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**6th MEETING OF THE SNX COUNCIL**  
**Grenoble (France)**  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS**

**In Attendance: SNX Council, SNBL Administrative Manager, Observers from NSR and SER, BL Scientists.**

Mr. Chairman welcomed everyone to this meeting.

**1. Approvals and Review**

**1.1. Approval of the Agenda**

**[R. Abela]**

Vladimir Dmitriev pointed out that the presentation to be done under point 5.1 will be done by Ed Mitchell, Axel Kaprolat will also be present at the meeting.

No changes were requested. The agenda is approved.

*Appendix No. 1 B* Approved Agenda.

**1.2. Approval of the minutes of the 5th SNX Council**

Martin Steinacher appreciates that the minutes are sent for consultation before their final version is printed. This is to be kept, as it allows minor corrections to be made.

The secretary was thanked for the work done on these minutes.

The minutes of the 5th SNX Council are approved by all.

**1.3. Review and results of actions decided at last meeting**

**5.3.1.** Conclusions from the expert on French laws on taxation to be communicated to all participating members. **To be done by Chantal Heurtebise. Done, included in Appendix No. 5**

The conclusion is that taxation is not a problem as far as the SNX Foundation set up is concerned.

**5.3.2.** The SNX Members strongly encourage ETHZ to write a proposal in order to get the amount of CHF 22'700. **To be done by Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt.**

**Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** reported that a letter has been written to the vice-president for research at ETH Zurich justifying and underlining the importance of the support at SNBL. Beforehand the involved groups at ETHZ have expressed their support.

No answer has been received and Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt contacted the "Stab Forschung", who strongly supports the request. Unfortunately, no decision could be received before the meeting. An answer is presently expected for December 1st, 2006.

Reissued as action 6.1.1:

**6.1.1.** ETH is to give an answer regarding the contribution of CHF 22'700. **To be transmitted by Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt.**

**5.5.1 David Nicholson and Rafael Abela** to write a letter to NTNU to congratulate Geir Wiker on the task accomplished on the monochromator at SNBL. **Done 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006.** see letter in *Appendix No. 2 B.*

**5.6.1.** Purchasing the Raman Equipment. On the Norwegian side, **David Nicholson together with Kenneth Knudsen** will place the request (**June 2007** for Norway). On the Swiss side, **Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** will place the request (**September 2006** for Switzerland).

**David Nicholson** mentioned that he was advised by the Research Council to apply from his own university, the deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The application is slightly over one million Kroner. To balance the request, the Swiss side has been asked to apply for the equivalent of one million Kroner. The total sum is, with the extraordinary grant from NTN of 150,000 Kroner, around 2.15 million Kroner, plus an eventual participation from SNBL (amount EUR 60'000). The SNX Secretary has a copy of these documents.

**Aase Marie Hunderere** underlined that she is optimistic about getting the 1 million Kroner for the Raman Project.

**Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** reported that the proposal for the Swiss side is in preparation. The deadline for the SNF-Proposal is only once per year (it cannot be run as a usual SNF proposal since no PhDs or postdoc-money is involved, it is a typical R'Equipe proposal). Usually the deadline for an R'Equipe Proposal is February 2.

**Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** mentioned also that he will combine the two proposals (the proposal from Norway and the preliminary proposal from Switzerland) and submit it including supporting letters to SNF.

Reissued as action 6.1.2:

**6.1.2.** Raman Equipment. On the Norwegian side, **David Nicholson together with Kenneth Knudsen** placed the request for one million Kroner (deadline **November 2006**). NTNU got the approval for 150,000 Kroner On the Swiss side, **Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** will place another request for the equivalent of CHF210'000 (deadline **February 2007**).

**5.6.2.** Axel Kaprolat will be invited to our next meeting in November 2006 to give feedback on the status of this extension. **To be done by Vladimir Dmitriev. Done.**

Axel Kaprolat will be present, together with Ed Mitchel who will present the Long Term Strategy of the ESRF.

## 2. Report of the SNX Director

### 2.1. Report of SNX Director on SNX and A-SNG operations

[V. Dmitriev]

See Vladimir Dmitriev's presentation in *Appendix No 3 B*.

