

ePIC Council Chair Candidate Statement

Thomas Ullrich (BNL/Yale)

Dear Fellow Collaborators:

I am seeking your support to serve as chair of the ePIC collaboration council. I am committed to serve the collaboration to the best of my abilities and to work hard with you, the Collaboration Council members, to establish the CC as an open and democratic part of ePIC, with a focus on policy making and oversight. Together we can ensure that our principles are upheld and that ePIC is a respectful, tolerant and welcoming place to work. In the following I will describe briefly my engagement in the EIC in present and past and discuss what I see as the top priorities in the upcoming year.

I am senior scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory since 2001 and hold an appointment as Prof. Adj. at Yale University. My scientific origins are in Heavy Ion physics. It started with exciting times in NA45/CERES that measured di-electrons in heavy ion collision, continued with NA49, and, since 1997 and for the longest time in STAR. In STAR I held various positions reaching from analyses coordinator to deputy spokesperson. My main interest in this field focused in EM probes and heavy flavor with emphasis on quarkonia.

I have been seriously involved in efforts to realize an EIC since the NSAC Long Range Plan 2007, in which I gave, together with Rolf Ent, the first detailed EIC presentation at a LRP resolution meeting. I worked extensively on the EIC White Paper and authored, together with Yuri Kovchegov, the “High Gluon Densities” chapters. I am co-author of various EIC related papers that, so I hope, helped to make the case for this exciting machine, and I have also published various outreach papers to raise the interest in the EIC in the general public. From 2014 to its end in 2021, I have managed the generic EIC Detector R&D Program. I serve currently as L3 manager of the project R&D program. I helped creating the EIC User Group in 2015, and have participated in the Steering Committee since its beginning as the BNL representative. Together with Rolf Ent, I helped coordinating the Yellow Report effort and worked on various aspects of the manuscript. I was deeply involved in the ATHENA efforts as member of the charter and proposal committees. I was member of the ATHENA executive board and worked actively on the design of the ATHENA detector. I continue these design efforts in ePIC as co-convenor of the Global Design and Integration (GD/I) working group. In January 2023 I was elected as one of BNL’s council members. I am Fellow of the APS and served on various committees over the years, most notably NSAC and the LHCC.

The ePIC Charter defines: “*The ePIC Collaboration Council is the governing body of the Collaboration of international institutions. The CC makes all major policy decisions within the Collaboration.*”. Chairing this esteemed council is not only a great honor but also a big responsibility. I am fully committed to ePIC and think that my experience in all aspects of the EIC will help the CC to find its role and develop the necessary strength to navigate through the upcoming years.

I strongly believe that our collaboration should be guided by the principles of democracy. The CC board is not only the policy making body but also has an oversight function to ensure that our principles are upheld, and that ePIC is a respectful, tolerant and welcoming place to work. I believe that every institution independent of their size should have a voice.

We are a very young collaboration. Many things are evolving fast and many things still have to be defined. We also live in a time of great pressure (CD-2/3/3a) and the CC needs to move fast to establish the needed policies and committees. During this process the council needs to work closely but independently with the Spokesperson and, although to a lesser degree, with the Project.

For many of us a big collaboration is a new working environment, and one needs time to adapt. This process requires mutual respect, patience, tolerance. I feel with those that are having problems since I experienced this myself. A recent survey conducted by the DEI committee of the EICUG points to apparent issues that we need to address.

The ePIC charter is a fantastic start, but many policies are waiting to be defined. Among them the important membership and authorship/publication policies and the referring committees including the election committee. I also recognize that the definition of a “Member in Good Standing” as expressed in the Charter will need to be clearly defined. A natural way to address these challenges this is to form temporary working groups within the CC that work on specific policy drafts that then will be discussed in the wider council until a mature and concise version is available for adaptation.

I also think that policies need to be flexible and be aligned with our needs as ePIC moves towards its ultimate goal, data taking and publishing good science. As was expressed also by many of you, we need to consider that ePIC now in its planning and construction phase will be different from that when we are in standard operations mode. Various policies will need to adapt to the needs of ePIC at the given time.

This needs a lot of work and discussions among the CC members. It only can work when we all fully engage and contribute to the effort. It requires a friendly and focused atmosphere in CC. I am more than willing to do my part to achieve this and ask for your vote. I encourage you to contact me with questions or comments.