



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

INFN ACQUIRES AN INTEREST IN THE COMPANY XFEL

On Friday, 5 October, the deed of acquisition of the European XFEL shareholdings (corresponding to 723 shares, each of the value of one euro, equal to 2.89% of the share capital) was signed. With this acquisition Italy, together with INFN and CNR - the Italian National Research Council - formally acquires an interest in the European XFEL company, the future European supermicroscope based on a superconductive linear accelerator: a fourth generation synchrotron radiation source that uses a free electron laser. Italy has participated since the outset in the project and in the foundation of the company, and is the fourth founding country in terms of overall contribution after Germany, Russia and France, thanks to its participation in the construction of the accelerator. An accelerator that will power the X-ray laser and will, therefore, be the key component of the supermicroscope, thanks to which it will be possible to photograph and film, with atomic resolution, biological, chemical and material processes, both condensed and in the form of excited-state plasma. The ceremony of INFN and CNR becoming shareholders of XFEL was also an opportunity for a meeting with the national community active at X-FEL which, with its 30 researchers involved in the project, is the second largest community after the German one. ■