

**European Spallation Source ERIC
25th Meeting of Council
21-22 June 2021, by Video**

Chair's Summary

Introduction

The Chair, Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph, called the meeting to order on 21 June 2021 at 10:15. She welcomed the delegates and their advisors, the advisory committee chairs, and ESS Management. She noted that this 25th meeting of Council had been duly convened and was quorate.

Reports

The Chair introduced the main topics of the meeting, which focussed on the current status of construction and in-kind contributions, the process of establishing a new project baseline and the discussion of the funds required, and an initial discussion of the process to define and negotiate the sharing of the costs at the transition to steady-state operations.

The Acting Director General, Kevin Jones, briefly updated Council on the overall ESS status, covering construction progress, challenges, and impacts from COVID-19.

The In-Kind Review Committee (IKRC) Chair, Bjørn Hauback, gave a detailed report from the latest IKRC meeting, focusing on the findings of the second in-kind survey, the national in-kind reports, delays compared to the current baseline by COVID-19 and other effects, and the involvement of in-kind partners in the upcoming re-baselining.

The Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) Chair, Stéphanie Le Van, summarised the recommendations from the recent AFC meeting including the Statutory Report 2020 and the report from the external auditor. She also briefed Council on the planned AFC working groups on the ESS Financial Rules and Currency Policy.

Financial Matters

The Head of Finance and Business Controls, Håkan Rosqvist, presented the Statutory Report for 2020, summarising the findings from the external auditors, KPMG. The Head of Communications, Martin Sjöstrand, presented the Activity Report for the same year. Council unanimously approved the Statutory Report 2020 and the Activity Report 2020

The Acting Director General gave an update on the cash-flow situation, including the first draw-down from the second cash facility, foreseen in August 2021.

Scenarios and Framework for Re-Baselining

The ESS Project Director, Mark Anthony, presented refined scenarios for the planned re-baselining to Council in line with the feedback received during the 24th meeting in May. The refinement

process also led to the development of a hybrid scenario that contained appropriate levels of float and contingency and would deliver 15 neutron instruments with an accelerator capable of delivering a beam power of 2 MW. The Project Director confirmed that the hybrid scenario would form a realistic basis for the planned re-baselining.

Council appreciated the work on the scenarios and unanimously supported the hybrid scenario as an appropriate planning basis for Management to establish a new project baseline. Within this, Council tasked Management with the overall goal of developing the new project baseline to provide science as early as possible and at the lowest reasonable cost with sufficient cost and schedule contingency.

Steady-State Operations

Council discussed a suggested process to establish a model for the sharing of costs in the transition to steady-state operations. Council noted it would need inputs from Management on estimated costs for the ramp-up of beam power, instruments, and for other activities. In parallel, Council would discuss the requirements of the neutron user community and the principles for sharing of the costs in transition to the steady-state operations.

Procedures

Council unanimously approved two In-Kind Technical Annexes for the neutron instrument BEER and four amendments to Technical Annexes, previously recommended for approval by the IKRC. Council unanimously appointed as Member of the ESS Committee for Employment Conditions (CEC) Martin Müller, Director at the Helmholtz Center Hereon.

Council unanimously appointed the following Co-Chairs of the ESS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Mei Bai for the Accelerator, Graeme Murdoch for the Target, and Markus Janousch for ICS. Management asked the delegates to nominate further experts for target technologies to serve on TAC. The vote on the remaining TAC members was postponed to a written procedure.

A process for establishing a Council policy on openness and transparency was presented and endorsed.

Closure of Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 12:50, 22 June 2021.

Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph
Council Chair, European Spallation Source ERIC
22 June 2021