**I. Summary**

The next generation experiments in neutrino, dark matter and neutrinoless double beta decay require unprecedented levels of radiopurity in their detector, target and shielding materials. Data on the anticipated assay needs of current and proposed underground experiments have been collected and compared to the capabilities of major material assay facilities world-wide, demonstrating that demand far outstrips supply in both sensitivity and throughput. A community consensus was reached through the Snowmass Process (reference CF1 and NAF2) that assay capability represents a fundamental infrastructure need. Cost-effective, high sensitivity screening of this magnitude can only be achieved if the community works together to develop a plan for management and deployment of existing resources, and a model for choosing the best proposals for the future. This is envisioned as a consortium of low-background assay centers in the U.S that is managed by a scientific board with representatives from the community. It would incorporate a number of projects initiated by AARM (Assay and Acquisition of Radiopure Materials), especially the community-wide materials database which would provide open access to the results of all screening performed in Consortium assay centers.

The purpose and outline of this document can be summarized as follows:

I. Describe the challenge to sensitive rare event searches presented by environmental background sources. Define the risk and loss of scientific potential which will occur if these challenges are not met in a timely and effective manner.

II. Define the types of assay used to mitigate against environmental background sources, including their sensitivity and performance specifications.

III. Identify the low background facilities that currently provide user access to assay, as well as their plans for future use for others. with an emphasis on whether they are willing and capable of expanding this function in the future. Define their complementary strengths and examine their roles strategically, using the survey data.

IV. Present a data-driven argument for increased assay capability. This is accomplished via targeted surveys of experimental needs, compared to the facilities available. Detailed information has been collected on contaminant type, number of samples, required radiopurity and background type in order to derive the optimal assay suite defined by the experiments themselves.

V. Describe the specific software and database tools which can be developed immediately to unify existing resources, create user access, share data, and improve screening duty cycles. This hands-on approach will provide practical information on management styles and manpower requirements, as well as populating and advertising the materials database to a wide audience, while providing immediate access to needed assay capability to a large community of users.

VI. Detail the advantages which will accrue to the field from a community-supported and directed Assay Consortium, e.g. scientific reach, risk mitigation, and cost effectiveness.

**I. Low background experiments – The challenge**

Next generation experiments in dark matter, neutrinoless double beta decay, and low-energy neutrino detection will require special attention to background reduction methods to achieve their research goals. Most of these experiments are performed underground to reduce external backgrounds induced by cosmic rays. The scientific research areas of these experiments span the traditional disciplines of nuclear, particle, and astroparticle physics. As the reach of dark matter (lower cross section sensitivity), neutrinoless double beta decay (longer half-life sensitivity), and low-energy neutrino detection (rate and spectral-shape sensitivity) has grown, experiments have increased in size and demanded lower background rates to achieve their science goals. As described below, background reduction falls into two broad categories: experimental design ingenuity and direct management of the background source terms. A review of contemporary published experimental results from these fields shows that for nearly all experiments, the limiting background is due to source terms that are internal to the experimental construction materials. As the vast majority of internal backgrounds are due the presence of naturally occurring primordial radioactive isotopes (principally those in the uranium decay chain, thorium decay chain, and potassium), directly managing the background source term encompasses addressing the *materials* containing these problematic isotopes and using some means of *assay* to ensure during the construction process of large scale experiments the intended background goals are met and the scientific reach is achieved. This approach to background reduction is referred in short hand as “low background materials and assay.”

**I.1 Methods of background reduction**

There are several methods for addressing backgrounds in experimental detector systems:

* Insensitivity to a potential background
  + COUPP’s gamma-ray insensitivity
* Discrimination (against) the background
  + SuperCDMS’s nuclear recoil vs. electron recoil discrimination
* Fiducial volume cuts
  + LUX’s self-shielded inner volume and position reconstruction
* Characterization of the background
  + *In situ* and *ex situ* assay to robustly quantify the background rates
* Material handling
  + Cleanrooms; DarkSide’s reduced radon environments
* Material selection
  + EXO’s material assay tome: NIMA 591 (2008) 490–509
* Material purification
  + Majorana Demonstrator’s electroformed copper to reduce U/Th isotopes

Generally, the top three methods are the basis for the design of a specific experiment and represent the physicist’s tool kit for implementing a scientific research program. Background characterization can take place either by using the instrument itself (*in situ* background characterization) or by some other assay means performed outside of the experimental instrument (*ex situ* background characterization). In the former case a good experimental design is crucial so that *in situ* characterization can address its own uncertainties in measurement. In the latter case, an *ex situ* measurement of the source term of some background is made and then a simulation or other method for inferring a specific background level from the *ex situ* characterization is required. The last three background mitigation methods can either be developed within an experimental program for a specific target measurement or in other cases rely upon pre-existing resources and experts in material characterization such as spectroscopists, analytic chemists, or material scientists depending on the specific measurement need.

**I.2 Backgrounds reported in the contemporary literature**

A short review of recently reported results and background predictions is contained within Appendix A. The vast majority of backgrounds reported is due to primordial radioactivity present in the materials used in the construction of the experiment. That is, the source of the background is generally consistent across experiments. Answering *why* the primordial radioactivity creates a background varies by experiment. In some cases experiments can discriminate against some types of backgrounds, but the discrimination may not be perfect and thus a “leakage” of background events may occur. In other cases the experiment cannot discriminate the background and thus the events simply appear in the data set and must be estimated. Lastly, in some cases, the handling of the detector construction materials is insufficiently clean, resulting in elevated background rates from the expected values. Regardless of the *why*, the source is still nearly always primordial radioactivity. Methods that reduce or quantify the levels of these primordial background sources will directly contribute to mitigating their impact in future experiments.

**II. Radiometric Assay technology and sensitivity**

The type of material assay required depends on the target isotope or impurity, the material to be screened, and the required level of sensitivity. Therefore, a variety of techniques and facilities will be necessary, which must be matched to the needs of each experiment. This section presents the most common methods for radioactive impurity screening of materials using radiometric techniques that measure the radiation emitted from the material under study. Facilities employing these methods are found in Appendix C.

**II.1 High purity germanium (HPGe) gamma-ray assay**

High purity germanium (HPGe) gamma ray spectroscopy is a mature technology that is seen as the primary tool for material assay as part of material screening and selection programs. For this reason, the use of HPGe detectors for assay screening of materials is given a longer description.

When applied to assay for the uranium decay chain, HPGe assay is principally sensitive to the gamma rays from 214Pb and 214Bi at the bottom of the decay chain and 226Ra (though significantly less intense) located in the middle of the decay chain, immediately above 220Rn. The noble gas 220Rn is important as it has a 3.8-day half-life and can potentially migrate out of the matrix material creating disequilibrium in the uranium decay chain within the material being assayed. This may or may not be an issue; it depends on the target impurity isotope that is a concern as a background source for a given experiment. For example, if the concern is spontaneous fission neutrons from 238U, then assay via sensitivity to 214Pb and 214Bi may provide misleading results if the equilibrium of the decay chain is disrupted (e.g. during processing or due to 220Rn migration). However, if the experiment’s background is gamma rays from 214Bi, for example, then a direct measurement of the gamma rays from 214Bi is usually ideal.

When applied to assay for the thorium decay chain, HPGe assay is principally sensitive to the gamma rays from 208Tl, 212Bi, and 212Pb located at the bottom of the decay chain and 228Ac located toward the top of the decay chain above 220Rn (only a 56 second half-life). In many cases the background of concern for experiments is precisely the high-energy 2615 keV gamma ray from 208Tl that conspicuously dominate an HPGe assay spectrum from the equilibrium thorium decay chain. In these cases HPGe gamma-ray assay is a likely method for assay material screening.

In addition to gamma radiation emission, there are many alpha decays in both the uranium and thorium decay chains. If the background for an experiment is directly alpha particles or secondarily neutrons from induced (,n) reactions, HPGe screening may or may not be the assay of choice depending on an experiment’s level of sensitivity to these alpha-related backgrounds and their location.

See Appendix D for the primary U/TH decay chains with noted gamma-assay isotopes.

The decay of 40K produces a 1461 keV gamma ray. If an experiment is concerned with backgrounds from 40K gamma rays, HPGe screening for 40K is typically the correct approach.

HPGe detector systems used for material screening take many different shapes, sizes, designs, and locations. Three general categories of HPGe instruments are described.

*Commercial systems*

HPGe detectors are sold commercially by a number of detector vendors. From the perspective of material assay screening, the primary specification of interest is the detector’s relative efficiency compared to a 3”x3” NaI detector [IEEE specification]. The relative efficiency is directly related to the counting efficiency of the detector system. HPGe detectors range from 20%-150% relative efficiency with costs ranging from $20k to $100k+, depending on the additional features requested. If the HPGe detector is being used as a screening counter, the commercial vendors can provide a number of additional features including single-unit lead shielding, spectroscopic measurement systems, and software to analyze gamma-ray spectra to identify isotopes via their gamma-ray emission. Such systems are best suited for rapid screening to test for levels of radioactivity that are at the level of naturally occurring U/Th/K found in soils etc. Testing for U/Th/K levels in refined and purified materials typically requires more sensitive systems. However, in some case the radioactivity-screening requirement for a given material is not particularly stringent (e.g., outer shielding materials) and a confirmatory screening reporting the activity is “less than the experimental requirement” is sufficient. Identifying these cases when less stringent material screening requirements are needed is an important part of material assay screening management: if the sample doesn’t need a sensitive measurement, don’t put it on the most sensitive HPGe counter to preserve that resource for more sensitive screening.

