



COMING
UP

European Spallation Source

STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN

Remember the 80s sci-fi flick *Innerspace*, in which a cocky pilot (Dennis Quaid) is shrunk to microscopic proportions and ends up whizzing around inside another person's veins and organs? Well, imagine being able to zoom in even more, to the atomic level, and you'll get

an idea how strong the most powerful microscope is.

Set to open near Lund in the south of Sweden in seven years' time, the European Spallation Source or ESS won't use light and magnifying lenses like ordinary microscopes, but will rely on quantum physics and neutrons to illuminate the atomic world.

Scientists will discover how atoms and molecules are arranged and how they move, which should result in huge breakthroughs in manufacturing, electronics, medicine, and the environment. The cost (a huge €1.3bn) will be as massive as the research centre itself – the accelerator at its core will be a

kilometre long! Until the visitor centre opens, there's an exhibition at 4 Stora Algatan in Lund and Patrick Stewart (of *Star Trek* fame) is shooting an introductory film (viewable at www.ess-neutrons.eu) explaining how ESS will put Europe at the forefront of neutron research for the next 50 years. www.ess.se