

**Minutes of the STFC Cross Community Post Management Committee
Daresbury Laboratory
7 March 2011**

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

11.01. Apologies
None necessary

11.02. Minutes of the last meeting
Accepted

11.03. Matters arising
None

11.04. Information requested from I Lazarus, V. Pucknell and J. Strachan on use of CC personnel time in 2010 and requests for time in 2011 and beyond had been received and circulated in advance of the meeting. The committee were please to see that the CC personnel were fully utilized in 2010 on a wide variety of tasks related to the NUSTAR/AGATA project, upgrades of existing detection systems, developments of new equipment resulting from various grants that had been allocated since the Rolling Grants round in 2008, support for existing equipment that has been funded through past grants and a small element of local support.

Requests for 2011 and beyond.

The Chair informed the committee that STFC had noted a discrepancy between the figures requested in the Manchester grant request for the designer A Smith and those reported by Daresbury Laboratory. It was noted that the discrepancies all related to the first and last years of the grant requests and that this was due to the figures being reported in proportion to the financial year in one case. This fully accounted for the observed discrepancy.

Number of funded Posts and changes in Personnel

This has remained constant, but Pucknell is now working half-time and Coleman-Smith is 2/3 time. The resulting savings have been used to employ a young engineer, Moschos Kogimtzis, at Daresbury. His expertise is in working with FPGA's, writing VHDL code and in analogue design. He is an Engineer that covers areas that fall between electronics and software – an area where the community had been aware there was a lack of expertise. The committee were pleased to note this enhancement in the capabilities of the CC personnel and felt that it was a good strategic move from the succession planning point of view.

It was also reported that Rob Griffiths had been replaced by Ian Burrows in the Design team. The committee wished to formally record its thanks to Rob on behalf of the UK

Nuclear Physics Community for all the work he has done for nuclear physics projects for over 20 years.

The total level of requests from 2011/12 to 2015/16 was reviewed and noted to be in a little in excess of the currently available effort. However, the requests included estimates for future projects as well as the total amount of time requested for all the physics themes that have been submitted in the current grants round. The true level is expected to be lower than the figures presented and to match the existing level of CC effort. A clearer picture is expected to emerge of the actual effort required once the new grants are announced in the summer as this will then reveal what is available for any future projects, including applications type projects (see below).

It was noted that the resources requested for the operation of the laboratories at Daresbury support the whole community, not just the funded physics programmes at Daresbury.

Agreed that RW should ask Dave Ireland if there is anything specific he requires in the way of a report for the forthcoming NPGP grants meeting in May

Action: RW

A short discussion took place on the level of CC post expertise that might be used on applications/ applied projects (there are currently none that will be active in the coming period). The general feeling was that this needs to be kept at a level that does not interfere with the nuclear physics work. It was noted that the skills base of the CC effort is ideal for applied projects. It was felt that this should be discussed within the community later in the year once the grant allocations had been sorted. Other issues that are related to this also need to be addressed. These include a need to agree on who should be responsible for managing this request (e.g. this committee?) for both applications type work within STFC and work that may be required for grants funded by other research councils, such as EPSRC, MRC etc. In the latter case it was suggested that any grant applications should be requesting explicit funding for this resource. This would then allow for the possibility of buying in extra personnel should the need arise due to pressure of work loads.

Conclusion:

It was agreed that following the NPGP grants meeting it would be useful for the committee to publicise to the community what had been funded. It was also agreed that that this would be the right time to raise issues such as the need to apply for funding of the CC resource when applying for applications type grants inside and outside of STFC and who should be responsible for the management of the CC personnel resources requested in such grants. It was noted that this committee is ideally placed to perform this task. This opportunity would also be taken to advertise to the community that the CC resource could be used in this way and that this would potentially help bring in new expertise to the community.

RW 15th March 11