

Minutes of the Board meeting 2025-02 on 6 October 2025

Time of the meeting: Monday, 6 October 2025 from 11:30 to 14:00

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1. Welcome and agenda

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 1 March 2024): 75, Present (including ZOOM): Ariga, Baudis, Beck, Braccini, Caminada, Canelli, Crivelli, Donegà, Dufour, Gehrmann, Greljo, Golling, Hildebrandt, Kilminster, Kirch, Kunz, Isidori, Ita, Montaruli, Müller, Penning, Piegsa, Perrina, Pozzorini, Schneider, Schramm, Sfyrla, Shchutska, Signer, Spira, Sanchez-Nieto, Sgalaberna, Stoffer, Soares Dos Santos, Tunfali, Wallny, Weber.

Other participants: Benelli (Admin.), Türler (Obs. SCNAT), Stocker (Obs. SERI)

Apologies: A. De Cosa.

Proxy: Malte Hildebrandt for *Stefan Ritt*, Klaus Kirch for *Bernhard Lauss*, Lesya Shchutska for *Radoslav Marchevski*, Steven Schramm for *Xin Wu*.

Quorum: 24 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); voters present: 37 present + 4 proxies = 41 -> The quorum is reached

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2025-01 [March 2025]): minutes approved.

DECISION ITEMS

1. Budget 2026

Ben Kilminster, as chairman, presented the planned activities and budget for 2026. Following the established structure of previous years, CHIPP has organized its initiatives around four core themes: science, communication and outreach, funding, and association.

The proposed budget anticipates total expenses of 184 KCHF, to be covered by:

- 98 KCHF from membership fees,
- 20 KCHF in support for the EPPCN from SERI and CERN, and
- Approximately 60 KCHF in funding from SCNAT.

Key activities for the year include the PSI Summer PhD Summer School, the Swiss Summer Students Program and the ECR event organised during the CHIPP/SPS Plenary in August 2026 at the EPFL. CHIPP will also continue its support for the SCNAT web portal, which features news, articles, and events relevant to the physics community. This effort involves collaboration with science journalists Aleksandra Nelson and Barbara Warmbein, whose remuneration, along with the IPPOG membership, is expected to be funded by a SCNAT Dialog with Society grant.

A projected deficit of about 5 KCHF is expected, which can be comfortably managed with the estimated starting assets of approximately 40 KCHF.

Angela also provided an overview of SCNAT's funding contributions for 2025, Ben proposed to ensure core activities are funded with higher priority. The request includes:

- IPPOG membership: 3,000 CHF
- Dialog with Society: 10,000 CHF

- PSI Summer School: 15,000 CHF
- Swiss Summer Students Project: 15,000 CHF
- ECR event: 12,000 CHF
- Neutrino exhibition at the University of Geneva: 5000 CHF.

The funding for the Neutrino exhibition has been approved via email by the Board, the votes were: 29 Yes, 3 Abs, 2 No.

The Board unanimously voted (33 Yes, 2 Abs) in favor of approving the following:

- The CHIPP activities for 2026.
- The CHIPP budget for 2026 resulting from the outlined activities.
- The 2026 membership fees for individual members and institutions.

2. Election of two CHIPP EB members

Ben Kilminster (Chair) recalls the current composition of the CHIPP Executive Board and reviews the members whose terms are expiring or continuing.

Ben Kilminster Vice-chair : Jan 2022–Dec 2022 (1 years) CHAIR : Jan 2023–Dec 2025 (3 years)

Tobias Golling (Jan 2022 - Dec 2023) & (Jan 2024 - Dec 2025)

Paolo Crivelli (Jan 2023 - Dec 2024) & (Jan 2025 - Dec 2026)

Michael Spira (Jan 2023 - Dec 2024) & (Jan 2025 - Dec 2026)

Ben and Tobias finish their terms, the Board is invited to elect new members to the Executive Board for the upcoming term.

