Editor-in-chief job description

Nicolas DELERUE
IPAC'26 Editor in Chief



About me

- Long time IPAC attendee / JACoW user (since 2007).
- Appointed to the EPS Accelerator Group during the virtual IPAC 2020.
  - European IPAC SPC members are selected among EPS-AG members.
  - LPR coordinator for IPAC'23 (and also MC8 coordinator)
- Becoming IPAC'26 EiC:
  - discussed over the summer 2024.
  - No prior editing experience
    - Editor at IPAC'25
    - Attempt to join IBIC'25 as editor failed
  - Significant experience with indico gained from IPAC'23 LPR.
- I became EiC with a vision as SPC and author not as author.
- For IPAC'26 the boundaries between EiC and Scientific Secretary roles were blurry…

Timeline of IPAC'N (1/5)

- This is based on my experience in Europe, may be slightly different in other regions.
- JACoW sets strict rules for IPAC timelines with 2 OC and 3 SPC.
  - OC = Organisation Committee
  - SPC = Scientific Program Committee
- At OC1 of IPAC'N-3: selection of the host (among several proposals).
  - This leaves 4.5 years to prepare for IPAC'N.
  - In Europe, the SPC chair of IPAC'N-3 becomes the OC chair of IPAC'N.
    - Project holder of the host becomes LOC (Local Organizing Committee) chair.
- At IPAC'N-3:
  Chair-elect of EPS-AG is elected and becomes SPC chair of IPAC'N.

For IPAC'26, this was in december'21: we were all wearing masks!

Timeline of IPAC'N (2/5)

- Summer of year N-2 (about 20 months before IPAC'N):
  - OC chairs contact future OC, SPC and SAB members for his region.
    - SAB = Scientific Advisory Board
  - OC chair asks for proposal for OC, SPC and SAB from other regions.
  - OC chair selects EiC.
  - OC+LOC chairs selects Scientific Secretary (SS)
- Autumn year N-2: JTM preferably at venue of IPAC'N.
  - EiC and SS are is not yet formally appointed.
- At SPC1+OC1 of IPAC'N (typically December N-2, 18 months before IPAC'N):
  - EiC and SS appointed.
  - SAB is appointed.
- Immediately after SPC1:
  - Setup conference
  - Contact SAB to get acceptance and propose abstracts for invited orals
    - No self-nomination!
    - 90% of SAB members will make it easy.
    - 10% will give you a lof of work!

The clock start ticking:
18. months to go!



Timeline of IPAC'N (3/5)

- 15 months before the conference (before SPC2):
  - Clean proposals for invited abstracts (duplicates, empty, not eligible, ….)
  - Organise voting to select invited orals.
  - EiC and SS take part in the vote => have to consider all the abstracts.
- At IPAC N-1: SPC2
  - Agree on invited oral program which must be balanced in region, gender, MC, labs,…
  - EiC + SS must prepare statistics on balances
    - Statistics must be updated "live" during SPC meeting
- After SPC2:
  - Proposed invited orals not selected and votes are discarded.
  - SS contacts invited speakers.
  - Invited speaker should update their abstract.
- About 7-8 months before conference:
  - Open registration,
  - Open abstracts submission
- Before Christmas year N-1:
  - SPC members vote on contributed orals

ROR rule for affiliations introduced:
Two type of affiliations in the records.

ROR rule dropped:
big mess in affiliations

JTM year N-1:
Voting page destroyed!
Work to be done again in less than 1 months…

Timeline of IPAC'N (4/5)

- SPC3 (January year N)
  - Agree on contributed oral program which must be balanced in region, gender, MC, labs,…
  - EiC + SS must prepare statistics on balances
    - Statistics must be updated "live" during SPC meeting
- January year N:
  - Contact editorial team (number of contribution sis know, can be scaled based on previous IPACs.
  - Quality check abstracts (JACoW manuals says before SPC3, SPC chairs says after)
- All the time until IPAC:
  - Late abstract submissions
  - Abstracts withdrawal (geopolitics did not help).
  - Speakers changes
  - (invited posters who do not reply/decline)
- ~10 weeks before IPAC = 4 weeks before LPR deadline
  - Assign paper codes
  - Open papers submissions
  - Start editing first papers submitted for QA



Almost full time after SPC3

Late templates
=> late submission opening

Timeline of IPAC'N (5/5)

