



LUNDS
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Rektor

Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, and all friends of research and MAX IV.

And now, suddenly, it is time! After many long years of research, development, planning, financing and construction, it is finally time to inaugurate MAX IV.

It is, of course, the very nature of research to be slow and difficult – a breakthrough or complete results are never guaranteed. But that only makes the feeling of accomplishment so much greater when you do reach a successful conclusion!

Today is a day to celebrate a breakthrough, a project that has evolved over decades, pushed on by brilliant ideas and united efforts. I have the privilege to be Vice-Chancellor of the host University for this particular part of the project – the part that includes festivities and celebrations, and a tantalising glimpse of a bright future.

We are here today because of the commitment of the many people who have been part of the process. Many have believed in and supported the ideas. Many have helped to create the necessary conditions for Sweden's largest ever research infrastructure.

But above all: it is a small group of determined rebels in the research world who have made this possible.

Because, there is no getting away from the fact that MAX IV is, and has been, a rebel – a rebel that has had to struggle to succeed. MAX IV is a project that has not conformed to academic conventions, it is an idea that has been fought for, even when there were setbacks.

The Government's Budget Bill in 2008 stated that "MAX IV is an important project for Swedish research" – but for some reason no money had been allocated for the project. Then, there was a real concern that another major project, ESS, would Hoover up the entire national budget for research infrastructure and that our own national project would be neglected.

But a rebel stands firm when it knows it has a plan for groundbreaking technology. The research community, both in Sweden and internationally, has given great support. We can all be grateful that MAX IV is a challenger and that such determination has been shown over the years. It shows that the right conditions can be found in Sweden for a project of this magnitude.

It is often these rebels who achieve the best results, because they think outside the box and have the courage to explore uncharted territory.

Even though it has caused some headaches for us Vice-Chancellors and other financiers, we would like to thank MAX IV – all of you who are involved – for being a rebel who shines so brightly!

It is an honour to be Vice-Chancellor of the host university for this facility. I am sure that the rebel, challenger and innovator, MAX IV, will provide us, and the world, with more astonishing results than we could ever have imagined!