

Registration form (basic details)

1a. Details of applicant

-Name, title(s): -Male/female: -Address for correspondence:

-Preference for correspondence in English:

-Telephone:

-Fax:

-E-mail:

- -Doctorate (date):
- -Use of extension clause:

Dr. ing. S. Klous MSc. Male Kruislaan 409 1098 SJ Amsterdam Yes 06 – 54208399 020 – 5925155 sander@nikhef.nl 31 May 2005 No

1b. Title of research proposal

Chasing the Higgs boson with a worldwide distributed trigger system

1c. Summary of research proposal

The Standard Model predicts the existence of a so far undiscovered particle known as the Higgs boson. New experiments will try to find this particle in high-energy proton-proton collisions in the near future.

In these experiments the interesting interactions need to be separated in real-time from an overwhelming amount of background events. This is done with fast and efficient selection techniques, which are implemented in so-called trigger systems. Although the quality of the trigger system is of crucial importance for successful operation of the experiment, the amount of locally available computing resources is limited. As a result, the trigger will inevitably reject events with interesting physics content.

Recent developments in the area of computer science could provide a cost effective solution for this problem. High-speed wide area networks enable the deployment of real-time applications on distributed resources. In particular, the connection between CERN and Amsterdam is one of the best in the world. The exploitation of this network via a reliable computing grid infrastructure can be much more efficient than the expansion of locally available compute power.

I propose to exploit the unique position of the Netherlands with respect to network infrastructure by implementing a distributed solution for the trigger of the ATLAS experiment. Specifically, I want to analyze Higgs boson production in association with top quark pairs, decaying into fully hadronic final states.

ATLAS is an experiment in the Large Hadron Collider, a 2 x 7 TeV proton accelerator that is currently under construction at CERN in Geneva. The research proposed here can significantly improve the discovery potential of ATLAS for light Higgs bosons. The benefits of the worldwide trigger even extend to other disciplines like earth sciences or astroparticle physics.

Keywords:

Particle physics, grid, trigger, ATLAS, Higgs

1d. NWO Council area

1e. Host institution NIKHEF



Research proposal

2a. Research topic

One of the most exciting discoveries in high energy physics of the last decade was the discovery of the top quark in proton-antiproton collisions by the CDF and D0 collaborations at Fermilab. They measured the mass of this quark to be $172.7 \pm 2.9 \text{ GeV/c}^2$, perfectly consistent with the predictions made by the earlier experiments of the Large Electron Positron (LEP) collider.

The predictions where based on precision measurements of the weak nuclear force, which is part of the well established Standard Model. This model accurately describes the behaviour of the elementary particles and forces of nature. Since the discovery of the top quark, only one more prediction remains to be verified: the existence of the Higgs boson, which appears as a result of electroweak symmetry breaking.

The results of the same experiments that predicted and measured the top quark mass now provide strong indications that the mass of the Higgs boson is very close to the current experimental lower bound of 115 GeV. Hence, all eyes of the high energy physics community are focused on the new proton-proton collider under construction at CERN in Geneva: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). More than enough energy will be present in the collisions to produce the Higgs boson. Obviously, one of the main goals of ATLAS [1. Atlas collaboration], the largest LHC experiment, is to discover and study this particle.

It will actually be quite a challenge to discover the Higgs boson if its mass estimate is correct. Only few decay channels are available, all with their own advantages and disadvantages [2. S. Asai]. One of the most promising processes is shown in Fig. 1. A

Higgs boson is produced in association with a top-antitop (tt) quark pair. Although this process has a small production cross section (\pm 700 fb), it has an outstanding experimental signature [3. J. Dai].

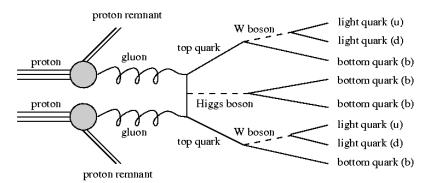


Figure 1: Higgs production in association with a tt pair, the dominant fully hadronic decay channel is shown as well, where both W bosons decay into light quarks.

