

MINUTES

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE IDA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

17 SEPTEMBER, 2018

Chairman of the meeting:

Hans Kjeldsen

Secretary of the meeting:

Mai Korsbæk

Date:

17 September 2018

Place:

Aarhus University
Ny Munkegade 120,
1525-323
8000 Aarhus C

Present:

Victoria Antoci (AU)
Nicholas Janssen (AU)
Hans Kjeldsen (AU)
Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard (AU)
Mai Korsbæk (AU)
Lise Bech Christensen (KU)
Jens Hjorth (KU)
Lars E. Kristensen (KU)
Allan Hornstrup (DTU)
Sigurd Jensen (KU)
Johan Fynbo (KU)
Steen Hannestad (AU)
Lars Buchhave (DTU)
Troels Haugbølle (KU)
Jes K. Jørgensen (KU)
Mads Toudal Frandsen (SDU)
Marianne Vestergaard (KU)
Ditte Slumstrup (AU)
René Michelsen (SFU)

Excused:

Christoffer Karoff (AU)
Desiree D.M. Ferreira (DTU)
Martin Pessah (KU)
Heidi Korhonen (KU)
Sara Svendsen (DTU)



Agenda

1. Opening the meeting and approval of the Agenda

Approval of previous minutes (Appendices 1)

René Michelsen, Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (SFU) will attend the IDA Board Meeting.

2. IDA WG's status

2.1 Short report (oral) from each WG (5 min)

2.2 Status of NTE/NOT

2.3 ESO Council meeting in Denmark

2.4 An introduction to the landscape of Research Supporting Activities from the Agency – René Michelsen(SFU)

3. IDA activity plan 2019

- Invitation for submission of new activity plan 2019 (Appendices 2) and budget template (Appendices 3).
- Deadline for submission to the Agency is 28 September, 2018.

Lunch

4. Strategy for Danish Astrophysics

Action plan:

- Establishment of a small group responsible of writing the Strategy for Danish Astrophysics in the next decade based on the WG input.
- The strategy should be ready to be presented at the meeting in the IDA Board in February 2018.

WG input will be sent before the meeting*. WG Template for input to the strategy is attached (Appendices 4).

5. Action Items

6. Any other business

7. End of meeting

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

René Michelsen from Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (SFU) attended the meeting except when discussing the activity plan item 3. on the agenda. The purpose of SFU's attendance at the IDA Board meeting was the opportunity to discuss research support activities (følgeforskning) and funding.

2.1. IDA WG's status

Short report (oral) from each WG (5 min).

WG1: Future ESO strategies

Allan Hornstrup (Chair of WG1) provided a short report.

No update present – draft discussed at the May meeting 2018 is being formulated, framing questions as:

- Why is it relevant to discuss ESO?
- The importance of ESO in regard to Denmark and international collaboration.
- Status as a world class observatory.
- Its context of Astrophysics, showcasing relevant science cases.
- Technological abilities in Denmark.

The document should also include how IDA provides recommendations to SFU.

AI: Future task of WG1: to make a template about these topics, where each member of the WG contributes with different parts to the document. Coordination with WG 5 on account of membership overlap.

WG2: Future NOT strategies

Hans Kjeldsen (Chair of WG2) provided a short report.

Email dialogue mainly concerning formulating the description how NOT should be utilized. Objective is to work towards a new structure behind NOT. Solution and action has been taken. Main objective is to support the work on NTE, so it can be completed. The relevance for NOT is described in a Danish report, both in terms of research, education and future activities. See the report online at IDA webpage [here](#).

AI: WG2 should make the strategic plan in English.

WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics

Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard (Chair of WG3) provided a short report.

Chair of WG3 is stepping down.

Useful to have an overview over all Danish Astrophysical space activities involving both ESA and other Space organizations - make use of Birgitta Nordstrøm's expertise.

Hans Kjeldsen (IDA Chair) added to WG3 input: IDA does not formally advice on space activities, as IDA is linked to research infrastructures that are ground based. Space and ground based infrastructures have been divided for some years now at the Agency level (SFU).

