

THE LHC EXPERIMENTS JOINT CONTROLS PROJECT

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The Large Hadron Collider, LHC, is the next large accelerator being built at CERN, Geneva, for operation from 2005. Four experiments are being prepared to use the LHC, namely ALICE, ATLAS, CMS and LHCb, and each has over a thousand collaborating physicists world-wide. The LHC experiments are on an unprecedented scale; data acquisition channels are numbered in units of 10^6 , whilst controls channels are in units of 10^5 . The experiments have actively been looking for ways to make common developments and avoid duplication. Hence, at beginning of 1998, a Joint Controls Project, JCOP, was set up to provide common solutions for a control system for all four experiments, including supervisory software, field buses, PLCs, OPC servers and so forth. This paper will report on the goals of the project and how far these have been achieved by the date of the conference. In particular, we shall review the outcome of the next JCOP Workshop which will take place in September 1999.

A great deal of effort has been put into the evaluation of SCADA systems and other technologies, and some of this work will be presented by other speakers at this conference.