



National Academic Infrastructure
for Supercomputing in Sweden

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Before the summer break we want to provide you all with the latest update on NAISS.

Vetenskapsrådet's midterm evaluation report of NAISS was completed in late May, with very positive comments from the international panel about the progress and a strong recommendation from the panel to continue in the general direction of NAISS strategic plan. There was also valuable feedback and good ideas about inclusive communication, decision-making transparency, strategic dialogues, competence networks and stakeholder engagement. We strongly agree with their overall assessment, and will address many of these points explicitly in the annual revision of NAISS' strategy plan as well as discussions with stakeholder universities.

HPC Investments in Sweden - and elsewhere

We are delighted to have completed a very successful procurement of the new EuroHPC mid-range resource Arrhenius that will become the main unified Swedish HPC system from 2026, and in the near future we will be able to share more details of how this will serve both traditional HPC users, sensitive data, and not least extensive cloud usage.

Together with the AI factory system (where the procurement has just been opened), these systems will boost Swedish computing resources by almost an order of magnitude. We are deeply grateful to Vetenskapsrådet and the government for making this possible through major additional national co-funding to NAISS. However, one upcoming challenge for users is that these systems are increasingly GPU-focused, there are lots of new AI users with large needs, and the resources will have to be shared both with European and industrial users.

There are also significant investments in our neighboring countries. For example, Finland is making extensive national investments of about 100 MEUR/year and at the end of May, Norway's Research Council presented a proposal to the Norwegian government for a much higher ambition level in national infrastructure, suggesting investments of 3362 MNOK (672 MNOK/year) for the period 2026-2030.

To avoid Sweden falling behind, and to avoid a drastic reduction in the CPU resources available in NAISS from 2027, the Swedish investments for computing need to increase. We will join forces this fall to make this clear to our politicians and decision-makers.

Current operations and usage

The Spring evaluation of applications for large allocations was completed in May. Together with the continuous small and medium allocations, we see a continued increase in demands for NAISS resources, both storage and computation, with a strong emphasis on AI - Arrhenius will be much needed when it comes online early 2026.

The operations of the active NAISS systems have continued with the high availability for users. Unplanned stops have been limited to very rare power outages, like one in Linköping during early June. Planned downtimes have been even fewer during the first half of 2025 than in 2024 partly due to the consolidation of the operations of Dardel.

NAISS Staff meeting and user support organization

On May 13-14, the NAISS Staff meeting took place in Linköping. About 80 people working for NAISS around Sweden discussed current challenges and the strategy for our continued development of NAISS as a unified national organization. The director of CSCS in Switzerland, Prof. Thomas Schulthess, gave a highly appreciated talk about his experience in building CSCS into a world-leading infrastructure with a strong focus on excellent service for researchers. Emmanuel Ory, Development manager at CSC in Finland provided interesting perspectives from the build-up of a decentralized user-support organization for the LUMI system.

Erik Lindahl has completed another round of visits to all NAISS branches, in particular to discuss the transition from the last few remaining older HPC systems to the upcoming national systems and how they are managed, finding an efficient setup for advanced user support where we ensure staff have suitable expertise across all major NAISS user communities, and not least getting started with the AI factory staffing.

The Swedish AI-factory – MIMER

The Swedish AI factory is hosted by NAISS in collaboration with RISE taking care of industrial users, with operations commencing just before summer. Both Linköping University and all partners have been tremendously helpful in organizing contracts and collaborations, and we are currently in the process of interviewing candidates for director for the AI Factory with several additional staff openings at all partners in the near future. While the dedicated Swedish AI hardware will not be operational until summer 2026, users can get allocations on many other EuroHPC resources, and we particularly expect Arrhenius to be very suitable for AI workloads.

The NAISS User Forum October 21-22

The annual NAISS User Forum meeting will be held October 21-22 at Chalmers, Göteborg. Building on the success of the first two NAISS User Forums, in Linköping and Uppsala, we invite all users to participate in a forward-looking meeting focused on AI and machine learning methods and the upcoming Arrhenius and AI factory systems. This is an excellent opportunity to provide feedback and voice community needs!

NAISS 2027-2030

Finally, on June 23, Vetenskapsrådet issued the terms of reference and invited NAISS to submit a funding proposal for 2027-2030, with a deadline already September 1. While this call does not include any increased funding for investments e.g. in a CPU resource, it does include an increased ambition for advanced user support and training, which we are looking forward to. NAISS will coordinate with stakeholders over summer and share early drafts of the proposal to ensure strong support from all partners involved.

But... between responding to our requests about feedback on the new NAISS proposal and signing up for the User Forum, we hope you get a chance to some relaxing vacation, productive summer school interactions and joyful research using NAISS resources!

Jan-Eric Sundgren

NAISS Steering Committee Chair

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