- 6 weeks before IPAC:
  - LPR deadline
- 1 week before IPAC:
  - Papers deadline
  - Assign poster boards
  - Editorial team arrives
- IPAC'N!
- Relax?
  - Your colleagues will remember all the tasks that you postponed until "after IPAC" and come to your office (+ teaching)
- After IPAC'N:
  - Finish editing
  - Help finishing LPR
  - Publish proceedings…

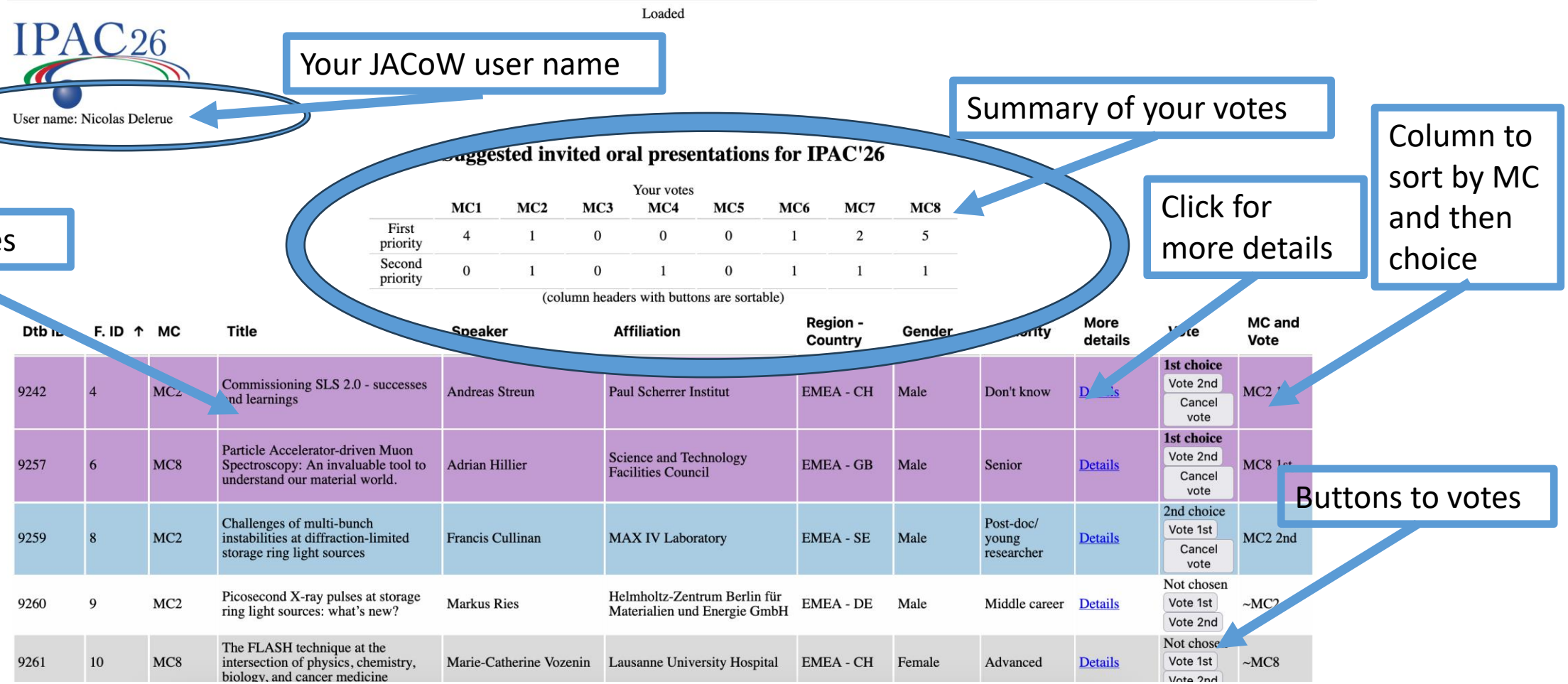
IT issues, IPAC is over, IPAC IT is over!

IP issue on one paper with threat of legal proceedings

Hope that there won't be too many surprises

SPC2 voting procedure

- Written in javascript to build on indico's authentification features.
- Blocked by an indico update in November 2025.



