Agenda

IDA Board meeting

26 February 2026, 10:30-15:30

DTU Main building 101, room S16

10:30	1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda Approval of the previous minutes and review of open action items (i)
10:50	2. WG4: Vera C. Rubin / LSST, status update Application for LSST data rights – announcement to community
11:05	3. IDA Student Network – approval of terms of reference (ii)
11:25	4. WG7: ESO outreach and IDA webpage o Launch of new subpage at IDA webpage – Data usage ESO, ESA and NOT
11:45	5. Einstein Telescope – Danish interest – new IDA WG?
12:00	Lunch break
12:40	6. The use of the NOT for Space Situation Awareness activities, incl. WG2: Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT), NTE project update
12:55	7. STEP – STar and ExoPlanets - The Danish Space mission
13:00	8. WG10: Astronomical models and data analysis o Status and new direction
13:05	9. IDA's relation to EAS/ IAU national committee
13:15	10. A&A access and condition
14:00	Coffee break
14:10	11. Status from WG: WG1/WG5: ESO and ANDES (@ELT) WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics (ESA)

	WG6: Greenland Telescope (GLT) WG8: IDA Observing School WG9: Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting 2026 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: Minutes from the last meeting 13 November 2025 in the IDA Board (attached as pdf).

(ii) : Appendix 2: IDA Student Network – terms of reference - draft (attached as pdf).

Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics (IDA)

Board Meeting

Minutes

Date: 26.02.2026, 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*
- *Christa Gall (CG), KU, Chair of WG 4*
- *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*
- *Buyanbileg Amarsanaa (BA), SDU, (student), elected member*
- *Bitten Gullberg (BG), DTU, elected member*
- *Sofie Marie Koksbang, (SK), SDU*
- *Anja Cetti Andersen, (AA), KU*
- *Birgitta Nordström (BN)*, KU, Danish representative in EAS and A&A, Chair of WG11. (observer)

Participating remotely

- *Lise Christensen (LC), KU, ESO council delegate, Chair of WG1 And WG5*
- *Jens Hjorth (JH), KU*
- *Heidi Korhonen (HKH), KU, Chair of the NOT Council, Chair of WG2*
- Jacob Clasen (JC), AU/NOT, Chair of WG12 (observer)

Excused

- *Miranda Andersen (MA), DTU, (student) elected member*
- *Thomas Greve (TG), DTU, member of ESO UC*
- *Marcus Marcussen (MM), AU, (student), elected member*
- *Chamilla Terp (CT), KU, (student), elected member*
- *Mads Toudal Frandsen (MTF), SDU*
- *Simon Albrecht (SA), AU*
- *Steven Gillman (SG), DTU*
- *Jakob Lysgaard Rørsted (JR), AU*
- *Troels Haugbølle (TH), KU, Chair of WG10 (observer)*

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.

2. WG4: Vera C. Rubin/LSST, status update

Application for LSST data rights – announcement to community

HK and CG updated the group on the status of LSST data rights, the application process for data access, and the technical progress of the IDAC, including hardware readiness, data ingestion, and authentication procedures. For the moment 28 have received LSST data rights and are able to get access to the data science platform. Set up of the

application form for long-term LSST data rights, including clarification of criteria and expected activities for data rights holders will soon be finalized.
For more information please see: [Updates on IDAC technical status News from LSST - Google Docs]

3. IDA Student Network – approval of terms of reference (ii)

BA outlined the development of the IDA Student Network, including its structure, objectives, election processes, and integration with existing governance, with plans for further implementation at the upcoming Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting. For more details see: **IDA-SN Presentation 26-02-26.**
It was proposed to create a dedicated section for the student network on the IDA webpage, including terms of reference, contact information, and updates on ongoing activities. In addition, students should be informed about the network and its upcoming initiatives ahead of ADAM.
The IDA Board formally approved moving forward with the student network, with details to be finalized at ADAM26.

4. WG7: ESO outreach and IDA webpage

Launch of new subpage at IDA webpage – Data usage ESO, ESA and NOT

MK and HK presented updates on the development of a centralized thesis IDA archive to document student use of research infrastructures. The archive will allow uploads from all relevant fields and support searches by title, infrastructure, and other criteria.
Technical challenges related to automating the upload and search functions were noted, and work continues with the aim of launching the system before ADAM26.
Concerns about data completeness were discussed, with clarification that the archive relies on voluntary student uploads but is designed to be as accessible and attractive as possible, supported by supervisors encouraging participation.
An update was also provided on collaboration with the Royal Library to compile annual lists of scientific publications linked to specific facilities, categorized by university and infrastructure for reporting purposes.

5. Einstein Telescope – Danish interest – new IDA WG?

The IDA Board discussed Denmark's potential involvement in the Einstein Telescope project and the broader gravitational-wave community. There was agreement on the importance of coordinating national interest and activities, particularly among researchers at the Center of Gravity etc. Given limited resources, the IDA Board emphasized the need for clear leadership and expectations from interested researchers. IDA's role would be to facilitate coordination rather than provide funding.

Action item [2026.02.01] - *HK and DF will establish a working group to coordinate Danish interest, activities, and future engagement related to the Einstein Telescope and gravitational-wave research and reach out to the Center for Gravity.*

6. The use of the NOT for Space Situation Awareness activities, incl. WG2: Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT), NTE project update

The IDA Board discussed the potential use of the Nordic Optical Telescope for space-situation awareness, including ESA collaboration, funding opportunities, and operational implications. Key points included balancing scientific access with financial sustainability, maintaining strictly civil use, ensuring inclusive and non-restrictive policies, and preparing documentation outlining capabilities and boundaries for future decisions.

