



Groups from Heidelberg and Liverpool with collaborators from RIKEN at SACLA during the commissioning period.

include groups from UCLA, Denmark, KAST (Korea), Stanford and Shanghai. Prior to the user operation, several RIKEN groups and their international collaborators have been helping to commission the instrument, sharing the excitement of this pioneering facility.

SACLA prepares for user operation

At the X-ray free-electron laser facility (SACLA) established next to SPring-8 by RIKEN, user operation is scheduled to start from March 2012. The SACLA is positioned as one of the key technologies of national importance in the 3rd Science and Technology Basic Plan. Based on the Act on the Promotion of Public Utilization of the Specific Advanced Large Research Facilities (Law No. 78, 1994), the SACLA is required to provide a wide range of research opportunities for researchers from home and abroad of industrial, academic and governmental organizations for the promotion of research utilizing the facility. Under the law, the Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute (JASRI) will solicit research proposals from the public, select the most qualified users through a fair and equitable review process, and provide them with technical guidance on how to carry out experiments at the SACLA as the Registered Institution for Facilities Use Promotion in charge of the user support services.

Some 25 proposals have been selected for the first session of scheduled beam time in 2012 attracting users from several Japanese universities such as Osaka, Nagoya, Hokkaido and Tohoku, as well as groups from RIKEN, KEK and Toshiba Corporation. In the tradition of RIKEN's international approach the first batch of users will