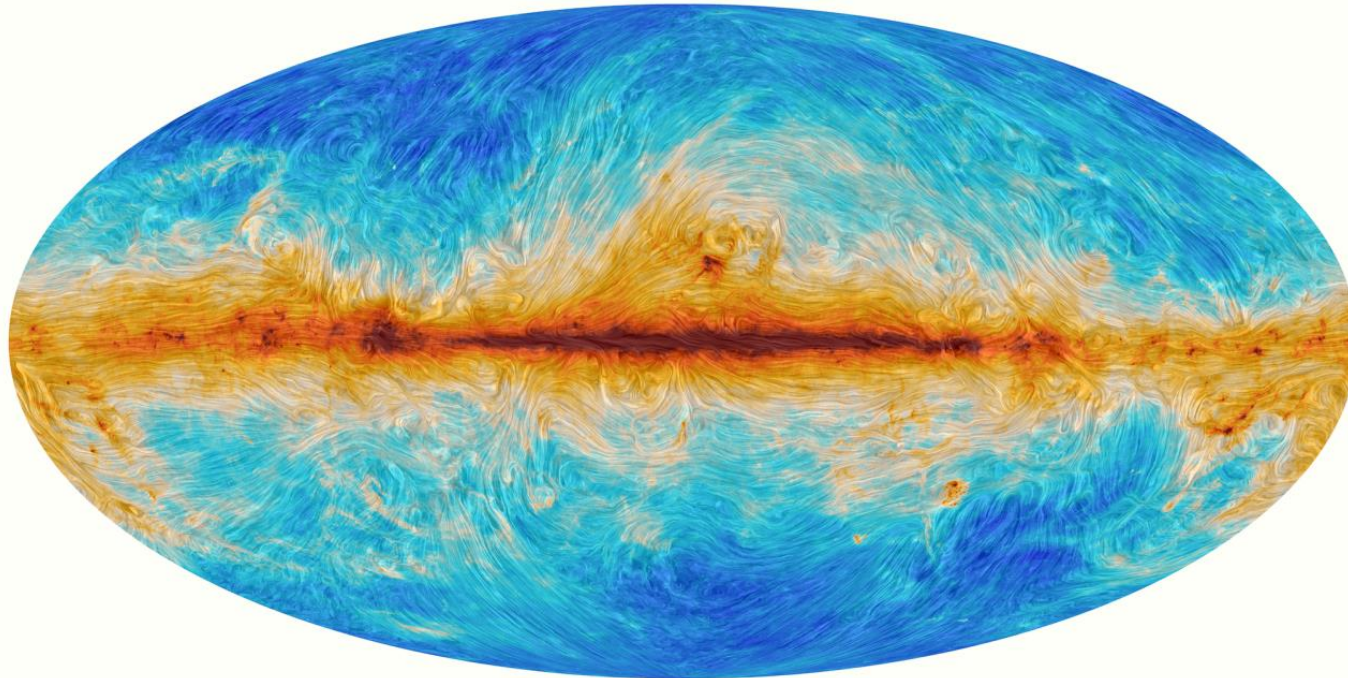


The design and use of
THz quasi-optical
systems

Or “there and back again”
(The Hobbit, 1937...J. R. R. Tolkien)

Richard Wylde FREng



ESA's Planck
CMB Missions
Data Released 2015

Magnetic field lines traced by dust emission at 353 GHz

This talk is about the Physics and Engineering of getting information-containing signals to and from EPR samples buried deep in higher field (>3 Tesla) high homogeneous magnets

But... because there is unity in science ...I am going to take examples of the techniques from a range of other areas of instrumentation.

For the very highest performance measurement systems operating above about 100 GHz, we have long advocated quasi-optical approaches, which give very low loss, wide bandwidth and polarization agility not available with other circuit structures.

This talk will give some technical background to QO systems and give examples of their use in important measurement campaigns.

Examples will come from

- Atmospheric remote sensing: JAXA's JEM/SMILES 640GHz BrO Probing SIS-based Radiometer JAXA's Cloud sensing pulsed Radar along with the current MetOP-SG & TROPICs programmes
- Diagnostics in Plasma Fusion research for energy production,
- Free Electron Laser Injection Locking
- ALMA telescope project for Astronomy
- Planck Cosmic Microwave Background anisotropy measurements
-and HFESR bridges

This is not a highly technical talk.

I am not aiming to convey the nitty-gritty details of how to design Gaussian-beam transport systems.

Rather the ideas behind the hardware and the calculations need to design EPR Bridges

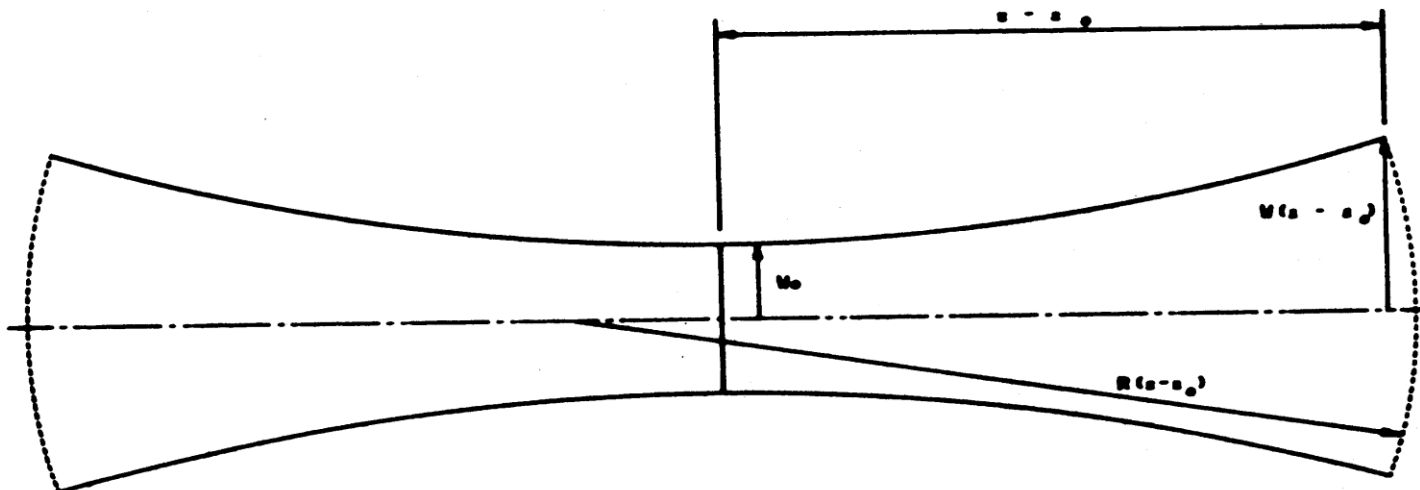
The free space propagation of EM beams whose size is only a few wavelengths across and where the diffractive spreading of the beam must be controlled.

Physical rather than geometrical optics must be used.



Gaussian beam-mode theory, outlined first in the context of resonant laser cavities by Kogelnik and Li [1966], is the appropriate analytical tool

Simple beam showing beamwaist



The fundamental Gaussian Beam-Mode is characterised by just two parameters:

$W(z)$ - radius at $1/e$ amplitude
 $R(z)$ - phase front curvature

which - along with frequency and polarization uniquely define the beam

Knowing W and R at one point allows you to calculate the parameters anywhere else in a well-defined circuit

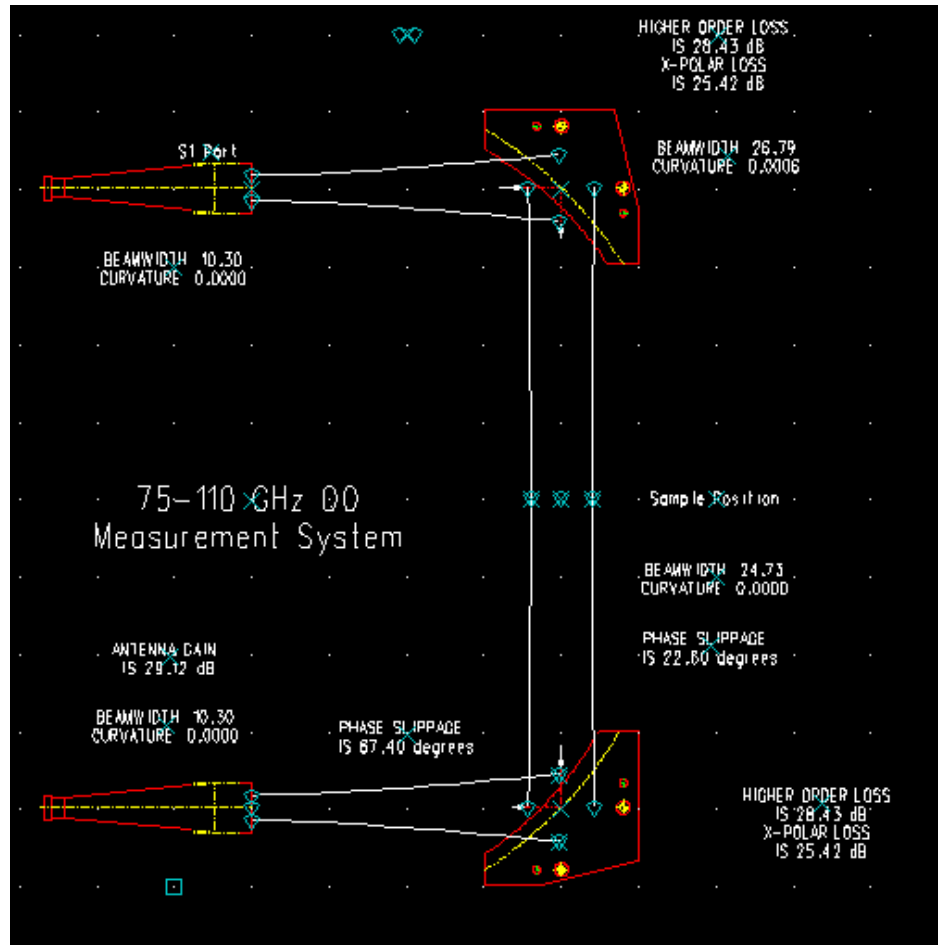
$$W^2 = W_0^2 [1 + \hat{z}^2]$$

$$R = (z - z_0) [1 - (1/\hat{z}^2)]$$

$$\text{And a Phase} = (2p+1) \text{ArcTan}(\hat{z})$$

where \hat{z} is the reduced (dimensionless) distance to the beamwaist W_0 given by

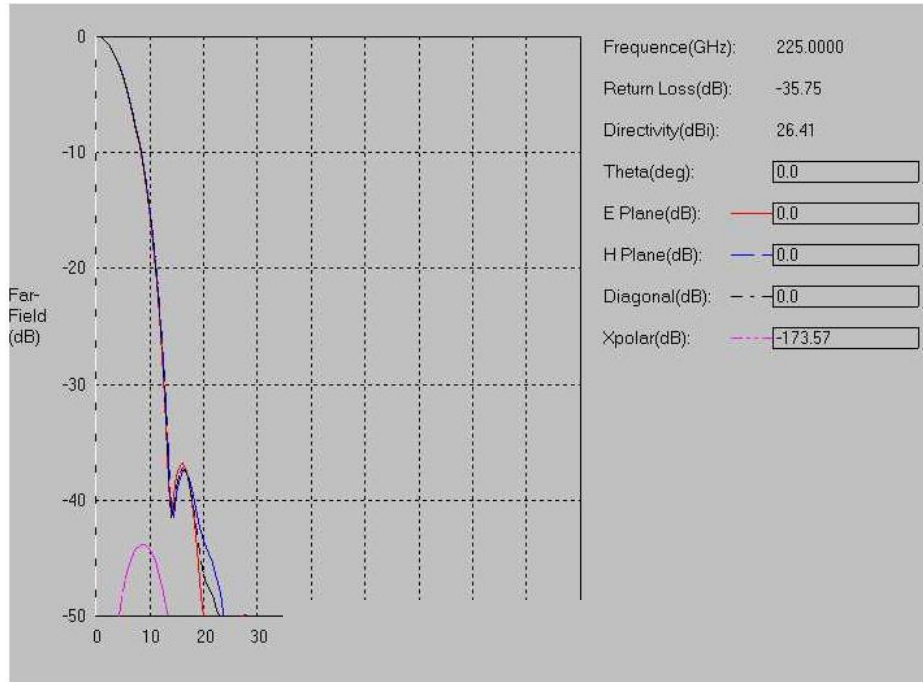
$$\hat{z} = \lambda (z - z_0) / \pi W_0^2$$



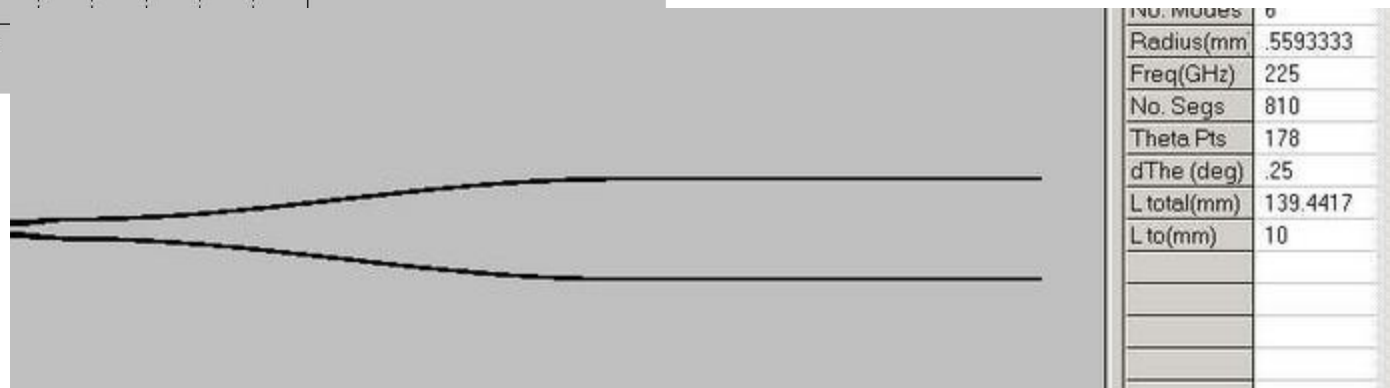
Two mirror system,
with mirrors set at
sums of focal length.

Waist position is
independent of
frequency

Beam waist
divergence also
independent of
frequency



Ultra-Gaussian Horns allow the simple Gaussian Beam mode approach to be used to design low loss QO systems

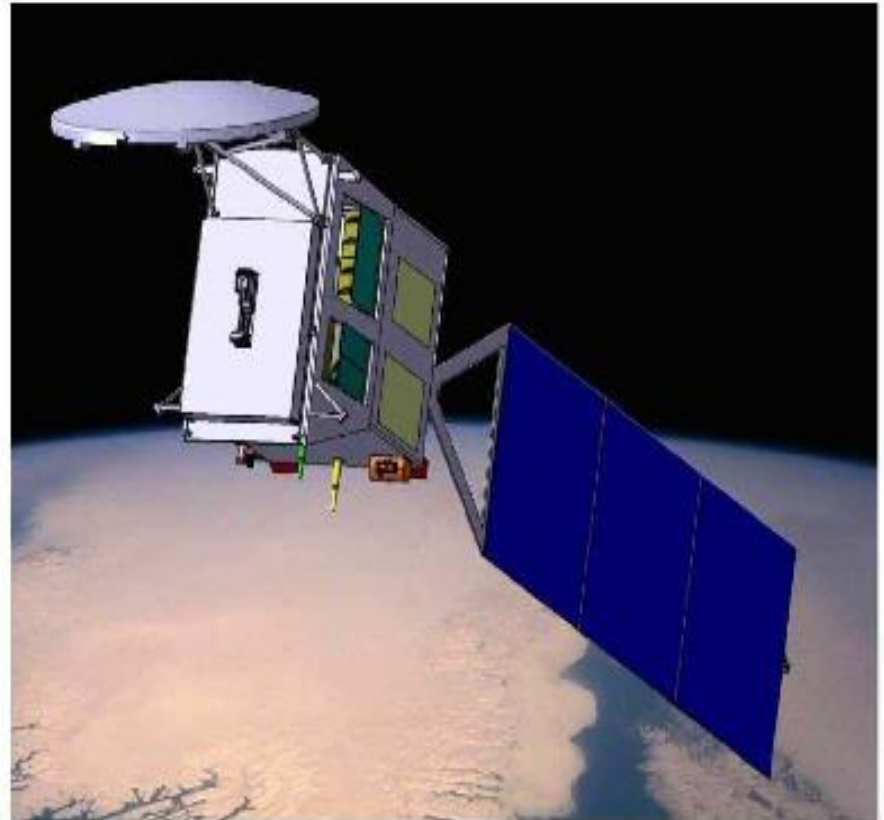


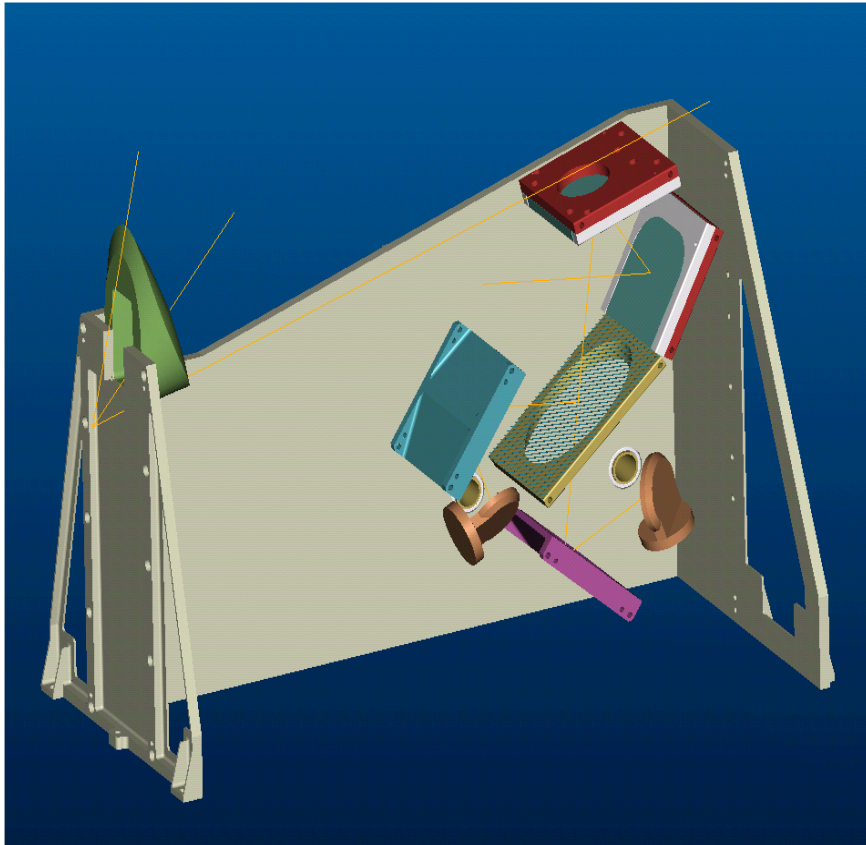
There are QO analogues of all microwave components:

- .Waveguide - Free space and mirrors
- .Adjustable phase delays – moving mirrors
- .Couplers - Polarizing wire grids; Mylar films
- .Terminations - Radar Absorbing Material (RAM)
- .Attenuators - Sheet absorbers; rotating polarizing wire grids
- .Isolators and circulators - Ferrite Faraday rotators and grids
- .Filters - Martin-Puplett Interferometers/Drill plate filters/Capacitive and Inductive mesh filters

Multiplexing and Isolation can also be provided without gyrotropic materials, if you are prepared to use Circular polarization -a reflected CP wave is (curiously) polarized in the same sense at the outgoing beam, and can therefore be distinguished by an interferometer acting as a Circular polarizer

This is the approach we are taking for the 94.05 GHz Cloud Pulse radar for the ESA/JAXA EarthCARE mission to measure cloud cover from space

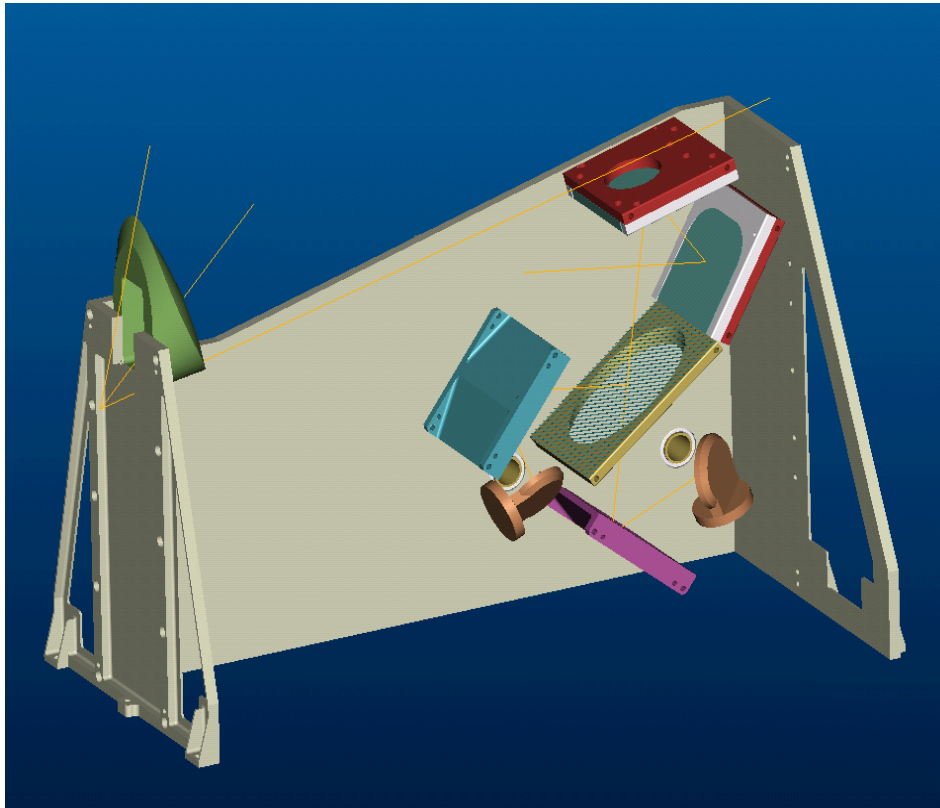




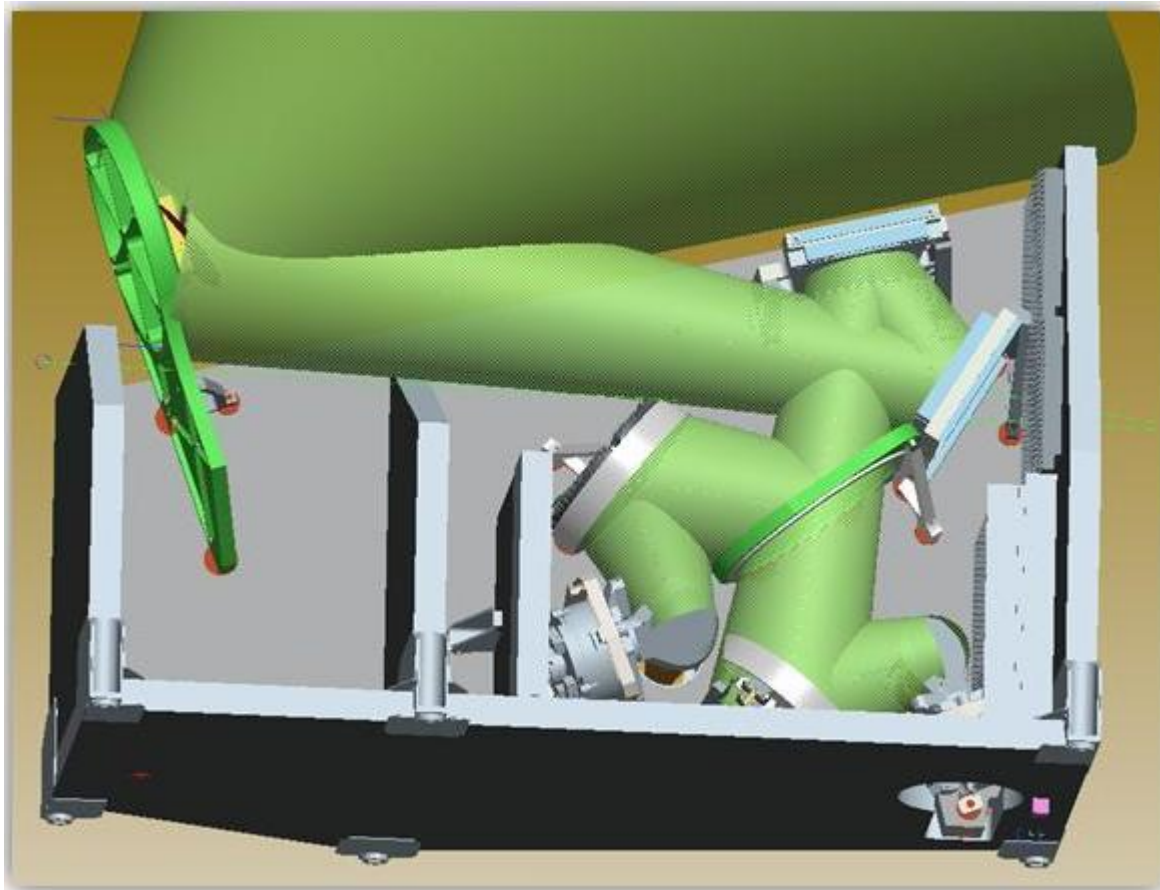
For the CRP, The feed subsystem is required to take high power signals from a waveguide based EIK source and feed the antenna subreflector. Returning signals, reflected from clouds, are to be passed from the antenna subreflector to a LNA receiver.

We need to have

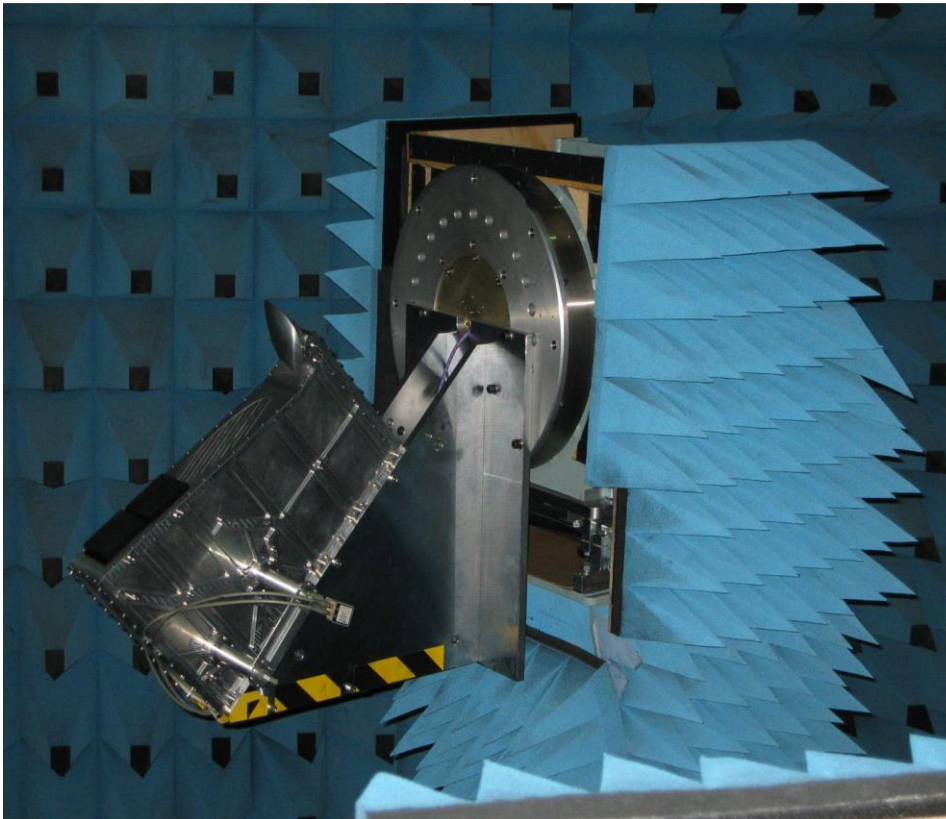
- One-way Tx/Rx losses ≤ 0.5 dB
- Tx/Rx isolation > 30 dB
- Tx-Rx Return loss > 30 dB
- Tx-Rx Polarization purity > 30 dB
- Transmit and receive polarisation CP
- Input polarisation to QO feed from transmit source is linear
- Output polarisation from QO feed to receiver also linear



One of two corrugated horns attached to the sources transmits a beam to a mirror and is reflected up to a refocusing mirror following which it passes through an analyzing polarizing grid { and then through an Inatani-type Martin-Pupplet Diplexer acting as the CP polarizer . It then passes to the subreflector and up to the main reflector .

