

**Minutes of the STFC Cross Community Post Management Committee**  
**Daresbury Laboratory**  
**18 July 2016**

**Present:** P.J. Nolan, J. Simpson, J. Long, J Hiscock, P.M. Walker (via video link), T. Davinson (via video link), I. Lazarus, A. Grant, R Wadsworth (Chair)

16.01. Apologies: none were sent. RW agreed to contact John Billowes to see if Manchester wished to propose another representative for the committee as Gavin had failed to attend the last couple of meetings.

16.02. Current CC personnel  
**Daresbury**

- Ian Burrows - Mechanical Design Engineer
- Patrick Coleman-Smith - Electronics Engineer (67%)
- Alan Grant - Mechanical Engineer (50%)
- Mike Cordwell - Mechanical Engineer (50%)
- Moschos Kogimtzis - Electronics Engineer
- Ian Lazarus - Electronics Engineer
- Dave Laff - Software Engineer
- Vic Pucknell - Software Engineer (50%)
- Paul Morrall - Target maker, technician

**Liverpool**

- John Cresswell - Software Engineer
- Dan Judson – Software Engineer
- Dave Seddon - Design Engineer
- James Thornhill - Electronics Engineer (50%)
- Dave Wells - Electronics Engineer

**Manchester**

- Andy Smith - Design Engineer

Liverpool will seek to appoint a full time Electronics Engineer using the 50% funding released by Jim Thornhill (who has partially retired) plus funds from IPS/CLASP funding.

Noted that when Jim Thornhill fully retires the 2.5 electronic Engineer posts at Liverpool will reduce back to two posts.

Agreed that in future succession planning there was a growing need for engineers with FPGA/ real time software experience.

16.03. ALICE/ ISOL project requests for CC effort

The committee agreed to ring fence the CC effort that was approved in the original project grants (which run up to 30/10/19 for ISOL and 31/12/19 for ALICE) and which were subject to updates following requests from STFC for mitigation plans, and agreed by the Oversight Committees. ALICE had previously requested 50% of the new Liverpool electronics engineer and this had been agreed in principle by the CCC at their last meeting. Prior to the meeting Ian Lazarus was informed that the new electronics engineer effort was no longer being requested via the CC effort and that this would now be covered by the recruitment of a full time silicon expert for the ALICE project.

The committee was informed that further requests for CC effort for both ISOL and ALICE projects were submitted to Ian by 24 June, however, these requests have been attached specifically to CG grant themes (see item 5) in order to tension them against other requests for the CG themes.

16.04. Brief up date on use of CC resources up till end of Sept 2017

JS reported that effort was being (had been/ will be) used on the following:

Completion of NUSTAR project grant

Fast timing array designs for various labs, Argonne, Ganil, Jyvaskyla, (Surrey/ Brighton/Manchester))

R3B (ongoing resource)

AIDA at RIKEN (Edinburgh)

NEDA and PARIS at GANIL (York)

Fission fragment work (Manchester)

ISOLDE decay station (Liverpool/ York)

MINIBALL at CERN

DAQ work with AGATA/ VAMOS

Applied Physics with Christie

P Morrall had continued to produce targets for members of the community and was also involved in building bits of equipment such as R3B, LYCCA, AIDA....

IL said that work on MIDAS development for the whole community will be required, for example to upgrade it so that pre-filtering is no longer required and data can go straight to disk and be merged subsequently offline.

16.05. CC resources from Oct 2017 to 2021

IL outlined how he had profiled the CC requests that had been received for the themes in the existing CG grants and forthcoming CG grants round.

It was noted that so far only an AGATA SoI has been assumed for a possible future project, however this was in effect a place holder which covered 4 FTE in

Mechanics, 3 FTE in Electronics and 3 FTE in Software. (i.e. 1.33 FTE/yr on average). It was noted that none of the York future projects ie Scintillator array for RIKEN or Charged particle array for ELI had been included, despite expectation that these would be mentioned in the York Grant. RW to chase up with DJ and CD.

