

Herwig Schopper - a century in physics

SESAME

Success Continues Despite Challenges

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SESAME Director

CERN

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Science for Peace

Two organisations created under the umbrella of UNESCO:



CERN

Conceived late 1940s – aim:

- Enable construction of a facility beyond means of individual countries
- Foster cooperation between peoples recently in conflict



SESAME

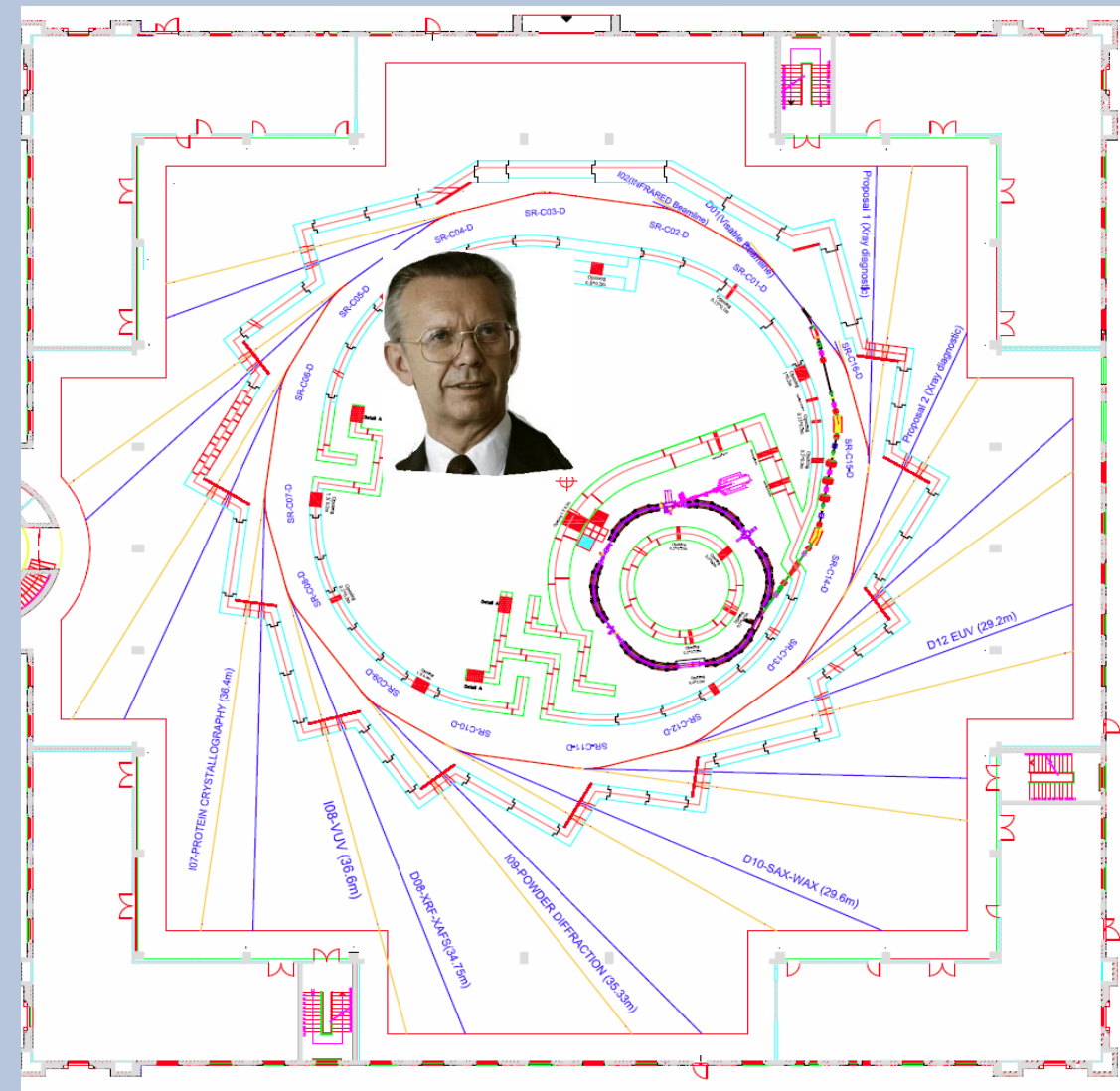
Conceived late 1990s with the same aim:

