



# LiteBIRD instrument update

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for the LiteBIRD collaboration

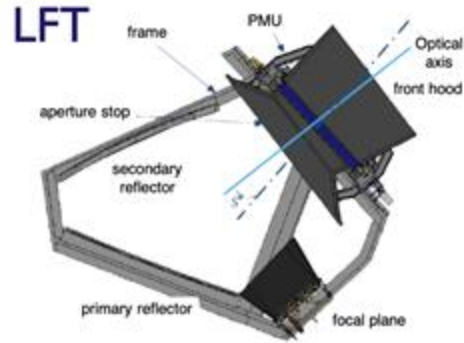
CMB@60, Accademia delle Scienze, Torino, May 28-30, 2025



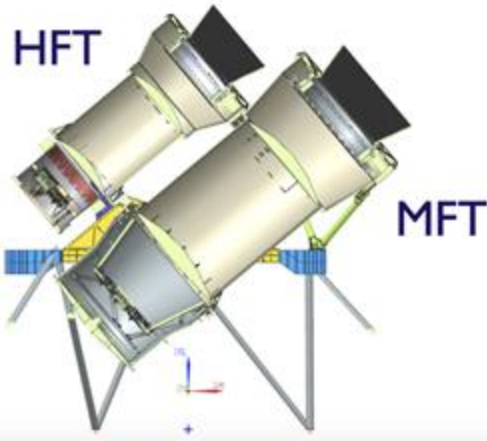


- **LiteBIRD**
  - **Lite** Satellite for the study of **B**-mode polarization and **I**nflation from cosmic background **R**adiation **D**etection
- Space mission for CMB polarization at large angular scales
- Targeting  $\delta r < 0.001$

# Baseline design (up to 2024)



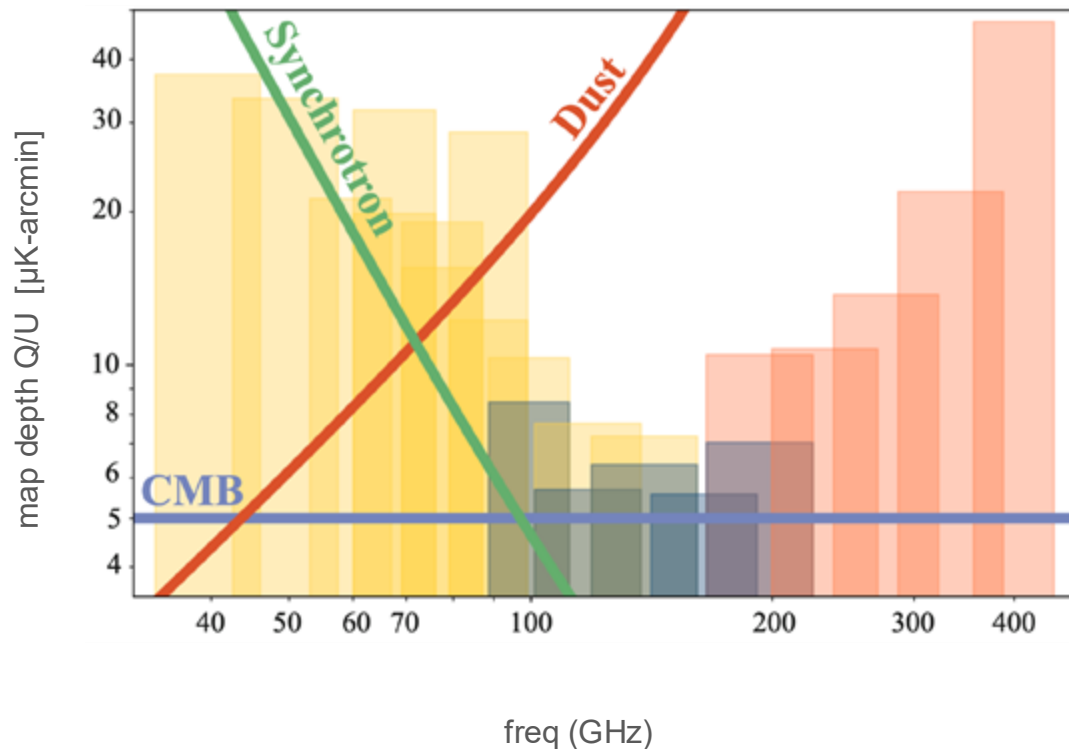
- 3 telescopes: LFT, MFT, HFT
- 40 - 402 GHz range (frequency centers)
  - TES detectors at 100mK
- 3 cryogenic rotating Half Wave Plates for polarization modulation
- LFT (JAXA)
  - 40 - 140 GHz
  - reflective optics
  - sapphire-based cryogenically rotating HWP
- M/HFT (EU with CNES leadership)
  - 100-195 GHz / 195-402 GHz
  - refractive optics
  - metamaterial-based cryogenically rotating HWPs



# Baseline sensitivity and bands distribution



- Projected polarization sensitivities (map depths) for a 3-year full-sky survey
- Best:  $4.6 \mu\text{K}\cdot\text{arcmin}$  @ 119 GHz
- Combined sensitivity to CMB polarization:  **$2.2 \mu\text{K}\cdot\text{arcmin}$**
- Angular resolution  $\sim 0.5$  degrees
- Aiming to the largest angular scales for measurement of **recombination** and **reionization B-modes peaks**



# Polarization Modulation Unit



**Polarization is modulated by a cryogenic rotating Half-Wave Plate (HWP) in combination with polarization sensitive detectors**

When the HWP rotates, the polarized fraction rotates at  $4 \times \text{HWP}$  rotation frequency:  $\sim 1 \text{ Hz} \rightarrow \sim 4 \text{ Hz}$

The **polarized fraction is modulated**/demodulated at  $4 \times f_{\text{HWP}}$

This allows extraction of the polarization fraction

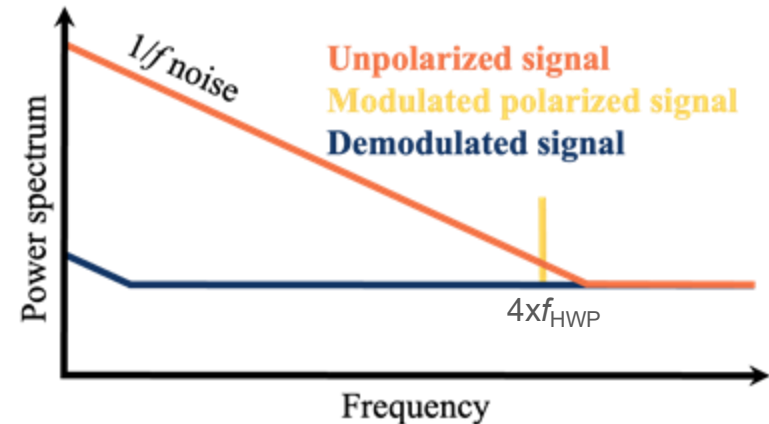
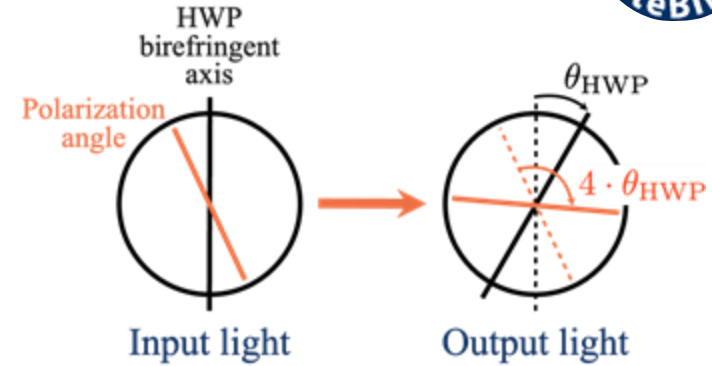
It **reduces the impact of  $1/f$  noise** (modulation/demodulation)

It reduces systematic effects

- **No need of combination of different detectors to solve polarization** (as it was for Planck)
- No problem with differential properties of pairs of detectors, such as gain/beam/bandpass/... mismatches
- Most of HWP induced systematic effects appear at  $2 \times f_{\text{HWP}}$

The combination of HWP rotation and satellite scanning moves the polarization signal to sidebands of  $4 \times f_{\text{HWP}}$

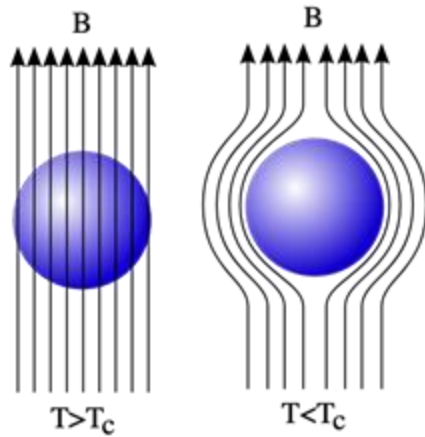
- Systematic effects at  $4 \times f_{\text{HWP}}$  can be notch filtered



