

Press release from
ESS Scandinavia

New Scientific Advisors will shape the scientific tools of tomorrow

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ESS Scandinavia's new Science Advisory Group has had its constituent meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday in Lund, Sweden. The Group will contribute to developing the science of the European Spallation Source in order that future researchers have maximum use of the ESS.

The Science Advisory Group has been set up to contribute with international expertise and external advice within three specific areas: how to set up a model for the organisation and operation of the ESS in Lund, the scientific priorities for the ESS, and cooperation with other European research facilities.

- We have chosen ten scientists that are both young and renowned, says Dr Christian Vettier, Head of Science at the ESS Scandinavia and former Head of Science at the ILL in France. European researchers must be able to develop the ESS according to how they themselves want to use during the coming decades. We want to build a scientific tool for the future, not for today's needs.

The members of the Group have expertise in various fields of applications of neutron science and also broad experience from other large-scale research facilities. The Group is chaired by Professor Robert McGreevy and will meet twice a year. The members are:

Professor Robert McGreevy, Head of Science at ISIS, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

Dr Dimitri Argyriou, Hahn-Meitner Institute, Berlin

Assoc. professor Lise Arleth, University of Copenhagen

Dr Wim G. Bouwman, Technische Universiteit, Delft

Professor Stefan Egelhaaf, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf

Assoc. professor Aleksandar Matic, Chalmers Technical University, Gothenburg

Professor Joel Mesot, PSI, Villingen, Schweiz

Professor Tommy Nylander, Lund University

Dr Julian Oberdisse, University of Montpellier

Dr Helmut Schober, ILL, Grenoble



The European Spallation Source – the next generation facility for materials research

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The European Spallation Source (ESS) will be a multi-disciplinary research laboratory based upon the world's most powerful neutron source. Neutron beams can be likened to large microscopes, where materials – ranging from polymers and pharmaceuticals to membranes and molecules – are studied to gain knowledge about their structure and function. The high precision instruments of the ESS will enable in-depth analyses under realistic conditions. The ESS will open up brand new possibilities for researchers in for example health, environment, climate, energy and transport sciences and cultural heritage.

ESS is an intergovernmental project that resembles CERN in Geneva. A number of countries have offered to host it. The decision on where to build the ESS is of current interest. It will be taken when those European governments that have an interest in building and running the ESS have created a coalition and entered into an agreement with the preferred host country. ESS Scandinavia - a consortium of leading universities, research institutions and regional bodies in Scandinavia - proposes that the ESS be located in Lund, Sweden.

In February 2007 the Swedish government offered to host the ESS and to cover about 30 percent of the 1,2 B€ investment costs and 10 percent of the operating costs. In June 2007 Lund University was commissioned by the government to establish a Secretariat for the planning, the building-up of competence and the recruitment of researchers in order to prepare for the construction of the ESS. Professor Colin Carlile, previous Director of the world-leading Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble, was appointed as Director.

Negotiations on bringing the ESS to Lund are now underway. The Swedish government has appointed Mr. Allan Larsson, chairman of the Lund University board of directors and former Finance Minister, as Sweden's chief negotiator. Right now the process of obtaining the necessary authorisation is progressing, as well as the technical preparations and the refinement of the design to site conditions in Lund. Building is expected to start in early 2010, the first neutrons will be produced in 2017 and the facility will be fully operational around 2020.

ESS will support a user community of 5000 researchers and will have great strategic importance for the development of the European Research Area. Lund and the Malmö-Copenhagen region have excellent preconditions to attract leading scientists: several large universities, a broad research-based industry, high-quality infrastructure, an English-speaking population and world-class research capabilities in, among other areas, biotech and nano technology. Near by there will be complementary laboratories, such as the planned synchrotron MAX IV in Lund and XFEL and PETRA in Hamburg.

ESS Scandinavia will engage in the climate change strategies of the European Union and the Swedish government, and has adopted the goal that the ESS will be carbon dioxide neutral. This will be achieved by means of an energy conservation strategy, the use of renewable sources of electricity, and the reuse of excess heat through the Lund district heating and cooling system. ESS built in Lund will be the first large-scale scientific facility operating under this principle, and it will be a demonstration project for other future facilities.