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ASTRONOMY

EPSRC

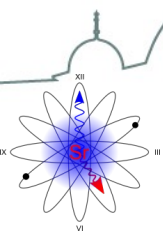
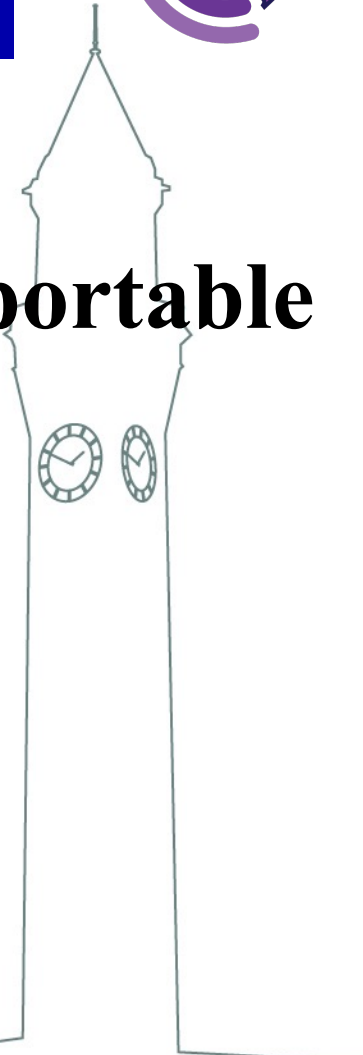


# The ICON project and optical transportable clocks at Birmingham

Yeshpal Singh

University of Birmingham, UK

(y.singh.1@bham.ac.uk)



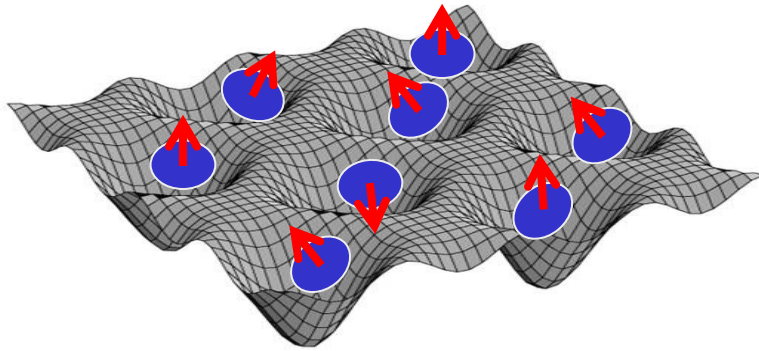
Innovate UK [dstl]

NPL   esa  
National Physical Laboratory

# Sr & Yb lab



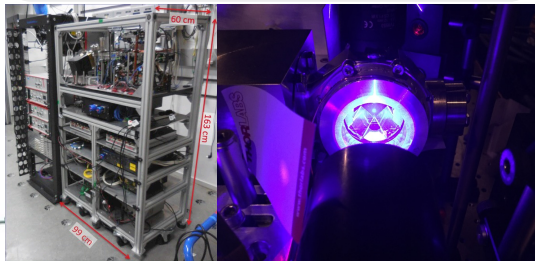
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**Ultra cold Sr/Yb atoms in optical lattices (1D/2D/3D)**

**Out of lab**

**Optical lattice clock:  
Portable, transportable,  
space**



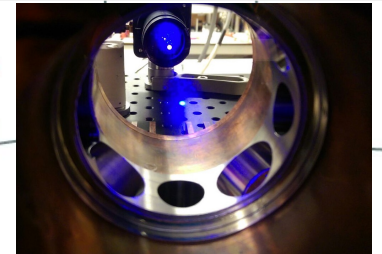
**Strong Engagement with NPL & Industry partners-**

1) *Building supply Chain:*  
UnikLasers, M2 etc..

2) *Sensor integration and end user:*  
M2, Te2v, DSTL, BAE, Leonardo,  
Thales, BT, Chronos....

**In lab**

**Quantum simulations:  
Long range interaction  
& many body physics**



Shengnan et. al., Jphys B (2020)

PRL 110, 143602 (2013)

S. Origlia et al., arxiv:1803.03157 (2018) Nat Phys, 11, 605-696 (2015)

# Optical clocks: pathways



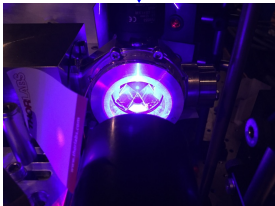
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**SWAP + Unprecedented precision**

