



SVENSKA NATIONALKOMMITTÉN FÖR ASTRONOMI

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

Tid: 2025-10-20, 13-16:20.

Plats: In person at KVA and online in Zoom

Närvarande ledamöter (In person): Elvire De Beck (EDB, CTH), Oleg Kochukhov (ordförande, OK, UU), Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare, JK, CTH), Jan-Erik Wahlund (JEW, UU), Henrik Hartmann (HH, MU), Thomas Bensby (TB, LU), Felix Ryde (FR, KTH), Erik Zackrisson (EZ, UU), Angela Adamo (AA, SU), Alexander Mustill (AM, LU), Barbro Åsman (BÅ, SU), Karin Lind (KL, SU, until ~14:00)

Närvarande ledamöter (Zoom): Gabriella Stenberg Wieser (GSW, IRF), John Conway (JC, CTH), Timothy Linden (TL, SU), Karin Lind (KL, SU, from ~14:15), Jorrit Leenaarts (JL, SU, until ~14)

Anmält förhinder: Kelley Hess (KH, Chalmers)

Frånvarande: -

Övriga närvarande: Camilla Jacobsson (CJ, VR), Per Magnusson (PM, SNSA)

[VR Vetenskapsrådet, SNSA Swedish National Space Agency, LU Lunds universitet, KTH Kungliga tekniska högskolan, UU Uppsala universitet, CTH Chalmers tekniska högskola, SU Stockholms universitet, IRF Institutet för rymdfysik, MU Malmö Universitet, SAS Svenska Astronomiska Sällskapet, FAS Finnish Astronomical Society, DAS Danish Astronomical Society]

1. Meeting is opened

As JL cannot participate the entire meeting, OK as the vice-ordförande leads the meeting.

OK starts the meeting at 13:00.

2. Approval of the meeting agenda

The agenda is approved.

3. Introduction of NCA members

Brief round-the-board introduction of the participants.

4. Relevant guidelines

OK introduces guidelines relevant for the NK operations.

5. Webpage

OK introduces the NK webpage and invites suggestions for its content.

6. Info from SNSA

PM gives an update from SNSA (slides). NASA budget uncertainties on ESA science have potentially huge impact. ESA Call for M8, F3, and mini-F class missions; five with main applicant from Sweden, which is a very high share.

SNSA has four new tasks from the Government Research Bill: doctoral school, support for dual use space technology, promote usage of space data in society, new national satellite programme. Extra 48 MSEK for 2025 and expected to increase in the coming years.

New regulations regarding security issues in grant application processes are in making.

14:00: PM leaves the meeting in Zoom.

EZ explains the new national PhD school proposal details. PhD position funding expected to be available; supports connecting fields and institutes. Details discussed.

7. Nordic-Baltic astronomy meeting (taken before Point 6)

TL introduces the Nordic-Baltic Astronomy Days 2026 in Turku: (slides):

<https://indico.global/event/15138/>

Astronomdagarna is delayed by one year due to this meeting; the next Astronomdagarna will only take place in 2027.

PM enters the meeting in Zoom at 13:15.

Communication about this to the Swedish community discussed. OK reminds that there are representatives of different institutes at NK and it is their responsibility to inform their respective institutes. Discussion on the relation between Astronomdagarna and the Nordic-Baltic meeting.

Discussion on whether we will have a meeting of the Swedish community (in some format) during the meeting. There are no events immediately known that would be sensible to combine with the meeting. It does not seem sensible to have NK meeting, because of the likely low attendance.

8. Info from VR

CJ gives an update from VR (slides). Description of the on-going infrastructure funding round and inventory. Description of the news and updates on relevant infrastructures: SKAO, LOFAR, EISCAT 3D, ESO including the INNA issue.

CJ explains that regarding INNA, there is not much more one can do at this moment; the relevant discussions and diplomacy is on-going at high level.

CJ describes how the search for the new scientific delegate for ESO is proceeding.

In the context of VR/RFI funding, OK gives news about the SELTIC (Swedish ELT Instrument Consortium (slide).

9. Update from ESO (taken before point 8)

AA gives an update from ESO (slides). Description of on-going major facility plans 2030.

Update on the INNA project (industry project causing problems for the VLT/ELT observatories). Description of on-going ESO actions to remedy the situation. Main problems described: light pollution, vibrations, turbulence, dust contamination. Overall impact virtually catastrophic.

Introduction to the ESO efforts to look for the next major project – 2040 – “Expanding Horizons”. Call for Letters of Intent expected in the end of 2026. Call for white papers on scientific questions; deadline 15th Dec 2025.

Discussion on what can be done at the national level regarding INNA. Discussion on the INNA issue in comparison to the problems caused by spacecrafts.

JC notes the ALMA WSU involvement of Chalmers/OSO as an update.

14:35-15: A coffee break.

10. Update on JUICE

JEW gives an update on JUICE (slides). Describes the status and general mission plan. Describes planned science in detail. All working well so far.

11. Update on IAU, EAS

OK gives an update on IAU and EAS. Not many updates. OK reminds about the role of NK: IAU business meetings, IAU member applications, NK is the affiliated society of EAS meaning that NK controls Sweden’s EAS membership list. Regarding EAS, it becomes timely to start keeping the membership list updated (e.g., for those who leave Sweden). Discussion on the EAS membership and possible updating processes. No major conclusions.

16:05 JEW leaves the meeting.

12. “Boken on Universum”

KL describes a planned book for Swedish primary schools; large print (17 000). KL will review the content. Fact-checking is needed and volunteers invited (contact KL).

13. AOB and next meeting

EDB notes an on-going re-organization at Chalmers, likely leading to a new ‘Physics and Astronomy’ department.

Next meeting likely be held online, JL will call for it, likely late winter.

OK ends the meeting at 16:20.

Vid protokollet:

Justerat:

Jouni Kainulainen (sekreterare)

Oleg Kochukhov (vice-ordförande)