*Augmented commercial systems*

An augmented commercial system is typically a commercial HPGe germanium detector that the owner (purchaser) has placed inside a specially designed (“custom”) shield, perhaps including graded shielding materials (such as lead and copper), use of neutron moderation and capture materials, a radon mitigation system, an active cosmic ray veto shield, and even an underground location. However, the germanium detector itself remains in the original commercial cryostat, often in a vendor’s low-background-materials version of their standard cryostats. In these cases the cryostat and shielding materials will typically determine the sensitivity achieved by the screening detector. As an example of this type of detector system, an HPGe material assay screening system located deep underground at SNOLAB reported the following sensitivity levels [8]:

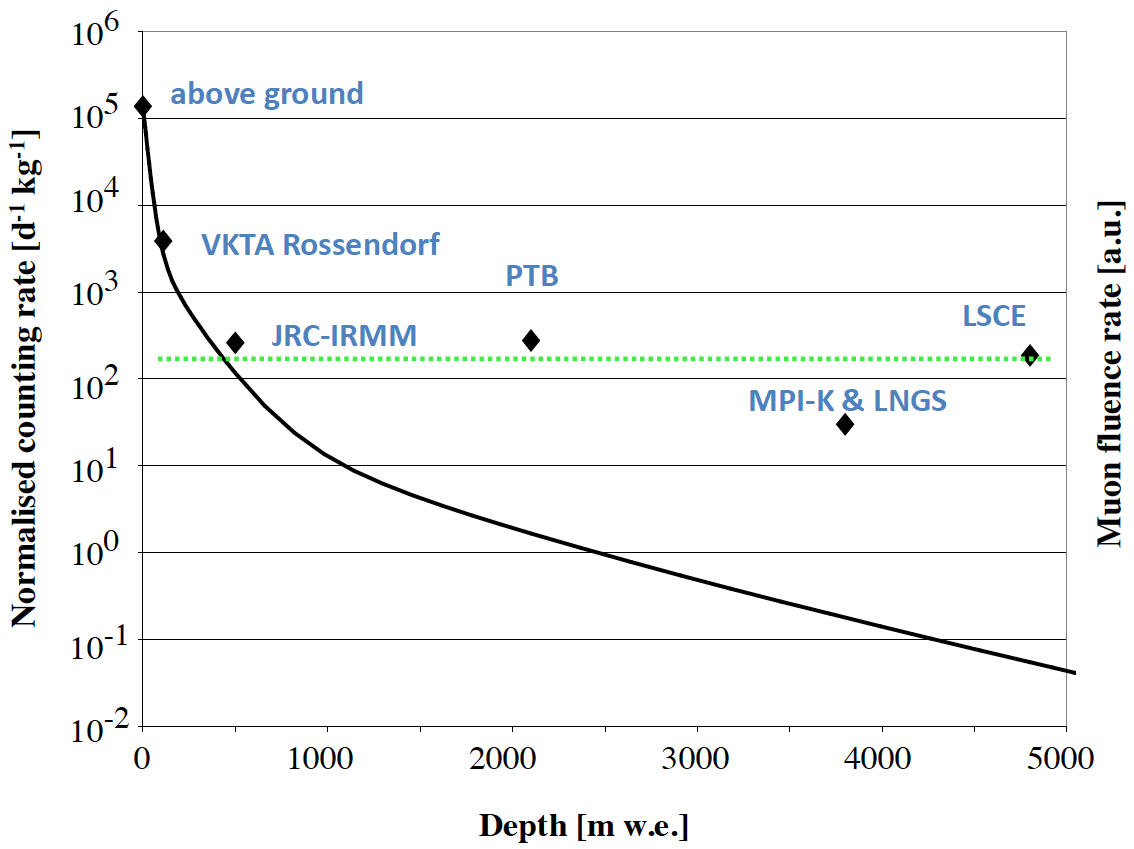
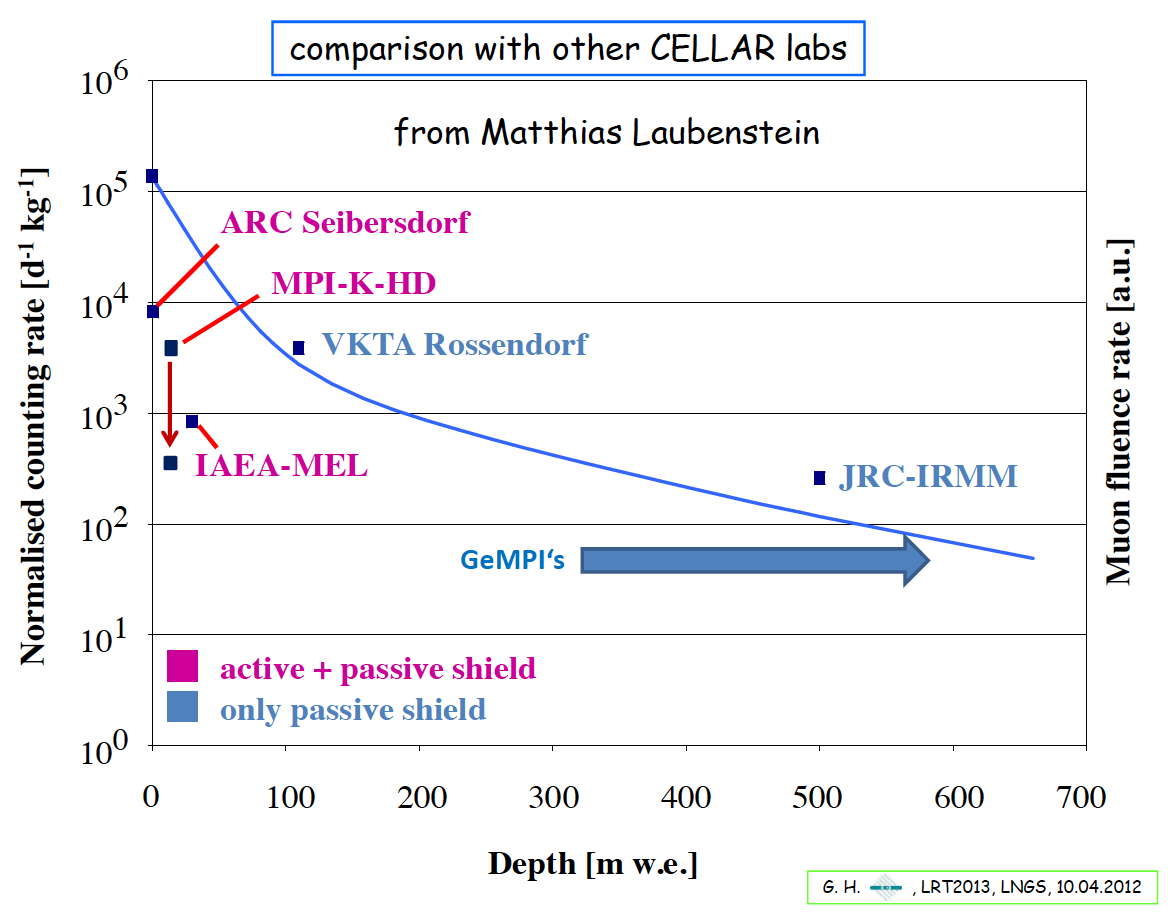
|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Isotope/Chain | Standard Size  (ppb) | (mBq/kg) | Large size & Long count  (ppb) | Typical for Earth’s Curst  (ppm) | (Bq/kg) |
| U-238 | ~0.1 | ~1.0 | 0.009 | 3 | 37 |
| Th-232 | ~0.3 | ~1.5 | 0.02 | 11 | 45. |
| K-40 | ~700 | ~21 . | 87 | [2.5%] | 800 . |

*Fully custom systems*

A fully custom HPGe screening detector typically tries to take advantage of all the shielding augmentations listed in the augmented commercial system category with the addition of special cryostat design and attention to design and placement of the electronics read-out components. These efforts are implemented to drive down the background sources (U/Th/K etc.) near the HPGe detector. Choice of low-background shielding materials (e.g. old or ancient lead, high-purity copper) is also a typical design feature for these systems. When successful, these are truly state-of-the-art, world-class sensitivity systems. Probably The world’s most sensitive HPGe material assay screening system is the GeMPI detector operated underground at LNGS [10]. The reported sensitivity of this system is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Isotope/Chain | Best sensitivity (long count)  (ppb) | (mBq/kg) |
| U-238 | 0.001 | 0.012 |
| Th-232 | 0.001 | 0.004 |
| K-40 | 1 | 0.031 |

In reference to fully custom systems having overburden shielding from being located underground, based on an “Overviewing of the screening activities with HPGe detectors” [9] in Europe, one can infer at what laboratory depth (overburden) the cosmic ray muon flux is sufficiently shielded such that the materials of the HPGe detector system limit the sensitivity of the system. In the units of normalized counting rate (total counts in a range 300-3000 keV divided by the count time), systems both in shallow and deep underground labs reach a sensitivity limit around 102 counts/day/kg. The figures below provide this information. The plot on the left has been updated by G. Heusser to include improvements to an HPGe material assay screening detector located in a 15 m.w.e. lab at MPI-K that reaches below 103 counts/day/kg.



The dividing lines between the above categories are not clear-cut since a true continuous spectrum of instrument design and sensitivity exists. Other augmentations are possible as well, such as thin windows and low thresholds that are useful for extending background characterization into the x-ray region (useful for solar neutrino projects) and potentially understanding cosmogenic activation. Thus, the above discussion is intended to provide a general basis for understanding the nature of the HPGe detector as a screening instrument.

One difficulty with ultra-high sensitivity HPGe gamma-ray assay measurements is the long duration required to acquire the statistics for a significant conclusion at the ultimate sensitivity level of the instrument. For example, 24 kg of OFHC copper nuggets were counted on the GeMPI-2 detector at Gran Sasso for 4 months to determine the U/Th/K levels at 20/30/190 microBq/kg levels.

In contrast to most of the other techniques described in this document, HPGe detectors provide non-destructive assay. This is especially useful for screening the actual – often high-value – instrumentation that will be put into a low background experiment. In a similar vein, HPGe gamma-ray counting can assay complex instrumentation composed of numerous materials (e.g., PMTs composed of glass, metal, and plastic) that may not be readily chemically processed into another instrument standard sample type.

**II.2 Alpha/Beta Counting**

There is also a need for alpha and beta screening for contaminants that are not accompanied by gamma emission. 210Pb and its progeny do not have a penetrating signature and are deposited on all surfaces exposed to radon. Such radon plate-out plagues all rare-events searches, since it creates patina of contaminant that causes nuclear recoils, beta-emission, and alphas. In addition, since Pb is often used in circuitry, its alpha-decay to 210Po can cause single-site upsets. Surface contaminants, such as 40K, and anthropogenic contaminants like 125Sb and 137Cs are also detectable by beta screening.

