

# Accelerating Innovation @ CERN

Han Dols


Head of Business Development  
Knowledge Transfer Group  
CERN



Council meeting in  
Amsterdam when the  
CERN convention was  
signed (1953).

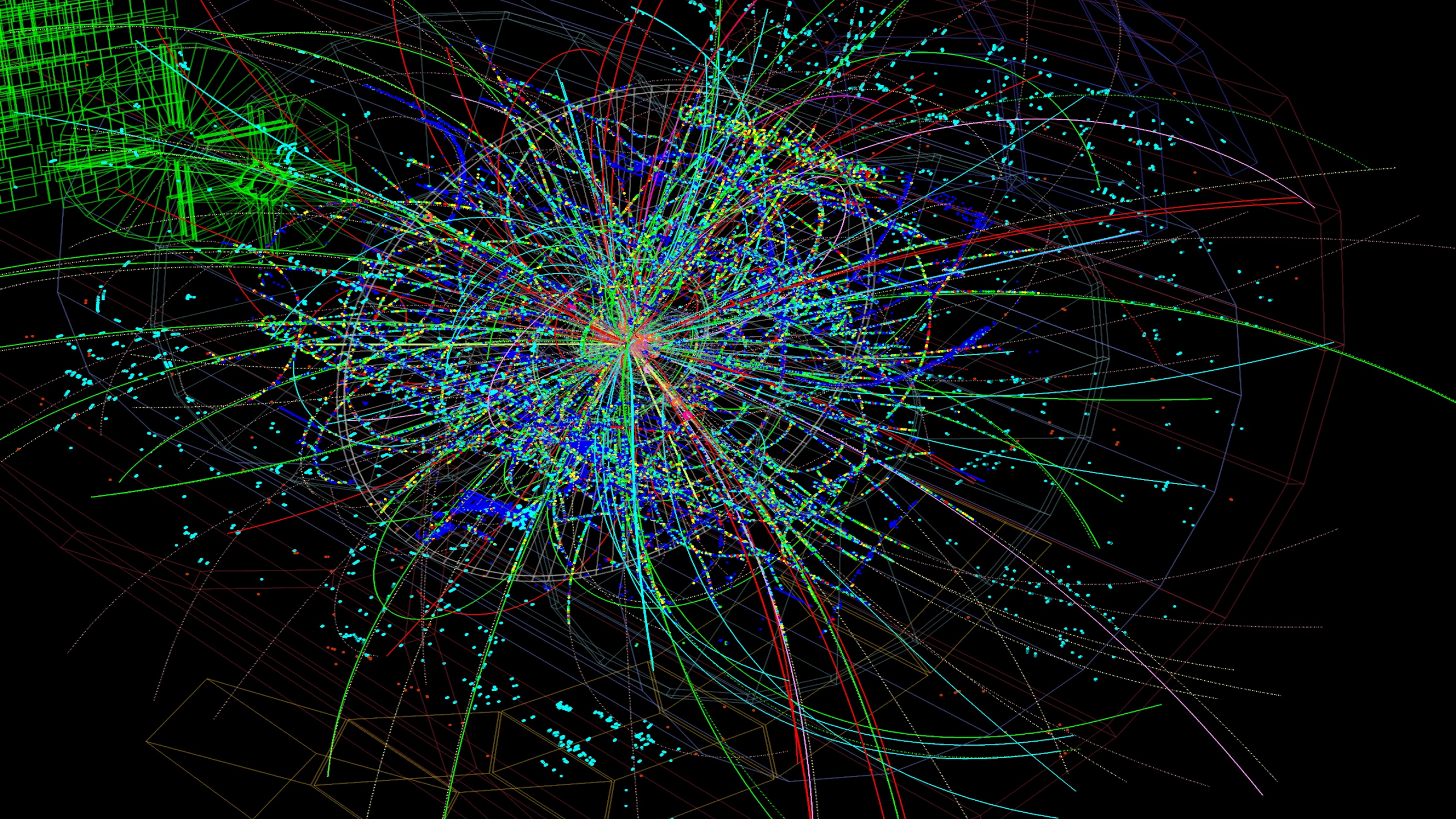




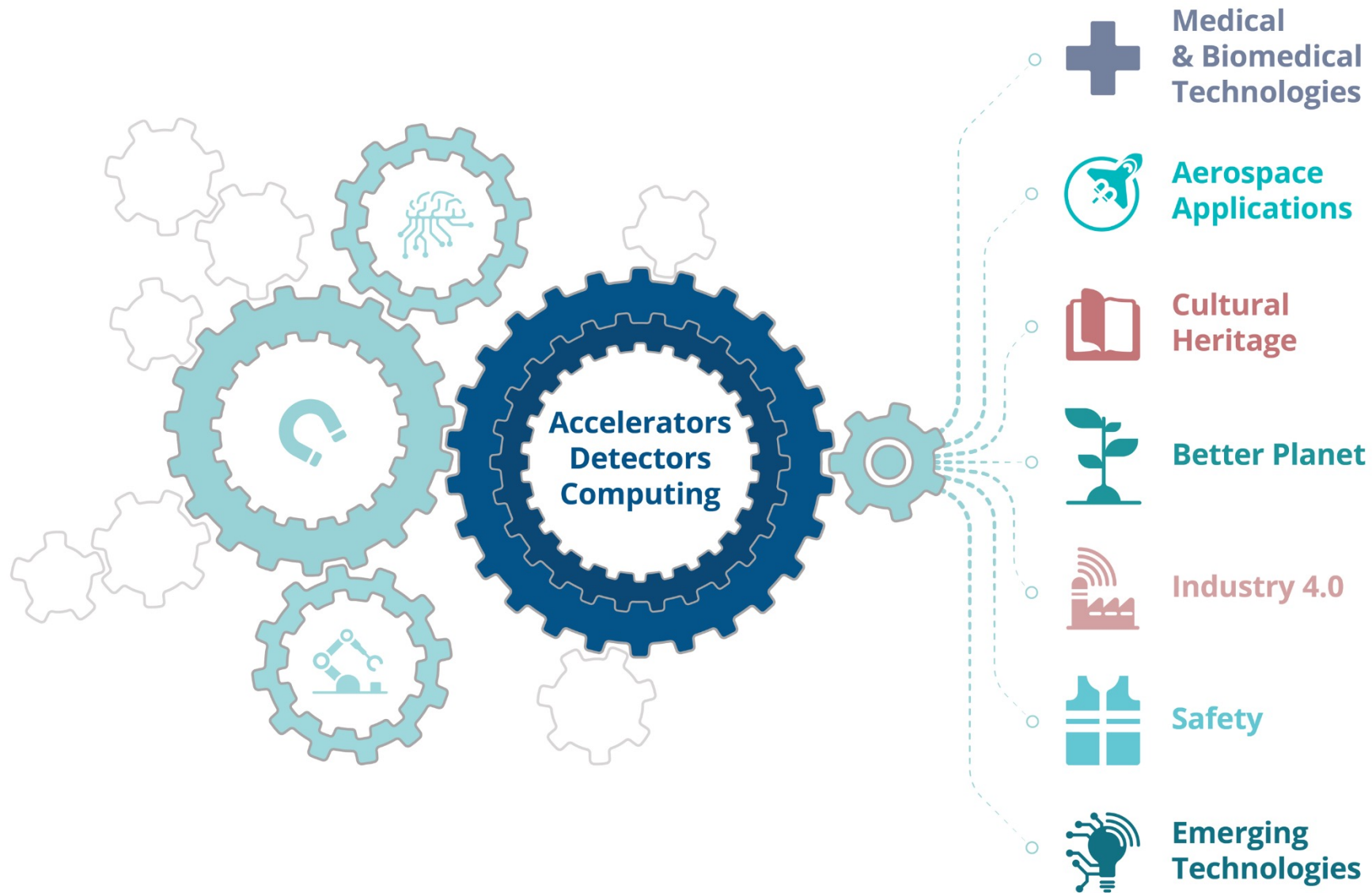


The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), 27km long, 100m deep.











# Medical & Biomedical Technologies

## MEDICAL & BIOMEDICAL PHYSICS RESEARCH

Medical researchers, clinicians & patients rely on novel particle **detectors** for radiation

Radiobiology studies and innovative radioisotope production can be performed in special **accelerator** facilities

