



OBSERVATORIO  
PIERRE AUGER

# WELCOME TO THE PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY!

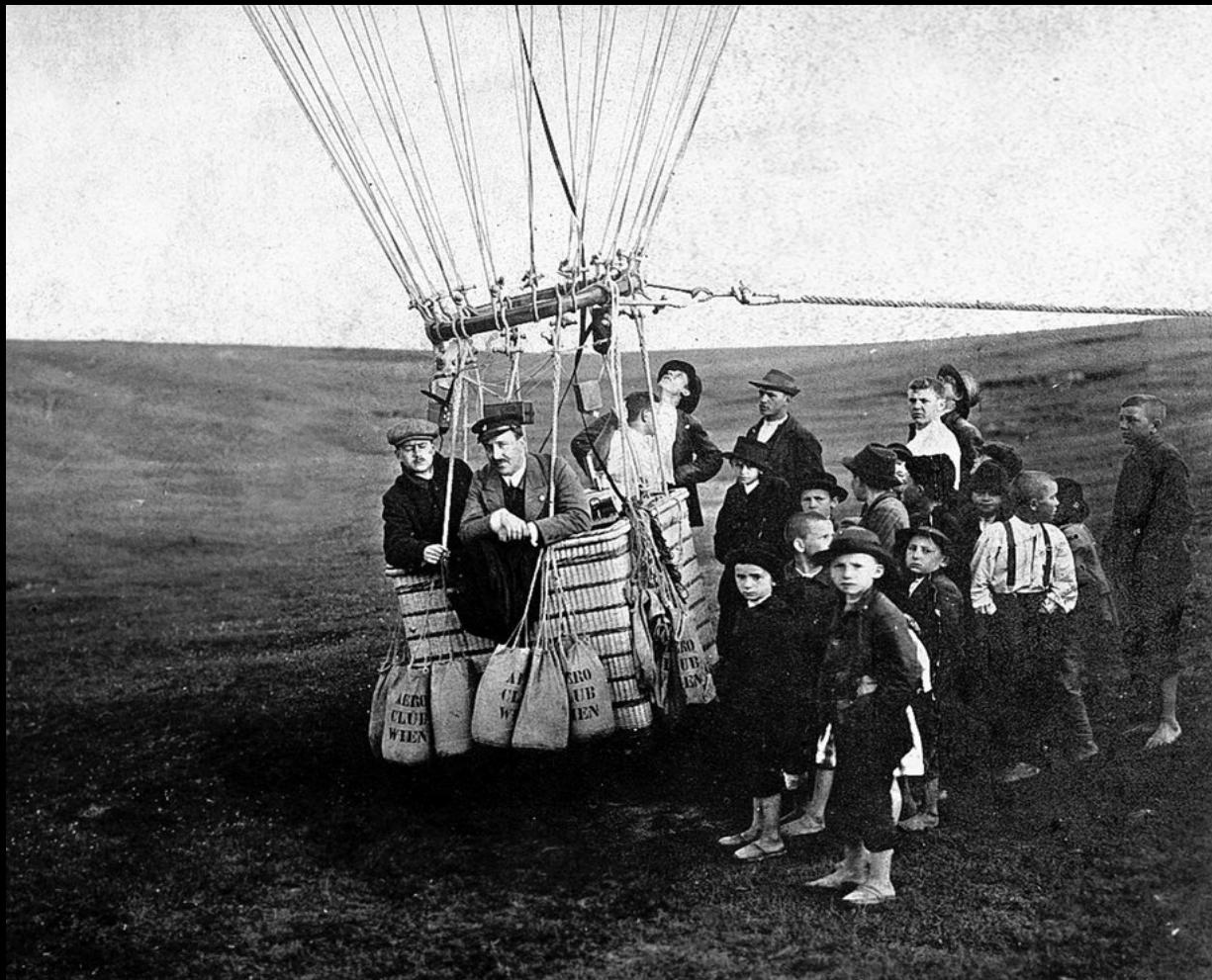
ISAPP, MALARGÜE, 2019

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Project Manager  
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# A BIT OF HISTORY

- End of XIX Century: radioactivity known, highly penetrating radiation discovered.
- 1912: Viktor Hess flies up to 5000 m altitude with electroscopes: **DISCOVERY OF COSMIC ORIGIN OF RADIATION!**



# A BIT OF HISTORY

- 1930's Millikan-Compton debate composition: particles or photons?  
Denomination as “Cosmic Rays” misleading  
CR are mostly charged massive particles.



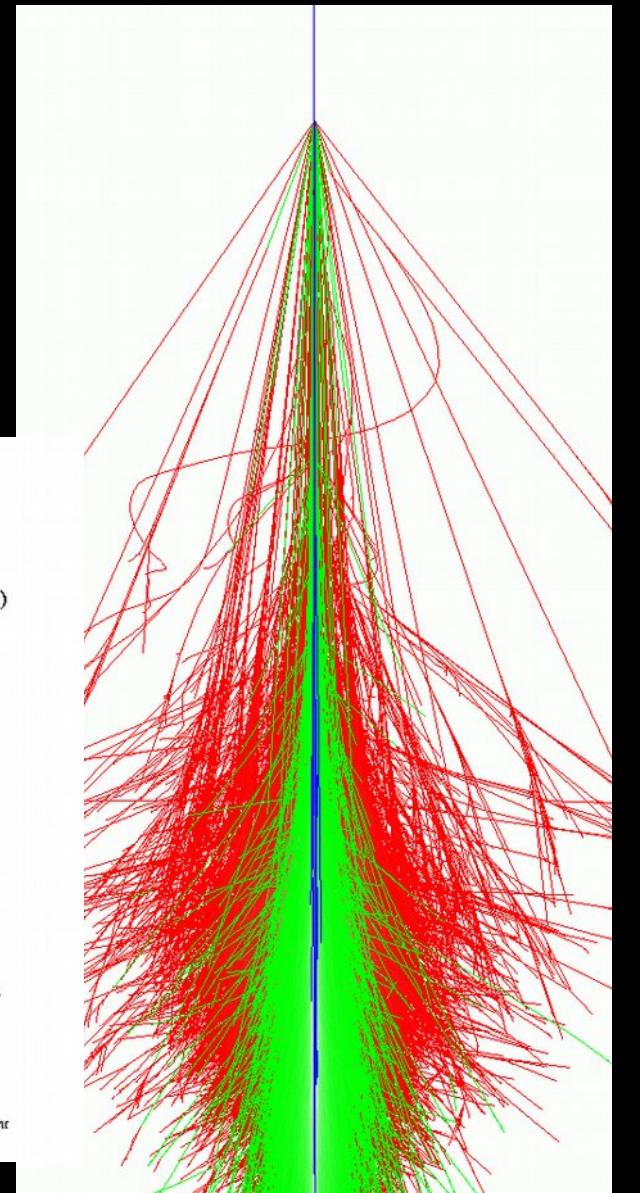
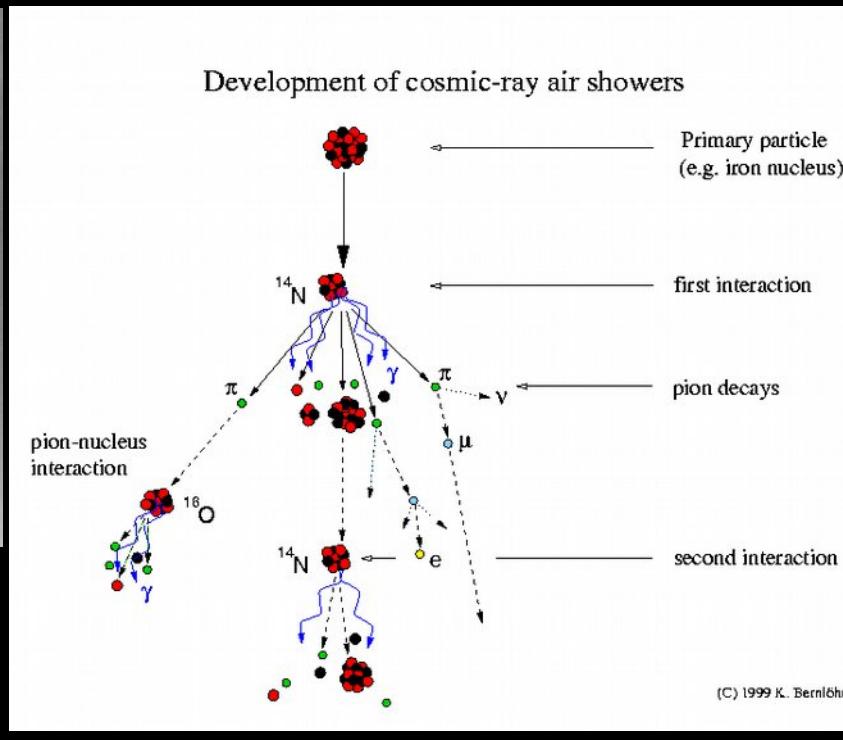
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# A BIT OF HISTORY

- 1938: Pierre Auger discovers “Extensive Air Showers”.
- Coincidences in Geiger counters
- Shower components:
  - Electrons, positrons, photons
  - Muons
  - Hadrons
- Energy of primary: estimated above  $10^{15}$  eV



# A BIT OF HISTORY

- 1950's: CNEA performs cosmic ray studies in Mendoza, Argentina.
- Photographic emulsions to study particle interactions



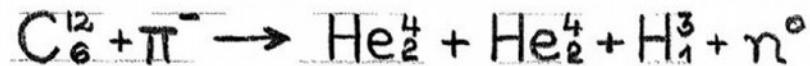
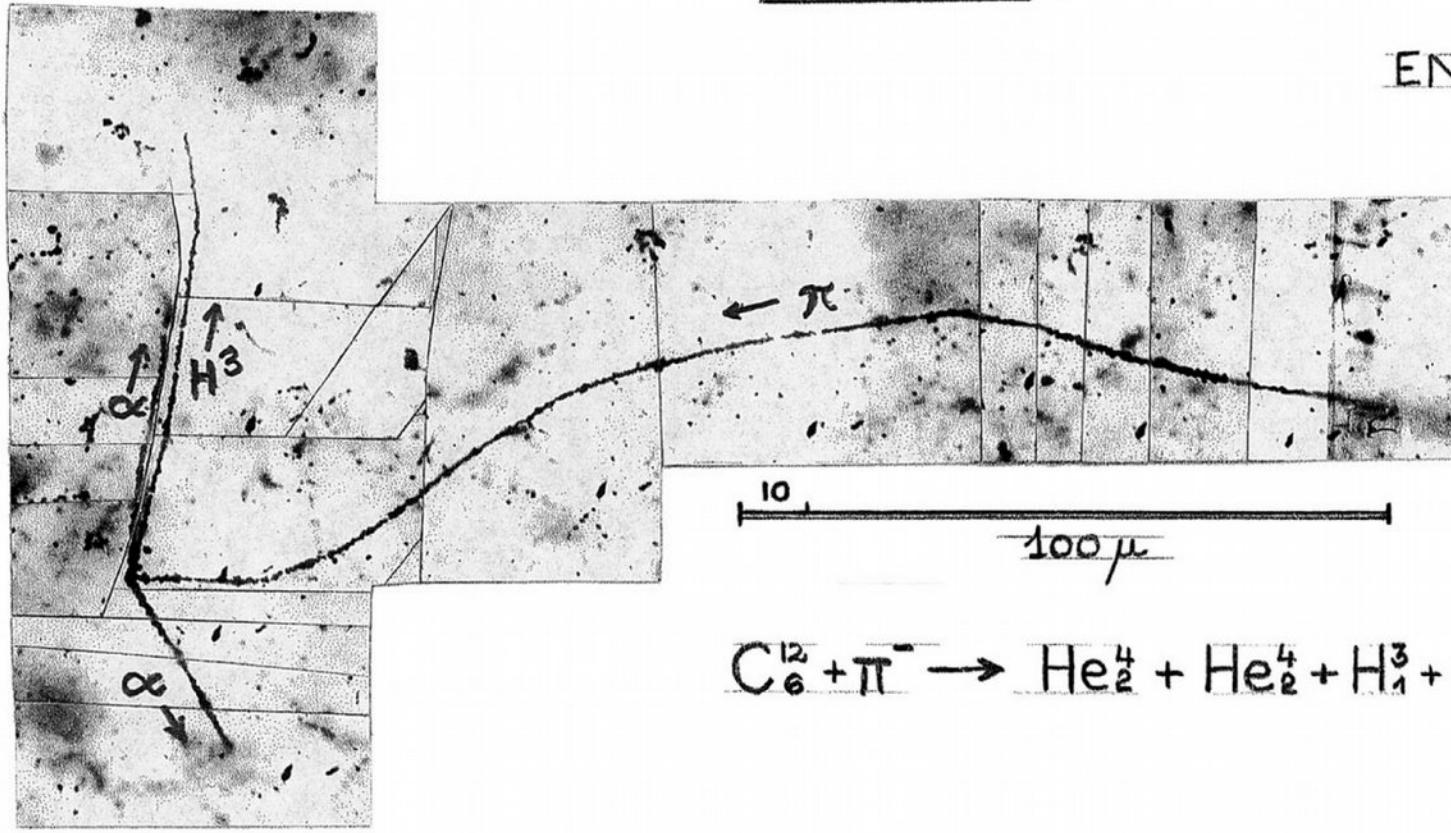
# A BIT OF HISTORY

