Instrument Centre for Danish Astrophysics (IDA)

Extraordinary Board Meeting

Agenda

Date: 04.03.2025, 10:30 – 15:30 CEST

Venue: DTU and Zoom

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, Chair of WG9, elected member*
- *Bitten Gullberg (BG), DTU, elected member*
- *Lars Buchhave (LB), DTU*
- *Steven Gillman (SG), DTU*
- *Christa Gall (CG), KU, Chair of WG 4*
- *Roman Gold (RG), SDU*
- *Miranda Andersen (MA), DTU, (student) elected member*
- *Allan Hornstrup (AH), DTU, elected member*
- *Marianne Vestergaard (MV), KU, ESO STC*
- *Joonas Vihuo (JV), KU, (student), elected member*

Participating remotely

- *Simon Albrecht (SA), AU*
- Jacob Clasen (JC), AU/NOT, Chair of WG12
- *Mai Korsbæk (MK), AU, IDA Centre manager and Chair of WG7 and WG13*
- *Desiree D.M. Ferreira (DF), DTU, Chair of WG3*
- *Mia Sloth Lundkvist (MSL), AU, Danish member of the NOT Council*
- *Heidi Korhonen (HKH), KU, Chair of the NOT Council, Chair of WG2*

Excused

- *Selina Howalt Owe (SHO), DTU, (student) elected member*
- *Mads Toudal Frandsen (MTF), SDU*
- *Steen Hannestad (SH), AU*
- *Jens Hjorth (JH), KU*
- *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*

Observers

- *Birgitta Nordström (BN)*, KU, Danish representative in EAS and A&A, Chair of WG11

Excused

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

Chair of the meeting: HK
Minute writer: MK

Welcome and adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted. The minutes from the previous meeting have been approved, and open action items have been reviewed. Regarding open action items: **action item *(2024.09-01)*** Working Group 3 (WG3) will convene to discuss potential solutions and identify long-term funding sources for these significant missions.

Status from IDA Management

Communication strategy: IDA newsletter, website etc. WG7

In accordance with the action plan from the Danish Ministry, IDA management continues to develop new methods of dissemination. In March, the IDA newsletter was launched and will circulate news, events, calls, job vacancies and other relevant information to the astrophysics community monthly. All WG chairs can use the channel to inform about important items from their group.
HK reminded the IDA Board to distribute the current IDA survey to colleagues and PhD students/Master students. This document is utilized to assess the Danish use of research infrastructures.

Action item [2025.03.01] – All Board members are requested to remind their colleagues and PhD students to complete the IDA survey.

Membership of IDA Working Groups

Terms of Reference:
Working Group (WG) chairs are required to discuss the terms of reference with their respective WG members. It is suggested to seek permission from WG members to include their names on the WG list on the webpage.
IDA Board members are encouraged to actively decide which WG they wish to join. HK will review the terms of reference, and the chair should work with their group to optimize these terms. Hereafter IDA will be opening up the IDA community for sign-ups.
Regarding WG6, it is proposed to include students from Greenland in the WG6 terms of reference. MK will update the terms of reference accordingly.

New IDA WG13: Sustainability, climate and diversity

New WG is trying to address issues as sustainability, climate and diversity related to Danish research policies.

Action items [2025.03.02] - The WG chair should optimize the terms of reference by the beginning of April. MK will then add the updated terms of reference to the website. MK will send a mail to WG chairs with current listed members in their WG.

Status on IDA activity plan and budget 2025-2027

At present, the status of the budget for 2025-2027 is still unknown, HK has been in contact with the agency and has informed them that IDA is continuing under the assumption that basic activities will be funded e.g. observations at the NOT, IDA Observing School, the annual Danish astronomy meeting and the review of the NOT.
In reference to the IDA Board meeting held on January 8, it is proposed to include a sentence in the minutes to clarify that we are the smallest center in terms of budget.

Action item [2025.03.03] - HK will notify the IDA Board once SFU has responded and will schedule an online meeting to discuss the budget.

IDA consortium agreement

The document should be updated and signed before being sent to the rectors of the various universities. Aalborg University is welcomed as a potential future partner.
Key changes in the new agreement include the removal of an end date and the omission of the election criteria for the board, which now states that members are half elected and half appointed. The IDA Board has approved moving forward with the content of the IDA agreement to the next step, which involves presenting it to the rectors. It is considered risk-free to be a partner in the IDA agreement.
Additionally, a typo has been identified in Appendix 4, Section 5.3.6, which MK will correct.

ESO and Hires/ANDES (@ELT) update, incl. WG1 and WG5 status

LC is attending the ESO council meeting and has submitted a brief update via email to the IDA board. Currently, there is no relevant information from ESO. The INNA

photovoltaic plant project in Chile is being discussed at the highest diplomatic levels, and there is little action required from the Danish side.
MV: The OPC ESO is moving to an annual cycle, with a March 20 deadline for large proposals and two fast-track channels each year. This change will accommodate more participants.
ESO is planning projects beyond 2040 and has formed a working group, including an STC member. IDA should consider supporting these initiatives by disseminating information and raising awareness, particularly on the IDA webpage. IDA's role is to connect with the Alma and La Silla communities. ESO aims to increase community involvement.

Action item [2025.03.05] - MV will contact the STC/OPC to gather information for IDA to share with the Danish community. MV will also discuss with LC and the working group to locate and communicate details about ESO activities, both in terms of content and process, to the IDA community.

WG5 - ELT instrumentation

Innovation Fund Project Status: The contract phase deadline was March 6. In early February, an issue with an industry partner arose, but universities have managed it internally, taking on larger roles. The solution was accepted by the innovation fund.
A second issue involves an international partner unable to sign legal agreements with the IFD, potentially taking months. A proposed solution requires a significant budget change, pending IFD board approval. The project is paused for 3-5 weeks, awaiting the board's decision. The current deadline is April 1, but it may shift.
Roadmap Application (ASTROTIME): Decision expected between April and June 2025. It is 50% co-funded, not government funded.

IDA Observing School, incl. WG8 status

JF is not present, so HK provided a brief update. The working group is addressing challenges to accommodate more students in the coming years. This year, 22 students are expected to attend the IDA Observing School 2025. With additional funding in 2026, we could potentially hold two schools per year, but this would require more teachers. Another option is remote observation for some students. PhD students, who have their own funding, could potentially cover their own costs. We are exploring savings through cheaper flights, rescheduling observing nights, and more affordable car leasing.
Proposal: Expand the course to accommodate more students in 2026.

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

HKH provided a brief update. HKH will convene a meeting in the working group before the review. The NOT council has held regular meetings. HK added to the status of the upcoming NOT review. The NOT is funded through the state budget, prioritized by the funding agency. From 2026 onwards, there is no specific budget for the NOT, so IDA is conducting the review to meet SFU requirements.

An external review panel will evaluate the Nordic Optical Telescope in accordance with the requirements stated by SFU. HK and MK will lead the meeting, write the report, and provide appendices by late April/early May. Denmark is the main contributor to the NOT budget, which means more observing time for Denmark, but the operational budget is challenged. The NOT Council should outline future operations, including the NTE status.

NTE Future: JC provided a brief update. The project consists of three components, progressing in three phases. The visual imager, manufactured at Aarhus University, will be brought to the NOT after summer for testing. The Carlsberg application was unsuccessful. Awaiting news from Astrotime; funding from Astrotime will help complete the NTE. Timeline: Visual imager to NOT, infrared imager ready for commissioning in 2028. Project development depends on future funding from Innovation Fund and Astrotime. Infrastructure grant expected in April at NBI.

Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting 2025, incl. WG9 status

Registration is open with a deadline at the end of March.
The Board discussed the issue of students not showing up. It was suggested that students should provide their supervisor's email when registering. Additionally, students will be informed that if they do not attend, their supervisor will be responsible for the payment.
The policy for one-day registration was also discussed. Should we include instructions on how to sign up for one day?

Action item [2025.03.06] MK will send a reminder to the IDA mailing list.

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

Awaiting signature on the contract from IDA. Data rights for around 65 astrophysics. The intention is to make sub working groups setting up the IDAC.

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

JJ provided a short status update – current agreement: operational model – funding may come from different partners.

Status on projects:

WG10: Astronomical models and data analysis

TH is not present. TH has expressed a desire to step down as chair of Working Group 10 (WG10). We need to appoint a new chair for WG10. The IDA Board discussed the possibility of transitioning WG10 into a strategic working group. The working group should review the terms of reference and suggest updates if any.

Action item [2025.03.07] - HK will discuss with TH the future use of the group and handover of current activities.

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

BN provided a brief status update. The EAS meeting will be held in Ireland in June 2025. Publishing in A&A will be free of charge. However, with a 40% increase in papers handled in 2024, the budget has been impacted. IDA will consider raising sponsorship in 2026, with a decision to be made soon

Starting April 1, if a paper exceeds 12 pages, there will be a charge (see email for details). This measure aims to reduce the workload. Papers on major space projects will have special pricing discussions. Large ESA missions will be exempt from charges, while ordinary research papers will incur fees.

WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics (ESA)

DS is not present. AH updated on the SPC meeting and LISA project. DS is organizing a national center for LISA activities, and we need to link this to IDA. The national space strategy was announced in November 2024, with a March deadline for the Innovation Foundation's space activities call. More calls are expected.
The national space program, including the Mani mission, is operated and funded by the agency. A workshop will invite the community and industry to discuss the framework for the Danish Space Program.

There will be an open call funded by SFU in the nearest future.

WG12: Instrumentation and technical knowledge hub

JC is seeking new members and will call a meeting in the nearest future.

Action Items

A list of open items with those in charge highlighted:
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Action items [2025.03.02] - The WG chair should optimize the terms of reference by the beginning of April. MK will then add the updated terms of reference to the website. MK will send a mail to WG chairs with current listed members in their WG.
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Action item [2025.03.07] - HK will discuss with TH the future use of the group and handover of current activities.

Any other business