

Dear HYSPEC Team members and friends,

The deadline for the next SNS proposal cycle is at the end of this month, on February 26, see <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/proposals.shtml>. HYSPEC is now fully commissioned in the unpolarized mode, and is operating successfully and productively. Half-polarized operation with Heusler monochromator is also available. Operation in the fully polarized beam mode is still in commissioning, but with some progress in sight. Thanks to the tune-ups and improvements that HYSPEC Instrument Team made during the commissioning period, the instrument has now demonstrated many unique capabilities envisioned in its conceptual design. In particular, improved shielding and aperture design helped to reduce the background to an exceptionally low level. An automated motorized beam stop with precise positioning and scanning capability now makes it possible to finely tune up instrument to measure inelastic scattering at very small angles – at least down to 2 degrees.

The draft memorandum of understanding between the SNS and the HYSPEC IDT is nearly finalized, and it provides some great opportunities for developing our Science Program. In particular, it envisions that IDT proposals will be submitted via IPTS on par with all other user proposals, but will be reviewed by the IDT prior to the general user proposal review by the ORNL NSD Science Review Committee (SRC). IDT experiments which are not accepted by the IDT review will then be passed to the general user proposal pool and reviewed by the SRC. It is also envisioned that a list of the IDT users who are authorized to submit the IDT proposals will be compiled and maintained by the IDT, and will be provided by us to the ORNL NSD. This list will include you and your team members and collaborators (postdocs, students, ...) in charge of submitting proposal on your behalf. I would like to encourage you to send me names of potential proposers on this list. I expect that the final version of the memorandum will be circulated to you shortly.

In the meantime, however, for the present proposal round we will continue running our HYSPEC science program in the mode similar to what it has been in the past. All proposals will have to be submitted to the ORNL IPTS system before the nominal deadline. If you would like your proposal to be considered by the IDT Executive Committee (EC) for the IDT beam time, you would have to send an email to the EC Chair ([zaliznyak@bnl.gov](mailto:zaliznyak@bnl.gov)) with the proposal IPTS number and a copy of the statement of research, as soon as you submit the proposal to the IPTS, and before the SNS proposal deadline. We will only have about a week to review your proposals after the deadline and provide the list of accepted proposals to the ORNL NSD, so I would encourage you to submit us your proposals as early as you can. In the case that the IDT proposals could be accommodated in less than 20% of the instrument time, which is the maximum amount available for the IDT science program, the balance of the neutron beam time would be used by the SNS for the general user program.

With best regards,

Igor.

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