

MICE Transnational Access (TA) Meeting
Minutes of the 4th Meeting held at RAL on 9 December 2011

Present:

Ken Peach (Oxford, Chair)
Norman McCubbin (STFC)
Steve Geer (FNAL)
Mary Elizabeth Shewry (STFC)
Francesco Terranova (Frascati –by EVO)

Invited for Presentations:

Alain Blondel (UNIGE)
Mariyan Bogomilov (Sofia)
Davide Bologini (Insubria – by EVO)
Maurizio Bonesini (Milano – by EVO)
Michela Prest (Insubria – by EVO)
Roumen Tsenov (Sofia – by EVO)

1. Welcome

Ken Peach welcomed everyone to the fourth T & A meeting to review reports and plans from each group receiving support. He explained that this meeting had been scheduled ahead of the final TA round in early 2012 so that the panel could hear from the groups:

1. how their work was progressing
2. what their likely requests for further TA support would be up to the end March 2013

Norman McCubbin said that EuCARD was viewed favourably by the Commission in Brussels and the MICE TA component (WP6) was seen as a good use of funds. The EuCARD consortium had recently submitted a new bid (EuCARD-2), which contained a request for TA access to the Ionisation Cooling Test Facility (ICTF) at RAL¹. This bid was not certain of success, but if approved there would be a similar tranche of funds available for a 4-year TA programme starting in April 2013. Norman noted that the funding cut-off from the present award is sharp, and the TA money will need to be spent by March 2013, with no carry-over. Of course we hoped that the new funding from EuCARD-2 would allow a fairly seamless continuation of TA.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted, with all actions done.

¹ ICTF is a renaming of the MICE facility, and is the name already used in the EU TIARA project. This name should avoid some of the bureaucratic confusion that arose when the name MICE referred to both the facility and the experiment.

3. Presentations

3.1 University of Geneva (UNIGE)

Alain Blondel presented the work of the University of Geneva, covering its responsibilities in online coordination, DAQ, trigger, construction of the EMR and forthcoming construction and tests on the EMR jointly with COMO & Trieste. In addition, Alain is the MICE Spokesperson. The Field Mapping of the magnets will be done by experts from CERN. Alain also explained the progress made on the experiment as a whole and likely future schedule.

Alain said that that for 'technical support' UNIGE would need a further 4 visits and 100 visitor days, and a total for all visits (including the technical support) of 300-350 visitor-days through to March 2013. The ISIS funding currently allows of ~120 days running per year. Ken Peach said he would check the 2012 schedule on behalf of the MICE TA community, as this would affect the planning of visits. For MICE it looked most important to maintain ISIS periods '2012/1' and '2012/5' **ACTION- KJP**

Alain concluded that the TA funds had been extremely useful in providing T & S for ~25% of MOM presence, together with critical presence for DAQ online and support for visits on hardware and for analysis of results. A year of intense work on the EMR would follow through to December 2012.

Ken Peach said that official reports (e.g. to EuCARD or the EU) should give results first and then discussion of how the TA support has helped in the achievement of the successes. The Period 2 (P2) report from EuCARD to EU, covering October 2010 through March 2012, would have to be prepared in the first part of 2012. As for the P1 report, groups will be asked to provide information on the deliverables, publications, the amount of access to the facility etc.

3.2 University of Sofia

Mariyan Bogomilov gave the presentation on the work of the University of Sofia. He said that some of the work reported was in collaboration with Roma, Pavia and Milano. He noted that Yordan Karadzhov had moved to University of Geneva. During the period November 2009 to 30 September 2010 there were 100 days and 6 Visits approved with 95 days and 5 Visits used. From October 2010 to September 2011 of the approved 175 days and 10 visits, only 34 days and 2 visits had taken place due to schedule slippages.

(ACTION: Norman to check accounting of Sofia TA trips since October 2010.)

He said that publications and one thesis had been written on MICE and the first papers were included in the semester reports to EuCARD. The Sofia group had provided 2 months of MOM cover, shifters for data taking and MAUS software support. Roumen Tsenov said he was trying to organise national funding, although it was most difficult to persuade the government to allocate money to science. He relied on the TA allocation for the group's trips to the facility.

Ken Peach said he understood and noted the difficult financial circumstances facing the group. However, all groups must adhere to the constraints on the use of TA funds: the funds were specific



for visits to the facility and could therefore cover MICE meetings held there, but could not be used to pay for MICE visits to other venues, which would have to be covered by other means. Ken said that consideration would be given to provide further support from October 2012 to March 2013, bearing in mind that the schedule slippage was to blame for the current underspend. Mariyan was thanked for the update.

