

# How to Consider the Access for Funded Programmes? Examples in the Neutron Scattering Community

Michael Steiner

Helmholtz –Zentrum für Materialien und Energie

## Introduction:

What does funded programm mean?

What are the principles for access used in the community?

What is the result of a survey about common practice at the facilities?

What is the solution for funded long term proposals?

What is the conclusion?

**Apparently there is no real problem with the issue!**

## Principles used for access

**All proposals have to be evaluated (non-proprietary research) by peer review**

**Criteria: Excellent science and excellent use of potential of the infrastructure; technical feasibility etc (lower level)**

**This ensures best use of infrastructure in terms of progress in science and technology and value for societies' money**

**New users!**

**There is a broad range of applications, which might call for special criteria: thesis work, long term research programmes (like SFB,etc)**

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**Present „best practice“ survey:**

**approach very similar in the different institutions**

**side comment: proprietary applications are treated with very similar rules too**

**> 70% of applications are normal „short-time“ applications, which are treated along the lines given before**

**most of these normal applications come from Universities and are supported by third party funding!!**

**They have no problem with the evaluation for access!**

**What about the remaining proposals? Facilities find appropriate solutions without giving up the standards!**

**Candidates for „special“ access:**

**Very urgent proposals, proposals with specific requirements and experimental complexity, thesis work, long term funded research, long term collaborations etc**

**What is the problem with peer review evaluation of such proposals?**

**Are the criteria the same for the different evaluations? No, they aren't!**

**„Scientific excellence“ is always necessary,**

**but for the use a large infrastructure this not enough, because the case for using the infrastructure must be convincing on a high level.**

**What is the solution found in the neutron community?**

**The solution in the neutron community:**

**there is not one solution!**

**Long term research (up to 3 years):**

**e.g. Ph.D. Thesis, Collaborative Research Centres(DFG):  
Evaluation of the research programme, every year report to the  
respective committee, after two years new evaluation  
Very important for training of young scientists.**

**Long term programme with neutron scattering being central, need for  
significant beam time:**

**e.g. development of new concepts (sample environment,  
neutronoptics, etc.)  
bringing new research fields for neutrons**

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**Common to all of these:**

**they help to develop the facility in some way**

**→ collaboration**

**evaluation by the user committee or eventually a higher committee,  
depending on size of collaboration**

**Instrument concept and building: strategic issue and thus special  
evaluation and decision making**

Finances

**Conclusion: s. above**

**for ESS: what is the consequence for a source, which will provide qualitatively new experimental possibilities?**





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