

QUANTUM MEMORY PROTOTYPE FOR SPACE

7th Quantum Technology Conference 2025

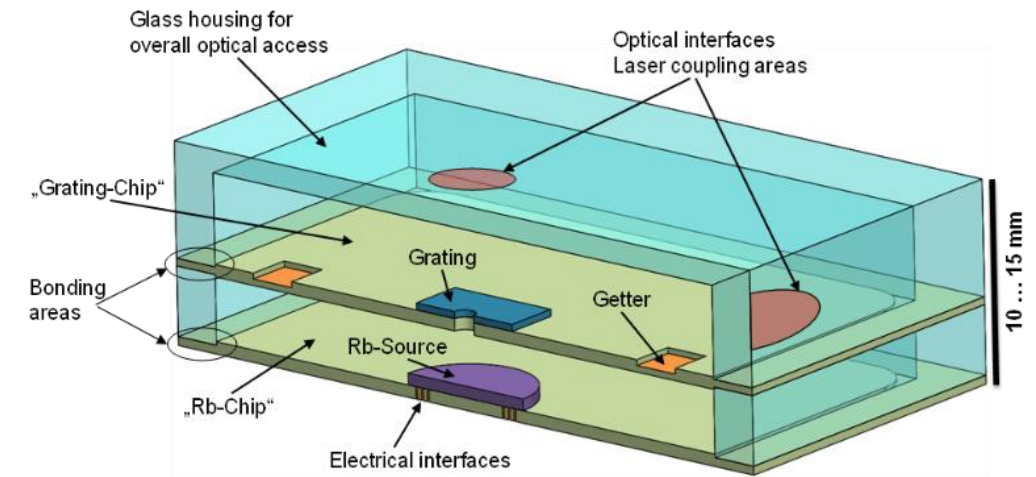


Agenda



- Scope
- Miniaturized Magneto-optical Trap (MOT)
- MOT Test System
- Memory System
- Roadmap

- Develop miniaturized magneto-optical trap (MOT) as a prerequisite for compact quantum memory for space applications (ESA-founded project QMEM)
- Requirements for space:
 - Low size, weight and power
 - High system stability
- Our approach:
 - Miniaturization of science chamber to chip-size
 - Compact and stable light-conditioning system in elegant breadboard design (FORTH)
 - Include space readiness requirements into design and run first thermal-vacuum tests (TESAT)
- Setup of non-miniaturized MOT Test System and Memory System (DLR-founded project RoGloQuaN)

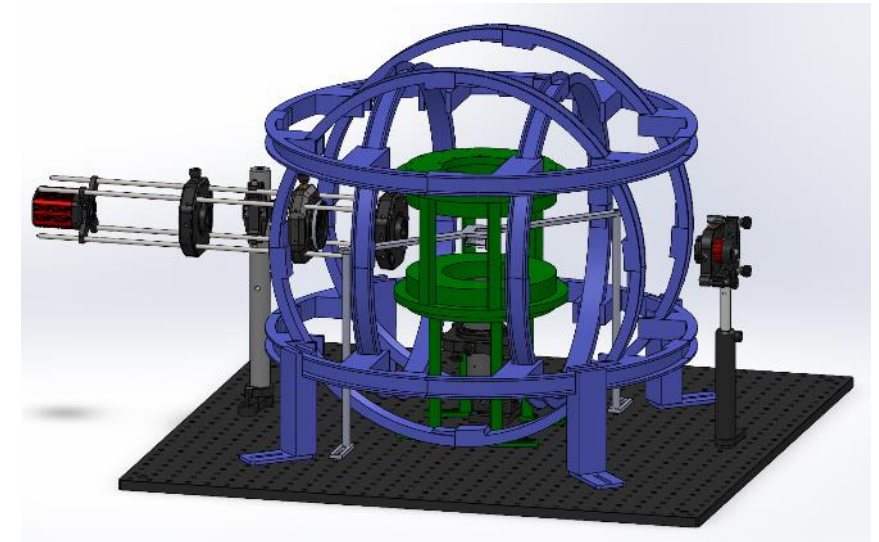


The background image shows a miniaturized magnetic optical trap (MOT) setup. It features two large, thick, copper-colored toroidal coils on the left and right. In the center, there is a small, transparent, rectangular microchip. A red laser beam is focused on the microchip, and a small, glowing red square is visible on its surface. The entire setup is mounted on a dark, reflective surface.

