

Meeting of Funding Agencies to discuss the status and funding prospects for large colliders. Eleventh meeting held at INFN, Rome on 11 July 2007.

1. The eleventh meeting of representatives from CERN (DG and President), Canada (NRC), France (CEA), Germany (BMBF), Italy (INFN), Japan (MEXT), Korea (MOST), UK (STFC) and the US (DOE, NSF and OSTP) was held in Rome on 11 July 2007. The Director and 3 project managers of the GDE, and the Chairs of ICFA and the ILCSC attended.

2. Professor Barish presented the final report of the RDR. The main conclusions of the ILCSC Cost review were presented and the Group congratulated the GDE on the robustness of the RDR and the achievements in the R&D phase.

3. The Group noted the recent statement on the potential ILC timescale, which estimated first physics around 2025, with a start of construction around 2016. The Group did not discuss the timescale in detail, noting that this timescale did not imply an expectation of loss of momentum for the project; but based on experience of constructing large international facilities it was a recognition of the likely schedule for a project of this scale.

4. The plan for the management and structure of the project for the engineering design phase was discussed, noting that this aimed for the technically feasible goal of a full engineering design in 2010. The Group welcomed the plan to define the potential work programme and cost for the engineering design phase at workpackage level by mid 2007. This plan would be considered by ILCSC and the FALC Resources Group in August 2007. The Group agreed that the focus of work for the detectors should be on the issues relevant to the accelerator EDR programme. It was recognised that it was too early to propose a site selection process for a linear collider, but agreed that discussions should begin to prepare a possible process.

5. It was agreed to be important to plan for consensus on a cooperative global programme, with synergistic and affordable futures for the major laboratory infrastructures. The Group considered that a global programme could be implemented with coordination by a network of laboratories and that such a network could operate until formal governmental agreements were in place.

6. The Group believed that it would be important to work towards establishing the principles of the future global programme. As a first step towards such an agreement, the Terms of Reference of FALC should be sent with a covering letter to the level within each Government at a senior level where influence resided in strategic policy and budget determination. It was agreed to establish a subgroup, including representation from ICFA, to draft the first annual public report from FALC.

7. The Group heard a report on progress on the study of the technological applications of the R&D for a linear collider and noted that a final report was expected in January 2008.

8. The next meeting will be held in Vancouver on 18 January 2008.
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