

## **Spain and Hungary reinforce their candidatures to host the European Spallation Source**

### **More than 20 countries attend today the presentation in Brussels**

A Collaboration Agreement on the European Spallation Source (ESS) has been launched today by the ESS-Bilbao Consortium —participated by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science and the Basque Country Regional Government— and the ESS-Hungary Consortium, led by the Hungarian Ministry of Economy and Transport.

Both Spain and Hungary, while competing to host the Source, have come together to catalyze the process of establishing and building the European Spallation Source as defined in the Road-map of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). The agreement combines resources and coordinates activities in such a way that the initial phase of the project can be advanced more effectively and does it in a manner in which both parties benefit from the collaboration.

The agreement has been presented to the International Community this morning in Brussels in a Joint Round Table chaired by the Spanish Secretary of State of Universities and Research, Prof. Miguel Ángel Quintanilla, and the Hungarian Secretary of State for Economic Development, Mr. Géza Egyed. The meeting has been attended by the participating countries and the European Commission concerned with the ESS.

The key points of the cooperation are the following:

- Work together on the design of a cooperative investment plan for the construction of the ESS facility with the aim of securing an international agreement to locate the facility at one of the partner sites.
- As for the preparatory phase the cooperation is realized by appointing a common joint science director and desinging same scientific/ technological content.
- Establish cost estimates of ESS, which includes the local infrastructure, agreeing to define a common basis for making these estimates, and use the same method in both countries to examine the socio-economic impact of the proposed locations.
- As for the building phase the country realizing ESS is supported by cash and in kind of the other party and also represented as a strategic supplier.
- Jointly supported scientific advisory board is also accepted.

In the round tables the afternoon session both candidatures will expose an overview of their respective site proposals concerning the ESS project and open a discussion with the attending countries delegates to exchange views on the Spanish and the Hungarian proposals.

The European Spallation Source is a project to build and operate the world's most intense low energy neutron source for studying the structure and dynamics of materials, having a wide range of scientific and industrial applications —from engineering to life sciences and aeronautics to pharmaceuticals. It is currently one of the largest R&D infrastructure to be built in Europe during the next 10 years with an estimated construction cost of 1000 to 1500 M€. Once in fully operation, the Source could gather more than 4000 researches per year from all over the world conducting cutting-edge research projects. The European Commission has selected the ESS as one of the mature projects included in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures' Road-map.

Due to the international nature of the ESS project, and in view of its goal to serve a broad community of countries, further support will be required from other partners both for the construction and operation of this large scale scientific infrastructure for Europe. In this sense, both Spain and Hungary pointed out that their agreement is open to additional countries willing to join.