

## **Progress Towards an African Light Source**

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We review the state of synchrotron light source science in Africa, including the genesis of the African Light Source initiative. In particular, we provide a brief history of the community of synchrotron light source users in South Africa, which has the largest number of light source users on the African continent. We discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> African Light Source Conference and Workshop held during November 2015 at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, the outputs from that meeting, and plans for the future. We conclude with a brief overview of a new and related initiative launched by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and International Union of Crystallography called Lightsources for Africa, the Americas and Middle East Project (LAAMP).