

Minutes of the NEST General Assembly 2015

Location: Forschungszentrum Jülich, INM-6
Date and time: 17 December 2015, 17.00–18.35
Attending: Marc-Oliver Gewaltig, Susanne Kunkel, Wolfram Schenck, Jochen Martin Eppler, Markus Diesmann, Mikael Djurfeldt, Hans Ekkehard Plesser, Tammo Ippen (VC), Moritz Helias

1. Formalities

- a. Election of meeting chair: Hans Ekkehard Plesser (unanimous)
- b. Election of minute taker: Hans Ekkehard Plesser (unanimous)
- c. Confirmation that meeting is convened in accordance with statutes (unanimous)
- d. Agenda approved unanimously

2. Annual report of the board

- NEST in Human Brain Project Phase 2 (SGA1)
 - SGA1 proposal submitted, decision pending
 - Point neuron models will play a central role in HBP, with NEST as key simulation tool
 - Significant focus on simulation software as infrastructure
 - Several tasks in SGA1 will contribute to NEST development on a conceptual level (code generation, connectivity schemes, etc) and infrastructure level (documentation, user support, etc)
- Transition to Github
 - Worked well technically
 - Active code-review leads to significant improvement in code quality
 - Engaged some external contributors
 - The board is grateful to the Github transition team in Jülich for their great effort to make this happen
- New websites
 - Separated NEST Initiative and NEST Simulator
 - Code examples integrated with inline documentation and figures
 - Developer space with information for developers created
 - The technical setup behind the websites is unstructured and difficult to maintain
- NEST Releases
 - 2.6 at end of 2014
 - 2.8 mid 2015
 - 2.10 to happen by end of 2015
 - As of 2.8, all releases are registered on Zenodo to facilitate citations

- NEST-related events
 - EITN Workshop *Are we building the right thing?* in March 2015
 - lead to list of requirements for simulator in SGA1
 - document on structure of workshop to inspire future workshops
 - NEST User Workshop, Geneva, April 2015
 - NEST ML Workshop, Aachen, December 2015
 - Summer schools
 - OCNC (tutor: Sacha van Albada)
 - HBP Summer Course (tutor: Johanna Senk)
 - Summer School in Kiev (tutors: Jenia Jitsev, Philipp Weidel, Susanne Kunkel)
 - LASCON (tutors: Hannah Bos, Jannis Schücker, Jan 2016)
 - CNS Workshop *Interfaces in Computational Neuroscience Simulation Software* (Mikael Djurfeldt, Janne Morén, Jochen Eppler)
 - CNS Workshop *HPC in Neuroscience* (Sacha van Albada, Wolfram Schenck, Alex Peyser)
 - SfN Satellite Symposium (Hannah Bos, Alex Peyser)
- NEST-related publications
 - over 40 peer-reviewed papers using NEST
 - over 30 invited talks on NEST technology

3. Financial report for 2014

Treasurer Marc-Oliver Gewaltig presented the financial report (see attachment).

4. Report by the controllers on the financial report for 2014

The controllers, Susanne Kunkel and Moritz Helias, reported that they had checked the account statements and accompanying documentation and found all in order. They recommended that the General Assembly approves the financial report and discharges the board of its responsibility for the previous financial year.

5. Discharging the board of its responsibility for the previous financial year

The General Assembly voted unanimously to discharge the board of its responsibility for the previous financial year.

6. Election of controllers for the next financial year.

Susanne Kunkel and Wolfram Schenck were unanimously elected.

7. Activities in 2016

- NEST User Workshop
 - Should strengthen interaction between NEST and HBP
 - Towards end of April in Germany
- NEST Web services
 - Web servers should move to a single external server; the details will be worked out by the board
 - Create a "NESTOverflow" discussion forum similar to stackoverflow
 - Our mailing list archive should become publicly accessible (NEST User)
 - We need to increase the discoverability (googlability) of NEST documentation
- User-level documentation
 - Improved online documentation on the way (Steffen Graber and Jochen Eppler)
 - Should start crowdsourcing effort to create PyNEST-oriented documentation from SLI-based documentation
 - HBP SGA1 will with high likelihood fund a position for user support and documentation at INM-6
- Monthly newsletter
 - Provide information about NEST and recruit new members
- Summer schools and workshops
 - LASCON 2016 in January (Hannah Bos and Jannis Schücker)
 - In dialog with OCNC organizers
 - Will propose NEST-focused training to HBP Education Committee
 - USA: How can we get NEST into summer schools and workshops in the US? E.g. COSYNE 2017 or SfN 2016 satellite workshops
 - Asia: CNS 2016 is in Korea, workshop there may help to spread NEST in Asia
- Funding
 - Add "donate" button to NEST website

8. Membership dues for 2016

The General Assembly decided unanimously that the membership fee for 2016 is CHF25. Students, including PhD students, are exempt from the membership dues.

9. Any other business

None.

The meeting was closed at 18.35.

Hans Ekkehard Plesser
Meeting Chair and Minute Taker

NEST Initiative

Jahresbericht 2015

Erstellt am 5.12.2015

1. Allgemeines

2015 war das dritte Geschäftsjahr der NEST Initiative. Abgerechnet wird über den Zeitraum 11. November 2014 bis 5. Dezember 2015.

2. Beitragseinnahmen

Die erwarteten Beitragseinnahmen betragen 300,- CHF.

Eingezahlt wurden bis zum 5.12.2015 125,- CHF.

Es stehen Beiträge in Höhe von 200,- CHF aus.

Das Konto erzielte geringe Zinseinnahmen von 0.10 CHF, die nicht Steuerpflichtig sind.

3. Ausgaben

Die Ausgaben im Geschäftsjahr betragen 75,71 CHF für Webhosting und Kontoführung.

4. Vereinsvermögen


Zum 5. Dezember 2015 betrug das Guthaben des Vereins **396,31 CHF**.

Das Konto weist ein Guthaben von **412,02 CHF** aus, da die Gebühren für das Webhosting von M.O. Gewaltig vorgesteckt und noch nicht beglichen wurden.

5. Mitglieder

Die Zahl der Mitglieder konnte im dritten Geschäftsjahr leicht gesteigert werden. Die NEST Initiative hat nun 12 aktive Mitglieder von denen 3 vom Beitrag befreit sind.

Ich beantrage den Vorstand zu entlasten.


Marc-Oliver Gewaltig
(Kassenwart)