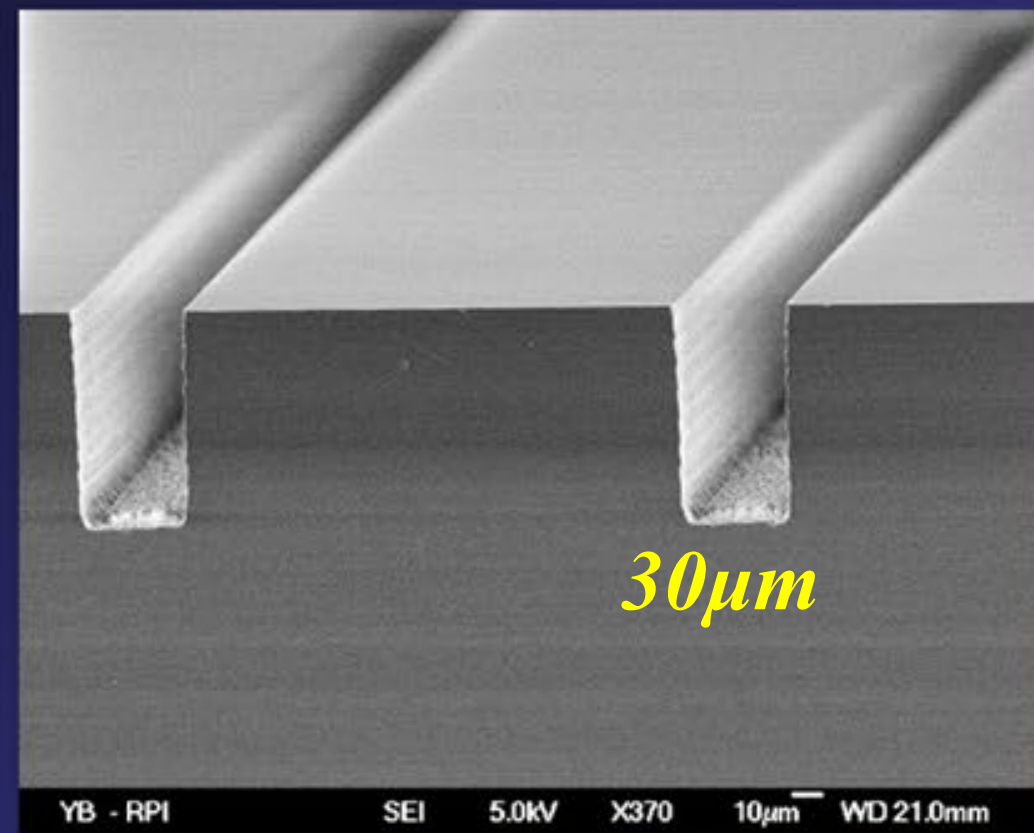






## *High Precision Micro Machining*

*A femtosecond (fs) laser will cut the material without damaging it*







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## *Giant wakefield acceleration in gas*

*Tajima et Dawson (1979)*

*This changes the outlook for laser-particle acceleration TeV*

### *Today*

- \* CERN, Large Hadron Collider*
- \* torus - 27 kms long*
- \* 175 metres underground*

### *Tomorrow*

- \* visible laser induced wakefield*
- \* about 100 metres long*
- \* the size of a football pitch*





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*Giant wakefield acceleration in gas and solid*

