

Making the UK a Quantum Superpower: NPL's role in standards, testing, and regulation

Tim Prior

*Quantum Programme Manager
National Physical Laboratory*

in

DigiGov Expo



DIGIGOVEXPO

Making the UK a Quantum Superpower: NPL's Role in standards, testing and regulation

Tim Prior

Agenda for talk:

NPL and the importance of measurement

How / why did NPL get involved in quantum?

What do u need to know to use / invest in quantum?

The importance of standards, and measurement
(again)





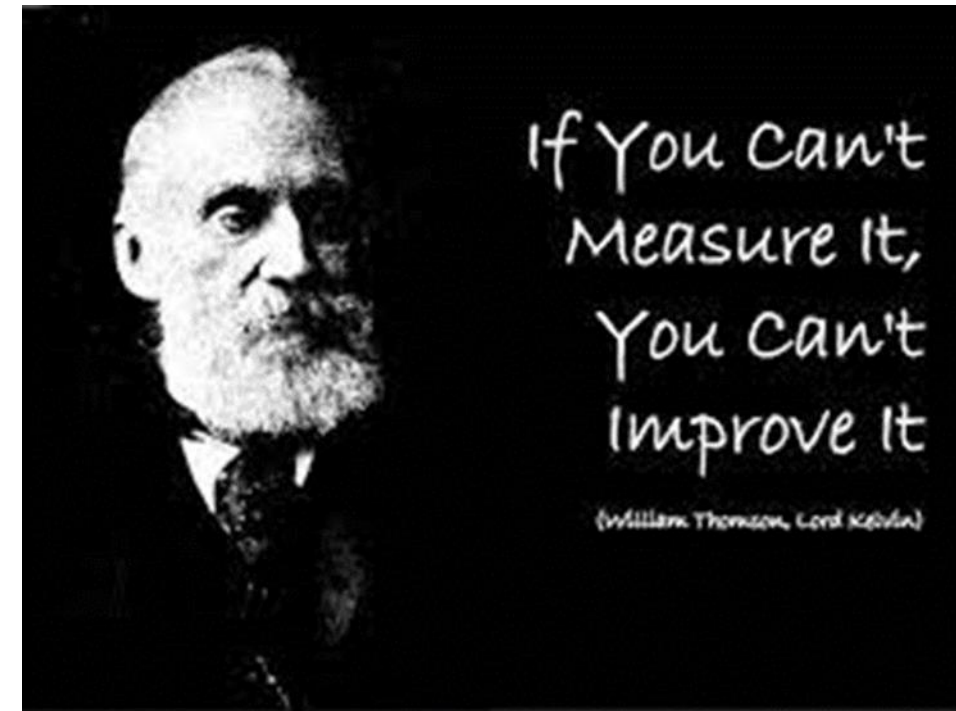
We provide the Measurement capability that underpins the UK's prosperity and quality of life

- Government-owned laboratory
- National Metrology Institute ~1300 staff + ~200 students & visiting researchers/year
- High-spec laboratory infrastructure (~400 labs)



The measure of everything

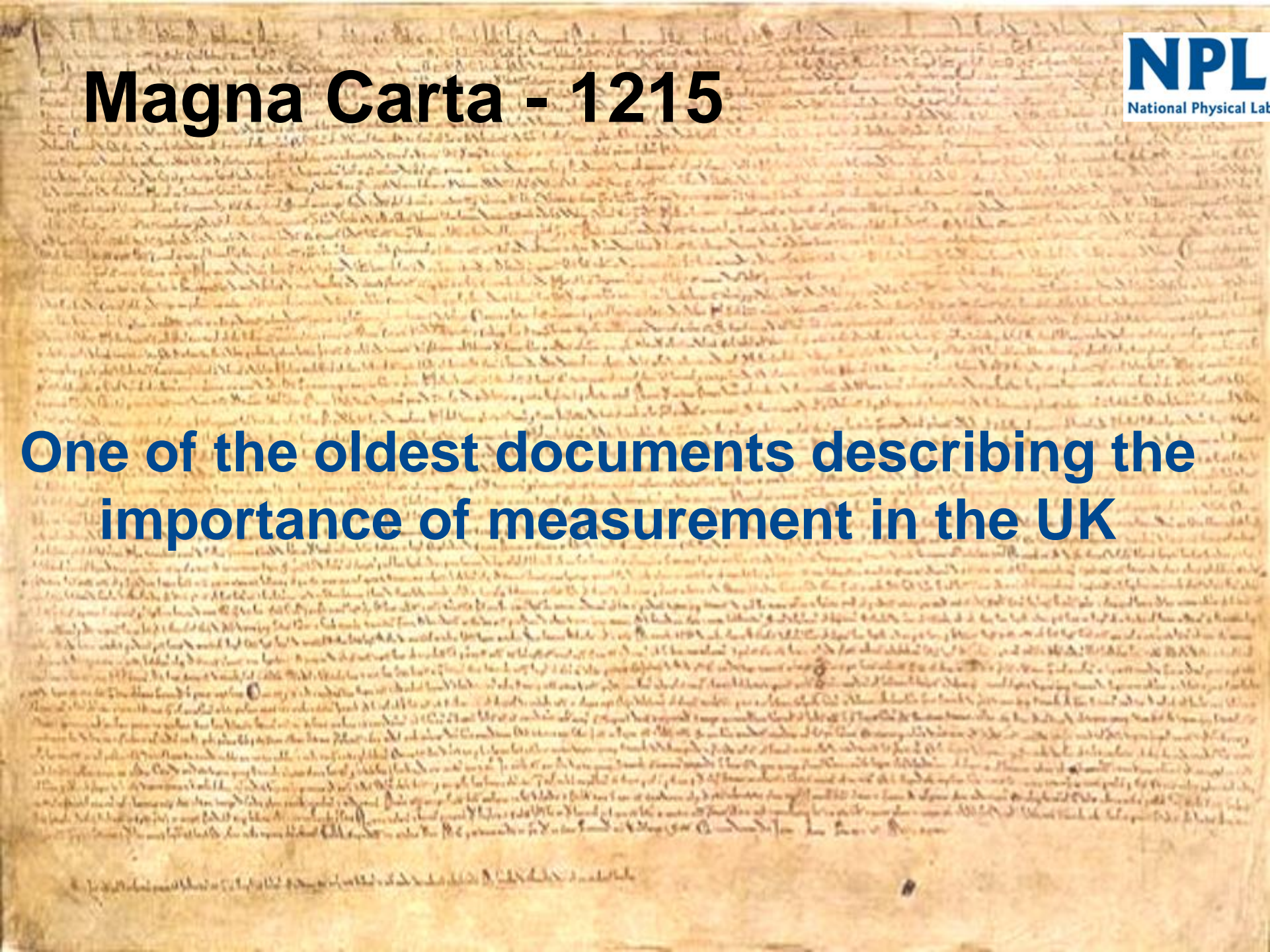
- Why measure?



Magna Carta - 1215



One of the oldest documents describing the importance of measurement in the UK



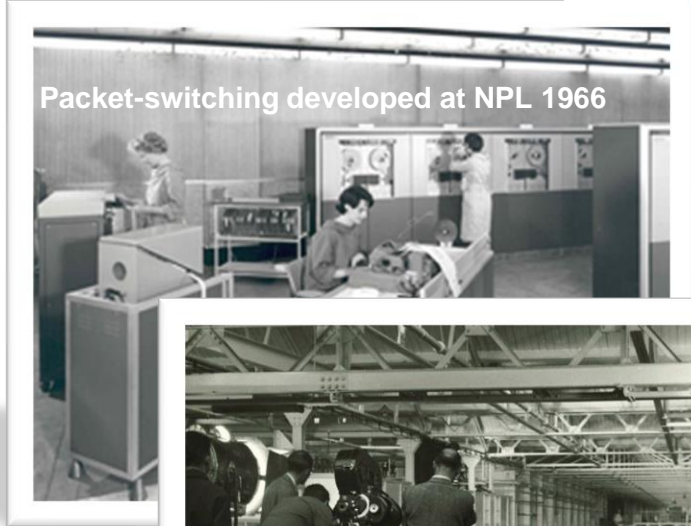
Magna Carta - 1215

“There is to be one measure of wine and ale and corn within the realm, namely the London quarter, and one breadth of cloth, and it is to be the same with weights.”

