



Minutes EB meeting 2009-08 on 23 November 2009

Time/place of the meeting: Buffet de la Gare, Lausanne, 23 November 2009, 10.00 – 13.00h
Present: Tatsuya Nakada (TN), Martin Pohl (MP), Ueli Straumann (US, chair), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, secretary), Maurice Bourquin (MB, guest for item 6).

The Chair opens the meeting at 09.50h.

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved adding under item 9 a point regarding the CHIPP PostDocs working in concert with Manno and under AOB a point regarding the European Grid Initiative.

2. Apologies

The EB noted the apologies received from Antonio Ereditato and Laura Baudis.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2009-07)

MIN: distributed

Approved.

4. List of Action Items

[JPR]

List: attached

Checked and updated.

(MB enters the room)

5. Next EB meeting(s), Calendar 2010

[US, MP]

MP informs that due to teaching constraints the EB meetings can not take place from Wednesday to Friday. A survey will be made for Monday & Tuesday, starting on 18/19 Jan (5 week intervals).

→ JPR: to make the doodle survey.

B. Items for discussion

6. ApPEC

- Results from discussion with SNF [M. Bourquin]

US thanks MB for his efforts and engagement in the matter.

First, MB informs about the first ApPEC common call: the SNF has approved a 3 year funding for this 1st call and agrees that MB starts to prepare the second call for next year (topic not yet selected; preliminary candidates: neutrino mass type of project, neutrino telescopes having a synergy with accelerators, charged cosmic rays, theory in connection /collaboration with CERN at professor level). US does not see a real link between neutrino mass and astroparticle physics ApP [MB: this is all included in ApPEC's definition of Astroparticle physics] whereas TN suggests in relation to the theory-CERN-professor element to be careful when setting the procedure in

order to be accepted by universities [MB agrees].

Second, MB reports about the Swiss representation in ApPEC, where SNF is willing to play this role. The form of the possible collaboration remains to be discussed (member of the foundation? other form?). MB might be able to offer some support as he is in charge of defining the future form of ApPEC (part of an Aspera Work Package). TN is not opposed to a possible Swiss representation by SNF, but states that as soon as investments are required in an ApPEC project, the SNF might not be the right partner. US underlines, that ApPEC is also about science policy and not only about money; this is supported by MB, who informs that the scientific community will come up with a strategy for ApP. Answering a question of US, MB explains that the new role of ApPEC should be composed of (1) coordination and (2) being the ECFA equivalent in ApP. Today, ApP can not make a formal statement in ECFA (MP), but for Switzerland the situation is easier, because CHIPP can make sure that ApP is represented in ECFA.

Thirdly, MB has investigated with the SNF about the “international” body as sketched at the last EB meeting (see minutes). It appears that SNF is not happy with the present situation (inter-alia because SNF is not a full partner in SER Infrastructure roadmap effort) and has discussed the question with SER and sketched four possible ways: (1) SER takes the lead for expensive facilities and SNF the “others”; (2) the FORCE instruments are extended to other fields; (3) the new instrument FOLIS is created; (4) all partners/players are included in the definition of a strategy in a new body. The EB comments these suggestions as follows: re (1): the SNF is a funding agency for research, whereas the decisions about infrastructure projects are taken elsewhere; re (2): FORCE has no long term view as it works on 1 year slices; re (4): should SCNAT coordinate the new body? MB reports about the reaction of the Secretary General of SCNAT (Pfister), who suggests that CHIPP should become a member. MP underlines the need for SNF to have some early warning mechanism for upcoming and planned infrastructure projects, even if the SNF in the end does not fund such projects.

The EB asks MP to take the lead on this subject and continue the discussion with SCNAT. In the mean time and for the OECD astro group, MB will represent Switzerland in the next meeting and report in January to the CHIPP Board.

- Results from discussions with SER [US]

US reports about the positive reaction of Burri (Deputy Director SER) regarding the need for a better / more structured representation of CH in international committees; he would support efforts to improve governmental representation and suggested a Round Table with SNF (Burkhard), SER (Burri), CHIPP (Pohl), CRUS (Stauffacher) and SCNAT(Pfister). US as the CHIPP chair has been asked by SER to invite these people in early 2010. The EB concludes that the description of the new body should follow the EB minutes 2009-07, item 6, and that the fields to be covered shall be restricted in the beginning to the CHIPP responsibilities (astroparticle and particle physics), but that other fields might be added later. US will be invited for a FOLIS presentation. In view of the ending mandate of US, the responsibility for this action is taken over by MP.

- Strategy discussion re new committee [all]

→ MP: to continue the discussion with Pfister (scnat) on CHIPP becoming a member of scnat.
→ MP: to invite SNF, SER, CRUS, scnat for a Round Table in early 2010 (US to present FOLIS).
→ JPR: to provide addresses

(MB leaves the room)

7. FORCE: Preparation for the “Lenkungsausschuss”

- Revised / completed CHIPP tables [AE]
(including improved distribution ctc/local items)

In the absence of AE the EB members distribute the task for collecting updated numbers:

- MP: ATLAS investigate with Berne huge local items numbers and s-LHC and ctc, NA61
 - US: to investigate with Horisberger sLHC numbers for CMS, MAGIC, XENON, DARWIN, CTA
 - TN: Cloud
 - JP: OPERA, ArDM
- MP, TN, US to deliver until end Nov

- JPR: to establish table
- JPR to inquire with SER about 2010 table SNF

8. SNF specific Outreach proposal

- Results from informal discussions with SNF [AE]
In the absence of AE, the discussion is postponed to January.

