



EIC Overview and UK Involvement

**Stephen JD Kay
University of York**

**UK Nuclear Physics Forum
07/07/26**

Overview

- Overview of the Electron-Ion Collider and the ePIC Detector

Opening Cover Image - [Brookhaven National Lab](#)

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- UK EIC/ePIC Contributions

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- Future Plans

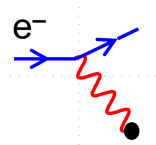
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Borrowing heavily from many UK and ePIC colleagues throughout!

Probing the Proton with Electrons

- From an uncertainty principle argument, resolving scale:

$$\Delta x \sim \frac{200\text{MeV}}{E} \text{fm}$$

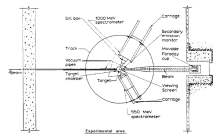
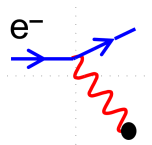


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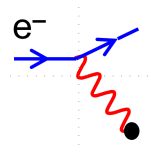


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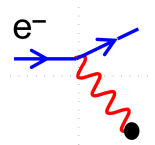


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 - Partonic longitudinal structure to momentum fractions $x < 10^{-4}$

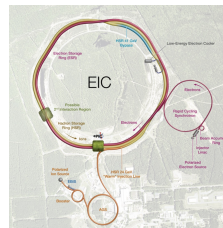
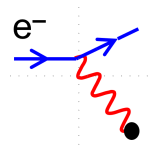


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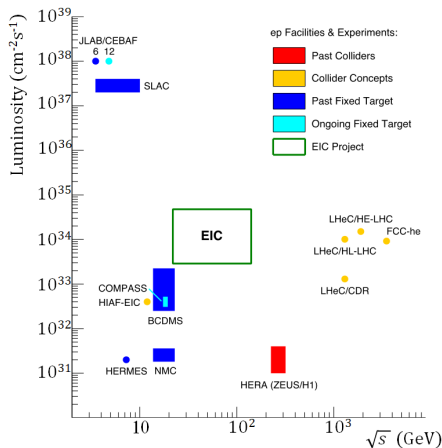
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- 2030s: Electron-Ion Collider (EIC)...



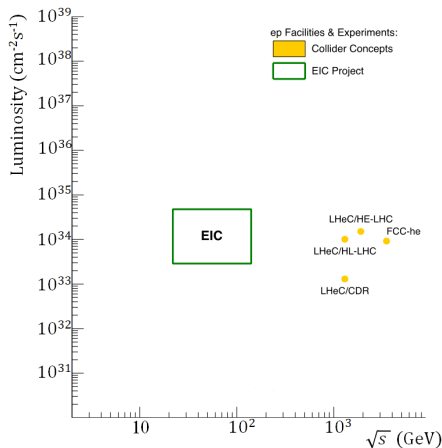
Past, Present and Future ep (eA) Colliders



- A range of past, current and planned ep (eA) colliders
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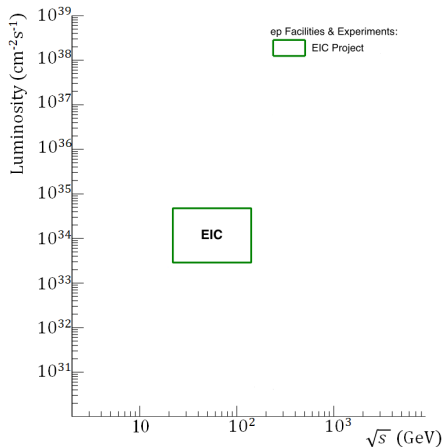
Image - A. Deshpande, modified

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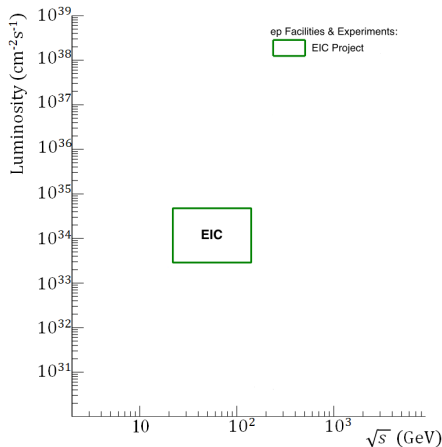
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Past, Present and Future ep (eA) Colliders



