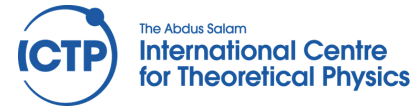


ABOUT THE ICTP-IBM RICHARD FEYNMAN PRIZE IN QUANTUM COMPUTING

The ICTP-IBM Richard Feynman Prize in Quantum Computing, named in honour of quantum mechanics pioneer Richard Feynman, is open to established career researchers who have made significant contributions to the field of quantum computing, including theory, algorithms, applications, or simulations. It is intended to be a top award in its field, on a par with ICTP's prestigious Dirac Medal for theoretical physics, and to be awarded annually at a yearly conference co-sponsored by ICTP and IBM.



2026 Award Ceremony

The ICTP-IBM Richard Feynman Prize in Quantum Computing

21 April 2026

ICTP Budinich Lecture Hall

14:00

Programme



ABOUT THE 2026 AWARDEE

Ignacio Cirac is a Spanish physicist, director of the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics in Germany. He is an expert in quantum computing and communication. With his collaborators, he introduced the first theoretical proposals of quantum computing, simulation, and communication repeaters, and developed a theory of tensor networks to solve problems quantum physics.



He studied theoretical physics and gained his PhD at the University Complutense of Madrid in 1991. After a postdoc at JILA (Boulder, US) and becoming Associate Professor at the University of Castilla-La Mancha (Spain) he became Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Innsbruck (Austria) in 1996. Since 2001 he is director of the Theory Division at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics in Garching (Germany) and Honorary Professor at the Technical University of Munich. He is also the spokesman of the International Max Planck Research School on Quantum Science and Technology, co-spokesman of the Munich Center for Quantum Science and Technology, and coordinates the consortium on theoretical quantum computing in the Munich Quantum Valley. For his work he has been awarded several prizes, among them the Prince of Asturias, the BBVA frontiers of knowledge, the Benjamin Franklin Medal, the Wolf Prize, and the Max-Planck Medal. He is a member of the Spanish, Leopoldina (German), National (American), and Bavarian Academies of Sciences, and holds nine honorary doctor degrees. He was member of the board of Telefonica S.A. between 2016 and 2023.

He is awarded with the ICTP-IBM Feynman Prize for his seminal contributions to quantum optics, quantum information science, quantum many-body theory, condensed matter theory, and mathematical physics, playing a central role in establishing the theoretical foundations of quantum information processing, including the theory of entanglement, quantum simulation, and tensor-network methods, profoundly influencing both experimental realizations and theoretical developments across modern physics.

2026 ICTP-IBM RICHARD FEYNMAN PRIZE IN QUANTUM COMPUTING CEREMONY PROGRAMME

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 14:00 | Opening remarks, Atish Dabholkar - ICTP Director |
| 14:10 | Institutional greetings, Alessia Rosolen - Regional Minister for Employment, Training, Education, Research, University and Family - Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia |
| 14:20 | Remarks, Alessandro Curioni - Vice President of IBM Europe and Africa and Director of IBM Research |
| 14:30 | Greetings, Michelle Feynman - Daughter of Richard Feynman |
| 14:45 | Introductory remarks, Artur Ekert - Professor of Quantum Physics at the University of Oxford and the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) |
| 15:15 | Awarding of the ICTP-IBM Richard Feynman Prize in Quantum Computing |
| 15:20 | Lecture: 'Quantum Computers and Many-Body States ' by awardee Ignacio Cirac |

The ceremony will be followed by light refreshments