

Minutes of the board meeting in Reykjavik 13 and 14 January 2014

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (chairman), Jorma Aurela, Ole Harbitz, Steen Hoe, Finn Ugletveit, Nici Bergroth, Kaare Ulbak, Jens-Peter Lynov, Annelie Bergman, Olga German, Lars Gedda, Kaisu Leino, Karin Andgren, Kasper Andersson and Finn Physant (meeting secretary).
Apologies: Tarja Ikäheimonen, Timo Vanttola, Eva Simic and Atle Valseth.

1 Opening

The chair (and host) opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants. A special welcome was given to the new R-part programme manager Karin Andgren, Vattenfall and Lars Gedda, SSM, who in this meeting replaced Eva Simic due to her maternity leave. The chair asked Lars Gedda to pass on the best wishes to Eva Simic from the board.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the chair. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved. The chair suggested that the second meeting day from start should focus on programme status, new activities and budget decision (items 8 to 10). All other agenda items should be handled in the agreed order from the beginning of meeting day one. Everyone agreed to this.

4 Minutes of last board meeting (Copenhagen, 28 May 2013)

The minutes were approved.

5 News since last board meeting

a. Presentation of the new R-part programme manager Karin Andgren, Vattenfall
Olga German presented and introduced to the board the new programme manager. Karin Andgren is working in Vattenfall's Radiation Protection Department as a R&D Engineer. Karin Andgren has a masters degree in engineering physics and a PhD in nuclear physics from KTH in Stockholm.

b. Report from owners group meeting

There has been no owners group meeting since the last board meeting.

c. News from board members' organisations

The members informed during dinner each other about relevant news.

d. Administrative news

Finn Physant informed the board that during the CfP 2014 the question had been asked if non-Nordic organisations could receive NKS funding. The coordination group has reacted by introducing the following sentence in the "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders": "Activities involving cooperation with non-Nordic participants with own funding are welcomed". – Olga German wanted this sentence to state that it is possible for projects involving non-Nordic partners among others, to obtain NKS funding, but on conditions of their work is funded 100% from own budget. In other words, NKS accepts non-Nordic partners in projects, but will not finance their contribution. Other board members wanted this sentence to state that it is impossible for non-Nordic organisations to obtain NKS funding. – After some discussion it was concluded that the coordination group shall consider the sentence for the next board meeting. It was also concluded that the handbook should be updated so it is clear that the activity leader must come from a Nordic country (i.e. work for a Nordic organization).

The policy document "This is NKS" had been updated with some new 2013 figures and a new list of co-financiers. - Finn Ugletveit pointed out that the wording that NKS is an "...informal forum..." gives the reader a wrong impression of NKS. After some discussion it was concluded that the word "informal" shall be deleted and the coordination group shall consider the consequences for the wording in "This is NKS" for the next board meeting. In connection with the start up of Karin Andgren as R-part programme manager a new pamphlet will be published soon. – Nici Bergroth wants more links to be included in the new pamphlet for instance in order to facilitate the access to the relevant documents for new activity applicants. The coordination group took note of this.

Finn Physant noted that the "NKS Administrative Handbook" is still valid and fully updated. The handbook will be updated if needed.

6 Financial status

Finn Physant presented the distributed material: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated 16 December 2013. The reserve just before the end of the fiscal year 2013 end of this month (January 2014) was estimated to approximately 2.93 MDKK. – The board took note of the positive financial situation.

7 Agreements

The following agreements were prepared for the board's decision:

- B-part programme manager 2014 with DTU Nutech
- secretariat until 30 June 2015 with FRIT and
- auditing for the accounts of 2013 with Dansk Revision.

All these agreements were approved.

The agreement for the R-part programme manager 2014 with Vattenfall is still under preparation and expected to be finalised soon by the contractual Swedish parties.

8 R-part: status and new activities

Kaisu Leino presented the status of the ongoing activities. All projects are progressing well. All 2013 activities have been started mainly on schedule. 9 final reports have been published

since the last board meeting. 3 seminars have been carried out in 2013 and one more is due in January 2014. Of the 10 activities granted in 2013 there were 5 new and 5 continued activities.

Karin Andgren presented the evaluation results and funding recommendation for CfP 2014 – a total of 17 proposals were received. After some discussion the board agreed to fund the following activities in 2014 (all amounts in kDKK):

DIGREL	300
ENPOOL	650
HUMAX	500
L3PSA	300
DECOSE	500
Nordic-Gen4	200
DPSA	400
ProCom	600
ATR	300

The total budget for these 9 activities is 3750 kDKK.

9 B-part: status and new activities

The PC-B presented a status report for ongoing activities. The activities are progressing well. All activities started before 2012 are finalised. Of the 2012 activities 7 of 9 are completed – the THYROID and PUBLUME activities are delayed. The 2013 activities are progressing as planned except one. 4 seminars have been carried out in 2013.

