

Management Board, Thursday 27th July 2017

Minutes

(<https://indico.cern.ch/event/654892/>)

Participants:

Federico Antinori, Pietro Antonioli, Alberto Baldisseri, Anju Bhasin (vidyo), Peter Braun-Munzinger, Predrag Buncic, David Evans, Jens-Jorgen Gaarhoeje (Vidyo), John Harris, Boris Hippolyte, Marco van Leeuwen, Volker Lindenstruth, Grazia Luparello (vidyo), Gines Martinez-Garcia, Massimo Masera, Silvia Masciocchi, Luciano Musa, Rosario Nania, Tapan Nayak, Werner Riegler, Enrico Scomparin, Johanna Stachel, Adriana Telesca, Erin Gauger, Pierre Vande Vyvre, Daicui Zhou

Excused: Harald Appelshaeuser, Ralf Averbeck, Thomas Cormier, Martino Gagliardi, Constantinos Loizides, Alex Kluge

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes from the last (29th June 2017) ALICE-MB meeting have been approved.

Introduction: Federico Antinori

- Completion of term: MB thanks Gines Martinez-Garcia and Rosario Nania for their substantial contributions during their mandate as Management Board members.
- New MB Members: MB welcomes Massimo Masera and Dacui Zhou as new members.
- US Budget: An update of the US budget was given. The U.S. Senate agreed on a 2018 spending bill similar to that released previously by the U.S. House of Representatives for the Office of Science (and to that of 2017) with a possible increase of a few percent. The final appropriation must still be agreed upon in a joint Conference Committee of the House and Senate. It is to be noted that during this budget crisis period, CERN and the LHC experiments were in close contact with DOE.
- Spain and ALICE: University of Santiago de Compostela is an ALICE member with one M&O member. There has been discussion for closing the Spanish participation in ALICE. HI colleagues in Santiago got a substantial grant recently which can be used to boost ALICE participation. In this respect, the Spanish RRB representative has been requested to give us one more year before shutting down the participation. Discussions ongoing with the involvement of CERN Management.
- NA61 request for TPC electronics: An amended agreement on the transfer of TPC electronics had been sent to NA61. NA61 has also shown interest with the gate pulser system.

- HL-LHC: It is time to start to make dedicated plans on the ALICE program in the HL-LHC. Dedicated sessions will be organized for this during the next two ALICE Physics Weeks.
- ALICE Calendar 2018: (a) the possibility of organising the ALICE Physics Week outside CERN would solve the problem of having simultaneously an ALICE and a CMS week starting on February the 5th (locations corresponding to labs close to CERN would be preferred instead of Universities which are busy at that period of time); (b) the ALICE week of March (and the 25 years celebration) will stay on the scheduled March the 19th although it was initially scheduled to coincide with the Council week but the later was moved one week earlier. The calendar will be circulated soon.

Report from the ALICE Constitution Task Force: John Harris and Peter Braun-Munzinger

The outcome of the discussion related to the ALICE Collaboration Constitution during this morning's special CB was summarized. No major issue was raised for the latest version proposed to the CB vote on the next day. The MB acknowledged the diligent work of the Constitution Task Force during the whole process and fully supports the provided document. The MB endorse the latest version of the Collaboration Constitution and proposes to the CB to approve and adopt it. The need for a clear schedule in order to update the content of annexes associated to the publication policy and the organisation of service work was raised. A task force is being formed to work out the service task required for new collaborators.

News from the Run Coordination: Grazia Luparello:

The report from the RC was given while van der Meer (Vdm) scan was ongoing at the same time. Latest news on the LHC running and ALICE activities that happened since the last MB were presented: (i) regular maintenance and minor interventions on several detectors were performed during the Technical Stop in week 27; ii) mini intensity ramp-up occurred during week 28 together with several issues from the LHC (also related to the injector chain) lead to drops in the availability (Machine availability~50%) and stable beam times (~20%); iii) the consecutive MD2 was successful (Machine availability~90%) but the planned Vdm scan is delayed by 24h because of a LINAC problem. The recent ALICE performance was reported during Run and Trigger Coordination reports earlier in the week.

The name of the Deputy RC for 2018 is to be decided soon. This will ensure the presence of a second person from the beginning of the year and also some overlap at the end of the year would be optimal.

