



# LAr Filling and Commissioning of Cryogenics

K.T.Knöpfle  
MPI Kernphysik, Heidelberg  
[ktkno@mpi-hd.mpg.de](mailto:ktkno@mpi-hd.mpg.de)

GERDA Collaboration Meeting at LNGS  
28 - 30 September 2009

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso



GERDA Project

## Procedure for Filling the GERDA Cryostat with Liquid Argon

Process Procedure Number GERDA-PROC-2009-0x REV.0.1

Last Revision Date: 4 September 2009

Procedure Authors: K.T. Knöpfle and B. Schwingenheuer

Last Revised by:

Reviewed by: .....

Marco Balata  
(GLIMOS) .....

# Contents

1	Revision History	3
2	Introduction	4
3	General Comments	4
4	Technical details	5
4.1	Amount of LAr needed for cooling . . . . .	5
4.2	Safety devices . . . . .	5
4.2.1	Pressure sensors . . . . .	5
4.2.2	Temperature sensors . . . . .	5
4.2.3	Fill level sensors . . . . .	5
5	Cryostat cool down	6
5.1	Starting condition . . . . .	6
5.2	Cool down procedure . . . . .	6
6	Cryostat filling	7
6.1	Starting condition . . . . .	7
6.2	Fill procedure . . . . .	7
7	Generic Cool down and filling schedules	8

## List of Tables

1	Status of valves in AN001 at beginning of cool down. . . . .	6
---	--------------------------------------------------------------	---

## List of Figures

1	Piping and Instrumentation Diagram (PID), version 7 of September 1, 2009. Safety relevant sensors or transducers are circled in red (dashed). The unit ‘barg’ denotes the gauge pressure, i.e. the pressure in ‘bar’ measured with reference to the atmospheric pressure. . . . .	9
2	Location of the outer temperature sensors TC E1 to TC E6. Indicated lengths have to be increased by 500 mm, respectively. . . . .	10

