

UEC Teleconference – February 26th, 2018

Attendees: Félicie Albert, Christoph Bostedt, Dave Bushnell, Leilani Conradson, Mike Dunne, Petra Fromme, Arianna Gleason, Kristoffer Haldrup, Paul Jones, Lois Pollack, Roseanne Sension, Klaus Sokolowski-Tinten.

Absent: Lin X. Chen, Bruce Doak, Ross Harder, Michael Meyer, David Reis, Artem Rudenko, Richard Sandberg.

Agenda

- 1) Facility update from Mike Dunne (10 mins)
- 2) Feedback from Virtual Town Hall (5 mins)
- 3) Update about the Users Meeting Ari Gleason (15 mins)
- 4) Involvement in the national user organization SSURF (5 mins)
- 5) Related to 3 and in conjunction with SSRL, outreach efforts (10 mins)
- 6) Student, postdoc, early career scientist participation (10 mins)

1) Facility update from Mike Dunne (10 mins)

Budget

- Generally looking positive. A 2 year budget was passed by congress, but no bill has been signed yet so details are not finalized. At a BES level, it seems that all existing BES user facilities will be funded – obviously this is good news for LCLS and SSRL. Details will follow in due course.
- Next year is the final funding year for LCLS II construction – full funding (\$1.045B) will be completed, with first light anticipated in 2020/2021.
- Following that, the BES budget focus will shift to commissioning of LCLS-II and future projects:
 - Ramp up of APS-U
 - APS-U at Berkeley and LCLS-II-HE
 - Both projects are currently heading towards Critical Decision 1 (CD-1)
- Support from the user community is always a big help in budget discussions - outreach has a significant impact, keep it up!

LCLS new modes of operation

- The performance of the XLEAP sub-femtosecond pulse generation scheme is going quite well – currently in a pure eSASE mode, running up to 600eV and looking reasonably robust at the 10-20 uJ level. Some difficulties with the laser driver to get it to higher energy are being worked on.
- Hard X-Ray sub-femtosecond performance was demonstrated a couple of months ago.

MEC high power laser upgrade proposal

- Fusion energy science (FES) issued a call for proposals for major upgrades to facilities. MEC will be submitting a proposal to increase its laser power to the Petawatt level, with details being determined by community consultation. Other laboratories will also be submitting options.
- The MEC User community can help by thinking through the options proposed and gather support around specific proposals – in the past diverse opinions have fractionated interest, meaning no proposals gets enough support to progress.
 - **Action: Felicie/Arianna/Richard to talk with Mike offline to pursue this.**

Run 17 Call for Proposals

- Sorted by instrument:

Instrument	Total
AMO	17
CXI	29
MEC	26
MFX	18
SXR	35
XCS	17
XPP	38
Grand Total	180

- Sorted by Review Panel:

Panel	Primary	%	Secondary	Total/Panel
AMO	21	11.7%	2	23
BIOC	34	18.9%	1	35
BIOS	14	7.8%	1	15
CSD	29	16.1%	6	35
HCM	53	29.4%	0	53
M&I	1	0.6%	5	6
MEC	28	15.6%	0	28
Total	180	100.0%	15	

Question: When is call for proposals expected after shutdown? (i.e. Run 18)

- The Copper linac is expected to be back online in the April 2020 timeframe for hard-X-ray instruments and MEC. The proposal call will likely be due Aug-Sep 2019.
- The timing for experiments using the Superconducting linac is still to be decided, dependent on the detailed commissioning schedule – which should become clearer this summer.
- There was discussion around whether LCLS could make the call early, give people more time to prepare proposals? This has pros and cons, may be of benefit to users but might not if the capabilities are not yet properly understood or defined.

2) Feedback from Virtual Town Hall (5 mins)

- Arianna did a great job moderating, lots of questions!
- Meeting video was posted online, along with the Q&As and all presentations. This can all be found at the following link: <https://lcls.slac.stanford.edu/news/lcls-virtual-users%E2%80%99-meeting-january-18-2018>
- This was included in an email to the users, but may have been missed and so will be re-sent.
- Next event is the Users' Meeting in September 2018. The consensus was to have another Town Hall 6 months after that.

3) Update about the Users Meeting Ari Gleason (15 mins)

- Graham George & Arianna are organizing the next Users' Meeting – have put together an outline for next meeting schedule – feedback needed.
- HPL workshop has changed dates, now early October so will not overlap with Users' Meeting.
- The organization of the individual workshops was discussed, with ideas to make them more cross-disciplinary while finding a balance with not too many workshops, enough diversity, and enough cross-pollination.
- Ideas for workshops need to be submitted by March 12th – we can then organize into categories and look for organizers/speakers.
- **ACTION (all) – every UEC member send a workshop idea to Ari – deadline is March 12th, same as the date for the user community.**
- It was agreed to hold Plenary sessions every day to increase engagement across all 3 days
- Student engagement/involvement –
 - Add Student talks, 15mins, distributed across all 3 days. Abstract submission in advance, reviewed by Ari/Graham (and/or others), selection process TBD.
 - Graduate student award – LCLS will sponsor a “Young Investigator” award again. This award to be scheduled near Harriet's talk.

4) Involvement in the national user organization SSURF (5 mins)

- Christoph – volunteers to be the SSURF outreach rep to the UEC
 - Felicie & Arianna volunteered to co-lead this.

5) SSRL coordination and outreach efforts (10 mins)

- David Bushnell: Budget concerns prompted SSRL UEC to mobilize outreach, and appointed ad-hoc member Jim Evans to help with outreach.
- Mailing lists were consolidated and cross-referenced with congressional districts, so that requests for action can be targeted to users in areas with most impact.
- Examples of how the co-location of LCLS/SSRL is beneficial – one of the arguments for SSRL funding is the link with LCLS science, we need to promote this more.
- Training sessions for Users to help them increase awareness of their work and publicize the value of user facilities – issue is getting users to communicate their science to public and government in a way that will influence funding decisions.
- What can LCLS UEC do to increase awareness of work?
 - Regular Newsletter?
 - SSRL published a white paper, could we do the same?

6) Student, postdoc, early career scientist participation (10 mins)

- Increase student/postdoc participation in UEC – how to tackle this?
 - It was agreed to add dedicated seats on the UEC for an early career (postdoc) member and a student member
 - **ACTION (Bostedt): determine election process**