- Head of the Ground-based Infrastructure is Lars Kristensen, SFU.
- Head of the Space Division is Peter Sloth, SFU.

WG3 has been invited by Thommy Ingemann Larsen (from the Space Division and one of the Danish delegates to ESA SPC) to participate in a teleconference on September 19th, 2018. Discussing points:

- the procedures regarding procurement of payloads under the ESA Science Program.
- provide input towards a new strategy.

Background: ESA is technological and industrial driven, not science driven as ESO. The national strategy for space is not a science strategy but rather an economic strategy towards the Danish society. The new Space Board is discussing how to implement the strategy in universities, not as a business case, but to make additional activities towards strategies how to use space.

Suggestion: A roadmap on how to make a better coordination between ground and space. OBS: the funding structure is relevant here, e.g. how do we fund space strategies? IDA acknowledges that ESA has a science program, but with a complicated funding structure.

Main goal for WG3 should be to support the work towards making activities and an advisory structure so astrophysical activities in Space is being coordinated. Submitted in the IDA strategy. The IDA board discussed the aspect about the division between space and ground based infrastructures.

AI: Hans will contact Peter Sloth and call in a meeting in WG3.

AI: Replacement of Chair: a representative from the IDA Board. Hans will initiate the selection process.

WG4: LSST

Martin Pessah (Chair of WG4) is absent – Hans Kjeldsen (IDA Chair) provided a short report instead.

There is an open invitation to have a telecon with LSST Team, but no initiative has yet been taken. The main thing for the LSST WG is to locate the final schedule for the LSST Team, as there is a build in deadline for payments. The funding needs to be lifted now for starting payment to LSST.

The agreement with LSST indicates that the funding route as a PI with junior researchers around is simple. Pay and you get access; deadline for payment is October 2019. The definition of junior researchers has been specified. Although the path is clear, IDA needs to discuss if there is too little national interest to find funding.

Internal discussion about closing down the LSST WG on account of lack of response from the community and potential PI's.

Suggestion: No national LSST strategy – instead have a set-up under which individual groups may join.

AI: WG 4 should conclude on the present situation and advice IDA on how to proceed.

AI: Hans will talk to Martin about the current LSST situation.

WG5: ELT Instrumentation

Heidi Korhonen (Chair of WG5) is absent. Lise Christensen (member of WG5) provided a short report instead.

A revised version of WG5 document from May is presented at the meeting, including subjects as:

- What are the science cases.
- Description of various institutions/universities that have a national interest in common.
- Identification of several partners from the industry that could be relevant to participate in the project.

Urgent for WG5: to have more concrete strategy plans on how to proceed. Phase A for HIRES has been completed, phase B (construction) will start in the first half of 2019. With support from IDA, WG5 can proceed to funding agencies and see how they can support the project.

Summarize: Ambition is to be a major player in the project. The reason behind the ambition is that it allows specifying parts of the instrument that works exactly towards research goals within Danish Astrophysics.

Clear decision: A national interest to go to ELT with an instrument proposal. HIRES is the most important instrument in Denmark. There has been a development especially in the

funding background, and now entering the phase how to continue, hence the strategy. The decision needs to have a background, because the consequence is not outlined. HIRES is one of the few projects that fits in seize in the roadmap.

Timescale and funding frame for the roadmap: 50/50 co-founded universities/agency. Current roadmap will run out in 2020.

AI: Decision at the end of the meeting – after discussing the strategy, if HIRES should be included in the road map (national strategy). See agenda point 4.

WG6: Greenland Telescope (GLT)

Jes K Jørgensen (Chair of WG6) provided a short report.

The GLT project has moved significantly forward during the last year. In the Winter of 2017 the telescope achieved first light with an artificial source at the Thule Air Base and in early 2018 it participated in the first Event Horizon Telescope experiments. The focus of WG6 is to coordinate Danish interest for possible future involvement in the project. The telescope opens some scientific opportunities of interest to Danish astronomers. Also, it offers an important outreach aspect of communication of science. Finally, the use of summit for astronomy is interesting from a logistical point of view.

