

Initial Users at SNS

During the commissioning phase of SNS instruments there will be opportunities for testing the instruments with a round of first experiments to be conducted with “initial users”. The first three SNS instruments (Backscattering Spectrometer, Magnetism and Liquids Reflectometers) will enter this phase during the late-summer to early fall of 2006. At this time, the accelerator and target/moderators will be operated at relatively low power levels. During 2007 this situation should be consistently improving and opportunities for more demanding science applications will be available. The first call for the formal User Program will be in the second half of 2007 with experiments scheduled for early 2008.

What will be the situation at SNS for initial users?

- Relatively low power levels
- Unpredictable and unreliable beamtime from accelerator, target/moderator, and instrument availability
- Limited sample environment capabilities
- Shared cubicle space for on-site stays
- Extensive installation/construction activities will be ongoing in the Target Building

How will proposals by initial users be selected?

- Input will be provided by SNS instrument team on the feasibility of the experiment.
- A safety review will be conducted by the SNS Experiment Safety Committee.
- Proposals will be peer-reviewed by external panels with recommendations based on scientific and technological impact, and the experience of the experimental team.
- Panel members will be selected from the Instrument Advisory Teams
- Final approval of experiments will be made by the SNS Experimental Facilities Division Director

What is expected of initial users?

- Use our soon-to-be developed proposal system
- Assist in debugging all of the user activities including proposal system, site access, sample management, and training
- Assist in instrument commissioning and development of initial data analysis tools
- Conduct experiments and produce good science
- Keep smiling when things go wrong