



**Photon Counting Systems  
and Solutions since 2001**

## **Advances in single photon detectors and electronics**

Dr. Ir. Rik van Gorsel, VP Quantum Sensing - Americas

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# ID Quantique – Company Profile



## IDQ

- Founded in 2001
- >80 employees in 4 countries
- 2 Business units:  
Quantum sensing &  
Quantum-safe security



High-quality engineering



Best performance



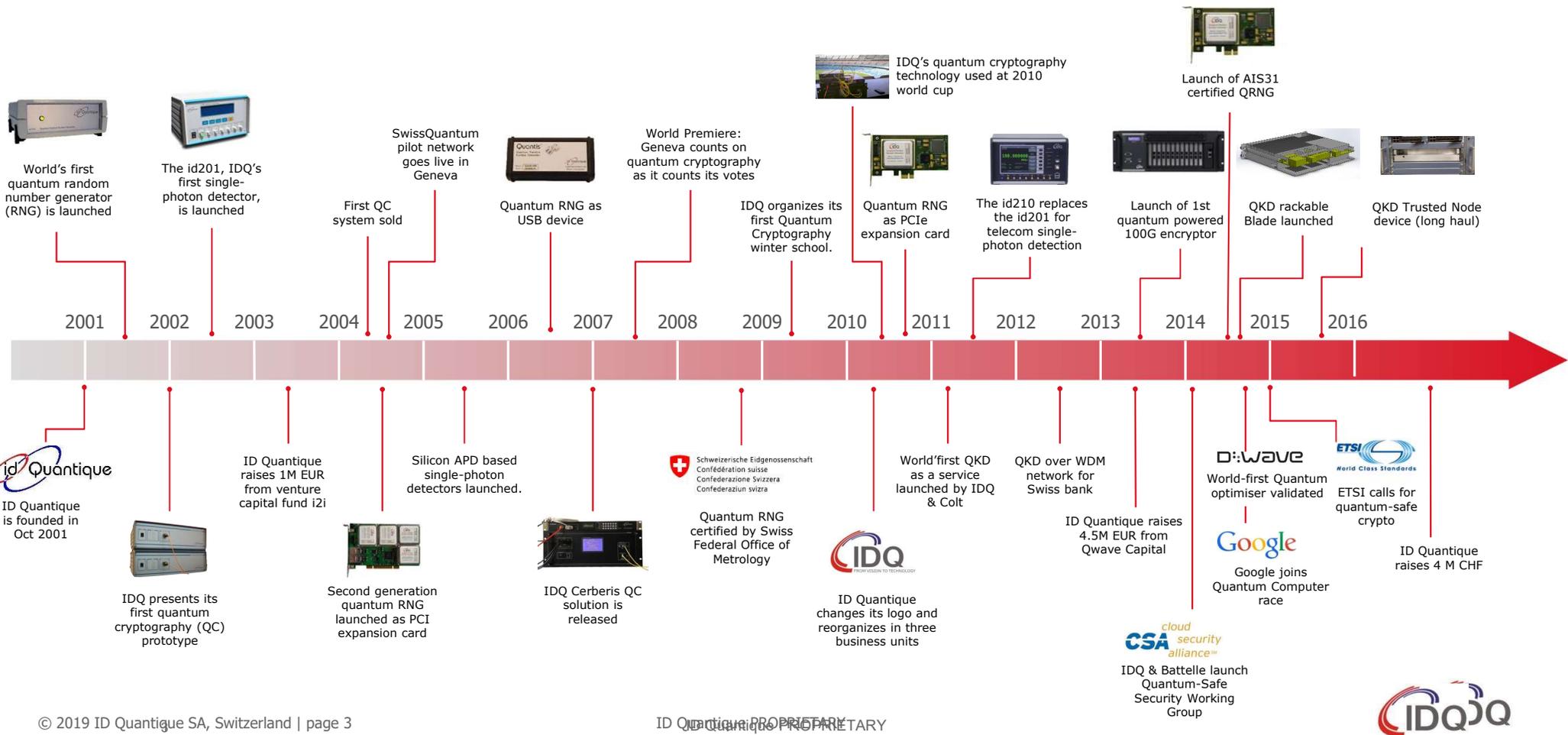
Trust



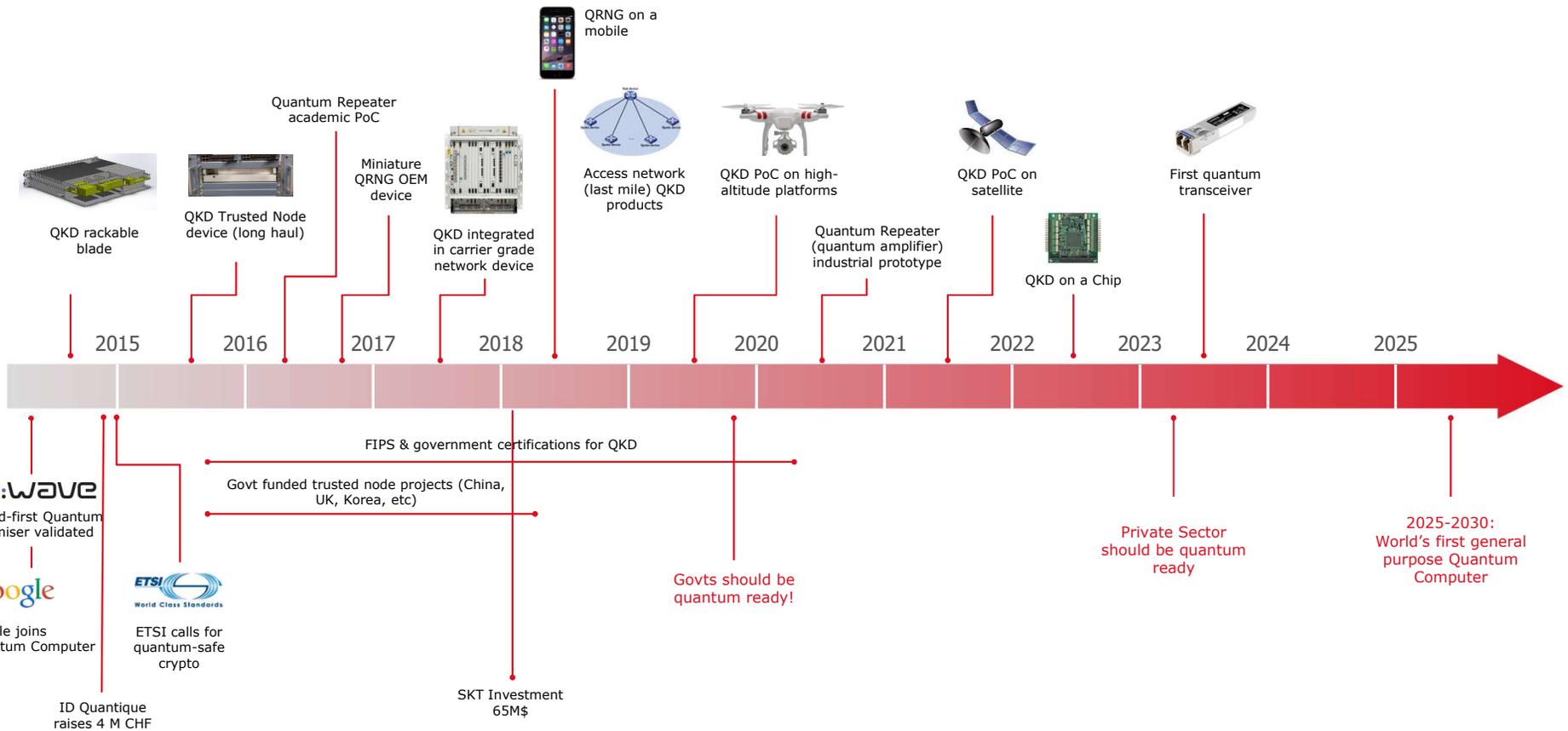
Operational simplicity



# 2001-2016: 15 Years of Quantum Innovation



# IDQ Quantum Roadmap 2015-2025





### Ariane 6 launcher

- Opto-pyrotechnics
- "Extreme" OTDR requirements
- ID300, ID281 and ID900
  - <1.5 cm spatial resolution in large core MMF
  - Short production tests with free-running detection of up to 8 km of fibre in launcher
  - Insertion loss measurement

Possible with SNSPDs only



|  IDQ supplies high reliability single photon technologies to Ariane 6  
the next generation of space launch vehicles built by ArianeGroup on behalf of the ESA



| IDQ Single Photon Systems have been selected:

- ▶ ID281 single photon detector,
- ▶ ID900 Time Controller with its OTDR package
- ▶ ID300 Laser

| Ariane 6 Launcher program

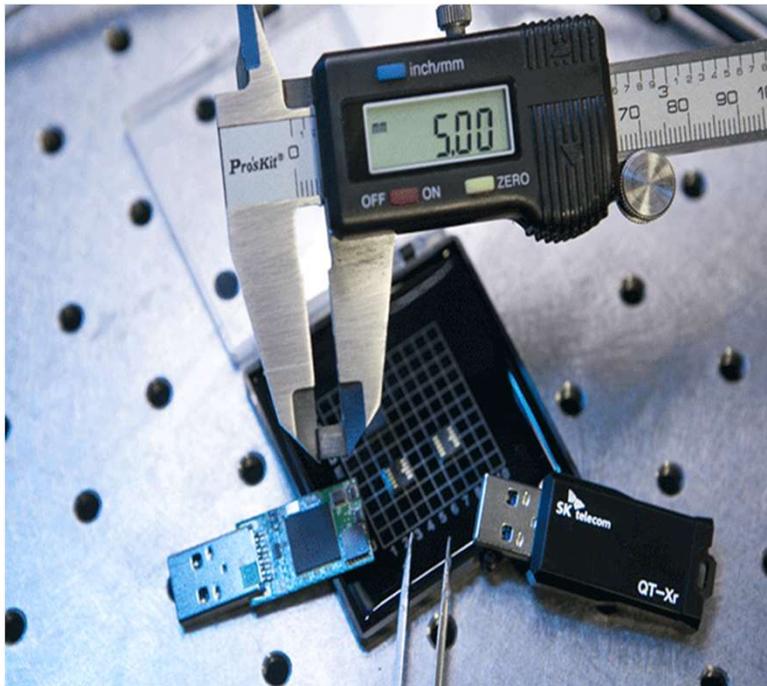
- ✓ Accuracy unachievable by traditional means
- ✓ Centimeter spatial resolution
- ✓ Intrinsically safe solution