#### A – Technical operations

##### USM Statistics

**Mr. Chairman** enquired as to the content of the buffer periods. They include installation of equipment, set-up for experiments, commissioning, tests, and so on.

#### B - Financial aspects – Budget 2008 to 2011

#### C - Administrative Actions

- 1 - Swiss Norwegian Seminar June 2006
- 2 - Dutch Belgium «SyNeW – Synchrotron and Neutron Workshop»  
Annual Meeting of Swiss Society of Crystallography
- 3 - Students at SNBL

**Philip Pattison** mentioned that Marc Schiltz has a long term project at the ESRF. He has fundings for this project and one of his students will be working on this long term project, he will be hosted by SNBL, as he will be spending half his time at the ESRF and the other half at the EPFL.

**Vladimir Dmitriev** mentioned the successor of Hans-Beat Burgi, Thomas Armbruster, who is planning to share a PhD student between the University of Bern and SNBL.

**Kenneth Knudsen** enquired about the space available in the office to accommodate the students, to which Vladimir Dmitriev replied that there were now three empty places in the main office.

**Martin Steinacher** congratulates SNBL, on behalf of his government, on the work done on the three above mentioned points on administrative issues. The seminar on nano was highly appreciated, it was well attended and this makes SNBL visible. The fact that SNBL is invited to conferences is an added value to the SNBL. SNBL is accepted and respected on an international level «Nevertheless, I would like to encourage you to defend intellectual property and authorship of SNBL». The Swiss use of ESRF is slightly decreasing, the educational programme is therefore very timely. This is not only due to a slight decrease in interest in this scientific field, but also competition from other institutes (SLS) and other combined effects. «The result is that we have to do something for students. We prepared a bill to our parliament for the period 2008-2011 for an annual increase of 6% on spending on the areas of education, research and innovation. Students will profit from this increase». Therefore whenever support and help are required, Martin Steinacher volunteers to be available. Vladimir Dmitriev was thanked for his report.

**David Nicholson** stressed that he and Helge Larsen are very motivated on the Norwegian side. They would like to work together with the Swiss side on this point. This programme should also include master students.

**Rafael Abela** mentioned that the University of Zurich and Basel are mostly in contact with SLS, PhD students go mainly to SLS, the local facility. Obviously something should be done to attract some of these students to SNBL. He encourages contacts with the University of Bern and the EPFL in order to have students going to the SNBL.

**Aase Marie Hundere** reminded that the new organization which will be effective as from 1st January 2007, will have a programme to cater for this educational programme. It will be easier to coordinate our actions towards the students.

**David Nicholson** reminded SNX that there is also a young scientist sitting in this committee, **Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt**, who got the «Dale Sayers Young Scientist Award» at the international EXAFS conference in Stanford for his contributions for the application of EXAFS in chemistry and catalysis. He was warmly congratulated for his work.

### 3. Financial Matters 2006

#### 3.1. Income 2006 (payments by funding agencies, other income) [C. Heurtebise]

The following document was presented:

Income 2006 – See *Appendix No.4 A*.

Regarding the received income, two amounts are still missing as of today, these are not in the totals shown in the above document, but only mentioned as a reminder. The amounts are CHF 22'700 each to be found by PSI and by ETHZ.

Rafael Abela asked for invoices to be sent to PSI up to the amount of CHF 22'700. This is also valid for 2007 (namely invoices up to KCHF 28 plus KCHF22).

**Vladimir Dmitriev** stressed that he is grateful to SER as SER will transfer part of the fund for 2007, in December 2006. This is important for financial stability.

**Rafael Abela** enquired whether the budget takes into account unexpected expenses. This is so as there is a position for miscellaneous expenses, which represents roughly 5% of the total of General Expenses. At this stage, it was mentioned to keep an eye on the electricity bill from the ESRF as the forecast is strong increase in price.

### 3.2. Spending 2006 as of November 2006 (compte d'exploitation) [C. Heurtebise]

The following document was presented

Spending as of November 2006- See *Appendix No.5 A*.