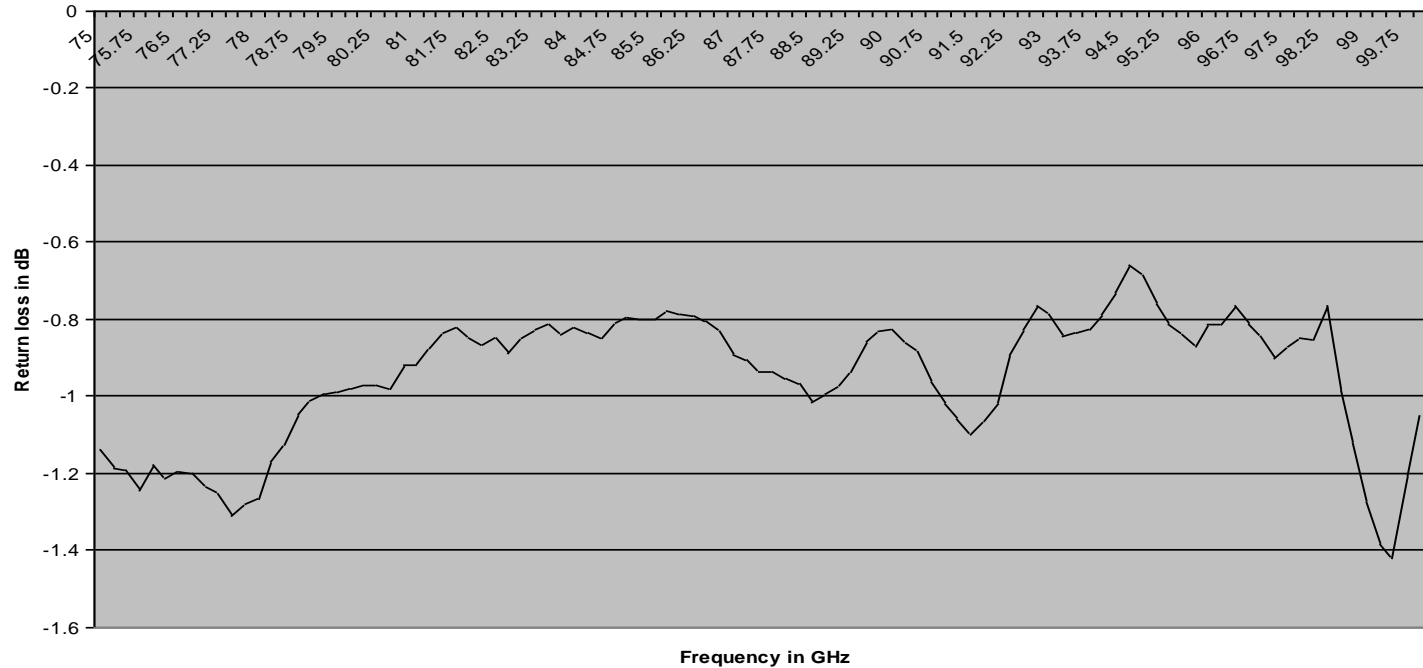


The green propagating beam shows the precise form of the beam moving through the optics and is a vital tool in insuring that there are no stray light problems within the structure



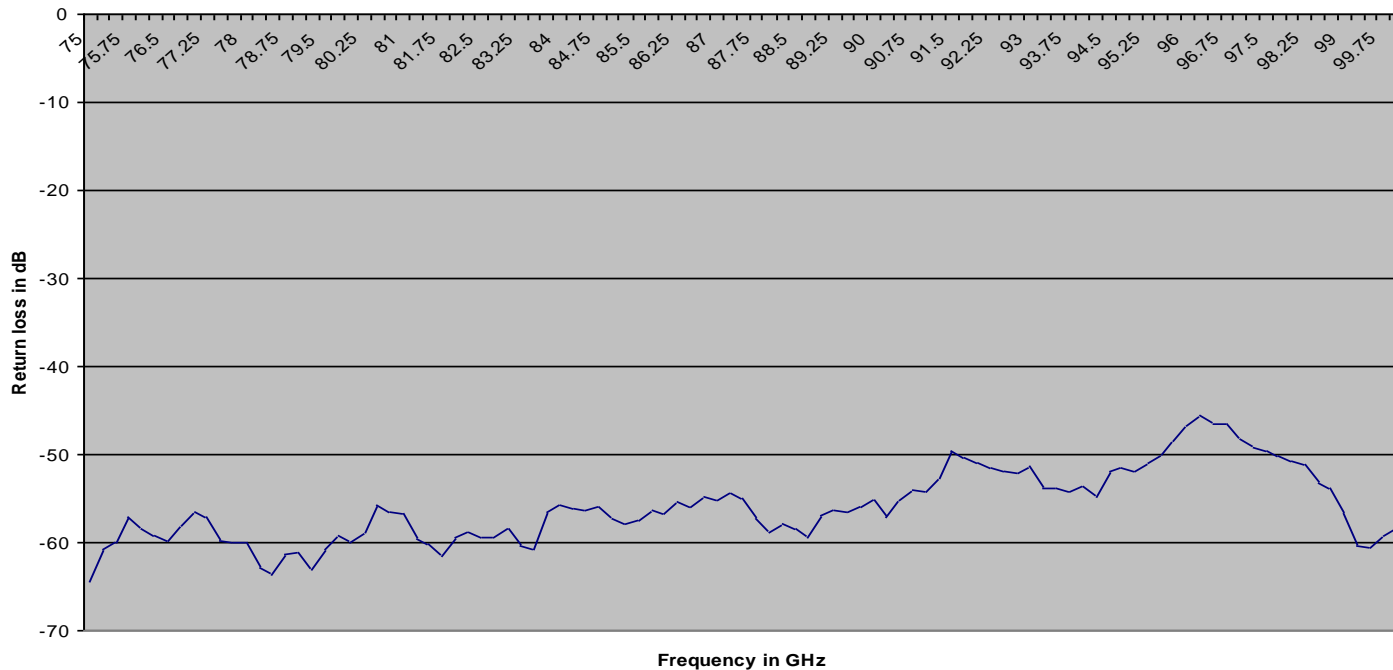
We have built a Breadboard/Engineering model of the CPR multiplexer, here mounted on the Calibrated Antenna range at the the UK's National Physical Laboratory in Teddington

CPR Mutiplexer Feed - S31 return - Short: Mirror at S2



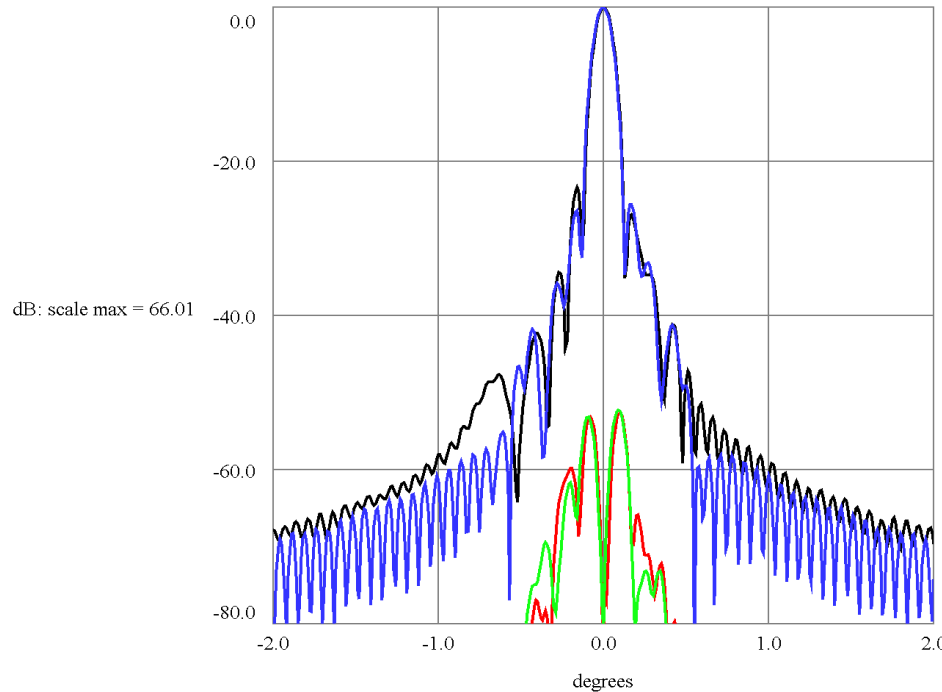
Defining S1 as the source, S2 as the Sky and S3 as the Rx, this measurement show the transmit/receive losses are, at <math><0.8\text{dB}</math>, well with the required single pass loss of 0.5dB

CPR Mutiplexer Feed - S31 return - RAM at S2



Now if we place good absorber at S3, rather than a matched reflector, the S13 transmission drops to less than -50dB, 20dB better than the specification

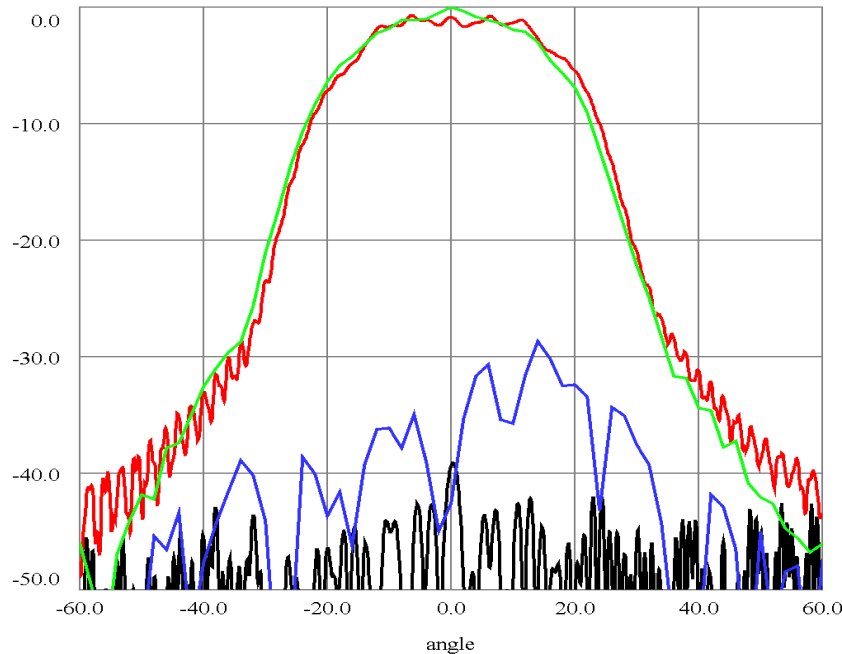
- t1850cp3.opf: Electric: RHCP: phi = 0.00
- t1850cp3.opf: Electric: LHCP: phi = 0.00
- t1850cp3.opf: Electric: RHCP: phi = 90.00
- t1850cp3.opf: Electric: LHCP: phi = 90.00



The multiplexer is also the feed to an offset Cassegrain reflector based upon the Mitzugutch condition – the primary mirror has a focal length of 1850mm and is to provide a gain of 66 dB

█ Predicted sub051201.opf: RHCP: Plane of symmetry
█ Predicted sub051201.opf: LHCP: Plane of symmetry
█ Measured Horn 1 Plane of Symmetry RHCP
█ Measured Horn 1 Plane of Symmetry LHCP

dB: scale max = 17.12



These are predicted and synthetic measured CP patterns of the antenna – constructed from linear complex patterns – the NPL range has good enough stability to do this successfully.

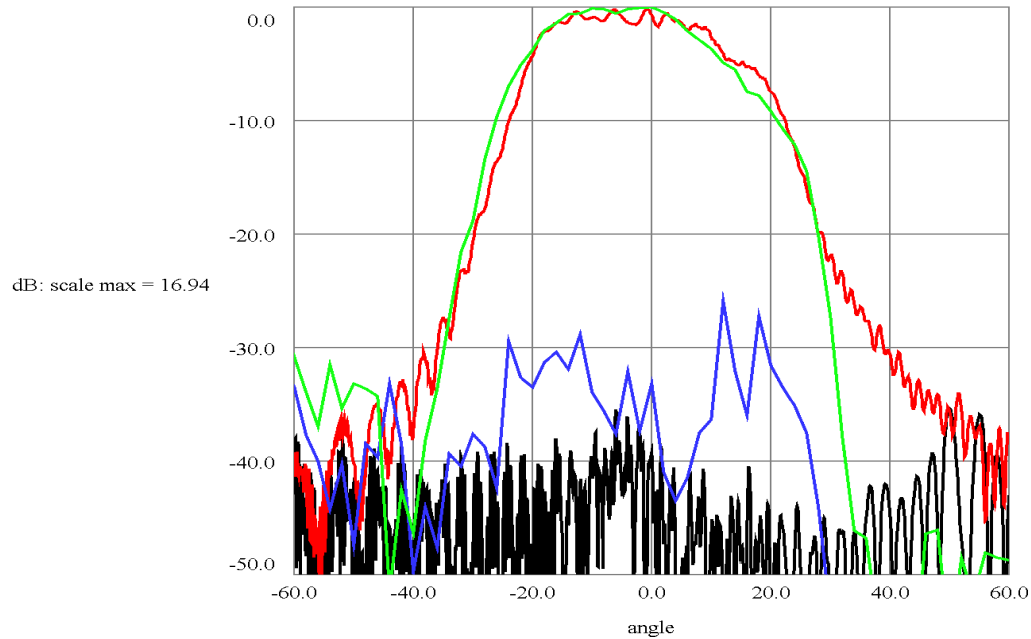
A good match is obtained, here in the plane of symmetry

Plotted: Wed Feb 01 14:28:16 GMT+00:00 2006

H1 EH Phi 0.txt
 H1 EV Phi 0.txt

BRNO 20th November 2019

— Predicted sub051201.opf: Plane of asymmetry RHCP:
 — Predicted sub051201.opf: Plane of asymmetry LHCP:
 — Measured Horn 1 Plane of Asymmetry RHCP
 — Measured Horn 1 Plane of Asymmetry LHCP



And here is the orthogonal pattern, in the plane of asymmetry, also showing good match

Plotted: Wed Feb 01 14:29:34 GMT+00:00 2006

H1 EH Phi 90.txt
 H1 EV Phi 90.txt



The TK Quasi-Optical Feed has been assembled by Astrium in Germany from TK supplied INVAR optics and is currently under test in Japan.

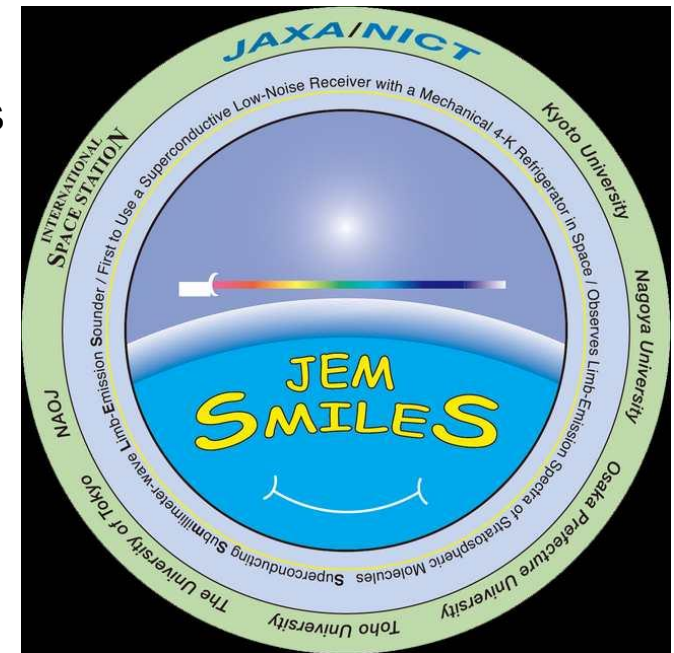


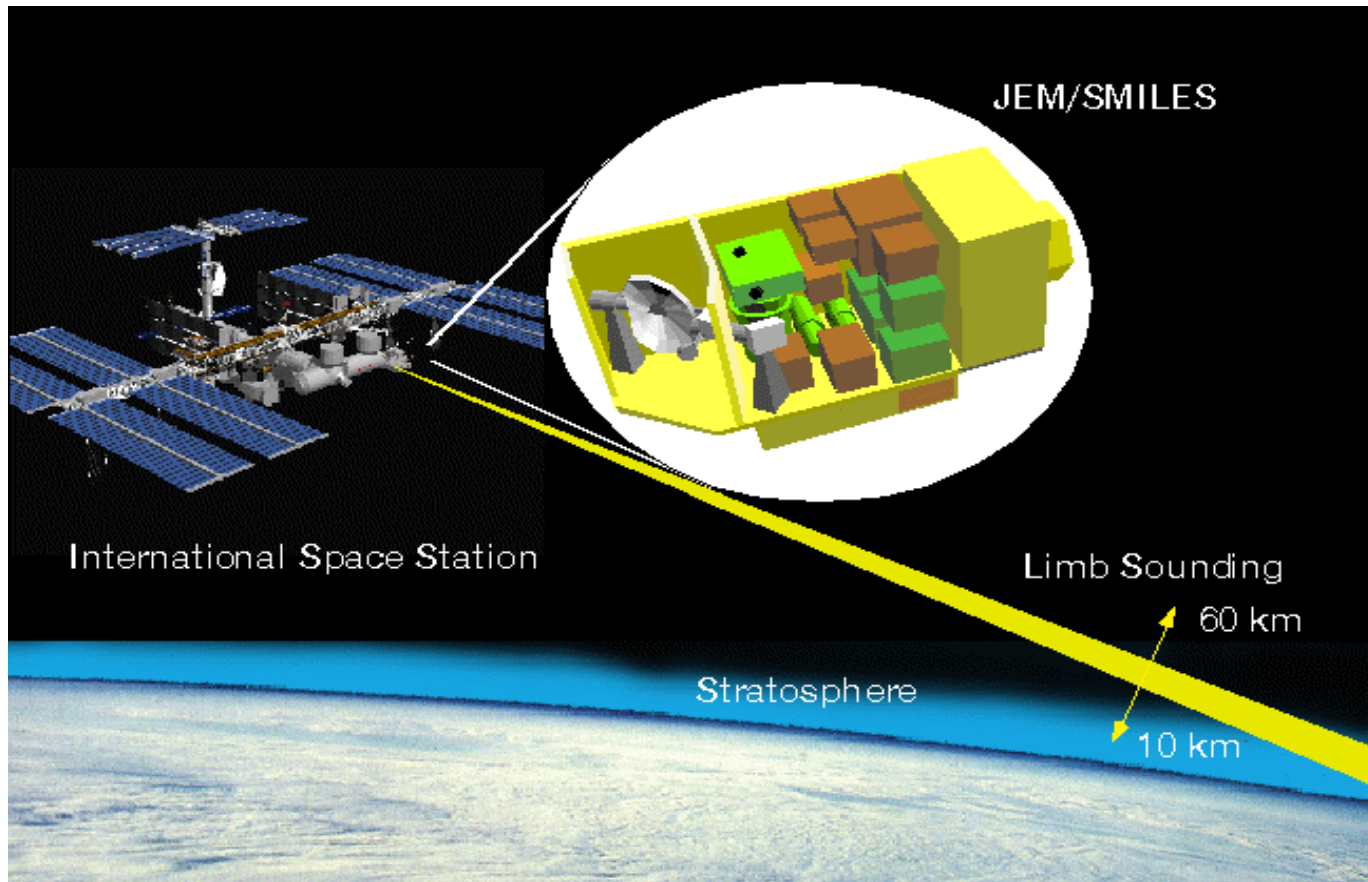
How to measure the atmosphere from space... or why Californian wine may be bad for you

It is very important that we understand what Natural and Man generated processes are affecting the Atmosphere

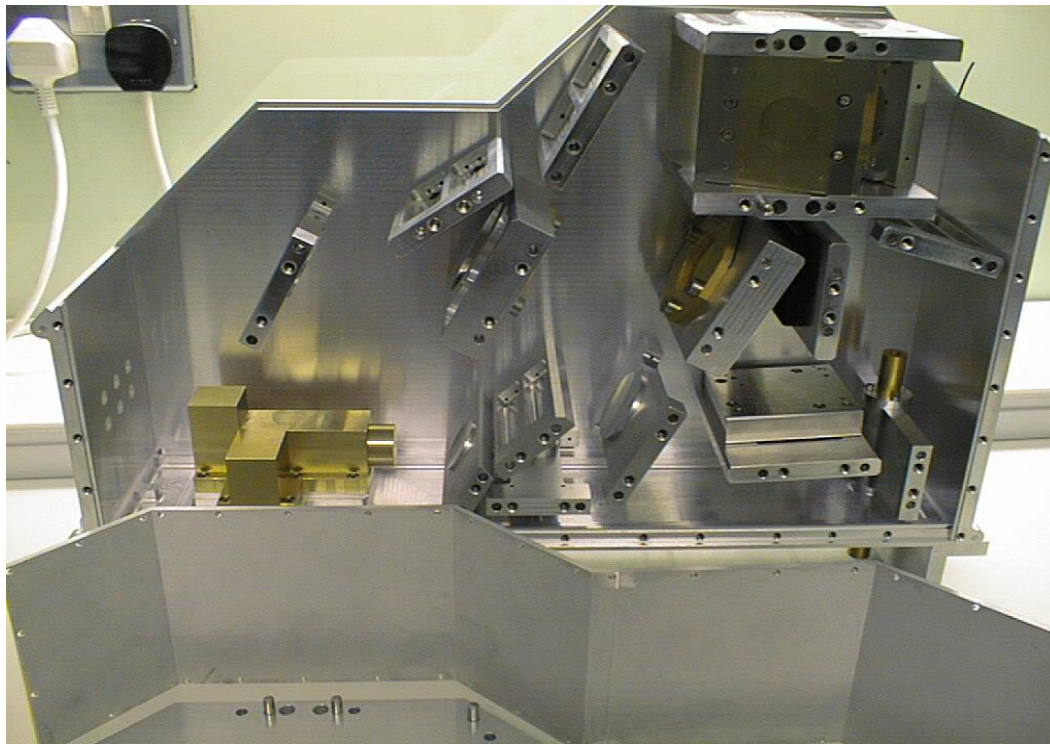
Remote sensing in the THz region from Space is a powerful way to gather the information we need.

JEM/SMILES – the first SIS Receiver flow in Space looking at Ozone related Chemistry – including illusive BrO – which has a very weak signature in comparison, say, with ClO.



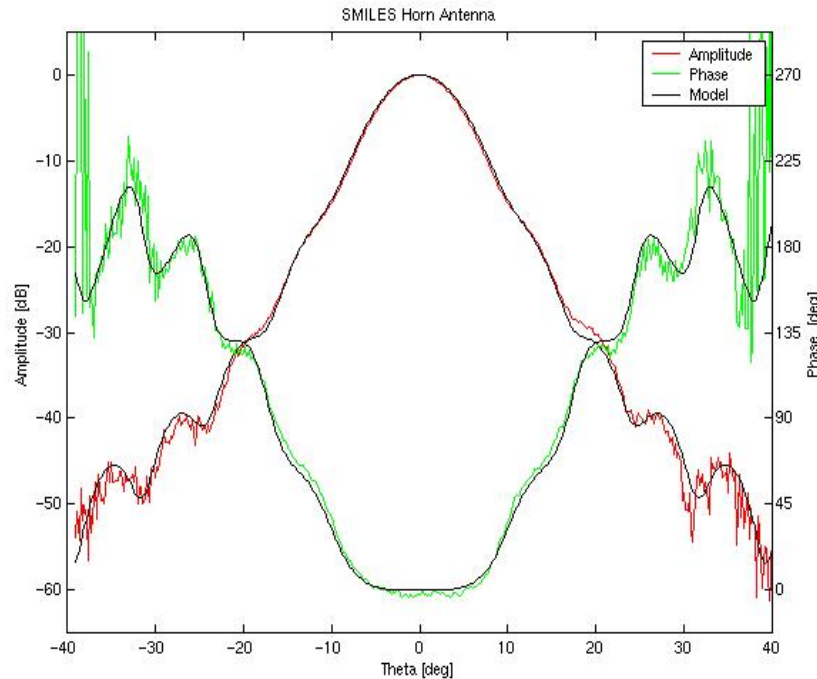


This is the EM of the Ambient temperature optics – where LO is injected and Single sideband filtering is applied



Work done in the
IAP, Bern, by
Axel Murk

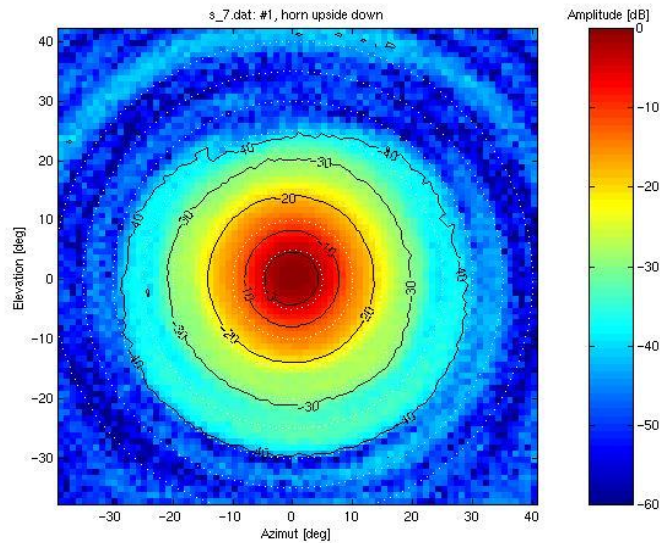
The ability to form and receive nearly pure fundamental Gaussian-beams, from signals generated / detected in single mode waveguide, is crucial to this QO technology: Corrugated horns do this -



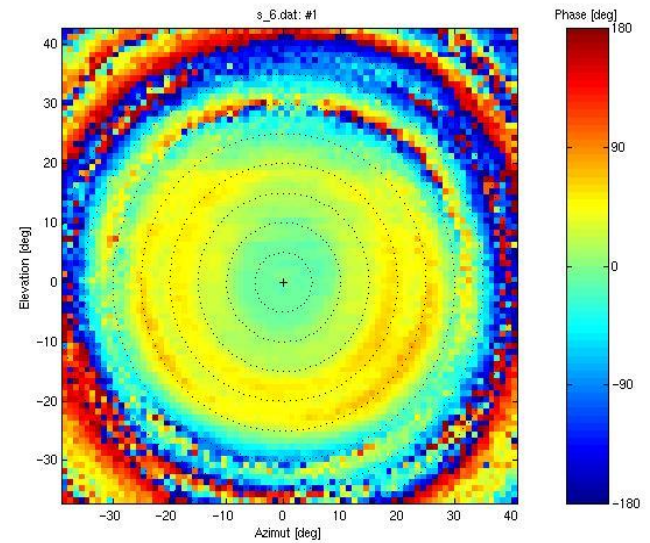
Theory and measurement of a Corrugated horn at 600 GHz

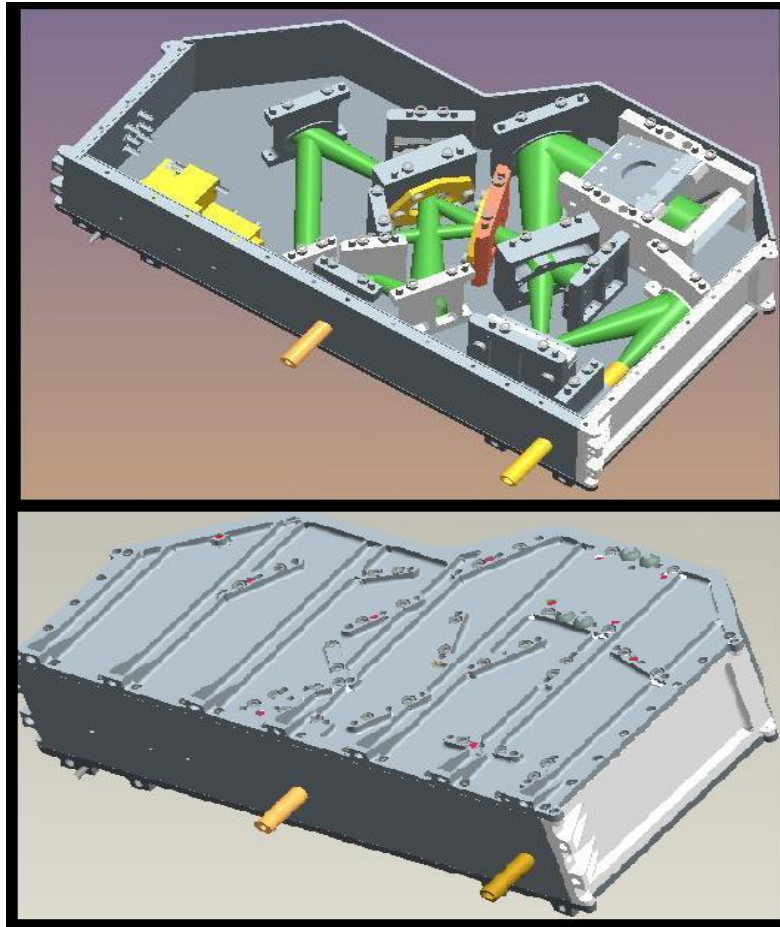
98% of the Energy leaving a corrugated horn is in the
fundamental Gaussian Beam-Mode:

Amplitude



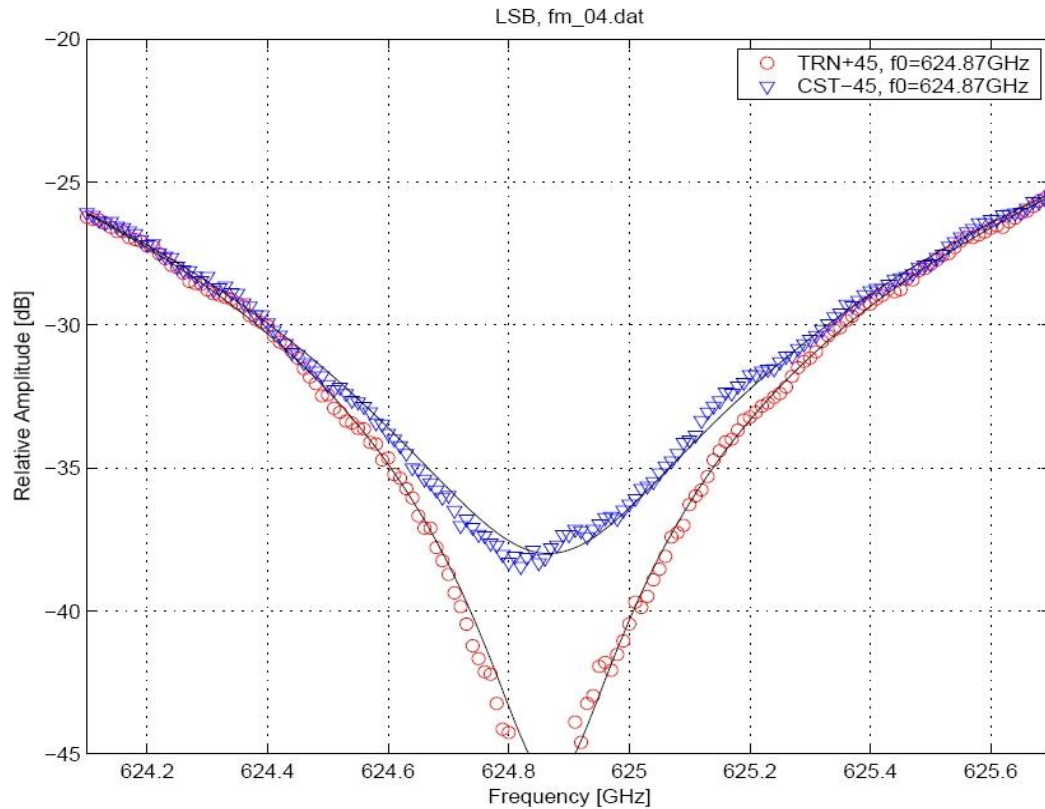
Phase





Upper image shows Gaussian beam modes propagating in the TK developed Pro/Engineer CAD design tool.

