



BID DOCUMENT FUSION 2021

Linköping, Sweden

24th International Conference on Information Fusion

Proposed Conference Dates: July 5 to 7 or July 12 to 16, 2021

PREPARED BY

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**EAST
SWEDEN**
Convention Bureau

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Linköping 2018-06-15

International Society of Information
Fusion, ISIF
Re: FUSION Conference 2021

Letter of Support

Dear Board of ISIF,

It is with great pleasure the City of Linköping is welcoming the opportunity and supports Linköping university in hosting the FUSION conference in 2021.

As a city we are proud of the university and the research that is conducted there. Linköping university is in the forefront when it comes to Autonomous systems and AI research and has strong support for years to come from the Wallenberg Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Systems and Software Program, WASP. The research that is being conducted benefit us all, on a national and international level. The Swedish Defence Agency, Saab, Nira, Veoneer and Ericsson are a few companies based in Linköping. Having such strengths in the field as we do in Linköping we would be especially proud to welcome researchers, stakeholders, experts and students from around the world to our city for knowledge sharing, networking and interest in information fusion.

I am delighted to give the City of Linköping's support to the university and the co-hosts to host FUSION in July 2021. I am personally looking forward to welcoming the delegates to the beautiful city of Linköping.

Sincerely,



Helena Balhammar
Mayor of Linköping

WELCOME TO LINKÖPING

Welcome to a city that makes you rich in feelings and experiences. There's plenty to see and do year round in Linköping: the open air museum Old Linköping, the city garden park, the cathedral dating back to the 1100's, canals and locks, one of the biggest oak tree landscapes in northern Europe to mention a few. If you want to enjoy nature or are more interested in a city pulse you don't have to choose. Both are within reach. Linköping has a fabulous country side, lakes, canals as well as a rich culture , shopping and nightlife.

About 27 000 students attend Linköping University, LiU, where world-leading, boundary-crossing research in fields that include materials science, IT, advanced visualisation and hearing is conducted. In the same spirit, the university offers many innovative educational programmes, frequently with a clear professional focus and leading to qualification as, for example, doctors, teachers, economists and engineers. Linköping is coined the aviation capital of Sweden. The first flight academy in Sweden was founded here and this is where the only aircraft manufacturing plant, Saab, in Sweden is located. About 18 000 people of the city's population are employed in the aviation field.

Linköping is the 5th largest municipality in Sweden with 160 000 inhabitants. Linköping is big enough to have most things you'd expect to find in a city, small enough to have it within reach.

VENUE

We propose that the conference be held at Linköping Konsert & Kongress situated in the heart of the city next to the cathedral and castle. Plenary seating for 1200 and an additional 25 breakout rooms are available. The majority of hotels, restaurants and shopping is located within a 10 minute walk as is the bus and train station.

SWEDISH AIR FORCE MUSEUM

The Swedish Air Force Museum is a modern technical and cultural history museum tracing the development of Swedish military aviation. The museum has a unique collection of aircraft, from pioneers of the early 20th century to the present day JAS 39 Gripen. The crown jewel in the Swedish Air Force Museum's collections is the Swedish DC-3 that was shot down by a Soviet fighter aircraft over the Baltic Sea in 1952. After more than fifty years of speculation, the wreck was found at the bottom of the sea, salvaged and laid to rest in the museum.

GALA DINNER

We suggest that the gala dinner be held at the Swedish air force museum. Here up to 600 guests are comfortably seated among the air craft. Start the evening with a guided tour and make the museum come to life. Dinner will be prepared with locally grown ingredients and flavours that will not disappoint. Stage and entertainment can be brought in should the decision be to stay here for the entire evening.

5 KM RUN

Linköping is home to a network of walking and running trails. A suggestion is that the conference morning run will be from the city center in a loop along the canal. What a great way to start the day!

WIFI

Linköping municipality offers free WiFi in the city center, Linköping WiFi, as well as at the conference venue. The same access points also hosts Eduroam serving all the academic researchers just as being on their home campus. <https://www.eduroam.org/where/>



WHY SWEDEN and WHY LINKÖPING?

