

# Development and Experimental Performance Evaluation of a Dose-Rate meter for Pulsed Beam.

**A. Vascotto<sup>1</sup>, K. Casarin<sup>1</sup>, S. Sbarra<sup>1</sup>, M. Ballerini<sup>2</sup>, G. Merlino<sup>2</sup>**

**<sup>1</sup>Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A.**

*Strada Statale S.S.14 km 163.5, 34012 Basovizza, Trieste, Italy*

**<sup>2</sup>Else s.r.l.,**

*Via Pier della Francesca 26, 20090 Trezzano sul Naviglio, Milano, Italy*



# Contents

---

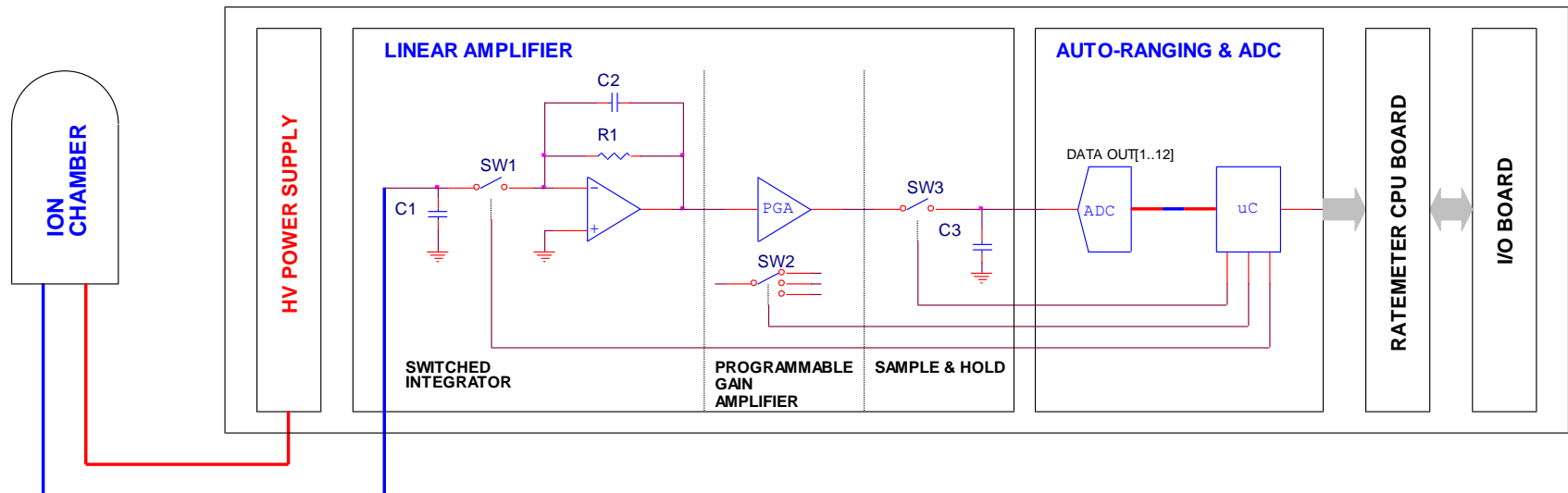
- **Preliminary Study**
  - *Silena Gamma Radiation Monitor*
  - *Experimental front-end electronics*
- **Development of a new front-end electronics**
  - *Requirements*
  - *Measurement Technique*
- **Testing Results**
  - *Pulsed beam response*
  - *Long term stability*
- **Conclusions**

# Environmental Gamma Radiation Monitoring System



## Silena Gamma Radiation Monitor:

- *High pressure Ion Chamber Detector mod. Centronic IGC5/A6.4 N9.6*
- *High voltage power supply*
- *6 decades linear amplifier*
- *Auto-ranging & A/D Converter*
- *Digital Rate-meter & Relay I/O Boards*



# Performance of the Silena Gamma Radiation Monitor

---

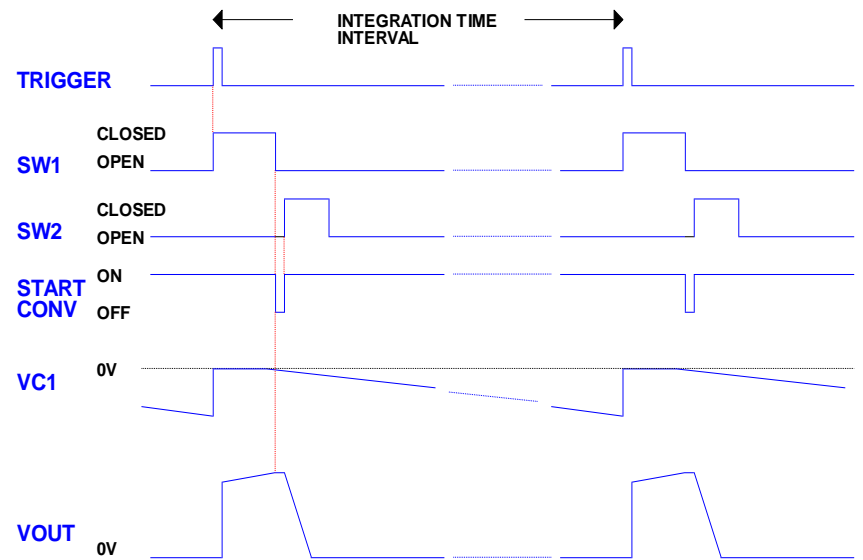
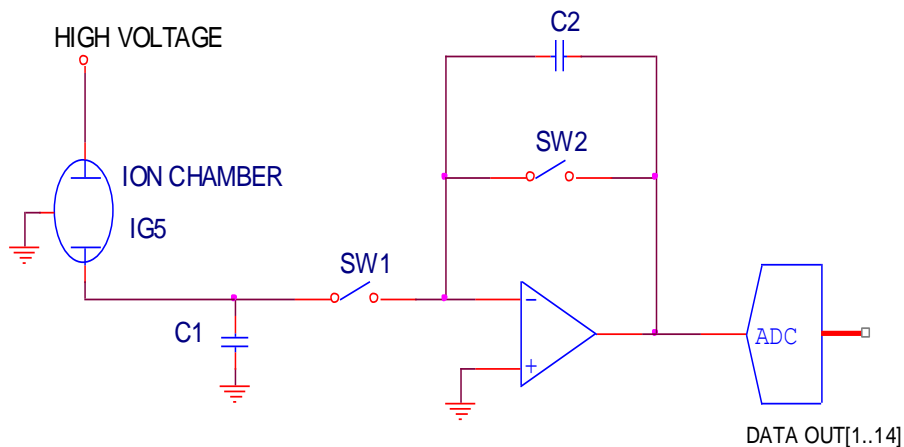
- .... **stable radiation levels or continuous pulsed radiation field**
  - ❑ *Good accuracy and linearity*
  - ❑ *Excellent long term stability at natural background radiation levels*
- .... **fast and wide fluctuations of the radiation levels or short time, intermittent high intensity pulsed radiation field**
  - ❑ *Good accuracy and linearity within the first 3 decades (max dose value of 250nGy for 1s fixed integration time)*
  - ❑ *First stage saturation and wrong selection of gain amplifier*
    - *over the 3rd decade*
    - *when full scale change is required, because of different dose values*

