

Minutes of the SNSS/SGN General Assembly 2021

Date/Location : November 26, 2021, Paul Scherrer Institut
Start : 14:00
End : 17:00
Participants : 12 members of the society and 5 non-members

1. Welcome

Henrik Rønnow, president of the Swiss Neutron Science Society, welcomes the participants to the general assembly 2021.

Before the assembly, scientific presentations by the two winners of the 2021 Young Scientist Prize of the SNSS sponsored by SwissNeutronics.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 2020

The minutes of the general assembly of the SNSS/SGN from 29.10.2020, published in Swiss Neutron News #57 are accepted without objections.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman

Henrik Rønnow reports on the activities of the SNSS/SGN in the years 2019 and 2020:

- a) The eighth (2021) **Young Scientist Prize** of the SNSS/SGN sponsored by Swiss Neutronics has been split and was awarded to Dr. Jakob Lass and Dr. Jacopo Valsecchi. The deadline for nominations for the 2022 Young Scientist Prize is February 28, 2022.
- b) The SNSS/SGN has **204 members** at the time of the assembly. The number of members has increased by 1 compared to 2020. The number of SNSS members is still significantly lower than that of neutron users in Switzerland. The number of unique Swiss proposers (with a Swiss email address) for beam time at SINQ from 2015 to 2020 was 419. The visibility of the SNSS should be improved for all neutron users, especially new users at SINQ.
- c) A new strategy paper for science using neutrons in Switzerland, the Neutron Science Roadmap, was published by SNSS in collaboration with the Swiss Academy Sciences. The Roadmap can be found on the SNSS web page:
<https://sgn.web.psi.ch/sgn/strategy.html>

Next to contributions from the Swiss neutron community, the Roadmap is based on a bibliometrics study of publications involving all areas of neutron science. It is found that the Swiss neutron science community is growing at a rate of about 5% per year and that the Swiss neutron community is remarkably diverse with

branches to many science fields and industries. The Swiss neutron science community also produces 10% of neutron publications in Europe or 5% world-wide. This is remarkable considering that Switzerland only makes up about 2% of the European population.

- d) One issue of **Swiss Neutron News** has appeared in April 2021 and another issue was in print at the time of the assembly and was distributed at the end of November 2021.

4. Report of the Treasurer

The annual balance sheet for 2020 is presented:

Note that the payout of CHF 2000.00 for the prize money is due to CHF 1000.00 prize money from the previous year remaining on the SNSS account until the beginning of 2020.

Assets SNSS/SGN on 1.1.2012: **CHF 8303.30**

	Revenues [CHF]	Expenses [CHF]
Membership-fees (cash box)	0.00	
Membership-fees (postal check acc.)	920.00	
Donations	0.00	
Deposit prize money 2020	1000.00	
Expenses Postfinance account		61.50
Payout prize money 2020		2000.00
Total	1920.00	2061.50

Net earnings 2020: **CHF -141.50**

Balance sheet 2020:

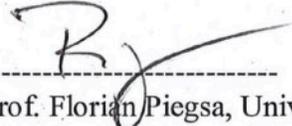
	Assets [CHF]	Liabilities [CHF]
Postfinance account	7941.80	
Cash box	220.00	
Assets on 31.12.2020	8161.80	

5. Report of the Auditors

Both Auditors (M. Zolliker and F. Piegsa) have examined the bookkeeping and the balance sheet for 2020. They have accepted it without objection. The participants unanimously vote for the release of the SGN/SNSS board.

Bericht der Revisoren

Die Rechnungsrevisoren haben die Belege, die Abrechnungen und die Bilanz für das Jahr 2020 geprüft und für in Ordnung befunden!

20.1.21		27.1.21	
Datum	Dr. M. Zolliker, PSI	Datum	Prof. Florian Piegsa, Univ. Bern

6. Budget 2022

H. Rønnow presents the following proposal for the budget 2022:

	Receipts [CHF]	Expenditures [CHF]
member fees	900.00	
interest	0.00	
prize money	1000.00	1000.00
fees PC account		63.00
Total	1900.00	1063.00
Total receipts 2022	837.00	
Assets 31.12.2022	8998.80	

The participants accept the budget proposal without objection.

