

COST Action CA16218
Action Title: NANOSCALE COHERENT HYBRID DEVICES FOR SUPERCONDUCTING QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES

Minutes
Management Committee Meeting
Eilat, Israel
From 17th February 2019 to 20th February 2019

1. Welcome to participants

The meeting starts at 20h00. The Chair of the Action, Hermann Suderow opens the meeting and welcomes all participants.

2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum

Everyone introduces himself. Less than 2/3 of the country representatives of the action attended this 3rd Management Committee meeting. Therefore the quorum was not achieved. The decisions taken during the meeting and the issues discussed are reported in these minutes will be sent to all the Action participants for approval, following the e-vote procedure of COST.

3. Adoption of agenda

The meeting participants agreed to adopt the draft meeting agenda sent by the Action Chair via email on the 16th of February, 2019, where the main points for discussion were also highlighted.

4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

There were no pending issues from last meeting. All participants acknowledged and accept the minutes of previous MC meeting.

5. Update from the Action Chair

a) Status of Action: start and end dates of Action, participating COST countries, participating NNC/ IPC institutions and Specific Organisations.

CSO approval: 23/06/2017
Start of Action: 18/10/2017
End of Action: 18/10/2021
Duration: 4 years
Parties: 26

GP 1: 1 Nov 2017 – 30 April 2018
GP 2: 1 May 2018 – 30 April 2019
GP 3: 1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020
GP 4: 1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021
GP 5: 1 May 2021 – 30 Sept 2021

Serbia joined the Action since the previous meeting.

1 NNC is now included in the Action (Ukraine).

The number of International Partner Countries increased to 5 (Colombia, Brasil, Japan, China and United States).

Any other institutions interested in joining and which can be of benefit for the action are welcome. The Chair briefly explains the rules for participation according to the COST Vademecum.

b) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM): review of completed reports and new applications

The STSM committee managed 17 requests during this Grant period. Of these, 11 were granted (9 to male participants and 2 to female participants). 3 STSMs were carried out in ITC countries and 1 to an international partner. The Chair acknowledges the work of the STSM committee.

The Chair informs that there could be enough budget available for one additional STSM in this Grant Period (up to 30th of April), although this will become clear when the present meeting and the next meeting have been handled by the grant Manager. There is one proposal by the group of Tübingen that might be placed soon.

6. Update from the Grant Holder: Action budget status

The planned budget for GP2 was presented to the Management Committee members by the Action Chair with a brief explanation of the expenses incurred to date.

A total budget of 195k€ was available for this GP, thanks to an extension of more than 50% by COST association, as communicated last October to the Grant holder and forwarded through an e-mail to all participants. This budget increase was unexpected and, at the moment, there is no guarantee that it will be allocated again in the future. The COST Association asked to use the extra budget especially for STSM missions and in ITC countries.

Part of this extra budget was used to organize a workshop in association with COST Action MOLSPIN, chaired by Eugenio Coronado. The Workshop “**Superconductivity meets Molecular Spins**” will take place from 20th to 22nd March 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal. The budget allocated for the organization of this joint workshop is 20k€ (the MOLSPIN action will allocate 28k€), which will support 20-25 participants. The deadline for request COST support for this joint meeting was extended to 21st February.

As regards other meetings, 67k€ were spent for the **School on quantum materials and workshop on vortex behavior in unconventional superconductors**, held in Braga, Portugal from 7th to 12nd October, 2018 38k€ were spent for the **Probing Coherent Superconducting Hybrids at the Nanoscale** workshop, Eilat, Israel (17th-20th February 2019), during which this MC meeting was held.

In order to be able to precisely adjust the budget, the Chair reminded that all participants should submit their Travel Reimbursement Requests as soon as possible (max 1 week).

7. Monitoring of the Action

Some sections of the Action website were discussed:

- Dissemination: a You Tube video will be realized to inform the broader public of the Action initiatives
- Industry collaborations: all the components of the management committee were asked to give their contribution/suggestion about partners from the industry to involve in the Action. Teresa Puig is managing this issue.

