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Author

Welton, R.

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Status of the SNS H⁻ Ion Source and Low-Energy Transport System*

R. Keller and R. Thomae, E. O. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory M. Stockli and R. Welton, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The ion source and Low-Energy Transport (LEBT) system that will provide H ion beams to the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS)** Front End and the accelerator chain have been developed into a mature unit that will satisfy the operational needs through the commissioning and early operating phases of SNS. The ion source was derived from the SSC ion source, and many of its original features have been improved to achieve reliable operation at 6% duty factor, producing beam currents in the 35-mA range and above. The LEBT utilizes purely electrostatic focusing and includes static beam-steering elements and a pre-chopper. This paper will discuss the latest design features of the ion source and LEBT, give performance data for the integrated system, and report on commissioning results obtained with the SNS RFQ accelerator. Perspectives for further improvements will be outlined in concluding remarks.

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- ** The SNS project is being carried out as a collaboration of six US Laboratories: Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), E. O. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). SNS is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC, under contract DE-AC05-00OR22725 for the U.S. Department of Energy.