



# Cryocooler conduction-cooled SRF cavities for particle accelerators

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Cockcroft Institute Seminar, 08 September 2020

# Superconducting radiofrequency (SRF) technology has revolutionized particle accelerators for science



## SRF benefits for large scientific machines

- High wall-plug efficiency
- High average beam power

## Breakthroughs continue to ensue

- Niobium cavities achieve >50 MV/m in 2 K liquid helium
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavities attain >20 MV/m in 4.5 K liquid helium

SRF for  
basic science



SRF for  
industry & society

- SRF relevant Industrial applications of particle accelerators?
- How to make SRF suitable for industrial settings?

# IARC at Fermilab

**IARC's mission:** Partner with industry to exploit technology developed in the pursuit of science to create the next generation of industrial accelerators, products, and new applications.

## Partners

- MWRD of Greater Chicago
- US Army Corps of Engineers (ERDC)
- Northern Illinois University
- Euclid Beamlabs
- General Atomics

## In-house facilities

- Several 4 K cryocoolers, cryogenic test stands, 500 W LHe refrigerator
- LLRF system, solid state RF power source (20 kW)
- 9 MeV, 1 kW electron accelerator (A2D2)

## Contact

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and Industry Engagements

<https://iarc.fnal.gov/>

# Outline

- Industrial applications and scope of SRF accelerators
- Cryocooler conduction-cooled SRF cavities
  - Development at Fermilab
  - First results
  - Ongoing R&D
- Fermilab's conduction-cooled SRF accelerator program
- New R&D facilitated by cryocooler-cooled SRF
- Summary and outlook

# Industrial applications and scope of SRF accelerators

## Electron beam radiation processing applications

- Water/sludge/medical waste decontamination
- Flue gas cleanup
- Medical device sterilization
- Strengthening of asphalt pavements

## Radiation processing requires:

- Beam energy: 0.5-10 MeV
- Beam power:  $\gg 100$  kW

## Industrial settings demand:

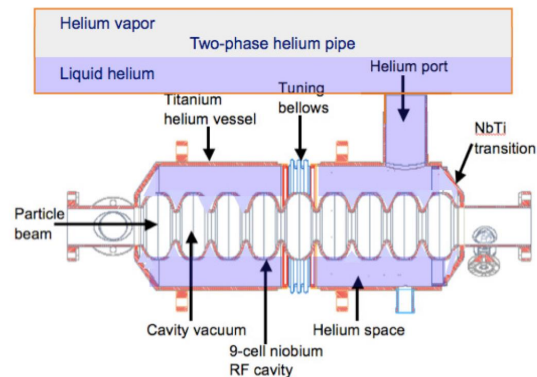
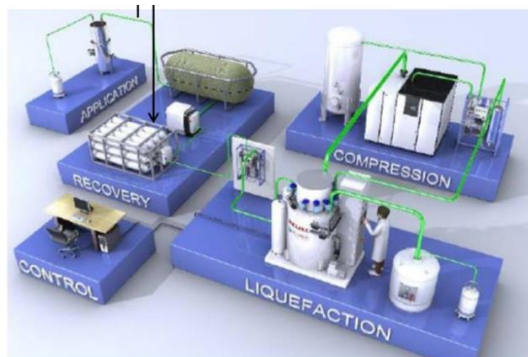
- Low capital and operating expense
- Robust, reliable, turnkey operation

[http://accelconf.web.cern.ch/AccelConf/napac2016/talks/thb3io02\\_talk.pdf](http://accelconf.web.cern.ch/AccelConf/napac2016/talks/thb3io02_talk.pdf)

1-meter long SRF linac (niobium or  $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$  cavities) operating at 10 MV/m can provide the required energy

Small SRF surface resistance enables continuous wave (cw) operation, leading to high average beam power

At present, SRF accelerators are designed to operate with complex liquid helium cryogenic systems!



# Simplifying SRF cryogenics for industrial settings

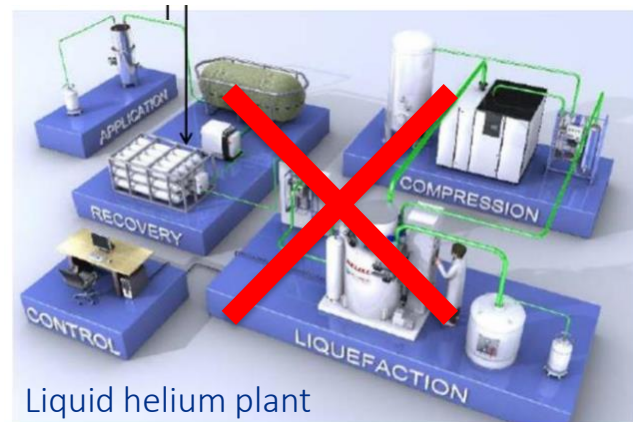
$\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$  cavity dissipates ~6-8 W @ ~4.5 K

(1 m x 10 MV/m cw; 650 MHz/1.3 GHz)



Use commercial, off-the-shelf 4 K cryocoolers

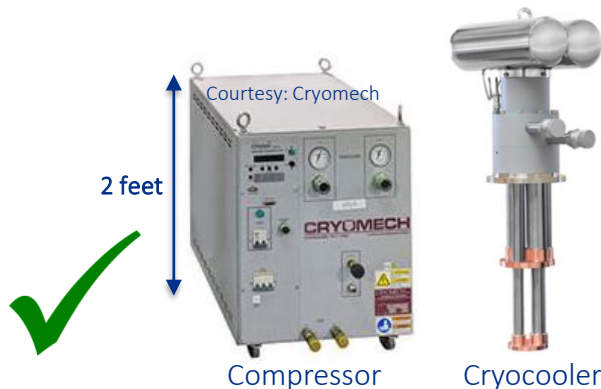
(helium plant not required)



Liquid helium plant

## Cryocoolers offer

- Closed cycle cooling at ~45 K and ~4 K
- Compact, small footprint
- Reliability (MTBM > 2 years non-stop operation)
- Turnkey operation (no trained operator needed, turn ON/OFF with push of a button)



