

Minutes of the Board meeting 2008-02 on 8 September 2008

Time/place of the meeting: EPFL, 8 September 2008, 18.40 – 19.15h
Present: 23 persons; Chair: U. Straumann (UZH)

1. Agenda

The order of the agenda is revised; item 3 is withdrawn, items 9 (first element) and 7 are brought forward.

2. Apologies

None received; 23 persons present.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2008-01; 14 March h2008)

The minutes of the March 2008 meeting are approved.

4. Report on CHIPP-EB activities

withdrawn (was reported in the Plenary session)

5. Status of SUK funds and planning

- PostDocs: result of the second selection round
U. Straumann reports on the two rounds which resulted in 4 (1st round) and 2 (2nd round) selected PostDocs; next call: summer 2009 for 3-4 positions.
- PRO*DOC: recent events
M. Pohl has indications that the proposal did not pass. Educational model was very short (too short). He will resubmit the educational element quickly, but asks the Board members to apply for research modules.
L. Rivkin suggests that the relevant SNF fora contain members from the field.
[Note from the Secretary: After the meeting, MP received the official letter from SNF, which tells exactly what to improve in the next round (deadline 1 March 2009).]

6. Force Requests 2008/9

- Synchronisation of requests; inclusion of Manpower
U. Straumann explains that synchronisation is sought with the first round in autumn 2009 (with first funds in spring 2010) [→ figure 1 overleaf]. Further, he sketches the history of FORCE, where manpower and material had been included from the outset (like in the sister fund for ESO – FINES). This possibility had been abandoned conscientiously by the Steering Committee FORCE (LA FORCE) in view of the pressing needs from the detector construction. U. Straumann considers it adequate to go back to the initial regime, thereby respecting the will of the founding fathers of FORCE.
C. Amsler speaks against the proposal mentioning the fact that the SNF does not like to fund positions, especially not if it's technicians.
F. Pauss notes that the regular SNF applications do not provide for technicians, and she asks why Particle Physics should not follow the path of Astronomy.
A. Rubbia would like to understand the consequences. Basically he considers this not a good

idea. There is now (finally) enough money available for projects, which should therefore not be spent for manpower. In addition, posts of permanent technicians are dangerous.

A. Blondel proposes to make just a small step like FORCE accepting to finance travel money for CERN activities.

A. Clark underlines the fact that technicians are indeed accepted at SNF, but only for the project duration. He fears a reduction of the regular SNF support, if FORCE were to pay for manpower. He recognizes the fact that technicians are needed for upgrade preparation and activities.

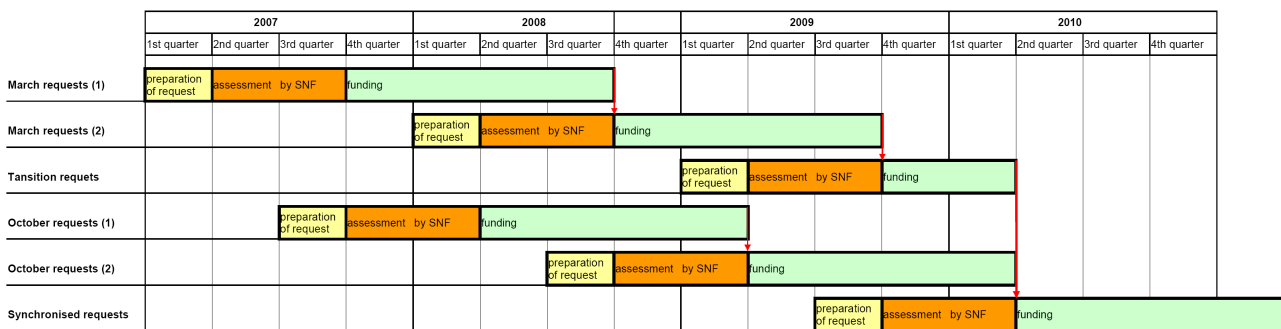
A. Ereditato would be ready to go – carefully – ahead by putting an upper limit of 20/25% of the funds being devoted for manpower.

A. Bay supports such a ceiling, but would like to add also a time limit.

→ In view of the opinions expressed, U. Straumann will continue reflecting about the way forward.

