# Overview of European Deep Underground Science Facilities

World Underground Labs



Boulby Underground Laboratory (UK)



LNGS (Italy)



### Sean Paling STFC Boulby Underground Laboratory



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# Why go underground?

### **Deep Underground Science Themes**

### Low Background Particle / Astroparticle Physics

- Direct dark matter searches
- Atmospheric, solar & supernova neutrinos
- Reactor and accelerator neutrinos
- Neutrino-less double beta decay
- Nuclear astrophysics / stellar reactions
- Misc. rare-decay processes

### Other 'Multi-disciplinary' studies

- Pure and applied cosmic ray studies,
- Misc. low background studies, Gamma spectroscopy
- Misc. Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Geo-microbiology & life in extreme environs
- Astrobiology and planetary exploration
- Quantum sensors, quantum computing
- Etc...

Biology, astrobiology and more.

Dark Matter Studies



Neutrino Studies





Life in Boulby



ULB Gamma spectroscopy



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# What's needed from an underground lab? (1)

Go underground...

Experimental Space with... Low Backgrounds...

### Cosmic ray Muons...

 Deep underground facilities provide rock overburden & commensurate reduction in c.r. flux & spallation induced products (neutrons)

### Neutrons...

Production from

- c.r. muon spallation
- U/Th fission
- α, n reactions

### Radon....

- Dependent on local geology & ventilation
  - Choose low background rock...

### Gammas....

- Reduction in γ-ray background at higher energies from c.r. and neutron reduction
- Below 3.5MeV dependent on local geology



Muon Flux vs. Depth





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# **Underground Labs around the world....**





## In mines and under mountains







LNGS





SURF



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# What's needed from an underground lab? (2)

### **Other Factors:**

### Science and operations support:

- Good surface & underground infrastructure & support facilities
- Reliable utilities: power, ventilation, heat management, water, gases/liquids
- Good Health & Safety and security systems for underground use
- Scientific support personnel: design, construction, operation/analysis
- Infrastructure support and personnel: workshops, chemical labs, IT etc.
- Good ancillary science support facilities: low background assay, clean rooms etc...

### **Other Facility Characteristics:**

- Size (monolithic or distributed; Space available)
- Ease of Access (vertical or horizontal); Max installation size limitations
- Location (neutrino flux from beam/reactor, Earth, ease of access, quality of life)
- Cleanliness and radiological interference
- Suitable geology / environmental characteristics

**Local Politics & funding:** multi-year budgets, solid host nation support, local support /engagement in the facility and the science. Science community networking.

'A hole in the ground is not a facility!'







Other non infrastructure-based

things are very important too

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# **World Deep Underground Science Labs**



### LNGS / Gran Sasso Deep Underground Lab



### LNGS / Gran Sasso Deep Underground Lab



### **Gran Sasso Science**



**Nuclear Astrophysics** 

**Dark Matter Search** 





TOTAL USERS: N. 981 ITALIAN USERS: N. 417 FOREIGN USERS: N. 564





#### ..... but also

Test on quantum mechanics

- Study on violation of Pauli's exclusion principle
- Electron decay

#### Radiobiology

Biological effects of low radioactive environment

#### Geophysics

- Earthquake monitoring and study
- Analysis of water resources

#### > Ultra Trace elemental analysis

- Low radioactivity tests and measurements
- Cultural Heritage analysis
- Advanced additive manufacturing

### **Gran Sasso Status**

#### Bellotti Ion Beam Facility – now in use:

New user facility since June 2023 3.5 MV accelerator for light lons (H, He, C) call for proposals: https://l.infn.it/Bellotti

#### Borexino decommissioning underway

Liquid scintillator and water removed Refurbishing of the underground spaces underway Availability of existing infrastructures for new experiments (inc LEGEND-1000, G3-XeDM etc)

#### New STELLA facility for mat screening (16 HPGe, alpha counting, Liq scint

Reburbishment of new area completed Improved shielding and cleanliness Improved samples treatment area **Detector installation in progress** 

### NOA ultra-clean facility for SiPM photosensors production, testing, packagin

Currently in operation for DarkSide-20k

### New underground Cryo test facility for low temperature devices

Commissioning scheduled for late 2024

### Enlarging the lab workshop and of the 3D printing facility

A dedicated new underground workshop will be installed

E. Previtali / Aldo Ianni

#### Facility 3D-Scanning





High sensitivity ICP-MS.



STELLA (SubTErranean Low Level Assay)





NOA clean room assembly facility





Cryo-facility for testing of low temp devices



### LSM Modane Underground Laboratory



### LSM Modane Underground Laboratory



### The LSM is a French National Research Infrastructure





- Experimental site midway in the 13km France/Italy highway road tunner
- Surface lab (*office, garage, small museum*)

Volume 3500m<sup>3</sup>

Modane:

- 130 km from Grenoble
- 200 km from Lyon
- 100 km from Torino
- **Deepest site in Europe dedicated** to astroparticle, nuclear & particle physics
- 4800 m.w.e: muon flux reduced by >10<sup>6</sup> relative to surface
- Flexible access (hall accessible to trucks up to 9m);
- Natural radioactivity due to radon of about 10-15 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>





### LSM Science Programme

### Science programme adapted to LSM size:

- Low-mass Dark Matter Experiments
- OvBB demonstrators & technologies
- HPGe array for low-radioactivity

Experiment	Focus	Technology	Activities in 2024
SuperNEMO	Ονββ	Tracking- calorimeter	Commissioning and final shielding installation are ongoing. Physics data taking from summer 2024.
BINGO	Ονββ	Cryogenic	Cryostat integration underground. Commissioning in summer 2024.
Obelix 82Se	ECEC2υ	Ge ionisation	Counting of 6kg enriched 82Se sample from LNGS started in January 2022: ECEC2v to excited states. Renewal of agreement <i>in fieri</i> .
TGV	Ονββ	Ge ionisation	Detector upgrade delayed.
DAMIC-M	DM	Si CCD	Test chamber Physics run in 2022. Installation of kg- stage from September 2024.
MIMAC	DM	TPC	Detector upgrades with commissioning planned in 2025.

#### **Current experimental activities**







#### LSM Science Programme

Sep 2024

### LSM Screening and Material Assay Platform

# Wide-range program for Astroparticles, Earth Sciences (sediment and ice core sample datation), environmental safety (CEA), biology, etc...

- HPGe gamma spectroscopy
- Alpha surface contamination via the XIA-UltraLo1800 counter
  - Commissioning at LPSC (surface cleanroom)
- Material assays for experiments based at LSM (SuperNEMO, EDELWEISS, CUPID-Mo, DAMIC-M), and also for other experiments (ex: JUNO, RICOCHET)
- Agreement with LNGS for long term (~ year) measurement of ECEC decay of <sup>82</sup>Se (6 kg) to excited state on large (600 cc) Obelix HPGe.

**PARTAGe**: Footprint optimization for HPGe screen detectors

- 25 detectors in hands at LSM
- 15 installed in PARTAGe
- 5 detectors belonging to LSM
- ~1000 samples/year







### **Canfranc Underground Lab**

Located in Spanish-French Pyrenees border. Two-way access tunnels: abandoned train tunnel and operative road tunnel. First experiments (IGEX, ...) since 1986. Modern lab, 1600 m<sup>2</sup>, operative since 2010. 260 scientists from 50 institutions. 800 meters (v) of rock - muon flux is 5x10<sup>-7</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>; neutron flux (E<10MeV) is 3.5x10<sup>-6</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>; gamma flux is 2 cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> Radon abatement system: 220 m<sup>3</sup>/h radon-reduced air at 1mBq/m<sup>3</sup>





## Good progress since last LRT meeting



HPGe detector GeRysy



ICPMS-QQQ underground



EFCu: DAMIC lids



**ANAIS Experiment** 

GeRysy: New lowest background record in HPGe gamma screening with (<10) µBq/kg sensitivity (led by G. Zuzel).

ICPMS-QQQ: in ISO5 clean room underground: 2 (20) ppq sensitivity in <sup>238</sup>U(<sup>232</sup>Th), ppb in <sup>40</sup>K (See L. Cid's talk)

EFCu: New installation running in clean room underground. (See S. Borjabad's talk)

ANAIS and next generation Nal experiment: Last (8th) year of data taking. LRT work in Nal with SABRE

HyperKamiokande: Coordination of the Spanish contribution to the construction of HK (20400 PMT covers to cancel chain reaction, ventilation and geomagnetic compensation systems, 1000 Data Processing Blocks, calibration, ...).

### NEXT-100 & NEXT-HD experiments



Flagship experiment at LSC:

**NEXT-100 experiment** -TPC with 100 kg of Xe-136 at high pressure - installed @LSC to search for neutrinoless double beta decay. In operation since December 2023.



NEXT-HD - TPC with 1 ton of Xe-136 at high pressure will start construction plans in 2025. Already working on LRT for the ton-scale experiment: higher purity copper shielding, light extraction with fibers,...







