

How to write a neutron beamtime proposal that will get you a “YES!”

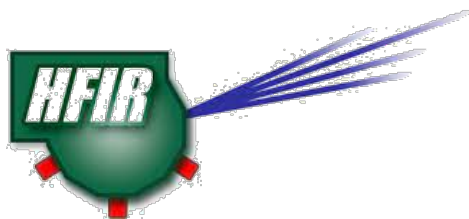
Clarina dela Cruz

Group Leader
Powder Diffraction Group
Neutron Scattering Division

MagStr 2026

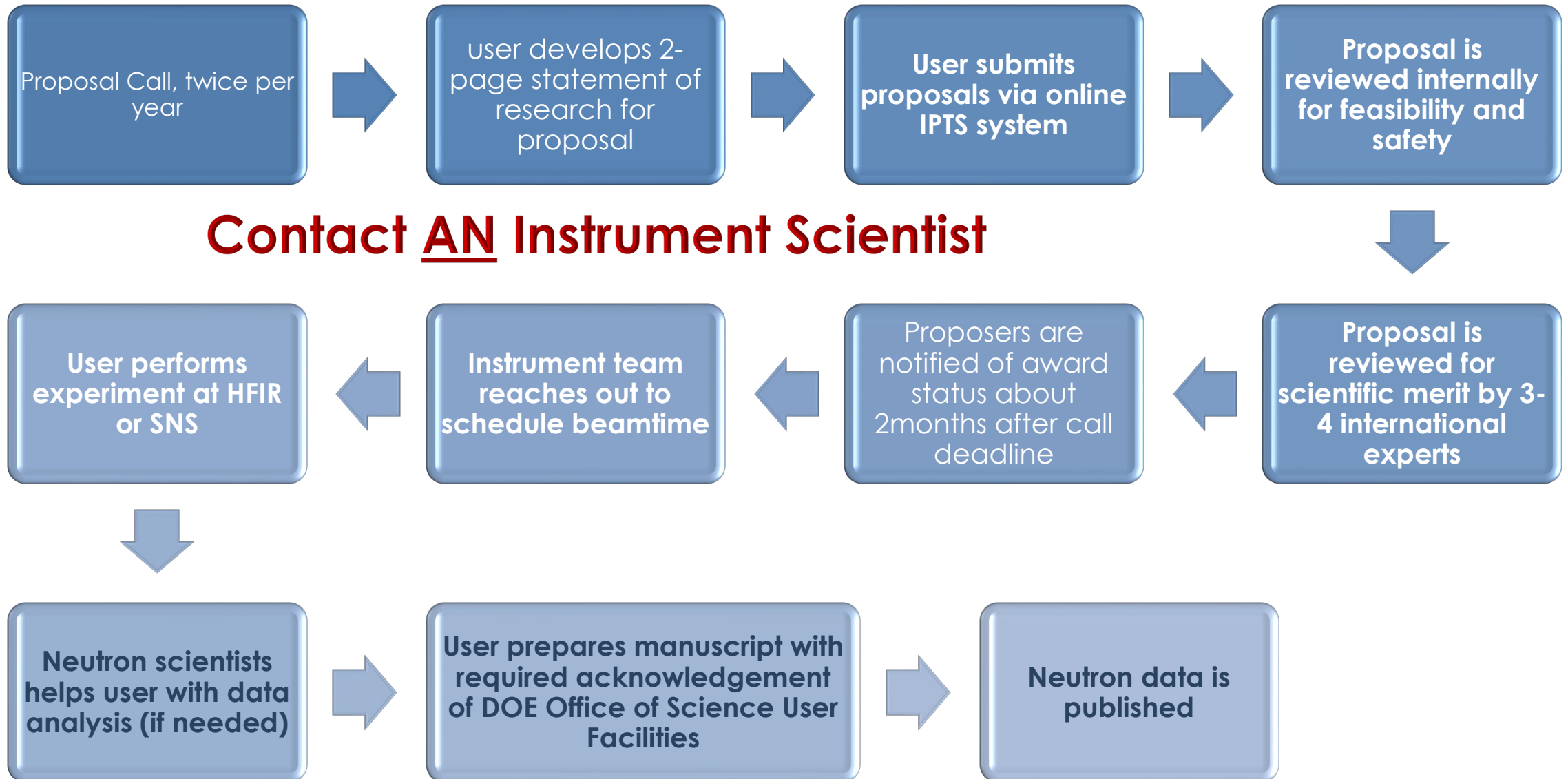
July 20, 2026

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

The Neutron Beam Proposal Life Cycle





532

Scientific Publications
in FY25*



1,458

Total Unique Users
in FY25



107,088

Hours of Beamtime
in FY25



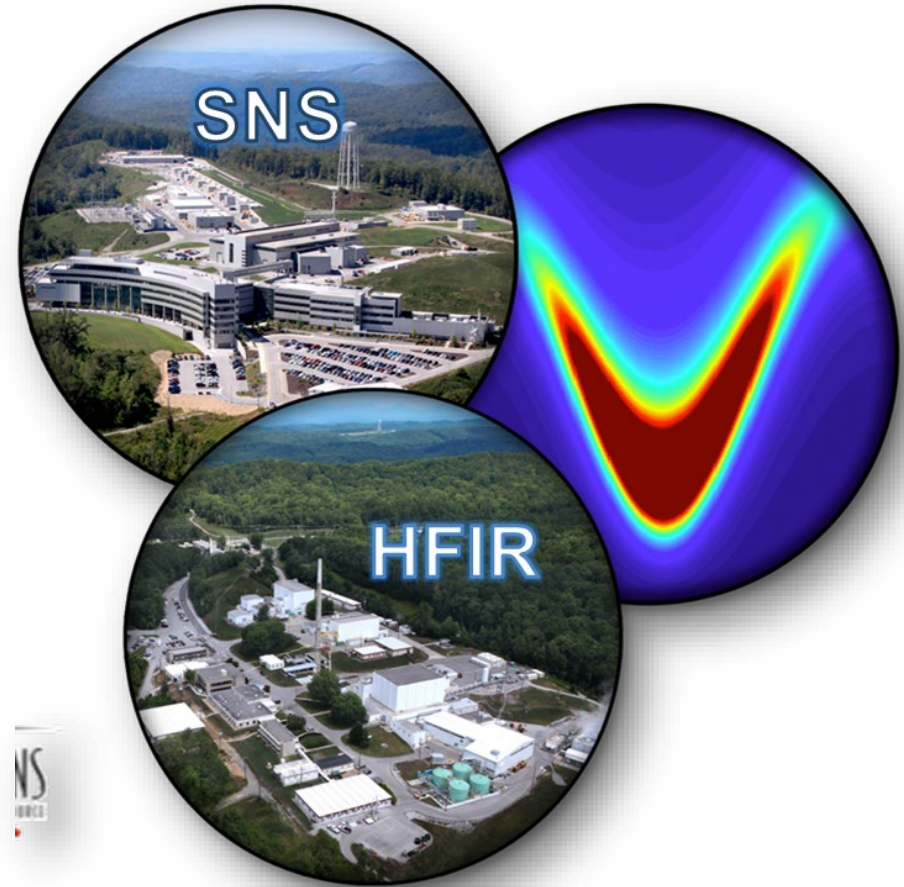
1,263

Total Experiments
in FY25

ORNL Neutron Sciences Call for Proposals

SNS and HFIR Submissions

**Deadline: Noon (ET), Wednesday,
September 23, 2026**



- SNS is projected to run February - June 2027
- HFIR is projected to run February - June 2027 (fuel cycles 520 - 522)

Award notification by October 25, 2024

Enter the world of neutrons: The Integrated Proposal Tracking (IPTS) system

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If you would like to request a visit to ORNL or become a CNMS, HFIR or SNS user then you can register for an ORNL Resource Account. ORNL staff do not need to create an account and can log in with their standard ORNL User ID.