## General conditions for cool down & filling \*

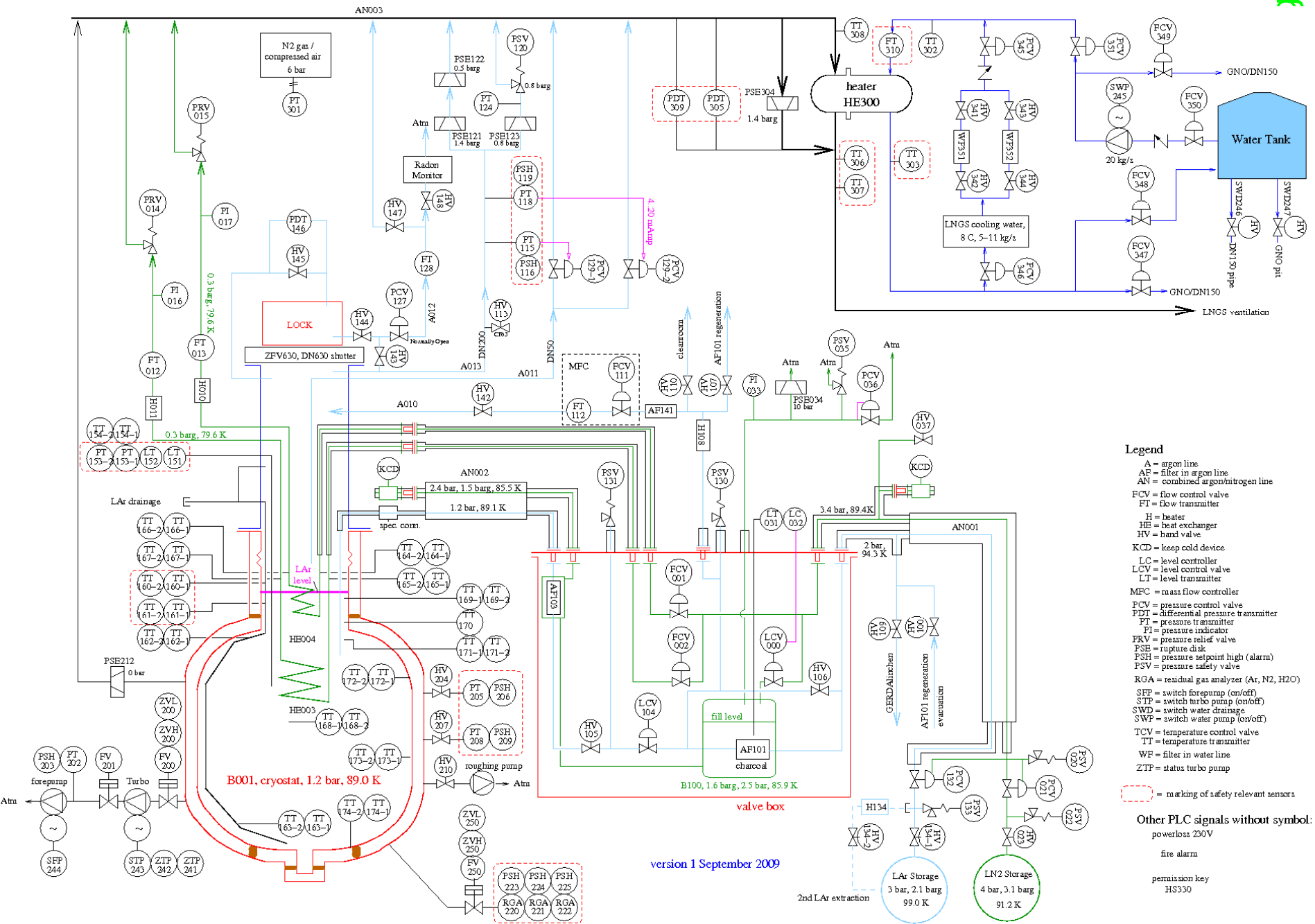
procedure acknowledged

infrastructure functioning  
(water, ventilation, safety hardware, ...)

time schedule acknowledged

safety plan available (before fill of water tank)

\* already done in hall A with liquid nitrogen – now easier by using available cryogenic infrastructure – see PID!



## Cool down

LAr to be taken from storage tank ( $6.3\text{m}^3$ ) – needed  $(7+x)\text{m}^3$