The general comment is that money is spent according to budget, namely the total amount for each general category is not overspent, but there is sometime inside the general category shifts of spendings according to the choice to be made, or sometimes the emergency on the purchases to be done.

The amount spent on 3005HB is to be paid from the «Reserves», this is agreed by all as this was an unpected expense for this item (monochromator – Help from Geir Wiker, paid from SNBL funds).

Income and Spendings for 2006 as of November 2006, are approved.

## 4. Status of the SNBL operations.

The SNBL staff is welcome to the meeting. Present : Dmitry Chernyshov, Yaroslav Filinchuk and Olga Safonova.

### 4.1. Beamline A: Operations [D.Chernyshov, Y.Filinchuk]

Presentation from Dmitry Chernyshov, see *Appendix No.6 B*.

- Interests of our user's community
- «In-situ» experiments
- Thin films
- Solid state physics – phase transitions
- Photo-crystallography
- Physics of X-ray scattering
- Hardware development, experimental support, in-house research

**Gervais Chapuis** enquired whether we have software helping in these difficult experiments. To which Dmitry Chernyshov replied this is an easy experiment now, refering to mar image plate

**Dmitry Chernishov** pointed out that users interest shifts more and more towards material science studies, therefore more alignment is required for their samples, change temperature and so on. «We are trying to provide ready to use solutions, that we call internally, protocol, for typical experiments, like phase transition, in-situ, nano, this in order to make life easier for users». These solutions are worked out during in-house research as this is also useful for the beamline staff.

Presentation from Yaroslav Filinchuk, see *Appendix No.7 B*.

- Automation, improve the quality of the experiments
- Combination of Raman and x-ray diffraction done simultaneously
- Use of the CCD detector in Kuma for powder diffraction measurements

To conclude, **Yaroslav Filinchuk** pointed out «we do a lot of our in-house research, which is our major interest in science, but also it enables a lot of developments for the beamline. We have learnt how to use properly the instruments, how to make some pipe lines of data treatments, we write programs which are helpful to users. They can be more simple, or more complex, for example, for protocols for measuring powder data, to automate the data treatment which users can get the next day after their measurement. We can get more complex protocols, as shown by Dmitry Chernyshov, some material can be brought to the beamline, studied first with temperature, on the powder sample, then after finding a transition at temperature, measuring a single crystal, then a single crystal can be measured, then a superstructure can be found. Such more complex ready to use protocols can be developped».

## 4.2. Beamline A: Analysis/Developments

- Presentation from Philip Pattison, see *Appendix No.8 B*.

**Philip Pattison** underlined that it is a real pleasure to be working with Dmitry Chernyshov and Yaroslav Filinchuk as might have been understood from their presentations.

### 1-Current Status

One has to underline the complexity of the experiments

We are supporting three different areas of detectors. Through the collaboration with Dubble, we have another detector on loan from Dubble for around 12 months now. This detector is worth over a quarter of a million CHF, as it is not in use in Dubble for the moment. In return, we are providing a modest amount of beamtime to the Belgian community.

### 2-Improvements

The mechanical and technical work associated with the modifications of the A-monochromator is to be done by the Norwegian Technician (**Oystein Hagemo**) coming in January 2007, until the end of June 2007, (Technician coming from NTNU, thanks again to **Frode Mo**).

Oxford Diffraction. **Philip Pattison** mentioned that the beamline staff will have to visit Oxford Diffraction in order to further develop the software for the diffractometer. **Gervais Chapuis** stressed the need to have someone paid to develop the software. **Rafael Abela** added that a quotation should be obtained from Oxford Diffraction in order to have a contract with them so as to have the program developed by them, and solve the problem of this software. Specifications have to be written, then a quotation should be obtained, which should be circulated to the SNX Members before the June 2007 meeting.

