"SHOWERS OF KNOWLEDGE" The open-source educational project

Victoria Tokareva (JINR) Workshop high school cosmic ray experiments

Rome, 15 February 2017

Structure of the project

Showers of Knowledge (Livni znaniy) project consists of:

- distributed facility RUSALKA ("mermaid");
- unique interactive internet portal http://livni.jinr.ru.



The aim

Bring worldwide Internet users to the analysis of data constantly accumulated in the course of real experiment in the field of research of cosmic rays.

...and objectives

- to make fundamental science more popular and encouraged by the society;
- to reduce the gap between the objects of research of modern science and the awareness level of the society;
- to perform scientific research at RUSALKA facility with the broad involvement of the Internet users.

The main audience

- Middle and high school students committed to physics;
- Undergraduate students of university physics departments;
- Any keen Internet users

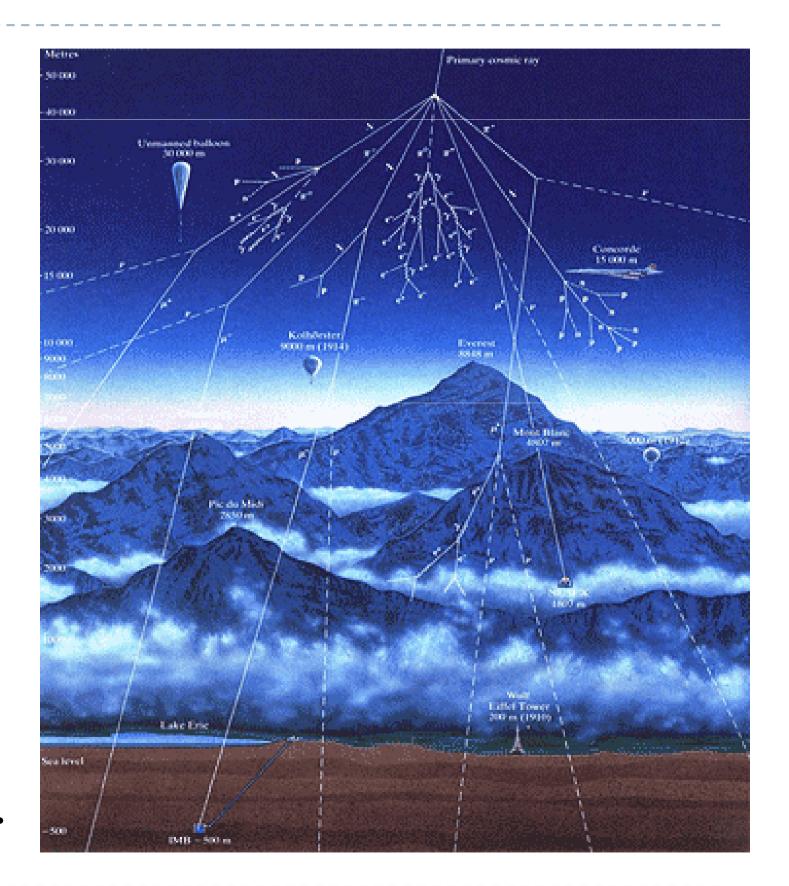






Why cosmic rays?

- they are relevant for introduction into a wide range of trends in modern fundamental science;
- they make it possible to constantly accumulate big stats with minimal expenses for hardware and comparatively simple software for the analysis;
- it is simple enough to understand the idea and perform first experiments.

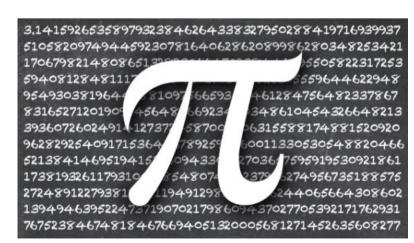


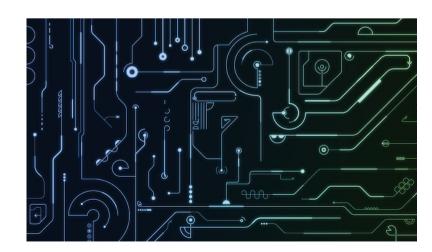
"Livni" educational tasks

- Physics and Astrophysics
 - Cosmic rays (cosmology);
 - Elementary particles;
 - Methods of data analysis
 - Particle detectors
 - General physics

- Mathematics
 - Random variables
 - Probability theory
 - Mathematical statistics
- Technology
 - GPS/GLONASS
 - Basics of microelectronics







