

Date: 6 June 2023 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Venue: 1520-731 (Sea View)

Topic: Research Committee at Nat – 3rd meeting 2023

Participants: David Lundbek Egholm (NAT, chair), Anders Møller (CS), Angela Fago (BIO), K. Brad Wray (MATH), Kurt Vesterager Gothelf (iNANO), Søren Munch Kristiansen (GEO), Thomas Poulsen (CHEM, from 01:10), Torben Heick Jensen (MBG), Astrid Klingen (NAT, minutes)

Cancelations: Steen Hannestad (PHYS)

Guest: Lone Ryg Olsen (AU head of enterprise and innovation) for item 2

Minutes (approved)

NB: Attachment refers to meeting documents. *Text in italics was shared with agenda.*

12:30 – 12:35 (5 min)

1. Welcome and approval of agenda

David opened the meeting. The agenda was approved.

12:35 – 01:05 (30 min)

2. Business collaboration and innovation

Guest: Lone Ryg Olsen (AU head of enterprise and innovation)

Attachment 2.1: Rammeværk for meritering af vidensspredning (draft version, in Danish)

Attachment 2.2: Kommissorium for arbejdsgruppe vedr. meritering af kompetencer og erfaringer inden for vidensspredning (in Danish)

Attachment 2.3: Undersøgelse af samarbejdet mellem forskere på Aarhus Universitet og private og offentlige virksomheder/organisationer i Danmark

Lone will provide a status update on AU's activities supporting business collaboration and innovation. She will also present a recent draft framework from Danish Universities on how to merit researchers' activities in a broader context of knowledge transfer (see attachment). All faculties are asked to comment the draft framework, and the committee is invited to provide input to Nat's response.

David introduced the item, referring to the committee's initial discussion about how to motivate and enable more colleagues to involve with entrepreneurship and collaboration with industry. He welcomed Lone, who presented AU's Enterprise and Innovation strategy, and current affairs incl. Danish Universities ambition to merit knowledge dissemination more broadly (slide deck attached).

The committee

- exchanged experiences with support from AU's The Kitchen and other offers such as NNF's BioInnovationInstitute.
- welcomed AU's ambition to provide more, and preferably more specific, entrepreneurial courses also at undergraduate level. There will likely be considerable demand for courses in at least two "flavours" (IT- vs. biomedical innovation).



Concerning Danish Universities' draft of principles for merit of knowledge transfer, the committee provided the following feedback:

- For the principles to be effective, they need to resonate with the assessment criteria used by funding agencies. Danish Universities has a role in coordinating with Danish funding bodies, and in reflecting on the European context (cf. Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment).
- Implementation at AU / the faculties will be key. (How) Do we need to adjust our criteria for recruitment and promotion?

01:05 – 01:25 (20 min)

3. Future grant application support at Nat

As of 2024, grant application support services will be divided between the faculties and the Research Support Office (AU news feature: [Grant application support is being restructured](#)): Nat will from 2024 on be responsible for the majority of funding bodies, while the Research Support Office will focus on Innovation Fund and EU (incl. ERC). To prepare for take-over of these tasks, Nat's faculty management team has commissioned a task force to draft future scenarios, thus providing a basis for the faculty management team to decide on the future organisational setup at Nat later this month. David will present the task force's draft scenarios, and the committee is invited to comment and improve.

David did present the decision made by the University Management Team and Nat's approach to implementation. From the beginning of 2024 Nat will need to cover support for about 80% of its activities raising external funding, thus lacking at least 2,5 FTE in support staff compared to status quo. The faculty management is expected to decide on allocation of funds at faculty level before the summer break. Downstream of this decision departments will likely be asked to assess and - where necessary and possible - adjust allocation of resources at department level.

Concerning the different scenarios for support at faculty level, the committee had the following comments:

- Strong interaction between support staff and researchers is key to success. Many tasks are best handled at department level.
- The existing support staff should be consulted in implementation and transition to the new organisation.

