



4th MEETING OF THE SNX COUNCIL

Grenoble (France)

Wednesday 30th November and Thursday 1st December 2005

Present:

SNX Council Members: R. Abela (Chairman)
M. Ronning (Substitute for D. Nicholson)
E. Hough (Substitute for K. Knudsen)
H. Larsen
G. Chapuis
J-D. Grunwaldt
V. Dmitriev

Observers: A.M. Hundere (NSR)
Jean-Pierre Ruder and Martin Steinacher (SER)

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

Meeting's Secretary C. Heurtebise

Absent: D. Nicholson and K. Knudsen were unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed a) the new observers and b) the new members.

a) Aase Marie Hundere – from NSR, replacing Nils Maras who retired.

Martin Steinacher – from SER, replacing Jean-Pierre Ruder.

b) Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt, an EXAFS specialist, replacing Radovan Cerny

Helge Larsen, replacing Ed Hough.

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November 30th – Control Room

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

[R. Abela]

Jean-Pierre Ruder asked for a point to be added under 3.4 Financial Matters - outlook beyond 2006.

Vladimir Dmitriev suggested to group the presentation from the Beamline Scientists, namely the Status of the Beamline B together with the Refurbishment programme for B-Station, and the Status of Beamline A together with the Refurbishment programme for A-Station so as to have a continuous presentation on the Status and the Future on each beamline.

Helge Larsen asked to present, under Point 7, a briefing on the forthcoming Norwegian evaluation about SNBL cooperation from 2008 onward.

Jean-Pierre Ruder expressed the wish to have a few minutes on his farewell to SNBL.

Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt - Workshop at PSI.

The agenda with the above changes is approved by all.

Agenda – original version and modified version after approval. See **Appendix No.1.A**

1.2. Approval of the minutes of the 3rd SNX Council

The minutes of the 3rd SNX meeting are approved.

1.3. Review and results of actions decided at last meeting

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

Reissued as 4.1.1.

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

3.1.2. It is agreed that the Bi-Annual Report 2003/2004 should be printed in a limited number of paper copies, and the final version will be on the WEB. No CDs to be printed. **To be done by Vladimir DMITRIEV. Done July 2005.**

3.3.2. The money transferred from UNIL to the two associations in France should be detailed for each association (ALLSN and ACCE), showing if possible what was for the consolid  and what was not for the consolid . **Chantal Heurtebise. Done. To be presented in Dec 2005.**

3.3.3. A table showing the details of the “reserve” should be presented at each meeting. **Chantal Heurtebise**

3.3.4. Double signature to be secured on the invoices and sharing principle to be now observed as closely as possible (namely invoices of 2003 should not be shown in the expenses of 2004), these to comply with the remarks of the Audit Company. **Chantal Heurtebise**

3.3.5. Some details of the budget/income for 2006 will be discussed between the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Executive Director. Mandate is given by all the SNX Members. **Done July 2005.**

3.3.6. To be presented at the December 2005 meeting: the financial situation of the "Reserve". **To be done by Chantal Heurtebise.**

3.3.7. Expected income for 2006. **To be prepared by Chantal Heurtebise.**

3.3.8. A new version of the Budget 2006 is to be prepared. **To be done by Vladimir Dmitriev. Done July 2005.**

3.6.1. Helge Larsen to be provided as soon as possible with a paper copy summarizing the presentation. This paper copy to be also sent to all SNX members and the two funding agencies. **To be done by Vladimir Dmitriev (January 2006)**

3.7.1. Description and instructions regarding Long Term Proposals to be written by **Vladimir Dmitriev** and sent to the Users. **Done 23/06/2005.**

3.7.2. Description and instructions regarding Urgent Research Proposals to be written by **Vladimir Dmitriev** and sent to the Users. **Done 23/06/2005.**

3.9.1. When the final version of the MoU is available, it will be sent by e-mail to all the SNX Members so as to be checked. Then it will be signed by the **Chairman and the Vice-Chairman. To be done by Rafael Abela.**

The Chairman mentioned that all the original documents should be kept in Grenoble so that Funding Agencies, for example, can easily get copies if necessary.

Jean-Pierre Ruder underlined that any revision of MoUs, any Contract/s (i.e. contract between SSC and NSR) and amendments, should be circulated to all the parties through an automatic distribution mechanism. This could be best done by the Secretary of the SNX Meeting. SER has to keep track of all the changes and has to have a folder containing all the latest versions to be readily available to their authorities and to the Funding Agencies.

