

2025-03-07



Minutes of the Advisory Group and board meeting in Copenhagen 14 January 2025

Participants: Per Seltborg (SSM, Chairman); Sigurður M. Magnússon (IRSA); Nici Bergroth (Fortum); Ninos Garis (SSM); Roberta Concilio Hansson (Vattenfall); Ingrid Helen Hauge (IFE); Mikael Meister (Vattenfall); Asser Nyander Poulsen (SIS); Peder Kock (SSM); Antti Daavittila (STUK); Jørgen Trømborg (DSA); Elísabet D. Ólafsdóttir (IRSA, observer); Pia Keski-Jaskari (STUK); Carsten Israelson (DEMA); Carol Robinson (DSA); Ari Leppänen by Teams (STUK); Teemu Siiskonen (STUK); Kasper Andersson (DTU); Finn Physant (FRIT, meeting secretary)

Excuses: Aleksi Mattila (STUK)

- 1 **Opening**
The Chair welcomed the participants. Special welcomes were given to: Jørgen Trømborg, who has replaced Astrid Liland from DSA, Ninos Garis, who replaces Christian Linde from SSM and Teemu Siiskonen, who replaces Ari Leppänen from STUK as PC-R.
- 2 **Practical remarks**
Practical information about the meeting was given by the Chair and the host, Carsten. All the participants presented themselves. Finn was appointed meeting secretary.
- 3 **Approval of the agenda**
The agenda was approved.
- 4 **Approval of the minutes of the last Advisory Group meeting (2024-01-16)**
The minutes were approved.

5 Follow up from the last Advisory Group meeting

Two issues were noted for follow up since last meeting. Firstly an update had been made in the "Instructions for evaluators" document (see meeting item 10) and secondly Mikael had raised the issue and problem with the current lack of involvement from the co-financiers in NKS-B activities. Mikael will in his presentation under meeting item 11 handle this in: "Co-financier involvement in NKS-B projects - Progress with meetings to enhance co-financier involvement in NKS-B projects".

6 NKS R-part

A: status

Ari Leppänen made a (Teams) presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Generally the NKS-R projects are progressing well.

Status for the activities from CfP 2024:

FEMMA: On schedule. Published an article in "Materials Characterization". INSOLE: On schedule and have reached the goals set in the proposal. Joint seminar with Nordic NPPs was held in Dec. 4th and an open webinar on Dec. 11th. POSEIDON: The year has gone well but slightly behind schedule. Results were presented at the International Workshop on Radiation Imaging Detectors in Lisbon. REPoUSSES: no report received. Nordic-SMART: Had a late start and is 3-4 months behind schedule. One project goal shifted from 2024 to 2025, other than that it is following the plan. CURES: Going as planned, more or less on schedule. The experimental work has been concluded and the analyses are done. The results are planned to be published as a journal article. PAS-SMR: Are on schedule and will reach the goals set for the project. Two manuscripts prepared as journal articles. Participated in the PANDA project PRG and MB meetings. STATUS: Tasks mentioned in the project plan are in progress. Most tasks/goals on schedule but some calculations will not be ready until January. Journal paper under preparation.

Status for the activities from CfP 2021 and CfP 2022:

WPS-MAF: this has been further delayed.

5 reports have been published in 2024. Seminar/workshop: DATA4Decom, Nordic-SMART and INSOLE. No requests for travel support.

B: CfP 2024 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Ari Leppänen presented the evaluation results for CfP 2025. NKS-R received 11 proposals this year (five continued and six new proposals). This was the same amount of proposals as last year. This year with a total funding request of 6208 kDKK (continued activities 2850 kDKK). The applications are covering 6/7 NKS-R programme areas.

Based on the evaluation, the split of programme areas and considering the overall funding possibility for the R-part Ari presented 4 funding options. The Chair thanked the advisory group for the evaluation and Ari for the optional inputs to the board's decisions.

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 2024): none.