# Polarization Modulation Unit - cryogenic rotator



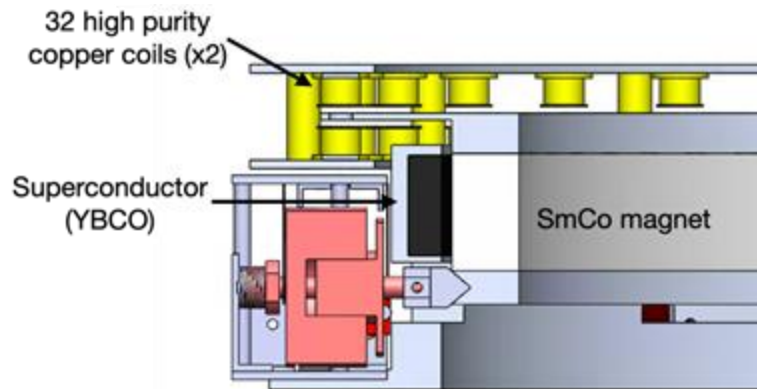
Meissner effect on  
superconductor



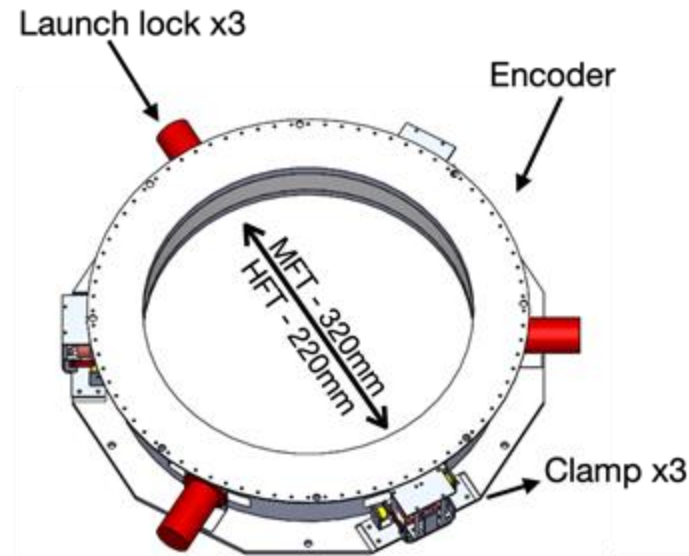
$T_c = 93K$

YBCO - Yttrium Barium Copper Oxide superconductor

# Polarization Modulation Unit - cryogenic rotator



- continuously rotating for mission lifetime (3 yrs)
- Stator (YBCO) temperature: 5K
- Rotor (permanent magnet) temperature  $< 20\text{K}$
- rotation speed: 50-100 rpm
- heat load on 5K stage  $\sim 4\text{mW}$
- encoder accuracy  $< 1$  arcmin



Fabio Columbro, Silvia Masi, P. de Bernardis,  
Sapienza University

# Polarization Modulation Unit - cryogenic rotator



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Sapienza University



# LiteBIRD is facing a REFORMATION PLAN 2024-2025



- **2024-08: KEK decided to step down from** his leading role in the procurement of the **TES detectors**
- **2024-09-26: ISAS/JAXA KDP#1 (Key Decision Point 1).** Decision:
  - The LiteBIRD collaboration will conduct investigating **reformation plans** for about one year.
  - Then, ISAS/JAXA will judge the continuation of the project. (**~Late 2025**)
- **2024-10** LiteBIRD PI has changed to Tomotake Matsumura (Kavli IPMU, Tokyo University).

→ We are investigating **alternative procurement plans** to replace KEK's technological contributions.

→ The international team is actively conducting **reformation investigations** to further optimize and establish a more robust mission.