7. Vote for a change of the SNSS by-laws

As the name of the society was changed to “Swiss Neutron Science Society” and the society was opened to more science fields using neutrons, the board proposes to increase the number of members of the board of SNSS from four to five.

For this, article 10 of the by-laws needs to be changed from

“The executive committee consists of a president and a maximum of four other members.” to

“The executive committee consists of a president and a maximum of five other members.”

This change of the by-laws is accepted unanimously.

8. Election of the SNSS board for the period 2022-2024

The board for the period 2019-2021 was Henrik Rønnow (president), Urs Gasser (board member and secretary), Karl Krämer (board member), and Markus Strobl (board member).

Henrik Rønnow steps down as president, and Marc Janoschek (University of Zurich / PSI) is proposed as new president. Henrik Rønnow is ready to remain available to the SNSS board. Urs Gasser steps down as secretary but is ready to remain available to the SNSS board. Karl Krämer and Markus Strobl are running again for the SNSS board. It is proposed that the duties of the secretary are distributed among the board members and Efthymios Polatidis (LNS, PSI) will take care of Swiss Neutron News. Further, it is proposed that Florian Piegsa (University of Bern, auditor of SNSS) should join the board and that Henrik Rønnow should stay on the board.

Marc Janoschek is elected as the new president of SNSS with one abstention. Urs Gasser, Karl Krämer, and Markus Strobl are unanimously re-elected as board members. Florian Piegsa is elected as new board member without a dissenting vote. Henrik Rønnow is also elected as board member with one vote against.

The newly-elected president Marc Janoschek thanks everyone for the trust in him, and states that he is looking forward to this new tasks. He also thanks the former president Henrik Rønnow as well as the former secretary, Urs Gasser, for many years of service to the community since 2009. He also thanks Henrik to stay on the board for a transitional period and that he will be happy to hear his advice.

Henrik Rønnow thanks the Swiss neutron science community, the SNSS and the board for many exciting years. He states that the SNSS is really the work of the entire board and many colleagues throughout the community. The community is further thriving and visible world-wide. He wishes the new board, and the community the very best success going forward.

9. News from ENSA, ILL, and ESS

i) News from ILL (Henrik Rønnow)

- a) Paul Langdan is the new director of ILL, he has taken over on Oct. 1st 2021 from Helmut Schober.
- b) France, Germany, and the United Kingdom have prolonged their support for the ILL until 2033.
- c) The membership of Switzerland is secured until 2023 and is expected to be prolonged until 2028 with funding reduced from 15 MCHF to 12 MCHF per year.
- d) 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 also of interest for researchers using neutrons in Switzerland can be financed via the budget of the supplementary measures.
- e) 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.
- f) In recent years, the number of neutron beam cycles at ILL was reduced e.g. due to new safety regulations that had to be met.
- g) Some countries are arrears with their payments to the ILL. Proposals with co-proposers from these countries have, therefore, not received beam time and the ILL is now strictly implementing the rule of national balance for the distribution of beam time. This is not in the interest of researchers from Switzerland.
- h) 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.

ii) News from ESS (Marc Janoschek)

- a) On November 1st, 2021, Helmut Schober has taken office as the new Director General of ESS.
- b) 81% of ESS are now complete. This entails that the civil construction (mostly buildings) is now basically completed. From November 10 to 15, 2021, ESS went through its second re-baselining review (the first was in 2018). The aim of this re-baselining is a realistic schedule with schedule and budget contingencies and resource loaded project schedule. A new plan with a ~80% probability for keeping the schedule has been proposed. For the ideal case of no further delays the important "beam on target" (BOT) milestone is projected to be in the fall of 2024. The schedule with 80% probability of reaching milestones includes more realistic schedule contingencies and projects BOT to be in 2026. At the time of BOT, the plan is to have 6/9 instruments in operation, and the rest in the hot commissioning phase. Stable operations are expected for 2028.
- c) Switzerland is a strong contributor to the ESS and is involved in five instruments for ESS: ESTIA, BIFROST, HEIMDAL, ODIN, and MAGIC. The instruments BIFROST, ESTIA (100% Swiss), ODIN and MAGIC are all scheduled to be

among the first eight instruments to go into user-operation. ODIN even belongs to select group of the "first three" that are meant to show that ground-breaking science can be done at ESS early on. BIFROST, ESTIA and ODIN were all showcased by our project teams during the re-baselining review and were commended by the reviewers.

iii) **News from ENSA** (Henrik Rønnow)

- a) Since Nov. 2019, Henrik Rønnow is the chair of ENSA. Lambert van Eijck (TU Delft) is the vice chair, and Natalie Malikova (CNRS, Paris) is the secretary of ENSA.
- b) The ICNS 2021 was postponed to 2022 and will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The ECNS 2023 will take place in Munich, Germany.
- c) ENSA awards the Levy-Bertaut prize, the Walter-Hälg prize, and the prize for Neutron Innovation and Instrumentation. The calls for these prizes will be published soon.
- 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. Evgenii Velichko (TU Delft) has been employed by ENSA to analyze the neutron user community and its impact as well as to explore access models to ESS.
- e) Regular meetings of ENSA, NSSA, and AONSA have been initiated, and ENSA is collaborating with the League of advanced European Neutron Sources (LENS) and with ARIE, the network of high-level facilities that provide instruments and services to enable European researchers to address the Missions of Horizon Europe.

10. News from SINQ (Michel Kenzelmann)

- a) Although not all instruments are currently in the user program, a number of proposal has increased massively with 697 proposals for the first cycle of 2022. This has to be compared with 458 proposals for the user cycle in 2020, which was also a high number. The reasons for the increase include the recent closures of the neutron facilities HZB (Berlin, Germany), LLB (Saclay, France), and JEEP II (Kjeller, Norway), the problems at MLZ (Garching, Germany) with the cold neutron source, and the ILL shutdown in 2022. It is expected that the increased demand will persist at least until 2023.
- b) The number of publications has slightly decreased in 2020, this may be an effect caused by the shutdown in 2019.
- c) Several institutional agreements between PSI and other facilities have been reached in 2020 and 2021: The Norwegian institute for energy research, IFE, is investing 2.5 M€ in diffraction and imaging beam lines, and a Norwegian postdoc position at SINQ has been created. The decommissioned instrument SANS-II will be transferred to a new neutron facility in Argentina, which is financing software

- development projects together with SINQ. The SANS instrument PA20 from the LLB has been transferred to SINQ and will be available for both French and Swiss users under the new name SANS-LLB. This instrument is planned to be ready for users in the second half of 2022. The collaboration contract with DANSCATT for the common operation of neutron instruments has been renewed. The Laue diffractometer Falcon from HZB (Berlin) has been brought to SINQ and will be installed in 2022-2024.
- d) The Guide and Instrument Upgrade of SINQ in the years 2019 and 2020 has brought the expected gains in flux. The new spectrometer CAMEA has brought significant advantages for survey studies of a wider range in reciprocal space and also advantages for studies with small samples. Further, the new AMOR reflectometer can offer gains of a factor of ten or larger for small samples (commissioning in 2022). The new detector of the DMC diffractometer covers a much larger range in reciprocal space and allows for studies of smaller samples (commissioning in 2022). The strongly over-booked SANS-I will be somewhat relieved by SANS-LLB as soon as it is commissioned. The imaging beam line Neutra and the diffractometer POLDI are planned to obtain upgrades during the shutdowns in 2022, 2023, and 2024 but should stay in the user program.
 - e) The number of beam days sold to industry could be further increased with the help of ANAXAM, which acts as the link between the facilities of PSI and industry.
 - f) Within the Laboratory for Neutron Scattering and Imaging (LNS), the groups for applied materials and for soft matter will be strengthened. For soft matter, there will be strong link to the French community centered on the SANS-LLB instrument.
 - g) A preliminary study for a new North Guide Hall of SINQ has been started (2022-2025). This could allow to install about 6 more instruments at SINQ and increase European neutron capacity for a relatively modest investment since there would be no extra costs running the neutron source SINQ.
 - h) Collaborations with ESS during the operations phase of ESS will be explored. This will focus on the commissioning and the operation of instruments, and also on data analysis.

11. Miscellaneous

It is proposed to have SNSS assemblies via zoom to reach more members of the society.

U. Gasser
December 2021