Computing & big data challenges in particle physics can provide solutions for biomedical research

## BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

Tools and techniques for particle physics find applications in **biomedical** technologies

## IMAGING & DIAGNOSIS

Medical imaging relies on particle **detectors**, some directly resulting from fundamental research

The analysis of medical images requires sophisticated **computing** tools

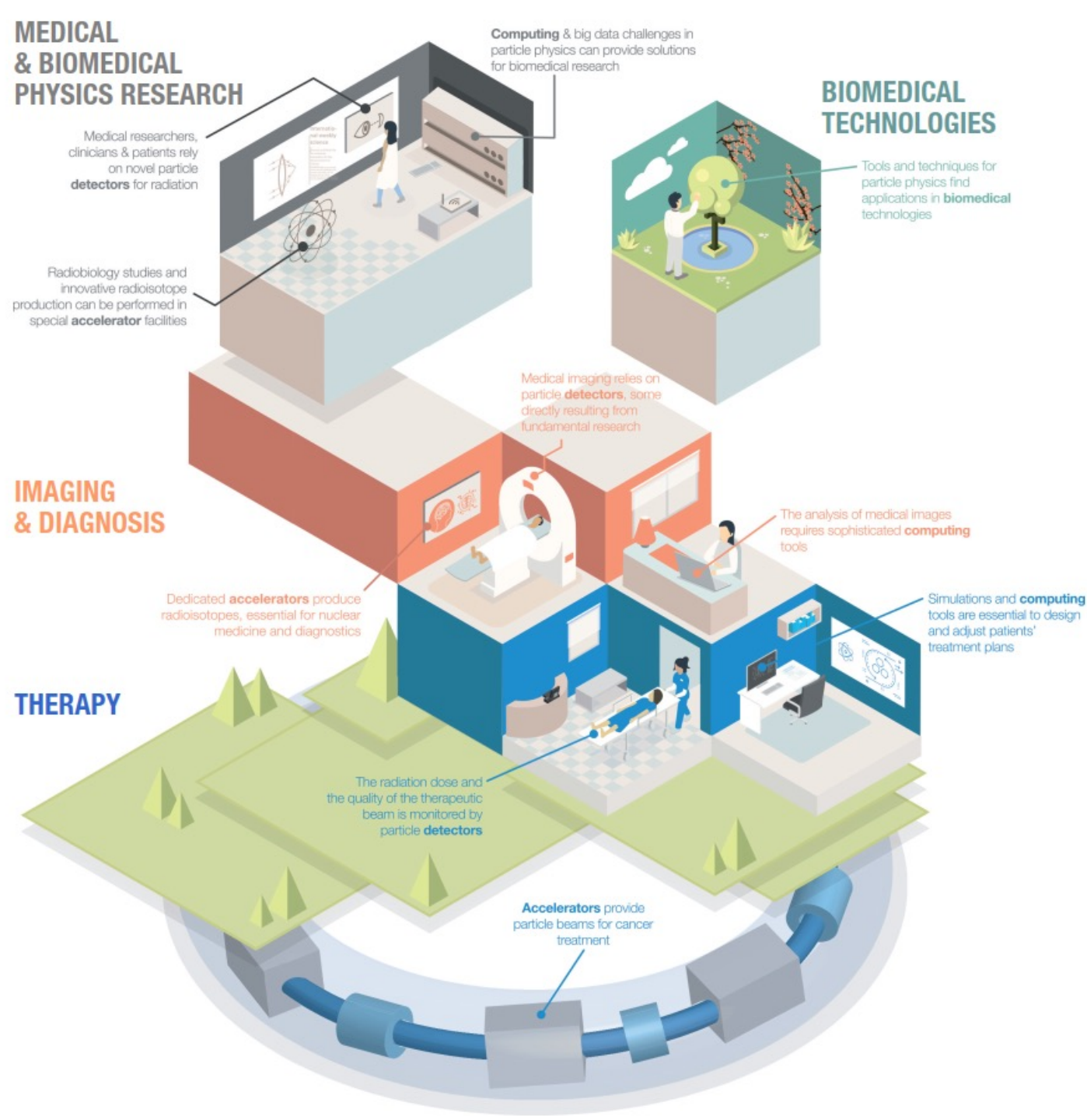
Dedicated **accelerators** produce radioisotopes, essential for nuclear medicine and diagnostics