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- However, if we need:
 - High luminosity
 - Wide range in $\sqrt{s}$
 - Polarised lepton and ion beams (p, d, ^3He)
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- Only the EIC ticks all the boxes
- EIC is unique

Mapping Between Physics and Facilities

- Very crudely, can map between facilities and physics insights into the nucleon

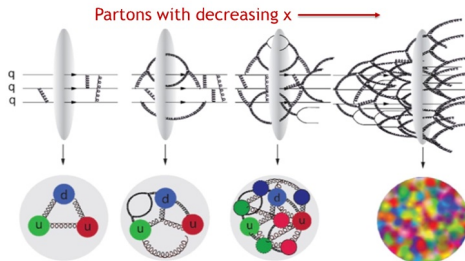
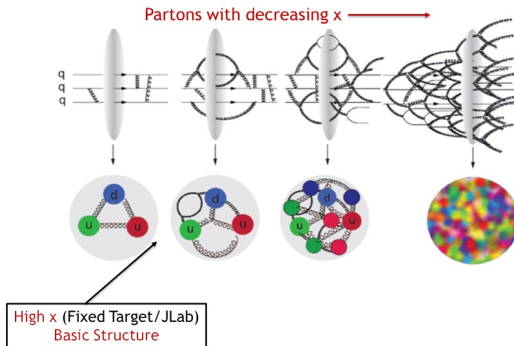


Image - Kong Tu, BNL, modified

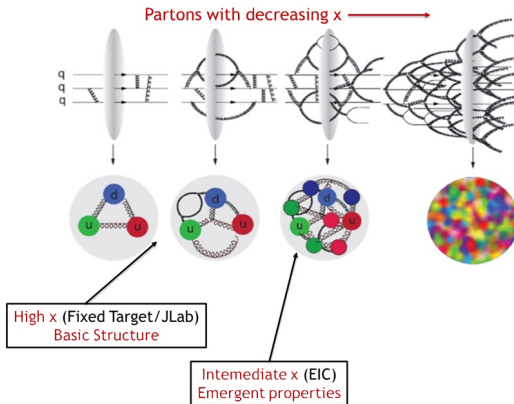
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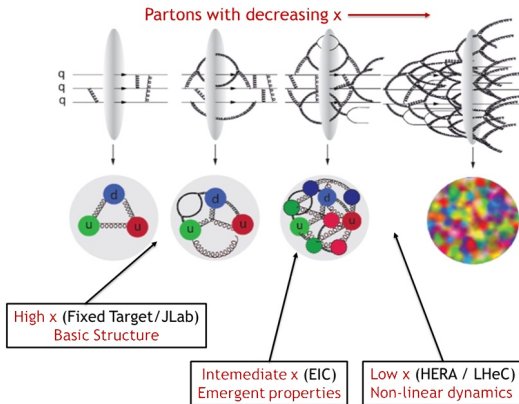
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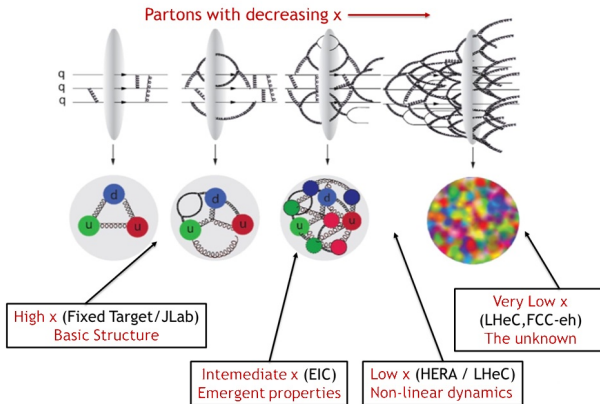
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- These pillars are three important open questions -

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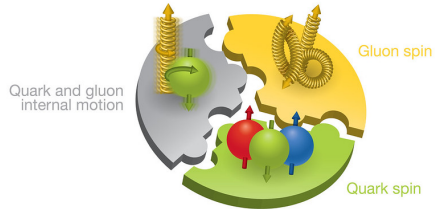
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- *How does the mass of the nucleon arise?*



