

Strengthening Research Infrastructures in FP10 and Beyond: From Vision to Action

Europe's next Framework Programme will define more than funding priorities: it will define Europe's capacity to act. Without strong, forward-looking Research Infrastructures (RIs), Europe cannot secure competitiveness, technological sovereignty or long-term resilience.

The establishment of the LEAPS AISBL marks an important step in this direction. Uniting 15 leading synchrotron and free-electron laser facilities, LEAPS forms the world's largest coordinated photon science network. Its "super-microscopes" make the invisible visible and enable scientific and technological breakthroughs impossible by other means.

By bringing together leaders from policy, funding, science and industry, the event aims to turn shared ambition into concrete commitment: how to embed RIs strategically in FP10 and beyond; how to strengthen Europe's autonomy in critical technologies; and how sustainable funding and access models can maximise scientific, societal and industrial value while addressing operational and energy challenges. In brief: how to transition from vision to action!



<https://indico.desy.de/event/52595>



Hanse Office,
in Avenue Palmerston 20,
Brussels.



April 22, 2026
16:30-21:00 CET



leaps-aisbl-inauguration@xfel.eu



Strengthening Research Infrastructures in FP10 and Beyond: From Vision to Action

Programme:

16:30 - Get Together

17:00 - Welcome

by the Hanse Office:

- **Maryam Blumenthal**, Hamburg Senator for Science, Research, and Equality

by LEAPS AISBL:

- **Thomas Feurer**, Chair of the LEAPS Board of Directors and Managing Director of European XFEL

Policy Impulses:

- **Joanna Drake**, Deputy Director-General DG RTD/European Commission and
- **Manuel Heitor**, Professor at University of Lisbon, and Chair EU Horizon Expert Group

Panel discussion:

- **Joanna Drake**, Deputy Director-General DG RTD/European Commission
- **Manuel Heitor**, Professor, University of Lisbon; former Portugal's Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education; Coordinator, EC interim evaluation of Horizon Europe, "align, act, accelerate research and innovation to boost European competitiveness"
- **Katarina Bjelke**, Director General, Swedish Research Council
- **Mark van de Kerkhof**, Director EUV Research, ASML
- Thomas Feurer, Chair of the LEAPS Board of Directors and Managing Director of European XFEL
- Prominent scientist (invited)

19:00 - Networking Reception

Moderated by Maryline Fiaschi, CEO Science Business



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Apply for Registration:



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Participation is subject to confirmation by the organisers.