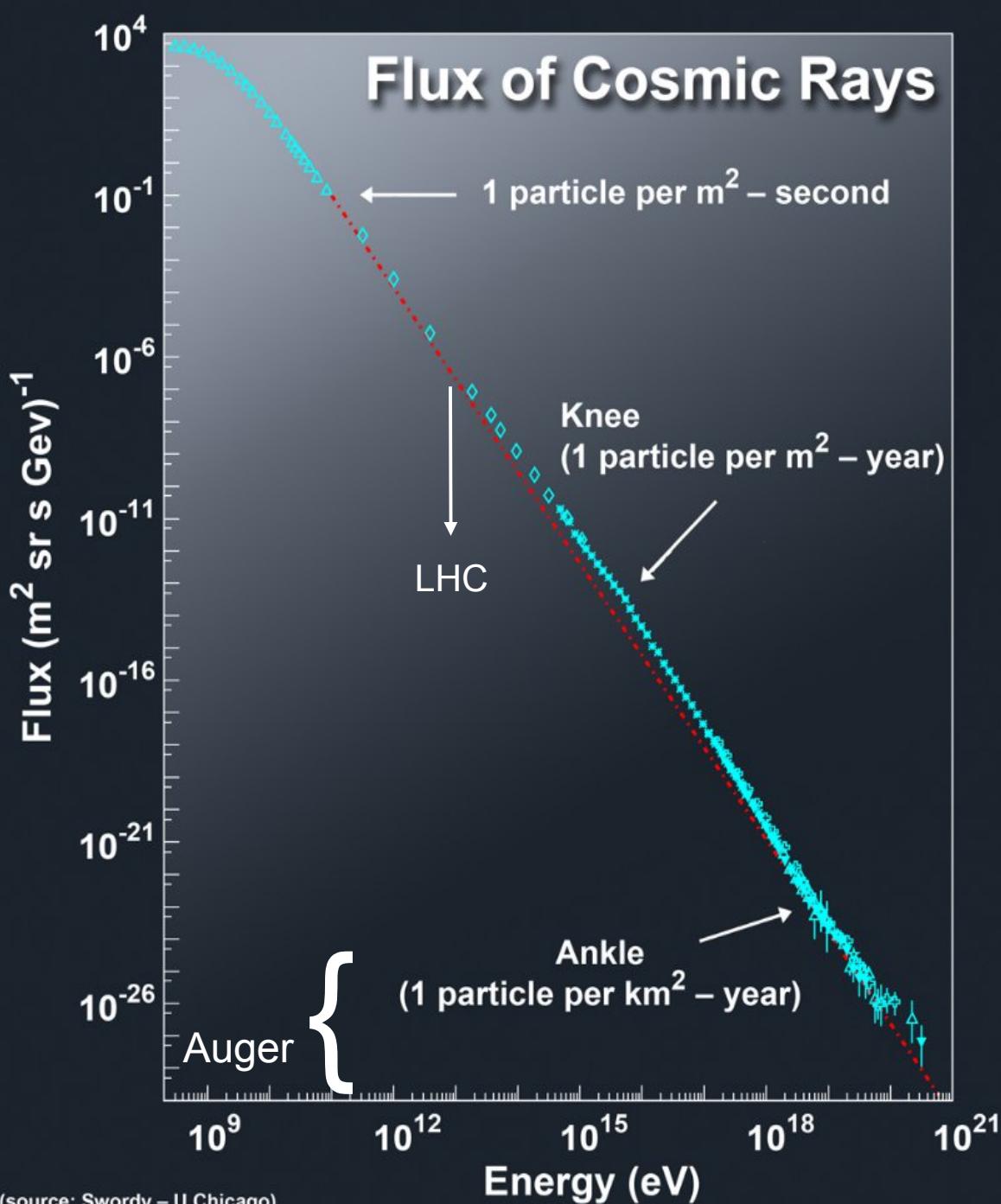
- 1950's: CNEA performs cosmic ray studies in Mendoza, Argentina.
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ESTRELLA "G"

MENDOZA    5130 m.  
LATITUD 34°

ENERO 1951





# A BIT OF HISTORY

- At “low” energies: satellite experiments to study primary cosmic rays
- At high energies: ground-based experiments:
  - Volcano Ranch (USA)
  - Yakutsk (USSR)
  - Sugar (Australia)
  - Agasa (Japan)
  - Haverah Park (UK)
  - Kascade - KGrande (Germany)
  - Fly's Eye - HiRes - Telescope Array (USA)

Events with  $E > 10^{20}$  eV!

GZK cutoff:  
interaction with CMBR  
propagation?

*John Linsley at Volcano Ranch (circa 1960)*



# A BIT OF HISTORY

- Agasa (Japan): scintillator surface detectors
- HiRes: atmospheric fluorescence detectors

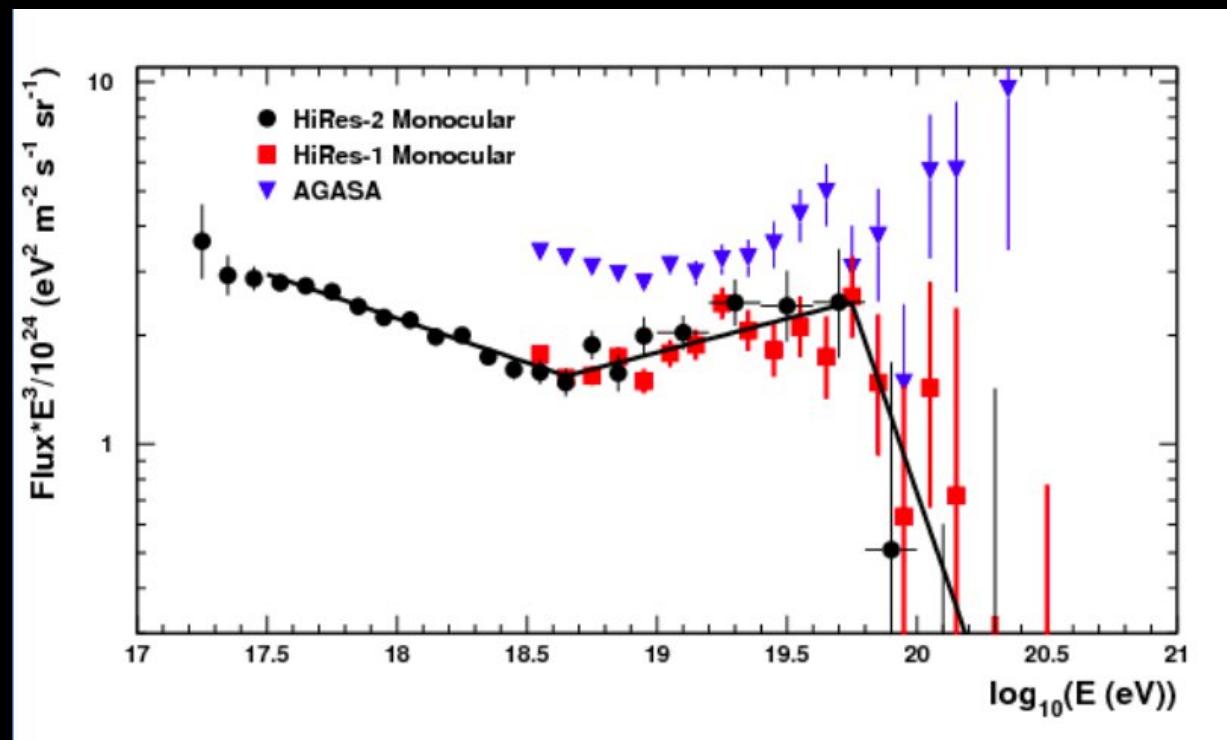
Interaction with CMBR? GZK cutoff?

Origin of UHECRs? UHECR astronomy?

Composition?

Magnetic fields?

New physics?



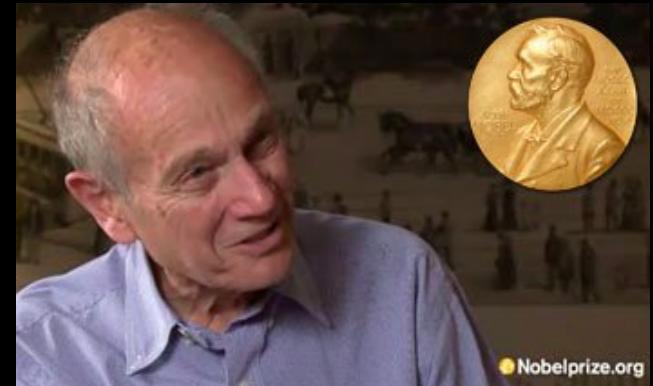


# THE PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

## in Malargüe, Argentina

Problems with Ultra-High Energy Cosmic Rays ( $E > 10^{18}$  eV):

- very few! (one per  $\text{km}^2$  per CENTURY at  $E > 10^{19}$  eV)
- sources unknown
- source location unknown
- propagation not understood
- composition unknown
- ultra-high energy collisions never studied
- unknown unknowns?



James Cronin, 1931-2016  
Chicago University



# “THE GIANT ARRAY PROJECT” (still today, we have GAP-Notes)

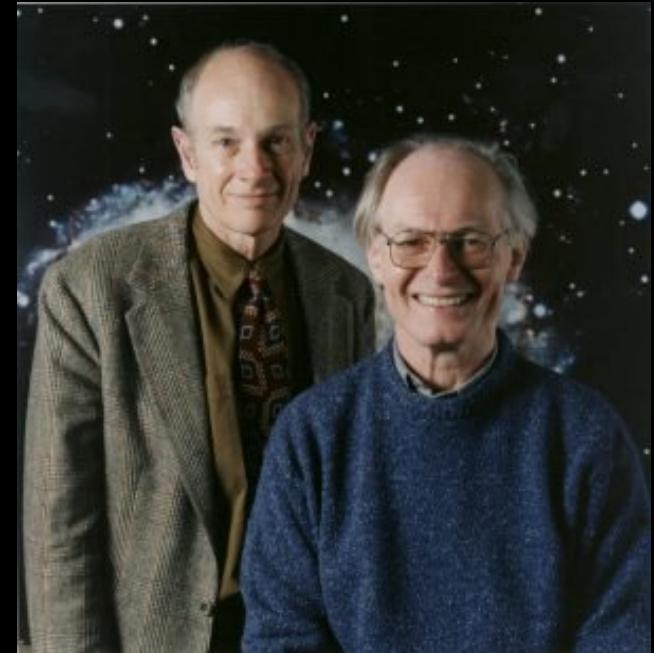
1992 - 1995:

To build a 5000 km<sup>2</sup> detector

Hybrid: surface detectors  
and fluorescence detectors

Both hemispheres

In the South:  
Australia?  
South Africa?  
Argentina? (Mendoza? Patagonia?)

