

Minutes
of the Second Meeting of the
Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (NUPECC)

held on January 20, 1989,

at the National Institute for Nuclear Physics and High Energy Physics (NIKHEF-K)

Participants:

C. Detraz
A.C. Fonseca
C. Gaarde
W. Gelletly
M. Huber
C.W. de Jager (local secretary)
B. Jonson
P. Kienle
E. Moya de Guerra
E. Otten
A. Pakkanen
G. Pappalardo
R. Seltz
I. Sick
P.J. Twin
J. Vervier
P.K.A. de Witt Huberts (acting chairman)
A. van der Woude

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Endorsement by National agencies.
3. Response received from countries not represented in NUPECC.
4. Nuclear Physics bulletin board - computer network -.
A proposal for a "NUPECC News" magazine.
5. Relations with EPS, ESF and CERN.
6. Organization of the secretariat, bureau.
7. Contacts with the E.E.C.
8. Project to establish a network of European facilities.
9. Project to update the ESF listing of accelerators in Europe.
10. Release of a statement of existence of NUPECC (how, when,....)

1. Welcome and Introduction

P. de Witt Huberts, local host and acting chairman, opens the meeting at 8.30 am and welcomes the members present. Bergère, Piccozza and Ricci have expressed their regrets that they are absent due to other urgent business. Goldring has not explained his absence, while Pakkanen will arrive later in the day. The revised agenda distributed just before the meeting is accepted as agenda for the meeting.

2. Endorsement by National agencies.

Positive endorsements have been received from the Danish, Dutch, Finnish and French (both IPN and IN2P3) national agencies. Endorsement is underway from the Belgian, German (the BMFT), British (the SERC), Swiss (the Federal Office for Education and Research) and Italian (the INFN) agencies. The Swedish reaction is as yet unknown and will be decided on a meeting next week. A second Finnish agency, the Academy of Finland, which is the supporting body for Finnish physics, has expressed doubts on the need for a new committee.

3. Response received from countries not (yet) represented in NUPECC

Detraz introduces Moya de Guerra and Fonseca as representatives from Spain and Portugal, respectively. Austria, Greece, Ireland and Norway were also sent letters of invitation, on which no reaction has been received as yet.

Moya de Guerra reports that the founding of NUPECC was well received in the Spanish nuclear physics community and expresses her opinion that NUPECC will be beneficiary both to Spain and to Europe. Fonseca distributes a prepared memorandum, in which a proposal is justified to found a group at the University of Lisbon in intermediate energy physics using either electromagnetic or hadronic probes. He requests support and volunteers, preferably one each from the electromagnetic and from the heavy ion communities, for a 2-3 days' visit to advise. Any comments on his memorandum should be sent directly to him.

NUPECC accepts by acclamation both new members. It asks the Portuguese and Spanish national agencies to endorse NUPECC and to delegate an official representative. Since the general consensus is that NUPECC should play an active role, membership should be restricted to the countries which already are a member or which have been sent an invitation.

4. Nuclear Physics bulletin board - computer network

Detraz first gives his suggestions on a computer-based bulletin board: it has to be accessible from each country and it has to be free. Also one needs persons responsible for adding and deleting items. HEPNET – a passive menu-driven system used in the high-energy physics community – seems to fit all the requirements. The only shortcoming is that it can only be accessed through DECNET.

The meeting agrees on the desirability of such a bulletin board and each member shall investigate the availability of (or the investment necessary to obtain access to) HEPNET. Detraz will request an

individual to prepare a feasibility report, including a cost estimate, before the next meeting.

Next, establishment of a newsletter is discussed. Two examples are presented: CERN Courier and Synchrotron Radiation News. CC is distributed free of charge, paid for by CERN. It is written by two full-time professional journalists. It is aimed at a large diversified community, from high-energy physics graduate students to interested outsiders. On the other hand, SRN has one, brilliant and young, editor who spends to his own estimate 5 % of his time to organize material submitted on Macintosh diskettes. It is printed and distributed free of charge by Gordon Breach, who cover their expenses through advertisements. SRN ran for the first few years as a xeroxed bulletin board. The cost of publishing six issues is roughly estimated at 100.000 DM. Such an amount could, if necessary, be contributed by the (libraries of) large institutes, although funding should first be sought in advertisements or through general funding agencies.

The following guide lines are agreed upon:

NUPECC will appoint a scientific editor, who will establish a network of correspondents. NUPECC itself operates as editorial board. The editor will attend all NUPECC meetings. English will be used as the working language. Contributions will be by commissioning only. Several private companies will be approached for an estimate to publish, as a start, four issues per year. The newsletter will be distributed free of charge to any nuclear physicist in a member country and for a fee to libraries. Further distribution problems - on request only, to non-member countries, - are negotiable with the publishing company. The contents will cover the following subjects:

1. News from NUPECC, under the responsibility of the chairman. It should contain the reports on the meetings, on collaborations in progress, on funding possibilities.
2. News from the laboratories and the nuclear physics community.
3. Reports from conferences (commissioned).
4. Highlights and perspectives in nuclear physics (commissioned).
5. Portrait of laboratories (commissioned).
6. Letters to the editors.

