



**Press release  
(February 16, 2007)**

### **From CNAM reserves to the SOLEIL synchrotron: a century of X-rays**

Thursday, February 15, 2007 marked the inauguration of the “History of X-rays” exhibition conducted in partnership with the Museum of Arts and Crafts (National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts) and SOLEIL in the presence of Daniel Thoulouze, Museum Director, and Denis Raoux, Director-General of SOLEIL. The day was characterized by conviviality and openness. Objects from the museum’s collection were exhibited, as well as scientific experiments and a science café followed by a visit to the synchrotron. What is the fascinating history of the discovery of X-rays and the experiments that preceded their discovery and led to the development of the SOLEIL synchrotron, the new source par excellence of X-rays inaugurated last December.

The exhibit will be open until the end of March as part of the educational tours offered at SOLEIL, and will permit the placement of science at the heart of the company, transforming regular visits into shared experiences of history. Schoolchildren and high school students visiting SOLEIL in February and March will be able to participate in the exhibition’s paper chase; the winning class will have the opportunity to discover the prestigious CNAM museum.

SOLEIL, the new French synchrotron ray facility inaugurated by Mr. Jacques CHIRAC last December, hosts several thousand visitors each year (schoolchildren, high school students, industrial employees, retirees, scientists, and the public at large). The history of science and scientific instruments is a fundamental axis of its teaching actions, and the theme of the next science festival will be “Borders of knowledge and scientific instruments.” This project will permit a research center to join forces with a large museum in order to give science its proper place in history while displaying the research in progress at the time.

#### **Practical information:**

Exhibition will be open for viewing until the end of March

Free visits from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Partners: Museum of Arts and Crafts (CNAM) and SOLEIL

Location: SOLEIL Synchrotron, L’orme des Merisiers- Saint Aubin, Gif sur Yvette (91)

Reservations required; call 0169359022 or e-mail [visite@synchrotron-soleil.fr](mailto:visite@synchrotron-soleil.fr)

<http://www.synchrotron-soleil.fr/>

## **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.

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## **CONTACT**

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