Industrial NMR Facility Design 101

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Process

Customer Meetings

Basis of Design (BOD) Document

Architects

More Meetings

Construction Plans

Construction

Monitor Construction

Acceptance
Guiding Principles

• Optimize accessibility
  - Location, workflow, ergonomics, e-access, cryo-maintenance
• Optimize instrument environment
  - Environmental room, 5 G line, RFI, metal, power
• Consider safety
  - 5 G line, monitor oxygen, air exchanges
• Consider intended use
  - Open-access, research, automation
• Anticipate the future
  - Higher fields / larger magnets, accessories
Required Reading
Our Objectives

• “Open-access”
  Used by bench chemists in their daily operations to assess structure and purity of synthesized samples. They need quick access.
  ⇒
  • Mostly proton 1D’s at 25 C
  • Some instruments are automated
  • Mix of 300’s, 400’s, and 500’s

• “Research”
  Used by NMR staff for all non-routine NMR studies:
    - Structure determination of unknowns
    - Conformational analyses
    - Ligand-receptor interaction studies
    - Analyses for purity and/or isomer composition
  ⇒
  • Wide variety of experiments and conditions
  • Greatest need for optimal stability
  • 600’s
Location, Location, Location

- Where are the clients?

- Clear delivery path for instrument
  - Corridor and door dimensions vs. crate sizes include allowances for turning
  - Elevator dimensions and capacity

- Floor loading
• Minimize magnetic perturbations from external sources
  - Include vertical dimension
    floor to floor spacing in older US labs 10-12’
    floor to floor spacing in many newer US labs is 16’
  - Absolutely no structural metal within 25 G shell
  - Ideally no structural metal in 5G
  - No ferromagnetic cabinets, desks, doors, refrigerators, carts, cylinders, piping, ductwork, magnetic stirrers, … in 5G
    ⇒
    fully restrict ≥5 G space in designs
  - No pallet movers, large cylinders, delivery carts in 2G
    ⇒
    exclude material handling corridors from 2 G shell
  - No forklifts, autos, elevators, in 1 G
  - No trains, large trucks in 0.1 G
  - Sector mass spectrometers - 100’?
Location, Location, Location (cont.)

Frame

Return
Location, Location, Location (cont.)

- Minimize magnetic perturbations from external sources
  - Include vertical dimension
    - Floor to floor spacing in older US labs 10-12’
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  - No trains, large trucks in 0.1 G
  - Sector mass spectrometers - 100’?
Location, Location, Location (cont.)

- Minimize electromagnetic interference from external sources
  - Affects vary greatly
    ⇒
    - one should avoid these sources when possible:
      - **AC**
        - Electric motors, transformers (some UPSs, line conditioners), power lines / feeds, electric trains, ...
      - **RFI**
        - Broadcast transmitters, other NMR spectrometers at matching frequencies, ICP instruments (27, 40 MHz), welders, unshielded electronics (e.g. computers, bad ethernet connections), two-way radios, wireless ethernet
    
    - **Mitigating circumstances**
      - Large steel frame buildings
      - Below grade
Location, Location, Location (cont.)

• Consider perturbations that the NMR may cause externally
  - CRT’s work best outside the 2G shell
  - Magnetic media (disks and tapes) should be kept outside the 10 G shell
  - Personal safety (pacemakers) - 5 G shell
  - Other NMR spectrometers
  - Alarm systems that use magnetic test switches
  - Any other sensitive magnetic or electronic instrumentation
Location, Location, Location (cont.)

- Minimize vibrations (vertical and horizontal)
  - Highest field instruments on grade
  - Floating slab?
  - Steel building design
    - Consult with structural engineer
  - Secure magnet legs and brace horizontally

- Accessibility for cryo-maintenance
  - Delivery path
    - Corridors and doors 40-48”
    - Not over cables
    - Does not perturb other spectrometers
  - Quick egress possible for service person
Magnet Room

• Research instruments
  - Greatest need for stability
    - Long-term experiments
    - S/N often limited
    - Prevent perturbations from unanticipated “guests”
  ⇒ controlled environment for magnet and console is critical
    i.e. a fully enclosed environmental room

• Open-access instruments
  - High turnover
  - 24 x 7 access needed by users
  - Some long-term experiments
  ⇒ Integrate operator environment into same space as magnet and console
Magnet Room (cont.)
Magnet Room (cont.)