Typical “industry standard” alpha spectroscopy is available in NIM-rack mounted instruments. The preparation of the alpha sample almost uniformly requires quantifiable analytic chemical dissolution and sample preparation to create a sample that will allow the alpha particle emission. These standard techniques are directed toward measuring material’s bulk alpha activity and are clearly a destructive assay method. However, the dissolution (potentially additional chemical separations) can allow for highly sensitive measurements with the remaining alpha emitting isotopes, at levels largely dependent on the chemical preparation process that concentrates the alpha emitting elements.

The XIA Ultralo-1800 alpha particle counter [6] is an ionization counter with a sensitivity of 0.0011 +- 0.0003 alphas/cm2/hr. The XIA has a drift chamber 15 x 21 x 21 inches in size which is filled with boil-off gas from a liquid argon dewar. The counting region is adjustable to a square, 1800 cm2 region or a circular, 707 cm2 region, allowing non-destructive screening of large surfaces. Unlike proportional counters, the XIA counter is able to distinguish alpha particles originating on the sample tray from alpha particles originating on the chamber walls, ceiling or mid-air using pulse shape analysis [7].

Improved sensitivity to *surface* alpha contamination should be achievable using a multi-wire drift chamber, which would provide a much lower surface area of detector materials in the fiducial volume and improved rejection based on tracking of decays not from the sample. By using a radiopure gas such as neon, clean materials for the detector construction, and passive shielding similar to that used for HPGe detectors, such a detector may also be directly sensitive to surface beta decays, providing sensitivity much better than typical HPGe detectors to 210Pb on detector surfaces. The primary challenge, of construction of radiopure multi-wire proportional counters with uniform wire gain, sufficiently low outgassing, and small noise, has been successfully demonstrated [8].

**II.3 Proportional Counters**

Gaseous proportional counters have not typically been used for material assay characterization of materials for low background experiments. However, because they can be sensitive to charged particles emitted from surfaces, it is potentially feasible to employ proportional counter techniques to screen surface emission, although developing an appropriate sample introduction mechanism is challenging.

A notable exception to this is the case of measuring the presence of (naturally occurring) 39Ar in geologically aged argon from underground wells. The argon gas from underground wells is depleted in 39Ar relative to atmospherically sourced argon gas. Since 39Ar is a beta-emitter, the geologic argon is of interest as a potential low-background detection medium and/or active veto. However, it has been demonstrated that liquefied argon self-counting detectors located underground can readily achieve sensitivity levels well below what is achieved with the most mass (volume) of gas that can be analyzed in gaseous proportional counters.

**II.4 Radon emanation chambers**

Often, the dominant radon-induced background in an experiment is due to emanation of radon from the detector materials. Direct measurement of the rate of radon emanation from detector materials is therefore important. Such emanation measurements may in some cases also provide more sensitive determination of the Ra content of materials (0.1-10 Bq/kg) than is typically achievable with HPGe screening. Samples are isolated in a vacuum chamber, either at vacuum or with a carrier gas (typically N or He). Pumping the emanated atoms (with or without the carrier gas) through one or more traps may be done with sufficiently high efficiency that sensitivities to <10 atoms have been achieved, very close to the ultimate possible. Detection may be done most efficiently either with ultra-low background Lucas cells or miniaturized proportional counters, though electrostatic detectors are more common in practice. For most of these set-ups, the transfer time from chamber to detector is long enough that the method is strictly limited to 222Rn, but some setups can provide fast enough transport that 220Rn and even 219Rn may be measured.

**II.5 Immersion Whole Body Counting**

While an augmented suite of sensitive production screeners can provide the bulk of the assay, orders of magnitude improvement in sensitivity is required for some materials close to detectors and for active elements. An ultra-sensitive whole body screener in a water tank at depth would provide an ultimate check on the total activity from all isotopes in the material, including short-lived isotopes that are impossible to detect chemically. The goal is bulk assay of large amounts of material at the 10-13-10-14 g/g U/Th level. Such designs have been explored in NUSL [3] and DUSEL reports [4] and generally resemble the Borexino Counting Test Facility (CTF) [5] with a top-loading sample changer.

**III. Non-radiometric Assay Techniques**

For many applications, low-level counting is not necessarily the best technique for screening materials. Radioisotope identification can be done using surface techniques and mass spectrometry. Most research universities and many companies offer services for a fee. University fees are often very cheap for faculty, and companies offer quicker turn-around for a higher charge. National Laboratories often have state of the art equipment in niche areas developed for science outside of the field of physics. To gain the most benefit for the community without duplication, it may be useful to forge user agreements with existing nearby labs or encourage commercial analytical labs to open branches to support underground science. A summary of the more common techniques available follows.

**III.1 Mass Spectroscopy**

This suite of techniques extracts and accelerates charged ions from the sample, separates them according to atomic mass in a magnetic field, and then measures the current of ions with a detector (usually a Faraday cup) which intersects the trajectory corresponding to the correct charge-to-mass ratio for the element in question. The sensitivity thus depends on both the mass resolution of the magnetic spectrometer, as well as details of the sample dispersion technique by which atoms or ions are introduced and accelerated into the channel.

Inductively-Coupled Plasma and Thermal Ionization (ICPMS, TIMS) must first put the sample into solution using various combinations of concentrated acids or bases. In TIMS a filament is coated with the solution and then heated, whereas for ICPMS, a flow of argon gas converts the liquid sample into a fine aerosol. A portion of the sample aerosol is then directed through the center of an argon plasma torch, where the atoms are ionized. All samples must be background subtracted using a blank (the dilute solution without sample) and normalized to a standard (pure trace element in same solution) since the ionization efficiency depends on the element. Machines capable of probing to ppb levels are typically found in geology and chemistry departments in many universities and also in many commercial analytic labs, but are limited by ionization efficiency. To break the ppb barrier requires clean room conditions to avoid contamination of blanks and standards, as well as chemical purification techniques to avoid the isobaric interferences caused by other isotopes or ion complexes with the same mass. In North America, only the Institute for National Measurement Standards (Chemical Metrology) of Canada is currently able to process samples down to tens of ppt (useful for limits of U/Th in bulk materials).

Secondary Ion and Glow Discharge (SIMS, GDMS) release sample atoms via surface bombardment. In the case of SIMS, an ion beam sputters the surface and the released ions enter the spectrometer, whereas for GDMS the bombarding ions come from a low pressure DC plasma discharge cell in which the sample is the cathode. The sputtered neutral atoms are then ionized in the plasma and extracted into the mass analyzer for separation and detection, whereas sputtered positive ions simply fall back onto the sample and don’t make it into the spectrometer.  Thus GDMS is not as matrix-dependent as SIMS.   Both techniques can be used to form a depth profile as the sputter proceeds. Conductive materials are easiest to analyze by GDMS, though electrodes can be formed. GDMS is excellent for identifying trace elements in bulk samples down to hundreds of ppt.

Accelerator Mass Spectroscopy (AMS) is done at a number of centers around the country, typically where tandem accelerators used for nuclear research have been retooled for this application. After an initial spectrometer step to remove background, the ions are accelerated to MeV energies and passed through a second magnetic analyzer, where detection is typically by ion chambers and multi-wire ion counters, achieving parts per 1015. Since this sensitivity can be achieved in a few hours on samples smaller than 1 mg (where simply counting the decays would take several human lifetimes), AMS has become the technique of choice for 14C dating. It is expensive and not available locally; instead, a number of labs have sprung up to prepare and isolate samples (e.g. from cores [3]) and then take care of sending the samples off and keeping track of the results.

Radioisotope identification can be done using mass spectrometry on the surface. While instruments capable of probing to ~ 10-9 g/g levels are typically found in Universities and commercial analytical laboratories, the ~ 10-12 to 10-15 g /g levels achieved by inductively-coupled plasma mass spectroscopy (ICPMS) are only realized at a few locations where radiochemical expertise and careful attention to quality assurance protocols are augmented by novel dissolution and digestion techniques which can process a wide variety of sample types. Since ICPMS provides an alternative to counting, it must be taken into account in any determination of future assay needs, as well as included in any centralized scheduling apparatus. In fact, at the assay levels required for future experiments it is likely to become the primary assay technique due to its higher sensitivity.

**III.2 Neutron Activation Analysis**

Even though technically a counting technique, the enhanced signals generated by Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA) means that this technique does not need a shielded underground site to achieve ppt sensitivity. A source of neutrons is required to initiate a neutron capture interaction in the sample. This source is generally a reactor with fluxes of 1013 n cm-2 s-1, but new deuterium-tritium plasma generators are approaching this intensity [4]. The resulting compound nucleus forms in an excited state, almost instantaneously de-exciting into a more stable configuration through emission of one or more characteristic prompt gamma rays. In many cases, this new configuration yields a radioactive nucleus that also decays by emission of one or more characteristic gamma rays, but at a much slower rate according to the unique half-life of the radioactive nucleus. Observing the prompt gammas during irradiation is called PGNAA, but the more common procedure is to remove the sample from the reactor and observe the characteristic gammas for the longer lived isotopes formed, usually via high purity germanium detectors. Since shipment of samples irradiated at US research reactors can be arranged in a time scale of 2 to 3 days, short-lived products are most efficiently counted at the irradiation site. For many longer-lived activation products gamma screeners can be used. A typical exercise would be counting 239Np (t1/2=2.36 d) and 233Pa (t1/2=27 d) from 238U and 232Th.

This technique is limited by the nuclear properties of the trace element and the substrate that it is contaminating. Approximately 30% of the elements do not have reactions that can be probed in this way and for those that do, the activation of the substrate can sometimes mask the lines of interest used for analysis. Detection limits assuming interference-free spectra range from 1 pg of Eu to 100 pg of U to 10 ng of K. [5]. To reach the ppt range or below, the elements of interest are typically chemically separated from interfering side activities [6].

Materials containing light metals are typically not suitable for NAA and even many polymers can contain sufficient quantities of sodium and other contaminants to render NAA ineffective.

