

Njord and Remora Spectrometers in Symbiosis

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1 Executive summary

Many of the most interesting scientific subjects are also the hardest to study with neutrons. Metal-organic frameworks, organic superconductors, quantum magnets, pressure-tuned materials, are systems where the relevant signals are weak, the samples are tiny, or the experiments need extreme sample environments such as pressure cells and high-field cryomagnets. Existing instruments often run into practical limits before the science is exhausted. For some questions the samples are simply too small; for others, the signal is buried in background or the required measurement time becomes prohibitive. This is both a scientific opportunity and a challenge for the European neutron scattering community.

We present **Njord** and **Remora** as a paired instrument concept for the European Spallation Source (ESS). The proposal focuses on two linked problems: important science cases are being limited by neutron flux and sample geometry, and the community also needs more beamtime. Njord addresses the first by pushing the available brightness into a tightly focused beam, while Remora uses the remaining spectral window to add a complementary spectrometer on the same beamport. A website at njordremora.org has been created for the instrument duo with further information and a showcase of community engagement.

Njord will allow collective excitations to be measured on sub-mm³ sample volumes, which would not be possible today due to insufficient count rates, even at the ESS. Njord aggressively focuses the intensity from the worlds most intense neutron source, by using the novel Nested-Mirror-Optics (NMO) technology, and measures neutrons scattered into a large solid angle with a large out-of-plane coverage. The design is optimised to exploit the full ESS pulse. As a result, Njord will deliver a small, well-defined beam (3x3 mm²) with a flux exceeding 2.5×10^{10} n/s/cm² (at 2 MW), while retaining ample space for sample environment equipment. Relaxing the resolution of the secondary spectrometer, the full scattering angle range will be covered continuously. Thus optimised for high flux, extreme-conditions studies, and out-of-plane coverage, Njord targets the experimental gap described above, enabling investigations of magnetic systems inaccessible to neutron spectroscopy today. Together with BIFROST, Njord represents a significant step towards maintaining ESS as a long-term global leader in high-flux spectrometer instrumentation.

To address the capacity challenge, we propose **Remora**. This direct-geometry spectrometer will be positioned upstream of Njord on the same beamport and utilises the part of the neutron spectrum that cannot be accepted by Njord. It requires only a few standard components to shape and monochromate the incoming beam as well as a compact secondary spectrometer. The result is a direct-geometry spectrometer with a large dynamic range enabled through higher order reflections and a flux exceeding 10^5 n/s/cm².

The combination of **Njord** and **Remora** delivers a two-pronged advancement to the ESS mission:

Expanding scientific scope: Enabling revolutionary experiments on challenging magnetic and organic systems, previously beyond the scope of neutron spectroscopy.

Increasing capacity and access: Providing crucial beam time and user access, thus supporting a diverse, dynamic, and sustainable spectroscopy community.

We believe this symbiotic instrument duo will play a pivotal role in realising ESS's vision as the leading neutron source in Europe, both in instrument capability and community impact.

2 Scientific case

Njord stands out on two main points: (i) extreme flux on a very small beam spot size, and (ii) large out-of-plane analyser coverage. These characteristics address a large and varied user community spanning from the more traditional hard condensed matter cases to planetary physics and organic matter. Njord brings the opportunity to study the following:

- Materials that inherently grow in the form of small crystals, like those obtained via high+pressure synthesis, flux growth or in organic networks. Low-energy collective dynamics in such materials are widely unexplored.
- Studies under high uniaxial or hydrostatic pressures, in particular studies using diamond-anvil or strain cells become feasible.
- Horizontal-magnetic-field studies on small samples with out-of-plane coverage.
- Small-sample powder spectroscopy, where the out-of-plane coverage allows efficient integration over the Debye-Scherrer cone.

In Table 1 we list the various relevant research fields and below we highlight a few specific examples. We focus on the novel capabilities provided by Njord and only briefly point out the added capacity provided by Remora as a standard time-of-flight (ToF) direct-geometry spectrometer.

Table 1: Research areas addressed by Njord listed in alphabetic order. Key examples are described in more detail below.

Research field	Examples
Chemistry	In-situ high-pressure synthesis, new materials
Energy and environment	Barocalorics, batteries, catalysis, metal-organic frameworks
Life sciences and soft matter	Lamellar phases, liquid crystals, membranes, proteins
Planetary physics	Clathrates, hydrogen hydrates, ice systems
Quantum phenomena	Altermagnets, heavy-fermion metals, metal-insulator transitions, quantum magnets, superconductors, topological materials

2.1 Metal-organic frameworks

Materials science is applying the knowledge gained in fundamental research to design functional materials for the benefit of society. However, in simple ionic bonded materials, such efforts often come with unforeseen complexities inherent in realised materials. In this regard, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) constitute a rapidly expanding class of crystalline hybrid materials in which metal nodes and organic linkers assemble into highly tunable lattices, allowing material engineering at the molecular level, including magnetic interactions and lattice dynamics [1, 2]. Their importance was underlined by the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

One example is known as the breathing MOF [4], exemplified by what is known as the MIL-53 system (Fig. 1). When absorbing gas or as a function of temperature or pressure it undergoes a reversible structural transition, where the unit cell volume changes by almost 40 % and hence behaves almost like a lung, i.e., changeable yet stable. Vibrational spectroscopy and DFT shed light on the $\mathbf{Q} = 0$ modes [5], yet the collective modes driving the structural instability have not yet been resolved and here the full \mathbf{Q} -resolved dispersion is key. The tunability of the breathing MOFs enable applications as hydrogen storage materials, gas purifiers, water treatment and within controlled drug delivery. Other MOFs such as the UiO-67 (Fig. 1) may be used for photocatalysis [3].

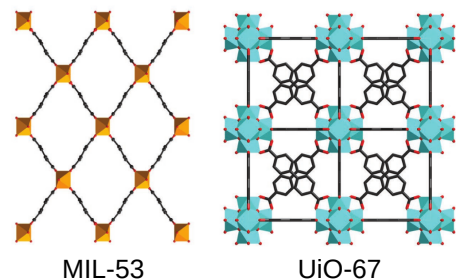


Figure 1: The structure of the MIL-53 and UiO-67 MOFs [3].

The chemical flexibility of MOFs further allows for incorporation of magnetic ions and thereby modular tailoring of quantum magnetic compounds for realising theoretical models. Traditional hard-condensed matter model compounds are rare to come by, and may be difficult to manipulate into the interesting parameter regime using external stimuli such as pressure or magnetic fields. Therefore, MOFs offer an attractive parallel path to studies of clean quantum magnetic systems.

A prominent example is κ -(BEDT-TTF) $_2X$, where (BEDT-TTF) is the organic molecule C₁₀H₈S₈, and X is an inorganic unit involving Cu, F, I, Cl and/or Br [6, 7]. This family spans antiferromagnetic, superconducting and semiconducting states as a function of pressure [8], with a ground state highly sensitive to pressure and magnetic field [9, 10]. Two notable examples are the identification of a spin-liquid state in κ -(BEDT-TTF) $_2$ Cu₂(CN)₃ [11, 12], and the discovery of spin-polarised currents in κ -(BEDT-TTF) $_2$ Cu[N(CN)₂]Cl [13]. The magnetic interaction network resembles that of what is known as the Shastry-Sutherland lattice [14], hosting extraordinarily rich quantum physics due to this geometric spin arrangement [14–19]. α - and κ -(BEDT-TTF) $_2X$ systems were suggested as physical realisations for altermagnetism on the Shastry-Sutherland lattice, offering a path towards altermagnetism within a frustrated lattice. The possibility for a link between altermagnetism and superconductivity renders these systems of particular interest.

Due to the complexity of the MOFs, large single crystals are inherently hard to come by [20, 21], rendering investigations of collective excitations extremely challenging. Due to the porous nature of the MOFs, the lattice and vibrational modes have low energies. X-ray spectroscopy is therefore rarely the right tool, both due to the energy resolution and the low sensitivity to hydrogen. While vibrational neutron spectroscopy has established that low-energy linker motions dominate the dynamics of flexible metal–organic frameworks [5, 22, 23], identifying whether these modes are localised molecular vibrations or collective lattice phonons remains challenging. Since collective phonons control the elastic stability, breathing transitions, and thermodynamic properties of the framework, benchmarking phonon measurements against DFT calculations is crucial.

