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**MEDIA INVITATION - AAAS 2016 CONFERENCE**

**SESAME – a new light source for the Middle East, promoting regional cooperation**

**Sunday 14 February, 12:00 PM**

 **Park Tower 8209 (Mariott Wardman Park) in Washington**

SESAME, the pioneering regional research facility for the Middle East invites you to meet with:

**Professor Sir Chris Llewellyn-Smith**, University of Oxford, President of the SESAME Council

**Professor Eliezer Rabinovici**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israeli Delegate to the SESAME Council

**Dr Zehra Sayers**, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Chair of the SESAME Scientific Advisory Committee

**Dr Gihan Kamel**, SESAME Infrared beamline scientist

In the town of Allan in Jordan a new laboratory is taking shape. Known as SESAME, it is a third-generation light source operated as an intergovernmental organization whose members are: Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority and Turkey. Current Observers are Brazil, the People’s Republic of China, the European Union, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

After many years in the making, commissioning of SESAME is scheduled to begin in 2016, serving a growing community of some 300 scientists from the region. The initial research programme will cover topics as diverse as the search for new cancer drugs to the exploration of the regions shared cultural heritage. SESAME is also a pioneer in promoting international cooperation in the region.

The meeting with the media will follow the session: [“SESAME: A Scientific Source of Light in the Middle East”](https://aaas.confex.com/aaas/2016/webprogram/Session11956.html) to which you are also invited.

*CERN is issuing this invitation on behalf of SESAME. Through the European Commission funded CESSAMag project, CERN has coordinated the production of magnets and power supplies for the SESAME main ring.*