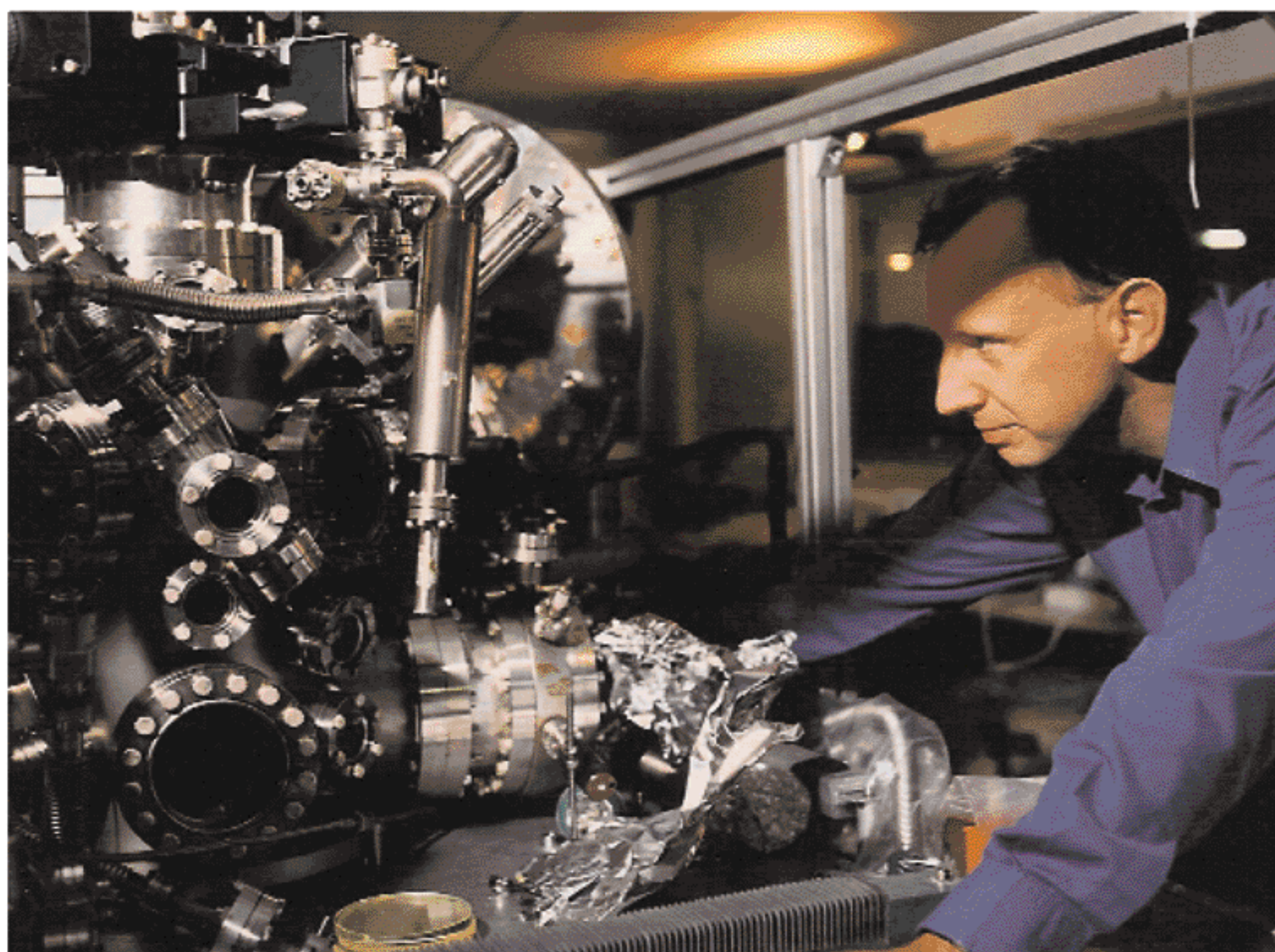




EUROPEAN SYNCHROTRON RADIATION FACILITY



Light for Science

Latest applications for beam time

Potential users interested in carrying out experiments at the ESRF during the first six months of 2004 submitted 752 applications for a total of 11993 shifts. Although the main beamline construction effort was complete by 1999, the number of shifts of beam time requested continues to rise. There is an increasing request in the fields of materials science, environmental studies and the life sciences. For the first time a panel in medicine was constituted to review projects in the medical

field, and the panel in macromolecular crystallography discussed measures to streamline the reviewing of proposals by an increasing number of groups in this area.

Following the meetings of the peer review committees, some 52% of the proposals were allocated beam time.

The next deadline for applications for beam time is 1 March 2004. Full details can be found at www.esrf.fr/UsersAndScience/UserGuide/Applying/

The PSB takes shape

The Partnership for Structural Biology (PSB), a unique integrated programme and resource pool in structural proteomics, formed by four leading European research institutes including the ESRF, has just been given the final approval to go ahead. The PSB recently received the green light for the construction and equipment budget for a new laboratory complex. The PSB building construction will start in May 2004 and it should be ready the following year. It will be located on the ESRF-ILL site of Grenoble (France).

The PSB includes the ESRF, the Institute Laue Langevin (ILL), the world's leading neutron source, the Grenoble outstation of the EMBL, with expertise in molecular biology and instrumentation, and the IBS, one of France's premier structural biology institutes. The laboratory complex will also host the IVMS, a molecular virology institute of the Grenoble Université Joseph Fourier.

Bill Stirling, Director General of the ESRF, explains that "the Partnership for Structural Biology is currently the ESRF's major scientific project. We hope that by working with our partner institutes, the PSB will become a world centre for research in structural biology".



14th ESRF Users' Meeting

Brace up for a leap forward

February 2004

From Monday 9 to Friday 13 February, the annual ESRF Users' Meeting and three topical workshops will offer everyone a great opportunity to enjoy exciting new science and to debate future directions.

The users' community is being asked to identify its **long-term scientific needs**, and voice its opinion on a strategic document on the future of the facility.

Three workshops will be held in conjunction with the Users' Meeting:

- Phonons in Crystalline Materials
- Around the Cell Nucleus
- International Workshop on Resonant X-ray Scattering in Electrically-ordered Systems

Further details, and a registration form for these events can be found at www.esrf.fr/Public/Conferences/UsersMeeting2004/.