Compressor

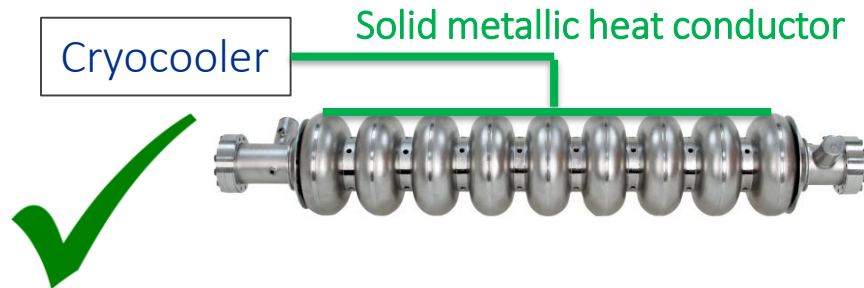
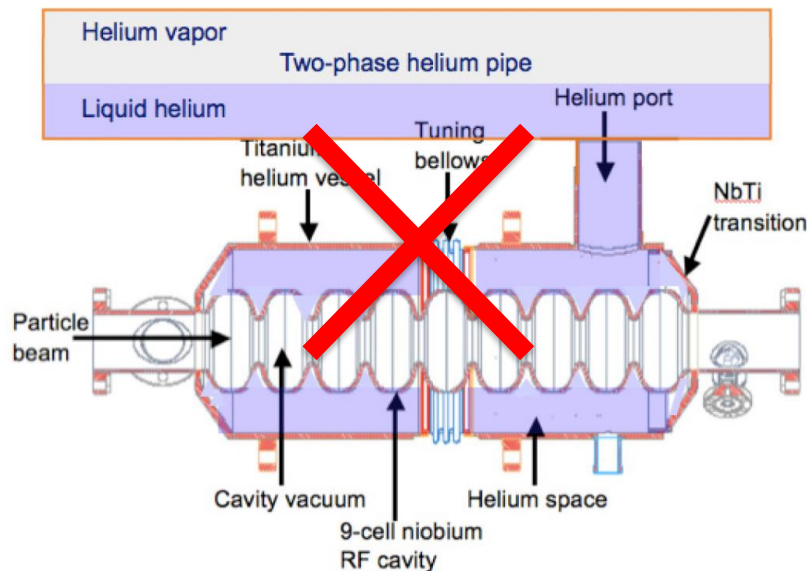
Cryocooler



# Simplifying SRF cryogenics for industrial settings

Remove cavity dissipation *with* thermal conduction (conduction cooling)

(conventional liquid helium bath not required)



Absence of cryogenic liquids

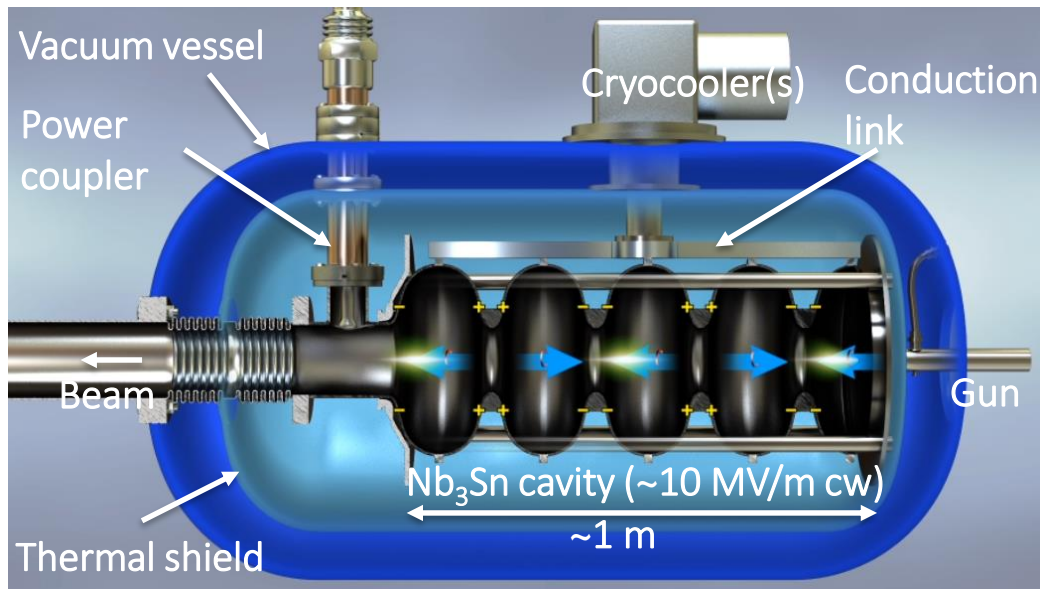
- Compact, simplified construction
- No pressure vessel safety concerns
- Facilitates deployment in remote locations



# Concept of a cryocooler conduction-cooled SRF accelerator

R.D. Kephart, *SRF2015*, 2015. <https://accelconf.web.cern.ch/srf2015/papers/frba03.pdf>

Patents: US10390419B2, US10070509B2, US9642239B2



## All cryogenics integrated into the module

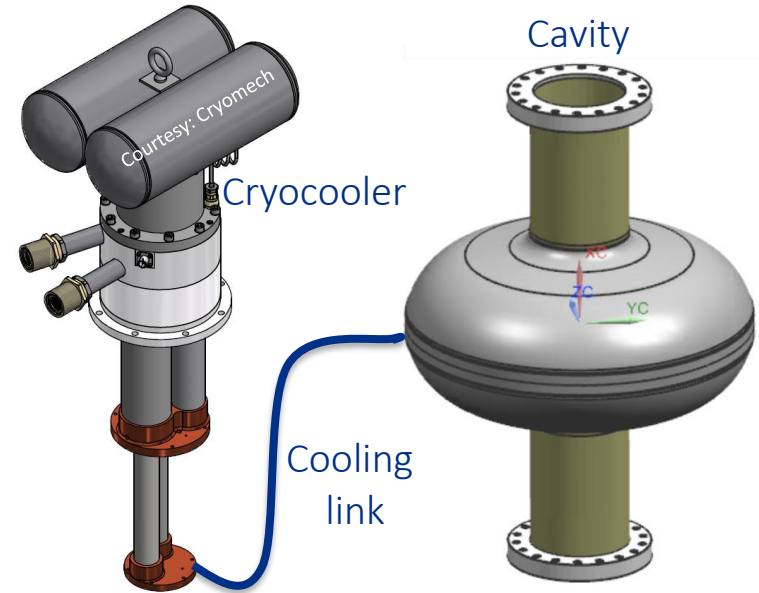
- Cryocooler 4 K stage cools the SRF cavity
- Cryocooler 45 K stage cools thermal shield/intercept
- Enclosed in a simple vacuum vessel

# Conduction-cooled SRF cavity development at Fermilab

# Goal: To demonstrate 10 MV/m cw on an SRF cavity with cryocooler conduction-cooling

## Our choices:

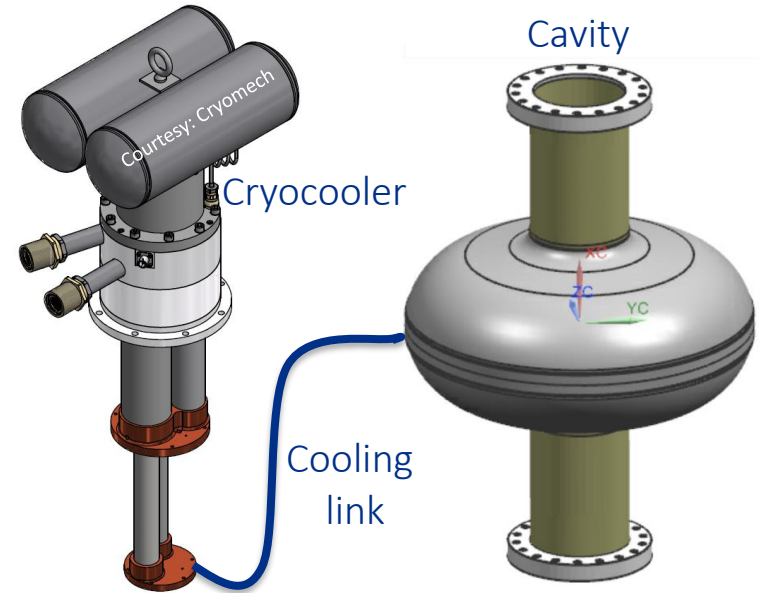
- Single cell 650 MHz,  $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$  coated niobium cavity
- Cryomech PT420 cryocooler (2 W @ 4.2 K with 55 W @ 45 K)
- High purity aluminum for the conduction cooling link