Gervais Chapuis informed the participants that the official documents were scanned and are available on a Web Site at the EPFL. He suggested that SNBL creates a link from the SNBL home page onto the EPFL.

Information still needs to be circulated when a new document is deposited on the website.

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.

The Chairman informed the participants that the MoU between DUBBLE and SNBL was officially signed on 29th November 2005. See **Appendix No. 2 A**. This is the first MoU signed between two CRG beamlines and this is well received by the ESRF.

Jean-Pierre Ruder congratulated SNBL on this successful MoU. It is an excellent way of extending the scope of the Swiss Norwegian Beamlines. An article in the ESRF newsletter seems appropriate.

Gervais Chapuis suggested to have this article also in the National Science Foundation Journal.

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.

3.12.1. The amount regarding the total cost of this meeting is to be prepared by **Chantal Heurtebise. To be presented in Dec 2005.**

3.12.2. Suitable places for the 5th SNX Meeting are to be found by **Chantal Heurtebise**, taking into consideration direct flights. To be sent to Rafael Abela. **Will be presented in Dec 2005.**

Jean-Pierre Ruder suggested that all important official letters sent on behalf of SNX be circulated so that the Members of the Council and the Observers have a copy. Examples of such letters are :

- letter to the Autorité de Surveillance des Fondations
- letter with the name/s of new members, new chairman (SSC for ex....)

2. Report of the SNX Director

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

[V. Dmitriev]

Full presentation See **Appendix 3 A**

- A. Technical Operations

USM Statistics

Refurbishment Programmes.

Station B. Vladimir Dmitriev thanked the Norwegian side, the University of Trondheim, for "lending" us the instrument maker for the monochromator, Geir Wiker, who did a really good job.

Station A. Refurbishment will start in 2006.

What will be needed is a Computer Specialist for the programming.

- B. Financial Aspects – will be dealt with under point 3.

- C. Administrative Actions

The following meetings took place in 2005:

SSC (June 2005 in Bern) – to review the contract

NSR (June 2005 in Grenoble) – Presentations by the staff of the work done, the future activities

SLS Users Meeting (October 2005 in Villigen) – SLS and SNBL are complementary in their activities.

Meetings in 2006:

Workshop on X-ray absorption spectroscopy and micro-spectroscopic techniques in February 2006 at PSI - SLS – The goal is to demonstrate and discuss the possibilities at SLS and SNBL.

New Staff Member on BM1A (Yaroslav Filinchuk) starting in January 2006.

"Open Position BM1B for January 2006, to replace Denis Testemale. The choice has to be based on the best candidate criteria and not on nationality.

2.2. SNX Membership – Renewal of Mandates

[R.Abela]

Four members are ending their mandate in June 2006.

The actual Chairman will be, as decided in previous SNX Meetings, the Vice-Chairman. A new Chairman will have to come from the Norwegian side.

The other three members will have to decide whether they wish to stay on and be re-elected, or whether they want to be replaced.

A table showing the beginning, the end of the mandates and the decision of the Members to stay on, is attached in **Appendix No.4 A**

3. Financial Matters

Financial documents presented, see **Appendix No.5 A**

3.1. Income 2005 (payments by funding agencies, other income) [C. Heurtebise]

1. Income 2005 as presented at 3rd SNX Meeting
2. Income 2005 – New Presentation (Baseline Budget, Outside Baseline Budget, Outside contract).
3. Refurbishment Income and Spendings – Money received on the French Bank account
4. Extra CHF40'000 granted by OFES in 2004 – How this amount was spent
5. Reserves full details

3.2. Spendings 2005 as of November 2005 (compte d'exploitation)[C. Heurtebise]

6. Milling Machine (invoice paid into two instalments (in 2005 and in 2006)

7. Spendings as of 20th November 2005

The increase of price of electricity was mentioned by **Rafael Abela** as being in the order of 10%. This will have to be taken into account in future budgets.

Jean-Pierre Ruder inquired regarding the:

overspending on Budget - Position 3208 – ESRF Tech Services. This Budget Position now includes the Safety Technician. See ESRF Cost Refund Regulation, draft dated 02/03/2005: "To cover the cost of services provided by the Safety Group, the ESRF charges the CRGs the actual salary costs (including social charges) of one technician in the Safety Group to be evenly distributed between (at present) 12 CRGs".