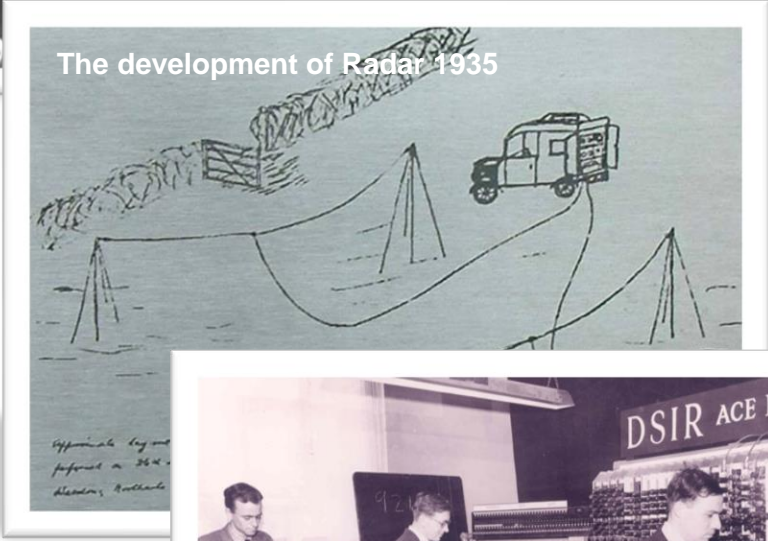
NPL: A Proud Legacy



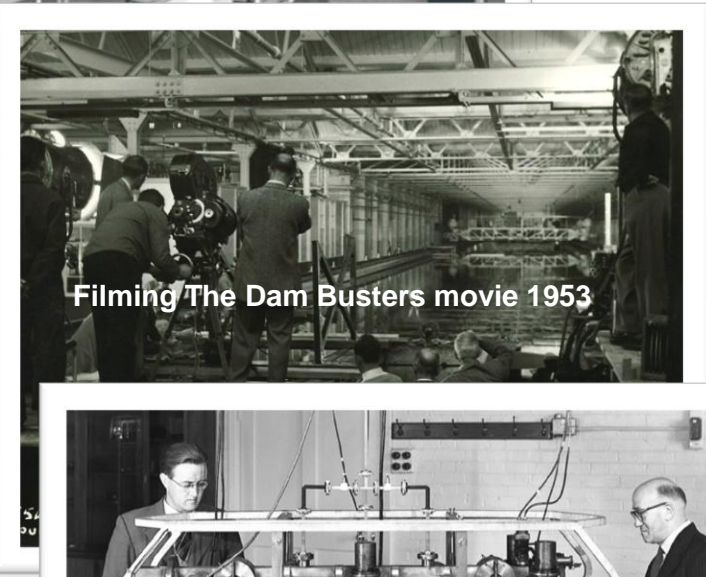
Opening NPL 1902



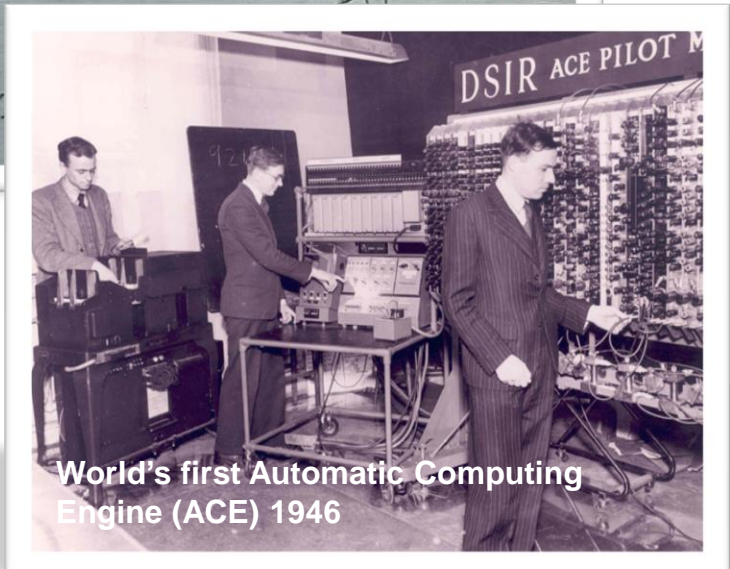
Packet-switching developed at NPL 1966



The development of Radar 1935



Filming The Dam Busters movie 1953



World's first Automatic Computing Engine (ACE) 1946



World's first accurate Caesium Atomic Clock 1955

60 seconds a day



