

# openPET

## Second User's Group Meeting

[Welcome & Overview](#)  
[Hardware Status & Plans](#)  
[Software Status & Plans](#)  
[Event Data Transfer](#) [Video](#)  
[Source Code Management](#)  
[U. Manitoba OpenPET Projects](#)  
[UC Davis OpenPET Projects](#)

*Bill Moses*  
*Seng Choong*  
*Qiyu Peng*  
*Leonid Lamwertz*  
*Martin Judenhofer*  
*Andrew Goertzen*  
*Simon Cherry*



November 1, 2012

# openPET Concept

- Nuclear Medicine Research Community Needs “Industrial Strength” Electronics
- Needs Can Be Met By a Single, *Flexible* Design!
  - Heavy Use of FPGAs
  - Highly Programmable Electronics
- By Sharing and Modifying Code, Community Avoids Duplication of Effort



**Everybody Wins if We Pool Our Efforts**

# openPET Vision

## **Open Source**

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- Hardware, Firmware, and Software
- Schematics, Gerbers, BOM,...

## **Standardized Architecture**

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- Compatible Alternate Hardware
- Software Readily Transportable

## **Active User Community**

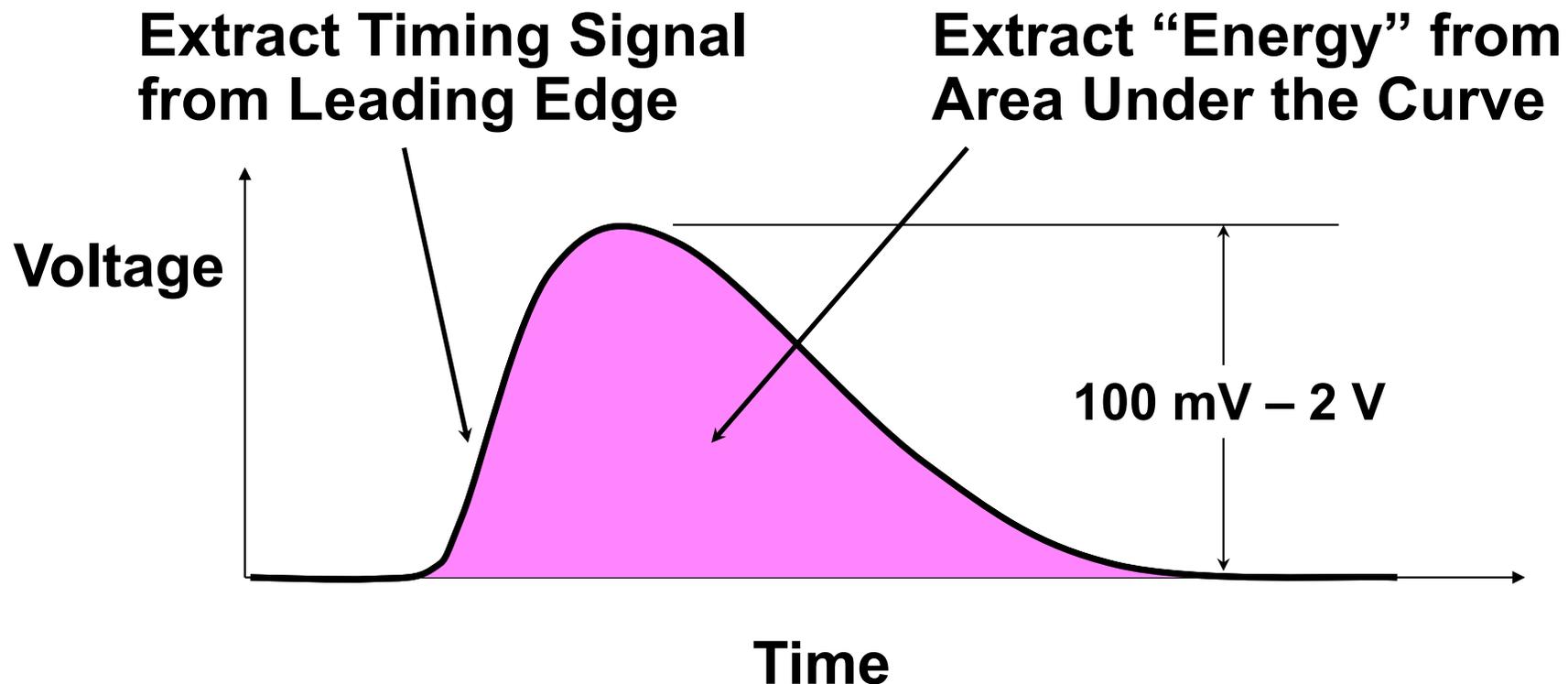
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- Share Software and Expertise
- Module, Calibration, DAQ, Display,...



**OpenPET is the GATE of  
Nuclear Medical Imaging Electronics**

## All Detector Outputs Look the Same



- **Tremendous Variation in How Outputs Are Combined**  
⇒ **Digitize, Then Combine Outputs in Firmware**

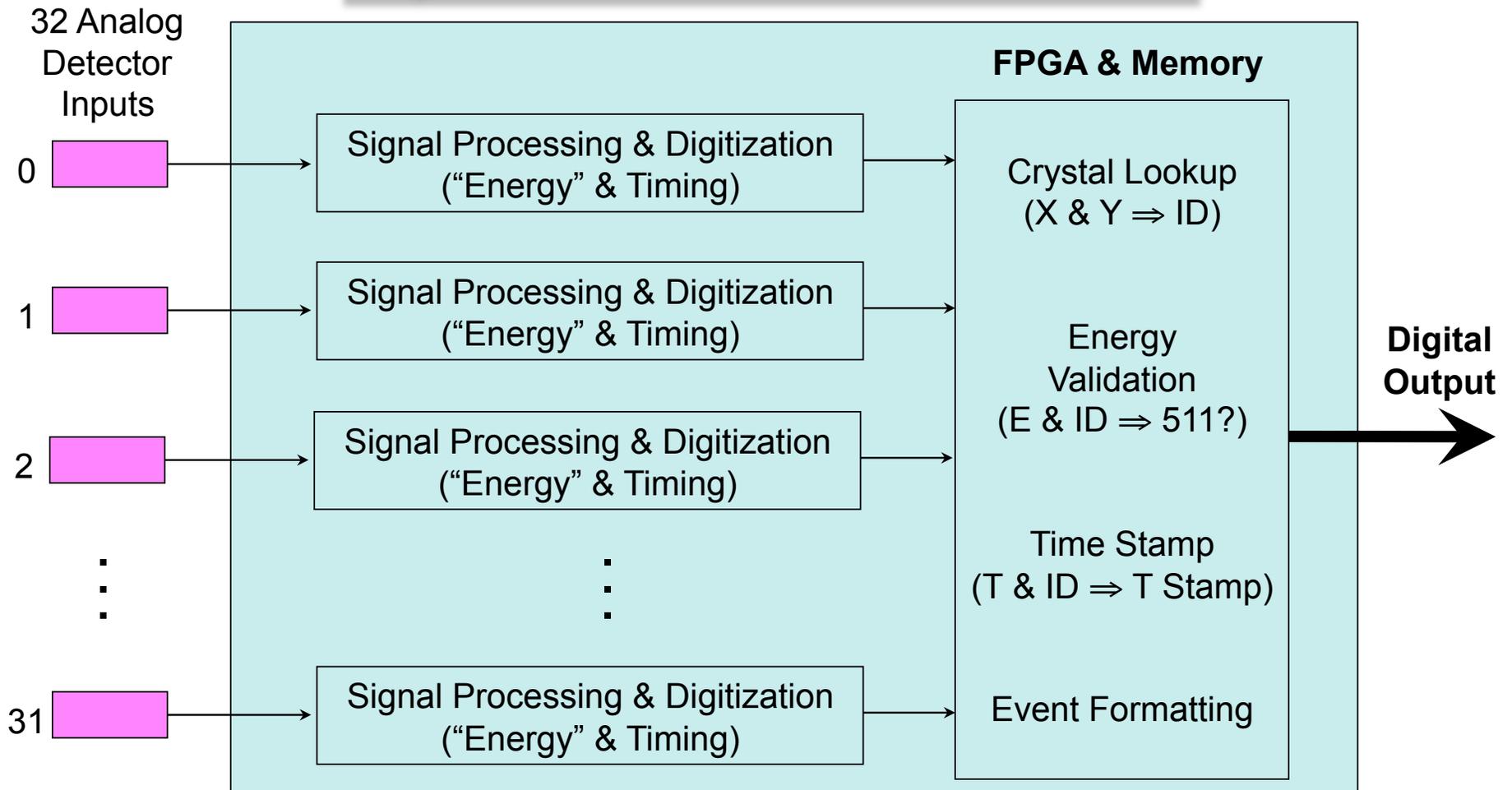
# Needs Met With Three Pieces of Hardware

**Detector  
Board**

**Support Crate**

**Coincidence  
Interface  
Board**

# OpenPET Detector Board



**All Inputs Have Individual Signal Processing**

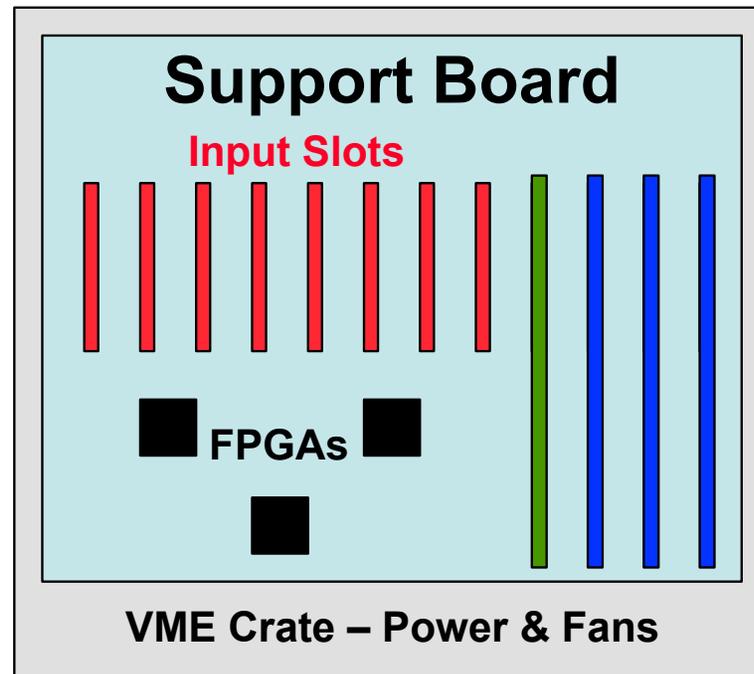
# OpenPET Support Crate

## Support Board

- 3 FPGA's
- Microprocessor
- 8 Input Slots
- 1 Output Slot
- 3 Adapter Slots

## “VME” Crate

- Mechanical Support
- Power
- Fans



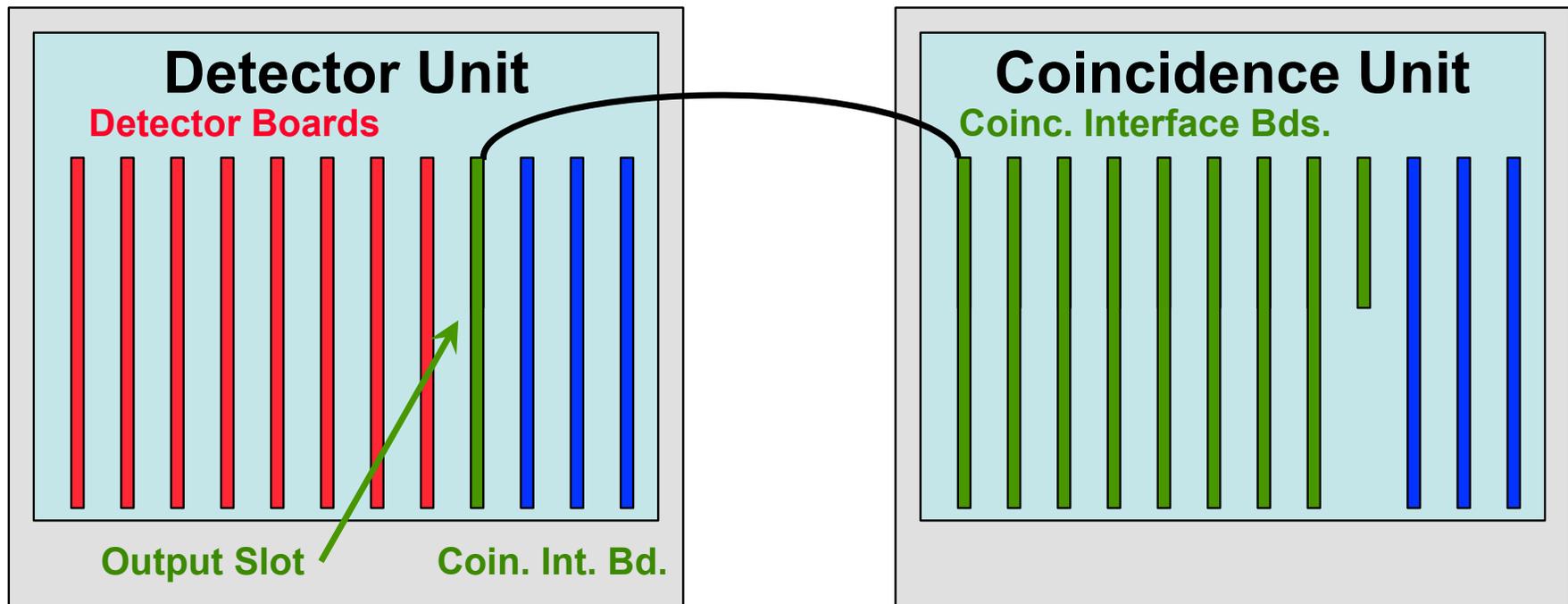
Output &  
Adapter  
Slots

- ## Output & Adapter Boards
- Coinc. Interface
  - PC Interface
  - User IO
  - Debugging

