

25TH IEEE REAL TIME CONFERENCE | ELBA, ITALY | 25TH-29TH OF MAY, 2026

An all-in-one front-end board for the
streaming readout of gaseous
detectors used in experimental physics

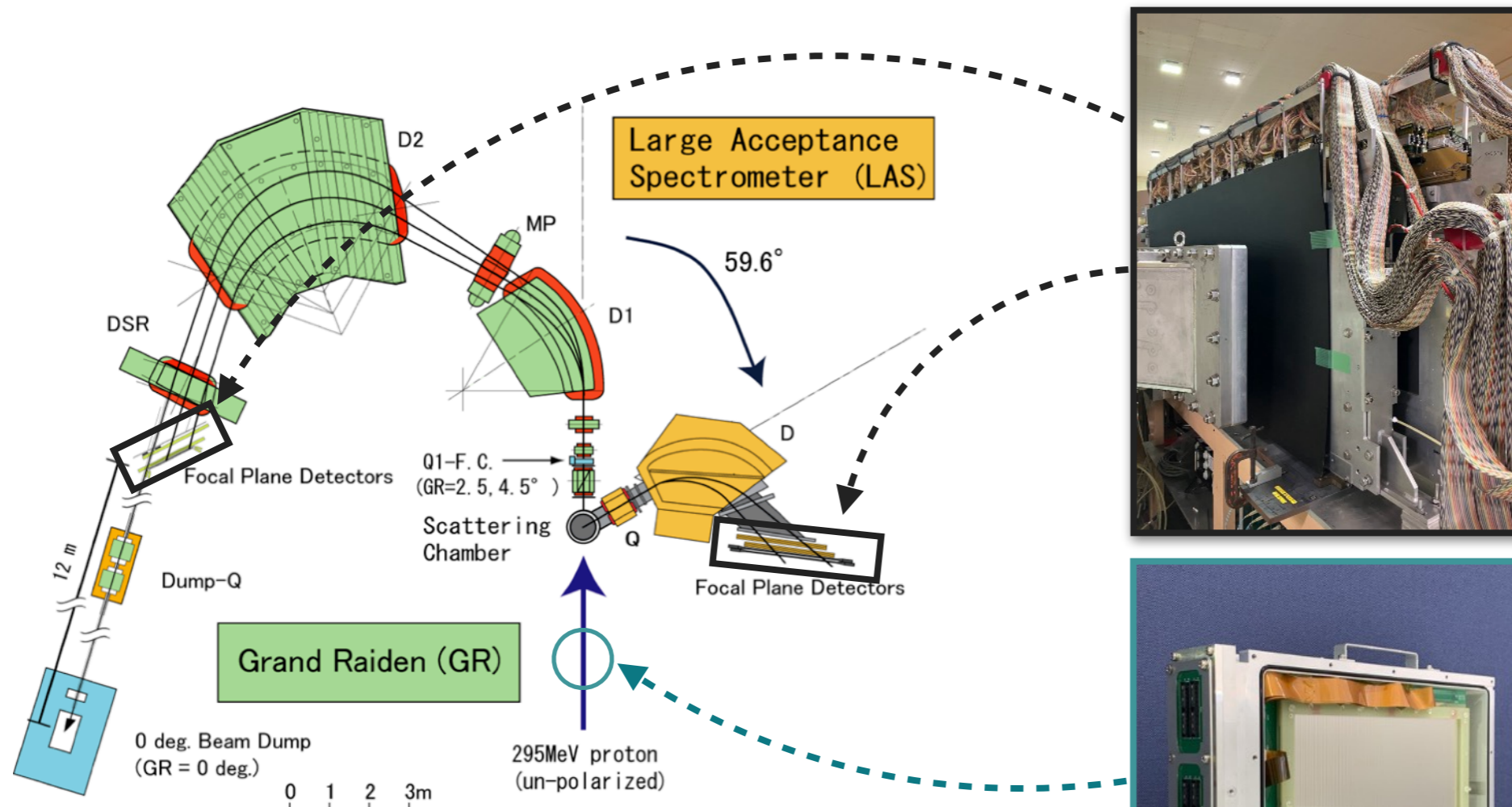
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^A RCNP - THE UNIV. OF OSAKA, ^B IPNS - KEK, ^C NISHINA CENTER, RIKEN

Gaseous detectors in nuclear physics

- Gaseous detectors are one of the most commonly used detectors in experimental physics due to cost-effectiveness, scalability, etc.

