



The Role of CHIPP

The Swiss Institute of Particle Physics (CHIPP) was created in October 2003, replacing the Forum of Particle Physics. CHIPP includes all of the experimental and theoretical particle physics institutes within Switzerland.

The purpose of CHIPP is laid out in the constitution. In brief, CHIPP will:

- coordinate the research activities of the Swiss particle, astroparticle and nuclear physicists, and in particular their participation in large international activities;
- work to ensure a high standard of particle physics education in Switzerland at the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- promote public awareness in particle physics; and
- work actively to ensure that the required funding for these activities are achieved.

In the period 2004-5, the current CHIPP Board has a well-defined set of priorities.

a) Research

In February 2004, the CHIPP Board accepted the report of a Working Group set up by the Forum in May 2003, entitled: “Particle Physics in Switzerland: Status and Outlook of Research and Education”. This document made a series of recommendations on the future of particle physics research in Switzerland.

A major priority is to carry out the recommendations of this report, and to work in collaboration with authorities in Switzerland to ensure that appropriate projects related to these recommendations are correctly funded. This is mostly relevant to large international projects in research directions recommended by the report, where the scale and time-scale of the projects makes national coordination desirable:

- the construction, commissioning and from 2007 the operation and physics exploitation of the ATLAS, CMS and LHCb experiments at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC);
- the development of a coherent research plan in the study of *Flavour Physics*, and in particular neutrino studies;
- the development of a research strategy relating to fundamental experiments at the interface between particle physics and cosmology.

CHIPP will also encourage, via workshops in specialized topics, close collaboration and the development of synergies between the theoretical and experimental communities, and within the experimental community.

b) Education

An initial priority of CHIPP will be to ensure that a high quality introductory particle physics is available to undergraduate physics students at each Swiss University.

A second priority of CHIPP is to extend and consolidate the doctoral programme already existing in particle physics, in Swiss universities. This will involve the sponsoring of Workshops and Schools for graduate students, and an extension of the “3ème Cycle de la Suisse Romande” at the national level.

CHIPP will also work to promote public awareness, particularly within schools.

Allan G. Clark,
Chair, CHIPP
10 mars 2004.