

## Call for applications for the EPSRC Laser Loan Pool and EU Access to Lasers for Science Facility

Applications are now invited for a **partial** call to the Lasers for Science Facility. Applications are invited for the EPSRC Laser Loan Pool and for EU Access only (LaserLab Europe Transnational Access) to the LSF Functional Biosystems Imaging and Molecular Structural Dynamics Facilities. The loan period for the Loan Pool will be 22 weeks commencing in the period mid-September to January. The scheduling period for the EU Access will be January-March 2011.

**The DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 27th August 2010.**

Please read the information and instructions in the following document before applying.

### Access to the Lasers for Science Facility

Access to Lasers for Science Facility resources is possible by submitting a proposal in response to regular calls for access which occur approximately every 6 months. Details of the facilities available can be found on the [LSF website](#). This document provides information and instructions about access to the LSF with web links to relevant sections of the LSF website.

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### Facilities Available

Applicants may apply to come and use the following facilities.

- [Molecular Structural Dynamics \(MSD\)](#)
  - [ULTRA cluster techniques](#)
- [Functional Biosystems Imaging \(FBI\)](#)
  - [OCTOPUS cluster](#)

These resources are complemented and supported by comprehensive biolabs, sample manipulation using optical tweezers and sample preparation and diagnostic facilities will all be fully supported within the Research Complex. In addition expert scientific collaborative support will be given at all stages of experimental programme from concept to publication.

Applicants may also apply to borrow lasers and their ancillary equipment from the

- [EPSRC Laser Loan Pool](#)

## Access Mechanisms

For access to the FBI and MSD facilities there is one possible access mechanism for this round, EU Access:

- Some time is set aside specifically for groups/researchers from non-UK EU and specific non-EU countries. This time is funded through [LaserLab Europe](#) and is for a single visit to use the facilities.

For the EPSRC Loan Pool there is only one access mode:

- Application for the loan of equipment for the entire 6 month call period.

Further details about EU and Loan Pool access and application instructions can be found at the end of this document.

**\*\* Please note that we are currently only accepting EU mode and Loan Pool applications in this round \*\***

## Application Eligibility and Review Criteria

Access to the LSF is available through a peer review process identifying scientific excellence with a higher priority given to programmes with one or several of the following attributes:

- Aligned with priority areas of RCUK and its constituent Research Councils (e.g. demonstrated through allocation of strategically aligned grant funding)
- Associated with priority facility developments aligned with STFC strategy for its user community
- Proof of principle applications towards unlocking new scientific directions
- Possessing KE potential in line with STFC/RCUK strategy

In addition access will be available to:

- Peer reviewed applications for EU access through Laserlab Europe

In general terms, a greater emphasis will be given to strategic, long-term scientific programmes (aiming for ~80% of total activities) allowing the remainder for proof-of-principle and development projects.

## Safety

[Safety policy and information](#) must be read and understood. Failure to follow the correct procedure and provide the relevant information in time could prevent access to the Facility.

Basic safety information regarding types of samples to be used, etc, must be provided on the online application form. This is to enable LSF staff to identify any potential safety issues arising from particular experiments, and take any necessary additional safety precautions. Successful applicants will be asked for additional safety information. Details will be provided with the award of beam time. In brief, the requirement is for users to read online safety training and complete a test before their first visit to the facility. COSHH, BIOCOSHH, and GM approvals must be submitted **at least 4 weeks** before the first scheduled experiment. Failure to do this may result in users being unable to gain access to the facility.

## Support for Consumables

Beam time awards under Direct or Rapid Access may contain an element of funding for consumables and small items of equipment up to the value of £1000. In such cases requests must be accompanied by a detailed description of the consumables, a justification why they are required for the experiment and why funds cannot be obtained from other sources on the online application form. Where approved, expenditure under this heading can be claimed from CLF, except where indicated below. Items of equipment purchased with these funds remain Laboratory property, and may be retained for use by other Users after the original award expires.

An indicative list of items appropriate for funding as consumables in this way for CLF experiments is shown below.

- Special gases and reagents
- Special sample holders
- Samples e.g. crystals, biological materials, chemicals
- Windows/diamond anvils for sample cells
- Chemical and other materials for sample preparation
- High purity metals
- Sample handling components e.g. capillaries, valves

Experiments carried out in Programme Access mode are in general not eligible for consumables support, as grants associated with such programmes are expected to cover the costs of consumables.

In the case of a consumables award you are asked to copy the award letter to your University/Institution Finance Officer.

Users who seek support via UK Research Councils should include bids for consumables in their grant applications.

## EU Access

Some time is allocated in the LSF Functional Biosystems Imaging and Molecular Structural Dynamics Facility Schedules specifically for researchers and groups eligible for EU Access. This access is provided through [LaserLab-Europe](#). Please check your eligibility to apply by reading the [LaserLab-Europe Transnational Access eligibility criteria](#).

Applications are invited for short experiments that would typically require one or two weeks access to the facilities of the LSF. Applications will be assessed on scientific quality, feasibility, and need for the LSF's facilities.

Access to the facility to eligible users will include access to beamtime, travel and subsistence costs and up to £1k of consumables.

### How to apply for EU Access

To submit a proposal follow **all** of these steps in order:

1. Use the [CLF online proposal system](#). If you have not used the CLF online proposal system before then you will need to register by clicking on the New Facility User button and then use your e-mail address as the Login Identifier. It is important that you provide full and accurate address details to facilitate future communications with yourself and your co-investigators. If you have already registered then please check and update your information as necessary. On the home page click on the "LSF EU Access" button and enter the information requested at each step. At step #3 select the "Direct Access" access route. For enquiries with regard to proposal submission please contact the CLF User Office ([clf@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:clf@stfc.ac.uk)). Applications require a science case of up to 3 pages to be uploaded.
2. Download a PDF copy of your application.
3. Use [the Laserlab online proposal system](#) to submit your application. At the last step, attach the PDF copy of your proposal produced by the CLF proposal system.

## EPSRC Laser Loan Pool

The EPSRC Laser Loan Pool provides a variety of state-of-the-art commercial laser systems to UK researchers to use at their home institutions, underpinned by technical and scientific support from the Central Laser Facility. The facility is open to UK grant and non-grant holders who are eligible to apply for EPSRC funding. Our website provides [further details about the Loan Pool](#) and the [systems available](#).

Successful applicants must ensure their local laser safety rules are applied; in addition the host institution safety officers will be required to carry out a risk/hazard assessment of the equipment and its associated hazards before the equipment is installed.

### \*\*\* New Laser System \*\*\*

This application round sees the introduction of a new CWL1 laser system to the facility. The new system is a quasi-cw single mode supercontinuum white light laser, ideal for:

- Confocal microscopy
- Fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM)
- Spectroscopy
- Optical tomography

See our website for [full details of the new CWL1 system](#).

### How to apply to the EPSRC Laser Loan Pool

To submit a proposal use the [CLF online proposal system](#). If you have not used the CLF online proposal system before then you will need to register by clicking on the New Facility User button and then use your e-mail address as the Login Identifier. It is important that you provide full and accurate address details to facilitate future communications with yourself and your co-investigators. If you have already registered then please check and update your information as necessary. On the home page click on the "Loan Pool Only" button and enter the information requested at each step. At step #3 select the "Direct Access" access route. For enquiries with regard to proposal submission please contact the CLF User Office ([clf@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:clf@stfc.ac.uk)). Applications require a science case of up to 3 pages to be uploaded.