



EISCAT Scientific Association

Short Report from the 98th meeting of the Council Digital conference session 1, April 27, 2022 Hybrid meeting sessions 2 and 3 on June 1 and June 2, 2022

Participants:

Council:

Chairperson: Prof. Anita Aikio (Finland)
Finland: Dr. Kati Sulonen (Delegate). Prof. Pekka Verronen
Japan: Prof. Hiroshi Miyaoka (Delegate). Dr. Satonori Nozawa
Norway: Dr. Pål Sørgaard (Delegate). Prof. Patrick Espy. Prof. Ingrid Mann
P. R. of China: Prof. Jian Wu (Delegate). Dr. Zonghua Ding
Sweden: Prof. Jörg Gümbel (vice chairperson). Dr. Tomas Andersson (Delegate).
Dr. Olle Norberg
UK: Prof. Mervyn Freeman, (Delegate). Prof. Ian McCrea

By Invitation:

SAC: Dr. Yasunobu Ogawa (SAC Chairperson)
AFC: Dr. Inger Solheim (AFC Chairperson)

HQ: Dr. Craig Heinselman (Director), Mr. Henrik Andersson (Head of Administration), Mr. Johan Svensson (Council meeting secretary). Dr. Axel Steuwer (Director designate, session 2 and 3)

Absent: -

Time:	Session 1: April 27	10:00 to 12:00 CET
	Session 2: June 1	09:00 to 15:00 CET+1
	Restricted session: June 1	15:00 to 16:00 CET+1
	Session 3: June 2	09:00 to 11:00 CET+1

Place: Session 1: Digital meeting
Session 2 and 3: Helsinki, hybrid

Session 1: Closing of the Annual Financial Report 2021.
Sessions 2 and 3: Ordinary Council meeting.



Chairperson Prof. Anita Aikio opened all sessions by verifying that all delegations are properly represented. In session 1, the Chairperson welcomed the new Swedish Council member Dr. Olle Norberg, who gave a short introduction of his previous activities. In session 2, the Chairperson welcomed the new designated Director Dr. Axel Steuwer, who presented himself to the Council.

Council related

1 Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was accepted.

2 Approval of the minutes of the 97th meetings

2.1 Council approves the minutes of the 97th meeting with minor corrections on the first page.

3 Matters arising from the 97th meeting

3.1 Matters still open from the 97th meeting that need to be followed-up.

95 - 7.3 Council noted and welcomed the confirmation by the Director/EISCAT that the software development team will develop an algorithm to ensure compliance with articles 2a (non-military purposes), e (white-listed objects), and f (host-country inspection rights) of the EISCAT Agreement. 96: Not ready yet. 97: Not ready yet. 98: BlueBook items 2a and 2f will be taken care of the newly established working group. Software development for 2e (white-listed objects) needs to be followed up.

95 - 12.3 Council recommended that a strategy be developed how to facilitate monitoring observations with EISCAT_3D on the basis that this would be important for the future science return from the facility. Also, pre-scheduling should be prepared and the input from other instruments should be considered for triggering high-power mode observations. 96: Work yet to be done. 97: Work in progress. 98: Work in progress.

95 - 12.4 Council recommended that other sources of funding should be sought in order to increase the level of operations. 96: Important for the coming years. 97: METI has joined as an affiliate; work continues. 98: Needs to be followed up, will be affected by the conclusions of the new working group and discussed within the Strategy group.

96 - 14.1 Council was in favour of model 3 for the timeshare formula in the 94th meeting. In the 96th meeting the final version of the timeshare formula (model 3) and the related text to BlueBook Appendix 4 were approved. 97: Appendix 4 not yet published. It will be published together with the updated BlueBook edition 2022. 98: Time share formula has been published on the EISCAT web page and will be published later in 2022 in BlueBook edition 2021.

Reporting

4 Report from the Director, Including updated staff plan

The Director's report was focused on:

- Organization Status
- Sites status



4.1 Council notes the report from the Director.

5 Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

The AFC chairperson informed Council on the 77th AFC meeting sessions held on April 20th, 2022, May 3rd, 2022, and May 5th, 2022.

AFC has the following recommendations for the 98th Council meeting:

- AFC recommends Council to accept the 2021 audit report.
- AFC recommends Council and HQ to work with securing long-term funding, in terms of new members or new models for funding. This work should be part of the Strategic plan.
- AFC recommends Council to determine common KPIs based on the members national reporting requirements.
- AFC recommends Council to take the discussion on common evaluation of the proposals.
- AFC is concerned about the economic and operational consequences if the shipping of the EISCAT_3D antenna elements from China is not successful in the near future, and supports that high attention is given to this by HQ.

5.1 Council notes the report from the AFC.

6 Report from the Scientific Advisory Committee

The SAC Chairperson reported from the 81st SAC meeting held on the 7th and 8th of February 2022.

