

MINUTES

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE IDA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

12 APRIL 2019

Chairman of the meeting:

Hans Kjeldsen

Secretary of the meeting:

Mai Korsbæk

Date:

12 April 2019 – 10:30-14:00

Place:

Geological Museum,
Copenhagen

Present:

Hans Kjeldsen (AU)
Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard (AU)
Heidi Korhonen (KU)
Mai Korsbæk (AU)
Ditte Slumstrup (AU)
Allan Hornstrup (DTU) - Telecon
Mads Toudal Frandsen (SDU) – Telecon
Sara Svendsen (DTU)
Lise Christensen (KU)
Lars E. Kristensen (KU)
Johan Fynbo (KU)

Excused:

Jens Hjorth (KU)
Desiree D.M. Ferreira (DTU)
Jes K. Jørgensen (KU)
Victoria Antoci (AU)
Martin Pessah (KU)
Lars Buchhave (DTU)
Steen Hannestad (AU)
Troels Haugbølle (KU)
Sigurd Jensen (KU)
Christoffer Karoff (AU)
Nicholas Emborg Jannsen (AU)
Marianne Vestergaard (KU)



Agenda

1. Welcome and approval of the Agenda

- Approval of previous minutes (Appendices 1)

2. IDA WG's status

- Short report (oral) from each WG (5 min)
- New WG3 chair, Kristian Pedersen
- LSST
- GLT
- HiRES - Phase B
- Annual meeting 2019
- Status of NTE/NOT
- NOT summerschool 2019 course

3. IDA as Danish reference to SPC, ESA (suggestion)

Lunch

4. Strategy for Danish Astrophysics

Status:

- Presentation of strategy for Danish Astrophysics 2020-2030 (draft)

5. ESO Council meeting Aarhus (March 2020)

6. Budget 2019

7. Action Items

8. Any other business

9. End of Meeting

* Mai will send out information before the meeting

Appendices:

1: Minutes from our previous meeting in September 2018

2: Budget for 2019

1. Welcome and approval of the Agenda/Approval of previous minutes (Appendices 1)

The agenda was approved as well as the minutes from September 2018.

2. IDA WG's status

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

WG1: Future ESO strategies

Allan Hornstrup was excused, Hans Kjeldsen provided a short report instead.

Allan Hornstrup (chair of WG1) along with Lise Christensen and Hans Kjeldsen met with Réne Michelsen from the Danish Agency to discuss the development and issues linked to the ESO budget, which indirectly affects the funding of the ELT. The ESO budget is tight, therefore it is suggested to invite external partners, who would then buy observing time. This means that offering observing time to non ESO members will be cancelled. No clear strategy has yet been identified on how to proceed.

WG2: Future NOT strategies

Short report is skipped – more information under agenda item “Status of NTE/NOT”

WG3: Future Space Science strategies for astrophysics

Hans Kjeldsen provided a short report.

New WG3 chair, Kristian Pedersen – selected as chair because of his background as head of DTU space, and former membership of SPC. Not a member of the IDA Board yet, but something that the IDA Board needs to consider as part of the new IDA agreement.

WG4: LSST

Martin Pessah is absent. Hans Kjeldsen provided a short report.

LSST is in an interesting phase – There is a signed agreement with the LSST team stating that Denmark can have up to 14 PI's and appoint junior researchers, including assistant professors. Realistic: two PI's from the Danish community – our commitment (signed contracts) has to be reported back to LSST in October 2019. New direction in LSST: full funding through the US, implying an open data policy, which potential could mean no payments in the future.

There has been past discussions about closing the WG down, but in light of this development, WG4 should continue the national coordination as the scientific interest in the LSST will increase in the future.

WG 5: ELT Instrumentation

Heidi Korhonen provided a short report.

The WG has met to discuss the Danish participation in the HiRES project.

The ESO Council has decided to postpone the next phase of HiRES and MOSAIC until all phase 1 instruments successfully pass phase 1. New date - the beginning of next year, June 2020. Despite the delay, we have official support from the relevant heads of departments at DTU, AU and KU on getting HiRES on the next national infrastructure road-map. WG5 is currently working on a strategy for the next phase and moving on with developing a funding plan. New dean of Aarhus needs to be notified before starting the funding applications.

The postponement is positive, seen from the prospective of getting HiRES on the next roadmap.

The road map is not announced yet, according to the Agency it will be announced sometime in 2019. An item that need clarification: will the roadmap include space activities?

WG 6: Greenland Telescope (GLT)

Jes Jørgensen is absent – Lars Kristensen provided a short report.

Two big developments – 1: a one-day workshop in Feb 2018 attended by Paul Ho among others, where Danish participation in the Greenland Telescope was discussed. The telescope is currently located in Thule, next summer it will be moved to a higher location in Greenland. The WG has written a letter of intent, expressing Danish interest. 2: the discovery of a black hole – first picture. (Data from the GLT not included). The GLT is important because it provides the Northern baseline. Event horizon 2020 – continues to observe and study the black hole.

National activity – IDA should connect to the project on a national level.

The IDA Board discuss the possibility of financial contribution to a bolometer camera on the future IDA budget.

WG 7: ESO outreach and IDA webpage

Nothing new to report from WG 7.