**Philip Pattison** mentioned an amount of KCHF 20 to 30 for an idea of the cost for the development of such software.

**6.4.1.** A quotation is to be obtained from Oxford Diffraction to develop a program for a software for the diffractometer. The quotation will have to be circulated to SNX Members for approval. **To be done by Philip Pattison. Deadline January 2007.**

### 3- New developments

KM6 Diffractometer development

Vacuum control: standard with ESRF

Implementation of SPEC software for instrument control

Further development of in-situ apparatus

Further developments – A matter of time more than money. To be done by the Norwegian Technician.

**Rafael Abela** voiced that through the presentation, it is the first time we have so nice results. The staff is congratulated. **High ranking publications will have to follow for these results.**

The following two questions were put by Rafael Abela:

Hydrogen storage – There are lots of possibilities to get money, from KTI, for example, from Switzerland. **Gervais Chapuis** mentioned that one group in Geneva (klaus Yvon) gets a lot of money, the question is should we compete with that group or should we join them? **Vladimir Dmitriev** underlined that «Yaroslav Filinchuk is coming from this group, we are working towards getting such a collaboration with them». **Gervais Chapuis** mentioned that a better collaboration could be between Geneva, ETH Zurich and EPFL. **Yaroslav Filinchuk** pointed out that he went to a seminar (EMPA: Materials Science and Technology Institute of the ETH domain) and that he is trying to bring them as users on the SNBL and therefore collaborate with them too. Yaroslav would be very happy to have everyone in SNBL involved in this collaboration. SNBL is very competitive. In order to achieve this, we need administrative help to organize ourselves.

**David Nicholson** referred to Kenneth Knudsen's Institute as a possible institute interested in research in hydrogen storage, and therefore able to get financing for such research. **Kenneth Knudsen** does not know whether there is money for this kind of research.

**Vladimir Dmitriev** reported that he already mentioned collaboration to Volodymir Yartys, and also to Mark Pitt, but as of today there is still a psychological barrier. We hope to overcome this via the results, in the hope of obtaining collaboration. **Yaroslav Filinchuk** pointed out that we hope to be involved on equal levels, not just on providing a service. There are at least two Norwegian and two Swiss groups interested. The competition has to be removed, in order to really collaborate.

**Aase Marie Hundere** specified that when Norway applies for money, it has to be for this kind of collaboration, but this has to be done via a written application. It is therefore important to have a good collaboration

**David Nicholson** suggested some concrete actions. One of them would be to invite Yaroslav Filinchuk to organize a seminar in Trondheim next semester on hydrogen storage and also on what can be done on the SNBL. Statoil and Syntech, for example, should be invited to this seminar.

**Philip Pattison** reminded the workshop which will be organized in June 2007, will include the hydrogen storage. The conclusion is that «we are beginning to make some contacts, the mechanisms need to be clarified, for example, how can we get fundings».

**David Nicholson** commented that the mechanism to apply for money for hydrogen, should be done as with the Raman application. Formally, the application went to NTNU, but this was on behalf of the whole community. The same can be done on the Swiss side, as is done for the Raman project, to which **Rafael Abela** agreed.

#### 4.3. Beamline B: Operations

[W. van Beek, O.Safonova]

- Presentation of Olga Safonova, See *Appendix No.9 B*.

This presentation was prepared together with Wouter Van Beek who cannot be present, because of the birth of his last child.

Combination of new hardware and software.

Combined in-situ Absorption-Diffraction.

Exafs with new cryostat.

The aim to make experiment procedures automatic (protocol).

These developments make complicated experiments less cumbersome, and we plan to further develop protocols and programs in order to simplify the use of the beamline.

**Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** appreciated these activities since they will reduce the workload of the beamline scientists in the long term, and enquired about the automatic protocols for new users, namely whether there are macros which can be readjusted according to the needs and also whether there are macros which can check the quality of the beam. Olga Safonova confirmed these points, pointing out that one has to know what the macros contain in order to apply the requested changes. Obviously, it is not always possible to foresee all the requests for each experiment, as there is no unique solution for all the specific requests. **Hermann Emerich** commented on Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt remarks, namely if you want to include something like automatic range selectors, the program will easily allow us to do so. The present amplifiers do not allow to do so, but it should become available in a near future.

