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The FLASH User Facility Between Two Upgrade Shutdowns

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FLASH, the XUV and soft X-ray free-electron laser user facility at DESY, is in the transitional period between two substantial upgrade shutdowns within the FLASH2020+ upgrade project. FLASH consists of a common injector and linac and drives 3 different beamlines of which the two FEL beamlines FLASH1/2 can be operated simultaneously at 10 Hz with subtrains of typically 1 to 500 bunches within the the 600 us RF flat tops made possible by the high duty cycle of FLASH's superconducting RF. The first (2021/22) shutdown was aimed at upgrading injector and linac and equipping the beamline FLASH2 with an APPLE-III type after burner undulator, to enhance the third harmonic output and to enable controllable polarization. The next (2024/25) shutdown will focus on the complete exchange of the FLASH1 beamline to allow for externally seeded operation in the range from 60 nm down to 4 nm at 1 MHz pulse repetition rate.

We report on the operation between the two shutdowns which was, to a large extent, dedicated to FEL operation for users and on the commissioning of the new features implemented in the last shutdown with emphasis on new features for FEL operation.

Footnotes

Funding Agency

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