



## **5th MEETING OF THE SNX COUNCIL**

Nice (France)

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006

**Present:**

**SNX Council Members:** D. Nicholson (Acting as Chairman)  
K. Knudsen  
H. Larsen  
Bruce Patterson (Substitute for Rafael Abela)  
G. Chapuis  
J-D. Grunwaldt  
V. Dmitriev

**Observers:** A.M. Hundere (NSR)  
Martin Steinacher (SER)

**Technical Advisors** P. Pattison, H. Emerich (SNBL)

**Meeting's Secretary** C. Heurtebise

**Absent:** R. Abela was unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

Aase Marie Hundere and Martin Steinacher were present on Thursday 1st June 2006.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

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

### 1. Approvals and Review

#### 1.1. Approval of the Agenda

[David Nicholson]

The following modifications and additions were requested:

**Helge Larsen** requested, to include under point 7, the report from the Norwegian Advisory Committee.

**Aase Marie Hundere** requested, to include under point 7, explanations regarding changes in organization on the Norwegian side.

**Vladimir Dmitriev** asked to move point 3.5 Framework for a 4-year budget (2008-2011) to point 6.3.

These changes are submitted and approved by all.

**Appendix No 1** Agenda submitted, and Modified Agenda.

#### 1.2. Approval of the minutes of the 4th SNX Council

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> SNX Council are approved by all.

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

**4.1.1. Rafael Abela** will coordinate a “brainstorming” meeting within the Council Members regarding the future research to be done at the SNBLs.

Seminars organized by SNBL, in Grenoble, are part of that brainstorming. This brainstorming is still in progress and organization is now shared with **Rafael Abela**.

**4.1.2.** All the original documents (MoUs, revisions, amendments, official letters) have to be sent to the Administrative Manager and have to be kept in Grenoble. The latest versions of the documents will be scanned and put on the web site. The Administrative Manager will inform the parties when a new document is deposited on the web site. **Done.**

**4.1.3.** An article on the MoU between DUBBLE and SNBL at ESRF is to be written so as to be included in the ESRF newsletter and in the National Science Foundation Journal.

It was published in the newsletter in Switzerland in “Crystallography Society”. There will be a meeting in September, Phil Pattison will make a presentation of this MoU. Examples of collaboration will be written for publication in the ESRF newsletter towards the end of 2006.

**Martin Steinacher** enquired whether there are any results regarding this collaboration.

**Philip Pattison** underlined that there will be examples of this collaboration in the operation of the beamlines. **Herman Emerich** pointed out that the technician from Dubble uses regularly the SNBL workshop.

**4.3.1.** A framework for a 4-year budget (2008-2011) should be drafted for the next SNX Meeting in order to be prepared for the submission of the corresponding 4-year request. **To be presented by Vladimir Dmitriev 5th SNX Meeting, Financial Matters.**

**4.6.1. Vladimir Dmitriev** is to send a letter to PSI, EPFL, SNF and to NSR, together with a flier, asking for financial support towards the costs of the Invited Speakers to the Coordination Meeting On Nano Studies planned to take place during Spring 2006 in Grenoble. **Done. Meeting to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006 in Grenoble**

**Vladimir Dmitriev** reported that financial support is secured from Norway, and under progress from Switzerland.

**4.7.1.** Web link to be done on the SNBL web pages to announce this workshop, and an e-mail is to be sent to all users. **Both done in December 2005.**

## 2. Report from the SNX Director

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

[V. Dmitriev]

See presentation **Vladimir Dmitriev** in **Appendix No. 2**

The following points were presented:

A- Technical Operations –See full presentation by each beamline responsible.

The number of complex experiments is what induced the refurbishment programs.

In-House Research time has been used for collaborations with new users groups (for example from Zurich, PSI, SLS), for test experiments, and these have been a considerable success as projects have now been submitted. Attending the meetings organized in Switzerland, for example, were productive as new users were invited to test our beamlines. The new staff at SNBL also helps attracting new users through collaboration.

#### B- Refurbishment Program

BM1B - Final report, will be dealt with under point 5.2

BM1A – In progress, will be dealt with under point 5.3

Three long term projects have been accepted by the ESRF, with high marks, to take place on SNBL (Marc Schiltz :45 shifts on BM1B and 36 shifts on BM1A, Spanish group, Milanesio. 63 shifts on BM1B, and 45 shifts on BM1A).

