Users' questions on the extended shutdown
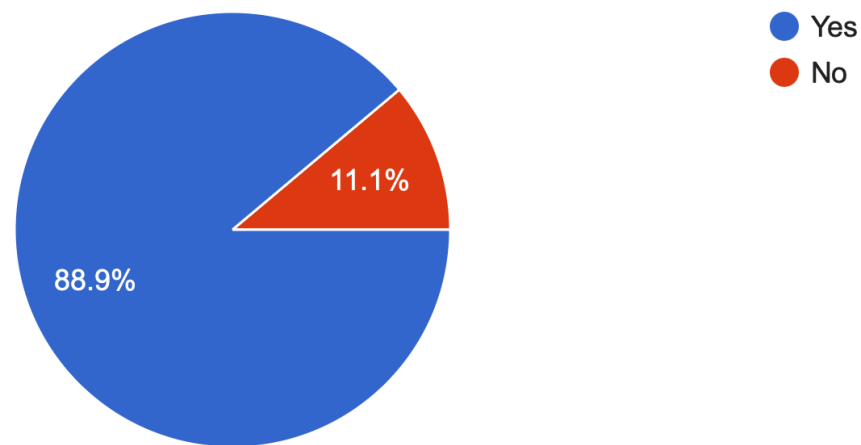
TUEC chairs

What FAQs?

- We unofficially hear lots of feedback from users, so we understand that people have questions about what to expect in the upcoming extended shutdown

- To facilitate discussion, we reached out to users directly with a survey to collect questions. Then condensed common themes to a set of FAQs

- Response rate is somewhat low, so there is large statistical uncertainty

  - Did you want to submit a question and you missed the survey? Join TUG!

- Less than half of respondents filled in free-form answers and the remainder just answered the multiple choice questions we used to gauge the overall level of user understanding of the shutdown.

  - We take this as an indication that less than half of users have specific questions, which is a good sign!

- Quite a number of these questions were already answered by Nigel and/or Doug on Monday - thank you! - so hopefully this will be pretty quick today.

Users' knowledge

Are you aware that the goal of the shutdown is to enable the completion of ARIEL so that it can reach full operation in 2027, as promised by TRIUMF in fulfilment of the NRC contribution agreement?
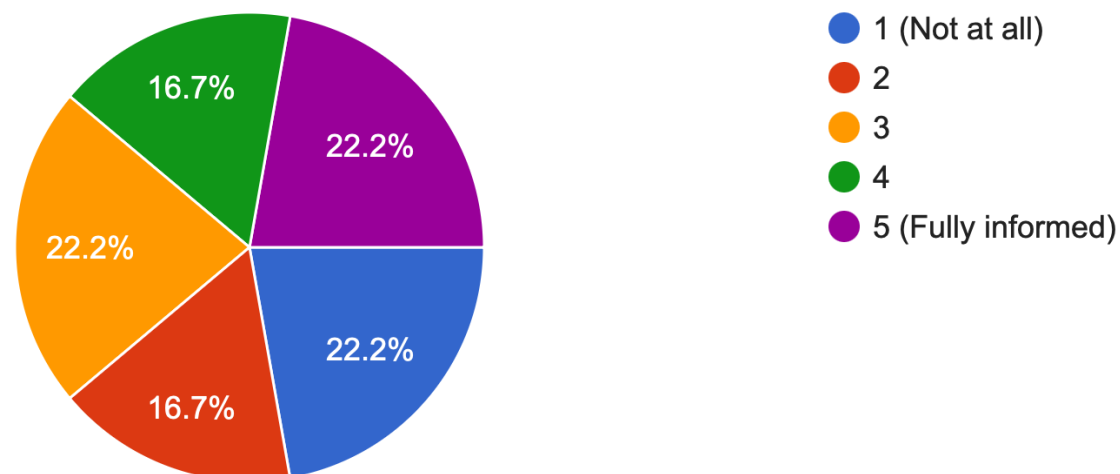18 responses

Legend:
- Yes
- No

88.9%
11.1%

Everyone understands why the extended shutdown is necessary and non-negotiable.

