







Answering some of the most profound theoretical questions of the 21st century, particularly ones associated with the Higgs particle and the search of physics beyond the Standard Model, will necessitate another leap to higher energies and intensities.

The future of fundamental physics on the timescale of the 21st century hinges on designing and building future colliders that can take us at least one order of magnitude beyond the ultimate reach of the LHC.

The Higgs discovery closes the 20th century chapter of fundamental physics while simultaneously kicking the door open to entirely new questions of the 21st century. These questions are deeper and structural ones and have to do with the theoretical frameworks developed in the course of the last century.

do we need to start planning for a post-LHC collider?

Particle physics has arrived at an important moment. The discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC, with a mass of 125 GeV, completes the matrix of particles and interactions that has constituted the "Standard Model" for several decades. This model is a consistent and predictive theory, which has so far proven successful at describing all phenomena accessible to collider experiments.

On the other hand, several experimental facts require the extension of the Standard Model and explanations are needed for observations such as the abundance of matter over antimatter, the striking evidence for dark matter and the non-zero neutrino masses. Theoretical issues that need to be addressed include the hierarchy problem, the mechanism through which the Higgs boson acquires its mass and the strong CP problem.

Possible answers to the open questions seem to require the existence of new particles and phenomena over an immense range of mass scales and coupling strengths, which could have masses too large or couplings too small to be observed at the LHC.

scenarios are considered under the FCC-study?

The LHC has greatly advanced our understanding of matter and the Standard Model; however, it cannot confirm every aspect of the SM nor explore other key questions about the Universe. To find out more about dark matter, the matter/ antimatter asymmetry, or the origin of neutrino masses, colliders with extended intensity and energy reach is necessary. The FCC Study aims to formulate a proposal for a next-generation research facility in particle physics that will open up new horizons in the field of fundamental physics.

Concepts for three different scenarios are being developed: A concept for a circular intensity-frontier lepton collider (FCC-ee) housed in a 100 km tunnel will offer the required precision, followed by an energy-frontier hadron collider (FCC-hh) reaching up to 100 TeV collision energies. The concept for an interaction point of a smaller lepton accelerator with a high-energetic hadron beam is developed as a third scenario (FCC-he). Finally, the study assess the option to upgrade the energy reach of the LHC (HE-LHC) by using the technology developed for FCC-hh.

WHY do we need to plan a new generation of lepton colliders?

The answer is included in the question: If the LEP performance can be multiplied by a huge factor – profiting from concepts developed for the latest designs of Super B factories – the new machine would be able to accumulate 10¹² to 10¹³ Z decays, i.e., five to six orders of magnitude more than at LEP!

The FCC-ee has a unique programme of searches for new physics via high-precision studies of the W, Z and Higgs bosons and the top quark with very low uncertainties thanks to the huge luminosities foreseen for the two interaction experimental regions (with a possible extension up to four) and the exquisite control of the beam energy in the range of 90 to 400 GeV at centre of mass.

The centre-of-mass energy increase offered by the fourfold circumference will also allow millions of Higgs particles or top quarks to be produced, to mention the heaviest and most puzzling two particles in the Standard Model.

The statistical precision of measurements that are sensitive to new physics would be improved by a factor of up to 500 – this is vertiginous, if you think of the challenge to match this with similar systematic precision and theoretical accuracy.

Searches for tiny deviations with respect to the predictions of the Standard Model in a rich set of measurements may also give us a hint for the physics lying Beyond the Standard Model.

The FCC-ee provides direct searches for physics beyond the S.M through rare and invisible decays of the Higgs and Z bosons that could shed light on questions about dark matter or the mass of sterile neutrinos (with masses up to 60 GeV).

Precision measurements are important as they could allow particles to be searched for and detected, even if they are far too heavy to be directly produced. In that sense, a staged approach starting with an intensity frontier lepton collider (FCC-ee) followed by an energy-frontier proton machine (FCC-hh) offer an extremely broad, rich and diverse programme of scientific exploration over at least half a century.

WHAT will you discover?

