

26 October 2021

ILC International Development Team: -status report-

Presentation at Plenary Session of
ILCX 2021
CERN, 26-29 October 2021

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MEXT Expert Panel on the ILC (1)

- MEXT in Japan has started (again) the Expert Panel primarily evaluating the progress of the ILC for the last three years.
- The Panel met three times so far
 - 29 July 1st meeting: introduction by MEXT and discussion among them
 - 14 October: 2nd meeting: presentations on ILC introduction, physics, machine and [Pre-lab Proposal](#) + Q&A on those subjects
 - 18 October: 3rd meeting: presentations on civil construction, acceptance by the public and academia, international collaboration and cost sharing, and human resources issues + Q&A on those subjects + discussion among the panel members
 - 4th meeting for additional Q&A and discussion among the panel members
 - Possible 5th meeting to deliberate its conclusions

MEXT Expert Panel on the ILC (2)

- Pre-lab proposal presentation explained
 - “Our” perception of the ILC, i.e. an international project lead by the Japanese initiative to host.
 - “Our” perception of the preparatory phase to be ready for the construction of the ILC, i.e.
 - ▶ technical development and engineering design work for the accelerator and civil construction, (by the Pre-lab)
 - ▶ intergovernmental discussion on the ILC organisation and governance, and cost and responsibility sharing for the construction and operation (by the regular meetings among the national authorities)
 - to proceed in parallel
 - Pre-lab organisation and governance
 - Pre-lab start-up process triggered by the indication of Japanese government’s interest to host the ILC
 - Pre-lab work packages and cost estimate

MEXT Expert Panel on the ILC (3)

- Personal impression on the Panel's discussion so far...
 - In the first meeting, Panel's attention was focused on the "negative" attitude of the European governments (GB, DE, FR) towards the ILC reported by MEXT.
 - General atmosphere of the second and third meetings were more positive compared to the first meeting.
 - Although the MEXT charge of the Panel does not include the review of the Pre-lab proposal, the Panel discussed the Pre-lab for a considerable amount of time in the second and third meeting.
 - Several Panel members understood the necessity of the preparatory phase and support the Pre-lab.
 - Some Panel members are sympathetic to the MEXT view, i.e. the cost sharing of the ILC has to be understood first.
 - There is a general concern on making the Pre-lab directly coupled to the "ILC to be hosted in Japan".

IDT work plan for the near future (1)

- EB continues to work closely with the Japanese colleagues to support their interactions with the MEXT Expert Panel.
- EB has started the preparation for the Pre-lab start-up process, i.e. identifying the candidates for the founder laboratories and facilitating discussion among them on the process and necessary conditions to start the process.
- **A realistic start-up scenario needs to be developed reflecting upon discussion among the founding laboratories, consultation with international partners interested in the Pre-lab, discussion between MEXT and Japanese community, MEXT Panel discussion, etc.**
- WG1 and WG2 discussion should start on the scenario once it starts developing.

IDT work plan for the near future (2)

- IDT needs to report on status and plan for the Pre-lab start-up process to ICFA in spring 2022.
- One of the current thinking's of the EB is that the start of “Pre-lab” (even “Pre-lab light”), which is **sufficient to open the funding opportunities for some of the Pre-lab work packages**, must be emerging within a year or so. (**NB: MEXT Expert Panel report is expected for the end of this calendar or Japanese fiscal year, if latter March 2022**). Pre-lab (even the light one) will **build up confidence on the project, which is essential for meaningful governmental discussion**.
- This then should evolve toward the Pre-lab as envisaged.
- Needs by WG3 in the detector R&D to be defined within a realistic boundary and **seek a mechanism to satisfy them**.

Final remarks

- Political process in Japan appears to have been **stalled for sometime...**
- Meetings between MEXT and foreign authorities are not quite regular and systematic, and **seem to be stagnating.**
- We know that without **positive signs from Japan** indicating their interest in hosting the ILC, situation in the other countries will not change.
- **What can we still still do to help unlocking the situation?**