

Minutes of the board meeting in Copenhagen 28 June 2018

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair, IRSA), Anneli Hällgren (SSM), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Jorma Aurela (TEM), Ole Harbitz (NRPA), Annelie Bergman (SSM), Astrid Liland (NRPA), Jens-Peter Lynov (DTU), Karin Andgren (Vattenfall), Mette Øhlenschläger (SIS), Mikael Meister (Vattenfall), Tarja Ikäheimonen (STUK), Christian Linde (SSM), Kasper Andersson (DTU), Palle Sundstrøm (auditor, Dansk Revision, present until meeting item 7) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

Apologies: Atle Valseth (IFE), Nici Bergroth (Fennovoima), Ole Reistad (IFE) and Petri Kinnunen (VTT)

1 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants. Thanks were given to the host Carsten Israelson and DEMO. Special welcomes were given to the new board members: Carsten Israelson (who replaces Charlotte Bro), Mikael Meister (who replaces Karin Andgren) and Ole Reistad (who replaces Atle Valseth, but couldn't participate in this meeting).

The Chair thanked Charlotte Bro, Karin Andgren and Atle Valseth for their good co-operation and good work for NKS. The Chair also expressed special welcomes to the auditor Palle Sundstrøm. Regrets had been received from Atle Valseth, Nici Bergroth, Ole Reistad and Petri Kinnunen.

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 the last board meeting (Reykjavik 18 January 2018)

The minutes were approved. Actions A to E noted in the appendix of the minutes of the January board meeting have been noted in parenthesis in these minutes.

5 Accounts 2017

The auditor Palle Sundstrøm presented the distributed material: the Financial Statements 2017 and the Long-form audit report both dated 28 June 2018. The distributed material and Palle Sundstrøm's presentation did not contain any qualifications, special remarks etc. One new section had been included in the Long-form audit report – namely section 3.2 "Insurance of internet banking and giro" stating "We have found that NKS has no insurance against theft of the 4 internet banks/-giro. In consideration of the current IT-crimes, we recommend that such insurance is to be signed." The Secretariat will look into the possibilities of signing such insurances and report back to the board at its next meeting. The board took note of the auditor's presentation and recommended the 2017 accounts to be approved by the owners.

6 Financial status for the current year

Finn Physant presented the Financial status report dated 8 June 2018. The reserve at present is estimated to approximately DKK 720,000 / EUR 97,000 – in accordance with this year's budget decision of 18 January 2018.

The board took note of the financial situation.

7 News since last board meeting

a) Report from the owners' group

The owners had a good meeting yesterday, 27 June with good discussions on the conclusions of the Reykjavik meeting. There were constructive discussions on NKS future strategy, direction and structure.

Decision was made to begin work on a policy document "NKS after 2020". The development of this policy paper is a joint undertaking of the owners group. Anneli Hällgren will look into the elements needed in such a document and work on a first draft in cooperation with the Chair. Next meeting of the Owners will be in connection with the NKS board meeting in January.

b) News from board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

c) Administrative news

Finn Physant presented the 2017 version of the pamphlet, which will be updated and published later in 2018 in due time before the R and B seminar in January 2019 (Action E). The 2018 version of "This is NKS" already presented at this year's January meeting is still in function. It was noted that the 2016 version of the "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders" is still valid and fully updated. The handbook will be updated if needed.

Finn Physant also presented the document "NKS privacy policy", which has been written in accordance with new EU legislation. The privacy policy is accessible via the NKS website. Furthermore Finn Physant informed the board, that NKS as an association now formally has been registered as a legal entity in Norway in the Brønnøysund register.

The board took note of the administrative news.

8 NKS R and B seminar 2019

The PC's reported about the progress of the seminar planning from the program committee.

The seminar will take place in Stockholm in Finlandshuset on 15 and 16 January 2019. After some discussions the draft program for the seminar was approved including a reception in the evening of the first seminar day. First announcement of the seminar will be distributed in the NewsFlash following a week after this board meeting (Action D).

9 Research activities in 2019

The Chair and Kasper Andersson informed the board about this year's call for proposals (CfP). There will be a CfP for both the B- and R-part opening on 3 September with deadline 15 October. The deadline for submission of evaluations from board members will be 15 November and the next coordination meeting will take place end of November.

