

## Notes from combined meeting of CNMS UEC and SHUG\* representatives on 9/17/09

(\* SHUG = SNS-HFIR User Group, see <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/shug/index.shtml>)

### Attendees- Users

Mike Crawford, DuPont (SHUG)  
Mark Dadmun, UT (UEC + SHUG)  
Hai-Ping Cheng, Florida (UEC)  
Martyn McLachlan, Imperial College (UEC)  
Milan Buncick, Aegis Technologies (CNMS user)- by phone

### Attendees- Facility Staff

Lynn Kzsos (SNS)  
Al Ekkebus (SNS)  
Tony Haynes (CNMS)  
Laura Edwards (CNMS)

### Discussion of combining proposal calls, pros & cons

Pros: expectations for combined proposal call

- reduce the number of solicitations, emails received
- raise awareness of the other user facilities that you're not using
- but what is the "carrot" for the user?  
if I respond to a combined call does it somehow give me a competitive advantage, e.g., a smaller pool, bonus points?

Cons:

For PIs submitting independent proposals to multiple participating facilities:

- pile up of deadlines for multiple proposals at different facilities
- potential perception that only joint proposals will get approved (OR that joint proposals will have a competitive advantage, see above)

For PIs considering submitting combined proposals that involve more than one facility:

- does a negative decision by one facility for part of the proposal kill the whole proposal, including the part that involves the other facility (if so, I will split proposals for facilities that are perceived to have more limited access or higher demand but then I have the multiple deadline problem again)
- it could be more difficult to make the strongest case for criteria at both facilities in one proposal, and if so, I will split the proposals and then I have the multiple deadline problem again

Facility review flow/logistics to handle joint proposals have not been completely sorted out

- a mechanism is in place to add CNMS to an approved proposal that is primarily for neutron scattering
- possibilities for reciprocal accommodation might include allocation of block of Director's Discretionary time at SNS/HFIR or adding a third proposal call dedicated to joint proposals (but 2 calls are synchronized with facility run schedules, so where would third call go?)

### Neutron Scattering User Group Survey (mainly as information for CNMS UEC)

SNS/HFIR are planning a "communications survey" with goals to identify most effective communications mechanisms for getting word out about neutron scattering to broader research community, especially with aim toward increasing usage and visibility in biology and chemistry fields. This will result in a communications plan. An outside consultant has been contracted to design the survey. They plan to poll outside focus groups as to awareness of user facilities generally (such as CNMS) and neutron facilities in particular, the choices available, perceptions of facilities (by both users and nonusers), and good-bad user experiences. For example, is there a perception in communities that don't often access these facilities that acceptance/entry is based on "who you know." The survey should be out in October and the SHUG Executive Committee will be asked to review survey before it goes out.

### Industrial Usage

This was subject of NUFO meeting in June – report is online. Consensus is that regarding industry participation, the primary metric is fundamentally different: industry values payoff in commercial product vs publication. It was noted that NIST neutron facility does have some performance metric (accepted by OMB?) to gauge industrial usage- What is the NIST metric and can it be applied to us? (NIST is a Dept of Commerce facility- may be an essential difference.)