

**Short Report from the 76th meeting of the EISCAT Council
Held 31 May – 1 June, 2011, Academy of Finland, Helsinki, Finland**

Present: Dr. A. Aikio, Finland, Dr. T. Andersson, Sweden (Chairperson), Prof. A. Brekke, Norway, Dr. B. Jacobsen, Norway, Dr. K. Kauristie, Finland, Dr. L. Lønnum, Norway, Dr. I. W. McCrea, UK, Dr. H. Miyaoka, Japan, Prof. D. Murtagh, Sweden, Dr. S. Nozawa, Japan, Prof. J. Röttger, Germany, Dr. K. Sulonen, Finland, Dr. M. Schultz, UK, Prof. J. Wu, P. R. of China and Dr. K. Zach, Germany

Invited and in Attendance: Mr. H. Andersson (HQ), Dr. R. Liu (SOC Chairperson) and Dr. E. Turunen (HQ)

Apologies for absence: Prof. Q. Dong, P. R. of China

The Chairperson welcomed all to the 76th meeting here at the Academy of Finland. He continued summarising the items to be handled and the needed decisions to be taken during the two days of the meeting.

Memorial Professor Takasi Oguti

Prof. Oguti, a pioneer of auroral physics in Japan who passed away 27 December 2010, was remembered.

Associate Development

The Council Vice-Chairperson will come from P. R. of China. The appointment was still pending. The Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (Russian Federation) wants to renew their affiliate agreement for another three years starting from this year. The annual payment and terms will be similar to the previous agreement. Council agreed to offer the current Director, Dr. Esa Turunen, a continued employment after his term ends at the end of the year. Details will be negotiated in due course. Council decided to start the process of drafting a new Agreement for the Association covering the EISCAT_3D system and a funding model that would allow Associates participating having different needs and variable commitment possibilities. A group consisting of representatives from UK, Japan, Norway and Finland will carry out the task together with the new EISCAT_3D project manager, Dr. Ingrid Mann, at EISCAT, whom also chairs the committee and will call the first meeting, tentatively planned for August 2011.

Systems Status

The systems were in good working order, including the ability to still run in the UHF tristatic mode though without guarantees for a disturbance free frequency spectrum. The magnetospheric radar test using a part of the Heating system was done some time ago. No technical problems were noted but the study conditions were not really appropriate. Some more tests will be done when the magnetospheric conditions are better. The Director proposed changes and upgrades of the mainland radar hardware were discussed to some detail but Council deferred any decisions to a later meeting.

Operations

The first Peer-Review programme call ended in December 2010 and five applications were granted time on the systems. Feed-back from the experimenters of the runs was not available for Council but it was agreed that the PP programme should continue.

EISCAT Roadmap

The ESFRI roadmap, where the EISCAT_3D project is part of the new environmental infrastructures, was recently updated. The EISCAT_3D project is now seen as one of few with a potential construction start already in 2012. The EISCAT Roadmap work continued after the previous Council meeting. A detailed model roadmap was demonstrated to Council and found liking by the members. Several options for developments and needed resources were included and debated (including the mainland radar hardware add-ons mentioned above). The benefits of the various options were in general accepted by Council but since existing funding were not available nor clear views how to find the needed resources, either by reassigning or attracting external funds, Council ended the discussions without any conclusion other than the drafting of a new agreement. Council agreed to continue developing the roadmap. It will include a plausible path from now, over the final design and construction of the EISCAT_3D facilities, the phasing out of old infrastructure no longer to be used, to the first years of the new EISCAT with new mainland systems and the Svalbard radar, including the third antenna, as being proposed by P. R. of China as their in-kind contribution to EISCAT.

Proposal to build a third antenna on Svalbard

The Delplan (Concept Plan) was now basically ready and can be submitted to the Svalbard authorities at any time. The needed details for applying an operating permit for the new 3.230 GHz (+/-2.5 MHz) frequency were recently known and the application to the Norwegian frequency authority can now be finalised. The whole investment consisting of a 50-meter antenna housed in a dome and a support building was estimated by the authorities at CETC to be valued at about 300 MRMB (ca. 300 MSEK depending on the CNY/SEK rate). The procedures to bring in this investment into EISCAT as in-kind needs some thought. The assimilation will take effect only after the whole investment has been made and then likely under a follow-on EISCAT agreement (see above – Associate Development). The matter will be discussed between EISCAT and Chinese representatives during the coming weeks.

Closing the Annual Report of the Accounts 2010

The 2010 outcome resulted in a marginal loss of 83 kSEK, which was covered from own reserves. The total spend for the year amounted to 28.5 MSEK plus 1.2 MSEK in depreciation cost. Council closed the Annual Report of the Accounts 2010.

2011 Financial development update

The forecast for 2011 indicated a positive outcome of up to 1 MSEK, resulting from vacancies and additional income. The surplus will be budgeted for use in 2012.

Budget 2012

Council noted the draft budget document showing a cost volume of 23.7 MSEK compared with 29.0 MSEK in 2011. The number of staff will be reduced to 16.5 persons, 4.1 people less than in 2011. The needed reduction of staff will affect all

sites. The number of operating hours will also be reduced to about 3 000 hours in total. Any inflationary compensation of the Associate contributions will be decided in autumn. Council agreed to sponsor the European Space Weather Week with 45 kSEK annually and decided also to cancel the paid membership with CRAF such that the overall sponsoring/fees would not increase. The final budget for 2012 will be approved at the autumn Council meeting. The continued planning and implementing of the budget reductions were endorsed and encouraged by Council.

Five-years plan and balancing

Council noted the five-years plan work while affirming that the strategy would be to have a new agreement in place well before the end of the five years period.

EISCAT_3D project status

The project status at six months was summarised. The project suffered from lack of staff during the first months and showed therefore a substantial underspend compared with the anticipated spend level at this time in the project. The current version of the science plan for the new facility was presented by the project leader for the work package in the project. Council agreed that a short presentation, 10 slides at most, of the envisaged EISCAT_3D system should be prepared showing the scale of investments, operating costs, scientific features and some ideas of the organisational structure of EISCAT having the new facility included. The purpose of the presentation is to give a “common” appearance for use at funding agencies, policy makers etc. As the project develops, the material will be updated.

Scientific presentation

Dr. Olaf Amm at the Finnish Meteorological Institute gave a talk on “*Mesoscale ionospheric tomography in Scandinavia (TomoScand) and EISCAT_3D – added value for both projects*”.

EISCAT thirty-years anniversary plan

A ceremony will take place on Svalbard, Thursday and Friday, 25 – 26 August, 2011. One representative from each Associate will be invited to the activity. The anniversary will be the conclusion of the staff Annual Review Meeting that will be held the preceding days. The history book of EISCAT, initially planned to be ready at that time, is delayed and will not be available in time for the 30-years day. An anniversary session is also planned at the 15th International EISCAT workshop to be held in Qingdao, P. R. of China, 5 – 9 September, 2011.

Next meetings

The 77th meeting will be held 3 – 4 November 2011 in Bonn, Germany.

The 78th meeting will be held 29 – 30 May 2012, in Sweden.

The meeting following that will be held in P. R. of China.

HAN