The Chair proposed the budget for 2019 for each programme's activities to be set to DKK 3,000,000. The board agreed to this.

The Chair will ask the owners and co-financiers for a possible raise of funding in 2019 compared to their funding in 2018. The owners indicated that the contributions in 2019 will be the same level as in 2018.

10 NKS in the future

The discussion focused on the conclusions of the discussions on NKS future direction at the January 2018 board meeting. The Chair reminded that the board had addressed 18 issues in the discussion, 7 resulted in no action needed, 1 in an action for the owners and 10 issues to be discussed further at this meeting. One of these issues "Evaluation of projects" is addressed in agenda item 11 (Action A).

Length, number and funding of projects:

Christian Linde introduced the discussion paper on "Length, number and funding of projects" that had been circulated to the board for comments.

It was decided to keep the current model with one year projects. It was also decided to say in the CfP that the typical level of funding of workshops and seminars is on the order of 200 – 250 000 DKK.

Young researchers:

Kasper Andersson introduced a modified text to be included in the "Handbook for applicants and activity leaders". The text was agreed with some modification and reads: "Participation of "young scientists" is an important criterion in funding decisions. Explain how the proposed activity will include young scientists. In this context, those studying towards a masters degree or a PhD and those in their first 4 years of their professional career after obtaining an academic degree would be considered as "young scientists".

Prioritized areas:

SMM introduced reflections on Prioritized Areas that had been circulated to the board for comment.

It was decided not to introduce prioritized areas in a formal way in the CfP Framework. It was also decided to have the CfP Framework on the agenda for the January board meetings and a decision on change, if needed, should be taken at the June board meetings.

Visibility of NKS and NKS work.

Anneli Hällgren informed that the spring meeting of the NPC group had been moved to August. A proposal for a draft communication strategy is expected at the 2019 January meeting.

Division between NKS B and NKS R.

Kasper Andersson introduced the discussion paper on The division between NKS-B and NKS-R that had been circulated to the board for comments.

It was decided to go with option 1 with the modification to add "spent fuel" to the text after "reactor waste" in (i). Also to delete (iii) and add "NORM" after measurements in (ii).

Quality assurance.

Kasper Andersson presented proposal for new text for applicants. The proposal was approved.

Decommissioning and management of radioactive waste.

This issue was addressed in "Division between NKS B and NKS R"

Safety of research reactor:

This issue had been raised by Atle Valseth, IFE but he has left the board and was not present at the meeting. The new board member Ole Reistad was not at the meeting so this issue was not addressed. This issue may be addressed at the January 2019 meeting at the initiative of IFE.

New NKS-B area: Research in medical applications of nuclear technology.

The issue had been raised by Mette Øhlenschläger. To obtain financial support from potential "tillægsfinansierere" is a major undertaking and will require substantial work. It was decided not to pursue this issue further at this stage but it will be addressed in the further discussions on NKS' future after 2020 i.e. the aim and scope of NKS in the planned policy document.

11 CfP evaluation process

The chair referred to the conclusions of the January meeting and gave Astrid Liland the floor for introduction of the topic. One element which can be quite difficult to evaluate is the involvement of young scientists. There was a good discussion on a range of evaluation issues and different views expressed. The discussion indicated that there may be a need for guidelines for evaluators. Such guidelines might be helpful for new board members. In conclusion the Chair suggests to see if the modifications in the text of CfP regarding role of young scientists, agreed at this meeting, have an impact in the next round of evaluations. Astrid Liland agreed to reflect further on possible guidelines for the NKS evaluation process involving the PC's and others as needed and report at the 2019 January meeting.

12 R-part: status

Christian Linde made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Overall the work in NKS-R is progressing according to revised plans.

Status for the 7 activities from CfP 2017: 4 activities are completed. 3 activities to be completed in June/July. 2 activities to be completed later in 2018.

Status for the 6 activities from CfP 2018:

All contracts signed – no delays reported. The TVO support agreement has been signed and Fortum support agreement is expected to be signed in June. 1 application for young scientist travel support has been received.

