

PPAN
Presentation to PP town meeting

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Outline

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Programmatic Reviews
- ▶ Advisory Panels
- ▶ Grants
- ▶ Project approval process
- ▶ Dealing with adversity...



What is PPAN?

- ▶ Particle Physics, Astronomy, Nuclear Physics Science Committee
- ▶ The committee provides advice to Science Board and the executive on all aspects of STFC's particle physics, astronomy, space and planetary science and nuclear physics programmes
- ▶ We meet about 6-8 times a year
- ▶ Our business includes
 - ▶ Recommendations on Statements of Interest, Project Proposals, Strategic Issues, Grants, programmatic review
- ▶ Interact with
 - ▶ Five PPAN Area Advisory Panels
 - ▶ Grants Panels
 - ▶ Science Board



PPAN Membership

▶ **Chairs**

- ▶ **Professor Walter Gear (Chair) - University of Cardiff**
- ▶ **Professor Jordan Nash (Deputy Chair) – Imperial College**

▶ **Members**

- ▶ **Dr Dave Barnes - University of Wales, Aberystwyth**
- ▶ **Dr Iain Bertram - University of Lancaster**
- ▶ **Professor Mike Bode - Liverpool John Moores University**
- ▶ **Professor Jon Butterworth - University College London**
- ▶ **Professor Yvonne Elsworth - University of Birmingham**
- ▶ **Professor Brian Fulton - University of York**
- ▶ **Professor Ruth Gregory - University of Durham**
- ▶ **Professor Sheila Rowan - University of Glasgow**

