



# Newsletter May 2016

Dear all,

We have today the pleasure to send you the first of hopefully many newsletters about SIOS and its activities. Our aim is to frequently provide you with relevant information about the activities within SIOS-KC and other news from the SIOS consortium. Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you want to contribute to a SIOS newsletter. This newsletter is sent out to all institutions that have committed to the interim phase, other types of newsletters will be sent to the interim steering board or will address a broader public.

Your SIOS-KC team

## New staff at SIOS-KC

While the snow in Svalbard is melting and the birds arrive for a new breeding season, the SIOS team is growing. In addition to Ole Jørgen Lønne, Interim Director, and Øystein Godøy, Data manager, two new members joined the team recently.

**Christiane Hübner** has been employed as information officer. She lives in Svalbard since 2003 and holds a PhD in biology from UiT The Arctic University of Norway/UNIS. After her studies, she has been working for Svalbard Science Forum and as station leader for the Sverdrup station/Norwegian Polar Institute in Ny-Ålesund. In the coming months, Christiane will focus on the preparation of a first version of the new SIOS web portal with essential help from the SIOS partners.

Christiane's contact details are:

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**Anna Maria Trofaier** has accepted the position as remote sensing officer. She holds a MSc in physics from Vienna University of Technology and a PhD in Polar Studies from University of Cambridge that has given her an EO background in active microwave (radar) remote sensing. At the moment she works as an Internal Research Fellow at the European Space Agency (ESA) and will start her work in SIOS in November.

In the meantime, **Kristoffer Helgesen Grud** has been employed temporarily to get the work with the remote sensing services started. Kristoffer holds a Master's degree in human geography from NTNU. He has previously worked for the Norwegian Space Centre and Globesar. Together with the SIOS partners, Kristoffer will be working on one or more pilot projects in order to develop the first SIOS remote sensing products.

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Kristoffer  
Helgesen Grud



Christiane Hübner



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## News from the data management activities

After the initiation of the SIOS-KC project, data management deliverables of the Preparatory Phase have been revisited and evaluated in light of the time passed as well as ongoing activities within relevant external activities like the SAON/IASC Arctic Data Committee. During this process, we have had bilateral discussions with many of the partners that have committed to SIOS Data Management activities.

These discussions have been useful for the development of two new documents which now are being prepared for circulation. These documents are preliminary versions of *SIOS Interoperability Guidelines* and *SIOS Operations Manual*. In order to properly discuss these and other documents as well to agree on timelines and coordination of activities between partners, a **SIOS Data Management workshop** is planned. The intention is to arrange this at the SIOS KC in Longyearbyen sometime between late October and Christmas. A Doodle poll will be initiated to determine the best time to do this. This Doodle will be sent to those individuals that have been appointed by their respective institution along.

We kindly ask the institutions that have committed to this work through their Letter of Commitment, but have not appointed specific persons yet, to do so and send the contact information to [o.godoy@met.no](mailto:o.godoy@met.no).

## Consortium agreement

The partners have finalised the consortium agreement for the interim phase, and it is now approved by the Norwegian Research Council. The agreement will be published on our planned website. For now, you may contact SIOS ([sios@unis.no](mailto:sios@unis.no)) if you want to obtain a copy. UNIS, NPI, MET, NERSC, FMI, AWI, IGF-PAS and NIPR have signed the

agreement so far, and more institutions are on the way. Institutions that have submitted a LoC towards the Interim phase may sign the agreement at their own convenience. Other institutions are invited to apply to become a member of the SIOS interim phase.

## SIOS Board meeting

SIOS holds its fourth board meeting on June 16. The meeting is hosted by met.no and takes place on their premises in Oslo Science Park. With the consortium agreement in place the boards focus now turns to making SIOS operational and to get important pilot projects off the ground. Preparation of legal documents needed for establishing SIOS as an independent legal entity is on the agenda. A detailed work-plan for the remainder of 2016 is also one of the topics. Information from the board meeting will follow.

## White paper on the future of Svalbard

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security recently released a white paper on Svalbard. The white paper has not yet been approved by the Parliament, but it is worth noting that SIOS is mentioned in the document on several occasions. The white paper states clearly the SIOS shall be developed into an independent consortium, based on a MoU, in 2016. A limited company, owned by UNIS, will be established as the legal entity for the consortium. It is further suggested that Norway as host will fund a substantial part of the consortiums running costs. The white paper can be downloaded here (in Norwegian): [https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld\\_-st.-32-20152016/id2499962/](https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/meld_-st.-32-20152016/id2499962/), and a short summary in english is available here: <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/white-paper-on-the-future-of-svalbard/id2500474/>