

## ISIS User Committee

Friday 10 June 2016, 10:00

The Cosener's House  
Abingdon, The Garden Room

### Present:

IUG1 Crystallography	Peter Slater (Birmingham)
	Emma McCabe (Kent)
IUG2 Liquids & amorphous	John Holbrey (Queen's Belfast)
	Paul Bingham (Sheffield Hallam)
IUG3 Large Scale Structures	Jeremy Lakey (Newcastle)
IUG4 Excitations	Jon Goff (Royal Holloway; Chair)
	Kelly Morrison (Loughborough)
IUG5 Molecular Spectroscopy	Christoph Salzmann (UCL)
	Roberto Senesi (Rome, Italy)
IUG6 Muons	Don Paul (Warwick)
	Nicola Morley (Sheffield)
IUG7 Engineering	Hongbiao Dong (Leicester)
	Catrin Davies (Imperial)

### Present from ISIS:

Robert McGreevy	ISIS Director
Philip King	Head, ISIS Spectroscopy and Support Division
Sean Langridge	Head, ISIS Diffraction Division
Steve Wakefield	Head, ISIS Experiment Operations Division
Andrew Kaye	ISIS User Programme Manager
Matt North	Minutes

### In attendance:

Emily Swaine	STFC Strategy, Planning & Communications
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### Apologies:

IUG3 Large Scale Structures	Aiden Hindmarch (Durham)
Zoe Bowden	Head, ISIS Operations
Debbie Greenfield	Head, ISIS Instrumentation Division

### Minutes and actions from the previous IUC meeting

The IUC accepted the December 2015 Minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Actions from the December 2015 ISIS User Committee:

- 1. Action: AK to ensure users are getting feedback forms with claim forms and explore emailing a form with experiment reports.*  
Ongoing: Feedback forms attached to claim forms in both hardcopy and email. Google form in development with the plan for the feedback form to be accessible from the beamline control PC and linked from email to PI after an experiment. **Ongoing action: Andrew Kaye**

2. *Action: AK: User online feedback to be promoted prior to the next IUC meeting to provide reps with feedback from the community.*  
Completed: Experiment report form feedback used instead, and will continue to be used to enable IUC to see user comments.
3. *Action: PK/JG to get the date of the next DUC*  
Completed: The chairman confirmed that he attended the DUC on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.
4. *Action: JG to contact DUC chair regarding letter to STFC.*  
Completed: The chairman supported a letter from the DUC to STFC regarding increasing Ridgeway House accommodation.
5. *Action: AK to explore TS2 user area fridge*  
Ongoing. **Action: Andrew Kaye**
6. *Action: SL to look at possibilities for this on Crisp.*  
Complete: CRISP is currently not a part of the user programme, although plans to modify the instrument for new science areas are being considered.
7. *Action: PK to pursue Excitations user meeting as part of TEMM*  
Complete: TEMM has a user meeting session in 2016.
8. *Action: SL to encourage an engineering user meeting.*  
Ongoing. **Action: Hongbiao Dong and ISIS Engineering staff to arrange a user meeting.**
9. *Action: PK to look at web-based feedback for TS1 plans*  
Completed: Description of TS1 project available on the ISIS website with contact details for feedback.
10. *Action: PK/SL to suggest a student network to ISIS student activity organisers*  
Completed: Two student days planned, one preceding NMSUM, one in late 2016, and a student network is in place for long term RAL students.
11. *Action: PK to explore the possibility of wider access to talks from the ISIS-Diamond CDT school*  
Completed: A second CDT School had taken place in May 2016 and the talks will be available online.
12. *Action: PK to produce revised version of IUC ToR.*  
Completed: The IUC noted the revised IUC Terms of Reference.

13. *Action: PK to contact members after the meeting to discuss rotation.*  
Completed.

14. *Action: PK to consider chip irradiation representation on IUC.*  
Ongoing: This will be considered once ChipIR enters the user programme.  
**Action: PK to consider this.**

15. *Action: AK to produce a certificate for Newton-supported users when required.* Completed.

16. *Action: SW to look at moderator information on MCR news*  
Ongoing: MCR news will be revised in the future once new management is established. **Action: SW**

17. *Action: PK to ensure consumables information is included on the ISIS website.* Completed.

