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To keep you informed about how Covid-19 is affecting ILL, a [dedicated webpage](#) has been set up

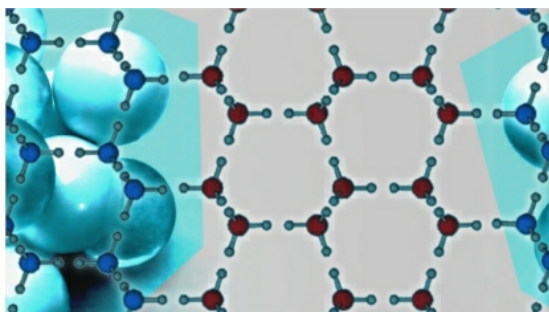


**ILL and ESRF, with the unique combination of facilities on the EPN campus in Grenoble, will play a full part in the collective response of the research community to the challenges posed by Covid-19.**

At ILL, we plan to run two more cycles in 2020, starting soon after we get back to work. These cycles will constitute a significant opportunity to perform early research related to Covid-19 on many of our neutron scattering instruments. In addition to the instruments, we have deuteration facilities and share biology and soft matter facilities with our partner institutes on the EPN campus. For rapid access to beam time, Director's Discretionary Time (for full experiments) and Easy Access (for short measurements) should be used. [More details](#)

We also expect the research community to work on Covid-19 on a longer timescale. We encourage you to think about the role of neutrons and discuss longer-term projects with scientists at ILL. These projects may require PhD students, which ILL can support through its PhD programme (next call autumn 2020) and the ILL-ESRF [InnovaXN programme](#) for which the second call for projects involving industry partners will be opened shortly, with a view to selecting 20 more projects by July 2020. We look forward to hearing from you and collaborating on your Covid-19 related research.

#### SPOTLIGHTS ON SCIENCE



#### **How new forms of ice can help us to better understand climate change**

Scientists have created pure samples of a rare form of ice on Earth – cubic ice. Unlike the ice we put in our summer drinks, ice with a cubic structure can only be formed under special conditions. Understanding its properties will bring us closer to answering some of the fundamental questions of ice physics, helping scientists to better model the role ice plays in global challenges, including climate change and global warming.

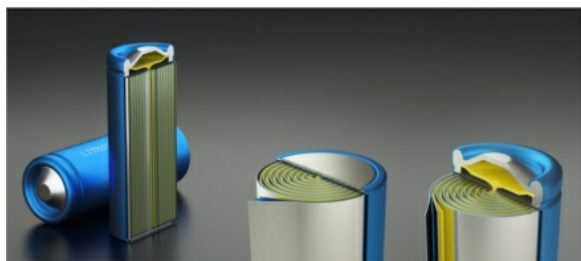
[Read more](#)



#### **Protecting priceless works of art with neutrons**

Centuries-old works of art can be damaged when solvents are used to remove varnish on paintings during the restoration process – the 20th century is said to have the largest number of damaged paintings because of deliberate restoration. New research uses neutrons to examine how solvents penetrate the varnish of a painting – studying the precise varnish used for most restoration efforts since the 1960s. Findings of a recent study can help to inform and prevent the destruction of precious artwork during restoration and lead to the creation of standards for the reliable automation of art restoration in future.

[Read more](#)



#### **Using neutrons and X-rays to analyse the ageing of lithium batteries**

An international team has used neutron and X-ray tomography to investigate the dynamic processes that lead to capacity degradation at the electrodes in off-the-shelf, lithium batteries. Using a new mathematical method, it was possible to virtually unwind electrodes that had been wound into the form of a compact cylinder, and thus actually observe the processes on the surfaces of the electrodes.

[Read more](#)



### Annual Report 2019

The Annual Report 2019 is now available in its electronic form. The Annual Report gives a selection of scientific highlights of the ILL and an overview of technical and other activity for the previous year. If you have any highlights or recent results of experiments performed at the ILL, do not hesitate to submit them. The deadline for submitting contributions in October every year. [Read more](#)

[MORE HIGHLIGHTS HERE !](#)

## NEWS FOR USERS

### Subcommittee meetings – proposal selection

The ILL has decided to cancel all workshops and conferences until further notice. We will keep you informed on how the situation evolves. However, the **panel meetings for proposal selection** are maintained (20-21 April) and will be run remotely. Accepted proposals will be scheduled in the autumn 2020.

### New procedure for accessing the ILL reactor building (Level C)

From now on, all persons wishing to access the reactor building must undergo a security screening process (known as 'criblage' in French) which could take up to about three weeks. This means that visitor access requests involving access to instruments or equipment inside the reactor building must be submitted more than three weeks in advance. [Read more](#)

[Previous issues of the ILL newsletter](#)

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