



SVENSKA NATIONALKOMMITTÉN FÖR ASTRONOMI

Protokoll från mötet av Svenska Kungliga Nationalkommittén för astronomi (NK; National Committee for Astronomy, NCA) inom Kungliga vetenskapsakademien (KVA)

Tid: 2024-03-26, 09:00-12:15.

Plats: Online in Zoom.

Närvarande ledamöter:

Elvire De Beck (ordförande, EDB, CTH), Oleg Kochukhov (viceordförande, OK, UU), Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare, JK, CTH), Thomas Bensby (TB, LU), Henrik Hartman (HH, MU), Ulrike Heiter (UH, UU), David Hobbs (DH, LU), Cathy Horellou (CH, CTH), Karin Lind (KL, SU), Timothy Linden (TL, SU), Felix Ryde (FR, KTH), Gabriella Stenberg Wieser (GSW, IRF), Barbro Åsman (BÅ, SU), Göran Östlin (GÖ, SU), John Conway (JC, CTH), Dan Kiselman (DK, SU), Jan-Erik Wahlund (JEW, UU), Jorrit Leenaarts (JL, SU)

Note: In the absence of the secretary, the participants of the meeting were not confirmed; the list above is in accurate.

Anmält förhinder: @@@

Frånvarande: @@@

Övriga närvarande: Tomas Andersson (TA, VR)

[LU Lunds universitet, KTH Kungliga tekniska högskolan, UU Uppsala universitet, CTH Chalmers tekniska högskola, SU Stockholms universitet, IRF Institutet för rymdfysik, VR Vetenskapsrådet, RFI rådet för forskningens infrastrukturer, SAS Svenska Astronomiska Sällskapet, SNSA Swedish National Space Agency]

1. Meeting is opened

EDB starts the meeting at about 9.

In the absence of JK, DH will take notes until JK arrives.

2. Approval of the meeting agenda

The agenda is approved.

3. Update from VR

TA gives an update from VR. TA is new at VR with material science background and has experience in project financing with VR. Recently he has been involved in Onsala grant for astronomy Infrastructure.

TA gives a basic overview of VR, explaining how money is distributed. Boards are elected representatives and they provide advice to the government and internationally.

A summary of interesting reports are also presented on the slides showing how the research

council prioritises.

The weak SEK causes problems for international commitments - they simply cost more.

Radioastronomy infrastructure is summarised in particular for JIVE and LOFAR.
Radioastronomy SKA slide is also presented.

ESO Slides: ELT dome and main structure are developing well.

Questions to NK:

John Conway: LOFAR is a cost neutral change but paid directly from VR instead of Onsala.
Being a full member of the ERIK gives full voting rights.

EDB: Asks that the slides will be circulated.

4. Update from SNSA - Per Magnusson

PM gives an update from SNSA.

Dark and Quiet Skies slide presented involving COPUOS outlining the Swedish position.

COSPAR slide presented which was important during cold war era. KVA pay the fees but know little about it.

SNSA sends representatives to COSPAR and SRS serve as the National Committee for COSPAR.

KVA will decide on the future of COSPAR hopefully before July.

Organisation of research funding in Sweden is discussed. SNSA remains intact in contrast to other funding agencies. SNSA needs to be separate due to its mandate. ESA member states that do not always have a Space Agency and are at a disadvantage so the current Swedish system is better.

Responsible International Collaboration is discussed. Funding agencies are looking into how to promote this which may impact calls in the future. SNSA also looks at international and military security which is a bit broader than for other funding agencies.

Marcus Wandt's (Astronaut) experiments on ISS are explained briefly.

SNSA Science program: Overview of missions given.

LISA was adopted
ATHENA downscaled
An L4 mission will go to Saturn's moons
David is leading an L5 proposal for GaiaNIR

Other missions also presented on the slides with Swedish involvement.

Mars MISSION introduced.
Comet interceptor mentioned.
ARRAKIHS mission with Lund involvement by Oscar Agertz.
LISA and NEW Athena both being developing together which could affect everything else if there are cost overruns.

A 3% increase in budget per year would help but this will not be decided until 2025.

Questions:

PM is asked to clarify situation on responsible use of space - SNSA will have pressure to identify proposals that are not in line with Swedish interests.

