

Transition from ISPyB to DRAC at ESRF (IV)

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On behalf of
Software Group and Structural Biology group
DLS 17/11/2025





ISPyB

Information System for Protein
crystallography Beamlines



DRAC
powered by I²CAT

Data Repository for Advancing
open sScience

Motivation

Overcome DB limitations
Reduce DB complexity
Modular
Scalable

FAIRness (i.e: DOI)
Data policy (i.e : embargo, sharing data)
Support non-SB techniques with rich metadata

A proposal for a Next Generation of ISPyB Software

- Requested further evaluation and testing of the ICAT-based solution

March 2023

ISPyB/MXCuBE Collaboration Meeting SOLEIL

MX on ICAT

- Requested further development and deployment in real conditions

Nov 2023

ISPyB/MXCuBE Collaboration Meeting ALBA

Transition from ISPyB to ICAT at ESRF

- Shipment, sample tracking
- Ingestion of RAW and PROCESSED data from Beamlines

May 2024

ISPyB/MXCuBE Collaboration Meeting MAXIV

Transition from ISPyB to ICAT at ESRF (II)

- DRAC was born
- Oath2 (SSO) implemented on MXCuBE and session selection

Nov 2024

ISPyB/MXCuBE Collaboration Meeting ELETTRA

Transition from ISPyB to DRAC at ESRF (III)

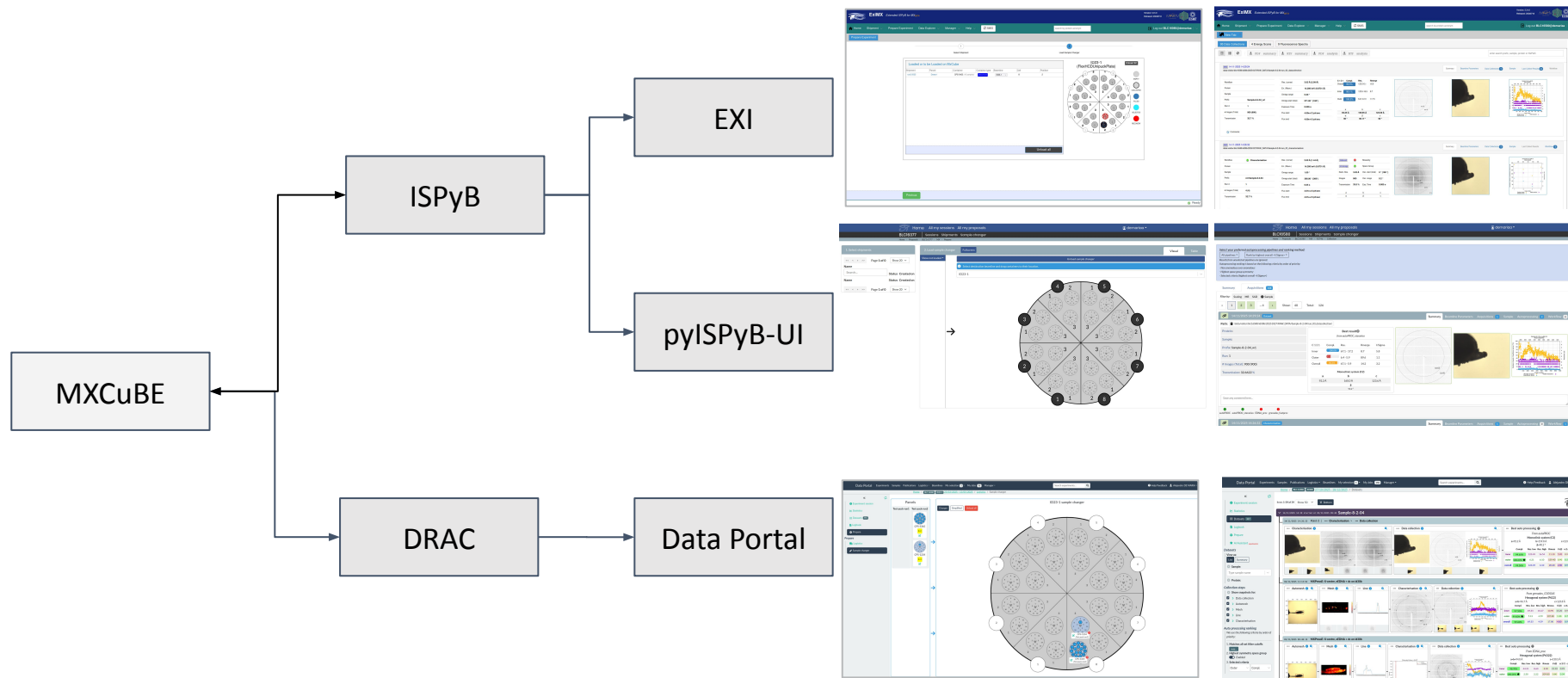
- Dual synchronization of samples from MXCuBE

May 2025

ISPyB/MXCuBE Collaboration Meeting DESY

Current status (November 2025)

Versions: backend | database & frontend?



Work on improving the configuration of the experiment

Experiment Plan

Min .Rot. Angle
Tot. Rot. Angle
Initial Resolution
Mesh beam diameter
Collection beam diameter
Radiation sensitivity
Number of positions
etc...

Processing Plan

Pipelines
Grenades
AutoPROC
EDNA_proc
XIA2_DIALS
Run Molecular Replacement
Search models/UniProt IDs
Smiles
Cutoffs
Force Space group
SAD
Reference reflection

- Users can configure the acquisition and processing parameters on a per-sample basis
- Spreadsheet integrated in DRAC
- Support for import/export CSV (currently still working on this)
- **Configurable for each beamline** (support of multiple techniques)

Developments since last meeting (May to October 2025)

Work on improving the configuration of the experiment

Name * ID23-2 test puck for DRAC testing Type * UNIPUCK

Processing Plan

- ☒ Gre. P.
- ☒ autoPROC
- ☒ EDNA_proc
- ☒ XIA2_DIALS

Fullscreen

Same values have same color.

