

Industrial Collaboration: How to make it happen at the Swiss Light Source?

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The scope for industrial research and development at the Swiss Light Source (SLS) is greater than ever before. Clients from all over the world are able to probe their systems with greater resolution and more closely matching realistic operation conditions than can be achieved at their home laboratories. For industry use, the SLS offers a variety of instruments and a team of scientists covering a wide range of expertise including macromolecular and small molecule crystallography, X-ray powder diffraction, X-ray absorption spectroscopy, small-angle X-ray scattering and imaging.

In 2018, as in previous years, the SLS has provided the resources for academic and industry users to access photon beams for research at the SLS. SLS Techno Trans AG supports these activities by maintaining an ecosystem with stakeholders in the region and around the SLS to provide industry customers with straightforward access to the SLS.

In 2018, the SLS hosted 1675 individual users who performed 1000 academic and 338 industry (proprietary) projects. The total number of proprietary days across the SLS increased from 173 in 2016 up to 223 in 2017 and finally to 234 in 2018, which is 11.5% of the total available beamtime.

SLS Techno Trans AG focused its marketing outreach activities during 2018 by strengthening European collaboration with the European project CALIPSOplus. Within this project the European Light Source for Industrial Innovation (ELSII) task was launched. This collaboration provides resources to allow us to further strengthen our ecosystem in the region around the light source and to improve the European network with our colleagues from the other synchrotron radiation facilities and FELs. The Tailor-made for SMEs Trans-national Access (TamaTA) work package (<http://www.calipsoplus.eu/taa-tamata/>) is a concrete action within CALIPSOplus aiming to lower the barriers of accessing the European research infrastructures to foster SME innovation and competitiveness. The access procedure is based on a specific review system for SME proposals in parallel to the established academic access, but following the same principles. Through a “voucher scheme”, successful SMEs obtain a pre-defined amount of beam time and data analysis hours.

With this presentation I would like to encourage greater use of our facilities by industrial partners and present pathways to facilitate collaborations between industry and PSI.