

Minutes of the board meeting in Oslo 18 January 2017

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair, IRSA), Charlotte Bro (DEMA), Eva Simic (SSM), Linda Kumpula (TEM), Ole Harbitz (NRPA), Annelie Bergman (SSM), Astrid Liland (NRPA), Atle Valseth (IFE), Jens-Peter Lynov (DTU), Karin Andgren (Vattenfall), Mette Øhlenschläger (SIS), Nici Bergroth (Fennovoima), Petri Kinnunen (VTT), Tarja Ikäheimonen (STUK), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Christian Linde (SSM), Emma Palm (SSM), Kasper Andersson (DTU) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

Apologies: Jorma Aurela (TEM)

1 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Regrets had been received from Jorma Aurela. The Chair expressed many thanks to the hosts Ole Harbitz and Strålevernet. Special welcomes were given to:

-Linda Kumpula, who in this meeting replaced Jorma Aurela,

-Charlotte Bro as owner and board member (replacing Steen Hoe) accompanied by Carsten Israelson,

-Karin Andgren replacing Olga German as board member,

-Petri Kinnunen replacing Timo Vanttola as board member,

-Christian Linde as R-part programme manager replacing Emma Palm.

The Chair thanked Olga German, Steen Hoe and Timo Vanttola for their contributions to NKS.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the Chair and the host. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

4 Minutes of last board meeting (Copenhagen, 22 June 2016)

The minutes were approved. Actions A to D noted in the appendix of the minutes of the last board meeting will be noted in parenthesis in these minutes when handled during today's meeting.

5 News since last board meeting

a. Report from the owners' group meeting

There has been no owners' group meeting since the last board meeting. The Chair informed of an informal owners' meeting under meeting item 5 b.

b. News from board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

Charlotte Bro informed about recent changes in legislation of relevance for DEMA as nuclear authority. Firstly a new act on the control of peaceful use nuclear material in Greenland has been adopted. According to the new act, DEMA has to control and supervise the use and whereabouts of nuclear material which may be extracted in Greenland. This has to be done in order to fulfill the IAEA safeguards obligations. Secondly, the obligations arising out of the amended Convention on Physical Protection on Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities have been included in the Danish Emergency Act, thereby by law establishing what was already a long time practice that DEMA supervise that operators comply with the obligations on physical protection. At certain points the law stipulates higher standards than those required by the convention, for instance category III-material must be protected according the stricter requirements for category II-material, thereby applying the highest international stands.

Charlotte Bro also informed that due to cut backs DEMA is not able in 2017 to provide funding for NKS at the same level as in 2016 – and that further reduction for 2018 could be expected. Charlotte Bro stressed the importance of keeping administrative costs down and that these costs, as a %, for NKS are much higher than in DEMA and they need to be reduced. Furthermore Charlotte Bro informed that DEMA believes that the EU rules for public procurement should apply to the contract for the NKS Secretariat and that the salary for the PC's were very high, 510 000 DKK for a half time position. Charlotte Bro suggested that it should be considered if the PC activity could be undertaken with 25% rather than 50% of a full position.

It was however pointed out by other board members that a large part of the tasks undertaken by the PC's and also the secretariat's role in the considerable outreach can not be characterised as administration, but in fact work of a scientific nature.

Eva Simic informed the board about an evaluation carried out by the consultant firm Oxford Research on behalf of SSM on the added value of NKS in Swedish perspective. An evaluation report with conclusions and recommendations is close to finalisation. Eva Simic will distribute this report to the board members.

Eva Simic also informed about SSM's new government mission regarding the national competence, and Eva Simic also informed about SSM's research conference in November 22-23.

The Chair informed of an informal owners meeting in the evening of 17 January 2017 between Iceland, Denmark and Norway. Sweden and Finland were not able to attend. The aim of the meeting was to address the concerns raised by Denmark regarding the administrative costs, expressed in a letter to the other owners from DEMA, see also the report by the DEMA board member, above. The administrative costs have been discussed from time to time in the NKS board and among the owners. Now it is about 10 years since a

major reorganization of NKS took place and it may be feasible to take a look at NKS structure and activities including the administration in order to explore opportunities for enhancing efficiency and reducing costs. The way forward regarding these issues (i.e. establishing working groups with well-defined tasks) will be addressed at the next board meeting in June following a thorough discussion of the evaluation report by Oxford Research on the added value of NKS in Swedish perspective. The preparations for the June board meeting will be in consultations with the owners and there may be need for one or more owners meeting.

c. Administrative news

Finn Physant informed the board that the policy document "This is NKS" had been updated by exchanging "2015" with "2016" concerning the size of the annual contributions to NKS. A new folder will be published in 2017 and the "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders" as of April 2016 is still valid.