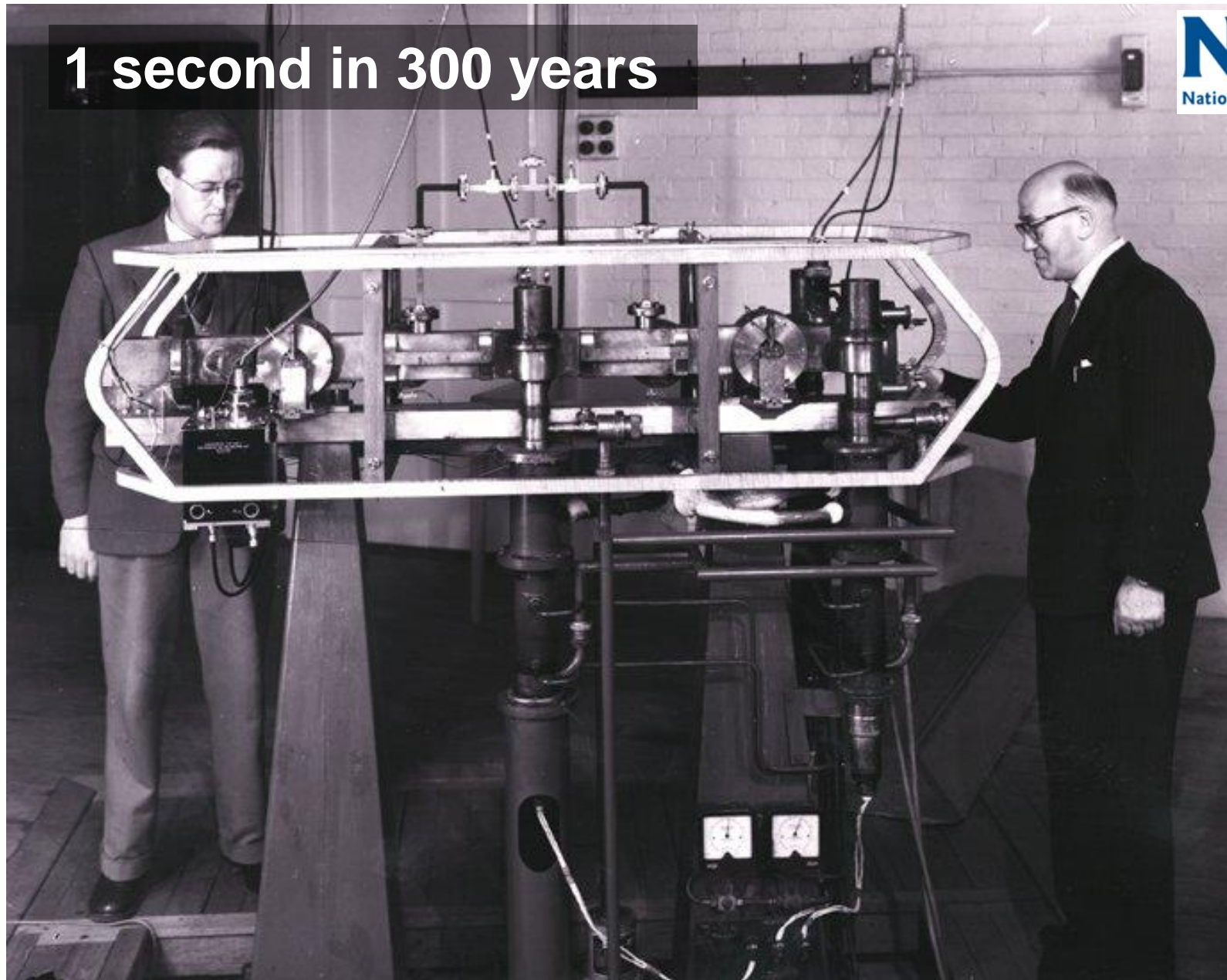
1 second a day



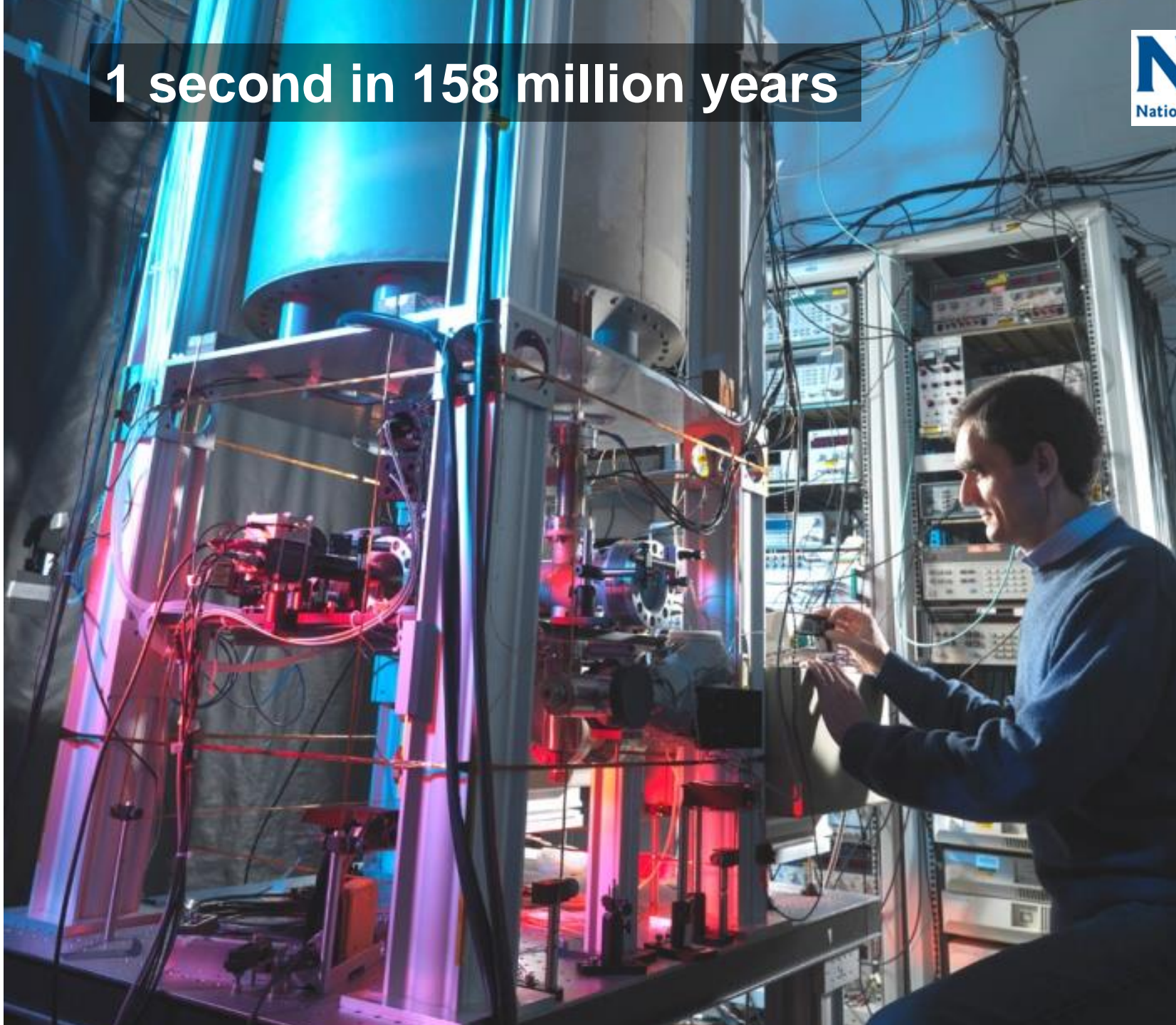
1 second in 30 years



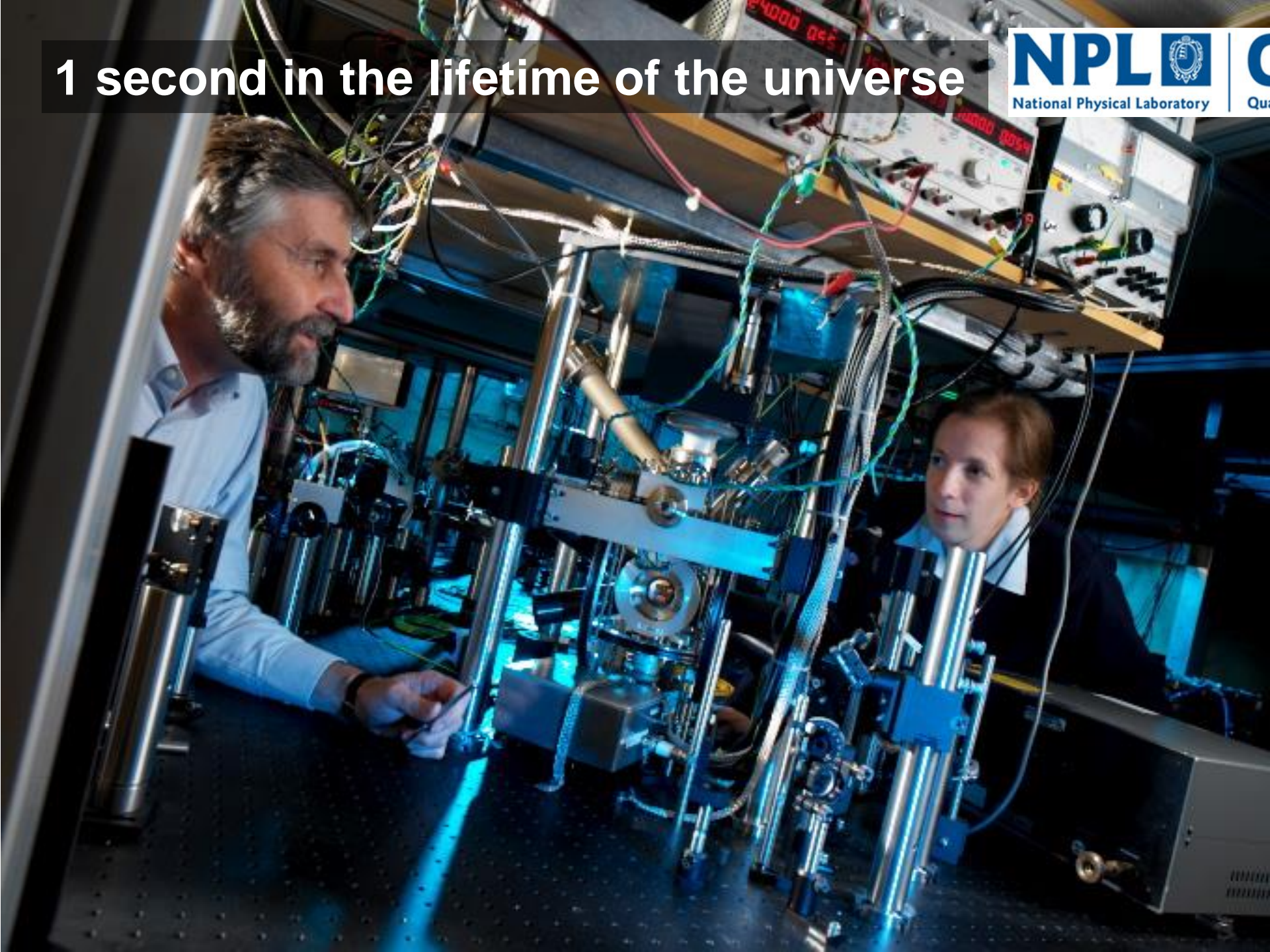
1 second in 300 years



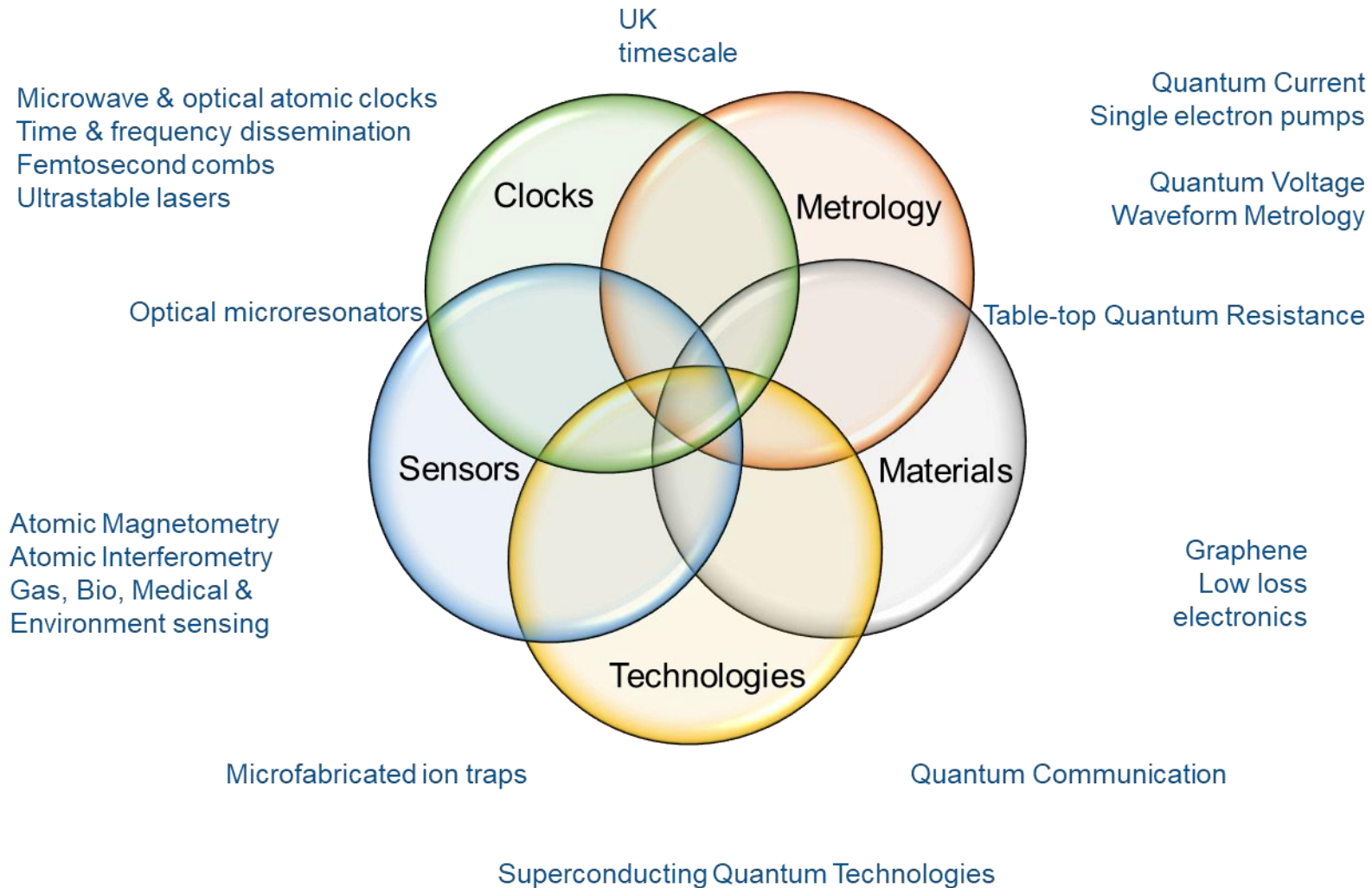
1 second in 158 million years



1 second in the lifetime of the universe

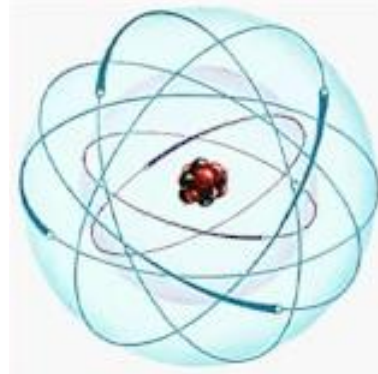


How / why did NPL get involved in quantum?



