

Meeting of Funding Agencies to Discuss the Status and Funding Prospects for Large Colliders. Fourteenth meeting held at CSIC, Madrid on 19 January 2009

1. The Fourteenth meeting of representatives from Canada (NRC), CERN (DG and President), France (CNRS), Germany (BMBF), Italy (INFN), Japan (MEXT), Spain (ENCYT), UK (STFC), and US (DOE and NSF) was held in Madrid on 19 January 2009. The Director of the GDE, and the Chairs of ICFA and the ILCSC attended. Dr. Pierre Coulombe, President of the National Research Council of Canada, chaired the meeting.

2. T. Akesson informed members that the CERN Council was setting up a committee to examine scientific and geographic enlargement of CERN. A first meeting is expected to take place before the March CERN Council. He encouraged input to this process by FALC members as well as by the non-member countries.

He outlined the new Council procedures giving Europe a framework to harmonize its Particle Physics program, to engage with the Particle Physics activities in other regions of the world and to follow-up the implementation of the European Strategy for Particle Physics. The CERN Council is examining the connection to astroparticle physics to which links have been established through Astroparticle Physics European Coordination (ApPEC), an interest grouping of national funding agencies.

3. The merits of expanding the membership, role, and mandate of FALC in all three regions were discussed, and an action plan was developed. There was recognition of the importance of enlargement of FALC, given that this body constitutes a unique forum for inter-regional discourse among funding agencies. There was also discussion of widening the scope of FALC to include all large international high energy and particle astrophysics projects.

4. The Group noted three areas that required emphasis in moving forward with planning for a linear collider: (1) economic and societal benefits; (2) outreach; and (3) internationalization of the field. FALC task forces will be formed to examine and report back on these three issues.

5. Work by the GDE on governance was reviewed. Professor Barish reported on the status of the plans for the ILC Technical Design Phases I and II. High-priority risk mitigating R&D and studies of cost reduction were central topics for the Phase 1 interim report in mid 2010. He noted that the TDP II was scheduled for completion in 2012. The Group welcomed the increased collaboration between the ILC GDE and CLIC, which allows for more effective use of resources and promotes communication between the two project teams.

6. The Group received status reports on the work of ICFA and the ILCSC, LHC and planned upgrades of LHC, and J-PARC. An update on superconducting RF technology R&D was presented to the Group.

7. The next meeting will be held in Quebec City, Canada, July 2009.

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