- ✓ Fully qualified by ArianeGroup (Airbus-Safran)
- ✓ First flight in early 2021
- ✓ 30 year program

# Lab to market place





The SKT IDQ QRNG chip inside the Samsung Galaxy A Quantum  
<https://www.engadget.com/samsung-and-sk-telecom-reveal-worlds-first-smartphone-with-quantum-security-tech-143049380.html>

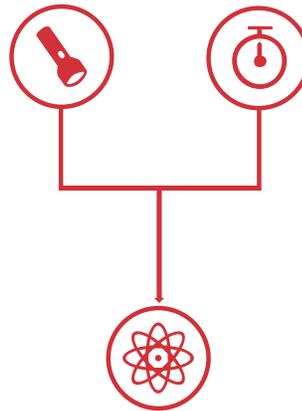
# Quantum Technologies for sensing performance beyond conventional techniques



SPADS



Low-Light Sensing



Hi-Res Timing defined instruments



Time Controller  
Event timer & Electronics (TCSPC)



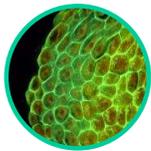
SNSPD



Quantum Sensing Solutions

## Extending the performance of Time-of-Flight based sensing systems:

- Industrial single photon lidar
- Single photon OTDR based integrity monitoring



Bio-Sciences



Material Science



Quantum Physics



Communication



Automotive



Surveillance & Defence



O&G



## | SPADS

| ID230 FR detector



| ID220 FR detector



| ID Qube NIR FR and Gated



## | SNSPD

| ID281 SNSPD



## | Electronics

| ID900 Time Controller



## | ID221



## | Key Benefits

- ▶ Spectral range: 900 – 1700 nm (NIR wavelength)
- ▶ Timing resolution: **150 ps**
- ▶ SMF & MMF input
- ▶ Adjustable dead time 1 us to 25 us
- ▶ Free-running
- ▶ Peltier cooler, -50°C in Geiger mode
- ▶ Low Dark Count Rate:
  - **800 Hz** DCR at 10% Quantum Efficiency
  - **3 kHz** DCR at 20% Quantum Efficiency

