

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 10

Date: October 5th,2023

Minutes prepared by Märta Ernfors – October 5th, 2023

Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Tomas Faxheden	Not present
University of Gothenburg	Jonas Rimbäck	Present
Jönköping University	No representation	
Karolinska Institute	Mia Bjerke	Not present
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Siimon Vaske	Not present
Linköping University	Åsa Wallin	Present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Not present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Present
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Not present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Not present
	Jenny Majidyar	Not present
Swedish Institute	Lisa Truedsson	Not present
CU Bolder / SACC CO	Nicole Forsberg	Present during topic 4-5.
SACC Trainees	Märta Ernfors	Present
	Oskar Svensson	Present
SACC USA	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 – updated status.
3. Individual University Plan
 - a. Aligned with the project plan
4. SIREUS VIRTUAL forum
 - a. Topics, frequencies, audience - “Program Board”
5. SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
 - a. Destination Start Up / - Denver Annually! March 20-21, 2024
 - b. Innovation Tour Texas Feb 5-9, 2024 (prel.)
6. 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.

b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

c) Christer updated the group about what’s been going on with SIREUS since the last meeting. The SIREUS VIRTUAL forum is starting to take shape and we need to have a Program Board of 3-4 members that can help with topics. Christer then mentioned about the possible Innovation trip to Texas that is now scheduled to be during February 5th-9th 2024 – a planning group is formed, but **we need more members to the group**. They are also working on planning for the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum in Denver in conjunction with Destination Start-Up, now to be held March 21st-22nd, 2024. Christer further mentioned that SIREUS is in the final planning stage for a larger Study in Sweden trip within working Group 4 that will start on November 2nd in New York at SACC-NY, and continue to Washington State University, Pullman on November 4th, and Chapman University in Orange, California on November 6th.

Märta reminded about the presentation during the last meeting where it was mentioned that SIREUS is planning a soft launch SIREUS Affiliation of Companies. This is now in full swing and Ericsson, AstraZeneca, SAAB, Volvo and Einride are engaged in the dialogue. The feedback from the companies is positive and they are happy to be onboard. For these discussions, SIREUS is engaging with company representatives on a high level.

SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

Christer further informed the group that he had had an intensive visit to Stockholm a couple of weeks ago. He “promoted” SIREUS and met KK-stiftelsen, STINT, Vetenskapsrådet, IVA, UHR, SI, UD, Kungliga Musikhögskolan, AmCham and Einride. They all articulated that they are very impressed with our achievement so far and are willing to support the program in any way they can. He also mentioned that he is researching the possibility of having the SIREUS CHANCELLORS forum in Stockholm during the spring. The original plan for March 20th – 21st, 2024 @ MDU will not work for different reasons.

Åsa added information about a Quant event in Silicon Valley, December 5th – 7th. Focus on early commercialization, startups and potential scaleups within the Quant technology field. If the members have any researchers / startups that could be interested, please email Åsa.

2. **Thematic Areas.** Christer presented an overview of the links currently provided by the universities to the different thematic areas (<https://www.sireus.org/thematic-areas>). He reminded the universities, who are yet to provide links, to **send links to the thematic areas** to us. Once the links are provided by the Swedish universities, the American affiliated universities will be offered the opportunity to contribute with links to their university. This gives the universities an opportunity to emphasize their strengths and focus areas on which they are, or strive, to be recognized for.

Christer mentioned the meeting with Vetenskapsrådet, where they asked what areas SIREUS is focusing on, he was then proud to be able to answer with the thematic areas that have been discussed and iterated thoroughly with the universities and with the Embassy’s Office of Science and Innovation.