MINIATURIZED MOT

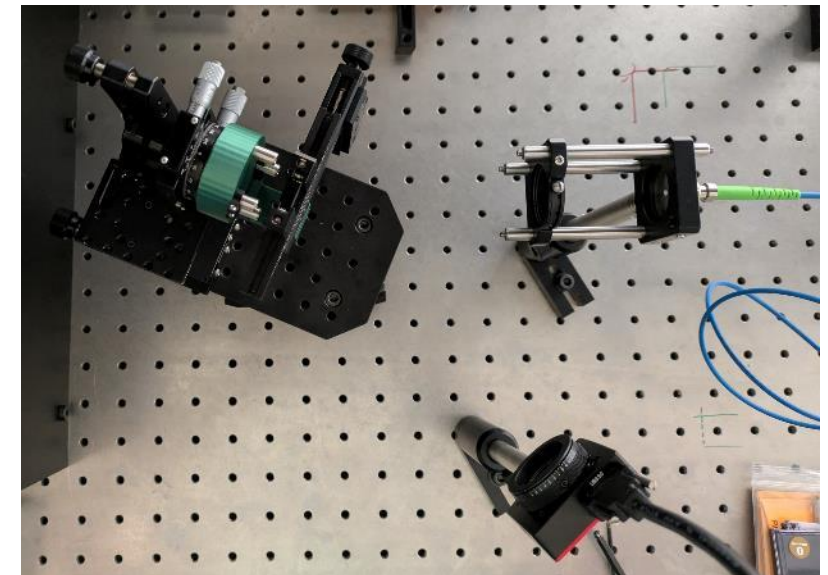
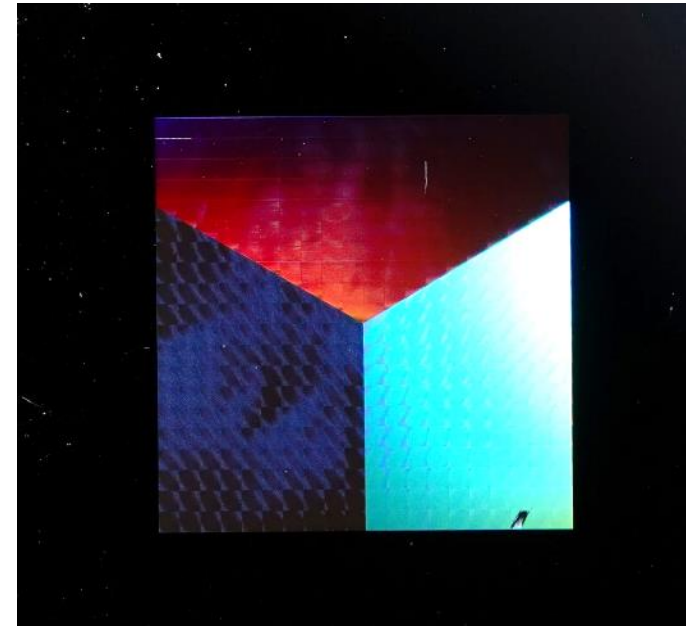
System Overview

- Grating MOT with only one incident cooling beam
- Compact laser system with flat-top beam collimator as final optics
- Miniaturized glass cell with Rb source and getter pump
- Pair of anti-Helmholtz coils to provide trapping field
- 3 pairs of Helmholtz coils for compensation of external fields
- Fluorescence and absorption imaging system



