Researchers from various universities and other academic institutions utilize the National Facility for Neutron Beam Research at BARC regularly. This international symposium enabled very useful scientific discussions among the national and international researchers.

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NMI3 Meets for Final Time

The sixth and final general meeting of the "Integrated Infrastructure Initiative for Neutron Scattering and Muon Spectroscopy" NMI3 project in the EU Framework Programme 6 took place in Porticcio in Corsica from June 25 to 28, 2008. During four days of immaculate weather, in beautiful surroundings overlooking the Mediterranean, more than 100 participants met to present and discuss the considerable progress achieved during the previous four and a half years. The technical and scientific aspects will be reported in more detail in a future issue of *Neutron News*.

The first two days of the meeting were devoted to parallel sessions of the eight Joint Research Activities (JRA):

- DETNI and MILAND: Coordinator Burckhard Gebauer (HMI) and Bruno Guerard (ILL) discussed the development of high resolution and high count-rate detectors, including developments in Japan and the USA presented by Hiroyuki Takahashi (U. Tokyo) and Ron Cooper (SNS).
- Neutron Optics: Coordinator Peter Böni (unfortunately, he could not attend) highlighted the development of new optical elements and implementing them on beamlines (with major performance improvements) and in UCN phase space transformers.
- Polarized Neutron Techniques and Neutron Spin Filters: Coordinators Alexander Ioffe (Jülich) and Eddy Lelièvre-Berna (ILL) discussed progress with polarizing elements.
- MCNSI: Coordinator Kim Lefmann (Copenhagen U.) demonstrated Monte Carlo simulations that have now become a ubiquitous part of neutron instrument design and look to become a similarly important tool in data analysis (virtual instruments).
- DLAB: Coordinator Trevor Forsyth (ILL) presented the methodological developments for deuteration of biological molecules that are now significantly impacting on the growth of neutron scattering applications in biology.
- MUONS: Coordinator Philip King (ISIS), after Cesare Bucci's (U. Parma) retirement, showed the progress in muon detection, instrument simulation, and advanced techniques.

During the final two days of the main meeting, we summarized the achievements of NMI3, including the access and networking activities as well as the JRA. Juergen Neuhaus (FRM II), Pavel Strunz (NPI), Menno Blaauw (RID), and Regine Willumeit (GKSS) kindly took on the challenging task of presenting a selection of scientific highlights from the many hundreds of experiments that have been supported at European neutron and muon facilities through NMI3. The instrument development activities at Oak Ridge, our transatlantic partner, were presented by Lee Robertson (SNS/HIFR). Finally, Ana Claver summarized the networking activities of NMI3 including support for schools, workshops, and foresight studies, and the many aspects of the European neutron-muon portal. A short video (look for NMI3 on youtube.com) encapsulated everything about NMI3.

One major point of discussion at the meeting was the substantial reduction in funding for NMI3 in FP7 compared to FP6 (10 million Euro compared to 21). However, reductions are common across the whole EU research infrastructures program, and this possibly indicates that neutron/