

Prague Hosted the 5th European Conference on Neutron Scattering – ECNS 2011



Kurt Clausen, Miriam Förster and Helmut Schober socializing at the NMI3 booth.

From Europe and beyond

ECNS 2011 started on Monday, July 18, 2011 with greeting messages from ENSA chairman Michael Steiner, and ECNS chairmen Petr Lukas (Nuclear Physics Institute ASCR) and Vladimír Sechovsky (Charles University, Prague). With 625 participants from 40 different countries (including 145 students), 200 talks and over 500 posters presented, ECNS 2011 showed once again the strength and cohesion of the European and international neutron communities. ECNS might be a European conference, but the presence of the international community was strong, with participants from various African and Asian countries, the USA and Australia.

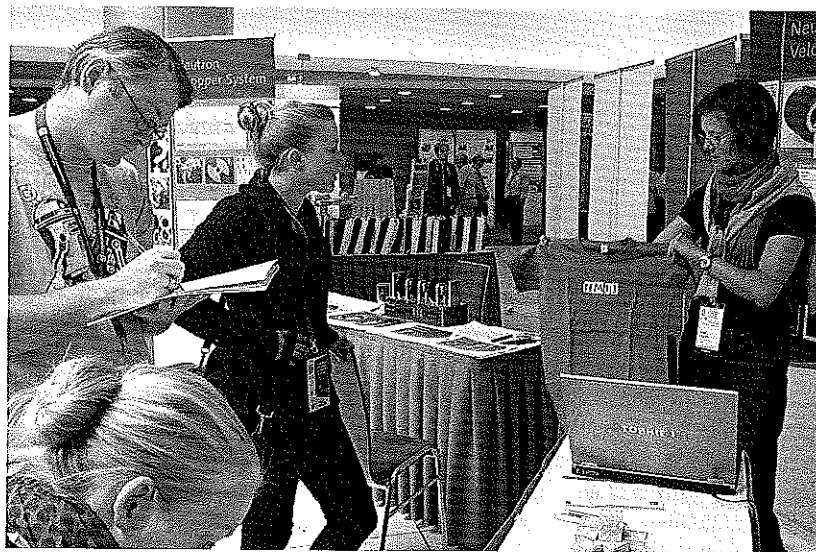
To prove the point, Goetz Eckold, chairman of the German Neutron Committee (KFN) opened the first plenary session by inviting Masatoshi Arai from J-PARC to the chair, with a nice welcoming message: “We would like to send a message of solidarity from Europe to Japan.”

Masatoshi Arai gave a brief update on the situation at J-PARC, the Japanese spallation neutron facility, which suffered from the Great East earthquake followed by a tsunami that hit Japan on 11th March 2011. (see also 22.3 Editorial and 22.4). Masa Arai thanked

the European facilities that have welcomed Japanese users unable to carry out their research at J-PARC. Everyone agreed with ILL director Andrew Harrison who stated in his closing talk that “The fact that [J-PARC] is getting back into business by the end of this year or early next year is an amazing accomplishment. We all salute Masa Arai and his colleagues for that.”

Plenary sessions and talks presented the current hot topics in neutron research

The plenary sessions and talks at ECNS 2011 presented some of the current hot topics in neutron research. The first day of the conference started with an overview of neutron-related biological research at ILL, by Trevor Forsyth, who gave an update on the work of the recently created Partnership for Structural Biology. He was followed by Stephen Hayden (University of Bristol) who reviewed the most important contributions of neutron scattering to the study of superconductivity.



At the NMI3 booth.

Prague Hosted the 5th European Conference on Neutron Scattering – ECNS 2011



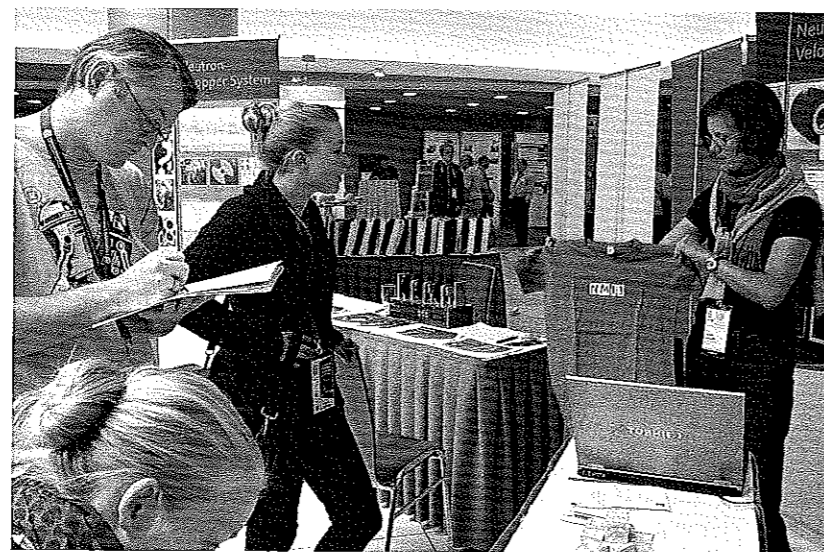
Kurt Clausen, Miriam Förster and Helmut Schober socializing at the NMI3 booth.