The lifetime of the top quark is extremely short, due to its high mass (a factor 40 higher than the bottom quark). Therefore, it cannot form 'bound' meson-states like the other quarks do. The only observed decay channel thus far is through the weak nuclear force, *i.e.* top quarks transform into bottom quarks via the emission of a *W* boson. Furthermore, the Higgs boson will primarily decay into the heaviest accessible particle-antiparticle pair, which for a light Higgs boson is the combination of a bottom and an antibottom quark. Note that even a light Higgs boson is, like the top quark, much heavier than the bottom quarks and therefore has an extremely short life time as well.





The *W* bosons can either decay leptonically or hadronically. Leptonic decays are easy to identify, since the high energy electron or muon produces an explicit signal in the calorimeters or in the muon chambers. In a proton-proton collider, it is of vital importance to have such an explicit signal in your decay channel. It allows you to efficiently separate the signal events from the overwhelming amount of background events. This selection is done with a so-called trigger system (see Fig. 2), even before the events are stored on disk. In ATLAS, the first selection is done by dedicated hardware and the selection on the second and third level (together known as the higher level trigger) is done with computing farms. The trigger system reduces the event rate from 40 MHz (the bunch crossing frequency) to 200 Hz (the maximum storage capacity for 1.5 MB/event). Especially the last stage of the trigger, called the event filter, is computing intensive. It consists of 1500 CPUs, located near the experiment.

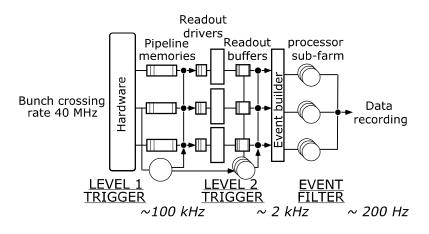


Figure 2: the ATLAS multi-level trigger system.

Unfortunately, about 50% of the *tt* Higgs events will decay fully hadronically, which means that both *W* bosons decay into light quarks. It is far more difficult to identify the signal in this case because many high momentum quarks are also produced by background processes. Hence, other handles are needed to distinguish signal from background events in the trigger. So far, ATLAS studies have only focussed on leptonic decays, but I will show that there is an opportunity to rescue the fully hadronic signal events. This could effectively double the statistics in this channel.

In general, quarks produce showers of many decay particles, known as jets, in the detector. The energy content and direction of these jets can be reconstructed with reasonable accuracy. With this information, it is possible to determine the invariant mass of particle decaying into quarks. Specifically, in the fully hadronic decay of $t\bar{t}$ Higgs events, the reconstruction of four invariant masses allows for efficient suppression of the background. Furthermore, four of the final state particles are bottom quarks with high momenta. These particles have a lifetime of about 1.5 ps, which means that they travel for a few millimetres, before they decay. The tracking system of ATLAS can identify these secondary decays, which drastically reduces combinatorial background.

Although the efficiency of such a selection scheme is promising, it has a significant drawback: it is a nightmare for the trigger. The second level jet trigger scheme has an accept rate of about 1 kHz for multi-jet events. Hence, way too many resources are required to identify the complex signature as proposed in the previous paragraph. However, the situation is not hopeless. The same problem of resources was foreseen for the offline analysis and the solution is found in "grid computing".



Large analysis centres, known as Tier-1 centres, are constructed around the world to provide distributed data processing capacity for the LHC experiments. About 1000 CPUs are available for ATLAS data processing at an average Tier-1 centre. Hence, with 10 of these centres [4. R. Jones et al.], one can expect to have a mean aggregate number of about 10,000 CPUs available for analysis.

Here, I propose to develop a distributed trigger that transports all multi-jet events directly (before they are stored) to the Tier-1 centres via a high-speed network, resulting in a total bandwidth requirement of about 10 Gb/s. This is a feasible number, given that the typical network link as planned between CERN and each of these centres will have a capacity of 10-20 Gb/s. We will be able to process all multi-jet events by allocating about 1% of the offline analysis capacity for the reconstruction of $t\bar{t}$ Higgs candidate events. The required storage capacity will not exceed 1.5 MB/s (or 15 TB/year), which is based on the production rate of "normal" $t\bar{t}$ events. This requirement should not pose any problems because these events will be stored at the Tier-1 centres.

With the research proposed here, the selection efficiency for the fully hadronically decaying $t\bar{t}$ Higgs events is expected to increase significantly (compared to the classic ATLAS jet trigger). I intend to achieve this by implementing a worldwide trigger that makes use of a distributed computing infrastructure and can therefore run a complicated selection algorithm. Focus will be on the integration of the ATLAS trigger software with existing grid technology. The signal statistics can double in case of a light Higgs boson, which directly increases the discovery potential for this particle of the ATLAS experiment.