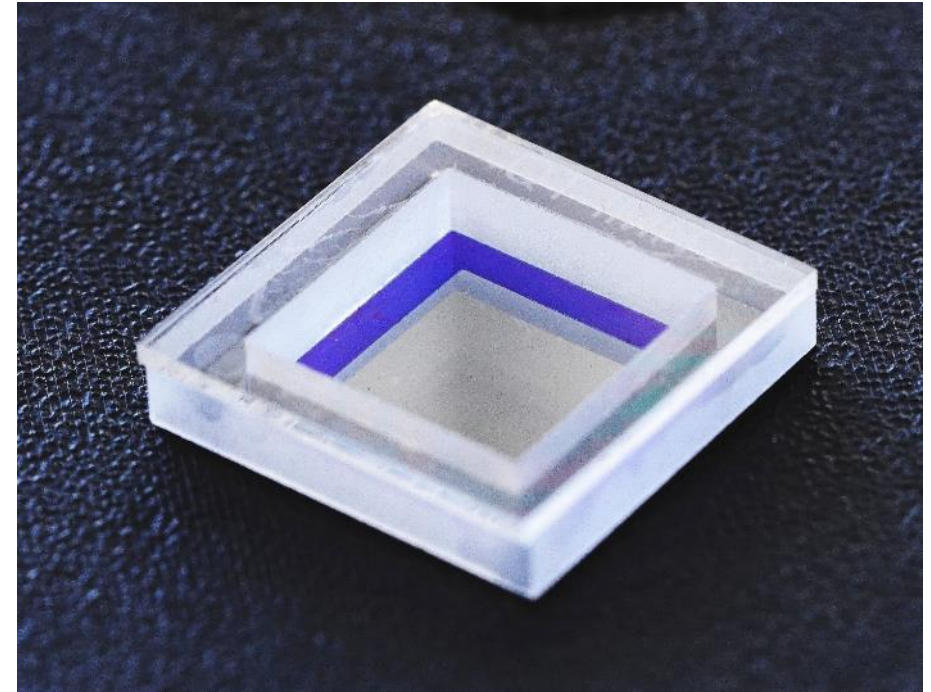
Grating Chip

- Triangular grating with Al coating
- Production by electron beam lithography, dry etching and metal coating
- Optimization of manufacturing process in progress
- Build up of optical characterization setup for chip



Ultra-high Vacuum Cell

- Target pressure $< 1 \cdot 10^{-8}$ mbar
- Sealing by chip bonding methods
 - Process for sealing of vacuum cells by anodic bonding is established
 - Helium leak rate $< 8 \cdot 10^{-13}$ mbar·l/s
- Vacuum will be maintained by getter material
 - No power consumption and easy to miniaturize
 - Deposition on base chip with structuring by lithography
- Evaluation of vacuum quality in cells with miniaturized high vacuum sensors in preparation



Miniaturized Rubidium Source



- Resistive heating of metallic Rb (30-60 °C)
- Production by lithography and dry etching methods
- Cavity filling with micro-dispensing systems
- Development of filling and sealing process in progress

