DRAFT
NKS(26)4
23 June 2026

Minutes of the Board meeting in Oslo, 17 June 2026

Present: Pia Keski-Jaskari (Chairman, STUK), Carsten Israelson (DEMA), Carol Robinson (DSA), Elísabet D. Ólafsdóttir (IRSA) and Cheuk Lau (SSM)
Meeting items 1-14 (Teams): Kasper Andersson (DTU), Sabrina Löfström (SSM), Karolina Paquin (DSA) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary, FRIT).

1 Opening

Pia opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Special welcome was given to Karolina, who will become the new PC-B in 2027. Everyone introduced themselves.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given by the host, Carol. Finn was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

4 Minutes of the last board meeting (2026-01-14)

The minutes were approved.

5 News since last board meeting

a. Report by the chairperson. Pia noted that there had been nothing unexpected to report since the last board meeting.
b. News from the board members' organizations. Each board member presented news from their organizations.
c. Administrative news. Finn noted that the secretariat contract running until the end of July 2027 was signed in April. This contract was presented during the January board meeting. Pia noted that the board had decided that the maximum grant for young scientist travels in the future will be DKK 5,000 and not DKK 10,000 as earlier.

6 **Financial status**

Financial status: Financial status report and financial programme specification, both dated June 2026.

The accounts for 2025 had already been signed in April.

Finn presented the Financial status report and financial programme specification dated 9 June 2026. The reserve at present is estimated to approximately DKK 720,000 / EUR 96,000 – in accordance with this year's budget decision at the January board meeting. Two of this year's owner's contributions are still missing. Finn will remind the Finnish ministry and Carsten will follow-up at DEMA. The board had granted DKK 5,000 extra for NKS-B young scientist travels.

The board took note of the financial situation.

7 **Status of NKS R activities**

Sabrina presented the status report for NKS R activities dated June 2026.

Summary CfP2025 with the status of the final reports:

5 of 6 reports had been received (FEMMA, Nordic-SMART, REPoUSSES, SAFECOM, CADESU). The Nordic-SMART report is under quarantine until December 2026 due to PhD student work and preparation of journal publication. The POSEIDON report has still not been received (resending request sent).

Status CfP2026 – Agreements:

CIRCE: Finalised, after negotiations with CTH.

COCARDE: Fully signed agreement received 17th of june 2026, Prior: Delayed processing and non-response by coordinator due to other non-NKS related challenges.

DIWER: Signatory process started at KTH as of 16th of june 2026; Prior: Signatory process stopped by partnering organization KTH requesting changes of the agreement (see REALIFE-AI) – updating of agreement and signatories by project coordinator at CTH concluded.

NEXCON: Finalised.

PASTRAMI: Completed; No issues.

REALLIFE-AI: Finalised; Lengthy negotiation process for a compromise between NKS-coordinator (with support of SSM lawyer) and new KTH lawyer.

Delays in signing the contracts due to different requests mostly from KTH (see Agenda item 12).

3 invoices (CIRCE, PASTRAMI, NEXCON) are now ready for approval.

All projects have started and indicated conclusion according to schedule despite delays in signatory process.

Invoices from further projects expected shortly.

Travel assistance for young scientists: one request from VTT granted in connection with the NEXCON activity. Another request resulted in no application.
The board took note of the status of the R activities.

8 Status of NKS B activities

Kasper presented the status report dated June 2026 for NKS B activities. Overall the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Since last NKS-B status report:

- 3 final reports published on the NKS website (DRAWN, EVNUDET, EMFREM).

Delayed activities (from before 2025): None.
Activities commencing in 2025:

- All completed and approved (all published except one awaiting journal paper).

Activities commencing in 2026:

- All 7 contracts signed, work on schedule.

Summary of CfP 2025 final reports: 6 approved and published (GammaAI 2025, DRAWN, REMSEM, EVNUDET, MoNi, EMFREM) and one approved but awaiting publication, due to journal publication (PROMORC).
Three 2026 journal papers from NKS-B projects.
NKS-B seminars 2026: NORMA (1-3 June) and REMSEM (19-20 August).
The board took note of the status of the B activities.

9 Call for Proposals and expected funding of NKS 2027

Call for Proposals for 2027 will open on Tuesday 1 September and close on Thursday 15 October. Evaluations are to be received by Monday 16 November 2026.
Carol informed the board that she expected a significant raise in the Norwegian contribution for 2027 compared to this year’s grant. The other members expressed the expectation of funding from their organisations at the same level in 2027 as in 2026.
CfP documents.
The three governing documents “Evaluation process for the Nordic Nuclear Safety Research Programme (NKS) - Instructions for evaluators”, “Handbook for the Nordic Nuclear Safety Research Programme (NKS) - Guidelines for NKS applicants and activity leaders” and “Framework programme of the Nordic Nuclear Safety Research Programme (NKS)” – all approved November 2026 – are ready for use in the upcoming CfP 2027. Furthermore both application forms and other documents are ready for the upcoming call. In the evaluation form one more field for comments has been included. This form now includes both the field for comments only to the board and the field for comments to the applicants.

10 New management system

Elísabet informed the board about the on-going development of the new management system.

11 The Nordic Strategy

Carsten and Carol reported from the work of the Nordic Strategy Group. Following the “Nordic Strategy Group Report” an action plan had been handed in to the Nordic Chiefs. This had been well received and a draft report was prepared for the Chiefs on how to implement the action plan. A first outcome is the plan for a Nordic training course including technology, training and exercises for one week in the Autumn of 2027. Carol and Carsten do also see good opportunities for a connection to NKS-NSFS-webinars by having training seminars in connection with webinars.
The board will continue this discussion.

12 Activity contracts

- Sabrina made the presentation “NKS Agreements”, which was finalized by the following “Required NKS board decisions”:
  - Harmonisation of the NKS-B and NKS-R agreement templates **or** separate templates
  - Authorised signatories only **or** Authorised signatories and acknowledgement of the
    project coordinator
    (All funding receiving organizations **or** only leading organization)
  - Payments only to the leading organization that handles invoices/and
    administrates payments to partners through their consortium agreements
  - Contact point NKS: project-coordinator only
  - Template adoption by the NKS board
  - Inclusion of all contract-relevant provisions in the agreement (not handbook).

The serious problem with NKS-B project progress being more sensitive to delays caused by lengthy consortium agreement signature processes was again pointed out. After some discussions the board decided to continue this discussion.

13 NKS-NSFS webinars

Kasper presented the proposals for a possible start-up of webinars based on the work of the NKS-NSFS arrangement group with Sabrina and Kasper as NKS representatives. The board will decide on this.

14 Information activities

Finn had provided information on the website, statistics, NewsFlashes, LinkedIn etc.

15 Board discussions

16 Other issues

17 Next meeting

18 End of meeting

Pia Keski-Jaskari
Chairman

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary