

ISIS User Committee Minutes

Friday 9 June 2023, 10:00 – 13.00

CR12/13, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and over Zoom

Present

<i>Committee Acting Chair</i>	<i>Wuge Briscoe</i>
IUG1 Crystallography	Matthew Cliffe (Nottingham)
IUG2 Liquids & amorphous	Gosia Swadzba-Kwasny (Queens University Belfast) Helen Fraser (Open University)
IUG4 Excitations	David Boldrin (Glasgow)
IUG5 Molecular Spectroscopy	Alexander O'Malley (Bath) Maria Paula Marques (Coimbra, Portugal)
IUG6 Muons	Joseph Wright (UEA)
IUG8 SANS	Wuge Briscoe (Bristol) Steve Parnell (Delft, The Netherlands)
IUG9 Reflectometry	Tom Arnold (ESS, Sweden)
IUG10 Chip Irradiation	Matteo Cecchetto (CERN)

Present from ISIS:

Roger Eccleston	ISIS Director
Steve Wakefield	Deputy Director & Head of ISIS Operations
Emma Gozzard	ISIS User Programme Manager
Philip King	Associate Director, Partnerships and Programmes
Sean Langridge	Associate Director, Science
Marek Jura	ISIS Experimental Operations Division Head

Apologies:

IUG1 Crystallography	Karen Johnston (Durham)
IUG4 Excitations	Christ Stock (Edinburgh)
IUG6 Muons	Lucy Clark (Liverpool)
IUG9 Reflectometry	Richard Campbell (Manchester)
IUG11 Cultural Heritage	Francesco Grazi (CNR)
Matt North	ISIS Instrumentation Division Head
Hannah Griffin	ISIS Computing Division Head

1. Welcome and introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

2. Minutes and actions

The previous minutes were approved by the Committee.

Actions from the previous meeting with comments:

Action	Status – updated June 2023	Responsible	Meeting action added
Consider relaunching user twinning scheme (including data analysis)	Ongoing. To discuss further once TS1 fully back.	Philip / Emma G	Dec 2020
Add a page to the ISIS website on data management good practice.	Done.	Philip	June 2022
ISIS to progress User Charter	Draft, to discuss in this meeting.	Philip / Emma G	Jan 2022
Can users know what evening meals will be at lunchtime	Requested multiple times to multiple people, but not happened. Suggest close this action.	Emma G	June 2022
Generic user group email addresses	Done. New action to promote the IUC and the email address through postcards / posters in cabins, etc.	Emma G	June 2022
Development of IUC involvement in NMSUM	Done.	Philip, Ross, David	Dec 2022
Experimental reports – revised question set and submission rate	Ongoing.	Philip	Dec 2022
ORCID capture and use	Software teams know this is important and it is on the roadmap of requests to action.	Emma	Dec 2022
Students as PIs on proposals – check Diamond’s experience and action	Done. Students now can be PI with supervisor as Co-I compulsory. New action: Correspondence also to go to supervisor.	Emma	Dec 2022
DOI for multiple datasets / raw and reduced data	Ongoing: Still need to follow up with SCD to understand what is possible and what is already on their roadmap.	Hannah	Dec 2022
IDaaS information on the ISIS website and provision of computing information in general	Ongoing: Started updating. Some areas (SANS) have created their own IDaaS guidance page and this needs linking in and the profile of the general computing pages raising as possibly a bit too buried under “during your beamtime”? Work in progress.	Hannah	Dec 2022
Videos on data analysis	Ongoing: Aiming to produce a series on data reduction and data analysis using the various software we support. Timings to be finalised but aiming for at least one video a quarter with the first published hopefully this year.	Hannah	Dec 2022
Video on Data Gateway	Ongoing: Working with Louise in SCD to produce a video, I have asked for us to aim to publish at least before end of this year.	Hannah	Dec 2022
RAL site map on ISIS website	Done.	Emma	Dec 2022
Web information on sample environment equipment and access	Website for SE for different sections available through users tab.	Marek	Dec 2022

	Content needs updating – group doing this – as well as finding a way to make it more accessible		
Report back on access to biolab and equipment.	Training is required for biolab access – telephone induction available out of hours. Some equipment will be moved into a different lab to make it more accessible.	Marek	Dec 2022
Inter step and lighting	On the plan for the inter development project. Done.	Marek	Dec 2022
List of user meeting dates to be created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22-23 June 2023: 20 years of Engin-x meeting. • 11-12 Sept 2023: Muon User Meeting, Queen’s College Oxford. • 30 Sept – 1 Nov 2023: Molecular Spectroscopy Group user meeting, Milton Hill House on 30/10/23 – 1/11/23 • 6-7 Nov 2023: Joint Crystallography-Physical Crystallography Group (BCA) meeting, Milton Hill House. • 18-22 March 2024: Muon Training Course • 10-12 April 2024 NMSUM <p>New action: Put list onto web: Philip</p> <p>New action: to make sure all user groups have meetings: Sean</p> <p>New action: periodic email to the community to publicise meetings - Emma</p>	Philip	Dec 2022

See the end of these minutes for the latest list of ongoing and new actions.

