



## **I²SL Laboratory Continuous Performance Program**

Working Group Planning Call Summary

January 17, 2013

### Call Participants

- Mike Austin, University of Minnesota – EHS ([maustin@umn.edu](mailto:maustin@umn.edu))\*<sup>+</sup>
- Matthew Berbee, California Institute of Technology
- Roland Charneux, Pageau Morel et Associes, Inc.
- Wade Conlan, Earl Walls Associates
- Jim Coogan, Siemens
- Victoria David, Iron Horse Architects\*
- Amy Delson, Strategic Facilities Planning\*
- Shawn Harleman, kW Engineering ([harleman@kw-engineering.com](mailto:harleman@kw-engineering.com))<sup>++</sup>
- Les Hedman, MES, LLC ([les@mes-pros.com](mailto:les@mes-pros.com))<sup>++</sup>
- Punit Jain, Cannon Design
- Rob Kain, Alexandria Real Estate ([rkain@are.com](mailto:rkain@are.com))<sup>++</sup>
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- Tim Kehrl, TLK Associates\*
- Michelle McFadden, California Institute of Technology
- David Rausch, Phoenix Controls
- David Tash, AECOM\*
- Dirk von Below, Flad Architects ([dvonbelow@flad.com](mailto:dvonbelow@flad.com))<sup>++</sup>
- Robert Weidner, Barton Associates
- Phil Wirdzek, I²SL ([philwirdzek@i2sl.org](mailto:philwirdzek@i2sl.org))\*<sup>+</sup>

*\*Denotes I²SL Member*

*<sup>+</sup>Denotes Working Group Co-chair*

*<sup>++</sup>Denotes Committee Chair*

### Overview

The objective of this conference call was to build consensus with the nine Proposed Program Elements developed in the symposium held at the Labs21 2012 Annual Conference. These elements were considered key components for developing a Laboratory Continuous Performance Improvement program with I²SL. The participants would identify which of the nine were important to be addressed by sub-committee(s) leading to a report of their progress to be offered in an open meeting on the topic to be scheduled at the 2013 I²SL Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

The nine Proposed Program Elements discussed were:

1. Incorporate current standards and components of existing rating systems that are applicable to labs.
2. Incorporate tools that show best practices or case studies.
3. Establish benchmarks, not pre-requisites, to encourage tracking.
4. Minimize cost to utilize such a system.
5. Focus on changing user behaviors.
6. Utilize metering and dashboards to inform occupants.
7. Tiered system that can accommodate both new-comers and experienced owners/users.
8. Choice for outside auditors or self-reporting.
9. Recognize and promote the champion and a team.

### Discussion

The following are recommended considerations to a Laboratory Continuous Performance system:

- those common processes and features for all laboratories
- the unique processes and features that define specific lab types
- the challenges faced by older existing facilities and those for newer labs
- existing standards, rating systems, codes and tools (e.g., those of the USGBC, the Labs21 Benchmarking Tool, ISO 50001, AIHA,ASHRAE)
- meters and dashboards for accurate measurement of various resources and modifying behaviors
- continuous commissioning and others measures to gage consistent improvement

The group acknowledged that a guide comprised of the current codes, standards and tools would provide a framework and scope for such a system. The group also acknowledged that such guide or framework could be appended to address other lab types, processes and circumstances.

### Committees/Chairs

Based on the group's discussion, the following commitments were offered:

- Les Hedman and Shawn Harleman offered to lead an examination or research on the application of ISO 15001 to such a guide.
- Rob Kain offered to research LEED EBOM's applicability to such a concept.
- Mike Austin, with Phil Wirdzek, will develop a table, the initial work toward a guide, compiling the various standards, benchmarking, and metering resources to be submitted to Mike by the group over the coming weeks. A reminder to participants will be forthcoming.
- Dirk Von Below will examine ways to incent user behaviors.

- Raj Kapoor will compile a list of metering strategies, dashboard and diagnostic programs including any that automatically commission the laboratory by optimizing chillers, pumps, cooling towers as continuous improvement.

#### Committee Next Steps

- Working Group members interested in participating in one or more of these three committees should contact the committee chairs to join the group.
- The committee chairs will submit a list of their members to I<sup>2</sup>SL for recordkeeping.
- Working Group members interested in pursuing additional Program Elements should contact both Mike Austin and Phil Wirdzek.
- Committee members should begin preliminary research prior to the next group conference call, which is tentatively scheduled for the week of February 4, 2013. Mike Austin will send out information to the group once the day and time have been set.

#### Additional Action Items

- Mike Austin will explore an online system (e.g., Blackboard or Wiki) where Working Group members can actively collaborate.
- Mike Austin and Phil Wirdzek will prepare a brief Working Group purpose statement, which Wade Conlan will share with ASHRAE members at its upcoming conference.
- Phil Wirdzek will raise the idea of pursuing ASHRAE research funding for this project, per an email suggestion from Raj Kapoor.
- Working Group members interested in serving as Co-chair in place of Phil Wirdzek should contact Phil Wirdzek.