

Brussels, ~~F~~ 2 -05- 2002  
YC-mrm/02/D/510

Mr Wim LEEMANS  
Center for Beam Physics  
Lawrence Berkeley National  
Laboratory  
1 Cyclotron Road  
BERKELEY, California 94270  
USA

Dear Mr Leemans,

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2002 and for your proposal to promote scientific collaboration between Japan, the United States and the EU, in the field of novel and advanced accelerators.

As you know, we are currently finalising the internal EU decision making process on the 6<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme 2003-2006 that should be adopted by the end of the first Semester 2002.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the new prospects opened by the Framework Programme in support of research infrastructures. These projects include:

- ensuring that European researchers have access to the infrastructures required to conduct their research;
- inducing a structuring effect on the fabric of European research by promoting the co-ordinated use and development of existing infrastructures;
- but also supporting a co-ordinated approach to the development of new and upgraded research infrastructures of European significance.

Proposals will be collected through open calls addressing all areas of science and technology in a "bottom-up" manner and will be prioritised and selected following peer-review by independent experts.

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The action could therefore contribute to the development of a European node to an international co-operation initiative on research projects in the field of novel and advanced acceleration techniques. Such a proposal could be made by a number of relevant organisations in this domain, for instance the *European Committee on Future Accelerators* (ECFA).

In order to make further progress, I would appreciate it if you could clarify the content of your proposal and identify likely European partners. You may contact Yvan Capouet (Tel. +32.2.295.40.58) in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Philippe Busquin