3. ISIS Update

Roger gave an update on ISIS operations and news, including

- TS1 status
- New ISIS structure for science divisions and recent division head and group leader appointments
- Endeavour – formal announcement of funding for Endeavour is about to take place
- Instrument development plans – these have been created in order for ISIS to map out its instrument projects and future instrument suite.
- ISIS-2 – feasibility work will take place until 2027, then more detailed work to flesh out the project. Currently funded at around £5m by the UKRI infrastructure fund.

It was clarified that the student travel support programme will be carried on till the end of this year.

4. Feedback on NMSUM

The IUC discussed the comments received on NMSUM from participants and their general impression of the meeting.

Overall, the meeting is seen as very positive, with the majority of comments very happy with the meeting. Specific things to note include: a bigger space for the poster session; much better publicity for a survey if this is repeated, and a review of the survey questions; use Menti on the day to get direct engagement and feedback; consider session timekeeping and how it can be made easier for people to switch between parallel sessions; capture a small number of bullet points from science session discussions; promote attendance to ILL staff and avoid a clash with ILL panels; consider industrial involvement (**Action: Philip to discuss with Graham / Chris**); the SE team presence was much appreciated.

5. User Charter

The IUC discussed the draft User Charter. Specific points raised:

- There was discussion regarding ISIS staff authorship on papers, with recognition that this is likely to be appropriate in the majority of cases but can't be mandated. **Wording around this to be checked.**
- Other support received (e.g. d-lab, biolab) should be acknowledged in publications – **consider adding this to the Charter.**
- **Add an intro paragraph** – that the Charter is the basis for a partnership between ISIS and users rather than customer and supplier relationship
- **The tone difference** between what users are requested to do and what ISIS says it will do should be looked at.
- **Comments should be sought from ISIS instrument scientists** on the Charter before it is rolled out.
- **Link to be added to codes of practice for research integrity.**
- **Add a line regarding samples** – provision of sufficient sample quality and quantity.

Action: Philip to progress the Charter.

6. Comments and reports from the user groups.

All user groups had received feedback comments from members of the community who had had recent experiments. Concise summaries of the comments and feedback are presented below.

Crystallography

Overall very positive comments, especially regarding staff. Wish is the only active instrument at present. Big negative is TS1 delays – keen for TS1 to be up and running.

The issue of payment by card for vending machines was raised.

Price rises in the restaurant may mean that the ISIS per-diem is no longer sufficient – **Action to consider this (Emma).**

Can users put money on their cards? – **Action to explore this (Emma).**

Do Ridgeway machines take our user contactless cards – **Action to check on this (Emma).**

Disordered materials

For the FAPs that had just taken place, the proposals were in general of good quality.

In the user comments, there was good recognition of scientist support.

The issues of IDAaaS and how to use it was raised, including the need for a tutorial on getting started (**ongoing action around this - Hannah**).

Issue of gas-panel training – could this be annual; can it be done more efficiently so beamtime isn't wasted? (**Action to look at this – Marek**)

Staffing level is a key issue regarding effective experiment support.

Excitations

User experiences have been positive overall.

The question of onsite access to a mass spec facility was raised – **Action for Marek to check this.**

Could ISIS staff access DLS or RFI kit – **Action for Marek to check.**

Ease of RCaH access – **Action for Emma to pursue and for Maria Paula to send example to Emma.**

IDAaaS user-friendliness was raised.

There was discussion regarding the neutron training course: this is very valued by the community; it provides networking for students as well as training; there was general support for having practical beamtime. New academics / post-docs also need training. Community needs even more of this sort of training!

Molecular Spectroscopy

Some very good comments from users.

Beam reliability not so good; more frequent comms to users on this was requested.

Mass spec also requested (see action above). Space in the labs is an issue for equipment. Lack of staff is an even more pressing issue for sample characterisation labs.

Mantid development for QENS analysis – not as versatile at the moment as other software available.

Accommodation: more near to campus needed to avoid off-site stays. **Action on Steve W and Emma to check on what is happening re Ridgeway extension.**

Difficulty of sample shipping to / from ISIS; ISIS is exploring a post to assist with this. Advice on sample shipping has been published on the website; **Action on Emma to email this to the community.**

Upgrading mol spec instruments important incl. a new guide for Iris.

There is a Mol spec user meeting later this year focusing on simulation.

IUC page links – improve visibility (see previous action on this).

