News and Updates from the Geoscience Synchrotron Steering Committee

Update through February 7, 2022

- A report on the workshop, Synchrotrons and Geochemistry: A Workshop for Novices and Experts, has been published on-line at Synchrotron Radiation News. Link here.

- Proposal budget nearly finalized

- Proposal sections being drafted and undergoing revision by Steering Committee and Facility PIs

Updates through January 6, 2022

- Draft budget under development

- Draft education and outreach plan under development (P. Burnley, Chair)

- Draft vision statement for the new organization developed by Science Vision Subcommittee (W. Zhu, Chair)

- Technical Working Group meetings held

- Management Plan Subcommittee (T. Duffy, chair) met to discussed the draft management structure. Revised plans for the management structure and user organization of the new organization submitted to Steering Committee and Facility PIs for comment

- Responses to Facility panel summaries solicited and received from Facility PIs

- Each facility proposal was evaluated in an on-line panel meeting and a panel summary provided to the PI

- Mail reviews of facility proposals solicited and received

- Community input on Facility Proposals solicited through a web-based form

- Proposals for new and continued facilities received. A total of 17 proposals were received. Abstracts posted on the webpage.
10/20/21 NSF Webinar for the community regarding the solicitation

10/11/21 Steering Committee Meeting

10/5/21 Andrew Campbell (U. Chicago) is offered and accepts the role of PI for Geosciences Synchrotron Steering Committee proposal

10/4/21 Steering Committee Meeting

- Recommendation for PI and Steering Committee Vole

9/28/21 Webinar with finalist candidates for the PI position. The attendance for this event with approximately 70, demonstrating strong community engagement and involvement

9/27/21 Steering Committee Meeting

- Discussion of Education, Outreach, and Diversity activities led by Pamela Burnley

9/21/21 Search Committee Updates

- PI Search Committee announces short list and advertises a public webinar to be held 9/28/21 for the community to meet the candidates

9/21/21 Congratulations to our colleagues at Arizona State University who received a $13.7 million grant from the NSF Mid-scale Infrastructure-1 Program to establish a national high pressure facility on the ASU campus. FORCE - the Facility for Open Research in a Compressed Environment - will develop a suite of novel large-volume high-pressure equipment that will enable the discovery of new materials, and the solution of fundamental problems in Earth and planetary science, materials science, chemistry, physics, energy conversion, and other fields.

9/20/21 Steering Committee Meeting

- PI Search Committee meets with non-conflicted members of the Steering Committee to provide update on search

9/15/21 Call for proposals for new and existing facilities released

9/13/21 Steering Committee Meeting

- Finalize facility evaluation procedure
- Finalize PI search procedure

9/10/21 Search Committee Updates

- PI Search Committee posts search Timeline and Processes document
• PI Search Committee posts PI Roles and Responsibilities document

9/8/21 Steering Committee Meeting
• PI Search Committee Membership: E. Cottrell (Chair), P. Heaney, A. Shahar, W. Zhu, and B. Gilbert
• Refinement of call for evaluation of existing facilities and solicitation of new facilities/programs
• Plans for improved communication to ESS community developed

8/31/21-9/2/21 Workshop on Advances in Synchrotron-Based Research Towards Understanding the Structure, Evolution, and Dynamics of Earth and Planetary Interiors
• 221 unique participants
• See web page for agenda and recorded talks

8/30/21 Closing date for PI Applications
• 6 applications received
• Elizabeth Cottrell appointed as Chair of Search Committee

8/30/21 Steering Committee Meeting
• Discussion of Plans for PI evaluation and interviews and conflicts of interest

8/26/21 Meeting between T. Duffy and Joel Brock, Director of the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source

8/24/21 Meeting of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee (P. Burnley Chair)

8/23/21 Steering Committee Meeting
• Discussion of Plans for PI evaluation and interviews and conflicts of interest

8/12/21-8/13/21 COMPRES Annual meeting
• 187 registrants
• Breakout session: A New Organization for Management of Synchrotron Beamlines for Earth Sciences, T. Duffy

8/11/21 Meeting of Education and Outreach Subcommittee (P. Burnley, Chair)

8/9/21 Steering Committee Meeting
• Discussion of PI search and call for facility evaluation and proposals for new facilities

8/2021 Outreach to community members and potential PI candidates by T. Duffy
8/6/21 COMPRES Facilities Update Meeting with NSF

8/3/21 Community Feedback Form added to Steering Committee Webpage

8/2/21 Steering Committee Meeting
  • Proposed management structure for the new organization presented by T. Duffy

7/26/21 Release of solicitation for a Principal Investigator to lead the management of an NSF-funded organization for synchrotron-hosted analytical facilities for Earth sciences

7/26/21 Steering Committee Meeting
  • Discussion of budget considerations for new organization

7/19/21 Steering Committee Meeting
  • Discussion and refinement of PI solicitation document

7/16/21 Earth Science Research at the Advanced Light Source
  • A workshop organized and hosted by the Advanced Light Source Earth and Environmental Sciences Thrust Area

7/12/21 Steering Committee Meeting
  • Presentation on Diamond Anvil cell program at GSECARS (V. Prakapenka)
  • Discussion of solicitation for PI

7/6/21 Steering Committee Meeting
  • T. Duffy reported on phone call discussion with R. Kelz of NSF
  • Report on Geochemistry workshop

7/5/21 Community invitation to join Education and Outreach subcommittee released

6/28/21-6/29/21 Synchrotrons and Geochemistry: A Workshop for Novices and Experts
  • More than 300 unique participants
  • See webpage for agenda and recorded talks

6/25/21 Steering Committee Meeting
  • Discussion of initial reaction to NSF solicitation

6/24/21 NSF solicitation released
  Community Facility Support: Synchrotron-based analytical capabilities advancing Earth and Environmental Sciences research and training