

Neutron Scattering at OPAL Research Reactor

Paolo Imperia

Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering

Paolo.imperia@ansto.gov.au



10 Years of Neutron Beams

100 Operating Cycles of OPAL

1000 Scientific Research Papers

Outline

-
- 1** Introduction to ANSTO
 - 2** OPAL Reactor & Neutron Beam Facilities
 - 3** Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering
 - 4** Why Neutrons?
 - 5** User Access
 - 6** Closing Remarks
-

Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation



Camperdown
Cyclotron
NSW



Main site
Lucas Heights
NSW



Clayton
Australian
Synchrotron
VIC



Public research organisation with a variety of roles for the nation.
ANSTO operates Australia's research nuclear reactor - OPAL

Formed in 1953

HIFAR critical 1958

>\$1 billion assets under management

Annual turnover > \$350 million

Circa 1200 employees; 300 Ph.D.'s

OPAL Reactor Critical 2006

ANSTO Research Infrastructure for Users and Industry

Landmark



OPAL
Multipurpose Reactor

**Australian Centre for
Neutron Scattering**

**Australian
Synchrotron**

National



**National
Deuteration Facility**

**Centre for
Accelerator Science**

Medical Research Cyclotron

Institutional



Local with national impact

Isotope Tracing and Dating

Nuclear Forensics

Activity Standards

**Neutron Activation and
Irradiations**

Radiotracers and Bioimaging

Materials Characterisation



ANSTO businesses

Ansto
Health



ANM
ANSTO Nuclear Medicine



Ansto
Minerals



Ansto
Silicon



Ansto
Synroc



Ansto
Radiation Services



ANSTO Lucas Heights Campus & OPAL Reactor

- 20 MW
- Open pool
- Compact core

- D₂O reflector
- Plate type Low Enriched Uranium fuel
- Commenced operation 2006

