

## **Title: GERDA project**

The description of the experiment is very brief but all the essential points are mentioned.

A comprehensive list is presented of the contributions made by the JINR to the project. The JINR group is clearly playing a leading role in the GERDA project.

The future plans are clearly spelled out.

A list of publications in international, refereed journals is presented. The list is good but more could be expected of a group of 17 scientists.

There are no PhD theses. This is clearly insufficient.

Several plenary talks have been presented but not to the largest one, e.g. the International Conference on Neutrino Physics and Astrophysics.

iThe group is very large, 17 participants. Not all of the participants are listed as members of the GERDA collaboration.

In summary, this project is part of a large international collaboration located at Gran Sasso in Italy. It is a continuation and extension of previous efforts to measure neutrinoless double beta decay. This is fundamental physics and attempts to clarify the validity of the basic standard model. Observation of neutrinoless double beta decay would be a major breakthrough in our current understanding of the laws of physics. It is therefore a very worthwhile undertaking and deserves to be supported strongly. The JINR has a strong presence and visibility in this project. The output in the form of talks at international conferences is reasonable but could be improved. The number of PhD degrees (no degrees awarded) is insufficient and not up to standards.

Emeritus Professor Jean Cleymans  
Physics Department  
University of Cape Town  
South Africa