

Proposal Writing: Hints for writing a good proposal & getting beam time

<http://ftp.xor.aps.anl.gov/sector4/NXSchool-proposals.pdf>

Jonathan Lang – APS

Brian Chakoumakos, John Budai, Suzanne te Veldt

Neutron X-ray Scattering School

June 24, 2011

DOE X-ray and Neutron Sources

Advanced Light Source



Advanced Photon Source



National Synchrotron
Light Source

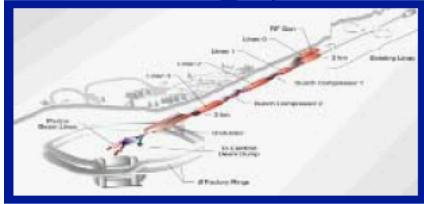


→ NSLS-II

CHESS

Stanford
Synchrotron
Radiation
Laboratory

Linac Coherent
Light Source



High-Flux
Isotope Reactor



Manuel Lujan Jr. Neutron
Scattering Center



Spallation Neutron
Source

Also

5 DOE Nanoscience Centers (BNL, SNL/LANL, ORNL, ANL, LBNL)
3 DOE Electron Microscopy Centers (ANL, LBNL, ORNL)

Basics of the facility proposal systems

- All the DOE (NIST & NSF) neutron and x-ray sources offer access to beam time through an experimental proposal system. “General users (GU)”.
- Proposal submission is done through a web-based application. When and how often proposals are submitted varies by facility.
 - APS 3 times a year (March, July, October)
 - SNS/HFIR 2x a year?
- All proposals are peer-reviewed and rated, and beam time is allocated using the scores of these reviews. Once time has been allocated, the beamline staff schedule the proposals.



