

UEC Conference Call Minutes, Wednesday, January 6, 2010 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm EST

Participants (Strikethrough were not available)

Chair – Venkatraman Gopalan (Pennsylvania State U.)

Vice-Chair – Mark Dadmun (University of Tennessee)

Secretary – David Bucknall (Georgia Tech)

At-Large Members –

Rosario Gerhardt (Georgia Tech); Tony Hmelo (Vanderbilt University); Bin Hu (University of Tennessee); Ronald L. Jones (NIST); Alamgir Karim (University of Akron); Martyn McLachlan (Imperial College, London);

~~Scott Retterer (ORNL/CNMS)~~

Past Chair, ex officio member –

~~Hai-Ping Cheng (University of Florida)~~

CNMS (non-members)

Tony Haynes; Laura Edwards; Sandy Lowe

Following introductions, the floor was opened to discuss items on the agenda:

- **Scheduling of monthly meetings/conference calls**
 - The first Wednesday of the month at 12:00pm EST was agreed upon.
 - Call can be cancelled if there are no agenda items.
- **Scheduling of Proposal Calls**
 - Discussion over joint calls with Neutron Scattering – consensus is that separate calls work best – our current May and November proposal deadlines.
 - Suggestion on Proposal form (checkbox for Neutron Scattering) – remove this checkbox and enhance information/links on the website to clarify how neutron scattering resources can be accessed by CNMS users.
- **Planning for annual User Meeting**
 - Solar Energy (Preliminary 2010 User Meeting outline below)– too narrow; UEC to discuss by email specific suggestions for broadening
 - Dates: September 13-15, 2010- agreed
 - Discussion of 2 versus 3 days for User Meeting
 - Half of the first day could be plenary talks, followed by one ORNL overview talk. First day afternoon could be two or more "parallel" sessions of tutorials, each 1.5 hrs long followed by 1.5 hrs of hands on demo or visit to lab.
 - Second day could be "parallel" workshops on multiple research topics, each having a healthy mix of internal and external speakers.
 - If 3 days, clarify 3rd day optional for tutorials.
 - Incorporate Chairs from outside and Co-Chairs from CNMS for workshops/breakouts; co-chairs from CNMS needed to ensure information about what facilities are already available for users
 - Include discussion sessions for improvements/brainstorming but need structure; in

- particular set up discussion with concrete proposals; develop and distribute before meeting?
- Weekend tutorials discussed- miss fewer classes, cheaper travel on Saturday
 - Possible issues with “Open to Public” processing (weekend access to ORNL)
 - **Newsletter- improvements, goals, division of labor**
 - Two issues per year – schedule to distribute with proposal calls, ideally 3 weeks before proposal deadline; i.e., next issue should go out first week of April
 - Will need volunteers for 2 teams to organize the 2 issues
 - Add more visual content
 - Hardcopy mailings suggested in addition to email distribution (expense and effort?)
 - Email distribution: HTML format and PDF attachment
 - **Collecting user input/ideas for CNMS improvements**
 - Suggestions?

Preliminary 2010 User Meeting planning Outline for discussion.

A meeting on **Solar Energy and Energy Storage Challenges and Opportunities** will be held at Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Spallation Neutron Source on Monday-Tuesday, September 13-14, 2010, with a focus on current ORNL research activities and how ORNL user facilities can support research in these areas. Tutorials will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

The goals of this meeting are to:

- Highlight opportunities for collaboration with ORNL researchers in the areas of Solar Energy and Energy Storage,
- Identify ORNL user facilities that can support research in these areas, and
- Receive feedback from users on new experimental capabilities required to support future research needs.

This meeting will focus on two research areas, solar energy and energy storage, that have been identified by the U.S. Department of Energy as important to our nation's energy future. The ORNL research community is extensively involved in these areas and is interested in collaborating with colleagues from other institutions.

ORNL is home to highly sophisticated user facilities research designed to serve scientists and engineers from national laboratories, universities, industries, and foreign institutions. Among the ORNL's user facilities are the Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences, High Temperature Materials Laboratory, High Flux Isotope Reactor, Spallation Neutron Source, and the Shared Research Equipment facility. As part of this meeting, descriptions and operational characteristics of these user facilities will be provided. An additional important element is the opportunity to provide feedback about new experimental capabilities at ORNL user facilities that are needed to respond to the current research challenges.

A tentative agenda follows

Monday, Descriptions of Ongoing Research

- Solar Energy research
- Energy Storage research
- Evening reception and poster session on ORNL research and user facility capabilities

Tuesday, Identification of Research Resources and Capabilities

- Solar Energy
- Energy Storage
- Feedback on additional resource requirements
- Tours of ORNL user facilities – HTML, CNMS, HFIR, SNS, and SHaRE

Wednesday Tutorials (limited enrollment, 10-15 maximum per session)

- Thin films
- Fuel cells
- Etc.