

Minutes of the SNSS/SGN General Assembly 2020

Date/Location : October 29, 2020, Zoom meeting
Start : 14:00
End : 17:00
Participants : 29 members of the society and 6 non-members

1. Welcome

Henrik Ronnow, president of the Swiss Neutron Science Society, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2020.

The assembly was preceded by 2 scientific presentations by the two winners of the 2020 Young Scientist Prize of the SNSS sponsored by SwissNeutronics.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2019

The minutes of the general assembly of the SNSS/SGN from 22.11.2019, published in Swiss Neutron News #55 are accepted without objections.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

H. Ronnow reports on the activities of the SNSS/SGN in the years 2019 and 2020:

- a) The seventh (2020) **Young Scientist Prize** of the SNSS/SGN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics has been split and was awarded to Dr. Muriel Siegwart and Dr. Jiri Ulrich.
- b) One issue of **Swiss Neutron News** has appeared in April 2020 and another issue will be distributed in November 2020.
- c) The SNSS/SGN has **203 members** at the time of the assembly. The number of members has increased by 17 in one year. However, the number of SNSS members is still significantly lower than that of neutron users in Switzerland. The visibility of the SNSS should be improved for all neutron users, especially new users.
- d) The Swiss membership of the ILL and the ESS has been secured for the years 2020 - 2024 with new contracts.
- e) 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 the ESS. For the next dispatch of SERI to the Federal Council for the years 2025-2028, the SNSS is working on a **Swiss**

Neutron Roadmap. A first draft of this road-map is planned to be available end of December 2020. The final version is planned for end of March 2021.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet for 2019 is presented:

Assets SNSS/SGN on 1.1.2019:	CHF	6867.15
	Revenues [CHF]	Expenses [CHF]
Membership-fees (cash box)	80.00	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	590.00	
Donations	10.00	
Deposit prize money 2019	1000.00	
Deposit prize money (cash box)	1000.00	
Expenses Postfinance account		63.85
Refund wrong transfer		180.00
Payout prize money 2019		1000.00
Total	2680.00	1243.85
Net earnings 2019:	CHF	1436.15


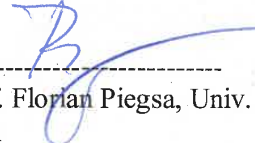
Balance sheet 2019:

	Assets [CHF]	Liabilities [CHF]
Postfinance account	8147.15	
Cash box	156.15	
Assets on 31.12.2019	8303.30	

5. Report of the Auditors

Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2019 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

17.1.2020		29.1.2020	
Datum	Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI	Datum	Prof. Florian Piegsa, Univ. Bern

Both Auditors (M. Zolliker and F. Piegsa) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance sheet for 2019. They have accepted it without objection. The participants unanimously vote for the release of the SGN/SNSS board.

6. Budget 2020

H. Ronnow presents the following proposal for the budget 2021:

	Receipts [CHF]	Expenditures [CHF]
member fees	700.00	
interest	0.00	
prize money	1000.00	1000.00
fees PC account		63.00
Total	1700.00	1063.00
Total receipts 2020	637.00	
Assets 31.12.2021	8940.30	

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 SCNAT under acceptable conditions and will report at the general assembly in 2021.

7. Revised SNSS Statutes

As the name of the society was changed from “Swiss Neutron Scattering Society” to “Swiss Neutron Science Society”, the statutes have to be updated. The new statutes are presented with highlighted changes, and the updated statutes are accepted unanimously.

8. News from SINQ (M. Kenzelmann)

- a) The important milestones of the 2019/2020 SINQ-upgrade have been met in spite of the Corona pandemic. SINQ resumed operation in July 2020 with only a small delay of 2 months caused by the pandemic. First measurements have shown that the instrument-dependent flux increase is in the expected range from 2 to 10.
- b) Due to the upgrade, there was only one call for proposals in 2019 and the number of received proposals was high. The user program on the commissioned instruments was, however, strongly affected by the travel restrictions due to the Corona pandemic. Experiments were carried out with mailed-in samples when possible, but a significant number of experiments had to be postponed to 2021.
- c) The term of Prof. Peter Boeni as chair of the Strategic Advisory Committee (SAC) of SINQ has ended in 2019. Prof. Stefan Klotz has been a SAC member since 2013 and has accepted to be the new chair.
- d) Several instrumentation projects at SINQ are being continued in 2021. The SANS instrument PA20 is transferred to PSI from the Laboratoire Léon Brillouin (Saclay, France) and is planned to be commissioned in spring 2022. The Laue diffractometer Falcon from the Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin will be installed at SINQ with a new front end developed at PSI.
- e) The decommissioned instrument SANS-II will be transferred to Argentina and a collaboration of PSI and Argentina for the support of sample environments and software for neutron instruments will be started.

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

i) News from ILL

- a) The 2019-2023 contract for the Swiss participation in the ILL has been signed by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). The annual funding is secured until 2028 in the SERI Botschaft but was reduced from 15 MCHF to 12 MCHF.
- b) In addition to the annual funding for the ILL, a budget for supplementary measures has been approved by SERI. Projects for the ILL that are carried out in Switzerland can be financed via the budget of the supplementary measures.

- c) The Swiss participation in the CRG instruments IN12, IN22, and D23 operated by CEA helps to reduce the number of Swiss beam-time proposals being rejected due to national balance. Swiss users obtain beam time on these CRG instruments via the normal proposal system of the ILL. The Swiss participation in these CRG instruments has been extended to 2022 and may be continued further.
- d) In case your proposal is impeded by national balance, please send a short notice to the SNSS (sgn@psi.ch) to make sure that the SNSS can document the effect of the national balance.
- e) Some countries are arrears with their payments to the ILL. Proposals with co-proposers from these countries have, therefore, not received beam time.
- f) In 2019 and 2020, the ILL reactor was in operation for only two cycles per year (about 100 days per year). Three reactor cycles with a total of about 176 beam days are planned for 2021.

ii) News from ESS

- a) Since 2019, important steps towards the completion of ESS have been made. ESS is now about 73% complete and user operation is planned to start in 2023. Sweden was not slowed down as much as other countries by the COVID pandemic, and the construction of ESS did profit from this.
- b) The overall ESS construction budget is tight. The budget contributions for the future operation of ESS are still being negotiated.
- c) Switzerland is a strong contributor to the ESS and is 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.

iii) News from ENSA

- a) On Nov. 28 2019, Henrik Ronnow, president of SNSS, has been elected new chair of ENSA. Lambert van Eijck was elected vice chair and Natalie Malikova has become the new secretary of ENSA.
- b) Henrik Ronnow plans to give up the SNSS presidency in 2021. A new president must be elected at the 2021 General Assembly. Candidates or suggestions for the next president are most welcome.
- c) The ICNS 2021 will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the ECNS 2023 will take place in Munich, Germany. After two unsuccessful applications, this was the third application of Munich for an ECNS conference. The proposal of PSI and SNSS for the ECNS 2023 in Basel, Switzerland, was rejected.
- d) ENSA is a partner of the accepted European funding proposal BrightnESS², a European-Union funded project to support the long-term sustainability of ESS, its community, and the network of neutron sources in Europe. In particular, the European user community will be analyzed and access models for ESS will be explored.

10. Miscellaneous

No further issues are discussed.

U. Gasser
December 2020