

ICFA Statement on the Importance of Test Beam Facilities

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Test beams are vital tools for developing the next generation of detectors for high-energy physics, nuclear physics, and adjacent fields. Every year, close to a thousand users make use of the test beam facilities provided by the major laboratories CERN, DESY, KEK and FNAL as well as smaller facilities around the world. These facilities are provided free of charge to the scientific users. ICFA notes favourably that this policy allows access for a broad and unbiased user community, irrespective of the financial strength of specific user groups.

ICFA acknowledges that test beam facilities are key infrastructures for progress in detector R&D. ICFA also stresses their importance as an ideal training ground not only the next generation of instrumentation experts, but also for young machine scientists.

ICFA, therefore, supports the efforts of all the laboratories to coordinate the shutdowns of their accelerator complexes as much as possible to prevent a global “dark time” for test beam users.