The PC-B presented the evaluation results and funding recommendation for CfP 2014 – a total of 18 (of them 1 continued) proposals were received. After some discussion the board agreed to fund the following activities in 2014 (all amounts in kDKK):

NORCON	600
FAUNA	260
NORMIN	450
MOBELRAD	510
GAMMAUSER	370
NOVE	330
RAPID-TECH	350
THYROIDSEM	230
SEMUNARS	200
STANDMETHOD	350
CONCORE	400
EFMARE	450

The total budget for these 12 activities will be 4500 kDKK. A special remark about the NORCON activity was expressed by the board: we are aware that SSM is concerned due to the involvement of Vattenfall in the project. Therefore the NKS board requests the project group to ensure that the roles and responsibilities in the project do not compromise the results to be achieved. Furthermore the board reserved 120 kDKK for the possibility that STUK becomes a NORCON participant.

The PC-B also presented the PC's answers to questions raised at the last board meeting:

- a. It had been proposed to have activity specific presentations during future board meetings. The PC's suggestion was to test this proposal during the next board meeting in June 2014. The only concern expressed by the PC's to this was the possible prolongation of ½-1 hour of the meetings. The matter was discussed and the chair concluded that this question would not be taken any further. Furthermore the chair concluded that the time has come to consider the possibility of a joint R- and B-seminar with a large number of activity specific presentations. The coordination group will consider this and report back to the board at its next meeting.
- b. The PC's were asked to look into the possibility of having training courses as activities. The PC's answered that the possibility already is present, and that such courses/workshops already have been part of earlier activities. Also if the board or PC's see the need for such activities, this may be addressed in CfP's or following board decisions.

10 Budget for 2014

Finn Physant presented the distributed budget proposal of 2 January 2014 from the coordination group. – All contributions were noted to and confirmed by the owners' and co-financiers' representatives. Ole Harbitz confirmed that the NRPA funding for 2014 contribution will increase and be 1.275.000 NOK. The budget approved by the board is attached in appendix A.

11 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the status of the new website, which was opened in May 2012, NewsLetters etc. The new website is still considered quite flexible and user friendly (especially this was the fact for carrying out the Fukushima seminar in 2013). User statistics have now been obtained for more than a year and were presented. After some discussion about the interpretation of the statistics, it was decided to continue obtaining this. Five NewsFlashes and one NewsLetter have been distributed since the last board meeting including news on CfP 2014, new reports, upcoming seminars etc. There is now a list of more than 480 e-mail addresses, to which the electronic letters are sent. A new and updated version of the pamphlet "Nordic Nuclear Safety Research" will be published soon. Three articles published in "Radiation Regulator" in 2013 and one abstract prepared for ICRER 2014 had been presented as meeting material for the board. The work of promoting NKS through social media so far carried out by Kaisu Leino will now be taken over by Karin Andgren.

12 Other issues

- a. The chair informed the board about the good progress of the translation of Bo Lindell's books. The first volume of four has been successfully translated. Kasper Andersson informed the board about a proposal forwarded to NKS from the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). As agreed at the meeting between representatives of NCM and NKS at Risø on 2 December 2013, the proposal for NKS to execute a project to identify possible needs for further Nordic collaboration on radioactive waste issues (explicitly excluding wastes from the nuclear industry and emergencies) was presented to the board. The board in general responded positively to the proposal, which was considered interesting. After some discussion, however, the board agreed that the matter would be more suitable for the directors of the Nordic radiation safety authorities to address. The chair offered to convey the proposal to the group of directors, of which

the chair also is a member. If the decision of the group of directors is positive, a possible outcome could be that specialists representing the authorities in each Nordic country meet and provide an overview of the national situations and discuss whether there are needs for further collaboration. If needs are identified, proposals for new collaboration plans on specific sub-topics will be outlined. On the background of the results of the meeting, a short recommendation report will be written, including the national accounts as an appendix.

- b. Karin Andgren informed the board that she had been contacted by Elforsk and asked if NKS would be interested in carrying out a seminar in co-operation with Elforsk. The topic should be possible research activities to be carried out at Barsebäck (before it is decommissioned). The board expressed its interest and Karin Andgren will obtain more information and report back at the board's next meeting.
- c. A concern had been raised from the Norwegian board members that the share of continued NKS activities compared to new activities could become so big that it could become almost impossible in some years to get new activities started. This has in the latest years been more pronounced on the R than on the B side where only 1 out of 18 proposals for CfP 2014 was for a continued activity. However, leaders of 7 of the 12 B activities funded in 2014 have indicated that they will apply for continued financing in 2015. Following the limited number of good proposals for CfP 2013, it could also be seen as an asset (rather than a problem) for NKS to know in advance that some of the consortia supported in 2014 will send in an application for continued work in 2015. It was noted that ambitious activities may require more than one year to fulfil all objectives, but a final report for each activity year must always be submitted as stated in the "Handbook for NKS Applicants and Activity Leaders". This handbook makes it clear that "NKS contracts are generally for one year's work, and further continuation of activities is subject to submission and approval of a new proposal". There is thus by no means any guarantee that funded proposals will be continued the following year. There should always be open competition between "new" and "continued" proposals. In order to facilitate this, it was recognised that it is necessary to require that projects extending over more than one year, are planned and conducted in such a way that activities the first year produce distinct and discrete deliverables. The PC's will consider if text changes are needed in the call for proposals and/or the instructions for applicants (and elsewhere) before the next board meeting in June 2014.