Primary quantum standards

Standards which only depend on the fundamental constants of nature



- Independent of time
- Can be generated everywhere in the world
- Accuracy only limited by our ability to measure

A gold coin with a textured, braided border and a central circular area containing the text "Quantum For Metrology".


Quantum For Metrology

NMIs

- Often first to develop
- Often first to benefit

Examples:

- Josephson junctions for voltage standards
- Ion traps for clocks

A gold coin with a textured, braided border and a central plain area. The text "Metrology For Quantum" is written in the center in a black, sans-serif font.

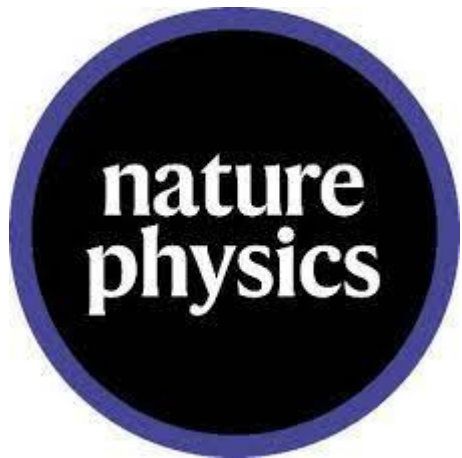
Metrology For Quantum

What does industry need from NMI's to develop quantum technologies?

Examples:

- Josephson junctions for voltage standards...
and superconducting qubits
- Ion traps for clocks
... and computing

And these technologies need entirely new ways to measure & characterize

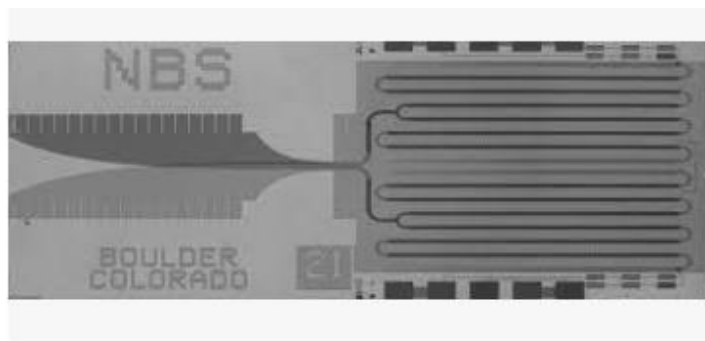


Metrology has often been both the motivation for and a direct beneficiary of ground-breaking discoveries. The **Josephson and the quantum Hall effects** provide the basis for the **realization of electrical units**. **Rabi and Ramsey spectroscopy** methods are essential to the operation of **hydrogen maser and other atomic clocks**. **The invention of lasers led to even more accurate length metrology**. **Frequency standards** now rely on **ion and cold atom trap** techniques, **frequency combs** and methods to manipulate the quantum state of matter.

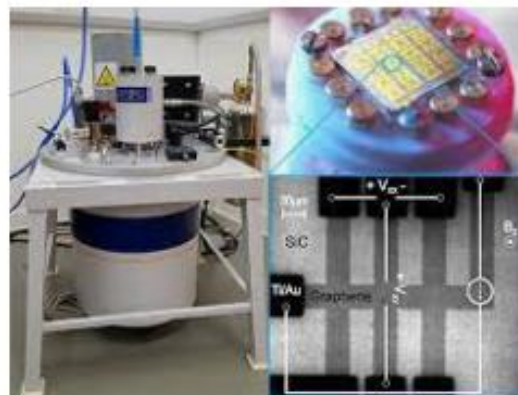
The expanding role of National Metrology Institutes in the quantum era

Alexander Tzalenchuk, Nicolas Spethmann, Tim Prior, Jay H. Hendricks, Yijie Pan, Vladimir Bujanja, Guilherme P. Temporão, Dai-Hyuk Yu, Damir Ilić & Barbara L. Goldstein

