

The Australian Synchrotron - A Bright Light for Biotechnology

D.J. Cookson
Head of Beamline Science and Operations
Australian Synchrotron

The Australian Synchrotron (AS) is a world-class resource for cutting edge science and technology. Capable of being used by many different research groups simultaneously, it produces beams of very bright polarised light used to probe matter down to the nanoscale.

The life sciences in particular have benefited from technology originally developed for research in to high energy physics. At the Australian Synchrotron researchers in medicine, microbiology, bio-chemistry, structural genomics and agricultural science have been publishing data collected at this facility since its opening in 2007.

The trip from Spain to Australia is long but scientists in Spain do not need to go this far to access the benefits of a Synchrotron. Fortunately there are many world-class facilities within half a day's travel of Pamplona including the new ALBA facility in Barcelona – officially opened in March this year.

Examples of how Synchrotrons are being used by the life sciences and biotechnology will be presented and discussed.