01:25 – 01:40 (15 min)

4. AU Research evaluation – timeline and working group in fall 2023

Attachment 4: Draft timeline for evaluation of Nat's departments (in Danish)

David will present the state of preparations for AU research evaluation at Nat in 2024/2025 (tentative timeline attached). A representative for the committee is invited to participate in the task force commissioned by the faculty management team (2-3 meetings in fall 2023) and provide input / questions to the task force.

David summarized the state of preparation and timeline shared with meeting documents. Most likely, MATH and CS will be evaluated late 2024, all other departments mid 2025. The committee is invited to contribute to a task force supporting the faculty management team in defining the overall framework for the evaluation before the end of this year.

01:40 – 01:55 (15 min)

5. News from members

- David will stop as vice dean, returning to his position at Geoscience.
- Brad will stop as representative MATH. The new chair for MATH's local research committee, Andreas Basse o'Connor, will take over from Brad.
- 15 June: deadline for nominating potential new D NRF centres of excellence teams for Nat's internal sparring sessions.

01:55 – 01:55 (0 min.)

6. Written briefings

- [Minutes from last meeting \(approved\)](#)
- [Ny organisering af AU Forskning](#)
- Upcoming funding deadlines (attached)

01:55 – 02:00 (5 min.)

7. AOB

Next meeting: Thursday 25 September 12:30-2:00 p.m.

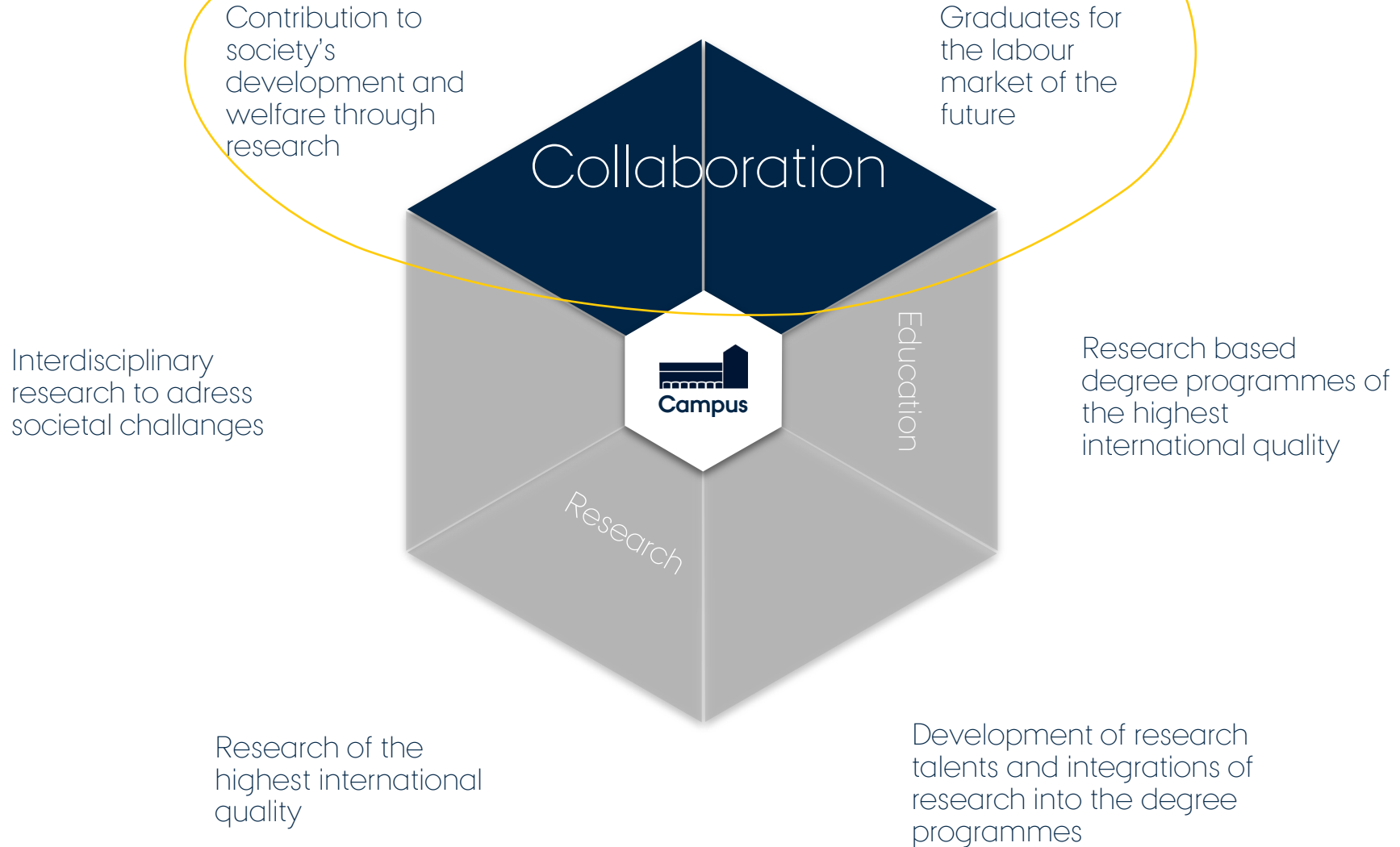


Enterprise and Innovation

Offers and opportunities for Nat's researchers and students

Strategy 2025

Focus



Three focus areas

More value for society



Innovation and entrepreneurship

- ▶ More knowledge-based spinouts and startups
- ▶ More entrepreneurial experience



Collaboration with external partners

- ▶ More value-creating collaborations
- ▶ Graduates who create value



Stronger foundation

- ▶ Culture
- ▶ More professional infrastructure
- ▶ More visibility

Eogl agent for interdisciplinary collaboration

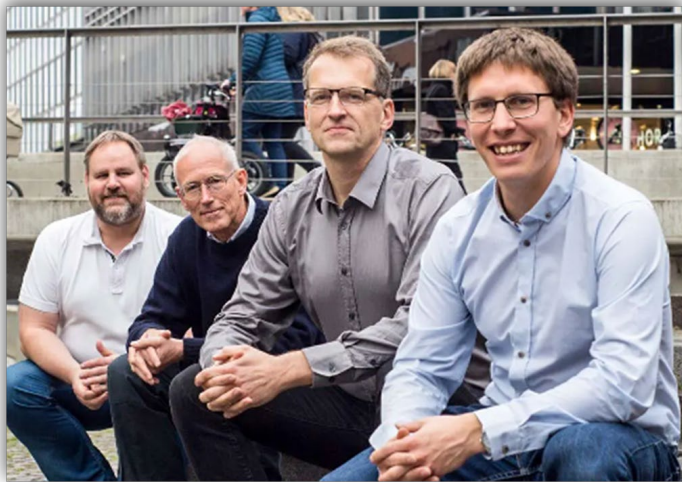
