

Manchester Particle Physics

Group News

May 2010

The Tier 2 gets an upgrade

Half of the 1800 CPUs in the Tier2 cluster are being replaced with faster, more compact and less power-hungry units, at a cost of £408K. The tender procedure started all the way back in October and **Alessandra Forti** has been pushing the process through the bureaucracy. It is now finally concluded with the placement of an order for 540TB of storage and 960 new cores. They should be with us by the end of July and be up and running by the end of August.



In detail, the compute server comes as 20 computing nodes, each with 4 motherboards, and each motherboard has 2 processors each with 6 cores. On each board here is 4GB of RAM and 125 GB of disk for each core. That's enough for our LHC simulation, production and analysis jobs, and it also provides a real asset for other large number-crunching problems. .



The data server will comprise 9 units with 60 TB of usable disk each, which is over half a Petabyte.

The changeover will be as smooth as possible

for users. Some of the old machines will be kept as spares for the other half of the cluster, which will be replaced at some future date.

New group member wanted!

We are looking for a physicist to replace Steve Snow in the detector labs. It's a very important post for the group - and also a very nice job as it's a senior core post and we hope they will be with us for a long time.

It would suit a graduate particle physicist with wide detector experience. If you know anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to get in touch.

Congratulations



To **Dave** and **Gemma Bailey** who got married this month.

To **Cinzia DaVia** and to **Hywel Owen**, who have both got bids through the first stage of the CLASP medical call. The success rate for the second and final stage is said to be 50%, so we should be alright...



To the Manchester Cockcroft group at IPAC, responsible for 25 posters. Here is **Jimmy Garland** with the EMMA crop.

To **Stefan Ask**, who got an STFC Advanced fellowship - pity he decided to go to Cambridge with it.

Goodbye

To **Sergei Dolgobrodov**, who has left after 8 years with the eScience group. It is ironic that while we get funding for hardware, the posts to maintain it are cut.