

Accomplishment of high duty cycle beam commissioning of Linear IFMIF Prototype Accelerator (LIPAc) at 5 MeV, 125 mA D+

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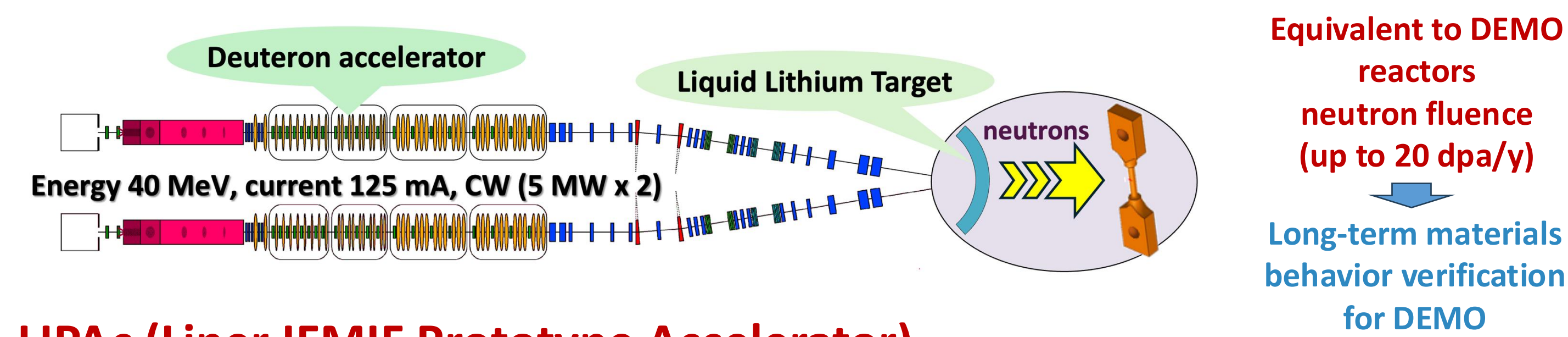
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Abstract

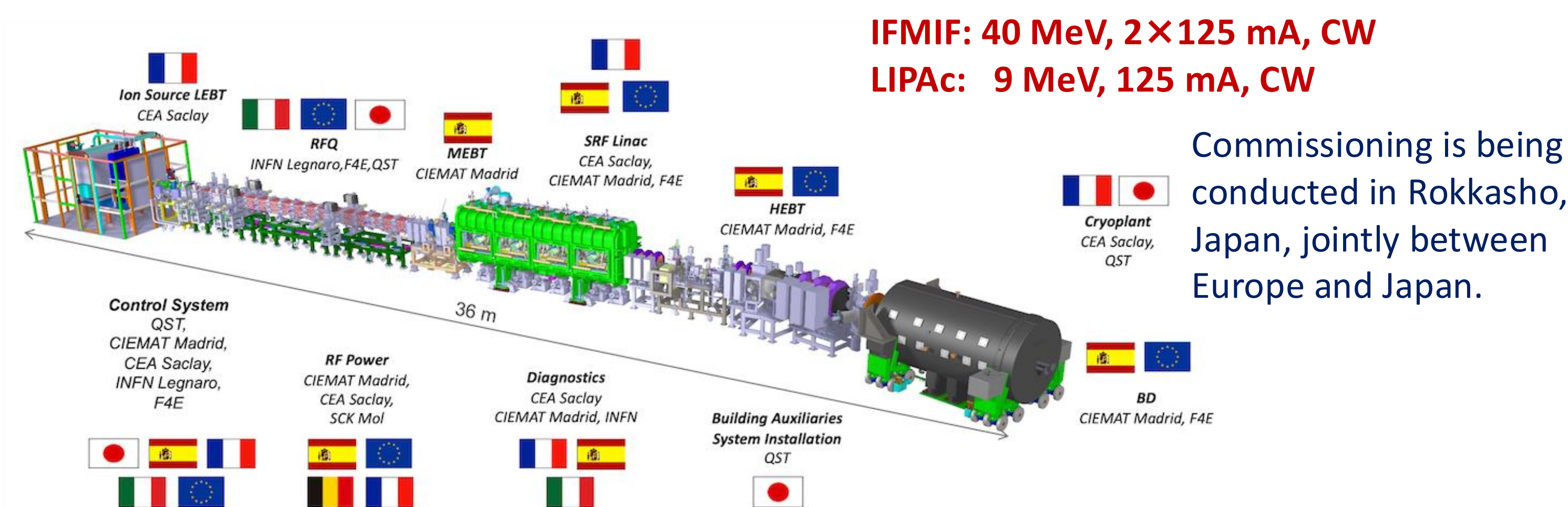
The Linear IFMIF Prototype Accelerator (LIPAc) aims at validating the design of the low-energy section of the 40-MeV/125-mA IFMIF deuteron accelerator, thus up to 9 MeV in continuous-wave (CW) operation. While the Superconducting RF Linac (SRF Linac) has been assembled, the LIPAc beamline was operating in the intermediate configuration, namely the Phase B+ commissioning. The main objectives of this phase were to validate the 5-MeV/125-mA deuteron beam acceleration by the RFQ at a high-duty cycle and to characterize the beam properties in preparation for the final configuration with the SRF Linac. In June 2024, the Phase B+ commissioning was completed with the acceleration and transport of a 5 MeV/119 mA deuteron beam at 8.75% duty cycle up to the beam dump.