## | ID230



## | Key Benefits

- ▶ Based on ID221 :
  - Free-running
  - Spectral range: 900 – 1700 nm (NIR wavelength)
  - Timing resolution: **150 ps**
  - SMF & MMF input
- ▶ Adjustable dead time 2 us to 100 us
- ▶ APD cooled down to -90°C with Sterling engine cooling
- ▶ Best in class Dark Count Rate :
  - **80 Hz** DCR at 10% Quantum Efficiency
  - **200 Hz** DCR at 20 % Quantum Efficiency

## Key Benefits

### ID281



- ▶ System detection efficiency up to 90%  
(at 1550, 1310, 780, 850, 950 nm)
- ▶ Plus: broadband, high speed, PNR, Pol. insensitive
  
- ▶ Standard low dark count rate (DCR):
  - < 100 Hz (1310 to 1550 nm)
  - < 5 Hz (950 to 1064 nm)
  - < 1 Hz (780 to 950 nm)
  
- ▶ Recovery time < 20 to 40 ns (@ 50 % of the max. efficiency)
- ▶ Jitter < 20 ps (Visible); < 40ps (InfraRed)
- ▶ Closed-cycle 0.8 K cryostat – infinite temperature stability
- ▶ Up to 16 channels per cryostat
- ▶ Agile control and data recording electronics

## | ID900



## | Key Benefits

Parameter	High Speed mode	High Resolution mode	Units
Input channels	4 + Start	4	
Bin width	100	13	ps
Time jitter (RMS)	<100	8	ps
Dead-time	<4	5	ns
Maximum processing rate (per channel)	100	25	Mevents/s

## ID281 Full turnkey multi-channel SNSPD solutions

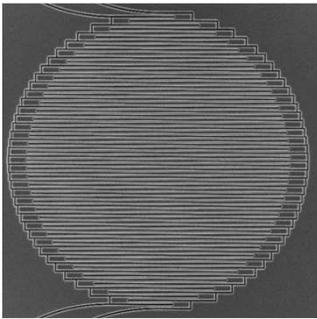


- ▶ **Up to 16 channels**
- ▶ System detection efficiency up to 90% (at 1550, 1310, 780, 850, 950 nm)
- ▶ Plus: broadband, 200 MHz, PNR, Pol.ins
- ▶ Short Recovery time between 20 & 40 ns
- ▶ 200 MHz & PNR option
- ▶ Low jitter (as low as 20 ps)
- ▶ Low dark count rate (as low as 1 Hz)
- ▶ 0.8 K closed cycle cryostat
- ▶ Continuous operation
- ▶ Timing & time tagging electronics

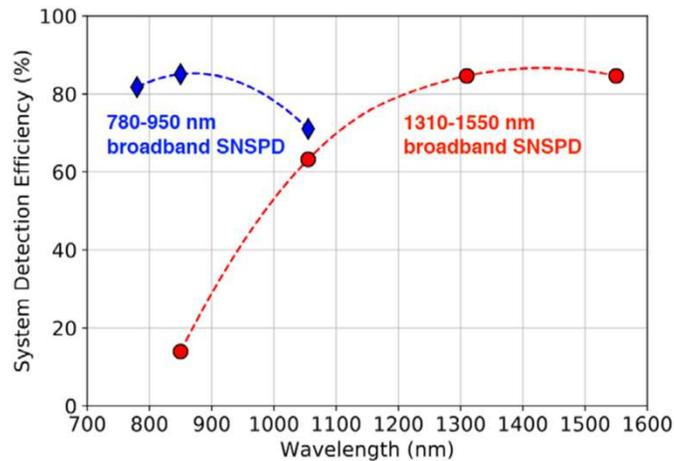


 **SWISS MADE**

## Pushing the limits of in-and-out of the lab



- High & broadband system detection efficiency

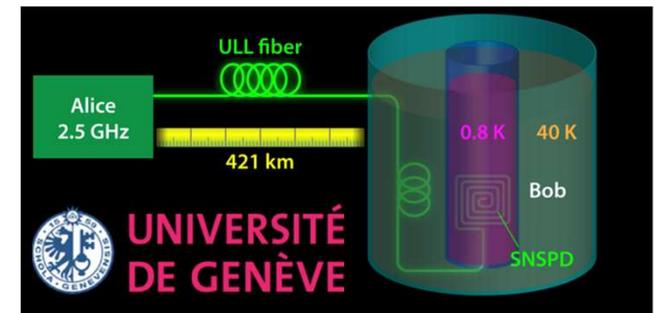


- Low jitter (down to 20 ps)
- Low noise (down to < 1 Hz)
- Short recovery time (down to 20 ns)

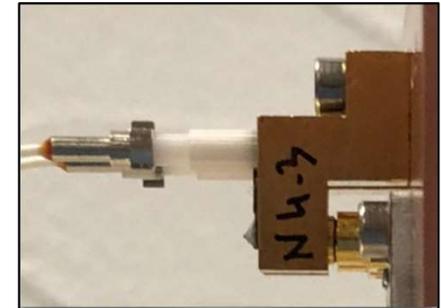
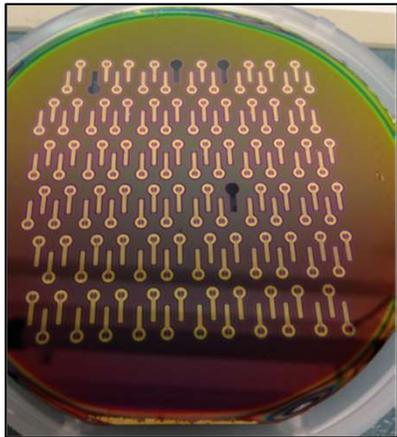
Ariane 6 assembly will use IDQ's SNSPDs



QKD over 421 km (UNIGE)



