

SNS HFIR User Group (SHUG) Executive Committee Minutes
Archived at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug>

Teleconference held October 2, 2012, 1:00pm EST.

Attendees

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Dave Belanger, Fred Heberle, Peter Khalifah, Antonella Longo, Tyrel McQueen, Hanno zur Loye
- Guests: Laura Edwards, Mark Hagen, Kelly Beierschmitt

Minutes submitted for review November 2, 2012 by F.A. Heberle.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Send out the Division Director job posting to the SHUG committee (Fred).

1. Status updates (Laura)

HFIR updates. New cycle starts Oct 9 (24 days). There is one remaining cycle in the calendar year. 7 cycles are planned for next year. The damaged beryllium reflector has been replaced with a spare.

SNS updates. The target is down at the moment. It will be back up on Oct. 11, and we are looking into ways to recover user days in this cycle (19 days have been lost). The shutdown after Christmas will be shorter, and some days will be recovered in February. No user time will be lost overall; some will be lost in 2012B, but will be carried over into 2013A (which will be a bit longer).

Information about the target failure (Kelly). The target failed at < 700 hours. A mercury leak was detected by the electrical sensors in the multilayered steel nose cone. The origin of this leak is not known. This target is an outlier: some targets have run over 3000 h without failure. One target had a leak that came from manufacturing. The longest-lived targets have shown cavitation damage. Of the six targets to date, five were supplied by MetalX, and one was supplied by Major Tool. The latest target was from Major Tool. One MetalX target ran to failure at 3200 hours, and it wasn't clear upon examination why it failed. There may not be a smoking gun for why these things fail.

The original plan was to replace four targets per year, but now we're operating with two targets per year. The jet-flow target project (meant to deal with cavitation) has been accelerated—bids are in and are being evaluated now.

2. User Office updates (Laura)

The noon close for the proposal the call worked well: all of the problems that came up were fixed on that day (the call was reopened briefly after the problems were worked out). An additional 20 proposals were gained overnight.

Overall, 546 proposals were submitted, down from 602 for the previous call. Proposals were sent to reviewers last week, and are due back by Oct. 16. The SRC, consisting of a chair and minimum of two subject matter experts for each of six science areas, meets here October 22nd-23rd. Beam allocation award letters will be sent out by the first of November.

We are currently working on user numbers for the year, and will have these numbers by the next conference call.

3. BES review (Kelly)

Harriet Kung has already received many of the individual reports, but we have no specific date when the summary will come out (projection is early November). The review team interviewed one-third to one-half of total staff. The team noted that progress over the last few years was pronounced and measurable. The five-year planning effort was well received. We were encouraged to keep working on communication with the user community.

There are severe capacity limitations for neutrons in the US in the long term. BES wants us to strongly consider this, and look into expansion into a second target station at SNS, and expansion at HFIR. The review gives us the opportunity to look into a five-year instrument buildout plan, including instruments at both facilities, driven by community priorities.

(Kelly was asked if there are any plans for new instruments). First, we need instruments on every line, otherwise we're wasting neutrons. Currently operating instruments need upgrades. We're putting together an aggressive schedule for buildout, and also for maintaining and upgrading existing instruments. We need a running strategy that goes year-in, year-out. There is also interest from other program offices in investing, for example in VENUS (the TOF imaging beamline). We are currently reviewing an upgrade plan for WAND, which is largely funded by Japanese partnership. HYSPEC continues in its commissioning, and will be in the user program next round. IMAGINE, MANDI are in commissioning.

4. Other discussion

(Kelly). On Friday, we posted a position for Division Director of Neutron Data Analysis and Visualization. This division was created last year. The vision has been to get to the point where users have real-time, reduced data, with online analysis capability (including modeling and simulation) to help guide the experiment. People often need special assistance with their data, and it can take many months for people to find the right help—we want to accelerate this process.

The job will be posted for 10 days. We're looking for someone who has actually collected neutron data and knows the problem intimately. The search committee is made up of staff and leaders of the organization affected, and also scientific staff. We hope to have the new division director named within 3 weeks.

Next telecon date: Tuesday November 06, 2012, at 1:00pm EST