



Muon Ionisation Cooling Experiment Oversight Committee

Monday 4 October 2016, MRC Head Office, London

Feedback and Actions

1. The Committee noted STFC's Executive Board decision to only support an extended Step IV run, and understood that the reduction of the programme was based mainly on the financial situation, and the risks associated with taking over the responsibility for procurement of a replacement downstream solenoid from the US.
2. The Committee was encouraged by the continued progress made by the Collaboration to reduce the heat load on the liquid hydrogen system. It was noted that this remains a risk until cool down has been demonstrated.
3. Data analysis work is encouraging, and the planned publications signify that good progress has been made. The Committee look forward to seeing future MICE publications.
4. Improvements made to quench protection are very positive, and have not only been installed but are also working well. The Collaboration's efforts to mitigate movement of the Partial Return Yoke against the outer vacuum containment were also noted.
5. The Committee was impressed by the way the Collaboration have dealt with the leaking ceramic seal at the air end in the Decay Solenoid, and the follow up action with the supply company.
6. The Committee is concerned that recruiting students without any long-term Postdoctoral Research Assistant support will have an impact on student welfare. The Collaboration is asked to provide a plan for supporting students at the next meeting.

Action: The Collaboration
7. The Committee noted that there is a risk that the MICE programme could suffer a loss of personnel, and that there are potential problems in recruiting new people close to end of project. The Collaboration is requested to produce a plan of action to deal with the potential loss of key staff and identify possible single points of failure.

Action: The Collaboration

8. The Collaboration should consider streamlining Monte Carlo generation by producing a large number of particles at some test surface so that they can be used for different experimental configurations, rather than regenerating them every time.
9. The Committee would like to understand the probable impact of the possible decrease in US engagement and support for MICE, and what impact this will have on the project. The Committee recommends that the UK collaboration should engage with US partners to ensure that their commitment to provide previously agreed resources is maintained.

Action: The Collaboration

10. The Committee noted that a new risk mitigation strategy for the two major outstanding risks had been introduced with the development of the de-scoped cooling option. The Committee emphasised that any option should be cost-neutral to STFC and should not exceed budget defined by the cost to completion review. Step IV should be the Collaboration's first priority.

Date of the next meeting

11. The Committee agreed to hold the next meeting on 26 April 2017 at the MRC Head Office in London.