The candidates presents their views on the functions they would like to serve:

- **Lesya Shchutska (EPFL)** is Professor at EPFL and a member of the LHCb, SND@LHC, and SHiP experiments at CERN.
- **Federico Sánchez Nieto (University of Geneva)** is Professor at the University of Geneva, working in the field of neutrino physics, with leading roles in the T2K and DUNE collaborations.

Paolo Crivelli (ETH Zürich), proposed as **CHIPP Chair** for **one year**, from **1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026**. Paolo Crivelli has been a member of the CHIPP Executive Board since 2023 and is currently serving his second term (2025–2026). He expressed his willingness to continue contributing to the development of the Swiss particle physics community by serving as Chair.

The Chair invites the Board to proceed, the election is unanimously:

Lesya Shchutska (EPFL) for a 1st EB term from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027

Federico Sánchez Nieto (UniGe) for a 1st EB term from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

Paolo Crivelli (ETH Zürich) as CHIPP Chair from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.

3. Election of CHIPP Computing Board Chair

The CHIPP computing Chair is in charge of coordinating the work of the Technical Computing Board and the Steering Computing Board; the Chair is also acting as PI for the FLARE computing requests. This position is very important, therefore - if the holder of the function is not a CHIPP board member - that person should be elected as an ex-officio member of the Board for the duration of their function. Mauro Donegà has been the CHIPP Computing Board Chair since Jan 2019; his term finishes in Dec 2021, but he has agreed to continue serving as CHIPP Computing Board Chair also for 2025. The call for nomination pointed to Clemens Lange (PSI).

The Board elects with (37 Yes, 1 Abs) Clemens Lange (PSI) as CHIPP Computing Board Chair from Jan 2022 to December 2024

4. Re-election of CHIPP IPPOG representative

The International Particle Physics Outreach Group (IPPOG) is a network of scientists, science

educators and communication specialists working across the globe in science education and public outreach for particle physics. IPPOG brings new discoveries in this exciting field to young people and conveys to the public that the beauty of nature is indeed becoming understandable from the interactions of its most fundamental parts - the elementary particles.

The Board unanimously re-elects Katharina Müller (University of Zurich) for a 5th term (Sep. 2025 – Sep. 2027) as IPPOG Swiss representative.

5. Proposal for a CHIPP deputy Outreach & Education team

Elena Graverini (EPFL), who served as Deputy Outreach and Education Coordinator for the years 2023–2024, stepped down from her mandate. As a result, CHIPP has not had a deputy in this function for almost one year.

Following a call for nominations among the CHIPP Plenary Members, several candidates expressed interest in contributing to the outreach and education activities. Recognizing the growing importance of outreach and education, the Executive Board proposes to establish a team of young researchers (postdocs and PhD students) to support CHIPP's communication and educational initiatives.

This team will assist in managing CHIPP's social media presence and collaborate closely with Katharina Müller, CHIPP Outreach and Education Coordinator, and Angela Benelli, Swiss representative for EPPCN.

The Board is invited to approve the creation of this team of young researchers acting as Deputy Outreach and Education Coordinators. The participants at the team will be selected by the ECRs, the EB and the Outreach coordinator.

The proposed initial team members are:

- Nicolas Angelides (University of Zurich)
- Efrain Patrick Segarra (PSI)
- Luz Sanchez-Real Zielniewicz (ETH Zürich)

The activities of the Outreach and Education Team will be coordinated by the Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and organized jointly by the Outreach Coordinator and the Executive Board. The Board proposes to have one ECR per institute collaborating in the team.

6. Nomination for re-election of one Swiss Plenary-ECFA representative. ECR ECFA updates.

The election of the Swiss representatives in the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) belongs to the CHIPP Plenary, based on a recommendation by the Board.

