

Report from the International DBD Joint Oversight Group and TRIUMF

Nigel Smith (TRIUMF)

Manchester Meeting: September 15th, 2026



International Coordination Summits

Statement from 1st JOG (Summit 3 Heidelberg 2025)

The international funding agencies and laboratory directors who attended the 3rd International Summit on Double Beta Decay (the stakeholders) **re-affirmed that the science of neutrino-less double-beta decay remains one of the most compelling and important in contemporary physics**. The summit meeting summarised the state of the field, including recent developments in different technologies. The stakeholders congratulate the double-beta community for the substantial progress made since the last summit meeting, in a resource restricted environment.

The stakeholders recognise that the best chance for **an unambiguous discovery is an international campaign with multiple isotopes and more than one large tonne-scale experiment implemented in the next decade**. Following the 2nd International Summit, a Working Group was struck and charged with exploring possible governance structures to support this objective. The Working Group reported back at this meeting, with a recommendation for a 'hybrid' governance structure to retain flexibility, agility and a forum for maximising impact of available funding.

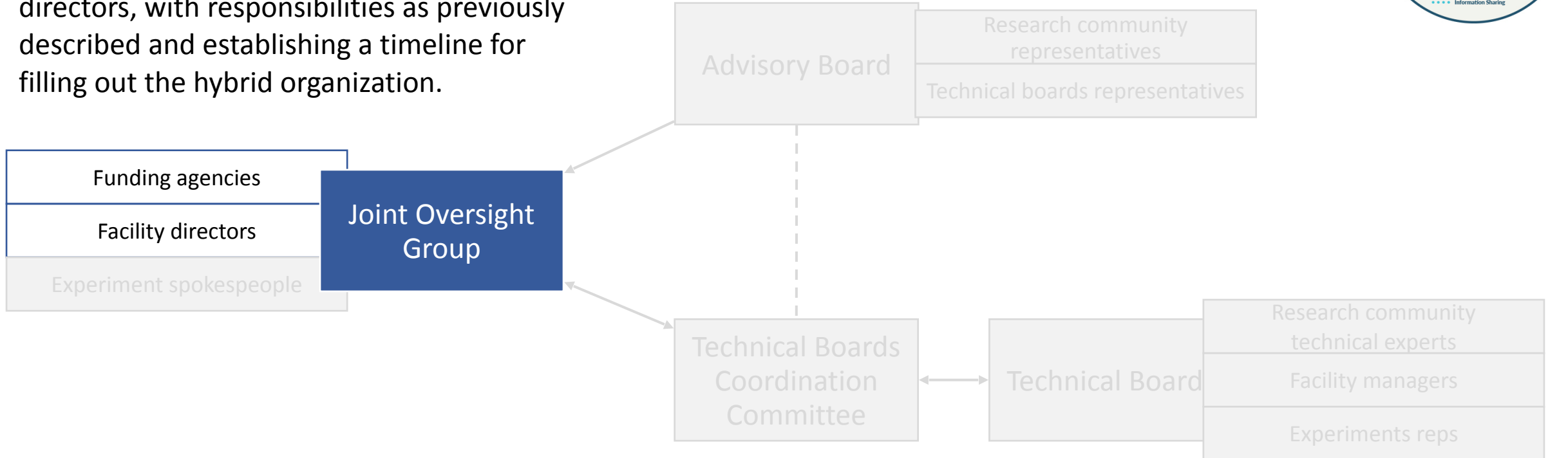
Statement from first JOG meeting (2)

The stakeholders endorse the recommendation of the Working Group, whilst recognising the change in funding environment since the previous summit. It was **agreed that the intention is to phase the development of the hybrid governance model**. Phase-I is the formation of an initial Joint Oversight Group comprised of interested funding agency representatives and facility directors to ensure a forum for communication and discussion, and, if applicable, coordination by the funding agencies, for deployment of tonne-scale detectors in North America and Europe.

The 3rd Summit meeting closed session on Day 2 was viewed as the initial JOG kick-off meeting where the funding agencies and laboratory directors met under the umbrella of the JOG to discuss the terms of reference and operational mode.

Joint Oversight Group - Phase 1

Initially, the JOG would be the primary forum for convening funders and facility directors, with responsibilities as previously described and establishing a timeline for filling out the hybrid organization.