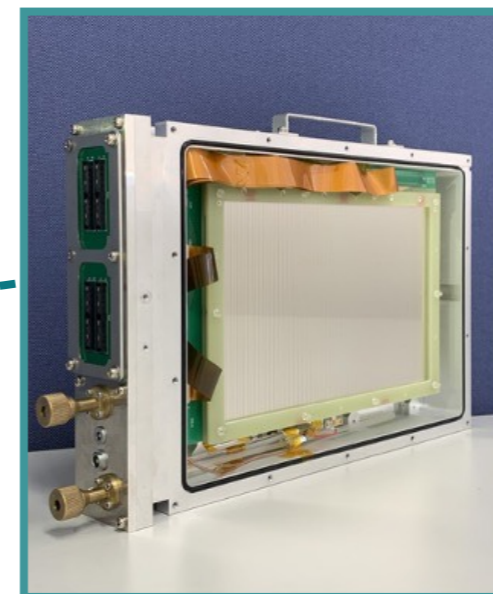


Grand Raiden and Large Acceptance Spectrometers, RCNP, The Univ. of Osaka



Drift chambers as **spectrometer** focal plane detectors

E.g: RCNP Grand Raiden and LAS



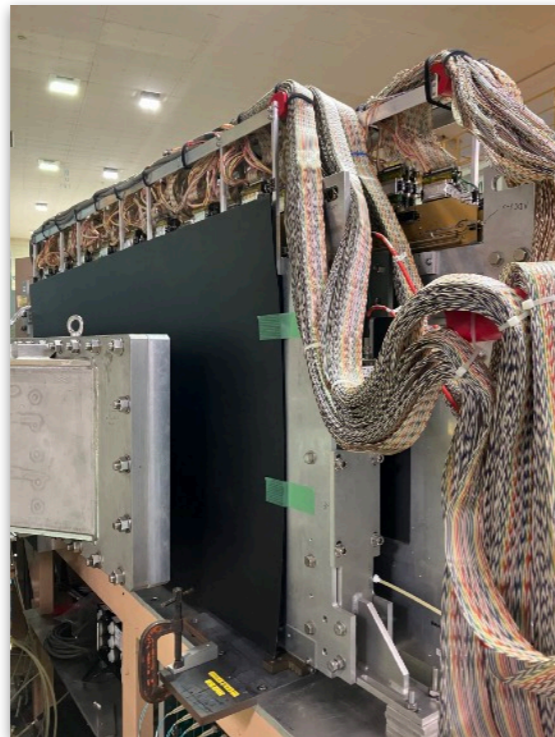
Compact **beam profile** monitors

E.g: SR-PPAC, LP-MWDC

Data acquisition (DAQ) from gaseous detectors

Drift chambers as *spectrometer* focal plane detectors

E.g: RCNP Grand Raiden and LAS

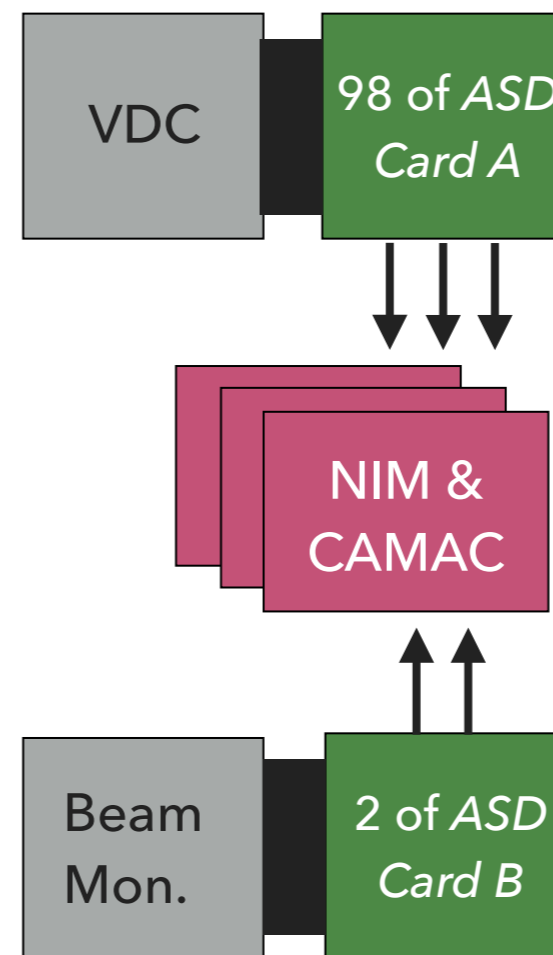


Compact *beam profile* monitors

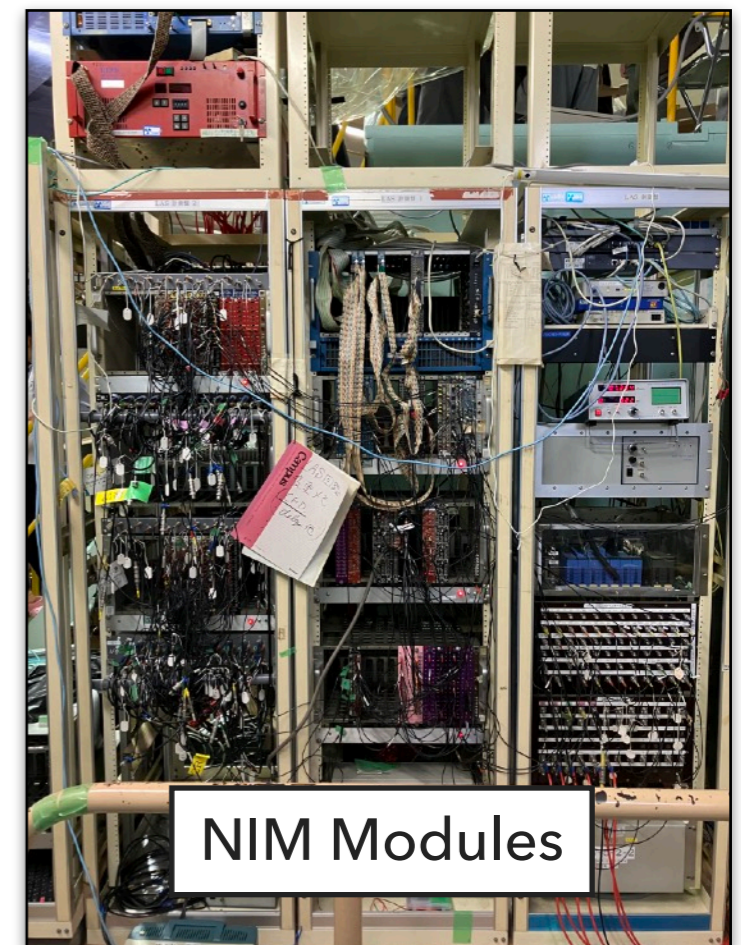
E.g: SR-PPAC, LP-MWDC



- A legacy DAQ system for gaseous detectors,



ASD:
Amp-Shaper-Discriminator

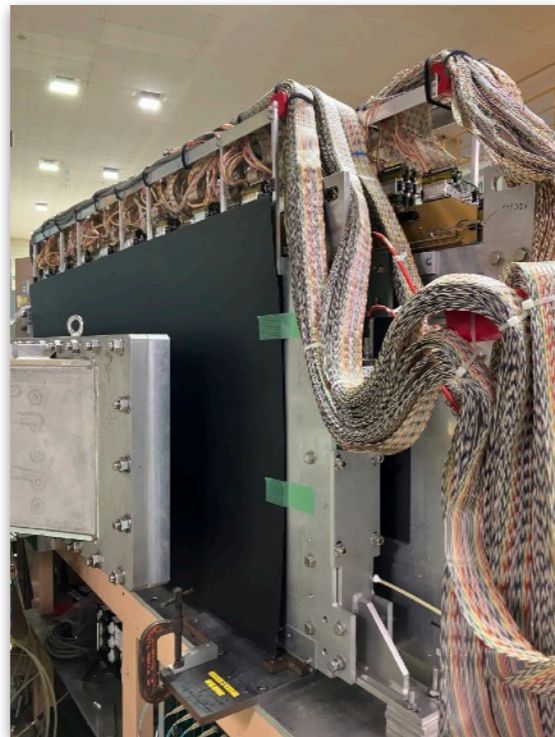


Could only handle DAQ rates of up to (O)10~(O)100 kcps

Data acquisition (DAQ) from gaseous detectors

Drift chambers as *spectrometer* focal plane detectors

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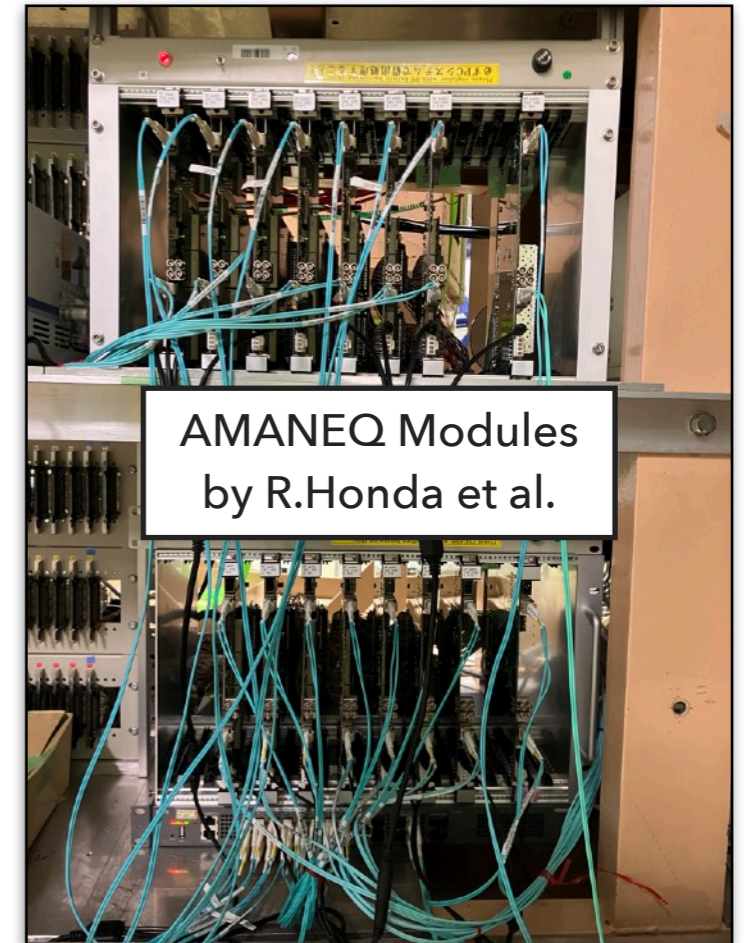
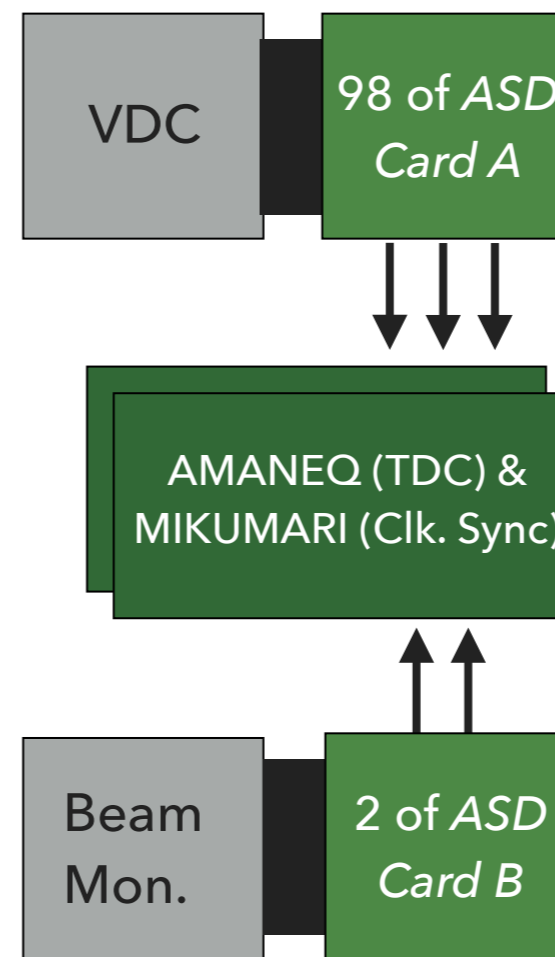


