ACCU report - CHIPP plenary meeting (16th June 2024)

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This report covers the following ACCU meetings:

- 140th ACCU meeting, June 6 2023, https://indico.cern.ch/event/1285397/
- 141st, ACCU meeting, September 26, 2023, https://indico.cern.ch/event/1317420/
- 142nd, ACCU meeting, December 5 2023, https://indico.cern.ch/event/1343104/
- 143rd, ACCU meeting, March 12 2024, https://indico.cern.ch/event/1380453/
- 144th, ACCU meeting, June 4 2024, https://indico.cern.ch/event/1412960/

1. General news from CERN

Several maintenance works were carried out for both the LHC accelerator and experiments during the 2023 YETS (Year-End Technical Stop). The LHCb VELO was successfully repaired keeping to a tight schedule, with a replacement RF foil damaged in early 2023. First beams in Linac4 were achieved on February 5, gradually followed by the rest of the injectors, and into the LHC on March 8. First stable beams were established in April 5 and the first collisions were delivered to the experiments in April 22.

Although the 2024 run was initially scheduled to end on Monday 28 October, it has been agreed to shift this year's YETS until November 25, providing one extra month for LHC physics. The length of the LHC YETS will be maintained at 19 weeks beam-to-beam for the deployment of the CO_2 cooling projects in ATLAS and CMS, resulting in a later than today foreseen start in 2025.

For the ECN3 high intensity beam line, the Research Board decided to go ahead with the SHiP experiment on the recommendation of CERN management.

Concerning the Future Circular Collider (FCC), the CERN Council completed in February the midterm review of the Feasibility Study (FCC midterm feasibility study). The study, launched in 2021 and to be completed in 2025, evaluated about 100 scenarios developed for the placement of the tunnel, and concluded in a 90.7 km circumference at an average depth of 200 m.

In the context of international relations, CERN Council decided to terminate its International Collaboration Agreements with Russia and Belarus at their current expiry dates (November 2024 and June 2024 respectively). Chile and Ireland have applied for Associate Membership, Slovenia

and Estonia are transitioning to becoming full Member States and Brazil has finally joined CERN as Associated Member State.

Finally, the new Science Gateway opened to public in October 2023, with in average more than 1000 visitors/day (the number of visitors is however expected to increase from about 140k visitors per year to more than 300k). CERN 70th anniversary events have already started with public events in the Science Gateway auditorium. There will be a community event on 17 September. Invitations to the high-level celebration on 1 October are being prepared. Plans for other events across the world are also taking shape (for more details see CERN 70th anniversary program).

2. News from SCE (Site and Civil Engineering)

- Housing
  - The new housing contract has been adjugated again to Topnet as from January 2024.
  - The use of chemical products for cleaning was reduced drastically by deploying the Terzano ozonated water system.
  - Improvements on the hotel accessibility can be found here.
  - Guests can inform the reception via the webforms (EDH + Snow) if they have specific needs and parking spots are being redesigned in front of B41.

- Catering
  - The restaurant prices increased following the modification of Swiss VAT from 7.7% to 8% as from January 1, 2024. The yearly price increase applied according to contractual provisions.
  - The roof overhang in R1 extension has been completed. Automatic doors were installed in the patio of R1 mid-January for better maintenance, temperature management and a better accessibility.
  - The management and the maintenance of network water fountains is currently with one contractor for all services. The inventory was reviewed to appropriately revise the billing of 153 water fountains. 11 new fountains were installed in February and 6 water fountains were changed to newer models. The costs for the fountains include a weekly cleaning.
  - The payment issue when using the credit card readers of the vending machines was solved by updating the reader firmware. QR codes are visible on all vending machines to allow users an easy reporting of incidences.

- Mobility
  - Car sharing has about 1400 users with 27000 bookings (+355%). The shuttles had 95000 passengers (+43%). E-Bike sharing and bike rental remained stable with about 1760 users and 2030 rentals respectively.

