

ESS and Chalmers University of Technology Sign Research MoU

JUN 29, 2015

ESS and Chalmers. The agreement serves as a model for the full engagement of European universities in the instrument and technology programs at ESS.

VISBY — The European Spallation Source (ESS) and Chalmers University of Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday at Almedalen, the annual Swedish political forum. The document formalises the ongoing collaboration between the two institutions in areas of research, education, innovation and operations at ESS. ESS CEO and Director General James H. Yeck and Chalmers Vice Rector Lars Börjesson were present at the signing. Börjesson is also the current chair of the ESS Steering Committee and was instrumental in bringing ESS to Lund through the formation of ESS-Scandinavia over a decade ago.

‘I am pleased that this is the result of a bottom-up initiative, being driven by researchers at Chalmers,’ says Yeck. ‘This is a good example of leadership in the [Swedish] research community by planning now to prepare people to use ESS when it is up and running.’



Lars Börjesson (left) and Jim Yeck in Visby, Sweden, on Sunday. IMAGE: ESS

The intent of the MoU is ‘to contribute to realising the full potential of ESS as the premier source for neutron scattering and to build up competence at Chalmers to take advantage of the unique possibilities that will be offered by ESS.’ In practical terms, this will include,



among other initiatives, the creation of an academic centre at Chalmers—which is located in Gothenburg, Sweden—dedicated to the collaboration with ESS and to be directed by the head of Chalmers' Materials Science program, Prof. Aleksandar Matic. An exchange of key personnel between the institutions has already begun and will be expanded through this agreement. Additionally, Chalmers also hopes to establish an education and research presence on site at ESS.

In total, Chalmers will invest 50 million SEK (€5.4 million) over six years with both ESS and MAXIV, the X-ray synchrotron facility adjacent to ESS that is expected to be commissioned next year. This funding will support Chalmers' competence-building initiatives as well as contribute to the construction of beamlines at MAXIV.

ESS is a partnership of European nations working together to build the world's next-generation neutron science facility, which is currently under construction in Lund, Sweden. Operations at the facility are expected to begin in 2023. Chalmers University of Technology is Sweden's leader in research, education and innovation in materials science, nanotechnology, energy, transport and production.

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