

CONSORTIUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY

RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY, DATED 30th JUNE 2025, OPENING THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF THE RESEARCHERS' ACCESS TO THE INSTRUMENTATION OF THE ALBA SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY FOR THE REALIZATION OF PUBLIC RESEARCH PROJECTS

The access of researchers to the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory facility is a reflection of the vocation of service to the scientific community of the Consortium for the Construction, Equipment and Exploitation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory (hereinafter, "CELLS") that, in turn, allows the continuous development of a research activity based on synchrotron light.

In this context, the CELLS, as a technological scientific reference institution in this technique, wants to contribute actively at the research and the development of new sources of knowledge.

In agreement to the aforementioned, the Resolution dated 23rd January 2023 approved the regulatory rules of the scientist's access to the instrumentation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory of the CELLS, for the realization of public research projects, the usage of resources distribution between the different research projects and the determination of the financial support through the CELLS budget (hereinafter, "regulatory rules").

CELLS reserves rights to alter the "regulatory rules" in case CELLS operation will significantly be hampered due to pandemic conditions, war or other catastrophic events. In this case, the Director will issue and publish an addendum to the "regulatory rules" laying out the changes and reasoning for the changes.

The present Resolution opens the first call of the year 2026, to grant the access previously mentioned.

By virtue of the above-mentioned, it is resolved.

The binding legal version is the Spanish version.

Article 1. - Scope and access cycle

The present Resolution has the aim to approve the first call of the year 2026, granting the access of researchers from Spanish or foreign institutions, public or private, to the instrumentation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory of the CELLS, for the realization of public research projects, in the terms established in the regulatory rules.

The access cycle ("cycle 2026-I") of this call corresponds to the first semester of 2026, except for the experimental beamlines XALOC and XAIRA that corresponds to the whole year 2026. <https://www.cells.es/en/users/call-information>. Please be advise that the beamtime request for any of the two beamlines will be using the MX request option within the user portal. The allocation committee will allocate successful proposals at the most appropriate beamline.

The present call does not include private research projects, the research projects in which the results will not be subject to public dissemination, due to exploitation for commercial purposes.

Article 2. - Applicable regulations

Granting access to the instrumentation at the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory is governed by the established in the [regulatory rules](#).

Article 3. - Applicants and beneficiaries

Applicants and beneficiaries of the present call are the researchers associated with Spanish or foreign research institution, public or private, who are eligible according to Spanish law and who submit a scientific proposal, for the following instrumentation:

Instrumentation exploiting the Synchrotron light source:

- BL01: MIRAS
- BL04: MSPD
- BL06: XAIRA
- BL09: MISTRAL
- BL11: NCD-SWEET
- BL13: XALOC
- BL16: NOTOS
- BL20: LOREA
- BL22: CLAEISS
- BL24: CIRCE
- BL29: BOREAS
- BL31: FAXTOR

Other instrumentations:

- EM01: Cryo-TEM (Glacios 200kV)
- EM02: METCAM (Spectra 300kV)

Article 4. - Types of proposals

Researchers, potential beneficiaries of this call, will be able to submit scientific proposals of the **standard type** for all instruments listed in [article 3](#). **BAG** proposals can be submitted for the following instrument(s):

- BL06: XAIRA
- BL13: XALOC
- EM01: Cryo-TEM (Glacios 200kV)
- EM02: METCAM (Spectra 300kV)

Standard and BAG proposals are defined in [articles 4.1 and 4.2](#) of the regulatory rules.

Article 5. - Access proposal submission and documentation

Article 5.1 - Instrumentation exploiting the Synchrotron light source

Researchers must apply for their access to instrumentation exploiting the Synchrotron light source (as described in [article 3](#)) at the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory through the electronic ALBA User Office Portal: (<https://userofficesystem.cells.es/>).

Main proposer/s must fill in the electronic application form stating the names of each and all of the users performing the experiment in one of the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, the type of proposal submitted, under the terms indicated in [article 4](#), description of the experiment and in which beamline they want to perform the experiment, samples and their implications for health and safety and any other compulsory information (or additional one that researchers consider appropriate) indicated in the form.

Electronic applications, together with attached documentation, shall remain as a draft and may be edited until main proposer/s decide to submit it. It is recommended its final submission as far in advance as possible before the deadline provided for each call for proposals. After submitting the application, researchers receive a confirmation of receipt with the date of registration.

Article 5.2 - Other instrumentations.

Researchers must apply for their access to the other instrumentations as spelled out in [article 3](#) through the application form provided in (<https://userofficesystem.cells.es/>).

Main proposer/s must fill in the electronic application form stating the names of each and all of the users who will have access to the other instrumentation to perform the experiment, the type of proposal submitted, under the terms indicated in [article 4](#), description of the experiment and at which other instrumentation as listed in [article 3](#) they want to perform the experiment, samples and their implications for health and safety and all other compulsory information (or additional one that researchers consider appropriate) indicated in the form.

Electronic applications, together with attached documentation, shall remain as a draft and may be edited until main proposer/s decide to submit it. It is recommended its final submission as far in advance as possible before the deadline provided for each call for proposals. After submitting the application, researchers receive a confirmation of receipt with the date of registration.

