



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

INFN AT THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE FESTIVAL

The 14th edition of the National Geographic Science Festival closed mid-April having attracted 70,000 visitors. INFN contributed to the festival with a full schedule of events and activities. More than 500

events – from conferences, to shows, to exhibitions, to interactive and laboratory exhibits – allowed visitors to explore the theme of the Invention. It was a celebration of three particularly important anniversaries: 500 years since the death of Leonardo da Vinci, the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, and 150 years since the invention of the Periodic Table.

From research into the "Big Bang Echo" to the birth of multi-messenger astronomy, from the story of Italy on Mars to the observation of Earth from space, from the inventions triggered by basic research to nuclear astrophysics: these are just some of themes that researchers from INFN and other Italian research organisations engaged with as they took part in the numerous meetings and dialogues scheduled during the festival. INFN also added to the festival's success with two evening conference-shows, two exhibitions (*Il cosmo in un bicchiere*, *Scienza fra le nuvole* - The Cosmos in a Glass and Science among the Clouds), a virtual-lab on particle detectors, and the projection of the documentary film *The Most Unknown*.

The National Geographic Science Festival was produced by the Fondazione Musica per Roma, planned in partnership with Codice Edizioni, and held in conjunction with National Geographic and in collaboration with MIUR - Italy's Ministry of Education, Universities and Research. It was promoted by Rome's Office of Cultural Growth and also held in partnership with ASI - the Italian Space Agency - and INFN, with the participation of the principal Italian research organisations and diverse cultural associations and organisations. ■