# CALLIO LAB

### Underground Center for Science and R & D

Coordinator: Jari Joutsenvaara (jari.joutsenvaara@oulu.fi)

For more information, please visit: www.calliolab.com www.oulu.fi/en/callio-lab



and above ground

# CALLO LAB at the Pyhäsalmi Mine, in Pyhäjärvi Finland



### About the Pyhäsalmi mine:

- Underground mining since 1967 (Cu, Zn & pyrite )
- 1.4 km (~4100 mwe) flat overburden
- Access via incline (12 km) or elevator
- Mining ceased in 2022
- Transitioning from mine to repurposing
- Owned by Pyhäsalmi Mine Oy
- Post-mining activities coordinated by the Pyhäjärvi town-owned Callio- Mine for Business
- Science activities coordinated by the University of Oulu Callio Lab



MINE FOR BUSINESS



# CALLO LA

# Multidisciplinary research and experiments since 2015

### **Basic information:**

- Benefits From The Whole Mine Site And Infrastructure
- Project-based Operations Low Operational Costs
- Research Activities At Callio Lab Coordinated By The Kerttu Saalasti Institute, University Of Oulu
- An EPOS Research Infrastructure (ESFRI, 2020)
- A FIN-EPOS Infrastructure (FIRI, 2020)
- Member of DULIA network and collaborating with CELLAR network
- Founding member of European Underground Laboratories Association (EUL, BSUIN projects) <u>Undergroundlabs.network</u>

We offer coordination, cooperation, networking and facilitation





Boulby Underground Laboratory: Status and plans for the UK's deep underground science facility.

Sean Paling Boulby Underground Laboratory, UK



Sean Paling. Boulby Underground Lab. 2024

# **Boulby Geology & Mining**

Excavations are in Salt (NaCl), Potash (KCl) and Polyhalite  $(K_2Ca_2Mg(SO_4))$ . Permian evaporite layers left over from the Zechstein Sea (250m.yrs past).

Over 40 kms of tunnel mined each year (now >1,000kms), the long-lived roadways being cut in the lower NaCl layer.



Polyhalite

Rock-Salt



Britain's

deep.

deepest mine.

1.1 to 1.3km

>1000kms tunnel

Low activity salt U ~67 ppb, Th ~125 ppb





**Boulby Geology** 





**Boulby Underground Lab Facilities 2023:** >4000m<sup>3</sup> class 1k & 10k (ISO 6 & 7) clean room lab space. 10Gb Internet. AC, air filtration, 5T & 10T lifting, LN generation, fume hood & clean prep space. 3000m<sup>3</sup> Outside Experimentation Area (OEA) with power & internet. Supported access to wider mine environs.

# Boulby Underground Laboratory (UK)



Boulby Underground Laboratory

#### Science and Technology Facilities Council Boulby Underground Laboratory

### **Boulby Facility Details...**







- Astroparticle & Low Background Science
- Earth & Environmental Science
- Astrobiology & Planetary Exploration Studies
- Quantum Sensors and Computing
- Outreach & Education

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Boulby Underground

Boulby Underground Lab

	Find out more: @BoulbyLab www.stfc.ac.uk/boulby
oratory 2024	🖬 in 😏 🕒

# **Boulby Science Now & Future**

Particle physics and ultra-low background studies



### Boulby Dark Matter Studies...

Boulby has hosted Dark Matter search studies for over two decades. Including the NAIAD, DRIFT & ZEPLIN experiment programmes.

Boulby now hosts CYGNUS directional DM programme, NEWS-G/Dark-Sphere R&D and providing ULB material screening for other studies, inc LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) rotation curves







# **Multi-disciplinary Science**

Applied particle physics, Earth and environmental studies, Astrobiology & Planetary exploration.



Astrobiology & planetary exploration



energy storage



Laboratory

# Future facilities & science @ Boulby...

### **Boulby Activities Now** and in the Future

		Now	
	Current Projects	Status	
	CYGNUS - DM R&D	E/P	
Particle Physics & Low Background	News-G - DM R&D	А	
	BUGS: Ge, XIA, RnEm - Material Screening	А	
	RECON - Nuclear Security R&D	А	
	BUTTON – Nuclear security R&D	А	
Earth & Environmental	Muon Tomog – CCS & undersea Geoimaging R&D	А	
	RESOURCE – Energy store R&D	А	
	Seismology/AION R&D	А	
Astrobiology & Planetary Exploration	BISAL – Biology/Astrobiology	А	
	MINAR – Planetary Exploration Tech development	А	
	Misc. Other. SELLR, C14, Adrok, BIO-SPHERE	A/P	
	Outreach/ Education - Misc events, progs, Remote3	А	

