

# ISIS User Committee

Friday 12 December 2014, 10:00

The Cosener's House  
Abingdon, Seminar 1

## Minutes

The IUC Chairman, Jon Goff, welcomed the IUC members and got everyone to introduce themselves.

In attendance were:

IUG1 Crystallography:	Anthony Powell
IUG2 Liquids & amorphous:	John Holbrey
IUG4 Excitations:	Jon Goff (IUC Chair), Phil Salmon
IUG5 Molecular Spectroscopy:	Christoph Salzmann
IUG6 Muons:	Don Paul
IUG7 Engineering:	David Dye, Hongbiao Dong

Robert McGreevy	ISIS Director
Zoe Bowden	Head ISIS Experiment Operations Division
Philip King	Head ISIS Spectroscopy and Support Division
Steve Wakefield	Instrument operations group leader
Andrew Kaye	ISIS User Programme Manager

Apologies were noted from:

IUG1 Crystallography:	Peter Slater
IUG2 Liquids & amorphous:	Beau Webber
IUG3 Large Scale Structures:	Jeremy Lakey, Ali Zaraksh
IUG5 Molecular Spectroscopy:	Sylvia McLain
IUG6 Muons:	Alan Drew

It has been noted that IUG3 LSS has not been represented recently.

**Action: IUG3 to consider replacement user representatives.**

### Minutes and actions arising (Dec 2013 meeting) and Outcomes from July 2013 FAP chair/IUC meeting

P King gave a quick summary of the changes to user access mechanisms:

- Programme access has been removed for new users. Existing programme access will continue until complete.
- ISIS wants to encourage rapid access proposals which will be reviewed and scored by two FAP panel members.
- There is a more detailed template on the web for the science case for beamtime proposals.

- Some information from accepted proposals will in future be made available to the public on the Research Councils' Gateway to Research site. It will be clear on the proposal form which information will be made public. There will be a delay between proposal acceptance and the publication of proposal information to allow experiments to run.
- Experimental reports will be re-launched; the new scheduling system will now include email reminders for reports once experiments have been completed.
- The limit on the amount users can claim for consumables has been raised to £1200 per experiment. But the total amount any individual Principal Investigator can claim will be capped at £4800 per round. Claims must be made within 3 months of the experiment completion. The claims will also be strictly limited to sample preparation chemicals; it will be up to the group leaders if they want to support sample environment, like user cells etc. There was a request that an email be sent the PI once a consumable request had been paid to the University.

## Chairman's report

Jon Goff

*Programmatic Review:* The report on the Programmatic Review has been published since the last IUC meeting, and it is available on the web. IUC members are encouraged to read the report here: [http://www.stfc.ac.uk/files/3067/3067\\_res\\_2.pdf](http://www.stfc.ac.uk/files/3067/3067_res_2.pdf)

*Capital Consultation:* STFC's input to this supported the recommendations of the Programmatic Review (e.g. the upgrade to ISIS TS1), the Endurance Programme at the ILL, as well as projects for other facilities.

*ESS:* David Willetts announced a UK contribution of £165M to ESS construction. As part of this agreement the Swedish government will contribute to the on-going operational costs of ISIS. A UK-ESS Project Board has been established. A "UK-ESS interactions and opportunities" meeting held at RAL on 3rd December 2014 was attended by well over 100 delegates from industry and academia.

*ESFRI: Review A Neutron Working Group* in Science Board led by Chick Wilson, with Olwyn Byron and Jon Goff, submitted a report to ESFRI early in the summer. ESFRI are currently reviewing European neutron strategy.

*Large Facilities Funding Model:* The research councils are currently completing their Science Requirements document. A series of workshops for users of large facilities were held over the summer focussing on different scientific themes.

## Reports from User Groups

User Group Representatives

1. **Crystallography:** User group meeting had been held in Nov with 75 people attending. In the current funding climate the support of ISIS in keeping this meeting feeless is greatly appreciated.
2. **Disordered Materials:** Large number of proposals to the recent FAP meetings from a very diverse range of PI's including new users. A user meeting is scheduled for January partly to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SANDALS, when future instrument developments will be discussed.

3. **Large Scale Structures:** User meeting scheduled for June 2015.
4. **Excitations:** Lots of developments for the instruments. Hope that the MARI guide might go ahead in the New Year. Request for improved alignment facilities on ALF and for polarisation on LET. User meetings are not currently being organised as technique based meetings don't get attendees but science based ones do (there will be a user component to the Theoretical and Experimental Magnetism meeting, for example).

There was discussion regarding the science opportunities and possible instrument projects for polarised neutrons, and the opportunity to widen this discussion to the community and to promote polarised neutrons more was noted.

**Action: Philip / Sean to consider user discussion of polarised neutrons.**

There was discussion regarding user feedback mechanisms. The form should be linked to the main ISIS user page, but people still like to get paper forms whilst they are at ISIS for an experiment.

**Action: Andrew Kaye to consider further how user feedback is gathered.**

5. **Molecular Spectroscopy:** The group has been very active in organising meetings such as the eV spectroscopy meeting and the upcoming user meeting. The user group was very happy to hear that TOSCA will get its guide and that a new instrument scientist has been recruited for VESUVIO.
6. **Muons:** the group are organising a joint meeting with the BRSG on NMR. The Muon instruments are working well, still waiting for several improvements that should increase data rates. There was a request for greater ability to cool samples off-beam. It was noted that the future of the RIKEN-RAL muon facility beyond 2018 was currently under discussion.
7. **Engineering:** ENGIN-X is very oversubscribed. The need to have a user meeting was raised as one has not been held recently, particularly now IMAT was about to come online. There are a variety of requests for sample environment and in-situ measurement enhancements to ENGIN-X.

#### **Update from the ISIS Director and discussion**

**Robert McGreevy**

- There are currently a lot of new campus developments as the government sees science campuses as a high priority. There is the possibility of a 'university quarter' on the Harwell campus with various universities putting in buildings and staff.
- The ISIS annual report has just been released, and the ISIS 2015 calendar is just out.
- ISIS plans to increase capacity and capability by 2020 were discussed, together with plans for an upgrade to the first target station and the possibility of a future major facility upgrade.
- Funding for EU researchers to use ISIS had now ended as the EU had discontinued access support.

- The European Spallation Source has now started construction aiming at first neutrons by 2019.

### **Update on ISIS Machine Operations**

**Steve Wakefield**

The operational availability of ISIS for the past cycles was presented, together with an update on the current long shut down. The old DAC area is being redeveloped and will be commissioned as a user meeting and catering area in April, and users will be able to pay for items from vending machines using money charged to their access cards.

### **ISIS Facility Development Studentships**

ISIS has recently had an open call to provide part-funding for studentships whose projects included an element of facility development. 54 Applications were received and 14 were selected. Projects will start in October 2015. There was a mixture of CDT and non-CDT support. A second call is planned for late 2015.

### **NMUM 2015**

NMUM will be a 3 day meeting, 19-21 May, to be held at the Hinckley Island hotel in Leicestershire, and will be partly to mark 30 years of ISIS operations. The first day will be a student day. The second day will be the main science day with talks in subject groups. The final day will consist of updates from the facilities (ISIS, ILL, ESS, Diamond) and the research councils.

### **ENSA update**

**Don Paul**

It was noted by the committee that Don Paul is now the UK representative on the ENSA committee.

### **Upcoming Events and Date of next meeting**

**NMUM 2015 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May** Hinckley Island hotel, Leicestershire

**Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Open Days** July 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

**ISIS Facility Access Panels** 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of June

**Next ISIS User Committee Meeting** 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2015