

CREDO – Terms of Access

22th. June 2016.

Introduction

The small-angle X-ray scattering facility CREDO is operated and managed by the Research Group of Biological Nanochemistry, part of the Institute of Materials and Environmental Chemistry, Research Centre of Natural Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (in the following: RGBNC). External users can gain access to the infrastructure for performing measurements only through the beamtime application system described in this document.

Requirements for application

Anyone can apply for beamtime at CREDO, from research institutions, universities or industrial corporations, from Hungary and abroad as well. In order to apply, the applicant (Proposer in the following) must first register on the homepage of the instrument (<http://credo.ttk.mta.hu>) and fill out and submit the on-line Beamline Application Form. By submitting the form, the Proposer agrees to the terms of this document.

Components of the proposal

Each beamtime proposal must contain the main data of the Proposer (name, workplace, e-mail address, phone number). The Proposer must state the scientific problem (s)he would like to address with small-angle scattering. The scientific background and importance of the problem must also be elaborated. Samples and materials planned to be used at the experiments must be explicitly declared, as well as all risks and security concerns the planned experiments might pose to the infrastructure or to human health. The Proposer is responsible for obtaining all required licenses and permissions for the measurements (e.g. for biological experiments).

Accepting the proposals

A scientific committee is responsible to evaluate the submitted proposals. The main criteria are the feasibility of the planned experiments and the importance of the problem. If the proposal meets all the criteria, it is accepted.

Allotted beamtime

Beamtime can be requested in one day units. Each day consists of 8 hours of personal work and 18 hours of automated (overnight) measurement.

Pricing

The RGBNC is not in the state to provide measurement times at its facilities for free. The amount and way (financial, in kind, etc.) of compensation for the measurements should be agreed upon between the

Proposer and the RGBNC before commencing the measurements. The compensation for academic measurement times is typically lower, and various forms can be agreed upon: financial, in kind, co-authored publication, joint grant applications, etc. Industrial measurement times are always compensated in finance.

Types of external access

External users may access the instrument in two ways:

Academic / non-profit

This type of access is strictly for non-profit, scientific problems. The results of the measurements should be eventually open to the general scientific public, e.g. in the form of a published journal article in a peer-reviewed international journal. If this way is chosen, the RGBNC is entitled to share the experimental results and their first interpretation with third parties, without the written consent of the Proposer, but not sooner than 6 months after the end of the experiments.

Industrial / for-profit

If industrial or professional secrets are involved, the Proposer may opt for an Industrial beamtime. All rights for intellectual property remain with the Proposer: neither the results, nor their interpretation can be shared by the RGBNC to third parties without the express written consent of the Proposer. The compensation in this case is always monetary. However, the raw scattering data is the property of the RGBNC, and it is entitled to use it for in-house purposes (e.g. instrument validation, quality assessment, infrastructure improvements etc.), without infringing upon the intellectual rights of the Proposer (e.g. the composition of the samples, the scientific background, the conclusions drawn from the measurements).

Declarations

By submitting a proposal, the Proposer declares that

- (s)he and all other participants at the measurements will fully adhere to the local safety regulations at the infrastructure. (S)he also understands that experiments cannot be commenced or continued before obtaining briefing and permission from the local representative of the RGBNC. The representatives of the RGBNC have the right to suspend the experiments if they deem the experiments hazardous in any way.
- all materials and samples have been declared in the proposal, as well as all the hazards and risks these or the experiment might pose to property or health.
- (s)he fully understands and accepts the terms in this document.
- (s)he is open for further discussion pertaining to the planned measurements, including the disclosure of information needed for the successful execution of the measurements to RGBNC.

The RGBNC declares that

- it will handle the information in the submitted proposal at full discretion, i.e. apart from the

review committee, these will not be handed over to third parties for any reason.

- it will do everything in its power to make the instrument perform at its best during the measurement time.

Neither the Proposer, nor the RGBNC is bound to actually perform the experiments if the proposal is not accepted, or no agreement can be reached (e.g. on the compensation or the exact date of the beamtime). The Proposer is entitled to revoke her/his application before commencing the measurement. In this case all intellectual property remains with the Proposer.

Validity

This document is valid starting on the date of its announcement. An up to date version of this document is always found at the homepage of the instrument. Each version of this document is valid only for proposals submitted after its announcement and before the announcement of the next version.