

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title/Subject: Diamond User Committee Meeting #6

Venue:

Diamond House, G59

Chairman:

Prof. Bill Clegg

Time/Date:

Tuesday 20th March 2012

Secretary:

Kathryn Poulter

PARTICIPANTS

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

DUC members

Bill Clegg (Chair)

Joanna Collingwood

David Dye

Karen Edler

David Lawson

Keith Meek

Peter Moody

Pagona Papakonstantinou

Josep Sulé-Suso

Institution

University of Newcastle

University of Warwick

Imperial College London

University of Bath

John Innes Centre

University of Cardiff

University of Leicester

University of Ulster

Keele University

**Diamond Light Source
representatives:**

Isabelle Boscaro-Clarke

Steve Collins

Andy Dent

Chris Nicklin (for Sarnjeet
Dhesi)

Gwyndaf Evans

Laura Holland

Susan Judge

Fred Mosselmans

Kathryn Poulter

Trevor Rayment

Dave Stuart

Chiu Tang

Nick Terrill

Richard Walker

Martin Walsh

Head of Communications

Materials Village Coordinator

Physical Sciences Coordinator

Surfaces & Interfaces Village
Coordinator

MX Village Coordinator

Outreach and Events Manager

User Office Manager

Spectroscopy Village
Coordinator

Operations Programme
Manager

Director, Physical Sciences

Director, Life Sciences

Engineering & Environmental
Science Village Coordinator

Soft Condensed Matter Village
Coordinator

Technical Director

Life Sciences Coordinator

APOLOGIES

Malcolm McMahon

University of Edinburgh

Karen Hudson-Edwards

Birkbeck College

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

Bill Clegg welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the new members of the DUC. Elections are continuing for the new Materials Village representative. Apologies were received from Malcolm McMahon and Karen Hudson-Edwards.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2011 were approved.

Action 5.2 – Most of the issues with the publications database have been resolved in the recent Feb-12 release.

Concern was raised by David Lawson that users were nervous about entering details of publications that are not yet in the public domain. Sue Judge stated that these details are only visible to those that enter them and the PRP, but not externally. This needs to be clarified to a wider audience. **Action: Sue Judge**

Action 5.4 – Gwyndaf Evans reported that they hope to have the new MX web pages ready before the next DUC. **Action: Gwyndaf Evans.**

Action: 5.6 – Feedback and suggestions for volunteers on the new User Administration System (UAS) project has been sent to Sue Judge. Bill Clegg reported that the project was progressing, and that he was taking part in the Key User Group later in the week.

All other actions were completed.

3. HEALTH & SAFETY

There were no issues raised.

4. ESUO

Bill Clegg reported that the last meeting of the ESUO was held in Oct-11, Hamburg. The organisation was formed 2-3 years ago to coordinate interest across Europe in transnational access funding. Structural biology (MX & SAXS and x-ray microscopy) have been successful in obtaining funding from 1st Sept -11 under BIOSTRUCTX for 4 yrs. A proposal (CALIPSO) has been assembled to support all areas of SR activity which lie outside of BIOSTRUCTX. This has been submitted to the EU Commission for funding to start in May-12.

Currently only Bill is listed as a representative for the UK. Please can anyone who would like to volunteer to be listed as a country rep contact Bill in the next four weeks (Website www.ESUO.org) **Action: DUC reps.**

5. USER REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

i) MX

The following issues were raised:-

(1) Onsite storage of samples

Gwyndaf Evans reported that this facility is now available.

(2) Totally remote access (in particular, puck changeovers at weekends, and shipping costs)

What are the limitations regarding weekend working to change pucks?

Martin Walsh responded that the plan is:-

- i) to double dewar capacity on Phase 1 MX beamlines for AP11.
- ii) to train the EHCs to change the pucks, so that this service could be provided in the long term. (Further discussions are needed on this issue).
- iii) Shipping costs of dewars are now reimbursed by the User Office.

(3) Provision of extra pucks/tools for BAGS (especially if new investigators are included)

Dave Stuart agreed that for new sites joining a BAG then Diamond would make tools available. However existing large groups should look to order their own. The details for this are on the Diamond website but needs highlighting. **Action: Sue Judge**

(4) System for data backup.

This was discussed in the breakout session.

ii) Soft condensed matter

No issues reported, however Josep Sulé-Suso commented that the B22 lab was working very well.

iii) Engineering

(1) Users are currently nervous of connecting to the water cooling system on I12, as it is the same system as the synchrotron.

It was agreed that a better protocol of linking into the system would be helpful.

Action: Andy Dent.