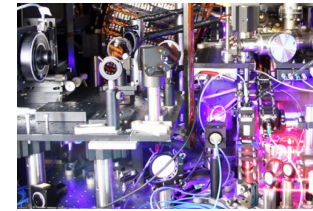


**Transportable (SOC2)**  
Precision  $\sim 10^{-18}$   
Volume  $\sim 10^3$  L



**Miniature clock**  
Portable  
Precision  $\sim 10^{-16}$   
 $\sim 10^{-17}$   
Volume  $\sim 100$  L

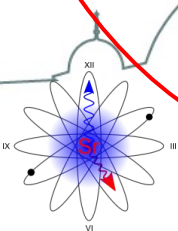
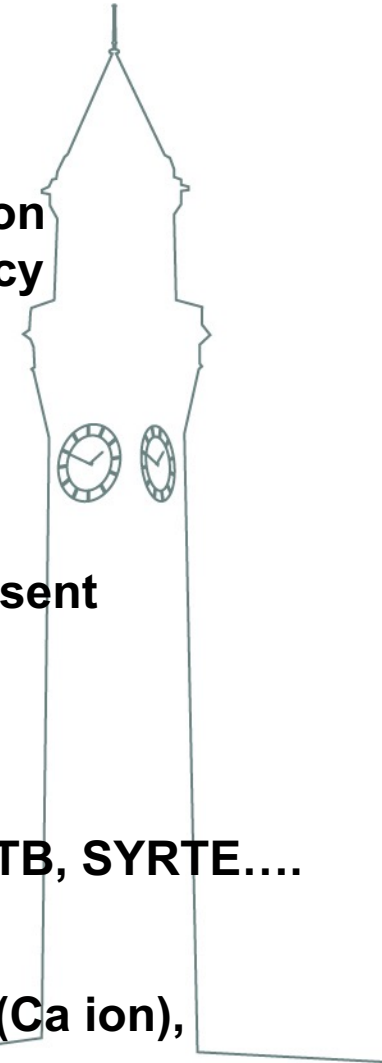
**Highest Precision  
Highest Accuracy**



$10^{-18}$  -  $10^{-19}$  @ present  
Volume  $\sim 10^4$  L

JILA, NIST,  
Katori, NPL, PTB, SYRTE....

**Others (mobile):** Katori, Sussex (Ca ion),  
PTB (Sr), China (Ca ion),  
PTB & Toptica (Yb ion)



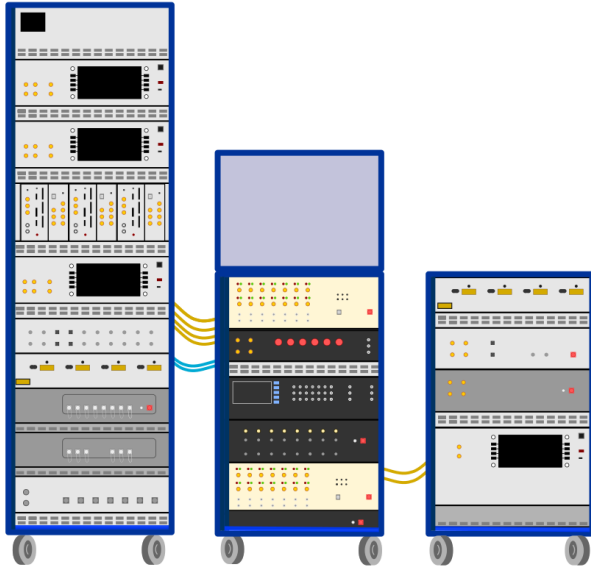
# Current demonstrators at UoB



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### iqClock (EU)



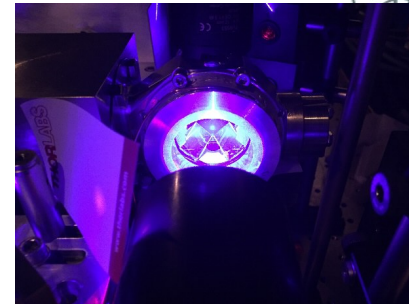
**Transportable**  
**Precision**  $\sim 1 \times 10^{-16}$   
**Volume**  $\sim 10^3$  L

### Space Optical Clock (SOC2; EU)



**Transportable**  
**Precision**  $\sim 1 \times 10^{-18}$   
**Volume**  $\sim 10^3$  L

### Miniaturised Lattice



**Portable**  
**Aimed Precision**  $\sim 10^{-17}$   
**Volume**  $\sim 100$  L

Gellesch, M., et. al., accepted in Advanced Quantum Tech (AQT) (2020)

