

Geneva, November 14, 2005

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Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, the CERN Council has instituted a Strategy Group to define a long-term planning for experimental particle physics in Europe, following the start of LHC operation.

The process will have three major milestones

- A public Symposium involving presentations by young European physicists will be held.
- Following this Symposium the preparatory group will produce a "briefing book" that will serve as the basis for the workshop of the Strategy Group itself. This will take place in Zeuthen (Berlin) from 2-6 May 2006. The 40+ members of the Strategy Group at this meeting will prepare a statement and supporting documents to be endorsed by the CERN Council.
- An exceptional CERN Council meeting will be held in Lisbon in July 2006.

The Symposium is an essential first step of the Strategy Group process to inform the community of the status of the field and major European initiatives and to seek input from the community.

The Symposium will be arranged around 3 principal physics directions:

- collisions at the frontier of high energy (SLHC, ILC, CLIC etc)
- neutrino oscillations and lepton flavor transitions;
- key non-accelerator activities.

The Symposium will be held at PARIS (ORSAY) from January 30 until February 1, 2006. A preliminary program can be found at the Strategy Group web site,

<http://council-strategygroup.web.cern.ch/council-strategygroup/> .

*Registration will be possible from this web site in the near future, and hotel information is already available there.*

We believe that it is very important that the Symposium is well attended by each CHIPP institute, to ensure direct input from the community. The chosen venue can accommodate up to 500 people. The Strategy Group expects that *at least* one senior physicist and one younger physicist from each active European institute should attend the Symposium and has requested that Member State funding agencies make special provision for (especially younger) colleagues in our community to attend the Symposium.

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In addition, a video-cast of the Symposium including (hopefully) some remote interactive participation, is planned.

We consider that the Symposium is a very important part of the Strategy Group process, essential to gaining wide acceptance of our conclusions by the community. We look forward to your active participation in the Symposium to help make it a success.

Within Switzerland, we also look forward to any preliminary input from you prior to the Symposium. *This can made via the Strategy Group web page, or sent to one of us.* Following the Symposium, we foresee at least one (possibly more) meeting of the CHIPP Plenary and Board to discuss the Strategy Group process, and to provide further input to their deliberations.

Kind regards,

Ralph Eichler  
Alain Blondel  
Allan Clark