



European Organization for Nuclear Research
Organisation européenne pour la recherche nucléaire

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Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), it is our great pleasure to extend our warmest congratulations to the Department of Atomic Physics on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

This important milestone reflects not only \ longevity, but \ sustained excellence, vision, and dedication to advancing science and education. Over the decades, your Department has become a cornerstone of modern physics in Bulgaria and a valued partner in the international scientific community.

We would like to express our special appreciation for the pivotal role that the Department of Atomic Physics has played in Bulgaria’s successful accession to CERN. The long-term commitment, expertise, and advocacy of your academic community were instrumental in the process that culminated in Bulgaria becoming a CERN Member State 1999. This achievement reflects both your leadership and the strong institutional support of Sofia University.

From its founding involvement in the CMS experiment, in the kaon programme (NA48, NA62), neutrino experiments (CHORUS, OPERA) and heavy ion physics (NA49), to its current active participation in CMS, ALICE, ISOLDE, NA61/SHINE, NA62, and SND@LHC, the Department has demonstrated sustained, high-impact engagement across CERN’s scientific programme. These contributions span detector development, operation of complex experimental systems, advanced data analysis, and significant physics results.

The Department is actively engaged in shaping the next generation of experiments at CERN. Through its participation in the Detector R&D (DRD) collaborations, it contributes to the development of new detector technologies and plays a role in the preparation of future facilities, including the Future Circular Collider (FCC) programme.

Equally important is the Department’s outstanding role in education. Through its academic programmes and active participation in international collaborations, it has trained generations of young scientist - students, PhDs, and postdoctoral researchers, many of whom have continued their careers at CERN and leading institutions worldwide.

As CERN continues to evolve as a global hub for scientific discovery, we highly value our partnership with institutions such as the Department of Atomic Physics. Your continued contributions remain essential to our shared mission of advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and training future generations.

Please accept our sincere congratulations on this distinguished anniversary. We look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration and shared achievements.

Ursula Bassler
Director for Stakeholder Relations

Yours sincerely,

Mark Thomson
Director-General