(2) A question was raised that it would be helpful to be able to record commands and motor positions, and retain a history.

Steve Collins reported that this functionality has recently been made available, but needs to have clearer documentation and to be more widely communicated.

Action: Steve Collins

(3) Area detector data analysis. For new users it would be helpful to make the data analysis more straightforward (e.g. integration of powder diffraction data).

Trevor Rayment reported that this was a key priority for Diamond, however action needed to be coordinated across the beamlines. The SDA (Scientific Data Analysis)

package will be available from May/June, and provides a downloadable package of tools. It would be helpful to have feedback from users on the SDA.

iv) Surfaces & Interfaces

The majority of feedback was positive.

There were a couple of comments that feedback on proposals that are unsuccessful at the PRP tends to be very general. Users would prefer to have more constructive feedback.

It was asked whether the publication track record of the proposer was considered in the PRP process. Trevor replied that yes, the publication track record was important to Diamond. It was agreed that the guidelines for the PRP should be published on the website.

Action: Sue Judge

A question was raised as to whether proposals with funding from other research councils automatically received beamtime? Trevor replied that funding does not guarantee beamtime, it is on scientific merit.

Karen Edler raised the issue of creating sub-directories within a folder in order to handle data better. Chris Nicklin replied that this is possible but not that straightforward to set up.

Otherwise all feedback received was beamline specific points, however it was generally positive for both the User Office and the beamlines.

v) Spectroscopy

No feedback

vi) Materials

No feedback.

6. MACHINE UPDATE REPORT

Richard Walker gave a presentation to update the DUC on developments and performance of the machine.

7. PHYSICAL SCIENCES REPORT

Trevor Rayment gave a presentation to update progress on the Physical Sciences beamlines.

Pagona Papakonstantinou asked what the difference was between the branchline on I06 and I09. Trevor replied that they were similar but the difference would be in the Science with I09

having more chemical applications. Additionally the priority on I09 will be for the hard/soft x-ray experiments.

The issue was raised regarding the outcome for beamtime allocated on I20 for AP10. Trevor replied that Diamond has strived to accommodate experiments on B18, but approved experiments have otherwise been carried forward.

There was some discussion on the DIAD beamline. The Research councils are keen to build the beamline, but currently Diamond does not have the funding. However Diamond is optimistic that we will obtain funding in the future.

8. LIFE SCIENCES UPDATE

Dave Stuart gave a presentation to update progress on the Life Sciences beamlines.

9. FEEDBACK FROM VILLAGE COORDINATOR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

i) Macromolecular Crystallography MX

Gwyndaf reported that he had taken an action to ask some questions regarding the data dispenser, as it was felt that this system could be simpler to use, and report back to the DUC.

Action: Gwyndaf Evans

ii) Soft Condensed Matter

Nick Terrill reported that there had been discussion regarding consolidation of the peripheral labs for the village, and that the users would like input into the plan. Additionally there was concern about the new beamline that will cut across the middle of the village and labs. Again users would like to be consulted regarding I21.

Action: Nick Terrill

There was discussion regarding how busy the labs were. Some labs e.g. I11 are in constant use and wet bench space is still needed.

iii) Materials

Steve reported that there had been no specific feedback to review. Topics discussed covered the user meeting and the new village representative.

iv) Engineering

Chiu Tang reported that they had reviewed the individual beamlines in the village.

I11 – upgrade project has been approved to add a new experimental hutch for Long Duration Expts and a new users' area.

I15 – Stability continues to improve and the beamline is working reliably

I12 – Staff are working very hard to support tomography. Diamond has recently advertised for a tomography support scientist, to focus on data analysis. Additionally we have recruited a data acquisition scientist for tomography. A software project will also be progressed to improve the non-tomography software and make it more user friendly.

v) Surfaces and Interfaces

There had been further discussion regarding the PRP process. Trevor commented that the Secretary to the panel is key. At the moment a Support Scientist from a different village takes the minutes, but this will be reviewed to consider changing to a support scientist from the relevant village. This should improve the feedback to Users. **Action: Trevor Rayment**

vi) Spectroscopy.

Joanna Collingwood reported that minor modifications to B18 were continuing to improve the user experience. The I18 mapping process will be improved in terms of speed. I20 has been covered previously.

10. USER OFFICE REPORT

Sue Judge gave a presentation to update progress in the User Office.

Sue was asked to report on the UAS project at the next meeting. **Action: Sue Judge**

Fast track, when the badge is collected from the gate, needs to become the norm for users. It would be helpful, when using the offline facilities to be able to take the safety test online too. Sue will look into this process. **Action: Sue Judge**

11. SR User Meeting

The next SRUM will be held 5-6th Sept, with a student day on the 4th Sept. Five workshops have been proposed for the user meeting, and their programmes are at different stages of outline. Registration will be launched on the 30th March.

