



Jennifer Case, Andrew Whitbeck, Jonathan Eisch
Modernizing Fermilab's Control Hardware
12/05/2023

In partnership with:

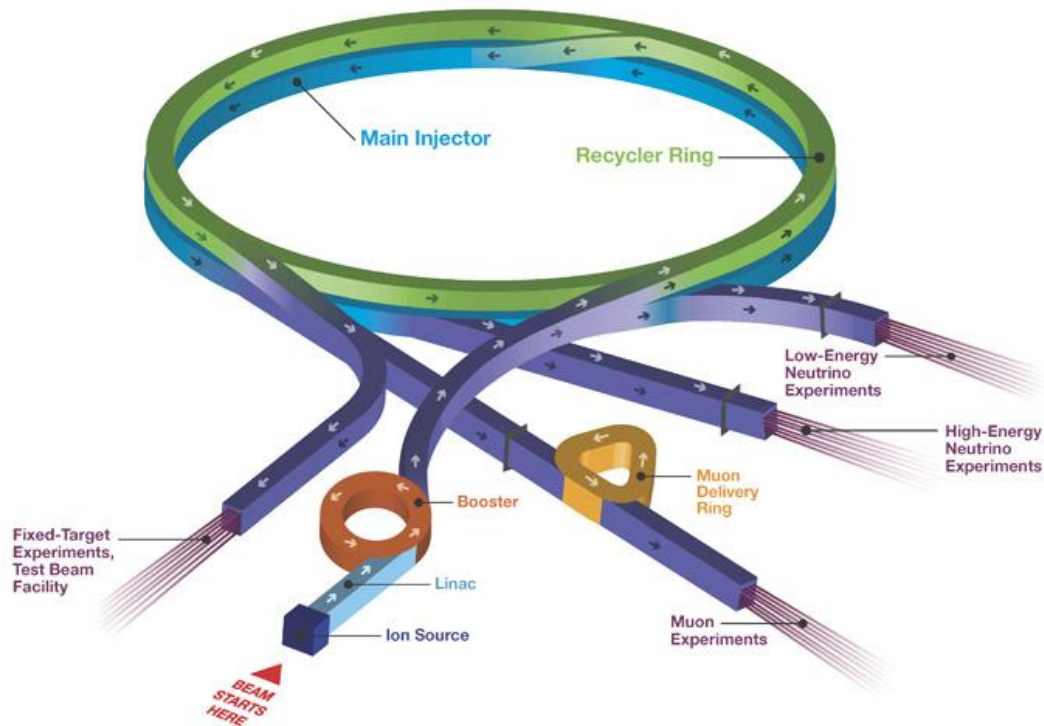


Overview

- Overview of Fermilab
- Overview of the ACORN Project
- History of Fermilab's Control System
- Summary of Fermilab's Control System CAMAC Subsystem
- Requirements for New Control Hardware
- Conceptual Design: μ TCA Replacement Hardware