- Members: Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine, Türkiye
- SESAME is more challenging, because of the persistent political crises engulfing the Middle East

Herwig Schopper

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CERN & SESAME





Building a Culture of Peace

Herwig Schopper met the enormously difficult challenge of bringing Cyprus, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine and Türkiye to the table and persuading them to put aside historical and political differences, and to jointly work together for establishing a scientific centre of excellence in the Middle East. A real success story of science diplomacy.



Jordan Joins SESAME



Isa Khubeis

During a tour of the Middle East in 1999 to identify a host state, Schopper met with representatives of universities and other organisations in Jordan. However, no meeting with government officials could be arranged, and no commitment was obtained.

When Schopper was professor in 1958 at Mainz University in Germany, he had supervised a Jordanian student, Isa Khubeis, who became later Vice-President of Al-Balqa Applied University in Al-Salt. In a last bid, Schopper called Khubeis.

After a dinner at Khubeis's house, Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad who chaired the Board of Trustees of Al-Balqa Applied University and was a close adviser of King Abdullah II, joined the dinner.

Prince Ghazi was convinced of SESAME's case and immediately arranged a meeting for the next day with King Abdullah II.

Schopper explained to the King the idea behind SESAME. After asking a number of relevant questions and half an hour later, Schopper was handed a letter signed by King Abdullah II, addressed to the DG of UNESCO, indicating that he agreed to host SESAME in Jordan.



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With King Abdullah II of Jordan during SESAME Middle East Tour, 1999



With President Arafat of Palestine during SESAME Middle East Tour, 1999



Building a Culture of Peace

In 2000, Schopper presided over a meeting at CERN of the restricted Interim Council (IC) of SESAME to select a host country for SESAME from the seven proposals received.

After several rounds of secret balloting, Jordan was selected as the host country for SESAME.

The parallels to Switzerland's hosting of CERN in Europe are evident.



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3rd IC Meeting with King Abdullah II and UNESCO's DG Matsuura, 2000





SESAME

SESAME Groundbreaking Ceremony January 6, 2003





SESAME

Receiving Al-Istiqlal Medal of Jordan from King Abdullah II on January 6, 2003





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Receiving Albert Einstein Gold Medal from Kōichirō Matsuura, UNESCO's DG, Paris 2004