**An experimental acquisition system was design ....**

# Experimental front-end electronics

- **Main features**

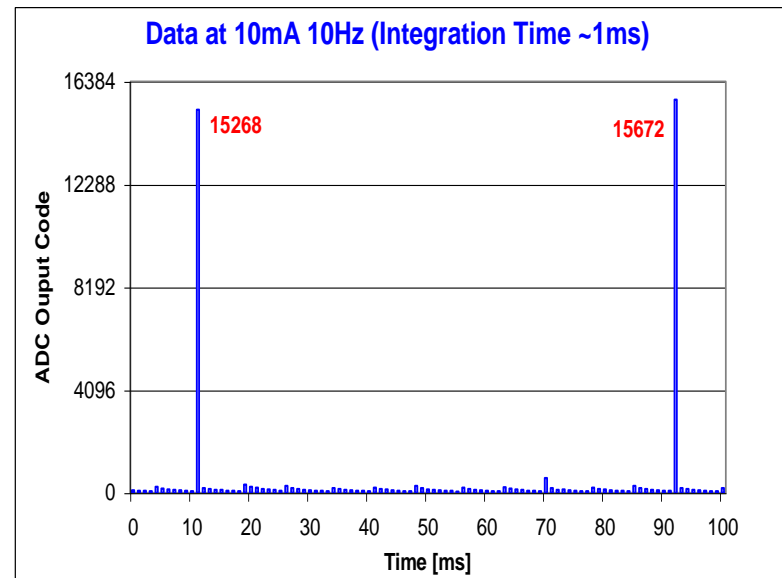
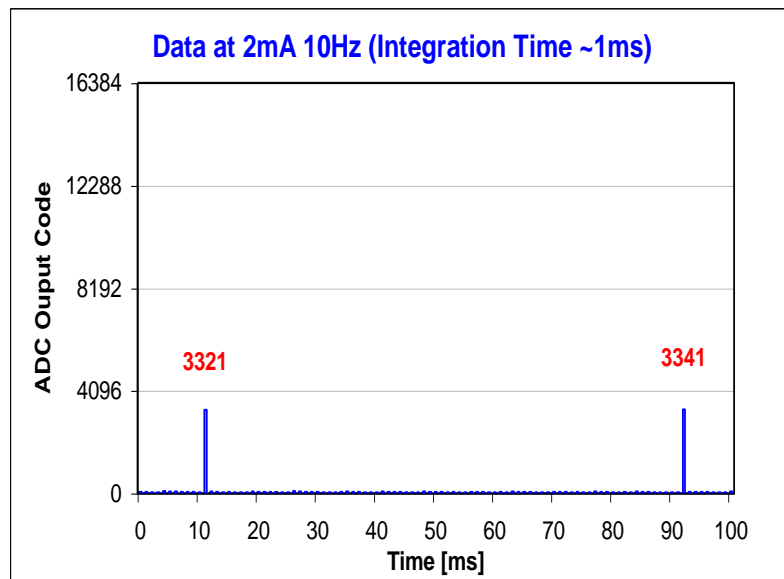
- ❑ **Output voltage signal of the amplifier proportional to the charge accumulated within the integration time.**
- ❑ **Remote control of the integration time.**  
**Options available: 100μsec, 1ms, 10ms, 100ms, 1s.**
- ❑ **No loss of the charges generated by the detector and continuous integration of the input signal.**



# Preliminary test in high energy pulsed radiation field

- Objectives

- ❑ *Study the response of the front-end experimental acquisition system*
- ❑ *Define the requirements for the new front-end electronics*



Linac beam operating at 900 MeV with 70 nsec pulse duration

**Different electronic set-up of the experimental acquisition system was evaluated ...**

# New front-end electronics development

---

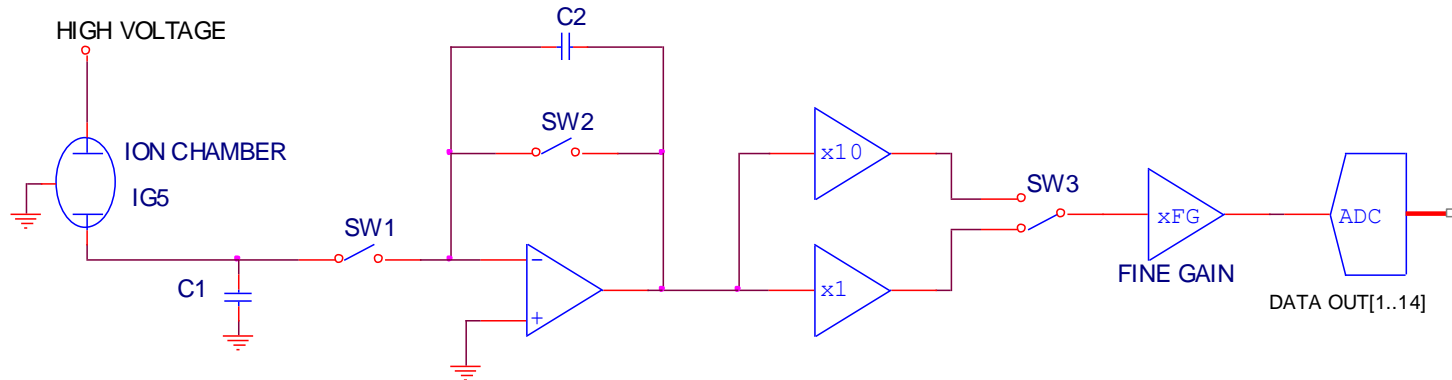
- **Main Requirements**

- ❑ *Good accuracy and long term stability with very low input current ( $10^{-14}A$ ) at natural background radiation level*
- ❑ *Capability to process high number of charges within a very short time interval (up to 100nC in 1ms)*
- ❑ *Fast time response (<2ms)*
- ❑ *Good linearity within 7 decades dynamic range up to  $10^7A$  (high radiation dose rate)*
- ❑ *Hardware & Software compatible with existing Silena Gamma Monitor (modular electronic board level)*

# Measurement Technique

- **Operation mode**

- ❑ **Charge transferred to capacitor C2 every 1ms by SW1 (integration time)**
- ❑ **Charge in C2 reset every 1ms or hold by SW2, depending on output voltage level**
- ❑ **X1 and X10 output signal cyclically sampled by the ADC**
- ❑ **Dose rate, as the sum of 1000 individual integrated values, calculated every 1 s by the u-controller, taking into account the conversion factor**



