STRATEGY PLAN 2021 -2024

COMPETITIVE OPEN ACCESS DURING 2017-2020

C. Biscari on behalf of ALBA team

9th March 2021

Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Empresa i Coneixement

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN

Table of contents

List of figures and tables

1. Availability of synchrotron light for open access at ALBA

ALBA is an electron accelerator that provides synchrotron light for experiments performed at our beamlines (essential facilities of the ICTS). For this purpose, ALBA operates during 24 hours in 4 to 5 week runs. The maintenance and development of the accelerators is performed between two consecutive runs and in longer shutdowns in August and December/January. During the last years, ALBA has optimized the operation schedule increasing the hours available for experiments. The following table 1 shows how the availability of hours for users ("BL" mode) has increased. The number of operational experimental lines has also increased from 7 to 8 in the same period. Currently, there 2 beamlines in commissioning to be opened for users in 2021 and 3 more under construction.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Operation (h)	4256	4908	5092	5728	5760	5912	5912	5888	4776
Beamtime for users (h)	3112	3539	3740	4320	4365	4632	4680	4680	3736

Table 1 - Operation hours and beamtime hours for users 2012-2020.

The hours of the "BL"-mode are dedicated to:

- ~ 13% in-house research,
- ~ 10% commissioning of the beamlines (on average, depending on the beamline),
- ~ 10% buffer (used for proprietary users or non-competitive access, Director's time, teaching or proposals in the waiting list of the competitive access if it is not used),
- At least 67% for (competitive) open access of users.

These numbers are comparable to the usual ones in Synchrotron RI's in Europe.

2020 was a very particular year for operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although operations had to be reduced from 14 March to 25 May 2020 to only essential COVID research (special fast access mode) and COVID-related proprietary beamtime, resulting in a 20,6% reduction of the yearly total amount of hours (3,736 hours instead of the originally scheduled 4,704), the vast majority of experiments could be conducted in the second semester. This was obtained by reprogramming using all available buffers. Also, since end of April some beamlines started to operate in remote mode (without on-site users; just sending the sample and allowing online connection to handle the instruments of the beamline). For ALBA, used to operate with on-site users, an extraordinary effort by the Computing Division and the User Support was necessary for extending this operation mode to a standard one. ALBA's effective answer to the singular situation is considered a great team success:

1. In 2020, **263 proposals were granted** with beamtime as competitive open access through the calls 2020-I and 2020-II.
2. **259 out of the 263 experiments were conducted in 2020** compacting the number of shifts and/or using them in mail-in and remote access mode.
3. In addition, **6 new proposals belonging to the new rapid call COVID-19 were granted and scheduled**.

4. In consequence, **265 experiments were scheduled despite the lock-down period**.

To our best knowledge, having been able to schedule more experiments than initially planned is exceptional among the European synchrotrons in 2020.

2. Calls for open access

During the period 2017-2020, ALBA has published, as planned, two annual competitive access calls offering experimental time on beamlines during the first and second half of the year, respectively.

For the first semester of each year, a call is opened in July of the previous year, with the call closing in September, the final evaluation process and the publication of results in late November or early December. For the second half of the year, the call opens in late January or early February, with the call closing in early March, the final evaluation process and publication of results in late May. The only exception is the Macromolecular Crystallography BL13-XALOC beamline where the call opening in July covers the experimentation period for the whole of the following year. The website https://www.cells.es/en/users/call-information provides detailed information on the different calls published.

The opening of calls is advertised on the same website and disseminated through our user mailing lists and AUSE (*Asociación Usuarios Sincrotrón de España* - https://www.ause.es/). This user association was created by regular users of synchrotrons and aims at bringing together and defending the common interests of the users of these large RI facilities. Another channel used is https://lightsources.org/, the website that communicates highlights and relevant information (such as call for proposals, events, job offers, etc.) to the synchrotron and light sources users' community all over the world.

The regulatory bases for access to ALBA (https://www.cells.es/en/users/call-information-1/bases/regulatory-bases-user-access), define the protocol for access to each of the ALBA lines, technical selection criteria and scientific evaluation of the proposals, as well as the safety criteria be applied to each experiment. As result of the well-defined procedure for granting time, labels are assigned to each proposal: A+ (proposal with time granted), A (proposal on waiting list), B (failed proposal). See Annex A for the regulatory bases.

Table 2 summarizes the calls of the period 2017-2020 with their respective opening and closing dates.

CALL	PROPOSAL PRESENTATION	EXPERIMENTAL PERIOD
2017-I	From 04/07/2016 to 08/09/2016 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 8 beamlines*	MX BL13-XALOC: January through December2017 All other beamlines: January through June2017
2017-II	From 01/02/2017 to 01/03/2017 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 7 beamlines*	All beamlines except MX BL13-XALOC: July through December 2017
2018-I	From 03/07/2017 to 07/09/2017 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 8 beamlines*	MX BL13-XALOC: January through December2018 All other beamlines: January through June 2018
2018-II	From 29/01/2018 to 26/02/2018 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 7 beamlines*	All beamlines except MX BL13-XALOC: July through December 2018
2019-I	From 02/07/2018 to 10/09/2018 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 8 beamlines*	MX BL13-XALOC: January through December2019 All other beamlines: January through June 2019
2019-II	From 28/01/2019 to 25/02/2019 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 7 beamlines*	All beamlines except MX BL13-XALOC: July through December 2019
2020-I	From 08/07/2019 to 09/09/2019 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 8 beamlines*	MX BL13-XALOC: January through December2020 All other beamlines: January through June 2020
2020-II	From 20/01/2020 to 24/02/2020 23:59 (Barcelona time) *Call open for 7 beamlines*	All beamlines except MX BL13-XALOC: July through December 2020

Table 2 - List of calls for proposals of the period 2017-2020.

