

# The European Southern Observatory



Derek Ives



ESO Detector Systems  
Group

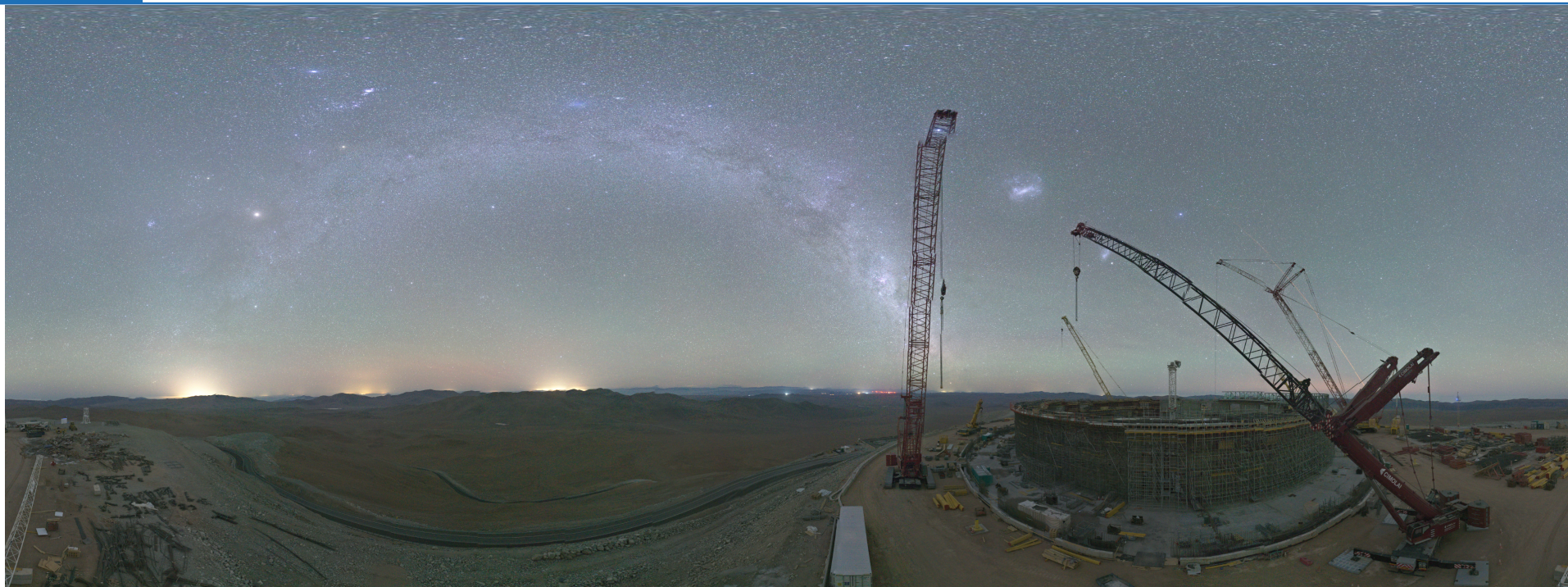


Norbert Hubin



Head of Technical  
Developments at ESO

# This Presentation



## ELT construction – latest image

- ELT first light and VLT third generation instruments
- Detector and detector controller developments
- Detector testing and characterization
- ELT 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> generation instruments/VLT future needs

# MICADO for ELT

MCAO fed imager/spectrometer

## Specification –

“First light” instrument

1 arcmin square FoV, diffraction limited

x30 broad/narrow band filters

Cryostat rotates !

Single slit spectroscopy,

R~ 10k/20k

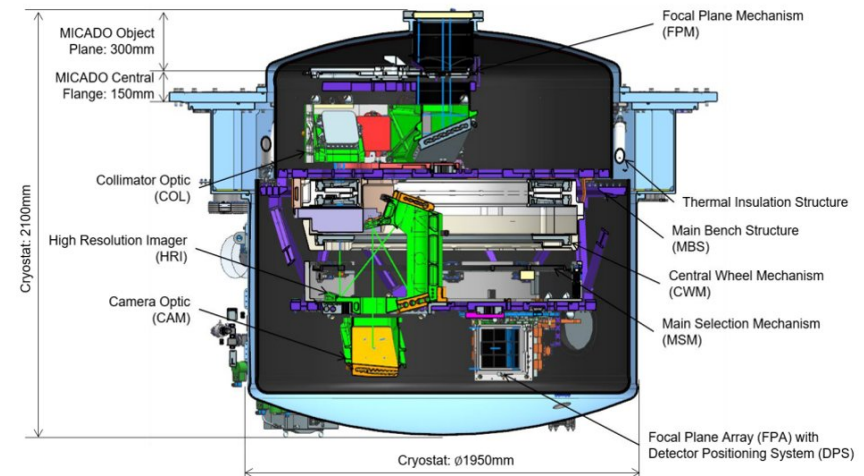
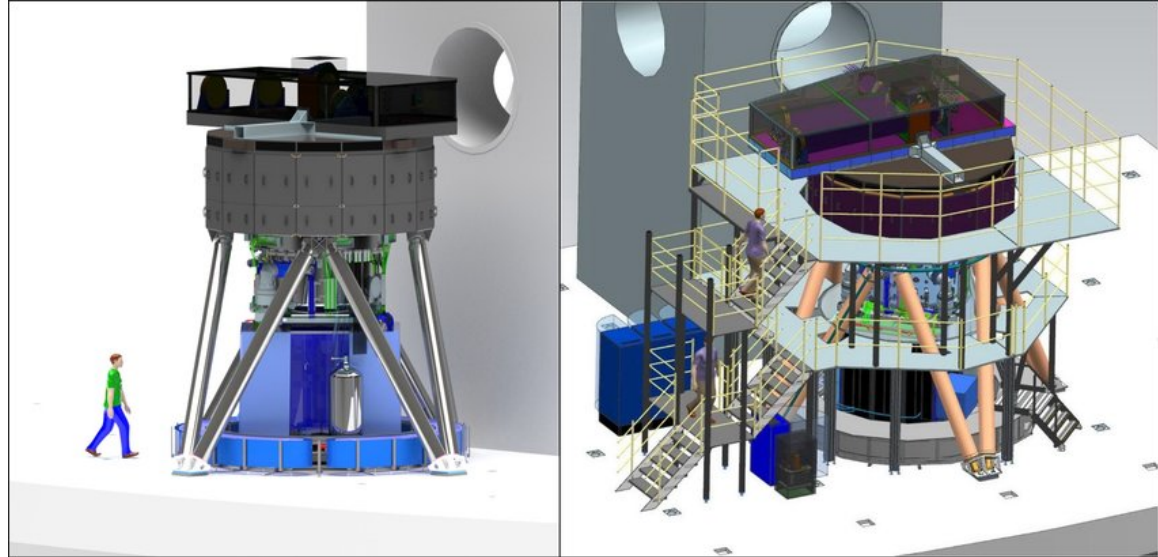
LN2 cooled to 80K, 0.8 – 2.45 um

MCAO/SCAO LGS AO corrected

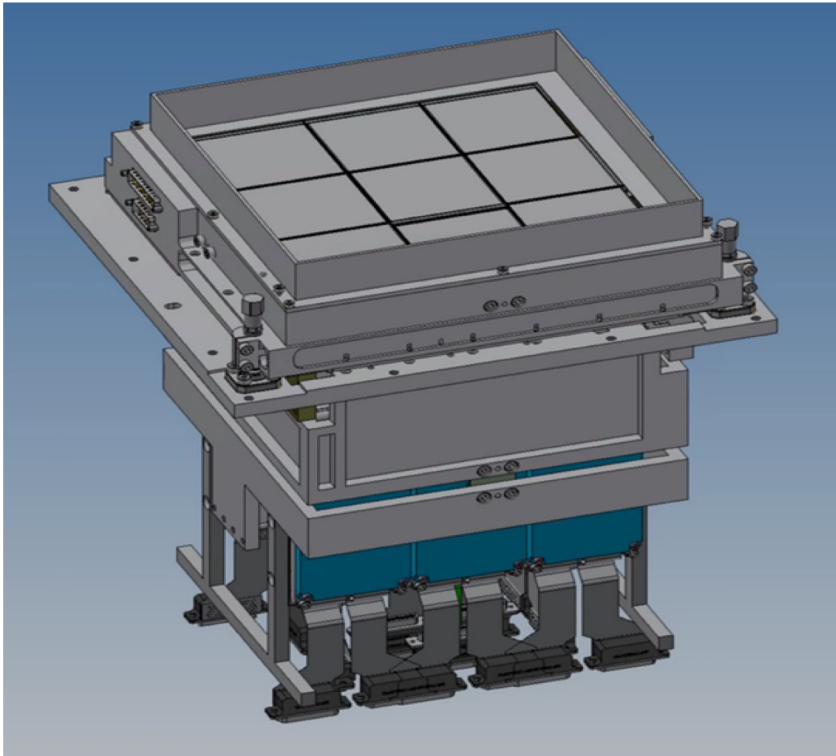
## Detectors

9 x H4RG-15 (SWIR)

(+ detectors for AO instrument)

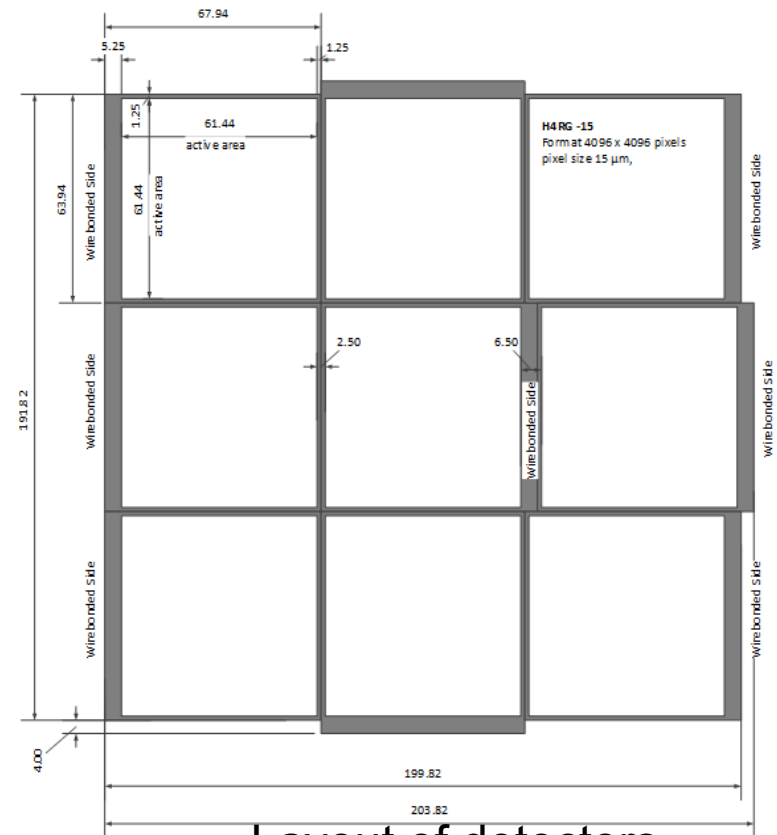


# MICADO focal plane



MICADO Focal Plane Design

- 33 channels per detector
- 80K Operation
- 200 kpixels/second => buffered output
- 400 kpixel/s for central detector
- Multiple window resetting bright stars
- Multiple window reading for AO correction



Layout of detectors

## Specification -

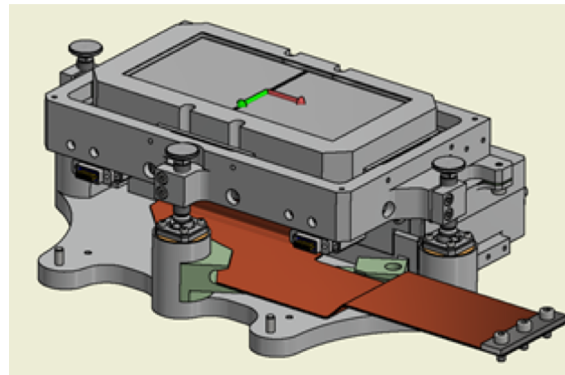
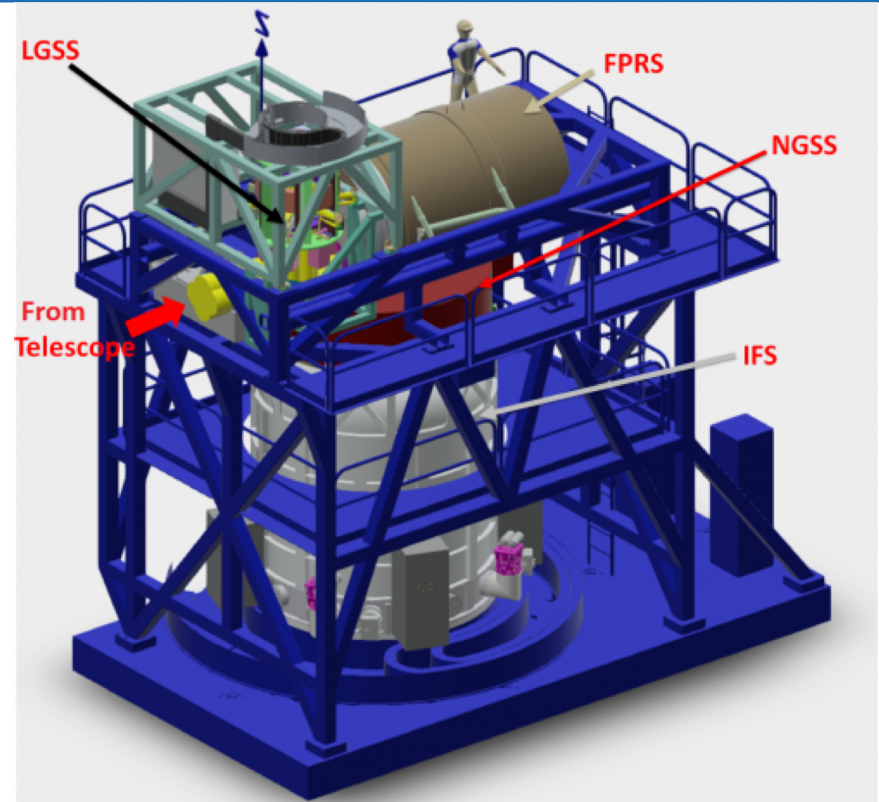
- 3-D spectroscopy
- IFU with image slicer to feed spectrographs
- Wavelength range 0.47 – 2.45  $\mu\text{m}$
- 4 different FoV
- Both LTAO and SCAO AO corrected
- Spectral resolution, 3.5k, 7.5k and 18k

## Detectors -

- 4 x e2v CCD231 from Teledyne e2v with AR graded coatings

## 8 x H4RG-15

- Mounted as 2 x (2x1) mosaics
- 65 outputs per detector
- 40K operation
- Lowest Noise, buffered/unbuffered ?



## Science

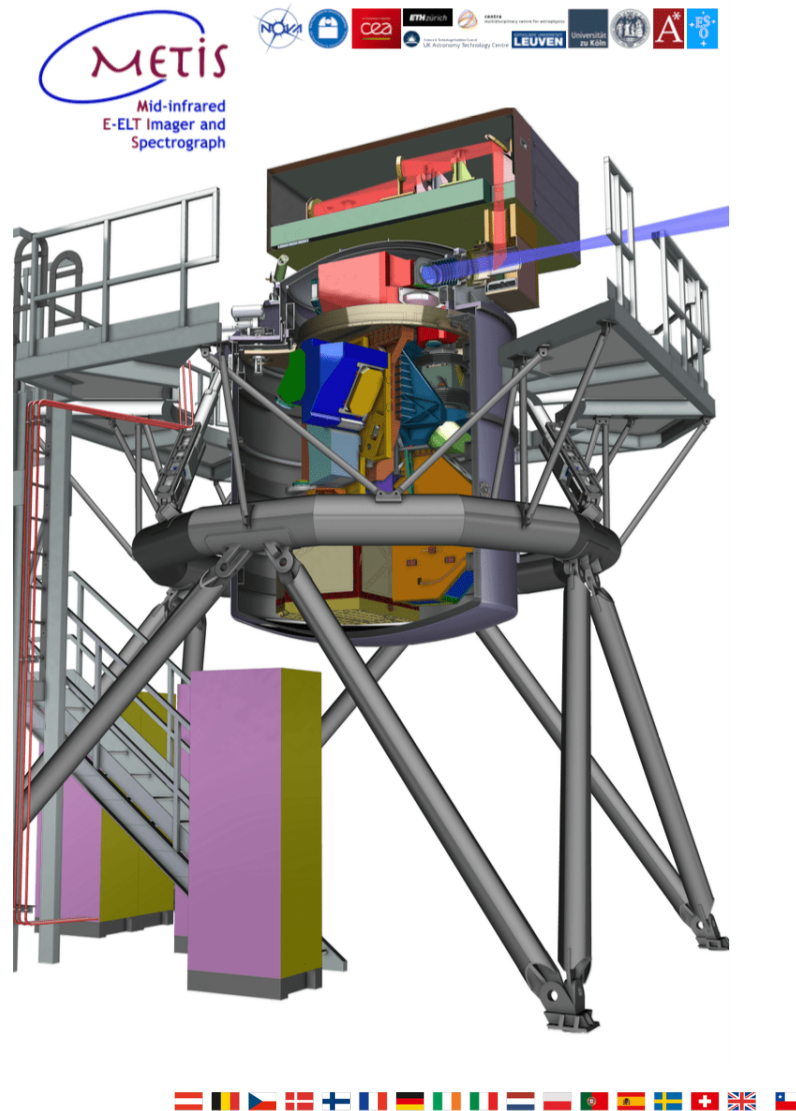
Planet formation, proto-planet search  
 Chemical composition of planet forming gas  
 Debris disk composition

## Specifications

Direct and High contrast Imaging  
 Long Slit and IFU Spectroscopy  
 High resolution spectroscopy,  $R \sim 100k$   
 Imager with  $11 \times 11''$  FoV  
 SCAO corrected  
 L, M and N bands, 3-13  $\mu m$   
 Cryogenic beam chopper  
 Cooled to  $< 40K$

## Detectors (complicated) -

1 x H2RG, 5.3  $\mu m$  for Imaging  
 4 x H2RG, 5.3  $\mu m$  for IFU spectroscopy  
 1 x GeoSnap, 13  $\mu m$  for Imaging/HCI  
 1 x SAPHIRA detector for SCAO



# GeoSnap – the first fully digital science detector at ESO

Use GeoSnap instead of AQUARIUS detector for METIS

2048x2048 pixels, 18 um square

Waveband of 7.5 – 13.5 um, operation at 40K

CTIA circuit, large/small well, < 1W power

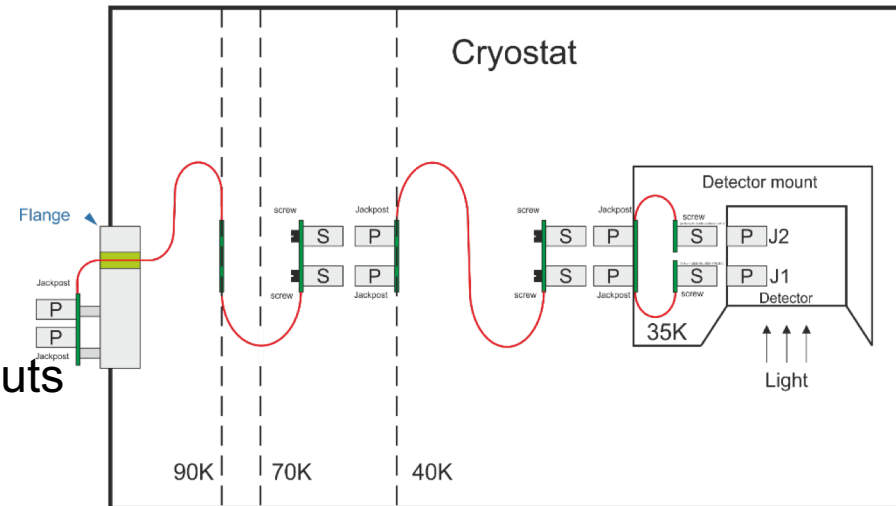
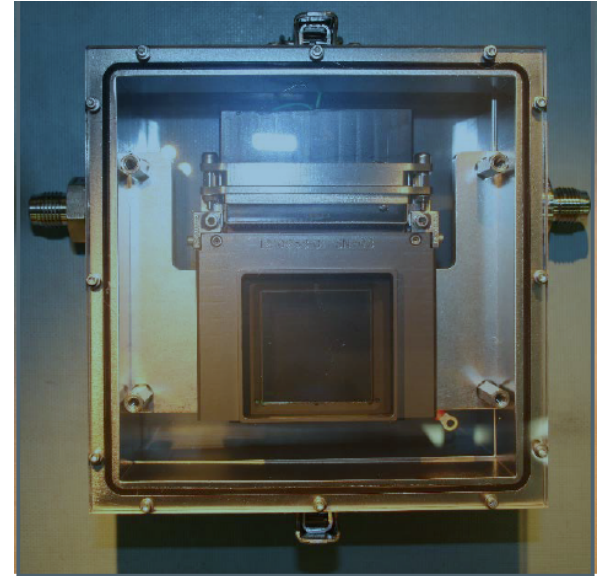
Full well ~ 2Me-/200ke-, noise of 400/40 e- rms

Frame rate > 100 Hz

Fully digital device, 8 differential transmitters  
operation at 1.6 Gbits

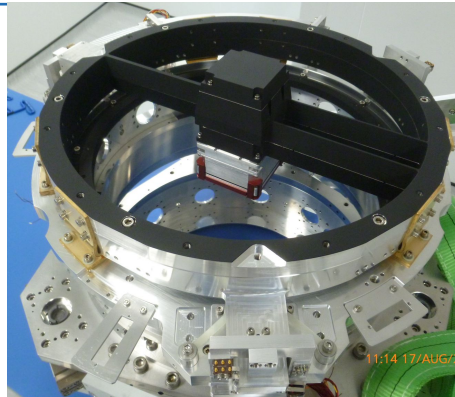
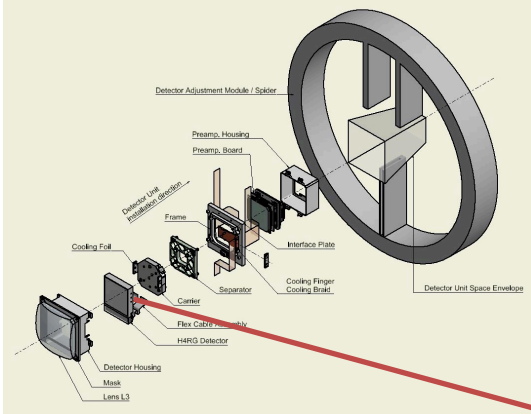
Engineering challenges

- New controller design, digital detector outputs
- - 3 metres of cables

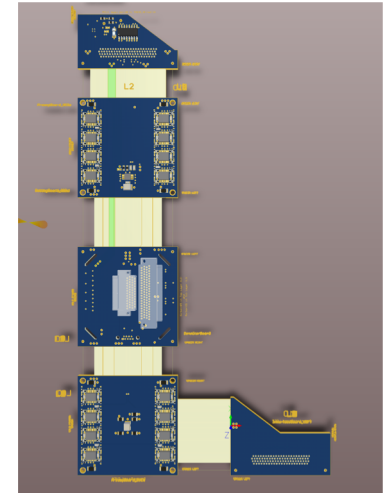


# 3<sup>rd</sup> generation - MOONS at the VLT

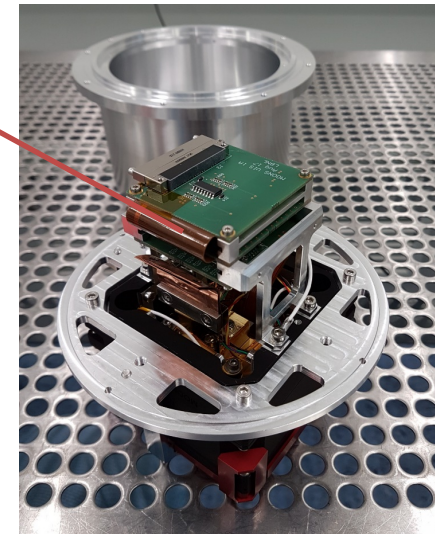
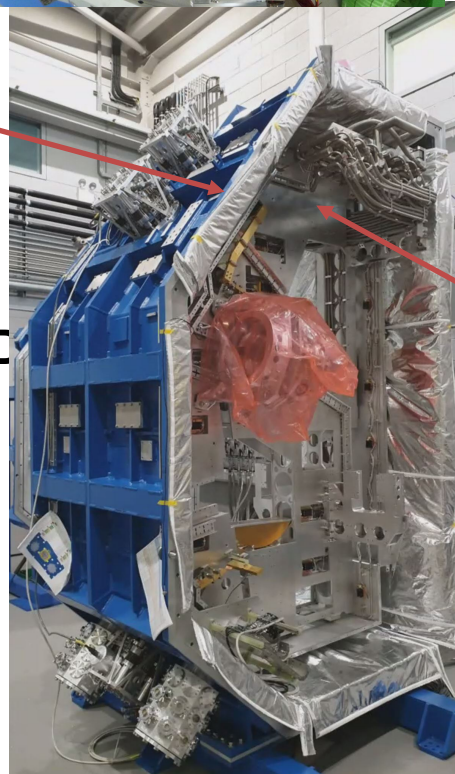
Detector Mount Design – minimize footprint



Preamp design – 65 channels



**4 x H4RG detectors**  
**2 x LBNL thick, fully depleted CCD**



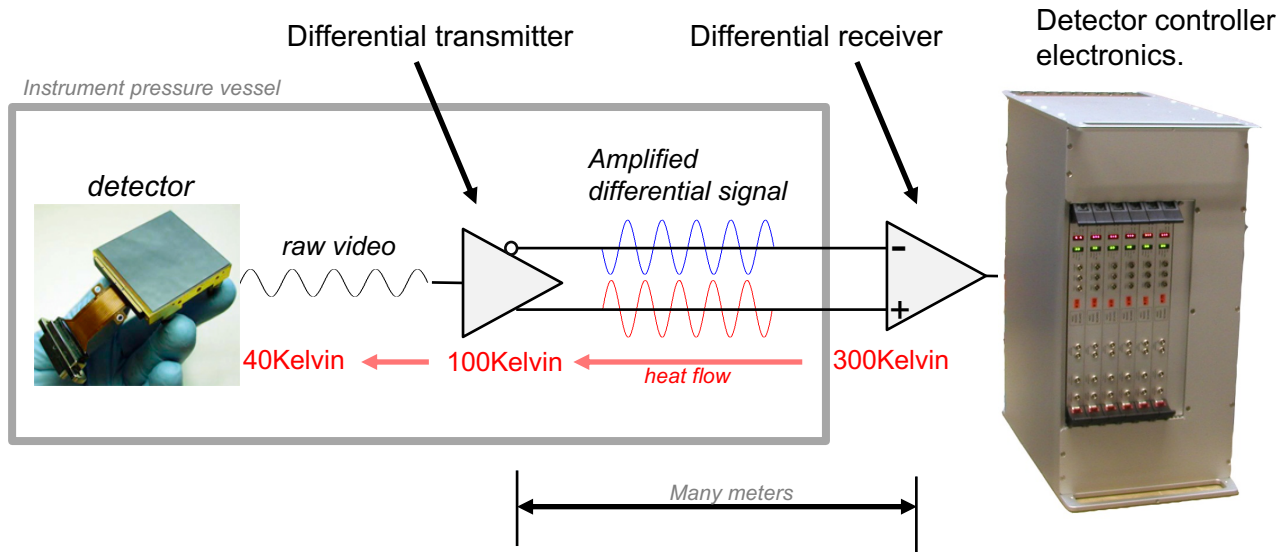
Half of MOONS cryostat





# Detector Operation: Cabling

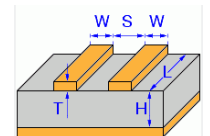
Differential transmission of low-level video signal used to reduce noise and minimise cross-talk between channels.



Shielded twisted pair cable  
(expensive to assemble, high heat load, unlimited length)



PCB rigi-flex technology  
(easy to assemble, low heat load, limited length)



A rigiflex cable



# Cryogenic Preamplifier design

For many years settled on TLC 2274 opamp for preamplifier.  
 Requirements for preamplifier driven by slow/fast mode of H\*RG detectors,  
 new controller input video circuit and instrument needs

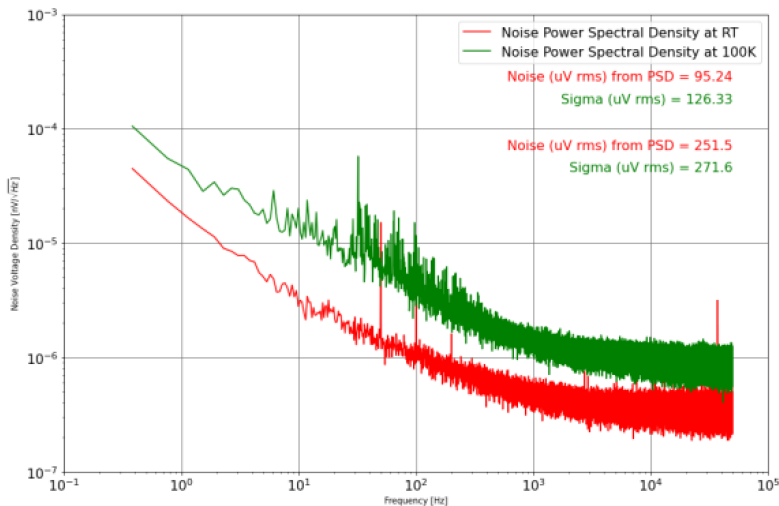
Slow, 200 kpixel/second, low noise, long exposures

- OPA4192, 10 MHz GBW, 5.5 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ , low offset voltage drift, operation at 70K

Slow/Fast, 5Mpixel/second, >30 frames/second

- OPA354, 100 MHz GBW, 6.5 nV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ , operation at 70K

OPA354 Noise Voltage Density versus Frequency at RT and 100K, 220ns samples



ESO detector connectivity model

## Issues

- performance of some op-amps changes with temperature
- Require Slow and Fast from same detector

# The new ESO controller development - NGCII

NGC ~ 10 years since first delivery, continuous development but issues with obsolescence, particularly FPGAs.

## NGCII Specifications –

COTS based, uTCA architecture

Zynq Ultrascale+ FPGAs – Arm cortex-A53, many logic cells, 10 Gbit interface etc

Integrated PSU

2U form factor for H4RG 64 channel operation (3 x AQ22 + 1 x C20B20 modules)

Multiple 10 Gbit ethernet links

PPE for absolute time stamping

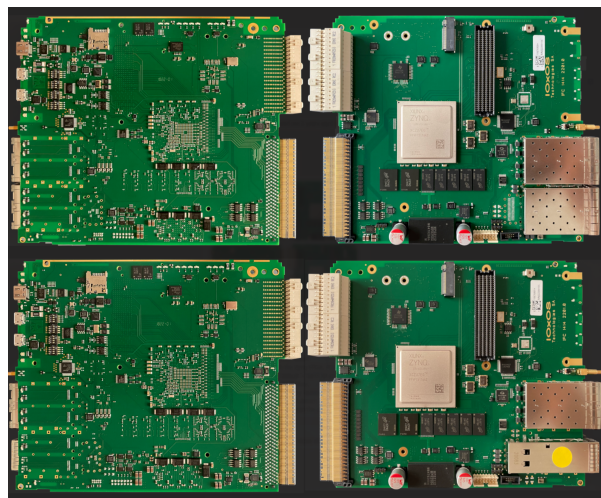
“White Rabbit” for multi-controller synchronization

Bespoke board design only required for detector biases/clocks/ADC

Very stable reference source for biases etc – limiting factor of NGC !



EN4165 connector system



COTS FPGA modules



Typical 2U uTCA chassis



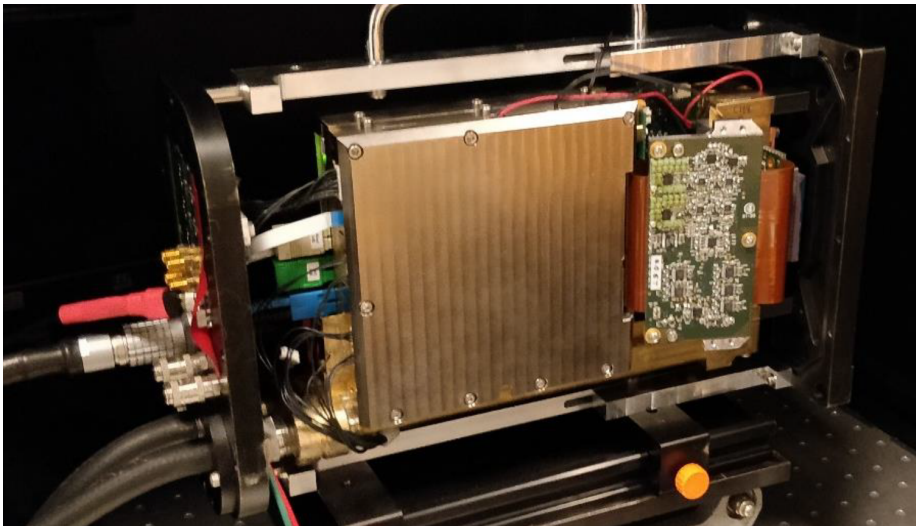
# New AO Camera developments

3 x different AO cameras required for ELT  
**Detectors – SAPHIRA, L3CCD and LVSM**

For SAPHIRA, FLI Camera, re-purposed with 10 Gbit ethernet link

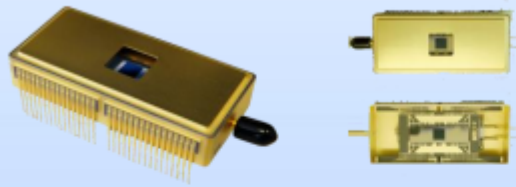
For NGS and laser AO, CCD220 (ALICE) and LVSM (LISA) controller development  
 10 Gbit ethernet + 1 Gbit for PPE

Again, Zynq Ultrascale+ FPGAs, running LINUX on Arm processors  
 Commonality of design for CCD220 and LVSM, difference in interface board  
 Water and Peltier cooled , modest camera volume !

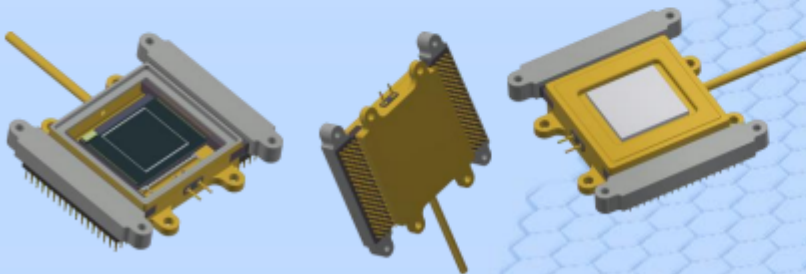


# 3 different detectors for AO applications

1) Extremely low noise ( $0.1e^-$ )  
small format (240x240) → CCD220

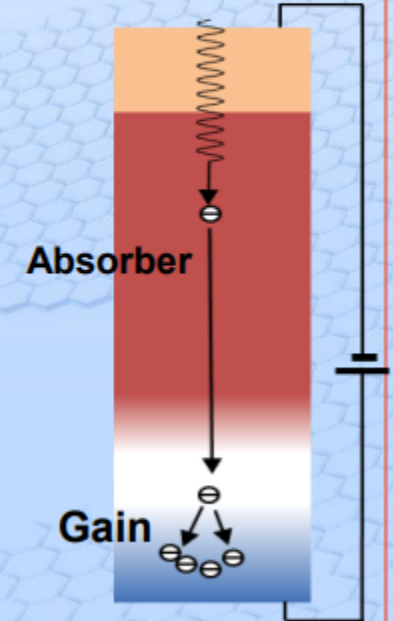
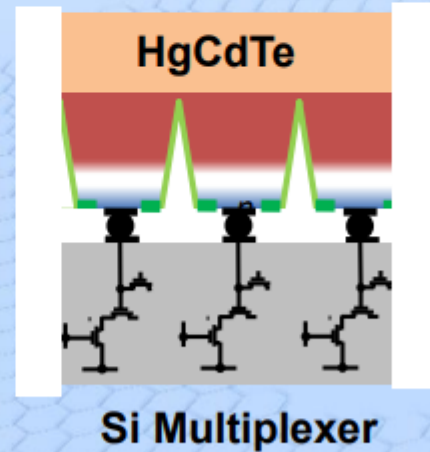
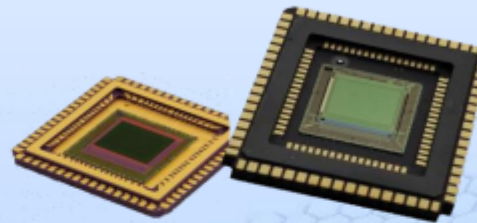


2) Large format (>800x800)  
modest noise ( $3e^-$ ) → LVSM



**Visible**

3) Low noise ( $1e^-$ )  
small format (320x256) → SAPHIRA



**NIR**

(Josh has poster on the cameras)

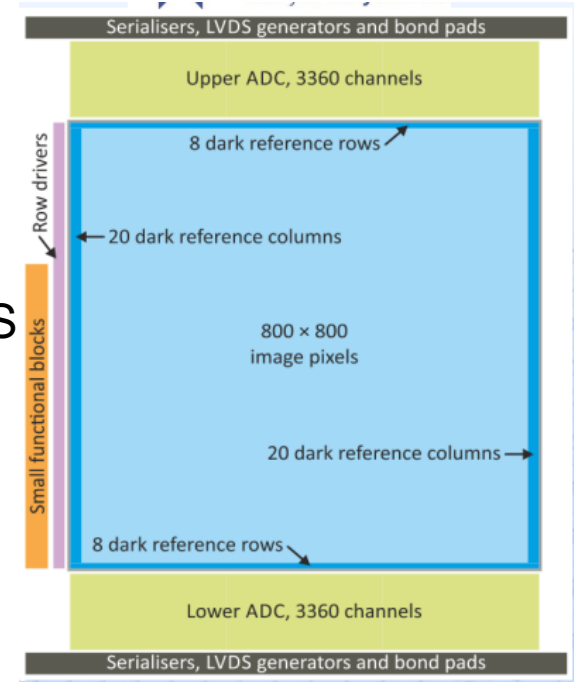
# LVSM development – Teledyne e2v – fully digital AO detector

Sampling spot elongation from Laser guide star  
80x80 sub-apertures of 10x10 pixels, 24  $\mu\text{m}$   
CCD220 not scalable, so CMOS Imager development

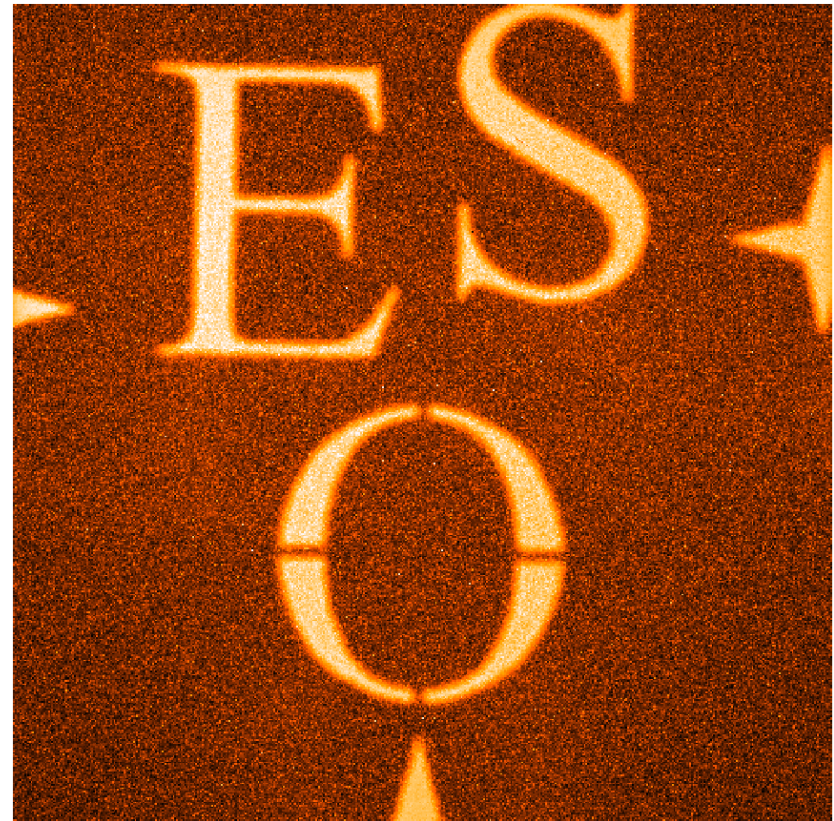
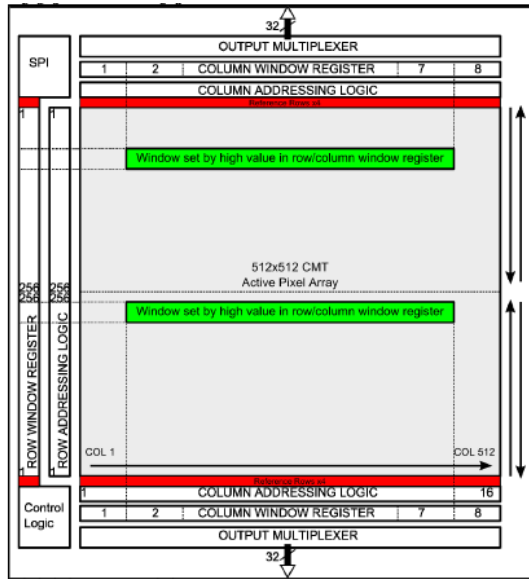
700 frames/second at  $< 3e^-$  rms noise  
Back-side illuminated, QE  $\sim 90\%$  at 589 nm  
Full well  $> 4000 e^-$   
Cooling to  $-10\text{C}$  using integral Peltier

All analogue processing on chip, including CDS  
Programmable gain  
9/10 bit ADCs at 14  $\mu\text{s}$ , 6720 channels  
4 rows top/bottom in parallel

24 lines at 256 Mbit/s LVDS serial interface



# Large SAPHIRA detector developments



First Light image – warm ROIC only

- New ROIC, the ME1120
- Simple operation, few clocks/biases
- 64 channels at ~10 MHz
- ROIC operational now at 3 MHz
- NGCII development for all present/new detectors

# Detector characterisation

3 new facilities for detector testing, CRISLER, CEAT and FIAT

CRISLER – designed for MOONS H4RG testing

Universal Cryogenics, Tucson

2 stage CCC, < 40K for detector

5 position motorized filter wheel

*Pymont* monitoring

Window for external calibration sources etc

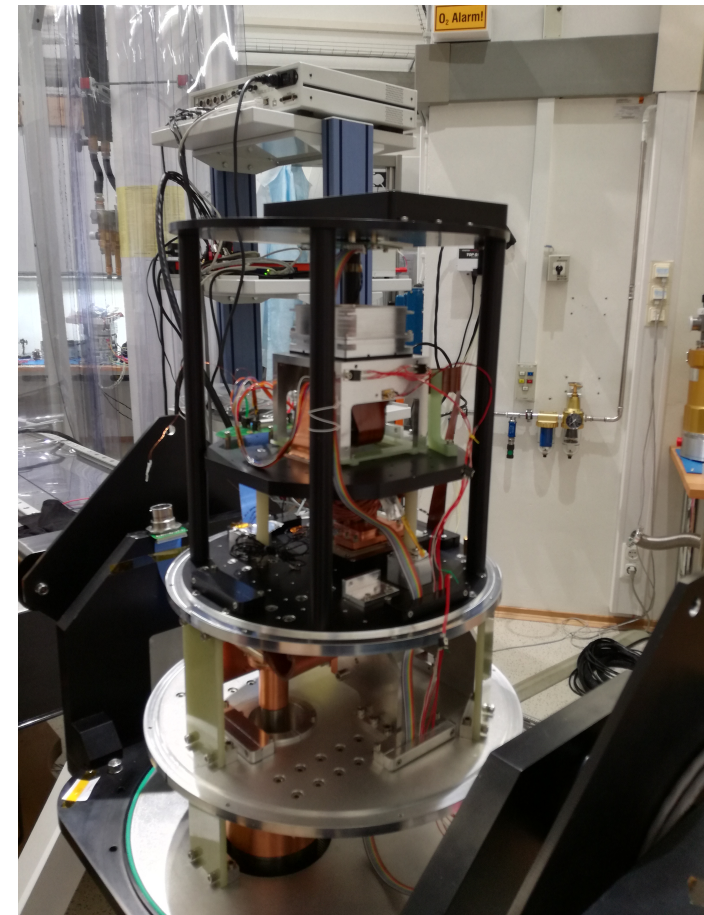
Detector 40K/80K possible and used

Second system, CEAT

Single stage cooler ~ 70K

No filter wheel or window

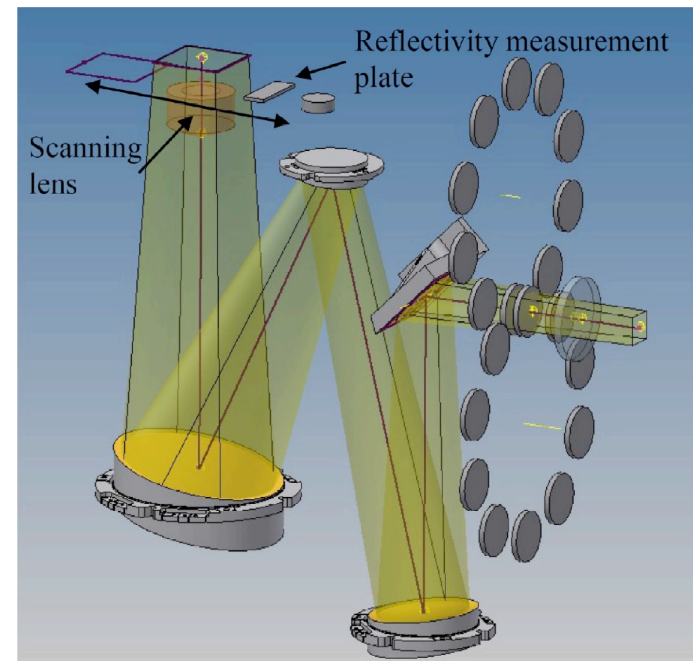
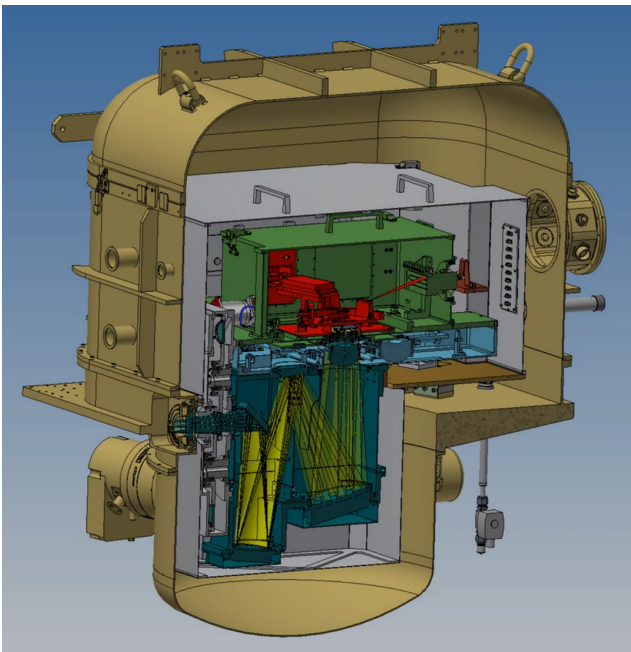
Used for testing cables cold/CCD operation





## ■ Facility for Infrared Array Testing

- Conjugated object image focal plane, field of view  $\sim 66\text{mm}$  square
- Low background, QE measurements, Intra-pixel scan
- Detector operating temperature range 40K to 110K, Cold copper mass
- Easy access to the detector area



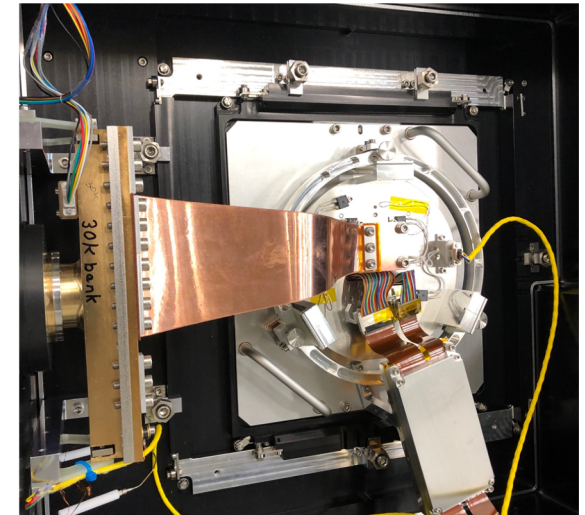
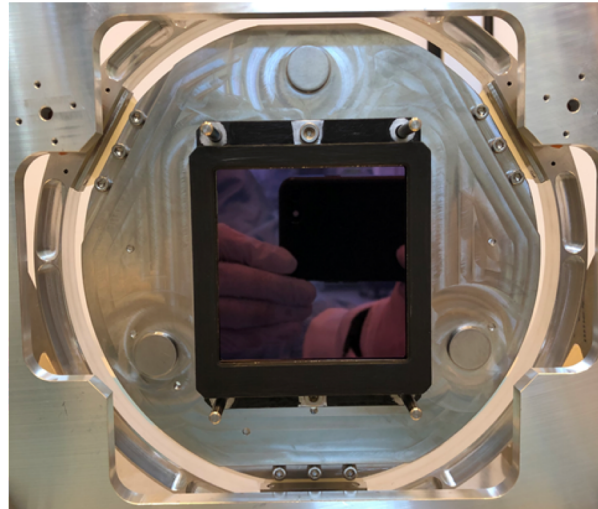
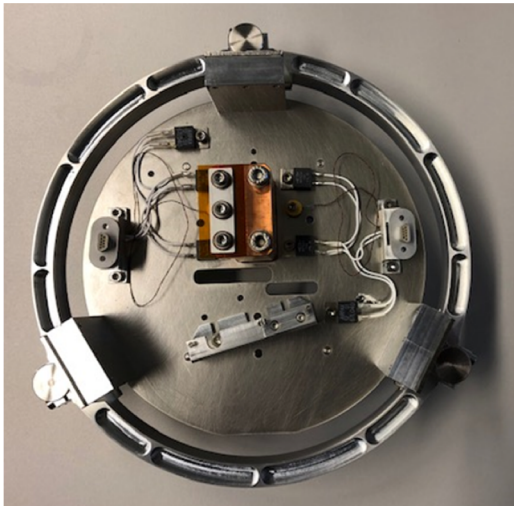
# FIAT Illumination

- Extended blackbody source at the object focal plane



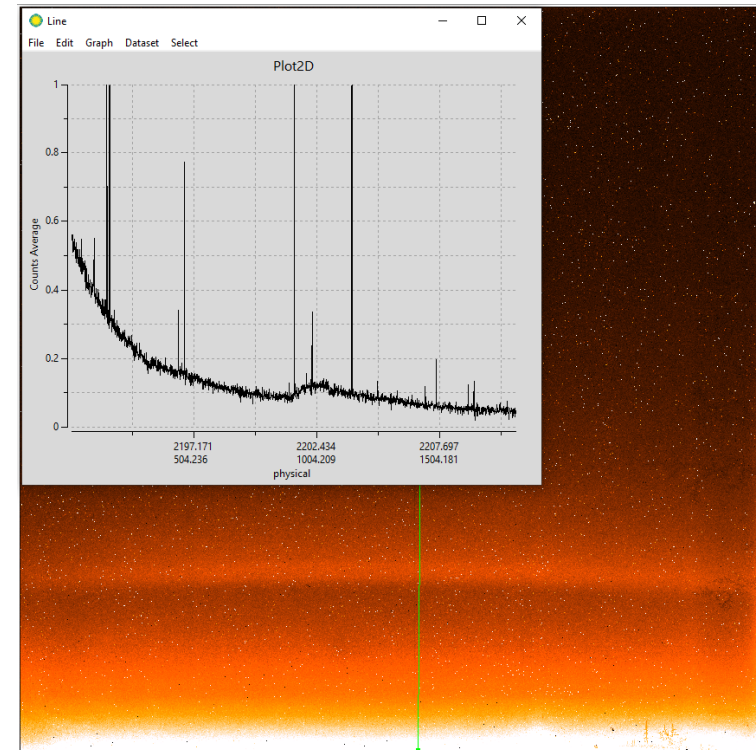
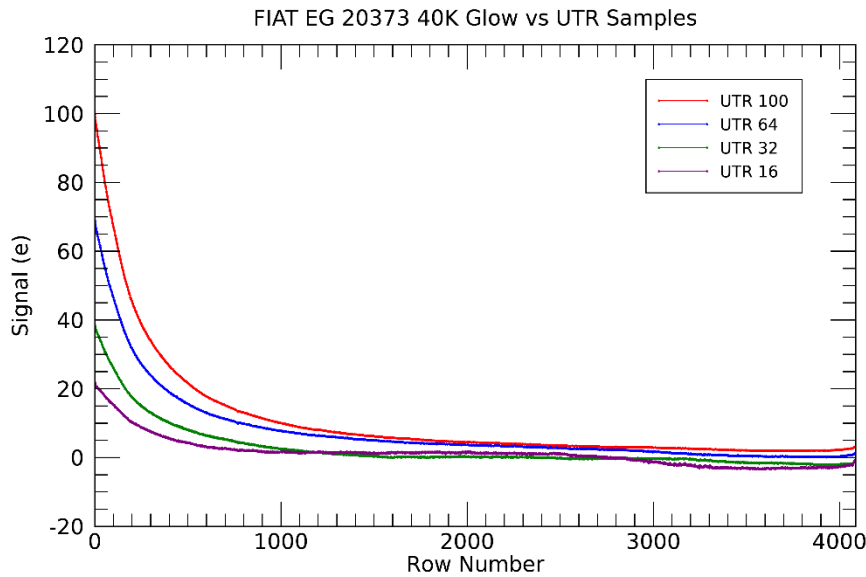
# Test Setup for H4RG

- 33-ch Preamp for H4RG
- H4RG detector in FIAT
  - PMOS buffer mode, 200kHz pixel rate



# H4RG characterization

Excellent QE, noise, dark current, cosmetics and flatness  
 Operated in Unbuffered/Buffered mode – Buffers preferred, glow seen from buffers  
 New version of ROIC in preparation, after ESO testing  
 Persistence quantified for pipeline correction  
 80K/40K quantified for different instruments  
 X 5 detectors tested



MOSAIC – multi-object spectrograph for the ELT

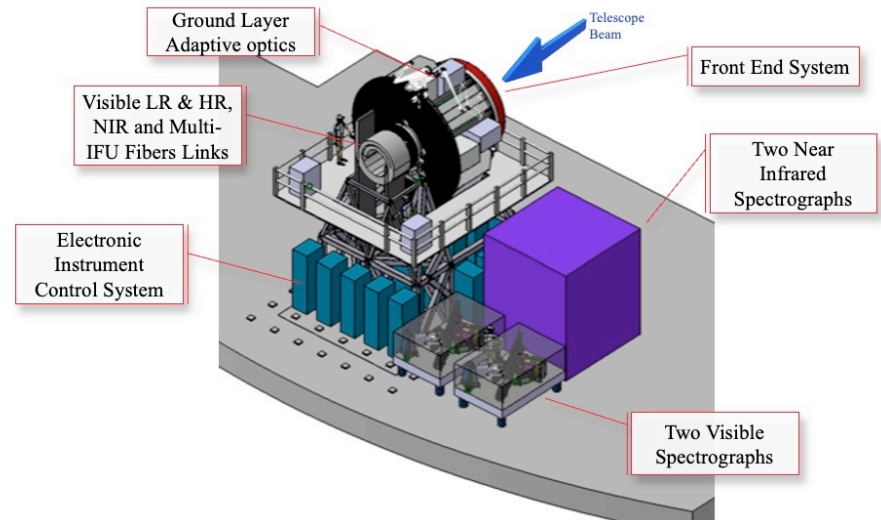
High multiplex capability in optical –

- 0.45 to 0.80  $\mu\text{m}$
- 200 objects at  $R \sim 5000$
- 80 objects at  $R \sim 20000$
- Fibre fed spectrographs

High multiplex capability and Mini-IFUs in the IR –

- 0.80 – 1.80  $\mu\text{m}$
- 200 objects at  $R \sim 5000$
- 8 x mini-IFUs with 200 mas pixel scale

- Led by Lidia Tasca at LAM + 13 countries
- Instrument cost < 50 M Euros (including contingency)
- Fully funded by consortium, no ESO funding
- 6 x 4kx4k IR detectors



# 2<sup>nd</sup> generation ELT instruments - ANDES

ANDES – high resolution spectrograph  
 Two wavelength channels using dichroic  
 Fibre fed, fixed configuration

Wavelength -

- 0.40—1.80  $\mu\text{m}$  (baseline),
- 0.35—2.40  $\mu\text{m}$  (goal)

Spectral resolution,  $R \sim 100,000$

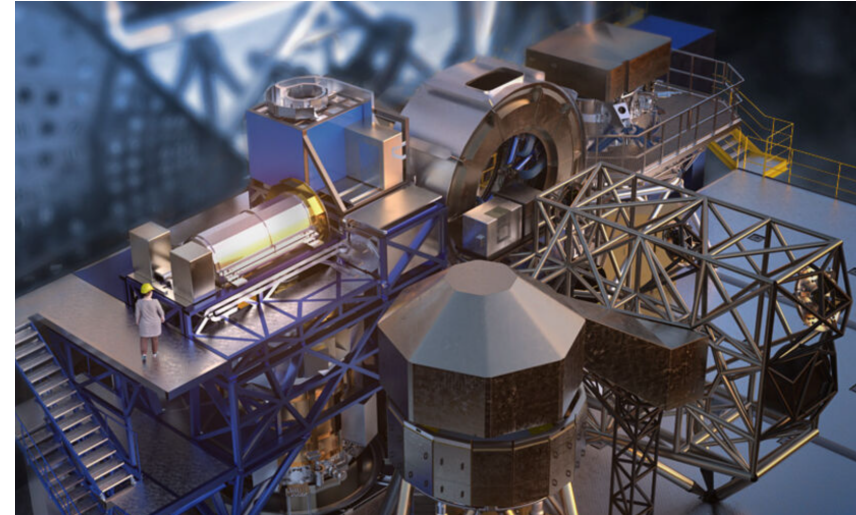
Wavelength precision  $\sim 1$  m/s (baseline), 0.1 m/s (goal)

Wavelength calibration stability  $\sim 1$  m/s over 24 hours (baseline), 0.02 m/s over 10 years (goal)

Detectors

- U (goal): 1x e2v CCD290-99, 9kx9k, 10micron pixel, CH (Geneva)
- B V: 2x e2v CCD290-99, 9kx9k, 10 micron pixel, CH (Geneva)
- R IZ: 2x e2v CCD231-84, 4kx4k, 15 micron pixel, CH (Geneva)
- Y J H: 3x H4RG, 4kx4k, 15 micron pixel, CAN (Montreal)
- K (goal): 1x H4RG, 4kx4k, 15 micron pixel, D (MPIA)

PI - Alessandro Marconi, University of Florence



# Detector Purchases

21 x H4RGs already purchased

Probably too ambitious

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
VLT/I	4 moons				2? new		2? new		2? new		
ELT		17 1 <sup>st</sup> light					3 ANDES	6 MOSAIC		4 pcs	
total	4	17			2		5	6	2	4	

## Other Science Detectors recently delivered

3 x H2RGs, 5.3 um (MWIR) for CRIRES+

1 x H2RG, 5,3um for ERIS

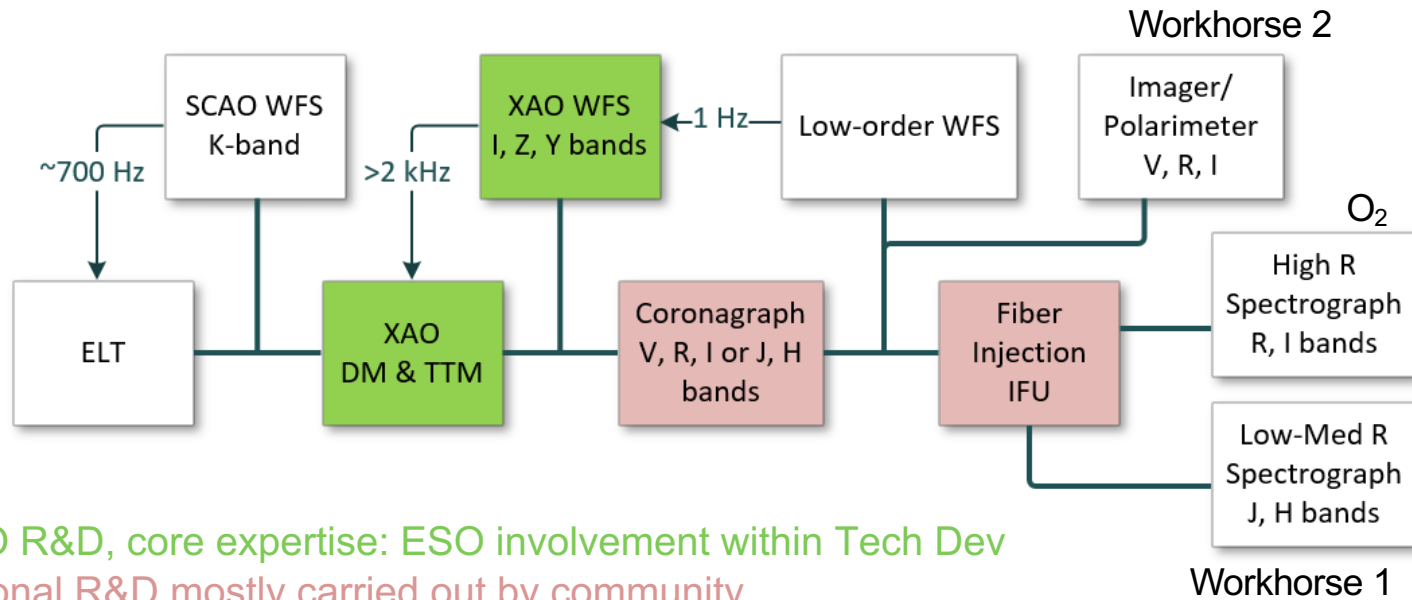
## ELT AO detector needs

11 x LVSM – see later

11 x L3CCD

3 x FLI C-Red One Cameras, with SAPHIRA detectors

# ELT Planet Coronagraphy Spectrograph instrument concept



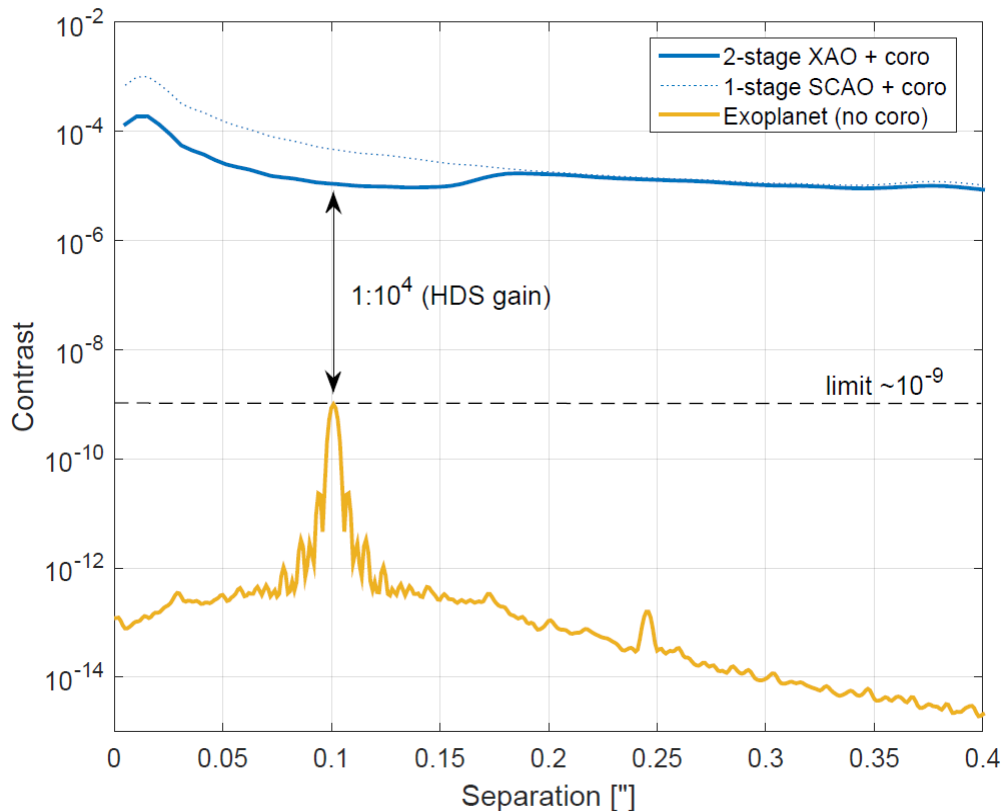
Green: XAO R&D, core expertise: ESO involvement within Tech Dev

Red: Additional R&D mostly carried out by community

- 2x 4K IR detectors for the spectrograph (H4RG or any other competitive IR detector)
- 1x 2K IR detectors for the imager (H2RG or any other competitive IR detector)
- wavelength range 1-2  $\mu\text{m}$  for the spectro, low dark current is very important.



# How ELT PCS achieves high contrast and high sensitivity



Concept validation on-sky: HiRISE, KPIC, MagAO-X, SCExAO....

The challenge is then **sensitivity before contrast!**

1. Maximize signal: Strehl, spectrograph throughput
2. Minimize noise: XAO residual halo

**-> push XAO and possibly fiber spectroscopy**

# VLT instruments

- Current FORS upgrade, CUBES and MAVIS are all visible-UV instruments → CCD or CMOS detectors
- Next instrument in the roadmap to start phase A end of 2023: BlueMUSE: visible/ UV → CCD/ CMOS
- VLT 2030+ workshop to define instruments for VLT in 2024

# Conclusions

- New controller development – “first light” expected Q4 2022  
NGCII fanless design done externally at ANU  
Allows for operation of both analogue and fully digital detectors
- Stronger collaborations with external groups, many using NGC,  
e.g. ESA, ANU, UoCambridge, UoSheffield, CEA, Saclay for ALFA  
detector development etc.
- New updated test facilities
- New test and characterization processes
- Future needs