

Minutes EB meeting 2010-04 on 1 June 2010

Time/place of the meeting: 1 June 2010, 13.45-16h, State Secretariat for Education and Research SER, Hallwylstrasse 4, Berne (meeting room 3.05 [3rd floor, east wing]).

Present: Laura Baudis (LB), Klaus Kirch (KK), Tatsuya Nakada (TN), Martin Pohl (MP, chair), JeanPierre Ruder (JPR, secretary). For item 7, Christoph Grab (ChG) joins as a guest.

At 13.45h, State Secretary Dell'Ambrogio welcomes the EB members to the SER and underlines once again the extremely good and efficient self-organisation of the particle physics community. The Chair reminds the State Secretary of the FOLIS programme and expresses his hopes that this new budget line will materialize. In the same thrust he advocates for a continuation of the SUK support for the C-15 Centre for Advanced Studies beyond 2012.

(The State Secretary leaves)

The Chair opens the meeting at 13.55h

1. Agenda

The Agenda is approved.

2. Apologies

None.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2010-03) [MP]

The minutes of the last meeting are approved (with thanks to the minute writer).

4. List of Action Items [MP]

The list of action items is checked; several of the open items are on today's agenda.

5. Next EB meetings [JPR]

The next meeting (2010-05) will take place on 12 July 2010 in Lausanne (Buffet de la Gare)

The meeting planned for 16 August is cancelled.

B. Items for discussion

6. Plenary 2010 Gersau

- Draft Programme [MP]

The EB discusses the first draft programme and decides for the LHC reports that the Gersau

Plenary shall concentrate on physics, whereas the Workshop on the High Energy Frontier (1/2 Sept, U.ZH) shall deal with the technical aspects. Also, the EB suggests that as far as possible the speakers should be senior PostDocs. The EB members are invited to suggest names.

→ MP: to inform Dissertori and Straumann about the two decisions and to invite them also to suggest names.

The EB would like the CERN contribution to deal with the Medium Term Plan, to be discussed in the June CERN Council meeting.

→ MP: to try to invite CERN DG Heuer for the meeting (also as CERN speaker).

→ MP: to establish a revised programme.

(ChG enters the room)

7. Matters for CHIPP EB from the CHIPP Computing Board

- Delegation of CHIPP representation to ETH
for a Collaboration Agreement with SWITCH [guest: ChG]

ChG presents the matter which deals with the Swiss participation in the European Grid Initiative. At present, negotiations are ongoing between the EU member and associate states and the European undertaking EGI.eu regarding the so called 'Consortia Agreements'. Switch is the leading institution for the Swiss National Grid Initiative (called NGI, to be taken over by the Swiss National Grid Association SwiNG) and thus represents the Swiss GRID community towards the EGI.eu (see [slide](#)). At national level, a 'National Support Agreement' is being established, bringing together Switch and the representatives of the two main communities – the particle physics community (represented by ChG/ETHZ) and chemistry (represented by K. Baldrige/ U.ZH). Before signing, ETHZ has asked for a supporting letter from CHIPP recognising the fact that ETHZ is acting in this respect on behalf of CHIPP (as it is already the case for the Tier-2 set-up and operations).

After a short exchange of views and some clarifications, the EB agrees to the ETHZ request and instructs MP to sign the corresponding Letter of Support (a draft has already been cross checked by the lawyers of the three Swiss actors).

→ MP: to sign the Letter of Support as soon as possible.

- Re-usage of phased-out Tier-2 resources [ChG]

In the course of the upgrade of the Swiss Tier-2 at CSCS from Phase B to Phase C, CPU nodes will become available for further usage. This hardware had been bought two years ago in the context of an earlier joint FORCE Computing request, the priority for which had been set by the Lenkungsausschuss LA FORCE on the basis of the CHIPP financial tables. Therefore, CHIPP has to take a stand to the re-usage proposed.

After having discussed the matter with the Swiss groups involved, it is proposed to donate these CPU's as additions in the Swiss Tier-3 for ATLAS (1 rack for U.GE, 2 racks for U.BE). The splitting is primarily governed by the availability of local resources in terms of power, cooling, floor space and local operational issues.

On the basis of this information, the EB agrees with the proposal – noting that the ownership is with ETHZ/CSCS. The Chair will inform in writing the Chair of the Computing Board (ChG).

→ MP: to send the agreement to ChG, with copies to the SER and the SNF (as participants of the LA FORCE and funding agencies for the acquisition).

(ChG leaves the room)

C. Items for information

8. C-15 2012 Request for extension

- Feedback from SUK [MP]

MP informs about his contacts with the SUK Secretary General (M. Weiss) regarding the interpretation of the letter he had received end-March. It is now clarified that there will be no additional funds available for 2012 and that on 23 June the SUK will officially take the decisions

about the two topics CHIPP has applied for:

- extension of the project (and therefore the Centre's lifetime) until end 2012;
- merging of the two presently separate funding accounts (SUK funds, ETH funds) into one.

Both requests will be accompanied by a supporting statement from the SUK Secretariat General.

9. Round Table "International Representation"

- Debriefing of 30 April 2010

[MP]

MP reports briefly about the meeting (see short summary report on the CHIPP webpage). TN is worried that the mechanism established will not solve the problem of signing an agreement and committing funds. This is indeed the case and also highlighted in the summary report. However, the planned transfer of competence from SER to SNF can be seen as a move in the right direction. TN remains sceptical because it would mean that the SNF will have to take decisions about a given project. KK is pleased that the Round Table has limited the scope of its discussions to particle physics despite some diverging views from RT participants.

- Nomination of US for the CTA Resource Board

[MP]

MP states that the mechanism set up in the RT is already implemented: SNF and SER have agreed to send Straumann as official Swiss representative to the CTA resource board.