Suggestions for the editor and correspondents should be submitted to Detraz not later than two weeks prior to the next meeting, so before March 24. Agreement could not yet be reached on whether the editor should be a senior physicist, either close to retirement or retired, a young, active and brilliant physicist or somebody based at a major facility already involved in similar work.

5. Relations with EPS, ESF and CERN.

Since NUPECC formally has no members representing agencies or institutions, it can also not accept representatives from EPS. Therefore, the suggestion made by Ricci in his letter can not be followed. Since NUPECC, however, would highly value a good relation with EPS while retaining its independence, it extends an open invitation to EPS to appoint a permanent observer to the NUPECC meetings.

ESF has proven its ability to promote large projects, although up till now no nuclear physics project. At present ESF has established nine so-called networks, each with an average annual budget of 100 kDM, while it has expressed interest to set up new networks, particularly those with a specific

interest to peripheral European countries. It is seen as crucial for NUPECC to establish a close relation with the ESF, maybe even to accept the ESF as its parent institution.

The Executive Committee receives a mandate to prepare a proposal for collaboration with the ESF. Kienle will make an appointment with Seibold, the Chairman of ESF. Relations with CERN will be discussed at some length during the next meeting.

6. Organization of the secretariat and bureau.

The NUPECC Executive Committee consists of the Chairman, appointed for two years with one possible extension, and the host of the previous and of the future meeting. No consensus, however, could be reached on the job profile of the secretary, although several possibilities were mentioned. At any rate a permanent secretarial staff would be needed to assist the chairman in the general organization. The secretary would attend all NUPECC meetings and organize the contacts with funding agencies, such as the EEC. A possible need for a young physicist as a scientific secretary for project studies was also brought forward. On the subject of the funding necessary for such a secretarial organization, the Belgian, the Dutch and the German agencies will probably support half a position.

In summary, a search for possible candidates will be launched before the next meeting. It was generally felt that the position would quickly develop into a full-time occupation. The funding agencies, both National and European, will be approached for the necessary support.

7. Contacts with the E.E.C.

The EEC has set aside 30 MECU to encourage international scientific activities. In March of this year a decision will be taken to fund 10-12 national scientific projects, only one of which is in nuclear physics. It will be a task for the secretary to compile a list of all proposals submitted and to investigate how NUPECC could stimulate the submission of new proposals. It will already take a careful study of the accepted proposals to recognize which constitute a nuclear physics involvement.

Vervier will compose for the next meeting a short report, including procedures and names, on the EEC funding possibilities.

8. A network of European facilities.

Twin presents an extensive list of questions in reaction to statements made with regards to the aims of NUPECC in the minutes of the previous meeting:

- The main aim should be to optimize not so much the collaborative use, but rather the collaborative effort of the present facilities and to provide a forum to discuss the future development of larger facilities in Europe.
- If one requires such facilities to be open to international use, one needs to define open. Otherwise,

the national funding agencies might impose restrictions.

- If one requires the scientific program to be subject to the scrutiny of a Program Advisory Committee, one needs to define the power of such a PAC. Does it advise the Director or the funding agency? How binding is its advice? What is its minimum size, the proportion of international members, who appoints the members? What is the role of NUPECC in this?
- The support for outside users has to be defined. Is it limited to administrative support or should it be more?
- The requirement of interest at an international level implies a quality judgement by NUPECC, as does providing scientific advice. Do we agree on this?
- Is the requirement for a unique facility intended for the accelerator or the instrumentation or both? Does this requirement forbid identical facilities?

Twin will prepare a memorandum on these subjects for distribution before the next meeting.

9. Update of the ESF listing of accelerators.

NUPECC has to define a set of criteria before making such a list.

Fonseca kindly requests each member to send him a list of specifications of his own facilities.

10. The release of a statement of existence of NUPECC.

Such a statement should be released as soon as the list of members is official, the status with respect to ESF has been clarified and a decision has been made on the launching of NUPECC News. It then should include an official address and a statement of objectives.

On the other hand such a statement can be prepared in advance.

Resume of action points for the next meeting:

- Submit candidates for the editor and the publisher to the Chairman, who will then contact these.
- Investigate the possibilities of HEPNET.
- Acquire support from funding agencies for secretarial positions.
- The Executive Committee will try to find a candidate for the executive secretary.
- It will contact ESF and try to define a relation with it.
- Spain and Portugal will be requested to endorse NUPECC and to nominate their respective members.
- Send a reply to EPS in which it is invited to nominate an observer to the NUPECC meetings.

The next meeting:

will be held on April 6 and 7 at Daresbury Laboratory. It will start on Thursday at 14.00.

P. de Witt Huberts closes the meeting at 15.30 hours.