

Press release from  
«Organization»

**Swedish-Spanish agreement on ESS in Lund  
the beginning of a new, collaborative  
phase**

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In a ceremony in Madrid today, Spain and Sweden agreed to collaborate in order to build the European Spallation Source in Lund, Sweden. This is the beginning of a new, collaborative phase in the 15 year history of the ESS.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed today by the Spanish Minister of Science and Innovation Cristina Garmendia and the Swedish Minister of Research and Higher Education Lars Leijonborg. The agreement means that Spain will contribute to the ESS in Lund with a site for testing of ESS components and a facility for manufacturing of certain accelerator components in Bilbao, as well as a remote access center for Spanish scientists.

- We are very happy about this agreement between the two former ESS contenders, says professor Colin Carlile, Director of ESS Scandinavia. This is the beginning of a new phase in the ESS project's 15 year history. We have now clearly moved from the competitive phase to true collaboration.

- We are grateful for the trust that has been shown in Lund as the site for ESS. And we warmly welcome all of those who want to contribute to build a next-generation science facility to fit the needs of tomorrow's researchers.

- In order to build an ESS that will contribute to the best science, we need all of the available international expertise. Not least the essential expertise that has been built up within the ESS Bilbao and ESS Hungary teams will strengthen our facility.

- The ESS will also strengthen the European neutron community as such. The ESS is part of the wider European cooperation in neutron-based research. It's the diversity and complementarity of European neutron sources that has made European neutron science world-leading, and the ESS will contribute to maintain and extend this lead, concludes Colin Carlile.

## ESS IN SHORT

**The European Spallation Source - the next generation facility  
for materials research and life science**

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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. ESS can be likened to a large microscope, where neutrons are used instead of light to study materials - ranging from polymers and pharmaceuticals to membranes and molecules - to gain knowledge about their structure and function. ESS will be up to 100 times better than existing facilities, opening up new possibilities for researchers in for example health, environment, climate, energy and transport sciences and cultural heritage.

ESS is an intergovernmental project resembling CERN in Geneva. After several years of discussions on the siting, it is now clear that the ESS will be built in Lund in southern Scandinavia. The ESS will be constructed, financed and operated by those European governments that have an interest in the ESS.

The Swedish Government has offered to host the ESS and to cover 50 percent of the 1,4 B€ investment costs and 20 percent of the operating costs together with the Nordic and Baltic states. The ESS Scandinavia Secretariat works on a mandate from the Government for the planning of the future international ESS organisation. The Director is Professor Colin Carlile, previous Director of the world-leading Institut Laue-Langevin in Grenoble. The Swedish Government has appointed Mr. Allan Larsson, former Finance Minister, as Sweden's chief negotiator.

After the decision on the site for ESS, the optimization of the ESS technical design will start, as well as discussions on the final financial contributions. Right now the process of obtaining the necessary authorisation is progressing, as well as the refinement of the design to site conditions in Lund. Building is expected to start around 2012 the first neutrons to be produced in 2018-19 and the facility to be fully operational around 2023.

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 synchrotron MAX IV in Lund and XFEL and PETRAIII in Hamburg.



## «Organization»

ESS Scandinavia engages 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.