

# Tracking up to Geostationary Satellite

with **15 $\mu$ J** Laser and **70cm** Astronomy Telescope



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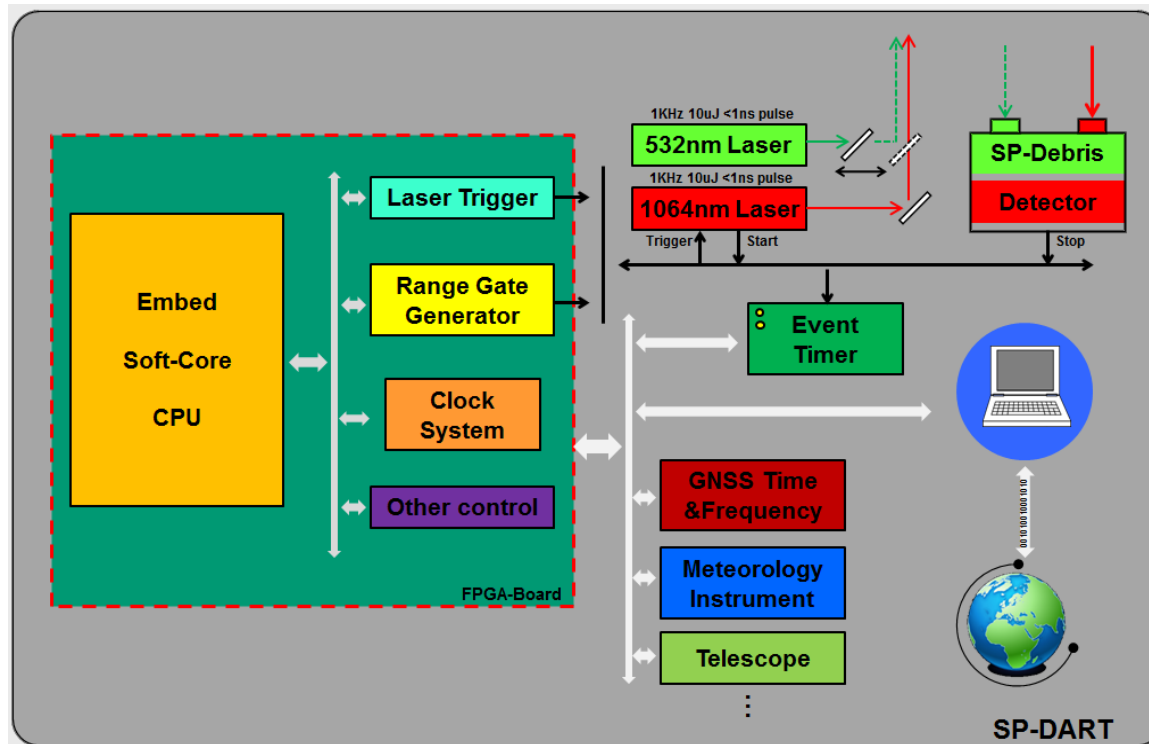
Egon Döberl, Martin Ploner, Philipp Keller, Mirco Taubenberger  
ASA / Astrosysteme Austria

# OUTLINE

- ❑ Concept of SP-DART
- ❑ Experiment Setup
- ❑ ASA Telescope
- ❑ Results
- ❑ Conclusions and Outlook

# SP-DART

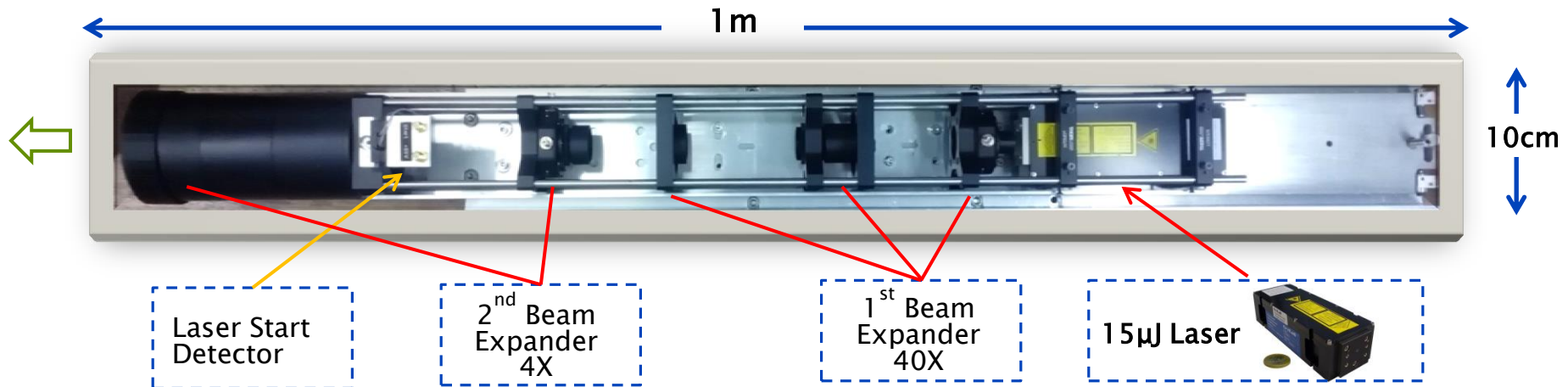
SP-DART is a tiny SLR station, but uses a host mount/telescope



