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6<sup>th</sup> October 2003

Dear Professor Blondel and Professor Kaplan,

The International Peer Review Panel chaired by Prof. Alan Astbury was established to review the MICE proposal, submitted on the 10th January 2003. The Panel "strongly recommends approval of the project", "endorses the scientific case for MICE" and considers that "proposed experimental technique is appropriate". The Panel also identified a number of technical issues and risks, and made recommendations about management and financial issues. A copy of the report is enclosed.

This strong endorsement of the scientific and technical case by the International Peer Review Panel is a necessary precondition for securing funding in the UK, and presumably also in other countries. However, in order to proceed, it will be necessary to secure funding approval for the project by all of the agencies involved.

The Panel recommends that there should be an independent cost and schedule review, that there should be a formal project management methodology (e.g. a work breakdown structure or equivalent), the appointment of technical liaison staff for the key components, the establishment of a technical advisory committee and an agency committee. These issues will be considered over the coming months by the MICE Joint [CCLRC/PPARC] Project Board.

Meanwhile, we are taking two actions. Firstly, the proposal by the UK members of the MICE collaboration has been considered by the PPARC Project Peer Review Panel. The recommendations of this Panel are attached to this letter, and are being considered by PPARC; no decision has yet been made, as emphasised in the feedback given to the collaboration. Secondly, the project is progressing through the "Gateway" procedure, in order to seek funding for the investment in the beam and infrastructure from the UK capital facilities funding line. A statement of PPARC's position is also attached. It will be essential that agreement on the international funding for MICE is in place before the UK will commit substantial funds for the construction.

It is essential that the Agency Committee is now established to provide a forum in which the funding agreements can be discussed and agreed. We will therefore be contacting Funding Agencies through the collaboration to discuss the membership and remit of the Agency Committee. Meanwhile, we would ask you to ensure that the relevant agencies are kept informed of the progress on MICE, that the technical issues identified by the Panel are addressed, and that a