2b. Approach

Three main tasks can be identified as part of this research. The first task is primarily related to the development of the computing infrastructure, the second task consists of the simulation and integration of the required software and the third task is the actual analysis of $t\bar{t}$ Higgs candidate events, resulting in the discovery of the Higgs boson in this channel.

• The objective of the first task is to develop the computing infrastructure as required for this analysis. Existing infrastructure [5. I. Bird, 6. P. Moroni] will be exploited as much as possible, in order to accomplish this task within budget. The development of a non-invasive connection between the high-speed wide area network and the higher level trigger of the experiment will be part of this project. I propose to increase the output of the higher level trigger with a factor of 5 by force accepting all multi-jet events. These force accepted multi-jet events are not, like the other accepted events, stored locally. Instead they are directly shipped to the Tier-1 centers for further analysis.

The ATLAS online infrastructure needs to be extended slightly to allow the additional output streams. Furthermore, software needs to be developed and tested that allows remote processing in real-time of data streams from the higher level trigger.

- Monte Carlo simulations, development of algorithms and integration of the analysis software with the distributed environment are all part of the second task. This effort builds on top of the offline software [7. ATLAS collaboration], which needs to be modified to allow for the streaming of events and for integration with grid software.
- The third task is aimed at the exploitation of the trigger as soon as it becomes operational. First the basic functionality needs to be demonstrated, *i.e.* the distributed trigger should process events from the higher level trigger at an acceptable rate. Next, the results are crosschecked with the standard ATLAS analysis results. Normal



tt events will serve as a reference channel, since the fully hadronic decay of *tt* Higgs events is not part of the standard ATLAS analysis.

In the next step, an integrated analysis of the semi-leptonic and fully hadronic *tt* Higgs decay channel will be developed and the results need to be integrated with other analyses of the top quark and the Higgs boson.

2c. Innovation

Successful completion of the proposed research would establish a revolutionary new analysis method in (high-energy) physics. The most important advantage of this innovation is the increase in data processing capacity, which is obtained by streaming the data directly from the experiment via high-speed network connections to participating institutes and universities.

Implementation of the worldwide trigger enables us to increase the selection efficiency for hadronically decaying $t\bar{t}$ Higgs events significantly. With such a result the highenergy physics community would, without a doubt, embrace the concept of a worldwide trigger.

The worldwide trigger paves the road for other applications, like trigger level searches for rare decays or real time (energy) calibrations. The benefits even extend to other disciplines, where a worldwide trigger could *e.g.* filter anomalies in ozone measurements (OMI) or in cosmic radiation (LOFAR, ANTARES).

2d. Plan of work

It is intended to complete the research in 4 years. The planning of the project is shown in Fig. 3. The first main task as defined in section 2b can mostly be performed in parallel with the second main task. Hence, a team comprised of two members is proposed.

- A software engineer or scientific programmer with extensive knowledge of grid computing can do the majority of the development of the computing infrastructure. The efforts for this task are concentrated in the first two years of this project.
- I will concentrate on the physics studies and the integration of this analysis with the computing infrastructure. This would offer me the opportunity to combine my experience in grid computing [8], in b-physics [9] and in Data Acquisition Systems [10]. In the second part of the project the focus will shift to data analysis of fully hadronic decays of $t\bar{t}$ Higgs events. We, with our superior selection efficiency, will be able to be the first to discover the Higgs boson in this channel.

The proposed project is closely related to the VIDI research program, "radiating top quarks", conducted at NIKHEF by dr. A. P. Colijn. Furthermore, one of the world's best theoreticians on top physics (Prof. dr. E. Laenen et al.) is located at NIKHEF. With this project I will be able to make optimal use of his top and jet studies. The ATLAS group of NIKHEF, led by Prof. dr. S. Bentvelsen will be responsible for the monitoring of the scientific contents of my research. The involvement of this group in the trigger and in the silicon tracker provides perfect overlap with this proposal, since they are of vital importance to be able to identify the 4 long lived b-quarks at trigger level. Finally, the project will be performed in close collaboration with the NIKHEF physics data processing group of dr. J. Templon. His group plays a leading role in the Netherlands in the development of a large-scale distributed computing infrastructure [11. P. Michielse] (BIG GRID). NIKHEF, with the combined strength of these groups and its close integration with the facilities of SARA and SURFnet, is the perfect host institute for the proposed research. *(1999 words, without section titles, captions and references)*



