

# LIFT

Link ottico nazionale per la  
Frequenza e il Tempo

The Italian Time and Frequency  
Optical Link Project

Davide Calonico – Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca Metrologica



# The LIFT team

➤ Torino: INRIM

Davide Calonico

Filippo Levi

Claudio E. Calosso

Cecilia Clivati

Alberto Mura

Matteo Frittelli

Elio K. Bertacco

Massimo Zucco

➤ Torino: Politecnico

Giovanni Costanzo

➤ Firenze:

UNIFI, LENS, INFN, CNR/INO

Nicola Poli

Denis V. Sutyryn

Guglielmo M. Tino

Paolo De Natale

Davide Mazzotti

➤ Bologna: INAF

Roberto Ambrosini

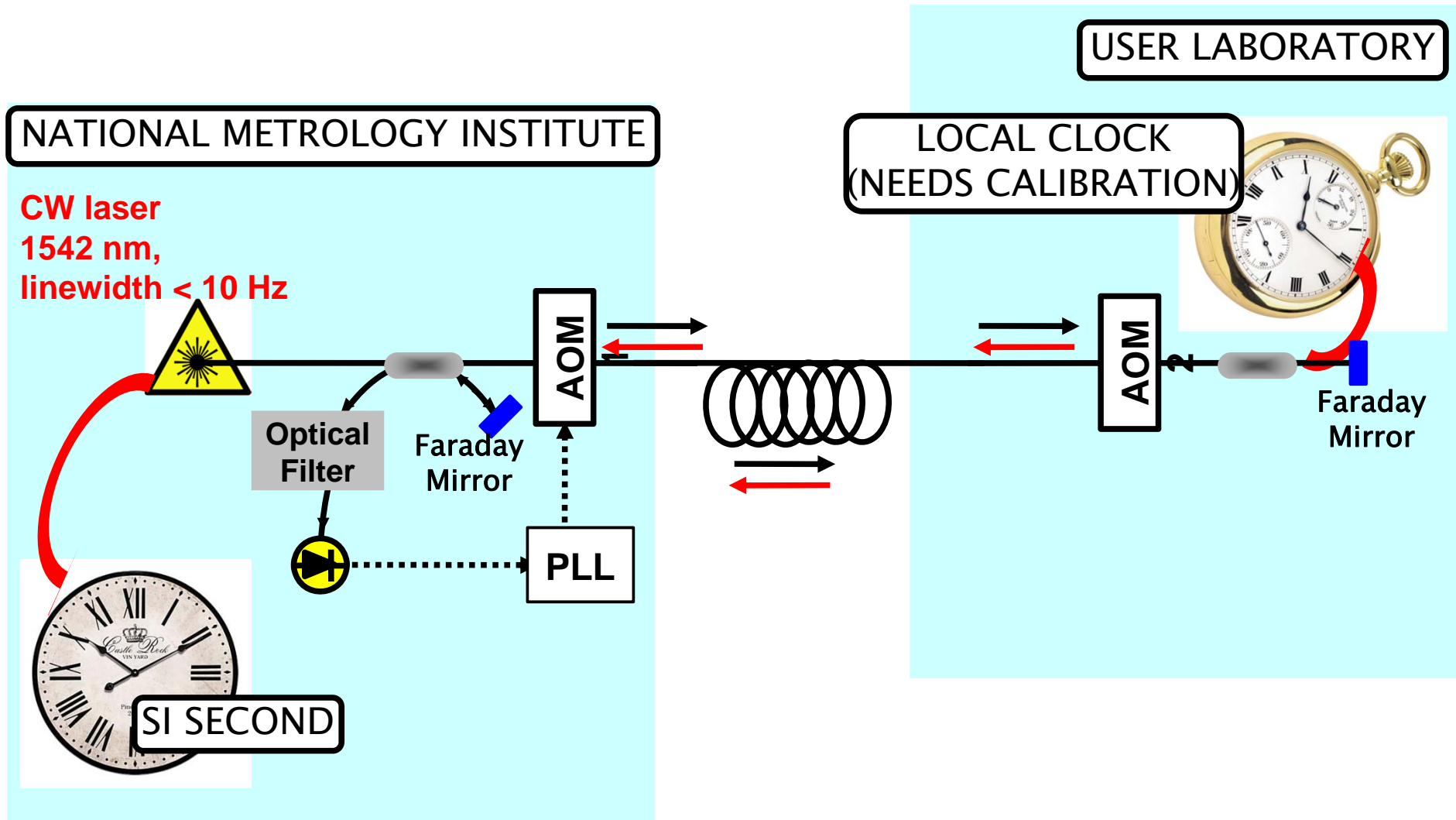
➤ Milano: CNR/IFN

Gianluca Galzerano

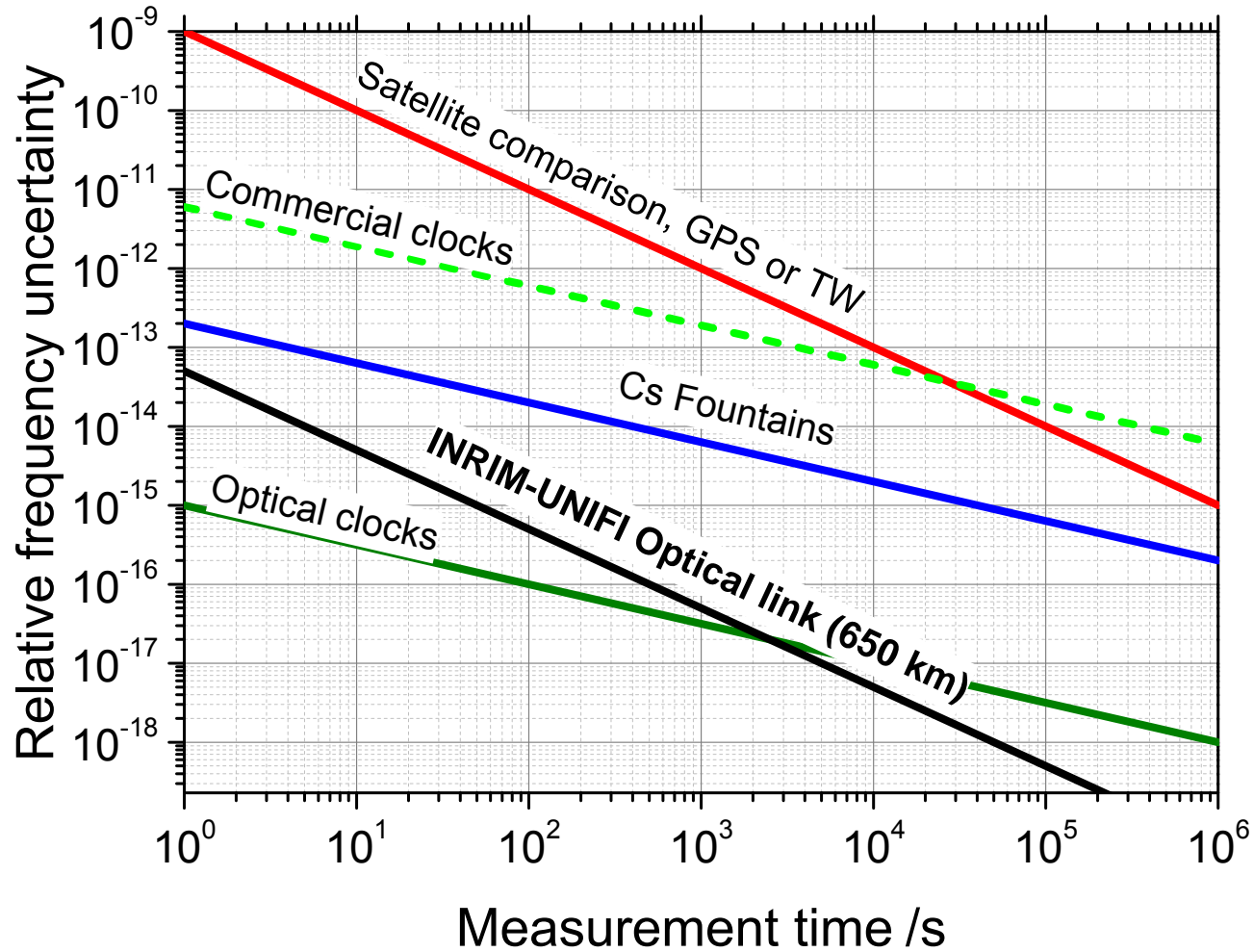


POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Coherent Optical link with commercial fiber and noise compensation



# Need for optical links



# Coherent Optical Links in Europe



*K. Predehl et al., Science 336, 441 (2012)*

*O. Lopez et al., Appl. Phys. B, 110, 1 (2013)*





## INRIM is partner of the project

### NEAT-FT (2012-2015)

Accurate time/frequency comparison and dissemination through optical telecommunication networks

Coordinator: Harald Schnatz, PTB

#### Partners:

**PTB-Germany** (Coordinator), **BEV** (Austria), **INRIM** (Italy), **MIKES** (Finland), **NPL** (United Kingdom), **OBSPARIS** (France), **SP** (Sweden), **UFE** (Czech Republic), **VSL** (The Netherlands), **CESNET** (Czech Republic), **AGH** (Poland)

48°27'31.94" N 9°59'15.63" O Höhe 580 m

Sichthöhe 1021.26 km

# Italy: LIFT Project



D. Calonico, et al., Proc. of the EFTF, Gothenburg, 396-399 (2012)

# LIFT Objectives

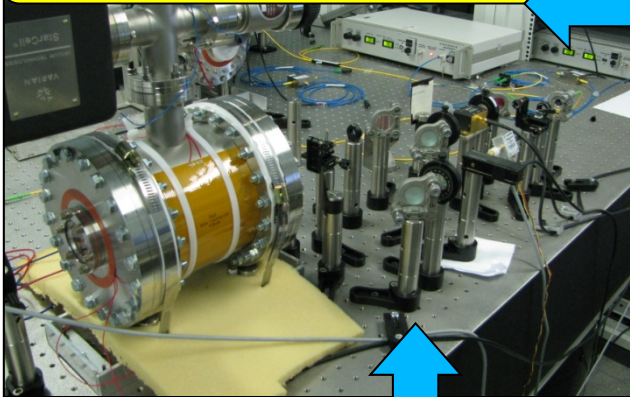
- ✓ Create a national backbone for high accuracy dissemination of time and frequency signals.
- ✓ The remote user will have a primary frequency standard signal in house and in real time.
- ✓ Direct comparison of remote frequency standards, optical and microwave (Accuracy  $<10^{-16}$ ).
- ✓ Disseminate high stability frequency signals (better than H-Maser) for astronomic users.
- ✓ Create a high technological T&F infrastructure for Italy.



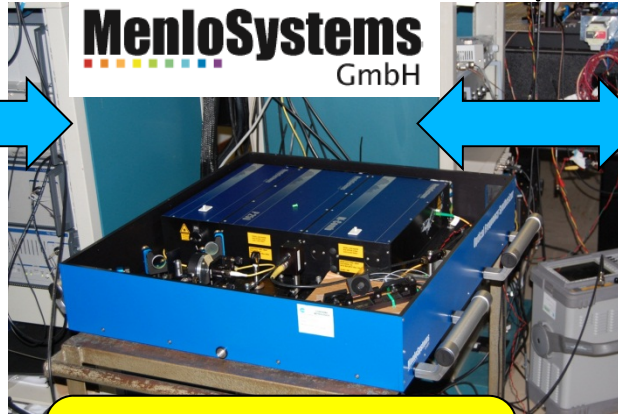


# INRIM clock ensemble

**ULE cavity stabilized laser  
(Link, Optical Clock)**



**MenloSystems**  
GmbH



**1+2 Fiber laser  
2 Ti:Sa  
femtosecond comb**

**Cryogenic  
Cs Fountain  
ITCsF2**

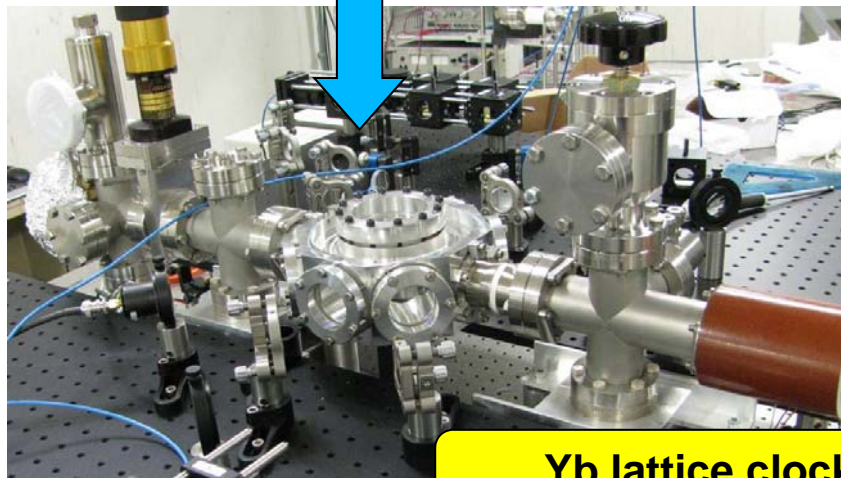


**Cs Fountain  
ITCsF1**



**Cs Primary References**

**3 H-Masers  
HM1 HM2 HM3**



**Yb lattice clock  
(in progress)**

# Cs cryogenic fountain INRIM ITCsF2



Cryogenic structure @ 89 K  
 $\sigma_y(\tau) = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-13} \tau^{-1/2}$   
Accuracy:  $2 \cdot 10^{-16}$

F. Levi, et al., IEEE Tran.s on UFFC, 57, 600 – 605, (2010)



# INRIM, Cs Fountains ITCsF1 and ITCsF2: Accuracy Budget

## ITCsF1

$$\sigma_y(\tau) = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-13} \tau^{-1/2}$$

Accuracy:  $5 \cdot 10^{-16}$

## ITCsF2

$$\sigma_y(\tau) = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-13} \tau^{-1/2}$$

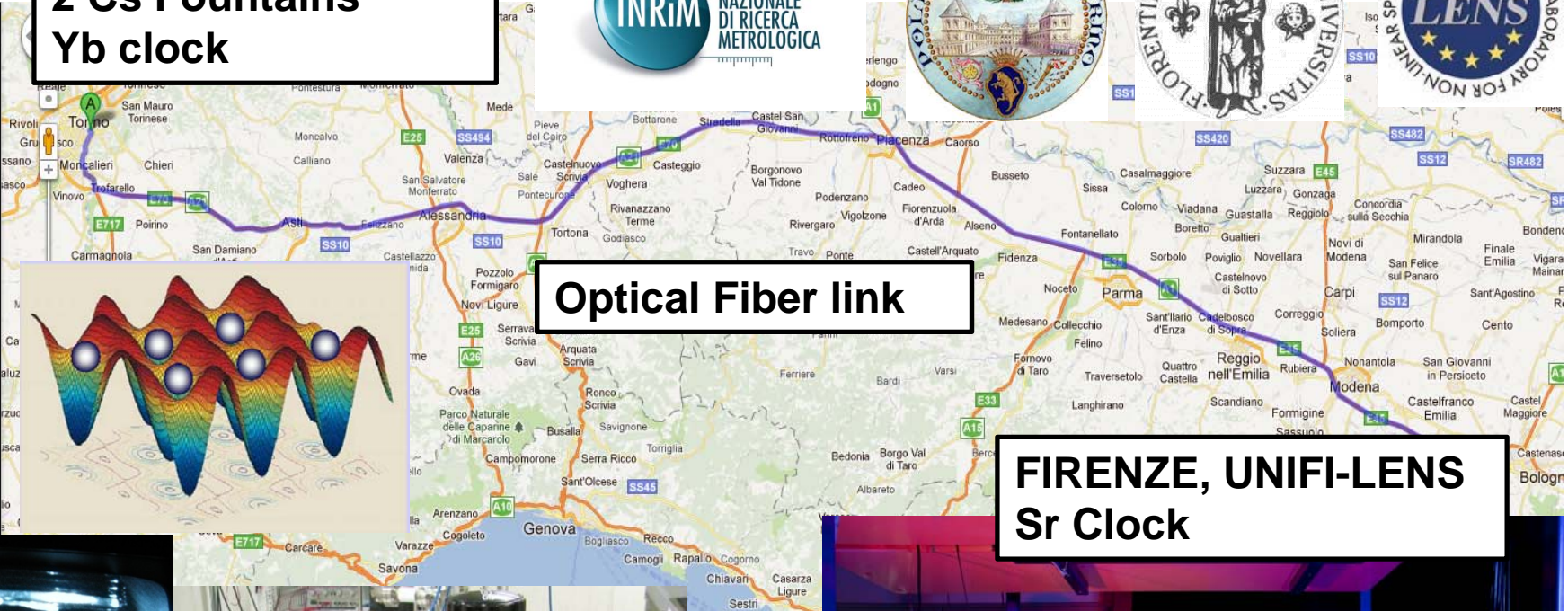
Accuracy:  $2 \cdot 10^{-16}$

	u ITCsF1	u ITCsF2
Zeeman	2E-16	8E-17
Collisions	3E-16	1E-16
Blackbody	3E-16	1E-17
Microwave related	2E-16	1E-16
Redshift	1E-17	1E-17
<b>Totale</b>	<b>5E-16</b>	<b>2E-16</b>

