Who: Aldo Rampioni, PhD, CEO SISSA Medialab
Event: GenOA week 2026
Where: Genova
When: 2nd-5th of November 2026

SISSA Medialab

Early considerations on cost modelling for Diamond Open Access: the JQuant project

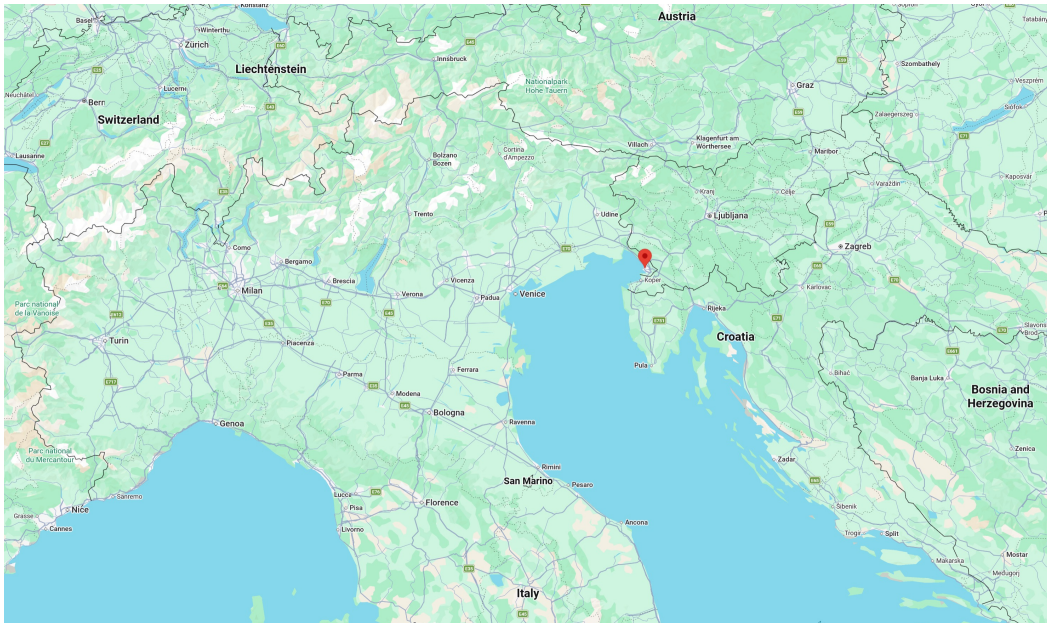


Outline

- Intro SISSA Medialab: arXiv, JHEP, JCOM
- Beyond the concept of APCs
- Costs classification
- JQuant: cost dynamics
- JQuant: business model



Diamond Open Access @SISSA Medialab





arXiv

JHEP Journal of High Energy Physics

JCom

SCOAP 3
Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics

JQuant

Beyond the concept of APCs

What is the real cost to publish an article?

It is not easy to answer this question.

It depends on too many factors:

- ✓ Is it published in an established journal or a new one? In how many years the launching costs of the journal are amortized?
- ✓ It depends on the volume of the journal!
- ✓ What is the rejection rate of the journal?
- ✓ What is really included in the costs? Comparing apples with oranges.
- ✓ Costs are different from one region to another (labor, services, real estate, etc.)
- ✓ Costs do change over time due to inflation, supply and demand, etc..
- ✓ Etc.

SISSA Medialab's costs classification

Pre-launching	Fixed	Variable
Scientific/editorial/financial **project definition** (competitive analysis, aims&scope, editorial board, article types, policies, business plan…)	**Directly working on the journal** (editorial office, production, building a support network of institutes, marketing, sales)	**Travel expenses**
Journal **platform**: off-the-shelf or in-house development?	Journal **platform**: maintenance and development	**Editors**
IT (SysAdmin, sw&hw, servers, security,…)	**Indirectly supporting the journal** (IT, administration)	**Referees**
Publishing services (Crossref, DOI, ORCID, indexing,…)	**Publishing services and licenses**	
Marketing (visual identity, website, promotions,…)	**EiC fee**	
Legal and **administrative** (contracts, GDPR,…)	**General** (management, office, services, insurances,…)	
Building a support network of institutes	**Amortization** (platform, sw) and **depreciation** (hw)	
Travel expenses	**Taxes**	
General (office, services, insurances,…)		



A sustainable diamond OA business model for JQuant

Our objective is to build an alternative, high-quality OA publishing model that does not rely on APCs.

