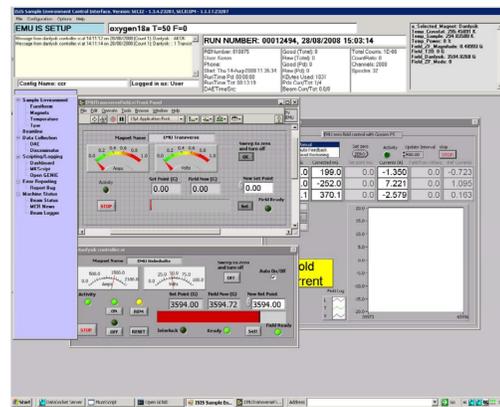


# Designed by scientists for scientists: producing a new instrument control user interface for the ISIS Facility

## Introduction

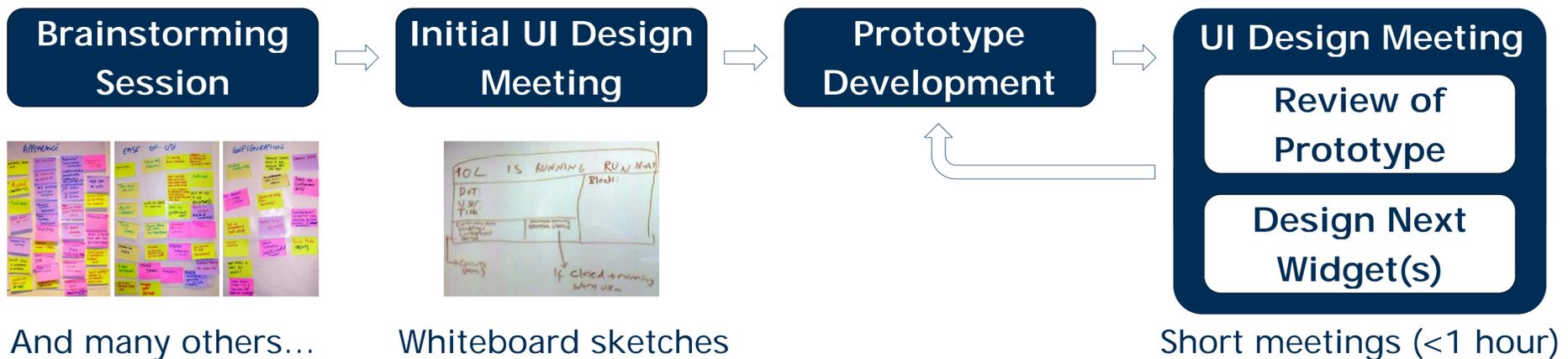
The Sample Environment Control Interface (SECI) software is responsible for managing the instrument control system used on all the beam-lines at the ISIS Facility. SECI also provides the main user interface (UI) that the scientists use for monitoring their experiments. There were a number of weaknesses with the SECI UI and, as a result, a project was instigated to produce a new SECI with an improved UI.



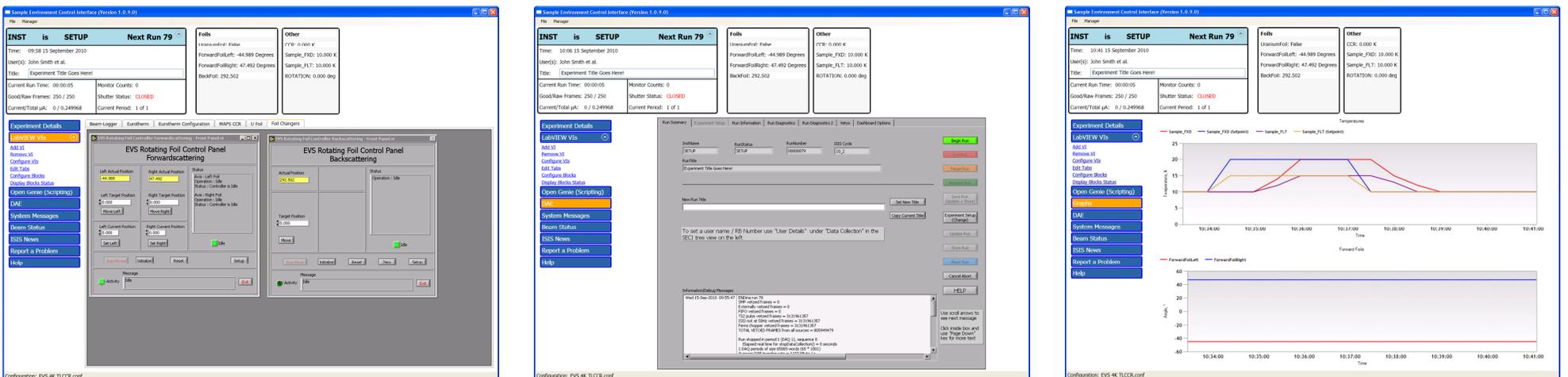
- Untidy
- Too much information
- Non-standard shape
- Confusing
- Ugly

## Gathering Requirements

A group consisting of the project team and a cross-section of scientists participated in all design stages.



## The New UI



## Conclusions

- Involving the scientists from the start helped establish “buy-in” and was critical to the project
- The brainstorming session was very productive and was enjoyed by the scientists
- The initial UI design meeting was necessary to convert the abstract design ideas from the brainstorming into the beginnings of a “real design”
- Short design meetings were effective and popular
- Creating a prototype that was evolved iteratively was a technique that worked well
- Trying to guess what the scientists would like is difficult – it is much better to ask them