There are very concrete answers that these machines will give to questions that go beyond the LHC and its HL-LHC upgrade. While it is important to anticipate the discoveries possible at the FCC, which may relate to fundamental puzzles in physics such as the nature of dark matter or the origin of the baryon asymmetry, it is also important to keep in mind the project deliverables which are not speculative, including the discovery of Higgs boson interactions with itself.

The tools considered by the FCC study will expand our current understanding of how the universe functions at the smallest scales and increase our understanding of how to address today's unresolved riddles.

scenarios are examined by the FCC study?

The scope of the FCC collaboration is to develop concepts for:

A high energy frontier hadron collider (FCC-hh) with unprecedented luminosity reaching 100 TeV, a sevenfold increase compared to the LHC. This could also accommodate the synchronous operation of a hadron-lepton collider.

A high intensity frontier lepton collider (FCC-ee) at beam energies ranging from 45 up to 175 GeV (90 to 350 GeV centre-of-mass energies).

A High-Energy upgrade of the LHC (HE-LHC) that could double the collision energy to 27 TeV. The study assess the feasibility of key technologies and designs that will allow the sustainable operation of post-LHC particle colliders housed in a new 100km tunnel in the Geneva area. Moreover, the FCC collaboration offers a sound basis for continued strategic technological developments.

FCC-ee (electron-positron)

A lepton collider is considered as a potential first step towards realisation of the hadron facility. The scope includes the study collider with c.m. energies between 90 and 350 GeV. The clean experimental conditions have given lepton storage rings a strong record of accomplishment for measuring known particles with highest precision and exploring the unknown.

The pushed luminosities and the possibility of improved handling of lepton beams would create a possibility to measure the properties of the Z, W, Higgs and top particles, as well as the strong interaction, with unequalled accuracy. With such a device, precision electroweak physics, precision Higgs physics, and measurements of the top quark and W boson properties will give orders of magnitude improvements. The unique measurements of invisible or exotic decays of the Higgs and Z bosons would offer discovery potential for dark matter or heavy neutrinos. It would enable profound investigations of electroweak symmetry breaking, and would open a broad indirect search for new physics over several orders of magnitude in energy or couplings.

Guided by the findings of FCC-ee, high-energy physics will require direct access to the energy frontier. The infrastructure envisioned by the FCC study is designed to subsequently host a hadron collider with a centre-of-mass energy of at least 100 TeV, expanding the physics reach with multiple synergies and complementary searches, allowing for the broadest and most versatile field of research, and providing the most ambitious future for fundamental physics, for many years to come.

FCC-hh (protons and heavy-ions)

The discovery reach of force carriers of new interactions will be extended up to masses of around 30 TeV.

The discovery reach for dark matter particles will extend well beyond the TeV region and the search for a possible substructure inside quarks will be extended down to distance scales of 10⁻²¹ m. Billions of Higgs bosons and trillions of top quarks will be produced, creating new opportunities for the study of rare decays and flavour physics, which tremendously benefit from higher collision energies. A future energy frontier hadron collider will also extend the study of Higgs and gauge boson interactions to energies well above the TeV scale, a way to analyse in detail the mechanism underlying the breaking of electroweak symmetry.

Therefore, the programme of a future collider facility must aim at conclusive responses to key quantitative and conceptual questions that may not be answered otherwise. For example: How does the Higgs particle couple to itself? Do the light generations of fermions get their mass from the Higgs boson? What was the nature of the electroweak phase transition? Are weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs) a compo-nent of Dark Matter (DM)? Does the hierarchy problem admit a natural solution at the TeV scale? The high-energy hadron collider (FCC-hh), with a total integrated luminosity 30 times higher than the LHC, at a centre-of-mass energy of 100 TeV, and the possibility to synchronously integrate lepton-proton collisions (FCC-eh), provides a unique opportunity to address these questions. The synergy and complementarity with the circular lepton collider (FCC-ee) bring answers to those questions within reach.

Finally, the hadron collider provides an opportunity to push the exploration of the collective structure of matter at most extreme density and temperature conditions to new frontiers through the study of heavy-ion collisions.