Sydney CBD

30km

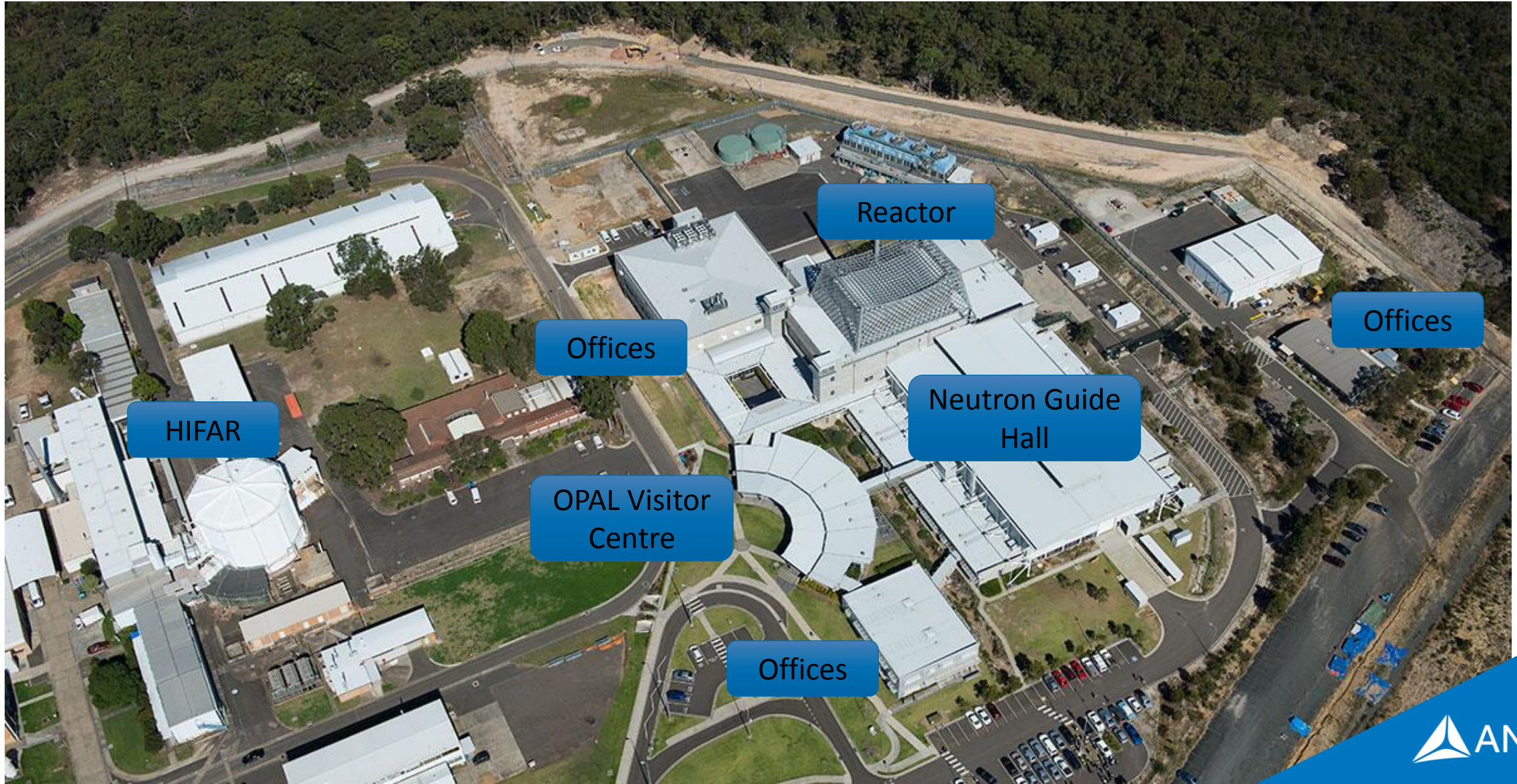
Melbourne AS
800km

OPAL

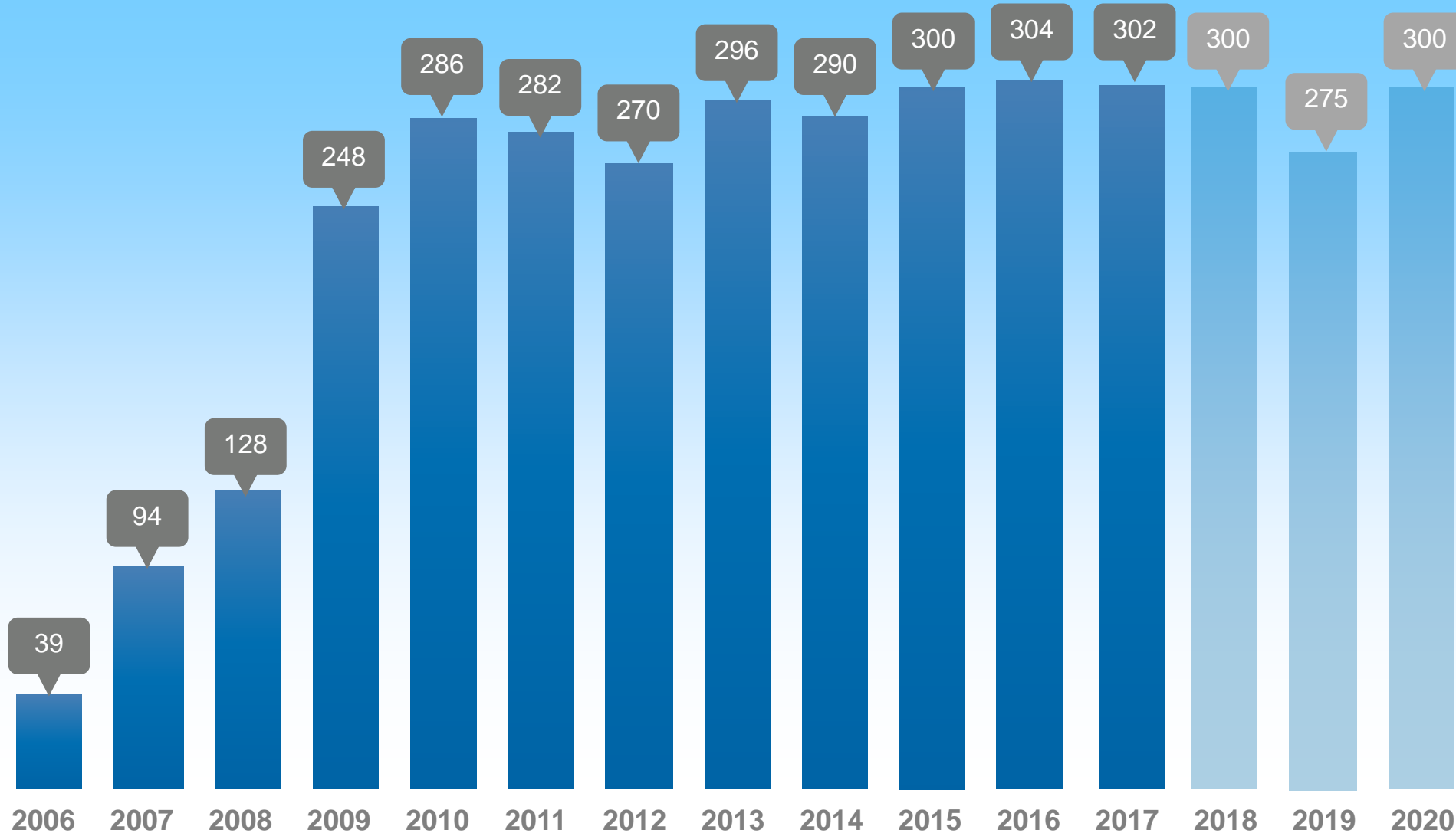
HIFAR

MOATA

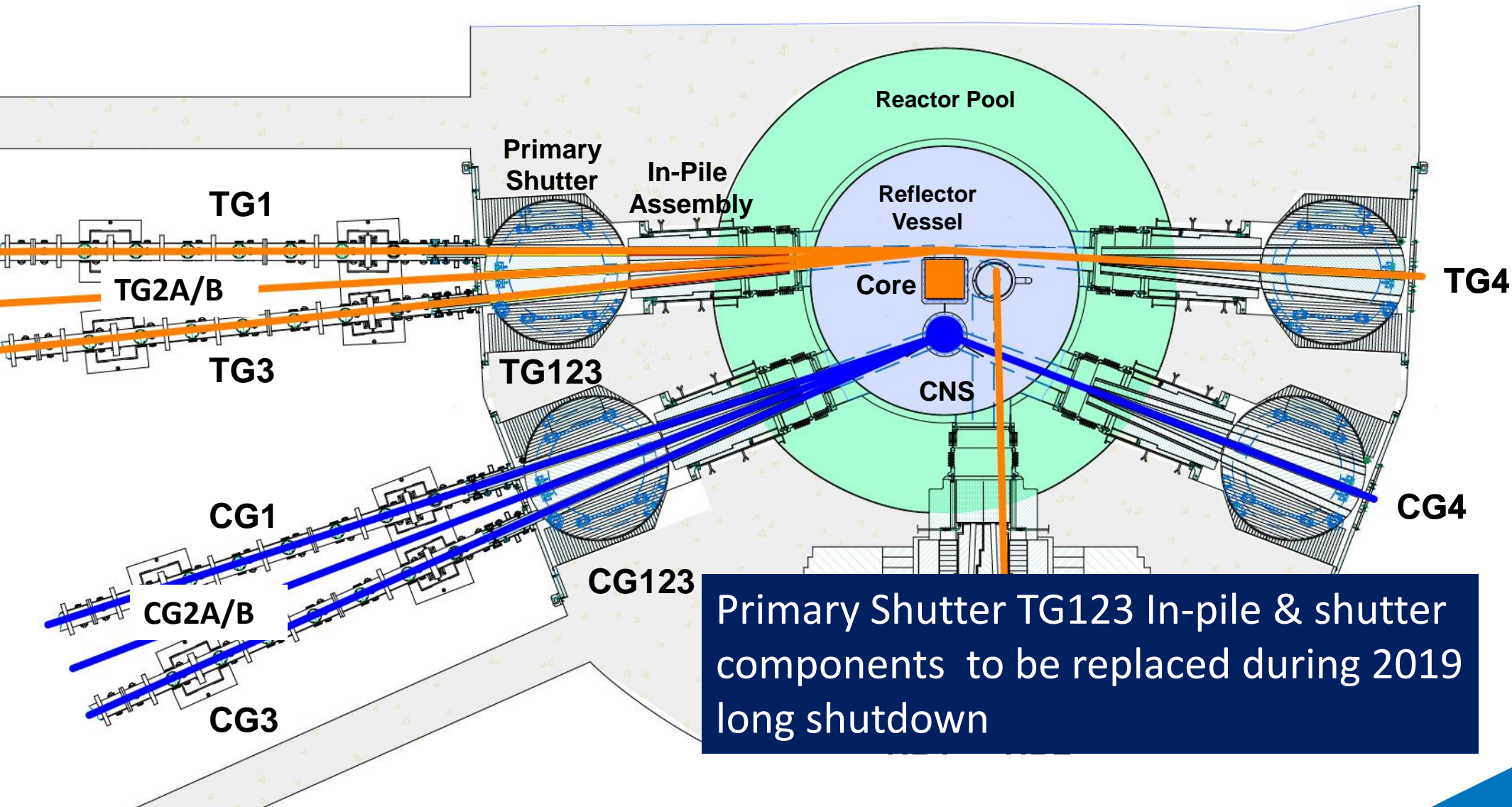
OPAL Facility



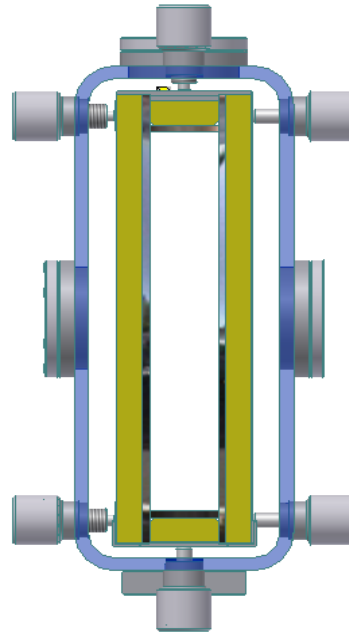
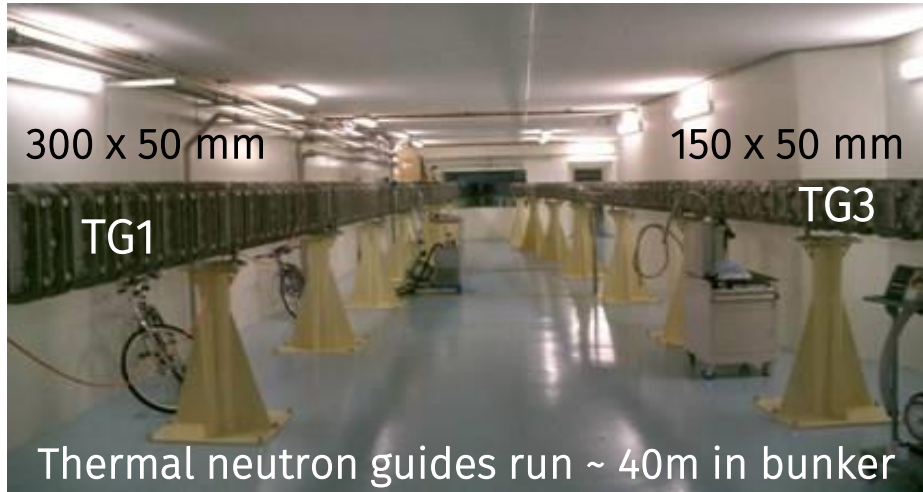
OPAL Operating Days



OPAL's Neutron Beam Facilities



Reactor Face, Neutron Guides & Bunker



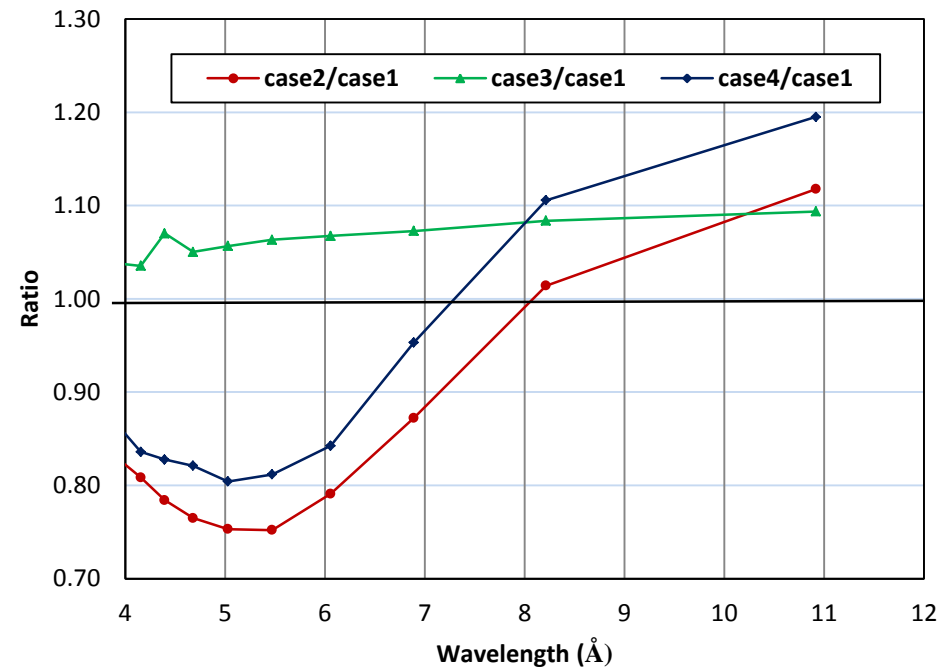
Supermirror neutron guides transmit up to ~80 m from the core

Cold Neutron Source Mk2

- Licence application – CNS life 10 years (2018)
 - Conservative due to limited data on AlMg5
 - Life extension now to 15 years (2024)
- 2 x CNS currently being fabricated by HNFT
 - Increased height and volume



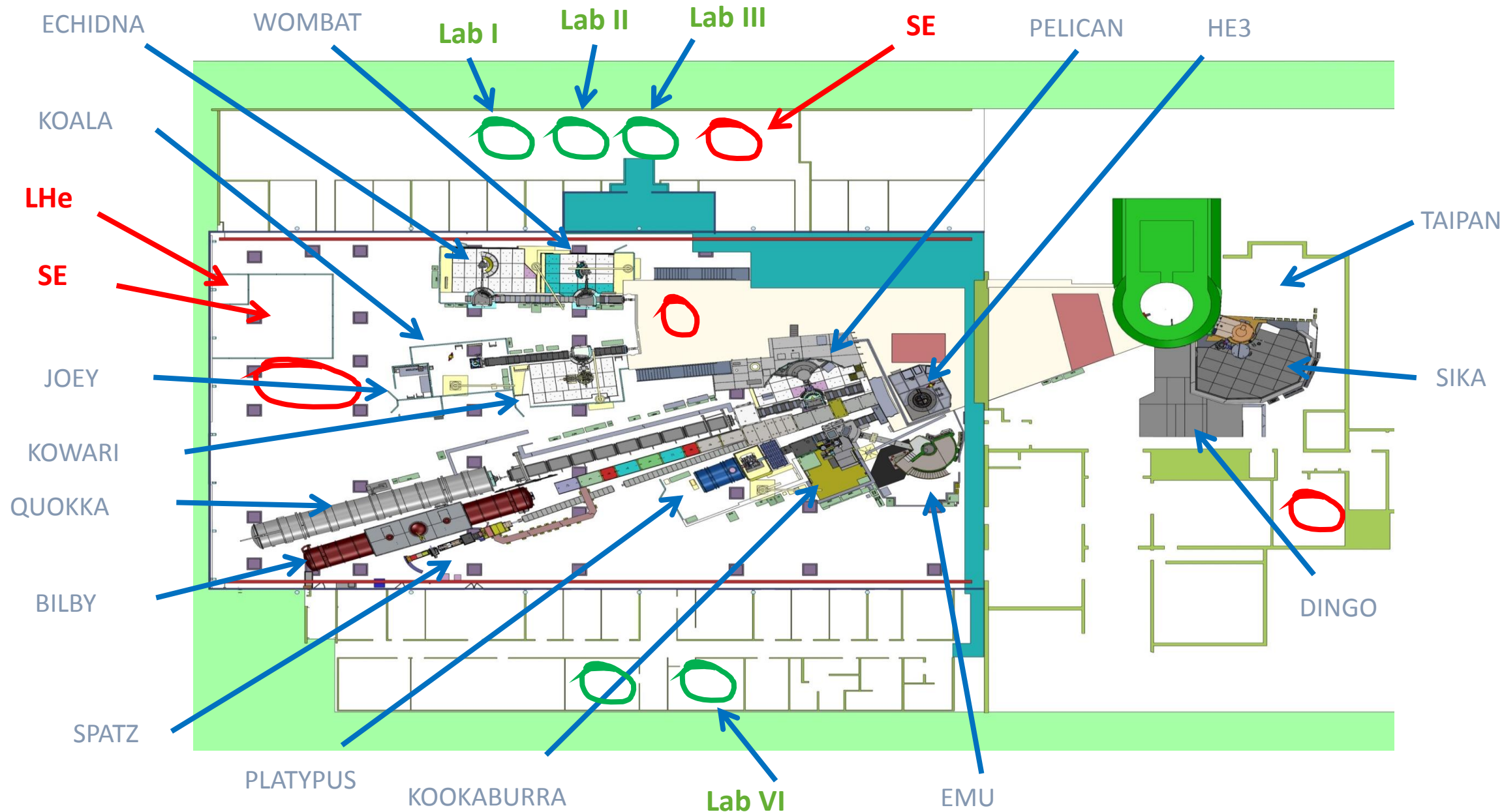
Case 1 (current)	Case 2 (no cavity)	Case 3 (increased height)	Case 4 (no cavity and increased height)



Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering

- 80 staff support 300 reactor days
 - 225 days to user service
- 14 (+1) neutron beam instruments
- 4,300 registered users
- 450 user experiments per year
- 500 individual users visit per year
 - 1,400 user visits per year
- 1061 journal publications with neutron data from users & staff (2007-2018)
 - 184 in 2017
 - 127 in 2018





Diffractometers:

ECHIDNA	high-resolution powder diffractometer
WOMBAT	high-intensity diffractometer
KOALA	single-crystal Laue diffractometer
KOWARI	strain scanner
JOEY	crystal-alignment Laue diffractometer

Small-angle Spectrometers:

QUOKKA	monochromatic SANS
BILBY	time-of-flight SANS
KOOKABURRA	ultra-SANS

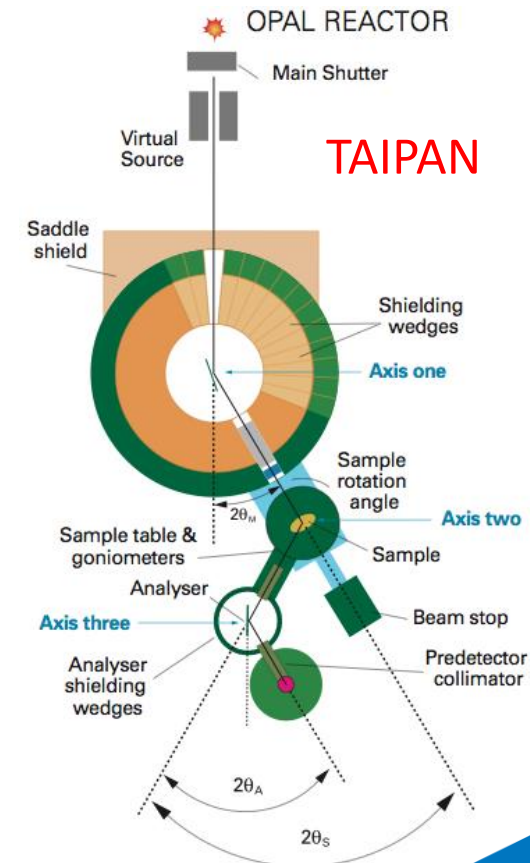
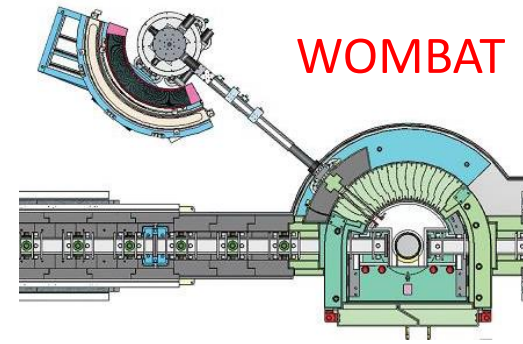
Imaging & Reflectometry:

DINGO	radiography/tomography/imaging station
PLATYPUS	reflectometer
SPATZ	reflectometer (under construction)

Inelastic Spectrometers:

TAIPAN	thermal-neutron three-axis spectrometer, with Be-filter option
SIKA	cold-neutron three-axis spectrometer
PELICAN	cold-neutron time-of-flight spectrometer
EMU	high-resolution back-scattering spectrometer

ACNS Instruments



ACNS Operations Teams



Scientific Operations (Scott Olsen 9): Mechanical workshops, neutron delivery systems, chopper systems, vacuum systems and shielding

Sample Environment (Rachel White 8): sample environments and laboratories support; key interface with users and support for specific experiments

Computing & Electronics (Nick Hauser 12): software and electronic engineering, data-acquisition and data-analysis software and hardware, detectors and technical support for ACNS user portal

Electrical Engineering (Frank Darmann 8): motion controls, encoding, safety interlocks, pneumatics, control systems, power distribution and signal earthing

SE Equipment and Instrumentation

- More than 60 individual pieces of Sample Environment equipment, including:
 - 14 cryostats or cryofurnaces + dilution insert + ^3He one-shot
 - 4 magnets
 - 8 multi-sample changers
 - 3 Robots one (6 axis) dedicated to texture measurements
 - 5 furnaces
 - + pressure cells, Eulerian cradles, gas/vapour delivery, electric field, differential scanning calorimeter, rapid viscosity analyser, rheometer, solid-liquid and stopped-flow cells + more!

Lab and Main SE Work Area



ACNS Partnerships

■ Strategic Partnerships

- National Synchrotron Radiation Research Center (NSRRC)
- Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin
- University of Tokyo
- National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy



■ Joint Appointments

- Adjunct Positions with Universities



■ Joint Research

- Universities & Industry
- Students, Post-docs
- Australian Research Council Discovery, Linkage, LIEF, Centres of Excellence, Industrial Transformation Training Centres



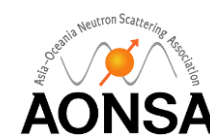
Australian Government
Australian Research Council

■ Facilities & Associations

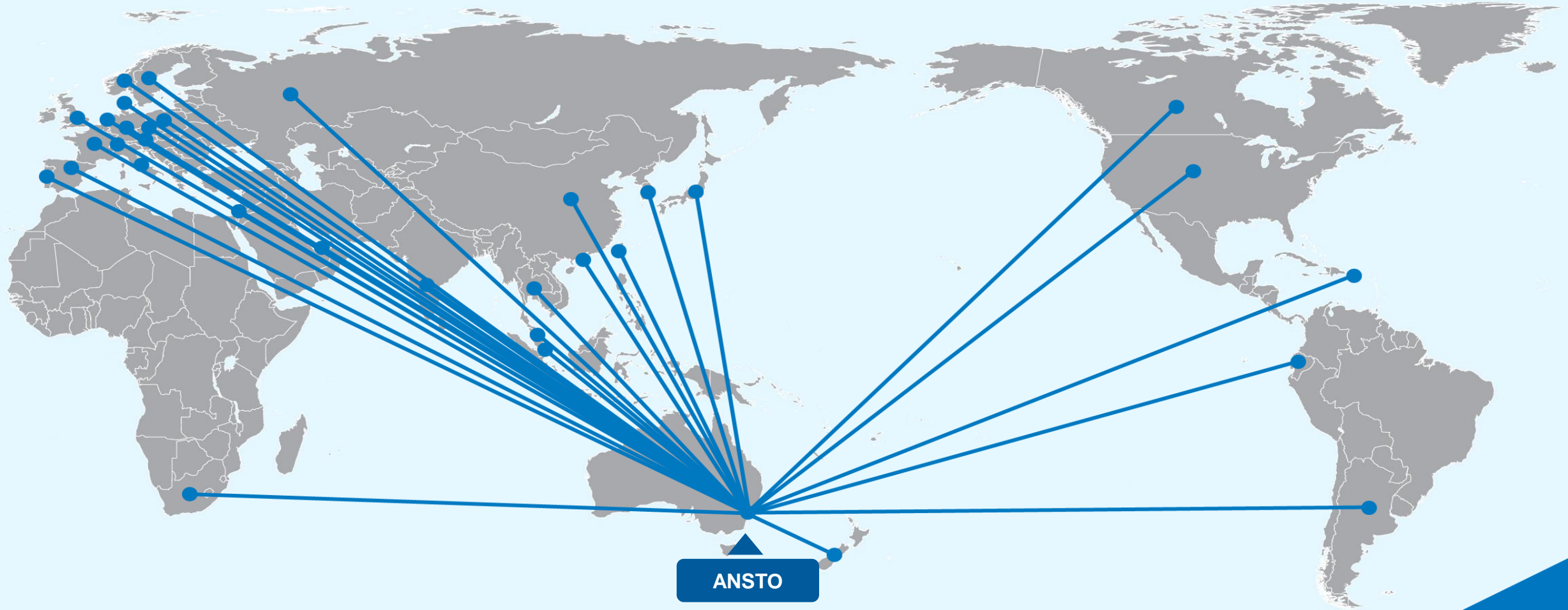
- J-PARC, PSI, CIAE, BATAN, KAERI



- ANBUG & AONSA



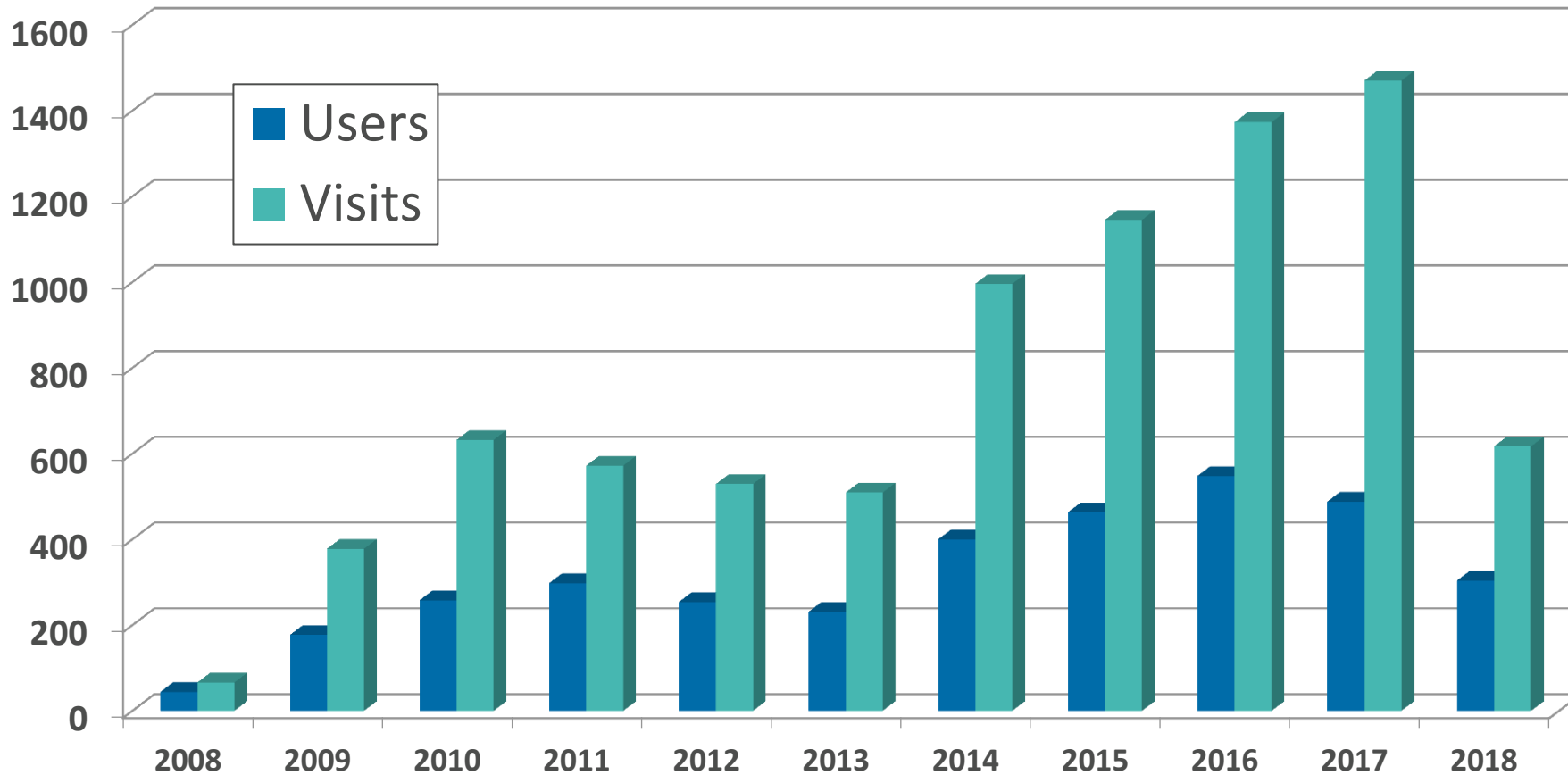
Where do the users come from?



