

## ***Short Report from the 95th Council***

### **EISCAT Scientific Association**

#### **Video Conference Sessions, 25-26 November, 2020**

#### **Council:**

Finland:	Prof. A. Aikio (Vice-Chairperson), Dr. K. Sulonen (delegate) and Dr. J. Virtanen
Japan:	Prof. H. Miyaoka (delegate) and Dr. S. Nozawa
Norway:	Prof. I. Mann (Chairperson), Prof. K. Ruud (delegate) and Prof. P. J. Espy
P. R. of China:	Dr. Z. Ding and Prof. J. Wu (delegate)
Sweden:	Dr. T. Andersson (delegate) and Prof. J. Gumbel
UK:	Dr. M. Freeman (delegate) and Dr. I. W. McCrea.

**Headquarters:** Dr. C. Heinselman (Director) and Mr. H. Andersson (Head of administration).

**By invitation:** Dr. Magnus Friberg (AFC Chairperson), Dr. Andrew Kavanagh (SAC Chairperson), Dr. Inger Solheim (AFC), Herman Farbrot (Research Council of Norway, day 1)

#### **Absent:**

Minutes by: Dr. I. Solheim

#### [Opening of meeting](#)

Prof. I. Mann, Chairperson, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and checking delegation attendance.

#### [Council related](#)

##### [1. Adoption of the agenda](#)

The agenda was adopted.

##### [2. Approval of the minutes of the 93rd meeting](#)

The minutes of the 94th meeting were approved after few minor edits.

##### [3. Matters arising from the 94th meeting](#)

The matters were revisited under the other agenda items.

#### [Reporting](#)

##### [4. Report from the Director](#)

The EISCAT Director focused on:

- Site status: Tromsø, Kiruna, Sodankylä and Svalbard.
- Updated Health and Safety plan
- The PITHIA-NRF project funded by the European Commission Call: H2020-INFRAIA-2020-1, from the DG/Agency: RTD. The project will broaden access to data from research facilities. EISCATs part of the project is significant.

The Council notes the report from the Director.

## 5. Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

AFC chair M. Friberg presented the report from the AFC after the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, highlighting the matters listed below:

- AFC noted the 2020 budget and recommends Council to accept it as it stands, but note the lack of funding after the current 5-year plan.
- AFC noted the Five Year Plan and recommends Council to accept it as it stands.
- AFC thanks Japan for a very useful contribution for the E3D project and recommend Council to:
  - Accept NIPRs in-kind contribution until 2020.
  - Welcome the principles for a 50% FTE software development for 2021 – 2023.

The Council notes the report from the AFC.

## 6. Report from the Scientific Advisory Committee

AC Chair Andrew Kavanagh presented the report from the SAC highlighting the matters listed below.

- New SAC member to replace Jorge Chau as an external member and new SAC members from affiliates JHUAPL and DLR.
- Preparations for EISCAT\_3D including proposals and development of new experiments.
- Peer review time: Due to less requests for radar experiments, SAC opened an extra 3<sup>rd</sup> round for applications, and may have to push back the November and May deadlines.
- User meetings: The May meeting was cancelled. In order to proceed, a series of bi-monthly shorter on-line meetings will be implemented.
- The 2020 radar school was not held, a solution for 2021 is being investigated and a physical school prepared for in 2022.
- EISCAT 2021 Symposium: moved the meeting to 2022 in hope of having a face-to face meeting. In addition, a solution for an on-line meeting is discussed for 2021.
- SAC acknowledged Dr Michael Rietveld phenomenal contribution to EISCAT in his last SAC meeting.

The Council approves Roger Varney as the new external member of SAC.

The Council notes Jens Berdermann is nominated as DLR delegate to SAC.

The Council notes Aram Vartanyan is nominated as JHUAPL delegate to SAC.

The Council notes the report from the SAC.

## EISCAT\_3D related

### 7. Overall status

The EISCAT Director presented recent changes, in particular focusing on:

- EISCAT have recently received test-units of the major EISCAT\_3D units and, and can proceed with integration testing and on software development.
- Status on site preparation and building tenders.
- DLR will provide funding for the EISCAT\_3D project. The funds will be used for improving the EISCAT\_3D system capabilities and data provision to the users, including DLR.
- The report concluded that the goal is still for EISCAT\_3D to be installed and operational by end of 2022. This is achievable if there are no further significant delays.

Council notes the report on the EISCAT\_3D status.

## 8. Update project plan

The Head of Administration presented the updated project plan emphasising:

- The schedule is set to construct buildings and antenna system in Skibotn during summer and autumn 2021. According to the plan, it is still feasible to start Skibotn test late 2021.
- The receiver sites will be built and installed in 2022.
- Inauguration is suggested September 7-8, 2022.
- According to the plan, the system will be handed over to users January 1st 2023.
- During September – December 2022 testing with expert user involvement is foreseen.

The Council notes and welcomes the plan to have an on-line technical review early 2021.

The Council notes the suggestion for the inauguration date.

The Council notes the updated project plan.

## 9. Project financial situation

The Head of Administration presented the overall financial situation of the EISCAT\_3D project.

The Council notes the report on the EISCAT\_3D financial situation.

### Regular financial matters

## 10. Financial development 2020

The Head of Administration presented summary slides with financial development 2020.

The prognosis is that there is surplus and it is planned that this would go into the reserve. The surplus is due to a weak NOK, reduced travel costs and income from selling one of the houses in Longyearbyen.

The Council notes the financial development 2020.

## 11. Budget 2021

Council approves the budget for 2021.

## 12. Five Year plan

The Head of Administration presented the five-year budget.

The Council recommends 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.

The Council recommends that other sources of funding should be sought in order to increase the level of operations.

The Council asks the Director to prepare an updated staff plan for the next council meeting, in particular focusing on user-support and software development. The plan should also describe how the staff currently working for EISCAT is included.

Council notes the five-year plan.

### Other matters

## 13. Status update: recruitment of a new Director

The Council appointed an evaluation committee, the tasks and time-line for the committee.

Council approves updates of Blue-Book sections 6 and 19 that describes the recruitment process of the Director.

#### 14. Updated Timeshare formula

Council asks the time-share formula group to provide a recommendation for the next Council meeting.

#### 15. Formation of the Strategy group

Council asks Ian McCrea to follow up on the formation of the Strategy group

#### 16. Science presentation tba

There was no scientific presentation in this meeting.

#### Council related

#### 17. Restricted Session

Council met in restricted session.

#### 18. Any other business

Council appoints Anta Aiko as the next Chair of Council from 1 January 2021.

Council asks Sweden to nominate the next vice chair by 1 January 2021.

Council thanks Ingrid Mann for Chairing this term.

#### 19. Next meeting

The spring session will be a digital meeting with a short session to approve the accounts

tentative 27 April (9-10 CET) for short session

tentative 27 and 28 May ((09) 10-14 CET) for ordinary session.

Finland will host the 2021 Fall meeting.

UK will host a later meeting.

Council will also consider having more digital meetings in the future.

#### 20. Summary of decisions and recommendations

The agreed decisions and recommendation are as presented in the agenda items above.

#### Closing of meeting

The Chair thanks HQ for preparing the meeting, and all participants for attendance.