

**CONSORTIUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT  
AND EXPLOITATION OF THE SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE ACCESS (BEAMTIME) OF  
RESEARCHERS TO EXPERIMENTAL BEAMLINES AND FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT FOR USERS OF THE ALBA SYNCHROTRON**

**RESOLUTION DATED 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2011, OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
CONSORTIUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND  
EXPLOITATION OF THE SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY,  
CALLING RESEARCHERS TO APPLY FOR ACCESS (BEAMTIME) TO  
THE ALBA SYNCHROTRON EXPERIMENTAL BEAMLINES AND  
PROVIDING FOR THE CORRESPONDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**I.- GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND RULES**

**1.- Personal scope of the call**

- a) Access of researchers to the ALBA synchrotron of the Consortium for the Construction, Equipment and Exploitation of the Synchrotron Light Laboratory (CELLS), as regulated in this call for proposals, is based on criteria of excellence of science.
- b) This call for proposal regulates access to the synchrotron for public research (public research defined as those where the results are published in the scientific literature). If the researcher is to use the research findings in a confidential manner and they are not going to be published in scientific literature due to business purposes, then his access is not governed by this call. Instead, he must sign a specific commercial agreement.

**2.- Access cycle**

An access cycle is the access period to the ALBA synchrotron covered by the call for proposals. There shall usually be two access cycles in a year. However, in this call, a single access cycle is established which covers the whole of 2012.

**3.- Experimentation shift**

The experimentation shift has a duration of 8 hours.

#### **4.- Personal data protection**

Pursuant to the Organic Law on Personal Data Protection (LOPD), it is hereby stated that the user details gathered by the Consortium are incorporated to a file property of same for the purposes of communication, selection process and management of issues which may be in the interest of the user. The user may at any moment exercise his rights of access, correction, cancellation and opposition provided for in the Law, by writing to: *CELLS, Ref. Personal data protection. Carretera BP 1413, Km 3,3. 08290 Cerdanyola del Vallès, Barcelona (Spain).*

#### **5.- Storage of experiment data**

The Consortium undertakes to keep the experiment data stored and available to researchers for a warranted period of thirty (30) days following the end of the experiment. Researchers must transfer and store their data within this thirty-day period.

#### **6.- Health and Safety Rules**

- a) It is the responsibility of the main researcher of the proposal to identify and explain in detail in the said proposal any danger due to samples or equipment brought to the ALBA synchrotron for the performance of the experiment as well as the safety measures which shall be applied. The Safety Service of the Consortium shall check these measures and reserves the right to deny access for safety reasons.
- b) Sufficient notice must be given of the samples and the equipment external to the ALBA synchrotron and belonging to the group of researchers performing the experiment, which may have any implication on safety, as well as of the safety measures that shall be taken. Any failure to comply with this rule may lead to the cancellation of beamtime for safety reasons.

## **II.- SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR BEAMTIME**

### **7.- Temporal scope of the call**

This call governs the access of researchers to the ALBA synchrotron experimental beamlines for the whole year 2012.

### **8.- Period for the submission of applications for beamtime**

- a) Applications for the access of researchers to the ALBA synchrotron during the year 2012 must be submitted, only electronically, between **21st November 2011**, and **17th January 2012** before 23:59 (Spanish peninsular time, GMT+1).
- b) Any proposal received beyond the date and time set forth in the previous paragraph shall not be evaluated in this call.

### **9.- Publication of the call for proposals**

This call shall be published in the website of the Consortium.

### **10.- Resolution of the call for proposals**

- a) The resolution of this call for proposals is planned to take place during the month of April 2012.
- b) The resolution shall specify:
  - i. Classification of the access proposals: “A+”, “A” or “B” (see paragraph 15. d)).
  - ii. Number of experimentation shifts assigned.