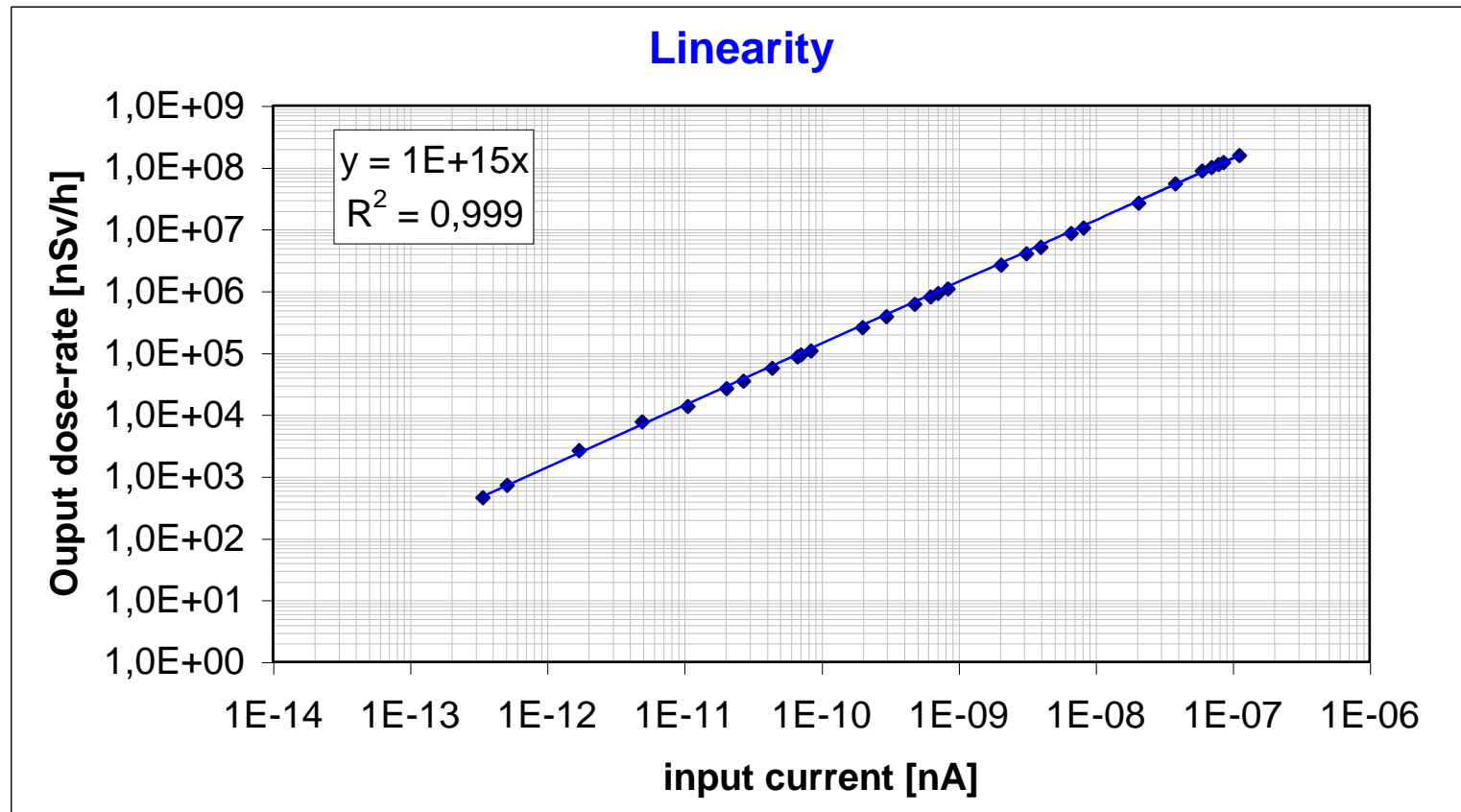
- **Important features:**

- ❑ **Switch charge injections neutralization**
- ❑ **Offset error correction**
- ❑ **Thermal drift compensation**



# Linearity

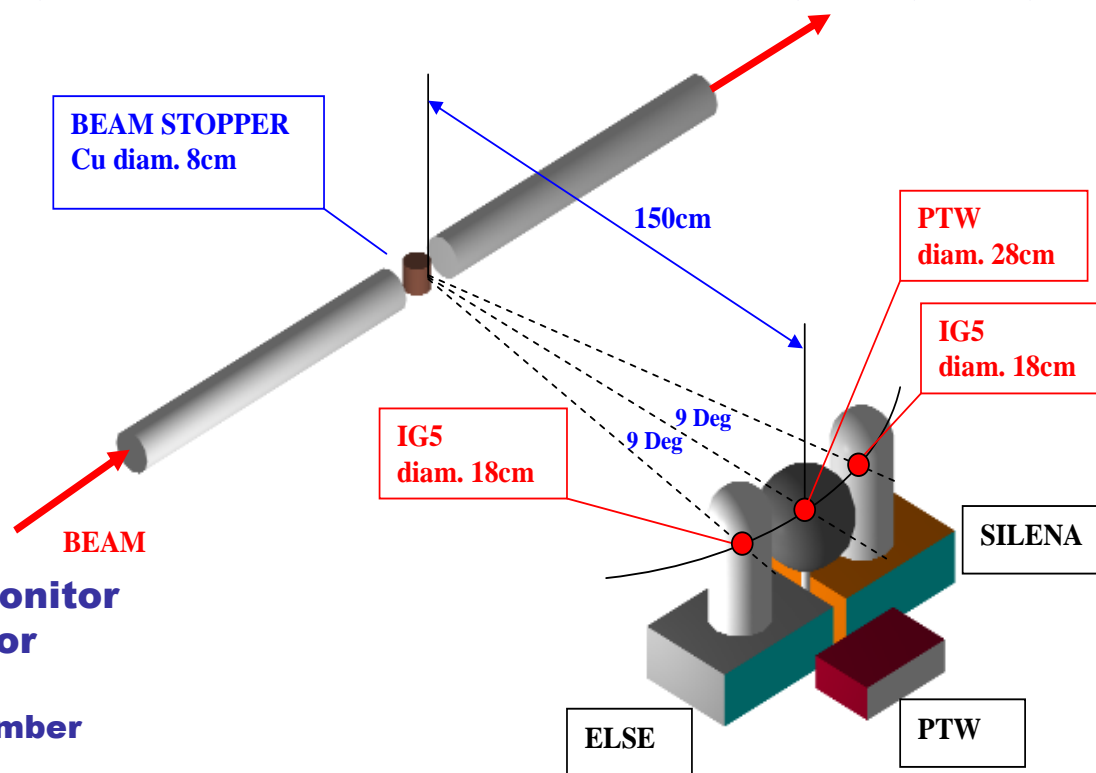
## Measurements with current generator



# Test Conditions & Layout

- **Experimental conditions**

- Linac beam operating at 900 MeV with 70 nsec pulse duration*
- Repetition rate 10Hz*
- Number of pulses 1, 5 and 10 with linac currents of 1mA, 2mA, 5mA, 10mA, 15mA*



