

# Policy Issues - Why Have Written Agreements?

## A written agreement spells out expectations (and hopes)

Each group knows what the other would like in terms of cooperation. The difference between a promise and a best effort is important information.

Examples: flaring conditions, results to be shared, possible special analysis.

## A written agreement avoids misunderstanding

Examples: Issues like confidentiality and authorship

None of us want our results being presented by some other group without our knowledge.

We probably prefer not to have our names appear on a paper without our knowledge.

Authorship guidelines can be defined, e.g. the TeV telescopes all prefer to have authorship open to all team members.

## A written agreement defines procedures

We need to know the process by which we cooperate.

Example: How do we maintain confidentiality?

Example: Who chooses the leads on a particular paper?

Example: Peter Michelson is the only one from LAT who can sign agreements. The rest of us offer advice.

**LAT policy on agreements: the LAT team will not share non-public information with any other group without a written agreement about the use of that information.**