Images - [Brookhaven National Lab](#)

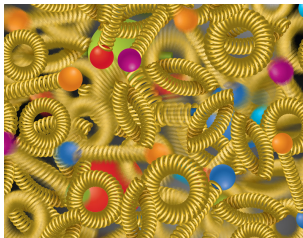
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- These pillars are three important open questions -
- *How does the mass of the nucleon arise?*
- *How does the spin of the nucleon arise?*
- *What are the emergent properties of dense systems of gluons?*



The Electron-Ion Collider (EIC)

- Use existing RHIC infrastructure

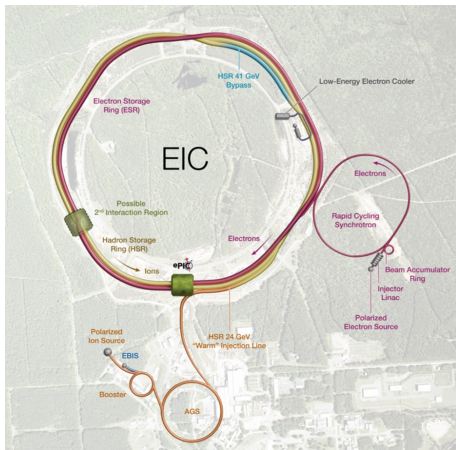
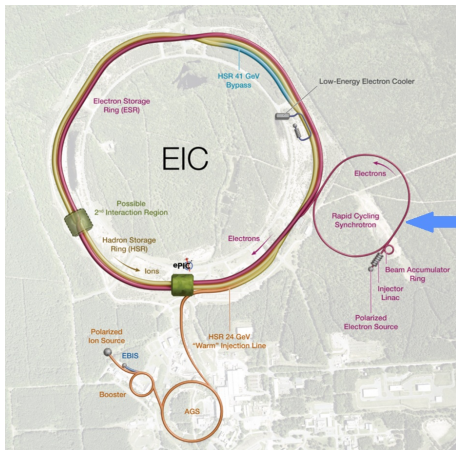


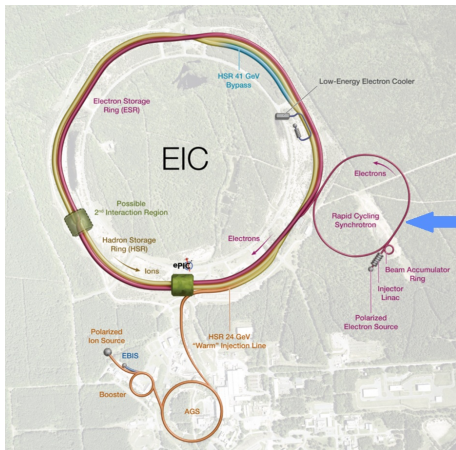
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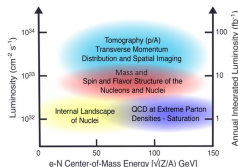
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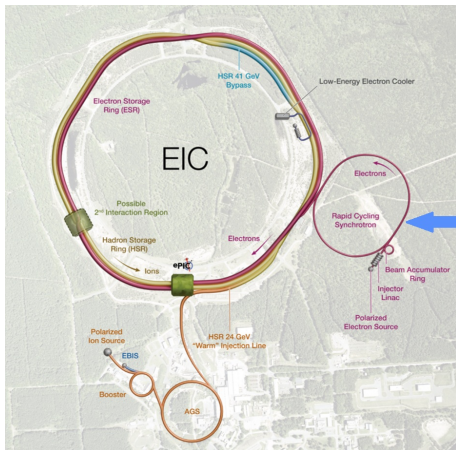


- Use existing RHIC infrastructure
- New electron ring
- Spec driven by science goals
 - $28 < \sqrt{s} < 140 \text{ GeV}$

Collider Specifications from Science

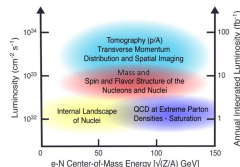


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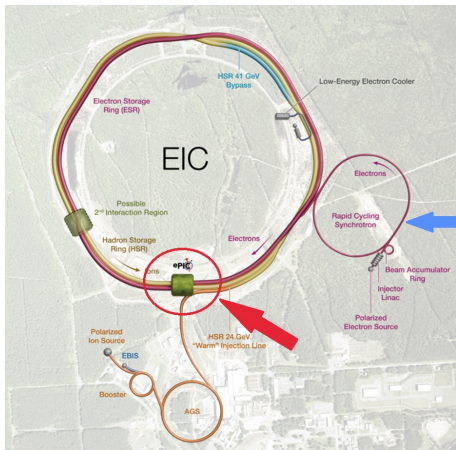


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 - Doubly-polarised, e^- and light A
 - Ions from H to U

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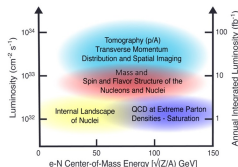


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- Detector to cover broad science programme - ePIC

Collider Specifications from Science



The ePIC Detector

- Electron-Proton/Ion Collider Experiment - **ePIC**
- General purpose hermetic detector with a central solenoid, asymmetric beams

ePIC detector design

Magnet

- New 1.7 T SC solenoid, 2.8 m bore diameter

Tracking

- Si Vertex Tracker MAPS wafer-level stitched sensors (ALICE ITS3)
- Si Tracker MAPS barrel and disks
- Gaseous tracker: MPGDs (μ IRWELL, MMG) cylindrical and planar

PID

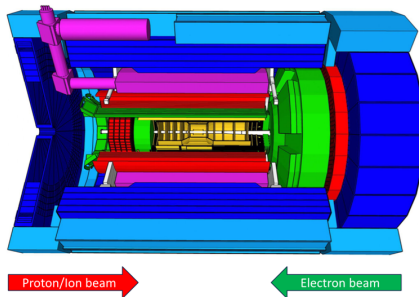
- high performance DIRC (hpDIRC)
- dual RICH (aerogel + gas) (forward)
- proximity focussing RICH (backward)
- ToF using AC-LGAD (barrel+forward)

EM Calorimetry

- imaging EMCal (barrel)
- W-powder/SciFi (forward)
- PbWO_4 crystals (backward)

Hadron calorimetry

- FeSc (barrel, re-used from sPHENIX)
- Steel/Scint – W/Scint (backward/forward)



The ePIC Detector

- Electron-Proton/Ion Collider Experiment - **ePIC**
- General purpose hermetic detector with a central solenoid, asymmetric beams
- Extensive far-forward (p/A direction) and far-backward (e direction) instrumentation too

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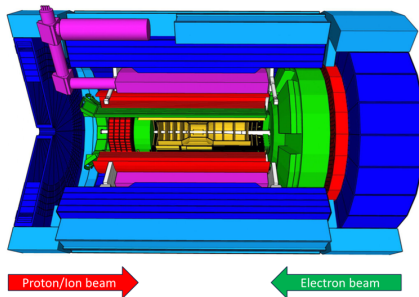
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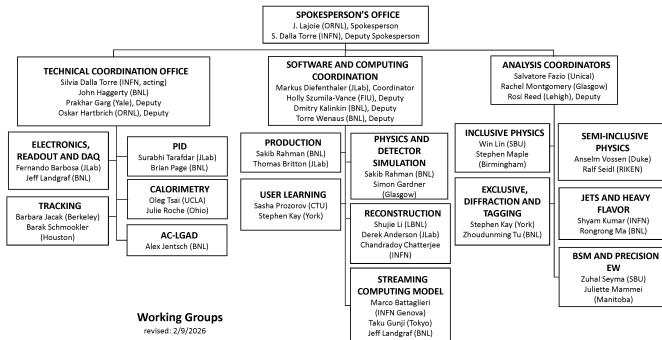
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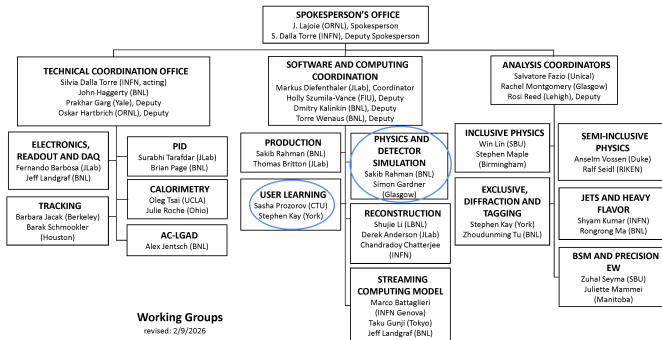
ePIC Structure and UK Leadership: Physics/Software

