

# THE nanoparticles SCOPE: DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW INTEGRATED INSTRUMENT FOR ACCURATE AND REPRODUCIBLE PHYSICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERISATION OF NANOPARTICLES

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# THE npSCOPE PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

LUXEMBOURG  
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY



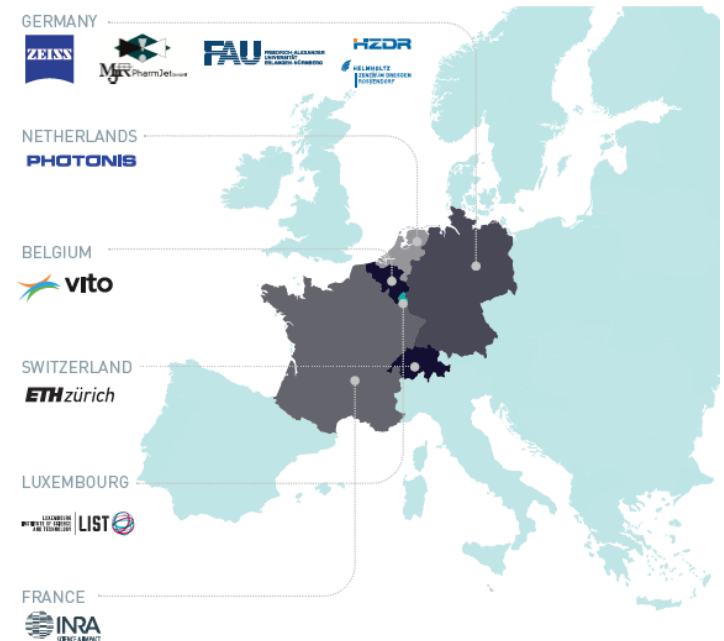
## It answer the call NMBP-26-2016/2017

*“Analytical techniques and tools in support of nanomaterial risk assessment.”*

## 9 partners

Total European Contribution  
**About 6.5 kk€**

Coordinator  
**Luxembourg Institute of Science and  
Technology**



The main objective of the npSCOPE project is to **Built, Test** and **Qualify** an innovative analytical platform that combines:

- Helium Ion Microscopy
- Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry
- Secondary Transmitted Ion Spectrometry
- All of the above techniques under Cryo-Stage

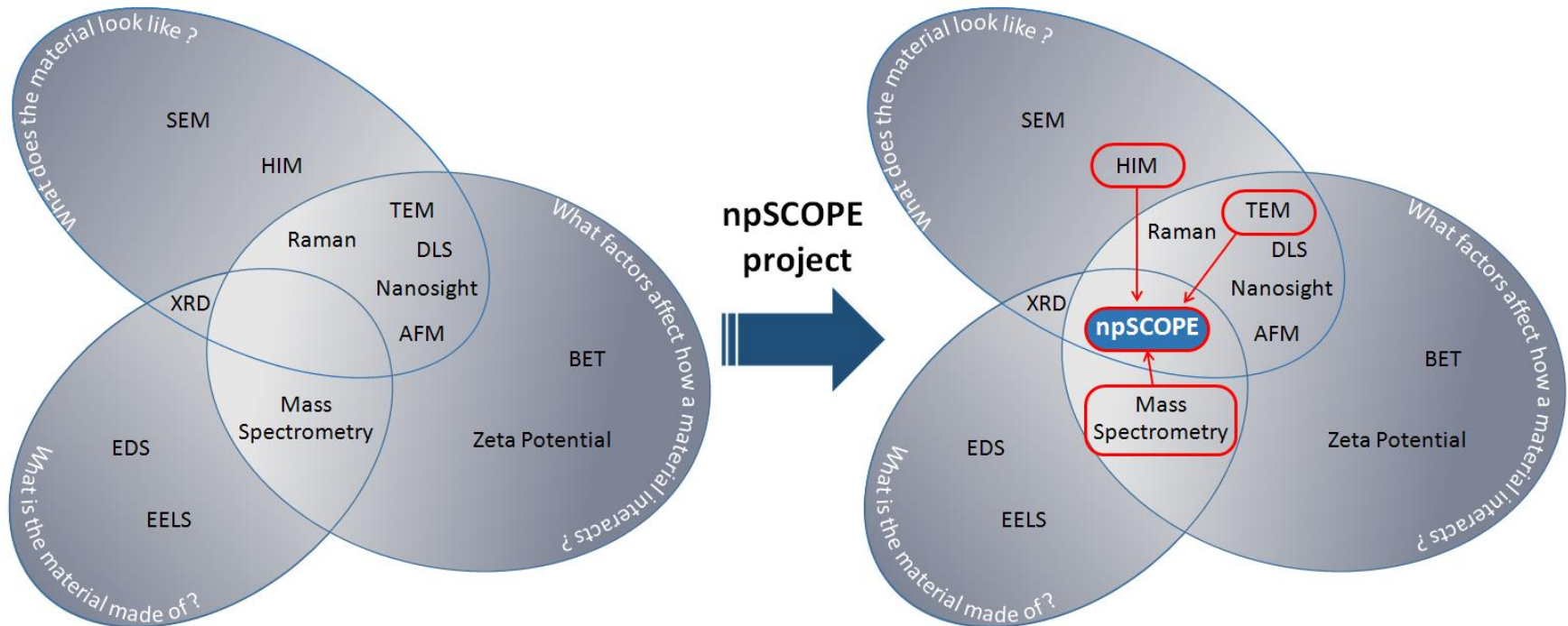
This will allow, with only one analytical platform to

- Fully characterise individual nanoparticles
- and their interaction with their environment (tissue, cells, etc)
- to better understand the risks they might pose to human health or the environment

