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The Australian X-Band electron test accelerator

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The University of Melbourne's Xband Laboratory for Accelerators and Beams (XLAB) is collaborating with CERN on the design and testing of high-gradient accelerating structures. Together with the Australian Synchrotron (ANSTO), we are developing the X-Band Electron Test Accelerator (xBeta), a compact high-gradient electron accelerator.

The system will feature a photogun to generate short electron bunches of less than 10ps, producing pulsed electron beams of energy 5–30 MeV at repetition rates of 50–400 Hz. A spectrometer will be available for precise characterization of the energy spectrum and the facility will be used to explore medical and industrial applications of high-gradient accelerator technology.

Applications include electron bombardment to create nitrogen-vacancy centres in diamond, mono-energetic X-rays for medical imaging offering enhanced contrast and reduced radiation doses and novel channels for medical isotope production. These features make the system a versatile platform for innovations in fundamental research, healthcare, and industry.

Footnotes

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