

**Short Report from the 71st meeting of the EISCAT Council  
Held 30 – 31 October 2008, Kai Wah Plaza Int'l Hotel, P. R. of China**

Present: Dr. T. Andersson, Sweden, Dr. H. Boos, Germany, Prof. A. Brekke, Norway (Chairperson), Prof. Q. Dong, P. R. of China, Prof. R. Fujii, Japan, Dr. B. Jacobsen, Norway, Dr. K. Kauristie, Finland (Vice-Chairperson), Dr. I. W. McCrea, UK, Dr. H. Miyaoka, Japan, Prof. T. Nygrén, Finland, Prof. A. Pellinen-Wannberg, Sweden, Prof. J. Röttger, Germany, Prof. J. Wu, P. R. of China, Mrs. R. Young, UK

Invited and in Attendance: Mr. H. Andersson, HQ, Mr. P. Bergqvist (Staff Representative), Prof. A. P. van Eyken, HQ, Dr. M. Kosch (SOC Chairperson), Dr. M. Tihan, P. R. of China, Dr. E. Turunen, Mr. W. Zheng, P. R. of China

**EISCAT Status**

The operations progress as planned. After the first two months of full IPY operations on Svalbard, operations are now at more normal level.

The Kiruna located test array draws heavily on staff resources at Kiruna and Sodankylä and puts effectively on hold other EISCAT development work.

Plans are being considered to start putting the repaired second VHF klystron back into the system for ageing, tuning and, provided everything works ok, back into operations. The hope is to have it in service again during 2010.

The EISCAT\_3D design study will end April 2009 and project completion work, particularly final documentation, will start within the coming 2-3 months in order to meet the 30 April 2009 deadline.

Russian Federation, via the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) in St. Petersburg, have signed an agreement with EISCAT that will allow Russian scientists to use the EISCAT systems. The agreement is initially for three years with a possibility for prolongation. The first payment from AARI is expected in November 2008.

There is also an ongoing agreement with France that allows French scientists to use the EISCAT systems.

**Staff dialogue**

The staff representative reported about discussions and feelings among the staff and relayed some questions the staff wanted answers to by Council.

Council confirmed that release agreements have been made with Dr. U. G. Wannberg and Prof. A. P. van Eyken. The agreements have resulted in termination settlements drawn from EISCAT's own reserves. The details will not be revealed.

Whether the TransNational Access (TNA) project was worth entering into can not really be answered until the project has ended and effects been evaluated.

Council have no wish or plan to close the UHF system. Council is aware of the frequency issues and supports the work done to try to find ways around the problem. In longer term, the mainland radars will be replaced by a new system, evolving from the studied EISCAT\_3D concept.

Council noted the staff request to have at least three engineers at Kiruna and Sodankylä sites but had to respond that the staffing power resides with the Director, who has to take financial realities into account too.

The question about whether to install new Director level positions are not now considered by Council. The responsibility for the senior management structure is with the Director.

The purpose of the staff representative attending Council meetings was also covered including what can be reported back to the staff immediately after Council meetings.

Council decided that the Short Report should be the only source for relaying Council meeting related information to the staff and the public (by posting it on the EISCAT web).

### **TNA progress**

One new application was received for the autumn deadline and it was deemed to fulfil the TNA requirements. It will be run in 2009.

### **3rd party applications**

Three 3rd party applications had been received after the last Council meeting. Two of these needed urgent response and had therefore been approved by the Council Chairperson. The third was discussed by Council. The question about whether it is reasonable to allow 3rd party time to the same user or user group in a kind of regular manner was raised and Council concluded that this is within the rules of the Association.

Council accepted the third 3rd party proposal and it will be run on the mainland in 2009.

### **Science Plan**

Three different plans were presented. These covered 1-5 years, 5-10 years and longer term, up 30 years ahead.

### **EISCAT\_3D and steps thereafter**

Statement: In the light of its discussion of EISCAT's long-term science aims, and reaffirming the science strategy which it already formulated in 2006, EISCAT Council resolves that the development of new radar facilities capable of three-dimensional volumetric imaging of the atmosphere and ionosphere is an essential requirement for the future of the association, since this satisfies user demands for deeper insights into applications such as middle atmosphere science, multi-scale coupling, electrodynamics, meteors and space debris studies.

### **2008 Financial development update**

Council noted the forecast currently indicating a loss of about 500 kSEK.

### **2009 Budget and five-years plan**

Council agreed with the proposal to inflationary compensate the Associate funding with 2.5% from 2009 and the Associates are asked to adjust the annual contributions accordingly.

Council approved the 2009 budget and noted the five-years plan. The 2009 budgetary volume amounts to 38 MSEK, 21 staff and 2 896 operating hours spread over all sites.

### Council and EISCAT Management Committee

Council decided to postpone the nomination of the fourth EISCAT Management Committee (EMC) member to a later meeting. Council urged EMC to continue working and to plan an EMC meeting latest before next Council meeting.

Council ratified the employment contract with the new Director, Dr. E. Turunen who will join the Association 1 January 2009. The contract was also signed by both parties at the occasion.

Council noted that this was Prof A. P. van Eyken's last meeting as Director, and thanked him for his long service and many contributions to the Association.

The meeting was the last one chaired by Prof. A. Brekke. The next Council Chairperson will be Dr. K. Kauristie. The handover will be at the end of the year. The new vice Chairperson will come from Sweden.

### Coming Council meetings

The spring meeting will be held 3 - 4 June 2009 in Berlin, Germany.

The autumn 2009 meeting will be held 27 - 28 October 2009 in Norway, probably in or near Oslo.

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