KOMITEE FÜR ELEMENTARTEILCHENPHYSIK KET
DER VORSITZENDE

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The Rt. Hon. John Denham MP
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Secretary of State,

It comes to our great surprise and deep regret to hear about the plan of the British Science and Technology Facilities Council to cut funding for particle physics. We sincerely hope that the decision can be revised.

In particular we are deeply worried about the ceasing of the investment into R&D towards the International Linear Collider (ILC). There is a global consensus in our field, as documented in many roadmaps, that a Linear Collider is needed to understand in depth what are called in the SCTF delivery plan 'guaranteed discoveries' at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Terminating the R&D for a project of such importance as the ILC would encumber the long – term development of particle physics and would endanger expertise and research accumulated during the last years.

Physicists from the UK are playing leading roles in many areas of particle physics. They have large impact in many fields of development ranging from accelerator physics, detector physics to phenomenology and theory. British particle physicists have made important contributions to the globally organized R&D (the Global Design Effort GDE) for the ILC. They hold key positions in the global organization and are contributing to the ILC with great enthusiasm. Stopping these activities would damage its preparation and particle physics as a whole.

We sincerely hope for the UK to continue to be a strong and reliable partner in international science projects.

Yours sincerely,

(Prof. Dr. Peter Mättig, Chairman of KET)