starting conditions

no water in water tank

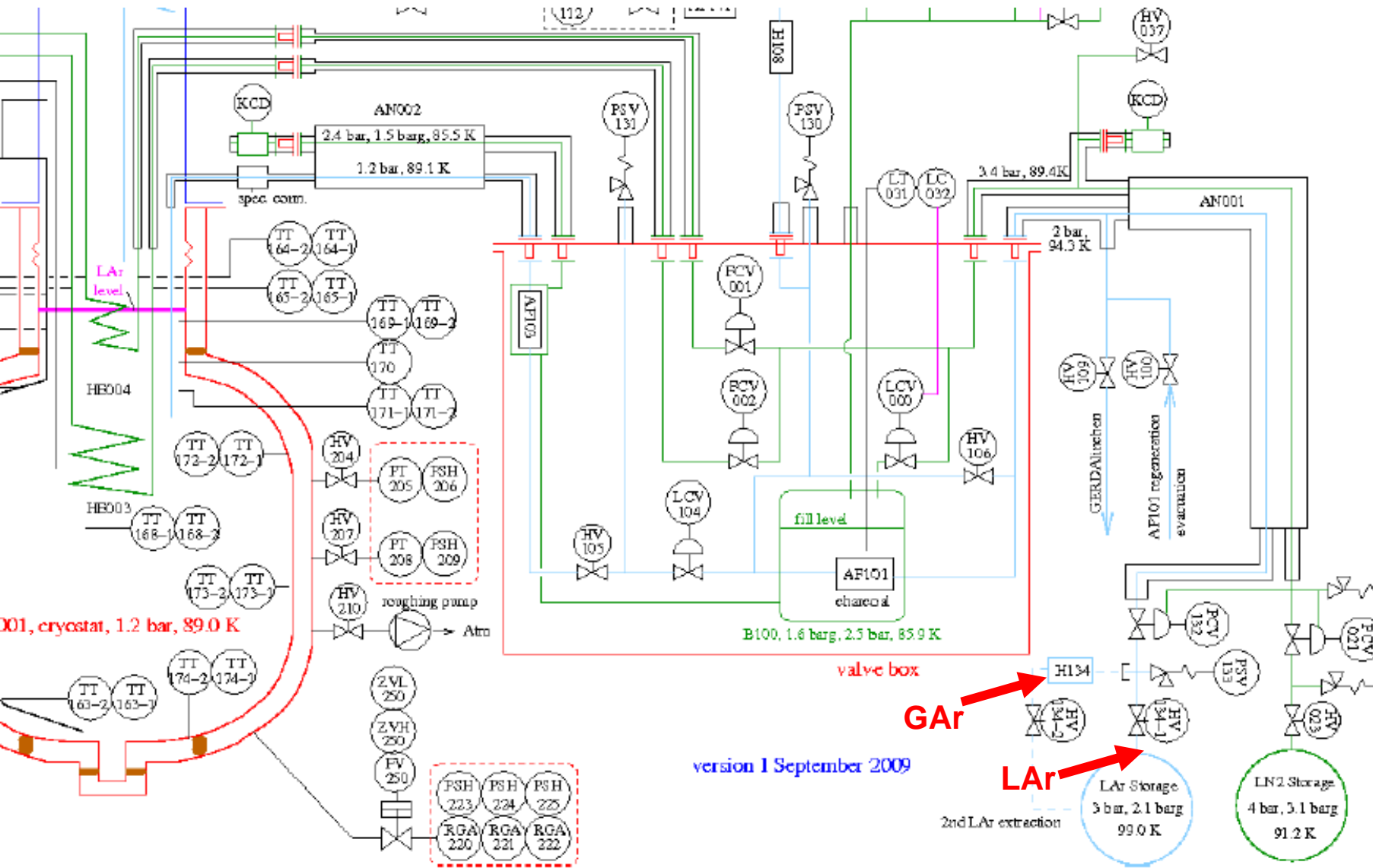
isolation vacuum  $<10^{-3}$  mbar

safety valve of isolation vacuum unlocked

all other valves in defined status

Constraints: flash gas  $< 250\text{m}^3/\text{h}$ ,  
low temperature gradients

# mixing of gas and liquid



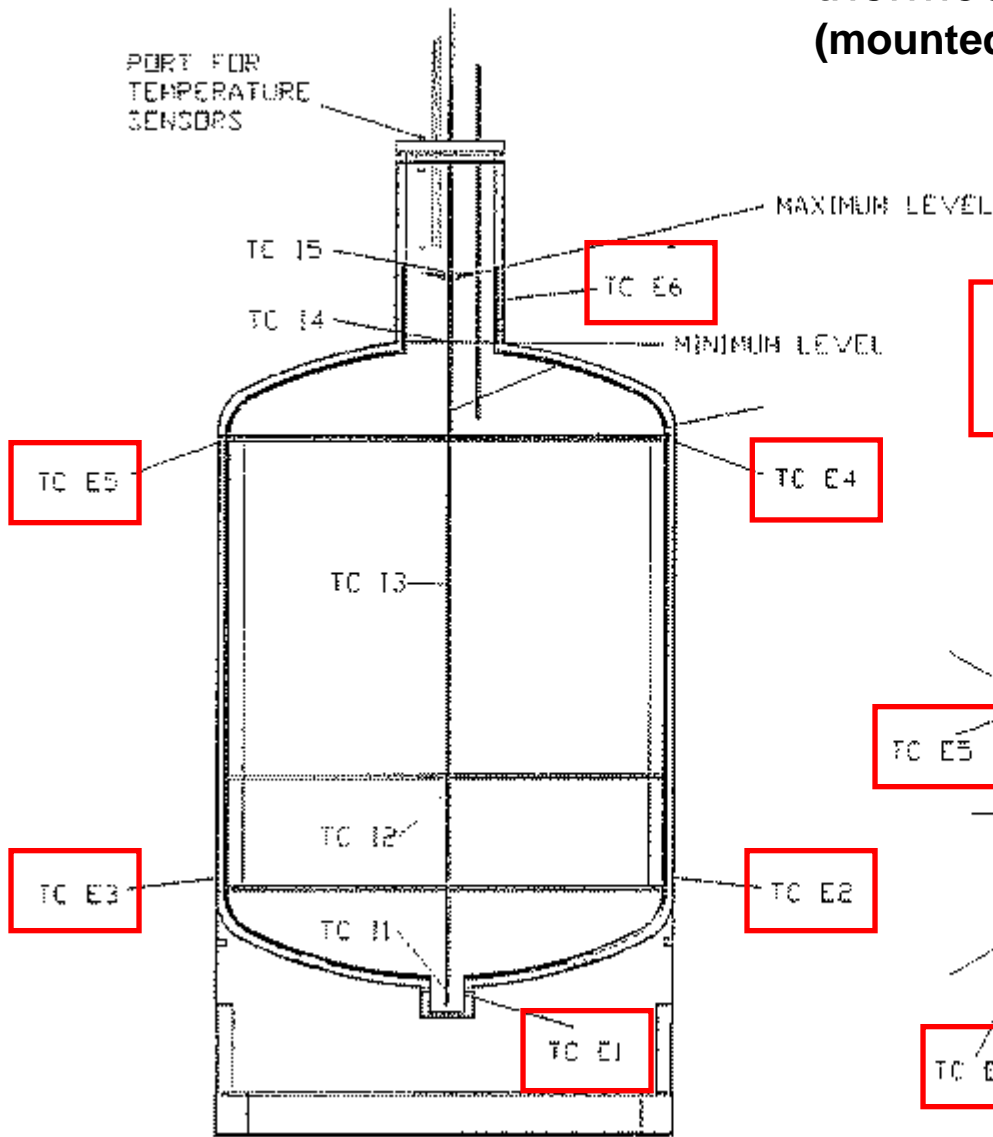