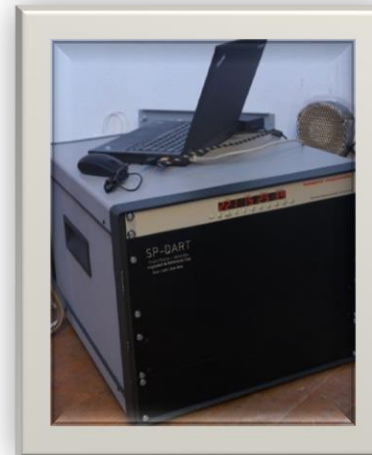
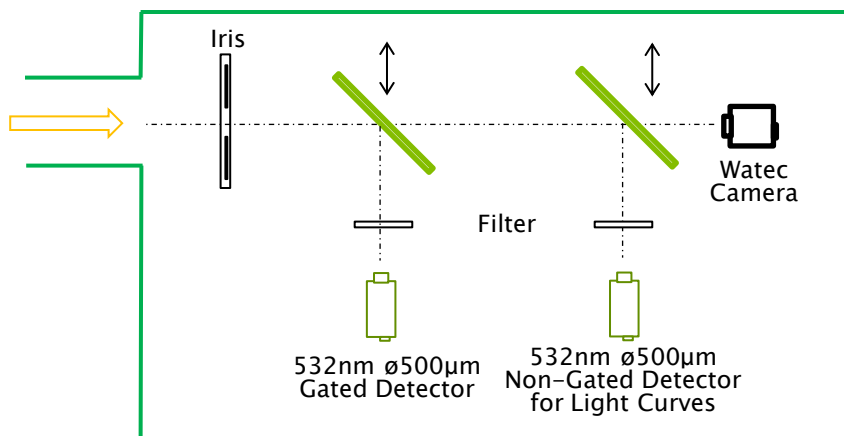
- ❖ Transmitting module (15uJ/1ns/2kHz)
- ❖ Detection package
- ❖ FPGA-based Control Unit
- ❖ Riga ET-A033
- ❖ Laptop
- ❖ Real-Time programs
- ❖ GNSS T&F Receiver
- ❖ P/T/H Device

Kirchner, G., Koidl, F., Steindorfer, M., Wang, P., 2015. SP-DART: Single-Photon Detection, Alignment and Reference Tool. In: 2015 ILRS Technical Workshop.

# TRANSMITTING MODULE



# DETECTION AND CONTROL MODULE



- 19" Rack Box
  - FPGA for laser and RG
  - GPS Time & Freq. Unit
  - Latvia ET
  - P/T/H
- Laptop

