



Access to the Central Laser Facility – High Power Lasers Beam time applications for the period November 2017 – April 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We invite proposals for access to the Vulcan TAW and TAP and Gemini TA2 and TA3 target areas for the period November 2017 – April 2018.

The deadline for submissions will be Friday, 28th April 2017 at 12pm (noon).

Please contact the User Office (clf@stfc.ac.uk) or the Panel Co-ordinator, Nicola Booth (nicola.booth@stfc.ac.uk), if you have any difficulty during the submission process.

Further Details and Contacts

Please find attached the specifications of different target areas. Experimental slots of 5 weeks duration are available in Vulcan and Gemini TA3, although both shorter and longer experiments can be accepted. Longer experimental slots are available in Gemini TA2, typically of 9-12 weeks duration.

1 slot for Vulcan in this round is for EU access and is funded through Laserlab. All other access in this round is funded by STFC, and these non-Laserlab proposals must have at least one co-investigator who is a permanent member of staff at a UK academic institution.

Further technical specifications for the facilities can be found at:

<http://www.clf.stfc.ac.uk/Facilities/Vulcan/12248.aspx>

<http://www.clf.stfc.ac.uk/Facilities/Astra/12254.aspx>.

In order to facilitate more efficient and cost-effective experiments in the CLF, we are closely managing the number of personnel present during experiments. We would also recommend that experimenters are present for a minimum of at least two weeks to become familiar with operations and experiments. If your proposal is scheduled, CLF link scientists will contact you well in advance to facilitate the efficient organisation and planning of your campaign and the booking of all travel and accommodation. We thank you for your co-operation.

Please be aware that a publication history from your previous experiments at the CLF will be available for the facility access panel. Once you submit a proposal, the CLF user office will contact you for those publications that are not on our records, which arise from your previous experiments here as a PI or Co-I.



We encourage you to contact an appropriate staff member to discuss your requirements (laser configuration/target area requests etc.) prior to submission. In particular, any non-standard configurations or technical requirements should be discussed with the appropriate facility staff (see below) and all target requirements should be discussed with target fabrication prior to submission. To enable us to provide a technical feedback to the access panel, please make sure that you provide as many experimental details as possible in the proposals.

Contacts:

Vulcan Target Areas: rob.clarke@stfc.ac.uk 01235 446898

Vulcan Laser: ian.musgrave@stfc.ac.uk 01235 445110

Gemini Target Areas: dan.symes@stfc.ac.uk 01235 778341

Gemini Laser: chris.hooker@stfc.ac.uk 01235 446860

Target Fabrication: christopher.spindloe@stfc.ac.uk 01235 446357

Instructions for submitting proposals

All proposals should be submitted electronically at the following website;

<http://proposal.isis.rl.ac.uk/home/>

If you have not used the CLF online proposal system before then you will need to register by clicking on the New Facility User button and then use your e-mail address as the Login Identifier. It is important that you provide full and accurate address details to facilitate future communications with yourself and your co-investigators. If you have already registered then please check and update your information as necessary. On the home page enter the relevant facility and then create your new proposal following the on-line instructions and finally upload your **science case of up to 3 pages**.

For access to the Vulcan and Gemini facilities of the CLF we require the completion of the attached technical document, to provide the facility with sufficient detail to assess the implementation of the experiment if scheduled. This data will form the first stage layouts and details to expedite the experimental planning processes should your experiment be scheduled. This should be submitted to the website alongside your science case.

Instructions for submitting EU Proposals

To submit a proposal follow **all** of these steps in order:

1. Use the CLF online proposal system (<http://proposal.isis.rl.ac.uk/home/>) as above. At step #3 select "YES" to the question on if you are applying for access through Laserlab and choose the country you are representing. Applications require a science case of up to 3 pages.
2. Download a PDF copy of your application.
3. Use the Laserlab online proposal system (<https://laserlab.mbi-berlin.de/access/>) to submit your application. At the last step, attach the PDF copy of your proposal produced by the CLF proposal system.



Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF)

The Government has announced the establishment of the Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf/>), to support research that addresses challenges faced by developing countries. This extends to facility access, meaning that if your proposal is compliant with Official Development Assistance (ODA) guidelines, this fund may be used to support facility access, including travel and subsistence to/from the partner country for investigators and collaborators. Consequently, the CLF encourages such proposals.

If the research in your proposal is relevant, and will, or could be, conducted in collaboration with a developing country on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list (see link above), could you please provide us with additional information. Specifically, please include in your proposal key information that explicitly addresses the key questions below (maximum 1 additional page with your science case):

- Which country/ countries on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list will directly benefit from this proposal?
- What development challenge in these countries is the proposal designed to address, and what evidence demonstrates a credible need for this specific proposal?
- How will the outcome of the proposed activities promote the economic development and/or welfare of a country or countries (not the individuals involved) on the DAC list?

The CLF can provide additional guidance prior to proposal submission if required.

Review criteria

Applications for time on Vulcan and Gemini are reviewed and prioritised by the Facility Access Panel. Your proposal will be assessed with the following criteria:

- Absolute pre-requisite, without which an application will not be recommended for funding:
 - Scientific excellence: specific objectives of the project.
 - International competitiveness.
 - Strategic value within the Vulcan and Gemini programme.
 - Supporting evidence which increases the confidence in a successful outcome:
 - Productivity of investigators.
 - Quality of leadership and management.
 - Suitability of institution and group.
 - Additional criteria including: strategic alignment to RCUK areas (e.g. grant supported), GCRF potential/compliance, potential for economic impact, training, facility development and impact plan.
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