This tool allow rapid evaluation of Quasi-optical designs within an exact mechanical environment



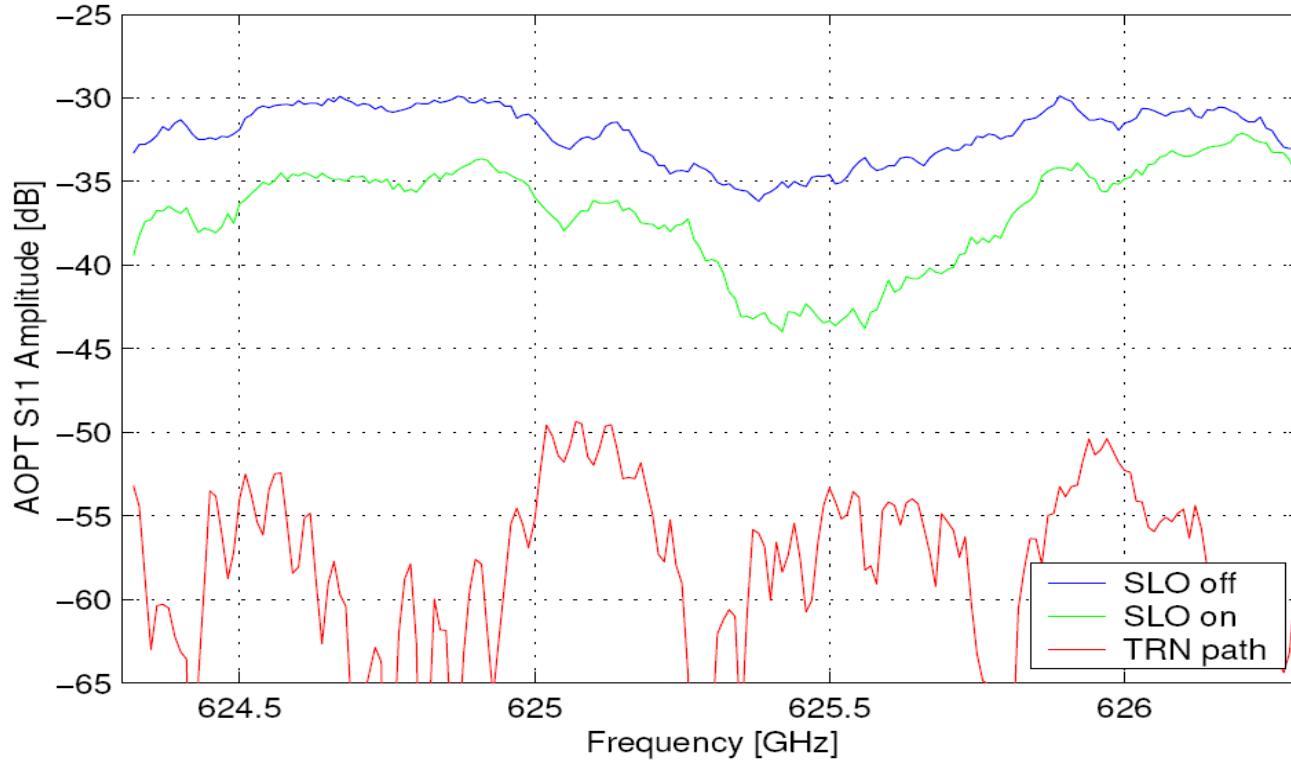


Figure 8: LSB Reflection measurements of the TRN path (red) and of the CST path when the SLO is switched off or on (blue and green).



SMILES is at lower right on this picture of the ISS (Credit: NASA)

Smiles WWW Log 7th Oct 09

The initial checkout is still going on. Today JEM/SMILES opened its "eye". As a part of the end-to-end checkout, JEM/SMILES observed Submillimetre signal through the primary antenna aiming the antenna toward deep space. Today's checkout was fine, and interesting technically. In addition to 3-Kelvin radiation from the deep space, JEM/SMILES sometimes received strong signal when the ISS's huge solar paddle partially blocked the view of JEM/SMILES.

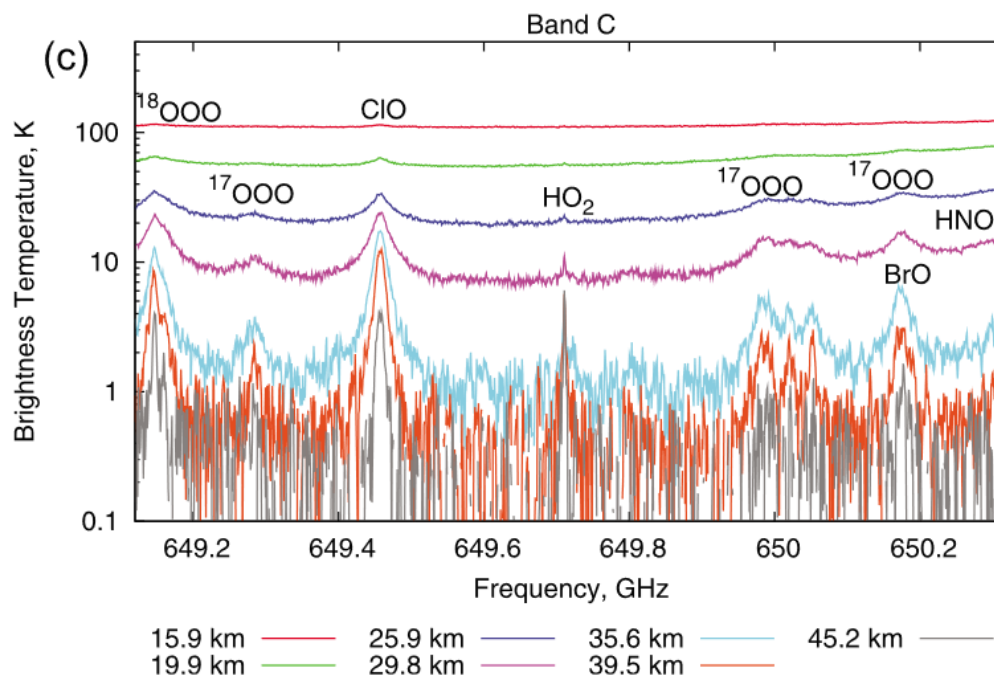
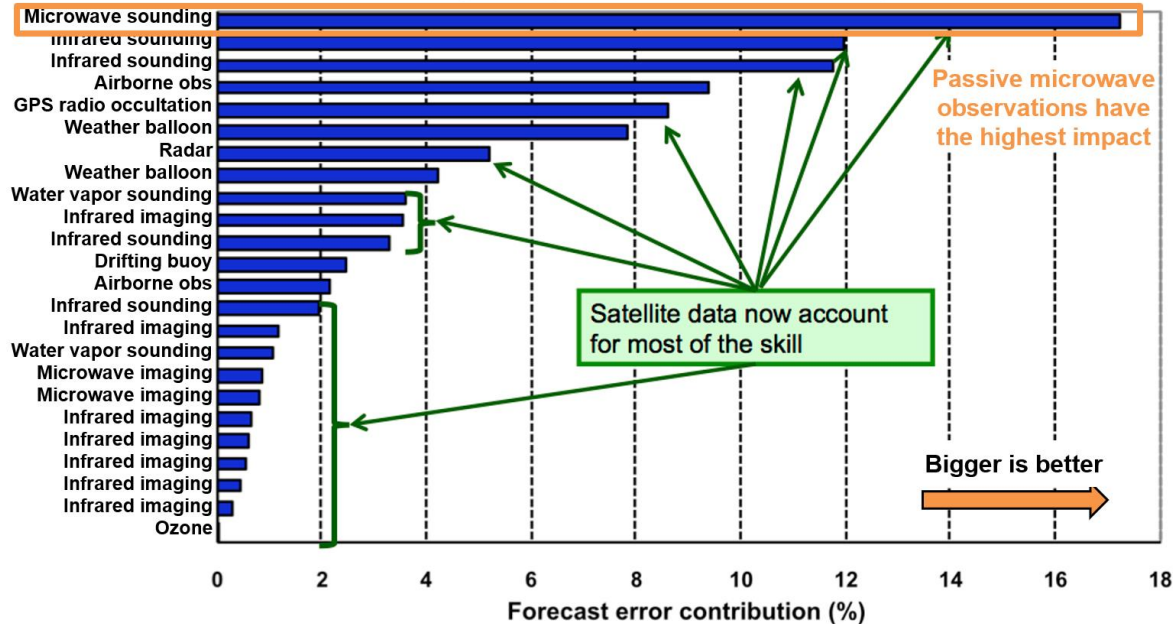


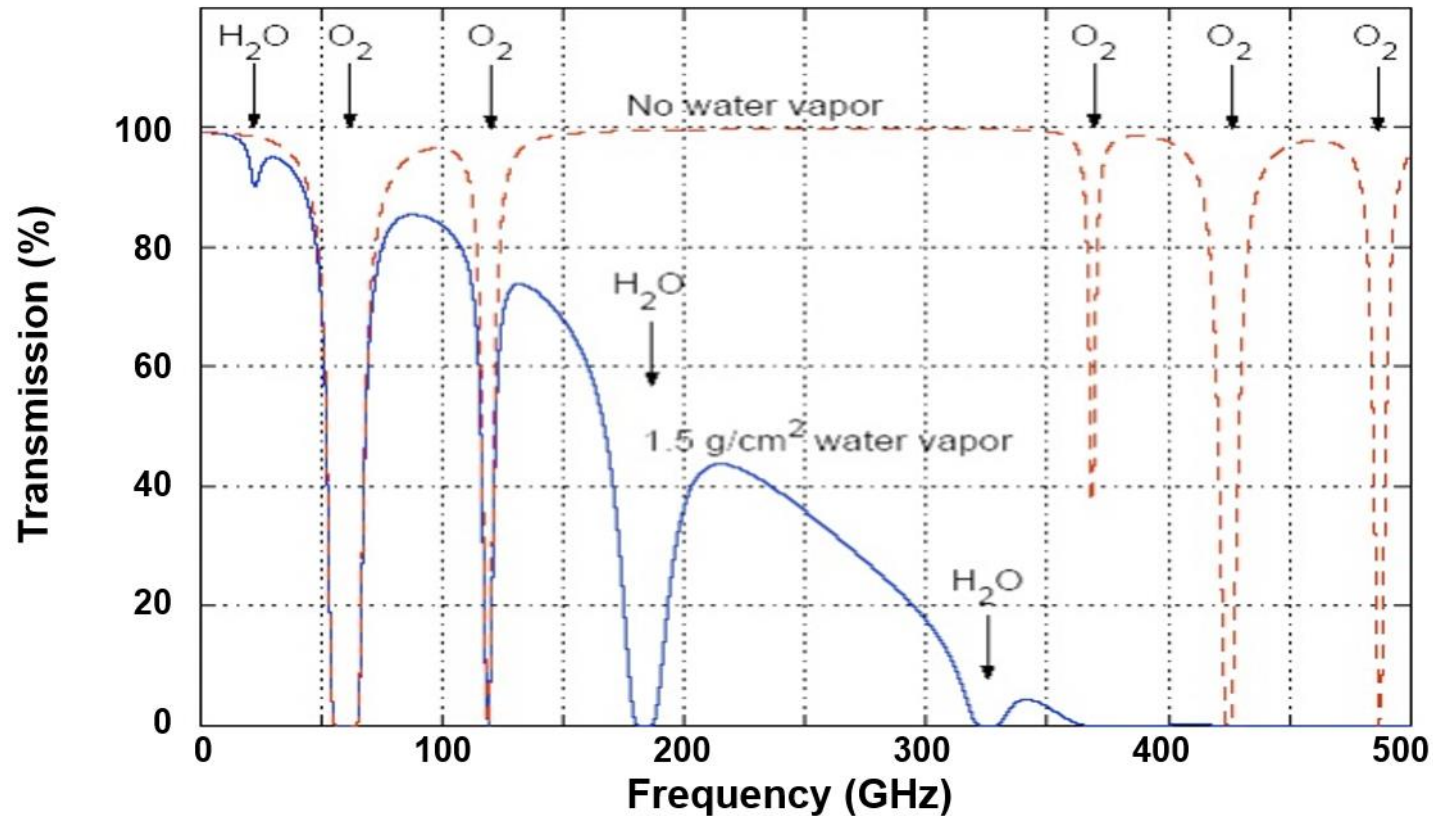
Figure 4. Observed spectra at several altitudes for (a) Band A, (b) Band B, and (c) Band C. Band A and C measurements were done at 03:22:14 UT on 12 October 2009 at 23.30°N and 173.83°E. Band B measurements were made at 00:53:32 UT on 17 October at 21.52°S and 138.83°E; latitude/longitude and time information is defined at 30 km along the scan.

Impact of GOS components on 24-h ECMWF Global Forecast skill
(courtesy of Erik Andersson, ECMWF)



Microwave instruments provide much of the data for short term forecasting

Cloud Penetration; Highest Forecast Impact



Now moving to operational instruments – Sat A of Metop-SG



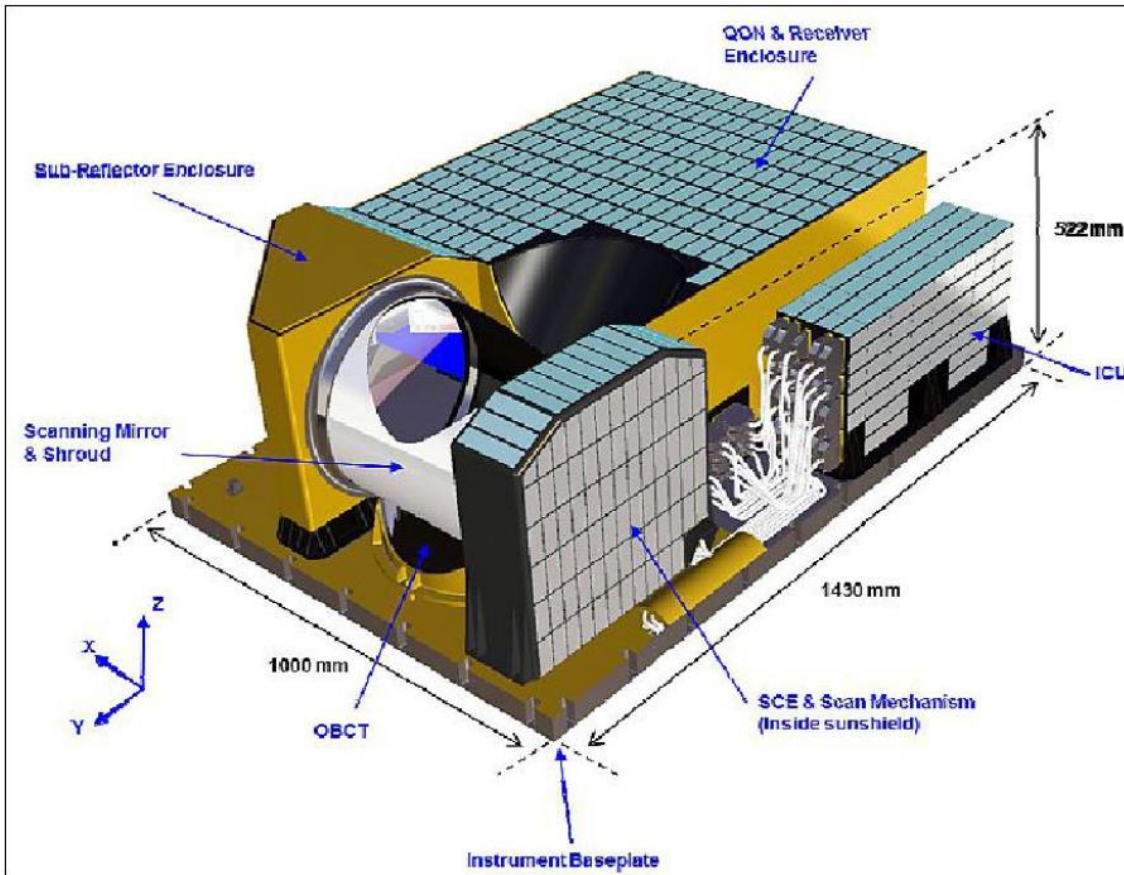
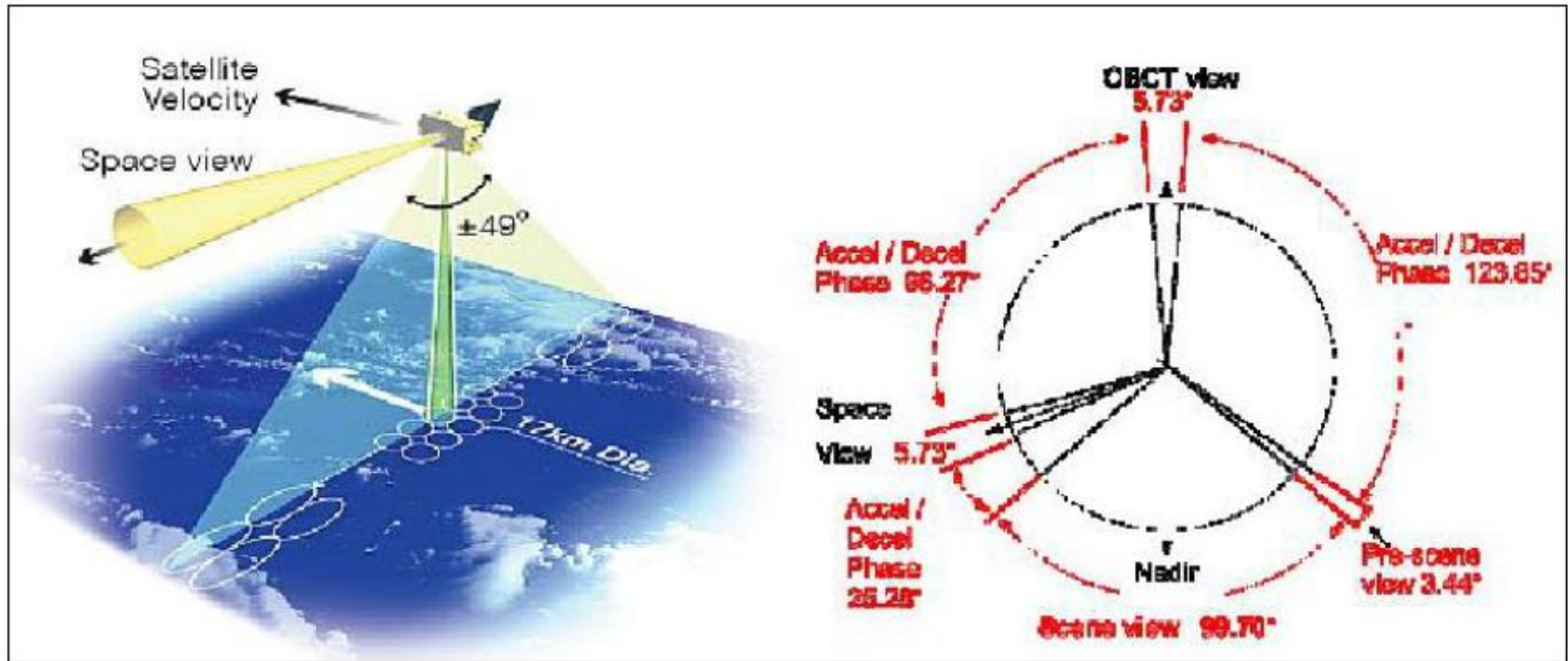
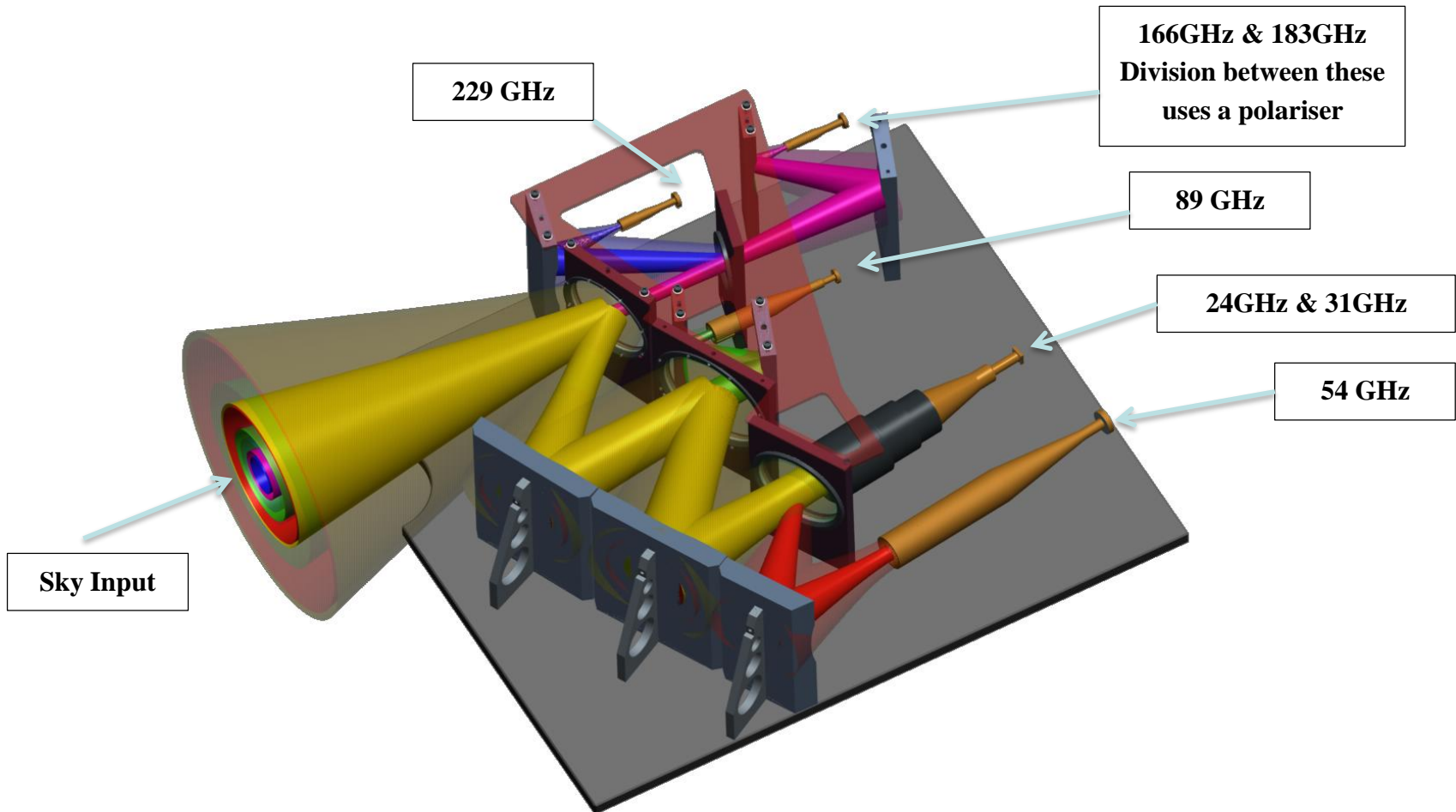


Figure 15: Configuration of the MWS instrument (image credit: Airbus Defence and Space)

The MWS is an cross-track scanning microwave radiometer, measuring the total power, atmospheric brightness temperature in 24 channels over the frequency range from 23.8 GHz up to 229 GHz. The instrument provides measurements of temperature and humidity (water vapor) profiles and total liquid water columns.





