

Pakistan becomes Associate Member of CERN

19 December 2014

Islamabad, Pakistan, 19 December 2014. CERN Director General Dr. Rolf Heuer on behalf of CERN and Dr. Ansar Parvez, Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission on behalf of Government of Pakistan signed an agreement today admitting Pakistan to CERN as Associate Member. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, and many other dignitaries including heads of scientific organizations, and foreign diplomats.

“It is a significant and historic moment for Pakistan and its scientific community, as we sign the agreement for “Associate Membership” with CERN, which reflects decades of committed efforts by our scientists and engineers contributing to the scientific research and technological work at CERN. I believe and hope that this formal relationship with the world leading research organization will act as a catalyst for building a better and stronger scientific base in the country. An exciting opportunity it would provide to our young scientists to interact with the best in the world and develop themselves into productive members of the society. ”, said Dr. Ansar Parvez, Chairman PAEC.

Pakistan’s scientific community was introduced to CERN through Dr. Abdus Salam in the 1960’s. A formal collaboration agreement with CERN was signed in November 1994 between Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and CERN to promote scientific and technical cooperation in high energy physics. Pakistan’s scientists have contributed in various projects at CERN and have participated in Large Hadron Collider experiments like CMS, ALICE and ATLAS. At present, Pakistan is also involved in the future program to be undertaken at CERN. The experience gained by working in the world largest accelerator at CERN is helping our scientists and engineers in developing our own Linear accelerator for medical purposes.

Pakistan’s Associate Membership will not only strengthen the relationship of scientific community in Pakistan with the people at CERN but will also allow Pakistani scientists to join CERN staff and to participate in CERN’s training and career development programs. In addition, it will allow Pakistan’s industry to bid for CERN contracts, which will open up opportunities for industrial collaborations based on advanced technologies.