# OBJECTIVE OF THE NPSCOPE PROJECT

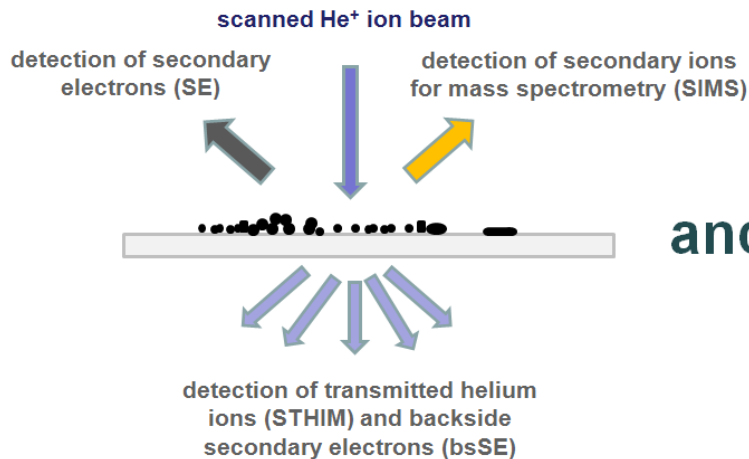
⇒ The npSCOPE platform will allow answering these main questions:

- What does the material look like?
- What is the material made of?
- What factors affect how a material interacts with its surroundings?

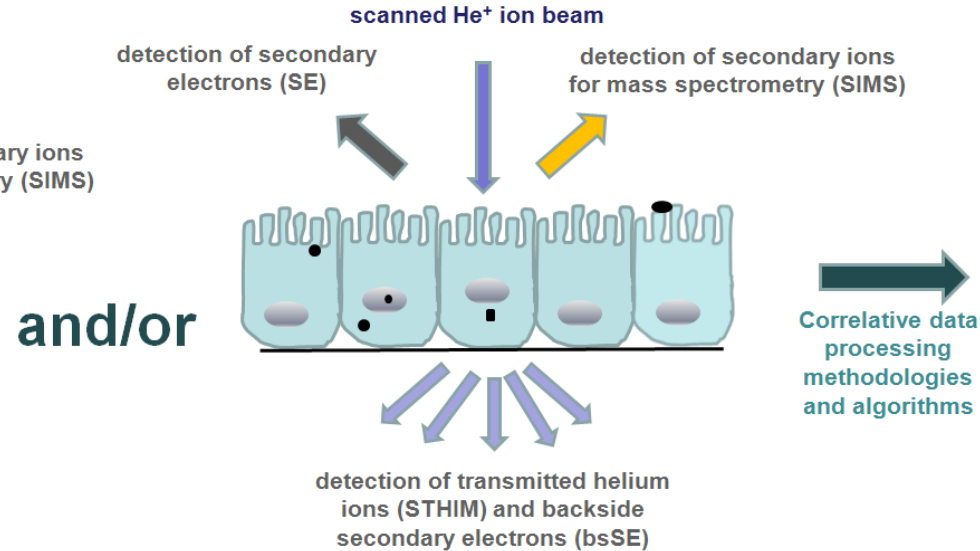


# OBJECTIVE OF THE npSCOPE PROJECT

## npSCOPE on raw nanoparticles



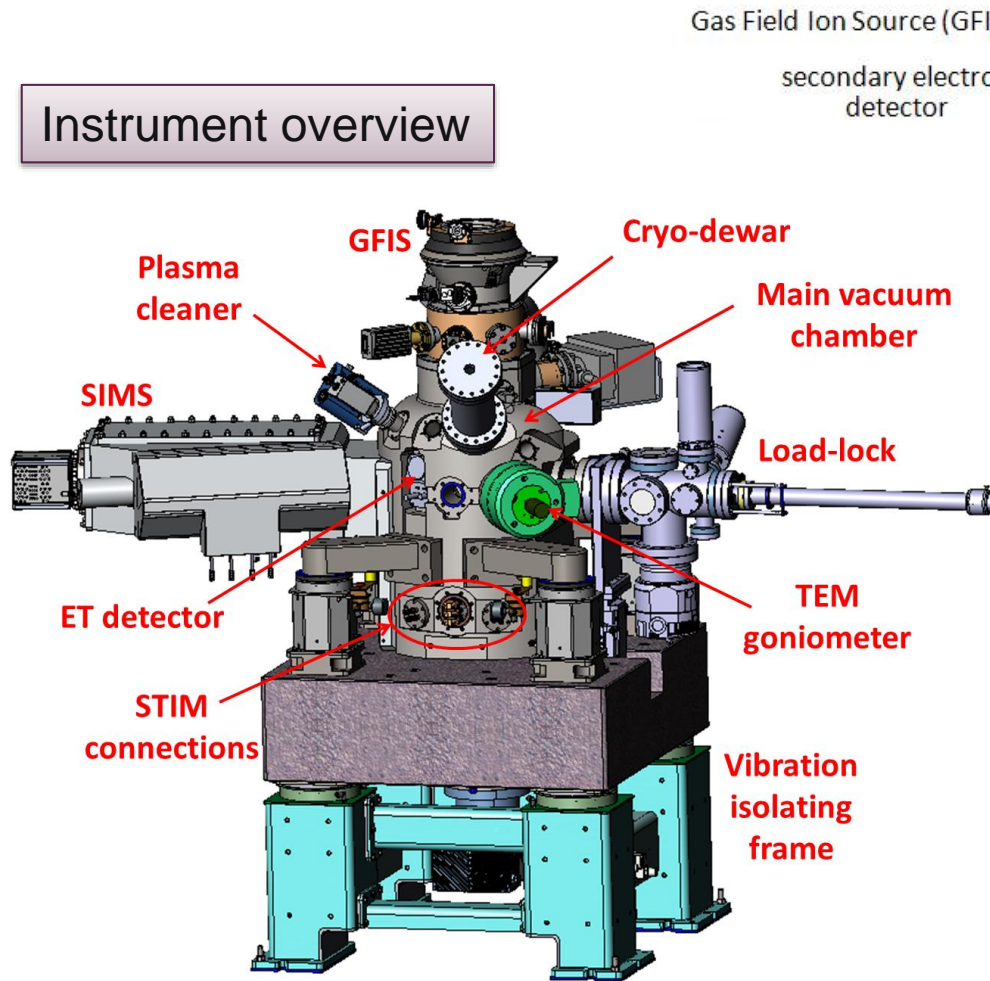
## npSCOPE on nanoparticles in complex matrices



