

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Visit to CERN 11, 12,13 May 2004

This visit has been organised by David Pick / Norman Wookey

In 1949 to redress the balance and restore European science to its former prestige, at the European Cultural Conference at Lausanne, the French physicist and Nobel prize-winner Louis de Broglie proposed the creation of a European science laboratory. After two UNESCO Conferences, 11 European governments agreed to set up a provisional "Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire" (CERN). At a meeting of the new CERN Council in Amsterdam, a site near Geneva was selected for the planned laboratory. By 1999 there were 20 Member States. On 10 June 1955 with Felix Bloch as the first Director-General of CERN the foundation stone was laid. 1957 CERN's first accelerator, a 600 MeV proton Synchro-Cyclotron began operation. One of the first experimental achievements was the long-awaited observation of the decay of a pion into an electron and a neutrino. 1959 saw the first operation of CERN's first major machine, the 28 GeV Proton Synchrotron (PS), for a time the world's highest energy accelerator. In 1967 CERN commissioned the ISOLDE Isotope Separator On-line for the study of very short-lived nuclei. This world-class facility greatly extended the range of CERN's research. <http://public.web.cern.ch/public/>

The current experimental programme at CERN is summarized in the electronic version of the Grey Book. The experiments listed used one of the following machines: the Large Electron Positron Collider (**LEP**), the Super Proton Synchrotron (**SPS**), the 28 GeV Proton Synchrotron (**PS**), including the Antiproton Decelerator (**AD**) for slow antiprotons and the **ISOLDE** facility for short-lived ions. Five experiments have been approved for installation at the Large Hadron Collider (**LHC**) and the **R&D** projects aimed at developing new detector technologies and data acquisition systems for the LHC experiments are also listed. Schematic layouts of the experimental areas and of the beam lines at the different machines can be accessed from the Grey Book home page. <http://greybook.cern.ch/>

- 11 May Travel to Geneva and stay at the CERN hostel
<http://as.cern.ch/as-gs/housing/b38.html>
(Meet at the Swiss Cottage Geneva for Dinner)
- 12 May 9.00 AM meet at reception, an introductory talk, a short film and visit to an experiment
PM guided tour of an experimental installation
- 13 May 9.00 AM visit to Microcosm the CERN interactive exhibition Centre
Depart CERN.

A block booking has been made at the CERN hostel for the nights of 11 and 12 May. A single room with shower, wc and washbasin costs 55.- CHF / night and a double 73.- CHF / night. Flights to Geneva go from Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Southampton etc. Prices (at the moment) start at about £60 (E.g BA from LHR is £77).

If you are interested and have not already signed up, please contact me direct. If this is your field, and you are willing to give us a background talk prior to the visit please get in touch with me.