- All faculties contribute with their **own unique perspective**
- It is crucial to tell this narrative at faculties/institutes, so that we can create more interdisciplinary collaborations
- The Business Committee (representatives from the faculties' management) exchange experiences and consider each other in collaborations



Good examples of Nat's contribution to society



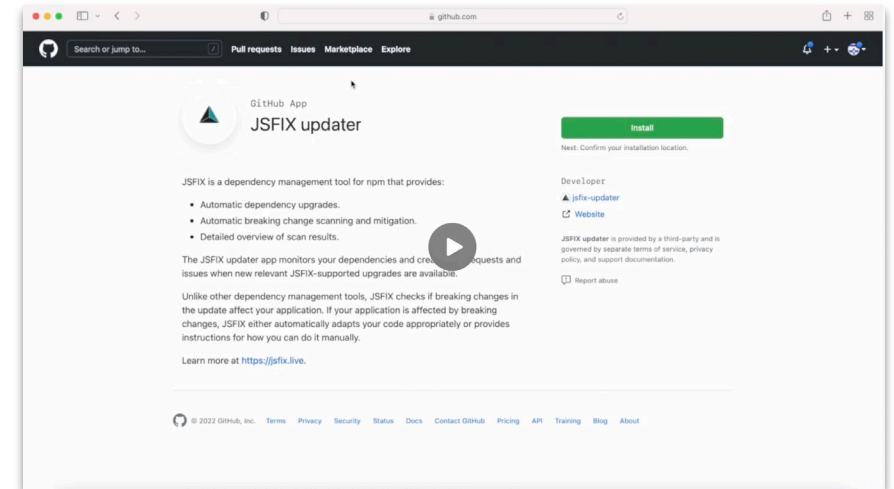
Working on innovative solutions for joining plastic and metal. Received an investment of over 100 million from an American capital fund with global presence



