

22 December 2003  
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Prof. Reinhard Maschuw  
Executive Board  
FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM KARLSRUHE GMBH  
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1

D-76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen

Dear Professor Maschuw,

With this letter, the German nuclear and particle physics communities wish to congratulate you and your team to the remarkably fast and efficient start-up of GridKa. Due to its high reliability, efficiency and smooth operation, and by its contribution to the emerging World Wide Grid, GridKa has gained a high international visibility.

GridKa is of vital importance to the German groups from Universities and research institutes participating in the LHC experiments under construction ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, and LHCb and in the running experiments BABAR, CDF, COMPASS, and D0. Without GridKa, the high computing demands for data challenges, MonteCarlo production, and for numerous data processing and data analysis tasks cannot be fulfilled.

GridKa also acts as the centre for the German activities towards bringing the World Wide Grid into operation, a field highly attractive for young scientists. GridKa contributes substantially to R&D for Grid applications and for their implementation and testing at the experiments. In turn, the experimental groups actively pursue their Grid related work in close collaboration with GridKa, which provides facilities, guidance and invaluable support for all these activities at Universities and research institutes.

Starting in 2000, the user community established a roadmap for a German regional computing centre towards the LHC era. FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM KARLSRUHE assumed responsibility for the demanding task to successfully build up GridKa. We want to stress that the continuing evolution of GridKa according to these requirements is an indispensable prerequisite for the community to contribute significantly to the exploitation of the LHC physics programme, the primary objective for high energy particle and heavy ion physics for the coming years. The GridKa development is also viewed as a model for computing in the framework of the GSI future project.

With this letter, we would like to urge you and FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM KARLSRUHE to secure the resources necessary to pursue this development with very high priority. This will also allow GridKa to be one of the pioneers in a forefront technology and to play a leading role in the global challenge of building the World Wide Grid.

With best regards,

Prof. Reinhold Rückl  
(Chair of KET)

Prof. Hans Ströher  
(Chair of KHuK)