



Letter of intent for the European Network 'Mediators connecting Industry to X-rays and Neutrons'

Based on a mutual understanding amongst mediator companies using synchrotron and neutron facilities to provide analytical services for industry, this Letter of Intent describes the intention to further strengthen the mutual relations and collaboration and run joint activities in order to increase the visibility, impact, and competitiveness of mediator companies.

1. Binding nature

This letter is not intended to be and will not create any legally binding obligations on anyone. It is describing the intention of the parties mentioned below who wish to create a network with the following vision.

2. Vision for the Network

The European network 'Mediators connecting Industry to X-rays and Neutrons' aims to support its members in several ways.

We will:

- 1. Speak with one voice towards facilities and political stakeholders in order to increase visibility and awareness of value creation by mediators*
- 2. Reach new customers and collaborate on improved customer service by activating the complementary competences in the network*
- 3. Advocate for easier non-academic access and use of facilities*



3. What and How

The Network intends to meet one to four times a year and support the vision by a range of initiatives.

Recognition of value creation by mediators will be increased by activities such as collection of case stories and statistics, and communicating these to customer groups, large-scale facilities, and political stakeholders. This will in turn raise awareness of mediators as valuable collaboration partners in problem solving tasks and projects.

A webpage describing the network will be created, and representation at websites for relevant organizations, facilities and projects will be pursued.

The strengthening of relations within the network will enable a deeper mutual knowledge of the members' respective expertise and thereby allow for exchange of ideas as well as for collaboration in best covering customers' needs. The network can also collaborate in organizing events and workshops targeting specific customer groups.

Impact at synchrotron and neutron facilities will be sought by providing input directly to the facilities and through user organizations or other channels. A main goal will be to obtain improved conditions for the mediators' facility access, focusing on limiting bureaucracy and ensuring efficient interaction between facilities and mediators.

The activities will be initiated and evaluated at the network meetings.

4. Organization

The ambition of the partners is to form a formal network or association of European mediators.

Who can become members: All entities providing commercial analytical services and interacting with synchrotrons or neutron facilities can become members.

How is the network organized: Initially, the network will be organized as a consensus-based network without a formal decision process or network representative. However, with time more formalities might be required, and by then forming a board with formal statutes and a chairman is possible.

Volunteering members can be appointed to lead specific activities.

Funding: When a formal association is created, a modest membership fee may be invoked. Potential for obtaining public funding for running the network will be investigated.



5. Signatures

By their signatures, the following parties agree on the ideas of the Network described in this Letter of intent and pledge to work for the promotion of the Network 'Mediators connecting Industry to X-rays and Neutrons'.

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