

Report of the LASTI Technical Advisory Committee LIGO-T020048-00-R

Based on its 5th meeting, 21 March 2002, at the LSC Meeting at LLO

Members in attendance: Rolf Bork, Dennis Coyne, Riccardo DeSalvo, Brian Lantz, Fred Raab, Peter Saulson (chair), and Alan Weinstein.

Mike Zucker gave the presentation on behalf of the LASTI team.

LASTI has completed its infrastructure. It now has a functioning PSL, a 1 meter test cavity, and LIGO I stacks in both a HAM and a BSC chamber. All of the installation was done in a way that preserved vacuum cleanliness. The LASTI team, as well as the large set of visitors from the rest of the Lab and from the LSC, deserves congratulations for this achievement.

Since our last meeting, LASTI was asked to carry out the testing of the new External Pre-Isolator system being designed in response to the strong seismic noise at LLO. LASTI was the only facility available within LIGO where such tests could be carried out, so one could say that it has already proven its value, in a way not quite intended by its designers. Tests have started, and are slated to be intensive through 3Q02.

This work of course has an effect on the rest of the LASTI schedule, although it is hard to argue that anything is more important right now. In fact, much of the impact on the LASTI schedule comes from the fact that the EPI work has caused the SEI team to lengthen its own schedule for delivering prototypes to LASTI. The LASTI team has done a nice job of inserting other interesting tests into its own schedule, including an earlier set of suspension tests made on the “controls” version instead of the “noise” version.

In summary, the TAC’s simple message is “Keep up the good work.”