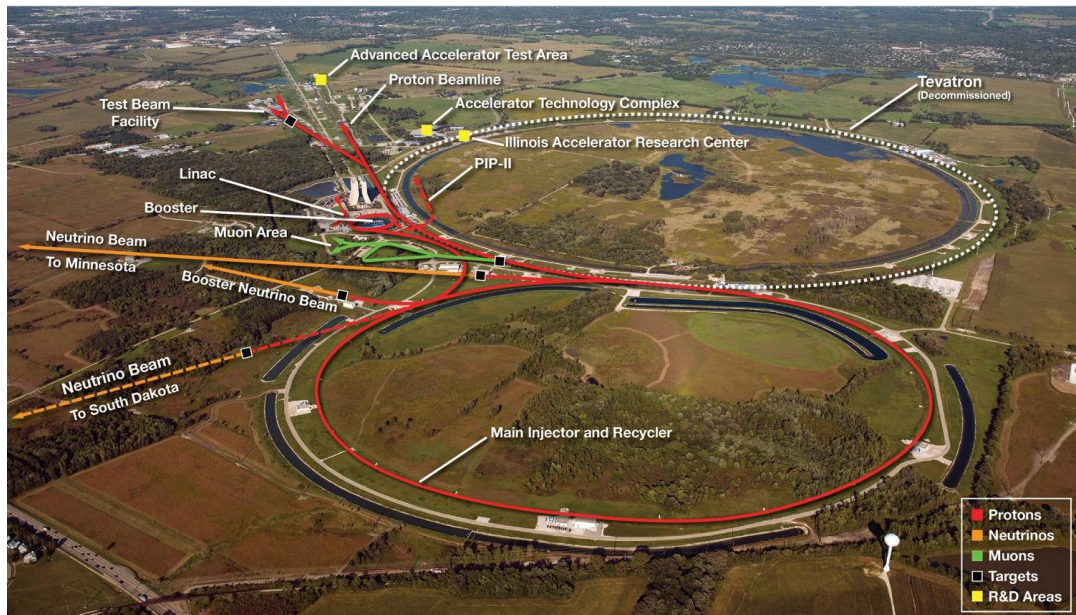
Goal: Provide an overview of the ACORN project's plan to modernize Fermilab's control system hardware.