	Item					Processing							
	Type	Short name	Name	Description	Comments	MR	Search models	Smiles	Cutoffs	Force S.G	Unit cell	SAD	Reference ref
1	SAMPLE	Tryp	protK1_highdose			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
2						<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	SAMPLE	Tryp	thermo_4sig			<input type="checkbox"/>			1 item...			<input type="checkbox"/>	
4						<input type="checkbox"/>			1 item...			<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	SAMPLE	Tryp	FAE_1			<input type="checkbox"/>			1 item...			<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	SAMPLE	Tryp	FAE_2			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	SAMPLE	Tryp	insu_with_refSG			<input type="checkbox"/>				I23		<input type="checkbox"/>	XDS_ANOM-4
8	SAMPLE	Tryp	insu_ref			<input type="checkbox"/>			1 item...			<input type="checkbox"/>	XDS_ANOM-4
9	SAMPLE	Tryp	uniprot_ID			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	SAMPLE	Tryp	standard			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
11	SAMPLE	Thau	thau1			<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
12						<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	
13	SAMPLE	Thau	foo_4sig_cut			<input type="checkbox"/>			1 item...			<input type="checkbox"/>	
14	SAMPLE	LYS	lys_userMR			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 item...					<input type="checkbox"/>	
15	SAMPLE	LYS	lys_userMR_smiles			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 items...	1 item...				<input type="checkbox"/>	
16						<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Parameter	Value
1	Completeness	6
2	{/s0}	9.5
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Developments since last meeting (May to October 2025)

Work on improving the parcel tracking

- Improved workflow with the support of the user office and stores
- New labels

Certify parcel content

☒ I hereby certify that:

- The parcel does not contain any radioactive sources.
- The parcel contains only samples that have been declared in the Proposal/ Sample-sheet form(s) and that have been approved by the ESRF safety group.
- The parcel will be sent according to national and international transport regulations and customs regulations, with support of my local safety and logistics referents, where possible.
- I acknowledge that in no event shall the ESRF be held liable for the loss of (and any damage caused to) any content of the parcel sent by the user.

Tracking number and forwarder are required. If not available yet, add them later in Parcel info

Tracking number
11053345323

Forwarder name
FEDEX

Dangerous goods

This declaration is **NOT** replacing the necessary parcel content declaration paperwork requested by the transporter & customs.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the parcel content declaration is compliant with international regulations and that the appropriate paperwork is provided to the corresponding authorities in due time. It is provided on line.

Please consult the safety referent of your Laboratory/Company or the Transport Company to help you on this matter if you have any doubt.

☐ Yes, this parcel contains dangerous goods
☐ No, I certify that this parcel does not contain dangerous goods in regard of international regulations.

Cancel Print and Mark Sent

ESRF ID23-2 BLC-16576 Max NANAQ PAC-1 (63278740)

Please cut here and attach the above strip on the back of your dry shipper so it always remains visible

ESRF ID23-2

Session date 27/10/2025
Local contact Max NANAQ

Proposal BLC-16576
Principal Investigator Max NANAQ
Sender address Max Nanao, ESRF, Grenoble, FRANCE
Sender phone 4087

Dewar name PAC-1 Dewar ID 63278740
Number of dewars 3 / 3
Number of pucks 1
Number of samples 0

Planned pickup date n/a

IN

↑↑
ESRF

Please don't forget to include your forwarder's return documents in the shipping case

ESRF ID23-2 BLC-16576 Max NANAQ PAC-1 (63278740)

Please cut here and attach the above strip on the back of your dry shipper so it always remains visible

ESRF ID23-2

Proposal BLC-16576
Return address
Return phone
Lab country

Forwarder company
Forwarder account
Instructions n/a
Planned pickup date n/a

Beamline ID23-2
Session date 27/10/2025
Local contact Max NANAQ

Dewar name PAC-1 Dewar ID 63278740
Number of dewars 3 / 3

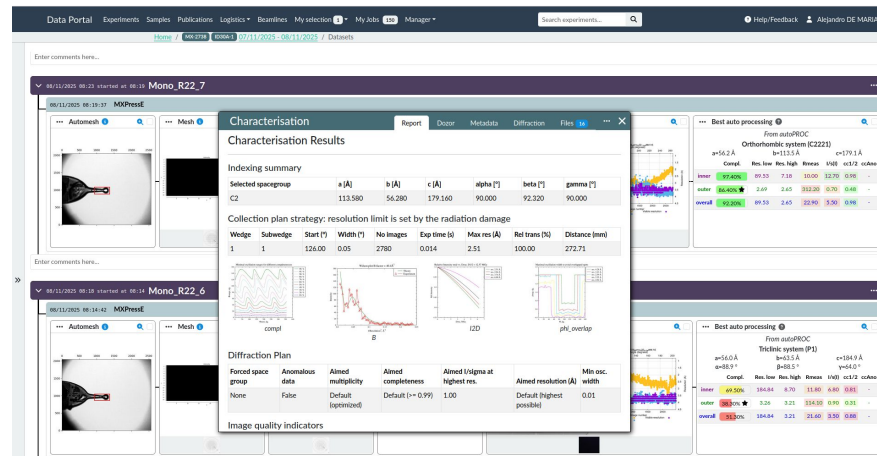
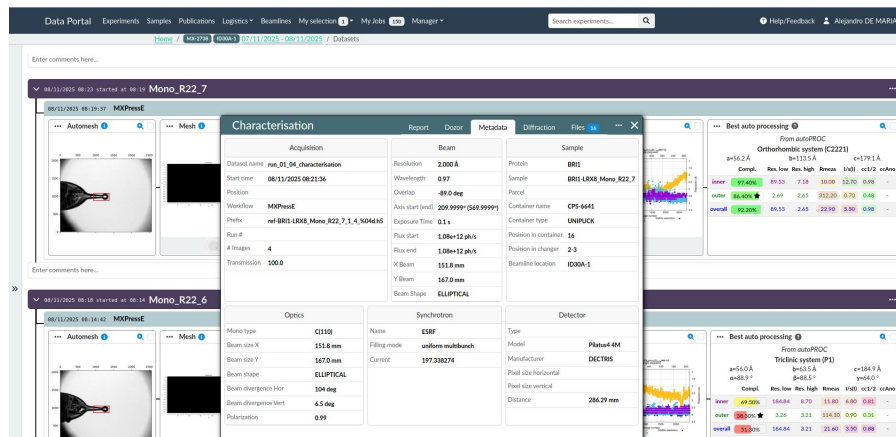
OUT