From Europe and beyond

ECNS 2011 started on Monday, July 18, 2011 with greeting messages from ENSA chairman Michael Steiner, and ECNS chairmen Petr Lukas (Nuclear Physics Institute ASCR) and Vladimir Sechovsky (Charles University, Prague). With 625 participants from 40 different countries (including 145 students), 200 talks and over 500 posters presented, ECNS 2011 showed once again the strength and cohesion of the European and international neutron communities. ECNS might be a European conference, but the presence of the international community was strong, with participants from various African and Asian countries, the USA and Australia.

To prove the point, Goetz Eckold, chairman of the German Neutron Committee (KFN) opened the first plenary session by inviting Masatoshi Arai from J-PARC to the chair, with a nice welcoming message: "We would like to send a message of solidarity from Europe to Japan."

Masatoshi Arai gave a brief update on the situation at J-PARC, the Japanese spallation neutron facility, which suffered from the Great East earthquake followed by a tsunami that hit Japan on 11th March 2011. (see also 22.3 Editorial and 22.4). Masa Arai thanked



At the NMI3 booth.

the European facilities that have welcomed Japanese users unable to carry out their research at J-PARC. Everyone agreed with ILL director Andrew Harrison who stated in his closing talk that "The fact that [J-PARC] is getting back into business by the end of this year or early next year is an amazing accomplishment. We all salute Masa Arai and his colleagues for that."

Plenary sessions and talks presented the current hot topics in neutron research

The plenary sessions and talks at ECNS 2011 presented some of the current hot topics in neutron research. The first day of the conference started with an overview of neutron-related biological research at ILL, by Trevor Forsyth, who gave an update on the work of the recently created Partnership for Structural Biology. He was followed by Stephen Hayden (University of Bristol) who reviewed the most important contributions of neutron scattering to the study of superconductivity.

The second day started with an update on the situation at ESS by Colin Carlile, and a talk by Steven Bramwell (University College London) describing his recent work on magnetic monopoles in spin ice. The highlight of day two was the award of the Walter Hälg prize to Gerry Lander for his many groundbreaking scientific achievements, mostly in the field of the magnetism of the actinides, and his outstanding contributions to the development of neutron sources (see also 22.4 Editorial).

Plenary sessions also included Eberhard Lehman's (PSI) overview of recent developments in neutron imaging for industrial and scientific applications, and Mark Daymond's (Queen's University, Canada) presentation of work on radiation-damaged materials for nuclear power applications. Regine Klitzing (TU Berlin) kicked off on day four with a talk about the development of thin polymer films for use as stimuli-responsive coating, and Herve Jobic (CNRS Lyon) presented an overview of his work on nanoporous materials.

On the fifth and last day of the conference the Fourth Erwin Félix Lewy-Bertaut Prize was awarded to Christian Rügg, currently at PSI, for his outstanding contributions to the science of low-dimensional quantum spin systems and

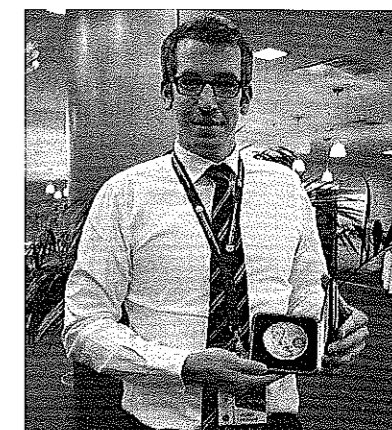
quantum phase transitions, notably for his neutron scattering studies of the spin-1/2 system ACuCl₃ (A=K, Ti, NH₄) and the discovery of Bose Condensation in such systems.

Posters and parallel sessions

The parallel sessions and posters covered all aspects of neutron research, from the spectroscopy of solids, superconductivity and biological structures and dynamics to low-dimensional magnetism, magnetic thin films, structures and excitations and membranes. There were also specific sessions about neutron sources, facilities and instruments, and overviews of technical developments in sample environment, neutron polarisers and detectors, engineering applications and imaging techniques.

Outside the talks: Exhibitor area and media workshop

Many European neutron facilities had booths in the exhibitor area of the Clarion Hotel where the conference took place. NMI3 but also PSI, ISIS, ILL and the German facilities all presented recent developments and activities with posters, leaflets and brochures, and NMI3 invited students to take part in a survey, with a chance to win colourful NMI3 T-shirts.



Christian Rügg with his prize.

Outside the talks, participants could also take part in the '90 minute media workshop' held by Martyn Bull, head of communications at ISIS and myself. During the workshop, we gave tips about how to describe one's research clearly and concisely (have you ever tried explaining what you do in a 60 word sentence?); which words to avoid when talking to non-specialist audiences (radiation, for example, why not call it energy instead?); and how to work with press officers to make sure press releases accurately report your research.