# Goal: To demonstrate 10 MV/m cw on an SRF cavity with cryocooler conduction-cooling

## Technical challenges:

- Preparing the cavity for conduction cooling
- Managing thermal resistance (contact and bulk)
- Magnetic shielding of the cavity

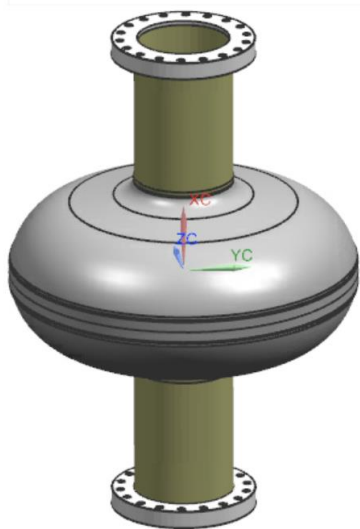


# Cavity preparation for thermal link attachment

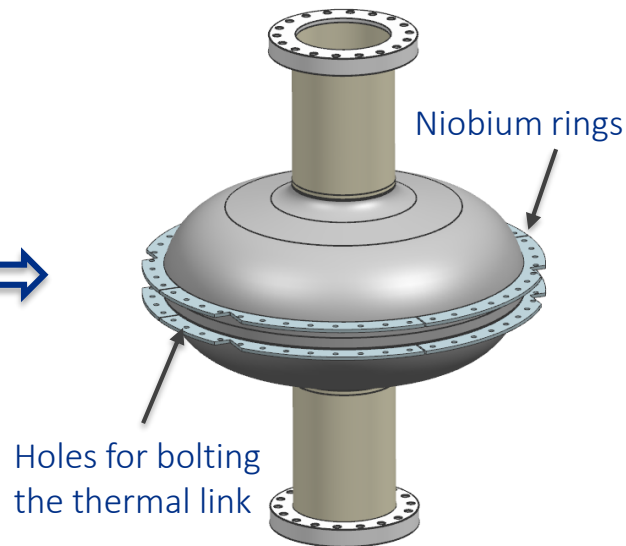
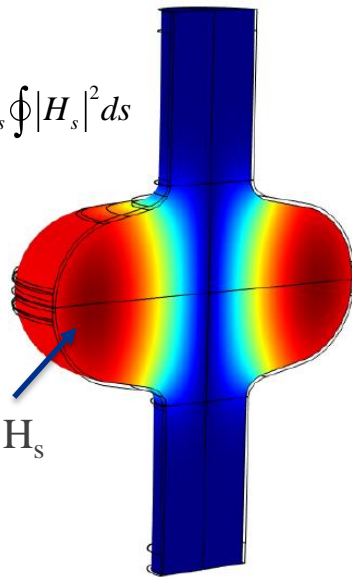
Need a thermal link attachment point on the niobium cavity shell

Dissipation is prominent near the equator

Solution: E-beam weld niobium cooling rings near the equator



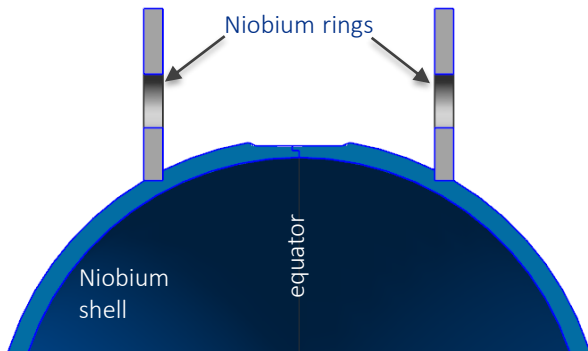
$$P_{diss} = \frac{1}{2} R_s \oint |H_s|^2 ds$$



# Cavity preparation for thermal link attachment

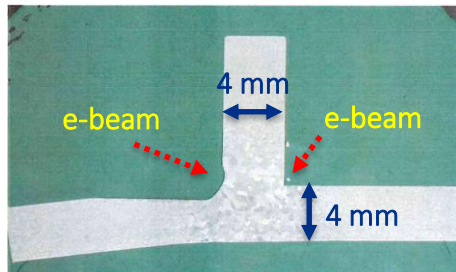
R.C. Dhuley, Provisional Patent 63/023,811

## Joint design for e-beam welding

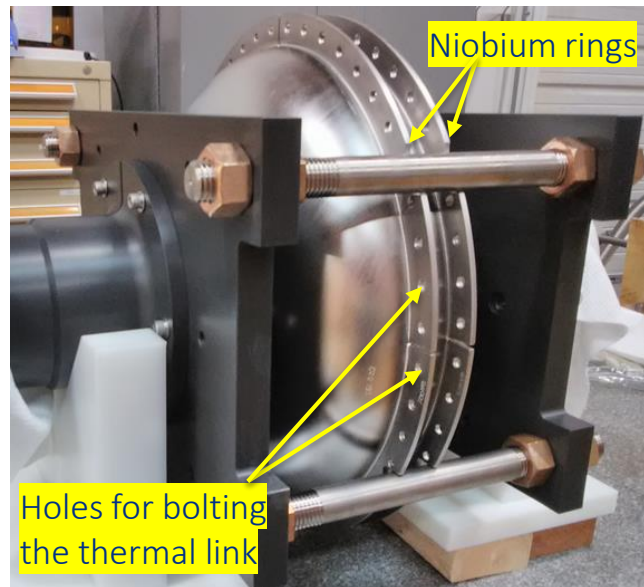


## Weld development

- Full penetration for thermal conductivity
- Avoid weld beads on the RF surface



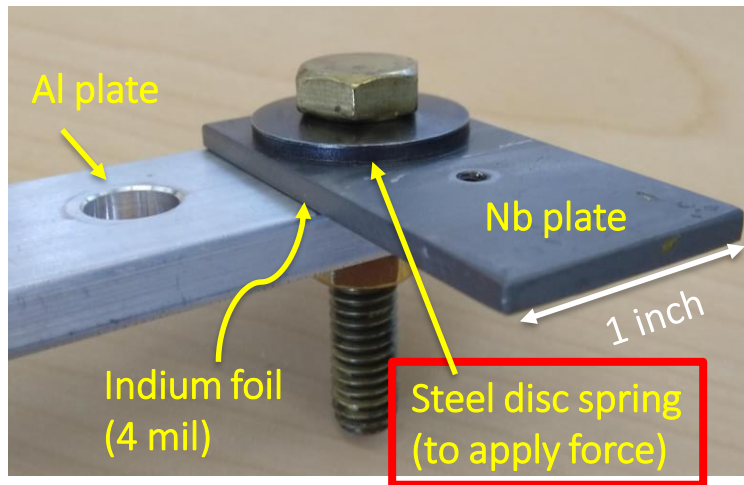
## Single cell cavity ready for conduction cooling



