



ALICE

3rd March 2009

Minutes of the 25th LHC Resource Review Board Meeting (CERN, Geneva, 12th November 2008)

Present:

J. Niederle (Institute of Physics, ASCR, Czech Republic)
 P. Závada (Institute of Physics, Czech Republic)
 J. D. Hansen (Niels Bohr Institute, Denmark)
 D-O. Riska (Helsinki Institute of Physics, Finland)
 P. Chomaz (CEA Saclay, IRFU, France)
 B. Erazmus (CNRS/IN2P3, France)
 P. Braun-Munzinger (GSI, Germany)
 R. Santo (Institut für Kernphysik, University Münster, Germany)
 E. Gazis (NTU-Athens, Greece)
 G. Vesztegombi (KFKI-RMKI, Hungary)
 T. Csörgő (MTA KFKI-RMKI, Hungary)
 P. Mukherjee (Department of Atomic Energy, India)
 E. Nappi (INFN, Italy)
 F. Ferroni (INFN, Italy)
 A. Van Rijn (Nikhef, Netherlands)
 B. Jacobsen (The Research Council of Norway, Norway)
 D. Roehrich (University of Bergen, Norway)
 J. Krolkowski (University of Warsaw, Poland)
 M. Kowalski (Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)
 J.E. Ha (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Korea)
 Y-W. Baek (Kangnung University, Republic of Korea)
 D. Lee (KICOS, Republic of Korea)
 F. Buzatu (Institute of Atomic Physics, Romania)
 R. Lednicky (JINR, Russia)
 V. Savrin (SINP MSU, Russia)
 A. Vodopyanov (JINR, Russia)
 A. Petrov (Russian Permanent Mission, Switzerland)
 Z. Hlavacikova (Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, Slovakia)
 L. Sandor (Slovak Academy of Science, Institute of Experimental Physics, Slovakia)
 J. Seed (STFC, United Kingdom)
 D. Evans (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom)
 T. Symons (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA)
 G. Lafferty (University of Manchester, Scrutiny Group Chair)

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J-J. Blaising (Chair), E. Tsesmelis, T. Lagrange, R. McLaren (Secretary), J. Salicio-Diez, S. Schmelling,
 E. Van Hove, S. Bertolucci (Research Director Designate)

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J. Schukraft, F. Carminati, J. de Groot, C. Decosse, L. Leistam, F. Antinori, Y. Schutz

Apologies

C. Cavata (CEA Saclay, IRFU, France)
 P. Schroth (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany)
 U. Dosselli (INFN, Italy)
 N.V. Zamfir (National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Romania)
 Y. Kozlov (Russian Federal Agency of Science and Innovation, Russia)
 J. Engelen (Chief Scientific Officer, RRB Chair)

Documents can be found in the RRB indico pages; accessible via the LHC-RRB home page <http://committees.web.cern.ch/Committees/WelcomeLHCRRB.html>

1. Introduction. J-J. Blaising, Head, PH Department

J-J. Blaising passed on the apologies of J. Engelen who was unable to attend the meeting. He introduced T. Lagrange who replaced P. Geeraert as head of CERN's Finance department.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting. J-J. Blaising, Head, PH Department CERN-RRB-2008-058 (report)

The minutes of the last ALICE RRB were approved without comment. However J. Seed wished to update the delegates on the situation of funding from the U.K. The review, referred to in the previous minutes, was now complete and the funding of the U.K. ALICE group was in place for the next three or four years.

3. Status of the experiment. J. Schukraft, Spokesperson CERN-RRB-2008- 114 (report) CERN-RRB-2008-115 (presentation)

J. Schukraft started with news from the collaboration; he welcomed the new institute from Houston, there were ongoing associate membership discussions with Comsats, Pinstec (Pakistan) and one associate institute, BARC Mumbai (India) left the collaboration after completing its technical contribution.

