

<b>File Ref.</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Meeting on the African Synchrotron Initiative (ASI)</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>
<b>Document name</b>	<b>Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of ASI</b>
<b>Time of meeting</b>	<b>Meeting started at 1400hrs to 1530hrs</b>
<b>Present</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shabaan Khalil (Chair) – Zewail City of Science and Technology, Egypt</li> <li>2. Rolf Heuer – CERN, Switzerland</li> <li>3. Gihan Kamel – SESAME, Jordan</li> <li>4. Malik Maaza – IThemba Labs, South Africa</li> <li>5. Fairouz Malek – CNRS, France</li> <li>6. Edward Mitchell – ESRF, France</li> <li>7. Yannis Papaphiippou – CERN Switzerland</li> <li>8. Emmanuel Tsesmelis – CERN, Switzerland</li> <li>9. Catherine Ngila – African Academy of Sciences (AAS)</li> </ol>
<b>Absent with apology</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Faïçal Azalez - IThemba Labs, South Africa</li> <li>2. Mary Bihsai – Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA</li> <li>3. Sekazi Mtingwa – American Physical Society</li> </ol>
<b>Absent</b>	
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction of members</li> <li>2. Overview of the ASI (SK)</li> <li>3. Brainstorming and deliberations by the ASI Committee</li> <li>4. Dividing the roadmap into axes and forming a committee to oversee each axis</li> <li>5. Determine the committee's regular meeting time and date</li> </ol>
<b>Minutes of the meeting:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The opening remarks were by the Chair, Prof Shabaan Khalil, who thanked the members for attending the meeting. He looked forward to collaboration and cooperation from all in order to fulfil this important initiative and dream to have a Synchrotron in Africa.</li> <li>2. The meeting began with the Chair giving a background of the African Synchrotron Initiative and provided a presentation which covered: ASI Historical Background, Why the African Synchrotron?, The ASI Committee structure and tasks.</li> <li>3. The Chair invited the Committee members to add on to his presentation and share thoughts and ideas. The ideas and thoughts shared included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parallel to what ASI Committee will do, it is also important to carry out Public Relations and lobbying with African governments before determining in which country the African Synchrotron should be built. Lobbying with governments should include highlights of the science behind Synchrotron and the specific needs for each country or region</li> <li>• since the AAS is an observer member at the AU, it holds a very key position in science and technology. Therefore the AAS President and the Executive Director are the bridge between the</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	

President: Prof Felix D. Dakora | Secretary General | Prof Barthelemy Nyasse | Interim Treasurer: Prof Daniel Olago  
Ag. Executive Director: Prof. Jane Catherine Ngila

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The AAS vision is to see transformed lives on the African continent through science.

scientific community and the policy makers. As such, a specific sub group should be formed to focus on the issue of connection with the governments. The AAS President could lead this task working parallel to ASI and provide reports on which countries welcome the proposal

- the need to consider building smaller Synchrotrons in different locations in Africa before embarking on building the large one
- these efforts should be organized under the ASI umbrella
- there is need for this to be a joint and collaborative effort of all stakeholders, to avoid disjointed efforts which are bound to fail. There is need to anchor on different strengths but cooperate with each other
- that efforts should include tapping into what has already been achieved by the AfLS. Discussions should be held with the African Light Source (AfLS) for collaboration from the onset
- that the anchor should be on the AAS support to create a roadmap of African institutions to be involved in Physics. The Chair will write a letter of interest which will further develop into a White Paper
- the need for Africa to speak with one voice, otherwise it will be difficult to receive funding
- the need to prepare an MoU between ASI and AfLS
- the need to prepare written Terms of Reference (TOR) for the ASI Committee, with clear roles and deliverables
- consideration to repurpose existing machines or build a single site from scratch
- involvement of the User community to determine whether the Synchrotron being built is feasible for the community to use

4. The common consensus and conclusion from this meeting's discussions was:

- Prof Khalil to draft TORs for the ASI Committee and share it for review and edit
- Form a working group (consisting of Prof Dakora, Prof Malik and other members chosen by them) to handle official communications with AU and African academies of science and research in order to discuss the AS Initiative with them and provide a report to the steering committee on their willingness to participate in this pan-African project
- Form a working group (consisting of Yannis, Fairouz and other members chosen by them) to analyze the best Synchrotron machine for the African project that is anticipated will involve 6-8 African countries
- Request that Prof. Rolf Heuer arrange for an MoU with the AfLS group in order to collaborate with them and build on what they have accomplished thus far
- Schedule the next meeting in a month's time

Meeting ended at 3.38pm

Signed: -----

Date-----

Prof Shabaan Khalil  
Chairperson of African Synchrotron Initiative