To summarise: the main topic of discussion for WG6 in the near-future is to establish what level Danish astronomers are interested in pursuing, how we can establish formal collaborations with the groups behind the project and how we can best support it moving forward.

WG7: ESO outreach and IDA webpage

Mai Korsbæk (Chair of WG7) provided a short report.

Website has been updated, Ole continues as ESON representative. Suggestion of a new interactive calendar showcasing major astronomical events (Outreach strategy).

WG8: The IDA Observing School

Johan Fynbo (Chair of WG8) provided a short report.

The NOT Summerschool 2018 was a success. The number of students that the school can accommodate is around 15/20. It corresponds well to the students that might be interested in attending the Summerschool from a future perspective.

Decision point: Involvement of the University of Southern Denmark.

WG9: The Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting

Desiree Della Monica Ferreira (Chair of WG9) is absent. Hans Kjeldsen (IDA Chair) provided a short report.

The Annual Astronomy Meeting 2019 will be sometime in May. The date will be set soon and the venue will be somewhere in Southern Denmark. WG9 is maybe too big in size for an organizing committee. Consider revising the number of members in the group.

AI: Discussion point in regard to all WG's – reconsidering of membership. Mai will email all present members on this.

2.2. Status of NTE/NOT

Hans Kjeldsen IDA Chair provided a short report.

An agreement between Turku University and Aarhus University has been made to take the legal responsibility in order to transfer NOT to a new organizational structure. A decision has been made to transfer the facility, its liabilities and assets. We will start the negotiations with NOTSA and meet with potential partners in the months to come. Aarhus University will invite the Danish partners and Agency for a dialogue.

Clarifying: AU is making the agreement on behalf of the Danish Astronomers. It is a national interest. At the council meeting in November the final decision will be made to allow the transfer to the new organization, staff contracts etc. will also be transferred. The future budget will be discussed.

The structure of the NewNOT will operate on two levels:

- A legal level – jointly owned between UTU and AU.
- An operational level – The daily operations, staff management and research activities.

The new ownership of NewNOT also means that IDA may have more direct influence on the future path. Details about funding will come later, after meeting with the agency.

All present IDA Board members are very satisfied with the new agreement.

2.3. ESO Council meeting in Denmark

Hans Kjeldsen (IDA Chair) provided a short outline complemented by René Michelsen (SFU).

ESO council meeting in DK: It is related to the overall activities in IDA and the link to ESO. To have the ESO Council meeting in Denmark reflects the connection to ESO. Dates are not yet specified, venue could be in Aarhus. The meeting should include relevant astronomical sites/events for the council members to experience.

There are two types of councils meetings in ESO:

- Regular councils meeting – two full days.
- Committee of council – two half days with a more simple agenda.

It is in relation to the committee of council that IDA can invite ESO Council. Date for the next possible ESO meeting in either March or October 2020.

AI – Hans a response to Allan Hornstrup on the final date in two/three weeks – René Michelsen also needs to be informed on the date.

AI – Resolvment of the working group structure: No one from AU is part of the strategic ESO working group for now. A representative from AU needs to be selected. Hans will start the selection process.

2.4. An introduction to the landscape of Research Supporting Activities (definition of “følgeforskning”)

René Michelsen (SFU) introduced the historical landscape for funding with slides (Slides provided for all IDA Board members).

Formal requirements stated by the Agency: IDA has to cover all activities at a national level.

Purpose and core activities: Access is an important aspect in terms of sustaining the national/international membership to big infrastructures; e.g. ESO. It is not research time but access to these infrastructures that is funded. Sustaining the national memberships and utilizing the possibilities of research infrastructures.

Clarifying the difference between ESA and ESO:

The agency is responsible for the memberships of ESO and NOT, as well as of ESA. The ESA budget and Danish contribution is approved by a ministerial conference every third year. The contribution to ESO is fixed among the member states.

IDA supports research activities in ESO, not directly ESA. IDA has a science wise overlap among ESO, ESA and other activities. René pointed out that IDA has as scope to coordinate utilization of Danish memberships of astrophysical research activities, and that a discussion on the balance between ESA and ESO activities has not yet been taken with the agency.