# 2012-2013: UNIFI-INRIM-POLITO

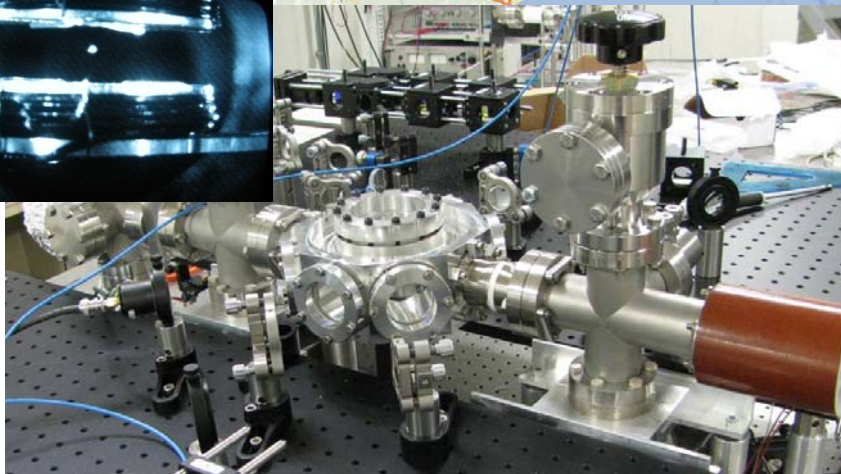
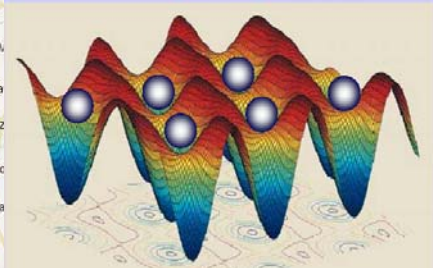
## Absolute Measurement of Optical Frequency Standards by optical fiber link

**TORINO, INRIM  
2 Cs Fountains  
Yb clock**



**Optical Fiber link**

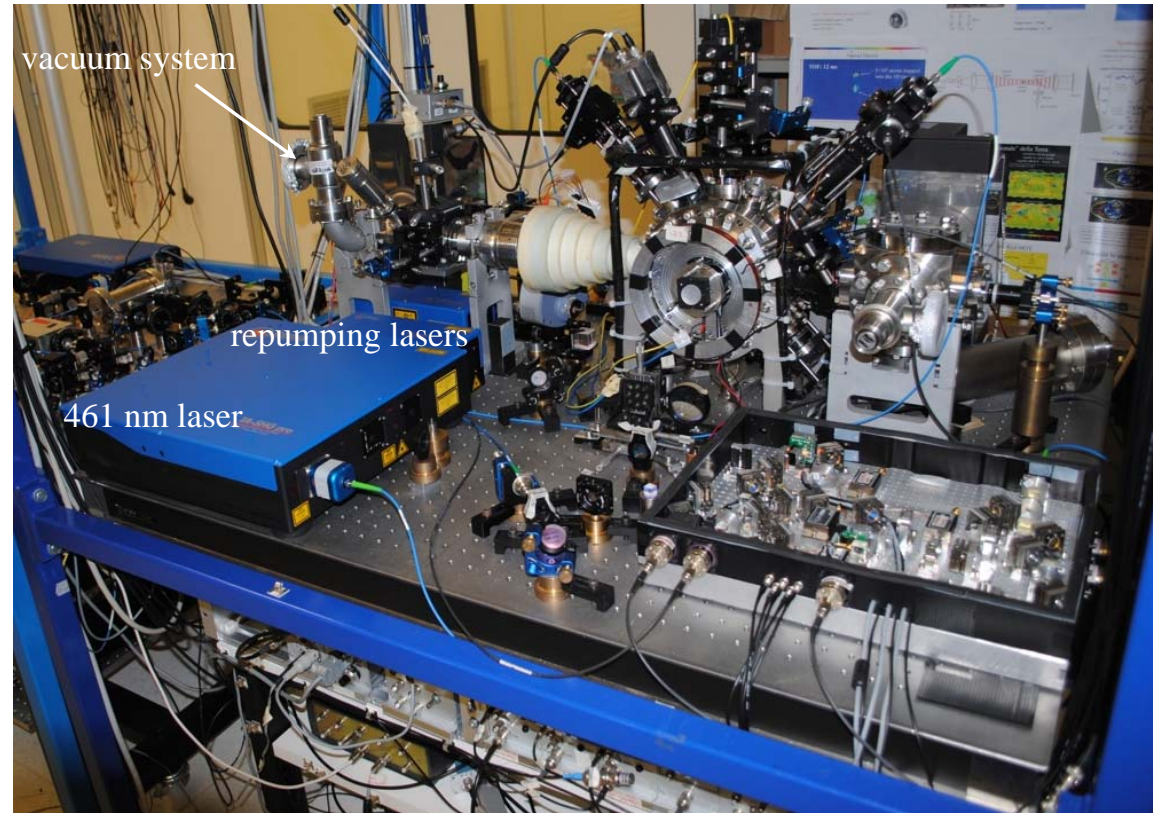
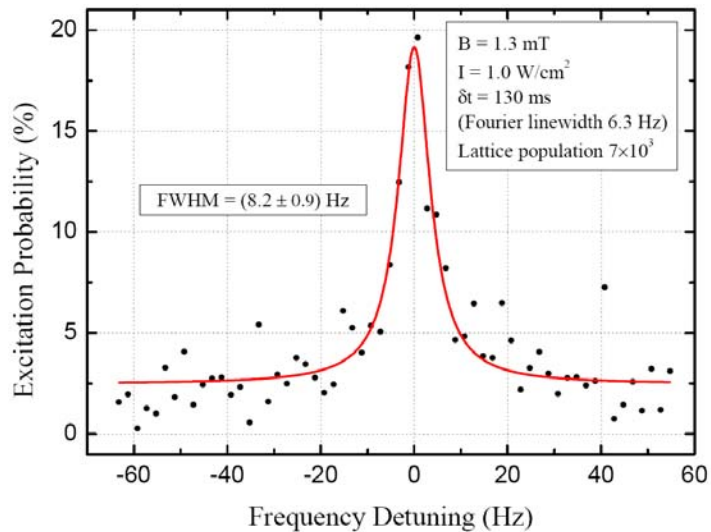
**FIRENZE, UNIFI-LENS  
Sr Clock**



# UNIFI: Laser-cooled strontium clock

## *main guidelines:*

1. compact design and reduced power consumption
2. operation reliability and stability
3. modularity



- “Space Optical clocks” (SOC) - ESA



- SOC2 –EU-FP7



Schiller et al. (SOC2 team), “The Space Optical Clocks Project: Progress report”, IEEE (2012)

M.Schioppo et al., *Proceedings of EFTF 2010*



# 2014-2015: INRIM-INA F T&F REFERENCES FOR RADIOASTRONOMY



## 2014-2015: INRIM-INAF : T&F METROLOGICAL REFERENCES FOR RADIOASTRONOMY



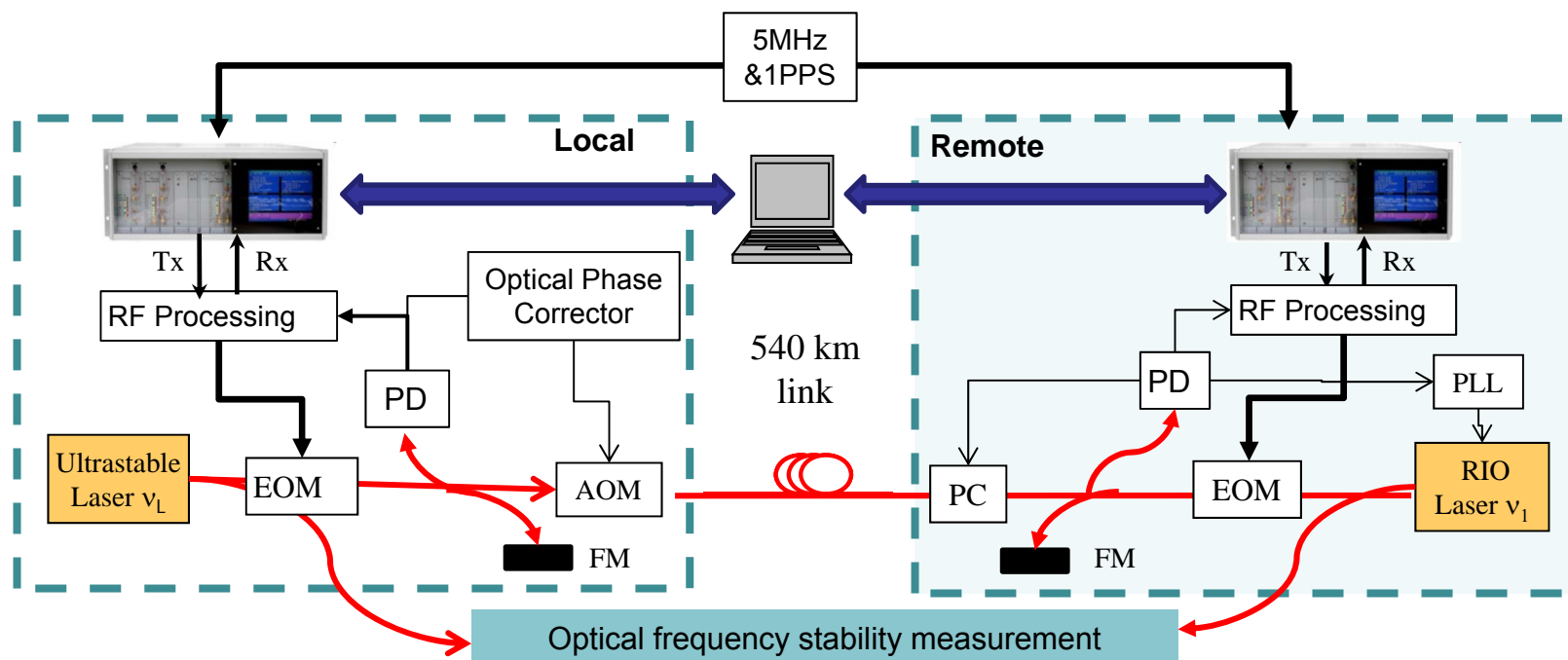
The Medicina Observatory hosts both a 32 meter dish for Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) and a 20'000 m<sup>2</sup> collecting area for Pulsar research:

- ✓ needs accurate timing for VLBI, now also in real time VLBI, by 1Gb/s fiber.
- ✓ needs Frequency dissemination at 10<sup>-15</sup> level for Pulsar monitoring on long and very long time scales.
- ✓ offers T&F cross checks by direct comparisons with Pulsar and Quasar, now defining the best possible inertial frame of reference



# Time dissemination for LIFT

O.Lopez, A. Kanj, P.-E. Pottie, D. Rovera, J. Achkar, C. Chardonnet, A. Amy-Klein and G. Santarelli  
Applied Physics B: Lasers and Optics, s00340-012-5241-02012 (2012)

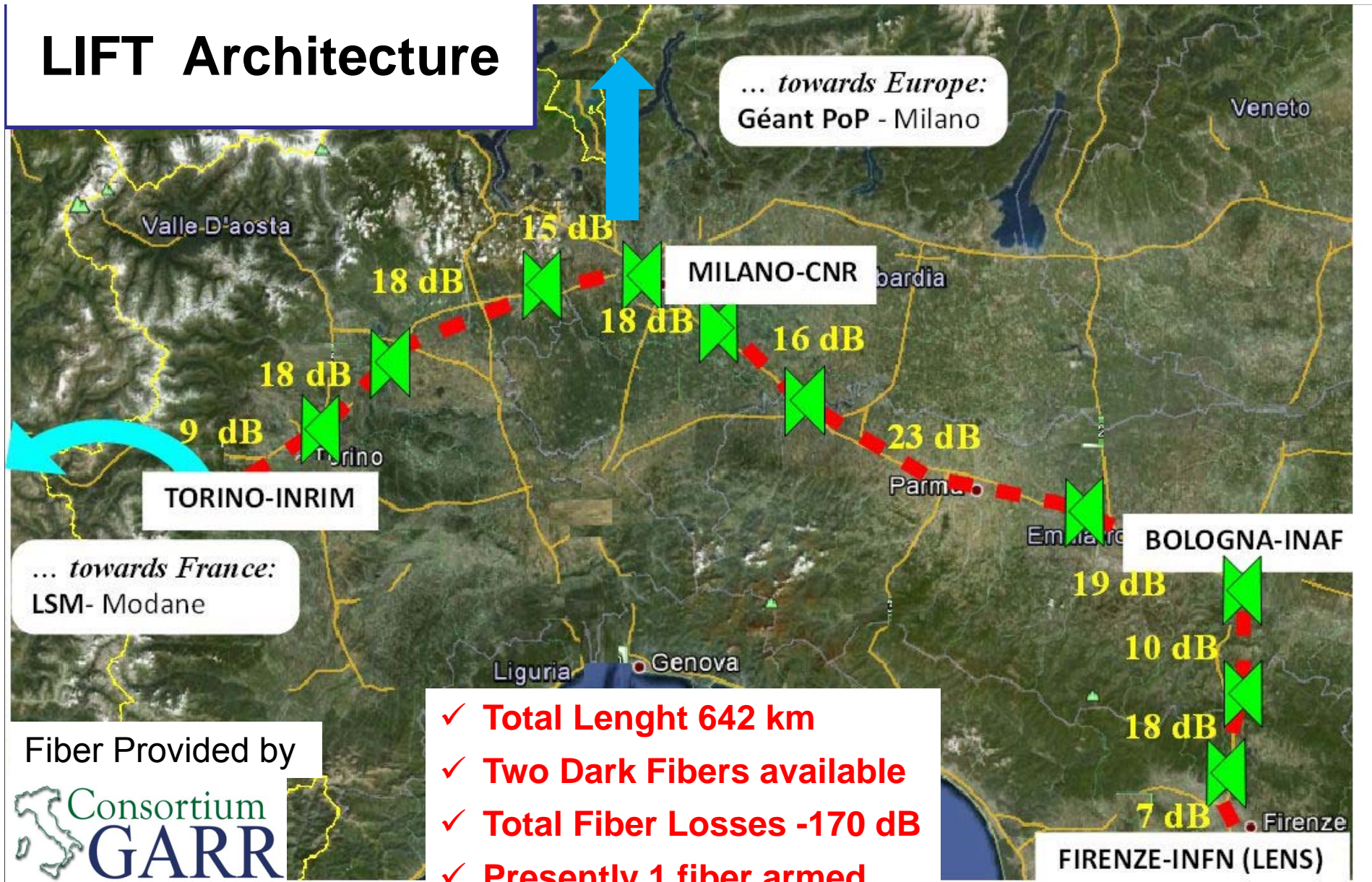


- Frequency transfer with « round-trip » method for fiber noise compensation
- Two-way time transfer using Satre modems