# EXPERIMENT SETUP



Telescope was remotely controlled  
by **Dr. Martin Ploner** in Switzerland



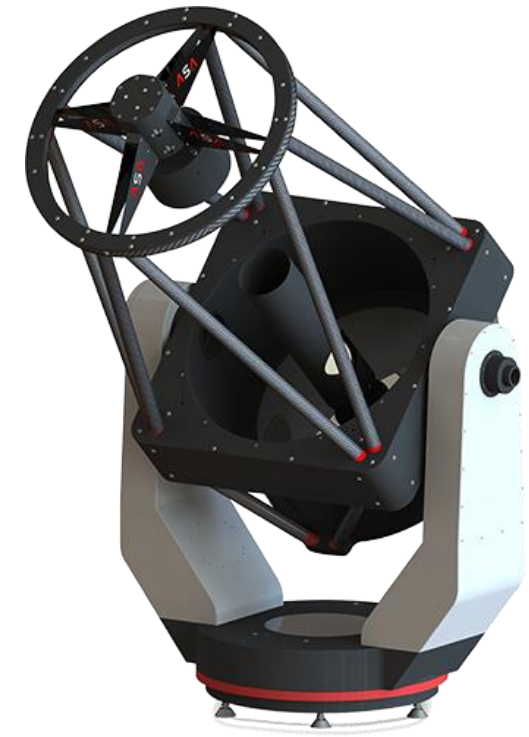
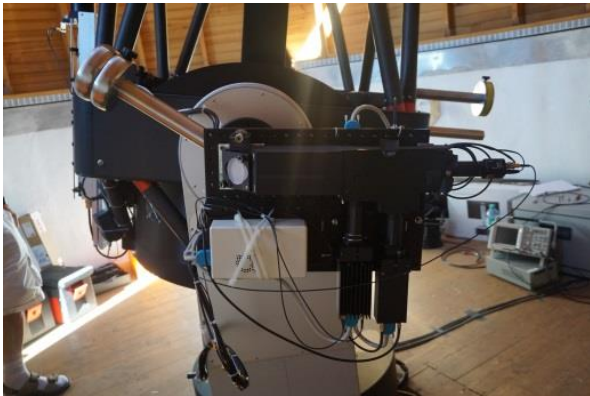
©Egon Döberl



# THE SANDL TELESCOPE

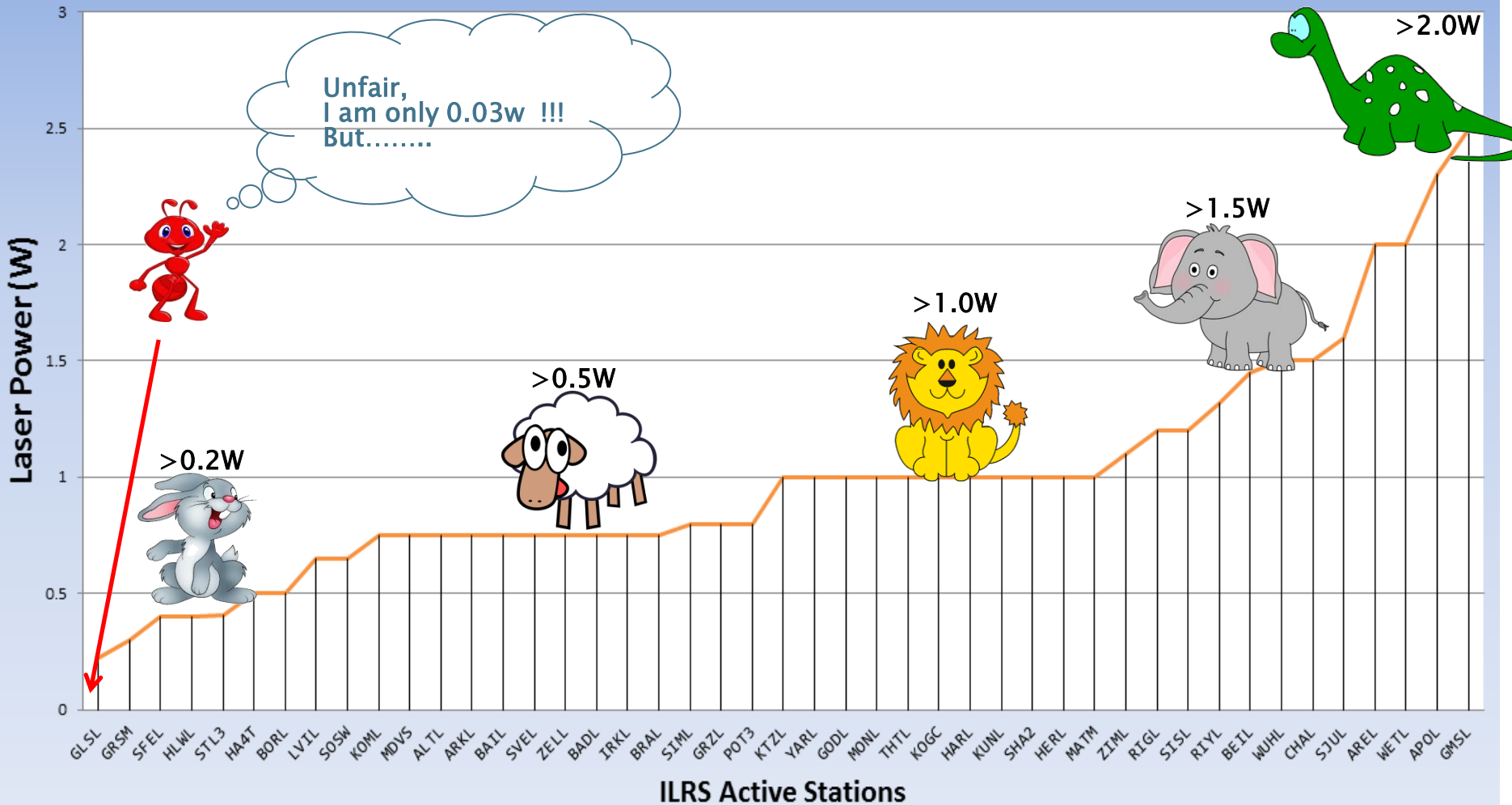
- Altazimuth Ritchey Chretien
- Aperture: 70 cm
- Focal length: 6.3 m
- Two hyperbolic mirrors -> aberration correction
- Nazmyth style      Outcoupling in Elevation axis

