

LCLS UEC Meeting Minutes December 1st, 2023

Present:

M. Mitrano, L. Conradson, C. Rajendran, N. Hartley, A. Rudenko, M. Schmidt, M. Dunne, A. Zong, C. Knotts, D. Oberthur, M. Doyle, M. Trigo, M. Centurion, N. Powers Riggs, P. Jones, R. Boll, S. Li, S. Teitelbaum, B. Tan, S. Pandolfi, E. Biasin

Director's updates

Most Run 22 acceptance/rejection letters have been sent out, and the hard X-ray schedule has been announced.

TMO scheduling for Run 22 is not announced yet as soft X-ray schedule is not confirmed. There will be a series of upgrades going on at the soft X-ray lines, particularly new diagnostics to optimize the setup of the SCRF accelerator. Based on the upgrades, there will be new capabilities which might affect scheduling. Letters of acceptance have not been yet sent for the soft x-rays, but are expected in the next few weeks.

The call for Run 23 (mid-August 2023 - Feb 2024) is imminent (mid December), with a deadline in early February. This will include:

- Proposals for the usual hard x-ray instruments
- Proposals for ChemRIXS
- Proposals for TMO (both the MBES and MRCO endstations)
- qRIXS "Early Science" (the initial community experiments) and a limited call for proposals
- TXI "Early Science" ("tender spectroscopy" within the scope of condensed phase chemistry)

Details of the call are still being finalized. Plan to declare capabilities at lower end then perhaps expand them either during the run or in Run 24 (last before shutdown).

Learned lessons from the last PRP are to improve the guidance for the "short form" proposals and those that only request 1 to 2 shifts.

Both Run 23 and Run 24 will be relatively short runs (with implications for the acceptance rate), bringing the LCLS to the scheduled shutdown for the SCRF linac in July 2025. The rationale is to provide an updated array of capabilities in the call for proposals for Run 24

This week, there is a "Science and Instrumentation" review of the MEC science area. This reviews both the instruments and the scientific field, covering the past results and future plans, and reports to the SAC. For MEC, this covers the next ~5 years – which is a crucial period leading up to the MEC Upgrade.

Respectful Workplace

SLAC has an ongoing program analyzing what can be done to encourage respect in the workplace. So far this has focused on staff, but the user community also needs to be engaged. While LCLS users do sign on to Stanford's code of conduct (<https://lcls.slac.stanford.edu/slac-access>), many are not aware of this, and so Mike encouraged the UEC to be involved in formulating and publicizing a user code of conduct.

This discussion ties into the wider discussion of safety in the workplace. The issue of defining a physically and psychologically safe workplace starts from the definition of safety criteria, which includes how staff and users need to be respectful to each other.

Because most people do not intentionally seek to offend others, we need to be careful about where we draw the line. Beamtimes are a stressful environment and people do come into conflict. This needs to be professional and respectful, and never personal. At a sister facility, there was an incident where the facility intervened quickly to correct the occurrence of disrespectful behavior, before the issue could grow. Staff need to feel that the facility 'has their backs', and that the rules are to protect the staff not the facility itself. The people at the facility, both staff and users, need to be the top priority. They come ahead of the science, and then the facility or institution itself.

Need to have a code of conduct more visible. Leadership is tied to respectful behavior on the workplace, this is a notion that we must internalize. People do make mistakes, but it's important that they are willing to admit that and apologize. A shared code of conduct is a way to enable this, as it allows everybody to adopt a common language and a behavior standard that they can point to.

We will plan to discuss this further in one of the meetings during the year.

User Meeting Journal

Chitra suggested that we aim to publish a special journal issue (e.g. Synchrotron radiation news) on talks presented at next year's User Meeting. This will probably be challenging and needs to be announced early because people are not expecting or planning on it.

Prior examples were given from other meetings where similar initiatives did not really fly because people did not contribute sufficiently. On the plus side, this initiative might elevate the content presented at the user meeting. But on the negative side, this requirement might discourage users to present preliminary or unpublished data, and so submission would need to be optional, making it hard to get enough contributions. One needs buy in from editors and potential contributors well in advance of the Meeting. On a related note, Nature is putting together an FEL collection <https://www.nature.com/collections/gfcejahgi/about-this-collection>.

This would probably mean a big increase in the preparatory work needed for the users' meeting. Promising a special issue for next year might be difficult – is there enough buy-in from the community at this stage? It is important to remember that the chance to discuss new science off-the-record is an important draw for attendance.

Other Discussions

The next BESAC meeting will feature a panel discussion about the new science enabled by the LCLS-II <https://science.osti.gov/bes/besac/Meetings>

The UEC is again encouraged to contribute discussion topics for future UEC meetings. The Chair will resend the link to the online document around the UEC members.