Ben Kilminster explains briefly the main tasks involved in the positions: the Plenary ECFA decides on all ECFA activities, appoints the Chair and Secretary, approves the final reports of the working groups and terminates their activities, decides on admission of new observers, and makes recommendations to outside organizations. The Plenary ECFA appoints members for a maximum total period of six years after nomination by their country. While the members chosen should be able to represent the views of the high-energy physics community of their country, they are members of Plenary ECFA as individuals. Plenary ECFA normally holds two meetings per year. Meetings are public unless otherwise decided.

The Board unanimously submits to the Plenary the proposals of:

- the re-election of Annapaola De Cosa (ETHZ), Plenary ECFA for a 2nd three-year term (Jan. 2026 – Dec. 2028)

Rainer Wallny Restricted ECFA and Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2026
Annapaola DeCosa (ETHZ), Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2028
Philipp S. Wellenburg (PSI), Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2027
Sergio Gonzalez Seville (UGe), Plenary ECFA member until Dec 2027

The CHIPP ECR group voted in the morning for a replacement for Elisabeth Niel (EPFL).
The new ECR ECFA representative is: **Valeriia Lukashenko** (UZH).
The actual composition of the Swiss ECR group is:

Marko Pesut (PSI, ECR OC),
Pantelis Kontaxakis (UniGe),
Giuseppe Lospalluto (PSI)
Valeriia Lukashenko (UZH)

7. Re-election of the CSR Observer

The Committee on Space Research (CSR) of the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) coordinates and stimulates space research in Switzerland. It maintains contact with international organizations such as the European Space Agency ESA and the Committee of Space Research COSPAR. Since October 2014, CHIPP has been invited to nominate a person who would serve as the official link between CHIPP and the CSR.

The Board re-elects (32 Yes, 2 Abs) Xin Wu (University of Geneva) for a 6th term (Jan. 2026 – Dec. 2027) as CSR representative.

8. Election of CHIPP APPEC representative

Switzerland has been a member of the AstroParticle Physics European Consortium (APPEC) since 2013. Teresa Montauri has decided to step down. The call for nomination resulted in two names: Björn Penning (UZH) and Steven Schramm (UniGe).
The Board asked the vote to be secret so the ZOOM participants and the proxies voted via email and the present on paper. The result of the vote gives a very close result, so the Board asks for a re-count of the votes. Paolo Crivelli re-counts the votes.
Björn Penning: 19 votes, Steven Schramm: 17 votes.

The Board elects Björn Penning (UZH) for a 1st term (Jan 2026 – Dec. 2027) as APPEC General Assembly scientific delegate.

9. Proposal for RECFA and APPEC to be supported by SNF, MoU

The CHIPP Executive Board acknowledges the strategic importance of RECFA (Restricted European Committee for Future Accelerators) as a key advisory body for the development of accelerator-based research in Europe. The Board notes that APPEC and NUPECC have already expressed their support for continued engagement.

In accordance with Article 27, letters b and c of the CHIPP Statutes, the Board is invited:

- to recognize RECFA as an important strategic and scientific advisory body for the future of accelerator-based research in Switzerland and Europe;
- to approve a CHIPP recommendation to the SNSF to support and continue Swiss participation in RECFA, thereby ensuring a strong and consistent national voice in European discussions on future accelerator infrastructures.

The CHIPP Board endorses the proposal and expresses its commitment to maintaining Switzerland's active role within RECFA.

The Board notes that while NUPECC currently has SNSF support (via an MoU), and ECT*, APPEC, and ECFA have all requested similar support, no response has yet been received from the SNSF despite several attempts.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

EB news

Alumni Relations

The Board discusses the possibility of maintaining contact with CHIPP alumni interested in receiving updates about CHIPP activities and news. It is proposed to create a dedicated CHIPP alumni mailing list, in order to share general news and announcements while keeping internal information separate. From the RECFA survey, a list of respondents has been identified who expressed interest in remaining informed about CHIPP activities.

Awards and Recognitions

The CHIPP Board warmly congratulates **Thea Klæboe Arrestad** for receiving the 2025 Young Experimental Physicist Prize of the High Energy and Particle Physics Division of the European Physical Society (EPS).

