

Invited

Nordic Observatory Collaboration

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The Nordic Observatory Collaboration (NOC) is a joint effort of institutes operating observatory-type instrumentation in - so far - Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Observations are considered of observatory grade, if they fulfil certain criteria. Most importantly, the observations have to be carried out continuously in consistent manner without time limit. They have to be well documented and (where applicable) calibrated as well as adhere to internationally agreed procedures. Thus they serve as reference measurements.

The observatories represented here have been collaborating in some form for decades. However, with the go-ahead for the new EISCAT_3D radar facility, and the advent of ever smaller and “cheaper” satellite missions, we decided that the time has come for a more formal way of collaborating. Currently, hybrid meetings are held twice a year, which are well attended also by many participants from other than the currently 6 signatories of NOC.

The main objective is to provide a forum for planning and discussing future initiatives in order to avoid duplication, share methods and procedures, exchange knowledge, coordinate measurement efforts, and also to apply jointly for funding where needed.

Today, the Nordic observatories together operate a huge wealth of ground-based measurements providing context for your space missions or EISCAT experiments. Soon we will publish an on-line catalog of these activities with contact information, so you can directly get in touch with the respective experts to get access to data relevant to your mission.