# LIFT Architecture



... towards France:  
LSM- Modane

... towards Europe:  
Géant PoP - Milano

Fiber Provided by  


- ✓ Total Length 642 km
- ✓ Two Dark Fibers available
- ✓ Total Fiber Losses -170 dB
- ✓ Presently 1 fiber armed
- ✓ 9 b-EDFA are used



# Bidirectional EDFA for LIFT



GSM Telecontrol

# LIFT b-EDFA: test in laboratory and in-field

Each amplifier tested in laboratory and in-field. Each site presented its own characteristics, with some common general features.

e.g. **PIACENZA Site**, with respect to Lab:

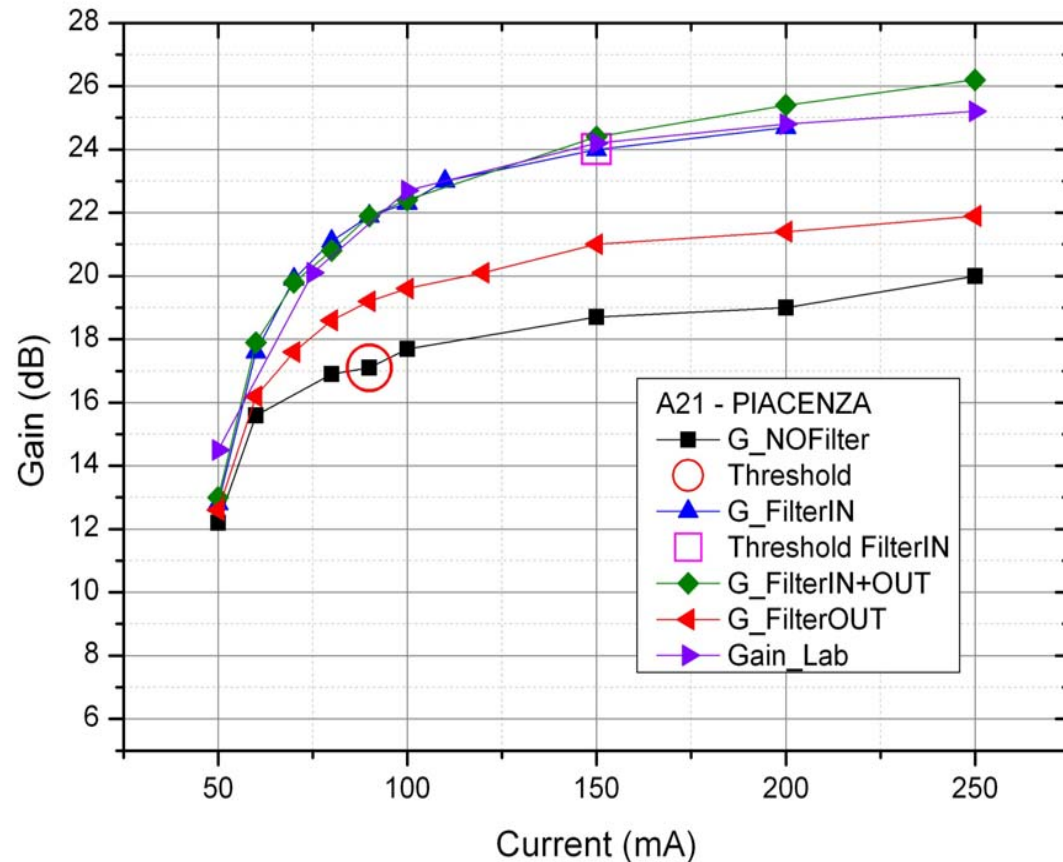
w/o **100 GHz ITU44 Filters**: pump current threshold 90mA,

Gain <7 dB

filter OUT: no threshold, lower gain

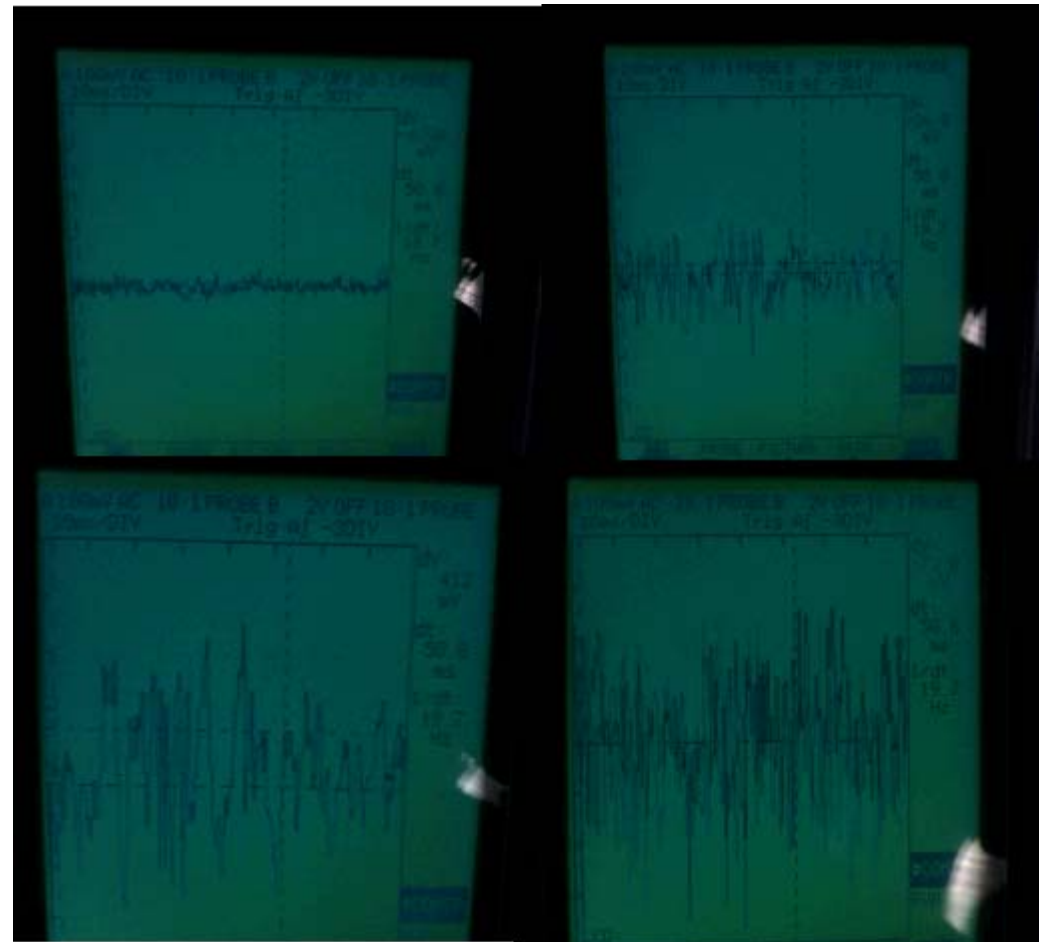
filter IN + OUT: gain~lab without threshold

filter IN: gain ~lab, threshold of 150mA



# Reflections effects setting a pump current threshold

After the threshold, large anomalies in the reflected light to a test photodiode.  
We keep the pump current below the threshold.



# Distributed Amplification

## ...in Raman amplification

- ✓ High gain ( $\sim 30$  dB)
- ✓ No phase noise added
- ✓ Large gain bandwidth ( $\sim 10$  THz)  
→ Autonomous operation
- ✗ High pump power required ( $\sim 1$  W)
- ✗ Pump –signal offset 13 THz  
→ Suitable in DWDM networks?

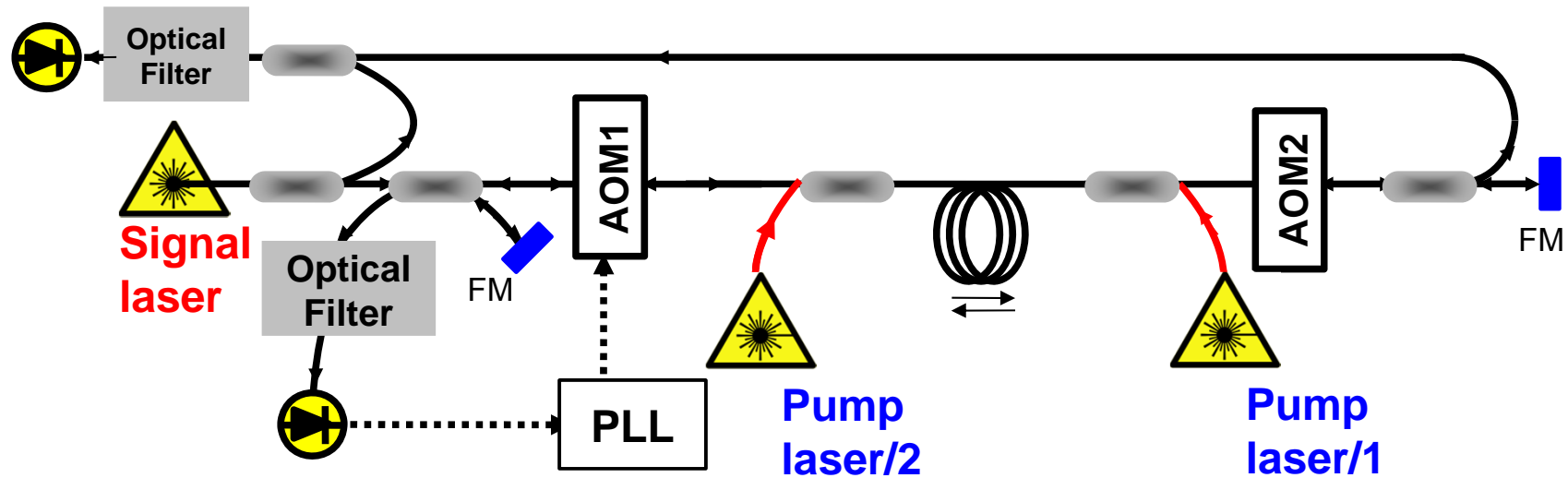
## ...and in Brillouin amplification

- ✓ High gain ( $\sim 50$  dB)\*
- ✓ No phase noise added
- ✗ Gain bandwidth  $\sim 20$  MHz
- ✓ Small pump power ( $\sim 10$  mW)
- ✓ Pump –signal offset 10 GHz  
→ everything in one ITU channel

**\*Only counterpropagating signal is amplified**

O. Terra et al., Opt. Expr. 18 (2010)

# Fiber Raman Amplification/Gain

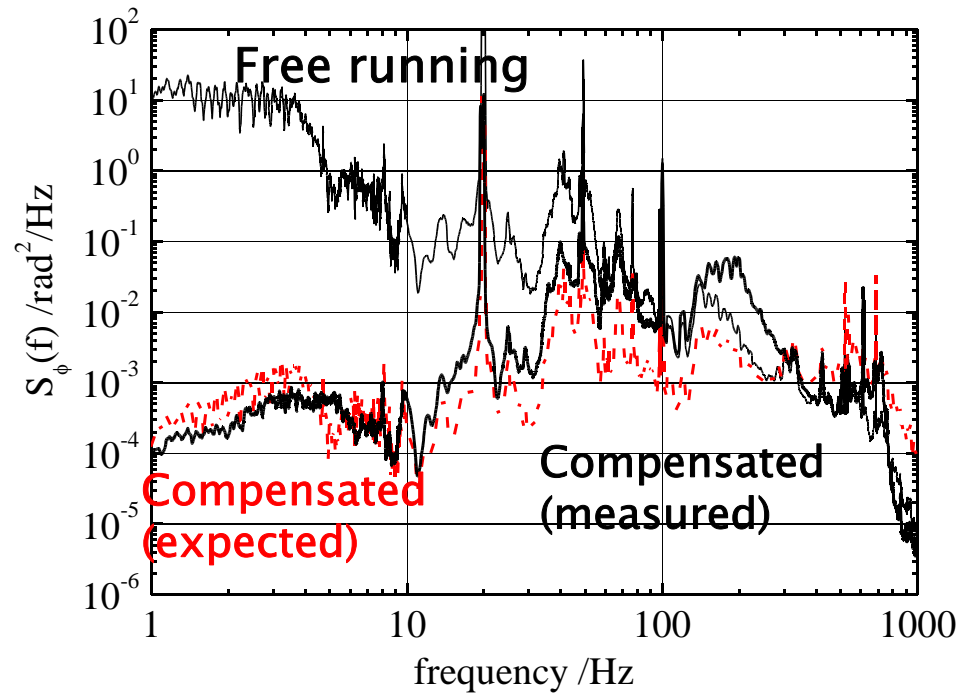


- up to 32 dB with a double pump  
(limited by the power available with our pumps)
- In a real network, span length may double with respect to EDFA

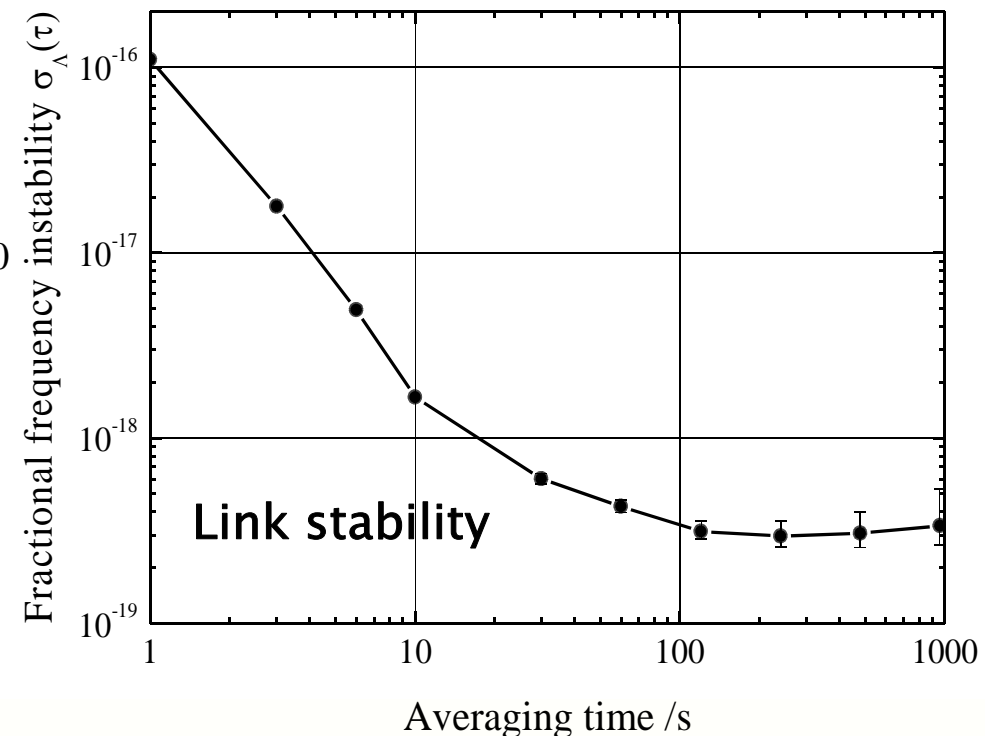
double pump scheme requires careful design

# Fiber Raman Amplification

## 200 km fiber spool



- Residual phase noise as expected (delay limited, from 100 km w/o amplification)
- Suitable for remote clock comparison and ultrastable frequency transfer



