

DRAFT - MINUTES OF MEETING

Title/Subject: **Diamond User Committee Meeting #25**

Venue:	G-59 Diamond House	Chairman: Andrea Russell
Time/Date:	Thursday, 16 November 2023	Secretary: Cecilia Sánchez-Hanke

PARTICIPANTS

DUC members (on-site)	Institution
Gavin Bell (Remote)	University of Warwick
David Briggs	The Francis Crick Institute
Ann Chippindale (Remote)	University of Reading
Charlie Collingham	University of Reading
Kevin Edmonds	University of Nottingham
Hayley Gilbert	University of Cambridge
Natasha Lukoyanova (Remote)	Birkbeck EM facility
Marcus Newton (Remote)	University of Southampton
Silvia Ramos Perez	University of Kent
Robin Perry	UCL
Reshma Rao (Remote)	Imperial College London
Anna Regoutz	UCL
Andrea Russell (Chair)	University of Southampton
Arwen Tyler	University of Leeds
Diamond Light Source representatives	
Gianluigi Botton	
Adrian Mancuso	
David Stuart	
Lorna Goldsmith	
Isabelle Boscaro-Clarke	
Gianfelice Cinque	
Andy Dent	
Sarnjeet Dhesi	
Sofia Diaz Moreno	
Gwyndaf Evans	
Dave Hall	
Joe Hriljac	
Chris Nicklin	
Paul Queen	
Martin Walsh	
Gerda van de Kerkhof	
Alex Louat	

DUC



Doc No: DUC Meeting 25

Issue: 2

Date: 8th November 2023

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Apologies:

Jamie Blaza

Matthew Derry

Enrique Jimenez-Melero

Colin Levy

Alexander Lunt

University York

Aston University

Manchester University

Manchester University

University of Bath

1. DUC private session

The agenda was discussed, and items added to AOB.

2. Welcome and introductions
3. Revision of MINUTES AND ACTIONS from the past meeting/s

- The minutes of DUC meeting 24 were approved.
- Review of actions

Number	Action	Actionee	Target Completion Date / Status
22.5	Provide/post the presentations of the meeting and include them in the DUC webpages	CS-H	Closed replaced by Action 25.1 creation of a SharePoint site for the DUC (Isabelle and CS-H)
24.1	Remove requirement to supply identity in user survey	CS-H	Completed , although as noted later this makes following up more difficult if the comment is not clear.
24.2	Add option to contact user representative to after beamtime feedback form	LG	Completed request passed on to UAS for inclusion in the next update.
24.3	Update Diamond website with new user representatives	CS-H	Completed
24.4	Investigate generic email for DUC feedback	CS-H	Outstanding, but in progress
24.5	Ask user office to provide report on Ridgeway occupancy	CS-H/LG	Completed see report from LG under agenda item 8.
24.6	Contact BAG leads to discuss any problems they are having, especially with respect to reporting	Silvia Ramos, David Briggs	Continuing , Energy and Materials BAG (B18) no issues, others need to be contacted.
24.7	Write to government representatives regarding strike action at Diamond and the impact on research.	AER	Completed , copies of letters sent after DUC 25 to Isabelle to pass on to the Unions.
24.8	Request report on Ridgeway House expansion plans	CS-H / LG	Carry to DUC 26
24.9	Provide list of training courses/events provided to users	CS-H/SGLs	Continuing , partial list obtained, but need to process, report back at DUC 26
24.10	Call for nominations for DUC representatives in January 2024. Process will be as for the previous round. Stage 1: nominations/self nominations, Stage 2: nominees checked against Diamond user base and seconded by SGLs, Stage 3: voting – to be in February 2024	CS-H	Call for nominations out in February 2024.

4. Chair's report

AER reported back on her activities as chair, including the letters to Government (action 24.7) and attendance at the SAC on 7-8/11/23. At the SAC several agenda items were discussed that will be of interest to wider user community.

4.1 *Report on progress on Diamond II upgrade.* Budget has been approved and the project is now underway. As reported previously 3 flagship beam lines to be built, with 2 more approved but delayed by budget constraints.

