

Towards a Lightsource for the African Continent



AfLS Website https://www.africanlightsource.org



The African Light Source: history, context and future JSR, 31(2024) 1-9

https://doi.org/10.1107/S1600577523009682

Institute of **Physics** Learned society



Recent progress towards an African light source Debating the Societal Impact of Big Science in the 21st Century

https://iopscience.iop.org/book/edit/978-0-7503-3631-4/chapter/bk978-0-7503-3631-4ch54



Vol. 33, No. 9 (2018) 1830003 (19 pages)

Synchrotron light sources in developing countries

Sekazi K. Mtingwa Herman Winick*

https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/abs/10.1142/S0217732318300033

The African Review of Physics (2018) 13: 0019



2023-06-14 Science and Public Policy 00 (2023) 1-12 "Science diplomacy from the Global South: the case of intergovernmental science organizations"

The African *ResearchProfessional News Review of Physics

Proceedings of the first African Conference on Fundamental Physics and Applications 2018, Namibia. Guest Editors: K. A. Assamagan, M. Backes, D. Charlton, S. Muanza, D. Sahu, and D. Singh

http://lamp.ictp.it/index.php/aphysrev/article/view/1610/586 The African Light Source Project









/abs/10.1142/S0217732318300033



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Why the AfLS?

- 1. African Challenges \rightarrow Identify Science \rightarrow Identify RI \rightarrow AfLS
 - a) Examples in these slides
 - b) Health (African vaccine IP), Big Data Analytics, Others \rightarrow All RIs
- 2. Insist on evolution towards major African funding
- 3. RI for Science Diplomacy → Developing Pan Africanism
 - a) SESAME
 - b) CERN
- 4. AfLS profile for **African Government Science Policy**, Regional Science Policy → Leave no country behind
- **5. Governance** → African participation on RI Councils
- **6. African User Base development** (Training, Youth)
 - a) Schools, Workshops,
 - b) Medium term visits,
 - c) Sandwich programmes



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3

1. Community Building:

- 1. Training (LAAAMP, START, ESRF programme, IAEA INT0104, ICTP School)
- 2. Conferences
- 3. Audit of Users (DeCoREA, now UNESCO),
- 4. Membership system (Coming Soon)
- 5. AAS Partnerships in Training and other community building activities
- 6. AfLS AAS Awards Programme

2. CDR : Critical Design Report

3. Science Diplomacy, Strategic Government level

- 1. AAS Partnerships
 - 1. LOIS, MOUS (SESAME, LAAAMP)
 - 2. MOU: AAS
 - 3. AfLS Executive Office

2. Strategic Task Forces

- 1. The African Beamline at an international AdLS
- 2. The Collective African membership of an international AdLS
- 3. African Regional Infrastructure

3. Global Partnerships

- 1. UNESCO Resolution
- 2. Commonwealth profile
- 3. European Commission
- 4. Sunstone
- Nephews Bursaries to HERCULES, Workshops.



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Conferences

2015, 2019, 2020,

2021, 2022,

2023, 2024

Now 5 African
Governments involved
Many co-conveners
Prof bodies

Academies



>500 registrations



red on on YouTub





•AfLS1 2015

https://events.saip.org.za/event/61/

•AfLS2 2019

https://events.saip.org.za/event/145/

•AfLS3 2020

https://events.saip.org.za/event/211/

•AfLS4 2021

https://events.saip.org.za/e/AFLS3

•AfLS5 2022

https://events.saip.org.za/e/AfLS2022

•AfLS6 2023

https://events.saip.org.za/event/243/

•AfLS7 2024

https://events.saip.org.za/event/249/



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3 Strategic Task Forces to report by Dec 2023

The African Beamline at an international AdLS

This is an African designed and operated beamline at an International AdLS that can address selected African Research Imperatives. It leads additionally to the training of engineers and technologists and will result in Technology Transfer.

The Collective African membership of an international AdLS

Here several African countries jointly acquire formal membership of an international AdLS. They leverage a threshold of participation that allows African Government involvement in the Council of the Facility, so that there is increased African Access of Researchers, technologists, Industries and also Governments.

