CERN RESEARCH BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 172nd MEETING OF THE RESEARCH BOARD
HELD ON THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2005


(* for item 2, # for item 3)

Items
1. Procedure
2. Application of MEG to become a Recognized Experiment
3. Report from the LHCC meetings of 9-10 March and 11 May 2005
4. Report from the SPSC meeting of 3 May 2005
5. Report from the INTC meeting of 23 May 2005
6. Any other business
1  PROCEDURE

1.1  J. Engelen chaired the meeting, in the Director General’s absence.

1.2  The minutes of the Research Board held on 2 March [1] were approved without amendment.

1.3  There was one matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting, under paragraph 2.2: the funding of MICE has now been approved, so its Recognized Experiment status at CERN is confirmed.

2  APPLICATION OF MEG TO BECOME A RECOGNIZED EXPERIMENT

2.1  A. Baldini presented MEG, an experiment in preparation at PSI to search for $\mu^- \rightarrow e^+\gamma$ decays [2]. The limit on the branching ratio is expected to reach $10^{-13}$ if no events are observed, a substantial improvement on existing limits. J. Kirkby then made his report as CERN rapporteur for the experiment [2].

2.2  The Research Board acknowledges the high quality of the experiment. However, it is not convinced that such a particle physics experiment, with a well-defined host laboratory, is suitable to become a Recognized Experiment at CERN. A small majority recommended not to approve the application, and the Director-General has been advised accordingly.

3  REPORT FROM THE LHCC MEETINGS OF 9-10 MARCH AND 11 MAY 2005

3.1  As the LHCC chairperson could not attend the meeting, J. Engelen and E. Tsesmelis reported on the LHCC meetings of March and May. They commented on the Comprehensive Review of ALICE [3] and the Installation Reviews of the four LHC experiments [4–7]. The Research Board took note of the report.

4  REPORT FROM THE SPSC MEETING OF 3 MAY 2005

4.1  J. Dainton reported on the recent SPSC meeting, including the status reports from COMPASS and NA60 [2].

4.2  Proposals were then discussed for an extension of AD-3/ASACUSA [8], and for a new experiment at the AD, ALPHA [9]. The Research Board approved the running of both experiments in 2006. Before the running of ALPHA in subsequent years can be
confirmed, the Research Board asks the collaboration to provide the SPSC with a list of the technological challenges that need to be met in order to fulfill their physics programme, which includes milestones that can help monitor the progress towards meeting those challenges. The ALPHA experiment will have the reference number AD-5.

4.3 The SPSC intends to introduce a procedure by which the requests to run from all approved experiments in its remit will be scrutinized, and if necessary prioritized. This procedure will be presented for discussion at a future Research Board meeting.

5 REPORT FROM THE INTC MEETING OF 23 MAY 2005

5.1 J. Äystö reported from the recent INTC meeting [2]. Two proposals from ISOLDE were recommended for approval, listed in the following paragraphs.

5.2 P143 Add. 1 Charge breeding of radioactive ions in an electron cyclotron resonance ion source (ECRIS) at ISOLDE [10] was approved for 20 shifts. It will continue to be known as IS397.

5.3 P196 Add. 1 Precision measurement of the half-life and the beta-decay Q value of the superallowed $0^+ \rightarrow 0^+$ beta decay of $^{48}$Ca [11] was approved for 7 shifts. It will continue to be known as IS437.

5.4 J. Äystö then discussed the nTOF Phase 2 proposal, which outlines the plans for future development of the nTOF facility. The INTC finds the scientific case to be interesting, and encourages the proponents to produce focused proposals for its next meeting. The physics case will be discussed, along with future plans for ISOLDE, at the NuPAC workshop, which will take place at CERN on 10–12 October. J. Engelen congratulated the INTC on the progress which has been made towards preparing that meeting, and underlined the importance of the workshop in helping to steer the future programme of the ISOLDE and nTOF facilities. The Research Board took note of the report.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 M. Hauschild presented the draft accelerator schedule for 2006 [2]. As proposed, the machines would run from May until mid-December, with the late end to the run being scheduled to accommodate the sector test of the LHC. P. Ciriani pointed out that the
sector test had moved on the draft schedule compared to the LHC planning, and expressed concern as to whether the electricity costs of running the SPS in November and December had been included in the budget. The Research Board agreed that a small working group, consisting of the PS and SPS Physics Coordinator and representatives from the TS and AB Departments, should meet to optimize the schedule with respect to electricity costs, and to advise the directorate so that the schedule could be decided upon in the next few weeks.

6.2 The next meeting of the Research Board will be held on 1 September.

ENCLOSURES

1. Minutes of the 75\textsuperscript{th} LHCC meeting held on 9-10 March 2005 (LHCC 2005-009).
2. Minutes of the 76\textsuperscript{th} LHCC meeting held on 11 May 2005 (LHCC 2005-020).
3. Minutes of the 71\textsuperscript{st} SPSC meeting held on 3 May 2005 (SPSC 2005-020).
4. Minutes of the 23\textsuperscript{rd} INTC meeting held on 23 May 2005 (INTC 2005-023).

REFERENCES

[2] The transparencies are attached to the electronic agenda, accessible from the Research Board web page, or directly at \url{http://agenda.cern.ch/age?a052329}.
[10] Charge breeding of radioactive ions in an electron cyclotron resonance ion source (ECRIS) at ISOLDE (INTC 2005-022/P143 Add. 1).
[11] Precision measurement of the half-life and the beta-decay Q value of the superallowed 0^+ \rightarrow 0^+ beta decay of \textsuperscript{38}Ca (INTC 2005-013/P196, INTC 2005-018/P196 Add. 1).