ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the 45th meeting held on 15 September 1999


* part time

Agenda

1. Chairman’s remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. News from the CERN Management
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. Outsourcing for Orders < CHF 5000
7. Radiation Protection
8. Scientific Information Policy Board Report
9. Users’ Office News
10. Any Other Business
11. Agenda for the next meeting

DRAFT Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 8 December 1999

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2. Adoption of the agenda
3. News from the CERN Management
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. Fellows & Associates
7. Housing Fund Committee Report
8. CERN Official News on the Web
9. Election of ACCU Chairman
10. Users’ Office News
11. Any Other Business
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Minutes of the 45th meeting held on 15 September 1999

1. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS
   Opening the meeting, P. Bagnaia, the Chairman, welcomed F. Merritt the new Delegate for non-Member States who was unable to attend the previous meeting, and announced that Bulgaria was represented for the first time since that country’s accession to CERN in June. The nominated Delegate was unable to attend, but was represented by G. Antchev. He welcomed J. Boucrot representing one of the French Delegates.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
   The agenda was adopted without change.

3. NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT
   C. Détraz representing the Director-General noted the ongoing excellent performance of the accelerators with record luminosity at LEP.
   Concerning LHC construction, he went on to say that huge sums of money were now being committed, recalling that, in particular, a total cost of about 1 BCHF for dipoles is anticipated. The adjudication for the dipole components will be made at the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting, and are in fact cheaper than the original estimate. Three companies have been working on developing the assembly of the dipoles, and it is to be hoped that competition will play its natural role in keeping these costs at the foreseen level. Dipole tests have produced exceedingly good results. The superconducting cables have been ordered within the cost estimate.
   The response of the Committee of Council to the proposed neutrino beam to Gran Sasso, CNGS project, has been rather positive following the recommendation by the Scientific Policy Committee that it should be built. Its construction should not affect the approved CERN programme. The estimated total cost, which must be financed outside the CERN
budget, is ~90 MCHF of which 71 MCHF is new money, the difference covered by existing beam elements. It is thought that all but ~12 MCHF has been found to date. The first beam is scheduled for 15 May 2005, and two experiments reviewed on 14 September by the SPSC were considered to be viable for studying neutrino oscillations. The crucial date is December 1999 when Council will be provided with the information necessary to include the CNGS project in the CERN programme.

The Management will present the 5 year review to Fellows and Associates to Council in June 2000, and C. Détraz proposed presenting the future plans to ACCU at its next meeting.

C. Détraz went on to underline the concern that CERN remains a living centre for particle physics in the interim period between the end of LEP physics and the LHC start-up. There is very little money available for the current programme, and none for new initiatives. The SPSC had heard good news of the progress of COMPASS which will be our flagship during this time, and the other main experiments (DIRAC, NA48) as well as the AD and ISOLDE programmes will have to be very sound, visible and successful activities. The Neutron Time of Flight facility, TOF, due to start data taking in spring 2000, is attracting a new community with already some 200 potential users. Consequently the Isolde Committee has been enlarged to include TOF, and renamed ISTC.

Thanking C. Détraz, the Chairman asked him to convey ACCU’s acknowledgement, on behalf of the Users, to the accelerator divisions for their excellent work.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The Minutes of the 44th meeting were adopted as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Secretary still awaits the name of a volunteer to represent ACCU on the Desktop Forum. R. Voss mentioned that EP Division is represented by H. Wendler and himself.

They announced that the K–plate problem has finally been resolved satisfactorily, and that agreement to register part of the CERN car fleet in France under the conditions requested by CERN is still awaited from the French Finance Ministry.

Concerning the request that the Swiss authorities review the conditions for issuing Ci permits, the Secretary said that ACCU must make a formal written representation to the CERN Management asking that negotiations be opened. ACCU concurred. [Secretary’s note: letter sent]

R. Voss was pleased to announce that, at the same time that Co–op is making significant investments in the behind–the–scences infrastructure of Restaurant No.1, replacement of the furniture in the cafeteria is expected early next year. He went on to announce that a prototype edition of Official News on the Web can be found at: http://bulletin.cern.ch/home/cover.html. He suggested that a report be presented at the December meeting. The Secretary tabled the latest draft of Operational Circular No.5 referring to the use of CERN computing facilities. Delegates requested an electronic version for easy dissemination. The Chairman agreed to write to Spokespersons requesting them to find means of avoiding clashes of collaboration meetings which make difficulties for hostel and conference room reservations. [Secretary’s note: letter sent]

G. Wilquet said that contrary to the statement made at the last ACCU meeting concerning Social Security, there is no agreement between Belgium and Switzerland.

