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MILESTONE REPORT

REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF CALLS FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS TO STABLE BEAM ACCESS FACILITIES

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Abstract:

The present document reports on the preparation of calls for submission of proposals to stable beam access facilities and their current status.



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For more information on EURO-LABS, its partners and contributors please see https://web.infn.it/EURO-LABS/

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Executive summary

The present document reports on the actions taken by the laboratories in Work Package 2-2-1 offering access to Stable Ion Beams in order to arrange calls for proposals. The current status of calls and statistics regarding the number of proposals received and eligible for EURO-LABS support is reported.

INTRODUCTION

The present document reports on the current state and actions taken by community of institutions participating in WP2.1 of the EURO-LABS project, which are a group of facilities offering access to Stable Ion Beams.

The first part of the document briefly summarizes the aims and tasks of the WP2.1. The second part of the document gives an overview of the actions taken by the facilities to arrange calls for proposals for access and statistics concerning the proposals received, in the case that the call (s) have already been arranged and proposals processed by the relevant selection committees.



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Tasks and Objectives of WP2.1 – Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures delivering Stable Ion Beams

1.1. OBJECTIVES AND TASK DESCRIPTION

WP2: Access to Research Infrastructures for Nuclear Physics: The participating Research Infrastructures (RIs) provide the necessary opportunities for cutting edge research in various fields covering, but not limited to: Fundamental Nuclear Science, Nuclear Astrophysics, Neutron Physics, Physics beyond the Standard Model, Atomic Physics, Biophysics, Medical Physics and Materials Science. WP2 builds on the experience gained in previous EU programmes (ENSAR/ENSAR2), expanding the access offer through the involvement of smaller facilities and neutron beam facilities. WP2 will provide more than 30000 access units (hours) in ca. 450 projects and for the benefit of more than 2400 users. This activity includes 15 RIs and more than 15 facilities/installations, for nuclear (fundamental and applied) physics experiments and the related theoretical support. The participating RIs provide access to an extremely broad range of services, delivering a myriad of ion beams covering a huge range of elements, masses, energies and intensities. The access is provided also to the interdisciplinary users, for example, offering beams of atomic clusters. Theoretical support will be provided by the strong nuclear physics theory teams at several RIs. In addition, access is provided to two RIs targeted to offer theoretical support for experiments (TA + VA). The RIs participating in WP2 are grouped into four tasks. All the facilities will sustainably undertake improvement and extension of their service provision in the coming years, in many cases working together to maximise synergies between them.

Task 2.1: TA to RIs delivering Stable Ion Beams: The stable beam facilities of WP2 provide ions from protons up to uranium, from low energies up to the level of GeV per nucleon. The facilities range in scale from small laboratories hosting electrostatic accelerators up to large cyclotron and synchrotron facilities hosting an array of accelerators. A common theme through the facilities is the possibility to provide beams with high intensities that are required for instance in the case of extremely small production cross-sections, e.g. to create new isotopes and elements.

Provision of access: In order to facilitate access to the RIs, the facilities are required to make and advertise open calls for proposals on a regular basis. The submitted proposals are then evaluated on the basis of scientific merit and suitability to the RI in question and if viewed appropriate, access to the facility can be granted and the requested beam time scheduled. In addition, the proposals are evaluated by the User Selection Panels (USP) according to the criteria listed in the Grant Agreement to determine if the user group is eligible for TA support via EURO-LABS. A User Selection Panel has been established for each Research Infrastructure, where at least half of the members are external to the RI.

In the following sections the actions taken and procedures used by the various RIs in WP2.1 to arrange calls for proposals are detailed.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

In the present Section, an overview of the actions taken by the relevant RIs to arrange calls for proposals to access the facilities is given. The section is organized in different subsections, one for each of the RIs offering access to Stable Ion Beams.



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1.2. ALTO - ACCÉLÉRATEUR LINÉAIRE ET TANDEM A ORSAY

The ALTO facility has two accelerators, a LINAC for RI production and a Tandem accelerator for stable ion and neutron beam production. Beam time requests for all three types of beams are evaluated during the same call for proposals which is typically issued once a year.

Beam time is allocated by examination of proposals received based on the criterion of scientific merit by the Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The ALTO facility held its last PAC meeting on the 12 and 13th of January 2023. Beam time was requested for low energy Radioactive beams, high energy stable beams and fast neutron beams.