# Characterization of thermal resistance

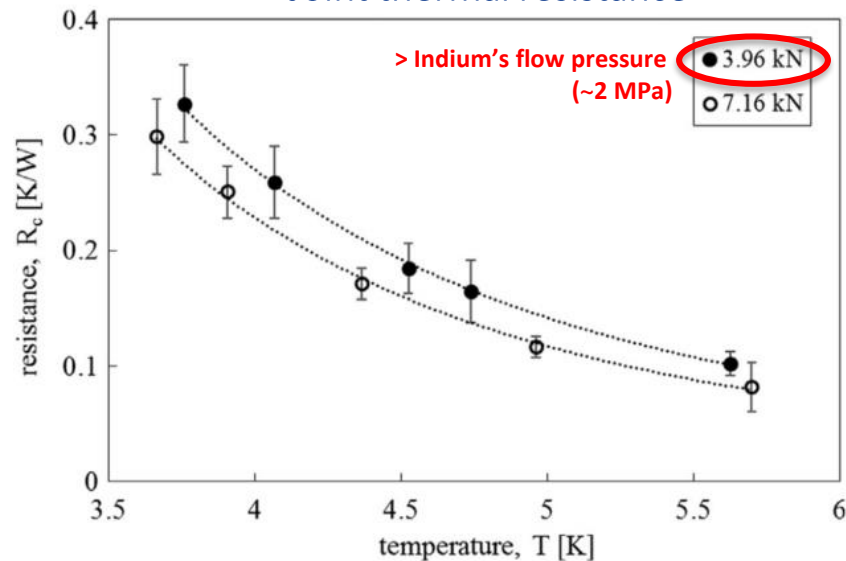
## 1. Cavity-link (niobium-aluminum) bolted thermal contacts

Test joint details



R.C. Dhuley, M.I. Geelhoed, J.C.T. Thangaraj, *Cryogenics*, 2018.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cryogenics.2018.06.003>

Joint thermal resistance



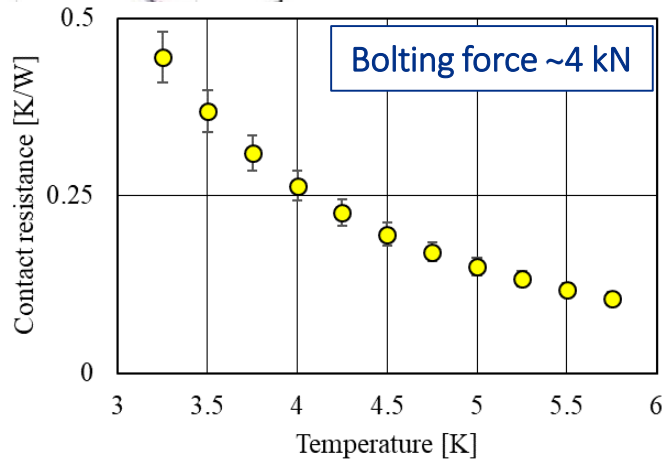
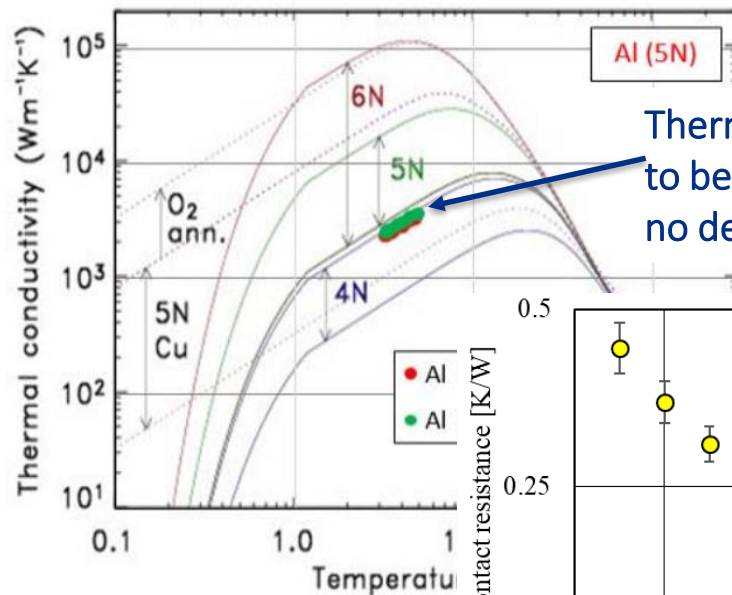
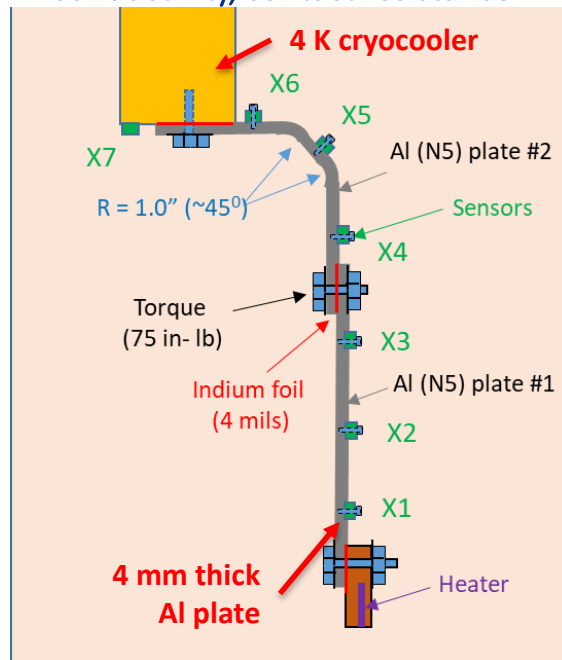
Selected design: 4 mil indium, ~4 kN force



# Characterization of thermal resistance

## 2. Thermal characterization of high purity aluminum

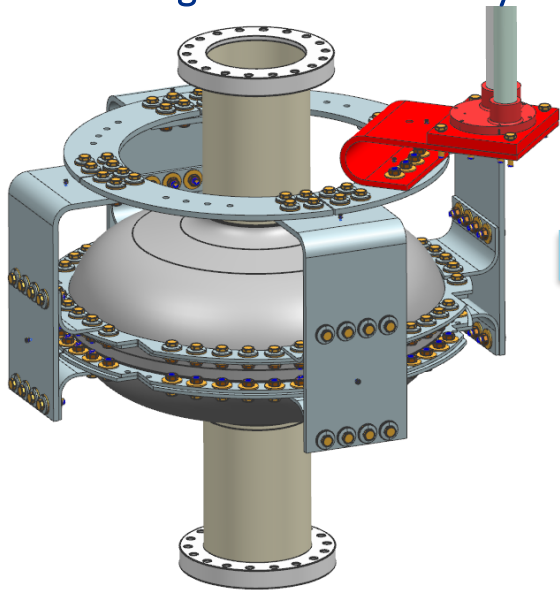
Setup for measuring 4 K thermal conductivity, contact resistance