Simulations and **computing** tools are essential to design and adjust patients' treatment plans

## THERAPY

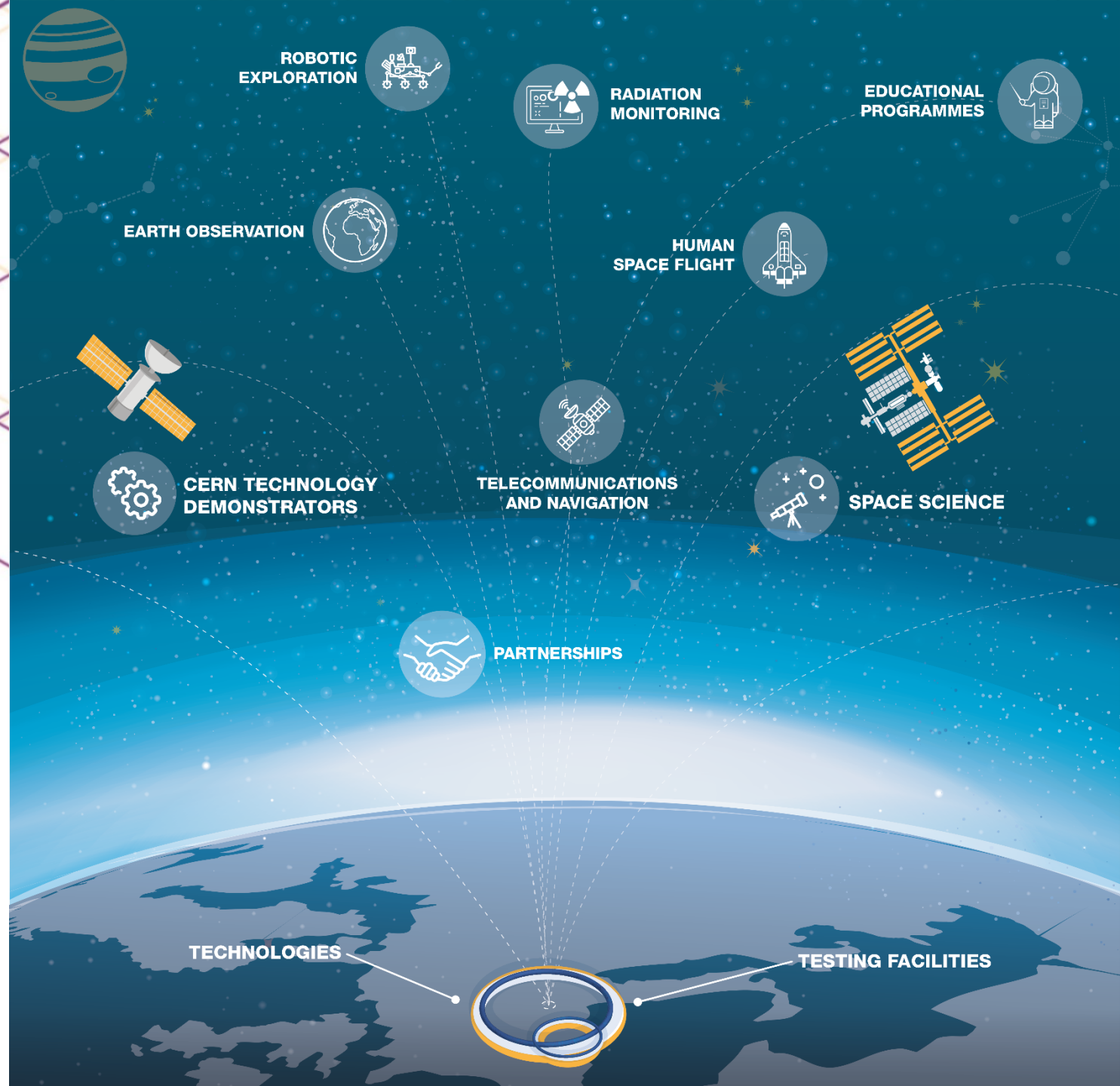
The radiation dose and the quality of the therapeutic beam is monitored by particle **detectors**

**Accelerators** provide particle beams for cancer treatment





# Aerospace Applications





## Machine Learning and Deep Learning

Industrial Controls and Automation

Data Analytics

**Metrology**

**High and Ultra High Vacuum Systems**

Health, Safety and Environment Management

Cryogenics

Optoelectronics and Microelectronics

**High Volume Data Management & Storage**

**Superconducting Magnets**

**Particle Acceleration and Control**

**Radiation Protection and Monitoring**

Particle Tracking and Calorimetry

Robotics

**Sensors**

Material Science

**Cooling and Ventilation**

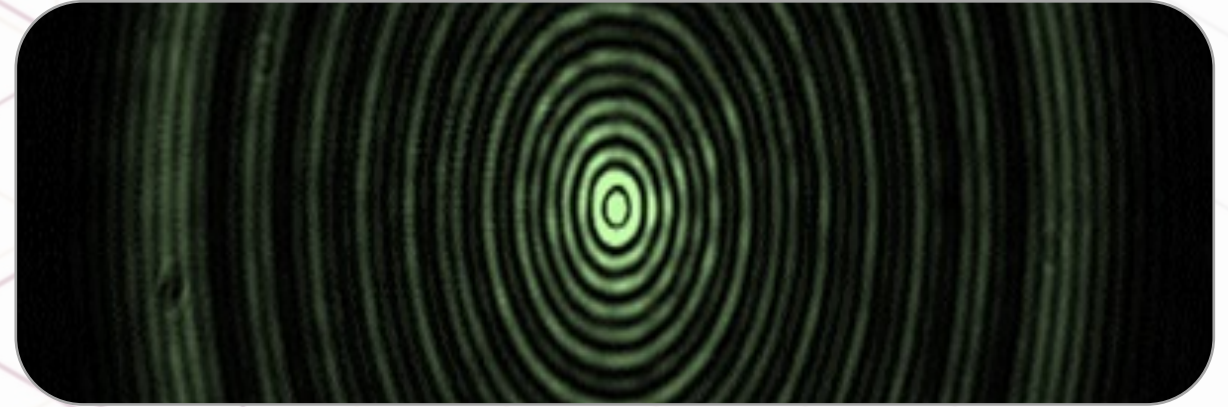
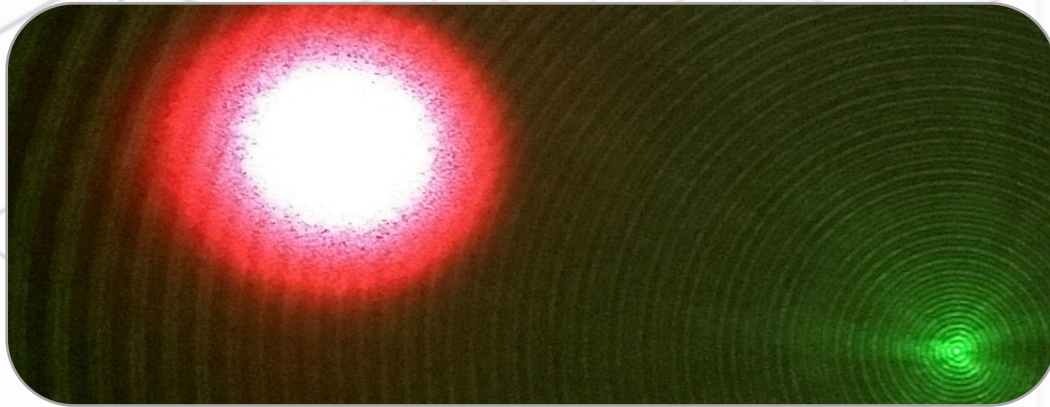
Collaboration Tools

