auspice of the Belgian presidency of the European Union. It was open by an official representative of the federal minister Magnette, in charge of energy and environment. Talks were given by representatives of organizations supporting and organizing research in Europe, Drs. Dr. Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph Chair of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, ESFRI, Dr. Marc Heppener for ESF, and Dr. Christian Kurrer for Commission's Directorate-General for Research. The long-range plan itself was presented by the NuPECC chairman, Dr. Gunther Rosner. A scientific view on the evolution of nuclear physics in the next decades was the subject of the last talk, given by Dr. Jean-Paul Blaizot.

A special effort was made to present the long-range plan in a form accessible to the largest possible audience. To this effect, a booklet was written by science writers under the supervision of NuPECC and a short pedagogic movie was prepared by a communication agency to present the status and the future of nuclear physics. All these documents are accessible on the NuPECC website: http://www.nupecc.org/index.php?display=lrp2010/main

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NuPNET: Successful Launch of NuPNET's First Common Call for Joint Transnational Activities in Nuclear Physics

On 14 February 2011, NuPNET—the joint European network for Nuclear Physics Infrastructures—launched its first common call for joint transnational activities in three important research areas of Nuclear Physics. With a total budget of not less than 3.4 million Euros, this call is co-funded by 12 agencies responsible for the funding of Nuclear Physics in 10 European countries (http://www.nupnet-eu.org/wps/portal/launch-of-nupnet-call.html).

NuPNET—the ERA-Net for Nuclear Physics infrastructures (http://www.nupnet-eu.org/)—is a three-year project launched on 27 March 2008 and financed by the European Commission to the tune of 1.3 million Euros. Coordinated by IN2P3/CNRS, this European initiative incorporates 18 funding agencies/organizations from 14 European countries, 1 associate member and NuPECC, who acts as NuPNET's "Scientific Advisory Body."

According to the "NuPNET Report 2010" (led by I. Reinhard, PT-GSI, Germany, http://www.nupnet-eu.org/wps/portal/nupnet-report-2010.html), the 14 "NuPNET" countries provide more than 90% of the total funding in Nuclear Physics in Europe. NuPNET can thus be considered as being truly representative of the European map in Nuclear Physics funding and as offering the best framework conditions to reach its principal aim: *enabling the nuclear physics funding agencies to pilot joint transnational activities themselves.*

In Europe, the facilities for nuclear physics are mostly operated by laboratories financed by national funding agencies and universities. Over the next decade, a number of these will see major upgrades, including the construction of a new generation of infrastructures accepted by ESFRI as truly pan-European ventures (i.e., FAIR and SPIRAL2), which is already well under way. The nuclear physics community in Europe as well as worldwide is fragmented when it comes to financing joint actions together and it appears that not only the funding systems of various countries and institutions are different but so are their national priorities. This is where NuPNET comes in.

Once the "NuPNET Report 2010" was done, a list of opportunities for joint activities in Nuclear Physics research was defined (led by A. Bracco, INFN, Italy), the formal and legal barriers of the national funding systems were analyzed (carried out by A. Ostapczuk, NCBiR, Poland), and a funding action plan elaborated and approved (led by N. Alamanos and B. Saghai, CEA, France).

After a survey of the existing cooperation tools (led by Ch. Stoyanov, INRNE, Bulgaria), all NuPNET member institutions were consulted at various stages to define a short-list of viable topics in view of NuPNET's Common Call. And so the next step "Selecting joint activities at a transnational level" was

achieved under the leadership of José Benlliure (MICINN, Spain).

This major step was accomplished by the representatives from *all* the 18 NuPNET member institutions/organizations during the meeting of the NuPNET Governing Council at CNRS headquarters in Paris on 15 October 2010, at which the priority research themes in Nuclear Physics in view of a common call for proposals were decided. Finally, a list of three topics was voted unanimously and the NuPNET Consortium decided to open a first common call for proposals as a pilot action, which was indeed launched in February.

The three topics of this first NuPNET Call were: (1) **R&D on new detector technologies in nuclear physics:** Gamma and neutron detection technologies based on new scintillation materials and new photosensors (APDs, SiPMs...). Silicon and micropatterned gas tracking detectors (GEM, Micromegas) for low and high energy applications. Large-area diamond detectors for beam monitoring or timing. (2) **R&D on EURISOL technologies: accelerator components, targets, and ion sources.** (3) **Targeted action on nuclear structure and reactions theory.** Twelve funding agencies from 10 countries participate in this first NuPNET Call: Bulgaria (INRNE), Finland (HIP and JY), France (CEA and CNRS/IN2P3), Germany (BMBF), Italy (INFN), the Netherlands (RuG), Poland (NCBiR), Romania (IFIN-HH), Spain (MICINN), and the United Kingdom (STFC). The national contributions to a virtual common pot of this first NuPNET Call amount up to 3.4 million Euros. Proposals were submitted electronically by 22 April 2011. Eligible proposals were transmitted to evaluators, who examined them with regard to seven figures of merit (scientific relevance, strategic fit to call, international competitiveness, etc.).

On 7 July 2011 the Panel Board will meet and decide. By end of July the results of the evaluations will be known and one expects the start of the selected joint activities by autumn 2011.

The NuPNET Consortium asked for a prolongation of the project, although no additional funding from the EU Commission is expected. Upon consultation, the EU Commission agreed to prolong the NuPNET project by nine months, until the end of November 2011. This new deadline gives NuPNET the opportunity to carry out its first call under the very best auspices. Moreover, thanks to the commitment of the participating agencies in the call, the ambition of *all* the members of the NuPNET consortium will become a reality: indeed, the first nuclear physics projects co-funded by the participating NuPNET agencies are planned to start in the fall of 2011.

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CologneAMS becomes Operational

In 2007 the Institute für Kernphysik (IKP) together with the Institute of Geology & Mineralogy of the University of Cologne won a national DFG contest to operate a new national centre for Accelerator Mass Spectroscopy CologneAMS (http://www.cologne-ams.de) [1].

It was intended to improve the experimental conditions especially for the German scientists who apply the AMS technique for their research work. It was demanded that the facility is suited for the spectrometry of all standard cosmogenic nuclides like ^{10}Be, ^{14}C, ^{26}Al, ^{26}Cl, ^{41}Ca, ^{129}I, and in addition to measure sensitively heavy ions up to ^{239}U and ^{244}Pu. The heart of the AMS setup is a 6 MV Tandetron accelerator to which a low energy mass spectrometer with a negative ion source, capable to load 200 samples, and a high energy mass spectrometer with two detector systems for the measurement of the radioactive isotopes is attached. One of these detector systems is equipped with a second foil stripper unit followed by a 120° bending magnet to allow for an effective isobar suppression [2] to reduce overloading the ionisation chamber by isobar contaminations.

In May 2010 the accelerator was delivered to Cologne. In a spectacular action it was brought into the second basement floor of the completely renovated underground laboratory of the IKP (Figure 1). The operation of the AMS facility is completely independent from experiments performed at the 10 MV Tandem [3] which is located in the first basement floor of the accelerator area. After the assembly during the summer the AMS installation and the completely