# Design of the conduction link design

## 3. Mechanical design; verification *via* multiphysics simulations

Al conduction link bolted to the Nb rings around the cavity

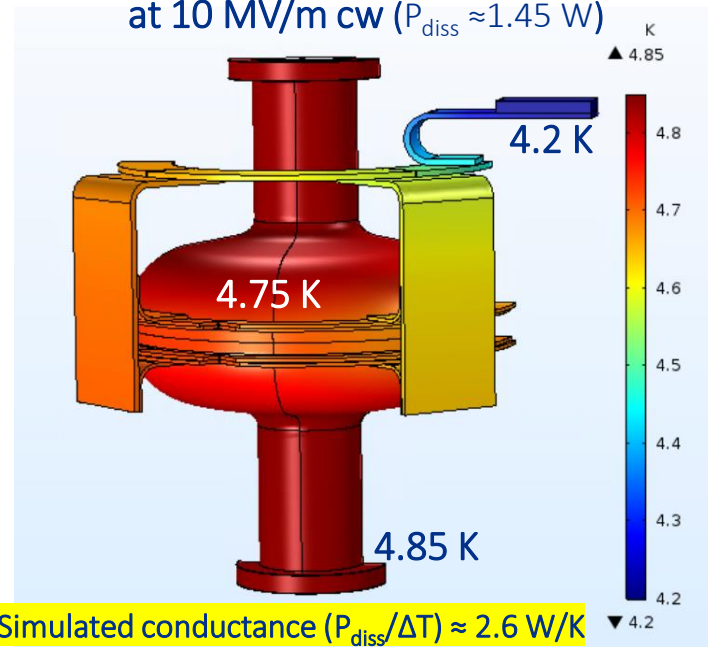


Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn surface resistance  
(BCS from SRIMP + 10 nΩ)

RF + thermal simulations

Thermal conductivities,  
contact resistance,  
cryocooler capacity

Steady state temperature profile  
at 10 MV/m cw ( $P_{\text{diss}} \approx 1.45 \text{ W}$ )

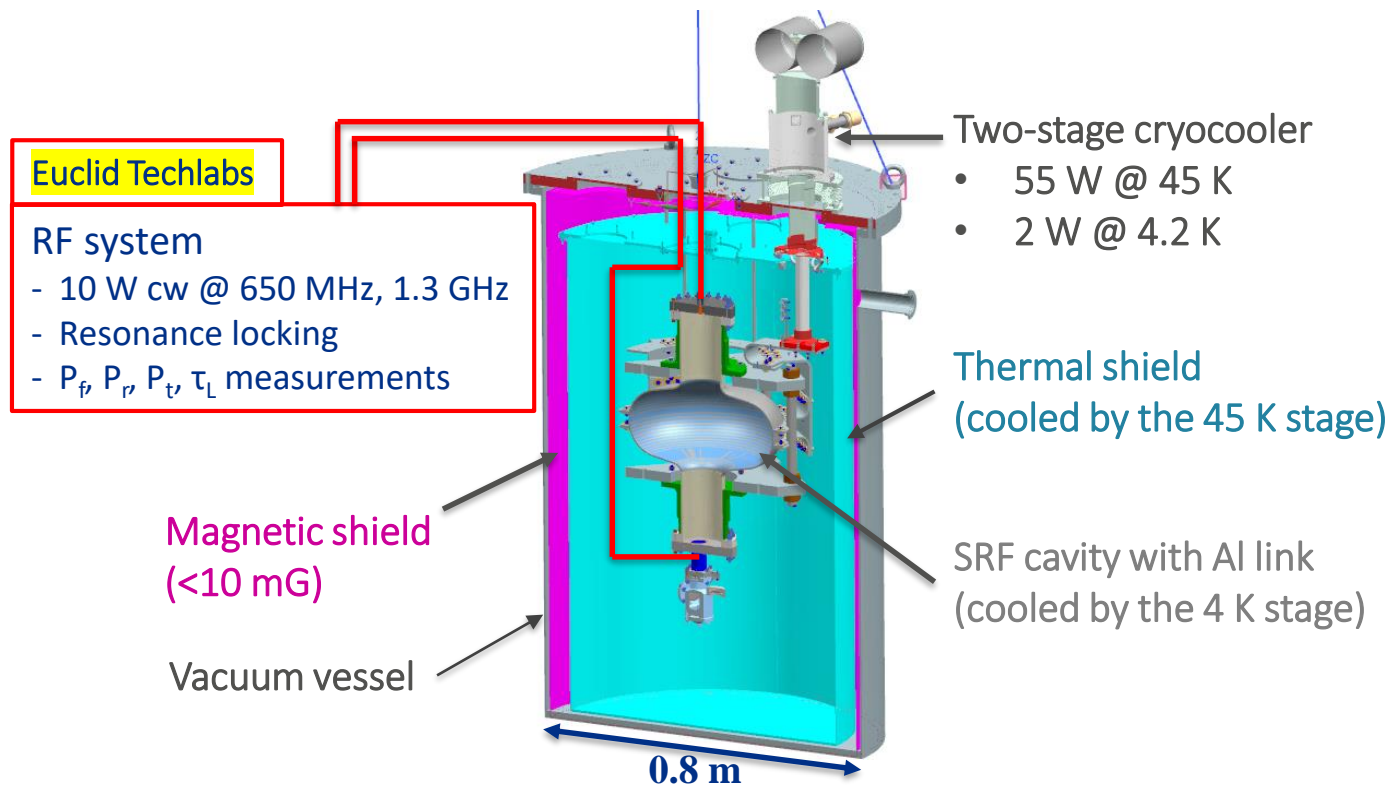


J. Thompson and R.C. Dhuley, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1546003>

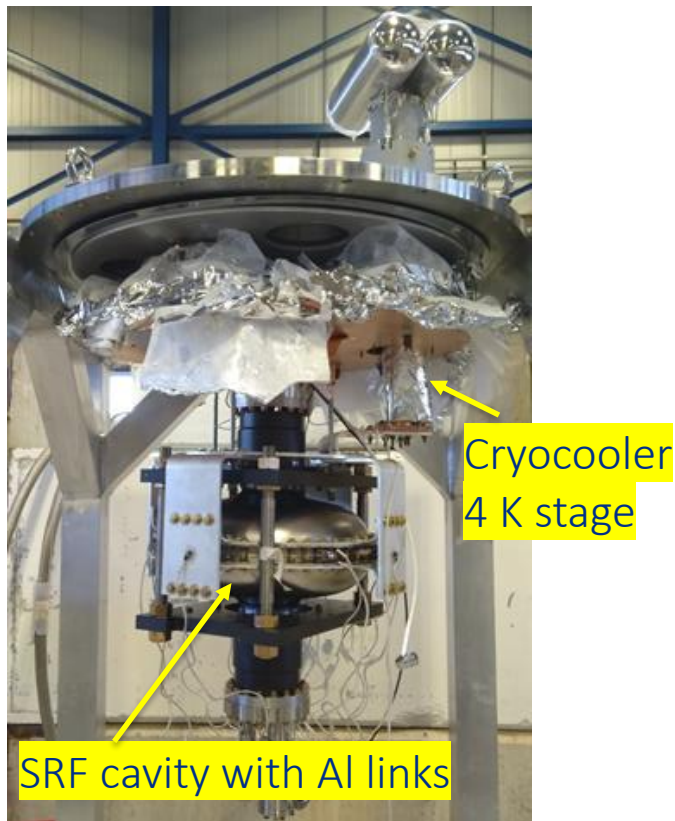
R.C. Dhuley et al., *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercond.*, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TASC.2019.2901252>