Activities commencing in 2024: all activities progressing according to (in some cases slightly revised) schedule. 3 young scientist travel claims in 2024, but only one was

supported. 6 reports have been published in 2024. NKS-B seminars in 2024: RADWORKSHOP 2024, THREATSEM and MAREPR.

B: CfP 2024 proposals: evaluation and funding of new activities

Kasper presented the evaluation results for CfP 2025 – a total of 9 (one of these continued) proposals were received. The total amount requested was 4150 kDKK from an expected budget of 3000 kDKK.

Kasper presented the evaluation results including seven activities in 2025 and made three funding recommendations with and without funding cut.

The Advisory Group took note of the results presented. The discussion reflected good agreement with Kasper's recommendations.

Based on Kasper's presentation the Advisory Group concluded to recommend the funding of the seven proposals with the highest scores, which was within the limit of the total 2025 budget.

The Chair concluded from the discussions that the Advisory Group recommends funding of seven activities as recommended by Kasper.

8 NKS seminar in 2025

Kasper presented the draft seminar program and received suggestions for updates and development of the program. Kasper, Teemu and Ari will assure the final confirmations from speakers. With these updates, development and confirmations the seminar planning will now be ready for the next NewsFlash announcement and opening of registrations for participation.

9 NKS Framework Program

The framework documents were discussed.

Peder made the following comments: "Fukushima" should be removed from the B-framework document. The two documents "This is NKS" and "Rules of procedure" need updating.

The Chair noted that "This is NKS" and "Rules of procedure" will be updated in connection with the work on making a new NKS agreement for 2026-2029.

From the discussions the idea of merging the two framework documents into one was noted.

10 The evaluation process (both for proposals and final reports)

The Chair asked for the group's views on the evaluation process, award criteria and weighting for the final evaluation. The group discussed the evaluation process based on the members' experiences. Jørgen had already beforehand handed in his comments on improving the spreadsheet for evaluators. Per noted that the board would conclude on the group's discussions for the updating of the document "Instructions for evaluators".

11 Co-financier involvement in NKS-B projects

Mikael made the presentation "Co-financier involvement in NKS-B projects".

As progress conclusion of his presentation Mikael made the following requests to the NKS board:

- If OK from the NKS Board – Then proceed with detailed planning for joint WS, including putting a working group together to come up with format arrangement, specific deliverables, dates etc.

- Would it be OK to conduct the WS under the NKS umbrella, i.e. e.g. continuing using NKS NewsFlash for announcements and having the outcome from the WS, presented as NKS document or not
- Financing (premises and working hours)
- If possible, OK with back-to-back to NKS-R/B Seminar 21-22 May (i.e. 23 May)

The Chair thanked Mikael for his presentation. The requests will be handled by the board during tomorrow's meeting.

12 The structure of NKS

The Chair asked the participants for their comments on the structure of NKS based on their experiences over the last years. Per asked Sigurður for a resumé of discussions and decisions since 2017 and Sigurður made the resumé. The initiation of the Advisory Group in 2020 and at the same time going from a big to a small board was a result of the structural change of NKS.

Comments:

- Sigurður noted that after a number of discussions NKS still has two programme areas and not only one.
- Peder asked if the board found the Advisory Group valuable?
- Nici stated that evaluation work in the group was easier now than in the old "big board".
- After some discussions Kasper said that it was important that there should not be any meetings between evaluators before the scores are made.
- Antti was quite satisfied with evaluating in the Advisory Group forum.
- Carsten asked: how do we get more applications?

Per thanked for the inputs, which will be addressed by the board during the work with the new 2026-2029 NKS agreement.

13 Other issues

Nici informed about the developments at Fortum. It was suggested at upcoming meetings to include info from the participants' organisations.

14 Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Copenhagen on Tuesday 13 January 2026 followed by a board meeting on Wednesday 14 January 2026 with DEMA as host for both meetings. NKS will host the dinner on Monday 12 January 2026.

15 End of meeting

The Chair thanked Carsten Israelson/DEMA for the meeting arrangements and all the participants for their contributions to the meeting.