

# Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics (IDA)

## Board Meeting

*Date:* 07.09.2021, 10:30 – 15:30 CEST

*Venue:* DTU and Zoom

### *IDA Board Members*

#### *Present*

- *Allan Hornstrup*, DTU, ESO council delegate, Chair of WG1
- *Camilla Borre*, AU, elected member (student)
- *Desiree D.M. Ferreira*, DTU, Chair of WG3
- *Giorgos Leloudas*, DTU, elected member
- *Jakob Lysgaard Rørsted (JLR)*, AU, acting IDA manager and Chair of WG7
- *Jes Jørgensen*, KU, Chair of WG6
- *Lars Buchhave*, DTU
- *Hans Kjeldsen (HK)*, AU, Head of IDA, Member of the NOT Council
- *Katriona Gould*, KU, elected member (student)
- *Mia Sloth Lundkvist*, AU, Danish member of the NOT OPC
- *Sara Svendsen*, DTU, Chair of WG9, elected member
- *Simon Albrecht*, AU
- *Thomas Greve*, DTU, elected member

#### *Participating remotely*

- *Christa Gall*, KU, Chair of WG 4, elected member
- *Emil Knudstrup*, AU, elected member (student)
- *Lise Christensen*, KU, Chair of WG5 [joined after lunch]
- *Mads Toudal Frandsen*, SDU
- *Mark Lykke Winther*, AU, elected member (student)
- *Roman Gold*, SDU

#### *Excused*

- *Heidi Korhonen*, KU, Chair of the NOT Council, Chair of WG2
- *Irfan Kuivvetli*, DTU, elected member
- *Jens Hjorth*, KU
- *Johan Fynbo*, KU, Chair of WG8, elected member
- *Louise Aguirre Børsen-Koch (LABK)*, AU, IDA manager and Chair of WG7 (on leave)
- *Marianne Vestergaard*, KU, ESO STC

## *Observers*

### *Present*

- *Birgitta Nordström*, KU, Danish representative in EAS and A&A, Chair of WG11
- *Troels Haugbølle*, KU, Chair of WG10 [joined remotely after lunch]

**Chair of the meeting:** HK

**Minute writer:** JLR

### *Welcome and adoption of the agenda*

HK welcomes everyone. Some participants join remotely via Zoom. The meeting is recorded to help with the minute taking (the recording will be deleted after the final minutes have been approved). On request by Lise Christensen, board members not present (or only partially present) can obtain the recording by making a request to JLR, who is the acting IDA administrative manager while LABK is on leave.

The meeting started with a short session in the memory of Hans Ulrik Nørgaard Nielsen, who passed away a few days prior to the meeting.

HK presents IDA, its background and advisory role. The general structure is based on specialized working groups (WGs), where most of the work is performed. The board will meet twice a year. Most work is performed in the working groups between the board meetings.

The agenda is adopted. The minutes from last meeting are approved. HK made a written note that was distributed before the meeting on the action items; many of them are on today's agenda.

### *New IDA agreement*

The IDA agreement needs to be updated and signed by all the universities. Note that it is in Danish (as well as a lot of the other appendices) because all legal documents must be in Danish.

Main changes compared to the previous agreement:

- No date of expiration.
- IDA is allowed to make agreements on behalf of the partners if the partners approve. This change was suggested by AU lawyers.
- Observers are allowed in the IDA Board.
- Updated election procedure (see below)

HK will discuss the new agreement with the department heads.

### *Election procedure*

In the old agreement the election procedure was specified in detail, including number of males/females. It was included to send a clear signal about supporting gender equity. At the annual Danish astronomy meeting it was requested to change the quite convoluted election text to something simpler, and with a focus on diversity in general terms instead of gender.

Therefore, in the new agreement, the specific procedure is *not* described; instead, it is stated that the precise rules will be decided by the board. This is also to make things more flexible and to not have to change the agreement to change election rules. The most important is to have full transparency and ensure diversity.

The Board decides to form an in-Board focus group to prepare the new election procedure. The focus group will have to define parameters and goals for ensuring diversity and decide how to evaluate the process. The group will start by looking at available material and get feedback from the community.

Focus group (any board member can join by sending an email to HK): HK, LABK, Desiree D.M. Ferreira, Jes Jørgensen, Katriona Gould.

***Action Item [2021.09-01] – The diversity focus group (HK/LABK in charge) will present the status of their work and a proposal for new election rules at the next IDA board meeting.***

### *Executive committee*

Eight people elected among the board members representing broadly. The primary role is to prepare the agenda and make day-to-day decisions.