APS/Alan Stonebraker

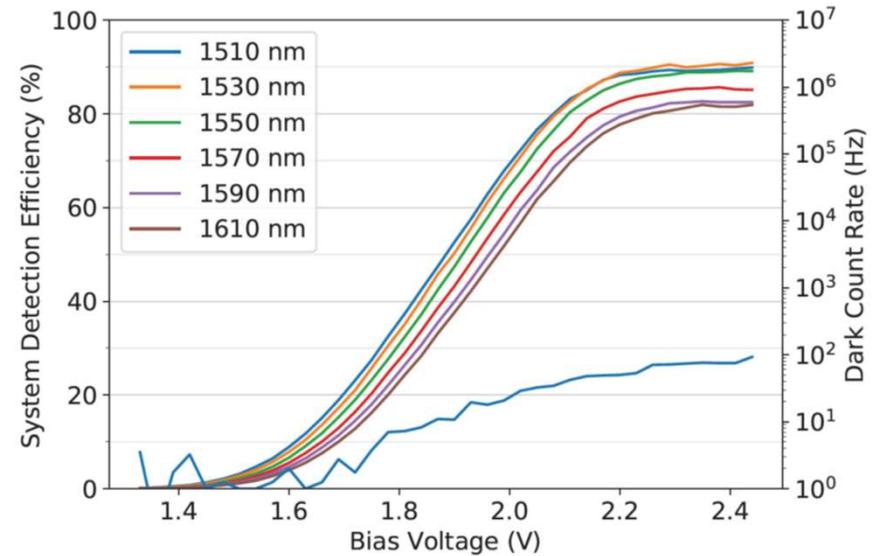
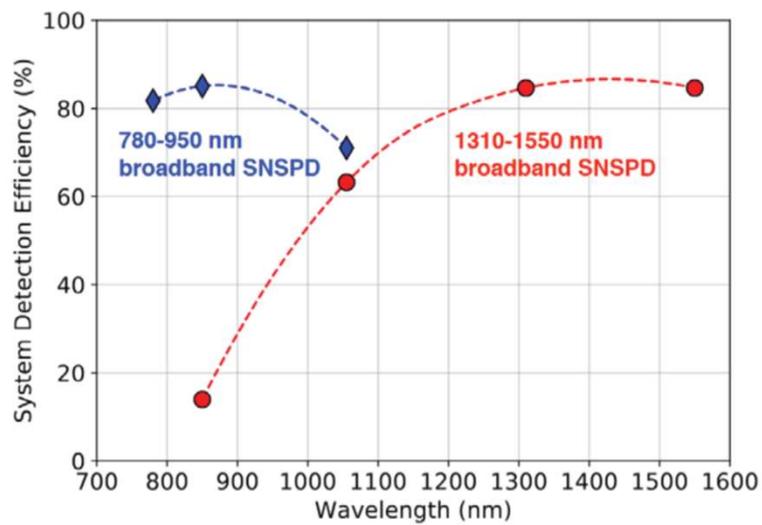


▶ Wafer Scale Processing

▶ Detachable devices with SNSPD meanders inside

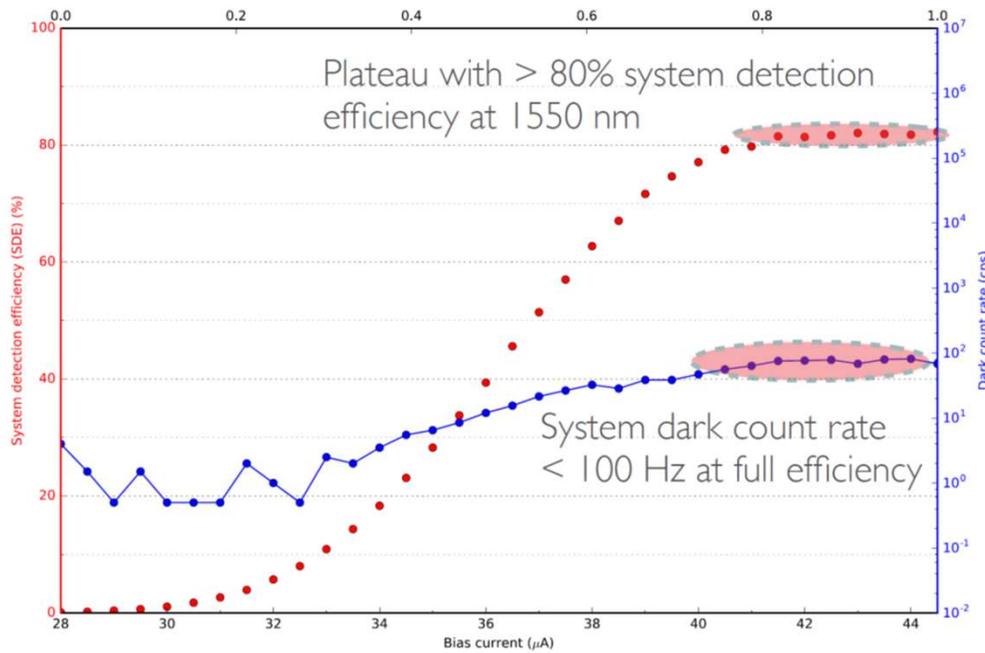
▶ Self aligned mount for alignment with Optical fiber +/- 3 um

# SNSPD – Broadband Efficiency



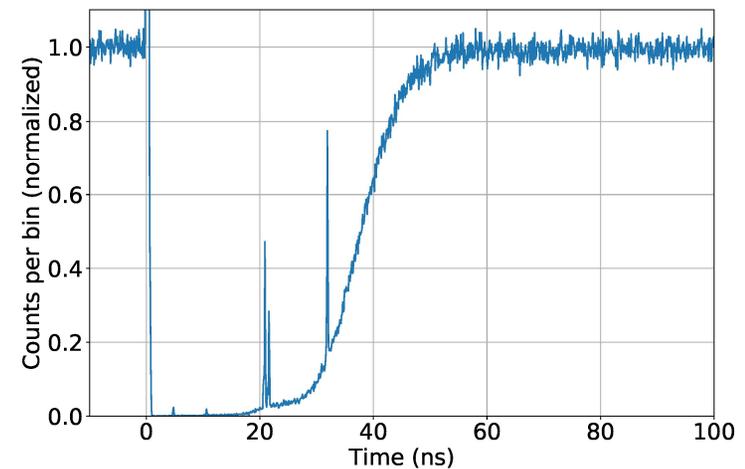
Broadband efficiency detectors:

- ▶ >80% from 1310 to 1550 nm
- ▶ >80% from 780 to 950 nm
- ▶ >80% from 950 to 1064 nm