**Vladimir Dmitriev** pointed out that there is some unified systems in compliance with the ESRF, which allows us to personalize some macro processes, and today there are mainly four EXAFS users groups. We also get very good computer support from the ESRF.

Olga Safonova was thanked for her very nice presentation.

#### 4.4. Beamline B: Analysis/Developments

2006 has been a particularly active year: The new B-Monochromator has been installed in the first half of 2006 and has been running reliably since. Experiments exploiting the availability of this new device show an enhanced data quality with respect to the old channel-cut system. Furthermore, the second set of crystals (a pair of Si (311) mono-crystals) has been integrated in the autumn shutdown but not tested yet. Commissioning of the high resolution Si (311) set is expected to take place at the beginning of 2007.

Much progress has also been made on the software side: The use of “Spec” as underlying control software allows for a flexible system where many experimental parameters can be controlled, logged and changed online.

This is particularly important for the future full integration of simultaneous Exafs PD and Raman experiments. The use of a standardized program platform allows in addition to benefit directly from the ESRF support.

In the second part of his presentation, **Hermann Emerich** commented that the 2006 upgrades together with full user support have stretched the SNBL resources to the limit.

Since experiments are becoming more and more demanding, the present pace cannot be maintained without infrastructural improvements. 2007 should therefore be considered as a year of “consolidation” were a multitude of planned “adaptive changes” should allow to cut the time used to align the beamline and to prepare the experiments.

**David Nicholson** underlined that the SNBL did a fantastic piece of work while still keeping the beamline open to users. **Hermann Emerich** pointed out that 2006 was a tough year regarding the work which has been done, but that the results were worth the efforts.

**Kenneth Knudsen** pointed out that the list of tasks planned for 2007 is a long list, and there might not be enough time to accomplish all of them. A list of priorities should perhaps be established so as to reduce the workload and some tasks might have to be postponed.

**Hermann Emerich** stressed that some of the items on the list are almost ready to implement.

**Rafael Abela** enquired about the priorities in the list of refurbishments to be done.

**6.4.2.** Hermann Emerich and Philip Pattison are to make a schedule regarding the refurbishment program and the upgrade, stating the priorities, to be accomplished over the next year, schedule to be ready by the end of this year. **To be done by Hermann Emerich and Philip Pattison and sent to the Chairman who will distribute this schedule to the SNX Members. Deadline for the schedule 31st December 2006. Done 15th January 2007.**

**Rafael Abela** congratulated Hermann Emerich on the work done.

## 5. Future of SNBL

### 5.1. Long Term Strategy of ESRF

[E. Mitchel and A. Kaprolat]

Ed Mitchel’s presentation, see *Appendix No. 11 B*.

At this stage, no feedback is requested from SNX Foundation. The question regarding space for office will come only in 2007. **Axel Kaprolat** underlined that it is best to ask for a bigger surface right from the beginning as later on it will be difficult to get more space if needed. As for the price, it will be the same charge per square meter as now. But for supplementary square meters, it will be charged at the new rate.



## 5.2. Refurbishment strategy for SNBL

See Vladimir Dmitriev's presentation in *Appendix No.12 B*.

Statistics:

Shifts requests from ESRF, from SNBL

Shifts allocated for ESRF and SNBL

Publication Rate since the start-up of SNBL, and average IF of publications.

From the statistics, we see there is a certain stability of users coming to SNBL. There is of course a small rotation of groups, but on the whole, it is slightly but constantly increasing.

Publications show the good results on our beamlines, they constantly increase in number, and they are of very good quality. The publications coming from users on SNBL represent 10% of the publications coming out of the ESRF.

CRG beamlines have to be polyvalent and therefore need to be able to deal with different techniques, which is not necessarily the case for ESRF beamlines.

a) Refurbishment Strategy

b) Refurbishment Program

- 1) - Refurbishment of the end stations
- 2) - Modification of the stepper motors control systems (40KEur)
- 3) - Refurbishment of the vacuum system (70KEur)
- 4) - Refurbishment of the fluids systems
- 8) - Infrastructure modifications

SNBL has some ageing equipments, and they need to be replaced. Repairing is not always the solution as repairing in an emergency situation is expensive. This is why we decided to modify the above systems and to go on ESRF standard.

