

ALICE Management Board, Thursday 14th of May 2020

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/849384/>

ZOOM only meeting

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

Absent: Vladislav Manko (excused), Antonino Zichichi (excused)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Management Board of 16th of April 2020 are approved.

News from the Spokesperson – Luciano Musa

Spokesperson shared general impression from the most recent RRB meeting. It was a well-attended and smoothly running meeting. No clear indications that the Funding Agencies may be planning for reduction of budgets for 2021; however, the approval of the budgets will take place at the fall RRB meeting (planned for October 2020). The impact of COVID-19 pandemic is expected to be marginal. A brief discussion on the CRU funding situation has taken place reiterating that an agreement for the transfer of 2 MCHF from the Indian authorities has been reached (outlined in an ALICE MoU, CERN-RRB-2016-002) and an invoice was issued on April 8th to enable the transfer of funds. Pending the actual payment, a proposal on how to accommodate the gap between the Indian contribution (2000 kCHF) and the actual cost (2280 kCHF) will be presented at the next RRB meeting. A positive message from Arun Srivastava (Secretary, AEC, Head, Institutional Collaborations and Programs Division, Department of Atomic Energy) to Eckhard Elsen and Luciano Musa has been received on the 9th of May 2020. Mr. Srivastava informed that the funds should be transferred to CERN from different institutes involved in CRU manufacturing (more detailed message present in the slides).

An information on the outstanding balance in funding from several national agencies has been presented. This information has been also presented at the RRBs. It was noted that the RRB recommendation to withdraw rights for institutes for which the current outstanding payment is larger than current obligation has not been strictly followed; however, the spokesperson's office with coordination with the CERN directorate (appropriate in a number of cases) will work towards prompt resolution of the issues present in ALICE budget sheet.

Two draft versions of ALICE Calendar have been presented. With a number of noted remarks concerning the difficulty of organizing an effective ALICE and Physics Week in June 2021 the Version #1 has been favored by the MB. A suggestion to relax the schedule in the fall of 2021 by reducing the number of ALICE Mini-Weeks has been also proposed. The work on the calendar will continue and a proposal will emerge in the upcoming weeks.

An information on the resolution of the subsistence payments from CERN has been presented. Current status on the certificates of internal taxation for the subsistence payments has been presented. Following a large number of complains filled CERN will roll back changes to the state of 2019 (certificates will be

issued); however, this has been considered as an exceptional measure and contained to 2019 only. No internal taxation certificate will be released for subsistence payments starting from 2020. The reasoning for this approach is based on considerations related to legal matters revealed as a result of an audit. Two points of importance have been mentioned: 1) funds transferred to CERN for operations should not be taxed by the host states; 2) it is difficult to avoid taxation of funds that are distributed through third party accounts – a clear path to a mechanism where such practices may lead to a fraudulent avoidance of taxation. The management of the LHC experiments is engaged in discussions with CERN management to find a long-term viable model for a continued successful operation of our experiments. Please find detailed requests from the experiments to CERN within the slides. A more detailed discussion will take place at the next MB. Spokesperson requests that the MB members communicate their comments and remarks outside of this meeting.

MB agreed with the suggestion brought up by Dariusz Miskowiec (CC co-chair) and supported by the Spokesperson's office to bring all the e-groups all boards, committees, projects, working groups that are part of the official ALICE organization to the state where the membership is visible for all ALICE members.

Report from Technical Coordination – Werner Riegler

The TC has summarized the main outcomes of Technical Board.

TC has presented updates on the schedule and plans for commissioning restart. In particular, the TPC cleanroom is planned to be opened on 1st of July that is 3.5 months later than pre-COVID-19 plans stated. The TPC-beampipe-miniframe installation sequence will be stretched in time by 30% to accommodate for a likely slower-than-natural execution due to the necessary protective measures. This plan extends the procedure by 1 month. Assuming that from November the nominal operations will be in effect the overall delay with respect to the original plan will be 4.5 months. TC remarks that for the overall LHC and the experiment schedule discussions and schedule of the PbPb run it will be good to assume that the 2021/2022 YETS is only a two-week standby period. This would likely remove the 'end of the year barrier' for all the schedule discussions.

TC is well aware of travel restrictions for a number of outside of CERN technical staff currently not present in the area (in particular but not only for the MFT) and the planning accommodates for that. Further communications and news are awaited.