4.2 *Dark period.* This is now to start at end of 2027. There was a discussion of mitigation strategies which included (a) creating a map of beamlines at other facilities that may provide equivalent (or near equivalent) performance to those at Diamond, (b) providing guidance on how to ship equipment/samples to synchrotrons abroad / sharing of knowledge, (c) ensuring effective communication with users regarding any delays in the upgrade programme, (d) possible use of off-line instruments, (e) investigation of the possibility of a central pot of funding for travel to other facilities, and (f) assistance with proposals to use other facilities via collaboration with Diamond staff.

There followed a discussion of these ideas amongst the DUC representatives. The beamline mapping (a), assistance with shipping advice (b), and collaboration with Diamond scientists (c) were all seen as highly beneficial and would help to ensure that the community stayed active and engaged with Diamond.

5. Report from Gianluigi Botton, Diamond CEO

Gianluigi introduced himself and his ambitions for Diamond. He wants to actively engage with the User Community and sees the DUC as an important means of achieving this. There was a discussion of a future User Meeting, but the limitations of the Diamond site were highlighted. Discussion then turned to the possibility of smaller focused meetings/workshops, but this would not deliver the cross-discipline networking made possible by the general user meetings of old. To facilitate additional networking, etc. it was suggested that users be encouraged to invite Diamond scientists to other UK meetings, as this has worked particularly well for MX.

At the next DUC meeting, Gianluigi will report back in more detail on strategic planning and priorities.

Action 25.3 DUC reps to.

25.2	Investigate what funding and resources are available for user meetings.	Gianluigi Botton, IB-C	
25.3	Provide a list of relevant UK scientific meetings where Diamond Scientists can engage more with the community	DUC reps	

6. Report from Adrain Mancuso, Diamond Physical Sciences

6.1 Adrian started with a general report, updating the DUC regarding the industrial action, which ended in August and the Diamond II funding.

6.1.1 There followed a discussion regarding some recent safety issues that users had raised. These included (a) problems with testing of pressure vessels, whilst Diamond had previously been able to do this for vessels brought by users, this was no longer feasible, (b) problems with the chicane covers for one beamlines, I20 and I03, which appear to now have been addressed, but would have caused beamtime to be cancelled, (c) problems with gas cabinets on B18, where delays to testing have also compromised beamtime, and (d) changes to laser usage safety protocols/rules and the impact these may have on Diamond operations. In the cases of (b) and (c) the problems are in getting the person who signs off on the modification on site to check the work.

6.1.2 The users wish to compliment the safety office, who had been criticised previously, for being more responsive and dynamic in their interactions with users.

6.2 Adrian then gave a brief report on the physical sciences beamlines. Please see his slides for details.

25.4	Follow up on gas cabinet testing and address delays.	Adrian Mancuso	
25.5	Send our positive feedback to the Safety office	CS-H	
25.6	Check impact of laser safety changes on user experience.	Adrian Mancuso	

7. Report from David Stuart, Diamond Life Sciences

7.1 Dave provided a report on the recent highlights and modifications to the life sciences suite of beamlines and eBIC facility. Please see his slides for details.

7.1.1 There followed some discussion of the dark period mitigation for MX (MX Bridge) and how high throughput experiments were affecting the user experience of Diamond.

8. Report from Lorna Goldsmith, Diamond User Office

In addition to addressing the action points above (24.2, 24.5, 24.8) Lorna reported on recent activities / upcoming changes in the User Office/Diamond. These include:

- (a) the availability of an email alert when the beam goes down,
- (b) the need to cap costs for travel, now £200 - £300 for EU users, and by travel distance from Diamond with bands defined by radius for UK users.
- (c) there will be a refurbishment of the restaurant and coffee lounge to improve flow and to provide better out of hours service.

9. Reports from User Representatives

9.1 Early career / postdoc representatives: (a) feedback from users highlighted the poor state of the Diamond website and how difficult it is to find things, such as user/beamline handbooks, etc.; (b) There is a series of seminars available online that PhD students and postdocs may want to attend this needs to be publicised; (c) there is a weekly meet up of students/postdocs on site, this needs to be publicised more widely; (d) to give students and postdocs a better view of the capabilities of Diamond, it may be nice to have a weekly tour. (Actions 25.7 – 25.10)

9.2 Structures and Surfaces: (a) descriptions of beamline capabilities is out of date on website; (b) on the fly data visualisation is problematic / DAWN needs updating to be more user friendly; (c) some users are having problems with lost passwords – appears to be the Linux / GDA account not their general user account. (Actions 25.11 – 25.12)