Open days / Public engagement.

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations there will be open days held from 16-20th June. These will be larger “Inside Diamond” days with ~600+ visitors /day, and a Science fair in the atrium. There is an article in the Diamond News asking for proposals for table top demos, for which funding is available. Please send any proposals to Laura Holland.

It was requested that dates for such events be put on the website as soon as they are confirmed, even if there are no further details yet.

14. AOB

The format of the DUC update presentations was discussed. It was agreed that these should be sent at least 1 week in advance of the meeting in a compressed format or via SharePoint. At the meeting, particular points in the presentation should be highlighted rather than go through the whole presentation. This should allow more time for discussion, rather than responding on the day to the presentation.

Annex A: New Actions

Number	Action	Actionee	Target Completion Date / Status
5.4	To restructure the MX village web pages for the next DUC in Sept -12.	Gwyndaf Evans	Next meeting
6.1	To clarify to users that the details of publications entered into the Publications database, which are not yet in the public domain, are not visible externally.	Sue Judge	End June
6.2	To contact Bill to volunteer to be listed as a country rep for the ESUO.	DUC Reps	End April
6.3	To highlight the details for ordering pucks from the supplier on the website.	Sue Judge	End June
6.4	To review the protocol for linking into the water cooling system.	Andy Dent	Next meeting
6.5	To review the status of recording commands and motor positions functionality, and ensure that this is documented and communicated.	Steve Collins	End June
6.6	To publish the guidelines for the PRP on the website.	Sue Judge	End June
6.7	To review the status of the data dispenser and report back to the next DUC meeting.	Gwyndaf Evans	Next meeting
6.8	To circulate a plan for the Soft Condensed Matter village labs, and request input from the user community	Nick Terrill	Next meeting
6.9	To review whether the secretary to the PRP should be changed to a support scientist from the relevant village.	Trevor Rayment	Next meeting
6.10	To provide a report on the new User Administration System project.	Sue Judge	Next meeting
6.11	To review whether the online safety test can be taken when using the offline facilities only.	Sue Judge	Next meeting

Annex B: Completed Actions

Number	Action	Actionee	Status
4.7	To contact PIs to obtain feedback on recent visits. Sue Judge can provide lists of contacts.	DUC Reps	Complete
4.9	Draw up plans and implement onsite dewar storage and tracking facilities.	Gwyndaf Evans	a) Lab 37 currently available for dewar storage. b) However Dewar tracking is now in place and available for users upon request. c) A full plan for optimum use of shorter shift periods with 'bulk' dewar handling is being drawn within a project led by Dave Hall
4.10	Implement a smaller minimum shift period to enable easy scheduling of time periods <8hrs.	Sue Judge/ Bill Pulford	Smaller minimum shift period is available for MX.
4.11	Investigate reimbursement of dewar shipping costs if remote access means no travel or subsistence is used	Gwyndaf Evans	Dewar shipping costs are now reimbursed by the user office for remote access experiments.
4.14	To update the PRP lists on the website	Sue Judge	Complete. Will continue to be updated on a 6 monthly basis.
4.15	To review the allowance for food.	Sue Judge	Increase in allowance will be implemented from April-12.
4.16	Bill to send details regarding accessing the DLS visitor network from Ridgeway House to Sue, who will follow up and report back to the next meeting.	Bill Clegg / Sue Judge	Done
5.1	Sue to update users on the current status of I20.	Sue Judge	Done. Further update will be sent shortly.
5.2	To clarify whether the issues raised by Joanna with the Publications database have been addressed in the latest release, and what the most recent changes have been.	Sue Judge/Joanna Collingwood	To be updated in the meeting.

5.3	To request ideas from Users for the next SR meeting.	Bill Clegg	Completed End Oct.
5.4	To restructure the MX village web pages	Gwyndaf Evans	A proposal for MX web pages has been drawn up and will be presented internally this week. We expect to have new pages ready before next DUC.
5.5	To review the operation of the vending machines	Sue Judge	See User Office presentation.
5.6	To send feedback and suggestion of volunteers for the new UAS project to Sue Judge.	DUC Reps	Complete
5.7	To co-ordinate a draft response to the STFC consultation.	Bill Clegg	Complete
5.8	To start the process of electing new representatives for the DUC.	Kathryn Poulter	Complete
5.9	To organise the next meetings for March & Sept 2012.	Kathryn Poulter	Complete (20 th March and 18 th Sept)