C. Clivati et al., accepted for publication in Photon. Technol. Lett., arXiv:1211:3910

# LIFT Architecture: Spans, Losses, Amplification

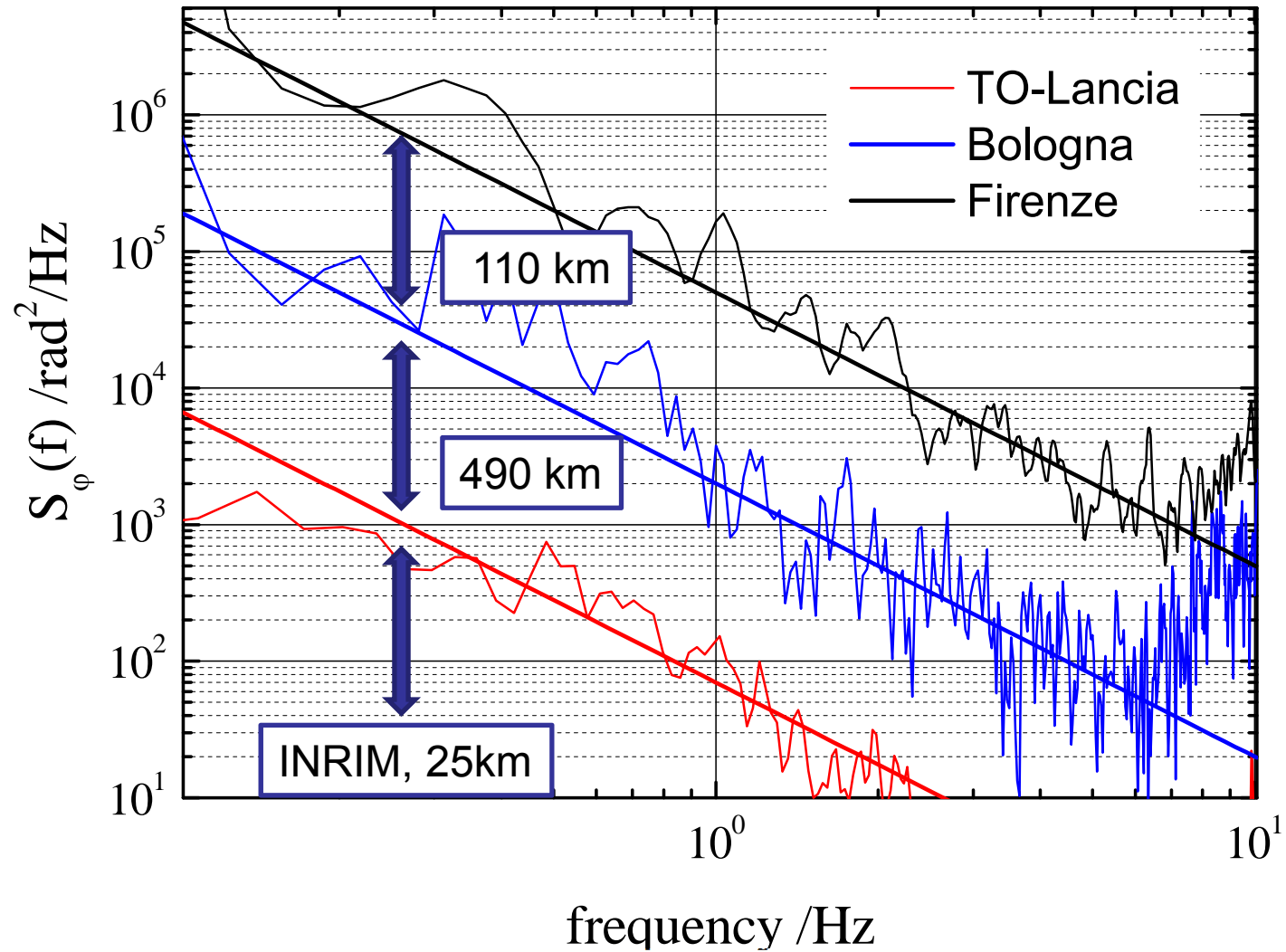
Span	Start	Stop	Lenght km	Losses dB	bEDFA Gain dB
1	INRIM	Torino Lancia	25	-8.7	
2	Torino	Santhià	67	-17.7	19
3	Santhià	Novara	77	-17.6	16
4	Novara	Lainate	50	-14.6	17.5
5	Lainate	Milano Rogoredo	60	-18.3	9
6	Milano	Piacenza	67	-15.8	17
7	Piacenza	R.Emilia	94	-22.7	22
8	R.Emilia	Bologna	74	-19.1	21
9	Bologna	Rioveggio	38	-9.9	19
10	Rioveggio	Firenze	72	-17.8	22
11	Firenze	LENS	18	-7.1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>642 km</b>	<b>-170 dB</b>	<b>162 dB</b>

