

EISCAT Norway Agenda (Pt. 2)

Thursday, Nov. 23, 9:00-10:15

Attendance: Ingrid Mann [IM] (UiT), Pål Sørgaard [PS] (RCN), Andres Spicher [AS] (UiT), Björn Gustavsson [BG] (UiT), Dag Lorentzen [DL] (UNIS), Karl Laundal (UiB), Lindis Bjoland (UiB), Lisa Baddeley [LB] (UNIS), Martin Flügge (ASC), Theresa Rexer (UiT), Yaqi Jin (UiO), Spencer Hatch (UiB)

Please note, that this was a status update and feedback gathering meeting. Many of the questions posed and recorded in the minutes were meant as a discussion topic and feedback for discussing the future of EISCAT. Therefore in some instances there are multiple people asking questions sequentially.

Update on EISCAT from Norwegian Members of EISCAT Council - Pål Sørgaard

There are 3 items to be discussed:

- 1) EISCAT AB - Working group recommendations
- 2) Postdocs as part of EISCAT HQ for research and development
- 3) E3D construction and commissioning

Questions/Comments:

Regarding EISCAT AB:

DH: If the spring budget deadline is missed for the Norwegian government regarding EISCAT AB, does this mean that a year delay is expected?

PS: There is also the ordinary budget in the autumn, and this could be used for the processing of the new organization.

IM: Users would like to participate in commissioning, but currently difficult. Are there plans to address this?

PS: User participation in commissioning will be difficult due to the sensitive data. One of the goals for the commissioning phase is to test the mechanisms for proper data scrubbing. In that commissioning period there will be much more limited access to data. Proposals for experiments that should be tested could be submitted to EISCAT HQ. The most sensitive period is the early commissioning of EISCAT 3D. There is still a push to have researchers involved.

EISCAT Postdocs:

DH: What funds could be applied for to obtain funds for a postdoc/researcher for working with EISCAT?

PS: It would be through the normal research project applications with the research council.

IM: Certain geographic places may have advantages over others potentially due to access to EISCAT employees.

LB: What we would need from EISCAT – what types of postdocs and/or researchers are they willing to host?

IM: Can EISCAT as an organization hire the postdocs and fund them?

DL: Should EISCAT HQ in Kiruna do the research/development? Would the plan be to have researchers there doing research with EISCAT_3D? Or is the hiring of postdocs more for the development part of how to produce the different types of data that EISCAT 3D will produce? At universities we receive funding from other projects through the Research Council of Norway, not through the infrastructure funds. We propose to use the instrument when submitting research proposals, rather than the development.

PS: The future has to do with how you use and operate the radar. As you move to digital, the lines between research and development start to blur. Some of the development work should be how to use EISCAT – but this is also partially research. The distinction between operation and research is not as clear as it used to be. At least what it requires in terms of competence. We do not want EISCAT to compete with research institutions for funding. These concerns are very important to bring into the discussions.

DL: Normally when a proposal is sent in, it is based on science questions. For EISCAT 3D, we do not yet know the capabilities of the system. The development of how to run EISCAT 3D with different experiments/programs will have lots of progress and will likely be a primary focus of researchers in the beginning. The proposals will always be science based and how EISCAT 3D can be used to investigate the science questions. It would be good to have people working on the programming aspect of EISCAT 3D. There is a mix on how we can do this. Universities will be working on how to expand this development for using EISCAT 3D.

PS: There will need to be a combination of computer scientists and scientific researchers for development.

LB: It would be great to have research collaborations with EISCAT – but what can EISCAT support? What can researchers have access to, and how can we include computer scientists?

AS: The number of publications is often important for academic careers, and postdocs should be focusing on publications early. Doing development does not necessarily result in publications. Could the postdocs be hired for longer if they do development? There is also uncertainty around EISCAT AB.

PS: I am also concerned about conditions for postdocs with development work. They would learn radar operations for a few years. There is no concern about EISCAT AB happening.

BG: Much of the technical development and discussions came from community in the initial EISCAT commissioning years. It is likely that this needs to be done again for scientific development. EISCAT may not have the capacity to do this in house.

PS: It is reasonable to have some development from the community.

LB: Is there a possibility that EISCAT can have some industrial collaboration? EISCAT could fund an industrial position?

PS: From the research council's point of view, there is no problem that some of the funding is used for hiring people. The development part of funding is no problem. Postdocs should not be used for development on temporary basis. Please also feel free to provide thoughts and feedback by email (email is provided at the end).

DH: Would security clearance be needed?

PS: Maybe, depending on the position. Security clearance is needed for some researcher positions in other international researcher projects as well.

EISCAT_3D construction and commissioning

General comment: We should push for funding for the EISCAT_3D operations - extra funding for operations will be needed.

Concluding Remarks:

Pål Sørgaard and Ingrid Mann welcome emails for input into the EISCAT 3D commissioning and EISCAT AB organizational processes.

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