

# IFAST Steering Committee Nr9

29 September 2023  
Meeting organised via Zoom

Indico link: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1323521/>

Participants: C. Antoine, R. Bartolini, R. Edgecock, P. Forck, E. De Matteis, S. Leray, M. Losasso, M. Ferrario, N. Pastrone, M. Seidel, T. Torims, M. Vretenar

## 1. Introduction, amendment, status of Milestones and Deliverables

### Introduction:

M. Vretenar the Project Coordinator welcomes the participants to the I.FAST Steering Committee Nr9 specifying this meeting is recorded and as it is mostly dedicated to administrative aspects only the WP coordinators have been invited. He reminds the agenda of the meeting and the dates of the next I.FAST Steering Committee meetings closed and open:

## Meetings for 2023/24

- 29 September: Steering Committee meeting for WP Coordinators: general progress, organisational issues.
- December 2023: Open Steering Committee meeting for Task Leaders: technical progress, deliverables, milestones.
- February 2024: Steering Committee meeting for WP Coordinators: general progress, organisational issues.
- April 2024: Annual Meeting (technical progress, SAC, Governing Board, etc.).
- June 2024: Steering Committee meeting for WP Coordinators: general progress, organisational issues.

At M30, end of October 2023, we are at 62% of the project. The progress is good in terms of Deliverables taking into account the delays requested to the EC in Spring. The status of the Milestones is a little bit less good. The I.FAST community has still a good reputation in Brussels and it is time to start the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Periodic Report and the 2024 Annual Meeting.

### Status of Milestones and Deliverables:

After the Annual Meeting in Trieste in April 2023, a letter was sent to Antonio Ventura the EU Officer to request a delay with justification for 6 Deliverables and extend 7 tasks. The request was accepted. A detailed list of Deliverables and Milestones is presented.

### Amendment to the Grant Agreement:

- Ecole Polytechnique was included as linked third party to CNRS in Task4.2 IFF.
- Latest version of the budget was sent by C. Levointurier-Vajda in August 2023 by mail.
- If detailed budget is needed by beneficiary, she can be contacted
- A Consortium Amendment is being prepared including budget summary tables for all beneficiaries and partner organizations.

Budget tables prepared by C. Levointurier are presented.

## 2. Periodic Report 2

The Periodic Report 2 will cover the second 18-month period from October 2022 to April 2024 and must be submitted 2 months after the end of the period which means 30 June 2024.

M. Vretenar presents the deadlines regarding the technical part of the Periodic Report:

- ❑ **March 2024:** templates are sent to all Task Leaders, with copy to WP Leaders.
- ❑ **End of April 2024:** deadline for **sending the contributions to Valérie**, who assembles the WP Sections and sends them to the WP Coordinators for validation.
- ❑ **15 May 2024:** deadline for the WP Coordinators to send WP chapters to Valérie.
- ❑ **End of May:** complete document sent to WP Coordinators for approval.
- ❑ **15 June:** Report ready for submission.

Regarding the Financial Reporting an IRUS template Excel file will be sent to institutes by C. Levointurier-Vajda in April 2024 and the IRUS file will have to be sent back by 20 May 2024 at the latest.

The FS and associated Use of Resources will have to be filled directly on the EU portal by the Financial Officer as soon as possible and no later than 15 June 2024.

Any additional information will be needed at the latest on the same deadline 15 June 2024 and adjustment to P1 data is possible during P2 reporting.

If any questions, please contact [Cloe.Levointurier-Vajda@cern.ch](mailto:Cloe.Levointurier-Vajda@cern.ch)

## 3. Annual Meeting in 2024

M. Vretenar announces the dates chosen for the next Annual meeting which are from Tuesday 16 April to Friday 19 April 2024. The tentative agenda is as following:

|                        | Morning                                | Afternoon                                     | Evening       |
|------------------------|--|---|---------------|
| <b>Tuesday 16/04</b>   | Parallel meetings                      | Parallel meetings                             |               |
| <b>Wednesday 19/04</b> | Industry Workshop?                     | <b>Plenary meeting</b>                        | Welcome Drink |
| <b>Thursday 20/04</b>  | <b>Plenary meeting + Mini-Workshop</b> | <b>Plenary meeting + IFF projects</b>         | Banquet       |
| <b>Friday 21/04</b>    | <b>Plenary meeting</b>                 | SAC Report Governing Board Steering Committee |               |

There will be no Industry workshop in 2024 combined with Annual meeting except if there is a specific need from the WP coordinator proposing some interesting topics. Comment from WP coordinators and SAC members have been considered to prepare the agenda.

