

Updates from CERN International Relations

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Joint CERN-KEK Committee

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Membership

- **Estonia**

- Council adopted in March 2020 **Resolution admitting Estonia** as an Associate Member State in the pre-stage to Membership.
- On 19 June 2020 the Director-General and the Prime Minister of Estonia **signed** an agreement admitting Estonia as an Associate Member State in the pre-stage to Membership.
- Agreement **enters into force** once CERN has been informed by the Estonian authorities that all necessary internal approval processes have been finalised – **expected realistically early next year.**

Associate Membership

- **Latvia**

- Government of Latvia decided to proceed with application for **Associate Membership**.
- **Application submitted** in February 2020.
- Following designation by Council in June 2020, **fact-finding Task Force** visited Latvia on 14-16 October 2020 and plans to deliver report to Council in December 2020.

Observer Status for States

- One of the **key outcomes** of Council Working Group that reviewed aspects of CERN's geographical enlargement policy is that **Observer status** retained for States making 'substantial contributions' to major CERN projects (**at least 25 MCHF**).
- In March 2020, Council adopted **implementation arrangements** for this new policy framework for Observer status for States.
- Communication outlining the arrangements sent to **Japan, Russian Federation and USA**, which currently hold Observer status with special attendance rights in recognition of their substantial financial contributions to the LHC.
- **USA** has already pledged at least **25 MCHF to the HL-LHC** and have confirmed interest in being granted Observer Status in respect of the project.
 - In September 2020, Council **adopted Resolution granting the USA Observer status** in respect of the **HL-LHC**, for the duration of its construction & operation, in addition to the Observer status that the USA already holds in respect of the LHC.

It is hoped all current Observer States remain as they are all key partners for CERN.

International Cooperation Agreements (ICAs)

- **Bosnia & Herzegovina**

- In September 2020, Council **unanimously approved** conclusion of the ICA with Bosnia & Herzegovina concerning scientific and technical cooperation in high-energy physics.

- **Bahrain**

- ICA with Government of Bahrain is under preparation.

NMS Doctoral Student Programme

- Main objective of the programme is **capacity-building** and strengthening of particle physics in NMS with developing communities.
- Recent decision that with **external funding**:
 - Students of **Particle Physics** to be admitted to CERN Doctoral Student programme, in addition to students of Applied Physics, Computer Science and related disciplines.
 - Due to nature of the funding, all nationalities are eligible, **including nationals from NMS**.
 - (The 'classic' CERN Doctoral Student programme stays unchanged).
- Led to creation of **NMS Doctoral Student Programme**
 - Open to individuals from specific countries/nationalities **according to external funding**.
 - Students must have **started**, or be about to start, a **PhD programme** in Particle Physics (or related disciplines) possibly at a university with a team in one of the **LHC Collaborations**.
 - **Stay at CERN** of initially one year, to be followed by year in **home university**. Possibility to return to CERN for up to a second full year.