Overview of Fermilab

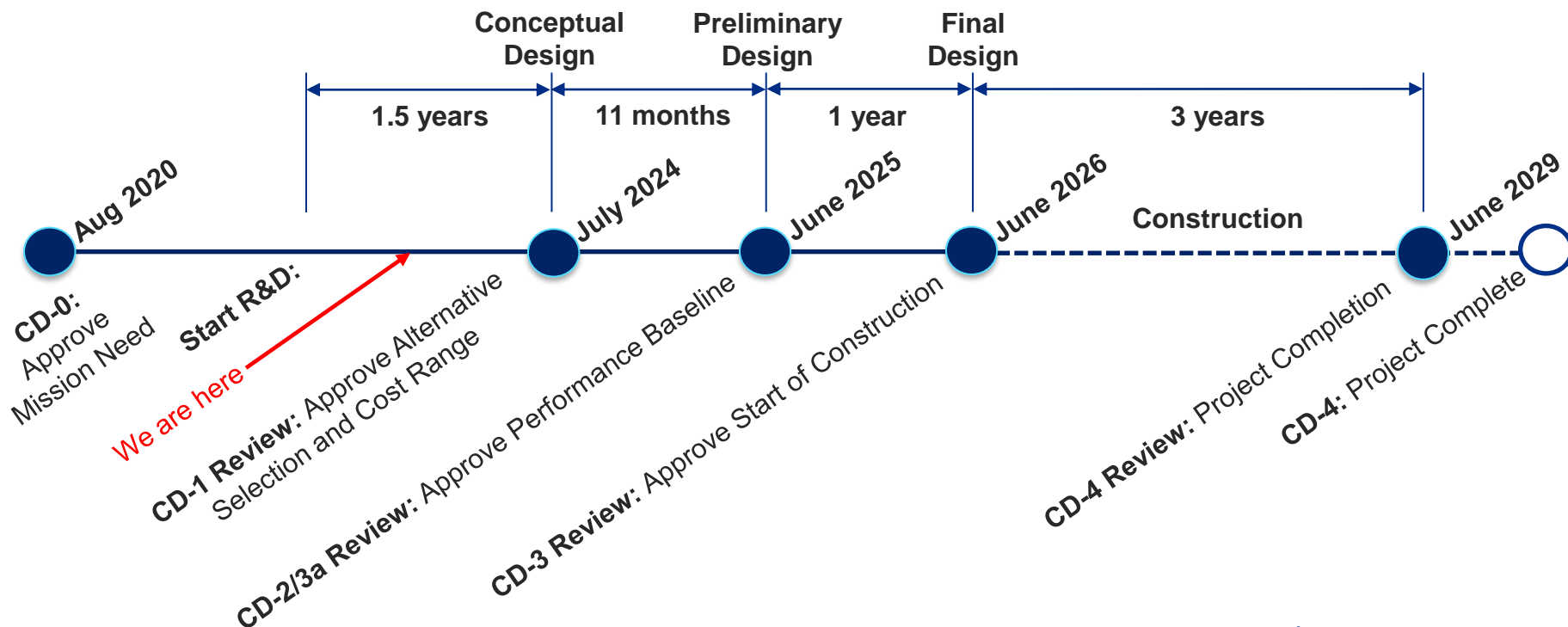


Accelerator Controls Operations Research Network (ACORN)

- The ACORN Project is a DOE O413 project that will modernize the laboratory's **accelerator control system** and replace end-of-life **accelerator power supplies**.



Project Timeline



CD = Critical Decision

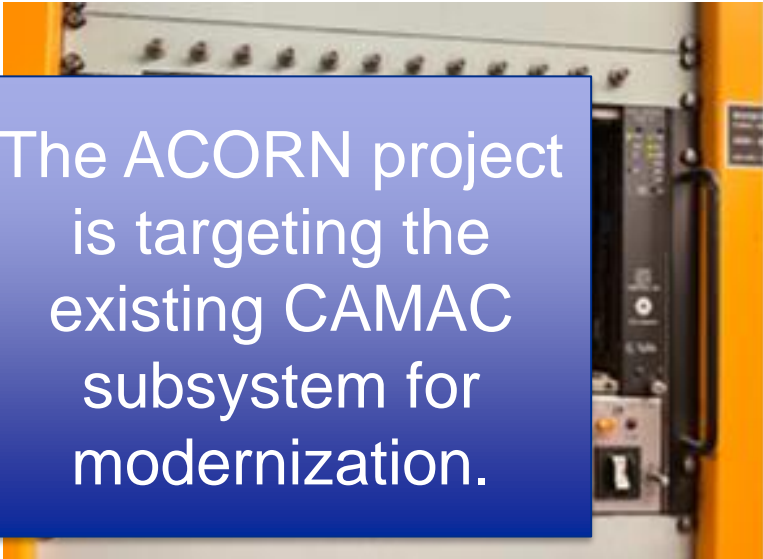
History of Fermilab's Control System

- Utilized the CAMAC standard to build a significant portion of the control system
 - Ex: power supply controllers, digital I/O, analog readback controllers, etc.
- Also utilized custom-made hardware
 - Ex: Analog readbacks, vacuum control, edge computing, etc.
- Incorporates new hardware to meet project needs



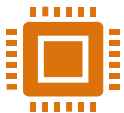
History of Fermilab's Control System

- Utilized the CAMAC standard to build a significant portion of the control system
 - Ex: power supply controllers, digital I/O, analog readback controllers, etc.
- Also utilized custom-made hardware
 - Ex: Analog readbacks, vacuum control, edge computing, etc.
- Incorporates new hardware to meet project needs



The ACORN project is targeting the existing CAMAC subsystem for modernization.