Action item [2026.02.02] *- HK will communicate with NOT and ESA to ensure progress in the potential collaboration on space safety, with focus on NEO detection and detection of satellites in relation to safety. HK will also draft a document specifying how to handle the interface between strictly civil use of the facilities, e.g. for NEO detection, and activities linked to general security, including potential defense use.*

NOT Data Archive:

JC and HK announced that the Nordic Optical Telescope data archive is close to launching. Developed with support from Nordforsk and IDA, the archive will provide open access to historical NOT data and will be introduced at ADAM26.

NTE Project update:

JC provided a brief update on the NTE project, covering progress on the visual imager, near-infrared imager, and spectrograph.

The NTE board meeting will be convened to review the project status and discuss contingency plans. Efforts to secure additional funding through various grant schemes continue.

Action item [2026.02.03] - *HKH will call and schedule an NTE board meeting to provide a full update on project status and discuss contingency plans regarding funding scenarios.*

7. STEP – STar and ExoPlanets - The Danish Space mission

HK provided a short overview of the STEP project. STEP (STars and ExoPlanets) is a national Danish satellite mission developed through a collaboration between Danish universities and space industry partners. The mission aims to launch an astronomical satellite equipped with a 25 cm ultraviolet telescope to study stars and exoplanets in ways that complement major ESA and NASA missions such as Kepler, TESS, PLATO, and ARIEL. The mission's primary science phase will focus on the dark side of the Earth to minimize scattered light, with open time allocation for observations as required by the research infrastructure roadmap.

8. WG10: Astronomical models and data analysis

HK gave a short update. WG10 needs to be reorganized to better address computational and data resource needs in astrophysics. It is proposed to set a meeting with key members to redefine the group's structure and objectives.

Action item [2026.02.04] - *HK will call in a meeting with key members of WG10*

9. IDA's relation to EAS/ IAU national committee, incl. WG11 status update

HK outlined the renomination process for the IAU National Committee, emphasizing the committee's responsibilities - such as nominating IAU members, managing junior memberships, and overseeing symposium and prize nominations. He noted that the chair does not need to be a member of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters and aims to recruit at least four members, including a chair. Interested participants are invited to volunteer to ensure broader representation.

Action item [2026.02.05] - *HK will discuss with potential candidates how to appoint a new national committee for IAU and will then initiate the approval of the new national committee.*

10. A&A access and condition

The IDA Board discussed the 12-page limit for A&A journal articles and the broader issues surrounding publication costs and open-access models in astrophysics. BN explained that the page limit - excluding appendices - was introduced to manage budget constraints across the 27 member countries, with additional fees charged for longer papers. The IDA Board also reviewed how publication expenses are covered by member countries and libraries, noting the potential consequences if libraries stop paying for access. Finally, participants compared A&A with open-access alternatives such as the Open Journal of Astrophysics, considering citation practices, sustainability, and the advantages and drawbacks of overlay journals.

***Action item [2026.02.06] -** HK and BN should discuss and plan how to ensure feedback from the Danish community is forwarded to the right committees and people within A&A and use this for a future dialogue on how to ensure the best use of A&A for students and researchers.*

11. Status from WG:

WG1/WG5: ESO and ANDES (@ELT)

LC provided a short update. Preparations are underway for hosting the ESO Council meeting in Denmark in June 2027, a relatively large event that will require coordinated planning across several groups, with support from IDA.
It was noted that the INNA project (proposed by AES-Andes) has now been withdrawn, removing an immediate concern for the VLT, ELT, and CTA sites.
Delays in ELT instrumentation continue due to limited manpower and complex funding structures, and efforts are ongoing to secure additional partner contributions, with first-module commissioning currently expected around 2035.

WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics (ESA)

DF provided a brief update. A new ESA PRODEX project call addressing underfunded space missions, particularly ARIEL, was highlighted. It was further noted that additional and potentially larger, longer-term funding calls are expected under PRODEX in the future, focusing on the further development of scientific instruments and the exploitation of ESA's science programme.

WG6: Greenland Telescope (GLT)

DF informed the IDA Board about a summer course "Cold Climate Technologies" taking place at DTU Sisimiut, possible tying this course to the Greenland telescope. DF will continue the dialogue with WG6.

WG8: IDA Observing School

The observing school has increased its capacity for 28–30 available spots. Logistics and teaching assignments will be discussed in the working group.

WG9: Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting 2026

The Board is reminded of the registration deadline - March 12, including that costs are covered for Master students contributing with posters.

WG12: Instrumentation and technical knowledge hub

No major updates from the WG12.

WG13: Climate, Sustainability, Diversity, and Inclusion

Nothing to report from WG13

Action Items

A list of open items with those in charge highlighted:

Action item [2026.02.01] - *HK and DF will establish a working group to coordinate Danish interest, activities, and future engagement related to the Einstein Telescope and gravitational-wave research and reach out to the Center for Gravity.*

Action item [2026.02.02] *- HK will communicate with NOT and ESA to ensure progress in the potential collaboration on space safety, with focus on NEO detection and detection of satellites in relation to safety. HK will also draft a document specifying how to handle the interface between strictly civil use of the facilities, e.g. for NEO detection, and activities linked to general security, including potential defense use.*

Action item [2026.02.03] - *HKH will call and schedule an NTE board meeting to provide a full update on project status and discuss contingency plans regarding funding scenarios.*

Action item [2026.02.04] - *HK will call in a meeting with key members of WG10*

Action item [2026.02.05] - *HK will discuss with potential candidates how to appoint a new national committee for IAU and will then initiate the approval of the new national committee.*

Action item [2026.02.06] - *HK and BN should discuss and plan how to ensure feedback from the Danish community is forwarded to the right committees and people within A&A, and use this for a future dialogue on how to ensure the best use of A&A for students and researchers.*

Any other business