

MINOS Co-Spokesperson Statement

Alfons Weber

After starting my physics career in theory (Diploma Thesis on Neutrinos with L.M. Sehgal), calculating reactions that nobody could measure, I soon switched to experimental physics. I wanted to be where the action is, where people are passionate about their work and curious about Faust's question "Was die Welt im Innersten zusammen hält?", where they struggle together in international teams towards a common goal. A PhD in L3 searching for Neutralinos (you would have heard by now, if I would have been successful) and a postdoc measuring the mass of the W-boson and being in charge of one of the world's best ECALs followed. In 1999 I switched fields again to something new and old at the same time. I came back to neutrinos, but now from the experimental angle. I joined MINOS and that is exactly where I want to be.

My first years in MINOS were hard. Independently on how much we worked and what we achieved, the start of data taking was always 3 years away. But we went through those difficult times and it was an incredible feeling when we got our first beam and neutrinos. Those times, but not the feelings, are long gone and the having the first interaction recorded in our detectors was not the end, but just a start of an exciting journey.

I have always tried to make his experiment succeed. May it be by developing electronics, finding the right photo-sensors to use, convening the NC and beam systematics groups, being the UK spokesperson or chairing the IB. Nothing works just by itself. It requires personal ambition and dedication to make your dreams come true. While personal ambition is an important factor, it can only lead to success when working together in a team. (And that does not mean that somebody is telling all the others what to do.) We have to want to work together towards a common goal or we will fail.

What does this mean for the years ahead of us? MINOS is an experiment of dwindling resources. As usual in today's world, we already have to plan the next steps, while we are not finished with what we went out to do. Many of us are working on those new steps and that is a good thing, because without planning the way ahead there will be no future.

But at the same time, we must not forget that there is also a here and now. There will also not be a future, if we don't make the best of what we have been given first. While we may have less people than in the past, we are not finished yet and there are exciting times in front of us.

We will do the best measurement of Δm_{32}^2 for some time to come; we may have seen a hint of $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillation and only our careful analysis of the data we have and that is to come, will give us a chance on firming up on it; and we will be the first long baseline experiment to make a significant measurement of anti-neutrino oscillation parameters.

But we do have to make sure that we spend our resources wisely, if we want to achieve all these. We have to concentrate on the important aspects and make sure that we do get the best results out in a timely fashion.

And, this is a sad but necessary to raise, we have to think about the end of MINOS. We have to ask ourselves the difficult questions on how long we want to run, when have we reached the point of diminishing return and how and when do we want to wind this experiment down.

I have served this experiment in many functions. I have thought long and hard, if I should stand in this election. I feel passionate about MINOS and it is not only my duty to give you a democratic choice, but I want to make sure that MINOS will stay on its successful path. I will give my full attention to you, our goals and our experiment. I feel that I am the right person to lead MINOS with Rob through the demanding and difficult years ahead of us. Am I the best person to do that? That decision is yours to make.

Alfons Weber
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