



SESAME

Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East

Opening of SESAME 16 May 2017

Statement by Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith President of the SESAME Council



Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highness,
Mr Prime Minister,
Your Excellences,
Friends, Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all the SESAME Members, I welcome you to this day of celebration, which sees the fulfilment of many hopes and dreams.

The hope that the funding needed to build SESAME could be obtained, which happened thanks to the generosity of three Members (Jordan, Israel, and Turkey) who made vital voluntary contributions, and of external contributors who provided essential support.

The hope that a group of initially inexperienced young people could build SESAME and make it work: they have, and I am proud to announce that three weeks ago SESAME reached its full design energy of 2.5 GeV.

The hope that, nurtured by the training programme, large numbers of scientists in the region would become interested in using SESAME: the fact that 55 proposals to use the first two beamlines have already been received shows that SESAME will not be undersubscribed.

And the hope that the diverse Members could work together harmoniously.

SESAME is succeeding thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of all involved, including especially the SESAME Staff and Directors, and to the support provided by the Members, and by many external supporters - which is acknowledged in the Souvenir Brochure, which also describes some of the science that SESAME will enable, and in a short film which will be shown in a moment. I would like to single out now for special thanks:

The Government and Royal Court of Jordan, who have steadfastly supported the project, in numerous ways, including providing the site and paying for the building

and some of the equipment that it houses.

UNESCO, which played a vital role in getting the project started, and has provided unfailing support thereafter.

Germany, which kick started SESAME by donating the decommissioned Berlin synchrotron.

The IAEA, which has provided substantial and vital funding for training.

The European Union which, among other things, funded the construction of the magnetic system of the main ring through the CESSAMag project, and is funding the solar power plant that is about to be built.

CERN, which put its expertise at the service of SESAME in leading the CESSAMag project.

And Italy which has provided vital support, including for the construction of the Guest House which is about to be built.

As well as being a day for celebrating what has been achieved, today is an occasion to look forward to the science that SESAME will produce, using - I am proud to say - photons provided by what will soon be the world's first accelerator powered solely by renewable energy.

We will now show a short film.

Thank you very much.