It needs to be mentioned that BL13-XALOC furthermore, since 2017, has a permanently open call for proposals dedicated to protein crystallography. Although the same rules apply for access criteria, such proposals directed to this beamline are evaluated within maximum three weeks. Once they pass eventually the evaluation experimental time is only granted if there are sufficient free shifts left (an extra 10% buffer for this type of access is reserved). The reason for making a fast call open all year round can be found in the special needs of the protein crystallography community. In some of these groups, after the lengthy process to crystallise the protein, rapid access to measurements is needed, due to the nature of the samples. XALOC is therefore offering this, as do almost all MX beamlines in the world. A very successful mode of operation that XALOC is offering is the remote access, which was introduced in 2017 (36 % of experiments were performed in remote access that year) and which accounts nowadays for the 90% of competitive access and almost 88% of the significant proprietary access by pharma industry.

During 2020, given the pandemic situation caused by the SARS-COV-2 virus, studying the characteristics of the virus and researching possible treatment or vaccine were highest priority. **ALBA quickly released an open call for rapid access in all beamlines for specific proposals on SARS-COV-2 and COVID-19 research**. On the same regulatory basis but with a maximum two-week fast-track evaluation process, six experiments were solicited and all were approved: one on BL09-MISTRAL, one on BL11-NCD-SWEET and four on BL13-XALOC.

3. Technical selection criteria and criteria for assessing the scientific quality of proposals

As stated in the regulatory bases (Annex A), the scientific proposals detailed in the applications duly submitted on time and in form are evaluated according to the following criteria:

i. **Criteria of technical selection** (whether the experiment is technically feasible on the proposed experimental lines, or not).

ii. **Criteria of scientific quality evaluation of the proposal.** For each proposal evaluation, excellence and originality are the first criteria taken into account. Furthermore, the following subcriteria are considered:
   - Scientific publications and submitted reports of previous experiments performed at the ALBA Synchrotron.
   - Commitment that the group submitting the proposal has the necessary financial, technical and human resources to carry out the experiments during the proposed period.
   - Promoting access of early career researchers (less than ten years since obtaining their doctoral degree), defined as proposers.
   - Alignment with European policies and priorities.

iii. **Criteria regarding the availability of beamtime** according to the ALBA operation calendar.

In Annex A we attach the complete regulatory bases for further information on the access protocol.

4. Evaluation Panel

Once the technically feasible proposals have been selected (criterion i), they are evaluated, on a global basis, by an international Evaluation Panel, a process that lasts approximately three months.

The Evaluation Panel is made up of members of recognized prestige from the international scientific community and consists of a chairman, a secretary and a variable number of members.

After the review, the Evaluation Panel discusses all received proposals applying the aforementioned evaluation scientific quality criteria. As result, a provisional classification and ranking of candidate for beamtime is proposed, and a number of experimental shifts is recommended for each proposed experiment.

At present, the evaluation panel has 26 members, 6 of whom are experts coming from national research centres. In general, the members remain on the panel for an average of 2 to 4 years.

To be mentioned that the evaluation panel meetings, usually held face to face, were successfully organized on-line, with parallel sessions, during the 2020 year.

The final list of granted proposals is approved by the Directorbased on the evaluation panel reccomendations.

5. Over-subscription and scientific productivity

Figure 1 shows the degree of over-subscription over the years since the starting of the facility (in the X-axis we see the year and the number of operative beamlines). We compare the number of experimental shifts requested (one shift is 8 hours of experimentation) with the number of shifts granted.

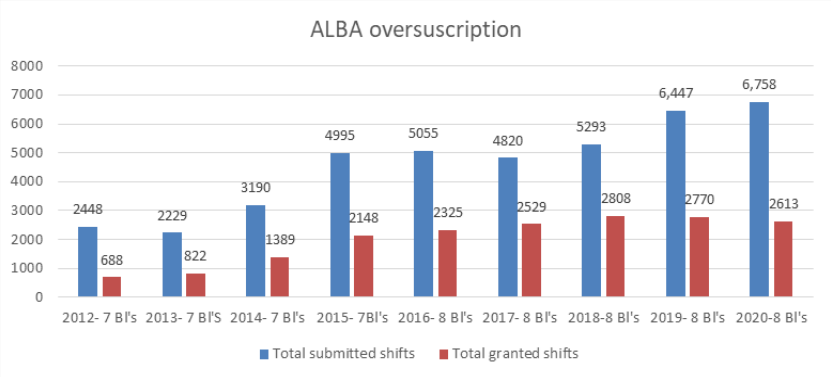

Figure 1 - Oversubscription 2012-2020: total submitted shifts vs total granted shifts.

