

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Tues. Oct. 15, 2019

Present at ORNL:

Crystal, Eugene, Adam, Jaime, Hans, Sabine, Mathieu

Online:

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Document approval:

- Minutes from Sept. 2019 conference call: approve
- Agenda for Oct. 2019 conference call: approve

1. NScD updates and associated discussion

We are still on track for a Nov. 5, 2019 HFIR restart. The first cycle will be 24 days long as usual. The first cycle will consist of instrument commissioning and local user experiments. Most general user experiments will run starting in the second cycle, which will likely begin in Jan. 2020.

We are currently in a planned maintenance period for SNS. We are replacing the target with one of the newer models that can run at a power level of 1.4 MW, so there will not be a target change around Christmas. The SNS is scheduled to resume operations on Nov. 5, 2019.

The Chestnut Ridge Visitor Center opened on Oct. 7, 2019, which will allow users who do not require a photo badge to pick up their badges and dosimetry at the SNS site. The ICANS meeting in Chattanooga began yesterday and it will run until Oct. 18, 2019. Matt Stone is presenting a webinar tomorrow about first science experiments at the STS. The Pittsburgh Diffraction Conference will take place from Oct. 24 – 26, 2019 and feature sessions on all areas of diffraction, from powders to protein crystals. The Science Review Committee will be at ORNL on Oct. 28 and 29 for the on-site science review of proposals submitted to the 2020-A call.

We discussed multi-instrument proposals and the problems with reviewing them across multiple committees, as this can lead to partial proposal approval. It was pointed out that there are some samples where an all-or-none beamtime allocation approach would be more useful. How can we better handle this situation? We will investigate how many of these proposals were only partially approved.

2. Software engineering group update and associated discussion

Our software engineering group and the SANS instrument scientists are currently working on a unified reduction framework for GP-SANS, BIO-SANS, and EQ-SANS, with an expected completion date of Dec. 31, 2019. Software upgrades are also being completed at DEMAND (HB-3A) and HIDRA (HB-2B) to enable the use of their new detector systems once HFIR resumes operations.

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The role of computational instrument scientists was discussed. We have written up position descriptions and we are just about ready to post them. We will post more positions than actual openings to ensure that we obtain a diverse pool of candidates.

3. SHUG-EC selections

We have only received 4-5 nominations so far, but Martin et al are working diligently to add more names to our list. An email will be sent out to the general SHUG membership soon to solicit votes.

4. STS workshop

The format of the Dec. 9 - 10 STS workshop is really taking shape, although our sub-committee is still working on securing good speakers. SHUG-EC members are encouraged to attend; there will be an opportunity to participate remotely.

5. Next conference call: Tues. Nov. 19, 2019, 3 PM