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The Sample Environment Communication Protocol (SECoP)

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The integration of sample environment equipment in a neutron or synchrotron experiment is a complex problem both in the physical world and in the digital world. Different experiment control softwares offer different interfaces for the connection of sample environment equipment. Up to now there exists no software standard for this task. Therfore it is time-consuming to integrate new sample environment or to share sample environment equipment between facilities.

The Sample Environment Communication Protocol (SECoP) is intended to solve this problem offering a standarized communication protocol for the integration of sample environment equipment. The development of the SECoP is a collaborative effort within the framework of the International Society for Sample Environment (ISSE) additionally supported by the european SINE2020 project. The SECoP is defined in a way that it is compatible with a broad variety of soft- and hardware operated at the different neutron and X-ray facilities. The SECoP is easy to implement facilitating the integration of sample environment equipment developed by external users which may have limited programming experience. The adoption of this standard will greatly facilitate the installation of new equipment and the sharing of equipment between the facilities. Presently first implementations of SECoP are tested at different facilities. Supply companies have been contacted as well.

In this presentation we will give an overview of the present status of SECoP.

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