## Support Crate

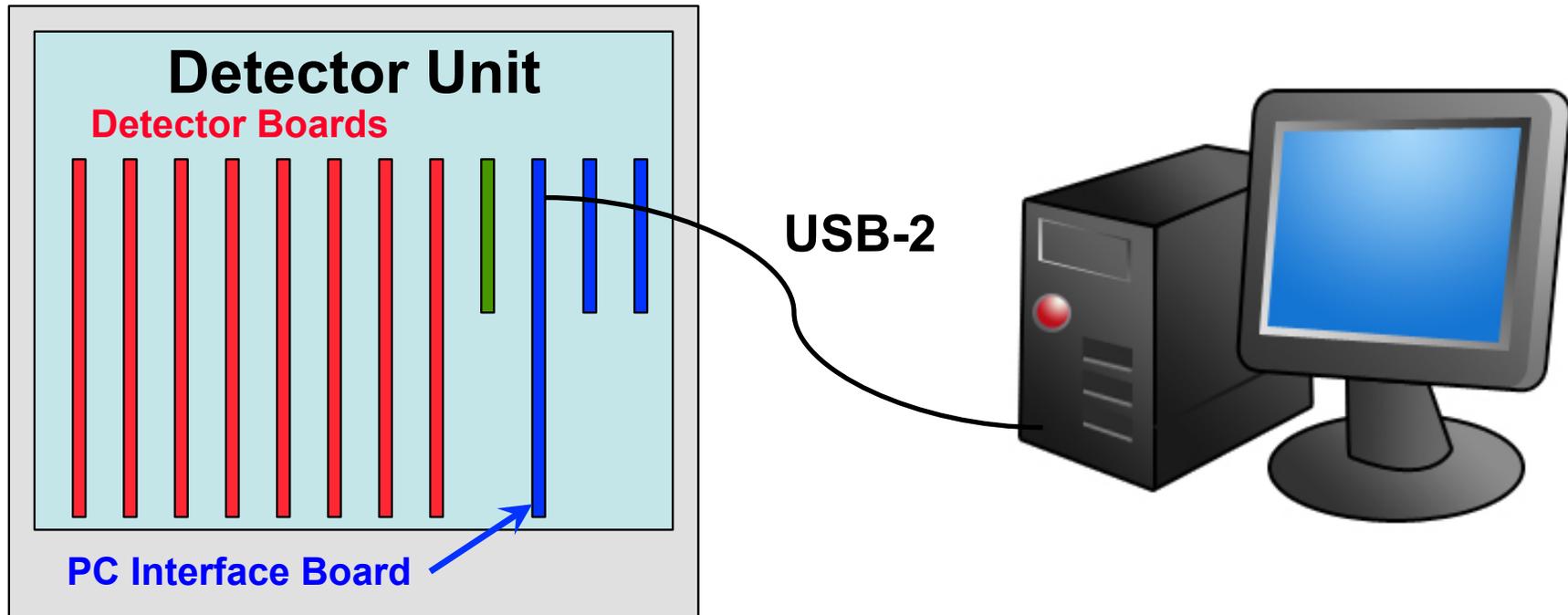
- Support Board Resembles a PC Motherboard
- Support Crate Resembles VME Crate

# OpenPET Coincidence Interface Board



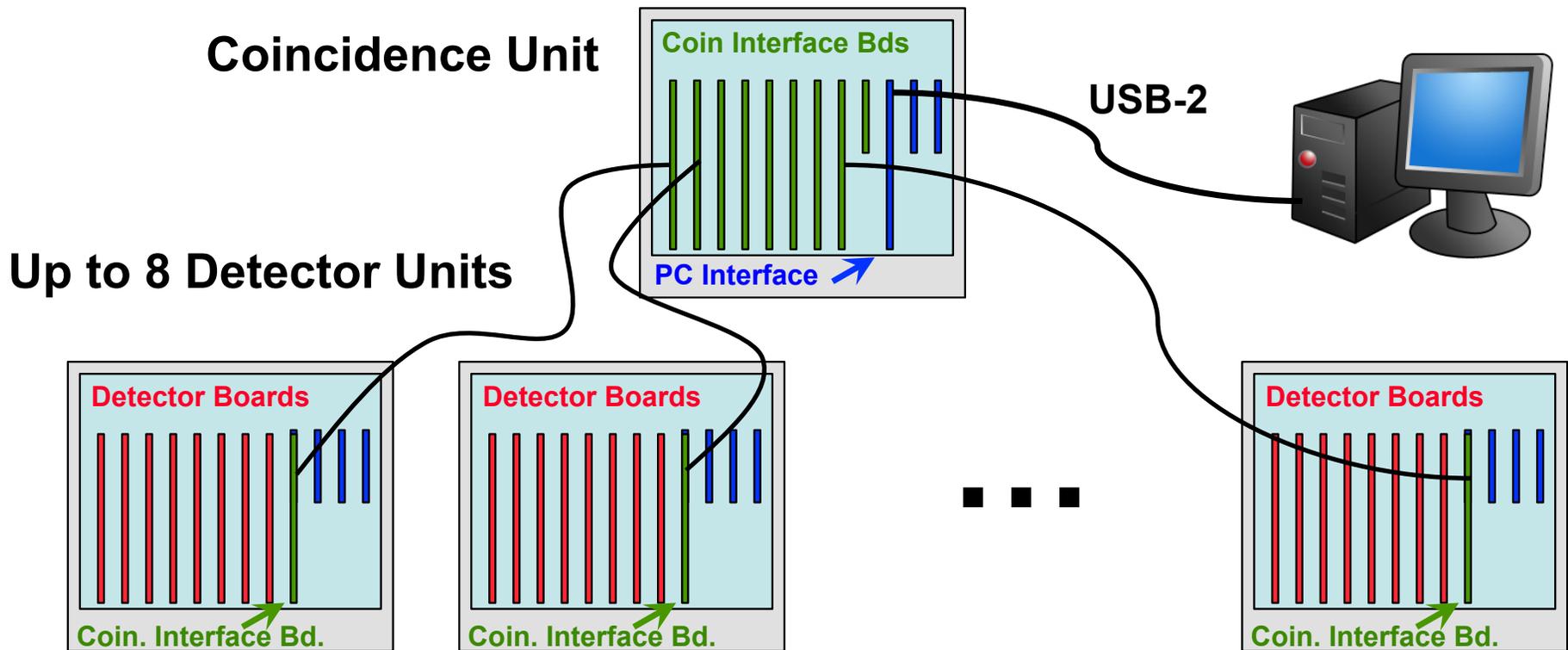
- **Detector Unit: Support Crate w/ Detector Boards**
- **Coinc. Interface Bd.: Adapter from Support Crate to Cable**
- **Coincidence Unit: Support Crate w/ Coinc. Interface Bds.**

# Small System



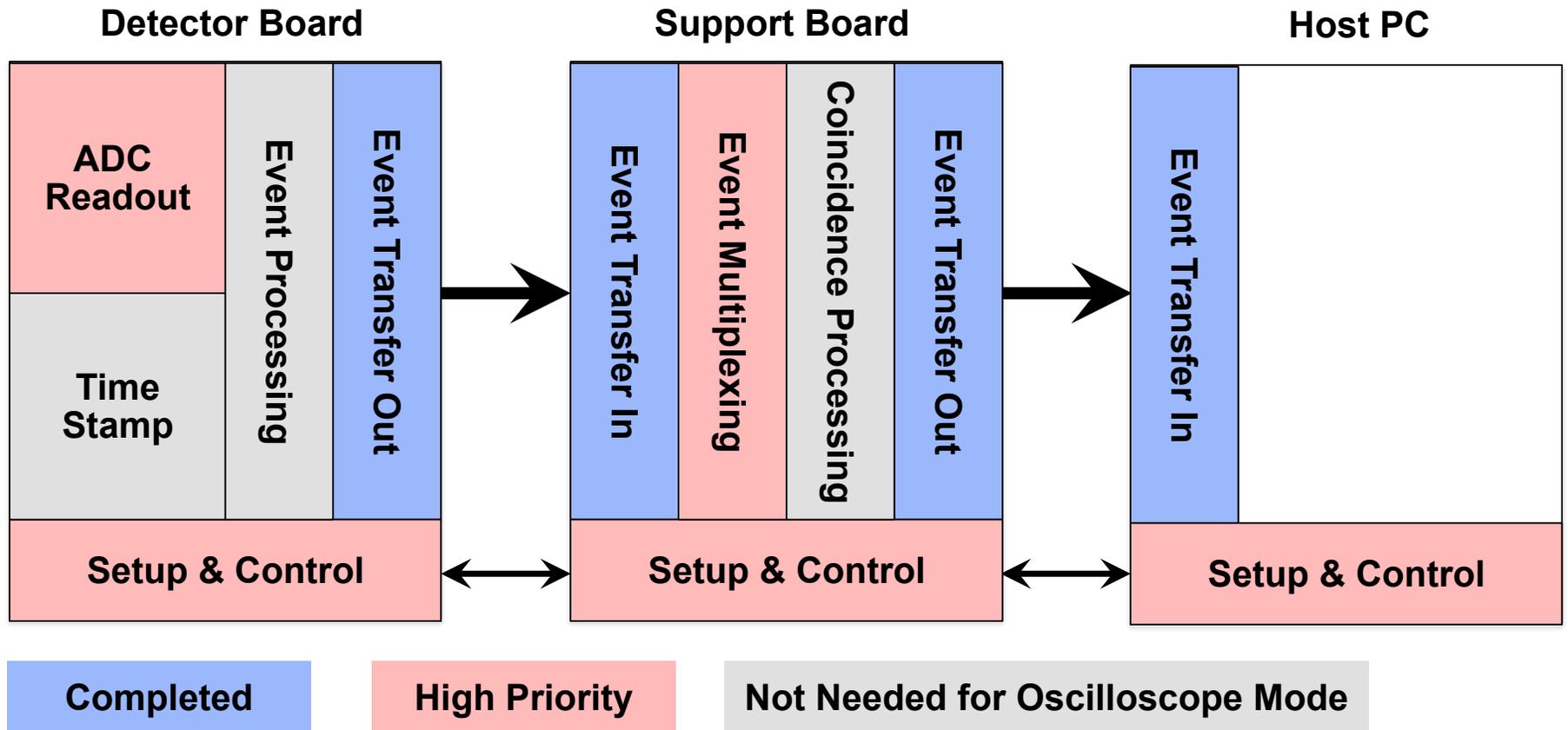
- **1 Support Crate, Up To Eight Detector Boards**
- **Up to 256 Analog Inputs (64 Block Detectors)**
  - **PC Interface Board Connects to PC**

# Large System



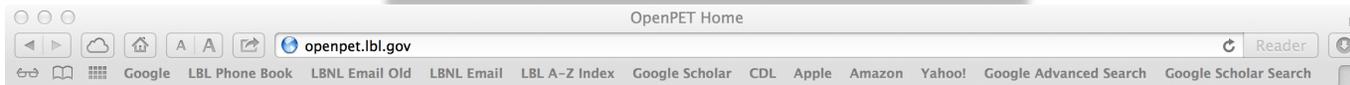
- Up To Eight Detector Units, 1 Coincidence Unit
- Up to 2048 Analog Inputs (512 Block Detectors)
  - PC Interface Board Connects to PC

# Firmware / Software



- **First Milestone: “Oscilloscope Mode” for Small System**
- **Two Sets of Data: Events (one way) and Control (two way)**

# Documentation



# openPET

General Purpose Readout Electronics for Radionuclide Imaging

[Home](#) [What's New](#) [About](#) [Documentation](#) [Source Code](#) [Users](#) [Contact Us](#)

## OpenPET is...

- **Electronics:** It is an electronics system consisting of circuit boards, firmware and software for people who are building prototype PET and SPECT imagers.
- **High Performance:** The timing resolution, spatial resolution, energy resolution and throughput will be limited by your detectors rather than the electronics.
- **Flexible:** Virtually any kind of detector, camera configuration and event word definition will be supported.
- **Scalable:** Virtually any size imager will be supported, from a single detector to thousands of detectors.
- **Modifiable:** FPGAs are used extensively, so changes can generally be made via software (rather than having to make new circuit boards).
- **Open Source:** Source code for the firmware and software will be publically available, as well as all the documentation needed to make the circuit boards.
- **User Friendly:** Our goal is to make it easy for you to use these electronics for your imager. Documentation and instructions will be provided. We also hope to develop a user community that will share both code and expertise
- **Making Progress:** We have designed, built and tested the Support Crate. We also have a preliminary Detector Board design. We expect to have a complete OpenPET electronics system by 2013.
- **In Need of YOUR Input:** We want comments and suggestions on our specification from potential users. We want to

<http://OpenPET.LBL.gov>

# Documentation

OpenPET Documentation Board Manufacturing for Support Crate

openpet.lbl.gov/documentation.html

General Specifications

- [Specifying an OpenPET System](#)
- [OpenPET Components and Parts](#)
- [OpenPET Specification](#)
- [OpenPET TNS Publication](#)

Presentations

- [Early Adopters User Meeting, May 2012](#)

**Board Manufacturing: Support Crate**

The zip files below include a complete and consistent set of all documentation

- Support Board**
  - [Support Board Schematic](#)
  - [Support Board Test Plan](#)
  - [Support Board Zip](#)
- User IO Board**
  - [User IO Board Schematic](#)
  - [User IO Board Zip](#)
- PC Interface Board**
  - [PC Interface Board Schematic](#)
  - [PC Interface Board Zip](#)

Debugging Board

- [Debugging Board Schematic](#)
- [Debugging Board Zip](#)

Extender Board

- [Extender Board Schematic](#)
- [Extender Board Zip](#)

Loopback Boards

- [Loopback Board Slot 0-7 Schematic](#)
- [Loopback Board Slot 8-9 Schematic](#)
- [Loopback Board Slot 10 Schematic](#)
- [Loopback Board Slot 11 Top Schematic](#)
- [Loopback Board Slot 11 Bottom Schematic](#)
- [Loopback Boards Zip](#)

Crate

- [Quotation for Crate](#)

