

Working Group Minutes

Working Group 3 Innovation

Meeting # 9

Date: August 24th, 2023

Minutes prepared by Märta Ernfors – August 24th, 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	Present
Mälardalen University	Christer Nygren Radu Dobrin	Not present Not present
Stockholm University	Maryam Hansson Edalat	Present
Uppsala University	Malin Graffner Nordberg	Present
Partners		
Swedish Embassy	Maria Brogren Jenny Majidyar	Present Not present
Swedish Institute	Lisa Truedsson	Not present
SACC Trainees	Märta Ernfors Oskar Svensson	Present 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. Updated on the website – still need help with relevant links.
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 5-6, 2024
 - b. Innovation Tour Texas 2023?
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. He welcomed Märta and Oskar who introduced themselves to the team.

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**, with close to 200 participants including participants from 12 SIREUS members and 6 Affiliated members. Representatives from 16 countries and 23 US states, 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's 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 mainly 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

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working Group 4 that will start in New York, and continue to Washington State University, Pullman, and Chapman University in California. SIREUS is also excited to soon be able to launch **SIREUS Affiliation of Companies**. The concept will be tested with Ericsson, Astra Zeneca, SAAB and most likely Volvo. Christer informed the group that Märta is mainly working with this and will inform them about the launch further when we have more information.

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.

d) Märta presented the ongoing work with the SIREUS Affiliation of Companies. A 3-pager is uploaded in the archives for more information about this program.

Maria added that she has been contacted by Einride who is really interested in SIREUS. Maria said that she will provide the contact to Einride for their potential participation in the Affiliation of Companies program.

Christer highlighted the recently released news article on the SIREUS webpage about the collaboration between Chalmers and Penn State (link to the article: (<https://www.sireus.org/more/news/chalmers-collaborative-project>)). A similar news article is also planned to be conducted regarding the partnership between Linköping, Washington State University and their collaboration with SAAB and Boeing. This is to provide inspiration to universities for possible engagements and activities that can be conducted with help from SIREUS.

- 2. Thematic Areas.** Christer presented the current progress on the thematic areas and referred to the areas on the webpage. Christer urged everyone to look at the thematic areas and their definition (<https://www.sireus.org/thematic-areas>) on the webpage and speak up if there needs to be any updates or if there are any areas missing. **All universities are also encouraged to provide links to the thematic areas that can be accessed from the webpage.** This gives the universities an opportunity to emphasize their strengths and focus areas on which they are or strive to be recognized for. Christer presented a table summarizing the current information provided by the universities for the various thematic areas.
- 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. The questions are based on the Project Plan and would provide SIREUS with the information needed to introduce the Individual Plans of each university. 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.

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4. **SIREUS VIRTUAL forum.** Christer mentioned that the planning for the virtual forum approach is ongoing. Christer presented the background of the forum and mentioned that Jackson at EuroAccess has been consulted to share their experience. Christer also mentioned that 2-3 persons are sought to constitute a “program board” to help with the planning of program areas to cover and possible keynote speakers. **[Christer to reach out to a couple of SIREUS members for participating in the Program Board]**. Oscar presented his work on the matter.

Christer emphasized the need for securing a sufficient audience size in order to book interesting speakers and that the forum is planned to target the SIREUS Members' interests and therefore is a planning group important to be able to understand the topics of interests.

Maria added that it would be interesting to cover the area of “forsknings- och innovationspropositionen.” Maryam informed about other similar initiatives and emphasized the importance of defining uniqueness that attracts a large audience without too much effort needed. Åsa mentioned a potential alternative setup such as “fråga experten” where a group of experts is available to answer questions concerning a certain topic. Additionally, Åsa asked about the possibility to, apart from the thematic areas, cover areas such as current agreements between Sweden and the USA such as the agreement to promote and facilitate basic science research in energy and related fields where Vetenskapsrådet is involved. Christer appreciated the feedback as it can increase its relevance and provide context to the presentations.

Maryam added that discussing topics such as the energy agreement is important as it has attracted a lot of interest within SU and more information is asked for.

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 5th-6th. 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 on who could 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 that was earlier discussed to take place during the end of October. Due to the lack of a planning group, the group agreed that it is not realistic to carry out the trip this autumn and instead proposed that a planning group is created and plan for the tour either in February/March in conjunction to Denver (March 5th-6th) and South by Southwest (8th-16th of March) or during the end of May so that there is a lot of time between the trip to Colorado and this tour. A planning group **(proposed to be the same as for Denver above)** is needed to set the details for this trip.

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6. Next scheduled meeting is on October 5th @ 15.00 CET. Christer mentioned that during next meeting, the plan for 2024 will be presented.

a) October 5th @ 15.00 CET (9 am EST)

b) 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.

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, www.sireus.org

