

15 April 2003

LIP International Advisory Committee
Meeting of 15 March 2003 in Lisbon

Present: E. R. de Arantes e Oliveira, J. E. Augustin, C. W. E. van Eijk,
P. G. Innocenti, H. Schopper.
Apologies: M. Jacob

The LIP International Advisory Committee met in Lisbon on 15 March 2003 to review the 2002 results and discuss the 2003 programme of work. In a formal session Committee Members met with members of the LIP Directorate, G. Barreira (Lisbon), J. Gago (Lisbon, President), R. Marques (Coimbra), M. Pimenta (Lisbon) and A. Policarpo (Coimbra). João Carvalho (Coimbra), secretary of the LIP Scientific Committee participated in the meeting. Committee Members also had the occasion of discussing with scientific staff of the Laboratory about results from the previous year and expected developments.

The LIP Management informed the Committee of the current funding situation. Although the science policy in Portugal had not formally changed, the positive trend in funding had reversed: The steady funding, which had marked the six year period up to 2001, stopped in 2002 with a mid term correction to the budget by -20%. The 2003 budget is equal to the end-of-the-year 2002 budget. As a consequence, the Funding Authorities have suspended two major projects: reinstallation of LIP Lisbon on new premises and participation in a GRID collaboration. The "Fundo CERN", which represents a substantial source of income to cover LIP activities other than construction of the LHC experiments, has been late in releasing the funds for the projects approved at its October 2002 meeting. In addition to the disruption in operation caused by this delay, there is deep concern for a shortfall that risks to become irrecoverable. Expenses related to the construction of ATLAS and CMS, but not included in the LHC construction budget, had not been supported by the "Fundo CERN" already in 2001 and 2002. If the trend continues, these uncompressible expenses can only be covered by reducing substantially other research activities in the future.

The Committee was pleased to note that the status of LIP as an Associate Laboratory had already had positive effects on hiring new staff both in Coimbra and in Lisbon. The more systematic personnel policy LIP can put in place as an Associated Laboratory represents a great advantage with respect to research units at University Departments. The upcoming revision of the long-term conditions for Associated Laboratories should maintain this advantage, as most of the research programme is based on engagements spanning many years. In the views of the Committee LIP has good international visibility and it is valued as a reliable partner in international collaborations.

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The stability deriving from its status of Associate Laboratory is an essential component for holding a significant place in international science. Moreover, stable positions at LIP represent a favourable factor in the relations of LIP with the Portuguese Universities, by permitting a more balanced exchange of competence and by alleviating the shortage of new academic openings.

The Committee reviewed the results of the research programme of 2002 and discussed the plans for 2003.

The work of LIP in the construction of the ATLAS tile calorimeter was successfully completed and the team is now active in calibration of the calorimeter modules in a beam at CERN. The work for the CMS trigger is proceeding according to schedule: Hardware and software are in the final prototyping. In reviewing the progress in the construction of the LHC experiments the Committee reiterated its concern for the additional costs faced by LIP, on top of what is written in the ATLAS and CMS Memoranda of Understanding. The Portuguese teams in the Delphi and NA50 experiments at CERN have taken the lead in some aspects of the data analysis, resulting in a number of publications. The NA50 team will continue work on heavy-ion physics by joining Compass for the 2003 (last fixed-target) heavy-ion run.

Development in instrumentation continued in 2002 in Coimbra. Resistive plate chambers were tested for time-of-flight measurements in PET; tests on xenon and argon scintillation continued in for neutron recoil detection in the n-TOF experiment at CERN and for dark matter searches.

Research on the applications of HEP techniques to medical imaging continued. Cross-disciplinary collaborations were established in projects such as a mammography PET system and the use of GEANT4 for Monte-Carlo simulation of body dosimetry.

The participation of LIP in AMS and EUSO is proceeding according to schedule.

The Committee was very pleased of the outreach effort of LIP, in particular of the project aimed at setting up a cosmic ray observation network in collaboration with high schools.

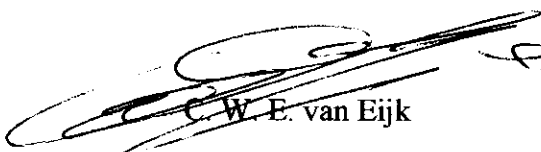
The conclusions of the Committee are very positive on the results achieved in the past year, despite the difficult funding conditions, as well as on the quality of the programme. A point of concern remains on means and mechanism to ensure stable resources for long range projects.



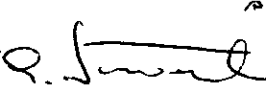
E. R. de Arantes e Oliveira



J. E. Augustin



C. W. E. van Eijk



P. G. Innocenti



H. Schopper