

GSC Allocation of TRIUMF Infrastructure

Agreement of Understanding between
TRIUMF Director and NSERC GSC Chair
for Implementation Starting in FY1998

TRIUMF is the infrastructure centre for subatomic physics in Canada. However, the resources TRIUMF has available to support both onshore and offshore subatomic physics projects are limited, and should be managed in a scientifically responsible manner. In the past, this has been successfully achieved using informal means to allocate and manage TRIUMF infrastructure.

With the broader TRIUMF infrastructure role, this process may require more input at the peer review level than is currently possible. The following process is suggested to allow the NSERC subatomic physics Grant Selection Committee (GSC) a voice in how these resources are allocated.

- 1) Applicants who prepare a grant application to the GSC that involves the use of TRIUMF infrastructure must first informally consult with TRIUMF management to determine the infrastructure resources that would be required from TRIUMF. At this stage, TRIUMF is not committing resources to a proposed project. The applicants should identify in their application what TRIUMF resources would be required.
- 2) After NSERC has received grant applications for subatomic physics research, NSERC staff and the chair of the GSC will identify those applications that propose projects that require significant TRIUMF infrastructure resources. This is often in the form of design, engineering and fabrication of specific subdetectors. A list of these grant applications identifying the specific resources needed by the proposed project will be forwarded to the Director of TRIUMF by early December.
- 3) TRIUMF management will evaluate each proposed project on the basis of the amount of TRIUMF technical resources that would be required by the project during the expected lifetime of the project. Typically, this would include capital construction early in the lifespan of the project. TRIUMF will place the proposals into three categories:
 - a) Projects where the proposed TRIUMF infrastructure requirements can be met with little impact in overall resources. This category may include experiments where the infrastructure requirements are very modest, or where there is no contention for the resources.

b) Projects where TRIUMF anticipates some difficulty in meeting the project's infrastructure needs without significant prioritization of ongoing work, or work associated with other proposed projects. For these cases, TRIUMF should provide a description of the constraints and the possible compromises in schedule or deliverables that would have to be made.

c) Projects where TRIUMF has no capability to provide the requested infrastructure support, either because the required resources are already allocated or where TRIUMF does not have the technical expertise. Provided the first step is followed, this category should not be required.

4) TRIUMF will provide this analysis to the GSC at least two weeks prior to the GSC competition week. If necessary, the GSC will consult with TRIUMF during competition week in order to clarify the constraints on infrastructure.

With practice this four-step procedure should lead to a manageable scheme. We propose that it be put into practice in the grant competition for the 1998-98 fiscal year. It is reasonable to assume that step 1) has already occurred (since it is in accord with current practice) and that we would proceed immediately to step 2).