



“The Commission Communication and the EU Council Conclusions on a new European Research Area (ERA), adopted in 2020, lay down top priorities for further enhancement of the European research and innovation ecosystem in post-2020. Research infrastructures will play an indispensable and inseparable role in this new ERA. With their essential and vital contribution, Europe will strengthen its resilience and preparedness to tackle any future grand socioeconomic challenge the European society shall face.”

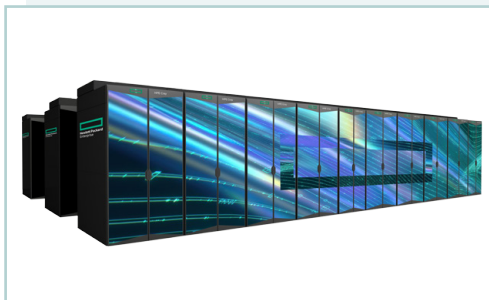
Pavel DOLEČEK, Ph.D.

Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Research

74th ESFRI Forum called for a debate on a new vision for the European Research Area

The **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)**, which 74th plenary session was held virtually on 8th – 9th December 2020, agreed that research infrastructures must play a key role in the future European Research Area (ERA). In response to the ongoing discussions on the renewed ERA, the **ESFRI White Paper 2020 “Making Science Happen”** was issued. The ESFRI Forum, chaired by Dr Jan Hrušák, has been already preparing several actions to implement the envisioned goals thereof.

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Czechia will gain access to one of the fastest supercomputers in the world

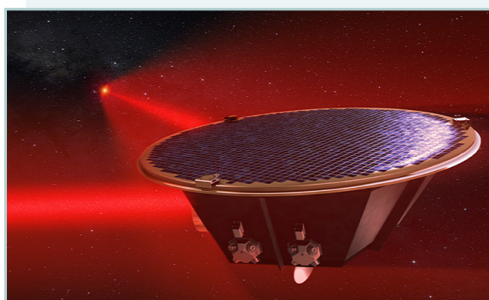
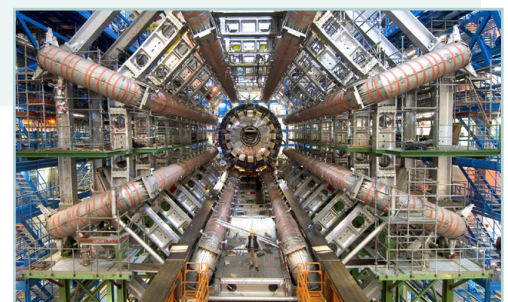
By signing an agreement with the **EuroHPC Joint Undertaking** and **Finnish CSC – IT Centre for Science**, and contributing € 1.6 million, Czechia has joined Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland to build and operate a pre-exascale supercomputer with a theoretical peak performance of 552 PFlop/s, to be installed in Kajaani, Finland, in mid-2021. The **LUMI** is another achievement of the **EuroHPC initiative**, participated by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

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CERN Business Incubation Centre in Czechia is one step closer to implementation

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the CzechInvest agency agreed on cooperation on the establishment of a CERN Business Incubation Centre in Czechia (CERN BIC CZECH). The cooperation is based on a Memorandum, which was signed on 3rd December 2020. The main role of the CERN BIC CZECH will be to support the use of **CERN** knowledge and technologies in the development and growth of Czech start-ups, and to support the development of products with a high added value.

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Czech scientists to study gravitational waves with the LISA mission

LISA (*Laser Interferometer Space Antenna*) is the third large “flagship” mission of **ESA** (*European Space Agency*) to become the first space-based gravitational wave observatory, when it is launched in 2034. Scientists from the Astronomical Institute and the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences are responsible for the Czech involvement in the mission, and will develop, test and manufacture the “Fibre Switch Unit Actuator” with the financial support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

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