



## INSTITUTIONS

### FABIOLA GIANOTTI TAKES OFFICE AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CERN

On 1 January 2016, Fabiola Gianotti officially took office as Director General of CERN, the first woman to hold this position at the European laboratory for particle physics in its more than 60 years of history. Born in Rome in 1962, Fabiola Gianotti studied Physics at the University of Milan, where she received her PhD in subnuclear experimental physics and was later a research fellow at INFN. At CERN she worked in the Physics Department and, from 2009 to 2013, she was international coordinator of ATLAS, one of the main LHC accelerator experiments. Precisely as coordinator of the ATLAS experiment, on 4 July 2012 Fabiola Gianotti announced the discovery of the Higgs boson, awarded the following year with the Nobel Prize for Physics to the theorists who first postulated the existence of this particle. In addition to the important research objectives that will engage the largest particle accelerator in the world over the next few years, including the search for new physics beyond the current Standard Model of elementary particles and the study of dark matter, among the priorities announced by the new Director General are the training of young people, technological innovation and the peaceful collaboration of thousands of scientists worldwide. ■