

SPring-8 Users Office

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1. Activities

The Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute(JASRI) was designated by the Japanese Government in October of 1995 as the "Organization for Synchrotron Radiation Research and Promotion." The major promotional functions for the activities of the institute are to solicit and select research proposals, and to support the users by providing necessary information and technical assistance.

The SPring-8 Users Office was established on April 1, 1996 to be responsible for some of JASRI's activities as a clearinghouse especially for the SPring-8 users. The major purpose of the Users Office is to develop an operational system in such a manner that the SPring-8 is open to users throughout the world, and to make the facility easy to use in terms of its applications and operations. Specific responsibilities of the Users Office are to:

- (1) act as the clearinghouse of JASRI for its users in terms of the procedures for facility use, and to provide facility information.
- (2) act as the administrative office of several JASRI committees responsible for soliciting and selecting research proposals, and to prepare the facility user manuals.
- (3) assist researchers or research organizations in the use of the SPring-8 facilities.
- (4) manage experimental results, research accomplishments, and intellectual properties that are generated as the result of cooperative research.

Among these responsibilities, item (1) is especially important since the Users Office is the first contact for the researchers wanting to use the SPring-8. The Office handles all procedural matters covering the entire span of the research project starting in the research proposal solicitations to the completion of experiments. This is done by providing assistance to the researchers wanting to use the facilities in preparing the necessary paperwork, and by introducing SPring-8

researchers/technicians who can consult on the technical matters, and by offering information related to accommodations during the users' stay. The Office provides specific and detailed information as much as possible so that the users will be able to conduct their experiments without worry in a comfortable environment.

At the moment the Users Office has been preparing the user acceptance system that will be needed for the opening of the public use for the beamlines. The Office recently published the "SPring-8 User Guide" and "SPring-8 Beamline Handbook" to serve as the users' manuals. The "SPring-8 User Guide" summarizes all necessary information, from the request for the application for beam time proposal to the completion of experiments. The "SPring-8 Beamline Handbook" gives a summary of the information regarding the experimental facilities, the specifications, performance, and technical information on all beamlines. Under the current plan, the User Guide and Beamline Handbook will be revised and their English versions will be published by October of 1997 when the utilization of the public beamlines will start. The Users Office also will mail bimonthly publications entitled "SPring-8 User Information" to provide the latest information on SPring-8 to the users.

2. Application Status for Beam Time Proposals

From October of last year through January 10 of this year, JASRI solicited proposals for the use of the first 10 public beamlines, which are being constructed as cooperative research facilities open to the users both inside and outside of Japan. These solicitations were designed for the applicants to identify the subject of prototypical research to be

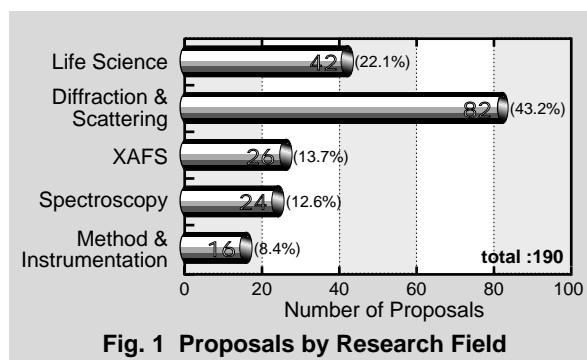


Fig. 1 Proposals by Research Field

conducted for 6 months starting in October of 1997. The Office received a total of 190 applications, among which 185 were from Japanese researchers while 5 were from overseas with Japanese liaison persons.

Figure 1 depicts the research proposals in terms of the desired research areas for consideration. There was a predominantly large number of applications wanting to conduct research in the areas of diffraction and scattering as indicated by 82 proposals (43.2%). Figure 2 depicts the number of proposals and beam time requested in terms of the different beamlines. There was a predominantly large number of applicants wanting to use the beamlines designed for crystal structure analysis and bio-crystallography. Equally significant was a very small number of applications for the use of beamlines designed for research in high energy inelastic scattering and soft X-ray photochemistry beamlines. Table 1 and Figure 3 depict the number of Japanese proposals with respect to the researchers' organizations and regions. A predominant number of proposals came from university researchers, or 158 cases (85.4%). Only 11 proposals came from companies (5.9%). As far as the regional distribution of the proposals was concerned, most came from the Kinki area, an area close to SPring-8. This was followed by the Kanto area where there are many universities and research institutions.