There was discussion regarding Rapid and Express Access, including whether reports are received for Xpress.

**Action: AK to consider short Xpress reports and how these can be captured.**

#### **Chairman's Report – Jon Goff**

Following the attendance at a recent IUC meeting by the Diamond User Committee Chair, the IUC chair attended the DUC meeting on 22nd March 2016. The DUC consisted of presentations by Diamond staff followed by breakout discussion sessions with village coordinators and a feedback session. It was agreed to exchange minutes of DUC and IUC meetings.

**Action: AK to forward IUC meeting minutes to DUC.**

The IUC Chairman had submitted evidence to the OECD Global Science Forum on "Strengthening the sustainability and effectiveness of international research infrastructures".

It should be noted that £1.5 billion is available from the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). STFC is holding GCRF Briefing and Consultation Events in Edinburgh on 14<sup>th</sup> June, in London on 28<sup>th</sup> June, and at Daresbury Laboratory on 19<sup>th</sup> July. STFC seeks input from the user community on ideas for relevant ODA research opportunities.

## **1. User Group Reports**

The following items were reported by the user group representatives.

### **1.1. Crystallography**

- Anthony Powell has stepped down as Chair of the Crystallography User Group, and thanks were expressed to him for his work. Emma McCabe has joined as a Crystallography representative.
- A user meeting is planned for late October jointly with BCA and IoP groups. Due to over subscription of this meeting in the past, the upcoming meeting will be managed to ensure a broad spread of representation across the community if numbers need to be limited.
- The community welcomes the HRPD international review report and fully supports the proposed upgrade to this instrument.

### **1.2. Disordered Materials**

- Paul Bingham was welcomed following Beau Webber stepping down from the Committee. It was noted that John Holbrey would be stepping down after this meeting and Emma Barney would take his place.
- A growth in Nimrod publications was noted. There were fewer proposals in the recent round but the variety of user groups submitting proposals has increased.
- User group meeting is planned for Feb 2017 to include training in EPSR software.

### **1.3. Large Scale Structures**

- The loss of Tim Charlton (SNS) & Richard Heenan (Retirement) is a shame. Many thanks from the user community to Richard in particular for so many years of SANS developments. The recent recruitment of replacement LSS scientists is good news.
- In general instruments are working well, the capability of INTER to provide in-situ measurements like IR reflectometry is welcomed.
- It would be desirable for CRISP to be brought back into use in the future.

### **1.4. Excitations**

- Kelly Morrison was welcomed to the committee following Phil Salmon stepping down.
- The user group meeting is scheduled for June in conjunction with the TEMM meeting.
- The installation of an oscillating radial collimator on LET, reducing background, was noted, with Merlin about to receive a collimator as well; plus a modified water moderator improving the flux on Maps. Projects for new guides for flux improvements are underway on MARI, MAPS & LET. The concept for the Mushroom instrument is being developed this year.
- There were comments about use of pressure cells at low temperature on LET and issues with the dilution fridge on LET – both being taken forward by the relevant ISIS groups.

### **1.5. Molecular Spectroscopy**

- User group meeting is planned for later in the year, alongside the MDANSE meeting.
- Problems were noted with TOSCA gas handling; SW noted that ISIS Experimental Operations were aware of the issues and are looking for ways forward.

### **1.6. Muons**

- The muon training school in March was a success and was well attended including by overseas students.
- A high failure rate of low-temperature experiments on muons was discussed; it was noted that there is an obsolescence programme to deal with these issues, and ISIS is endeavouring to recruit to fill vacancies in the low temperature support group but has challenges with recruitment and retention of staff in this area.
- Issues around the effects on users of scaffolding in the hall during the last run were discussed; scaffolding to this extent would not normally be planned by ISIS during a cycle, but particular events made this necessary recently. It was noted that communication with users about this could be improved for next time.

### **1.7. Engineering**

- A user group meeting to be planned, in particular to communicate the capabilities of IMAT, particularly as it is likely to be available in the next proposal round.

***Action: HD to take this forward with ISIS staff.***

- There were comments on specific pieces of sample environment equipment which the SE groups will take forward.

The IUC had been provided with (anonymised) feedback comments from the community from experimental reports. The IUC were happy with this mechanism for getting feedback, and there was discussion about how comments from users should be responded to. In general, it was felt that responses should come from ISIS groups, and this should be taken forward by ISIS.