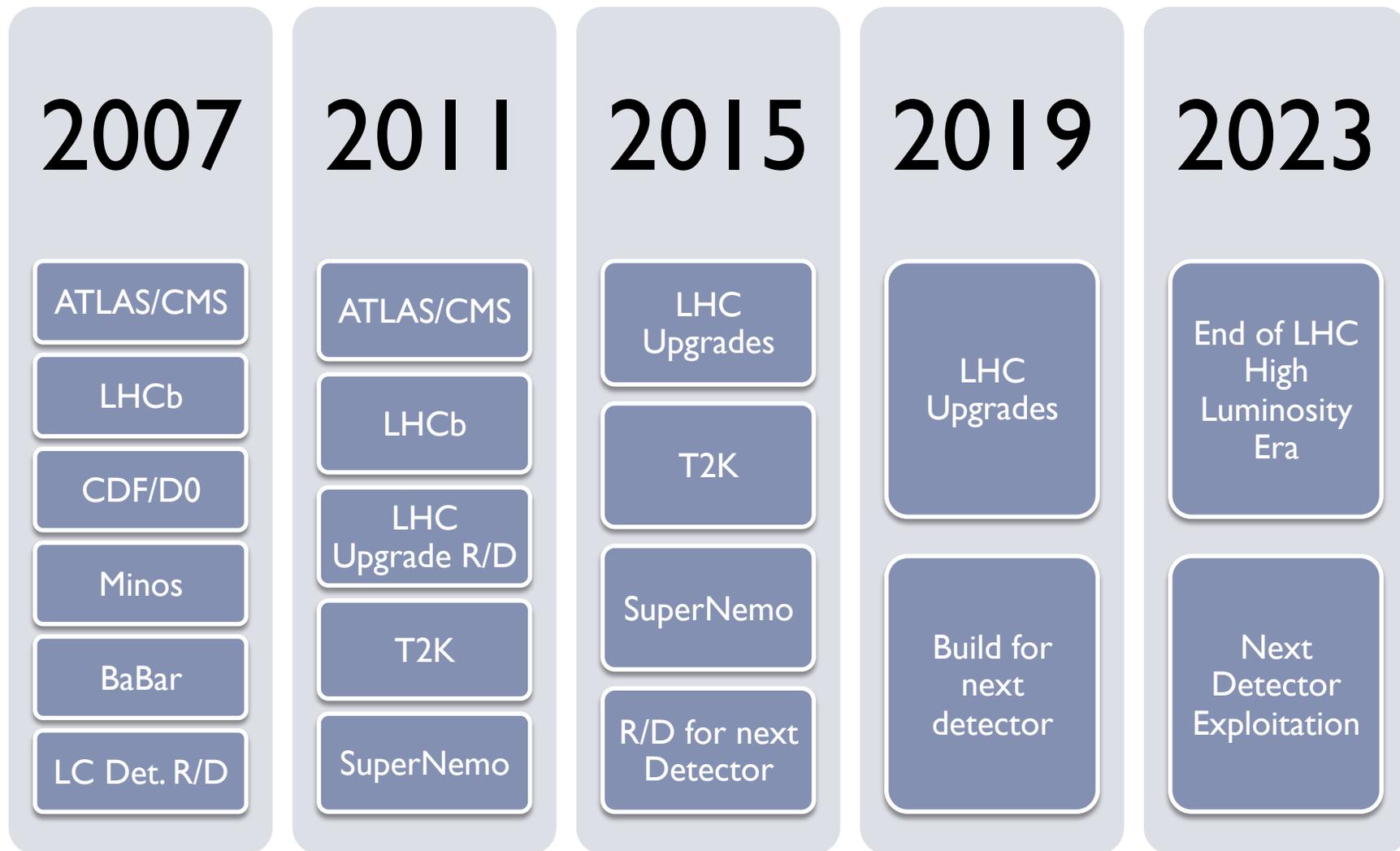


Programmatic Reviews

- ▶ The programmatic review looks at all projects in the PPAN and PALS areas and produces a prioritized ranking
- ▶ This was a major piece of business last year
 - ▶ In reaction to the last CSR (Comprehensive Spending Review)
- ▶ It makes sense to have the outputs of a programmatic review in order to react to the outcome of a CSR
- ▶ Aim to have next PR complete in time to deal with the outcome of the next CSR
- ▶ Will need to start the process later in the year
- ▶ We will involve the Advisory panels from an early stage
- ▶ One caveat:
 - ▶ We don't know the exact dates of the next CSR...



Shape of the program after the PR



Science Results and community input needed to define fully the longer term program

Project Ranking

Ranking	Projects
Alpha-5	ATLAS, CMS, GridPP, nEDM
Alpha-4	LHCb, LHC Upgrades, SuperNEMO, T2K
Alpha-3	CDF, D0, eEDM, Future Collider R&D
Alpha-2	Minos
Alpha-1	BaBar

- ▶ The PR produces a ranking of projects
- ▶ All PP projects were alpha rated (fundable)
- ▶ The final ranking was produced last year after the consultation exercise with the community
- ▶ Published on the STFC web site
 - ▶ <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/resources/pdf/FinalProgRevOutcome.pdf>



Advisory Panels

- ▶ PPAN has set up a new advisory panel structure
- ▶ 5 panels reporting to PPAN
 - ▶ Particle Physics
 - ▶ Nuclear Physics
 - ▶ Near Universe
 - ▶ Far Universe
 - ▶ Particle Astrophysics
- ▶ The PP panel is chaired by Phil Burrows
 - ▶ Provide Horizon scanning input for long term strategy planning
 - ▶ Provide input on CSR/Programmatic review priorities
 - ▶ Contact point for communication with the community



Advisory Panels: Start of Business

- ▶ The advisory panel members have all been appointed
- ▶ The panel chairs met with PPAN in March and discussed their terms of reference, and what they might start working on
- ▶ This was a very constructive meeting, and it was good to finally get the Advisory structure launched
- ▶ The panels have now met, and are getting up to speed



Advisory Panels Terms of Reference

- ▶ Draft and maintain a roadmap describing current and future research opportunities in their areas, for presentation and approval by PPAN
- ▶ Consult and interact with the community to ensure its views are canvassed and there is an appropriate and effective route for communication with STFC on strategic programmatic issues
- ▶ Make an independent presentation to PPAN on the relevant panel area in years in which an STFC Programmatic Review takes place, thereby providing community input to the programmatic review process
- ▶ Respond to other specific requests from PPAN for advice as the need arises



Grants

- ▶ As a response to the last CSR, the STFC Council called for a cut of 25% on *uncommitted* grant funding across the programme
- ▶ 1/3rd of the Astronomy Grants are awarded each year and so 2 of the 3 grants rounds for Astronomy have now had this cut applied
 - ▶ The 3rd round is underway now, and will see this cut applied
- ▶ The Nuclear Physics Grants round had this cut applied
- ▶ The Particle Theory Grants round had this cut applied
- ▶ The Particle Physics Grants round is now underway, and is due to have a similar cut applied



PPAN's role in this process

- ▶ Each of the grants panels has reported to PPAN after its ranking of grants, and with an understanding of what its final budget was likely to be.
- ▶ PPAN has looked at the results, and given advice to the executive on whether the damage which might be inflicted by the necessary cuts would be disproportionate
 - ▶ In some cases we advocated trying to find additional funding
- ▶ There is no doubt that these cuts have been causing damage across the programme
 - ▶ There has been an attempt to try to make sure the damage is not falling harder on one segment of the programme



Particle Physics Grants Round

- ▶ The current PP grants round is the last grants round to be awarded
- ▶ It is however the largest grants round (around £22M p. a. is currently committed to universities)
- ▶ The way that projects and exploitation is funded is quite different in Astronomy and Particle Physics
 - ▶ PPAN wants to make sure that both are being treated similarly, and a group has been set up to carefully examine the proposed level of cuts for PP, and compare this to what has happened in A
- ▶ This will inform the “budget” for the grants
- ▶ We will also look at the outcome of the grants, and what the effect will be on the scientific programme



