



Working Group on International Cooperation in Nuclear Physics

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SAIF at iThemba LABS

Nuclear physics and its interfaces with other disciplines has been a pioneering activity in South Africa over many decades, and iThemba LABS, as the only major Research Infrastructure in subatomic physics on the African continent, has for many years been the driving force that has established South Africa as the globally recognized leader in Africa in this field. Research at iThemba LABS has had substantial international impact and as a major training centre has been instrumental in delivering much needed highly skilled human resources to South-Africa and the African continent.

Timely renewal and modernization of the main/major accelerators at iThemba LABS is of the highest importance not only for securing iThemba's evolution as an institutional competitor amongst its international counterparts, but also to maintain South Africa's prime position in the field of sub-atomic physics and its applied sciences and technologies.

The South African Isotope Facility (SAIF) project seeks to achieve this goal by enhancing the available research infrastructure in Africa. The African Centre for Exotic Isotopes (ACE Isotopes) component of the project will expand the ability to conduct research and development on the production and use of isotopes for nuclear medicine and provide the capacity to deliver radio-isotopes and radio-pharmaceuticals to a growing market. The African Centre for Exotic Beams (ACE Beams) component, on the other hand, is essential to maintain research and training in subatomic science

Since the capabilities of nuclear research are known to be very effective and contribute in a significant way to the economies of all developed countries, it is most important that South-Africa not lose this important research and training establishment. Moreover the technology related to the use of accelerators and detection systems needs to be maintained in South Africa, from where it can also be expanded across the African continent.

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International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

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IUPAP WG.9 (the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Working Group 9 on International Cooperation in Nuclear Physics) would like to express its strong support for the South-African Project SAIF at iThemba LABS which represents a major project for nuclear science and for human resource development in South-Africa.

Robert E. Tribble

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Chair of IUPAP WG.9

Willem T. H. van Oers
01/09/2017

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Secretary of IUPAP WG.9

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