

Press release from
ESS Scandinavia

Hungary to be 14th Partner Country in European Spallation Source

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Hungary will become the 14th Partner Country in the European Spallation Source research center. All three of the former site contenders now join forces to build the ESS in Sweden.

The European Spallation Source will be the world's most powerful research facility for materials and life science with neutrons, and it will be built in Lund in southern Sweden.

In a Letter of Intent the Hungarian Government declares its recognition for Lund as the site for ESS. Hungary also states that it will actively work for the realisation of the ESS through in kind contributions and funding to the technological design review.

- We warmly welcome our Hungarian colleagues to join the ESS project, says Colin Carlile, Director of the ESS. This means all of the three former site contenders Spain, Hungary and Sweden now join forces, which is the best Christmas gift we could have hoped for.
- Hungarian scientists have provided invaluable contributions to the ESS technical design. In the construction of the ESS, we need the expertise of the Hungarian science community and of the ESS Hungary team.

Hungary will be invited to the next meeting of the ESS Steering Committee, to be held in February. In October, the current 13 Partner Countries of the ESS Steering Committee launched the ESS Pre-Construction Phase.

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 on 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, and it will be built in Lund in southern Scandinavia. At least fourteen European countries will take part in the construction, financing and operation of the ESS.

Sweden and Denmark will co-host the ESS and 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 Secretariat and its Director, Professor Colin Carlile, works on a mandate from the Swedish Government for the planning of the future international ESS organisation. Building is expected to start around 2013, the first neutrons to be produced in 2019 and the facility to be fully operational around 2025.

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.

ESS has adopted the goal that the facility will be carbon dioxide neutral, 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.