

Minutes of the MICE Collaboration Board held on 16th January 2009 at the Harbin Institute of Technology

Present

CB Chair – K. Long
Spokesman – A. Blondel
Deputy – M. Zisman
Brunel – M. Ellis
DPNC, Geneva – J-S. Graulich
FNAL – A. Bross
ICST Harbin – S.X. Zheng
Illinois Inst. Tech. – D. Kaplan
Imperial College – P. Dornan
Jlab – R. Rimmer
KEK – S. Ishimoto
LBNL – D. Li

Muons Inc. – R. Sah
Oxford – W. Lau
Riverside – G. Hanson
Sheffield – C. Booth

Proxies

Glasgow – C. Booth
INFN Napoli – C. Booth
INFN Trieste – J-S. Graulich
Liverpool – P. Dornan

1) Approval of Minutes of 21st October 2008

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2) Spokesman's Remarks and Executive Board Report (Alain Blondel)

The Decay Solenoid Area has been isolated on the ISIS side to allow repairs to the DS. We will not run in ISIS period I, focussing on DS repairs, target redesign and replacement. We will start running in May without Spectrometer Solenoid I (Step I), then with the solenoid in July (Step II). Shifters will be required from May (organised by P. Kyberd). A schedule of MOMs was presented, though alternative effort may be required in October. Rose Hayes is now available to help with practicalities (such as booking accommodation, taxis, etc.) and should be informed of all visits to RAL. Run documentation is improving, but still more is needed, particularly for controls & DAQ.

An online group has been set up, convened by J-S. Graulich. This has responsibility for DAQ, controls & monitoring, online reconstruction and the MICE control room. Concern was expressed at the lack of involvement of someone with accelerator expertise.

The target had been a success in 2008, but failed just before Christmas. The need now was to move from an R&D system to a completely reliable device. The target team had been reinforced with involvement of a RAL engineering team and others. Two phases were anticipated: first priority is to produce a reliable target; second is to improve the pion-to-beam-loss ratio.

The top software priority is to implement a full simulation of the upstream beam-line in G4MICE. Muons and pions will be simulated in G4beamline (or taken from data) as far as DS or D2, and tracked from there with G4MICE. (Simulation of the upstream end in G4MICE has lower priority.)

The MANX review, presented to the collaboration meeting, was discussed. Since the collaboration had been asked for a response, we should react – this will be done through the Executive Board. Generally, the reaction was that we welcome a 6-D cooling initiative as a follow-on to (not continuation of!) MICE.

A lengthy report (MICE note 230) had been produced for the Funding Agency Committee. This is useful as a reference document for conference preparations etc. It should be updated yearly. We must now produce a complete cost and schedule review for MICE Phase II – this will be a major effort.

3) Discussion

In the absence of the technical coordinator, a discussion was held of issues of concern to the collaboration.

D. Kaplan asked if it would be possible to get more collaborators from RAL. We will continue to seek collaborators from PPD and ASTEC, though additional resources were unlikely to be available.

M. Zisman expressed concern over support for the Project Manager, which was widely shared. As a collaboration, we need to consider how additional support can be provided.

4) Common Fund (Ken Long)

A list of 2008-9 contributions paid and due was presented. Of a total levy of £192K, £156K was due in cash and £36K in kind; £63K had been received. A list of possible in-kind contributions was discussed. Allowable expenditures against the Common Fund were also detailed. Directly attributable expenses totalling £76K, including the van and secretarial support, were outlined. Part of the muon beam-line commissioning and operation could be charged to the Fund – this needs further discussion.

5) Future Collaboration Meetings

31st May – 3rd June

RAL

Sep/Oct

LBNL (options for dates to be circulated as soon as possible by M. Zisman.)

The importance of defining the schedule of meetings, after appropriate consultation, well in advance was emphasised. A. Blondel and K. Long will propose dates for 2010 shortly.

6) Any Other Business

K. Long pointed out that his term as Collaboration Board Chair will expire this summer. The election process for his successor should now be initiated. A call for nominations will be made in April, with an election at the next Collaboration Meeting in May/June. The term of the new Chair will start at the following CM.

CNB 20th February 2009
Revised 2nd March 2009