

# PHOTONICS BRETAGNE

Hollow core fibre/cable for 6G

David Méchin, PhD

Director



centre de  
ressources  
technologiques



# PHOTONICS BRETAGNE

PHOTONICS INNOVATION HUB

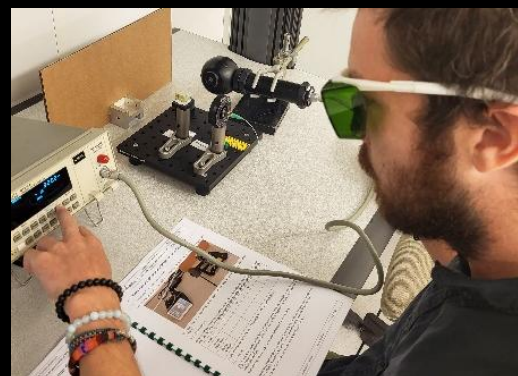


>20 years of expertise in **Photonic Crystal fibers**

## AN INNOVATIVE CLUSTER



**SECTOR  
COORDINATION**



**TRAINING**

## A TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM (RTO)



**SPECIALTY  
OPTICAL FIBRES**

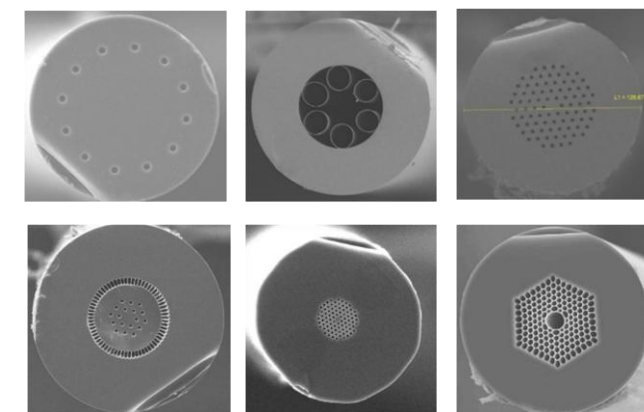
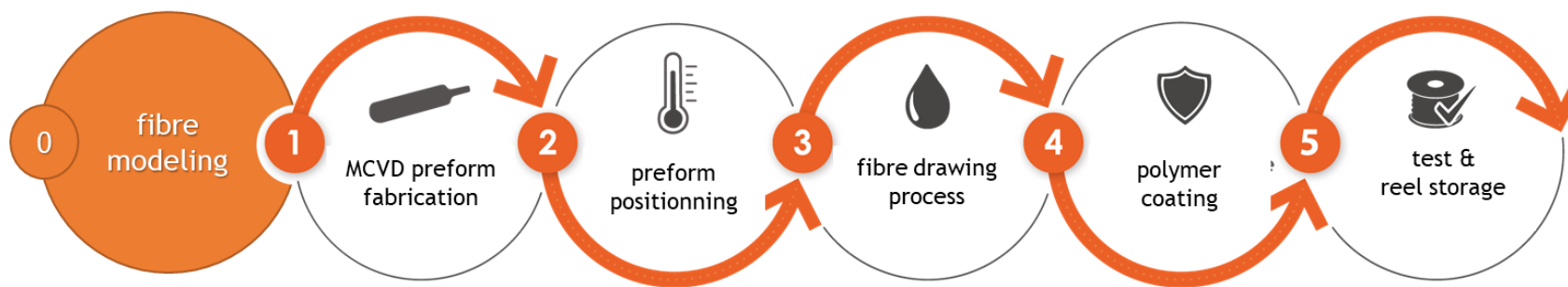
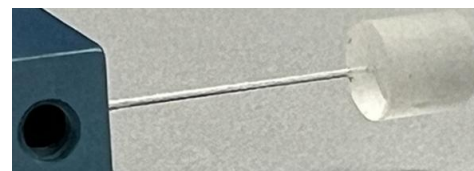


**BIOPHOTONICS**

# A RTO SPECIALISED IN OPTICAL FIBRES

CUSTOM SOLUTION FROM CONCEPTION TO INTEGRATION!

- A focus on PCF but also MCF, Active, custom coating, components...
- Active/passive fibers
- Different doping (Yb, Er, Bi, F, B, Ge...), Phase vapor deposition!
- Draw tower Bragg gratings
- Metal coated fibers
- Stress rods, Capillaries
- Tapers, MFA, Fan In/Out, End-Cap...
- Simulation, Characterization, Consulting...