Nature Physics volume 18, pages724–727 (2022)Cite this article

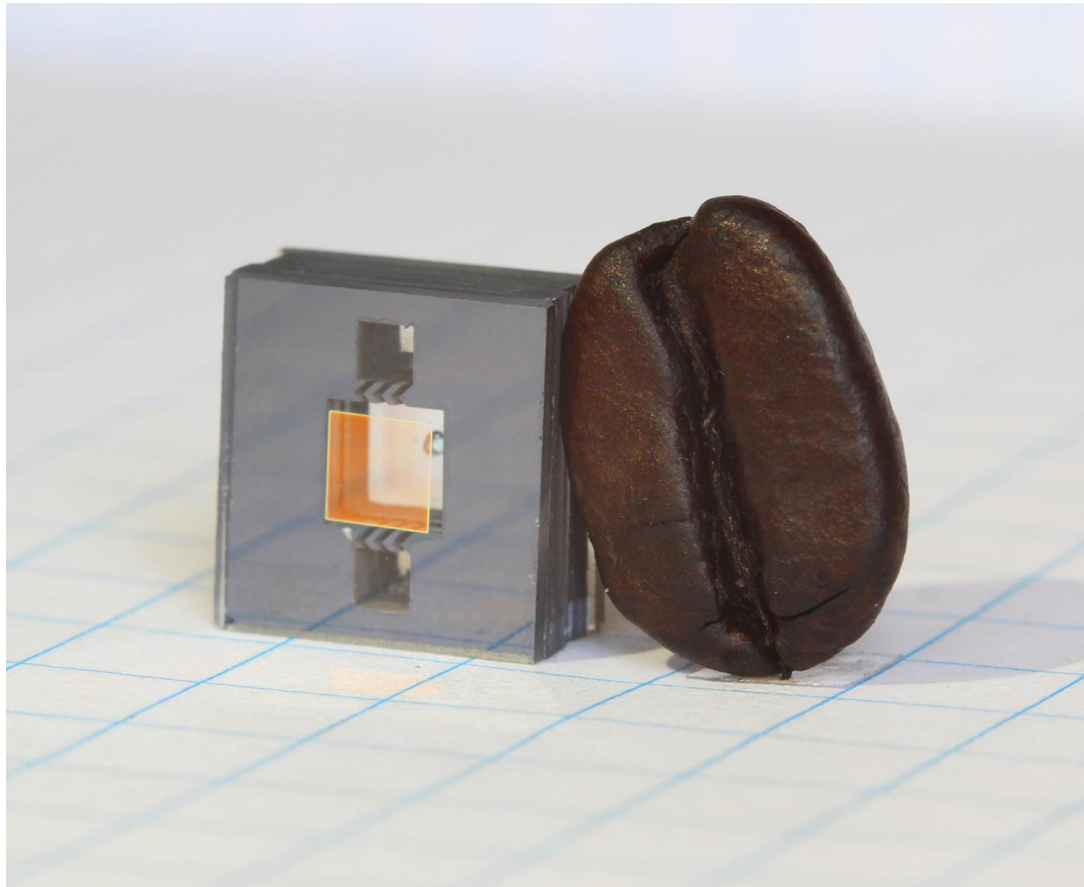


A Practical Josephson Voltage Standard ...
nvlpubs.nist.gov

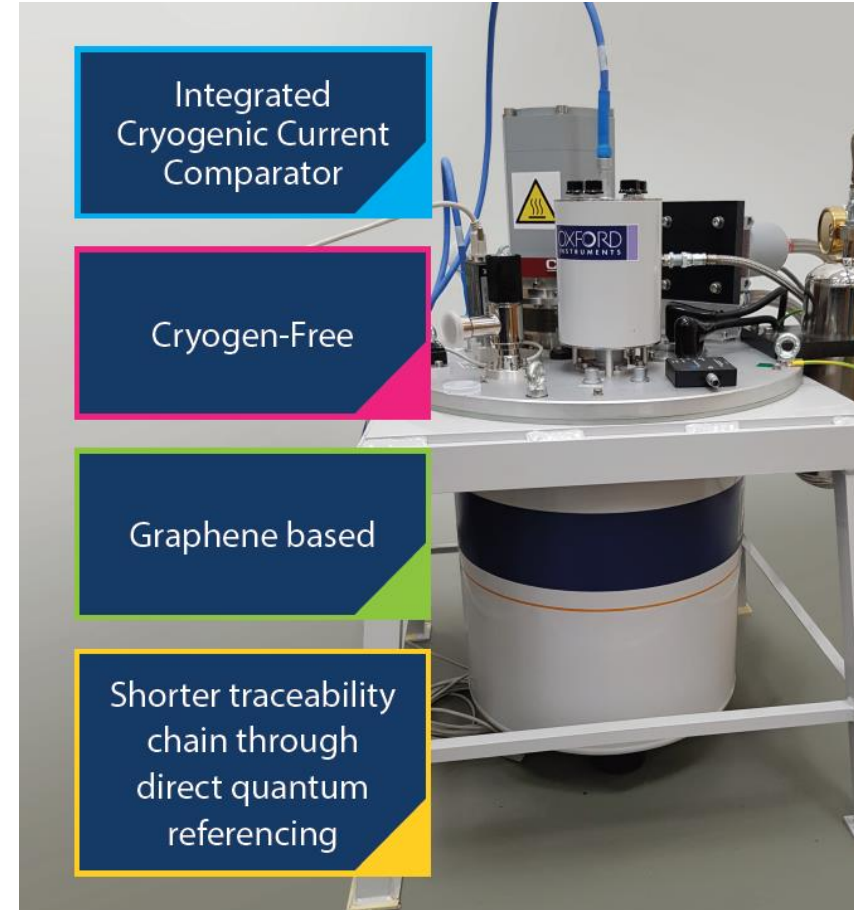


Quantum Materials standards - NPL
npl.co.uk

We may and we can realise units anywhere anytime

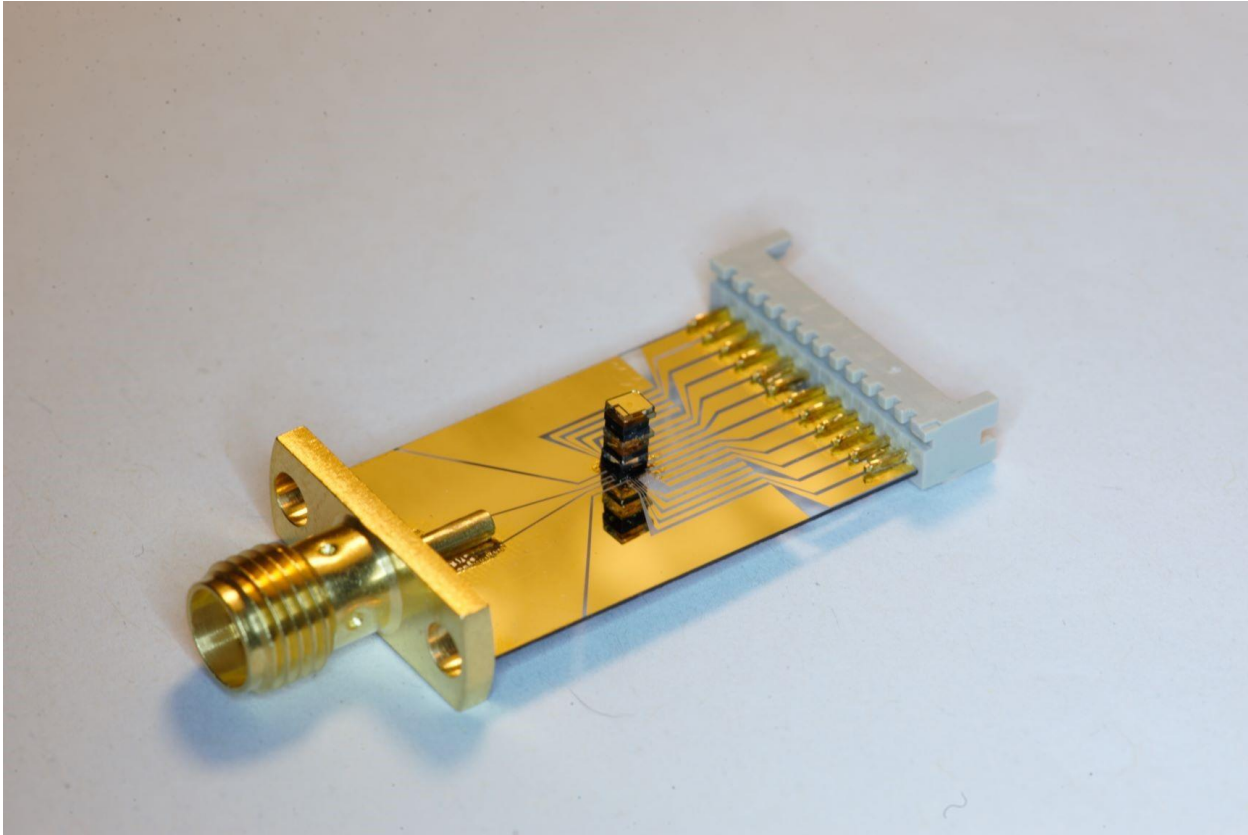


NIST's compact optical clock vapor cell beside a coffee bean.