Typically NAA is considered a destructive assay technique, as it is unlikely the irradiated material may then later be used in the experimental apparatus. Thus, the use of NAA applies to measurements of samples from lots of materials to provide some additional confidence that the sample measured in NAA is representative of the materials actually employed in the experimental construction.

**III.3 Surface analysis**

Ion Beam Analysis (IBA) utilizes high-energy ion beams to probe elemental composition non-destructively as a function of depth to several microns with a typical depth resolution of 100-200 angstroms. The energy distribution of backscattering ions (RBS = Rutherford Backscattering Spectroscopy) quantifies the depth distribution for a given element. Distinctive characteristic X-rays emitted from the different target elements (PIXE = Particle-Induced X-Ray Emission) upon beam bombardment ensure the accurate identification of similar mass elements. Additional simultaneous measurements include forward-recoil spectrometry (FReS) or a NaI scintillator detector for Nuclear Reaction Analysis (NRA). These techniques can identify a monolayer of surface contamination. Electron beams for Auger Electron Spectroscopy are less sensitive; the best can find trace contaminants at the 0.1% level within 1 nm of the surface. However, it is possible to obtain depth profiles of 100 nm or more with a sputter gun. Spot size can be small enough (5 microns) to do an x-y probe of contaminants on the surface.

**III.4 ATTA**

Laser cooling techniques can be used to trap atoms, excite them to a metastable state, and then detect their fluorescence, thus determining abundances by directly counting atoms. AtomTrap Trace Analysis (ATTA) provides a fast turn-around method of measuring radioactive background from 85Kr and 39Ar to a few parts in 10-14 and could be installed underground to screen user samples, as well as aid in the purification of Ar, Ne, and Xe.

**IV. Assay Facilities**

In order to determine if the needs outlined above can be met with existing facilities, we have compiled details on existing assay capability in the US and abroad, with special attention to those which can function as user facilities. A summary table is found here

**Need to create a summary Table within the main text which lists capability only, not by facility, in order to show that we do not have enough capacity.**

A detailed table can be in the appendix and will be much like the one that already exists, except we should capture some of the details found in the wiki on each facility and include this in the appendix table.

As a side note on underground facilities: Long-term underground storage can also mitigate the effects of surface exposure by allowing the cosmogenic activation products to decay away prior to material use. Thus, space for long-term storage of materials that can become activated by surface exposure to cosmic ray neutrons, such as copper and germanium, is also a beneficial facility use.

**IV.1 Underground Facilities for Radiometric Assay**

A key issue for radiometric screening is the interference of cosmic rays in the radiation measurement process. This is especially true for HPGe assay detectors, as already discussed in some detail in Section II.1. While mass spectrometry and atom trap techniques require no shielding from cosmic rays, the direct radiometric gamma, beta and alpha assay techniques require shielding to obtain the required sensitivity, often this means measurements are performed in underground facilities.

The US today has a decentralized set of radiometric assay detectors dedicated to specific research projects at surface sites, a few shallow depth sites which have evolved into user facilities, and a few deep sites which have limited through-put to provide the ultra-low background counting (primarily gamma assay with germanium spectrometers) typically desired for screening materials for the next generation of double-beta decay, solar neutrino, and dark matter experiments. Interestingly, these ultra-sensitive screening detectors can also be used by geology, microbiology, environmental science, and national security applications to identify radioisotopes, date samples, and measure tracers introduced into hydrological or biological systems. There has not, to date, been much dialogue with other fields that might also benefit from the ultra-low counting sensitivities available at deep sites. While this is recognized as a means to enhance the user base and increase capability, it has only been possible to achieve in large national laboratories with historical ties to other communities, notably homeland security applications.

Although the background is reduced significantly by moving screening detectors underground, it is not possible to exploit extreme depths, since backgrounds internal to the detectors themselves can become the limiting factor beyond an overburden of 1000 meters water equivalent. Moreover, for many practical applications, the counting time itself would become prohibitively long. Thus, an underground screening facility does not have to be as deep as the experiments for which it is screening materials, even accounting for improvements in the purification of germanium crystals and new shielding materials. The use of simple muon veto systems can make even shallow sites such as ~15-30 meter water equivalent shallow labs sensitive enough for many applications as previously described in section II.1 on HPGe assay counters.

In other countries, the assay infrastructure is much more developed. It has been built up in conjunction with centralized laboratories such as SNOLAB in Canada and LNGS in Italy, and thus has the advantage of co-location with many of the experiments it services. The existence of centers for assay creates the critical mass of experts and organization to extend the services to other fields, producing in turn, a broad user community capable of producing a self-sustaining business model.

**Create a New International Table of facilities in the appendix (similar to the one below, but include detail captured in the wiki) and refer to it.**

The original vision for DUSEL, the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory considered for location at Homestake, included the same attention to assay infrastructure as is manifested in the investments of Europe, Canada, and Japan (and now China). However, without such a national underground laboratory to concentrate screening in one location and to justify the expense, we may require a new model. Over the last decade, the gap between the needs of rare event physics searches and available screening has widened considerably, since it has been left to individual experiments to propose, individually, capabilities that are manifestly needed by the entire community. This has lead to a shortage of screening infrastructure overall and uneven distribution of existing resources.

Four deep sites in the US have made infrastructure investments leading to potential low-background counting centers. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, NM is at a depth of 1600 mwe within a layer of bedded, impermeable salt. WIPP is a DOE facility with a fully developed infrastructure and a heavy Los Alamos National Lab presence with an Earth and Environmental Science office located at Carlsbad. Although fundamental science is only an add-on to its primary mission, LANL and WIPP established a clean room to house the Majorana collaboration’s segmented multi-element germanium arrays (SEGA and MEGA), and is also adding facilities to service the EXO double beta decay experiment.

A second site is the Kimballton mine operated by the Chemical Lime Company in Giles county, Virginia. Virginia Tech is the lead institution, also developing this site for the LENS solar neutrino experiment. Kimballton’s proximity to the Naval Research Labs make it a promising site for secure applications involving homeland security and treaty verification; plans are already underway to make this a reality.

The third deep site is the Soudan iron mine (2090 mwe) in northern Minnesota, which is home to the MINOS, SuperCDMS and CoGeNT experiments. Currently one HPGe is being used to count samples for XENON and Majorana collaborations as part of the SOLO facility and a second is dedicated to SuperCDMS screening. The proportional tube panels that line the Soudan2 proton decay hall have been repaired and a new DAQ installed, creating a 14 x 12 x 33 m3 space with time-stamped muon tracks which can be used as an offline veto or for muon studies underground. The muon tracks are correlated with two neutron detectors, a liquid scintillator detector and a gadolinium-doped neutron capture detector sitting on a large lead target to access the high energy cosmogenically-produced neutrons. This work is part of an effort to benchmark cosmogenic simulations and improve the physics modules in Geant4 and FLUKA codes.

The fourth site is the Sanford Underground Research Facility located in Lead, SD. SURF is hosting the Majorana Demonstrator and LUX experiments at the 4850’ level (4300 mwe). The CUBED Collaboration has been developing a low background HPGe counter on the same mine level for use in screening. The former Homestake mine in which SURF now exists could potentially be expanded for future underground research and development.

Low level counting that can be done in shielded environments on the surface is usually performed by a high-purity germanium detector (HPGe) or NaI crystals equipped with a PMT. These are commercial devices that are usually dedicated to a specific project. All the national labs have such detectors and many will negotiate a “use for others” contract with outside users. Many university groups also have dedicated machines. The great need here is for coordination and integration of these facilities. LBL has maintained a surface site (bldg 72) surrounded by low activity concrete, currently housing NaI counters and a 130% HPGe detector, while also running an 80% p-type HPGe at the nearby Oroville Dam (80 mwe). PNNL operates a shielded facility on its site and, together with the University of Washington, manages a 4’ x 8’ space located under the nearby Lower Monumental Dam (37 mwe) with two sets of coincident HPGe detectors.

**IV.2. Facilities for Non-radiometric Assay**

In the cases of non-radiometric assay methods, the facilities required to make the most sensitive measurements are not driven by being underground, but rather relate to having a controlled environment that dramatically limit the possibility of contamination of the sample during the sample preparation process. Thus the most sensitive assay measurements are performed in cleanrooms. The use of a cleanroom and cleanroom protocols is to protect the sample preparation from contamination either by the personnel performing the work or by uncontrolled particulate in the air.

Furthermore, although a clean and controlled facility is a requirement for the most sensitive non-radiometric (analytic) measurement techniques, it is often the case that the materials used in the sample preparation process become the leading contributor to the signature of interest. For example, if mass spectrometry is used for measurement of 238U, the presence of 238U in ALL other materials that hold or process the sample prior to mass spectroscopic analysis will impact the ultimate level of sensitivity achievable.

Having a clean and controlled laboratory with preparation materials that add minimal contribution to the measurement targets also relies upon trained expert technicians able to perform sample preparation and final measurements routinely without negatively impacting the instrument.

**IV.3. Facilities for controlling radon**

Of special concern is the impact of radon. It is difficult to create radon-free environments as radon noble gas can pass through many materials and is emanated from materials as a result of uranium decay chain isotopes.

Radon and its daughters are an important background for all underground physics rare-event searches such as for WIMP dark matter or neutrinoless double-beta decay. Radon is present in all air, produced by radioactive decays in the uranium and thorium chains, and naturally has especially high concentrations deep underground. Gamma decays from radon's short-lived daughters may provide backgrounds, and radon daughters deposited from the atmosphere onto detector surfaces provide particularly dangerous backgrounds. Low-energy beta decays on detector surfaces or in the bulk, the 206Pb recoil nucleus from 210Po alpha decay, and neutrons from (alpha,n) reactions (especially on the fluorine in Teflon) all may produce significant backgrounds for future experiments. In order to reduce radon-induced backgrounds, the community needs to develop improved methods to reduce and sense the radon concentration in air and in detector gases and liquids.