# Conduction-cooled SRF cavity measurement setup at Fermilab

R.C. Dhuley et al., *IOP Conf. Ser.: Mat. Sci. Eng.*, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/755/1/012136>



# Conduction-cooled SRF cavity measurement setup at Fermilab



# Cavity processing and test sequence

Niobium cavity with conduction rings



RF check, bulk EP, 800 °C bake, light EP, HPR

2 K VTS test of niobium cavity (check 10 MV/m cw)



Coat with Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn

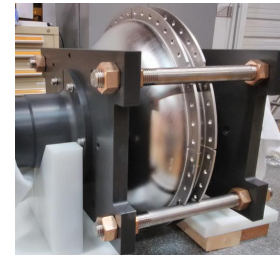


4.4 K VTS test of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity (baseline test)



Warm-up, connect thermal link

Conduction-cooled tests of Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity



Cavity as received  
from vendor



Cavity on HPR  
tool

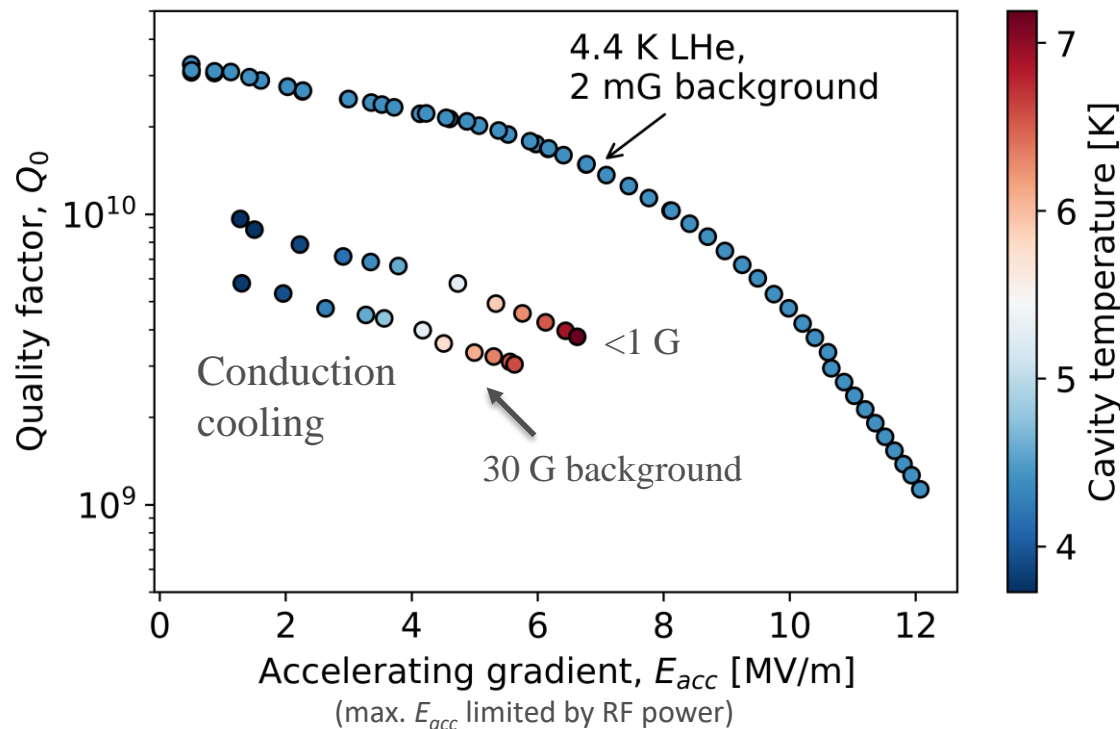


Cavity dressed with Al link

# First results for the conduction-cooled Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn cavity

R. Dhuley, S. Posen, M. Geelhoed, O. Prokofiev, J. Thangaraj, *Supercond. Sci. Technol.*, 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6668/ab82f0>

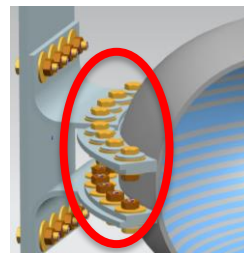


## Fermilab VTS baseline with 4.5 K LHe

- $Q_0 = 3 \times 10^{10}$  at  $E_{acc} = 1$  MV/m
- max  $E_{acc} = 12$  MV/m

## Conduction cooling

- $Q_0 = 5 \times 10^9$  at  $E_{acc} = 1$  MV/m
- max  $E_{acc} = 5.5$  MV/m



## Conduction cooling with <1 G disc springs

- $Q_0 = 1 \times 10^{10}$  at  $E_{acc} = 1$  MV/m
- max  $E_{acc} = 6.6$  MV/m



# Ongoing research to reach 10 MV/m

1. Improve magnetic hygiene to reduce trapped flux



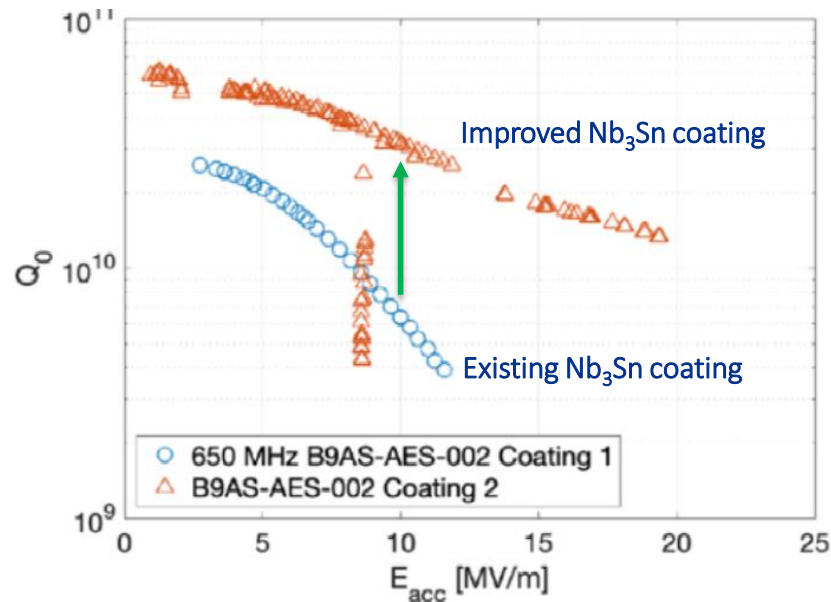
Steel (magnetic)



Beryllium copper  
(non-magnetic)