"Livni" scientific tasks

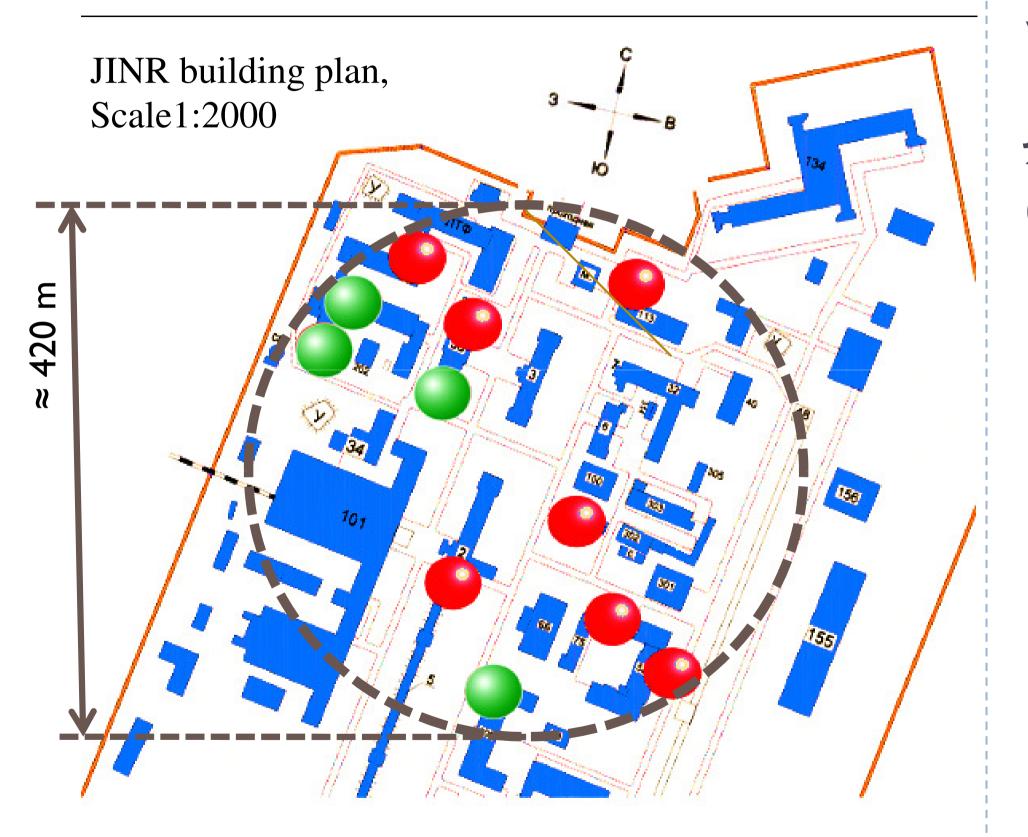


- Monitoring of broad atmospheric showers;
- Search for space- or time-correlated showers (nuclear dissociation, interaction with cosmic micro-objects like dust or meteorites, etc.).

Features

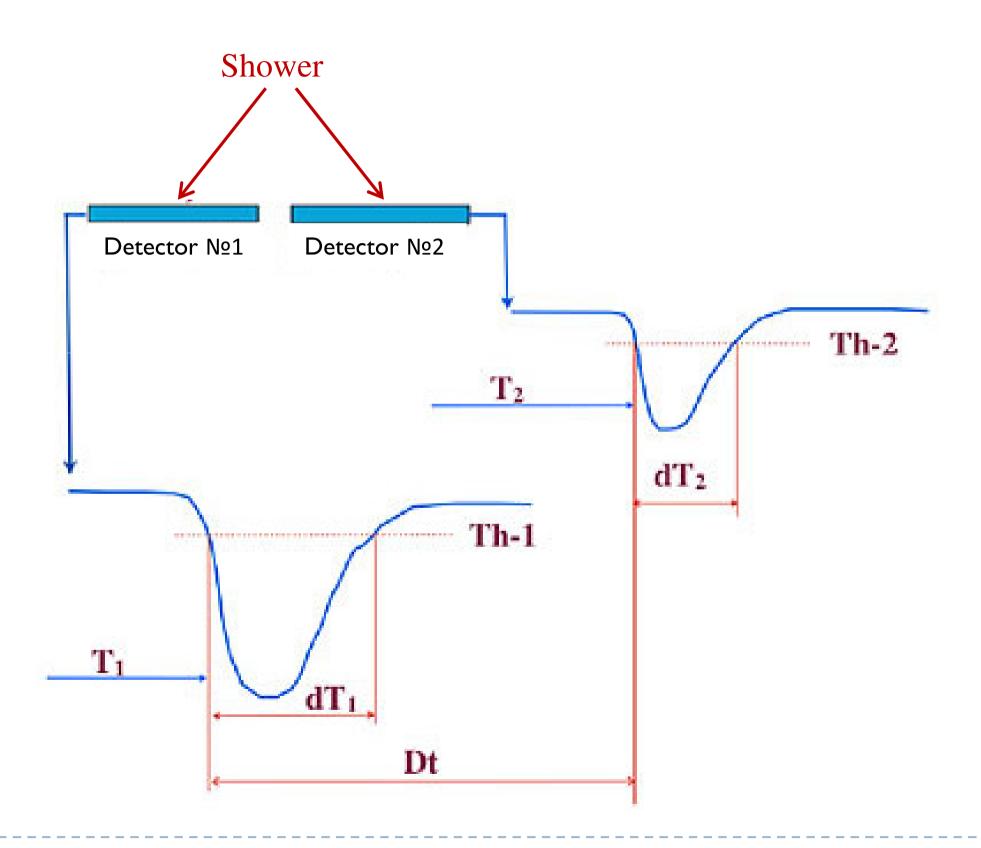
- Detector stations form a compound cluster on the territory of a scientific center
 - simplifies maintaining the equipment
 - increases efficiency of data accumulation and shower registration
 - expands the number of potential participants
- 2) Cellular structure of the facility simplifies
 - adding new stations to the cluster
 - introducing new clusters
- 3) Unique interactive internet-portal
 - beginners can immediately start analyzing data using pre-made patterns
 - experts have an opportunity to create and share their own algorithms