Very detailed Structural and Thermal Analysis needed

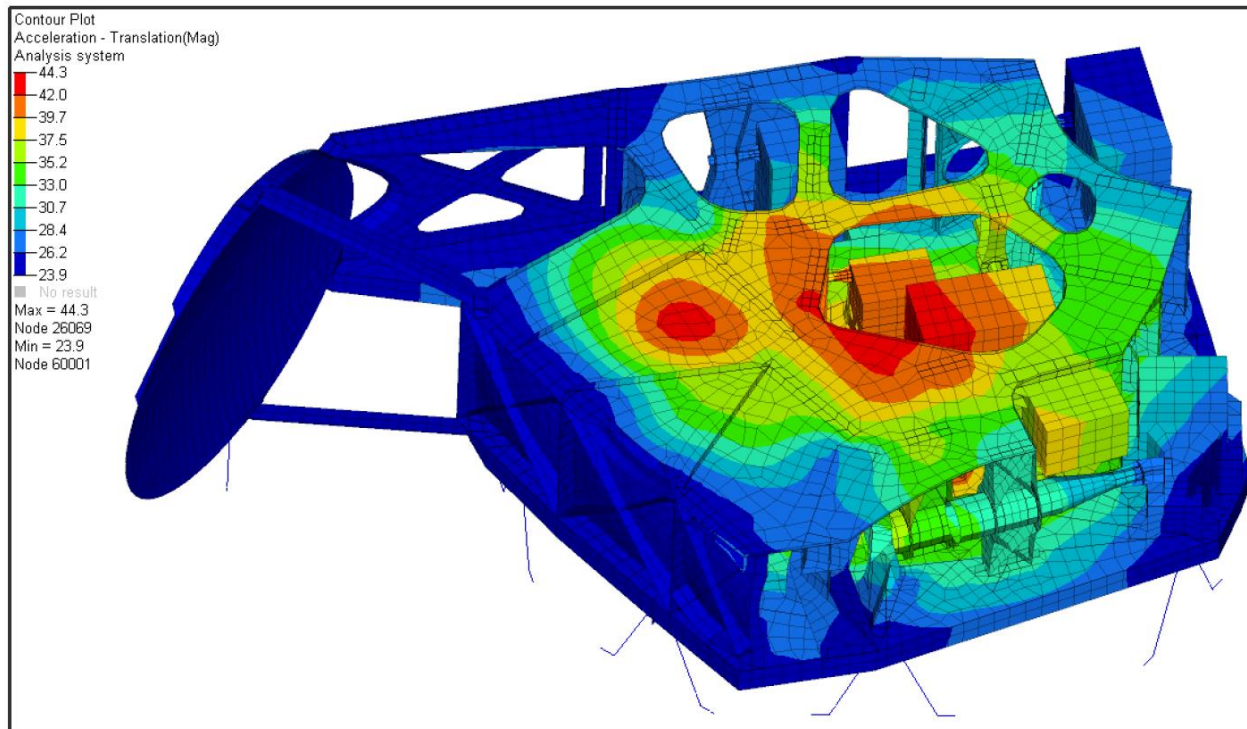
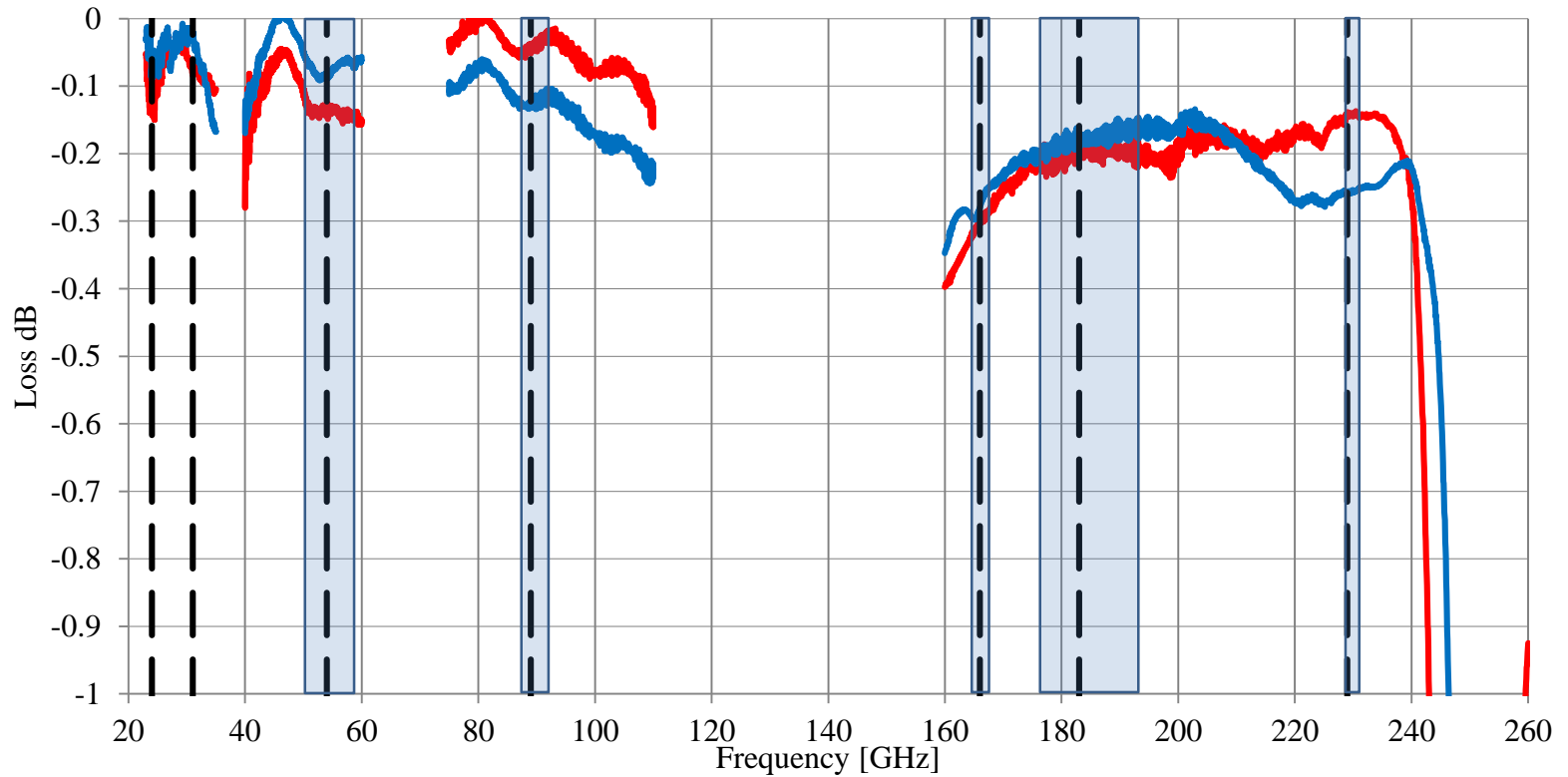


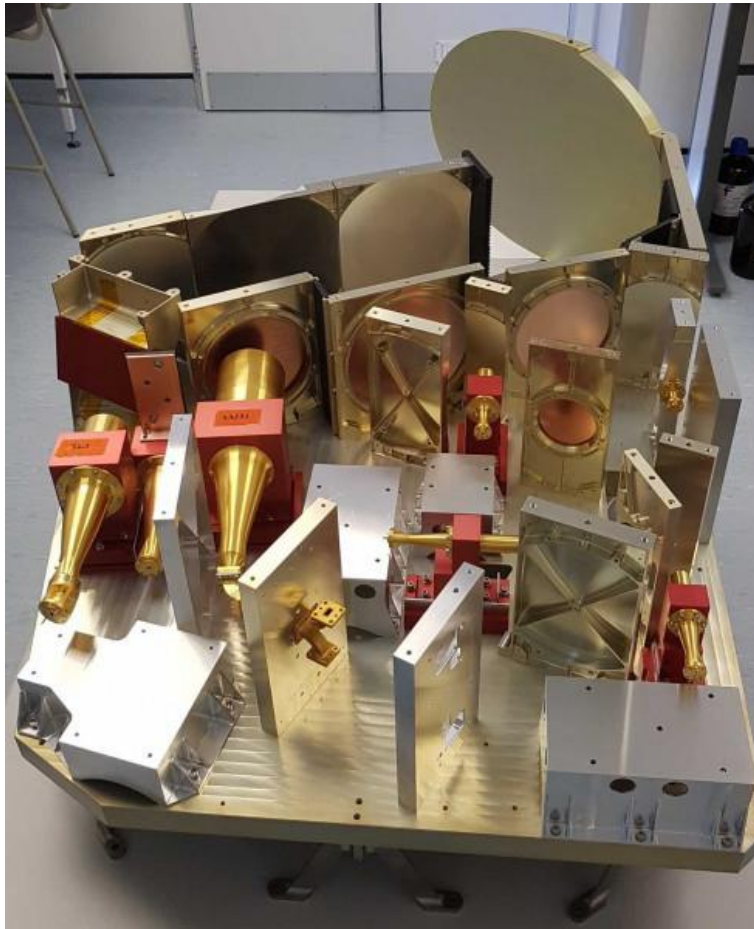
Figure 6-15: Sine Vibration, Acceleration Response (in g) to Z-Direction Excitation



P state polarisation - **red lines**, **S** state polarisation - **blue lines**

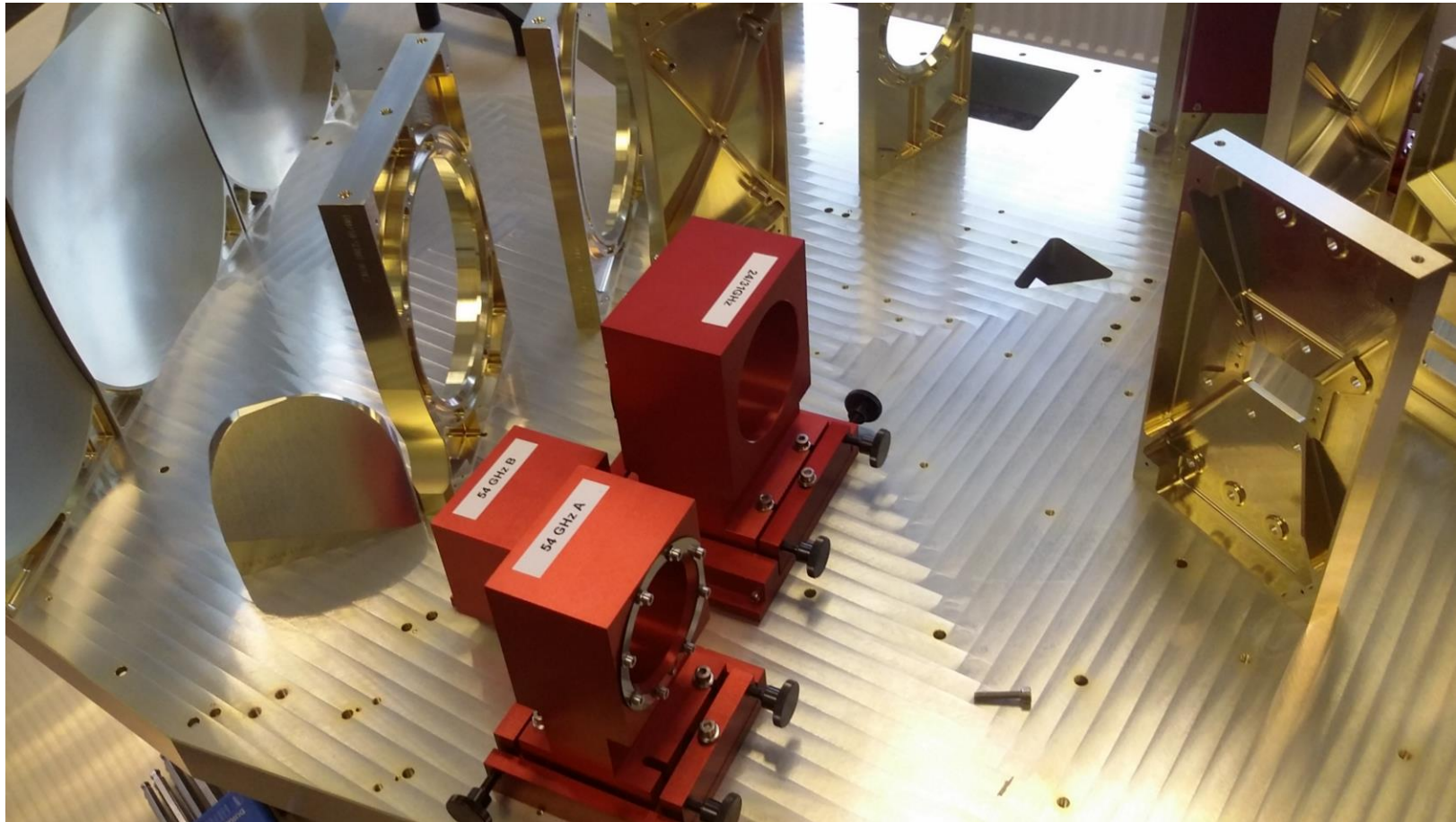
Summary – Dichroic Performance within requirements

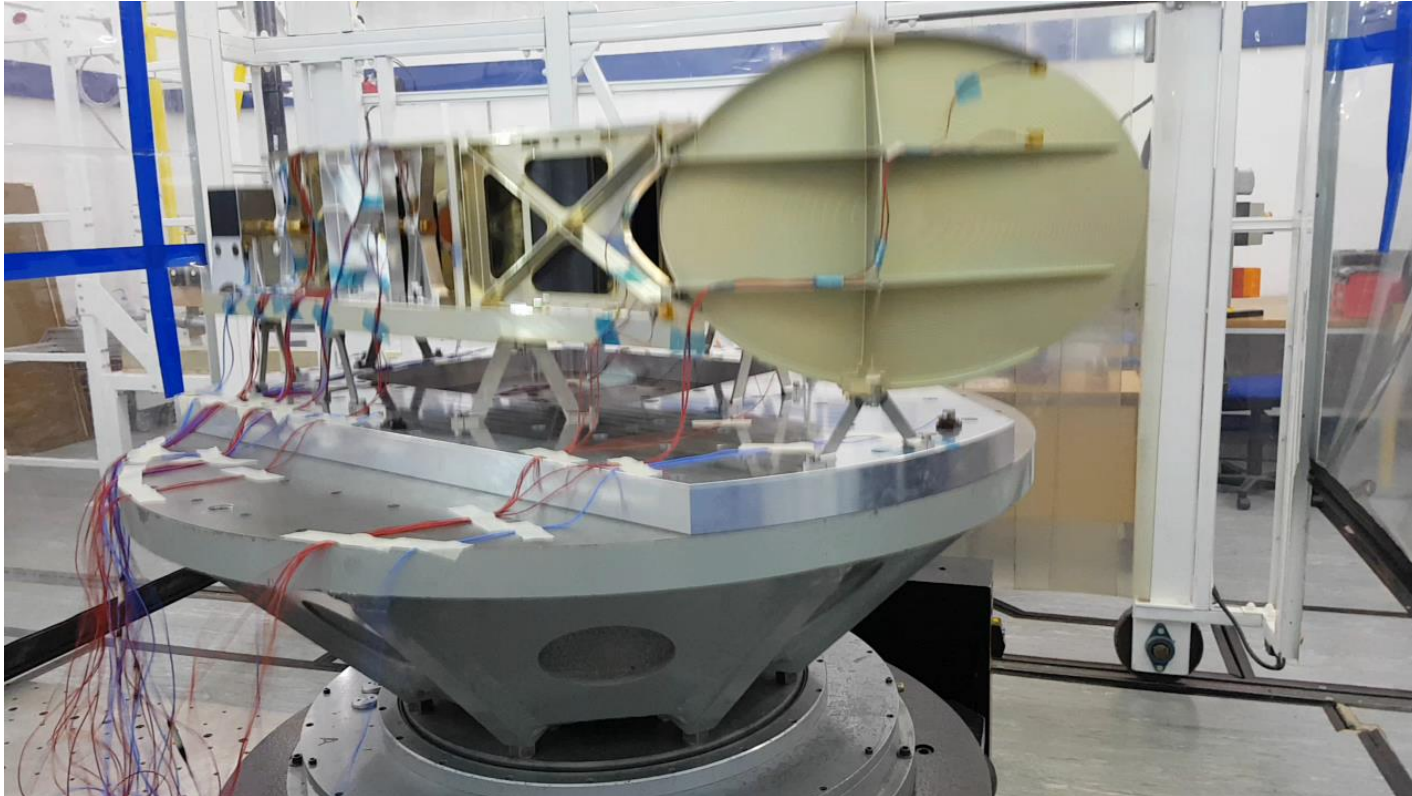
Dichroic	ID	24GHz	31GHz	54GHz	89GHz	166GHz	183GHz	229GHz
D1	W2236	0.13	0.07	0.13	0.13	0.30	0.20	0.26
D2	W2234	0.08	0.05	0.07	0.25	0	0	0
D3	W2238	0.01	0.09	0.09	0	0	0	0
D4	W2222	0	0	0	0	0.10	0.15	0.20
Total dichroic Loss		0.22	0.21	0.29	0.38	0.40	0.35	0.46
QON Loss		0.35	0.335	0.2	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.40
Total QON + Dichroic Loss		0.57	0.545	0.49	0.56	0.56	0.51	0.86
Total QON + Dichroic Loss in Proposal		0.77	0.77	0.68	0.60	1.41	1.42	0.67
Specification		< 0.87	< 0.87	< 0.94	< 1.2	< 1.5	< 1.5	< 1.2

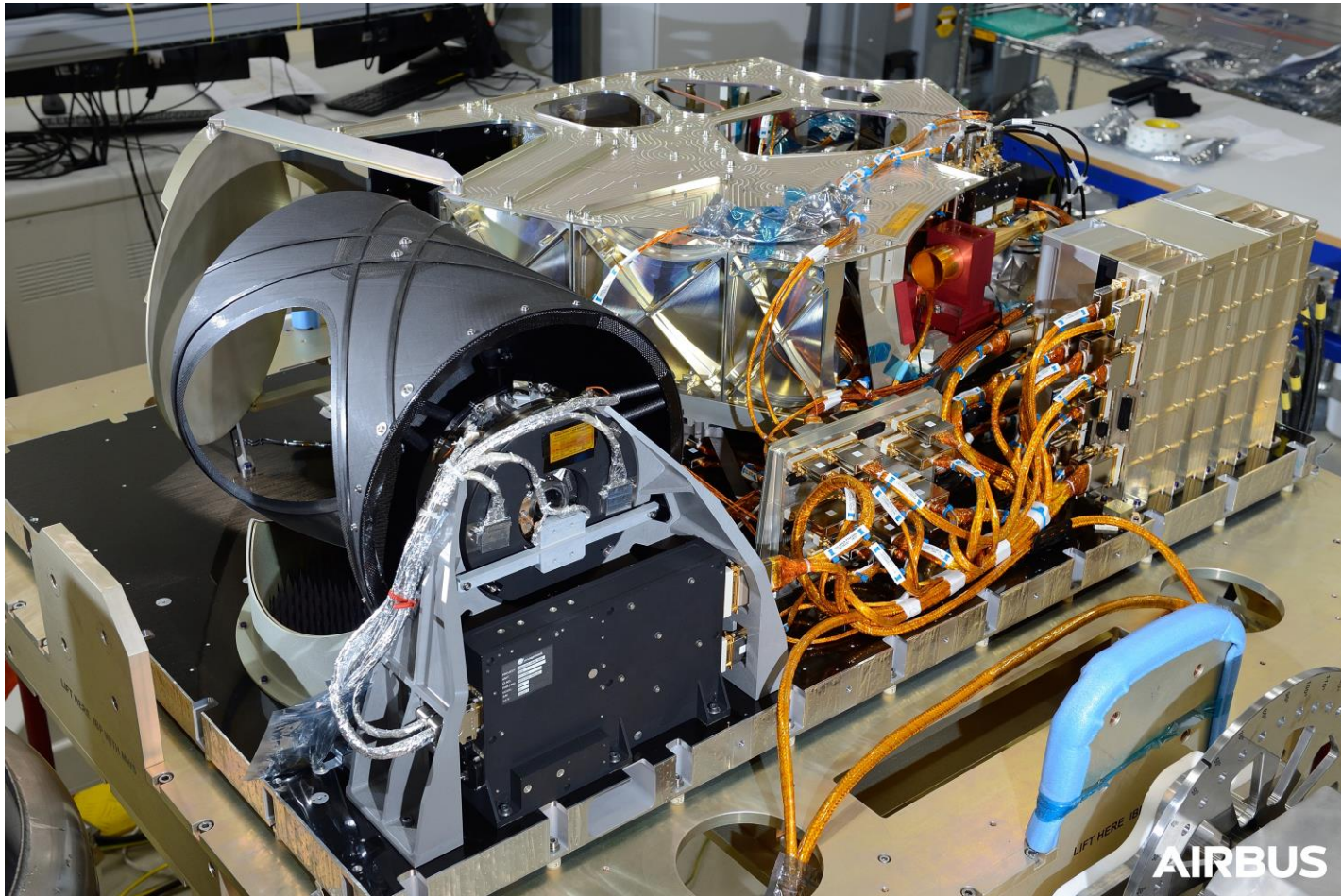


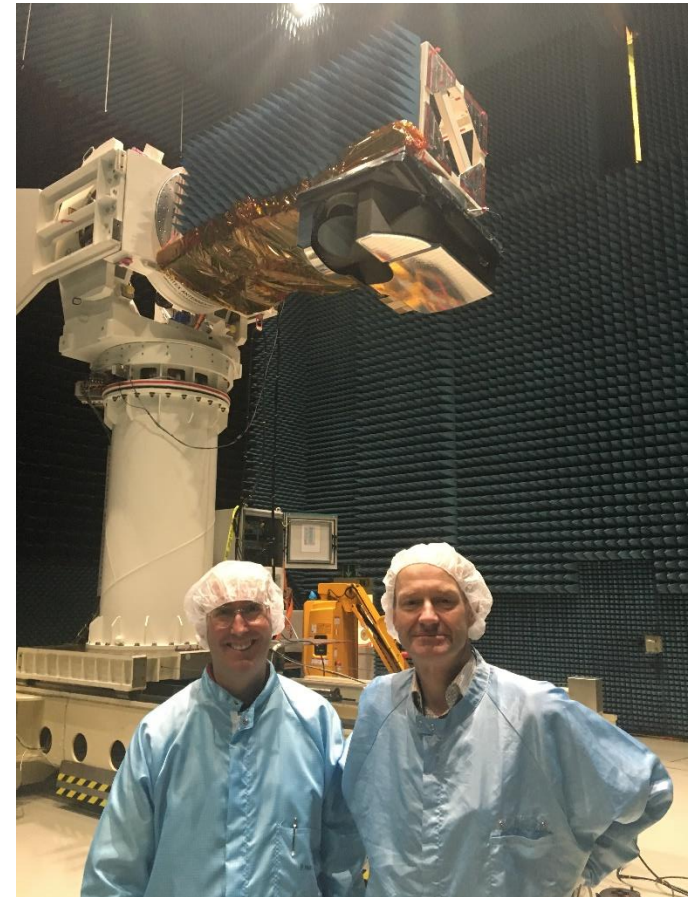
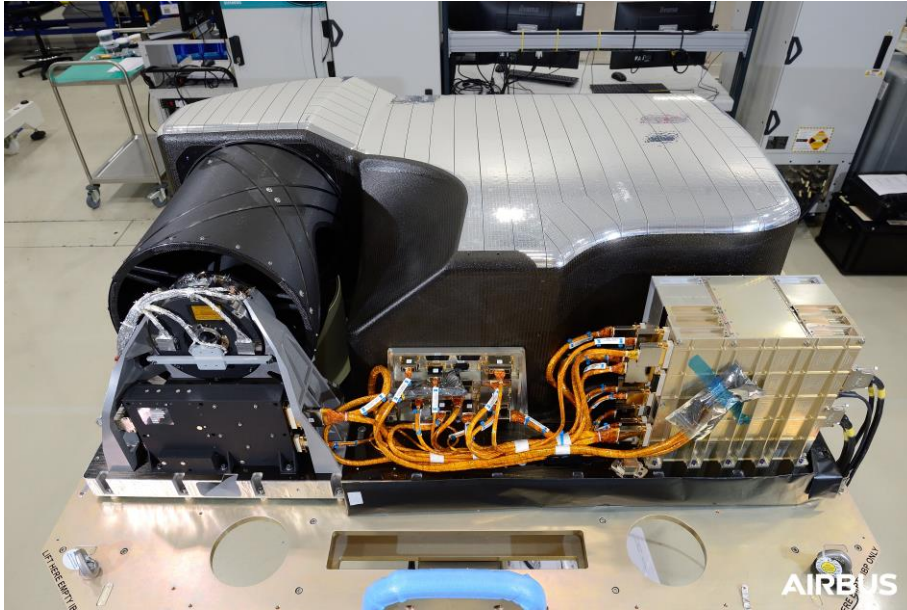
MWS is part of an ESA funded programme, with TK's customer being AIRBUS in the UK. The views expressed herein in no way be taken to reflect the opinion of the European Space Agency.

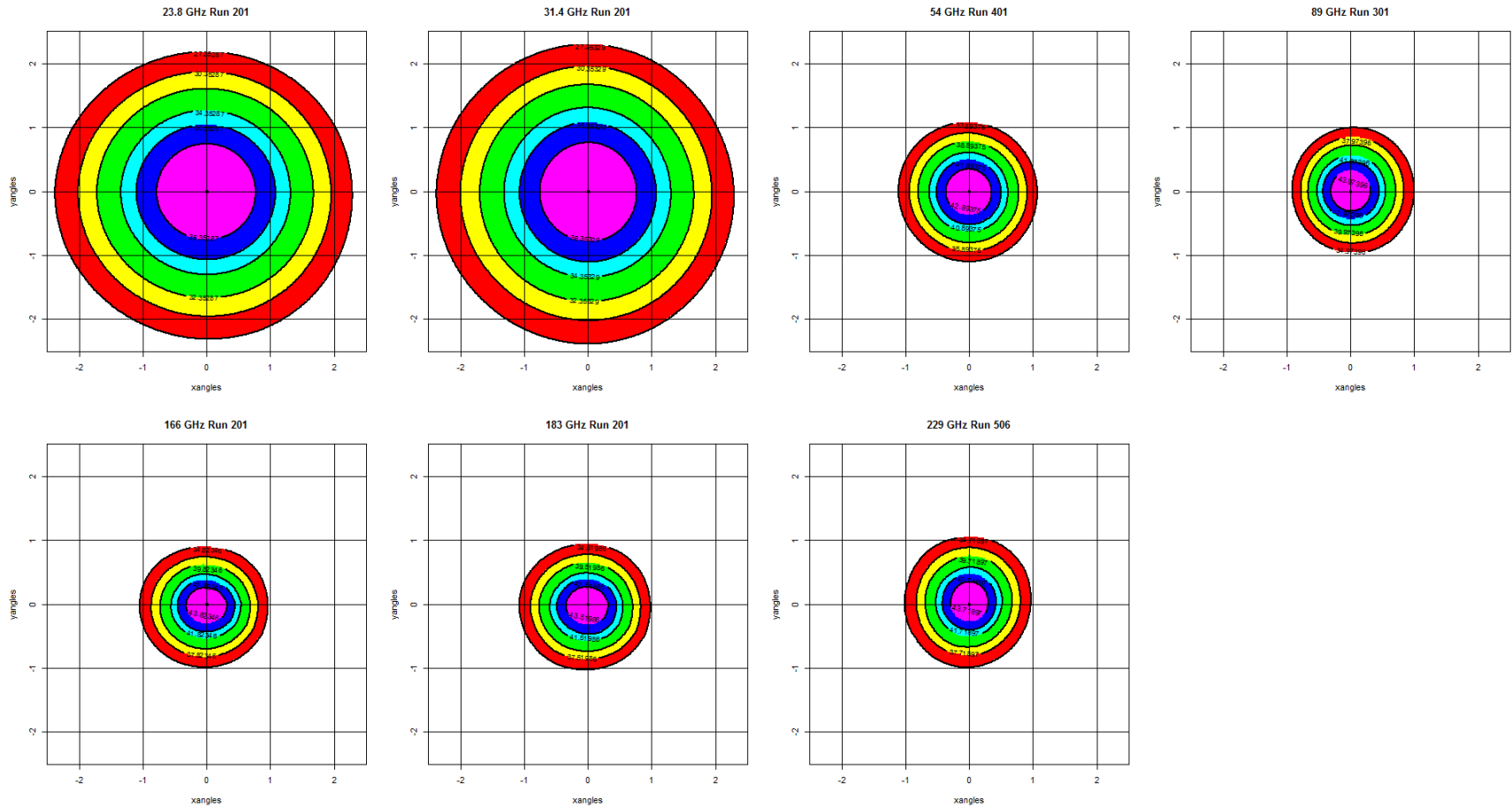










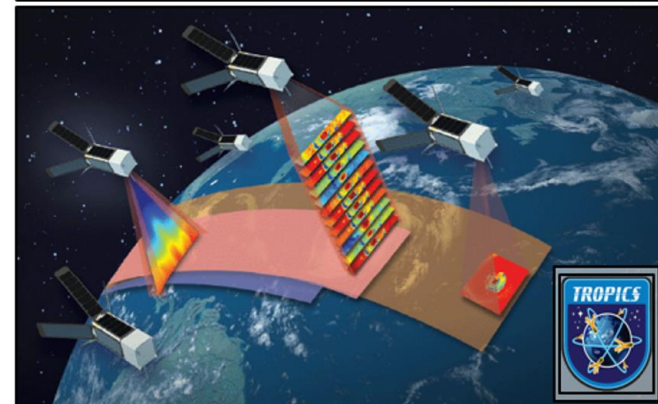
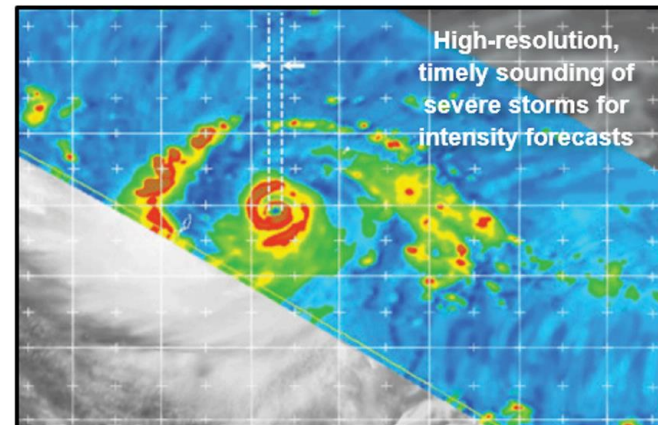


Quasi-Optical Measurements Systems 8th EPR School BRNO 20th November 2019
 Contours are at (approximately) -1, -2, -3, -5, -7 and -10 dB.

Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation structure and storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats

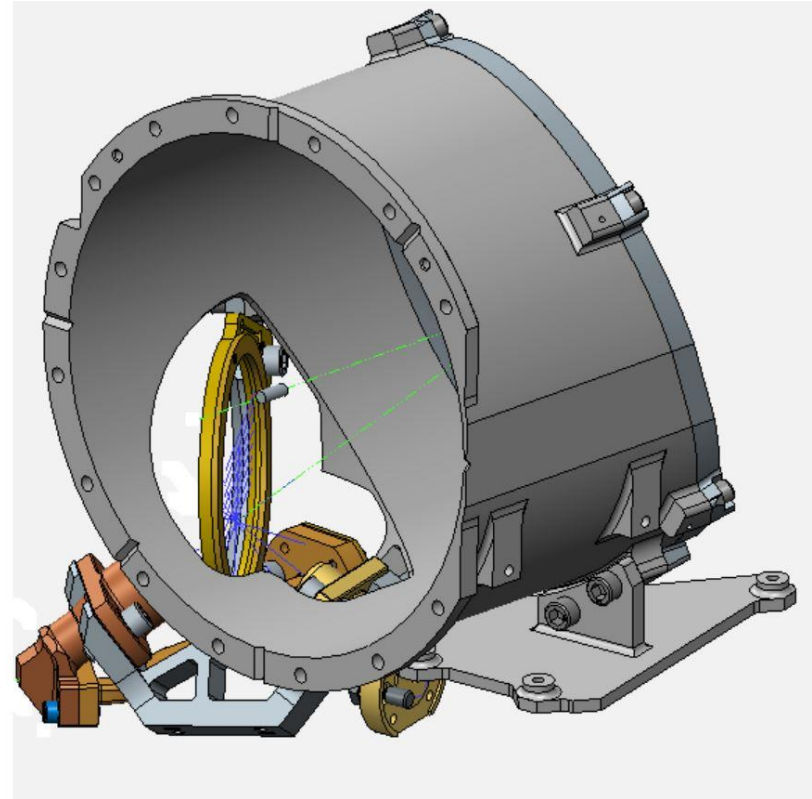
TROPICS – a NASA Earth Venture Instrument program – awarded March 2016

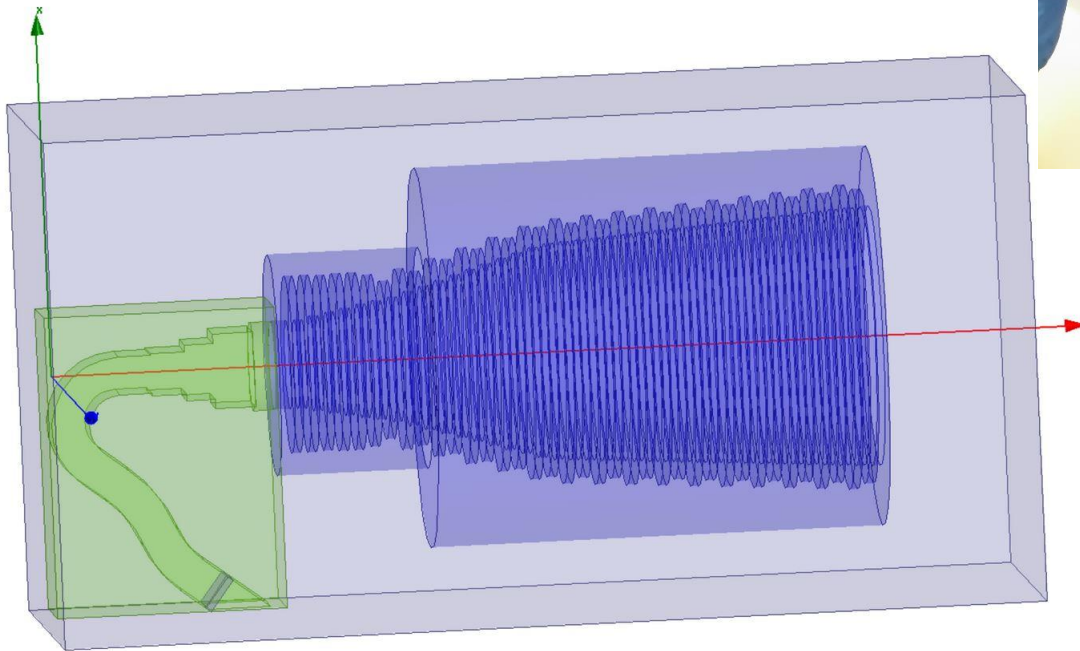
- **Innovative solution to provide data for severe storm intensity forecasts**
 - Timely: 30 minute data update
 - Cost-effective: \$30M + launch
 - Improved performance: all-weather retrievals of temperature, water vapor, precipitation, and cloud properties
- **CubeSat constellation**
 - 4.5 kg, 10 Watts, 34cm x 10cm x 10 cm (each cubesat)
 - MIT LL 12-channel passive compact microwave radiometer
- **Three 2020 launches provided by NASA to populate the constellation**



3U box --- with the radiometer housed in 100 by 100 by a little more than 100mm spinning cube...

TK contracted to provide the Antenna





Grid based circuit to multiplex 89/115 and 183 channels using two very strange corrugated horn designs

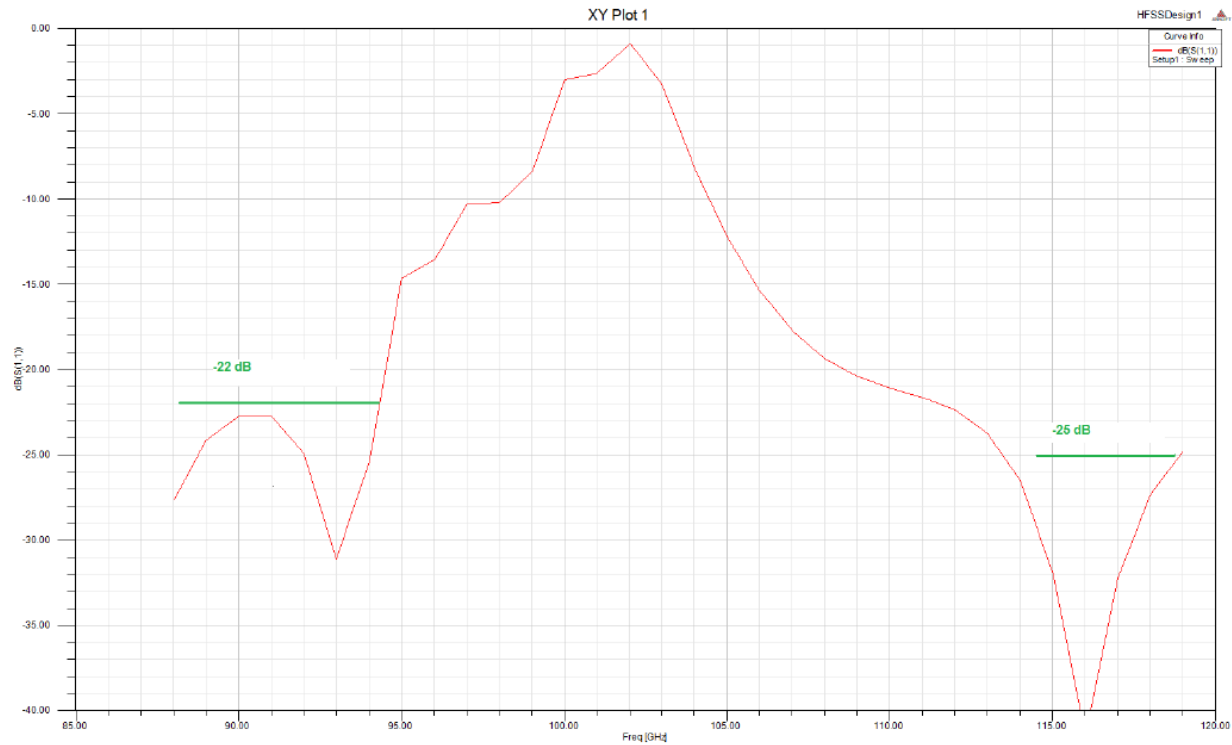
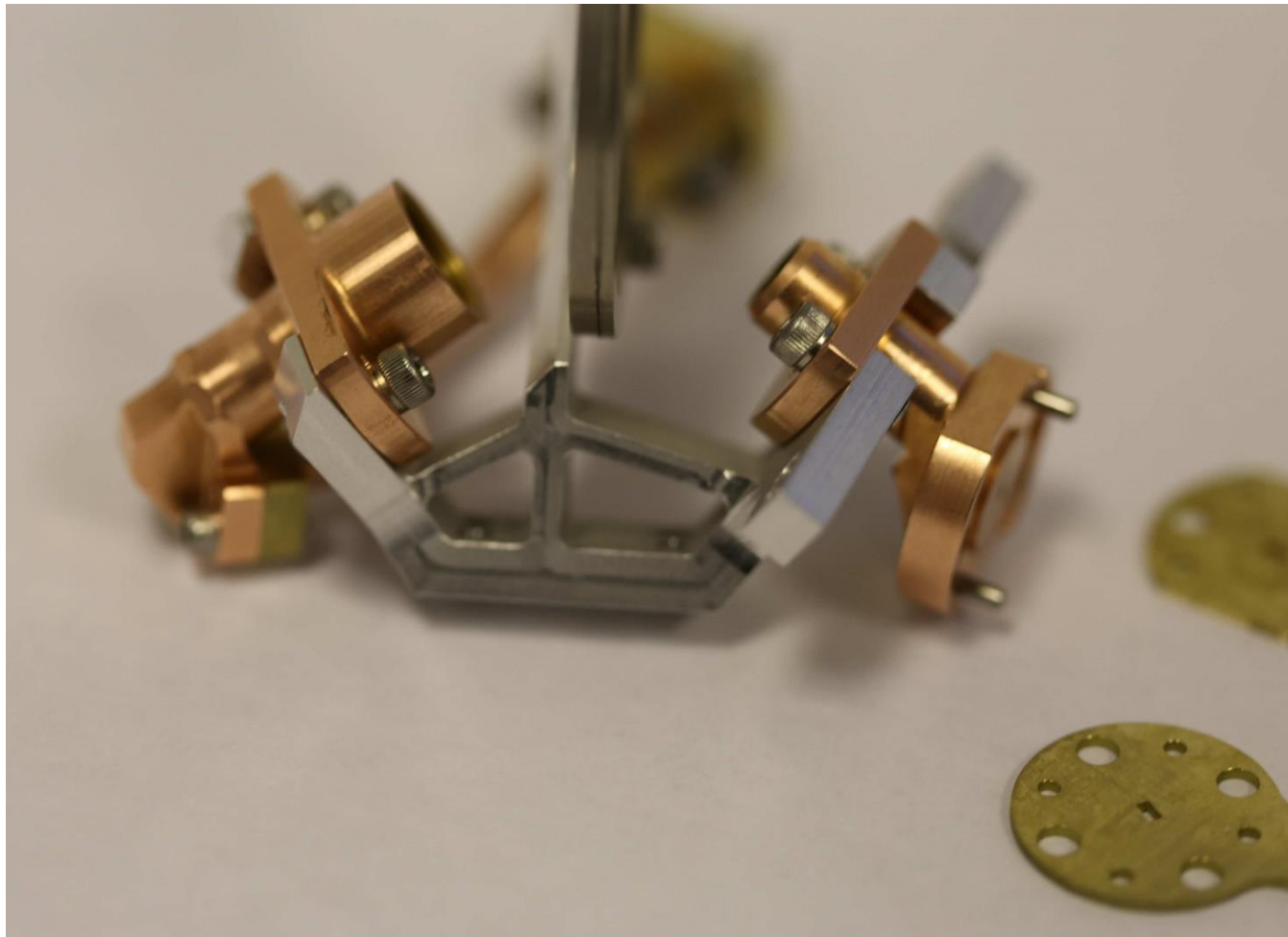
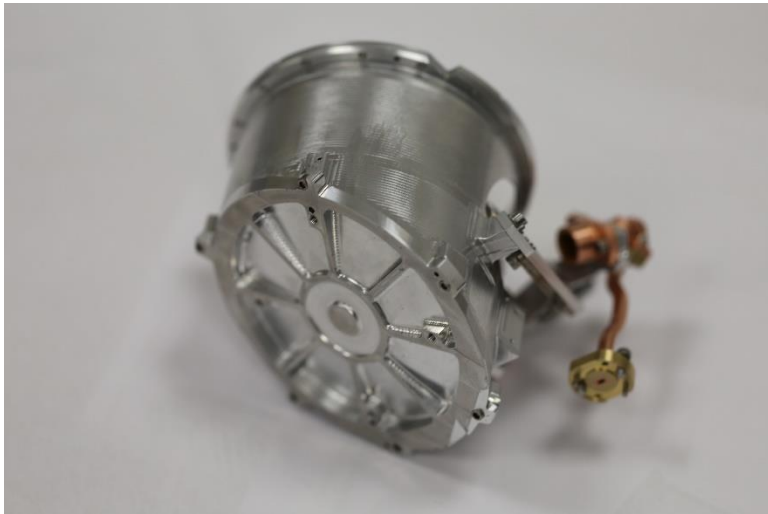


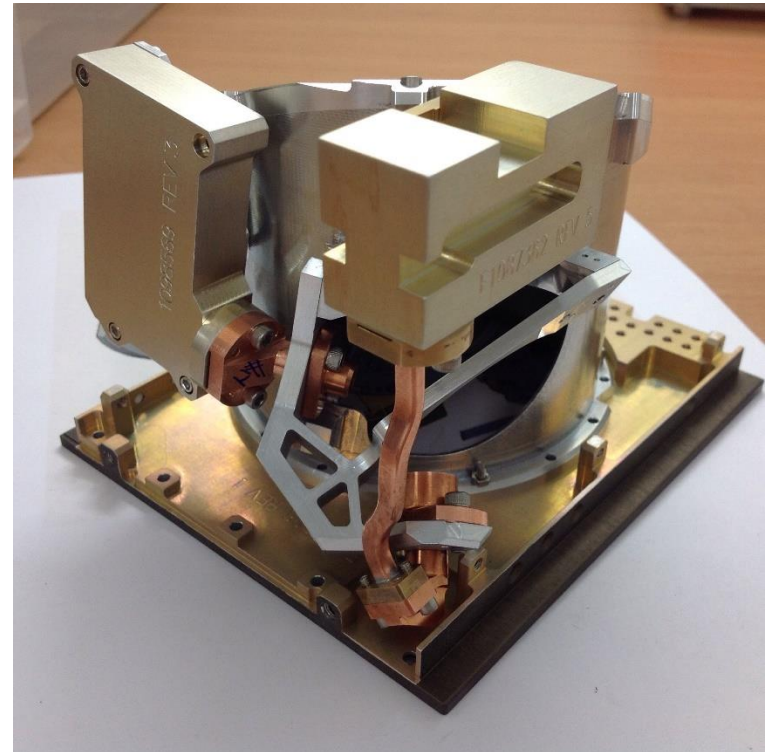
Figure 4-6: S_{11} over both bands.





3U box --- with the
radiometer housed in
100 by 100 by a little
more than 100mm
spinning cube...

Every mm counts!



HE11 guide & QO Feed –
Same need and techniques to give low loss and well defined beams

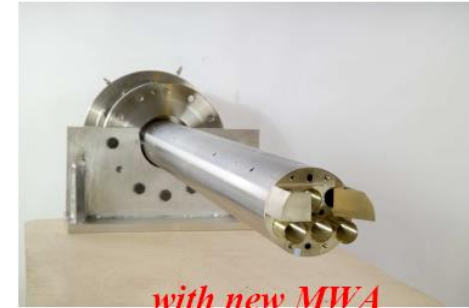


In-vessel 6
channel ECE
and
reflectrometry
antenna using
a double
window
(Tritium
containing) QO
plasma wall
feed.

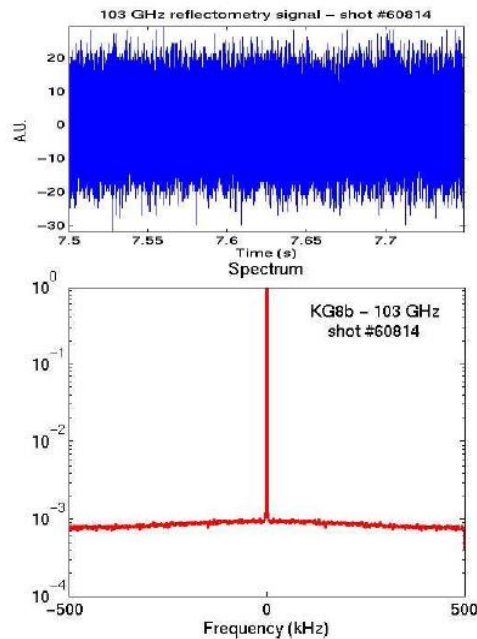


New MWA JET EP Project

=> significant improvement of S/N for KG8b reflectometer data !

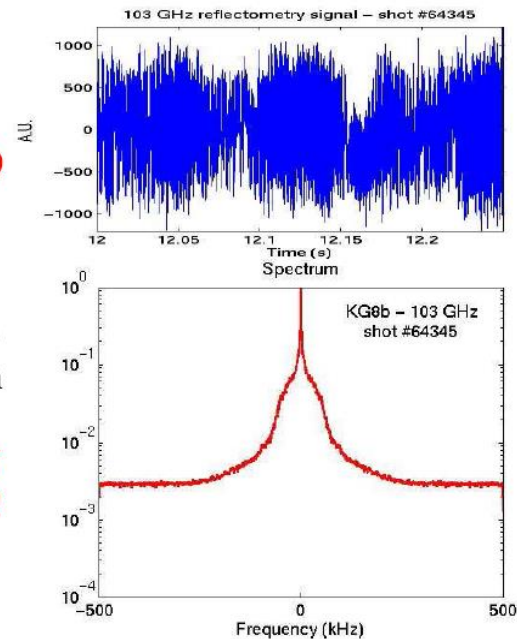


before new MWA



Amplitude of reflected signal increases from ± 20 up to ± 1000 *i.e. +17 dB !*

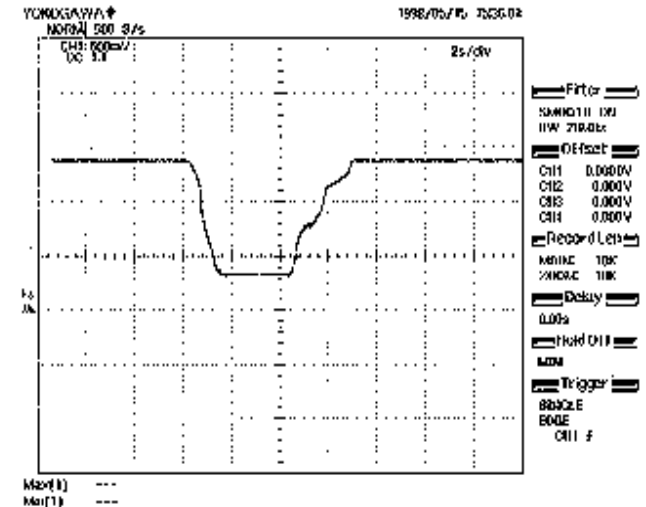
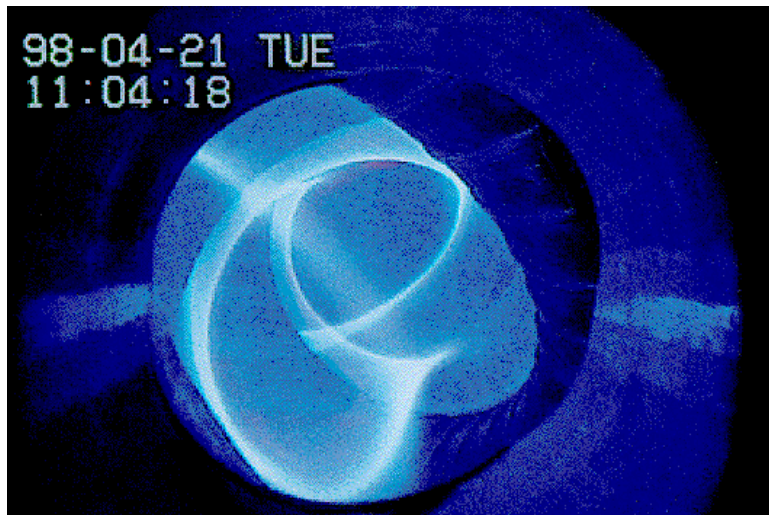
Clear dynamic is now observed on the spectrum suggesting a S/N of about 20 dB !



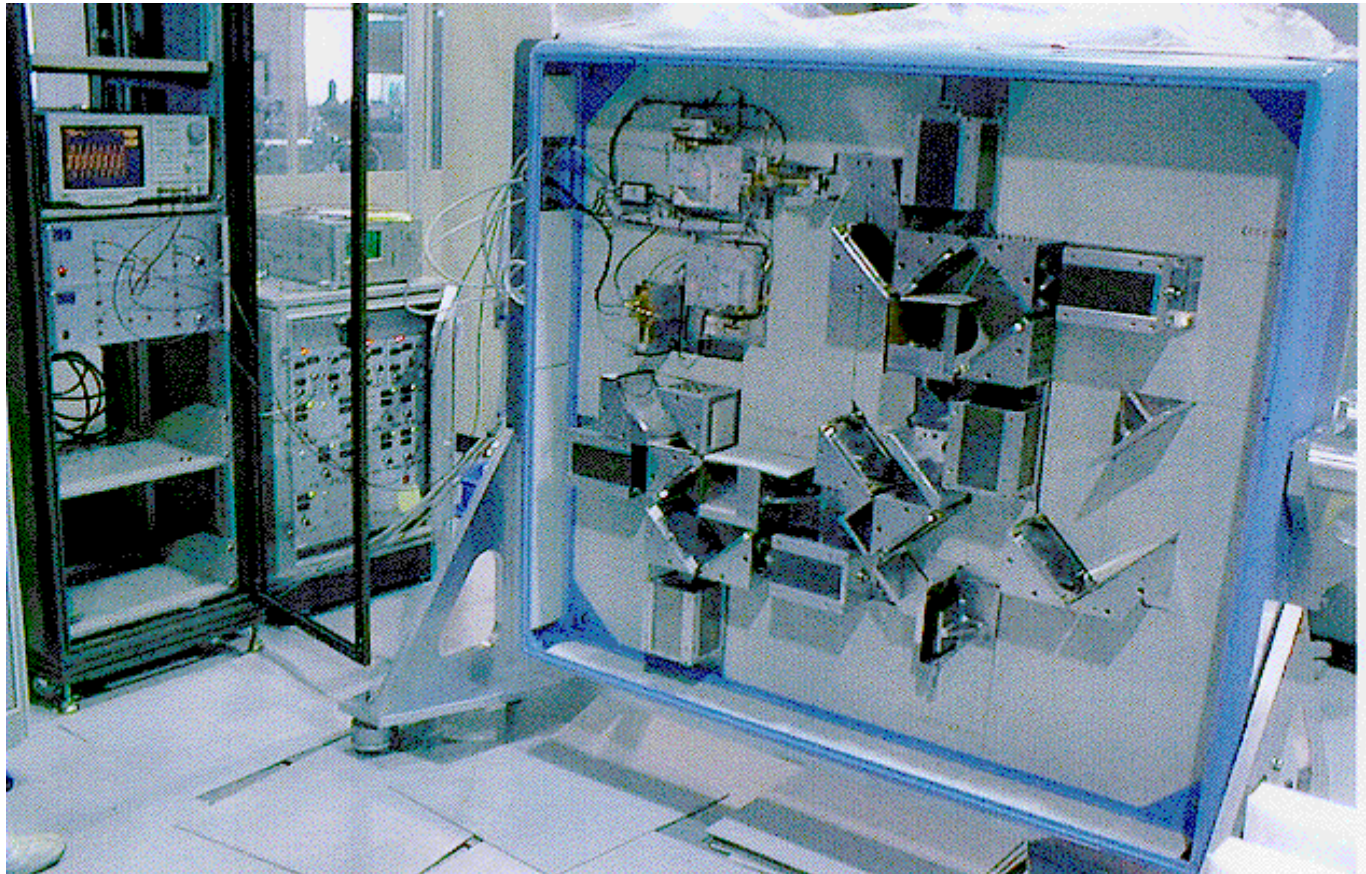
Determining electron density in a plasma



Here is an example of measurements from a Two Colour 140 and 285 GHz interferometer measuring electron line density in the NIFS Large Helical Device in Japan.

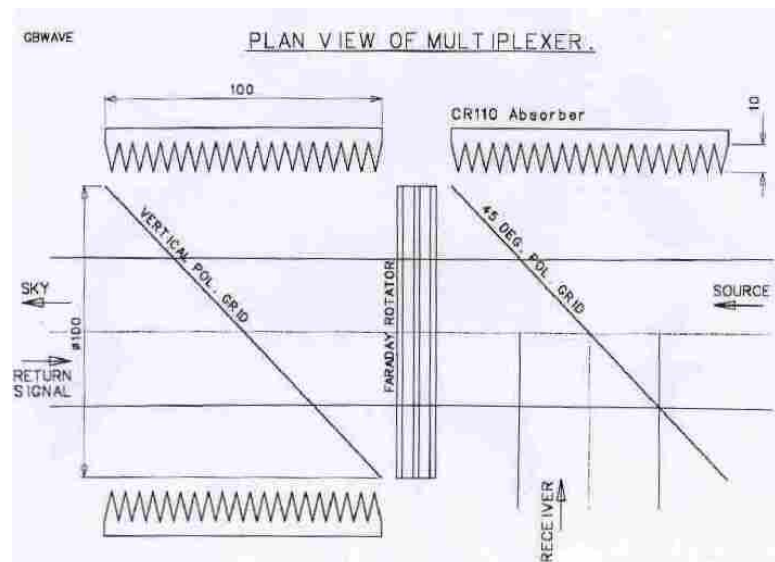


The Transmit side of the Interferometer

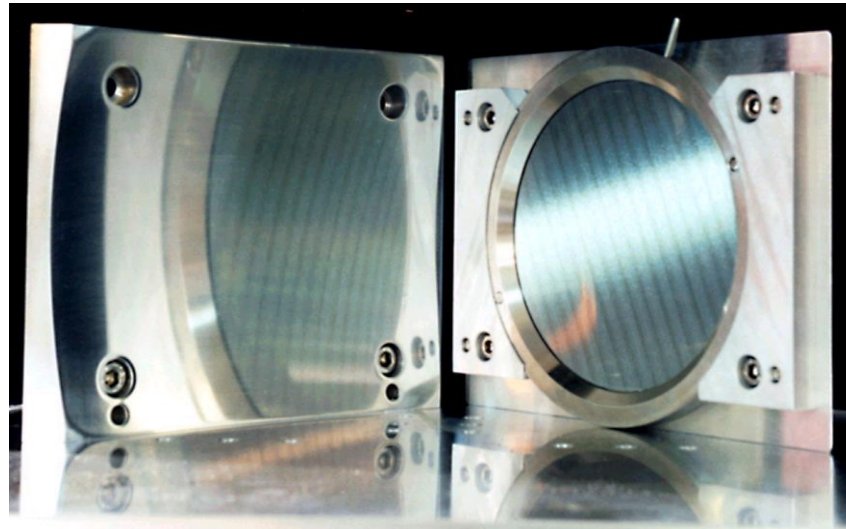


Standing waves within the instrument must be low enough not to compete with the very small signals which have passed through the lossy plasma. QO Isolators can be used to suppress these.