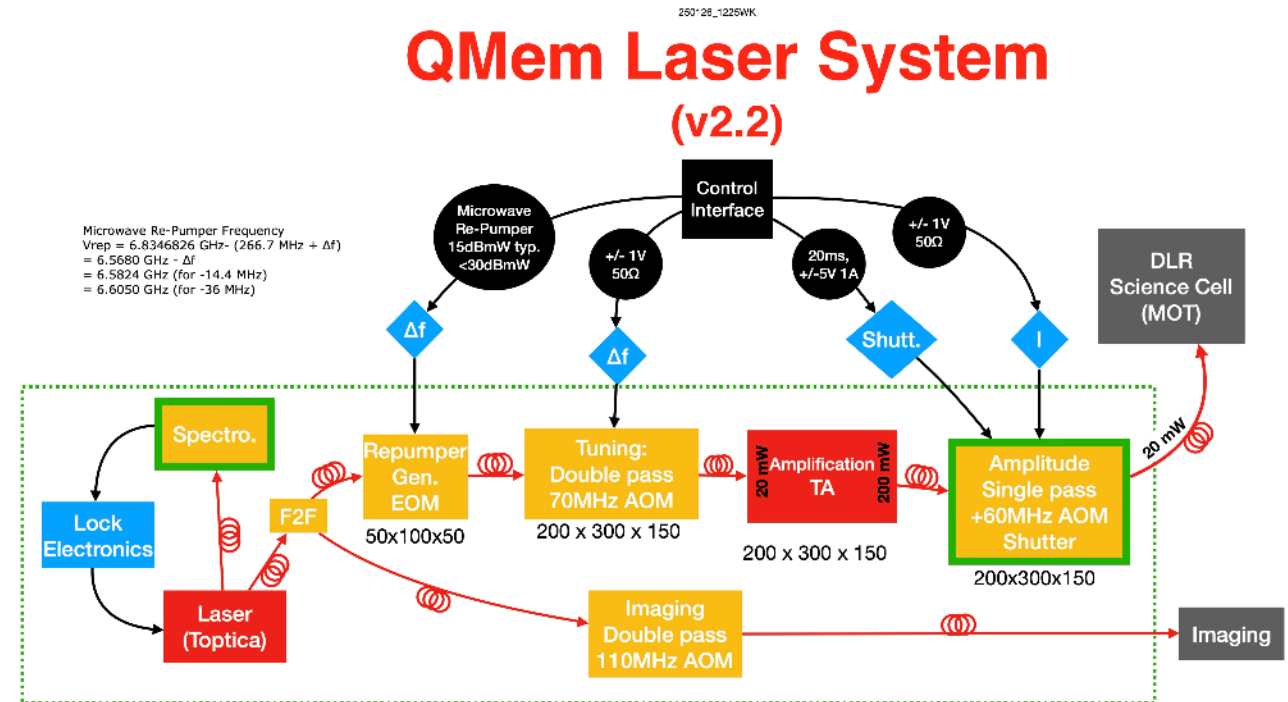
Cooling Laser System



FORTH
INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONIC STRUCTURE AND LASER



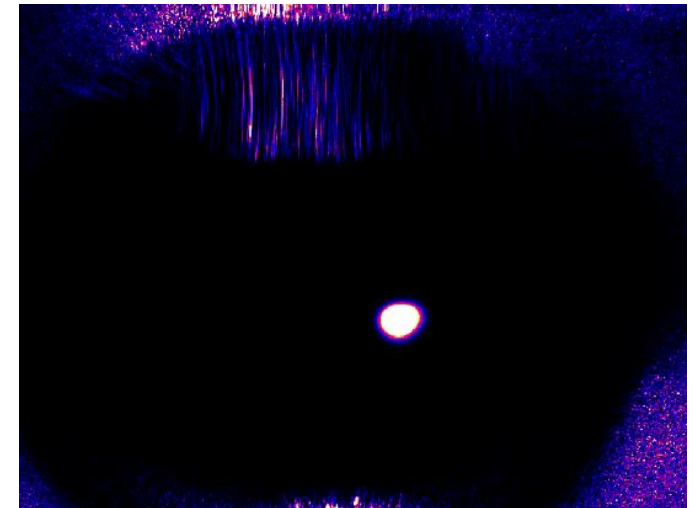
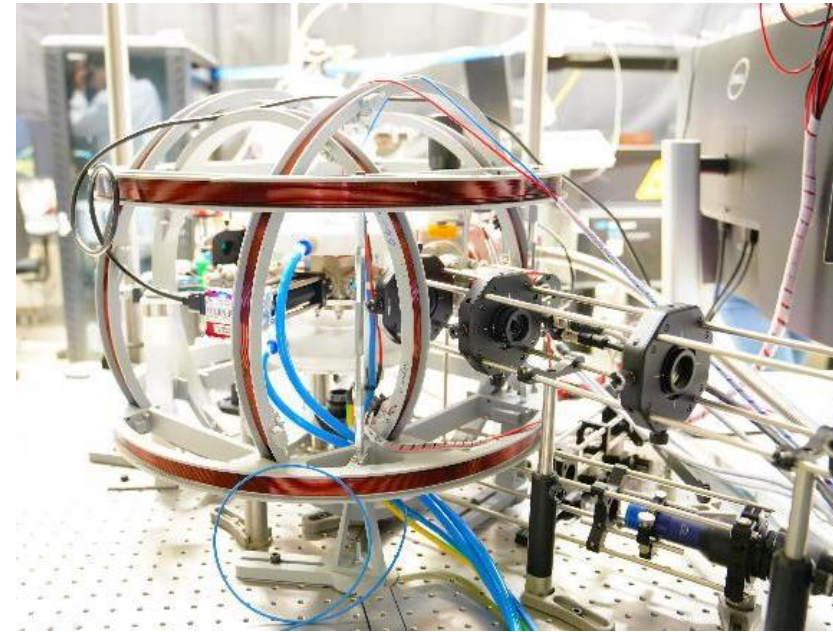
- Contribution from the Space Optics Laboratory @ FORTH-IESL
- Provide cooling, repumper and imaging beam
- Light-conditioning and spectroscopy will be space-ready (elegant bread board design)
- Prototype (not space-ready) already installed at DLR
- Output power cooling beam: ≥ 50 mW
- Frequency tuning range: ~ 50 MHz