FCC-he (electron-proton)

With the huge energy provided by the 50 TeV proton beam, and with the potential availability of an electron beam with energy of the order of 60 GeV, the physics of deep inelastic electron-proton scattering can be brought to a new horizon. The had-ron-electron interaction point scenario would not only be a high-precision Higgs factory, but could also discover, and interpret, new particles or interactions. With the resolution of dimensions down to 10⁻²⁰ m, it represents a powerful microscope for studying quark-gluon interactions and possible further substructure of matter in the world. With such a program, accompanied by unprecedented measurements of strong and electroweak interaction phenomena, the hadron-electron collider is another unique complement to the exploration of nature at high energies.

HE-LHC (High-Energy LHC)

A high-energy hadron collider could extend the current energy frontier by almost a factor 2 (27 TeV collision energy) and an integrated luminosity of at least a factor of 3 larger than the HL-LHC. In connection with four experimental detectors, this infrastructure will deepen our understanding of the origin of the electroweak symmetry breaking, allow a first measurement of the Higgs self-coupling, double the HL-LHC discovery reach and allow for in-depth studies of new physics signals arising from future LHC measurements. This collider would directly produce particles at significant rates at scales up to 12 TeV.

While 27 TeV is well below the 100 TeV target of the FCC-hh, the increase of energy and luminosity with respect to the HL-LHC nevertheless represents a significant improvement over the HL-LHC reach. The discussion of the HE-LHC physics potential, therefore, should not be done through a direct comparison with the obviously more powerful and ambitio us FCCs.

WHY do we plan an energy-frontier collider?

With the data from the 100 TeV collider we will be able to unambiguously see and precisely measure the Higgs self-interaction process, whose structure is deeply related to the origin and mass of the Higgs itself. At an even more fundamental level the proposal of a 100 TeV pp collider stems from the bold leap into the completely uncharted new territory that it offers, probing energy scales, where fundamental new physical principles might be at play. The 100 TeV pp collider will allow us to hunt for new fundamental particles roughly an order of magnitude heavier than we can possibly produce with the LHC. Moreover, new particles the LHC may produce in small numbers, will be produced with up to a thousand times higher rate, giving us a new window into the mechanisms at play in the evolution of the universe.

Billions of Higgs bosons and trillions of top quarks will be produced, creating new opportunities for the study of rare decays and flavour physics, which tremendously benefit from higher collision energies. A hadron collider will also extend the study of Higgs and gauge boson interactions to energies well above the TeV scale, providing a way to analyse in detail the mechanism underlying the breaking of the electroweak symmetry.

Most importantly the leap in energy at the 100 TeV gives a huge increase in the reach for new physics. A seven-fold increase of the centre-of-mass energies relative to the LHC with a luminosity comparable to that of the LHC increases the mass reach for new particles significantly. For instance the mass reach will be extended by a factor of about five to seven – depending on the type of particles – compared to the LHC.

Finally, the FCC-hh collider operating with heavy ions, offers an opportunity to push the exploration of the collective structure of matter at the most extreme density and temperature conditions to new frontiers through the study of heavy-ion collisions.

a proton-lepton option is also considered under the FCC-study?

The study for a hadron-lepton collider aims to bring the physics of deep inelastic electron-proton scattering to a new horizon.

Lepton-nucleus scattering has made seminal contributions such as the discovery of quarks, the disambiguation of the weak neutral current couplings and the determination at HERA of high quark and gluon densities in protons.

The hadron-lepton collider under consideration will be a high-precision Higgs factory. Moreover, its unprecedented resolution makes it the finest microscope for studying quark-gluon interactions and possible further substructure of matter in the world. This programme, is accompanied by measurements of strong and electroweak interaction phenomena.

The hadron-electron collider is a unique complement to the exploration of nature at high energies within the FCC complex.



There is a fundamental relationship between the circumference of a circular particle collider, the field strength of the magnets that keep the beams on track and the energy of the beams. Given these constraints a replacement of the LHC with technology developed for FCC-hh is studied that could lead to a particle collider with ~ 30 TeV c.m.

It should be noted that when the LHC was designed back in the 1980's a specific set of technical parameters were set and we can't overcome them. The machine so far has shown an excellent performance and in certain instances it allowed to exceed its capabilities.

Increasing the LHC collision energy by a factor of two would allow the discovery reach at the highest masses to be doubled, and the precision and sensitivity of many measurements to be increased. Though 27 TeV is well below the target of the FCC-hh, the increase of energy and luminosity with respect to the HL-LHC represents a significant improvement over the HL-LHC reach.

such a machine could be built?