RUSALKA (MERMAID)



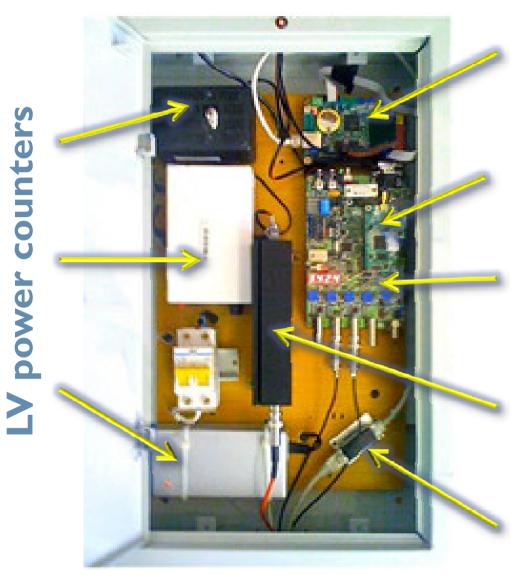
RUSALKA facility now consists of 11 workstations. It is located inside JINR buildings in the area of about 0.5 kilometers in diameter.

How data is measured



Each workstation consists of:

- two scintillation counters;
- Image: Independent of the property of the p
- the electronic unit for formation and entering data into computer, which is supposed to have an access to the Internet.