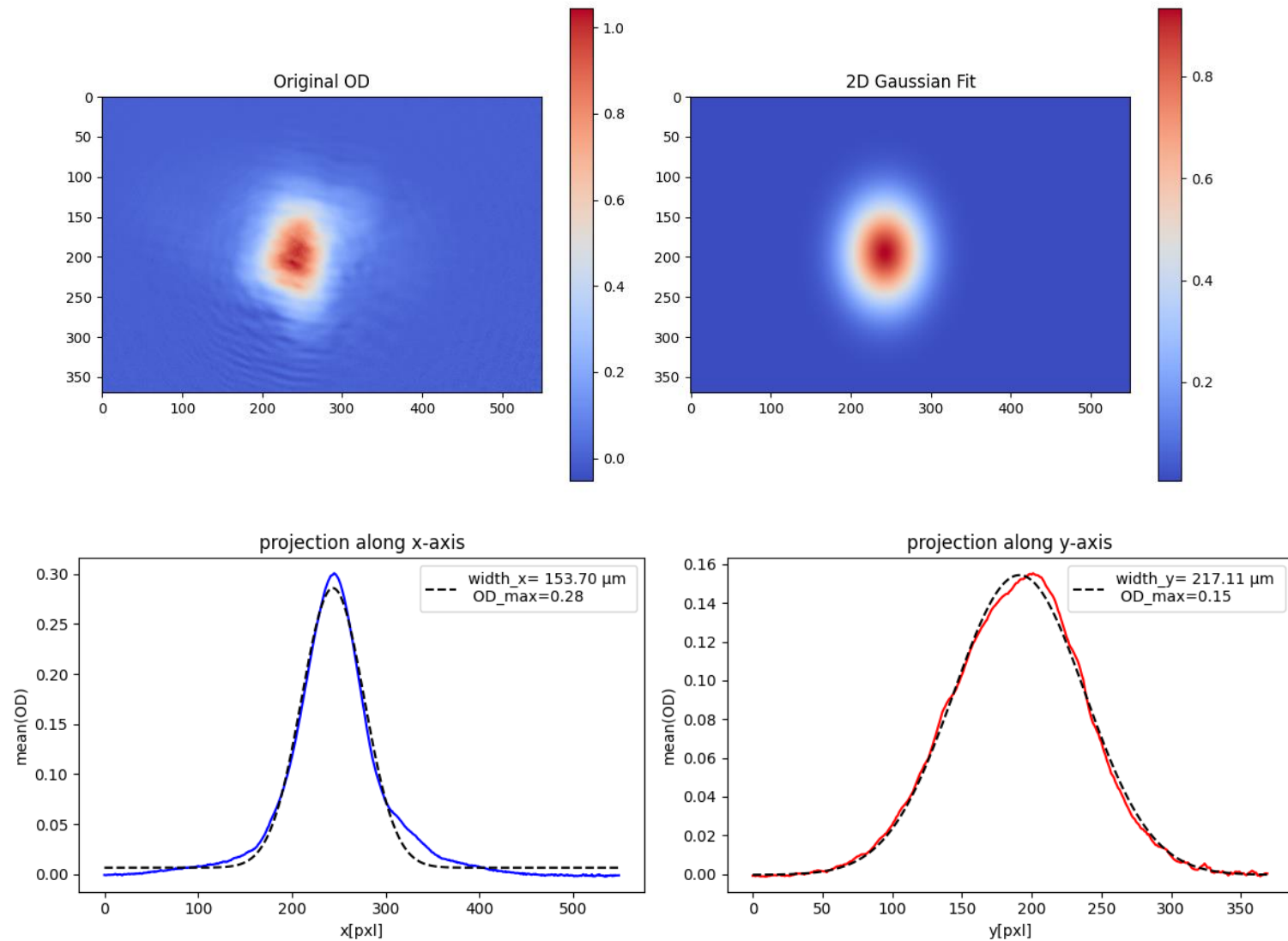
MOT TEST SYSTEM

MOT Test System

- Non-miniaturized system with commercial vacuum chamber, NEG/turbo pump and Rb dispenser
- As close as possible to miniaturized system
- Same periphery for miniaturized MOT and Test System
- Optimization of MOT parameters in progress



MOT Test System



MEMORY SYSTEM

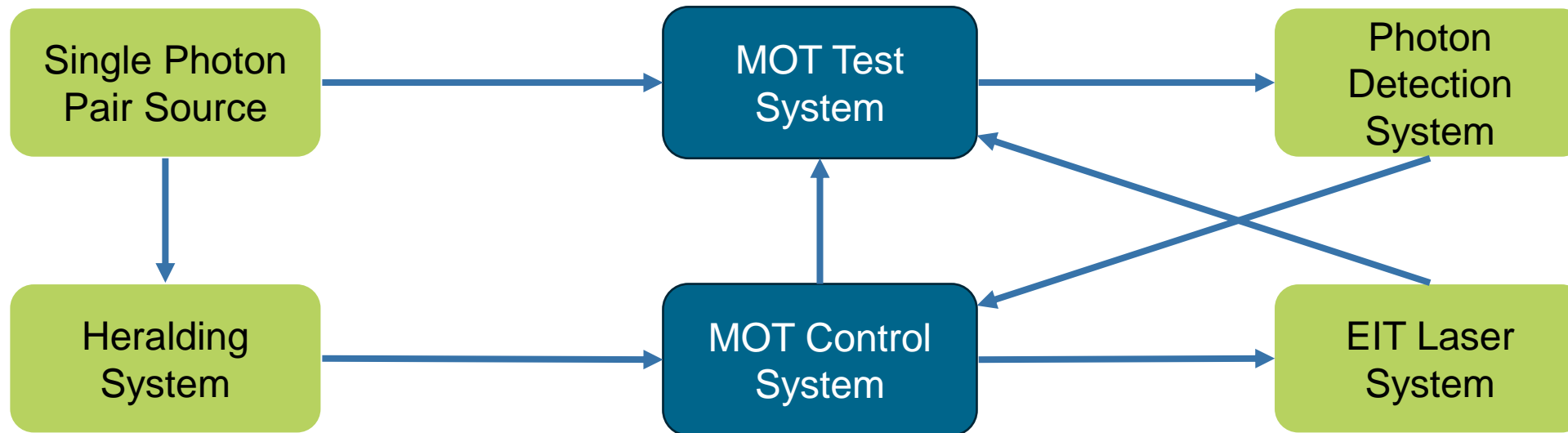
Warm Vapor Memory



- Storage medium: Rubidium vapor
- Memory protocol: Electromagnetically induced transparency (EIT)

Cold Atomic Gas Memory

- Next step: Combine **MOT Test System** and **EIT Memory System**
- Demonstrate single photon storage in cold atomic gas



ROADMAP

Roadmap for DLR Cold Gas Quantum Memory



Miniaturized
MOT

First MOT
established

Miniaturized
MOT
established

Improve
Storage Time

Improve
Vacuum
Lifetime

Periphery

Miniaturized
Magnetic
System

Integrated
Frequency
Conversion

Miniaturized
Optic System

Miniaturized
Laser System

2025

2026

2027

2028

2029

2030

...

2035

Demonstration

Storage in Lab

Storage from
Satellite Link

Space Ready

On Satellite



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION