**Proposal for naming the Laboratory of Information Technologies after M. Meshcheryakov**

Mikhail Grigorievich Meshcheryakov was an outstanding experimental physicist and a talented organizer of science, a laureate of USSR State Prizes, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. M.G. Meshcheryakov was the head of works on the construction of the largest proton accelerator at that time (a six-meter synchrocyclotron with an energy of 680 MeV) and one of the founders of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research and the town of Dubna itself. He was one of the Soviet scientists who took an active part in solving the atomic problem in the USSR, who were the first to start creating large accelerators, conducting research in the field of nuclear and elementary particle physics, automating scientific studies.

Mikhail Grigorievich was born on 17 September 1910 in the Sambek village of the Taganrog district, in a poor peasant family. In 1930, combining the work of a grinder at a plant in Taganrog with his studies at the evening workers’ faculty, Mikhail Grigorievich managed to complete his secondary education and enter the Faculty of Physics of Leningrad State University.

After graduating with honors from the university in 1936, he entered a postgraduate course and studied for three years under the guidance of Professor I.V. Kurchatov at the Radium Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which was equipped with the only operating cyclotron in our country and in Europe at that time, accelerating deuterons to an energy of 4.4 MeV. In 1940, M.G. Meshcheryakov defended his Ph.D. thesis and became a head of a laboratory at the Radium Institute. M.G. Meshcheryakov was formed as an experimental physicist in the atmosphere of research of a high academic level conducted by V.I. Vernadsky, L.V. Mysovsky, V.G. Khlopin.

In 1941, M.G. Meshcheryakov became a volunteer in the people’s army, in the troops of the Leningrad Front. He was wounded and demobilized after the hospital. In July 1942, he returned to the Radium Institute and immediately got involved in the renewed work on the atomic problem.

From May 1946 to February 1947, Meshcheryakov was on a business trip to the United States, first as a Soviet representative on Bikini Atoll, where the USA performed atomic bomb tests, and then as an expert of the UN Atomic Commission.

Upon his return from the USA in 1947, M.G. Meshcheryakov was transferred to Moscow to Laboratory No.2 (now the National Research Center “Kurchatov Institute”) and appointed a scientific head of works on designing and constructing the most powerful particle accelerator at that time, i.e. a six-meter synchrocyclotron, in the area of the Bolshaya Volga village (now the town of Dubna).

At the end of 1949, in just two years, the world’s largest particle accelerator (a five-meter synchrocyclotron) was launched under the leadership of M.G. Meshcheryakov. The first experiments performed on the synchrocyclotron led to the emergence of a new research area in our country, namely, high-energy particle physics. Soon after, M.G. Meshcheryakov organized an independent research center of high-energy physics on the basis of the synchrocyclotron with the support of I.V. Kurchatov and became its scientific leader. In 1953, the research center was transformed into the Institute for Nuclear Problems of the USSR Academy of Sciences. M.G. Meshcheryakov was its director until 1956. In March 1956, the Institute became a member of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research.

In 1953, M.G. Meshcheryakov was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The studies of the structure of nuclei using high-energy protons as test particles, performed by M.G. Meshcheryakov in 1955, were highly fruitful. Applying the largest magnetic spectrometer at that time to analyze nuclear reaction products, M.G. Meshcheryakov and his colleagues discovered a new nuclear process, namely, the direct knocking-out of deuterons from nuclei by protons with an energy of 675 MeV (registered in the USSR as Discovery No.221).

In 1966, M.G. Meshcheryakov headed the work on organizing at JINR a new laboratory, i.e. the Laboratory of Computing Techniques and Automation (LCTA), designed to equip scientific research in the field of nuclear and elementary particle physics with modern computing and automation facilities. In a short time, at LCTA (now the Laboratory of Information Technologies, LIT) a large complex of powerful computing facilities was created, high-performance scanning devices and projectors to process images from bubble, spark and streamer chambers were designed, graphic display devices and the equipment for the communication of experimental facilities with computers were developed.

From 1966 to 1988, M.G. Meshcheryakov was the Director of the Laboratory, and from 1988 to 1994, he was its Honorary Director. New technical means developed at LCTA significantly expanded the possibilities of experimental and theoretical research at JINR.

M.G. Meshcheryakov devoted a lot of time and effort to scientific personnel training. As a lecturer and a leader of scientific seminars, he had an enormous influence on the formation of many young physicists who later made a significant contribution to world science.

M.G. Meshcheryakov fruitfully and harmoniously combined his scientific activity with social work. Outstanding merits of Mikhail Grigorievich Meshcheryakov were marked with high awards. M.G. Meshcheryakov was twice a laureate of the USSR State Prize.

M.G. Meshcheryakov died on 24 May 1994.

Mikhail Grigorievich Meshcheryakov, Scientist and Citizen, was characterized by a sense of responsibility for the general state of physical science in our country and the highest professionalism. He was distinguished by optimism, passion for science, unflagging creative search and the ability to focus on the most urgent problems of physics.

The LIT Directorate of the Laboratory of Information Technologies and its staff apply to the members of the Committee of Plenipotentiaries with a request to name the Laboratory of Information Technologies after M.G. Meshcheryakov.