



Memo

date: August 10, 2003

to: W. Busza, T. Hallman, F. Videbaek, W. Zajc,
D. Lowenstein, T. Roser, P. Pile, S. Aronson, T. Ludlam

from: T. Kirk Associate Laboratory Director, HENP

subject: RHIC Working Groups and Beam Planning Guidance for RHIC Experiments

As a follow-on to my July 23, 2003 RHIC planning guidance letters to the experiments, BNL is initiating a new working group process that brings together the interests and expertise of the scientific collaborations, the accelerator teams and the Lab management to facilitate this effort and satisfy the DOE request that BNL and the user community have a long-term plan for the RHIC program in place by early next year. We aim to couple the scientific priorities and operations scenarios that follow from the 5-year Beam Use Proposals (to be considered by the PAC in late September 2003) with the longer-term goals and strategic planning for the RHIC program, including the major upgrades envisioned for RHIC II, and the plans for eRHIC. The latter issues, at least up to RHIC II, will be addressed by the experimental groups in the "Decadal" Strategic Planning papers, which are to be completed and submitted to BNL by October 31, 2003.

Attached to this memorandum, you will also find the August 8, 2003 version of the enhanced beam operations guidance for the 5-year period, 2004-2008, that has been developed for the recently extended planning period by Thomas Roser and Wolfram Fischer of the C-A Department. I hope you will find this document helpful as you finalize your 5-year physics planning (BUP) papers for consideration by the BNL PAC.

To forward the working group concept, we are soliciting your help in organizing a RHIC Planning Working Group that will meet regularly during the next few months. The charge to this Working Group will be to develop the structure and major elements of a *long-term plan* for the operation, upgrades, and scientific output of the RHIC facility. Our process will involve the study and optimization of "near-term" scenarios under various funding assumptions, and their coupling to longer-term planning for major construction and upgrades of accelerator and detectors, and possible new detectors. The resulting plan will involve trade-offs between physics running, machine development, detector and accelerator R&D, detector and accelerator upgrade construction, and possibly other considerations.

The Working Group should complete its work by early November, after which we plan to have a major workshop of about 2 days' duration to allow the community at large to view and discuss the results. All of this is aimed at providing BNL and DOE with a solid conceptual and information basis to develop five-year RHIC operations plans and a long-

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term strategic view that can be presented and defended to the DOE in January 2004, as requested at the recent DOE RHIC Program Review.

A suggested schedule for this process and structure of the Working Group is shown in the attached file. We propose that the Working Group meet approximately bi-weekly, starting Wednesday August 20, utilizing the 1:30 p.m. time slot occupied by the Machine-Detector Planning Meeting during RHIC running periods. Tom Ludlam will develop a weekly agenda and chair this meeting. We would like the experiments and the accelerator operations group to identify a few “delegates” to this Working Group, as suggested in the attachment. A small number of others, including theorists will also be invited.

The schedule is fairly compressed and unfortunately overlaps the start of Run 4 as well as the run up to Quark Matter '04. However, BNL needs to respond to the DOE request and the RHIC community should be engaged in the process as it goes forward. Please think about your delegates. Tom Ludlam will be in touch with you in the next few days to settle the Working Group membership and to discuss/refine the process.

Attachments (2)

Cc: P. Paul
P. Chaudhari
S. Steadman
G. Rai