

The first reason for our presence today at the Kick-off Meeting of AMICI, is our faith and our commitment to Europe, the Europe of Science and Technology. Of its many chapters, Europe experiences a brilliant success in bringing European institutions to conduct Science and Technology programs. To me, the explanation of this success is the adhesion between policy makers and scientists to a common vision, common goals and a common strategy. This key factor is missing for other chapters of Europe like Energy, Defense, or Employment. This adhesion is indeed easier to reach for our community, first because scientific goals are clearer and less controversial than broader aspects of society, which facilitates the European governance, and secondly, particularly for our branch of accelerator and superconducting magnet based 'big science', because no single European country can afford to build the major research infrastructure which have been built in the past decades, like LEP and the LHC at CERN, HERA at DESY, JET in the UK, W7X in Greifswald, or those which are currently under construction like ITER, the European XFEL (nearly finished), The Extreme Light Infrastructures (ELI's) in central Europe, and the large high field superconducting magnets for nuclear fusion and medical imagery. Of course, by creating CERN, our scientific community also showed the way to the politicians.

The second reason of our presence here, as actors of the Europe of Science and Technology, is that we are convinced that the technological platforms which were designed, built and operated in order to realize these research infrastructures based on accelerators and superconducting magnets, are not only an investment of outstanding value, our common-wealth whether they belong to companies or to laboratories, 'Tools', with a capital 'T', which include buildings, services, equipment and, last but not least, human expertise on how to use them and produce cutting edge technology serving the present day scientific goals. Losing this investment would be a costly damage for Europe and a vital damage for us, companies and laboratories who are basing our future on scientific research and technological innovation using accelerators and SC magnets. But also because the union, or the alliance, of these distributed platforms dedicated to accelerators and magnets constitutes a concrete example of the Technological Infrastructure, 'TI', new paradigm which is the basis of the AMICI project and which I will now try to explain.