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Person Responsible: Ole Arve Misund

SCAR Delegates Meeting 2021
SCAR Secretariat, Cambridge UK or as advised

Norway's bid to host 2026 SCAR OSC and Meetings

Report Author(s)

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Summary

Proposal, on behalf of the Norwegian Polar Institute, to host SCAR's Open Science Conference and Biennial Meetings in 2026 in the city of Oslo.

The bid comprises a letter outlining the bid.

Recommendations

Delegates are asked to consider the bid from Norway for hosting the 2026 meetings.



Tromsø, 25 February, 2021

President, Steven L. Chown
Director
Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future
School of Biological Sciences
Monash University
Victoria 3800
Australia
President
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

Executive Director, Dr Chandrika Nath
(chandrika@scar.org),
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road
Cambridge
CB2 1ER
U.K.

Dear Steven and Chandrika, President and Executive Director of SCAR,

I hereby wish to express the interest of Norway to host the 39th SCAR OSC, the SCAR Delegate meeting, and related meetings in Oslo in 2026. A formal, detailed proposal will be developed in due course, should there be interest in the SCAR community to come to Oslo in five years time.

At present the COVID-19 pandemic is still roaring, preventing extensive travelling, and large conferences with personal attendances. Vaccines are being developed and set for an increasing number of people, but still the future of large international conference remains unclear. Possibly, hybrid solutions with online and personal attendances might be the future.

Still, we would like to express our interest to welcome the Antarctic scientific community to Oslo in 2026. As the capital of Norway with a population of about 750 000 people, Oslo has developed around a central core where we find the Royal Castle with the King and Queen of Norway, the Parliament, and the Royal Ministries governing Norway. Oslo is a modern city with good communication and the international airport Gardermoen located within 30 min reach with a high speed direct train.

To receive a prominent congregation like SCAR, we currently consider the Radisson Blue Oslo Plaza hotel, located in the city centre, as a potential and suitable venue. The hotel has facilities for conferences of up to 1100 participants, slightly more than the number of attendances at the 33SCAR OSC in Auckland, New Zealand (totally 943 participants), and at



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the 34SCAR OSC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (totally 955 delegates). If desired, given the effect of the COVID -19 pandemic, we will arrange for a hybrid conference solution.

The hotel is within walking distance from the Central station with direct access to the high speed airport train. The National Buildings, museums and parks constitute fundamental elements of Oslo Centre. The Royal Castle, the Parliament, the City Hall, The National Museum, The Munch Museum, the Vigeland Park and the Opera, as well as shops and good restaurants are all within walking distance from the conference hotel.

Oslo has strong ties to Antarctic exploration and research. Roald Amundsen, the first to reach the South Pole in December 1911, set sail for Antarctica with S/S "Fram" from Oslo harbor. S/S "Fram" is the main item to be view indoor in the FRAM museum in Oslo harbor. Roald Amundsen's villa in Bunnefjorden is within 30 min drive by bus or boat from Oslo harbor. Since the days of the early explorations, many Antarctic Research Expeditions have been launched from Oslo.

Norway has long traditions as a polar nation, and Norwegian Antarctic history reflects the country's yearning for discovery, its scientific curiosity, its business interests and its political engagement since the 1890s to the present day. Norway also has, as you know, a long history as a research nation in and around Antarctica. Norway wants to continue contribute to greater international understanding of the Antarctic and of global issues related to the Polar Regions and sees SCAR as an important vehicle to achieve the greatest societal benefits from international collaboration on research and monitoring in the Antarctic. Consequently, we would be very honoured should SCAR give use the opportunity to host the 2026 SCAR Delegates' Meeting and SCAR OSC.

Sincerely yours,

Ole Arve Misund
Director, Norwegian Polar Institute
Norwegian delegate to SCAR