#### C- Administrative Actions

1. Seminar of June 2006. “ Synchrotron Radiation in Studies of nanoscaled Materials”

2. Newcomer: Olga Safonova, a specialist in EXAFS, is replacing Denis Testemale. There were 15 applicants, 3 were invited as candidates.

3. Students coming to SNBL.

Dorthe Haase, from the University of Oslo - Poul Norby’s group - came for a period of 6 weeks, to install the gas supply rack.

Marius Trebler, from the University of Trondheim (from Frode Mo’s team) is coming for a period of three months, starting mid-June 2006.

This point was discussed at length as being an excellent initiative. This educational aspect is to be encouraged. The aim of SNBL is to become a research institute, involving teaching and training of a number of students. The staff from SNBL also goes and visits the Users/Universities so as to become familiar with their needs, which enables them to try and bring a solution. The long term project is to write and publish an introduction to Synchrotron Radiation Diffraction and Spectroscopy to be used by the students. Short periods of beamtime should be reserved for student trainings. The time involved in the training of students will be time saved when those students come later on for experiments.

**Philip Pattison** mentioned that on SNBL web pages are to be found a certain number of thesis from students who came to SNBL, this confirms the high activity in this area which should be encouraged in the future.

**Aase Marie Hundere** suggested that scholarship for these students should be included in a “budget for Student Trainings” in Norway, outside the SNBL budget.

## 2.2. SNX Membership – Renewal of Mandates Nicholson]

[David

This point was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting, on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006.

**Rafael Abela**, on the Swiss side, is nominated Chairman of the SNX Foundation, for another period of 3 years. **David Nicholson**, on the Norwegian side, is nominated Vice-Chairman for another period of 3 years.

**Gervais Chapuis**, on the Swiss side, is elected as a Member of the SNX Foundation for another period of three years

**Kenneth Knudsen** on the Norwegian side is elected as a Member of the SNX Foundation for another period of three years.

These are approved by all.

See table with the updated mandates, **Appendix No.3**.

## 3. Financial Matters

### 3.1. Audit 2005

[C. Heurtebise]

The following documents were presented :

- Report from the Audit – document dated 15<sup>th</sup> may 2006
- Specific request from Audict Fiduciaire, sent by e-mail on 30<sup>th</sup> may 2006
- Report of the auditors to the council of the Foundation, dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006
- Comments on the audit prepared by the Administrative Manager – Financial Impact
- Balance 2005 prepared by the accountant in Lausanne, BfB Fiduciaire
- Income 2005 as presented in December 2005 (4<sup>th</sup> SNX Meeting)
- Income 2005, slightly modified to explain the small difference concerning the total amount received for that period, and matching the amount shown on the balance drawn by BfB.
- Compte d'Exploitation for 2005
- Reserves as of 31st December 2005

Not presented during the meeting, but included in the appendices as reminders:

- Money granted by OFES in 2004 (Amount CHF 40'000) – Presentation during 4<sup>th</sup> SNX Meeting – Details actual spendings.

All those documents are in **Appendix No.4**.

The accounts for 2005 are approved by all.

**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 conclusions from the expert on French laws on taxation are included in **Appendix No. 5** Recommendations from the Audit Company are expected, which will have to be presented to the SNX Foundation Members.

### 3.2. Income 2006 (payments by funding agencies, other income)

[C. Heurtebise]

See presentation in **Appendix No.6**. (Budget and Income 2006) and **Appendix No. 7** (Spendings as of Mid-May 2006)

Missing amounts from the Swiss partners.

- CHF 28'500 – In 2005, Rafael Abela agreed that invoices should be sent to PSI to cover this amount. This amount is considered as being part of Outside Baseline Budget for 2006, released from the “Earmarked Reserves”

- CHF 22'700 – This amount was to be found from PSI. Rafael Abela is to give an answer.
- CHF 22'700 – This amount was to be found by ETHZ. Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt reported that this was still under progress. A proposal has to be written by ETHZ for this amount.

**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.**

### 3.3. Spending 2006 as of Mid-May 2006 (compte d'exploitation) [C. Heurtebise]

See presentation in **Appendix No 7.**

There were no questions regarding those documents accepted as a good control of spendings.

It was decided to earmark CHF110'000, from the reserves, as "Reserve for Transition Periods"

### 3.4. Budget and Income 2007 [V. Dmitriev]

The budget is approved by all. See **Appendix No. 13 A**

**Bruce Patterson** underlined that In-House Research is budgeted in his institute. After exchanges from the participating members, this is not to be considered at this stage by the SNX Foundation. **David Nicholson** pointed out that In-House Research was included in the actual budget.

3.5 Framework for a 4-year budget (2008-2011) moved to point **6.3.** [V.Dmitriev]

## RESEARCH ASPECTS

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

## 4. Status of the SNBL operations.

### 4.1. Beamline A [P. Pattison]

See Philip Pattison's presentation, **Appendix No.8.**

The new Post-Doc, Yaroslav Filinchuk, has useful experience in research of hydrogen storage materials, as well as a background as Solid State Chemist. He is a valuable addition to the beamline staff.

The number of publications from SNBL is overall above average compared with ESRF beamlines and other CRG beamlines. 50% of the projects on ESRF beamlines get a publication, compared with 75% of the projects for SNBL. The average publications are of high standard.

10% of the beamtime is used for protein crystallography. Publications on protein crystallography represent 10%. All the investments for this type of experiment have been done

The test and commissioning of the new Cryostat is planned to take place in September 2006.

Regarding Long Term experiments, staff from some institutes came before the experiment took place in order to prepare the experiment and the instrumentation. Two examples were mentioned: Dorthe Haase, a scientist from Poul Norby's team, who came 4 weeks before the experiment took place, and Mark Pitt, from Bjorn Hauback's team, who came for one month. This is extremely useful and it is hoped that it will further develop in the future.

The air conditioning has all been re-done. We continue to refurbish the infrastructure of the beamline.

## 4.2. Beamline B

[H. Emerich]

See Hermann Emerich's presentation, **Appendix No.9**.

- Combined Raman – Wouter Van Beek was thanked for the tremendous work done during the Raman period.
- beamtime for Raman: 6 weeks.

Backlog Exafs – Total Number of Shifts:	<b>66</b>
01-01-703 - Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt	9
01-01-706 - Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt	12
01-01-708 - Voegelin	12
CH 2147 - Sunde	18
01-01-714 – Nachtegaal	(9) – will be done on Dubble
01-01-710 – Magnus Ronning	15

Upgrade on BM1B done at this stage (see point 5.2)

## 5. Refurbishment programme

### 5.1. Introduction

[V. Dmitriev]

### 5.2. Refurbishment programme for B-Station: Summary, Lessons

[H. Emerich]

See Herman Emerich's presentation, **Appendix No.10**

Problems and progress over the last couple of months:

Problems: The ion chambers used so far showed increasing noise due to leakage currents. New ion chambers have already been ordered last year, they just arrived and will be integrated very soon.

Progress:

- a) The new cryostat which arrived at Christmas 2005 is now operational and has already been extensively used in the series of combined PD/Exafs + Raman experiments.
- b) The new two crystal monochromator has been installed. Preliminary tests in single bunch mode indicate that the new mono works beyond target, allowing to select energies ranging from the Ti edge (5 keV) to the W edge (70 keV). Another week of commissioning is planned under full load (200mA) at the beginning of the coming run to evaluate the thermal stability. Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt asked how much time it will take to select either the Si 111 or the Si 311 crystal set. Hermann Emerich replied that the change should take one to a few minutes only.

Projects for the coming month:

- a) Acquisition of a set of Si 311 crystals, installation and subsequently full commissioning of the B-Mono.
- b) Installation of new Ion Chambers and pre-Amplifiers for Exafs.
- c) Additional channel-monochromator in B-hutch allowing to have a fixed and a variable wavelength simultaneously available for combined PD/Exafs measurements.
- d) Conception of a new two-mirror device (50 cm) for harmonic rejection.

The lessons are: all learnt a lot and success will be for the future.



**Vladimir Dmitriev** pointed out other aspects to the lessons learnt: great motivation, hard work, proper staff working together, getting external help when needed, some parts should be manufactured by outside firms so as to save time and energy. Geir Wiker was paid for April and May from SNBL funds, NSR paid the extra allowance for Norwegian staff working abroad. – The first period of nine months was all paid from the University of Trondheim.

**David Nicholson** thanked Frode Mo for letting SNBL have Geir Wiker who was warmly thanked for the work done on the monochromator and his total commitment to finish the project.

**Hermann Emerich** stressed that the monochromator was finished thanks to **Geir Wiker**.

Thanks also to **Wouter Van Beek** who looked after the Raman project, and fully invested himself into this project, thus freeing Hermann Emerich's time to be spent on the monochromator.

