



**Press Release  
(June 29, 2006)**

**Jean-Paul Huchon, President of the Ile de France region, visits SOLEIL**

*The Ile de France region is the main territorial partner of SOLEIL. It contributes 148.6 million euros to SOLEIL out of a total budget for 2002-2009 of 386 million euros. Having worked alongside SOLEIL for several years, first in the making of the decision to build this French synchrotron on French soil, and since 2000 to ensure the best conditions for its construction, the Ile de France region is also very supportive of SOLEIL within the local industrial fabric and within the population.*

Several days after the first beam storage in the ring (during the night of June 1 – 2), Jean-Paul Huchon returned to SOLEIL to visit the facility and attest to his satisfaction with the work accomplished by the teams. He gave a reminder of why the decision to support the creation of this research center in Ile de France was a highly symbolic decision at the time; it attested to the importance to the region of supporting research and placing itself within a more global overall approach of supporting all important scientific projects for the region.

After an exhaustive visit of the facilities, which were shut down for the occasion, Jean-Paul Huchon spoke to SOLEIL staff and emphasized the challenge that we will face over the coming years, that of creating an exceptional resource that will be a bridgehead of French research, welcome more than 2,000 researchers and industrial entities per year, as well as doctorate and post-doctorate researchers and students in training. Jean- Paul Huchon also praised the virtuous synergies that are beginning to bind competitors, areas of major interest, innovation support networks, PICRIs, and all assistance tools available to laboratories and researchers implemented by the region. SOLEIL will be an important part of this ensemble and will contribute to the attractiveness of our region in Europe.

He was also careful to praise the exemplary partnership that has been created between SOLEIL and the Ile de France region, the state of Essonne, the CNRS, and the CEA. The agreement signed between these partners and its translation into daily life have made possible the success of the project itself, as well as its integration into the scientific, industrial, and cultural scenery of the area. In 2005 – 2006, SOLEIL welcomed more than 3,000 teachers accompanied by their students, associations, individuals, neighboring laboratories, business federations, and others, who came to visit SOLEIL and discover the science and techniques that this great multidisciplinary research facility has to offer.

**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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