

European Microkelvin Collaboration

MICROKELVIN

General Assembly

Meeting at the 54-month Final Review of the Microkelvin Grant Programme

Thursday, 12 Sep, Sannäs Convention Centre, 21:30

Members present at the meeting:

George Pickett ULANC (Chair)

Rob Blaauwgeers BLUEFORS

Christian Enss HEID

Francesco Giazotto SNS

Henri Godfrin CNRS

Teun Klapwijk DELFT (represented by Nathan Vercruyssen)

Matti Krusius AALTO (Coordinator)

Tjerk Oosterkamp UL

John Saunders RHUL

Thomas Schurig PTB (represented by Joern Beyer)

Peter Skyba SAS

Dominik Zumbuhl BASEL

Not represented: BLUEFORS

Invited: Maria Douka (EU Project Officer)

AGENDA

1. **54-month Review.** Summary of achievements and deficiencies. Recommendations for the review to be conducted tomorrow.
2. **Microkelvin finances.** Summary of final fiscal situation at different partner institutions, JRA accounts, but in particular coordination accounts at Grenoble (Godfrin) and Lancaster (Fisher). Transfer from coordination to Aalto management.
3. **Microkelvin future.** Preparations for the next infrastructure call under Horizon 2020 in 2014. Visions of the trends in physics over the next five years – how can the low-temperature community help to achieve these? Formal decision on how many members are appointed to the working party who prepares the grant application and who are they? Guidelines for the working party.
4. **Any other business.**
5. **Closing of meeting.**



Matti Krusius
Coordinator



George Pickett
Chairman

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Thursday, 12 Sep, Sannäs Convention Centre, 21:30 – 23:15

Present at the meeting:

George Pickett ULANC (Chair)
Joern Beyer (replacing Thomas Schurig PTB)
Christian Enss HEID
Henri Godfrin CNRS
Matti Krusius AALTO (Coordinator)
John Saunders RHUL
Peter Skyba SAS
Tjerk Oosterkamp UL (arrived at about 22:30)
Dominik Zumbuhl BASEL

Invited: Shaun Fisher ULANC
Pertti Hakonen AALTO

MINUTES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. **54-month review.** The review was to be conducted on the following day, Friday 13 Sep. No external evaluators had been invited which was generally considered a regrettable shortcoming. The prevailing feeling was that the achievement level of milestones and deliverables would be close to maximum possible: no single major failed deadline was identified.
2. **Microkelvin finances.** In view of the imminent ending of the Microkelvin grant period on Sep 30, all accounts should be prepared for close down. The management account at AALTO would be supplemented by a transfer of 15 kEuros from the coordination accounts at CNRS and ULANC. EU Project Officer Maria Douka had provided the permission to use JRA accounts until Sep 30. The Trans-National Access program had reached its targeted visitor months and its accounts were exhausted. The AALTO coordination account was exceeded already during the second 18-month grant period, while those at CNRS and ULANC were expected to show some small surplus after all bills from the Microkelvin Workshop 2013 had been paid.

It was reminded that all Partners should take the final auditing of their finances and the closing of all Microkelvin accounts as a high-priority task since the payment of the final grant contributions was contingent upon a positive outcome.

3. **Microkelvin future.** It was unanimously concluded that preparations should start for a new grant application in view of the expected infrastructure call under Horizon 2020, to be opened in December – January and with a submission deadline in mid 2014. The concept of the Microkelvin Collaboration has proven successful and has been well accepted among the international low-temperature community at large. Based on the “EU

consultation on possible topics for future activities for integrating and opening existing national research infrastructures” it had been placed in the “List of topics with high potential and with merit for future Horizon 2020 actions for integrating and opening existing national research infrastructures” under “Engineering, materials sciences, and analytical facilities” as the “Collaboration of European laboratories to foster education, technology development, and research at ultra-low temperatures as a joint laboratory without walls”. Our EU Project Officer recommended submission of the application in the first possible Horizon 2020 call.

The concept of the Microkelvin Collaboration had been worked out in 2008 – 2009 by Henri Godfrin, Mikko Paalanen, and George Pickett, who prepared the first Microkelvin grant application. Based on this experience, it was concluded that the most efficient working group for preparing a new application would be one with a small number of members so that responsibilities would not get diluted. To maintain balance in geographic distribution and seniority, it was proposed that the new task group should carry four members, two with earlier experience and two new comers with fresh ideas: Christian Enss, Henri Godfrin, Pertti Hakonen, and George Pickett. This motion was accepted. George Pickett agreed to start the work by calling the group to working order, but the group was left free hands to select a chairman for its later work.

The group was charged with the task to prepare the best possible winning application with no predetermined constraints on the form or structure of the new plan.

4. *Any other business.* No decisions on further matters were taken.

5. *Closing of meeting.*



Matti Krusius
Coordinator



George Pickett
Chairman