

Excellent news from **DAΦNE**: as promised at the last SC meeting, **SIDDHARTA-2** has acquired the required statistics with the deuterium target.

With about one month to go, there are some calibration data to be taken, as well as some machine studies to be performed. We require advise to the SC on the priorities of this last chunk of data taking

The analysis of the X17 **PADME** data is progressing more slowly than expected. The group is not ready yet for the final opening of the box, which is expected for the summer conferences. However all the ingredients are ready: unfortunately an important systematic effect has been found, which requires a further period of data taking with an improved detector, which is being under preparation. Advise for a proper scheduling of this run is required to the SC

The great success of SIDDHARTA would have not been possible without the extraordinary contribution of the man who has started the kaonic-atoms activity in our Laboratory more than twenty years ago

We all moan the death of **Carlo Guaraldo**, last May 18, at age 85.

For many of us, he has been not only a great scientist, but also a man of great culture, a mentor, a friend

Ciao Carlo!



At the end of January, the test of the FINUDA magnet has been completed successfully. As a consequence, the group has now started working on the TDR of the **FLASH** experiment. Work is going on also in the consolidation of the project in terms of financial and human resources

Today we will hear for the first time a report on a possible astrophysics related experiment to be performed at BTF (**Fireball**). At present it is just at the level of physics discussion but it might become a real proposal in the near future. Advice from the SC is required, also concerning the time scale, as compared with PADME

The two experiments above might become the two fundamental physics in situ activities during the early stage of EuPRAXIA. Carefull planning is therefore needed

We will hear about the progress of **SPARC** and **EuPRAXIA**. At present a relevant installation work is going ahead in the SPARC_LAB bunker connected with the **SABINA** project and the preparation for the **PNRR** project **EuAPS**

EuPRAXIA is conceived to be a user facility for photon science, essentially. I thought that a report on the activities which are since many years being carried out in this field in the laboratory would have been beneficial for the committee

All in all the various **PNRR** projects are progressing well, despite some non trivial problems connected with the administrative procedures. Concerning the new **HPC center**, we are ready to start the procedure for the award of the contract for the realization of the physical infrastructure, still compliant with our very aggressive schedule

All in all the **PNRR** projects must be completed by the end of 2025, while the completion of the work in **ELI Magurele** is programmed for early 2026

I once again underline the fact that all of the above translates into a very challenging and demanding year 2025, more especially for the Accelerator and Technical Divisions.

The task of driving the Laboratory into these troubled waters will be the duty of our next director, that will be appointed during the INFN Board of Directors next Friday May 31.

I wish him/her all the best for this difficult task. The new director will step up on August 1, I will obviously be ready to help anytime will be needed

Since this is my last SC as a director of the lab, I take the occasion to publicly thank you for the big help you have given me in this last four years. I also want to thank all my colleagues that at all levels have been of great support for me, and the real strength of the laboratory