

EISCAT Scientific Association

Short Report from the 89th meeting of the Council held at Oulu University, Finland, 13 – 14 November 2017

Present: Finland: Prof. A. Aikio and Dr. K. Sulonen, Japan: Prof. H. Miyaoka (Chairperson) and Dr. S. Nozawa, Norway: Dr. L. Lønnum, Prof. I. Mann (Vice-Chairperson) and Mr. J. A. Opheim (Observer), P. R. of China: 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. S. Buchert (SAC Chairperson). From Headquarters: Mr. H. Andersson (Head of Administration) and Dr. C. Heinselmann (Director).

This Short Report follows the agenda order.

Council related

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted as presented.

2. Terms of Reference for Council and its Committee

The term of references for Council and its Committees are laid down in the BlueBook. These were summarised by the Chairperson. The official start date of the new Agreement was 20 June 2017, the date of the last signature.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 88th meeting

The minutes from the 88th meeting is approved and recognised as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the 88th meeting

The matters identified in the 88th meeting have mostly been completed. Still pending are tax/VAT handling on the EISCAT_3D investments and few details regarding the EISCAT_3D fund transfers from the Associates to EISCAT.

Reporting

5. Report from the Director

The 2012 and combined 2013-2014 Annual Reports will soon be published. The material situation for the more recent ones are better and should mean that these can be published much faster than what is currently the case.

Regarding the Spanish space transmission project discussed in the spring Council meeting. The Director received assurances from both The Institut d'Estudis Espacials de Catalunya and Advanced Music that the proposed Sónar+D transmissions would be in-line with the terms and conditions for use of the EISCAT systems. Consequently, the

first space transmissions were done in October. The main activity will be the Sónar+D conference in Barcelona, June 2018.

6. Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

AFC recommends Council to approve the Budget for 2018, the EISCAT_3D work plan and project budget and to note the five-years planning and the financial development for the year.

7. Report from the Scientific Advisory Committee

Regarding rocket launches and EISCAT operations, SAC decided at its meeting that there will not be an automatic 1st priority for rocket tied Special Programme (SP) runs. It is understood that this is normally not an issue as long as such SP's are scheduled well in advance and/or in collaboration with other groups (negotiated priority). A "users guide how to plan for rocket campaigns" has been prepared, which will be published.

The 2018 radar school will be held in China. The school will run over two weeks. First days will be common then it splits into two parts, ground base and space studies. The school will be held in Qingdao, either in July or August, 2018.

Council appoints Prof. Joshua Semeter, Boston University, USA, as the new external SAC member.

EISCAT_3D related

8. Status

The EISCAT3D_PfP, Preparation for Production project ended in August. The detailed planning for the Stage 1 constructions is well underway. The Project Leader has now been employed. Further recruitments are planned in the near future.

9. Approval of Work Plan

The work plan consists of 11 well defined work packages grouped into common tasks, construction, commissioning and finally system completion. The work plan covers the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2021. Council notes the work plan and approve the principles while recognising that some tasks will be detailed further when the project team is fully in office.

10. Approval of Project budget

The presented project budget is an overview presenting the investments, funding and project balancing between the years. A work plan based budget will be presented later.

All initial computing needs are covered by project budget. The connection to a HTC (High Throughput Computing) centre planned to be done later will allow full real-time monitoring and control of the full system. The system hardware investments at the selected HTC is not covered by the project budget. The use of an HTC will be covered by the operating budget - which in turn will have that access as part of the timeshare accounting mechanism.

Council approves the project budget overview and notes the ongoing budget work.

11. Funding, VAT and other considerations

The ongoing activities are summarised. The forming of a Technical Review Panel (TRP) is discussed. The tasks and mandate for the TRP will be considered further by Council.

Regarding funding agreements. An agreement with NERC (UK) has recently been signed. Also SA (Finland) and VR (Sweden) require additional paperwork.

The depreciation periods for EISCAT_3D will be between 1 - 30 years. The latter is for site infrastructure, antenna system (the mechanical parts) and the amplifiers.

12. Collaboration with CETC/IMCP

A delegation from EISCAT will soon visit China for discussions about EISCAT_3D in connection with the International Meridian Circle Project (IMCP). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be agreed between CRIRP/CETC and EISCAT at the visit. Council considers the contents of the MoU.

Regular financial matters

13. 2017 Financial development

Council notes the forecast, which indicates a positive result for the year.

14. Approval of Budget 2018 and Five Year plan

Council considers the budget and long-term planning. Regarding the timeshare, the distribution of SP time between the Associate and Affiliate categories will not change unless the total commitment of a category changes.

The long-term planning includes earlier indicated step-wise increases of the annual funding to reach the new total needed when the EISCAT_3D system is fully operational. At least two Associates state that such increase would be difficult within the given time-frame. Council approves the budget for 2018 and notes the long-term planning plans while noting that the funding chapter numbers given are as of now primarily for planning purposes.

Other matters

15. Approval of Data Policy Procedures

Council approves the Data Policy Procedures dated 16 May 2016.

16. Science presentation

Dr Esa Turunen, SGO-UOULU, gives a presentation entitled "Recent Results from Studies of Atmospheric Forcing by High-Energy Particle Precipitation at High Latitudes".

Council related

17. Restricted Session

Council meets in restricted session.

18. Any other business

None.

19. Summary of decisions and recommendations

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

20. Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held in Sweden, Tuesday 29 May (full day) and Wednesday 30 May (half day – ending noon), 2018. Venue will be decided later.

The autumn 2018 meeting will be held in China. Dates have not been set yet but the meeting will be held around end October – early November. Venue will be decided later.

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