Open Session

1. COMPASS Status Report Bernhard Ketzer
2. COMPASS II Proposal Nicole D’Hose
3. OPERA Dario Autiero
4. ICARUS Francesco Pietropaolo

Closed Session

Present:
S. Bertolucci, B. Bloch-Devaux, P. Bloch, H. Breuker, M. Charlton, O. Cremonesi, A. Denig, 
E. Falk, L. Favart, L. Feld, E. Gallo, L. Gatignon, L. Garrido, P. Giubellino, M. Gonin, 
B. Panzer-Steindl, C. Rembser (Secretary), E. Rondio, C. Touramanis, C. Vallée, 
U. Wiedemann

Apologies:
F. Close, P. Collier, R. Heuer, S. Maury, S. Myers

1. MINUTES OF THE 96th MEETING OF THE SPSC, HELD ON 13 APRIL AND 14 APRIL 2010

The minutes of SPSC 96 were approved.

2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported on the Research Board (RB) meeting, RB192. 
The following points were presented and, where necessary, discussed:

1) The SPSC reported about the progress of the DIRAC experiment and expressed its 
   concerns about the publication of the 2001-03 data and about a timely analysis of the recent 
data.
2) The SPSC presented the outstanding progress of CLOUD in deploying its experimental set-up, as well as its fast analysis of the first data taken with the new chamber.

3) The NA63 results were summarized and the SPSC recommended approval of data taking for the NA63 program in 2011.

4) The SPSC presented the plans for an upgraded quasi-permanent set-up of the DREAM R&D calorimetry program, and expressed the need for a more detailed technical description of their request.

The Research Board noted points 1) and 2) and endorsed point 3).
As regards point 4), the Research Board invited the DREAM collaboration to submit a proposal to become an R&D experiment, which would later continue to be monitored by the SPSC.
Paul Collier's proposal concerning accelerator implications of experiment proposals was further discussed. It was decided that, when evaluating a new experimental proposal within a scientific committee, the IEFC (Injector and Experimental Area Committee) would be triggered, if needed, by the AB members of the scientific committee and should give an assessment before the recommendation of the scientific committee.

3. STATUS OF ACCELERATORS

L. Gatignon presented the slides, which were prepared by S. Gilardoni.

All machines, the LINAC2, Booster, PS and SPS, were performing well for the physics and beam test program, except for the delay of the start-up of the East Area; see the report on Experimental Areas.

Although many tests for the Multi-Turn Extraction were done, the remaining problem of the (too) high activation of an extraction septum is not solved. Studies are ongoing. However, until all issues are fully understood, the PS operation returned to the CT extraction scheme.

Due to the high number of extracted protons to the nTOF facility, a beam counter in the nTOF beam line is working at its calibration and saturation limit. This currently prevents to send more protons than nominal to nTOF. This, combined with some stops due to interventions on the counter, leads to a slight shortage of proton delivery to the facility. An upgrade of the counter would require a period without SPS operation, thus – to save time – other options to measure the proton flux are studied. Once the preparations are completed, the counter will be upgraded whenever an appropriate time slot will occur.

Due to requirements imposed by the LHC, technical stops and days for machine development were reshuffled. Otherwise there was no major impact by the LHC machine on the injector operation.
Due to the high proton doses delivered to the experiments, cool-down time of the injectors is needed before technical stops.
4. STATUS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL AREAS

L. Gatignon gave an overview on the status of the experimental areas.

Because of a defect and the subsequent replacement of a special bending magnet, the start-up of the East Area was delayed. Since then the magnet is working stably despite a very small water leak. Studies on alternative magnets are ongoing in parallel with the preparation of a spare magnet of the same type. Fortunately, the delayed start-up had no significant impact on the users of which most anyhow started later.

The North Area is operating stably apart from intermittent access control problems in EHN1, which were only solved in the second half of June. Good progress is done in the ECN3 area, where preparations for the NA62 experiment are advancing well.

The AD had excellent operation conditions until a power cut in week 22. Time was lost to bring back the decelerator to work and conditions are less stable since then. The ACE experiment successfully took data during the allocated five shifts.

The CNGS beam-line is performing very well, $1.25 \times 10^{19}$ protons on target have been delivered up to now, with $10^{19}$ p.o.t. being expected.

5. PS, SPS AND AD SCHEDULES

H. Breuker presented an update on the 2010 users’ schedules for the PS, AD and SPS.

The re-scheduling of the technical stops and machine development days has significant impact on the planning for the North Area users. E.g. the DREAM experiment needed to be re-scheduled as both foreseen run periods now overlap with technical stops of five days. The final AMS test need re-scheduling, too and made a new request for additional days of beam preparation and set-up before their run starts.

In the East Area, at the PS the CLOUD experiment takes two, sometimes 3 PS cycles. This is at the cost of protons to the Irradiation facility and – if needed – sometimes from the DIRAC experiment. The run for the Irradiation facility was prolonged to compensate for the losses.

New versions of the PS and SPS schedule are available on the Users web pages.
6. DISCUSSION OF THE OPEN SESSION

6.1. COMPASS

The SPSC notes with pleasure the publication of the exotic JPC=1-+ resonance in the 2004 data and is looking forward to a timely analysis and publication of the 2008 and 2009 data sets.

The SPSC congratulates COMPASS on their recent publications on the spin structure of the proton.

6.2 COMPASS II Proposal

The SPSC received with interest the COMPASS II proposal for the future measurement of Primakov, DVCS and Drell-Yan processes starting from 2012. These measurements provide novel tests of chiral perturbation theory and internal QCD dynamics of the hadrons. The SPSC acknowledges the physics motivation of the program and will further review the proposal.

6.3 CNGS1 (OPERA)

The SPSC congratulates the OPERA Collaboration on the excellent progress of the analysis processes and on the observation and publication of the first v_τ candidate event. The SPSC looks forward to the completion of the analysis of the 2008 and 2009 datasets and first results on 2010 data.

6.4 CNGS2 (ICARUS)

The SPSC congratulates the ICARUS collaboration for bringing the full detector to operation and observing CNGS neutrino interactions. The Committee is looking forward to a rapid transition to production mode in terms of collecting high quality data and physics results.

7. FOLLOW-UP OF EXPERIMENTS, BEAM TESTS AND PROPOSALS

Nothing to report.

8. AOB

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on the 28 and 29 September 2010.