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Focus on users: PR for the Committees Research with Synchrotron Radiation, Neutrons and Nuclear Probes and Ion Beams (www.sni-portal.de)

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Users of Large Scale Facilities work on other premises than scientists who can do their research in their own laboratory. They need access to facilities and specific instruments. There are several aspects to this –first, the facility has to exist, then the scientist has to submit a proposal for beamtime and last but not least funding is needed for own developments (e.g. sample environments) and for travel.

Therefore, to represent their needs, user communities elect committees who hold up the dialogue among users and facilities, representatives of the responsible departments at the BMBF and the project executing organisation. Since a strong user community is also in the interest of the facilities, the German neutron, photon and ion beam facilities fund a common PR project which comprises mainly the websites of the Committees KFN, KFS and KFSI and of the Helmholtz-programme MML (former PNI). Direct communication with the users by email and the publication of recommendations for research strategy are other fields covered.

The websites of the www.sni-portal.de (synchrotron, neutron, ion) published by KFN, KFS and KFSI address mainly the respective users, but also the interested public, students, scientists from fields and decision makers. Besides background information, they offer up-to-date information on the activities of the committees, decisions in research policy, news from the facilities, scientific highlights, job offers and events.

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