ALICE Management Board, Thursday 16th of April 2020
https://indico.cern.ch/event/849383/
VIDYO only meeting

Participants: Harald Appelshaeuser, Federico Antinori, Pietro Antonioli, Roberta Arnaldi, Alberto Baldisseri, Marielle Chartrier, David Chinellato, Andrea Dainese, Barbara Erazmus, David Evans, Alessandra Fantoni, Martino Gagliardi, Jan Fiete Grosse-Oetringhaus, Taku Gunji, Tomas Herman, Yuri Kharlov, Jochen Klein, Alex Kluge, Volker Lindenstruth, Constantin Loizides, Vito Manzari, Silvia Masciocchi, Massimo Masera, 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), Pierre Vande Vyvre (excused)

Approval of the Minutes

List of attendance will be updated to list that Fernando Flor attended the meeting as Junior Representative. The minutes of the Management Board (MB) meeting held on 26th of March, 2020 are approved.

Report from Physics Coordination – Andrea Dainese

Information on rotation of PAG Coordinators has been acknowledged. Fabrizio Grosa replaces Jeremy J. Wilkinson as PWG-HF D2H PAG Coordinator. A few calls for nominations of new coordinators remain open.

Several PWG Convener mandates end in September 2020: A. Ohlson (CF), A. Ortiz (MM), G. Contreras (UD). Physics Coordinator proposed to extend the mandate of Alice Ohlson PWG-CF Convener by 3 months until the end of 2020 to bring the overlap with incoming convener Igor Altsybeev from 4 to 7 moths. The proposition has been agreed with Physics Board. The MB endorsed the proposed change. Call for nominations for PWG-MM and PWG-UD Conveners will be sent out within a week.

Information on the upcoming conferences (LHCP, Hard Probes, Hot Quarks, ICHEP) and on the Physics Forum sessions dedicated to approvals of new results has been acknowledged.

Information on the progress in preparation of the high-energy pp programme note has been given. The draft is almost complete. The plan towards internal approval involve:

- Circulation within MB and PB next Monday for first round of comments (still in a draft form);

- Circulation to the Collaboration around 30th of April for feedback (a first comment collection "round");
- Communication with LHCC at about 20th of May;
- Finalisation and Collaboration review round in June 2020;
- MB endorsement and CB approval in July 2020.

Report from SDC Coordinator - Preparation of the Data Challenge 2020 – Andreas Morsch

An overview of preparations for the planned *Data Challenge* exercises has been presented. In particular, a discussion on the challenges of the Analysis Coordination ahead has been presented. The relevant steps ahead include establishing specifications of the EPN hardware (delivery expected for May 2020), assessment of overall simulation time to inform LHCC and C-RSG in September 2020, and benchmarking of the analysis framework necessary for establishing the analysis strategy in Run 3 and beyond. The essential information from system tests and data challenges will be obtained via EPN synchronous reconstruction benchmarks to be completed by mid-May, and through the simulation (reconstruction) the *Analysis Data Challenges* to take place sometime in the months of June and July 2020. A table with the timing layout of PDP project milestones has been presented – including Engineering Design Reviews, Production Readiness Reviews (PRRs), and the Analysis Challenges has been presented. The delays in PRRs are understood because of the work needed to resolve AMD compiler issues and further important optimizations of the reconstruction code. The preparations for PRR are progressing. A pre-PRR internal discussion on Reconstruction and Calibration Software is planned for 20th of April. The PRR with external reviewers is planned to take place in the second half of May – in the proximity of the PRR related to the EPN hardware specification readiness and next to the tender offer for the network hardware. A compact report on GPU code readiness and optimization has been presented – for details see presentation at the Technical Board of 16th of April 2020. In essence, the work with AMD resulted in optimization of the code as well as improvements of the AMD Compiler and at this point the performance ratio of AMD to NVIDIA is only of about 1.3. This is positive news since with two manufacturers in consideration it may allow for competitive selection process at the time of considering the GPU architecture. The report also included discussion of the components for Synchronous Processing, Simulation Benchmarks, and an overview of the Analysis Challenge enabled by translation of the existing Run 2 data to Run 3 format. The translation of existing data to the new format will also allow for more realistic estimation of the storage footprint of Run 3 data. First full-fledged analyses are being realized using the new data structure.