- Shuttle service circuit 5 runs a pilot co-developed with BE and SY Departments to improve the connection between the Meyrin and Prévessin sites, and dedicated lunch shuttles to improve connectivity during lunch time.
- No airport shuttle is foreseen in the future mainly for reasons of costs, and the existing public transport solution.
- A dedicated app [Mov'ici](#) is available for carpooling to help people to move in the local area. Carpooling will be further promoted in collaboration with "Pole métropolitain du genevois Français" (18 municipalities in Grand Geneve). CERN is partnering with [Hé!Léman](#) for a new carpooling solution for people living between Bellegarde and Divonne. This solution is a type of "fixed line" with physical stops where people can wait and register their journeys. A new stop is foreseen in front of the Prévessin site. It is free for the passengers; the drivers are remunerated for registering their journeys even if no passenger shows up. The amount paid to the drivers increase as the number of passengers increase.
- The request, already asked a few times before, of connecting entrance B to the French bikeway to St.Genis cannot be easily implemented, as it would requires the consent of the custom offices and depends on the future BHNS project implementation.
- Charging stations for institutional electrical cars or private cars will be available soon on the Science Gateway parking and in front of entrance B below the tennis courts. The conditions of use for private electrical cars are still under study.

- Site development and space management
  - The energy saving measure of switching off public lights was cancelled on Nov 11 for security reasons.
  - The campaign for the replacement of tubes with LED is going on, 24'000 tubes have been replaced representing a gain of power of 461 kWh. The campaign is estimated to last 5 years.
  - The Space Management Forum (SMF) is now working to develop a new space management policy including all departments and units at CERN, to ensure a functional, safe, and comfortable workplace for CERN's community, sustainable both environmentally and financially, providing a workplace fit-for- purpose, and helping to better manage the site.
  - Outside the campus 400 parking places are lost due to the construction of the Science Gateway, whereas inside the campus only a few car places were lost as they were reconverted to bike/motorbike parking spots.

- [Site Security & Access](#)
  - Exiting CERN via Gate A and C on the Meyrin site is now possible until 8pm (was 7pm before).
  - All security guards are now using electrical vehicles, saving a significant amount of fuel, and reducing CO2 emitted at CERN.
  - The fencing renovation plan within the Perimeter Security Project at CERN continues, with new fencing at the SM18, Zone 19 sites and route de Meyrin.

- [Users office](#)
    - New [EDH pre-registration form](#) can be used to register Users, COAS (Cooperation Associates) and VISCs (Visiting Scientists) as well as PARTs (External Participants in an Experiment).
    - A new option for selecting a preferred pronoun was integrated in the Phonebook in January and exposed to LHC databases Glance/Fence. From Q3 2024 on, the preferred pronoun will be visible in the Phonebook.

3. News from [IT](#)

- Email
    - CERN migrated from MS Exchange 2010 to MS 365 online service. Protection mechanisms (anti-spam, anti-malware, anti-phishing, anti-fraud and anti-link detonation) are applied to all incoming and outgoing mails as implemented via MS Exchange Online Protection (EOP), MS Defender for Office (MDO) and Xorlab ActiveGuard.
    - Quarantine keeps messages up to 30 days and was activated to avoid the loss of "false positives". Recipients can check a preview and release the message from quarantine by themselves in some cases, or by contacting the computer security team in some other cases.
    - Users are encouraged to submit tickets in case of missed mail.

- The two-factor authentication (2FA) is now used by about 10k+ users. 2FA applies both inside and outside CERN and is being asked about two times / day due to the token validity of ~12h. Users are advised to use both the Smartphone app and the Yubikey. Yubikeys can be paid for only using team accounts. More info here: https://cern.service-now.com/service-portal?id=kb_article&n=KB0006587.

- Windows10 will come to an end-of-life in Q4 2025. In view of the large numbers of devices not compatible with Windows11 it is advised to start planning PC replacements during 2024- 2025[1].

