

## **Minutes of the SGN/SSDN General Assembly 2014**

Date/Location : November 26, 2014, Paul Scherrer Institut, main auditorium  
Start : 18:00  
End : 19:00  
Participants : 7 members of the society

### **1. Welcome**

As the president of the SGN/SSDN, Henrik Ronnow, is on sabbatical leave, board member Urs Gasser welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2014.

### **2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2013**

The minutes of the general assembly of the SGN/SSDN from 13.11.2013, published in Swiss Neutron News #43 are accepted without objections.

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

U. Gasser reports on the activities of the SGN/SSDN in the year 2014:

- a) The inaugural Young Scientist Prizes of the SGN/SSDN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics have been awarded to Dr. Simon Gerber and Dr. Qianli Chen. As Swiss Neutronics is sponsoring the Young Scientist Prize, it is planned to award it every year, not every second year as decided at the general assembly in 2013.
- b) As of Nov. 2013, the SGN has tax charitable status. The membership fees and donations are tax deductible.
- c) Two new issues of Swiss Neutron News have appeared in March and August 2014.
- d) The SGN/SSDN has presently 199 members.

#### 4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet 2013 is presented:

Assets SGN/SSDN on 1.1.2013:

**SFr 3929.44**

	<b>Revenues [SFr]</b>	<b>Expenses [SFr]</b>
Membership-fees (cash box)	200.00	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	480.00	
Donations (cash box)	55.00	
Interest	1.95	
Expenses PC account		42.85
Apero Zuoz		602.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>736.95</b>	<b>644.85</b>

Net earnings 2013: **SFr 92.10**

Assets SGN/SSDN on 31.12.2013: **SFr 4021.54**

#### **Balance sheet 2013:**

	<b>Assets [SFr]</b>	<b>Liabilities [SFr]</b>
Postal check account	3811.54	
Cash box	210.00	
<b>Assets on 31.12.2013</b>	<b>4021.54</b>	

## 5. Report of the Auditors

### Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2013 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

<u>26.2.14</u>	<u>M. Zolliker</u>	<u>28.02.14</u>	<u>Krämer</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 2013. They have accepted it without objection. The participants therefore unanimously vote for a release of the SGN/SSDN board.

## 6. Budget 2015

Urs Gasser presents the following proposal for the budget 2015:

	Receipts [SFr]	Expenditures [SFr]
member fees	800.00	
interest	0.00	
fees PC account		40.00
Summer School aperitif 2015		600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>800.00</b>	<b>640.00</b>
<b>Total receipts 2015</b>	<b>160.00</b>	

The participants accept the budget proposal unanimously.

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

Urs Gasser relays H. Ronnow's news from ENSA.

- a) The last ENSA meeting took place in Munich, Germany (June, 2014). The term of Michael Steiner as the chairman of ENSA has ended in 2014. Christiane Alba-Simionesco (LLB, France) was elected as the new chairperson, and Ferenc Mezei (ESS) has become the new vice-chairman.
- b) ENSA is still in the process to find its role to support both neutron users and neutron facilities in all of Europe. With the clear commitment of Europe for ESS and Christiane Alba-Simionesco as new chairperson, ENSA is expected to have new momentum to redefine its role.
- c) 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!
- d) The next European Conference on Neutron Scattering (ECNS) will be organized in Zaragoza, Spain, August 30th – September 4th, 2015.

## **9. News from ILL (Ch. Rüegg)**

Christian Rüegg as the Swiss representative in the ILL Scientific Council (SC) reports on the 89th Scientific Council meeting:

- a) After difficult negotiations between ILL and Switzerland, a new contract has been signed. Switzerland will continue to contribute about 3M CHF per year. The mode of calculation for beamtime has become increasingly unfavorable for Swiss users; it is to be expected that more proposals will be refused due to national beamtime quota.
- b) To improve the access to ILL for Swiss users, it is planned to get access to the collaborating research group (CRG) instruments of the CEA. The CEA operates the instruments IN22, IN12, and D23. A contract for a Swiss participation in these instruments is being negotiated between EPFL and CEA.
- c) As the 3rd "Millennium" program, ILL plans to start the program "Endurance" in 2015. The volume of this is planned to be about 50 M€, but the funding is not yet secured. About 10 instruments will be upgraded.
- d) Recently, a new instrument has been completed: Thales (the new IN14). Until the end of 2015, WASP the new high-intensity spin-echo spectrometer is expected to become operational.
- e) In 2014, the SC has been restructured. Ch. Rüegg represents Switzerland and acts as vice chairman.

## **10. News from SINQ (Ch. Rüegg)**

- a) In 2014, SINQ has received 438 new proposals, about 10% more than in 2013. The number of experiment days in 2013, 1841, was somewhat lower than in 2012 with 2086 due to the relatively large number of beam failures. Accordingly, the number of visits in 2013, 870, was also lower than in 2012 (1001).
- b) 51% of the beam time in 2013 was used by Swiss users. The largest Swiss user groups are PSI (62%), EPFL (15%), and ETH Zürich (11%).
- c) As SwissFEL and SLS have obtained the priority for large upgrades at PSI, the upgrade program for SINQ, SINX<sup>2</sup>, has been postponed. Smaller upgrades of the SINQ source and selected instruments will be realized in the timeframe from 2015 to 2024.
- d) All instruments at SINQ can profit from an upgrade of the neutron guide system, which is estimated to cost about 12M CHF. However, the funding for this project is unconfirmed.
- e) Upgrades for two SINQ instruments have been founded. The cold triple-axis spectrometer Rita-II will obtain the new multi-analyzer CAMEA, which is funded by the SNF, EPFL, and PSI. The single-crystal diffractometer Trics will be replaced by ZEBRA, which will be optimized for small samples and extreme conditions. This upgrade is funded by SNF, UniFR, and PSI.

## **11. News from ESS (Ch. Rüegg)**

- a) The European Spallation Source (ESS) is now under construction in Lund, Sweden, and is planned to become operational in 2019. Switzerland is among the 17 member countries and contributes 3.5% to the construction budget of 1.8B €.
- b) The Swiss neutron scattering community has submitted five proposals for future instruments at ESS in collaboration with Denmark and Germany. Three of the Swiss-Danish proposals have been approved for construction by the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Steering Committee of ESS. These are the extreme environment spectrometer CAMEA, the focusing reflectometer ESTIA-SELENE, and the diffractometer HEIMDAL. The Swiss-German proposal for the neutron imaging instrument ODIN has also been accepted for construction. Furthermore, Switzerland is involved in the design of the neutron source with neutron optics and neutron background simulations.

## **12. The Neutron Landscape (K. Clausen)**

Kurt Clausen gives a report about the last meeting of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) of the European Union, which was held in Trieste 24 Sept. 2014. Switzerland is represented by the Swiss Secretariat for Research and Innovation. A call for proposals for new facilities to be included in the next ESFRI large-

scale facility road map was launched at the meeting. ESFRI has established a number of science working groups to follow and review proposals for new facilities. R. Abela and K. Clausen are members of the Physical Science and Engineering Work Group (PSE-WG).

- a) ESFRI works with a 10-year roadmap for European research infrastructure projects. Every project on the roadmap needs the support of at least three member countries and needs to be advanced enough to move to implementation within 10 years. A new roadmap is being defined in January 2016.
- b) As ESS is now in the construction phase, no neutron sources are on the current ESFRI roadmap.
- c) The PSE-WG has the task to prepare a landscape document of the large scale facilities in Europe and to identify any present or future gaps.
- d) It is expected that the number of available experiment days at neutron scattering facilities in Europe will decrease after about 2020, as several facilities will be closed. Only a partial recovery is expected towards 2030, when ESS is expected to operate 22 instruments. Therefore, the strategy should be to build ESS and to keep current neutron infrastructures running and up to date for at least the next 15 years to meet the need of European researchers in the long term.
- e) It is expected that several continuous wave neutron sources (research reactors) will be closed without replacement. SINQ is expected to be one of the few continuous wave sources available in Europe.

### **13. Miscellaneous**

- a) P. Fischer asks about the strategy of PSI regarding SINQ. K. Clausen answers: The SINQ target has been optimized; a further significant increase in neutron flux cannot be expected. However, it is possible to realize substantial gains by upgrading the neutron guides and the instruments. For the time after about 2025, PSI will have to decide about the future of the proton accelerator HIPA, which is the oldest and most expensive of the large facilities of PSI but is expected to remain a very competitive facility.
- b) P. Fischer recommends to organize the next SGN general assembly in conjunction with another neutron scattering event.

U. Gasser  
January 2015