Status: A = Active, P = Paused, E = End, I = Interest confirmed

2023-2030				
Medium Term (Current Lab + mods)	Status			
BUGS: Ge, XIA, RnEm, ICPMS - Material Screening	А			
BUTTON-30 – Nuclear security R&D	А			
RECON+ - Nuclear Security R&D	A/I			
DarkSPHERE, SOLAIRE, ULT, Quantum Technologies – DM Search	1			
DATUM – Neutrino Tech R&D	1			
SoLAr – Neutrino R&D	1			
AION-100 & 1000 R&D	I.			
Seismology Array – Geosurvey R&D	1			
RESOURCE+ – Energy store R&D	A/I			
Muon Tomog – CCS & undersea Geoimaging R&D	A/I			
BISAL+ – Biology/Astrobiology	A/I			
MINAR+ – Planetary Exploration Tech development	A/I			
Misc. Other. Quantum Computing Tech R&D?	-			
Outreach/ Education: General Public, Schools +	А			

#### 2030-2040+ Long Term (Current lab plus major new lab) Particle Physics and Low Background Science: Dark Matter: Major Next Gen Experiments: . Xenon (XLZD) Argon (SOLAIRE+) Target projects Gas (DarkSPHERE+) for a major new ULT technologies for DM **UK underground** Quantum Technologies for DM facility / campus Neutrinos: BUTTON-100+ . DATUM (LEGEND Support), SoLAR + .... Mat screening & LB Techniques: A world's best facility: Ge, XIA, RnEm, ICPMS, Cleanlines & Engineering R&D Misc Other: AION-100 / AION-1000 Nuclear Security Gamma spec Quantum Computing Technology R&D? Earth & Environmental Science: Sustainable Energy R&D Seismology Observatory Geological Repositories R&D Misc geology / Geophysics R&D Astrobiology & Planetary Exploration: Extremophile R&D Astrobiology / life beyond Earth R&D Human habitation R&D Planetary exploration technology development Robotics and AI Mining and industry application development. **Outreach and Education:** A National Centre for Science and technology outreach and education.



### Boulby Development Project: Stage 1 Excavation

Progress August 2024











Excavation well underway. Completion mid 2025 (Outfitting ~2028)

# **World Deep Underground Science Labs**



## **Overview of European Deep Underground Science** Facilities

### **Summary**

- A busy and exciting time in the international underground laboratory world.
- Many interesting and significant experiments now operating, under construction or planned – many needing better than ever for Low Radiation Techniques and devices.
- Europe has a number of important, historic and diverse underground facilities each with low background radiation research capabilities and exciting/ambitious plans for the future.

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Boulby Underground Laboratory

Sean Paling STFC Boulby Underground Laboratory

# **Back-Up Slides**

### BAKSAN Neutrino Observatory (Russia)



Biological researches at the deep underground low radiation background laboratory (DULB-4900) and tunnel of Baksan Neutrino Observatory: biophysics and microbiology

Zarubin Mikhail<sup>1</sup>, Kravchenko Elena<sup>1</sup>, Gangapshev Albert<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia <sup>2</sup>Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia <u>mzarubin@jinr.ru</u>

#### **Baksan Neutrino Observatory**

BNO (INR RAS) was founded in the late 60-80<sup>th</sup> in the Neutrino Village (1700 m.a.s.l.) located 22 km from the highest european mountain Elbrus (5642 m, dormant volcano) under the peak of Andyrchy mountain (3937 m). Main scientific goals of BNO are related to fields of astrophysics, particle physics and nuclear physics. Moreover newer topics of interdisciplinary research are linked to geophysics, geology and biology (since 2019)



#### Baksan Large Neutrino Telescope Project: Prototypes and Perspectives

#### Show affiliations

Lukanov, A. D.; Budzinskaya, A. A.; Gangapshev, A. N.; Gavrin, V. N.; Fazilakhmetov, A. N.; Ibragimova, T. V.; Kazalov, V. V.; Kuzminov, V. V.; Lubsandorzhiev, B. K.; Malyshkin, Yu. M.; Nanzanov, D. A.; Novikova, G. Ya.; Petkov, V. B.; Shikhin, A. A.; Sidorenkov, A. Yu.; Smirnov, O. Yu.; Ushakov, N. A.; Veretenkin, E. P.; Voronin, D. M.; Yanovich, E. A.

The article reports on the current status of the Baksan Large Neutrino Telescope project and describes some selective results of the first stage of the project, a detector prototype with a liquid scintillator mass of 0.5 tons. The results of the second stage of the project, a prototype with liquid scintillator mass of 5 tons, and project prospects also presented.

Publication:	Physics of Atomic Nuclei, Volume 86, Issue 6, p.1380-1384	
Pub Date:	February 2024	
DOI:	10.1134/S1063778823060182 🗹	
Bibcode:	2024PAN86.1380L 🕜	

#### https://indico.stfc.ac.uk/event/1058/





#### Laboratory structure at Baksan



#### Scientific program at Baksan: highlights