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<https://neutrons.ornl.gov/ipts>

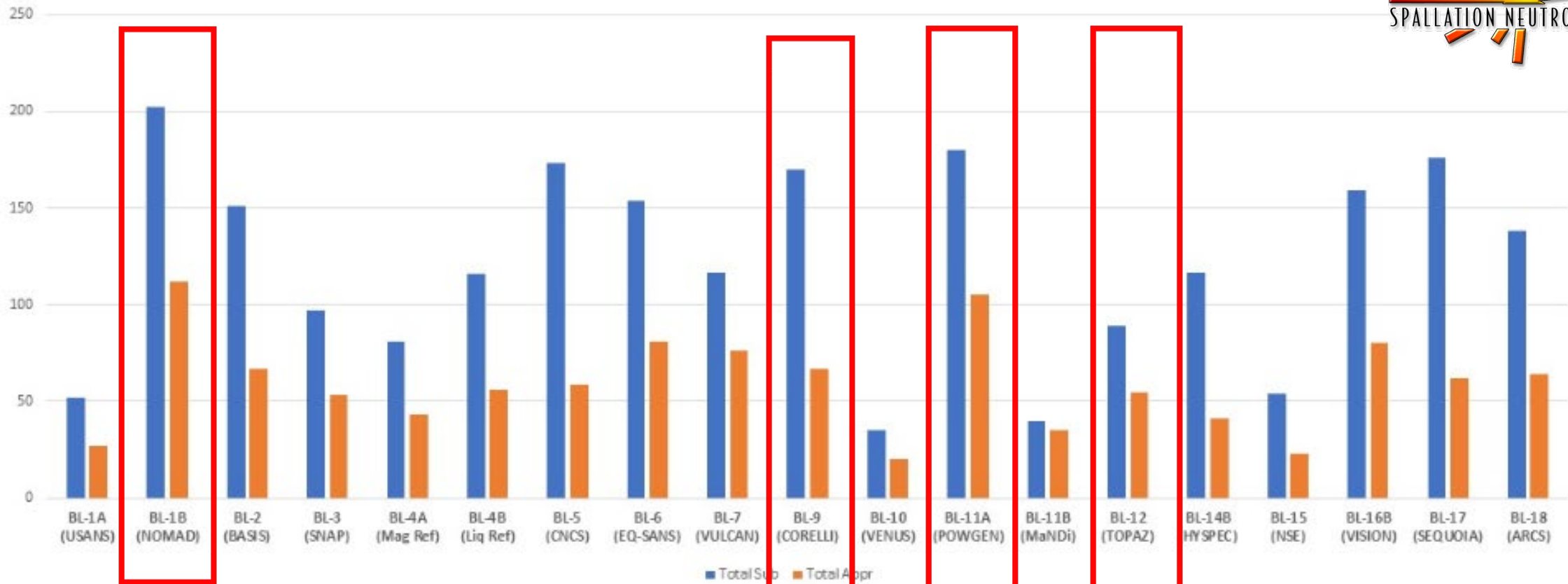
Types of Neutron Beamtime Proposals

Access Mode	Proposal Type	Who can apply	Duration	Available Instruments	Who reviews and approves?
Proposal Call	General User	All	Single cycle	All	External Peer Review and Internal Science Management
	Collaborative Development	All	Up to three years	All	External Peer Review and Internal Science Management
Rapid	Mail-In	All	One day	BL-1B NOMAD BL-6 EQ-SANS BL-7 VULCAN BL-11A POWGEN BL-14B HYSPEC BL-16B VISION BL-17 SEQUOIA BL-18 ARCS	Internal Science Management
	Proof-of-Principle	All	One day	All	Internal Science Management
	Discretionary Time	Neutron Sciences Staff (external collaborators may participate)	Single cycle	All	Internal Science Management

