STCC Conf. Call 9-14-09 / Aaron Sontag

RF: Sounds like shopping list, need hard-hitting list of top results needed to achieve ST goal
SE: Don't want STCC to sound like advisory committee
RF: give roadmap, not policy
SE: Don't need all-inclusive list. Should be targeted to program goals
RF: This group needs to do technical work, ReNeW too qualitative. This group should give technical details of work to be done.
JPA: Agree with Ray, need to give technical roadmap. Interested in PMI perspective of ST community.
SAS: We were told that technical details were not to be done as part of ReNeW process. Likes idea of moving on to this. Agree with SE on starting with ReNeW document now.
SE: Idea of using ReNeW report as orgainizing document doesn't stop us from exploring high-payoff areas such as liquid Li research. No special case needed.
MP: This was covered in an email exchange between MP and DM. This is important topic that wasn't covered elsewhere.
MP: Want feedback and discussion of ST goal options to focus discussion for Dec. report - #3 on powerpoint slides.
JPA: Clarification of roles of goals needed. Game-changing research should be included in report (advanced physics and materials).
SAS: 5-7 years – 5 year plans for large machines have the details and have done this work. Need to have specific designs or plans or just physics programs for longer term? In longer term need to establish program that will get us to goal. Need more specifics than were given for ReNeW.
MP: Hazeltine gave guidance to not focus on devices for ReNeW. Can be more specific now.
KT: Include game-changing research in the whole process. 5 year plans are defined, but are we going to comment on how complete they are?
MP: Discussion with SE about this said that we should not be commenting directly on NSTX plan. Need to indicate to DOE what ST needs so that he can make informed decisions.
SAS: Timeline from ReNeW was very useful. Likes having the specific applications to focus discussion on what we need to do when. Doesn't lock us into specific design but gives physics that must be done to get to application with lowest risk.
MP: 1) Need more info from MAST and QUEST about their plans and capabilities. 2) Goals relative to specific plans that have been presented. Once we quantify goals we will be better equipped to determine MOC for those goals. Different from timeline or already proposed research. Need to create logic that make GC (game-changing) research integral part of ST program.
RF: Confused about discussion of timeline. How do we come to closure about what facilities are needed? Should be determined by scientific needs and goals.
SAS: Needs further discussion beyond ReNeW
MP: #4 – Major ST Topical Areas. Likes TAP organization of topics. Identify in each topical area what are key elements for our goals. i.e., startup critical for goal.
AS: shouldn't we be more specific?

MP: Need to link goals to existing capabilities and approved upgrades.
RF: Need to identify what's possible too. Can encourage expansion of program if there is a gap. MOC dominated discussion and caused people to lose sight of overall picture. Need serious technical discussion rather than voting process.
JPA: Saw many areas in ReNeW that ST could address very well. Need to do more work to be specific and clarify details.
LB: Isn't there already a list of topical areas?
MP: Yes, needs to be organized better toward our goals than ReNeW was.
RLH: ST provides good leverage for understanding common issues with tokamak
MP: Is it legitimate to discuss overlap with tokamak?
ALL: yes
RLH: MAST & ASDEX collaborate in similar fashion to NSTX & DIII-D.
SAS: Start from ReNeW - this came from TAP. Doesn't think ReNeW is a laundry list. They are all important. Should now suggest resources needed to resolve these and GC topics. Need to keep same type of focus for 5-7 year plan.
MP: Homework is to work on developing list of topics to distribute before next CC. Move on to #5 – Update MOC. Suffered in previous discussion from ranking. Don't need to do that now.
RF: Still confused on approach. Steve's approach makes more sense than going back to MOC. 6 – 8 themes from ReNeW have been well thought out. Now lets take each and flesh out in detail. Where are we now and what do we need to do to get to goal?
SAS: Agree strongly with RF. Don't use MOC, start with ReNeW and add in quantitative detail with focus on specific goals, hybrid, DEMO, FNSF, etc. MOC are a distraction, let's just move on.
KT: Agree. Start with ReNeW and add technical detail and keep in mind new topics.
MP: #6 – agenda items for next CC (10-24-09 after ISTW). Drop MOC, finalize physics elements, draft TOC of report.
RF: Need team leader for each topic to organize sections. Do before next meeting/CC so they can have few bullets at next meeting.
All: Agree
SAS: might need deputies
KT: clarify what is needed for next meeting from each leader