

ALICE Management Board, Thursday 23rd of January 2020

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/849380/>

Participants: Federico Antinori (VIDYO), Pietro Antonioli (VIDYO), Roberta Arnaldi, Alberto Baldisseri, Marielle Chartrier, David Chinellato, Andrea Dainese, Barbara Erazmus, David Evans, Alessandra Fantoni, Martino Gagliardi (VIDYO), Jan Fiete Grosse-Oetringhaus, Taku Gunji, Tomas Herman, Jochen Klein, Alex Kluge, Volker Lindenstruth, Constantin Loizides, Vito Manzari, Silvia Masciocchi (VIDYO), Massimo Masera, Dariusz Miskowiec, Andreas Morsch, Luciano Musa, Yvonne Pachmayer, Stefano Piano, Mateusz Ploskon, Werner Riegler, Kai Schweda, David Silvermyr (VIDYO), Johanna Stachel, Adriana Telesca, Raphael Tieulent, Wladyslaw Trzaska, Marco Van Leeuwen, Pierre Vande Vyvre, Daicui Zhou (VIDYO)

Absent: Harald Appelshaeuser, Vladislav Manko (excused), Ken Oyama, Antonino Zichichi (excused)

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the Management Board (MB) meeting held on 19th of December, 2019 are approved.

Introduction by Luciano Musa

Information on the members of the MB was acknowledged – in particular new ex-officio members are B. Erazmus, M. Ploskon (Deputy Spokespersons), M. Chartier, Ken Oyama (Deputy Collaboration Board Chairs), T. Herman (Juniors Representative) and new invited members are J. Klein and M. Van Leeuwen (Upgrade Coordinators), P. Antonioli (new deputy TOF PL will represent TOF at the MB until further notice); F. Antinori invited until June 2020.

Nomination of two Deputy Trigger Coordinators – Roman Lietava and Maximiliano Puccio – was endorsed. M. Gagliardi remains Trigger Coordinator until summer of 2021 (corresponding to a projected about 1 month of stable beams of the LHC Run 3)-

Update on India contribution to TPC CRU was presented and acknowledged by the MB. On request of the Indian Funding Agencies, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science and Technology (DST), an amended version of the MoU on the TPC Upgrade was prepared by CERN and sent to the Secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission early December. The amendment further details the scope of the Indian contribution and clarifies that this contribution can be done *“by way of an in-kind contribution to the ALICE upgrade or by way of a financial contribution to the procurement of the CRU from a standard ALICE supplier, wherever located.”* The Secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission acknowledged reception of the amended document with the promise of “early clearance”.

A timeline for the proposal on high-energy pp running was presented and acknowledged by the MB. More precisely, an internal note dealing with the Physics Motivations will be released to the ALICE collaboration the first week of February. In parallel, a Letter of Intent describing the physics scope, the event selection strategy and the additional resources (financial, computing, personnel) needed to operate the experiment for a longer period of

time, is currently being prepared. A draft Lol will be presented to the MB at the ALICE Mini-Week of February, and is expected to be presented to the Collaboration Board at the next ALICE Week, in March 2020, and to the LHCC, in June 2020. Following the discussions within the Collaboration and with the LHCC, a final version of the Lol will be presented for approval by the CB at the ALICE Week of July 2020. The endorsement/recommendation of the programme by the LHCC is expected in September 2020. The agreed pp programme will be included in the M&O projections that will be presented to the RRB in October 2020.

A change in PHOS management has been endorsed by the MB – V. Manko (PHOS PL) nominated Y. Kharlov to replace T. Sugitate as Deputy PL. V. Manko requested to delegate Y. Kharlov to represent PHOS in the MB – the request was granted.

Endorsement of FoCal

Presentations by: Jochen Klein and Marco Van Leeuwen – Upgrades Coordination, Andrea Dainese – Physics Coordination, Werner Riegler – Technical Coordination, Constantinos Loizides – representing the FoCal group.

Executive summary – an endorsed MB position: MB decided to postpone the decision of the endorsement of Lol (the request of endorsement to CB) and therefore the formal presentation of the Lol to the LHCC. However, MB agreed to present an update to the LHCC on the resources needed for the upgrade together with the latest developments in comparison of the physics case with respect to LHCb. Moreover, it was agreed to inform the LHCC about a possible submission of the proposal in May 2020, pending the endorsement by the MB and the CB, and to request that the LHCC converge on a recommendation at the session of June 2020. Such a course of action may enable a timely approval of Lol while allowing for more time to work out the identified issues. The Spokesperson will inform the CB on the outcome of the MB discussion outlining the only pending issues are the comparison with LHCb and the question of service work accounting. Moreover, ALICE Spokesperson will engage with LHCb Spokesperson and F. Simon (LHCC Chair) to facilitate a collaboration between LHCb and ALICE on the remaining points of the physics case comparison.

Main points raised during the discussion:

- **Upgrades Coordination:** FoCal internal review that took place on 14th of January and included both internal and external reviewers. The panel concluded with a positive evaluation (document attached to the agenda) and “acknowledges the unique capabilities of the proposed detector for two-photon shower separation and direct photon identification”, pointing out that the project is technically feasible, cost estimate is realistic, the schedule is plausible requiring additional validation after a TDR.
- **Report from Physics Board:** PB found the physics case of FoCal compelling (see details within the slides attached to the agenda); however, recommends further developments in the presentation of the unique physics case of azimuthal correlations in p-Pb, long-range correlations in p-Pb and Pb-Pb, jets and UPCs in Pb-Pb. Within the MB discussion a need for more quantitative comparison of the physics goals with LHCb has been stressed – in particular the potential precision of LHCb in measuring isolated photons at small-x already in the LHC Run 3 should be better understood.