How this will be done is not yet clear.

Tomas states that VR have handled calls involving China and have already been impacted by this - rules are difficult to define well so awareness is also needed.

Not easy to identify what is sensitive.

GSW also states that they already have this issue.

An Advisory Booklet is mentioned and TA will be send in a link.

JC states that all instrumentation is of potential dual use - so we have to take this into account.

SNSA does not have structures in place for this yet but will work on it.

TA: it is about awareness and the threats will change so guidelines and awareness are always needed.

DH asks if ATHENA will delay other projects - PM would like to see new ATHENA delayed a bit to avoid risk which implies everything else will also be delayed. Other countries who have invested in Athena heavily may not want a delay.

9:34 JK enters the meeting and takes notes from now on.

Discussion on what 'Responsible International Collaboration' entails (link below).

https://www.stint.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/STINT__Responsible_Internationalisation.pdf

5. Dark and Quiet Skies.

EDB gives an update (slides). Discussion on the nature of Swedish involvement. Sweden supports the initiative but has not signed anything and is not explicitly involved with the issue. OSO is an affiliated member at CPS and has connections. Discussion on the nature of "Group of Friends" and Swedish representation and involvement. Role of ML as a representative of Sweden is discussed; ML is deeply involved in the raio-side of the CPS.

Discussion on what becoming 'a friend [IAU group-of-friends]' entails and what are the possibilities to get involved. Discussion on how to proceed to get information. A possibility to invite one of the COPOUS representatives (Pernilla Nilsson, Niklas Wahlberg(?)) to an NK meeting is discussed. The roles of Dark and Quiet Skies and COSPAR is discussed.

<https://cps.iau.org/group-of-friends/>

Conclusion: EDB contacts IAU for first info on Group of Friends.

TA, PM, leave.

BREAK at 10:22-10:37.

DK enters the meeting.

6. International Societies.

IUA – EDB: Update on new IAU members. EDB conveys a contact from the Office of Astronomy for Education that request for national education teams up to 5 members. NK should seek to nominate them. There is no hard deadline.

<https://www.astro4edu.org/naec-network>

Discussion on the interest and possible memberships. DH contacts a possible candidate.

Discussion on the General Assembly representation (Business meetings, 7th and 14th August). KVA funds travel for three nights. Online attendance seems to be a possibility. Conclusion: DH volunteers.

EAS – OK: NK is now an affiliated society in EAS. There are about 130 members taken in via this route. OK gives a short report from the Krakow Business meeting: only a brief meeting over lunch. The other annual meeting took place at Oxford; OK gives a short update from the meeting.

The representative of NK in the business meetings is discussed. OK: NK could decide that the vice-chair is the representative. Duties of the representative are discussed.

7. ESO User committee

EDB gives an update from ESO. New STC delegate (A. Adamo, SU). UC meeting coming. Members needed for Observing Programme Committee, request will be circulated.

Discussion about possibilities to affect proposal evaluation discussions from the perspective of NK. EDB: EDB can take input and take it to the UC meeting.

8. Astronomdagarna

TB: Update on organization. The meeting will be organized Wed-Fri this time. Oct 2nd has been confirmed as the starting date. Registration opened first half of April.

Discussion on possibilities to apply funding for organizing the Astronomdagarna is discussed.

9. Swedish communication channel

EDB leads a discussion on the details of the communication distribution list and practices related to it.

Action item for coordinators: keep informing people about the existence of the list.

10. Meeting with Finnish astronomers

DK gives an update about discussions with Finnish Astronomical society about a common meeting. Discussion on how to respond and on whether such meeting is interesting for the Swedish community. Differences between the Swedish and Finnish meetings are discussed.

Conclusion: NK is not really interested in pursuing common meeting but should formulate a polite constructive response and note that the Finnish participants are welcome to

Astronomdagarna.

11. AOB

EDB: Leads a discussion about whether to comment or not on the FoI-Prop.

12. End of meeting

The next meeting is set to take place during the Astronomdagarna in Lund in October. Wednesday morning is set as the time.

EDB ends the meeting at 12:15.

Vid protokollet:

Justerat:

Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare)

Oleg Kochukhov (viceordförande)