On the other hand, in order to give the best service ALBA has increased the number of granted proposals through the years decreasing the number of shifts per proposal (this was possible optimizing experimental methods and performing faster experiments). Actually, figure 2 shows the number of submitted proposals and figure 3 shows clearly the increase in the number of granted proposals, distinguishing the nationality of the main proposer's home institution (again, the number of operative beamlines is written next to the year).

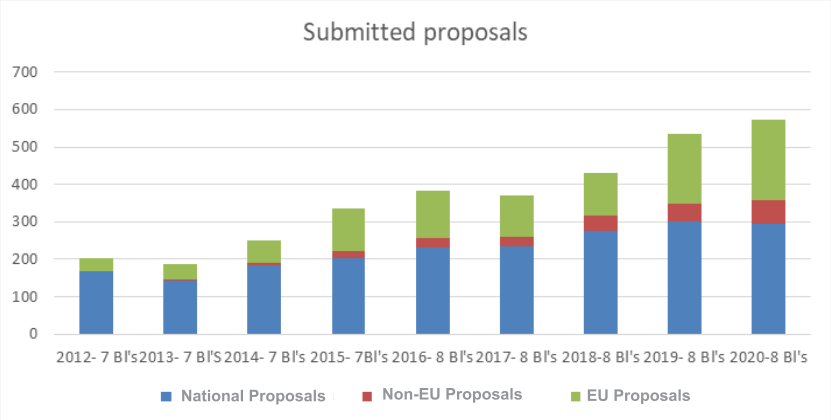

Figure 2 - Submitted proposals 2012-2020.

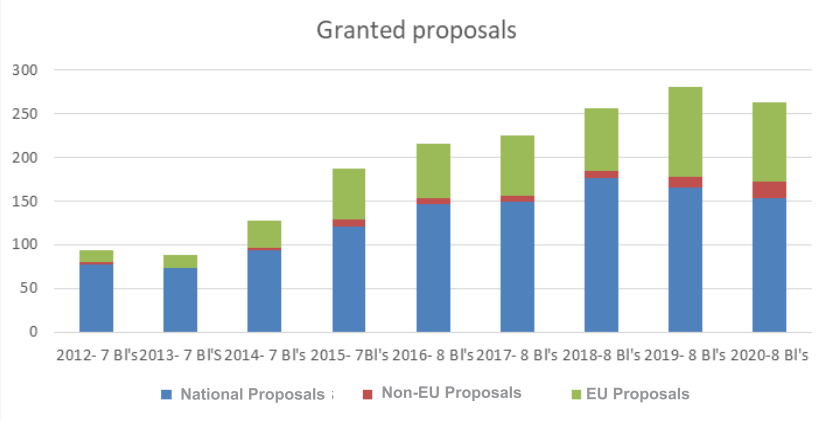

Figure 3 - Granted proposals 2012-2020.

The degree of over-subscription of each of our specific beamlines is shown in Figures 4 to 7, which represent the number of experimentation shifts requested versus granted. The only beamline with less over-subscription is BL13-XALOC, however in clear positive tendency to higher demand after the introduction of the mentioned fast access mode for protein crystallization.

As for the percentage of experimental proposals granted to principal investigator belonging to non-Spanish research centres, we can detect a tendency to continuing internationalization of ALBA users:

- 34% in 2017 (31% for EU centres and 3% extra-European centres),
- 31% in 2018 (28% for EU centres and 3% extra-European centres),
- 41% in 2019 (37% for EU centres and 4% extra-European centres),
- 41% in 2020 (34% for EU centres and 7% extra-European centres).

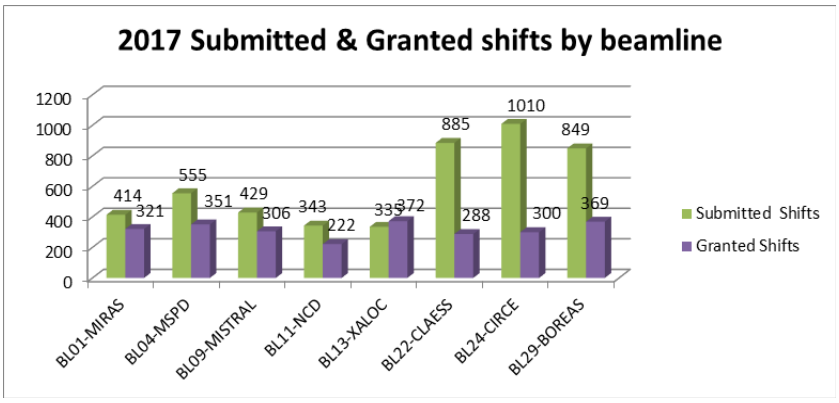

Figure 4 - 2017 Submitted and granted shifts by beamline.