Article 6. - Deadline and place for submission of applications

The period for the submission of electronic applications, together with attached documentation, will be **between 30th June and 8th September 2025 before 14:00 h (Spanish peninsular time)**. Any application received beyond the date and time set forth in this call will be considered out of time and, in consequence, will not be evaluated.

Article 7. - Health and Safety rules of the scientific proposals

It is the responsibility of the main proposer to identify and explain in detail in their scientific proposal any risk for people or things due to samples or equipment used within the facility of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory to carry out their experiment, as well as to specify safety measures to be applied. In this regard, together with the application, researchers must include documentation regarding the measures and equipment necessary for the completion of the experiment and the safety measures used.

Any failure in fulfilling this requirement may lead to a non-concession or cancellation of the beamtime for safety reasons.

The CELLS shall check these measures and reserves the right to deny access for safety reasons.

Article 8. - Criteria of technical selection and of scientific quality evaluation of the proposals

The technical and scientific review process including review criteria is laid out in the [regulatory rules](#):

Article 9. - Phases of the procedure for the granting of access to the instrumentation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory and competent bodies

The phases and the description of the procedure of access awarding at the instrumentation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, with its competent bodies, are detailed in the [articles 10 to 14](#) of the regulatory rules.

Article 10. - Personal data protection

Pursuant the personal data collected in each call, its treatment is subject to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and to the rest of applicable regulations. The data that will be requested will be the minimum necessary and will be supported by the legal basis (legitimacy) and purpose indicated in the calls; its treatment will be carried out in accordance with the specific procedures designed by the CELLS based on the analysis of risks and safety measures applicable to them, which are included in the corresponding Activity Register.

The person responsible for the processing of personal data is the Director of the CELLS and the Data Protection Officer. The owners of personal data may request access to them, as well as their rectification, deletion, portability and limitation or opposition to their treatment by means of a letter addressed to the Data Protection Officer through the electronic mail dpd@cells.es or, at the postal address Carrer de la Llum, 2-26. 08290, of Cerdanyola de Vallès, indicating "Ref. Data protection".

Article 11. - Data policy and storage of experiment data

The user accepts the CELLS data policy when applying for beamtime (this data policy can be downloaded with the regulatory rules and the call for proposals in ALBA User Office webpage).

https://www.cells.es/ca/recursos/pdfs/users/2023_03_06_data_policy_cells.pdf/@download/file

It is recommended that researchers transfer and store/archive their data within six months following the end of the experiment.

Article 12. - Financial support for proposals with access to the experimental instrumentation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory

When researchers submit their electronic proposal in agreement with articles 5 and 6 of the present call, their scientific proposals shall, if eligible, automatically enter the funding programme, without the need to submit additional application.

Scientific proposals that finally stay in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory shall be entitled for funding of their travel expenses and their stay, based on the rules defined in the articles 17 to 19 of the regulatory rules.

Also, based on the rules defined in the articles 17 to 19 of the regulatory rules, experiments in remote access, will be entitled for funding the transport of samples, submitting to the CELLS the corresponding bills or it will be managed through an enterprise with which the CELLS keeps an agreement.

Article 13. - Commitments undertaken by researchers who have been allocated beamtime

All researchers shall follow the following instructions:

- a) A quality questionnaire, through their account at the ALBA User Office Portal (<https://useroffice.cells.es>), evaluating technical, administrative, scientific and computing assistance received.
- b) A report on the performed experiment. These reports must be submitted within a maximum time limit of three (3) months after the corresponding experiment.
- c) The following sentence must be added, in the corresponding language, to section 'acknowledgements' of all publications resulting from data obtained in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory:

Catalan: *Aquests experiments han estat realitzats a la línia del Laboratori de Llum Sincrotró ALBA amb la col·laboració del seu personal ó Aquests experiments han estat realitzats al Joint Centre for Electron Microscopy at ALBA amb la col·laboració del seu personal.*

Spanish: *Estos experimentos se han realizado en la línea del Laboratorio de Luz Sincrotrón ALBA con la colaboración de su personal o Estos experimentos se han realizado en el Joint Centre for Electron Microscopy at ALBA con la colaboración de su personal.*

English: *These experiments were performed at the beamline of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Facility with the collaboration of ALBA staff or These experiments were performed at the Joint Centre for Electron Microscopy at ALBA with the collaboration of its staff.*

- d) All published papers relating to the data obtained in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory must be notified and entered through their account at the portal of the CELLS User Office.
- e) Researchers authorise the CELLS to publish their research topic. Additional documentation may be requested (such as images, graphics, presentations, etc.) in order to spread the results of the experiment in the different CELLS communication channels (annual report, newsletter, website, etc.).

- f) When this is so required, e.g. in cases of funding through European programmes, a signed satisfaction form must be submitted confirming that experiments have effectively been performed in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory.

Failure to comply with previous commitments may make it impossible to submit new scientific proposals for the access to the instrumentation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory for a period of three (3) years.

Article 14. - Appeals

An appeal for reversal may be lodged according to the process described in the regulatory rules against the present call for proposals and the administrative procedures governed by the same.

Caterina Biscari
Director

Cerdanyola del Vallès, 30th June 2025