SHUG (SNS HFIR User Group), http://neutrons.ornl.gov/shug/index.shtml

SHUG executive committee minutes

Teleconference held August 11, 2009.

Attendees:

Executive Committee: Mike Crawford, Mark Dadmun, Ursula Perez-Salas
Guests: Al Ekkebus, Ken Herwig, Greg Smith

Minutes Submitted by Mike Crawford August 13, 2009.

ACTION ITEMS:

- ENTIRE COMMITTEE – Please comment on the advertisements/flyers which Dean Myles has sent to the SHUG executive committee.
- ENTIRE COMMITTEE - please send suggestions to Mike Crawford for speakers for a March meeting session regarding industry and neutron scattering.
- Mike will send list of possible speakers to SHUG EC and others for comments and recommendations
- Greg or Al will forward list of SRCM members to the SHUG EC (done).

PRIOR ACTION ITEMS NOT COMPLETED or REPORTED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITEE

- Ken Herwig -The SHUG executive committee asked that the software overview document described in Minutes from April 2009 be presented to the SHUG for input and comments.
- Mike Crawford and Al Ekkebus – The executive committee would like to request the user comment form for SNS and HFIR users to also include a link to the SHUG web-page, a sentence about SHUG, and an invitation to register for the SHUG Google group.

I. Neutron Sciences Update

- Ken Herwig update from NSSD
    - Cora Lind asked via email whether all users would be able to stay at the ORNL guest house when it is completed, or only students and post-docs. Ken said that all users, including faculty and senior researchers, will be able to stay there.
    - With respect to the outcome of the March 2009 BESAC review of NSSD, there will be an increase in work devoted to software development and implementation, including hiring post-docs and programmers to help with these activities. Users will also be engaged in issues related to sample environments, including soliciting recommendations for specific types of sample environments desired by the users. With respect to instrument readiness for commissioning, in the future instruments will be required to demonstrate scientific capabilities using both internal and external users before they are placed into the User program.

- The VULCAN engineering diffractometer is currently being commissioned and yielded its first diffraction pattern within one week of neutron availability. It is possible to obtain a diffraction pattern from 10 neutron pulses at 400 kW operating power.
- TOPAZ will open its neutron beam shutter in September 2009.
- The neutron spin echo spectrometer is commissioning and expects to enter the user program in March 2010.
- The IMAGINE single crystal diffractometer beamline appears to be in the process of being funded at the HFIR via NSF. Some research for this instrument would be protein crystallography, high pressure applications, and chemical crystallography. Hope to have it in calendar year 2011. End station on CG4 at HFIR.
- User community is growing as both HFIR and SNS have exceeded FY2008 estimates by the end of July 2009. SNS expected 260 unique users but actual number was 292. HFIR expected 300 unique users but actual number was 330.
- Neutron intensity at POWGEN is very low and the reason for this is not yet known. There are currently 12 one-third-meter detector modules installed, 12 more by the end of the year, which will bring the total to ~20% of the final number. At $2M per year expected it will take about 4 years to install all of the detectors, but they are being placed strategically to maximize the data quality and angular coverage. There are currently many approved commissioning samples from outside users which will be run by ORNL staff (not external users).
- Final funding has been identified for the US-Japan cold neutron triple axis spectrometer at CG-4C on HFIR construction is ongoing, and we expect to begin commissioning next fiscal year.
- SNS has been in an extended shut-down with lots of activity at the beamlines and instruments in preparation for the next cycle in September.

- Greg Smith update on SRCMs, current proposal call and end-of-experiment reports
  - Greg reviewed the members of the SRCMs and noted that additional members will be needed in the future. Members of the SHUG EC were asked to suggest candidates.

  - Greg and Ken noted that approximately 200 new reviewers will be needed to help evaluate proposals (there are currently 400-500 potential reviewers identified). SHUG EC members were asked to suggest reviewers and to become reviewers if they are not already

  - End-of-experiment reports
    - Will be required as a record of accomplishment for DOE and internal ORNL use
    - Will be mined for annual report highlights
    - Will be sent to SRCM committee members to help in proposal evaluations and beamtime allocations

- Al Ekkebus update
  - Asked for comments on the bi-monthly progress reports that he issues
    - Suggestions for additional information to be included
  - JINS will be open in March 2010
  - Cafeteria at SNS scheduled to open in November 2009
    - Will have meal service and vending machines
  - The CLO lab construction is underway
    - Will provide space for facilities for sample preparation and characterization to support SNS experiments

II. Other business

- Mike described the upcoming NUFO User Facility Exhibition in Washington, DC on October 15, 2009. Each facility will provide a poster describing the facility , and one facility user representative is requested to be present to answer questions from the attendees. Invitations will be sent to members of Congress, facility and laboratory directors, funding agencies, and President Obama. The SHUG EC is asked to recommend an appropriate SNS/HFIR user representative to attend the exhibition.
- Mike mentioned that the proposal for a symposium on Industrial Applications of Neutron Scattering to be sponsored by the APS Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics (FIAP) is due by September 4. He is putting together a list of potential speakers and will circulate it for comments and recommendations from the SHUG EC members and ORNL staff.