



## **NOMINATION** **THE APPOINTMENT OF FABIOLA GIANOTTI** **AS HEAD OF CERN FROM 2016**

On 12 December, the Council of CERN formalised the election of Fabiola Gianotti as head of the largest particle physics research centre in the world. Now, the Italian scientist is officially the future Director General of CERN, a position she will take up as from 1 January 2016. "Italy has always had a special relationship with CERN, – recalls Fernando Ferroni, INFN President and member of the Council – since its inception, with Edoardo Amaldi among the founding fathers, to the successes of the LHC experiments, with the involvement of many Italian physicists, sealed by the discovery of the Higgs boson, not to mention the Nobel Prize winner, Carlo Rubbia, also Director General, as too was Luciano Maiani". "It was with immense joy and great satisfaction that we learned of the appointment of Fabiola as head of CERN, which will therefore be directed with the class and confidence which are her hallmark, by an Italian of our school, demonstrating the vitality and visibility it has at a global level. For Italy it is an extraordinary recognition, and for INFN a confirmation of its scientific and educational strategy, as well as an encouragement to continue in the direction of uncompromising excellence that distinguishes it", concludes Ferroni. ■



## **HIGHER EDUCATION** **NEW ACADEMIC YEAR OF THE GRAN SASSO SCIENCE INSTITUTE INAUGURATED**

The second academic year of the Gran Sasso Science Institute, the GSSI, the INFN International PhD School founded in L'Aquila with a view to cultural, social and economic redevelopment of the area following the 2009 earthquake, has been inaugurated with a wonderful ceremony. The event was attended by prominent figures from the scientific and institutional world, including Nobel Prize winner in physics, Carlo Rubbia. And also many young people: bright graduate students from all over the world, which are the core of the GSSI. "I have fellow students from Pakistan, Vietnam, India and various European countries", says Alkida Balliu, an Albanian IT student who opened the day's proceedings. "In this beautiful city that teems with culture, – continued Balliu – it's as if the world has been united, I am sure we will do great things". "This is an international place of excellence", underlined the GSSI Director, Eugenio Coccia "of the 80 PhDs currently working here, selected from more than 1,000 applications received, 50% are from abroad. These numbers justify our existence and testify to the success of our mission: attract young talent to L'Aquila from around the world". ■