To be ready to start a transition period from HL-LHC to a new machine by 2035 it is necessary to begin construction around 2025. This means that feasible concepts need to be ready before the end of the decade - in order to inform also the next European Strategy meeting on Particle Physics - and detailed technical designs, industrialisation and project management plans with an established set of international partners need to be available by 2025.

is it timely to start now the design effort?

The lead times of large-scale research infrastructures that require state-of-science technologies to be deployed at industrial scales are long. For comparison, discussions about the machine that was later to become the LHC started in the late 1980s. CERN and the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) hold a workshop in Lausanne, Switzerland and at CERN from the 21-27 March 1984. The event, Large Hadron Collider in the LEP Tunnel, marks the first official recognition of the concept of the LHC. Attendees consider topics such as what types of particles to collide and the challenges inherent to high-energy collisions. Prototyping began in the mid-1980s. The project was approved in 1994, and the collider was operational in 2009. Despite the fast implementation pace, there was a gap of nine years between the closure of CERN's previous flagship facility (LEP) and the LHC!

It is prudent to develop different concepts (lepton, hadron, high-energy LHC) to have suitable technical designs, risks assessed and a set of healthy industrial partners at hand. It is important to avoid a large time-gap as valuable know-how could be lost while it is important to strengthen and deepen the international collaboration following the lessons from the LHC. Finally it is also important to drive innovation and create more opportunities for high-tech industry of different sizes by continuously investing fundamental R&D in a numerous technological domains.

why an international collaboration is needed?

The future of any type of post LHC facility set in a global context. Think for example that the construction of the LHC, presently the world's largest scientific instrument, is the collaborative result of more than 70 000 scientists coming from 60 countries. To develop a post-LHC project reaching energies ten times of magnitude higher means that this tradition should be continued and further endorsed.

A core value of the FCC-study is its openness: universities and research institutes as well as companies from all over the world are welcome to join this effort. Adopting an inclusive approach, the study embraces the worldwide science and technology community both in an open and incremental participation process.

WHAT is the timeline for this project?

The overall project duration for implementation and operation of the integrated FCC is about 7 decades.

Realisation of the first stage, the intensity-frontier lepton collider, FCC-ee, will commence with a preparatory phase of 8 years, followed by the construction phase (all civil and technical infrastructure, machines and detectors including commissioning) lasting 10 years. A duration of 15 years is foreseen for the subsequent operation of the FCC-ee facility, to complete the currently envisaged physics programme.

The preparatory phase for the second stage, the energy-frontier hadron collider, FCC-hh, will start in the first half of the FCC-ee operation phase. After the stop of FCC-ee operation, an adaptation of the general technical infrastructure will take place, followed by FCC-hh machine and detector installation and commissioning, taking in total about 10 years. The FCC-hh facility could run for 25 years, resulting in a total of 35 years for construction and operation of FCC-hh.

HOW MUCH will it cost?

A cost study has been performed as part of the FCC study covering FCC-ee and FCC-hh as standalone options as well as for an integrated project. The FCC study takes into account the cost optimization in a number of key areas for building a future circular collider.

- The cost for an ultra-high intensity lepton collider is in the order of 4 billion euro

- The cost for a 100 TeV energy frontier hadron collider is about 15 billion euro

- The cost for a 100 km tunnel infrastructure is about 5 billion euro that can serve a two-stage project: first a lepton collider operating followed by a hadron collider. This integrated scenario can offer a research programme of seven decades.

WHY does it have to be so big ?

For the lepton machine (FCC-ee) the bigger radius minimizes the synchrotron radiation (power loss of the beam) that is inversely proportional to the radius of the squared curvature. This means that the bigger the curvature of your collider, the smaller the energy loss that you suffer because of synchrotron radiation emitted by the particles as they travel in circular trajectories.

For the hadron collider (FCC-hh), the maximum energy reach is proportional to the integrated magnetic dipole field that bends the particles in a circular trajectory. This means that the bigger the radius and the higher the magnetic field of your dipoles, the higher the energy that you can reach.