The standard method for reducing the radon concentration of breathable air below that of outside air is to flow the air continuously through a column containing an adsorbent (typically cooled, activated charcoal at -40 °C to -70 °C) so that most radon decays before it exits the filter. Continuous systems are relatively simple and robust, are available commercially, and are demonstrated to achieve <1 mBq/m3. Alternatively, it may be possible to develop improved radon reduction at a lower cost by using a swing system, where one stops gas flow well before the breakthrough time, and regenerates the filter column while switching flow to a second column. For an ideal column, no radon reaches the output. Swing systems are more complicated than continuous systems (both in terms of their analysis and operation). Regeneration may be achieved by increasing the pressure from vacuum, or by increasing the temperature, with the latter expected to provide the best performance, albeit at higher cost and complexity than a vacuum-swing system. The best performance achieved with swing systems is in the range of 10 mBq/m3.

For most gases used in WIMP-search experiments, continuous systems at lower temperatures (<80 K) convenient when liquifying produce significantly better radon reduction, to less than or equal to one micro-Bq/m3. The important exception is xenon, since it cannot be cooled below 170 K without freezing, and its similarity to radon makes radon's filtration from it difficult. Identification or development of materials (from zeolites to carbon molecular sieves to Metal Organic Frameworks) that would provide improved filtration of radon from xenon, and optimization of techniques to separate the two is important to reduce the challenge and risk of future xenon-based experiments.

Techniques for sensing radon in gases already have achieved sensitivities to 10 atoms, very close to the ultimate possible, using ultra-low background Lucas cells or miniaturized proportional counters and traps to extract the radon atoms from the gas. However, their slowness limits these techniques to 222Rn, and contamination of the counted sample is a concern. Development is needed to achieve similar sensitivity in chambers that can monitor the radon concentration continuously. Flowing air continuously past electrostatic detectors is the standard basic technique, but detection efficiencies and backgrounds both likely could be improved. Robust, high-sensitive detection of radon will permit better measurement of the radon emanation rate from materials used in detectors, provide better screening of some materials than is possible with traditional HPGe counters, and allow continuous monitoring of low-radon environments, in order to allow future generations of experiments to achieve lower backgrounds and better sensitivity.

Better mitigation against radon and radon-daughter backgrounds requires improvement of facilities including (1) reduced-radon storage capability, (2) reduced-radon laboratory spaces for detector assembly, (3) specialized radon filtration systems for liquids and gases used in detectors, (4) surface screeners sensitive to the non-penetrating radon daughters, and (5) methods of removing implanted radon daughters from surfaces.

**V. Experimental Assay Needs**

Determining the number and sensitivity of the assay capabilities needed by the field must take account of the long lead time required for low-level assay and the screening needs preceding the commissioning of each experiment, typically by 3-5 years, as the assays inform design, as well as establish quality control of all pre-installed components.

During the 2013 Community Summer Study (“Snowmass”) of high energy physics research, the dark matter community assembled a white paper summarizing the current ideas on the needs of the community. That document included a table reproduced here as Table 1, that gives a high level summary of the yearly community material assay requirements for next generation dark matter experiments.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Technique | > 1 Bq/kg | 0.05 – 1 Bq/kg | < 0.05 Bq/kg |
| HPGe Gamma Screening | 160 | 400 | 65 |
| NAA and/or ICPMS | 95 | 385 | 40 |
| Radon Emanation and/or alpha/beta screening | 0 | 160 | 10 |

**Table 1: Summary of responses to the 2013 SNOWMASS on the Mississippi dark matter community screening needs survey. The reported material assay need is given in units of samples/year in each column of sensitivity level. This table is taken from the 2013 Snowmass low background material assay white paper (Cooley et al.).**

\*\* Include the paragraph on how 0is similar and how it is different than dark matter. Present an estimate of their needs, but not in the same detail. However, we need to be somewhat quantitative. DongMing will write this. We could also include a sentence on homeland security and other users. \*\*

**V.2 Analysis of Compiled Assay Needs**

Polling the community for their expected material assay needs is an effective first step, but it needs to be understood in context. The following analysis focuses on the interpretation of Table 1 (WIMP direct dark matter detection), for which we have recent bottoms-up survey results. We will then apply our conclusions to other communities, such as 0, homeland security, neutrino/solar physics.

The polling of individual experiments leading to the numbers in Table 1 is generally believed to include just the final “qualifying” stage of screening required to validate the materials used in the assembly of a successful low background dark matter experiment. We believe these numbers may not include a potentially larger set of samples that will be found to *fail* to meet the background goals during the initial material-sourcing “pre-screening” stage of project construction.  For instance, identifying a sufficiently low-background source of a particular material such as stainless steel or small electronics component may require prescreening of samples from many vendors to identify a suitable source; this is the first stage of screening. When a suitable vendor is identified, screening samples from the actual batch/lot of material purchased for use in the experiment is needed; this is the second stage of screening.  Our expert opinion is the summary Table 1 shown above considers only this second stage of “qualifying” screening and that the total number of samples required for material assay when the prescreening stage is included in the count, may be significantly larger than Table 1 would suggest.

The assumption that this will be balanced by a reduction in needs after the impending G2 down-select may also not be correct. While the poll represents responses from seven dark matter experiments, some of which may not survive the down-select, removing the experiments from the mix requires the remaining experiments to be fully responsible for all their screening needs. They can no longer count on vendor and material selection information from other sources, a fact which is assumed in Table 1. We believe the net effect of the G2 down-select will result in Table 1 continuing to be an underestimate for the total material assay need for G2, especially when pre-screening is taken into consideration. In addition, the G2 down-select is no guarantee that the chosen technology will find a WIMP signal in the parameter space they are limited to, implying a G3 suite which may require new technology and new radiopurity assay techniques, which should be explored in the same time scale as the G2 construction.

Finally there is an implicit assumption in Table 1 that each and every experiment that responded will have full access to all needed resources. This assumption about access to assay methods is at odds with the actual capacity of sufficiently sensitive assay techniques. In this case a new approach is required to meet the demand coming from across the entire dark matter community. This statement is true both in terms of the quantity and sensitivity of the material assays to be performed.  For example, we show in the next section that the table would imply that the community needs a 20-30-fold increase in capability of GeMPI-class HPGe counters. This dramatic growth in the HPGe assay capacity is impractical given the cost and timeline to bring such unique resources online. Even the low-sensitivity prescreening required to decide if material samples are worth pursuing further with high-sensitivity instruments will tax the HPGe screening resources available across all of the institutions in the US and a coordinated approach is vital to getting this large volume of work done in a timely manner.  Without such coordination, it is likely that the timeline for assay will come too late to provide critical feedback to the G2 experiments during design and construction, greatly increasing the project risk related to internal backgrounds.

We have taken the data in Table 1 as a snapshot of the community thinking, in order to establish a set of concrete assay projections for dark matter.  Based on this, we have developed a strategy to efficiently meet these future needs that includes: triage at a less sensitive level, public access to the resulting data, and efficient use of the most sensitive screeners. A component of this strategy relies on the notion that some level of cross-project, community coordination takes place. This is particular germane in the context of the DOE G2 program where each and every selected large-scale G2 project should achieve the desired background objectives if the greatest scientific reach is achieved from the G2 program investment.

In the following analysis, all identified material assay requirements are drawn directly (“at face value”) from the summary Table 1, presented above.

## *Non-destructive HPGe assay*

The community identified a need of 65 measurements per year requiring HPGe screening with sensitivity better than 50 μBq/kg. World-wide there are 3-5 detectors that claim sensitivity at this level, most of those are the detectors at Gran Sasso. The Table 2 was taken from a paper by Heusser, Laubenstein, and Neder regarding the sensitivity of low-level germanium assay using the GeMPI detectors.

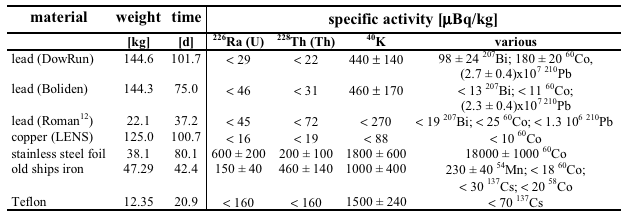


Table 2. Sensitivity of GeMPI to U, Th in various materials. From Heusser, Laubenstein, and Neder.

It is clear that GeMPI can just reach the 50 μBq/kg target. Lower than this is impractical for HPGe assay. In order to reach 50 μBq/kg sensitivity, the count time is roughly 3 months with very large, ~100 kg, samples. 65 samples at this sensitivity will take ~16 detector-years.

Less sensitive HPGe detectors are available, such as the Gopher detector in the Soudan mine and the HPGe detectors at SNOLAB. These detectors are typically used for 1 Bq/kg sensitivity, so they are useful for prescreening, but probably are not realistic for the central 0.05-1 Bq/kg column in Table 1. If the 400 samples desired at the 0.05-1 Bq/kg are also run on GeMPI, they will take 1-12 weeks depending on the specific sensitivity required. Taking an average of 1 month per sample, this is another ~33 detector-years on GeMPI sensitivity detectors.

It is also important to note that the uranium sensitivity is correctly quoted in Table 2 as sensitivity to 226Ra because the gamma rays in the 238U chain are dominated by the late part of the chain with elements lighter than radium. Reliance on 226Ra measurements of the 238U chain imposes a systematic error on dark matter experiments that are more sensitive to the (,n) backgrounds produced by isotopes in the 238U chain than by the gamma-rays in the late part of the decay chain. This systematic error comes from assumptions about whether the decay chain is in equilibrium or not. Typically, a conservative interpretation of a 50 μBq/kg 226Ra (U) is 250 μBq/kg 238U when measurement through high-sensitivity HPGe.

Operationally, we assume 60% as the typical HPGe system live time for measurements where the down time includes the needs for taking efficiency calibration runs and long background runs between samples. To complete the assays listed in Table 1, 80 detectors with world-class sensitivity would be required. There are currently only a few detectors world-wide capable of screening at these levels, so the capability would need to be built up. These detector systems have relatively long development times and require skills and experience few people possess.

### *Low Sensitivity HPGe Screening*

For assays of material where large mass samples are available and low sensitivity,   
> 1 Bq/kg, are required, HPGe screening in less sensitive commercially available or slightly modified commercially available systems is possible with modest, 1 day to 1 week, counting times. Given the cost associated with more sensitive assays, it would be reasonable to pre-screen all of the samples before submission to higher sensitivity methods such as the high sensitivity HPGe, ICPMS, or NAA.

