

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 1 Business

Meeting # 9

Date: August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

*Minutes prepared by Oskar Svensson – August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023*

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Mikael Enelund	Present
University of Gothenburg	Lena Pedersen	Not present
Jönköping University	Roy Andersson	Not present
Karolinska Institute	Richard Cowburn	Present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Christina Murray	Not present
Linköping University	Therese Lindkvist	Present
Linnaeus University	Torbjörn Håkansson	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Maria Vyatkina	Present
Lund University	Lisa Thelin	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Anna Lindahl	Not present
Mälardalen University	Daniel Boqvist	Not present
	<b>Mikael Hjorth</b>	Present
Stockholm University	Mats Berglund	Present
Uppsala University	Cecilia Nilsson	Not present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Charlotte Kramer	Present
SIRUES Trainee	Oskar Svensson	Present
	Märta Ernfors	Present
SACC USA - SIREUS	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

## Agenda

1. Welcome
  - a. Update on WG participants
  - b. Review of minutes from last meeting
  - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. Thematic Areas
  - a. Implemented on the website – still need help with relevant links.
3. Mapping of existing relationships & target companies/areas
  - a. Individual plan
  - b. Thematic areas, regions
  - c. Internships, Capstones & Post doc
4. SIREUS Affiliation of Companies
5. Next meetings

## Presentation material

During the meeting a ppt presentation was used following the agenda that was sent out prior to the meeting. This ppt presentation will be archived on the SIREUS website alongside the minutes.

## Minutes

1. a) Christer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Oskar and Märta introduced themselves and Christer also presented Johanna and Edith as the new interns for SIREUS.  
b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.  
c) Christer reminded about the two events that were a huge success in the spring; the University of Texas at San Antonio **academic delegation** to Jönköping University, Gothenburg University, Chalmers University of Technology and Astra Zeneca. A very successful week that motivated Chalmers to initiate new collaborations with UTSA on the research side, and this excitement was shared from UTSA's side. The second activity was the **SIREUS Member forum**, where close to 200 participants from 12 SIREUS members and 6 Affiliated members. Representatives from 16 countries and 23 US states come from 94 different universities and relevant organizations. The members that were at the forum agreed that it was very well done, and it provided an excellent opportunity to network.

Christer continued to inform the group about what has been going on with SIREUS during the summer. SIREUS has recruited four new interns for the fall of 2023; Edith, Märta, Johanna, and Oskar that will all be responsible for one working group each. **SIREUS VIRTUAL forum** is planning to launch during this fall, and this is why Oskar will be working with this as the new event intern. Christer then mentioned a possible **Innovation trip to Texas** that is currently in the planning within working group 3 that Märta is responsible for. Christer further mentioned that SIREUS is planning a larger **Study in Sweden** trip within working Group 4 that will start in New York, and continue to Washington State University, Pullman, and Chapman University in California. SIREUS are also excited to soon be able to launch **SIREUS Affiliation of Companies** – more of this later during the meeting. Christer informed the group that Märta is mainly working with this and will inform them about the launch further when we have more information.

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Christer further informed the group about the challenge of funding for SIREUS for the future, and that this is something that he is still working on.

2. Christer presented the development of the Thematic Areas. He explained that the Thematic Areas is the focused area for SIREUS, and that the website has been greatly enhanced to articulate this. Christer said that we needed to decide what areas we were going to focus on for each university, and encouraged all universities to provide links to various thematic areas that will be displayed on our website. Christer showed a summary of which universities had provided these links so far (with a blue indicator on the presentation). It was agreed that all universities would try to provide SIREUS with these links, as per previously requested via email (June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023).
3. The next topic for the meeting was to reiterate the importance of Individual university action plans (see the presentation). In order to facilitate this, Christer presented a set of questions for the individual university action plan which will be sent out to every university with some additional instructions. Individual plans will be implemented on the webpage under “University Specific Documents” that will only be accessible for the specific university they concern. This is to optimize the individual plans for each university, and for SIREUS to make it possible to help with the specific areas each university wants to focus on. The questions will be sent out to the universities during the next couple of days.
4. Christer continues to present the start of a new concept, the SIREUS Affiliation of Companies, in which he and Märta have worked on and developed a program. Märta continues to present the concept and adds that the SIREUS project have had requests about involving cooperation with American industry that is like the affiliation of universities. Märta continued to present to the group about a soft launch with Astra Zeneca, SAAB and Ericsson to continue developing the project and build strategic partnerships between Swedish universities and American industry. Mikael offered to introduce the initiative to Volvo and Christer was very appreciative and asked Mikael to start the process. Christer mentioned that the document about the SIREUS Affiliation of Companies will be shared with the group.

Christer adds and thanked Mikeal Enelund for their work with the collaboration between Penn State and Chalmers which was a great success and explained that it has been a great inspirational source for the initiative to create the Affiliation of Companies. Therese adds that Linköping University also has started a cooperation with Washinton State University and an exchange agreement with SAAB and Boeing. Christer appreciated that information very much and will contact Margareta (LiU) and explore if an article can be written about that cooperation as well.

Christer mentioned that SIREUS is planning to sign an MOU with the selected companies, similar to the universities in the SIREUS Affiliation of Universities. Once there is a potential cooperation between a company and a university, those parties will sign a traditional cooperation agreement between the parties. A discussion about the launch of the initiative and questions about what, and how many companies will be involved was held. Christer mentioned that the plan is to start with the companies at hand and make potential adjustments before a wider launch will be done. Christer also asked the group for help; a planning group of 2-3 participants is needed that will be an “advisory group” for the initiative.

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Rikard said he could participate. Mikael and Maria indicated they potentially have a contact interested in participating in the planning group and promised Christer to get back soon.

5. Next scheduled meeting is on October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 13.00 CET. Christer presented the meeting calendar for rest of 2023 - invites have been sent out for 2023 as follows,
  - a. October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)
  - b. November 28<sup>th</sup> @ 13.00 CET (7 am EST)The meeting calendar is also published on the website (private area).

No other topics were discussed, and Christer thanked the members for the meeting.

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