

## Minutes of the EB meeting 2011-03 on 30 March 2011 revised version

Time/place of the meeting: 30 March 2011, 09.15-11.15h, Schweizerische Akademie der Naturwissenschaften SCNAT, Schwarztorstrasse 9, 3007 Bern

Present: Laura Baudis (LB), Tatsuya Nakada (TN), Martin Pohl (MP, Chair), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, Secretary);  
Guest for Agenda item 7: Christoph Grab (ChG)

The Chair opens the meeting at 09.50h (trains were late).

### 1. Agenda

TN mentions an AOB regarding the CHIPP membership. With this addition, the agenda is approved.

### 2. Apologies

The EB notes the apologies received from K. Kirch (illness).

## A. Administrative items

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting (2011-02)

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

### 4. List of Action Items

The list of action items is checked, commented and updated.

### 5. Next EB meeting

2011-04: 11 May 2011, Berne, 09.15h. The meeting date is confirmed, but LB announces that she will not be able to make it. The starting date is shifted to 9.45h.

→ JPR: to inform SCNAT

## B. Items for discussion

### 6. Computing: CHIPP and the European Grid Initiative EGI

Christoph Grab (ChG) presents the matter; his aim is to get the agreement of the EB for speaking and negotiating on behalf of CHIPP.

- Present situation

ChG sketches the present situation, where Switch's mandate as Swiss representative in the EGI ends on 31 December 2011. In principle, an extension seems to be possible (under certain conditions), but needs to be negotiated. Switch's involvement is defined as paying service, and the necessary funds are not yet secured; it is intended to seek their inclusion in the research bill to Parliament for the period 2013-2016. Such an inclusion is more likely in case there are more GRID user communities in Switzerland than just particle physics. Very recent talks seem to indicate, that there are two new and important partners: SystemsX (Swiss Initiative in systems

biology) and UZH Chemistry.

- Who does what in 2012 (and beyond); role of the CHIPP institutions

ChG underlines that there are two tasks to be distinguished: the 'connection' to the international system and individual projects. For 2012, the SER should be asked again to fund the international tasks, in case Switch can be convinced to do the job. This would certainly be facilitated by a supporting position of the 'Stiftungsrat-Mitglieder' coming from the Universities. In case of a positive outcome, ETHZ/UZH, Swing and Switch will write the request (mentioning the new request for 2013-16).

For the period 2013-2016, the funding will be split: a request from Swing to SUK will cover the individual projects (some 15 FTE/year), whereas for the national/international project an application will be submitted to SER (3-4 FTE/year & membership fee) with the aim of being included in the research bill to Parliament.

In the ensuing discussion, TN mentions that in many ECFA member countries a general trend of the non-HEP communities is to move from GRID to Supercomputing (e.g. High Performance Computing HPC) or Cloud computing. ChG confirms, that this is indeed the case and that the main GRID users do not expand very much beyond the HEP and biology related communities. We may need to be more open to include other newer computing models as well. On a question by MP, ChG explains his plans B (reduced package serving specifically particle physics and funded from the CHIPP institutes) and C (distribute the tasks to PL, NL, and DE and pay for them). He confirms that CSCS is not interested to do the international service.

MP wonders whether the theme should not be taken up in the forthcoming meeting of the Round Table International. The EB and ChG would support this idea.

→ MP: to write to SCNAT (Preiswerk) to include the long-term participation in the international GRID.

→ MP: to inform the University representatives in the SWITCH Stiftungsrat about the matter

→ ChG: to provide the membership list to MP.

→ EB agreement:

The EB agrees to give a mandate to ChG for negotiating with Switch (and Swing, SER) on behalf of CHIPP. The EB requests to be kept regularly informed about the process.

## 7. Agenda of the Board

MP explains that he plans to restrict the items on the Board's agenda to the minimum in order to allow a proper discussion of the two main elements: the Roadmap Implementation Paper and the C15 request for 2013-2016. In view of the situation with the computing Grid, the Board will simply be briefed about the situation.

## 8. Roadmap Implementation Paper

MP mentions that he is collecting inputs from the Board members right now and invites those EB members not present at the Board meeting to provide their input asap. After a short discussion on some of the elements of the Roadmap, the next steps are agreed as follows:

→ TN: to collect comments from EPFL and send it to MP until Friday 1 April.

→ MP: aims at distributing the new version (track change mode to make the comments visible) on 4 April.

