

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**Title/Subject:** Diamond User Committee Meeting #20

**Venue:**

Diamond House, G53/4

**Chairman:**

Nick Brooks

**Time/Date:**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Secretary:**

Kathryn Poulter

### PARTICIPANTS

#### DUC members

Nick Brooks (Chair)  
 Arnaud Basle  
 Ed Lowe  
 Neil Telling  
 Colin Pulham  
 Tim Knowles  
 Andrew Thomas  
 Laura Spagnolo  
 Andrea Russell  
 Sean Connell  
 Gavin Bell  
 Marcus Newton  
 Ann Chippindale

#### Institution

Imperial College, London  
 University of Newcastle  
 University of Oxford  
 University of Keele  
 University of Edinburgh  
 University of Birmingham  
 University of Manchester  
 University of Glasgow  
 University of Southampton  
 CICbioGUNE  
 University of Warwick  
 University of Southampton  
 University of Reading

#### Diamond Light Source representatives

Alun Ashton  
 Isabelle Boscaro-Clarke  
 Laurent Chapon  
 Sarnjeet Dhese  
 Sofia Diaz Moreno  
 Dave Hall  
 Mark Heron  
 Carina Lobley  
 Sarah McBean  
 Chris Nicklin  
 Paul Quinn  
 Kathryn Poulter  
 Rob Rambo  
 Dave Stuart  
 Martin Walsh

Group Leader – Data Analysis Software  
 Head of Communications  
 Physical Sciences Director  
 Science Group Leader - Magnetism  
 Science Group Leader - Spectroscopy  
 Science Group Leader - MX  
 Head of SSCC  
 User Office Manager  
 PA to Science Directors  
 Science Group Leader - Surfaces  
 Science Group Leader – Imaging & Microscopy  
 Operations Programme Manager  
 Science Group Leader – Soft Condensed Matter  
 Life Sciences Director  
 Life Sciences Deputy Director

**Apologies:**

Gareth Law  
Amber Thompson  
Yvonne Grunder  
Andy Dent  
Andy Richards  
Paul Barrett

The University of Helsinki  
University of Oxford  
University of Liverpool  
Physical Sciences Deputy Director  
Group Leader – Scientific Computing  
Commercial Manager

**1. INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS**

Nick Brooks welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Amber Thomson, Gareth Law, Yvonne Grunder, Andy Dent, Andy Richards and Paul Barrett.

**2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS**

The Minutes of the DUC meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were approved.

| No.   | Action  | Actionee                          | Status   |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 17.1  | Steering committee to ask for the KPIs for Baxter Storey from STFC, so that progress can be demonstrated. | <b>Carina Lobley/Paul Barrett</b> | Complete – These are broad areas rather than specific KPIs, but these will be developed further.   |
| 17.5  | To coordinate drafting a template and content for a quarterly DUC communication.                          | <b>Nick Brooks</b>                | Template complete, but insufficient content. Discussed that this may not be the right way to send information out to users. Alternatives include an expanded part of the website dedicated to items from this committee. We will start to put together over the next 6 months, and will need help from the Comms team. <b>Action: DUC</b> to send ideas for content to Nick. |
| 17.11 | To organise an election for new DUC representatives.  | <b>Kathryn Poulter</b>            | Complete. Further election required for Magnetic materials and MX.   |
| 17.12 | To delay the Sept meeting to allow for Diamond II workshops.  | <b>Kathryn Poulter</b>            | Complete   |
| 18.1  | To clarify when the main site entrance barrier will be operational.                                       | <b>Paul Barrett</b>               | Complete   |

