

**European Spallation Source ERIC  
26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council  
1-2 December 2021 by Video**

## **Chair's Summary**

### **Introduction**

The Chair, Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph, called the meeting to order on 1 December 2021 at 09:00. She welcomed the delegates, their advisors, the advisory committee chairs, and ESS Management, and extended a special welcome to Helmut Schober for his first meeting of Council as ESS Director General. She noted that this 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council had been duly convened and was quorate.

### **Reports**

The Director General thanked the delegates for the warm welcome. He laid out his vision for ESS as a world-leading neutron facility. To achieve this trajectory, the Organisation needed to focus on the delivery of the project. He went through the construction highlights and achievements and confirmed that all remaining buildings would be handed over to ESS by the end of the year. He summarised the challenges since the last re-baselining in 2018. The project had incurred delays partly due to the pandemic and supply chain issues, partly due to technical challenges, rendering the previous baseline irrelevant.

He explained that the recent re-baselining had set the project on firm ground and would deliver 15 instruments with a proton beam power capability of 2 MW as quickly as possible and in the most economical way. ESS Management and the subproject leaders were committed to implementing the new baseline and to report progress transparently to Council.

The Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) Chair, Stéphanie Le Van, summarised the recommendations from the recent AFC meeting concerning the final budget proposal 2022. She also briefed Council on the AFC working groups on the ESS Financial Rules and Currency Policy.

The Chair, in her role as Chair of the Committee on Employment Conditions (CEC), reported from the latest meeting. Council approved the directors recruitment policy and took note of the updated staff rules.

The In-Kind Review Committee (IKRC) Chair, Bjørn Hauback, gave a detailed report from the latest IKRC meeting, focusing on the findings of the third in-kind survey, the target collaboration board, and the cost allocation agreements for the instrument common projects.

The Chair urged Council delegates to reach out to their in-kind partners to adhere to the schedule and to deliver components as early as possible.

The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair, Michael Preuss, reported from the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of SAC, covering scientific activities at ESS, the second moderator, and detectors. Concerning hot commissioning, SAC found that the planning should be more detailed and recommended setting

up an external working group to provide advice on the planning and implementation of hot commissioning.

The Chair thanked Paul Langan, new Director of the Institute Laue Langevin for joining the meeting. The ILL Director congratulated ESS on the re-baselining and updated the delegates on the ILL protocol, the planned ILL shut down, and the improvements to the ILL reactor. He confirmed that ILL was prepared to support ESS e.g. with technicians and engineers.

### **Re-baselining**

The Interim Project Director, Andrew Kimber, introduced the new project baseline which included uncertainties, risks and mitigations, and sufficient schedule and cost contingency. The new baseline would deliver a 2 MW beam and 15 instruments, the final six of these would be in hot commissioning.

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair, Mark Reichenadter, reported from the Re-baselining Review carried out in Lund in November including PAC, augmented with further external independent experts, most of whom had been able to come to Lund in person. He confirmed that the presentations to the review had been of high quality. He reminded the delegates of the significant delays due to the pandemic and other reasons, driving the need for the re-baselining. The new baseline had a high likelihood of success. Scope reductions at this point were not attractive. He noted that the performance of the accelerator subproject and the in-kind management had improved relative to PAC assessments in previous years.

The PAC Chair recommended that, internally, ESS and its in-kind partners should manage towards an aggressive zero-float schedule. Relative to that internal schedule, milestones were expected to move often and with high sensitivity, thereby providing early warnings to the leadership team and Council. The leadership team would then be able to focus on upcoming issues and adjustment of resources.

Council noted that ESS would implement the new baseline from 1 January 2022, based on the 2022 budgets. Council requested that the contingency should be owned by the Director General and significant calls against contingency had to be approved by Council.

### **Financial Matters**

The Director for Project Support and Administration, Agneta Nestenborg, presented actuals, cash flow and contributions. She then introduced the two final budget proposals 2022. From a project perspective, ESS was managing the two budgets, construction and initial operations, holistically. Both budgets had been drafted in parallel to the re-baselining efforts and supported the implementation of the new baseline from 1 January 2022.

Upon motion duly made, Council unanimously approved the construction and initial operations budgets for 2022.

### **Procedures**

Council unanimously approved two In-Kind Technical Annexes, five Amendments to Technical Annexes, ten Final Reports, and one letter of intent previously recommended by IKRC. Further, Council unanimously approved the use of cost allocation agreements for the instrument common projects.

Council unanimously

- appointed Stéphanie Le Van as AFC Chairperson for a second, non-renewable two-year term, starting 1 January 2022;
- appointed Xavier Reymond as AFC Vice Chairperson for a second, non-renewable two-year term, starting 1 January 2022;
- appointed Robert McGreevy as IKRC Chairperson for a first, renewable two-year term, starting 1 January 2022;
- appointed Fiamma García-Toriello as IKRC Vice Chairperson for a first, renewable two-year term, starting 1 March 2022;
- re-appointed Aldo Covello as a member of the Chair's Committee for a non-renewable one-year term starting 1 March 2022.

The Chair congratulated Stéphanie Le Van, Xavier Reymond, Robert McGreevy, Fiamma García-Toriello, and Aldo Covello on their appointments and thanked outgoing IKRC Chair Bjørn Hauback for his valuable contributions.

The Science Director, Andreas Schreyer, reminded the delegates of the call for nominations for SAC members.

#### **A.o.B**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 14:15, 2 December 2021.

Beatrix Vierkorn-Rudolph  
Council Chair, European Spallation Source ERIC  
2 December 2021