

Chapter 12

Conclusions

After more than 20 years of work we find ourselves at the point where the construction of ESS will begin. This comes about thanks to the dedication of countless hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of people who have contributed to bringing the project to where it is today. The publication in 2013 of the *Technical Design Report* demonstrates the fruits of that work – the scientific drive, the technological inventiveness, the administrative determination. We could not have reached this point without the support of our funding bodies and, ultimately, of the taxpayers who support the funding bodies. We are well aware of the responsibility we carry. We will deliver.

The TDR comes one year after the *Conceptual Design Report* (CDR) was published. It is not simply one year advanced from the CDR, but rather contains the work, the studies and the designs contributed by perhaps four times as many people as contributed to the CDR. There has been a multiplicative process in play. Equally well, whilst the CDR was more or less a stand-alone document, the TDR is but one of the whole sheaf of documents of more than one thousand pages that together represent the current state of knowledge. They in turn stand on the foundation studies and technical reports that have been produced over the last few years in Lund, in the laboratories of our partner countries and indeed around the world.

This body of knowledge has reached a certain state of maturity. It is, thanks to the nature of a scientific facility, incomplete. It will always be incomplete. However it represents what is both necessary and sufficient to allow a clear decision from funding bodies around Europe to officially start the construction phase of ESS.

As Ivan Turgenev said:

If we wait for the moment when everything, absolutely everything is ready, we shall never begin.

It is time to begin!

Bibliography