

# European Commission Establishes the European Spallation Source as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

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LUND—Yesterday the European Commission (EC) in Brussels formally adopted its decision to establish the European Spallation Source (ESS) as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium, or ERIC. The EC's decision to establish the European Spallation Source ERIC will enter into force 28 August.

'The European Commission's approval of ESS as an ERIC is a major milestone for the project,' says Jim Yeck, ESS Director General. 'This decision establishes ESS as an international organisation with legal standing in all the Member Countries, and provides the framework for completing the project in collaboration with our partners in those countries.'

The European Spallation Source is the world's next-generation neutron source currently under construction in Lund, Sweden. It is the largest project and one of the top priorities of the EC's European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap, which was established over a decade ago to prioritise research infrastructure development in Europe. The EC's decision to establish ESS as an ERIC heralds a new governance structure for ESS and its Partners that will include Founding and Observer Member Countries who are empowered to both govern and fund the project directly.

European Spallation Source ERIC Founding Members are the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. European Spallation Source ERIC Observers, who plan to become Members in the near future, are Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Originally established as a Swedish limited liability corporation owned by the Swedish and Danish governments, ESS AB will complete a transfer of assets, obligations and personnel to European Spallation Source ERIC on 1 October. Following that, the European Spallation Source ERIC Council, comprised of representatives from ESS Member Countries and will act as the sole governing body.

The European Spallation Source ERIC Council named Jim Yeck as Director General of European Spallation Source ERIC, and Prof. Lars Börjesson as Chair of the Council.

'The Host Countries Sweden and Denmark shepherded the large pan-European efforts of ESS first into construction a year ago and now into the ERIC organisation co-owned by a large set of European countries. They should be commended for their leadership,' says Prof. Börjesson. 'Now we look ahead to future leadership by a fully committed group of ESS Member Countries who will bring ESS into operation over the next decade.'

The successful establishment of European Spallation Source ERIC will be celebrated at a ceremony in Lund on 8 September, where the EC's Director-General for Research and Innovation, Robert-Jan Smits, will present a commemorative ERIC Plate to ESS. The ESS Council will next meet at the ESS construction site in mid-October.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Please note that our official name will be European Spallation Source ERIC, not ESS ERIC.*

<https://europeanspallationsource.se>

The European Spallation Source is a Partnership of European Nations committed to the goal of collectively building and operating the world's leading facility for research using neutrons by 2020.

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