

Minutes of the SNSS/SGN General Assembly 2019

Date/Location : November 22, 2019, Paul Scherrer Institut
Start : 14:00
End : 17:30
Participants : 16 members of the society and 10 non-members

1. Welcome

Henrik Ronnow, president of the Swiss Neutron Science Society, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2019.

The assembly was preceded by 5 scientific presentations by young neutron scientists, including the two winners of the 2019 Young Scientist Prize of the SNSS sponsored by SwissNeutronics.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2018

The minutes of the general assembly of the SNSS/SGN from 26.11.2018, published in Swiss Neutron News #53 are accepted without objections.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

H. Ronnow reports on the activities of the SNSS/SGN in the years 2018 and 2019:

- a) The sixth (2019) **Young Scientist Prize** of the SNSS/SGN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics has been split and was awarded to Dr. Ralph Harti and Dr. Umbertoluca Ranieri.
- b) Two issues of **Swiss Neutron News** have appeared in May and November 2018 and another two have appeared in May and October 2019.
- c) The SNSS/SGN has **186 members** at the time of the assembly, 26 less than in 2018. This change was caused by the new data-privacy regulations of the European Union, which came into effect at the end of 2018 and caused the User Office of PSI to delete addresses of persons that had not been in contact with PSI or the SNSS for several years.
- d) The SNSS is invited to meetings with the Swiss Academy of Sciences (scnat) and the State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (SERI) to plan the development of research in Switzerland and the Swiss participation in large facilities such as the ILL and ESS. For the next dispatch of SERI to the Federal Council for the years 2025-2028, a **Swiss neutron road-map** will be required. This road-map will be due at the end of 2020 and the SNSS will lead the

preparation of the road-map. Anybody interested in contributing to the neutron road-map is invited to contact the SNSS board.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet 2018 is presented:

Assets SNSS/SGN on 1.1.2018:	CHF	6176.35
	Revenues [CHF]	Expenses [CHF]
Membership-fees (cash box)	120.00	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	690.00	
Donations	10.00	
Deposit prize money 2017	1000.00	
Deposit prize money 2018	1000.00	
Expenses Postfinance account		129.20
Payout prize money 2017		1000.00
Payout prize money 2018		1000.00
Total	2820.00	2129.20
Net earnings 2018:	CHF	690.80

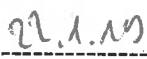



Balance sheet 2018:

	Assets [CHF]	Liabilities [CHF]
Postfinance account	6547.15	
Cash box	320.00	
Assets on 31.12.2018	6867.15	

5. Report of the Auditors

Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2018 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

 ----- Datum	 ----- Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI	 ----- Datum	 ----- Dr. K. Krämer, Uni Bern
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Both Auditors (K. Krämer and M. Zolliker) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance 2018. They have accepted it without objection. The participants therefore unanimously vote for the release of the SGN/SNSS board.

As K. Krämer is now on the board of SNSS, he has resigned from this position as auditor. Prof. Florian Piegsa (University of Berne) will act as a new auditor of SNSS.

6. Budget 2020

H. Ronnow presents the following proposal for the budget 2020:

	Receipts [CHF]	Expenditures [CHF]
member fees	500.00	
interest	0.00	
fees PC account		63.00
Total	500.00	63.00
Total receipts 2020	437.00	
Assets 31.12.2020	7304.15	

The participants accept the budget proposal without objection.

H. Ronnow mentions that the SNSS could join the Swiss Academy of Sciences (scnat). The annual membership costs would be CHF 7.00 per member of the SNSS, but the SNSS might be able to receive more money than the membership fee. The SNSS board

will look into the possibilities to join scant under acceptable conditions and will report at the general assembly in 2020.

7. News from ENSA, ILL, and ESS (H. Ronnow)

i) News from ENSA

- a) The election of a new chair of ENSA has been postponed to Nov. 28 2019. At the time of this SNSS assembly, Christiane Alba-Simionesco is still the chair woman. A new vice-chair has been elected, Lambert van Eijck (TU Delft, Netherlands) has taken over from Ferenc Mezei (ESS).
On Nov. 28 2019, Henrik Ronnow, president of the SNSS, has been elected as the new chair man of ENSA.
- b) The first Instrumentation & Innovation Prize of ENSA has been awarded to Markus Appel “For ground-breaking advances of the neutron back-scattering technique leading to extended dynamic range, higher resolution and better signal-to-noise on the IN16B spectrometer at ILL”.
- c) The Walter Halg prize 2019 has been awarded to Kell Mortensen. Kell Mortensen has been a world leader in the application of small-angle neutron scattering (SANS) to soft matter systems, in particular, polymers for three decades. He has contributed numerous fundamental advances to our understanding of the thermodynamics and dynamics of soft materials along with developing innovative in-situ techniques.
- d) ENSA has successfully co-organized the European Conference on Neutron Scattering (ECNS) 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The next International Conference on Neutron Scattering (ICNS) will take place in Argentina in 2021. In 2023, ENSA will again be the main organizer of an ECNS conference. The PSI and the SNSS will apply for organizing the ECNS 2023. The location for ECNS 2023 will be selected in spring 2020.
- e) ENSA has participated as a partner in two proposals for EU funding for neutron sources in Europe. One of these, BrightnESS2, has been successful. ENSA has employed a coordinator for BrightnESS2 to analyze the neutron user community and its impact and to explore new access models for neutron sources.

ii) News from ILL

- a) A new contract for the Swiss membership in the ILL for the years 2019-2023 has been signed by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and the ILL.
- b) The participation of Switzerland in the CRG instruments of CEA (IN22, IN12, and D23) has been prolonged to 2020. The beam-time on these CRG instruments is obtained via the normal proposal system of the ILL. This participation in CRG instruments has the purpose to lower the number of Swiss proposals that are rejected due to national balance. In case your proposal is impeded by national

balance, please send a short notice to H. Ronnow to make sure that the SNSS can document the effect of the national balance.

- c) The ILL reactor has delivered 2 cycles in 2019 giving a total of 100 beam days. For 2020, only one reactor cycle of 48 days is planned.

iii) News from ESS

- a) Switzerland is still involved in five instruments for ESS: ESTIA, BIFROST, HEIMDAL, ODIN and MAGIC. The reflectometer ESTIA (100% Swiss) is planned to be among the first instruments. The work packages of these instruments progress well.
- b) The overall ESS construction budget is tight and the contributions from all partners are needed to continue with all work packages in 2020. The budget contributions for the future operation of ESS are being negotiated.
- c) The committee for Swiss in-kind contributions to ESS is active and functioning. The overhead for administration and negotiations is however very large.

8. News from SINQ (slides M. Kenzelmann, presented by H. Ronnow)

M. Kenzelmann could not attend this general assembly and H. Ronnow steps in to present news from SINQ.

- a) In 2019 no neutrons are produced at SINQ, as the whole neutron-guide system and selected instruments are receiving an upgrade. The goal of the upgrade is to make SINQ fit for the next 10 to 15 years, to deliver more neutrons to all instruments in the guide hall, to make instruments more suitable for small samples that are often smaller than 1 mm³, and to reduce the background on all instruments.
- b) The replacement of the guide system is on schedule. The most delicate part closest to the spallation source has already been finished in May 2019. The bunker section of the neutron guides will be completed until the end of January 2020.
- c) Two instruments, MARS and SANS-II, have been removed. The latter will be replaced with a SANS instrument from the Laboratoire Léon Brillouin (Saclay, France) where the Orphée reactor has been shut down at the end of October 2019. This new SANS instrument is planned to become operational at in June 2021.
- d) The reflectometer AMOR is receiving a major upgrade with the installation of the Selene guide system. AMOR is planned to be back online in December 2020.
- e) The powder diffractometer DMC receives a new detector and will be renamed to DMC-2. It is planned to be operational in October 2020 and to be part of the user program in 2021.
- f) The instruments TASP, FOCUS, and SANS-I receive no upgrade except from the guide system and are planned to be operational in May 2020 when neutron

production will be resumed. The spectrometer RITA-II / CAMEA has received a major upgrade at the end of 2018 and will be available for the user program in the second half of 2020.

- g) Two beam cycles are planned for 2020: June-September and October-December. The **proposal deadline** for the first cycle is **January 31, 2020**.

9. Format and contents of Swiss Neutron News

As promised at the SNSS general assembly 2018, the board of the SNSS has discussed the contents and the format of Swiss Neutron News. It is the opinion of the board that Swiss Neutron News is a good advertisement for the Society, that the printed format is an advantage against the many newsletters that are sent out by email, and that Swiss Neutron News should continue to appear twice a year. As long as the PSI kindly covers the printing costs, Swiss Neutron News should continue to appear in paper form.

There are no objections to these points of view. All member are invited to contact the board with suggestions for new content and/or changes of Swiss Neutron News.

10. Miscellaneous

No further issues are discussed.

U. Gasser
December 2019