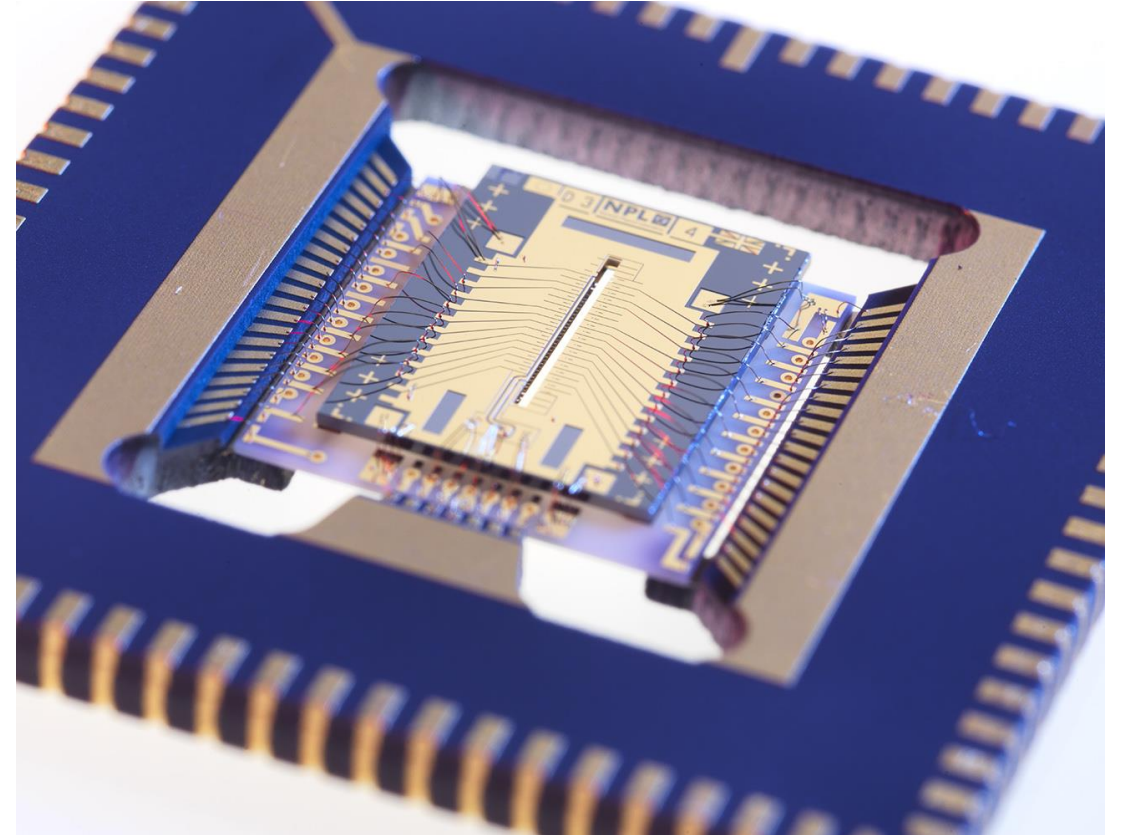


NPL's table-top quantum Hall system

From quantum standards to quantum sensors



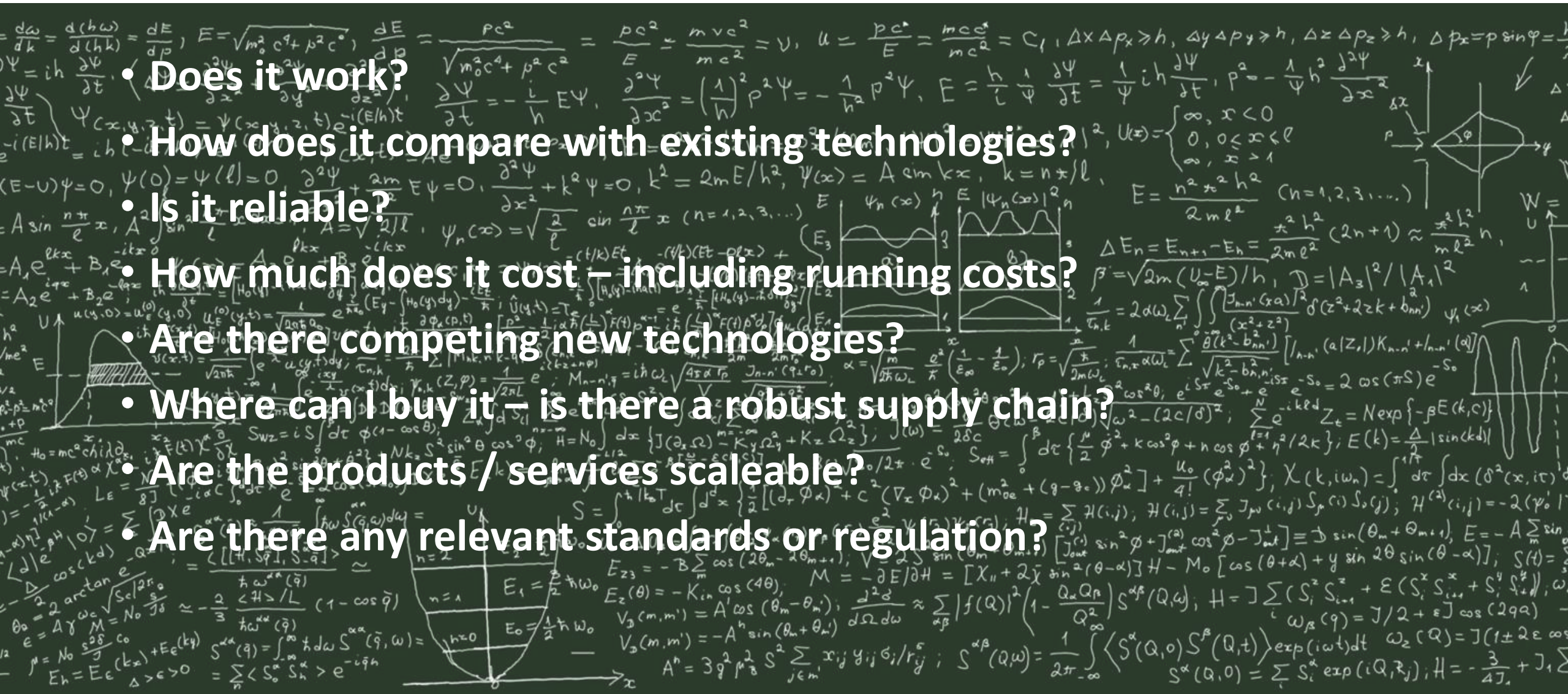
NIST's chip-scale atomic magnetometer



NPL's microfabricated 3D ion trap

What do u need to know to know to use / invest in quantum?

- Does it work?
- How does it compare with existing technologies?
- Is it reliable?
- How much does it cost – including running costs?
- Are there competing new technologies?
- Where can I buy it – is there a robust supply chain?
- Are the products / services scalable?
- Are there any relevant standards or regulation?





Any sufficiently advanced
technology is indistinguishable from
magic.

— *Arthur C. Clarke* —

AZ QUOTES



Quantum Metrology Institute

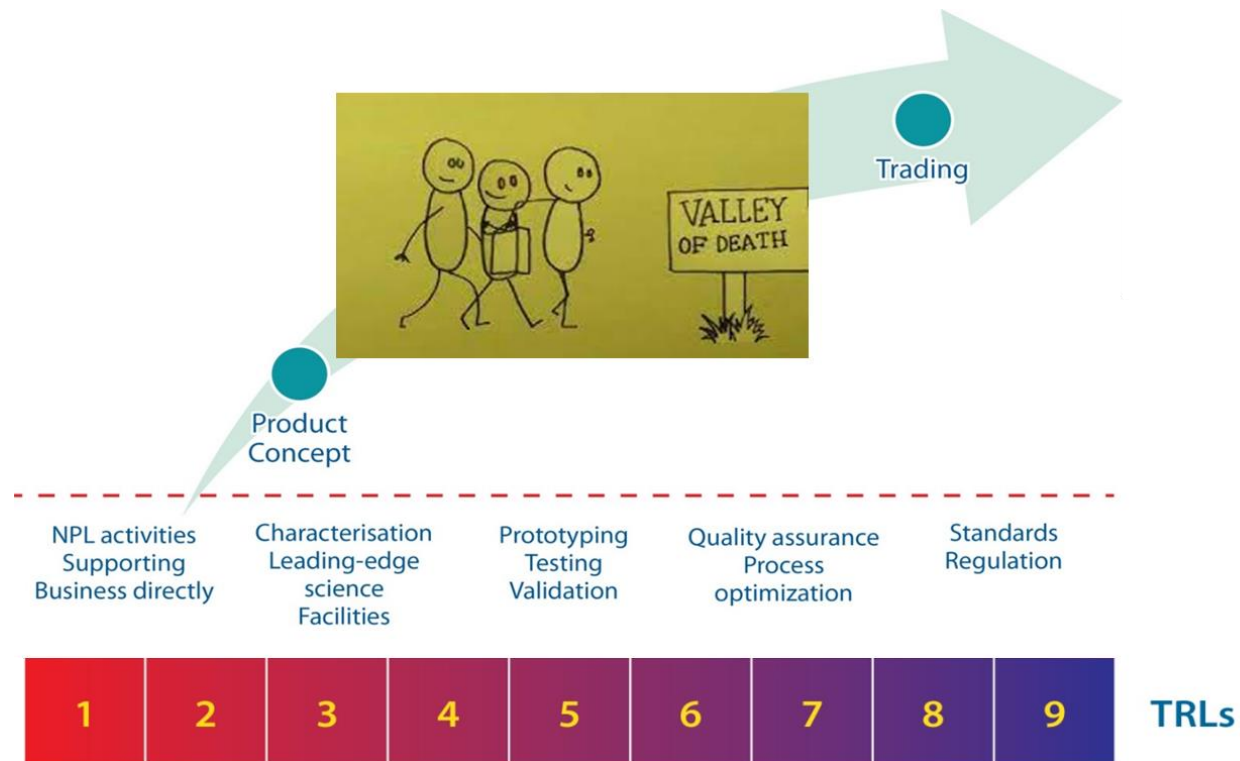
Delivering the NPL Quantum Programme

Providing the measurement expertise and facilities needed to underpin the development of quantum technologies

The Quantum Metrology Institute brings together all of NPL's leading-edge quantum science and metrology research. It provides the expertise and facilities needed for academia and industry to test, validate, and ultimately commercialise new quantum technologies.

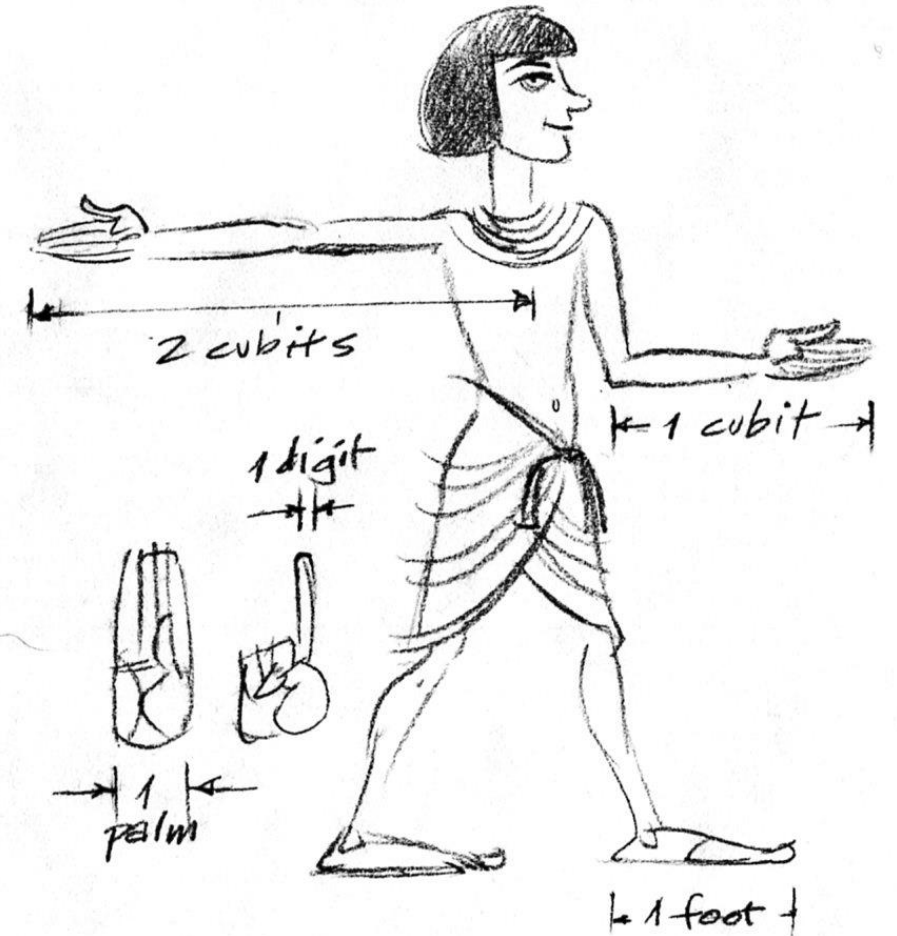
NPL Quantum Programme

NPL will deliver **confidence** in quantum technologies for **manufacturers, investors and end users** by establishing a national capability to **independently demonstrate and test new components, devices and products** being developed within the National Quantum Technologies Programme.