Introduction

IFMIF (International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility)



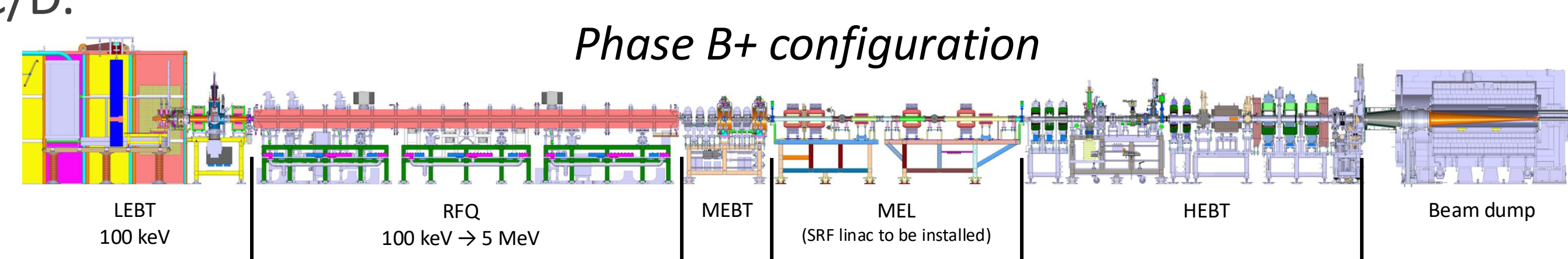
LIPAc (Liner IFMIF Prototype Accelerator)



High-duty deuteron beam test (Phase B+)

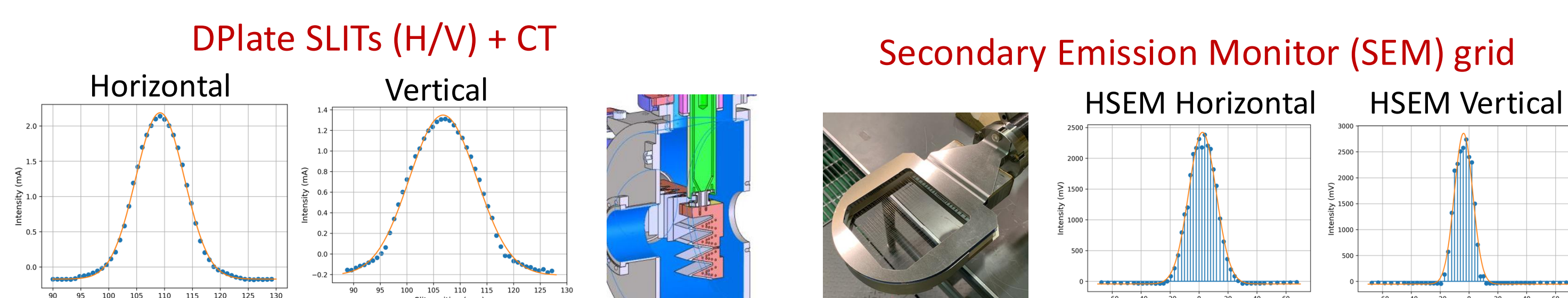
Objectives of Phase B+

- Demonstration of high-duty cycle deuteron beam acceleration by RFQ (5 MeV, 125 mA, up to CW).
- Validation of the HEBT and the Beam dump (first time in operation).
- Characterization of beam to be injected into SRF in subsequent Phase C/D.



