



Minutes of a Meeting of the Karten Network Board held on 20th February 2020 at the Pocklington Hub, London

Directors present:

Arwyn Jones (Chair)
Max Bianconi
Richard Boyce
Joe Cash
Paul Doyle
David Finch
Vicky Myko
Rohan Slaughter

In attendance:

Anthony Davis
Dawn Green
Martin Pistorius
Inés Meza-Mitcher (minutes)

1. Apologies

- No apologies were recorded. IMM was introduced as the new Karten Trust Administrator.

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest

- No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

- The minutes were approved as a true record by those who attended the last meeting.

4. Matters arising

- All actions from the previous meeting had been completed; some items will be covered in this meeting's agenda.

Items for discussion/decision

5. 2019 Annual Accounts

- The annual accounts were approved by Directors.

6. Voiceitt Grant update

- It was noted that the Voiceitt grant was approved and DG provided a brief update on the current status of the project, which is due to start in March 2020 for a duration of 4 years. The lead partner is Voiceitt (based in Israel); additional partners are the Karten Network in UK and 2 partners in Belgium, Proctor and Gamble and IMEC. There will be a project management board consisting of people from each partner with support from Kelly Aylward, project consultant. Additionally, DG alongside others has formed a project planning group and grant preparation is underway through to implementation in March and beyond. It was noted that there is no matched funding. The project will look to take Voiceitt from its current status (software translating unintelligible speech to clear output via ios devices) through to spontaneous speech. Our role in the UK is to provide a test bed and to support people to use the software, providing feedback to the development team. It was noted that sitting alongside this is the integration of Voiceitt with Amazon, so that Amazon Alexa will be able to integrate with the platform in order for users to be able to utilise environmental controls within a smart home context. Proctor and Gamble are to develop an e-commerce programme and, while they are interested in the ageing population, this will be very relevant for disabled people too.
- Next steps: a consortium agreement needs to be signed by the Karten Network and we are currently going through due diligence and checking that agreement, particularly in terms of financial agreement and intellectual property. The funding partnership project agreement will be signed at the end of March. It was agreed that details of the project would go in the Spring newsletter.
- It was noted that the most pressing issue is getting staffing in place in a way which aligns with EU rules. DG is currently developing role descriptions and person specifications for those posts and thinking about the process of appointment – the Karten Network and the Trust are not employers and a

workaround in terms of eligibility for the European project is therefore required. It was noted that the roles would be freelance and could potentially be seconded from other organisations, but that the selection process would nonetheless need to be open and transparent.

- Directors asked DG for a timeline and it was noted that the overall funding agreement would be in place by March 24th, with the consortium agreement to be in place ASAP followed by the recruitment. The Project Manager and Project Coordinator posts are key. It was agreed that DG would highlight on the project timeline what the key deliverables are in terms of what the Karten Network are held to account to.
- There is a project planning meeting on 27th Feb. AJ agreed to dial in and DG will provide details.
- DG agreed to provide a risk register and Directors agreed to send her a template.
- DG to provide updates on the project at future meetings.

7. Centenary Event planning

- The agreed date for the conference is 3 November and the venue confirmed is Conference Aston in Birmingham. We have a quote for 200 people and this includes AV facilities, communal space, drinks and canapés. The event will last 2-3 hours.
- Directors discussed the format of the event, which will be a celebratory evening to take place after the annual TechAbility conference. There will be a communal space to facilitate the transition period, to include exhibition space and networking, and delegates will then move into the formal event itself.
- DG highlighted various current activities taking place which will feed in to the event. It was noted that the Beaumont College are working on the development of a Trust website to share Ian's legacy and journey. In addition to this, Newbridge are working on a centenary film which will be available for the next meeting so that Directors can provide feedback and ask questions.

- DG noted that the immediate priorities are on communicating the event and she will work with IMM on save the date emails and formal invitations. DG and IMM to have a separate meeting to discuss.
- The awards were discussed, and it was agreed that these would initially be launched as a "one off" event and that ideally we should try to engage a celebrity speaker. RS suggested Molly Watt, and David Blunkett and Gordon Brown were also suggested. Directors suggested that it would be a good idea to try to get ministers involved, with the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group), local MPs and any midlands centric ministers suggested.
- Award themes were proposed around significant or lifetime achievement alongside innovation, impact, employer or community engagement. It was agreed that 3 awards was a sensible amount.
- It was agreed that there should be a sub committee on awards which will look at the specifics. Recommendations will be tabled at the next meeting for endorsement but decisions will need to be made before then.

Items for information

8. 2019-20 Strategic and Operational Plan update

- DG gave a brief update to accompany the Strategic and Operational plan update paper. Generally there was nothing significant to report. DG to update report against 2020 for the next meeting.

9. Karten Network Development Co-ordinator update

- There was some discussion around the medical device regulations changing but DG and RS reassured Directors that this was unlikely to affect the Karten Network, with the exception of Treloar College.
- DG agreed to get stats from Techability webinar attendance to be included in papers for the next meeting.
- Policy Connect work was briefly discussed and it was noted that a mapping exercise is needed. Additionally, a piece of work has been commissioned around assistive technology and employability and DG will update on this in due course. It was noted that PC are currently very active and engaged.

10. MTA update

- MP gave a brief update. No questions or comments were raised. MP was thanked for his continued work.

11. Israel Karten Centres update

- Debbie Ben-Tal's request to bring 9 representatives from Israel to participate in the centenary event was discussed. It was agreed that the trustees would discuss this at the meeting in March and would report back to DBT after that.
- The idea of the centenary event being broadcast over the web was discussed and it was agreed that this would be something we could look at but would need to ensure that this did not discourage UK delegates from attending in person.

12. Any other relevant business

- RS updated Directors on the Edtech strategy as agreed at the last meeting – he was not directly involved in the bid but the project delivery partner were not successful. The London Grid for Learning (now the National Grid for Learning) were successful and will partner with Sheffield Hallam University for the project. The testbed project is now recruiting a separate project demonstrator and RS will make a consortium bid for that.
- It was agreed that the Ian Karten Charitable Trust trustees would discuss a symposium at their March meeting and come back to the Network board.

Date and time of next meeting: 9 July 2020, 11.15 AM, The Pocklington Hub