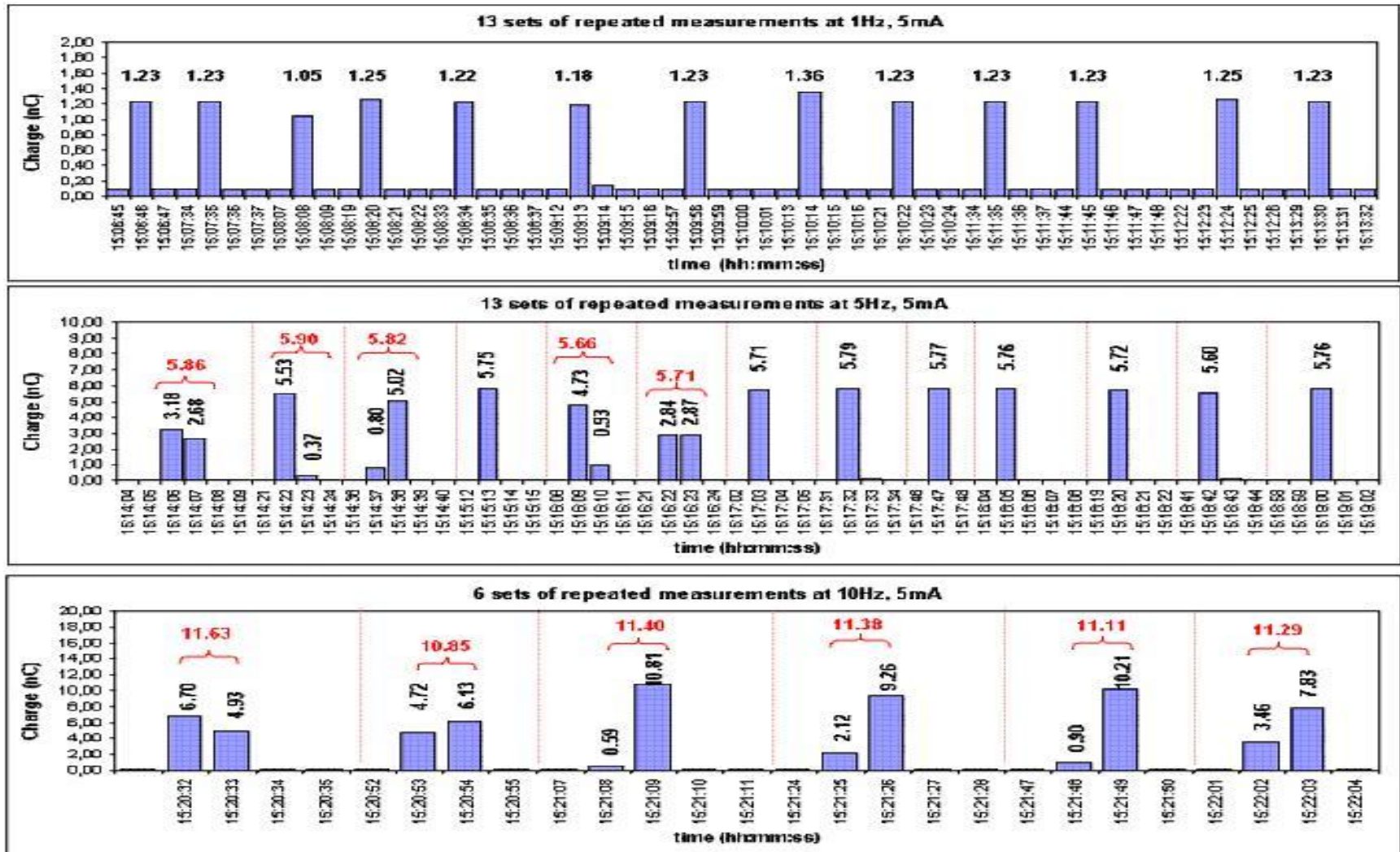
1) **ELSE New Gamma Monitor**

2) **Silena Gamma Monitor**

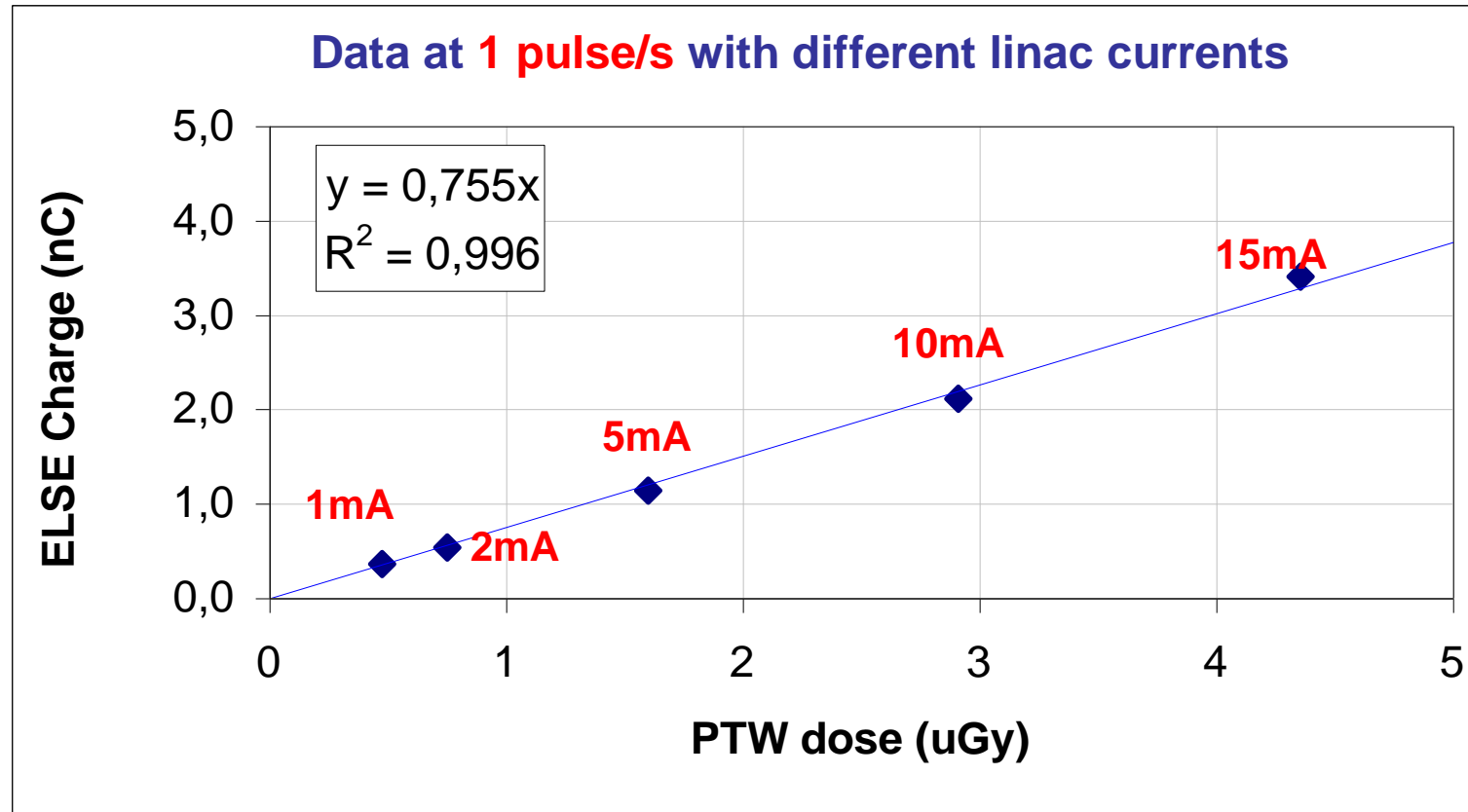
3) **Reference system:**

- 32003-PTW Ion Chamber**
- Keithley mod. 6517**