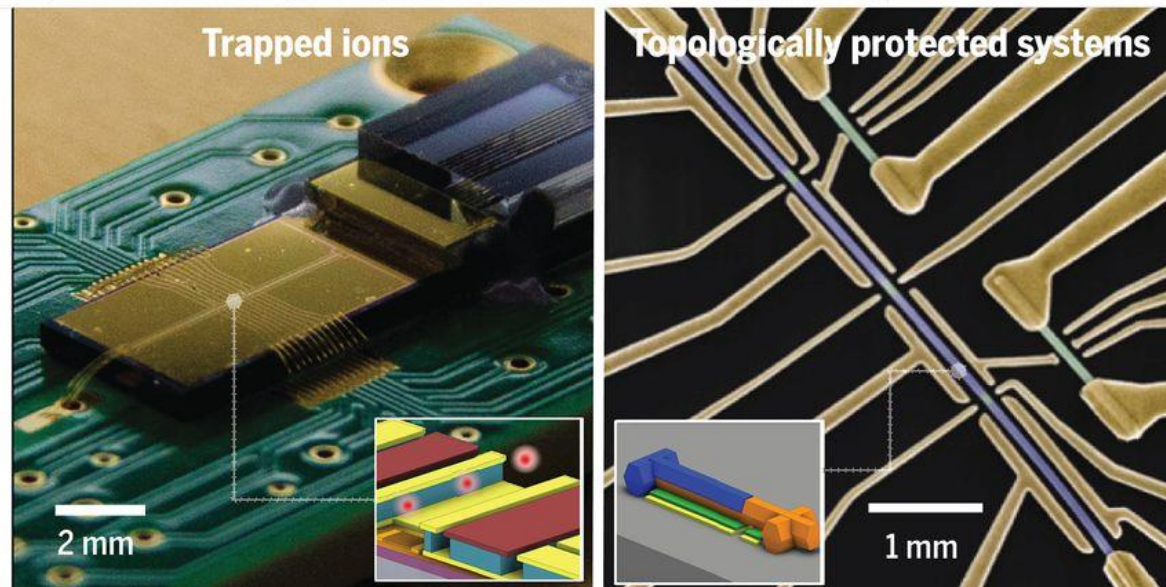
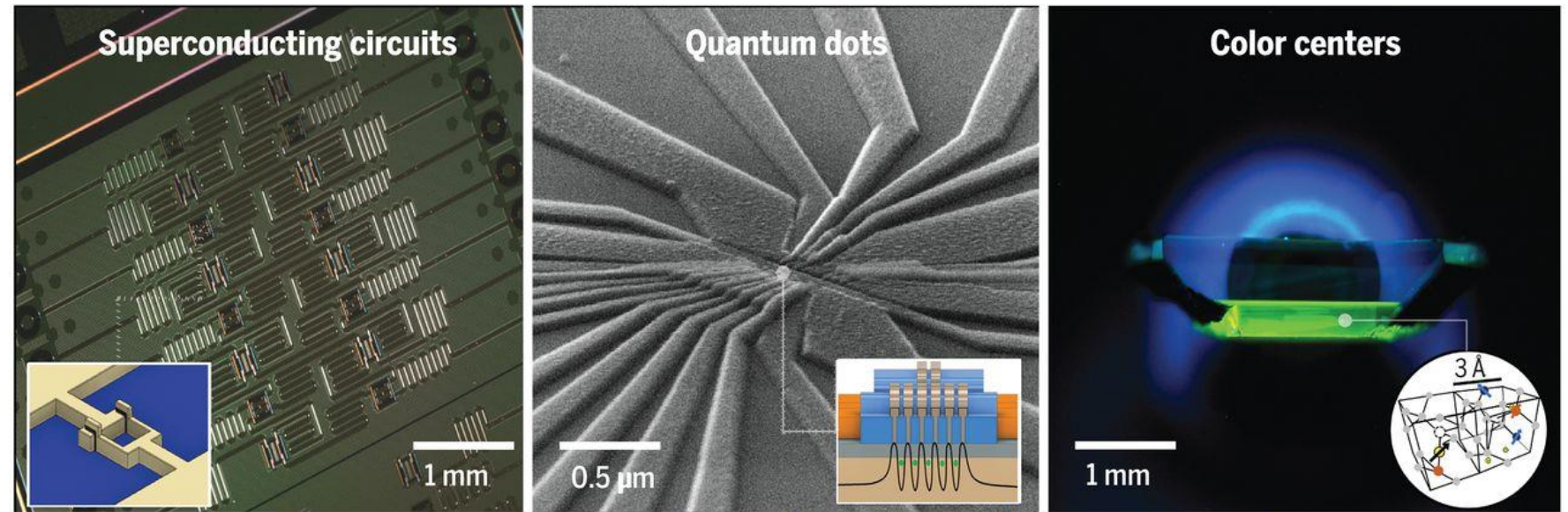


Emerging technologies demand innovations in metrology

- **Agility:** to keep up with rapidly changing technical landscape
- **Ability:** to make a measurement at all
- **Comparability and interoperability:** across vendors, quickly, continuously
- **Accelerated delivery:** formal standards may be obsolete by the time they're published

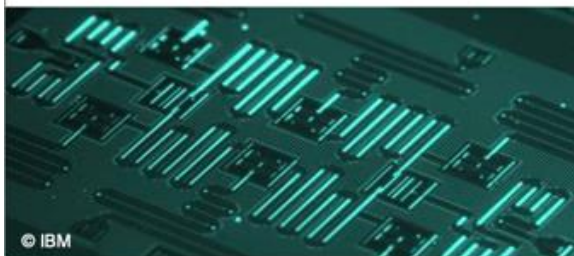


Qubit flavours = physical implementations



The Quantum Computing Platform Zoo

QuantumComputingReport.com Jan 2022
Scorecards – Qubit Quality



Superconducting Qubits

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

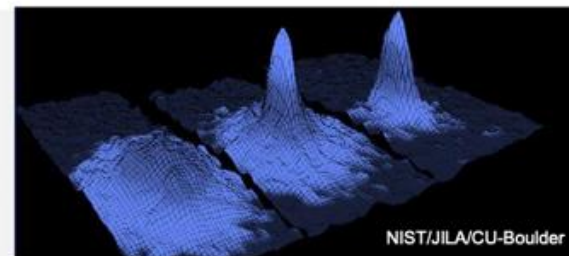
Google, Origin Quantum, IQM, SeeQC, IBM, OQC, Rigetti, Bleximo, Alibaba, Alice&Bob, Amazon, Intel, Quantum Circuits Inc, Raytheon BBN



Trapped Ions

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

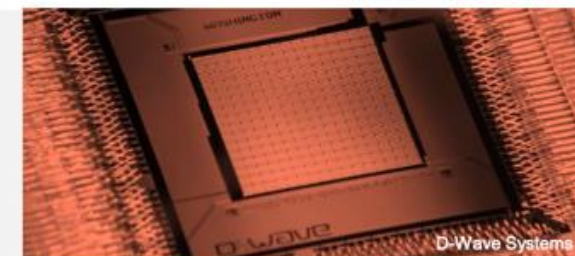
IonQ, Honeywell, Oxford Ionics, Universal Quantum, AQT, AQTION, NextGenQ, MicroQC, Alpine



Neutral Atoms

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

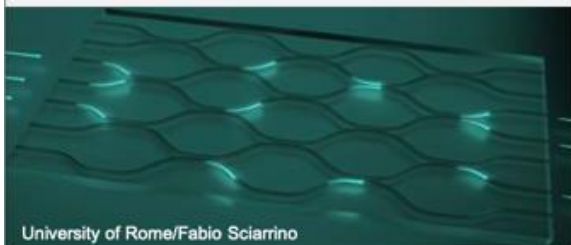
ColdQuanta, QuEra, Pasqal, Atom Computing, MSquared Lasers



Annealers

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

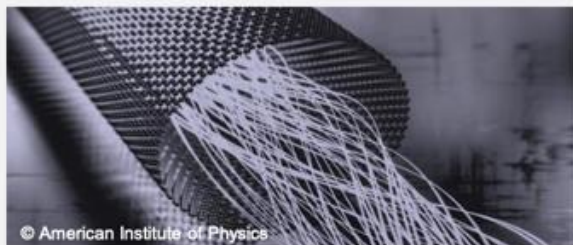
D-Wave Systems, Qilimanjaro, Northrop Grumman, NEC



Photonic Circuits

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

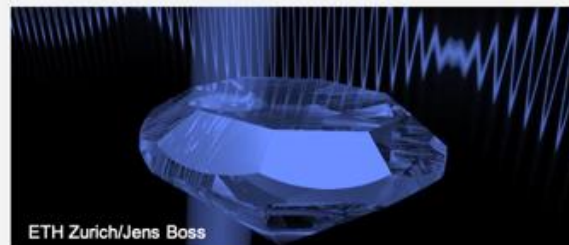
PsiQuantum, Xanadu, QuiX, ORCA Computing, Duality, Toshiba, Sparrow Quantum, Quandela, AegiQ, ID Quantique



Topological States

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

Microsoft



Colour Centres in Diamond

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

Quantum Brilliance, Element 6, SpinQ, Archer Materials



Quantum Dots & Spins in Silicon

COMMERCIAL PLAYERS

Silicon QC, Quantum Motion, Photonic, Intel, InfinityQ, Infineon, Equal1, Dirac

The Importance of Measurement and Standards: 'Justification'



The Economic Contribution of Standards to the UK Economy

A 2022 report by the Centre for Economics and Business Research summarizes the economic contribution of standards to the UK economy and looks into their use by 1000 companies across all major business sectors.