HB2C-WAND²
BL-9 SNAP

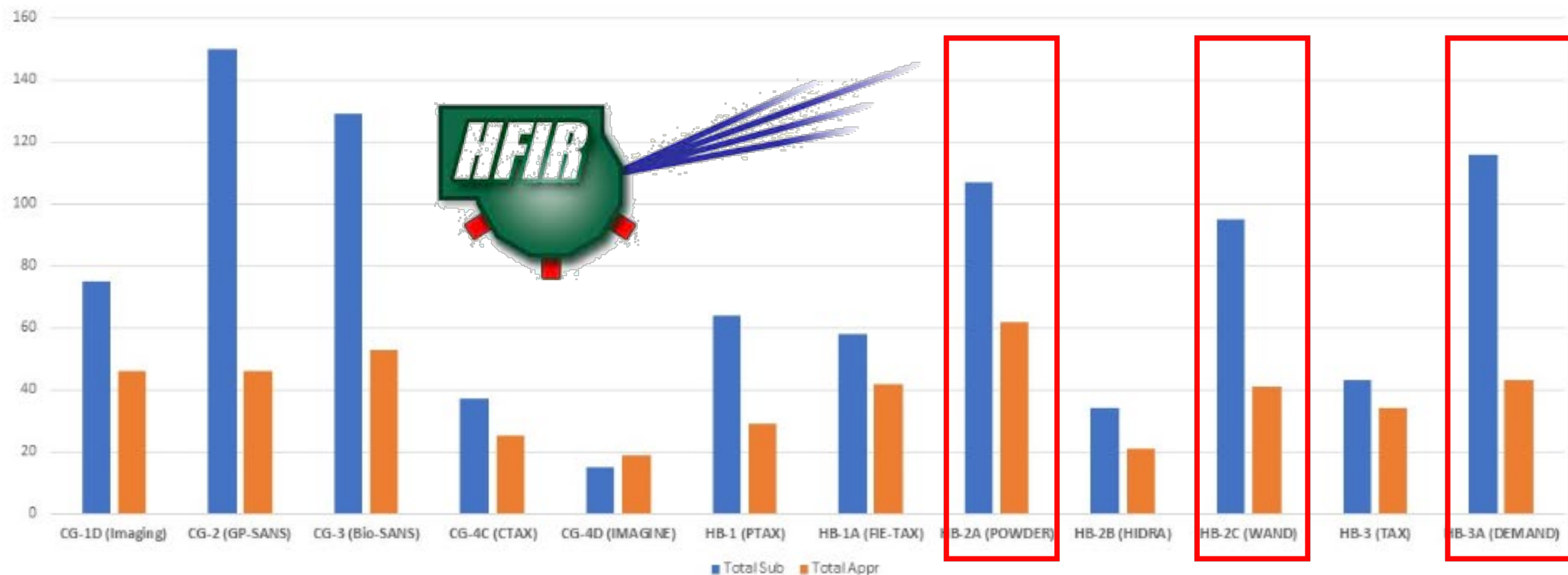
Neutron beamlines are oversubscribed!

SNS: Total number of General User proposals submitted and approved over 4 cycles (2025A – 2026B)

