On 27 July, Klaus Blasche, one of GSI's leading accelerator scientists, passed away at the age of only 68. For more than 40 years and in a number of leading positions, he contributed significantly to the development of the accelerator system at GSI. Already in the 1960s, during his diploma and doctoral theses at the University of Heidelberg and while with the project group of Christoph Schmelzer, the first director of GSI, Blasche evaluated the basic concepts of GSI's Universal Linear Accelerator (UNILAC). This linac came into operation in 1973 and was the first facility worldwide that was capable of accelerating all species of ions, from protons to uranium.
A few years later, discussions began on possible extensions to the UNILAC with a synchrotron, the Schwerionen-Synchrotron (SIS18), and a storage ring, the Experimentier-Speicherring (ESR). After the positive decision in 1985 to construct this synchrotron-storage ring, Blasche became the project leader of the synchrotron and high-energy beam transport complex, which was commissioned only three years later. Blasche also significantly influenced the layout of the further extension of the GSI facility by another synchrotron/storage ring complex for the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) to be built at GSI.

With his deep knowledge of and experience in accelerator physics and theory Blasche was a highly respected expert and member of various committees. As a member of the Organizing and Scientific Programme Committees of the European Particle Accelerator Conference (EPAC) series he contributed actively to the organization of EPAC 2000, 2002 and 2004. After his retirement in 2005, he continued to work on various accelerator-related subjects, such as the commercial concepts for accelerators used for hadron therapy.

With deep sadness, colleagues and friends take leave of him.

Hartmut Eickhoff, GSI.