### **11.- Place for submission of access proposals**

- a) Researchers must submit their scientific proposal through the electronic portal of the ALBA synchrotron “User Office”.
- b) To this end, all researchers taking part in the experiment must previously register in the electronic Portal.

## **12.- Submission of proposals**

- a) The main researcher must fill in the electronic application stating the names of each and all of the users, the type of proposal submitted (see section 13), the description of the experiment, in which beamline or beamlines he wants to perform the experiment, the samples and their implications for health and safety (if there were any) and any other compulsory information (or other additional information, if relevant) indicated in the forms to be filled in inside the said electronic portal.
- b) The proposal shall remain as a draft and may be edited until the main researcher decides to submit it. The proposal must be submitted as far in advance as possible before the deadline provided for in section 8.
- c) The proposal must specify the total number of experimentation shifts requested, according to the electronic form.

## **13.- Types of proposals**

Researchers may request access to the ALBA synchrotron with two different types of proposals:

- a) Standard proposals
- b) Long-term proposal

### **14.a- Standard Proposals**

In these proposals, access is requested in order to perform experiments within an access cycle (which, in this call, is the whole year 2012). Beamtime shall be granted within the requested access cycle.

### **14.b- Long-term proposals**

- a) In these proposals, access is requested in order to perform experiments during a period longer than one access cycle and up to a maximum of three years (in this call, the years 2012, 2013 and 2014).
- b) Apart from scientific excellence, other criteria for the acceptance of long-term proposals which may be considered are:
  - i. Assurance that the group making the proposals has the financial, technical and human means necessary to perform the experiments during the whole period proposed.
  - ii. An identifiable benefit for the scientific community of the ALBA synchrotron (such as a new technique, a new instrument or new potentialities for the beamline).

- c) In long-term proposals, beamtime shall be granted on an annual basis, that is, beamtime shall be directly allocated for two access cycles (bearing in mind that there is only one access cycle for the year 2012) under routine operating conditions. At the end of each year, long-term proposals shall be re-evaluated based on an annual report, and beamtime for the next year shall be allocated.
- d) The total number of access cycles requested must also be specified, taking into account that the maximum access cycles which can be requested is six (6), spanning over three years. The need for a long-term proposal must be justified as well.
- e) Due to the difficulty of specifying all samples in a single proposal made for the long term, the main researcher may add information on the samples after his proposal has been approved. It is worth noting that the information on the samples must be reviewed by the beamline scientist and by the Safety Service of the ALBA synchrotron, for which reason it must be sent sufficiently in advance in order to be reviewed.
- f) Finally, in long-term proposals, the annual report shall be used for the re-evaluation of the Evaluation Panel (see paragraph 15.c)) responsible for the assessment of the proposal. The Evaluation Panel shall also re-assign the number of experimentation shifts for the following year.  
The CELLS management reserves the right to cancel beamtime for the following year, if it is considered appropriate, based on yearly reports.

## **15.- Proposal evaluation process**

- a) The evaluation of proposals shall be based on the following criteria:
  - i. Technical criteria (whether the experiment is technically feasible in the proposed experimental beamlines or not).
  - ii. Scientific quality criteria.
  - iii. Availability of resources (number of effective hours in which the accelerator may run for users).
  - iv. Safety criteria.
  - v. In case that the users have previous records of experiments performed in ALBA, these records may be taken into account.
- b) Upon expiration of the deadline for submission of proposals, they shall be reviewed by the corresponding beamline scientist. The beamline scientist shall have a time limit of fifteen (15) days to issue his report on the review. Changes may be proposed in the number of experimentation shifts requested by the researchers for the experiment. The beamline scientist may also perform a prior safety evaluation.
- c) Then, proposals shall be globally evaluated by an Evaluation Panel in a procedure estimated to last two months. The Evaluation Panel shall consist of well-renowned members of the international scientific community and it will

consist of a chairman, a secretary and a number of delegates (minimum 4 delegates and maximum 14 delegates). At least one member of the Evaluation Panel shall be responsible for evaluating and defending his evaluation before the Panel (to which end he may be helped by external advisors if he deems it appropriate). The Evaluation Panel shall meet in the ALBA synchrotron for the debate of all the proposals received. The Panel shall make an ordered list of the proposals which are allocated beamtime and shall decide on the number of experimentation shifts assigned to each of them.

- d) After the meeting in the ALBA synchrotron, proposals shall be divided in:
  - i. Proposals labelled “A”:  
Proposals labelled “A” shall be entitled to beamtime and shall be numbered according to their scientific merit (number 1 corresponding to the highest scientific merit). Depending on the availability of resources (effective hours which the ALBA synchrotron may allocate to users), a cut-off number shall be established and proposals under such number shall be taken to a reserve list.  
Depending on the cut-off number, we will qualify proposals as “A+” whenever they are above the said cut-off number and have been allocated beamtime, and “A” whenever they are in the reserve list, under the cut-off number. If there were no cancellations or changes in the circumstances allowing access to proposals labelled “A”, these proposals shall have to be submitted again to the ALBA synchrotron in the next call.
  - ii. Proposals labelled “B”:  
Proposals labelled “B” shall not be allocated beamtime. The Secretary of the Evaluation Panel shall write the final comments of the Panel regarding the reasons for such label, and they shall be notified to the corresponding users.
- e) After the scientific evaluation, a final evaluation on Safety shall be performed. The Safety Service of the ALBA synchrotron may deny access by safety reasons, as indicated in the general rules.
- f) Finally, the users shall be informed as follows:
  - i. Whether their proposal is worthy of beamtime and they can perform their experiment, together with the corresponding safety evaluation (“A+” label).
  - ii. Whether their proposal is worthy of beamtime but has been placed in the reserve list (“A” label).
  - iii. Whether their proposal has not been allocated beamtime, together with the comments of the Evaluation Panel (“B” label).
- g) Once the researcher is given notice that his proposal has been allocated beamtime and that he may perform his experiment, a procedure shall start regarding the coordination of dates for the whole cycle together with all the groups which are to perform experiments in the same beamline. Once the dates of the experiment are set, an administrative procedure shall start in order to manage the financial support which may correspond.

### **III.- FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

#### **16.- Funding for access to the ALBA synchrotron**

- a) Proposals labelled “A”, whose researchers effectively stay in the ALBA synchrotron, will be entitled to funding for their travel expenses and their stay in the synchrotron.
- b) When researchers submit their scientific proposal through the electronic Portal of the ALBA Synchrotron “User Office”, proposals shall automatically enter the funding programme, without the need to submit an additional application.
- c) Researchers from Spanish centres may receive support for their experiments in the ALBA synchrotron through the Consortium budget.
- d) The maximum number of researchers that may be funded per experiment shall be three (3), subject to the available budget of the Consortium.
- e) Researchers from foreign centres may receive support to perform experiments in the ALBA synchrotron through funding programmes within the current European programme, through specific cooperation agreements with their country or through any other means.  
The researcher from a foreign centre must indicate in his proposal whether it may be funded through any programme that he may know of.

#### **17.- Type and amount of financial support**

Financial support for having access to the ALBA synchrotron covers the following items:

- a) Travel expenses:
  - i. Financial support shall be granted for travel by plane or train from the town of origin of the researcher to the ALBA synchrotron. Travel tickets shall be obtained through the travel agency with which the Consortium maintains an agreement; the researcher must not pay for the ticket and, therefore, he will not be obliged to prove this expense, since the travel agency shall directly invoice the Consortium.
  - ii. Funding of travel expenses by the Consortium shall cover the cheapest ticket of the means of transport being used. If the researcher uses another kind of ticket, the additional cost shall be payable by the researcher.
  - iii. Taxis from the airport or train station of Barcelona to the ALBA synchrotron and back (at his arrival and at his departure). They must be booked through "Vila Universitària S.L." and the researcher must not pay for the ticket, so he will not be obliged to provide proof of the expense.