Report from Conference Committee – Roberta Arnaldi, Dariusz Miśkowiec

The CC presented an overview of ALICE contributions to the upcoming conferences. At the LHCP conference taking place online ALICE speakers will deliver on behalf of the collaboration 5 plenary talks, 11 parallel talks, 3 posters. At Hard Probes conference also taking place online at

the originally planned dates ALICE speakers will present on behalf of the collaboration one plenary talk, 20 parallel talks, and 21 posters. Rehearsals of the talks will take place in the week of 18th of May for LHCP and 25-29th of May for Hard Probes. CC noted that most of the conferences planned for before June 2020 was cancelled with a few exceptions moving towards online-only conferences. Organizing committees of a few conferences planned for June and later have not yet decided how to proceed. For those whose talks will be cancelled CC will make an effort to allocate a speaking opportunity at other upcoming conferences.

Possibility of stretching the duration of online-only conferences to ease the remote participation (time zone variation, quarantine regulations and ability to dedicate uninterrupted time to a meeting vis-à-vis personal circumstances and/or family life) has been discussed. CC informed that the LHCP conference is considering adjusting the agenda. The situation for Hard Probes is not yet known but also for this conference members of International Advisory Committee are suggesting adjustments.

Concerning the ICHEP conference planned for to take place in Prague between July 30th and August 5th 2020 CC reports that two options are being discussed: A) a remote-only conference at the original dates; and B) an in-person or a remote-only at a later time – potentially sometime in the first quarter of 2021. Final decision will be taken by the end of April. At this point IAC and Local Organizing Committee lean towards the option (A). Overall, it has been a very good outcome for ALICE in terms of acceptance of abstracts (31 out of 33 submitted; with one request for merging topics into a single talk and one poster). CC noted that at ICHEP 2019 ALICE collaboration presented 18 talks. CC invited input from the PWG's concerning the speakers, indicating a caveat of the uncertainty of the conference dates at this point in time.

The CC chairs also discussed the overall strategy and the process for selection of the speakers. The current speaker lists have been laid out. Moreover, a breakdown of the speakers according to gender, career step, and geographic location of the home institute have been presented.

The CC chairs pointed out a limited feedback received and the fact that it was geographically unevenly distributed. CC strives to improve that situation. Consideration of additional emails reminding about the solicitation process has been discussed. MB resonated with an idea on additional communication between the CC and the call of CC to Team Leaders on all aspects of the process of arriving at a conference contribution – from a formulation of an abstract, through preparation of the talk or poster, and the final review process. An address of CC at upcoming Collaboration Board meetings was found as a good initiative. The CB Chairperson's team will work with the CC on formulations of a message and potential presentations at the CB meeting. In addition, CC strives for a better organization of the ALICE webpages, emails, and other communication channels to enhance the visibility of speaking opportunities at conferences.

The consideration of re-evaluating the weight of an in-person vs. online-only contributed talk delivered at a conference has been discussed in the context of awarding ALICE members with an opportunity of speaking at future conferences. In general, the aim of weighting is to

moderate the probability for a future talk making the speaking opportunities fairly distributed among ALICE members – especially important for the junior members requiring visibility. Arguments both in favour (e.g. lack of networking at online-only conferences) and against (e.g. apparent larger attendance of online talks) of applying a lower weight for online presentations as compared to talks at in-person conferences have been given. MB agreed to revise the situation after LHCP and Hard Probes.

Report from Technical Coordination – Werner Riegler

Discussions about the schedule of re-opening are ongoing. Technical Coordination points out a few critical notes on the planning: 1) the policy defining the organization of work should be defined by a single document given by the HSE; 2) The minimum Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) needed to comply with this policy should be made available by CERN (for CERN personnel AND the experiment collaborations); 3) Colleagues from the machine, who have developed a plan with a rather short delay due to COVID-19 pandemic, will have to take into account that travel restrictions of many experiment collaborators might heavily impact the speed of the speed of the restart for each experiment. A full overview of the detector activities that serves as a good basis for different opening scenarios has been established. In the upcoming weeks the focus of the discussions will turn to detailing some of the activities that are considered possible in the very near future (probably TPC/ITS/MFT commissioning and CTP/CRU production testing).

