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EMSL In Brief

Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

EMSL Serves as Model for New UK User Facility

Representatives from the University of Manchester visited the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) on July 23 and 24 to evaluate EMSL as a model for how the university will design and operate its new user facility.



The University of Manchester's Dalton Nuclear Institute is evaluating EMSL (shown above) as a model for its Dalton Cumbria Facility. Information such as EMSL's organizational setup, project selection and peer review process, and stakeholder engagement was gleaned by university representatives during a visit to EMSL on July 23 and 24.

The University of Manchester's Dalton Nuclear Institute is partnering with the United Kingdom's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to fund creation of the Dalton Cumbria Facility (DCF), which will become part of that country's National Nuclear Lab system. Currently in the planning stages, the DCF is expected to house equipment and facilities associated with research in radiation sciences and engineering decommissioning and, as an outstation to the University of Manchester, will enable research and education activities at the post-graduate level. Instruments will include accelerators and experimental equipment to study irradiation damage and effects on materials and chemical systems used in nuclear environments, as well as cutting-edge computational modeling and simulation tools.

To support Dalton Nuclear Institute's goal of operating the DCF as a user facility, the university delegation is focusing on evaluating how world-class user facilities such as EMSL were set up and operate. During the July visit, the representatives gained a good understanding from EMSL staff about EMSL's financial model of operation, organizational hierarchy, stakeholder engagement, project selection and peer review processes, how users are trained and supervised, and measures of performance.

According to the university representatives, the visit was a great success, and the DCF and National Nuclear Lab system were expected to adopt several of EMSL's key user systems.

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