



**Press Release
(December 18, 2006)**

**Inauguration of the SOLEIL synchrotron by M. Jacques Chirac,
President of France**

The President of the Republic of France inaugurated the SOLEIL synchrotron, installed on a 30-hectare site in the commune of Saint-Aubin in the state of Essonne, on the plateau of Saclay, on the morning of Monday, December 18, 2006.

The SOLEIL synchrotron was inaugurated on Monday, December 18, 2006 by Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic, in the presence of François Goulard, authorized Minister of Research; Denis Raoux, Director-General of the synchrotron; Claudine Hecquet, Mayor of Saint-Aubin; Jean-Paul Huchon, President of the Regional Council of Ile-de-France; Michel Berson, President of the General Council of Essonne; Professor Philippe Gillet, President of the Board of Directors of the SOLEIL Company; Alain Bugat, Administrator-General of the CEA; Bernard Bigot, High Commissioner for Atomic Energy; and Arnold Migus, Director-General of the CNRS. Patrick Riehl, Vice President of the Central Region, represented Michel Sapin, President of the Central Region.

After a guided one-hour visit to the SOLEIL synchrotron, M. Chirac unveiled an inaugural plaque in front of the 800 invited guests. In the address that followed, M. Chirac praised an "exemplary achievement" that constitutes "a decisive advantage for French research."

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