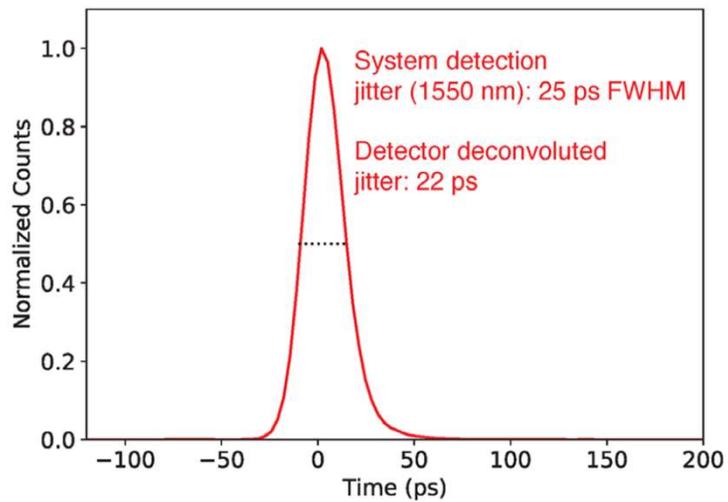
1550 nm Standard Detector : SDE vs DCR vs Bias Current

- ▶ Detection range 1310 to 1550 nm
- ▶ Over **80%** System Detection Efficiency
- ▶ Dark Count strictly below **100Hz**
- ▶ Time to recover 50 % of max SDE is < **40ns** (deadtime)



1550 nm Standard Detector deadtime : Normalized counts VS time

## ID281 – Timing jitter

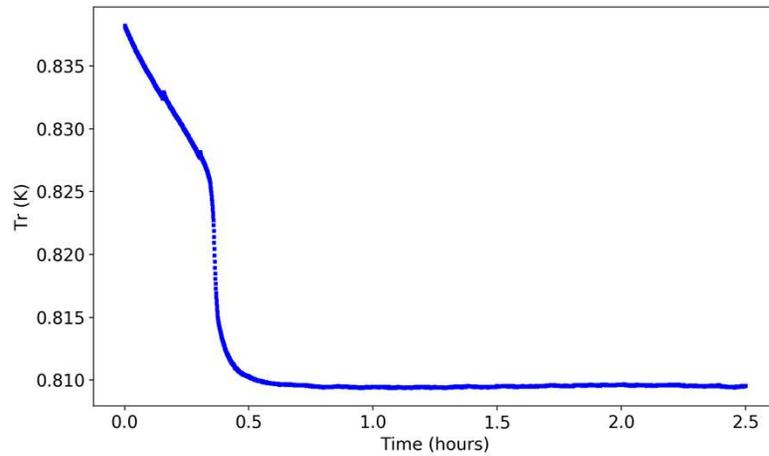


1550 nm Detector Timing jitter

- ▶ Standard jitter (FWHM):  
< 40 ps (1550 nm)  
< 30 ps (780-950 nm)
- ▶ Ultra-low jitter option:  
<30 ps (1550 nm)  
<20 ps (780-950 nm) upon request

