

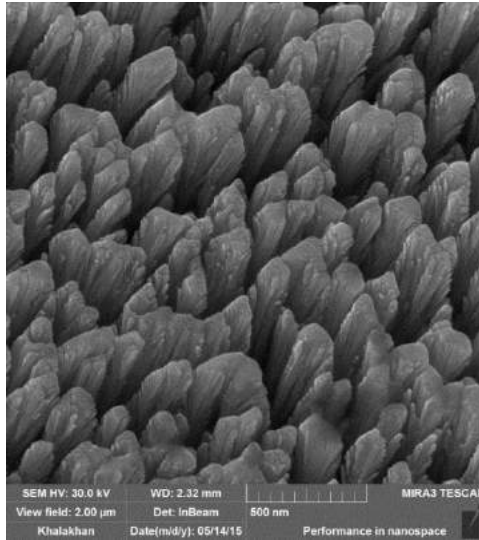


Central European  
Research Infrastructure  
Consortium

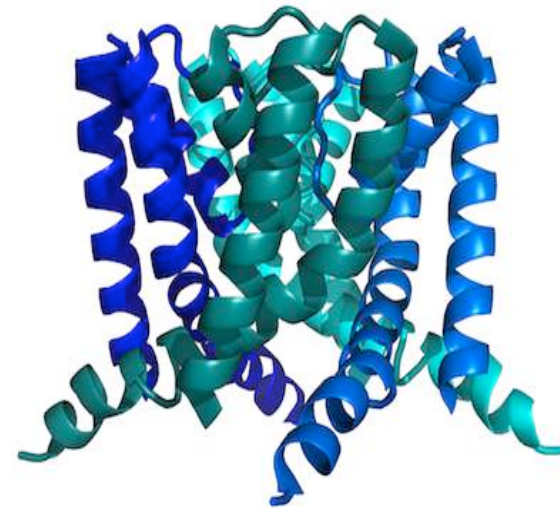


# Open access to CERIC

# In the beginning: The Scientific Problem



A  
new  
Catalytic material



A new  
ion-channel  
structure\*

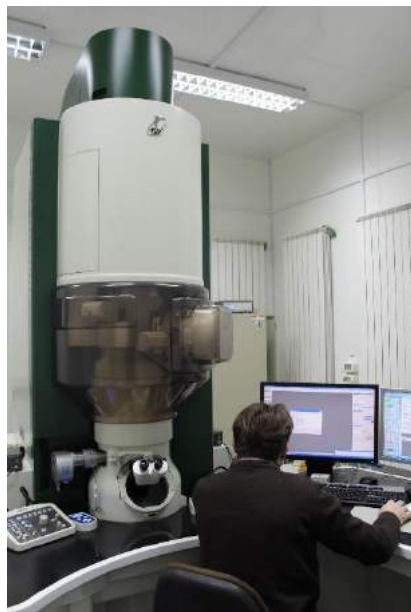
\* Napolitano, L.M.R., et al. *PNAS*, **2015**, 112 (27), E3619

