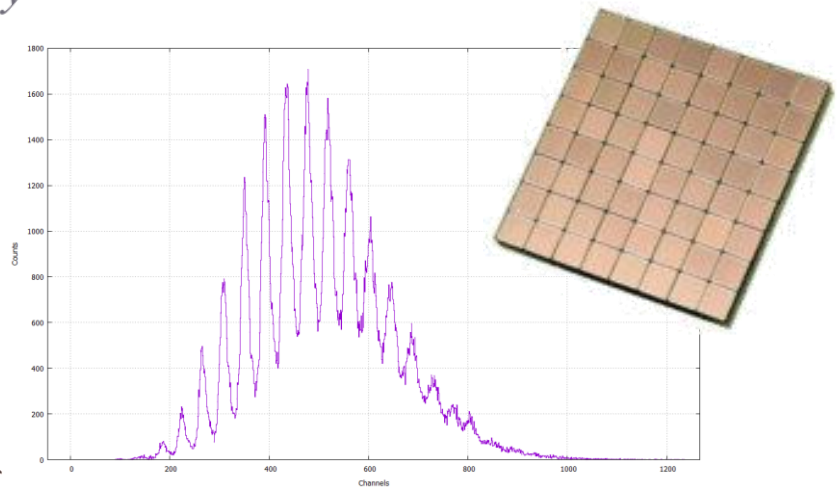
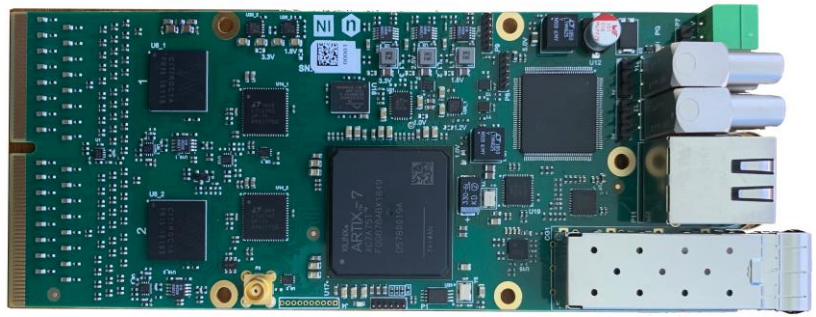
CAEN
Tools for Discovery

Nuclear Instruments

Electronic Instrumentation





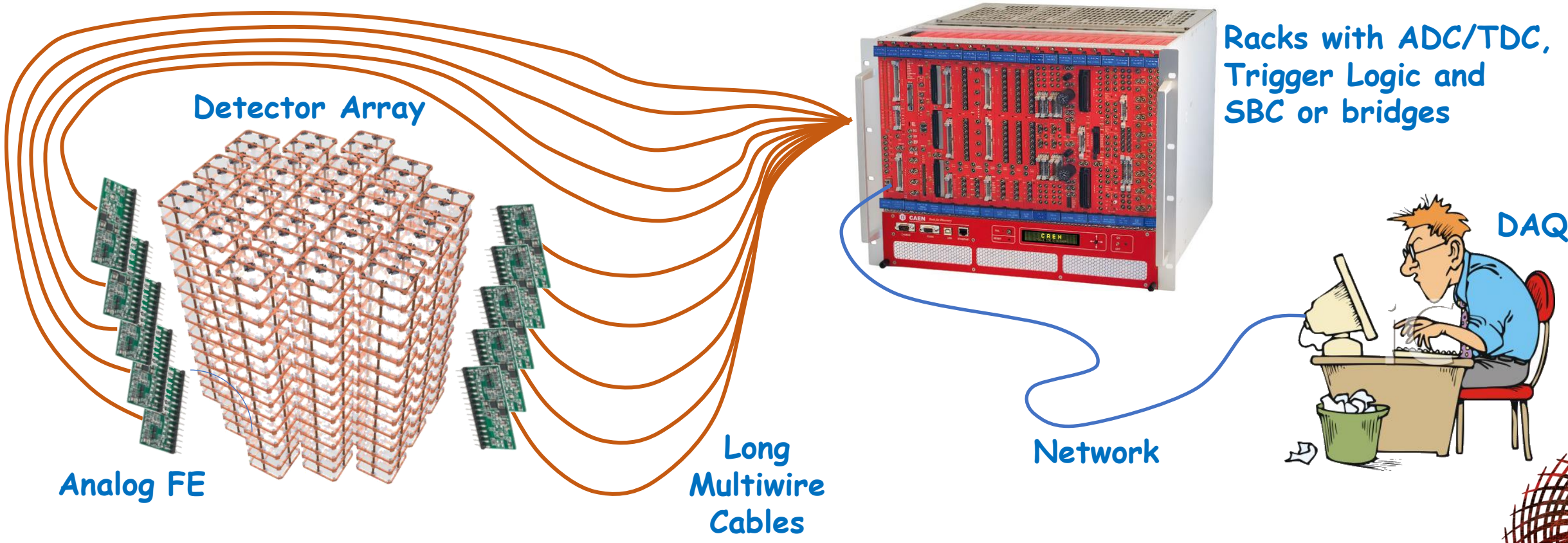
FERS: a distributed Front End Readout System for multi-detector arrays

