What is Diamond?
So, what do we actually do?

• The Diamond machine is a type of particle accelerator
• CERN = high energy particles smashed together and analyse the “crash”!
• Diamond = accelerate electrons to produce synchrotron light
• Use this light to study matter – like a “super microscope”
A few words of enlightenment...

Diamond Light Source is the UK national synchrotron facility – a £62m particle accelerator nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside. Diamond generates incredibly bright light from infra-red to X-rays and is used by thousands of scientists every year to study all kinds of materials, from artificial hips and samples of the Mary Rose to virus proteins and potential new fuel sources.

To introduce Diamond to a wider audience we are running a short story competition, Light Reading. The rules are simple: we’re inviting you to submit a story of up to 3,000 words inspired by Diamond – the facility, the science and the people. There’s also a Flash Fiction prize for stories under 300 words. Stories can be in any genre and there is no minimum word limit. Diamond will shortlist the best of these stories, which will then be judged by an expert panel. The top three writers will receive a cash prize, and these, along with those highly commended by the judges, will be published in an anthology of short stories.

Entries must be submitted via this website. The deadline is Wednesday 30 November 2011.

To enter the competition click here!
Light Reading

• Creative writing competition
• Two competitions – one for staff, one for everyone
• Minimal budget – for design and prizes
• Launched Sept 2011 - Deadline tomorrow!
• Promoted through press releases, social media, #solo11, postcards...
• Open day and Q&A
• Published anthology
“Diamond Light Source, a huge particle accelerator in the Oxfordshire countryside, have got an amazing idea. As a public engagement exercise they’ve set up a short story writing competition called “Light Reading”. This is not only a public engagement activity in itself but the anthology of stories which will be generated from this competition will go some way to engaging the public as well with stories that will really make them remember what it is that the Diamond Light Source research. A stroke of public engagement genius.”

Hannah Little
So far...

- 6 staff stories
- Sceptical CEO convinced!
- 17 “Flash Fictions”
- 43 full length stories
- Love stories, ghost stories, comedies, murder mystery, fantasy, crime, children’s fables...
- Diamond shortlist then external judges
- Winners announced Jan 2012, publish April 2012