Vernieuwingsimpuls/Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Grant application form 2006

Please refer to Explanatory Notes when completing this form

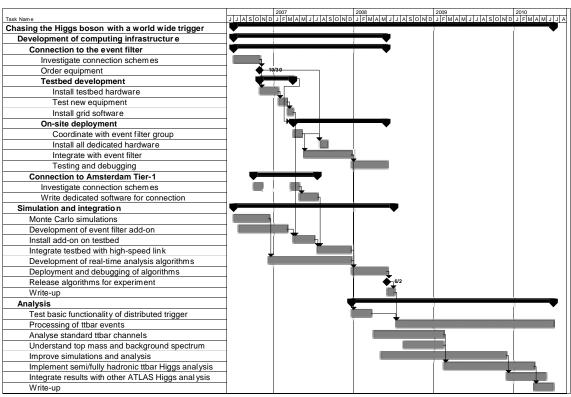


Figure 3: Project planning

2e. Literature references

- 1. ATLAS collaboration, ATLAS detector and physics performance, CERN/LHCC 99-14
- 2. S. Asai et al., Prospects for the search of a Standard Model Higgs boson in ATLAS, SN-ATLAS-2003-024
- 3. J. Dai et al., Using b tagging to detect t Higgs boson production, Phys. Rev. Lett. 71 p. 2699
- 4. R. Jones et al., The ATLAS computing model, ATL-soft-2004-007
- 5. I. Bird et al., LHC computing grid, technical design report CERN/LHCC 2005-024
- 6. http://agenda.cern.ch/askArchive.php?base=agenda&categ=a045746&id=a045746s0t1/moreinfo
- 7. http://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/SOFTWARE/OO/architecture/index.html
- 8. S. Klous et al., Transparent access to Grid resources for user software, Concurrency and computation 2006
- 9. S. Klous, LHCb: Vertex detector and read out chip, computing challenge and $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ analysis, thesis, VU Amsterdam, ISBN 90-738-3843-6, 2005
- 10. S. Klous et al., Characteristics of 16 Beetle1.1 chips on a VELO hybrid, LHCb-2003-069
- 11. P.H. Michielse et al., http://www.nikhef.nl/grid/BIG

Cost estimates

3a. Budget

	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
Staff costs: (in k€)					
Applicant	56x0.75	58.5x0.75	61.0x0.75	63.5x0.75	179
Support staff	47.5x0.5	50.0x0.5			49



Non staff costs: (in k€)					
Travel and subsistence	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	30.0
Equipment	50.0				50.0
TOTAL	122.3	75.6	52.5	54.4	308.0

Note: An official letter concerning this project is sent by the director of NIKHEF, Prof. dr. F. Linde, directly to NWO, in compliance with the guidelines of the VENI grant. In this authorized letter NIKHEF guarantees to cover the extra costs of this research proposal.

Staff and travel costs

The costs for the applicant and support staff include all overhead (`bruto-bruto kosten') and are based on the FOM salary tables. It is intended to complete the research in 4 years. During this period, the time spent on this project will amount to 75% fte. The other 25% is devoted to the supervision of PhD students. It is expected that the software engineer requires about 50% *fte* in the first two years to complete the mentioned tasks. The travel and subsistence budget is based on five (1 week) trips to CERN and attending one international conference per year.

Equipment

High-speed networks are expensive, but the commitment of SURFnet to research and the reliance on existing infrastructure bring the equipment expenses within the reach of this budget. Still, the connection between the higher level trigger and the wide area network has to be funded from this project.

About 1500 event filter machines are processing the data. Their output is collected by 50 collector switches, which are part of the standard ATLAS TDAQ infrastructure. In the next layer, the signals for the remote trigger need to be grouped by 5 dedicated switches (5 x $6000 \in = 30 \text{ k} \in)$ and processed by 5 standard dual CPU nodes, *e.g.* 3.2 GHz XEONs with 3 GB RAM (5 x $2000 \in = 20 \text{ k} \in)$). The output of these machines is fed into a 10-port GigE `copper blade' (10 k \in) for distribution amongst the Tier-1 centres. Hence, the total costs of equipment are 60 k \in . When the price development of computing hardware is taken into account, these costs are expected to be 50 k \in in 2006/2007.

