



**Press release
(February 5, 2002)**

Signing of the Ile de France Region/Department of Essonne/the State/SOLEIL agreement

The Agreement pertaining to the financial participation of territorial collectives in defraying the construction costs of the SOLEIL synchrotron is hereby signed today, February 5, Roger-Gérard Schwartzberg, Minister of Research; Jean-Pierre Duport, Prefect of the Ile-de-France Region, Prefect of Paris, Jean-Paul Huchon, President of the Ile-de-France Regional Council; Denis Prieur, Prefect of Essonne, Michel Berson, President of the Essonne General Council; Geneviève Berger, Director General of the CNRS; and Pascal Colombani, Administrator General of the CEA.

The Ile de France Region and the Essonne General Council are two of SOLEIL's essential partners, who have actively supported the project through the years of its gestation, and who made its achievement possible by contributing a total of 183 million euros, which covers the principal cost.

An agreement to this end was signed on February 5, 2002, which also provided for the facilitation of access for small and medium-sized businesses (PME/PMI) to use synchrotron techniques; to guarantee facility of SOLEIL usage by regional scientists, especially young researchers in training and doctoral and post-doctoral students, and to participate in the development policies for scientific culture spurred by collectives for the public at large and the academic community. Some of these measures have already been taken, such as the completion of a reception and communication building on the site.

Ile de France territorial collectives contribute financially to the project by financing the SOLEIL construction to the tune of 182.9 million euros, of which 148.6 are contributed by the Region and 34.3 by the General Council.

REMINDER

Located on the Saclay Plateau in Essonne, SOLEIL is the second 3rd-generation synchrotron constructed in France; the first, the Grenoble ESRF, is a European synchrotron. SOLEIL is a public company whose two shareholders are the CNRS and the CEA, and in which the Ile-de-France region and the General Council of Essonne are quite deeply invested. The construction of such a facility requires both large sites and highly precise mechanics. It involves the acceleration of packets of electrons so that they produce an exceptionally bright light ray that covers a very wide range of wavelengths, from infrared to X-rays, including ultraviolet light. The characteristics of this light (intensity, focus, stability, polarization, etc.) permit the observation of matter at the atomic level and makes experiments possible that were inconceivable before, in fundamental as well as applied and industrial research. At SOLEIL, there are various fields mobilized by science and industry today: biology, chemistry, material sciences, environment, physics, Earth sciences, and cultural heritage and archaeology. The criteria defined for SOLEIL (operating energy, number of wavers, large spectral range from infrared to X-ray, brilliance, continuous injection for stability of micron beam, etc.) place it at the highest level of international competition.

CONTACT

Communications Department: Marie-Pauline Gacoin - 01 69 35 90 15 – marie-pauline.gacoin@synchrotron-soleil.fr
Website : www.synchrotron-soleil.fr
Contact : webcom@synchrotron-soleil.fr