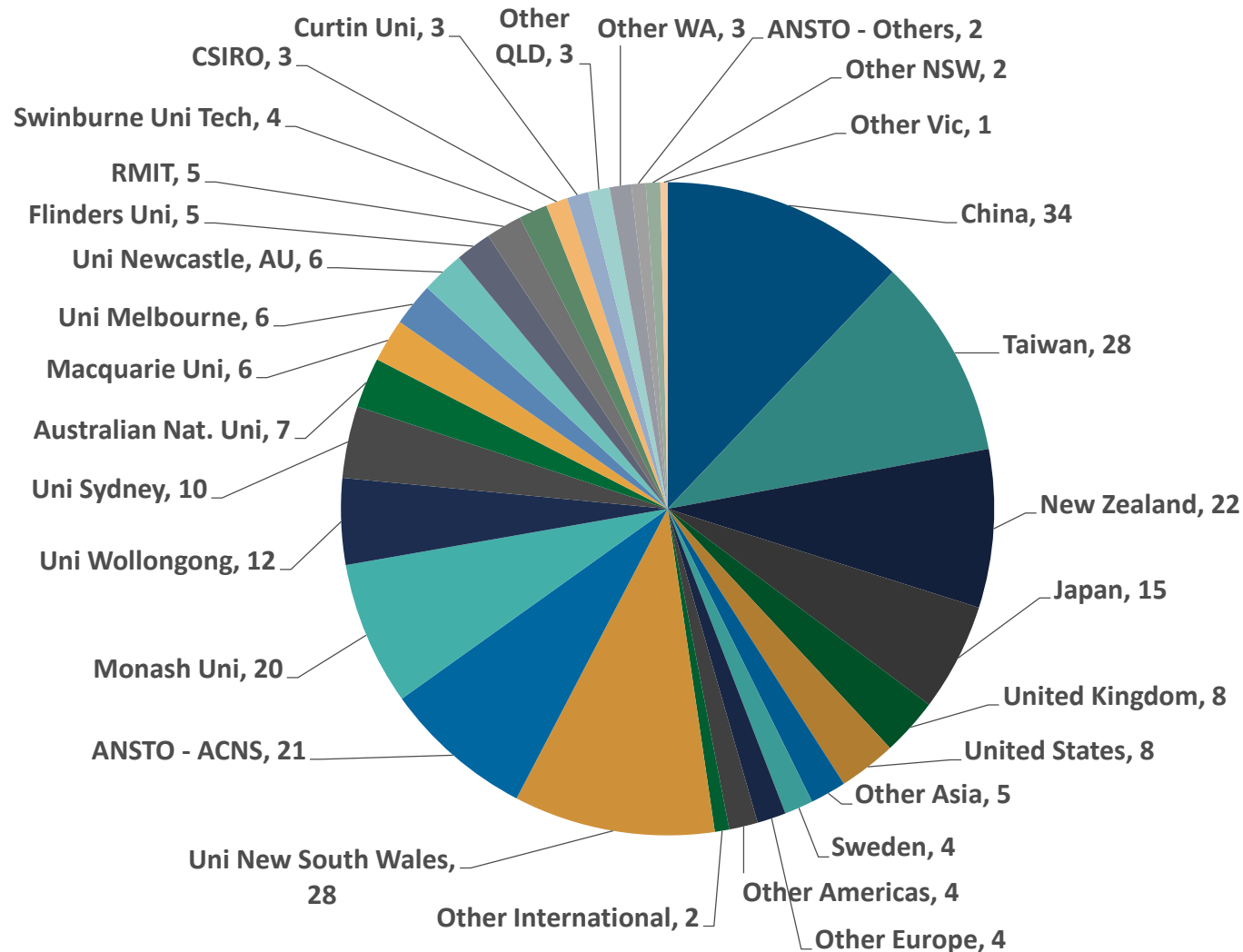
2008 – 2018

Users Visiting ACNS (June 2018)

4,300 registered users



Demand from 2019-1



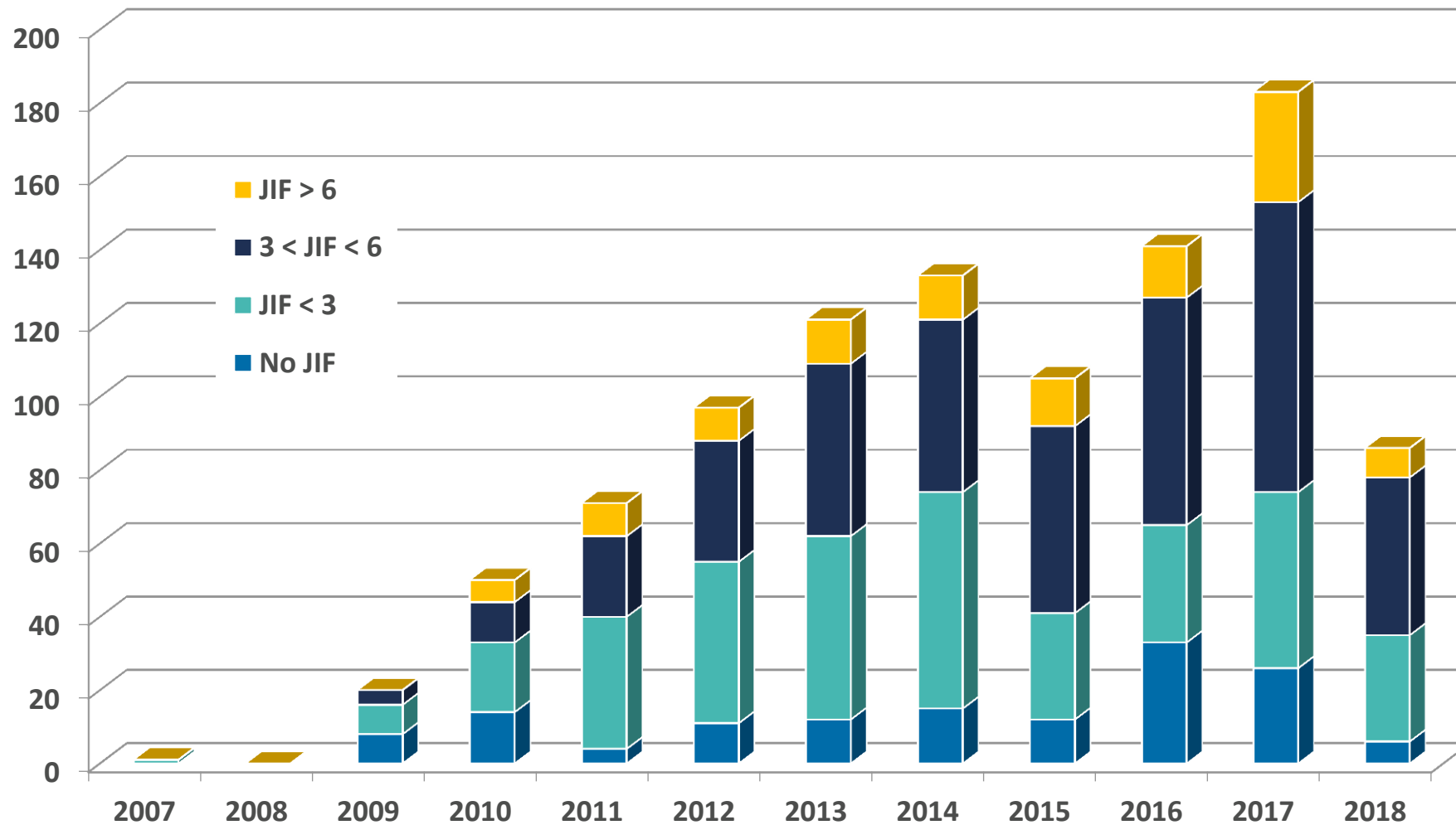
- Last Round 281 Proposals

- Australia 53%

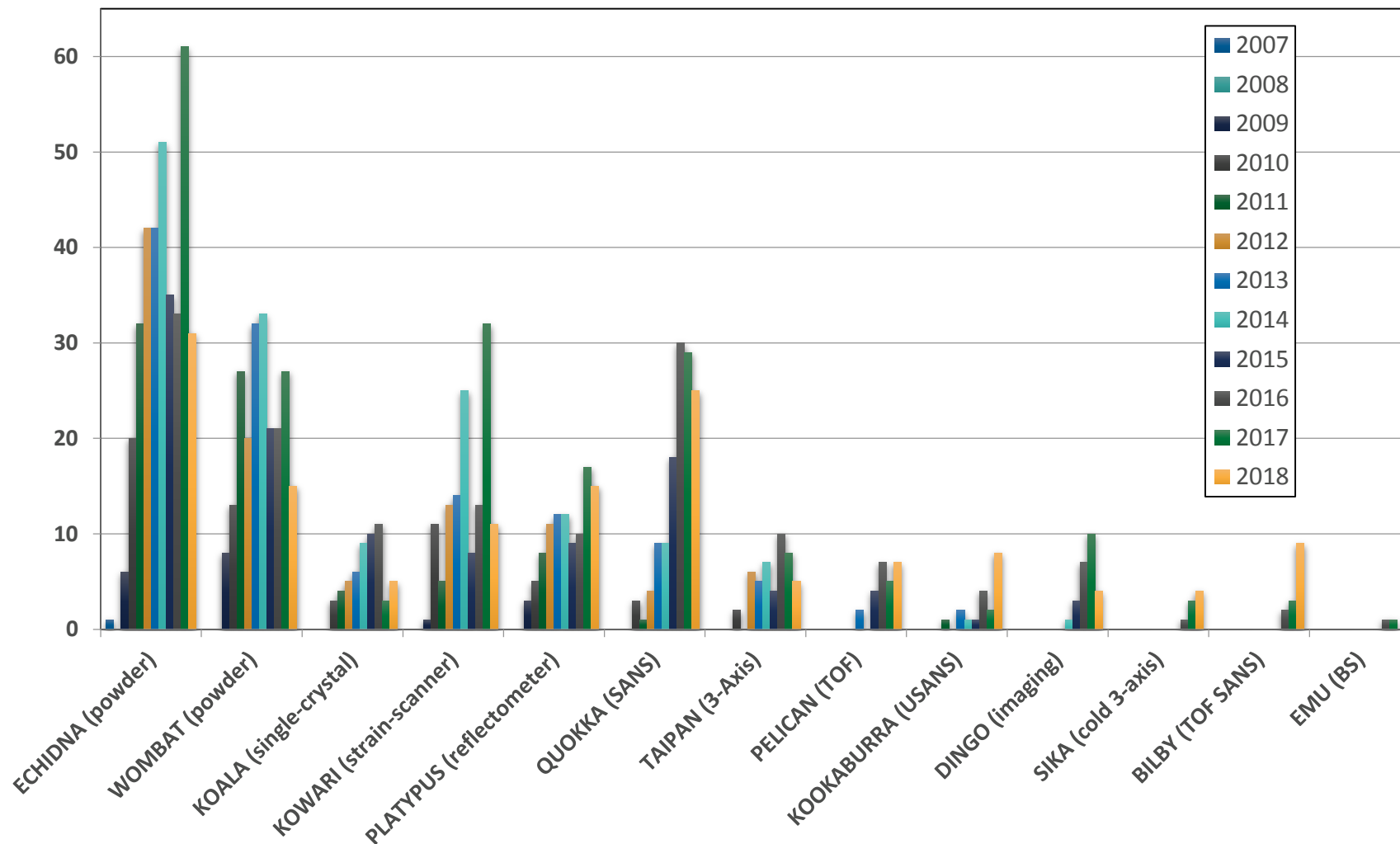
- Asia/Oceania 37%

- Europe/USA 10%

Papers from ACNS Neutron Beam Instruments (July 2018)



Papers from ACNS NBI (October 2018)



ACNS Industrial Liaison Office

- Dedicated industry portal for access to ACNS:
 - Provide industrial access to neutron and X-ray instruments
 - Develop software and high-tech instrumentation
 - Collaborate or partner with industry in research and development projects
 - Provide specialised training for academic and industry users.
 - <http://www.ansto.gov.au/ResearchHub/OurInfrastructure/ACNS/Industry/>

Industrial Liaison Office



Services Products Useful Industry Links Contact Us

The vision of the Industrial Liaison Office is to support Australian and global industry with innovation, advanced science, technology transfer and training.