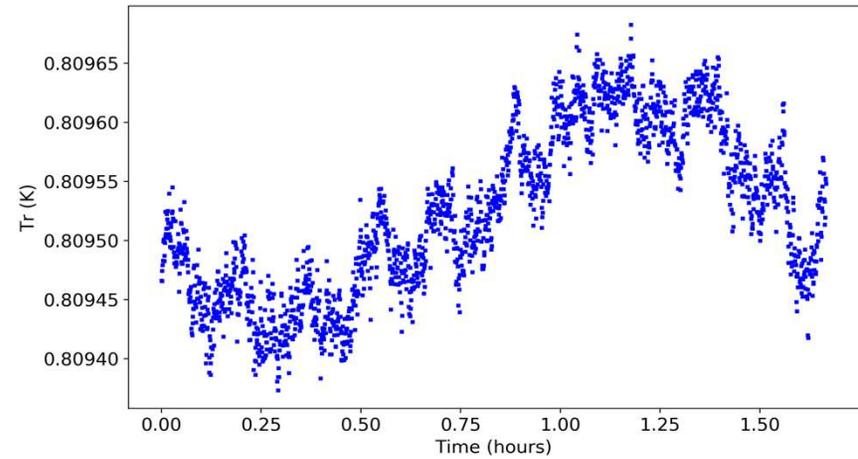
## ID281-sorption, Cryostat stability

► Base temperature is 0.8 K

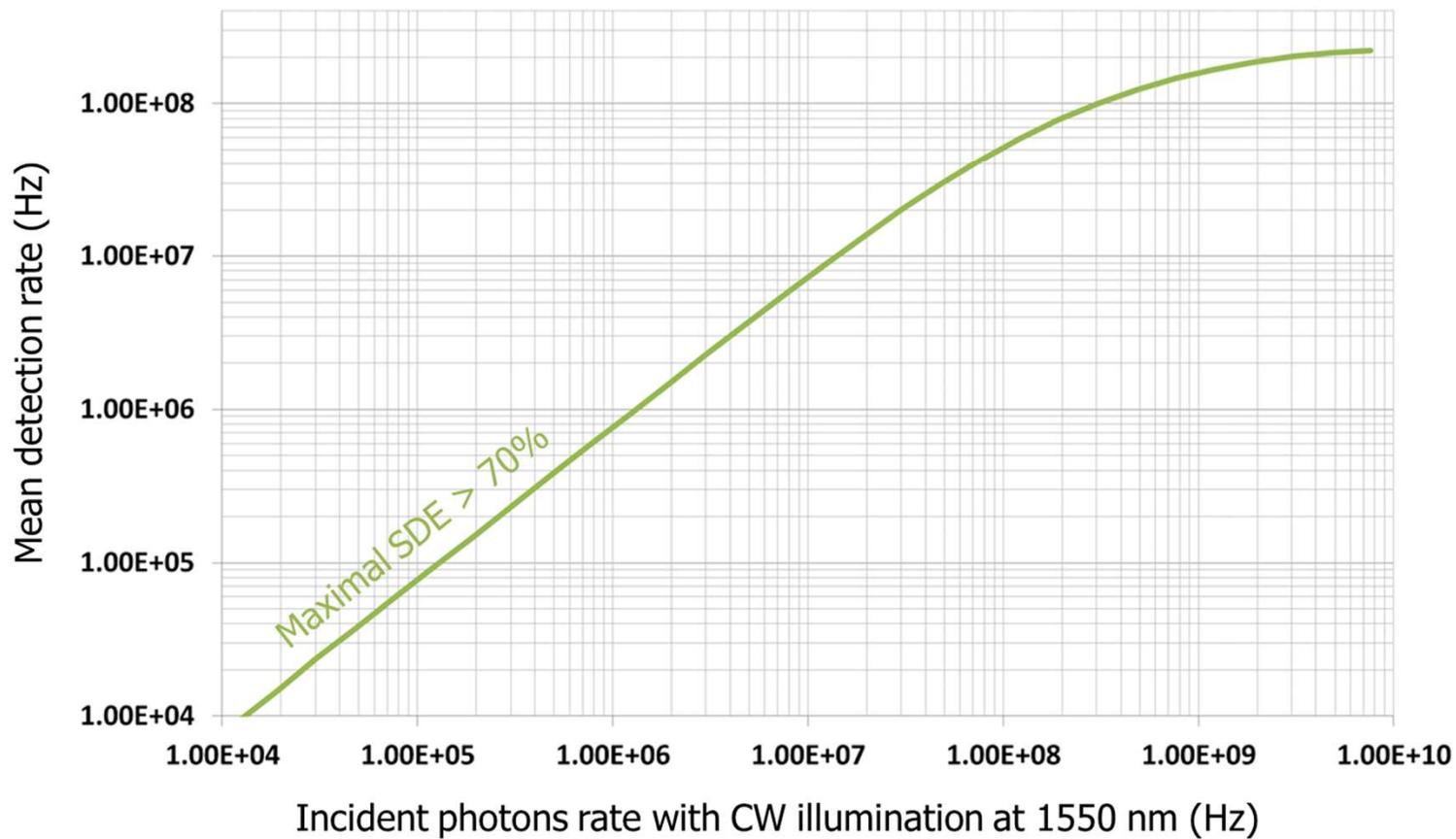


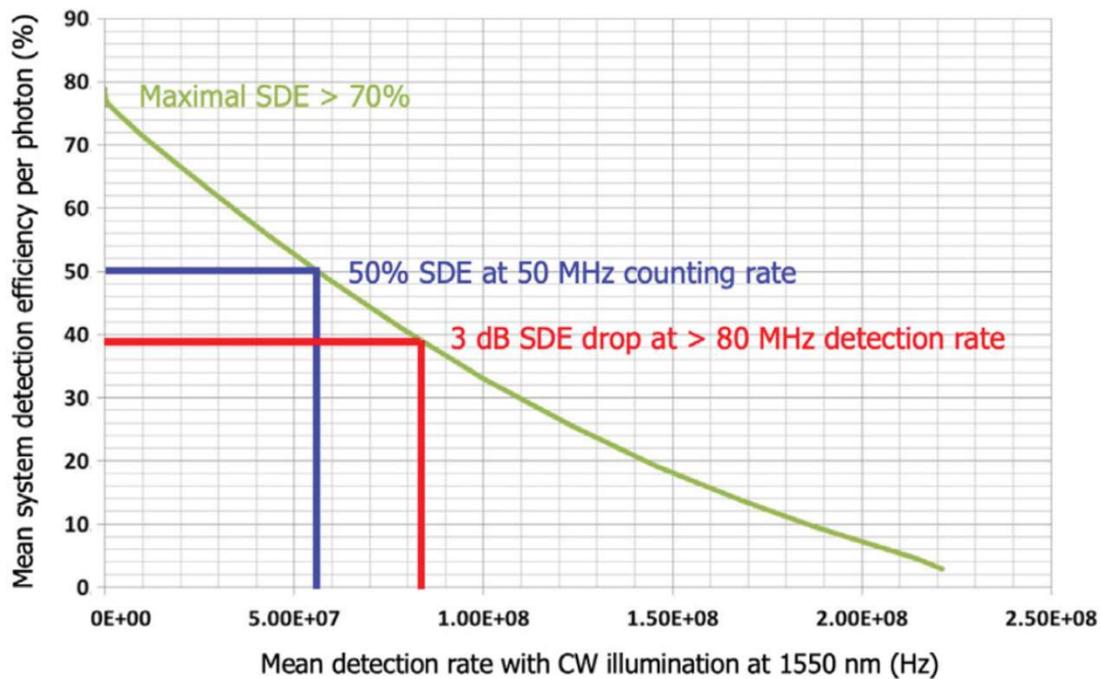
Refrigerator base temperature

► Temperature stability is better than 0.5mK



Temperature stability

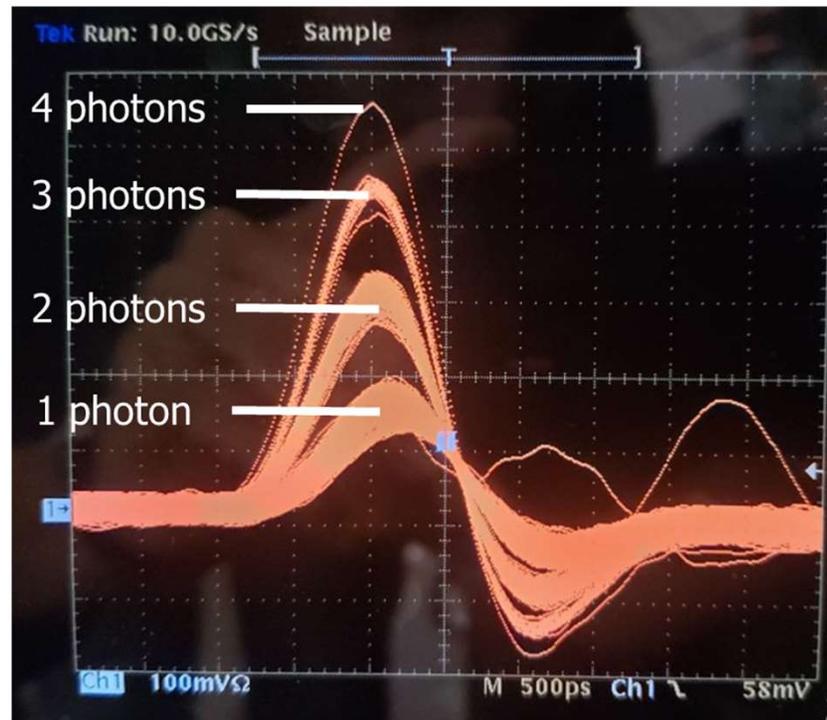




- ▶ An example of Fast SNSPD Detector counting rates :
- Typical System Detection Efficiency > 70%
- SDE > 50% at 50 MHz,
- SDE > 10% at 200 MHz