Before the PAC meeting 15 proposals were received demanding a total of 2112 hours of beam time, 504 hours of which was for radioactive beams. Of the 14 proposals accepted by the committee, 7 of these are eligible for EURO-LABS transnational access (TA) support. Additionally, a further 5 proposals approved at the previous PAC in October 2021 are eligible to receive EURO-LABS TA support since they were waiting to be scheduled to run after the start of the EURO-LABS project in September 2022.

The panel which decides the trans-national access is comprised of the Program Advisory Committee chairman, Augusto Machiavelli (Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA) and the ALTO scientific coordinator (Jon Wilson, IJC Lab, Orsay). Typically, an eligible experiment will receive around 28 days of international user support to run the experiment provided that the spokesperson of the experiment agrees to give support in priority to young researchers (postdocs and PhD students) and first-time users. Four experiments have received EURO-LABS TA support to date (between September 2022 and February 2023).

1.3. CLEAR – CLUSTER OF LOW ENERGY ACCELERATORS FOR RESEARCH

The distributed facility CLEAR is a consortium of three installations: ATOMKI in Debrecen, CNA in Seville and IST in Lisbon, offering access to stable-ion and neutron beams, WP2 Tasks 1 and 3, in the framework of the EURO-LABS project. Each one of the facilities has its own procedure for access. However, in the context of the EURO-LABS project, the three facilities have developed a common protocol for access.

A common access point has been established, through the portal https://institucional.us.es/clear/. There, the information of the capabilities of the different facilities is presented. Also, the information on the different calls is available, with the procedure for applying for beam time and the funds for transnational access. The proposals are submitted electronically.

The consortium has constituted a common Scientific Panel, which revises the proposals that have been made for the during the different calls. The panel is constituted by three scientific experts, proposed by each one of the facilities, plus a chairperson from the EURO-LABS management. The three coordinators of the facilities are present in the meeting of the Scientific Panel. The Scientific Panel acts as User Selection Panel.

CLEAR opens three calls a year. The first call went from the 1st to the 30th of September 2022. The second call went from the 1st of January to the 15 of February 2023. In the first call one proposal was submitted and approved by the scientific panel. The experiment has been already carried out at CNA.



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In the second call three proposals have been submitted, one for each of the three facilities of CLEAR. The proposals are presently being evaluated.

1.4. GANIL - GRAND ACCÉLÉRATEUR NATIONAL D'IONS LOURDS

The "Grand Accélérateur National d'Ions Lourds" (GANIL) located at Caen-France has delivered stable beams for 40 years to a large community of users. The RI has established procedures to manage the access to the beams and the support from the GANIL personnel for the users. The GANIL users can be divided in four categories. The first one, representing 50-60% of the allocated beam time follows the call for proposal <u>procedure</u>. One call is organised per year with a deadline for submission in Autumn. The call for proposals uses an electronic submission system (https://u.ganil-spiral2.eu/pac/). After the deadline, a technical advisory committee (TAC) is organised by the beam coordinator to check the technical aspects of the proposals in term of beams to be delivered, security/safety aspects, and experimental apparatus performances.

Following the TAC, the submitted proposals are evaluated by the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) in December. The committee is composed of 12 members. During the open meeting, the PAC hears brief oral presentations made by the spokesperson (or their representative) for each of the experimental proposals submitted before the PAC deadline followed by questions. After all the presentations, the PAC meets in a closed session to rank the experiments and recommends to the Directors those experiments that should be selected to receive beam time. Each spokesperson is advised of the recommendation of the PAC through e-mail within a few days of the PAC meeting.

The second category is the "interdisciplinary" research program managed by the <u>CIMAP</u> laboratory. The CIMAP users benefit from the GANIL beams as main users with full intensity or in parallel operation, with lower beam current, with the high energy beam delivered to the nuclear physics experiments or to the industrial application cave. The CIMAP manages its own PAC called iPAC. The latter is now included in the electronic submission system.

The third category is the "industrial application" research program. These requests are managed by the industrial application manager at GANIL who organises the campaign representing ~15-10% of the high energy stable beam schedule.

Finally, detectors tests, beam developments or other technical studies can have access to the RI after the approval by the GANIL management.

In 2023, the beam schedule is shared as follows: 54% for high energy nuclear physics, 20% of interdisciplinary physics, 16% for industrial application and 10% for technical studies.

The last nuclear physics PAC for heavy ions at the Cyclotrons complex was organised in December 2022. 16 proposals were submitted for 422 UT (1UT = 8h of beam time). 8 proposals for 169 UT were approved. 5 accepted experiments are eligible for EURO-LABS TNA access. The TNA eligibility is validated by four people: the chairman of the PAC, the GANIL director, the GANIL TNA coordinator (the beam coordinator) and the chair of the GANIL Users Executive Committee (GUEC).

