



SESAME

Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East

Opening of SESAME 16 May 2017

**Words of thanks by
Professor Khaled Toukan
Director of SESAME**



Your Majesty,
Your Royal Highness,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Building SESAME has not been easy and we had to overcome major financial, technological, scientific and political challenges, but – with the help and encouragement of many supporters in Jordan and around the world – the staff, the Directors and the Council of SESAME did a superb job in completing the construction of the machine. Today we are witnessing this great success, which is the end of the beginning. Many challenges lie ahead – building up the user community, constructing additional beamlines and supporting facilities, including an administration and guest house buildings, and the funding to do so. However, I am confident that - with the help of all of you assembled here today, including especially Dr Rolf Heuer (another former Director General of CERN) who will take over from Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith as President of the Council tomorrow - these challenges will be met. SESAME has been very honoured to have three Presidents of its Council (Herwig Schopper, Chris Llewellyn Smith and Rolf Heuer) having served as Directors General of CERN.

Your Majesty, we are deeply grateful and indebted to you personally for the support that the Royal Court has given to SESAME, thanks to which the shielding wall of SESAME's experimental hall was constructed, and for the land the Government of Jordan put at the disposal of SESAME, and the funding it provided for construction of the SESAME building, as well as the contribution it made to SESAME's capital budget for construction of the storage ring. Special thanks go

also to governments of all of SESAME Members for their valuable contributions. The great support SESAME has received from Observer countries, regional and international organizations, and other sister synchrotron light sources around the globe is greatly appreciated.

Together with all our distinguished guests here today we will continue our move forward and we are honoured by your presence with us today.

Thank you all.