

THE SYNCHROTRON PROJECTS OF THAILAND

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The Siam Photon Project was approved by the Thai government in March 1996 to build a first synchrotron light source in Thailand. The Synchrotron Light Research Institute (SLRI) was established, as a Public Organization under the supervision of currently the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, to operate the Siam Photon Source (SPS). Lack of specific expertise and technical capability were the main obstacles during the first stage of the project. Training programs for technical personnel has therefore been extensively planned and carried out with great supports and assistance from international synchrotron communities. Component fabrication facility was also set up to support the development of synchrotron and accelerator related technologies. Despite still existing shortage of some specific expertise, the problems have been gradually overcome and a level of technical self-sustainability has been achieved when most of the systems can be locally maintained and fabricated in-house. Academic synchrotron user community in Thailand has been gradually growing contributing to the increase in research publication and graduate students. The facility also plays a part in increasing public awareness in science by contributing to high social impact research such as cultural heritage preservation and forensic investigation. Some level of success has been achieved with industrial users, even though it was anticipated with higher expectation. With the limitation of the current machine and the growing user community, the project for a new state-of-the-art synchrotron facility was recently proposed by SLRI and was approved by the Thai government. The project is expected to significantly contribute to scientific and technological development of the country.