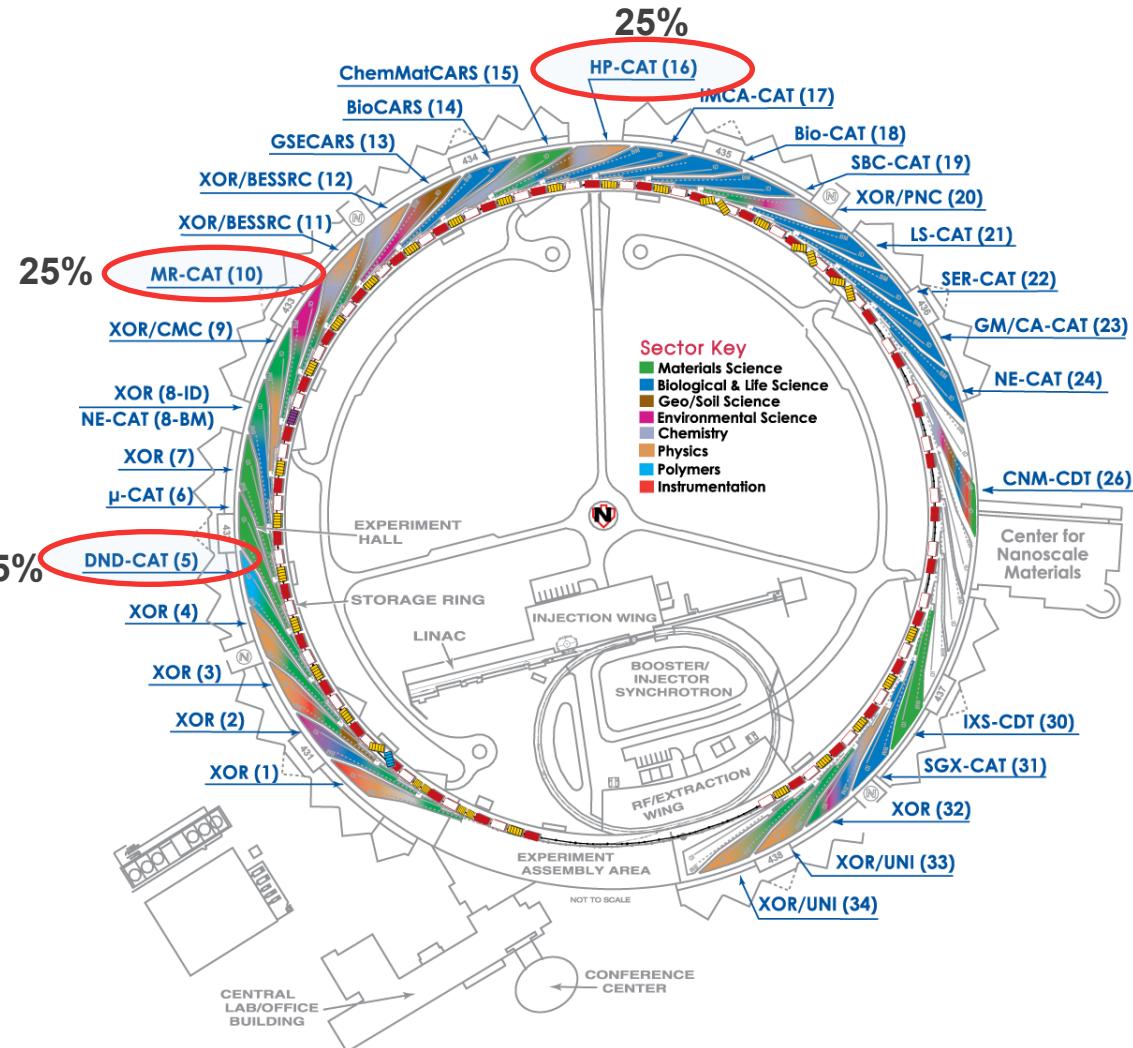
Amount of general user time available

APS/NSLS/SSRL/ALS

- ✓ All beamlines offer GU beam time.
- ✓ Most DOE/NSF funded beamlines provide 80-100% of their time to general users.

SNS/HFIR

- ✓ Amount varies by instrument.
- ✓ Once running, ~75% of time will be for general users.



Upcoming Proposal Deadlines:

X-ray sources

	Next Deadline
APS	July 8, 2011
NSLS	Sept. 30, 2011
SSRL	Sept. 1, 2011
ALS	July 15, 2011

<http://www.lightsources.org/cms/?pid=1000336>

Neutron sources

SNS/HFIR	Sept. 7, 2011
LANSCE	Fall
NIST-NCNR	Sept. 11, 2011
CNRC, Chalk River	Continuous

Note at most facilities these are hard deadlines:

APS always at Friday mid-night (12:05 → next cycle)



Getting Started

- Study instrument web pages
- Contact an instrument scientist to discuss your research
 - What is the research problem?
 - Which instrument(s) are appropriate?
 - What are the experimental conditions (temperature, pressure, magnetic field, etc)?
 - What will be measured?
 - How much beamtime will it take?
 - Probability of success? Impact? Significance?
 - What is the timeline?



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Beamline/Instrument Information

https://beam.aps.anl.gov:443/pls/apsweb/beamline_display_pkg.technique_dir

Advanced Photon Source
A.U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science,
Office of Basic Energy Sciences national synchrotron x-ray research facility

About User Information Science & Education Media Center Beamlines Search APS ...

APS Beamline Directory

APS Synchrotron Techniques

The unique properties of synchrotron radiation are its continuous spectrum, high flux and brightness, and high coherence, which make it an indispensable tool in the exploration of matter. The wavelengths of the emitted photons span a range of dimensions from the atomic level to biological cells, thereby providing incisive probes for advanced research in materials science, physical and chemical sciences, metrology, geosciences, environmental sciences, biosciences, medical sciences, and pharmaceutical sciences. The features of synchrotron radiation are especially well matched to the needs of nanoscience.

This breadth of problems requires an extensive suite of probes. The basic components of a beamline, however, share general similarities as shown in the schematic diagram below.

The fundamental parameters that we use to perceive the physical world (energy, momentum, position, and time) correspond to three broad categories of synchrotron experimental measurement techniques: spectroscopy, scattering, and imaging. By exploiting the short pulse lengths of synchrotron radiation, each technique can be performed in a timing fashion.

Spectroscopy is used to study the energies of particles that are emitted or absorbed by samples that are exposed to the light-source beam and is commonly used to determine the characteristics of chemical bonding and electron motion.

Scattering makes use of the patterns of light produced when x-rays are deflected by the closely spaced lattice of atoms in solids and is commonly used to determine the structures of crystals and large molecules such as proteins.

Imaging techniques use the light-source beam to obtain pictures with fine spatial resolution of the samples under study and are used in diverse research areas such as cell biology, lithography, infrared microscopy, radiology, and x-ray tomography.

