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**SESAME: an opportunity for science in the Middle-East**

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SESAME, the Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory of the Middle East, is becoming reality. As of November 2016, the injector has been commissioned, the storage ring is in an advanced state of installation and it is expected that two beamlines (XAFS/XRF and IR) will start producing scientific results in 2017. The talk will present the status of the facility and will illustrate its scientific objectives. The expected social and cultural impact of the project in the tumultuous Middle East Region will also be highlighted.