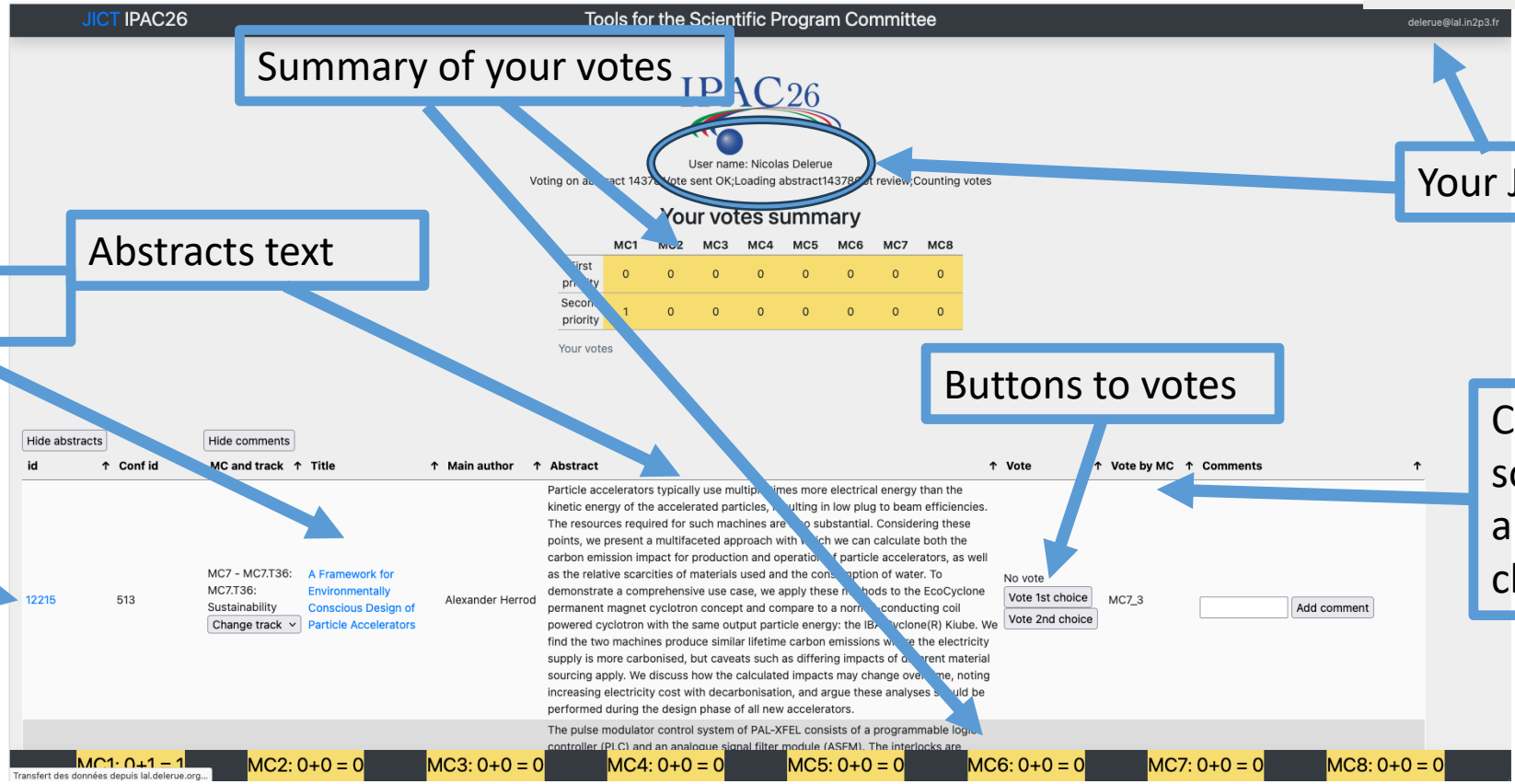
SPC3 voting procedure

- Based on PHP/JICT with a javascript component
- Slower as all requests have to be done server-side.

Your votes summary

	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4	MC5	MC6	MC7	MC8
First priority	5	2	1	5	1	2	2	6
Second priority	5	1	2	3	2	3	2	6

Your votes



SPC statistics

- Example of statistics compiled live during SPC2 and SPC3.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	MC	Number of talks	Male	Female	Unsure		EMEA	AMERICAS	ASIA	
2	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	
3	1	6	5	1	0		4	1	1	
4	2	9	9	0	0		5	2	2	
5	3	6	4	2	0		3	1	2	
6	4	6	5	1	0		3	1	2	
7	5	8	5	3	0		5	3	0	
8	6	7	4	3	0		3	2	2	
9	7	6	1	5	0		2	2	2	
10	8	3	0	3	0		3	0	0	
11										
12	Total	51	33	18	0	51	28	12	11	51
13	% on all		65%	35%		0	55%	24%	22%	0
14	% on reported		65%	35%			55%	24%	22%	
15			Male	Female		0	EMEA	AMERICAS	ASIA	0
16	Reported/expect	100%								
17	Invited	36	24	12		36	20	9	7	
18	Invited + contribu	87	57	30		87	48	21	18	51
19			66%	34%			55%	24%	21%	

EiC philosophy

- Conference proceedings are a snapshot of research in our field at the time of the conference.
  - We want it to be clear, not blurry.
  - We do not need it to be a piece of art.
- As a reader of IPAC/JACoW papers:
  - Science is the most important. I do not like when references are incorrect or figures unreadable.
  - I do not care about the capitalization of (sub-)titles.
  - I do not care if there are missing *italics* in references but I like when there is a title and a DOI. ;-)
- For me a paper where the science is readable and the references are correct is a good paper.
- In most cases I will read a paper only once to get the main idea. No time to bother on minor editing misshapes.
- As an author, I always wondered why JACoW editing practices are stricter than PRAB rules.
- For LPR, I saw what was published by IoP and indexed by Clarivates: it is more relaxed!

Editorial office cost

- The editorial office is a significant share of the conference budget.
- Based on the market survey done for LPR, commercial editors can edit a 3-page scientific paper for less than 40€. See for example https://pos.sissa.it/
- 10 days of an editor cost its per diem, accommodation, food and IT support + its travel and salary to its employer.
  - 6k€ is about the cost of 150 papers edited commercially.
- Editing quality will not be the same, but scientific quality/impact will be the same.
- We have to be aware of this cost.
- Pressure on the EiC to limit the number of editors.

About the editorial office

- About 45 people contacted to be part of the editorial team
  - Some did not get support from their management to join the editorial office.
- A few people contacted me asking to join the editorial team.
- In the end 36 “editors” invited + 3 remote editors
- Goal was to have 50% from Europe and 25% from other regions.
  - Difficult to have editors from Americas.
- 3 editors were unable to travel and offered to edit remotely.
  - Difficult to include them in the activity of the editorial office
- 3 more remote editors from Argonne helped finishing the proceedings in September.
- In the past concern was raised that some editors were dealing mostly with their labs’paper.
  - Papers were assigned automatically to editors in order of submission and based on the editors preference for LaTeX or word.
- At IPAC’26 Editorial team was slightly undersized (more papers than expected)
  - Some editors move to IT/video support
  - More papers than expected 60% rule became 80%

IP issue

- On the first days one editors checked all papers on his research topic and spotted one paper using a code from his group without appropriate license.
- He warned his managements who involved his lab's legal office.
- The paper had to be put on hold while lawyers from both labs discussed the issue.
- A solution was finally found…
- Lesson learned:
  - Do not allow editors to self select papers!
  - Have a policy on IP infringement?
- *What if matlab sends us an editor to check all papers using matlab?*

Policy towards authors

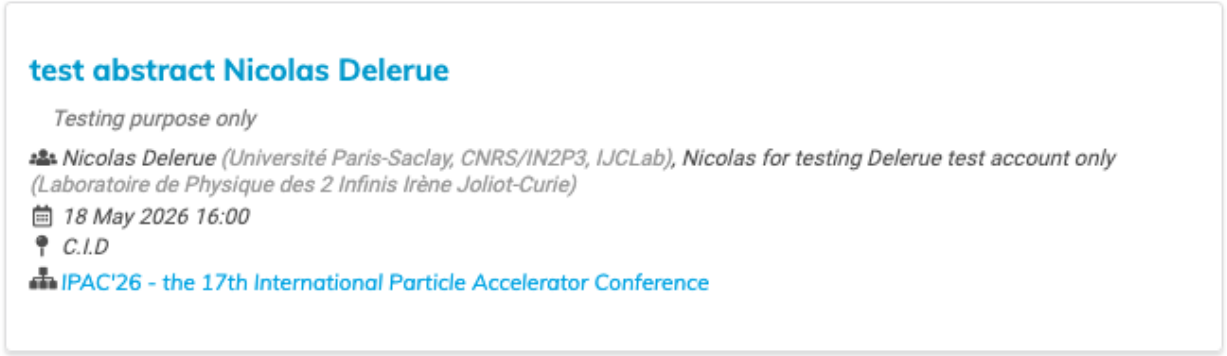
- Tried to be author friendly
- Large number of request for late abstract submission (7%) and withdrawal (25%).
  - 2068 (on-time) + 158 (late) - 566 (withdrawn) =1660 abstracts
- In case of poster police “fail” an email was sent to the author, inviting him/her to the editorial office.
- At some point, some presenters had more than 10 posters!
  - LOC+SPC chair decided to discourage more than 4 papers par participants => emails to discourage that.
- Abstracts without a valid registered presenter were withdrawn (after several warnings).