A number of items from the Technical Board were highlighted:

- CRU/CTP/MID electronics board production is still confirmed with the original delivery schedule. Testing to be sorted out on our side.
- FIT electronics continues to be delayed - an item to be followed up more closely vis-a-vis an expected PRR.
- EPN hardware evaluation is proceeding and a realistic timeline for EPN purchase is being formed (the CERN blanket contract would allow for 10 weeks of delivery time) while the evaluation of the platforms with PDP reference software is planned. At the same time, a significant continuous progress on synchronous processing software and GPU performance is being made. Availability of the software 3-4 weeks. The tentative timing of PRR is still set for June.
- Discussion at the TB concerning the low-level frontend interface was not conclusive. A clear need to reconvene after the proper digestion and assessment of the proposals for the implementation discussed at the meeting has emerged. The MB shared concerns about the current status of discussions and disagreement between the experts but agreed that this issue ought to be resolved in a timely manner taking into account various perspectives and technical expertise expressed at the TB.

News from the Spokesperson – Luciano Musa

Update on the contribution from India to the TPC RCU has been presented. The amendment of the TPC Upgrade MoU (ALICE-MoU-Add#41) has been signed by the FA of India on 6th of April. On 8th of April ALICE Resource Coordinator arranged for delivery of CERN invoice for 2 MCHF.

Positive news from the ALICE-Japan concerning the restart of the Japan Tier-2 in Hiroshima was welcomed by the MB. New system administrator will begin on 1st of May and if no major issues are found the aim will be to restart on that date. ALICE-Japan is planning to establish support system (including remote handling of issues) for long term stable operations. At the same time the funding situation for supporting the Tier 2 is being clarified – including funding resulting from already submitted applications.

CERN Computer Security Team performed an assessment of ZOOM teleconferencing system and issues a number of recommendations concerning the size of the meetings and the relative expectation of security. Based on the experience with the CERN's Zoom pilot, the quality of the tool and the responsiveness of Zoom to CERN requests, CERN is now negotiating the purchase of a full license with increased capacity. Note, all software products from US companies (e.g. Vidyo, Lync, Zoom, Cloud) are subject to the same restrictions concerning their use in countries under US embargo.

A tentative plan for the resumption of operations at CERN has been presented. The plan is to restart in three main phases with increasing number of personnel on site while following the safety procedures given by the CERN HSE. The three phases would span from Today to September with the second phase starting mid-May. For the phase starting mid-May the experiments were asked to define tentative plans and quantify the needed protective equipment. ALICE Technical Coordination has started developing such plans.

Update on FoCal – Constantin Loizides

The update on FoCal physics performance has been presented. Given the performance quantified by the LHCb Collaboration in the recent public note, it became clear that FoCal measurement would outperform measurements by LHCb by factor of 2-2.5. This in turn brings a conclusion that the main constrains for measurements of nuclear PDFs at small-x would be delivered by FoCal. Thus the scientific merit of constructing such a device has been strengthened. These findings have been discussed with LHCC earlier in the week.

Some of the main points raised during the discussion where:

- One should make an effort in quantifying at what transverse momentum the effects of saturation should become visible – and in the same spirit an effort to go as low as possible should be made.
- Further improvements to full simulations of the device will be pursued (e.g. different background model, calorimeter response, smaller cone size considerations).

- For completeness, comparisons to LHCb will be made at the same signal-to-background ratios (in particular for the plot on slide #9).

Given these updates MB agreed to move for a dedicated meeting devoted solely to the discussion on endorsing FoCal LoI. The meeting will include material on available resources to the potential project and their impact on the maintenance and operations of the current (including Run 3 and Run 4) detector setup. The meeting is scheduled for 15th of May 2020. Moreover, a presentation at the Physics Forum on the resent updates is planned for 29th of April 2020.

Summary from Open Data Policy Working Group – Stefano Piano, Jochen Klein

A summary of series of meetings (https://indico.cern.ch/event/896500/, https://indico.cern.ch/event/901087/) of the working group has been presented (see slides for details https://indi.to/ys4xm). ALICE positioning for the first meeting has been based on discussions within the management coordination team. The discussion raised a number of questions/considerations:

- Due to nature of public funding the experiments are to consider publishing the open data after some amount of time – at present ALICE Data Preservation Policy (DPP) states 5 years after the collection of the data. It was noted, however, that this typically concerns a fraction of the data. In general, should there be any modifications to the strategy they should be addressed (including any changes) in the ALICE DPP.
- Members of the MB expressed an opinion that ALICE should not be the only experiment who would publish the PbPb events.
- The open question is the understanding between the experiments whether the members of one LHC experiment are allowed to use and publish results based on the open data from another LHC experiment.