**Documentation Section Significantly Increased**

# Status

## Detector Board

- **Behind Schedule—See Seng's Presentation**

## Support Board

- **Completed, Available for Purchase**

## Coincidence Interface Board

- **Not Started, Only Needed for Large System**
- **Easy, Cable Definition is Main Question**

## Software / Firmware

- **Partially Complete—See Qiyu's Presentation**

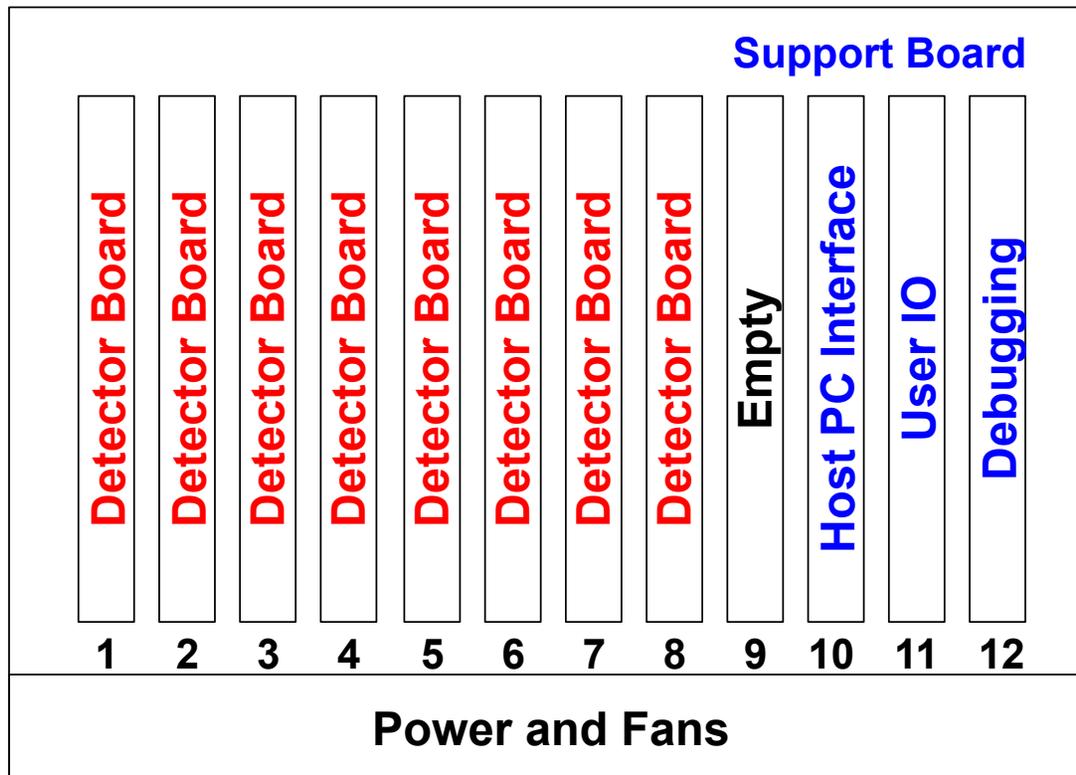
## User Community / Support

- **Early Stages**

- **LOTS of Progress Since Last Meeting**
- **Progress Will Be Even Faster If We Get NIH Funding...**

# OpenPET Hardware

## Detector Unit



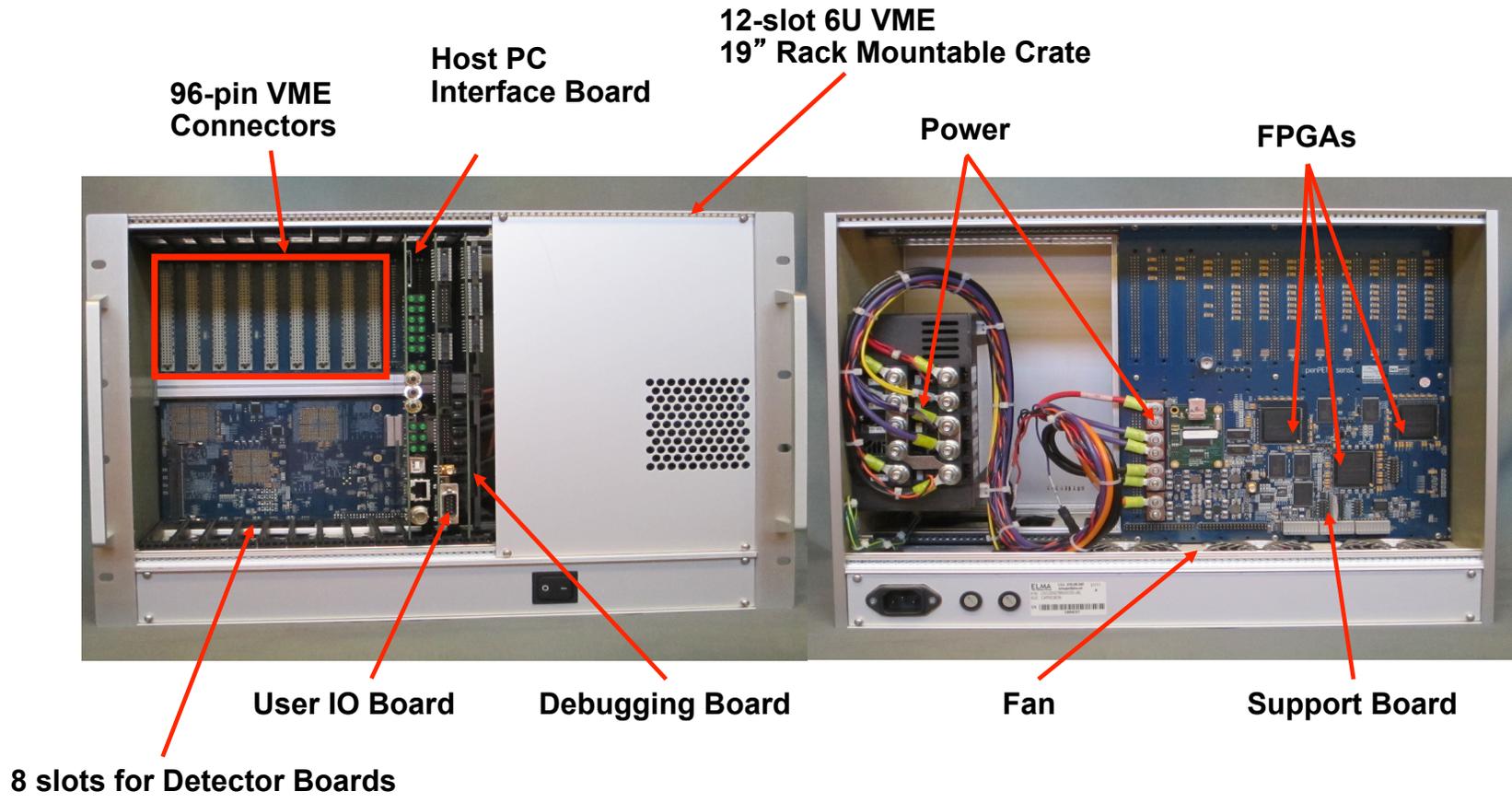
### VME crate, Support Board, Host PC Interface, User IO, Debugging

- Developed using DOE funding
- Tested and functioning
- Currently available through prearranged vendors
- Schematics, layout, and bill of material available on OpenPET website

### Detector Board

- Under development
- Seeking funding from NIH

# Support Crate



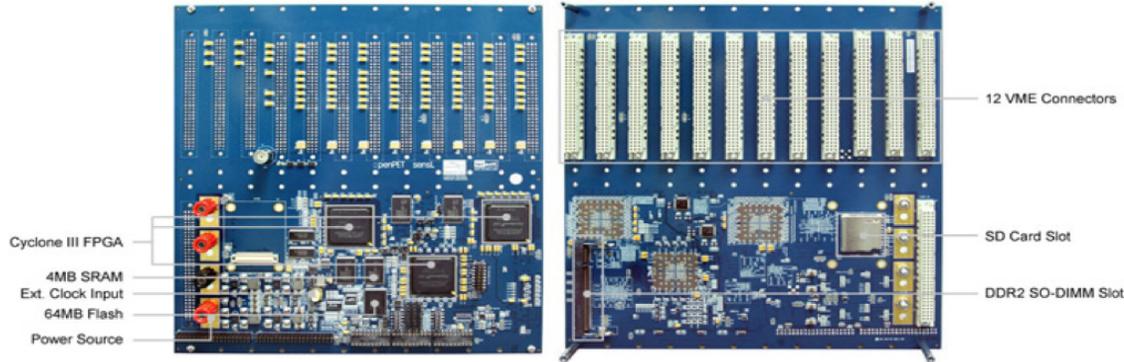
# VME Crate



- 12-slot 6U VME 19" rack mountable
- 740W power supply:
  - +5V@40A
  - 5V@40A
  - +3.3V@80A
  - +12V@6A
- 12VDC fans in front and back

**Available from Elma Electronics, Part# 12V12XXX78N2VCGX-LBL (~\$3,500)**

# Support Board and Adapters Board



Support Board  
(Part# S0139\_EN50A)  
~\$7,500

Host PC Interface  
(Part# S0174\_EN10A)  
~\$650



User IO  
(Part# S0175\_EN10A)  
~\$750



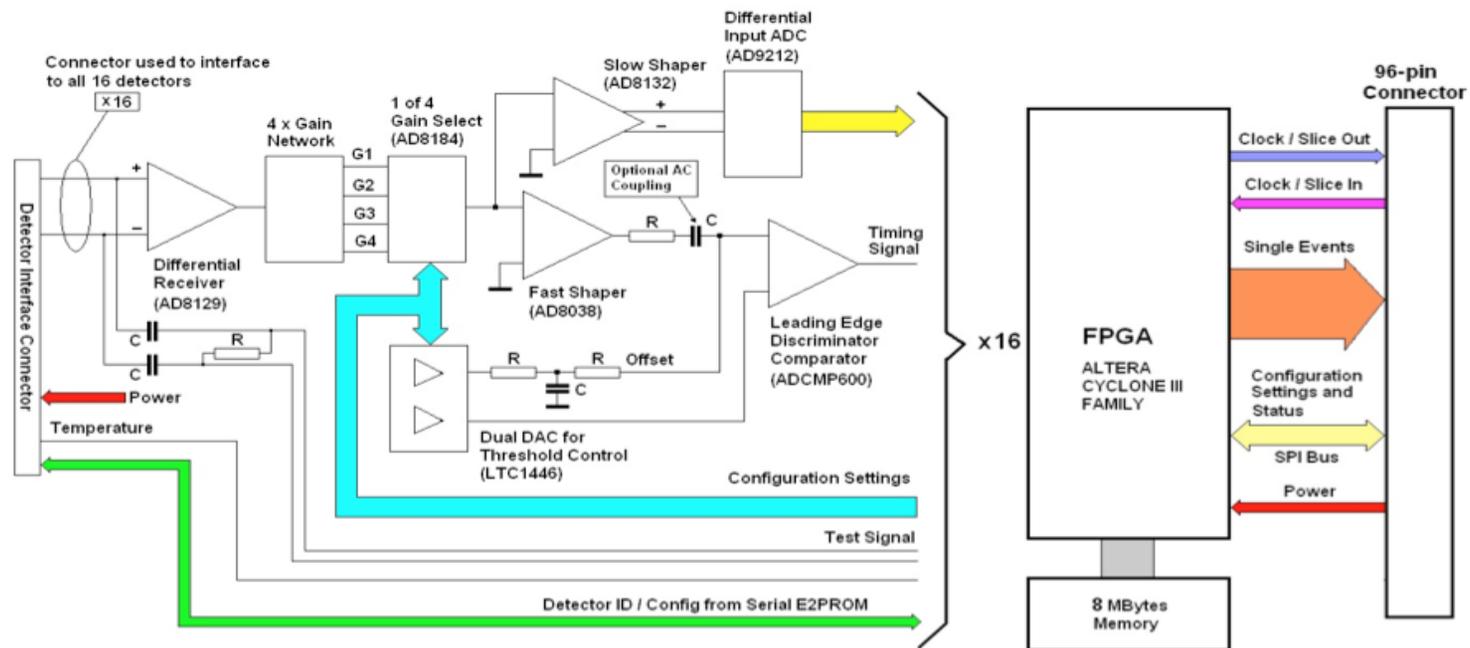
Debugging  
(Part# S0176\_EN10A)  
~\$650



**Available from Terasic Technologies**

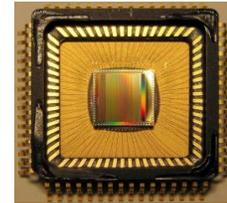
# Detector Board

- Two years ago, we started designing a Detector Board in collaboration with SensL
- Design was based on conventional electronics (analog filtering, ADC, TDC, discriminator, etc.)
- Development was put on hold due to limited funding and departure of SensL from OpenPET project



# Detector Board (New Design)

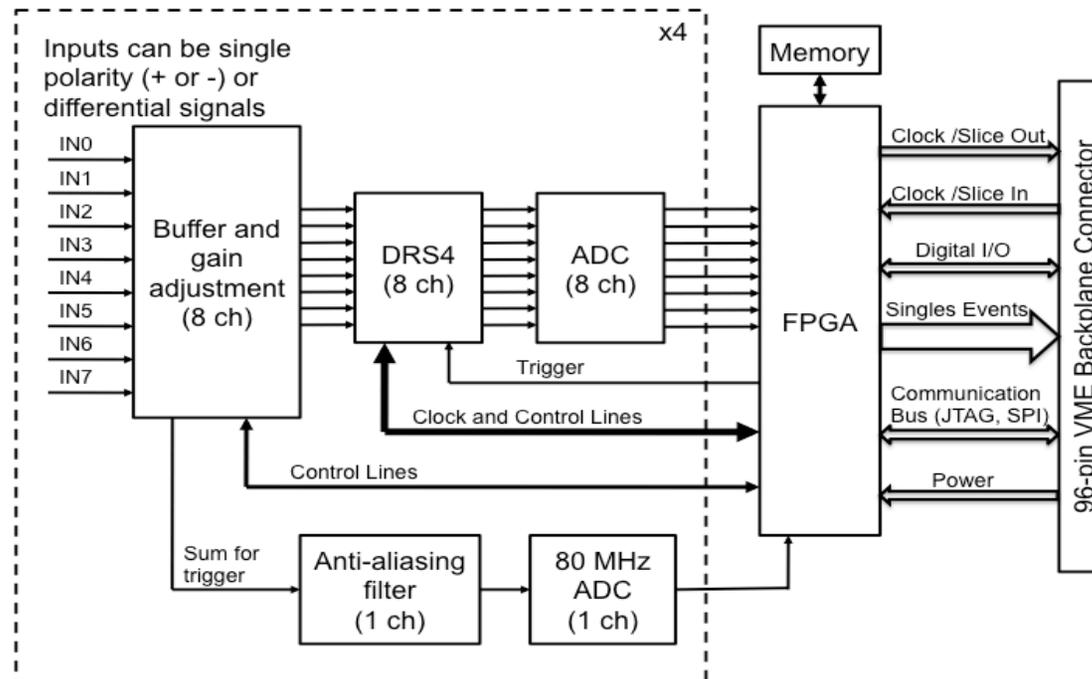
- We propose a more flexible, higher performance design based on waveform sampling (no analog filtering, discriminator, or TDC required)
- Uses high-speed waveform sampling chip from PSI (DRS4)