Fiber losses ~0.26 dB/km average ; +10 dB losses due to extra connectors

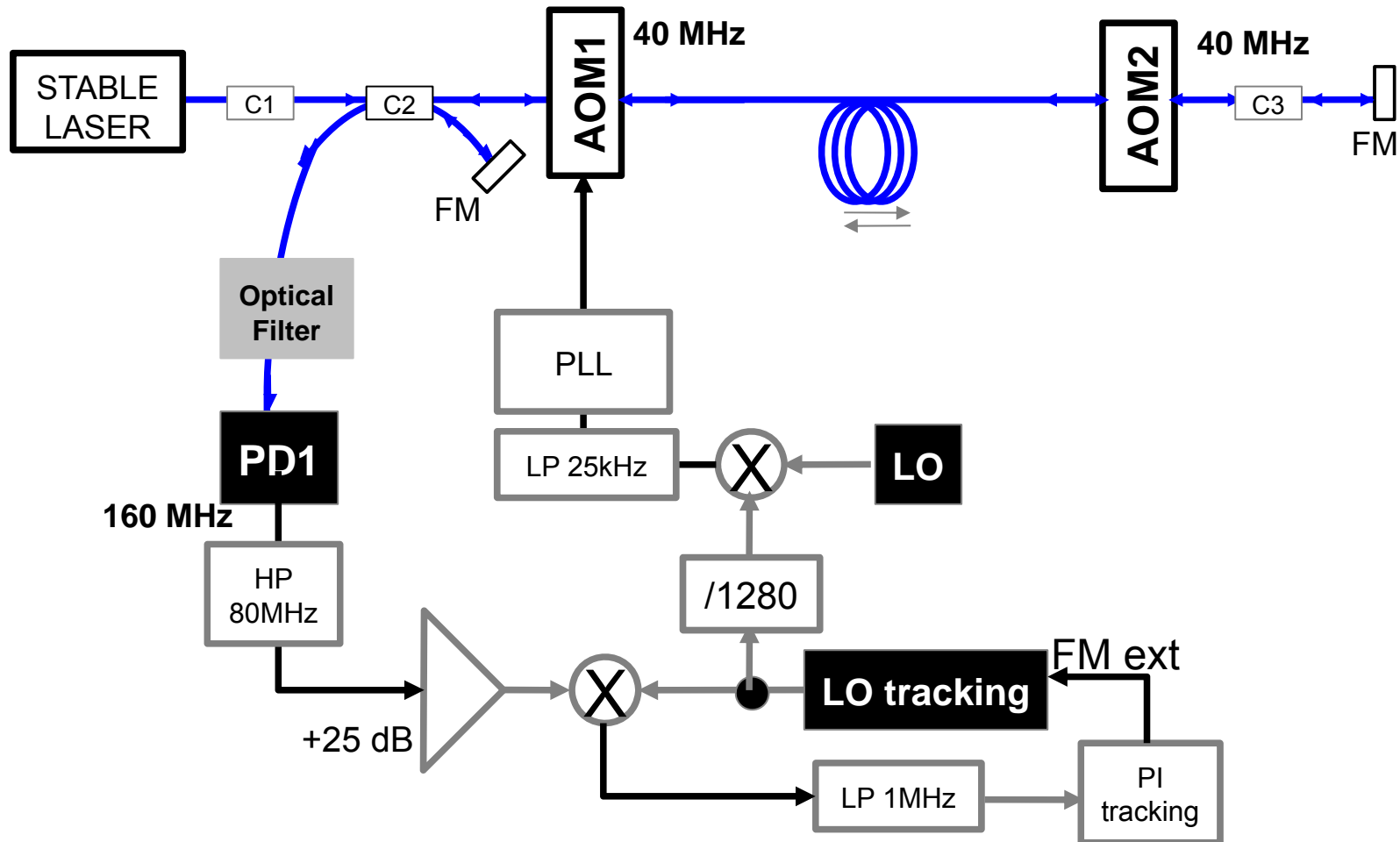




# Fiber phase noise along the way

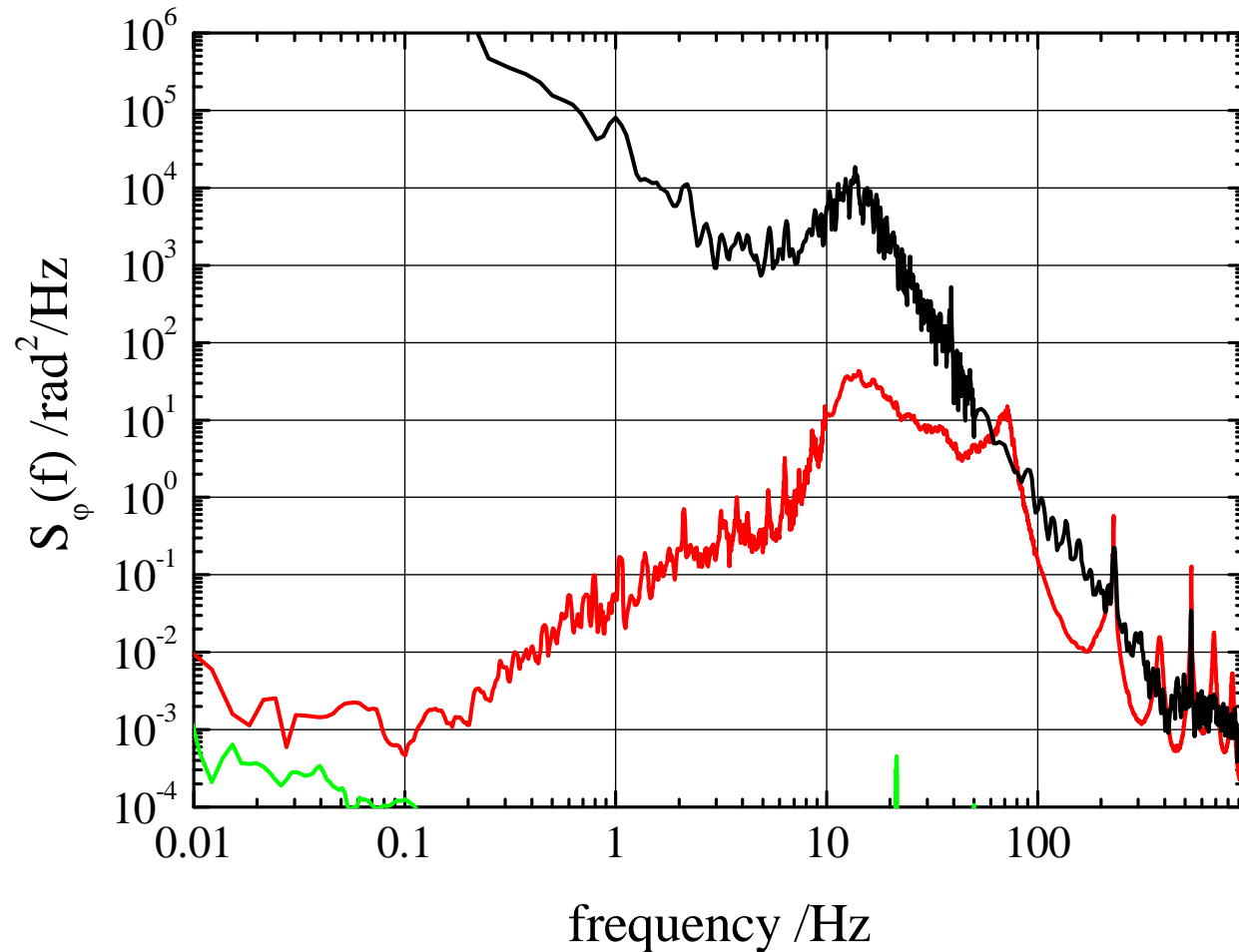


# LIFT : Closing the Loop

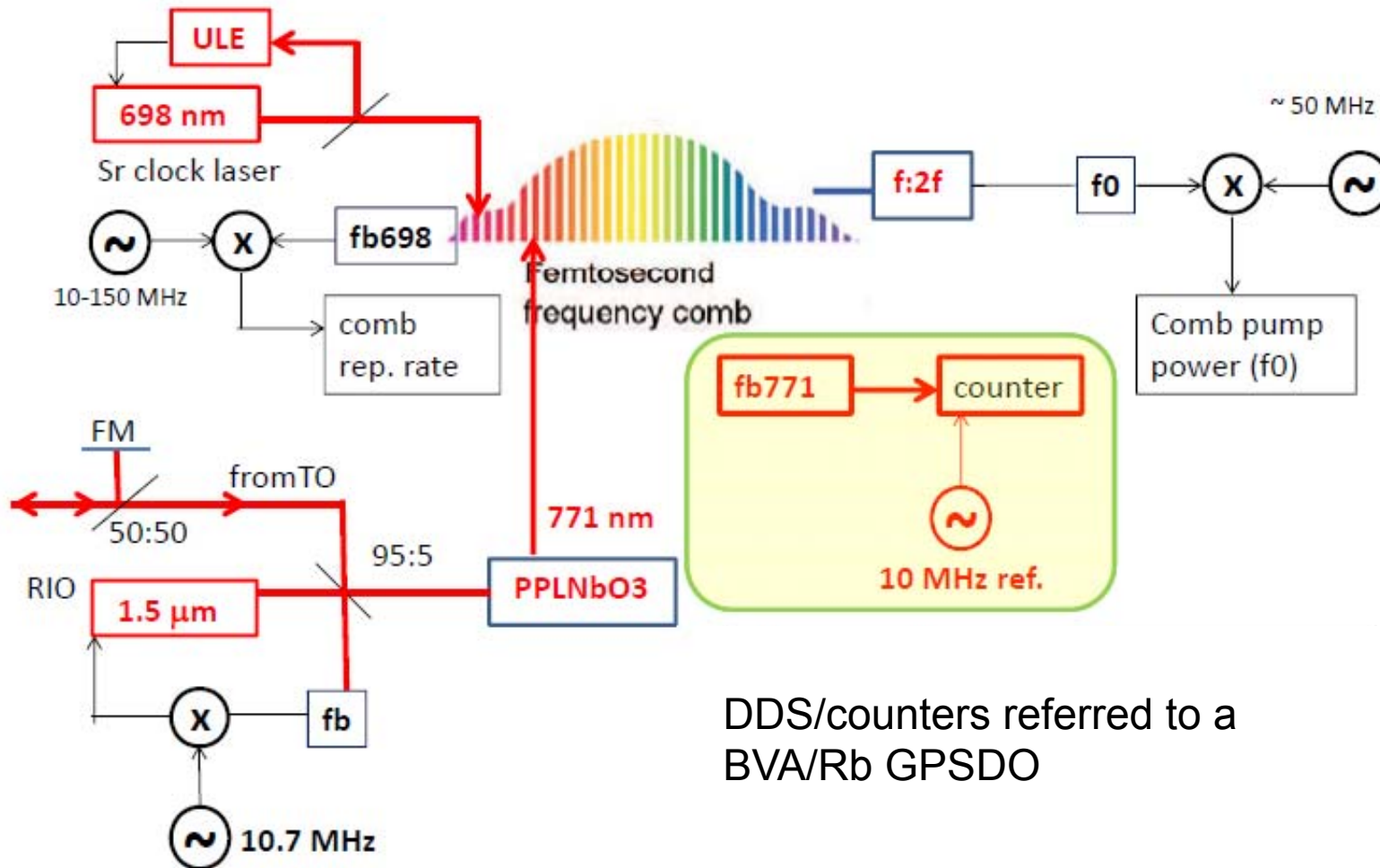


# LIFT Phase noise:open/closed loop

First Result: April, 26th



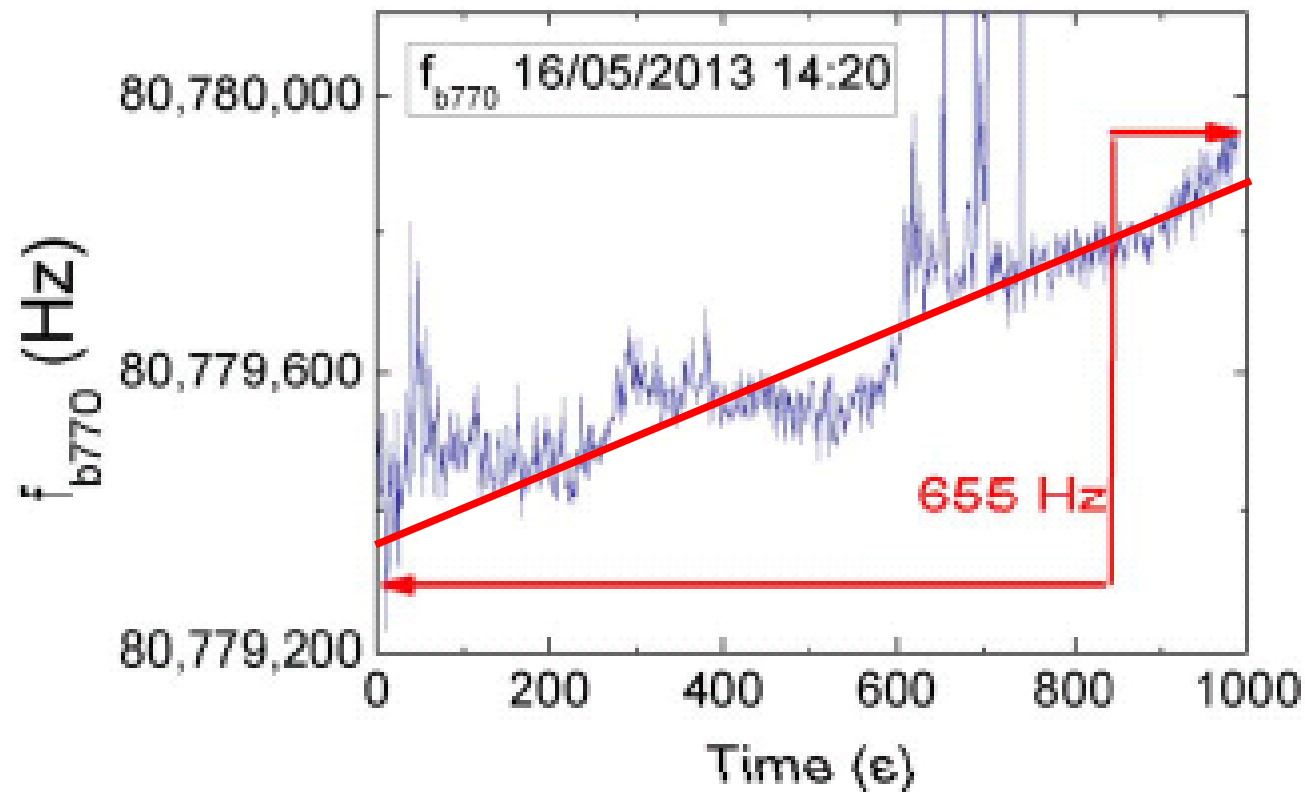
# Test in Florence (from May, 2nd)



DDS/counters referred to a BVA/Rb GPSDO

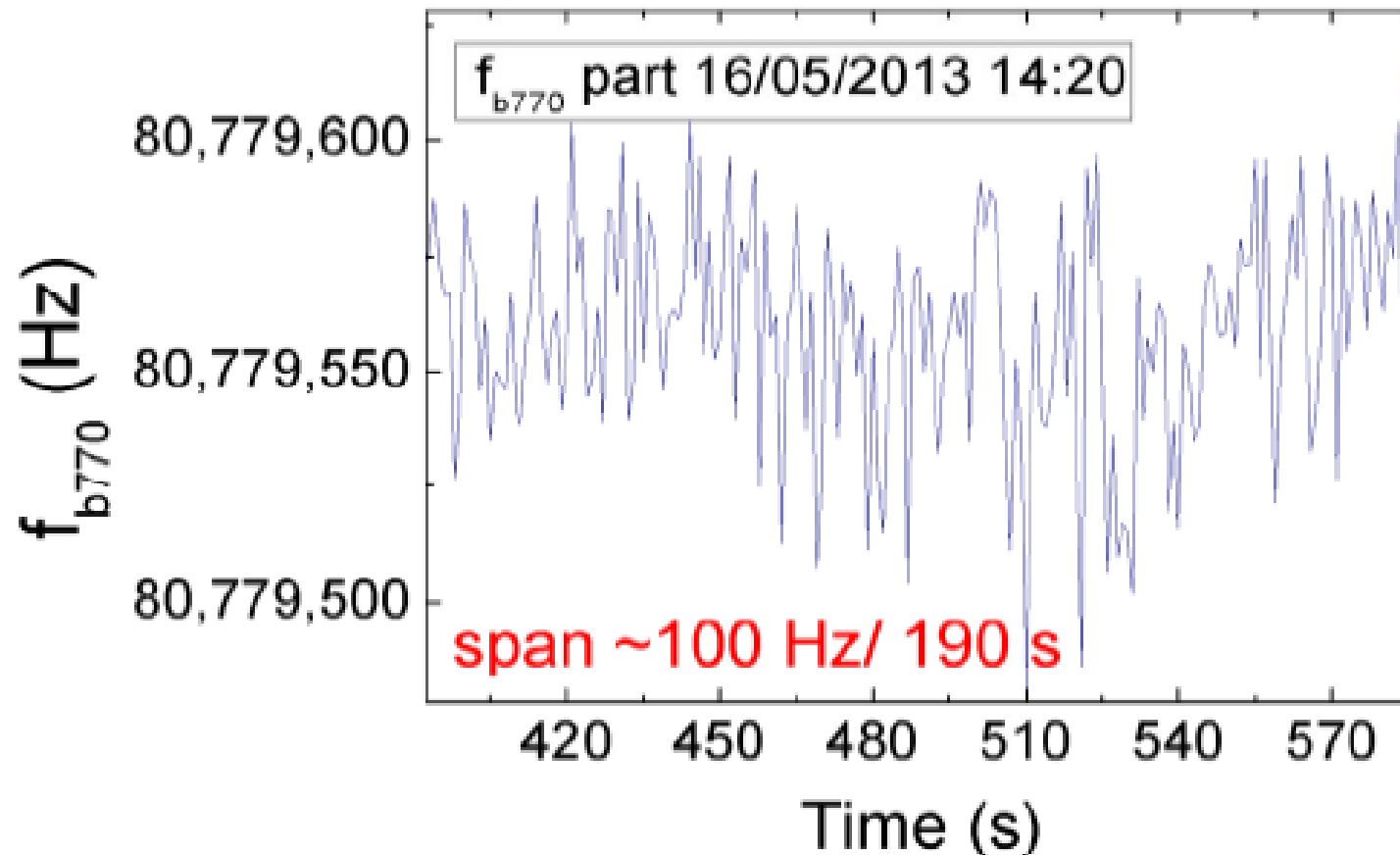


# INRIM 1.5 $\mu\text{m}$ Laser first measurements in UNIFI (Florence)

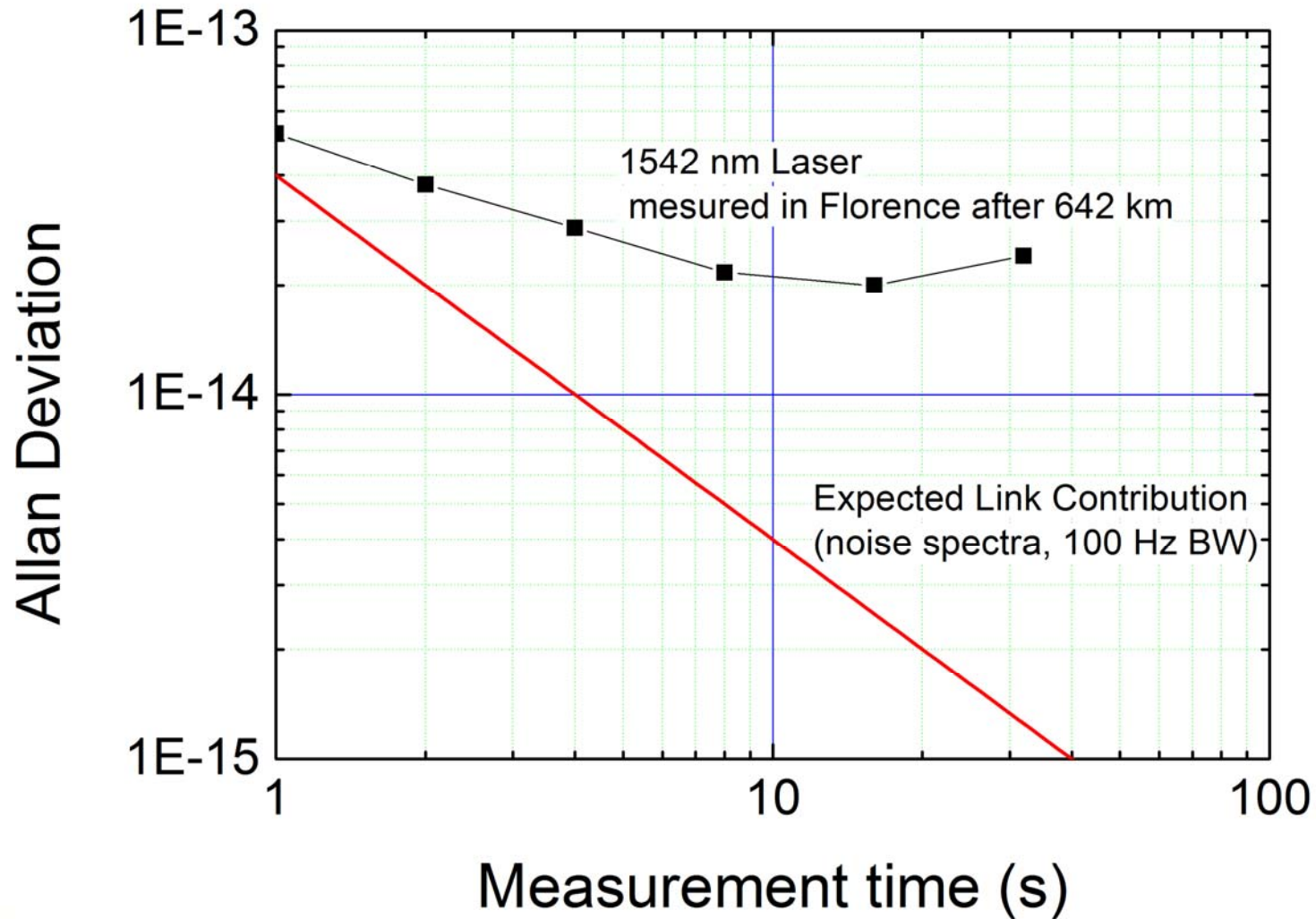


# INRIM 1.5 $\mu\text{m}$ Laser

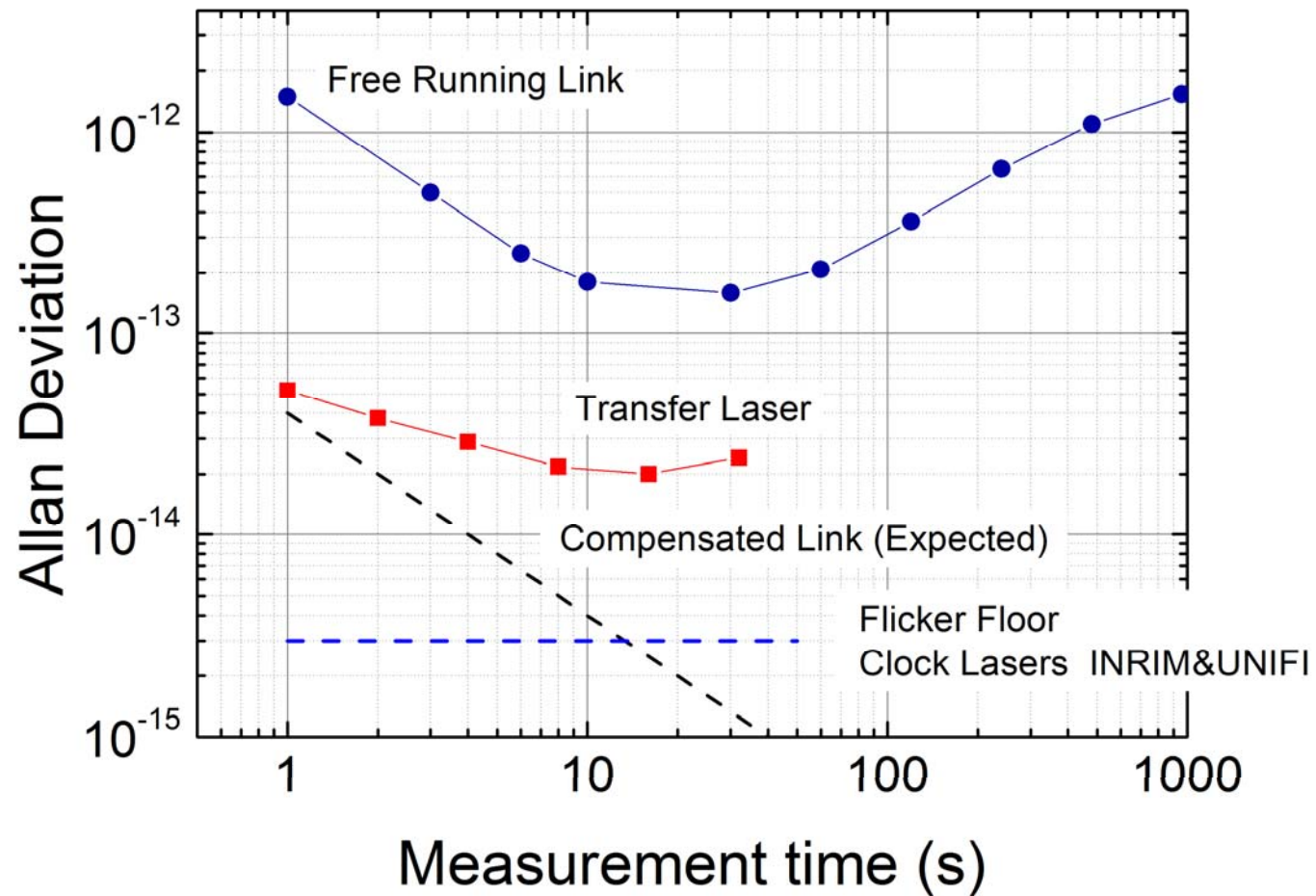
first measurements in UNIFI (Florence): Data subset