# Identify the instruments you need



ESCA

HR-TEM



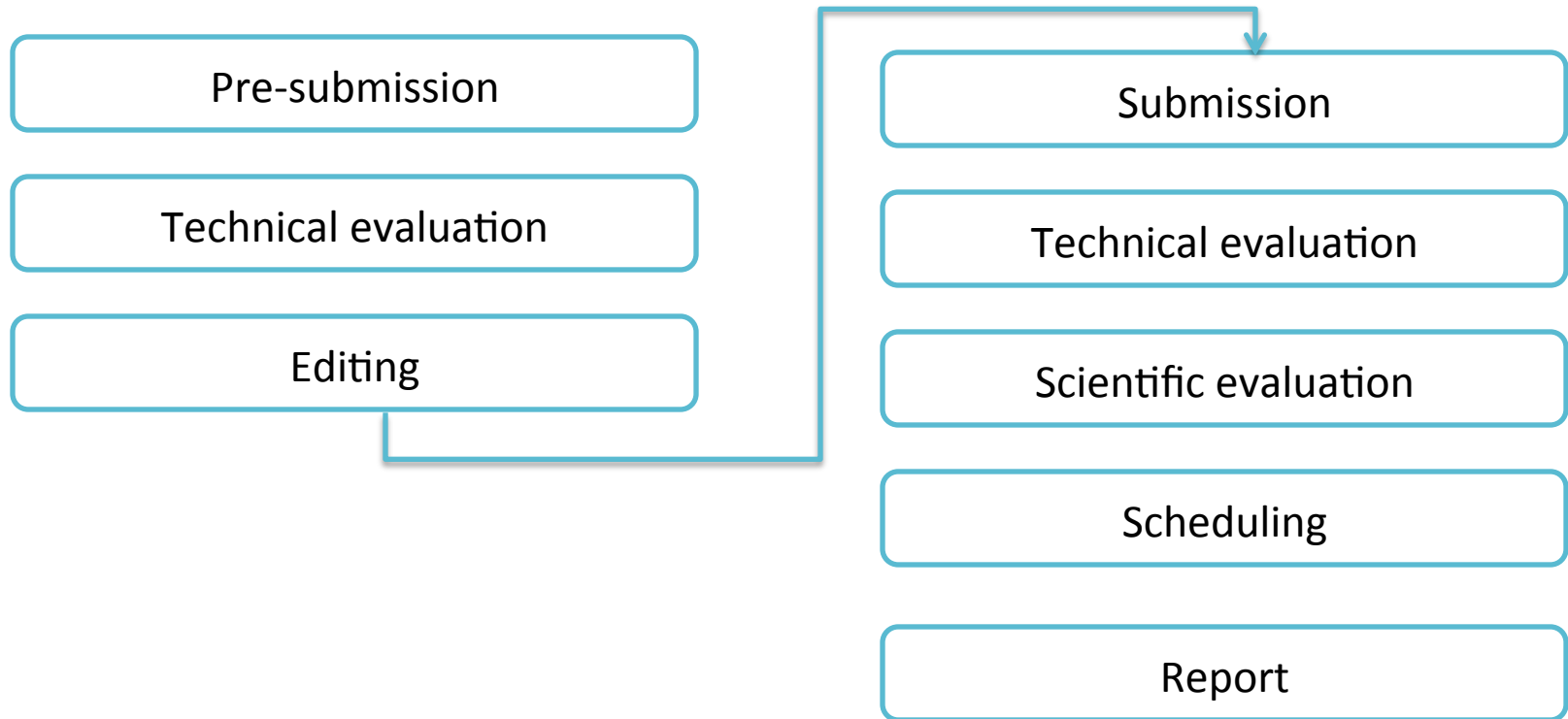
SANS

NMR



**CERIC allows you to choose more than one instrument in your proposal**

# After submission: The Review Process



- The innovative CERIC two-steps deadline



# **A Short Guide to Proposal Writing**

A CERIC Proposal consists of:

- a) The **Electronic Application Form**;
- b) The **Proposal Description Form**.

➤ **Electronic application form**

- is filled-in online in the **Virtual Unified Office (VUO)**

➤ **Proposal Description Form**

- Main document that describes your proposal; uploaded as rtf or pdf
  - Template is downloaded from the VUO
  - Submission of different formats is not possible
- > ALWAYS respect the template!

# General Points

There is a **high competition** for experiment time in CERIC  
Some instruments have an acceptance rate of 35%

- **The proposal must be scientifically compelling and competitive**
  - Build a **strong scientific case** where your CERIC experiment could give a result which allows a **significant advance** in a specific field.
  - Write a **highly targeted proposal** with a clear scientific problem, avoid to broad or blurry aims and goals

# General Points

- **The reviewers have a lot of proposals to read!**
  - The proposal has to be self-contained
  - All important information must be given in the proposal
  - Reviewers usually don't have the time to get additional information
  - Technically poorly written proposals (typos, errors, not respecting the format) might get a bad mark
  - Structure is important! Write clear and easy to read.
  
- **Consult the instrument scientist**
  - Target the measurements to the instruments you need
  - Clearly identify how your experiment can be done and whether it can give you the results you need
  - Get advice on the number of shifts needed



# The proposal template

## CERIC PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

Proposal number: 20137003

Title: CERIC Proposal

Proposer: John smith

Objectives: Proposal template example.

Requested Instruments/techniques:

- XPS,UPS,XPD,ARUPS@CU in Prague

Requested hours: 20

- NAA Neutron Activation Analysis@BNC

Requested hours:54

- PSD Neutron diffractometer with a Position Sensitive Detector system@BNC

Requested hours:

- SISSI beamline@Elettra

Requested hours:60

- Deposition equipment@NIMP

Requested hours:78

- 300 MHz NMR (odac) spectrometer@Slovenian NMR Centre

Requested hours:30

This part will be filled automatically, do not change it!!!!

do not change anything above this line

### READ FIRST:

RTF Document Submission and Automatic RTF to PDF Conversion

We use OpenOffice as RTF to PDF converter. OpenOffice does not support all features of MS Word, some formatting information might be lost. In particular some formatting instructions results and meta information are ignored.

To avoid problems with images and formulas please insert them in the RTF document as JPEG files.

Body text **max. 3 pages** including pictures and references (recommended 10-point Times New Roman, 1 cm indented, preferably left aligned, single spacing). The description of the experiment must include the background, the objectives, the scientific interest of the experiment. Descriptions have to be self-contained. We cannot accept links to other documents.

**This is just for your information, you should cancel it.**

### STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FLOW CHART:

#### 1. Background

#### 2. Motivation for the present proposal

#### 3. Experimental plan

#### 4. Explain why this work calls for access to CERIC

Include picture(s) if needed

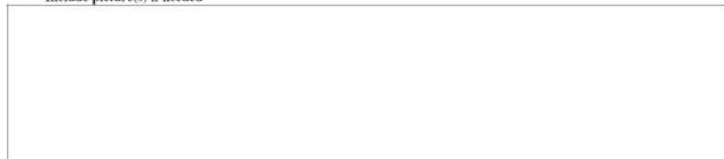


Figure 1: Caption (recommended 10-point Times, single spacing, preferably left aligned).

#### 5) References

**IMPORTANT: include the references to your work performed at CERIC if relevant for this proposal**

[1] font 10-point Times, preferably left aligned, single line spacing, *indent line after first line of each reference.*

[2] font 10-point Times, preferably left aligned, single line spacing, *indent line after first line of each reference.*

[3] font 10-point Times, preferably left aligned, single line spacing, *indent line after first line of each reference.*

## 1. Background

Should describe the scientific or technological problem and its context.

## 2. Motivation

Should include information about previous experiments and expected achievements. It should explain how the experiment sheds light on the problem described in the background

## 3. Experimental Plan

Should describe all steps your proposal includes, from sample preparation to data analysis. Be as specific as you can here.

## 4. *Explain why this work calls for access to CERIC*

Due to the high demand, it is essential to justify the need for the advanced techniques offered at CERIC.



# **The Electronic Application Form: A Tutorial**

