

Results of the Plenary meeting 2014 30 June – 2 July 2014

Time/place of the meeting: University of Fribourg, 30 June 2014 (13.45h) – 2 July 2014 (18.15h)

The CHIPP Plenary and the PhD/Postdoc days 2014 were held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society (SPS) in Fribourg, with the PhD/Postdoc days constituting the SPS TASK sessions. The formal CHIPP Plenary as well as the Swiss event for the 60th anniversary of CERN were also integrated in the conference.

The conference programme and the individual talks can be found at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/>

This document is not meant as abstract or summary of the individual talks, but limits itself to a summary of the formal CHIPP Plenary and the CHIPP Prize award.

1. CHIPP Prize award

The CHIPP Prize for the best PhD student in experimental or theoretical particle physics is awarded for the seventh time. This year, the CHIPP Selection Committee decided to award the prize to Marco Peruzzi from ETHZ for his dissertation (in preparation) on the development of novel topological algorithms to identify single photons in CMS. The laudatio says: "For his original contribution to the development of novel topological algorithms to identify single photons in the electromagnetic calorimeter of the CMS experiment at the LHC and discriminate them against abundant background from neutral pions".

The award ceremony, in which the winner receives the prize money and the framed diploma, is held together with the SPS Prize award ceremony. The winner presents his current research activity later during the TASK session¹.

2. Formal CHIPP Plenary meeting

2.1. Introduction

In his introductory statement² the Chair explains the new format of the CHIPP Plenary, being embedded for the first time this year (and then every second year) in the SPS Annual Meeting. This year, the joint SPS/CHIPP annual meeting also features CERN's 60th anniversary. He considers this as a good opportunity to make particle physics more visible and points to the CHIPP posters, the LHC interactive tunnel, the public lecture on particle physics, and the ceremony for the 60th anniversary of CERN with the presence of the CERN DG Rolf Heuer. He thanks all the persons involved in the preparation of this event, which has more than 50 talks on particle physics on its programme, shows 8 posters from CHIPP as well as 15 additional historical posters related to the Swiss scientific contributions to CERN.

2.2. Election of the Swiss representative in the Advisory Committee of CERN Users (ACCU)

Introducing the item, the Chair explains the ACCU tasks, mentions the past achievements of M. Weber (who wishes to step down from this function), informs about the nomination process for identifying a successor, and presents the recommendation of the Board regarding the election of Michael Dittmar (ETHZ), who is ready to serve.

→ The Plenary unanimously elects Michael Dittmar (ETHZ) for a first term as ACCU representative for the term 2015-2016 (applause).

→ CHIPP will inform the ACCU secretariat about this election.

¹ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/9/contribution/21/material/slides/0.pdf>

² <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/1/material/slides/0.pdf>

2.3. News from CHIPP Board and Executive Board

The Chair presents the current composition of the Executive Board (EB): Olivier Schneider (Chair, 2nd term until end 2015), Gilberto Colangelo (Vice-Chair, 2nd term, stepping down at end 2014), Teresa Montaruli (Vice-Chair, 1st term until end 2014), Rainer Wallny (Vice-Chair, 1st term until end 2015). The CHIPP Plenary takes note of this new EB composition elected by the Board on 24 June 2013, as well as the election of Olivier Schneider as CHIPP Chair at the Board meeting of 4 November 2013 in Bern. The Chair then informs about the election and re-election by the CHIPP Board this morning of Adrian Signer and Teresa Montaruli as CHIPP Vice-Chairs for 2015–2016. He also mentions the ongoing exchange of observers with CHAPs, the new CHIPP Administrator Marc Türlér (replaced today by J.P. Ruder), the recent CHIPP activities (ECFA midterm report; input to SERI for Roadmap; monitoring of financial needs in the Long Term Financial Tables; Round Table International), the workshops supported by CHIPP and the forthcoming schools (Zuoz Summer School; CHIPP Winter School in Grindelwald).

2.4. CERN Council report

The Chair in his function as Swiss scientific CERN Council delegate touches in his report³ (among other items) upon the main 2013-14 LHC consolidations (which are on schedule for LHC beam commissioning in early 2015 and collisions with 13 TeV in April 2015), the LHC schedule and future outlook, the Mid-Term Plan 2015-2019 and ideas for a Future Circular Collider FCC, the budget, the enlargement process, the Pension Fund, the ongoing search for the next DG (short list expected for September), and the celebrations of the 60 years of CERN (see also item 4 below).

2.5. CHIPP Outreach Board report

The Chair of the CHIPP Outreach Group (H.-P. Beck) limits himself to CHIPP activities⁴, and will not talk about the many outreach activities pursued by all groups at various scales, which constitute quite a wealth of activities targeted to high school students, teachers and the public.