Rotatable 45° mirror



© Astrosysteme Austria

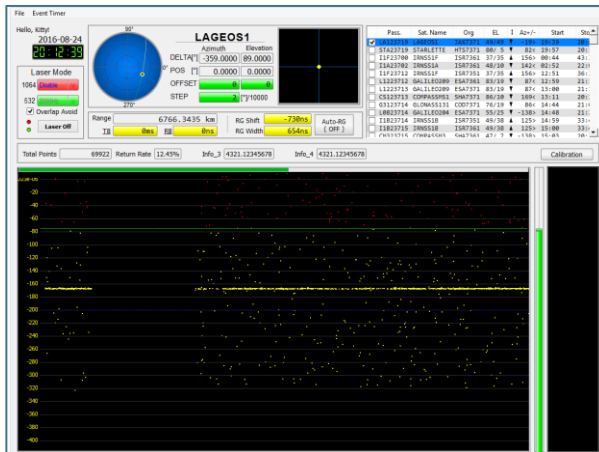
# 15 μJ @ 2 KHz = 0.03 W



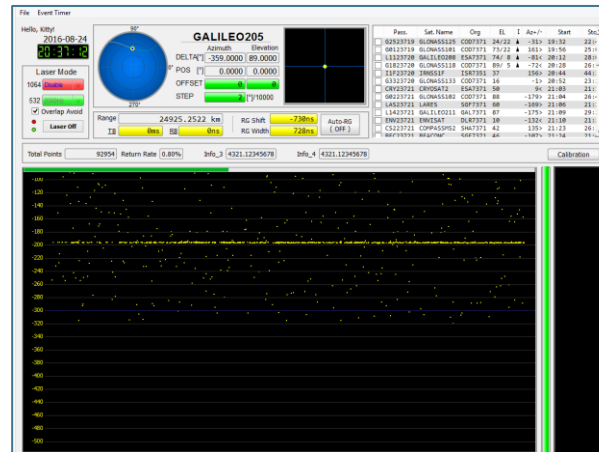
\*c.f. <http://ilrs.gsfc.nasa.gov/network/stations/active/index.html>, Sep. 2016  
 \*\*Exclude: 1) MDOL, because of 15w power  
 2) MAIL, because of laser Info. N/A  
 3) METL, because of too low repetition rate

# RANGING RESULTS

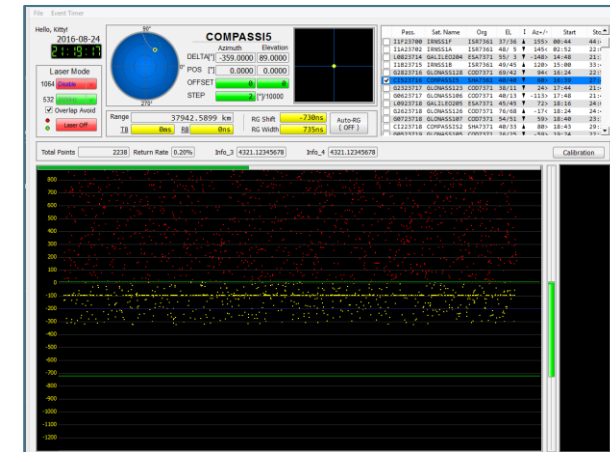
- In total, 17 passes from LEO up to GEO
- **Only 6 hours** setup, the first pass was tracked successfully



