



ISOLDE Collaboration Committee Collaboration Matters 17th November 2023

Sean J Freeman



The plan for this section:

- Some reflections from half-way through.
- Horizon scanning.
- Summary of Year 1 of EURO-LABS.
- AGATA.
- Swiss, Greek, Brazil and Korea membership; finance and equipment.
- H&S update.
- Open Science; Workshop.

Most of this is reporting, but to focus the ISCC I've been a little more explicit where I need some input.

Hanne Heylen's first meeting as physics coordinator – very happy to be working with her, she has hit the ground running...

Some Reflections Half-Way Though.

- Impressive collaborations between operations, target and ion-source, and RILIS teams to ensure excellent overall delivery of the facility.
- Technical and physics coordinators and user support are critical links.
- Youthful, energetic and talented physics group – often need support with soft/professional skills: time management, communications in collaborations, leadership/management etc.
- CERN structures are long and deep, oiled by good relationships and “influencing”.
- Spend a lot of time explaining and re-explaining the scientific and operational culture at ISOLDE, up and across the management structures.
- Have (automatically) involved myself more in H&S; helpful, given what has happened recently.
- There seems to be a lot of support and good will for ISOLDE at CERN.

Physics is a little more than in my previous management role – because it can a weekend activity 😊 ...

Horizon Scanning: *to provoke thinking over the next few months, rather than immediate action*

- Succession planning for Collaboration Spokesperson and Section Leader. Advertise, deadline and shortlisting in Summer 25 through to Fall; ISCC interview in November; CERN interview January; and start 1st August 2025.
Search Committee for ISCC Chair went well – suggest the ISCC “encourages” good candidates in a similar way – otherwise use similar process as previously, sharpened up in a few areas.
Will bring details of process to ISCC for approval in February - but pass any comments to me.
- Over next few years need to think about succession planning for User Support. Current employment arrangements are complicated/difficult and not clear how easy to reproduce. Workload increased over the years: we rely on Jenny’s long experience, efficiency and task prioritization.
Something to think about over the next 18 months – let me know offline, if you have thoughts.
- If improvement programme is fully supported in MTP 2024, new investment becomes possible. Raising now so that ISCC members can think over the next few months.
Let me know offline if you have ideas so I can start to collate.
 - Modest hall extension?
 - Further improvement to existing infrastructures to deploy in LS4 (2033)?
 - Superconducting separator?



For information:

- EURO-LABS project started 1st Sept 22 and we have been giving TNA support from that date – *thanks to Jenny* – replacing the Collaboration support of users that replaced ENSAR-2, using very similar procedures.
- Generally directed at early-stage researchers and first-time users.
- User Selection Panel: G. Neyens (ISCC Chair), K. Riisager, D. Sharp, SJF (as Spokesperson) and K. Johnston/H. Heylen (Physics Coordinators).
- Second Annual Meeting – Krakow Oct 2023.

EURO-LABS support to 44 experiments with a total of 157 researcher-visits receiving subsistence – most common are researchers working in UK, BE, DE, ES, PT, FR..

“Access for user groups with a majority of users not working in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country is limited to 20% of the total amount of units of access provided under the grant.”

Current position for EURO-LABS is that UK is still treated as not being associated with Horizon Europe despite recent agreement as funded from 2021 budget.

We have a lot of UK participation, others don't – so unlikely to be an issue, but checked at project level..

CERN and ISOLDE Open Publications and Open Data consistent with EU expectations – but need to document.

All publications, talks, data releases.... require acknowledgement:

“This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101057511.”

Institute Country	Researcher-Visits	%
AT	1	1%
BE	22	14%
BG	2	1%
BR	3	2%
CN	3	2%
CZ	1	1%
DE	21	13%
ES	17	11%
FI	4	3%
FR	13	8%
GR	1	1%
IR	1	1%
IT	2	1%
KR	3	2%
NL	1	1%
PL	5	3%
PT	14	9%
RO	5	3%
SE	6	4%
SK	1	1%
UK	25	16%
US	4	3%
ZA	2	1%

Replied to Angela Bracco (AGATA Steering Committee) in October 2023

Main themes:

- CERN runs facilities in a very different way to national laboratories.
- Time restrictions of LS3 and potential constraints of improvement programme.
- Operational limitations on HIE-ISOLDE running period.
- Process of awarding beam time – can't dedicate beam time.
- Need for an assessment of space and infrastructure to confirm ability to host.
- Specific plan needed for resources esp. manpower.
- Science case needs confirming.
- Relationship with MINIBALL needs addressing.
- If there is willingness, CERN protocol would need following: Lol to INTC, RB approval...
- Especially someone from AGATA should present the opportunities to ISCC in 2024.

My personal thoughts:

- I did not want to sound overly keen – so I have not asked yet about the outcome at the Steering Committee.
- Deploying AGATA would be a considerable challenge.
- Would need a very compelling science case to be presented by the community.
- Would also need to consider effect on our other science programmes during the HIE-ISOLDE period.
- I suspect if a host lab in a member country wants to host, they will.

If I have missed any important points – tell me – but otherwise save for a longer discussion, if we ever need it.



MOU and Finances

Swiss Membership:

- Finally, the formal signing for the addendum to facilitate Swiss membership is underway.
- Clarity over the national membership in main MOU 2016 document at the root of delays.
- *Ask for approval to add the Swiss information to MOU annexes plus change in CERN, UK and ES reps; Karl to Hanne; and Gerda to ?*

Greek Membership:

- Difficulties in contacting Greek participants over the future subscription level.
- Eventually had some informal feedback that Greek membership was precarious.
- During Council week in March, verbally informed by Greek funding representative that they would leave the collaboration due to a shift in research focus.
- Confirmed the necessary formal steps - the MOU requires a formal letter giving one year notice of leaving and it also gives provision for compensation – by email immediately following the meeting with this contact. And again, after the FRC .
- We confirmed no compensation necessary, but invoice sent for this year.
- No communication from them since March – *expect that in Feb, we will need to decide whether to formally end Greek membership from our side and recommend to FRC that contribution for 2023 is written off.*

Spanish Membership:

- It seems that Spain is considering again to sign the 2016 MOU!

Korean Membership:

- Request for membership from South Korea – context paper circulated before the meeting.
- *Do we agree so they can follow up with funders?*

Brazilian Membership:

- Institutional membership for IPEN – *do we agree so can be followed up?*

For information:

Irish Membership:

- Ireland is almost an Associate Member of CERN and I've been told to expect a membership request in the future – might be useful to gauge what our response might be to a likely institutional membership request?

Excerpt from the Minutes of the 57th ISCC Meeting 4th February 2010:

“News about potential new members(Greece, Korea, Ireland, Portugal). The situation of the collaboration membership of the following countries is summarised:

- *Greece:* The MoU is now with S. Bertolucci awaiting his signature. Greece will pay the introductory fee of 30kCHF for the first 3 years of membership and S. Harissopulos will be the Greek representative to the ISCC.
- *Ireland:* Since M. Henry is at present the only ISOLDE user from Ireland, he would like Ireland to join the collaboration paying a fee of 10kCHF a year (calculated in the same way as the fee proposed to Portugal).
- *Korea:* Negotiations are underway about Korea joining the collaboration.

The committee accepts the requests from Ireland and Korea to join the ISOLDE collaboration.”

For information:

Status of Membership Contributions: Expecting 975 kCHF, received 795 kCHF:

- Sweden 60 kCHF – just timing, no issue with finance.
- Bulgaria 30 kCHF – just timing, no issue with finance.
- Spain 60 kCHF – administrative issue in transferring money, no issue with finance, may be delay.
- Greece 30 kCHF – issue already discussed.

Indication of Main Expenditure (detailed report next time):

- Bidault fellowship – late extension request approved as ABT Fellow will not start until 2024.
- Administration.
- LN2.
- COLA for longer stays.
- Beam switching.
- Last HIE-ISOLDE Repayment.
- Equipment – some big items (det and chemical lab) delayed.

Likely saving overall...

Health and Safety Update

VITO Incident:

Very serious incident at VITO in October – analysis and review is on-going.

Review of Safety and Incidents:

The frequency of incidents has triggered HSE to set up a wider review of ISOLDE to look for improvements across the board – only just set up, but I will update the Collaboration at the Workshop.

Need to ensure that all written procedures are followed to the letter – suggest their used as check list as the procedure is performed. If procedure presents issues (either matters of safety or ease of undertaking activity) then EP Safety is more than happy to discuss modifications, but nothing should be changed until approval is given. Need to ensure PPE and other requirements in the hall.

We should not wait for recommendations from the incident and review.

I would like to ask for your help and support to raise awareness over H&S issues within your national communities – it would be helpful for ISCC members to act as advocates.

Reminder that new process for radioactive sources is being rolled out.

Health and Safety Update

508 Workshop:

- Temporarily closed.
- Machines being checked and repaired.
- Karl was workshop supervisor – but that doesn't satisfy properly the written mandate for that role.

Currently looking at solutions....CERN organisational structure and the topic of the previous slide make this more complicated than you might expect....more work needed.

One option that has been raised is for the collaboration to support or partially a technician post to act as supervisor, but with a substantive role to support users with technical tasks.

Would be interesting to gauge ISCC reaction to this possibility to guide thinking – would local technical support be useful?

For information:

Workshop 2023 and 2024

Workshop 2023: 29th November to 1st December 2023

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1316940/>

More abstracts submitted than normal and more had to be shifted to posters.

Registrations: **136** in person and **55** online.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the organisation – particularly Jenny and the local team of fellows and users.

Workshop 2024: Save the date - 27th November to 29 November 2024!

Open Science

Data:

- Data policy was distributed to the Collaboration and on the webpage.
- Afterwards, I was called to a meeting that asked the non-LHC experiments to develop a policy!
- We are playing catch-up over experiments funded by EURO-LABS, where we must document arrangements.
- Unsurprisingly, most spokespeople are intending to use Zendo after the point of publication.
- For information, the ISS collaboration published a non-ISOLDE PRL where data was put in Zendo in accordance with UK rules – it was very easy.

Publications:

- I checked the publications so far this year in August and with the CERN Library checked open access compliance: 76% compliant, 90% green open, but 10% not open.
- Distributed some useful advice to the collaboration – particularly important to flag ISOLDE-CERN in submissions to some journals.
- *Some work still to do - please remind your national communities!*



ISOLDE Collaboration Committee News from the EP-SME-IS Section 17th November 2023

Sean J Freeman

Research Fellows = “Research Fellowship Experimental Physics (Cat 1)”

Zoé Favier (March 2022 – Feb 2024)

IDS

Simon Lechner (Nov 2022 – Oct 2024)

MIRACLS

Louis Lalanne (Feb 2023 – Jan 2024)

CRIS

Applied Fellows = “Research Fellowship In Applied Physics And Engineering (Cat 2)”

Frank Browne (Sept 2021 – Dec 2023, EP-SME-IS)

MINIBALL, HIE-ISOLDE

Patrick Macgregor (Nov 2022 – Oct 2024, EP-SME-IS)

ISS, HIE-ISOLDE

Michael Pesek (Nov 2022 – Oct 2024, 60% RD-ZULF 40% ERC)

VITO + medical imaging

Lukas Nies (Sept 2023 – Aug 2025, Euro-Labs OH)

MR-TOFs/PUMA

QUEST Fellows = “like an Applied Fellow hired directly to a specific project in advert”.

Amy Sparks (May 2023 – Nov 2024, ERC Proof of concept)

VITO + medical imaging

Marie-Curie Individual Fellows:

Monika Piersa-Silkowska Feb 2022 – Jan 2024

VITO

Autumn round had many more applications from ISOLDE candidates – waiting for the outcome, but hopeful!.

Doctoral Students:

Mateusz Chojnacki (July 2021 – June 2024) gammaMRI-EU-FET-open (Geneva)

Marcus Jankowski (Jan. 2021 – June 2024*) VITO Gentner (TU Darmstadt)

Tim Lellinger (March 2021 – July 2024*) COLLAPS Gentner (TU Darmstadt)

Ilaria Michelon (April 2023 – Feb 2026) VITO EU+EP Quota (Geneva)

Daniel Paulitsch (Aug 2023 – July 2026) VITO Gentner (Innsbruck)

* = Special extension due to COVID up to six months – “no longer available”!!

Scientific Associates:

Georgi Georgiev, 12 months (Aug 2022 – July 2023) extended

Andrei Andreyev, 15 months (Oct 2022 – Dec 2023) extended

User Support:

Jenny Weterings (2002 -) Oslo University via collaboration + CERN

CERN Staff:

SJF, Section Leader and Collaboration Spokesperson LD (Aug 2021 – July 2025)

Magdalena Kowalska, Senior Research Physicist IC (Jan 2020 –) EP-SME-IS

Hanne Heylen, Physics Coordinator LD (Sept 2023 – Aug 2026)

Mark Bissell, Research Physicist LD (Sept 2022 – Aug 2025)

Thank you, Gerda!



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