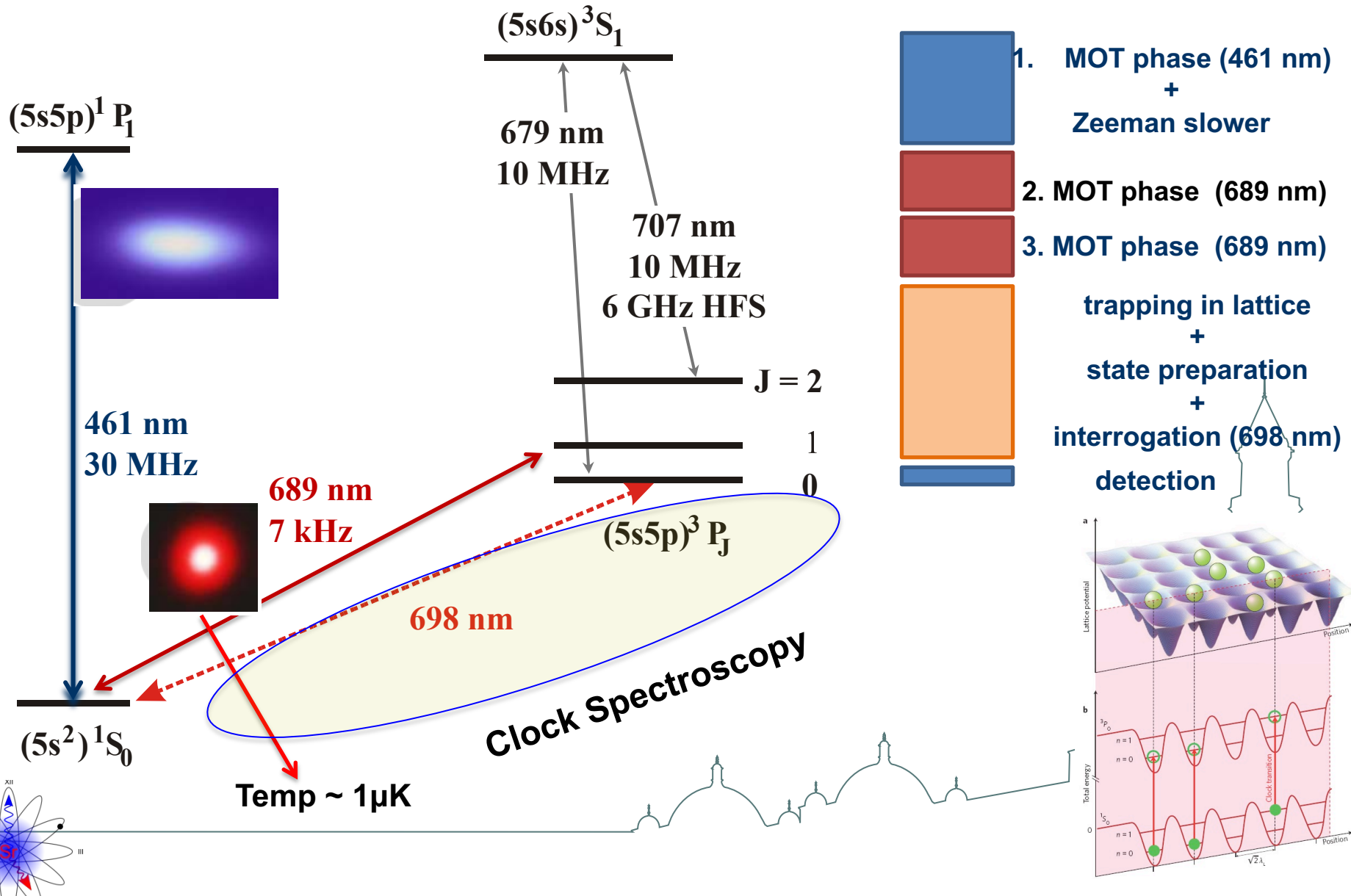
Nat. Photonics 14, 408–409 (2020)

Paulo Hisao Moriya et al., Optics Express (2020).  
doi: [10.1364/OE.390982](https://doi.org/10.1364/OE.390982)

