IMPLICATIONS OF THE ORGANISATION OF "HYBRID" EVENTS FROM IPAC'23 ORGANISERS

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IPAC'23 LOC Co - Chairs

JACoW Team Meeting 2021
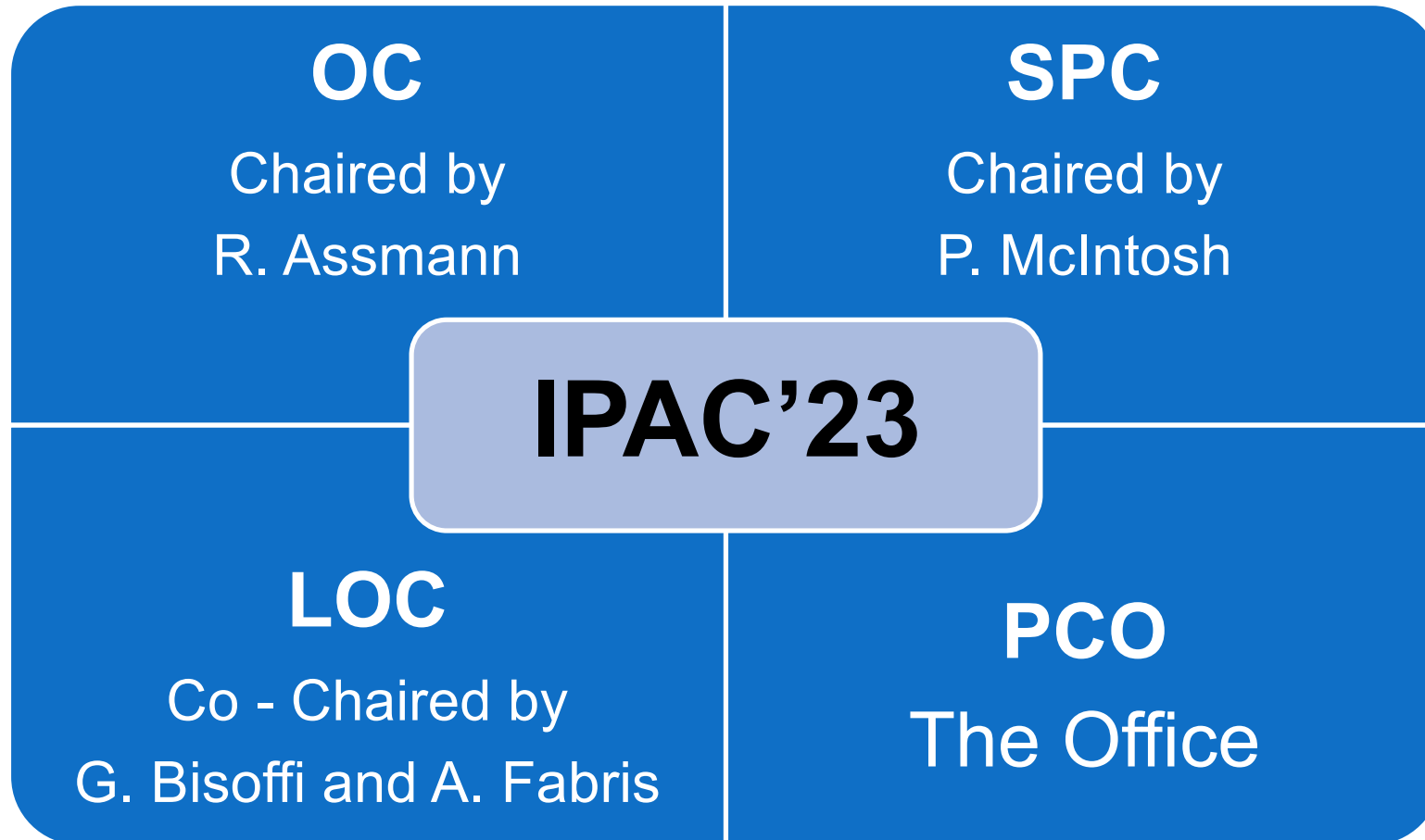December 13-17, 2021

7-12 MAY 2023

The conference is hosted by:

- ❑ **INFN – Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare**

- ❑ **Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste**

- ❑ INFN leading Institute, taking responsibility for the financial balance of the conference and managing advance expenditure and income.
- ❑ Coordination between the two Institutes and commitments treated under a MoU between Elettra and INFN.

