The ALS does not charge users for beamtime if their research is non-proprietary. For research to be considered non-proprietary, the research results must be published in the open literature. All users are responsible for the day-to-day costs of research (e.g., supplies, phone calls, and technical support) and must send a copy of all publications resulting from data obtained at the ALS.

Proprietary research can also be performed at the ALS, but users will be charged a fee based on cost recovery for ALS usage. In return, the user may choose to take title to any inventions made during the proprietary research program and treat as proprietary all technical data generated during the program.