Overspending on Budget Position 3307 – Auditing. In 2005, two invoices were paid, one covering year 2003 (CHF 13'988), the other covering 2004 (CHF 9'146) which makes a total of CHF 23'134 compared to the budgeted amount CHF 15'000.

8. Orders and committed amounts as of 20th November 2005, including orders outside contract, and some orders to be paid in 2006.
9. Income Outside Contract, Evolution of some costs.

3.3. Budget and Income 2006

[V. Dmitriev & C. Heurtebise]

See **Appendix No 6 A**

1. Budget for 2006
2. Detailed Budget Draft 2006 for General Laboratory Equipment
3. Income 2006 as discussed during 3rd SNX meeting
4. Income 2006 based on requests made
5. New Table of Income 2006 after discussions during 4th SNX Meeting.

3.4. Financial Matters – Outlook beyond 2006

[Jean-Pierre Ruder]

Jean-Pierre Ruder informed the participants that SER is preparing the bill/request to Parliament for the period 2008-2011, as bills/requests to Parliament cover a 4-year period. SER is planning in this bill/request the continuation of the support for the SNBL at approximately the same level as today. SER is looking into the renewal of the MoU with NSR, work will start in the second half of next year, which will include changes if needed. SER is looking into the possibility of getting just one request for the period of 4 years. That way annual requests would no longer be needed. This would mean that the SNBL Directorate will have to establish a 4-year budget, which will demand a planning over the 4 years regarding purchase of equipment, upgrades, manpower. The same kind of document presented with the budget, giving some details would be appreciated. The release of the yearly slices would be subject to approval of the national budget by Parliament.

This new way of proceeding would in the long term bring stability to the beamlines. It might also mean that the Norwegian side could also go into that direction. **Aase Marie Hundere** said that NSR is planning one year ahead, so for the time being there is no 4-year budget. *"We are thinking of how to rearrange financing from the Norwegian side in order to simplify the procedures. The intention is definitely to continue financing the SNBLs"*

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.

RESEARCH ASPECTS

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

4. Status of the SNBL operations.

4.1. Beamline A

[P. Pattison]

(Presented on Wednesday afternoon).

This point was presented together with point 5.2. Refurbishment Programme for A-Station. Presentation, see **Appendix No.7 B**

Station A has been fully operational for the past 6 months. No major changes to the optics or to the experimental equipment have been made recently. Both the KM6 multi-axis diffractometer and the MAR345 image plate system have been in regular use. The SNBL beamlines support a wide variety of experiments, which is extremely challenging. It is easy to see that our experiments have recently been characterized by more and more complexity in the set-up, including high-pressure (up to 50 GPa), high temperature (up to 1000°C), cryocooling (with cryostream and helijet) down to 12K, controlled atmosphere, humidity and external electric field and laser source for optical excitation. There have been no break-downs or loss of beamtime.

4.2. Beamline B

[H. Emerich]

(Presented on Wednesday morning).

This point was presented together with point 5.1 Refurbishment Programme for B-Station, and before point 4.1.

Hermann Emerich's Talk, Summary:

The beam line has been working without any major disruption during the last 6 months. Preventive maintenance in vacuum systems, air conditioning water-cooling and mechanics seem to start to pay off.

On the experimental side SNB is in the midst of a dense program of in-situ experiments. (Exafs and powder diffraction). The solid-state detector has been working satisfactorily and there are no real losses due to malfunctioning or faults to be reported.

Some minor errors in the new Exafs software have been addressed and solved in an ongoing effort together with the help of the ESRF software group (Emmanuelle Papillon).

In view of the upcoming period, the loan of a Raman Spectrometer has been negotiated and thus a longer Raman/PD/Exafs period (6 weeks) has been scheduled for February/March 2006. During the 2005 SNX meeting in Tromso several proposals combining Raman with x-ray techniques have been accepted (about 6 weeks of beam time) linked to the condition that a Raman spectrometer could be obtained. The condition being fulfilled, this additional number of shifts has to be taken into account in the calculation of shifts available.

Hermann Emerich expressed special thanks to Geir Wiker, (Technician from the University of Trondheim) who has been working at SNBL for 9 months. He has not only been very active in the conception and in the production of pieces necessary for the new monochromator (see hereafter), but also in the making of many additional pieces required for the beamline(s).

Hermann Emerich mentioned the difficulty he had in getting users during the 16-bunch summer period (mid-July 2005) and in the end he had to decide for Sample Service as no users either from the ESRF or from SNBL could come.