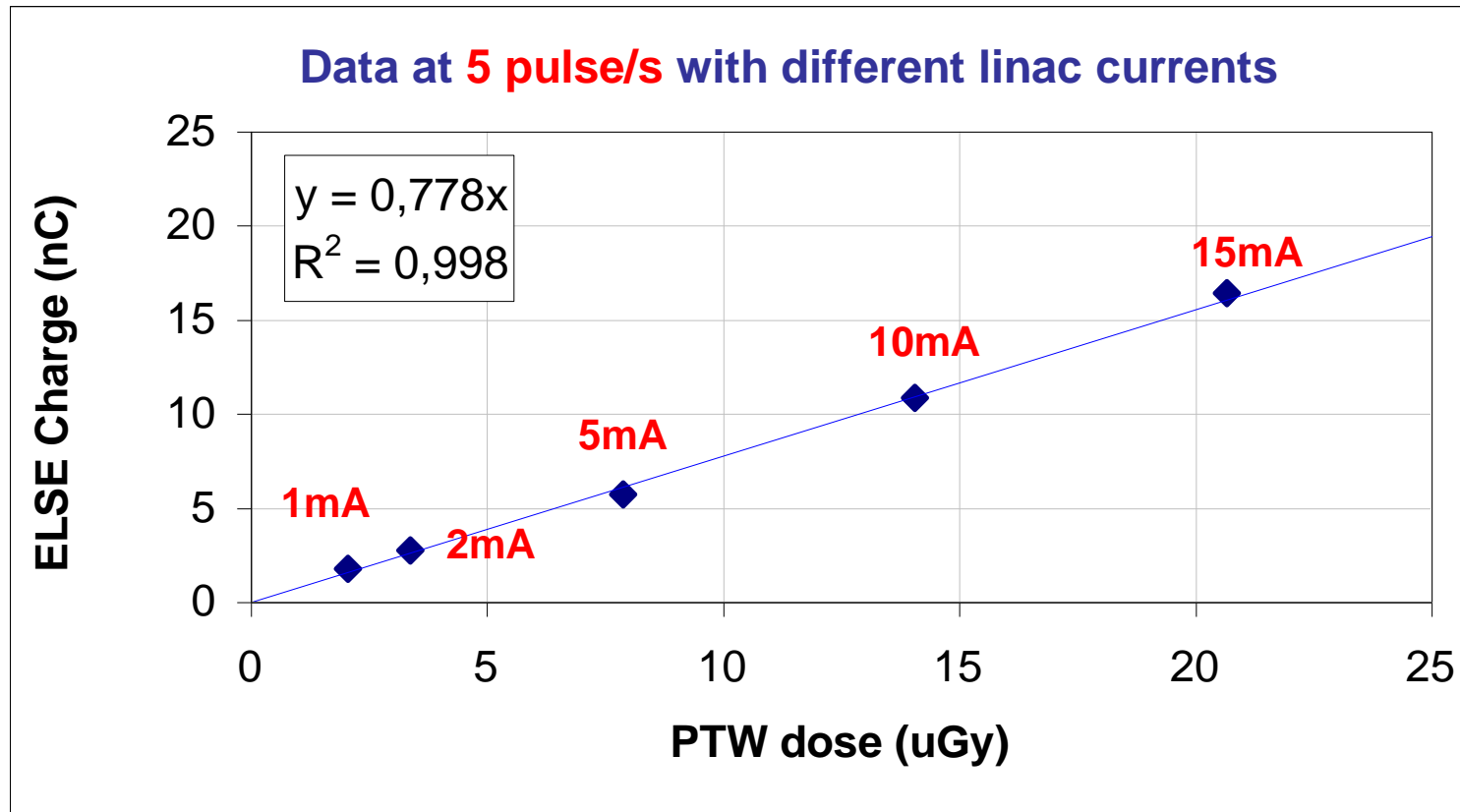
# Pulsed Beam Response



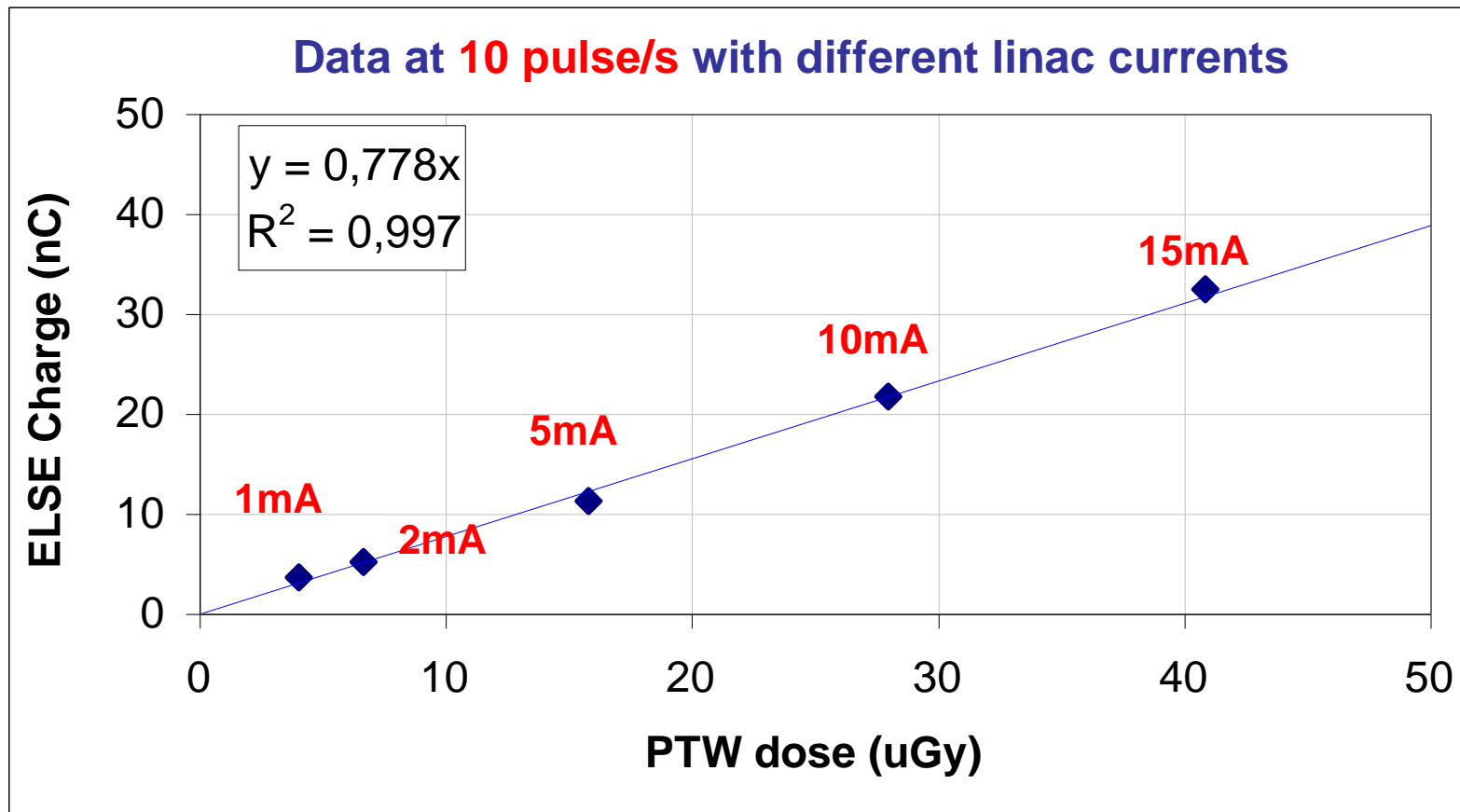
# Comparison with reference system



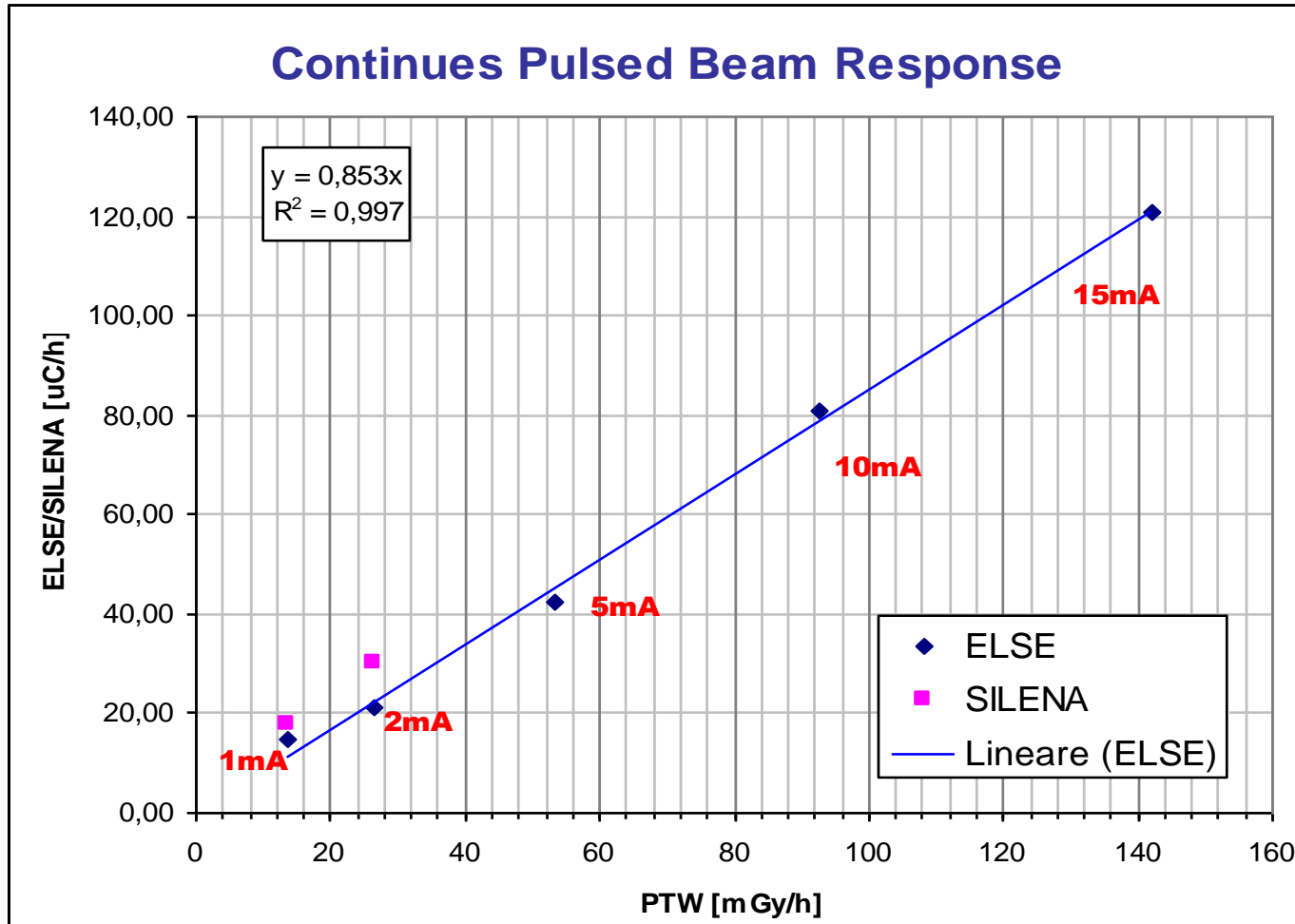
