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16th MEETING OF THE SNX COUNCIL

Grenoble (France)
Thursday 1st Friday 2nd December 2011

SNX Council Meeting

In Attendance: SNX Council, SNX Secretary, Advisors from RCN and SER, Observers

1. Approvals and Review [D. Nicholson]

1.1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda, **Appendix No. 1**, was unanimously approved.

1.2. Approval of the minutes of the 15th SNX Council

The minutes of the 15th SNX Council Meeting were approved unanimously.

1.3. Review and results of actions decided at last meeting

15.2.1. Intellectual property and patents. This will be looked into by Aase Marie HUNDERE, Martin STEINACHER and Gervais CHAPUIS. This will be included in the next 4-year contract (2013-2016). Deadline: December 2011.

Work is in progress. New deadline June 2012.

15.7.1. Guidelines for LTPs to be reviewed in December 2011. David Nicholson

See point 6.2.

2. Financial Matters

2.1. Income and Spending 2011

[C. Heurtebise]

Income and Spending 2011, see Presentation and documents e-mailed to SNX participants in **Appendix No. 2**.

2.2. Budget 2012

[V. Dmitriev]

Budget 2012, see **Appendix No. 3**.
The budget 2012 is approved

2.3. Budget 2013-2016

[V. Dmitriev]

The Financial Plan 2013-2016 was submitted to SNX Participants, see **Appendix No. 4**.
Discussion on the budgets for this period is deferred until the contents of new MoU and the new Cooperation Agreement for this period are known.

3. Report of the SNX Chairman

Regarding year 2012: Prolongation of the Cooperation Agreement and MoU 2008-2011 is agreed for 2012 along the approved budget 2012. The prolongation of the Cooperation Agreement will be signed between RCN and SSC (Swiss Steering Committee) and the MoU between RCN and SER

The signatures will occur still in 2011 or in early 2012 at the latest. No Performance Contracts will be concluded for 2012.

RCN and SER inform Council that the present planning aims to conclude negotiations of the MoU and Cooperation Agreement for 2013-2016 in time for the next SNX Meeting (June 2012). The related Performance Contracts 2013-2016 will be renewed thereafter.

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|---|------------------------|
| 3.1. CH-N Cooperation Agreement Renewal: Status – N | [D. Nicholson] |
| 3.2. CH-N Cooperation Agreement Renewal: Status - CH | [G. Chapuis] |
| 3.3. CH-N MoU Renewal Status – N | [A.M. Hundere] |
| 3.4. CH-N MoU Renewal Status – CH | [M. Steinacher] |
| 3.5. Performance Contract Renewal: Status – N | [A.M. Hundere] |
| 3.6. Performance Contract Renewal: Status – CH | [M. Steinacher] |
| 4. Report of the SNX Director | [V. Dmitriev] |

4.1. SNX and A-SNG operations

See Vladimir DMITRIEV's presentation in **Appendix No. 5.**

- Beam Time Statistics
- Quality of Publications
- Visibility of SNBL
- Collaborative Projects
- New SNBL Offices and workshop (from September 2011 until new offices and workshop are built)

SNBL post-doc position. One post-doc will be leaving in June 2012, the position will be advertised after this meeting.

Aase Marie HUNDERE and Martin STEINACHER praised the high standard and the quality of output from the SNBL. They expressed their appreciation that SNBL is highly visible to the outside world. They both stressed the importance of this to the funding agencies.

In Attendance: SNX Council, SNX Secretary, Advisors from RCN and SER, Observers and BL Scientists.

5. Status of the SNBL operations

5.1. Beamline A: Operations

[P. Pattison]

See Philip PATTISON's presentation in **Appendix No. 6.**

- Routine operation, 1 day lost with mar345 problems
- New CCD working well
- Presentation of some scientific results
- Planning for the future (implementation of CoF report) – Replacement of mar345 image plate with Pilatus
- Collaborating projects with user groups

5.2. Beamline B: Operations**[H. Emerich]**

See Hermann EMERICH's presentation in *Appendix No. 7*.

- Last month have been without any major losses of beam time, the fact that the staff knows the beamline by heart allows to intervene quickly in case of breakdowns.
- The high energy side (>40keV) has been requested and successfully used by several user groups in transmission Exafs, especially on diluted samples. The SNB team is very happy to see that this rather unique possibility SNB offers is now known and requested by the users.
- The “Fast-Exafs” mode is becoming increasingly popular, most of our EXAFS users are taking already advantage of this new option, especially the groups exploiting modulation techniques
- Several improvements have been presented (Cooling device, amplifiers) improving the ease of (beamline-) use and data quality.
- The foreseen changes of the SNB station during the shutdown can be summarized as:
 - Installation of a new entrance door into the lead hutch
 - Rearranging the cabin layout, removal of the old experimental table,
 - Conception and installation of new optics to combine the Exafs and powder beam on the same sample spot
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In Attendance: SNX Council, SNX Secretary, Advisors from RCN and SER, Observers

6. Any other business**[D. Nicholson]****6.1. Proposal PILATUS 2M**

This point has been dealt with under point No. 5.1 Beamline A : Operations.

6.2. Policy on LTPs**[D. Nicholson]**

Memorandum dated 27th July 2011 is attached in *Appendix No. 8*.