Elected members (suggested by HK, approved by the board): Allan Hornstrup, Camilla Borre, Desiree D.M. Ferreira, Jens Hjort, Jes Jørgensen, Lise Christensen, Mads Toudal Frandsen, Marianne Vestergaard.

### *Working groups*

HK suggests keeping the current 11 working groups (WGs). We will make a call to invite people to join the working groups. New members will be asked to contact the WG chairs directly and the chairs will send the new list of members to JLR/LABK for updating the website.

For all WGs, the terms of reference (ToR) should be updated, expanded, and made more specific. This should be the focus of the first meeting in the new WGs.

Approved new WG chairs:

- WG 2: Heidi Korhonen
- WG 9: Sara Svendsen

***Action Item [2021.09-02] – HK/JLR/LABK: Make a call to invite people to join the working groups (by contacting the WG chairs).***

### *IDA grant 2021/2022 and beyond*

HK informs about the process. We are asked by the ministry to send a yearly activity plan and budget. We typically receive very positive feedback. Generally, we receive the same fraction of the total grant for strategic centres each year because the ministry wants to keep the same balance between them.

For 2021 the budget is locked, but we can modify the budget for 2022. We can prioritise differently among our activities. No immediate suggestions for change except ASTRONET (see final agenda point).

### *Strategic goals for Danish membership of international research infrastructures*

IDA received an invitation from the ministry to discuss research infrastructure and the international facilities we – the astrophysics community in Denmark – use. HK, Heidi Korhonen, Allan Hornstrup, and Desiree D.M. Ferreira participated in an inspirational workshop on 1 September 2021. This process has been started now and the aim is to define strategic performance indicators (Danish: “strategiske mål”). Based on the outcome of this, the strategy (see next agenda point) can be modified. If the strategy is aligned with the goals (or performance indicators) we are hopefully in a better position on the future.

Astrophysics is somewhat of a special case in the Danish landscape. We use many different facilities and coordination between facilities. The facilities cannot be treated independently. The performance indicators should be focused on how we in Denmark can improve how we use the facilities. The idea is not only to define performance indicators/goals but also to define observables and how to measure if we reach the target. We can in some sense have an influence how to be evaluated.

What will happen now: On a relatively short timescale, IDA should have internal discussions (in the strategic WGs) and prepare a document on the facilities we use. The deadline for the document is 8 October and will form the basis of a discussion at the next workshop mid-October. The process will be finalised in December according to the plan from the ministry.

Process: The strategic WGs (1, 2, 3) will meet very soon and provide input for HK, JLR/LABK no later than 1 October. The feedback from the WGs will be used from the document, which will then be circulated to the board and sent to the ministry.

***Action Item [2021.09-03] – HK/JLR/LABK will complete and circulate the document for discussion of performance indicators (“strategiske mål”).***

### *The IDA strategy for Danish astrophysics 2020-2030*

See the agenda point above. The strategy will be finalised in spring based on the outcome of the strategic goals / performance indicators. It is important to stress – also to

non-board members – that now is the time to participate if you want to have an influence on the strategy.

### *Status on projects*

#### *WG 1 (ESO)*

Allan Hornstrup (chair) presents. ELT delays are imminent. Additional contributions are required (approved by the ESO Council) from all members. Finding that additional funding in Denmark is an issue. The ministry and the universities have not found an agreement.

On the positive side, the Danish use of ESO is very close to what we pay for, which is excellent.

#### *WG 2 (NOT)*

HK gives a status on behalf of Heidi Korhonen. Aarhus University and University of Turku has taken over the legal responsibility and the new structure is working well. The transition is finally complete, and budgets aligned. Partners: Denmark, Norway, Finland, University of Iceland, and University of Stockholm. Danish funding is secured from the agency through 2023. A mid-term review, which will be organised in collaboration between IDA and the agency, will be conducted in mid-2022 (delayed due to COVID-19).

The NTE project is moving on. First light is expected in the end of 2022

The NOT Council will organise a workshop on La Palma with the theme of “NOT in the future”. This has been delayed because of COVID.

The Danish use of the telescope is good: Highly rated proposals and high oversubscription factor.

#### *WG 3 (space-based astrophysics / ESA)*

Desiree D.M. Ferreira (chair) gives a review. WG3 had a meeting to provide input to Thommy Larsen (Danish member on ESA SPC) regarding mission selection between two potential future missions. If this is the role of the WG (i.e., to provide specific advice) is to be discussed.

#### *WG 4 (LSST)*

Christa Gall (chair) presents the status. An in-kind contribution is necessary to get data rights. The proposed Danish contribution: an independent data access centre. This will unlock data rights for around 13 Danish PI's. For each PI, four group members are included, which brings the total to around 60 researchers with data access.