# Comparison with reference system



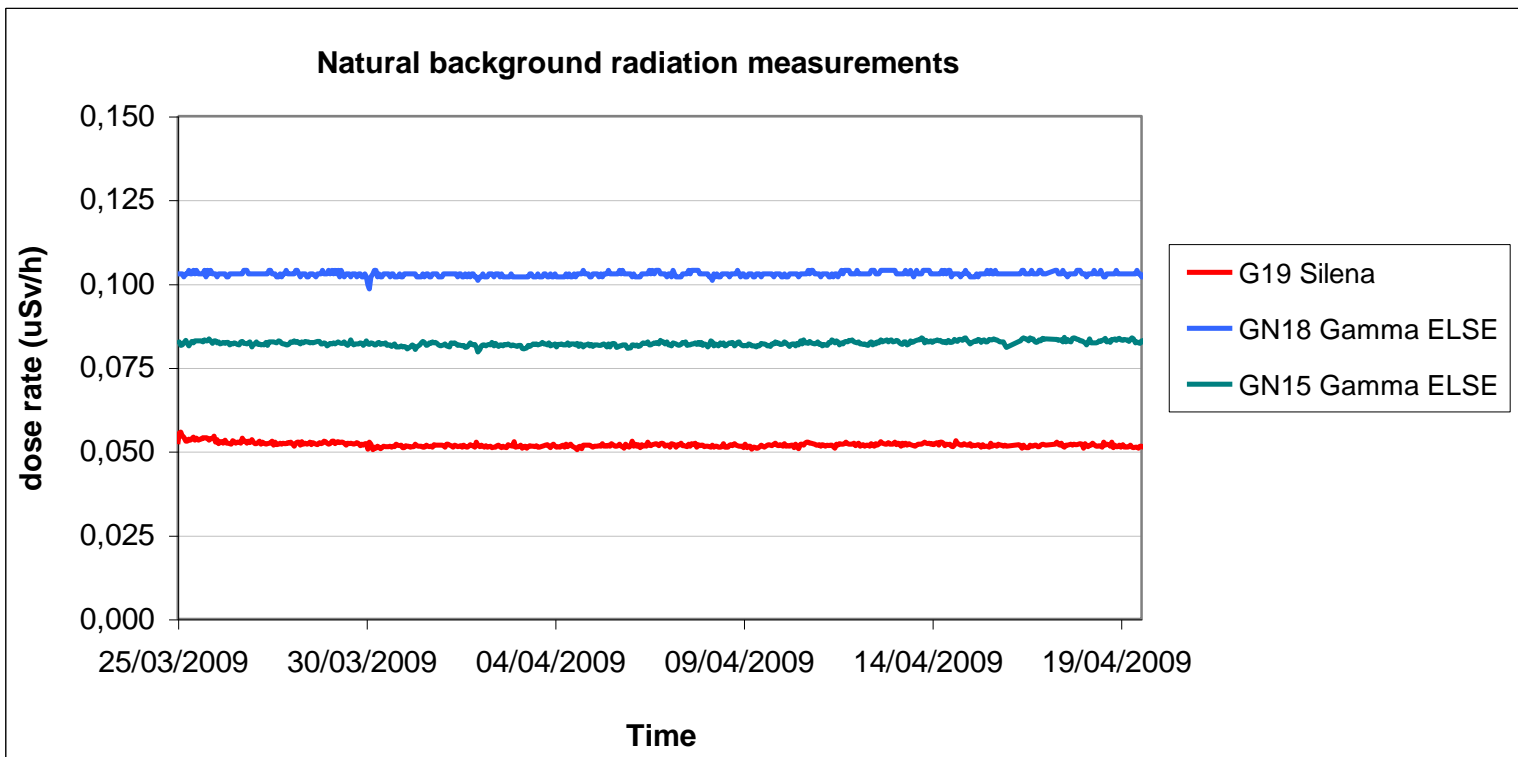
# Comparison with reference system



# Continues Pulsed Beam Response



# Long Term Stability



	G19 Silena	GN18 Gamma ELSE	GN15 Gamma ELSE
Minimum	50,4 nSv/h	98,4 nSv/h	79,7 nSv/h