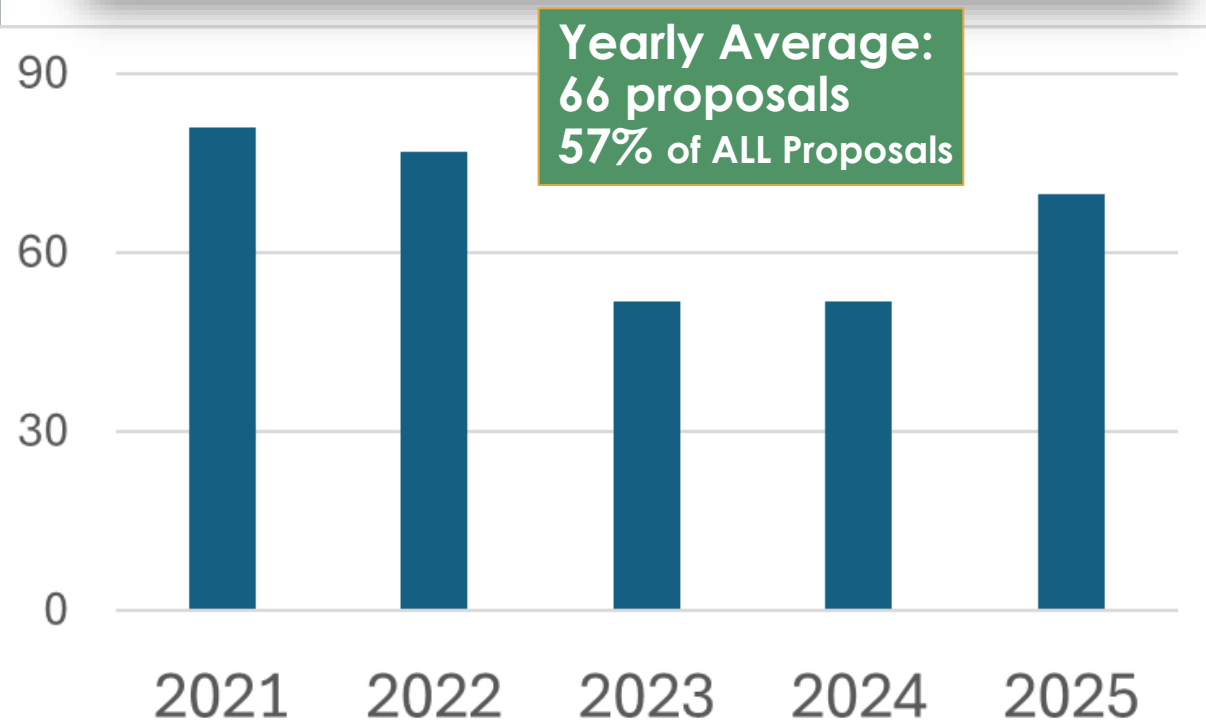


Neutron beamlines are oversubscribed!

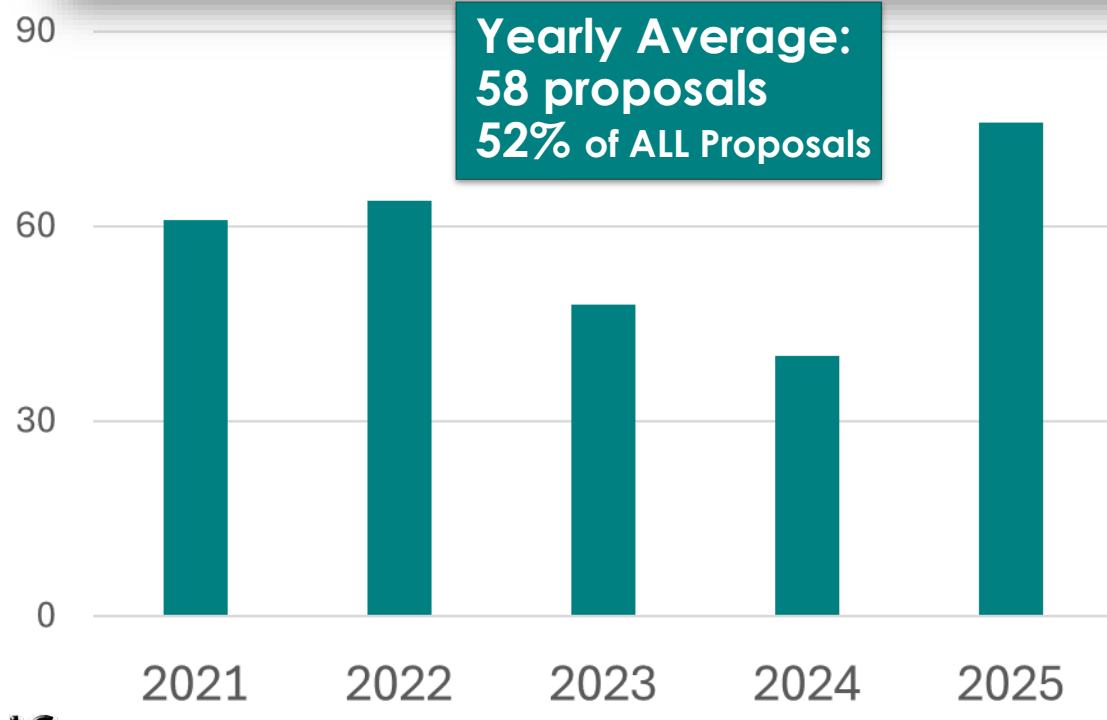
HFIR: Total number of General User proposals submitted and approved over 4 cycles (2025A – 2026B)



The MAIL-IN Program at POWGEN AND NOMAD



250-350 samples per year
using the NOMAD shifter (90K-300K)



150-170 samples per year
using PAC (Powgen Auto Sample Changer,
10K-300K)

The Two-Page Statement of Research

<https://neutrons.ornl.gov/sites/default/files/Statement%20of%20Research%20Template%20Updated%208-2019.docx>

Scientific Importance

- brief statement of the scientific background and general importance of the research
- references to literature where appropriate.

Explain why the experiment requires the use of neutrons versus other techniques.

Preliminary Work

- results of preliminary work carried out using neutrons or other techniques and the relationship with your proposed experiment.
- preliminary tasks, measurements, synthesis, structural characteristics, or calculations that have been done at your home institution or elsewhere

Provide bulk measurements and x-ray characterization to prove the samples are well characterized

Choice of Instrument

Choice of instrument and alternates

Ask AN instrument Scientist

Experimental Plan

research tasks to be carried out with an estimate of the number and quality of the samples, and time needed

Ask AN instrument Scientist

Data Analysis and Scientific Outcomes

- describe the methods you will use to analyze/interpret the data.
- how will results impact your research and the field

Ask AN instrument Scientist

Safety Considerations

Identify safety precautions, controls, or procedures

Ask AN instrument Scientist



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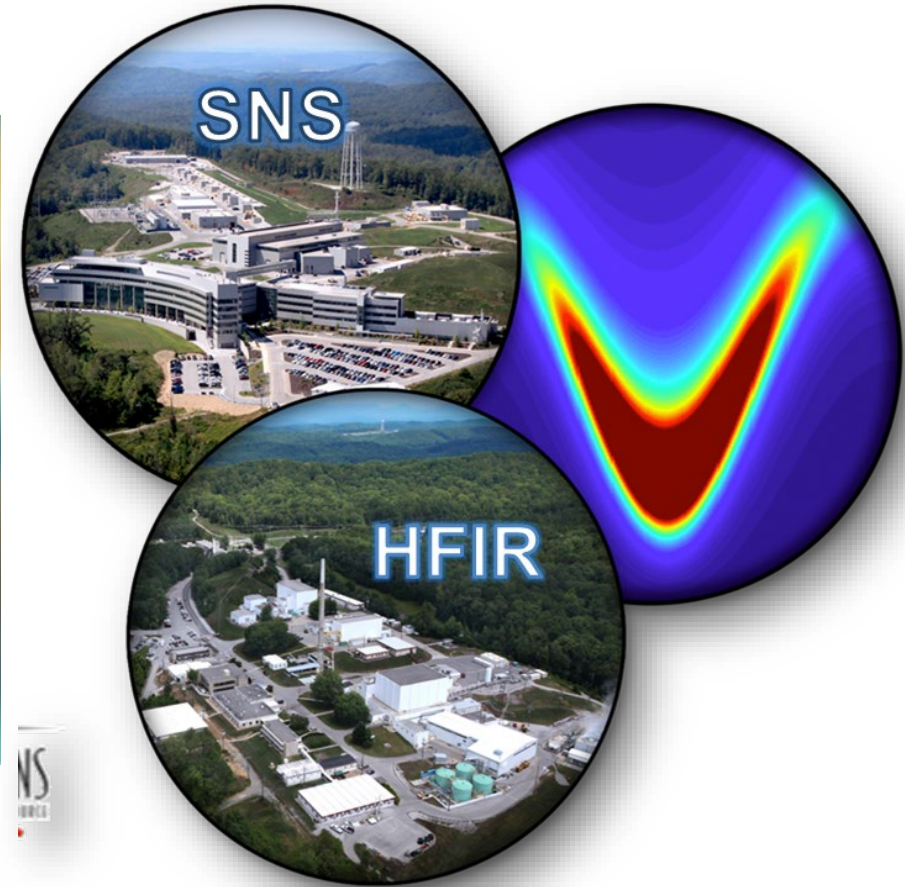
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