SPECTROSCOPY

Technique	Beamline
Hard X-Ray Spectroscopy	20-BM-B
Diffract anomalous fine structure	1-ID-C, 12-BM-B
Fluorescence spectroscopy	8-ID-J, 8-ID-E*
Intensity fluctuation spectroscopy	4-ID-D
Magnetic circular dichroism (x-ray magnetic circular dichroism, hard x-ray)	13-ID-C,D, 2-ID-D, 20-ID-B,C
Small X-ray absorption fine structure	7-ID-B,C,D, 10-ID-B, 11-ID-D, 20-ID-B,C
Time-resolved x-ray absorption fine structure	20-BM-B, 10-BM-A,B, 13-ID-C,D, 5-BM-D, 10-ID-B, 12-BM-B, 11-ID-D, 20-ID-B,C, 9-BM-B,C, 13-BM-D
X-ray absorption fine structure	16-BM-D
X-ray absorption near-edge structure	16-ID-D, 20-ID-B,C
X-ray emission spectroscopy	8-ID-J, 8-ID-E*
X-ray photon correlation spectroscopy	16-ID-D, 20-ID-B,C
X-ray raman scattering	20-BM-B, 10-ID-B, 18-ID-D
micro X-ray absorption fine structure	5-ID-B,C,D
Metrology, Optics, Detector Calibration, Etc.	
X-ray optics development/techniques	5-ID-B,C,D
Soft X-Ray Spectroscopy	
Magnetic circular dichroism (x-ray magnetic circular dichroism, soft x-ray)	4-ID-C
X-ray magnetic linear dichroism	4-ID-C
X-ray photoemission spectroscopy	4-ID-C

https://beam.aps.anl.gov:443/pls/apsweb/beamline_display_pkg.display_beamline?p_beamline_num_c=31

Advanced Photon Source
A.U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science,
Office of Basic Energy Sciences national synchrotron x-ray research facility

About User Information Science & Education Media Center Beamlines Search APS ...

Argonne Home > Advanced Photon Source

Beamline 4-ID-D: Magnetic Studies-Hard X-ray

X-ray Science Division, APS Physics, Materials Science

Description

Beamline 4-ID-D focuses on polarized materials. This beamline is equipped with the polarization of the incoming x-ray linear to vertical linear ($P_{lin} = -0.80$).

Supported Techniques

- Anomalous and resonant scattering
- Magnetic x-ray scattering
- Magnetic circular dichroism (hard x-ray)

Beamline Controls and Data Acquisition

All data acquisition is done on Sun wod the SPEC software program. Beamline based applications running VME-based graphical interface to display and control devices.

Detectors

- Nal scintillation (Oxford Cytec)
- Vortex Si drift diode detector
- Pin diodes
- Ion chambers
- Avalanche Photodiodes

Additional Equipment

- 8-circle Huber diffractometer
- ARS He J-T stage Displex (1)
- ARS He Displex (4.5-325 K)
- ARS He Displex (500-1000 K)
- He flow cell (4.5-325 K)
- Diamond anvil cells (spectroscopic)
- 4-tesla spectroscopy magnet

Selected Publications

"Pressure-Induced Transition in Magnets", Y. Ding, D. Haskel, Y. C. Tseng, E. K. Kim, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 237201 (2009).

"Pressure-tuned spin and charge ordering in an antiferromagnetic transition metal oxide", Y. Feng, R. Jaramillo, G. Srivastava, J. C. Lang, Z. Islam, M.S. Somayazulu, O.G. Shpyrko, J.J. Pluth, H.-K. Mao, E.D. Isaacs, and G. Aepli, *T.F. Rosenbaum, Phys. Rev. Lett.* **99**, 137201 (2007).

"Magnetic Structure of $Ru_2Fe_2Ge_3O_9$ Determined by Resonant X-Ray Diffraction", B. Bohnenbuck, I. Zegklizoglou, J. Strempfer, C. S. Nelson, H.-H. Wu, Schüller-Langeheine, M. Reehuis, E. Schierle, Ph. Leininger, T. Hermannsdörfer, J. C. Lahn, G. Staier, C. T. Lin, and R. Keimer, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 037205 (2009).

Local Contacts

Name DANIEL HASKEL (XMCD, Magnetic Reflectivity, High Pressure)
Phone 630.252.7758
Email haskel@aps.anl.gov

Name YEJUN FENG (Magnetic Scattering, High Pressure)
Phone 630.252.7780
Email yejun@aps.anl.gov

Name YONGSEONG CHOI (Magnetic Reflectivity, XMCD)
Phone 630.252.2271
Email ychoi@aps.anl.gov

Beamline Specs

Source	3.5 Undulator
Monochromator Type	Kohzu Si(111)
Energy Range	2.7-40 keV
Resolution ($\Delta E/E$)	1.4×10^{-4}
Flux (photons/sec)	3.5×10^{13} @8 keV
Beam Size (HxV)	
Focused	220 μ m x 100 μ m
Unfocused	2.6mm x 1.2mm

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Submitting a proposal

NSLS

The screenshot shows the NSLS homepage. A red circle highlights the 'Call for Proposals' section on the right side of the main content area. The text in this section reads: 'Call for Proposals' and 'Next general user proposal deadline: January 31, 2009'. Below this, there's a 'Recent News' section and a 'Facility Update' section.