2 options were considered regarding the location of the Annual Meeting in 2024: Heidelberg in Germany and Paris in France. Searches were made in Heidelberg, but it was not possible to find a place large enough to welcome the meeting, so Paris in France was chosen. Thanks to S. Leray, A.-L. Pelé from CEA and M. Baylac and N. Delerue from CNRS for their support in the organisation.

Paris is a large city and prices are quite high, but 3 options have been considered as location for the Annual Meeting:

- **Option 1: Cité Internationale Universitaire, [Fondation Biermans-Lapôte](#)**

Campus is large in the south of Paris, 14<sup>th</sup> arrondissement, next to Parc Montsouris, very easy access and nice place. The main meeting room can welcome 300 people and can be divided in 3 if needed. Lunches can be taken nearby and a few hotels are located close to the Campus. The price is quite expensive, around 24600 euros for 4 days meeting but it is the level price in Paris.

- **Option 2: FIAP Centre Jean Monnet**

Located in the same arrondissement, easy access too. The Auditorium can welcome 200 persons and smaller rooms are available. Accommodation offer is rather the same as CIUP as well as lunches facilities. The price is a little bit higher even if it includes catering: around 34300 euros. Same price as CIUP without catering.

- **Option 3: Orsay Campus, IJCLab**

It is the cheapest option on the Orsay Campus next to Orsay RER Station, 45mn train from Paris Centre. The Auditorium can welcome 250 persons and is booked. Rooms for parallel sessions are not easy to book and there is limited space for catering. The accommodation offer is limited within walking distance. The cost is a few 1000 euros.

M. Vretenar would like to know if there are any comments regarding the options.

The price for the Annual Meeting will be higher than in Trieste which was around 15000 euros but the project has 70000 euros to be spent for the next 2 years 2024 and 2025.

C. Antoine is going to organize an I.FAST conference in September 2024 in IJCLab/LAL Orsay and thanks to the location, all the money from the budget code will not be spent. Then if politically

correct and agreed by the EU and responsible is it possible to transfer the money from the WP budget to cover the Annual Meeting expenses.

M. Vretenar answers that on a general basis if some WP have some money left from the workshop organization budget, then it can be used for the Annual meeting just in case it is needed, maybe not in 2024 but later.

S. Leray mentions that the price given by the Conference Centers depends on the parallel session meetings number. Furthermore, there is no possibility to have some accommodation on the campus. People will have to go in hotels. The organization of one lunch on the Campus has to be considered as it could be not so easy to accommodate more than 100 people on the Campus cafeteria, this has to be checked.

C. Antoine, who knows the place, adds that there are a lot of restaurants, maybe not at a walking distance but easily accessible by tram or metro, not so far away.

M. Vretenar thinks the comment is good and then we can organize a standing lunch on Thursday, skipping the two other days: Wednesday as people will arrive for 14:00 and will leave on Friday noon.

T. Torims adds that if Paris is chosen then we have to accept that the price could be expensive but I.FAST community could be happy to meet in this city. Furthermore, he spent some time during his studies at Cité Universitaire and it is a very nice proposal. A visit of Paris Observatory could be a nice idea.

Then M. Vretenar concludes that CIUP seems to be the best option for everybody and thanks again S. Leray and A.-L. Pelé for the help. Their visit of the site planned on Tuesday will give us more details especially regarding the remote connection.

M. Vretenar would like to know which WP Coordinator would need some room to organize a parallel meeting. WP9 would definitely need a room for Tuesday all day.

M. Seidel has the wish to organize a Session, half a day if possible.

*NB: A mail was sent to WP Coordinators the week after the Steering Committee to know the needs.*

A visit of Orsay and Saclay Labs could be organised on Wednesday morning, the transport will be done by bus with lunch box provided.

C. Antoine has some large reports to propose for publication and would like to do it as booklet as we did for ARIES. M. Vretenar reminds that for I.FAST publications have to be done through Zenodo. The edition part is missing from Zenodo and she would like to be reviewed. M. Vretenar takes note of the needs and will check with the dissemination responsible of the project who is Y. Foka.