2. Flux expulsion by slow/fast cooldown using cryocooler

3. Improve  $\text{Nb}_3\text{Sn}$  coating recipe

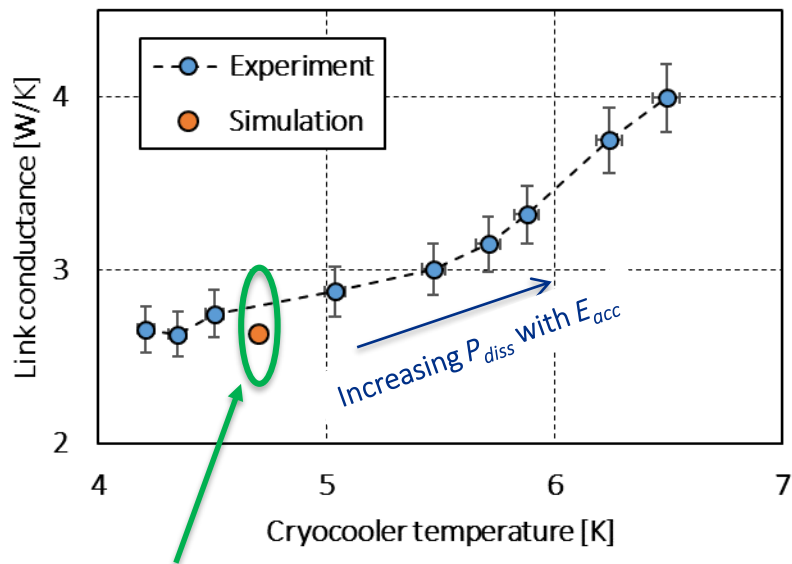


S. Posen et al., <https://accelconf.web.cern.ch/srf2019/papers/thfub1.pdf>



# Conduction link performance, cavity thermal stability

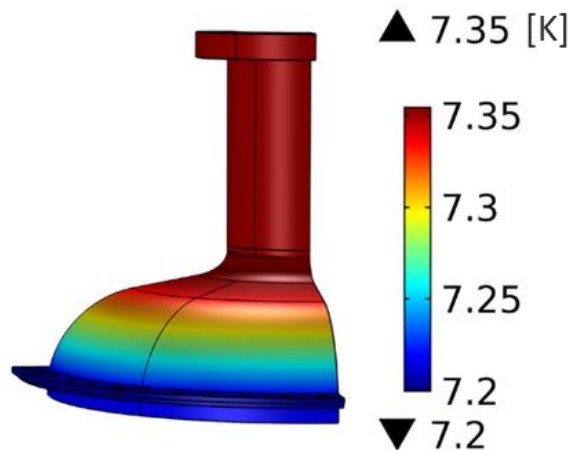
Comparison of measured and simulated link thermal conductance



Good match!

Computed cavity surface temperature at steady state with 6.6 MV/m cw

- Ring temperature = 7.2 K (boundary condition)
- RF dissipation = 4 W (boundary condition)



- $\Delta T_{\text{spatial}} < 0.15 \text{ K}$
- $T_{\text{max}} < 9 \text{ K}$

Courtesy : R. Kostin (Euclid Techlabs)

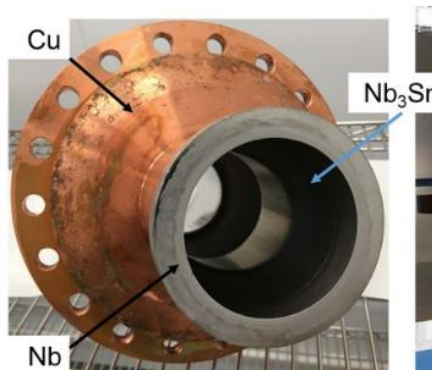
# A new frontier in SRF is simplifying the cooling methods!

## Fermilab



- 650 MHz
- welded niobium rings

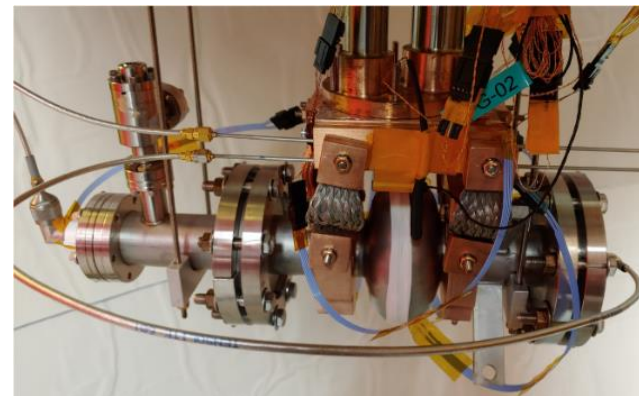
## Jefferson Lab



<https://doi.org/10.1088/1757-899X/755/1/012136>

- 1.5 GHz
- Cold sprayed + electrodeposited copper

## Cornell University



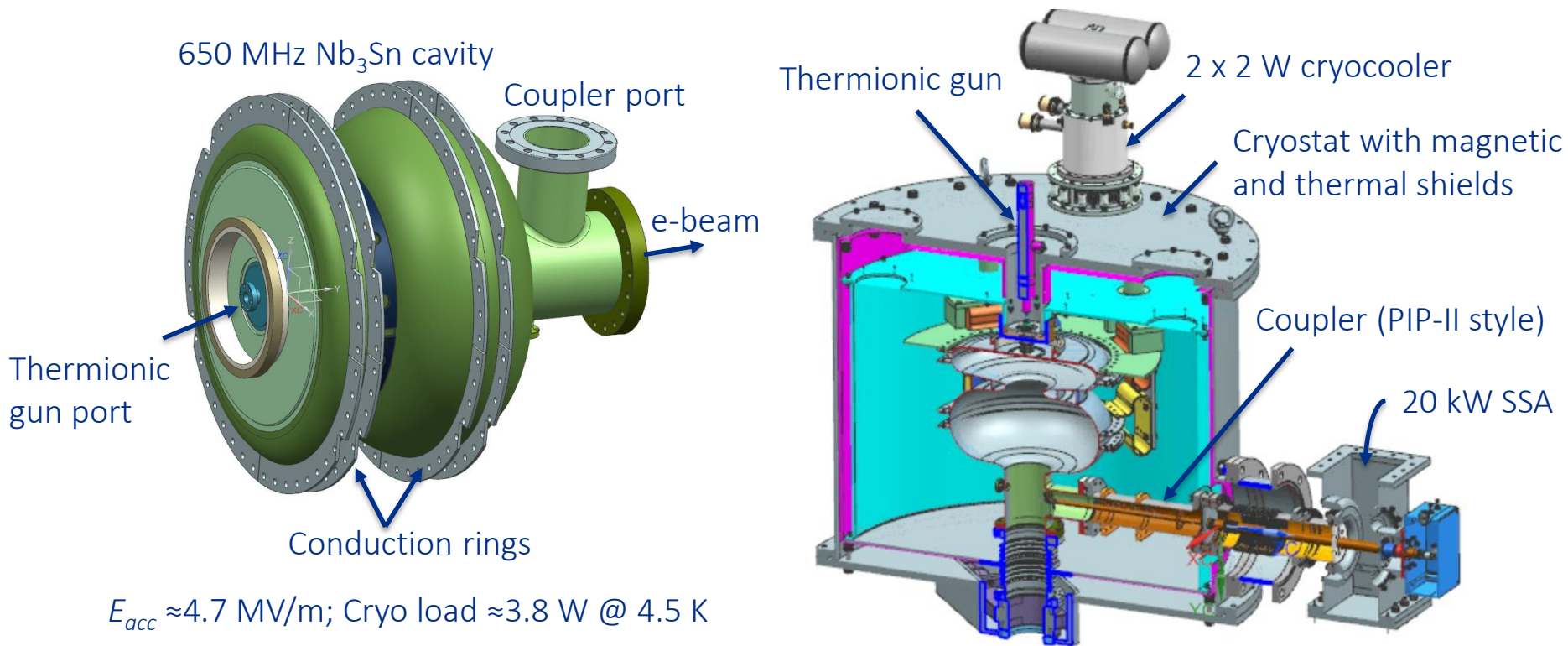
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.11755>