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OC

Chaired by

R. Assmann

SPC

Chaired by

P. McIntosh

IPAC'23

LOC

Co - Chaired by

G. Bisoffi and A. Fabris

PCO

The Office

JACoW.org

Main Auditorium (1400 pax)

SALA DARSENA

- SALA GRANDE (1034 pax)
- Speakers Room
- Industrial exhibition
- Catering

PALAZZO del CINEMA

PALAZZO del CASINO

- SALA PERLA (600 pax)
- Poster session
- Editorial Activities
- Meeting rooms
- Industrial exhibition
- Catering

Main Auditorium (1400 pax)

SALA DARSENA

- SALA GRANDE (1034 pax)
- Speakers Room
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PALAZZO del CINEMA

PALAZZO del CASINO

- SALA PERLA (600 pax)
- Poster session
- Editorial Activities
- Meeting rooms
- Industrial exhibition
- Catering

Main auditorium
1400 seats
THEATRE STYLE

PALAZZO DEL CINEMA

- Sala Grande (1034 seats THEATRE STYLE)
- Industrial exhibition
- Catering
- Speakers room (Sala Frau)

Home of the Venice Film Festival

PALAZZO DEL CASINO'

- ❑ Meeting rooms
- ❑ Industrial exhibition
- ❑ Catering
- ❑ Sala Perla
- ❑ Poster session
- ❑ Editorial Activities
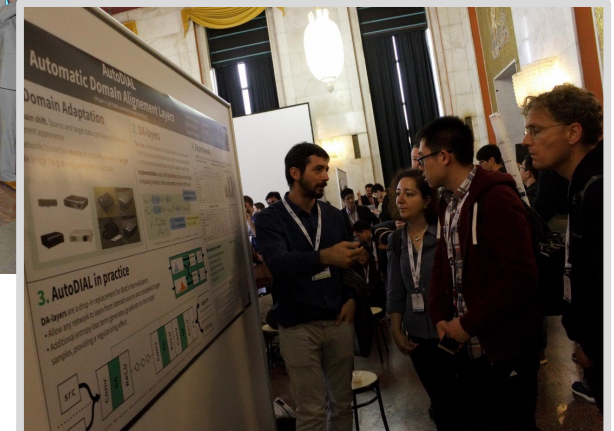
PALAZZO DEL CASINO'

First floor:

- ❑ Meeting rooms
- ❑ Industrial exhibition
- ❑ Sala Perla (600 pax)
- ❑ Sala Volpi (150 pax)

Second floor:

- ❑ Meeting rooms
- ❑ Editorial Activities

Third floor:

- ❑ Poster session
- ❑ Industrial exhibition

FOR EACH AUDITORIUM (CLASSICAL IN PRESENCE VERSION)

SOUND SYSTEM (2/3 microphones for chairperson table, mixer, etc).,
2 Radio Microphones for speaker., chair person
9 Radio Microphones
Video projector 20000 A/L
3 43" Monitors (chairperson's table, speaker, podium)
Graphical mixer
PC and MAC computers for presentation management
3 Remote control equipment
Lighting system stage
Lighting system gallery
Cameras, audio/video recording
Dedicate specialized technical staff for audio/video equipment

CONCEPT BEING DEVELOPED:

- 2 cameras in each oral session room:
  - one will film the stage;
  - the second, movable, will frame on speakers.
- On the screen:
  - the slide and, next to the slide, the presenting speaker or the convener.
- Everything will be shown on the monitors in Palazzo del Cinema and Palazzo del Casinò.

This setup accommodates **only the classical (in presence) version** with possible pure broadcasting of part of the plenary sessions.

It does not include the equipment that a professional remote connection would need (with quite an impact on costs, by the way) and which we will NOT implement

- **Hybrid conferences are vastly more complex than meeting in-person or virtually.**
- **They are easy to do poorly and hard to do well**
- A hybrid event is not…
    - Just streaming the oral sessions
    - A sharable video on demand after the event
    - Putting your live audience before your online audience
- A hybrid event should:
    - smoothly integrate technologies to facilitate participation between a live and virtual audience
    - provide an experience that caters to all audiences in a viewer-friendly way
- A good hybrid event should offer value to both its audiences, without either feeling like their experience was inferior.

