

PAC statement

General statement

The Program Advisory Committee of IFIN-HH faced this year 2021 a substantial number of requests for beam time mainly at the 9 MV and 3 MV accelerators. The PAC was forced to reduce significantly the planned beam time for proposers (users) by 46% the beam time at the 3 MV Tandem and by 33% at the 9 MV Tandem. Moreover, the PAC observed, that a significant number of proposals is strongly overestimating the required beam time being not justified by the proposed scientific case. We decided to formulate some evaluation of this situation and recommendations, how to avoid this unbalanced proposer requests versus the available beam time. We emphasize, that an efficient and reasonable usage of beam time, which must be scientifically and experimentally very well justified, can resolve this situation to a large extent. The PAC's main role is to evaluate the scientific quality of the proposals, their potential for highly ranked, valuable outputs mainly in the form of publications and outputs in the form of new, scientifically sound data or multidisciplinary results with high social and outreach impact. The PAC observed, that the proposals are very diverse with respect to their formal quality. Some of them are not containing the necessary information for reasonable evaluation, there are missing experimental cases, detailed motivation and sample descriptions as well as previous related publications etc.

Recommendations to users

The PAC concluded the following recommendations to the users for preparing their proposals:

- The proposal would contain mandatory parts such as a scientific case describing novelty, scientific importance, and motivation for the planned experiment.
- The experimental part must be clearly described, focused on reasonable and justified parameters which are feasible at the requested instrument. The number of beam time hours must be reasonably estimated in collaboration with the instrument responsible which role needs to be explained later on.
- The users have to follow the proposal template with the mandatory parts included.
- If applicable, the users are requested to add a brief summary of their previous beam usage, list of important publications created based on the previous data. PAC will judge, whether the proposal has the potential to get a credit based on the publication of scientific data or based on high social and outreach impact.
- The users would prepare the focused proposal with a targeted scientific goal, instrumentally feasible based on the present state of instrumentation. If necessary, the proposer can apply with more proposals, not to collect all requests in one proposal.

Recommendations to institution

The PAC concluded the following recommendations to IFIN-HH

- We recommend nominating appropriate scientists to assume responsibility for certain instruments and their usage and act as a local liaison. These instruments responsible would be local scientists in a close connection to the ascribed instrument (at least 1 instrument responsible for each accelerator), who would check at first the proposal's feasibility, formatting, completeness, and the appropriateness of beam time estimation. The instrument responsible would be available to users to analyse the proper format of the proposal if necessary, to discuss instrumental and technical feasibility with users, and estimate the beam time properly. The instrument responsible would eventually invite the users to revise the

proposal or to add comments to proposals based on his/her experience and erudition. This procedure would significantly simplify the meetings of the PAC and may lead to improvement and the efficient usage of the available beam time. The PAC evaluation would be based on more detailed information and the instrument responsible comments.

- The PAC's main role is to ensure efficient and reasonable usage of the beam time leading to valuable outputs, high-quality publications, interesting multidisciplinary results for outreach activities of IFIN-HH. This means, the beam time usage must be clearly defined and efficiently planned.
- Proposers have to have available the Proposal template, where all mandatory parts will be indicated and it will be also available in the proposal uploading system.