

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES COUNCIL
LCFI OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Feedback and actions arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2008 at STFC, Swindon

Following the announcement in the Delivery Plan that STFC would withdraw from the ILC, it was the working assumption that all STFC funded ILC activities would come to an orderly end as soon as possible, within the next 6 months. The Committee identified which elements of the project were ILC specific and which were of lasting generic value, which can be found below. If the Collaboration wished to submit a new proposal for a generic programme of work this may be allowable but depended entirely on whether funding was available and would be subject to PRD and PPRP peer review. There was however no formal bid back procedure and no guarantee that funding would be available for the Collaboration to continue any generic work.

Overall, the Committee was extremely impressed with the progress which had been made, and believed that the Collaboration was in a strong position to complete most of the milestones by December 2008 and that the project would have succeeded if the STFC funding crisis had not happened. The Committee was particularly pleased with the progress with WP6 over the last 6 months. The LCFI group was world-leading in this area and members did not want the expertise to be lost from the UK.

Work Package 1:

The work in WP1 was internationally recognised and some excellent work had been achieved. The UK was in a leading position. However, the Committee was not convinced the work was of lasting generic value as it was ILC specific and advised the Collaboration to finish this in an orderly manner as soon as possible. The WP manager should be given special consideration with regards to the amount of time her funding could continue for.

Work Package 2:

The work in WP2 was a good example of knowledge transfer. ISIS was interesting new technology. It had been considered as high risk but the Committee was impressed to see a successful beam test of ISIS1 had been carried out. The Committee recommended that funding for ISIS1 with revised p-well should continue so that it was available for the beam tests in August 2008. The Committee recommended that the ISIS2 work was completed as this was a world-leading development, with generic applications. The Collaboration had proven that the column parallel CCDs worked effectively so the Committee did not feel this needed to be progressed further. The Collaboration could make a case for funding this work to the PPRP, but in the Committee's view it would be unlikely to be seen as a high priority. However if a proposal was submitted to STFC for the testing of the CCD variants it was to the Collaboration's advantage that they would already have the CCDs and would only require effort to test them. The Office and Collaboration would need to discuss the issue of the continuation of staff effort for WP2.

Action: Collaboration & Office

Work Packages 3, 4 & 5:

The outcome of WP 2 would affect WPs 3, 4 and 5. The Collaboration should provide scenarios for these Work Packages on the basis of the recommendations for WP 2.

Action: Collaboration

Work Package 6:

The Committee was particularly impressed with the work achieved in WP6. This work was generic and members believed it should be supported as it had potential, for example, for vertex detectors and ATLAS upgrades. The Committee advised the Collaboration to maintain this work, concentrating on the silicon carbide foams studies and procuring a lower mass carbon fibre weave to construct further carbon fibre prototypes, and then submit a proposal to STFC for further funding.

Action: Collaboration

Work Package 7:

The Committee found this work interesting but could not comment on its future as it was not funded by STFC.

Overall, the Collaboration should discuss the financing of priority areas during FY 08/09 with the Office.

Action: Collaboration & Office

Date of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on Friday 17th October 2008 at STFC, Swindon Office.