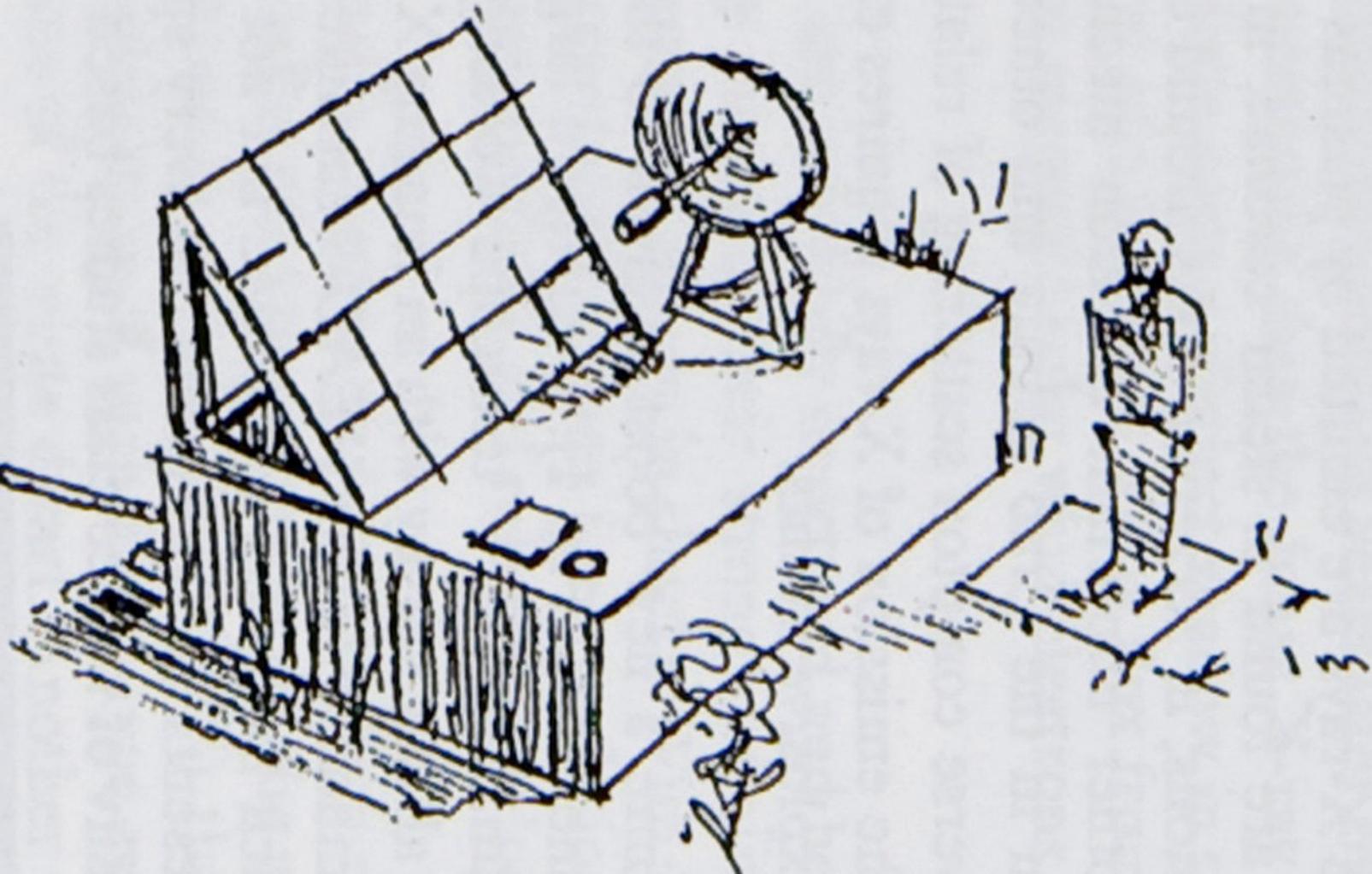


James Cronin, Chicago University  
Alan Watson, Univ. of Leeds



# “THE GIANT ARRAY PROJECT”

(still today, we have GAP-Notes)



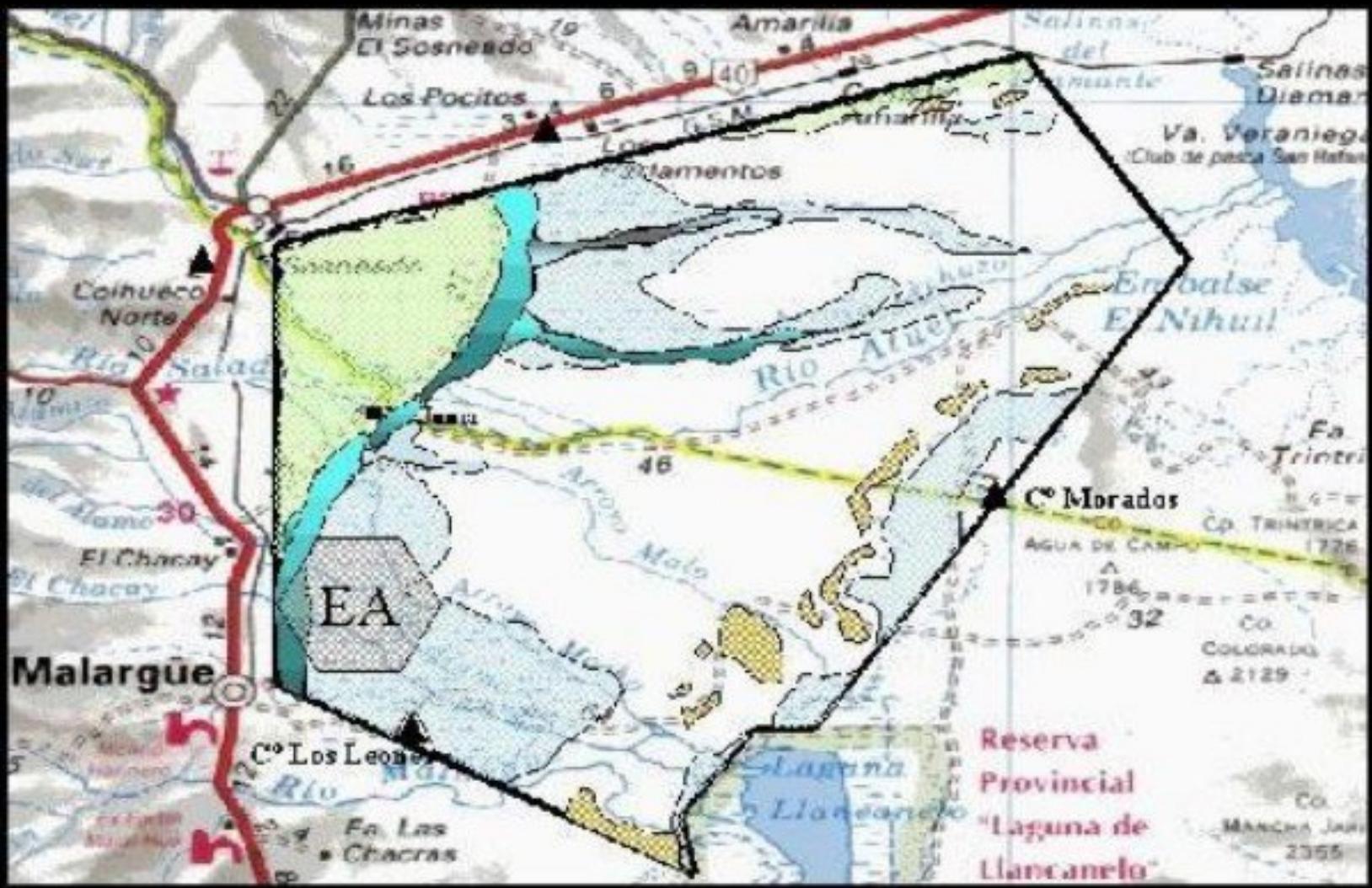


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(still today, we have GAP-Notes)



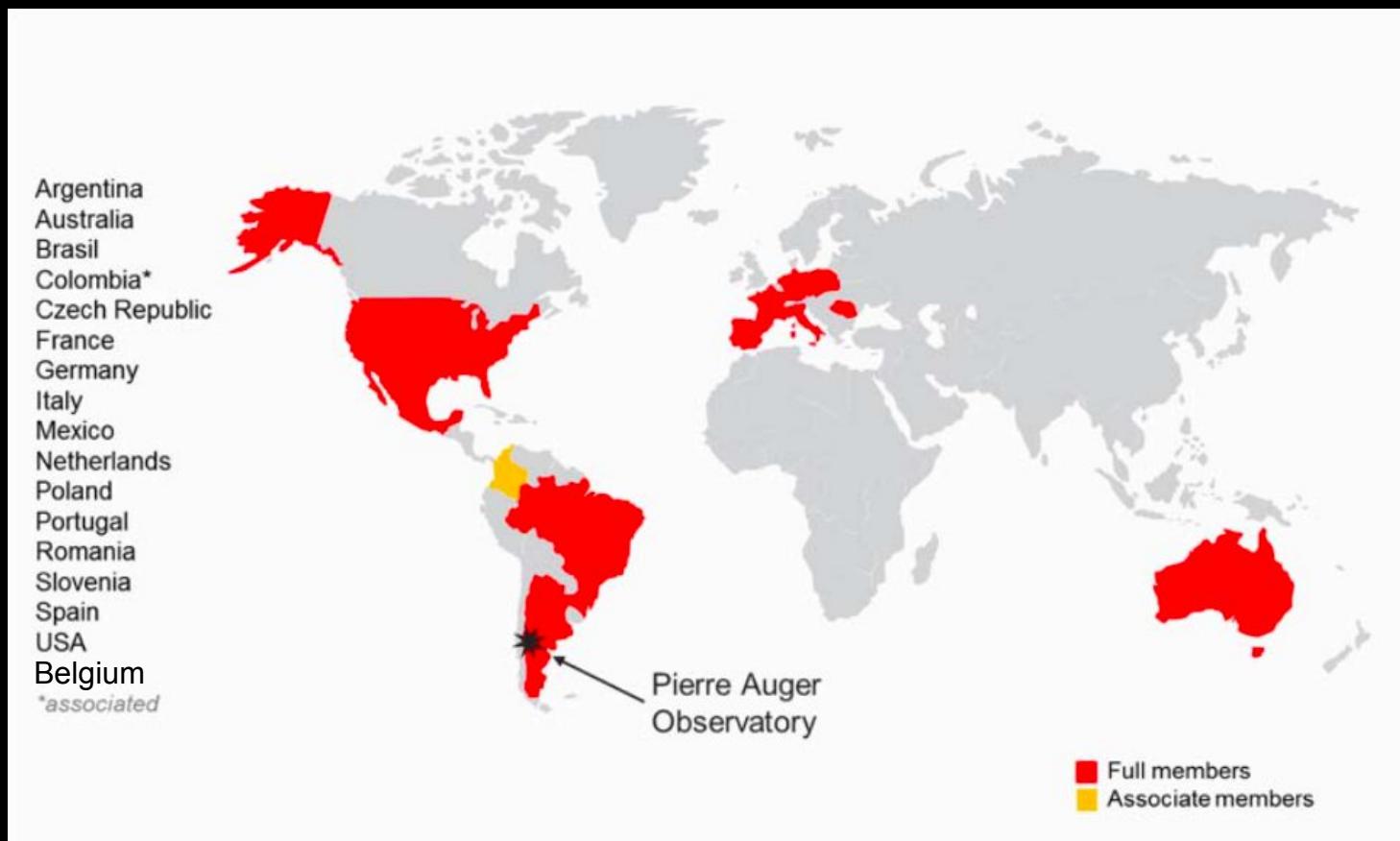
# “THE GIANT ARRAY PROJECT” (still today, we have GAP-Notes)





# What was needed to tackle the challenge:

- 18 countries (nowadays 17)
- 86 institutions
- > 500 scientists, engineers, technicians
- \$(USD) 53 millions (construction costs)
- a 3000 km<sup>2</sup> flat surface...