Carlo Tintori

EIC Streaming Readout VI – 13/15 May 2020

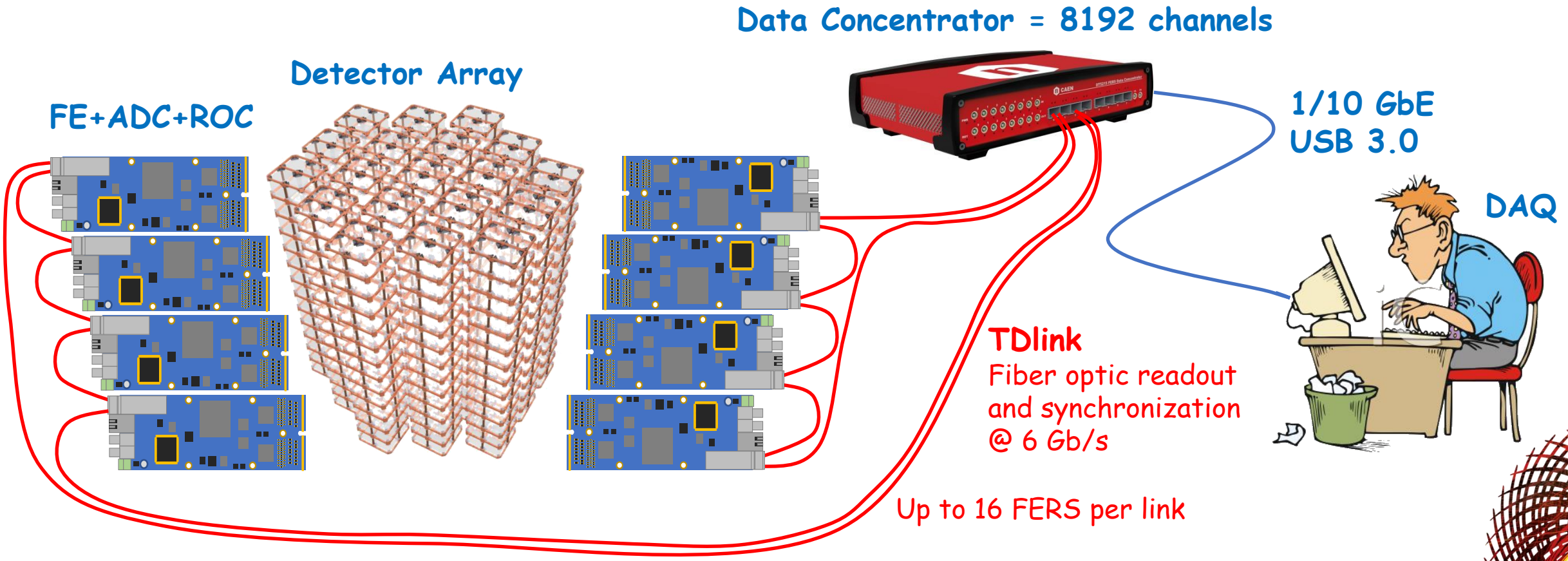
Rackable Readout Electronics

- Front End Preamplifiers close to the detectors
- Long cables bring analog signals to readout electronics (ADC, TDC, etc.) in racks
- Signal attenuation, noise pick-up, ground loops, cost of cables…



