

## **Minutes of the SGN/SSDN General Assembly 2012**

Date/Location : October 29, 2012, Paul Scherrer Institut, main auditorium  
Start : 17:00  
End : 18:00  
Participants : 8 members of the society

### **1. Welcome**

The president of the SGN/SSDN, Henrik Ronnow, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2012.

### **2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2011**

The minutes of the general assembly of the SGN/SSDN from 4.11.2011, published in Swiss Neutron News #40 (August 2012) are accepted without objections.

### **3. Annual Report of the Chairman**

H. Ronnow reports on the activities of the SGN/SSDN in the year 2012:

- a) This year, no aperitif was sponsored by the Society at the PSI Summer School on Zugerberg, August 11-19, 2012 (Imaging Life and Matter - using photons, neutrons and muons), as the aperitif was offered by Institut Montana.
- b) One new issue of Swiss Neutron News has appeared in August 2012. (A December issue is in preparation).
- c) The SGN/SSDN has presently 201 members.
- d) Meetings in EMSA and SER focused dominantly on ESS.

### **4. Report of the Treasurer**

The annual balance sheet 2011 is presented:

Assets SGN/SSDN on 1.1.2011:

**SFr 4045.49**

	Revenues [SFr]	Expenses [SFr]
Membership-fees (cash box)	140,-	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	240,00	
Donations (cash box)	0,-	
Interest	4,55	
Total expenses		737,50
- Apéro Zugerberg (2011)		700,00
- Expenses PC account		37,50
<b>Total</b>	<b>384,55</b>	<b>737,50</b>

Net earnings 2011:	<b>SFr - 352,95</b>
Assets SGN/SSDN on 31.12.2011:	<b>SFr 3.692,54</b>

**Balance sheet 2011:**

	Assets [SFr]	Liabilities [SFr]
Postal check account	3.204,04	
Cash box	488,50	
<b>Assets on 31.12.2011</b>	<b>3.692,54</b>	

## 5. Report of the Auditors

### Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2011 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

<u>9.1.12</u>		<u>23.04.12</u>	
Datum	Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI	Datum	Dr. K. Krämer, Uni Bern

Both Auditors (K. Krämer and M. Zolliker) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance 2011. They have accepted it without objection. The participants therefore unanimously vote for a release of the SGN/SSDN board.

## 6. Budget 2013

The president presents the following proposal for the budget 2013:

	Receipts [SFr]	Expenditures [SFr]
member fees	400,-	
interest	0,-	
fees PC account		40,-
Summer School aperitif 2013		600,-
<b>Total</b>	<b>400,-</b>	<b>640,-</b>
<b>balance 2013</b>	<b>- 240,-</b>	

The participants accept the budget proposals unanimously.

## 7. (Re-)Election of board members

The term of the SGN board, Prof. Henrik Ronnow (president), Prof. Anna Stradner, Dr. Michel Kenzelmann, and Dr. Urs Gasser (secretary), ends in 2012 and, therefore, the

board has to be renewed. Henrik Ronnow, Michel Kenzelmann, and Urs Gasser are again candidates for the following term. Prof. Anna Stradner has moved from the University of Fribourg to the University of Lund, Sweden, and therefore steps back from the board of SGN.

Henrik Ronnow is reelected unanimously as president. Michel Kenzelmann is reelected unanimously as board member. Urs Gasser is elected unanimously as board member and secretary.

Nominations for an additional board member are welcome for the assembly in 2013.

## **8. News from ENSA (H. Ronnow)**

- a) The last ENSA meeting took place in Dubna, Russia (Oct. 8-9, 2012). The reactor of the Dubna neutron source has been refurbished in 2011 and the institute aims to improve user-friendliness and to become more open for users from western Europe.
- b) As the ESS Preparatory Phase has been completed, ENSA aims to contribute to define the science vision for ESS. A science statement regarding ESS is being prepared by ENSA.
- c) ENSA wrote a supporting letter, which helped the research reactor at the Institute for Atomic and Subatomic Physics in Vienna to secure future access to new fuel elements.
- d) The next International Conference on Neutron Scattering (ICNS) will be organized in Edinburgh, July 8-12 2013. The next European Conference on Neutron Scattering (ECNS) will take place in Zaragoza.

