

### current events

This section carries events of interest to the synchrotron radiation community. Works intended for this section should be sent direct to the Current-Events Editor ([s.hasnain@dl.ac.uk](mailto:s.hasnain@dl.ac.uk)).

#### SOLEIL makes rapid progress

Since our report in November last year [*J. Synchrotron Rad.* (2003), **10**, 468], the construction of the buildings has progressed rapidly. The roof of the SOLEIL synchrotron building is scheduled to be completed by the time this report appears in print. Then, assembling of the Linac can start in earnest and, in early October, the booster assembly will begin, and Linac testing will be underway in parallel. In November 2004 the storage ring will begin to be assembled while the final phase of construction work is being completed. The commissioning of the first beamlines is expected in September next year.



General view of the SOLEIL building site on 3 June 2004.

SOLEIL is a 2.75 GeV storage ring with a circumference of 354 m. SOLEIL will open with 12 beamlines in Phase 1. Currently, efforts are focused on ensuring that these are open to users in Spring 2006 (for more information, visit [www.synchrotron-soleil.fr](http://www.synchrotron-soleil.fr)). In addition to these beamlines, detailed design projects for the next seven beamlines have been launched, with some additional lines, including ones for industrial use, now under consideration. Denis Raoux, Director General of SOLEIL, said that the project has reached an exciting stage and that he was looking forward to observing the first light from SOLEIL next year.



Beginning of the roof structure of the experiment area of SOLEIL.

#### Diamond begins to take shape

Diamond began its construction last spring [*J. Synchrotron Rad.* (2003), **10**, 291]. It is being constructed by Diamond Light Source Ltd, which celebrated the arrival of its 100th employee this spring.

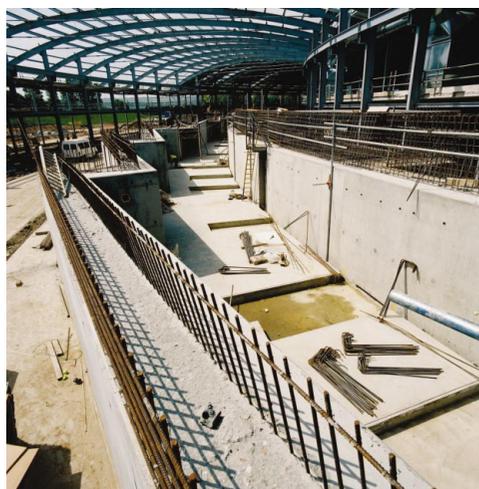


Bird's-eye view of the construction site.

Diamond's building construction is beginning to make rapid progress. The challenge is to ensure that the first seven beamlines begin operation in 2007. The construction team are currently in the most intense period of the building programme. The roof of the Linac and booster has been completed.

The walls of the storage-ring tunnel are almost finished and installation of the pre-cast roof is also well advanced. Diamond's office block, Diamond House, is taking shape, with roof decking over the atrium and curtain walling complete.

Diamond is a 24-cell 3 GeV storage ring with a circumference of 562 m. Phase 1 beamlines include three beamlines for protein crystallography. Its complement of 21 beamlines is expected to be completed by 2012.



Storage-ring tunnel and pre-cast roof.