Distributed Front End Readout System

- Front End Preamplifiers, A/D conversion and data processing/readout in small **FE card**
- **TDlink**: single optical ring connection for synchronization, readout and slow control
- Data Concentrator: provides global synch, trigger logic, event data building and storage
- Easy scalable and deployable: 8192 channels per Data Concentrator



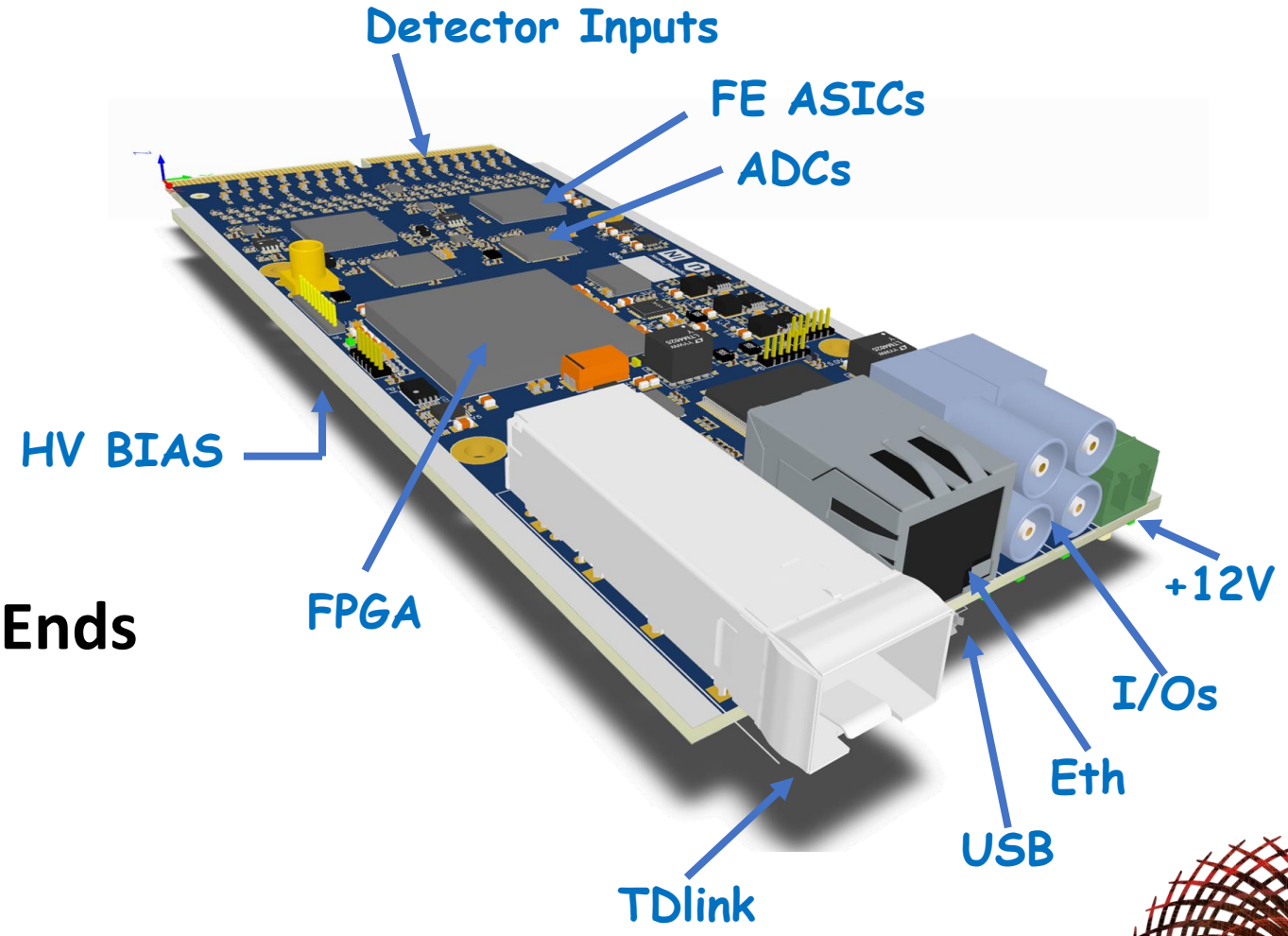
FERS units

A new line of FE and readout electronics for:

- SiPM
- PMTs and MA-PMTs
- Gas Detector, wire chambers
- GEM
- Micromegas
- Silicon Strip Detectors
- Segmented HPGe detectors

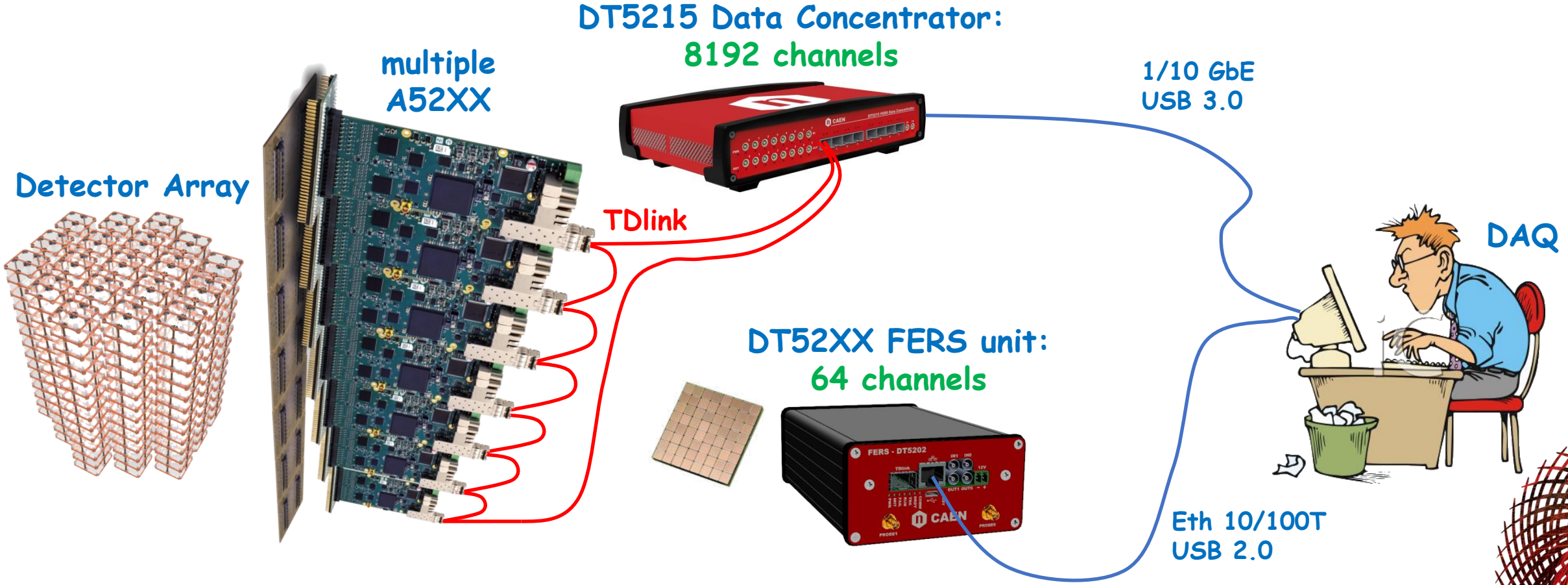
Same Infrastructure, different Front Ends

