NEUTRONS FOR SOCIETY

Grenoble,6 January 2026

Extensive Beam Time Access (EBTA) call

ILL is offering an alternative path for accessing beam time for projects that require an extended preparation period and request instrument beam time with a length of a reactor cycle or longer.

This new access route enables scientific evaluation of such projects by ILL's subcommittee up to three years prior to the requested beam time. Following the subcommittee's evaluation, ILL management can commit beam time to the project. This commitment is formally communicated, allowing users to pursue funding requests, hire dedicated staff, and purchase and develop experimental equipment. Additionally, the ILL defines, in collaboration with the proposers, the needed adaptions for the experiment to comply with ILL's safety standards and monitors the preparation to ensure overall experiment readiness.

Within a three-year period following the formal commitment of beam time, the proposers must demonstrate to the ILL that their experiment is ready and fully compliant with the safety requirements. If the readiness is confirmed, the experiment will be scheduled.

It is important to understand that this beam time access path is not foreseen for projects aiming to operate several years at one beam port/instrument/location at the ILL. Such cases are managed through dedicated contracts between ILL and the operating institutions.

While there is no fixed quota for this beam time request, both the subcommittee involved and the instrument responsibles will ensure that sufficient beam time remains available for standard proposals.

The ILL requires yearly reports on the project status and a final report before the readiness state is evaluated. It is strongly recommended that the proposers fully involve at least one ILL scientist in the project.

Proposals **must be submitted to the ILL Science Coordination Office**, via email at User Office. This call is **open for the three instruments PF1, PF2, and FIPPS. Please**

check details on the dedicated website. EBTA calls are organised on a **yearly basis** for the spring round.

Users should first fill it in EBTA Proposal Form (including sample and safety information) – and then add the detailed scientific description:

Each proposal should be no longer than 10 pages and must include detailed information on the following points:

- Scientific Motivation: A clear rationale for the proposed research.
- Beam Time Request: A clear justification of the beam time needed and schedule for the preparation of the experiment. The schedule should include critical milestones.
- Technical Description: A comprehensive overview of the experimental setup and methodology. The description should identify potential safety risks and list critical milestones in the preparation of the experiment.
- Local Resource Estimate: A list of ILL resources required during the preparation period and during the runtime of the experiment. This could be assistance from the Health Physics or Safety Engineers, but also technical support from one of the Support Labs.
- Team Outline: An estimate of the experimental team including team size. Specifically, this should address the preparation and operation of the experiment during the beam time.

Please ensure that all required information is included in the proposal form and in the scientific description of the proposal to facilitate the evaluation process.

The EBTA framework includes a specific monitoring procedure for each accepted project. Monitoring is a tool for the ILL to support decisions on beam-time allocation and scheduling.

Proposers must submit a yearly progress report, transmitted via the User Office to the relevant Subcommittee and IR. The reports are used to identify potential issues at an early stage and can also serve to advise the collaboration on improvements.

A schematic flow diagram showing the decision and action process as well as the relation with respect to the normal proposal submission scheme is shown below.

EBTA and standard proposals