2021 Geoscience Synchrotron PI Search Timeline and Process.

Winter – Current PIs of GSECARS and COMPRES create an ad hoc Steering Committee ([Geoscience Synchrotron Users Group](#)).

Winter/Spring – Steering Committee meets weekly to create a strategic response to NSF's anticipated solicitation for a new "facility" for synchrotron-assisted research for the geosciences (host community workshops and townhalls; create subcommittees (E&O, Facilities, Governance, etc); listen to presentations by beamline scientists…)

25 June – NSF releases facility solicitation.

26 July – Steering Committee releases solicitation for selection of a PI. Steering Committee develops guidelines for Conflict of Interest (COI*).

30 August – Suggested date to submit applications.

1 September – After consideration of COI amongst the Steering Committee, Liz Cottrell appointed to chair the search and compose search committee.

8 September – Announce Search Committee members [comprised of: Liz Cottrell (Chair, Smithsonian Institution), Peter Heaney (Penn State), Anat Shahar (Carnegie), Wenlu Zhu (U. of Maryland), and Ben Gilbert (Lawrence Berkeley National Lab)].

10 September – Contact referees for input (deadline for input 17 September).

15-20 September – Each search committee member will independently review applications. The search committee will then convene to discuss and identify a short list of candidates.

27-30 September – Conduct interviews of short-listed candidates. Each short-listed candidate will be invited to participate in two interviews.

      One interview will consist of a widely advertised, moderated, zoom webinar that will be open to the community and recorded. Candidates will have 15 minutes to present their vision for the new synchrotron geoscience organization and additional time to answer questions from attendees. There will be a mechanism for the community to provide timely feedback to the search committee.

      The other interview will consist of a private zoom meeting with the search committee. Candidates will all be asked a list of pre-determined questions.

Week of 4 October – Search Committee presents recommendations to unconflicted members of Steering Committee [members of the steering committee who do not have a conflict of interest with the applicants: Carl Agee (UNM), Pamela Burnley (UNLV), Paul Fenter (ANL), Satish Myneni (Princeton), Quentin Williams (UCSC), and Heather Watson (Union College)]. Unconflicted members of the Steering Committee + Search Committee members vote.

The PI will be announced in October.

Geoscience Synchrotron Organization – PI search
Conflict of Interest Guidelines

Steering committee members who are deemed to have conflicts of interest with a PI candidate will recuse themselves from all committee activities directly related to the PI evaluation and selection process for the duration of the search (i.e., until the PI candidate accepts/declines or is not selected for the position).

Conflicts of interest are defined as occurring when:

(i) The PI candidate is a member of the steering committee
(ii) Committee member and a PI candidate are employed at the same institution, or a committee member or PI candidate is a candidate for employment at the other's institution
(iii) Committee member has a financial relationship with a PI candidate (this includes co-PI-ship on grants)
(iv) Committee member and a PI candidate have a close family relationship (e.g. parent, child, spouse)
(v) Committee member and a PI candidate have a past advisor/advisee relationship or, within the past 48 months, an employer/employee relationship
(vi) Committee member determines, for whatever reason, they cannot act as an impartial judge of a PI's candidacy

These regulations are applicable to not only PI candidates but also to any individuals who are identified in the PI candidate's application as being proposed to hold senior management positions in the new organization.

The Search Committee developed this timeline and process. Please direct questions to the Chair of the Search Committee, Liz Cottrell.