- UK leadership and expertise across the collaboration



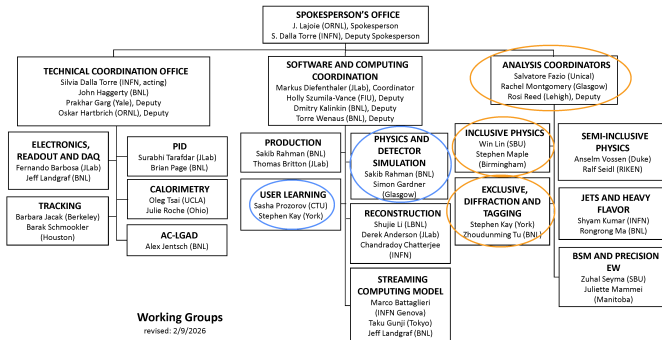
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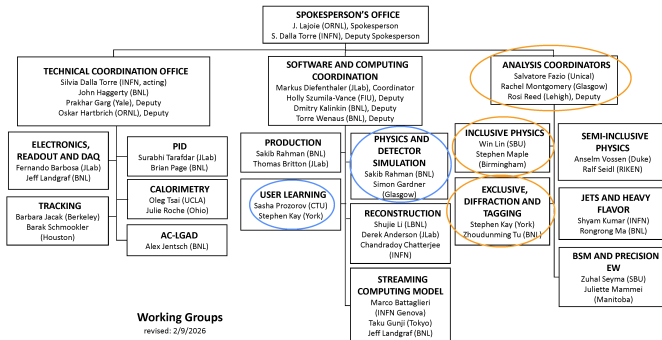
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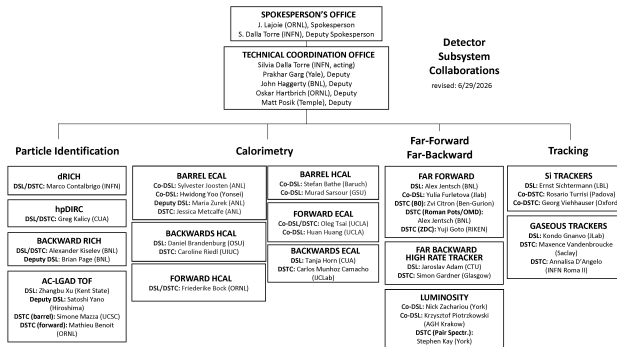
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- Paul Newman and Rachel Montgomery on the ePIC collaboration Executive Board



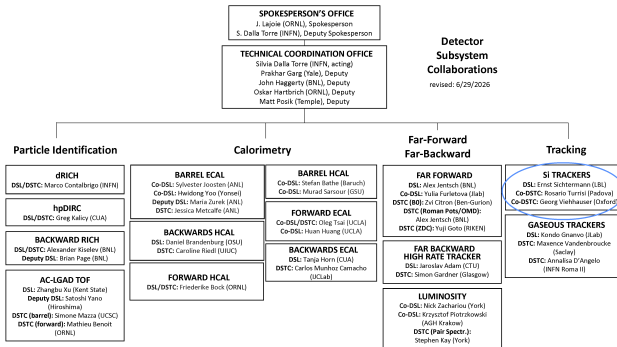
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- Leadership and expertise extends to detectors, which map to UKRI IF work packages