↑↑
ESRF

Please don't forget to include your forwarder's return documents in the shipping case

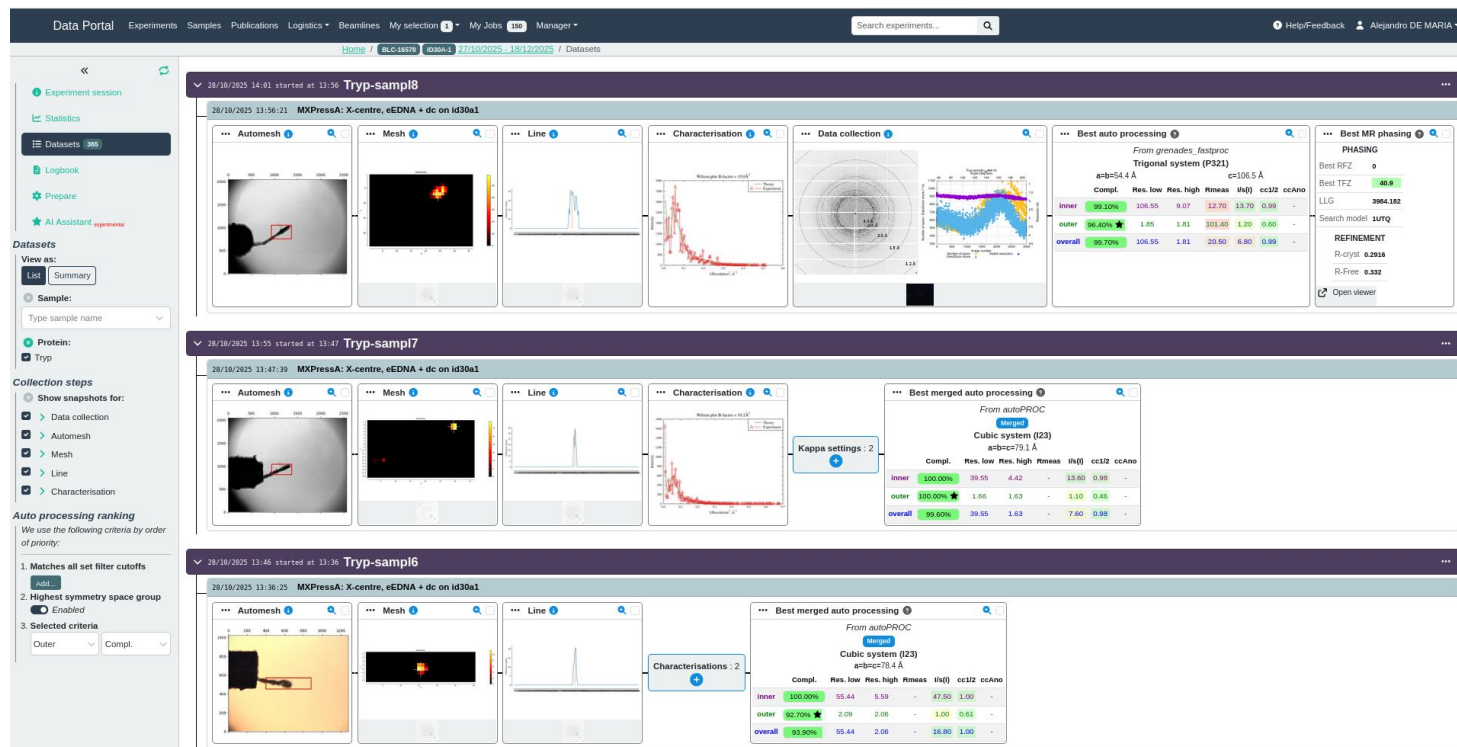
Developments since last meeting (May to October 2025)

Enrichment of the metadata linked to the experiments



Developments since last meeting (May to October 2025)

- Real cases of dynamic grouping of the results



Developments since last meeting

[Data Portal](#)
[Experiments](#)
[Samples](#)
[Publications](#)
[Logistics](#)
[Beamlines](#)
[My selection](#)
[1](#)
[My Jobs](#)
[150](#)
[Manager](#)

[Home](#) / [BLC-16079](#) / [ID30A-1](#) / [27/10/2025 - 18/12/2025](#) / [Datasets](#)

[Help/Feedback](#)
[Alejandro DE MARIA](#)

Experiment session

Statistics

Datasets **388**

Logbook

Prepare

AI Assistant *experimental*

Datasets

View as:

List Summary

Sample:

Type sample name

Protein:

☒ Tryp

Collection steps

Show snapshots for:

☒ Data collection

☒ Automesh

☒ Mesh

☒ Line

☒ Characterisation

Auto processing ranking

We use the following criteria by order of priority:

1. Matches all set filter cutoffs

Add...

2. Highest symmetry space group

☒ Enabled

3. Selected criteria

Outer Compl.

28/10/2025 13:48 started at 13:36 **Tryp-samp16**

28/10/2025 13:36:25 MXPressA: X-centre, eEDNA + dc on id30a1

Automesh Mesh Line

Characterisations : 2

Best merged auto processing

From autoPROC

Merged

Cubic system (I23)

a=b=c=78.4 Å

	Compl.	Res. low	Res. high	Rmeas	I/s(I)	cc1/2	ccAno
inner	100.00%	55.44	5.59	-	47.50	1.00	-
outer	92.70%	2.09	2.06	-	1.00	0.61	-
overall	93.30%	55.44	2.06	-	16.80	1.00	-

Kappa settings : 2

Kappa settings : 2

Enter comments here...

