Charge for STAPs 'Chemistry and Life Science Support' and 'Materials and Physics Support'

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In view of ESS current challenges, the recent organisational changes and in view of our path towards Hot Commissioning, First Science and the User Programme, the STAPs are invited to comment and to provide advice.

Common Topics:

Considering the new organisational structure and our sustained path to Hot Commissioning, First Science and the User Programme, how do we

- Best deliver the remaining scope related to sample services and sample environment for all scientific areas?
- Make best use of our available scientific support functions today and during the different future phases?
- Maintain scientific expertise and keep user and collaborators engaged in ESS and interest in using our services (deuteration, chemistry, life science, materials)?
- Shape a line organisation with capabilities to tackle the operational challenges?
- Ensure method development and (cross-) training of staff?
- Best attract and execute externally funded collaborative projects and how to sustain the resulting capabilities?

Chemistry and Life Science Support

- Is the new structure in CLS sustainable? How do we minimize the time spend on managing and maximize the time spend on delivering the scope?
- There is no time left in the SULF team to go out and participate in funding calls nor in joint research proposals. How can we still (find time to) stay on top of ongoing science?
- Supporting the ESS project is both beneficial to ESS and to SULF. How do we cope with the larger demand and the necessity to supply written reports?
- The service contracts with Lund University (LU) and Lund Protein Production Platform (LP3) end in 2025. Should these contracts be extended beyond 2025 or would it make sense to build up these capabilities closer to or at ESS now that the other parts of DEMAX are at ESS?
- How should DEMAX balance the core user support with R&D activities?
- The costs for off-the-shelf sample environment components has increased significantly – how do we still deliver what the instruments need?
- How do the SCSE team members find the time to test the equipment in the neutron beam?
- Is the I2S function sufficiently defined? Are there aspects we are missing?

Materials and Physics Support

- The responsibility of the SLIME lab (Sample Lab for Imaging and Mechanical Engineering) has been transferred from CLS to MPS with limited and inadequate furniture, no budget and no resources, but the same scope. How should the SLIME lab be equipped to help deliver needed equipment to support ODIN and DREAM for first science. What are the minimum resources needed to do this?

- With the moving of soft-matter and physical-chemistry sample environment scope from MPS to CLS, how can we avoid duplicating pieces of equipment and competences between the 2 teams and maximize the use of resources?
- Some sample environment systems require competences from the CLS/SCSE and MPS groups. How should we share budget, responsibilities and priorities?
- When using prototypes or old pieces of equipment, which are not CE marked, we must define workable procedures that ensure safety and are accepted by our safety and quality departments if general approvals are not feasible. What experience does the STAP have on how this is done at their facilities, to be allowed to use them in the labs and on the instruments.
- One of the scopes of the MPS group is to support users in the fields of materials engineering, quantum materials and high pressure. What should MPS do to start building a community, ready for first science?