The award recognizes her influential and innovative ideas, as well as her high-impact contributions to integrating modern machine learning technologies into particle physics, particularly in hardware event-filtering systems of particle detectors, and for her leadership in pioneering anomaly detection techniques and searches for new physics.

Thea is an SNF Ambizione Fellow in the group of Prof. Dissertori at ETH Zürich.

National Prize for Open Research Data (ORD)

In view of the National Prize 2025 call opening, the Board is pleased to note the appointment of **Clemens Lange** as the new Chair of the ORD Prize Jury, organized by SCNAT.

Clemens Lange is a Scientist in the High-Energy Physics Group at the Laboratory for Particle Physics, PSI, Chair of the CERN Open Science Practitioners Forum, and Member of the CERN Open Science Steering Board.

International Recognition

The Board congratulates **Laura Baudis** (University of Zurich) on her election as International Member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

More information is available at: <https://www.nasonline.org/news/2025-nas-election/>

10. CHIPP PhD prize 2025 announcement

The CHIPP Prize Committee for 2025 consisted of the following members:

Michael Spira (CHIPP Executive Board)
Aurelio Bay
Alain Blondel
Christopher Grab
Lenny Rivkin

The Committee reviewed the nominations received and selected the winner of the 2025 CHIPP Prize. The CHIPP Prize 2025 is awarded to **Chiara Savoini** (University of Zurich).

The CHIPP Prize Jury honours Chiara Savoini for her *significant and novel contributions to cutting-edge precision calculations at hadron colliders involving more than two massive particles in the final state*, which have enhanced the LHC's potential for precision determinations of the Higgs–Yukawa coupling to top quarks, as well as for her *pioneering work on the associated production of W bosons with heavy top and bottom quarks at the NNLO level*.

The Board warmly congratulates Chiara Savoini for this outstanding achievement.

11. CHIPP postdoc prize 2025 announcement

The CHIPP PhD Prize Committee for 2025 was composed of:

Paolo Crivelli (CHIPP Executive Board)
Allan Clark
Daniel Wyler
Tatsuya Nakada
Domenico della Volpe

After reviewing the nominations, the Committee selected the winner of the 2025 CHIPP PhD Prize. The CHIPP PhD Prize 2025 is awarded to **Efrain P. Segarra** (Paul Scherrer Institut).

The CHIPP Prize Jury recognizes Efrain P. Segarra for his *outstanding contributions to the n^2 EDM experiment at PSI*, including the first Ramsey and EDM test measurements, major improvements in magnetic field uniformity and polarization control, and the development of a novel method to extract the ultracold neutron spectrum and storage properties.

The Board extends its warm congratulations to Efrain P. Segarra for this remarkable scientific achievement.

12. Swiss inputs to Strategy, plan

The Board reviewed the ongoing process for national inputs to the European Strategy for Particle Physics (ESPP). There are three opportunities for national submissions: 31 March, 26 May, and 14 November.

Switzerland has submitted two inputs to date:

The first input summarized the findings of the national strategy meeting held in February and explicitly stated that there is “*no plan B*” regarding Switzerland’s preferred option.

The second input reaffirmed Switzerland’s unchanged position after reviewing other ESPP contributions and addressed certain misunderstandings that had arisen in the discussion phase.

For the third national input, new reference material will be available, including the Physics Briefing Book and the Project Comparison prepared by the ESPP working groups.

The ESPP Secretariat has specifically requested that the national input address three key questions:

1. What is the preferred large-scale post-LHC accelerator for CERN?
2. What is the preferred alternative if the preferred option is not feasible?
3. What is the preferred alternative if the preferred option would not be competitive?

A CHIPP Plenary discussion will be held to prepare this third input on 24 October, from 15:00 to 17:00, at the SCNAT, Bern (Eiger room).