Single Plate PC

GPS resiver

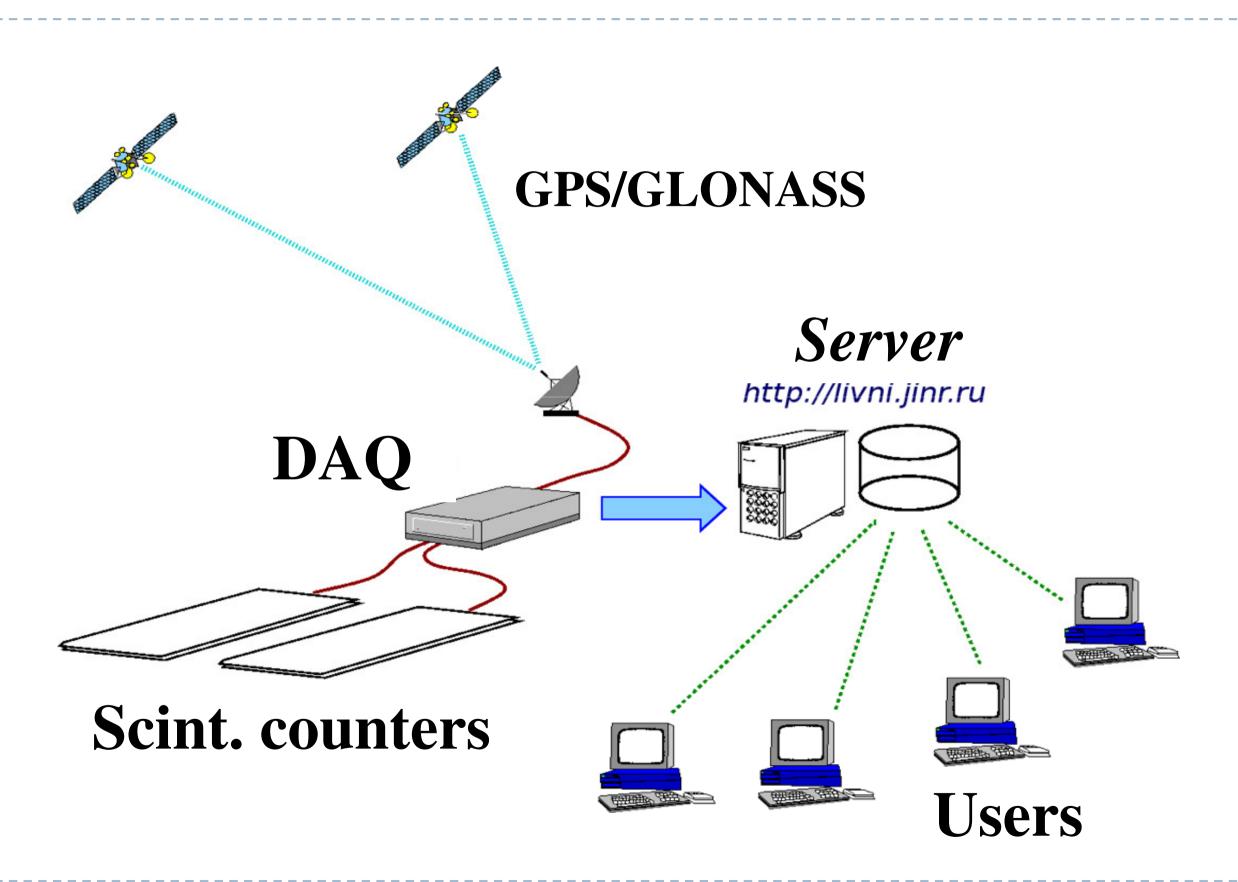
QNET block

HV power supply for PMs

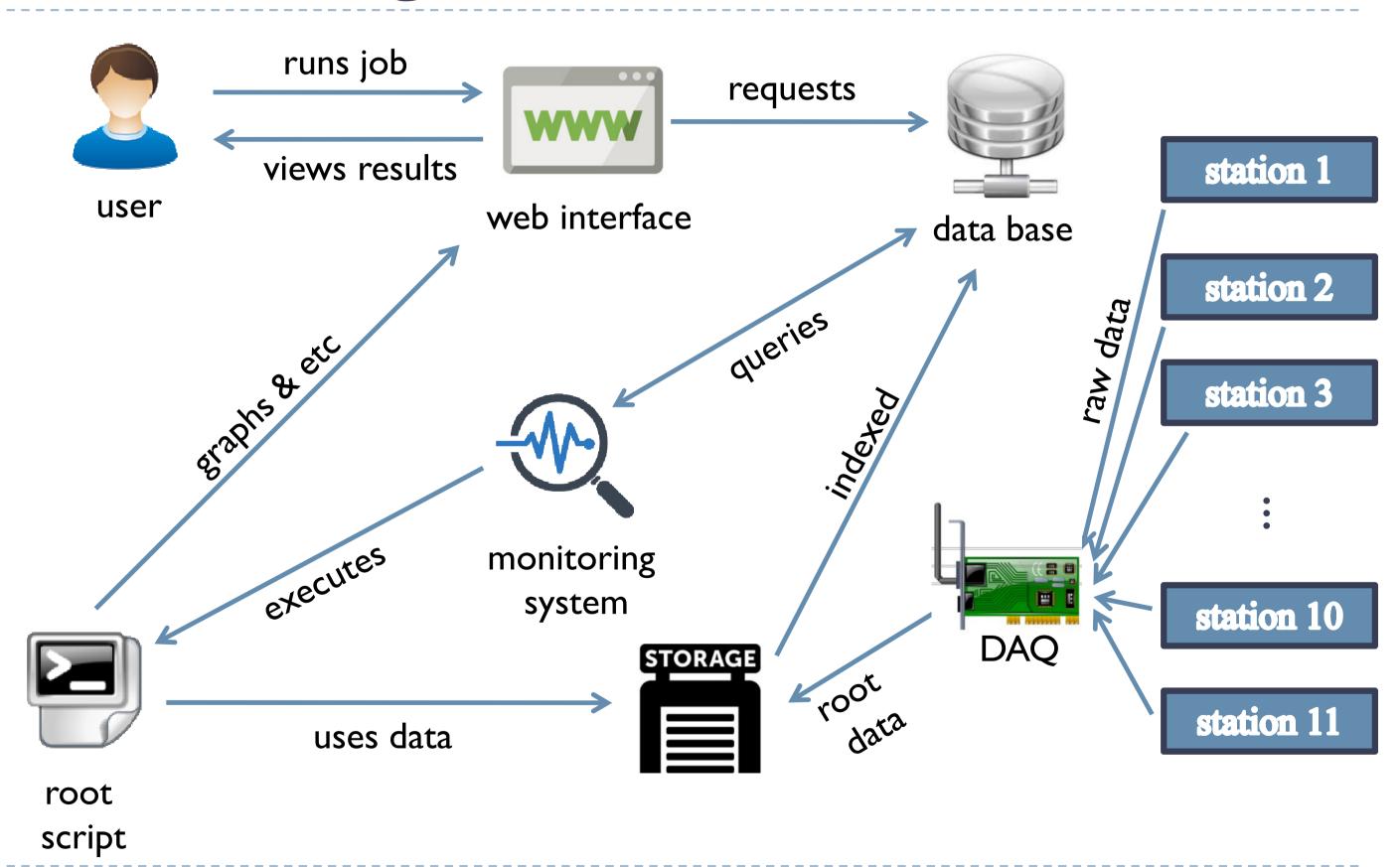
RJ45 Ethernet



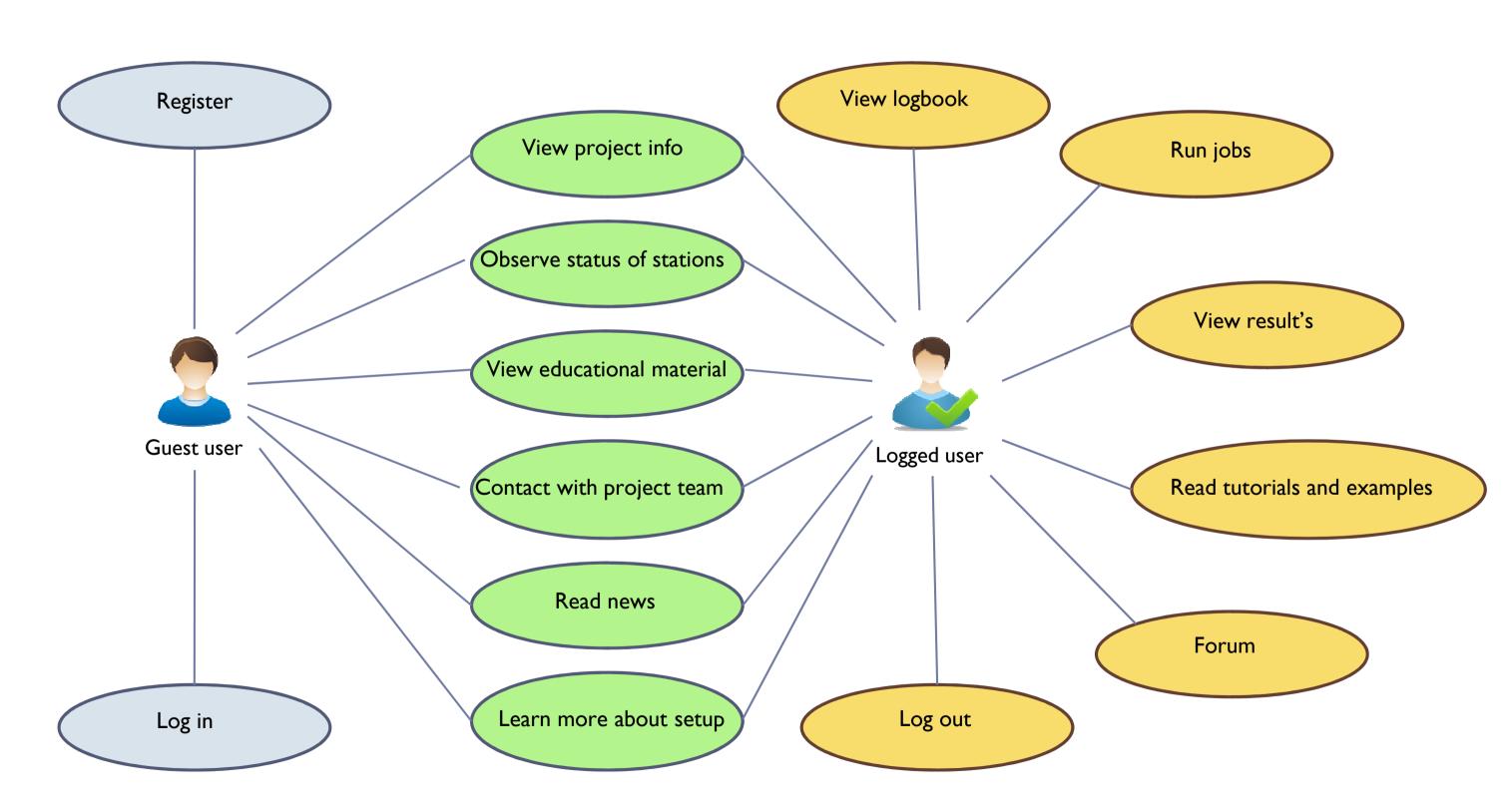
Principal work scheme

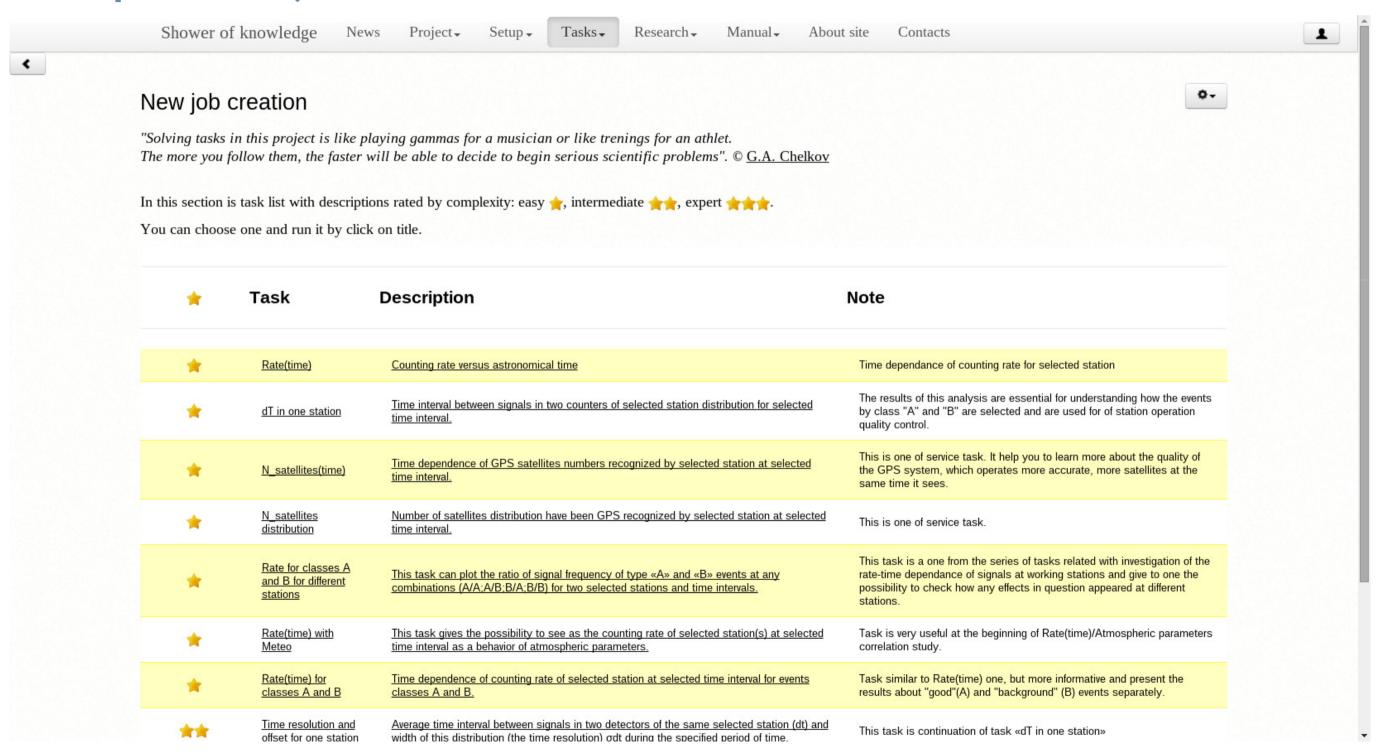


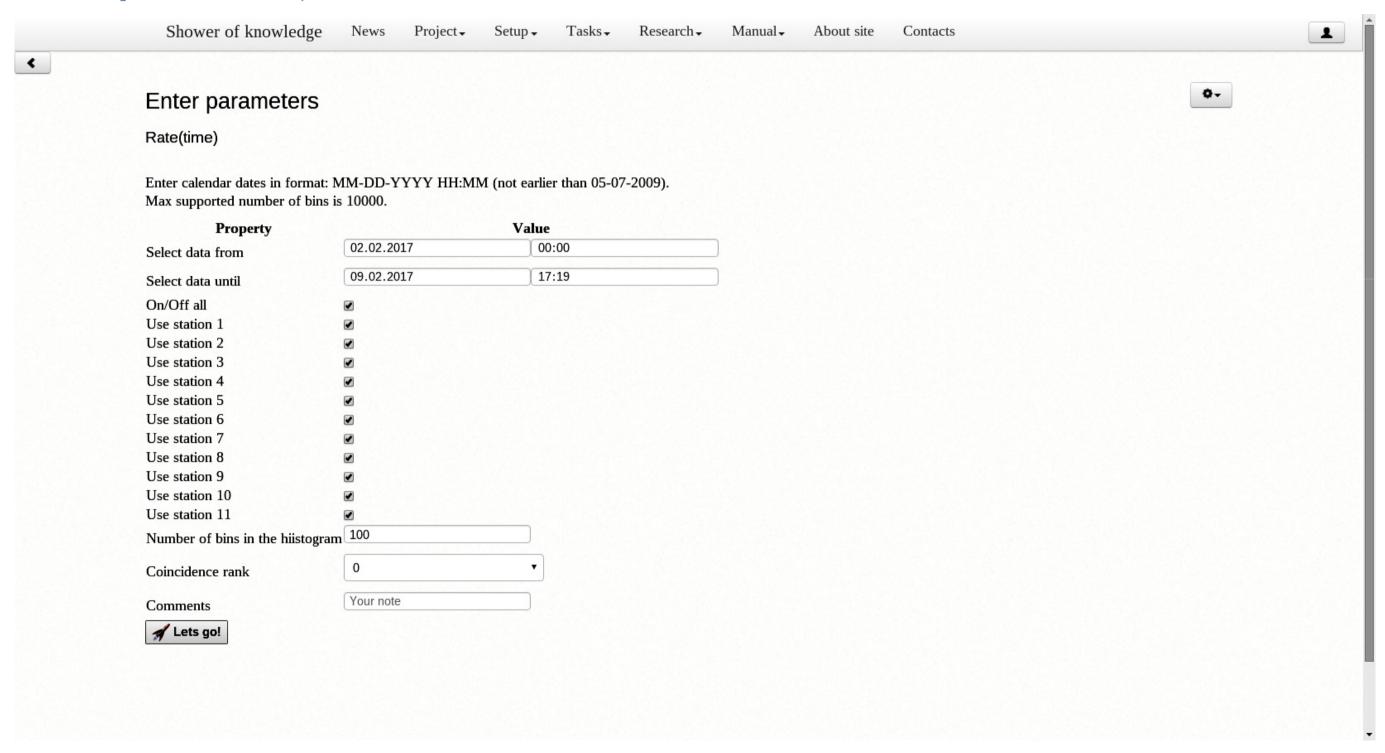
Job running