Compact *beam profile* monitors

E.g: SR-PPAC, LP-MWDC



- A modern DAQ system for such detectors,

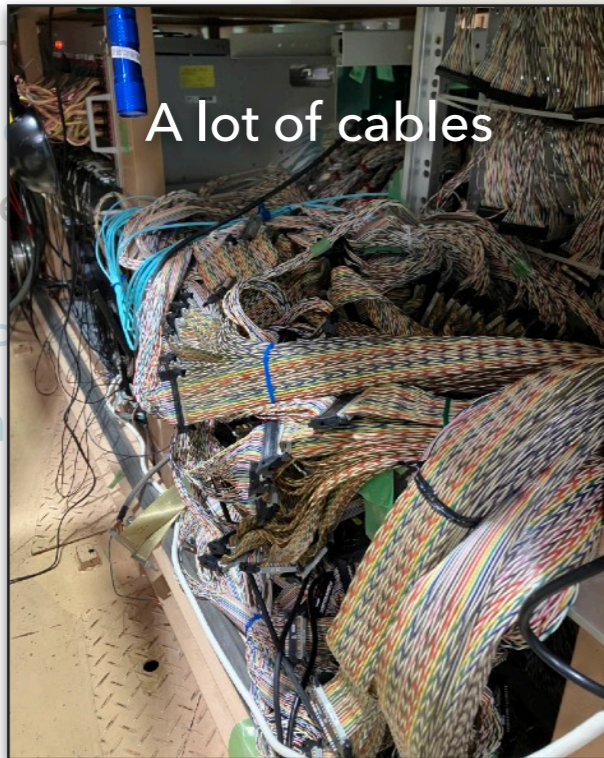


AMANEQ was mentioned also by Sun-Young Ryu, Che-Sheng Lin, and Genie Jhang in their talks

Trigger-less streaming DAQ system →
Can handle DAQ rates of \sim (O)Mcps

Data acquisition (DAQ) from gaseous detectors

Drift chamber
spectrom
 plane det
 E.g: RCNFB
 Raiden an



A lot of cables

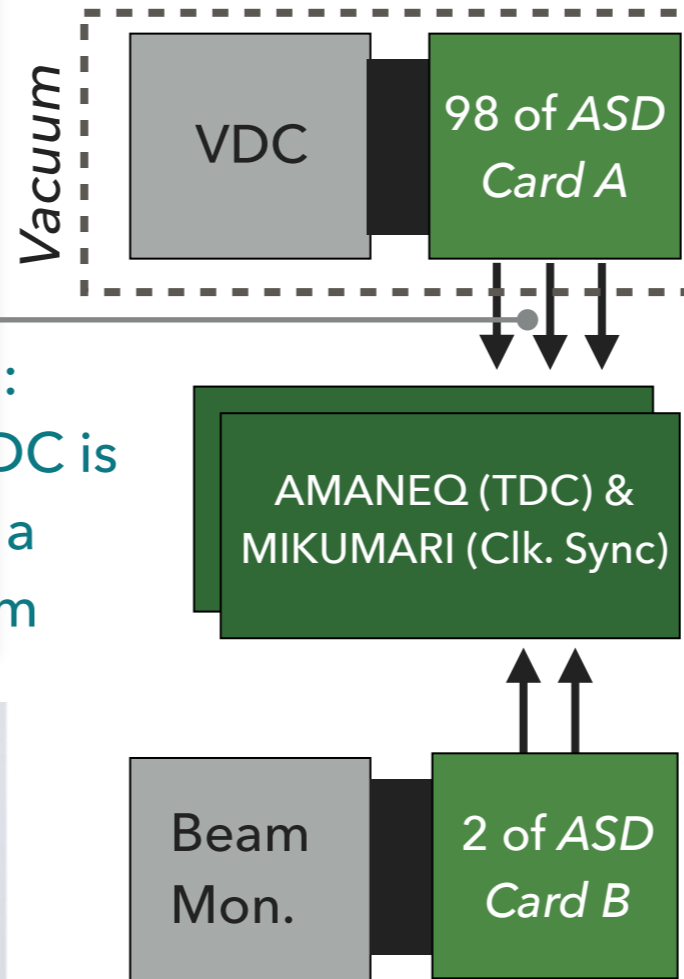
Not feasible in the future!

Compact *beam profile* monitors

E.g: SR-PPAC,
 LP-MWDC

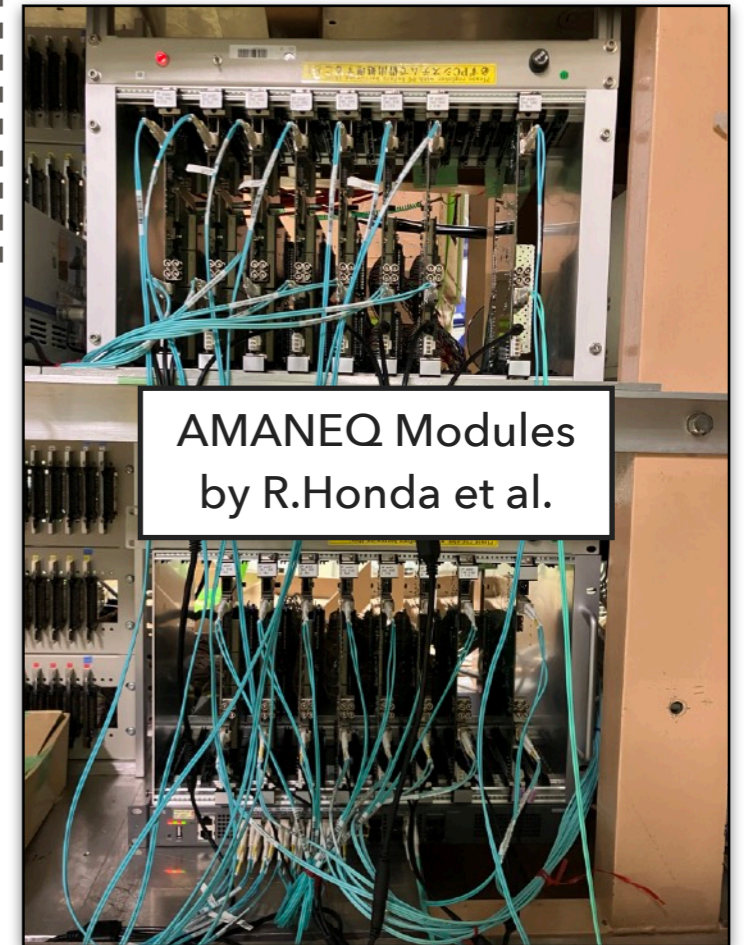


● A modern DAQ system for such detectors,



Future:
 The VDC is
 inside a
 vacuum

ASD:
 Amp-Shaper-
 Discriminator

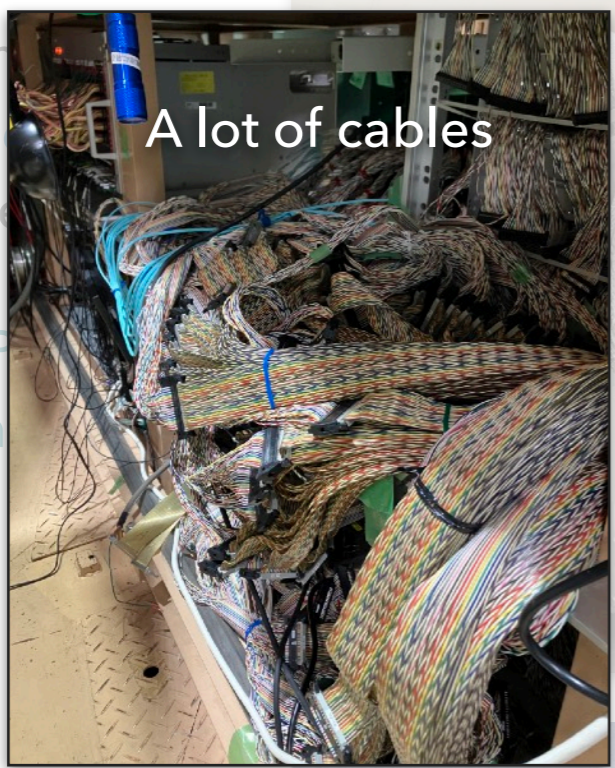


AMANEQ Modules
 by R.Honda et al.

