

Minutes of the Board meeting in Copenhagen 18 January 2023

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair, IRSA), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Pia Keski-Jaskari (STUK), Carol Robinson (DSA), Per Seltborg (SSM), Kasper Andersson (DTU) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

Excuses: Ari Leppänen (STUK)

- 1 **Opening**
The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.
- 2 **Practical remarks**
Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the Chair and the host, Carsten Israelson. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.
- 3 **Approval of the agenda**
The agenda was approved.
- 4 **Minutes of last board meeting (2022-05-23)**
The minutes were approved. Actions A to E have been carried out.
- 5 **News since last Board meeting**
 - a. **Report by the Chairman**
The Chair noted that the work within NKS had been characterized by business-as-usual. Besides this NKS had received a request from EDF for removal of two reports - containing descriptions of a reactor and a power plant – from NKS website. The reports were removed from the website (as they were from IAEA’s website). The reports are: NKS/RAK2(96)TR-C2 and NKS/RAK-2(97)TR-C4.
The Chair informed the board that NKS had co-hosted the dinner for the Board and the Advisory Group on 16 January with DEMA. The cost for NKS was about 4,000 DKK. The Board took note of this.

b. News from Board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

c. Administrative news

Finn Physant noted that these news will be dealt with during the meeting especially under meeting item 13 The NKS framework.

6 Financial status

Finn Physant presented the distributed material: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated 9 December 2022. At this date the reserve was estimated to approximately 720,000 DKK. Two figures were highlighted: the expense for the 2022 seminar being 139,434 DKK and the use of 10,811 DKK more than in the budget for young scientist travels on the B-side. At the same time there had been no use of the budget of 15,000 DKK for young scientist travels on the R-side. The Chair concluded that the financial status was as planned. – The Board took note of the financial situation.

7 Contracts

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

- R-part programme manager 2023 with STUK
- B-part programme manager 2023 with DTU
- Secretariat from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 with FRIT and
- Auditing of the accounts for 2022 with Dansk Revision.

All these agreements were approved by the board.

8 R-part: status

As follow up from the Advisory Group meeting yesterday the Chair asked for any questions or comments about the R-part status. No questions or comments were received.

9 B-part: status

As follow up from the Advisory Group meeting yesterday the Chair asked for any questions or comments about the B-part status. No questions or comments were received.

10 CfP 2023 evaluation and funding of new activities

R-part: The Advisory Group had already supported Ari Leppänen's funding alternative #4 at the group's meeting 17 January 2023 and recommended the funding of this to the board. After some discussions the Board approved the recommendation of the Advisory Group including the following 6 activities in 2023 (all amounts in kDKK):

BREDA2023	485
STATUS	582
FEMMA 2023	485
INSOLE	582
TRIO	542
DATA4DECOM	340

The total budget for these 6 activities is 3016 kDKK.

B-part: The Advisory Group had already supported Kasper Andersson's funding recommendation's first six projects and AMSPECNORDOS at the group's meeting 17 January 2023. After some discussions the Board approved the recommendation of the Advisory Group including the following 7 activities in 2023 (all amounts in kDKK):

TEMEDET	406
GAMMASKILL	430
REALMORC	502
ANTHROPIC	542
DISARM	532
PRICOMOB	445
AMSPECNORDOS	143

The total budget for these 7 activities is 3000 kDKK.

11 **Budget for 2023**

Finn Physant presented the distributed budget proposal of 2 January 2023. - This proposal was approved by the Board including an exchange of R-activities for 3000 kDKK with 3016 kDKK. The budget decision is attached to these minutes in appendix A.

12 **NKS R and B seminar 2022 and 2025**

On behalf of the coordination group Finn Physant had presented the results and conclusions of the survey carried out after the May 2022 seminar during yesterday's meeting with the Advisory Group. The board concluded that initial preparations can be started for the next seminar to be carried out during the last two weeks of May 2025. The Chair has already had first contacts to candidates as VIP speakers and an initial contact can be made with the venue.

13 **The NKS framework**

The Chair referred to the discussion and the changes agreed at the Joint meeting with the Advisory Group, see the draft minutes of the Joint meeting. The Board approved these changes.

14 **The evaluation process (both for proposals and final reports)**

The NKS Board reflected on the discussion at the joint meeting with the NKS AG. There was an agreement to aim for an evaluation process that gives clear results on which the board makes its funding decisions. This may lead to fewer criteria with different weight and no ranking by evaluators. There could even be as few as three criteria with different weight. One addressing the technical and/or scientific standard (25%), one addressing distinct and measurable goals (25%) and one addressing the relevance for NKS (50%). Evaluation of proposals for seminar may be a challenge that needs to be addressed in a different way than other proposals.

It was decided to revise the instructions for evaluators. Per will develop a first draft of the revised criteria on which the evaluation is based. Pia and Carol will focus on other parts of the instructions and develop a first draft of revised text. First drafts to be shared for comments no later than 1 March. Comments to drafters before 20 March. Revised drafts to be shared before 20 April. Comments to drafters before 1 May. At this stage the drafts are expected to be mature and merged into one document "revised instructions for evaluators"

that the NKS Chair will share with the NKS AG for comments around 10 May. AG comments before 1 June. Final draft before 10 June and adoption at the NKS Board meeting in Oslo on 13 June.

The evaluation process for the final reports will be addressed at the next Joint meeting in January 2024.

15 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the website, newsletters etc. The running user statistics for 2022 have been focused on the monthly number of visitors, which has been relatively high during May in connection with the NKS seminar. A relatively high level of visitors was also noted in September/October – as through many years - in connection with this year's CFP. Since the May board meeting five NewsFlashes have been distributed. The list of addresses to which NKS newsletters are distributed counts more than 450 addresses. A NewsLetter was distributed a week before this meeting and a NewsFlash will be distributed no later than a week after this meeting. NKS now has more than 200 followers on LinkedIn.

NKS Board only.

16 The content of and the interface between the program areas

The NKS board reflected on the discussion at the joint meeting with the NKS AG. Further discussion reflected very different views on a possible future structure of NKS with one PC coordinating the NKS program with two program areas. Discussion will continue at the June NKS Board meeting.

17 The length, funding and number of projects

The NKS board reflected on the discussion at the joint meeting with the NKS AG. Continued discussions reflected very different views within the NKS Board. Issues for continued discussion, at the June Board meeting, include: having NKS run three year programs (for more scientific impact and less cost), discontinue the requirement for funding no more than 50% of the total cost of a project (since the requirement is not enforced) and if the organizations of the parties to the NKS agreement should continue to receive funding for their participation in NKS projects.

18 The role and cost of the Chairman, Secretariat and PC's

The technical and administrative management of the NKS program is expensive and the Board needs to look at ways to reduce costs without reducing the value of the program. Several options were discussed and the discussion will continue at the June Board meeting.

19 Other issues

None.

20 Next meeting

The next NKS Board meeting is planned as a face to face meeting in Oslo on 13 June. The PC's and the Secretariat may participate virtually. There will be dinner in the evening of the 12 June.

21

End of meeting

The Chair thanked Carsten Israelson/DEMA for the meeting arrangements and all the participants for the good and constructive discussions during the meeting.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chairman

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendices:

A: Budget decision for 2023 dated 18 January 2023

B: Actions from the Board meeting

Appendix A: NKS budget for 2023 - decision 18 January 2023

Budgets	Budget for 2023	Budget for 2023	Budget for 2022
	EUR	DKK	DKK
R-part			
Activities	405.567	3.016.000	2.987.000
Fee PC	61.857	460.000	460.000
Travels PC	2.017	15.000	15.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	2.017	15.000	15.000
R total	471.458	3.506.000	3.477.000
B-part			
Activities	403.416	3.000.000	3.458.000
Fee PC	61.857	460.000	460.000
Travels PC	2.017	15.000	15.000
Coordination/Young scientists' travel	2.017	15.000	15.000
B total	469.307	3.490.000	3.948.000
Seminars			
NFSF seminar	2.000	14.873	100.000
Seminars total	2.000	14.873	100.000
Common			
Common various according to specification	24.205	180.000	180.000
Common total	24.205	180.000	180.000
Others			
Fee Secretariat	81.781	608.165	615.894
Fee Chair	52.444	390.000	390.000
Travels Chair	2.689	20.000	20.000
Travels Secretariat	1.009	7.500	7.500
Others total	137.923	1.025.665	1.033.394
TOTAL	1.104.893	8.216.538	8.738.394
Expected incomes according to app. 1	1.035.011	7.696.858	8.079.062
Surplus	-69.882	-519.680	-659.332