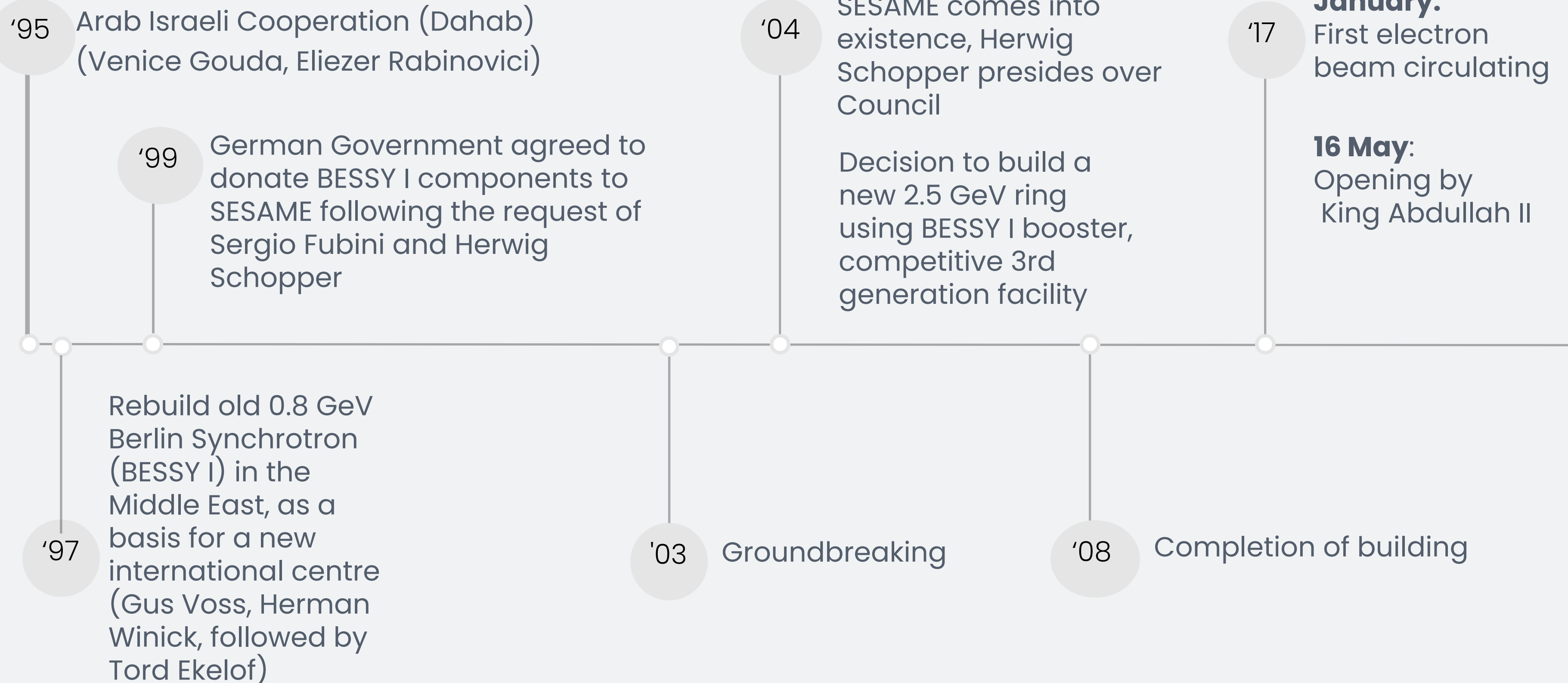




44 Nobel Laureates endorse SESAME, “as a beacon, demonstrating how shared scientific initiatives can help light the way towards peace”, June 2008.



The Dream Comes True





SESAME

Handover Presidency of SESAME Council, November 2008



High Award for Science Diplomacy



On February 15, 2019, Khaled Toukan, Herwig Franz Schopper, Zehra Sayers, Eliezer Rabinovici and Sir Christopher Llewellyn Smith, were awarded the 2019 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) prize for science diplomacy for their considerable contribution to the creation and development of SESAME.