Radio Frequency Technology

**Manufacturing and Mechanical Processes**



# Long-distance, structured laser beam



what

A simple system and method for generating a structured laser beam (SLB) that can propagate over large distances while maintaining a low divergence and small central spot size. The SLB was invented to help meet the large-scale metrology and alignment requirements at CERN.

tech specs

- Central spot with much smaller diameter than a Gaussian beam (20  $\mu\text{m}$  at 3m; <1 mm at 200m).
- Inner central spot with high intensity, surrounded by concentric rings with clear contrast between them.
- Can re-form around an object placed in its path, in a similar way to a Bessel beam.
- One or more secondary SLBs can be created from extra optical systems placed in the concentric rings.

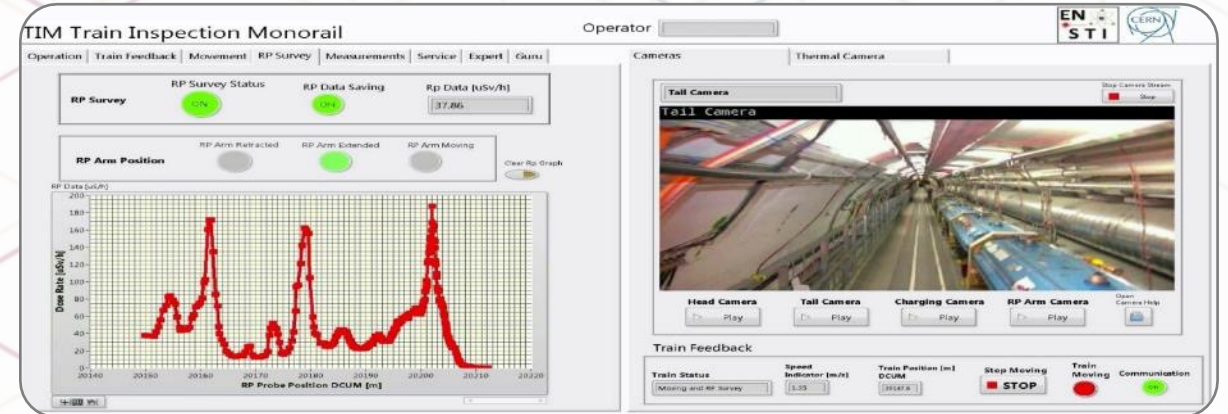
apps

- Metrology, particularly geodetic metrology
- Communication
- Gas detection
- Microscopy and Medicine
- Optical tweezers

added value

- Can maintain a small central spot size over very long distances  
→ **Very precise tracking at long distances**
- Self-reconstruction after obstacles  
→ **Potential use for multipoint alignment systems**
- Can be produced for any wavelength and potentially for any power  
→ **Flexible optical input**

# Robotic inspection platform



what

**Train Inspection Monorail (TIM)** is a unique modular, extensible, robotic platform capable to accomplish autonomously a variety of different missions. Including regular inspections, safety tasks, monitoring, complex interventions and others.

apps

- Industrial asset inspection and safety
- Large infrastructure tunnels such as those of utility companies
- Safety & monitoring of tunnels involving people like train or road tunnels
- Photogrammetry applications

tech specs

- Autonomous vehicle control
- Modular design
- Automated visual inspection
- Different sensors packages
- Handling robotics on board
- Deployment of up to 2 robotic arms for specific missions
- Autonomous energy management
- Extensible functionality

added value

- Many hours of successful interventions in the LHC tunnel  
→ **Proven track record and live demonstration of TIM in action.**
- Three TIMs deployed in LHC with more to come  
→ **Very long term support and development of TIM assured.**
- Highly modular and autonomous.  
→ **Wagons providing dedicated functionality can be added/adapted.**  
→ **Clever software orchestrates autonomous operations.**



# Software framework for large scale digital repositories



what

Software framework for large scale digital repositories. The CERN Document Server, CERN's institutional repository containing more than 2 million records, including research publications, audiovisual material, images, is powered by INVENIO.

tech specs

- Enables each content producer to establish his own visual and functional identity.
- Invenio v3 framework grants increased control on the data model and lifecycle of the content.
- Powerful search with additional options of combined meta data, citation and full text search.
- Advanced file management and organization of documents in community collections with precise access control.
- Long term preservation.

