

National Centre for Plasma Science and Technology ***– Policy on Gases.***

Background: In 2002 the NCPST agreed with OVPR and other Research Centres in the S-block that the NCPST would cover from its recurrent grant the costs of high purity argon for the S-block.

Current Situation: While the NCPST continues to cover these costs but there has been a growing number of other bottled gasses that are ending up on the NCPST books.

It is thought this situation is being created as people order bottled gasses for experiments and do not realise that there is a monthly rental charge on the gas bottles. It is not helped at all by the supplier, typically Air Products, lumping all cylinder rental charges together.

Key Issue: The NCPST Recurrent grant can NOT be used to directly support Research Projects. In 2006/2007 €2,786.78 was paid by the NCPST for gasses and gas cylinder rental. There is currently an investigation being undertaken to review where in particular all of the gas cylinders are and initial reports are that at least some of these are directly link to research projects – this situation will have to be corrected asap.

Proposal :

- Clarification of the NCPST Policy on Gasses.
- Reversal to Research Accounts of all non S-Block high purity argon gas purchases or cylinder rentals as soon as it is clarified where they belong.

Proposed NCPST Policy on Gasses:

The NCPST will cover the cost of high purity argon gas purchases or cylinder rentals for the S-block. These gas cylinders are stored in the gas bunker and are managed by Billy Roarty. All individual gases cylinder ordered by research groups or projects need to be paid for on an ongoing basis by research projects. If individual research groups/projects do not have the funds to cover the ongoing rental costs of individual gas cylinder then these cylinder must be returned to the Gas Company. The NCPST cannot under its terms of support from the OVPR contribute to support individual research projects.

Recommendation:

Approval of the NCSPT Policy on Gasses for circulation to all NCPST members.