Parameter	
Number of channels / chip	8
Number of cells / channel	1024
Differential input dynamic range (V)	1
Sampling rate (GSPS)	0.7 to 5
Readout rate (MHz)	33
Input analog bandwidth (MHz)	950
Typical power consumption @ 2GSPS (mW)	140

# Detector Board (New Design)

- The Detector Board will be 32 channels utilizing 4 DRS4 chips
- Trigger can be implemented to decrease dead time and improve rate capability
- An NIH RO1 proposal was submitted last February, but received unfunded score
- A resubmission will be submitted in a few days, results expected in February/March



# Summary

- The Support Crate (VME crate, Support Board, three Adapter Boards) has been developed and is available for purchase from our prearranged vendors (go to [openpet.lbl.gov](http://openpet.lbl.gov) for more information)
- The remaining board to be developed to complete a Detector Unit is the Detector Board
- A more flexible, higher performance Detector Board based on high-speed waveform sampling (DRS4) is proposed
- An NIH R01 proposal will be submitted in a few days, results expected in February/March
- If funded, the Detector Board will be available in 1 to 2 years
- We will also explore developing a scaled-down version of the Detector Board based on the conventional design contingent on finding other funding sources

**We will update you by March 2013**

# **The OpenPET Firmware and Software Framework**

Qiyu Peng

# Outlines

## ➤ System framework

- System-level hardware structure
- System-level firmware and software structure
- Programming Tools / Environment

## ➤ Software function and framework

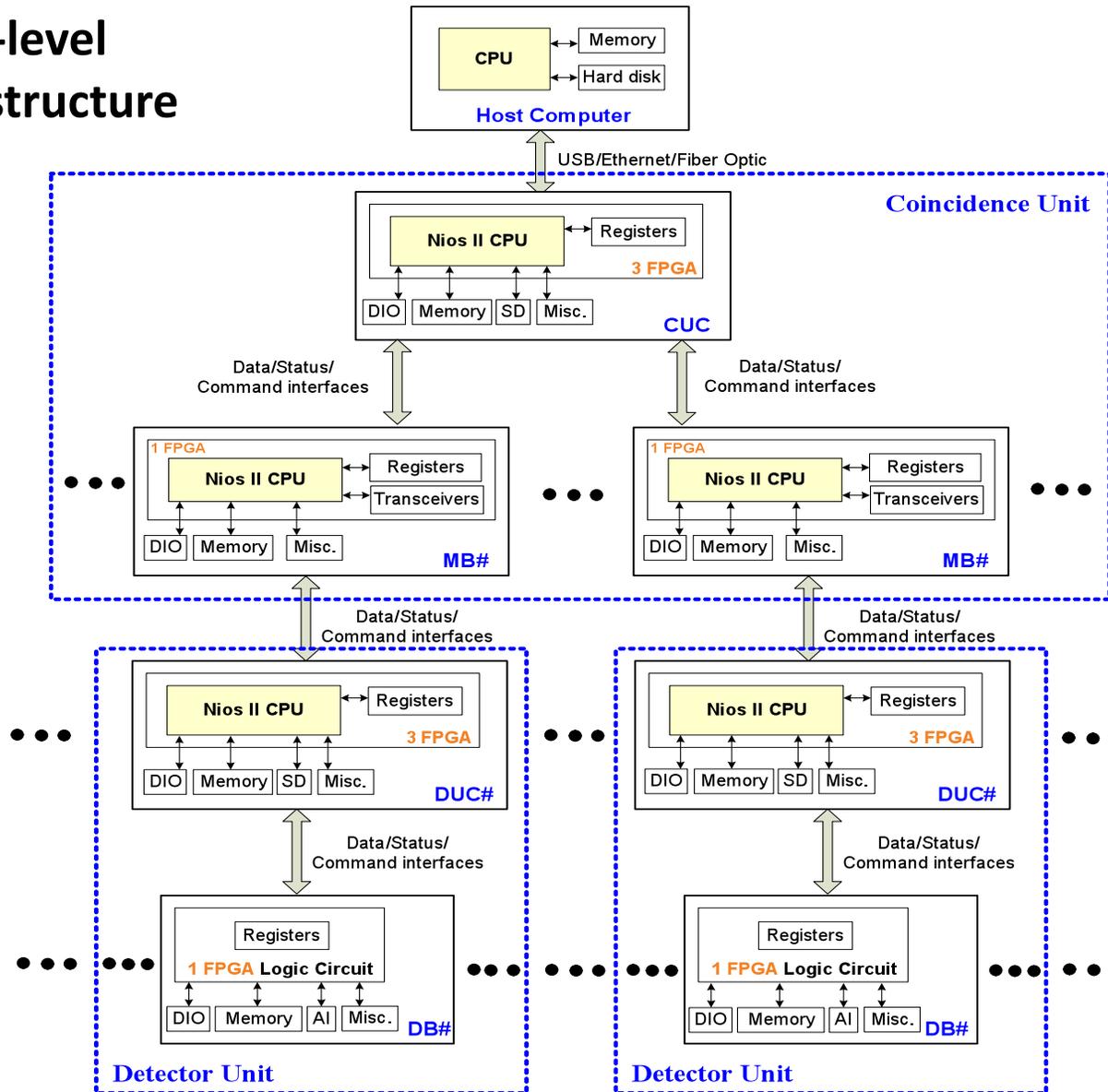
- Host PC software
- Graphical User Interface
- Nios Software

## ➤ Firmware function and framework

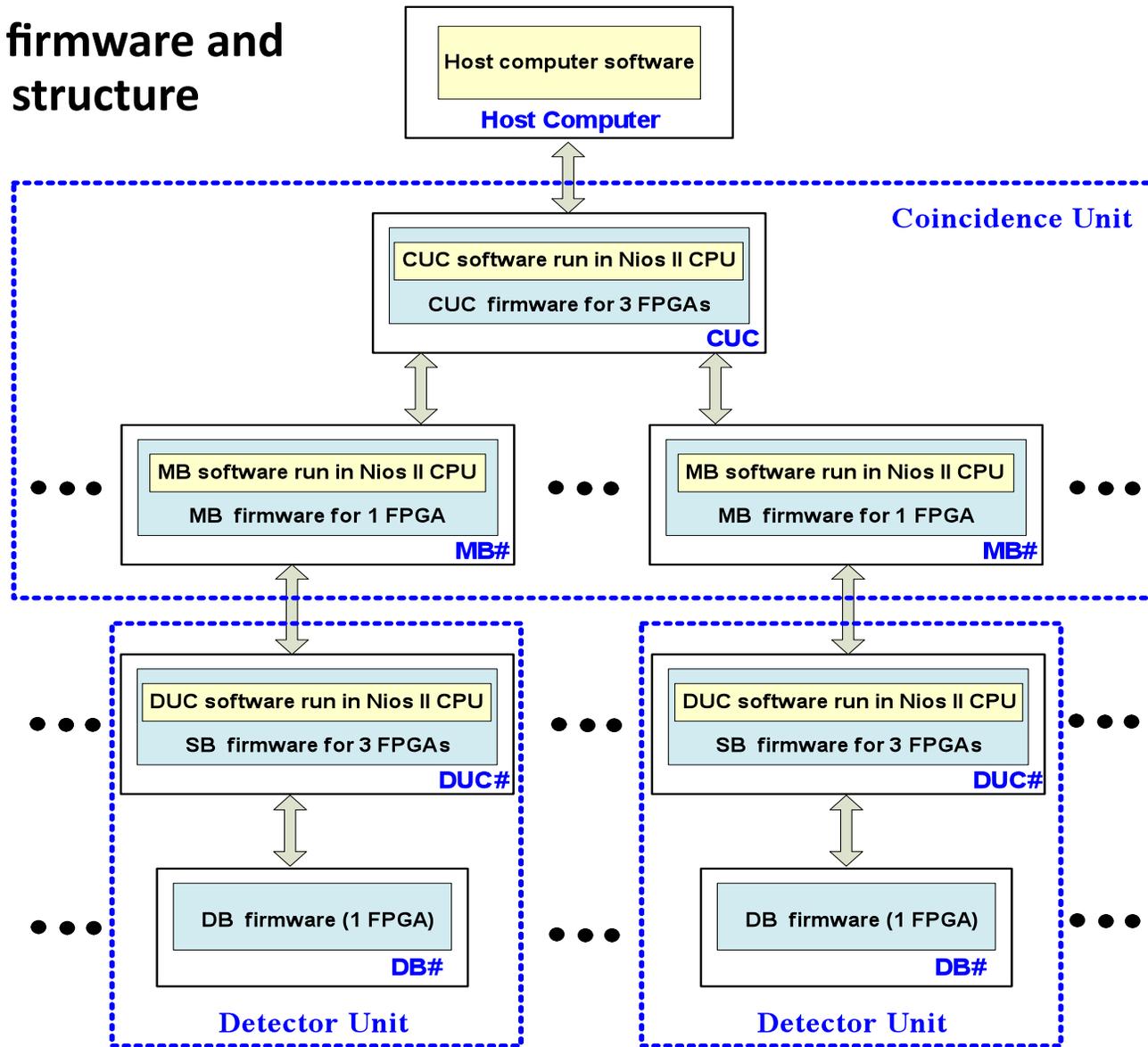
- Firmware (VHDL) coding style
- List mode data format

## ➤ Current status and plan

# System-level hardware structure



# System-level firmware and software structure



# Programming Tools / Environment

	DB	DUC	MB	CUC	Host PC
FPGA Firmware	X	X	X	X	
Embedded MCU Software (NIOS)		X	X	X	
PC Software					X

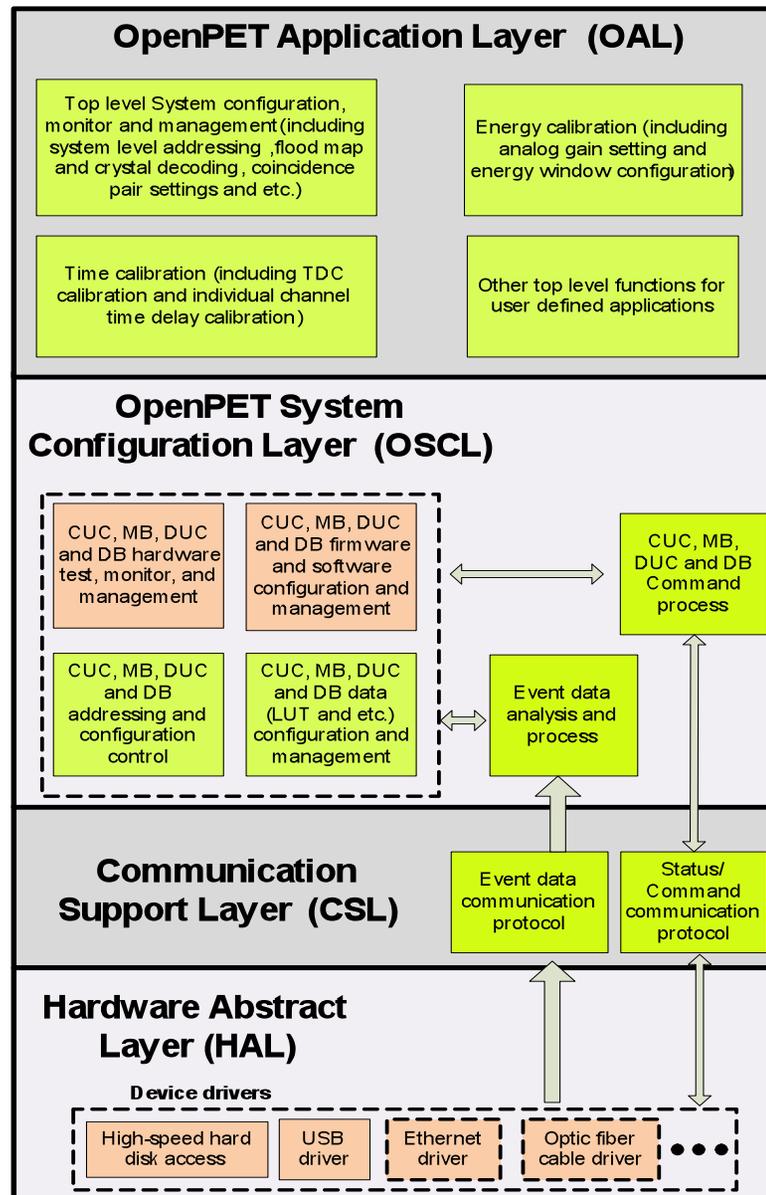
**X: VHDL (Altera Quartus II ver. 12.0)**