Presentation of two experiments, which took place on the B-Station. (Norby and Simon Redfern).

Rafael Abela enquired about the distribution time between users time and commissioning time for the beamline. **Vladimir Dmitriev** pointed out that there is a reserve of beamtime as the number of shifts given on the B-Station was higher than the average number of shifts given on ESRF beamlines. To this point **Rafael Abela** insisted that an appropriate amount of beamtime has to be allocated for commissioning.

5. Refurbishment programme

5.1. Refurbishment programme for B-Station: Final Report [H. Emerich]

Many central beamline items have been ordered and are awaiting delivery or are already delivered:

- a) **LHe Flow-Cryostat:**
allowing measuring simultaneously PD, Exafs, and Raman is about to be delivered (in Dec. 2005). This cryostat can also be operated with LN2.
- b) **Ion Chambers:**
Due to their high noise levels the old ion chambers had been an ongoing source of problems. Specific needs on SNB regarding the chamber length and the number and distribution of ports, have been taken into account in the design. Delivery is expected within two months.
- c) **Current Amplifiers:**
Small amplifiers allowing for mounting close to the ion chambers have been bought. The amplification can be changed from the data acquisition hutch and can be varied over a wide range (down to the pA range).
- d) **Stepper Motor Rack***
The construction of a new monochromator requires additional stepper motors/axis to be driven. An eight-channel stepper motor drive to be used in the optics enclosure has therefore been bought.
- e) **X-Ray Mirrors for Harmonic Suppression*:**
A pair of new x-ray mirrors has been ordered. The mirrors being 500 mm long and 100 mm wide present three strips of different coating (Cr,Rh,Au) and should permit to preserve a higher flux due to their length and expected higher reflectivity.

f) SNB Two Crystal Monochromator

Most of the mechanical pieces for the monochromator are produced by now. As a provisional date for the installation the end of the winter shutdown has been fixed. If the equipment is not ready by this date, the installation will be delayed to March/April shutdown which should not cause any disadvantages given the fact that no EXAFS experiments are scheduled before April 2006

*) Items **d)** and **e)** have been bought with additional funds granted by OFES.

Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt enquired on the time needed for commissioning to which Hermann Emerich replied that five days should be enough if all goes well.

The Chairman stressed that enough beamtime on the two beamlines has to be reserved for commissioning, and also that the installation of this new monochromator has to be finalized by June 2006.

The Chairman enquired whether it would be possible to have beamtime on Dubble while commissioning is taking place on SNBL beamlines so as to get more time on commissioning as 5 days seem too little.

The radioactivity was raised at this stage to which **Jean-Pierre Ruder** pointed out that the French authorities are requesting very specific procedures regarding the use of radioactive calibration sources.

5.2. Refurbishment programme for A-Station**[P. Pattison]****Developments, upgrades and new equipment in 2006**

We plan to make several improvements in the X-ray optics for BM1A and we will be adding some new equipment to our tools for X-ray diffraction and x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy.

1) X-ray optics realignment

The present set-up for the X-ray optics limits the highest energy for the focused beam to be around 20keV. This limit comes from the energy cut-off in the reflectivity of the X-ray mirrors on the beamline. The mirrors were initially set up at a grazing angle of 3mrad, in order to give optimal intensity at around 14 keV (which was the energy at which the protein crystallographers were working). More recently, the emphasis on the beamline has moved more towards materials applications, and there is considerable interest in working at higher energies with the focused beam. Therefore we aim to use some beamtime during the next convenient single-bunch period to realign the beamline with a mirror setting of 2 mrad. This will extend the spectral range of focused beam on BM1A to about 30 keV.

2) Improved mechanics for monochromator focusing

We will replace some of the motors and mechanical movements inside the BM1A monochromator, so that the focusing optics will also work well at the higher energies, which will be accessible once the mirrors have been realigned.

3) Single crystal He flow cryostat

Thanks to generous funding from the EPFL and SLS/PSI we have been able to order a new cryostat for single crystal work at temperatures down to 4K. The device is a modification of a commercially available optical microscope cryostat, and will be mounted directly onto the KM6 diffractometer. The total price is about CHF26K. Many groups have expressed an interest in having access at temperatures down to 4K in a very precisely controlled crystal environment. Long-term temperature control and stability should be 0.1K, which opens up many possibilities for making structural studies in fine temperature steps around a phase transition. Colleagues from SINQ, for example, would be interesting in exploring the possibilities for combined neutron and x-ray measurements at very low temperature.

