RunControl meeting 18/12/2013

Topic: RunControl Schedule for 2014

Attendees: Riccardo, Gianluca, Marco, Fernando, Sergey, Nicolas,

Agenda:

- Configuration of the subsystems
- Status report from subsystems
- Integration of new hardware
- Online to offline database
- Locking mechanism

Discussion:

Most of these points converged to a single proposal summarized below:

- The configuration of the subsystems is done through configuration files. The content and format of the files is transparent to the RunControl and the responsibility to decode it is left to the subsystems.
- The configuration files are stored in the JCOP database in order to use the recipe mechanism.
- A tool will be provided to transfer the files in the database and eventually an editor for modifications in the RC.
- The different file entries in the database are identified by (file)name and can be attributed tags to identify to which kind of run they can be applied.
- The files are incremental: several files can be applied the latest overwriting the earlier values. In this way a configuration can consist of a file containing values that rarely change and further smaller files containing values that are more often changed.
- A default file should always exist. This file has to reset all the values to default and can be provided if no other file is given.
- The content of the files are sent to the control software as a string through dim.
- After configuration the RunControl will ask the devices to report their complete configuration (in
 the same format as the configuration files?). The answer will be sent back to the RC via dim and
 stored in the offline database. The choice is left to the subsystems to trust themselves that the
 configuration has correctly been applied and report back the merge of the configuration files, or
 to query the actual hardware to recreate the file content.
- Possible other RunControl values will be recorded in the offline database: Run information, burst information, beam information.
- Riccardo proposes a centralized logging display. The devices push to the centralized logging
 message that contains the source ID, a severity code and the text message. Fernando suggests
 that it may be merged with the alarm screen of PVSS.

Nicolas will write a Note describing this proposal and the specifications for the interface to the RunControl:

- Description of the dim services and commands to implement
- Minimal FSM
- Error reporting
- Logging

The Note will be distributed in the experiment and a first deadline will be set for February/March 2014, possibly during the first dry run if organized during this period. All the subsystems that have to be connected to the RunControl have the responsibility to implement this minimal interface that will be integrated and tested in the RunControl at the deadline. Further occasions will be given later for subsystems that could not be ready at this point.

Locking mechanism

It would prevent modification of the configuration during Run.

- Marco's opinion is that this is not necessary for now as only experts knows about the tools to change the configuration and are supposed to be aware of their actions.
- Can be implemented later if needed.

Other request

Riccardo requested a user manual (how to operate) and a system manual (how to start/restart the whole system in case of problem).