S. Origlia et al., arxiv:1803.03157 (2018)

<https://www.iqclock.eu>

# Laser cooling of Sr and Sr clock



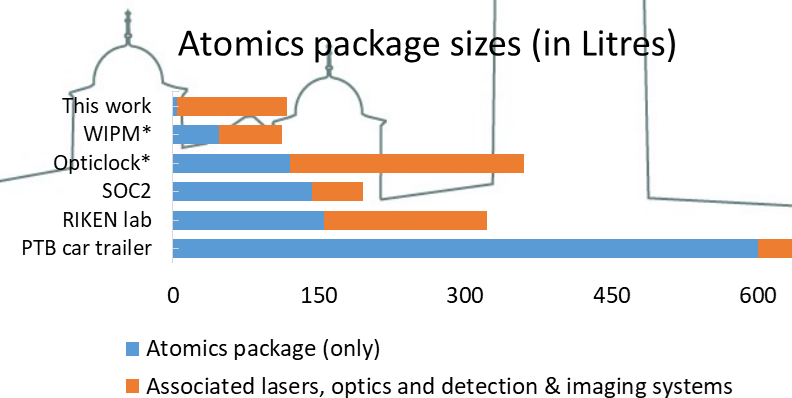
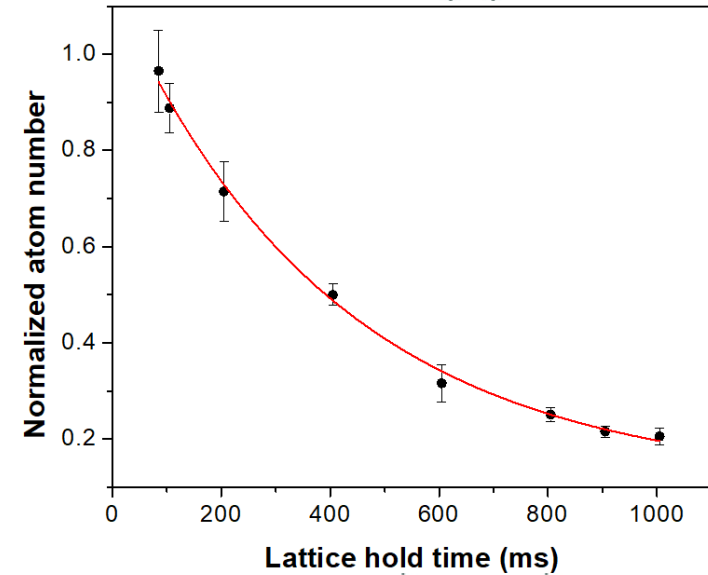
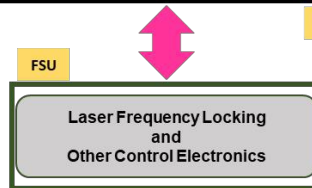
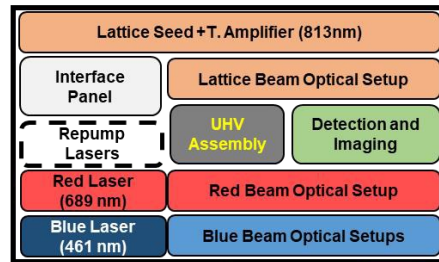
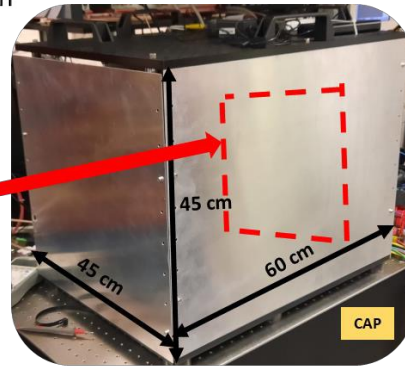
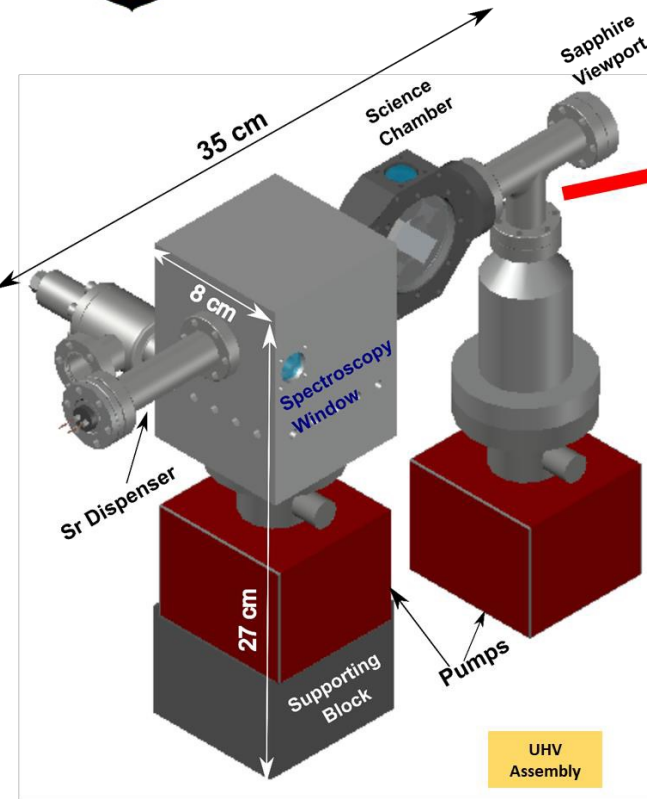


# Field deployable atomics package

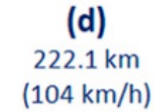
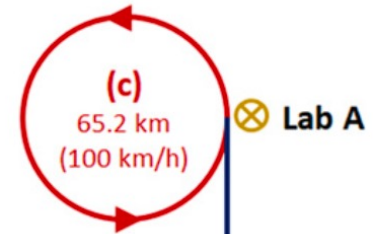
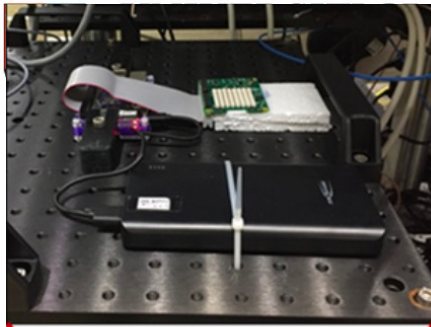


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# Field deployable atomics package

