

## current events

*This section carries events of interest to the synchrotron radiation community. Full or partial inclusion is subject to the approval of the Main Editors, to whom all correspondence should be sent.*

### JASRI and CCLRC conclude a Memorandum of Understanding

On 23 January 2001 the Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute (JASRI) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CCLRC), which runs the Synchrotron Radiation Source (SRS) through Daresbury Laboratory in the UK, to facilitate advanced synchrotron radiation research at SPring-8.

Professor Hiromichi Kamitsubo, Director of the Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory, JASRI, and Dr Hywel Price, Director of Daresbury Laboratory, CCLRC, signed the MOU at SPring-8 in Japan. It provides a framework for JASRI and CCLRC to undertake collaboration activities in areas of mutual interests including technical meetings, the exchange of researchers, and research collaboration projects over the next three years.

Collaboration activities will pay special attention to developing more sophisticated:

- (i) synchrotron radiation detector technology,
- (ii) accelerator technology,
- (iii) beamline optical systems.

The principal objective of the MOU is to enhance each side's ability to develop and operate leading-edge synchrotron radiation research facilities based on the knowledge that SPring-8 and Daresbury Laboratory will accumulate through the learning relationship.



Dr Hywel Price, Director of Daresbury Laboratory, and Professor Hiromichi Kamitsubo, Director of SPring-8, with their colleagues after the signing ceremony.

### LCLS appoints a Director

John Galayda from the Advanced Photon Source (APS) is to take the position of Director of the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) project at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre. The LCLS will be the forerunner to the next-generation X-ray source expected to follow the high-energy third-generation sources such as APS, ESRF and SPring-8. This project is of critical importance to the future of the field of synchrotron radiation. David Moncton, director of the APS, commented, "John has made an extraordinary contribution to the APS and to Argonne National Laboratory. With overall responsibility for design, construction, commissioning, operation and continuous upgrading of the APS accelerator systems, John leaves an enormous legacy of accomplishment. The world-leading effort to achieve FEL saturation was also accomplished under his leadership". Dr Galayda will assume his new position in mid-April.

### SESAME goes to Jordan

The interim council of SESAME met in Cairo on 12–13 March 2001. The meeting was chaired by Professor Schopper. Two days of intensive discussions led to a strong commitment for the project to be started immediately in Jordan by the ten member countries present at the meeting. Jordan's education minister, Dr Khaled Toukan, committed his Government to providing funds for the construction of the SESAME hall. The construction will start in early autumn and it is expected that BESSY-1, which is to be upgraded to SESAME, will be shipped in the summer to Jordan.



Dr Herman Winick, who had suggested the concept of SESAME on a boat trip on the river Nile with Professor Moshe Deutsch (Israel), Professor Salman Salman (Palestine) and Professor Dincer Ulku (Turkey, and Vice Chairman of the SESAME council).