|      |  |                                   |   |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 18.2 | To suggest a programme of Science Workshops with a theme of Diamond II to be held in Sept-18.                          | <b>Laurent Chapon/Dave Stuart</b> | Complete.   |
| 18.3 | To send any information on other major conferences already scheduled in Sept to Kathryn Poulter, to ensure no clashes. | <b>All DUC reps</b>               | Complete  |
| 18.4 | To circulate all the presentations from the meeting.   | <b>Kathryn Poulter</b>            | Complete  |
| 18.5 | To investigate and cost options for provision of taxis, particularly late at night or in the rush hour.                | <b>Carina Lobley</b>              | This has been investigated, and costs are prohibitive, versus booking taxis when they are required. The information on taxis has been updated on the website and advice added. We have also spoken with the Science shuttle, to ask them to involve local hotels and Diamond in their future plans. |
| 18.6 | Develop a plan for Science group workshops for 2019, where possible aligned with existing conferences.                 | <b>All DUC reps/SGLs</b>          | To be discussed later in the meeting  |
| 18.7 | To send any ideas for the DUC user newsletter to Nick Brooks   | <b>All DUC reps</b>               | Develop website content instead.  |

### 3. LIFE SCIENCES UPDATE

Dave Stuart gave an update to the DUC on progress within the Life Sciences.

Colin Pulham asked whether the open data policy was being rolled out across Diamond. A link to the updated policy will be sent with communications regarding successful proposals from the latest PRP, and a Community wide email will also be sent.

There were some very positive comments received within the Soft condensed matter group following the recent request for feedback.

### 4. PHYSICAL SCIENCES UPDATE

Laurent Chapon gave an update to the DUC on progress within Physical Sciences.

Colin Pulham commented that Diamond was continuing to increasing capability. However many of the techniques are not always well known outside the usual user community, but could help solve problems. How do we bridge the gap with the “potential” user community? One way is organising workshops, and Diamond continues to organise these for example the recent AC-PEEM workshop, and a High-pressure workshop not limited to Crystallography.

Suggested that if we do have a newsletter/website, we could add/link to new technique info? Another suggestion was to arrange sessions at non-synchrotron conferences.

Finally, it was commented that we could continue the webinar series where approx. 50-70 people logged in live for each one. These are quite time-intensive to organise. It was suggested that the DUC could propose topics for these webinars.

## **5. DIAMOND II**

Laurent gave a presentation on Diamond II, current progress and next steps. It was commented that users valued the opportunity to feed into the process.

One of the discussion points was potential mitigation actions for the dark period – e.g. to try and build a beamline at another synchrotron or establish collaborations at other beamlines.

The DUC can help by engaging with the Science Group Leaders, and consult with the community and seek ideas regarding mitigations. In order to justify additional costs for any mitigating actions, we will need user support.

**Action: DUC**

It was asked how Diamond II would affect eBIC and its ongoing operations? Diamond does not foresee any major disruption, and operations should carry on throughout the dark period.

## **6. HEALTH & SAFETY**

No items raised.

## **7. USER OFFICE UPDATE**

Carina Lobley gave an update to the DUC on progress within the User Office, Ridgway House and catering provision.

There was positive feedback for the changes being implemented by the User office in trying to pull users back to site if we can for accommodation.

It was agreed that the DUC would coordinate with Isis to have another go at writing a letter to STFC, as there is a scientifically driven need for more rooms at Ridgway house. Carina will provide any statistics or data if required.

**Action: Nick Brooks**

## **8. USER NEWSLETTER**

It was agreed that it might be more production to develop a more comprehensive website for the DUC.

**Action: Nick Brooks** with input from the rest of the DUC.

## 9. DUC AND USER WORKSHOPS

### Soft matter

There is a SAXS workshop scheduled in June. We will include sessions like the Diamond II vision discussion, and also include a sample environment development discussion. It was suggested one of the DUC members could coordinate a specification list.

### MX

Generally, 120-130 users including 20-30 staff attend the Diamond part of the traditional CCP4 study weekend, which is held in January. We have a Diamond session the day before, the main CCP4 event (which is an international meeting of ~400), with presentations from beamlines and from users.

### Spectroscopy

The beamline staff are currently consulting with the Spectroscopy community to understand their requirements. If we organise a user meeting, we want to be sure that the community will attend.

