

Minutes of the EB meeting 2013-08 on 2 December 2013

Time/place of the meeting: 2 December 2013, 09.45-12.00h, Schweizerische Akademie der Naturwissenschaften SCNAT, Schwarztörstrasse 9, 3007 Bern

Present: Gilberto Colangelo (GC), Klaus Kirch (KK, Chair), Teresa Montaruli (TM), Olivier Schneider (OS), Jean-Pierre Ruder (JPR, Secretary), Marc Tuerler (MT [guest]), Rainer Wallny (RW [guest]).

The Chair opens the meeting at 9.50h.

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved as is.

2. Apologies

None. RW has informed the Chair about his late arrival.

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2013-07)

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

4. List of Action Items

The list of Action items as such is not discussed, as all open actions are on the agenda. However, KK suggests that the EB clarifies the responsibilities of some 'old' items:

2010-06 – 4 (2008-10 – 12.3): The fact sheets for neutrinos, astroparticle physics and CTA is transferred from M. Pohl to TM. KK offers also his willingness to deliver a fact sheet on the PSI activities, if desired.

2012-09 – 10.4: contact with Jungfrauochstiftung is transferred from L. Baudis to TM.

5. Next EB meeting: 2014-01: 12 February 2014, 14.45h, Berne

The meeting is confirmed.

B. Items for discussion

6. Neutrinos

KK introduces the topic, outlining the different neutrino activities and priorities followed by the neutrino groups in Switzerland. He is concerned that diverging activities might sooner or later fire back to the funding situation, as the focussing on one long baseline project, at least as a long term goal, with a strong Swiss participation seems to be fading. He had already been in touch with the group leaders concerned (Blondel, Ereditato, Rubbia) and suggests that this issue should probably be discussed in the Board. In the ensuing discussion, TM, who shares KK's analysis, suggests to ask the involved groups to write a white paper; she also mentions that

in fact the LBNO experiment is probably not at the right place in the existing ApP white paper. The discussion then shifts to the general difficulty to steer the project participation of CHIPP Members, who evidently – and rightfully – benefit from their academic freedom. Nevertheless, and as shown in the ApP strategy paper, consultation, harmonisation and focussing can have a beneficial effect on the perception of a research field by the funding agencies. The EB agrees that the matter should be taken up. In an extensive discussion the EB weighs the pros and cons for a presentation to the EB vs. a presentation to the Board and converges on the latter.

→ KK: to invite the three group leaders to present their strategic thrust to the March Board (7 March)

→ TM: to contact the ApP colleagues regarding the update of the white paper (due for spring 2014).

7. Call for Research Infrastructures

KK recalls the history and the information received from the SERI, which leads CHIPP to conclude that CERN projects are dealt with in the inventory whereas other projects (like CTA) will have to answer the call. OS informs the EB that this conclusion has been confirmed by the SERI for the LHC experiments: inventory type projects will be asked to provide information on the host institution, the funding sources, the development prospects, and the budgetary requirements for the period 2017-2020 as well as for 2021-2024. RW judges the overall process as rather strange and unbalanced, as only new projects will have to be put forward to the attention of the head of the institution. OS strengthens this statement by mentioning that only the new projects are undergoing evaluation, whereas existing ones are not. On the practical side, RW suggests that the groups initiate the process of collecting the requested information, which will have to be delivered to the SERI in January.

8. CHIPP Prize: Call, timetable and procedure

GC briefly introduces the timetable for the prize and asks for comments regarding the text of the advertisement. In order to increase the participation, he states his intention to send out the first information to the Board already in December.

→ GC: to send the preliminary information to the Board in December.

OS hints to the date of the award ceremony mentioned in the advertisement and informs the EB that the SPS is discussing the possibility of holding all award ceremonies during one of the SPS meeting days. The drafting is adapted.

→ MT: to inform all CHIPP Members about the advertisement at end-January.

9. EPPCN Coordinator

KK introduces the main lines of the topic and recalls the fact that several attempts have been made in the past to reach a more stable solution regarding the Swiss representative in the EPPCN (Uni Berne, PSI). He suggests that efforts are undertaken in view of finding a 5-10% job in a professional communication office (paid 50:50 by CERN and CHIPP). As the present EPPCN Coordinator will go on retirement in 2014, a solution has to be found soon.

In the ensuing discussion, KK confirms to RW that the stumbling blocks in the past had been the possible conflicts of interest and loyalties. RW is of the opinion that PSI as national lab would be the preferred solution, even if the present circumstances are not favourable to this road. TM suggest to approach the SCNAT and in particular its communication group) as a possible host for this job. The EB is pleased with this proposal and asks KK to establish the necessary contacts.

→ KK: to write a letter to SCNAT suggesting this solution.

C. Items for information

10. Data storage at Swiss Tier2 LHC GRID: status

OS confirms that there are no news at present and suggest that this item is taken up in the agenda only in case of new evolution.

11. FLARE requests 2014: status report

JPR informs that he has not received copies of the FLARE requests from the Board members having submitted one, and that he had sent out a reminder of the Board decision today.

12. Short report(s)

- RT meeting: KK summarizes the topics dealt with in the meeting (reports from ApPEC, CTA, and GRID computing, Call for RI).
- Letter to CRUS: KK informs that he has sent a letter following-up the CHIPP report on cost-intensive fields and the exchange of letters with CRUS in the summer 2013. CHIPP's most recent letter is hinting to the Higher Education Bill, which will bring a new structure and new coordination and funding instruments to that sector.
- WAG 2013, 13-15 Nov 2013, Berne: KK has attended part of the WS and congratulates the organisers for the interesting event. Details are given in a short written report from the organisers, provided by GC.
- SCNAT Annual Congress 21/22 Nov 2013, Winterthur: KK reminds the EB about the theme (Bohr's atom) and reports from the very interesting event with high quality talks, which has assembled some 180 registered participants; however, participation from CHIPP could have been larger.

13. Status of future meetings

- Strategy Workshop on AstroParticles in Switzerland SWAPS2014, 11-13 June, Geneva: TM informs that the preparations are ongoing and making good progress. However, it still seems to be rather difficult to get a functioning working relation with the field of astronomy for the preparation of the WS; their response to being involved in the WS is not very large.
- Annual Meeting of the SPS, 30 June – 2 July, Fribourg: KK reminds the EB that M. Pohl is a member of the SPS Committee, which plans to integrate the CHIPP PhD/PostDoc day into its TASK session. The CHIPP Plenary (see below) is held on 30 June, the CHIPP Prize award ceremony sometime between 30 June and 2 July.
- CHIPP Plenary, 30 June (during SPS), Fribourg
 - OS: EB to organise the (formal) CHIPP Plenary
 - OS: to keep contact with MP regarding the organisation of the PhD/PostDoc day

14. A.O.B.

- 40 years Ring Cyclotron PSI. 24 February 2014: KK informs about the planned event and hopes for a strong attendance also from Swiss universities.
- Farewell to KK: During the year end lunch, OS KK for his work and dedication as CHIPP Chair over the last 2 years and conveys the best wishes to KK's future activities from the whole EB.

The Chair closes the meeting at 12.25h.

6 December 2013

written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder
approved by: Klaus Kirch