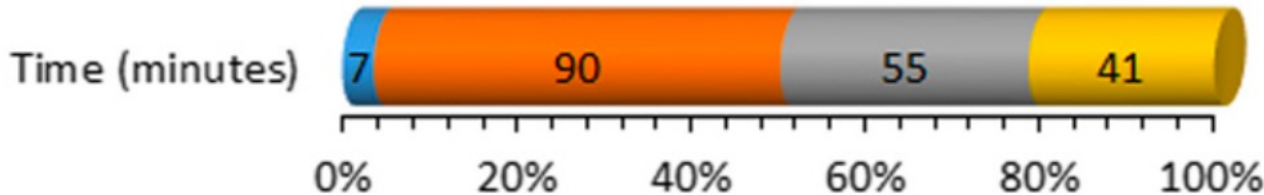


⊗ Lab A

⊗ Lab B

## CAP restart procedure

■ UHV ■ Fluorescence & Blue MOT ■ Red MOT ■ Lattice

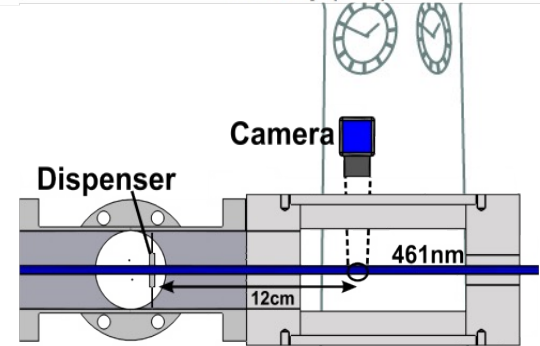
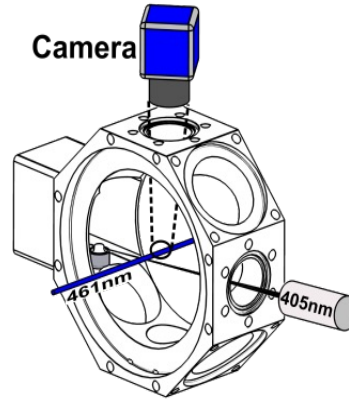
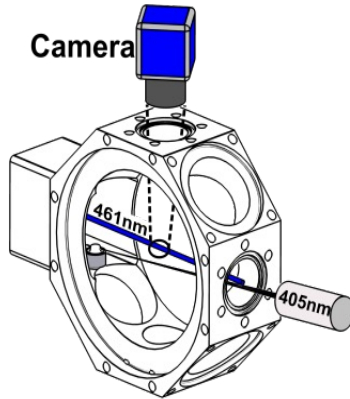
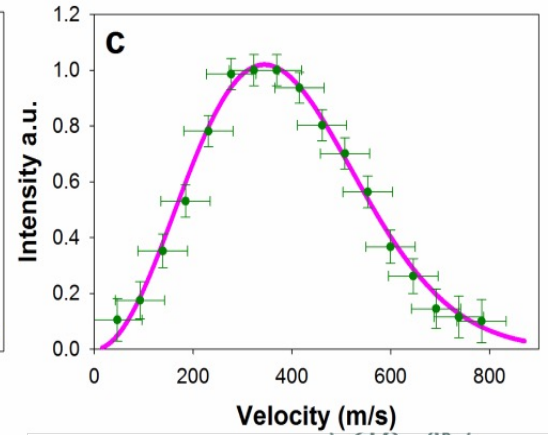
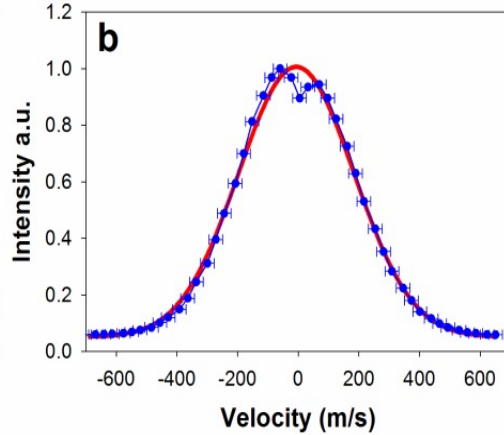
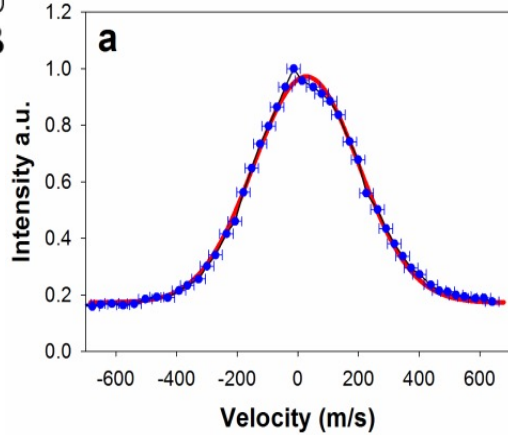