- Standards also make a significant contribution to the UK economy. The headline economic finding is that an **estimated 23 per cent of all GDP growth since 2000 is attributable to the impact of standards**. This means that standards have boosted the UK's annual GDP by £161 billion since the start of this century.

The logo for BSI (British Standards Institution) is displayed in a large, bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font. The letters are 'bsi.' with a red dot for the period.

The Importance of Measurement and Standards: 'Justification'

- Standards can provide enabling framework conditions for research (Blind and Gauch 2009). This is especially the case for **terminology standards in relation to basic research**, which can facilitate the communication amongst researchers
- **Health, environmental and safety standards** are necessary requirements for the last stage of successful market introduction of innovations by restricting the possible risks of new technologies and products
- Standards **can increase trust and confidence** among users and consumers by defining the **quality** of products and processes
- Standards can help the development of **supply chains**, enabling products to be brought to market economically
- Standards can ensure **compatibility** between existing and new technologies, enabling innovation
- Standards are often the foundations of **regulation**

Some potential negative outcomes:

- **Premature standard setting** risks early adoption of inferior or less innovative technologies



When standards don't work, they...

- Give unfair advantage
- Create barriers to trade
- Entrench inferior technologies
- Stifle innovation
- Impede interoperability of products and systems



Ministerial Foreword

The first generation of quantum technologies created many innovations that we now take for granted in modern society, from the MRI machine to mobile devices. Yet there are lesser known but equally powerful inventions emerging from UK labs that could change our world beyond recognition.



These inventions will improve the lives of everyone in the



National Quantum Strategy

UK Quantum Standards Network - Pilot



strategic advantage

need for greater
has been widely recognized
has been published **national**
document from **DSIT**.

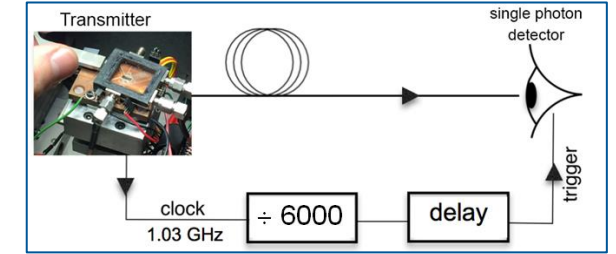
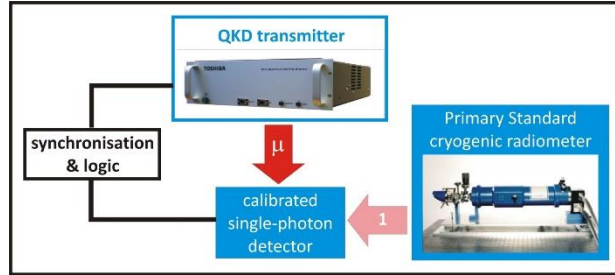
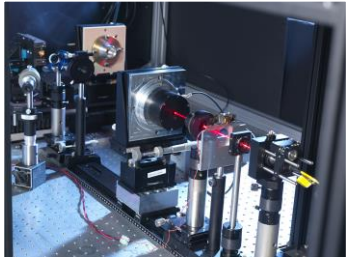
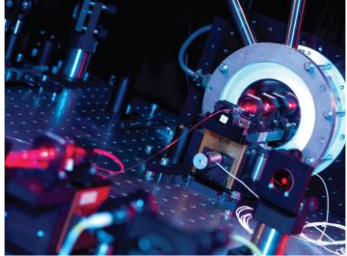
March 2023

Technical strategy, with a mission for international quantum leaders.

We have worked hand in hand with the UK quantum community to bring this national strategy to fruition; I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this process. The hard work starts now to deliver on its goals together.



Impact: Improving trust and confidence in quantum security products



Serve UK industry

- on-chip QKD prototypes
- complete QKD modules

Contribute to formal standards

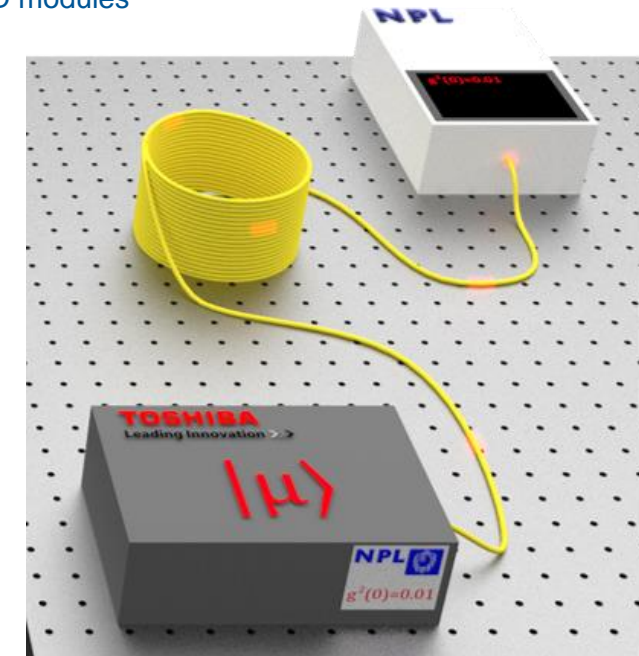
- ETSI standard on QKD components
- ETSI report on future requirements

Applied to quantum comms technology

- Coupled fibre-coupled devices at telecom wavelengths
- Public demo with Toshiba, BT and ADVA

Underpinning metrology

- Metrology for single- and entangled-photon sources
- Metrology for single-photon detectors



Test facility for Quantum Communications systems and components

Currently: testing the quantum layer of modules implementing a specific QKD protocol over fibre.



Attract inward investment

End-users



Manufacturers /developers



Components, assemblers



Collaborators





BRIEFING ROOM

The United States and United Kingdom Issue Joint Statement to Enhance Cooperation on Quantum Information Science and Technology

NOVEMBER 04, 2021 • PRESS RELEASES

Jointly signed by U.S. Presidential Science Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology, Dr. Eric Lander, and the U.K. Science Minister, George Freeman, the quantum cooperation statement articulates a shared vision to promote collaborative research efforts, enhance training opportunities for scientists and engineers, and grow the market for quantum technologies.

The joint statement will facilitate continued collaboration between the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the U.K. National Physical Laboratory (NPL) emphasizing metrology research and standards for quantum technologies including next-generation atomic clocks and quantum sensors.

International Collaboration

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RELATING TO

**JOINT SCIENCE AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE FIELDS OF QUANTUM INFORMATION
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

BETWEEN

NPL MANAGEMENT LIMITED (NPL)

AND

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND
TECHNOLOGY (NIST)**



NIST and NPL seek to find new opportunities to build and develop research collaborations, to build upon existing research capability and outputs, and to enhance collaboration with industry.

Working together to promote and advance the global comparability of measurements



ABOUT US

COORDINATION

LIAISON

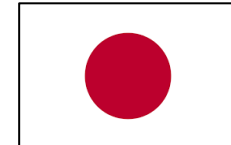
TECHNICAL/SCIENTIFIC

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS



BIPM Workshop on Accelerating the adoption of Quantum Technologies through Measurements and Standards

21st and 22nd March 2024
BIPM, Sèvres



Conclusions:

Standardization (& Metrology!)

Improves the effectiveness and efficiency of science and the trust in its outcomes

Underpins innovation, adoption and commercialisation of new technologies

Gives confidence in quantum technologies for manufacturers, investors and end users (and government!!)

Enables strong regulatory enforcement, including protecting the consumer through standards

Needs to be collaborative and international



Conclusions:

NPL: Supporting the UK's journey to quantum adoption....



Acting as an intelligence customer / trusted advisor - setting the stage for intelligence-driven innovation

Providing test and validation services as well as benchmarks and metrics as standards develop

Leading the development of standardization, working with key strategic partners and industry

Providing the foundations for regulation





Get 20 days of quantum consultancy, at no charge*

Could your business benefit from quantum measurement expertise?

The National Physical Laboratory's (NPL) Measurement for Quantum (M4Q) programme provides up to 20 days of specialist support at no charge*.

Learn how M4Q can help your business innovation challenges:

www.npl.co.uk/measurement-for-quantum

*Eligibility criteria applies. See website for full terms and conditions.

Questions

