

## Utilization of J-PARC Accelerator Commences at Tokaimura

A joint ceremony was held on December 16 to celebrate the start of the utilization of the Materials and Life Science Facility (MLF) – the core of the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Center (J-PARC) – along with the Ibaraki Quantum Beam Research Center and the Tokai Plaza Café (Tokai Research Exchange Center), all located in Tokaimura in Ibaraki Prefecture.



The Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) and the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) had originally begun constructing the facilities in FY01. Rapid progress can be expected in technological development in a wide range of areas, including nanotechnology, new materials and life sciences.

The MLF actually started to be used on December 23. A total of 23 kinds of neutron instruments are eventually installed there, of which only seven, along with one of four muon instruments, are used at the beginning.

Hokkaido University and others have installed a system at the facility to measure neutron reactions to be used as data for future innovative reactors. JAEA and KEK, meanwhile, have installed a device to clarify high-temperature superconductivity.

With a total of 98 programs running at J-PARC, including eight muon-related ones, the facility will be operated around the clock through the end of February 2009.

*Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF*