

To decision-makers concerning the location of the European Spallation Source

The ESS Scandinavia Consortium has proposed Lund as the location for the ESS. Presently Lund, Bilbao and Debrecen are considered candidates for hosting the ESS. Together with local, regional and national politicians the ESS Scandinavia Consortium has advanced reasons and arguments for why the ESS facility should be placed in Lund. With this letter we want to inform you about other factors and situations concerning the selection of the location for ESS that may not have been mentioned or included in the marketing of Lund.

- Lund is a rather small city with a small and historical city centre. There is a strong desire to retain the small scale nature of central Lund. Motorists in the centre of Lund have to contend with one way streets and conscious decisions taken by city government to limit car traffic. The city faces great difficulties to expand public transportation because of the narrow streets and old buildings with cultural and historical value in the city centre where the transit nodes (central train station, bus stations) are located. In the late 1960s a number of politicians advocated a motorway running east-west through central Lund. Discussions about this took place without much public notice. When members of the public found out about this there were enormous protests and the decision was voted down.

- From the original medieval centre, Lund has expanded primarily towards the northwest and the east with residential areas. Towards the north the science park IDEON was founded in the early 1980s. Lund has grown very little towards the south and southwest because of the proximity of a neighbouring municipality. Regardless of the direction Lund has expanded this has sacrificed good quality agricultural land and, because of this, there is growing opinion that the possibilities for Lund to expand in the future are becoming increasingly limited. Furthermore, there are additional capacity problems which should be taken into consideration when selecting the location for ESS:

- Severe housing shortage. Lund does not have enough places for people to live and many people who want to move find it exceedingly difficult. Many students that intend to study at Lund University have great difficulties finding a place to live. As an example see the enclosed article from one of the region's largest daily newspapers which describes the situation (see also: <http://sydsvenskan.se/student/article358261.ece>). This article is in Swedish but the chairman of the Lund University Student Union says among other things that: "The number of foreign master's students has increased dramatically in recent years. Now there is a focus on ESS and [a new] Maxlab, which will pull additional foreign researchers and students into Lund. And while this is desirable, the city [of Lund] does not seem to have any interest to offer housing for these people." In a recent number of Lund University's magazine we find similar complaints about the lack of housing (http://www.lu.se/upload/LUPDF/lum/lum_2008_07.pdf).

Since at least the 1980s lack of housing has been a continuing problem in Lund with no end in sight. Some of Sweden's best agricultural land surrounds the city and regardless of which direction you turn valuable land has been exploited in the past for construction. If ESS is built on the outskirts of Lund this will mean that the pressure on agricultural land will increase and this will not make it easier to find places to build new housing -- given that ESS and possible new residential neighbourhoods will be competing for the same type of land on which to build. Does the City of Lund have the will and capacity to solve housing problems for ESS guests, and not at the expense of others who need housing, and where will these buildings be located?

- In the municipality of Lund there is a strong public opinion about the location of high voltage overhead power lines. That these power lines are too close to residential areas and schools has been the subject of criticism from both the public and the political establishment. Two articles are enclosed which describe this problem. (See also: <http://sydsvenskan.se/lund/article298746.ece>, <http://sydsvenskan.se/lund/article360883.ece>) In one of the articles the Chairman of the City Executive Committee, Mats Helmfrid is quoted as saying: "I am very upset that Eon doesn't realize that they

[power lines] have to be moved.” A question that you should ask yourself is: ESS will surely require very good electrical supply to ensure problem-free use of the facility. Do you think that Lund is ready for more controversy about new power lines? And what happens if public opinion stops additional high voltage lines into Lund?

- The most recently available information about planning for the location of ESS appears to point to construction in an area which to the south and southeast is bordered by land which is of national interest for environmental, cultural and historical protection. Some of this land is already a nature preserve. To the north of the ESS location is a motorway. To the west is the edge of the city and to the east is Odarslöv which is a small village.

Questions that people who live in Lund ask: Can you guarantee that there will be no future expansion of secondary or supporting activities and organisations which threaten the valuable land around the proposed location? And questions that anyone involved in deciding the location of ESS should ask themselves: is it wise to plan for ESS in Lund, where there will be little to no land available adjacent to the proposed ESS site, when such a dynamic and innovative facility will surely generate spin-off effects? Perhaps it might be better to consider building ESS in a place with a lot of room for expansion and a political and public opinion climate that does not delay such expansion?

- Fire fighting and emergency rescue services are too small in Lund. (The articles about this are from the second largest newspaper in Lund where, unfortunately, there are no Internet links to these articles.) One of these articles describes how there was only one fire truck available to send to a fire in northern Lund. This has been a cause of alarm for both residents and the emergency and fire services. Presently Lund has only one fire station, in southeastern Lund, and absolutely no plans for building a second fire station on the other side of the city. This is yet another example of Lund's lack of resources and planning which is important for safety in and around an ESS facility.

- According to the information that we have available, ESS will contain at least 20 tons of mercury. In the technical specifications mention is made of an explosion risk with a possible release of radioactive mercury. ESS Scandinavia claims that safety is so high that there is a minimal risk for anything to go wrong. Yet, in the recently completed and started accelerator at CERN, computer hackers could immediately and with ease breach security and gain access to the computer systems (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?view=DETAILS&grid=&xml=/earth/2008/09/12/scicern212.xml>) Furthermore helium leakages (see <http://www.dn.se/DNet/jsp/polopoly.jsp?a=830582> or <http://public.web.cern.ch/public>) have occurred. If a high level of security cannot be maintained at CERN, why would safety be any better at ESS? In the event of an accident some 100 000 people's health and safety in a radius of 10 kilometres from ESS will be jeopardized.

- In Lund there is opposition to the placement of ESS here. This is lead primarily by *Lunds Naturskyddsförening* The Lund Nature Protection Society with 3 000 members, which is an integral part of The Swedish Society for Nature Protection with some 180 000 members at the national level. SNF is completely against the use of mercury in Sweden in any circumstances.

- For years, Swedish citizens and organisations have been encouraged to turn in items containing mercury for safe-keeping. Millions of mercury thermometers have been collected. Dentists have stopped using mercury in fillings and the sewage pipes from dental clinics and other places have been cleaned from mercury deposits. Public opinion supports such efforts to reduce environmental impacts from heavy metals like mercury. With plans to introduce and use 20 tons of mercury in ESS this will surely dampen enthusiasm for a placement of ESS on Swedish soil on the part of the general public and will be seen as an insult to the good will and work of people who have worked to collect mercury and keep it safe from spreading in nature. ESS Scandinavia's complete disregard for what can be called "the mercury issue" will cause further resistance in many places in Sweden and Lund as this becomes better known. In what way has ESS Scandinavia informed you about the existing and

growing public opinion against ESS and in what way have you investigated planning alternatives based on other aspects that have not been presented by the ESS Scandinavia consortium?

Signed
