

**Following the ESS Scandinavia Round-Table in Netherlands:
With the goal of a Nordic-Baltic cooperation we are right on track to start construction
in 2010.**

ESS Scandinavia has now concluded the second of three planned negotiation phases with other European countries. On 11th and 12th February the second out of three Round Tables was held, this time in The Hague and Delft in the Netherlands.

- ESS Scandinavia is right on track in its work to get the European Spallation Source built in Lund in southern Sweden. It's getting ever closer!, says Professor Colin Carlile, Director of ESS Scandinavia.

- The Nordic-Baltic and wider cooperation that we are now building up demonstrates that we are maintaining the momentum in our negotiations. The goal is to arrive at a very attractive financial package", says Mr. Allan Larsson, Chief Negotiator for the Swedish Government. We will discuss the Nordic-Baltic cooperation further at the Council of Nordic Ministers in March and at the Nordic Prime Ministers' Summit in April.

At the Round-Table in the Netherlands, ESSS received clear support for several issues of vital importance in this phase of preparing for the construction of the European Spallation Source:

- The work on planning the technical work packages is continuing in cooperation with the leading research institutes in Europe and in the world, and with representatives from the European research community and from the European research ministries.
- It was agreed that the reference design of the ESS will incorporate the technical developments that have taken place at the similar, but less powerful facilities that are being brought on line in Tennessee, USA and in Japan. This will be achieved without influencing the accepted financial envelope.
- In the process of choosing a site for the ESS, December 2008 will be an important milestone. A Conference on the European Research Area is to be held that month in Versailles, France, focussing on Large-Scale Research Infrastructures. Prior to that, the site evaluation process that has been initiated by the cooperation forum the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), with the goal of evaluating the three formal ESS candidates, Lund in Scandinavia, Bilbao in the Basque region of Spain, and Debrecen in Eastern Hungary, will have also presented its findings.

At the Round-Table in the Netherlands, 28 representatives from ministries and universities from 17 European countries took part.

- This was a Round-Table exceeding our expectations, says Professor Carlile. We expect that in Versailles there will be a high-level announcement on the siting of the

ESS, he concludes.

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