



At the Campus of the University of the Basque Country in Leioa

Cristina Garmendia and Patxi López present the Spanish headquarters of the European Spallation Source

- Cumulative investment in ESS Bilbao totals 180 million euros, 50% of the financing being provided by the Ministry of Science and Innovation and 50% by the Basque Government
- The central government will be represented on the entity's governing bodies by the Ministry of Science and Innovation and CIEMAT, while the Basque Government will be represented by the Ministries of Education and Industry
- It is the first headquarters of an international scientific facility to be hosted by this country and is included in the Spanish map of Special Scientific and Technological Infrastructures
- The Minister Cristina Garmendia pointed out that ESS Bilbao will be “a source of opportunities for scientists, technology centres and businesses”
- This facility is “proof of the maturity and ambition of our science and innovation system” Garmendia declared, emphasising the Government's objective of placing Spain among the leading countries in science and innovation by 2015

9th December 2009. The Minister for Science and Innovation, Cristina Garmendia, and the lehendakari, Patxi López, this afternoon presented the project for the Spanish headquarters of the European Spallation Source (ESS), which will be located in the Science Park of the Campus of the University of the Basque Country in Leioa.

As the Minister pointed out, this facility **“is proof of the maturity and ambition of our science and innovation system”**. It is an ambition which aims to place Spain among the leading countries in science and innovation by 2015. Cumulative investment in ESS Bilbao will total 180 million euros over the six years until the facility becomes fully operational. 50% of the financing will come from the Ministry of Science and Innovation and 50% from the Basque Government. At the ministerial meeting on September 18 the Spanish Government authorised a 15 million euro subsidy under PlanE to start the project.

The Spanish Government is represented in the entity's governing body by the Ministry of Science and Innovation and CIEMAT and the Basque Government by the Ministries of Education and Industry.

Garmendia emphasised that **“ESS Bilbao is not only the first international scientific facility hosted by this country; it is also a model for cooperation between an Autonomous Community and the State”**.

ESS Bilbao will also work with other laboratories all over the world in the fields of neutron physics and acceleration, allowing scientists and businesses to take part in projects which go beyond the scope of the European base. **“ESS Bilbao will be a source of opportunities for scientists, technology centres and businesses,”** said the Minister.

The centre is expected to generate approximately 60 jobs, with a large proportion of highly qualified staff.

The presentation was also attended by the Secretary of State for Research and President of the Governing Board of ESS Bilbao, Felipe Pétriz, the scientific director of ESS Bilbao and research fellow of the Spanish National Research Council, Javier Bermejo, and the chancellor of the University of the Basque Country, Iñaki Goirizelaia.

A magnet for international talent

Under the agreement with Sweden regarding the European Neutron Source, ESS Bilbao will be a key element in the European project. As Garmendia pointed out, **“it will provide countless opportunities for the development of our own researchers and for attracting international talent.”**

ESS Bilbao will have three main facilities:

- A technological centre for research, and the development, design and manufacture of accelerators (the most important component of the ESS)
- A test laboratory, which will be the main testing centre for the ESS.
- A software development centre including a remote access station at the Lund centre, so that scientists from all over the world can conduct experiments at the ESS.

ESS Bilbao is part of the Spanish map of Special Scientific and Technological Infrastructures. The European Spallation Source is one of the 35 projects that the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has decided to carry out under the 7th European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2007-2013.

“Science Industry”

ESS Bilbao is a major scientific facility which will be designed and built according to an approach which supports local industry, like other large infrastructures such as the Great Canary Telescope or the Synchrotron in Barcelona. A particularly important objective will be to support companies with strategic interests in the field of advanced scientific equipment and instruments.

The Spanish headquarters of the European Spallation Source will thus assist in the development of a new business niche, the “science industry”, which will be able to generate many opportunities for Spanish companies.

Spallation

Spallation is a technique for producing neutrons, particles which can enter matter and enable us to study its atomic structure. Research using neutrons is used in many fields, including medicine, pharmacy, IT, transport, the environment, material science, and engineering.

Europe has been the traditional leader in neutron research. It is estimated that there is a 5,500-strong scientific community all over Europe who use neutrons in their research. In Spain there are approximately 250 researchers working with neutrons, according to the Spanish Society for Neutron Techniques.

The Minister's speech is available on the www.micinn.es website.

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