Paper codes and board numbers

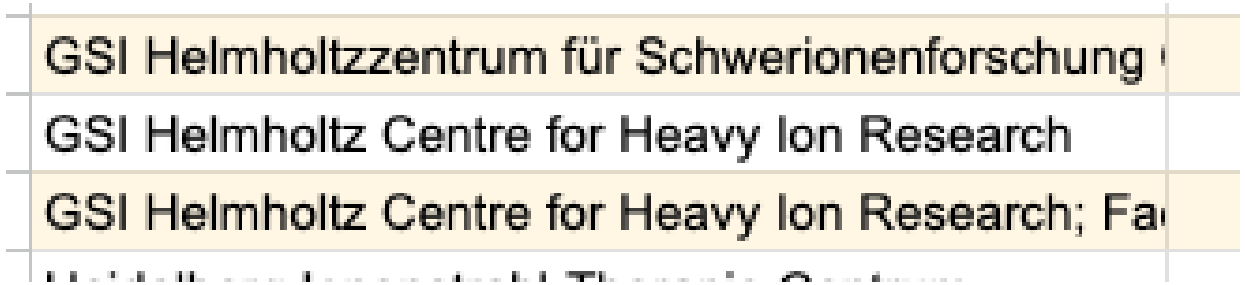
- Only the EiC needs paper codes by the end of February (to open paper submissions)!
- Decision to decouple paper codes from board numbers.
- Due to geopolitics (and unforeseen illnesses), some oral speakers withdrew
  => new papers promoted from contributed poster to contributed oral (or invited posters)
  => requires new paper code (sometimes even after submission)!
- *Paper code are part of the IPAC folklore but do we need them as filename?*
- Do we need to process papers by paper code? Indico assigns a unique number to each contribution why don't we use that one (in hexadecimal if you want to keep a mix of digits and letters)? Editors could check the number of pages allocated on the contribution page.
- To minimize the number of empty boards, boards numbers were assigned only one week before the conference, displayed on each contribution page and in the conference app.
- 2 poster sessions for each MC (Europe and "other regions"): easier to move posters around when needed.

Affiliations

- Affiliations in indico are a source of headache!
  - Change to Research Organisation Registry (ROR) during SAB abstracts submissions
    => two type of affiliation records for SPC2. ☹
    => complicated to make statistics
    => Even the OC chair and some JACoW directors did not have their affiliation correct in ROR…
  - ROR policy changed again during contributed abstracts submission…
    => created a lot of diversity in affiliations!
    => Author from the same lab could have different affiliation!
    => No clear policy on foreign characters
- I am aware that this is being worked on…



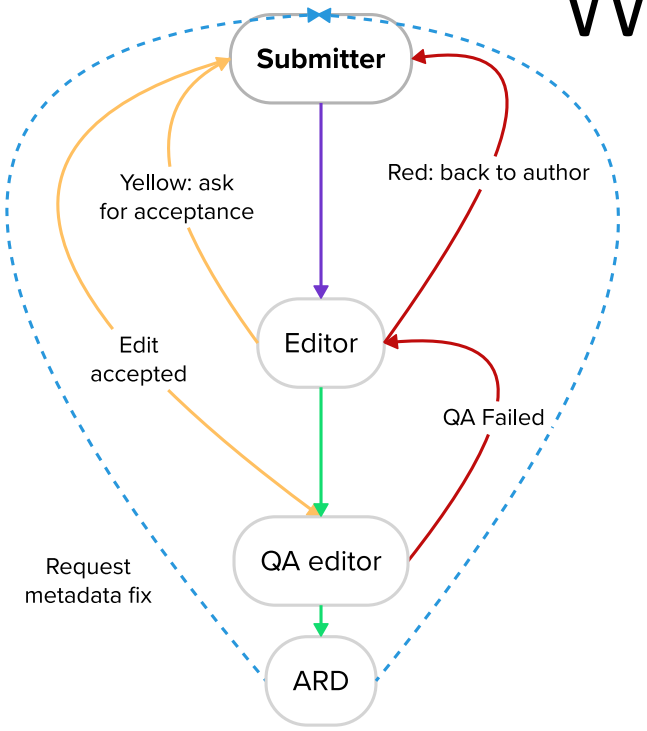




Templates

- Why do we need a template more complicated than PRAB?
- Does not compile with old versions of LaTeX (including my setup).
  - We should at least specify a few LaTeX versions on which it has been tested.
- New templates triggered errors in CAT scan!
- To address title and affiliation problems, introduced “custom” templates pre-filled with the author entries directly from indico.
  - Issues raised when circulated for testing:
    - Not compatible with LibreOffice
    - Should not display the email address of the corresponding author (JACoW policy)
      I fully disagree: nowadays no one sends a snail mail letter to a corresponding authors, we need the email address! I would urge JACoW to revise this policy.
      - For publication in EPJ papers must have the corresponding author email address.

