



National Academic Infrastructure
for Supercomputing in Sweden

NAISS Newsletter no 1 2025

After two years, NAISS is entering a new phase with a permanent director, renewed steering group, and all agreements with the initial partners signed (and new partners pending). We are preparing the installation of a new large general-purpose system and are set to expand activities through NAISS being granted one of the first “AI factories” in Europe. As these activities go into operation over the next year, NAISS will be a strong node in the larger EuroHPC infrastructure. To streamline our communication, we will stop sending out two newsletters with slightly different focus, one from the chairman of the steering group and one from the director, and instead issue one newsletter that will in addition to be distributed directly to your inboxes also put on our web page.

New director of NAISS

As announced on our web page, [Erik Lindahl has been appointed new NAISS Director](#) by the LiU vice-chancellor. Erik started his new assignment on January first this year. Björn Alling, who has served as acting director, will continue as deputy director. We (Erik & Jan-Eric) are deeply grateful for his devotion and hard work in shaping NAISS and handling numerous challenges. Together with the steering group and staff we want to thank him for his effort and look forward to keep working together.

New steering group

The NAISS Steering Committee has also been renewed. Four new members have been appointed for two years: Associate Professor Frida Bender from Stockholm University, Professor Lars Kloo from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Professor Katrine Riklund from Umeå University and Associate Professor Julia Wiktor from Chalmers University of Technology. They are joining original members Bengt Persson and Anders Ynnerman and the Steering Committee Chair, Jan-Eric Sundgren.

Susanne Aalto, Thorsten Mauritsen and Marianne Sommarin all left the Steering Committee by the end of 2024 and we would like to thank them for their valuable contributions. Erik Lindahl also left his formal group position when accepting the position as director but will participate in meetings as Director. The Steering Committee will continue to meet once a month and all minutes are available at the web page - see <https://www.naiss.se/about-us/steering-committee/>

National Collaborations

In December 2024, the last bilateral collaboration agreement was signed with Uppsala University, and since fall 2024 NAISS has started to establish a new unified national organization to handle all support. Erik Lindahl has also visited all NAISS branches, and NAISS has started to organize mini-user-forums where both the support staff and members from the NAISS User support advisory committee are available for users to interact and provide feedback as well as requests. The first of those was held at Stockholm University. More of these will follow, and the national NAISS user forum 2025 will take place October 21-22 at Chalmers University of Technology.

The NAISS strategic plan

The Steering Committee has approved the NAISS strategic plan, which particularly focuses on the importance of building a clear national organization with competitive career options for staff, deploying the new user support organization, how NAISS should engage with new user communities and strengthen its support for method development, and not least how the organization is transforming into a node of the EuroHPC international computing infrastructure. [The plan is available on the NAISS web page](#) together with the new plan for Active Measures to promote diversity.

The EuroHPC Arrhenius project

One of the most important upcoming changes for NAISS is that our new hardware investments are co-funded collaborations with EuroHPC. This will lead to significant changes for how NAISS staff and users interact with the infrastructure, but it will also connect Swedish users more with a rapidly expanding international infrastructure – and we are delighted that Vetenskapsrådet and the government are supporting it by a corresponding increase in the Swedish national co-funding for the investments. The Arrhenius system will be a large general-purpose system offering both CPU and GPU resources as well as a sensitive data and cloud operations. It is entering the last phase of the procurement, and NAISS is currently busy preparing the datacenter to host it.

The EuroHPC AI factory

Partly as a result of Mario Draghi's 2024 report pinpointing the challenges to EU competitiveness, directly after last summer the EU commission and EuroHPC jointly launched a major initiative to fund "AI factories" that will offer both support and AI-focused hardware access to small and medium enterprises as well as academic research. While the notice was remarkably short, NAISS submitted a proposal already for the first cutoff of the call proposing both a large support organization with some 40-50 experts (half of which will be employed by RISE focusing on SME support) as well as a mid-size computational resource dedicated to AI usage. The proposal received very high evaluation scores and was funded in full, and through extensive support both from the AI commission, Vetenskapsrådet, Vinnova as well as the government, this will again be matched by new dedicated co-funding. We are currently preparing to recruit staff distributed in Sweden to initiate operations late spring 2025, and the new hardware is expected to be in place next year (with temporary solutions from this summer).

Strategic outlook

NAISS will keep changing – but we hope users will increasingly see the positive side of these changes with significantly expanded resources, new types of hardware, more support and training, and that NAISS can increasingly help support science and method development. There will be new opportunities already this fall, but to fully utilize these the largest in particular will also need to apply to the EuroHPC quota of the systems located in Sweden – NAISS will help support such applications.

Interim evaluation by VR – and NAISS continuation proposal summer 2025

To evaluate the first two years of NAISS, Vetenskapsrådet has initiated an interim evaluation for which NAISS submitted material in January 2025. In early April, there will be interviews both of the NAISS leadership, users and university partners in Stockholm, and currently the plan is that NAISS will be invited to prepare a proposal for continued funding for the period starting 2027 to be submitted late summer. This process will be coordinated with the Stakeholder Advisory Reference Committee.

Jan-Eric Sundgren

NAISS Steering Committee Chair

Erik Lindahl

NAISS Director