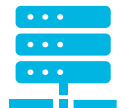
CAMAC Card Summary



2,184 CAMAC Cards



257 Crates



78 Modules

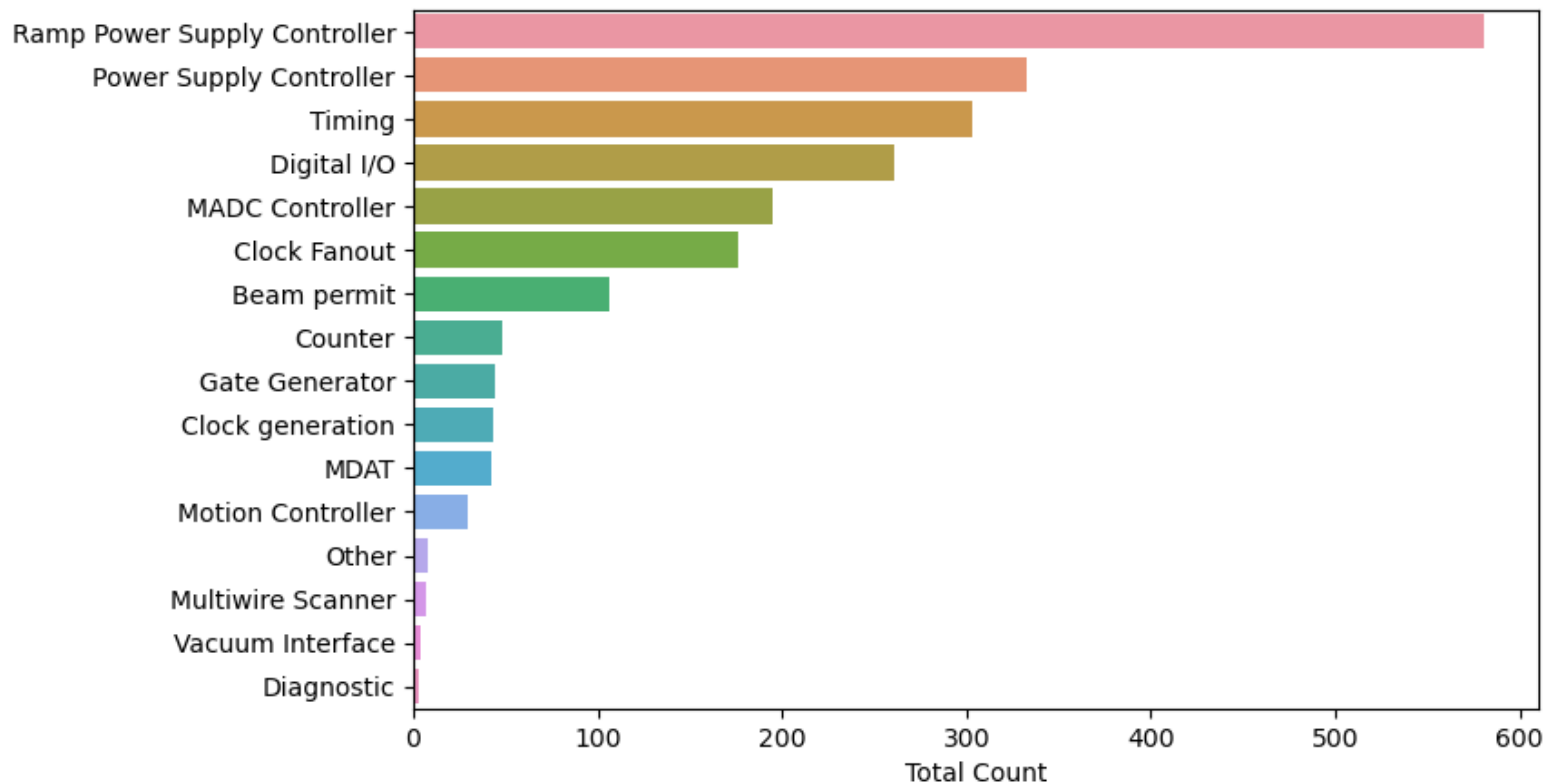


208 MADCS

Functions:

- Power Supply Controller
- Ramping Power Supply Controller
- Clock Generation
- Timing
- Beam Permits
- MDAT Link
- Digital I/O
- Analog Readback Controllers
- Analog Readback
- Gate Generator
- Counters
- Motion Controller
- Specialized Links (Abort or MDAT)
- Multiwire Controller
- Vacuum Interface
- Other

