

Minutes of the MICE Collaboration Board held on 11th October 2006 at RAL

Present

CB Chair – D. Kaplan	ICST Harbin – Li Wang
Spokesman – A. Blondel	Glasgow – K. Walaron
Deputy –M. Zisman	KEK – S. Ishimoto
Project Manager – P. Drumm	LBNL – S. Virostek
CERN – J-S. Graulich	Liverpool – R. Gamet
Cockcroft Institute – R. Seviour	Mississippi – D. Summers
DPNC, Geneva – J-S. Graulich	Osaka – M. Yoshida
FNAL – A. Bross	Oxford – J. Cobb
Illinois Inst. Tech. –T. Hart	RAL – E. Baynham
Imperial College London –K. Long	Riverside – G. Hanson
INFN Milano – M.Bonesini	Sheffield – C. Booth
INFN Napoli – V. Palladino	Sofia – R. Tsenov
INFN Trieste – G. Giannini	

1) Address by John Womersley & Andrew Taylor

From 1st April 2007, there will be changes to UK research funding. A new research council will replace PPARC, CCLRC and Nuclear Physics funding within EPSRC. To first order, this should have no major impact on MICE funding – existing grants will continue. A more global view may lead to more opportunities for accelerator physics. A joint submission will be made in '07 to the government Spending Review for an uplift in science funding.

There was discussion of how to build on the ISS, aiming at “leadership in partnership”. The need to engage with the CERN strategy for European Particle Physics was stressed.

2) Approval of Minutes of 9th June 2006

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3) Spokesman's Remarks (Alain Blondel)

The Common Fund was discussed at the previous CB, but decisions were not made. This fund will cover consumables, electricity, data storage etc. (The ISIS beam delivery is a welcome contribution from the host laboratory.) A maximum contribution of £3000 per PhD holder is required, which represents a total of £150k-200k per year. The first instalment is required by October 2007. (The cost of running MICE has been estimated at O(£400k) per year, dominated by electricity costs, and we will request support from the host lab). A vote was taken on the establishment of the Common Fund. The Italian groups explained that they would have to abstain, as there was no agreement from INFN, and they could not agree without funding agency approval. **The motion to set up the fund with contributions at £3000 per member was carried with 17 votes for, 0 against and 4 abstentions.** The CB Chair and Secretary were called on to establish the number of contributors per institute by the end of the year. (There was a discussion as to whether engineers should be included. It was agreed that this depended on their relationship with the MICE project, and that common sense should prevail!)

The Executive Board proposed that John Cobb replace Yagmur Torun as Analysis Coordinator, with a transition period to the end of the year. The job description is to be clarified. Jean-Sebastian Graulich is to replace Ken Long as Video

Conference planner. Both positions are for two years. **This was approved unanimously.** Thanks were expressed to Yagmur and Ken for their excellent work.

The funding situation was summarised. MICE is approved and funded in 6 countries. The UK has £9.7M approved, with a bid under review for Phase II. The US has funding through NFMCC (\$4.125M in the DoE baseline scenario) plus the contribution of the RF source, an NSF grant of \$300k, an MRI grant of \$750k and a DoE supplement of \$300k, with further requests submitted including an NSF MRI for MuCool coupling coils and an NSF proposal by Gail Hanson. Japan has money through the US-Japan funding of \$100k per year, and UK-Japan travel funds; a further \$1M has been requested. This was rejected in 2006 but will be resubmitted. Switzerland has supplied the PSI solenoid and Geneva is funding work on DAQ and trigger. Bulgaria's entry into the collaboration brings welcome opportunities. CERN is supplying RF equipment. The Netherlands have magnet probes for MICE in production. Italy is building the ToF and calorimeter, subject to the success of tests and a new funding application. China is studying the design of coupling coils, and a bid for funds has recently been submitted.

Manpower is missing in various areas, including software, analysis, PID electronics, DAQ & Controls, project management and infrastructure. There are lots of opportunities for young physicists, and it would be helpful to identify funding for fellowships.

At least 20 refereed journal publications were produced in winter 05-06, and 7 abstracts accepted for EPAC06. These are not always easy to locate – we should establish lists on the web site.

In conclusion, MICE is making good progress, with the collaboration focussed on data taking in 2007. Phase II funding is the object of intense activity.

4) Technical Coordinator's Report (Paul Drumm)

Reviews were planned or underway for magnets (measurement and alignment), hall and installation plans, beam design & commissioning and the run plan. Safety considerations included the hydrogen R&D system and plans and risk assessments for running the experiment. Project progress was reviewed – beam commissioning has advanced a month to August, with instrumentation required for September.

5) Revision of the Collaboration List (Chris Booth)

A number of changes have occurred since summer 2005. Sofia, ICST Harbin, Cockcroft Institute and Kyoto have all joined MICE, while Louvain, Bari, Frascati, Genova, Padova and Illinois-Urbana are no longer formally members of MICE, though some informal links remain.

6) INFN Contribution to MICE (Vittorio Palladino)

Bids have been submitted for 2007 for ToF0, ToF1 and EMCal. Some money is available, with more requested. Approval was granted in 2005 for 1 year for prototype work. An extension is dependent on prototype success (now demonstrated) and NuFact becoming an explicit priority on the INFN road map. The second condition has not been met, and INFN has no available money. A response to the bids is still awaited. It is possible INFN will have to leave MICE, or at least remain with a slower spending profile than desired.

7) Future Meetings (Vittorio Palladino)

CM17:	CERN	Thurs 22 nd – Sunday 25 th February
CM18:	RAL	10 th – 15 th June (dates to be fixed by RAL)
CM19:	RAL	7 th – 12 th October (provisional – to be discussed.)

8) Any Other Business

The question of whether video conferencing was better done over IP rather than by phone was again discussed. It was agreed this would be looked into.

CNB 25th January 2007