Diagnostics & Beam transport optimization

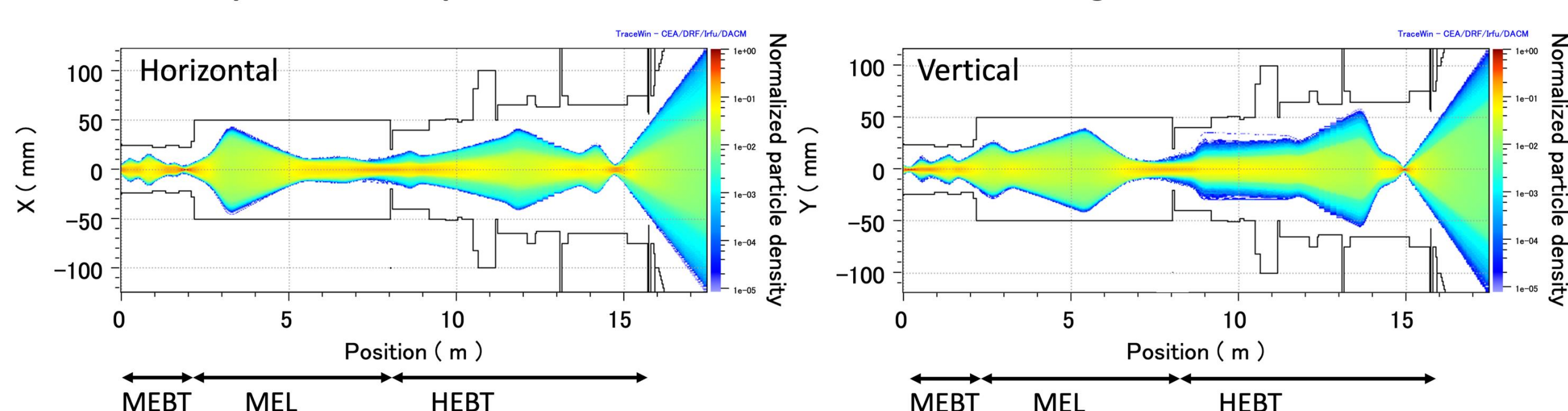
Transverse beam profiles measured by the interceptive diagnostics



Following the observation of unexpected particle loss, the beam modeling was improved.

- Simulation using the exact quad field distribution, fully implementing fringing fields instead of the hard-edge model.
- Beam-based calibration of quadrupole magnet g (T/m) to I (A).