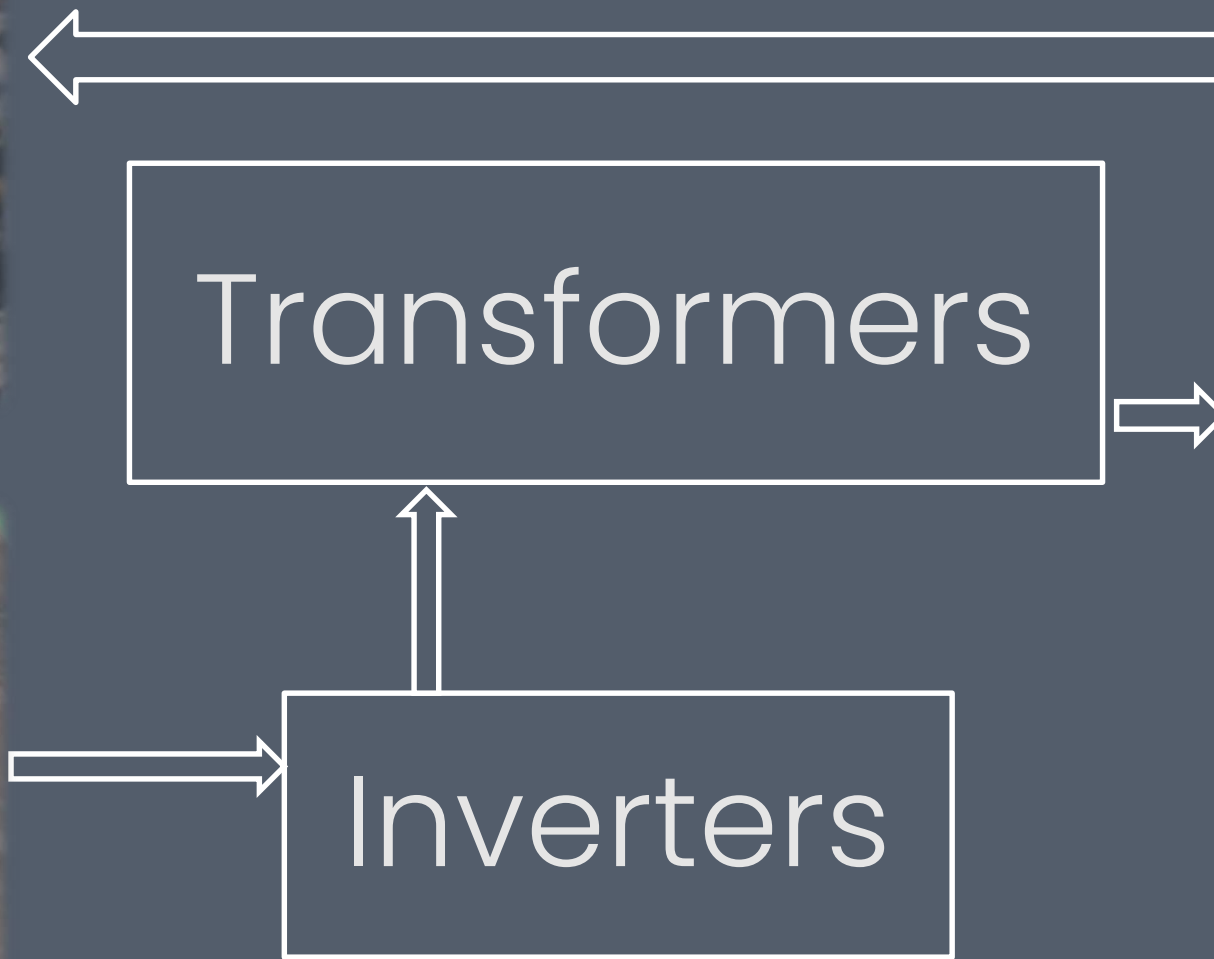
SESAME Building



SESAME Sergio Fubini Guesthouse



SESAME is Totally Powered by Solar Energy





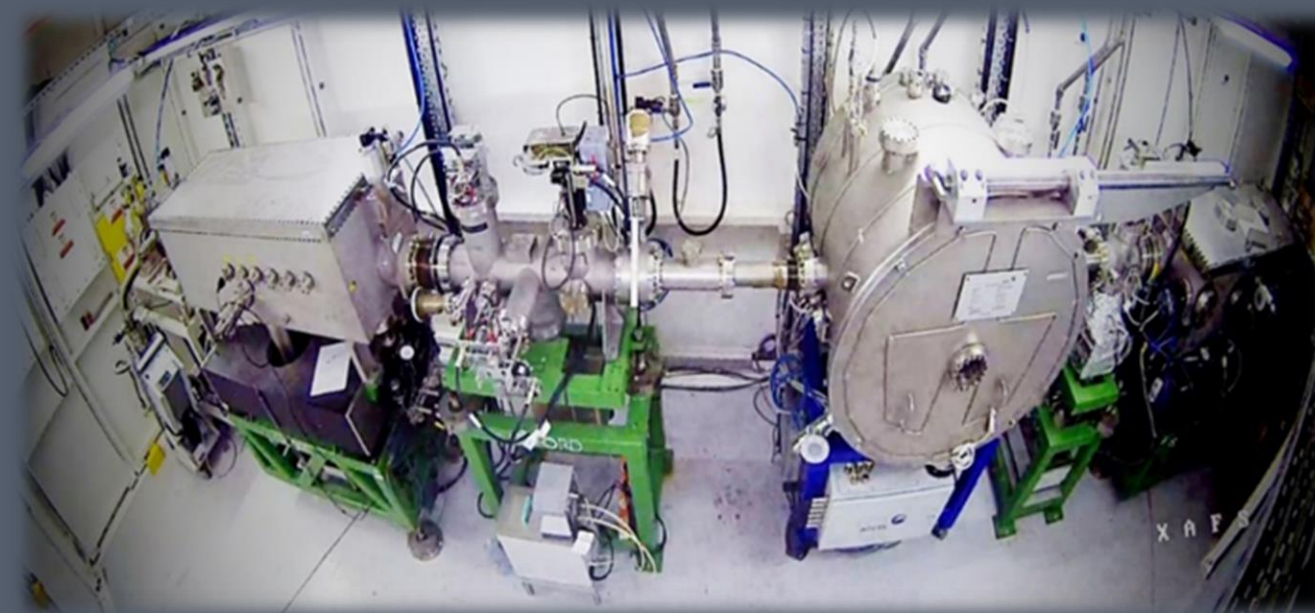
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Current Status of SESAME's Five Operating Beamlines

