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Radiation Protection at CERN - learn from the past and prepare for the future

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CERN is one of the world-leading laboratories for particle physics and was founded more than 60 years ago. The 600 MeV Synchrocyclotron (SC), built in 1957, was CERN's first accelerator that provided beams for CERN's first experiments in particle and nuclear physics. Since then several more powerful, more intense and also much larger accelerators have been built like the Large Hadron collider (LHC) which has started operation in 2008. Protection of people from ionising radiation as well as of the environment has always been a very important task of the Radiation Protection Group at CERN. This goes together with more restrictive radiation protection limits nowadays compared to the ones in force during the operation of CERNs first accelerators and even compared to the limits at the end of the last century. This talk will give an overview of the tasks and developments in the RP group at CERN and will also address the challenges ahead of us in the future.

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