4) High count-rate fluorescence detector

We will be purchasing a high count-rate fluorescence detector with costs shared 50:50 between SNBL and Lab of Crystallography of the EPFL. The detector costs CHF30K. This detector can be easily installed and mounted close a single crystal sample aligned on the KM6 diffractometer. The combination of handling high count-rates plus the excellent energy resolution will allow us to measure high quality fluorescence signal even on diluted samples (such as crystals of metalloproteins). The project forms part of a collaboration between SNBL and the group of Prof Schiltz at LCr, EPFL.

5) Infrastructure and ancillary equipment

Several improvements to the set-up of the KM6 diffractometer and the MAR345 image plate have been suggested by the users, and we will be implementing these suggestions during 2006 (improved optical microscope, better beamstop alignment, gas lines for control of gas mixtures and new He gas line, etc). We have also received a project plan from Poul Norby for a gas control system for in-situ experiments, including a suggestion to station a PhD student at SNBL to help with the construction and testing of this apparatus (as well as sharing of the costs). We will also purchase a new linux workstation for data analysis (mainly of PX data) on which we will install the suite of programs requested by our users.

Collaboration with DUBBLE. They would like to try on our beamline, for one of their groups, their new CCD detector, which we are also interested in trying out. This is an example of sharing equipment

5.3. Conclusion

[V. Dmitriev]

From a technical and a financial point of view, all is now settled. The final step is the need for an expert in computing to design a program. A new software is needed to drive motors, taking into account measurement and optimisation of flux.

This help could take around three months of manpower.

A suggestion would be to have someone on loan from the Swiss side (in the same spirit as the loan in 2005 of a Technician from the Norwegian side). SNBL would only have to finance the stay of that person in Grenoble, plus travelling expenses.

The discussion was concluded on the following steps to be taken:

- Step one: Finish the mechanical part of the alignment.
- Step two: An expert comes to evaluate the task plus the time needed in order to evaluate the cost. **Gervais Chapuis** offered to have this evaluation done by an expert from his Department.
- Step three: Write an exact job description of what is needed.

Once step one is over, discussions will be opened for step 2 and step 3.

6. In-House Research**[V.Dmitriev]***Presentation, see Appendix No. 8 B***In House Research done in July to November 2005 :****BM 1 A**

Phase Transitions in insect pheromones – Philip Pattison

Hydrogen bonding in crystals – Philip Pattison

High temperature phase transition in pentacene – Philip Pattison and Dmitry Chernyshov

Crystal structure from a single powder grain – Dmitry Chernyshov

Phase transition $\text{Rh}[\text{NH}_3]_6 \text{MnF}_6$. – Dmitry Chernyshov and Philip Pattison

Anti-Isostructural phase transitions in In-Pb(Sn) alloys – Vladimir Dmitriev

BM1B

Structure solution from combined powder and single crystal data – Philip Pattison and Wouter Van Beek

Collaborative Projects**Accepted**

- Mineralogy and Chemistry of Earth's Core – ESF EUROCORES EuroMinSci Programme

Submitted

- Nanostructured Advanced Materials for Hydrogen Storage – EU Nanotechnologies and nano-sciences.

- Ferroic materials under non-ambient conditions – Norges Forskningsråd (NFR).

- X-ray Diffraction Studies on Micro- and Nanocrystalline powders of bio-macromolecules – EU6th Framework Program.

In Preparation

Size as an intensive parameter for the nanocrystalline components in microelectronics and electrochemical applications – Swiss National Science Foundation

Other Collaborative Projects- *Light-induced transformations in spin crossover compounds:***Running**

University of Bern (Switzerland)

University of Bergen (Norway)

Starting

University of Geneva (Switzerland)

EPF Lausanne (Switzerland)

- *Structure of CdSe nano-dots:***Starting**

EPF Lausanne (Switzerland)

GROUPS in COLLABORATION with SNBL*Nanostructured Advanced Materials:*

Institute for Energy Technology, Kjeller (Norway)

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim (Norway)

University of Oslo (Norway)

University of Geneva (Switzerland)

EPF Lausanne (Switzerland)

ETH Zurich (Switzerland)

Conclusions to the presentation: There will be no financial contribution from the EU for projects submitted, as SNX Foundation is, like the ESRF, a Facility and not an Institution. Through the projects, strong collaborations are developing. One positive result amongst many, is that PhD Students may come from one of the Institutions collaborating in the projects.