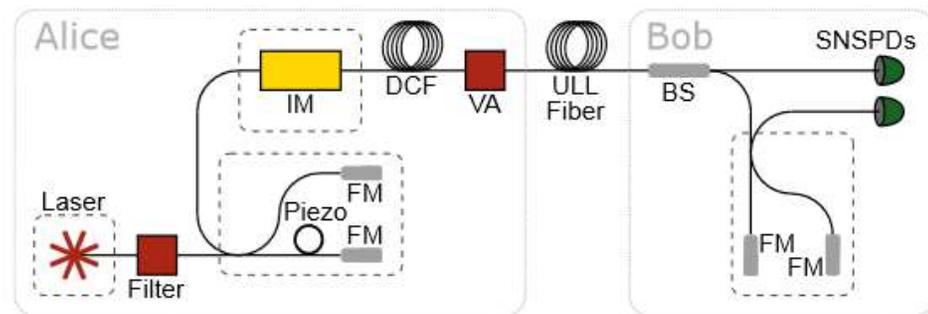
## Photon-number resolution at 1550 nm

- At least 4 photons
- Exact number can be determined with amplitude using an oscilloscope or with a combination of several channels with different thresholds on the ID900



## Secure Quantum Key Distribution over 421 km of Optical Fiber. Boaron et al (2018)

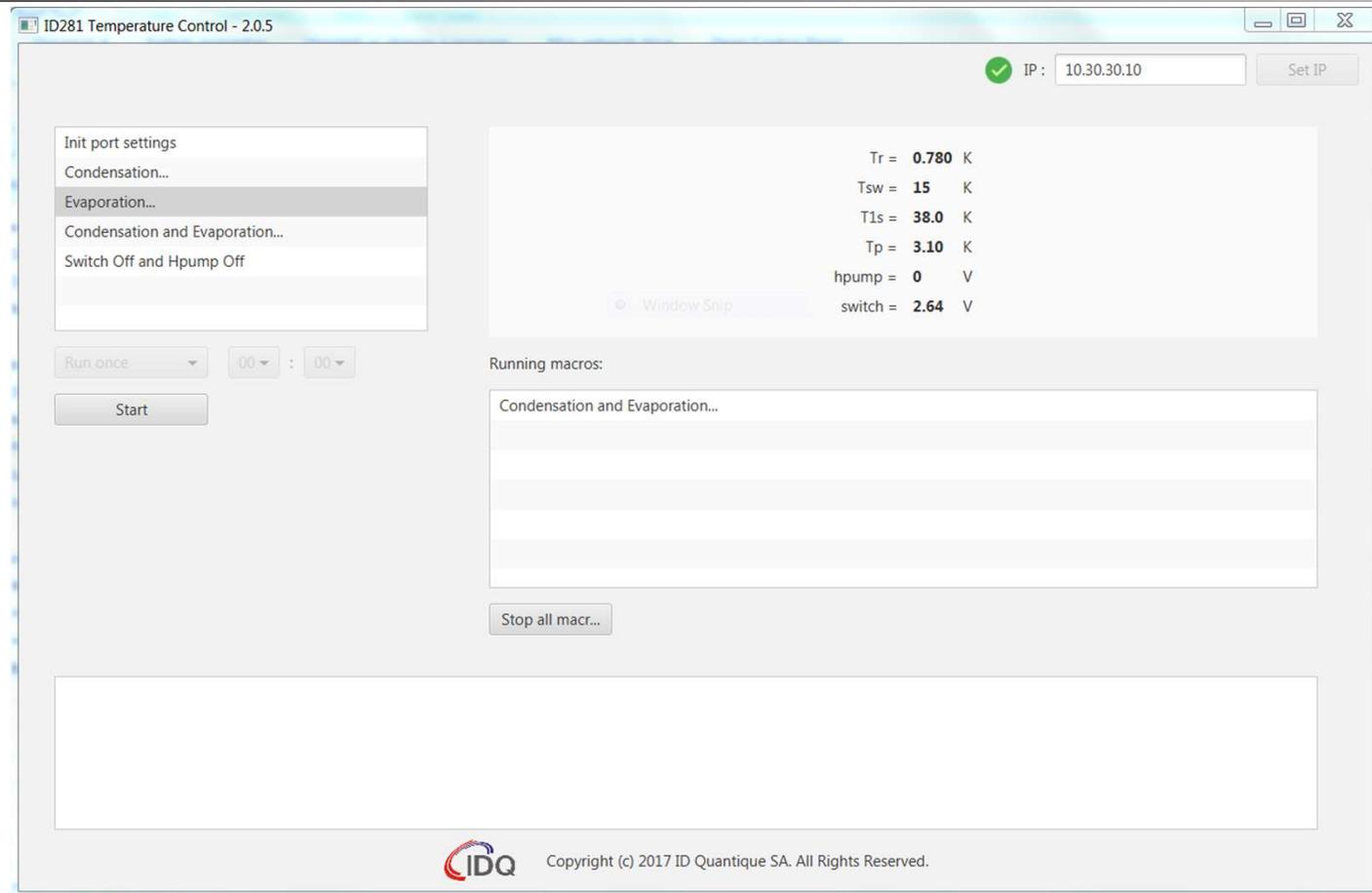
- ▶ Secure quantum key distribution over record breaking long distance of 421 km of optical fiber
- ▶ Secret key rates of 6.5 bps over 405 km
- ▶ An article from Geneva Applied Physics University



<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.190502>

## Software

- ▶ Daily program
- ▶ Temperature control & logging
- ▶ User Friendly
- ▶ Remote monitoring



The screenshot shows the 'ID281 Temperature Control - 2.0.5' software interface. At the top right, there is a green checkmark and an IP address field containing '10.30.30.10' with a 'Set IP' button. On the left, a menu lists options: 'Init port settings', 'Condensation...', 'Evaporation...' (highlighted), 'Condensation and Evaporation...', and 'Switch Off and Hpump Off'. Below the menu is a 'Run once' dropdown, a timer set to '00 : 00', and a 'Start' button. On the right, a panel displays real-time data: Tr = 0.780 K, Tsw = 15 K, T1s = 38.0 K, Tp = 3.10 K, hpump = 0 V, and switch = 2.64 V. Below this is a 'Window Snip' button. A 'Running macros:' section contains a list box with 'Condensation and Evaporation...' and a 'Stop all macr...' button. At the bottom, there is a large empty text area, the IDQ logo, and the text 'Copyright (c) 2017 ID Quantique SA. All Rights Reserved.'