C. Antoine specifies that her needs is not only for I.FAST but as general request for the community.

T. Torims advice to add the publication to a Milestone or Deliverable to keep it.

C. Antoine adds that it is not only for these publication but on a more general point of view what is going to happen after I.FAST. That should be discussed on a TIARA level answers M. Vretenar.

#### 4. Report from SAC

The SAC members made a presentation at the end the Trieste Annual Meeting with compliments and complaining that the comments made the previous year were not considered.

Seven key messages have been extracted by M. Vretenar from the presentation and are summarized below:

| SAC Message   | Proposed Action   |
|---|---|
| I.FAST (application) technologies to be assessed with regards to a realistic pathway to identified markets and time scales required. Get idea of TRL. Note if developments happening because of I.FAST. | Prepare <b>list of I.FAST technologies</b> .<br>Send questionnaire (?): TRL, envisaged pathway, time scale, role of I.FAST. |
| Diversity: improve gender equality (e.g. at Annual Meeting)   | More female speakers, diversity session at Annual Meeting ?   |
| Communication: more stories in the web site, I.FAST brand more visible in Workshops   | Send reminder to Task Leaders   |
| Connection between individual projects/events and wider WP and project not always made clear enough   |   |
| CBI: wider promotion and improve diversity  | More promotion through universities, approach directly small countries (with sponsors?)                                     |
| Prepare continuation of selected activities after I.FAST  | Presentation at Annual Meeting (“Plans for the future”)   |
| I.FAST as an information hub for training opportunities   | ?   |

Regarding diversity, it is advised to improve the gender equality. We could invite more females speakers to the next I.FAST Annual Meeting. C. Antoine adds that it is a general problem in Science, not only in I.FAST. M. Vretenar agrees and points out that there is a positive evolution he could noticed for example during the last CBI workshop as there was a good balance in gender with 12 male students and 12 female students with no special effort on the selection. The young generation will help us improving the gender balance.

T. Torims adds that there are some efforts/programs running already in some countries especially in Scandinavian countries and we should take inspiration from them as it is noticed by the SAC members but will be requested by EU also. We can look in good practices existing here around. We don't have immediate solutions but we can look about it and for example organizing a workshop with social scientists even if it on border of what we do that would be very beneficial for I.FAST.

M. Vretenar confirms that it could be nice idea for a workshop during the Annual Meeting.

#### 5. Status of discussions with EC on future actions for accelerator R&D

M. Vretenar reported on the outcome of two visits to Brussels, one with the management of TIARS in June, and the second with representatives from the other two INFRA-INNOV projects. The contact with the new management of the Research Infrastructure group was very good. They took note of the importance of promoting innovation in our communities, and that many of the low TRL activities presently in I.FAST cannot go an INFRA-TECH type project. They are going to shape their proposal to the Work Programme Committee for the 25/26/27 Work Programme taking into account our consideration.

**WP6: M. Ferrario**

A change in the I.FAST Coordination is announced: R. Assmann, WP6 (Novel Accelerators) Coordinator moved from DESY to GSI. As GSI is not active in the WP, M. Ferrario (INFN) his Deputy becomes WP6 Coordinator. M. Ferrario introduces himself in a few words and presents the WP6 structure including Tasks Leaders, Deliverables to be provided. The EAAC 2023 conference was held from 17 to 22 September 2023 in Italy with 198 participants, 163 delegates and 35 students grants which is quite important, thanks to I.FAST. The agenda was quite interesting. Next EAAC is scheduled in 2025, budget should be found since this is after the end of I.FAST. EuroNNAC workshop was included in the EAAC conference. One question is what's next regarding these topics after I.FAST.

M. Vretenar thanks M. Ferrario for the presentation and will try to answer the question.

First of all, there is a probability that I.FAST will continue up to October 2025 (6 additional months) with no additional budget. Also there might be another Innovative Project to take over the activities as from 2026.

A new coordinator has to be found for Eupraxia as R. Assmann will be able to help on the basis of 10% of his time until a new coordinator is found.

**WP13: S. Leray**

2 workshops are organized in Krakow on 12<sup>th</sup> October on Technological Platforms coupled with EUROLAB. 2 Deliverables are ongoing.

**WP12: R. Edgecock**

Nothing special regarding WP13. Task 3 has been extended as well as the Deliverable.

The 2 other Tasks have been done on time. 2 papers were published in September.

**WP11: M. Seidel**

A workshop is organized in GSI in 2 weeks on high temperature superconductor applications. 2 other workshops will be organized also later.

Another workshop organized with ESS has been delayed by 1 year due to the departure of the contact person in ESS. The workshop will be organized in March 2024 and the Milestone related to the workshop will follow then.

**WP10: Toms Torims**

For Task10.2 and 10.3 the process is ongoing, we are far beyond the expectations.

The team is growing up as some new collaborators are joining regarding the Additive Manufacturing Task and some wonderful results are expected.

Regarding Task10.4 some delays with INFN Padova are expected due to material and then paperwork is not ready yet.

The Deliverable related to 10.1 is ongoing. A huge amount of work was done during the last 2 years, a very substantial publication for the scientific community is expected.

On the communication side, contacts with A. le Gall and Yiota are ongoing about additional activities which are happening in this WP.

M. Vretenar adds that it would be a good idea to publish the Deliverable expected as an I.FAST report in order to have a bigger audience, same as mentioned by C. Antoine.

**WP9: C. Antoine**

On the experimental work, everything goes well, there is no Deliverable or Milestone to deliver soon. In Task9.1, the Tasks leaders are working in parallel on the Accelerator R&D panel roadmap asked by the LDG at CERN. The same kind of work was done initially in I.FAST but is now needed on a larger scale in order to optimize the work for the next years. M. Vretenar adds that the type of projects like I.FAST is useful as a generic multitasks platform.

**WP8: E. De Matteis**

2 main Deliverables are expected which are demonstrators.

2 Milestones also expected, one has been delayed but should come soon. The content is ready. The other one should be ready at the end of the year.

The second demonstrator is also on a good way as some tests and cabling are ongoing.

**WP7: R. Bartolini**

With Task 7.2: 3 workshops are ongoing.

Permanent magnet workshop will be organized in collaboration with LEAPS in November finally.

Another one in KIT on Feedback system also in November and the general Low Emittance Rings workshop will be held at CERN in February 2024.

Regarding the other tasks, activities are going on.

In last Task 7.5 there are some delays regarding the Deliverables and Milestones which have been approved.

As R. Assman was scientific contact for DESY and left the institute, R. Bartolini will check who is going to replace him.

**NB: As a general comment if any workshop is organized, please inform Valérie to announce them on the I.FAST website.**

**WP2: P. Burrows**

There are small administrative issues with the Accelerator Communication workshop which is delayed. A. Le Gall is very committed but needs help to organize it.

Regarding CBI, the activity has been successful. We should find resources to organize a 3<sup>rd</sup> CBI round.

Task4 on knowledge exchange has been delayed to allow the projects to be completed.

M. Vretenar has comments:

- The topic for next year CBI challenge will be Accelerator for Health, not for the Environment as the two previous editions.

- One of our colleagues profited from the exchange between CERN and Cosylab and spent 2 months in PSI and was delighted by the experience. He is going to write a report on that. P. Burrows suggests that this person could write a paragraph on the I.FAST website.

**WP5: P. Forck**

A workshop on slow extraction, not directly linked to I.FAST but organized by I.FAST members will be organized in February 2024 at MedAustron.

There is a small issue with Marburg Medical Facility which has a small contribution for travels but there is no more contribution from them. Should we exclude them?

M. Vretenar suggests not to make any additional administrative work and use the money for something else in the Task.



P. Forck will then use this contribution for the workshop mentioned before as I.FAST sponsoring and the logo. M. Vretenar confirms and adds that following SAC comments, be reminded to show, make visible the I.FAST logo in I.FAST workshops. It is important.

**WP4 : M. Losasso**

M. Losasso informs that he is going to take an early retirement from CERN at the end of the year and a new WP coordinator should be found for WP4. He already passed information to F. Carra for the material Task that he was also leading. One task has already been completed and delay has been requested for the other one.

Regarding IFF, there is no critical point. The work is done by the projects and going on. As IFF is also part of WP3 coordinated by M. Morandin it can also been discussed with him.

M. Vretenar thanks M. Losasso for his important contribution to I.FAST.

M. Vretenar thanks all the participants and closes the meeting.

V. Brunner and M. Vretenar  
15.11.2023