African Regional Infrastructure

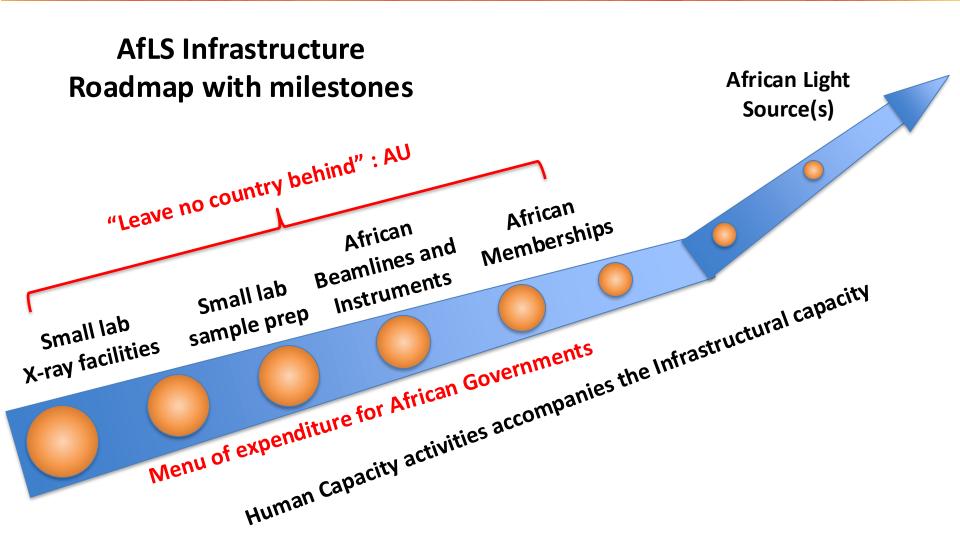
This is research infrastructure that is both highly competitive in its own right but which is also seen as important training and feeder infrastructure to an AdLS.

"Leave no country behind."



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IAEA TC Project - INT0104

- Enhancing Transnational Collaboration among Light Sources and Expanding the User Base
- Training Platform / Material, Mapping ->
 Pan African Virtual University

Opportunity to expand Footprint within Africa, and increase international linkages

49/56 Countries in Africa within AFRA, NEST and with TC Support



African Country → National Liaison Office → Community



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Milestones on the Timeline of the Roadmap

End 2023

- 6th AFLS Conference,
- · CDR published
- Strategic Task
 Force feedback

End 2025

- Audit >1000 active
- Updated Roadmap
- African Light Source Secretariat
- · Executive Office

End 2026

- African joint National participation in an AdLS.
- · African Beamline at an AdLS
- 5 new National / Regional facilities (1 x CLS)

End 2026

 AfLS is a regular session in meetings such as AUC-ESTI, AfDB, All Pan African and Regional meetings of African National Science Ministries

End 2026

- Model for African National contributions.
- Income stream → training, conferences, Executive office etc.

End 2026

 The AfLS established as next large-scale research Infrastructure to follow on from the SKA

2035

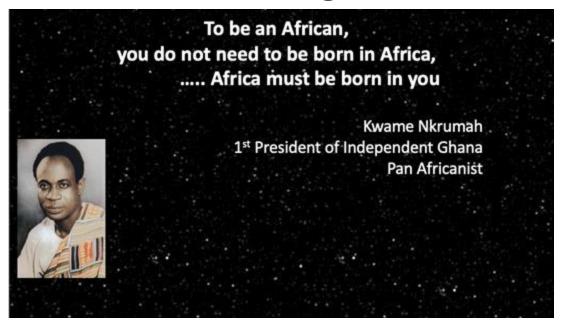
 An operational African light source, for Africa



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The Concept of Ubuntu and African Identity in Pursuit of the African Light Source



Africans, Old Diaspora, recent Science Diaspora, Friends of Africa around the world.



AfLS and AAS to partner in this venture.



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Thuma mina – Send Me https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4Bwux-btq0

Musician Hugh Masekela



I WANNA BE THERE WHEN
THE PEOPLE START TO TURN
IT AROUND/WHEN THEY
TRIUMPH OVER POVERTY/I
WANNA BE THERE WHEN THE
PEOPLE WIN THE BATTLE
AGAINST AIDS/I WANNA LEND
A HAND/SEND ME."

Simon Connell shconnell@uj.ac.za