It was confirmed that in the spreadsheets submitted to the committee none of the existing CC posts had been committed more than 100%, in line with STFC's guidance.

It was noted that based on current existing and future requests 1 FTE/yr of Software effort would be required from A N Other if everything is approved in the next grants round. Agreed that Daresbury need to consider how best to cover the request in their grant for the missing 1 FTE/ yr CC Software Engineer effort.

In Electronics everything can be covered provided J Thornhill continues at 50% and the extra post at Liverpool (see item 3) is filled. However, if Jim Thornhill decides to fully retire then 50% of an Electronics Engineer will be missing if everything requested is approved (ie there will be a need for an A N Other Electronics Engineer in this case at 50% level). Agreed that Liverpool need to consider how to deal with this and discuss with STFC how best to include this in their grant request.

On the Mechanical Engineering side 16 FTE were available and ~18 FTE were requested at this time. ~0.5 FTE/yr of A N Other will be required if all themes are funded and will be request in the CG request.

(At this point JH mentioned 400KEuro being missing from the 5MEuro agreed for FAIR, with 4.6MEuro having been spent on the NUSTAR project grant. There was some mention of this 0.4MEuro possibly being allocated to support design layouts at GSI for equipment/ installations at FAIR, with a comment that a discussion needs to be held with Zsolt and possibly consultation with the community.)

### **Future Projects:**

AGATA listed in the spreadsheets as a project place holder for the periods 19/20, 20/21 when the ISOL/ ALICE projects are coming to an end.

RIKEN start detector project – details are currently sketchy so it is assumed to be an average size project. - Zsolt Podolyak, (Surrey)

Scintillation tracing detector project - D Jenkins, York

Advanced charged particle array for ELI-NP - C Diget, R Herzberg, York/  
Liverpool

RW to remind Christian and David that they need to send an email to John Simpson about the above projects and that they need to include requests in the York CG to cover the CC work needed for these.

**Summary of CC resource situation:**

**SOFTWARE:** Just over 1 FTE more needed if all themes are approved (Liverpool and Daresbury need to decide between themselves how to deal with this). This will be requested as A.N. Other

**ELECTRONICS:** OK as long as Jim Thornhill remains in his 50% post till 2021, otherwise there will be a shortfall. Paul to discuss with STFC (Jenny) on how best to make contingency planning for this.

**MECHANICS:** Short of ~0.5 FTE/yr over 4 years if all theme work is approved. This will be requested as A.N. Other.

The panel thanked Ian Lazarus and Alan Grant for their work in preparing the detailed spreadsheets for the meeting.

16.06 Key points to report to NPGP

Agreed that no report could be made at this stage. It was decided that a further meeting needed to be held in late October/ early November to ensure that what was recorded in Ian and Alan's spreadsheets matched what came in through the consolidated grant applications for CC effort. Jenny agreed that she would obtain the latter information from the grant applications and organise a suitable date for this meeting via a doodle poll.

It was agreed that the report needs to be clear that the CC resources needs to be funded at the 100% level.

16.07 A.o.B

**Large Data Storage at RAL**

Liverpool, Daresbury, York and Surrey had indicated that they would like to have access to facilities for the storage of large 1-30+ Tb data sets/year. Tom Davinson indicated Edinburgh already had access to such a facility via their University, but that this was a local solution. John Simpson agreed to enquire about the costs of this at RAL and to circulate the information to grant PI's/ Groups. It was clear that there would be a per Tb/yr cost plus the cost of someone to administer this.

Institutions that wished to go ahead with the request should also mention this in their Data Management Plans.

### **Theory Support in the Community**

At the end of the meeting Jenny mentioned Jacek Dobaczewski's theory proposal to support the community (outside of York) with calculations. She indicated that she would be circulating an email to groups to let them know of the opportunity to request such support in their themes. Once the level of work required is known this will enable the level of resource (in the form of PDRA effort) to be determined and bid for in the CG round. Jenny also indicated that if this were successful the NPGP would manage these requests (at least for this pilot initiative) as the CCC does not currently have the appropriate expertise.

**RW August 2016**