

**DRAFT**

NKS(21)5  
2021-06-21



## Minutes of the board tele meeting 8 June 2021

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair, IRSA), Anneli Hällgren (SSM), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Pia Vesterbacka (STUK), Carol Robinson (DSA), Michael Knochenhauer (SSM), Kasper Andersson (DTU), Ari Leppänen (STUK) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

### 1 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Special welcomes were given to the new board member Michael Knochenhauer, who will be taking over after Anneli Hällgren. The NKS Chair gave special thanks to Anneli Hällgren for the excellent co-operation and her many important contributions to the work of the NKS board wishing her all the best for the future.

### 2 Practical remarks

Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the Chair. The meeting is in two parts. All meeting participants were to participate in the first part (meeting items 1 to 12). The second part (meeting items 13 to 19) was only to be attended by the board members.

### 3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 4 Minutes of the last board tele meeting (2 February 2021)

The minutes were approved. The Actions A to F noted in the appendix of the minutes of the February board meeting have been noted in parenthesis in these minutes when handled.

### 5 News since last board meeting

#### a) Report by the chairman

The Chair reported that the running of NKS since the last board meeting had been characterized by business-as-usual. The chair had approved the use of DKK 3,828 and a few

thousand DKK per year for the start-up and continuation of a database on the NKS website as a result of work in the activity ECOFOOD. The board approved the expense.

b) News from board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

c) Administrative news

The following four documents were noted to be updated at present, and they will be updated in the future as needed:

- Policy document – This is NKS, 2019-06-04
- Rules of procedure for NKS, 2020-06-16
- NKS Administrative Handbook, NKS(20)4, 2020-11-09
- NKS pamphlet 2020 version, 2020-03-11

The "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders", NKS(18)5 rev. NKS(21)4, draft rev. 2021-05-27 was presented to the board. The handbook will be part of the material in the upcoming CfP 2022. After some discussion the Chair noted that the handbook is a living document, which can be revised as needed (Action A). The board took note of the revised handbook.

The following two documents were presented to the board for approval.

- "Instructions for evaluators" version October 2020 rev. May 2021
- "NKS-B Framework" version May 2020 rev. May 2021

These documents will be part of the material in the upcoming CfP 2022. After some discussions the Chair noted that both the instructions and the framework are living documents, which can be revised as needed (Actions B, D and E). The board approved both the revised instructions and framework documents.

Finn Physant informed the board that the official Norwegian NKS contact person in the organisational register at Brønnøysund had been exchanged. Finance Director at DSA Lisbeth Høydahl Gundeid has taken over from Ole Harbitz after his retirement.

## 6 Financial status for the current year

The Financial Statements 2020 and the Long-form audit report both dated 26 April 2021 had been approved and signed by the board members.

Finn Physant presented the Financial status report dated 31 May 2021. The reserve at present is estimated to approximately DKK 740,000 / EUR 100,000 – in accordance with this year's budget decision of 2 February 2021.

The board took note of the financial situation.

## 7 Status of the NKS R activities incl. Impact of Covid-19

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 in February. No major delays reported. Ari Leppänen had been contacted by a concerned scientist regarding funding of different program areas. The scientist was concerned since "Organisational issues and safety culture" has not received funding during the last four CfP's.

Status for the activities from CfP 2020: 5 out of 6 activities from 2020 completed and reports published on website. Final report from one activity is still pending (THEOS).

POMMI and COCOS are planning to draft manuscripts to peer-reviewed international journals later in 2021. BREDA-RPV project is planning a knowledge transfer seminar for fall of 2021.

Concerning travel assistance for young scientists: No grants so far.  
The board took note of the R-part status.

#### 8 Status of the NKS B activities incl. Impact of Covid-19

Kasper Andersson presented the status of the NKS-B activities. Overall the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Since the last NKS-B status report: 2 final reports published on the website (SHIELDMORC and ECOFOOD).

Delayed activities (from before 2020): None.

Activities commencing in 2020: 3 (of 8) completed, 4 delayed (seminars)

Activities commencing in 2021: All 7 contracts signed, work on schedule.

NORCO II paper was published in "Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry" in February 2021.

NKS-B seminars 2021:

ECOFOOD: 21-22 June 2021 (virtual),

GAMMARAY X: planned for 19-21 October at STUK (may need to be virtual),

NORDICNANO: workshop and seminar planned for September (can be virtual if needed),

RNSARBOOK: First workshop virtual 19 April. Second in September may also be virtual,

CRESCENT and NUCSEM: Dates not yet announced.