- **VIDEO AND AUDIO ARE BOTH IMPORTANT**
- While a lot of attention is paid to the visual aspects of meeting, **audio is often overlooked**: remote participants expect to hear everything clearly. **A high quality audio set up is necessary.**
- **Video** should be considered from **remote participant perspective**:
    - They should be able to see who is speaking and what is taking place in the auditorium
    - Online participants should not feel like they're simply watching a webinar
- An appropriate virtual event management platform should offer the possibility of live streaming, engagement, and networking features, high-quality audio, video, and the choice to record sessions.
- **These features are essential and should be considered crucial for specifying a good virtual event platform.**

- **Overall, organizing a hybrid conference takes a lot of efforts to please both online and offline audiences**.
- On site attendees can easily communicate with each other, how to connect for the virtual audience?
- Onsite attendees will want to attend more sessions, posters and industry booths. They travelled a great distance to attend in-person.
- Virtual attendees will likely have a shorter attention span being in front of a computer screen. They may have to take more breaks throughout the day, or they may only be able to join the event for limited hours at a time.
- Fees should be based on the perceived value.
- Also "legal" aspects should be considered, for example:
    - Speaker and on site participants may do not want to be streamed or recorded or that videos are online forever.
    - The platform should avoid frauds.

- An uncertain number of scientific participants bears a high risk for a balanced budget.

- A dangerous leverage effect: industrial exhibitors will «invest» in a conference with many participants. The typical industrial contribution to the overall IPAC conference budget is ~ 50%. Large uncertainty on the number of in-presence exhibitors has a higher budget impact than fewer scientific participants.

- The scientific quality of online participation is at least doubtful, for both talks and posters.

- Only an IPAC with the largest number of in presence participants has a full significance for the younger generation: direct relationship with the community, establishing contacts, discussion of job offers are essential to them!

- Industry is **not** only a sponsor: we build accelerators thorough the fundamental partnership of industry, we need them to contribute to the analysis of the technical feasibility of our projects, we need to see what they offer, we need to stimulate their developments. This cannot be done if they participate online!

Impact of a virtual-participation option: is that what we want?

- The larger the content of the virtual package, the larger the risk of having <u>few participants and few companies</u> joining IPAC'23 in presence: is that what we want??

- Should we propose a format with a large virtual package, we <u>need</u> to estimate a lower number of participants and size the venue and the social events accordingly: as a consequence, there would be an <u>upper limit in the number of participants</u> in presence. Is that what we want??

- If we organize a mixed IPAC in 2023, with likely much fewer participants than at 2019 and previous, we shall probably <u>establish a trend</u> from which we shall hardly get back. Or, if this were then abandoned, we would be remembered as the IPAC with a scarce participation. Is that what we want??

A. Only-in-presence conference (as usual, with slides, and papers, made available for participants after IPAC'23 as usual normally on the last day of the conference): OK.

B. Option A, with limited online part: opening with authorities and one opening talk; EO; prizes; closing ceremony. OK, likely no need to charge this kind of remote participation. (Need to check if the speakers are fine with being streamed)

C. Mixed version for invited-talks OR online-all-orals: VERY RISKY. As local organizers we refused this option, which might substantially decrease the conference quality and endanger the budget balance. Do not forget that the local organizing Institutes are the ones that bear the financial risk.

D. *Full mixed event (posters included):* the local organizers and the scientific committee refused this option, which maximises costs and risks, minimizing the quality.

Two scenarios, which are sustainable with an in-person conference participation of 900-1200 people.

We may broadcast plenary on Monday (up to the coffee break) and the closing session (Friday), the Awards session, with no interaction from remote.

We will hence NOT invest in a hybrid conference scheme (in presence plus remote participation): the investment is high and the number of people participating remotely for whatever fee is uncertain, till too close in time to the conference start, and the risk that costs (largely) exceed incomes is far too high.

VENICE
WELCOMES YOU
TO IPAC'23
7-12 MAY 2023