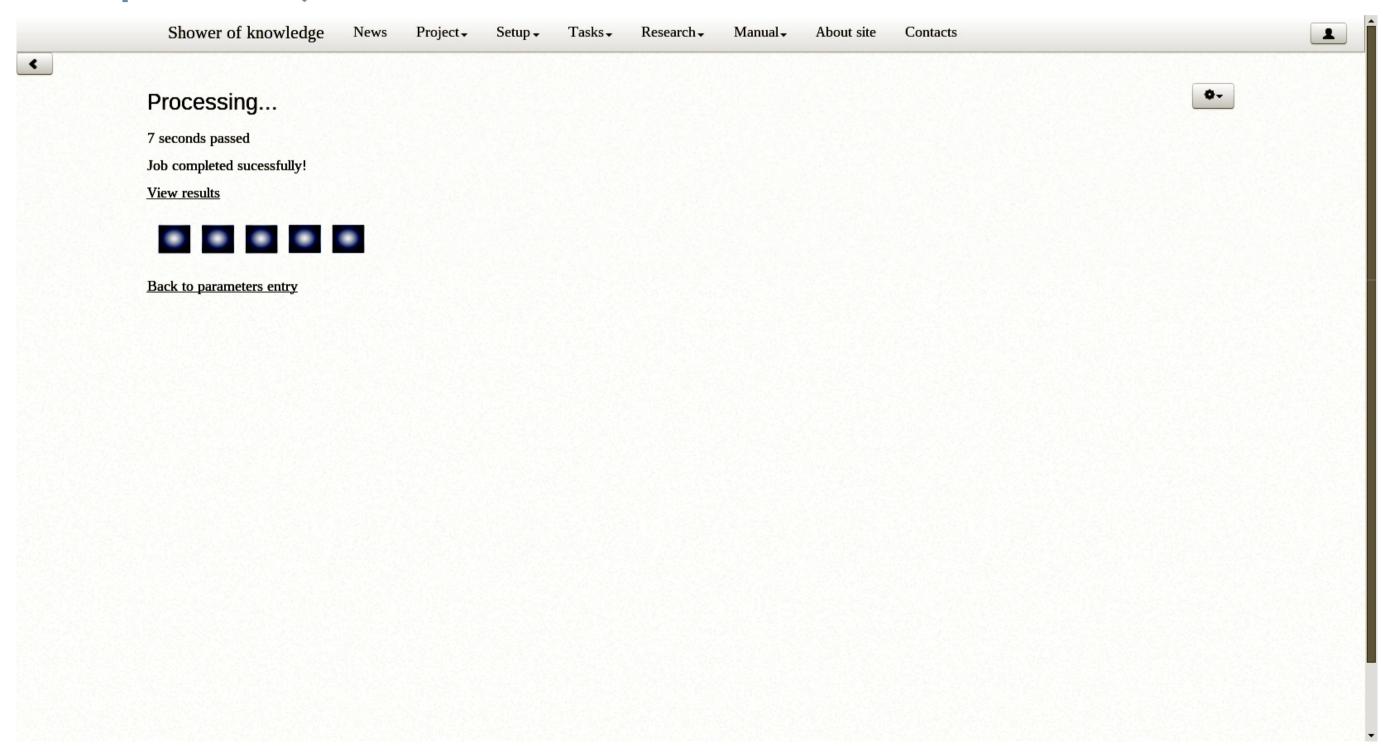


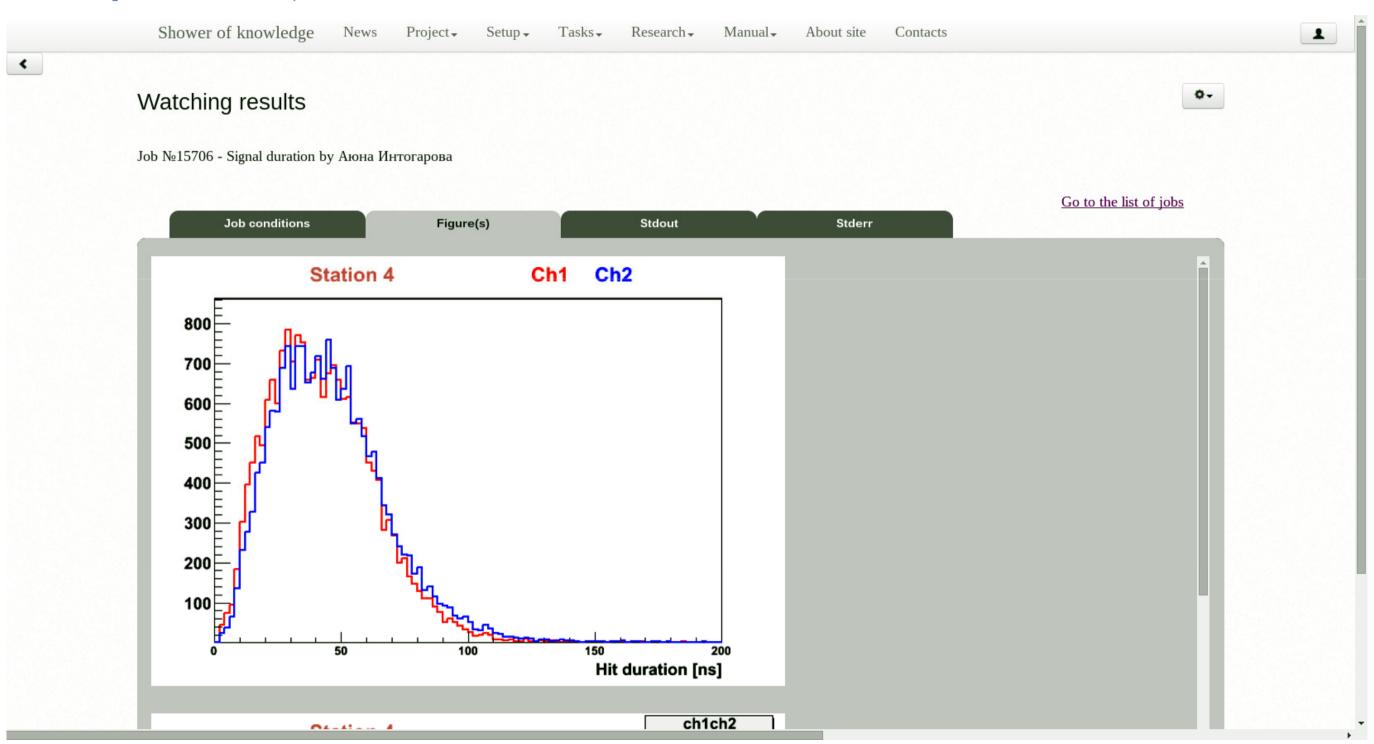
Portal's user interface

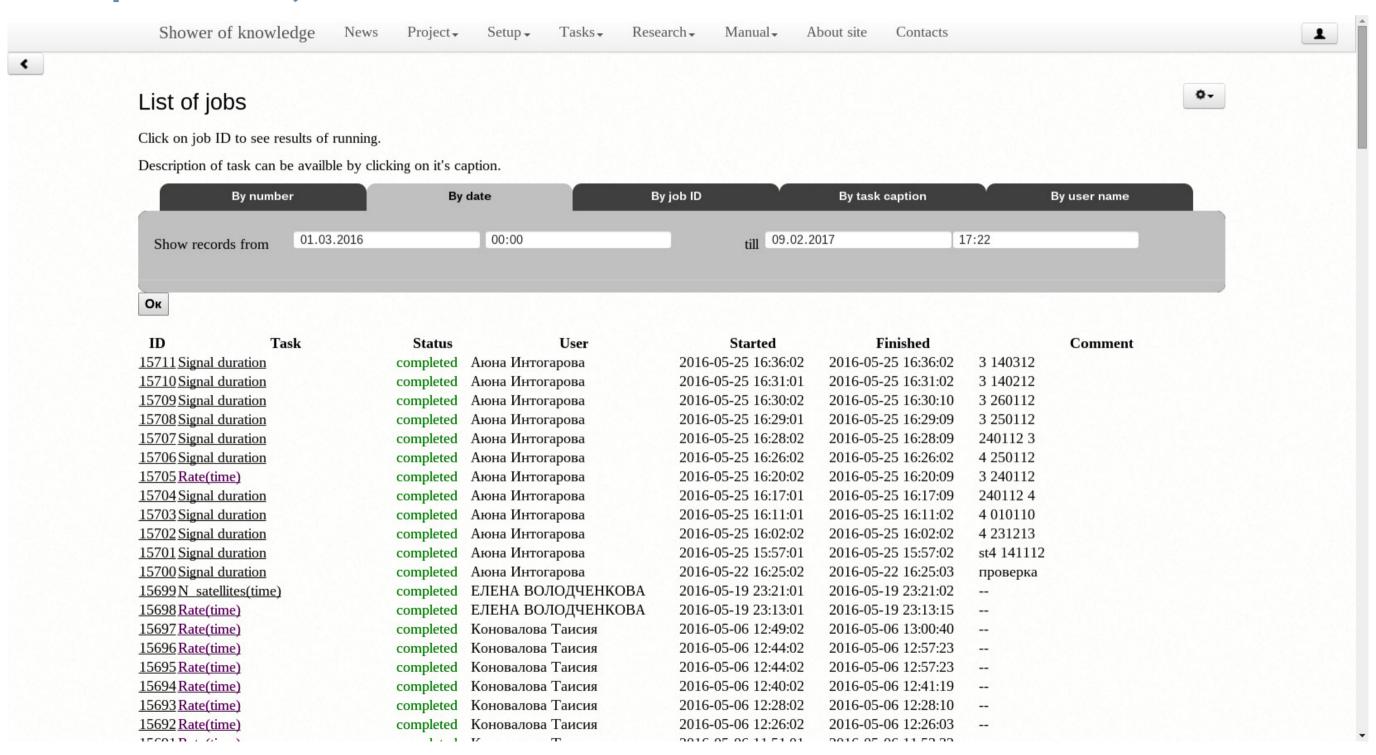












Project statistics

Project started in 2006, the portal was launched in 2010

Languages:











Number of site views - 334881



Registered users - 571