1.5. GSI/FAIR – GSI HELMHOLTZZENTRUM FÜR SCHWERIONENFORSCHUNG, FAIR – FACILITY FOR ANTIPROTON AND ION RESEARCH

GSI-FAIR provides stable ion beams to users covering all elements from hydrogen to uranium in a wide energy range between few 100 keV/u up to relativistic beams with kinetic energies up to few GeV/u. There are several target stations and related experimental areas, including the velocity filter



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SHIP and the gas-filled separator TASCA, where trans-uranium elements and their isotopes can be produced and studied. The stable-beam operation at the UNILAC experimental areas is available since the 1970ies and the relativistic beams from SIS18 are available since 1990. At SIS18, the stable ion beams can be injected in the heavy-ion storage ring ESR, which has a maximum bending power of 10 Tm and which is equipped with an electron cooler and an internal targets (providing gas-jet targets of elements from hydrogen to xenon) for atomic-collision studies, precision spectroscopy of highly-charged ions and for decay studies of special decay modes which are characteristic for the electron-nucleus interaction and prevail in highly-charged or even fully-ionized ions. Nuclei and highly-charged ions of interest can be decelerated to energies down to 100 keV/u and studied in the storage ring CRYRING.

At GSI, the General Program Advisory Committee, G-PAC, a panel of international experts, is responsible for the scientific evaluation of beam time proposals. The latest G-PAC meeting of GSI took place in September 2022. The call for proposals was open until June 30th 2022, and a total of 124 proposals (58 of which to G-PAC) have been handed in via a novel submission system. In total 58 proposals requesting in total shifts (8 hours / shift) have been evaluated. The G-PAC has assessed and ranked the proposals in four categories (A, A-, B and C) and has made recommendations for amounts of beam time. 10 proposals employing radioactive beams from the SIS18/FRS have been ranked A by the G-PAC and have been granted with 1600 hours of beam time in the period 2024/25. Because of the rising energy costs after the Russian invasion into Ukraine, some beam time, which was originally planned for 2023, has to be shifted to 2024.

The form to apply for Transnational Access is provided at the EURO-LABS website of GSI as well as the access to the user registration and to the statement of travel costs. Calls for applications are published on the website, in mails distributed via the GSI user mailing list, in presentations, collaboration meetings and during the experiment proposal submission process. A user selection panel has been set-up in order to evaluate applications.

In late 2023, an engineering run is planned to test and take into operation the accelerators GSI. This will ensure a fast start of experiments in early 2024. The beam time scheduling for 2024 and 2025 is in progress.

1.6. IFIN-HH - TANDEM ACCELERATOR COMPLEX

The IFIN-HH Tandem accelerator complex has been providing transnational access to users since 2016 within ENSAR2. The experiments at the 9 MV Tandem, 3 MV and 1 MV Tandetron accelerators of IFIN-HH are carried out in a single experimental campaign. An experimental campaign lasts on average 9 months (continuous operation at the 9 MV Tandem accelerator - 24 hours out of 24, 7 days out of 7 at the), the rest of the time being occupied by technical revisions of the installation and the holiday period in August.

The submission of experiment proposals at the IFIN-HH Accelerator Complex is made once a year, usually in the fall, and requests are sent via an electronic submission form available through the User Office webpage of IFIN-HH: http://useroffice.nipne.ro/index.php

The experimental campaign program is established by the Experimental Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is composed of international specialists in fundamental and applied nuclear physics. The evaluation procedure involves an open session with presentations and Q&A with the spokespersons of the proposal. It is followed afterwards by the closed session where the PAC members decide on the beamtime allocation. The PAC meeting is also attended by the PAC Secretary



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(also acts as the Beam Time Co-ordinator), the Heads of Laboratories and instrument responsibles acting as liaisons between the Users and the existing infrastructure.

The most recent call for proposals held the open session on 10-11th November 2022. For the 9MV Tandem Accelerator, 20 proposals were received requesting a total of 214 days (5136 hours). Of these, 16 proposals (169 days) were approved by the PAC. In the case of the 3MV Tandetron Accelerator, 29 proposals were received requesting a total of 217 days (1736 hours). Of these, 28 proposals (164 days) were approved by the PAC, either fully or partially. For the 1 MV Tandetron accelerator all the 16 received proposals were approved, amounting to a total of 48 days (1152 hours). All of the received proposals fall within the EURO-LABS topics, user information regarding the access for support being available on the webpage http://useroffice.nipne.ro/eurolabs.php#.