The [Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering](#) is a multidisciplinary international centre of excellence, specialising in applying X-ray and neutron scattering techniques to the study of matter in various physical states: solid, liquid and gas.

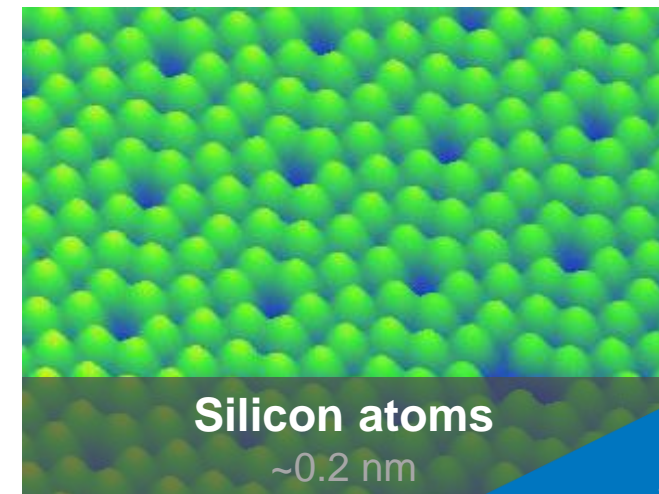
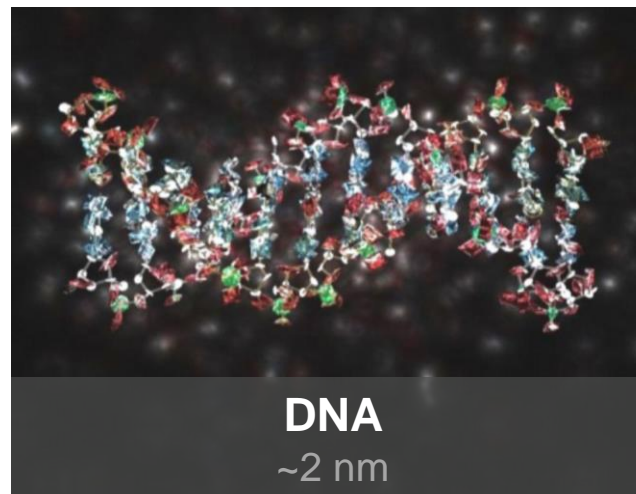
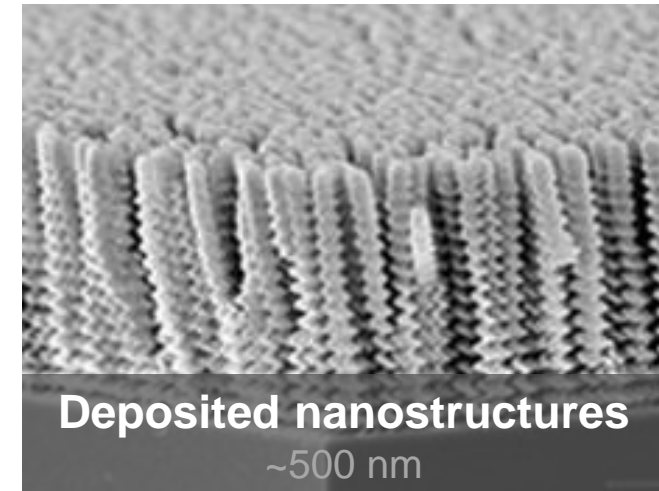
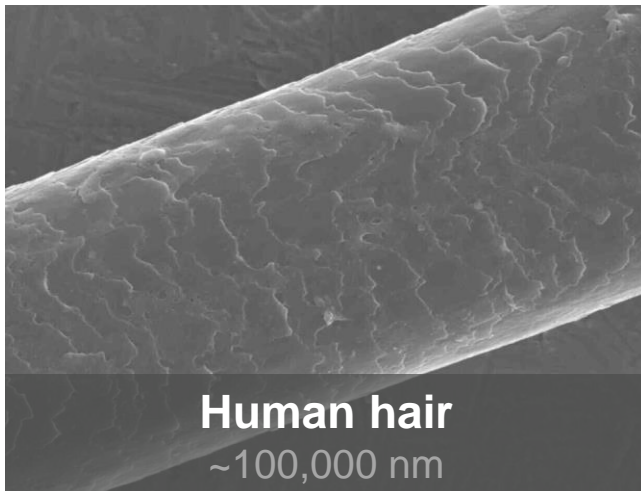
Over time, we've built an exceptional body of skills, experience and technical expertise, which we now offer to support industrial research and development.

The Australian Centre for Neutron Scattering Industrial Liaison Office was established in April 2014 to manage technology transfer and promote the use of our facilities in applied industrial research.



Neutrons as a Probe of Atomic and Nanoscale Structures

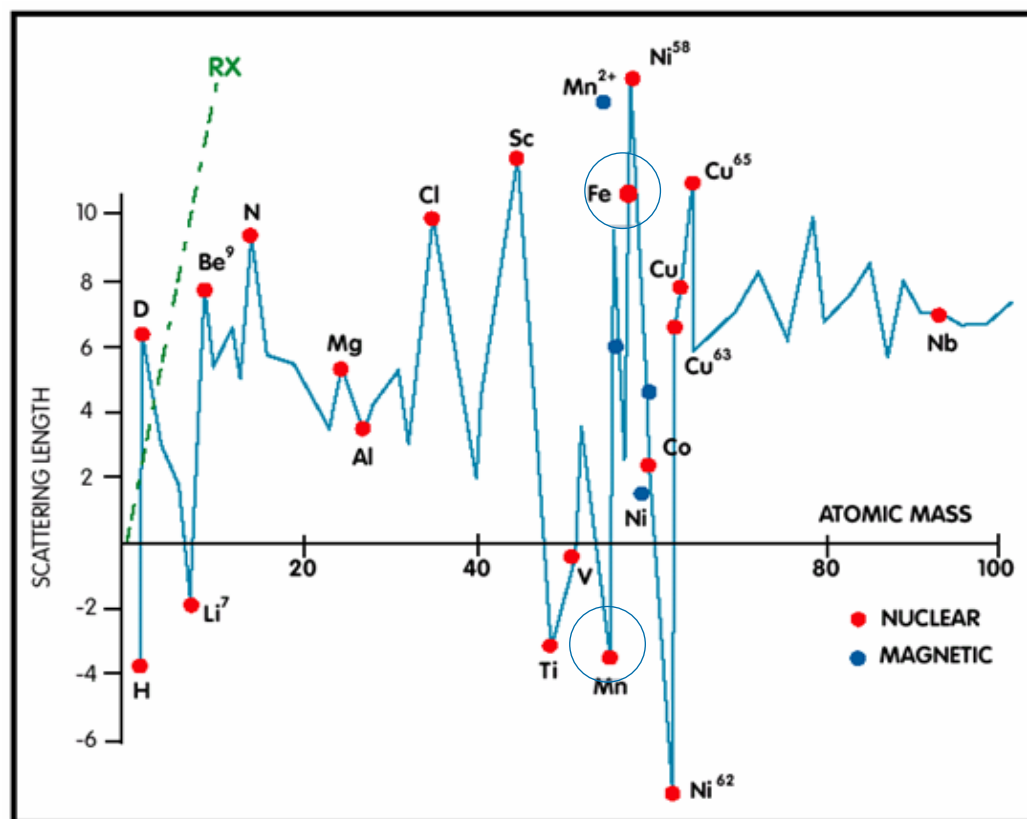
1. Have the right (tunable) wavelength



Neutrons as a Probe of Atomic and Nanoscale Structures

2. Scatter from the nucleus

- See light atoms next to heavy ones
- Distinguish neighbouring atoms in periodic table

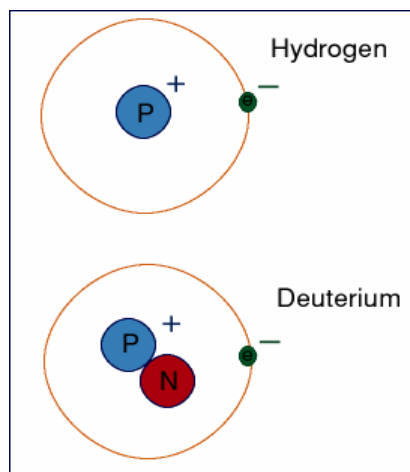


chromium 24 Cr 52.00	manganese 25 Mn 54.94	iron 26 Fe 55.85	cobalt 27 Co 58.93
molybdenum 42 Mo 95.94	technetium 43 Tc 98.00	ruthenium 44 Ru 101.07	rhodium 45 Rh 102.91

Neutrons as a Probe of Atomic and Nanoscale Structures

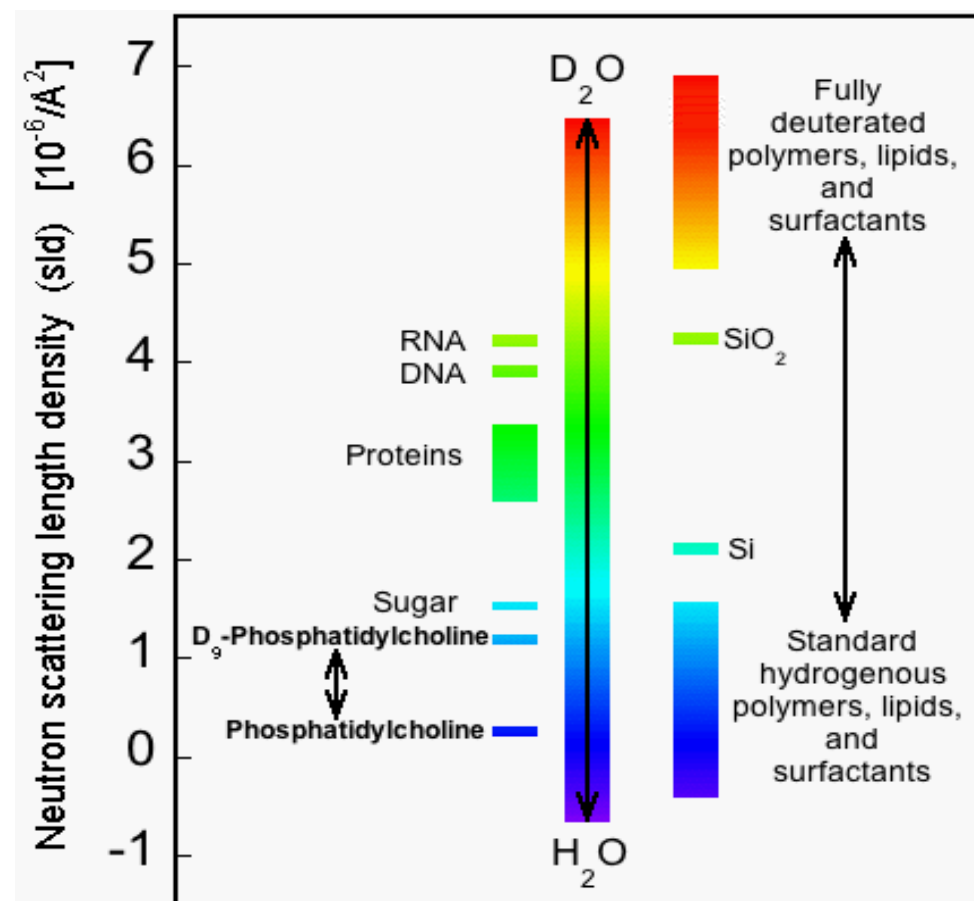
3. Scatter from the nucleus: isotopic sensitivity

