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European XFEL accelerator components go into production

An important milestone was reached on the way to the European XFEL superconducting linear accelerator: the start of the industrial production of the superconducting accelerator structures. Yesterday and today, kick-off workshops took place to coordinate the future collaboration of DESY with two industrial firms. The superconducting accelerator structures are a joint contribution of DESY and INFN Milano, coordinated by DESY.

DESY commissioned each firm – Research Instruments (Bergisch-Gladbach, Germany) and Zanon (Schio, Italy) – to produce 300 accelerator structures, the so-called cavities, for a total of about 50 million Euros. At first, each firm will deliver eight preproduction units to test the newly installed infrastructure at the firms. The preproduction is followed by another 280 serial cavities and twelve accelerator structures manufactured within the framework of the EU ILC HiGrade project. The aim of the project is to increase the accelerator gradient for the International Linear Collider ILC. The cavities are submitted to an extensive quality control and get a special surface treatment, if necessary.

Representatives of the firms and DESY met to discuss their technical and business collaboration. In this context, DESY is not only acting as a commissioner for cavities, but also provides the superconducting niobium, its own machines and know-how for quality control.



Representatives of Research Instruments and DESY at the kick-off meeting for the European XFEL cavity production.

The delivery of the preproduction will already start in the coming year, the delivery of the serial cavities is to start beginning of 2012 and to be finished within two years. After successful testing at DESY, the cavities will be transferred to Saclay, Paris, for the assembly of the European XFEL accelerator modules.

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