3. **Individual University Plan.** Christer mentioned that a **questionnaire with a few questions (see presentation) will be sent to everyone**. The aim is to gain insights on the individual plans for each university and any specific objectives they may have for being part of the SIREUS project. 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 that each university wants to focus on. The questions will be sent out to the universities during the next couple of days.
4. **SIREUS VIRTUAL forum.** Christer presented the status for the planning of the virtual forum. In order to create interesting program topics, a program board is needed to go through the topic proposals. Christer presented the 10 current proposed topics whereas Nicole has been responsible for 7 of the topics including related speakers and panel speakers. Tech transfer is another topic of interest. For the panels, there will be a maximum of 3 people, a larger panel will not be manageable. **[Christer will reach out to some SIREUS members and try to get a Program Board formed within the next weeks].**

The audience is planned to be both researchers and other stakeholders in Swedish and American academia. This is to get a broader diffusion of the understanding of SIREUS.

One area raised is to be careful about what wording to use when reaching out to researchers. For instance, key words to focus on could be “impact, how we reach out, societal relevance, how to better

SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

find collaborations in the US, global trends, where is the money. In short, all topics sound interesting but they are not niched toward researchers. On the other hand, it is important to keep the topics sharp and more in-depth - we need to be careful not to end up with too general topics. Christer mentioned that this is exactly why a program board is needed. The proposed topics are indeed a proposal – it is possible to make changes to the lineup. Jonas added that GU has had their own sessions of speakers. The greatest interest has been shown to be when the topic covers how researchers can improve their applications to Vinnova, EU and Formas for increase their chances of receiving funding. Christer mentioned that this is a way to establish a channel and fill it with relevant information.

5. **SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum.**

a) Christer highlighted the interest as per last meeting, to be part of the Destination Startup event that next year will be in Denver March 21st – 22nd (wrong dates on presentation). We will need a planning group to ensure that we are included early in the event and the companies are enabled to pitch. The idea is similar to that of last year's event where a visit to Boulder will be included in the trip.

Malin emphasized that we need to have a wide approach to this, find suitable subject areas where the companies can be included, and prepare the companies well in advance for this. Åsa agreed and added that we could be inspired for the KTH Innovation Brighter Program and that it could be favorable to let the companies pitch in a national setting as a way to prepare.

Christer is working with Nicole to ensure the companies can participate in the actual program and not just listen in. A conversation followed about who would like to be part of the planning group. **Marita volunteered and Malin, Åsa and Maryam will get back to Christer with potential name to participate in the planning group.**

b) Märta presented the current plan for an **Innovation Tour in Texas**. A first meeting has been held with the planning group where it was proposed that the tour will take place during Feb 5th-9th. The plan is to visit Austin, San Antonio and Houston. It will be coordinated together with the SACC regional chambers in Texas and the universities SIREUS is in contact with in the area (RICE, UTA, UTSA, University Houston) hence there will be opportunity to visit the several innovation centers in the region.

There will need to be at least 5-6 universities participating in the tour in order for it to take place.

Currently UU, SU and LTU have expressed their interest in participating in the tour.

The universities that have not participated in the latest meetings will be briefed about this opportunity to understand their interest in participating.

Åsa agreed that Texas could be interesting although capital is more readily available in CA. She also mentioned that SISP have done a number of similar international trips with similar focus and there might be experience learned from their trips.

6. Next scheduled meeting is on November 30th @ 15.00 CET, 09.00 EST.

a) November 30th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

The meeting calendar will also be published on the website (private area).

SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

Meetings for next year (2024) are proposed to be on Tuesdays on the dates as seen below:

January 23rd @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
March 19th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
~~April 30th~~ April 29th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
June 4th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
~~July 16th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)~~
August 27th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
October 8th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
November 19th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)
~~December 17th @ 13.00 CET (9 am EST)~~

The proposal in red for July and December indicates that the recommendation is not to hold those meetings. Also, the meeting on April 30th should be moved to April 29th to fit the Swedish work schedule. Everyone agreed that the preliminary schedule with the above-mentioned changes will work.

Once the meetings have been agreed on, invites will be sent out and the meeting calendar will also be published on the website (private area).

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

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