The updated timeline: Telescope done, instruments in commissioning, first light expected in October 2022, full operations in 2024. Currently, pre-simulated LSST data are available to selected delegates.

Urgent task: Provide LSST with a preliminary list of PIs. This was requested by the LSST team and must be delivered before next quarterly review.

**Action Item [2021.09-04] – Make a call for LSST PIs and prepare the list.**

*WG 5 (ELT instrumentation / HIRES)*

Lise Christensen (chair) reports on the work. A lot of behind-the-scenes work in the instrument consortium. How (and how much) Denmark can contribute is still being decided. IDA can provide some funding, but nowhere near the total amount required.

First funding review is in the beginning of 2025. At that point funding for manpower and hardware must be clear.

**Action Item [2021.09-05] – Lise Christensen will circulate an updated HIRES timeline.**

*WG 6 (GLT)*

Jes Jørgensen (chair) gives a status. A letter of agreement must be signed by the institutes and co-signed by IDA/HK to take the next step. This unexpectedly turned out to be an issue (see the agenda point about the new IDA agreement) and the lawyers are still investigating. The Danish involvement in GLT can give access to data from the Event Horizon Telescope.

When the letter is signed, the potential of moving the telescope can be investigated. A meeting will be arranged with the team from NSF regarding re-using the camp facilities. In 2024-2025 the ice core team can help with the movement of the telescope. In general, the moving is not without issues; a critical point is the current melting of the Greenland ice sheet.

*WG 10 (Astronomical models and data analysis)*

Troels Haugbølle (chair) reports that the working group is pretty much dormant. He gives a quick update on the Danish computing landscape. All universities have local HPC clusters. An intention from DEIC is to make a national facility. Internationally, we will have access to LUMI, which is the new EU HPC-centre in Finland.

Generally, a major national issue is storage. In astronomy we do a lot of data-heavy/-intensive computing, but this is (surprisingly) not on the DEIC roadmap. This is being discussed. A new thing will be a “DEIC front office” on each university.

*WG 7 (ESO outreach and the IDA website)*

HK provided a very brief status. The website should be reviewed and updated.

*WG 8 (IDA observing school)*

HK provides status on behalf of Johan Fynbo (chair). The school this year was fully planned but cancelled in the last minute due to increased COVID restrictions on La Palma. It was converted to a virtual workshop instead.

*WG 9 (Annual Danish astronomy meeting)*

Sara Svendsen is the new chair. This year was a fully virtual meeting and worked well. It will be a physical meeting again next year.

*WG 11 (Relations to international organisations)*

Birgitta Nordström (chair) presents an overview. EAS has grown to more than 4000 members. IDA is representing the Danish community in EAS. IDA will send out a call for people to sign up as members (it is free).

EAS/ESO/IAU has organised a protest against satellite constellations, which will pollute the sky and hinder astronomical observations. IDA will sign a letter of support on this protest on behalf of the Danish community. The IDA Board supports this.

The board of Astronomy & Astrophysics (where Brigitta is the Danish representative) has decided to switch to a fully open access policy if the communities support it. The financial situation is still somewhat unclear. It should be noted that ApJ is doing the same. The IDA Board support this initiative.

**Action Item [2021.09-06] – LABK will send a call for joining EAS through IDA**

*ASTRONET*

HK gives an introduction. European support structure for funding. Was recently re-structured and the EU-funding mostly disappeared. IDA was asked by the ministry to be the Danish representative (in the old structure we were members through the NOT) and take part in the strategic planning. There is a fee of 2-5000 EUR, which can be paid through the IDA budget. HK will start a dialogue with ASTRONET on behalf of IDA. We will investigate what we gain before we accept.

**Action Item [2021.09-07] – HK will initiate a dialogue with ASTRONET**

*AOB*

None.

Meeting ended 15:40.

*Action Items*

A list of open items with those in charge highlighted:

- Action Item [2021.09-01] – The diversity focus group (**HK/LABK** in charge) will present the status of their work and a proposal for new election rules at the next IDA board meeting.
- Action Item [2021.09-02] – **HK/JLR/LABK**: Make a call to invite people to join the working groups (by contacting the WG chairs).
- Action Item [2021.09-03] – **HK/JLR/LABK** will complete and circulate the document for discussion of performance indicators (“strategiske mål”).
- Action Item [2021.09-04] – **HK/JLR/LABK/Christa Gall**: Make a call for LSST PIs and prepare the list.
- Action Item [2021.09-05] – **Lise Christensen** will circulate an updated HIRES timeline.
- Action Item [2021.09-06] – **LABK** will send a call for joining EAS through IDA
- Action Item [2021.09-07] – **HK** will initiate a dialogue with ASTRONET