

Speech by Professor Helmut Dosch

on the occasion of being awarded the honorary doctorate by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.
(The spoken word applies)

Dear President Zahorodnij, dear Anatoli, Distinguished colleagues,
Dear friends,

It is with profound gratitude and humility that I stand before you today. I am deeply honored to receive this distinguished recognition from the National Academy of Ukraine. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Academy and the Ukrainian scientific community for bestowing upon me this prestigious honor of an honorary doctorate.

Today, as I accept this recognition, I reflect on the enriching partnership that has existed between DESY and the brilliant minds in Ukraine over many years. We have forged an invaluable scientific collaboration that has not only propelled our collective research forward but has also created lasting bonds between our scientists and institutions. This cooperation has been, and continues to be, a true testament to what can be achieved when we come together, guided by the shared pursuit of knowledge and the betterment of humanity.

One of the shining examples of our collaborative efforts is the European EURIZON project. This endeavor has brought together a diverse team of researchers from across Europe, including many dedicated and talented scientists from Ukraine. The success of EURIZON is a clear illustration of what international cooperation can achieve, and I am particularly proud of the contributions of our Ukrainian colleagues in this project. They have brought not only expertise and dedication but also a spirit of resilience and hope that has been truly inspiring.

Today, I am also reminded of the inspiring presence of the Ukrainian Ph.D. students who visited DESY in 2023 and 2024 for several weeks. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and passion for science left a profound impact on all of us. It was a privilege to witness their curiosity and eagerness to learn. I hope their time at DESY was as enlightening for

them as it was for us. We look forward to continue this wonderful exchange with the students of your country.

Today, I also want to acknowledge the extraordinary courage of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine is currently facing an immensely difficult period in its history. The aggression against your sovereign nation is a reminder of the fragile nature of peace and the high price of freedom. I have witnessed, from afar, the strength, resolve, and bravery of the Ukrainian people in their struggle for sovereignty and dignity. The scientific community, both within Ukraine and around the world, stands in solidarity with you.

The brutal and illegal war of aggression by Russia against your country continues. DESY strongly condemns all actions taken by the Russian authorities. In the realm of science, DESY also distances itself from slander, false information, and conspiracy theories spread by state-run Russian scientific institutions regarding Russia's war of aggression.

Our deepest sympathy and support go out to the people of Ukraine and their families. We at DESY have made all efforts to create opportunities for scientists and refugees, including housing at our sites in Hamburg and Zeuthen, as well as funding and study programs for Ukrainian researchers.

Since this war of aggression began in the heart of Europe on February 24, 2022, we at DESY have felt its impact on the research community. Despite our long-standing tradition of open dialogue in the spirit of scientific diplomacy, this war has forced us to rethink our approach: we have suspended all participation of Russian and Belarusian institutions in all our scientific projects. These projects have been reshaped and continued with new partners from across Europe, including Ukraine.

The freedom of science and the international cooperation, that comes with it, are cornerstones of any democratic system. Peaceful coexistence based on the rules of international law is an indispensable

prerequisite for this. As scientists, we have a duty to tirelessly advocate for these principles.

In these challenging times, the work that we do as scientists becomes even more significant. Science knows no borders; it thrives on the free exchange of ideas, the courage to question, and the pursuit of truth.

The current situation reminds us of the importance of upholding these principles. Our continued cooperation is not just a symbol of solidarity, but a demonstration of our commitment to a future where knowledge, dialogue, and peace prevail over conflict, aggression and division.

The honor I receive today, I accept not for myself alone, but as a tribute to the remarkable partnership between DESY and our Ukrainian colleagues. It is a celebration of the countless scientists who, despite all obstacles, continue their quest for knowledge, and in doing so, light the path forward for our future generations.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the National Academy of Ukraine once again. Your recognition is a beacon of hope and a call to action. Together, we will continue to work tirelessly for a world where cooperation, scientific progress, and mutual respect transcend all barriers.

And to the Ukrainian people: your courage inspires us all. We stand with you, today and always.

Thank you.