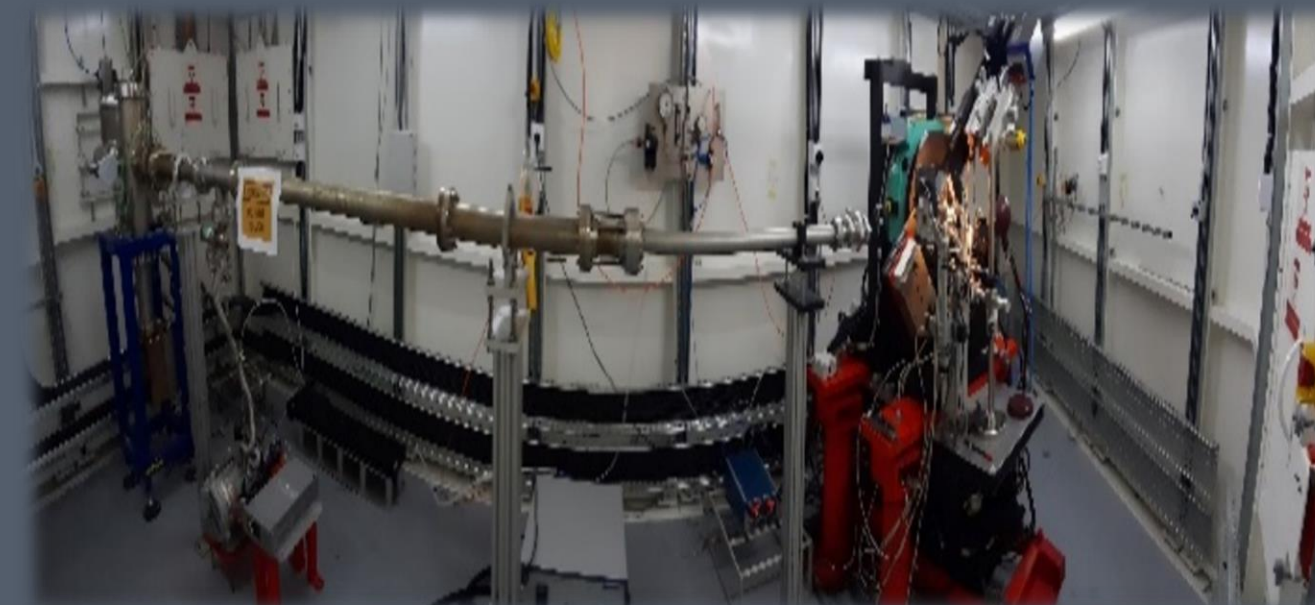
IR
beamline



XAFS/XRF
beamline



MS/XPD
beamline





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Current Status of SESAME's Five Operating Beamlines

