<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Collaboration news</td>
<td>David Morrison (BNL), Prof. Gunther Roland (MIT)</td>
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<td>11:15 AM</td>
<td>sPHENIX Status</td>
<td>Edward O'Brien (BNL)</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>EMCAL status</td>
<td>Anne Sickles (BNL), Craig Woody (BNL)</td>
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<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Chinese Consortium update</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>sPHENIX China workshop planning</td>
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News (since Santa Fe meeting)

• A lot of technical progress
  • Magnet ramped to full field
  • Further progress toward final sub detector designs
  • Major updates to tracking software
  • Successful test beam at Fermilab
    • incl. improved EMCAL, MVTX, INTT
News continued

• Many successful reviews
  • Cost & Schedule review
  • Director’s review part II
  • oHCAL steel review
• Ready for CD-1 review in late May
Funding update

• Funding process in US is complicated

• 2018 started with bad news
  
  • Funding pressures do not allow DOE to fund MVTX as separate upgrade project
  
  • Collaboration discussed various alternative MVTX scenarios
  
  • President’s budget (as in 2017) foresaw deep funding cuts
Funding update

- Things turned around in mid-February and March
  - sPHENIX is in 2019 federal budget
  - Congress passed FY18 Omnibus funding bill including increase (!) for NP by ~10%

Yesterday Congress released the high-level numbers and language for the FY2018 budget omnibus bill. They are fantastically good:

NP gets $684M, which is $62M more than in FY2017. The language stipulates “optimizing operations of RHIC, CEBAF, ATLAS and BLIP.

This could hardly be better (it means that NP is back on the modest growth scenario, maybe even slightly better) and also portends very well for FY2019.

Berndt
Realizing MVTX

• Meeting of ALD, MVTX principals, co-SP and project on 3/27

• ALD: Given improved fiscal outlook, how can we bring MVTX into (MIE?) fold? (this would be post-OPA review)

  • Goal: Provide MVTX funding through RHIC operations (as MIE), optimizing costs and maximizing non-US (in-kind) contributions

  • Exploring advance-funding options to procure RUs ($250k, now) and staves from ALICE facility at CERN ($1M, early Fall ’18)

  • ALD will seek DOE agreement to proceed

• If positive US funding outlook persists, Chinese EMCAL contribution could bring us close to implementation of full “reference configuration”
Dear Dave and Gunther

As you know, the eRHIC design team is close to completing the pre-conceptual design report, the NAS Study Panel is expected to publish its assessment of the value of a US based EIC in the May time frame, and DOE may declare CD-0 for an EIC sometime in the second half of 2018. In this context it will be important that we have a clear and up-to-date understanding of the value of sPHENIX as the basis of a Day-1 eRHIC detector. The ePHENIX Letter of Intent now is four years old and urgently requires an update that takes into account the developments in detector technology and interaction region design.

I am therefore asking you to establish a detector study group consisting of members of the sPHENIX Collaboration and other individuals interested in EIC science from outside the sPHENIX Collaboration to update the Letter of Intent for an EIC detector built around the BaBar solenoid in the context of the eRHIC pre-CDR. The Letter of Intent should contain an outline of the expected physics program for the detector in the first five years of running, using estimates of the luminosity development anticipated for initial EIC operation.

In parallel, I am asking you to perform a cost estimate of the construction costs in FY2018 dollars. This estimate should be performed with the methodology that the NPP Director for Project Planning and Oversight of Accelerator Projects, Diane Hatton, has developed for the EIC and that Elke Aschenauer and her group are using to develop a cost estimate for a generic EIC detector in conjunction with the ongoing pre-CDR cost estimation process. Please, do not include the cost estimate in the updated Letter of Intent, but transmit it as a separate document.

A brief presentation on the physics capabilities of the detector should be prepared for the PAC meeting in June 2018. After receiving comments from the PAC, I expect to be able to provide feedback and further guidance with respect to the process and goals of developing the updated LoI. The final versions of the revised LoI and the associated cost estimate should be submitted to me by September 30, 2018. The NPP Director for Project Planning and Oversight of Detector Projects, Maria Chamizo Llatas, will then convene a review with external experts, as appropriate.

These are exciting times for all those interested in the physics of an EIC. The facility is finally at the doorstep from concept onto the path toward realization. I hope that this request will build on and further strengthen the excitement of all those within the sPHENIX collaboration who are looking forward to participation in a future EIC physics program.

Best regards
Berndt
Important upcoming dates

• April 22-23: sPHENIX China workshop
• April 30-May 1: MVTX workfest @ MIT
• April 30: Freeze CDR
• May 23-25: CD-1 OPA review at BNL
• June 7-8: RHIC PAC meeting (sPHENIX@EIC discussion)
• June 18: Software and computing review
• Sep 30: sPHENIX@EIC LOI due
MVTX workfest at MIT

• April 30 – May 1, in-person participation limited to ~15 people due to meeting room constraints; some space still available

  • https://indico.bnl.gov/event/4380/

  • brainstorm the MVTX project cost reduction measures and optimize MVTX schedule given the current understanding of possible funding sources

  • explore and bring in new collaborators/funding opportunities with foreign and internal (LDRD, NSF-like) proposals

  • discuss near term R&D needs to reduce the MVTX project cost & schedule risk, issues with MVTX/INTT/TPC integration

  • further strengthen the MVTX physics case, not only about open-HF, but also highlight the impacts of MVTX to the other baseline (Jets, Upsilon etc) measurements.