**X: C (Altera Nios II EDS ver. 12.0)**

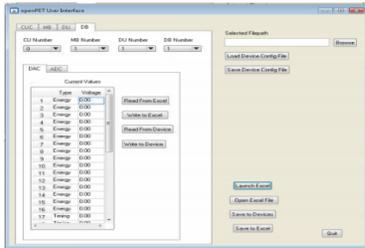
**X: C (NI LabWindows CVI 2009)**

# Host PC software

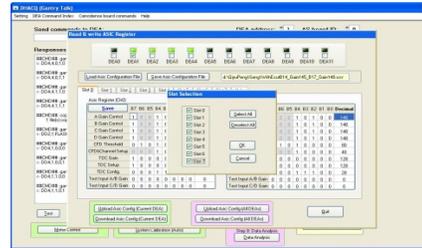
- Main Functions
  - System configuration
  - System diagnosis
  - Data acquisition
  - Data analysis
- Modular Design
  - Stable and reliable
  - Flexible, compatible and scalable
  - Upgradable
  - Simple and easy to use
  - Well-documented



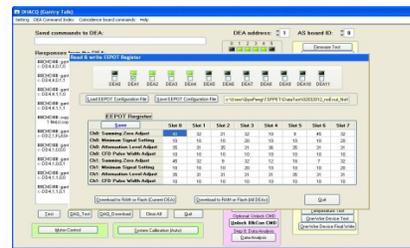
# Graphical User Interface (GUI) design



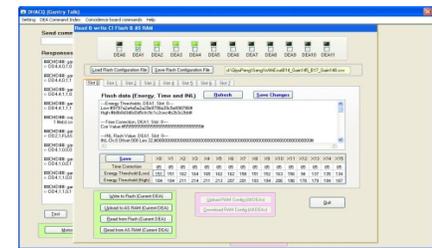
System configuration database management



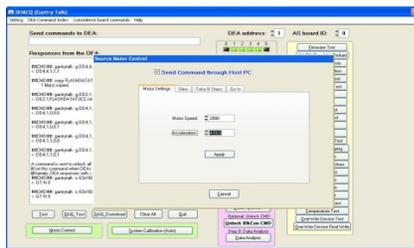
Analog gain settings



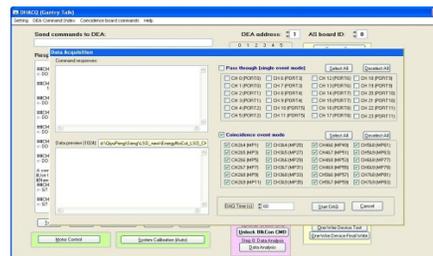
CFD settings



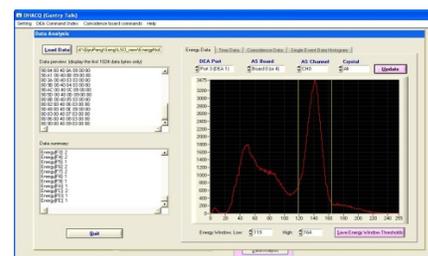
Energy window settings



Serial communication



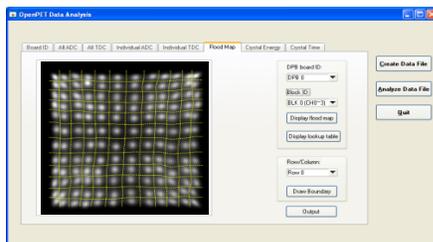
Data acquisition



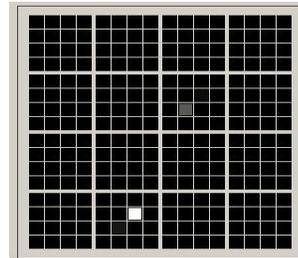
Energy data analysis



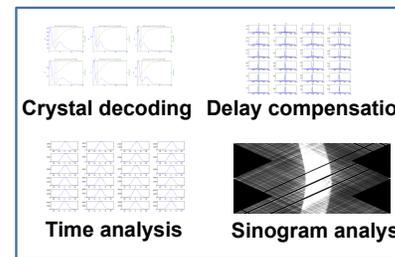
TDC calibration



Flood map display (for block detector)



SSPM event display

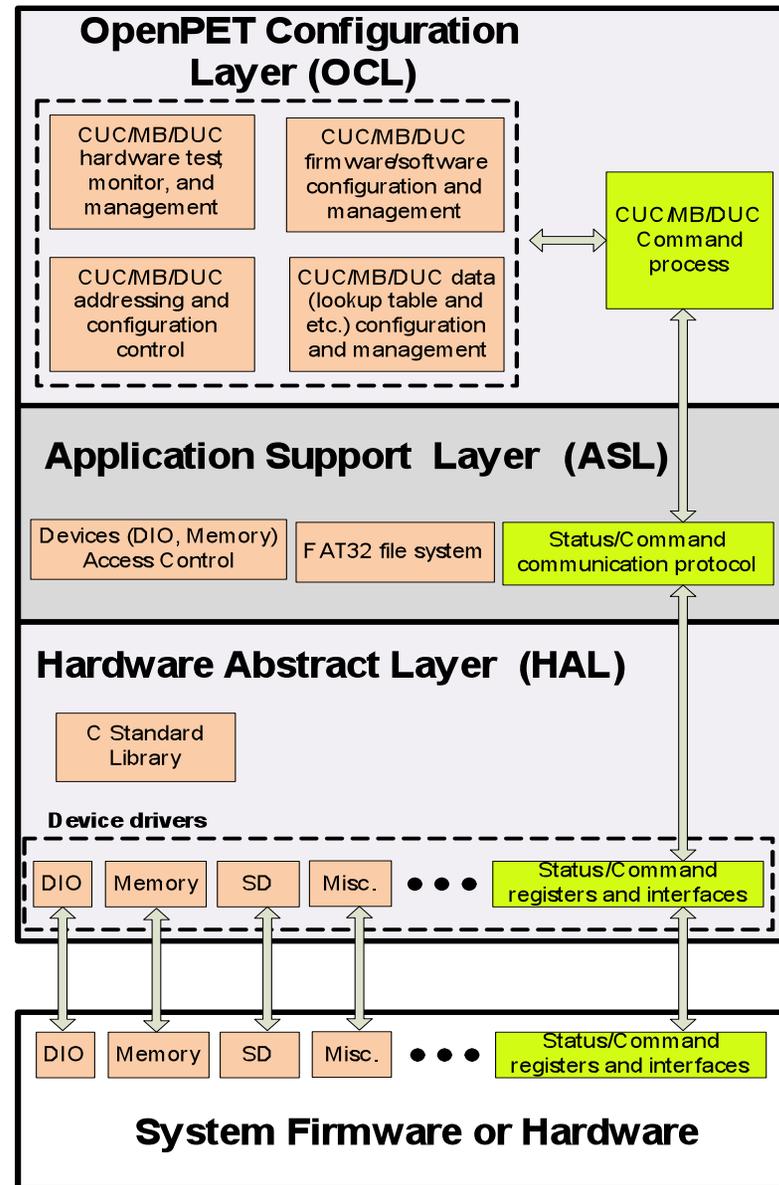


Data analysis SW package (currently in Matlab)

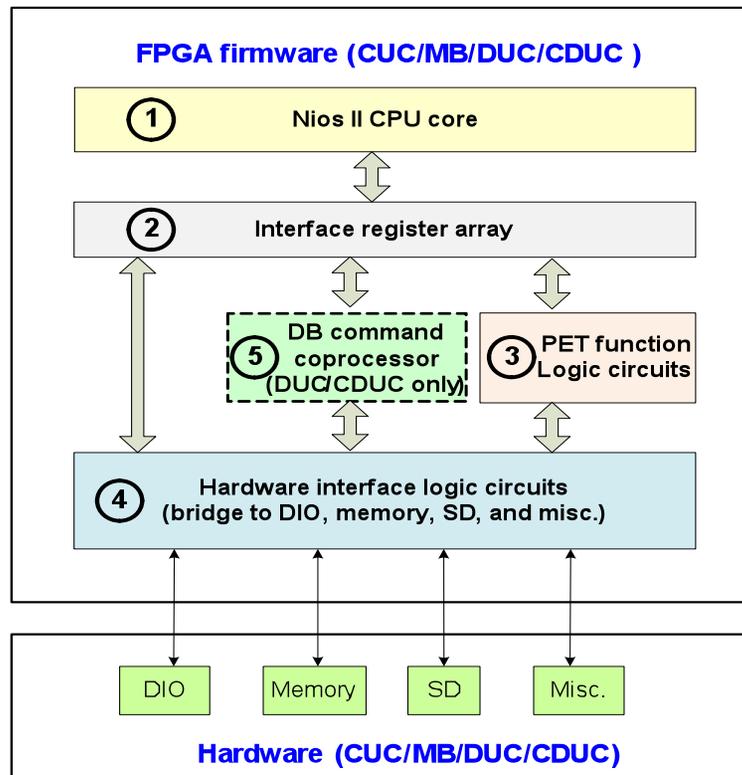


# Nios software

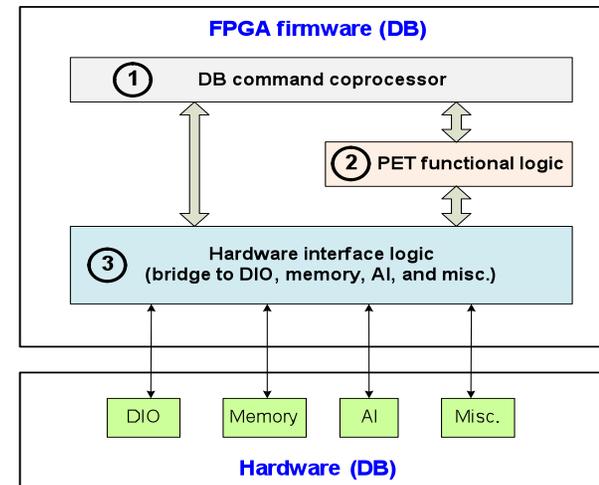
- Main Functions
  - System configuration
  - System monitoring
  - System diagnosis
- Modular design
  - Stable and reliable
  - Flexible, compatible and scalable
  - Upgradable
  - Simple and easy to use
  - Well-documented



# Firmware function and framework



**CUC/MB/DUC/CDUC firmware**



**DB firmware**



## 2. List mode data

### 2.1 Data addressing strategies

2.1.1 Individual channel data addressing mode (00)

2.1.2 Crystal data addressing mode (01)

2.1.3 User-defined addressing mode (10 and 11)

### 2.2 List mode data format

2.2.1 Coincidence events data format

2.2.2 Single events data format

2.2.2.1 Time mode

2.2.2.2 Energy mode

2.2.2.3 Raw ADC data mode

2.2.2.4 Standard Anger-logic mode

2.2.2.5 Test mode1

2.2.2.6 Test mode2

2.2.2.7 Reserved modes (10 modes)

2.2.2.8 User defined modes (16 modes)

2.2.3 Status words format

2.2.3.1 Time status word

2.2.3.2 Event rate status word

2.2.3.3 Temperature status word (3 digits, range from 0.1°C ~99.9°C)

2.2.3.4 Reserved status words (13 modes)

2.2.3.5 User-defined status word (16 modes)

# List mode data format

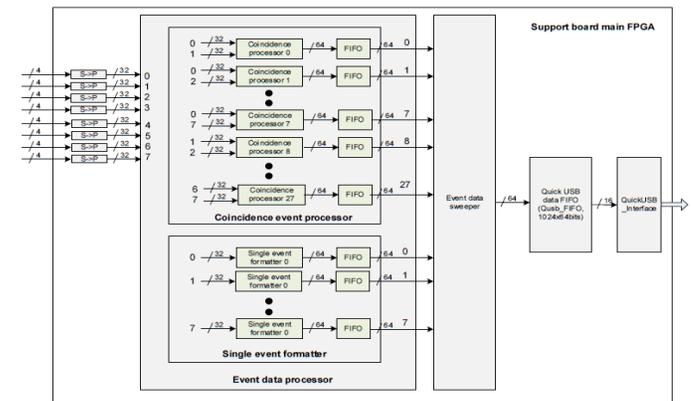


Diagram of data format controller

# Summary: current status and plan

- The first version of OpenPET Firmware and Software package will include:
  - Detailed documentation of the system framework (50 pages)
  - VHDL code and Nios C code for CUC
  - C code for host PC (with fundamental functions of system management, configuration, diagnosis, data acquisition and analysis)

