

current events

This section carries events of interest to the synchrotron radiation community. Full or partial inclusion is subject to the approval of the Main Editors, to whom all correspondence should be sent.

Spain joins the SR world

The Spanish government finally gave the green light for the construction of a synchrotron light source. This agreement is a major achievement for the Minister of Science and Technology, Anna Birulés. The Spanish source will be a third-generation source with an energy of 2.5 GeV. The source will be sited in Cataluña, in the region of El Vallès. The total investment for construction and equipment amounts to 120 million euros and will be carried out during the period 2003–2007. The operating budget, as from the year 2008, will be 12 million euros per year. Both budgets will be shared on a 50% basis between the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Generalitat of Cataluña (Catalan Government). With the approval of this latest third-generation source, Europe is certainly catching up in the state-of-the-art provision for synchrotron radiation. The construction of SOLEIL, the French 2.75 GeV source near Orsay, and DIAMOND, the UK's 3 GeV source near Oxford, is also expected to be completed at about the same time.

Progress on the Australian Light Source

The 3 GeV Australian National Synchrotron Light Source to be constructed at the University of Monash in Melbourne, Australia, has appointed Interim Project Director Max Frank and Technical Director John Boldeman. The Australian source, Boomerang, will provide up to ten ID beamlines and 20 dipole stations. It is a 12-cell 200 m lattice with <20 nm rad emittance. It is anticipated that Boomerang will become operational in 2007. In the initial phase, up to 200 mA beam current is expected to be achieved with a complement of three undulators, one wiggler and five dipole beamlines.

DIAMOND company is launched

The UK Government and the Wellcome Trust have sealed their partnership to build and operate the DIAMOND synchrotron. A joint venture company, Diamond Light Source Ltd (DLSL), has been established to run the project. The joint venture company was officially launched after the signature of legal agreements on 27 March 2002. The shareholders of the company are the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC), who hold 86% of the shares on behalf of the UK Government, and the Wellcome Trust, who hold the remaining 14%. The joint venture was officially launched after the signature of legal agreements by Dr John Taylor, Director General of the Research Councils, on behalf of the UK Government, Dr Mike Dexter, Director of the Wellcome Trust, and Professor John Wood, Chief Executive of the CCLRC. The agreement signifies an important step in the DIAMOND project by establishing a separate legal entity charged with delivering the project successfully. The shareholders, CCLRC and the Wellcome Trust, will be contributing to the £235 million construction cost in proportion to their shareholding.

LCLS makes the FY2003 budget for project engineering and design

President Bush's budget for FY2003 includes proposed funding for project engineering and design (PED) for the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS), USA. If appropriated by Congress, which is expected by October 2002, this will mark a real transition for the LCLS project, from an R&D phase into the first phase of a construction project. In the proposed schedule, two years of PED would be followed by a three-year construction cycle, with commissioning beginning in the fall of 2007.