Trigger-less streaming
 DAQ system →
 Can handle DAQ rates
 of ~(\mathcal{O})Mcps

Data acquisition (DAQ) from gaseous detectors

Drift chamber
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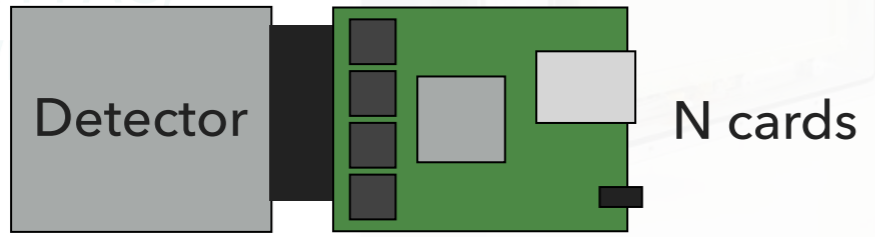


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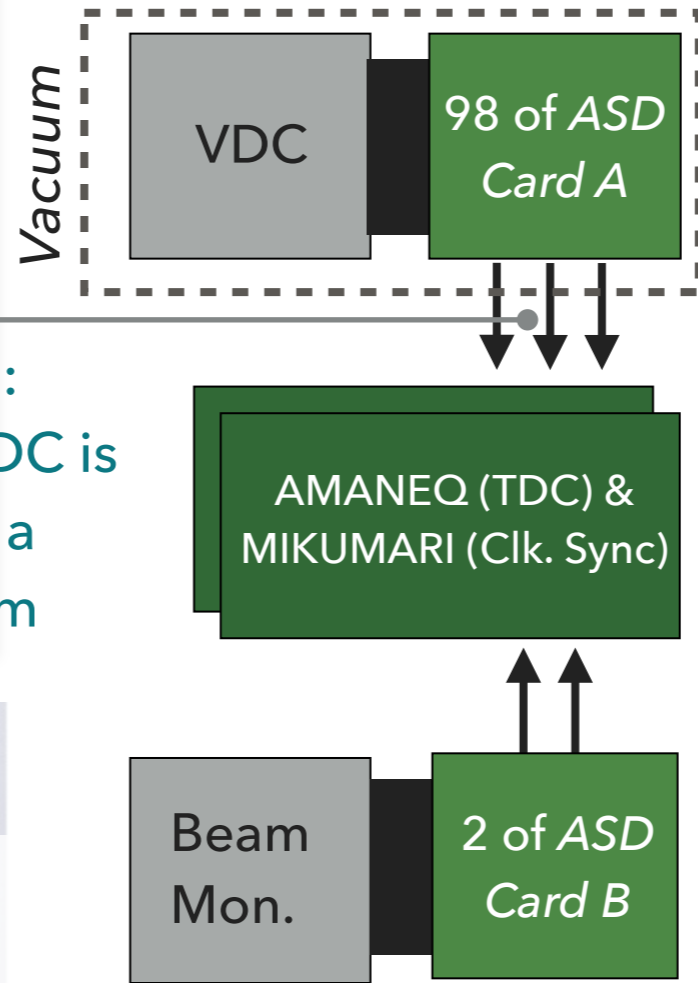
Not feasible in the future!

Compact beam
 profile monitor
 E.g: SR-PPAC,
 LP-MW

Can we have a common, all-in-one, scalable system?

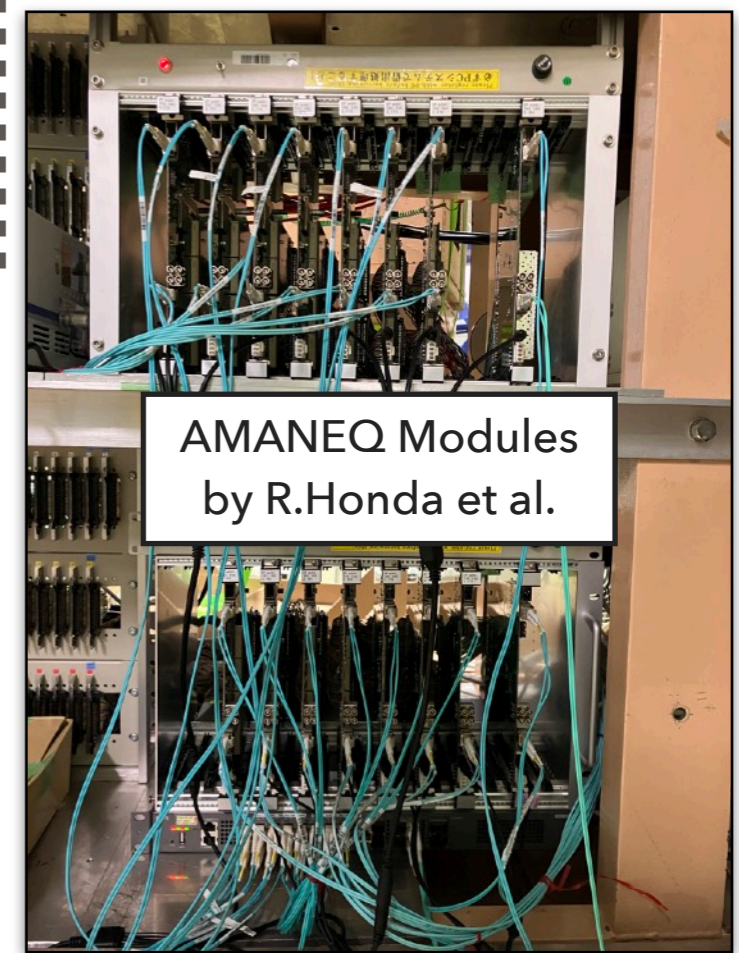


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Trigger-less streaming
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Development of all-in-one cards

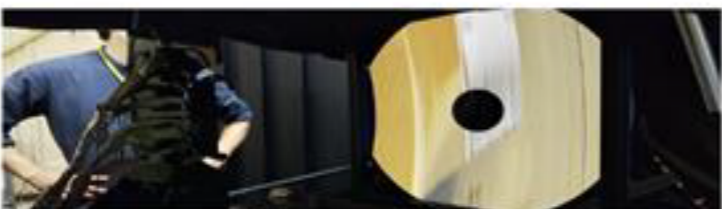
- In the JST K-program project "*Real-time distributed data processing methods for virtual reference point reconstruction*", we are developing DAQ technology for air shower detectors. One task is the development of all-in-one cards.

*Time
Projection
Chamber*



Track reconstruction

*Cherenkov
Detector*



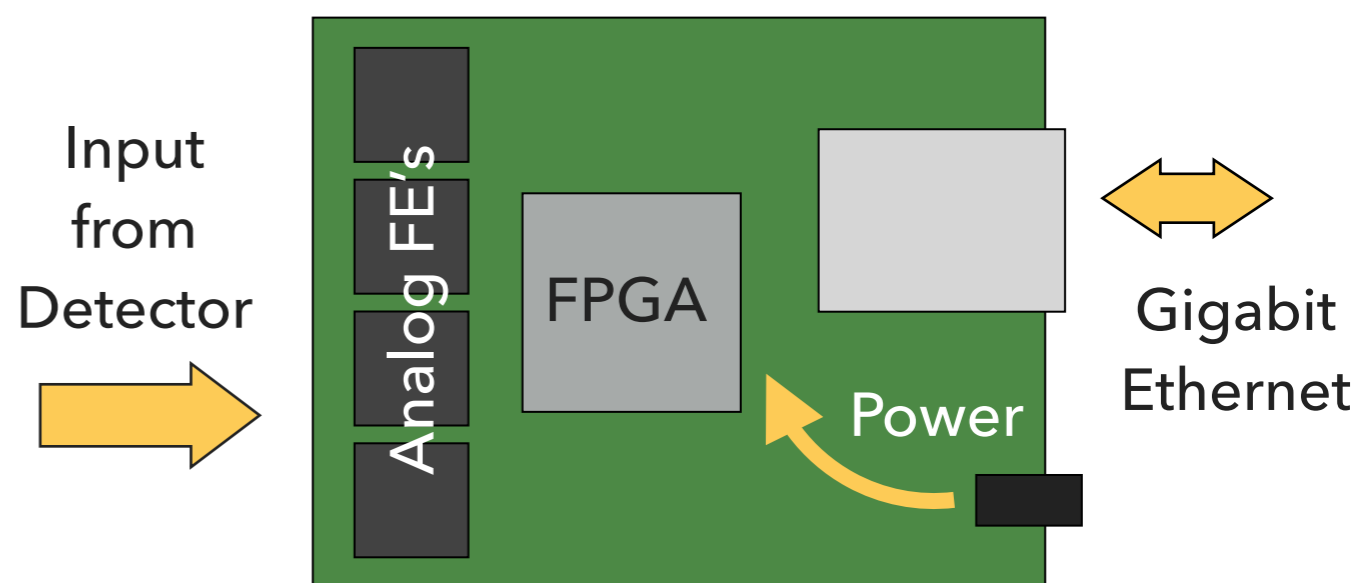
Velocity measurement

*Drift
Chamber*



Position measurement

- All in one** - Analog front end & FPGA in one board, eliminating need for cables.
- Compact** - Ability to fit into compact geometries and spaces like vacuums.
- Generic** - Satisfies requirements of different detectors/experiments.