- 2.6 GHz
- Copper clamps

# Conduction-cooled SRF accelerator program at Fermilab



# Prototype electron accelerator development (1.6 MeV, 20 kW)

Supported by US Army Corps of Engineers (ERDC)



# Design and economics studies of industrial scale SRF electron accelerators (10 MeV, >>100 kW)

Supported by US Dept. of Energy HEP Accelerator Stewardship Program

Phase (year) / Fermilab PI	Activity	Stewardship partner
I (2016-17) / R.D. Kephart	Conceptual design of a 250 kW and economic analysis of a 1000 kW facility	MWRD of Greater Chicago 
II (2017-18) / J.C.T. Thangaraj	Conceptual design of a 1000 kW module and economic analysis of a 10000 kW facility	
III (2019-in progress) / R.C. Dhuley	Practical cryogenic design and cost analysis of a 1000 kW module	

Design reports available at: <https://iarc.fnal.gov/publications/>

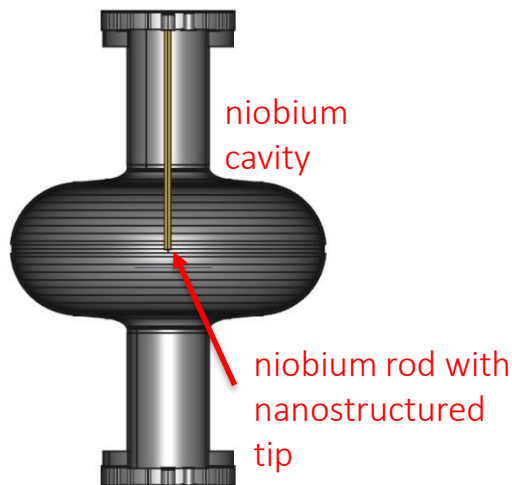
# New R&D facilitated by cryocooler-cooled SRF cavities

# Development of SRF based field emission sources

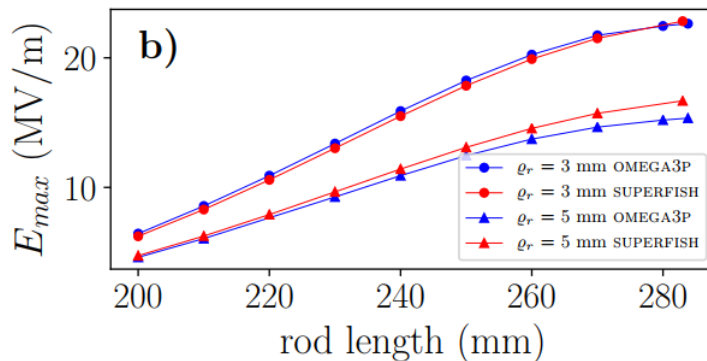
PI: Dr. Philippe Piot (NIU/Argonne National Lab.)

## NIU-Fermilab collaboration

- field emission cathode with nanostructured surface located in high e-field region of an SRF cavity
- use cw operation to produce high repetition rate field emission (high  $I_{avg}$ )



Cathode surface e-field  
(650 MHz cavity, 1.6 W cryo-cooling)



Mohsen *et al.*, <http://accelconf.web.cern.ch/ipac2019/papers/tupts083.pdf>

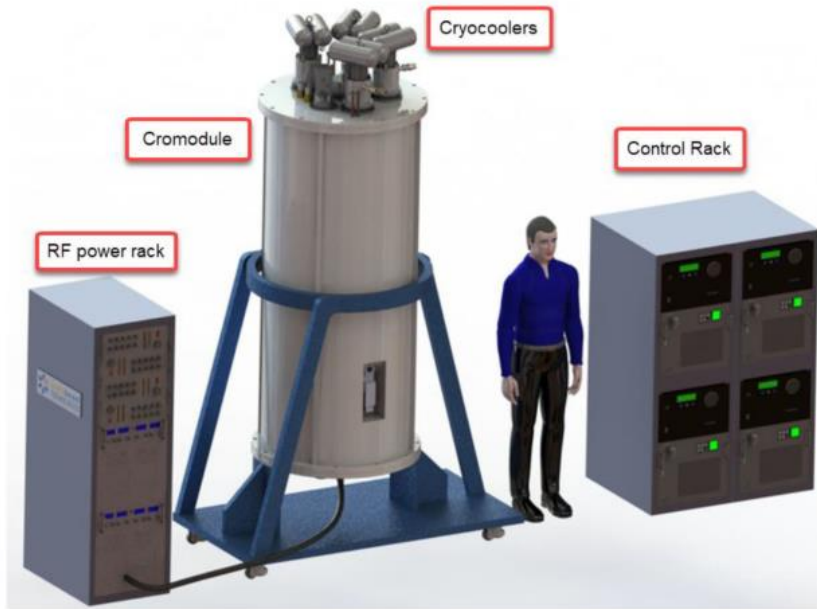




# Cryocooled based standalone SRF modules

Cryocooled SRF has already been picked up by the particle accelerator industry!

S. Kutsaev *et al.*, <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/9119112/>



A SRF QWR cooled by pulse tube coolers for beamline upgrade at Argonne Natl. Lab.



# Summary and outlook

Cryocooler conduction cooling offers simple, reliable cryogenics for developing industrial SRF e-beam accelerators

## Conduction-cooled SRF R&D at Fermilab

- First demonstration  $>6.5$  MV/m cw on a 650 MHz Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn coated cavity
- Prototype development and high-power accelerator design in progress

## Access to SRF without full stack helium cryogenic systems

- University groups, industries can embark on in-house SRF R&D
- Standalone compact cryomodules for new SRF installations/upgrades

# Acknowledgement

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- Accelerator design studies: **R.C. Dhuley** DOE HEP Accelerator Stewardship Award
- Conduction-cooled SRF demonstration: **J.C.T. Thangaraj**, Fermilab LDRD
- Nb<sub>3</sub>Sn development: **S. Posen** Fermilab LDRD, **S. Posen** DOE Early Career Award
- Compact SRF accelerator development: US Army Corps of Engineers (ERDC)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science

HEP Accelerator Stewardship



US Army Corps of Engineers (ERDC)



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Accelerator and Detector  
Development**

