

## **Report from the Council Chair**

### **Risk Review**

The first risk review took place on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The review includes representatives from relevant advisory committees including Bill Stirling on behalf of SAC. Reviews will now happen every 6 months (the next is on October 18<sup>th</sup>). Two points to note relate to SAC:

- Some of the detector risks (e.g. SONDE, Multigrid) sound like risks that should have been mitigated already or it is too late. Hopefully these are out of date.
- Disengagement of IK partners, particularly for instruments, and of the user community should be a risk.

### **Steady State Operation**

Following the 2023 review, ESS are undertaking a detailed SSO costing exercise assisted by an external expert group. This group is meeting monthly. Council also has a working group to provide oversight of the process, and ESS is providing monthly reports on progress. The proposed budget will be presented to Council in December. Options for investment to complete the original project scope (22 instruments, 5 MW and other investments) will also be presented.

Council discussed the approach to instruments 16-22. There was some confusion around the 'call for proposals' since funding is not yet confirmed, but it was clarified that the current call is for instrument concepts and interested parties. The approach is different to that for instruments 1-15.

The discussion on sharing of contributions to the SSO budget is separate from the costing. Following discussions at the Council meeting the Council Chair and Vice Chair prepared a number of illustrative models of SSO sharing that were discussed with all delegations individually. There are naturally a number of different views and further discussions are required.

### **Radioactive Waste**

Progress on the discussions with relevant Swedish authorities/organisations regarding disposal of radioactive waste was presented and discussed. An appropriate plan and the necessary agreements are required before ESS obtains the licence to operate.

### **ESSnuSB project**

Council received a report on the status of the ESSnuSB project.