alternative:  
 use ~3m<sup>3</sup> LN2 storage tank with integrated heater; connect at HV109

circular end of fill tube with many holes - avoid cold spots!

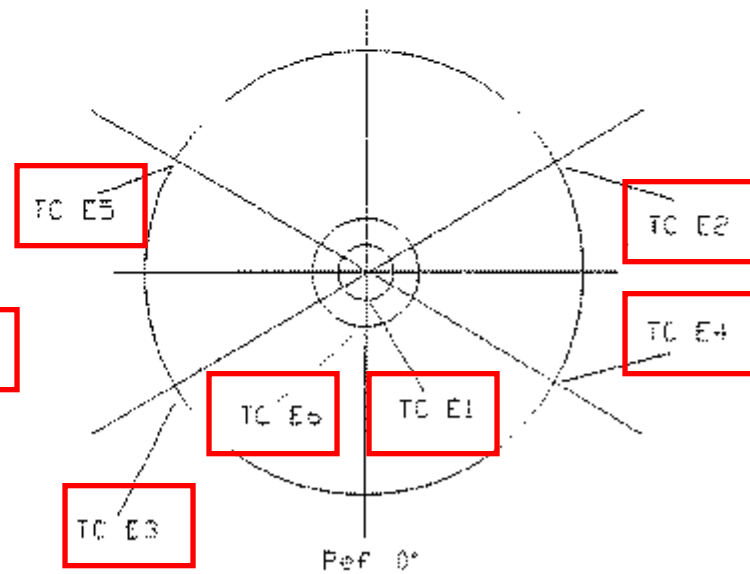




# thermocouples TC E1 - E6 (mounted on outer surface of inner container)



temperature drop <20 deg/h  
 $\Delta T_{ij} < 50$  deg (no cold spots!)



