

## Notes and News

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### **ESRS prize**

To mark the 50th anniversary of the discovery of synchrotron radiation the European Synchrotron Radiation Society,

ESRS, has awarded a prize for outstanding research by a young scientist working at a European synchrotron.

The winner was Malcolm McMahon, who is based at Daresbury Laboratory. Malcolm McMahon has made a significant contribution to the study of materials at high pressures. It is a perfect example of how innovative experimental technique transforms into new science. Together with Professor Richard Nelmes he has cleverly exploited the advantages of image-plate detectors and applying the Rietveldt

refinement technique. They have moved this area of work forward and away from the limitations that were imposed by the energy-dispersive technique. Exciting results have been obtained at Daresbury Laboratory and the ESRF on the high-pressure structures of InSb, Si, Ge, HgSe and a host of materials. In an impressive series of publications they have reported new and unexpected structural complexities and settled what were old-standing problems.