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The European Spallation Source: A Tool for Studying Multiscale Systems

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The European Spallation Source is currently under construction in Lund in the South of Sweden. Once fully operational in the early 2020's, ESS will be the world's leading neutron source for condensed-matter studies. The facility will be co-located with the MAX-IV high-brightness synchrotron and is being designed and constructed in partnership with a network of labs and universities distributed across Europe.

The novelty and strength of the ESS neutron source lie in its unique brightness and long-pulse time structure which together determine the performance and expected scientific impact of its neutron scattering instrument suite. ESS instruments will not only be able to measure more quickly and probe smaller sample volumes than is currently possible, they will be also inherently better suited to the study of hierarchical systems exhibiting structure or fluctuations over many orders of magnitude in length or time.

A brief overview of the facility is given and some examples are described of how ESS instruments will address key science areas.

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