



EISCAT report to LySEF committee – 20081211

This is short report detailing the EISCAT matters that are relevant to LySEF.

- A new director will take over of EISCAT from January 1st 2009. The new director is Dr Esa Turunen, who is the current head of the aeronomy division at Sodankyla Geophysical Observatory in Finland.
- Summer was a quiet period in terms of operational hours. (June – Sept = 254.5 hours, Oct – Dec = 480 hours)
- Observations were made of the upper atmosphere during the solar eclipse on August 1st. Such measurements have never been made anywhere in the world in such close proximity to the path of totality.
- EISCAT participated in the launch of an ICI-2 rocket that made detailed measurements of the northern lights. The mission control centre was located in the IPY room at UNIS. The rocket was launched from Ny-Ålesund at 11.35am on Friday 5th December and represents a collaboration between several scientific institutions from across Europe.
- We are currently collaborating with the BBC regarding filming at the site for the new documentary series, Frozen Planet.
- There was a successful campaign ran in October in conjunction with the SPEAR system. L. Baddeley was seconded to UNIS for 3 months to co-ordinate the project. It was noted that there were no problems with the power station in coping with the extra load.
- The initial stages of the new dynasonde have been installed at the SPEAR site (a giant antenna used to transmit and receive pulses into and from the upper atmosphere). As a temporary measure, an existing tower was used to mount the antenna onto. We will look to upgrade this in Spring 2009. This will give continuous monitoring of the environment in the upper atmosphere which can be used to co-ordinate experiments with other instruments. The data will eventually be available online, in realtime.
- The Russian Federation, via the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) in St. Petersburg, have signed an agreement with EISCAT that will allow Russian scientists to use the EISCAT systems.
- There is the possibility of a 3rd dish being constructed at the site. This matter is still being discussed.