

**Press release
(June 27, 2002)**

Adoption of a projected Centre Region/SOLEIL agreement

The Centre Region, wishing to develop a structured partnership with SOLEIL, has joined the Ile de France Region, the Department of Essonne, the CNRS, the CEA, and the State, which are already deeply involved in the construction of this very important research facility.

On June 27, 2002, the Centre Regional Council adopted an agreement pertaining to the opening of the SOLEIL synchrotron to the scientific community in the Centre Region, which is the basis for an extraordinary collaboration in several respects. The Centre Region will contribute 5.2 million euros to the construction or reinstallation of 3 beamlines that are part of SOLEIL's scientific program, which the local scientific community has a strong desire to use.

This agreement concerns:

- A new project for an ultraviolet and visible spectroscopy and imagery line, mainly for life sciences
- The line of small-angle diffusion already planned by the SOLEIL program, well adapted to regional specifications for material science
- And finally, the transfer, in partnership with the CRMHT (Center for Research on High-Temperature Materials), after improvement, of the X (H10) diffraction and absorption line currently in use at LURE and focused on the study of in situ materials in very high-temperature conditions.

In return, the scientists of the Centre Region will benefit during the 2006-2009 period of a total of 32,000 possible access hours to the different SOLEIL beamlines, including but not limited to the 3 supported lines.

This partnership is, in our opinion, extraordinary in its realism and flexibility, and can serve as the basis for other agreements.

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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