



A few opening words from the Director



On 19 January 2017 the ILL turned 50. This is an important milestone in the life of a facility such as ours, so it was only natural that we wanted to celebrate it with current and former staff members, as well as distinguished guests from partner research organisations, funding agencies and ministries. It was our aim to organise an event that would remain in the memories of everyone present for many years to come, an event that, while looking back on past achievements, had its eyes firmly fixed on the future. Judging by the positive feedback we received from those in attendance, we certainly achieved our goal. Our Institute presented itself in the best possible light, leaving us all with the firm feeling that neutron science at the ILL is in excellent hands and will be so for many years to come.

The speeches and presentations



By all accounts it was a wonderful ceremony: formal but at the same time friendly. The speakers highlighted the ILL's successes, the excellence of the science and technology it develops, the quality of its service to the scientific community. The Institute's cross-cultural tradition and European dimension were widely praised. The videos and presentations of the speakers can be found [here](#).

Souvenir photos



50 years after the signature, and day for day, the ILL celebrated its half-centenary, with festivities at the World Trade Centre in Grenoble, in the presence of 600 ILL staff members and external guests, including many prominent personalities from the world of European research.

50th anniversary book



A special book has been produced to mark the event. Over 100 pages, in text and photographs, it retraces the ILL's 50 years of service to science and society. This was an occasion to give many of those who have contributed to the ILL the chance to share their memories. They describe from first-hand experience the major episodes in the ILL's fifty-year history, thus providing a precious record for posterity of the Institute's birth and development. The electronic version of the book can be found [here](#).

