

**Minutes of the
AMBER Collaboration Board Meeting at CERN
on September 19, 2024, 15:00 Geneva time**

Attendance: B. Badelek, J. Bernauer, A. Bressan, K. Brinkmann, M. Chiosso, A. Cicuttin, O. Denisov, N. Doshita, S. Groote, A. Guskov, E. Kabuß, B. Ketzer, R. Kurjata, S. Levorato, K. Liu, J. Matousek, T. Matsuda, J. Novy, D. Panzieri, C. Quintans, A. Sandacz, S. Smirnov, M. Zavertyaev, J. Friedrich, M. Veit, T. Pöschl, O. Kiselev

Guests: F. Maas, M. Ostrick

Apologies: C. Azevedo, J. Berenguer, S. Dasgupta, H. Fischer, A. Gerbershagen, N. Masi, B. Seitz, D. Neyret

Absent: S. Donskov, A. Dziuba, D. Keller, J. Lichtenstadt, S. Paul, V. Saleev, H. Suzuki, P. Zuccon, G. Mallot

Stefan Groote took the seat for Tartu university, welcome to Stefan!

The agenda was:

1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
 - CB meeting Juni 27, 2024
4. Communications by SPs
5. Communications by CB chair
6. Finances
7. Collaboration with Chinese groups
8. Phase-2 Proposal Status
9. Addendum to bylaws: Associate membership
10. Appointment of CB chair
11. Formation of SP search committee
12. AOB

2. Approval of Agenda

The items on the agenda were approved without changes.

3. Approval of Minutes

Few typos and language improvements were applied already to the version linked to the indico page. The minutes of the CB meeting on 19.9.2024 were approved without further changes.

4. Communications by SPs (given by Jan Friedrich)

a) AMBER talk in SPSC open session on 3.9.24

A review of the APX data taking in 2024 and the first results from 2023 was given. In addition the preparations for the DY test in October were discussed and the work on the AMBER TPC construction and gas system summarized.

The talk was well received. There were some questions on the readiness and the reasons for delay for the PRM measurement.

b) Meeting with Helge Meinhard on 4.7.24

Mainly two items were discussed with Helge: collaboration with chinese groups and associate membership. For both items there are extra contributions on the agenda (see below).

c) Russian groups

A survey was started together with Protvino on the ownership of the different components of ECAL2, which was difficult to trace. There is no intention to withdraw equipment. The question of support in case of further usage was touched.

d) Alpile project

Currently the project is missing a dedicated coordinator. Unfortunately it turned out that it is not possible for Stefano Levorato to take officially the project coordination. Discussions are ongoing.

e) Survey of support (FTE) of AMBER groups

The SPs had send an inquiry to all groups for the available manpower as agreed in the last CB. Jan presented a summary table showing that 44 FTE should be available for AMBER. In addition information on the current project and future interests were collected.

The table with FTE caused an intense discussion. Not everybody used the same basis when giving FTEs. There were comments by the AC and TC that with real 44 FTEs enough man power would be available for all urgent projects. SPs together with AC and TC will set up a priority list of tasks and contact especially the AMBER groups not focused already on urgent projects.

The CB will follow the development closely, the list should be regularly updated.

f) Good news for TPC

Some BMBF investment money could be converted in person months for a TPC project leader. Vincent Andrieux accepted the position. He will start middle of October for 15 months as project leader and work in close collaboration with GSI.

For 2025 subsistence is requested from the collaboration.

5. Communications by CB chair

In October the list of paying AMBER members for 2025 will be collected.

Dates of 2024 collaboration meetings

- Additional CB meeting to prepare FRC: Thu 7.11.24 15:00 Geneva time, remote
- CM meeting Mon 2.12. – Wed. 4.12.24, CB Tue 3.12.24 15:00

Dates of 2025 collaboration meetings

1. CM Wed 5.3. – Fri 7.3.24, CB Thu 6.3.24 15:00 Geneva time
2. PAW25 Mon 2.6. – Wed. 4.6.25 in Kloster Irsee
CM meeting Thu 5.6. – Fri 6.6.25 in Garching, CB Thu 5.6.25 15:00 Geneva time
3. CM Wed 24.9. – Fri 26.9.24, CB Thu 25.9.24 15:00 Geneva time
4. CM Wed 10.12. – Fri 12.12.24, CB Thu 11.12.24 15:00 Geneva time, remote only

6. Finances (report by Oleg Denisov)

Oleg summarized the status of the AMBER M&O account:

- Current balance: 239 kCHF
(end 2023: 251 KCHF, collected: 215 kCHF, spent: 227 kCHF)
- Further CF contributions expected: 80-90 kCHF
- Additional spending till end of 2024: 65 kCHF
- Expected balance at the end of 2025: 250 kCHF

There were several special projects in 2024: ALPIDE sensors (50K), RICH gas (20k). Several special projects are expected for 2025: TPC (subsistence), ALPIDE (project management), AMBER tracking software.