*Tajima et Dawson (1979)*

*A surfer riding down the face of a wave is accelerated by energy of the wave*











# A PASSION FOR EXTREME LIGHT

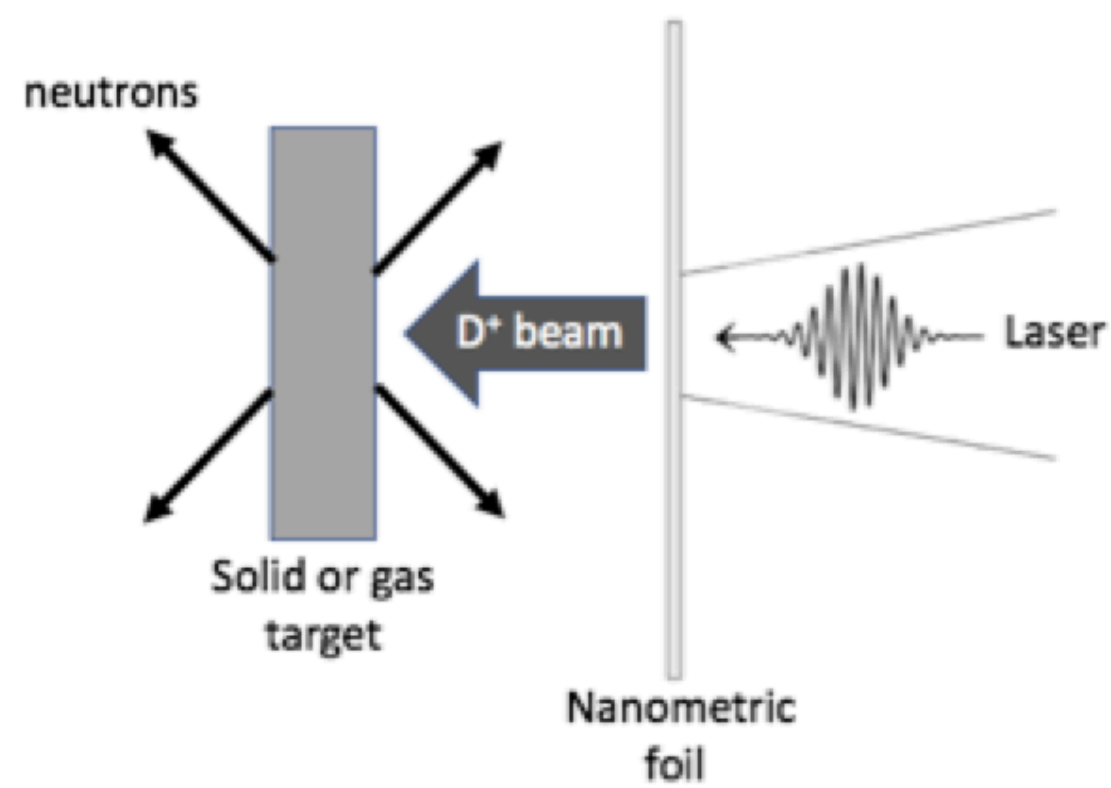
For the greatest benefit to human kind (Alfred Nobel)