Moreover, If you level the luminosity the beam lifetime is directly proportional to the total number of protons you can store in the ring – so the bigger the radius (machine), the more luminosity.

A are the fields in which novel technologies might emerge?

The LHC programme has fostered a rich variety of technologies and expertise. Basic and applied sciences go hand in hand, relying on and challenging one another. Key technologies are high-field magnets for the hadron collider and an efficient high-power superconducting RF (SRF) system for the lepton collider. Other goals also include the development of 16-T dipole models in different regions (America, Asia and Europe) by 2018 and, in parallel, demonstration of a 20-T magnet technology based on the combination of high- and low-temperature superconductors as well as developments in Superconducting Radio-Frequency (SRF) cavities, targeted at overall optimization of system efficiency and cost. A number of areas for future strategic R&D has been identified and is documented in the four volumes of the FCC CDR.

HOW do we benefit from investing in a large-scale research facility?

The complex and sophisticated tools of particle physics are rich sources of new concepts, innovation and groundbreaking technologies, which benefit various applied research disciplines and eventually find their way into many applications that have a significant impact on the knowledge economy and society:

Innovation. Big Science requires the development of new technologies. Perhaps the most notable example of this is the World Wide Web, with a key technical step towards it occurring at CERN. But there are many other examples ranging from the lasers in barcode scanners and compact disc players to the big data techniques used to sort through the massive amounts of information produced by scientific instruments.

Improving industry. The Big Science facilities themselves can offer services directly to industry. Laser light sources developed for condensed-matter physics, for example, have found a major application in the pharmaceutical industry where they play a vital role in developing new drugs.

Knowledge hubs. Big Science draws knowledge- and technology-based businesses, creating centres of expertise and excellence. Enrich academic syllabus with confirmed technical results, concrete application examples, open data sets and provide opportunities for field studies and student projects.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation. Research Infrastructures create spin-offs. Almost every big facility spawns its own community of start-ups. To foster learning and innovation - one of the aims of the FCC study- we need to facilitate strong R&D partnership between research institutes and industrial partners.

Training. Today, the European particle physics programme attracts significant interest of next generation scientists and engineers from diverse domains. Therefore, special care has been given to form a well-balanced team of young scientists and researchers from different background, working to tackle the many challenges of this project. Post-doctoral and doctoral student participants in the FCC Study will have the opportunity to gain much experience as well as hard and soft skills

Many of the scientists engaged in big science projects go on to forge careers in other areas, ranging from product development to high finance. The research programme offered by the FCC study could attract significant interest from next-generation scientists and engineers from diverse domains. Finally, the Study could stimulate the local economy by contracting local suppliers to build and manage complexes, therefore injecting spending power into the area and by improving local schools and inspiring children to learn about science.

Inspiration. Big Science inspires. It can raise a host nation's international image and self-esteem, encouraging a country to compete in the global knowledge economy, so raising living standards for all.

Local economy. Finally, there are also local benefits, ranging from contracting local suppliers to build and manage complexes and injecting spending power into the area immediately surrounding a facility to improving local schools and inspiring local children to learn about science.

HOW can the industry benefit from the FCC study?

The FCC Study will create unprecedented opportunities for academia and industry partnerships. The complex and sophisticated tools of particle physics are rich sources of new concepts, innovation and groundbreaking technologies, which benefit various applied research disciplines and eventually find their way into many applications that have a significant impact on the knowledge economy and society. The most notable example of this is the World Wide Web, which was invented at CERN, but there are many others as well, ranging from the lasers in bar code scanners and compact disc players to the big data techniques used to sort through the massive amounts of information produced by scientific instruments.

Big Science facilities themselves can offer services directly to industry. Laser light sources developed for condensed matter physics, for example, have found a major application in the pharmaceutical industry, where they play a vital role in developing new drugs. Moreover, research infrastructure creates spin-offs. Almost every big facility spawns its own community of start-ups, fostering learning and innovation in the end as well as creating centres of expertise and excellence.



that money be better invested in other

Investing the money of a new large-scale research infrastructure in the world-wide public science funding would not have a significant impact on the output of other science domains, but it would significantly weaken fundamental physics research.

