

EISCAT Scientific Association

Short Report from the 88th meeting of the Council held at the National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan, 31 May – 1 June, 2017

Present: Finland: Prof. A. Aikio and Dr. K. Sulonen, Japan: Dr. H. Miyaoka (Chairperson) and Dr. S. Nozawa, Norway: Prof. I. Mann (Vice-Chairperson) and Mr. J. A. Opheim (Observer), P. R. of China: Dr. Z. Ding and Prof. J. Wu, Sweden: Dr. T. Andersson and Prof. J. Gumbel, UK: Dr. M. Freeman and Dr. I. W. McCrea. By Invitation: Mrs. M. Vannas (AFC Chairperson) and Dr. T. Ulich (SOC Chairperson). From Headquarters: Mr. H. Andersson (Head of Administration) and Dr. C. Heinselman (Director).

This Short Report follows the agenda order.

Council related

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted as presented.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 87th (regular), 87th-extra and 87th-extra2 meetings

The minutes from the 87th meetings are approved and recognised as true records of the meetings.

3. Matters arising from the 87th meetings

The matters identified in the 87th meetings have either been completed or will be considered further in this meeting.

Reporting

4. Report from the Director

The Director summarises the status of the Association. UK intends to sign the new EISCAT Agreement within the coming weeks. With the UK signature, the new Agreement comes into force.

5. Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

AFC recommends Council to approve the Annual Report of the Accounts for 2016 and to note the financial development for 2017 and the planning for 2018-. AFC recommends proceeding with the suggested tax/VAT route needed particularly for EISCAT_3D. AFC suggests Council to appoint Mrs. M. Vannas as the ordinary AFC Chairperson with Dr. M. Friberg as Vice-Chairperson when AFC turns into a regular Committee under the new Agreement. Council agrees.

6. Report from the Scientific Oversight Committee

The next radar school would normally be held in August but since most of the EISCAT staff/teachers will be busy with the EISCAT3D_PfP integration tests at that time, the plans are now to have it in August 2018 instead. The next EISCAT Symposium will be held 2019, in Sweden. Details will be discussed at the next SOC meeting. The AA (All-Associates) satellite pool of time will be kept at the current 100 hours level though it needs to cover more satellites/passes. A sub-set of SOC (Dr's Buchert and Ogawa) will manage the AA-pool such that each of the satellites gets fair coverage. SOC suggests Council to appoint Dr. S. Buchert as the next ordinary SOC Chairperson with Dr. A. Kavanagh as Vice-Chairperson. Council agrees.

EISCAT_3D related

7. EISCAT_3D Projects status

- **PfP Project Status/SSPA Activities**
- **Site Activities**
- **ESFRI Activities**

The ongoing activities are summarised by the Director, who is also the interim leader for the EISCAT_3D project. The PfP project enters into a hectic phase during the coming months. The final integration tests will be performed in August. The PfP project ends 31 August. The final review is planned to be held in October. The site activities relate mostly to the Norwegian site where work is ongoing to get a build permit and Internet-fibre connection. The ESFRI activities have recently been about EISCAT_3D Landmark status. The matter is open.

8. Council Decision regarding EISCAT_3D project initiation

After hearing the views of each of the Associates, "EISCAT Council hereby charges Headquarters to start the EISCAT_3D implementation project. In particular, Headquarters shall proceed with EISCAT_3D implementation following the plans laid out in the applications to the funding agencies in the Associate countries and the EISCAT_3D Cost Book and using the results of the EISCAT3D_PfP Horizon2020 project. Council recognizes that some details in those proposals may no longer be relevant (time line delays, in particular, necessitate changes), but insists that the scientific goals still be supported. Stage 1 of the implementation project shall build the EISCAT_3D core transmit/receive array plus outriggers in or near Skibotn, Norway. It shall also build EISCAT_3D receive arrays in or near Karesuvanto, Finland and Kaiseniemi, Sweden".

Council decides that the decision will be published through a press-release to be released Monday, 12 June 2017, at 10:00 CET.

The implementation phase of stage 1 in the overall project will start 1 September 2017 and end latest 31 December 2021.

9. Additional actions needed during start-up stage (if necessary)

A project start kick-off will be held preliminary 7 September 2017 in Tromsø and at Skibotn, Norway. The guest list will be assembled during the coming weeks. The Associates are encouraged to suggest names.

EISCAT will address the VAT issue by writing to the relevant Ministries in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Possible agreements and further documents needed between the funding agencies and EISCAT will be processed during the start-up phase (12 June -).

Recruitments, the establishment of a project office annex and other preparatory arrangements will also be initiated during the start-up phase.

Regular financial matters

10. Annual Report of the Accounts 2016

The 2017 outcome resulted in a 791 kSEK deficit. The shortage has been covered by funds from the surplus fund. Council closes the Annual Report of the Accounts 2016.

11. 2017 Financial development

Council notes the forecast indicating a small deficit for the year.

12. Budget 2018 and Five Years plan

The budget 2018 plans are presented. EISCAT_3D is not considered in the budget and the start of the implementation phase of the project will change the figures.

Other matters

13. Science presentation

Prof. Takuji Nakamura, NIPR, gives a presentation entitled "Introduction of NIPR activity and science".

Council related

14. Other uses of EISCAT facilities needing approval from Council

- **Asteroid communication project**
- **Space transmission projects**

Council discusses three projects relating to the use of EISCAT systems for communication and space transmission purposes. One was turned down since it did not live up to the objectives of EISCAT. For the other two, further information will be queried before a decision can be taken either by Council or the Director.

15. Restricted Session

Council meets in restricted session.

16. Any other business

None.

15. Summary of decisions and recommendations

The agreed decisions and recommendation are summarised (covered in the other agenda items).

16. Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held in Oulu, Finland, Monday 13 November – Tuesday 14 November, 2017.

The spring 2018 meeting will be held in Sweden around end May – early June, 2018.