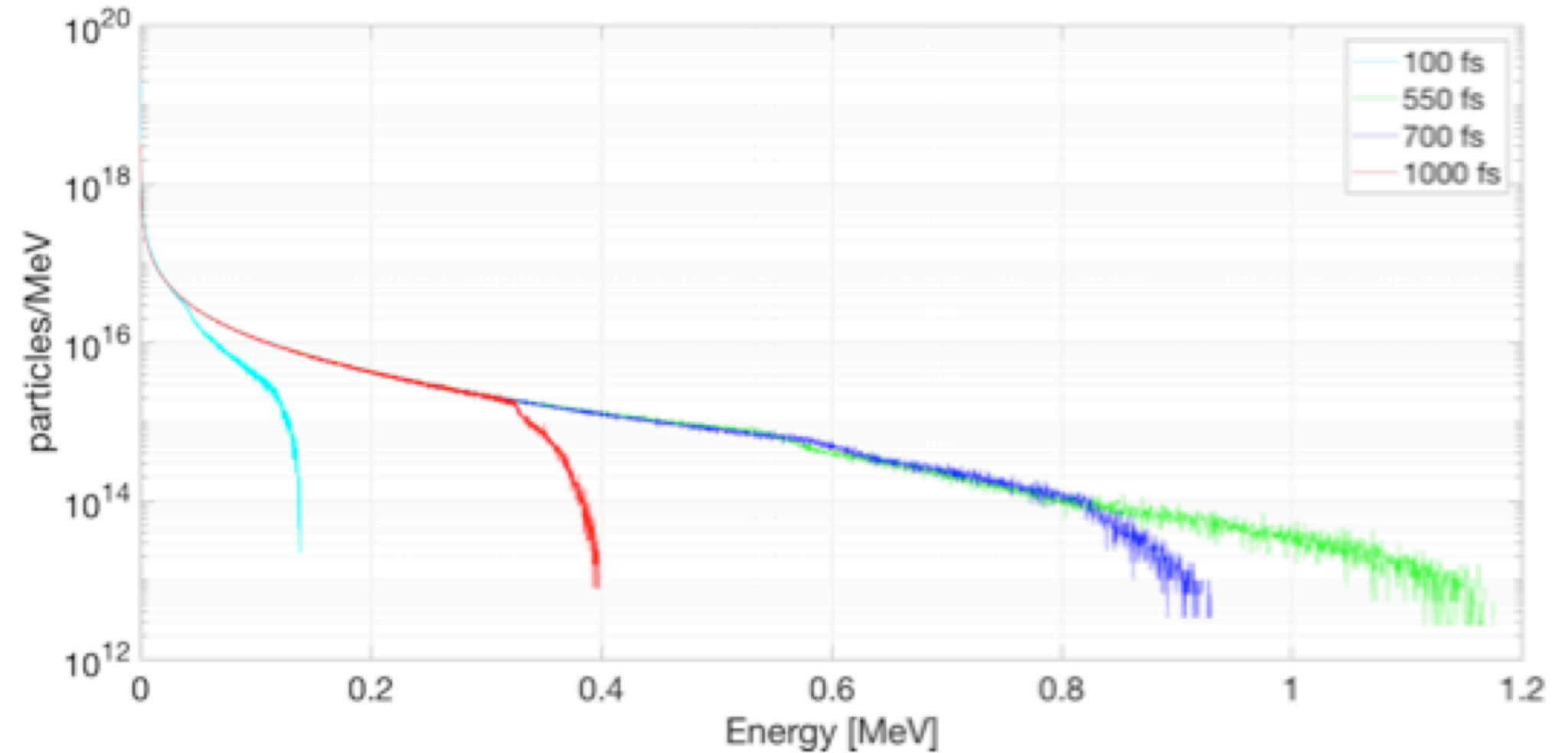
## Global petawatt facilities







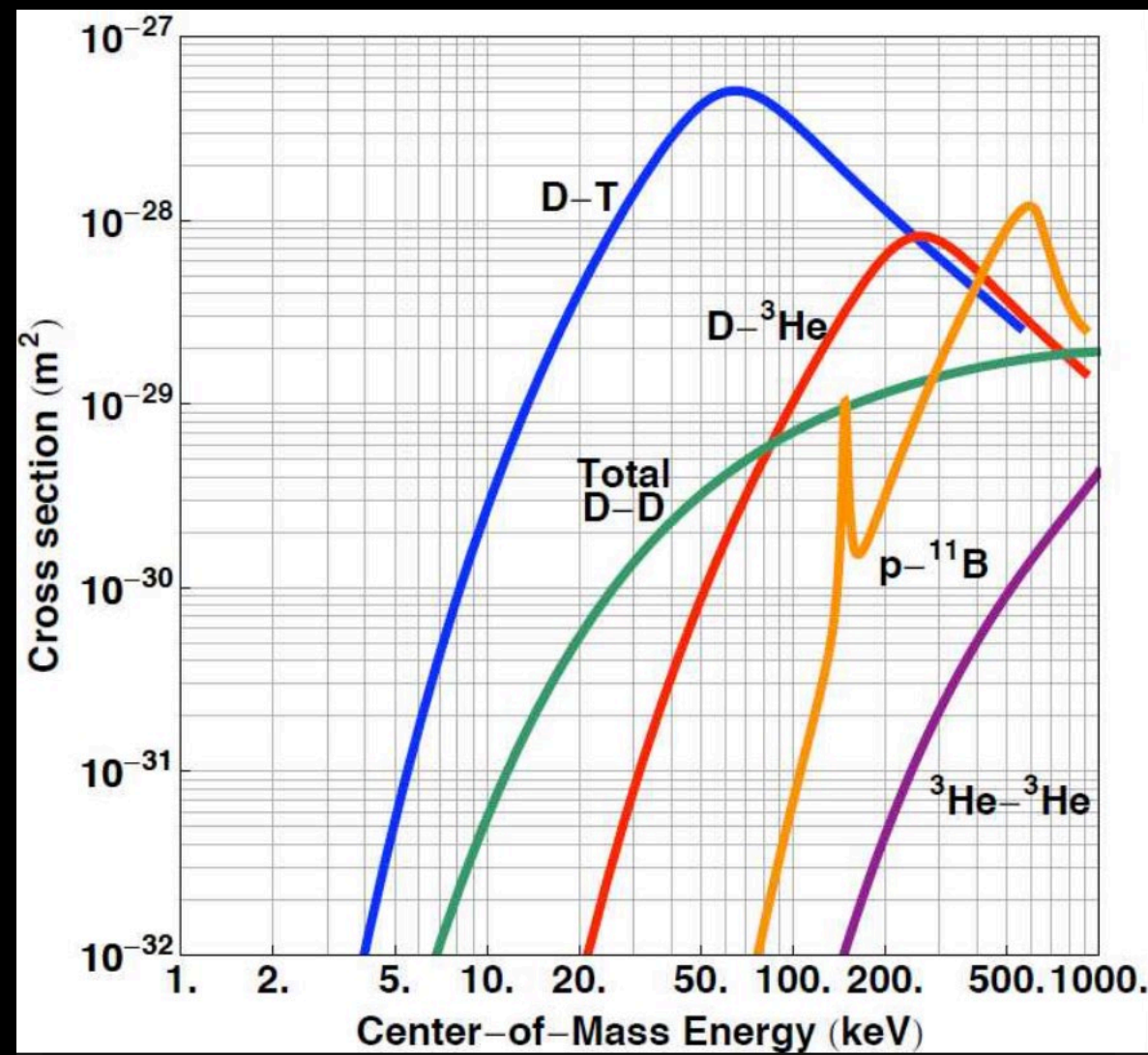
(A)



