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## **Technical workshops prepare ground for CERN openlab VI**

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Last week, CERN openlab hosted the first of three technical workshops in preparation for the collaboration's next three-year phase, which starts in 2018. These workshops bring together researchers and representatives of leading ICT companies to discuss the challenges that the high-energy physics community and other fields of 'big science' will face over the coming years.

Last week's workshop focused specifically on topics related to data-centre technologies and infrastructures [3]. A workshop on computer platforms and software [4] will take place later this month, with another scheduled on machine learning and data analytics [5] in April.

'There was plenty of in-depth discussion at the first workshop, on topics such as networking, clouds, storage, databases, and data-centre architectures,' says Maria Girone, CERN openlab CTO. 'By bringing together a range of perspectives on these topics, we're able to identify the most beneficial areas for collaboration in CERN openlab's next three-year phase.'

In September, CERN openlab will publish a whitepaper based on the outcomes of these workshops. With the LHC and the experiments set to undergo major upgrade work in 2019 and 2020, CERN openlab's sixth phase offers a clear opportunity to develop ICT solutions that will make a tangible difference for researchers at CERN when the upgraded LHC and experiments come online in 2021.

*Find out more about our areas of work in our current three-year phase [here](#)* [6].

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