



THE AFRICAN LIGHT SOURCE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

16 - 20 NOVEMBER 2015, ESRF GRENOBLE FRANCE



Tuesday, 20 October 2015

MEDIA INFORMATION

THE FIRST AFRICAN LIGHT SOURCE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP 16-20 NOVEMBER - ESRF- FRANCE, GRENOBLE

Scientists and Government officials convene at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) to discuss an African Light Source, a major scientific facility contemplated to advance Science on the African continent.

Synchrotron radiation facilities (or light sources) are major research facilities used to explore materials and living matter in a multitude of fields, ranging from chemistry and materials physics to archaeology and cultural heritage and from structural biology, health and life sciences to environmental sciences, information science and nanotechnologies. Each year, the demand to use the X-rays produced by these synchrotrons increases. They are considered essential enabling tools for science and technology. Such facilities also trigger positive economic development in addition to scientific output, with industry as both user and technology provider for such facilities.

There are 48 such facilities in the world, but none yet on the African continent. Building a strategy and a roadmap towards a possible future African Light Source is the challenge of this conference organised at the ESRF in Grenoble, in November 2015.

As explained by the Organisation Committee *“The proposed African Light Source is expected to contribute significantly to the African Science Renaissance, the return of the African Science Diaspora, the development of highly skilled human capital and the training of a new generation of young scientists, the growth of competitive African industries and the advancement of research that is relevant to Africa. Examples of the latter include developing cures for certain diseases, developing technologies for a sustainable environment and clean energy, researching heritage sciences and minerals’ beneficiation to name a few. Africa has been making increasing contributions. The first pan-African research facility is the SKA, a facility expected to attract the world’s best astronomers. The time is therefore right for Africa to begin planning for the development of an African Light Source, which will broaden yet further its full participation in the global science endeavour.”*

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What: African Light Source Conference and Workshop

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Contacts: Delphine Chenevier, Head of Communications, ESRF

When: Monday, November 16 - Friday, November 20, 2015

Where: European Synchrotron Radiation Facility
Grenoble, France

Why: The intent of this conference and workshop is to take stock of the African user base for light sources and explore the political economics needed to invest in such a facility.

For more information, contact the ESRF:

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