APS

The screenshot shows the APS homepage. A red circle highlights the 'LEARN', 'START', and 'WORK' buttons located in the top right corner of the main content area. The text above these buttons reads: 'The Advanced Photon Source (APS) provides the brightest x-ray beams in the Western Hemisphere to more than 2,000 scientists worldwide.'

The screenshot shows the NCNR homepage. A red circle highlights the 'CALL FOR PROPOSALS - NEW!' section in the center of the page. The text in this section reads: 'The next proposal deadline is November 3, 2008. Successful proposals will be allocated instrument time from January 2009 through August 2009.' Below this, there are several other news items and research highlights.

NIST

The screenshot shows the ORNL Neutron Sciences homepage. A red circle highlights the 'Neutron Scattering Science Call for Proposals' section in the bottom right corner. The text in this section reads: 'Thank you for submitting more than 570 proposals for the current call. The next call will open on August 25, 2010.'

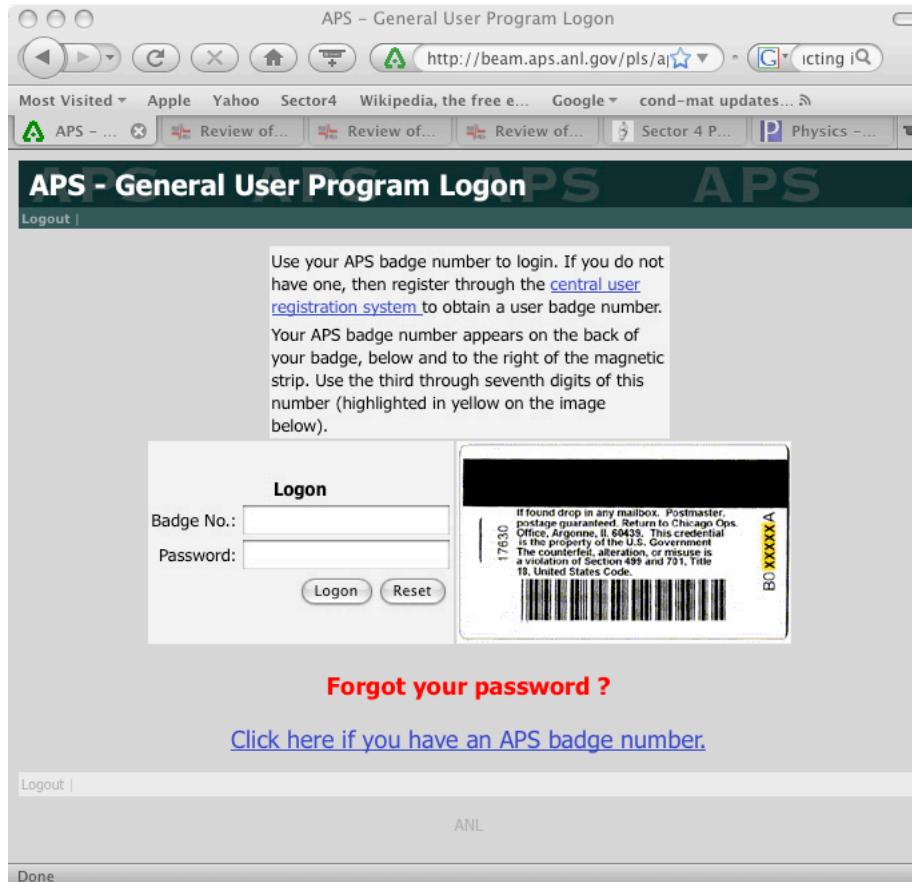
SNS
HFIR

Almost all facilities have link on home page



Login to the system

APS



Will have to remember user number at each facility



Proposal forms at SNS and APS

SNS/HFIR

APS

Create Proposal - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Bookmarks Tools Help

https://snsapp1.sns.ornl.gov/pbs/prod?r=100:49:391048804620322:100

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines Hotmail NetZero E-mail Argonne National Lab...