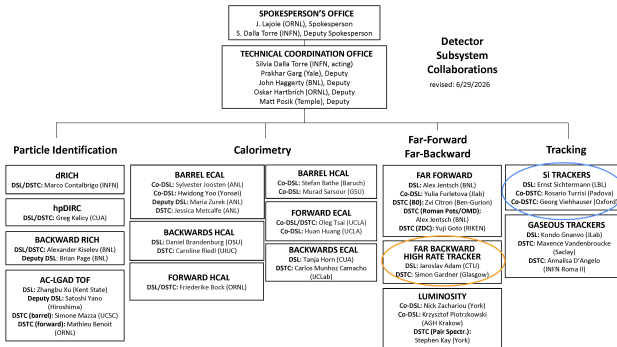
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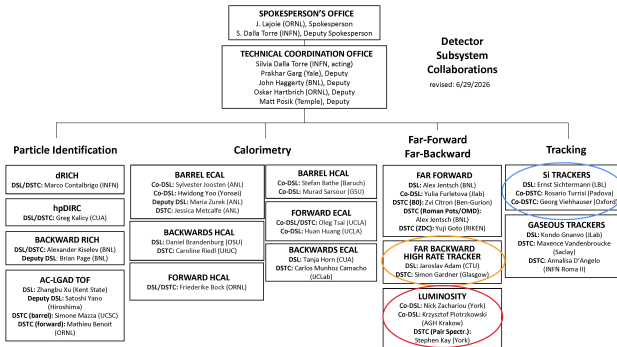
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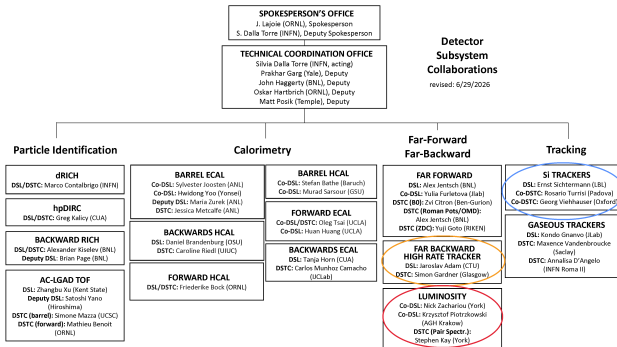
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- WP1 - Silicon Trackers, WP2 - Electron Tagger, WP3 - Luminosity Monitors as well as WP4 - Accelerator and WP5 - Project Management

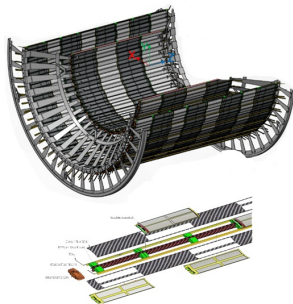


Work Package 1: Silicon Tracker

- Work Package 1 encompassed the entirety of the ePIC SVT (silicon vertex tracker) outer barrel (OB), 2 layers (L3 and L4)

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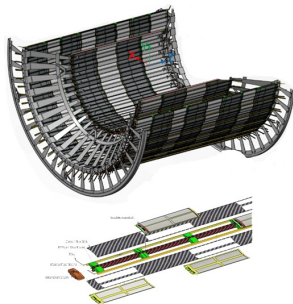
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Images - J. Glover, University of Birmingham

Work Package 1: Silicon Tracker

- Work Package 1 encompassed the entirety of the ePIC SVT (silicon vertex tracker) outer barrel (OB), 2 layers (L3 and L4)
- Design, Construction, QA/QC, testing of:
 - Sensors and modules
 - Electrical interconnections, AKA flexible printed circuit
 - Stave (mechanical support structure)
 - Interfaces to the greater SVT and ePIC detector
 - Assembly procedures

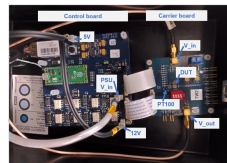


Work Package 1: Silicon Tracker, Latest Work

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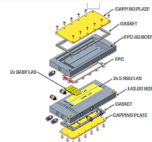
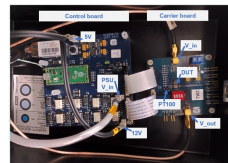
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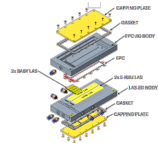
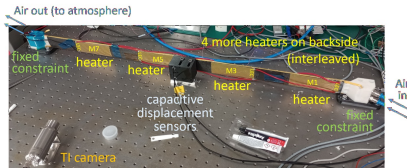
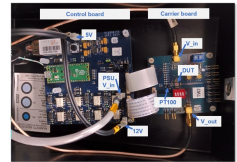
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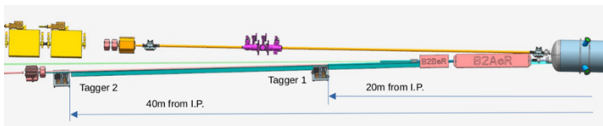
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- **Stave assembly and cooling tests**