Cool down done if temperature readings are  $<100$  K.

Slow process, we plan 1 week.

No constraints for TIR tunnel since LAr will be taken from storage tank.

## LAr fill

Filled from LAr tanker via storage tank – needed  $(64+x)$  m<sup>3</sup>

### Starting conditions

- no water in water tank

- cryostat completely cool

- isolation vacuum  $<10^{-5}$  mbar

- all relevant valves in defined status

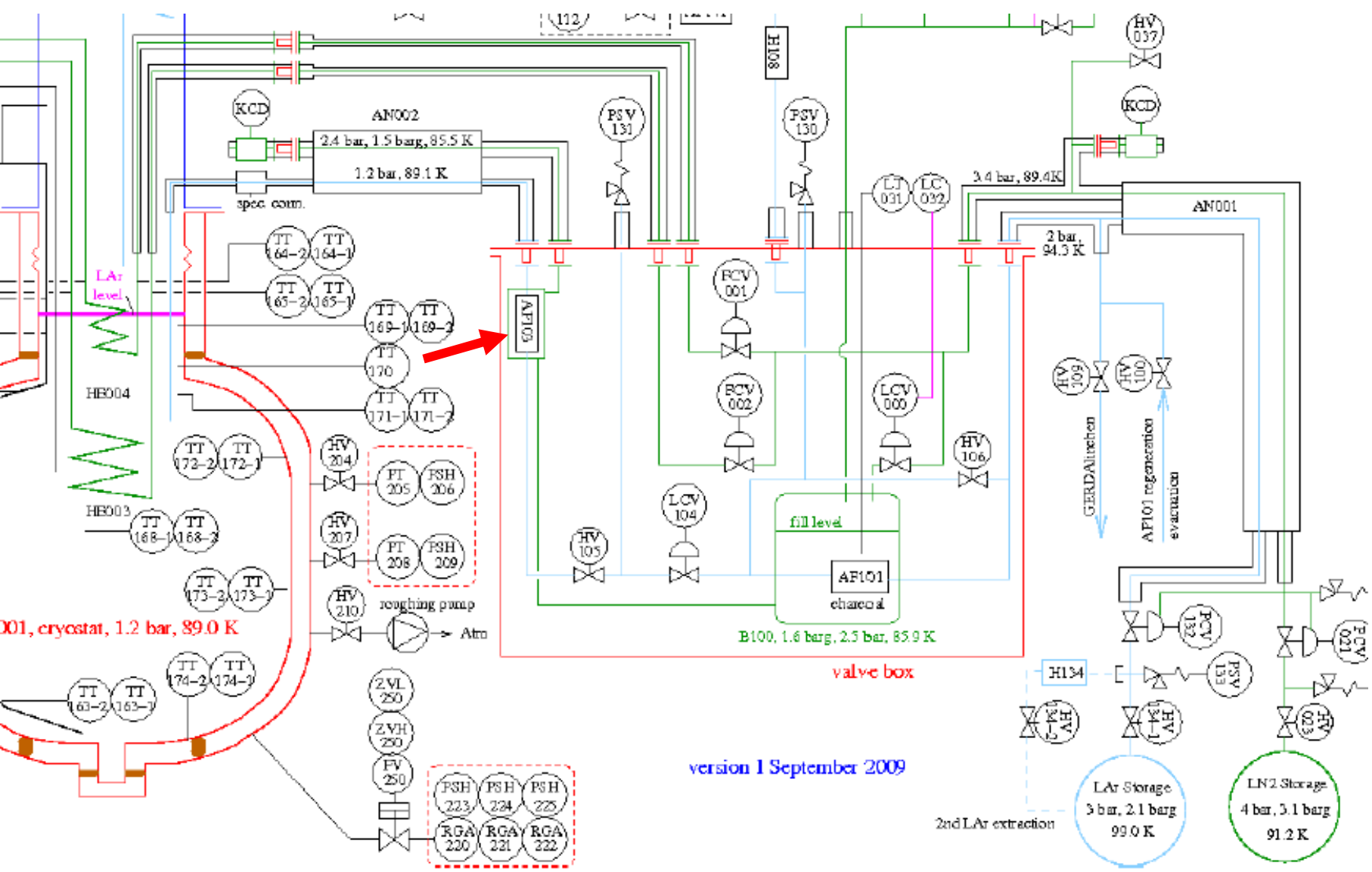
- tanker's output connected to storage tank's fill line

- pressure in storage tank 2 barg

Constraints: during fill cryostat pressure must be  $<0.5$  barg.

Fill level monitored by Pt100s in volume, by radar, swimmer, temperature and vapour pressure sensors in neck – can be also deduced from tanker's flow meter.

Filling can be fast, in principle.  
 However, fill rate might be limited by ultrafine filter AF103



version 1 September 2009

Assuming fill rate of  $1\text{m}^3/\text{h}$ , fill would take 64 hours.

Tanker with  $20\text{m}^3$  would block TIR tunnel for 20 hours.

Possible scenario:

    tanker 1 starting fill on a Friday 4 pm

    tanker 2 continues on Saturday noon

    tanker 3(4) complete fill at the following weekend.

alternative 1:

    fill during nights from 7 pm to 7 am

alternative 2:

    fill from storage tank

Optimized plan will be available as soon as throughput of filter has been measured.

## Commissioning of cryogenic infrastructure

The three major tasks\*:

- 1) automatic refill of cryostat
- 2) final automatic regulation of pressure in cryostat
- 3) active cooling system (with DeMaCo participation)

\* assuming that PLC and all individual components are working according to specs.

## 1) automatic refill of cryostat

calibrate all the various fill level sensors  
in cryostat's neck

radar

swimmer

Pt100s

vapour pressure sensors (2 pcs)