The shift booking situation is progressing and improving due to on-call shifts being booked. It was recommended that the list of 40 institutes that are under the threshold

(same as during the last MB) is made available so specific persons from these institutes can be recruited for on-call shifts.

It was recommended that shift booking for 2018 should be anticipated and discussed already during the next MB in August.

Items from the Technical Board: Werner Riegler

The TPC production is progressing well with detailed QA and tests of chambers in the cavern.

The CR0 preparation is also being followed for checking that all the specifications, including the cost, are respected. Concerns are raised about significant increase in cost because of additional services. The full picture including specifications and price will be discussed and assessed so a decision can be made during the next TB (August) before submitting the documents to the Finance Board (September).

News from the Offline Board: Predrag Buncic

The situation related to computing resources was summarized. It is realized that we may be heading to a situation where we don't have all the resources we require for our program. Our request for 20% growth every year may not be feasible anymore. Although the funding agencies are trying hard to provide the needed resources, there have been quite a few exceptions. It is recommended to enforce the rules (specified in the annex of the Constitution) which define how the Collaboration shares the load between funding agencies, institutes and countries.

The question on how other experiments are dealing with computing resources was raised. It was pointed out that ATLAS and CMS are working together in order to obtain the pledged resources. They also obtain additional computing resources provided by Tier 2 and Tier 3 at Universities.

Negotiations ongoing with funding agencies to improve the ALICE computing resources. The situation will be reviewed before the next RRB.

News from the Physics Coordination: Marco Van Leeuwen

The PWG Convener and PAG Coordinator rotations were discussed after the presentation of the background and domains of expertise of the proposed persons:

- PWG Convener rotations:
 - PWG-JE: Joern Putschke → Tatsuya Chujo
 - PWG-MM: Eugenio Scapparone → Paolo Bartalini

- PAG Coordinator rotations:
 Flow (PWG-CF): Ilya Selyuzhenkov → Claude Pruneau
 Di-electrons (PWG-DQ): Torsten Dahms → Raphaelle Bailhache
 HF electrons (PWH-HF): Shingo Sakai → Deepa Thomas

MB thanks the out-going PWG conveners and PWG coordinators for their valuable contributions.

The MB supports these proposals which will be presented to the CB for endorsement.

ALICE Physics Week in Amsterdam (4-8 December): Details related to the organization of the ALICE Physics Week in Amsterdam were given (venue, program and necessary registration fees):

- The physics program will mainly cover ongoing analysis but some time will be dedicated to the plans related to Run 3 and Run 4
- The Management Board during that week will probably be scheduled on the Thursday late afternoon (around 17:00 hrs).
- The possibility of supporting students was raised: local support is still to be investigated but no support is anticipated at the time being.

Good feedback was received about the format on the physics program of the ongoing ALICE Week with respect to what was done in the past.

Discussion about availability of analysis code is still ongoing. It was felt that all the codes should be in the repository. It was agreed that a reminder on the basic collaborative concepts, the existing tools (e.g. associated to figure repository) and the current policy would be useful during the next Physics Week.

Report from the Conference Committee

- Team Leader approval: Automatic email with a reminder of the Team Leader's role sent two weeks before the presenter's posting of the document has helped during EPS/SQM approvals rush.
- Heavy workloads close to big Conferences (Initial Stages, Quark Matter). Having an additional week for rehearsals would be useful before big Conferences.
- For small conferences: there are still difficulties for advertising and finding speakers even for plenary presentations.
- A replacement for D. Chinellato (moving as EB Chair) should be found soon that the name to be endorsed in Nov CB.
- CC will work jointly with EB on the related annexes of the Publication Policy so the content better reflects practical procedures.

Report from the Editorial Board

The EB report started with the status of the publication statistics (including preliminary results, current publication number compared to former years as well as the sharing between PWGs).

Preliminary Physics Summaries (PPS). Positive feedback received. The next full-scale test will probably be Quark Matter 2018.

Concerning the annexes to the constitution, a review of the current documents should be made. The current proposal is to carry out a review of the documents in the different boards then circulate an updated version to the Collaboration in September. This would ensure enough time for discussion with the aim of adopting the updated documents during the November CB.

AOB

Next MB: 31st August 2017 at 14:30

Link: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/661566/>