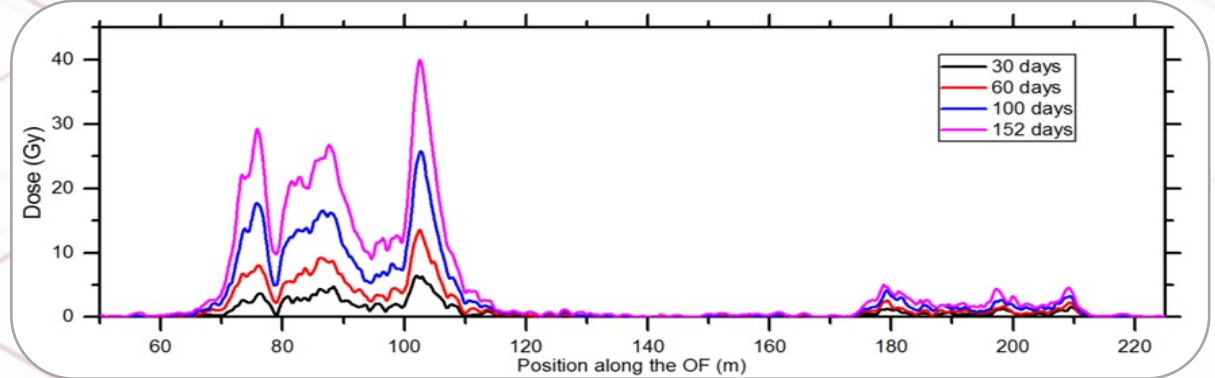
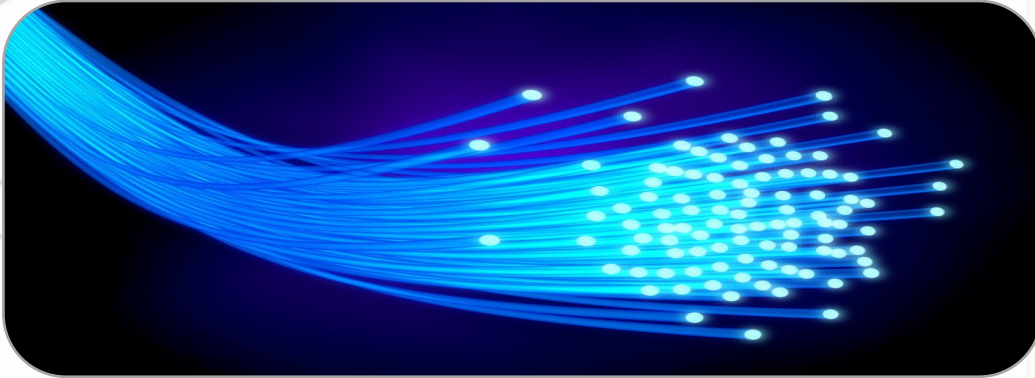
apps

- Used at CERN, UN, EPFL, CalTech, INSPIRE, ...
- Institutional multimedia digital content server systems.
- Specialized repositories with dedicated functionality.
- Back end for large collaboration distributed information systems.

added value

- Framework architecture allowing for specific application development.  
→ Fully tested at CERN. Example the [videos.cern.ch](https://videos.cern.ch) application.
- Years of experience managing large digital libraries and publications.  
→ Invenio software has evolved due to direct feedback from our highly demanding user community.
- Open source framework benefiting from a large community.  
→ CERN's driving role ensures the framework's long term future.

# Robust, long distance environment sensors



what

Radiation, temperature, humidity and strain sensors are important to monitor challenging environments, such as those in the LHC. Conventional fibre optic systems are discretely distributed and not radiation hard. CERN's distributed optical fibre know how can help create cost-effective, long distance, robust monitoring systems.

tech specs

- Fibre Bragg Gratings (FBG) or Long Period Gratings (LPG)
- Integrated thermo-hygrometer fiber optic sensors
- Multipoint and continuous single-fibre interrogation
- Coatings of titanium dioxide (100 nm thick layer)
- Sensors immune to magnetic / electromagnetic fields
- Fully compatible with high radiation levels
- Reliable read out possible for several km distance
- Advanced and robust multiplexing read out electronics

apps

Long distance monitoring applications or sensor applications exposed to radiation or strong (electro)magnetic noise like for example:

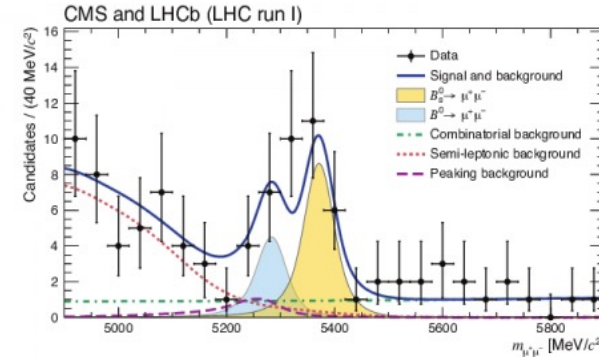
- Environments with strong magnetic fields like MRI systems
- Safety monitoring in tunnels or industrial plants
- Nuclear power facilities

added value

- Improved sensitivity, long-time stability, intrinsic high radiation hardness  
→ **more robust sensor technology for challenging environments**
- In house facilities and know how for calibration in harsh environments  
→ **accurate characterisation and analysis of sensor performance**
- Advanced read out techniques for distributed single fibre sensor systems  
→ **vast experience with long distance continuous monitoring**



# Big data analysis software framework



what

ROOT / TMVA is a modular big data software framework, providing the functionalities needed to deal with big data statistical analysis, visualisation and storage. It is mainly written in C++ but integrated with other languages such as Python and R. Integrated machine learning environment (bindings for Python is provided).

tech specs

- Rectangular cut optimisation
- Projective likelihood estimation
- Multidimensional estimations
- Linear discriminant analysis
- Function discriminant analysis
- Boosted/bagged decision trees
- Predictive learning
- Support Vector Machine
- Neural Networks

apps

Good for analysis of extreme large sets of structured data.