HESEB
beamline



BEATS
beamline





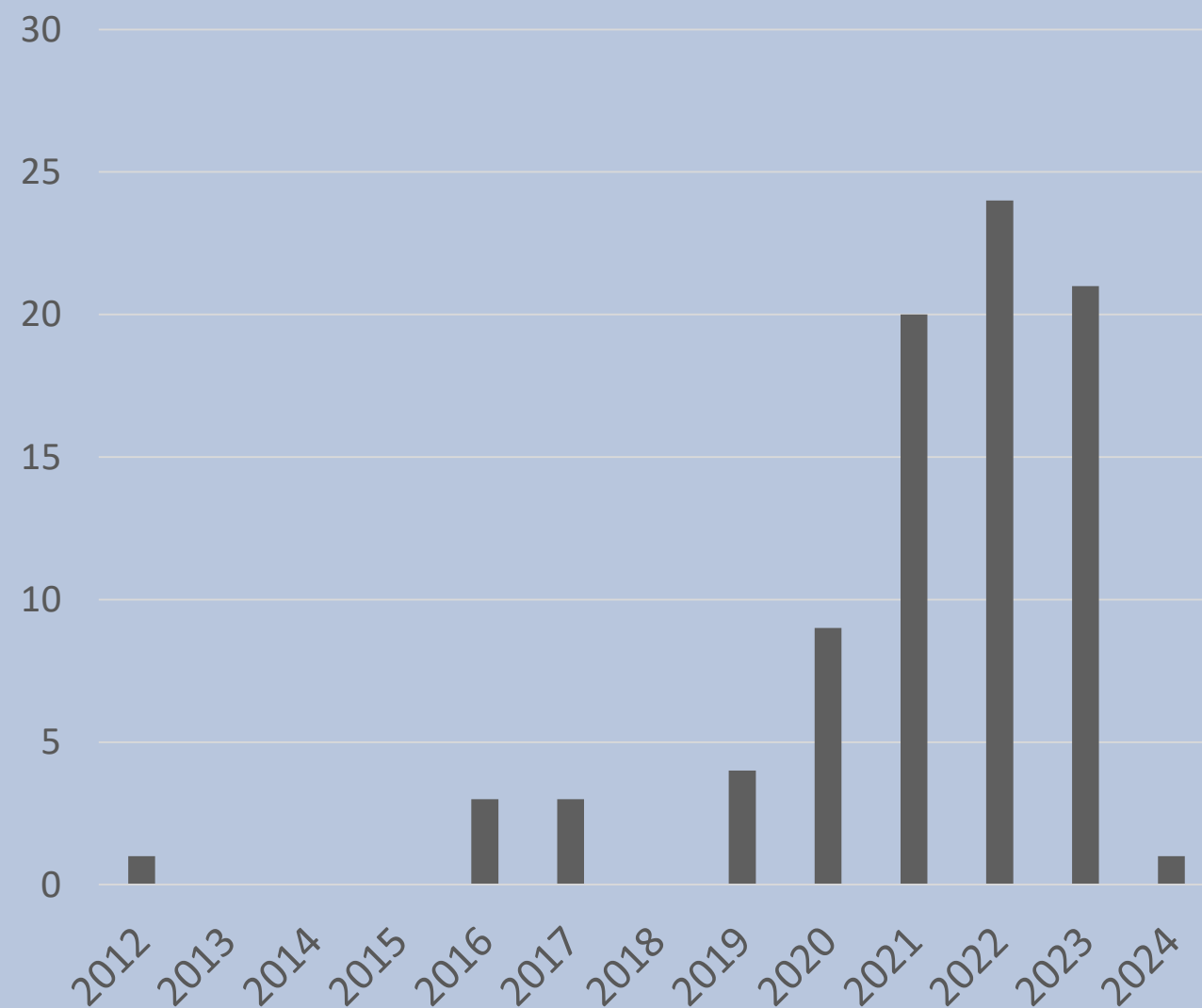
Proposals Submitted to SESAME and SESAME Publications

Publications

87

Peer-reviewed publications until January 2024

- Average scientific impact factor > 5
- 25% of publications have IF > 7



	Proposals Submitted	
CYPRUS	30	604
EGYPT	156	
IRAN	90	
ISRAEL	19	
JORDAN	92	
PAKISTAN	74	
PALESTINE	23	
TÜRKIYE	120	
SESAME Observers (FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, UAE, UNITED KINGDOM)		52
Potential Members (ALGERIA, IRAQ, MOROCCO, OMAN, QATAR)		24
OTHERS (AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGUIM, BOTSWANA, CANADA, COLOMBIA, DENMARK, INDIA, KENYA, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, UNITED STATES)		49
	Totals	729
Total Accepted		350

