MINUTES OF THE 173rd MEETING OF THE RESEARCH BOARD
HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2005

Present  R. Aymar (Chairman), S. Bertolucci, J. Dainton, J. Engelen, R. Forty (Secretary),
         L.M. Fraile, E. Heijne, S. Myers, K. Potter, C. Rembser, L. Robertson,
         W.D. Schlatter, P. Strubin

Apologies: J. Aysto

Items
1. Procedure
2. Report on the preparation of the NuPAC Workshop
3. Report from the LHCC meeting of 29-30 June 2005
4. Report from the SPSC meeting of 5 July 2005
5. Any other business
1. PROCEDURE

1.1 R. Aymar welcomed the members back after the holiday period, and mentioned that many colleagues had been working hard over this period in the preparation of the LHC machine: in particular, a 600 m long segment of the cryoline in sector 7-8 will be cooled down for the first time in the coming weeks. The Research Board congratulated all those responsible for this progress.

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

1.3 There were three points under matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting. The first concerned the decision on the approval of MEG as a Recognized Experiment at CERN. R. Aymar explained that he had discussed this issue with the director of PSI. As the opinions of the Research Board members had been rather evenly balanced concerning the recommendation at the previous meeting, and as he did not see any negative consequences, he decided to grant MEG Recognized Experiment status. The experiment will have reference number RE12. The status will be reviewed after a period of three years.

1.4 At the previous meeting, the draft accelerator schedule for 2006 had not been approved, due to budgetary constraints. C. Rembser was welcomed as the new PS and SPS coordinator, and presented the revised schedule [2]. The physics running of the PS and SPS, and the sector test of the LHC, have now been decoupled: physics running will finish early in November, and the accelerators put into standby mode until the sector test. The revised schedule was approved.

1.5 J. Engelen stated that CERN support for the AD programme continues, with an eventual goal of testing CPT invariance through the spectroscopy of anti-hydrogen. While the cost of the full consolidation programme for the relevant part of the facility was not available in the budget at this time, every effort will be made to ensure successful running.

2. REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE NUPAC WORKSHOP

2.1 L.M. Fraile reviewed the preparations for the NuPAC workshop, to be held at CERN on 10-12 October [2]. Its purpose is to review the scientific case for the nuclear and astrophysics programme to be carried out at the ISOLDE and nTOF facilities. Conclusions from the meeting should appear as a document for discussion at the following INTC meeting, and would then be presented at the subsequent Research Board meeting. The Research Board took note of the proposed organization of the workshop.
3. REPORT FROM THE LHCC MEETING OF 29-30 JUNE 2005

3.1 S. Bertolucci reported on the latest meeting of the LHCC, discussing the status of the experiments and the LHC computing grid [2]. He then concentrated on the Comprehensive Review of CMS and the second addendum to the Technical Design Report on the muon system of LHCb.

3.2 The sixth annual Comprehensive Review of CMS [3] concluded that significant progress has been made towards the realization of an experimental setup ready for LHC operation in Summer 2007. It is reasonable to expect a working detector suitable for LHC operation to be ready by then, although the completion of the detector installation can be foreseen beyond that date. The schedules of the electromagnetic calorimeter and silicon tracker remain tight. S. Bertolucci commented that the forthcoming Cosmic Challenge will be an important milestone for verifying the progress of the CMS detectors and software.

3.3 The second addendum to the TDR on the muon system of LHCb [4] concerns the choice of technology for the inner part of the first muon station. This choice could be made at a relatively late stage due to the small area concerned. Due to the high rate expected there, triple-GEM technology has been chosen for the innermost region, while wire chambers are used for the rest of the system. The addendum was recommended for approval by the LHCC, and this was endorsed by the Research Board.

4. REPORT FROM THE SPSC MEETING OF 5 JULY 2005

4.1 J. Dainton reported on the latest meeting of the SPSC. He discussed the progress of the COMPASS experiment, and annual reviews of the OPERA, CAST and HARP experiments [2]. For OPERA, the SPSC considers it to be of utmost importance that the completion and commissioning of the experiment should proceed on schedule, so that the experiment can be ready for data taking in 2006. The Research Board took note of the report.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 J. Engelen mentioned that the T2K experiment has applied for Recognized Experiment status at CERN. This will be considered at the next Research Board meeting, and will
provide an opportunity to discuss the future involvement of CERN in the world-wide programme of neutrino physics.

5.2 The dates for Research Board meetings in 2006 were confirmed: 2 March, 8 June, 31 August and 30 November.

5.3 The next meeting of the Research Board will be held on 1 December 2005.

ENCLOSURES

1. Minutes of the 77th LHCC meeting held on 29-30 June 2005 (LHCC 2005-026).
2. Minutes of the 72nd SPSC meeting held on 5 July 2005 (SPSC 2005-028).

REFERENCES