Any deficits to be covered by the reserve available for the board, which according to the financial status report of 9 December 2022 is:	720.554,00
Proposed budget for 2023	-519.680,00
Present reserve and surplus/deficit	200.874,00
Funding reserved for use in 2022, but not used, will amount to ca.:	85.000,00
Gain/Loss due to the development in exchange rates 2022-2023 ca.:	-332.000,00
Old reservations from before 2020, not claimed, amount to:	538.800,00
Total reserve end of January 2023: ca. DKK:	492.674,00
Total reserve end of January 2023: ca. EUR:	66.250,79

Specification of "Common" for 2023

	2023	2023	2022
	EUR	DKK	DKK
Common			
Reports, materials etc.	1.681	12.500	12.500
Bank fees etc.	2.017	15.000	20.000
Equipment	1.345	10.000	10.000
Internet	9.413	70.000	70.000
Auditing, consulting	7.060	52.500	52.500
Information material	1.345	10.000	5.000
Various expenses	1.345	10.000	10.000
Common total	24.205	180.000	180.000

Appendix 1 for budget for 2023

Pledge for funding in 2023 - Incomes

	Pledge for 2023	Pledge for 2023	Actual for 2022
	EUR	DKK	DKK
SSM	409.081	3.042.130	3.303.300
TEM	370.000	2.751.505	2.751.505
BRS	50.427	375.000	375.000
GR	24.000	178.476	178.476
DSA	76.090	565.840	596.720
Total EUR / DKK	929.597	6.912.951	7.205.001
SSM contribution SEK	4.550.000		
DSA contribution NOK	800.000		
BRS contribution DKK	375.000		

	EUR	DKK	DKK
Fortum	27.500	204.504	204.504
TVO	27.500	204.504	204.504
Fennovoima	0	0	85.520
IFE	11.413	84.876	89.508
Forsmark	13.000	96.675	96.675
Ringhals	13.000	96.675	96.675
OKG	13.000	96.675	96.675
Total EUR / DKK	105.413	783.907	874.061
Complete EUR / DKK	1.035.011	7.696.858	8.079.062

IFE contribution NOK	120000
Fennovoima contribution EUR	0

Exchange rates 2022/23:

NKS 2023:	
DKK	100,0000
EUR	7,4365
NOK	0,7073
SEK	0,6686
NKS 2022:	
SEK 2022	0,7260
EUR 2022	7,4365
NOK 2022	0,7459

Appendix B

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

Action A - ref. item 12: The board concluded that initial preparations can be started for the next seminar to be carried out during the last two weeks of May 2025. The Chair has already had first contacts to candidates as VIP speakers and an initial contact can be made with the venue.

Action B – ref. item 14: **It was decided to revise the instructions for evaluators.** Per will develop a first draft of the revised criteria on which the evaluation is based. Pia and Carol will focus on other parts of the instructions and develop a first draft of revised text. First drafts to be shared for comments no later than 1 March. Comments to drafters before 20 March. Revised drafts to be shared before 20 April. Comments to drafters before 1 May. At this stage the drafts are expected to be mature and merged into one document “revised instructions for evaluators” that the NKS Chair will share with the NKS AG for comments around 10 May. AG comments before 1 June. Final draft before 10 June and adoption at the NKS Board meeting in Oslo on 13 June.

Action C – ref. item 14: There was a request that the PC’s look at the impact of NKS research over the last 5 -7 years in terms of papers published in scientific/technical journals, references to these papers etc. To be reported at the June 2023 Board meeting.