

Present (by Zoom): Mar Capeans (CERN), Kalevi Ekman (Aalto University), Sijbrand de Jong (Radboud, Chair), Michela Magas (ICF), Ezri Tarazi (Technion); Markus Nordberg (CERN, secretary), Laetitia Pedroso (CERN), Roy Pennings (CERN), Pablo Tello (CERN).

Excused: Erika Garutti (Hamburg)

Meeting agenda: <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1300643/>

S. de Jong opened the meeting at 16:00. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The draft Agenda was approved.

S. de Jong then proceeded to summarize the discussions **M. Capeans** and he had with the CERN Director of Research (J. Mnich) since the last meeting. The following points were raised and discussed:

- 1) Extension of the building: J. Mnich was neutral, noting that the case would need to be well prepared;
- 2) CERN & Society Foundation funding (through private donors) IdeaSquare-Science Gateway activities: J. Mnich was sympathetic to the idea;
- 3) Updating Council/Finance Committee: J. Mnich proposed allocating a dedicated block in the annual KT presentation and that this should be followed up with Ch. Hartley;
- 4) Residence-program of deep-tech at IdeaSquare: J. Mnich encouraged to explore together with ECFA ([detector R&D road map](#));
- 5) Baseline funding needed for IdeaSquare from CERN: J. Mnich took note;
- 6) Succession of M. Nordberg (retiring in Spring 2025): J. Mnich will ask the opinion of ISAB about the organization of IdeaSquare and management (as part of the Strategy Plan to be updated). It was pointed out to him that IdeaSquare is not only about knowledge transfer but has other strong pillars such as EU-funded projects (ATTRACT, Green Village) and education activities (tech courses for CERN personnel, support to experiments etc.).

In the discussions that followed, M. Capeans elaborated upon point 1. IdeaSquare has submitted a request to start the process, but that this will take time, as thorough preparation is required. The first cost estimate will be based on current ratios CHF/m² at CERN. A question was asked whether this extension will follow NEB principles; M. Capeans responded that it can be considered at a later design stage as default value is anyhow net-zero and sustainability compliance. A comment was made that perhaps the required funding for the extension could come from an individual donor, which M. Nordberg responded is being explored but that it would need to go via the CERN and Society Foundation and that this takes time. M. Nordberg then provided updates for point 2 (initial contact has been established with M. Spiro (Chair of Foundation), to be continued early 2024) and point 4 above (initial contacts have been established with K. Jacobs (ECFA Chair) and that CERN EP encourages to explore a possibility of a “pilot case” using [DRDC-5](#) within the GRADE framework – to be followed up also with **E. Garutti**). A question was asked why the focus is on detection and imaging, to which M. Nordberg replied that this is due to historical reasons but possibly in the future, if the CERN management so wanted, it could be also extended to

accelerator technologies. Concerning point 6, M. Nordberg confirmed that he also has received the message from J. Mnich that the opinion of ISAB will be consulted in this matter.

M. Nordberg then proceeded to present the status of implementation of the 2023 ISAB-G recommendations; Starting the Strategy Planning process; and the Ad-interim operation plans (Appendix 1). His key messages were:

- 1) most of the ISAB recommendations are well under implementation;
- 2) Strategy Plan (2025-2030) preparations have started and the general directions endorsed by the hierarchy;
- 3) No CERN budget has been allocated for 2024 but that a request has been recently submitted;
- 4) Ad-interim organization at IdeaSquare has been put in place (**P. Tello** is in charge ad-interim).

In the discussion that followed, a question was asked whether the current IdeaSquare involvement with different communities (outside CERN) will change in the future. P. Tello clarified that this aspect will strongly be present in the strategy for 2030 but equally strong the presence of “CERN DNA” as IdeaSquare is part of the high energy physics community. The time-line of the Strategy Plan preparations for ISAB was asked. Resulting from clarifications from M. Capeans, M. Nordberg and P. Tello, it was agreed that the key milestones and time-lines will be as follows:

- 1) Progress updates will be presented early 2024 for the ISAB Annual Meeting;
- 2) Further updates (e.g. status of EU projects, building extension studies) necessary for ISAB to form its opinion about the longer term organization of IdeaSquare management (and succession of M. Nordberg) should be provided no later than by late May, 2024;
- 3) First draft compiled and shared with ISAB in Autumn, 2024 for first round of feedback;
- 4) Final draft submitted for ISAB consideration for its Annual Meeting in early 2025.

S. de Jong then suggested fixing dates around the above-mentioned milestones and suggested mid-February for the 2024 Annual Meeting; mid-June for discussing the organization of IdeaSquare management to target submission to J.Mnich in early summer, and January-February for the 2025 Annual meeting. **L. Pedroso** agreed to send around a “Doodle” to find suitable dates.

As there were no Any Other Business, S. de Jong thanked all ISAB members for their constructive feedback. He then moved to close the ISAB-G meeting at 18:00.