JOG has been struck
Nigel Smith has been appointed as chair
Expanded Working Group will carry forward governance structure within six months
Interested agencies should connect the JOG through the chair

Membership of JOG

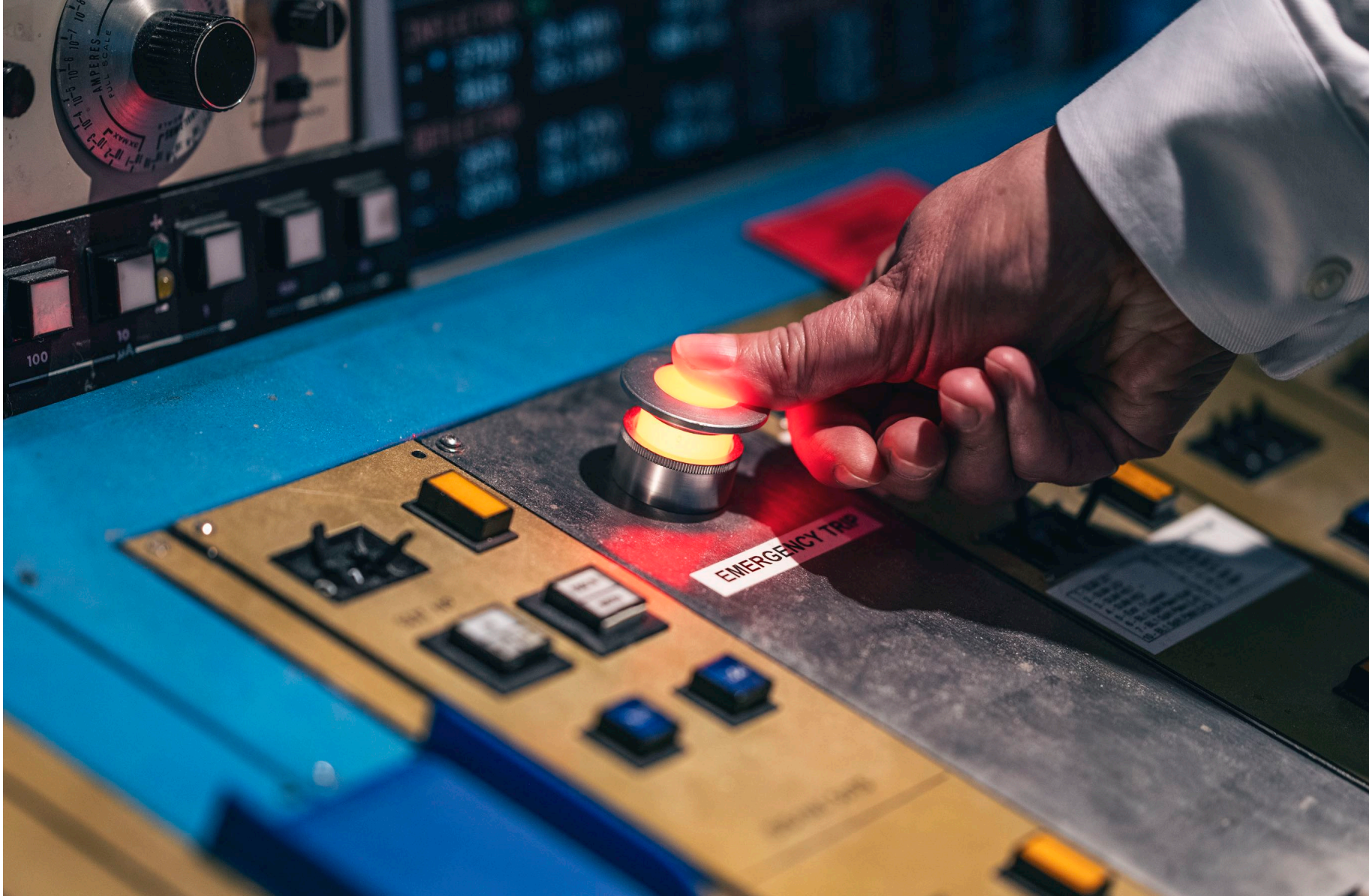
- Nigel Smith (TRIUMF, Canada) Convenor
- Paul Mantica (DOE, US) Secretary
- Nathalie Besson (CAE, France) Volunteer
- Graham Blair (STFR UKRI, UK) Volunteer
- Jodi Cooley (SNOLAB, Canada) Volunteer
- Marcella Grasso (IN2P3, France) Volunteer
- Oliviero Cremonesi (INFN, Italy) Volunteer
- Olivier Gagnon (CFI, Canada) Volunteer
- Carlos Pena Garay (LSC, Spain) Volunteer
- Jaret Heise (SURF, USA) Volunteer
- Pilar Hernandez (CSIC, Spain) Volunteer
- Milan Konopek (ISED, Canada) Volunteer
- Bogdan Mihaila (NSF, US) Volunteer
- Allena Oppen (NSF, US) Volunteer
- Sarah Overington (NSERC, Canada) Volunteer
- Sean Paling (Boulby, UK) Volunteer
- Ezio Previtali (LNGS, Italy) Volunteer
- Maryam Rana (ISED, Canada) Volunteer
- Jacek Swiebodzinski (PT.DESY, Germany) Volunteer
- Paul Sorensen (DOE, US) Volunteer

