

## Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 12

Date: January 23<sup>d</sup>, 2024

*Minutes prepared by Aida Aboutalebi – January 23<sup>d</sup>, 2024*

### Participants

University	Contact name	Present/Not present
Chalmers University of Technology	Tomas Faxheden	Not present
	Charlotte Emlind Vahul	Not Present
University of Gothenburg	Jonas Rimbäck	Present
Jönköping University	<b>No representation</b>	Not present
Linköping University	Åsa Wallin	Present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Not present
	Annett Wolf	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Not present
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Not present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Not present
	Tor Regberg	Not Present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
<b>Partners</b>		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
	Jenny Majidyar	Not present
SACC Trainees	Aida Aboutalebi	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. Updated status
4. SIREUS RESEARCH forum
5. SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
  - a. Destination Start Up / - Denver Annually! March 18-22, 2024
  - b. Innovation Tour Texas Feb 5-9, 2024
6. SIREUS 2<sup>nd</sup> half evaluation
7. 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. Maria then informed the group about Sweden's 3<sup>rd</sup> astronaut (2<sup>nd</sup> Swede as Jessica Meir is Swedish-American). Marcus Wandt is on ISS in Axiom Mission 3 after being selected as a reserve by ESA. He has 20 experiments that he intends to perform which translates to 84 hours of research work of which two are Swedish experiments.  
  
b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.  
  
c) Christer provided the group with an overview of recent developments within SIREUS since the last meeting.

One notable update is the establishment of the SIREUS RESEARCH forum, aimed at engaging Swedish and American researchers. The plan involves creating a database to identify interested participants, and their interest areas.

Christer provided the group with updates on the upcoming events, starting with the Texas Innovation Tour to Texas (WG3) scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The tour will cover four stops in Texas, namely San Antonio, Austin, College Station and Houston. The detailed schedule is currently in the works

## SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

and will be sent out as soon as all the information is accumulated, and it was clarified that a total of six university representatives will be participating on the trip.

Another planning group is working on the upcoming SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum in Denver with Destination Start-Up, now to be held March 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Christer emphasized the need for SIREUS to establish a distinct branding, ensuring clarity when referring to specific events such as the SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum (Destination Startup) and the SIREUS RESEARCH forum. This branding will contribute to a more cohesive and recognizable identity for SIREUS initiatives.

As the SIREUS project has just one year remaining, a strategic step has been taken to appoint a representative from each university. These representatives will be responsible for assessing the project's overall progress and presenting the university's perspective. Any feedback or inputs are encouraged to be shared promptly, without the need for delays, as adjustments can be made in real-time. These perspectives are also crucial when presenting recommendations for the future of SIREUS to the steering committee, especially regarding the course of action after the project's three-year duration. A recommendation on SIREUS continuation will take place before the steering committee on April 16<sup>th</sup>, and on May 28<sup>th</sup> the steering committee will reach a decision.

There was a discussion during the meeting regarding the frequency of the working group meetings. An idea was suggested to maintain the frequency while adjusting the meeting duration to 30-45 minutes. This proposal will be further deliberated in the upcoming meeting with the steering committee regarding the evaluation meetings as well.

2. Christer informed the group that we have received project specific links from the universities, which can be found on the SIREUS website (<https://www.sireus.org/thematic-areas>). This allows the universities to emphasize their strengths and focus areas on which they are, or strive, to be recognized. Christer discussed SIREUS and its thematic areas in a meeting with among others, The Swedish Research Council, and the reception was highly positive. This underscores the significance of emphasizing thematic areas over just individual studies.

Moreover, during a meeting with Vinnova on January 22nd, Christer presented the initiatives of SIREUS along with the thematic areas, receiving a similarly positive response.

Overall, the concept of thematic areas, initiated some time ago, is gaining widespread approval and appreciation.

3. Christer presented the **Individual University Plans**. The aim of the individual plan is to gain insights into any specific objectives each university might have for being part of the SIREUS project. Individual plans is implemented on the webpage under "University Specific Documents" that will only be accessible for the

## SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

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.

4. The next **SIREUS Research forum** will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> and will be about the introduction to technology transfer, held by Nicole (Forsberg) Sheppard from Colorado Boulder and SACC-Colorado, with Stephen Susalka who is an expert within tech transfer. This is also the first time that SIREUS will utilize the Temas Webinar function, which means it's a new learning curve for the team as well. During discussions, a question arose regarding exclusivity, and Christer clarified that, for the time being, the forum is open to everyone.

The upcoming Research Forum is currently in the planning stages and will focus on venture development. Most likely it will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

5. a) The **SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum** in conjunction with Destination Startup will take place on March 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, Nicole (Forsberg) Sheppard from Colorado Boulder and SACC-Colorado is the initiator and coordinator and will ensure that the Swedish startups are ready for delivering their pitches. There are startups from Stockholm University, Uppsala University and Lund University that will participate in the event. Nicole is instrumental in aligning these Swedish startup companies with their counterparts in Colorado. Furthermore, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, Nicole will host a webinar with the companies so that they know how to give the pitch. There will also be another one before they leave for Colorado in March.

b) **The Innovation Tour Texas** aims to provide Swedish universities with the opportunity to understand the workings of the Texas innovation system and explore how various universities in the region are involved. We anticipate finalizing the schedule next week, outlining the individuals and institutions we plan to meet during the tour.

6. Because SIREUS is entering its last year Christer presented that an evaluation of the SIREUS project will be done. Participants from the working groups will in a several meetings discuss what the SIREUS project has contributed to and how it can be developed. On the 16th of April the evaluation will be presented to the steering committee. On the 28th of May, the steering committee will decide the project's future.

Christer also presented who is included in the evaluation teams, which can be found in the published PowerPoint. The individuals in the evaluation teams will represent the universities and the participants in all working groups.

7. Next scheduled meeting is on March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 16.00 CET, 10.00 EST. Christer then presented a proposition for preliminary dates for the working group meeting for 2024. Calendar invites will be sent out.

## SIREUS Working Group 3 Innovation Minutes

- a) March 27th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST) – please note it is on a Wednesday.
- b) April 29th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- c) June 4th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- d) August 27th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- e) October 8th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
- f) November 19th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

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.

The Swedish American Chambers of Commerce of the USA, Inc.,  
House of Sweden, 2900 K Street NW, Suite 401, Washington DC, 20007  
[info@sireus.org](mailto:info@sireus.org), [www.sireus.org](http://www.sireus.org)