13 Next meeting

Next meeting will be in Copenhagen 10 June 2014.

14 End of meeting

Many thanks for a good meeting were expressed by the chairman. Many thanks, with all the best wishes for the future, were given to Kaisu Leino for her co-operation and contributions to the work of the NKS.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chairman

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendices:

A: Budget decision for 2014

B: Actions from the board meeting

Appendix A - NKS budget decision for 2014 - 14 January 2014

Budgets	Budget for 2014	Budget for 2014	Budget for 2013
	EUR	DKK	DKK
R-part			
Activities	502.661	3.750.000	3.950.000
Fee PC	64.341	480.000	470.000
Travels PC	6.702	50.000	100.000
Coordination	6.702	50.000	100.000
Young scientists' travel	6.702	50.000	100.000
R total	587.108	4.380.000	4.720.000
B-part			
Activities	603.193	4.500.000	2.415.000
Fee PC	64.341	480.000	470.000
Travels PC	6.702	50.000	100.000
Coordination	6.702	50.000	100.000
Young scientists' travel	6.702	50.000	100.000
B total	687.640	5.130.000	3.185.000
Translation project			
Translation project	20.000	149.206	149.208
Translation total	20.000	149.206	149.208
Common			
Common various according to specification	33.511	250.000	250.000
Common total	33.511	250.000	250.000
Others			
Fee Secretariat	84.447	630.000	615.000
Fee Chairman incl. travels	60.319	450.000	440.000
Travels Secretariat	1.340	10.000	10.000
Others total	146.107	1.090.000	1.065.000
TOTAL	1.474.365	10.999.206	9.369.208
Expected incomes according to app. 1	1.187.202	8.856.885	9.230.566
Surplus	-287.163	-2.142.321	-138.642

Any deficits to be covered by the reserve available for the board, which according to the financial status report of 16 December 2013 is: ca. 2.930.000 DKK. Funding reserved for use in 2013, but not used, will amount to ca. 550.000 DKK. - Loss due to the development in exchange rates 2013-14: ca. - 450.000 DKK. Old reservations from before 2010, not used, amount to ca. 250.000 DKK. Total reserve end of January 2014: ca. 1.140.000 DKK or ca. 153.000 EUR.

Specification of "Common" for 2014

	2014	2014	2013
	EUR	DKK	DKK
Common			
Reports, materials etc.	3.854	28.750	30.000
Postage, fees	1.005	7.500	7.500
Equipment	2.011	15.000	15.000
Internet	12.064	90.000	90.000
Auditing, consulting	7.875	58.750	57.500
Information material	4.021	30.000	30.000
Various expenses	2.681	20.000	20.000
Common total	33.511	250.000	250.000

Appendix 1 for budget decision 2014

Pledge for funding in 2014 - Incomes

	Budget for 2014	Budget for 2014	Actual for 2013
	EUR	DKK	DKK
SSM	509.628	3.801.980	3.964.870
TEM	340.000	2.536.502	2.536.536
BRS	57.400	428.221	428.227
GR	24.000	179.047	179.050
NRPA	151.319	1.128.885	1.270.875
Total EUR / DKK	1.082.347	8.074.635	8.379.558

SSM contribution SEK	4.550.000
NRPA contribution NOK	1.275.000

	EUR	DKK	DKK
Fortum	24.500	182.777	175.319
TVO	24.500	182.777	175.319
Fennovoima	7.500	55.952	52.223
IFE	11.500	85.793	85.795
KSU	0	0	90.868
Forsmark	12.770	95.268	95.269
Ringhals	12.000	89.524	89.525
OKG	12.085	90.158	86.690
Total EUR / DKK	104.855	782.250	851.008
Complete EUR / DKK	1.187.202	8.856.885	9.230.566

Exchange rates 2013/14:

NKS 2014:	
DKK	100,0000
EUR	7,4603
NOK	0,8854
SEK	0,8356
NKS 2013:	
SEK 2013	0,8714
EUR 2013	7,4604
NOK 2013	1,0167

Appendix B

Actions from the board meeting
(if nothing else is mentioned to be taken by the coordination group and reported back at the board's next meeting):

- A. Ref. item 5: the sentence "Activities involving cooperation with non-Nordic participants with own funding are welcomed" to be considered in the handbook for applicants and elsewhere. The handbook should also be updated so it is clear that the activity leader must come from a Nordic country (i.e. work for a Nordic organization).
- B. Ref. item 5: the consequences of deleting "informal" to be considered for the wording in "This is NKS".
- C. Ref. item 5: new pamphlet to be published with more links.
- D. Ref. item 9: the possibility of a joint R- and B-seminar to be considered.
- E. Ref. item 12: Kasper Andersson will notify NCM about the board's response to NCM's proposal forwarded to NKS.
- F. Ref. item 12: Karin Andgren will obtain more information about the Elforsk seminar.
- G. Ref. item 12: the PC's will consider if text changes are needed in the call for proposals and/or the instructions for applicants and elsewhere to clarify the question concerning "new" and "continued" activities before the next board meeting in June 2014.