- Precise localisation of the nanoparticles at the sub-cellular level
- Interaction of the nanoparticles with the biological system
- Chemical composition of the nanoparticles
- Morphology of the nanoparticles
- Size distribution of the nanoparticles
- Density of the nanoparticles

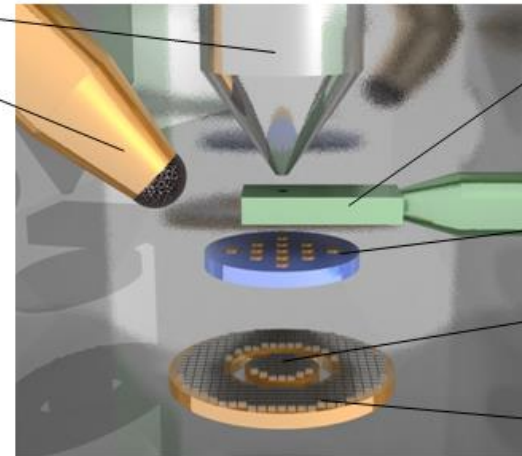
# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

## Instrument overview



Gas Field Ion Source (GFIS)

secondary electron detector



high-efficiency secondary ion extraction and transfer optics

multi-position cryo sample holder

bright field STHIM detector

dark field STHIM detector

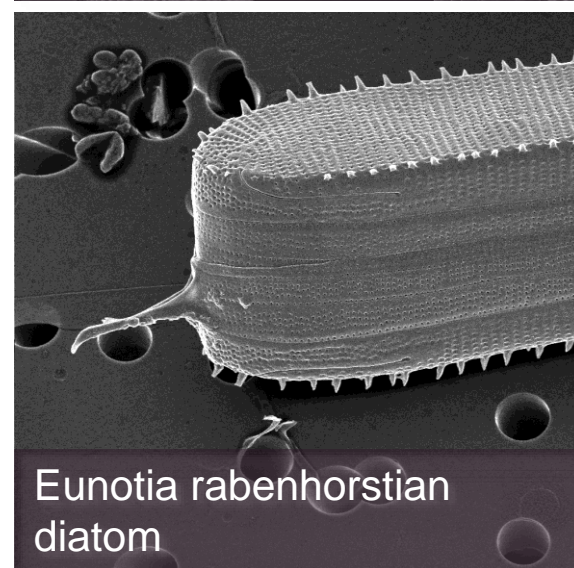
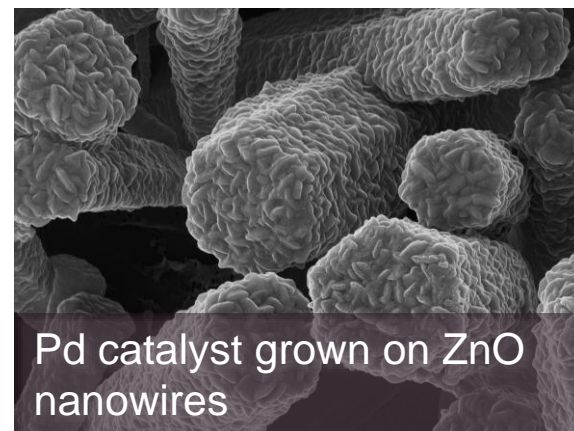
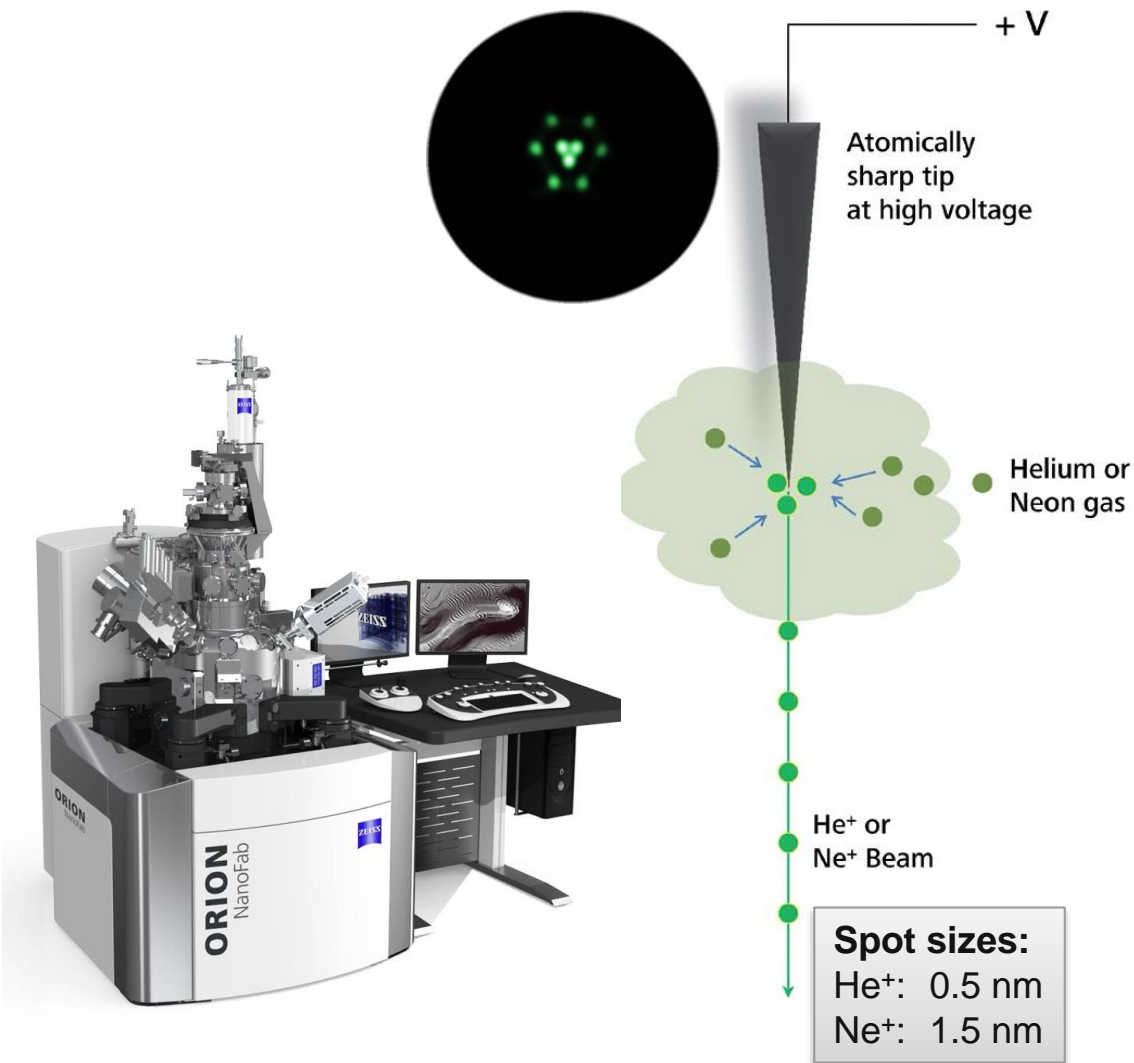
## Schematic of chamber interior

## Key performance specifications

Imaging resolution detecting secondary electrons	0.5 nm
Imaging resolution detecting secondary ions	4 nm (not mass filtered) 10 nm (mass filtered)
Imaging resolution detecting transmitted helium	0.5 nm
Mass resolution of the mass spectrometer	$M/\Delta M > 500$ if slits are fully open ( $M/\Delta M$ will further increase when closing the slits)
Overall extraction and transmission efficiency of the mass spectrometer	40 %
Detection limits in the SIMS mode	$10^{-3}$ (i. e. 0.1 at%) for nanoparticles having a volume of $100 \text{ nm}^3$ , to ppm (i.e. $10^{-4}$ at%) for nanoparticles having a volume of $10^5 \text{ nm}^3$

# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

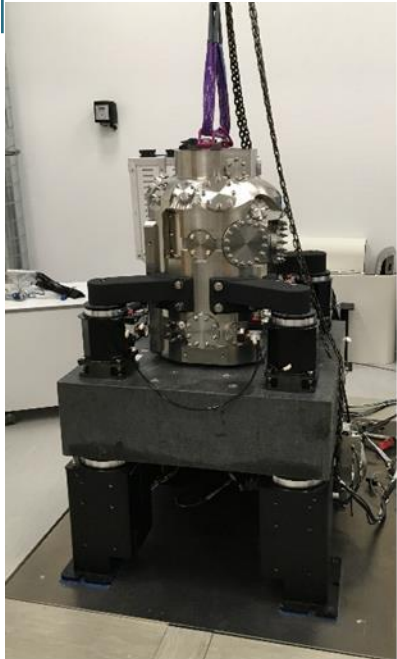
## GAS FIELD ION SOURCE (GFIS) (ZEISS)





# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

## MAIN VACUUM CHAMBER



### Mounting of:

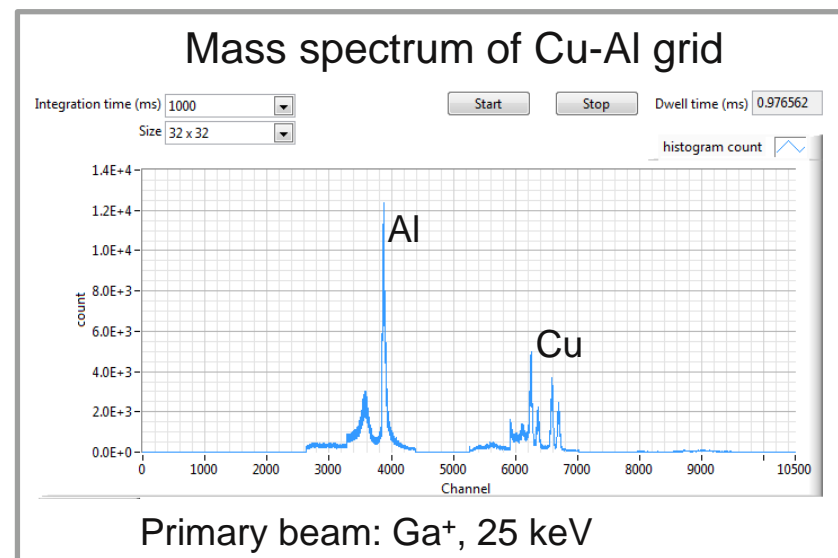
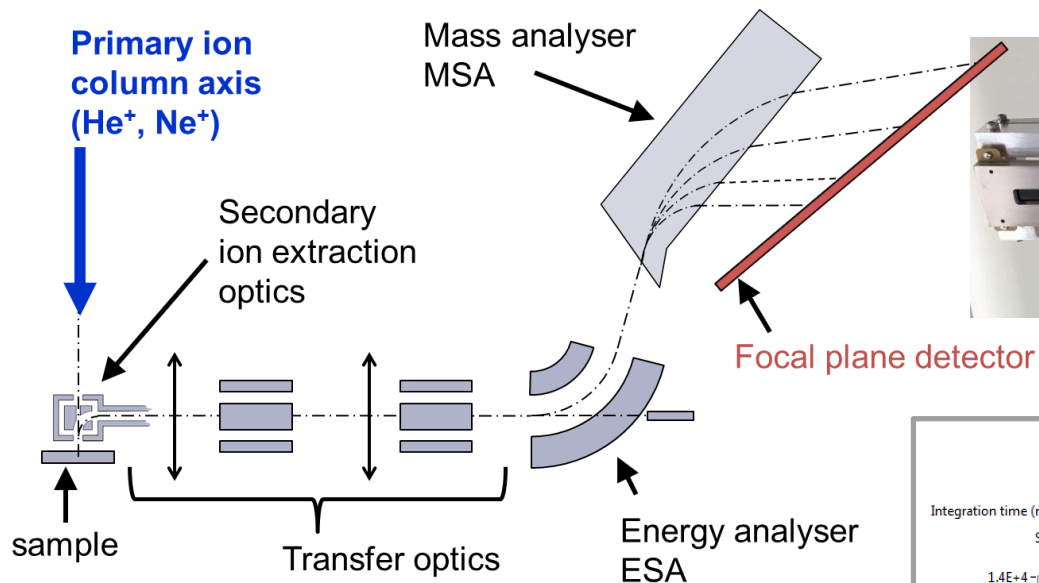
- GFIS column
- ET detector
- Flood gun
- Standard Zeiss NanoFab sample stage and load-lock



Base pressure of around  $5 \times 10^{-8}$  mbar

# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

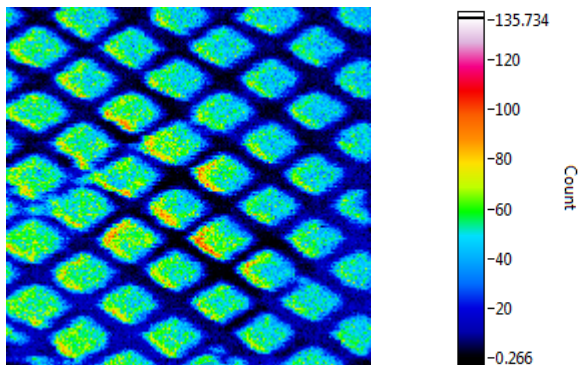
## SIMS SUB-SYSTEM



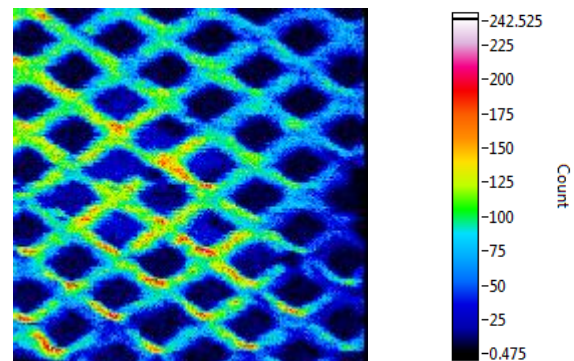
# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