Quick integration of different ASICs



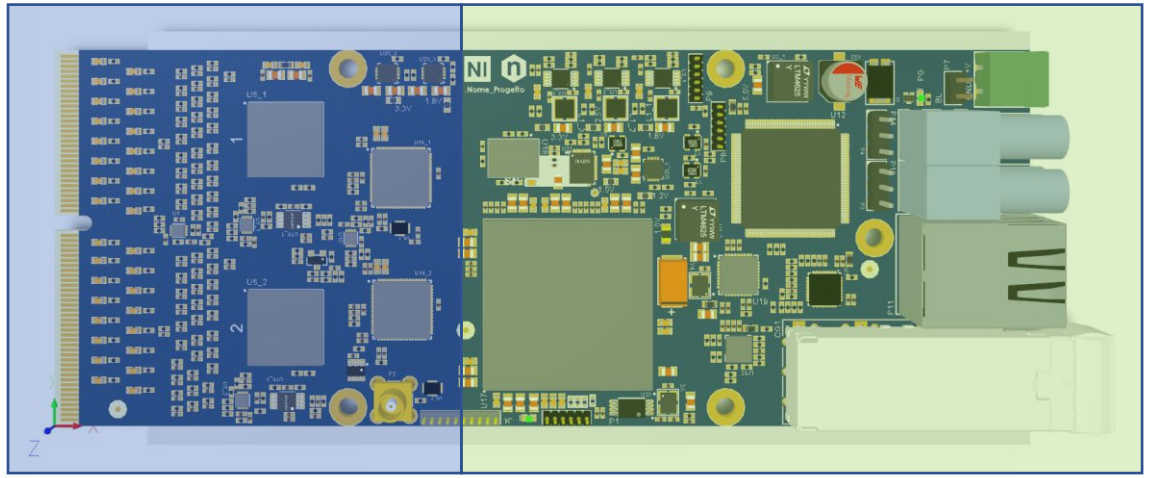
From evaluation to large experiments

- One FERS unit can be used stand-alone in a desktop form factor, directly connection to PC (USB or Ethernet). No additional hardware required!
- Naked FERS units can be arranged in custom backplanes/mechanics to build large systems, keeping the same user interface (SW, libraries, etc.) and the same electronics



FERS flavors (possible future implementations)

- **Citiroc:** SiPM Spectroscopy (Weeroc)
- **Petiroc:** SiPM timing (Weeroc)
- **Maroc:** MA-PMT (Weeroc)
- **Skiroc:** Silicon Detector (Weeroc)
- **Gemroc:** Gem Detector (Weeroc)
- **VMM3**: Micromegas, Gem (BNL)