The board took note of the B-part status.

#### 9 Call for Proposals 2021 and expected funding of NKS 2022

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 1 September with deadline 15 October. The deadline for submission of evaluations from board members will be 15 November.

The Chair proposed the budget for 2022 for each programme's activities to be set to DKK 3,000,000. The board agreed to this.

The Chair assumed and the owners indicated that their contributions in 2022 will be at the same level as in 2021. The Chair will contact the co-financiers in September regarding their contributions to NKS in 2022.

#### 10 NKS R and B seminar

The PC's presented the updated seminar program including proposals for names of key speakers and topics. The seminar will take place in Stockholm in Finlandshuset on 19 and 20 January 2022. The board approved the presented program including the presented draft seminar budget. First announcement of the seminar will be distributed in the NewsFlash following a week after this meeting (Action C).

#### 11 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 had been quite high so far this year with relatively many US visitors. The top ten list of downloads of reports shows the presence of 3 of the 4 Bo Lindell books together with relatively old NKS reports. The newest is the NKS-328 report published in January 2015 "Human performance tools in nuclear power plant maintenance activities".

Since the last board meeting two NewsFlashes have been distributed. On February 9: Summary report from the February 2 board tele meeting and NKS on LinkedIn. On March 12: Upcoming seminars, new publications and NKS on LinkedIn. A NewsLetter was distributed a week before this board meeting including new publications and NKS on LinkedIn.

There is a list of more than 540 e-mail addresses, to which NKS electronic letters are distributed.

NKS has now 139 followers on LinkedIn.

## 12 Other issues

NKS participation in the SAINT workshop 16-17 June 2021: Kasper Andersson informed the board that NKS had been invited to give a presentation at this upcoming workshop arranged by the network SAINT (Swedish academic initiative for radiation sciences and nuclear technology ([www.saint.nu](http://www.saint.nu))). The PC's will give this presentation (the ppt slides to be shown were included in the board meeting material). Anneli Hällgren welcomed this initiative, as the SAINT workshop is of importance to SSM.

Report from EU Nuclear Materials – PC-R. Ari Leppänen informed the board that a European program will be established called ORIENT NM to gather all the institutions which do nuclear material research under "one roof". This new program will be similar to the existing program CONCERT which gathers institutions doing radiation safety research under one roof. Now countries will fund nuclear material research via ORIENT NM. (Action F).

Any other business: None.

Sigurður M. Magnússon  
Chair

Finn Physant  
Meeting secretary

## **Part 2 of the NKS board meeting – NKS board only.**

### 13 Konsortial agreement

The draft circulated before the meeting was discussed and many issues raised. There was a good agreement on the way forward. The aim is to have a new agreement that can be signed at the Chefsmeeting to take place on 6 October.

SMM will revise the draft discussed and circulate for comments no later than 12 June.

Comments from board members before 1 July and a revised draft to board before 1 August.

Legal departments to review mature draft in August and provide comments/proposals for change before 1 September. Aim to discuss a final draft at a board meeting to take place early September.

### 14 NKS Policy Discussions 2018-2020

Postponed until September board meeting.

### 15 NKS 2021-2023

Postponed until September board meeting.

- 16            **NKS after 2023**  
Postponed until September board meeting.
- 17            **Other issues**  
Revised rules of procedure.  
Postponed until September board meeting.
- 18            **Next meeting**  
Meeting of AG in the afternoon of 18 January ( the day before the NKS Seminar).  
Joint dinner in the evening hosted by SSM.  
Board meeting at Finlandshuset in the morning of 19 January (before the seminar at 12:30).
- 19            **End of meeting**  
The Chair thanked the participants for a good and constructive meeting.

Sigurður M. Magnússon

Chair and meeting secretary for part 2 of the meeting.

## **Appendix A**

Actions from the board meeting (if nothing else is mentioned the actions will be carried out by the coordination group)

Action A - ref. item 5: These 3 updated documents will be part of the upcoming CfP 2022:

- The "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders", NKS(21)4, 2021-05-27
- "Instructions for evaluators" version May 2021
- "NKS-B Framework" version May 2021

Action B – ref. item 10: NKS R and B seminar to be carried out: The seminar will take place in Stockholm in Finlandshuset on 19 and 20 January 2022.