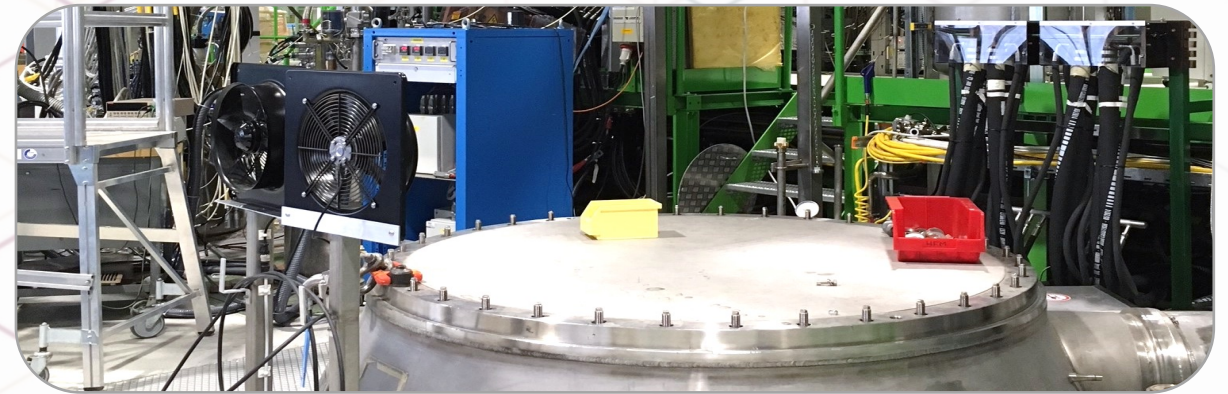
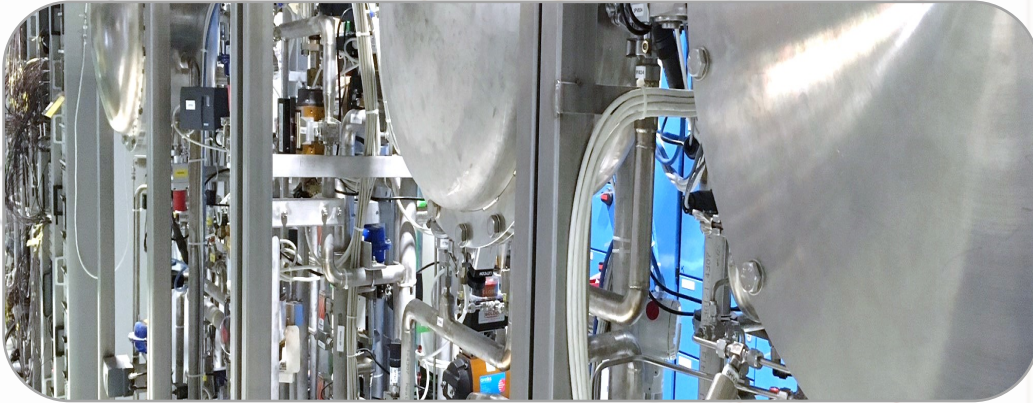
Used in industry, physics, biology, finance and insurance fraud analysis.

Possible application in processing and analysis of large medical datasets, for example genomics data, EEG/ECG data, biosensor data.

added value

- 250 PetaBytes of data in ROOT format on the LHC Computing Grid  
→ **Proven capability to digest and handle very large datasets**
- Fits and parameters' estimations for discoveries (e.g. the Higgs)  
→ **Proven capability for extreme analytic applications**
- Thousands of ROOT plots in scientific publications  
→ **Capable of making advanced graphs and visualizations**

# Cryogenics laboratories and testing facilities



what

Capability and facilities to perform state-of-art benchmarking of cryogenic small and large instrumentation, leveraging the CERN knowhow of heat transfer, refrigeration cycles, low temperature material properties, cryogenic engineering.

tech specs

- Design of cryostats and related system integration
- Cryolab designed for scientifically backed-up benchmarking
- Cryogenics systems using Helium, Nitrogen and Argon
- Large scale cryogenic test vessels
- Automated refrigeration cycles
- Short and Long term testing
- Accelerated aging and ultra-low temp material property tests
- Access to database with instrumentation test results
- Access to experts with long track record in cryogenics

apps

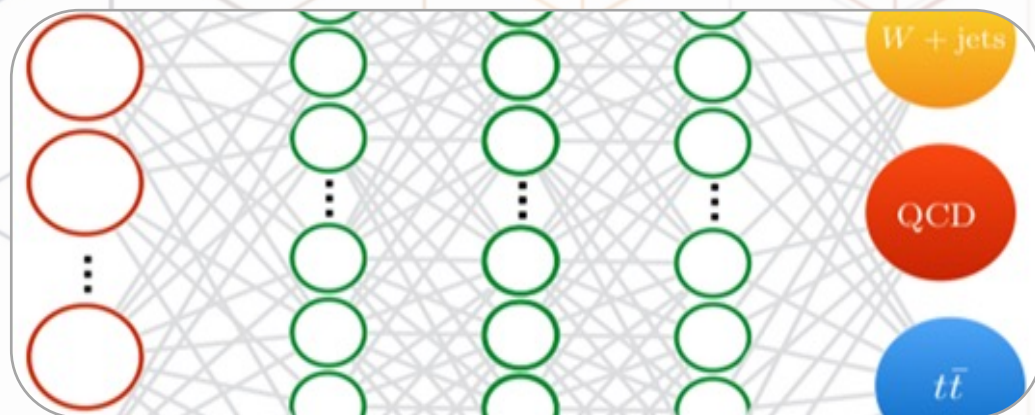
- Cryogenic instrumentation manufacturers
- Cryogenic gas suppliers, valve and plant manufacturers and designers
- Very low temperature cooling installation companies
- Design and manufacturing of cryogenic equipment

added value

- Experience with large range of cryogenic equipment and instrumentation from many manufacturers  
→ Hands on experience and advice → Easy and practical to apply
- Possible to create extreme testing conditions to help accelerate understanding of failure modes and effect  
→ Insights in options to improvement → Better instrumentation



# Designing & training neural networks



what

CERN has a long history in the design and training of neural networks in for example classification, filtering, event and particle detection, regression, clustering and anomaly detection. Most of the ML/DL codes are tailor made using C++, Phyton, TensorFlow and Keras and applied in software or hardware (FPGAs).

tech specs

Experience with design, training and executing applications of:

- 2D and 3D Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)
- Deep Neural Networks (DNNs)
- Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)
- Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)
- Graph Convolutional Networks (GCNs)
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
- Boosted Decision Trees (BDTs)
- Variational Auto Encoders (VAEs)

apps

- Creating and training custom made neural networks
- Analysis of very large datasets (both structured and unstructured)
- Very fast ( $<50\mu\text{sec}$ ) selection and filtering of data information
- Search for exceptional data points or events (online or offline)
- Classification of events, images or datasets

added value

- CERN has built a large variety of neural networks from scratch  
→ We can design ML/DL algorithms for a wide variety of use cases
- Hands on experience with large scale training of neural networks  
→ Help in defining and executing optimal training / learning protocols
- CERN experts have created custom made neural networks since decades  
→ Provide independent advice on ML/DL strategy

## Funding Opportunities for CERN Projects

CERN Knowledge Transfer Fund  
CERN Medical Applications Budget

## Collaborations and Networks

Knowledge transfer networks  
Strengthening links with Member States (KT Forum)  
Relations with International Organisations  
Knowledge transfer in EC co-funded projects

## Entrepreneurship

Start-ups & Spin-offs  
Entrepreneurship Meet-Ups  
Business Incubation Centres  
Entrepreneurship Programmes

## Events

Knowledge Transfer Seminars  
Conferences with a significant contribution by the Knowledge Transfer group

## Intellectual Property Management

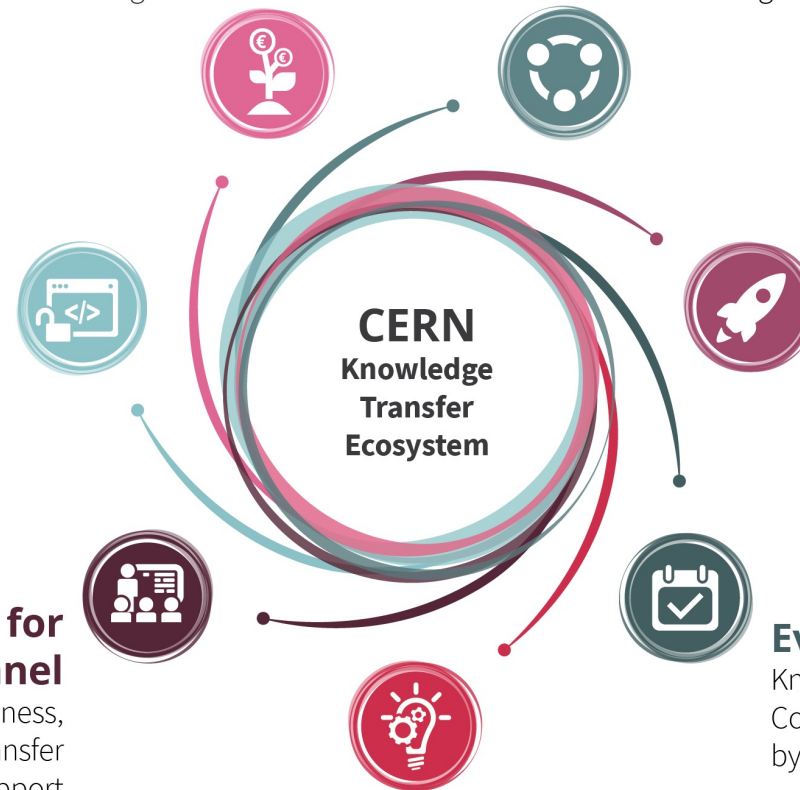
R&D collaborations  
Patent portfolio  
Licence, service & consultancy agreements

## Support for CERN Personnel

Formal and practical training in business, entrepreneurship & knowledge transfer  
Legal, business & intellectual property support

## Open Source

Open Source Software  
Open Hardware Licence





### Licence

- Access to existing solution
- Support to implement

### Consultancy/Service

- Specific issue
- Time of experts
- Time of facilities

### Contract research

- Specific solution
- Outsource its development to CERN

### Collaborative R&D

- General issue
- Jointly find solution
- Jointly develop solution



## Consultancy/Service

- Specific issue
- Time of experts
- Time of facilities

Bundesdruckerei (Berlin) works with CERN on next generation ideas for identity management and cryptography and data handling



ZENSEACT (Volvo Cars Company) teams up with CERN on fast machine learning using FPGAs.

## Collaborative R&D

- General issue
- Jointly find solution
- Jointly develop solution





## Licence

- Access to existing solution
- Support to implement

Using CERN Medipix detector to analyse art (InsightART).








## Consultancy/Service

- Specific issue
- Time of experts
- Time of facilities

Tokamak Energy (fusion power) taps into expertise of CERN on simulation of currents and magnetic fields.

A person wearing a blue hard hat with a logo, glasses, and a white face mask is holding a small, rectangular electronic component. The component has a gold-colored circuit board with various components and labels like 'GS+', 'GS-', 'SS+', and 'SS-'. The background shows a complex industrial or laboratory setting with blue structural elements and cables.

