

Dear Chairman and Dear Colleagues,

For my last meeting in the position of n_TOF Collaboration Spokesperson, I asked the INTC committee to allocate me a moment to resume these 10 years during which I have had the privilege of representing the n_TOF Collaboration.

It all began in 2009 when n_TOF was emerging from a very difficult period, as no research had been done for 3 years. The new spallation target was operational in early 2009, allowing to resume operation. From the beginning, I was confronted with the request to transform EAR1 into a "work sector typeA" in order to comply with the conditions required by the Health and Safety Unit to carry out measurements with highly radioactive unsealed samples. The collaboration made great economical efforts to enable the transformation of the experimental area and this was, I believe, one important achievement.

In December 2011 the collaboration decided to propose the construction of a new experimental area (EAR2) 20 meters above the spallation target, which thanks to the instantaneous neutron fluence is a unique facility worldwide.

On the personal side, I had to convince the top management that our proposal was of a great scientific value, opening the possibility to make high impact measurements for nuclear astrophysics and nuclear technology, as demonstrated by the neutron capture measurement on Be7.

In February 2012 I had the privilege of presenting the entire project to the INTC committee, and obtained its agreement.

Once again the collaboration has made a very important contribution from an economic point of view and in June 2013, the construction began in the presence of Director General Rolf Heuer and the Director of Accelerators Frederic Bordry. In June 2014 the construction project was completed, with both the planning and the budget being respected. On July 25th the first neutron beam was received in the newly built EAR2, allowing to start the commissioning of the new infrastructure. I consider this as a second important achievement of n_TOF to which I contributed.

Since 2010, 15 new institutes have joined the collaboration, bringing it to a total of 42 institutes and 130 scientists. A growing Collaboration means that the physics done at n_TOF is both interesting and relevant for the scientific community, with new avenues of research and technological development already paved for the near/medium term.

I had the enormous privilege of having worked with three INTC Committee Chairmen:

Peter Butler until 2012, Klaus Blaum until 2016 and Karsten Risager until 1st April 2020.

Three personalities of the highest scientific profile who, thanks to their cooperation, have helped me increase my knowledge and skills.

For the next three years, Alberto Mengoni will replace me. He is world-class astrophysicist who knows n_TOF very well, having been one of the protagonists of the creation of the facility and of the Collaboration in the year 2000, under the guidance of the Nobel Prize winner Carlo Rubbia.

To conclude, I would like to thank all the members of the INTC with whom I have had the fortune of being able to work.

I wish you and especially Marek great success for the years to come.

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