Thus the CF contribution in 2025 will be most likely similar to that in 2024.

2025 Budget and CF contribution will be discussed in detail in November CB meeting.

7. Collaboration with Chinese groups (report by Oleg Denisov)

This was a follow-up of a discussion started in the last CB meeting.

Meanwhile our SPs talked to Helge Meinhard about a possible involvement of Chinese groups. We got a “go-ahead” but should avoid institutions with military involvement.

A vote was performed on a mandate for our SPs to get into contact with groups of the Chinese hadron physics community:

The mandate was supported the CB with 2 abstentions.

8. Status of Phase-2 proposal

Björn chairs the phase-2 proposal group. He could not be present in the meeting, but send a mail and prepared some quite optimistic slides on the status.

An intense discussion followed. Although for some phase-2 items quite some work was done (e.g. for prompt photons), the slides seemed too optimistic concerning the proposal writing. In the discussion it was pointed out that proposal writing is not the most urgent task for AMBER but getting the phase-1 measurements on track. Nevertheless it is mandatory to clarify which new equipment is needed for the proposed phase-2 measurements to start R&D in time.

In the end there was agreement that the phase-2 proposal group should be revived to review the status of the different physics items and push for continuation of the work as long as it does not hamper the work for the current program. It was proposed to nominate two “deputies” to support Björn, the SPs will approach possible candidates.

9. Addendum to bylaws: Associate membership

The discussion was split into two items:

Associate membership for data analysis and software developments and Associate membership for hardware contributions.

(a) Data analysis and software development

An addition to the bylaws prepared by Thomas Pöschl was already discussed in the last CB meeting:

AMBER Associated Membership --- Draft

Associated Members (AM) may extend the AMBER Collaboration for cooperation in time-constrained, well specified projects of data analysis and software development where additional external expertise strongly enhances the scope and significance of AMBER publications. The establishment of such a cooperation will be suggested to the CB by an AMBER member, who is in charge of the project, and decided upon by the CB on a case-by-case basis. After approval by the CB, AM may get access to AMBER data, MC productions, and software tools for specific common analysis and software development. Resulting publications are AMBER publications and as such they are subject to the standard AMBER publication policy. It is the responsibility of the AMBER member who initially proposed the above cooperation to report to the Collaboration on its progress and closure. The exclusive usage of the data for the purpose of the above/mentioned scientific cooperation (ethic rules implicit) will be formally agreed. Fees to the Common Fund or shift dues during data taking periods will not be requested. AM have no voting rights or representatives in the AMBER Collaboration Board (CB).

The CB agreed unanimously to add this paragraph to the bylaws.

(b) Hardware contributions

SPs contacted CERN about such possibilities. Depending on the case they might have to be decided by the FRC.

Once more a lively discussion took place as there were different opinions. But we could not find a common approach. So it was decided to start with a specific case. We agreed that in case of such a request by an AMBER colleague we will deal with the request in the next CB meeting, evaluate the request and try to understand the implications of the concrete case for MoU and FRC.

10. Appointment of CB chair

No proposals were send before the meeting, only one proposal was made during the meeting. **Eva Kabuß** was appointed as CB chair for another year and she accepted.

11. Formation of SP search committee

Oleg and Jan started their second mandate in end of June 2023. In the Bylaws it is stated that the search committee should be formed at least 6 month before the end of the mandate.

The following colleagues were proposed and accepted:

Carlos Azevedo, Barbara Badelek, Andrea Bressan, Kai Brinkmann, Nori Doshita, Jozef Novy

Added after the meeting: As young physicist the analysis group proposed **Chiara Alice** and she accepted.

12. AOB

Status of COST application

Catarina gave a short oral report. The aim is to apply for a European Network on Hadron Physics. Currently 14 countries are represented including 8 Inclusiveness Target Countries. Theoreticians, phenomenologists and experimentalists take part, but some more experimentalists are looked for.

The proposal is being written. There were regular weekly meetings on Fri 14:00. The deadline was 23.10.24.

End of meeting: 18:40