In September 2015, an agreement was signed between HZB and ANSTO to transfer the V18 ‘BioRef’ time-of-flight neutron reflectometer [1, 2], which was situated at the BER-II Research Reactor, to the OPAL Research Reactor. In September 2016 a joint team of ANSTO and HZB personnel spent four weeks carefully disassembling BioRef and packing it into shipping containers for transport to ANSTO. The instrument safely arrived in Sydney in February 2017 [3], and will be known as SPATZ (German for Sparrow). SPATZ will be the 15th neutron-scattering instrument at OPAL.

SPATZ has a vertical sample geometry, which complements the current reflectometer, PLATYPUS, which has a horizontal sample geometry. The vertical sample geometry will allow for use of sample environments which cannot be currently used on PLATYPUS due to geometry constraints and allows for wide-angle diffraction from multilayers and lamellar stacks. SPATZ will continue to be equipped for simultaneous infra-red spectroscopy and reflectometry experiments, and will come with equipment for upgrades for polarisation and spin-echo techniques.

The instrument will view the OPAL cold neutron source (CNS) by taking the end position of the CG2B guide. Currently, the CG2B guide is installed between the primary and secondary shutters and part of the project scope is to complete the installation of the CG2B guide beyond the secondary shutter into the Neutron Guide Hall. The CG2B guide will accommodate SPATZ and an additional upstream instrument to be determined in the future.

This presentation will provide an overview of the project, its current status, and future direction.