• Full containment of 5 G shell
  - Vertical as well as horizontal
  - Use pit to keep 5 G from upper floor
    • 12’ wide, 5’ 10” deep
    • Platform access to magnet
    • Safety railing
    • Lighting
    • Drain

• Workflow / ergonomics
Magnet Room (cont.)

600 5G
Magnet Room (cont.)

600 pit
Magnet Room (cont.)

600j
Magnet Room (cont.)

• Installation considerations
  – Magnet
    • Path for magnet
    • Hoist
Magnet Room (cont.)

• HVAC
  - Objective is 70 +/- 1 °F, 40 / 50 +/- 10% RH, neutral pressure, constant volume, laminar flow
  - Two operational modes - normal and purge
  - Exhaust is from low vents when in normal mode
  - Exhaust is from ceiling pocket when in purge mode
  - Mode is switched automatically by oxygen monitoring system
  - Manual mode switch is possible
  - 12 air changes per hour, 100% outside make-up air
  - Small return vent in ceiling pocket
  - Aluminum ductwork
  - No ducts directly above magnet
  - No occupancy temperature set-backs
  - No variable external heat sources (outside windows)
Magnet Room (cont.)

- Oxygen monitoring
  - Tied to HVAC
  - Switches for manual purge inside and outside of magnet room
  - Power supplied by UPS
  - Levels
    - 19.5 % - Warning:
      - sounds local alarm
      - warning signal sent to command center
    - 16.0 % - Danger:
      - automatic purge
      - danger signal sent to command center
    - 20.0 % - All clear:
      - purge is interlocked so that it cannot be shut off until oxygen level is at or above this point
  - Requires periodic calibration and sensor replacement
  - Subject to atmospheric pressure changes
Magnet Room (cont.)

Oxygen monitoring
Magnet Room (cont.)

• Electrical
  - Dedicated UPS for each instrument
  - Breaker panel in magnet room
  - UPSs put into a dedicated, air conditioned room
  - Monitored by remote status panel and web link
  - 240 / 120 v
  - Transformer for Varian console (240 -> 220 v)
  - Every device except laser printer powered by UPS
  - UPS sized to 50% load
Magnet Room (cont.)

Electrical
Magnet Room (cont.)

• Other
  - Ceiling pocket
  - Mylar faced acoustic ceiling tiles
  - Static dissipative, vinyl composite flooring
  - Bi-level lighting
  - Reflective lighting in pits
  - Emergency lighting
  - No lights directly above magnet
  - No sprinklers directly above magnet
  - Heat detectors instead of smoke detectors
  - Wood cabinets
  - Non-ferromagnetic doors
  - Safety railing around pits
  - Gravity drain with check valve in pit
  - 100 PSI nitrogen to manifold
  - Helium gas piped from an external tank
Ancillary Spaces

• Control Station
  - Outside magnet room for “research” instruments
  - Inside magnet room for “open-access” instruments
  - Power supplied by instrument UPS
  - Remote status panel for UPS
  - Network connection
Ancillary Spaces (cont.)

• Wet labs
  - Close proximity to “research” instruments
  - Not in “open-access” areas
  - Ventilate the same as a chemistry lab

• Computer room
  - Secure room for servers
    • Fiber hub
    • Data server
    • Reservation system server
    • Other servers
    • Space to configure workstations

• UPS room
  - Air conditioned
  - Ethernet connections
Acknowledgements

NMR
Dave Knapp
Tom Kalisker
Michael Bogusky

Merck Engineers and Facility Planners
Sean McKee
Jay Wieder

Architects
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
Curt Biehn
Dave Kirsch
Steven Laurie
Donna Lisle
Steve Novatney (HVAC)
James Shackleton (HVAC)
Earl Mercadante (mechanical)
Steve Coyne (mechanical)
Tim Magerr (structure, platform)
Brian Schug (data)

Construction
Bovis, Inc.
Andrew Sencindiver
Jim O’Neill
Mike Fisher