- EVI: the realization of this section of the web page was slowed down by technical issues, which will be solved soon. Daniela Stornaiuolo is in charge of the update of this section of the website.
- Alejandro Silhanek suggests to post job vacancies on the website
- The activities organized by the COST Action have been posted on Twitter

Up to now, the web page lists 65 publications reporting an acknowledgement to this COST Action. The Chair reminded that it is essential to acknowledge the Action in the publications in order to improve its visibility and facilitate exchanges. Furthermore, the publications receive additional visibility by being highlighted in the webpage and social network activity of the Action (twitter).

8. Implementation of COST policies on:

a) Promotion of gender balance and Early Career Investigators (ECI)

b) Inclusiveness and Excellence (see below list of Inclusiveness Target Countries)

The Chair of the action presented the monitoring efforts made by the Action. 35% of the STSMs budget has been spent on or from ITC countries. 65% has been invested in covering the STSMs costs of ECIs.

The Chair remarks the need to monitor carefully the gender balance and early career investigators support of the Action. The gender balance issue is discussed in detail, with comments and suggestions to improve gender balance. The chair places a general remark on the relevance of unconscious bias in decision making.

The Chair prompted Beena Kalisky, responsible for the Gender Balance monitoring, to continue in the monitoring activities and to make the results public. The Chair informed about general statistics related to gender and insisted that monitoring and improving as far as possible gender balance are key points of the Action.

He also informed about a letter submitted to the COST Association aimed at raising awareness on the need to support parent-researchers. We propose to offer support, in a form of a special grant, to Early Career Investigators, in particularly female, to allow them to organize care for their young children while attending COST workshops. The letter has been published also on the Action webpage.

9. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups

The Chair reminded the Action objectives and WGs based on the Memorandum of Understanding as well as the management structure. A mid-term report will be prepared by the working group leaders.

10. Scientific and budget planning

a) Scientific planning

The MC chair pointed out that the Action grants extra budget (10k€) for the publishing of special editions or books. He mentioned that Wolfgang Lang suggested the possibility to write a book during the COST Action. The chair proposes to postpone such activities at the end of the action. Everyone agrees. A general consensus on the idea of using this budget later for a book was reached.

b) Budget planning

For the 3rd Grant Period, a total budget of 130k€ is available. Of this budget, 8k€ will be reserved for STSMs, and 100k€ for meetings and conferences, although there is a general consensus that the STSM should be favored as much as possible.

It is proposed that the COST Action supports with approximately 50k€ the next Vortex 2019 conference, which will be held in Antwerp, Belgium, from 20 to 25th May. More than 120 participants are expected. The COST support will be used to cover the registration fee plus accommodation and travel expenses (up to a maximum of approximately 600€) for about 60 participants from COST countries. Moreover, 4k€ will be

granted for participants outside EU (max. 4) and 10k€ for the local organizers support.

The remaining budget will be used to organize one additional event. The next MC meeting will be held during that event. There are two proposals. One from Hungary (organizer: Csonka Szabolcs) and another one from Slovakia (organizer: Peter Samuely). The meeting in Slovakia could be focused on strong correlations, that in Hungary on quantum devices. November 2019 is suggested as possible date.

Participants discuss about the possibility to distribute available budget among those two meetings. However, a general consensus arises that it would be better for the Action to organize just one meeting and leave the other for the next grant period. The decision is postponed for e-vote later during the year, in any case before end of June, and participants ask both proponents to specify the place and organizational issues with more detail.

The Action will also support also researchers from ITC countries interested in attending conferences thematically close to the Action, as for example the "Quantum Coherent Phenomena at Nanoscale 2019" workshop which will be held in June 19th - 22nd, in Ischia, Naples (Italy) and the Cryocourse 2019 in Slovakia.

11. Requests to join the Action from:

- a) **COST countries**
- b) **Institutions in Near Neighbouring Countries, International Partner Countries, and/or Specific Organisations: EU agencies, European RTD Organisation, International Organisations**

Refer to point 5 of this document. The Chair says that there are not new requests now. The current number of member countries is within the average for other COST Actions.

12. AOB

Main themes for discussion were risen in previous points.

It should be remarked that the activities of the Action were publicized to all participants in the meeting at Eilat, including explanations about COST networking tools and rules.

13. Location and date of next meeting

The next MC meeting will be held during the second meeting of the next grant period (details to be fixed before end of June).

14. Closing

The MC Chair thanked the participation of all the MC members and in particular the organizers of the meeting in Eilat. He then closed the MC meeting around 21h00.

[Meeting ends]