## **9. News from ILL (K.N. Clausen)**

Kurt N. Clausen as the Swiss representative in the ILL Scientific Committee (SC) reports on the 86th Scientific Council meeting held on April 26-27 2012:

- a) After the Fukushima stress test, safety upgrades of the ILL reactor are needed. The total cost is estimated as 12 M€ over 3 to 4 years. The ILL associates have agreed to pay this amount as extra money.
- b) The Swiss membership of ILL is secured for 2014-2018. The total cost for this time frame is 18.2 MCHF.
- c) In 2011, ILL was operated with four reactor cycles, and 98% of this time could be delivered. The 3.5 cycles planned for 2012 have been reduced to 3 cycles, as one control rod of the reactor needs to be replaced.
- d) For 2013 and 2014, 3 + 3 reactor cycles are planned with a shutdown of 10 months. Four reactor cycles are again planned for 2015.
- e) The Swiss beam time at ILL has been reduced for several years due to national quotas. In 2012, this reduction of beam time was less severe than in 2011.

- f) The ILL is working on finalizing new contracts with all associates and scientific partners. The contracts of most collaborating research groups are secured for the next few years. The budget for 2013 is laid down at the council meeting taking place in November 2012.
- g) The Swiss representatives in two committees have changed: Christoph Niedermayer (PSI) is the new representative in college 4 (magnetic excitations), and Bernhard Lauss (PSI) represents Switzerland in college 3 (nuclear and particle physics). Michel Kenzelmann (PSI) and Marco Lattuada (UniFR) keep their positions in colleges 5B (magnetism) and 9 (soft matter), respectively. Kurt N. Clausen remains as the Swiss representative in the scientific council until end of 2013.

## **10. News from SINQ**

The construction of the thermal three-axis spectrometer EIGER was completed in November 2011. First experiments have been done and the spectrometer works as expected. It is now open for all users and nine proposals for EIGER have been submitted on the proposal deadline of Nov. 15.

## **11. News from ESS**

H. Ronnow reports on developments at ESS.

- a) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that Switzerland signed on Sept. 21, 2011, was extended by one year, and the ESS continues to be part of the Swiss roadmap for 2013-16. Legal commitments for the construction of ESS are expected for May or June 2013, when the member countries will give their Letters of Intent (LoI's) for the construction of ESS. The start of the construction phase is planned for early 2013.
- b) Work on the accelerator design is on track. The target design, in which Switzerland is involved, requires more studies.
- c) For instrument design, Switzerland continues to be involved in collaboration with Denmark. For this in-kind contribution to ESS, three positions have been filled at PSI. The Swiss-Danish work packages include an extreme environment spectrometer, a reflectometer, a compact chopped SANS (BioSANS), a hybrid instrument, and neutron optics.
- d) The framework for instrument construction has not yet been defined. Whether the groups designing instruments for ESS will also be in charge for building and/or operating the instrument has not been decided. Germany favors the model that instruments are designed, built, and operated by one group. However, Switzerland would probably need a partner to build an instrument at ESS and, therefore, favors the model that the design and construction of an instrument can be carried out by different groups.

- e) Kurt N. Clausen points out that it will be important to keep Swiss industry informed about bid invitations of ESS. The PSI plans to be in contact with Swiss companies to keep them informed and prepare them for tenders. PSI is already in contact with Ampegon (RF systems, Turgi), Swiss Neutronics (neutron guides and optics, Klingnau), and Tokyo Electron (precision mechanics, Trübbach).

## **12. Miscellaneous**

H. Ronnow points out that the ILL PhD program is open to researchers in Switzerland. The next deadline for submitting PhD proposals is December 3, and the contact person at ILL is Anne-Claire Dupuis (PhD@ill.eu).

U. Gasser  
November 2012