- isotopic sensitivity - contrast between **H** and **D**



Scattering Length / (10^{-12} cm)

	n	X-ray
H	-0.374	0.28
D	0.667	0.28



Biological and Chemical Deuteration

- ANSTO's National Deuteration Facility
 - User Provide access to specialised laboratory space, equipment, and expertise for deuteration
 - Merit access via proposal

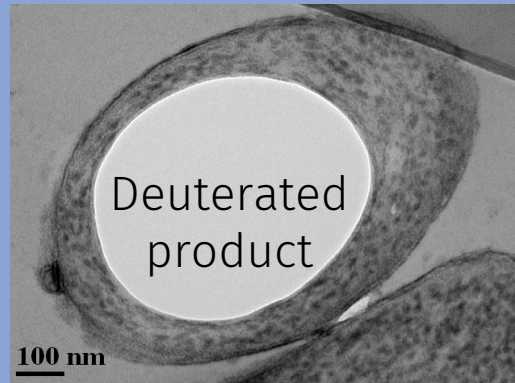
NCRIS
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

Chemical synthesis in D₂O



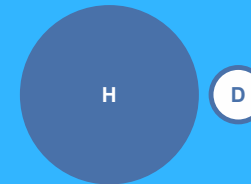
Chemical Deuteration

Growing bacteria in D₂O

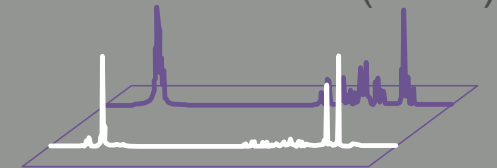


Biological Deuteration

Neutrons



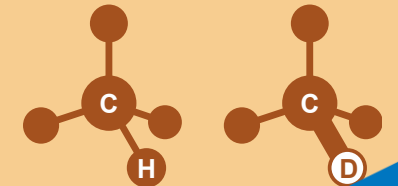
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)



Infra Red (IR)

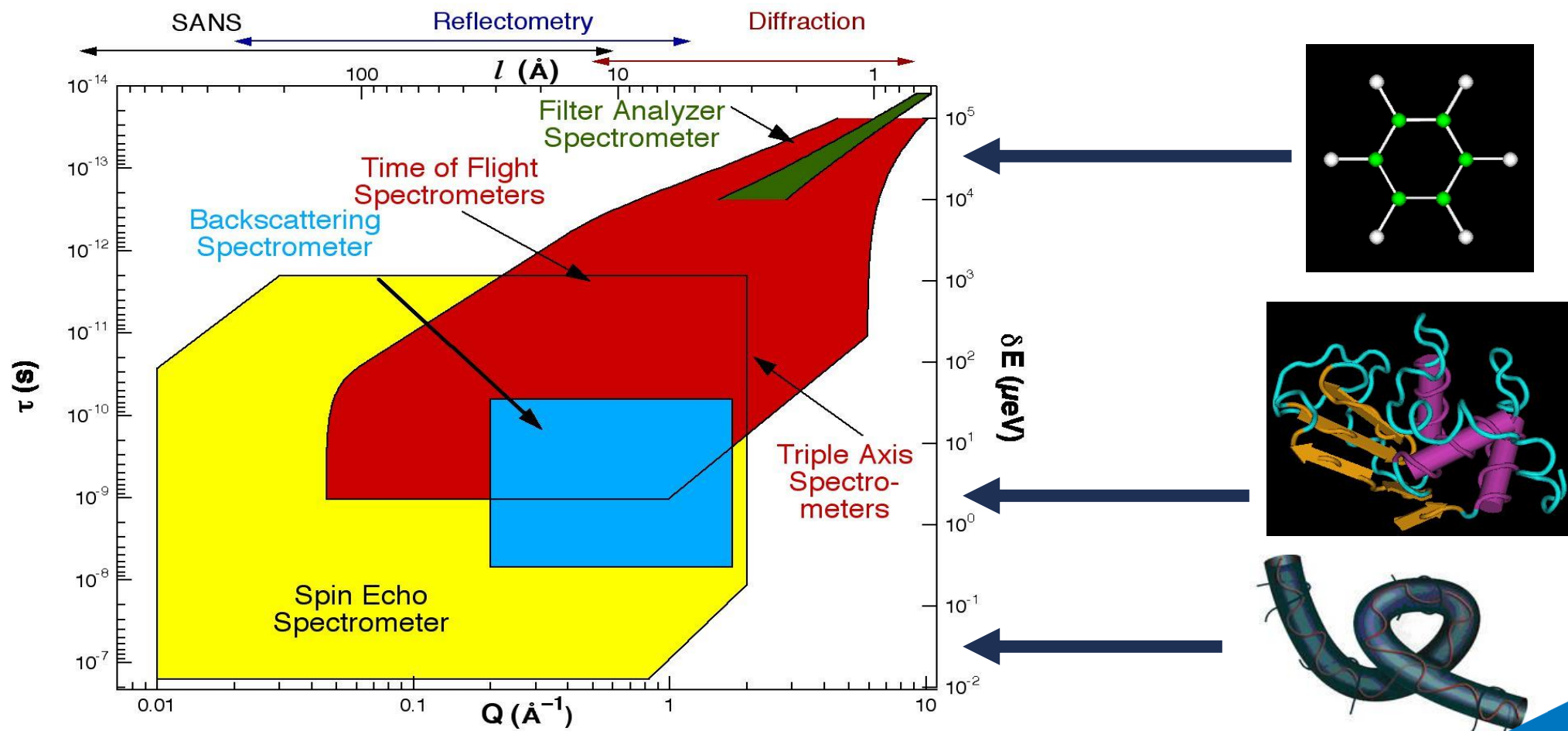


Kinetic Effect



Probe of Atomic and Nanoscale Structures

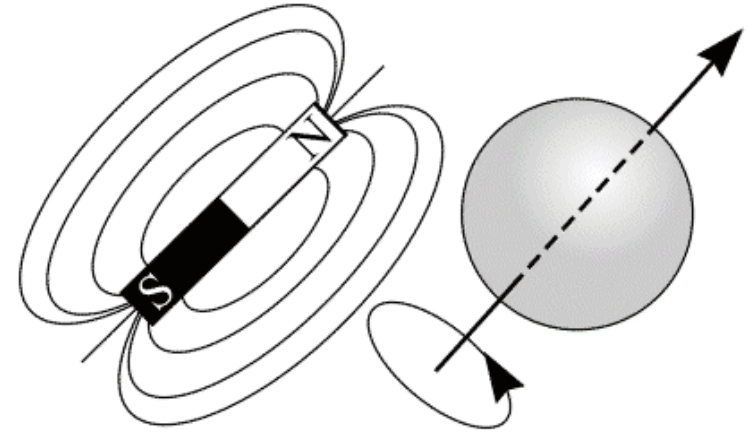
4. Energy comparable to atomic and molecular motion and dynamics



Probe of Atomic and Nanoscale Structures

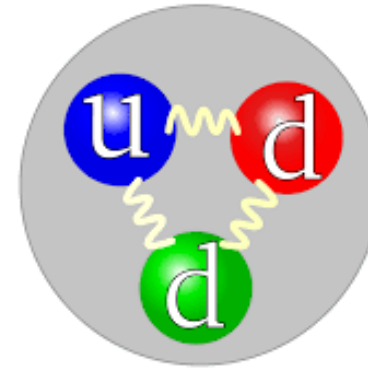
5. Penetrate deeply
6. Neutrons have a magnetic moment
7. Neutrons are Fermions with spin $\frac{1}{2}$

Study of magnetism at atomic level

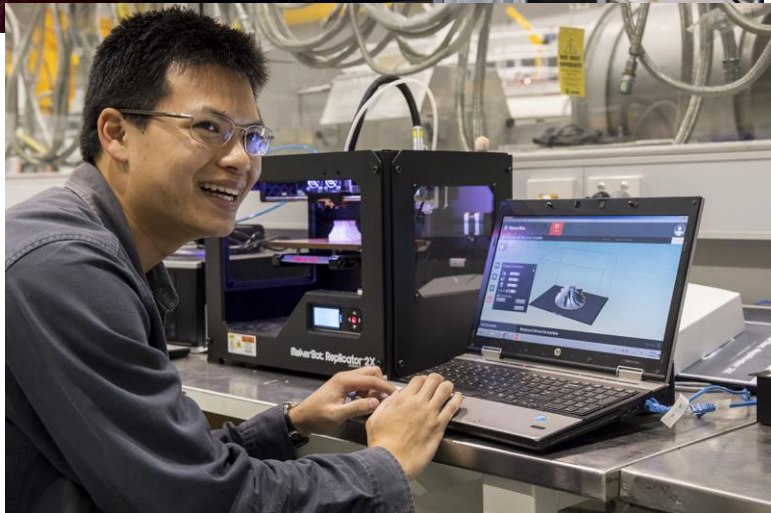
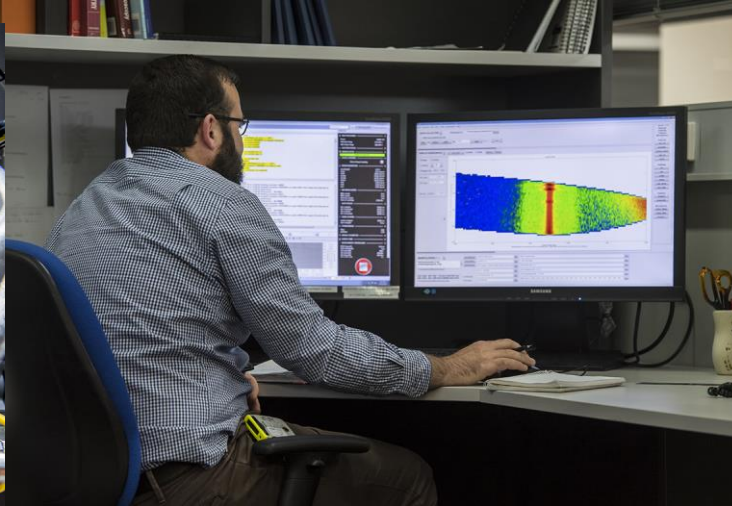
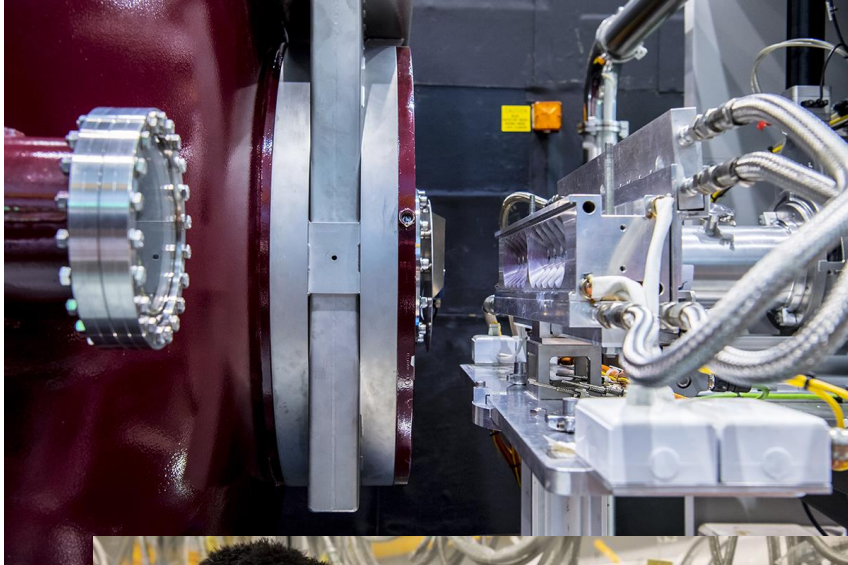


What is the relative size?