## SIMS SUB-SYSTEM

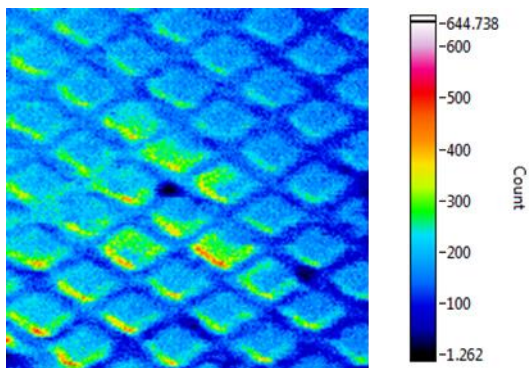
Al



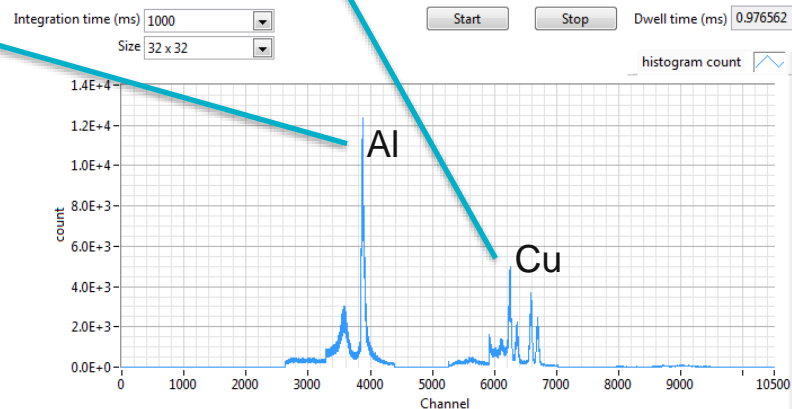
Cu



Total counts



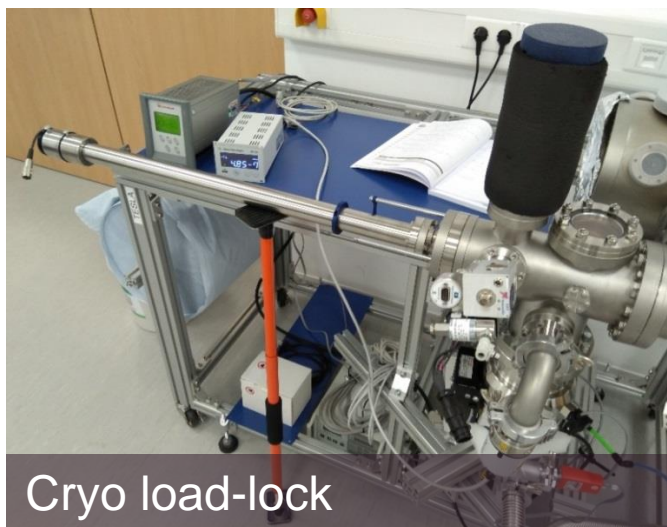
Mass spectrum of Cu-Al grid



Primary beam: Ga<sup>+</sup>, 25 keV

# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

## CRYO SUB-SYSTEM



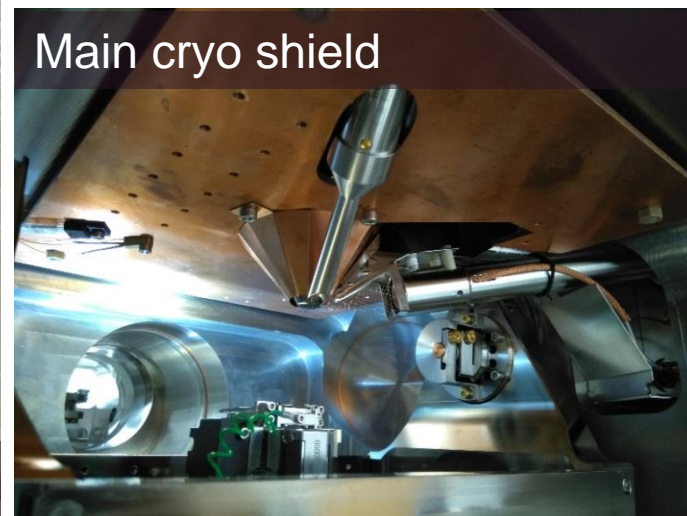
Cryo load-lock



Dewar



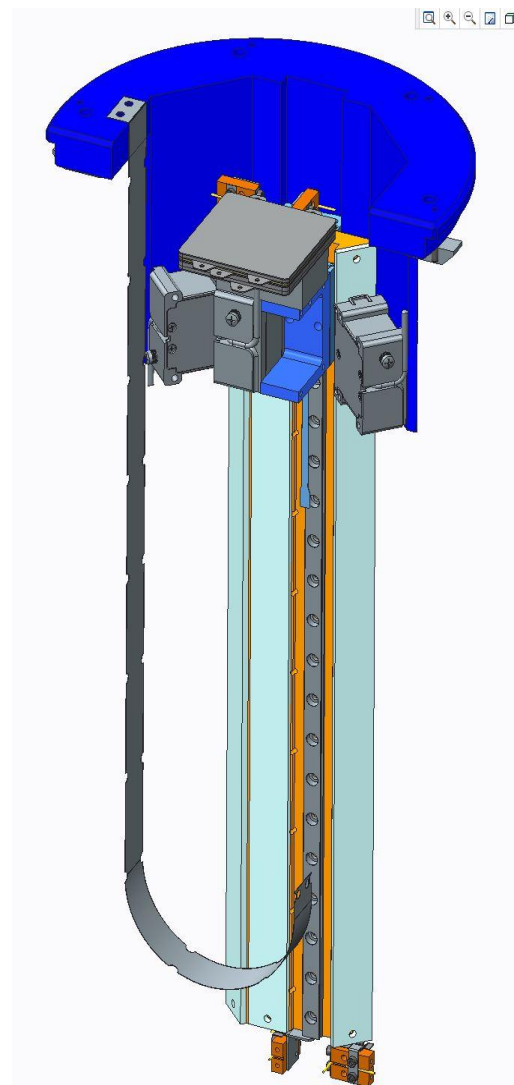
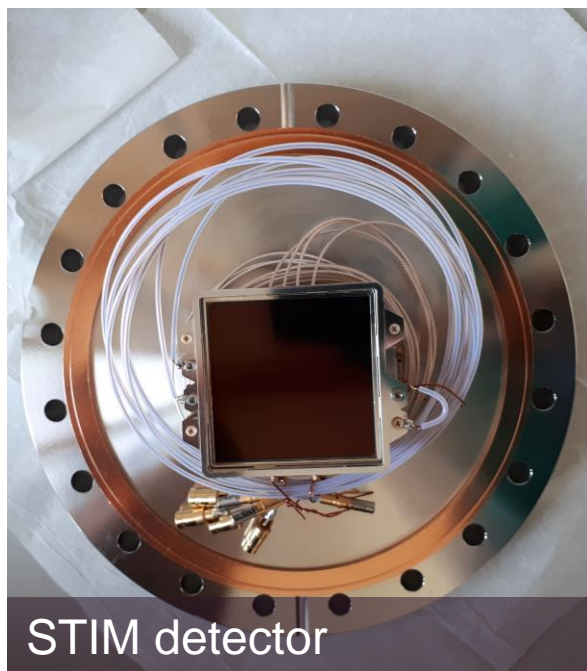
Main cryo shield



Main cryo shield

# INSTRUMENT DEVELOPMENT

## STIM SUB-SYSTEM

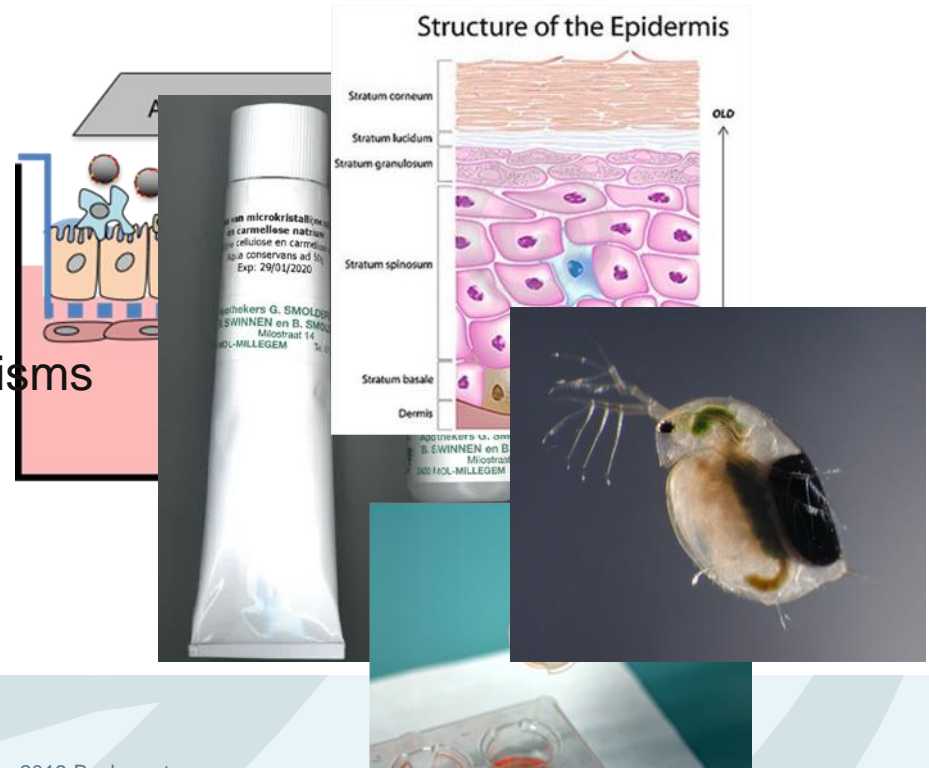


# TEST CASES FOR THE npSCOPE

A number of test cases will be prepared and analyzed with the npSCOPE platform, using different materials (shape, core material, shape, concentrations, etc.)

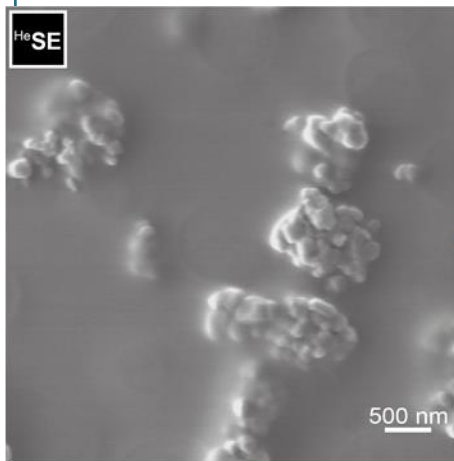
The test cases will be developed for testing and benchmarking purposes, but also to allow future npSCOPE users to reproduce samples (and hopefully the results) using well-established methods.

- Oral exposure & food products
- Respiratory exposure and aerosols
- Dermal exposure & cosmetic products
- Fresh water matrix & fresh water organisms
- Soil matrices & terrestrial organisms

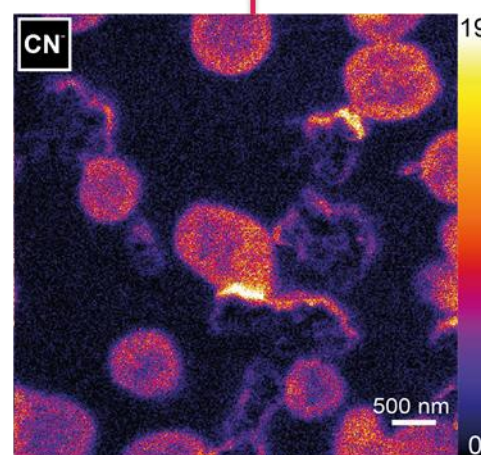
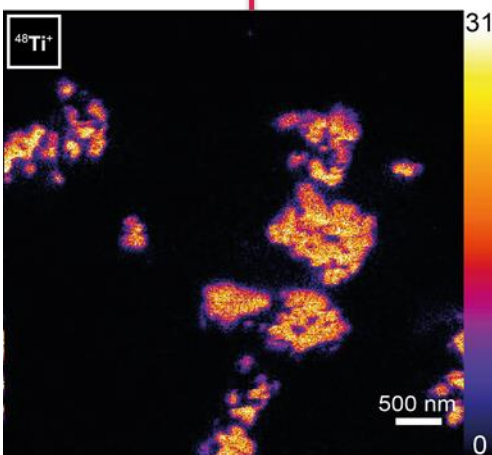
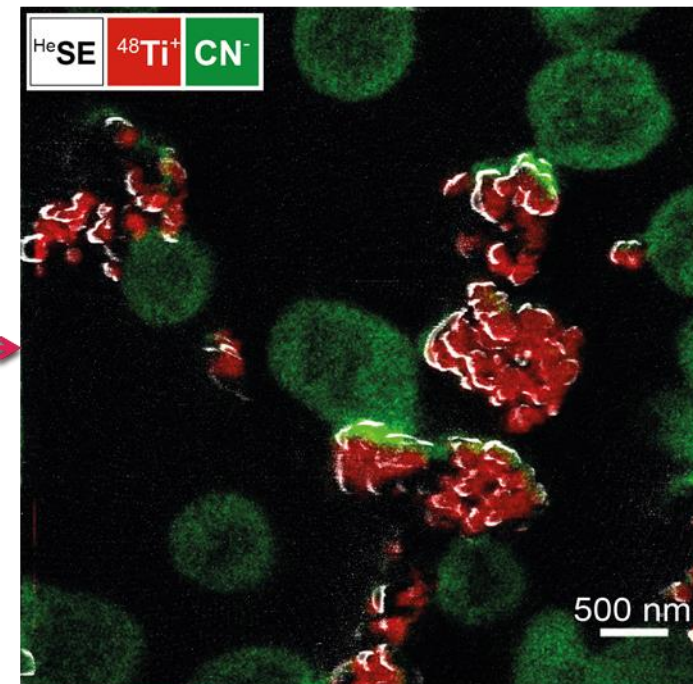