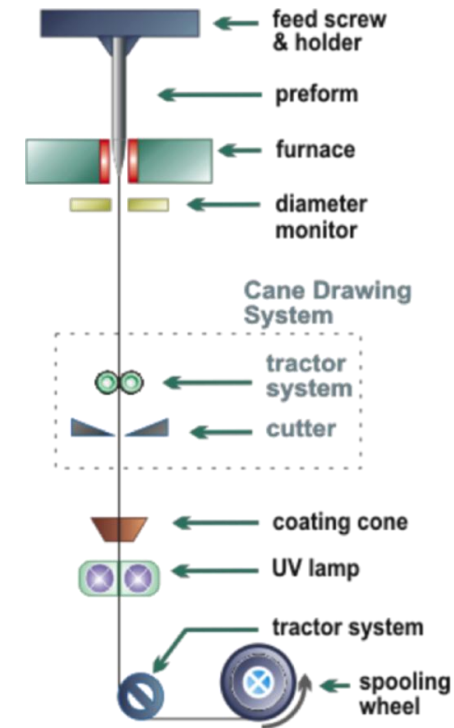


# OUR FACILITY

## MCVD/Phase vapor Lathe



## Drawing tower



Virtual tour: <https://photonics-bretagne.plateforme360.fr>

# OUR OFFER

## RTO PHOTONICS BRETAGNE: SPECIALTY OPTICAL FIBRES

### MICROSTRUCTURED FIBRES

#### SOLID-CORE

##### Supercontinuum | SUP \*

Supercontinuum and nonlinear wavelength conversion



- Optimised for pumping near 780 nm and 1060 nm
- Low background loss
- Small effective area
- High nonlinear coefficient

##### Endlessly Single-Mode | ESM

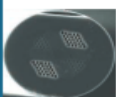
White light delivery



- Single-mode at all wavelengths
- Wavelength-independent mode-field diameter
- Available in polarisation-maintaining version

##### All-Solid ESM | ASM

White light delivery



- All-solid microstructured cladding
- Single-mode at all wavelengths
- Low nonlinearity
- Available in polarisation-maintaining version

##### Airclad | AFC

Power delivery, spectroscopy



- Multimode
- Ultra-high numerical aperture

#### HOLLOW-CORE

##### Photonic Bandgap | HCF

Gas detection



- Different transmission bands in Near-IR with low background loss
- Ultra-low nonlinearity
- High damage threshold
- >98% of the optical power in the core
- Ultra-low bend loss

##### Anti-Resonant | ARF

Low latency transmission, power delivery



- Various spectral transmission bands (700-3150 nm) with ultra-low dispersion
- High damage threshold
- ~99% of the optical power in the core
- Nearly single-mode guidance

#### CABLE

##### Hollow-Core Fibre Optic Cables

Low latency data transmission



- Large bandwidth transmission at 1310 nm, over the full C/L bands and beyond
- Low loss
- Easy integration into existing networks

### ACTIVE FIBRES

Passive version available on request

##### Ytterbium Doped | VLMA \*

Very Large Mode Area

High power ultra-fast pulsed fibre lasers/amplifiers



- All-solid step-index fibre
- Truly single-mode polarization maintaining behaviour with 750  $\mu\text{m}^2$  mode area
- Photodarkening-free silica matrix
- $\text{Cl}^-$  doping for  $\text{PM} > 7 \text{ dB/m}$



##### Bismuth Doped | BDF

Amplification in the O-Band



- Single mode fibre with Bismuth and Phosphorus codoping
- All-solid step index fibre design based on our all-vapor phase delivery process



### METAL COATED FIBRES

##### Aluminum Coated Fibres | AL

Sensing, amplifiers, lasers



- Multi/single-mode fibres with aluminium or carbon+copper coating
- Wide temperature range and water/hydrogen sealing barrier

\* Also plug-and-play modules available on request

### MULTICORE FIBRES

##### 2, 7, and 12 Cores | MCF

Sensing, telecom, lasers



- Excellent fibre geometry
- Passive, photosensitive, erbium or ytterbium doped cores

### COMPONENTS

##### Draw Tower Bragg Gratings

Temperature and strain sensors



- Single or multicore fibres
- Weak reflectivity
- Customisable FBG length and spacing

##### Boron Stress Rods

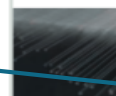
For polarisation maintaining fibres



- Highly doped
- Various core diameters and lengths

##### Capillaries

Combiners, biophotonics



- High precision homogeneous vertical drawing
- Pure or doped (fluorine, boron, germanium...) silica

Telecom applications

# ARF FIBERS



## MICROSTRUCTURED FIBRES ANTI-RESONANT HOLLOW CORE FIBRE



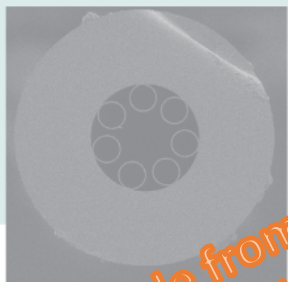
04/2021

### Applications

#### Main characteristics

- High damage threshold
- Nearly single mode guidance
- Ultra low dispersion in the transmission bands

- Low latency data transmission
- Gas-filled AR hollow core fibre laser
- Molecular tracing, gas detection
- High power delivery for pico- and sub-picoseconds optical pulses

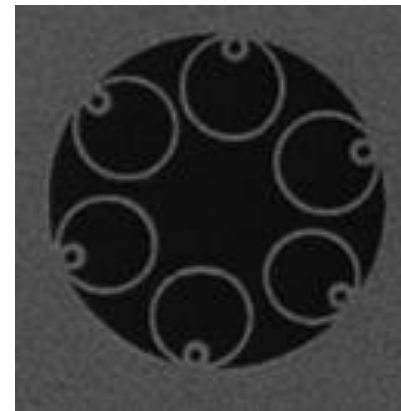


Optical signal in a hollow core anti-resonant fibre propagates in an air core surrounded by single ring of anti-resonant tube elements. Guidance is based on an anti-resonance from the thin glass membranes constituted by the non-touching tubes surrounding the hollow core. The extremely low overlap of guided power with the surrounding silica, less than  $2 \times 10^{-5}$ , added to the mode effective area, confers to this fibre design record material non-linearity.

ARF available from  
700nm to 4µm!

#### Fibre specifications

| Fibre type<br>Optimised for                  | ARF-40-240<br>750 nm transmission | ARF-33-160<br>1064 nm transmission | ARF-45-240<br>1550 nm transmission | ARF-40-230<br>2 µm transmission | ARF-120-400<br>3 µm transmission |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Optical parameters</b>                    |                                   |                                    |                                    |                                 |                                  |
| Attenuation (dB/km)                          | <50 @ 750 nm                      | < 50 @ 1064 nm                     | < 35 @ 1550 nm                     | < 80 @ 2 µm                     | <70 @ 3µm                        |
| Transmission bandwidth (nm)<br>(< 100 dB/km) | 700 - 915                         | 1000 - 1350                        | 1450 - 1750                        | 1600 - 2200                     | 2900 - 3150                      |
| Mode field diameter (µm)                     | 29 @ 750 nm                       | 26 @ 1064 nm                       | 37 @ 1550 nm                       | 33.5 @ 2 µm                     | 90 @ 3µm                         |
| Dispersion (ps/nm/km)                        | ~0.8 @ 750 nm                     | ~ 2 @ 1064 nm                      | ~ 1 @ 1550 nm                      | ~ 2 @ 2 µm                      | ~0.8 @ 3µm                       |
| Mode overlap with core                       | > 99.99 %                         |                                    |                                    |                                 |                                  |
| Numerical aperture                           | ~0.02                             | ~ 0.03                             |                                    |                                 |                                  |
| HOM suppression (dB)                         | N.A.                              | 10 (after 3 m)                     | 10 (after 5 m)                     | > 25 (after 3 m)                | N.A.                             |
| 3 dB Bend loss radius (cm)                   | 4 +/- 1 @ 750 nm                  | 4 +/- 1 @ 1064 nm                  | 6 +/- 1 @ 1550 nm                  | 8 +/- 1 @ 2 µm                  | 11 +/- 1 @ 3µm                   |
| <b>Physical/Material parameters</b>          |                                   |                                    |                                    |                                 |                                  |
| Fibre material                               | Air Core                          |                                    |                                    |                                 |                                  |
| Core diameter (µm)                           | 38 +/- 2                          | 33 +/- 2                           | 46 +/- 2                           | 40 +/- 2                        | 119 +/- 2                        |
| Cladding diameter (µm)                       | 71 +/- 3                          | 66 +/- 3                           | 99 +/- 3                           | 105 +/- 3                       | 233 +/- 3                        |



Also NANF  
Design...

### Advantages:

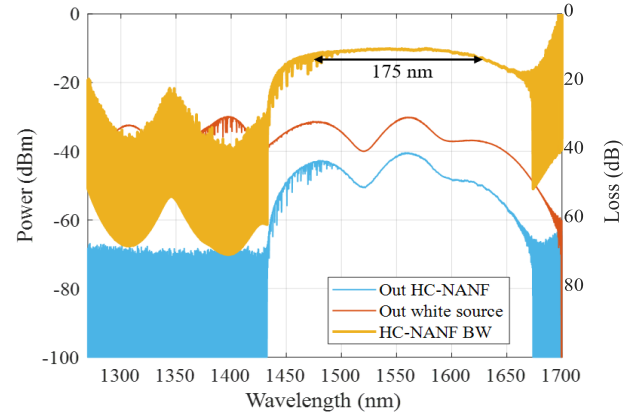
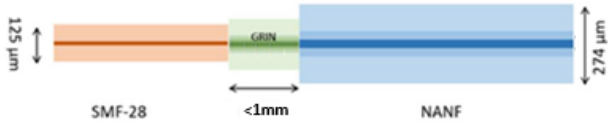
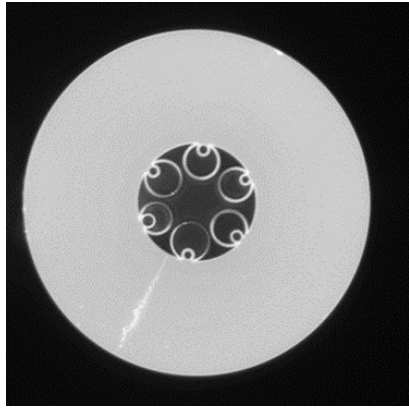
- Higher propagation speed → -30% latency
- Low nonlinearities → High power capacity
- Low material & waveguide dispersion
- Loss now lower than standard telecom fibers!

