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Comment on hgss-2021-16

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Community comment on "History of EISCAT – Part 5: Operation and development of the system during the first 2 decades" by Gudmund Wannberg, Hist. Geo Space. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hgss-2021-16-CC1>, 2021

Community comment for manuscript submitted to Copernicus journal "History of Geo- and Space Sciences"

History of EISCAT –

Part 5: Operation and development of the system during the first two decades

by Gudmund WANNBERG

General impression:

The apparently solicited manuscript constitutes part 5 in a series of HGSS-articles about the history of EISCAT (European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association). It deals with the first two decades of the operational sites Kiruna-Sodankylä-Tromsø in the northern parts of the Scandinavian countries Sweden, Finland and Norway. The author was site manager in Kiruna from 1981-2008. The broad selection of applied techniques and technical details are interesting and deserve to be documented in an HGSS-article also containing references for more in-depth reading.

The four figures (one map and three photos of equipment) are considered very informative. A few more could be added, perhaps also containing one or two key results obtained from the observations.

However, in its current form the manuscript is lacking a clear distinction between the general relevance of EISCAT-observations for ionospheric research, details about instruments and measuring techniques, and personal reminiscences of the author. As a non-specialist reader concerning ionospheric matters, but with a good background in the atmospheric sciences and their science-historical relevance, I am listing below some points of constructive criticism. The topical editor, I believe, will decide, which of these are to be followed-up by the author during the production of a revised version of his article.

Points of criticism:

1) The introduction should be numbered, provide a broader lead into the article's purpose and avoid too much of a subjective, personal tone at its beginning. Some general remarks about EISCAT (including the full name of the initiative; as, e.g., presented in Wikipedia under <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EISCAT>) and a compact summary of the previous 4 parts of the EISCAT-history in HGSS would provide an important service for all general-interest readers.

2) All personal reminiscences should be collected in the (also numbered) final section. It may be entitled "personal resume" (rather than more arbitrary reflections). If the CV-type author's information of the appendix is not broadened, the current content of merely two paragraphs should be integrated here. Altogether the fine bracket, opened-up in the Introduction and embracing the selected technical details, would be closed in a meaningful way.

3) The list of references should be checked. The numbering of the previous HGSS-articles appears to be erroneous. Explicit mention of articles (or books?) about the history of magnetospheric and ionospheric research are regarded as helpful for putting the paper in proper perspective (e.g., the HGSS-article on the centennial of IAGA [<https://hgss.copernicus.org/articles/10/163/2019>] with a section 4 on aeronomy). Of course, all additions have to be mentioned in the text.

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(member of HGSS editorial board)