The SAC reported on the following:

- EISCAT_3D: Data products and common programs
- Common Program Modes
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for EISCAT/EISCAT_3D
- Future of ESR
- Future of Heating
- Peer Review Program Time
- All Associate (AA) Time
- ISR statuses
- EISCAT_3D User Meeting and software working group (SWG) meeting
- 20th International EISCAT symposium 2022

6.1 Council notes the report from the SAC and the preliminary table of possible key performance indicators (KPIs) based on ESFRI KPIs. Council requests SAC to continue refining the table by also considering the national reporting requirements as collected by the AFC and the development of EISCAT_3D scheduling practices and new interleaving experiments.

EISCAT_3D related

7 Overall status

The Director presented the EISCAT_3D status.

- Tendering status
- Site preparation status



- Installation and Commissioning Delays

These delays will, inevitably, cause some delays in commissioning and the final availability of the EISCAT_3D systems for user operations. At present, it is anticipated that mono-static operations, at least in a limited sense, may be possible around the start of 2023 and tri-static operations around summer or autumn 2023.

- 7.1 Council notes the report of EISCAT_3D overall status and the Technical Review meeting that was organized on 19 May 2022.

8 Project financial situation

HQ presented the EISCAT_3D financial status. The construction project ends by 31 December 2022, but part of the installation will remain into 2023.

- 8.1 Council notes the report of EISCAT_3D project financial situation.

9 EISCAT_3D and regulatory concerns

The dual use item criteria and the system capabilities make EISCAT_3D a system that falls under the European export control and the Nordic countries' security legislations. Export control, data integrity and safety are matters that will require operational procedures and protocols and most likely security cleared staff for restricted access to various systems within EISCAT_3D. These matters may also have an organizational impact to the current state of EISCAT.

- 9.1 Based on regulatory concerns of EISCAT_3D, Council decides to set up a working group for the legal status (WGLS) consisting of members from the three host countries, Dr. Pål Sørgaard (Norway), Dr. Tomas Andersson (Sweden) and Dr. Kati Sulonen (Finland) with support and involvement from EISCAT HQ. Council agreed on the mandate for the WGLS.

Regular financial matters

10 Closing of the Annual Financial Report 2021 (approval and signing) handled 27 April

- 10.1 Session 1 (27th April): Council approves the Annual Financial Report 2021 and closes the accounts. Session 2 (1st June): Delegations have signed the Annual Financial Report and Accounts of 2021 and posted the signed pages to HQ.

11 Financial development 2022

Head of administration presented the Annual Financial Report.

- Changes to exchange rates will generate further income though also increase the costs mainly in Norway.
- A broken antenna gearbox needs changing on Svalbard. The costs are covered under repair and maintenance.
- There will be some changes to staffing towards the end of the year. At least one position will be kept vacant for a while.
- In 2022, a small surplus is foreseen.



11.1 Council notes the financial situation in 2022.

12 Budget 2023

This draft budget includes EISCAT_3D operations, though the system will only be ready later in 2023. During the first months, the EISCAT_3D system will still be finalized and in commissioning. During this period, the current mainland radars will continue to be operated. It is expected that EISCAT_3D will be ready for more regular runs in autumn 2023. At that time, the current mainland radars will be turned off. Decommissioning can then start late 2023.

12.1 Council notes the budget draft for 2023.

13 Five Year plan

For 2023, see item 12. From spring 2024, the latest, the new EISCAT should be fully in place.

- 2022 Staff will be moved to regular positions. Balance 0.
- 2023 EISCAT_3D commissioning, old mainland system shut down. Balance 0.
- 2024 Decommissioning of the old mainland system. Balance 0.
- 2025 Heating, Svalbard, EISCAT_3D are fully operational. Balance 0.
- 2026-2027 The balance from operations is negative.

13.1 Council notes the five-year plan.

Other matters

14 Report about the Strategy group

The Strategy group identified points that should be a priority in the work of the organization in the near future:

- Measures to increase operational budget
- Measures to enable user access
- Measures to optimize organizational structure
- Inventory of EISCAT instruments (Expansion/maintenance of EISCAT Svalbard radar, Decommissioning Ramfjord site, EISCAT_3D phase 2)
- Role of HQ in comparison to that of the user community

14.1 Council notes the report by the strategy group. Council asks director designate Axel Steuwer to take lead of the strategy group including as members Jörg Gumbel (vice-chair of Council), Ingrid Mann, Ian McCrea, Inger Solheim (AFC chair), Yasunobu Ogawa (SAC chair) and complementing the group with suitable members if needed.

15 Science presentation

Dr. Ilkka Virtanen (University of Oulu, Finland) gave a presentation "Advanced EISCAT data analysis methods".



Council related

16 Restricted Session

No outputs from the restricted session.

17 Any other business

No additional business or issues.

18 Next meeting

18.1 The extraordinary Council meeting 98b to discuss the results of the working group for the legal status (WGLS) is set as 15 September 2022 at Arlanda, Sweden.

18.2 The next Council meeting in a hybrid form will be hosted by UK on 30.11.-1.12. in Cambridge.