Pre-screening the 1315 samples listed in Table 1 would require ~11 detector-years assuming an average of 3 days for sample counting. With an average live time of 50% (accounting for calibration and background counts), a collection of 10-20 commercial-quality detectors would be appropriate for this task. A large number of commercial-quality low-background HPGe detectors already exist within the physics research community likely have sufficient capacity to meet this need. Fully utilizing and exploiting this distributed capability would require some coordination including an analysis of available manpower to sustain a high-throughput screening capability, and overlap with other programs and/or current investments at each of the facilities.

## *Destructive Radiochemistry and Mass Spectroscopy*

The community has identified 520 samples per year where inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICPMS) would be desirable. The sensitivity required, 10s of μBq/kg, is within the assay capabilities of modern mass spectroscopy when coupled with radiochemistry for concentration and isolation of the element(s) of interest. The key to achieving these assay sensitivity levels is not the instrument capability, but rather the ability to achieve “process blanks” at this sensitivity – i.e. it is dependent on sample preparation and chemistry.

Mass spectroscopy is an important tool for isotopes with long half-lives (U/Th). For isotopes with shorter half-lives (Ra and progeny, Cs, Co), chemical isolation of the element(s) of interest can enhance the capabilities of commercial detectors with higher backgrounds than the custom detectors described in the HPGe section.

It is important to note that ICPMS is typically not very sensitive to 40K, due to its mass proximity to the argon plasma used in the spectrometers.

While not called out as part of the survey represented by Table 1, other mass spectroscopy techniques are potentially viable to support the material assay needs of the dark matter community. These include thermal ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) and glow discharge mass spectroscopy (GDMS) that are available at national laboratories and in some case private industry. Traditionally these techniques have not been developed within physics research community. Radiochemistry laboratories are the predominate users of these methods of instrumentation and measurement. As concrete example for the scale of operations within such radiochemistry groups, excess laboratory capacity within PNNL facilities could accommodate of order 100 measurements per year. Note that each isotope for a given matrix represents a measurement so U and Th assay for a single material represents two measurements. A typical processing would analyze 6 samples (replicates) in parallel. This could be 6 samples of the same material or 6 samplings from a production run or samples of the same material from different vendors. New dedicated alpha and beta counters would be required for dedicated measurements of isotopes of K, Co, Cs, Ra, and Pb as existing detector capacity at PNNL is saturated. Developing new chemistries would require additional work with the time and labor highly dependent on whether the matrix chemistry is similar to existing chemistries or not. For example, titanium poses particular challenges for the radiochemistry, while copper, steel, lead or any of the non-fluorinated plastics already have applicable techniques in place.

In order to move beyond ~100 measurements/year, additional facilities would be required either within the physics research community, as supplemental to a university or national laboratory base of expertise, or found in private industry. A dedicated radiochemistry capability consists of a full-time radiochemist in a 1000 square foot clean room necessary to maintain clean sample preparation and a full-time technologist to run the mass spectrometer and report results. A dedicated capability would have throughput of ~1000 measurements per year and could be brought online in 6-9 months.

An additional advantage of a dedicated laboratory facility is that it will perform clean sample preparation continuously. A non-dedicated laboratory will share space with other sensitive assays or assays that are not concerned with U/Th backgrounds. In such a scenario, each high sensitivity assay for U/Th will require re-cleaning the laboratory, flushing the entire chemical preparation process, and running the mass spectrometer on “clean” blanks until the desired sensitivity is once again achieved.

## *Neutron Activation Analysis*

Neutron activation analysis is complementary to mass spectroscopic methods for some matrices, notably polymers. Light metals in the matrix are prone to activation to short-lived isotopes that can interfere with the signatures from U/Th. An example of this is Na that can be present in polymers from the processing chemistry. For samples where NAA is possible, where the sample itself is not activated to the point of masking the gamma rays from the isotopes of interest, it has excellent sensitivity to the actinide elements, which are of interest to the dark matter community. There are groups that have developed the relationships and expertise to assay 10-100 samples per year using NAA. A dedicated capability would involve both an analysis partner and negotiations with groups running research reactors.

## *Alpha-Beta Assay*

The alpha-beta surface screening of materials is focused on assay of Pb-210, the long-lived daughter of radon. The assay requirements of the community, as low as 0.0001 decays/day/cm2, have not yet been successfully achieved. Research and development of low-background alpha and beta detectors is ongoing. The beta-cage project can theoretically achieve the required sensitivity. Customized commercial low-background alpha detectors, such as the large area XIA counters, could achieve the required sensitivity if combined with chemical sample preparations.

## *Radon Emanation*

Radon emanation measurements are becoming more important for dark matter experiments. These measurements have not been as critical to older experimental efforts, so the research in radon emanation has been related to the issues surrounding plate out during construction, handling, and storage. However, radon itself has become a large background in dual-phase liquid xenon detectors, so a radon emanation capability in the US dedicated to dark matter experiments will be needed moving forward. For experiments constantly circulating the sensitive material in the detector, measuring radon emanation in-situ may be advantageous.

# V.3 Strategy

The vast majority of samples should be prescreened by shielded commercially available HPGe detectors and then triaged. These HPGe systems can be on the surface or at facilities with overburden. The precious ultra-high sensitivity such as the GeMPI detectors should be reserved for critical components that require non-destructive assay (NDA). Examples might be small electronics components that need 100% NDA performed prior to use or materials that require assay of many isotopes at levels exceeding the reach of the best shallow underground lab HPGe screeners. Wherever possible, samples should proceed from triage to radiochemical analysis that has the potential to handle a much large sample measurement throughput volume.

Even with this triaging weighted toward high throughput destructive assay methods, high-sensitivity HPGe capability should be enhanced by the addition of a few world-class detectors at an underground laboratory in the United States such as Soudan, SURF, or KURF. A technician would be required to operate the detectors full time. A physicist would be required to simulate sample geometries, perform QA on the measurements, and report the results.

Given the estimated capacity requirements, a dedicated radiochemistry laboratory should be established for the dark matter community and used to process the bulk of the samples required for R&D, screening of possible parts, and sampling analysis of construction items, where destructive assay is possible. The lead radiochemist will be responsible for coordinating samples to maximize throughput, minimize costs, perform QA, and report results. A technician would be responsible for operating the counting detectors and mass spectrometry.

Research and development of an ultra-sensitive Pb-210 assay capability is necessary to achieve sensitivity to the levels now required by dark matter experiments. Low-background detector experts would probably benefit by incorporating radiochemical separation methods to reach the required sensitivities.

Research and development of a radon emanation capability is required to support the needs of next generation dark matter experiments. In-situ assay of entire circulation systems would be advantageous.

Assay strategy is a trade-off between cost and risk. The cost can be reduced by intelligent assay strategies, but the acceptable risk must be analyzed for each project. The community will benefit from documentation, analysis, and points-of-contact to triage their assay needs so the samples are processed quickly and with the appropriate technology. A group that includes experts from the HPGe, low-background alpha/beta counting, NAA, radiochemistry, and radon emanation is necessary to optimize the strategy for the variety of efforts within the community that range from large detector construction to small research and development efforts. Such a board of experts leverages expertise across the research community ensuring all experiments have access to the resources necessary to achieve their material background requirements.

**VII. Integrative Website and Materials Database**

1. Vision of integrative website where people can go to find out what screeners are available for users and what sensitivity

2. Screening application procedure at website and how the queues will be managed

3. Material database description and how it will be used to provide open access data

4. Schedule and milestones for making this happen. (1 year only)

**VIII. Creating a sustainable self-supporting (?) multi-site User Facility**

1. Present the set of principles and emphasize that these have been agreed to by the community.

Some Guiding Principles *(based on community input from AARM, the DURA meeting, and the SLAC cosmic frontier workshop)*

A. The Network will be managed through one Institution, which could be a National Lab or a University. To determine the optimal structure, we must determine the cost and funding agency mix for these two scenarios.

B. The Scientific leadership of the Network will be determined through a board composed primarily of members of the network and will form a constitution which details election procedure and terms of office, as well as distribution of responsibilities.

C. The Scientific leadership will be responsible for directing the overall program. They will assess community needs, determine the method of organizing access to screeners, and recommend new R&D and purchases.

D. Management styles and staffing details at each Center of Excellence may differ, depending on the Institutional constraints and the suite of technology available.

E. Additional resources in the form of technicians and additional equipment will make it possible to extend proprietary expertise to new users.

F. Universities and National Labs with special capabilities will retain the ability to use their facilities for publishable scientific pursuits.

G. University members will be able to train students on assay techniques as part of providing use-for-others.

H. User fees will be determined in a uniform manner across technologies. Details could include subsidized fees for members of the network or the community.

2. Explain how we move from integrative tools to a sustainable model incorporating the principles discussed in 1. E.g. Talk about technicians and fee structure

**IX. Impact on the Field**

1. Cost effectiveness.

The largest up-front cost will be the manpower to manage the effort, possibly 1 FTE equivalent, as well as IT and administrative support. Additional technicians at the 6 sites, as well as maintenance, supplies, and sample preparation costs, can be offset by user fees. Travel funds will be required to ensure communication between the members of the distributed management team, as well as to sponsor workshops for the larger community. This function is now being supported by AARM, which could become an advisory board to the Consortium.

Increased assay production will require more screeners, but less than would have been requested individually by each experiment. This type of cost savings can be estimated in terms of down time for screening capacity. Currently ~ 50% of the screeners are running at 50% capacity (the others are fully utilized). This corresponds to the equivalent of 2.5 HPGe devices added to our suite without additional purchase.

With a national user facility for low background materials, researchers will spend less time duplicating known techniques and assay. Improving the productivity of the national research staff will positively benefit nuclear physics, high-energy physics, and national security. The added visibility of a user facility may empower other scientific fields to reevaluate what is possible.

There is also reduced risk that comes with world-class assay. Consider XMASS, the largest liquid xenon dark matter detector. XMASS ended up with an order of magnitude more radioactive background than expected. Resources are being spent to retrofit the detector and XMASS is not expected to achieve its original scientific goals. Rapid and broad dissemination of research results, combined with access to assay and a database of previously assayed materials, will reduce this type of risk for future projects.

