



*"The worldwide spread of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and Covid-19 disease made us realise how important research and technology development are when tackling the grand societal challenges the mankind is facing. Research infrastructures form an important part of the solutions we all call for. Besides fulfilling their primary scientific goals research infrastructures also contribute to achieve wider policy objectives. Therefore, we shall capitalise on their full socioeconomic potential."*

Pavel DOLEČEK, Ph.D.

Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Research

## ESFRI has published a report on monitoring of research infrastructures' performance

ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) published a **report** of the **ESFRI Working Group on Monitoring of Research Infrastructures Performance**. The ESFRI Working Group developed a common approach to monitor the European research infrastructures performance based on a set of key performance indicators (KPIs). These will be used in the forthcoming review of "ESFRI Landmarks" and may also be inspirational for research infrastructure funding authorities and stakeholders.

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## Launch of the Solar Orbiter mission – the largest Czech participation in a space project since 1980s

At 05:03 CET on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020, **Solar Orbiter**, a mission of the **European Space Agency** (ESA) with important participation of Czech research institutes and businesses blasted off on Atlas V rocket from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA. After the successful launch the spacecraft separated from the upper stage of Atlas V and Solar Orbiter started its two-year journey to the Sun. The Solar Orbiter mission is one of the top successes of Czechia in the space R&D ever.

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## Human Brain Project 2020 Open Day

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, the **Human Brain Project** held its annual Open Day at "Megaron" International Conference Centre in Athens, Greece. The Open Day is the biggest outreach event of the project, which has taken up the challenge to create computer simulations of human brain. According to the ambitions presented by the Human Brain Project leaders, the goal is to establish the **EBRAINS**, European Research Infrastructure for neuroscience.

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## Neutrons against cancer and HIV

Mr Helmut Schober, Chair of the **League of Advanced European Neutron Sources** (LENS) and Director of the **Institut Laue-Langevin** (ILL) reviewed recent advances in the neutron science, which may impact understanding and treatment of e.g. AIDS and cancer. The LENS held a science and policy colloquium on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Brussels, Belgium, focused on how the Europe's research infrastructures can best address some of the greatest biomedical challenges the world is tackling.

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