Workflow

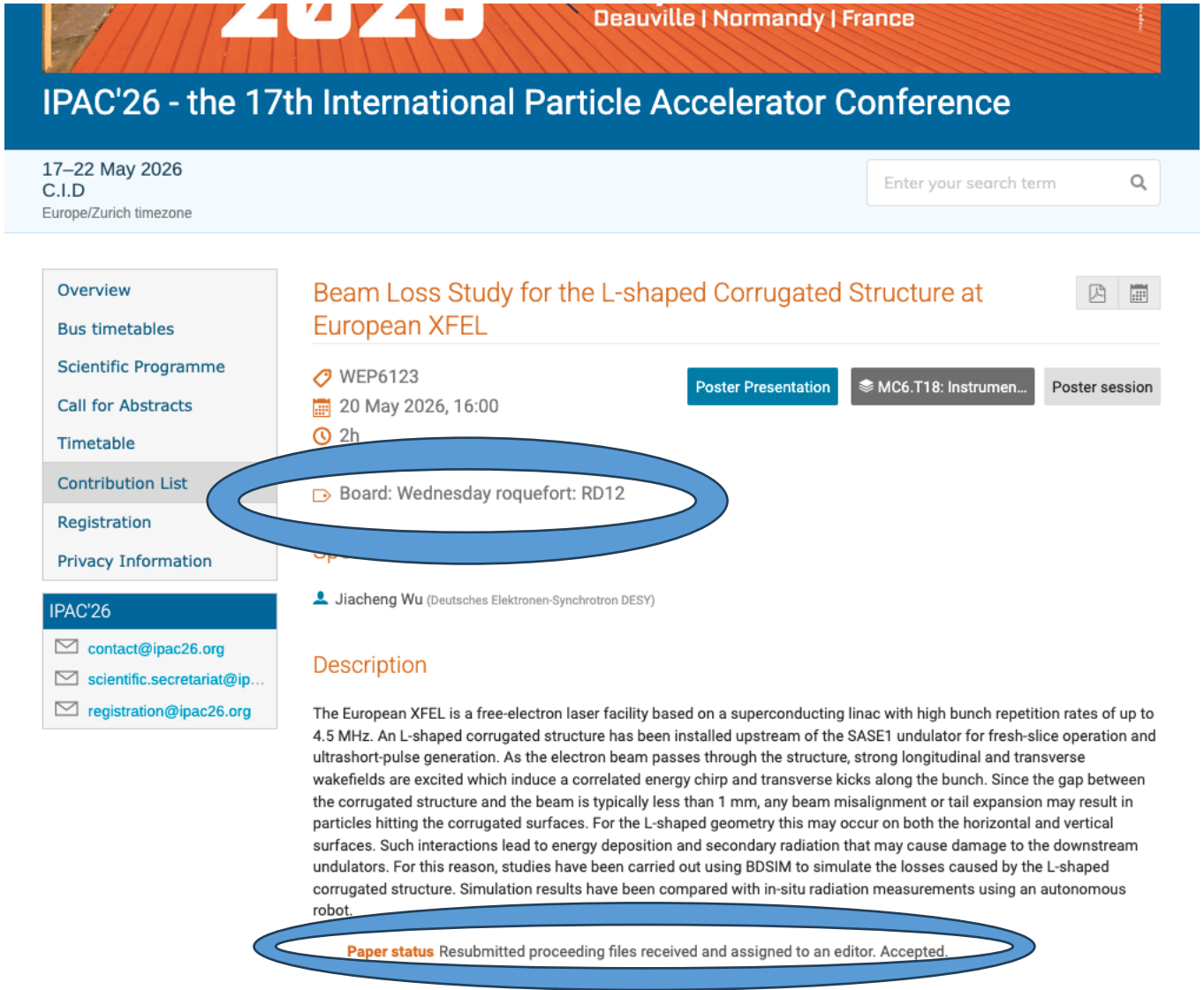


Scorecard	Pass	Fail	To Fix
Paper editing			
Paper QA			
Title/authors check			
(LPR rounds)			

- Used the same “heart shaped” workflow than at previous recent IPAC.
- Problem:
  - a paper can be green dotted and then go back to a red dot (QA or TAC failure).
  - TAC (ARD) comes very late.
- In indico QA action are anonymous!
- Dots could be replaced by a scorecard…
  - Green dots should be awarded only when TAC and QA are done…
  - Or we should have another colour for fully complated papers.
  - This could include LPR easily.