Integrated Proposal Tracking System

Home Create a New Proposal Create a Proposal From an Existing Proposal My Proposals All Proposals

Create a New Proposal

Help

Base Proposal Information

Proposal Number Pending Name Suzanne Te Velthuis Date 23-SEP-2008 Email tevelthuis@anl.gov

User Institution

Proposal Title test

Search %

Proposal Type

Will the data collected be considered Proprietary? Yes No

Will the data collected be considered classified? Yes No

Is this research required for a student's thesis? Yes No

Does this experiment involve the use or handling of biological materials? Such as recombinant DNA, virus or components of a virus, a biological toxin, exposure or handling of risk group 1 or 2 microorganisms (dead or alive), select agents or toxins (dead or alive) or any other sort of biologically hazardous material, live plants or animals. Yes No

Will live subjects or laboratory animals be used in this experiment, or does the operation involve exposure to, or handling of, human tissue or body fluids, human cells in culture or animal matter? Yes No

Will Hazardous substances, equipment, or procedure be brought to ORNL as part of this proposed experiment? If Yes, provide detailed safety procedures in proposal text.

Abstract

0 of 4000

Related Proposals

Done snsapp1.sns.ornl.gov

APS - General User Proposal - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Bookmarks Tools Help

https://beam.aps.anl.gov/pls/apsweb/gup0001.display_exp?pid=7925590108414288&page_num=1&gup_id=10

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines weather APS GUP BCDA Nexus BenBargains freshmeal TV canSAS wiki BCDA tasks - Trac

APS - General User Proposal

Main Menu | Search Criteria | Instructions | Logout

General Experimenters Abstract Beamtime Request Questions Review Panel

Proposal : GUP-10325

Proposal Title:

Shifts Recommended by PRP: not available Shifts Allocated by BAC or Scheduled by Beamline (0) in current cycle Shifts used to date: (0) Shifts Remaining: not available

Do you want this proposal to be considered for project status? description

Does the proposal require mail-in service? Yes No

Does this research involve macromolecular crystallography (single crystals)? Yes No

Will the data collected be considered proprietary? Yes No

Will the data collected be considered classified? Yes No

Does this research involve human subjects or materials? Yes No

Does this research involve live animals? Yes No

Are there known safety hazards associated with the proposed experimental procedures or your samples? Yes No

Is this research required for a student's thesis? Yes No

Is this proposal related to another general user proposal? If so, which one(s)? Yes No

(500 characters or less)

Subject of Research: Materials science Physics Chemistry
 Polymers Medical applications Biological and life sciences
 Earth sciences Environmental sciences Optics (excluding x-ray optics)
 Engineering Instrumentation related to user facilities Purchase of specialty service or materials
 Other (specify) Specify Other :

Generate Report Copy Proposal Next Page

Pressing SAVE will allow you to save this proposal and continue to make changes. Notifications will not be sent. Pressing SUBMIT will save this proposal AND notifications will be sent to the APS. No changes can be made thereafter.

Proposal #: 10325

Main Menu | Search Criteria | Instructions | Logout

Done beam.aps.anl.gov

Each proposal system will ask very similar questions

Questions asked

- Proposal Title
- General Info (Title, Experimenters, Funding source, etc.)
- Abstract - What is the scientific importance of the proposed research?
- Why do you need the facility to do this research?
 - Neutron vs. X-rays
 - Why do you need an insertion device beamline instead of a bending magnet?
 - Spallation source vs. reactor source
 - Hard X-rays vs. Soft X-rays
- Why do you need the beam line (and/or instrument)?
 - Particular technique or sample environment
- What previous experience / results do you have.
- Describe the proposed experiment(s), including samples and procedures.
- Justification of the amount of time requested.



General Information

Firefox Edit Proposal - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

https://snsapp1.sns.ornl.gov/pls/xprod/f?p=100:11:3910448804620322::NO::P11_PRPSL_ID:1498&cs=379C651964E7D8D6B013400184A7F54

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Integrated Proposal Tracking System PDF of IPTS-1498 Home Feedback FAQ Logout

My Proposals > Edit Proposal IPTS-1498

Help

Edit Proposal

Cancel Apply Changes

Proposal Number: IPTS-1498

Status: Saved for Further Editing by Applicant

Name: Suzanne Te Velthuis

Email: tevelthuis@anl.gov

* Proposal Date: 23-SEP-2008 15:23

* User Institution: US - Argonne National Laboratory

* Proposal Title: test

* Proposal Type: General User

* Will the data collected be considered proprietary? Yes No

* Will the data collected be considered classified? Yes No

* Is this research required for a student's thesis? Yes No

* Does this experiment involve exposure to, or use of, biological materials? Such as recombinant DNA, virus or components of a virus, a biological toxin, exposure or handling of risk group 1 or 2 microorganisms (dead or alive), select agents or toxins (dead or alive) or any other sort of biologically hazardous material, to either plants or animals? Yes No

* Will human subjects or laboratory animals be used in this experiment, or does this operation involve exposure to, or handling of, human tissue or body fluids, human cells in culture or animal matter? Yes No

* Will Hazardous substances, equipment, or procedure be brought to ORNL as part of this proposed experiment? If Yes, provide detailed safety procedures in proposal text. Yes No

This is the abstract:

20 of 4000

Please use the Template Provided to Prepare your Proposal.