# 1542 nm laser from INRIM to UNIFI (642 km), May 16th

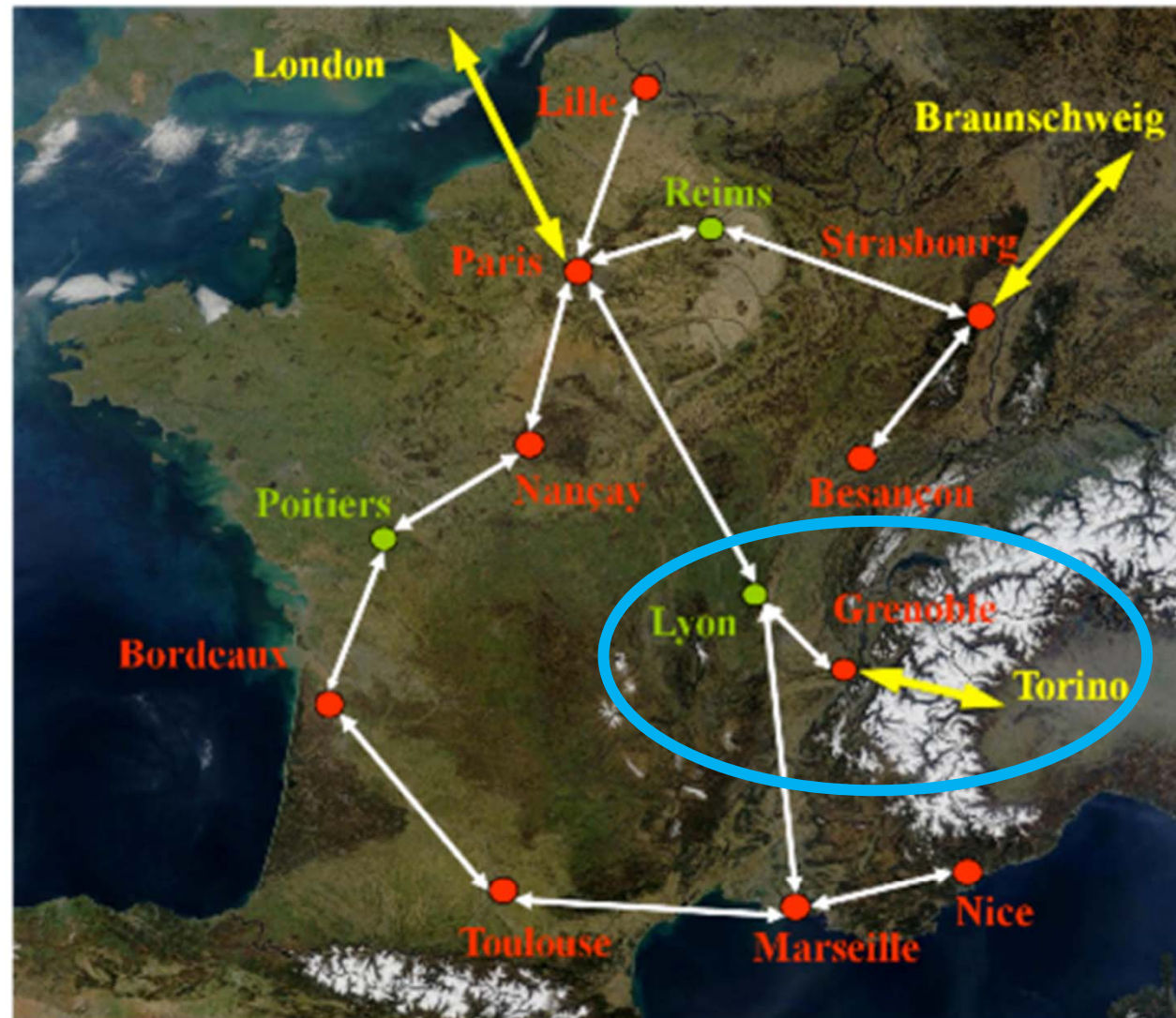


# 1542 nm laser from INRIM to UNIFI (642 km)





# LIFT and REFIMEVE+



# Italy-France cross border on Frejus Tunnel

Torino–Modane, about 100 km

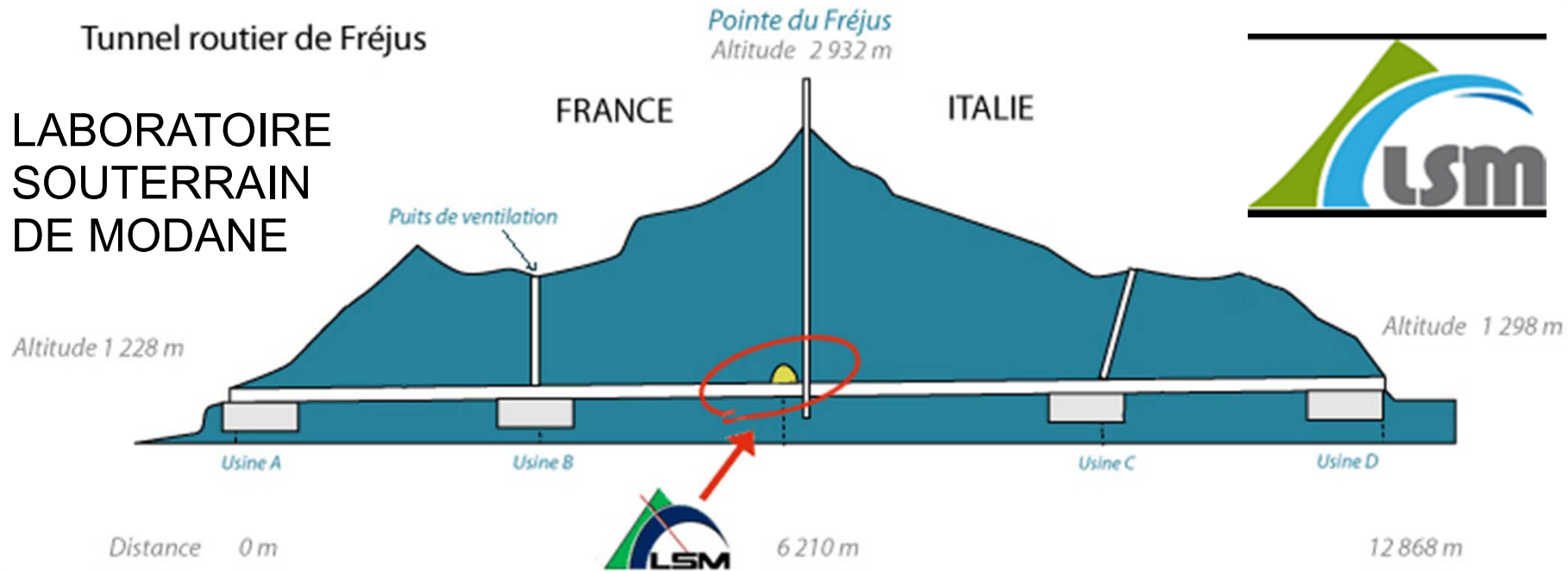
First step to Lyon, then Paris via Strasbourg

Collaboration with RENATER?

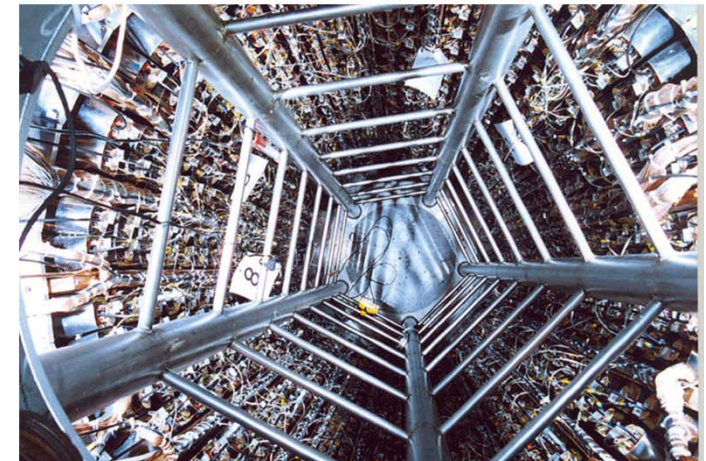


# Tunnel routier de Fréjus

## LABORATOIRE SOUTERRAIN DE MODANE



LSM core business is astrophysical particles, mainly neutrinos





The EMRP is jointly funded by the EMRP participating countries within EURAMET and the European Union



Tunnel routier de Fréjus

Pointe du Fréjus  
Altitude 2932 m

INRIM is partner of the project

ITOC (2013-2014)

International Timescales with Optical Clocks

Partners:

Torino-Fréjus: dislivello di 1000 m. Test di geometria con gli orologi

**NPL** (United Kingdom, Coordinator), **PTB** (Germany), **INRIM** (Italy), **MIKES** (Finland), **OBSPARIS** (France), **CMI** (Czech Republic), **LUH** (Germany), **LSM** (France)



# ITOC project structure

## Coordinated programme of optical clock comparisons

### WP1

- Local frequency comparisons
- Absolute frequency measurements

### WP2

- Frequency comparisons using transportable optical clocks

### WP5

- Remote clock comparisons via satellite links
- Analysis for timescale steering

### REG

Gravity potential for optical clock comparisons

### WP3

Relativistic timescales and geodesy

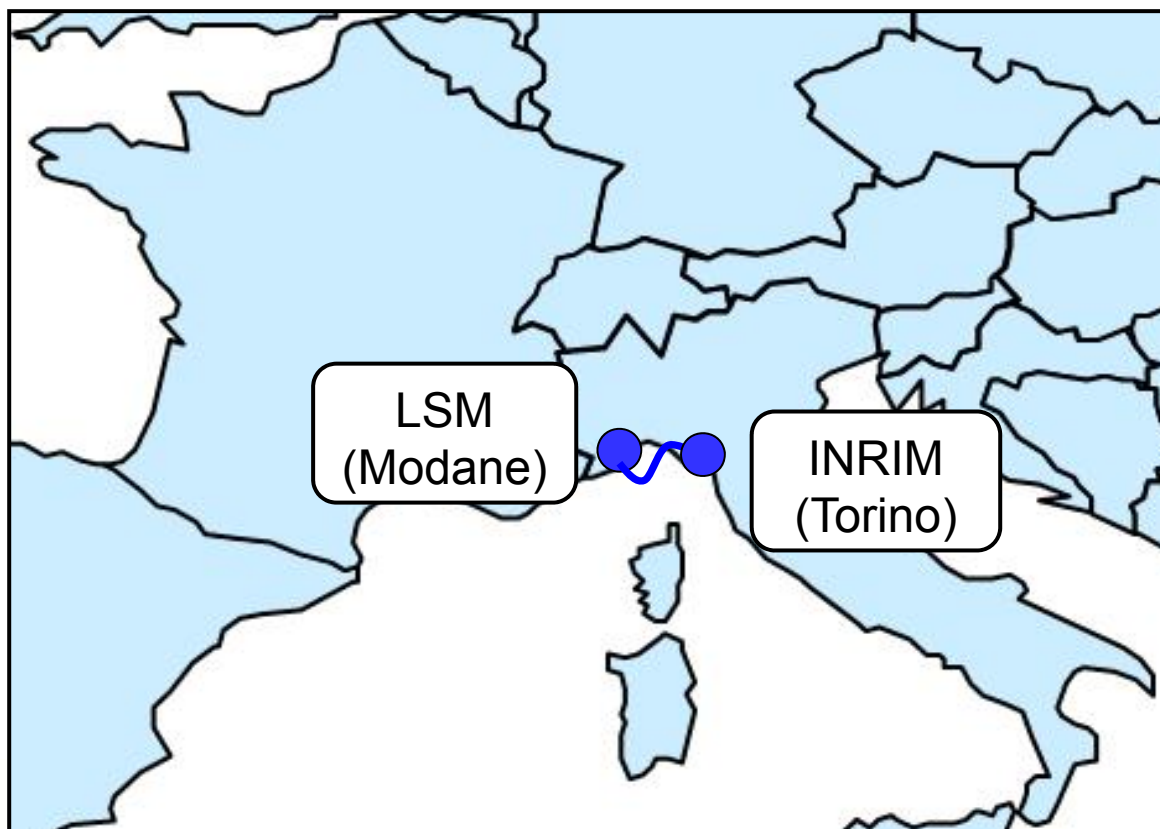
### WP4

**Proof-of-principle relativistic geodesy experiment**



## WP4: Proof-of-principle relativistic geodesy experiment (INRIM WP leader; Measurement Experiment: 2014)

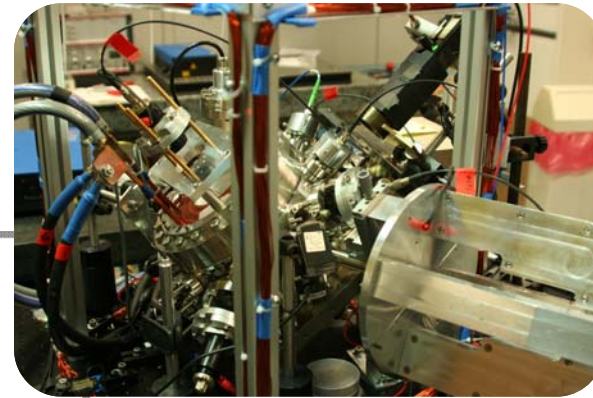
**Aim:** To show that optical clocks can be used to measure gravity potential differences over medium – long baselines with high temporal resolution (10 cm geoid height level over few hours)



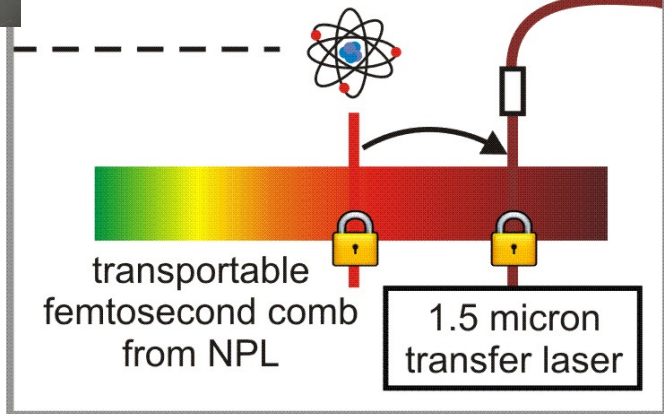


**LSM (Modane)**

transportable strontium  
lattice clock from PTB



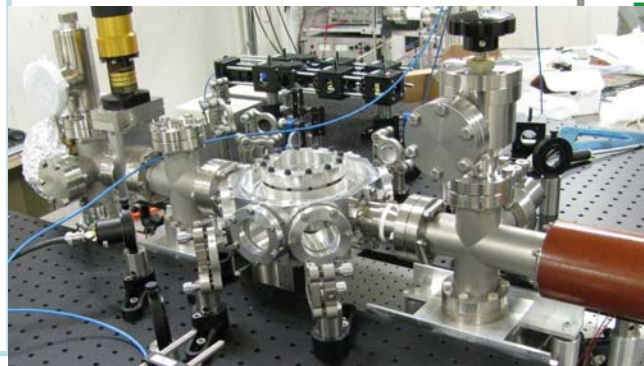
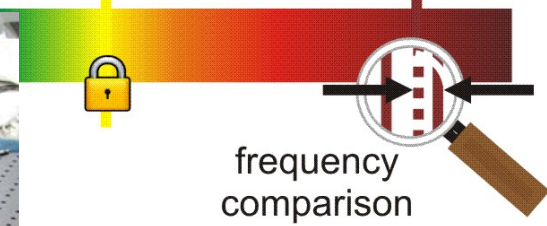
Height difference  
~1000 m  
Frequency  
difference  $\sim 10^{-13}$



90 km optical fibre link

**INRIM (Torino)**

ytterbium  
lattice clock



On Earth, clock shift  $\sim 10^{-16}/\text{m}$   
over the Geoid, due to  
General Relativity

Investigation on Geoid  
changes at 10 cm level ( $10^{-17}$ )  
over short-mid term

# A high sensitivity fiber optic gyroscope on a multiplexed telecommunication network

D. Calonico<sup>1</sup>, C. Clivati<sup>1,2</sup>, G. A. Costanzo<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Mura<sup>1</sup>, M. Pizzocaro<sup>1,2</sup>, F. Levi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca Metrologica–INRIM, Torino, Italy*

<sup>2</sup> *Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy*



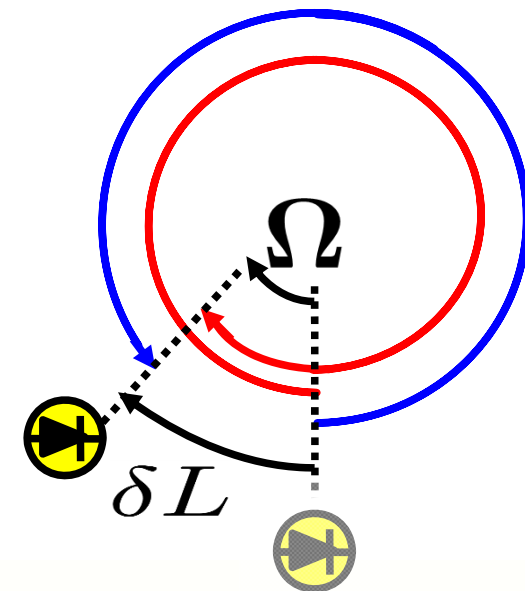
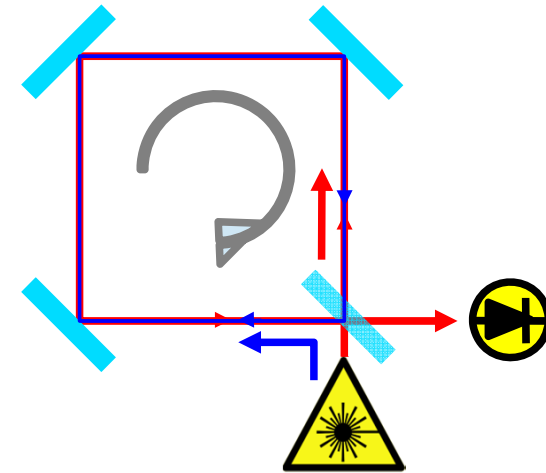
# What is a laser gyroscope

