

ICFA applauds the 2026 update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics

August 2026

At its recent meeting on 2 August 2026 during the International Conference on High-Energy Physics (ICHEP 2026) in Natal, Brazil, the International Committee for Future Accelerators (ICFA)¹ applauded the 2026 update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics.

Based on the recommendations put forward by the European Strategy Group (ESG) in December 2025², CERN Council convened a special session in Budapest on 22 May 2026 and decided to adopt the ESG's proposed update to the European Strategy for Particle Physics as the scientific vision of the particle physics community in Europe³.

The 2026 update of the European Strategy builds on the 2020 strategy. It reinforces the importance of ensuring Europe's continued scientific and technological leadership and recommends the electron-positron Future Circular Collider (FCC-ee) as the highest-priority next facility after the LHC reaches the end of its operational lifetime in 2041.

Together with strong support for the full exploitation of the HL-LHC programme, the European strategy recommendation of the electron-positron Future Circular Collider (FCC-ee) as the preferred option for the next flagship collider at CERN defines the mid- and long-term future ambitions of the field.

The priorities set forward in the strategy update spell out some of the expected goals. In particular, the community-related considerations to implement the strategy in strong collaboration with global partners and neighbouring fields, and to further strengthen the unique European ecosystem of research centres and universities, are fully in line with ICFA's mission to "promote international collaboration in all phases of the construction and exploitation of very high energy accelerators."

International collaboration is a key factor in the full exploitation of the LHC and HL-LHC programmes, which remains the highest medium-term priority for European particle physics. ICFA fully acknowledges the immense efforts of the global community to make the challenging HL-LHC upgrades a success.

ICFA also welcomes the expressed support for accelerator-based and non-accelerator neutrino and dark matter research and in particular to the global long-baseline neutrino programme via the CERN Neutrino Platform for the sake of a necessary and vital scientific diversity of the field.

¹ <https://icfa.hep.net>

² <https://cds.cern.ch/record/2950671>

³ <https://council.web.cern.ch/sites/default/files/c-e-3997-Council%20Resolution%20on%20the%202026%20update%20of%20the%20European%20Strategy%20for%20Particle%20Physics.pdf>

ICFA also acknowledges the emphasis of monitoring the sustainability and societal impacts of work in the field. The importance of R&D and of industrialisation of key technologies in collaboration with international partners and industry – in particular SC and NC RF structures, efficient RF power sources, magnets and high-temperature superconductors, and the training of early-career scientists, engineers and technicians is recognised. Similarly, the need for support of longer-term development of advanced accelerator and detector technologies, as well as advanced computational methods including AI and automation, are recognised.

In summary, ICFA applauds the updated strategy and strongly supports the development and implementation of the FCC-ee programme.