Quasi-optical Isolators used impedance matched hard ferrite to provide non-reciprocal Faraday rotation of the polarization of the beam and polarizing wire grids to analyse the signal



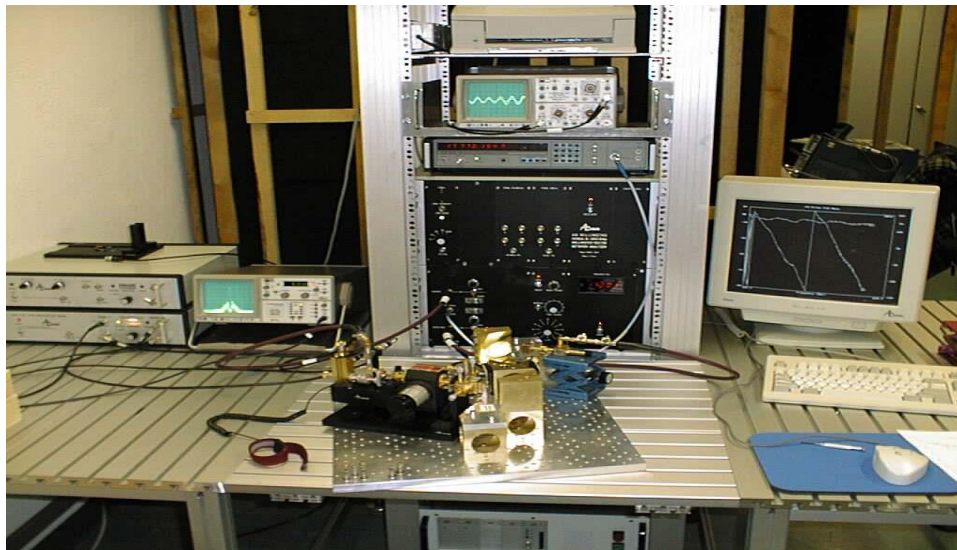
Polarizing wire grids, using fine Tungsten wire wound onto a metal frame are the main signal processing component in this and other QO systems, allowing polarization coded splitting and recombination of beams.



A non-reciprocal device is needed to rotate the beam.

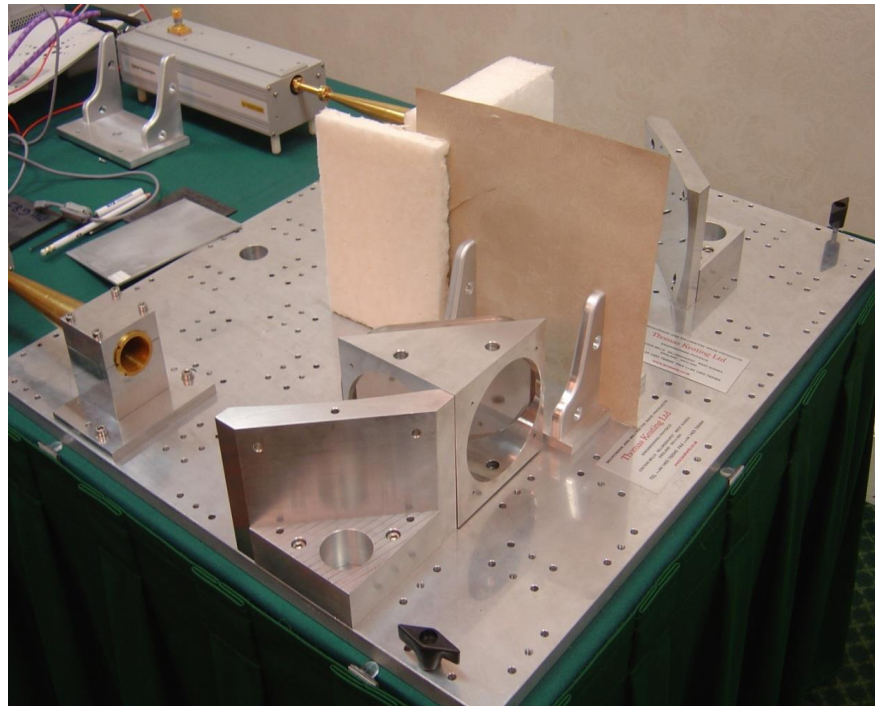
Transmission as a function of frequency for four polarization states, for a given thickness of Ferrite, can be predicted from the ABCD matrix: The can be compared against measurement, and four parameters – *complex permittivity (two parameters) as well as Ω_m , Ω_o* – adjusted to fit.

The fit can be very good – as the following four sides show:

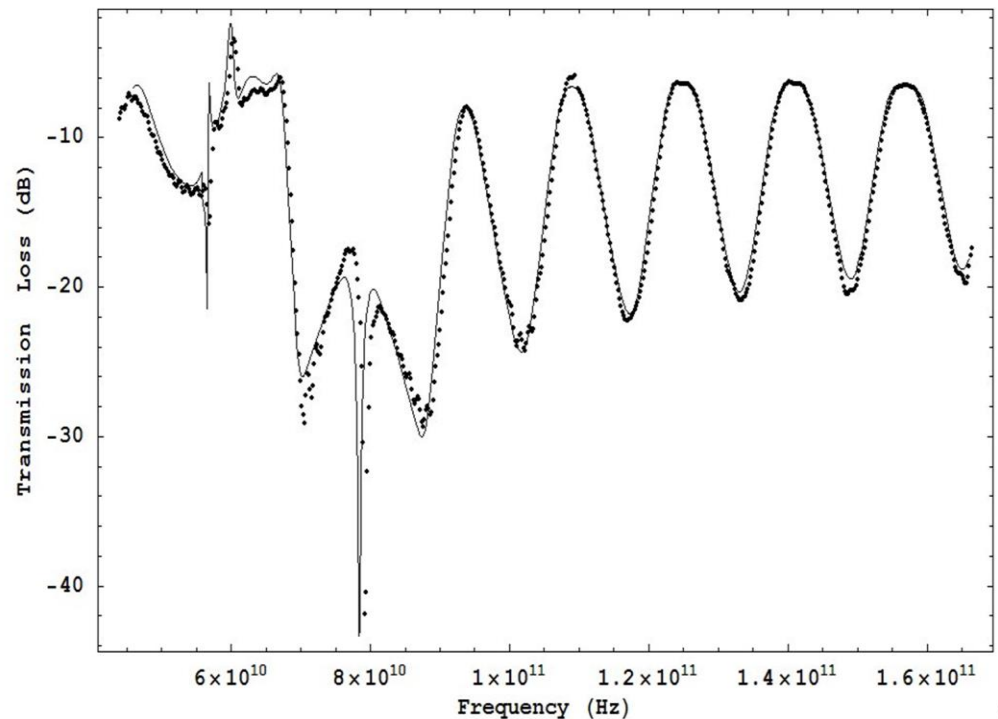


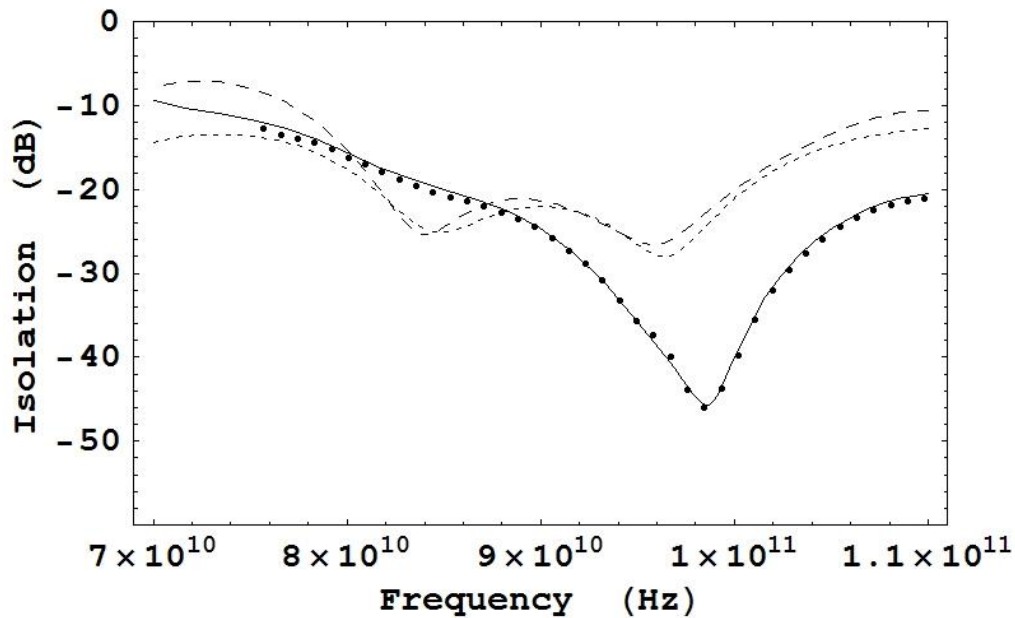
AB Vector
Network
Analyser

These dielectric layers on either side of the Ferrite allow a beam to enter and leave the Ferrite with little reflection

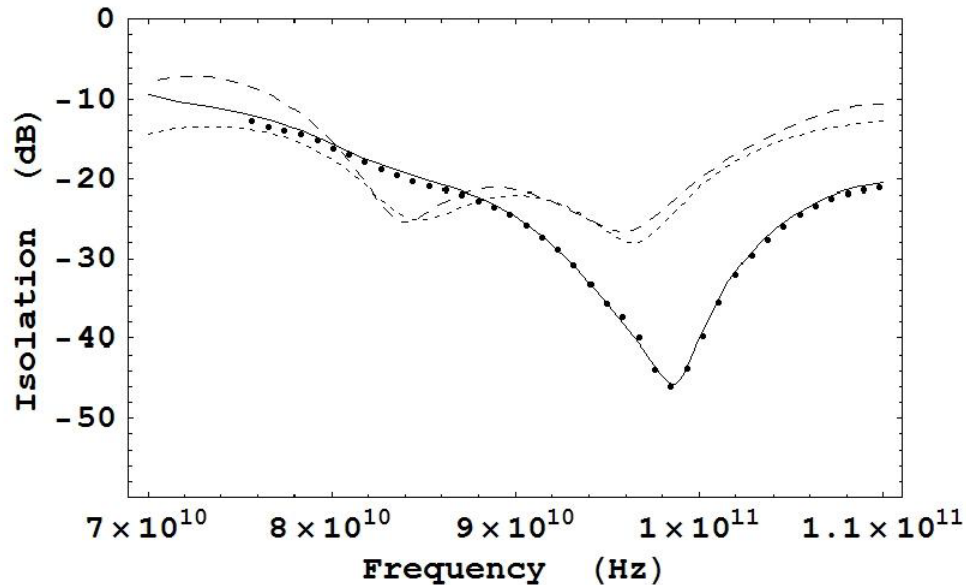


These tools - QO bench and VNA allow us to generate a transmission spectrum of the Ferrite material. It is complicated, but, amazingly, we can fit it with four parameters. Dots are measurements & line the model. Notice in dB! This fit is very precise, and give us strong comfort that our model is a good one

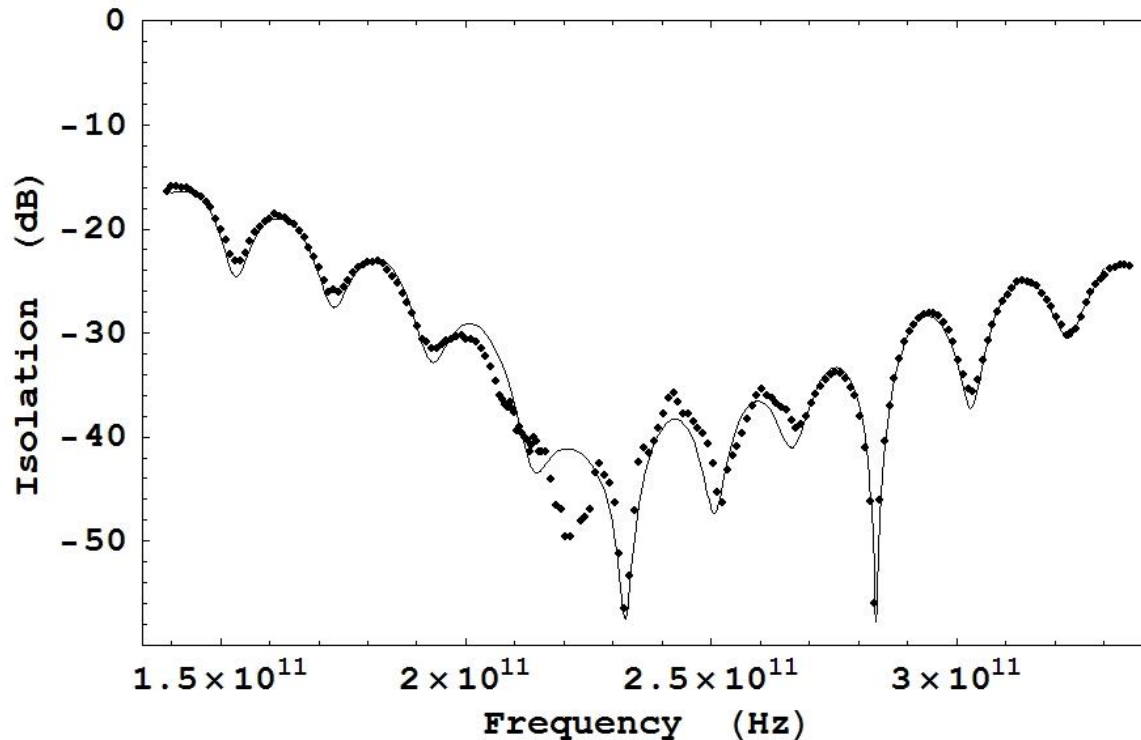




The predicted isolation (the continuous line) and back-reflectances (co-polar: long-dash line; cross-polar: short-dash line) for a circulator designed to give optimum performance at 100 GHz. The points are measured isolations

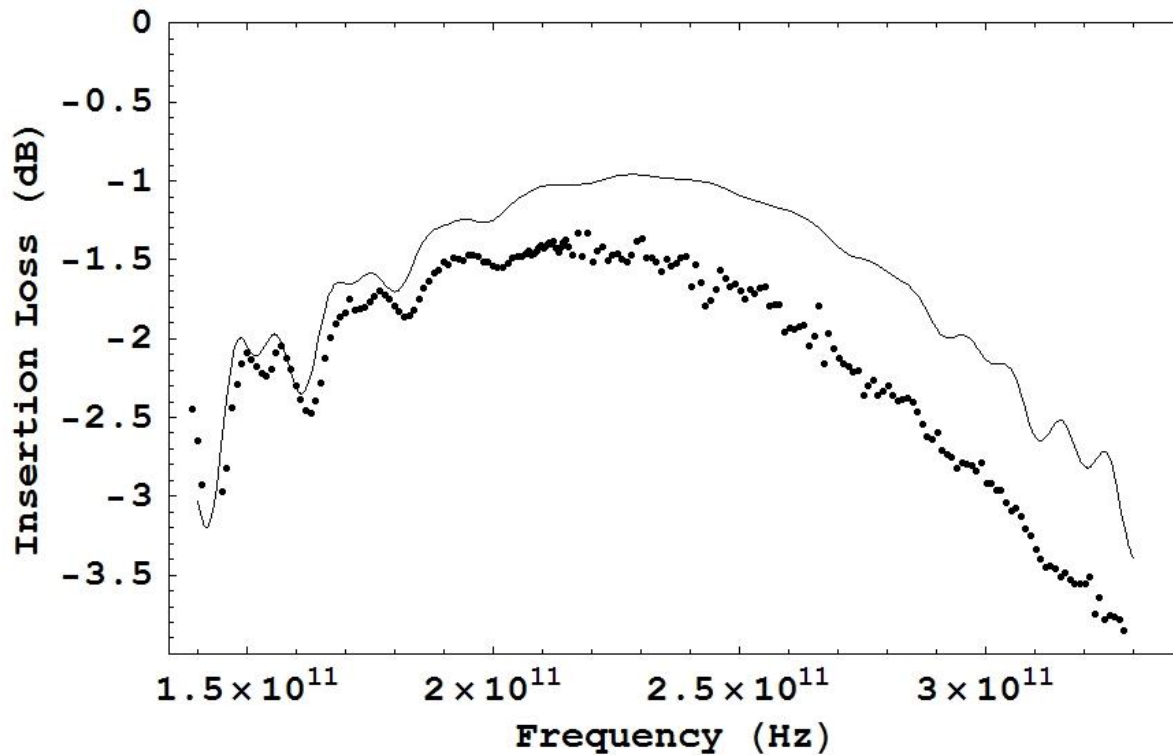


The predicted isolation (the continuous line) and back-reflectances (co-polar: long-dash line; cross-polar: short-dash line) for a circulator designed to give optimum performance at 100 GHz. The points are measured isolations

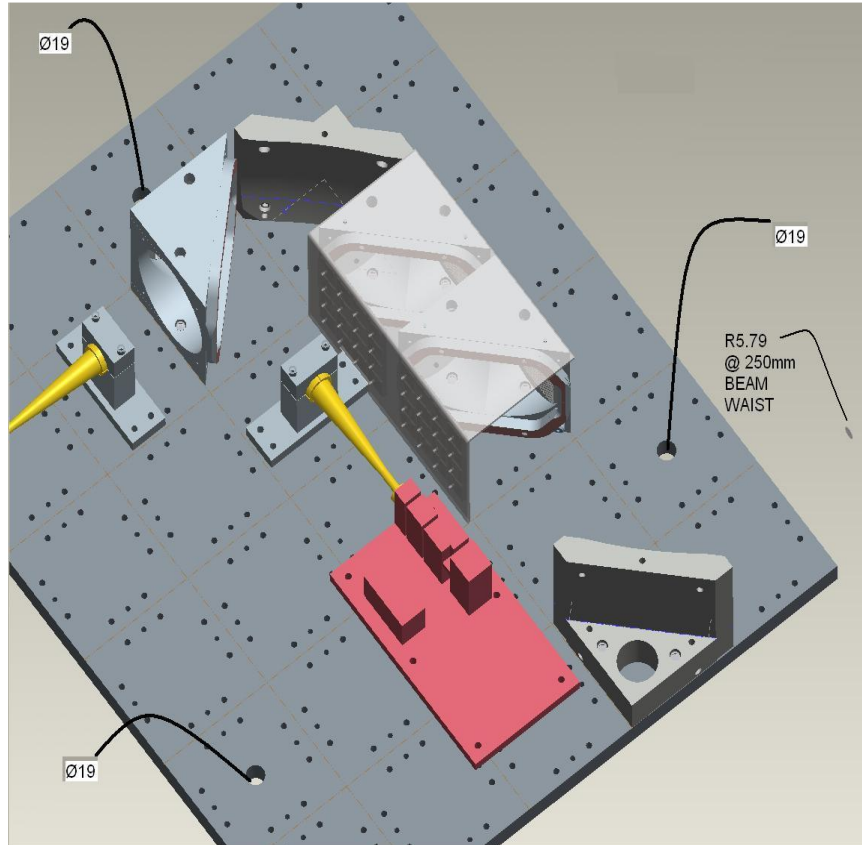


The isolation of a circulator designed for optimum performance at 240 GHz. The line is the predicted performance and the points are the measured values.

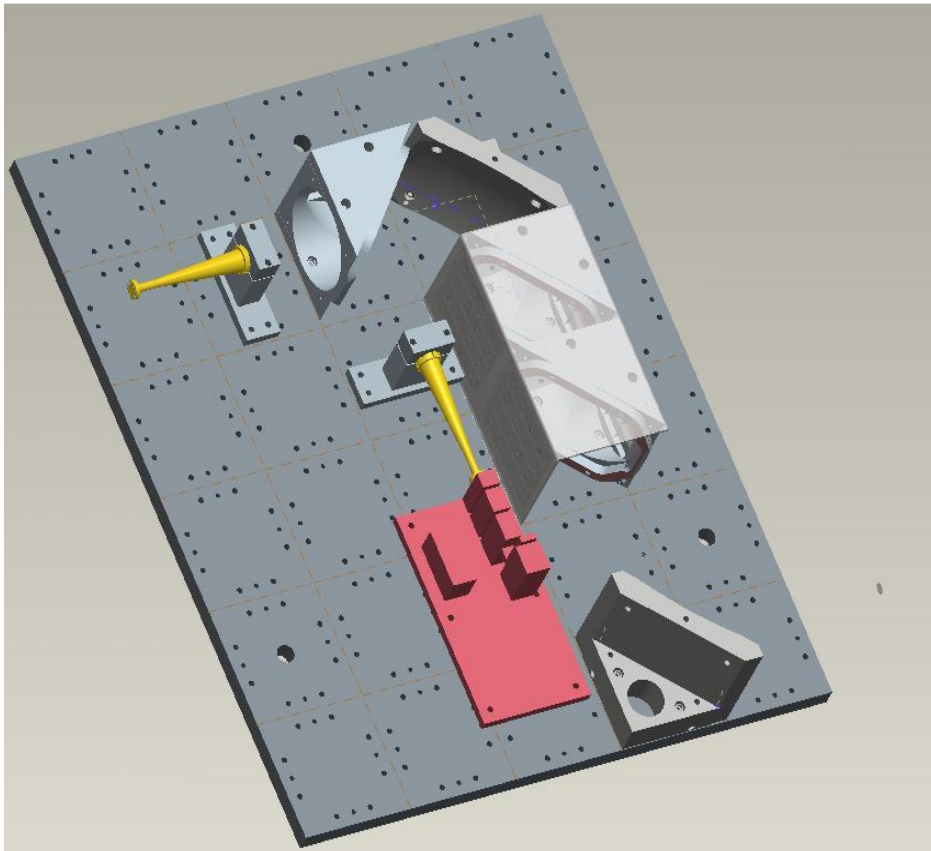
Insertion loss rising a bit >100 GHz – but still very good



The insertion-loss of a circulator designed for optimum isolation at 240 GHz. The thin line is the predicted performances and the points are the measured values.

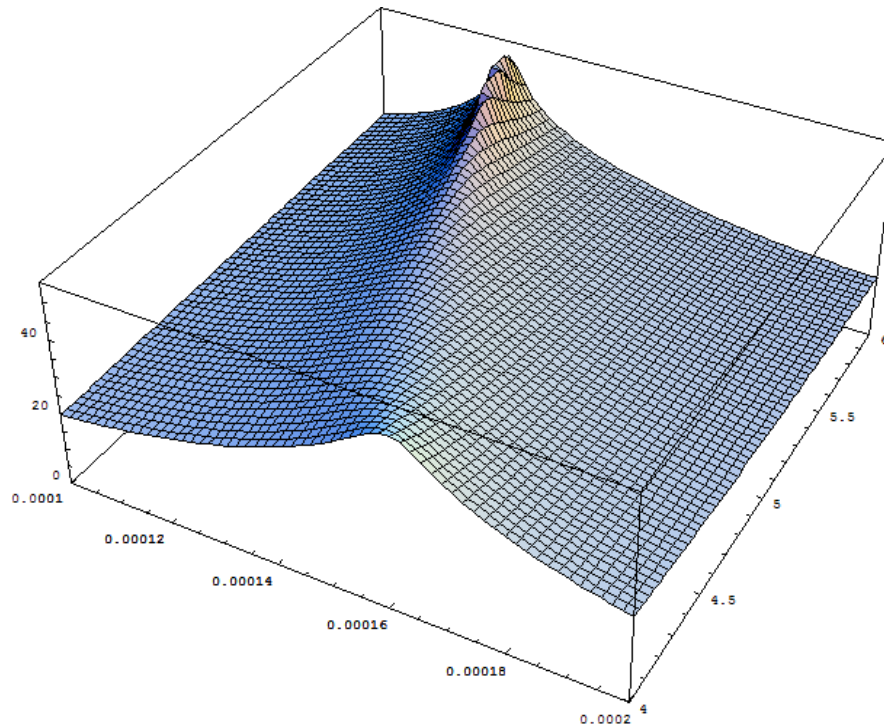


This is a Quasi-optical circuit, using two Faraday rotators currently being delivered to UCSB in California allow a high power Free Electron Laser to be “seeded” by a phased locked mW solid state source – Once the FEL fires up, the multiplier must be protected from the FEL's power!



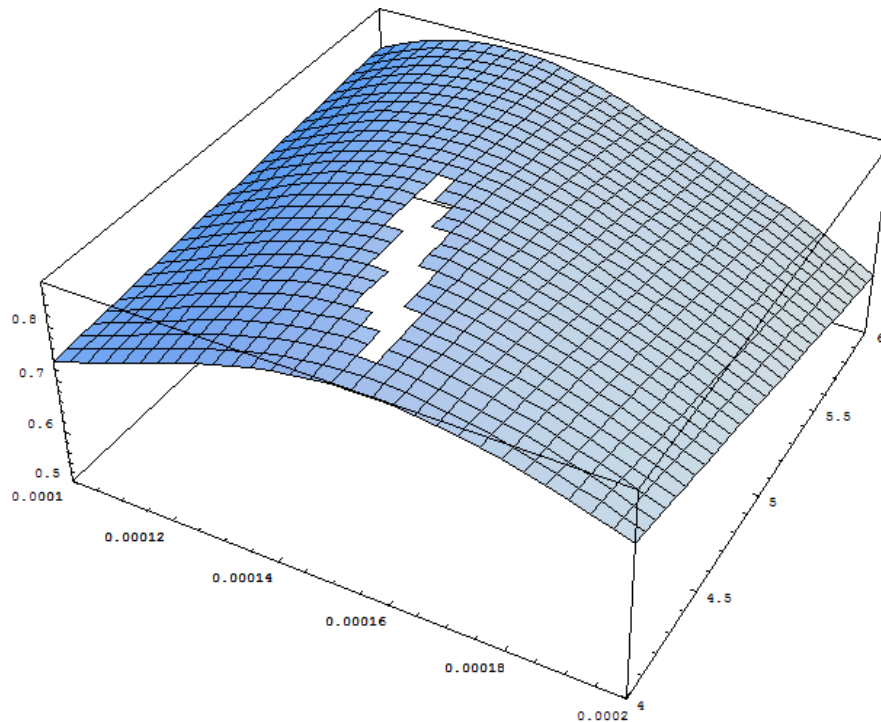
Such an isolation, with sensible insertion losses, would not be possible without better, lower loss ferrites and good modelling.

Predictions of isolation and insertion losses can be made using parameters for Ferrite used to match transmission measurements.



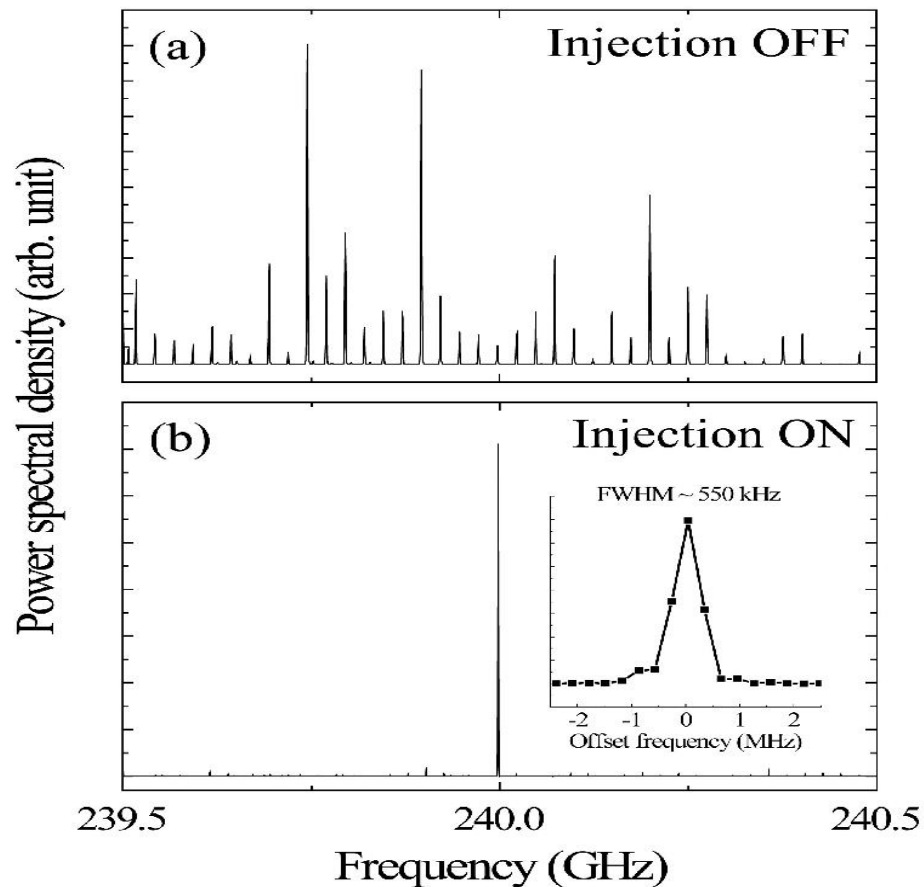
Predicted isolation in dB as a function of blooming layer thickness and blooming layer Refractive index – we use a material with a RI of about 5.14

We are hoping to achieve isolation >30dB at 240 GHz



Predicted insertion loss as a function of blooming layer thickness and blooming layer Refractive index – we use a material with a RI of about 5.14

We are hoping to achieve insertion losses of about 1.4dB at 240 GHz

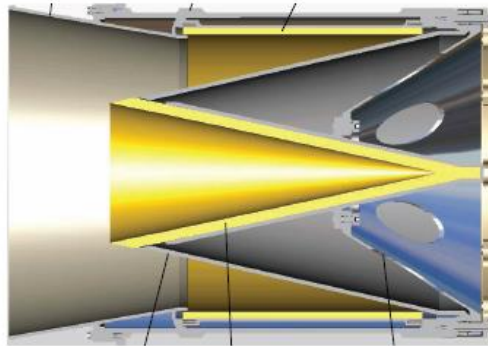


The multimode structure of a 240 GHz pulse from the UCSB FEL with no injection-locking signal.