Annelie Bergman suggested that the 2017 folder only should be produced in an electronic version. The board agreed to this.

6 Financial status

Finn Physant presented the distributed material: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated 16 December 2016. At this date the reserve was estimated to approximately 0,92 MDKK, which is according to the recommendation given by the auditor. – The board took note of the financial situation.

Charlotte Bro asked if a reserve of approximately 1 MDKK really was needed. The Chair informed that this was in line with a recommendation from NKS' auditor a few years back when severe currency fluctuations gave rise to concern regarding NKS' financial well being and suggested that Charlotte Bro address this question to the auditor at the next board meeting.

7 Agreements

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

- R-part programme manager 2017 with Strålsäkerhetsmyndigheten
- B-part programme manager 2017 with DTU Nutech
- secretariat until 30 June 2018 with FRIT and
- auditing for the accounts of 2016 with Dansk Revision.

All these agreements were approved with the following comments:

In the programme manager contracts the last half sentence "or agreed with the programme manager in advance" will be erased.

The secretariat contract will be prolonged to 31 July 2018 enabling the board to decide the possible renewal of this contract during the January 2018 board meeting 6 months before the termination of this agreement the latest.

8 R-part: status and new activities

Emma Palm made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Overall the work in NKS-R is progressing well. Since the last board meeting in January, 15 final reports have been published on the NKS website. All activities started in 2015 (and earlier) are completed. All contracts for 2016 activities have been agreed and signed, overall the work in NKS-R is progressing according to plan. Travel assistance has been granted to one young scientist. Several seminars and publications has resulted from the NKS-R activities.

Christian Linde presented the evaluation results and funding recommendations for Cfp 2017. NKS-R received 14 proposals this year (6 continued, 2 renewed and 6 new proposals), with a total funding request of 6948 kDKK. Two funding alternatives were presented based on the evaluations with a total budget equal to 3100 kDKK. The first alternative suggested full funding for six proposals and the second alternative suggested funding for seven proposals with a reduction of the requested amounts by ca 13 %. After some discussions, the board favored the second funding alternative and agreed to fund the following seven activities in 2017 (all amounts in kDKK):

SPARC	524
NORDEC	524
COPSAR	493
FIREBAN	393
SC_AIM	279
HYBRID	493
WRANC	393

The total budget for these seven activities is 3100 kDKK.

Petri Kinnunen commented the application of the HYBRID project. In the project application it had been marked that VTT would invest 122 kDKK in the project, but is not applying any NKS money for itself. This is a false budgeting as VTT is not investing direct funding for this project. VTT will do similar work in the Finnish nuclear safety research programme SAFIR2018 and most likely the Finnish contribution in HYBRID is meant to be exchange of knowledge between these projects, but direct transfer of money from VTT it will not be.

Christian Linde presented a recent publication issue encountered by VTT. They had submitted a manuscript to a peer-review journal for publication of results from the ATR activity, which was funded by NKS in 2015. The manuscript was not accepted for publication since the ATR final report (NKS-372) was already available on the NKS website. The coordination group realised this case highlights a potential conflict between the ideal of openness of NKS and the opportunity for scientists to publish their results in peer-review journals. To solve this particular issue, the coordination group decided to remove the NKS-report from the website and to have VTT resubmitting a revised report with a link to the open access article where the results are published. VTT and NSK will split the cost of 1900 USD. Special attention should be made before publishing NKS-reports on the website to avoid similar cases in the future. Action: the program managers shall ask the activity leader when the final report is submitted if they intend to publish, if so the NKS report will be put on the NKS website after the publication is finished.

9 B-part: status and new activities

Kasper Andersson presented a status report for ongoing activities. In an overall view the activities are progressing well. There are no delayed activities started before 2016. The activities from 2016 are being carried out on schedule, but in a few cases with acceptable delays. Young scientist travel assistance has been granted to 2 scientists. Both NKS-B seminars planned in 2016 have been carried out: GAMMASPEC and NORDUM.

