

Recommended Future for HCP and PLHC after 2012

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Preamble

The above *ad-hoc* group was informally mandated by recent Chairs/Advisory Boards of the Hadron Collider Physics (HCP) symposium and of the Physics at LHC (PLHC) conference, in consultation with the CERN Director-General, to review the situation of dedicated hadron collider conferences in the future (2013 and beyond). This request is based on a broadly perceived feeling in the community that holding two different annual meetings largely dedicated to LHC physics (at least for the coming decade) is not optimal.

Besides the input from individual discussions by members of the group with colleagues, we also received 12 e-mails with comments from advisory board members of HCP or PLHC.

At a meeting held on 3rd October we arrived at the following conclusions.

General recommendations

- 1) Merge HCP and PLHC into one conference per year, dedicated largely to LHC physics, as a lively forum to bring together in particular also junior researchers (experimentalists and theorists);
- 2) Offer ample opportunities for young researchers to make presentations, and stimulate explicitly much more discussions as is the case at other conferences;
- 3) Include non-LHC results where relevant to LHC physics;
- 4) Offer a limited number of motivating review talks, with a broad scientific horizon.

Specific recommendations

- 5) Implement a format with (at least) half of the time devoted to parallel sessions (two or three) in order to have enough time for junior scientists to talk, and including ample time for discussions (stimulated by session conveners). Sessions should be mixed such that participants are encouraged to stay for the whole duration of the conference;
- 6) Include a poster session with dedicated time set aside in the agenda, and offer prizes for best posters;

- 7) Session organizers and plenary speakers should be encouraged to be aware of topical discussions relevant to their area from dedicated *ad-hoc* workshops happening in the field;
- 8) The length of the conference should be not less than 5 full days, and not longer than 6 days;
- 9) A timing late spring (May or early June) would be preferable (but may depend on specific circumstances);
- 10) The new conference could be called 'LHC Physics conference', in short LHCP20xx.

Whereas the recommendations 1 to 8 are considered by the group to be very important in order to shape the future conference, the recommendations 9 and 10 are given as suggestions.

Recommendation for the next step

- 11) A new core group, acting as initial conference committee, should be formed before the end of the year with four members each nominated by the current 2011 HCP and PLHC committees plus one representative from CERN management. This core group would invite few additional experienced members of the community to join and form together the new conference committee that would solicit proposals to host the new conference in 2013. The new committee would initiate the appropriate actions to assure the yearly cycle for the conference with venues spread over all regions.