Specifically for medical research, many of today's common medical technologies would not exist without fundamental physics and particle physics research. X-ray, CT and magnetic resonance imaging are the most prominent examples. Others include electron accelerators, hadron therapy, nuclear medicine.

Out of 1,500 billion USD public money spent on R&D in the US, Europe and China, 100 billion USD alone are invested on cancer treatment research worldwide per year, not counting the much larger company R&D investments (e.g. by pharmaceutical companies). The investment of 1 billion USD for a limited period of time for a new physics research facility, which will serve the world-wide science community until the end of the 21st century would need to be compared to those figures.

not use plasma-wakefield acceleration for a more compact collider?

Plasma wakefield acceleration is considered to be a technology for the far future. It will take multiple decades until this technology can be used to build practical particle accelerators. It may be the case that this technology will first be used for industrial and medical application while it has yet to be understood when that maturity level can be reached. Moreover, it has yet to be answered whether this technology can produce the high-intensity particle beams needed for fundamental physics research.

WHAT about CLIC ?

CERN studies different scenarios for particle physic research infrastructures. CLIC is one of them and the European Strategy Process will assess this scenario together with many other ones.

WHAT about similar efforts in other areas of the world?

In parallel to the CLIC and ILC studies, China has recently unveiled plans for a large-scale electron-positron particle collider. This is evidence that there exists a scientific relevance in that approach. It is also a demonstration that the positive societal and economic impacts of such a research facility exist and that it is worth mining them.

Europe is in a very good position to realise this project. Nations world-wide have built up precious expertise in designing, constructing and operating such accelerator facilities at CERN for several decades. The existing assets beyond a high-performance particle accelerator complex permit an international consortium at CERN in to give guarantees to successfully pursue the next step towards such a machine.

WHAT is the socio-economic impact ?

The scientific discovery potential and the impact of its findings on the society cannot be quantitatively estimated. What was the impact of J.J. Thomsons discovery of the electron in 1897 ? Over one hundred years later electronics is the world's largest driver of economy, contributing some 3 trillion USD to the global economy per year. A quantitative study of the LHC and HL-LHC programme has revealed that particle collider research infrastructures generate socio-economic benefits in the tens of billions of euro range. The highest single contributor is the value of early researcher training on top of pure academic education.

Training accounts for more than 6 billion euro alone in the LHC/HL-LHC programme. The individual lifetime salary of a person who was engaged in a doctoral programme in that programme is more than 160,000 euro.

Net benefits for industry exceed 10 billion euro for the LHC/HL-LHC programme. For each euro spent on the project, industry can generate net benefits of more than 3 euros. The benefits are higher for innovative processes, technologies and new developments.

WHO has signed the FCC Conceptual Design Report?

More than 1,300 individuals have contributed to the Conceptual Design Report work during the five years from 2014 to the end of 2018. The consortium is hosted by CERN, an international organisation whose core mission is to understand the nature of the universe and to seek for answers to the fundamental questions about what the universe is made of.

WHAT is the decision process?

The FCC collaboration has also submitted four documents to the European Strategy update process covering the FCC Integrated Project as well as FCC-ee and FCC-hh as standalone options. The fourth volume discusses the option of a High-Energy LHC. These documents will inform a bottom-up process that starts with the broad consultation of all stakeholders in Europe's particle physics community and culminates in a dedicated meeting of the European Strategy Group, which brings together representatives of the CERN's Member States and of the major European laboratories active in the field, particle physicists from outside Europe and specialists in related fields of physics. The Strategy updates are drafted at this special "drafting" session of the European Strategy Session" of the Council.

is it called « Future Circular Collider» ?

The concept study investigates different particle collider scenarios. Once a community strategy process concludes on the next step, a concrete particle collider project will be chosen for detailed design. Only then, a project will carry a particular name.

The experimental future of the field will largely depend on results from the next runs of the LHC. However, given what we have seen – a light Higgs – no matter what new physics the LHC will or will not discover building a complete picture of the relevant physics will require new future circular colliders beyond the LHC.

These machines will enable us to look with more detail at the fundamental scales of matter and search for answers to the big-picture questions in modern physics for the decades to come.

The FCC complex could deliver ener-gy-frontier science through the end of the 21st century and continues humanity's long journey towards explaining our world.







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