1.7. JYFL – ACCELERATOR LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ (JYU)

The Accelerator Laboratory of the University of Jyväskylä, Finland (JYFL) has a long history of providing transnational access to users (since FP4). As a result, the RI has well-established procedures to deal with both the calls for proposals and the subsequent evaluation. The RI has two calls for proposals per year, which always have the same deadlines for submission in the Spring (deadline 15th March) and Autumn (deadline 15th September). Proposals much be submitted through an electronic submission system through a link provided by the RI. Details of the facility and the application procedure can be found here: <u>JYFL Access</u>

The submitted (written) proposals are evaluated by the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), consisting of six independent international experts who also act as the EURO-LABS User Selection Committee. At present, the evaluation procedure does not involve presentations or Q&A sessions with the spokespersons of the proposal, though the PAC have active dialogue with the spokespersons in advance of the PAC meeting. The PAC meeting is also attended by the Scientific Secretary (also acts as the Beam Time Co-ordinator), the Head of Laboratory and Professors leading the main research groups as observers.

The most recent call for proposals was the one with a deadline of 15th September 2022. At that call a total of 18 proposals were received, requesting 129 days of beam time. Of these, 16 proposals (125 days) fell within the remit of topics of EURO-LABS. The remaining two proposals were to use the RADEF radiation effects facility, for which access is offered via the RADNEXT program.

Following the evaluation by the PAC, a total of 11 from 16 proposals were approved and granted a total of 80 beam time days. Of these, 9 have user groups which are eligible for EURO-LABS support. As the RI has regularly arranged calls for proposals in a systematic way, many of the approved proposals submitted to previous calls which have not yet been scheduled for beam time are also eligible for support from EURO-LABS.

1.8. INFN – LABORATORI NAZIONALI DI LEGNARO (INFN – LNL) AND LABORATORI NAZIONALI DEL SUD (INFN – LNS)

The EURO-LABS LNL-LNS facility is based on two main sites operating several different accelerators for stable ion beams.

At LNL, the TANDEM-ALPI-PIAVE facility is providing heavy-ion beams according to the standard schedule determined by the Legnaro National Laboratories. At the same time, the two smaller machines CN and AN2000 provide light stable beams at very low energy. In the past few years, the



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Laboratory has decided to provide the scientific evaluation of the proposals using one single committee that is the Program Advisory Committee (PAC). The committee is composed of 9 members nominated by INFN and selected among the experts in the different fields of research performed by the users (gamma-ray spectroscopy, nuclear reactions, neutron science, applications).

The PAC normally meets two times per year (June-July and December-January) evaluating proposals to be performed in the forthcoming semester.

The first call opened during the EURO-LABS project execution was in October 2022 (PAC meeting Dec 2022). As already done for previous projects (ENSAR, ENSAR2), the EURO-LABS funding procedures have been integrated within the PAC procedure so that spokespersons have been informed on the procedure to follow to apply for transnational access. A presentation on EURO-LABS was given at the beginning of the PAC meeting at LNL. Moreover, the EURO-LABS User Selection Panel has been nominated. It takes care of the Users Selection in terms of eligibility and fair distribution of the transnational access funds, evaluating only requests that have already passed the PAC scientific evaluation.

The next LNL PAC call will open in April 2022 and the PAC meeting is scheduled for 10-12 July 2022.

At LNS, the CS cyclotron and the TANDEM accelerators provide stable ion beams over a wide energy range. The LNS site is currently undergoing a major upgrade of the accelerators and will not deliver beam in 2022, therefore no co-PAC meetings were held. The call for proposals will follow the same procedures described for LNL as soon as the facilities will be ready to go back to operation.

1.9. NLC (SLCJ WARSAW & CCB KRAKOW) – NATIONAL LABORATORY OF CYCLOTRONS

SLCJ Warsaw

The National Cyclotron Laboratory HIL-SLCJ (Środowiskowe Laboratorium Ciężkich Jonów UW – Heavy Ion Laboratory, University of Warsaw) is a facility equipped with an isochronous heavy-ion cyclotron (K=160) with two ECR sources, and a proton/deuteron GE PETtrace cyclotron (K=16.5). The available beams range from He up to Ar with energy up to 10 MeV/A and protons/deuterons of 16 MeV/A, respectively. The HIL-SLCJ is a research-oriented centre. The Laboratory is equipped with the following setups dedicated to nuclear physics studies:

- EAGLE (a 4π gamma-ray array), designed to work with ancillary detectors. The recent experimental campaign is dedicated to the projects for the EAGLE-NEDA array (NEEDLE) (+ DIAMANT particle detector). Recently a new scattering chamber based on the DSSD array for Coulomb excitation studies has been developed at HIL for future studies using this technique
- particle arrays ICARE (obtained from Strasbourg) and CUDAC.
- a dedicated irradiation station for radiobiology (with a cells' laboratory infrastructure) is assembled, which can be used also for the material interdisciplinary studies, with the possibility of a target water-cooling system.
- a low background lead-shielded HPGe counters are also available.

