

**KAT****Meeting in Physikzentrum Bad Honnef, 5 Dec 2019, 15:00-18:00 CET****Present:**

Roland Diehl (RD), Ralph Engel (RE, KIT), Martin Erdmann (ME), Stefan Funk (SF), Thomas Hebbeker (TH, DPG&KET), Marc Hempel (MH, PT-DESY), Jim Hinton (JH), Uli Katz (UK, chair), Jürgen Kroseberg (JK, BMBF/711), Manfred Lindner (ML), Yury Litvinov (YL, KHuK), Harald Lück (HL), Federica Petricca (FP), Michael Schimp (MS, yHEP), Thomas Schwetz-Mangold (TSM), Achim Stahl (AS), Christian Stegmann (CS, DESY), Kathrin Valerius (KV), Jörn Wilms (JW, RDS), Michael Wurm (MW);

**By phone connection:**

Martin Pohl (MP);

**Absent:**

All others.

**Invitation and agenda:**

By email.

<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Minutes of 27 Sept 2019 (Frankfurt Airport Centre)</b> The minutes are approved.	n/a
<b>2. Organisational issues for the Bad Honnef Meeting</b> JK was welcomed as a participant in the KAT meeting and the subsequent strategy meeting on Thursday and Friday. The agenda of the strategy meeting was revisited and the tight time line emphasised, with a plea to all speakers to stick to the schedule. The meeting language will be English. The agenda has been implemented on Indico. Kathrin Valerius volunteered to help in collecting contributions and manage their presentation during the meeting. Great job, sincere thanks!	
<b>3. Report on KAT issues</b> See items 4, 6, 7 and 9.	n/a
<b>4. Verbundforschung</b> The applications have been submitted by the deadline of 1 Nov 2019. In addition to the already existing experimental groups, a new consortium has been formed for preparatory work for the Einstein Telescope. Three further cross-sectional applications were handed in: (1) Coordination and communication (including outreach) as a pilot for an astroparticle research focus (Forschungsschwerpunkt, FSP); (2) Multi-messenger astronomy in real time (could be a FSP component); (3) CORSIKA8: A new approach towards simulating particle cascades. Project (1) can be considered as a KAT application, even though KIT is the applicant institution.  Shortly before the deadline, a rather intense and controversial discussion on the requested funding level for doctoral positions came up: Should we apply for $\frac{1}{2}$ positions (the standard so far) or go to $\frac{2}{3}$ positions, closer to the DFG standards. Most consortia decided	n/a

<p>to follow the majority view to go for <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> positions. KAT refrained from making an explicit recommendation since it is not KAT's mandate to impact on funding applications of individual consortia.</p> <p>There were no news on the review panel (Gutachterausschuss).</p>	
<p><b>5. News from APPEC</b> Immediately prior to the KAT meeting, the APPEC General Assembly met in Lisbon. Poland was accepted as new APPEC member. Topics included ways to a sustainable APPEC, the renewal of members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the discussion of establishing a regular Astroparticle Town Meeting every 2-3 years. The latter proposal was endorsed, with the first meeting in Berlin in Oct 2020 (meanwhile postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19).</p> <p>Also discussed were the APPEC recommendations for the European Particle Physics Strategy Update. Iterations have continued after the Lisbon meeting. CS provided the currently discussed version, which was disseminated to the KAT for comments.</p>	n/a
<p><b>6. Zeuthen Meeting 2020</b> The Zeuthen meeting will be held in Heidelberg/MPI-K, 30 Sept – 2 Oct 2020 (unanimously confirmed in the plenary session of the strategy meeting on Friday).</p> <p>Young scientists should be strongly involved – even take a lead – in the organisation of the program. MS and his colleagues from yHEP will collect suggestions, both concerning format and content of the program, and concerning candidate members of the organising committee.</p>	ML, JH, MS together with AH and UK: Set up organising committee
<p><b>7. LNGS</b> In the framework of a bilateral German-Italian agreement, the BMBF has decided to fund development of scientific infrastructure at the Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (LNGS). The goal is to strengthen the competitiveness of LNGS for European projects. Important aspects for the selection of funded activities are their benefit for projects at LNGS with German participation, and the visibility of German contributions through the specific expertise of German research groups.</p> <p>JK chaired the meeting for this item. Christian Weinheimer (CW) was invited to join the discussion. He presented the status of the collection of proposed contributions to the LNGS program. Subsequently, JK clarified the view of the BMBF and the next steps in the procedure. He reinforced the importance of German expertise to be brought in, which also may be provided through industrial involvement. He made clear that the coordination with the Italian side (LNGS and political authorities) would be managed by BMBF, based on a list of proposed contributions developed by the German community. It is important that the process would proceed swiftly. The exact selection procedure was not yet decided.</p> <p>KAT decided to reiterate the call for proposals amongst the community members and to produce a condensed list for the BMBF early in 2020.</p>	CW and ML together with AH and UK: Organise the community agreement on a common project list.

<p><b>8. NFDI and ErUM-Data</b></p> <p>In parallel to the KAT meeting, the review panel evaluating the NFDI proposals with astroparticle participation (ASTRO-NFDI and PAHN-PaN), plus further proposals, met in Königswinter (close to Bad Honnef). AK was a member of the proponent group presenting PAHN-PaN at this panel meeting and could therefore not take part in the KAT meeting. The discussion was postponed until information from the evaluation process would become available.</p>	n/a
<p><b>9. KAT guidelines (“Leitlinien”)</b></p> <p>An amended version of the guidelines, including the modifications discussed at the previous KAT meeting, was disseminated to KAT before the meeting. There was broad agreement to the suggested amendments. New questions were posed concerning the eligibility for re-election and concerning the definition of the thematic constituencies.</p> <p>During the plenary session, the following significant modifications were unanimously supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election period can be shortened/extended by up to 1 year</li> <li>• Preparation of the strategy talks with BMBF now explicitly mentioned as KAT task</li> <li>• Membership in astroparticle community independent from nationality, can also be applied for by foreign scientists</li> <li>• Ex-officio membership for yHEP representative</li> <li>• Slight strengthening of deputies</li> </ul> <p>Also, a clear preference for unconstrained or at most mildly constrained eligibility for re-election was expressed.</p> <p>The final decision on the new guidelines has to be taken at the community meeting (“Zeuthen meeting”) 2020.</p>	n/a

Erlangen, 16 October 2020

Uli Katz