

Agenda and Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the JRA, 3rd to 4th November 2011

Agenda:

1. NMI3 news
2. Review of existing JRA, including deliverables for M36 and M48 reports
3. Forward look to new JRA, including review of work plan, deliverables and finance
4. Feedback to NMI3
5. General discussion

Attending:

1. Stephen Cottrell
2. Philip King
3. James Lord
4. Mark Telling
5. Thomas Prokscha
6. Alex Amato
7. Elvezio Morenzoni
8. Robert Scheuermann
9. Alexey Stoykov
10. Kamil Sedlak

Discussion:

NMI3 News:

Steve Cottrell gave an overview of NMI3 news, noting that this would be the final meeting of the existing JRA (which runs until February 2013). Payment of the next instalment is still to be made, it being pending a revision of the cost statement by certain partners. The next report (at 36 months) will happen February 2012 with final reporting anticipated early 2013. The General Assembly will take place at Rome airport 8-9 November 2011, and Philip King, Steve Cottrell and Adrian Hillier (as access coordinator) are planning to attend. JRA members were thanked for their help with the article about the muon JRA which will appear in the forthcoming NMI3 Newsletter. The new contract (and JRA) will start February 2012, with the launch meeting provisionally scheduled for 12-13 March 2012 at the ILL.

Review of existing JRA, including deliverables for M36 and M48 reports:

Steve Cottrell gave an overview of the deliverables outstanding on the project, noting those already complete and highlighting areas where work was required. In particular, there was a need to finalise a joint PSI-ISIS NeXus Instrument Definition (with appropriate file converters) by February 2012; it was agreed that Andreas Suter would visit ISIS in December and work with Steve Cottrell to complete this task, with Steve taking charge of final reporting. The performance of the gas phase sample cells was reviewed and work is well advanced in this task area. The project to deliver low background solid sample pressure cells is being led by Daniel Andreica with work continues at PSI to improve both beam collimation to the pressure cell and the signal to background ratio. Roberto de Renzi presented a poster at MuSR 2011 that defined ideas for the project; this was well received by the community and he is now working to code simulation tools for analysis.

Forward look to the new JRA, including review of work plan, deliverables and finance:

Philip King confirmed that the new agreement and JRA will start February 2012 and anticipated an advance payment for JRA activities. The amount of money available to the JRA was reduced by ~10% in final negotiations. There was a general discussion about deliverables associated with the new JRA; Steve Cottrell commented that Miriam Forster had been keen to minimise the number, converting many to milestones in the project. Philip King commented that some deliverables had been moved to the Outreach JRA (coordinated by Martyn Bull at ISIS) in an activity seeking to develop the user community through publicity material and workshops. It was agreed that the two workshops committed to in the proposal should be held to coincide with facility user meetings.

Steve Cottrell reviewed the deliverables for the first 18 months of the project. For the subtask involving the development of routines for efficient data analysis of high field experiments (D17.1.1.1) problems such as handling large datasets, background removal, peak finding and fitting, time zero and phase correction, and improved processing speed through code parallelisation were suggested as ideas that might be addressed. It was agreed that the focus would be on developing algorithms that could later be 'plugged into' the preferred analysis package. As a document outlining the specification of these routines is due September 2012 a planning meeting was suggested for May. The Outreach JRA has deliverables defined for 2012 that involve establishing a website (D2.3.1, May) and producing publicity material for high field μ SR (D2.3.2, September). It was agreed that ISIS will host the website.

Feedback to NMI3:

Elvezio Morenzoni suggested that NMI3 needed to consider a scheme to take into account currency fluctuations and the effect this has on the defined programme of work. Elvezio highlighted the problems created by the current strength of the Euro compared to the SFr and commented that this effectively limited the length of employment for PDRAs. Philip King thought this a tricky issue to resolve but suggested it was raised as a problem at the forthcoming NMI3 meeting.