CAMAC Card Summary



Requirements for New Control Hardware

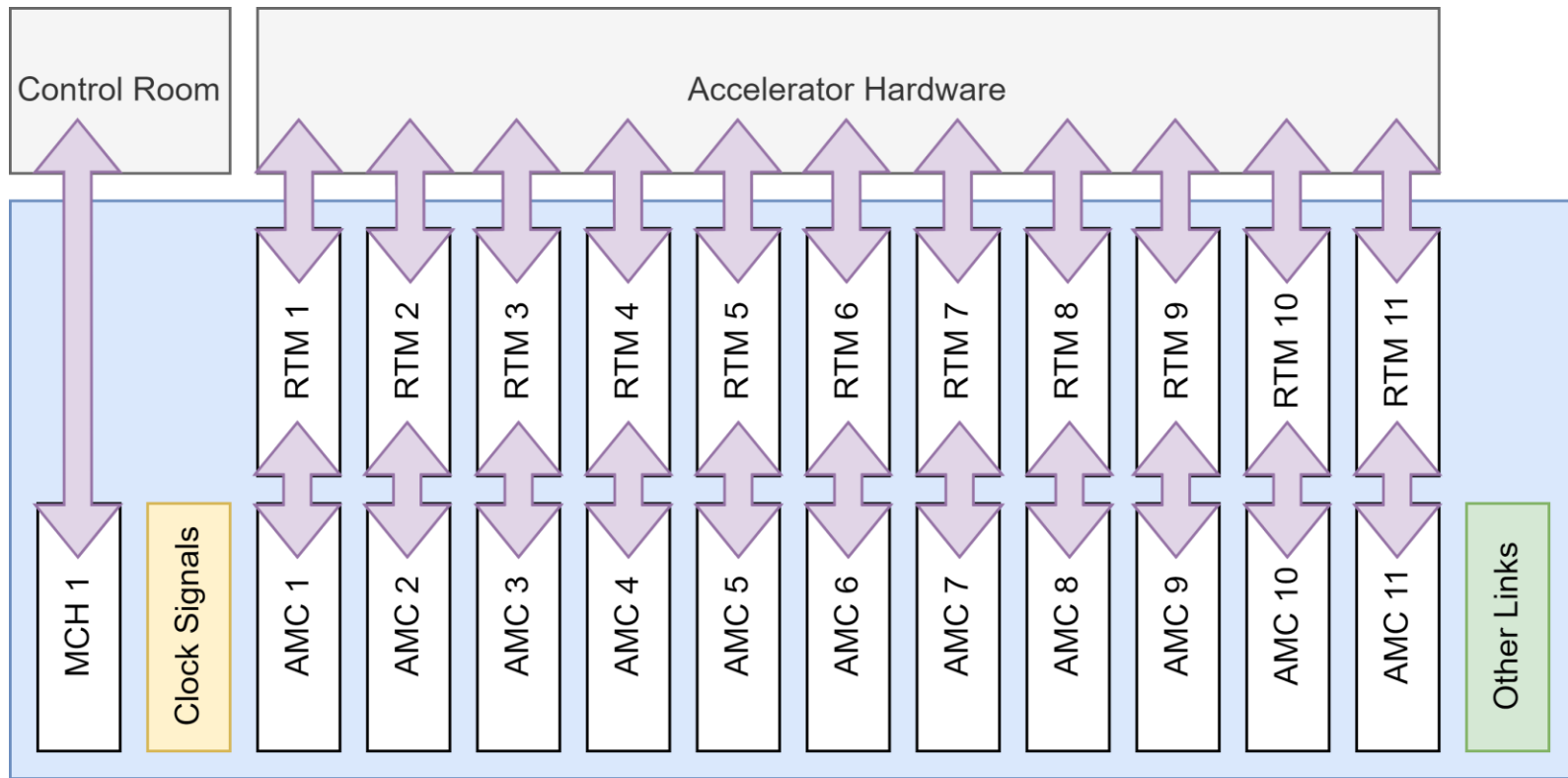
- Rear I/O to interface with existing edge connectors and cabling
- High-speed communications to industry-standard Ethernet
- Remote power and cooling monitoring and management
- Hot-swappable for online maintenance
- Practical ability to produce fully-custom hardware and software in-house for long-term supportability
- Flexible communications to enable low-latency, high-speed communications for online automation and AI control
- Multi-vendor commercial solutions for management and device hardware

ACORN Conceptual Design: μ TCA

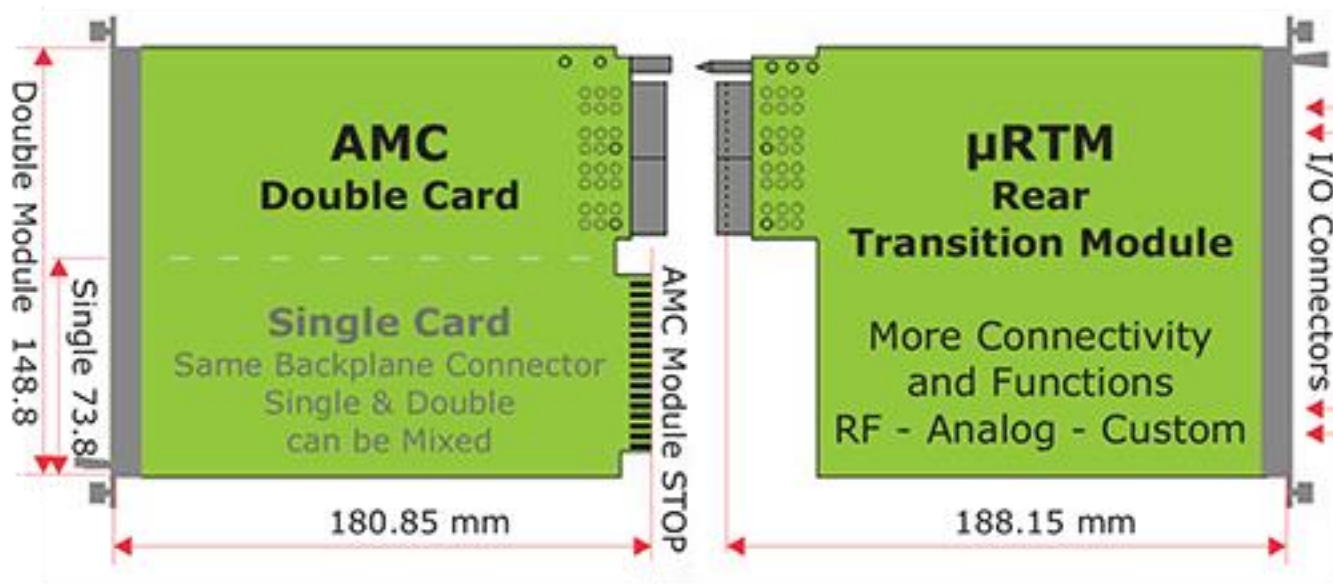
- Rear I/O to interface with existing edge connectors and cabling
- High-speed communications to industry-standard Ethernet
- Remote power and cooling monitoring and management
- Hot-swappable for online maintenance
- Practical ability to produce fully-custom hardware and software in-house for long-term supportability
- Flexible communications to enable low-latency, high-speed communications for online automation and AI control
- Multi-vendor commercial solutions for management and device hardware

Solution: MTCA.4

Conceptual Design: ACORN's μ TCA Crate



Conceptual Design: ACORN's μ TCA Cards



- Commercial AMC card
- FPGA + microcontroller

- In-house μ RTM
- Connector Daughter Board that allows flexibility to interface with different connectors

Conceptual Design: Card Types

850+

Ramping Power Supply Controller

Versions: 12V, 24V

CAMAC Functions replaced:

- Ramping Power Supply Controller
- Power Supply Controller

1000+

Analog Readback

Versions: Voltage, Current

CAMAC Functions replaced:

- Analog Readback
- Analog Readback Controllers

550+

Digital I/O

Versions: 5V Slow, 5V Fast, 24V

CAMAC Functions replaced:

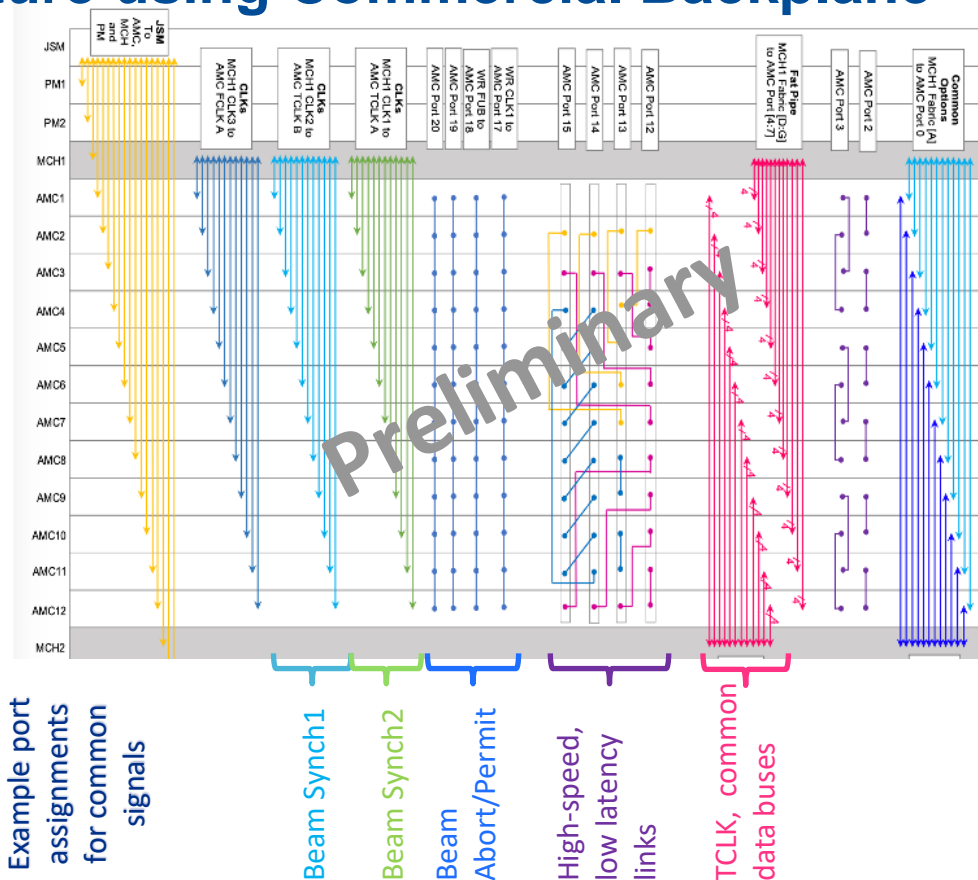
- Timing
- Digital I/O
- Gate Generator
- Counter

Remaining Functions:

- Clock Generation
- Motion Controller
- Beam Permit
- MDAT Link
- Multiwire Controller
- Vacuum Interface
- Other

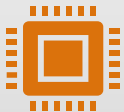
Conceptual Design: Infrastructure using Commercial Backplane

- Provide **common infrastructure** to each AMC across backplane
 - Exploring the use of a custom secondary MCH to distribute common clocks and data buses on Fat Pipe ports
- Support high-speed ethernet for readout (40 GbE on Fat Pipe)
- Provide high-speed, low-latency links for AMC communication
 - to support advance automation and AI/ML applications
- Provide common debugging interface



Summary

Old Hardware



2,184 CAMAC Cards



257 CAMAC Crates



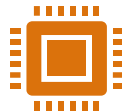
78 Modules



208 MADCs



New Hardware



>2,000 μ TCA Cards



>400 μ TCA Crates



~10 RTMs