The US has spent hundreds of millions of dollars developing low background assay capability over the past fifty years. Prudent management and research can safeguard this capability for future scientific endeavors.

2. Cross collaboration cooperation

3. Open access to data

4. List your favorite advantage!

Here are the “advantages” we collated in the initial consortium LOI to Michael Salamon, some of these may be useful.

For now, we simply list a subsample of the many comments received in response to the question: “what is currently wrong with the way sensitive assay is performed by the underground science community? “

1. The current suite of assay techniques and screeners are already inadequate for current experiments. Ton scale experiments require additional screening now to inform decisions and choices, and more in the future to perform the assay.

2. Availability is often governed by who joins what experiment, effectively shutting some experiments out of sensitive screening techniques.

3. Current use of screeners is inefficient - some are sitting at 50% capacity while need is much greater – A scheduling tool and central management of resources is more cost-effective.

4. Lack of continuity between projects results in loss of personnel and expertise. An example is the ICPMS capability developed at Laurentian University. After purchasing an ICPMS and developing low background techniques that were needed by the community, the capability was lost after the professor changed institutions.

5. Proposals for new experiments without access to assay infrastructure must purchase a dedicated screener or develop a new in-house technique, rather than list an easily evaluated cost per material screened. Two possibilities then ensue:  
 A. Infrastructure investment is refused, leaving the experiment without the screening they need and at risk of not reaching their scientific goal.   
 B. Infrastructure investment is allowed, in which case the new technique is considered proprietary, but is too late to benefit the experiment in question anyway.

6. Proposals for common infrastructure which come from a single experiment lack credibility. Proposals would be more successful and more broadly applicable if they came from the larger community. However, there is no clearly identifiable funding source for such a model. MRI proposals with a national user base are less likely to be selected in the University pre-proposal stage since they do not benefit the University itself.

7. There is no institutional memory enabling future science. Low background results are only occasionally published, once the experiment itself is complete. An effort to centralize and compile general issues and techniques will enable future scientific advancement without repeating this research.

8. When a collaboration **does** treat their screening as important in its own right, they typically do not release results to the community for years, while preparing a publication. Contrast this with user screening, the results of which can be part of the universal database and immediately available to the community. Open access to data will prevent duplication of effort. The network may be able to promote specific multi-collaboration campaigns to determine the best sources for copper, lead and other commonly used materials.

9. Currently, universities and national laboratories must contract on an individual R&D basis leading to many small contracts, each with their own administrative overheads. The time to negotiate with contracting at each individual University delays research and development. In some cases, the overhead is comparable to the cost of the assay.

10. Lack of sustained support in the field of low radiation techniques discourages young researchers from choosing to concentrate in this area. The pool of new talent could be substantially increased by establishing centers of excellence that highlight research in low background assay and science.

**X. Conclusions**

A comparison of the planned requirements for Generation-2 dark matter experiments assay needs (Appendix B summarized in section IV) to the existing assay facilities identified for use by the underground physics research community (Appendix C) appears to show an inadequate level of sensitivity and through-put to achieve the background goals of the proposed experiments on a 3-4 year timeline expected for construction of Generation-2 dark matter experiments.

These needs will require investment in the tools needed to measure such radiopurity, both new techniques to improve sensitivity and increased throughput in moderate-sensitivity production screening. While mass spectrometry and atom trap techniques can be done above ground, radiometric assay techniques require shielded and low-background environments to obtain the required sensitivity. A community-wide assessment, as begun here, will help determine the level of additional screening capability required from the differing radiometric and non-radiometric assay methods.

Early investment in material assay capability can reduce the risk of later beginning an experimental construction project while the backgrounds from the materials remain an unknown. This early investment helps ensure the successful deployment of the next generation dark matter, neutrino, and neutrinoless double beta decay experiments.

The capability shortage is international, so sending samples overseas for assay is not the solution, although experiments with significant international collaborators will certainly employ sensitive screeners at European and Asian labs for a subset of samples and should be accounted for when determining the gap between assay need and current capability.

Increased US assay capability is best achieved by organizing those institutions and facilities having current assay capability under a umbrella organization with representatives from those sites, which could then be funded as a consortium or network, for the benefit of the community as a whole. This user facility model would alleviate some of the risk and infrastructure development that is currently absorbed with the individual construction projects. Such an entity can then propose increased investment in capability as a validated representative of the larger community. Centers of excellence can be supported and made available to all those who have need of the expertise. Inter-institution scheduling tools can be developed to achieve improved efficiency with existing screeners. The same organization could manage R&D assay development, scheduling use, underground storage of cosmogenically activated materials, multi-user shielding developments, and other general-use instruments.

A staged transition from an experiment-specific model to a multi-site user coordinated network is in line with current budgetary constraints, yet would retain capabilities that have been built up over many years in the service of individual projects. Such organization will promote rapid and broad dissemination of research results. When combined with access to assay and a database of previously assayed materials, this will significantly increase scientific reach and reduce risk for all rare event searches underground.

**References**

1. More details on facilities can be found at <https://zzz.physics.umn.edu/lowrad/consortium#available_assay_technology>

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**Appendix A – Background reported in low background experiments**

This table is intended to be representative only and not all-inclusive. The one finding to draw from this table is solely: Most experiments are dominated by a background-contributing source that is within the experimental construction materials. Non-internal backgrounds *could have been* cosmic ray muon-induced backgrounds, 238U spontaneous fission neutrons from the underground cavern, U/Th decay chain induced (,n) reaction neutrons from the underground cavern, direct radon infiltration (as oppose to radon exposure during assembly), gamma-rays from the underground cavern, and so on.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| EXPERIMENT | DOMINANT BACKGROUND | CITATION |
| CDMS-II Ge  CDMS-II Si | Misidentification of surface events with an “analysis between alpha-decay and surface-event rates provides evidence that 210Pb (a daughter-product of 222Rn) is a major component of our surface event background.” | Science 26 March 2010: Vol. 327 no. 5973 pp. 1619-Science 26 March 2010: Vol. 327 no. 5973 pp. 1619-1621 and Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 011301 (2009)  1621 and Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 011301 (2009),  arXiv:1304.3706, arXiv:1304.4279 |
| CoGeNT | Likely g-rays from U/Th/K in front end electronics (resistor) | Physical Review D 88, 012002 (2013) |
| COUPP 4-kg | U-238 spontaneous fission neutrons and U/Th decay chain induced (,n) in PZT piezoelectric transducers | PRD 86, 052001 (2012) |
| CRESST-II | Recoiling Pb-206 nuclei from Po-210 decays (likely radon progeny) | Eur. Phys. J. C (2012) 72:1971 |
| DAMIC SNOLAB | Version 1 of aluminum nitride substrate contained U-238 limiting sensitivity | 33RD INTERNATIONAL COSMIC RAY CONFERENCE, RIO DE JANEIRO 2013, THE ASTROPARTICLE PHYSICS CONFERENCE |
| DM-Ice | “Dominant background in DM-Ice17: 40K & 210Pb in the crystals” | DM-Ice presentation: SNOWMASS 2013: Cosmic Frontier Workshop March 6 - 8, 2013 |
| DRIFT-IId | “…Radon Progeny Recoil (RPR) events, DRIFT’s only known background…” likely in the cathode wires. | Astroparticle Physics Volume 35, Issue 7, February 2012, Pages 397–401 |
| EDELWEISS-II | Residual fiducial gamma-ray background leakage | PRD 86, 051701(R) (2012) |
| KIMS | Surface alpha emitters | PRL 108, 181301 (2012) |
| PICASSO | Alpha background of uncertain origin. Potentially alpha emitters in the C4F10 (e.g. decay chains below Ra) | Phys. Lett. B711 (2012) 153-161 |
| SIMPLE | Background neutrons originate mainly from the glass detector containment and shield water. | Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 201302 (2012) |
| TEXONO | Likely -rays from U/Th/K similar to CoGeNT | Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 261301 (2013) |
| XENON100 | Electron recoil background estimate including Gaussian and anomalous events | PRL 109, 181301 (2012) |
| XMASS | Radon daughters on PMTs and 14C on PMT seals | K. Hiraide, AXION-WIMP 2012 |
| ZEPLIN-III | First science run: "The FSR sensitivity was limited by background originating from PMT γ-rays."  Second science run: The "electron recoil" leakage events from gamma-rays from PMTs was leading background. | Physics Letters B Volume 709, Issues 1–2, 13 March 2012, Pages 14–20 |

**Appendix B – Survey of G2 experiment assay needs**

This table summarizes the answers to the survey that we received from each experiment. To view original material sent by each experiment, click on the experiment name.

