

LHC milestone

At the December meeting of CERN's Council, the Organization's Governing Body, the delegates from the 16 Member States unanimously agreed that the LHC proton-proton collider proposed for the 27-kilometre LEP tunnel is the 'right machine for the advance of the subject and of the future of CERN'. Detailed information on costs, technical feasibility and prospective delivery schedules, and involvement of CERN Member States and other countries, together with an outline of the LHC experimental programme, its goals and its implications, including funding, will be provided before the end of 1993 so that Council can move towards an LHC decision.

Following the vote, Council President Sir William Mitchell said 'this is a historic occasion'. 'The LHC project now exists', he added.

The vote followed a special extended Council session on the LHC Project on 19 December before extended delegations from CERN Member States and invited guests from other nations. They heard presentations from Scientific Policy Committee Chairman Chris Llewellyn Smith on the physics potential for LHC, from European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) Chairman J.-E. Augustin on the LHC user aspects, and from CERN Director General Carlo Rubbia in the LHC project and the future of CERN. This special meeting helped prepare the ground for Council's vote the following day.

CERN's 17th Member State

At the December Council session, delegates voted unanimously to admit the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic as CERN's 17th Member State, as from 1 January.



At a special session of CERN Council on the LHC project on 19 December, Director General Carlo Rubbia spoke on the LHC project and the future of CERN.

Following the special session, Council

delegates voted unanimously that 'the LHC is the right machine for the advance of the subject and of the future of CERN'.

(Photo CERN HI 47.12.91/5)

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic has an excellent tradition in physics, with research centres in Prague, Bratislava and Kosice. Work at CERN dates back to the early 1960s when Prague physicists collaborated in bubble chamber experiments. For a period, Czechoslovak physicists maintained only indirect contact with CERN via the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in Dubna, but in the 1980s formal collaboration was reestablished with Czechoslovak physicists working in the UA2 and Helios experiments.

Current participation includes an important collaboration in the Delphi experiment at LEP. The country's high energy physics research programme will be expanded in the next few years to exploit the new opportunities offered by the CERN programme.

The move continues CERN's new spirit of pan-Europeanization. Established originally among West European States, the Organization extended its membership to Poland last year. Discussions with other European countries are at an advanced stage, with Hungary prominent in the queue of prospective Member States. Outside Europe, cooperation agreements have been signed with Australia, Chile, China and India, while the Russian Federation and Israel now participate in CERN Council meetings as official observers.

The December Council meeting also approved the new composition of the Laboratory's Directorate under Director General Carlo Rubbia: Pierre Darriulat, Walter Hoogland and John Thresher as Research Directors; Gunther Plass as Director of Accelerators, Helmut Weber as Head of Administration; Hans Hoffmann as Director for Technical Support; Giorgio Brianti as Associate Director for Future Accelerators; Roy

Billinge as Associate Director for Informatics; and Christian Roche as Associate Director for Forecast and Planning. Bjorn Brandt, Swedish delegate to the Finance Committee, was elected as the Committee's new Chairman and Gunther Wolf of DESY becomes a member of the Scientific Policy Committee.

Council also stood in memory of Gosta Funke of Sweden, Council President from 1967-9 and Finance Committee Chairman from 1961-3, who died in December aged 89.

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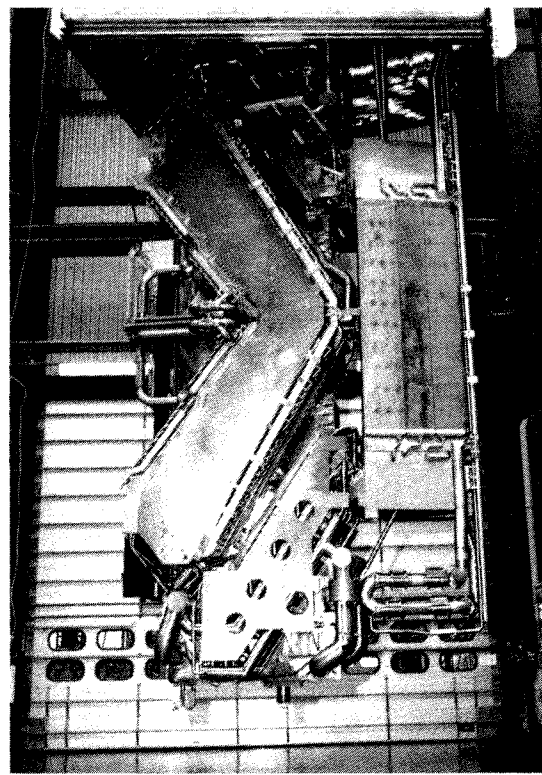


Photo shows the 8 m high magnet assembly at JET.

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