

Geant4 Oversight Board Meeting

CERN, 21 January 2009

- Participants: Livio Mapelli (CERN), Mauro Morandin (INFN), Setsuya Kawabata (KEK), Etienne Augé (IN2P3), Richard Mount (SLAC), John Allison (STFC, HIP), Vladimir Grichine (LPI), John Apostolakis (ex officio - Spokesperson), Makoto Asai (ex officio – deputy Spokesperson), Petteri Nieminen (ESA, Chair). Apologies: Mario Pimenta (LIP, TRIUMF), Amber Boehnlein (FNAL)
- Apologies for the technical difficulties in establishing the teleconference connection.
- Introduction of the new CERN Geant4 OB representative, Livio Mapelli. Livio introduced himself, explained his background, and the OB warmly welcomed him in his new position.
- Outcome of the delta review on 19-20 January 2009 was discussed. The overall first impression was a positive one, with significant advances noted by the Review Committee especially in the physics domains since the previous review in 2007. Some new recommendations were also given, particularly regarding the manpower available to the Collaboration. A more detailed report from the Committee is expected shortly and will be distributed to the OB. *Action*: Petteri to distribute the Review Committee report to the OB as soon as this is available.
- Poll of the funding and commitment status of the Collaboration Institutes:
 - SLAC: Richard gave an update on the DoE proposal recently submitted for US Geant4 developments. This considers Geant4 as a stand-alone development, rather than being funded through the funding for an experiment. First response from programme managers has been received, and Richard explained the proposed work plan and foreseen commitments over the next years. The focus areas for the proposed developments are mainly in the hadronic physics domain, but performance issues and software re-engineering would also be addressed.
 - IN2P3: Etienne agreed with Richard in that Geant4 should be seen as a research field in its own right. French proposals are also being prepared in this direction.
 - INFN:
 - FNAL:
 - CERN: Livio reported recent developments and status of certain CERN posts related to Geant4. A new post is currently being opened, to replace a contributor whose contract was not extended.
 - LPI: Vladimir gave an update on a proposal submitted to the Russian Academy of Sciences. Work plans for 2009-2011 have been prepared, with Vladimir as the project leader for Geant4 aspects, but exact implementation is yet to be defined.
 - KEK: Setsuya mentioned that the Japanese radiation therapy project came to completion at the end of 2008. Committee evaluation on this project has been very good, and KEK are currently looking for new funding for further developments. The outcome should be known within the next 1-2 months.
 - LIP and TRIUMF:

- STFC and HIP: John Allison conveyed that there are many Geant4 users in the UK, but limited conversion to Collaboration membership. Currently there is no dedicated budget line in the UK for Geant4 developments. John agreed to investigate the possibility for similar avenues as are currently being opened in the US and France. HIP contribution has been recently reduced to 0.5 FTE, and their decision on future contributions is expected by June time. *Action:* John Allison to investigate possibilities for UK Geant4 proposals, and Petteri/John Apostolakis to discuss with Jorma Tuominiemi regarding future HIP contribution in the Collaboration.
 - ESA: Three new Geant4-related R&D items are to be published in the 1st quarter of 2009, targeting biological effects, electron shielding and Space Science domains. Geant4 has also been included as a liaison community in the European Space Environments and Effects Network of Technical Competencies (SEENoTC), with Giacomo Cuttone (INFN) appointed as the contact person.
- Collaboration issues: Geant4 version 9.2 was released as planned. John explained the preparation and the release validation testing which identified infrequent issues that were corrected in time. Compared to the previous Geant4 version, 25% improvement in CPU time has been observed for simple setups of similar materials with the LHC calorimeters, utilising the QGSP_BERT physics list thanks to performance improvements in the Bertini cascade.
 - Next meeting: To be held in May/June time. *Action:* Petteri to circulate suggested dates to confirm the OB representatives' availability.