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The launch of Neutronsources.org

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The launch of Neutronsources.org

On the occasion of the ICNS 2013, the neutronsources.org website went live. This comprehensive platform dedicated to the neutron community as well as to the general public includes information about neutron centres and users' associations worldwide and the use of neutrons for research. Neutronsources.org is the website to consult if you are looking for the most exciting scientific achievements using neutrons and valuable information such as deadlines for submission of proposals, operation times of the sources, the next neutron-related events or job openings.

The scientific highlights are provided by a network of press officers from the neutron centres who were as well involved in the definition of the content and outline of this website. The platform has been set-up at the FRM II in Garching, where also the neutronsources' mailing list is hosted, and the content is coordinated by the NMI3 information manager.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to contribute to the website by sharing interesting news and information on projects and events so that we can keep the website alive and up-to-date! To do so, please drop us an email at info@neutronsources.org.

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The First ESS Instruments Recommended for Construction

Which instruments will be available to ESS Scientists in the future? How do they use the brightest neutron beam in the world? The second round of instrument concepts proposed for ESS is on-going, while the first round is drawing to a close.

Before summer, the ESS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) discussed the first round of instrument concept proposals, recommending two for construction: a neutron-imaging instrument and a small-angle neutron scattering (SANS) instrument. Final decisions based on these recommendations are made by the Steering Committee; at the time of writing these decisions are pending. A concept for macromolecular crystallography also received high praise, as did a SANS instrument for life science.

"Bringing two, possibly three instrument concepts towards construction is an important step in realizing the scientific potential of ESS," says Jim Yeck, ESS CEO.

Four instrument concepts for ESS were proposed in 2012. External experts reviewed the proposals for scientific excellence and technical feasibility. "People around Europe are exploring about 40 instrument concepts to take advantage of the unique pulse structure and high brightness of ESS," says Dimitri Argyriou, ESS Director for Science. "It is extremely important that we have a fair and transparent way to pick the best instruments for science, as we hope that this first round demonstrates."

The reviewers were very positive about the concept for an imaging instrument called ODIN. It aims to generate three-dimensional images of objects from archaeological finds, engines in action, magnetic domains in technologically important materials and more.

Two SANS concepts for looking at large molecular structures in solution were put forward: the general-purpose SANS LOKI and the Compact SANS, dedicated to the life sciences. While both were deemed excellent concepts, the SAC asked the Compact SANS to resubmit when a clearer view has developed of the overall instrument suite, and recommended LOKI to move ahead with some adjustments to cover also the biological and medical applications.

The fourth instrument proposal, a macromolecular crystallography