

Meeting of Funding Agencies to discuss the status and funding prospects for Large Colliders. Twelfth meeting held in Vancouver on 18 January 2008.

1. The twelfth meeting of representatives from CERN (DG and President), Canada (NRC, NSERC), France (CNRS), Germany (BMBF), Italy (INFN), Japan (MEXT), Korea (MOST), and the US (DOE, NSF) was held in Vancouver on 18 January 2008. Representatives from Spain (ENCYT) and the UK (STFC) joined part of the meeting by phone. The GDE Director and the Chairs of ICFA and the ILCSC also attended.

2. The Group heard reports on progress in the commissioning of LHC and the JPARC facility. FALC greatly appreciated hearing about the significant progress on both projects and looked forward to first beams pushing back both the energy frontier and the intensity frontier.

3. Following presentations by the representatives from the UK and the US on their current funding situation, FALC confirmed that the physics motivation for a linear collider remains unchanged. The R&D underway in all three regions is fulfilling an important mission to establish the feasibility and technology necessary for the next large collider.

4. FALC recognized that funding stability is the key to any international collaborative effort in order that none of the partners' investment be jeopardized.

5. The GDE Director reported on the impact of recent funding decisions on progress towards a fully engineered design for the ILC. FALC appreciated the GDE's response, which placed increased emphasis on synergies between R&D for the ILC and other efforts that are underway relating to similar technology. This will include aspects that are common to XFEL and to future planned linear collider projects such as CLIC.

6. The GDE has renamed the next step in the ILC the Technical Design Phase (TDP), which, due to the changed funding conditions, is now scheduled to conclude in 2012. This new timescale is consistent with the beginning of construction in 2016. FALC expected that the detector collaborations will adjust their timescales accordingly and noted that the detector R&D programmes may also benefit from focusing on critical issues of linear collider physics.

7. The Group discussed the draft of FALC's first annual public report. It was agreed that the report would be updated to take into account the most recent funding decisions, with the goal of making it available in the first half of 2008.

8. The Group was pleased to receive the report on the 'Technology Benefits Deriving from the International Linear Collider'. FALC was impressed by the breadth and depth of the examples included in the report. FALC intends to produce a version that would be accessible to non-specialists.

9. The next meeting of FALC will be held in Rome on July 14, 2008.

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