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OR20 - Introducing a new machine to an existing team

Thursday, 14 September 2023 10:00 (30 minutes)

“At the Paul Scherrer Institute, we have been operating three very different particle accelerators with a common pool of full time operators for more than a decade. A high intensity proton facility, a proton therapy facility and an electron storage ring.

Incorporating our new free electron laser SwissFEL into this operation framework and transitioning it from commissioning into regular user operation has been challenging, but also very successful.

The new machine can profit from the broad knowledge the operation team has gained over the years on the three existing machines, but also brings along all the typical free-electron laser challenges. The main differences are a larger degree of interaction with the users, many different operation modes and beam parameters that need to be changed frequently. To make the transition from commissioning to user operation successful, there are many questions to address e.g.: When is a good moment to involve operation in day-to-day-business? How to transfer knowledge from the system experts, who developed the complex systems, to operators who do not have this in-depth knowledge? How can we feed the existing knowledge into the development of new procedures and tools? We want to focus on different approaches taken, and point at the pros and cons of them.”

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Session Classification: Involving Operators in Accelerator Physics and Commissioning