# Novel source: velocity distribution



U  
B

**Sr88**  
**82%**



***Symmetric Gaussian distribution centred on zero velocity, and a corresponding temperature of 319 K.***

***Indicates that the atoms undergo several collisions and thermalize with the walls of the vacuum chamber.***



# Novel source: SrO MOTs



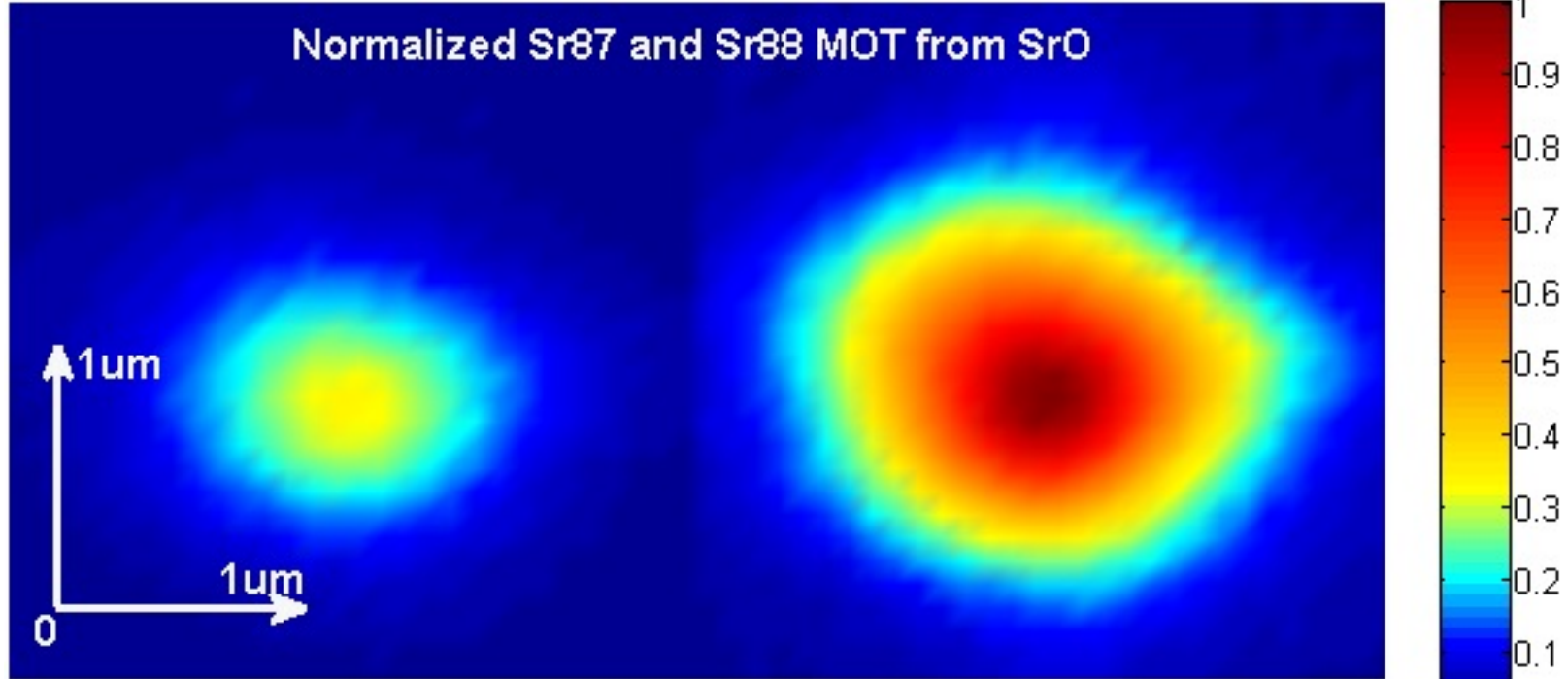
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**Sr87**  
**7%**

**Life time ~500ms**

**Sr88**  
**82%**



**$\sim 1 \times 10^6$  atoms**

**55MHz**

**$\sim 4 \times 10^6$  atoms**

# ICON: International Clock and Oscillator Networking



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Intercontinental  
optical lattice  
clocks:  
from key  
technology to  
optical  
comparisons



THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



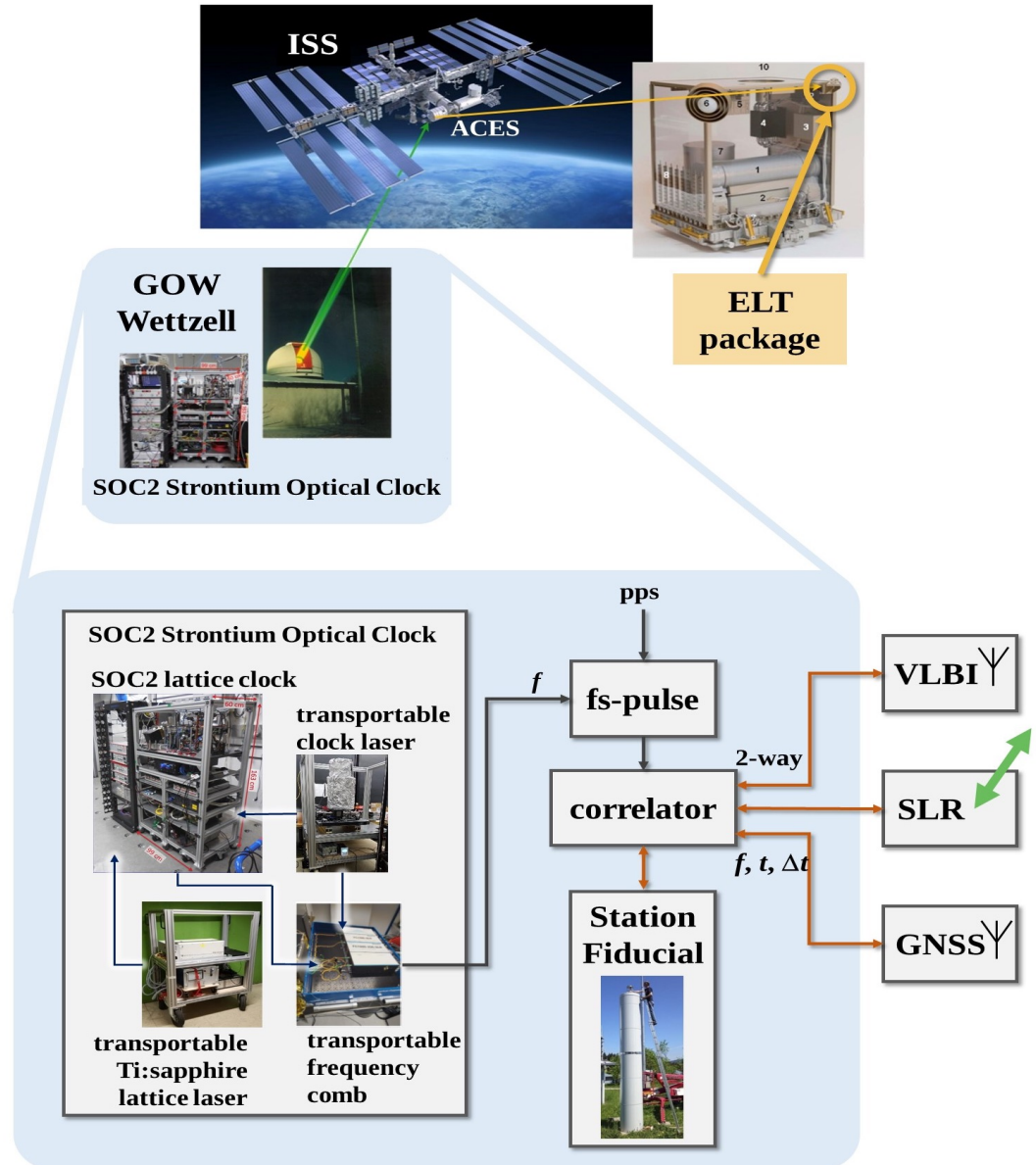
hhu  
Heinrich Heine  
Universität  
Düsseldorf

