



## On 31 August 2021 the ILL celebrates 50 years of neutrons

*Founded in 1967, the ILL produced its first neutrons on 31 August 1971 and published its first scientific results a couple of months later.*



## 50 years of scientific excellence and innovation

For fifty years, the ILL has remained one of the most outstanding neutron research centres in the world. The science conducted at the ILL is essential to solving some of the major challenges facing modern society.

Over the past months, ILL experts in biology helped fighting Covid-19: [new findings on SARSCoV2 infection mechanisms](#) have recently been published.

Another recent example: during the COVID epidemic, an [autonomous data acquisition system](#) was tested by a Berkeley - ILL collaboration and has just published. It allows for more efficient and accurate data collection over shorter periods.



## Constant modernisation

Reliable reactor cycles, state-of-the-art instrumentation and first-rate scientific services, ILL has remained at the forefront of neutron science for five décades.

ILL has constantly anticipated and adapted to the changing needs of its scientific community, through the ongoing modernisation of its instruments and infrastructure, today with the [Endurance](#) upgrade programme. The neutron source itself has been continually upgraded to meet ever more stringent safety and operational standards. As a result, the French Nuclear Authorities have authorised the ILL to continue operations for a further ten years.

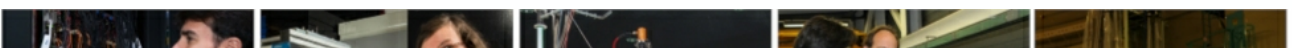


## Multi-cultural scientific collaboration

A model of scientific cooperation since its inception between Germany and France, and then the United Kingdom, the ILL has become truly international - today, with 14 associate and member countries and a workforce including some 30 different nationalities.

## Creativity and agility

ILL owes its success, above all, to its culture of creativity and collective intelligence. It has always been able to respond to the numerous challenges that have marked its history: replacing the reactor core, reinforcing the main buildings against earthquakes, the Fukushima response, creating a regulatory fence and so on while continuing to create the conditions for cutting-edge science. None of this would have been possible without the talented ILL staff. "They did not know it was impossible, so they did it". (Mark Twain).





On 9 December this year, the ILL will celebrate its 50 years of neutrons, with festivities at the World Trade Centre in Grenoble, in the presence of current and former staff members.

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