Inspired by the SCOAP3 model, we aim to establish a consortium that guarantees the long-term sustainability of JQuant - and potentially other journals in the future – while keeping full control within the scholarly community.

JQuant: business model assumptions

Every business model is based on assumptions that must be verified and eventually refined. Here are our initial assumptions:

- Pre-launching costs: 166 k€
- Amortization time: 5 years
- Cost items as detailed above
- Number of yearly published articles: 30-60-120-240-300 (at full capacity)
- Revenues: 120 k€ per year 0-2;

  200 k€ year 3;

  300 k€ per year 4-6;

  330 k€ per year 7-9.

JQuant: profit & loss

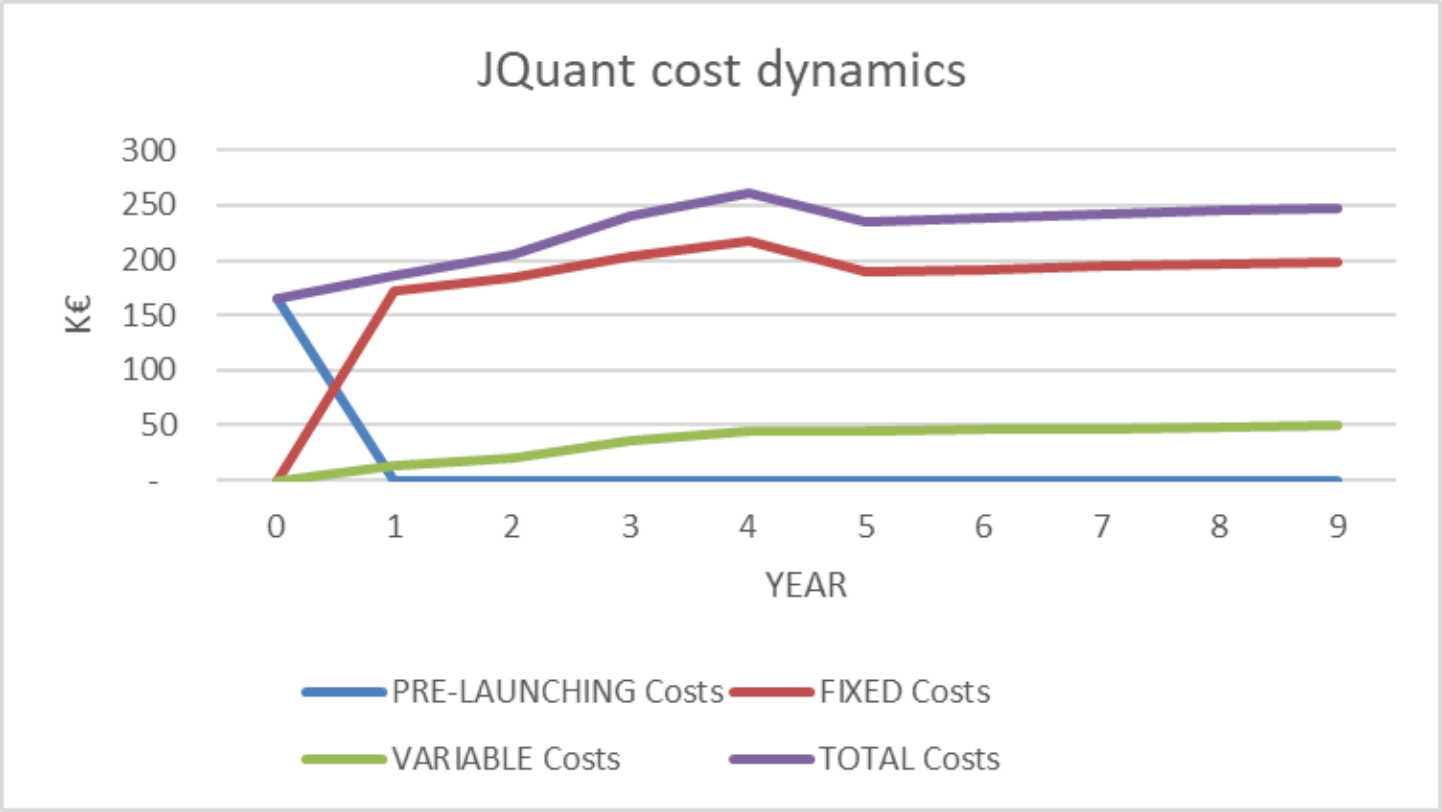
Values in k€						
YEAR	REVENUE	PRE-LAUNCHING Costs	FIXED Costs	VARIABLE Costs	EBIT	Cumulative EBIT
0	120	166	-	-	-46	-46
1	120	-	172	14	-66	-112
2	120	-	185	21	-86	-198
3	200	-	204	36	-40	-238
4	300	-	218	44	38	-200
5	300	-	190	45	65	-135
6	300	-	192	46	62	-73
7	330	-	195	47	88	15
8	330	-	197	48	85	100
9	330	-	199	49	82	182

