Draft Minutes of the 47th ALICE Resources Review Board Meeting
CERN, Geneva, 30th October 2019

Documents can be found in the RRB indico pages; accessible via the LHC-RRB home page http://cern.ch/committees/LHCRRB. The attendance list is attached at the end of this document.

E. Elsen, Director for Research and Computing welcomed delegates to the meeting. The minutes of the last ALICE RRB meeting, CERN-RRB-2019-061, were approved.

Status of the experiment. F. Antinori, Spokesperson

Summary:
- Rich physics output continues:
  - Charm interaction, hadronisation, initial effects;
  - Reference processes in pp;
  - Large release of results from 2018 sample coming up.
- Upgrade activity proceeding on schedule:
  - Delays in releasing TPC CRU funding, procurement has been initiated nonetheless. The components will arrive in time so as to not to delay Alice’s readiness for Run 3.
- ITS3 upgrade preparations have started;
- ALICE are grateful to the FA’s for their constant support.

It being F. Antinori’s last RRB presentation, he expressed his personal gratitude to the FA’s for the support and help that he received during the past three years.

Questions arising from this presentation:

On the question of the TPC CRU funding, A. R. Sule stated that India recognises the critical situation with the TPC CRU and will make all efforts to honour its commitments. There are two FA’s involved in India, one has requested additional information which the CERN management has provided, and the issue is being resolved with the other FA. It is hoped that this can be done at the earliest, so that funds can be transferred and India’s responsibility as defined in the Addendum 41 to the MoU will be fulfilled. – The ALICE collaboration has developed an emergency plan for the funding with side effects on the longer term online computing capability should the issue not be resolved in due time.

Concerning the choice of hardware for the Physics Data Processing part of the O2 system, F. Antinori confirmed that tests of the AMD GPU’s are ongoing and they look a likely choice for the hardware of the system.

LHCC Deliberations T. Wengler, LHCC Scientific Secretary
There were no questions arising from this presentation.

Financial Matters. G. Cavallo, Finance and Administrative Processes Department

G. Cavallo presented the financial report and updates received since the cut-off date of 31 August.

There were no questions arising from this presentation.

Budgets. A. Telesca, ALICE Resources Coordinator

A. Telesca presented the status of the M&O and Upgrade budgets.

There were no questions arising from this presentation.

M&O Scrutiny Group Report. H. Sandaker, Scrutiny Group Chairperson

The Scrutiny Group (SG) finds the Collaboration's Closing Financial Report for M&O A for the year 2018 in perfect agreement with the Financial Report from FAP. There is a carryover of ~10%. For M&O B, substantial overspending in 2018 occurred to reduce the accumulated cash reserves.

The SG recommends the approval of the 2018 M&O A&B Closing Reports.

The budget request for the 2020 M&O A has a slight decrease with respect to 2019.

The emergency proposal to use the online account for the payment of the TPC CRUs has not been reviewed by the SG.

The budget request for the 2020 M&O B has a slight decrease with respect to 2019.

The SG recommends the approval of the 2020 M&O A&B Budget requests. Any proposal to modify the requests due to the payment of the TPC CRUs has not been reviewed by the SG and is not part of the recommendations. The SG is concerned that the situation with respect to the TPC CRUs was not brought to their attention during the 2019 reviewing cycle, while it seems there would have been enough time to include it.

Comments arising from this presentation:
F. Antinori explained that ALICE was expecting a written commitment from the Indian authorities by the time of the RRB. However, this did not come, and the Scrutiny Group was immediately informed when it was decided to proceed with the order.

Endorsement of extraordinary procedure for the procurement of the TPC Central Readout Units. E. Elsen, Director for Research and Computing

India recognizes the need for the order of the TPC CRUs from the established vendor. Work with the two agencies is ongoing to enable a transfer of funds best before the end of the year in order to fulfil the commitments of Addendum 41 to the MoU.

If this transfer cannot take place, a plan for the financing of the procurement is contained in the Memorandum added to the Indico page of this meeting.

L. Vacavant appreciated the comment from the Indian colleague. He also appreciated the steps that were taken to deal with this issue and hoped it will not be necessary to go to the worst case scenario.
E. Nappi said that INFN endorses the Memorandum containing the plan for the CRU. The decision taken was the only one given the boundary conditions and the time constraints.

Summary

The RRB approved the 2018 M&O A&B Closing Financial Report. And the approval of the 2020 M&O budget requests, assuming the TPC CRU’s can be financed.

The RRB endorses the extraordinary procedure for the procurement of the TPC Common Readout Units.

There being no further business, E. Elsen thanked the delegates and closed the meeting. The proposed dates for the next RRB are 27-29 April 2020.

Reported by: E. van Herwijnen
Present:

R. Cesar (FAPESP, Brazil)
S. Padula, representing R. Shellard (RENAFAE, Brazil)
O. Novák (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic)
M. Sumbera (Institute of Physics AS CR, Czech Republic)
K. Huitu (Helsinki Institute of Physics, Finland)
S. Rasanen (Jyvaskyla University, Finland)
F. Sabatié (CEA Saclay, France)
L. Vacavant (IN2P3/CNRS, France)
M. Gast (BMBF, Germany)
H. Mahlke, W. Ehrenfeld (BMBF/DESY-PT, Germany)
F. Siklér (Wigner RCP-RMKI, Hungary)
A. R. Sule (Department of Atomic Energy, India)
E. Nappi, R. Nania (INFN, Italy)
M. Masera (INFN Torino, Italy)
J. H. Eom (National Research Foundation of Korea)
Jin Hee Yoon (Inha University, Korea)
S. Bentvelsen (NIKHEF, The Netherlands)
D. Drewniak (Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland)
T. Siemiarczuk (National Centre for Nuclear Research, Poland)
M. Kowalski (INP, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland)
F. D. Buzatu, A. Fazacas (Institute of Atomic Physics, Romania)
M. Petrovici (National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN-HH), Romania)
A. F. Dobrin (Institute of Space Science, Romania)
A. Vodopyanov, V. Savrin (JINR, Dubna, Russia)
A. Sumbatyan (Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN, Russia)
O. Dalkarov (P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Russian Academy of Science, Russia)
I. Králik (Institute of Experimental Physics, Kosice, Slovakia)
D. Adams (Department of Science and Technology, South Africa),
N. Ottosson (Swedish Research Council, Sweden)
D. Silvermyr (Lund University, Sweden)
E. Aksu, A. Yuksel (Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK), Turkey)
G. Zinovjev (Bogolyubov Institute for Theoretical Physics, Ukraine)
C. Jamieson, G. Blair (STFC, United Kingdom)
D. Evans (University of Birmingham, United Kingdom)
R. Witt (Department of Energy (DoE), United States of America)
M. Ploskon (LBNL, University of Berkeley, United States of America)


CERN: G. Cavallo, C. Decosse, E. Elsen (Chairperson), F. Hemmer, H. Meinhard, E. Tsesmelis, E. van Herwijnen (Scientific Secretary)

Resources Scrutiny Group: H. Sandaker

Excused: M. Steinacher (CERN), Z. Hlaváčiková (Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports, Slovak Republic)