Grants Round

- ▶ This will however be a difficult grants round for Particle Physics at a time when we would like to be ramping up exploitation.
- ▶ The PPGP will have to try and recommend awarding the best mixture of
 - ▶ Requests for exploitation
 - ▶ Core staff at universities
 - ▶ Amount of academic time
 - ▶ RAL staff
- ▶ This will certainly not be an easy task given the reduction of budget
- ▶ We will lose scientific opportunities



The Project Approval process

Idea on Road Map

- New project or concept along with a rough timescale/cost
- Advisory Panels are a good place to feed these

Statement Of Interest (SOI)

- Short document submitted to PPAN
- Outlines the science, timescale, cost
- Approval usually invites a full proposal

Full project Proposal

- Submitted to PPRP
- Detailed Science Case
- Detailed Project Plan
- Full Peer Review by PPRP

PPRP Recommendation

- Presented to PPAN
- Detailed review of Project Plan
- Review of Science Case
- Recommendation on priorities for work packages

PPAN Recommendation

- To STFC Executive and Science Board
- Whether or not to approve
- Recommended budget

How to insert new ideas into the system

- ▶ The earlier we know about something the better
 - ▶ Clearly even more important for big projects
- ▶ Feed these into the Advisory Panel
 - ▶ Advisory panels should be soliciting new ideas as well as being ready to receive them
- ▶ An Early Statement of Interest to PPAN is also useful
 - ▶ Again especially for a very big project, just to give a feel for what may be coming down the pipeline
- ▶ In the current climate (very tight budgets) it is very hard to accommodate new (previously unknown) requests on a tight timescale
 - ▶ we certainly don't want to close ourselves off to new ideas – but applicants should have some realistic aspirations, and awareness of the current funding situation



The Statement of Interest

- ▶ **What it is:**
 - ▶ A two page document with the science case
 - ▶ A pro-forma roughly outlining the expected costs and timescales
- ▶ **What it is not:**
 - ▶ A full proposal
 - ▶ A heavyweight procedure
- ▶ **When PPAN looks at these it wants to assess if the proposal**
 - ▶ Is likely to deliver high quality science
 - ▶ How it fits in with the overall program
 - ▶ In terms of science as well as financially
 - ▶ If it looks like it is something which we think could potentially be recommended for approval, we will ask for a full proposal
 - ▶ If we think it is unlikely to be approved as a full proposal we reject
 - ▶ We can also give feedback asking for revised proposals
- ▶ **Statistics**
 - ▶ 2007 : 16 SOIs submitted – 10 were invited to submit full proposals
 - ▶ 2008 : 25 SOIs submitted – 18 invited to submit full proposals



The PPRP Proposal

- ▶ When asked to submit a full proposal, this is sent to the PPRP
- ▶ This is a *heavyweight* process
 - ▶ Full review of the science and technical cases
 - ▶ Visiting panels
 - ▶ Can be several rounds of discussion
 - ▶ This can take several PPRP meetings which means many months
- ▶ It is an important and high quality process
 - ▶ There is a thorough uniform peer review of each proposal that comes to PPAN
- ▶ PPRP and PPAN have been discussing ways to streamline some aspects of the process
 - ▶ Try to avoid going around loops between PPRP and PPAN as much as possible



PPAN recommendation

- ▶ When PPAN looks at the recommendation from PPRP it will decide whether or not to recommend the project for approval, and if so at what financial level
- ▶ PPAN looks at the
 - ▶ The scientific excellence
 - ▶ Is this world class science?
 - ▶ The strategic importance
 - ▶ Is this an area which we want/need to invest more in
 - ▶ The overall financial envelope in the PPAN Science Areas
 - ▶ Can we afford it, what opportunities might it displace
- ▶ PPAN advises the executive/Science Board
 - ▶ A yes/no and a funding level
 - ▶ Guidance from PPRP often informs the decision where there are options on how much involvement in a given programme



Tight budgets

- ▶ The funding available for new ideas is very thin right now and may even get tighter
- ▶ However, we can't completely choke off new ideas, and delay forever starting new projects
- ▶ At some point before the CSR, we may have to look carefully at how we can optimize delivering the current programme
 - ▶ We certainly don't want to have a snap PR
- ▶ We have to involve the community – and use the Advisory Panels – in any such discussions



Conclusions

- ▶ The STFC Peer-Review structure is now fully in place
- ▶ The day to day business of Project review and approval is well established
 - ▶ Still room for improvement
- ▶ This is going to be a tough round for PP Grants