- iv. If researchers travel by car, mileage and tolls shall be funded (all researchers receiving financial support must use the same car; otherwise, appropriate justification must be provided). Mileage shall be invoiced at 0.19 €/km (this amount corresponds to the officially valid allowance in the national territory; as soon as the allowance is updated, the amount in this call will also be updated).
- v. Researchers from the metropolitan area of Barcelona shall be entitled to receive support for their travel expenses as previously described, but in this case, if they use public transport, they must prove the expense by providing the corresponding ticket.

b) Living expenses:

- i. Living expenses corresponding to the days of effective stay in the ALBA synchrotron for the performance of the experiment shall be funded and, if applicable, one additional half day if the date of arrival and/or departure do not coincide with one of the days of effective performance of the experiment.
- ii. From Monday to Friday, on working days, the researcher shall receive a ticket for lunch which he may only use in the cafeteria located within the Consortium facilities. For the dinner, the researcher will receive another ticket to be used in Hotel Campus (or any other entity with which the Consortium could have a future agreement).
- iii. For Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, meals tickets may be used only in Hotel Campus (or any other entity with which the Consortium could have a future agreement).

c) Accommodation expenses:

This allowance, which covers accommodation, including breakfast, shall not be paid to the researcher, but shall be directly invoiced to the Consortium by “Vila Universitària S.L./Hotel Campus de la UAB” or any other entity with which the Consortium has an agreement for the accommodation of researchers and which, for these purposes, may serve as Guesthouse of the ALBA synchrotron.

- d) The financial support described above shall be subject to the available budget of the Consortium.

## **18.- Proof of expenses**

The researcher must only provide proof of the following expenses, in all cases after his stay in the ALBA synchrotron:

- a) Travel to the ALBA synchrotron of a researcher if his town of origin is located within the Barcelona metropolitan area:

- i. Travel by public transport:  
The price of transport must be paid in advance and, later, the original public transport tickets shall be sent to the ALBA synchrotron “User Office”.
  - ii. Travel by own vehicle.  
If you have used your own vehicle, all toll tickets must be submitted (if applicable) and mileage declared, providing some map like “Google Maps”.
- b) Travel to the ALBA synchrotron by a researcher if the town of origin is not located within the Barcelona metropolitan area:

Travel by own vehicle:

- i. Toll tickets must be submitted (if applicable) and mileage declared, providing some map like “Google Maps”.
- ii. In this case, the provisions of paragraph 17.a).iv. must be taken into account.

#### **IV.- COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN**

##### **19.- Commitments undertaken by researchers who have been allocated beamtime**

All researchers must submit the following documents after the performance of the experiment:

- a) A quality test evaluating technical, administrative, scientific and computing assistance received. This test is available to researchers in the electronic portal of the “User Office”.
- b) For standard proposals, a report on the performed experiment.  
For long-term proposals, an annual report (which will be used for the re-evaluation of the proposal) and a final report.  
These reports must be submitted within a maximum time limit of four (4) months after the performance of the corresponding experiment.
- c) The following sentence must be added to section ‘Acknowledgements’ of all publications resulting from data obtained in the ALBA synchrotron: ***These experiments were performed at the  beamline of the Synchrotron Light Facility ALBA with the collaboration of ALBA staff.***
- d) All published papers relating to the data obtained in the ALBA synchrotron must be notified and entered through their account in the portal of the Consortium “User Office”.
- e) Researchers authorise the Consortium to publish their research topic. Additional documentation may be requested (such as presentations or charts) in order to prepare the “Report of Activities”, the “Newsletter” or any other kind of publication.
- f) When this is so required, e.g. in cases of funding through European programmes, a signed satisfaction form must be submitted confirming that experiments have effectively been performed in the ALBA synchrotron.