# What was needed to tackle the challenge:

- 18 countries (nowadays 17)
- 86 institutions
- > 500 scientists, engineers, technicians
- \$(USD) 53 millions (construction costs)
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# The Pierre Auger Observatory

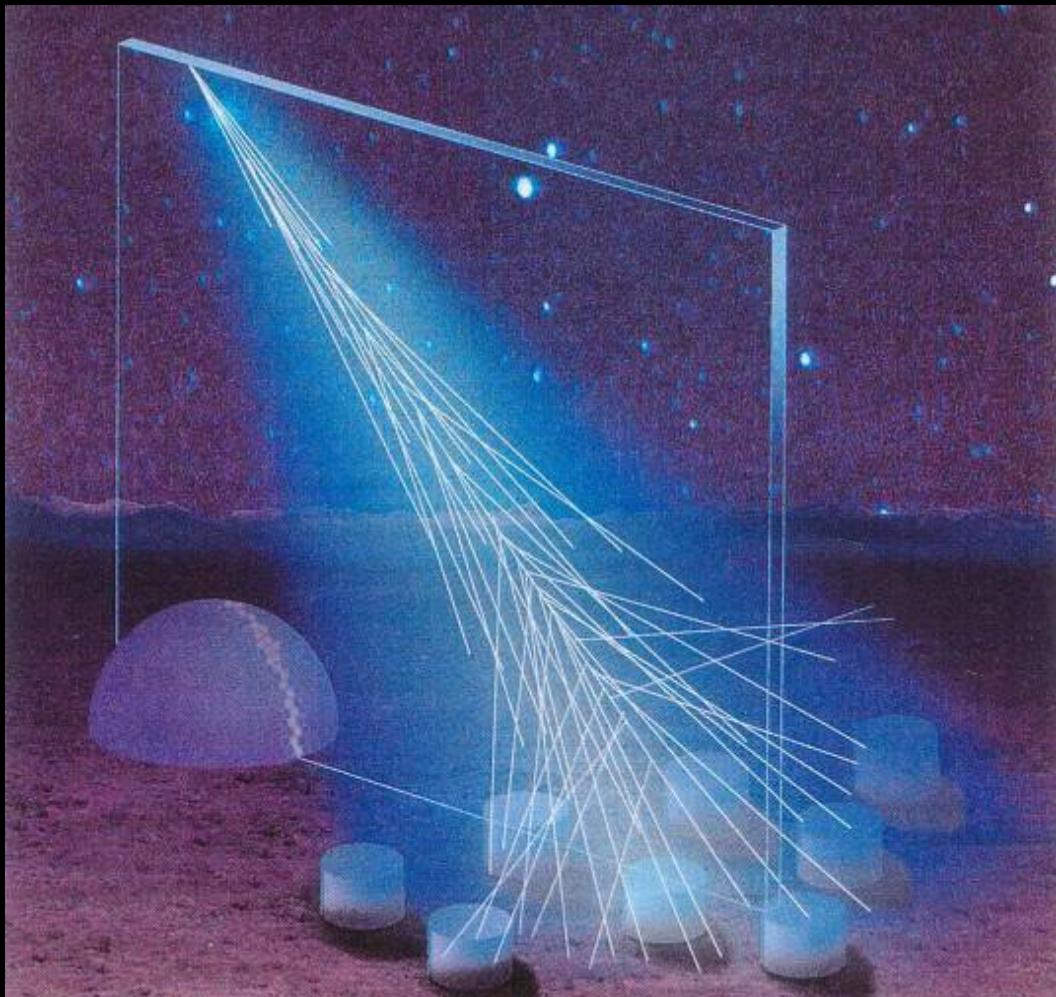
**Ultra-high energy cosmic rays:**

**Very few - large surface:  
3000 km<sup>2</sup>!**

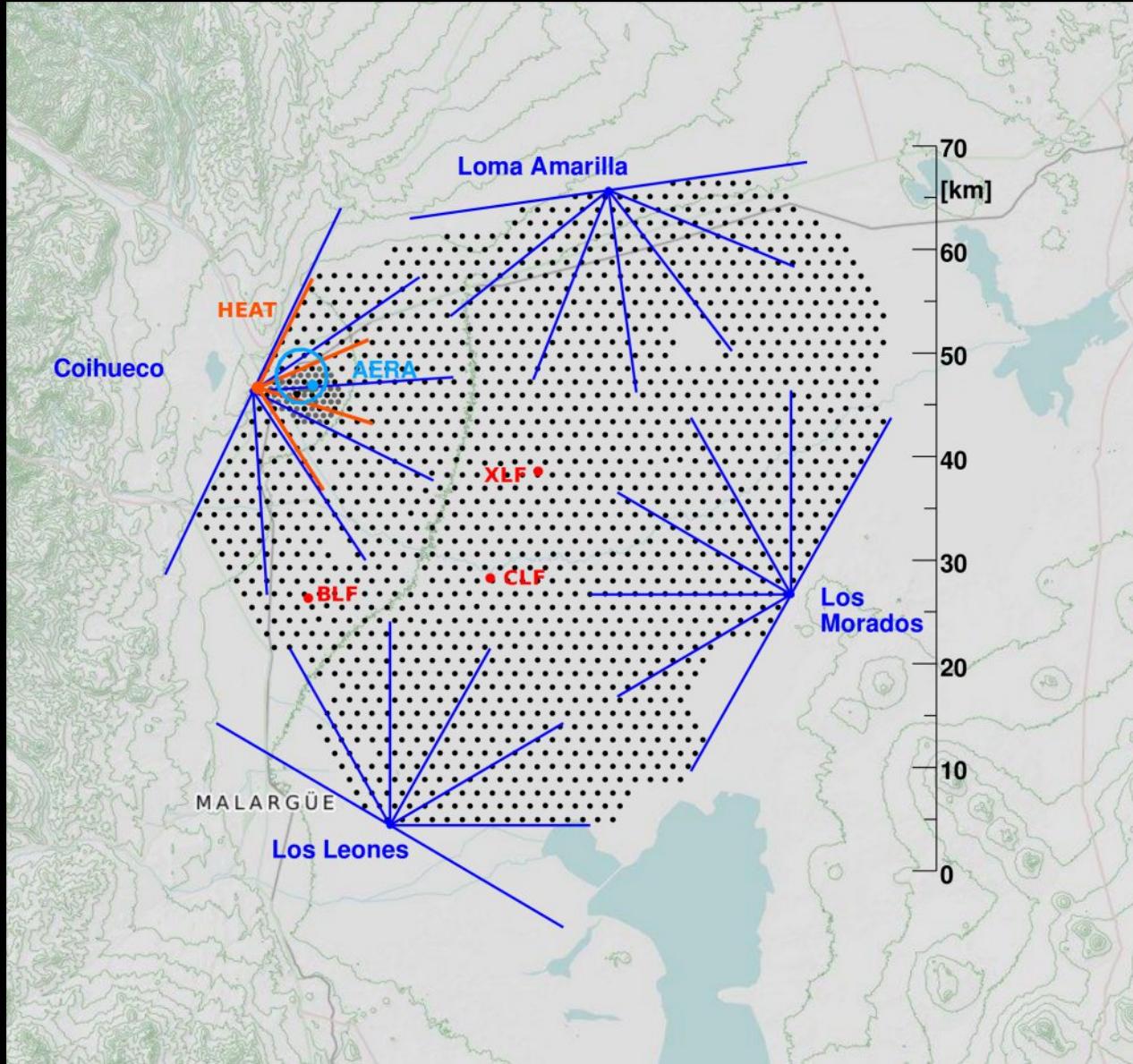
**Hybrid system:**

- 1600 surface detectors sample particles at ground level
- 27 telescopes collect fluorescence light in atmosphere  
(in 4 buildings + 3 “containers”)

**Reconstruction of Energy,  
direction, composition, time**

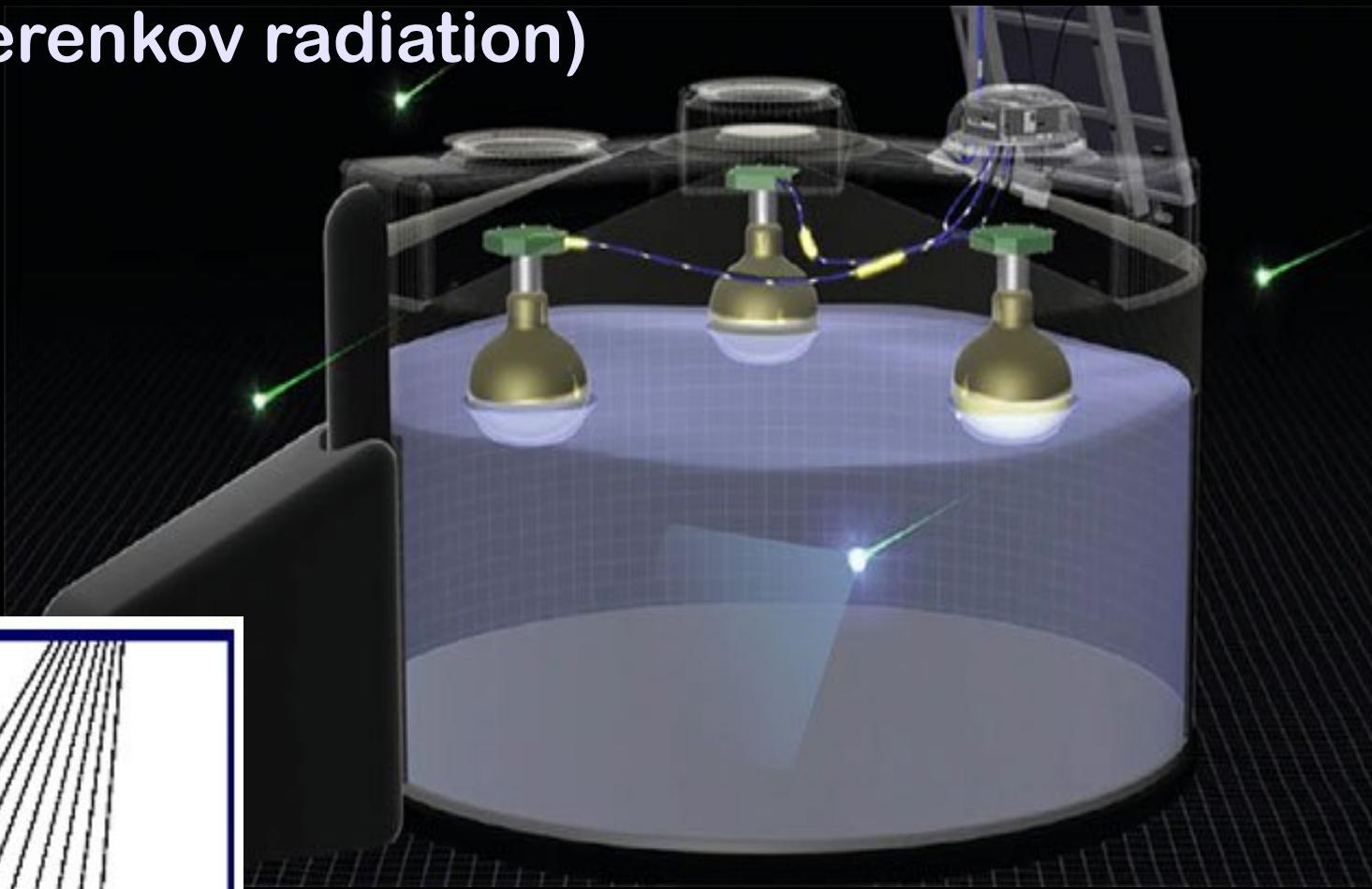
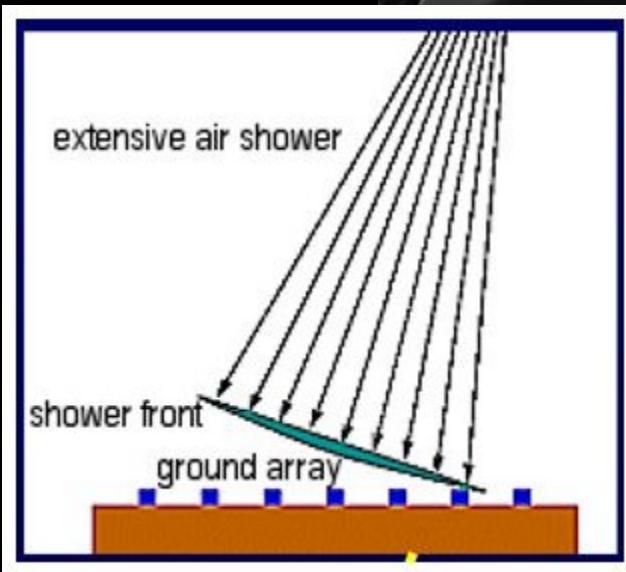


# PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY





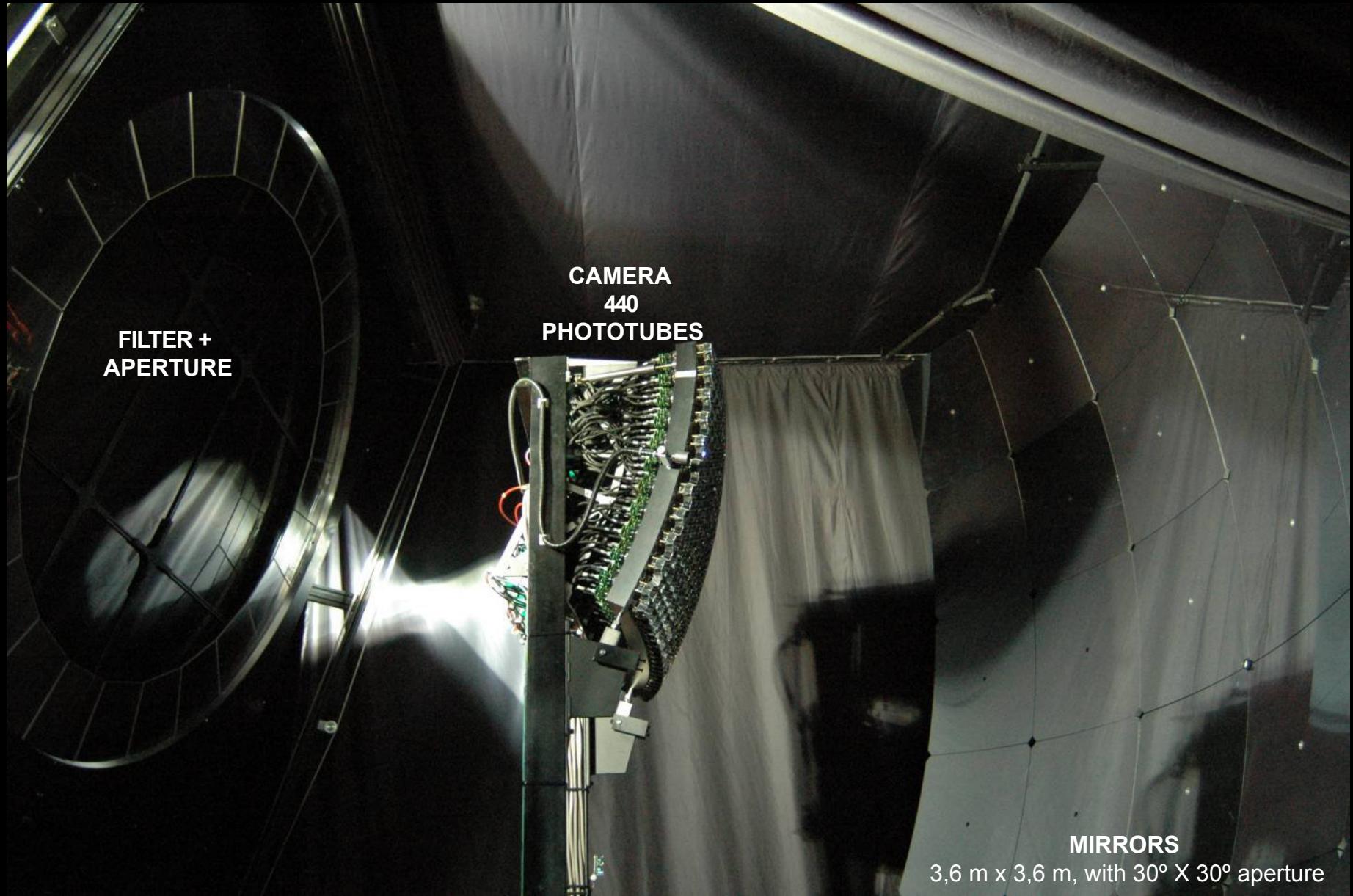
1600 surface detectors. Spacing: 1500 m.  
(Cherenkov radiation)