## 9. C15 request for 2013-2016: comments, input

MP presents the request and recalls the boundary conditions from SUK (less research, integrate teaching and research, sustainable funding from institutes after 2016). He also recalls the result of the EB's brainstorming (see meeting 2011-02), which has tried to identify a certain number of elements to be part of the request. TN wonders in what role PSI is participating. He is satisfied by MP's answer that in this document, the partner is the CMS group at PSI (and not PSI as a whole in its position as national lab). Regarding the number of posts, MP favours the option with 12 posts. TN suggests replacing 'technician' by 'IT systems engineer', which seems more appropriate for the work and the profile of the post.

→ JPR: to produce a revised version (to be discussed with U. Straumann on 4 April) and to distribute the document to the Board on the evening of the same day.



## 10. CHIPP Prize 2011: timetable, tasks

Since KK is not present at the meeting, MP will discuss the timetable and the task distribution in a bilateral manner with him. LB urges the colleagues to really try to get more proposals, a call which is supported by MP by asking the colleagues to make publicity for the Prize with their colleagues.

→ MP: to talk to KK regarding timetable and tasks.

→ all: to make publicity for the Prize with their colleagues.

TN would find it interesting to follow the career development of former prize winners; this idea is supported by the EB.

→ JPR: to follow former prize winners.

## 11. CHIPP Representation

- In the European Strategy Group of Council

MP informs that each CERN Member State can nominate a representative for the Strategy Group, which will be set up in view of revising/updating the European Strategy for Particle Physics, established in 2006. The final decision for the composition of the group will be taken by the CERN Council. In Switzerland, it's up to CHIPP to nominate a Swiss representative. U. Straumann has suggested that MP is nominated for this task.

→ EB agreement:

The EB agrees to nominate MP as Swiss representative in the European Strategy Group of Council.

→ MP: to inform U. Straumann, who will submit the nomination to the CERN Council.

- In the CERN SPC

MP informs that L. Rivkin is now a member of the SPC. TN explains that new nominations are stored in a list (on which one can find at present LB) and stay there for approx. 2 years. In case of a vacancy in the SPC, the priority for choosing a new member is on the specialisation; the SPC seeks to cover all the important fields of particle physics. Several of the EB members suggest possible candidates from experimental and theoretical particle physics.

→ MP: to discuss the matter with U. Straumann.

- In the CERN Council

JPR informs that the mandate of the present Council delegate, U. Straumann, ends only on 31 December 2012. MP concludes that there is no urgency to designate already a successor.

## C. Items for information

### 12. Round Table International Projects

- Status

MP informs that SCNAT has agreed to start the process and is consulting for a meeting in May. Themes: ECFA seminar, CTA, ApPEC, MoU experiments, plus new: Computing). *[In the meantime, the meeting has been fixed on 26 May 2011, 14.45h in Berne]*

### 13. Short reports

- SAC of ApPEC

LB mentions that the first draft is out now and that she is commenting on it (deadline next week). The version so produced will then be distributed for comments (the corresponding Action item remains therefore open).

### 14. Status of future meetings

- WS 2011:

- Astroparticle Physics, 7/8 July 2011

MP informs that the discussion is ongoing; next round today.

- C-15 mid-term results, 28/29 July 2011

JPR informs that the PostDocs have been contacted and that the preparations will start

- soon. MP suggests including also the ProDoc PhD students.  
→ MP: to talk with U. Straumann regarding the ProDoc PhD students.
- Neutrino Physics, 9-11 December 2011  
LB delivers detailed information regarding the needs, formula and number of participants.  
On these bases, JPR will be able to refine the search for a suitable location.
  - Other meetings:
    - SPS Annual Meeting, 15-17 June, Lausanne

#### 15. A.O.B.

- CHIPP membership of students  
TN has been made aware that foreign students working at CERN but supervised by EPFL can not become CHIPP members. Is this true? MP does not see a problem, since in Geneva, there are students in a programme of 'co-tutelle', who are not paid by Geneva but enrolled at Geneva university, and they are members of CHIPP. JPR reads the definition of membership from the Statutes ("... holding a Master in physics and working for a Swiss institution").

→ EB conclusion:

The EB concludes that 'working for an institution' does not necessarily mean that the institution has also to pay the salary; therefore, students who are in a similar situation as the ones at EPFL and Geneva (see above) are regarded as eligible for CHIPP membership.

→ TN: to inform L. Rivkin and E. Luethy.

The Chair closes the meeting at 11.40h

5 April 2011

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