We plan to go through all the refurbishments by the end of 2007 as the ESRF will be busy with their long term strategy after 2007.

There will be no need for extra money or for manpower as we will be getting the help of the ESRF staff.

Regarding the amount of 110KE according to the quotation we got from the ESRF, the ESRF agreed to spread over 3 years the amount due, namely one third in 2007, one third in 2008 and the last third in 2009, interest rates will be charged to SNBL (roughly 3%).

After discussion, it was decided to pay the full ESRF invoice in 2007 from the «reserve», and then reimburse the «reserve» over a period of three years, namely in 2007, 2008 and 2009. This is agreed by all as this will avoid paying interest rates.

The ESRF will be informed regarding this decision, the full invoice should be issued by the ESRF in 2007.

## 5.3. Budget and Income 2007

[V. Dmitriev]

See budget, General Equipment List and Income 2007 in *Appendix No.13 A*.

The only change in this budget compared to the budget presented in June 2006, is the amount to be paid to the ESRF for the refurbishment program. The sub-totals are the same as those presented in June 2006. There are two amounts in this budget which take into account unexpected expenses, and these are shown under «Miscellaneous» and «Emergency Maintenance». **Rafael Abela** considers this as being a good policy.

**Martin Steinacher** informed the committee that the revised MoU and CoA are signed, this following the change of responsibility to the Norwegian Research Council, as of 1st January 2007.

The budget for 2007 is approved.

## 5.4. Budget 2008-2011

See budget presented at the meeting in *Appendix No. 14 A*.

In this budget, have been grouped what we formerly called Baseline Budget and Outside Baseline budget, as was agreed at the June 2006 meeting. This new consolidated budget will therefore become our new baseline budget.

**Martin Steinacher** stressed that the 4-year budget is approved once, and then the payments are made accordingly each year.

**Rafael Abela** enquired as to when the SNX Foundation will get a formal decision.

**Aase Marie Hundere** explained that in January 2007, a new order will be placed with the Research Council, then the Council will decide. The decision should be known by June 2007.

**Martin Steinacher** explained that the 4-year bill is now in the consultation phase, the Federal Council will submit this to Parliament. Parliament will have a first discussion in the summer session, June 2007, we will then have an indication. Approval is expected to be before the elections in Switzerland in autumn 2007.

After discussion it was decided to present a 4-year budget, including an overall annual increase of 1.5%. The total amount for the 4-year period is considered to be CHF 7 million.

**6.5.1.** A framework 4-year budget 2008-2011 is to be presented, with a grand total, for the 4 years, of 7 million CHF. **To be done by Vladimir Dmitriev. Deadline February 2007. Done January 2007.**

Modified Budget 2008-2011, see *Appendix No. 14 A*.

## 6. MoU and CoA for 2008-2011

[R.Abela and D.Nicholson]

Courriel of 21st September and Action plan for next year, see *Appendix No.15 A*.

In order to have all the steps transparent to all, **Martin Steinacher** prepared an «Action Plan for 2007», regarding the renewal/prolongation of the MoU and the CoA.

**Martin Steinacher** underlined that he would like to receive a funding request for four years. SER would like to conclude a «performance contract» with the SNX Council. This «performance contract» will not be necessary on the Norwegian side, this is confirmed by **Aase Marie Hundere**.

Regarding the MoU and CoA, a prolongation is seen as being an easier solution as there are only small readjustments to be made, though the first MoU and CoA written four years ago have quite a complex construction.

The schedule prepared by Martin Steinacher is very helpful in defining the different steps to be followed, and the deadlines to be met.

## 7. Any other business

[R. Abela]

**Martin Steinacher** referred to the evaluation of the Swiss participation in ESRF (including SNBL). The executive summary will be handed by him as soon as the report of this evaluation is public.