# SURFACE DETECTORS



# FLUORESCENCE TELESCOPES



# TELESCOPE BUILDINGS



Los Leones



Coihueco



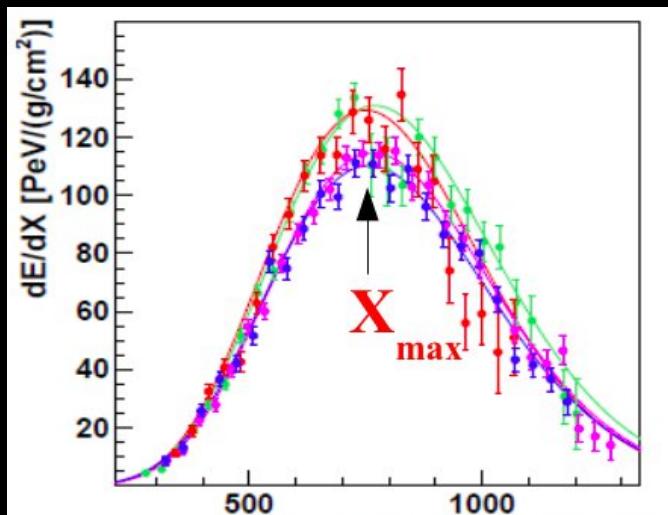
Los Morados



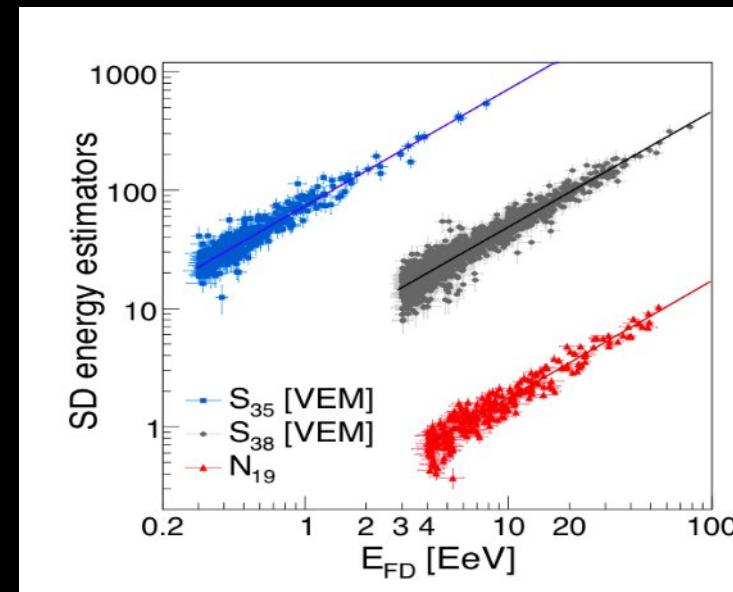
Loma Amarilla

24 telescopes in 4 buildings

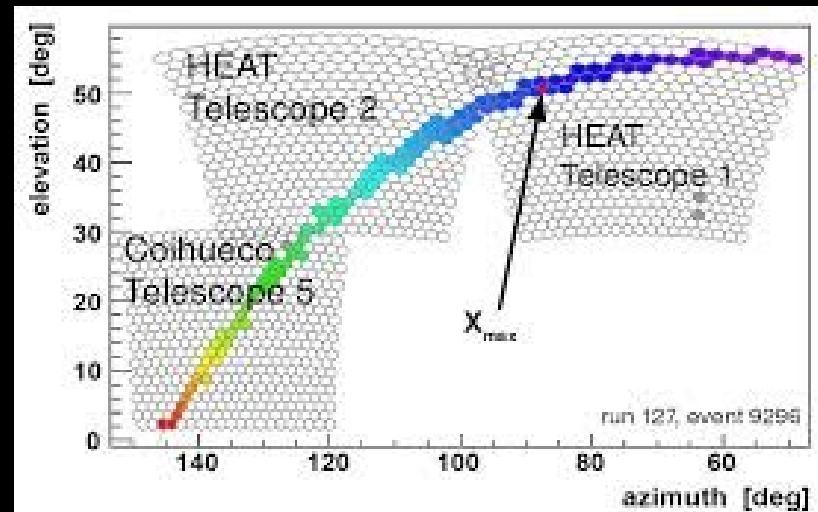
# FLUORESCENCE DETECTORS

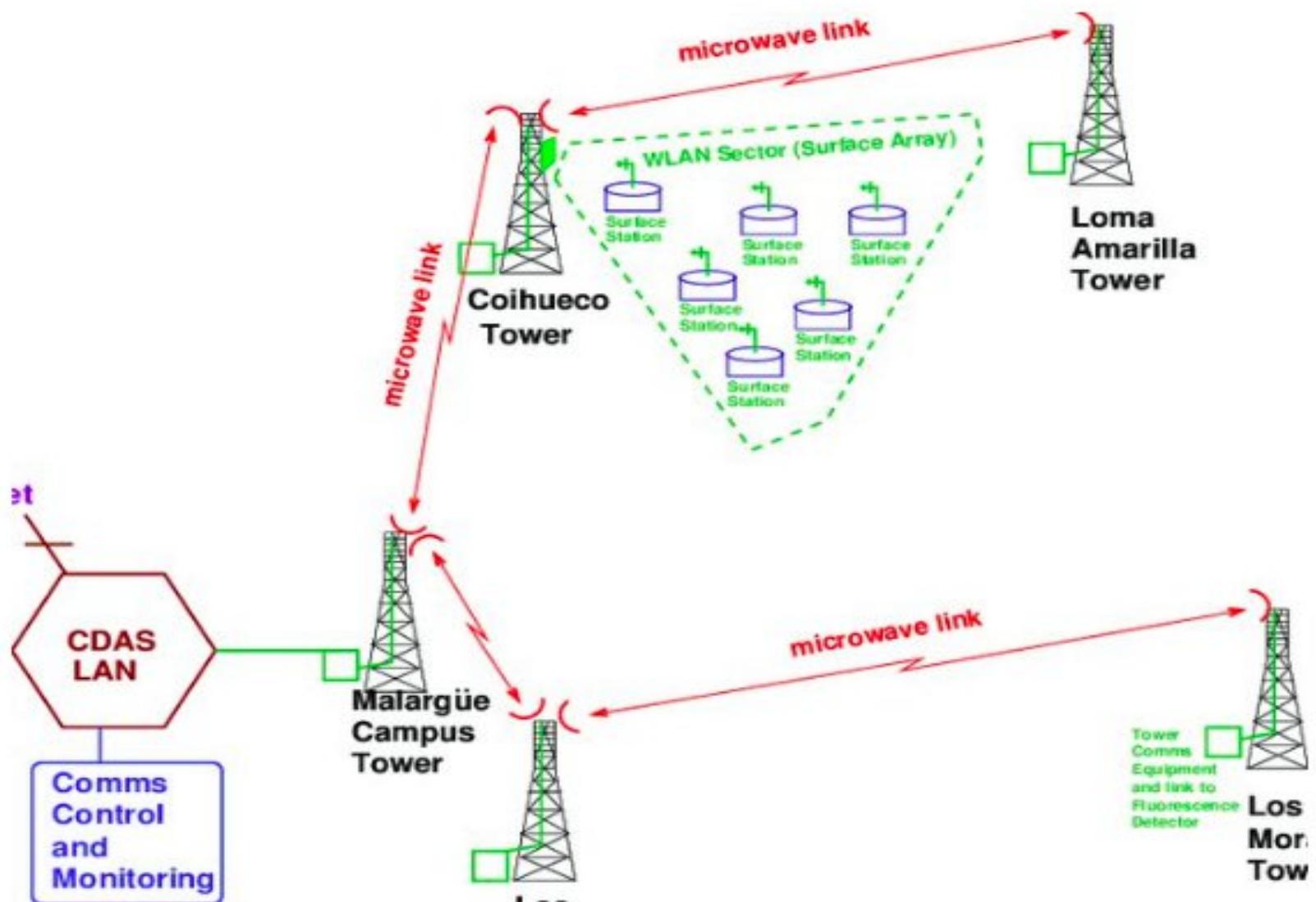


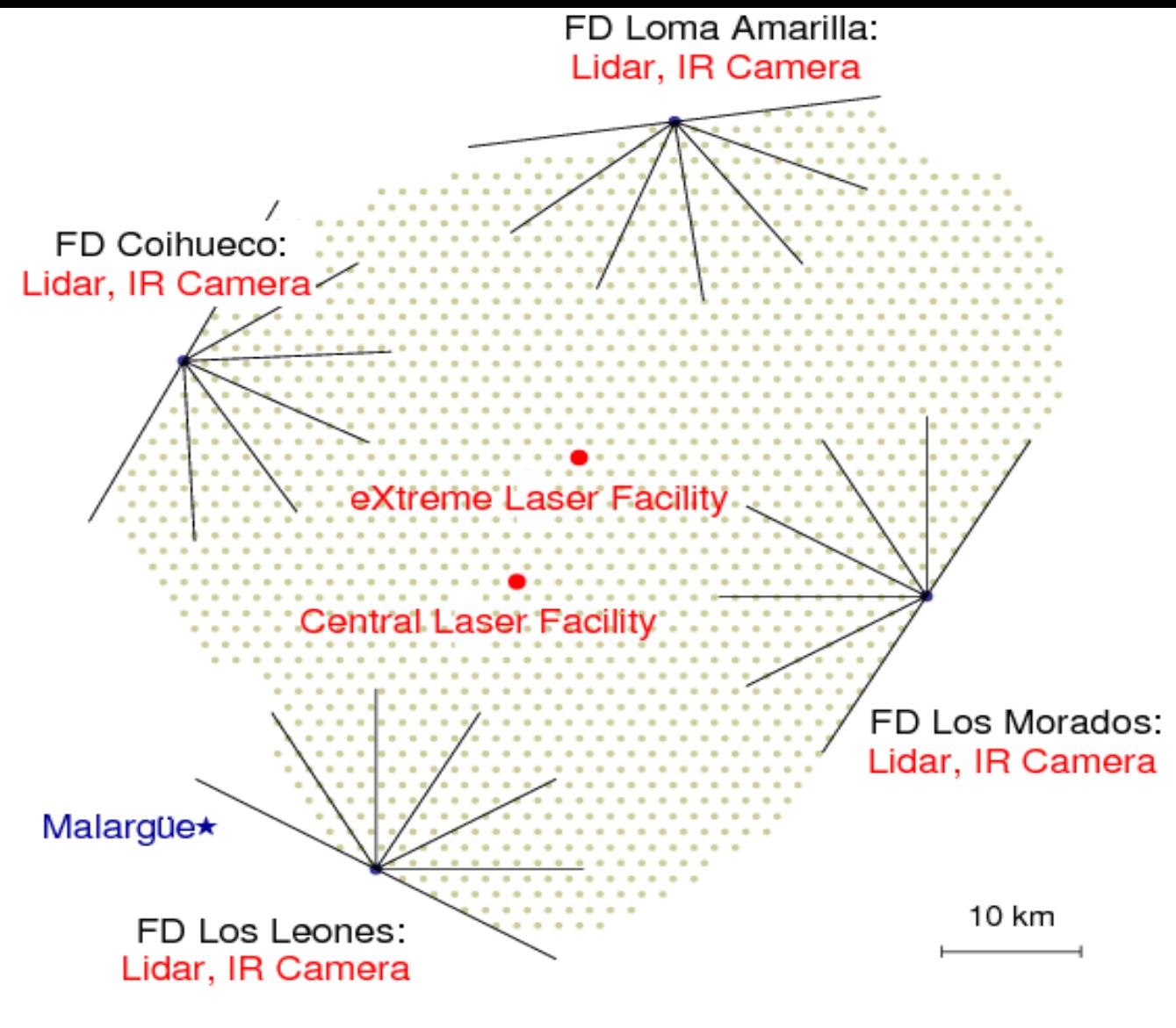
FD for ENERGY Calibration  
 $E \propto$  proportional to fluorescence light  
Composition:  $X_{\max}$  showe maximum



HEAT: larger elevation, lower energy







# ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING SYSTEMS



# ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING SYSTEMS: atmospheric LIDARs



# OPERATION OF THE OBSERVATORY

## Central Station + Assembly Building



# **OPERATION OF THE OBSERVATORY**

**Local staff: 33 persons**

**Visiting scientists and technicians**

**Task groups**

**Local FD shifts**

**Remote FD shifts**



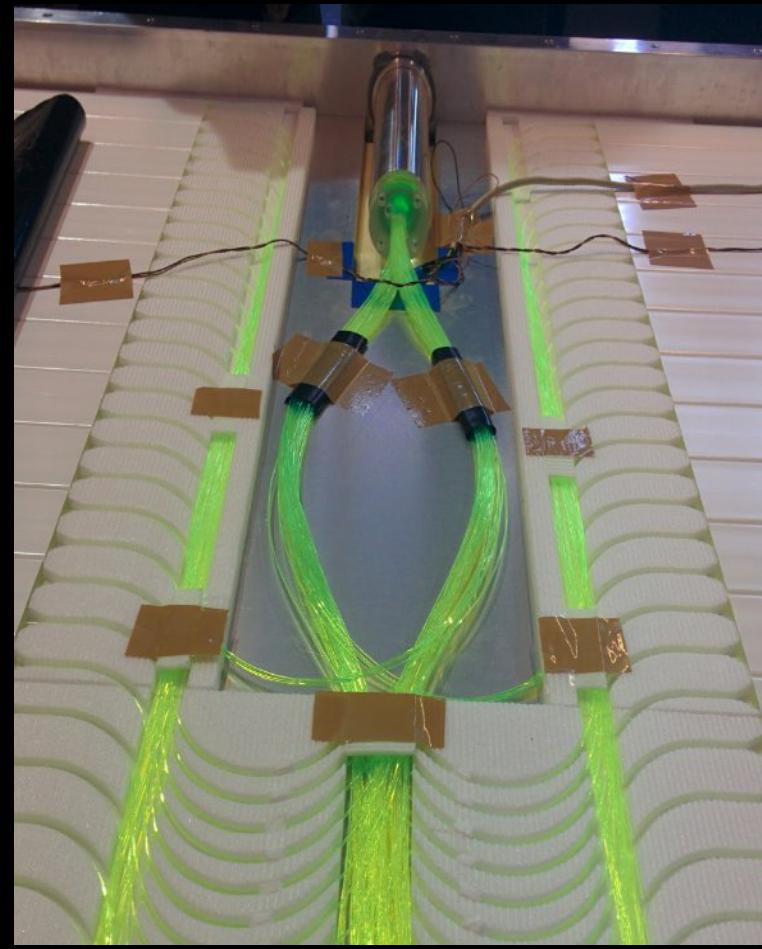
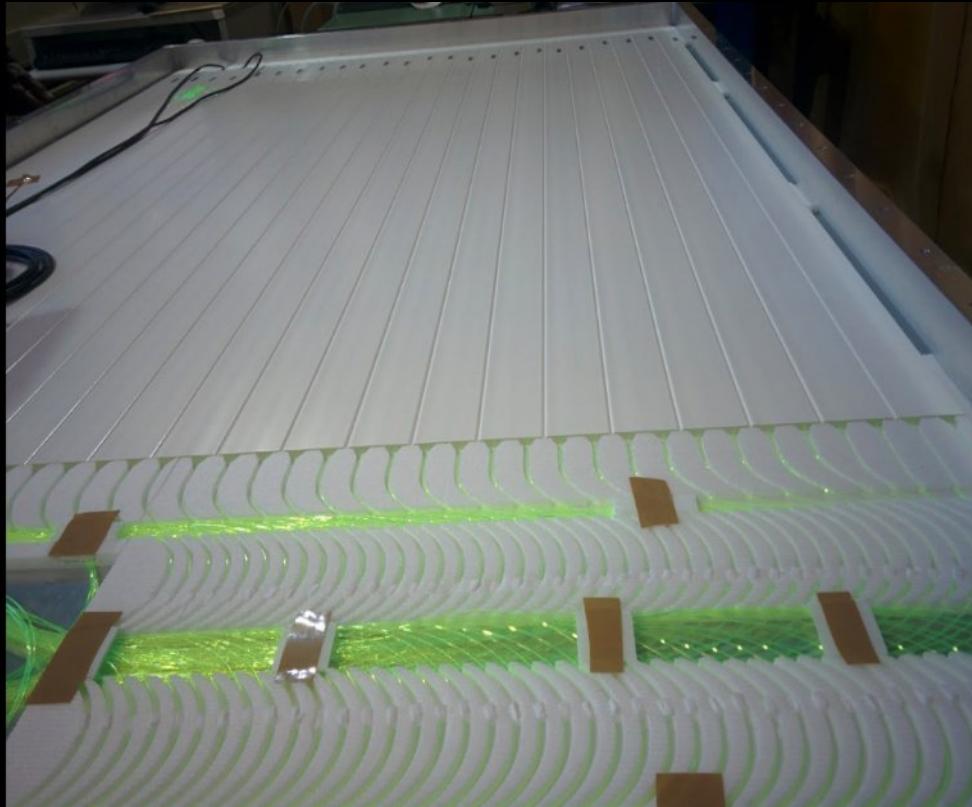
# WHAT KEEPS US BUSY NOW: AUGER “UPGRADE”: AugerPrime - until 2025!

- To determine event-by-event composition at highest energies
- To search for protons at high energies (particle astronomy)
- Study Extended Air Showers and hadron interactions
- SCINTILLATORS: SSD
- UNDERGROUND MUON DETECTORS: AMIGA
- RADIO DETECTION OF AIR SHOWERS
- new electronics
- Extension of FD uptime

To be installed until 2020, 12 MEUR.

# AUGER “UPGRADE”: SSD

**SSD: 1600 plastic scintillators (4 m<sup>2</sup> each) combined with SD**



# AUGER “UPGRADE”: SSD

First prototypes in the field!