Producing graphene, the carbon material that is 200 times stronger than steel, for the industry. Currently focusing on developing the product and exploring the possibility of transferring graphene's properties to other materials



BetaSensing, stemming from INANO, is developing a sensor technology for use in research, development, and quality control, based on a combination of hardware and software. The technology can identify food and beverages based on their chemical composition and taste profile

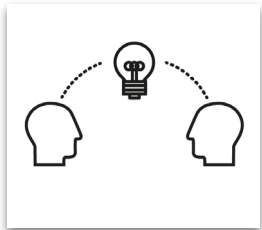


Coana is a spinoff from Department of Computer Science . They create advanced program analysis tools that assist software developers in building and maintaining modern software



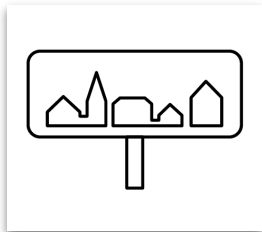
Offers for researches

External collaboration



Business partnerships

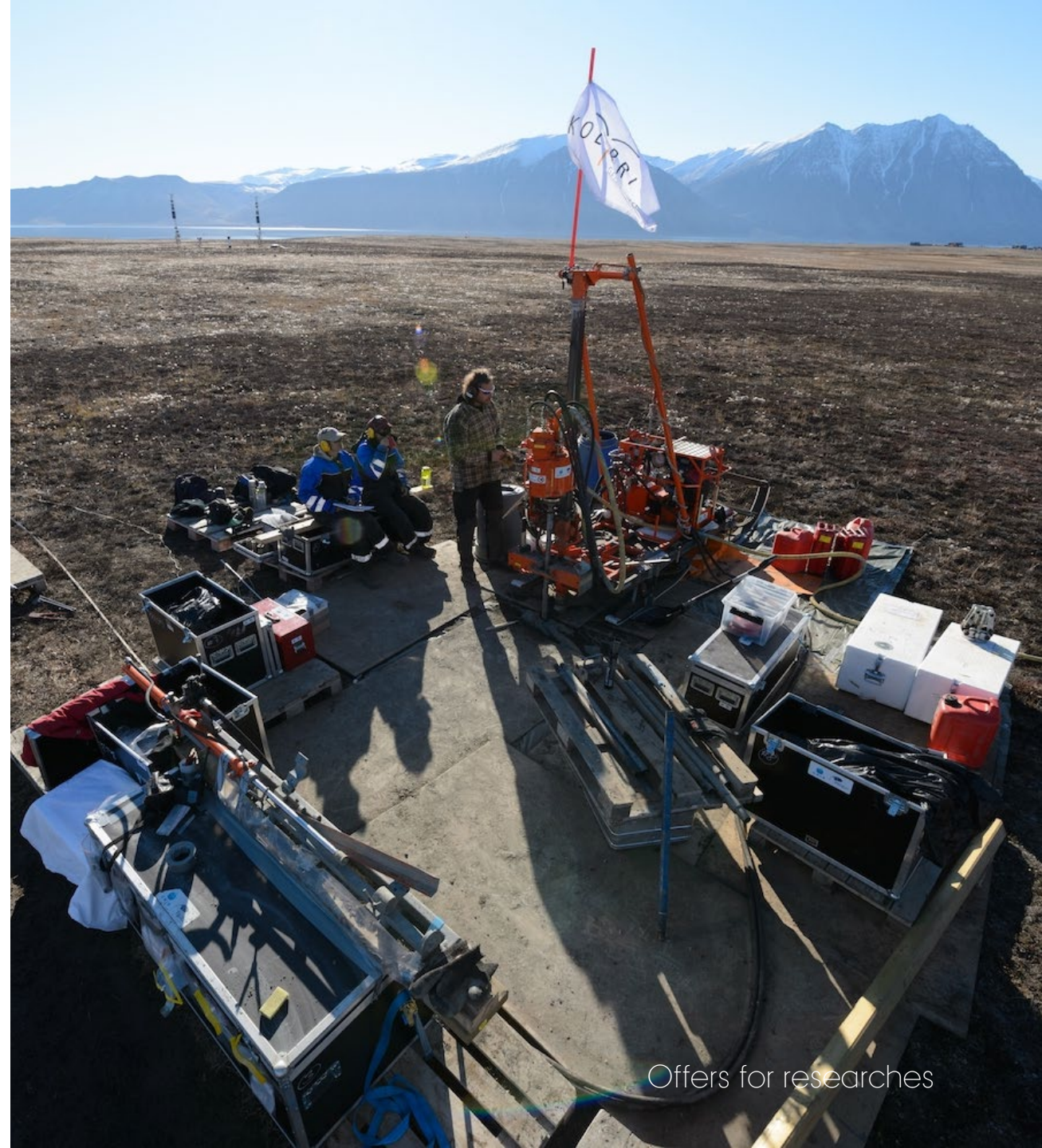
Easy access for companies



Collaboration with municipalities

Access to research and talent

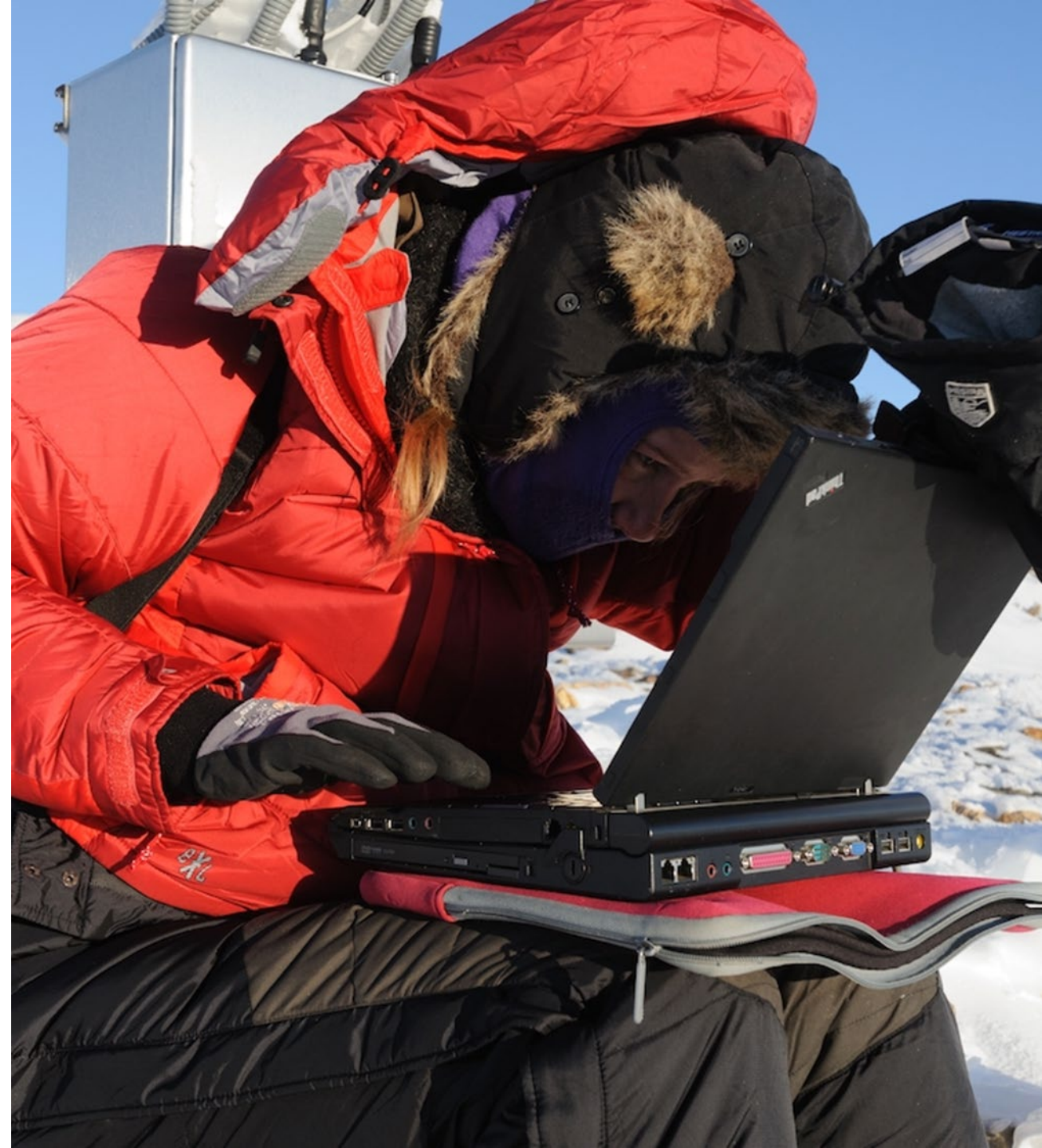
Specifically for students: AU Job- and Project Bank, thesis collaborations, work experience, career fairs, and more