### Challenges:

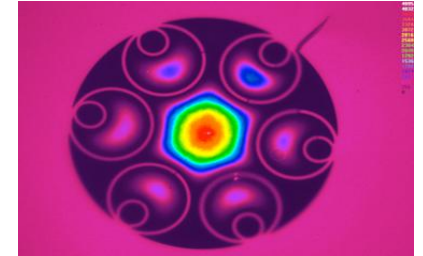
- Complex design
- Difficult manipulation, coupling...
- Expensive
- More IP than standard fibers...

# COLLABORATION WITH ORANGE

## HOLLOW CORE FOR 6G



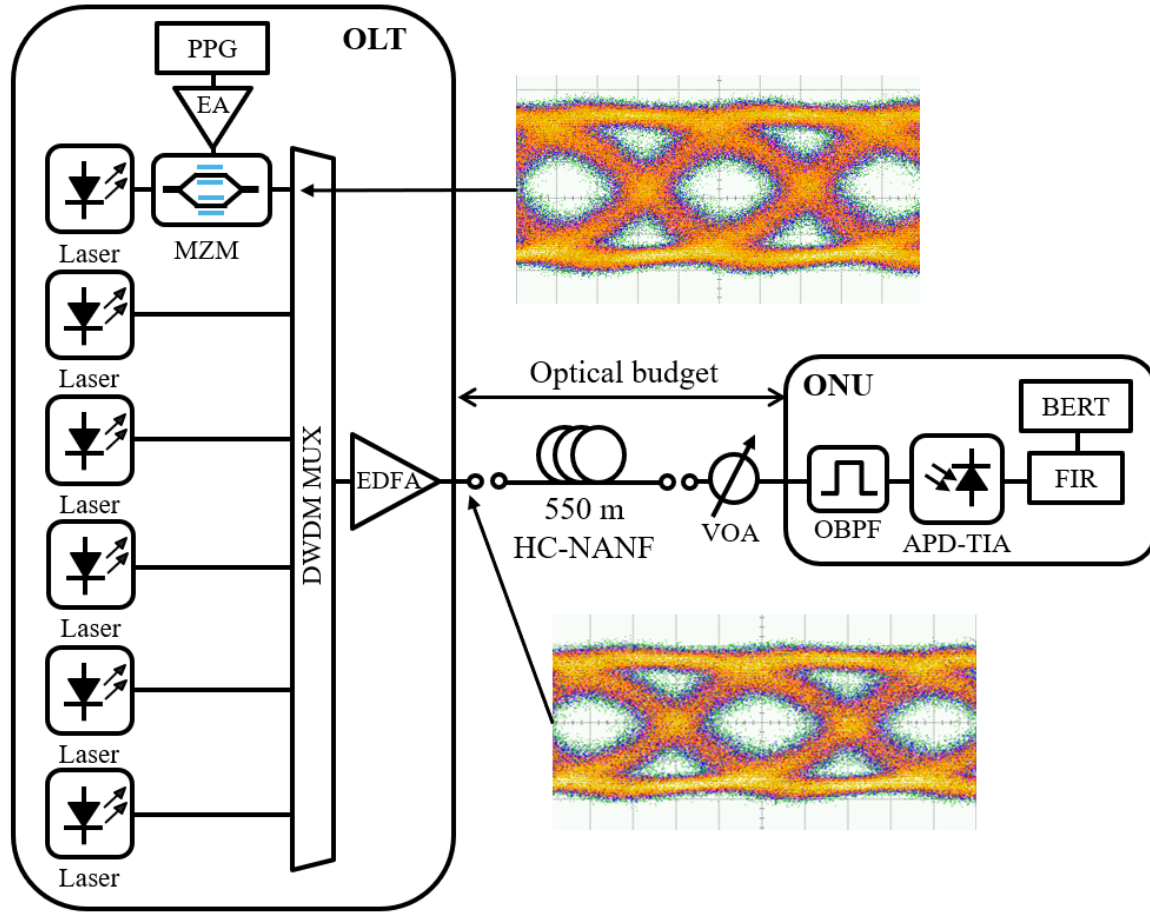
3 dB optical bandwidth centered at 1550 nm: 175nm