## Development of High Energy Beam for testing Integrated Electronic Components with ESA

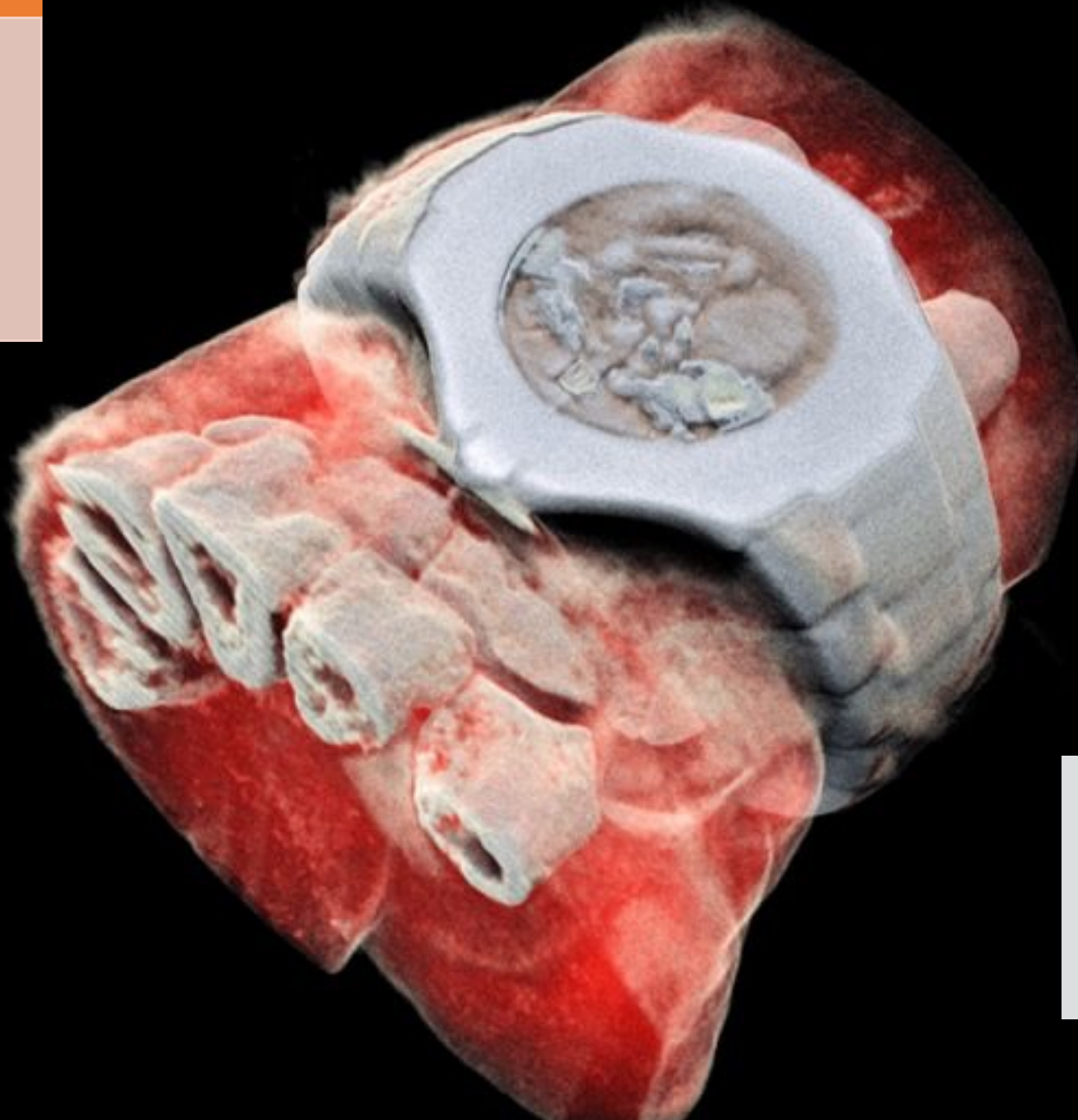
### Contract research

- Specific solution
- Outsource its development to CERN

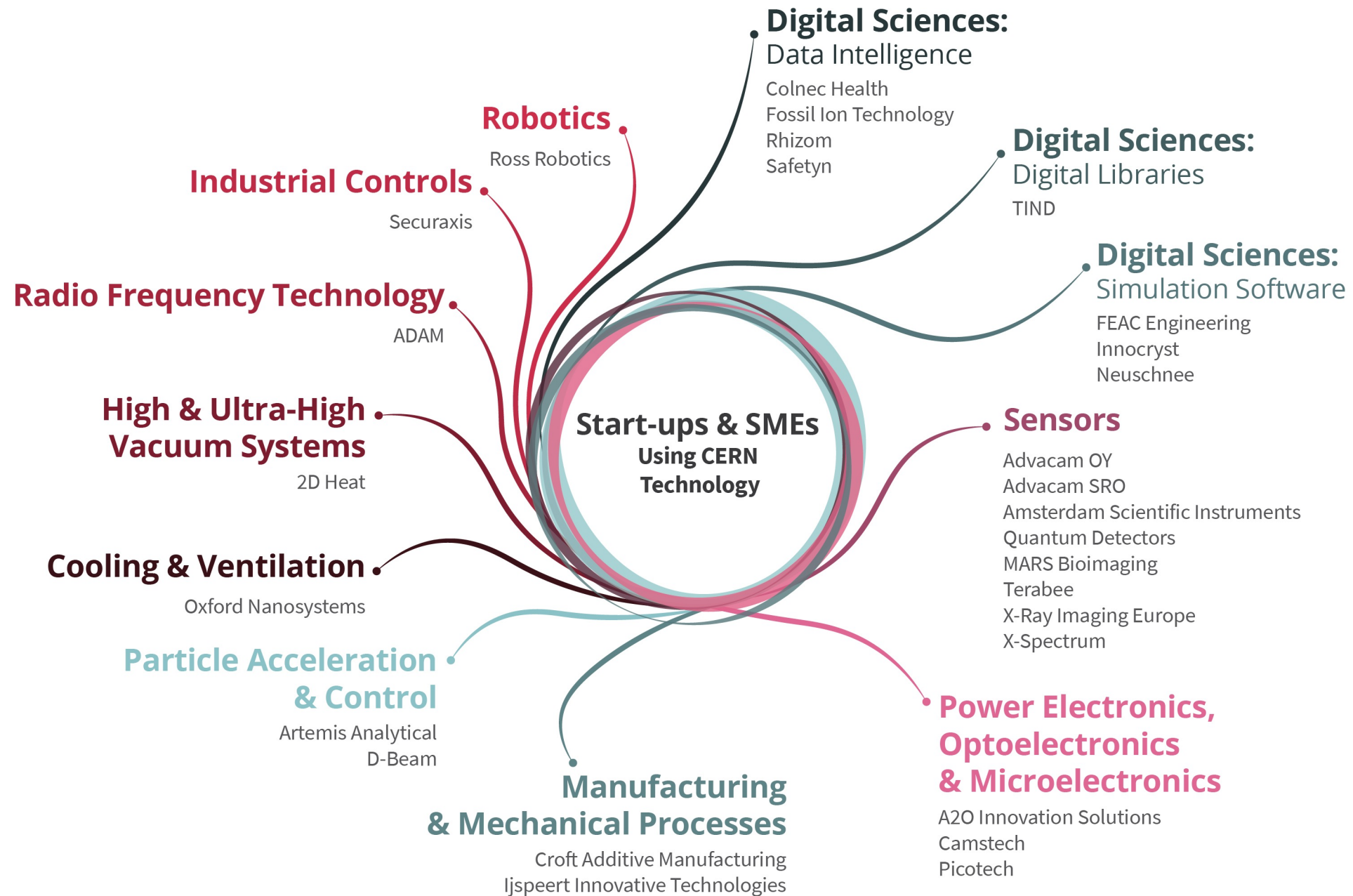


## Licence

- Access to existing solution
- Support to implement



Next generation X ray finally in color (MARS Bio Imaging).





# Lessons learned

- Serendipity pays off
- You need passionate experts on both sides to make it work
- Aim to define collaborative projects as concrete as possible
- Difference in objectives and timelines – mind the gap
- Be aware.... magic may happen



THANK YOU!

[han.dols@cern.ch](mailto:han.dols@cern.ch)