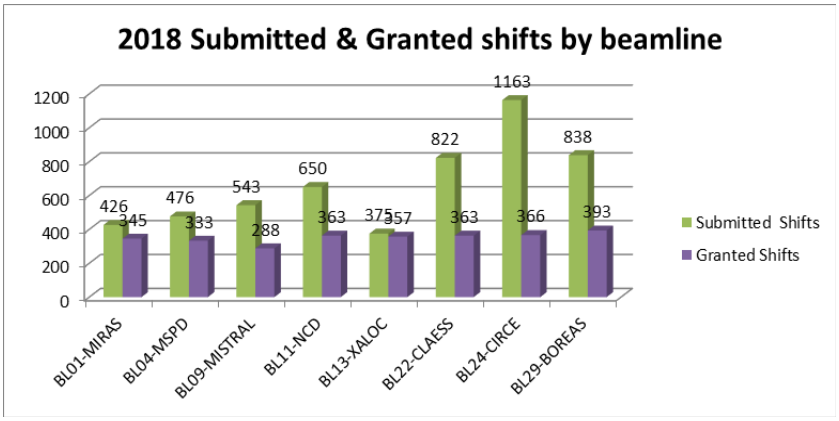

Figure 5 - 2018 Submitted and granted shifts by beamline.

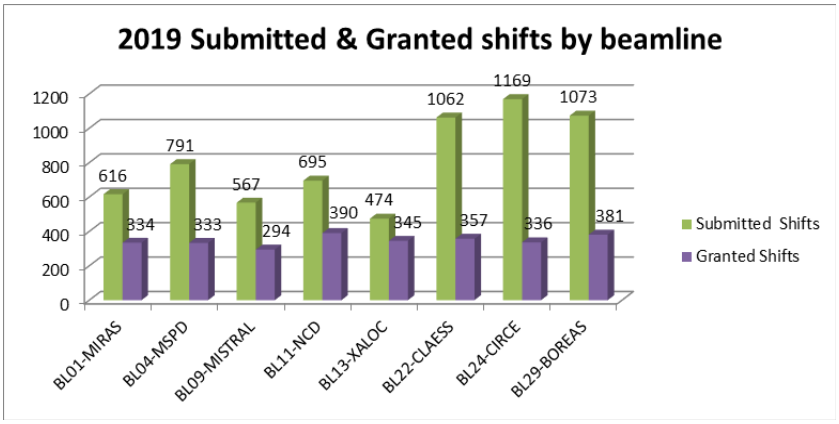

Figure 6 - 2019 Submitted and granted shifts by beamline.

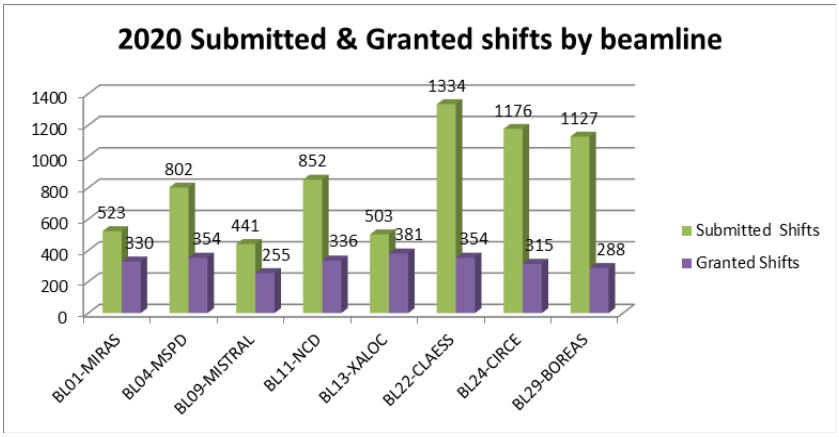

Figure 7 - 2020 Submitted and granted shifts by beamline.

ALBA monitors the publications of all awarded proposals as another measure for the quality of the research conducted in the RI. Figure 8 shows the results of the total number of publications reported by users. Taking into account that these four years correspond to experiments in 8 operative beamlines, an average number of publications per year and per beamline is 30 (35 in 2020, which is an excellent number if compared with other European synchrotrons).

The picture for 2020 is still not complete as publications are usually reported with a certain time delay.

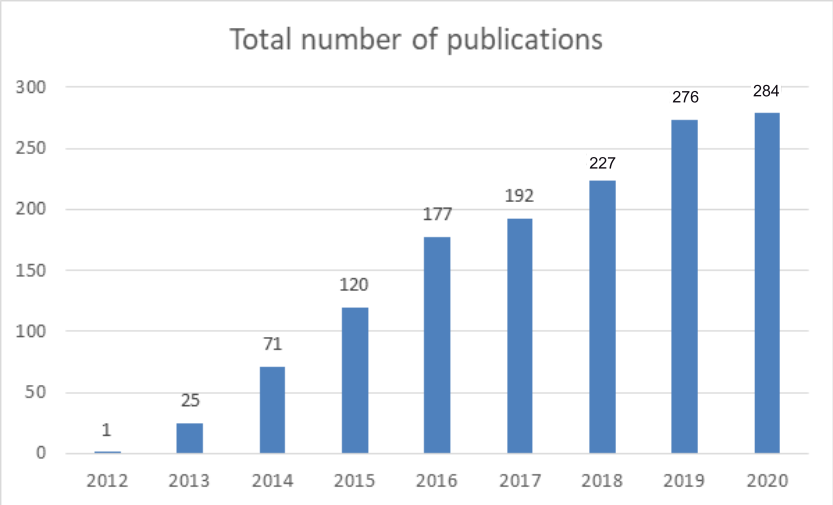

Figure 8 - Total number of publications.