# Event Data Transfer

**Leonid Lamwertz**

**Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Manitoba**



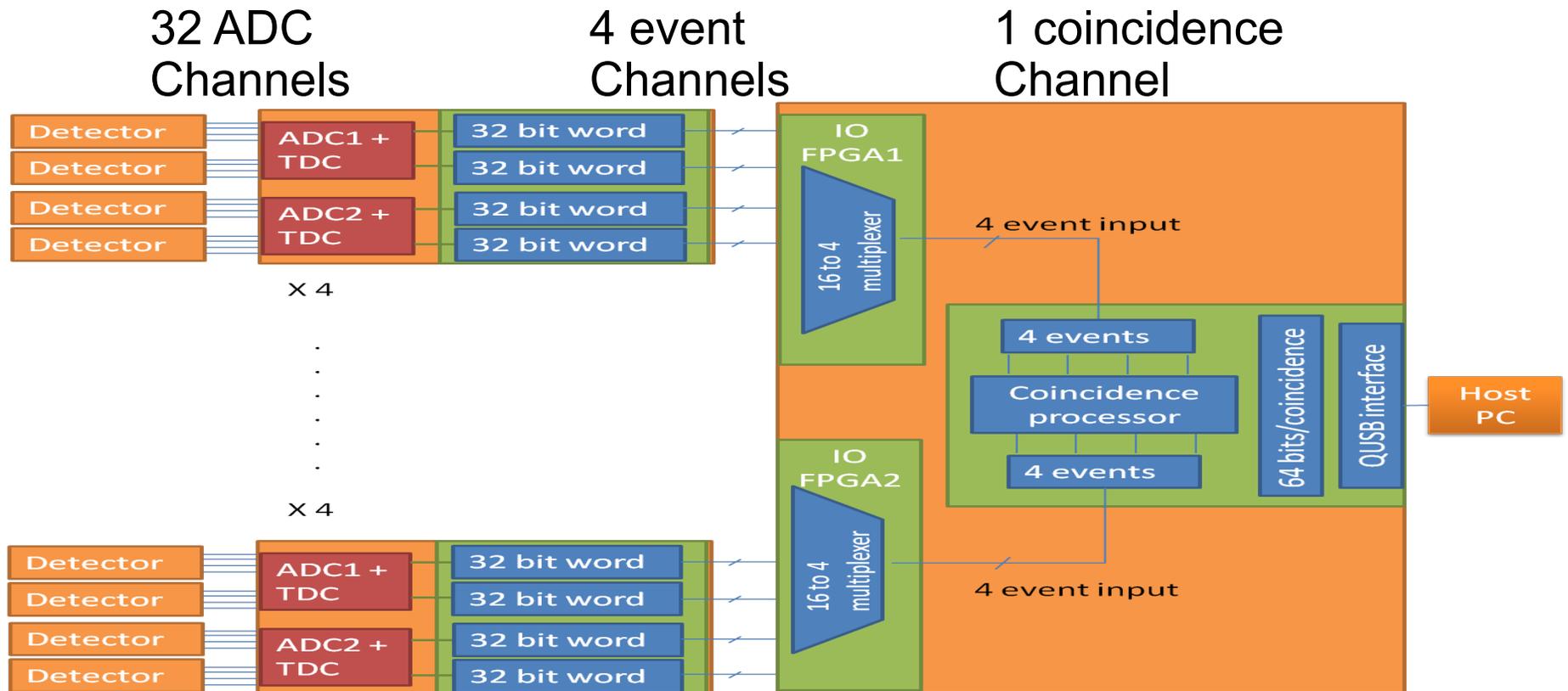
**Health Sciences Centre**  
Winnipeg

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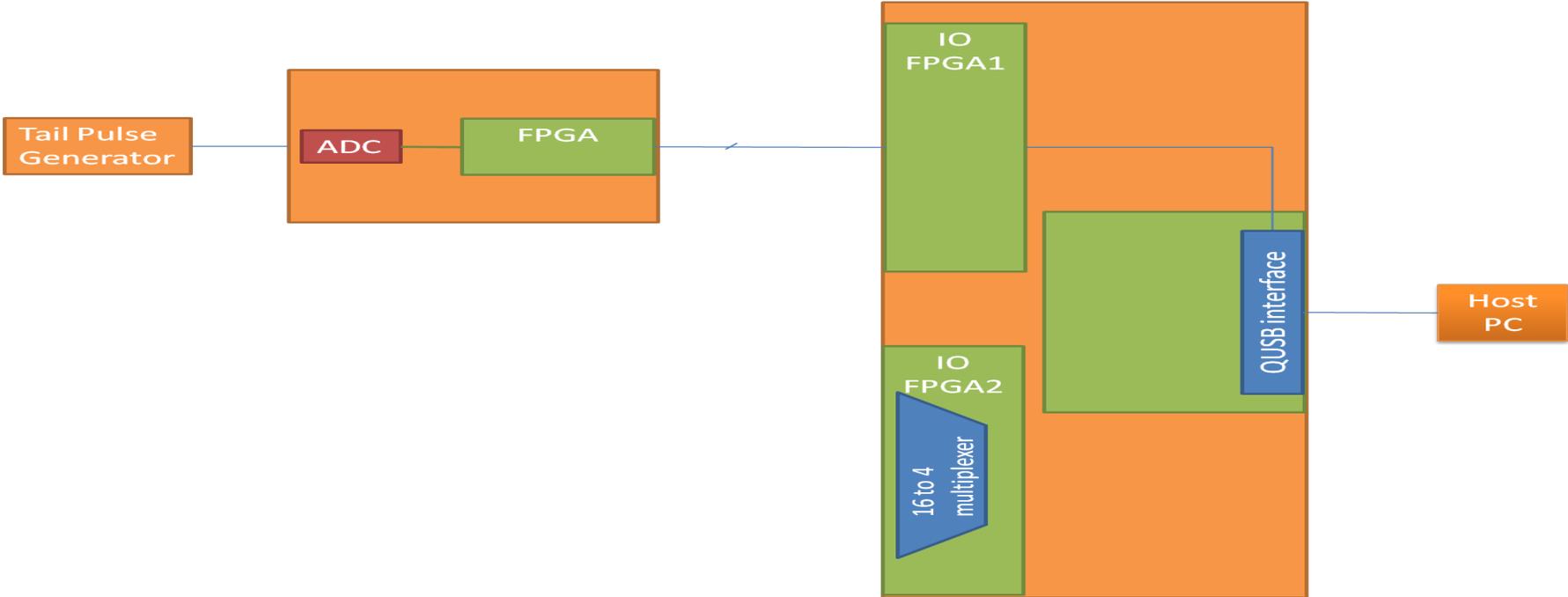


# System data flow

Up to 80 M single event/sec processing capability



# Simulation data flow



# OpenPET Software and Firmware Management

**Martin S. Judenhofer, PhD**

Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of California-  
Davis, Davis, CA

OpenPET Meeting, Berkeley, May 11-12, 2012

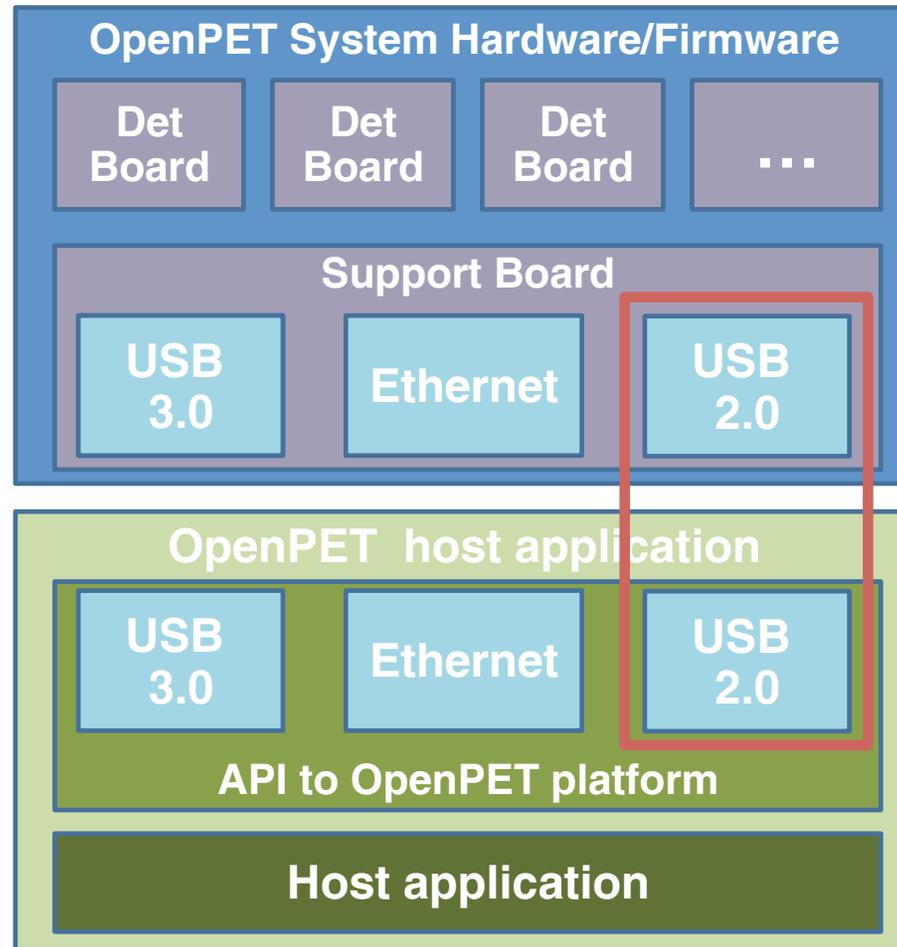


# OpenPET Groups

- **Users**
  - **Want to use the hardware and its framework implementation as is (e.g. block based PET system)**
  - **May not want to modify firmware or software**
- **Developers**
  - **Want to adjust firmware and software for specific applications**
  - **Build their application on existing framework**

# OpenPET Software and Firmware

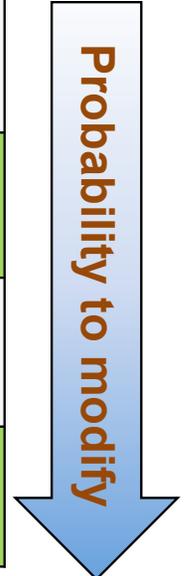
## Overview:



# OpenPET Software and Firmware

## System components/packages:

System component	Firmware (FPGA)	uC source (NIOS II)	Application (GUI - on host)
Support Board	●	●	
API (driver)	●	●	●
Detector Board	●		
Host PC software			●



# OpenPET Package Content

## For Users

- Binaries and soft/firmware to set up and run system
- Modify system calibration/setup to match users geometry
- Use tested software/firmware to run system

## For Developers

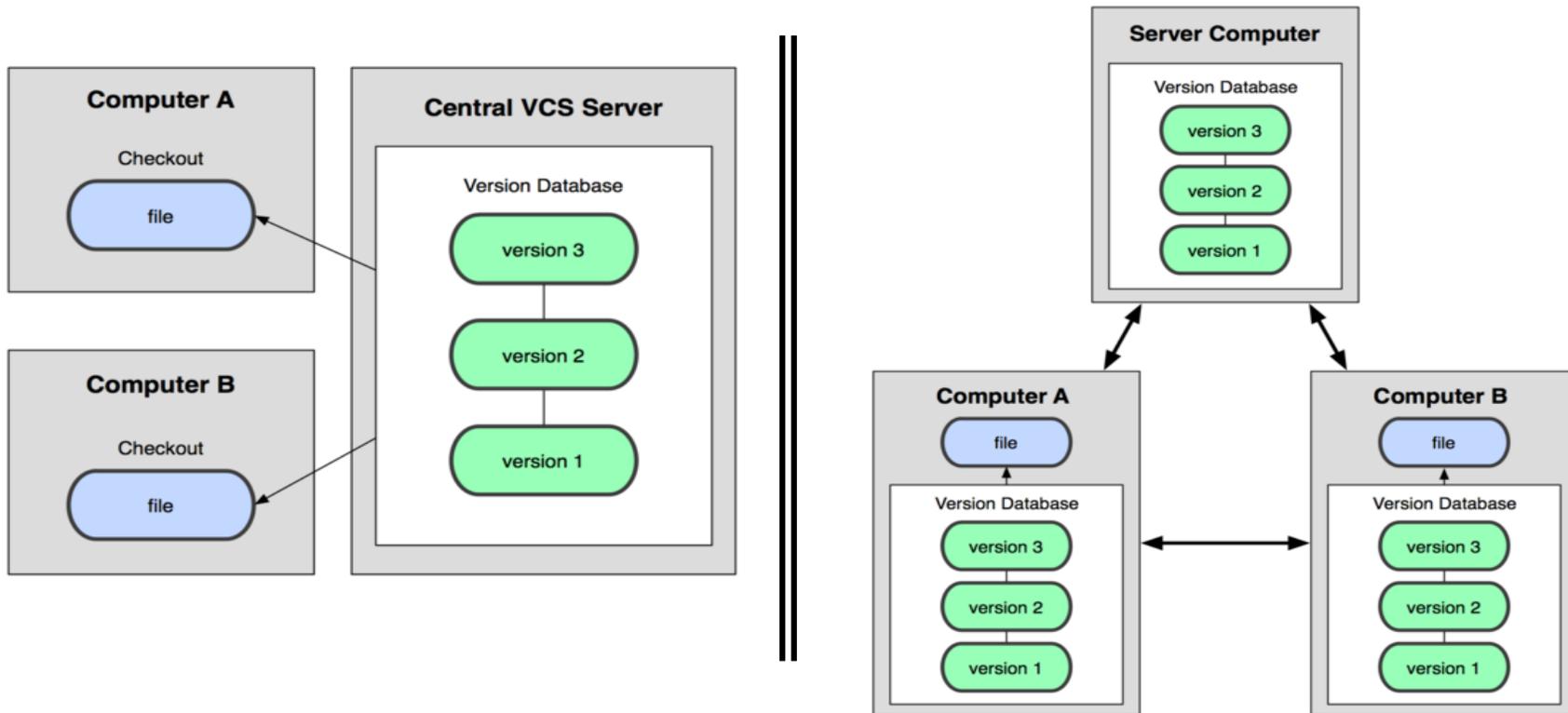
- Source code for firmware & software
- Can build upon existing and tested code
- Can add own modifications
- Should perform intensive testing to verify functionality

# OpenPET Software and Firmware Management

Centralized  
version control

vs.

Distributed  
version control



# OpenPET Version Control

- Use distributed version control (GitHub, or similar)
- Main repository provides “official” (current and previous) versions (master branch)
- Distributed version control allows small groups to share their work (experimental branch)
- Only code verified by OpenPET will be added to the main repository (master branch)
- Repository will provide “release”, “developer” and archived versions of the source code

# Conclusion

## Aim of the OpenPET project:

- Provide complete packages for download (Users)
- Provide sources for custom modifications (Developer)
- Provide regular updates
- Have close tracking of modifications (GitHub)
- Provide documentation for framework usage
- Have system for bug reporting (GitHub)

# Development of an OpenPET Based MRI Compatible PET Insert

Andrew L. Goertzen, PhD, MCCPM

Department of Radiology

University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada

OpenPET Users Meeting, IEEE MIC 2012, Anaheim, CA



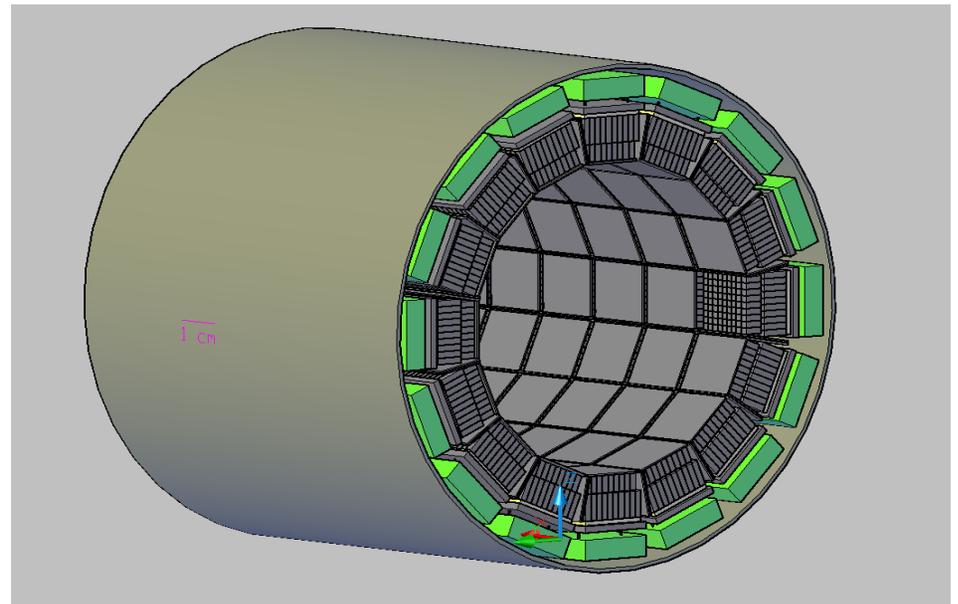
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# Our Project: High Resolution PET Insert for PET/MR Imaging

- Fit within gradient coil of 7T animal MRI (115 mm diameter) or with low-field open MR system.
- Allow simultaneous PET and MR imaging.
- Dual-layer offset crystal design to give limited depth of interaction (DOI)
- Prototype will be 1 ring, extendable by adding additional detector rings.