Maximum	55,7 nSv/h	104,0 nSv/h	84,0 nSv/h
Average	51,9 nSv/h	102,9 nSv/h	82,3 nSv/h
Stand.Dev.%	1,26%	0,65%	0,82%

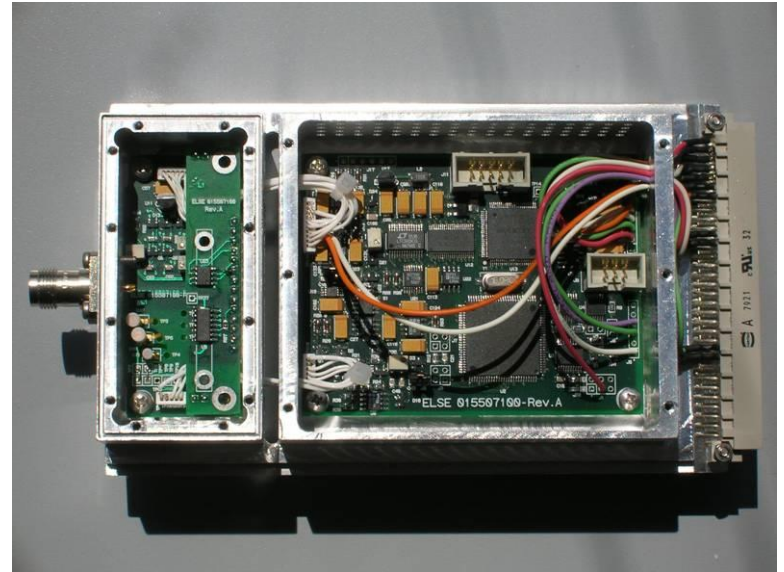
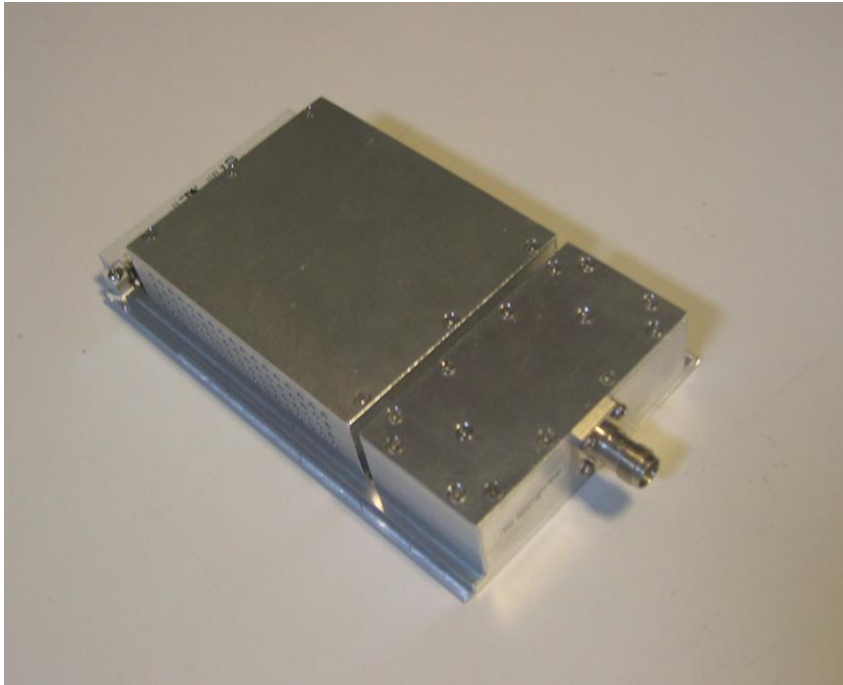