10. Outreach

- Status Report re discussion KK with HPB

[KK]

KK informs about a meeting between HPB, KK and the PSI communication office to take place on 6 July. He will keep the EB informed.

→ KK: to report from the meeting

- SNF reaction re CHIPP letter

[MP]

MP reports about the personal positive reaction of the SNF, suggesting that Pauss should bring the matter to the attention of Imboden. This has been done with a rather positive result: the SNF expects now from HPB a Statement of Work regarding a suitable aspect of the Outreach activities. MP has already informed the Outreach Coordinator (Beck).

11. Membership in SCNAT

- Status Report and Debriefing of 1 June 2010

[MP]

MP reports about meeting with SCNAT, where he met with the SCNAT President (Monard), the Secretary General (Pfister) and the MAP Manager (Preiswerk) [MAP = Platform Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics]. SCNAT is very positive about a possible CHIPP membership and sees the CHIPP goals and activities perfectly matching and mirroring the SCNAT goals. MP is convinced that membership will lead to an increased and better CHIPP involvement in general science policy questions and to opening up additional possibilities for outreach. But it will also strengthen the SCNAT (a very important aspect in the context of Switzerland as a producer of excellent science). According to MP, the SCNAT is a very lean and effective organisation, disposing of a large number of specialised committees and broad expertise, the output of which is very often injected in the political decision making process.

From the two membership categories open for CHIPP, only the one associating CHIPP as a whole to the SCNAT seems appropriate (the other one would lead to a certain loss of autonomy of CHIPP). In order to become a member organisation (e.g. like the SPS or the Committee for Astronomy), CHIPP would have to acquire first the status of a legal entity (Verein). Also, the matter will have to be discussed with the SPS to make sure that there is no objection or resistance from that side (which the EB considers as rather unlikely, since physics would have two voices in the SCNAT Delegiertenversammlung and the Vorstand). KK can do this on 2 June.

TN advises to very clearly distinguish between the 'legal entity' and the 'SCNAT membership' when presenting the matter to the Board. The EB agrees but sees no need to dissociate the two issues in time. The goal would be to have the decision of the Delegiertenversammlung in spring 2011.

→ KK: to talk to SPS Vorstand (2 June) [feedback from KK: SPS has no strong concerns but would appreciate a closer contact and being informed about future steps].

→ JPR: to check the steps for transforming CHIPP into a legal entity

→ JPR: to draft a short direct information letter to the Board members.

12. CHIPP Roadmap update

- Status Report

[MP]

MP informs that there has not been very much progress recently, because Ereditato (AE) has been involved in the latest discoveries made by OPERA. AE has promised that the work will be resumed after 5 June.

→ MP: to keep contact with AE after 5 June

KK inquires about the timeline, because he would not like to be forced to take a decision on the matter without having seen the text sufficiently ahead. MP confirms that a decision is planned in principle in the Gersau meeting – if the text is available in mid-June for a first reaction. TN reminds that CERN will start the update of its strategy in 2011.

13. CERN M&O costs

- News from the RRB re cost changes

[TN]

TN reports that at present no real chances have been announced; he will discuss the computing part directly with Grab.

14. CLOUD

- News re cost sharing between FORCE & PSI

[KK]

TN deplores that the project organisation of CLOUD (including funding aspects, M&O, etc) is not known; also no information is available regarding the cost sharing between PSI and FORCE. KK informs that each SNF request from a PSI research group has to go through the PSI research committee (but he has no additional information). After a short exchange of views the EB charges LB (as responsible person for the CHIPP financial tables) to inquire with Baltensperger and to explain the process established in Switzerland (CHIPP financial tables, LA FORCE) to him.

→ LB: to contact Baltensperger for information re project organisation and funding

15. CHIPP Prize 2010: Status

- Status, applications submitted

[KK]

KK informs that he has not yet received applications (deadline is only end June). Nevertheless, the EB decides to make again some publicity for the Prize, but rather at individual level.

16. Plenary 2010 Gersau

- Status re meeting place

[JPR]

JPR informs that he has visited the meeting place and that he has had a very positive impression regarding the hotel and meeting rooms as well as the staff.

- Status re registrations

[JPR]

JPR informs that by 31 May there have been 20 registrations, most of them from Professors.

- Actions to be taken

[JPR]

JPR plans to ask the Hotel for extending the deadline for registration and suggests a number of actions: the EB members should individually encourage their PostDocs and PhD students to register and spread this information also to ETHZ and U.BE. In addition, JPR will send out a reminder.

→ MP: to contact Dissertori

→ TN: to contact Ereditato

→ JPR: to extend the registration deadline with the Hotel and to inform TN accordingly.

→ JPR: to send out a reminder.

17. Status of future meetings

- WS on High Energy Frontier (Zurich): 1/2 Sept

[MP]

The EB discusses the sketch programme as received from Straumann and underlines that topic-wise there should be no overlap with Gersau. TN misses a talk about future acceleration technologies?

→ TN: to check with Rivkin

- WS at PSI 11-14 Oct (Symmetries & Interactions at Low Energies and the Precisions Frontier) [KK]

KK informs that the deadline for abstract has been set end-July and that he has at present a nice set of confirmed speakers

- Axion-WIMP 2010 WS in Zurich 5-9 July [LB]

LB informs that the deadline for abstract has almost been reached (4 June) and that most elements are definitely set and confirmed.

18. A.O.B.

- MP has been approached regarding the possibility for Switzerland to host the EPS-HEP Conference in 2013. At present, expressions of interest are solicited. TN mentions that this is a huge event (according to his recollection some 900 people). MP suggests a possible joint action of CERN, GE and EPFL.
→ MP: to consult with a few colleagues

The chair closes the meeting at 16.20h

14 June 2010

written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder
approved by: Martin Pohl