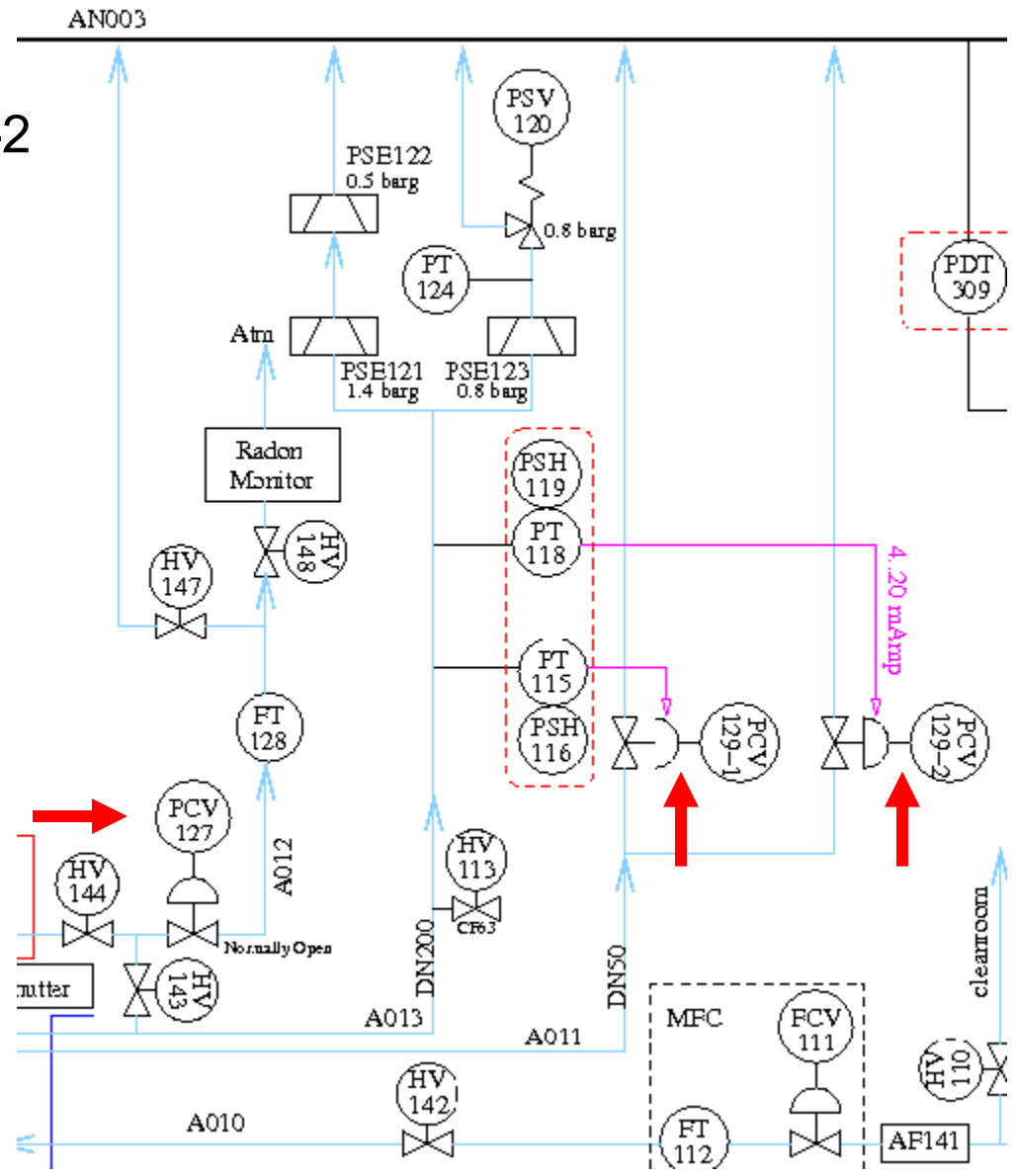
filling itself will be yes/no decision

## 2) final automatic regulation of pressure in cryostat

fine control PCV127  
coarse control PCV129-1/-2  
(redundant system)