Recent Meeting - July 2026

- Recent changes within ecosystem have changed the direction of the JOG
 - US decision to focus on LEGEND, not supporting nEXO
 - Canadian community pivoting towards XLZD as large scale pathway with similar reach
 - DOE NP/HEP merger implications still being understood
 - Office of Science Advisory Committee (SCAC) formed, first meeting May 2026. Review and prioritisation of projects and facilities is underway
- Funding agencies updated each other on major project progress within their purview (LEGEND, CUOURE, CUPID)
- Charter for JOG had been developed, but evolution in international ecosystem has evolved, requiring development away from 'oversight' towards information sharing and general lobbying (internal and external)

Update on TRIUMF and Strategic Planning

“Long” Shutdown 2026 is well underway



Canadian SAP Community Planning

- prioritisation related to TRIUMF

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- Highest priority future projects: EIC, FCC, XLZD@SNOLAB
- Highest priority current projects: ARIEL/ISAC, ATLAS, Belle-II, Hyper-K
- Strong recommendation future projects: Chiral Belle, P-ONE
- Strong recommendation current projects: Darkside-20k, RadMol, SuperCDMS, TUCAN
- Programme breadth: BeEST, JLAB, PICO-500... ALPHA, IceCube + small scale
- Support ARIEL/ISAC experiments, FCC participation, CERN associate membership
- Enable the MRF programme, strongly support TRIUMF & SNOLAB
- Overall, very strong continued Canadian community support for TRIUMF and our programmes

*** Preliminary (at CAP) ***

Comprehensive Expenditure Review

- The Canadian federal government initiated a Comprehensive Expenditure Review as part of Budget 2025 last Fall, which led to an approved \$13B reduction in the federal budget
- Many organisations taking a 15% reduction by 2028, including cuts to ISED and NRC leading to loss of programmes and job
- In January, NRC informed TRIUMF the full 15% reduction was being applied to the TRIUMF budget, leading to a \$33M loss in the final years of our award.
- Although that would still have left us with historic levels of support, some \$100M more than the previous five-year award, the cuts were implemented after we had already launched our current five-year programme
- Consequently we would have been looking at shuttering major components of the science programmes, limiting the community we could support