Authors information

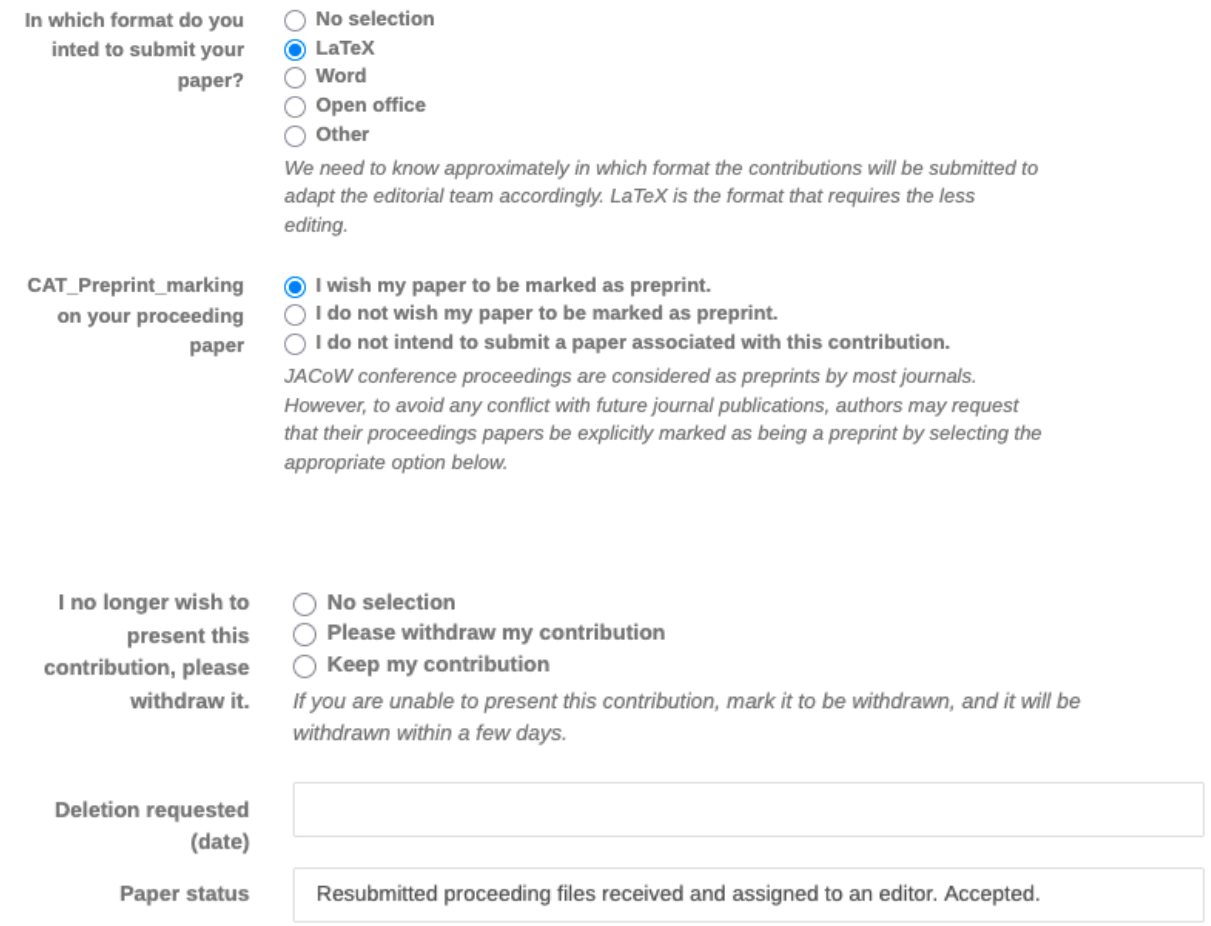
- Dotting boards have grown too big: hard to find one's paper
- Added information directly on the contribution page.
  - Added value: allows sorting by paper status in the all-contributions page.
- Poster police status was added as well (but only visible by authors).
- Once edited the paper was also added directly to the contribution page.
  - Allows to access the paper during the conference and poster sessions.
  - Positive feedback. This could be extended to all papers submitted.