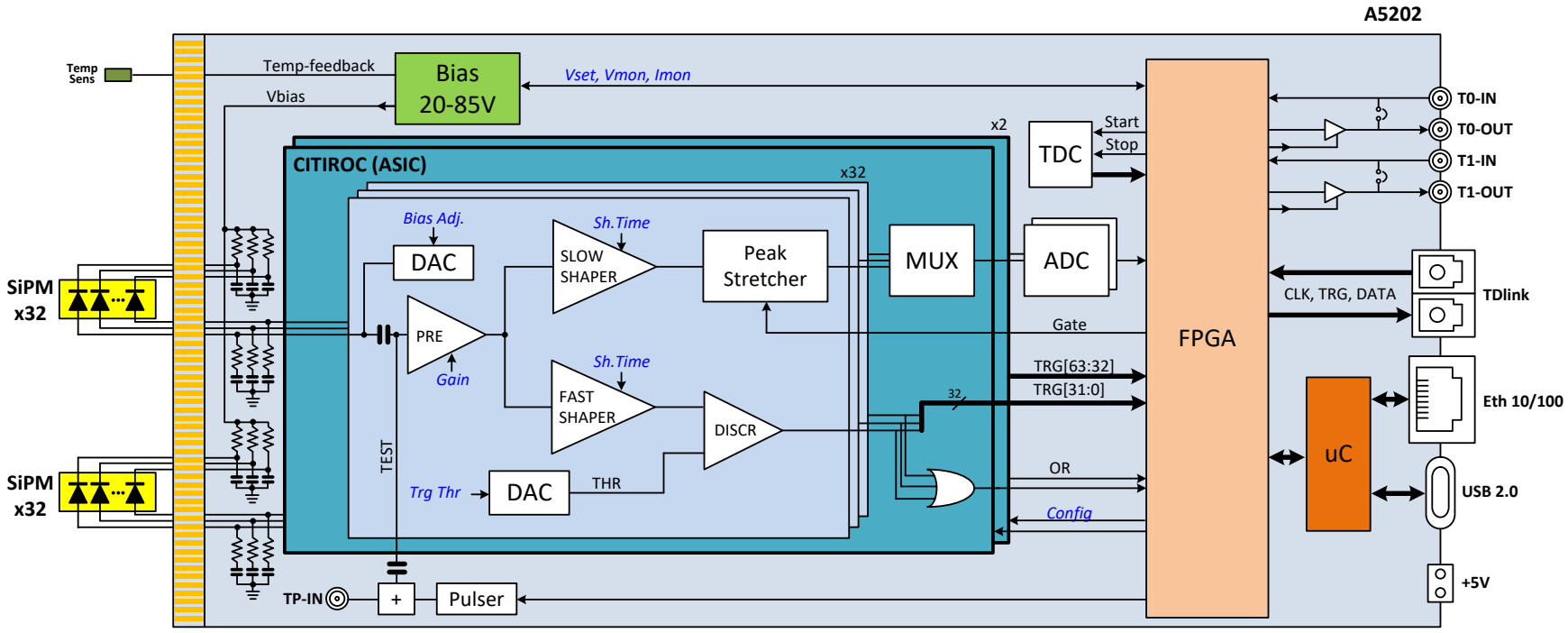


DETECTOR SPECIFIC COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Sampic:** 10 GS/s SCA waveform digitizer and ps TDC (LaL)
- **AARDVARC / ASOC:** 13 GS/s and 3.2 GS/s SCA waveform digitizer and ps TDC (Nalu Scientific)
- **picoTDC**: 5 ps TDC (CERN)
- **Hybrid Solutions**: FE in separate box, plug-in FERS with flash ADCs (e.g. 16 channel, 100 MS/s, 14 bit)
  - **A1442:** 16/32 channel preamp for Silicon Strip Detectors
  - **PADIFF**: 32 channel preamp for Neutron Detector
  - Detached FE-ASIC for cryogenic applications

A5202: 64 channel SiPM readout (Citiroc 1A)

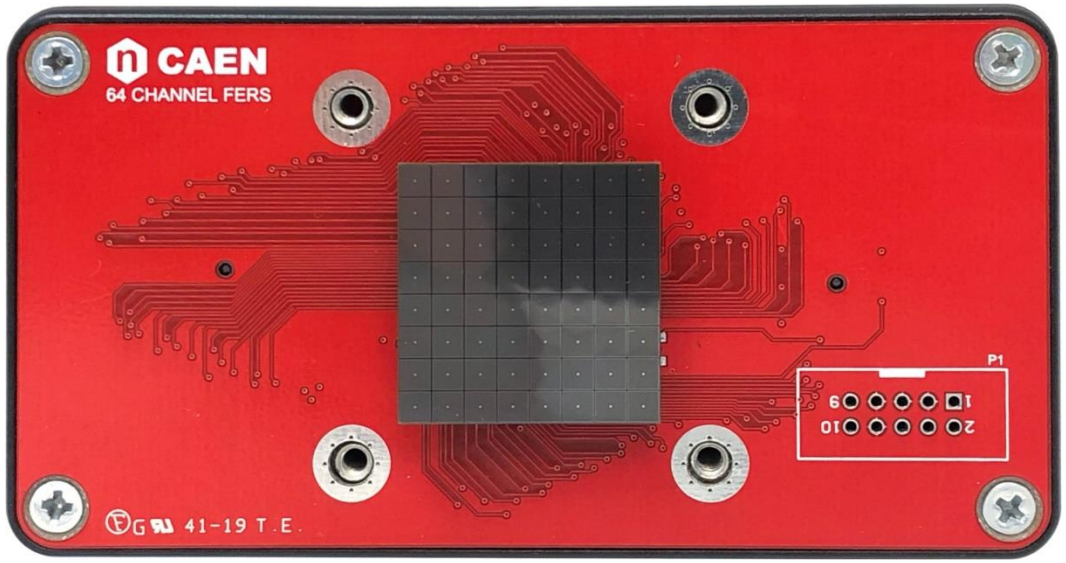
- Based on two ASICs **Citiroc 1A** (Weeroc): 64 channel SiPM readout
- Embedded HV bias (20-85V) with temperature feedback. Individual DACs for HV adjust (per channel)
- Programmable gain and shaping time for High Res PHA (Multiplexed A/D, max Trg Rate = 100 Kcps)
- Individual discriminator thresholds: down to 1/3 p.e.
- Discriminator outputs for high rate counting (20 Mcps), Time stamping (0.5 ns) and ToT (low res PHA)
- 50 ps TDC for high resolution time stamping of OR trigger (to an external time reference signal)
- Acquisition modes: photon counting, spectroscopy mode (PHA), list mode (channel ID + Tstamp + ToT)

