Neutron Sciences State of the Directorate

Presented to the **Neutron Advisory Board**

Paul Langan Associate Laboratory Director Neutron Sciences

Clinch River Cabin Oak Ridge, Tennessee June 30, 2016



ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle for the US Department of Energy

We operate two advanced neutron scattering user facilities

High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) Intense steady-state neutron flux and a high-brightness cold neutron source



Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) World's most powerful accelerator-based neutron source



U.S. Department of Energy user facilities: Unique capabilities available through peer review



Headlines since NAB 2015



Headlines since NAB 2015



Our neutron sources are operating well

SNS: Operating at 1 MW since 30 March 2016; 1 spare target on hand

- Target installed in late March
 - Excellent data from 2nd generation target instrumentation
 - Record speed for target change: 8 days
- Controlled experiments on current and next target at fixed beam power (1/1.2 MW) to quantify cavitation damage erosion rates

HFIR: Operating well after very successful long outage

- Cooling towers rebuilt, control rod drives rebuilt, new safety plates
- 1 million MW days of operation achieved
 - Equivalent to running every day at 85 MW for >30 years
- Availability goal increased to 7 cycles

SNS	Goal	As of 5/31/15		
Unique users	780	696		
Predictability	90%	91.7%		
Availability	90%	84.3%		
Operating hours	5,000	3986.2		

All other systems operating well; FY16 availability excluding target failures is ~92%

HFIR	Goal	As of 5/31/15
Unique users	340	281
Predictability	90%	100%
Availability	7 cycles	4 cycles
Operating hours	3,700	2,376.8



Neutron scattering upgrades will drive continued growth in productivity



National Laboratory

The proportion of high-impact publications is growing

Publications by Facility	CY2016 to date	Total CY 2015	Total CY 2014
HFIR Instruments only	5	9	6
SNS Instruments only	13	19	20
Both HFIR and SNS instruments	3	2	3
NScD non-instrument	7	11	12
Total	26	41	41



ational Labor

Our community is growing and instruments continue to be oversubscribed

Average subscription rate by facility





National Laboratory

We are delivering world-leading neutron scattering instruments



Neutron-derived vibrational densities of states and pore size distributions reveal organic matrix in gas shale critical to gas production potential



Bousige et al. *Nature Materials* (2016)



Neutrons reveal new class of material: Diamond nanothreads synthesized from benzene at 20 GPa



Fitzgibbons et al., *Nature Materials* (2015)



Neutrons key in discovering high-temperature topological insulator by proximity coupling



Katmis et al., *Nature* (2016) in press



We engaged the research community to develop a strategic science plan Near- and long-term goals will help us realize our vision

Near-term focus Science priorities Maximize scientific impact at SNS and HFIR **Defined through** Sustain and improve broad community neutron production engagement at SNS and HFIR Soft molecular Complete and optimize matter neutron scattering instruments and Quantum materials develop related Materials synthesis innovative capabilities and performance and technologies Biosciences •

 Build out open beam lines on first target station (FTS)

Long-term focus

Addressing emerging grand challenges that will dominate next two decades

- Design, build, and commission a second target station (STS) for SNS, supported by a proton power upgrade (PPU)
- Optimize science across three complementary sources, providing unrivalled capabilities



Strategic

Science priorities drive investments for quantum materials



Neutrons are a vital tool for materials research that provide information that cannot be obtained by other techniques



Science priorities drive investments for biosciences



Neutrons are a vital tool for materials research, providing information that cannot be obtained by other techniques



Science priorities drive investments in materials and chemistry



Neutrons are a vital tool for materials research, providing information that cannot be obtained by other techniques



Science priorities drive investments in soft matter



Neutrons are a vital tool for materials research that provide information that cannot be obtained by other techniques



New areas of scientific growth



DOE conducted a triannual review of neutron sciences in August 2015

Informal feedback from DOE sponsors and reviewers

There was a dramatic contrast to previous reviews with a strong shift in focus to scientific productivity

> The SNS and HFIR are transforming into a first class facility

It is clear that there is strong support from the Lab and that ORNL is really behind Neutron Sciences



Triennial Review recommendations

- Continue to develop Science Productivity Plan, define actions, and integrate into operating plans
 - A. Bring number of staff supporting SNS beamlines down to international norms
 - B. Rebalance resources between SNS and HFIR to ensure continued HFIR scientific productivity
- Fix problems with SNS work planning tools
 - A. Make data analysis and reduction a high priority
 - B. Embed software staff in instrument research groups
 - C. Provide DOE with periodic reports
- Instruments
 - A. Fix the problem with the productivity of powder diffraction instruments
 - B. Increase fraction of high-impact publications from all SNS and HFIR instruments

- Targets
 - A. Place maximum priority on target performance
 - B. Replace targets early to maximize operating hours
- Run HFIR for 7 cycles
- Rebalance resources for operations and new developments to address high-priority (1) instrument upgrades and (2) vital upgrades of accelerator components and reactor complexes
- Develop a plan to take full advantage of co-location of CNMS and HFIR/SNS



Responses to your 2015 recommendations

Recommendation/comment	Response
Expand science productivity pilot program	Expanded across all instruments; \$10M focused on improvements; initiating external reviews; updated strategic science plan and vision
Don't attempt regular 1.4 MW before commissioning new RFQ	Developed plan for systematic ramp-up to 1.4 MW over next 2 years
Increase broader user community in planning and strategic development for STS and existing sources	Initiated SHUG on site meeting; expanded user group meeting and STS workshop, town hall meetings at conferences, national science tour
Increase science productivity and impact and set publication goals	Number of publications and their impact have increased; strategic science plan includes identification of improvements to realize maximum publications rates on instruments
Give utmost priority to computing strategy and focus on immediate needs	Plan being executed to address day-to-day need of users for data collection, reduction and analysis; software developers embedded on instruments
Develop a comprehensive strategy for 3 source complex and a clear science vision	Laboratory communications team engaged to develop 3 source communication strategy; science vision continues to be developed



Our budget has been increased and includes initial funding for STS

FWP	FY 2015 (\$M)	FY 2016 (\$M)
High Flux Isotope Reactor	\$61.6*	\$63.4
SNS Research Accelerator	\$90.3**	\$91.0
Accelerator Improvement Projects	\$1.5	\$2.0
Instrument and Source	\$28.5	\$28.2
Neutron Scattering Sciences	\$62.4	\$67.0
Second Target Station (STS)	-	\$10.0
Total	\$244.3	\$261.6

*Includes \$3M reallocation from SRS fuel assemblies and \$0.6M of reserves for fuel **Includes \$1.3M reallocation of SING II for heavy water



We established an STS office in the Neutron **Sciences Directorate**



Innovative STS design enables new science to meet BES needs

CAK RIDGE National Laboratory

Main findings of BESAC review

The SNS in combination with HFIR makes Oak Ridge National Laboratory one of the world leading experimental facilities for neutron experiments. However, the European Spallation Source, now under construction in Sweden, will soon eclipse the SNS first target station. The Proton Power Upgrade (PPU) and Second Target Station (STS) at the SNS has the potential to provide a pulsed neutron facility that remains world leading. As such the **PPU and STS are considered to be "absolutely central to contribute to world leading science**".

Questions exist as to the detailed design and implementation of the STS and how the proton pulses from the PPU are distributed between the first and second target stations ... **Establish a review panel to make a detailed evaluation and recommendations on the proposed designs**

... charged with detailed analysis of the technical issues such as those related to the STS repetition rate and pulse length.

Main recommendations

- Establish a review panel to make a detailed evaluation and recommendations on the proposed designs - detailed analysis of the technical issues such as those related to the STS repetition rate and pulse length.
- Work closely with the neutron science user community to develop the most exciting and robust set of "first experiments"
- Develop more robust targets for the first target station that can fully utilize the proposed SNS-PPU.
- Build-out the experimental stations for the first target station a priority.

Charge to NAB 2016

We seek your feedback and guidance in the following two areas:

- First Target Station:
 - Our path to improved scientific productivity
 - Our plans to achieve and sustain reliable operation of SNS at 1.4 MW beam power, improve target predictability and reliability
 - Our plans for improved and new experimental stations.
- Second Target Station:
 - Our approach to defining a process to conduct a detailed evaluation of the proposed designs for SNS-PPU and SNS-STS.

Questions

