



Vetenskapsrådet

Swedish IKC to the European XFEL

- IKC process step by step: From the perspective of the funding agency
- Timeline VR – XFEL – IKC
- Lessons learnt?

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Background: The European XFEL project

- During 2007-2011, "Pre-XFEL" was funded by the EU (18 partners)
- 2009: An agreement to build the Eu-XFEL was reached and an international convention was signed
- Financial commitments of the 12 participating countries (SE: the Ministry of Education and Research)
- Sweden contributes to the construction of the European XFEL with 17,5 M€ (cash and in-kind) and will continue to contribute to the operation costs
- The Swedish Research Council (VR) is the designated shareholder of the XFEL GmbH



VR/XFEL: IKC process step by step

1. VR funding process: Open call for applications
 - General Research Infrastructure Calls: annually
 - Limited calls for participation to XFEL: 2008, 2011
 - Support letter from XFEL required!
2. Evaluation by peer review
3. Funding decision by VR/RFI (Council for Research Infrastructure)
4. Funding condition: Approval obtained from the XFEL In-Kind Review Committee (IKRC)



XFEL: IKC process step by step

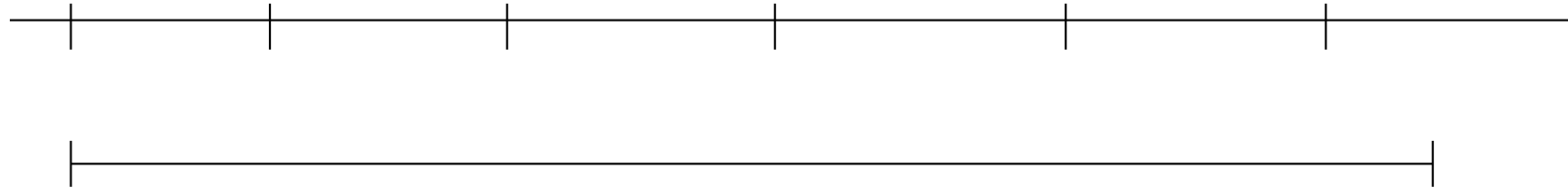
5. Legal framework

- IKC Agreement is negotiated between host university – XFEL
- According to the in-kind provisions of the XFEL Company, VR approval is needed (as shareholder)

6. VR funding is released to the host university when grant conditions have been approved/signed by scientist and Head of Department

Timeline: VR – University - XFEL

VR Call open: Feb-April	Evaluation: 2-3 months	VR/RFI funding decision: Oct-Nov	XFEL IKRC meeting: fall/spring	IKC agreement negotiation	All legal documents in place	VR funding released
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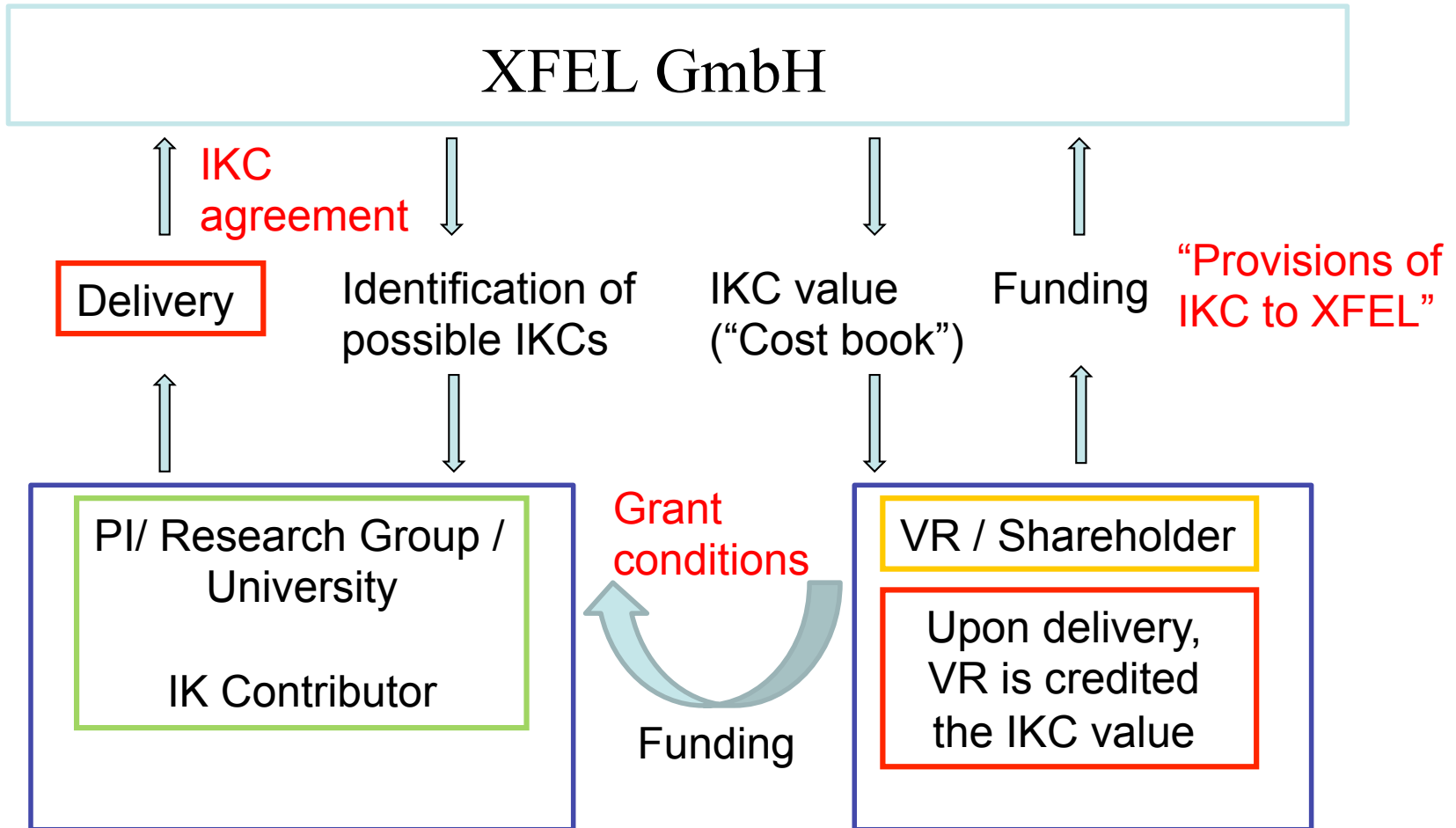
Many administrative steps and check points!
Time from grant application to "Go" is at least 12 months...



Complex legal framework

- Each IKC is regulated by a separate Agreement between the contributing University and the facility
 - The agreement regulates tasks, deliverables and milestones, time table, intellectual property, liability, value of the contribution, etc
- Between VR and the Swedish University, there is an agreement concerning the grant conditions (“bidragsvillkor”) regulating responsibility of cost increases, time of reporting etc
- Sweden/VR is bound by the Convention (an international treaty)
 - As a Shareholder, VR is also bound by the “Provisions of In Kind Contributions” of the XFEL GmbH

Overview: Parties - Funding streams - Agreements





Lessons learnt?

- The legal framework: complex and time-consuming
 - 2- 3-party-agreements
 - diverse organizations (e.g. private companies, publicly-funded universities, research institutes, funding agencies, intergovernmental organizations): different legal constraints
- IKC agreements should be negotiated in time in order to be in place before initiation of the IKC, to avoid problems should e.g. delays or cost increases occur
- Role of VR in XFEL – not ideal to be both funder and shareholder in the company

Model: Parties - Funding streams - Agreements

