

## Cornell's CHESS gets \$109 million grant from NSF

By Rachel Stern • [rstern@gannett.com](mailto:rstern@gannett.com) •

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The Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source has received a \$109 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the facilities' director announced Wednesday.

The money will continue the operation of the X-ray facility and enable the continued research and development of a next-generation X-ray source technology, called Energy Recovery Linac, CHESS Director Sol Gruner said.

"Obviously we are very excited," Gruner said. "We are pleased the NSF considers this a worthwhile investment."

About \$77 million will go toward the continued operation of the facility for at least four more years, while about \$32 million will go toward Energy Recovery Linac. CHESS is one of five facilities in the country that conducts synchrotron X-ray research. CHESS produces X-ray beams that serve researchers in a variety of fields, such as medicine, physics, engineering and chemistry, Gruner said.

Gruner credited Cornell's track record.

"The science that comes out of here is a huge part," Gruner said. "We have two recent Nobel Prize winners, and our X-ray facility has been here since 1979."

CHESS employs about 200 people, Gruner said, and not all of them are Cornell faculty. Some are computer programmers, machine operators and support staff.

Without this money, Gruner said, many people would be affected.

"A lot of people in the community benefit from this," Gruner said. "It is an economic benefit to the Ithaca area and all members of the community."