Figure 9 shows the average impact factor of ALBA publications and its evolution over the reported time. The trend is extremely positive. An usual KPI in the synchrotron radiation world is the percentage of peer-reviewed publications with an impact index greater than 7. ALBA figures (almost 40% in 2020) are among the highest to our knowledge when compared to other synchrotrons.

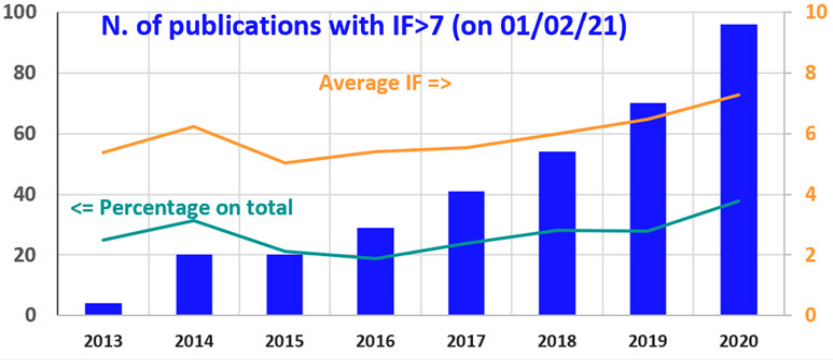

Figure 9 - Number of publications with impact factor >7 (last update on 01/02/21).

6. User feedback

At the end of an experiment we ask our users to rate our services through a normalized form (not compulsory). The form contains a large number of questions ranging from computing services, beam quality, beamline operation, the User Office portal, etc. Answers are mostly qualitative. In order to get feedback on the perception of ALBA, we ask for an evaluation of the facility and the beamline compared to other synchrotrons where experiments have been performed (if any). The figures 10-11 show the result for this benchmarking. Comments not fully positive are carefully considered for continuous improvement of the general services.

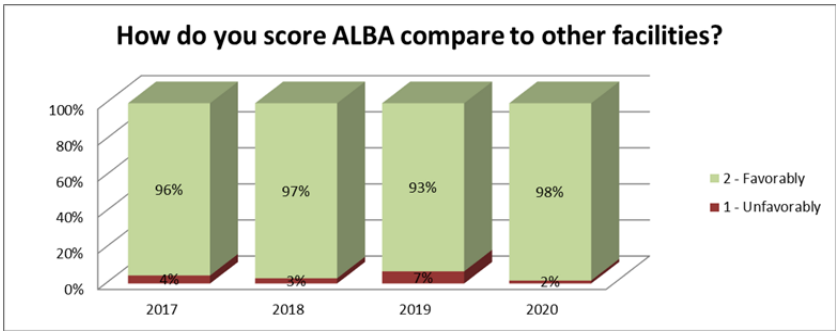

Figure 10 - General score of ALBA. Evaluation form results from users who have performed experiments at ALBA.

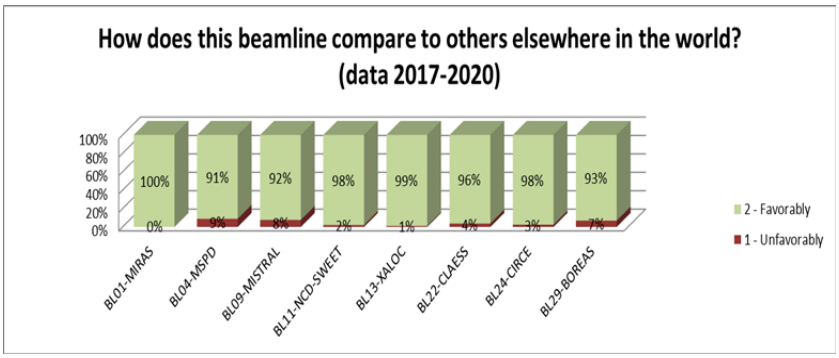

Figure 11 - Beamline score. Evaluation form results from users who have performed experiments at ALBA.

ANNEX A.

Our latest published regulatory bases are here presented. Only minor modifications have been introduced over the reported period.

RESOLUTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF THE SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY, DATED 18TH NOVEMBER 2019, APPROVING THE REGULATORY RULES FOR THE EXTERNAL RESEARCHERS' ACCESS TO THE EXPERIMENTAL BEAMLINES OF THE ALBA SYNCHROTRON LIGHT LABORATORY, BEAMTIME ASSIGNMENT AND CORRESPONDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Consortium for the Construction, Equipment and Exploitation of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory (hereinafter "CELLS") manages the economic, technical and administrative cooperation of the administrations involved, for the construction, equipment and exploitation of the Synchrotron Light Laboratory.

The CELLS built and equipped the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, located in the municipality of Cerdanyola del Vallès (Barcelona), being in operation since 2012.

In this context, from the perspective of the benefit that it can bring to the society and the development of the science; considering that research and knowledge are an important engine for the transformation and the promotion of the productive drive in the country and, within the strategy "Europe 2020" and the Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3).

In response to the increasing number of demands for using the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory facility, these rules regulate the conditions under which external researchers from Spanish or foreign institutions, public or private, will be able to access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory to carry out their public research projects, as well as beamtime allocation and corresponding financial support, which will be funded through the CELLS budget.

Access of external researchers to the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory facility of the CELLS is based on a combination of criteria of scientific excellence and relevance of proposals for the RIS3, advocated by the European Commission for the period 2014-2020. These strategies are based on the enhancement of economic specialization and knowledge that best fit their innovation potential based on the assets and capabilities of the territory.

By virtue of the above-mentioned, it is resolved

Article 1.- Scope

These rules are intended to regulate the conditions of access of external researchers from Spanish or foreign institutions, public or private, to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, to carry out public research projects, as well as beamtime allocation of the different research projects and corresponding financial support, funded through the CELLS budget.

In this regard, public research are defined as those where the results are published and spread, becoming part of the scientific literature.

Research projects are not governed by these rules when research participants use the research findings in a confidential manner and they are not published or spread in scientific literature, due to business purposes. Instead, they must sign a specific commercial agreement.

Article 2.- Applicants and beneficiaries

Applicants and beneficiaries for the corresponding calls for which the CELLS will grant access to the experimental beamlines of its ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory for public research projects, may be investigators affiliated to a Spanish or foreign research institution, public or private, that want to submit a scientific proposal related to synchrotron light.

Article 3.- General definitions

In the scope of these rules and respective calls for proposals, the following terms and/or expressions shall have the below meanings:

- Access cycle: access period to the facility of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory covering corresponding calls for proposal.
- Experimentation shift: each time unit which forms the total period of realization of an experiment detailed in a scientific proposal. The experimentation shift has a duration of 8 hours.
- Beamtime: total time period of realization of an experiment detailed in a scientific proposal with access to experimental beamlines of the Synchrotron Light Laboratory measured in shifts. Beamtime can be distributed in several visits.
- End station: branch of an experimental beamline.
- Main proposer: person who is responsible for the entire contents of a scientific proposal and its submission.
- Co-proposers: people participating in the scientific proposal of a main proposer, endorsing and adding value to it.

Article 4. Types of proposals

Researchers, potential beneficiaries of the calls for proposals for the access to experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, will submit scientific proposals of two types:

4.1. Standard proposals

Standard proposals are those submitted by a single main proposer requesting access to perform experiments within an access cycle and beamtime will be granted within that requested access cycle. Several visits can be applied within the same access cycle.

4.2. BAG proposals

BAG (*Block allocation group*) proposals are those submitted by several groups together; therefore, there will be several main proposers for conducting experiments for a whole year.

Article 5.- Health and safety conditions 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 electronic 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 6.- Calls for proposals

For the access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, the CELLS will implement one or two annual calls for proposals on a competitive concurrence rules, to be published in its institutional website: www.cells.es\users.

The different calls for proposals will include and specify all the necessary information so that potential beneficiaries can submit the corresponding applications, such as experimental beamlines for which access is open, access cycle, deadline and place for submission of applications.

Article 7.- Access proposal submission and documentation

Applications for researchers' access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory must be submitted only and compulsorily in electronic format, from their account at the ALBA Office User Portal (https://useroffice.cells.es).

Main proposer/s must fill in the electronic application form stating the names of each and all of the users who will need access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory to perform the experiment, type of proposal submitted, under the terms indicated in article 4, description of the experiment and in which experimental beamline they want to perform it, 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 8.- Deadline and place for submission of applications

Electronic applications, together with attached documentation, must be submitted by the deadlines indicated in the corresponding calls for proposals. Any electronic application received beyond the date and time set forth in the corresponding calls for proposals will be considered out of time and, consequently, will not be evaluated.

Electronic applications and all attached documentation must be submitted through the electronic portal indicated in article 7 of these rules. It will be necessary for the proper submission that all researchers taking part in the experiment are registered in the mentioned electronic portal.

Article 9.- Criteria of technical selection and of scientific quality evaluation of the proposals

Detailed scientific proposals submitted on due time and appropriate manner will be evaluated according to the following criteria, to determine the ones that will have access to the use of the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory:

i. Criteria of technical selection (whether the experiment is technically feasible in the proposed experimental beamlines or not).
ii. Criteria of scientific quality evaluation of the proposal.

For each proposal evaluation, excellence and originality will be the first criteria to be taken into account.

Furthermore, the following subcriteria will be considered:

- Scientific publications and submitted reports of previous experiments performed in the ALBA Synchrotron.
- Commitment that the group submitting the proposal has the financial, technical and human resources necessary to carry out the experiments during the proposed period.
- Promoting access of young researchers (early career researcher), defined as those proposers who obtained their PhD in the last ten years.
- Proposals fitting in European policies of economic and of knowledge specialization. This criteria will operate once the proposals have been evaluated technically and scientifically in order to prioritize access to those proposals that by topic, goals or any other reason better fit the assumptions of European strategies within the framework "Europe 2020", for the revitalization of the territory

iii. Criteria regarding the availability of beamtime according to the ALBA operation calendar.