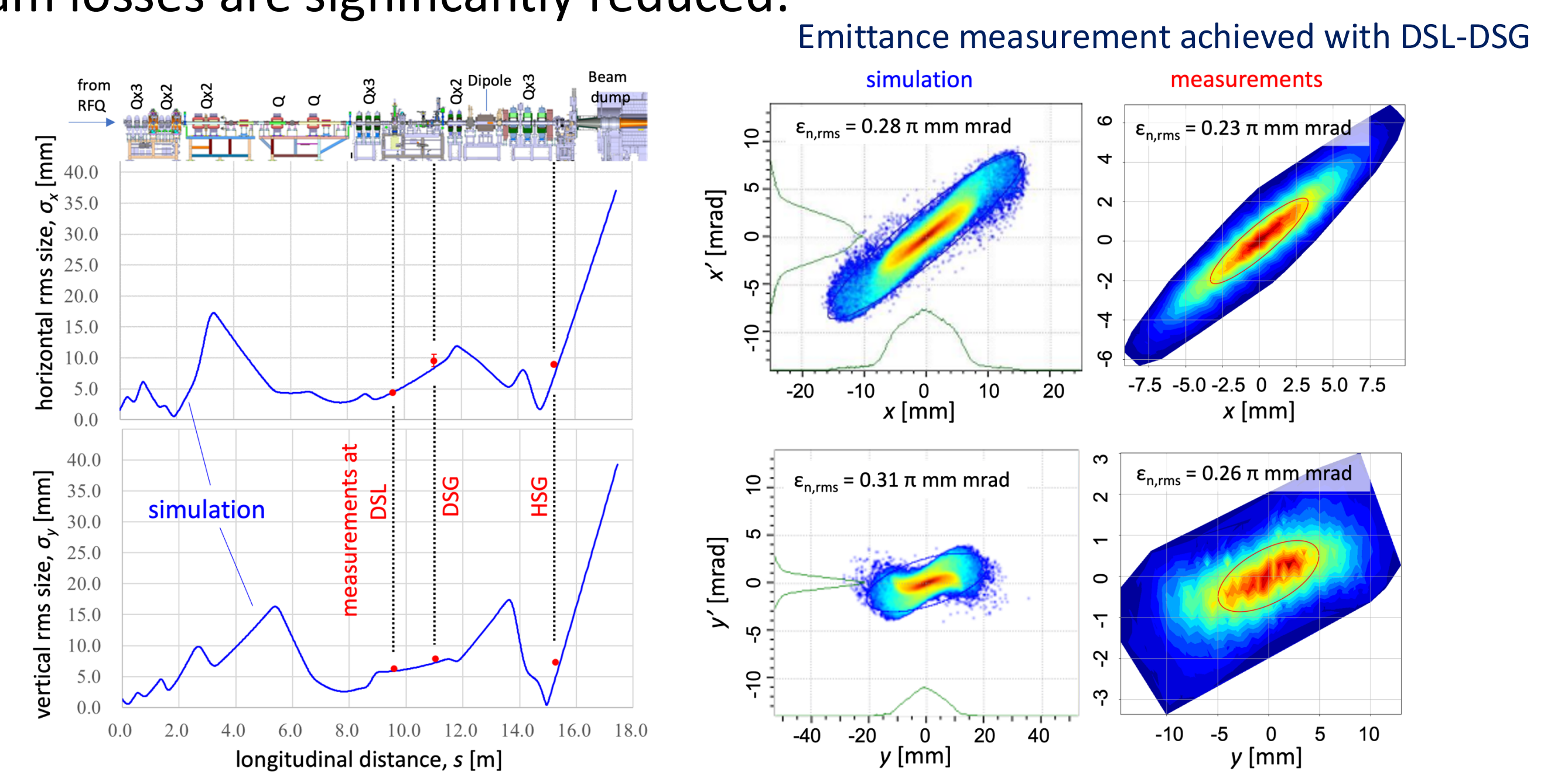
Updated beam optics with calibrated conversion factor and Fringe Field model