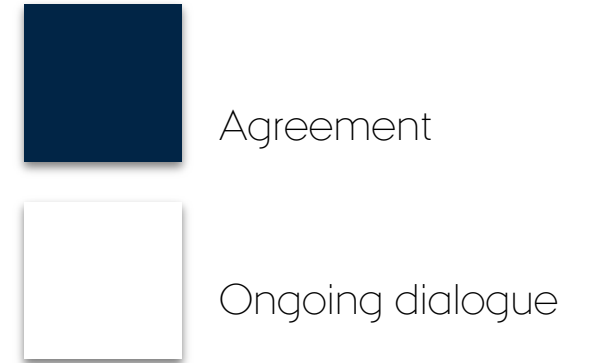
Collaboration with companies

Our starting point

- We are the central entry point for company collaboration at AU
- Matching company's needs with relevant researchers, students, projects, etc., across AU.
- The interdisciplinary perspective
- Assistance regarding project funding



Agreements with municipalities



KITCHEN

GOOD THINGS COME
TO THOSE WHO
WAIT FOR IT



Entrepreneurship in The Kitchen

Open Events

Morning Talks

Pitch Competitions

Workshops

Founders Community

Counseling

Office space

Network

Legal and Financial assistance

Mentoring

Business partners

Funding



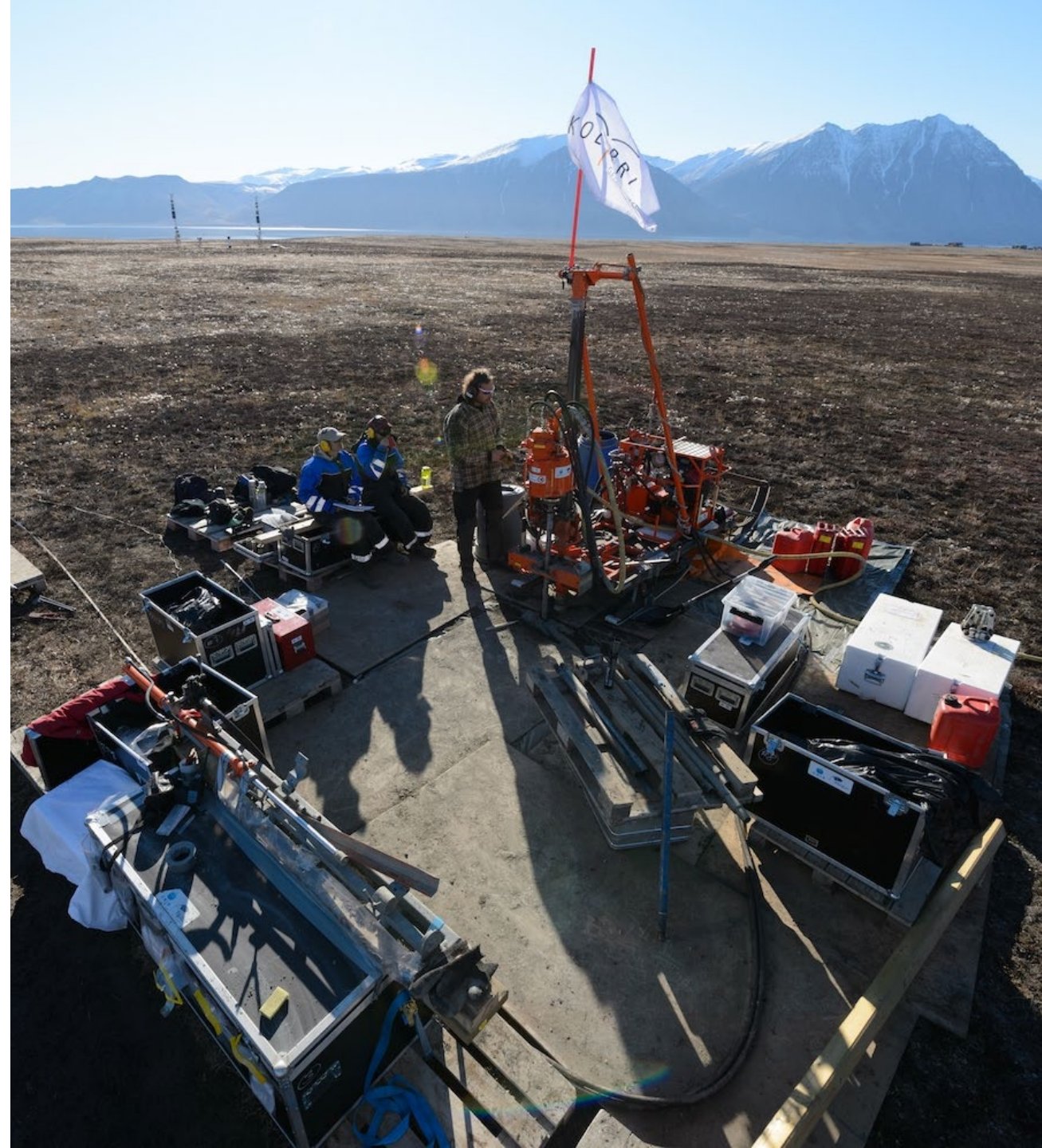
kamstrup
Pitch
Competition
2021

Current Affairs

Enterprise and Innovation

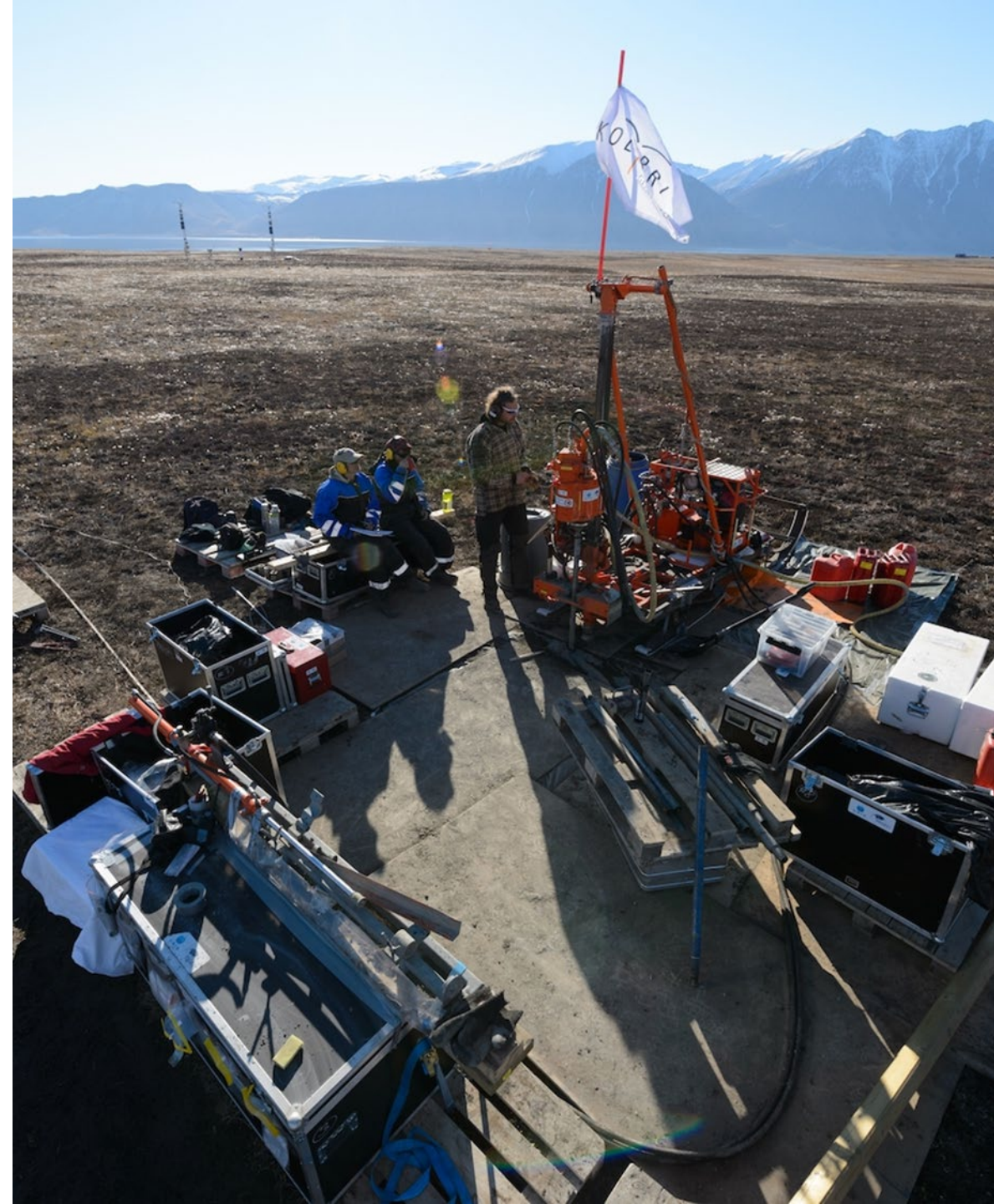
New organization of AU Research

- TTO's business development and patent activities are consolidated in Enterprise & Innovation
- Purpose: To provide Enterprise & Innovation with the necessary legal capacity closely linked to business development work
- A unified entry point for support in commercialization



Broader merit

- Interdisciplinary working group under Universities Denmark: Draft of principles for merit of "knowledge dissemination".