Development of all-in-one cards

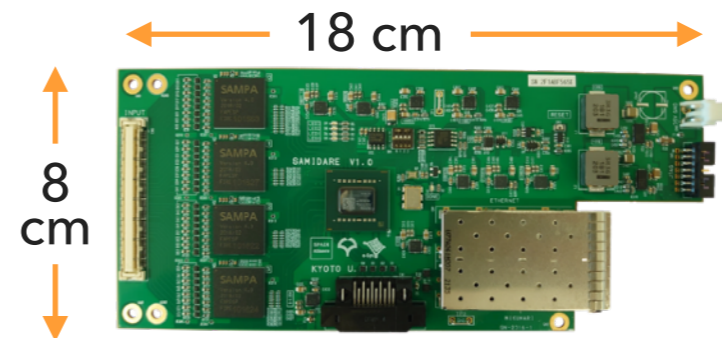
Several talks from my SPADI-A colleagues in RT2026

- The development is ongoing also with the collaboration of SPADI (**S**ignal **P**rocessing **A**nd **DAQ** Infrastructure) Alliance in Japan.

*Time
Projection
Chamber*

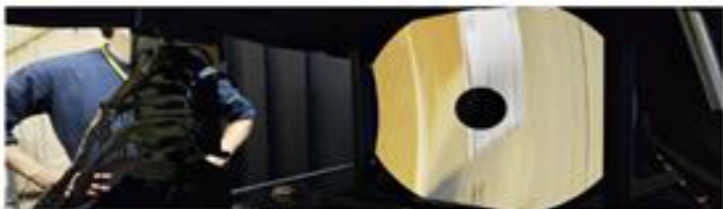


Track reconstruction

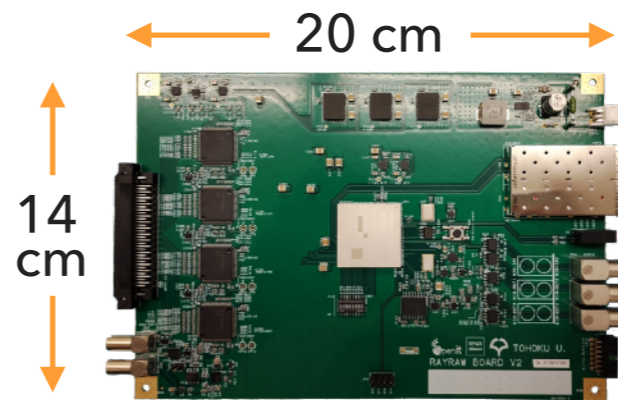


SAMIDARE
PS talks #140 by
Claudio S. and
#194 by F.Endo

*Cherenkov
Detector*



Velocity measurement

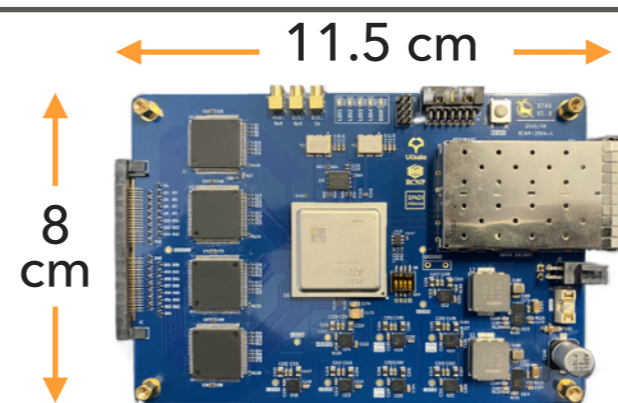


RAYRAW by
R.Honda (IPNS,
KEK) et al.

*Drift
Chamber*



Position measurement



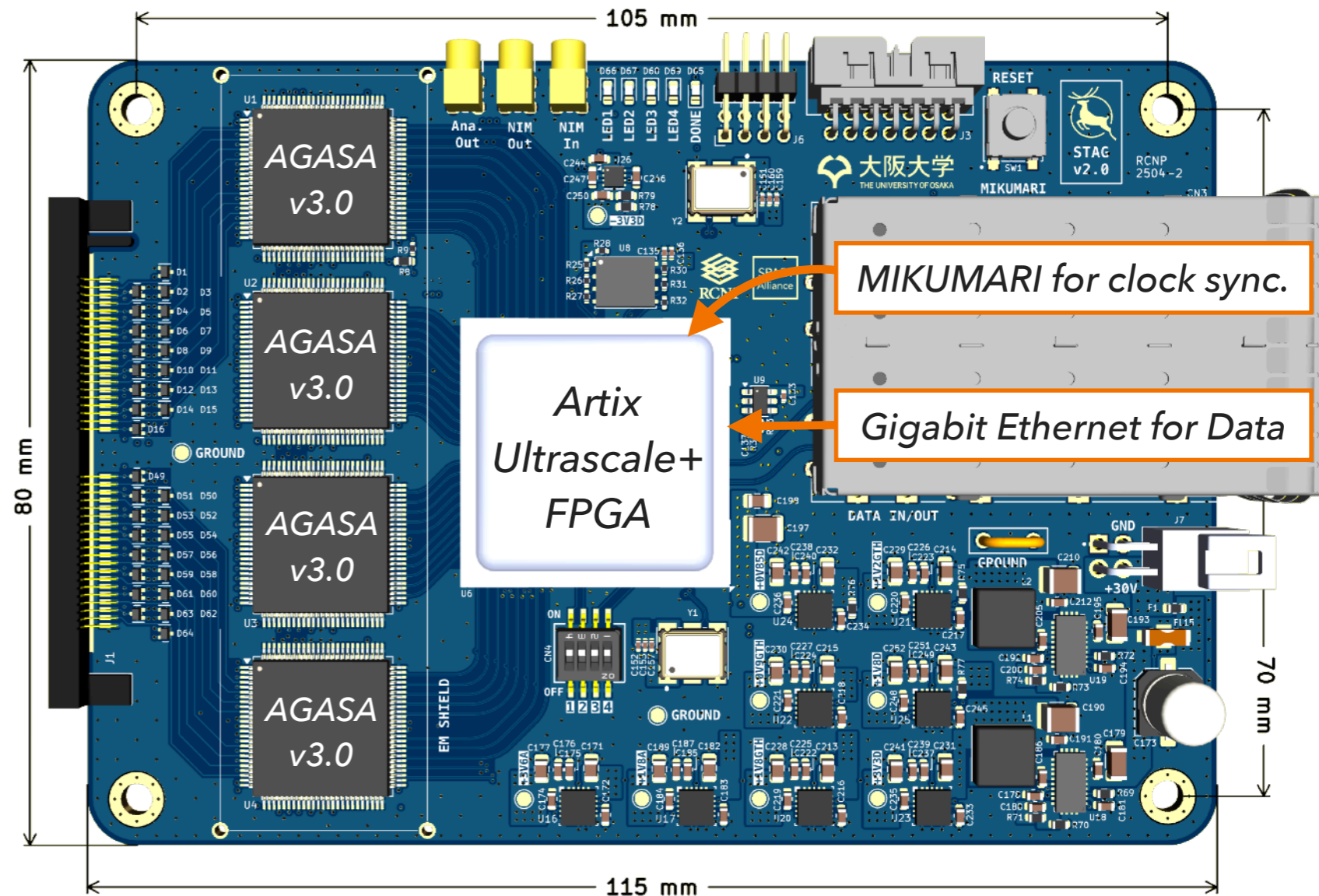
STAG board
Today's Talk!



The all-in-one STAG Board

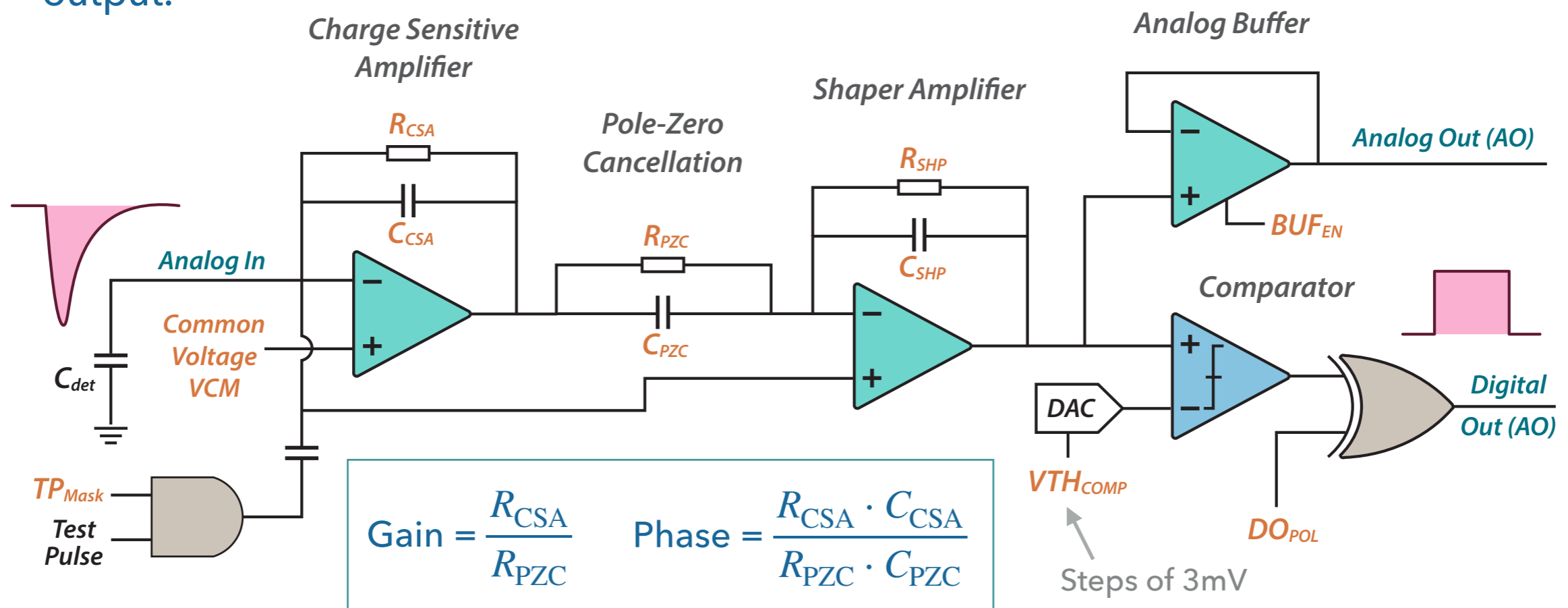
- The STAG (**ST**reaming readout with **AGASA** for **G**aseous detectors) board is designed by Lakmin.W and M.Ikeno (RCNP-DAID).
 - **Analog FE:** AGASA analog ASIC developed by M.Miyahara (KEK), R.Honda (KEK), et al.
 - **FPGA:** Artix Ultrascale+
 - **Size:** 8 cm x 11.5 cm
 - **Aim for low cost:** € 800~1100 / board, or € 13~17 / channel

Input from 64 VDC channels →



AGASA ASIC

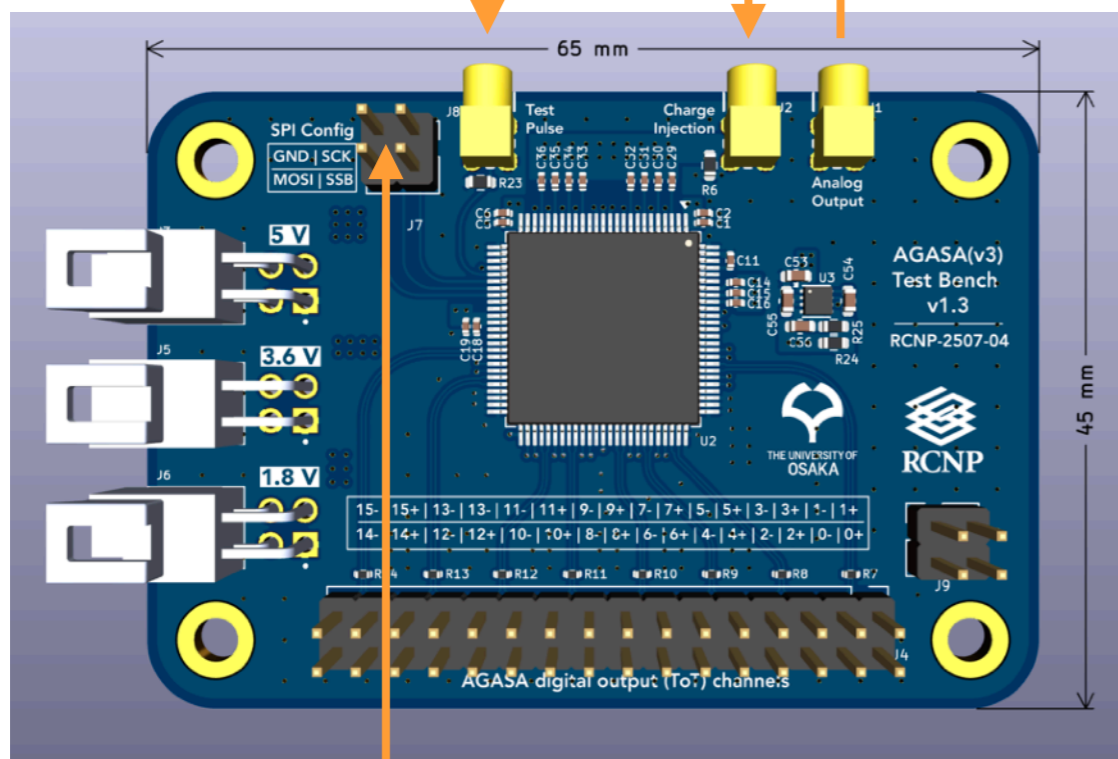
- AGASA comprises of a Charge Sensitive Amp, Pole-Zero cancellation, Shaper Amp, and Comparator (i.e Discriminator).
- Meant to be a generic ASIC, to be used in different gas detectors.
 - Hence, the parameters shown in **Orange** are configurable. In other words, you can change the gain, phase, comparator thresholds, etc. Also you can monitor the analog output.



ASIC Test Bench & Control Software

- A dedicated test bench to evaluate the ASIC, which is controlled by the prototype for the STAG control software.