A detailed list of instrumentation can be found here: http://slcj.uw.edu.pl/en/experiments-and-research-facilities-at-hil/

Furthermore, HIL-SLCJ has at its disposal: mechanical and electronics workshops, a target-making laboratory, a detector laboratory, a library, two conference rooms, 15 scientists and 38 technicians



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ready to help an external user. In-house physicists assist and support the experimental teams in the setup of experimental facilities and performing measurements. A hostel for experimental teams (9 rooms) is also available at HIL-SLCJ.

The HIL-SLCJ facility is accessible to users through transnational access based on the procedure including submission of the scientific proposal, evaluation of the proposed experiment and decision on granting the funding. Details can be found here: <u>TNA</u>.

The HIL-SLCJ facility provides transnational access to users based on the recommendation of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) members, consisting of eight independent international experts. PAC members evaluate the submitted scientific proposals, following the Call for proposals, announced typically once or twice a year. Proposals must be submitted following the application procedure explained here: beam time request. During the open PAC meeting session, spokespersons of the proposals are asked to present their projects and answer the question from the PAC members. The final decision is taken at the closed PAC session.

As a result of the last Call for proposals 8 proposals and 1 Letter of Intent were received and evaluated at the PAC meeting which took place on the 7th of April 2022. All proposals were accepted and the submitted LoI was endorsed. A total number of 314 – 8-hrs shifts were requested (105 days) and 247 shifts were recommended (82 days) (see PAC_reccommendations_7Apr2022.pdf). From this list, a total number of four experimental groups requesting 150 shifts (50 days) fulfil the EURO-LABS-TNA criteria and were recommended by the Selection Panel for funding.

The HIL-SLCJ has announced a new Call for proposals on the 11th of January, 2023, with the deadline of the 13th of March 2023 for the projects to be performed during the period: May-December 2023. The next PAC meeting will take place at HIL-SLCJ on the 14th of April, 2023.

CCB Kraków

CCB (Cyclotron Centre Bronowice) of IFJ PAN Kraków, Poland is medical proton therapy facility exploiting proton beam of energies from 70 to 230 MeV delivered from IBA 230 MeV proton cyclotron. The centre is dedicated mainly to the proton radiotherapy but also used (mainly in weekends) for the nuclear physics research, based on experiments concerning following subjects: gamma decay from high-lying states and giant resonances excited via (p,p'γ) reaction; dynamics of few-nucleon systems; study of high-lying single-particle states; investigation of the mechanism of proton-induced fission and spallation. Except of scientific program there are conducted measurements aiming at in-beam testing of detectors constructed for the nuclear physics experiments.

The CCB facility is accessible to users through transnational access based on procedure including submission of the proposal, evaluation of the proposed experiment and decision on granting funding. The call for the proposals is announced in June. The submitted proposals are presented and discussed during the open part of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting, which takes place in August, and evaluated by IAC members during the closed session of the meeting (see https://experimentsccb.ifj.edu.pl for more information).

As an answer for 2022 call for proposals (announced 8th June with the deadline of 11th July - https://experimentsccb.ifj.edu.pl/pdfs/CCB_2022.pdf) 6 proposals were received, requesting 52 UTs (416 hours) of beam. The IAC meeting was held on August 26-29, 2022. All proposals were accepted with some recommendations, 3 of them were eligible for EURO-LABS support. Spokesperson of



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three experiments applied for funding within EURO-LABS project. After approval by EURO-LABS User Selection Committee 3 user groups were granted funding. One of these experiments was already conducted in December 2022 (5 UT of beam time), the remaining are scheduled for 2023.

One experiment accepted at previous IAC meeting, proposed at the previous call for proposals, which was eligible for support from EURO-LABS project, has been performed in November (11 UTs of beam time). There is in addition one such proposal approved by previous IAC meeting, which is scheduled for 2023 with 24 UT of beam time granted.