

## Minutes of the EB meeting 2023-04 on 18 September 2023

**Time/place of the meeting:** 18 September 2023 8:00h. Video Conference via ZOOM

INDICO: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1324526/>

**Present:** Ben Kilminster Chair (BK), Tobias Golling (TG), Paolo Crivelli (PC), Michael Spira (MS) and Angela Benelli (Admin, AB), Mauro Donega (MD).

1. **Agenda.** Approved.

2. **Apologies.** None.

### **A. Administrative items**

3. **Minutes** of the last meeting (2023-03). The minutes are approved; after some minor corrections AB will publish them on the [chipp.ch](http://chipp.ch) website.

4. **List of Actions**

5. **Next EB meetings**

November - follow-up to CHIPP board

December - meeting with lunch, discussion on roadmap workshop

February: discussion on workshop, preparation for RECFA visit

**09/11/2023 – EB 2023-05 at 10h ZOOM.**

**15/12/2023 – EB 2023-06 at 10h at the SCNAT, followed by a lunch.**

**05/02/2024 – EB 2024-01 at 10h ZOOM.**

### **B. Items for discussion**

6. **Status of the Tier-2 computing.**

Mauro Donega is invited to present the status of the Tier-2 computing.

General status with CSCS (Swiss National Supercomputing Center): the transition between Piz Daint and ALP system is continuing, heavily beyond schedule; ALPS appears not to be able to scale to full workload due to storage system limitations.

CMS and LHCb are fully on ALPS, while ATLAS is still 50% on Daint. CSCS Accounting manager reports that the reduction with the costs of disk are not decreasing as expected, which causes a problem in the scaling of the resources (WLCG pledges). While initially ALPS was supposed to provide a 30% CPU / 20% DISK increase at flat budget, we're now at 20% CPU, 15% DISK. The three experiments are sharing unevenly the reduced increase to help LHCb.

MD reports that the EGI membership are finally covered by the Swiss University for the next two years. The fee is proportional to the GDP of the Country, so it's very likely that the fees will increase in the future for Switzerland. This could cause a problem. The 10% FTE for the administration of the EGI services is still not covered.

In view of the incoming HiLumi, LHC CHIPP steering will meet to discuss the T2 status in a meeting with CSCS, an external expert (possibly from another Country that has the same computing goals) and the CHIPP EB. The following points should be approached:

- the VOreps current vision of the project
  - the pricing of storage in CSCS
  - the renewal of the Collaboration Agreement with CSCS
  - evaluation of moving all or part of the Tier-2 computing effort from CSCS to another facility
- EGI is asking Switzerland, through EnhanceR, about the need to cloud services and third party data usage. MD suggests that it should be verified that this is discussed at a higher level (SERI, Swiss Universities) instead of leaving the decision entirely with enhancer. The EB will bring this point to the Round Table International (RoTIORI) meeting.

#### Important dates:

##### **FLARE request for 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2025**

(issues in converging to the final version of the previous FLARE scientific summary)

##### **Collaboration agreement until 31st December 2024.**

The reason for 2 years was to: - 2023 check ALPS at scale – 2024 and if necessary, find alternative solutions

**Certificate Authority (CA)** situation semi-stable. Should be fixed by the end of the year

#### 7. CHIPP Database & Alumni

AB is updating the CHIPP database with the help of the Administrators from the CHIPP Institutes and of the Board Professors who have sent the composition of their group.

In view of the RECFA meeting where the statistics about the actual academic positions of the former CHIPP members will be presented, the EB is editing a questionnaire for the CHIPP Alumni. The EB needs to find a way to reach as many alumni as possible. The Swiss institutes have some contacts but, for privacy reasons, they cannot share them. The EB is working with the SCNAT IT to produce an online form to fill out; the webpage will be sent directly to the Alumni by the former employer institutes.

#### 8. Budget and activities 2024 / Membership fees 2024 estimation

BK and AB present the budget and activities foreseen for the year 2024. AB updates the status of the expenses and income entries of 2023. During the year 2024 CHIPP will organise the CHIPP Roadmap workshop, the RECFA visit, and the Zuoz summer school. As voted at the Board (2023-01), the membership fees for individuals and institutes are maintained at 125 CHF and 6200 CHF respectively.

#### 9. Board 2023-03 preparation

- <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1325732/>
- **FLARE Table updates & analysis**

SERI allocated 44 MCHF for the FLARE funding mechanism; typically 80% will be available for Particle Physics projects. Now, summing up all the received FLARE funding requests, we are 30% over. AB and BK have been working on different scenarios to propose to the PIs to get the goal of the total requests to 35 MCHF. The EB evaluate the most informative plots and tables to show to the Board.

The EB needs to verify some points:

- Criteria to be a PI (what type of contract) – to ensure the long-term planning of the project.
- CHIPP senior members involved in each experiment: professors and senior scientists. A form has been sent to each PI asking for co-PIs FTEs, senior scientists involved, timeline of the experiment, scientific goals and FLARE funding requests for the years 2025-28 and 2029-32.
- In the astroparticle experiments, CTA and ET, there is a collaboration between CHIPP and CHAPS members. The CHIPP Board should evaluate the interest in the scientific goals of these experiments and share the funding accordingly.
- The discussion on the pillar strategy and interests should be conducted inside every pillar and the main pillar editor will present them to the CHIPP Board and eventually to the Roadmap Workshop in January.

- Another funding instrument is **SDSC+** (*data Science Center and the plus stand for serving more than*

*just the ETH domain*), which is a separate funding line that could be accessible to us with a project like a SNSF project on data science or machine learning. Tobias Golling will be our CHIPP contact to the process.

#### 10. RECFA visit preparation

The EB discusses the organization of the RECFA visit in March.

- Discuss & finalize survey - Alumni contact list – as already discussed above.
- Program speakers
- Points we want to emphasize (new / old): HiLumi, demographic study of physics students, statistics of the former CHIPP members on their academic jobs
- Invitations to SERI / SNSF / SCNAT.

#### 11. Roadmap Workshop Organisation

- Timetable, plan for editors
- <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1325745/>  
The EB discusses the timetable of the two days.

### C. Items for information

#### 12. A.O.B.

#### 13. Status of recent & future meetings

**20 October 2023**

CHIPP Board 13h15

**18-19 January 2024**

CHIPP Roadmap Workshop (Balsthal)

**8-9 March 2024**

RECFA National Visit (PSI)

#### Other important dates:

**7 October 2023**, CERN will officially inaugurate the Science Gateway

**19-20 October 2023**, Science Gateway open to all CERN-people