



Nodo Español EU-SOLARIS ERIC

Reunión preparatoria

Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación
21 Septiembre, 2022



Plataforma Solar de Almería (PSA)
Carretera Senés s/n, 04200 Tabernas (Almería)
Apdo. de Correos, 2 Tel. +34 950 38 78 00

eu-solaris.eu

Agenda

1. Bienvenida & presentación de asistentes
2. Background: El 'Board of National Nodes' de EU-SOLARIS
3. Modelo organizativo del Nodo español
4. 'Service Level Agreement' con los centros de I+D
5. Prestación de servicios al ERIC
6. Otros

Governing Bodies and Advisory Committees

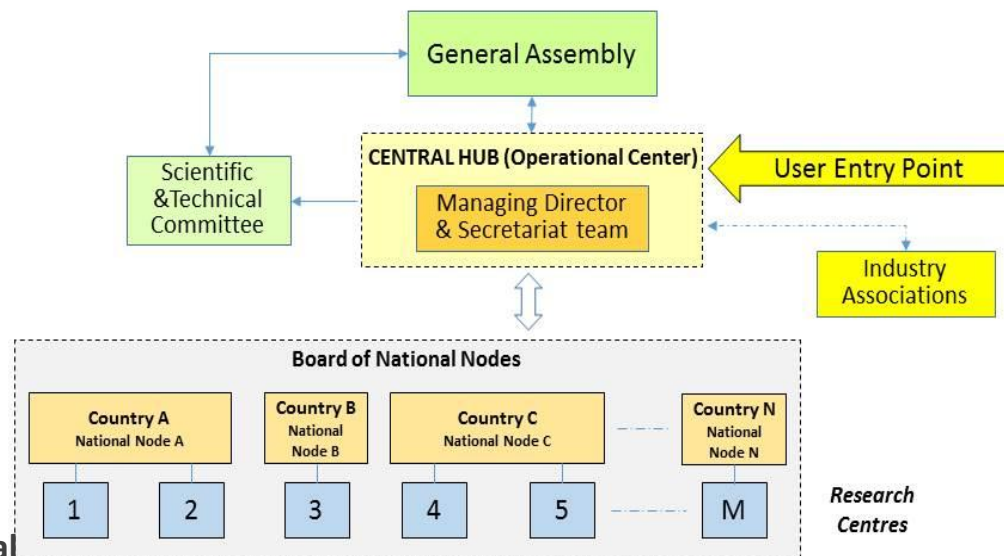
According to Chapter III of the Statutes:

Governing Bodies:

- *General Assembly*
 - Designation of Representative/s (2 per Member/Observer, 1 rep+alternate)
 - Election of GA Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- *Appointment of Managing Director*

Advisory Bodies:

- *Scientific & Technical Committee (STC)*
 - Designation of STC members **by the General Assembly**
- *Board of National Nodes (BNN)*
 - National Nodes must be established first, then, elect their representatives (France and Portugal are done, Spain on its way)



Governing Bodies and Advisory Committees (II)

▪ BOARD OF NATIONAL NODES:

- *The BNN shall **support and assist the Managing Director** in coordinating the application of the strategies approved by the General Assembly on a technical and scientific level, supervising the national scientific activities related to EU-SOLARIS ERIC and, in coordination with the Managing Director, should maintain coherence in EU-SOLARIS activities and collaboration amongst all of the involved CSP/STE research centres.*
- *Without prejudice to the contractual content of the collaboration agreements entered into between EU-SOLARIS ERIC and the different research centres, the Board of National Nodes has a **supporting role, without executive power, to the Managing Director***
- One delegate (plus one alternate) per country.

Governing Bodies and Advisory Committees (III)

▪ BOARD OF NATIONAL NODES:

- Nodes established at national level elect their representatives (art. 31) and **communicate** them to the GA and the MD.
- The appointment of representatives of the National Nodes is **not specifically needed by the Constitutive Meeting**. Nevertheless, each country should organize its internal structure of National Nodes as soon as possible.
- In particular, countries are encouraged to do their best **to have the BNN active before opening of 'EC INFRA' calls**.
- The Legal Task Force (LTF) has been working on a draft of the **TORs**, the current version was distributed on past 15 July.

Proposal/s to the *EC's Research Infrastructures (INFRA)* call/s:

Expected to be open between Dec'22 to March'23.