- Windows DFS, webAFS and SharePoint 2013 are being decommissioned, the alternative to be used for new web-sites is WebEOS (https://webeos.docs.cern.ch/create_site/).

- The Google Workspace projects (https://google-workspace.docs.cern.ch/) aims at regularizing the usage of Google Workspace for professional reasons. This is now available for all MPAs and MPEs. Eligible users can onboard their accounts or create new managed Google Workspace accounts at https://google-workspace-portal.web.cern.ch/.

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[1] More information about device compatibility with Windows 11 can be found here:
- [How to check if my computer is eligible for Windows 11?](#)
- [What are the minimum requirements for Windows 11?](#)
- [What are the processors compatible with Windows 11?](#)

- A new <u>Eligibility Framework for the use of computing resources</u> has been established. This was motivated by shifting campus licenses to named user licenses, license costs exceeding 10 MCHF, the risk of misrepresentation, assimilation and reputational damage and complex categories of software and user base. The framework aims at improving transparency and accountability, focusing resources effectively, and reducing the risks of exposure to external providers. A classification has been established for basic resources and controlled resources. All MPEs and MPAs will have access to almost everything. The first iteration of the eligibility table (presented at ACCU-141) was endorsed by the Extended Directorate. Further changes are the responsibility of the new STEPS steering group and proposals for changes to the eligibility table should be directed to the STEPS representative for each community (in the case of ACCU, this will be the EP department representative).

  • For remote participants access is more restricted but can be given based on specific needs. The situation will mainly change for people working with CERN remotely, participants never coming to CERN should not have a CERN mailbox. 35% of the CERN mailbox accounts are contractors, external users, and external participants to experiments and will not be able to use these accounts in the future, allowing CERN to stay below the number of authorized accounts within the contract agreed with MS.

  • Students participating in analysis efforts can however be added to e-groups.

  • Retirees can in any case continue to use their email account for professional reasons, provided they are registered as users. Other retirees can have access to some but not all resources. In general, a person can have a CERN computing account without a CERN mailbox address.

- Misc

  • A drop-in desk for basic IT support (IT-SOS, Support On Site) opened in R2 (Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm non-stop), allowing users to show IT problems in real time and test and debug interactively. Support for hardware and operating systems is provided, as well as assistance with basic IT services (e-mail, network connection, storage, permissions, etc.).

  • A new CERN-Visitors WiFi SSID has been provided for visitors to CERN, aiming at improving and simplifying the general visitors WiFi experience. For reasons of security, visitors without a CERN account will no longer be able to access the CERN General Purpose Network (GPN) via the SSID nor the CERN wired network.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- **ACCU** (Advisory Committee of CERN Users)
  - Web site: https://accu.web.cern.ch/
  - Meetings in indico: https://indico.cern.ch/category/1058/

- **Users' Office**
  - Web site: http://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/
  - Forms: https://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/forms-0

- CERN **IT** (Information Technology)
  - Web site: https://information-technology.web.cern.ch/
  - News and updates: https://computing-blog.web.cern.ch/

- CERN **SCE** (Site and Civil Engineering)
  - Web site: https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/
  - Housing and hotel reservations: https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/housing
  - Catering: https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/catering
  - Mobility (car sharing, bikes, rentals, etc): https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/mobility
  - Security and access: https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/security/access
  - Locks and keys: https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/security/locks-and-keys
  - CERN maps: https://maps.cern.ch/

- **Learning and development**
  - Web site: Lerning hub
  - E-platforms and apps

- **Ukraine**
  - CERN HR support web page: https://hr.web.cern.ch/Support-Ukraine
  - CERN User office support web page: https://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/support-those-affected-war-ukraine
  - List of resources: CERN-HR-Note-2022-008
  - Mattermost channel: https://mattermost.web.cern.ch/ukrainianscern/channels/town-square

NB: *if you'd like to have listed additional links or spot any broken link do not hesitate to contact me, Sergio.Gonzalez@unige.ch*.