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SPiRiT: Support of public and industrial research using ion beam technology

Europe has the largest collection of advanced facilities in the world for the application of ion beam technologies. However, despite its size and technological advancements, there has been little collaboration in using the facilities, and in sharing best practices between centres. The SPiRiT project is working to rectify this situation by building partnerships between ion beam centres with the purpose of an efficient transnational use, better integration and optimisation, therefore reinforcing and strengthening Europe’s role in ion-beam based research and applications.

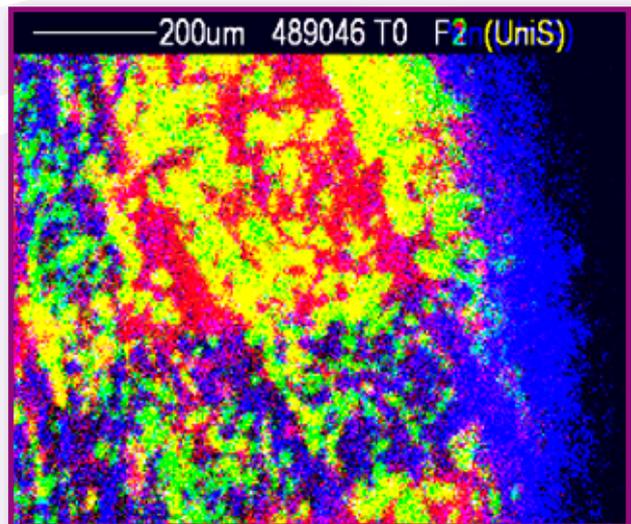
● NETWORKING ION BEAM CENTRES

Research and application of ion technologies is far reaching including information and communications technologies, nanotechnologies, biomedicine, energy research, transport technologies, climate change and cultural heritage. All of these fields are of strategic importance for the EU, and if ion beam activities can be reinforced across Europe, the benefits will be countless.

In order to achieve the integration and optimisation of Europe’s ion beam centres, SPiRiT is working to create a network which brings together 11 leading ion beam centres from across the continent. By building on the strong reputation of project partners, their experience and their research capabilities, SPiRiT aims to create a network which will spur collaboration and innovation, as well as serve as an example for both ion beam centres and other research disciplines.

● TRANSNATIONAL USE OF ION TECHNOLOGIES

Bringing together European ion beam centres will allow researcher to have access to high-quality, high-performance research infrastructures no matter where the infrastructures and researchers are located. With more researchers having access to a better integrated research network, the network can help foster joint developments in terms of capacity and performance.



● PUTTING THE NETWORK INTO USE

SPiRiT hopes that the network will lead to the expanded use of ion technologies in new and emerging fields, in New Member States and in industry. This will be achieved through the creation of common policies and procedures for network access, sharing of best practices and promotion of the technology through newsletters, exhibitions and workshops. In addition, a ‘help desk’ will be created where researchers can easily obtain information about the ion beam network and the allocation of facilities.

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In bringing together research centres from across Europe, there is a need to establish common methodologies for everything from benchmarking to ion beam techniques. Project partners are currently working on development these standards which will become a world class reference standard. These common standards will also facilitate the integration of centres, making monitoring and comparing results easier.

SPiRiT is also aware that the field of ion research is rapidly changing. To stay on top of the latest developments in the field, the project will create an International Advisory Board which will implement shared approaches to ensure Europe is at the forefront of such developments.



Project acronym: SPiRiT

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EU project officer: Maria Douka

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Partners:

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Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (BE)

Jozef Stefan Institute (SI)

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