28/10/2025 13:35 started at 13:25 **Tryp-samp15**

28/10/2025 13:25:53 MXPressA: X-centre, eEDNA + dc on id30a1

Automesh Mesh Line

Characterisation

Best merged auto processing

From autoPROC

Merged

Triclinic system (P1)

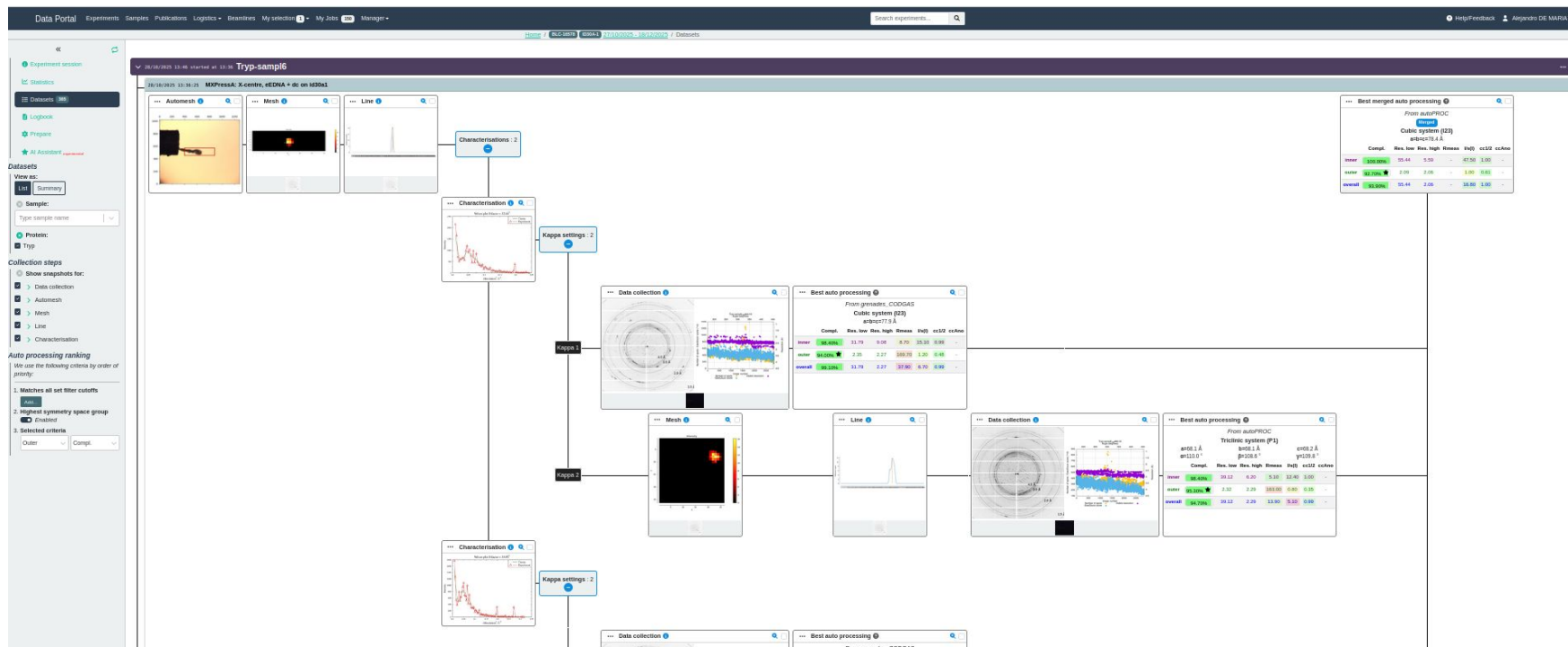
a=68.1 Å b=67.8 Å c=68.1 Å

$\alpha=108.7^\circ$ $\beta=110.2^\circ$ $\gamma=109.3^\circ$

	Compl.	Res. low	Res. high	Rmeas	I/s(I)	cc1/2	ccAno
inner	99.10%	55.49	16.48	-	2.50	0.64	-

Kappa settings : 2

Developments since last meeting



Developments since last meeting

Better summary view

- Display of collected and uncollected positions
- Non declared containers

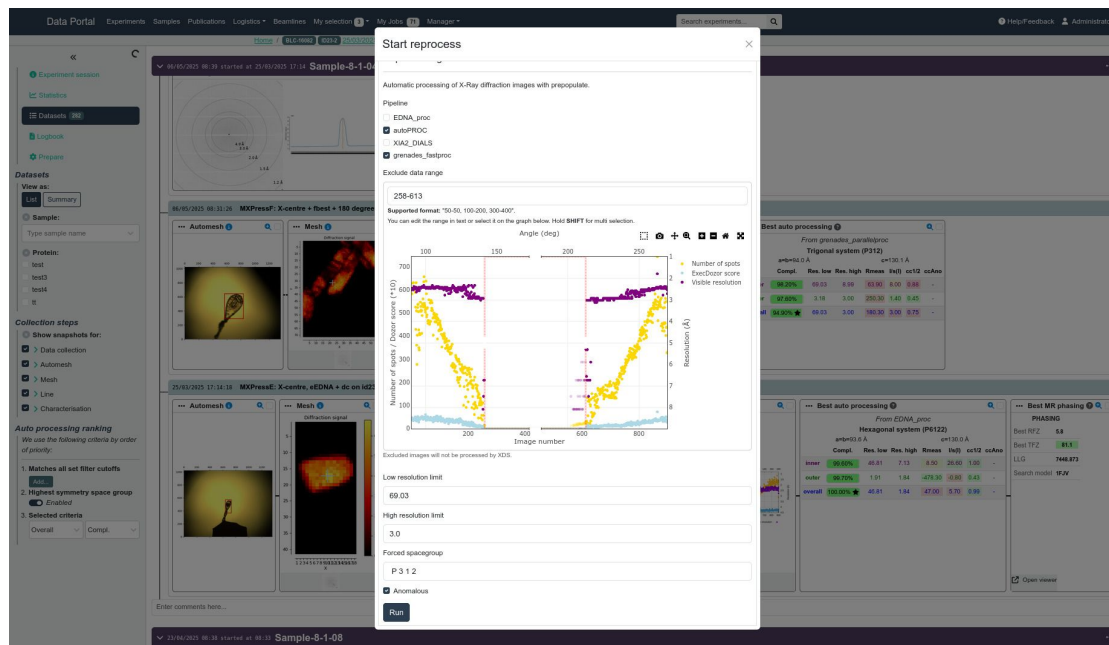


Before



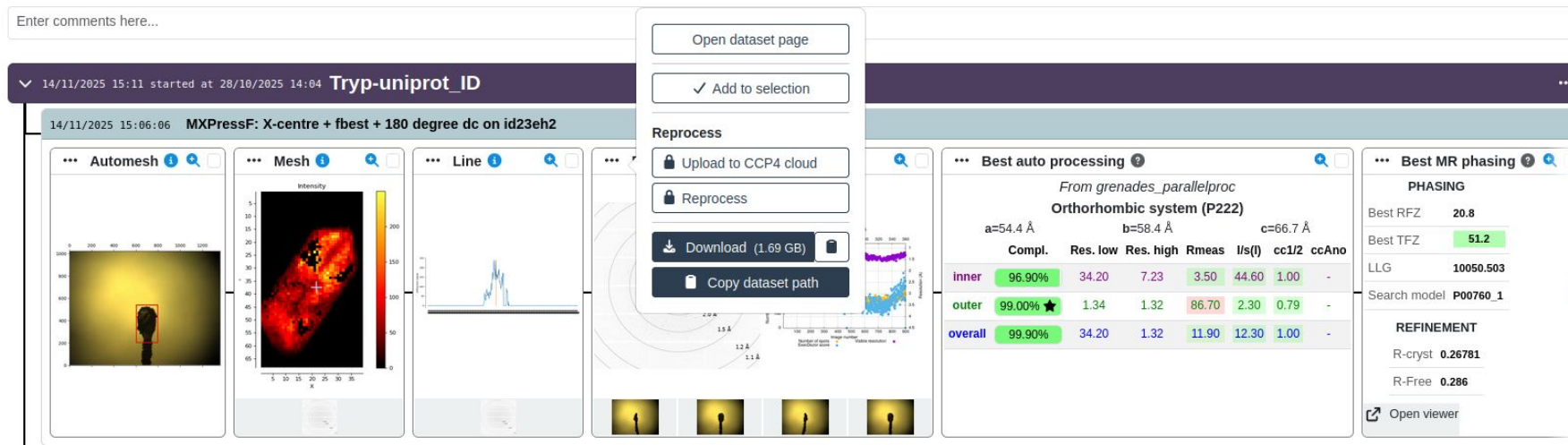
Now

Reprocessing improvements



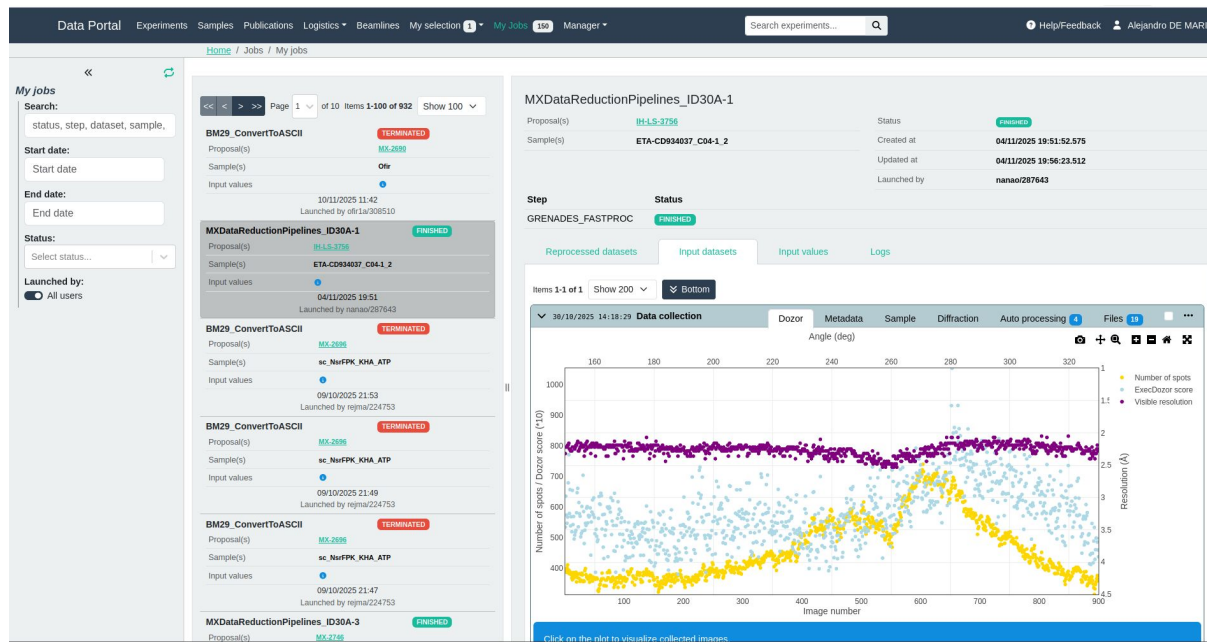
- Reprocess your dataset via ewoks
- Range image selector
- Specify more parameters, i.e: resolution limits and space group

