Group Report
BL17 SHARAKU - July 2012

Beamline Update

Operations Run 43 Activities

The first half of Operations Run 43 which began at the end of May was occupied with setting up the polarized neutron capability on the beamline (See previous report). The latter half of the run which concluded on 2 July was given over to user operations. In this period, four General Use Proposal experiments, one JAEA Project Proposal experiment and one CROSS Development Proposals experiment were successfully completed.

Summer Shutdown Upgrade Plans

At BL17, the 3-month summer shutdown starting in July will be used primarily to upgrade optics associated with the instrument sample stage, control and data collection software, and also to prepare for the next user run that starts in October.

2012B Proposal Submissions

The increasing expectation on and interest in BL17 was demonstrated in the 2012B proposal round that closed on 6 June 2012. in this round, 18 General Use proposals (including Trial Use applications) to use SHARAKU were received − double the number of applications submitted in 2012A.

The deadline for the next proposal submission round (2013A) is expected to be in November 2012.

Seminars and Workshops

Seminar by Dr Maria Mitkova (Boise State University, USA)

On 1 June 2012, Dr Maria Mitkova presented an MLF Seminar titled *"Structural Details of Ge-Rich and Silver-doped Chalcogenide Glasses and their Application for Non-volatile Memory and Radiation Sensing Devices"*. The application and potential benefits of using neutron reflectometry in the study of these systems was discussed in both the seminar and the smaller group discussions held before the presentation.

Workshop : “Buried Interface Science with X-rays and Neutrons 2012”

The “Buried Interface Science with X-rays and Neutrons 2012” workshop was held on 26-28 June at KEK, Tsukuba with CROSS-Tokai prviding joint sponsorship. The workshop was

attended by more than 40 researchers with an interest in the study of surfaces, interfaces and thin films using neutron and X-ray methods — including reflectometry — in research fields ranging from soft-matter to electronic devices. In a broad-ranging discussion that included the application of advanced sources such as the X-FEL, ERL and the intense neutron beam of the MLF, the current activities and future research plans for BL17 were introduced.