### Bio-imaging

There is now a CCP-EM meeting held in April. We are starting to build it up using a similar model to MX, and use it to provide an overview of eBIC and an introduction to B24. In future, we will try to have more user presentations.

### Imaging & Microscopy

It was noted that it was difficult to be suitably general at the recent Diamond II workshop. In the future, we will focus on some specific areas – e.g. tomography roadmap and how do we push software development and get community backing for data management projects etc. We will also try and have more focused workshops on Ptychography and Coherence.

### Structures and surfaces

Planning to organise a workshop later in the year and longer term have something with the RSC / IOP annual meeting.

Overall a strategy is emerging in each science group. If DUC members are not able to attend, it would be helpful to nominate someone from the community to attend. Where possible we need to ensure that Industry are integrated too via Industry networks/collaborators.

## 10. FEEDBACK SESSION WITH SCIENCE GROUP LEADERS

**MX** – New detector on I04 was discussed, which is a work in progress. Many positive user comments thanking Diamond and its staff.

**Crystallography** - Mostly positive feedback and appreciative of diamond staff. One comment noted that the Guesthouse and food had improved. An issue with the ERA not being fit for purpose will be looked into.

**Surfaces & Interfaces** - Comments were made about the canteen and night shifts, with the evening meal still generating some complaints. There was praise for I09/I05.

**Spectroscopy** – There was no feedback from users. The XAFS training course to be held in March was significantly oversubscribed. We will look at other options ahead of the next workshop.

**Soft Condensed Matter** – Overwhelmingly positive feedback. Users are very happy with the B21 mail in service, and introducing this on B23 has been welcomed. There was a request as to whether there could be a common process for reimbursing travel/accommodation if one is using multiple facilities? The User office will investigate. **Action: Carina Lobley**

**Bio-Imaging** – Good feedback for staff, data transfer and data reprocessing. It was noted that IspyB was difficult to use for shipments. It may be because users are not as familiar with the system. Diamond agreed to review the webpages and consider a small video demo.

**Action: Martin Walsh.**

### **Imaging & Microscopy**

Feedback was mostly positive. There was one concern about the mono on I13 which was discussed.

Nick asked all the DUC representatives to respond to those users who had provided feedback.

**Action: DUC reps.**

The minutes and agenda of the meeting will be uploaded to the website for reference.

## **11. AOB**

**Membership** – this was the last meeting for Ed Lowe, Amber Thompson and Yvonne Grunder, and we thank them for all their efforts on the DUC.

8 representatives are due to leave after the next meeting in September, and it was suggested that half of these stay on to provide continuity.

Potential dates for the next meeting will be 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> September, Kathryn to confirm.

**Action: Kathryn Poulter**

**Annex A: New Actions**

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Actionee</b>                                   | <b>Target Completion Date / Status</b> |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| 17.5          | To develop webpages for the DUC rather than a newsletter.   | <b>Nick Brooks (with input from all DUC reps)</b> | Sept-19                                |
| 17.11         | To organise an election for magnetic materials and MX representatives.  | <b>Kathryn Poulter</b>                            | Sept-19                                |
| 20.1          | To engage with the SGLs and consult with the user community regarding ideas to mitigate the dark period during Diamond II construction. | <b>DUC</b>  | Sept-19                                |
| 20.2          | To write a letter with Isis to STFC regarding the need for more accommodation at Ridgeway.  | <b>Nick Brooks</b>                                | Sept-19                                |
| 20.3          | To investigate the different expenses systems on site and report back.  | <b>Carina Lobley</b>                              | Sept-19                                |
| 20/4          | To review the webpages regarding use of IspyB for shipments for EM, and consider a small video demo.                                    | <b>Martin Walsh</b>                               | Sept-19                                |
| 20.5          | To reply to those user who had provided feedback ahead of the meeting.  | <b>DUC</b>  | Apr-19                                 |
| 20.6          | To confirm date of next meeting.  | <b>Kathryn Poulter</b>                            | May-19                                 |