Reprocessing improvements



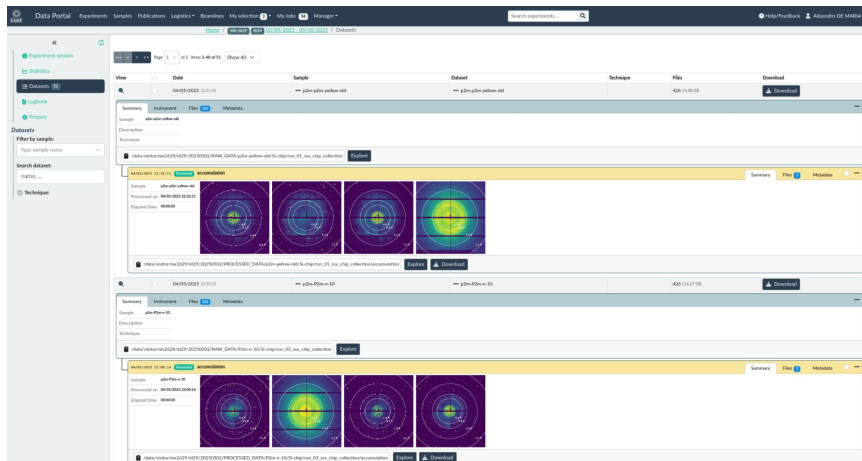
- Upload your dataset to the CCP4 Cloud automatically via Ewoks

Reprocessing improvements



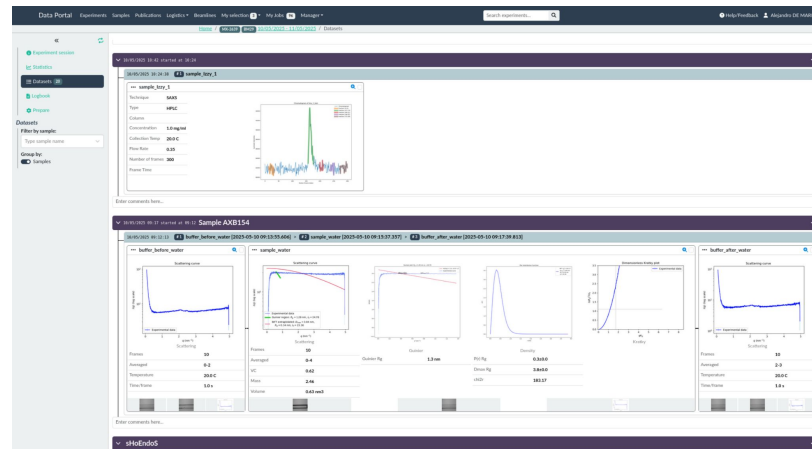
- Better interface to manage the jobs that have been run

Developments on other techniques



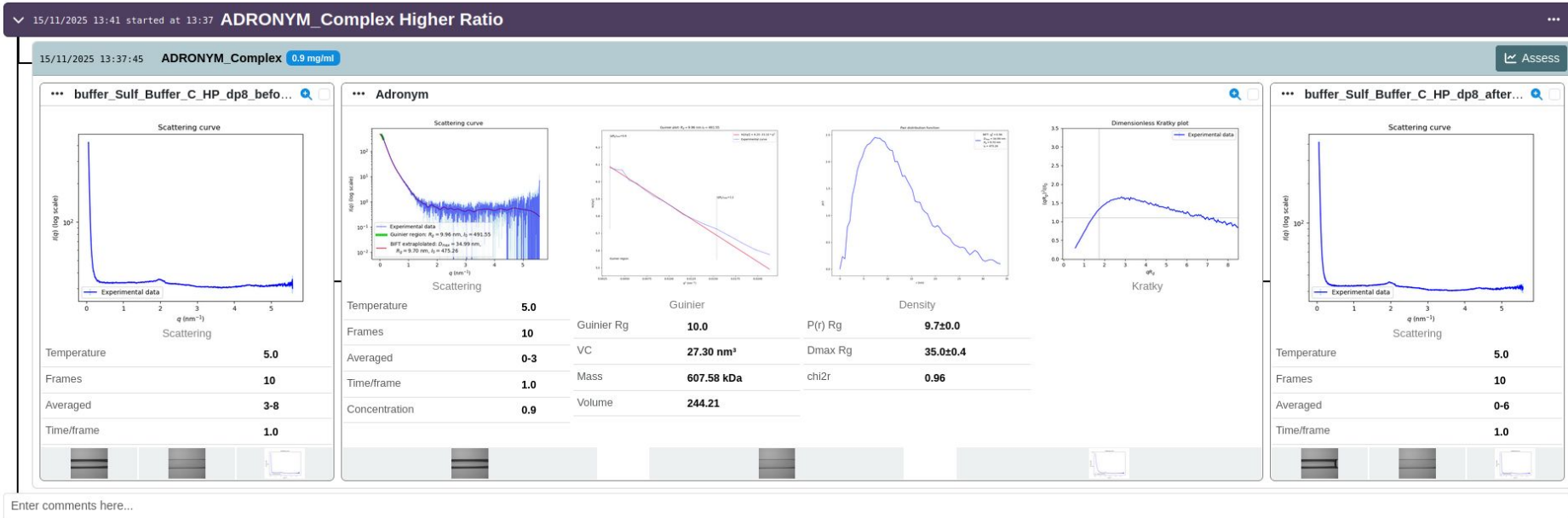
SSX Experiments

- DRAC allows to change the presentation depending on the type of experiment
- As we catalog the metadata of new techniques, the data are presented appropriately.



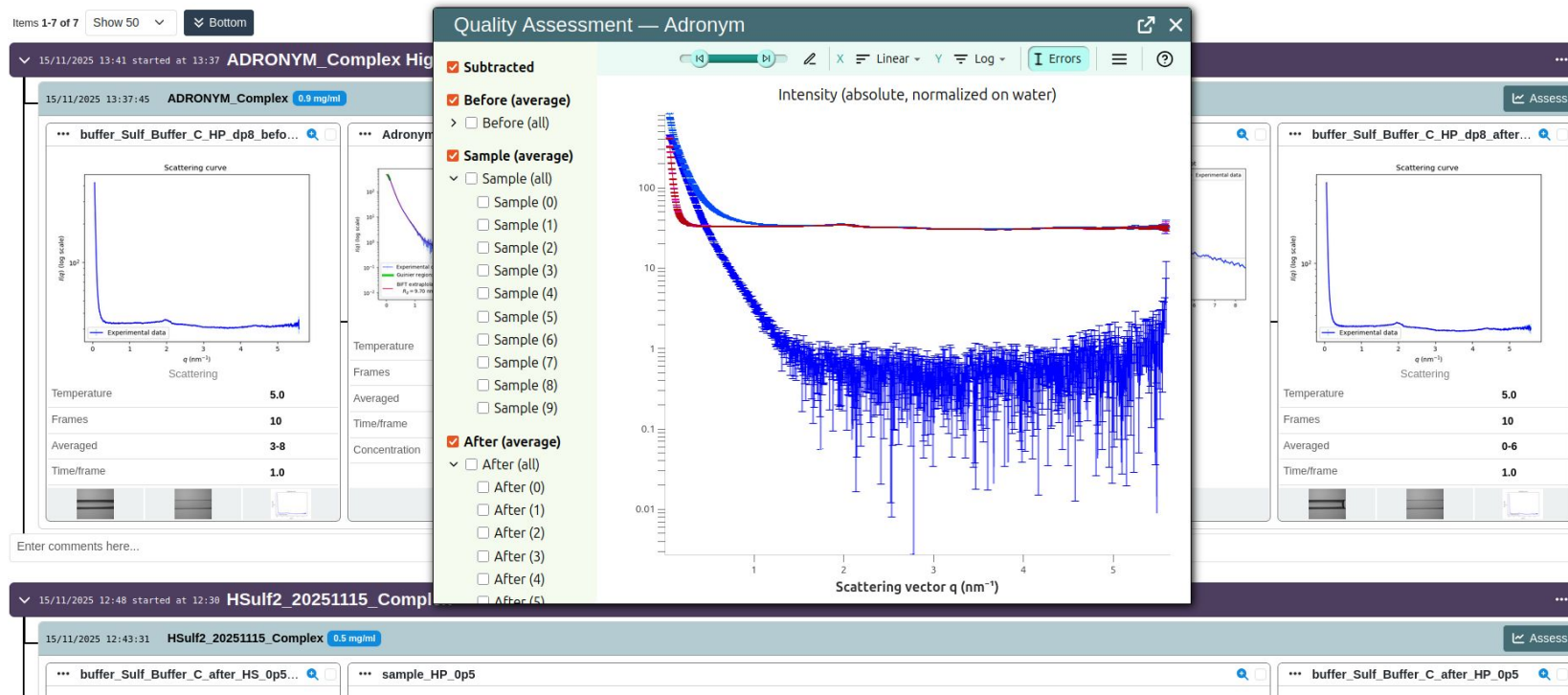
BioSAXS Experiments

Developments on other techniques



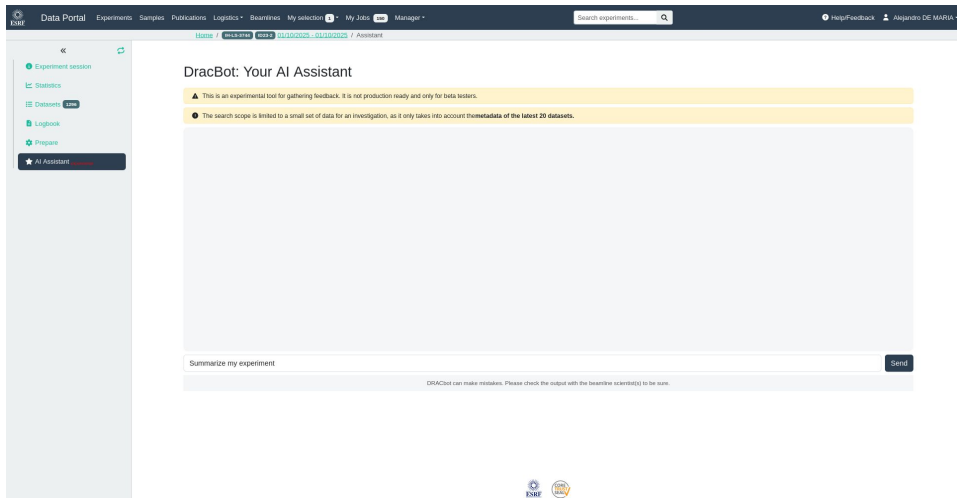
- Visualization widgets have been developed and integrated for certain techniques
- Example: New feature for quick assessment of the data

Developments on other techniques



- Integration of H5web plugin for BioSAXS

DRACBot: AI Assistant



POC

- A proof of concept deployed on 16th Oct
- Accessible to ESRF beamline staff only

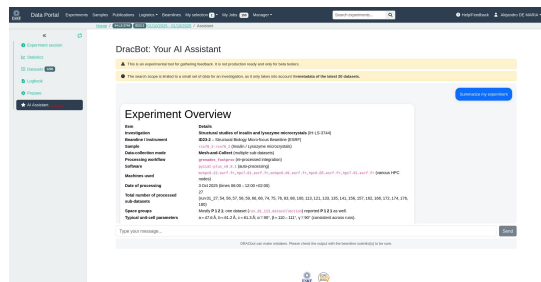
RAG (Retrieval Augmented Generation)

- Limited context send to the LLM
 - Metadata of latest datasets
- LLM: gpt-oss

Evaluation purposes only

- Gather feedback
- Inspiration about use cases

DRACBot: Example of “summarize my experiment”



Data-quality Summary (representative values)

Metric	Typical range across runs
Overall completeness	7 % – 15 % (most runs 12-15 %)
Overall $\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$	0.8 – 2.5 (inner shells often much higher, up to ~40 for the best runs)
Overall CC $\frac{1}{2}$	0.96 – 0.998 (inner shells often > 0.99)
Overall R _{merge}	0 – 30 % (many runs report 0, a few high values up to ~95 % for low-resolution shells)
Overall R _{meas}	0 – 65 % (some anomalously large negative values indicate statistical noise in very low-count data)
Overall R _{pim}	0 – 27 % (most ≤ 12 %)
Overall multiplicity	1.0 – 1.3 (generally low, as expected for single-crystal mesh scans)
Resolution limits	High-resolution shell typically 1.63 – 1.66 Å; low-resolution cut-off varies from ~18 Å to > 40 Å depending on crystal quality.
Anomalous signal	Generally absent (overall anomalous multiplicity = 0, anomalous completeness = 0 – 0.3 %).

