# Charge

At this STAP meeting, each group, along with the Acting Head, will give updates on progress, status, and challenges for their specific activities. Additionally, two Instrument Data Scientists (SANS and INS) and a PostDoc assuming the role as Instrument Data Scientist for NMX will present the status for their instruments. The Acting Head will also present on behalf of the Instrument Data Scientists for diffraction, imaging, and reflectometry.

The STAP is invited to comment on these activities and advice on the best way forward for the individual activities.

Currently, DMSC faces significant uncertainty regarding decisions about its future location, the locations of individual staff, the Head of DMSC position, and its scope. Some of these decisions may be finalized by the time of the STAP meeting. This uncertainty, combined with the significant resources required to manage it, has raised concerns for several months. We have reported to upper project management about an increased risk to staff retention and DMSC project deliverables. Regrettably, some staff have already resigned, causing delays in the affected activities. One such departure has been a significant loss for the neutron scattering community. The Acting Head will provide an update on this situation during the STAP meeting.

On a brighter note, ESS suggests increasing the DMSC staff to at least 60 members by the end of 2027, though budget approval is still pending. While this presents an opportunity to support activities at risk of delay and begin realizing our long-term vision, it also introduces stress during the commissioning phase where focus is crucial. The recent challenges in recruiting qualified staff further complicate matters. This expansion necessitates a strategic plan, potentially including reorganizations, to ensure alignment with the Science Directorate.

The Acting Head will provide an update on this latest development. However, since a permanent Head of DMSC is expected to assume the role soon, the Acting Head will not delve into the details of the staff ramp-up, as the new Head may have different approaches to its implementation.

An updated instrument schedule, highlighting DMSC's involvement in instrument milestones, will be presented at the STAP meeting.

We invite STAP to provide feedback and recommendations, especially regarding any potentially overlooked aspects.