Article 10.- Phases of the procedure for the granting of access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory and competent bodies

The procedure by which finally access to experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory will be granted is divided into the following phases:

a. Phase of technical selection: corresponding beamline scientist will determine whether the experiment detailed in the submitted proposal is technically feasible, in accordance with that established in article 9 i.
b. Phase of scientific quality evaluation and resources availability: an international Evaluation Panel will determine the scientific quality of the submitted proposals that have passed the previous phase of selection and make a first classification of all of them, in accordance with evaluation criteria from article 9 ii and iii.
c. Phase of granting of access: resolved the previous phases, a Selection Committee will definitely classify scientific proposals and determine the ones that will finally have access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, under the terms established in article 14.

Article 11.- Technical selection of proposals

Upon expiration of the deadline for submission of proposals according to the corresponding call, proposals submitted on due time and appropriate manner shall be reviewed by the corresponding beamline scientist, who will determine whether the experiment detailed in the proposal can be performed in the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, exclusively from the technical point of view.

If with this preliminary review, the scientist determines that the proposal is technically feasible to be carried out on the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, they may propose changes in the number of experimentation shifts requested by main proposers for the experiment. The beamline scientist will also perform a prior safety evaluation.

Article 12.- Evaluation of scientific quality of the proposals and of resources and competent bodies availability.

Once technically feasible proposals have been selected, they shall be globally evaluated by an international Evaluation Panel, in a procedure estimated to last about three months.

The international Evaluation Panel shall consist of well-renowned members of the international scientific community and it will consist of a chairman, a secretary and a variable number of delegates.

In a meeting of the international Evaluation Panel, they will discuss about all proposals received and, according to those evaluation criteria mentioned in article 9 ii and iii, will make a provisional ranking of proposals for beamtime allocation based on scientific quality, also recommending the number of experimentation shifts. These provisional evaluation and classification will be submitted to the Selection Committee mentioned in article 14 for the appropriate purposes.

Article 13.- Final health and safety evaluation

In parallel with the scientific evaluation described in the previous article, the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS will analyze the health and safety aspects of the scientific proposals that the international Evaluation Panel has considered with appropriate scientific quality, giving them the following colour codes:

- **WHITE:**

Proposal pending of evaluation by the Group of Health and Safety because according to the first classification made by the international Evaluation Panel has no beamtime but sufficient scientific quality. The Group of Health and Safety will only re-evaluate this proposal in case that the circumstances described therein would allow it to have beamtime.

- **GREY:**

Experiment pending of approval by the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS, waiting for some requested documentation or information from main proposers.

This proposal will not have assigned beamtime until all the documents or additional information have been

provided and the Health and Safety Group has re-evaluate it.

In case of scientific proposals with this code, it will be communicated to the corresponding researchers that in a period of fifteen days from the notification of the award resolution described in article 14 of these rules, they must provide the necessary documentation or information. If the researchers can not obtain this documentation or information within the specified period, they will communicate it in writing to the User Office, justifying the reasons for the delay and stating that proceedings have been initiated to achieve them. The Selection Committee will decide whether to give a special period not exceeding 10 working days more for the correction of the documentation or assign another proposal classified as A, according to the following article.

- **GREEN:**

Proposal evaluated and accepted by the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS.

- **YELLOW:**

Proposal evaluated and accepted by the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS, with a moderate risk identified. The CELLS staff control will be required at the beginning of the experiment.

- **RED:**

Proposal evaluated and accepted by the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS, with high risk identified. Permanent control is required during the presence of this risk.

- **BLACK:**

Proposal evaluated by the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS and not accepted due to an identified risk that can not be controlled in the facility of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory.

The report from the Group of Health and Safety of the CELLS with the colour coding of the proposals, together with their scientific evaluation from the international Evaluation Panel referred in article 12, will be submitted to the Selection Committee for the purposes established in the following article.

Article 14.- Resolution of the granting of access, competent body and notification to those interested

Based on the scientific evaluation and the provisional classification made by the international Evaluation Panel under the terms of article 12 of these rules, and having regard to the report from the Group of Health and Safety of the previous article, the Selection Committee, composed of the Director of the CELLS and the Head of the Experiments Division, will finally decide which scientific proposals and with how many shifts will access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory for the experiments, adjusting, if necessary, the provisional proposal from the international Evaluation Panel in accordance with the availability of the CELLS.

The granting resolution, which puts an end to the administrative procedure, will be issued within a maximum period of four months from the submission of electronic applications and will classify scientific proposals in the following categories:

i. Proposals labelled “A+”:

Those that, fully fulfilling with the evaluation criteria established in article 9, better suit to the strategies set by the European Union within the horizon "Europe 2020" and RIS3.

These proposals will have guaranteed the availability of resources in the corresponding experimental beamline with preference over any other.

i. ii. Proposals labelled "A":

Those that, despite being of a sufficient scientific quality, adjust, to a lesser extent than the ones classified with category A+, to both strategies set by the European Union within the horizon "Europe 2020" and RIS3 and the other evaluation criteria of article 9.