(b) The single high-power line obtained with injection-locking (the insert shows the extremely narrow width of this line)

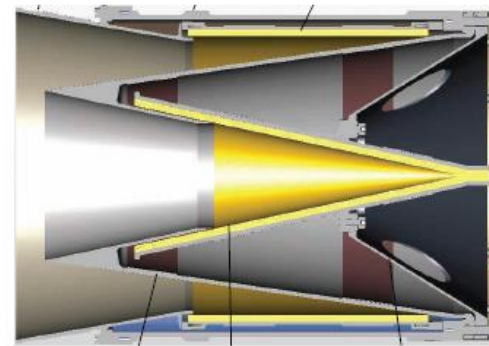


Folded Cone Geometry of ACL and HCL



ACL

- ▶ Central absorber cone
- ▶ Secondary cylindrical absorber
- ▶ Reflecting baffle to reduce spillover



HCL

- ▶ thinner absorber layers
- ▶ additional heated reflecting shroud reduces gradients
- ▶ degraded RF performance in Band 1+2

Specification		Ambient Calibration Load	Hot Calibration Load
Design frequency range		31 – 950 GHz (ALMA bands 1–10)	84 – 950 GHz (ALMA bands 3–10)
Radiometric accuracy design goal		$\pm 0.3\text{K}$	$\pm 1\text{K}$ (at 70°C)
Backscatter design goal		-60 dB	-56 dB
Measured backscatter (S11)	Band 1 (31 – 45 GHz)	Average -55 dB (at nominal 2.5° tilt)	-30 to -45 dB †
	Band 2 (67 – 84 GHz)	Below -55 dB	-50 dB †
	95 – 150 GHz	Mostly below -60 dB	Mostly below -60 dB
	150 – 720 GHz	Mostly below -60 dB ‡	Mostly below -60 dB ‡
Maximum set temperature		NA	90°C *
Typical mass		5.4 kg	5.6 kg

† Performance not specified for this load and frequency.

‡ Results from prototype calibration loads.

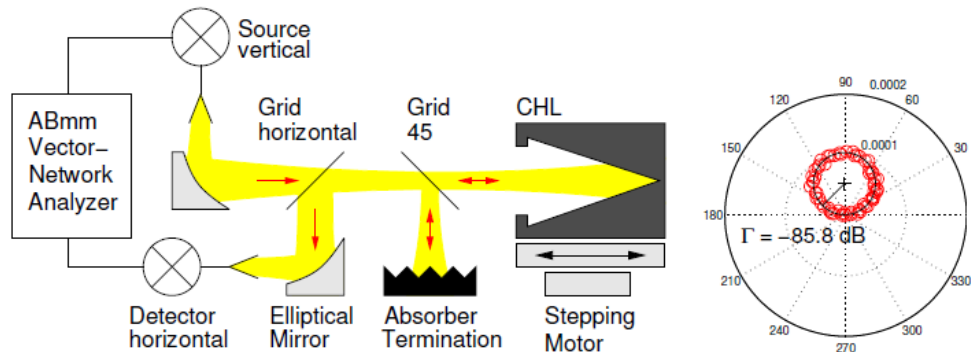
* Read-out temperature may settle a few degrees below this.

Table 1: Summary of the design goals and measured performance of the calibration loads.

Backscatter Test Setup

- ▶ S11 measurement with an ABmm VNA
- ▶ Directional coupler and ALMA feeds for Band 1+2, quasi-optics above.
- ▶ Test object measured at different distances d to calibrate directivity of the test setup
 \Rightarrow phase changes, fit of a circle to the complex data
- ▶ **Determines coherent S11, not total scattering!**

Credit – Axel Murk at6 the IAP, Bern

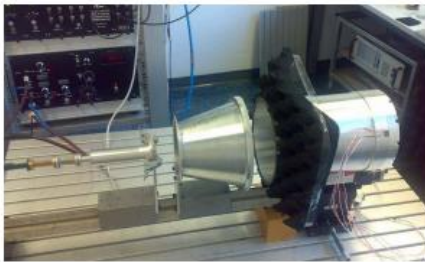


10 / 19

Backscatter Test Setup



Experimental setup for isolated cone prototypes
⇒ no interferences from secondary absorber or reflector.



Experimental setup with ACL and HCL in Band 1 and 4

Credit – Axel
Murk at the
IAP, Bern

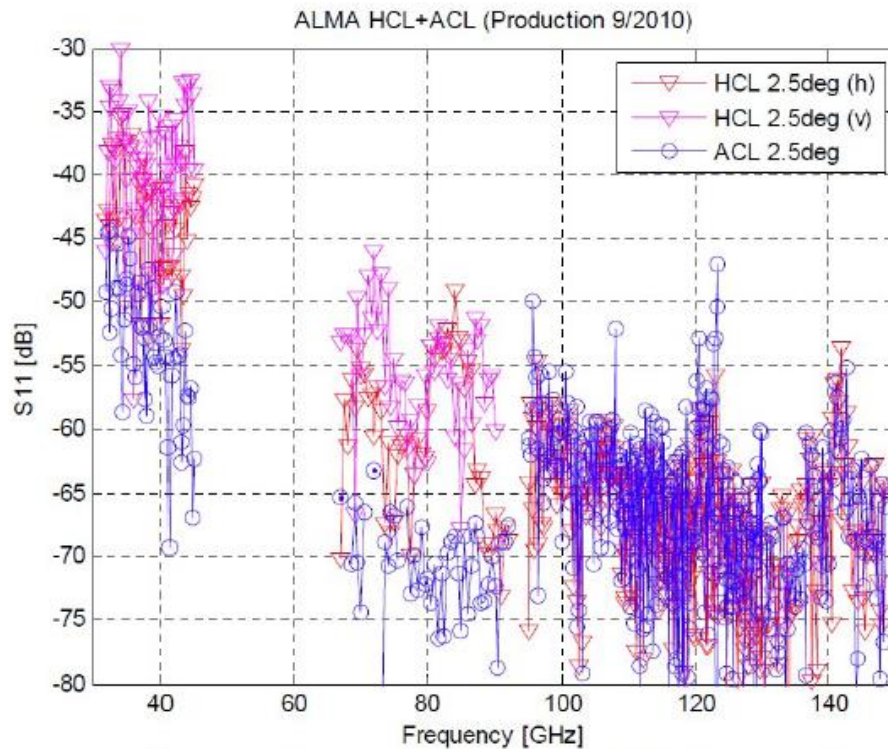
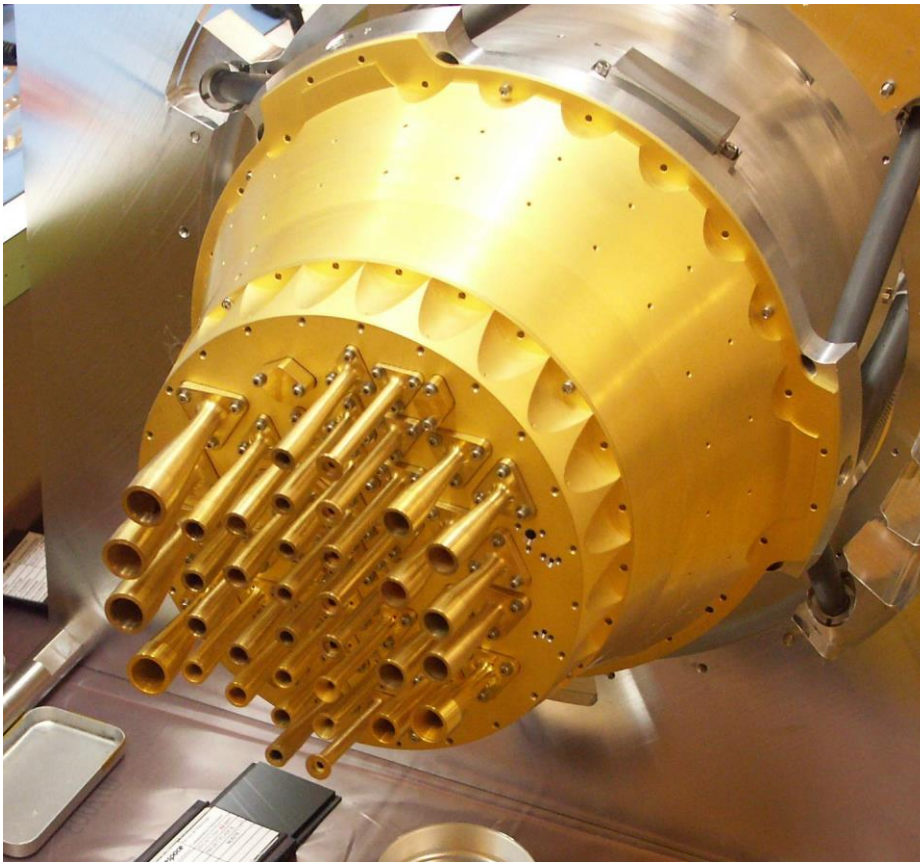


Figure 4: *S11* performance of production calibration loads, from [RD3]. Spikes at 120 and 140 GHz are test artefacts due to reduced VNA sensitivity at these frequencies.

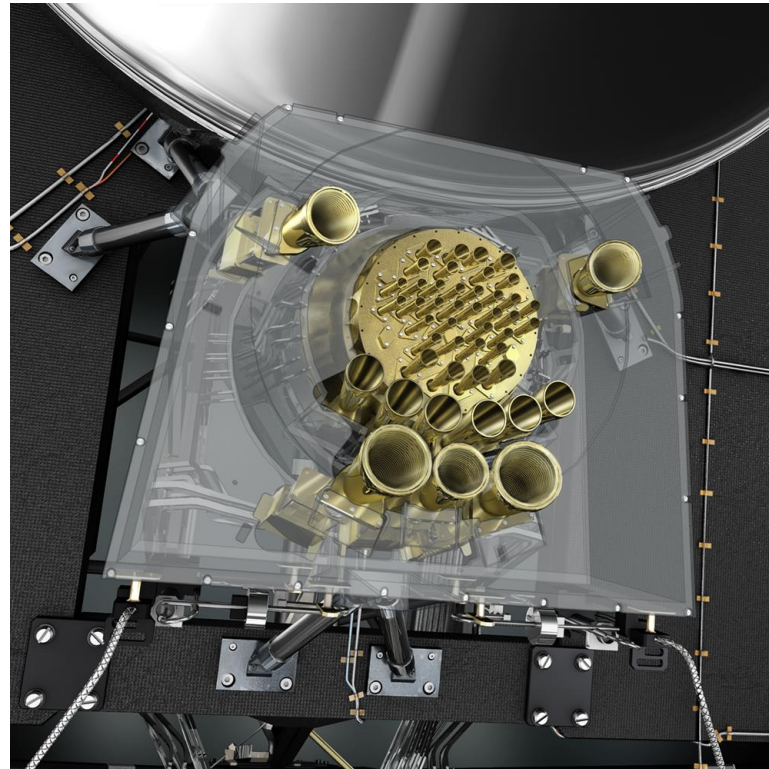
Credit – Axel Murk at the IAP, Bern



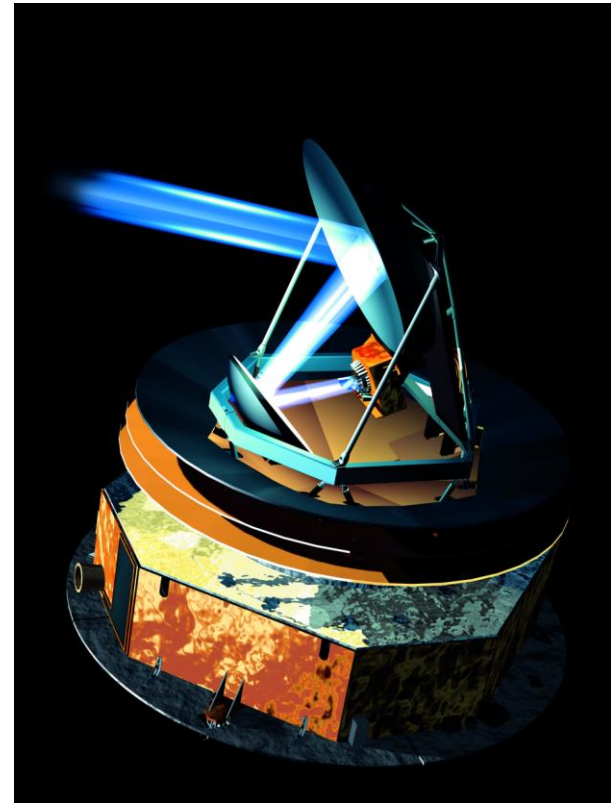
Using the same techniques, ESA's Planck mission has further refined the major cosmological parameters – flatness of the Universe, and the fractions of visible, dark matter and dark energy.

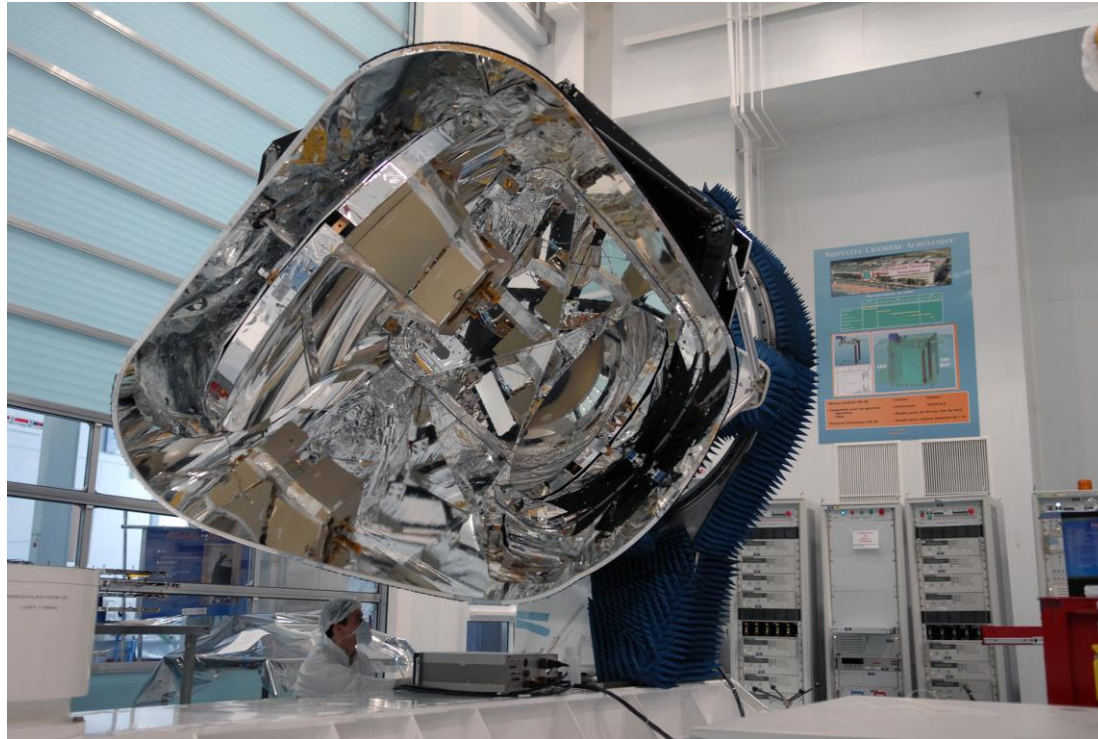
HFI Focal plane array
showing front feed horns
– each pixel has two
more, hidden from view.

Both the High
Frequency
(HFI) and
Low
Frequency
(LFI) antenna
arrays

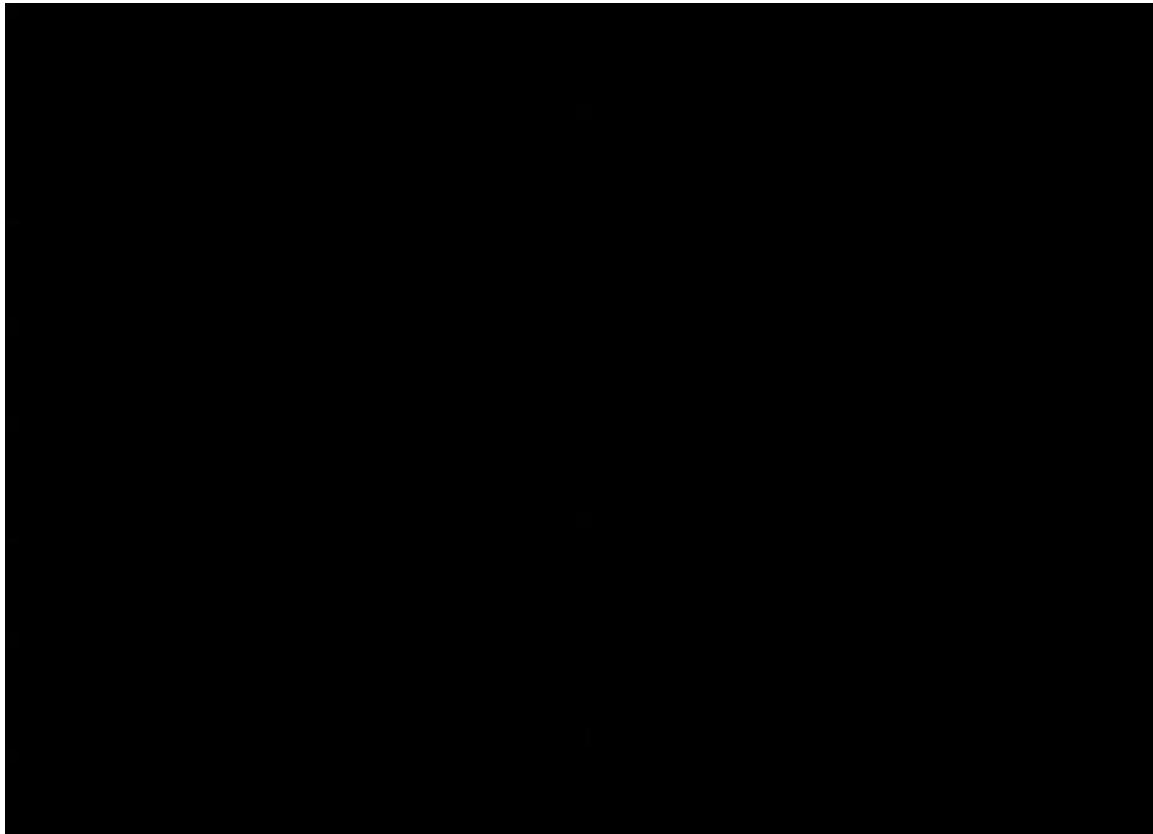


Dual Offset Reflector feeding the array of horns



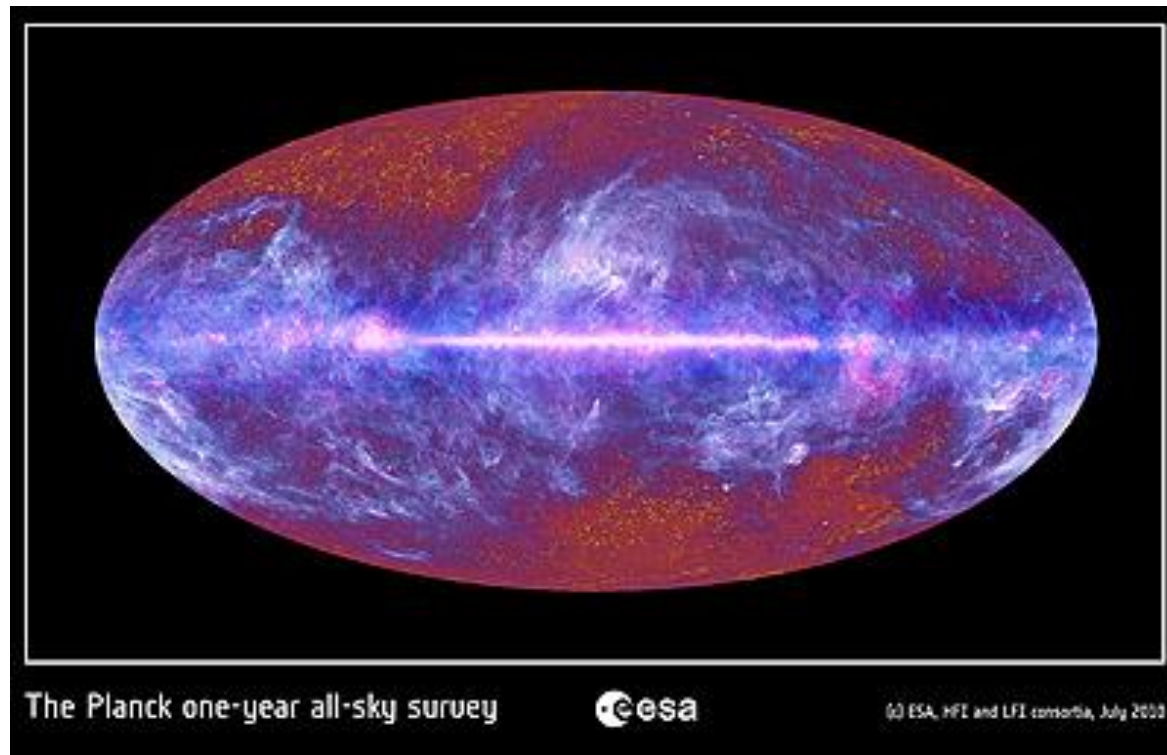


The whole FM structure being assembled in Alcatel's clean room in Cannes; the TK supplied feed horn array can just be made out in gold in the centre of the image.

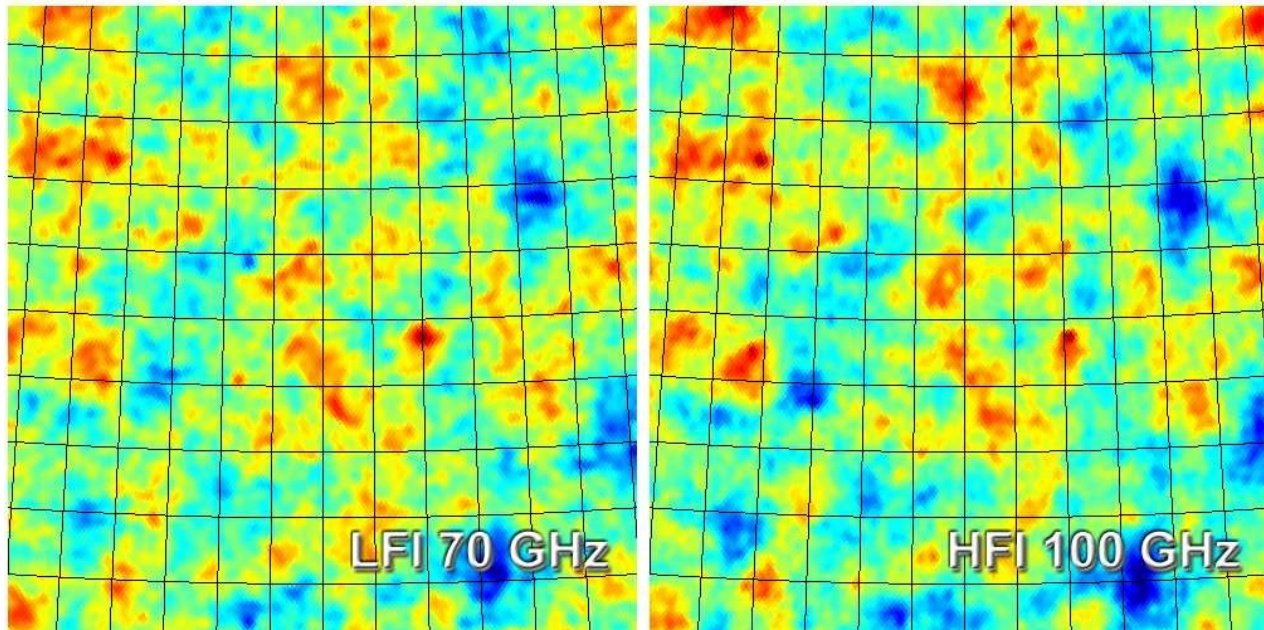


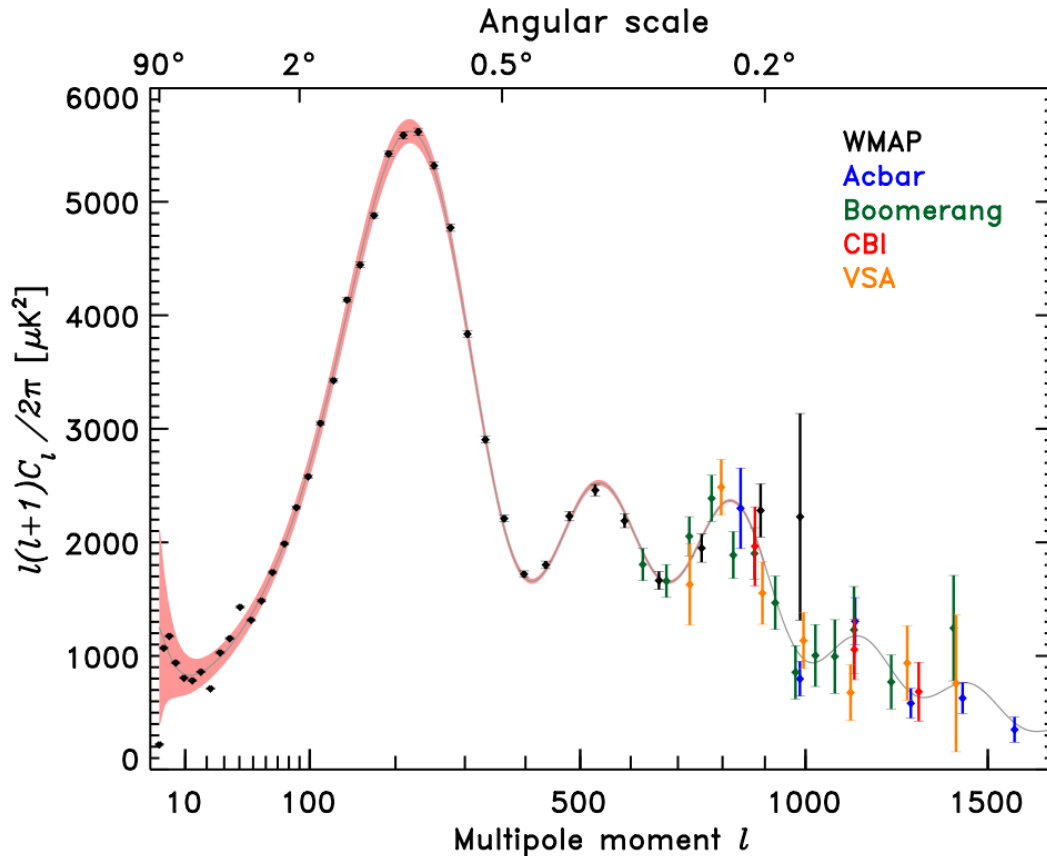
From its orbit around the second Lagrange point (L2) of the Sun-Earth system, Planck performs a continuous scan of the sky. The spacecraft spins at 1 rpm causing the telescope's field-of-view to trace out approximate great circles on the celestial sphere.