Technical  
University  
of Munich



# ICON: International Clock and Oscillator Networking

frequency transfer  
via space links

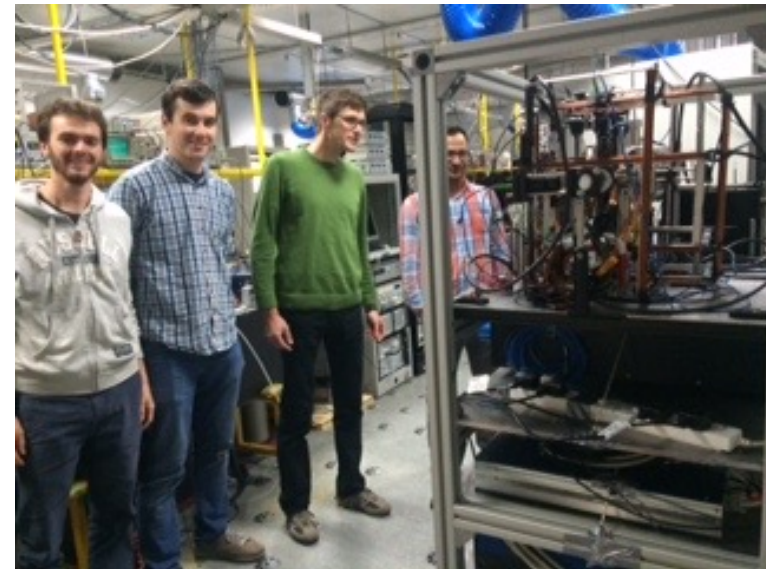


# ICON: SOC2 transport

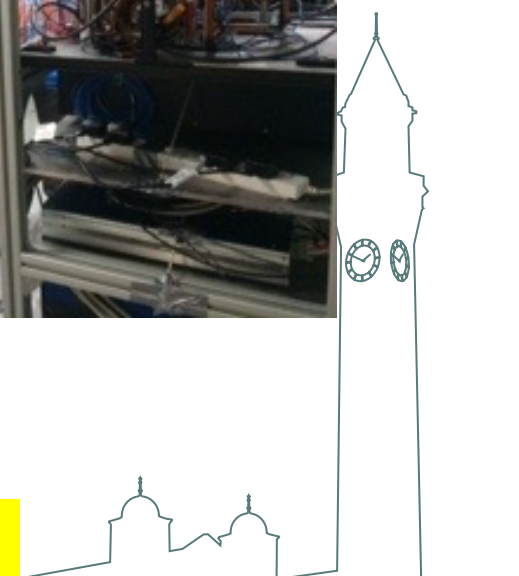
## Fully functional after transport

**Birmingham, 21/6/2015**

**PTB, 23/6/2015**



**Within EU Consortium**





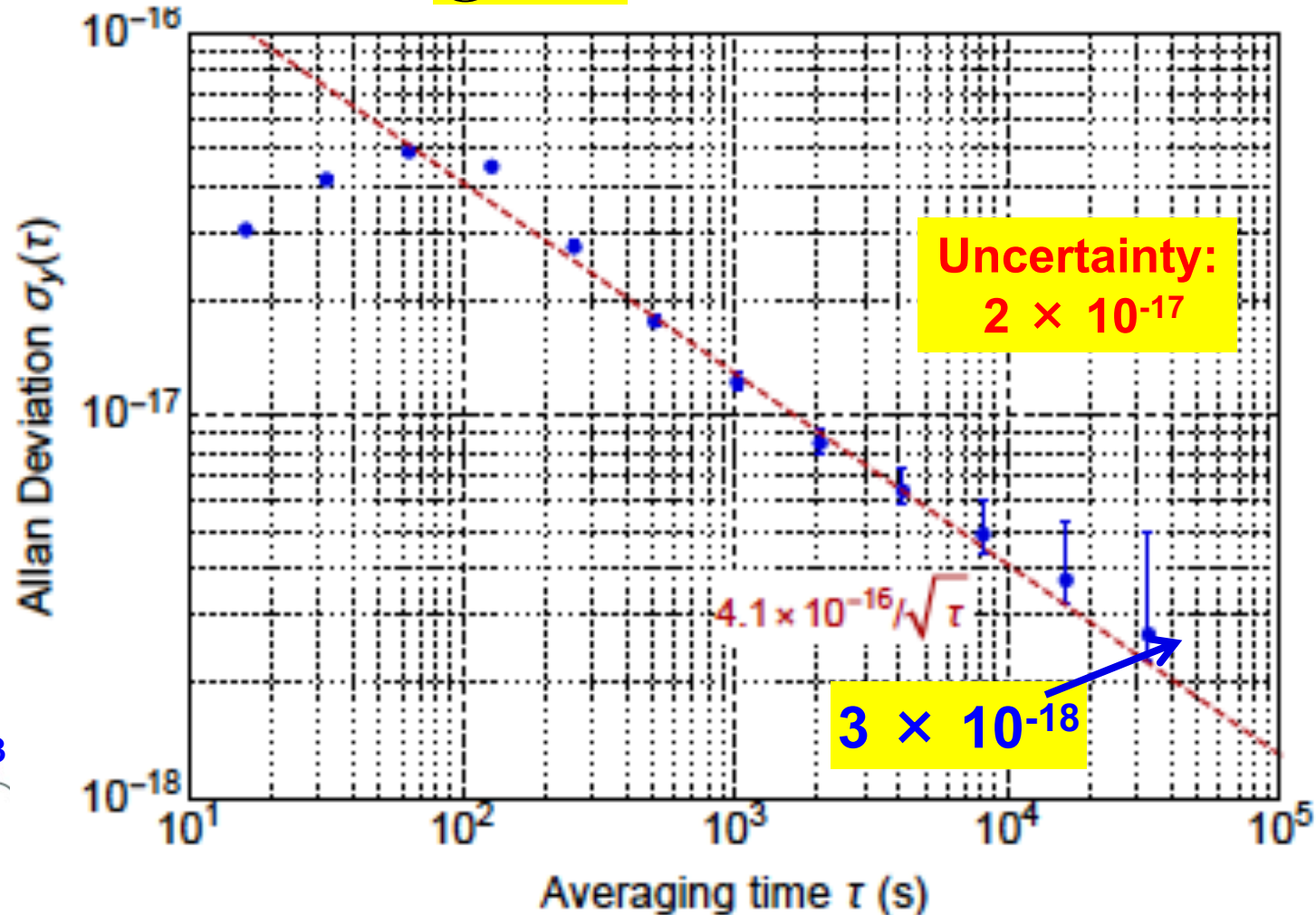
# ICON: SOC2



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**Clock instability  
@PTB**



<sup>1</sup>S. Falke et al., New J. Phys. 16, 073023 (2014)

<sup>2</sup>A. Al-Masoudi et al., Phys. Rev. A 92, 063814 (2015)