<http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-index.php?page=materials+details>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Experiment | Materials | Techniques | Samples per year | Contaminant | Sensitivity needed | Energy range | Sample preparation | Special handling | Proprietary? |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DarkSide](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=176) | stainless steel, copper, brass, PTFE, kovar, kapton, cuflon, electronic components, TMB (liquid) | HPGe, ICPMS, NAA | 30 - 50 | all parts for the present deployment of the DS50 TPC made of materials described above | 0.1 mBq/kg – 1 Bq/kg | 40keV – 3MeV | precision cleaning and surface treatment, sample preparation | handling in radon-free clean room, after cleaning store samples in radon-proof bags | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [C4](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=177) | Front-end electronics (various materials: metals, plastics, resistors) | HPGe | Probably only 1 sample | U-238, Th-232, and K-40 | < 0.1 mBq/kg | Up to 2.614 MeV (Tl-208 line) | Cannot be exposed to mine air, hopefully handled in cleanroom | No | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Stainless steel | HPGe | 5 | U, Th, K, Co-60 | 1 mBq/kg (U); 1 mBq/kg (Th); 5 mBq/kg (K); 1 mBq/kg (Co-60) | 30 – 3000 keV | surface etching | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Copper | HPGe | 5 | U, Th, K, Co-60 | 1 mBq/kg (U); 1 mBq/kg (Th); 5 mBq/kg (K); 1 mBq/kg (Co-60) | 30 – 3000 keV | surface etching | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Na Poweder Marinelli beakers | HPGe | 8 | U, Th, K | 10 ppt (U); 10 ppt (Th); 100 ppb (K) | 30 – 3000 keV | Dry box or glovebox for handling hygroscopic powder | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Quartz, solid | HPGe | 20 | U, Th, K | < 5 ppb (U); < 5 ppb (Th); < 5 ppm (K) | 30 – 3000 keV |  | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Cables, spooled | HPGe | 3 | U, Th, K, Co-60 | 1 mBq/kg (U); 1 mBq/kg (Th); 5 mBq/kg (K); 1 mBq/kg (Co-60) | 30 – 3000 keV | surface etching | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | PMTs | HPGe | 20 | U, Th, K | < 5 ppb (U); < 5 ppb (Th); < 5 ppm (K) | 30 – 3000 keV |  | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Optical grease / gel | HPGe | 4 | U, Th, K | 100 ppt (U); 100 ppt (Th); 100 ppb (K) | 30 – 3000 keV |  | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | PTFE | HPGe | 3 | U, Th, K, Co-60 | 100 ppt (U); 100 ppt (Th); 100 ppb (K); 0.1 mBq/kg (Co-60) | 30 – 3000 keV | surface etching | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [DM-Ice](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=175) | Misc small | HPGe | 10 | U, Th, K, Co-60 |  | 30 – 3000 keV | possibly surface etching | N/A | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [XENON](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=234) | Stainless Steel | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAA, Rn emanation analysis | 2 months | 238U - 230Th, 226Ra - 206Pb, 232Th - Ac, 228Th - 208Pb, K-40, Co-60, Cs-137 | 1 mBq/kg | 30 – 2700 keV | ultrasound cleaning with weak acid solution | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [XENON](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=234) | PTFE | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAA, alpha counting, Rn emanation analysis | 2 months | 238U - 230Th, 226Ra - 214Po, 210Pb - 206Pb, 232Th-228Ac, 228Th - 208Pb, K-40, Co-60, Cs-137 | 50 micro-Bq/kg | 30 – 2700 keV | ultrasound cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [XENON](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=234) | Oxgen free copper | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAA, alpha counting, Rn emanation analysis | 2 months | 238U - 230Th, 226Ra - 214Po, 210Pb - 206Pb, 232Th-228Ac, 228Th - 208Pb, 40K, 60Co, 137Cs | 50 micro-Bq/kg | 30 – 2700 keV | ultrasound cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [XENON](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=234) | Photomultipliers | HPGe, Rn emanation analysis | 1.5 months | 238U - 230Th, 226Ra - 206Pb, 232Th-228Ac, 228Th - 208Pb, 40K, 60Co, 137Cs | <1 mBq/PMT | 30 – 2700 keV | wipe with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [XENON](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=234) | Resistors/capacitors for PMT electronics | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAAA, Rn emanation analysis | 1 month | 238U - 230Th, 226Ra - 206Pb, 232Th-228Ac, 228Th - 208Pb, 40K, 60Co, 137Cs | 1 micro-Bq/piece | 30 – 2700 keV | ultrasound bath with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [XENON](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=234) | Internal cables | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAAA, Rn emanation analysis | 1 month | 238U - 230Th, 226Ra - 206Pb, 232Th - 228Ac, 228Th - 208Pb, 40K, 60Co, 137Cs | 1 mBq/kg | 30 – 2700 keV | ultrasound bath with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Teflon | HPGe, Beta, NAA, Rn emanation analysis | 15 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 210Pb | 0.1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Ti, Ti Alloy | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAA | 30 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co, 137Cs | 0.1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | PMT + base components | HPGe, ICP-MS, NAA | 50 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 0.1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | TPC grid components | HPGe, ICP-MS | 50 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 10 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | TPC HV cable | HPGe, NAA, Rn emanation | 10 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Insulation | HPGe, Rn emanation | 5 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 137Cs | 1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Acrylic | NAA | 10 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 0.1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Stainless Steel | HPGe | 10 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co, 137Cs | 1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Scintillator | NAA | 10 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 0.01 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | Gd fluors | NAA, HPGe | 10 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [LZ](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=247) | purification/recirculation | HPGe, NAA, ICPMS, Rn emanation | 20 | 238U, 232Th, 40K | 0.1 mBq/kg |  |  |  | Yes |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | copper | HPGe, ICPMS, XIA | 24 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.02 - 0.1 mBq/kg (0.003 alphas/cm2/day) | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | poly | HPGe | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.1 - 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | Pb | HPGe | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | none | handle with gloves | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | ceramic | HPGe, ICPMS | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | clean with ethanol | handle with gloves | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | PMTs/SiPMs | HPGe, ICPMS | 24 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 3 ppb U,Th 100 ppm K | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | various electrical components | HPGe, ICPMS | 24 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | Cu/Cirlex stiffner board | HPGe, ICPMS | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | flex cables | HPGe, ICPMS | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | 4K connectors | HPGe, ICPMS | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co | 0.05 mBq/kg | 30 - 3000 keV | cleaning with ethanol | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [SuperCDMS](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=290) | scintillator | HPGe | 12 | 238U, 232Th, 40K, 60Co |  | 30 - 3000 keV | 0.001 - 0.01 mBq/kg |  | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | fused silica | ICPMS | 10 | alpha emitters | 0.01 mBq/kg | > 3000 keV | surface etching (if underground) | No | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | fused silica surfaces | alpha counting | 10 | alpha emitters | 0.01 alphas/cm2/day | > 3000 keV | surface etching (if underground) | No | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | stainless steel | HPGe, ICPMS | 10 | 238U | 0.01 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | No | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | propylene glycol | HPGe, ICPMS | 10 | alpha emitters | 0.01 - 1 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | No | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | seals | HPGe, ICPMS | 10 | alpha emitters | 0.01 - 10 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | No | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | connectors | HPGe, ICPMS | 10 | alpha emitters | 0.5 - 10 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | wires | HPGe, ICPMS | 10 | alpha emitters | 0.1 - 10 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | cameras | HPGe, ICPMS | 10 | alpha emitters | 1 - 10 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | handle with sterile glove | No |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| [COUPP](http://www.snowmass2013.org/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=291) | water | HPGe, LCS | 10 | alpha emitters | 1 - 10 mBq/kg | HPGe counting | surface etching (if underground) | handle with sterile glove | No |

**Appendix C – Materials and assay centers**

Table 1. US Assay Resources [2]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Facility | Depth (mwe) | Suite of detectors and technology |
| Berkeley LBCF | surface | 2 HPGe (1 with muon veto) managed by LBNL  100% use for others  NaI, BF3 counting, Shielded R&D space |
| PNNL | surface | ICPMS: Dedicated instrument and clean room facilities for low bkgd assay  6 commercially shielded HPGe detectors  planning for use by others  Two 7-detector HPGe arrays (each ~400-500% relative efficiency) – unshielded. |
| PNNL Shallow Underground Lab | 30 | Copper electroforming and clean machining.  14-crystal HPGe array, considering use for others.  Multiple commercial HPGe for various stakeholders. |
| Oroville (LBNL) | 530 | 1 HPGe managed by LBNL, 100% use for others  Large Shielded R&D space |
| Kimballton (KURF) | 1450 | 2 HPGe managed by UNC/TUNL. 50% use by others |
| Soudan | 2100 | 1 HPGe managed by CDMS, 10% use by others.  1 HPGe managed by Brown, dedicated to LUX/LZ  6000 m3 lab lined with muon tracker +  2 muon-correlated neutron detectors  Large R&D space with muon tag provided |
| Homestake (SURF) | 4300 | 1 HPGe managed by CUBED, priority to LZ, Majorana, other users by negotiation.  Electroforming and clean machining currently exclusive use by Majorana. |

Table 2. International Assay Resources [2]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Facility | Depth (mwe) | Suite of detectors and technology |
| HADES |  |  |
| Japan | Surface | 1 HPGe (with active veto) managed by KamLAND, currently 100%, but may consider use for others.  1 HePG managed by CANDLES in Osaka (sea level), currently 90%, with 10% use for others. |
| Kamioka Observatory,  Japan | 2700 | Each experimental group has their own devices for screening and assay, but will consider use by others.  1 HPGe managed by KamLAND, currently 100%  1 HPGe under construction by KamLAND: 100%  1 HPGe under construction by CANDLES: 100%  3 HPGe (2 p-type, 1 n-type)100% SuperK and XMASS  Underground ICP-MS and API-MS   managed by SuperK and XMASS (100%).  Many radon detectors to measure radon emanation of materials, managed by SuperK and XMASS (100%) |
| CanFranc (LSC)  Spain | 2450 | 5 HPGe p-type 100% usage by LSC.   Outside collaboration possible  2 HPGe p-type to be installed by end of summer 2013 |
| Boulby Mine  England |  |  |
| STELLA at LNGS  Gran Sasso  Italy | 3800 | 10 HPGe operated by INFN as a user facility  1 HPGe with 100% usage by XENON and GERDA, (DARWIN in future), Radon mitigation underway |
| LSM (Modane)  France | 4800 | 15 HPGe with 6 dedicated to material selection.   * 2 detectors, 100% usage by SuperNEMO * 1 detector 100% usage by EDELWEISS * 3 detectors 100% dedicated to Modane exp experiments installed in Modane   2 detectors may be available to others at level of 5-10% |
| SNOLAB Canada | 6010 | 1 PGT coax HPGe 54% usage by Canadian based experiments, 34% usage by US based experiments, 12% usage by SNOLAB  1 Canberra well HPGe , 100% by SNO+ and DEAP  11 Electrostatic Counters (alpha counters), 100% usage by EXO, in future SNO+, PICASSO and MiniCLEAN  8 Alpha-Beta counters, 100% usage by SNO+  available for other experiments on request  1 Canberra coax HPGe (currently being refurbished)  The SNOLAB facilities are used by SNOLAB based experiments, but can be negotiated during down time |
| CJPL (JinPing)  China | 6800 | 1 HPGe managed by PandaX, 100% for PandaX  1 HPGe managed by CDEX, 90% usage by CDEX  2 HPGe to be installed by end of 2013: ~ 70% CDEX, ~30% availability reserved for others. |

**Appendix D – Natural uranium and thorium decay chains**