Hermann Emerich mentioned that the cost to have the monochromator done by an external society would have been around EUR 300'000, the actual cost came to around 1/10<sup>th</sup> of that price.

Hermann Emerich was thanked for his presentation.

Herman Emerich, Wouter Van Beek and Geir Wiker are strongly congratulated by all the SNX Members for the work done.

**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.

### 5.3. Refurbishment programme for A-Station

[P. Pattison]

See Philip Pattison's presentation, **Appendix No.11**  
Short term plans (6 to 12 months)

- Extension of spectral range of the focused beam
- Improvement of the automatic control of the monochromator
- Test and evaluation of the new cryostat, planned in September 2006
- Improvement of the procedures for installation and alignment

Longer term plans (over one year)

- One has to think about the long term reliability and performance of the beamline. Most operational beamlines at the ESRF have longer periods of shutdown than SNBL. The goal is to replace controls and interlock systems with the ESRF standard.
  - Develop automatic & simplify procedures for beamline alignment.
- Estimates will be given by ESRF regarding the cost for hardware and manpower requirements involved for implementing the above two points. These investments will be taken into account in the 4-year budget.
- Extend spectral range 6KeV – 60 KeV. The present maximum energy reached is 40 KeV, depending on the station.

## 6. Instruments

[V.Dmitriev]

### 6.1. New Instruments

Vladimir Dmitriev presentation, see **Appendix No.12**.

Raman spectrometer – Cost – The estimate is as follows:

EUR 130'000 plus 2 lasers to have a complete spectral range = **EUR 220'000 = CHF 350'000**. Two quotations were received.

**David Nicholson** suggested that he will put an application to his faculty for an amount of NOK150'000.

**Gervais Chapuis** pointed out that half the amount should come from Switzerland and half from Norway. One proposal could be written and submitted to both countries.

List of potential Users is to be given to support the proposal.

**Hermann Emerich** pointed out that the Raman equipment can be used on both stations.

**Valdimir Dmitriev** mentioned that the equipment could be loaned again, but this cannot be done for ever. Time has come to decide on the purchase.

SNBL contributes with the amount originally earmarked for H. P. Weber but never taken up and recently released by NSR and SER.

**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).

## 6.2. Further Developments

### ESRF plans

During last SAC meeting in May 2006, the project for the extension of the experimental hall was approved (see on the ESRF website, Long Term Strategy) The SNBL office will be removed. The removal will have a cost for SNBL (re-arrangement of our workshop, one additional room in the hutches, which is really needed for storage). The **total cost** for the ESRF is estimated at EUR 300 million. It is too early yet to estimate the real cost to SNBL, though the rent should remain at the same level as budgeted for 2007. The extra cost should come from outside budget, as the new 4-year budget will be approved before the real cost of the extension will be known.

**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.**

### SNBL

#### 1 Current Trends

- strong programme of material research at SNBL
- complex experiments involving multiple techniques and special environments
- fewer individual beamtime requests and more long term projects

#### 2. Technical perspectives

- extension of spectral range for both beamlines from 6 to 60 KeV
- refurbishment of beamline infrastructures
- construction of a cabin for sample environment equipment

#### 3. New scientific Goals

- synchrotron applications in nanoscience
- combined EXAFS powder diffraction and Raman
- X-ray experiments up to pressures in the range of the K bar range.

## 6.3 Framework for a 4-year budget (2008-2011)

**Vladimir Dmitriev** explained that this framework takes into account the two new post-docs positions. There is no real increase in the budget as the amounts are redistributed. This budget is the opportunity to have removed the wordings of Baseline Budget, Outside Baseline Budget.

The acting Chairman informed the Council that Rafael Abela in an e-mail dated 31. May expressed reservations about increasing the baseline budget pointing out that the running costs for the beamlines are quite high compared with the SLS. The acting Chairman invited the Council to discuss the points raised in Rafael Abela's e-mail.

**Kenneth Knudsen** stressed that the actual baseline budget does not represent the real situation and thinks that the new presentation is closer to the reality. **Martin Steinacher** agreed with this point of view, and took the opportunity to clarify that although a 4-year budget has to be presented to SER, the budget will still be voted by the Federal parliament on a yearly basis.

**Bruce Patterson** enquired whether refurbishment was included in the 4-year budget, which was confirmed by the SNBL Director.

**Helge Larsen** reported that the two post-docs positions were to be maintained as this was recommended by the evaluation committee.