He mentions the Master Classes 2014, a contest in which ~300 school classes world-wide compete for getting beam time (with also 1 short-listed Swiss team); the Swiss physicists in dialogue with society in the Agora project (with one of its elements being the so-called Double Dialogue interactions); the Swiss Teachers Programme at CERN (which has taken some speed); and the preparation of the SCNAT's bicentennial event in 2015 (which has been considerably descoped from its initial plans). Beck will keep CHIPP informed about any possibility to present particle physics in this 200 years celebration.

2.6. CHIPP Computing Board report

Standing in for the absent Chair of the CHIPP Computing Board (Ch. Grab), S. Haug informs the CHIPP Plenary about the Swiss LHC computing infrastructure and its use⁵. The main messages are (1) that the Swiss resources operations are going quite well with up to 90% availability, with Switzerland providing approx. 2-4% of the worldwide WLCG (Worldwide LHC Computing Grid) capacity; and (2) that the WLCG infrastructure is being exploited close to its maximum capacity; it has to accommodate in a stable budget: increase of the output is possible thanks to the technology developments (~20%/y) and higher software efficiencies by the experiments.

2.7. ACCU report

The Swiss ACCU representative (M. Weber) mentions in his report⁶ a few items that had been longstanding topics like the Hostel long-term waiting list, the health insurance for users, and transfrontalier insurance. He calls upon the CERN users to fill in the so-called "near miss reports", which are taken very seriously by CERN working hard on improving the reporting of dangerous or unsafe situations. He concludes by thanking the colleagues who had brought to his attention questions and issues, many of which had been answered and resolved by CERN.

³ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/4/material/slides/1.pdf>

⁴ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/3/material/slides/1.pdf>

⁵ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/2/material/slides/0.pdf>

⁶ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/5/material/slides/0.pdf>

2.8. European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) report

The Swiss R-ECFA representative (L. Rivkin) recalls the ECFA mandate before he briefly reports⁷ about the ongoing discussions regarding the ILC, CLIC and the FCC design studies (which should be available at the time of preparing the next European Strategy Update). In the section about ICFA news he reports about a remarkable presentation about Chinese plans for an e^+e^- circular collider Higgs-factory followed by a pp collider using the same tunnel.

2.9. Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (NuPECC) report

The Swiss NuPECC representative (B. Krusche) informs⁸ the Plenary that the future of NuPECC remains unclear: the winding down of ESF will probably happen end-2015, the successor organisation is still being broadly discussed, and the future relation between NuPECC and SE (Science Europe) remains unclear. He informs that the next NuPECC meeting will take place in Basel on 12/13 June 2015; a mini workshop on Swiss activities is planned for Friday 12 June 2015. Krusche will contact the Board colleagues on this matter if need be.

2.10. Astroparticle Physics European Consortium (ApPEC) report

The Swiss ApPEC representative (T. Montaruli) informs⁹ that the SAC report has used input from the CHIPP Long-Term Financial Tables to estimate the funds needed in the next years to build the RIs which could produce breakthroughs in the ApP field. She continues by informing about the next ESFRI Roadmap (expected for 2015/16) and a new ESFRI call for new projects to enter the future ESFRI Roadmap (deadline: March 2015). She also reminds the Board about the INFRADEV-1 call in the frame of H2020, which is suitable for DARWIN or PINGU/ORCA. Finally, she conveys the urgent message of the Roundtable of Funding Agencies at the Global Neutrino Meeting, inviting the neutrino scientists to develop urgently a coherent international programme consistent with the opportunities recently confirmed at CERN, in Japan and in the USA.

3. SPS

SPS matter had been extensively dealt with in the relevant SPS sessions (for details and further information see http://www.sps.ch/en/events/sp_s_annual_meeting_2014/program/).

4. Swiss national event for the 60th anniversary of CERN

One day after the official celebration at UNESCO HQ in Paris, the CERN DG Rolf Heuer honours Switzerland with his participation at the Swiss national event, organized by CHIPP and SPS^{10, 11}. In his speech he underlines the positive effect of CERN during the years of the cold war when CERN was the only window to the Western world for the countries behind the iron curtain. He considers this side effect as an equally important element of CERN's achievements as are the scientific highlights and he expresses his hopes that the this road can be continued in the future with many countries with difficult relations joining CERN either as Members or as Associates.

In the ensuing panel discussion personalities from science, funding agencies and diplomatic circles answer questions from the audience linked in one way or the other to the theme of the event: "CERN's impact on Switzerland and its Society".

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written by: Jean-Pierre Ruder

approved by: Olivier Schneider

⁷ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/6/material/slides/1.pdf>

⁸ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/8/material/slides/0.pdf>

⁹ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/1/contribution/7/material/slides/0.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/11/material/0/0.pdf>

¹¹ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/320325/session/11/contribution/73/material/0/0.pdf>