These proposals will not be granted with beamtime directly due to the fact of not having necessary resources in the experimental beamline, and they go to a reserve list. In case of cancellations or changes in the circumstances they will pass to category A+. Otherwise, these proposals may be re-submitted in the following call.

i. iii. Proposals labelled "B":

Those without enough scientific quality, not fulfilling with the evaluation criteria of article 9.

These proposals shall not be granted with beamtime. In the notification of the corresponding granting resolution, the reasons why the proposal has received this classification will be detailed.

Against the granting resolution an appeal for reversal may be lodged before the CELLS Management or administrative appeal before the courts of this jurisdiction.

In the notifications of the corresponding granting resolution to those interested, the reasons why the proposals have been classified with each category will be detailed.

Once the researchers are given notice that their proposals have been granted with beamtime and that they may perform their experiment, a procedure shall start regarding the coordination of dates for the whole cycle together with all the groups which are to perform experiments in the same beamline. Once the dates of the experiment are set, an administrative procedure shall start in order to manage the financial support which may correspond. In case that the Health and Safety Office of the CELLS had required additional documentation, and this would have not been sent before the experiment or would have not been correct, access could be denied for safety reasons.

Article 15.- 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 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 CELLS and the Data Protection

Officer is the person who is the CELLS Subdirector. 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 16.- 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).

The CELLS undertakes to keep the experiment data stored and available to researchers for a warranted period of six months following the end of the experiment. Researchers must transfer and store their data within this period.

Article 17.- Financial support for proposals with access to the experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory

When researchers submit their electronic applications, according to articles 7 and 8 of these rules, their scientific proposal shall automatically enter the funding programme, without the need to submit an additional application.

Proposals labelled A+, whose researchers effectively stay in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory, shall be entitled for funding of their travel expenses and their stay, based on the following rules.

Also, the scientific proposals classified as A + with experiments in remote access, shall be entitled for funding the transport of samples, based on the following rules.

The maximum number of researchers from Spanish centres that may be funded per experiment is three (3), subject to the available budget of the CELLS. The days of experiment (plus the day before and the day after, to cover the travel from the researcher's centre to the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory) will be funded.

For experiments with special safety measures, the CELLS may consider to fund four (4) researchers from Spanish centres, subject to the available budget of the CELLS.

Researchers from foreign centres may receive support to perform experiments in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory through funding programmes within the existing European programmes, through specific cooperation agreements with their country or through any other means.

In exceptional cases, the preparation of the experiment will be funded if it is warranted that it needs to be compulsorily done in the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory and its research group has no additional funding. This case needs User Office authorization and according to the available budget of the CELLS the number of funded researchers could be maximum two (2) and for a maximum of 3 days for the samples preparation.

Article 18.- Type and amount of financial support

Financial support for having access to the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory covers the following items:

1) Travel expenses from researcher's centre to the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory
   a) Travel from outside of Barcelona metropolitan area:

      i. Public transport:
         i.1)Financial support shall be granted for travel by plane, bus or train from the researcher's centre to Barcelona. Travel tickets shall be obtained through the travel agency with which the CELLS maintains an agreement; the researcher must not pay for the ticket and, therefore, he will not be obliged to prove this expense, since the travel agency shall directly invoice the CELLS.
         i.2) Funding of travel expenses by the CELLS shall cover the cheapest ticket of the means of transport being used. If the researcher uses another kind of ticket, the additional cost shall be payable by the researcher.
         i.3) For other travel expenses (taxis or public transport to reach the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory) and/or another expenditure which is difficult to substantiate, each funded researcher shall receive 50 euros.

      ii. Rental car or own car:

         In order to cover travel expenditures, each researcher shall receive the following amounts:

         ii.1)Whether the researcher's centre is less than 300 km away: 80 euros per researcher.
         ii.2)Whether the researcher's centre is between 300 and 650 km: 150 euros per researcher.
         ii.3)Whether the researcher's centre is more than 650 km away: 200 euros per researcher.

   b) Travel expenses within the metropolitan area of Barcelona:

      Funded researcher shall receive 15 euros per beamtime day for travel expenses and other expenditure which is difficult to substantiate.

2. Living expenses

   The researcher will be funded in the terms that will be communicated by the User Office staff (either through allowance or agreements with hotels or restaurants).

3. Accommodation expenses
   The CELLS covers the accommodation, which includes breakfast. The User Office will provide more detailed information about the procedure in the preparation phase of the experiment.

4. Sample transport expenses in remote access experiments

   The allowance will be received for the transport of the samples. The price of the transport's enterprise will be reimbursed to the user o it will be managed through an enterprise with which CELLS keeps an agreement.

   The financial support described above shall be subject to the available budget of the CELLS.

Article 19.- Application for expenses

After the experiment, funded researchers should apply for their financial support as stated in article 18.

Article 20.- Commitments undertaken by researchers who have been allocated beamtime

All researchers must submit the following documents after the experiment:

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.***

   Spanish: ***Estos experimentos se han realizado en la línea ..... del Laboratorio de Luz Sincrotrón 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.***

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 experimental beamlines of the ALBA Synchrotron Light Laboratory for a period of three (3) years.

Article 21.- Repeal of previous rules

These rules repeal all previous ones.

Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Empresa
i Coneixement

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO
DE CIENCIA
E INNOVACIÓN