3.3 University of Insubria

Davide Bolognini presented the work of the Insubria group on the Electron Muon Ranger (EMR). Ken Peach commented that it was a very beautiful detector. It was noteworthy that it had been designed for MICE but had now been copied by other groups at CERN. Davide said it was hoped that the EMR would produce the first data in July 2012 once fully installed at RAL. Michele Prest explained that Insubria was a “young” group with considerable turnover of personnel and had worked from its home institute to help the project both at CERN and Geneva. So far they had used only 14 days. Davide had now finished his thesis. She asked if it were possible for group members not named on the original application to make use of the TA funds to assist in the installation of the EMR and running of the detector, as this would be extremely valuable. Ken Peach said that this was certainly possible: the TA funding was intended to help the group achieve its goals at the facility, and was not tied rigidly to particular names. The Insubria group did not expect to require its full allocation of 90 days.

3.4 INFN Milano

Maurizio Bonesini presented the work being done by INFN. He explained that there had been various delays in the installation and commissioning of the ToF and KL. These delays had meant significant changes to the planning and had resulted in a great deal of work for the technicians. More visits would be needed in the future as extensive re-configuration and integration of detectors lay ahead requiring substantial presence at RAL. INFN was supporting the ToF and KL but also had a strong contact with UNIGE. They had produced 4 publications in 2011. Due to the additional interventions necessary in 2012, Milano would require a further 40 days and 10 – 15 extra visits. Maurizio estimated an increase of 20% above that would be needed to cover the period to March 2013, which would be completely devoted to Step IV.

4. Close Out

Ken concluded that the funds still not allocated together with the committed (but so far unused) awards should be sufficient to meet the likely requests and requirements of the groups through to March 2013, based on the plans that they had outlined today. Of course other bids may come in, which would add financial pressure, but there was unlikely to be a major mis-match between requirements and available funding. In submitting requests into the Jan 2012 round, groups should submit their requests matched to commitments that could be fulfilled by March 2013. Teams should refer to the MICE schedule delays as one reason for the need for extra funds and for the underspend so far. These delays were beyond the control of the teams. Ken reminded everyone that it would be helpful to present a summary of achievements first, followed by what would be measured in the future and what would be required to achieve the goals.

Steve Geer suggested that it would be helpful if ammunition was produced to show that funds have been well spent.





Norman McCubbin added that the EuCARD P2 Report was looming, so information on the 18 months phase from September 2010 would be needed. Any measurements of activity happening now would be useful. On a specific question from Maurizio about exceeding the allocation of the number of visits, Norman advised that the key measure was actually the number of visitor-days, which had not been exceeded, and so further visits were in order. Ken agreed with this.

Francesco Terranova noted that UNIGE would usually request only ~50% of costs from TA, and he asked if the figures shown were the final request to April 2013. Alain said that he would apply to EuCARD for 50% of the 350 days. Ken said that when the underspend was taken into account, he could not see a problem with funding the Field Mapping visits requested by UNIGE.

Alain added that the MICE NIKHEF group had shown interest in applying for EuCARD funding and he would remind them of the 31 January 2012 deadline.

5. Conclusions of the Committee

Norman reminded the committee that he had now retired and that the new Director of PPD would need to identify his replacement so that that person could take over smoothly as EuCARD-2 got under way. It was agreed that he should continue in his role until the final allocations were made early next year. For the rest of the panel, it was felt desirable not to make changes until EuCARD-2 was running smoothly. Francesco Terranova and Steve Geer confirmed that they were happy to continue on the committee, so Ken Peach proposed that no changes be made until 2014/2015, apart from Norman's replacement.

The main decision on EuCARD 2 would take place in summer 2012, with detailed budget discussions in the latter part of the year. Ken said two plans were needed;

1. If EuCARD-2 went ahead Norman's replacement should be identified by September 2012, so a Closedown and Start Up meeting would be needed in March 2013
2. If there was no TA programme under EuCARD-2, then Norman would be asked to remain on the committee until the closure of the current TA programme.

6. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

The next standard meeting would be on 10 February 2012 as a telephone meeting at 14:00 to 16:00 UK time.

Ken reminded the committee that the 31 January 2012 round for awards would be the "last call".

Mary Elizabeth Shewry
14 December 2011