6. OUTSOURCING FOR ORDERS BELOW CHF 5000
I. Mardirossian, SPL Division, presenting her report, said that CERN places about 38,000 orders, makes 600 price enquiries, 100 market surveys and 100 calls for tender each year. 44% of orders have values below 1000 CHF and 39% are between 1000 and 5000 CHF. The current situation is that there are 7 different purchasing offices spread over the CERN site. Such a decentralized structure entails too much administrative work for small orders because there is no consolidation to improve negotiations for improved prices. Consequently it has been decided to install a buying agent on site for small orders which should allow increasing the purchasing resources and obtaining better prices.

Buying agents operate for several different companies for the same families of products. As a consequence of handling a more important volume of purchases, they can negotiate better prices and reduce the cycle time for processing orders. In addition they are closely linked to the customer and handle any problems.

Six offers were received from the initial 42 companies contacted and the company Logitrade (FR) offered the highest saving rate, with Charles Kendall (GB) in second place. Logitrade has 11 established sites in France and 5 in other European countries, is a buyer for many major European customers and foresees a turnover of 180 MFF for 1999. Logitrade has been present on the CERN site since May 1999, and the team comprises two buyers with two others dedicated to CERN activities on their own premises. Logitrade's mission is to purchase the required products at the best available price, treat the requests within 5 working days, and ensure the follow up of orders including dealing with claims and delivery schedules. The buyers are concerned with low value products easy to find on the market, including electronic components, electrical parts, stationery etc., for orders below 5000 CHF.

In the discussion, it was clarified that established CERN rules have to be followed, and the principle of ‘juste retour’ adhered to. Prices of materials in the CERN stores will not be affected, nor will existing contracts. The experience of the first 4 months of operation involving 400–500 Internal Purchase Orders (DAI) per month shows that the system is viable and technicians prefer it as it saves them from having to follow up orders.

Thanking the speaker the Chairman expressed ACCU’s positive judgement on this new venture, and, in view of the important effect on Team budgets, requested a close monitor of its success.

7. RADIATION PROTECTION
T. Otto, of the TIS Radiation Protection Sevice, informed ACCU of the future requirements needed by a User prior to being issued with a radiation dosimeter. They are that the Users must have a valid health and work accident insurance, be in possession of a medical certificate, issued within the previous 6 months, indicating aptitude to work in a radiation area, and be registered with the Users’ Office. The Users’ Office makes, amongst other requirements, the necessary checks for insurance prior to issuing a new User with the CERN Card. New Users will then take their medical
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8. SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION POLICY BOARD REPORT

R. Voss, Chairman of the Scientific Information Policy Board, SIPB, reported, amongst other topics, on the situation concerning the Library budget, and electronic journals and electronic publishing. Over the last 6 years, the Library budget has not been compensated for inflation, and in fact the allocated budget has systematically decreased. In order for the Library to maintain its high standard, additional allocations have been sought from the DG Reserve, and in one year from other Divisions.

Currently the Library has access to 315 electronic journals in full text, of which 80 are in electronic form only, 290 journals with on-line access to Tables of Contents, TOC, and 150 accessible through GO-direct. Whilst it was thought that electronic publishing would halt the subscription price spiral this has proved not to be the case. Journal subscription prices are increasing beyond inflation, resulting in cancellations.

Publishing Houses are reluctant to commit themselves to long-term archival of electronic journals, and their price structures are not at all transparent. Should libraries set up their own archival infrastructure, should there be a system of pay-per-view? Costs for the latter would be difficult to control.