Comprehensive Expenditure Review

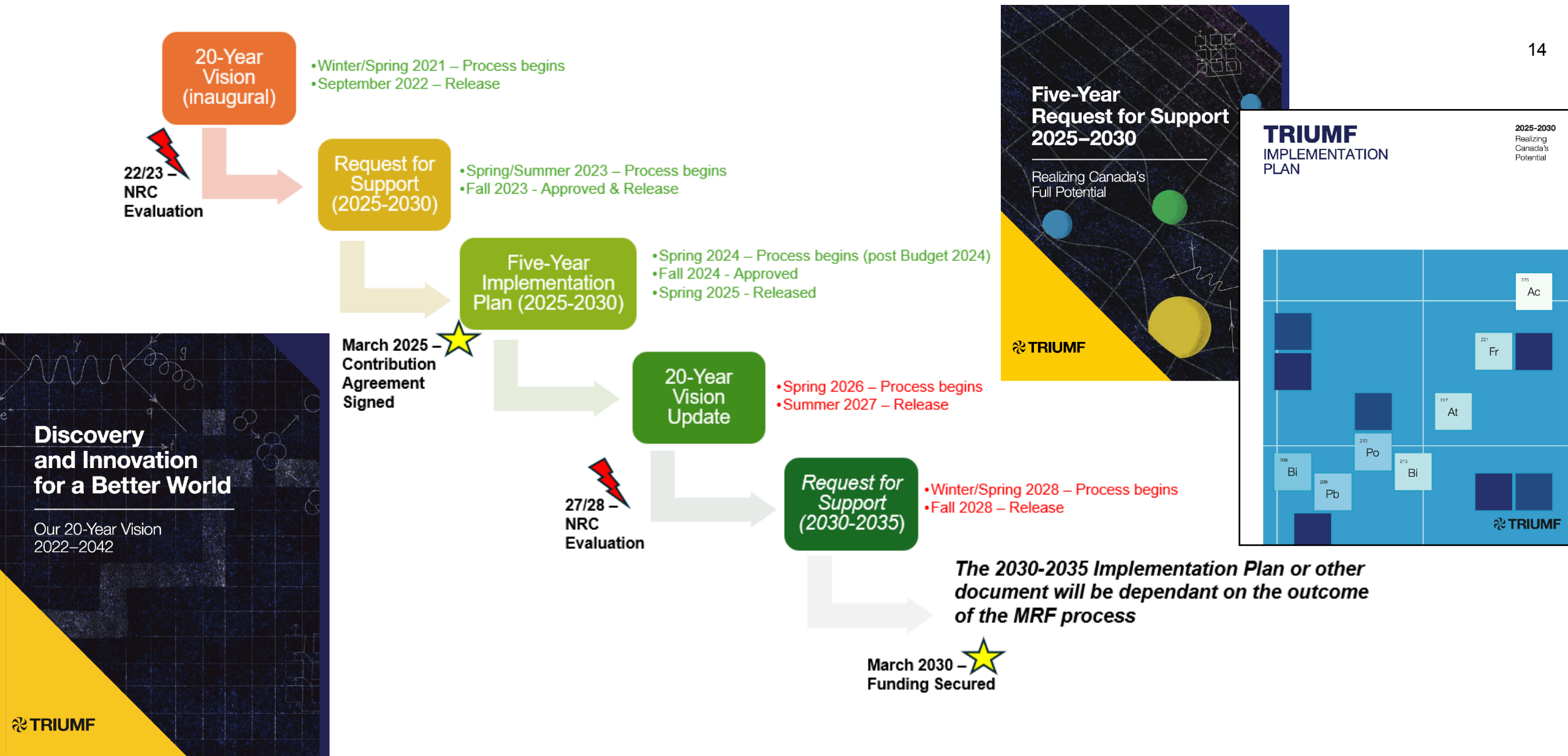
- This was obviously not an attractive situation, and we started aggressive lobbying at all levels of government (Departmental level - ISED & Finance, CSA, Members of Parliament, and ultimately the Prime Minister's Office)
- We have successfully changing the outcome and have reduced the CER impact from 15% down to 5%, manageable within the normal evolution of our business
- Although any cut is problematic, this is actually a positive message - getting the government to change its mind on a decision is extremely challenging, and so this is a demonstration of the value that the Canadian government ascribes to TRIUMF, the programme, and our research community.

TRIUMF Strategic Planning - next steps

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- With CER communication behind us, now looking to focus on strategic planning for the next funding request to ensure support available for the broader programme
- Continue to use the cycle of 20-year Vision, Request for Support, and Implementation Plan on award of funds.
- Next phase is to develop an update to the 20-year Vision
 - Expectation is that this is a rebuild, **not** a refresh as initially planned, due to the changes within the world and the Canadian research environment
 - Will need to articulate the impact for Canada
 - Balance between new research threads and mission driven projects, whilst keeping fundamental science and talent as core themes