➤ **Destination INFRADEV**

INFRA-2023-DEV-01-03: Individual support for evolution and long-term sustainability of RIs

INFRA-2023-DEV-01-06: Development of international dimension: Latin America

➤ **Destination INFRASERV**

INFRASERV-2023-SERV-01: Access provision / Training activities / Interaction with Industry

➤ **Destination INFRATECH (just for year 2024)**

Next generation of scientific instruments, tools and methods, and advanced digital solutions (strongly focused on cooperation with Industry)

Modelo de organización

- **No** hay necesidad de que tenga personalidad jurídica.
- Puede constituirse mediante:
 - Un 'Memorandum of Understanding'
 - Una 'Joint Research Unit'
 - Una 'Agrupación de Interés Económico'.....etc....
- Es una decisión de carácter **nacional**.
- Es conveniente establecer unos '**Terms of Reference**', que incluyan los requisitos que debe cumplir un candidato para su **admisión**.

- Tipos de colaboración prevista:
 - Prestación de **servicios de 'Acceso a Infraestructuras Científicas'**.
 - Intercambio de personal científico y técnico
 - Intercambio de datos / información de carácter científico
- Actualmente se está discutiendo en la 'Legal Task Force' del consorcio 'EU-SOLARIS' (distribuida la versión actual)
- Se enfoca en la prestación de **servicios de 'Acceso a Infraestructuras Científicas'**.
- Contempla también (la versión mostrada hoy) la **provisión de personal proyectos de I+D.**

Otros

- Necesidad de proponer candidatos para el 'Scientific & Technical Committee'

Thanks, everyone for your contributions!

2. Current status of EU-SOLARIS

▪ EC decision on EU-SOLARIS ERIC:

- Official response received from EC's ERIC Office after 'Inter-service Consultation Process' on past **29th July** with minor proposed changes to the statutes. Accepted on **29th August**.

- (VAT exemption) Article 41(3) is revised as follows: “The costs incurred by EU-SOLARIS ERIC and its Members in conferences, seminars and meetings directly related to EU-SOLARIS ERIC’ official activities shall also be included. Notwithstanding the foregoing, travelling expenses and costs shall not enjoy tax exemptions.” Otherwise the provision could also be seen to cover cases where costs are paid for by third parties although there would be no legal basis for VAT exemption in that case.
- (Access policy) Comments from DG COMP and request to be consulted (see below further details). FYI we informed DG COMP that free of charge access is provided including to large companies under Horizon Europe, pending proper dissemination of results, and we signalled the Charter for Access.
- (Access policy) “not necessarily for free” was raised as possibly too vague. We have provided further explanation and suggested to not modify Article 7 however we have no confirmation yet this is acceptable. Due to summer break we prefer to go ahead and we still have the opportunity to specify more before launching the Decision.

2. Current status of EU-SOLARIS (II)

■ Participation in ERIC-related activities

- Submission of a paper to **SolarPACES 2022**, accepted as poster. On going.
- ESFRI Workshop on '**Landmark & ERIC Monitoring**' to be held on next 16 September (remote)
- We have been invited to participate at **ICRI 2022** (Brno, Czech Republic, October 19-21), where the Commission is expected to formally announce the decision on the implementation of EU-SOLARIS ERIC.

■ Preparatory activities funded by Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation

- Development of a **corporate image and web site**. Almost operational.
- **Consultancy report** with the outcome of a comprehensive seek of possible additional ways of funding for the ERIC. Report is almost finished.

2. Current status of EU-SOLARIS (III)

▪ Other

- **Legal Task Force** formally established (Blanco, M; Aubry, E.; Rauchfuss, V.; Cardoso, J.; Fylaktos, N.; Martinez, D). First (remote) meeting was held on **13 July**. Progress on the different documents to be discussed later in this meeting.
- Preliminary conversations with potential partners of the **Spanish National Node**. First formal meeting to be held in Madrid on next **21st September**.
- Contact with Local Governmental Authorities seeking for assistance in **VAT registration procedure**.
- Contact with local company to take care of **tax declarations** (same that assisted *LifeWATCH*)
- Contact with local bank to check the formalities needed to **open an ESFRI-related account**.

3. Governing Bodies and Advisory Committees (II)

▪ GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Representatives at the **General Assembly** should be formally designated by the concerned Governments **in advance of the ERIC constitutive meeting**.
- As agreed at the former BGR meeting on 31 May:
 - *Spanish BGR member to request formally to the other Governments the candidates' designation letters: Not later than **15 June** → **Letter sent on 1 July**
 - *Designation letters from the Members to be submitted to Spanish MCIN not later than **31 July**.
 - *Spanish BGR member to distribute the complete GA composition and to invite the other Governments to propose candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair. **First week of September**.
 - *Candidacies to be received by **end of September** and distributed immediately for assessment.

