Agenda

IDA Board meeting

13 November 2025, 10:30-15:30

DTU Space - ***B328, room 123 (1 floor)***

10:30	1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda Approval of the previous minutes and review of open action items **(i)**
10:50	2. Status from IDA Management Membership of IDA Working Groups o Description of purpose and activities Status meeting with the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science Status on budget 2025-2027 **(ii)**
	3. ESO – Expanding Horizons – Potential Danish involvement – Short introduction by Lise Christensen og Jes Jørgensen
12:00	*Lunch break*
12:40	4. Danish space strategy**(iii)** and ESA 2040 strategy **(iv)**
13:10	5. Student Research Unit (SRU) under IDA – short presentation by Chamilla Terp (KU) and Buyanbileg Amarsanaa (SDU)
13:35	6. IDA Observing School, incl. WG8 status o Proposal to expand the course to accommodate more students in 2026-
13:45	7. Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting 2026, incl. WG9 status
13:55	*Coffee break*
14:10	8. Status from WG: WG1/WG5: ESO and ANDES (@ELT) update WG2: Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT), NTE project update WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics (ESA) WG4: Vera C. Rubin / LSST, status update WG6: Greenland Telescope (GLT) WG7: ESO outreach and IDA webpage WG10: Astronomical models and data analysis WG11: Relations to international organisations (including IAU and EAS) WG12: Instrumentation and technical knowledge hub

	WG13: Climate, Sustainability, Diversity, and Inclusion
15:20	AOB
15:30	End of meeting

List of appendices

(i): Appendix 1 and 2: Minutes from the last meetings 4 March 2025 and 21 May 2025 in the IDA Board (attached as pdf).

(ii): Appendix 3: IDA Budget 2025-2027 (attached as pdf).

(iii): Danish space strategy: https://ufm.dk/en/publications/2024/files/strategy-for-space-research-and-innovation

(iv): ESA 2040 strategy: https://www.esa.int/About_Us/ESA_Strategy_2040

Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics (IDA)

Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: 13.11.2025, 10:30 – 15:30 CEST

Venue: DTU and teams

IDA Board Members

Present

- *Hans Kjeldsen (HK)*, AU, Head of IDA, NOT Council Observer
- *Jes Jørgensen (JJ), KU, Chair of WG6*
- *Kasper Elm Heintz (KEH), KU, elected member*
- *Lars Buchhave (LB), DTU*
- *Steven Gillman (SG), DTU*
- *Christa Gall (CG), KU, Chair of WG 4*
- *Miranda Andersen (MA), DTU, (student) elected member*
- *Allan Hornstrup (AH), DTU, elected member*
- *Marianne Vestergaard (MV), KU, ESO STC*
- *Mai Korsbæk (MK), AU, IDA Centre manager and Chair of WG7 and WG13*
- *Mia Sloth Lundkvist (MSL), AU, Danish member of the NOT Council*
- *Desiree D.M. Ferreira (DF), DTU, Chair of WG3*
- *Johan Fynbo (JF), KU, Chair of WG8, elected member*
- *Lise Christensen (LC), KU, ESO council delegate, Chair of WG1 And WG5*
- *Thomas Greve (TG), DTU, member of ESO UC*
- *Marcus Marcussen (MM), AU, (student), elected member*
- *Chamilla Terp (CT), KU, (student), elected member*
- *Buyanbileg Amarsanaa (BA), SDU, (student), elected member*

Participating remotely

- *Bitten Gullberg (BG), DTU, elected member*
- *Sofie Marie Koksbang, (SK), SDU*

Excused

- *Mads Toudal Frandsen (MTF), SDU*
- *Jens Hjorth (JH), KU*
- *Heidi Korhonen (HKH), KU, Chair of the NOT Council, Chair of WG2*
- *Simon Albrecht (SA), AU*
- *Jakob Lysgaard Rørsted (JR), AU*
- *Anja Cetti Andersen, (AA), KU*

Observers – participating remotely

- *Birgitta Nordström (BN)*, KU, Danish representative in EAS and A&A, Chair of WG11
- Jacob Clasen (JC), AU/NOT, Chair of WG12

Excused

- *Troels Haugbølle (TH),* KU, Chair of WG10

Chair of the meeting: HK
Minute writer: MK

1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda

Approval of the previous minutes and review of open action items (i)

The agenda is adopted. The minutes from the previous meetings have been approved.