TRIUMF Strategic Planning Cycle



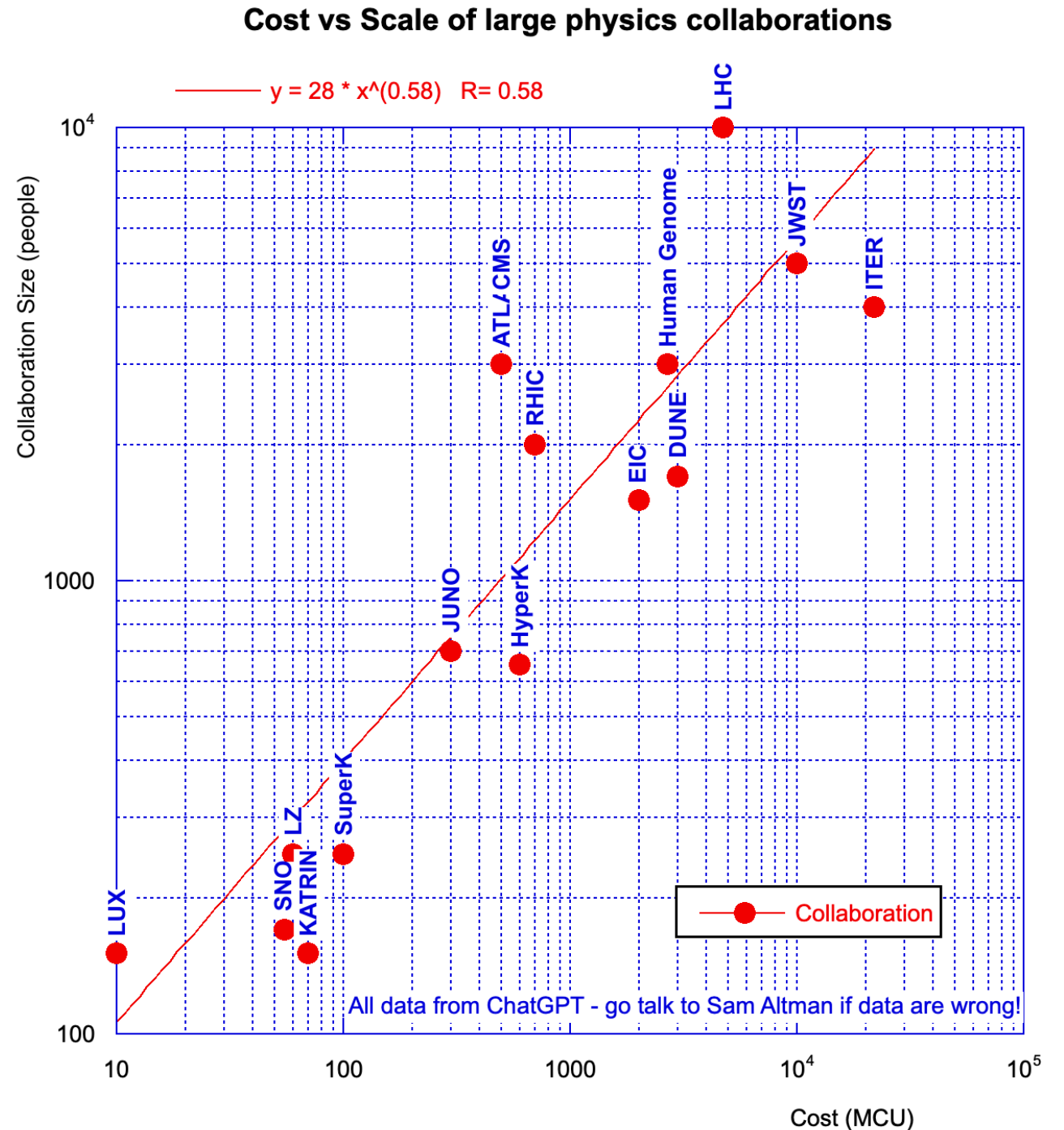
Personal Comments re Xenon & DBD

Role of the JOG

- The world has changed on us as we have tried to develop the tonne-scale programme across the international landscape, which will require substantial investment
- Resources are becoming even tighter with many national directions refocusing even more on impact of research, sovereignty, mission alignment etc.
 - This is a threat and an opportunity
- It's clear that for the time being, the JOG will be for:
 - information gathering and exchange, informing the funding agencies about possible pathways
 - advocating where possible (esp. within national agencies) for DBD
- The xenon community can use the JOG as another information and influence route to the agencies... noting that influence may be needed at a higher level in some countries (ie Canada)
- Control what we can, advocate where we can't control

Resources vs collaboration

- Next generation experiments require additional scientific and technical input... but funding ceilings are a key issue
- At the 300MCU level, historical projects need about 600 collaborators
- What's the possible scale of our community(ies)? Effectively defines the number of projects that may occur
- External shocks or constraints are why coalescence occurs
- 'Snowball' effect needed, with a precipitating event to start the process, or transition to 'strategic reserve' argument



Thank You
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