Introductory Remarks

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It is hard to realize that the original incentives for a Tau Charm Factory occurred over seven years ago. According to my records the first discussions on a Tau Charm Factory started on a bus during a ski tour from CERN in January 1987. A formal proposal for a Tau Charm Factory was generated by Jasper Kirkby, who is here today, in May of 1987 and John Jowett from CERN established the first machine parameters. Since then the fate of Tau Charm Factories has been taken on a roller coaster ride from non-support to "almost go ahead," to the current indefinite status. In some respect the Tau Charm Factory has always been a bridesmaid but never a bride.

Detailed plans progressed to build a machine in Spain but no agreement was reached between the Spanish authorities and CERN to define financial support of the machine and to make sure that enough technical talent was available. A major technical workshop on the Tau Charm factories was held slightly over five years ago in May 1989 here at SLAC resulting in a fat volume of proceedings. Also in June 1993 there was an important Tau Charm Factory Workshop in Marbella, Spain.

Although definite plans and financial support for a Tau Charm Factory continued to be lacking, the scientific interest has been maintained. Currently the Institute of High Energy Physics in China, Argonne National Laboratory in the United States, Dubna and the Budker Institute in Russia are all engaged in planning for a possible realization of a Tau Charm Factory. When we became acquainted with the plans, in particular by the Chinese group, the natural question arose whether the scientific promise of a Tau Charm Factory is still as great as it was seven years ago. Specifically there has been a great deal of progress at CESR at Cornell, at LEP and Fermi Lab, generating data which are in partial overlap with those in which the Tau Charm Factory was aimed. The work of the BEPC in China has in itself advanced work in the Tau-Charm region. Moreover B-Factories have been authorized and are under construction and their program will also permit overlap with Tau Charm physics.

Therefore, in order to establish a firm scientific basis for future Tau Charm Factory plans one has to address the follow two questions: (1) To what extent can and will work at other machines cover work that a Tau Charm Factory could do? Conversely (2) What are the required minimum parameters of a Tau Charm Factory which can do unique physics five years hence and beyond?

This workshop has been organized to generate some preliminary answers in response to these two questions. Thus this Workshop is neither simply a <u>scientific</u> Workshop on the one hand or a <u>planning</u> session for specific machines on the other; rather it is something in between. We will indeed hear during this Workshop about specific plans or proposals for a Tau Charm Factory but will not attempt to arrive at consensus in response to such plans. Yet hopefully the output of this Workshop will be real and during our last evening session tomorrow, August 16, we will explore the extent to consensus regarding the answers to the two questions as described.

Let me add how pleased we are that we have such a good representation from all interested parties and I hope that this Workshop will shed light on the issues mentioned.

Good luck!