# AUGER “UPGRADE”: SSD

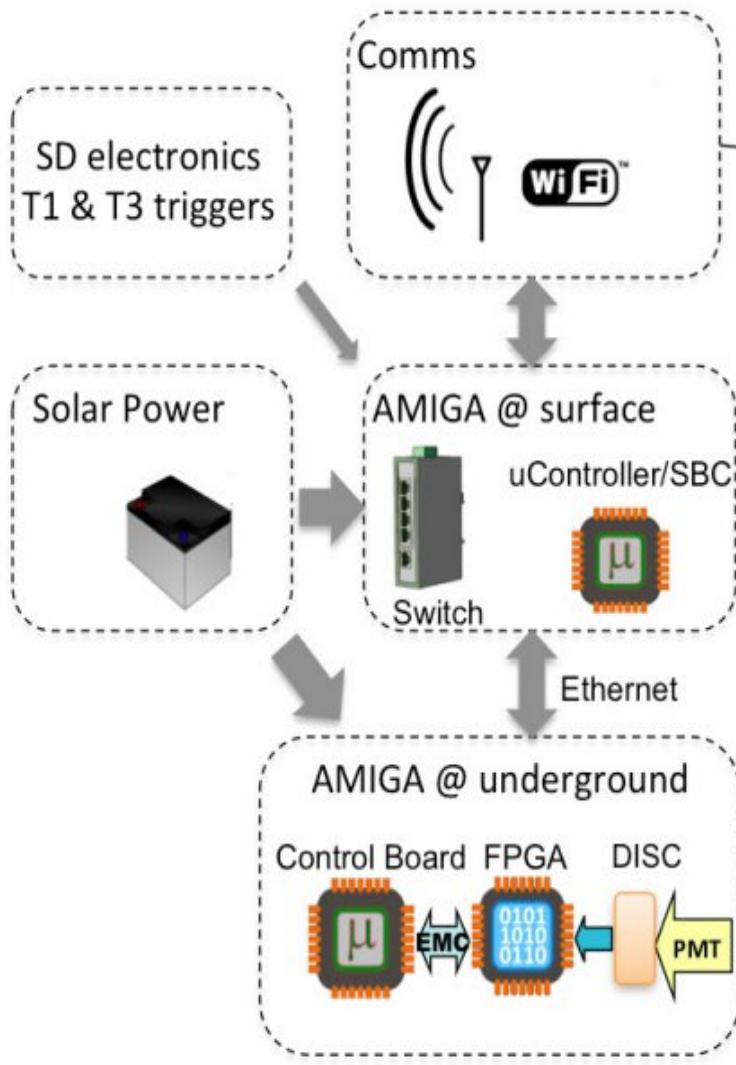


## AUGER “UPGRADE”: SSD

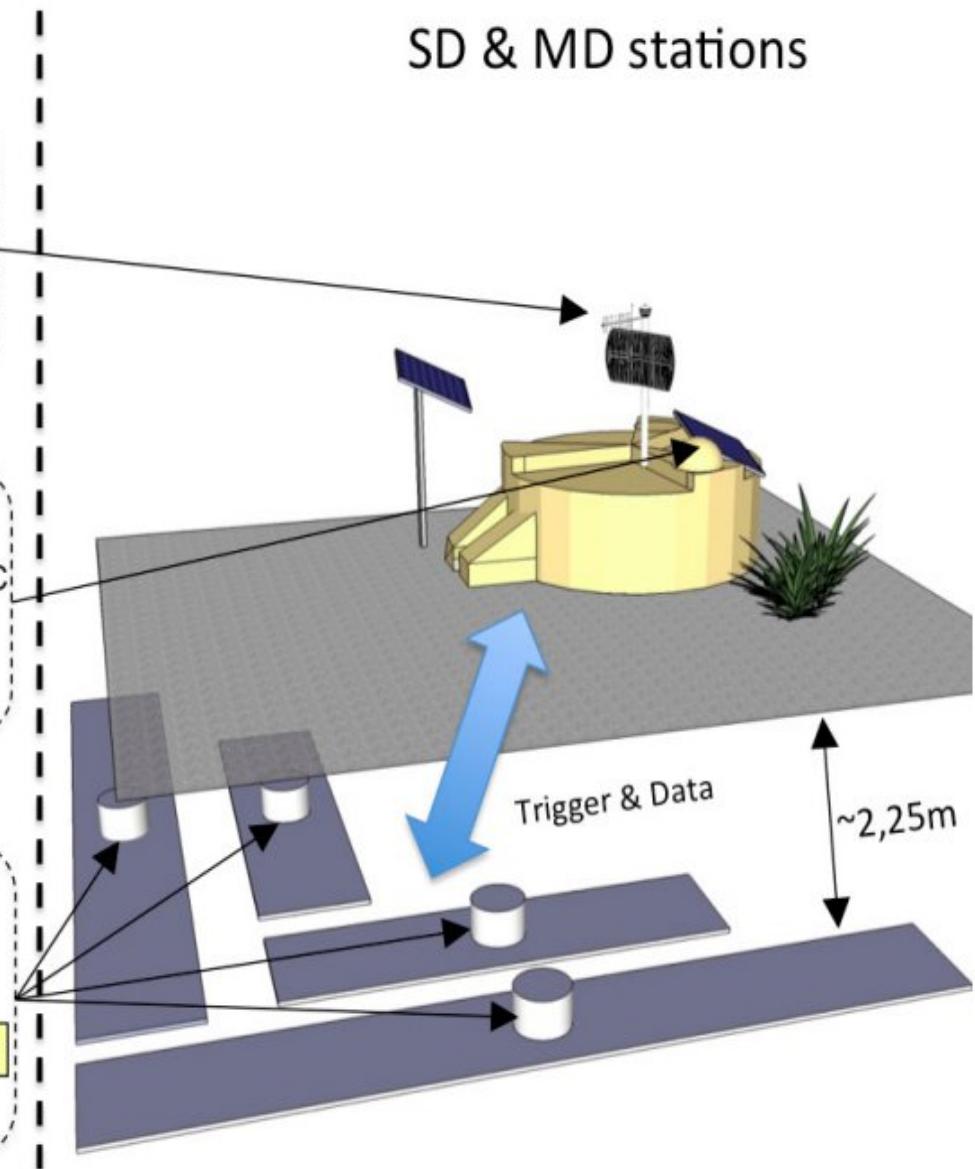


# AUGER “UPGRADE”: AMIGA

## AMIGA electronics



## SD & MD stations



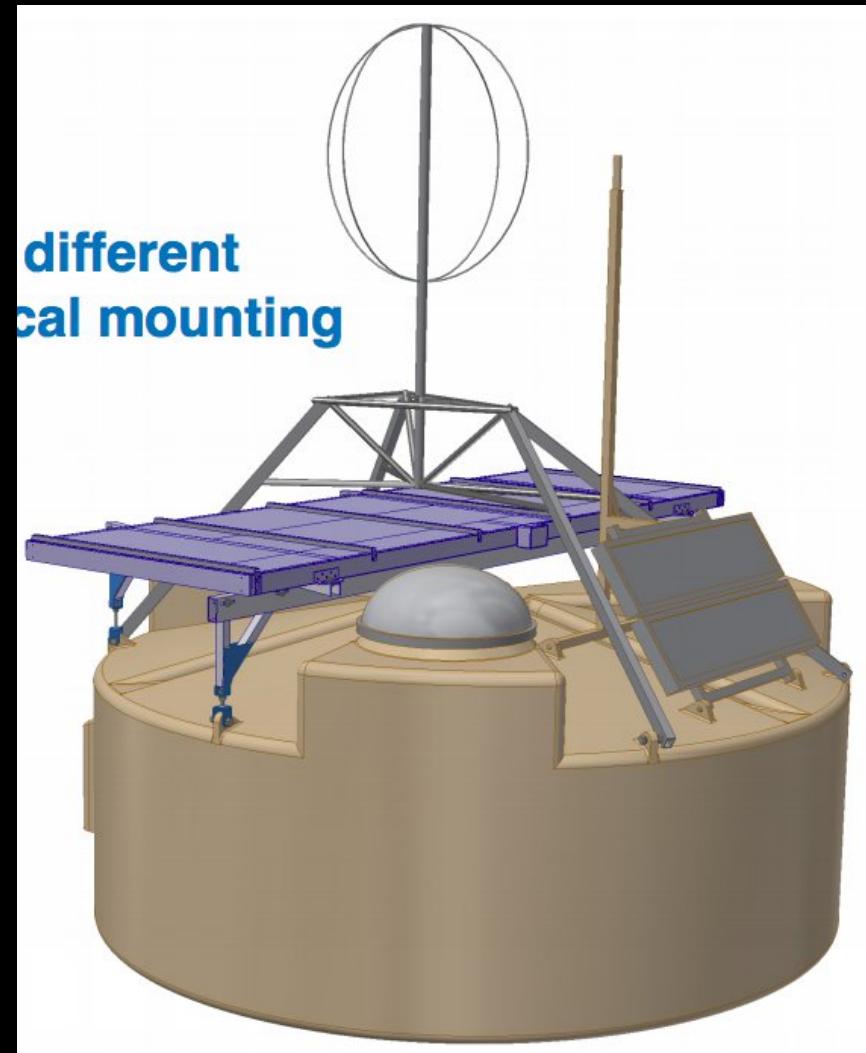
# AUGER “UPGRADE”: AMIGA



## AUGER “UPGRADE”: AMIGA



# AUGER “UPGRADE”: RADIO DETECTION



# PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

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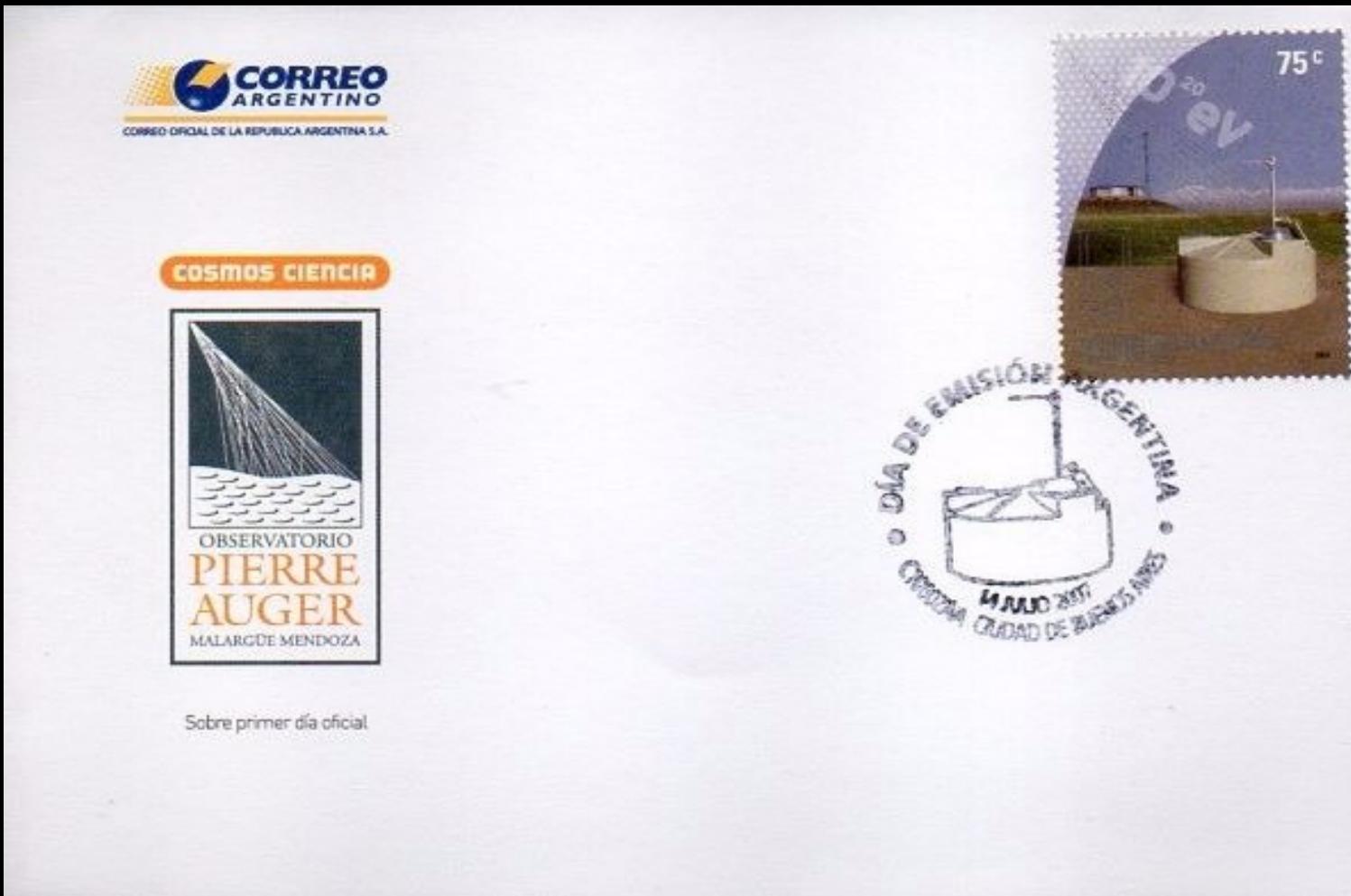
[www.auger.org](http://www.auger.org)  
facebook



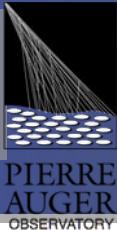
# PIERRE AUGER OBSERVATORY

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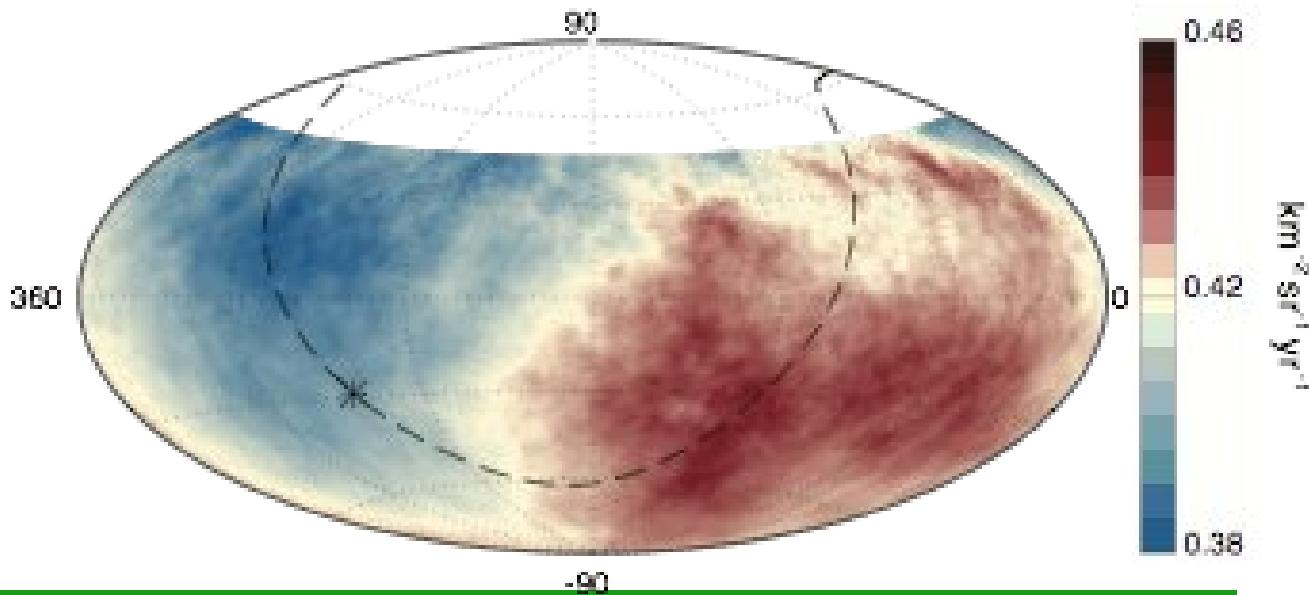
[www.auger.org](http://www.auger.org)  
facebook



# 2017 Science Paper



We observe a  $5.2 \sigma$  Dipole Excess at  $E > 8$  EeV  
The first significant observation of anisotropies in UHECR-history,  
a signature of extragalactic UHECR origin



Enormous echo in the international press with  
more than 200 different reports in the media



## High-energy cosmic rays come from outside our Galaxy

Giant observatory announces long-awaited result.

Davide Castelvecchi

21 September 2017

# New Scientist

DAILY NEWS 21 September 2017

## Far-off galaxies are firing rare high-energy cosmic rays at us



# XINHUANET

Sunday, Nov



## The MiceTimes of Asia

Fresh and Independent News and Opinions from Singapore and Bangkok. Widest news coverage and fastest delivery.



INCREDIBLE

## Land attack a distant galaxy, high-energy rays

By paradox - 23.09.2017

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The earth has been exposed to 30 thousand rays.

Recently, scientists have found a source of high-energy rays, which have tremendous speed and it reaches to the Ground and attacking her.

