



INFRASTRUCTURES EUROPE FOCUSES ON ESS

ESS (European Spallation Source), the multi-disciplinary research centre based on the most powerful neutron source in the world, has been recently established as an European Consortium ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium). The completion of this important milestone, recently approved by the European Commission, will guarantee a more agile management of the infrastructure construction and a lower cost realization. Already included among the strategic projects in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmap, ESS will enhance new areas of research and application in the fields of fundamental physics, life sciences, energy, environmental technology and cultural heritage.

The construction of ESS, recently started, involves 17 countries, with Sweden and Denmark host nations. The two countries will be respectively the base of the research centre and the supercomputing facility, this last designed to manage the large amount of produced data.

Italy participates in ESS with the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) and with INFN, holding the role of Italy coordinator, the National Research Council (CNR) and Elettra Synchrotron Trieste.

The total planned investment amounts to 1.84 billion euro, the 6% of which will be from Italy, mainly (80%) as an in-kind contribution through the provision of machine parts. As for other countries, ESS will have for Italy a double strategic value: on one hand, it provides a unique opportunity for scientific research, whether basic or applied; on the other hand, a strong R&D effort will involve high technology industries, making of ESS an economic driver for the whole of Europe. ■



DISSEMINATION PHOTOWALK: INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE BEST SCIENTIFIC IMAGES

This year's edition of the international photography competition, Photowalk 2015, will be staged in September. Hundreds of photographers will have the rare opportunity to walk round physics labs around the world

and take pictures of accelerators, particle detectors, high-intensity lasers, the instruments used and scientists at work. The research facilities taking part in this year's edition, organised by the InterActions collaboration, include CERN in Geneva, SLAC in California, FERMLAB in Chicago, KEK in Japan, COEPP in Australia and TRIUMPH in Canada. In Italy the competition will be held on 25 September, in conjunction with European Researchers' Night, in the unique setting of the INFN Frascati National Laboratory. A regional panel of judges will evaluate the photos taken during the laboratory walks and the winners of the national contests will then take part in the international competition. The winning entry in the Italian contest will be published in *Le Scienze* and on the nationalgeographic.it website. The winner of the international competition will be published in *Cern Courier*.

Gallery of the winning entries of the previous edition <http://www.infn.it/...>

For further information please write to comedu@lnf.infn.it. Terms and conditions of the competition will be published at the beginning of September on www.infn.it/comunicazione and on <http://w3.lnf.infn.it>. ■