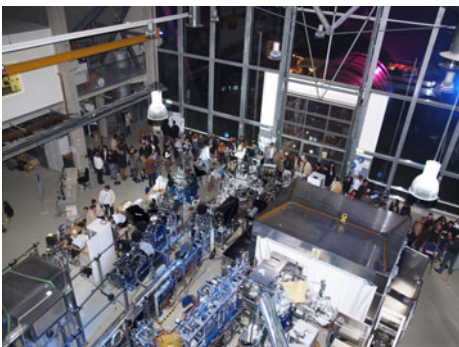


“Night of Knowledge” / “Nacht des Wissens” in Hamburg

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Figures: Impressions from the
VUV-FEL hall

On October 29, 2005, approx. 6,000 visitors took the opportunity of the “Night of Knowledge” in Hamburg to make a DESY tour. Among them were many families with children, who were offered a variegated program at DESY: amazing things to see and to do.

The tour started at the VUV-FEL experimental hall where the ongoing experiments and the direct contact to the involved researchers have been a special highlight not only for the visitors. The live atmosphere was intensified by special light effects which gave a futuristic impression of how exciting science can be at modern research facilities. Hence it is not surprising that many visitors – especially the young ones – were eager to do their own first experiment. They had a chance to explore hands-on exhibits in the XFEL exhibition in the VUV-FEL seminar room and learned about the fascinating future of FEL science, accelerator techniques and the XFEL project. Further following the signposted route, visitors were impressed by the complex facets of accelerator and high-energy physics, which were presented at different locations. However, a major focus of the exhibitions was on photon science. Materials’ science applications were vividly demonstrated at HARWI-II, the GKSS and GFZ outstation. The fascinating field of structural biology was presented by colleagues from EMBL, MPG, and Hamburg University who also answered many questions related to life science in general.

After ‘lively’ discussions the visitors could proceed to the DORIS experimental halls, where the large variety of experimental hutches and instruments in combination with an exhibition on research with synchrotron radiation attracted much attention. One of the highlights was a live experiment at beamline G3 where the structure of a Euro-coin was studied using “DORIS light”. Those being able to digest even more information had a chance to also visit the Laser Institute of Hamburg University on the DESY site.

All in all, the public interest in science at DESY, especially the curiosity of the children, was amazing and everybody had really had a good time during the ‘Night of Knowledge’.