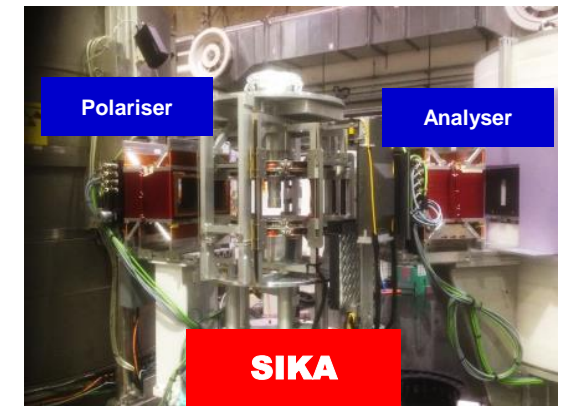
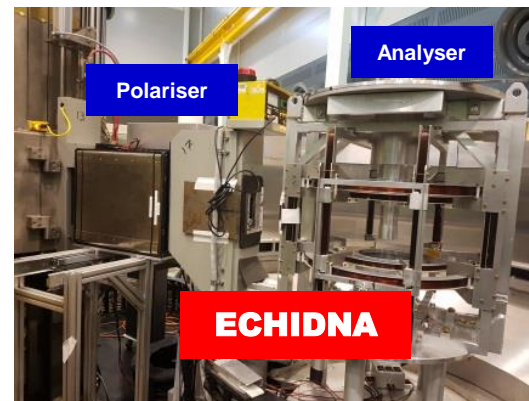
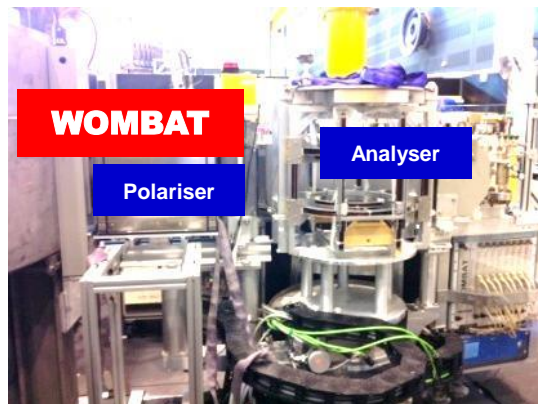
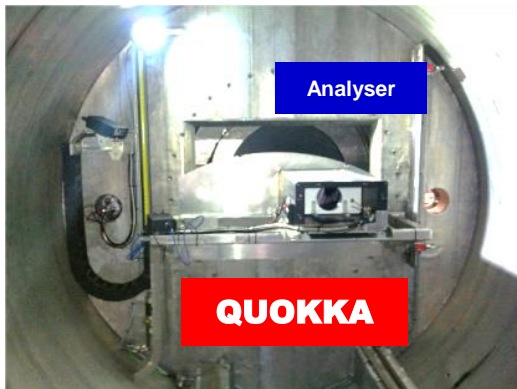
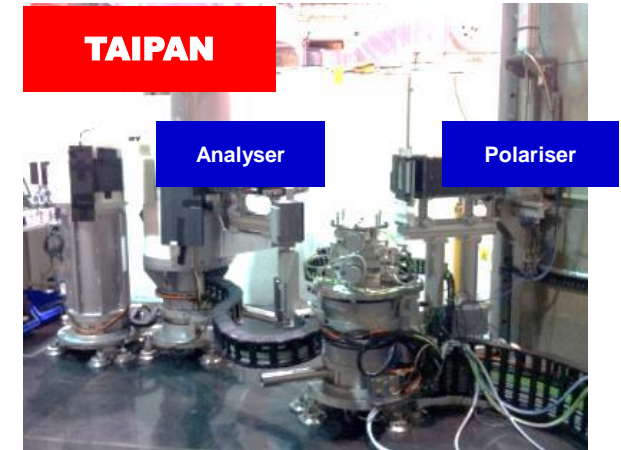
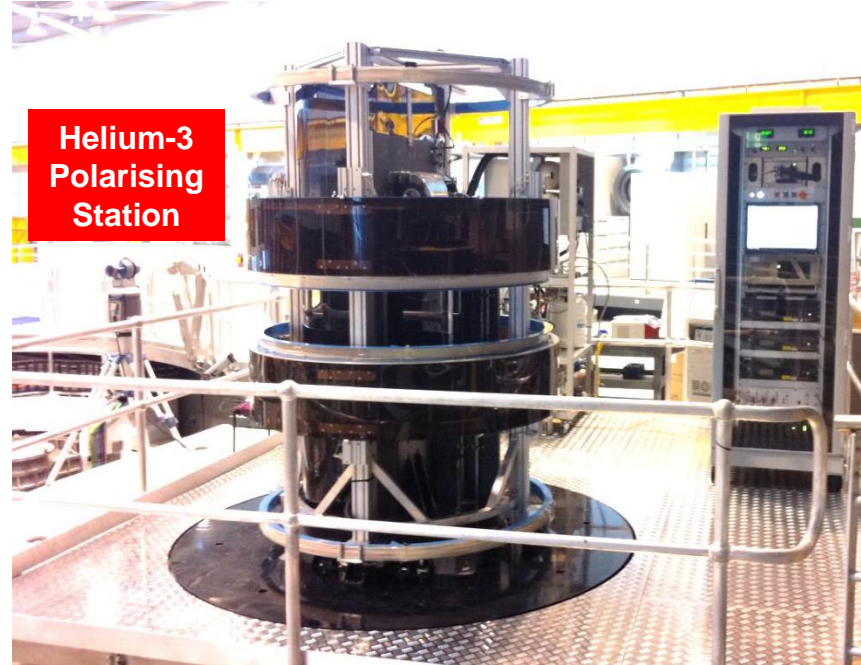
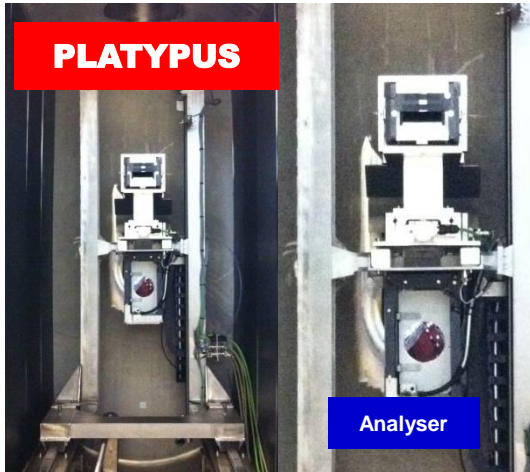
Proton	neutron	electron
• 1 amu	• 1 amu	• $\sim 1/1836$ amu
• AMU = atomic mass unit = 1/12 CARBON ATOM		
• (standard)		



Probe of Atomic and Nanoscale Structures



^3He Neutron Polarisation on 7 Instruments

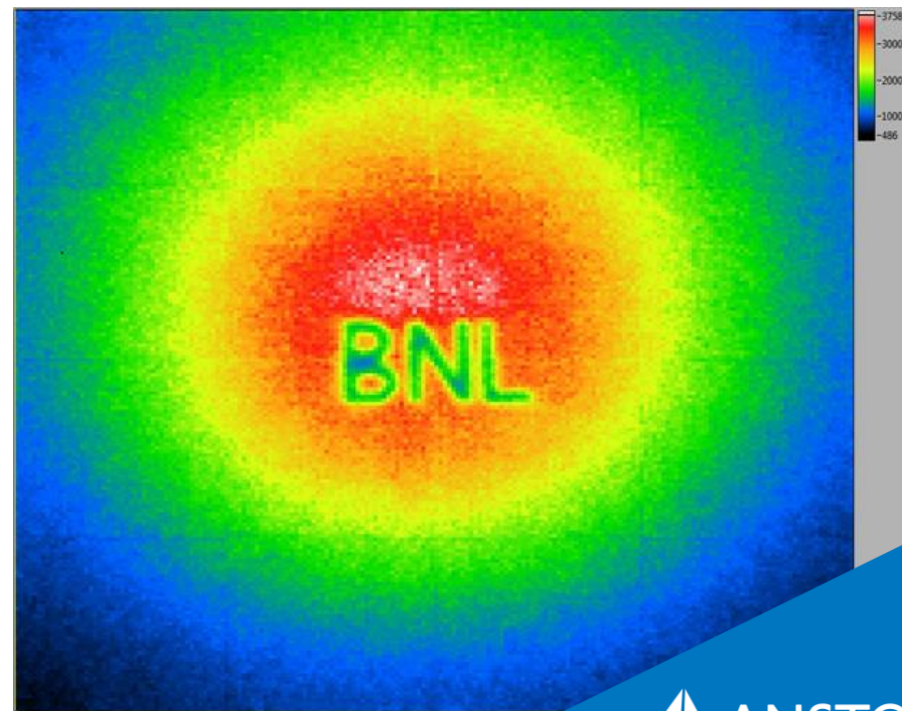
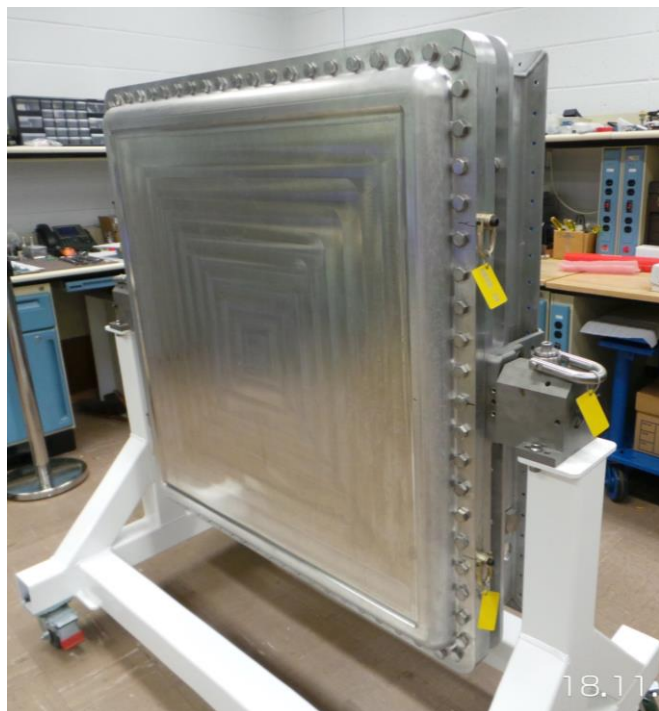
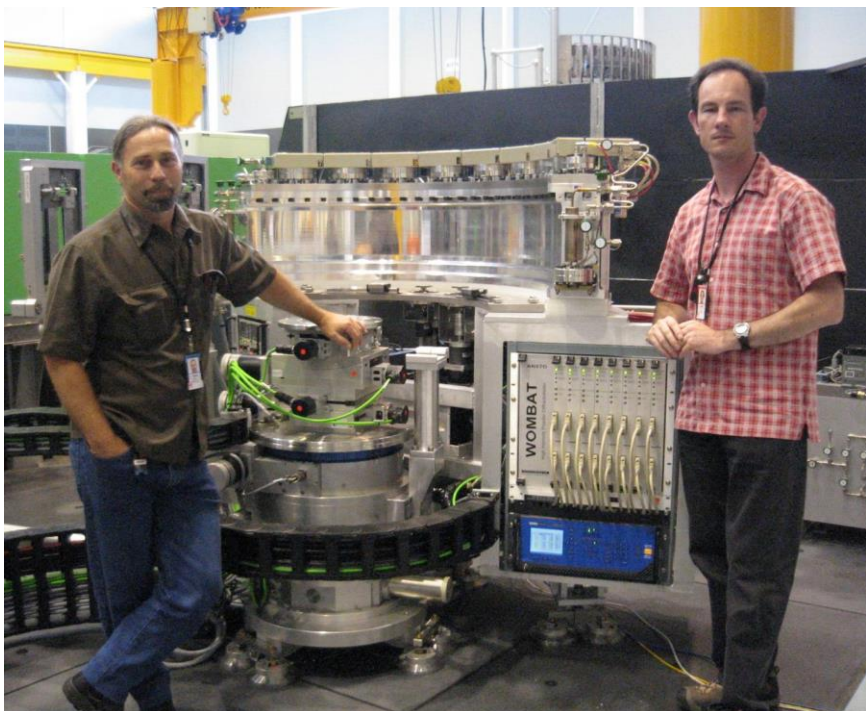


