

**Minutes of the STFC Cross Community Post Management Committee  
Daresbury Laboratory  
5 Jan 2009**

**Present:** P.J. Nolan, J. Simpson, T. Davinson, A.G. Smith, P.M. Walker, R Wadsworth

09.01. STFC were unable to send anyone to be in attendance on this occasion.

09.02. Membership of the Committee.

AGS, JS and PJN represent the grant holding institutions for the cross-community personnel.

RW, TD and PMW are independent members representing the community.

09.03. Terms of reference.

RW tabled suggestions for the terms of reference. These were discussed and one or two additional points suggested. The following were agreed post meeting, subject to discussion with STFC.

(a) to review requests for cross-community post personnel prior to the submission of grant applications to STFC panels

(b) to provide input to the NPGP on the planned future usage and requirements for this resource as required.

(c) to ensure that institutions with cross-community posts have guidance on priorities as and when the need arises

(d) to monitor usage of cross-community staff time and provide reports to the Nuclear Physics Forum, Heads of Groups and STFC.

(e) to discuss succession planning/continuation of posts

09.04. Cross-community posts and requirements for 2009.

The following posts are currently defined as cross-community posts:

DARESBUURY

Rob Griffiths (Design engineer)  
Patrick Coleman-Smith (Electronics Engineer)  
Ian Lazarus (Electronics Engineer)  
Simon Letts (Software Engineer)  
Vic Pucknell (Software Engineer)  
John Strachan (Mechanical Engineer)  
Paul Morrall (Target maker, technician)

LIVERPOOL

John Cresswell (software Engineer)  
Dave Seddon (Design Engineer)  
James Thornhill (Electronics Engineer)  
Dave Wells (Electronics Engineer)

MANCHESTER

Andy Smith (Design Engineer)

An email circulated by the Chair before Christmas to Heads of Groups failed to provide sufficient information for the committee to judge the true level of current demand or future needs for the currently funded cross community personnel.

The committee needs this information so that resource implications can be monitored and, if necessary, appropriate advice provided to relevant committees.

**Action:** RW agreed to circulate the community to inform them that in future all grants requiring cross-community personnel support must provide details to the Chair of this committee in advance of submission.

It was agreed that the following projects should be on the current list since they require time from cross-community personnel.

Also listed are suggested initial contact personnel to gather the necessary information.

Project Grants

AGATA – acting project manager, J Strachan

NUSTAR – Zsolt Podolyak

HIE-ISOLDE – Peter Butler

KE Prospectus – Andy Boston

Existing Grants

LISA – J Simpson/ P Nolan

SAGE – J Simpson/ P Nolan

AIDA – T Davinson

SHARC – B Fulton

Bragg Detectors – C Barton

ALPHA – P Nolan

PRISMA – J Simpson, S Freeman

HELIOS – S Freeman

COMPLIS – J Billowes

PRD grants - existing and future

TACTIC – A Laird

Other Projects

PARIS – D Jenkins

**Action:** RW agreed to contact the named people to request a short report on the future cross-community resource requirements for the projects (information to be provided in calendar years starting from 1/1/09) so that a clearer picture would be available for the next meeting.

It was agreed that cross-community effort/ expertise is required to support existing projects that have been designed and constructed by the UK under various EPSRC/ STFC grants and that continue to be part of the nuclear physics strategy.

#### 09.05. AoB

(a) It was noted that there is a community requirement for a VHDL software engineer for many existing projects (SAGE, LISA, GREAT, AIDA, AGATA) and recent STFC grants (AGATA and NuSTAR). It was felt that this skill would be in increasing demand within the community in future.

(b) JS agreed to send out copies of documents submitted to the NPGP describing the roles of the cross—community posts and modes of operation.

**Action: JS**

(c) Agreed that John, Strachan, Ian Lazarus and Vic Pucknell will provide co-ordination for the mechanical, electronics and software teams.

(d) JS raised the issue of support (i.e. travel and subsistence, laboratory running costs, computing etc) for the cross-community personnel. These posts are not just to support individual groups physics themes, but the whole UK programme. This was not the case in the recent award in the rolling grant round.

(e) Based on current knowledge it appears that the requests for the cross-community support in the current Standard grants round is ok.

#### 09.06. Frequency of meetings and date of next meeting.

Agreed that 2 meetings/ year would be needed. Not clear yet as to the best timing for the meetings, i.e. January/ July or September/ March. Agreed to review this at the next meeting. Date of next meeting provisionally set for 22<sup>nd</sup> April at Daresbury.

RW 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 09