**Rafael Abela** reported that the extraordinary evaluation of the SNBL by the ESRF will not take place next year, but a normal evaluation will take place in 4 to 5 years time from now. SNBL has the full support of the ESRF.

**Martin Steinacher** apologised for not being able to be present at this meeting on Thursday 30th November as he will be attending an ILL meeting. «I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vladimir Dmitriev for inviting the staff, doing the actual work on the beamlines, to make presentations.

It was very pleasant to see how these dedicated and motivated SNBL staff members are really performing. I would like to express my hope that the refurbishment program will make life slightly easier on the beamlines, and also more productive and therefore more satisfying for the staff, so that we can keep this very competent staff on the beamlines».

Chantal Heurtebise was thanked for the organization of the meeting.

**Aase Marie Hundere** will not be present at the meeting on Thursday as she has to leave next morning. She reflected on the very positive attitude at the SNBL. The developing collaboration is seen, by the Norwegian side, as being extremely positive. The Raman application is also very positive, as the application is regarded very highly by the Research Council, good research should result from this new instrument and this in an international environment.

**Rafael Abela** reported on the court case. See detailed report in *Appendix No.16 A*.

**Rafael Abela** pointed out that the SNBL are developing really well. He is impressed by the scientific projects, and also by the quality and the personality of the staff. The 10% contribution of the SNBL to the ESRF publication shows the very high quality of the work done on the SNBL. **David Nicholson** remarked that this was an evaluation in itself.

Decision by the committee, see *Appendix No. 17 A*.

*November 30th*

## 8. Discussion of Proposals

[Shepherds]

Request and allocation of beamtime, see Appendix No.

### BM1 A

Total Number of shifts available		203
Shifts for ESRF	69	
Shifts available for scheduling		134
Long Term and backlog	21	
Dubble request	6	
Shifts available for discussion		<b>107</b>

The number of long term proposals should not represent more than 1/3rd of the proposals.

All the proposals with Grade **B** will get beamtime

Requests and Allocations of Beamtime, see *Appendix No. 18 B*.

### BM1 B

Total Number of shifts available		203
Shifts for ESRF	69	
Shifts available for scheduling		134
Long Term and backlog (39 and 39)	78	
Dubble request	15	
Shifts available for discussion		41 (63 should be available)

All the proposals with Grade **B+** will get beamtime

Requests and Allocations of Beamtime, see *Appendix No. 18 B*.

**9. Summary of actions to be taken**

**6.1.1.** ETH is to give an answer regarding the contribution of CHF 22'700. **To be transmitted by Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt.**

**6.1.2.** Raman Equipment. On the Norwegian side, **David Nicholson together with Kenneth Knudsen** placed the request for one million Kroner (deadline **November 2006**). NTNU got the approval for 150,000 Kroner On the Swiss side, **Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt** will place another request for the equivalent of CHF210'000 (deadline **February 2007**).

**6.4.1.** A quotation is to be obtained from Oxford Diffraction to develop a program for a software for the diffractometer. The quotation will have to be circulated to SNX Members for approval. **To be done by Philip Pattison. Deadline January 2007.**

**6.4.2.** Hermann Emerich and Philip Pattison are to make a schedule regarding the refurbishment program and the upgrade, stating the priorities, to be accomplished over the next year, schedule to be ready by the end of this year. **To be done by Hermann Emerich and Philip Pattison and sent to the Chairman who will distribute this schedule to the SNX Members. Deadline for the schedule 31st December 2006. Done 15th January 2007.**

**6.5.1.** A framework 4-year budget 2008-2011 is to be presented, with a grand total, for the 4 years, of 7 million CHF. **To be done by Vladimir Dmitriev. Deadline February 2007. Done January 2007.**

**10. Concluding remarks****[R. Abela]**

The next meeting, 7th SNX Meeting, will take place on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th June 2007, in Bergen. Chantal Heurtebise will contact Aase Marie Hundere who agreed to arrange the hotel booking via the organization looking after the Nanomat Meeting in Bergen.

The 8th SNX Meeting will take place in Grenoble on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th November 2007.

**The Chairman** thanked everyone for a very nice meeting and for all the contributions.

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