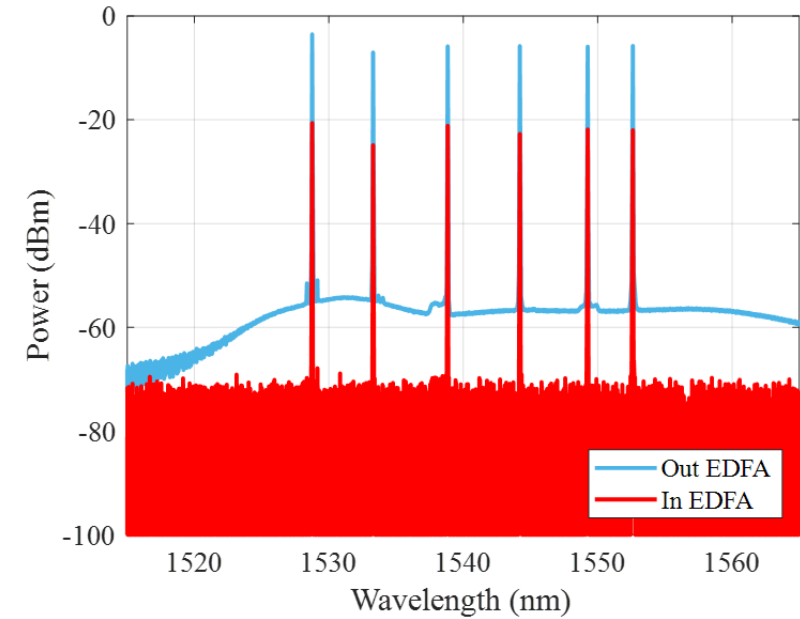
- **6G will require high bitrates and low latency optical link.**
- Hollow core fiber allows **low latency transmission** (3,3  $\mu\text{s}/\text{km}$  vs 5  $\mu\text{s}/\text{km}$  for standard single mode fiber) and high launched power enabling **high power budget link**.
- **Very high bitrate transmission** was already demonstrated in hollow core fiber.

# COLLABORATION WITH ORANGE

## HOLLOW CORE FOR 6G



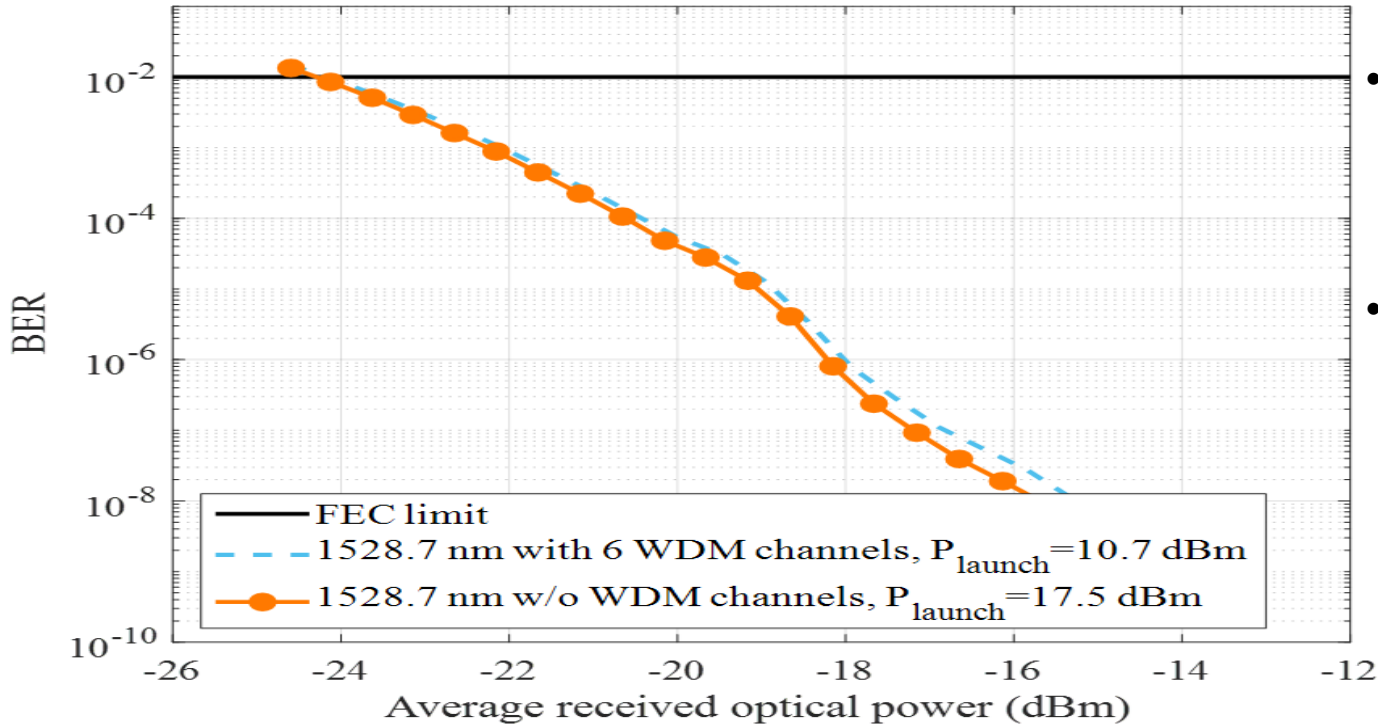
WDM experimental setup



- Six lasers and a DWDM MUX (~4 nm spacing).
- An OBPF (4 nm) is used to select a channel.
- < 4 dB WDM grid flatness.

