

Email: ALBA phase-III workshop

Subject >>> **ALBA phase-III workshop: Thursday-10th-April-2014**

Dear ALBA users / Dear AUSE colleagues:

Introduction:

1. ALBA phase-I consists of seven beamlines currently in operation. Two projects, reaching their final stage, will complete this phase: I) the MARES scattering end station on BL29-BOREAS; and II) the CLEAR spectrometer on BL22-CLAESS.
2. Two additional beamlines were approved in 2009, pending budget allocation: MIRAS (infrared microspectroscopy) and LOREA (angle-resolved electron photoemission). I) With the collaboration of Paul Dumas and his team at SOLEIL, preliminary studies have been done in 2013 allowing to start the design and construction of MIRAS in January 2014. II) There are good prospects to start soon with the design and construction of LOREA. It is planned to undertake the funding of these two beamlines by combining ALBA internal resources and 2014-2020 structural funds.
3. During the AUSE/ALBA user meeting held in September 2013 the procedure for elaborating the scientific cases and selecting the phase-III beamlines was established. The first step was making a survey among synchrotron radiation users to reflect the community interests. This was opened thereafter and the results may be consulted at <https://www.cells.es/NewsAndEvents/News/DOC-UsersSurveyResults>. The second step was organizing a workshop to launch the elaboration of scientific cases for future new beamlines.
4. In what follows potential new beamlines for phase-III are listed, as identified in the ALBA strategic plan and in the user survey (given in alphabetical order): I) “Chiral circular dichroism BL”; II) “Energy and polarization-dependent scattering BL”; III) “High-energy imaging and diffraction BL”; IV) “Microcrystal diffraction BL (macromolecules and medium size molecules)”; V) “Powder diffraction and absorption BL”; VI) “Sub-micron beam X-ray absorption spectroscopy BL”; VII) “Surface-interface diffraction BL”. Other beamline proposals could be: beamline devoted to Cultural Heritage, beamline for medical applications (imaging and therapy), etc.

Call:

Users interested in making ALBA phase-III beamline proposals are invited to a one-day meeting to take place at the ALBA synchrotron on **Thursday 10th April 2014**. The detailed agenda is yet to be done but a tentative duration from 09:00 to 18:00 is anticipated. It is expected that the user communities giving support to the different beamlines will self-organize and obtain a proper representation for each proposal, which could be of the order of six researchers, covering the most important fields. For financial reasons ALBA will only contribute to funding of traveling and accommodation for one person per proposal, although each proposing group is welcome to be present with a wider representation.

This call applies to the aforementioned potential beamlines, as well as to any other proposal which may be submitted to ALBA, through its Scientific Director, during the months of February and March 2014.

Workshop:

For each phase-III beamline proposal a presentation is expected including: I) Person or group of at most three persons, who would lead the proposal in case it was pre-selected; II) User groups supporting the proposal; III) Preliminary brief scientific case; IV) Connection between the scientific case and the priority lines of Horizon 2020; V) Possible synergies with the techniques and human resources currently available at ALBA; VI) Possible returns of the beamline investment to society (commercial use, regional development, ...); VII) Any other relevant features.

Presentations shall be done by the person (or team) leading the proposal and will be available to ALBA for further analysis.

Expected outcome of the meeting:

With the aim of doing a rational and efficient use of the resources from both the scientific community and ALBA, ALBA will do a pre-selection of four to six proposals for ALBA phase-III beamlines in April 2014, based essentially on scientific interest, technical feasibility, funding possibilities and user community support as main criteria. These beamlines shall have clearly identified coordinators for the elaboration of the scientific case. ALBA will nominate a correspondent for each of them, in order to help in the technical project and preliminary budget.

The proposals which are not pre-selected may still go ahead in the process and submit a project, which would also be evaluated by SAC (Scientific Advisory Committee). In these cases ALBA could incidentally give some help in the elaboration of the proposals, but would not designate a dedicated correspondent.

Although making predictions on the level of funding which can be attained is premature, ALBA has the objective of proposing to its governing bodies a set of two to three phase-III beamlines for eventual approval.

Subsequent actions:

Once the pre-selected proposals are known, the scientific-technical projects and associated budgets shall be elaborated. This document, a full ALBA phase-III beamline proposal, shall be submitted in electronic format to the ALBA SAC in October 2014.

Beamline proposals shall be presented and defended before the ALBA SAC on its meeting to be held in November 2014.

The ALBA SAC shall make a prioritized and justified recommendation for approval of ALBA phase-III beamlines.

I remain available for any clarification you may need.

Thanking you for your collaboration and confidence in ALBA,

Truly yours

Miguel Ángel García Aranda (g.aranda@cells.es)

ALBA Scientific Director, on behalf of ALBA Director