WG 8: The IDA Observing School

Johan Fynbo provided a short report. Ditte Slumstrup is helping with the organization. National Summerschool: Student distribution across AU, SDU, DTU and KU participating in the course: 2/SDU, 6/AU, 4/DTU and 5/KU. The course is expected to run from 3 to 11 August 2019. Observatory time is scheduled to run from 5 – 10 August – 5 nights in total. ECTS – 5 points. The practical details will follow in the nearest future – SONG activity might be included in the program.

WG 9: The Annual Danish Astronomy Meeting

Lars Kristensen provided a short report.

Deadline is 12 April. The program is online. All is in place for the meeting. The program includes good abstracts and Claus Madsen will give a talk about the IAU 100 year anniversary.

sary. DFS is expressing interest of making an annual national meeting with the astronomy community. The Board discussed the aspect and concluded not to combine the Physics/Astronomy community in future annual meetings due to the size of ADAM related to DFS' annual meeting.

IDA Board discussed the possibility to form a new WG10 with focus on international relations, specifically in relation to EAS and IAU. It was agreed to form this group and suggested Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard or Birgitta Nordström as potential chairs.

Status of NTE/NOT

Hans Kjeldsen provided a short report.

Transfer agreement was signed 1 April 2019. A key issue will be the running budget. AU is the host of the organization/staff contracts and Turku University is the host of the facilities/hardware. Same partners as before, except for Sweden, where it will go from a national activity to a university activity at Stockholm University. The commitment in terms of funding will not undergo drastic changes.

Formal start of the new organization – 1 Oct 2019. Gratitude towards Hans Kjeldsen for taking the lead on this from the IDA Board.

NTE – project delayed.

Hans Kjeldsen provided a short report.

A new NTE-NewNOT agreement will have to be drafted, that reflects the current status of the NTE-project, including agreements on GTO, delivery times, costs, etc.

On 11 January representatives from Aarhus University/IDA, NOTSA and the head of NBI, Jan Thomsen met to discuss funding scenarios, the management plan and organization behind NTE, in order to include additional NTE partners. It was decided to cover the cost for the project management at NOT.

Johan Fynbo has applied for funding – await response from DFF, reply sometime after Easter. IDA Board acknowledge Johan Fynbo for all his work effort with funding. A major revision of the whole NTE budget has been initiated with the aim of lowering the deficit in the current budget. The latest updated budget has a deficit of 386 kEUR. This includes new additional agreements with NBI (on conditions for FTE and workshop expenses) and savings (reuse of existing hardware) as well as transfer of specific activities from the NBI staff to the NOT staff. We also agreed with the NTE PI, the head of NBI and the NTE team to start a process of applying for additional funding.

Timescale: budget 2020 – the new agreement with the NTE team and NewNOT organization should be included in the budget line.

AI: The NewNOT charter will be distributed to the IDA Board when it is more finalized (Hans Kjeldsen).

3. IDA as Danish reference to SPC, ESA (suggestion)

For now there is no advisory board connected to SPC.

Opinions from IDA Board: WG3 could be the reference group representing the broad national interest and have more specific terms of reference. This will be discussed at future IDA Board meetings.

4. Strategy for Danish Astrophysics

Status: The chairs from WG1-6 met on 21 February 2019 to initiate the work on drafting the strategy. A table of contents has been specified, along with key areas. The Strategy for Danish Astrophysics should be aimed at the Ministry and the universities. The purpose of the strategy should be seen as a document of reference (from the perspective of the Ministry). One goal of the strategy is to outline how we aim at linking the ESO and ESA activities more closely in the strategy, and more space activities/projects are described. In addition, how we see collaboration between universities and the Ministry in the future.

Claus Madsen (emeritus) is a former member of the ESO staff, and has supported big infrastructure projects. He has offered to help with the Strategy for Danish Astrophysics.

Included in the strategy: coherent plan between the Agency and universities in terms of the funding landscape. Key decisions have been finalized, the report is still under development.

Timescale: End of year is a realistic timeframe for getting the strategy approved.

5. ESO Council meeting Aarhus (March 2020) plan ahead.

Start planning the event – suggestion: a small subgroup led by a person from AU to initiate the planning process. Formal invitations need to be sent out soon to the Ministry, the Rector from AU, and the Mayor of Aarhus.

AI: Hans Kjeldsen and Mai Korsbæk will contact AU staff to get the planning process started.

6. Budget 2019

SFU granted 1.5 MDKK on 7 March 2019. New budget presented at the meeting. A few adjustments to the budget line from last year.

NTE budget is lower than last year. A new item concerning NOTSA expenses has been added. Approved by the Agency. It includes lawyer fees in relation to finalizing the NOT transfer agreement. Fellowship is not on the budget line in 2019.

Observing school on space data, IDA supports the idea, but someone has to take the lead on organizing the school with concrete plans, e.g. someone from DTU Space.

A&A membership fees – is still paid through IDA.

ESON outreach: several times pr. year – press releases/connection to the Danish local ESO network (responsible Ole Knudsen).

The IDA Board approved the current budget.

The present agreement is running out this year – renewal of agreement: also if the budget frame should be renewed. Deadline for the new agreement: 15 October 2019.

IDA Fellowship: Instrument development/ Technical software developments, could be an interest new item on the next IDA budget.

7. Actions items

Listed in the minutes.

8. Any other business

IDA Board Election – all IDA Board members are asked to find potential candidates to run for the IDA board. Keeping diversity and gender balance in mind.

AI: Hans Kjeldsen will send documentation about last year IDA election to the IDA Board.

9. End of Meeting

The meeting ended 14:30