

Minutes of the MICE Collaboration Board held on 30th October 2015 at RAL

Present

CB Chair – A. Blondel
Spokesman – K. Long
Project Manager – C. Whyte
Belgrade – D. Jokovic
BNL – H. Witte
Brunel – P. Kyberd
Fermilab – M. Palmer
Geneva – Y. Karadzhov
Glasgow – P. Soler
IHEP – Jingyu Tang
Illinois Inst. Tech. – D. Kaplan
Imperial College – J. Pasternak

INFN Milano Bicocca – M. Bonesini
INFN Napoli – V. Palladino
INFN Roma III – L. Tortora
Iowa – *proxy* D. Kaplan
Liverpool – R. Gamet
Oxford – J. Cobb
RAL – C. Rogers
Riverside – G. Hanson *by phone*
Sheffield – C. Booth
Sofia – *proxy* P. Soler
Strathclyde – K. Ronald
Warwick – S Boyd

1) Minutes of the Last Meeting & Adoption of Agenda

The CB Chair's summary of the meeting held on 23rd June 2015 had been circulated in lieu of formal minutes. These were approved. The circulated agenda was accepted.

2) Address from Head of PPD (Prof. David Wark)

Prof. Wark confirmed the strong commitment of the Laboratory to MICE and asked what we regarded as the issues for discussion. Points raised included the UK immigration regime, the need for more money and more people (where DW expressed willingness to help with staff but stated PPD did not really have the right expertise; one Duty Coordinator might be found within PPD) and the advantage of better connection with UK accelerator centres such as JAI. Our appreciation of ISIS support for the low-level RF was expressed.

3) Spokesman's Remarks & EB Report (Ken Long)

The EB had met four times since the last Collaboration Meeting. A small group had been asked to review the Dainton report on the MICE Constitution and recommend changes – see agenda item below. Preparation was made for the RLSR/MPB Review in October, which expressed strong support for the collaboration to complete the project, and recognised that constraints of flat cash and the time limit may not be helpful. A summary of comments and recommendations had been circulated. An Optics Review had been set up, as discussed in the Plenary.

The new role of Duty Coordinator was being implemented, as part of tightening up safety. The importance of a close relationship with ISIS during Step IV commissioning was emphasised.

The major item requiring advice from the CB was recovery from the failure of SSD coil M1. It was proposed that we proceed with the Step IV programme with the existing hardware, recognising the risk of failure of M2 in a future quench. Risk of further damage should be minimised by reducing the number of likely quenches, and the run plan must be optimised in the absence of M1. Power Supplies and Quench Protection systems require revision. For the Cooling Demo, we will proceed with reviews to determine the optimum programme to recover full lattice functionality. The advantage of a new cold-mass (as opposed to repair), for which construction could be started in parallel with Step IV operation, was stated. It was **agreed** that we run Step IV with existing hardware, and further that we proceed with the review, recognising that decisions are needed within a few months. M. Palmer pointed out that the revisions to Quench Protection had to be reviewed and signed off, which would take

until December. Until new hardware was in place some time later there could be no runs with field on.

The list of future collaboration meetings was presented. The next CM is scheduled for 15th–19th February in the US. This clashes with the start-up of the next ISIS run. It was agreed that the EB should come to the collaboration with an alternative date, probably at or near RAL. A meeting in the US might be scheduled for later in the year.

4) Project Manager's Report (Colin Whyte)

The schedule and milestones were presented. More effort was needed for RF commissioning – excellent help had been provided by ISIS personnel. The magnet review also has a significant impact on RF planning. If we are constrained by the flat-cash scenario, so that no more man-power is available, there will be a 6-month delay to the installation and commissioning of the Cooling Demo.

5) Shift Planning (Steve Boyd)

The shift arrangements for last two ISIS periods were summarised. Currently, on-call shifters are being searched for from people who are reasonably local, as far as possible. Cycle 2015/03 (Nov.–Dec.) is expected to be focussed largely on magnet commissioning, with data taking (e.g. straight-track running) later – more shifters may be needed in December. 2015/04 (Feb.–Mar. 2016) should be production data-taking with the hydrogen absorber – a run plan is in preparation. 2016/01 (Apr.–May) will be data taking with LiH absorber; 2016/02 (Jun.–Jul.) is possible contingency for data taking, but exploiting this delays the start of construction for the next phase of MICE.

6) Report on the Revision of the MICE Constitution (Chris Booth)

R. Tsenov, D. Kaplan and C. Booth had been asked to review the Dainton Report on our constitution and propose changes in the light of developments within the collaboration. Proposals for revisions had been circulated within the team, but there was still need for discussion of a few points. It was planned to agree a proposal in time for consideration at the November EB, and subsequently to circulate this well in advance of the next CM so that the CB could make a final decision on it at its next meeting.

7) Election of the next Collaboration Board Chair (Alain Blondel)

After a call for nominations over the last months, C. Booth was duly elected as the new CB Chair. He will take office at the next CB meeting in 2016.

8) Common Fund Report (Paul Soler for Stefania Ricciardi)

The April 2015 census includes 66 PhD-equivalent members, and the rate will remain at £3K per person. Invoices will shortly be sent out. Italy and the NSF will make in-kind rather than cash contributions. The Funding Agencies Committee had expressed concern that Bulgaria had no funding and had not paid the previous 2 years' contributions; an extra in-kind effort, e.g. to the RF, was suggested, and the EB was invited to progress this issue.

9) Funding Updates

UK (P. Soler) The current MICE grants end March 2016, but bridging funds have now been awarded to December 2016. Future funding is dependent on a cost-to-completion review in early 2016.

US DoE (M. Palmer) Funding is currently at 96% of the agreed amount, though it is hoped this will return to 100%.

US NSF (D. Kaplan) No change – nothing is available from NSF.

INFN (M. Bonesini) Support will continue at the current level for the coming year.

Switzerland (A. Blondel) The current PhD and PostDoc posts are continuing. (AB nominally retires in 2018 and funding may stop at that time.)

Netherlands A PhD position to work on MICE is currently available.

Serbia EUCARD funds have started to become available.

China No change

CNB 13th November 2015