

Minutes of the 283rd Session of the DESY Scientific Committee (WA / SciCom)

on 9 May 2019

Participants:

WA: N. Baboi, S. Bari, T. Behnke, D. Berge (remote), I. Bloch (remote), M. Bieler, K. Borrás, R. Brinkmann, K. Büßer, M. Diehl, E. Gallo-Voß, H. Graafsma, I.-M. Gregor, C. Grojean, S. Haid, J. Haller, S. Heim, K. Honkavaara, H. Jansen, R. Kammering, M. Kasemann, S. Köster (remote), G. Kube, D. Lott, T. Laarmann, L. Lilje, I. Melzer-Pellmann, N. Müller, C. Niebuhr, K. Peters, R. Röhlsberger, T. Schörner, V. Schomerus (remote), S. Schreiber, A. Stierle, K. Tackmann (remote), M. Tischer, N. Walker, G. Weiglein, W. Winter (remote)
(not all external participants listed)

Directorate: W. Leemans, J. Mnich, E. Weckert

Guests: F. Lehner

Works Council: -

Minutes: T. Schörner

Agenda:

- TOP 1: Approval of the agenda
- TOP 2: Report from the Directorate
- TOP 3: Status of high-level appointments
- TOP 4: HR developments at DESY
- TOP 5: The new head of the accelerator division
- TOP 6: Planning status of DESYUM
- TOP 7: WA internal

TOP 1. Approval of the agenda

The proposed agenda is accepted without changes.

TOP 2. Report from the directorate (Helmut Dosch)

Helmut Dosch reports on recent developments at DESY.

First, Helmut Dosch describes two important personnel developments at DESY: With Wim Leemans, there is a new director for the accelerator division (since 1 February 2019), and Christian Stegmann is heading the new astroparticle physics division (since 1 January 2019).

Then, H. Dosch goes through the status of various larger development projects at DESY:

- For PETRA IV – clearly the largest and most important development project at DESY – the CDR is ready, and we are moving on to the TDR phase.

- H. Dosch presents his view on the Wolfgang Pauli Centre, (WPC) which he sketches as a meeting place between theory activities from various fields, e.g. particle physics, AMO, condensed matter science, etc. With the WPC, DESY creates an attractor for the entire world with particular appeal to promising young scientists. Since DESY is at the same time also looking for a new home for the particle physics theory, this might be integrated into the foreseen new WPC building. This is all work in progress, and a finalization of the project will require additional discussions.
- CXNS: The construction of the building is in full swing, several groups are waiting to move in with their labs and offices – H. Dosch considers this almost as “done work”.
- CDCS (Centre for Data and Computing Science) is a collaboration between DESY and information science people and activities from Hamburg University – a genuine research activity, not a service facility, although there is some service pressure, e.g. from the LHC upgrades or from the European XFEL. The Hamburg authorities are willing to fund the centre, also as a building block for the Science City Bahrenfeld, but they need scientific input in order to justify the immense spending. This has to be provided soon.
- Centre for Molecular Water Science (CMWS). Scientific case is well established. Many groups are interested to participate, more than 30 letters of intent have been collected.
- Innovation at DESY: Inauguration of InnoZ, ITGZ with special funding.
- There will be an update of the DESY-2030 strategy for the accelerator division, mainly reacting to the arrival of W. Leemans of new director. Leemans will join forces in the field of laser plasma wakefield acceleration (LPWA) with other institutions (keyword KALDERA).
- In the field of astroparticle physics, a new idea is the UltraSat¹ cooperation with Weizman / Israel, a project at the level of 3-4 MEUR, providing massive visibility for DESY.
- A future focus – to be treated later in this WA meeting – is an upgrade to our HR activities.
- The new building for the M division – CAST (Centre for Accelerator Science and Technology) – is basically decided.
- Helmut Dosch also reports on a new scheme for the promotion of DESY scientists. This is part of a development of our HR department (including new personnel for the department – see also below). The new people bring a few new ideas, also concerning internal promotion, in particular in the science area. H. Dosch sketches the various “promotion” instruments for people at the various stages of their careers, starting from pupils all the way up to senior scientists. For postdocs, the new COAST programme wants to improve the career situation – this will be reviewed by Helmholtz next week in Berlin. All in all, DESY needs a better strategy for the promotion of senior scientists with outstanding performance in science and technology – this means appreciation of their work and increasing their visibility and responsibility. As can be seen there is a gap between the E15 positions and the LW/W3 positions. We might consider

¹ From the UltraSat web page <http://www.weizmann.ac.il/ultrasat/home-0>: *ULTRASAT is a scientific mini-satellite carrying a telescope with an unprecedentedly large field of view (250 squared degrees), that will conduct the first wide-field survey of transient and variable ultraviolet (UV, 220-280nm) sources. ULTRASAT will revolutionize our understanding of the hot transient universe: the extra-Galactic volume, that will be accessible to ULTRASAT for the discovery of transient sources, is 300 times larger than that of the most sensitive UV satellite to date, GALEX, and comparable to that of the largest ground-based optical transient survey planned to begin operation in 2022, LSST.*

opening W3/LW positions for internal promotion, and we need a tool for dynamic reaction. We also need a new metric for excellent performance and impact for the lab. The directorate invites the WA to contribute to a new working group, together with the HR department, on “Personalentwicklung” (personnel development).

- The directorate suggests two DESY scientists for promotion to W3/LW positions: Ralf Röhlsberger and Arik Willner. Helmut Dosch briefly introduces the two candidates. The directorate wants the WA to set up review committees, asking for external reviews and giving a recommendation to the directorate.

TOP 3. Status of high-level appointments (Frank Lehner)

This point is not documented in the minutes.

At this point, the meeting was interrupted and finally postponed, due to the sad news of the sudden passing-away of W. Wurth.