Outcome

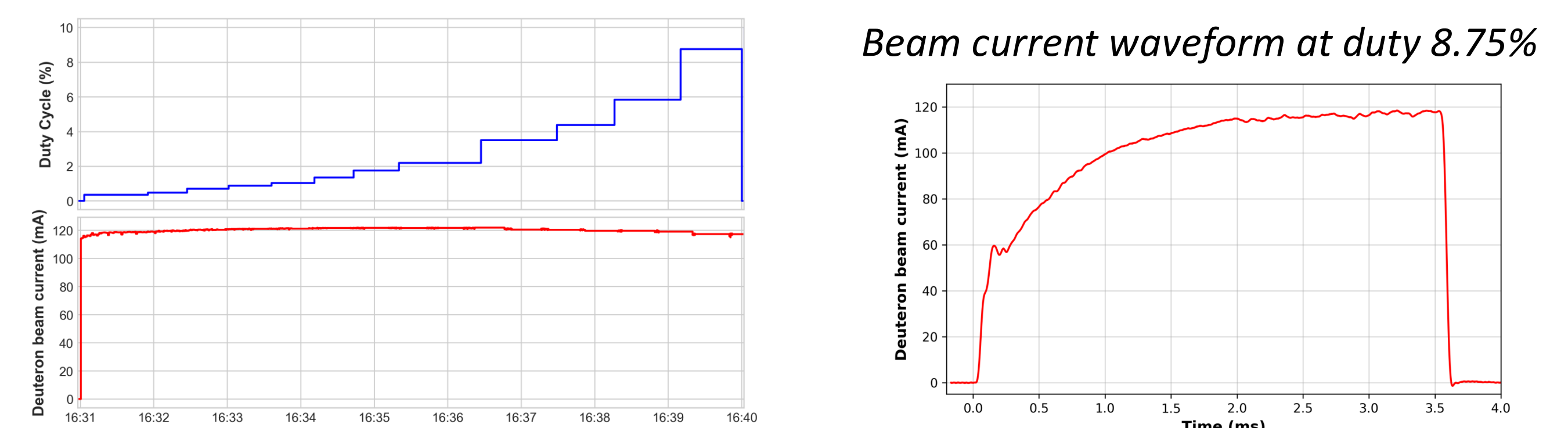
Validation of beam transport simulation

- Good agreement between measurement and simulation.
- Beam losses are significantly reduced.



Maximum duty cycle of 8.75 % achieved

- 119 mA at HEBT, RFQ transmission is ~90% (consistent with RFQ design)
- RFQ average beam power: 40-45 kW



Challenges in high-duty operation

RFQ-RF: 175 MHz, 200 kW (design) x 8 chains
Nominal RFQ cavity voltage: 132 kV

Vacuum leak event occurred in March 2022

Viton O-rings were melted/deformed in 5/8 couplers

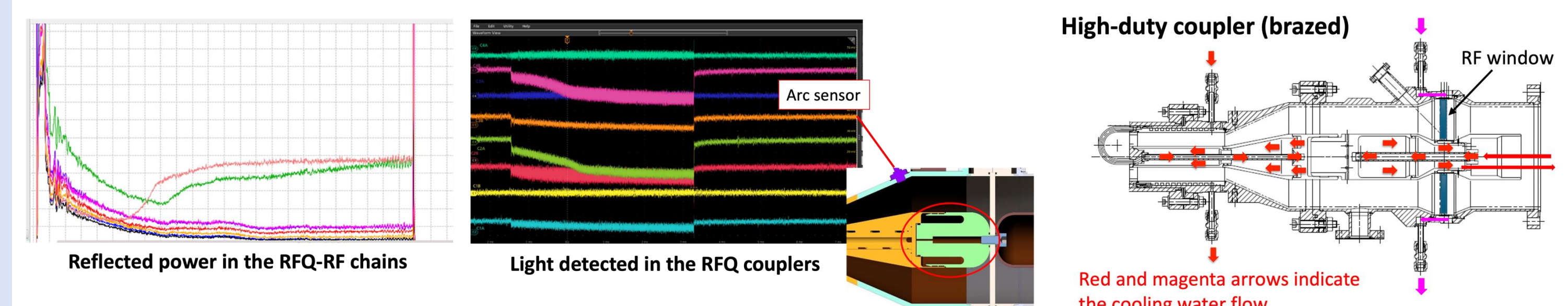
Identified **multipacting** as the cause of O-ring overheating. As a short-term solution, inner conductors with enhanced cooling were installed.

Despite this, significant heating was still observed, and the duty cycle was limited to 10% max in Phase B+ to avoid RFQ coupler damage.

Present coupler behavior at high-duty operation

- Confirmation that a duty increase of up to 10% is difficult with current RFQ O-ring couplers.

→ Preparation of brazed couplers for high-duty operation is ongoing.



Conclusion

- Successfully demonstrated high-duty cycle operation of the LIPAc, achieving 8.75% duty cycle with 119 mA D+ beam current. HEBT and BD were validated, and beam transport simulations were confirmed through experimental comparison.
- These achievements establish a solid foundation for future progress towards CW operation to demonstrate the IFMIF accelerator concept.
- A key challenge was RFQ RF couplers overheating caused by multipacting; high-power tests of brazed couplers are currently ongoing.

Acknowledgements

This work was undertaken under the Broader Approach Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of Japan. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Parties to this Agreement.