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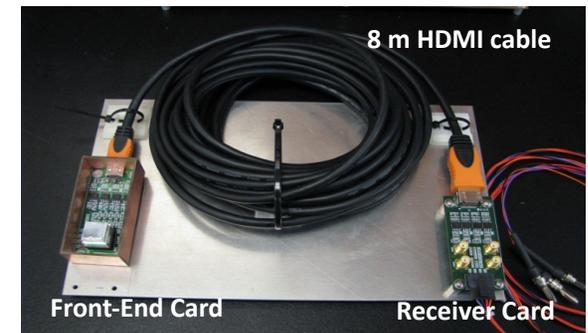
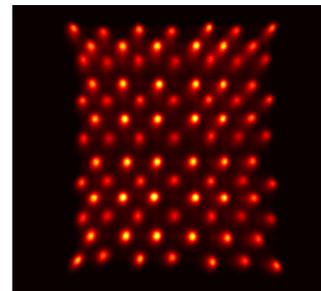
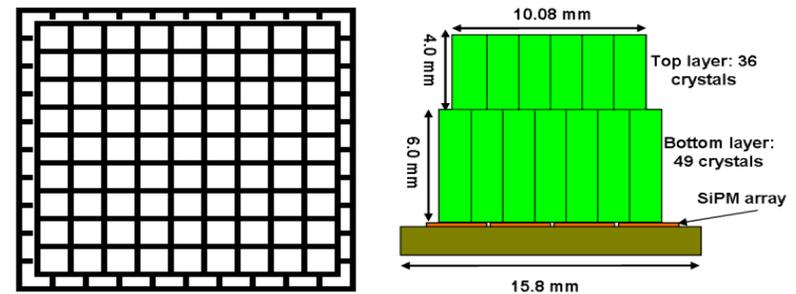
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# Detector Design

- Dual-layer offset crystal design
  - 4 mm top layer, 6 mm bottom layer, 1.2 mm crystal pitch.
  - See poster M16-23 for details
- SensL SPMArray4 SiPM Array
  - 4 x 4 pixels, 13.4 x 13.4 mm<sup>2</sup> active area
  - 16 outputs multiplexed on front end to 4 channels per detector
- Analog signals brought out using HDMI cables
  - See poster M16-37
- Energy resolution 13-16%
- Timing resolution 2.5 ns

## Dual-Layer Offset Crystal Design



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# Why Use OpenPET Electronics?

- Funding for large research and development projects is increasingly directed to Team or Network Grants.
- This leads to research projects distributed as multicentre collaborations, creating challenges including:
  - Distributing subprojects to member sites with the appropriate expertise.
  - Ensuring that components and subassemblies from each site can integrate well.
  - Standardizing methods and signal interfaces.
  - Scaling new detector technologies developed at R&D member sites to full systems assembled at sites responsible for systems integration.

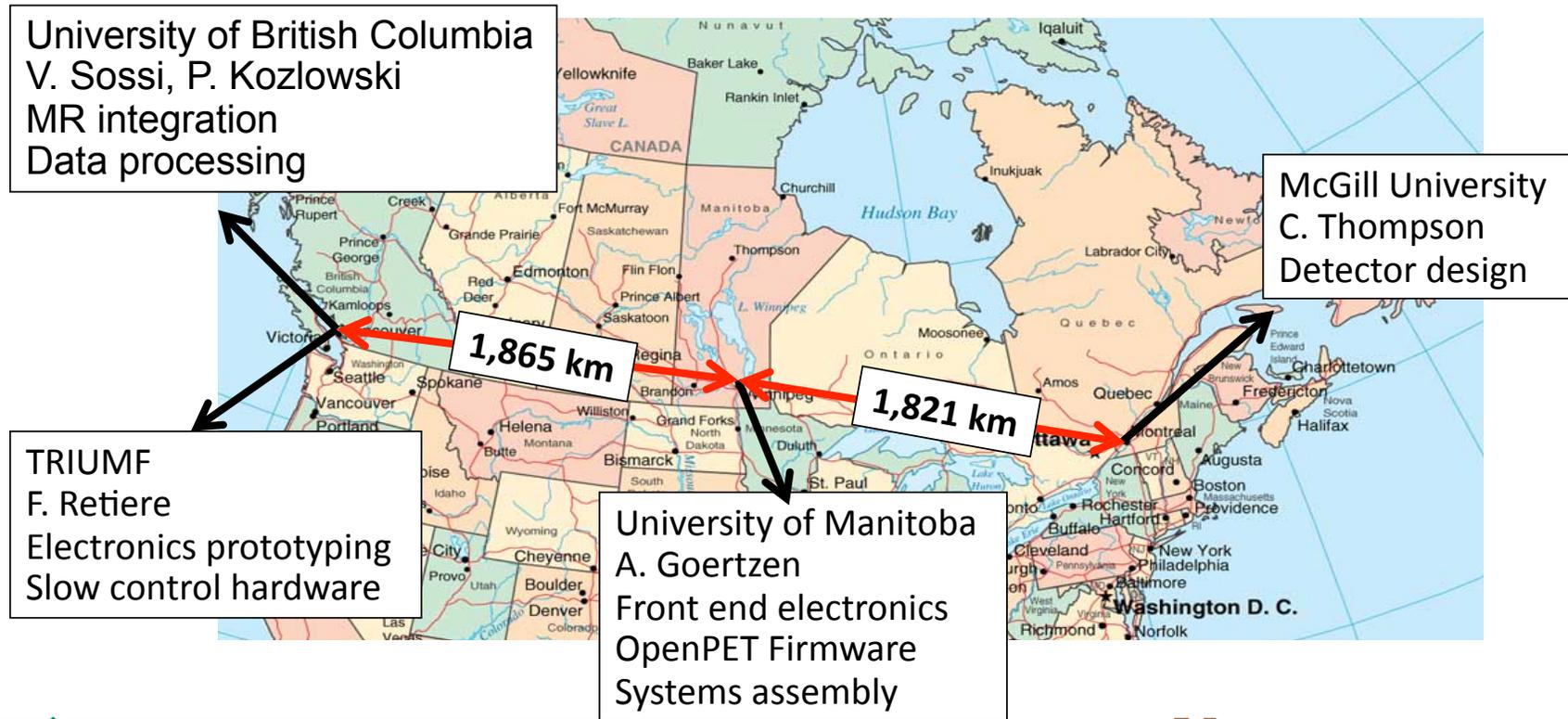


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# Our Collaboration Challenge - Geography



# Why Use OpenPET Electronics?

- Benefits of OpenPET for a multicentre collaboration:
  - Scalable design allows deployment of small data acquisition systems at detector / electronic development sites and large system at systems integration site.
  - Standard data acquisition platform facilitates distributing detector development among sites.
  - Ensures that data acquisition protocols are identical among collaboration sites.
  - Avoids duplication of labour since any custom OpenPET configuration only needs to be developed once at the site with relevant expertise and then deployed across the network.



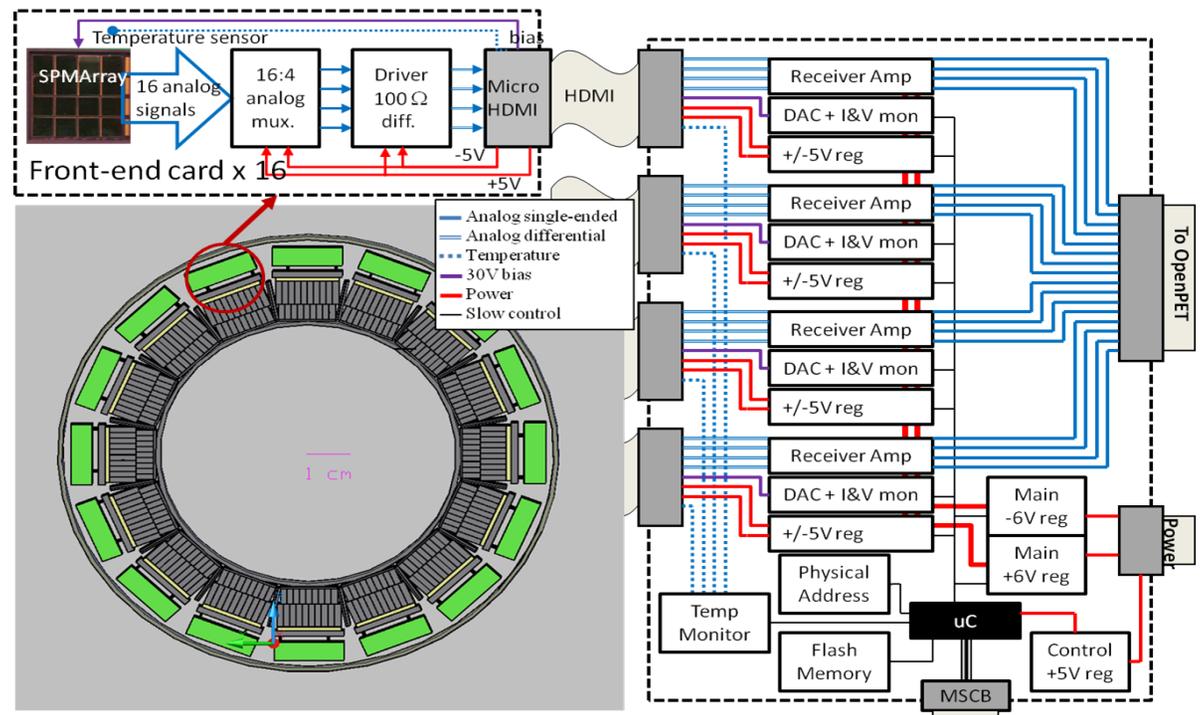
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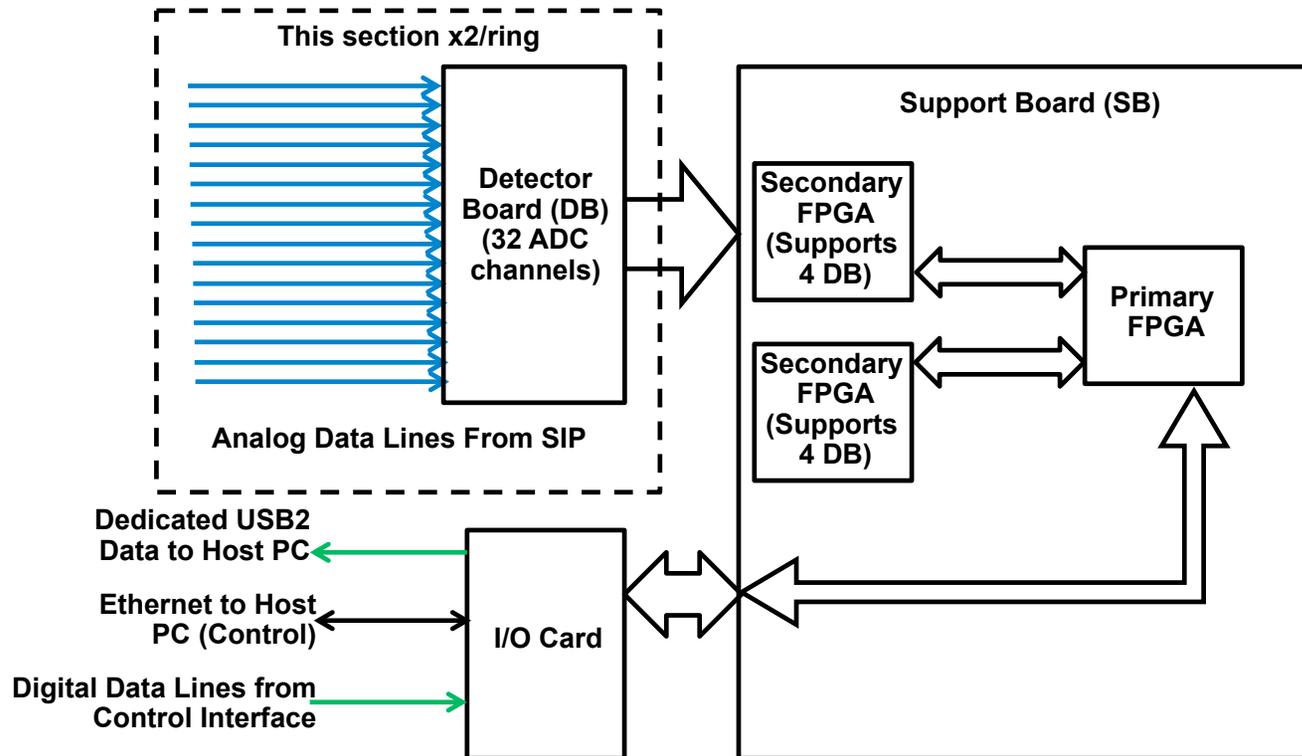


# Signal Interface Panel (SIP)

- 32 channel detector board (DB) allows 8 detectors/DB
- 2 DB/ring of 16 detectors
- Easily scalable to up to 4 rings using a 'small' OpenPET system.
- Functions of SIP:
  - System slow control via micro-controller
  - Signal conditioning for input to OpenPET
  - Connector interface to OpenPET



# OpenPET Configuration



# Summary

- Using OpenPET as a standardized platform in our multicentre collaboration will accelerate our system development by:
  - Allowing reproducible experimental measurements at different sites
  - Facilitating remote debugging and testing of components
  - Simplifying the specification of test conditions and protocols for acceptance testing of components
- The students and post-docs trained on these systems will have sought after skills readily translatable to other research groups, minimizing training time for new hires/recruits.