Note: Many parameters are reported as 0 for outer shells (e.g., R_{merge}, R_{meas}) because the corresponding reflections are either absent or have intensities below the detection threshold.

Key Observations

- Consistent crystal lattice** – All processed sub-datasets share nearly identical unit-cell dimensions, confirming that the same crystal (or identical crystals) were used throughout the mesh-and-collect experiment.
- High inner-shell data quality** – The inner resolution shells routinely show very high $\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$ (up to ~40) and CC $\frac{1}{2}$ > 0.99, indicating that the diffraction spots are strong and well measured.
- Low overall completeness** – Because each mesh-and-collect sub-dataset only samples a small portion of reciprocal space, overall completeness per sub-dataset is modest (7–15 %). The full experiment (combining all sub-datasets) would be expected to reach a much higher completeness.
- Resolution** – The majority of runs reach a high-resolution limit of ~1.64 Å, sufficient for detailed atomic modelling of insulin and lysozyme.
- Anomalous signal** – No significant anomalous signal was detected, which is typical for native protein crystals without heavy-atom derivatization.
- Processing consistency** – All datasets were processed with the same pipeline (`grenades_fastproc` → `pyicat-plus_v0.9.1`) on ESRF HPC resources, ensuring comparable statistical treatment.

Conclusion

The mesh-and-collect experiment on the ID23-2 beamline generated a large set of high-resolution diffraction sub-datasets from insulin/lysozyme microcrystals. While each individual sub-dataset has limited completeness, the data quality within the measured resolution shells is excellent (high CC $\frac{1}{2}$, strong $\langle I/\sigma(I) \rangle$, and low R_{merge}/R_{meas}). When merged, these data should provide a robust structural model of the target proteins at ~1.6 Å resolution.

All information extracted from the dataset metadata supplied (27 re-processed integration datasets, IDs 2260453301 – 2260552388).

write a list of scp command lines that copies the data to demariaa@myhome:/data for the crystals that are not diffracting or resolution between 2 and 3 amstrongs

SCP commands for the datasets that show little or no diffraction (overall $I/\sigma(I) < 1$)

```
scp -r /data/visitor/ihls3744/id23eh2/20251001/PROCESSED_DATA/rco78_2/rco78_2-rco78_2/run_01_MeshAndCollect/run_01_68_datacollection/;
scp -r /data/visitor/ihls3744/id23eh2/20251001/PROCESSED_DATA/rco78_2/rco78_2-rco78_2/run_01_MeshAndCollect/run_01_74_datacollection/;
scp -r /data/visitor/ihls3744/id23eh2/20251001/PROCESSED_DATA/rco78_2/rco78_2-rco78_2/run_01_MeshAndCollect/run_01_135_datacollection;
scp -r /data/visitor/ihls3744/id23eh2/20251001/PROCESSED_DATA/rco78_2/rco78_2-rco78_2/run_01_MeshAndCollect/run_01_59_datacollection/;
scp -r /data/visitor/ihls3744/id23eh2/20251001/PROCESSED_DATA/rco78_2/rco78_2-rco78_2/run_01_MeshAndCollect/run_01_56_datacollection/;
scp -r /data/visitor/ihls3744/id23eh2/20251001/PROCESSED_DATA/rco78_2/rco78_2-rco78_2/run_01_MeshAndCollect/run_01_88_datacollection/;
```

Type your message...

Send

DRACbot can make mistakes. Please check the output with the beamline scientist(s) to be sure.

Final phase of replacing ISPyB with DRAC

From October 2025

- users are **encouraged** to use DRAC
- ISPyB expected as main LIMS

From January 2026

- Users are **requested** to use DRAC
- ISPyB can still be used (grace period)

From March 2026

- ISPyB can not be used for shipments
 - Ingestion of data will be stopped before end of 2026

Plans for the next six months

Strengthen Collaboration

EMBL:

Helping on the installation of DRAC software ecosystem in EMBL -HH
Helping on the development of the CRIMS-API



LNLS:

Work in progress adopting DRAC
Customization of sample tracking
Credits: Allan Pinto



SESAME:

DRAC was adopted few years ago



ALBA:

DRAC was adopted few years ago
ESRF is interested in adopting/collaborating with their new ingestion software



"Pubic data" not really accessible (to me)?

Issue reported by Clemens 22/5/2025

- Restored data were not visible on Globus
- Prefers tar.gz files to zip because more robust
- (ESRF) PDB entries cite DOI for all data in session + not data only used for the reconstruction
- Globus is not an option for everyone - needs a login, would like a simple solution via command line

Ongoing improvements

1. Inform and follow-up with users to create bespoke DOIs with only data used in the reconstruction and cite the raw data DOIs in PDB
2. Provide a command line tool to download data in one command (aria2)
3. Automatically copy data to open area for Globus users
4. Implement restore request for data referenced in DOI directly in the data portal

- **What works** - restored open data can be downloaded with https if < 2GB and with Globus if requested (to be sure data are copied to the open area)
- **Why the problem(s)** - (1) we have a new archiving system which has slowed down the implementation of the improvements; (2) we need to train users to create bespoke DOIs and this takes time
- **A big thank you to Clemens** for testing and providing detailed feedback!
- **Our goal** remains FAIR data easily accessible to everyone!

Acknowledges

- Data Automation Unit
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- MXCuBE
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- Steering
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