



**Press release  
(October 16, 2001)**

### **Birth of the SOLEIL synchrotron public company**

*The statutes of the SOLEIL synchrotron public company were signed on October 16, 2001 by the Director General of the CNRS and the Administrator General of the CEA; the company is registered with the clerk of the Business Court of Evry, Essonne.*

The company's owners are the CNRS with 72% and the CEA with 28%, SOLEIL's principal shareholders. The statutes of the public company SOLEIL synchrotron were signed on October 16, 2001 by Geneviève Berger, the Director General of the CNRS, and Pascal Colombani, the Administrator General of the CEA. The company is registered with the clerk of the Business Court of Evry, Essonne.

A work group made of experts from the CNRS and the CEA as well as SOLEIL director Denis Raoux was created to correspond with that at the ESRF and in accordance with the provisions of articles 1832 to 1873 of the French civil code.

#### **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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