

SYNCHROTRON LIGHT NEWS

Membership of Poland in ESRF. The web page of the Polish membership in ESRF was created under address: http://info.ifpan.edu.pl/esrf/Local_Publish/.

The information about these projects with the participation of Polish scientists, for whom the beamtime was allocated, short reports from performed experiments, photos of Polish users, statistics [of the use of ESRF beamlines] and other useful information can be found there.

The Polish representative in the ESRF Council is Prof. Krystyna Jabłońska, President of the PSRS, and in the Administrative and Financial Committee - doc. dr hab. Bogdan Kowalski, a member of PSRS Council.

The Polish representatives have already took part in the meetings at ESRF and get be acquainted with problems discussed there. Negotiations with representatives of three Associated Members of ESRF (Israel, Portugal and Austria) to form a Consortium to be a full ESRF member were initiated by Polish representatives.

First Conference on collaboration of East-central European countries at the Polish synchrotron Project, Zakopane, May 11-13, 2007. The scientists representing synchrotron radiation users' community from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland were invited to take part in the first meeting on our regional collaboration (see Fig. 1). The Conference took place in Zakopane, May 11-13, 2007.

The following main issues have been addressed and discussed:

1. Present status of the Polish Synchrotron project,
2. Presentation of the official science policies in our countries,
3. Estimation of present and future interest of researchers of our countries in particular fields of the SR science,
4. Feasibility of creation of certain specialized beamlines at the top quality level,
5. Financial framework of cooperation: no direct financial participation is expected. However it is possible and welcome *e.g.* in the form of beamline ownership,
6. A level of contacts (institutions, societies, governments),
7. Organisational forms - participation in the Users Advisory Committee,
8. Feasible 'human resources' in our countries: Education & training of young scientists (in particular in accelerator physics),
9. Possibility of extending the Centralsync initiative on matters concerning the collaboration on the access to the future facility.

The delegates of Czech Republic informed that the idea of building a synchrotron light source at Brno was recently born. The project should be financed with European structural funds.

The project of the synchrotron radiation source in Kraków received a broad support of participants of the meeting and the idea of close collaboration was eagerly welcome.

Attempts will be made to achieve a formal support from in-

terested countries, at the highest possible level. To accomplish this task, broad information on the enterprise should be made available to scientific institutions and research communities of our countries.

In general opinion of the speakers, one of the basic advantages of availability of the synchrotron source in this part of Europe is the considerable increase in number of active users. This is the most desired result as a number and structure (represented scientific disciplines) are by far not satisfactory as compared to leading countries of the world. As far as a practical form of the involvement is concerned, one of possible actions may be construction of beamlines by international groups or consortia dedicated to these specific tasks. It is worthwhile to devote much effort to create beamlines and end-stations for specific, particular applications at the most advanced level. A broad representation of countries of the region will be secured in the advisory bodies of the facility.

European XFEL project. Construction of the European X-ray laser facility, XFEL, starts in early 2008. On June 5, 2007, the German Federal Minister of Education and Research, Dr. Annette Schavan, officially launched the XFEL facility (see Fig. 2). "The funding negotiations with the 12 interested countries are so far advanced that the construction of this new research facility, which is very much sought after by the international scientific community, can now begin," said Schavan in front of representatives of the press and the guests of the launching ceremony. Read more at <http://www.xfel.net/XFELpresse/en/presse-meldungen/2007-06-05/index.html>. The representative of Polish government Dr. Jacek Gierliński was present at the ceremony (second from the left in Fig. 2).

Consortium XFEL-Polska. The Polish Consortium XFEL – Polska was created in January 2007. Information about consortium activity can be found at the web page <http://www.xfel.pl/>. The main goal of the Consortium is to appoint a company with limited liability to take Polish share in XFEL as well as to act in the direction of significant participation of Poland in the construction and exploitation of the facility. Eighteen Polish scientific, educational and industrial institutions formed the Consortium. For the next four years the Soltan Institute for Nuclear Studies under leadership of Dr. Sci. Grzegorz Wrochna was chosen as a Consortium coordinator and representative. Other institutions can join the Consortium at any time.

A project of free electron laser in Poland. A project for financing from structural funds of a free electron laser, POLFEL (Świerk) has been submitted to Ministry of Science and Higher Education (<http://www.polfel.pl>).

Next ISSRNS Meeting. 9th ISSRNS Meeting will be held in the Ameliówka Hotel (Małocice/Maślów near Kielce, in the Saint Cross Mountains region, central Poland) in June 2008. For more detailed information see the end pages of this volume.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.