All proposed applications will be reviewed by the Proposal Review Committee

consisting of experts both inside and outside of JASRI. The applicants will be notified of the results of this review sometime around April.

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Type of Organization	Number of Organization	Number of Organization (%)
University(national)	121	(65.4)
University(public)	16	(8.7)
University(private)	21	(11.4)
National Research Institution . . .	8	(4.3)
Public Research Institution	1	(0.5)
Special corporation	5	(2.7)
Public-service corporation	2	(1.1)
Company	11	(5.9)
	University : 158	(85.4%)
	Research Institution : 16	(8.7%)
	Company: 11	(5.9%)

Table 1 Proposals by Type of Organization
(domestic : 185)

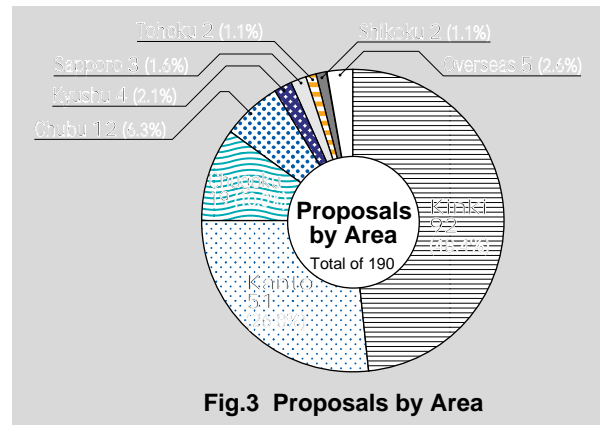


Fig.3 Proposals by Area

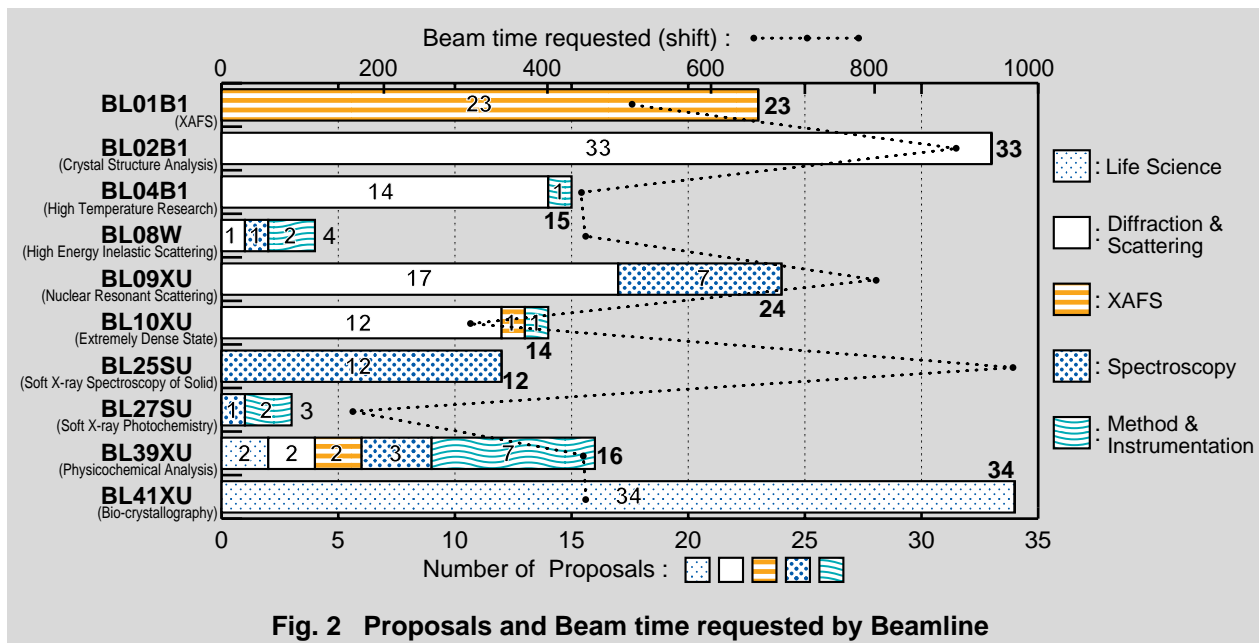


Fig. 2 Proposals and Beam time requested by Beamline