Wombat Detector

- 12 years reliable service & low maintenance cost

Quokka Detector

- High performance SANS detector
- 7k counts/second / pixel (upgradeable to 25k)
 - 250m counts/second / detector



SPATZ Neutron Reflectometer

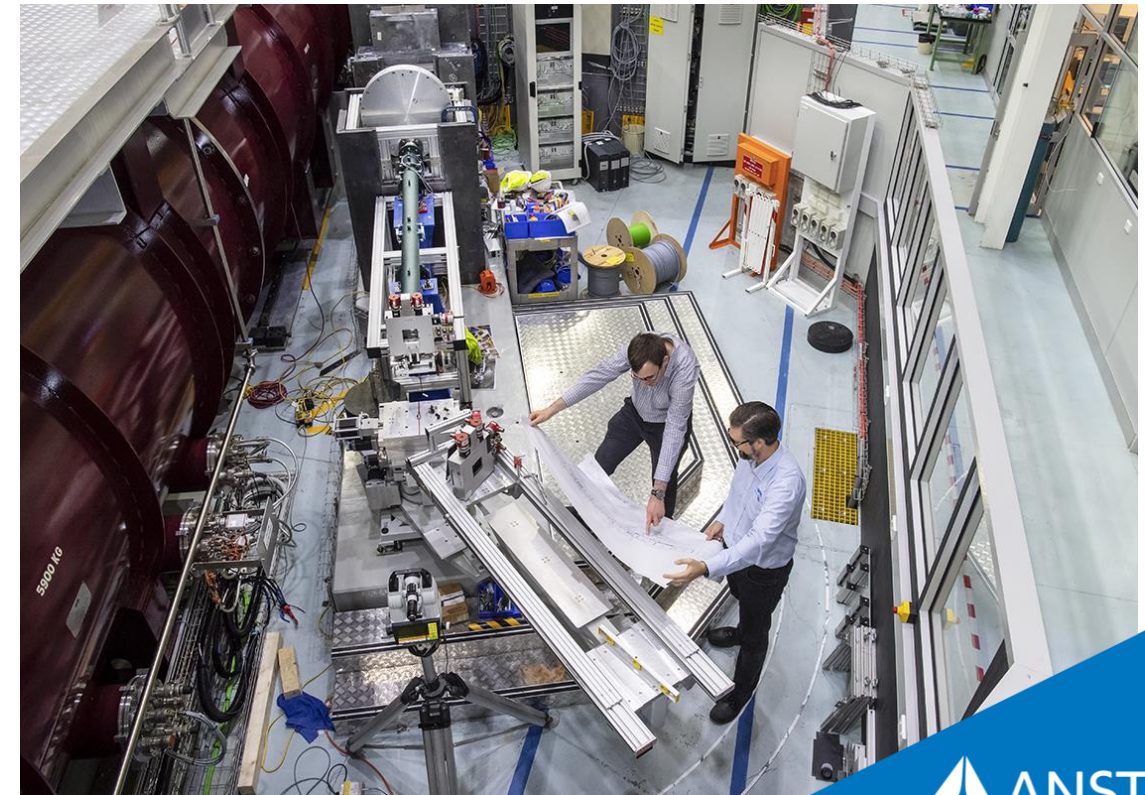
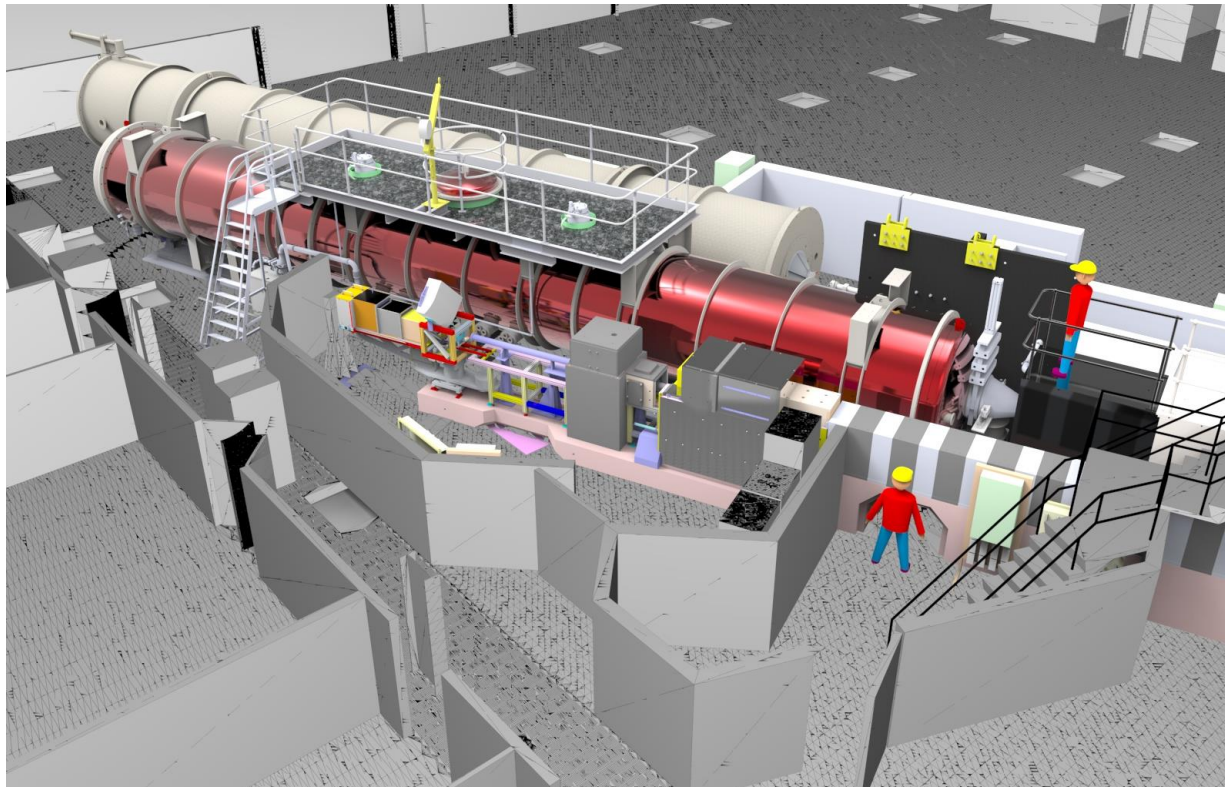


HZB Helmholtz
Zentrum Berlin



ANSTO

- BioRef Reflectometer transferred from HZB (BER-II reactor) to ANSTO in 2017
 - First neutrons in late 2018 & first users in early 2019



Access to ANSTO

1. Merit

Normal & Program (3 years) proposal rounds - 15th March & 15th September.

Mail-in for Powder Diffraction measurements on ECHIDNA

No charge but expectation to publish

2. User Pays

Sample preparation, experiment, analysis and reporting conducted by a team of specialist scientists

Timely access, minimal waiting period

IP conditions that support commercial use

3. Discretionary

High impact science, Measurements critical to students thesis or to complete a publication

Continuously open round

No charge but expectation to publish

Proposal Process

- Preparation
- Submission (Proposal Deadlines: 15 Sep, 15 Mar)
- Review – online through Web portal
 - Scientific – national & international experts
 - **Technical & Safety Review** – instrument scientists, sample environment manager, laboratory manager
 - Program Advisory Committee (PAC)

Proposal Process

- Approval
 - ACNS Director approves PAC recommendation & makes adjustments if required (may balance for institutional commitments)
- Scheduling
 - user office & instrument scientists
- Completion
 - **customer feedback requested**
- Reporting
 - brief scientific report
 - publications

Access Policy

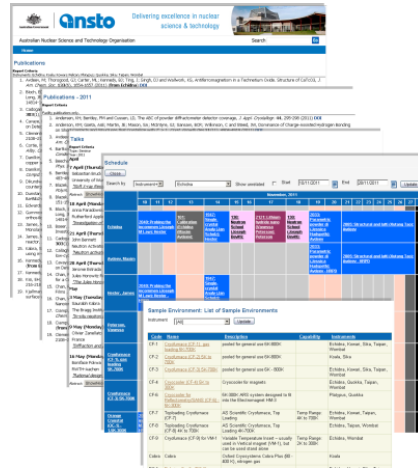
- Principal Investigator agrees to principles of non-proprietary research and takes responsibility for their team
 - Non-proprietary research (no IP)
 - Publish in open literature
 - Acknowledgment of ANSTO on publication:
 - Service – standard assistance with experiment up to and including data reduction
 - Collaboration – special sample environment/experiment, assistance with data analysis, writing papers

Access Policy

- Data policy
- Each Researcher completes a Guest Researcher agreement upon arrival
 - Safety
 - Security
 - Confidentiality
 - Has Medical Insurance/Cover (international users)

Integrated User Portal & Infrastructure

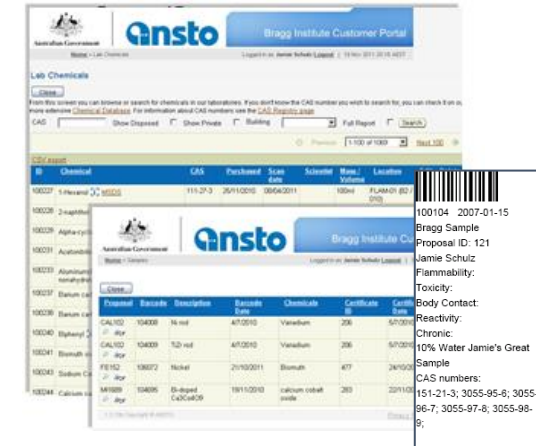
Dynamic Web Pages



User Portal



Sample management



Facility Status Monitor



Publications



Instrument Schedules



Scholarships & Awards

- AINSE Honours Scholarships
 - Students are eligible if they are either undertaking work at ANSTO or processing prior data
 - Students receive a \$5,000 stipend
- AINSE Post Graduate Research Awards
 - Students must have an Australian Postgraduate award or equivalent
 - Students receive:
 - \$7,500 stipend per year
 - 2 return flights and up to four weeks accommodation at ANSTO
- <https://grants.ainse.edu.au/>



Thank you.