# APPLICATION

## ANALYSIS OF FOOD-GRADE $\text{TiO}_2$ NPs IN E. COLI BACTERIA



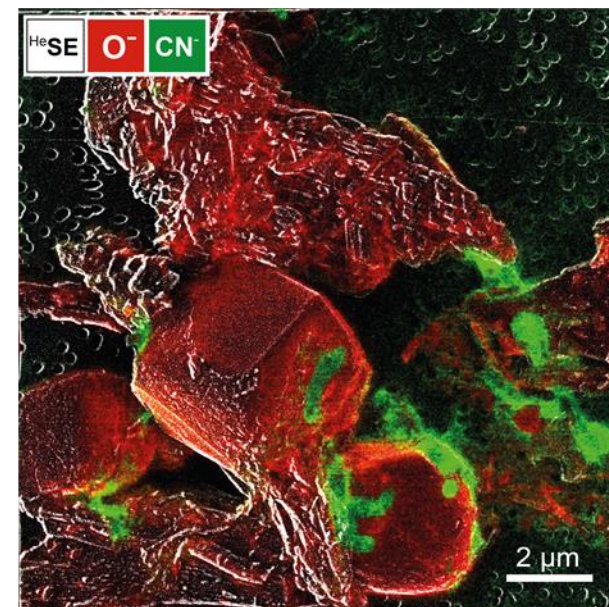
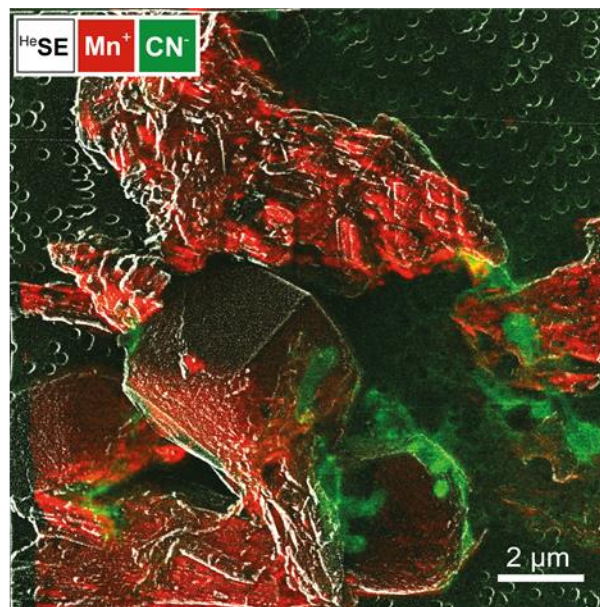
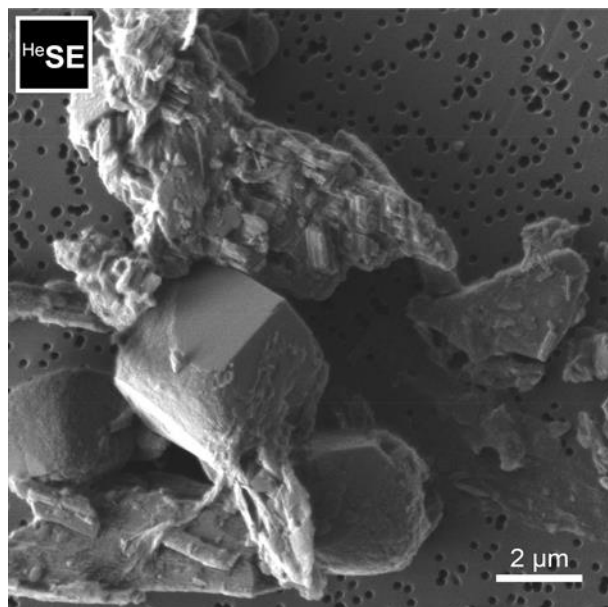
**SE**  
20 keV He<sup>+</sup> / I<sub>p</sub>=5.8 pA  
2048 × 2048 pixels  
20 μs/pixel  
FoV 5×5 μm<sup>2</sup>



**SIMS**  
20 keV Ne<sup>+</sup> / I<sub>p</sub>=5 pA  
512×512 pixels  
3 ms/pixel  
FoV 5×5 μm<sup>2</sup>

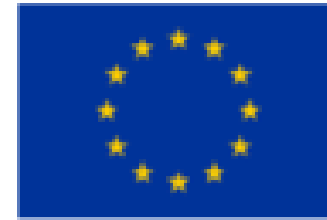
# APPLICATION

## LOCALISATION OF BACTERIA ON MANGANESE SPECIES





# THANK YOU



The nanoparticle-scope (npSCOPE) project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 720964



<https://www.npscope.eu/>