(B)

**Figure 3:** Neutrons are generated by the laser irradiation of a nanometric deuteron foil, deuteron acceleration and interaction with tritiated solid or gas target. (A) Schematic of neutron generation using laser. (B) D<sup>+</sup> energy spectrum @ 100 fs, 550 fs, 700 fs and 1000 fs. The average deuteron energy at 550 fs is 100 keV corresponding to ~10% energy efficiency conversion from laser to deuteron.







$${}^2_1\text{H} + {}^2_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3_2\text{He} + {}^1_0\text{n} + 3.27\text{MeV}$$

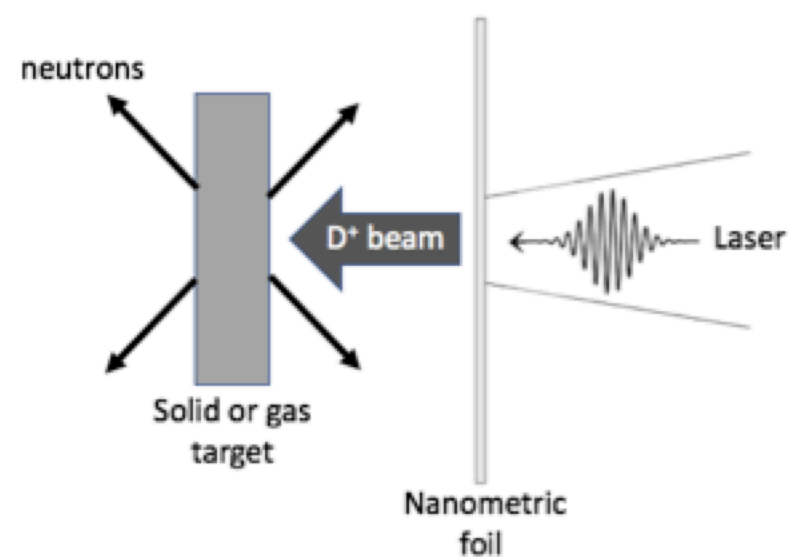
**Deuterium-deuterium Fusion**

$${}^2_1\text{H} + {}^2_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3_1\text{H} + {}^1_1\text{H} + 4.03\text{MeV}$$

