

Foreword to the ICALEPCS 2023 Proceedings

The 19th International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems (ICALEPCS 2023) was held from 9th to 13th October 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The conference was hosted by the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), and the conference's Local Organising Committee was advised by two committees made up of members from the three regions: the International Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and the Programme Committee (PC).

The ISAC comprised 35 members and was chaired by Andy Götz from ESRF. The PC was made up of 32 members and co-chaired by Karen White from the ORNL and Daniel Flath from SLAC.

In total there were 427 conference registrations of which 17 were from students. CERN had the most contributions followed by SLAC. The breakdown of contributors by region was as follows: 231 from Europe, 81 from North America, 24 from Asia, 18 from Africa, eight from South America and one from Australasia.

For the proceedings, 363 papers were uploaded and processed to be included in the proceedings. ICALEPCS 2023 once again put a strong emphasis on having high quality and diverse speakers. Ms. Linda Njomane, one of the keynote speakers, spoke about Women in Engineering, challenges and opportunities they get and how the stats look like in South Africa.

The scientific programme was drawn up by the PC. The committee did an excellent job choosing topics and talks and encouraging experts to present their work. Parallel sessions were necessary, as have been in the past. Out of a total of 31 sessions, 14 were parallel.

There were eight pre-conference workshops held on the weekend preceding the conference. The pre-conference workshops were well attended: on the Saturday, 212 participants attended workshops and on Sunday 240.

The workshops focused on the following topics:

- Tango controls
- EPICS collaboration meeting
- Control system cyber security
- Motion control (MOCRAF)
- PLC based control systems
- Controls GUI strategies
- Efficiency through automation
- Data science and machine learning

The ICALEPCS Lifetime Achievement Award (**LAA**) was awarded at ICALEPCS 2023 to two long standing members of the community:

- Karen White for her many years contributing to ICALEPCS and EPICS communities and the critical role she played in advancing diversity in engineering and
- Volker RW Schaa for his many years maintaining the JACoW system for conference proceedings and editing the ICALEPCS proceedings and multiple other conference series.

The ISAC accepted the bid for ICALEPCS 2027 to be held in Ibaraki, Japan to be hosted by the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK).

As chairs we would like to thank everyone who contributed to making ICALEPCS 2023 a resounding success and a memorable event. The conference was the result of many peoples work and support both financial and moral.

We thank all the sponsors and exhibitors who helped finance the conference:

- Cosylab
- S2 Innovation
- Observatory Sciences
- IOxOS Technologies
- Beckhoff Automation
- D-TACQ Solutions
- RadiaSoft
- iThemba LABS
- Faraday Motion Controls
- The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)
- ICEX

The ISAC chair and committee did a great job advising the LOC during the two years leading up to the conference. The PC excelled at shaping the scientific programme, and the editors did a stellar job of editing the many abstracts and papers to ensure that the submissions were of high quality. The delegates made the conference a success by participating with interesting and relevant talks and questions. And lastly, a heartfelt thank you to SARAO, the host institute, and the LOC who helped and provided support for ICALEPCS 2023.

We look forward to seeing everyone in **Chicago** in 2025!

ICALEPCS 2023 Conference Chairs
Ofaletse Mokone & Johan Venter