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The Run Control system of the NA62 experiment at CERN SPS

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The data acquisition control program (RunControl) of the NA62 experiment, which started physics data-taking this year, is the result of a collaboration between NA62 and the CERN EN-ICE group. The standard CERN control technologies used, WinCC Open Architecture with the addition of the UNICOS and JCOP common framework, allowed for a fast initial development with scarce manpower and will help the long term maintenance of the system. An increasingly large variety of equipment (acquisition boards, trigger processor, pc farm node, raspberry pi) are now connected, controlled and monitored by the RunControl through a single communication protocol (Distributed Information Management - DIM).

After the delivery of a first operational version for a dry run in July 2012, which confirmed the technical choices, the RunControl has been continuously evolving and integrating new detector subsystems as they were made available. With the experience of the technical run in 2014 and the first physics run in 2015, as well as the feedback from the shifters, the control software has now reached a good level of reliability and usability. A lot of expertise on the operation of the different components of the detector has been acquired during these runs. A new stage of development towards an automatized system integrating this knowledge can now be considered.

Author: LURKIN, Nicolas (University of Birmingham (GB))

Co-authors: VARELA RODRIGUEZ, Fernando (CERN); LAMANNA, Gianluca (Istituto Nazionale Fisica Nucleare Frascati (IT)); SOZZI, Marco (Universita di Pisa & INFN (IT)); FANTECHI, Riccardo (Universita di Pisa & INFN (IT))

Presenter: LAZZERONI, Cristina (University of Birmingham (GB))

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