

LSC Scientific Committee
17th Meeting
November 5-4, 2015
Canfranc Estación, Spain

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

The LSC Scientific Committee met at the Canfranc laboratory 5-4 November, 2015 to assess progress and to make recommendations on the experimental program. This meeting marks the first since Aldo Ianni became the Director of the laboratory. The Committee is very pleased with the new initiatives taken, particularly in the areas of safety (safety training has become an important component of employee development) the work to increase the laboratory visibility internationally, the new projects that he is bringing to the laboratory and the overall level of ownership that he has taken with respect to the lab. He has already attracted to the lab two new scientific initiatives with substantial potential for discovery. The renewed energy that he brings to the laboratory is welcomed by all of the committee.

The committee welcomes Mario Martinez as an external member of the committee. Dr. Martinez brings a wealth of experience to the committee as well as his perspective from the Ministry.

Excellent progress has been made in the three flagship projects for the laboratory. The procurement of crystals for ANAIS is progressing well, ArDM has completed a major physics data taking run and NEXT is making good progress in the final construction of the NEW detector.

While the experiments are making good progress, the committee does have concerns regarding the level of support at the laboratory. It is difficult to deal with such problems at times of financial pressure but there are some measures that would help at very modest cost. The laboratory operates with a very small staff and any loss would have very serious consequences. The risk of critical people leaving could be ameliorated by two small changes. First, the role of the safety engineer is critical to the laboratory. There is a position for such a person in the laboratory complement but the laboratory is not permitted to fill it. Instead, an engineer has been engaged in a temporary position. This should be changed to give the engineer normal expectations of tenure. Another person is filling a technical position but is, in fact, a qualified and respected scientist. There is a real risk that this person will be attracted to a more suitable position elsewhere if his position is not made more commensurate with his qualifications. Another action which would be very beneficial is if the 'local' University at Zaragoza could be more involved in the experiments and exploit better this outstanding facility. In particular, the ANAIS experiment has great potential to be a very visible project but it is seriously understaffed. Increased participation in this project would be very beneficial.

The committee has decided to change the format of the next review meeting. It will conduct more in-depth reviews of ANAIS, NEXT and ArDM to give sufficient time to look in detail at all aspects of these projects and to allow presentations by several of the collaboration members. Also, as CUNA is approaching a major decision point it will look at this in detail. The committee expects short written progress reports from the other projects but oral reports will not be required. The date for the next meeting was set as 16, 17 May 2016.