Dinner and closing talk

ECNS 2011 ended with the conference dinner, held in a beautiful venue with an amazing view over Prague, where everyone could relax and socialize.

In his closing talk, Andrew Harrison gave a brief overview of the topics presented during the conference and thanked the organizers for an "exceptionally well organised meeting." He praised the "incredible range of subjects" covered at the conference, and the fact that "the science at this meeting [was] closely connected with instrumentation and techniques." According to Harrison, "it's relatively recent that the instrumentation has been able to allow us to make measurements to corroborate theory" and this is only



The panel of chairmen and conference organizers.

Meeting Reports

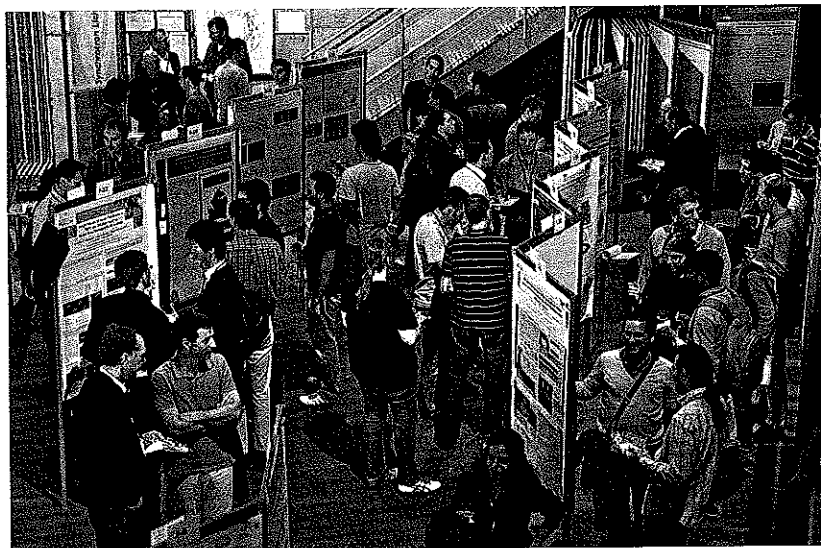
likely to increase and to be more present at future conferences. As is the issue of data handling— as the amount of data increases, the processing of this information is bound to become more

of a challenge. To conclude, Andrew Harrison presented the next ICNS, which will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2013; and Xavier Campos invited all participants to Zaragoza

(Saragossa) in Spain, for the 6th ECNS, in 2015.

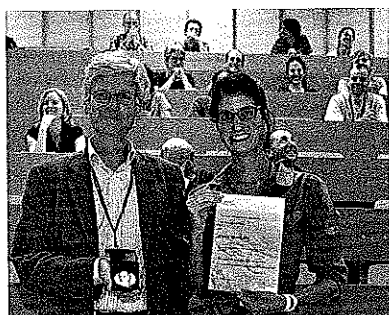
JULIETTE SAVIN
Information Manager, NMI3

The 2nd Joint User Meeting at PSI: JUM@P 2011



JUM@P 2011 – poster session.

On September 15 to 16, 2011, the Paul Scherrer Institute hosted the second Joint User Meeting of its



JUM@P 2011 – Elena Mengotti received the PSI Thesis Medal 2011 from the chairman of the evaluation committee J. Friso van der Veen.

large-scale facilities for muons, neutrons and synchrotron radiation, i.e. μS , SINO and SLS:JUM@P'11.

Our decision for a joint biannual meeting rather than organizing individual user meetings turned out to be well received. Bringing together the three user communities, we welcomed more than 200 participants at the 2011 PSI user meeting generating new synergies among the scientists driven by common scientific rather than technical or methodical interests. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the PSI Joint Users' Association JUSAP [1]. The first day of JUM@P'11 had a plenary session with various invited talks

presenting a mix of scientific highlights from the users as well as recent information about the facilities. On the second day, 7 parallel topical workshops covered a large variety of the scientific topics addressed by the users of PSI.

In total, we had 81 talks and 76 posters displayed in two sessions. One special highlight was definitely the award of the second PSI Thesis Medal to Elena Mengotti for her recently finished thesis entitled "The artificial kagome spin-ice system: from building blocks to emergent monopoles." The Thesis Medal is awarded every second year in the framework of the JUM@P meetings for an outstanding PhD thesis that contains substantial scientific results achieved at one or more of the large PSI user facilities, SLS, SINO and μS . Thanks to all our users and all the staff at PSI, who made the user meeting 2011 a success.

More information about the user meeting is available on the Web [2]. The next meeting of the JUM@P series is planned for 2013.

[1] <http://www.psi.ch/useroffice/users-association>

[2] <http://indico.psi.ch/event/jump11>

STEFAN JANSSEN
*Paul Scherrer Institut Villigen,
Switzerland*