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A Foundation for Lifecycle Management at the European XFEL

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The European X-Ray Free Electron Laser, European XFEL, is under construction at DESY in Hamburg. DESY has established a parts tracking solution based on a product lifecycle management (PLM) system, which provides procedures for reliably gathering, recording, processing and archiving the complete mandatory fabrication information. The solution is used in the series production of several accelerator components, including the production of super-conducting cavities and the assembly of the accelerator cryomodules, where it supports for example quality management and control during fabrication, and ensures compliance with legal regulations regarding documentation.

The parts tracking solution also provides a foundation for subsequent operation, maintenance and upgrade activities. Those activities need access to complete and up-to-date documentation of the facility, such as e. g. QA/QC records and maintenance instructions. This documentation has to be captured during installation and commissioning, and has to be continued and integrated into the operation processes as the facility evolves.

The presentation introduces the strategy and solution concept for parts tracking at the European XFEL, provides examples and experience, and discusses necessities and scenarios for evolving the solution into the operation and maintenance phase.

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