

# Denmark's Science Minister and Members of Parliament, Academia and Industry Make Study Visit to ESS

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**Danish Partners.** A large delegation from the European Spallation Source (ESS) host country Denmark visited the ESS construction site on Thursday, led by the country's Minister for Higher Education and Science, Søren Pind, and the Danish parliament's Standing Committee for Education and Research.

LUND—A large delegation from the European Spallation Source (ESS) host country Denmark visited the ESS construction site on Thursday, led by the country's Minister for Higher Education and Science, Søren Pind, and the Danish parliament's Standing Committee for Education and Research. More than 30 politicians, scientists, and business representatives participated in the study visit, which included presentations from ESS, Max IV Laboratory, Danish academia and industry, as well as guided tours of the ESS site and the adjacent Max IV synchrotron.



The Danish delegation at the entrance to the ESS construction site offices in Lund, January 12. Front and center, with gloves, is Danish Minister of Science and Higher Education Søren Pind with ESS Director General John Womersley to his left in reflective coat. PHOTO: ESS

'This is world class, what is being established here,' said Minister Pind. 'And for the Danish scientific environment, for the whole community, this is important because it



shows that you can build world class facilities here, and you can have world class people operating in them. That is of course something we want to participate in.”

### **The Danish Contribution**

Co-hosts Sweden and Denmark have together committed to 47.5% of the construction budget for ESS. Denmark’s share of 12.5% of the €1.843 billion construction budget will include cash and in-kind deliverables, including contributions to instruments, the Accelerator and the Target Station. Danish universities will serve as lead construction partners for the instruments HEIMDAL and BIFROST, and are expected to lead MIRACLES as well. Additionally, Denmark hosts the ESS Data Management & Software Centre (DMSC) in Copenhagen, where all of the data generated from experiments at ESS will be processed.



ESS Director General John Womersley gave the group an update on the status of the project and highlighted the significant areas of Danish contribution.

‘ESS will be a unique facility in the world, right here in this region,’ said Womersley. ‘Denmark is the second largest contributor to the project, and we recognise work is required from ESS as well as from Denmark to make sure Denmark benefits from this important commitment to ESS.’

Womersley, Pind and others during the study visit. PHOTO: Courtesy of John Womersley

### **Maximise Benefit to Denmark**

Bo Smith, chair of Denmark’s ESS Advisory Group and chief negotiator with ESS on behalf of Denmark, gave a brief history of Danish involvement in the project and laid out the principle points of the Danish strategy for ESS. The Danish strategy document, created to optimise the benefit of being an ESS co-host, was a joint public/private effort that included representatives from government, industry and academia. It was published in 2015.

‘We have a long-term strategy with a clear vision, goals and targets,’ said Smith. ‘We have political support, and support from the universities, industry, and all other relevant actors. ESS, Max IV and European XFEL [under construction in Hamburg] provide a unique opportunity for science, innovation and growth in Denmark. Denmark can establish itself as a future hub for the development and use of hard, soft and biological materials.’

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