

Minutes from conference call on January 28, 2014.

Present from NIST:

NUG members

Topic 1: NUFO

NIST NUG is now a member of NUFO. They are planning for the next exhibit in 2014 – focused on discovery and energy. They are requesting proposals for specific exhibits (deadline: February 28). NCNR is interested in participating but will talk offline regarding the details and will involve the user community.

Topic 2: Facility News

Government shutdown: delays in user experiments occurred. The days will be made up. No long term impact is expected. The fuel change out was affected, but will not be an issue in the long term (the impact was minimized).

Spin Echo: was relocated to the new guide hall (NG-A). The new power supplies will increase reliability. There should be less impact due to surrounding instruments (i.e. magnetic fields). The commissioning has started. First experiments are expected in the first quarter. Polarization is improved, performance is improved. Experiments are expected to be included in the next call for proposals. The only hold-up is a communication issue between the power supplies and computer.

Work in C100: air handling and other work is required. During this time, the 30 m SANS will also be moved. This will make space for the vSANS instrument. This year's budget includes instrumentation for vSANS.

Budget: NIST has a budget now. Around \$80 million increase for NIST over last year. This will be used for centers and external engagement. This includes \$30 million dedicated for advanced manufacturing. NCNR added \$2 million to the budget (an additional increase over the \$2 million added last year). This will be used for industrial engagement and the engineering diffractometer upgrade. As this is initiative money, it will eventually become part of the base budget (after 5 years) and can be used for ongoing instrument development. The impact of the government shutdown and government budget on the CHRNS instruments is still to be determined. NSF is developing their future strategy for facilities and DMR is producing a report. How the CHRNS instruments will be impacted is an ongoing question.

Next user survey: target is 2015. This will be prepared near the end of 2014.

Topic 3: ACNS

Dates are June 5-8, 2014. There will be a NUG meeting at the conference.

Topic 4: Workshop

Target is Summer 2014 (not coinciding with ACNS). It will last 2-3 days. NCNR is requesting ideas for breakout topics (new science, new instrumentation). There will be around 12 topics. There is still some flexibility in the budget for new instrument development, and there are uninstrumented beamlines. The expert committees will give advice on what opportunities to pursue.