

SRC Consortium for Synchrotron Radiation Science

The University of Wisconsin Synchrotron Radiation Center (SRC) is an electron storage ring optimized for the production of synchrotron radiation in the IR/VUV/soft x-ray region. SRC has been a pioneer facility in, for example, photoemission spectroscopy and, more recently, IR spectrochemical imaging. While several Department of Energy funded synchrotron radiation facilities exist in the United States, none of these in the future will effectively cover the energy range of SRC, especially the very useful low energy range.

Moreover, these DOE facilities are not ideal for the education of undergraduate and graduate students in synchrotron radiation science, since access time for a given experiment is limited to 1 – 3 days. In order to teach students well, one needs extended periods to nurture the development and mastery of those techniques necessary to work successfully and safely at such an advanced scientific facility. The environment that SRC uniquely offers is an assignment of 2 - 6 weeks devoted to a given approved experiment. This is ideal for the training of students and other new users of synchrotron radiation. Nevertheless, SRC was defunded by the National Science Foundation in 2011. For the last two years, the University of Wisconsin has provided bridging funds while SRC continued to seek another source for operational support.

However, until these new sources of funding become available, SRC must be supported by other means. Failure to do so will result in the progressive closure of this facility. However, a consortium of institutions with research groups currently using SRC can maintain minimal operations for the next three years, while SRC works to secure new funding. Institutions that pledge funds up front will be given priority in beamtime scheduling.

Subject to scheduling conflicts, beamtime can be split over various beamlines.

All papers that result from research performed at SRC will acknowledge that support was provided in part by the institutions participating in the SRC Consortium. (Note: Research performed at SRC resulted in 63 papers in 2011 and 53 in 2012. Many of these papers were published in high profile venues, including Science, Physical Review Letters and Nature, for example.)

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