- AU is represented by Prorector Berit Eika (appointed by the Committee of Education Policy) and Director of Business and Innovation Lone Ryg Olsen (appointed by the Committee og Innovation Policy)
- There is a need for creating a framework that merits researchers' efforts within public sector consultancy, collaboration with public and private companies, education, debate and more
- Drawing on experiences from merit in the field of education



Consultation proces

- Visited Nat's Academic Council in April to present the working group's preliminary work
- Based on these inputs, among others, the working group has prepared a draft of principles for merit of "knowledge dissemination, which has just been put out for consultation
- The deadline for submission of consultation responses is July 6, 2023

Komponenter	NIVEAU 1 – <i>Forskerens personlige erfaringer og kompetencer</i> Den videnskabelige medarbejder har:	NIVEAU 2 – <i>Bidrag til universitetets arbejde med vidensspredning</i> Den videnskabelige medarbejder har:	NIVEAU 3 – <i>Bidrag til samfundet og innovationsøkosystemet</i> Den videnskabelige medarbejder har:	Særlige forhold Den videnskabelige medarbejder har:
Forskningsbaseret myndighedsbetjening/rådgivning	•	•	•	•
Formidling	•	•	•	•
Innovation	•	•	•	•
Virksomhedssamarbejde	•	•	•	•
Entreprenørskab	•	•	•	•

Questions