Non-commercial electronic publishing projects are beginning to appear in competition to commercial publishing houses. The Journal of High Energy Particle Physics, sponsored by SISSA (Trieste) and INFN, has scientific and refereeing standards similar to established commercial journals, but whilst it is widely accepted by the theoretical community, experimentalists are reluctant to follow. Other non-commercial projects are Advances in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics (ATMP), and Physical Review Special Topics: Accelerators and Beams (PRSTAB), in addition to non-HEP projects. The SIPB is responsible for protecting the role of the CERN Library as the central access point and repository for HEP Physics (ATMP), and Physical Review Special Topics: Accelerators and Beams (PRSTAB), in addition to non-HEP projects.

Over the last 6 years, the Library has run a monthly cost recovery of around CHF 148'000, which is a substantial part of the Library budget. The Library budget has not been compensated for inflation, and in fact the allocated budget has systematically decreased. In order for the Library to maintain its high standard, additional allocations have been sought from the DG Reserve, and in one year from other Divisions.

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In 1998 the SIPB encouraged LHC Collaborations to submit all public design documents to the CERN Document Server with the aim of providing easy access throughout the lifetime of the project. This is now extended to other projects, and is implemented for Scientific Committee documents, ATLAS and CMS internal notes as well as the LHC project notes.

R. Voss reminded the meeting that CERN is obliged to publish an annual 'List of CERN Publications' (Annual Report, vol. III), but many 'CERN Publications' are never submitted to the Library, and have to be identified by laborious bibliographic searches. The SIPB strongly encourages CERN authors to submit their papers to the CERN Document Server (CDS), and whilst EP Preprints are automatically submitted to CDS, the SIPB requests that all other paper and theses be submitted to CERN-OPEN and CERN-THESIS respectively.

Finally, R. Voss said that the CERN Library continues to strengthen its ties to other HEP libraries, and will move to the new Educational & Technical Transfer Division (ETT) on 1.1.2000.

In the ensuing discussion, ACCU agreed that there should be more systematic submission of Conference papers and Theses to CDS, and suggested that a SIPB memorandum to Secretariats could help.

Z. Hajduk brought ACCU's attention to the 'Philadelphia List' of prestigious journals. In Poland science funding is based on ranking which depends on publications in such journals. He suggested that the SIPB could help in adding electronic journals to this list.

9. USERS' OFFICE NEWS

B. Pattison said that the Users' Office would be seeking the help of Delegates in cleaning up the Institute lists for the CERN database. Since other news had been covered elsewhere, he reminded the meeting of the celebration for the 10th anniversary of the Users' Office at 4.30 pm.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

http://ph-dep.web.cern.ch/ph-dep/ACCU/Minutes/Previousminutes/1999.45.html
The Chairman announced that only one nomination had been received for the position of Chairman which becomes vacant at the end of the year: R. Jones. A formal election will take place at the next meeting.

R. Voss noted that participation in the advanced safety briefings presented no problem as access to underground areas was not granted until a person had attended. However, the same could not be said for the mandatory introductory safety course which is attended by less than 50% of newcomers. These courses are held weekly, and in future sanctions will be imposed on recalcitrants.

V. Palladino asked about the process of selection of the number of students to the CERN Summer School and was referred to E. Lillestøl. In reply to B. Asman who considered that the current age limit for Fellowships was too restrictive, J. Salicio Diez said that the CERN Council had decided that candidates had to be less than 33 years of age at the time of the selection committee. R. Jones foresaw a long discussion on the subject, but thought that there might be justification to request a review of this by Council. There will an opportunity to discuss the matter at the next ACCU meeting when C. Détraz will present a report on Fellows and Associates.

R. Jones announced that the RAL Safety Officers will soon visit CERN, and expressed hope that the no smoking issues raised by ACCU several times in the past year will be resolved before then.

T. Papadopoulou presented a report entitled ‘News from the Hellenic HE Physics Community’ in which she stressed the difficulties, particularly financial, facing Greek physicists. ACCU took note of this, expressing its concern, and suggested that Greek scientists report their problems to ECFA which is the correct forum for such discussions.

11. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING (8 DECEMBER 1999)

The agenda for the next meeting will include a report from the Housing Fund Committee, the future of the Fellows and Associates Programme, and Official CERN News on the Web.