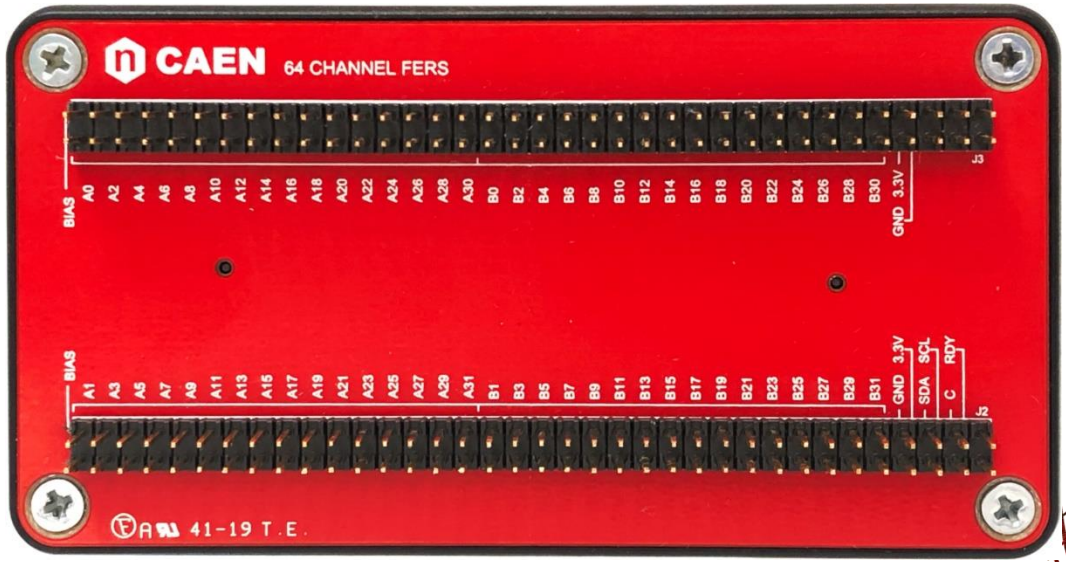


A5202: 64 channel SiPM readout (Citiroc 1A)

REAR PANEL: COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE

FRONT PANEL : EXCHANGABLE AND CUSTOMIZABLE





Acquisition Modes (for A5202)

- **Spectroscopy Mode (PHA)**:
  - A/D conversion of the pulse height (preamp + shaper + peak hold + mux + 14 bit ADC)
  - Common trigger (int. or ext.)
  - Zero suppression with programmable thresholds (read fired channels only)
  - Max trigger rate = 100 KHz (dead time = ~10 μs per trigger)
- **Counting Mode** (e.g. photon counting in SiPMs):
  - Counters fed by fast discriminator signals
  - Simultaneous latched at programmable time frames and saved to memory (MCS mode)
  - Counting rate up to ~20 Mcps/ch
- **Timing Mode** (List of Tstamps and/or Time over Threshold):
  - Independent hit recording: channel ID + timing (0.5 ns resolution)
  - Common start or common stop (T-ref signal from LEMO input)
  - Gating mode (coincidence with external gate)
  - Optionally, **ToT** (0.5 ns) provided for low resolution PHA: Charge Resolution = 1.5%
  - Max total hit rate = ~50 Mcps/board
- **Waveform Mode**:
  - Signal inspection: mux output waveform and control signals