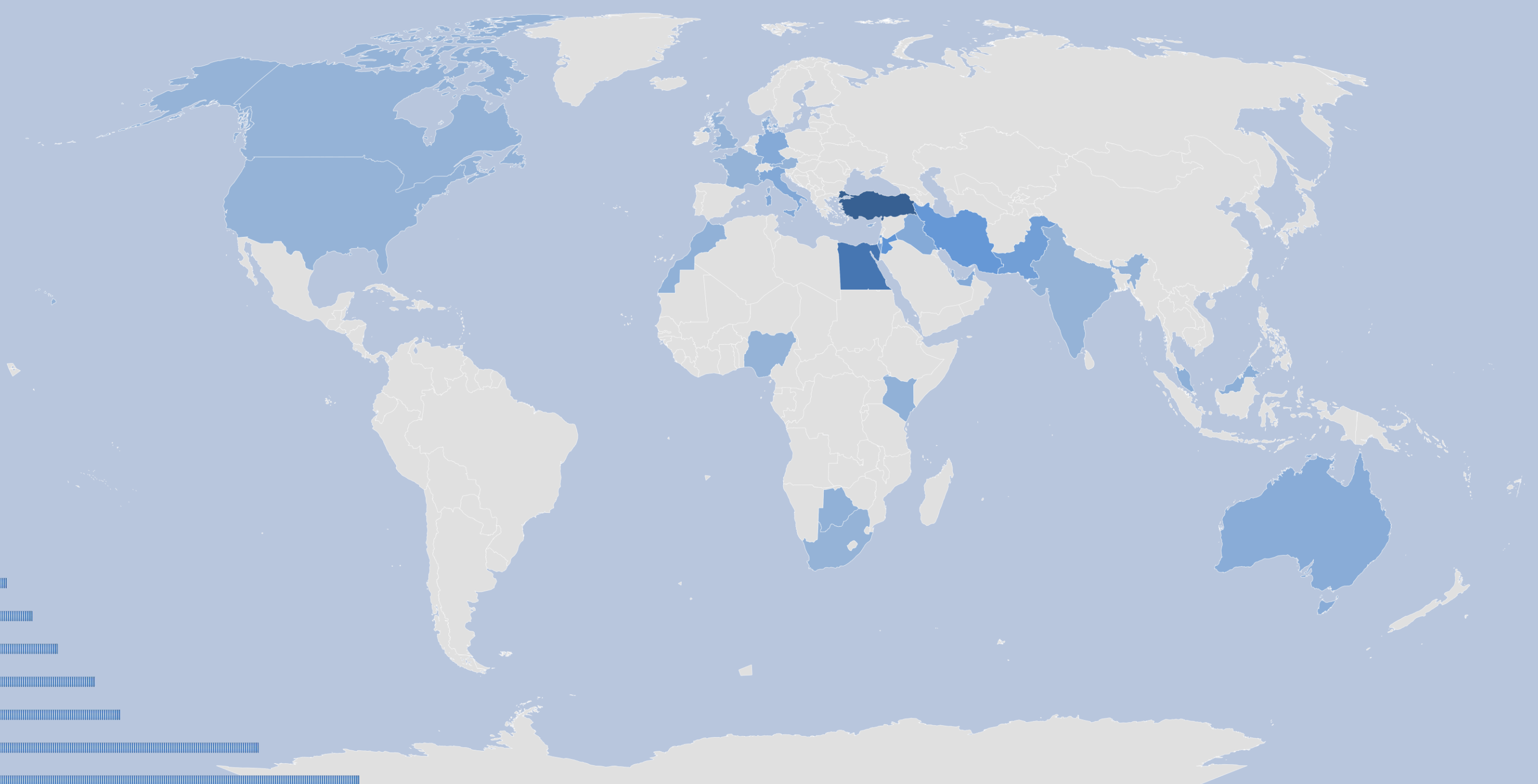
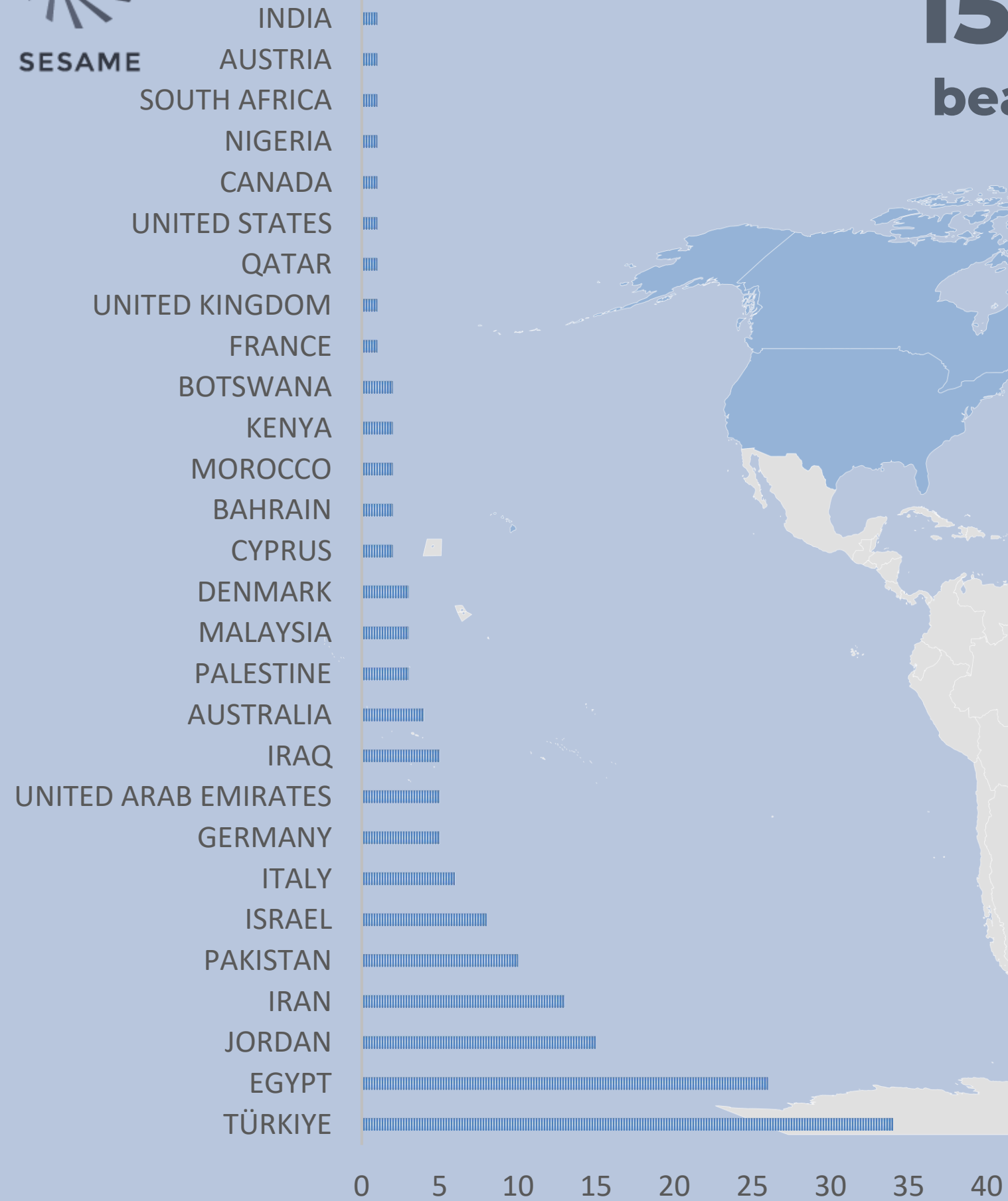


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Call 6, closed on September 30, 2023

157 proposals

beamtime Jan.-Jul. 2024



***** Call 7, closed on February 29, 2024 – beamtime Sept.-Dec. 2024**

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 **THANK YOU HERWIG** 
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