René explained the budget from the ministry 2019: Outcome of IDA – value wise to support national memberships to infrastructures.

- Research Supporting activities: 13.2 mio. kroner. The three national centers: IDA, DANSCATT and NICE.
- National fund for Research infrastructure: 85.3 mio. kroner – defined by the ministry. The money is earmarked supporting national infrastructure. All research areas are included; social science, bioscience, etc.
- International membership fees: 486 mio. kroner.

A 5-year roadmap/work-line, the last version dates from 2015. There is not a short-term funding level. Preparations for the next roadmap are under consideration.

IDA Fellowship: Training places for the next generation of astronomers and their access to international infrastructures. Clarification about future postdoc support and access to scientific facilities.

3. IDA activity plan 2019

René Michelsen (SFU member) did not take part in this.

Discussion about current stakeholders e.g. society, industry, and how the different parties are addressed.

The old activity plan needs to be modified, especially with regard to section 3.2 and 3.3.

Suggestions:

- Access to the research infrastructures – continue to provide access to the Nordic Optical Telescope – travels and fees to be paid in relation to operations of NOT.
- Continue to support the funding of NTE.
- IDA Fellowship – e.g. agreement with ESO 50/50 funding – a post doc call to be linked to Danish activities in ESO, LSST, GLT.
- Observatory schools – suggestion at the last meeting – to make an observatory school on space-related data from archives or directly from satellites.

Suggestions for future strategic work: Evaluation report displaying the societal value of the Danish astrophysics community, e.g. where do students go in terms of future employment outside the universities e.g. employment fraction, hiring rates in the industry, contribution to society and to the public debate. Coherence at a national political level.

Suggested budget item: yearly workshops on job market profiles/non-academic career path for students and future job-opportunities: Positive matchmaking (workshop for students, industries and other stakeholders) showcasing the potential of non-academic career paths and how astronomers are seen from multiple frameworks.

Different astronomical profiles on IDA webpage: presentation of an astronomer - what work, besides research, can be identified? Coordination with AU communication who works on similar outreach strategy.

AI: Hans and Mai will modify the present activity plan and send it to all IDA Board members. Any additional comments should be very specific. Inputs to the budget form in relation to internal funding from the universities that need to be updated. Deadline for submission to the Agency is 28 September 2018.

4. Strategy for Danish Astrophysics

Advice on future strategies – longtime strategy 10-year roadmap.

Clarifying item: The Working Group input is not the structure of the strategy. The strategy for Danish Astrophysics is the prioritization scientifically and organizationally linking universities and activities. The scientific interest of the Danish community. Suggestion on prioritizing and implementation of future activities. Long-term work based on all the inputs from the WGs involving science, research, education, infrastructures.

Main goal: Both universities, funding agencies and the ministry see the strategy as useful. The strategy should include argumentation/statistics and end with a roadmap, on who will do what and the prioritization of activities.

Timeline:

- First draft of the strategy to be discussed at the next board meeting in February 2019.
- A presentation and session at the Annual Astronomy meeting in May 2019 based on the report and the strategic plan.
- After the Annual Meeting present the strategy as a National strategy Spring 2019.

AI: Establishment of a small working group responsible of writing the Strategy for Danish Astrophysics in the next decade based on the WG input. Member of the group: Chairs from WG 1-6.

The group will suggest members for an external advisory team to provide feedback to the strategy (international review). Suggestion of discussion points with regard to the optimal structure for the strategy.

- How do we involve the agency/ funding agencies/universities?
At what stage should we talk with these stakeholders?
- Clear strategy on how we use space in relation to ground based facilities.

Decision: It was decided that HIRES will be the proposal to the next road map for research infrastructure (after 2020) from the astronomical community. IDA will formulate a clear plan for how this will be handled in agreement with the potential future roadmap and the requests from ESO (as part of the ELT project). HIRES will be added as a major component in the strategy for Danish Astrophysics.

5: Any other business

Astronomisk ungdom is looking for someone to help with the coordination of activities.

6: End of meeting

The meeting ended 14:30.