Summary

The total costs of this project are 308 k€ divided over 4 years. The maximum NWO contribution is 140.608 k€, which brings the contribution of NIKHEF to 67.392 k€ for the standard VENI matching and an additional 100.000 k€ to cover the extra costs of this project, in total 167.392 k€.

3b. Indicate the time (percentage of fte) you will spend on the research 75%

3c. Intended starting date 1 July 2006

3d. Have you requested any additional grants for this project either from NWO or from any other institution? No



Curriculum vitae

4a. Personal details

Title(s), initial(s), first name, surname: Male/female: Date and place of birth: Nationality: Birth country parents: Dr. ing. Sander Klous MSc. Male 23 – 03 – 1973, Zaandam Dutch The Netherlands

4b. Master's ('doctoraal')

University/College of Higher Education: Date: Main subject:

University/College of Higher Education: U Date: S Main subject: C

4c. Doctorate

University/College of Higher Education: Date: Supervisor ('Promotor'): Title of thesis: Vrije Universiteit February 2000 Analysis with a silicon tracker

University of Hertfordshire/Hogeschool Arnhem September 1997 Control system design

Vrije Universiteit 31 May 2005 Prof. dr. ing. J.F.J. van den Brand LHCb: vertex detector and read-out chip, computing challenge and $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ analysis.

4d. Work experience since graduating

November 2004 – Present	Post-Doc, physics data processing group NIKHEF – full-time, fixed-term
February 2000 – November 2004	PhD student, LHCb experiment Vrije Universiteit – full-time, fixed-term Supervised 1 MSc student
September 1997 – February 2000	Engineer, special techniques Vacuum and data acquisition systems Vrije Universiteit – part-time, fixed-term
January 1996 – September 1997	Engineer, special techniques Cryogenics and control systems NIKHEF – full-time, fixed-term

4e. Man-years of research

1

4f. Brief summary of research over last five years

Currently I am studying associated production of Higgs bosons with top quark pairs. These studies make it obvious that our selection efficiency can be doubled if fully hadronically decaying events can be included in our sample. My experience with data acquisition and data processing made me realize that a number of limitations in the higher level trigger need to be solved to accomplish this. Some of these limitations have a major impact on the efficient handling of data streams in the event filter. In this context, the processing of calibration information is now my primary concern. The small size and high rate of these events forced us to revise the communication protocols.



During my PhD research I was involved in LHCb, an experiment under development in the Large Hadron Collider specifically aimed at measuring differences between matter and anti-matter. I studied the possibilities to analyse $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ decays, which resulted in the development of a new selection optimization algorithm. This algorithm efficiently calculates the best set of cuts for correlated selection criteria and optimizes the signal content for an analysis. Various other PhD students in LHCb have now adopted the algorithm to optimize their selections. Furthermore, I focused on a beam-test experiment with one of the two candidate chips for the vertex-detector read-out system. After extensive measurements and analysis, the final decision to select this chip was made in January 2003. The third main topic during my PhD research was related to distributed computing and the simplification of the grid user interface. This topic is discussed under international activities (see item 4g).

4g. International activities

About 25% of my activities for the ATLAS event filter take place at CERN in Geneva. This is a project in collaboration with Pavia and Barcelona; my efforts are partially funded by "Institut de Física d'Altes Energies" in Barcelona.

As a PhD student I was responsible for the operation at NIKHEF of the distributed LHCb facility for the production of simulated interactions. As a follow-up of my involvement in distributed computing, I initiated a project to deploy the Monte Carlo production system of BaBar, an experiment studying bottom quarks at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre (SLAC), on the grid via a simple user interface. This project culminated in a 3-month internship at the University of Wisconsin – USA, in the Condor group of prof. dr. M. Livny, one of the founders of grid computing. I wrote several papers with his group.

