

DRAFT

2022-02-01



## Minutes of the Advisory Group tele meeting 24 January 2022

Time: 13 – 16 CET

Participants: Sigurður M. Magnússon (IRSA, Chairman); Antti Daavittila (STUK); Nici Bergroth (Fortum); Christian Linde (SSM); Roberta Concilio Hansson (Vattenfall); Ole Christen Reistad (IFE); Mikael Meister (Vattenfall); Kresten Breddam (SIS); Peder Kock (SSM); Aleksi Mattila (STUK); Astrid Liland (DSA); Pia Vesterbacka (STUK); Carsten Israelson (DEMA); Carol Robinson (DSA); Per Seltborg (SSM); Ari Leppänen (STUK); Kasper Andersson (DTU); Finn Physant (FRIT, meeting secretary)

### 1 Opening

The Chair welcomed all the participants to this Advisory Group meeting. In particular the Chair welcomed the two new board members Carol Robinson and Per Seltborg. The Chair had received no excuses.

### 2 Practical remarks

All the participants presented themselves. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

### 3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 4 Approval of the minutes of the last Advisory Group meeting (2021-01-22)

The minutes were approved.

### 5 Follow up from the last Advisory Group meeting

The Chair informed about the revised instructions for reviewers and NKS-B Framework approved at the NKS June 2021 board meeting. Proposals concerning "new-innovative" and including "emerging technology" had been given more emphasis in the instructions for

reviewers and proposals addressing "societal impact" had been given more emphasis in the NKS-B Framework.

## 6 NKS R-part

### A: status

Ari Leppänen made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Overall the work in NKS-R is progressing according to plan. Status for the activities from CfP 2021: Contracts signed for all 6 activities and first payments made except for one. Generally the activities are progressing as planned.

All activities from CfP 2020 are completed and 6 final reports have been published on the website. No invoices received from KTH concerning WPS-MAF. The activity STATUS held an internal seminar. Project results were shown at the "BWR club. European Conference"-webinar. One information request had been received concerning young scientist travel assistance.

### B: CfP 2022 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Ari Leppänen presented the evaluation results and funding recommendations for CfP 2022. NKS-R received 8 proposals this year (three continued and five new proposals), with a total funding request of 4434 kDKK. Three funding alternatives were presented based on the evaluations with an expected budget of 3000 kDKK. Ari Leppänen recommended funding of alternative #1 including the following six activities in 2022: BREDA 2022, FEMMA, STATUS, WPS-MAF, ORTEF, POSEIDON (funding requested is 3037 kDKK – after the meeting corrected to 2987 kDKK – note by the meeting secretary).

The Advisory Group supported this funding recommendation after having discussed alternative #2, which also had been presented.

From the discussions concerning the evaluation results and funding recommendation the following was noted:

- NKS-R received the lowest number of applications since 2008 for CfP 2022, one less than in CfP 2021.

This low number initiated a discussion on how to improve the number of applications. Group members asked how information about an upcoming CfP was circulated and Ari Leppänen answered that he used advertisements in NewsFlashes and on LinkedIn. Kasper Andersson noted that the PC's also use seminars, workshops and personal contacts in order to gain new applications. After a discussion also involving board members it was concluded that the next obvious occasion to encourage applicants for the upcoming CfP is the R and B seminar in Stockholm in May this year. Also during this discussion Nici Bergroth asked for the broadening of the NKS-R Framework with emphasis on "new reactor types". This was supported by other group members.

The Chair concluded that the Advisory Group recommends funding of Ari Leppänen's recommendation to the NKS Board.

## 7 NKS B-part

### A: status

Kasper Andersson presented a status report for ongoing activities. In an overall view the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Delayed activities (initiated before 2020): none. Activities commencing in 2020: GAMMARAY X and NUCSEM reported and remaining 2

activities progressing according to (revised) schedule. Activities commencing 2021: All activities progressing according to schedule (some delays of up to a few months). One young scientist travel claim in 2021. NKS-B seminars in 2021: CRESCENT (physical), NUCSEM (physical/virtual), ECOFOOD (virtual), GAMMARAY X (virtual), NORDICNANO (physical).

#### B: CfP 2022 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Kasper Andersson presented the evaluation results and funding recommendation for CfP 2022 – a total of 12 (of these 4 continued) proposals were received. The total amount requested was 5758.25 kDKK from an expected budget of 3000 kDKK. Two funding recommendations and two alternatives were presented with total budgets of 3410 kDKK and 3590 kDKK.

Kasper Andersson recommended funding of the following eight activities in 2022: SOCHAOTIC, COMBMORC, RESINA, ECOFOOD, NORDICNANO, BIOAPP, REHRA, NUPFLIGHT (total applied for 3590 kDKK with a 2,9% reduction).

Based on this recommendation some discussions followed in the Advisory Group favouring that the activity RNSARCARDS be funded rather than REHRA.

The Chair concluded that the Advisory Group recommends funding of Kasper Andersson's recommendation of the first six projects and NUPFLIGHT, but leave the decision to fund REHRA or RNSARCARDS, to the NKS board.

#### 8 NKS R and B seminar 2022

The Chair opened this meeting item by reminding everyone that due to corona the R and B seminar had been postponed from 19-20 January to 24-25 May. Fortunately all speakers have confirmed their participation again. Concerning the program itself the Chair was especially drawing attention to the opening lectures by Jaques Lochard (former ICRP vice-chair) and Roger Coates (former IRPA president) and the start of the second day by Key speakers Kjerstin Kjøndal and Astrid Liland. The registration opens soon.

#### 9 New NKS Agreement

The Chair drew the group members' attention to the new NKS agreement for 2022-25 signed by owners in October 2021. The Chair invited the members to contact him directly with questions and for further information about the agreement.

#### 10 NKS Framework Program

The Chair referred to the following text in the new NKS agreement: "The Board establishes a research plan (NKS Framework) for the research that NKS intends to fund during the following year. The Board reviews the plan every year and revises as agreed in the Board". The Chair said that the views of the Advisory Group on the present NKS Framework and issues to review/revise are an important input to the discussion on review/revision to take place in the NKS Board.

By this opening of this meeting item the Chair asked for inputs from the group members. As already noted by group members under meeting item 6 more members asked for the inclusion of small modular reactors/new reactor types in the framework. The Chair invited the members to contact him concerning further inputs to the framework.

11           **Other issues**

Mikael Meister informed the group that SKB could not support NKS in 2022. SKB may support NKS again in 2023.

Kresten Breddam thanked the seminar organizers for the seminar planning and program. He looks very much forward to the seminar and stressed that the seminar is an excellent opportunity to advertising for having new proposals for new NKS activities.

12           **Next meeting**

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 17 January 2023 followed by the board's meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2023.

13           **End of meeting**

The Chair thanked all the participants for the good discussions during the meeting. The group's recommendations will be addressed at the board meeting 26 January 2022.