

Experiments

Inauguration of ID24

On 10 November, a ceremony marked the inauguration of the first upgrade beamline ID24, which opens completely new fields of science, being able to observe extremely rapid processes similar to a time-lapse film sequence. These could be laser-heating of iron to 10,000 degrees, charge reactions in new batteries or catalyst cleaning pollutants.

ID24 is the first of eight new beamlines to be built within the ESRF upgrade programme, and it extends existing capabilities at the ESRF in time-resolved X-ray absorption spectroscopy to sample volumes twenty times smaller and time resolutions one thousand times better than in the past. ID24 has already successfully completed many tests with X-ray beams, and will continue right until the start of the long shutdown on 5 December. The regular user service will start in May 2012 when the new detector with micro-second time resolution will have arrived.

The date for the inauguration was chosen to coincide with the autumn meeting of the ESRF's Science Advisory Committee which played a key role in selecting the science case for ID24. In addition, several local officials attended the event, notably Geneviève Fioraso, the local member of parliament. Sakura Pascarelli, beamline responsible scientist for ID24, used the event to thank the project team, led by Trevor Mairs, for their excellent work. Francesco Sette, switching like Sakura between French —for the local officials— and English —for the Members of the SAC— highlighted the many opportunities this new beamline offers for the user



Two ribbon-cutting ceremonies to mark the opening of the two new beamlines branches.

Left: high-pressure/extreme conditions branch inaugurated by Francesco Sette, Sakura Pascarelli, Harald Reichert - right: chemistry branch: Michel van der Rest, Council vice-chairman, Geneviève Fioraso, Députée de l'Isère, Rafael Abela, SAC Chairman.

programme, thanking in turn SAC and the funding bodies for their support for the ESRF upgrade programme.

ID24 comprises two experimental hutches, one featuring a very small beam, notably for experiments at extreme conditions, and the other a larger beam along with an IR spectrometer, which is ideal for chemistry experiments. This gave rise to two ribbon-cutting events (see photos).

There was also good media coverage of the event, see <http://www.esrf.eu/news/media/InaugurationID24>.

Anatoly Snigirev receives the gold medal of RAMES Committee

Congratulations to Anatoly who was recently awarded the gold medal of the RAMES State Committee of Science of the Republic of Armenia for his valuable achievements in scientific collaboration within the French-Armenian partnership programme over the past 25 years.



On Wednesday 9 November 2011, Professor Samvel Haroutunian, Chairman of the State Committee of Science gives the medal to Anatoly.

Young scientists award

Since 1995, the ESRF Users' Organisation has been awarding the annual young scientist award to a scientist not older than 35 years of age for outstanding achievements in research performed at an ESRF beamline; The award, carrying a prize of 2 000 €, is bestowed at the users' meeting in February of each year.

Nominations for the 2012 Young Scientist Award must be made by Thursday 15 December 2011 and should be sent to ysanom@esrf.fr

Details of the selection criteria, how to submit a nomination, and the supporting material to be provided, can be consulted via the web page "Young Scientist Award 2012: Call for Nominations": <http://www.esrf.fr/events/conferences/users-meeting-2012-workshops/young-scientist-award-2012-call-for-nominations>. ●