4h. Other academic activities

Exam committees

Panning for $B_s \rightarrow J/\psi \phi$ (Jan Amoraal), University of Amsterdam, November 2005

Conference presentations

Vertex2003, Windsor – Great Britain, September 15th – 19th, 2003 The LHCb vertex detector

Annual scientific meeting, NNV – Lunteren, October 10th, 2003 The LHCb vertex detector

29th SLAC Summer Institute, Stanford – United States, August 13th – 24th, 2001 Poster presentation: The LHCb vertex detector

4i. Scholarships and prizes

1997 Graduated Cum Laude at the Hogeschool Arnhem

List of publications

International (refereed) journals

As first author

S – Transparent access to grid resources for user software Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience, Wiley, DOI: 10.1002/cpe.961



Overview of the LHCb vertex detector *NIM A549: 55-59, 2005*

As co-author

S - Separating Abstractions from Resources in a Tactical Storage System *To appear in Proceedings of Super Computing 2005*

S – LHCb distributed computing and the GRID *NIM A502: 334-338, 2003 and Proceedings of Beauty, NIM B120: 126-130, 2003*

Moving the LHCb Monte Carlo production system to the GRID *Proceedings of CHEP: 676-680, Science Press, ISBN 1-880132-77-X, 2001*

DIRAC - Distributed Infrastructure with Remote Agent Control *e-Print Archive: cs.dc/0306060, 2003*

Beetle – a radiation hard readout chip for the LHCb experiment *NIM A518: 468-469, 2004*

Characterisation of a radiation hard front-end chip for the vertex detector of LHCb *NIM A509: 176-182, 2003*

The vacuum system of the LHCb vertex detector *Vacuum 67:363-371, 2002*

Performance of the Beetle Readout Chip for LHCb Proceedings of the 8th Workshop on Electronics for LHC Experiments, LECC: 443-447, '02

Performance of the Beetle Readout Chip for LHCb Proceedings of the 10th Workshop on Electronics for LHC Experiments, LECC: 142-147, '04

Papers resulting from technical collaboration

Spin-dependent electron-proton scattering in the Delta-excitation region *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 89:012001, 2002

Spin momentum correlations in quasi-elastic electron scattering from deuterium *nucl-ex/0109015*, 2001 and Phys.Rev.Lett.88: 102302, 2002

Performance of a hydrogen/deuterium polarized gas target in a storage ring NIM A474:209-223, 2001

A polarized hydrogen/deuterium atomic beam source for internal target experiments *NIM A455: 769-781, 2000*

Measurement of spin correlation parameters in the delta region for the ^{1H}(^e,e´p) reaction *Osaka Spin physics: 591-595, 2000*

The charge form factor of the neutron from the reaction ^{2H}(^e,e´n)p Phys. Rev. Lett. 82 4988 and nucl-ex/9908002, 1999 and Nucl.Phys.A663:421-424, 2000

Electron scattering at NIKHEF with polarized beam and targets *Nucl.Phys.A654:1009-1016, 1999*



Other

As first author

Characteristics of 16 Beetle chips on a hybrid CERN-LHCb-2003-069, 2003

As co-author

Investigation of the Beetle1.1 chip in the X7 test beam CERN-LHCb-2002-053, 2002

Investigation of characteristics and radiation hardness of the BeetleCO10 chip CERN-LHCb 2001-037, 2001

Measurements of the signal shape of a silicon strip detector with SCTA readout CERN-LHCb-2000-098, 2000

Preliminary risk analysis for the LHCb vertex detector CERN-LHCb-2001-079, 2001

Conceptual design of the LHCb VELO vacuum system CERN-LHCb-2001-080, 2001

Technical Design report LHCb VELO (Vertex Locator) CERN-LHCC-2001-011

Technical Design Reports

LHCb Trigger System CERN-LHCC-2003-031	LHCb reoptimization design and performance <i>CERN-LHCC-2003-030</i>
LHCb Inner Tracker CERN-LHCC-2002-029	LHCb Online System, Data Acquisition and Experiment Control CERN-LHCC-2001-040
LHCb Outer Tracker	LHCb Vertex Detector
CERN-LHCC-2001-024	CERN-LHCC-2001-011
LHCb Muon system	LHCb Calorimeters
CERN-LHCC-2001-010	CERN-LHCC-2000-036

Papers resulting from technical collaboration

Performance of a wide pitch n-on-n silicon detector with floating strips *CERN-LHCb-2002-053*

Signature

I hereby declare that I have completed this form truthfully:

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Date:	11 January 2006



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