

Belle II Management Statement on the War in Ukraine

March 22, 2022

We strongly condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine and urge an immediate ceasefire and restoration of peace. We are gravely concerned for the safety of our friends and colleagues in Ukraine, for all people who are affected by the ongoing violence, and for our colleagues in Russia who oppose this conflict. We are also concerned about the war's impact on international academic cooperation, which is a cornerstone of world peace.

Throughout history, and today more than ever, international scientific collaboration provides a unique window of communication and voice of reason, fostering mutual understanding and helping to overcome disputes. Our experience has given us a deep appreciation of the merits of collaborative research as a driver for peace.

The Belle II collaboration is such a global project of fundamental science with no military or commercial aspects. It consists of more than 1,100 researchers gathered from 123 institutions in 26 countries and regions, including Ukraine and Russia. We are working together on a unique particle physics experiment to elucidate the fundamental laws of the Universe for the benefit of all humankind. Belle II is committed to its strong and unified collaborative research environment without any division among members. We offer support to all members of Belle II, regardless of where they are based. The continuation of unified, international collaborative efforts, as exemplified by Belle II, will lead to an earlier restoration of a normal and peaceful world environment.

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