Stefano et. al, [arXiv:1803.03157](https://arxiv.org/abs/1803.03157) (2018).

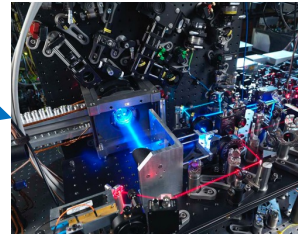
# ICON: International Clock and Oscillator Networking



PTB clock @NPL

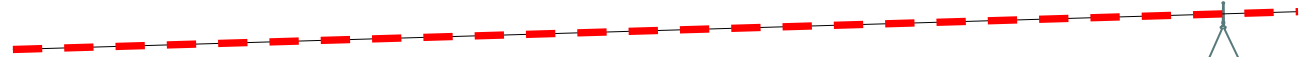


Riken clock @NPL



@NPL

Birmingham



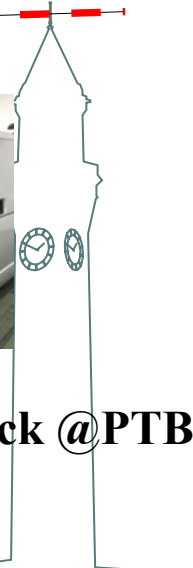
PTB clock @PTB



Riken clock @PTB



@PTB



frequency transfer with transportable clocks at the  $10^{-18}$  level

consideration of utilising EU fibre links: SYRTE, PTB, INRIM...

First campaign: March 2023



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