9. CHIPP 2010-2012

- Budget planning [JPR]
US presents the new budget established on the basis of SUK letter (i.e. 2012 prolongation without additional funds). He informs about his contact with the SUK, where Secretary General Weiss informed him that this decision had been taken by the Erziehungsdirektoren-Konferenz EDK. She suggested that CHIPP should write a letter explaining the problems thus created as well as the outlook for the next period 2013-2016 before the next EDK meeting end Jan 2010.
→ US/MP: to write letter to SUK (draft JPR).
→ JPR: to seek meeting date with Weiss during week 2.
The new budget planning contains 6 PostDocs for 36 months plus 3 PostDocs for 29 months, reduced Tagungskosten / Betriebsmittel, and the CHIPP Administrator up to 2012. The situation regarding the ETH contribution for 2012 has not yet been addressed.
→ JPR: to contact ETH-Rat (probably after the decision of the EDK).

- Manno PostDocs [US]
US mentions a query from the Computing Coordinator regarding the weak connection between the ATLAS PostDoc hired for IT and Manno; in addition, US has been informed that the Berne ATLAS responsible was not aware of the existence of such a PostDoc. MP explains that the ATLAS PostDoc spends – according to the agreement – 30% of his time for experiment software, but that he can not make up for the staff shortage at the Manno Centre. He has been told that the CMS person goes beyond the agreement (because Manno is ETH?) and is ready to discuss the matter with Ch. Grab.
→ MP: to discuss the IT and PostDoc issue with CG

C. Items for information

10. Outreach: Communication network

- New development [US, all]
US informs that the person responsible for the communication node (Gerber, ETHZ) has resigned from his task; US is working in concert with MP and HPB on a new solution. MP informs that the possibility of UBE to take over the whole task is explored at the moment.

11. M&O request

- Status [US]
JPR informs that the M&O request has finally been handed in on time and is at present in the evaluation process at SNF.
→ US: to mention the transfer of the M&O responsibility from UZH to EPFL in the LA FORCE on 11 Dec.

12. CERN Council

- Extension of the mandate of the Scientific delegate [MP]
MP informs about a unanimous support collected from the CHIPP Board in October, which has allowed him to suggest to the State Secretary an extension of Ueli's mandate until end 2012. This has been so decided by SER.

13. CHIPP 2009 Annual Report

- Status and planning [JPR]
JPR informs about the missing inputs, whereas US notes, that the item should correctly be labelled: C15 Annual Report 2009.
→ JPR: to remind US and CA for delivering input.

14. Status of future meetings

- Ascona School 2010 [AE]
JPR informs about the almost 60 registrations (including speakers and organisers) and asks on behalf of GD whether Pro*Doc can support also foreign students. MP mentions that Pro*Doc has offered a maximum support of 20 kCHF to the School and underlines the necessity to spend Pro*Doc funds for Swiss students.
- ZH WS on High Energy Frontier [US]
US suggests to postpone the WS once again, as the LHC has seen first beam only recently and that January would be too early for discussing detector performances. The EB agrees on the new date of 8/9 June 2010 and mandates US to organise the WS.
→ US: to change the CHIPP website to 8/9 June.
MP, referring to the CHIPP Board in January (initially connected to the WS), suggests an earlier start than foreseen (possibly with lunch).
→ JPR to discuss with MP and US
- WS planning 2010 [all]
PSI plans a workshop in the week 11-14 Oct ("Physics of Symmetries and Interactions at Low Energies and the Precision Frontier") and has asked for a possible co-organisation with CHIPP. The EB agrees in principle but TN notes that the CERN RRB takes place in that week.
→ MP: to inform Kirch
Further, the EB discusses the 2011 WS planning and suggests one WS on astroparticle physics in June (MP/TN) and one on neutrino in October (AE/LB [T2K data expected for Sept]).

15. A.O.B.

- Dual functions at CHIPP and SNF: discussion [AE]
In the absence of AE, the discussion on this item is postponed to January.
- European Grid initiative
US informs about the European Grid Initiative taking over the whole grid starting in 2010. The CH country organisation is the Swiss National Grid Association SwiNG and the EB is asked to nominate Ch. Grab as Swiss representative. This is agreed.
→ US: to inform CG about the decision.
US continues mentioning a small problem since CG is listed as "ETH" instead of "CHIPP"; apparently, this is due to the fact that CHIPP is not a legal entity on its own. MP wonders, as CHIPP is recognised at the EU level as a legal entity.
→ MP to contact CG re legal entity
- Farewell US
MP thanks Ueli warmly for his work as CHIPP EB Chairman over the last 2 years, highlighting the well organized meetings and the transparency introduced in the system. US reciprocates by thanking for the good spirit in the EB meetings which has allowed to always proceed rather quickly and in a pragmatic way. He wishes MP all the best in his new function.

The Chair closes the meeting at 12.40h

2 December 2009

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