13. FLARE funding, analysis

Comments were collected from various FLARE Principal Investigators (PIs) with the goal of summarizing general observations to help future applicants better prepare for upcoming FLARE interviews.

General Observations:

- The questions posed by the evaluation panel were considered insightful and well-prepared.
- The panel showed a strong understanding of previous FLARE proposals and their associated technical details.
- Questions focused on the availability of technical personnel and the contributions from local institutions, demonstrating a clear interest in the sustainability and integration of project efforts.

The CHIPP Executive Board reviewed the feedback collected from the recent FLARE evaluation process. The following general observations were noted:

- The panel showed interest in assessing the level of institutional commitment to each project.
- Particular emphasis was placed on institutional contributions, including personnel, funding, and laboratory infrastructure.
- The panel expressed a desire for clearer evidence of institutional involvement, encouraging proposers to explicitly include information on institutional support, such as local technical staff contributions or availability of lab facilities.
- Concerns were raised about potential overlap of technical personnel across different FLARE proposals.
- The panel also noted that some PIs are involved in several FLARE projects, prompting questions regarding the availability of sufficient time, personpower, and technical resources to maintain active engagement in multiple efforts.
- A tendency for budget reductions was observed when a project was not yet officially approved or when deliverables appeared speculative compared to officially sanctioned activities.
- It was further noted that experiments receiving special SERI support, such as CTA and SKA, received no funding under this FLARE call.

14. ESG Drafting Session, organisation

The ESG Drafting Session, organized by CHIPP, is progressing according to plan. The total cost is estimated at 117 kCHF, covered through participation fees (56 kCHF) and sponsorship contributions (85 kCHF).

Sponsors:

- ETH Domain – 50 kCHF

- SNSF – 25 kCHF
- University of Zurich – 5 kCHF
- University of Bern – 5 kCHF
- CHIPP – 3 kCHF

SERI has indicated that additional funding could be provided if needed. While the budget is largely secured, some costs remain uncovered, including one extra night for approximately one quarter of the participants, partial transportation costs, and the musical guest performance.

During the event, Rainer Wallny will give the introduction on behalf of ETH Zürich, and Ben Kilminster will present the logistics overview. The agenda is noted to be very dense, with Angela coordinating local arrangements.

The session will take place from 1–5 December, featuring an artistic performance, “Einstein Forever” by Gabriella Greison, as part of the programme.

15. CHEF Update

The CHEF project has now been signed and approved. The CHEF Council Board has convened several times to agree on the budget, and PhD students and postdocs have already been hired or are in the process of being recruited.

Members: UZH (leading house), PSI, ETH Zürich, EPFL, University of Geneva, University of Bern, and University of Basel.

Observers: SERI and CHART.

The CHEF coordination team at UZH includes financial administration, project administration, and the UZH Research Office. Next steps include the submission of the first SERI funding request and the signing of the collaboration agreement.

16. New professorships at CHIPP institutes: report from each institute

Angela reminded everyone to send names of any new professors to avoid spelling errors in communications

17. A.O.B.

SNF Funding and Future Strategy

The Board discussed the current situation regarding SNSF project funding and the decrease in overall funding success rates. It was suggested to consider collecting anonymous statistics on project outcomes to better understand the scope and distribution of the issue within the CHIPP community.

Updates on the progress of the NCCR were requested, along with information about recent SCNAT correspondence to the SNSF expressing concern over declining success rates. Additional points noted included the reduction of the Ambizione programme and other budgetary cuts affecting the research landscape.

Looking ahead, a further decrease in SNSF funding levels is expected. The Board proposed forming a CHIPP task force to explore how the community can engage more effectively with policymakers and funding agencies. It was suggested that former CHIPP Chairs could be invited to participate in initial brainstorming sessions.

The Board agreed on the need to support the SNSF publicly and to raise awareness of the importance of fundamental research funding. Potential actions include visits to Parliament, increased presence in the media, and possibly a coordinated letter campaign.