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2018 User Survey Q&A

LANSCCE Proposal Submission and Decision Process Related

The proposal process is optimized for university users but not adequate for industrial users.

Call for Industry proposals has been separated from Nuclear Science Call since the 2019 Call for Proposals.

There seems to be a disparity of accepted LANL proposals vs. external proposals.

There is a disparity between the number of programmatic and fundamental proposals accepted. Since most of the external proposals are for more fundamental research, this leads to the appearance that LANL proposals are preferentially accepted. While LANSCCE is a national user facility, it is operated by the NNSA not the DOE Office of Science. NNSA has agreed that we can devote 10-20% of our resources to support non-program relevant work.

Please add the ability to specify scheduling requirements between multiple experiments.

We are planning to add a comment field regarding scheduling requirements in the proposal submission process.

Can users be asked if their presentation should be classified or unclassified and can the electronic submission system be improved for handling classified proposals?

Any classified proposal acceptance would have to occur on the LANL internal red network. Unfortunately, we lack the resources to develop a proposal intake system on this network. For obvious reasons we cannot accept classified proposals on the existing proposal intake system.

Please address the lack of transparency in proposal selection process, including providing feedback as to why a proposal was rejected

This has been a problem within certain Program Advisory Committees. We are working to remedy this and strive to provide timely feedback to all PIs.

Some users are concerned about the makeup of the pRad PAC committee. It seems to me specific science agendas are prioritized.

The pRad Facility is heavily oversubscribed, with significant pressure from LANL programs that have a high priority within the national stockpile stewardship program. We are striving to include non-programmatic experiments within the pRad portfolio.

Please enable sufficient time between proposal acceptance and actual beamtime

We have as our goal to provide notification of beam time at least 6 weeks before the date scheduled for each PIs experiment. We realize that we have not always lived up to this standard, especially this year with the uncertainty in beam delivery dates. We are working to improve our performance in this arena.

LANSCCE User On boarding Process Related

Users are recommending several on boarding process improvements (such as online checklist; accessible prior to arriving at facility)

The beamtime notification/communication email has been streamlined. We have posted a pRad user manual on LANSCE website:

<https://lansce.lanl.gov/users/become-a-user/become-a-prad-user.php>

Users have recommended some improvements to the training material (streamline content and enable offside courses)

We have very little flexibility here, most of the training requirements are set by safety and DOE regulations. To expedite the onsite process, we have made remote training available for some courses

Work/Beam/Flightpath Related

Beam uptime and availability needs to be improved

We are all in agreement on this point. Unfortunately, we have a 47 year old machine. We need sufficient maintenance time to replace and repair old

components and systems. Currently, the annual schedule (6 months on / 6 months off) is dictated by the time needed for the proton storage ring to cool off sufficiently to allow maintenance to occur without exposing workers to unsafe levels of radiation.

Some users recommended safety improvements, such as laser goggles, real-time dosimetry, improved room shielding and safe walkways

Users should feel safe when performing work at LANSCE. Be assured that lasers that present a potential to harm users do require the use of appropriate goggles. If the user feels the need for goggles when not required by safety standards, they should feel comfortable discussing this with the instrument scientists. If in doubt please work with the experimental area manager. Room shielding is sufficient to ensure the safety of users. However, to limit the received dose to minimal levels we have provided data rooms away from the beam lines for users. We encourage the use of these data rooms. We are working to improve lighting at WNR to ensure safe passage to and from the flight paths and the data rooms.

Several misc. improvements have been recommended relating to diagnostics

Internet access is now available in most of the areas. New Wi-Fi routers were installed. Further, remote access to the flight paths from the data rooms has been enabled. Regarding poor cell phone coverage, LANL management is working with Verizon to install two cell phone towers at TA-53. When complete this should significantly improve coverage at TA-53.

The ICE II beam profile for large beam diameters needs to be improved

We have changed the collimation to provide a more uniform beam spot. For 3" collimation we now have a nice beam spot. We are working to improve the beam spot when using 4" collimation.

Users have reported a lack of weekend support and coverage in some cases

Please communicate with the instrument scientist prior to the trip to see what arrangements are possible.

pRAD user reported they did not to know their POC at LANSCE

The POC is documented in initial beamtime notification/communication email.

Please establish a permanent experiment room at the Blue Room facility

Done!

Post Experiment Process Related

Enable efficient release of samples and fast shipping

We strive to return samples as quickly as possible. Note that samples need to be properly surveyed and can not be shipped until their radiation activity as fallen below shipping regulations & policies. If there is a specific problem please contact the user office.

Enable faster release of data (in particular for classified shots)

Improvements have been made. We are trying to be more systematic in how data can be analyzed. Please let us know if that helped in the next survey.

Some users requested faster response times after the experiments

Concern has been brought to the attention of the instrument scientists in those cases. Please let us know if that helped in the next survey.