

# **Letter of Intent on Joining the Pre-Construction Phase of the European Spallation Source, ESS**

## **Preamble**

The Hungarian Government is committed to actively support the Lisbon agenda and the construction of the European Research Area (ERA). These goals can only be achieved by the broad collaboration of all countries in the European Union on a basis of equitably shared efforts and benefits, in the service of best efficiency. In today's more and more competitive world with more and more big players on the scene, promoting the competitiveness of Europe requires involvement of all talents over the whole of the continent. The development of a balanced network of European research infrastructures is a key component of this agenda.

## **Background**

The European Spallation Source (ESS) is one of the timeliest and mature large projects on the European roadmap and Hungary has offered to the member countries of EU generous funding conditions to host this facility in the outstanding scientific and economic environment of the city of Debrecen. By now no contacted country has expressed its preference for another site in response to this formal Hungarian offer, and one country's response stressed the intention to make no commitment to any site before the results of the design and costing review become available.

On the other hand, Hungary is aware of informal expressions of preference for the site in Lund by several countries which intend to be part of the ESS project from the beginning. In the spirit of advancing constructive relations and a good environment for collaboration in Europe, the Government of Hungary declares that it is ready to join the majority of these countries recognizing Lund as the designated site of ESS. It is expected that the final decision on funding ESS will be made when the results of the design update become available in about two years time. Until this final funding decision is made, the Hungarian Government offers as a fallback solution to host ESS in Debrecen in the case when the plans to build ESS in Lund would not materialize.

## **Contribution to funding of the Design Update**

Hungary is committed to make ESS a success and to contribute to the progress of the project accordingly. It realizes that the design and costing update can only be performed timely and with best efficiency and quality if the participation of institutions with best expertise in the field (including – in random order – ILL, CERN, ISIS, SNS, PSI, FZ Jülich, CEA, INFN and several others) can be secured. For this purpose Hungary offers to contribute a total of 20 million Euros in the years 2010 and 2011 to the design and costing upgrade study for the realization of ESS. Hungary expects that the results of this update study will be available to all participating partners and institutions, under proper provisions of protection of intellectual property, wherever it applies, and the institution representing Hungary in the project will have a say in the management of the design update properly reflecting the Hungarian contribution.