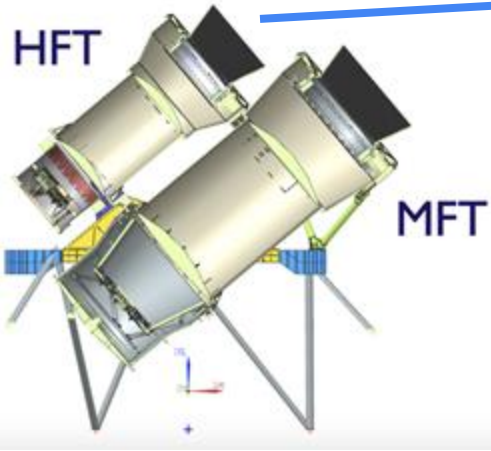
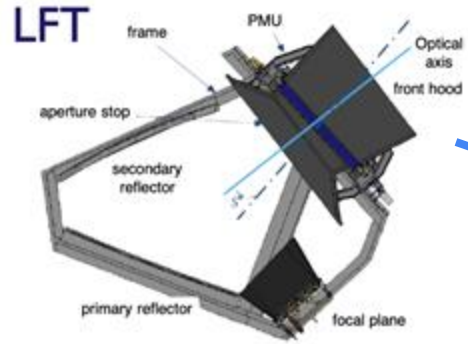


- **Rebuilding the detector procurement plan** and coordinating with new partners is the primary purpose
- Revisit the overall mission aspects, to enhance the robustness, and improve the manageability of the mission, while **keeping the overall science goal**.
  - Revisit the science objectives, so that appropriate error budget and margins can be distributed to the mission instruments and the spacecraft system.
  - **Simplify** the mission configuration.
  - Simplify the **cryo-chain**
- We also emphasize:
  - **rich sciences other than the CMB B-mode** that LiteBIRD can deliver;
  - the **synergy** with the ground-based CMB data.



- See presentation by Tomotake Matsumura (panel 10)
  - **The principal science goal remains unchanged, i.e., to verify the inflationary Universe.**
  - The sensitivity to the tensor-to-scalar ratio  $r$  will be maintained at a level where representative inflationary models, e.g. Starobinsky, can be tested.
  - Will revisit the error budget (statistical, foreground residuals, systematic effects, margin) keeping the science goal
  - **LiteBIRD will survey the millimeter wavelength all-sky.** Maps will allow to address important scientific topics other than the verification of the inflationary universe

# LiteBIRD reformation plan - instrument revision

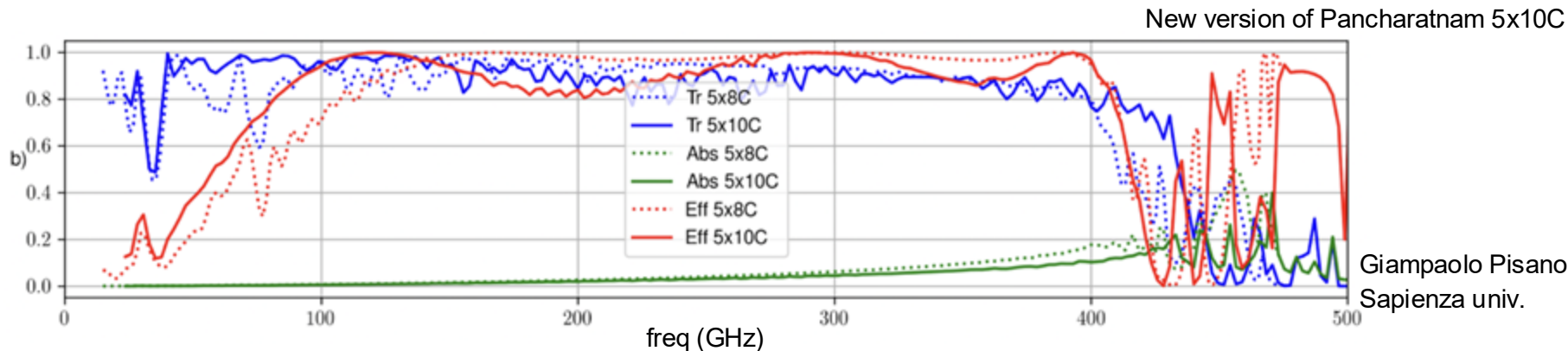


**LiteBIRD single telescope,  
single instrument**

# Instrument revision - new large bandwidth HWP



- A new large bandwidth HWP can achieve 10:1 frequency range: 40 - 400 GHz
  - it was 2.7:1 before
  - now based on 5 plates in Pancharatnam configuration
  - each plate made of 10 metamaterial mesh layers
    - Design in Sapienza University (Giampaolo Pisano)
    - Production in Cardiff University - same technology as metal mesh filters
    - There is still design margin, to improve low frequency side

