

Dear colleagues,

It's nearly half way between the September and December collaboration meetings, hence an update seems appropriate:

- First and foremost the IFR upgrade effort is proceeding well and is on schedule, thanks to the heroic effort of the team. So far, the two west side IFR sextants and the lower west side sextant have been upgraded each with 6 layers of brass and 12 layers of LST's in place of the RPC chambers. The chambers have been checked out and passed the QC tests. The final sextant on the upper west side will be completed by mid-November, after which the work will concentrate on closing up the detector. For daily updates on the progress on both the machine and the detector upgrades please see Bill Wisniewski's summaries of the IR2 meetings at the Detector Operation Hypernews.

- As announced at the September collaboration meeting, a taskforce has been formed to review and advise the BaBar management on the development of a plan for BaBar physics analysis and computing beyond the data taking phase of the experiment (after September 2008). The charge and membership of the "Beyond 2008" Taskforce, which has been formed in consultation with and the approval of the executive board, can be found in: <http://www.slac.stanford.edu/~jawahery/bbrman/Beyond-2008-charge.doc>

The taskforce is chaired by Chris Hearty and is already at work with the goal of presenting their report on the time scale of the December CM.

- Again as announced at the September collaboration meeting, we are working on organizing a 1-day workshop on physics of " $1/\text{ab}$ data". The workshop will take place on the 3rd day of the December collaboration meeting, Thursday December 7th. Jim Olsen and Soeren Prell will soon send out more information on the workshop agenda. This will be a great opportunity to review the physics reach of the data and its potential for impacting the search for physics beyond the Standard Model.

Hope to see you soon at the CM and the workshop.

Best regards,
Hassan