Readout Modes

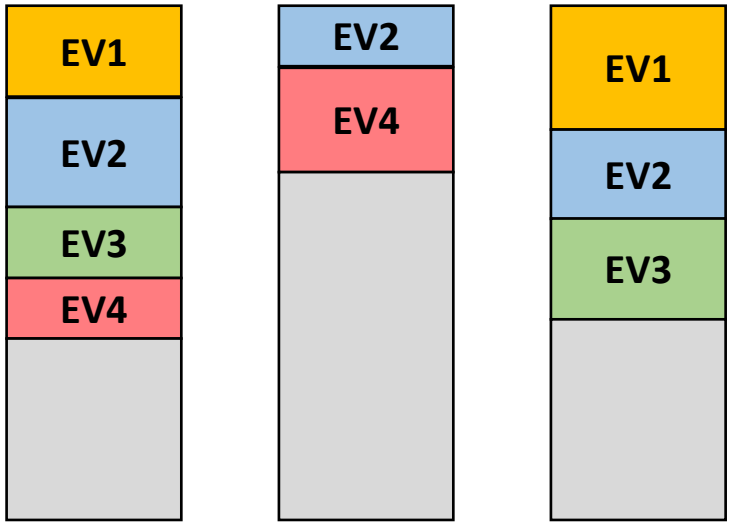
- **Common Trigger Mode**
  - **FERS units**: generate a trigger request (typically OR of channel discriminators)
  - **Data Concentrators**: receive and combine requests from all units and generate the **Global Trigger**
  - Triggers produce formatted data packets in the FERS units. Little local data buffering.
  - Data Concentrator reads data fragments belonging to the same event from FERS units (using Tstamp or Trigger-ID)
  - **Event Building** and data reduction takes place in the ARM processor of the Data Concentrator
- **Trigger-less Mode (independent channel acquisition)**
  - **FERS units**: each channel pushes data asynchronously, typically at different rates
  - Data aggregated in small packets in FERS units, then bigger packets in Data Concentrator
  - No trigger and data correlation in HW. Events reconstruction in DAQ.

- ARM processor running **Linux** and local DDR memory available in Data Concentrator
- High throughput data transfer to host computers via 10 GbE or USB 3.0
- Users can run custom routines for data handling in the embedded ARM

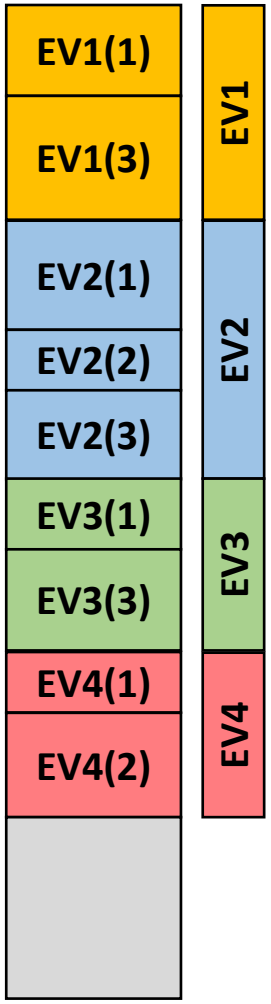
In-built sparse event readout



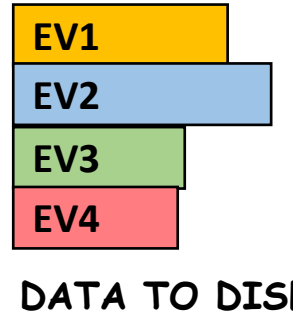
TRG 1, 2, 3, 4



TDlink



10 GbE



EVENT BUILDING in CONCENTRATOR

Sorting by Trigger ID or Time Stamp

CAEN Electronic Instrumentation
Tools for Discovery

40 YEARS OF INNOVATION 1979-2019

Thank You