He continued on management issues, and reported on Elections and Nominations:

Spokesperson: J. Schukraft re-elected 1.3.2009 until end 2010

Deputy Spokesperson: P. Kuijter (NIKHEF/Utrecht), (2009-2010)

Resource Coordinator: C. Decosse (CERN) (2009-)

Special thanks to J. de Groot, first (and only) Resource Coordinator since 1996

Run Coordinator: J. Rak (Jyvaskyula) 1 year (2009)

Turning to funding, J. Schukraft welcomed the continued support from STFC for ALICE, and the 'White paper money' from CERN. He then listed the additional contributions received (or requested) from other Funding Agencies.

J. Schukraft gave a detailed status report of the ALICE detector installation in mid 2008; Completed detectors were: ITS, TPC, TOF, HMPID, FMD, T0, V0, ZDC. Partially installed detectors were: 1/5 PHOS, 4/18 TRD, 9/48 PMD, 0/6 EMCAL and around 40% of DAQ/HLT

He continued with reports of the commissioning runs and results of the injection tests.

J. Schukraft recalled the excitement of the first beam on the 10th September and the first interactions on the 12th of September and then spoke of progress on the TPC commissioning, calibration and performance results, the status of the Silicon: ITS/FMD and alignment of the Inner Tracking System. Looking at other detectors, he reported on the status of the TOF, TRD, HMPID, PHOS and the Muons.

Moving from hardware to software, J. Schukraft showed graphs of the operation of the online system and the DAQ Global partitions. He also presented results of offline and

commissioning before illustrating the computing resources, which showed a deficit in 2009, and a plan to deal with the shortfall .

J. Schukraft then outlined the planning in the short, medium and long term followed by a summary:

Installation: met all installation goals by mid 2008

Commissioning and initial calibration/alignment went well, sometimes even better than expected (e.g. TPC, SPD alignment + trigger)

Some (mostly minor) hiccups / problems (noise, lost channels) / bug fixing

To be improved:

Access to TPC for repairs/FEE exchanges

Cooling flow of SPD

Detector performance was better - within - very close to specs(at least as far as could be verified with cosmics)

He concluded by stating that after over 15 years of designing and construction, ALICE is a working experiment eager for physics. J. Schukraft extended his thanks to all the Funding Agencies who have made this possible with their strong support over 1½ decades !

D-O. Riska asked when J. Rak would start as Run Coordinator, J. Schukraft replied that he would start on the 1st of January 2009.

J. Seed enquired as to when the heavy ion run would take place, J. Schukraft thought that there could be window of opportunity to run for a few days run at the end of 2009 which could result in very interesting physics.

4. LHCC deliberations (paper only). E. Tsesmelis, LHCC Scientific Secretary.
CERN-RRB-2008-116 (report)

Referring to the report, A. Petrov stated that modules 2 and 3 would be installed in May 2009; the 4th and 5th module will be installed in 2010 and 2011. J. Schukraft agreed with this assessment and J-J. Blaising thanked A. Petrov for this clarification. Delegates had no further comment and the RRB took note of the report of E. Tsesmelis.

5. Financial matters. T. Lagrange, Head, CERN Finance Dept.
CERN-RRB-2008-071 (paper)

T. Lagrange reported on changes since the Financial Report on the 31st August 2008.

Looking at the Construction CORE Common Fund, Commissioning and Integration, there was an in-kind contribution of over 186 kCHF from Russia. There was an increase in commitments from Brazil, who recently joined the collaboration, of 45 kCHF. There is now 565 kCHF outstanding.

For the Maintenance and Operations A, 795 kCHF had been received as from 1st September 2008. The total amount outstanding 2002- 2008 is around 1.2 MCHF.

No questions or discussions arose from this presentation

6. Budgets J. de Groot, Resource Coordinator.

CERN-RRB-2008-118 (report), CERN-RRB-2008- 117(report), CERN-RRB-2008-119 (presentation)

a. 2009 CORE construction budget

J. de Groot recalled the preliminary estimate presented at the April 2008 RRB and presented the updated budget for 2009; a total of 11 MCHF. He also showed a graph of the evolution of CORE expenditure from 1997 until 2009.