Oscilloscope
Pulse Generator

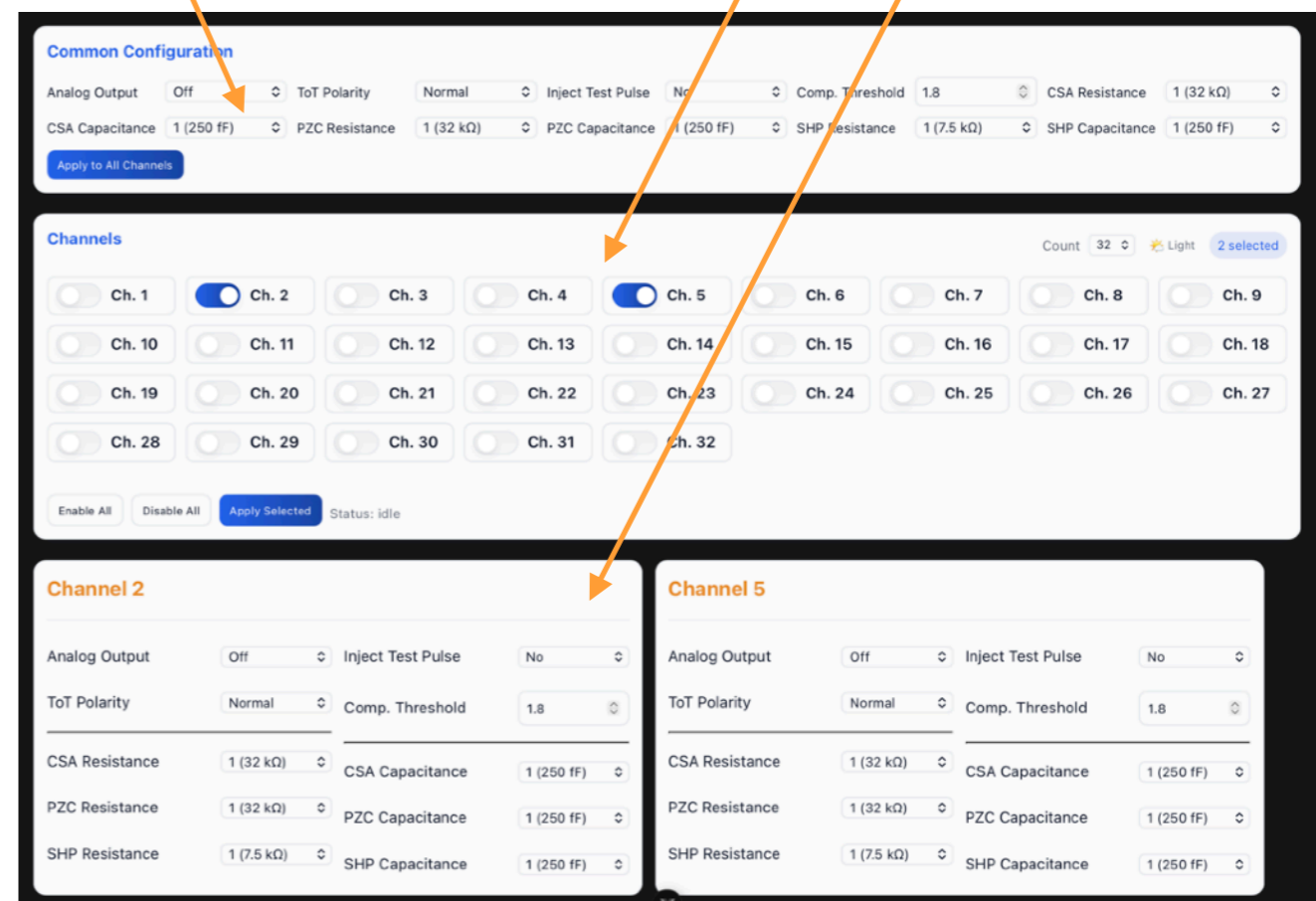


SPI @
1.25 MHz

Raspberry Pi

Common configuration
panel for all channels

Sub-panels for *channel*
by channel config



Vue.js (Front-end)

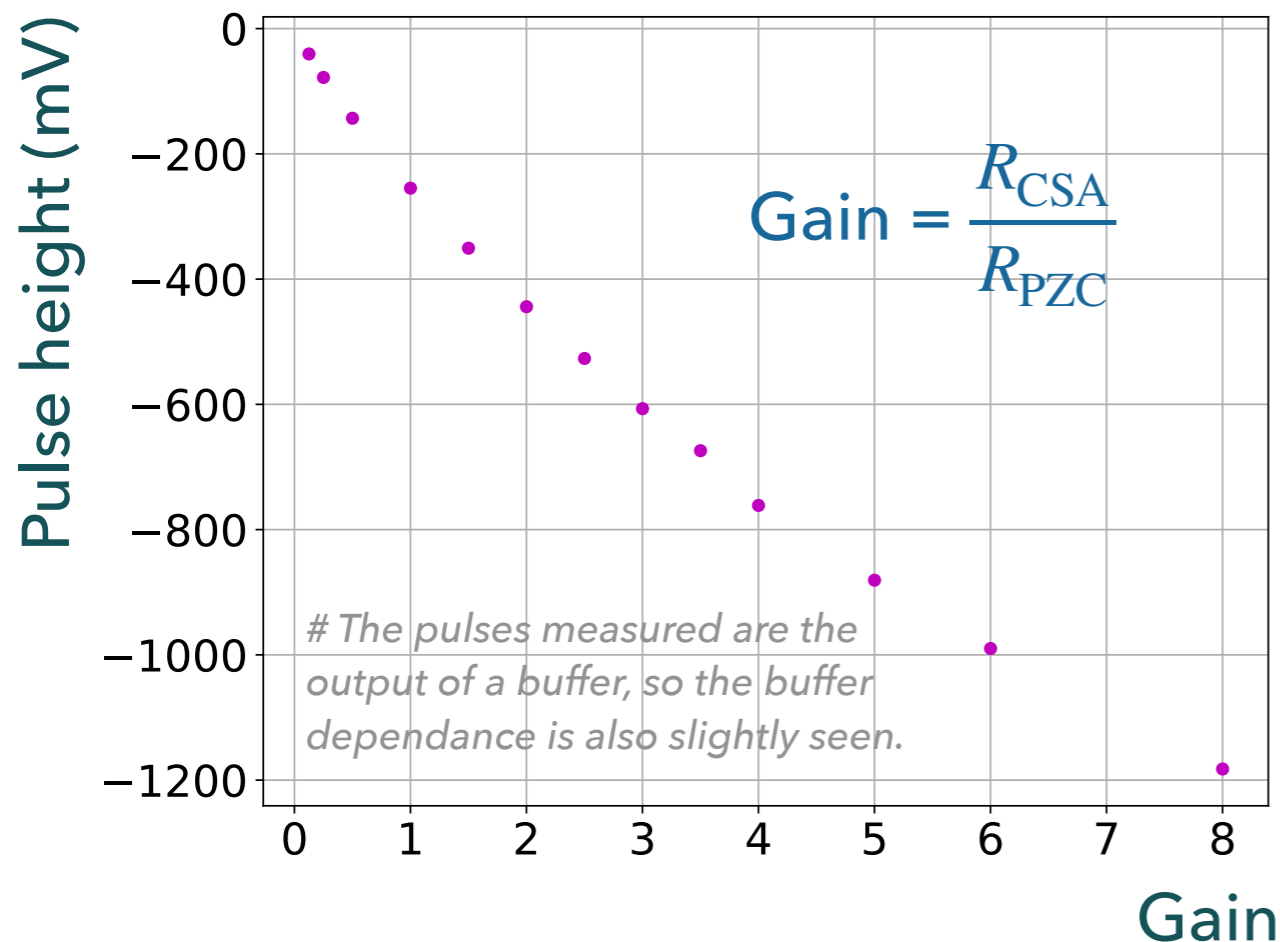


FastAPI (Back-end)

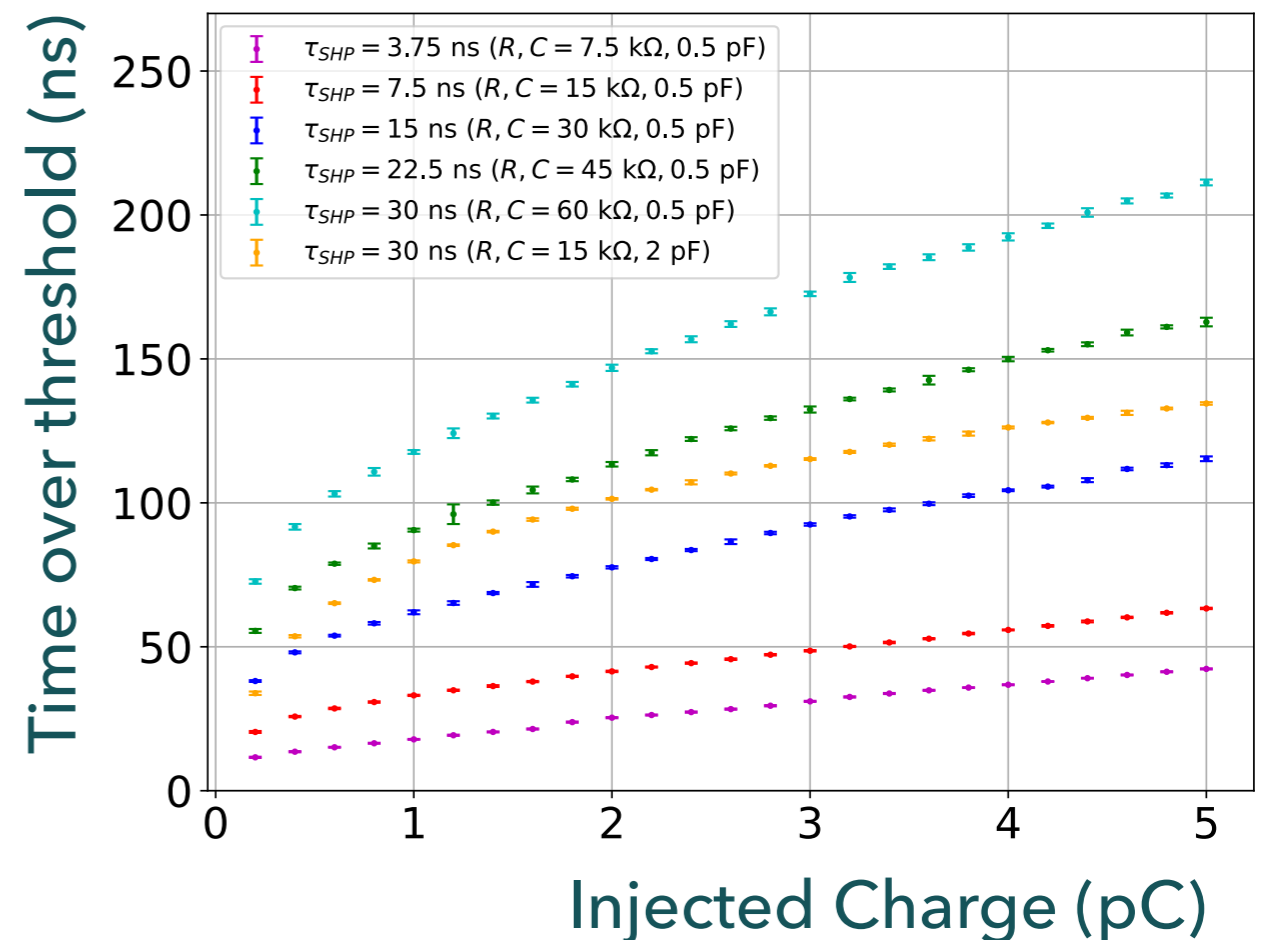
Evaluation of the AGASA v3.0 ASIC

Charge Injected using 1 pF capacitor, and ToT threshold at 20 mV

Pulse Height vs GAIN (0.12 pC pulses)



ToT vs Injected Charge



- Mostly linear behavior is seen in the configurable gain.
- ToT linearity is seen for injected charges in our experiment range (between 1~3 pC), as well as at higher injected charges.

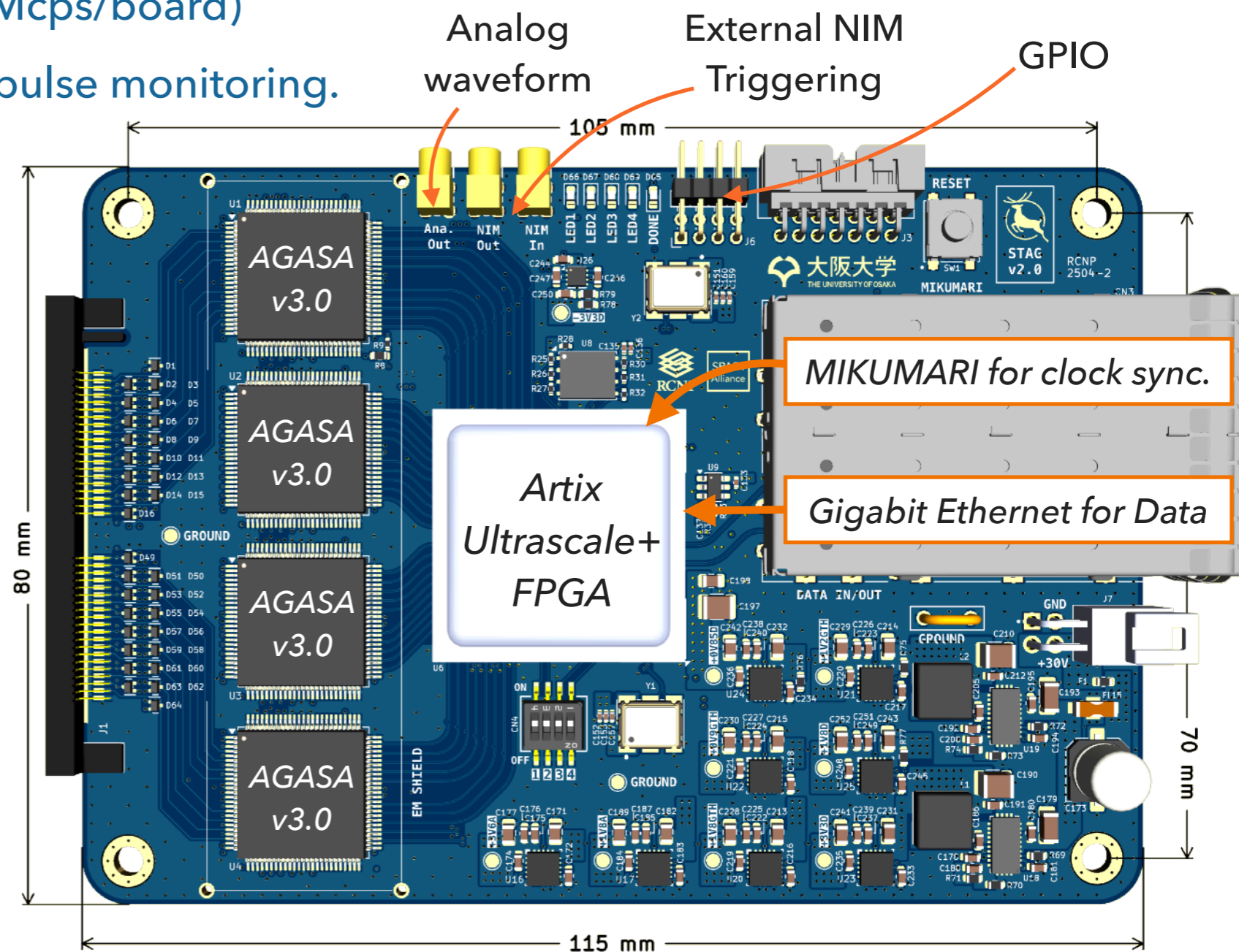


The all-in-one STAG Board

Other specifications decided by a questionnaire to the nuclear physics community.

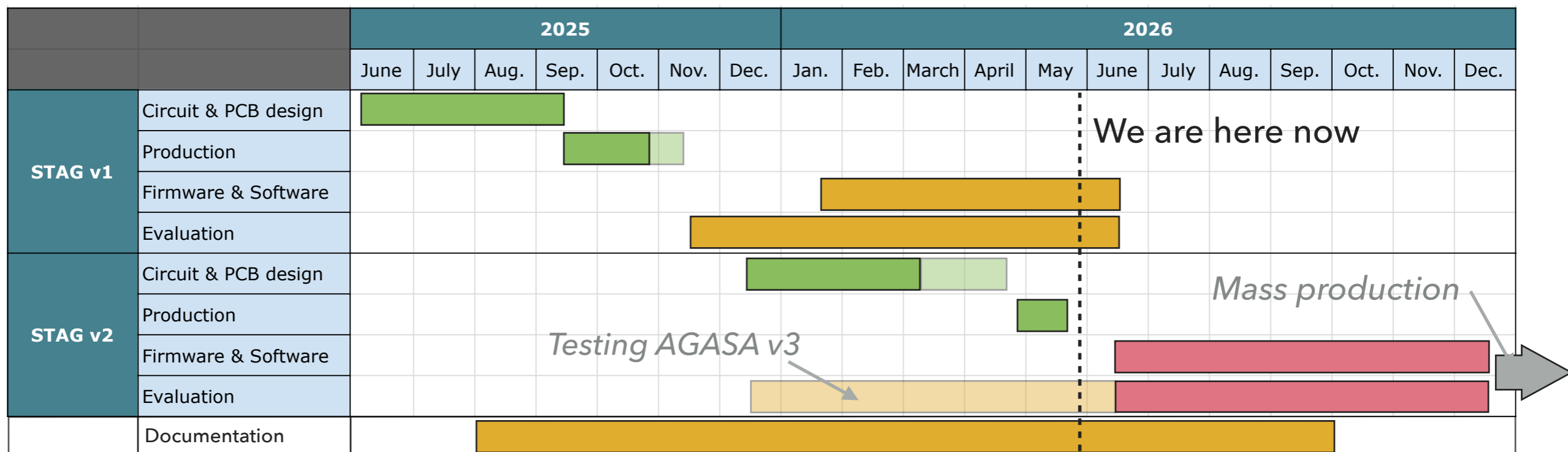
- **DAQ rates** \Rightarrow 1 Gbps (\sim 16 Mcps/board)
- **Output** \Rightarrow Mostly ToT, with pulse monitoring.
- **Triggering** \Rightarrow Through MIKUMARI protocol & External NIM signals.
- **TDC Resol.** \Rightarrow 100~300 ps
- **Communication** \Rightarrow SiTCP or Fakernet

N.B : DAQ Rates and TDC resolution is the requirement, and is yet to be validated.



STAG board development timeline

- Several development steps are outlined in the timeline below.
 - STAG v1 board (first prototype) was developed last year, and is under evaluation now.
 - STAG v2 design was started this year, and several prototypes produced. Evaluation is expected to be started soon.



- After R&D in 2026 & 2027, the STAG board and the related streaming DAQ framework is planned to be released in 2027.

Summary & remarks

- We are developing an all-in-one readout boards for different air shower detectors, that are also applicable in many nuclear and HEP experiments.
 - This development is ongoing in collaboration with the SPADI alliance.
- STAG is an all-in-one readout board for gaseous detectors.
 - Combine the ASD and TDC in one board, while being compact and generic.
 - Ability to handle 1 Gbps data rates, 100~300 ps TDC resolution, etc.
- We welcome you to join the SPADI alliance, and related task forces if you're interested!
 - SPADI alliance homepage: <https://spadi-alliance.rcnp.osaka-u.ac.jp/en>



This research was supported by the JST K-program
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