Results published by ESA captured by Planck as it orbits L2 some 1.5M Km from the Earth – spinning at about 1 RPM



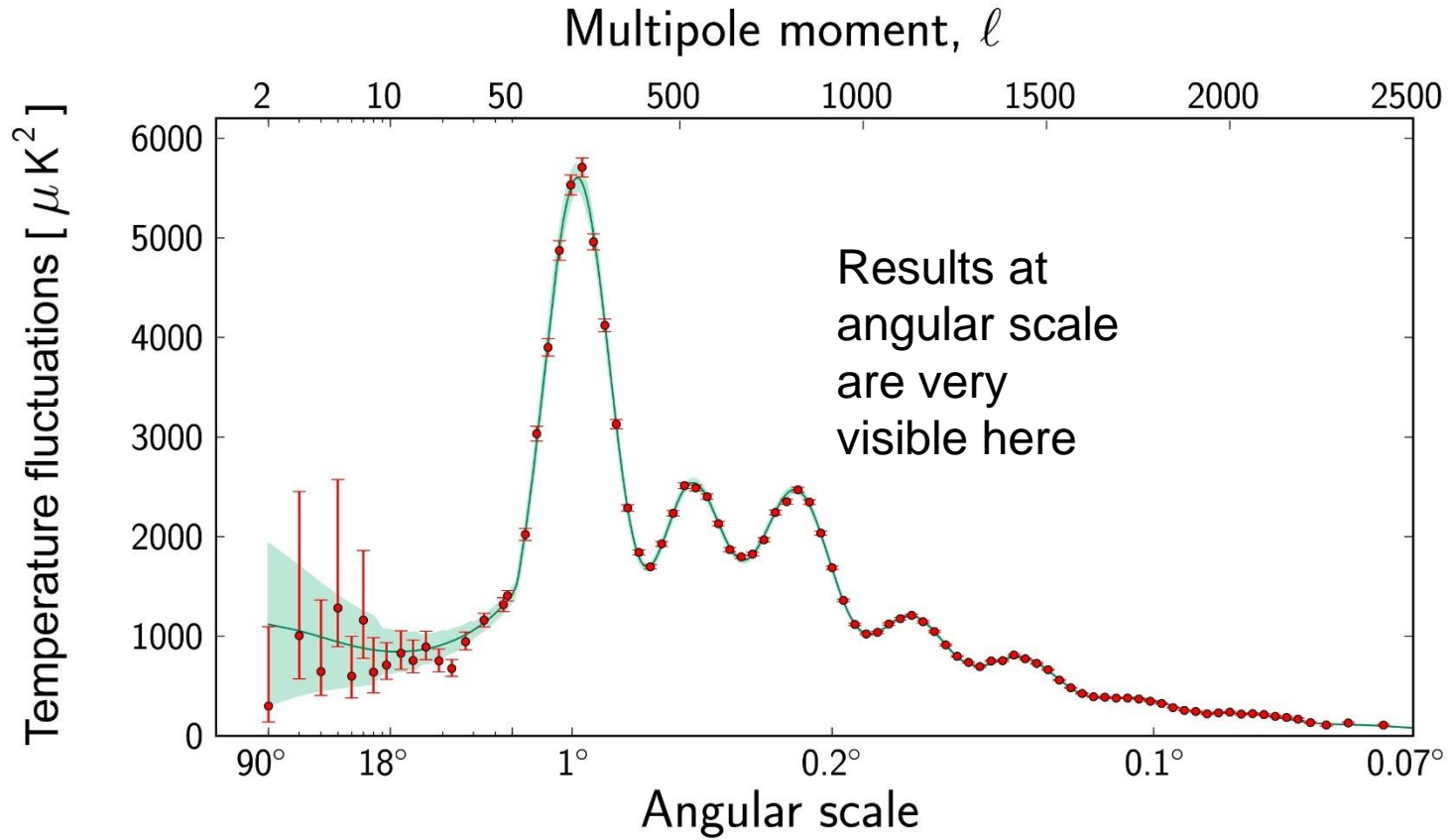
LFI and HFI 10 degree square section out
of the galactic plane – away from
contaminating radiation from dust and
synchrotron emission – good match





Planck aim was to improve on the previous measurements of the power spectrum of the cosmic microwave background radiation temperature anisotropy

(Image from NASA)



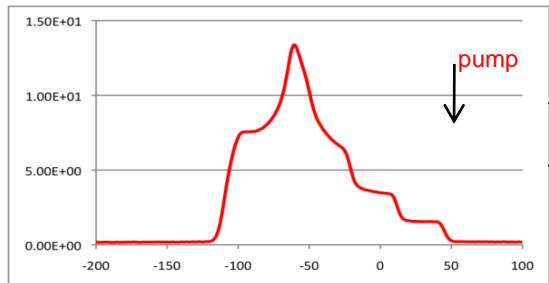
Why use Quasi-Optics rather than conventional waveguides to build HF ESR Spectrometers?

- Extremely low loss and non-dispersive transmission. Insertion loss waveguide to waveguide through a quasi-optical system is typically of the order of 1dB, including losses in the corrugated feeds.
- Systems can be designed using frequency independent reflecting optics (off-axis mirrors). These are only limited at the low frequency end by the size of the optics. Compared to lens-based optical systems, standing waves are negligible and cross-polarisation levels are very small.
- The ability to use both orthogonal polarisation states (both linear and circular) in signal processing.

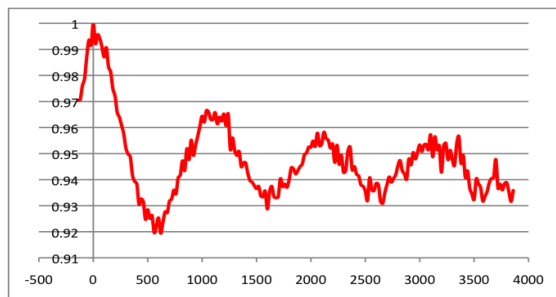


St. Andrews's HiPER Spectrometer

One nS Pi/2 and dead time 1 kW Pulsed ESR Spectrometer generating a step change in performance in Orientational Selective DEER for Structural Biology



T=50K, 1.2kHz rep rate



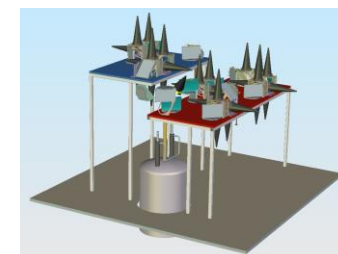
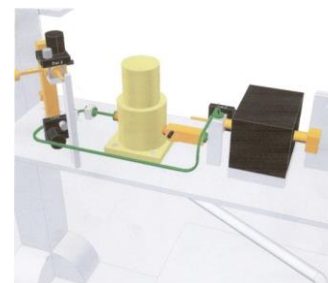
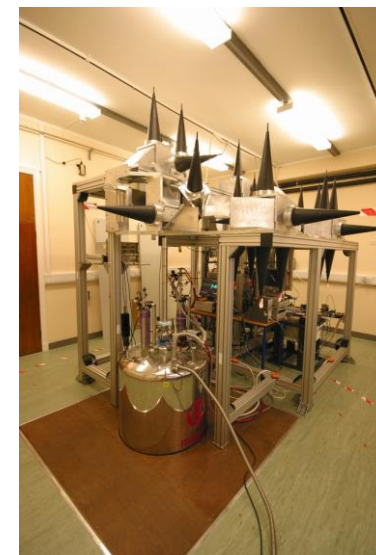
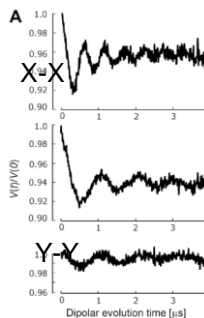
Z-Z

6
minutes

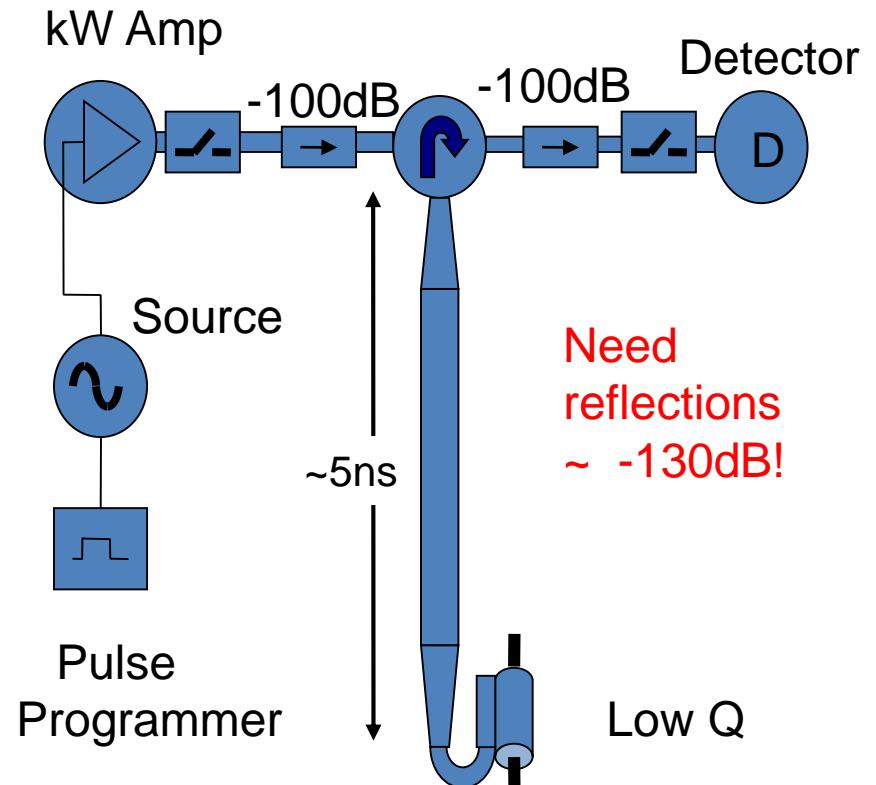
Comparison:

Conventional
Instrument takes 50
Hours

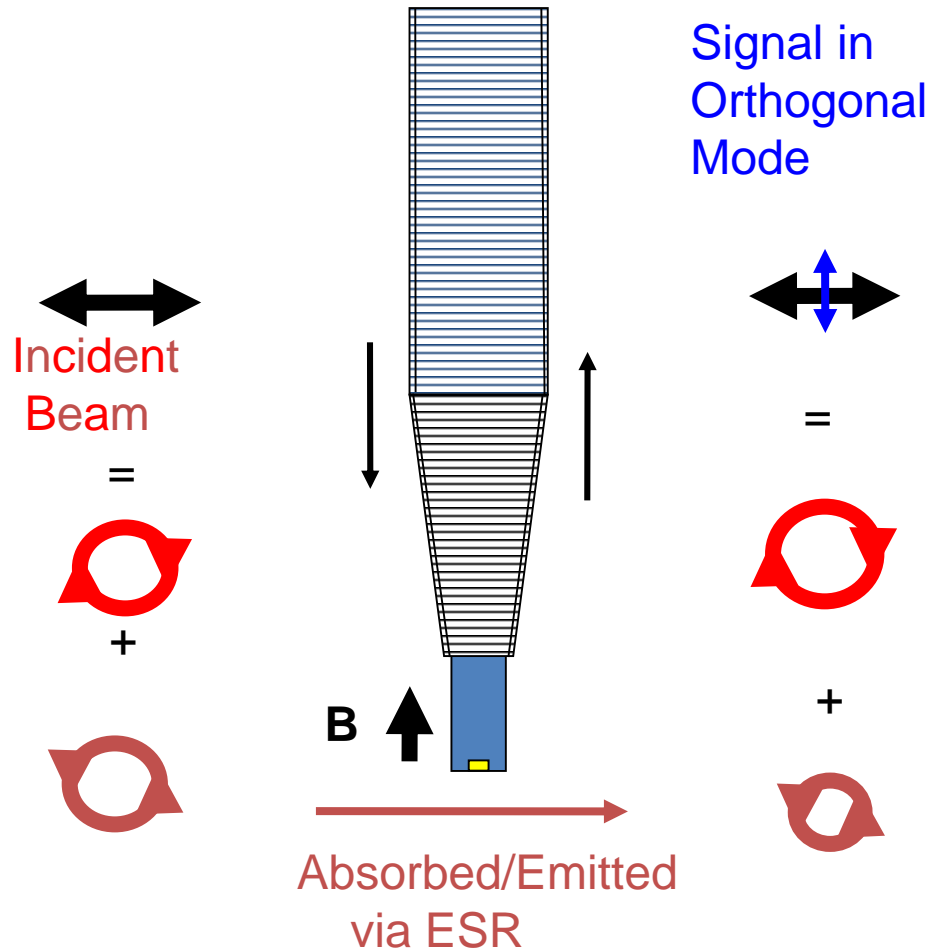
Polyhach, Godt,
Bauer, Jeschke
JMR, 185 (2007),
pp.118-129



- * Generating very short high power pulses with nanosecond phase and amplitude control
- * Using high performance components with high average and peak power handling
- * **Constructing a low loss spectrometer without reflections**



Use of Induction Mode – not possible in rectangular waveguide

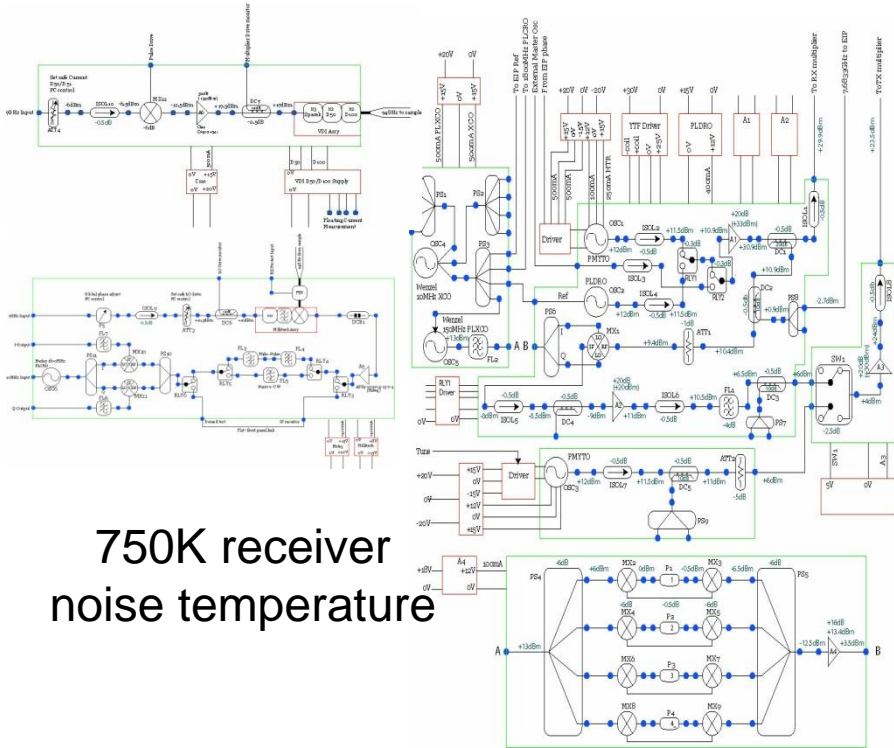


Detect reflected
orthogonal
polarisation

Regularly
achieve 50dB+
X-polar isolation

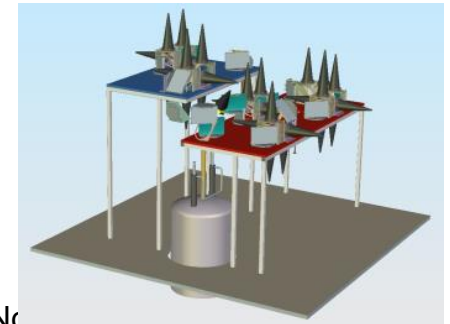
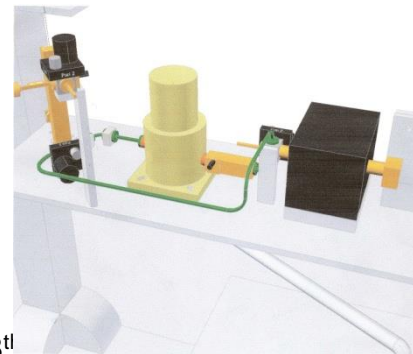
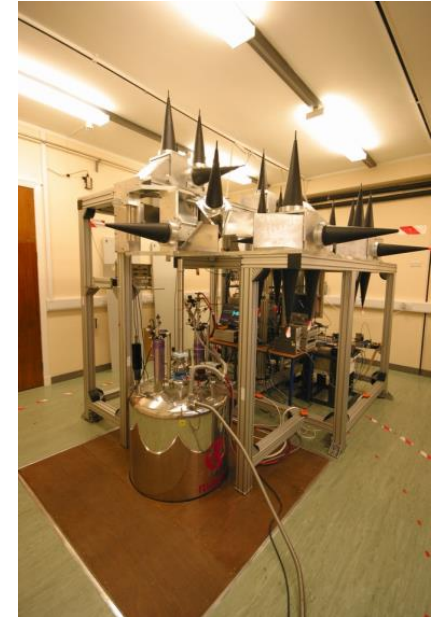


- Extremely low loss propagation (~ 0.01 dB/m)
- Very high operational bandwidths
- Very high coupling efficiency to both fundamental Gaussian beams and single mode waveguide systems
- Allows both orthogonal polarisation states to be transmitted - permitting polarisation encoding, induction operation and illumination with circularly polarised radiation.
- Low levels of mode coupling and rotation of polarisation with tube distortion
- Cryogenic operation - low heat loss and similar levels of thermal contraction to stainless steel.

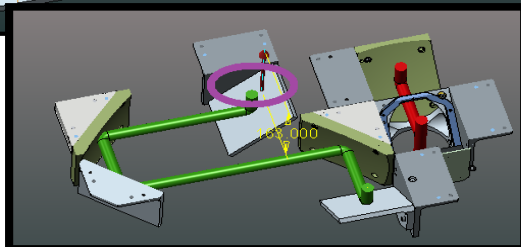
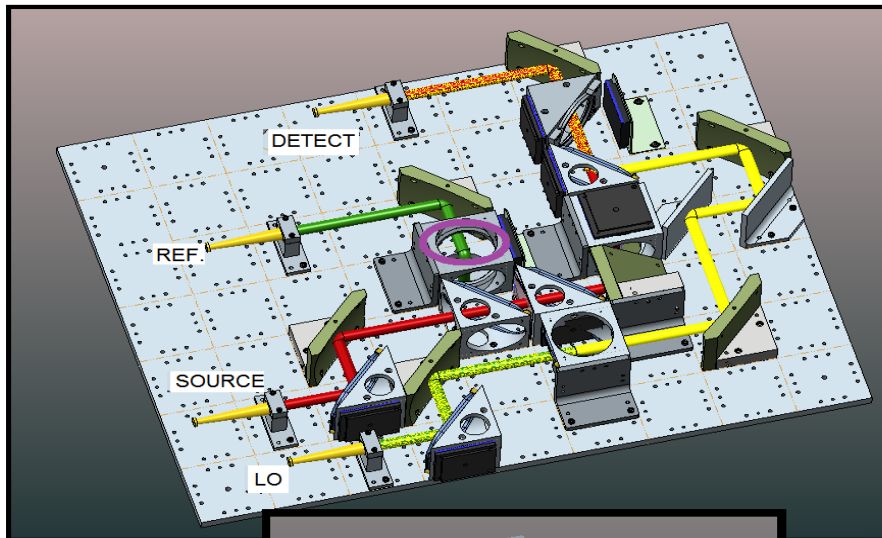


750K receiver
noise temperature

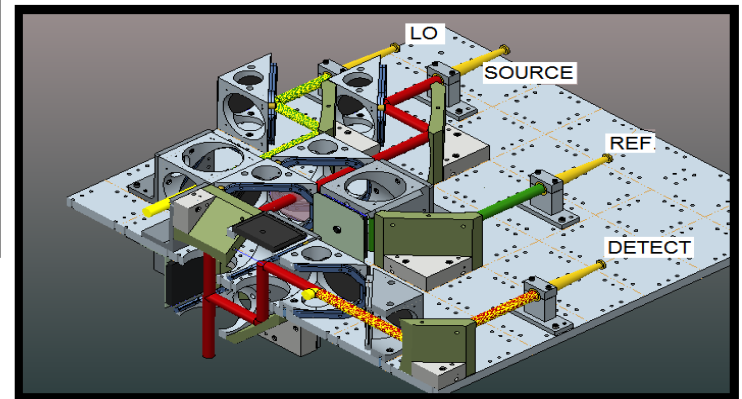
Lots of mechanical and
electrical and software
integration

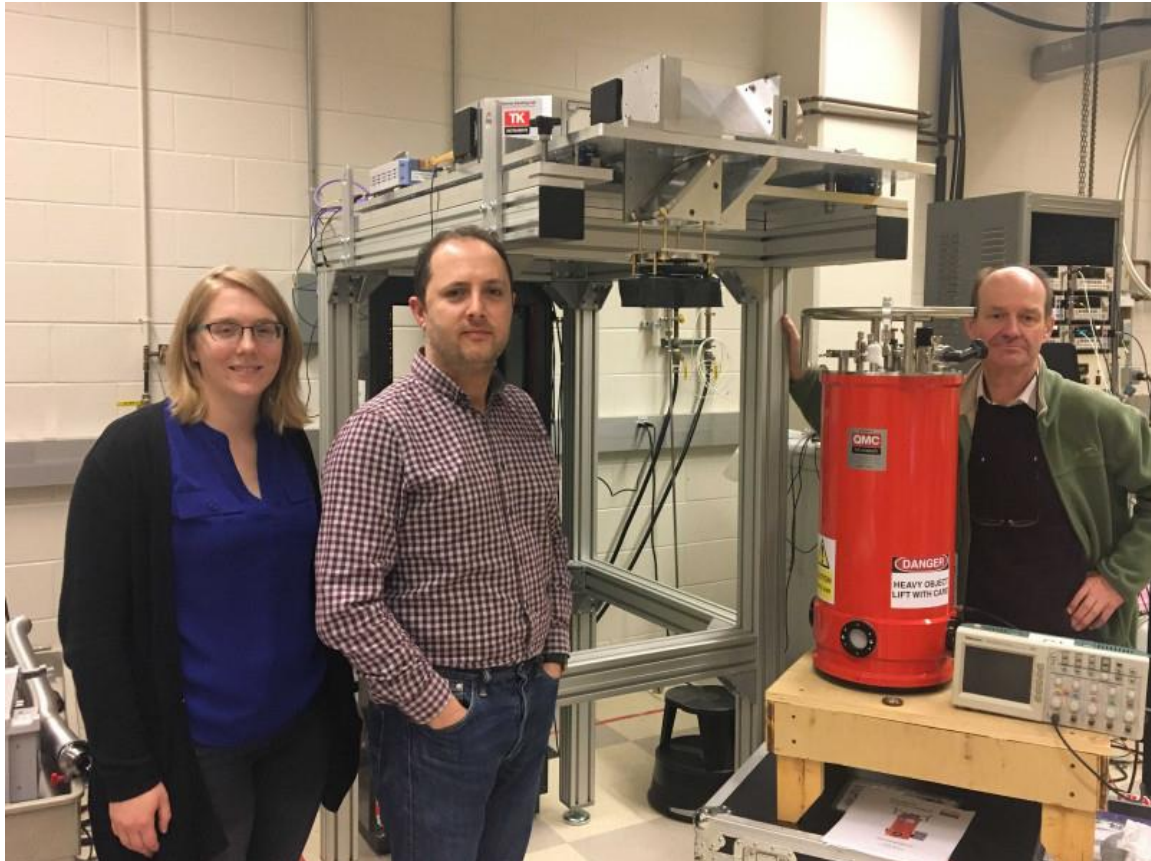






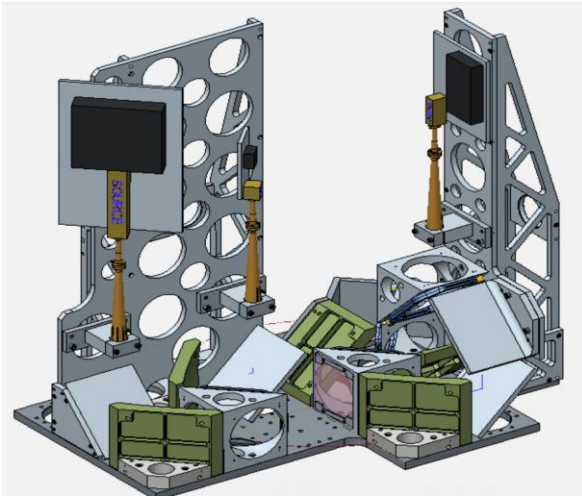
For: CEITEC Brno University of Technology
EPR QO Bridge





HF ESR
instrument come in
all shapes and
sizes – depending
upon frequency
range and the form
of the magnet

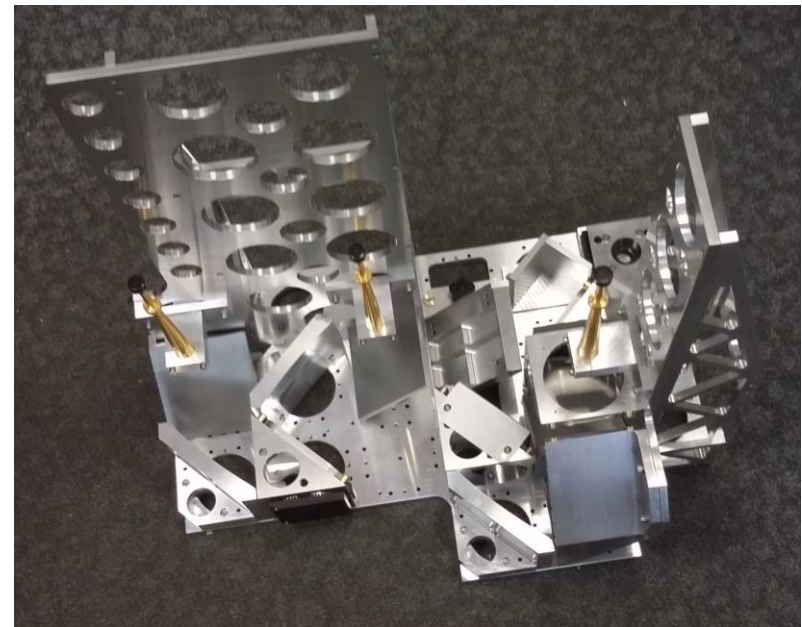
This one in Ohio

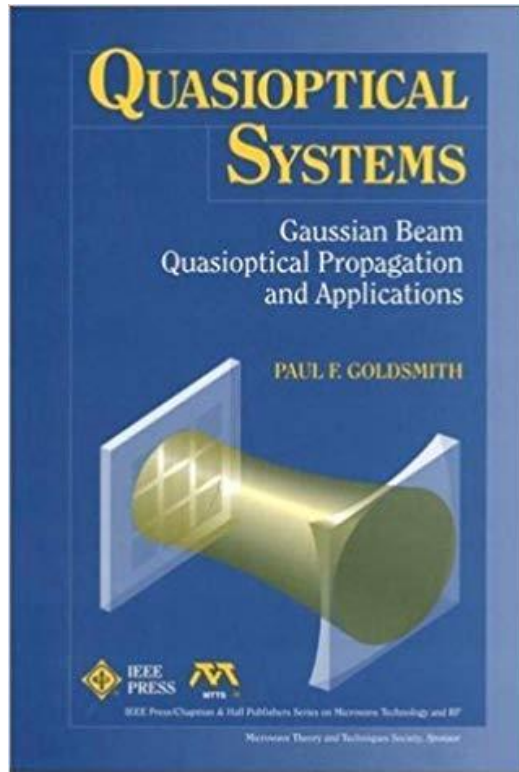


100 & 200 GHz ESR Bridge for
Neutron Scattering Experiments

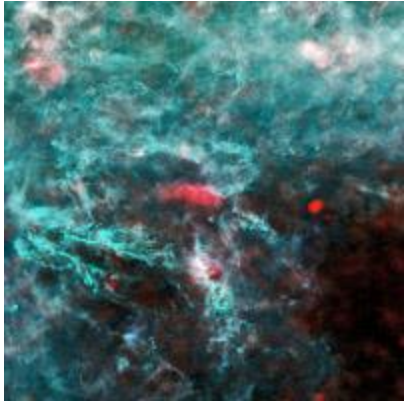
Collin Broholm – Johns Hopkins

All of these appear in our HF EPR Bridges –
and many other Instruments besides

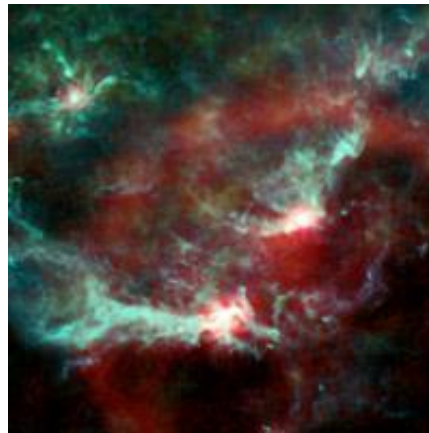




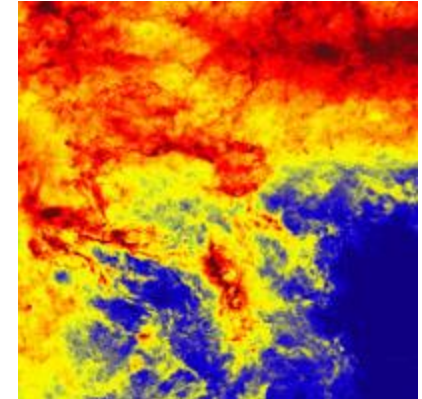
Leave you with some stunning THz images from Planck



Composite image from
30, 353 and 857 GHz
measurements of a
section of Perseus



An active star formation
region in the Orion Nebula



ISM in Perseus at
857 GHz – low
level of star
formation