Last Modified Date: 23-SEP-2008 15:23

Done snsapp1.sns.ornl.gov

Red arrows point to the following fields: Proposal Number, Proposal Title, Is this research required for a student's thesis?, Abstract, and Last Modified Date.



Proposal: General information

- Pick a good title. Boring and to the point is better than spectacular and vague.
 - Good: “XAS study of Fe valence in CaFe₂As₂ under pressure ”
 - Bad: “Understanding superconductivity in iron pnictides”
- Is it thesis related? Is there a deadline?
 - Will push your proposal up if scores are close
- Fill in the abstract. Do not just upload a PDF document!
 - More work for reviewer.
- Do upload a publication from previous work (mention previous proposal).
 - Shows you made good use of beam time.
 - Do not upload a 20 pages of supplemental information (couple of plots with text OK)



Proposal: Experimenters page

General Experimenters Abstract Beamtime Request Questions Review Panel

Proposal : GUP-10325

Spokesperson: [Find](#) First Name : Last Name
Phone: Email Badge
Institution:
Mailing Address:

Experimenters Coming to APS:

Badge	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Phone	Email	Delete
Find						
Find						
Find						
Find						

Experimenters Not Coming to APS:

Badge	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Phone	Email	Delete
Find						
Find						
Find						
Find						

Previous Page [Generate Report](#) Next Page

Pressing **SAVE** will allow you to save this proposal and continue to make changes. Notifications will not be sent.

Pressing **SUBMIT** will save this proposal AND notifications will be sent to the APS. No changes can be made thereafter.

Save **Submit**

Proposal # : 10325

- Use the “find” feature
- List everyone involved in experiment

Experiment Description

General Experimenter Abstract Beamtime Request Questions Review Panel
Proposal : GUP-10325

Please specify the funding source(s) for your proposed research:

DOD (specify) DOE, Office of Basic Energy Sciences DOE, Office of Biological and Environmental Research
 DOE, Other (specify) Foreign (specify) HHIH
 Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Industry NASA
 NIH NSF Other U.S. Government
 USDA Other (specify) **Specify Other:**

What is the scientific or technical purpose and importance of the proposed research? (limit : 500 words)

Why do you need the APS for this research? (limit : 100 words)

Why do you need the beamline you have chosen? (limit : 100 words)



Experimental Details

- Give background information why it is important.
 - Science at facilities very diverse. Good chance reviewer not expert in polymers, catalysts, superconductors, etc.
 - @ APS each committee gets ~60 proposals each cycle (~700 total/cycle)
- Clearly state what you want to measure and how
 - Give details. Temperature range, X-ray Energy, Sample geometry
 - What sample characterization has been done already? (XRD, SEM, etc.)
 - Reviewer needs to judge if experiment is feasible
 - Does x-ray energy match laser penetration depth
 - % of dilute atoms OK for fluorescence measurements
- Why use x-rays or neutrons?
 - Neutron vs. X-rays
 - TEM, Mössbauer, Laser Raman, etc.
- Justify the amount of beam time requested (ask instrument scientist!)



Beamtime Request

General Experiments Abstract Beamtime Request Questions Review Panel

Proposal : GUP-10325

Rapid Access Description Make New Request 3rd

Total 8-hour shifts requested for the LIFE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Total 8-hour shifts recommended by the Proposal Review Panel for the LIFE OF THE PROPOSAL : not available

Total shifts used to date: 0

Number of the shifts remaining: not available

For which scheduling period are you applying? Status :

Techniques Required:

Choice Of Beamline:

Please select the instrument based on your beamline selection: For 1st beamline
 For 2nd beamline
 For 3rd beamline

Any appropriate beamline

Number of 8-hour shifts requested for THIS scheduling period:

Minimum number of usable shifts per visit:

Do you have specific scheduling requirements ?

What equipment is required ?
What equipment will you bring ?