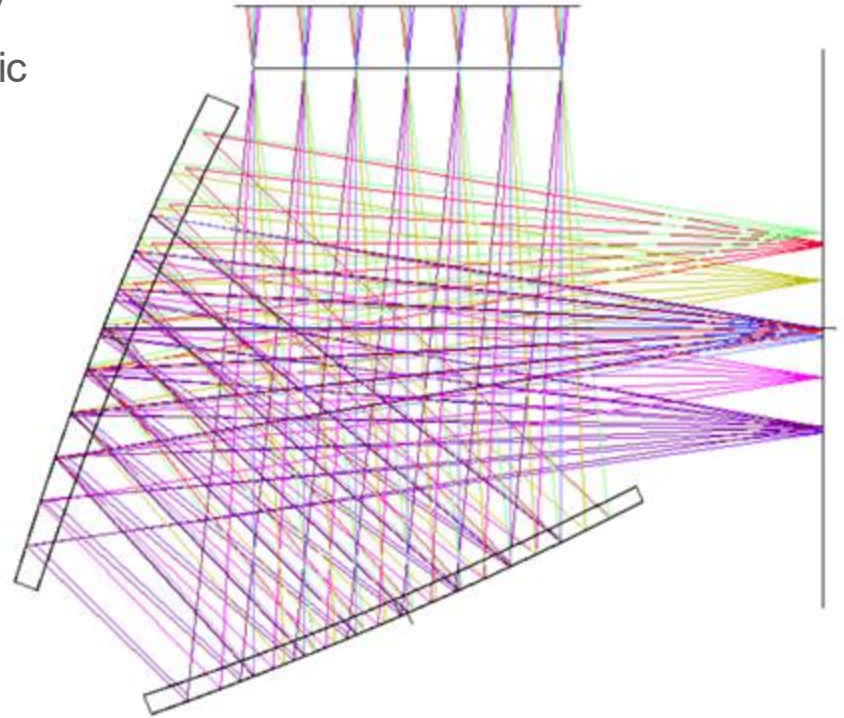


# Design simplification (in trade-off study) – option 1



Different instrumental configurations are currently under investigation for reaching the same scientific goals

- single reflective telescope
- without HWP
- 40 - 570 GHz (extended)
- *fast* spin rate (1 spin in 3 mins)

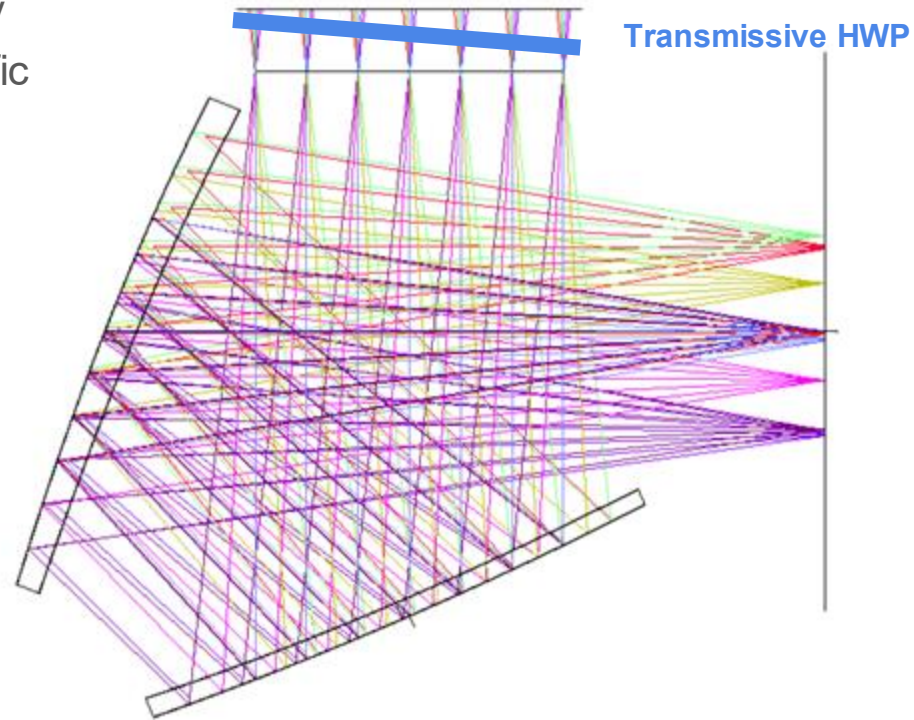


# Design simplification (in trade-off study) – option 2



Different instrumental configurations are currently under investigation for reaching the same scientific goals