2.2 Organic superconductors

Superconductivity remains one of the most challenging and exciting areas of condensed matter physics. Traditional superconductors are well understood, where lattice vibrations (phonons) mediate electron pairing, as described in the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory [25]. Unconventional superconductivity arising from magnetic parent states have been a major focus of cold neutron spectroscopy for decades. The cuprates [26], discovered in 1986 [27], are doped Mott insulators with an antiferromagnetic parent state, while the pnictides [28], discovered in 2008 [29], are bad metals with itinerant magnetism. However, the first discovery of unconventional superconductivity in magnetic materials occurred earlier, with the 1980 identification of Bechgaard charge-transfer salts [30, 31]. Here, the magnetism resides in the molecular orbitals, rather than the atomic ones. The orbitals are delocalised, and facilitate electron itinerancy mainly of 1D nature along the stack, via Fermi surface nesting. The phase diagram of the organic-superconductor class is shown in Fig. 2, and is exceedingly complex. Depending on the inter-molecule stacking separation, the systems can be tuned to host charge order, antiferromagnetism, low dimensional metallic states, a Spin-Peierls instability and finally a spin-density wave preceding superconductivity.

Like the cuprates and pnictides, spin fluctuations are thought to be the microscopic mechanism giving rise to the superconducting state in organic superconductors. Here, however, superconductivity emerges from a 1D spin-density wave, and the fundamental energy scales are much smaller. The organic superconductors can be remarkably cleanly tuned, via chemical doping and pressure, allowing the full phase diagram to be studied. Although there is considerable agreement that the superconducting mechanism is magnetic in origin, there is yet to be decisive confirmation and an established theory of both superconductivity and the metal-dimensionality crossover in the organic superconductors. This is reminiscent of the situation in the cuprates, where a theory of the superconducting mechanism has yet to be confirmed. The organic superconductors, however, are simpler and more tunable than the cuprates, and offer a cleaner testing ground for pairing-mechanism theories. Therefore, understanding superconductivity in organic superconductors is the crucial next step toward an all-embracing theory of unconventional superconductivity.

For neutron studies of organic superconductors, the reduced form factor of delocalised moments,

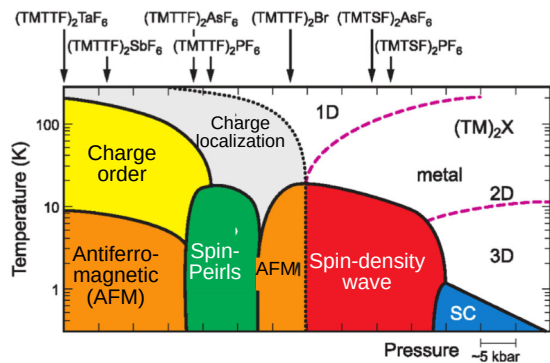


Figure 2: Pressure-temperature diagram of the organic 1D superconductors [24]. Each material resides on this phase diagram and thus the pressure axis is not on an absolute scale.

and the frequent requirement for hydrostatic pressure to tune the system pose additional challenges. Consequently, the collective spin fluctuation spectrum of these systems remains largely unknown. Exactly these fluctuations are thought to drive superconductivity as well as provide evidence as to their magnetic state. Njord is designed precisely for such cases and will enable the first momentum- and energy-resolved studies as well as studies under pressure of spin excitations in organic superconductors.

2.3 Powders under pressure

One particular advantage of Njord is the very large spatial angle coverage of the analyser system, which renders the spectrometer ideally suited to investigate low-energy excitations in small amounts of powder samples. In contrast to in-plane-limited indirect-geometry spectrometers, large volumes of $S(\mathbf{Q}, \omega)$ around the Debye-Scherrer cone can be measured simultaneously with Njord. The focusing optics of Njord minimise illumination of sample environment components while providing extreme flux on the sample; this gives extraordinary new opportunities for pressure studies of materials. Examples are given below.

Water is one of the most abundant molecules in the universe and a prerequisite for life as we know it. Hexagonal ice, known as ice-Ih, is the most common form and is produced by bulk nucleation of liquid water at ambient pressure. There are surprisingly many other phases of ice in the temperature-versus-pressure phase diagram of water (Fig. 3) [33, 34]. Studying the lattice instabilities [35] and phonon softening leading to these structural phase transitions is crucial in order to gain a better understanding of the properties of ice at extreme pressures in the solar system, like on Uranus, Neptune, Europa, and Ganymede. However, such studies are limited by the small volumes of material obtainable in pressure cells, and is often limited to vibrational dynamics [36, 37].

Clathrates are crystalline inclusion compounds, where a guest molecule can be trapped in a chemical cage, often comprised of water (Fig. 4) [39, 40]. The trapped molecule can be, e.g., methane, carbon dioxide or hydrogen, but it is not ionically bonded to the host lattice, which is stabilised through van-der-Waals interactions. In many cases, such clathrates are formed under pressures of 0.1 – 3 GPa and are fascinating objects of study as they are technically and geologically relevant as candidate gas storage materials and because they form naturally in comets and deep ocean sediments, respectively. The guest molecule is weakly bound to its surroundings and gives rise to interesting low-energy dynamics such as rattler modes, rotational tunnelling and hindered rotations [41, 42] which are highly non-trivial to model using conventional DFT methods. The study of these modes are often \mathbf{Q} -integrated [43, 44], for the simple reason of limited sample mass.

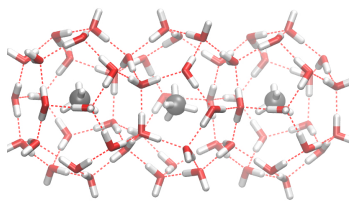


Figure 4: Methane trapped in a water cage [38].

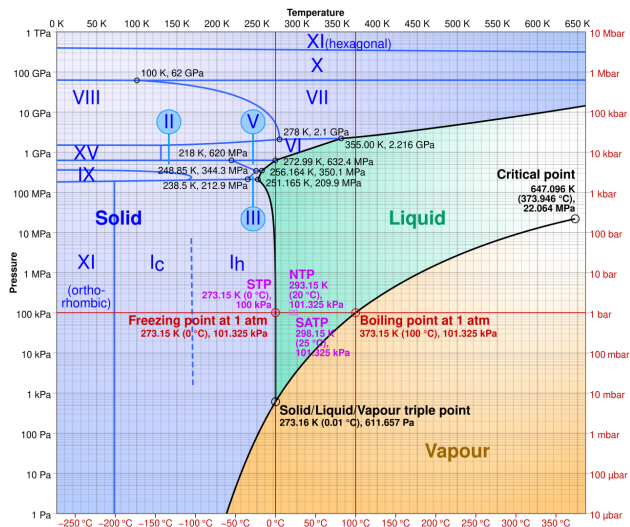


Figure 3: Phase diagram of water as a function of temperature and pressure [32].

Njord offers a unique opportunity to go beyond the mere density of states and gain detailed information about the phonon \mathbf{Q} -dependence in systems like water and clathrates.

Barocalorics refer to materials that exhibit the barocaloric effect, a thermodynamic phenomenon in which a material undergoes a reversible structural change when hydrostatic pressure is applied or removed. When pressure is applied, the material releases heat as its internal structure becomes more ordered; when the pressure is removed, the material absorbs heat and cools [45]. Barocaloric materials are of growing interest because they enable solid-state refrigeration. Traditional refrigeration relies on gaseous refrigerants that can have significant environmental impacts; whereas barocaloric cooling uses solid materials potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy

efficiency [46]. Recent research has identified a variety of promising barocaloric materials, including plastic crystals, polymers, and intermetallic compounds, some of which exhibit large entropy changes and temperature variations near room temperature [47]. With Njord it will be possible to study the pressure-induced changes of the vibrational spectra of these materials, which yields the smoking-gun evidence on the origin of the barocaloric effect. Operando studies of the structure and dynamics of these materials during cooling cycles will be crucial to understand their driving mechanisms and hence to design barocaloric refrigerant devices for application. Such experiments will be possible on Njord even on bulk barocaloric devices thanks to the well defined beam and spatial resolution on the order of mm.

2.4 Quantum magnetism

Quantum magnets are ideal testing grounds for many-body quantum models. The fingerprints of predicted ground states such as quantum-spin liquids and resonant-valence-bond states are found in the associated excitations [48, 49] and here inelastic neutron scattering is one of the most powerful tools to identify these signatures. Moreover, measures such as Quantum Fisher Information can be used to directly extract entanglement measures from inelastic neutron scattering measurements and thereby quantify the “quantumness” of a given system [50].

In recent years the study of quantum effects and low-dimensionality in combination with magnetic frustration has intensified. This is driven by the sophistication and increased user-friendliness of theoretical tools such as the density-matrix-renormalisation-group and infinite-projected-entangled-pair-states methods in combination with developments in quantum information and quantum computing technologies. However, on the experimental side, and in particular with respect to neutron spectroscopy, a parallel advancement has been hindered by the inherently low neutron flux and hence need for large single crystals. To mention specific examples of systems with recent interest we highlight MnCr_2S_4 , the most promising candidate material to realise a spin supersolid, and $\text{Na}_3\text{Co}_2\text{SbO}_6$, which is predicted to host a quantum spin liquid under pressure.

MnCr_2S_4 is a magnetic spinel compound that has attracted attention because it may host what is known as a spin supersolid phase [51–54]. This is an exotic quantum magnetic state that simultaneously exhibits rigid, ordered magnetic structures (solid) and superfluid-like dissipationless transport of magnetisation (superfluid) [55–58]. It is characterised by coexisting longitudinal and transverse spin orders which appear to be present in MnCr_2S_4 for magnetic fields above and below a pronounced magnetisation plateau spanning the range $\sim 25 - 50$ T, Fig. 5a. The magnetic structure in the lower-lying of the proposed spin supersolid phases (11 – 25 T) has been studied with neutron diffraction. MnCr_2S_4 crystals grow on the order of 1 – 2 mm in size making inelastic studies presently impossible; with the spin Hamiltonian thus undetermined the spin supersolid state is therefore unconfirmed.

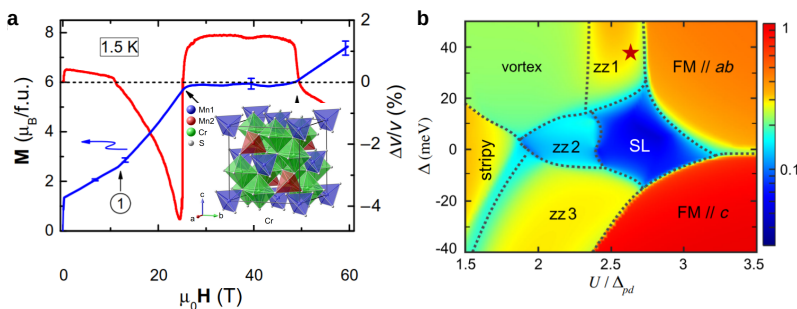


Figure 5: **a** Magnetisation curve of MnCr_2S_4 with its large plateau at 25 – 50 T [52]. Crystal structure is shown in the inset [54]. **b** Predicted phase diagram for the Kitaev honeycomb with the quantum spin liquid in dark blue and the ambient-pressure position of $\text{Na}_3\text{Co}_2\text{SbO}_6$ marked with the red star [59].

orders antiferromagnetically but experiences significant frustration [60–62] and theoretical and experimental work suggest that application of pressure will bring the material into the quantum-spin-liquid regime, Fig. 5b [59, 63]. While it is possible to grow relatively large $\text{Na}_3\text{Co}_2\text{SbO}_6$ crystals, single-domain or de-twinned samples rarely exceed 2 – 3 mm sizes. Again, inelastic

neutron scattering experiments are currently impossible for this size of samples but would be the pivotal probe for confirming the Kitaev quantum spin liquid in a real material.

Njord addresses all of the above challenges (small samples, pressure and magnetic field). The extreme focusing of the neutron beam ensures a concentration of flux in a small area and naturally comes with a moderate Q resolution. Typical excitations in quantum magnets, however, have little or no dispersion or form continua, meaning that the Q resolution of Njord is more than sufficient to characterise these types of excitations.

2.5 Key scientific drivers

The combination of Njord and Remora encompasses almost the entirety of scientific drivers in cold neutron spectroscopy today. Spanning from soft matter, through energy materials, to functional materials as well as fundamental planetary and quantum science; the experimental capability space covered by Njord and Remora is vast. Below, we focus on three overarching categories:

Spintronics and quantum computing hold perspectives to revolutionise information technology. The field of spintronics aims to harness spin-polarised currents and topological magnons to create logic devices and storage with almost no heat dissipation. In practice, device cooling is the main factor limiting the density of computing power, and dissipationless devices would have immense technological and environmental impact. Quantum computing, on the other hand, aims to solve certain problems that are intractable for classical computers by harnessing the quantum phenomena of superposition and entanglement. If realised, it could accelerate the discovery of new materials and drugs, optimise complex systems like energy grids and logistics, and improve climate and financial modelling. A fundamental understanding of altermagnetism, topological magnetism and quantum entanglement in magnetic materials are crucial to move these fields forward.

Energy sciences cover everything from energy harvesting and storage to minimising energy consumption in our everyday lives when concerning transport and housing but also anything from computation, sensing or even entertainment. Within this broad field, superconductors and MOF materials are particularly relevant. Superconductors allow loss-less energy transport, high-efficiency public transport, energy storage and future magnets for fusion technology. On the other hand, breathing MOFs offer perspectives for selective carbon capture and photocatalysis, while clathrates enable safe storage of hydrogen and methane. In such systems, the crystal lattice is not just a given, it has a concrete almost mechanical function, and making these materials functional requires an understanding of the collective lattice dynamics. Njord will also allow to study diffusion processes by QENS with relaxation times < 100 ps. This will allow, e.g., spatially resolved studies on the loading and unloading of hydrogen storage materials with mm spatial resolution.

Fundamental science like phases of ice under high pressure, collective dynamics in MOFs and quantum magnetic phases remain central elements of the science conducted at Njord.

2.6 Potential new science and new users

Due to space constraints, this proposal has detailed only some of the new science enabled by Njord. In particular the research fields of MOFs and organic superconductors will be newly accessible to neutron spectroscopy. By expanding the realm of feasible experiments to these and other new science areas, new user bases across Europe will be brought into the fold of inelastic neutron scattering on collective excitations.

3 Technical overview

Njord is an indirect-geometry ToF spectrometer designed for extreme flux on small samples. Remora is a symbiotic direct-geometry ToF spectrometer extracting neutrons from the same beamport and exploiting the excess wavelength band not used by Njord. The overall concept is illustrated in Fig. 6.

Njord allows a continuous wavelength band on the sample, and employs a MUSHROOM-type crystal-analyser array, first put forward by R. Bewley from ISIS [64]. It accepts a very large solid angle of scattered neutrons. To achieve 2.5×10^{10} n/s/cm² on a 3 mm×3 mm beam spot, Njord makes use of Nested Mirror Optics (NMO) to focus the neutron beam onto the sample position [65]. Such an optical component is composed of several short mirrors with coinciding focal points, which are stacked to manipulate the entire beam cross section along a short fraction of the total

beam path. This design reduces geometrical aberrations and multiple reflections and, in contrast to conventional neutron focusing optics, does not require close proximity to the sample for a well defined neutron beam (more details about NMO are given in Sec. 3.2).

Remora extracts distinct neutron wavelengths from the neutron guide upstream of the bandwidth chopper of Njord by means of a highly oriented pyrolytic graphite (HOPG) monochromator. A Fermi chopper controls the illumination time of the sample. The instrument features a compact secondary flight path of 2.5 m to provide good energy resolution and maintain a large solid angle coverage. We match the higher-order reflections of the monochromator to the repeat wavelength of the chopper in order to increase the dynamic range by extracting two or more wavelengths from one ESS pulse. For Remora, an NMO will provide horizontal focusing while the monochromator focuses vertically.

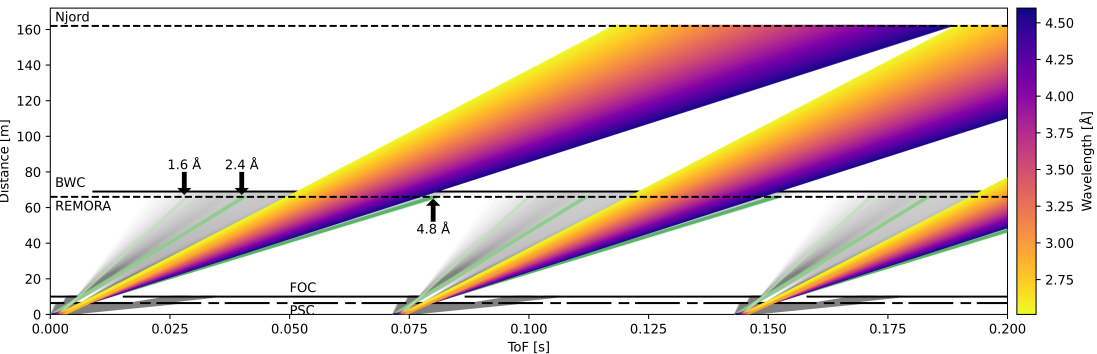
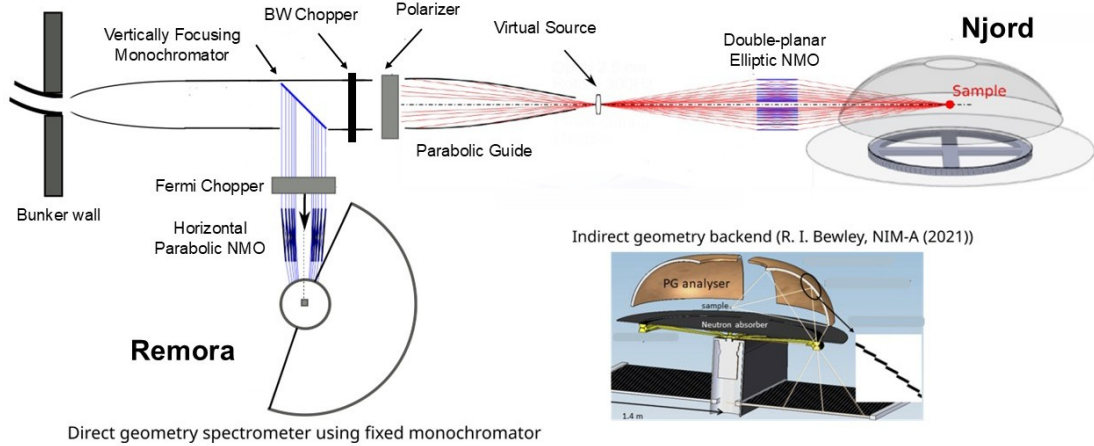


Figure 6: (Top) Overview of the instrument setup (not to scale). Upstream of the bandwidth chopper (BW) of Njord, a vertically-focusing monochromator feeds Remora. A parabolic trumpet with a slit creates a well-defined virtual source, mirrored by an NMO onto the sample position of Njord. (Bottom) ToF Diagram, where the 1.7 Å bandwidth reaching Njord is shaded yellow to purple, while the green rays represent the neutrons that fulfil the (002), (004) and (006) monochromator mosaic Bragg scattering for Remora.

3.1 Primary spectrometers

A large phase-space volume is extracted from the bright ESS moderator using a neutron guide¹. The divergence is transformed into a large cross section that can be transported efficiently. The Remora monochromator extracts different Bragg reflections in the low-divergence region of the guide. Further downstream, Njord accepts a bandwidth of 1.7 Å with $\lambda < 4.7$ Å. The beam is then compressed once more into a bright virtual source which is imaged precisely by the NMO onto the sample position. Our preliminary McStas simulations presented here were performed using the BIFROST and T-REX guide geometries for Njord and Remora respectively. These are not optimised for this design and therefore do not provide the ideal moderator extraction efficiency or divergence control expected from a dedicated guide tailored to this concept.

¹We also consider using the NMO technology for optimising the initial neutron extraction following discussions with Peter Böni.

Remora is a multi-wavelength instrument utilising first- and higher-order reflections from a graphite monochromator, with a baseline configuration targeting 4.8 Å and 2.4 Å (3.55 meV and 14.2 meV). Neutrons with $\lambda < 4.8$ Å are for the most part transmitted through the graphite monochromator and utilised by Njord, taking advantage of the high transparency of graphite off the Bragg condition (exceeding 85% transmission in this range). Even in a configuration where Remora employs the (004) reflection at 2.4 Å, Njord can still fully exploit this wavelength band, as the second-order reflectivity remains below 30% and any induced intensity variations are normalised. This shared use of phase space, combined with the possibility of integrating a pulse-shaping chopper (PSC) to enhance Njord’s resolution without significantly reducing flux on Remora, results in a well-balanced trade-off. This combination is particularly attractive for a next-generation ESS instrument which will complement and fortify the versatility of the first-generation instrument suite.

3.2 Njord: Tiny samples in complex sample environments

Njord shifts the limits for neutron spectroscopy towards the sub-mm size samples. This extends the applicability of inelastic and quasi-elastic neutron scattering to research fields where only tiny samples may be provided. Furthermore, it enables the use of sample environments with severe restrictions on the sample volume such as high pressure devices.

The NMO provides ultimate flux in a sharply defined illumination area to reduce the experimental background without sacrificing intensity by the use of apertures or slits. The concept relies on a set of compact, elliptically shaped, nested supermirrors that accept a large divergence from a virtual source and refocus it onto the desired area with high efficiency while preserving phase space. The reported experimental results, obtained with a small prototype elliptic NMO equipped with non-polarising supermirrors, have demonstrated a brilliance transfer for small samples of 72%. The demonstration of sharp focusing of sub-mm wide beams was limited only by the spatial resolution of the detector of 2.5 mm [65]. An elliptic NMO built for a MIEZE focusing setup at MIRA at FRM II was tested at BOA at PSI with a detector having a resolution well below 0.1 mm [66]. This experiment further demonstrated the excellent focusing properties of the NMO. Moreover, NMO can efficiently provide a polarised beam when using polarising mirror coatings, meaning that upgrading Njord for polarisation analysis is straight forward in the future.

The guide focuses the beam onto a virtual source slit located several meters from the sample. A compact set of NMOs then images this directly onto the sample position with minimal smearing

Table 2: Summary of specifications for Njord. Beam characteristics were simulated for a 2.45–4.25 Å bandwidth. Energy resolutions were calculated analytically and validated using McStas (Fig. 8).

Primary spectrometer		
Beam spot size	3 mm × 3 mm	
Flux - PSC parked	2.5×10^{10} n/s/cm ²	
Divergence - horz. & vert.	±2 deg	
Secondary spectrometer		
E_f coverage	{3.4, 5} meV	
Out-of-plane coverage	{15, -2.3} deg	
In-plane coverage	$\{-0.4, 0.05\} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$	
Analyser solid angle coverage	{±5, ±140} deg	
Energy transfer coverage	1.4 Sr	
Energy resolution	{-1.3, 30} meV	
(0 meV)	PSC parked	190 μeV
	PSC 0.5 ms	42 μeV
Energy resolution	PSC parked	0.9 meV
(10 meV)	PSC 0.5 ms	0.12 meV

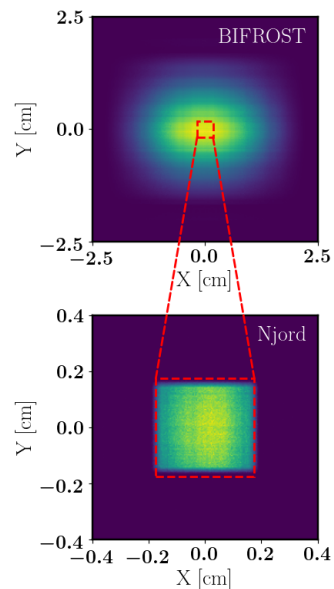


Figure 7: Comparison between simulated beam spots for BIFROST and Njord. The dashed red lines indicate the 3.5×3.5 mm² beam area used for performance estimates.

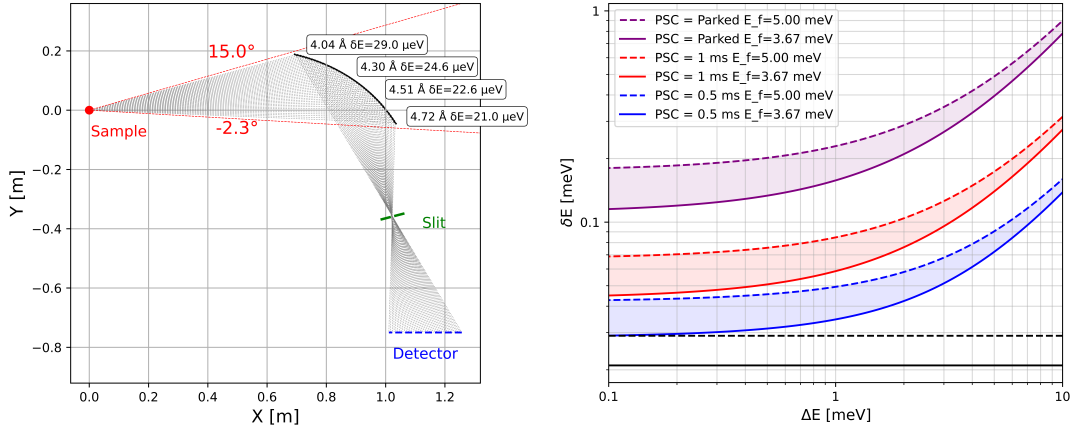


Figure 8: Illustration of the Njord secondary spectrometer (left) alongside energy-resolution curves for different PSC opening times (right). The secondary spectrometer configuration shows a single analyser array, spanning 17.3° out-of-plane coverage. The resolution curves show the resolution for 3 PSC opening times (fully parked PSC, 1 ms opening time, and 0.5 ms opening time) for the lowest and highest final energy analysers. The horizontal black lines show the resolution of the secondary spectrometer for the lowest (full) and highest (dashed) final energies.

(Fig. 7). Our preliminary simulations, utilising the BIFROST extraction and transport guide, indicate that this setup can achieve a flux of approximately 2.5×10^{10} n/s/cm² at 2 MW (Table 2). This represents a 3- to 4-fold increase over BIFROST, with the same extraction system.

The aggressive focusing of the beam comes with a relatively large divergence of $\pm 2^\circ$. Accepting this as a design premise allows the secondary spectrometer to utilise horizontal focusing while covering the entire scattering angle range in a single setting. Although this results in a scattering angle resolution of approximately 1.5° or more, it remains largely compatible with our incoming divergence. With this resolution, the MUSHROOM design [64] serves as a nearly optimised template for analysing the scattering neutrons. It employs horizontal wide-angle focusing alongside vertical angular coverage. This configuration enables a single analyser bank to span an extensive angular range, thereby expanding the Q -range and facilitating the recording of full 4D (\mathbf{Q}, E) volumes. A beryllium filter with collimation between sample and analyser will suppress second order reflection off the HOPG, and a holistic optimisation of the analyser filter should be performed in the future.

A preliminary instrument design has been simulated and is illustrated in Fig. 8 together with the corresponding final energies, and the resulting energy resolution as a function of vertical scattering angle. We have adopted an asymmetric design that probes vertical scattering angles from $+15^\circ$ to -2.3° . This configuration enables the use of a magnet optimised for vertical angular coverage, commonly employed on, e.g., IN5. The energy resolution can also be seen in Fig. 8. Without pulse shaping it matches typical resolution settings of triple-axis spectrometers using double focusing. Even with modest pulse shaping the energy resolution is comparable to existing direct-geometry ToF spectrometers. In combination with the large solid angle coverage Njord is also very well suited for QENS studies on < 100 -ps timescales.

Njord presents a significantly more open scattering geometry compared to most other indirect-geometry ToF spectrometers due to the MUSHROOM analyser. Despite the clear advantages of the increased out-of-plane coverage it also comes with its own challenges regarding tracking scattering neutrons. This is partially mitigated by the use of focusing analyser elements that direct the scattered neutrons onto a circular slit between analyser and detector, thereby restricting the effective field of view of each detector pixel. In this configuration, the detector bank comprises tubes arranged radially with respect to the sample rotation axis. Different final energies are sampled as a function of position along each tube, exploiting the prismatic concept [67, 68]. This not only improves the energy resolution, but also allows for an increased acceptance of the analysers and provides high intensity at the detector.

The Q -resolution of the instrument is illustrated in Fig. 9. It can be seen how the resolution is affected by the large incident divergence. To allow for more flexibility, as some experiments may require a better Q -resolution, a slit could be placed in front of the NMO. This would allow the instrument to dynamically change the incident divergence, separately for the vertical and horizontal directions. Such a reduction in divergence would also reduce incident flux without

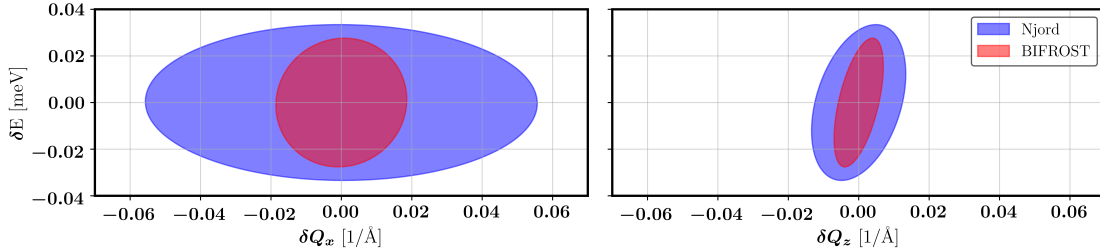


Figure 9: Comparison of FWHM resolution ellipses between Njord (blue) and BIFROST (red) for 1 ms PSC opening time, at 0 meV energy transfer, at a 45° in-plane scattering angle, and for the 5 meV analyser in both cases. Left panel shows the resolution perpendicular to the incident beam in the plane, and right panel shows the resolution parallel to the incident beam in the plane.

impact on illuminated spot size.

3.3 Remora: A hybrid spectrometer

As Njord maximally uses a certain band of neutrons (1.7 \AA), the excess spectrum resulting from using the full ESS pulse can be used to feed a symbiotic second instrument situated on the same guide. We propose to introduce a HOPG monochromator 70 m from the moderator, which is mostly transparent for all wavelengths that are not Bragg diffracted. This monochromator can be installed upstream of the bandwidth chopper system for Njord. Setting a maximum incident wavelength on Njord to 4.7 \AA , Remora's fundamental wavelength is proposed to be 4.8 \AA .

The use of multiple incident energies on the sample position (also known as repetition rate multiplication [69]) is readily increasing the efficiency of direct-geometry instruments at low-frequency pulsed sources. Remora extends this concept to a hybrid spectrometer using the (002), (004), and (006) Bragg reflections of the HOPG monochromator. Thanks to the pulsed nature of the source, the different HOPG harmonics are well separated in time. This allows the simultaneous recording of several spectra collectively covering a large dynamic range ($0.1 \text{ meV} < \hbar\omega < 50 \text{ meV}$) to study excitations on multiple time scales.

Placing the monochromator at a distance $L_{\text{mono}} = 70 \text{ m}$ from the source, we gain sufficient

Table 3: Summary of specifications for Remora as determined by preliminary McStas simulations using a T-REX guide.

Primary spectrometer		
Beam spot size		$2.15 \text{ cm} \times 1.87 \text{ cm}$
Divergence	horizontal	2.0 deg
	vertical	2.6 deg
$\delta\lambda/\lambda$ for 4.8 \AA		2.3%
Secondary spectrometer (Fermi chopper frequency 112 Hz)		
	$\lambda = 2.4 \text{ \AA}$	$\lambda = 4.8 \text{ \AA}$
Flux n/s/cm^2	9×10^4	3×10^5
Energy Resolution	@ $\Delta E = 7.1 \text{ meV}$	@ $\Delta E = 0 \text{ meV}$
	380 μeV	150 μeV

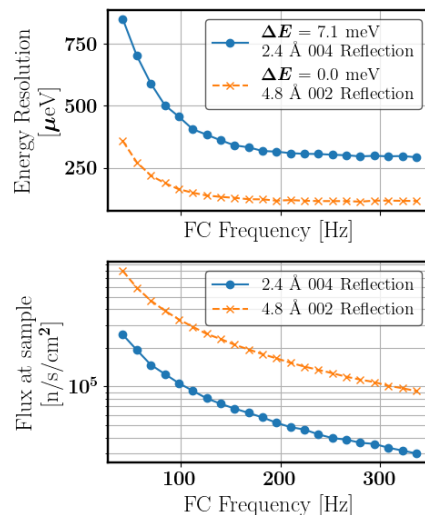


Figure 10: (Top) Elastic energy resolution for 4.8 \AA , and 7.1 meV energy resolution for 2.4 \AA scattering processes on REMORA, for different Fermi chopper frequencies. (Bottom) Flux at the sample position for different Fermi chopper frequencies.

room to the neighbouring instruments and eliminate overlap from adjacent ESS pulses. As the common beam transport with Njord prevents focusing the beam onto a virtual source, we envision vertically focusing using the monochromator, while horizontal focusing will be achieved using a compact NMO.

The secondary energy resolution of this instrument will be mainly controlled and adjusted by a Fermi chopper, as seen in Fig. 10, which defines the illumination time of the sample. This chopper will be positioned between the monochromator and sample such that it minimises the time spread resulting from the finite wavelength resolution of the monochromator. The secondary spectrometer is kept rather compact to allow a large solid-angle coverage at an acceptable price for the detector. Our preliminary optimisation yielded here a sample-to-detector distance of 2.5 m. This is similar to the ILL hybrid spectrometers, Panther and Sharper. As seen in Table 3, the elastic 4.8 Å resolution becomes constant for chopper frequencies > 150 Hz. At this frequency even the unoptimised neutron transport yields a monochromatic flux of 2×10^5 n/s/cm², i.e. comparable to world-class ToF spectrometers today.

4 Use of the ESS long-pulse source

The Njord concept is designed to make full use of the ESS pulse, by virtue of being a flux-optimised instrument operating close to the feasibility limit. The PSC enables a limited flux-resolution trade off, with a minimum pulse width of 0.7 ms. While the flexibility of the long ESS pulse is highly advantageous, aggressive pulse shaping effectively converts ESS into a low-frequency short-pulsed source in terms of time-integrated brilliance. ESS therefore delivers its greatest strengths when employed in indirect geometry, where the full source brilliance can be harvested. Njord applies this principle to its extreme.

The long neutron pulse provides the large phase space to serve two instruments at one beamline of a spallation source and hence makes Remora possible. Together, the two instruments maximise utilisation of the ESS brightness.

5 Sample environment and laboratory access

In the field of experimental quantum magnetism and traditional hard condensed matter physics, the existence of relevant model materials relies on inorganic chemical synthesis. In many cases, like for the two examples in Sec. 2.4, only mm-sized single crystals can be grown. Moreover, when larger samples are possible, they are often twinned, meaning that the interpretation of neutron spectra becomes exceedingly difficult. Even in the few cases where large single-domain crystals exist, the interaction parameter regime may still be somewhat away from what is desired. Therefore, to manipulate the magnetic ground state as well as to study critical phenomena, the application of external stimuli is crucial. Here hydrostatic (isotropic) pressure is one of the most important tools. The same may be said for uniaxial pressure and in addition this method may be used to de-twin samples. In both cases, $P = F/A$, where mechanical limitations in applied force mean that higher pressures are obtained only by decreasing sample size, which, in turn, is incompatible with today's neutron instrumentation.

Apart from pressure, magnetic field is an important external control parameter for studying phase transitions but also for determining spin Hamiltonians in the fully polarised (magnetised) state. Here both vertical and horizontal fields are needed depending on the spin orientation and propagation vector in question.

Njord is designed to excel as an extreme-environment spectrometer and will therefore benefit from a broad and flexible sample-environment portfolio. As Njord would be commissioned at a time when ESS is a fully mature facility, high-field magnets, dilution refrigerators, and standard pressure cells will be available. The development of instrument-specific pressure environments may minimise background. Especially sintered diamond-anvil pressure cells become an exciting avenue, since they offer a larger pressure range, but these have so far only been used for neutron diffraction (e.g. at SNAP [70]) and not yet for neutron spectroscopy.

Njord is well matched to horizontal-field magnets, inherently limiting horizontal scattering-angle coverage while permitting a relatively large vertical opening. Njord exploits this geometry efficiently, providing gapless coverage of the accessible scattering angles together with sensitivity to out-of-plane scattering.

6 Proposed location of the instrument at the ESS facility

In order to exploit the full ESS pulse and retain a relaxed resolution, Njord needs to be around 160 m long, the natural length of a PSC instrument at the ESS. This means positioning Njord in a new instrument hall, not currently in place but possible options are currently being discussed. We mention that Njord could be a potential instrument to benefit from the high-brightness cold moderator proposed by L. Zanini and co-proposers.

For Remora, at 70 meters from the moderator, there are roughly 7.5 m from the centre of the guide to the start of the shielding blocks at the adjacent instrument in the most favourable positions. With a detector 2.5 m away from the sample position, Remora requires at least 7 m to the next beamline in order to allow enough space for shielding.

7 Scientific gap analysis and comparison to other instruments

7.1 Njord: More flux, smaller samples, extreme conditions

Njord offers, for the first time, the opportunity to study condensed matter dynamics on sub-mm-sized samples. Being a relaxed-resolution, wide Q -range cold spectrometer, Njord would take its place in a well-established scientific ecosystem. It is not a new instrument concept looking for a science case but a well established method being pushed to the extreme and thereby opening up neutron spectroscopy for new research fields. The science case has already been described Sec. 2, and the key point to mention here is the instrument uniqueness: Njord will be the only place in Europe, perhaps even in the world, where the dynamics of some of these materials can be studied. Njord does not simply address an existing gap; it redefines the operational space in which neutron spectroscopy serves, allowing new problems to be discovered and studied. As compared to BIFROST, Njord is not a competitor but an enabler, designed to perform low-resolution experiments that will be impossible even there.

One type of experiment especially promising on Njord is powder spectroscopy on small samples. This is currently not feasible on direct geometry spectrometers, and BIFROST is suboptimal as it is designed for high resolution in a single scattering plane. The large spatial angle covered by Njord is optimal for such studies.

7.2 Remora: More is more

The use of a single beam port by more than one instrument has up to now not been realised at pulsed neutron sources. Only the long ESS pulse provides enough time to extract distinct spectral ranges that serve the need of the individual instrument without severely hampering its companion. On the capability-capacity spectrum, Remora addresses the latter. Remora will enable experiments like those feasible today on LET, IN5, CNCS, CAMEA, DCS, AMATERAS, and similar instruments. Within the ESS instrument suite, it tackles similar questions as CSPEC, T-REX and BIFROST. The performance of Remora will lie somewhere in between LET and IN5, instruments that have had oversubscription factors over 4 for decades. The demand for cold neutrons at all facilities is very high with the oversubscription on LET reaching a factor of 7 after its shutdown for chopper and guide maintenance in 2023/2024. Having a third cold spectrometer at ESS with a high signal-to-noise ratio, competitive flux and the ability to perform experiments which do not require the full capabilities of CSPEC or T-REX will increase the throughput for the ESS as a facility.

Another important aspect of Remora is for training the next generation of neutron users and instrument scientists attending schools such as HERCULES. For this purpose, it is important to ensure an instrument similar to the old IN3 triple-axis spectrometer at ILL is available and Remora fills this role.

8 Conclusion

The main motivation for building ESS was to shatter the boundaries of the feasible and become the main facility for neutron scattering in Europe. Our proposal for Njord and Remora directly targets both of these ambitions. Njord will increase collective excitation count rates by almost an order of magnitude, opening up new science cases previously inaccessible in the first ESS suite. Remora, on the other hand, will provide capacity using a conventional design and allowing the excellent science being done today to remain available beyond 2035.

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To the
ESS Instrument Proposal Committee

Prof. Dr. Christian Pfeiderer

Scientific Director
Research Neutron Source
Heinz Maier-Leibnitz (FRM II)

Phone: +49 89 289 14704
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Garching, 26 March 2026

Letter of Support for the instrument duo, Njord and Remora

To whom it may concern,

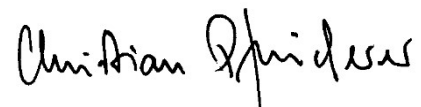
I am writing to express my strong support for the instrument duo, Njord and Remora, which are being proposed for the Roadmap of the European Spallation Source. Together they address two linked challenges: capability and capacity. Both are very important for the future of the neutron scattering landscape.

Njord is a indirect-geometry spectrometer with a tightly focused neutron beam and a large dome-shaped analyzer following the MUSHROOM concept. The beam is focused using nested-mirror optics, a new technology which has been conceived and developed at the FRM II by Prof. Peter Böni. This novel focusing technique will provide a maximized flux on a millimeter spot size. This enables experiments on samples which either only grow very small crystals or where sample environment such as pressure cells limit the available space. I believe that this instrument will be a gamechanger not only in my own field of correlated electron systems but also in other fields such as high-pressure synthesis and organic superconductors.

Remora will be installed on the same guide as Njord and uses a monochromator to pick out parts of the beam not used by Njord. Remora is a compact direct-geometry spectrometer which offers sorely needed beamtime.

In summary, I strongly support the Njord and Remora instrument concept and I do so both by virtue of my own scientific interests but also as the scientific director of the FRM II.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Christian Pfeiderer
Scientific Director FRM II

**European Spallation
Source Instrument
Proposal Committee**

Prof Bella Lake
**Quantum Phenomena in Novel
Materials QM-IQM**
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Berlin 19th March 2026

Letter of support for the NJORD and REMORA neutron spectrometers

To the ESS Instrument Proposal Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the NJORD and REMORA neutron spectrometers proposed for the European Spallation Source. In terms of capability, Njord offers unprecedentedly high flux approaching 3×10^{10} n/s/cm² which, by utilizing nested mirror optics, is focused onto a small beam spot (3 x 3 mm²). In spite of the resulting large incoming divergence, the Q-resolution would be similar to the flux-optimized triple axis spectrometers of today, but offer a flux two orders of magnitude greater than today's maximum. The sharply defined incident beam will minimize unwanted illumination of sample environment components, greatly reducing background. The secondary spectrometer is of the Mushroom-type, which will allow a large scattering spatial angle to be covered.

From the perspective of my scientific interest which is quantum magnetism, I am very excited by NJORD. Measurements of the spectrum of quantum magnets, which usually have spin-1/2 magnetic moments and broad diffuse signal, is often severely limited by their weak signal. Maximizing flux is essential to observe their subtle features and to make comparison with theory. Furthermore, there are many quantum magnetic materials which simply cannot be made in the large sizes (~1cm³) necessary to be observable by current spectrometers. The small beam spot and large sample area of Njord have the additional advantage of allowing complex sample environment - most notably pressure cells where only small samples are possible – while minimizing the background from the sample environment.

The symbiotic spectrometer Remora, which provides a complementary direct geometry capability, would use the same beamline thus making efficient use of the available neutrons. It would be a monochromator cold ToF spectrometer with a flux comparable to the instruments LET and IN5 which are crucial for quantum magnetism research and are heavily and consistently oversubscribed. From my point of view Remora would be a much needed addition to this suite of instruments.

I strongly support the development of the Njord and Remora instruments and believe they will become an essential tool for the international condensed matter physics community allowing new quantum materials to be measured under ambient and extreme conditions.

Sincerely,



Bella Lake



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Garching, 22 March 2026

Letter of Support for the Njord and Remora Spectrometers at ESS

Dear Evaluation Committee

I am very pleased to declare my support for the Njord and Remora spectrometers, which have been proposed for the next round of instruments at the ESS. Combining these two instruments on a common neutron guide optimizes the use of the neutrons provided by that guide, thus saving considerable neutron transport costs. In fact, several Remora-type instruments could be arranged along the neutron guide without significantly impacting the performance of Njord. A mushroom-shaped analyzer was originally proposed by Dr. R. Bewley and will soon be implemented at the ISIS spallation neutron source.

Njord combines the out-of-plane scattering detection capability of Mushroom, thus enabling enormous detection capacity over a large solid angle with a very small but highly intense beam spot at the sample position. This is achieved through novel focusing techniques based on nested mirror optics (NMO). As is well known, the current trend in inelastic neutron scattering is toward the investigation of novel materials, often available only as small single crystals, and of material properties under extreme conditions such as high pressure and magnetic fields. Furthermore, smaller samples are generally more homogeneous, which allows for a more precise investigation of excitations.

NMOs were recently developed at the Technical University of Munich as part of a doctoral thesis on neutron scattering. Tests at the MIRA beamlines at FRM II and BOA at PSI promise significant intensity increases by a factor of two compared to focusing techniques based on guide technology and the provision of a homogeneous phase space thus not deteriorating the resolution. Furthermore, the beam's phase space can be adjusted at the sample position far from the sample, thereby reducing background and scattering from the sample environment. Beam extraction from small, highly brilliant moderators promises significant improvements compared to current extraction techniques at ESS. Finally, NMO technology can also facilitate and improve polarization analysis compared to current techniques using polarized ^3He and V-cavity polarizers.

I expect that the Mushroom-type spectrometer Njord, in combination with the novel NMO technique, will surpass the performance of current inelastic neutron spectrometers by more than an order of magnitude and enable experiments that are not feasible today with the presently installed spectrometers at the ESS. Additionally, a second, very powerful indirect neutron spectrometer, Remora, can be installed virtually free of charge.

In conclusion, I would like to strongly support the installation of Njord and Remora as next-generation instruments for inelastic neutron scattering in order to fully exploit the high brilliance of ESS.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Böni'.

Prof. Dr. Peter Böni
Former Chair for Neutron Scattering



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Marc Janoschek
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Zurich, 26 March 2026

Support of the Instrument Concepts Njord and Remora

Dear members of evaluation committee of the ESS instrument roadmap,

We are writing this letter in strong support of the instrument concepts Njord & Remora, to be proposed for the ESS roadmap, and its combined goal of expanding feasibility limits and adding capacity.

At the Department of Physics at the University of Zurich (UZH), we have a keen interest to be able to measure tiny samples as enabled by Njord. Notably, we have a strong effort working on quantum materials both for bulk materials (Chang, Janoschek) frequently collaborating with neutron scatterers at the PSI Center for Neutron and Muon Sciences (Mazzone, Kenzelmann) at the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI), as well as in the space of quantum matter by design using bottom-up synthesis of thin films and devices (Nordlander). For both cases, the most interesting materials often are small in volume/size.

For bulk materials, we employ X-ray, muon and neutron spectroscopy in extreme conditions of high-pressure. In turn, the sample size is additionally constrained to achieve the required pressure. The tiny sample sizes enabled by Njord would allow us to substantially increase the phase space of materials we will be able to study. Our groups have jointly and separately made significant steps in developing new pressure cells for both uniaxial and hydrostatic pressure, which we successfully used in X-ray, neutron scattering and muon spin rotation experiments. In fact, building on this success, we just received funding to start the DEMETER (**DE**tector & **M**atter at **Extremes TE**st and **R**esearch) Center at our Department that will work on designing new types of pressure cells to reach even higher pressure. While this effort was started as part of the collaboration between UZH and PSI on muon science (see here: <https://www.psi.ch/en/impact> and <https://www.muoniverse.ch>), the pressure cells developed at DEMETER will also be suitable for neutron scattering. In fact, the instrument Njord proposed here is precisely the type of instrument required to bridge the gap for our efforts between X-ray, muon and neutron spectroscopy and the resulting potential for synergies and novel insights in the materials of interest is enormous.



Finally, we would like to highlight that while being able to perform neutron spectroscopy of thin films and devices of quantum materials is certainly a stretch goal even for an advanced instrument concept such as Njord, being able to deliver on this promise would revolutionize our understanding of such designed quantum materials, and represent an important step in exploiting their potential for future technologies. In fact, the collaboration between UZH and PSI in muon spectroscopy precisely pursues this goal.

To summarize, we strongly support to further explore the concept of Njord at the European Spallation source and are convinced that it will result in new insights in quantum materials and potentially enable measurements on thin films and devices of quantum materials that are currently entirely out of reach but would allow us to exploit their potential for future applications.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Marc Janoschek
Correlated Quantum Matter Group
Physik Institut
University of Zurich

Prof. Dr. Johanna Nordlander
Thin-film quantum materials Group
Physik Institut
University of Zurich

Prof. Dr. Johan Chang
Laboratory for Quantum Matter Research
Physik Institut
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Dr. Daniel G. Mazzone
Leader Solid State Dynamics Group
PSI Center for Neutron and Muon Sciences
Paul Scherrer Institute

Prof. Dr. Michel Kenzelmann
Head, Laboratory for Neutron Scattering and
Imaging
PSI Center for Neutron and Muon Sciences
Paul Scherrer Institute

Lausanne, March 26th 2026

Dear colleagues,

I would like to express my strong support for the pair of neutron spectrometers, Njord and Remora, for the next-generation instruments of the European Spallation Source (ESS).

Njord uses nested-mirror optics to focus the neutron beam to a very small spot while significantly increasing the flux. This makes neutron spectroscopy studies of millimeter-sized samples possible, which are currently not feasible. In our research on quantum magnetism, some of the most interesting systems only produce very small crystals. The usual approach is to coalign several crystals, but this comes with drawbacks, including large mosaicity and intrinsic misalignments, which make neutron spectra difficult to interpret. Other systems do grow larger crystals but only in twinned form. Therefore, being able to measure very small samples is hugely advantageous.

The ability to apply pressure and magnetic field is crucial when studying quantum magnetic systems, as this allows to manipulate the ground state and test model predictions. Njord is specifically designed for such extreme environment studies and will enable experimental conditions previously unheard of.

Among the many exciting new experimental capabilities that Njord will unlock, I would like to particularly emphasize two important game changers:

- **Spectroscopy in sintered diamond anvil cells.** Pressure is one of the most important control parameters for exploring novel states in quantum materials. At present, we are limited to a few materials with accidentally strong response to few GPa range. Extending this to multiple tens of GPa will open a regime in which virtually every material will undergo substantial changes in static, electronic and quantum structures.
- **Spectroscopy in pulsed magnetic fields above 50T.** Also here, tripling the magnetic field range is not simply tripling the number of science cases but opens a much wider range of material classes and phenomena for inelastic studies.

I would also like to highlight the added capacity provided by **Remora** as an elegant solution to a major challenge faced by the magnetism community. The number of beamtime days available on cold neutron spectrometers in Europe has drastically decreased over the past decade and is expected to continue declining. Remora is addressing exactly this challenge by exploiting the part of the spectrum not utilized by Njord on the same beam port. This provides beamtime for those experiments that do not need the fancy capabilities of other ESS spectrometers such as CSPEC or BIFROST, but which are nevertheless very important to perform.

For all these reasons, I earnestly support the instrument concept of Njord and Remora. Together, this duo will both enable new science and significantly increase scientific output for the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Henrik M. Rønnow
Head of Laboratory for Quantum Magnetism
Institute of Physics - Director
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

To the European Spallation Source Instrument Proposal Committee:

I hereby declare my strong support for the Njord and Remora symbiotic spectrometers proposed for the next round of instruments at ESS.

While Remora will enhance the spectroscopy capacity at ESS, the innovative Njord concept, featuring a MUSHROOM-type analyzer and a highly focused beam (3 x 3 mm beam spot) enabled by Nested Mirror Optics, represents a state-of-the-art advancement, dramatically increasing the flux at the sample position while maintaining a reasonable energy resolution comparable to triple axis spectrometers.

This capability will substantially expand the scientific scope of the ESS instrument suite, opening new avenues for the investigation of systems that can only be grown as very small crystals, highly absorbing materials, and experimental configurations where sample space is constrained, such as in high-pressure environments. This will enable experiments that are currently impossible in neutron spectroscopy due to insufficient count rates, thereby unlocking entirely new scientific opportunities.

For example, tenorite (CuO) hosts a multiferroic phase that emerges between 213 and 232 K. Initial THz spectroscopy studies showed that the associated electromagnon excitation, whose presence is a direct signature of multiferroicity, persists to higher temperatures under applied pressure, although these measurements were limited to about 3.3 GPa. Subsequent neutron diffraction experiments demonstrated that the multiferroic phase itself can be stabilized up to room temperature at pressures of approximately 18.5 GPa. To date, however, no inelastic neutron scattering (INS) measurements under pressure have been performed to directly track the evolution of this electromagnon across the relevant pressure range. Such measurements remain out of reach due to the extremely low signal levels inherent to high-pressure conditions combined with limited sample volumes. The enhanced flux and focused beam provided by Njord would make it possible to access this regime, enabling direct observation of the electromagnon under high pressure and across the full stability range of the multiferroic phase.

A second compelling example concerns spin clock transitions in molecular magnets. These systems, often based on Ni(II) or Co(II) complexes, behave as spin qubits with long coherence times. The magnetic anisotropy induced by the ligand environment can be chemically tuned to realize well-protected spin states, making them highly attractive for quantum information applications. Precisely because of this anisotropy, single crystals are essential to fully characterize their directional magnetic properties and excitation spectra. Such compounds can be synthesized as single crystals, but typically only with volumes of a few mm³, which makes them ideally suited for an instrument like Njord. The key objective would be to determine the anisotropy gaps of promising candidate compounds and to probe spin–spin and spin–lattice relaxation processes, which ultimately govern coherence times. These measurements are essential for identifying optimal qubit performance.

A third example is provided by high-entropy magnetic oxides (HEOx), a class of materials of particular interest. These compounds are stabilized by high configurational entropy on a single crystallographic site rather than enthalpy in the Gibbs free energy, leading to the emergence of properties that are not simply the weighted average of the individual components. Instead, novel behaviors arise from the so-called “cocktail effect.” For instance, (Mg,Cu,Ni,Co,Zn)O exhibits long-range magnetic order, as evidenced by magnetization and neutron diffraction measurements, despite the strong chemical disorder associated with a fully random occupation of the cationic site.

A central open question is the nature of collective magnetic excitations in such highly disordered systems, where exchange interactions between neighboring sites are broadly distributed. More generally, the remarkable chemical versatility of HEOx systems raises the exciting prospect of stabilizing a wide range of exotic magnetic states.

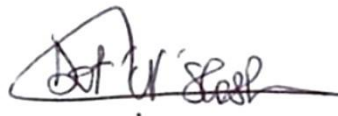
Addressing these questions, however, requires momentum-resolved measurements, which cannot be achieved in powder samples, where the excitations are averaged out. Moreover, the fact that these materials can, to date, only be obtained as thin films rather than bulk single crystals severely limits the accessible sample volume.

The enhanced flux and focused beam provided by Njord would uniquely enable such studies, allowing access to weak signals from thin-film samples and making it possible to probe their intrinsic magnetic excitations.

In conclusion, Njord and Remora represent next-generation capabilities for INS at ESS, unlocking experiments that are otherwise impossible and opening new scientific frontiers. I strongly support their implementation within the upcoming ESS instrument suite.

Sincerely,

Dalila Bounoua

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dalila Bounoua', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dear Evaluation Committee

As part of the French neutron scattering community, and instrument scientists on cold spectrometers at the ILL, we would like to express our strong support for the pair of neutron spectrometers Njord and Remora as next-generation instruments at the European Spallation Source (ESS).

Njord's use of nested-mirror optics to focus the neutron beam to an exceptionally small spot, while significantly enhancing flux, represents a major advance. This capability enables neutron spectroscopy on millimeter-sized samples—an achievement that is not currently possible. In our work on quantum magnetism, many of the most compelling materials are only available as very small single crystals. The common workaround of co-aligning multiple crystals introduces challenges such as increased mosaicity and misalignment, which complicate data interpretation. Even in cases where larger samples can be grown, they are often twinned. The ability to directly study very small samples would therefore be a transformative development for our field.

Equally important is the capability to operate under extreme conditions. The application of pressure and magnetic fields is essential for probing quantum magnetic systems, as it allows controlled tuning of ground states and rigorous testing of theoretical models. Njord is specifically designed to support such demanding experimental environments, opening the door to studies that are currently beyond reach.

We would also like to emphasize the important role of Remora in complementing Njord. The availability of beamtime on cold neutron spectrometers in Europe has declined substantially over the past decade and is expected to remain limited. Remora provides an elegant and efficient response to this issue by utilizing the portion of the neutron spectrum not used by Njord on the same beam port. In doing so, it creates additional opportunities for experiments that do not require the advanced capabilities of instruments such as CSPEC, but which remain vital to the scientific community. The proposed symbiose between Njord and Remora is therefore the key to successful experiments, especially when working under extreme conditions, as these types of experiments demand a lot of preparation and preliminary studies.

For these reasons, we strongly support the Njord and Remora instrument concept. Together, they will enable both new scientific opportunities and a significant increase in experimental capacity for the community.

Yours sincerely,

Manila Songvilay
CNRS researcher (Institut Néel, France)

Arno Hiess
Paul Steffens
Instrument scientist – Thales (ILL)

Martin Boehm
Head of the spectroscopy group (ILL)