Please list any new publications resulting from your work at the APS.

Describe the progress made during your most recent beamtime. (2000 characters including spaces)

Unacceptable Dates (MM/DD/YYYY)

From	To
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Previous Page Generate Report Next Page

Pressing SAVE will allow you to save this proposal and continue to make changes. Notifications will not be sent.

Pressing SUBMIT will save this proposal AND notifications will be sent to the APS. No changes can be made thereafter.

- Proposals are valid for two years, but need to put in beam time request each cycle.
- Choose multiple beamlines.
 - SAXS (12-ID, 5-ID, 15-ID)
 - XAFS (20-BM, 10-ID, 12-BM)
 - General Diffraction
- Don't list only one week that you can come. Holidays?
- Special sample environment / detectors will place more constraints on schedule.
 - GE amorphous Si detector
 - Magnet
 -

Ratings for APS Proposals

Table 1. Definition of Ratings Used in Reviewing General User Proposals

1 - Extraordinary	The proposal involves highly innovative research of great scientific importance. Proposed research will significantly advance knowledge in a specific field or scientific discipline. Considerable societal relevance is demonstrated. The radiation characteristics of the APS are highly desirable for the success of the proposed work.
2 - Excellent	The proposed research is of high quality and has potential for making an important contribution to a specific field or scientific discipline. The work is cutting edge and is likely to be published in a leading scientific journal. The radiation characteristics of the APS are important to the success of the proposed work.
3 - Good	The proposed research is near cutting-edge and likely to produce publishable results. Impact on a specific field or scientific discipline is likely. Synchrotron radiation is essential to accomplish the intended goals of the research. The proposed work will greatly benefit from access to the APS.
4 - Fair	The proposed research is interesting but may not significantly impact a specific field or scientific discipline. Publication may or may not result from this research. Synchrotron radiation is required, but the proposed work could be performed at other facilities.
5 - Poor	The proposed research is not well planned or is not feasible. Results would not make important contributions to fundamental or applied understanding, and work is not likely to result in publication. The need for synchrotron radiation is not clear.

APS proposals are rated on a scale from 1 to 5

Average score is ~2.2

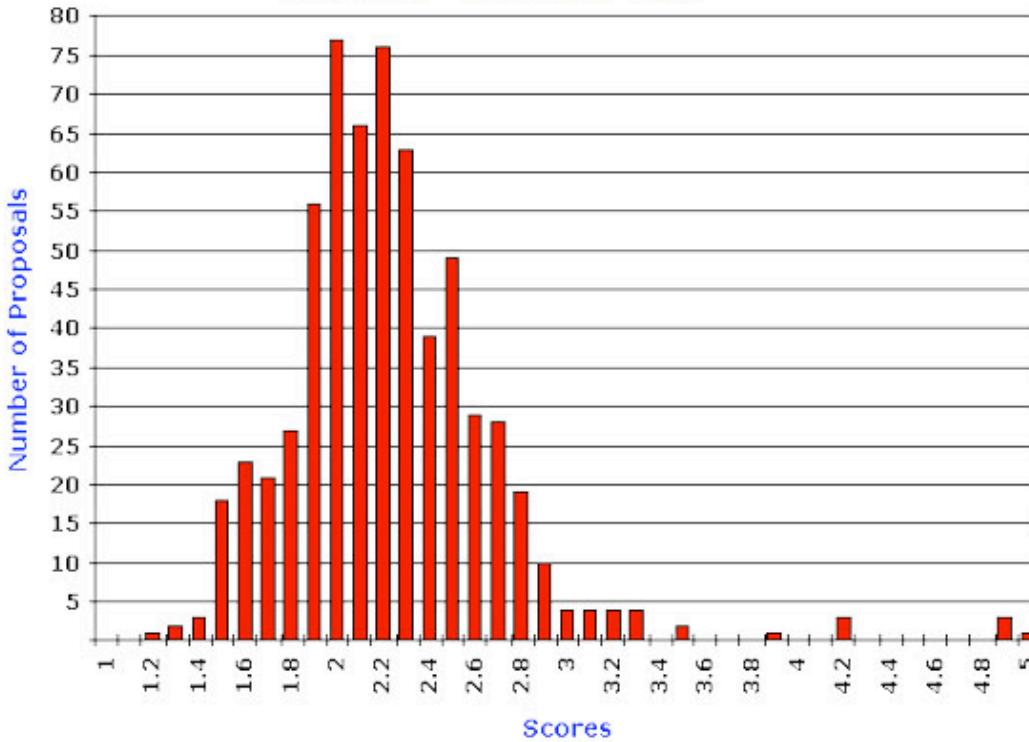
Cut off score for receiving beam time varies by beamline (1.5 - 2.2)

