

Abstract Submitted
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A Synchrotron Radiation Research Facility for Africa HERMAN WINICK, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory — Africa is the only habitable continent without a synchrotron light source. Dozens of African scientists use facilities abroad. Although South Africa has become a member of ESRF, the number of users is limited by distance and travel cost. A light source in Africa would give thousands of African scientists access to this tool. Momentum is now building for an African light source, as a collaboration involving several sub-Saharan African countries. An interim Steering Committee has been formed. SESAME, now nearing completion in Jordan as a collaboration of 9 countries in the Middle East (www.sesame.org.jo) may be the example followed. UNESCO became the umbrella organization for SESAME at its Executive Board 164th session, May 2002, as it did in the case of CERN in the 1950s. UNESCO's Executive Board described SESAME as “a quintessential UNESCO project combining capacity building with vital peace-building through science” and “a model project for other regions.” It is likely that UNESCO, if asked, would play a similar role as a facilitator for an African light source.

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