Lagoes1



Galileo



COMPASS IGS05

Elevation: ~40° Perigee: 35,604 km

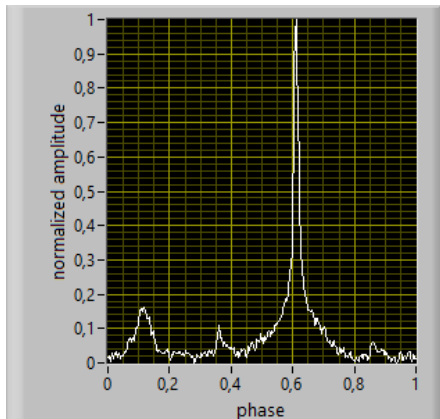
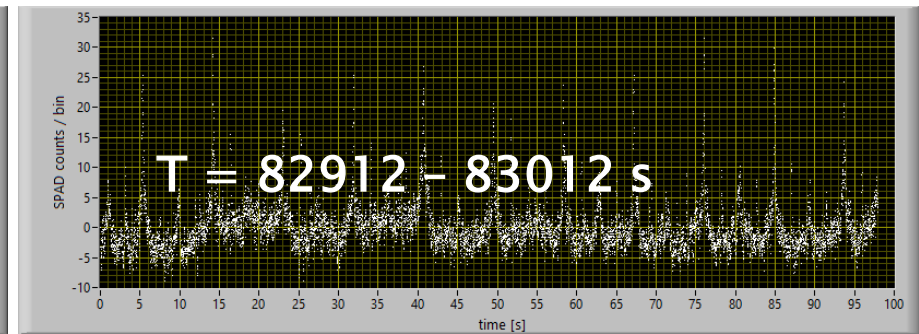
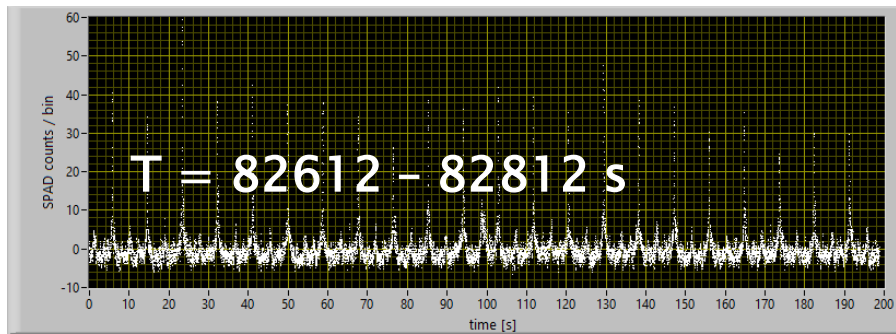
	Passes	Max. Return Rate
GEO (Compass I5) Elevation: ~40°	1	~0.2%
GNSS	6	~2.6%
Lageos	3	~12.5%
LEO	7	>30%

Date	Days of Year	Passes
2016-08-22	235	3
2016-08-23	236	6
2016-08-24	237	8



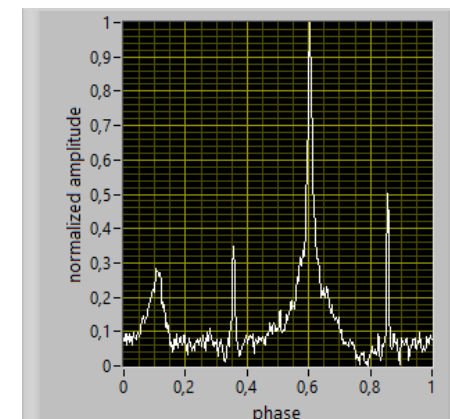
# LIGHT CURVES

- An non-gated un-gated detector was installed for parallel light curves
- GLONASS041,  $T_{\text{spin}} = 8.84$  s, 4 sides of satellites visible



Signal

Light curves



Kirchner, G., Koidl, F., Steindorfer, M., Wang, P., 2015. Light Curve Measurements with Single Photon Counters at Graz SLR. In: 2015 ILRS Technical Workshop.

# CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

- *TINY, Transportable, Easy, Efficient*
  - Tiny: <10 kg mounted on telescope; <30kg in total
  - Transportable: easily loaded into a car
  - Easy: 6 hours setup time, then get ready
  - Efficient: up to GEO target with 15  $\mu$ J laser
- SP-DART could be used for
  - Calibrate/Evaluate system
  - Upgrade astronomical telescope to bi/multi-static ranging
  - Full automatic HEOs ranging system  
(4 cm single-shot RMS, sufficient for EOP  
calculated by Toshimichi Otsubo )
- This project is supported ESA (4000112211/14/D/SR)
- Thanks for colleagues from ASA and remote operator from CH

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Technical

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