Proposal ageing (score reduced by 0.2 each time does not receive time)



Some facilities provide cutoff scores

Distribution of Proposal Scores for General Science Proposals
All Beamlines
July 2010 - December 2010



Beamline	Cutoff Score
1.4 (IR)	2.70
4.0.2 (EPU)	1.90
5.3.2 (Polymers XAFS)	2.32
6.0.1 (Femtosecond)	--
6.0.2 (Femtosecond)	2.22
6.1.2 (Soft X-Ray Microscopy)	2.40
6.3.1 (Materials Sciences)	--
6.3.2 (Calibration and Standards)	3.90
7.0.1 (XPS, STXM, SXF, SPEM)	2.03
7.3.3 (SAXS)	2.14
8.0.1 (SXF)	2.14
8.3.2	2.50
9.0.2 (Chemical Dynamics, Coherent Imaging)	2.32
9.3.1 (XAMS)	--
9.3.2 (APSD/AMC, High-Pressure XPS)	2.04
10.0.1. (HERS/AMO)	2.23
10.3.2 (Micro XAFS)	2.20
11.0.1 (Magnetic Microscopy, Spectromicroscopy; PEEM3)	2.43
11.0.2 (Molecular Environmental Sciences)	1.78
11.3.1 (Small Molecule Crystallography)	2.58
12.0 (ARPES)	2.12
12.2.2 (High Pressure)	2.29
12.3.2	2.53
*Total allocation	

easier

easier

harder

Helps you know what to expect.

Should I wait or submit another proposal?

Tips

- Give a concise explanation of this specific proposal
 - Provide background on importance (i.e. “bigger picture”)
 - State clearly exactly what you are going to measure and why.
 - Reviewer want so assess likelihood of success.
- Include relevant details to experiment but do not get too verbose
 - Reviewer needs to judge not only scientific importance, but also if the experiment is feasible and if you are asking for the right instrument.
- If you are a first time user, talk to the local contact/instrument scientist.
 - Find out about details of the instrument, typical measuring times...
 - Oversubscription rate; Can a less popular instrument do most of the measurements you need.
 - Send them the proposal ahead of time and ask for advice. Collaborate?
- If you have previous results from other experiments include them!
 - Home, other institution, previous experiment.
 - Sample characterization.
 - Do not attach large number of pages.
- Take advantage of proposal ageing. **Get a few proposals in the system.**



Several common pitfalls

- Proposer assumes committee is familiar with their specialty.
- Proposer writes large proposal asking for multiple weeks of time. Better to write a shorter proposal with a well defined objective. Be realistic with beam time request.
- Proposal deadline (for next cycle) is before schedule beamtime for this cycle.

Common Reviewer comments:

- “Proposers could improve their score by including more experimental details, attaching previous results and expanding on the purpose and importance of the research.”
- “Hasn't the proposed research been published previously?”
- We do not feel that granting 20 shifts/cycle for 2 years is consistent with the history of publication of this work.
- Proposer should perform initial characterization with lab source or SEM, TEM....



After submission

- Allow time for review and revisions
- Expect feedback several weeks from the call close
- Be ready to schedule experiment if approved
 - Identify participating team members
 - Respond to facility access approval information (foreign nationals)
 - Facilitate execution of user agreements
 - Complete required training
 - Confirm sample availability and description and laboratory needs
- Consider reviewer comments if not approved and plan to resubmit this proposal or a new proposal in the next call. Opportunities (# of facilities and beamlines/facility) continue to grow.



Upcoming Proposal Deadlines:

X-ray sources

	Next Deadline
APS	July 8, 2011
NSLS	Sept. 30, 2011
SSRL	Sept. 1, 2011
ALS	July 15, 2011

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Neutron sources

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LANSCE	July 8, 2011
NIST-NCNR	Sept. 11, 2011
CNRC, Chalk River	Continuous

Note at most facilities these are hard deadlines:

APS always at Friday mid-night (12:05 → next cycle)



Topical Schools and Short courses

X-ray schools

XAFS summer school – APS
XAFS school – BNL
SAXS short course – APS
X-ray Imaging, High Pressure

Dates

July 18-22, 2011
Fall, 2011
Spring, 2012

Neutron schools

Lance summer school (Energy Mat.)
NIST summer school

(SANS or Neutron Spectroscopy)

July 12-22, 2011
June 19-23, 2011