- single reflective telescope
- 40 - 400 GHz (baseline)
- transmissive large-band HWP
- nominal spin rate (1 spin in 20 mins)



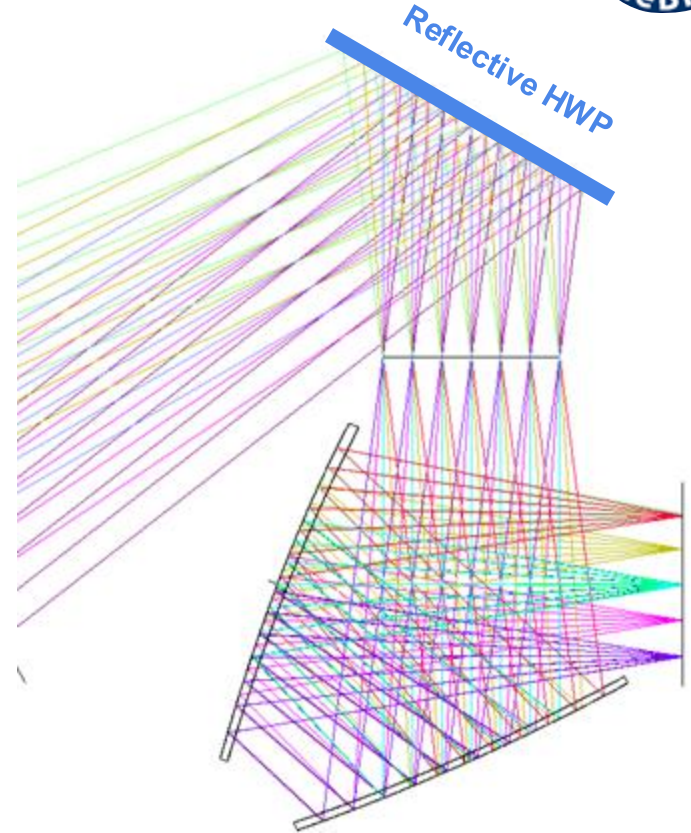


# Design simplification (in trade-off study) – option 3



Different instrumental configurations are currently under investigation for reaching the same scientific goals

- single reflective telescope
- 40 - 400 GHz (baseline)
- **reflective** ultra large-band HWP
  - 13:1 frequency coverage
  - higher modulation efficiency
  - can accommodate only a smaller focal plane
  - similar mapping speed
- nominal spin rate (1 spin in 20 mins)



# Recent status and next steps



- CNES “Key Point” - April 2025
  - a baseline with transmissive HWP has been proposed (no HWP as a backup)
- **A plan to develop TES detectors in Europe** with support by ESA D/TEC has been put in place (with contribution from Italy, UK, NL + FR, ES, CH, FI, ..)
- JAXA Key Decision Point #2 - September 2025
  - **JAXA to approve mission continuation**
- JAXA Mission Definition Review - Spring 2026
  - The collaboration must show that the mission is mature to **enter in JAXA Phase A** (equivalent to ESA Phase B)

## Space based CMB observations

- Full-sky observation and sensitivity to the very low- $\ell$
- Wide frequency range

## Ground based

- adopt cutting-edge challenging technologies to achieve the best possible performance
- sensitivity to very high- $\ell$

technological exchange is mandatory between them, to achieve their synergy

## **MoU between LiteBIRD and CMB-S4 collaborations**

### GOAL:

- Quantify the synergy between the LiteBIRD and CMB-S4 projects based on forecasts using LiteBIRD and CMB-S4 simulations
  - impact of LiteBIRD high-frequency and low-frequency maps on CMB-S4  $r$  forecasts
  - impact of CMB-S4 de-lensing information on LiteBIRD  $r$  forecasts



- LiteBIRD is JAXA's mission for **precision measurement of the CMB B-mode**
- High-precision millimeter wave all-sky polarization maps allows **rich science other than CMB B-mode**
- It is the only space-based CMB observatory planned in 2030s.
- It is **currently under reformation**, until autumn 2025.
  - To rebuild the **detector procurement plan** and to coordinate with new partners.
  - To make the mission robust, feasible, and manageable, while **keeping the science targets**.
  - Not to lose the opportunity to conduct the CMB B-mode observation in space in 2030s