**Health Sciences Centre**  
Winnipeg

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# OpenPET for High Resolution PET with Dual Ended DOI Readout

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Davis, Davis, CA

OpenPET User Meeting, IEEE MIC 2012, Anaheim



# Why use OpenPET electronics?

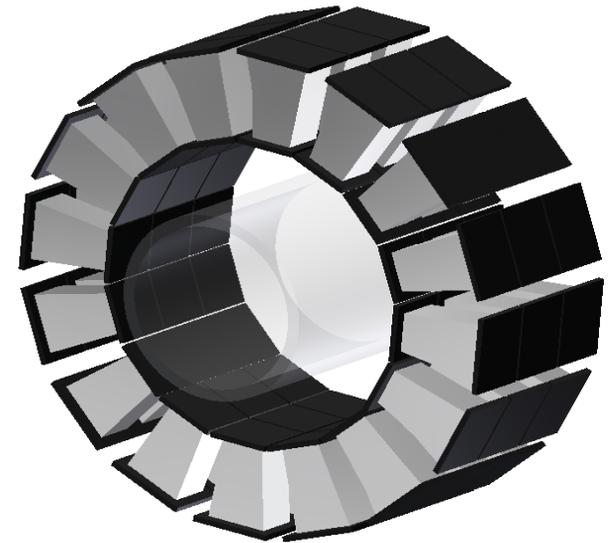
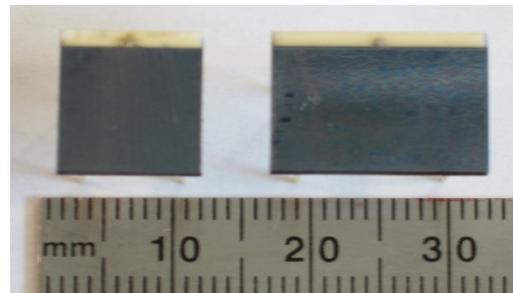
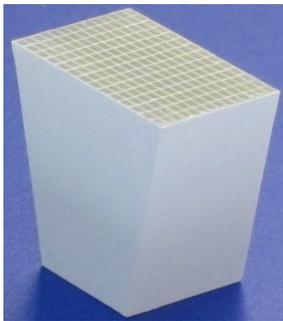
- **Most interesting projects often go beyond the test of a two-detector setup**
- **NIM electronics is expensive and bulky, not scalable**
- **Alternative “off-the-shelf” acquisition systems may lack some functionality and scaling also often limited**
- **Existing dedicated PET electronics are typically proprietary and may be difficult to modify and adapt**
- **Much effort is invested in “reinventing” and “replicating” basic elements of the electronics, data acquisition and software systems for a PET scanner**

# Why use OpenPET electronics?

- OpenPET will
  - Allow rapid and lower-cost system-level prototyping of novel detector concepts
  - Allow sharing of data acquisition hardware and software across laboratories
  - Allow custom needs to be met while still working within the OpenPET framework
  - Establish a resource of great value to the field of nuclear medical imaging that will reduce the time and cost of innovative technology development

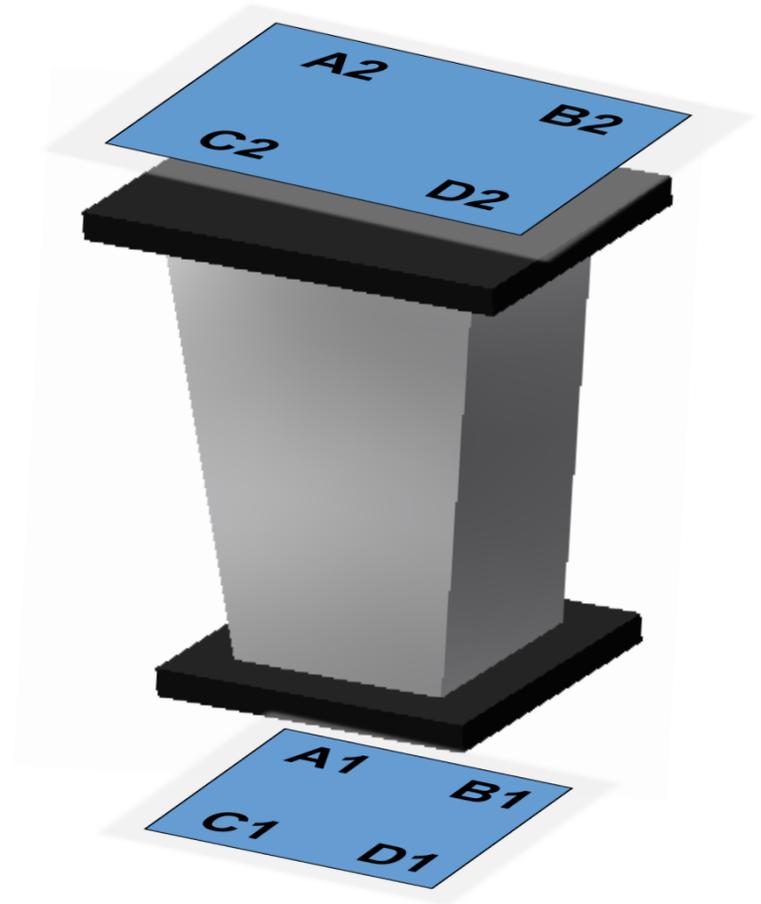
# High Resolution Mouse Brain PET Scanner

- Use very small crystals with tapered geometry (0.5x0.5mm at front, 0.8 mm at back)
- Use dual ended readout to obtain depth of interaction (DOI)
- Currently 1-ring system, 16 blocks
- Extend to 2 or 3 ring system



# DOI Block Readout Requirements

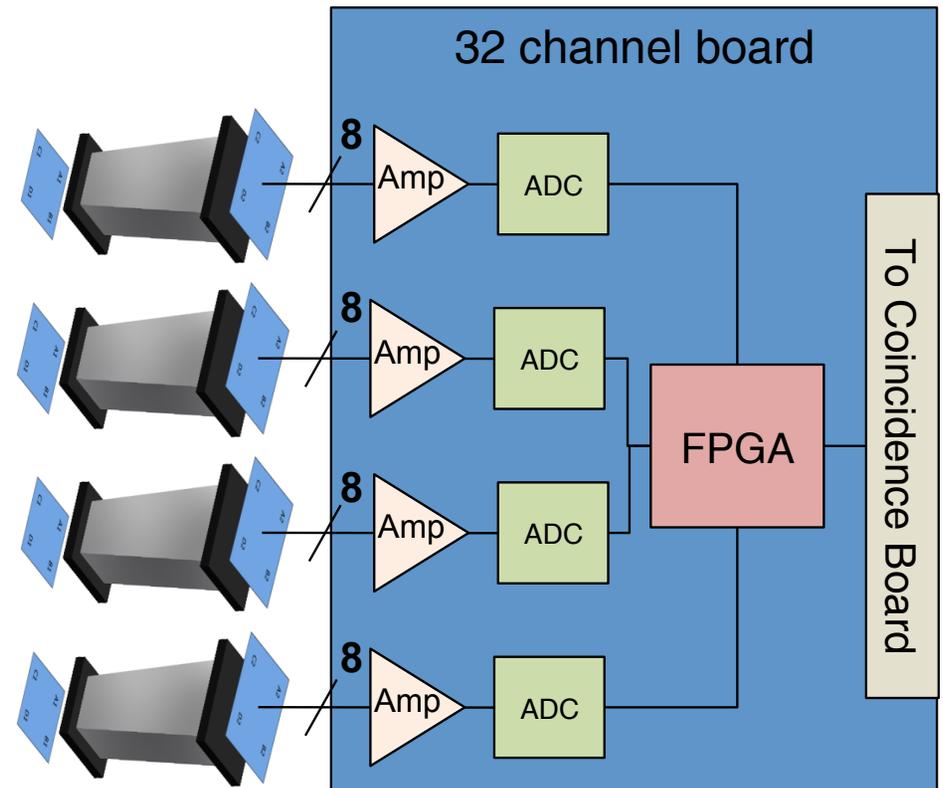
- Each PSAPD has 4 corner signals
  - Sum of all 8 signals is energy (E)
  - Ratio of Sum1 to Sum2 is DOI
  - X/Y is calculated from ABCD and sum
- 8 channels need to be sampled



# OpenPET Configuration

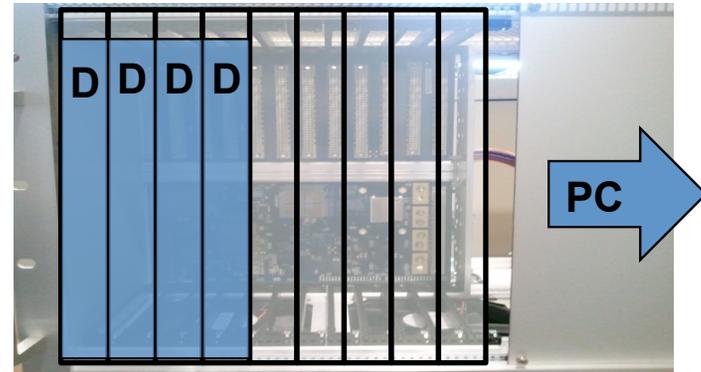
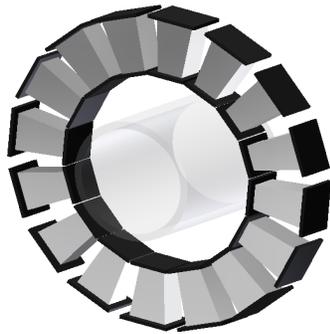
OpenPET Detector board designed to read up to 32 channels

- Per Block 8 channels are required
- Combination of all 8 channels can be used as trigger
- All 8 signals are required to generate X/Y/E/DOI
- Signal duration ~ 200-300 ns
- Rise time 40-60 ns



# High Resolution Mouse Brain PET Scanner

32 detectors

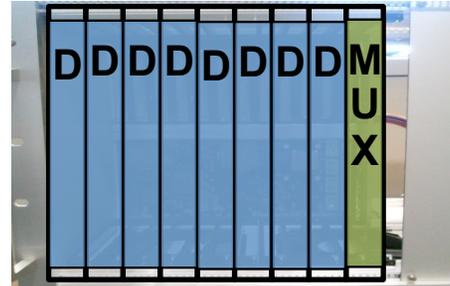
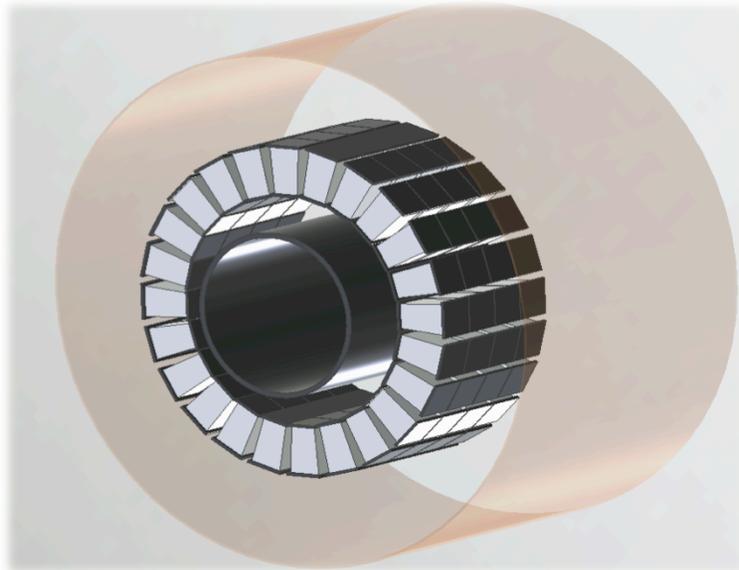


1 OpenPET crate with 8 detector boards

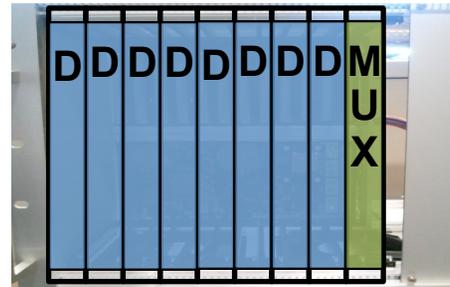
# Larger OpenPET Example:

## MRI compatible PET system with DOI

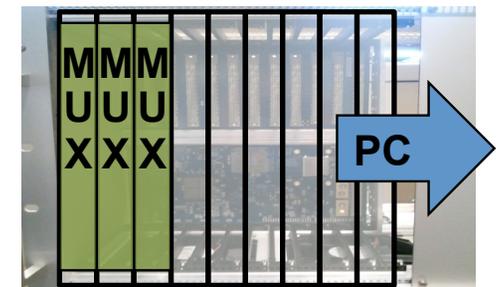
- Use dual ended readout to obtain DOI
- 4-ring system, each ring 24 blocks (96 blocks total)



32 blocks



32 blocks



# OpenPET...for the community, by the community

- OpenPET provides a great standardized platform to develop PET imaging systems based on novel detector approaches
- OpenPET is scalable and can accommodate a small prototype or full scale system
- OpenPET is flexible, and can be tailored to meet a wide variety of generic and custom needs
- OpenPET is a physical and intellectual resource that can catalyze nuclear medical imaging science