



STFC Science Board 84th meeting

13 and 14 July 2021, via videoconference

Meeting Summary

Professor Tara Shears chaired the 84th meeting.

International Landscape and Current Activities Update

Science Board received an overview of SPC's International Team and their current activities, highlights, and priorities. Science Board welcomed the opportunity to discuss how they can best work with and support the International Team.

Funding Advice and Recommendations

Science Board considered the following reports and reviews:

- The ATLAS Upgrade Phase II Construction Project Mid-Term Review
- PPRP report: Hyper-Kamiokande (Hyper-K)
- Statement of Interest: DUNE Near Detector Data Acquisition and Reconstruction

Evidence and Impact Team Overview

Science Board were provided with an overview of activities in SPC's Evidence and Impact Team. Science Board welcomed hearing about the team's vision and challenges, its processes for evaluations, and its objectives for the future.

Boulby Underground Laboratory Overview

Science Board received a presentation on the Boulby Underground Laboratory, which included: a broad overview and introduction to the facility; the current science programmes and studies; the outreach and education activities; an overview of the growth potential and plans for the future; an update on the status of the AIT-NEO (WATCHMAN) project; a brief overview of the Boulby Feasibility Study (Boulby-FS); and an outline of the recent Boulby Preliminary Infrastructure proposal submitted to the UKRI Infrastructure Fund.

Standing items

The minutes and actions from the April 2021 meeting were reviewed and the Chair and Deputy Chair provided the Board with an update on matters arising from the Council meeting. Science Board heard about the following recent community meetings: the Particle Astrophysics Town Hall meeting and the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source facility meeting, which included updates from the Facility Directors of ISIS, ILL and ESS.

Science Board received an update and additional commentary on the STFC update report from Professor Mark Thomson, Executive Chair of STFC, which included an update on the Spending Review and an overview of the successful STFC projects which received funding from the [UKRI Infrastructure Fund for 2020](#).

Information papers included: an update report from the Technology and Accelerator Advisory Board (TAAB), which included an update from the Particle Physics Technology Advisory Panel (PPTAP); the final version of the Detectors Strategy; and an SKA Construction Grant Review update, which were noted by Science Board.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Science Board meeting will be held on 12 and 13 October (85th meeting) 2021 by videoconference.

A list of acronyms for this summary can be found in [Annex 1](#).

Annexes

Annex 1: Acronyms

AIT-NEO: Advanced Instrumentation Testbed-Neutrino Experiment One

ATLAS: A Toroidal LHC Apparatus

DUNE: Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment

ESS: European Spallation Source

ILL: Institut Laue-Langevin

PPRP: Projects Peer Review Panel

PPTAP: Particle Physics Technology Advisory Panel

SKA: Square Kilometre Array

SPC: Strategy, Planning and Communications Directorate

TAAB: Technology and Accelerator Advisory Board

WATCHMAN: AIT-WATer CHerenkov Monitor of Antineutrinos