

Minutes of the SGN/SSDN General Assembly 2013

Date/Location : November 13, 2013, Paul Scherrer Institut, main auditorium
Start : 17:00
End : 18:00
Participants : 19 members of the society

1. Welcome

The president of the SGN/SSDN, Henrik Ronnow, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2013.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2012

The minutes of the general assembly of the SGN/SSDN from 29.10.2012, published in Swiss Neutron News #41 are accepted without objections.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

H. Ronnow reports on the activities of the SGN/SSDN in the year 2013:

- a) An aperitif was sponsored by the Society at the PSI Summer School in Zuo, August 17-23, 2013 (Materials – structure and magnetism).
- b) Two new issues of Swiss Neutron News have appeared in February and August 2013.
- c) The SGN/SSDN has presently 199 members.
- d) An application for the tax charitable status of SGN has been filed to the canton of Aargau. The application has been accepted the day of the assembly, but this was not known at the assembly.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet 2012 is presented:

Assets SGN/SSDN on 1.1.2012:

SFr 3692.54

	Revenues [SFr]	Expenses [SFr]
Membership-fees (cash box)	70,-	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	200,00	
Donations (cash box)	0,-	
Interest	2,90	
Total expenses		36,00
- Expenses PC account: 36,00		
Total	272,90	36,00

Net earnings 2011: **SFr 236,90**

Assets SGN/SSDN on 31.12.2011: **SFr 3.929,44**



Balance sheet 2011:

	Assets [SFr]	Liabilities [SFr]
Postal check account	3.370,94	
Cash box	558,50	
Assets on 31.12.2011	3.929,44	

5. Report of the Auditors

Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2012 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

<u>16.1.13</u>		<u>25.01.13</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 2012. They have accepted it without objection. The participants therefore unanimously vote for a release of the SGN/SSDN board.

6. Budget 2014

The president presents the following proposal for the budget 2014:

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

The participants accept the budget proposal unanimously.

In the course of a lively discussion about the budget and its use, three resolutions are made:

- 1) It is proposed that SGN funds a thesis prize for excellent PhD theses using neutrons as an important probe. The prize will comprise CHF 1000 and will be awarded for the first time in 2014. Three experts will form the selection committee. A clear majority of the present SGN members accepts this.

- 2) So as not to strain the budget too much, the thesis prize will be awarded every other year and will alternate with sponsoring an apero at the PSI summer school. A marginal majority accepts this proposal.
- 3) The membership fee is increased from CHF 10 to CHF 20 per year, which will help to collect the necessary funding for the thesis prize. A majority accepts this proposal.

7. Election of a new board member

Livia Bove (EPFL) is proposed as new board member by the SGN board. A clear majority of the present SGN members accepts the proposal. The SGN board now consists of Prof. Henrik Ronnow (president), Dr. Livia Bove, Dr. Michel Kenzelmann, and Dr. Urs Gasser (secretary). The term of this board ends in 2015.

8. News from ENSA (H. Ronnow)

- a) The last ENSA meeting took place in Zaragoza, Spain (Nov. 5-6, 2013). ENSA is in the process of finding its role to contribute to the future European neutron landscape. E.g. it is being discussed how ENSA should contribute to ESS. Also, it is being discussed how ENSA can become the voice of all the members. At present, ENSA is dominated by the neutron facilities and the funding bodies.
- b) Concerning the future European neutron landscape including ESS, sacrifices at other neutron sources may have to be made when ESS becomes operational. Where and how such sacrifices should / could be made needs to be discussed. Suggestions regarding this issue are welcome!
- c) The PIK reactor near Gatchina, Russia, may be realized as a common project of Russia and Germany, which may reduce the commitment of Germany for ESS and other European sources. This issue is related to point b) above, and SGN should reach a clear opinion about it.
- d) The term of Michael Steiner as ENSA chairman will end in 2014. Proposals for the nomination of his successor are welcome.
- e) The next European Conference on Neutron Scattering (ECNS) will be organized in Zaragoza, Spain, 30.8. – 4.9.2015.

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

Kurt N. Clausen as the Swiss representative in the ILL Scientific Council (SC) reports on the 89th Scientific Council meeting:

- a) The ILL reactor is still in the 10 month shutdown. It is planned to again become operational in June 2014, and 2.5 cycles are planned for 2014. The shutdown work is on schedule. Four reactor cycles are planned for 2015.

- b) In 2014, most members of the Scientific Council will be reelected, also a new chairman will be elected. Kurt Clausen's term is ending, and Christian Rüegg will become the Swiss representative.
- c) As the 3rd "Millennium" program, ILL plans program "Endurance" for the time frame 2016-2022 with a volume of about 50 M€. It may comprise the replacement of about eight instruments. The program is, however, not yet funded.
- d) The ILL is negotiating new contracts with the member countries. The actual proposal of ILL is not acceptable for Switzerland, as it includes a new flat rate plus money for beam time, which would cut the beam time for Switzerland in half, if the Swiss contribution remains constant. The negotiations of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation with ILL are continuing.
- e) Russia may become a member of ILL. The implications for the future of ILL and the PIK reactor near Saint Petersburg are to date unclear.

10. News from SINQ (Ch. Rüegg)

- a) In 2013, SINQ has again received a large number of proposals, about 400. About 1000 researchers have visited SINQ for experiments; most of them come twice a year.
- b) 54% of the beam time is used by Swiss users. The largest Swiss users are PSI (70%) and ETH Zurich (16%).
- c) Two instrument upgrades have been founded: Trics will be replaced by the new single crystal diffractometer ZEBRA funded by SNF, PSI, and UniFR. RitaII will be upgraded with a new multi-analyzer CAMEA funded by SNF and EPFL.
- d) The planning phase for a possible upgrade of SINQ, named SINX², has been started. SINX² is planned to be realized in five to ten years from now and is planned to have a volume of about 30 MCHF. The neutron source, the guides, and the instruments including detectors may be optimized to increase the number of useful detected neutrons by a factor of 10 to 100.

11. News from ESS (Ch. Rüegg)

- a) The European Spallation Source (ESS) is planned to be built in Lund, Sweden, and to become operational in 2019 with 7 instruments and to have 22 instruments by 2025. 17 European countries including Switzerland are involved. The construction is planned to cost 1.8 B€.
- b) Switzerland has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the realization of ESS in 2012 and has invested 2 MCHF for pre-construction activities.
- c) In November 2012, the Swiss parliament has approved a budget of 35 MCHF as the Swiss contribution for the construction of ESS.
- d) Switzerland is involved in the design of the moderator tank and the shielding with the ESS Target Directorate.

- e) Switzerland continues to cooperate with Denmark regarding instrument designs. The Swiss-Danish work packages include an extreme environment spectrometer (CAMEA), a focusing reflectometer (Selene), a compact chopped SANS (BioSANS), a hybrid diffraction and SANS instrument (HEIMDAL), neutron optics and background simulations, and a neutron imaging instrument.

12. Miscellaneous

H. Ronnow points out that the ILL PhD program is open to researchers in Switzerland. The contact person at ILL is Anne-Claire Dupuis (PhD@ill.eu).

Furthermore, ILL funds and hosts a PhD student from Switzerland. This position will become available in 2014. A call to again fill this position will be sent to all SGN members by email and is also presented in the next issue of Swiss Neutron News.

U. Gasser
December 2013

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+ Versement Virement +

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Einzahlung für / Versement pour / Versamento per

Zahlungszweck / Motif versement / Motivo versamento

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