- Break Even Point in year 5

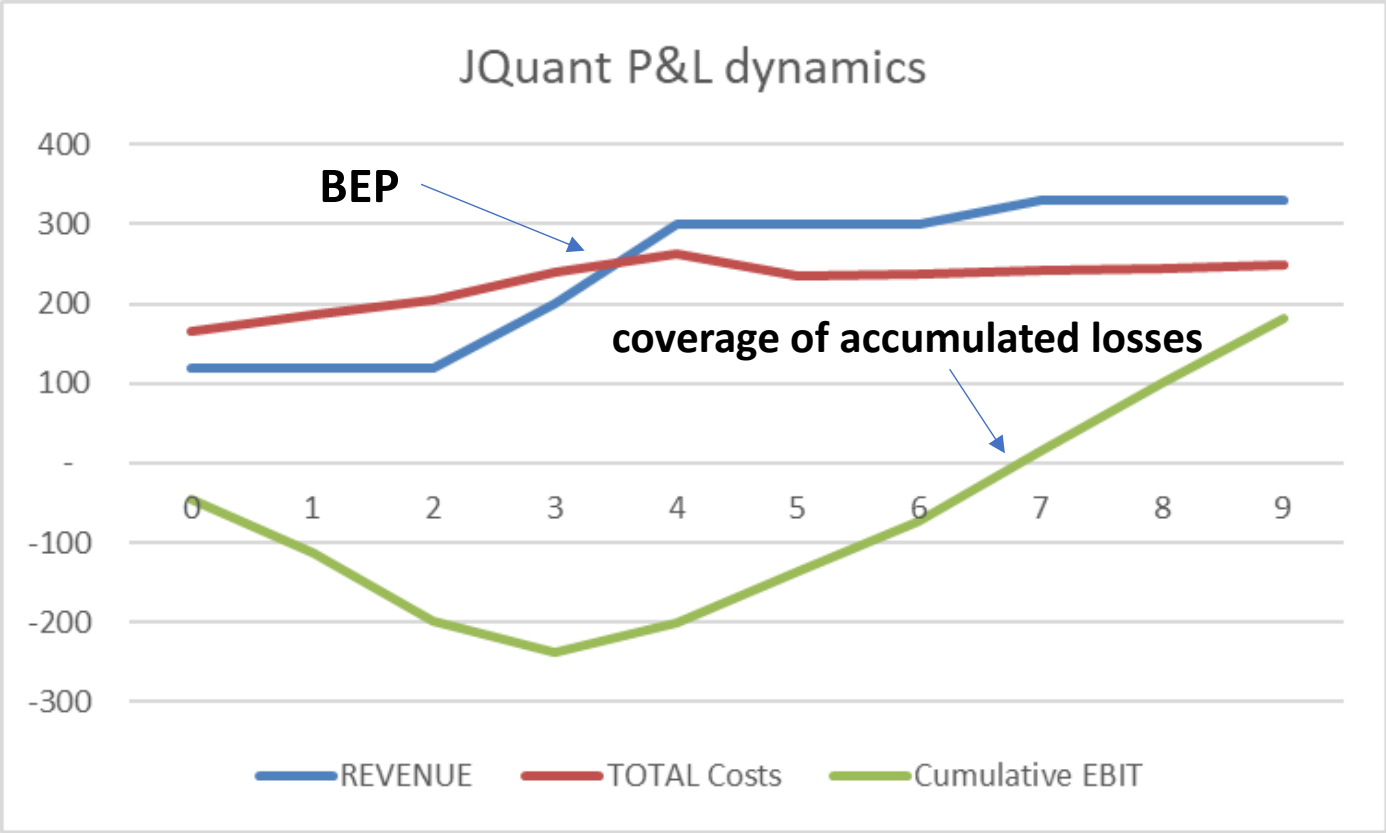
- Coverage of accumulated losses in year 8