- Two beams follow the same path but in opposite directions
- The optical path must enclose an area
- The platform rotates

- The two beams accumulate a phase shift

$$\varphi_S = \frac{8\pi\nu}{c^2} \mathbf{A} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega}$$

- The sensitivity depends on: – enclosed area  
– orientation



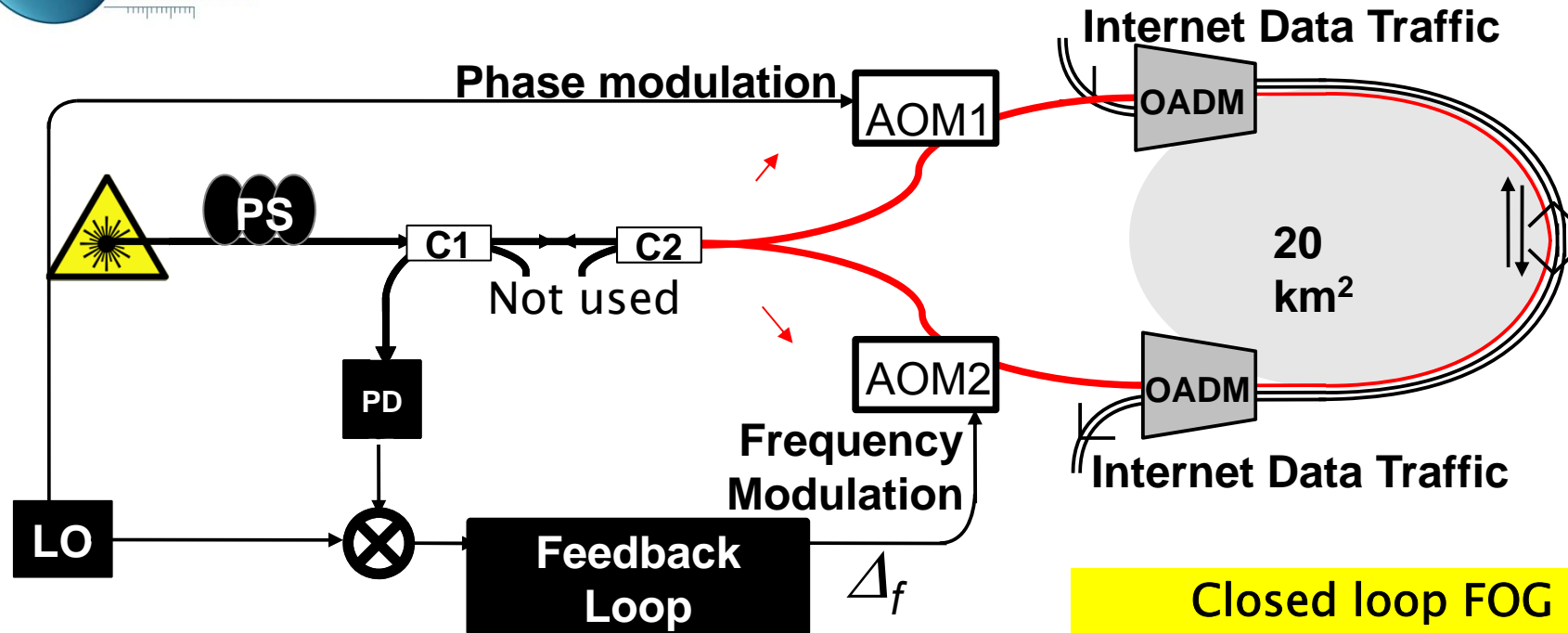
INRiM has at disposal a 47 km fiber loop for coherent phase transfer experiments

Fiber ring with an enclosed area of 20 km<sup>2</sup>

Expected phase shift due to Earth rotation  
~55 rad



# Our experiment



- ✓ Dedicated DWDM ITU 44 channel
- ✓ Non synchronous phase modulation
- ✓ Mixer output depends on  $\sin\varphi_s$
- ✓ Feedback loop: frequency offset  $\Delta_f$  to compensate the Sagnac phase

Closed loop FOG

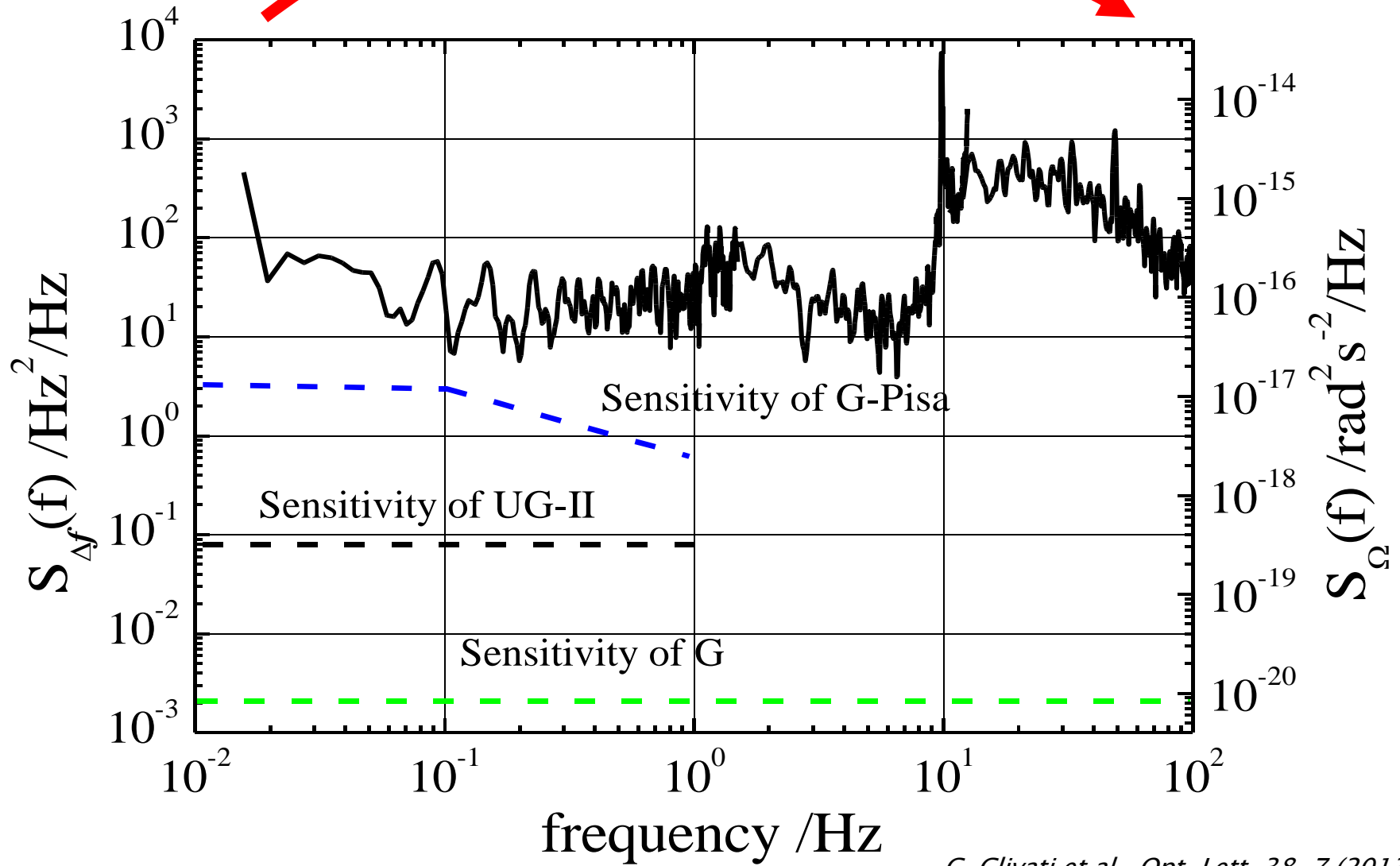
$$\varphi = 2\pi \frac{L}{c} \Delta_f \pm 2\pi k$$

$$\Delta_f = \frac{4\nu}{nLc} \mathbf{A} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega}$$

*J. L. Davis et al., Opt. Lett. 6, 10, (1981)*  
*C. Clivati et al., Opt. Lett 38, 7 (2013)*

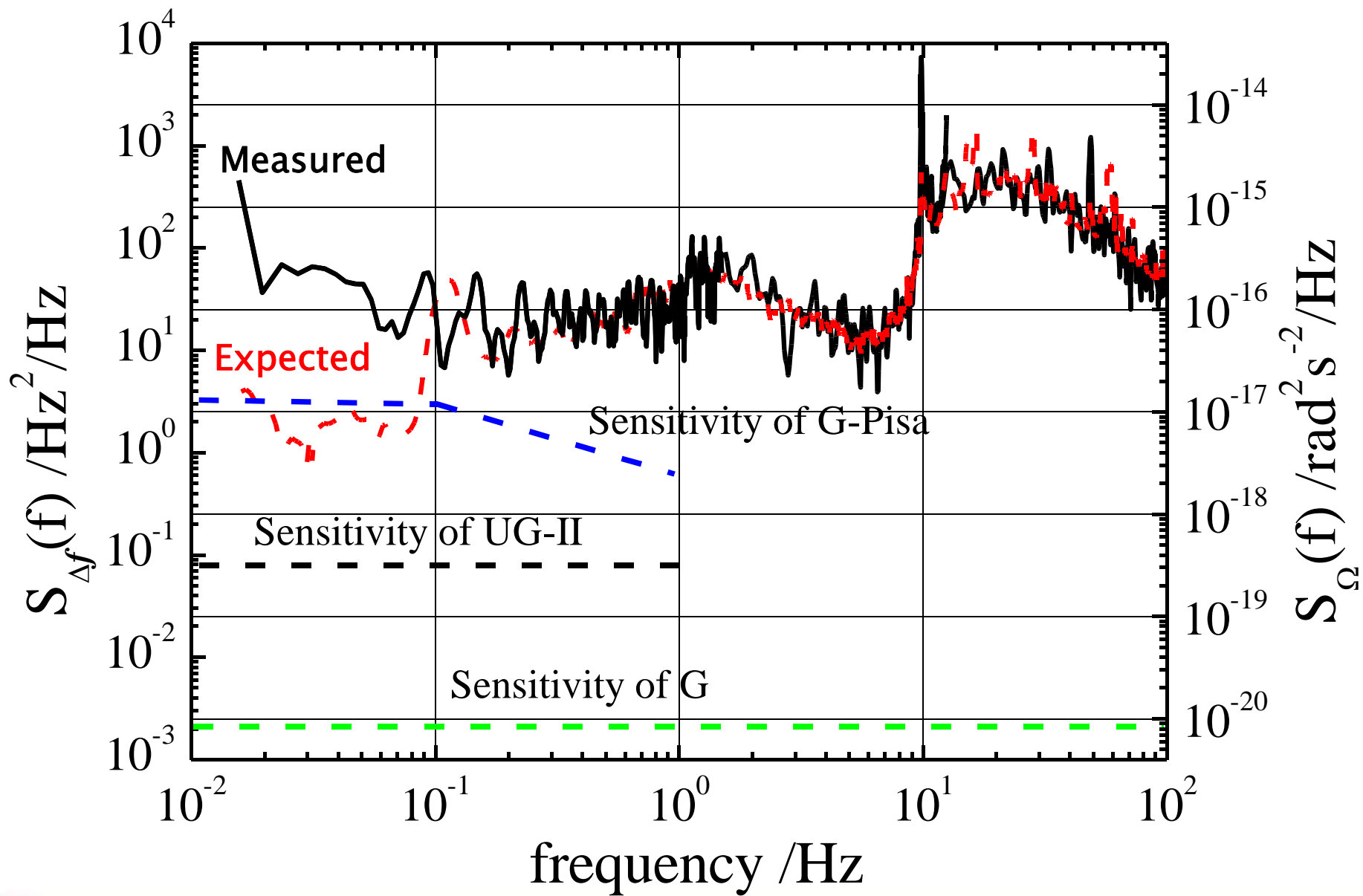


$$\Delta f = \frac{4\nu}{nLc} \mathbf{A} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Omega}$$