Furthermore, a natural consequence of these collaborations underlined by **Vladimir Dmitriev** is that SNBL should become a Center of Characterization of Nano-Structure Materials. Establishing such a facility means optimal grouping of the related projects around a unified experimental set up. It should not result in the increase of shifts allocated for the involved projects and should not affect (at least, in a negative way) groups working in different research fields.

It was decided with all the collaborating groups to organize, next spring in Grenoble, a Coordination Meeting on Nano Studies. Users will be invited to present what can be done and how it can be done. It will be an opportunity to discuss what the needs are, what SNBL should develop, what the contributions would be, and what this facility should be.

The SNBL Director is asking for financial support from SNX to finance the expenses related to the invitation of Speakers (maximum number of Speakers :10). CHF 5'000 was considered a reasonable amount to be requested to each institution. The Chairman suggested to have a flier giving details such as the title of the meeting, the scope of the workshop, the institutions who will be participating, the names of the Invited Speakers.

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.

Jean-Pierre Ruder congratulated Vladimir Dmitriev on his initiative regarding collaborations on an international level, and encourages the SNBL to carry on doing so. *“Our concern, as a funding agency, is that the SNBL facility is not isolated in Grenoble, but also used and inserted in European Research”*. It is appreciated that projects have been submitted to the EU, and submission should perhaps also be made to get funds. In the 7th EU program, there could a part of that funding reserved for European infrastructure facilities but it is too early yet, as the mechanism to access these fundings are not yet clarified.

Rafael Abela confirmed the above statement and pointed out that it remains to be seen how the SNX foundation can get a positive answer regarding financial support up to now refused as it is considered as being a facility rather than an institution.

Jean-Pierre Ruder suggested that such organizations (potential collaboration partners) be contacted so as to explain the situation and see whether a special agreement could be obtained. It would be important that the SNX Foundation submit applications in its own name without having to go to a national institution. This suggestion is also valid for the Swiss National Foundation.

Aase Marie Hundere pointed out that if funds are requested from the Norwegian Research Council, the Project Leader has to be from a Norwegian Institution and hence SNX Foundation cannot be the main applicant in an application for research funds from the Norwegian side.

7. Any other business

[R. Abela]

a) Briefing from Helge Larsen on the forthcoming Norwegian evaluation about SNBL cooperation from 2008 onward.

The review and evaluation of the SNBL activity will form a scientific advice with regards to the prolongation of the agreement.

The committee addressed a questionnaire to 35 active or potential User Groups in Norway.

Statistics will be collected (regarding for example beamtime allocation, publications)

A report will be issued.

Jean-Pierre Ruder enquired whether this review and evaluation could be extended to Swiss User Groups to which Helge Larsen replied that the committee, due to its status, looks into the Norwegian Community only.

Helge Larsen agreed to send a translation of the questionnaire to SSC (Gervais Chapuis) so it could be used on the Swiss side.

Jean-Pierre Ruder expressed the wish to get an executive summary of the report in English.

Helge Larsen confirmed that such a summary will be included in the report.

Presentation, See Appendix No.9 A

b) Due to reorganisation, **Jean-Pierre Ruder** has been attributed, together with the international organisations, the European Union Framework Research Programme, which means reorganisation within his Department. This is the reason why he is leaving the SNX Council as an Observer and Martin Steinacher is taking over this responsibility. Martin Steinacher has a long experience in international organizations. He has been associated with the Space Agency, with the ESRF, with the CERN, with the European organization for Astronomy. Jean-Pierre Ruder said :*“Looking back on the time spent at SNBL, it was interesting and challenging. It has been an enriching experience as regards to legal matters, especially when the MoU was written, to synchrotron radiations and beamlines and to psychology. It has always been a pleasure to attend the meetings. I wish the beamlines, the SNX Foundation and Council, a lot of success”*.

The Chairman wants to express his respect to Jean-Pierre Ruder who invested a lot of time for the project, more than is usual, especially during the very difficult transition period. Jean-Pierre Ruder was thanked on behalf of all for the very impressive work done, as one can see the positive results today. The Chairman welcomes Martin Steinacher as new Observer and wants to underline that it is ideal to have one person from the Swiss Agency, with a wide experience, dedicated to the SNX Foundation.

