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Unser Zeichen:
Ihre Mitteilung:

Extension of the NA49 experiment

Dear Dr. Engelen,

the NA49 Collaboration has recently stated it's interest to continue measurements with specific focus (document CERN-SPSC-2003-038). We write to you to support this plan from the perspective of cosmic ray research, in particular for the KASCADE-Grande experiment in Karlsruhe and on behalf of the Pierre Auger Collaboration.

The analysis of cosmic ray data makes heavy use of simulations. The program package CORSIKA has become the de facto-standard tool in more than 30 groups worldwide. The Karlsruhe KASCADE and Auger team is constantly developing and optimizing the physics as well as the programming techniques in CORSIKA. We have realized that measurements of particle production in the very forward region and of nucleus-nucleus cross sections are needed to further improve the hadronic interaction models. An international workshop NEEDS was held in Karlsruhe in April 2002 to foster a closer cooperation between cosmic ray particle accelerator experiments (see e.g. CERN COURIER 42/6 for a resumé).

We are now taking serious steps towards such common approaches, including the assignment of personnel to cooperate with NA49. We wish to express the strong interest of a large community in the continuation of the NA49 experiment. A modest investment will yield a significant return.

Sincerely yours,



Johannes Blümer
Auger Collaboration, co-spokesperson



Andreas Haungs
KASCADE-Grande Collaboration, spokesperson