# COLLABORATION WITH ORANGE

## HOLLOW CORE FOR 6G



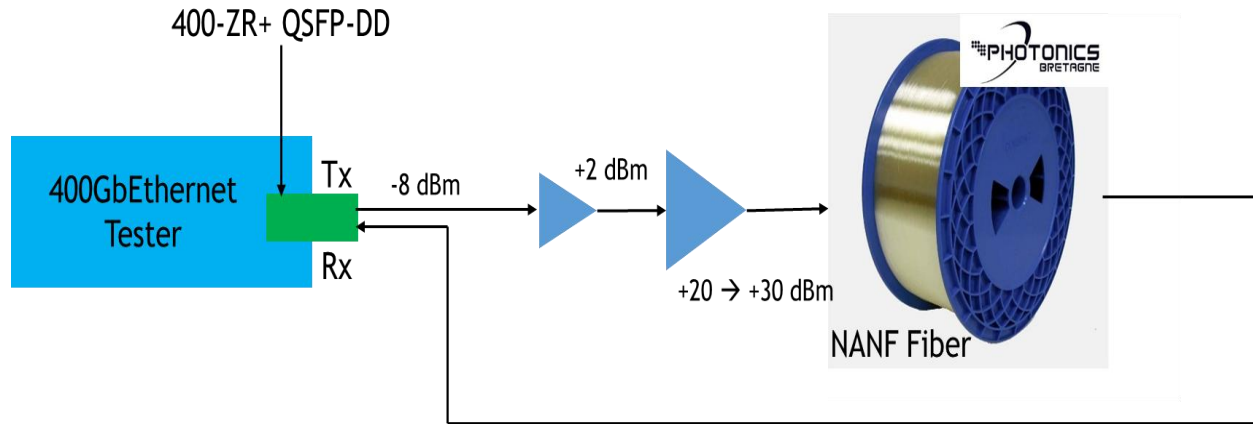
- Sensitivity of the receiver is not affected by the presence of the other channels.
- **WDM operation** implies sharing of the gain of the EDFA among all the channel -> Per channel launch power reduction.

A real time **single wavelength and WDM transmission in 50 Gbit/s NRZ-OOK (C-Band) through a 550m long HC-NANF** was demonstrated.

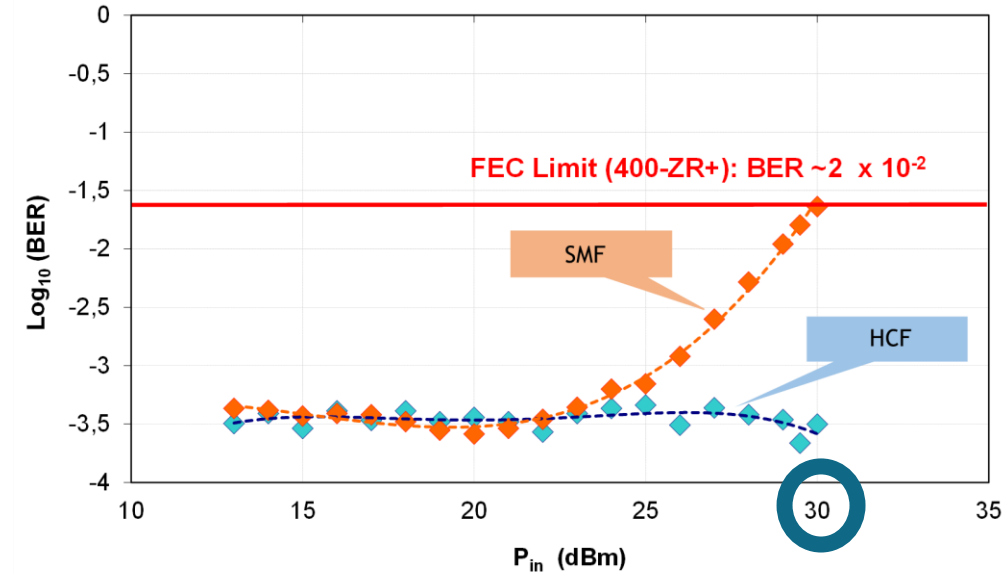
**Bidirectionnal transmission at 100Gbit/s in the O-Band** also demonstrated in a different fiber!

# COLLABORATION WITH ORANGE

## HIGH POWER 400GBIT/S TRANSMISSION FOR LONG HAUL



Single wavelength experimental setup with 550m of NANF fiber



- Power Signal ↗, OSNR ↗, Nonlinearity →
- Much higher power budget possible with HCF!