▶ 10436 executed jobs **=**



Active users (> 30 logins) ~ 40

Outreach work

- JINR University Centre;
- JINR Science Museum;
- "Poisk" (Search) school centre, Stavropol;
- Summer school "Modern Physics";
- JINR Science Festival;



Videoconference with students of Moscow schools 2073, 1788, 1391, 2075, 2083, 1392 - February 29, 2016.

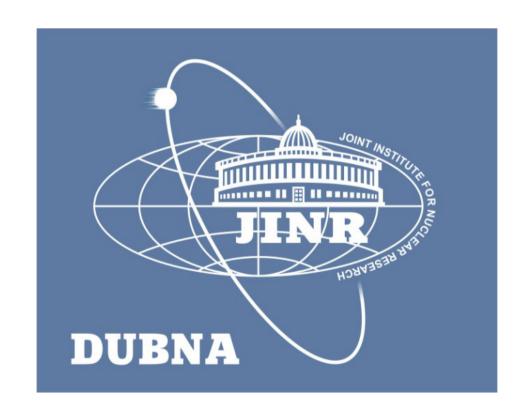
Perspectives

- Each new station enhances the scientific significance of the analysis
- $K > \sim 10$ clusters, $N > \sim 100$ stations: global super detector for rare showers of super-high energies $> 10^{19}$ eV



Cooperation

- Developed and implemented by
 - Laboratory of Nuclear Problems, Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (Dubna, Russia)
- Partnership with
 - Callio Lab (Pyhäjärvi, Finland)
- Interested in ways of cooperation
 - Creating new data-analysis tasks
 - Deploying new stations
 - Data exchange
 - Site localization
 - Attracting new students





Underground Center for Science and R & D

