European Spallation Source
Scandinavia

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Press release from
ESS Scandinavia

ESS Industry Day

More than 400 industrialists showed great interest for a European flagship project

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Today the ESS Industry Day was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. More than 400 representatives from European business and industry took part and gained information about how to get involved in the construction of the ESS.

The European Spallation Source will be the world's leading research centre for materials research and life science with neutrons. It will be built in Lund in southern Sweden.

The ESS Industry Day was held in order to provide general information to European business and industry about the opportunities to take part in the construction of ESS, and about the R&D possibilities once the ESS has been built.

The keynote speakers were Peter Honeth, State Secretary at the Swedish Ministry of Education and Science, Inge Maerkedahl, Director for the Danish Authority for Research and Innovation, and Juan Carlos Cortes, Director of Industry, in the Spanish Ministry of Science. They all pointed out the importance of European collaboration in the ESS project, and the importance of ESS for increasing European innovation and growth.

- We are very happy about the great interest from business and industry in this European flagship project. Most parts of the ESS technology will be highly advanced, and the construction will be a challenge for us, for partner countries and for industry, says Colin Carlile, Director of the ESS Secretariat.

- We have now been able to link to vital business and industry sectors, that will be important in the coming procurement process.

The ESS construction is costed at around 1,4 billion euros. Out of this, 45 % will be spent by the central ESS team in Lund, and 55 % by the participating partner countries, mainly through in-kind contributions.

- We need to liaise with industry now at this early stage so that European R&D-intensive companies will be able to fully exploit the scientific potential of the ESS, says Bob Cywinski, spokesperson for the ESS Preparatory Phase.

The ESS Industry Day has been financed by the ESS Preparatory Phase, a project within the EU framework program for research FP7.

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, 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 Malmoe-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.