Extra questions with the contribution

- Authors were asked to select the format in which they would submit their paper.
- Possibility was offered to have “preprint marking”: requested by 1206/1487 papers! Very popular!
- 82% of abstracts became papers => “preprint marking” effect?
- Possibility to ask for paper deletion (very useful and limits the number of requests by email).
  - When a contribution is deleted, this is recorded in the associated abstract.



Slides processing

- Slides processing went very smoothly (Thank you Ruth).
- Can slides go public? When?
  - SPC chair position: not during the conference, to encourage people to attend the conference rather than read slides online.
- Slides are not included in the pre-press proceedings.

Indico/JICT/Scripts

- Several EiC/SS taks include consecutive actions under indico.
  - Indico is slow when you have 2000 abstracts/6500 people
- Scripts using JICT can help a lot with such tasks…
- Eg: contributions list…
- Scripts will be included in JICT soon…

Reload cache (slower)
Using contributions from cache...
Contribution ID: 11905
Contribution linked to abstract
Contribution ID: 11905
LPR paper (if exists): 11905
Proceedings paper (if exists): 11905
Contribution Friendly ID: 6
Title:
Content:
Track: MC8.U02: Materials Analysis and Modification
Type: Invited Oral Presentation
Session: MC8 : Applications of Accelerators, Engagement with Industry, Technology Transfer a
Schedule: 2026-05-19T07:00:00+00:00
Code: TUI8T01
Submitter:
()

Authors:
Adrian Hillier (adrian.hillier@stfc.ac.uk) primary (speaker)

Would you like to reschedule this contribution?
Yes, reschedule it to Monday 18th 's poster session - MC1 (Europe, Middle-East and Africa), M
Yes, reschedule it to Tuesday 19th 's poster session - MC2 (Americas and Asia), MC3 (Europe, M
Yes, reschedule it to Wednesday 20th 's poster session - MC1 (Americas and Asia), MC4 (Ameri
Yes, reschedule it to Thursday 21st 's poster session - MC2 (Europe, Middle-East and Africa), M

Student session
Duplicate to the student session

Would you like to unschedule this contribution?
Yes, unschedule this contribution

Would you like to withdraw this contribution?
Yes, withdraw at the request of the author
Yes, withdraw for other reasons
Yes, withdraw for admin reasons (silent)

Contribution ID: 11905 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #6; contribution code: TUI8T01; Authors: Adrian Hillier adrian.hillier@stfc.ac.
Contribution ID: 11897 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #11; contribution code: WEI5M01; Authors: Rama Calaga rama.calaga@cern.cl
Contribution ID: 11909 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #17; contribution code: MOI1T02; Authors: Steinar Stapnes steinar.stapnes@ce
Contribution ID: 11884 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #26; contribution code: WEI1T01; Authors: Michiko Minty minty@bnl.gov (sp
Contribution ID: 11893 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #31; contribution code: TUI4M01; Authors: Haik Simon h.simon@gsi.de (speal
m.winkler@gsi.de (speaker) secondary -
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Contribution ID: 11877 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #73; contribution code: MOI2M01; Authors: Laurent Chapon lchapon@anl.gov
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Contribution ID: 11899 ; (edit); (proceedings); (LPR); Friendly ID: #83; contribution code: THI6T01; Authors: Dirk Lipka dirk.lipka@desy.de secc
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Thanks to all editors

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Kritsada Kittimanapun
Joele Mira
Raphael Mueller
Johan Olander
Volker RW Schaa
Philippe Schoofs
Akihiro Shirakawa

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Yujung Ahn
Antoine Beaudouin
Jangwon Kwon
Charline Lecourtillet
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Adriana Rossi
Michelle Wier



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Zhichu Chen (AKA Ross)
Bian Lin

Post processing (3)

Bruno Gustavo
Kelly Jaje
Kent Wootton

Outlook

- EiC is a challenging responsibility.
- Takes a lot of time but is interesting.
- Regular exchanges with the JACoW BoD would have been welcome.
- Hope to have captured the best possible snapshot of Accelerator science in 2026!
- Thank you to all editors who contributed to IPAC’26.

GANIL spiral2
laboratoire commun CEA/DRF CNRS/IN2P3

IPAC'26

Centre International de Deauville

Sunday 17th – Friday 22nd May, 2026