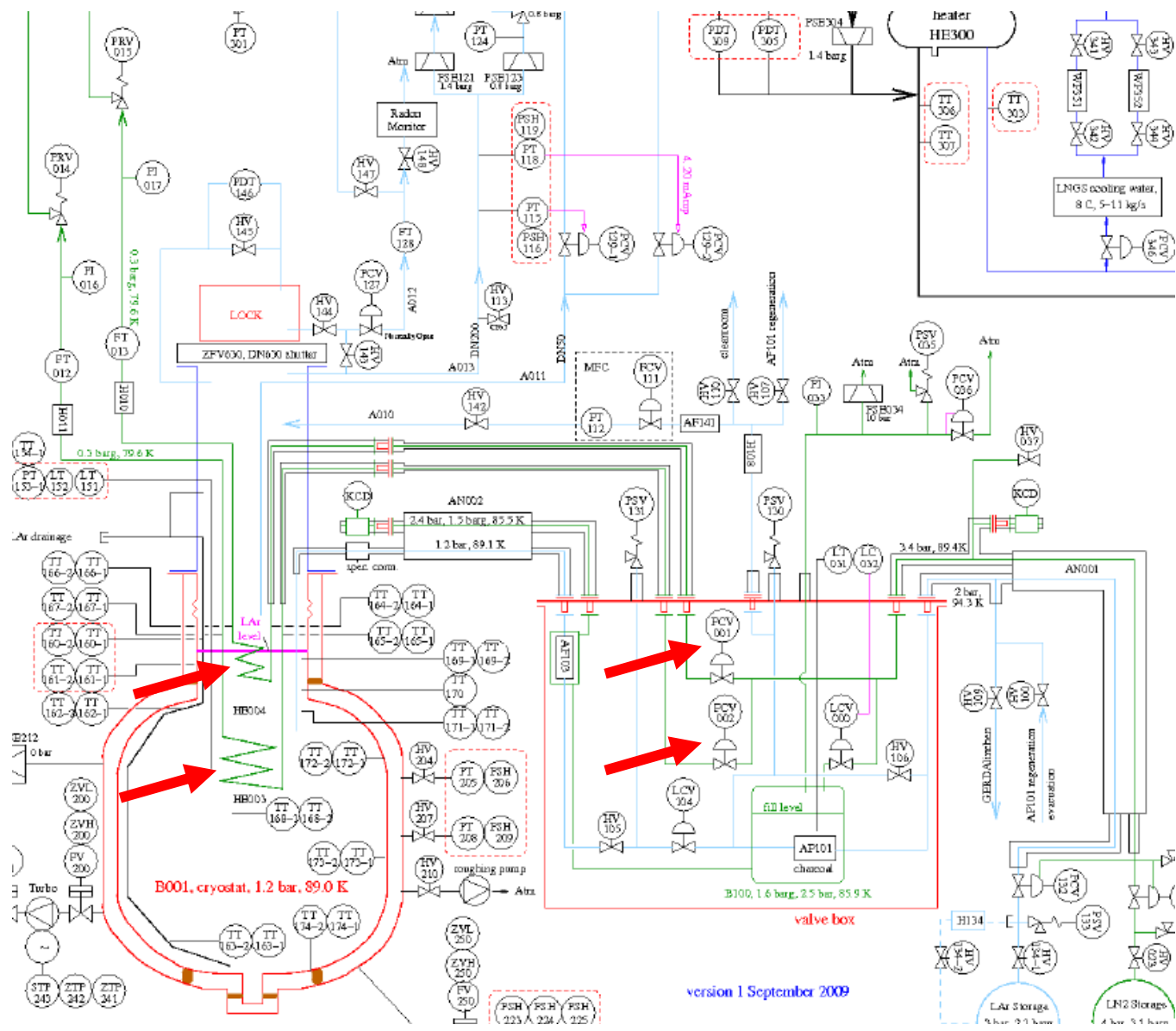
tested already before fill  
now more realistic test

set appropriate thresholds  
tune PID parameters





### 3) active cooling system - complex, long time constants



LNGS, 28 Sep 2009 - LAr Filling & Cryo-Commissioning

find optimized PID parameters

## Conclusion

GERDA cryostat practically ready for fill - waiting for OK from LNGS  
▶ ad hoc meeting this Wednesday, 15:30

Time budgets:

cool down:	1 week
LAr fill:	2 weekends or 6-7 nights (best guess)
thermal equilibration	3 days
▶ ready for running	

Cryo-commissioning after fill:

refill, pressure regulation, active cooling	1 month altogether – minimum.
---------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------

## Agenda of meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 3:30 pm, Occhialini room:

- 1) Safety & control systems: status of works, mangement of system.
- 2) GERDA exhaust gas heater: commissioning, functionality, and water supply.
- 3) Connection between GERDA heater and LNGS ventilation plant:status.
- 4) Shift & personnel during cooling down operations? Shifters or on call persons during GERDA start up and data taking?
- 5) Safety procedures in case of seismic event: emptying of water tank automatically or only in case of pressure/temperature alarms.
- 6) GERDA – laboratory drainage water plant: test of the system, installation of an additional automatic valve to the available manual valve?
- 7) Integration of all safety plants (GERDA & LNGS) and procedures: test and commissioning before water filling.
- 8) Seismic analysis: integration of all parts in a single one.
- 9) Management of 40t crane in hall A.

the end