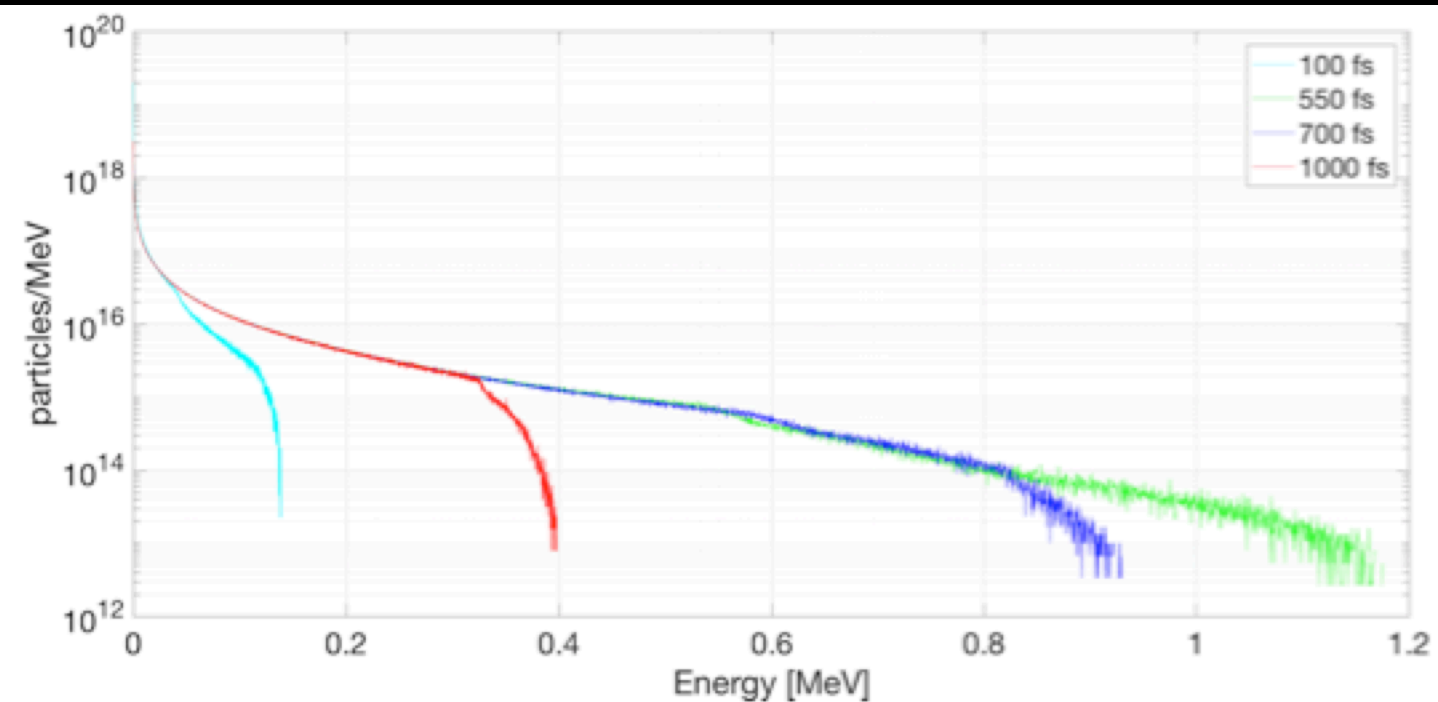
**Deuterium-tritium Fusion**

$${}^2_1\text{H} + {}^3_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + {}^1_0\text{n} + 17.59\text{MeV}$$

**Deuterium-tritium Fusion**



(A)



(B)

**Figure 3:** Neutrons are generated by the laser irradiation of a nanometric deuteron foil, deuteron acceleration and interaction with tritiated solid or gas target. (A) Schematic of neutron generation using laser. (B) D<sup>+</sup> energy spectrum @ 100 fs, 550 fs, 700 fs and 1000 fs. The average deuteron energy at 550 fs is 100 keV corresponding to ~10% energy efficiency conversion from laser to deuteron.