How informed do you feel about the implementation plan for the extended shutdown?
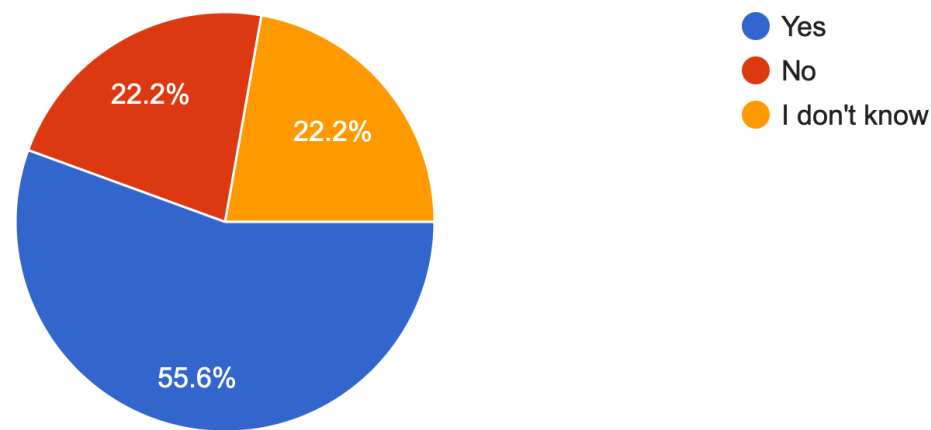18 responses

Legend:
- 1 (Not at all)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 (Fully informed)

16.7%
22.2%
22.2%
16.7%
22.2%

Almost perfectly flat. We did not collect info on user affiliations to break this down farther.

Users' knowledge

Do you think that decisions related to how projects and personnel are managed during the shutdown will have a meaningful impact on the outcomes for ARIEL in 2027?
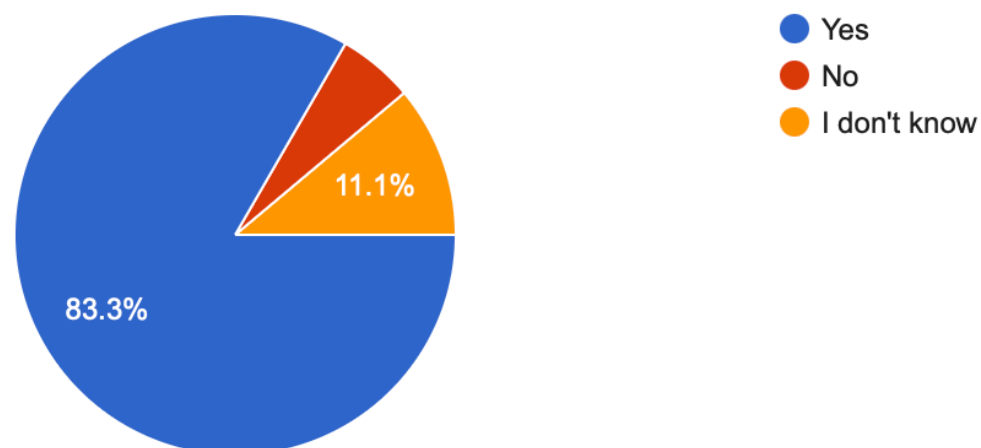
18 responses

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

22.2%
22.2%
55.6%

Majority of users understand the importance of the shutdown implementation for ARIEL's completion

Do you think that decisions related to how projects and personnel are managed during the shutdown will have a meaningful impact on non-ARIEL physics projects that you are personally involved in?

18 responses

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

11.1%
83.3%

Users understand the resource constraints on other projects during the shutdown

Questions about the shutdown: big picture

- Q1: Could you clarify the completion milestones for ARIEL? I.e. what stage is expected to be reached at the end of the long shutdown, what are the goals for beam delivery, and so on?

- Q2: What are the contingency plans if the status is not as hoped at the end of the shutdown?

  - Sub-question: is there a chance of the shutdown being extended?

- Q3: Could TRIUMF post and maintain a high-level timeline of the current plan, including what to expect for e.g. BL1A?*

- Q4: Could TRIUMF provide regular updates on ARIEL's progress? Users want to know about achievements, setbacks, resource usage, and current status.*

  - Suggestions for methods included a webpage or occasional status email to users list

- Q5: what's the maintenance plan for existing infrastructure (cyclotron, beamlines) during the shutdown, to make sure we can restart smoothly afterwards?

- Q6: when do we anticipate holding the first post-shutdown EECs?

* We think this already exists and just needs maintenance, see "ARIEL-II Dashboard" and "ARIEL-II Timeline" in Quicklinks.

Questions about the shutdown: resources and personnel

- Q7: Could we get a list of which resources users will lose access to during the shutdown and which will remain available? E.g. purchasing, HR, research services?

- Q8: What does the process/timeline look like for returning resource availability to other projects after the shutdown? Will it be a staged process?

- Q9: Do we have an estimate of how much the lab's operational load (fraction of FTEs spent on operations) will increase when ARIEL comes online?

- Q10 (only relevant for internal users): how will the reallocation of lab personnel efforts to ARIEL during the shutdown work? To whom does it apply, at what FTE, and how will it be scheduled?