## ID900 Time Controller



**The control hub for  
your single photon  
experiments**

### All in one

- ▶ 4 channel Time-tagging & Histograming
- ▶ 4 high speed outputs, e.g. for Delay & Pattern Generation
- ▶ Built-in conditional filters and counters
- ▶ Configuration editor



Fast data processing  
Up to 100 Mevents/ch



Conditional programmable outputs

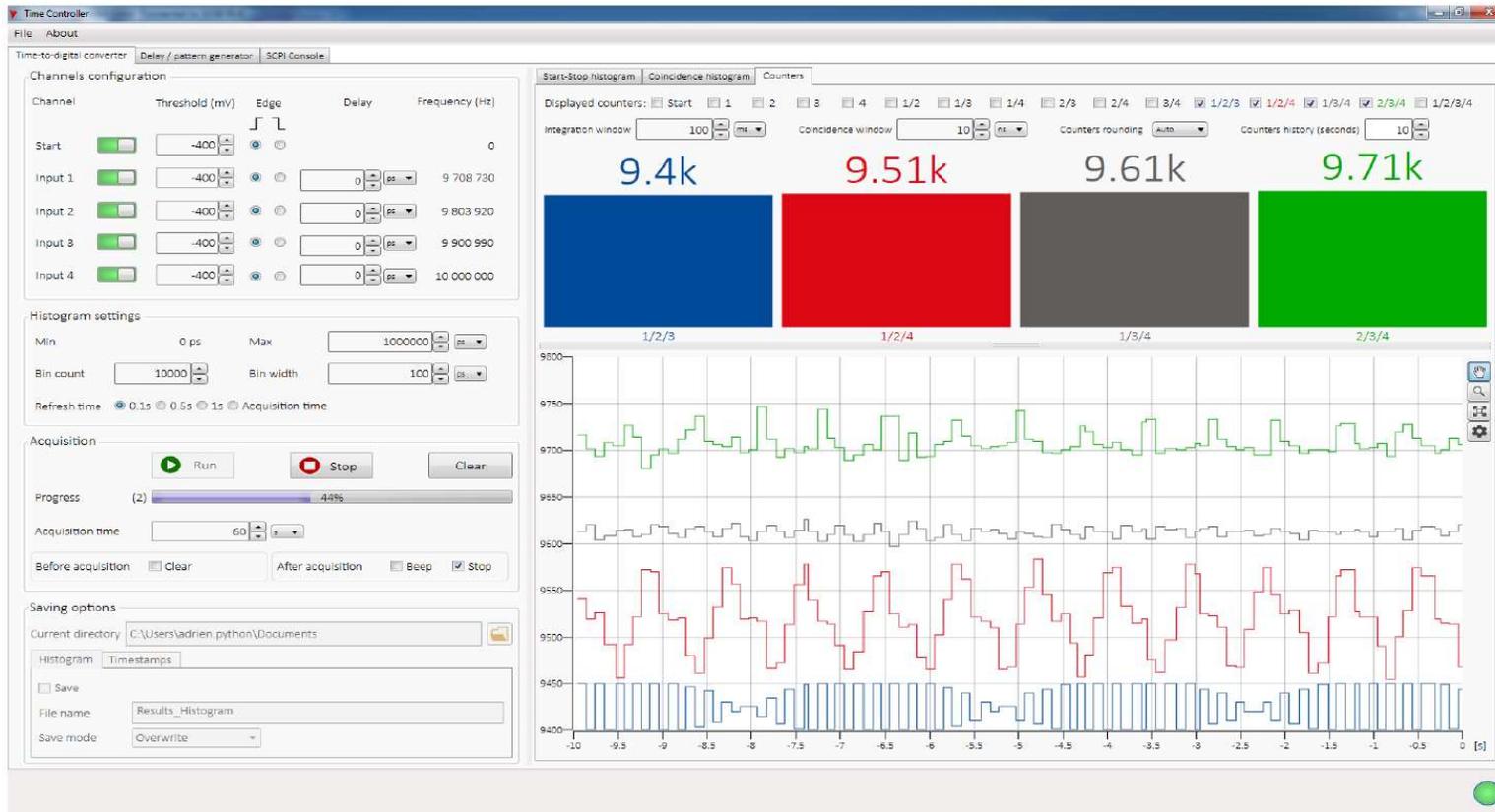


Picosecond timing



Cost effective solution for multiple  
channels

# Time Controller - Counters Window



## ► 4-fold Coincidence histogram



id900 TCSPC  
Time Controller  
4<sup>th</sup> interaction  
level

## ■ ID900 Configuration Editor GUI

The screenshot displays the ID900 Configuration Editor GUI. On the left, a logic diagram shows a grid of components including delay elements (DEL1-DEL8), trigger elements (TSGE1-TSGE8), and time controller units (TSC01-TSC08). Each TSC unit has multiple input and output pins with associated configuration options like NONE, SEC, BEGI, and END. On the right, a configuration table for TSC08 is shown.

Property	Value
TSC08:WIND:ENAB	OFF
TSC08:WIND:BEGI:DELAY	0
TSC08:WIND:BEGI:EDGE	RISING
TSC08:WIND:END:DELAY	0
TSC08:WIND:END:EDGE	FALLING
TSC08:INPO:FIR:LINK	INPU4
TSC08:INPO:SEC:LINK	NONE
TSC08:INPO:BEGI:LINK	NONE
TSC08:INPO:END:LINK	NONE
TSC08:OPIN	ONLYFIR
TSC08:OPOU	ONLYFIR

At the bottom of the GUI, there are buttons for 'Save to file', 'Load from file', and 'Load from TC', along with a file path: 169.254.99.1XX.

## | SPADS

| ID230 FR detector



| ID220 FR detector



| ID Qube NIR FR and Gated



## | SNSPD



- Exact PNR (photon number resolution)
- Extended wavelength range

## | Electronics



| ID900 Time Controller

- Modern 4-channel TCSPC
- Conditional outputs



SWISS  
QUANTUM