9.3 Spectroscopy: (a) some user concerns about level of feedback provided for unsuccessful, but good proposals – there was some discussion, but the current over subscription rates mean that the panels are too overloaded to provide much more feedback; (b) one user reported a data access problem; (c) lack of air conditioning in the support labs makes these nearly unusable in the summer, especially for temperature sensitive / hygroscopic samples and those who use the glove boxes; (d) delays to commissioning / testing gas handling infrastructure is causing problems and may delay some beamtime (see action 25.4 above). (Actions 25.13 – 25.14)

9.4 Soft condensed matter: (a) user reported irritation at not being able to book travel for whole team, this is incorrect it is possible; (b) concerns about level of local support on weekends; (c) as for Structures and Surfaces there are issues with DAWN, which needs to be upgraded (see action 25.12); (d) users also want more feedback from panels; (e) another user with password problems; (f) one user with a web problem. (Action 25.15)

9.5 MX: (a) some minor issues regarding the BAG, and (b) access to raw data. (Action 25.16)

9.6 Imaging and Microscopy: (a) some user problems with data transfer which appears to be related to the website needing to be updated; (b) "centralised and user-friendly means to convert 32-bit to 16-bit data". ; 9.7 Bio/cryo imaging: (a) some issues regarding entering information for investigators and then wanting to update this later; (b) more website confusion regarding handbooks, etc.; (c) users wanted to compliment the Diamond BAG organisers; (d) users wanted to compliment computing for the improvements to on the fly data processing. (Action 25.17)

9.8 Crystallography: (a) an issue regarding assigning the team leader to complete the ERA. (Action 25.18)

9.9 Magnetic Materials: (a) access to the ancillary equipment in the materials characterisation facility is vital to the success of experiments and this facility needs continued support; (b) a complaint about getting to/from the Premiere Inn at night via bus – the road is just too dangerous. (Action 25.19)

25.7	User office webpages to be updated, especially with regards to user handbook.	LG	
25.8	Remind users that there is a feedback button at bottom of Diamond webpages to report problems/dead links/etc.	AER	
25.9	Talk to comms team about publicising seminars via a mailing list	Gerda & Alex	

25.10	Publicise weekly postgrad/postdoc meet up via posters on beamlines	Gerda and Alex to make poster to give to SGLs to pass to beamline staff.	
25.11	Check website for beamline capabilities and update	SGLs to pass to beamline staff	
25.12	Request more computing resource to improve DAWN.	Adrian Mancuso	
25.13	Follow up with user with data access problem	Silvia Ramos	
25.14	Look into and report on adding air conditioning to support labs	Andy Dent	
25.15	Follow up with user with website problem	Arwen	
25.16	Follow up user issues regarding BAG and raw data access	David Briggs	
25.17	Follow up with user who had problems entering investigator team	Lorna G	
25.18	Follow up with user who had problems regarding assigning ERA completion task	Lorna G	
25.19	Investigate alternate means of transport for users based at the Premiere Inn, especially at night.	Lorna G	

10. AOB

10.1 Discussion of the election of a new chair. It was agreed that AER will stay on as chair through the Spring 2024 meeting (DUC 26).

10.2 Discussion of the appointment of a vice-chair. It was agreed that Robin Perry would take on the role as vice-chair. Responsibilities are to take the place of the chair should they be unavailable.

10.3 Extension of the term for the Student and Early career/postdoc representatives. It was unanimously agreed that Hayley Gilbert, Charlie Collingham, and Reshma Rao's appointments be extended for one more year, through DUC 27.

10.4 Thanking those members who's term of office has concluded. Thanks were extended to Ann Chippindale (crystallography), Marcus Newton (imagining and microscopy), and Gavin Bell (structures and surfaces).

11. Conclusion of meeting and date for next meeting.

The meeting was drawn to a close. The next meeting will take place in May or June 2024. Date to be confirmed, but we should avoid the week prior to the Diamond panels if possible and the week of the SAC (13 – 17 May). CS-H- the Peer Review panel is in the week of the 20th of May. (Checked with the User Office)

Appendix 1. DUC-25 list of Actions:

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