

FEEDBACK LETTER TO MICE UK

The Panel reiterated its view stated at the previous PPRP meeting that iMICE offered a tremendous opportunity for the UK to play a leadership role in hosting a major facility. The Panel also emphasised its previously stated view that a technical and cost review, including contingency, should take place at the earliest opportunity.

The Panel reviewed the document "preliminary indicative analysis of various funding scenarios for MICE-UK". The Panel recognised that, in addition to providing the beamline and infrastructure, it is vital for the UK to play a major role in the exploitation of the MICE results in order to place the UK in a good position for a future Neutrino Factory. The four funding scenarios considered were:

1) 7.5M, 2) 10.0M, 3) 12.5M, 4) 15.0M

Based on the information presented, the Panel felt that Scenario 3 would allow the UK to construct the beamline and infrastructure as well as lead one, and make a significant contribution to the other, of the spectrometer instrumentation/software and focus coil projects.

With 20% less funding (Scenario 2), the Panel felt that the UK could provide the beamline and infrastructure, and could, at most, make a significant contribution to either the spectrometer or the focus coils.

With 40% less funding (Scenario 1), the Panel felt that additional resources would have to be sought in order to allow the UK to supply the beamline and infrastructure. Furthermore, this scenario would not allow the UK to participate in the exploitation of the MICE results.

With an additional 20% funding (Scenario 4), the Panel felt that the UK could provide the beamline and infrastructure, take a leading role in both the spectrometer and focus coils, and fully exploit the MICE results.

The proponents had submitted a revised request of £419k for FY 03/04, and the referees had, in consultation with the proponents recommended a package totalling £408k of which £70k was suggested as appropriate for funding from PPRP. With regard to the revised request for funding in FY03/04, the Panel adopted the referees' recommendations and awarded 50k for work package 3 (construction and testing of the prototype fibre tracker) and 20k for travel. This award is on the basis of no further guaranteed funding or approval of the project from PPARC.

The Panel felt that the requests for 281k for work package 1 (preparation of experimental areas) and 57k for work package 2 (focus coil development) were justified, but could not be supported from within the funds available to the PPRP. The Panel encouraged the proponents to explore funding for these work packages with the Director, RAL-PPD.