NEW COMPUTER AND NEW TOUCH-TERMINALS FOR THE ANTIPROTON ACCUMULATOR

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Touch Terminals

The three touch terminals in the AA Control Room have all been equipped last November with Motorola 68000 microprocessor-based display controllers, associated display memory modules and software. This not only enables an upward compatibility with existing applications software using the monochrome display but also provides several new features including large character size, character orientation, colour, etc. The additional features are well described in the User Manual : SPS/ACC-CC/Note/82-42 by P. Anderssen.

The Siemens monochrome monitors have been replaced by the Barco high-resolution, long-persistence colour monitors, which sit on a swivel base for user convenience. The three ACR consoles have been in operation since early November 1985 and the MCR AA terminal since May 1985 and certain AA programs have already incorporated some of the new console features in them. Copies of the Console User Manual are available at the AA secretariat.

New NORD100 Compact

We are in the process of purchasing a new NORD100 computer to replace the existing AA NORD10. Essentially, no high-level application or equipment module software changes are foreseen; any compatibility, verification and other tests will be handled by the CO Group. As far as the accelerator processes are concerned, such NORD10 to NORD100 switch-overs have already been done successfully for the <PSB> and <CPS> front-end computers. The actual switch-over for AA is planned for June 1986 if all goes well; else we may have to wait well after the ACOL running-in to avoid unncessary conflicts with the machine running-in and start-up.

The NORD100 compact permits up to 8 terminals lines (compared to present 5), which would mean that the 4th console in MCR could be left permanently connected and could even be moved to ACR if needed during running-in. Leaving the terminal in the AA lab (building 19) as it is would still leave 2 lines free to be connected to the PS-PACX. This will enable access for the Controls Group exploitation/repair as well as possible software development from offices in building 19 if desired.

The new computer will permit terminal operation at higher speed (4800 baud) and the new touch terminals would be able to take advantage of this to speed up all touch terminal interactions and display in the AA Control Room as well as on the MCR AA console.

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