# COLLABORATION WITH ORANGE

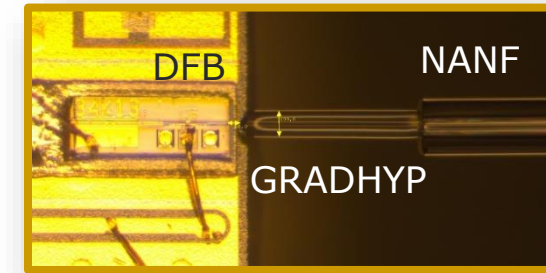
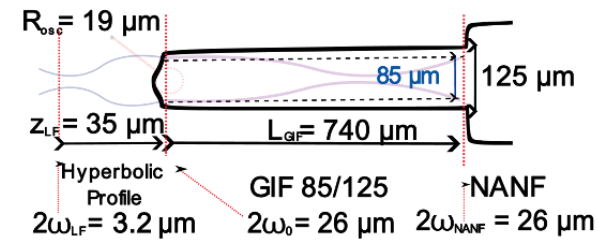
## REDUCING COUPLING LOSS WITH HYPERBOLIC MICRO-LENS



Coupling light directly from a small MFD (3  $\mu\text{m}$ ) source (DFB) within the O-band (1310 nm) to a NANF (MFD:26 $\mu\text{m}$ ).

### Thanks to an hyperbolic profile (GRADHYP):

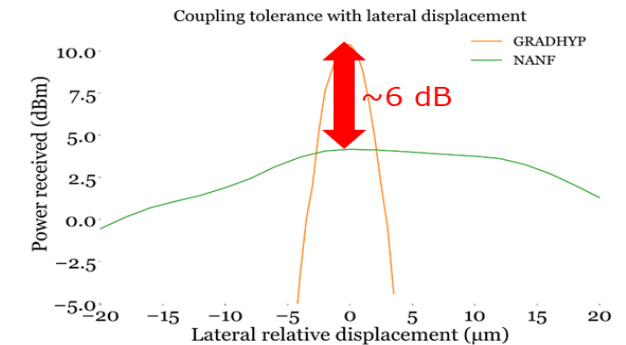
- Adapting two very different MFD.
- Recover a flat wavefront.
- Practical working distance ( $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$ ) instead of contact.
- Ideal hyperbolic profiles are free of spherical aberrations.
- Compact size ( $< 1 \text{ mm}$ ), not necessary to add an SMF section.



Coupling laser to GRADHYP



Final hyperbolic profile at GIF section + NANF.



**GRADHYP improves by 6 dB** the coupling efficiency compare to bare coupling.

Additionally, the **back reflections on GRADHYP are very low** ( $< 50 \text{ dB}$ )

**Suitable for integration** within the laser chip.

Power received after NANF butt-coupling: 4.2 dBm ( $IL_{\text{NANF}} = 9 \text{ dB}$ ).  
Power received after GRADHYP: 10.3 dBm ( $IL_{\text{GHYP}} = 3.3 \text{ dB}$ ).

# ARF PARHCORD/CABLE

## OUR FULLY CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS!



### CABLES

#### HOLLOW-CORE FIBRE OPTIC CABLES



IDIL and Photonics Bretagne launch a new range of anti-resonant hollow-core fibre optic cables. They combine low latency data transmission, high bandwidth connections and low loss; three features highly sought after by high frequency trading.



Product line **PERFOX**

#### MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

- Low latency data transmission
- High bandwidth transmission
- Easy to integrate into existing networks
- Custom lengths, number of fibres, connectors...

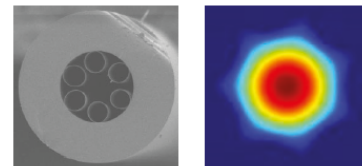
#### APPLICATIONS

- Telecom & 5G mobile networks
- Financial trading
- Data centre
- Cloud computing
- Quantum communication

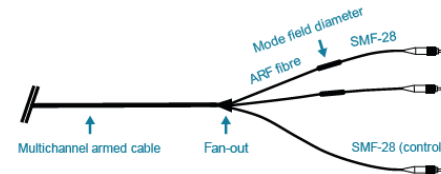
| CABLE SPECIFICATIONS             | Hollow-core cables         |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Operating Temperature Range (°C) | -40 to +60                 |
| Traction (N)                     | 1000                       |
| Loss @ 1550nm (dB/km)            | < 10                       |
| Transmission L=100m (Gb/s NRZ)   | 10                         |
| Inter Server Distance            | From few meters to kms     |
| Light Speed Gain (µs/km)         | + 17 <sup>(1)</sup>        |
| Cable and Termination            | For indoor and outdoor use |