A resolution for DCS/FLP/CRU/Detector Tools Interface – also known as 'low-level interface' - has been reached. Consult the slides (<https://indi.to/CNqK7>) for technical details of the proposal. The agreed upon minutes have been added to TB meeting (see <https://indi.to/LZ5tk>). Technical Coordinator thanks all the involved parties for good discussions and reaching the solution.

An information on the radiation load and the impact of the extended (high-energy) pp program has been presented. For details please see the presented slides and/or the presentation at the Technical Board (<https://indi.to/Z39ht>). The considerations resulted in the approach presented in the note describing the pp high-energy program: ALICE will commence the data taking with an interaction rate of 500 kHz to then re-evaluate the situation after the first 50 krad (or there about) of TID is accumulated.

Concerning the overall commissioning plan and in particular its pace given the pressure from the what seems rather aggressive LHC machine planning members of MB shared the cautious approach of the spokesperson with avoiding the risks of following an aggressive commissioning and transition to operation schedule. Spokesperson reiterates that the current schedule is to remain with the 4 (before cavern closure) plus 3 months commissioning (after the closure) – there is no indication for otherwise planning. If necessary, Spokesperson considers to have a special meeting of MB dedicated to this matter. This need will depend on the outcomes of planned meetings within the CERN directorate. TC commented that

overall ALICE seems to be in a better situation as compared to other experiments: all detector parts at CERN and ALICE commissioning is not a subject to a complicated logistics.

On other areas: 1) Very good progress on FLP hardware and software was reported. 2) Very good progress also on PDP software/GPU evaluation with focus on preparation of 'EPN evaluation software package' at this moment. Goal is to have large fraction of the EPN farm at P2 by end 2020. 3) Proposal for an ALICE upgrade paper was presented and is agreed by the project leaders. Contributions to be received by September 2020, submission by end 2020.

For everyone who misses P2 already very badly -- a video from our daily inspection tour of P2 can be found at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/914990/>.

Report from Physics Coordination – Andrea Dainese

Candidates for the new incoming PWG-MM and PWG-UD conveners will be presented at the next MB. Cristiane Janke replaced Markus Kohler as PWG-DQ-J/ ψ 2ee PAG Coordinator. Two more calls for nominations are open.

Analysis / preliminary result approvals (targeting LHCP, Hard Probes, Hot Quarks and ICHEP conferences) will take place from 4th to 15th of May. 33 analyses presented at Approval Session: 19 results use pp; 4 results use p-Pb; 14 use Pb-Pb; in addition, about 15 papers are to be submitted before/during LHCP/HP. A snapshot of analyses is included within the slides. A proposal to be highlighted in the CERN press communication accompanying LHCP was presented: 1) J/ ψ and D meson flow; 2) Proton-Hyperon interaction – a paper with a target journal to be Nature. On the 2nd MB expressed concerns whether this is in compliance with Nature's requirements for paper publications. The issue will be followed up offline (including the CERN press office).

Update on high-energy pp running – Andrea Dainese

The physics part is reshaped from the Internal Note. A draft has been sent to PB and MB 3 weeks ago. PC thanks for the feedback and comments have been implemented. The main discussions since then focused on a general strategy for presenting and implementing the proposal, especially in light of the computing requirements and radiation load - discussed in the slides.

The draft will be circulated to the Collaboration ASAP – this will not constitute a formal "Collaboration round", but will facilitate distribution of information and enables feedback. The presentation of the proposal (focus on physics) to LHCC referees is planned for June 3rd. The note then will be finalized and sent for a Collaboration round in June to become a Public Note for MB and CB approval at the July's ALICE Week. The formal submission of the proposal to LHCC will take place in September 2020.

Report from Run Coordination – Taku Gunji

RC presented a first draft plans on the global commissioning and a pp run with a view to preparing for an early Pb-Pb run at today's TB meeting (<https://indico.cern.ch/event/849400/>). RC considered that 16 weeks for global commissioning and 13 weeks for a pp run are the "minimum" for ALICE to be ready for an early Pb-Pb run.

Next RC will focus on making more differential/detailed plans about hardware interventions during global commissioning to verify if ALICE cavern must remain open during the whole 16 weeks period or could be closed earlier. This will be discussed at next week's RC meeting.

Moreover, more concrete pp run plans will be made in cooperation with all the relevant coordinators (PC/TriCo/CTP/FLP/EPN/SDC(PDP, DPG, Analysis)) – this will allow for more definite steps and requirements to be defined.