Kasper Andersson presented the evaluation results and funding recommendation for Cfp 2017 – a total of 16 (of these 3 are continued) proposals were received. After some discussion the board agreed to fund the following activities in 2017 (all amounts in kDKK):

EPHSOGAM	381
AUTOMORC	452
GAMMASPEC	381
NORDIC ICP	272
CAMNAR	363
NEXUS	390
AVESOME	435
RADSHIELD	426

The total budget for these 8 activities is 3100 kDKK.

10 Budget for 2017

Finn Physant presented the distributed budget proposal of 9 January 2017. Three revisions to this proposal were made. The contribution from DEMA was corrected to 375,000 DKK. The contribution from IFE was corrected to 110,000 NOK. The common expense budget was reduced to 200,000 DKK. - The budget approved by the board is attached to these minutes in appendix A.

11 NKS article

Christian Linde presented a draft plan for an article on the impact of NKS on Nordic collaboration within nuclear reactor safety and emergency preparedness, which was suggested earlier at the last board meeting in June 2016. A main objective of the article was described aiming at highlighting the value of NKS activities and collaborations to the Nordic and the international communities, e.g. by scientific and technical excellence, developing competence, end-user relevance and building networks. A discussion with the board followed suggesting to find e.g. a French journal for publication and to focus on the results of NKS sponsored activities and the outcome of collaborations (action A).

12 NKS R and B seminar 2019

Kasper Andersson presented to the board the coordination group's first draft of a seminar outline. The targeted audience is broad, including authorities/regulators, operators/industries, technical consultants, universities/academia, young and senior scientists and media. The location is to be a Nordic capitol (for the board to decide). It is to take place over 1½ days in January 2019. Lessons learned from previous seminars include: less technical detail in presentations, more focus, more breaks, more discussion time, and more female speakers. The coordination group presented a wish for a seminar program work group consisting of the 2 PM's, Finn Physant, and Astrid Liland, Karin Andgren, Kaisu Leino and Gisli Jonsson. Astrid Liland and Karin Andgren were positive for participation and Kaisu Leino and Gisli Jonsson will be invited. This group is balanced wrt. R/B, Nordic countries and gender, and is very experienced wrt. NKS work. Some ideas for the seminar structure were presented, which may serve as an input for the initial discussions in the program group. NKS PC's could give presentations at the seminar of the journal publication, that would be finalized then. It was agreed to again have alternating R and B presentation groups, and that also this seminar should if possible have 3-4 high ranking key speakers to increase sales value (action A). It was discussed if there should be a seminar fee for participants, but it was pointed out that this would be against fundamental principles of

NKS. - The board was supportive of the seminar outline and the coordination group will develop the seminar plan further for the next board meeting.

13 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the status of the website, NewsLetters etc. User statistics of the present generation of website software have now been obtained for more than 4 years and were presented. This presentation included a graphical presentation (action C). 3 NewsFlashes and one NewsLetter have been distributed since the last board meeting including news on the last board meeting, CfP 2017, seminars, reports, young scientist travels etc. There is now a list of more than 500 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 in 2017 (only in an electronic version).

14 NKS and LinkedIn

Christian Linde presented a plan for the entry of NKS on LinkedIn as a way to extend the networking opportunities for NKS. LinkedIn can be seen as an additional channel for spreading news from newsletters and newsflashes. An NKS LinkedIn site could also serve as a hub for networking among the LinkedIn users that choose to become "followers of NKS", which could be of particular interest for young scientists. NKS news posted on LinkedIn could also be easily forwarded through the networks of the followers, thereby offering an opportunity for the news to be spread beyond the current list of subscribers. The LinkedIn site would also include a short presentation of NKS and a link to the NKS internet website (action D). The board supported the initiative and approved the plans. Status report will follow at the next board meeting.

15 Other issues

No other issues.

16 Next meeting

Next meeting will be in Copenhagen 8 June 2017. The owners were asked to reserve 7 June for a possible owners' group meeting in Copenhagen.

17 End of meeting

Many thanks for a good meeting were expressed by the chairman – especially to the organizers at Strålevernet. Many thanks were given to Emma Palm for her valuable contributions to NKS as R-part programme manager.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chairman

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendices:

A: Budget decision for 2017

B: Actions from the board meeting

NKS budget decision for 2017 - 18 January 2017

Budgets	Budget for 2017	Budget for 2017	Budget for 2016
	EUR	DKK	DKK
R-part			
Activities	416.981	3.100.000	3.500.000
Fee PC	68.600	510.000	541.667
Travels PC	6.725	50.000	50.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	6.725	50.000	100.000
R total	499.032	3.710.000	4.191.667
B-part			
Activities	416.981	3.100.000	3.500.000
Fee PC	68.600	510.000	500.000
Travels PC	6.725	50.000	50.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	6.725	50.000	100.000
B total	499.032	3.710.000	4.150.000
Seminar 2016			
Seminar 2016	0	0	100.000
Seminar 2016 total	0	0	100.000
Common			
Common various according to specification	26.902	200.000	250.000
Common total	26.902	200.000	250.000
Others			
Fee Secretariat	90.794	675.000	660.000
Fee Chairman incl. travels	64.565	480.000	470.000
Travels Secretariat	1.345	10.000	10.000
Others total	156.704	1.165.000	1.140.000
TOTAL	1.181.669	8.785.000	9.831.667
Expected incomes according to app. 1	1.101.647	8.190.085	8.661.382
Surplus	-80.022	-594.915	-1.170.285

Any deficits to be covered by the reserve available for the board, which according to the financial status report of 16 December 2016 is ca.:	916.610,00
Proposed budget for 2017	-594.914,63
Present reserve and surplus	321.695,37
Funding reserved for use in 2016, but not used, will amount to ca.:	330.000,00
Gain/Loss due to the development in exchange rates 2016-2017 ca.:	-95.000,00
Old reservations from before 2014, not used, amount to:	238.045,00
Total reserve end of January 2017: ca. DKK:	794.740,37
Total reserve end of January 2017: ca. EUR:	106.900,40

	2017	2017	2016
	EUR	DKK	DKK
Common			
Reports, materials etc.	3.531	26.250	26.250
Postage, fees	1.009	7.500	7.500
Equipment	673	5.000	15.000
Internet	9.416	70.000	90.000
Auditing, consulting	8.239	61.250	61.250
Information material	2.690	20.000	30.000
Various expenses	1.345	10.000	20.000
Common total	26.902	200.000	250.000

Appendix 1 for budget decision for 2017

Pledge for funding in 2017 - Incomes

	Proposal for 2017	Proposal for 2017	Actual for 2016
	EUR	DKK	DKK
SSM	476.335	3.541.265	3.695.510
TEM	350.000	2.602.040	2.537.250
BRS	50.441	375.000	428.348
GR	24.000	178.426	179.100
NRPA	88.045	654.560	989.528
Total EUR / DKK	988.821	7.351.291	7.829.736

SSM contribution SEK	4.550.000
NRPA contribution NOK	800.000
BRS contribution DKK	375.000

	EUR	DKK	DKK
Fortum	26.250	195.153	195.891
TVO	26.250	195.153	195.891
Fennovoima	10.000	74.344	67.163
IFE	12.106	90.002	87.484
Forsmark	13.150	97.762	98.132
Ringhals	12.000	89.213	89.550
OKG	13.070	97.168	97.535
Total EUR / DKK	112.826	838.795	831.646
Complete EUR / DKK	1.101.647	8.190.085	8.661.382

IFE contribution NOK	110000
----------------------	--------

Exchange rates 2016/17:

NKS 2017:	
DKK	100,0000
EUR	7,4344
NOK	0,8182
SEK	0,7783
NKS 2016:	
SEK 2016	0,8122
EUR 2016	7,4625
NOK 2016	0,7761

Appendix B

Actions from the board meeting

(if nothing else is mentioned to be taken by the coordination group):

- A. Ref. item 5: An evaluation report with conclusions and recommendations is close to finalisation. Eva Simic will distribute this report to the board members.
- B. Ref. item 5: A new folder (pamphlet) will be published in 2017 (only an electronic version – not printed).
- C. Ref. item 8: Action: the program managers shall ask the activity leader when the final report is submitted if they intend to publish, if so the NKS report will be put on the NKS website after the publication is finished.
- D. Ref. Item 11: A discussion with the board followed suggesting to find e.g. a French journal for publication and to focus on the results of NKS sponsored activities and the outcome of collaborations.
- E. Ref. Item 12: The board was supportive of the seminar outline and the coordination group will develop the seminar plan further for the next board meeting.
- F. Ref. item 14: The board supported the initiative and approved the plans. Status report will follow at the next board meeting.