## Ultra-high-energy cosmic rays come from galaxies far away: study

Source: Xinhua | 2017-09-22 03:21:45 | Editor: Mu Xuequan

Xinhuanet App 环闻



## Scientists Reveal Source of the Ultra-high Energy Cosmic Rays Striking Earth

TECH 20:50 24.09.2017 (updated 11:12 25.09.2017) [Get short URL](#)

3 3523 28 0

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SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

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nature

SPACE

# High-Energy Cosmic Rays Come from Outside Our Galaxy

Giant observatory announces long-awaited result

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN  
Brasil

## Raios cósmicos de alta energia vêm de fora da Via Láctea

Com participação de brasileiros, achado contribui para ajudar a esclarecer um dos maiores mistérios da astronomia contemporânea



WORLD

# Milky Way Ruled Out As Source Of Highest-Energy Cosmic Rays Hitting Earth

BY HIMANSHU GOENKA  ON 09/22/17 AT 3:46 AM

Science Technology

Sunday, November 12, 2017

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Posted at: Sep 23, 2017, 10:06 PM; last updated: Sep 23, 2017, 10:06 PM (IST)

Cosmic rays striking Earth come from outside Milky Way



Starke "Oh-mein-Gott-Teilchen"

## Ferne Galaxien senden Kosmische Strahlung

### La Voz de Galicia

## Un equipo gallego identifica rayos cósmicos más allá de la galaxia

Los expertos aseguran que con este hallazgo nos estamos acercando para poder utilizar las direcciones de las partículas para poder averiguar dónde y cómo se producen

## Von drauss' vom Walde komm ich her

Woher die energiereichsten Teilchen der kosmischen Strahlung kommen, ist ein Rätsel. Jetzt steht immerhin eines fest: nicht aus unserer Milchstrasse.

LE FIGARO

### Des rayons cosmiques venus d'ailleurs

LA NACION Ciencia

### Develan un misterio: el origen de los rayos cósmicos

Le Monde

Llegar

### M Sciences

SCIENCES Vidéos Archéologie Supplément partenaire : Les Prix EDF Pulse Affaire de l'

ION NÉS On sait désormais d'où viennent les rayons cosmiques

# LOS ANDES



## MESSAGE FROM THE STARS Planet Earth is being BOMBARDED by mysterious 'rays' from deep space

Scientists say distant galaxies are blasting us with high-energy beams. Sadly, it doesn't look like aliens are to

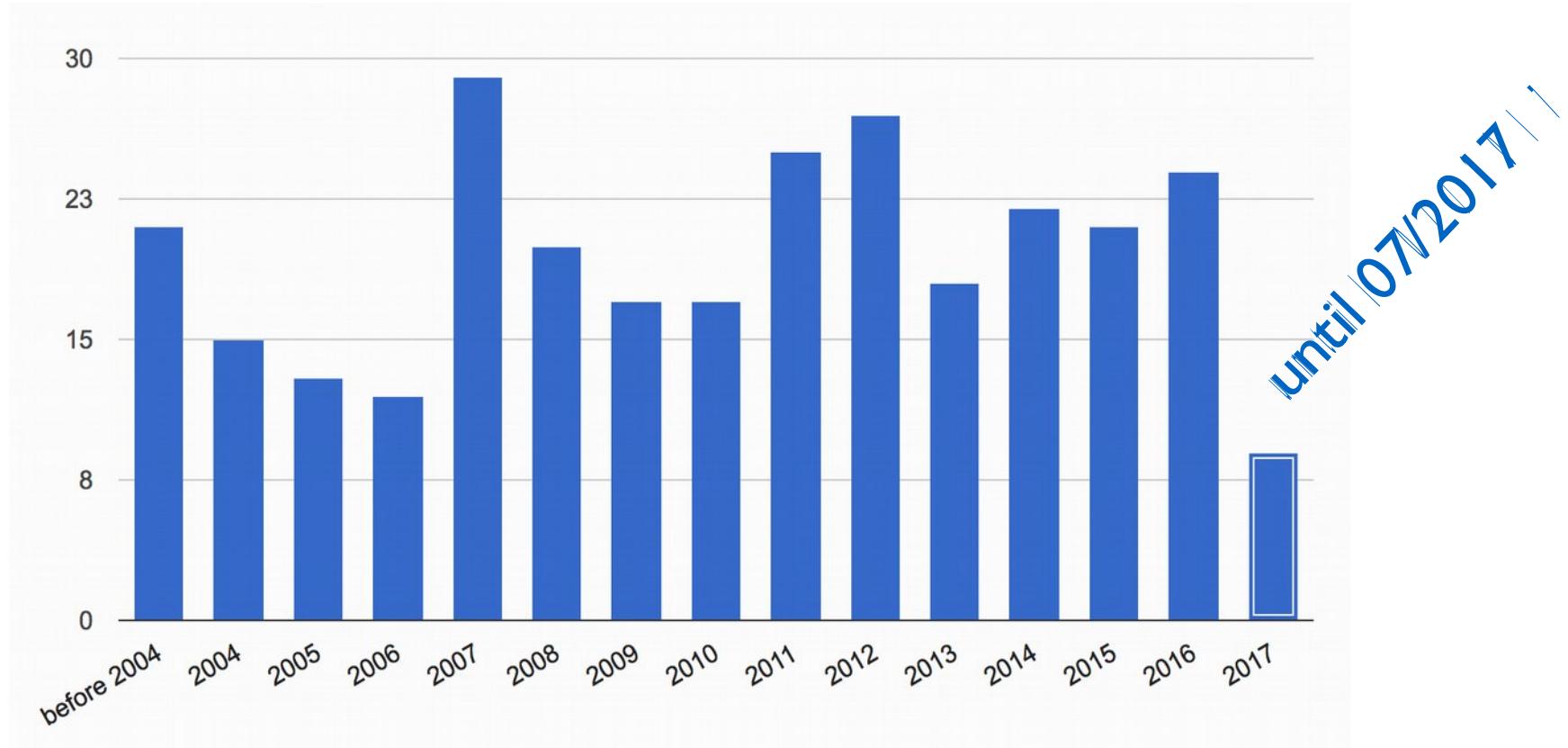
5:17 pm | Updated: 22nd September 2017, 5:17 pm

### de Volkskrant

## Aarde ligt onder vuur: krachtpatserdeeltjes worden vanuit 'deep space' op ons afgeschoten

# PhD Recipients by year

Total: 392 ; Ongoing: 102 ; Defended: 290



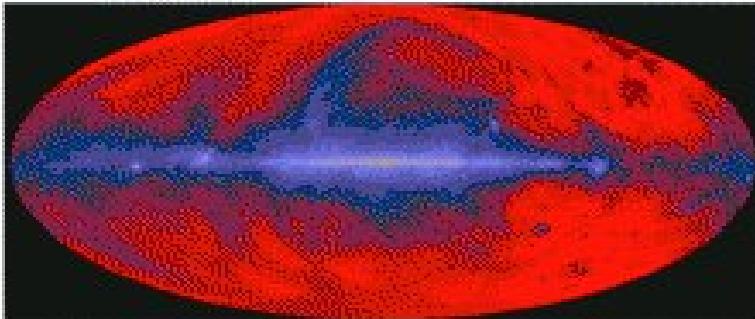
*Auger produces a PhD student every 2.5 weeks!*



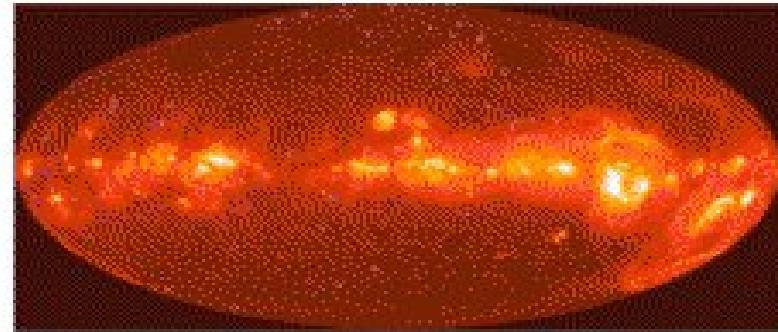
# ASTROPARTICLE PHYSICS

- Auger has high sensitivity to NEUTRINOS
- Auger can identify high energy PHOTONS
- Arrival directions of cosmic rays correlated with sources (if magnetic deflections low)
- MULTIMESSENGER ASTRONOMY

Radio sky

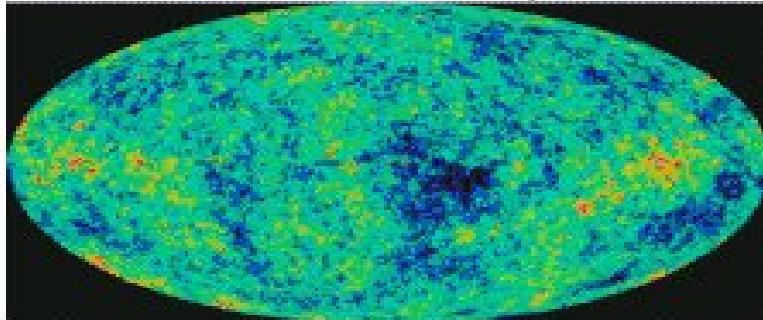


X-ray sky



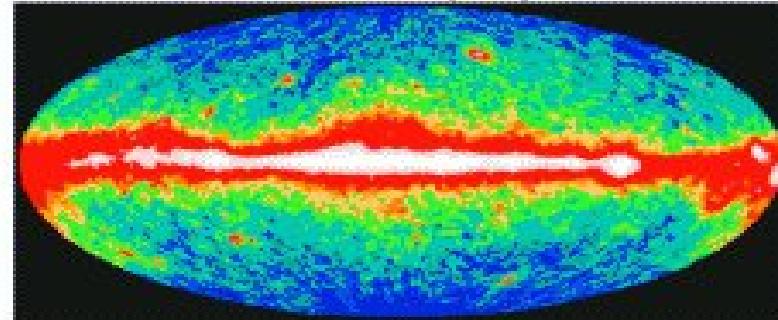
ESA INTEGRAL

Microwave sky



NRAO VLA200

Gamma-ray sky

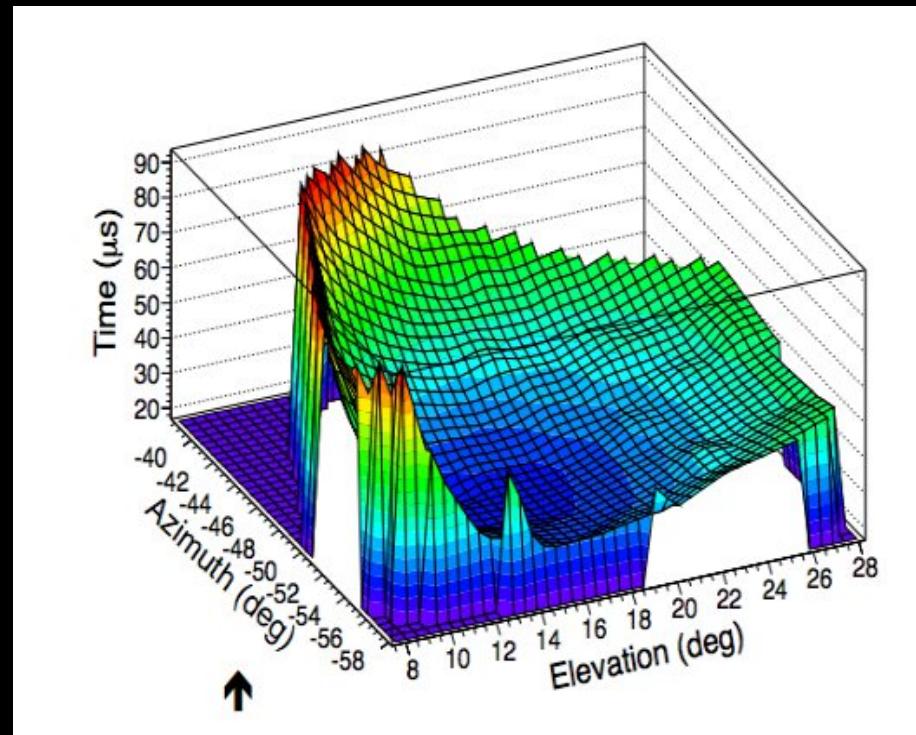


NASA SWIFT

# COLATERAL RESULTS



SOLAR PHYSICS (background signals)  
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE (“Elves” and ionospheric effects)  
LIGHTNINGS



# COLATERAL RESULTS

# HIGH ENERGY PARTICLE INTERACTIONS !

# p-Air cross section at sqrt(s) = 57 TeV

Phys. Rev. Lett. 109, 062002 (2012)

Phys. Rev. D (2014)