Images - J. Glover, University of Birmingham

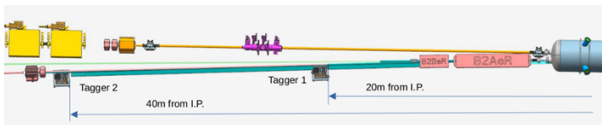
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- Tagger design with Timepix4 tracker
- Acceptance to $Q^2 \approx 0$, photoproduction physics

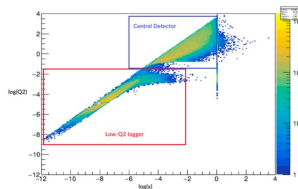
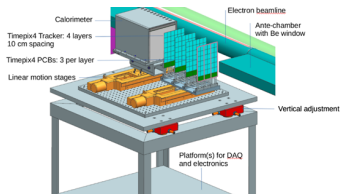


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- Two tagger stations placed very close to e^- beamline



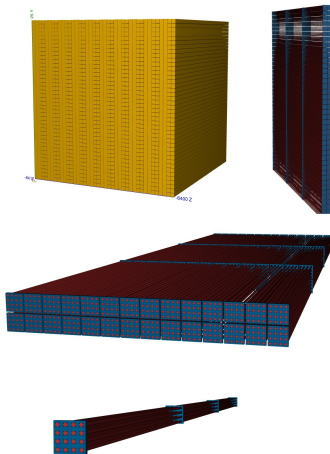
Images - K. Livingston, S. Gardner, University of Glasgow

Work Package 3: Luminosity Detectors (York)

- Measure known process to determine absolute luminosity to $\sim 1\%$ level
 - Measure bremsstrahlung photons
 - Convert to e^+e^- pairs far from IP

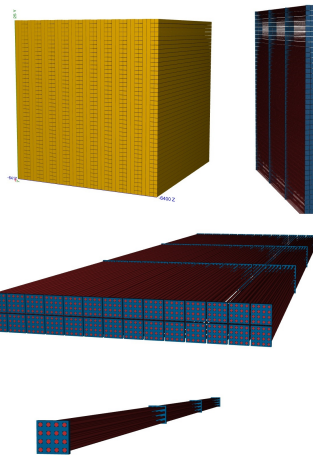
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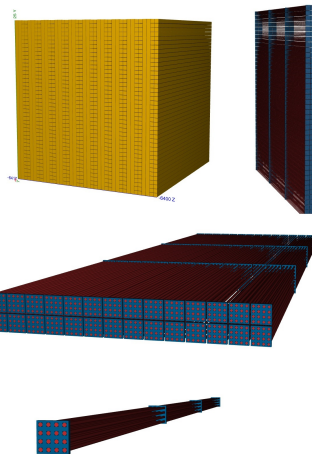
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- XY orientated fiber design



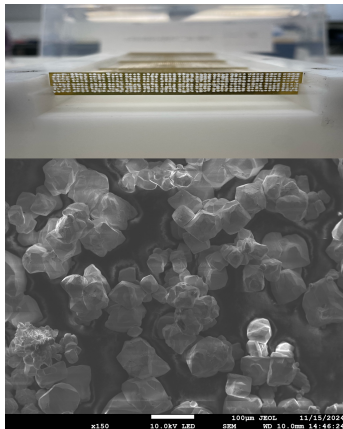
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- Use pair of tungsten scintillating fiber calorimeters (WSciFi)
 - Fiber grid embedded within W powder/epoxy
- XY orientated fiber design
 - 3D shower profile possible
 - Potential AI/ML applications



Work Package 3: Luminosity Detectors (York)