13 B-part: status

Kasper Andersson presented the status of the NKS-B activities. Overall, the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Since the last board meeting in January, 4 final reports have been published on the NKS website. All contracts for the 2018 activities have been agreed and signed – work on schedule. There are no delayed activities from before 2017 and all 8 activities commencing in 2017 have been completed. 3 NKS-B seminars are planned for 2018 (Action B).

14 NKS articles

The PC's reported on the progress of their article work.

Christian Linde informed the board that the R-article had been submitted to "Nuclear Engineering and Technology" earlier this month.

Kasper Andersson informed the board that he had waited 3 months for a recent answer from "Journal of Environmental Radioactivity", but that the B-article now is close to acceptance for publishing in this journal (Action C).

15 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the website, newsletters etc. – Website visitor statistics were presented concluding that the level of use of the website has been quite low this year compared to earlier years. The expectation is to see the level of use raising from the autumn in connection with the CFP 2019 and the January 2019 R and B seminar.

Since the last board meeting 2 NewsFlashes have been distributed. The first one of 25 January was a summary report from the January board meeting including the result of the 2018 call for proposals, and the second of 3 May included upcoming seminars, new publications, young scientist travel assistance and NKS on LinkedIn. Besides this a NewsLetter was distributed 21 June presenting upcoming seminars, new publications, young scientist travel assistance and NKS on LinkedIn.

There is a list of more than 500 e-mail addresses, to which NKS electronic letters are distributed.

As mentioned under meeting item 7 the 2017 version of the pamphlet will updated and published later in 2018 in due time before the R and B seminar in January 2019 (Action E).

Annelie Bergman asked for the level of use of NKS on LinkedIn, and Christian Linde answered that NKS has approximately 30 followers on LinkedIn.

16 Other issues

As this was the last board meeting of Tarja K. Ikäheimonen the Chair expressed sincere gratitude for her many and highly valuable contributions and her pleasant company over the years as a member of the Board of NKS wishing her all the best in her retirement.

17 Next meeting

Next meeting will be in Stockholm 17 January 2019 at 9:00 with SSM as host.

18 End of meeting

Many thanks for a good meeting – in particular to the host DEMA – were expressed by the Chair.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chair

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendix: Actions from the board meeting

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- A. Ref. item 5: The Secretariat will look into the possibilities of signing such insurances and report back to the board at its next meeting.
- B. Ref. item 7 and 15: the 2017 version of the pamphlet, which will be updated and published later in 2018 in due time before the R and B seminar in January 2019.
- C. Ref. item 10: **Length, number and funding of projects:**
It was decided to say in the CfP that the typical level of funding of workshops and seminars is on the order of 200 – 250 000 DKK.
- D. Ref. item 10: **Young researchers:**
Kasper Andersson introduced a modified text to be included in the "Handbook for applicants and activity leaders". The text was agreed with some modification and reads: "Participation of "young scientists" is an important criterion in funding decisions. Explain how the proposed activity will include young scientists. In this context, those studying towards a masters degree or a PhD and those in their first 4 years of their professional career after obtaining an academic degree would be considered as "young scientists".
- E. Ref. item 10: **Visibility of NKS and NKS work.**
Anneli Hällgren informed that the spring meeting of the NPC group had been moved to August. A proposal for a draft communication strategy is expected at the 2019 January meeting.
- F. Ref. item 10: **Division between NKS B and NKS R.**
Kasper Andersson introduced the discussion paper on The division between NKS-B and NKS-R that had been circulated to the board for comments.
It was decided to go with option 1 with the modification to add "spent fuel" to the text after "reactor waste" in (i). Also to delete (iii) and add "NORM" after measurements in (ii).
- G. Ref. item 10: **Safety of research reactor:**
This issue had been raised by Atle Valseth, IFE but he has left the board and was not present at the meeting. The new board member Ole Reistad was not at the meeting so this issue was not addressed. This issue may be addressed at the January 2019 meeting at the initiative of IFE.
- H. Ref. item 11: In conclusion the Chair suggests to see if the modifications in the text of CfP regarding role of young scientists, agreed at this meeting, have an impact in the next round of evaluations. Astrid Liland agreed to reflect further on possible guidelines for the NKS evaluation process involving the PC's and others as needed and report at the 2019 January meeting.