# Conclusions

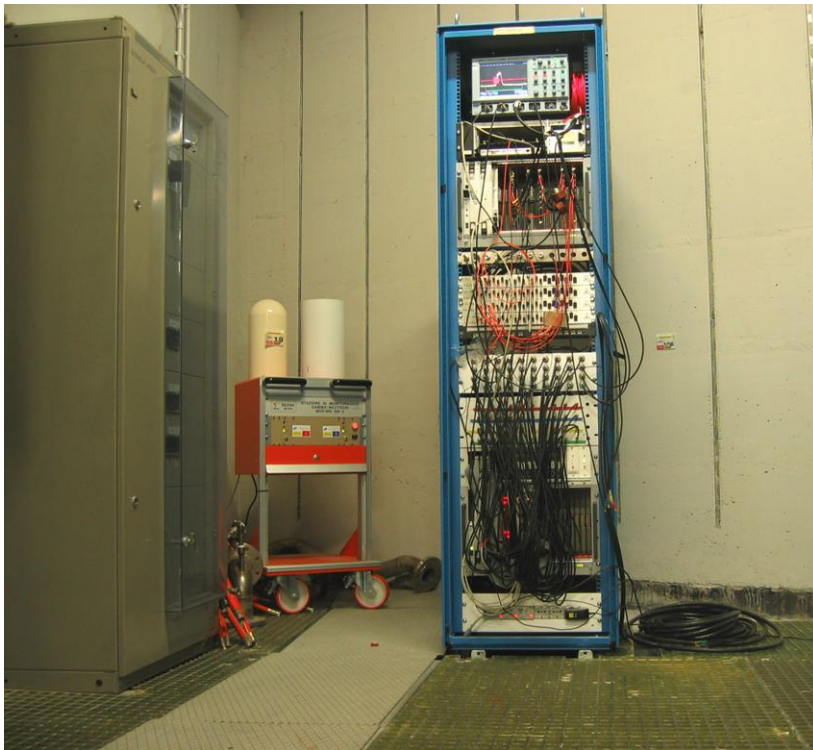
---

- ***Good accuracy and long term stability with very low input current ( $10^{-14}$  A) at natural background radiation level***
- ***Good linearity within 7 decades dynamic range up to  $10^{-7}$  A (high radiation dose rate)***
- ***Capability to process high number of charges within a very short time interval (up to 100nC in 1ms)***
- ***Fast time response (<2ms)***
- ***Capability to detect single shot radiation (e.g. storage ring beam dump) tested up to 3.5 nC/pulse (corresponding to ~4.3 uGy/pulse)***
- ***Simple calibration of the electrometer through digital offset and gain.***

# ELSE Electrometer



# Radiation monitors inside Elettra Service Area



- **Founded in 1990 ..... design and manufacture analog and digital instrumentations for nuclear radiation application fields**
  - ❑ *Industrial and research nuclear applications*
  - ❑ *Radiation Protection Instrumentation*
  - ❑ *Environmental Nuclear Radiation Monitoring Systems for PET-Cyclotron facilities & Nuclear Medicine*
- **Services**
  - ❑ *Hardware & Software development*
  - ❑ *State-of Art Custom design solutions*
  - ❑ *System application*

**El.Se. Srl pays careful attention to the “customer satisfaction” and works in synergy with their customers, committed to excellence.**

# Product & Market

---

- **Product lines**

- Environmental Gamma & Neutron Radiation Monitoring Systems*
- Alpha/Beta particulate Monitoring Systems*
- Air Monitoring Systems*
- Counting Systems & Contamination Monitors*
- Pedestrian & Portal Systems for SNM*
- Special System for decommissioning*

- **Main Customers**

- Hospitals, Environmental Agencies, Universities and Research Institutes*
- Particle Accelerators*
- Radiology/Radiotherapy Centers & Nuclear Medicine Laboratories*
- Nuclear Power Plant & Industrial Companies*

# Gamma & Neutron Monitoring Systems



***SATURN I Gamma/Neutron Monitors  
with fixed or removable probes***



***Nausicaa  
Gamma Monitor***



***Mercury Dual GM Probe  
Gamma Area Monitor***



# Alpha/Beta and Air Monitoring Systems



*Alpha/Beta Particulate Monitors*

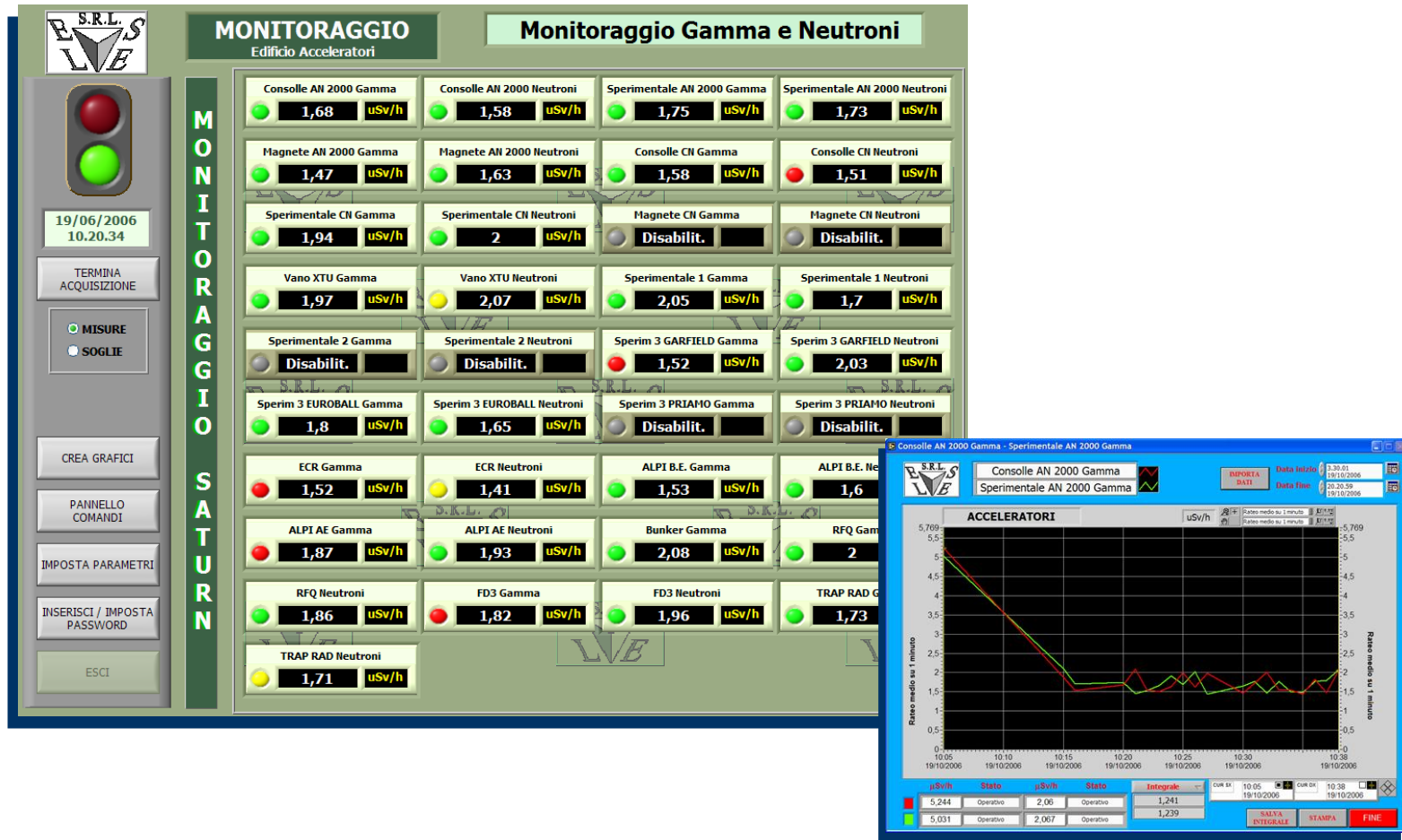


*Low Background  
Alpha/Beta  
Counting System*



*Air/Gas monitoring  
system*

# Monitoring Management Software





# Research & Development

## *NSG Project - New Scintillating Glass (UNIMIB-El.Se.-IEO-Starlite-Fraen-ODL)*



*Special System for Decommissioning*

# Acknowledgements

---

ELETTRA, Trieste