- Measure known process to determine absolute luminosity to $\sim 1\%$ level
 - Measure bremsstrahlung photons
 - Convert to e^+e^- pairs far from IP
- Use pair of tungsten scintillating fiber calorimeters (WSciFi)
 - Fiber grid embedded within W powder/epoxy
- XY orientated fiber design
 - 3D shower profile possible
 - Potential AI/ML applications
- Refinement of final production protocol underway

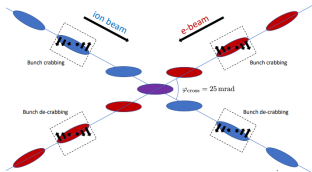


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- Utilise UK expertise in collaboration with BNL, JLab (USA) and TRIUMF (Canada)
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- Cavity design and cryo modules for the beam crabbing system
- Crabbing critical for high $\mathcal{L}$



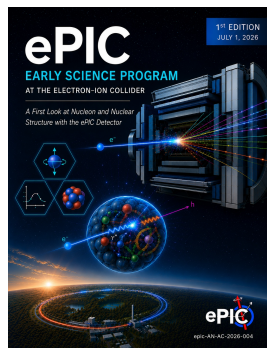
Images - Borrowed from a presentation by D. Sokhan

Early Science Report

- Beyond the major ongoing detector design finalisation and construction, extensive physics simulation efforts ongoing

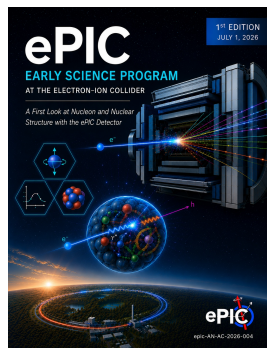
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- **ePIC has just released an Early Science Report**
 - Highlights the meaningful and impactful science that will be enabled in the **first 5 years** of EIC running
- Multiple workshops to drive this effort, including **one at the IOP in Sept 25**
- Many key studies which impact the 3 science pillars
- **Public release imminent**
- **Further details and studies to follow in a NIM-A Special Issue later in the year**

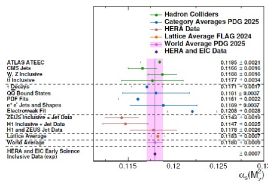
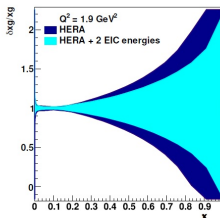
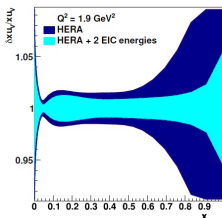


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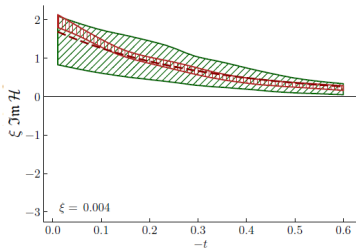
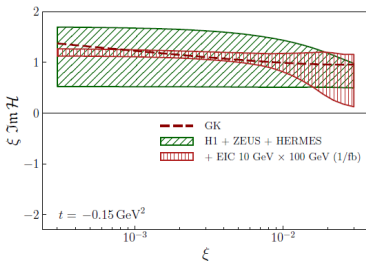
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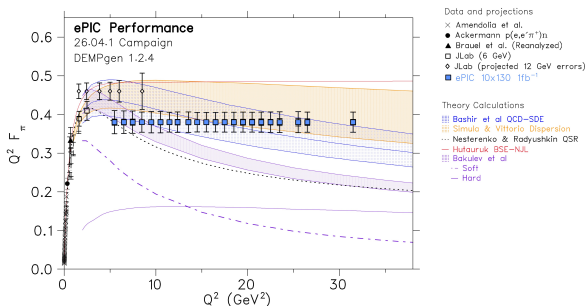
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- DEMP, meson structure - S. Kay, York



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- Colleagues within the collaboration have emphasised that they see UK expertise and skills as essential to the delivery of hardware projects within the 4 work packages
- Many are integral to the operation of ePIC and the EIC

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- Exciting and revolutionary era of EIC physics on the horizon

Thanks for listening, any questions?



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