Figure 1
to the letter FORCE Requests: synchronisation and manpower

Scheme for submission of FORCE requests in view of a synchronisation



- FORCE request on M&O: timing; author
Not dealt with
- Computing investments for Tier-2
Not dealt with

7. ASPERA-2

- Letter to SNF?

M. Bourquin presents project which is a follow-on of the ERA-Net ASPERA and asks for support and agreement for a letter to SNF.

After a short exchange of view, the Board unanimously agrees with such a letter of support from the Chair.

→ U. Straumann: to write the ASPERA-2 letter of support to SNF

8. Funding of Larger Projects 2008-2013

- CHIPP tables: approval

A. Ereditato expresses his dissatisfaction with the cooperation from some Board members. If the CHIPP tables are meant to be a useful tool, the input from the Board members must be more substantial and come in a timely manner. He presents the latest (still incomplete) table (Version September 2008) reminding the Board that not only potential FORCE money requests should be included. He would appreciate to get rapidly the missing numbers.

M. Pohl points to the 2008 numbers and is surprised by the almost 2-fold increase of the requests for 2009.

A. Blondel wonders why the PSI activities are not included.

A. Rubbia mentions that he will submit a T2K request with SINERGIA and notes – en passant – that the role of SINERGIA is still not well understood. In this respect he asks the Chair to make an effort in explaining this instrument [→ www.snf.ch].

C. Amsler reminds the Board that the table is a wish-list, which has to be adapted regularly once the real funding for the current year is known.

→ EB will continue establishing the list

→ Board members are requested to align their 2008 input with reality as soon as this is known.

9. Communication

- Swiss LHC Communication network: status

G. Dissertori presents the newly created CERN LHC Communication Network for Switzerland, led by the ETHZ (B. Gerber, a professional communication expert). He underlines the needs for funds for communication activities and mentions that a lot is going on. The group is working on the basis of an information concept containing inter alia a website, a travelling exhibition (including a flight simulator with a film about what happens in the LHC), the setting up of Science Cafés, and some documentation.

A. Rubbia fears that science will not get its place in such an outreach effort aiming at the public at large; he thinks that outreach should explain why physicists do all these experiments.

M. Pohl is of the opinion that the travelling exhibition with the flight simulator is not the right instrument to pass the main message and explains why the LHC is so big and so complex.

G. Dissertori explains (and reminds the Board) that in today's environment, it is important to catch the spectator's attention with an outstanding attraction. Then, information can be passed over.

A. Ereditato, seconded by H.-P. Beck, T. Nakada, G. Dissertori and U. Straumann, wonders who is looking after the content of the information.

F. Pauss calls on the experiments for a coherent input to the Communication Network, which is the only way of ensuring information of a certain quality. She is willing to give the required input from CMS. (This is also agreed by the contact persons from LHCb and ATLAS, and supported by the SER representative who suggests using the (existing) Communication Network to the extent possible by preserving the CHIPP label, and to check the texts produced by the Network for their scientific correctness).

The Board underlined and reiterated the need that all texts must be cross-checked by a physicist.

A. Clark proposes to increase the individual activities of each member of the Board by giving public lectures and he mentions the CERN film crew as a good address for any movie to be produced about particle physics.

G. Dissertori picks this idea up and suggests that the Board members ask for remuneration for any such public lectures to be donated to CHIPP and the Communication Network for their activities.

- Fact sheets: text, numbers on funding, science and industry

J.P. Ruder introduces the fact sheets, which had been established with the contribution from the community channelled through U. Straumann, A. Clark and F. Pauss. The numbers had been provided by the institutes/experiments and by the Federal Administration.

The Board is of the opinion that the detailed table listing the large contracts with the contractual amounts, company names and procured item should be replaced by a simple summary, listing the companies and mentioning the total sum spent for large contracts. The board has the possibility to inject further comments until the following morning at 9 am; then, the fact sheets will be sent to B. Gerber to serve the needs of the journalists. *[done according to schedule]*

10. A.O.B.

- CHIPP Homepage: repair of database; updating; progress report

U. Straumann reports about the difficulties at ETHZ wrt. putting the database back to work. In addition, he mentions the difficulty to identify Swiss CERN physicists which should – according to the CHIPP Constitution – be also informed about the CHIPP activities.

- Next Board Meeting: March 2009

The meeting ended at 19.15h.
16 September 2008

written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder
approved by: Ueli Straumann