***Action: PK to consider the mechanism for feedback to users following experiment report comments.***

## **2. ISIS Update – Robert McGreevy**

- ISIS overall performance has been very good over the past year. Operating days and integrated current continue to increase, with a high level of accelerator availability.

- The project to refurbish the First Target Station is a necessity for robust future operations. The project baseline is for the upgrade not to be detrimental to any instrument. Complexities of scheduling the upgrade and subsequent shutdown are being worked through.
- Discussions are in progress with RIKEN over the future of the RIKEN-RAL Muon Facility and its continued operation beyond 2018 when the current agreement with RIKEN ends.
- LINAC Tank 4 replacement project is continuing, to replace this aged part of the LINAC; this may be scheduled to happen at the same time as the First Target Station project around 2020 – 2021.
- Construction of a new building required for future large projects (such as new instruments, TS1 project, etc) is out to tender, and the building is currently scheduled for construction in the next two years.
- The UK accession to the ESS ERIC has been approved. The two major ESS work packages delivered by ISIS are expected to be the LOKI (SANS) and FREIA (Reflectometry) instruments.
- ISIS governance mechanisms were highlighted, including the ISIS Facility Board and a new Science Advisory Committee which will meet for the first time in November.
- STFC is revising the UK neutron strategy, and user consultation will take place on this in the near future.
- The Business, Innovation and Skills Department is planning a review of large facility operations, to include ISIS, Diamond and CLF, within 2016.
- STFC budgets to 2020 were presented and there was discussion of the Global Challenges Research Fund.

### **3. ISIS Operations Update – Steve Wakefield**

- SW reported on facility operations over cycles 15/3 & 15/4, providing 73 user days with around 90% availability on both targets. Details on dipole magnet failures, synchrotron PSU faults & a major accelerator vacuum leak were provided.
- Target Station 1 is in shutdown until September 2016. Target Station 2 is operating cycle 16/2.
- ChipIR & IMAT instruments are in engineering commissioning phases; TOSCA is undergoing a guide upgrade and is due to be back operational in February 2017; the upgrade of the south-side primary muon beamline is also taking place.

### **4. ISIS Scientific Computing Strategy**

- ISIS is wanting to develop its scientific computing strategy in order to provide further resources in this area, to maximise outputs from experiments. Future plans are likely to involve user training, joint appointments, links to the Thomas Young Centre, etc.
- It was noted that scientific computing may be needed in the preparation of experiments, during experiments and during data analysis. There was

discussion regarding the proposed Ada Lovelace Centre, SCARF, Hartree and other relevant UK facilities.

- A draft strategy will be generated by ISIS and then distributed to the community for comment

***Action: SL to oversee distribution to the community of the scientific computing document.***

## **5. RAL Security & Catering Changes**

Proposed changes to STFC site access for visitors were discussed.

- Visitors will be required to provide photo ID before entering the RAL site. The IUC did not feel there would be a problem with this.
- Facility users are likely to receive a photo pass to carry whilst on an STFC site. The IUC did not feel there would be any problems with this; there was discussion about whether it was easier to upload a photo before coming or have one taken whilst on site.

The STFC catering and accommodation contract will shortly go out to tender; the IUC was invited to comment on proposed developments in catering and accommodation services. The IUC noted that the current catering arrangements, including out of hours, is generally very good and the levels of quality and choice should not be reduced. Food provision in the evenings at Ridgeway House rather than R22 may be fine if Ridgeway has enough space to accommodate the need. There were not strong feelings about other proposed changes.

## **6. AoB & Date of Next Meeting – Jon Goff**

The IUC extends its thanks to Jon Goff and the other committee members stepping down at this time for their contributions.

**Date of next meeting: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

### **Actions from IUC June 2016.**

1. AK: to continue to implement online user satisfaction form
2. AK: to explore TS2 user fridge
3. HD to work with ISIS staff to arrange an engineering user meeting
4. PK to consider inclusion of ChipIr rep on the IUC
5. SW to look at revision of MCR news
6. AK to consider short Xpress reports and how these can be captured
7. AK to forward IUC minutes to DUC
8. PK to consider mechanism for feedback to users following experiment report comments
9. SL to oversee distribution of draft scientific computing document to the community.