MoU Addenda

Moving onto MoU Addenda, J. de Groot reported that that two Brazilian institutes from Sao Paulo: Campinas, Universidade Estadual de Campinas and Universidade de Sao Paulo had joined the collaboration. Another addition to the MoU will cover the Electromagnetic Calorimeter (EMCal) where participation is expected from institutes in Brazil, Finland, France, Italy and US-DOE.

Common Fund

J. de Groot presented the details of the Common Fund from 1998 until 2008. He noted that China had outstanding commitments of 112 kCHF, Dubna is essentially a rounding question, Brazil, Korea and some US institutes had joined recently, Mexico and Ukraine still have a debt. The outstanding amount for Russia has been reduced by a factor of two due to the in-kind contribution of manpower. The remaining 100 kCHF should also be compensated by in-kind effort during 2008. He also showed a graph of the Common Fund, summary income/expenditure from 1998 – 2009.

b. Maintenance & Operations Budgets

Looking at the Maintenance & Operations budget, J. de Groot showed details of the M&O A income from 2002 until 2008 and commented on outstanding M&O A contributions. He reminded delegates of the procedure in case of non-payment of contributions and expressed his hopes that China would pay part of their debt before the end of 2008.

He reported on the situation of the M&O A accounts, explained the cost of unforeseen activities during shutdown and continued with a graph of the evolution of the M&O A budget between 2008 and 2012.

J. de Groot recalled the procedure for the sharing of the M&O A budget and showed, for each of the institutes, a breakdown of the different categories of manpower for 2007 and 2008. He then showed how these figures translated into the sharing of the 2009 M&O A budget.

Concerning M&O B, J. de Groot presented the estimates from 2009 until 2012 for the different detectors systems and showed the sharing between the funding agencies.

c. M&O Scrutiny Group report. G. Lafferty, SG Chairperson.
CERN-RRB-2008-087 (report)

G. Lafferty reported that the SG had checked that the amounts in each of the categories matched the sum requested and was in line with previous experience.

Last year a sum was mandated for costs of manpower for magnet control; as requested, this has now been removed from the M&O budget. Cooling and gas costs are rising and must be monitored. There was a request, which affected all experiments, for increase of ½ FTE for database management; this was thought to be undesirable but necessary. There was also a relatively late request to increase the Core computing manpower from 4 FTE to 5 FTE; a ½ FTE increase was agreed for this year, with a possible increase next year.

To conclude G. Lafferty reported that M&O had been scrutinized and recommended the figures for approval by the RRB. He also thanked J. de Groot who was stepping down as Resource Coordinator and wished C. Decosse success in her new job.

D. Lee stated that the list of authors was still under consideration; a decision would be taken before the end of the 2008.

D-O. Riska commented that, because of commitments to CMS, Finland could not contribute to the funding of Electromagnetic Calorimeter. Finland is currently listed as contributing to M&O B for the Strip, however, since their work on this detector has finished; they would prefer to be linked to another project.

B. Jacobsen confirmed that Norway's contribution to M&O A will be paid well before the end of the year.

J. D. Hansen similarly reported that Denmark's contribution will be paid before the end of the year.

There were no further questions or discussion and the RRB approved the 2009 budget.

7. M&O Scrutiny Group in 2009. J-J. Blaising , Head PH Department.

As announced in the plenary session, several members of the Scrutiny Group, including the chairman, have to be replaced. The CSO would contact the delegates on this topic.

8. Summary. J-J. Blaising, Head, PH Department (CERN)

J-J. Blaising stated that progress in completion was impressive; ALICE was ready for the first beam in September. There was a clear plan for the shutdown period and there were no major technical issues. The EMCAL is being approved by the LHCC and adequate resources appear to be available. The U.K. funding has been secured. The computing shortfall is still under discussion and remains a concern. There are recurrent debts from non-member states and the collaboration was encouraged to continue efforts to decrease these outstanding contributions.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting.