

*Question 2: What is the capability of U.S. members of the MICE collaboration to take part in the 2017/02 cycle (from September 19 to October 27) if such a data-taking run occurs? What would be the optimum (approximate) distribution between shifters and hardware experts?*

Background:

- On May 22, 2016, the US team was informed that the STFC Executive recommendation was that only MICE Step IV would be endorsed through the August 2017 ISIS run and that it would employ the damaged SSD.
- On June 2, I notified MICE management that I had been informed that the US DOE would be removing most or all of \$2.24M from the US MAP ramp-down plan, thus accelerating the conclusion of US participation.
- Subsequent US MAP discussions with DOE centered on how long US involvement could be maintained and it was agreed that DOE would consider holding contingency for a significant SSD repair through April 1, 2017 given that a significant failure at that point or later would not be recoverable in time for the August 2017 time frame of the last ISIS run for MICE Step IV. Budget projections suggested that experimental support including US laboratory staff could be maintained at least through the May-June 2017 ISIS run.
- Since the start of FY17, the US has been operating under a continuing resolution (CR) and less than 50% of the anticipated funding has been received by the program.

Response:

- At present, there are funds and personnel agreements in place to provide US support for MICE operations through the May-June 2017 run. This will include experimental and magnet oversight support.
- IF further funding is not received after the conclusion of the present CR on April 28, 2017, a sharp loss of the remaining US manpower is expected to take place in July 2017. In such a scenario, we estimate that ~2-3 FTEs of funding support would remain for September-October MICE operations and that primary personnel would no longer be available for magnet oversight duties. It should be noted that senior personnel availability at that time will be impacted by class schedules and other non-MICE commitments, which will limit the continuity of US team coverage that can be provided.
- In the case that full FY17 funding IS received after the conclusion of the US CR on April 28, 2017, experimental and magnet oversight support in September-October 2017 is likely to be at least partially constrained due to re-assignment of US laboratory personnel, but not by budget availability. However, in this scenario, we believe we can manage the transition to minimize any impacts to MICE data-taking and provide a nearly equal balance of experimental shifter and magnet oversight support drawing on a total of 4-6 FTEs. After the October 27<sup>th</sup>, it is unlikely that significant further US support can be provided except to complete ongoing analyses.