

Minutes of the LHCb ONLINE MEETING of March 15, 2000

Present:

Jean-Pierre Dufey, Yuri Ermoline (part-time), Clara Gaspar, Richard Jacobson, Beat Jost, Mike Koratzinos, Wolfgang Tejessy, Marianna Zuin

1/ News

Beat explained that this meeting was basically intended to resurrect the LHCb online meeting series. Due to the long time-lapse since the last meeting, and in application of the minutes-writing rules, the undersigned volunteered to again take over this task.

2/ Readout Unit Status

There was a meeting this morning on the issue, from which Beat (in absence of Hans) shortly reported. 3-4 units are ready and debugging is beginning. The behaviour model is starting to be built. It was suggested that Hans give a status report at the next meeting.

3/ Event-building project

Jean-Pierre reported on progress. The development of the protocols (source and destination) for the event-building is underway. The intention was mentioned to automatically handle sources that “slowly disappear” during running by taking care of their disappearance. It was not quite clear to the audience if this would be a good idea, at least it was felt that the feature should be “disableable”. Handling of protocols on the Network interface cards (e.g. ATM and Gigabit card) and timing questions were also mentioned.

4/ Timing and Fast Controls (TFC) news

The TFC switch has been specified and an LHCb note will be published. The readout supervisor will come later. Richard is compiling the requirements for the RCP. This will be presented at a later date. Some information on the TPC machine interface was also given.

5/ Experiment Controls

Clara gave a short overview of some of the activities. The SCADA procurement is advancing, the market survey is in, the tendering document is being worked on and should go out by end of spring. The “Framework”, i.e. a set of tools and guidelines, for using the Scada is being discussed. In an architecture brain-storming week this subject was treated at length. Main interest comes from LHCb with participation of CMS and ex officio IT/CO. Chairman of this working group is Mike Huffer.

LHCb’s interest in the use of a Credit Card PC as controls interface was mentioned by Beat and to contrast this approach Beat –just out of a nerve-racking ALEPH trigger experience with buses – underlined his distaste for any bus-oriented solution. A product has been found and will now be evaluated. In reply to a question, he stated that the PC104 solution is too thick (16mm) for his liking. The question of analogue electronics still needs studying.

Andre Augustinus has made a digest of the replies to his front-end electronics questionnaire.

6/ A.o.B.

A new “Front-end/DAQ” workshop is under discussion. A possible date would be the week of May 15th (to be studied in more detail).

Submitted by Wolfgang Tejessy