A Fest to celebrate the 65th birthday of Gerard Meijer

Date: 9 April 2027

Venue: Harnack-Haus, Ihnestrasse 16-20, 14195 Berlin

Program:

9:00	Arrival at Harnack-Haus [Planck Lobby]
9:30 Welcome:	Hajo Freund, *Musikalischer Auftakt* [Hahn Lecture Hall]
9:50 1st Talk:	Alec Wodtke
10:30 2nd Talk:	Britta Redlich
11:10 3rd Talk:	Roi Baer
11:50 4th Talk:	Melanie Schnell
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00 5th Talk:	Bas van der Meerakker
14:40 6th Talk:	Christiane Koch
15:20 7th Talk:	Mike Tarbutt
16:00 -16:40	Coffee Break
16:40 8th Talk:	Cynthia Heiner
17:20 9th Talk:	Ed Narevicius
18:00	*Musikalischer Ausklang*, Champaign reception [Planck Lobby]
19:00-22:00	Dinner with after-dinner program moderated by Mischa Bonn, consisting of a Laudation by Wim Ubachs and Toasts and Tributes by the celebrant's students, colleagues, and friends [Restaurant]

A brief biography of the celebrant:

Gerard Meijer (born 6 April 1962 in Zeddam, the Netherlands) established himself in the 1990s as a leader in experimental molecular physics, exploring cavity-ring-down spectroscopy, the properties of fullerenes, and the dynamics of small molecules in solid matrices. Together with his group, he advanced laser-based spectroscopic techniques and made use of the infrared free-electron laser FELIX. He is especially well known for his role in the invention and development of Stark deceleration, a groundbreaking method to state-select and slow down polar molecules with electric fields, which opened new directions in the study of cold and ultracold molecules. Gerard's career has combined scientific leadership with institutional service. Appointed full professor at his alma mater, Radboud University Nijmegen in 1995, he later served as director of the FOM Institute for Plasma Physics "Rijnhuizen" (2000–2003). From 2002 to 2012 he was director of the Fritz Haber Institute (FHI) of the Max Planck Society in Berlin. He then returned to the Netherlands as president of Radboud University Nijmegen (2012–2016), while remaining an external scientific member of the FHI. In 2017, he resumed his directorship at the FHI, leading its Department of Molecular Physics. He has been a member of the DEAL consortium since 2017 and during 2018-2023 he was a member of the German Council of Science and Humanities. Throughout his career, Gerard has authored or co-authored over 450 research papers that have had a major impact on molecular physics. Sixty PhD students have completed their research under his supervision. More than 30 of his former affiliates now hold positions as independent researchers in academic institutions worldwide. His work has been recognized with numerous distinctions, including the Bourke Award of the Royal Society of Chemistry (2009), the van 't Hoff Prize of the German Bunsen Society (2012), and the MOLEC Senior Scientist Award (2024).

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