

Activity Guidelines of the US Burning Plasma Research Committee

The primary role of the Research Committee (RC) is to help define, promote and facilitate burning plasma (BP) research by:

- Coordinating research across multiple programs, facilities and institutions;
- Raising attention and increasing the visibility of BPO activities;
- Facilitating effective communication and coordination between the BPO Topical Groups and national/international organizations (such as the US facilities, ITPA, ITER, ...);
- Promoting communication and collaboration amongst the BPO Topical Groups to enhance the value of the work performed;
- Recommending the formation of special BPO Task Groups that integrate expertise from the Topical Groups;
- Making priority recommendations to the BPO director on tasks that require significant program resources, as required.

Research Task Definition and Formation

Research tasks can be initiated by the Topical Group membership, the research committee or by the BPO Director. In addition, research tasks can be recommended to the RC by the BPO Council, the US IPO, or by other US fusion organizations. Research tasks are expected to originate primarily from and self-organize within the Topical Groups. The Topical Groups will work to identify, prioritize and execute research in their topical areas through consultation with the RC. The RC can make recommendations for research to be undertaken by the Topical Groups or can recommend the formation of special task groups to undertake specific research activities.

In cases where a proposed task requires a significant redirection of program resources, a formal proposal with task description, goals, near term deliverables, resource requirements etc. needs to be submitted to the RC for further consideration. The BPO directorate may identify tasks that require a formal proposal.

A fundamental requirement of BPO activities is that they be of broad interest and importance to burning plasma (BP) research. Tasks should have clearly defined deliverables and interim goals and they should exploit/develop US strengths through collaborative efforts across US institutions and facilities and international organizations as appropriate. Task descriptions and results will be posted on the BPO web site for dissemination to the wider community.

Approval and Prioritization of BPO Activities

The larger set of BPO activities undertaken by the Topical groups will be coordinated and facilitated by the Topical Group leaders, who will act as liaison between the task activities and the RC. It is expected that the Topical Group leaders will take the initiative in promoting and

facilitating these tasks, communicating with task members and in providing regular updates to the RC on progress in their groups' activities. The BPO director may at his discretion request a written work plan and review by the RC.

Proposed tasks requiring agreement with external organizations (such as ITER physics/design tasks, etc.) or involving a significant redirection of program resources need to be submitted to the RC for further consideration. The RC will deliberate on formal proposals and approve the task by recommendation to the BPO director. This RC recommendation will include a work plan with resource requirements and prioritization relative to previous recommendations or ongoing work, when requested. The RC will prioritize these tasks as deemed necessary by the BPO Director.

Facilitation and Reporting

Effective task facilitation and empowering of researchers include the following:

- Enhance the visibility of the accomplishments of the BPO tasks by promoting presentations at major scientific and community meetings (such as the APS-DPP, ITPA, BPM, ...), newsletters, web postings, ...;
- Facilitate opportunities for invited presentations at major scientific meetings and encourage the publication of results in scientific journals ...;
- Provide timely input into the facility planning process for run time and resource allocation;
- Coordinate and integrate BPO activities with external organizations, such as ITER, ITPA, etc.

The provision of experimental runtime and other resources on the major US facilities is recognized as one of the key elements in the successful execution of BPO activities. An essential role of the RC is to provide timely input into the facility planning process regarding recommendations for facility run time and other facility resources together with priority recommendations where necessary. This is similar to the existing voluntary procedure used to promote joint ITPA experiments.

The RC will schedule task or Topical Group leader presentations as part of their regular meeting schedule in order to be apprised of progress and provide feedback on group activities. A brief report on the description of accomplishments including interim deliverables will be presented to the RC for discussion. The Task Groups will edit (if necessary) and post the reports on the BPO web site.

To foster open discussion, BPO members will be encouraged to post their comments and critiques of the task descriptions and reports on the BPO web forum.