Muons

No muon running recently due to TS1 being down. Very positive comments about ISIS staff and experiment support. Clearly the lack of muons is an issue for the community.

A muon user meeting to celebrate the work of Pabi Biswas is being organised for October.

Engineering

Issue of Australian experiment cancelled twice due to TS1 issues.

Very positive comments about staff.

An issue of technical support was raised in the context of equipment failures.

SANS

Some very appreciative comments received.

There were some specific comments regarding magnet scheduling and pressure automation (the latter is being worked on).

There were further comments on beam stability

Further training is needed for using analysis software (see ongoing action).

ISIS Staff are very helpful but are working very hard.

Beam stability issues were raised again.

There was discussion regarding the amount of time that is received back when experiments are partly run. The ISIS policy is that the amount of time back should be enough to complete the experiment.

Action: to re-emphasise this to instrument scientists – Sean.

Reflectometry

Very complementary comments about staff. Staff salaries need to be improved, as do staffing levels. Beam instability was the only real issue raised. The importance of training for new users and the difficulties of importing chemicals to ISIS were also noted.

Chip Irradiation

Comments were raised regarding restaurant opening times.

There was a particular Issue of HV setup on Chiplr requiring the area to be vacated and the door closed.

Noise in the lower control room was raised as an issue (**Action: Marek to explore**).

Lots of positive comments regarding staff.

Cultural Heritage

Representative not present.

8. AOB

Studentship scheme webinar for the community: 21 June.

9. Dates of next meeting

Friday 8 December, 10.00 at Cosener's.

Actions: ongoing and from this meeting

Action	Status	Responsible	Meeting action added
Consider relaunching user twinning scheme (including data analysis)	Ongoing. To discuss further once TS1 fully back.	Philip / Emma	Dec 2020
User charter	<p>Discussion at this meeting. Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wording around ISIS staff authorship on papers to be checked. • Other support received (e.g. d-lab, biolab) should be acknowledged. • Add an intro paragraph – that the Charter is the basis for a partnership between ISIS and users rather than customer and supplier relationship • The tone difference between what users are requested to do and what ISIS says it will do should be looked at. • Comments should be sought from ISIS instrument scientists. • Link to be added to codes of practice for research integrity • Add a line regarding samples – provision of sufficient sample quality and quantity 	Philip	June 2023

Promote IUC and generic email address through post cards / posters in cabins, etc.		Emma	June 2023
Experimental reports – revised form and process	Reminders to expt team (students) as well as supervisors to be explored. Online form to be created. Expose submission rates to panels. Additional reminder emails from Philip. In-kind beam fee to be withheld until report submitted. Guidance on report usage and reasons for collecting reports to be made more prominent	Emma Emma Emma / Philip Emma Emma	Dec 2022
Students as PIs on proposals	Explore a way to flag which co-I is the supervisor and ensure they are copied into all correspondence regarding the expt	Emma	
Online form for notifying ISIS of publications and PhD theses		Emma	
DOI for multiple datasets / raw and reduced data	Still need to follow up with SCD to understand what is possible and what is already on their roadmap.	Hannah	Dec 2022
IDaaS information on the ISIS website and provision of computing information in general	Started updating. Some areas (SANS) have created their own IDaaS guidance page and this needs linking in and the profile of the general computing pages raising as possibly a bit too buried under “during your beamtime”? Work in progress.	Hannah	Dec 2022 and raised again June 2023
Videos on data analysis	Aiming to produce a series on data reduction and data analysis using the various software we support. Timings to be finalised but aiming for at least one video a quarter with the first published hopefully this year.	Hannah	Dec 2022
Video on Data Gateway	Working with Louise in SCD to produce a video, I have asked for us to aim to publish at least before end of this year.	Hannah	Dec 2022
User meetings: ensure all groups have these		Sean	June 2023
User meeting list: put on web		Philip	June 2023
User meeting list: periodic email to users to publicise		Emma	June 2023
Consider industrial involvement with NMSUM – Philip to discuss with Graham / Chris		Philip	June 2023
Is per-diem sufficient		Emma	June 2023
Can users put money on their visitor cards?		Emma	June 2023
Do Ridgeway machines take user cards / credit cards?		Emma	June 2023

Issue of gas-panel training – could this be annual; can it be done more efficiently so beamtime isn't wasted?		Marek	June 2023
Onsite mass spec access?		Marek	June 2023
Access to DLS and RFI kit?		Marek	June 2023
Ease of access to RCaH		Emma to pursue; Maria Paula to send Emma an example	June 2023
Lack of onsite accommodation at times – what is happening re Ridgeway extension?		Steve W	June 2023
Email sample shipping advice to the community		Emma	June 2023
Remind instrument scientists to award back sufficient time so that incomplete experiments, resulting from an ISIS failure can be completed		Sean	June 2023