- **Technical Coordination:** no additional issues have been raised as compared to the statements identifying practical implications of FoCal installation presented at the Technical Board of September 2019 – mainly pertaining to the beam pipe, removal of the TPC (and ITS), and safety concerns due to limited operational space for the installation crew and hardware
(https://indico.cern.ch/event/751220/contributions/3574149/attachments/1915642/3167076/20190926_FoCal_Integration_study.pdf)
- **Presentation of FoCal project planning:** the organizational chart of the project and discussion of the work force needed to construct FoCal vis-à-vis the obligations of the participating institutes to operations in the LHC Run 3 and Run 4 have been presented. MB acknowledged the statements from the project claiming that large portions of the construction workforce will not significantly draw from the operations workforce. The project will rely on new available funding and other contributed resources that do not impact ALICE operations.
- **Discussion on impact of FoCal construction and ALICE workforce:** MB recognized ALICE operations and FoCal construction as potentially competing for the same resources and concerns were raised that a new construction project may put significant strain on ALICE's ability to operate at the optimal level. MB called for more detailed analysis related to the Service Work in concert with the new service work allocation scheme being developed. MB recognizes that the work on an upgrade project must not be counted as service work.
- **Discussion on FoCal's impact on ALICE future:** MB recognized that the new project will significantly enlarge the ALICE physics programme and, therefore, may attract new resources.

Restructuring of Physics Data Processing – L. Musa

Presentation describing the current status of O2 PDP project, Analysis Coordination, DPG, GRID Operation has been received. The spokesperson proposes to keep the current structure but to introduce a new role – SPC Coordinator.

The functions of the SPC coordinator were summarized: 1) The SPC Coordinator is responsible for the overall management of the activities related to the software development, the computing and the processing of physics data; 2) The development of the software for the detector calibration, and for the simulation and reconstruction of physics events and for the analysis framework, is carried out within well-defined projects and working groups, which have their own internal coordination structure; 3) The SPC Coordinator is fully informed of all activities and continuously interacts with the projects and WG coordinators to avoid the build-up of technical, schedule, resource or other problems; 4) The SPC Coordinator shall operate through its interactions with the O2/PDP Project Leader, the DPG Coordinator, the Analysis Coordinator, the Computing Resource Coordinator, the Grid Coordinator and the Physics Board.

In line with the decision taken by the MB in 2019, the SP office proposes to introduce the function of **Software, Physics Data Processing and Computing Coordinator (SPC)**, as described above, and to nominate A. Morsch to take on the function of the SPC Coordinator with a mandate of three years (Jan 2020 – Dec 2022).

This proposal has been approved by the MB and will be presented to the CB for endorsement at the next CB meeting in March. Moreover, MB proposes that the proposal be transposed in the Constitution making clear that any of the SPC sub-coordinators (PDP O2 Project Leader, DPG coordinator, Analysis Coordinator and Grid Coordinator) can take at the same time also the office of SPC coordinator.

The acronym SPC will be changed to be more characteristic of the ALICE management function.

Report from Computing Resource Coordinator – S. Piano

The computing coordinator presents the timeline for the submission of the report on the ALICE computing resources to the RRB. The report is to be submitted to the C-RSG by February 20. A draft will be distributed to the MB by Friday 14.

An MoU between CERN and Wigner RCP is appended to the agenda. In 2011, CERN awarded Wigner RCP a procurement contract for the provision of a facility for the hosting of computing equipment for CERN, which was concluded on 8 May 2012 and which came to an end on 31 Dec 2019. Under the terms of this MoU, part of the CERN computing equipment will remain at the Wigner RCP premises and it will be reorganized to create a dedicated ALICE analysis facility. This facility will be operated by WIGNER RCP as in-kind contribution to the ALICE collaboration. The MoU was approved by the CERN IT department, the CERN legal service and endorsed by the CERN Director of Research and it is now being reviewed by the Hungarian NRDI (National Research, Development and Innovation) Office. The MB is asked to inspect the MoU offline and provide feedback at the next meeting.

Report from Technical Coordinator – W. Riegler

Agenda item not discussed because of time constraints.

Report from PDP PL: status of reconstruction software and production readiness – A. Morsch

Agenda item not discussed in full but a short update on EPN hardware procurement was given. The procurement is delayed. A cost estimate for hardware based on NVIDIA GPUs is being prepared. A release of ALICE patched software enabling benchmarking of AMD-based hardware is expected by 7th of February. This could be in time to attach ALICE procurement to the CERN-IT contract order planned for end of March 2020. Item to be re-discussed at the MB in February.

Report from Physics Coordination – A. Dainese

The report from the PC has been received.

All changes to the PAG coordination have been endorsed: new HF-HFE Coordinator M. Volkl, new HF-HFCJ Coordinator R. Vertesi, new CF-Corr. Coordinator H. Pei, new CF-Flow Coordinator K. Gajdosova.

Physics Coordination presents the candidates for hosting the APW of 2020. One of the candidates proposes to bring the APW forward by one week. The MB expressed the opinion that the timing of the APW 2020 is not to change. PC will reiterate with the proponents.

Report from Service Work Board – K. Schweda

Report from Service Work Board has been received. The board makes steady progress towards presenting the overall strategy to the Collaboration Board in March 2020 with the anticipated start of new accounting in November 2020 (project accounting would then begin in fourth quarter of 2020).