3. Governing Bodies and Advisory Committees (III)

▪ MANAGING DIRECTOR

- Appointment of Managing Director (MD), as agreed at BGR meeting on 31 May:
 - *It is agreed that CIEMAT will contribute in-kind a suitable candidate with full dedication for the position of Managing Director.*
 - *This proposal was accepted by the delegates and no other candidates will be proposed by other countries. Spain proposes the candidate Diego Martinez for this position.*
 - *The final decision will be taken at the **Constitutive Meeting**, according to the Statutes and provided a terms of reference (TORs) for the MD are in place and duly approved.*
 - *The **TORs** will include an objective evaluation procedure for the MD performance.*
- The Legal Task Force (LTF) has been working on a **draft of the TORs**, the current version was distributed on **past 15 July**.

3. Governing Bodies and Advisory Committees (IV)

- **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**
- The issue of 'conflict of interest' was raised. Some possible solutions were discussed at the LTF meeting in July, relying on a draft TOR document:
 - *The STC shall be comprised of a number of members, natural persons, to be decided by the General Assembly.*
 - *The STC shall be comprised of renowned scientists and specialists of verified good repute and experience in the fields of research and energy, towards which EU-SOLARIS shall target its activity.*
 - *The members of the STC shall be designated by the General Assembly, pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes.*
- In summary, it was agreed that GA will designate (3?,5?) STC members, **'independent experts, with no national quotas'**, who will perform this task **for free**.
- The modified version was circulated on 15 July, but there is an **additional suggestion** made later by Portugal:
 - *Just for the 'periodic' technical review, a number of (additional) external experts would be **hired**.*
- If there is agreement, we should start contacting candidates **to launch STC at the Constitutive Meeting**.

4. EU-SOLARIS Agreement with R&D Institutes

- The idea is to have a **‘basic template’** that can be fine-tuned in every case.
- ‘Special’ need: **hosting agreement with CIEMAT**. A special annex deals with office space, IT services and other ‘in-kind’ contributions.
- The Legal Task Force (LTF) has been working on a **draft of the template agreement**, a version was distributed on past 15 July.
- Nevertheless, **a new version with a further approach (Service-Level Agreement) was distributed for comments on 17 August** (comments received only from Germany, so far)

4. EU-SOLARIS Agreement with R&D Institutes (II)

▪ New SLA approach

- There has been some degree of controversy about the approach taken about the so-called *'Framework Agreement + specific SLAs'*
- After some internal discussions, we are now proposing this **new approach, relying on the Service Level Agreement** developed by another ERIC (INSTRUCT-ERIC).
- This SLA focuses on the **ACCESS SERVICES** to be provided by the institutes to the R&D users through EU-SOLARIS ERIC. The list of services, as well as the agreed unit costs, will be listed in the **appendix of the SLA** (and updated periodically).
- **Sections on 'Data exchange' and on 'Personnel exchange' are kept**, but we have removed those on 'Joint scientific meetings' or 'Joint R&D programs' as they will be handled likely through EU-SOLARIS.
- ***We think with this new wording we avoid the need of further agreements for specific activities thus reducing the legal burden as discussed in our past LTF meeting last July.***

5. General Assembly Internal Regulation

- Its main purpose is to establish or regulate **procedural aspects of GA**
- It was suggested at the former BGR meeting to add **two further features** to the IR and so it was done by the LTF.
 - The possibility to ask for 'intermediate votes' between physical GA meetings through electronic means ('Ballot resolutions') (Art. 22)
 - The possibility to the GA to opt for 'Public' or 'Confidential' vote (Art. 17.3)
- The Legal Task Force (LTF) has been working on the IR draft, the discussion focused mostly on these topics:
 - Article 12.- Attendance by representation at the General Assembly
 - Article 13.- Attendance of third parties at the General Assembly
 - Article 16.- Extending and suspending the General Assembly
 - Article 17.- Possibility of confidential vote
 - Article 22.- Ballot resolutions
- The current version was distributed on past 15 July, though there are **new comments/input received from France on 27 July**.

6. Constitutive Meeting in Almeria

- We are expecting a **formal ceremony with the EC**, that is likely to take place in Brno (Czech Republic), during the next **ICRI conference, 21st October**.

