



Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

# Overview: SiPM+WOM-based liquid-scintillator detector (WP 2.1)

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- Particle identification + measurement
  - 3D information
  - Energy
  - Time
- Detector granularity
  - "High" segmentation
  - Electronic development
- Particle reconstruction
  - New algorithms
  - Incorporate detector segments



## Motivation: Search for Hidden Particles (SHiP)

- Proposed Beam Dump Facility @ CERN SPS ECN3: SHiP
- Dedicated search for Feebly interacting particles (FIPs)
- 400 GeV p dumped in high-density target
- Magnets deflect  $\mu$  out of beam line
- Scattering and Neutrino Detector (SND) light dark matter search and  $\nu_\tau$  physics
- Hidden sector decay volume = vacuum vessel
- Spectrometer reconstructs decay (tracker/calorimeter/timing)



## SHiP Background Sources

- Possible  $\mu/\nu$  scattering in material upstream of decay vessel or cavern/vessel walls
- Scattered particles in coincidence could mimic signal
- Aim: detect particles entering through decay volume walls
- Solution: instrument decay volume walls with Surrounding Background Tagger (SBT)
- Need > 99% efficiency for tagging MIPs with E<sub>dep</sub> > 45 MeV



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# Surrounding Background Tagger (SBT)

- Requirements:
  - Large-scale  $ightarrow {\cal O}(150)$  m<sup>3</sup> with  $\sim$  900 cells
  - Resolution  $\rightarrow$  space + time + energy
  - Low cost (corten steel, sparse readout)
- Solution: Liquid Scintillator (LS) detector with Wavelength-shifting Optical Module (WOM) readout



# **SBT Cell Principle**



# **Liquid Scintillator**

- Solvent: Linear alkylbenzene (LAB)
- Fluor: 2,5-diphenyl-oxazole (PPO)
- Spectra
  - LS (LAB + 2 g/L PPO) emission: 350-380 nm
  - WLS emission: 420 nm
  - SiPM max quantum efficiency: 400-520 nm







# WOMs

- Cylinder of PMMA
- Wavelength-shifting coating
  - UV absorption
  - Isotropic blue light emission
- Transparent tube catches light
  - Total internal reflection
- Advantages:
  - Large surface area
  - Up to 75% collection efficiency
- IceCube: [10.3390/s22041385]



#### **Electronics**

- SiPMs (Hamamatsu S14160-3050HS)
  - $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$  area
  - Peak sensitivity in 400-500 nm range
- Testbeam readout + DAQ
  - PCBs developed in Freiburg
  - eMusic ASIC amplifies + shapes signal
  - WaveCatcher digitiser







# **R&D** Overview: 1 Cell Testbeam

- PCBs developed (Freiburg)
- WOM housing designed (Jülich)
- Purified LS (Mainz)
- Reflective coating on inner cell walls (Mainz)
- Objective: Test full-scale SBT cell
  - Identify required LS thickness
  - Evaluate efficiency, timing performance







# Full Geant4 Simulation of 1 Cell

- Includes measurable material quantities
  - Absorption lengths
  - Emission spectra
  - Reflectivities
  - Indices of refraction
- Simulates full event from beam  $\rightarrow$  SiPM detection
  - EM shower
  - Scintillation, Cerenkov processes
  - Optical photon transportation
  - No electronics
- Extractable quantities
  - # of detected photons in each SiPM (group)
  - Energy deposit in cell
  - Photon arrival time at SiPM







# 1 Cell at DESY $e^+$ Testbeam: October 2022



- $e^+$  beam (2 mm diameter)
- Energy = 1.4 5.4 GeV
- 10000 events/run
- Beam telescope: 4 plastic scintillators with PMTs
- Trigger  $\rightarrow$  beam telescope coincidence
- LS cell on x y movable stand, rotating platform around y

## Data Spectra at Different Cell Locations



- Signals visible for all positions including corners
- $\sim$ 30% variation in mean charge from centre point to corner
- Expected behaviour wrt beam energy and position

# Efficiency



- Efficiency = accepted events/total events > 99.5%
- Goal achieved
- Mean (most probable)  $E_{dep} = 113$  (50) MeV from simulation

#### Integrated Yield Dependence on Beam Angle





# Data Comparison to Geant4 Simulation: 65% Reflectivity





No gain measurement, can scale simulation - nice agreement

65% of measured reflectivity used for training reconstruction

#### **Data Uniformity Correction**



particle crossing point reconstruction

Signal nonuniformities corrected to reference yield at (0, 0)

# **Timing Resolution**



- Particle arrival time at the detector  $\overline{T}_{ud} = (T_u^{corr} + T_d^{corr})/2$ where  $T_{u,d}^{corr}$  are obtained by subtracting the trigger time
- Timing resolution of  $\pm 1$  ns

#### Particle Crossing Point Reconstruction (0°, 1.4 GeV) with NN



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# 1 Cell Testbeam Summary

- Successful DESY e<sup>-</sup> testbeam
- > 99.5% efficiency achieved
- Detector response as expected wrt beam energy/position/angle
- Timing resolution  $\pm 1$  ns



- NN-based spatial reconstruction with  ${\rm RMS}$  < 14 cm
- Reflective coating sub-optimal, rust spots on corten steel  $\rightarrow$  Patrick Deucher
- LS thickness can be reduced to 20 cm
- [arXiv:2311.07340]
- Cell in Freiburg for long-term stability (cosmic) measurements

# R&D Overview: 4 Cell Prototype

- Test full-scale multi-cell configuration
- 20 cm of LS
- New WOMs produced
- Slow control
  - Pressure sensor for LS
  - Tilt sensor
  - Thermometer
  - 2x laser rangefinder
- Reflective coating better
- MC Simulation
- Liquid handling to be tested



# **Support Structure**

- 6 m x 2.4 m
- 7t filled
- Translation in x and y
- Rotation around  $\boldsymbol{x}$  and  $\boldsymbol{y}$



### 4 Cells at CERN $\mu^-$ Testbeam: October 2023

- $\mu^-$  beam ( $\sigma_{beam} = 13$  mm)
- Energy  $\approx$  5 GeV
- Trigger on beam telescope
  + scintillator behind detector





#### Preliminary: Integrated Yield at $\theta_x = 0^\circ$ , $\theta_y = 0^\circ$



- Possible sources of variations: different dimensions, electronics, optical coupling per cell
- 1/3 1/2 of  $e^+$  yields (no shower, less LS)

## Preliminary: Integrated Yield at $\theta_x = 0^\circ$ , $\theta_y = 90^\circ$



- Signals higher in C than D for similar tracks
- Further study required
- Results similar to previous testbeam, as expected

# **Ongoing R&D**

- Testbeam data analysis
- WOM production
- Readout PCBs
- Material compatibility, optimisation
- Simulation, timing  $\rightarrow$  Alessia Brignoli

#### Next Testbeam

March/April 2024 @ CERN

#### Next Prototype

First 3 ring sections of SBT (42 cells)



# Data Uniformity Correction: Probability Density Distributions



- Yield fraction per WOM and channel determined for each particle crossing point
- Probability density distributions used for reconstruction and correction of each event

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