LTP:

In the past Council has been restrictive about designating proposals as long term and assigning beam time accordingly. Council notes that some users submit a collection of proposals, under the appellation LTP, that are loosely connected to a common theme. Obviously, beam time granted in such cases is to the detriment of other users unless the user community gains from the project (significant financial or instrumental contributions) and so Council has to be restrictive. In other words, Council needs to be convinced that the proposed research is of sufficient quality that no further review is required during the lifetime of the LTP and that there are tangible gains also for the user community.

The criteria used by Council to filter out applications for LTPs is that the project is coherent – a clearly thematic- and that the user community benefits –a strategic benefit - and that only a given percentage (to be decided by Council) of beamtime may be reserved to LTPs. The intention of this memorandum is to signal to users that Council recognises the need to ensure that these criteria be followed and that they be more clearly defined. (We note that the ESRF has implemented a similar policy which also includes guaranteed economic contributions to the relevant beamline.)

Reviewing proposals:

Proposals are reviewed by a combination of external referees and shepherds (ie. SNX members/observers who provide additional reviews).

The SNBL Director continues to assign proposals to the shepherds in the same way as in previous years.

However, Council considers it important for the users that their proposals are from now on evaluated by at least two shepherds, one being designated “spokesperson” and the other “grader“.

This means that the Norwegian and Swiss sides co-opt one observer each for the next three year period (June 2012 to December 2014).

The observer for the Norwegian side is Prof Serena Margadonna (University of Oslo). The observer for the Swiss side is Dr. Radovan Cerny (University of Geneva)

6.3. SNBL and ESRF Data Management Policy

[G. Chapuis]

It was decided that a working group of 3 persons is to be created to reflect on the long term data storage to be used in the future. This working group will consist of one person from the Norwegian Members (name to be provided by Aase Marie HUNDERE), one from the Swiss Members (Gervais CHAPUIS) and one from SNBL (Philip PATTISON). Gervais CHAPUIS will be the leader of that working group.

See the Data Management for SNBL, **Appendix No. 9**.

7. Discussion of Proposals [Shepherds]

Part I: In Attendance: SNX Council, Observers, Beamline Scientists, SNX Secretary

7.1. Beamline Scientist's Technical Assessment of Proposals and Shepherd's Assessments

Commissioning of the new instrumentation will be done in May 2012 until mid-June 2012.

The commissioning period was approved by SNX Members.

BM1A

Total number of shifts available:	144
Shifts for ESRF:	48
Commissioning	48
01-02-958 FOSSUM (postponed)	9

Shifts available for discussion : 48

Total Shifts requested by users : 48
(24 from Swiss and 24 for Norwegian groups, including 15 for Dubble)

01-02-958 FOSSUM (postponed)	9
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All proposals with Grade 1, 2 and 3 are allocated beamtime.

BM1B

Total number of shifts available:	144
Shifts for ESRF:	48
Commissioning	50
Shifts available for scheduling:	48
Shifts for LTP proposal (01-01-830)	6

Shifts available for discussion : 42

Total Shifts requested by users : 91
(82 from Swiss and 46 for Norwegian groups)

All proposals with Grade 1, 2 are allocated beamtime. Proposals with grade 3 are on the waiting list.

Allocation of Beamtime, see **Appendix No. 10.**

Part II: In Attendance: SNX Delegates, Observers and SNX Secretary

7.2. Assessment Committee –allocation of beamtime

8. Summary of actions to be taken

[C. Heurtebise]

No new actions

Action carried over from 15th SNX Meeting :

15.2.1. Intellectual property and patents. This will be looked into by Aase Marie HUNDERE, Martin STEINACHER and Gervais CHAPUIS. This will be included in the next 4-year contract (2013-2016). Deadline: June 2012.

9. Concluding remarks

[D. Nicholson]

The mandates of some members expire prior to the next SNX Meeting, the new members will attend the meeting of June 2012.

The Chairmanship will go to the Swiss side. Gervais CHAPUIS will communicate the name.

17th SNX Meeting. This meeting will take place in Grenoble, France, on Thursday 31st May and Friday 1st June 2012. Organisation: Chantal Heurtebise

18th SNX Meeting. This meeting will take place in Grenoble on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th November 2012. Proposals will be discussed on Thursday morning. Organisation: Chantal Heurtebise

Proposals for DUBBLE beamtimes : technical assessments (from DUBBLE beamline scientists) to be provided to the Council.

The outgoing Chairman, David NICHOLSON, and fellow SNX(N) Member, Kenneth KNUDSEN, thanked the other Council Members for their cooperation over many years. The outgoing Swiss Member, Christopher QUITMANN, also thanked Council and expressed appreciation for the experience of working together and wished a bright future for the beamline.

10. SNX Delegates Meeting

There was no delegates meeting this time.

List of appendices, showing the page number on which they appear in the minutes.

Appendix A available only to SNX Members and Observers

Appendix B available to all.

Appendix No. 1.B.	P.2.	Approved agenda
Appendix No. 2.A.	P.2.	Income and Spending 2011
Appendix No. 3.A.	P.2.	Budget for 2012
Appendix No. 4.A.	P.2.	Budget for 2013 - 2016
Appendix No. 5.B.	P.3.	Report of the SNX Director
Appendix No. 6.B.	P.3.	Operations - Beamline A
Appendix No. 7.B.	P.4.	Operations – Beamline B
Appendix No. 8.A.	P.4.	Policy on LTPs - Memorandum 27 July 2011
Appendix No. 9.A.	P.5.	Data Management for SNBL
Appendix No. 10.B.	P.6.	Allocation of Beamtime