

EISCAT Scientific Association

Short Report from the 90th meeting of the Council held at Rosersbergs Slott, Sweden, 29 – 30 May 2018

Present: Finland: Prof. A. Aikio and Dr. K. Sulonen. Japan: Prof. H. Miyaoka (Chairperson) and Dr. S. Nozawa. Norway: Prof. I. Mann (Vice-Chairperson) and Prof. K. Ruud. P. R. of China: Dr. Z. Ding and Prof. J. Wu. Sweden: Dr. T. Andersson, Prof. J. Gumbel and Dr. M. Friberg (Observer). 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. Approval of the minutes of the 89th meeting

The minutes from the 89th meeting is approved and recognised as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the 89th meeting

Still pending matters from the previous meetings are tax/VAT handling on the EISCAT_3D investments and few details regarding the EISCAT_3D fund transfers from the Associates to EISCAT. A few annual reports have still not been completed due to missing inputs from some contributors. Regarding the scientific highlights, these are regularly discussed at the Scientific Advisory Committee meetings and each Associate and Affiliate are encouraged to provide a highlight for each year to go into that year's EISCAT Annual Report. Council agreed in a previous meeting on a set of Data Policy Procedures. Headquarter is now asked to assess any consequences for the EISCAT users due to these procedures.

Regarding the scheduled EISCAT_3D technical reviews, where the meetings will have different scopes as the project proceeds, it is agreed that invitations need to go out long before to allow the funding agencies to appoint appropriate candidates to send to such meetings depending on topics. The first Technical Review Meeting is scheduled for 19 June, 2018. The venue has not been set yet, but it will be held in London, UK.

Reporting

4. Report from the Director

Council agrees that for negotiations with new Associates and Affiliates, the Director will lead such activities supported by Dr. McCrea who will represent Council. For user related matters, the SAC Chairperson can assist. The BlueBook give the guidelines for negotiations.

5. Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

AFC recommends Council to note and approve the coming administrative and financial matters as relevant. Regarding the five-years planning, AFC is concerned about the development where EISCAT_3D operating costs need to gradually be accommodated, as the new sites are built and starts to operate, without, as it now seems, corresponding increases on the income side.

6. Report from the Scientific Advisory Committee

SAC is asked to consider including some non-traditional observation modes, like meteor studies and PMSE monitoring in the standard set of experiments and analysis routines. There will be an IS radar school in October 2018, in Sanya, on Hainan Island, P. R. of China. The next regular Radar School will be held in connection with the 2019 EISCAT Symposium, planned to be held in Oulu. The 2021 Symposium will be held in Sweden. Some discussions have started about further EISCAT upgrades (like a new Heating system) after EISCAT_3D has been completed.

EISCAT_3D related

7. Status

The overall status is summarised; one major industry contract has so far been signed for the delivery of the antenna structure. A second tender, for the first stage receiver, is now being evaluated. A tender for the amplifier system will soon be published. Site preparations work will start this summer in Skibotn, Norway. The planned site building construction at that site has been postponed to 2019. It is now planned to do all site building works at the three EISCAT_3D sites in 2019.

8. Changes to the E3DS1 project budget and work-plan

The procurements for EISCAT_3D is ongoing and will also include the transmitter system needed, which is a change compared with earlier planning. There are still also some issues with VAT refunding. The project management has decided to plan the investments in increments, where firm orders will be placed for somewhat smaller quantities followed by optional orders. This implementation gives the freedom necessary to manage the project according to the terms given by Council. The added transmitter system procurement will be implemented in the work-plan and in the schedule.

9. Funding, VAT and other considerations

The funding agreement with the Academy of Finland will be discussed in a meeting planned for 5 June 2018. The Finnish VAT refunding plans will be discussed then too. The Norwegian funding flow should be ready to be started within 1-2 months. Sweden and UK have the procedures in place.

10. Collaboration with CETC/IMCP

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CRIRP/CETC and EISCAT has now been signed. The MoU relates to possible collaboration between EISCAT/EISCAT_3D and the International Meridian Circle Program (IMCP).

Regular financial matters

11. Closing of the Annual Financial Report 2017 (approval and signing)

Council notes the development and closes the Annual Financial Report 2017.

12. 2018 Financial development

Council notes the forecast, which indicates a small positive balance.

13. Budget 2019

The first version of the budget for 2019 is presented to Council.

14. Five Year plan

The five-year plan is challenging due to the inclusion of the EISCAT_3D systems during the coming years. The planning has so far assumed step-wise increases of the annual funding to reach the new total needed when the EISCAT_3D system is fully operational. The Associates are no longer considering early increases in the funding. Instead most plan for a about doubling of the annual contributions from 2022 onwards. EISCAT_3D infrastructure will gradually start to cost as these are built. The bulk of the installations will happen in 2019 and 2020.

Council agrees that Headquarters needs to handle this internally by reducing other operating costs to balance new costs. SAC is asked to consider the operating priorities in case reductions are unavoidable.

Other matters

15. Science presentation

None.

Council related

16. Restricted Session

None.

17. Any other business

None.

18. Summary of decisions and recommendations

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

19. Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be held in P. R. of China, probably Beijing, Tuesday 6 November (full day) and Wednesday 7 November (half day – ending noon), 2018. CRIRP will arrange the meeting and will send out invitations for visa purposes soon.

The spring 2019 meeting will be held in Japan. Dates have not been set yet, but the meeting will be held end of May, 2019.

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