



Trieste, March 20, 2003  
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Mr. Levon Mkrtchian,  
Minister of Education and Science  
Republic of Armenia,  
Ministry of Education and Science,  
13 Movses Khorenatsi Street,  
375010 Yerevan, Armenia

Dear Mr. Mkrtchian,

I am aware of the project progress of the new synchrotron light facility CANDLE in the Republic of Armenia and I desire to express my firm support for this very important initiative. Our experts are familiar with the CANDLE conceptual design and we think that the work has been done in a very competent manner. The project described addresses all the main accelerator requirements and will satisfy User requirements. There is no doubt that such a scientifically sound project will be vital for the promotion of scientific and technical research in the Region where Armenia is located. Armenia has the great advantage of having an abundance of knowledgeable scientists, who will make tremendous contributions to the advancement of research and technology that will benefit Armenia, other countries around the world and the community in general.

Research world-wide, during this last decade, has seen a tremendous growth in the use of synchrotron radiation. The use of modern synchrotron radiation facilities accompanied by the development of the high technology infrastructures attracts thousands of scientists world-wide to perform joint research.

ELETTRA is the Italian national synchrotron radiation facility operating in the 2.0 to 2.4 GeV range. Its mandate is a scientific service to the Italian and international research communities, based on the development and open use of light produced by synchrotron and Free Electron Laser sources. The laboratory performs frontier research in a broad range of material, environmental and life sciences.

The shortage of available synchrotron light facilities in Europe has necessitated the construction of new machines: DIAMOND and SOLEIL. These facilities will have to both absorb the present Users and also the strong future demands for synchrotron radiation. As with all other facilities overbooking will be an issue. I believe that the User case for CANDLE upon its completion to be very promising with the possibility that funding can be made available from the European Community to support joint research programs at the new facility. I personally look forward to such research programs between ELETTRA and CANDLE.

Please accept my best wishes with the new project that has already been recognized by the international scientific community as a world-class project.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Massimo Altarelli  
Managing Director,  
Italian National Synchrotron Light Facility, ELETTRA

c.c: Dr. V. Tsakanov, Technical Director,  
Center for the Advancement of Natural Discoveries  
Using Light Emission -CANDLE,  
Acharian 31, 375040 Yerevan, Armenia