Dear Diego,

Many thanks for your positive reply.

We are now proceeding to the following step: to ask the written opinion of the ERIC Committee (after obtaining the necessary internal administrative signatures).

We will keep you informed about the progress.

Best regards.

Michela (29th August, 2022)

6. Constitutive Meeting in Almeria (II)

- We kindly propose a two-fold meeting for the formal constitutive of the ERIC, as follows (26-27 October, 2022) :
 - a) Welcome and **first Working Session** on afternoon of 26th
 - b) Informal dinner on night of 26th
 - c) **Constitutive Meeting** in the morning of 27th at PSA
 - d) Visit to PSA Facilities / Lunch
 - e) **Political/Media Session**, late in the morning or early afternoon, with the attendance of governmental representatives of the Member/Observer countries, local & regional authorities, the EC and **the media**.

7. Annual Budget 2022-2023

Proposed Budget for years 2022 & 2023:

BALANCE	
INCOME	120.000
EXPENDITURES	120.000

	INCOME (€)			EXPENDITURES (€)		
Year	Nº of Members	Annual Fee	Total contribution	Personnel Cost	Operational Cost	User Access Actions
2022	4	10.000	40.000			
2023	4	20.000	80.000	50.000	10.000	60.000
				50.000	10.000	60.000

- It is proposed to set a **50% of the year 2022' fee** in order to have resources for launching activities in year 2023.
- **Key issue:** The ability of EU-SOLARIS to issue invoices before the end of year 2022

7. Annual Budget 2022-2023 (II)

Estimated budget items breakdown for a year 2023:

Personnel cost	Cost	EU-SOLARIS BUDGET	In-kind contribution by the Host
Managing director	75.000 €	-	75.000 €
Executive assistant	50.000 €	50.000 €	-

Category cost	Cost	Cost charged to EU-SOLARIS	In-kind contribution by the Host
Office space and utilities	15.000 €	-	15.000 €
Office consumables	1.500 €	1.500 €	-
Legal & auditing services	3.500 €	3.500 €	-
IT support (HW & SW)	5.000 €	-	5.000 €
Travel costs (staff)	5.000 €	5.000 €	-
Subtotals	30.000 €	10.000 €	20.000 €

Type of Action	Estimated Unit Cost	Nº of Actions	Sub-total
Inter-facilities mobility action	4.000 €	5	20.000 €
Development of new standards and testing protocols	20.000 €	2	40.000 €

8. Work Plan 2022-2023

#TASK	TITLE	Oct'22	Nov'22	Dec'22	Jan'23	Feb'23	Mar'23	Apr'23	May'23	Jun'23	Jul'23	Aug'23	Sep'23	Oct'23	Nov'23	Dec'23
CONSOLIDATION																
1	Establishment of National Nodes and BNN															
2	Scientific and Technical Committee															
3	Framework agreements with partners															
4	Delivery of Strategic Plan (art. 25.8)															
5	Development of ERIC's policies (art. 7-13)															
ECONOMIC ISSUES																
6	Obtaining VAT number and bank account															
7	Annual budget for FY 2023															
8	Annual budget for FY 2024															
9	Invoicing 2022/2023 contributions															
ERIC OPERATIONS																
10	Access calls															
11	Internally-funded access projects															
12	Proposal/s to the EC's INFRA call/s															
13	Other proposals, if applicable															
14	Theme Workshops															
15	Update catalogue of facilities and services															
REGULAR INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES																
16	Formal Launching meeting															
17	Annual GA meetings															
18	Annual BNN meetings															
OUTREACH																
19	Attendance to 'SolarPACES 2023'															
20	Attendance to 'InterSolar 2023'															
21	Attendance to EU events (Sweden & Spain)															
22	News feeding at the web and social media															
23	Running the web site															

9. Web site development works

- Through a grant of Spanish Government, we hired a local graphic design company to build the corporate image and the website.
- Logos and templates for Word and PowerPoint files.
- The site is well advanced, though **some debugging is still necessary**.
- Currently, most of work is about the '**Intranet**'.

<https://eu-solaris.eu/>

- We expect end of works and transfer to PSA's IT staff by the **end of September**

10. Any other business

- Next steps?
- Further BGR meetings before the constitutive one?
- Further meetings of LTF?
- Elaboration of Data Policy, Access Policy, Personnel Policy, etc....documents, before the Constitutive Meeting, if possible