After discussions, it is agreed by all that the two new post docs are a permanent solution and are to be included in the Baseline Budget for period 2008 to 2011.

**Bruce Patterson** raised the In-House Research costs which should probably not be included in the Baseline Budget, or a specific budget line should be created for these costs. After various exchanges on the subject, it was decided to postpone this issue.

**Aase Marie Hundere** underlined that SNX Council gives its advice on the budget which then is discussed in Norway.

**Kenneth Knudsen** is of the opinion that clear explanations should be given regarding this framework budget, mentioning, for example, how the amounts have been re-distributed.

On the basis of the direction taken by the discussion in which Rafael Abela's reservations were taken into account, the acting Chairman summed up the consensus view in which the new 4-year budget is accepted as being the baseline budget. This was unanimously approved by all of the council members.

Framework Budget 2008-2011, see **Appendix No. 13.**

## 7. Any other business

[D.Nicholson]

**Helge Larsen** reported on the Scientific Recommendation, with regard to prolongation of the SNBL-collaboration 2008-2011. See report in **Appendix No.14.**

Short presentation:

### Evaluation

User questionnaire

- 35 identified research groups
- feedback from 30

statistics

- beamtime distributions
- Publications

PhD-Candidates

Role within national research strategies

### Findings/conclusions

User groups and need of SR beamtime

Reservations/less activity

SNBL as a research training facility

### Recommendation

**Martin Steinacher** reported that there is an ongoing evaluation of the Swiss participation in ESRF (including the SNBL) and an executive summary of the results will be presented in November 2006.

Executive summary of the report – NSF board 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006

**Aase Marie Hundere** reported that there are plans to reorganize the Norwegian structure for the financing of SNBL. To keep the process transparent for the SNX Council and SNBL, NSR wants to give this preliminary information before the final decisions are made. The objective to change the organizing structure is to gather all activity concerning financing of Norwegian synchrotron related research in one organization. The Norwegian Research Committee agrees to keep funding at the same level as today. The Norwegian Synchrotron Research is a limited company. The limited Company was started in order to cover the risk of work accident at the SNBL. Today the situation is different as insurance is covered by the associations and the SNX Foundation. This limited company is no longer necessary from the insurance point of view. NSR is owned by the government, since the shareholders (Universities and the Research Council) are owned by the Government. The changes are planned to take place in January 2007. The **Norwegian Research Council** will replace NSR in the Memorandum of understanding and in the Co-operation agreement.

**Martin Steinacher** asked for an official letter from Aase Marie Hundere explaining the new situation once it is ratified, to be sent to SER and SNX Foundation.

**Martin Steinacher** will not be present on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006. Chantal Heurtebise was thanked for the organization of this meeting. The Director, Vladimir Dmitriev and his staff, were also thanked for the excellent work done on SNBL, and is looking forward to hearing further good news in November 2006.

**Aase Marie Hundere**, who is also leaving on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> thanked also everyone for this meeting, and mentioned that everything seemed to be running really well.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006**

## 8. Discussion of Proposals

[Shepherds]

Request and allocation of beamtime, see **Appendix No.15**.

### **BM1A**

Total Number of shifts available		230
Shifts for the ESRF	- 77	
Shifts available for scheduling		153
Long Term and one LTP backlog	- 54	
Dubble Request	- 9	
Other backlogs	- 15	
Shifts available for discussion		<b>75</b>

**Bruce Patterson** confirmed that a micro strip detector will be given by SLS to SNBL.

All the proposals with Grade **A and B** will get beamtime.

### **BM1B**

Total Number of shifts available		230
Shifts for the ESRF (after negotiation with ESRF)	- 66	
Shifts available for scheduling		164
Backlogs	- 66	

Dubble (+18 and -15)  
Shifts available for discussion

101

All the proposals with Grade **A** and **B+** will get beamtime.

## 9. Summary of actions to be taken

[C. Heurtebise]

**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**

**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.**

**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.

**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).

**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.**

## 10. Concluding remarks

The meeting next year, **7<sup>th</sup> SNX Meeting** will have to take place end of May, the following dates being excluded are from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2007. The final dates will be decided in November 2006.

The **6<sup>th</sup> SNX Meeting** will be held in Grenoble on **29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006**, as decided during 4<sup>th</sup> SNX Meeting.

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

**List of Appendices, showing the page number on which they appear in the minutes****Appendices A are available only to the SNX Members and Observers****Appendices B are available to all**

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