

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 8

Date: June 15th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Christer Bergman – June 19th, 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	Not present
Linnaeus University	Johan Höglund	Present
Luleå University of Technology	Marita Holst	Not present
Lund University	Niclas Nilsson	Not present
Mid Sweden University	Sten Wigert	Not present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren	Not present
	Radu Dobrin	Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren	Present
	Jenny Majidyar	Not present
Swedish Institute	Lisa Truedsson	Not present
SACC Trainees	Anton Bornlid	Not present
SACC USA	Christer Bergman	Present & Group Leader

Agenda

1. Welcome
 - a. Update on WG participants
 - b. Review of minutes from last meeting (SACC USA presentation)
 - c. Update on SIREUS progress
2. Project plan
 - a. Updated Goals & Activities is approved and can be found on SIREUS Member area.
 - b. Are we aligned with the project plan?
 - c. How do we move forward
3. Review of SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum
 - a. Make Denver Annually! Focus area? Any other destination / topic / time
4. SIREUS Research, Innovation, Knowledge, or SCIENTIA forum
 - a. Topics, frequencies, audience
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. The group recognized that very few participants attended the meeting – it might be graduation and early summer activities.
b) The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Christer mentioned that the request from Niclas about including Advanced Therapy and Medical Products (ATMP) in the thematic areas have not been done. **[Christer will reach out to Niclas and ask him for help with definition and links].**
c) Christer then informed the group about the overall progress of SIREUS and the other working groups. He mentioned that the SIREUS MEMBER forum was a success; 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 then informed the group about the work with thematic areas that now are published on the web, and referred to the email regarding the launch and that we still need some help with some definitions and relevant links.
Christer mentioned about the Vinnova application that unfortunately was not granted, this means that the financial situation for SIREUS will be difficult going forward.
Christer mentioned that the first SIREUS initiated academic delegation took place during May 22nd and May 25th. University of Texas at San Antonio, UTSA visited JU, GU and Chalmers. Christer extended his (and UTSA's) appreciation for the very welcoming, positive, and productive meetings at the universities. There are already follow-up activities scheduled between the universities.

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2. Christer mentioned that the updated version of the goals & activities of the project plan is now approved and can be found in the SIREUS member area. He encourages everyone to review the document periodically, since this is what we have committed to do and will be measured on.

He then asked the questions;

- Are we aligned?
- How do we move forward?

Christer presented a picture of his interpretation of what is needed to comply with the project plan.

- Goal 3.1.1 & 3.1.2 –is for the universities to do and eventually document this in the **Individual Plan that can be stored on the website in “individual containers”** – Christer will inform when this feature has been fully tested.
- Goal 3.1.3 & 3.1.4 is for SIREUS and the regional chamber to do and present for the universities.
- Goal 3.1.6 is for both SIREUS and the universities to do.

3. Review of SIREUS ENTREPRENEURS forum.

- a) The group has already agreed that **Destination Start-Up** in Denver and CU Boulder is a well proven concept, and it would be advisable to do it next year as well. Christer is in dialogue with Nicole Forsberg, and she is working to get the SIREUS companies to be part of the program. During the previous meeting, the group talked about what thematic area do we think would be best for us. The conclusion was that we need to be flexible and that we should start a smaller planning group with participants that were present at the ENTREPRENEURS forum earlier this year. **[Christer has not done it yet and needs to invite people before the summer]**. This group will talk about focus areas, create material that can be used to attract companies to the event and for the actual planning.

During the last meeting the group discussed whether we should decide on a thematic area to focus on and then find the right venue or explore different venues and have them present the focused areas. Christer has had conversations with different **regional chambers, and it is difficult to explore openly about a venue.**

Maria Brogren described that the Embassy is focusing on five US States for potential collaborations: WA, NY, CA, TX and IL. She also briefed the group about her latest visit to Texas. Maria and her team recently visited Rice University in Houston and were very impressed with the visit. Rice is very interested in collaboration with Swedish universities and have a couple of specific research areas they would like to start with. Similarly, a visit to the University of Texas at Austin was very interesting, since they have a very progressive international strategy and a specific program called Texas Global at UTA.

The group appreciated the briefing and agreed that we need to approach the different universities in Texas within the SIREUS project. The group then talked about the possibility to have an Innovation Tour in the region during the fall and see what is there, then it would be easier to schedule a new “soft landing” mission with companies during 2024. It was agreed to use the planning group to also include this topic on the agenda. **[Christer will send out an email to the whole group and ask for 3-4 people to form a planning group]**.

4. **SIREUS Research or Innovation forum.** Christer mentioned that the planning for the virtual forum approach is ongoing. He also proposed a new name for the forum; SCIENTIA. The group thought it was not ideal and Christer asked the group to help him with an alternative name via email.

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5. Next scheduled meeting is on August 24th @ 15.00 CET. Christer presented the meeting calendar for the rest of 2023 and have sent out invites for 2023 as follows,
 - a) August 24th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - b) October 5th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)
 - c) November 30th @ 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.

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