IMAGE Science Council meeting minutes

Time: 1 October 2026 at 08:30-10:30 CEST
Place: Niemegk Observatory, Germany + Zoom

Meeting started at 08:30 CEST.

Present:

Parties:
TGO: Magnar G. Johnsen (SC Chair)
SGO: Tero Raita (SC Vice-Chair)
FMI: Liisa Juusola (PI)
GFZ: Jürgen Matzka
IG PAS: Anne Neska, Jan Reda
IRF: Peter Wintoft, Masatoshi Yamauchi (online)
SGU: Gerhard Schwartz

Associate Members:
Hermann Lühr

Missing:
Parties: DTU
Parties-in-waiting (have not yet signed the Cooperation Agreement): SI
Associate Members: Ian Mann, Karl Laundal

The meeting was convened and the agenda circulated by email by the SC Chair Magnar G. Johnsen on 18 Sep 2026. 7/8 of the votes were present. The meeting was quorate.

Agenda:

1. Acceptance of Agenda

   The agenda was accepted.

2. Appointment of writer of minutes

   Magnar G Johnsen suggested Liisa Juusola and she agreed.

3. Review of SC Chair and Co-Chair and PI and Host institute
   - SC Chair (Magnar G. Johnsen) was elected in Uppsala in 2019 and confirmed in November 2022.

- SC Vice-Chair (Tero Raita) was elected in November 2022.
- PI and Host institute were confirmed in November 2022.
- According to the IMAGE statutes, the above four should be reviewed every four years.

  Magnar G. Johnsen, Tero Raita, and Liisa Juusola/FMI are happy to continue. No comments. The next review will be in 2030.

4. Any other business.
   - Global repository for variometer data. Jürgen Matzka to give an orientation on discussion within INTERMAGNET.

Jürgen: Several groups that run magnetic observatories also run variometer stations and they are looking for a repository for their data. In addition to INTERMAGNET, TGO, and IMAGE have been suggested as possible repositories. SuperMAG is not considered sufficient. So far, INTERMAGNET has not made any decisions concerning variometer data distribution. The amount of extra work and the possibility of confusing the users with a mixture of observatory and variometer data will need to be taken into account.

Liisa Juusola: Time resolution of the data will need to be considered as IMAGE data are 10-s data.

Ewelyna Lawrence (BGS): The latency of the data (historical or real-time) will also need to be considered.

Magnar G. Johnsen: TGO as a host is not realistic. The amount of work would be too much and the data sets TGO distributes are not complete, as missing data are not collected later.

Magnar G. Johnsen: IMAGE is a high-latitude repository and should not become global. Antarctica data, however, are from high latitudes, and IMAGE could start distributing them.

Tero Raita: Canada is also at high latitudes. IMAGE is anyway expanding its coverage and some areas, such as France, are close to the present network. Distant overseas stations, however, are a different question. Variometer data quality also varies a lot. For example, temperature readings are often missing.

Hermann Lühr: IMAGE requires high-quality data and that should not be compromised.

Magnar G. Johnsen: The spherical elementary current system method is a central tool for IMAGE data analysis. It requires a homogeneous network and easy access to high-quality data. From that point of view, distant stations do not make sense.

IMAGE data are now of good quality, but if we start including bad data, the amount of work will increase tremendously.

Anne Neska: Rather than a single variometer data repository, another option would be services such as EPOS, which provide information on finding the data from different repositories.

Magnar G. Johnsen: Entering such portals are the last resort: they are slow and complicated. Getting data from IMAGE is quick and easy.

- Next IMAGE meeting in 2028?

  IG PAS has offered to host the next meeting in Warsaw. All in favor.

- Other
  - Magnar G. Johnsen: Associate member: Hermann Opgenoorth has passed away, Ian Mann has been completely quiet, Karl Laundal is now part of IMAGE. It is time to invite new members. I suggest that we think about it, make suggestions, and then arrange a SC meeting to vote about it.
  - Magnar G. Johnsen: SI has not signed the Cooperation Agreement. I will take this up with SI.
  - Hermann Lühr: Any progress with the DOI? Magnar G. Johnsen: No, we will leave the topic to rest for a while.
  - Anne Neska: The Polish data license might be changed as there is a different license for the Polish data in IMAGE (CC BY) and INTERMAGNET (CC BY NC).
  - Anne Neska: Is FMI interested in distributing real-time data from the Polish stations? Liisa: Yes, but we will need to clarify the IMAGE webpage, because IMAGE is a repository for archived data and the availability of real-time data from some stations causes confusion about the nature of IMAGE. Magnar: TGO will not share real-time data. These are for industrial purposes and could be misused.

The meeting ended at 09:46 CEST.