



INNOVATION

CERN-INFN AGREEMENT FOR A NETWORK OF BUSINESS INCUBATION CENTRES (BICs)

CERN and INFN have signed an agreement for the development of an Italian network of *Business Incubation Centres* (BIC), coordinated by INFN, which will have the objective of creating new business opportunities starting from the technologies developed by physicists and engineers at CERN. The agreement was signed in Geneva on 16 June by Fabiola Gianotti, Director General of CERN, and Fernando Ferroni, President of INFN. The Italian network is part of the new international network promoted by CERN which to date involves 9 countries and supports 12 incubators, with applications ranging from biotechnology to energy and materials science. The Italian BIC network will be called *Research to Innovation* (R2I) and was created with the intent of supporting technology transfer in Italy, promoting the development of innovative products and services, starting with frontier technologies stemming from fundamental research in high-energy physics. Recipients of the initiative are businesses, spin-offs and young hi-tech companies willing to focus on innovation and technology to accelerate their business. ■