The 80% of the revenues (I year), 60% (II and III years) and 40% (IV and V years) have been collected to date

JQuant cost dynamics



JQuant: profit & loss dynamics



In the not-for-profit spirit of the initiative, eventual profit after the coverage of the accumulated losses will be reinvested in the scientific community as will be concurred with the journal's directors

JQuant: initial consortium

SISSA

CERN

ICTP

DESY.

QUANTUM COMPUTING AND SIMULATION CENTER

TII Technology Innovation Institute

TIB

TU WIEN

ICSC Centro Nazionale di Ricerca in HPC, Big Data and Quantum Computing

CQT CENTRE FOR QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES SINGAPORE

QuanTAU Quantum Science and Technology Tel Aviv University

more to come…

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JQuant: the first 5 published papers
(on October 22nd)

Multipartite entanglement of random states of qubits

by Giorgia Trotta , Paolo Scarafile , Paolo Facchi , Giuseppe Magnifico , Angelo Mariano , Giorgio Parisi , Saverio Pascazio , Karol Życzkowski

Benchmark of quantum algorithms for ground state preparation in the presence of noise

by Daniel Molpeceres , Sirui Lu , J. Ignacio Cirac , Barbara Kraus

Loop-dependent entangling holonomies in localized topological quartets

by Kazuki Ikeda , Yaron Oz

State preparation and detection for quantum simulation of particle collisions

by Federica Maria Surace , Sary Bseiso , John Preskill

An asymmetry lower bound on fermionic non-Gaussianity

by Filiberto Ares , Michele Mazzoni , Sara Murciano , David Szasz-Schagrin , Pasquale Calabrese , Lorenzo Piroli

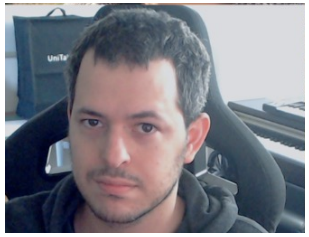
more to come…

Let me thank Medialab's team, in particular:

- **Cristiana Prever** (head of Publishing),
- **Maria Teresa Leo** (head of Ed.Off.)
- **Elia Calderan** (head of Production)
- **Marco Mizzaro** (Development)
- **Matteo Gamboz** (Development)
- **Marta Fornasier** (Communication)
- **Lorenzo Cernecca** (Administration)

















Thank you

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