



## EVENTS

### THE SOUTHERN NATIONAL LABORATORIES TURN 40

Forty years ago, the Southern National Laboratories (LNS) of the INFN were set up in Sicily, Catania. This centre of excellence of Italian physics is currently engaged in major international projects - including the KM3NeT underwater observatory for neutrinos - and national ones like the CATANA project for the treatment of eye tumours with proton therapy.

The anniversary celebrations in Catania were attended by, among others, Fernando Ferroni, President of the INFN, Giacomo Cuttone, Director of the LNS, and Antonino Zichichi, who had commissioned the construction of the facility at a time of major transformation for the INFN. From its birth to the critical step of installing the Superconducting Cyclotron, conceived and built in Milan, the Southern National Laboratories' history is all about fundamental and applied research, that is continuously changing and constantly abreast of the frontier challenges at the international level. The facility employs around 200 people who carry out fundamental research in the field of accelerator physics, nuclear physics (using the superconducting cyclotron and the Tandem Van de Graaff accelerator), astroparticle physics, and multi-disciplinary physics with applications in medicine, cultural heritage, biology and the environment. ■