

Dear ATLAS User,

The ATLAS Strategic Plan articulates priorities, scientific justification for new initiatives, and the correlation of scientific campaigns with scientific goals, in the context of long-term plans for the ATLAS facility. The current ATLAS Strategic Plan was crafted in 2009 by the Executive Committee of the ATLAS Users group and the management of the Physics Division, with input from the User community through a dedicated workshop. The current plan can be found on the ATLAS website at: ([http://www.phy.anl.gov/atlas/workshop14/ATLAS\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_09.pdf](http://www.phy.anl.gov/atlas/workshop14/ATLAS_Strategic_Plan_09.pdf)).

With the recent completion of the ARRA-funded Intensity and Efficiency upgrade of ATLAS, the facility has significantly improved capabilities and we have been asked by DOE to update the ATLAS Strategic Plan to reflect these increased capabilities and the resulting new physics opportunities. This updated Strategic Plan will be presented to DOE and be used to help guide the evolution of ATLAS in the coming decade. One of the main objectives of the **upcoming workshop of May 15-16** is to provide an opportunity for the Users community to address this request.

The nature of the experiments run at ATLAS is evolving. There is a growing need for longer experiments to address weaker channels with stable beam experiments or to obtain the required statistics with low-intensity light in-flight produced or reaccelerated CARIBU radioactive beams. To address this need the facility improvements have focused recently, and will continue to focus in the near future, on: 1) increasing the intensity of the stable beams (recently completed Intensity and Efficiency upgrade), 2) increasing the counting rate capabilities of existing instruments with digital electronics (digital Gammasphere, digital FMA, digital HELIOS detectors, etc.), 3) adding instruments with higher efficiency (AGFA gas filled spectrometer in preparation), and 4) increasing the intensity and purity of the radioactive beams available (design of AIRIS separator for light in-flight beam program and new stronger Cf source and EBIS charge breeder for CARIBU). Short one page descriptions of some of these initiatives and equipment built by the community that can be used at ATLAS are provided on the Users Workshop webpage.

The next decade will see other major changes to ATLAS in an effort to continue serving the community to the best of our abilities. New or improved instrumentation, built either in-house or by the community, will make good use of the new capabilities of the accelerator. However, the factor of three oversubscription observed at the time of the last few PACs demonstrates a strong demand for additional beamtime.. While incremental gains are being made with higher beam current and counting rate capabilities, it appears that the only way to significantly increase the number of beam hours available is to move to a multi-user mode of operation for ATLAS. This is being investigated as a possible path forward for the facility and could be implemented in steps. The resources required for this upgrade must, however, be evaluated with the other needs of the ATLAS User community in mind.

The workshop will start with a number of presentations about the status of ATLAS, the existing experimental equipment, the ongoing new developments as well as about possible options for the future. The presentations will be followed by working sessions arranged along the major areas of research at ATLAS. **For these in-depth discussions, every User is asked to come prepared to provide answers to a number of important questions given below.** The results of the discussions will be subsequently summarized by the discussion leaders and the opportunity will be provided for additional comments by the workshop participants before final conclusions are drawn.

Important questions for discussion at the workshop include:

- What are the most important physics questions that **you** plan to study at ATLAS over the next five to ten years?
- How do these questions relate to the present priorities of the field?
- What developments in accelerator capabilities and instrumentation do you envision as being needed to optimize your research program at the facility?
- Are you interested in actively participating in the development of new instrumentation and capabilities for ATLAS?
- Did you identify other important issues that the Executive Committee of the ATLAS User Group and the ATLAS management should make a priority for the facility?

It should be noted that the results of this User workshop will also become input to the coming Long Range Plan for Nuclear Physics. Hence, the importance of your presence and active participation cannot be overstated.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the workshop next week.

Sincerely,

Alan Wuosmaa and Guy Savard