***Action item [2025.11.01]** – Abbreviation Clarification in future Meeting Minutes: MK will make a document including definitions for all abbreviations as appendix.*

2. Status from IDA Management

Membership of IDA Working Groups

Description of purpose and activities

The IDA Board discussed roles, visibility, and communication practices of the working groups.

- Proposals included:
  - Regular meetings. It is acknowledged that optimal frequency may vary across working groups.

- Use of digital platforms such as Teams and IDA newsletter to enhance coordination and engagement.

Update: All active members of each WG are now published online to improve transparency. The monthly newsletter was highlighted as a key channel for updates and working group activities. Chairs were encouraged to use it for announcements.
The Board proposed:

- Maintaining live documents or status pages for each working group
- Tracking progress, membership, and focus areas

The Board agreed to:

- Pilot Teams as a central portal for communication, file sharing, and status updates

***Action item [2025.11.02]** – MK will set up a Teams portal with subgroups for each working group to facilitate file sharing, status updates, and communication, and invite IDA Board members and WG chairs.*

Status meeting with the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science:

The agency provided positive feedback on the alignment of the group's activities with national priorities, particularly in supporting ESA, ESO, and the Nordic Optical Telescope. They emphasized that all funded activities must have a national scope and cannot be used for individual research grants or non-national projects.

Status on budget 2025-2027 **(ii)**

HK provided a short update. The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science has approved a three-year budget, allowing for long-term planning but with the restriction that funds cannot be carried over between years; the IDA Board discussed the implications for activity planning, inflation adjustments (typically 3–4% per year), and the need to align spending with agency priorities.
HK suggested that the Board should formally approve the budget for each year before spending begins, even though the overall structure follows the original application. Adjustments can be made as needed, and the Board members were invited to propose changes or raise concerns about allocations.

3. ESO – Expanding Horizons – Potential Danish involvement – Short introduction by Lise Christensen og Jes Jørgensen

LC made a short introduction. For more information, please refer to document: *IDA_WG1-5.pdf.* ESO is soliciting three-page white papers from the community to identify major unanswered science questions by any of the large facilities for the 2040 strategy. The process is open to all, with a first deadline in December 2025 and further calls expected. The white papers will be evaluated by a senior science committee. Next year there will be a call for research ideas with a letter of intent. Deadlines are found on ESO Expanding Horizons https://next.eso.org/
The Board emphasized the need for Danish researchers to coordinate their involvement, and ensure Danish interests are represented in the ESO process. It is suggested to make

a short presentation at the Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting in 2026 to inform the community.
The timeline for the initiative was reviewed, with the current phase focused on collecting science ideas, followed by evaluation, workshops, and eventual selection of facility concepts.

4. Danish space strategy**(iii)** and ESA 2040 strategy **(iv)**

HK provided an overview of recent developments in Danish space strategy and ESA funding. For more information, please refer to document: *Space_HK.pdf.* HK described the Danish government's decision to allocate 19 billion DKK over four years for research and innovation, with a significant increase in space-related funding, including both compulsory and optional ESA programs, and a new Innovation Fund Denmark program for space initiatives
Denmark's contributions to ESA are increasing, with upcoming ministerial meetings expected to clarify future priorities and funding allocations. The IDA Board noted the importance of aligning national activities with ESA's long-term strategy and the potential for increased support for science missions.
Framework for National Space Mission project 2025: HK highlighted the ongoing development of the project, and invited feedback from the community, noting that the draft report would be circulated for review on 26 November. For more information, please refer to https://space.au.dk/projects/framework-for-national-space-missions

5. Student Research Unit (SRU) under IDA – short presentation by Chamilla Terp (KU) and Buyanbileg Amarsanaa (SDU)

BA presented the proposal for the IDA Board. For more information, please refer to document: *SRU Presentation 08 Nov 2025.pdf.* The IDA Board reviewed the proposal for a student-led research unit to support cross-institutional projects, workshops, and national activities, aiming to boost student engagement under a centralized framework.
The unit would operate as a new WG with student representatives from universities. The Board discussed the importance of sustainable governance, regular renewal of student membership, and clear communication channels.
No new funding is requested initially; integration with existing budgets is planned, with potential financial support for successful initiatives.

Action item [2025.11.03] - *IDA management will set up a meeting with BA and CT in January 2026 to ensure they have a clearly defined framework for the tasks they are to develop.*

6. IDA Observing School, incl. WG8 status

Proposal to expand the course to accommodate more students in 2026-

JF proposed expanding from one course to two consecutive courses, each lasting three nights at NOT, with 14-15 participants per course. This would allow an additional 10–15 students to join. To make this possible, more instructors are needed, and we should make use of other facilities such as the sea star telescope. It is suggested that each university should provide at least one teacher. Logistics will need to be optimized.

There was agreement on the need for better coordination in post-processing of data. Further discussions will refine the structure and implementation.

7. Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting 2026, incl. WG9 status

MK provided a short update. The meeting will now take place on 12-13 May, instead of 26-27 May as previously planned. We decided to reschedule because the Nordic-Baltic Astronomy Days (26–29 May) may impact attendance at ADAM.
Jakob Rørsted has unfortunately stepped down as chair. Mikkel Theiss Kristensen (SDU) will take over this role. MK has briefed Mikkel on the current status of ADAM, and he will soon convene a meeting with the working group to start planning the scientific program, including national speakers and keynote invitations. The conference fee will be lower than in previous years. Registration will soon open.

8. Status from WG:

Greenland Telescope (GLT), status update. Incl. WG6 status

TG provided an update on the Greenland Telescope. As of right now the funding situation is unclear and the telescope will not be moved in the foreseeable future. Observations continue from the current location at Pittufik spacebase – and plans for deploying a camera (GISMO) are still underway. Also, the use of the telescope for educational purposes is being explored.

WG12: Instrumentation and technical knowledge hub

JC provided a short update. He will launch a chat group where people can post important updates and share news within the WG. JC will organize an online meeting soon.

WG11: Relations to international organisations (including IAU and EAS)

BN provided a brief status update. *A&A Awards:* Applications for 2026 prizes are open - one for an outstanding PhD article and one for impactful postdoctoral research.

Page Limit Policy: Increasing national contributions to remove page limits is not feasible due to financial constraints and varying country budgets. Submissions rose by 40% last year, adding pressure on resources. A&A remains highly competitive and cost-effective compared to other journals, even with extra page charges.

Concerns Raised:

- Charging for additional PDF pages, especially appendices, was criticized as unnecessary.
- Moving appendices to external repositories is seen as inconvenient and reduces data accessibility.
- Denmark and some countries are willing to pay more, but this is not possible for all 30 members; current compromise is that authors exceeding 12 pages (plus appendices) pay.

Feedback and suggestions should be sent to BN by mail.

WG10: Astronomical models and data analysis

TH is not present. HK will discuss with TH and BG about the future structure of the WG.

Action item [2025.11.04] *- HK will discuss with TH and BG the future use of the group and handover of current activities.*

WG7: ESO outreach and IDA webpage

HK provided a short update – the structure of the IDA webpage is up for discussion and how we want to use it. Several updates will happen in the nearest future. JF suggested that IDA and Astronomisk Selskab join forces concerning outreach.

Action item [2025.11.05] *- HK, MK and JF will discuss a potential partnership and get back to the IDA Board on the matter.*
Action item [2025.11.06] *- MK will organize a meeting in WG7 to evaluate current needs and discuss potential updates or redesigns for improved functionality.*

Vera C. Rubin / LSST, status update – agreement with LSST, incl. WG4 status

CG provided a short update. We have signed contract and secured data rights for around 50 astrophysics. 21 people have signed up for the first pre-release data; 15 from DTU, 5 from KU and 1 from AU.

The DP1 commissioning data will be released soon and will be accessible through the local IDAC in Denmark for users with LSST data rights. The IDAC setup is progressing well: hardware and storage are installed, and the database for hosting real data is being finalized. Work on authentication and user access is ongoing, with a preliminary solution expected before a full rollout next year.

At Rubin Observatory, validation is complete and early operations have begun, though testing continues due to stability and atmospheric issues. Full operations are expected by year-end, and data from the validation phase - including alerts for transients and variables - will be released shortly.

Action item [2025.11.07] *– CG will announce* the IDAC access process to the community and plan a conference or workshop when the system opens to enhance visibility, foster collaborations, and connect with other instruments. Details about this task to be discussed with HK before implementation.

WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics (ESA)

DS provided a short update. No meetings have been held yet, but a follow-up meeting is planned after the ministerial meeting to coordinate results.

- Commitment to support future missions and Danish involvement.

Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT), upcoming NOT review, and NTE project update, incl. WG2 status

ML provided a short update: Danish funding secured for the next few years, though budget remains a challenge.
Denmark now has two members of the OPC, Bitten Gullberg and Karsten Brogaard (AU).
Concerning the NTE project, JC provided a short update. The instrument consists of three elements: a visual imager, an infrared imager, and a spectrograph. The visual imager is the most advanced; with remaining funding, the plan is to complete it and bring it to NOT early next year for technical tests and demonstrations before further integration.
The infrared imager is financed by the Danish Innovation Foundation, with a final design review scheduled for January/February, followed by construction with industry and NBI workshops. Integration and testing are planned for 2028.
The spectrograph's vacuum vessel was completed in Italy but delayed due to legal issues with a subcontracted transport company. Efforts are underway to resolve this.

WG5 - ELT instrumentation

LC provided a short update. The ANDES instrument for the ELT is in the preliminary design review phase, with some components already approved. The near-infrared arm will have its final preliminary design review in May next year, followed by a funding review in late 2026.
Denmark has secured Innovation Fund support, covering approx. €0.5M for equipment and 6 - 10 FTEs, equivalent to about 1% of one ELT instrument. However, Denmark contributes 2% to ESO overall, so ideally should fund 2% of ELT instrumentation.
A kick-off meeting was held recently with partners and companies involved in producing the vacuum vessels. The consortium still lacks full funding, and if additional resources are not secured, scope reductions may be necessary.

A broader discussion is needed on instrumentation funding strategy - aligning national contributions, university support, and roadmap priorities to avoid future gaps.

Action Items

A list of open items with those in charge highlighted:
Action item [2025.11.01] *– Abbreviation Clarification in future Meeting Minutes: MK will go through the meeting minutes and insert definitions for all non-standard abbreviations before final approval.*
Action item [2025.11.02] *– MK will set up a Teams portal with subgroups for each working group to facilitate file sharing, status updates, and communication, and invite relevant members.*
Action item [2025.11.03] - *IDA management will set up a meeting with BA and CT in January 2026 to ensure they have a clearly defined framework for the tasks they are to develop.*
Action item [2025.11.04] *- HK will discuss with TH and BG the future use of the group and handover of current activities.*
Action item [2025.11.05] *- HK, MK and JF will discuss a potential partnership and get back to the IDA Board on the matter.*

Action item [2025.11.06] *- MK will organize a meeting in WG7 to evaluate current needs and discuss potential updates or redesigns for improved functionality.*
Action item [2025.11.07] *– CG will announce* the IDAC access process to the community and plan a conference or workshop when the system opens to enhance visibility, foster collaborations, and connect with other instruments. Details about this task to be discussed with HK before implementation.

Any other business