In the name of the SNX council, **Gervais Chapuis** expressed his thanks to SER (former BBW) and in particular to Jean-Pierre Ruder. The SNX is very grateful to SER who took over the Swiss side financing of the SNBLs from the Swiss National Science Foundation. Gervais Chapuis extended also his thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this transition.

c) Jan-Dierk Grunwaldt announced the workshop, which will take place at PSI on 20-21 February 2006, *“Workshop on X-ray absorption spectroscopy and micro-spectroscopic techniques”*

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.**

8. Discussion of Proposals

[Shepherds]

Request and allocation of beamtime, see [Appendix No. 10 B](#)

Beamline A: (reviewed on Thursday 1st December)

Number of shifts requested: 126 + LTP 69 = 195

Number of shifts granted: 144 (84 plus LTP 60)

Number of proposals received: 13 plus one Urgent Proposal

Number of proposals receiving beamtime: 10

Total beamtime	201
Number of shifts scheduled for ESRF experiments :	- 69
Number of Shifts available for CRG experiments	132
Number of Shifts for Long Term Proposals	- 60
Number of shifts left for discussion	72

Long Term Projects – Requests:

01-02-694 – Larsen	15
01-02-707 – Hauback	12
01-02-726 – Helland	9
01-02-730 – Norby	15
01-02-732 – Andersson	18

All the proposals with grade A will get beamtime.

Beamline B (reviewed on Wednesday 30th December)

Number of shifts requested: 109 plus LTP 42 = 151

Number of shifts granted: 99 (57 plus LTP 42)

Number of proposals received: 9

Number of proposals receiving beamtime: 6

Total beamtime available	201
Number of shifts scheduled for ESRF experiments	- 69
Number of Shifts available for CRG experiments	132
Long-term projects	- 42
Total of shifts left for discussion	90
Total for Raman (as agreed on 3 rd SNX Meeting)	60
Total available if Raman experiments take place	30

Long Term Projects – Requests:

01-01-679 – Hauback	12
01-01-686 – Norby	15
01-01-697 – Cerny	15

All the proposals with grade A will get beamtime.

Proposals are reviewed and given beamtime. Users will be informed that beamtime will be given but maybe not during the first half of next year. Commissioning time has to be requested as needed.

It would be useful to find out whether DUBBLE could accommodate some of the beamtime allocated. **Rafael Abela** will try to accommodate at PSI one experiment from the accepted list (that is around 12 shifts).

9. Summary of actions to be taken [C. Heurtebise]

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

10. Concluding remarks [R. Abela]

The next bi-annual report will be for 2006.

The next meeting (**5th SNX Meeting**) will be taking place on **1st and 2nd June 2006** and will be held in Nice (South of France) or Lausanne as a backup solution.

The **6th SNX Meeting** will be held in Grenoble on **29th and 30th November 2006.**

The Chairman is very pleased to see how the Swiss Norwegian Beamlines are involved in setting up an efficient facility, in attracting Users, in acting actively in collaborations. On behalf of the Board the Chairman congratulates the Director of the SNBL. The Chairman underlined again the highest priority concerning the refurbishment, which has to be finished by June 2006.

Ed Hough and Helge Larsen both agree that this meeting was very nice and pointed out that the tremendous reduction of actions to be taken speaks for itself.

The **Director** of the SNBL, on behalf of the Grenoble Staff, acknowledges the active role of Council Members concerning the politics and the financial situation and *„now we have almost everything we need to have a successful running of the beamlines and successful development towards an interesting future“.*

Aase Marie Hundere pointed out her impression that everything is working really well and will report her positive feelings to her Board.

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**

Appendix 1 A	P.2	Agenda: original version and approved modified version
Appendix 2 A	P.3	MoU between DUBBLE and SNBL.
Appendix 3 A	P.4	Report of SNX Director on SNX and A-SNG operations
Appendix 4 A	P.4	SNX Membership – Renewal of Mandates – to be finalized in June 2006
Appendix 5 A	P.5	Financial Matters (Income 2005 – Spendings 2005 as of November 2005)
Appendix 6A	P.5	(Budget and Income 2006)
Appendix 7 B	P.6	Status of the SNBL Operations – Beamline A
Appendix 8 B	P.10	In-House Research
Appendix 9 A	P.12	Briefing From Helge Larsen
Appendix 10 B	P.13	Request and Allocation of Beamtime on BM1A and BM1B