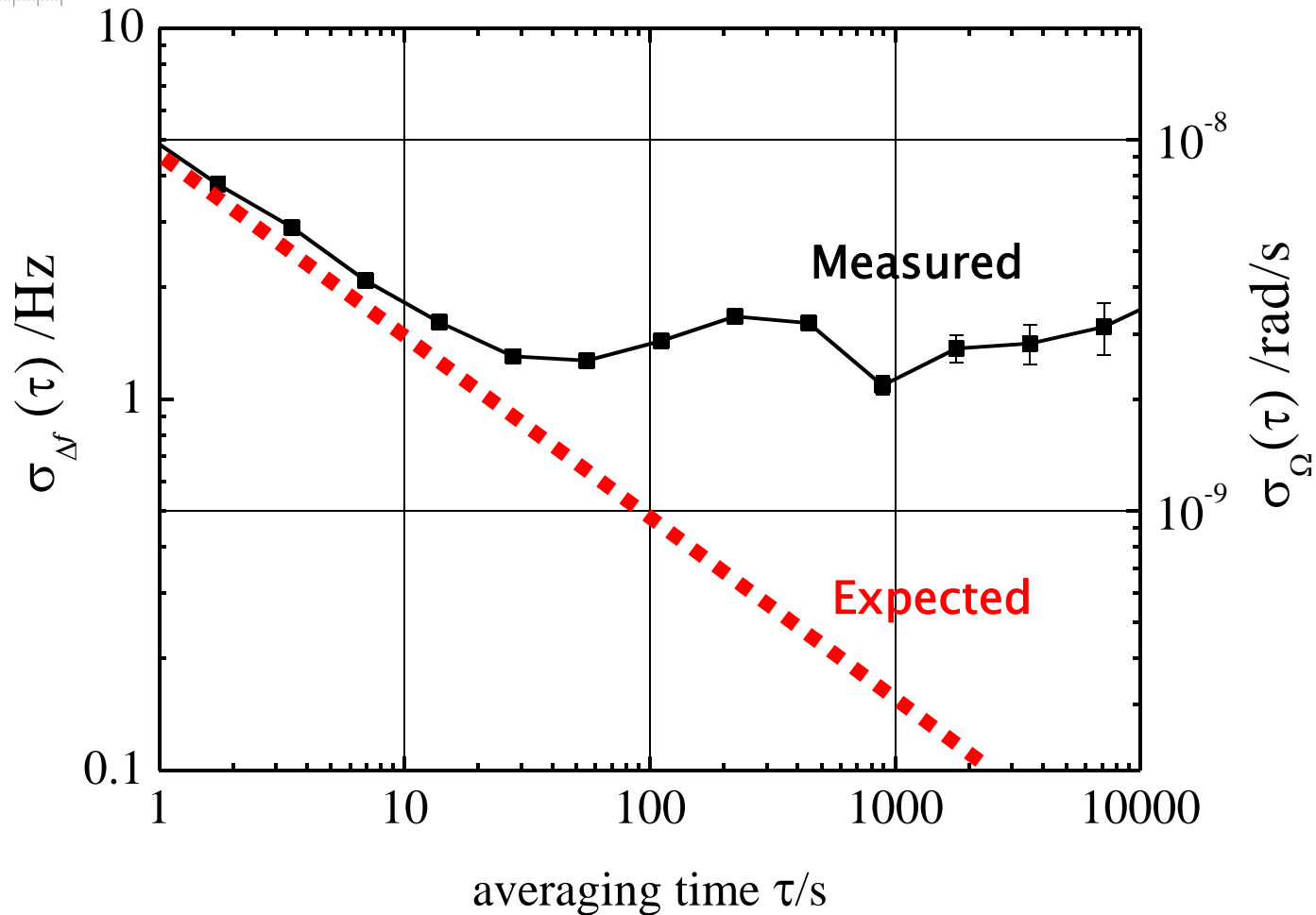


*C. Clivati et al., Opt. Lett. 38, 7 (2013)*





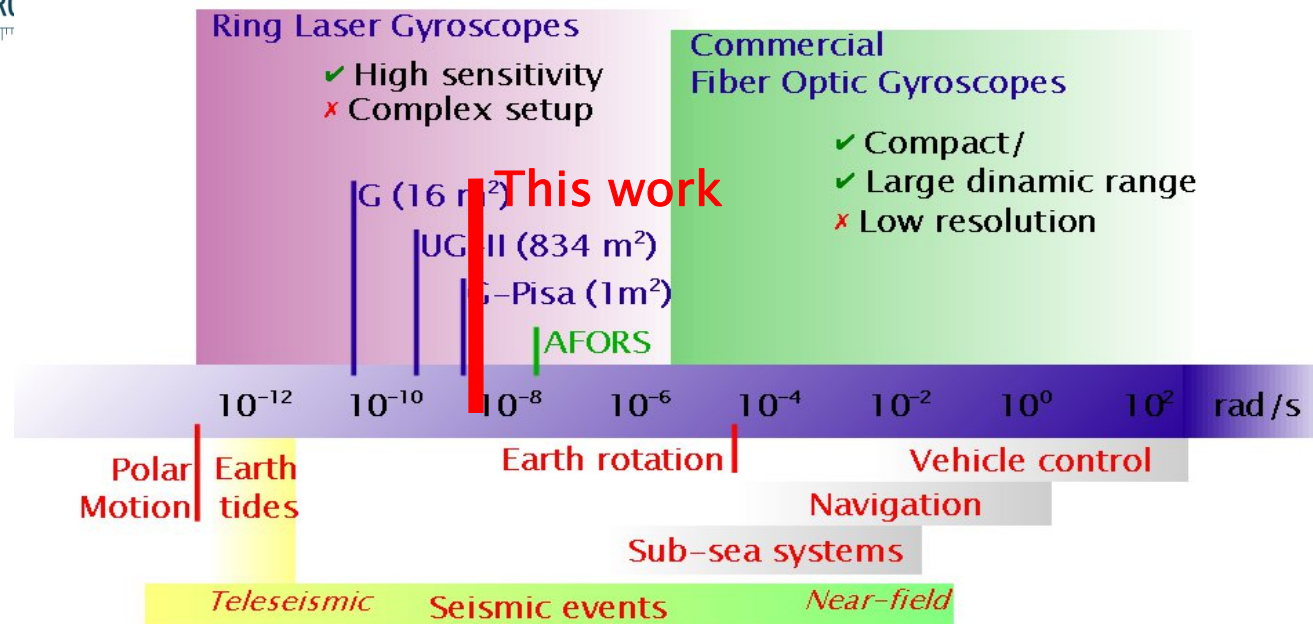
# Long term stability



On the long term, sensitivity limited by not complete polarization scrambling



# Applications and perspectives



- Ultimate sensitivity  $3 \times 10^{-9}$  rad/s ( $10^{-8}$  (rad/s)/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ )
- Could open new opportunities for geophysical research
- Understanding how the ground motion is seen by a large sensor
- REFIMEVE+ : a giant Sagnac Fiber Gyro

# Conclusions

- Fast acceleration toward a realization of an European Network, already in 2015;
- In Italy, LIFT backbone under operation since May 2013, 642 km total length;
- LIFT could be “linked” to REFIMEVE+ via the Frejus Tunnel
- European project ITOC and NEAT-FT;
- Sagnac fiber gyroscope experiment;

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT INRIM:  
2 Visiting scientist positions  
2 Post Doc Position; 1 PhD

We acknowledge Compagnia di San Paolo, MIUR and EMRP for funding



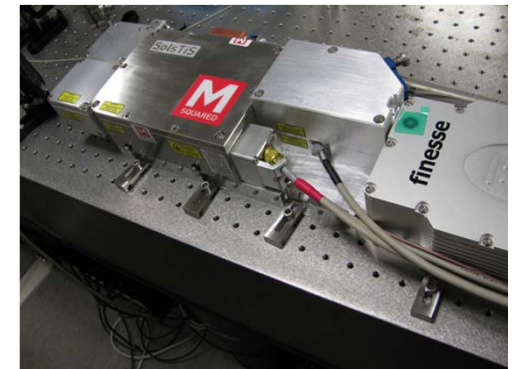
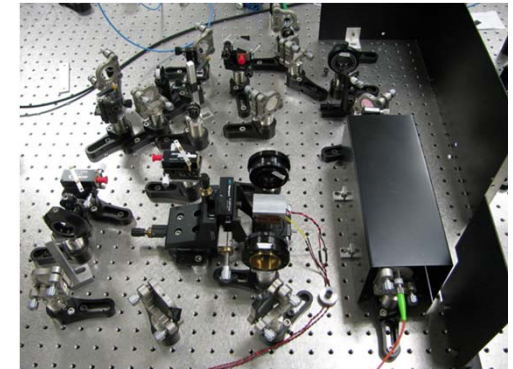
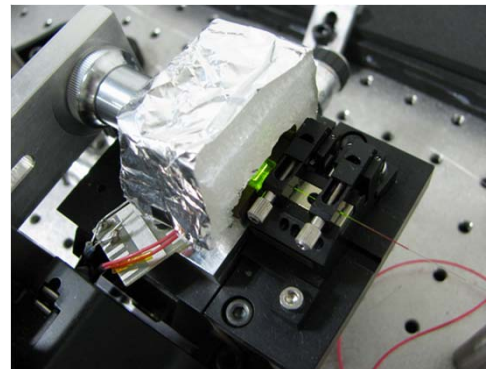
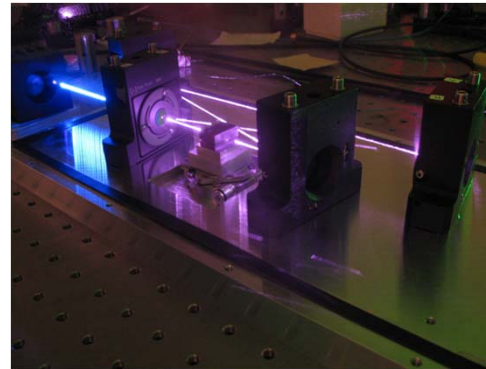




# Yb Lattice Clock at INRIM

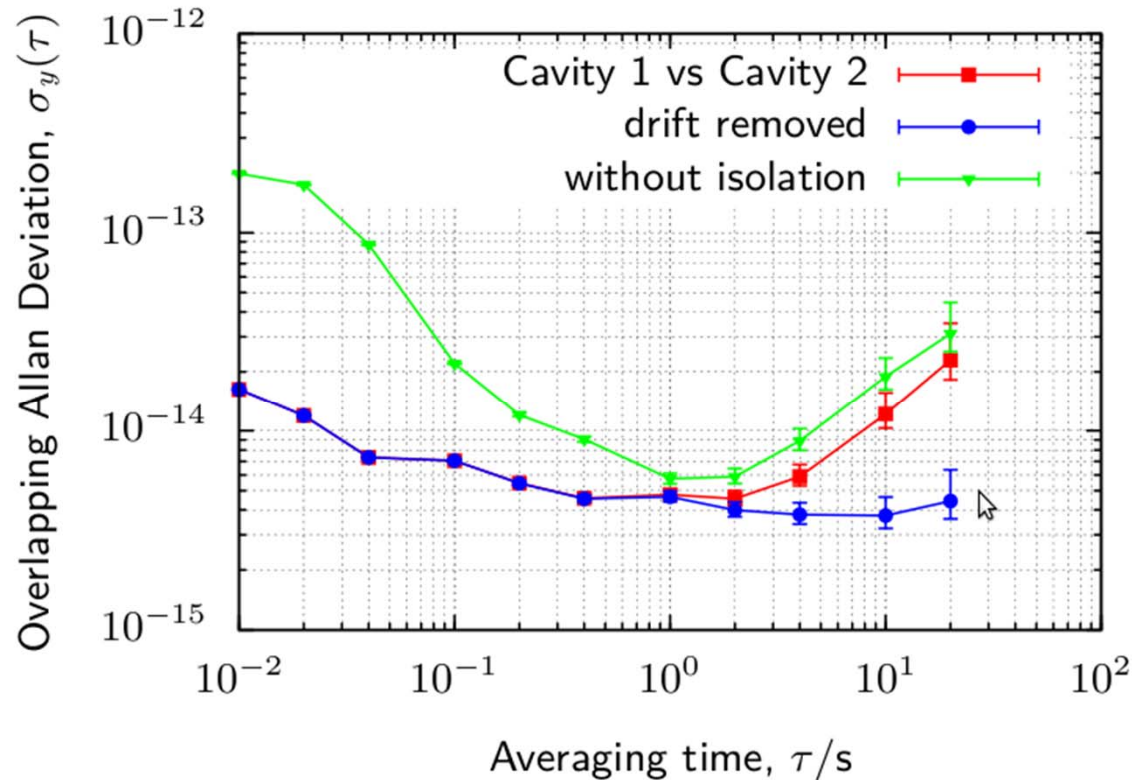
## Lasers Ensemble is Completed

- **Blue** Second harmonic generation of a Ti:sapphire laser  
798 nm  $\rightarrow$  399 nm  
Output power = 0.6 W
- **Green** Second harmonic generation of a amplified fiber laser  
1112 nm  $\rightarrow$  556 nm  
Output power = 20 mW
- **Yellow** Sum Frequency generation of a Nd:YAG laser and a fiber laser  
1319 nm + 1030 nm  $\rightarrow$  578 nm  
Output power = 10 mW
- **Lattice** Ti:Sapphire laser 759 nm  
Output Power = 3 W

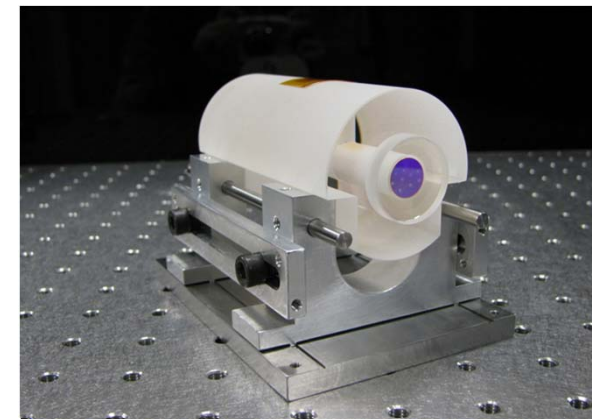


# Yb Lattice Clock at INRIM

## Stabilization of the Clock Laser



- The yellow laser is stabilized on a ULE cavity (10 cm length)
- Two independent cavities (the laser is split ; two AOMs with independent lock)
- Single laser stability  $3 \times 10^{-15}$  @ 1 s

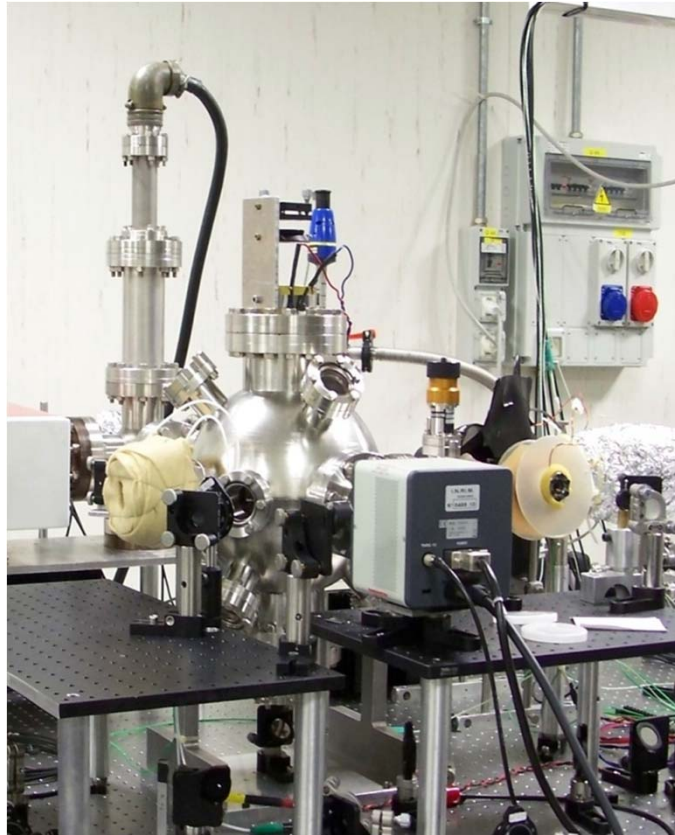


Pizzocaro, M. et al., IEEE Trans. On UFFC, 59, 426 - 431 (2012)

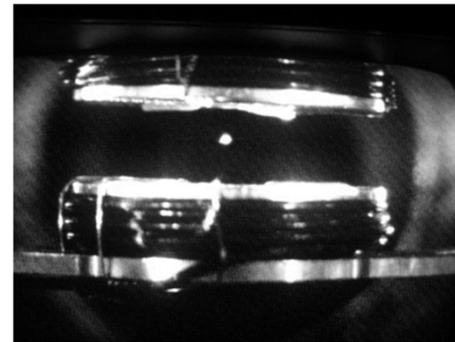


# Yb Lattice Clock at INRIM

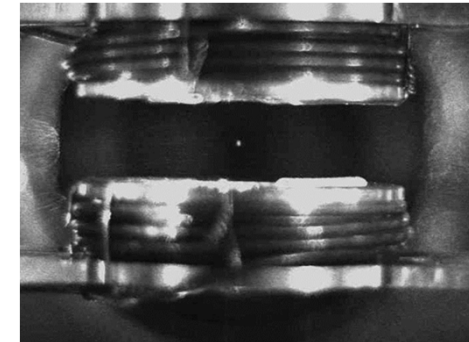
Old Chamber: Transfer of atoms in the green MOT



Blue MOT  
( $1 \times 10^5$  atoms)



Green MOT  
( $4 \times 10^4$  atoms)



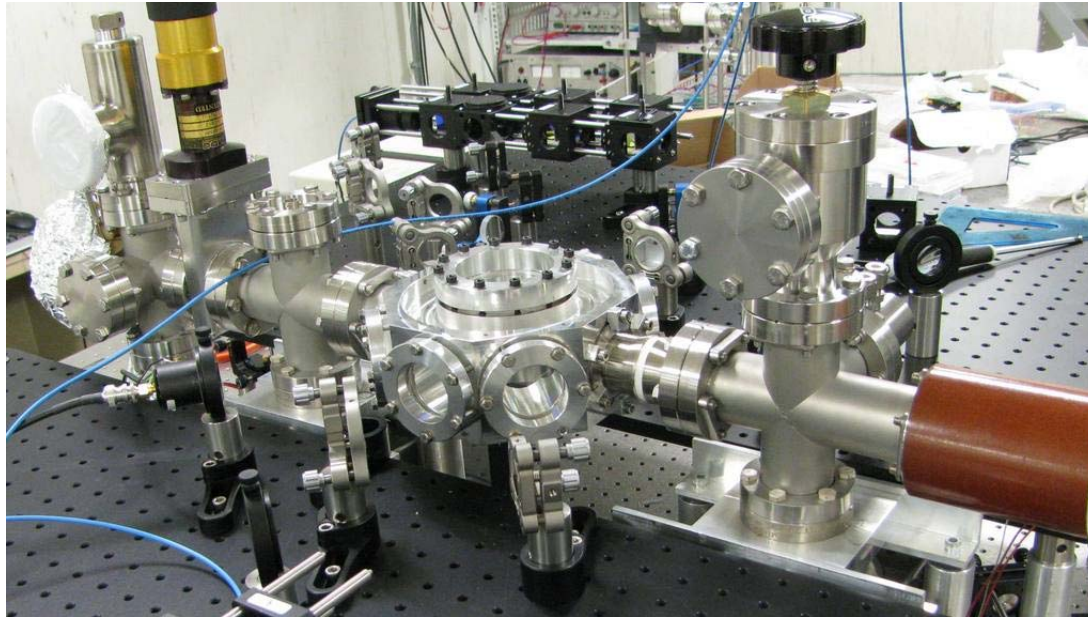
Green MOT

- Fractional Transfer 40%
- Lifetime 1.25(6) s



# Yb Lattice Clock at INRIM

## New chamber is now being assembled



- Indium-sealed viewports
- Compact high efficiency oven
- Atomic beam shutter
- Increased number of trapped atoms expected
- Better vacuum
- Under operation early June



# Coherent Optical link with commercial fiber