<sup>(1)</sup> 50 % faster than in solid core fibres

#### ARF : Anti-Resonant Fibres

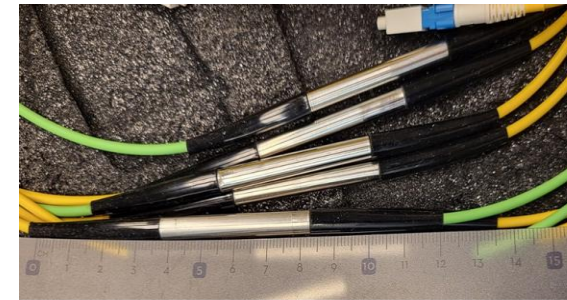
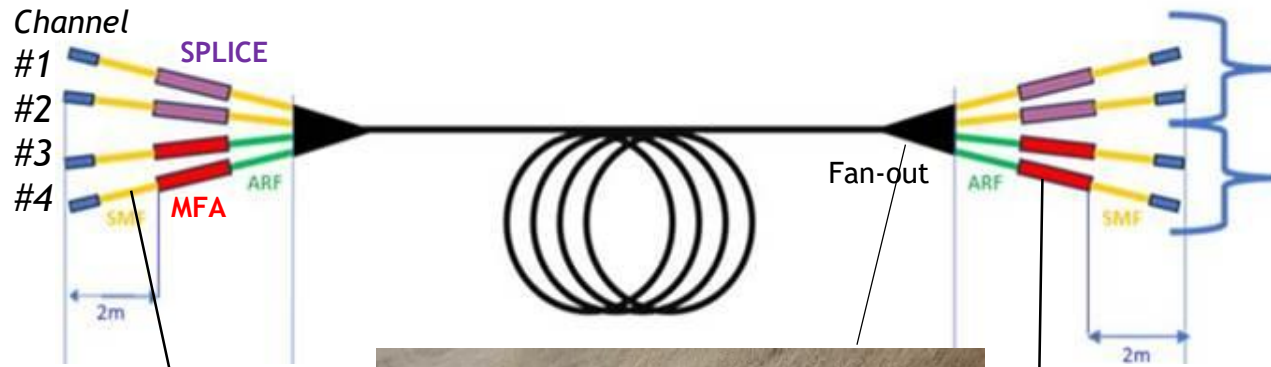


#### Example of fibre terminations

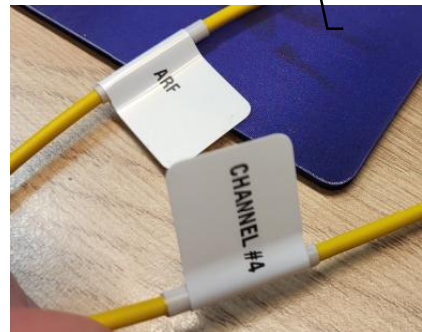


# ARF PARHCORD/CABLE

OUR LAST 4-FIBER 50M-CABLE!



- Integrating 2 SMF and 2 ARF
- L: 50m, Dcable: 7mm
- Tensile Strength >1000N
- Crush Load >400N/dm
- Operating Bending Radius > 250mm
- 4 LC/PC connectors on each end
- Typical Loss: 3dB on the ARF channels



# ARF PARHCORD/CABLE

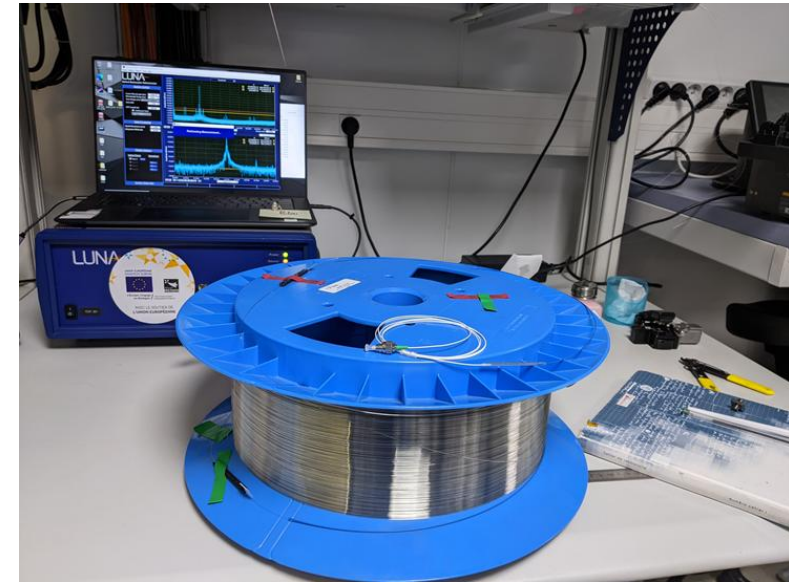
## LATENCY MEASUREMENT

|        |       |     |       |
|--------|-------|-----|-------|
|        | SMF   | ARF |       |
| Length | 48,9  | 0   | 48,9  |
| Index  | 1,462 | 1   |       |
| Time   | 238,3 | 0,0 | 238,3 |

SMF Channel

|        |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|
|        | SMF   | ARF   |       |
| Length | 4,2   | 44,7  | 48,9  |
| Index  | 1,462 | 1     |       |
| Time   | 20,5  | 149,0 | 169,5 |

ARF+ SMF Channel



**69ns faster on the ARF+SMF channel over 50m!**

# Booth C1404



# THANKS

## FOR YOUR ATTENTION !



4 rue Louis de Broglie  
22300 Lannion | FRANCE



[fibre@photonics-bretagne.com](mailto:fibre@photonics-bretagne.com)