Sweden is the by far **most well represented country at the Fusion conferences**, counted in the number of publications and participants per capita. Fusion has only been held in Sweden once before, in Stockholm 2004. In Sweden, **Linköping is the dominating city at the Fusion conference**, and in the fusion area. We can mention the following organizations:

Linköping University. Among other things, LiU has a leading role in the Wallenberg Program on AI and Autonomous Systems, with a funding of 300 million USD 2016-2026

FOI, the Swedish Defence Research Agency, which organized Fusion 2004, and historically has many collaborations with other organizations active in Fusion. The Linköping branch (C4ISR) has 300 employees at the department of defence.

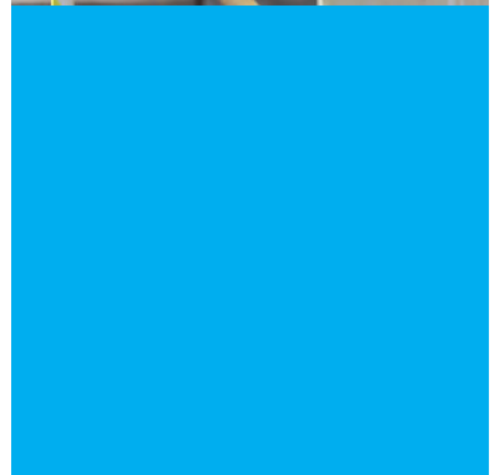
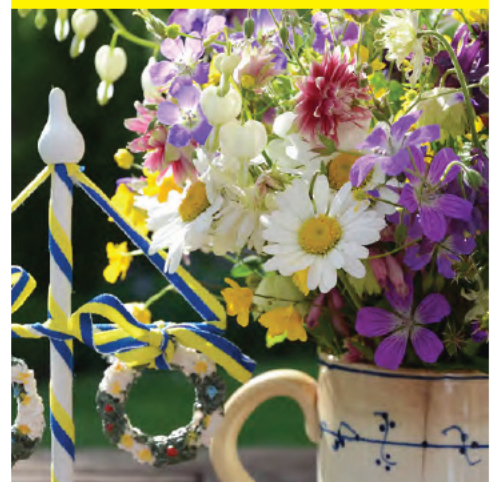
SAAB (Aerospace, Dynamics, Combitech) with about 5000 employees is developing target tracking and navigation solutions for aerospace applications, among others. Their main product is the fighter aircraft Gripen, exported to some half dozen countries.

Veoneer (formerly Autoliv) is growing quickly with today 520 engineers developing automotive safety systems based on cameras and radar. Their collision warning and avoidance systems are found in many high-end cars.

WASP (Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program) is the largest research program in Sweden ever. The total budget is now exceeding 3 billion SEK, after that the Wallenberg foundation granted another billion for AI research related to autonomous systems. The total program will generate 300 PhD. The interesting part is that almost all students will be active 2021 (last year for the first batch, first year of the last batch). Fusion should be a relevant conference for a large number of students, and their hundreds of supervisors. We plan to include relevant Tutorials and Special Sessions around autonomous systems and machine learning to attract as many WASP researchers as possible.

KOLMARDEN The proposed ISIF working group LoL (Life on Land, UN Sustainable Development Goal #15) is focusing on multi-target multi-sensor wildlife monitoring, a theme that will be timely introduced at Fusion 2020 in South Africa. As part of this initiative, a tutorial thematic day is planned for the Monday preceding the conference at Kolmården Zoo. LiU is here building up a research test site, where sensor networks and drones survey animals, vehicles, park rangers and visitors in the park. This tutorial day includes both theory and practice.

JULY July is a great month to visit Linköping. The weather tends to be beautiful, the city is in full bloom and lively with outdoor cafés, restaurants and people on vacation. Prices are typically lower than most of the other months of the year making it very affordable to conference. Well picked!



FOUNDING TEAM

The founding team (Fredrik Gustafsson, Gustaf Hendeby, Jenny Irwin) started the planning process already in February 2017. For various reasons, they focused on a smaller conference in 2017 ([IEEE sponsored RED-UAS](#)), which was held in Linköping in October 2017. The program, conference site and dinner were all according to the current proposal. This means that the team has **already performed a conference on a smaller scale**, taking on all the roles in the organisation committee themselves. Further, both Jenny and Fredrik participated at the conference pitches for Fusion 2020 in X'ian, with the permission of the ISIF board, to get more insights about the expectations and requirements of organising Fusion.

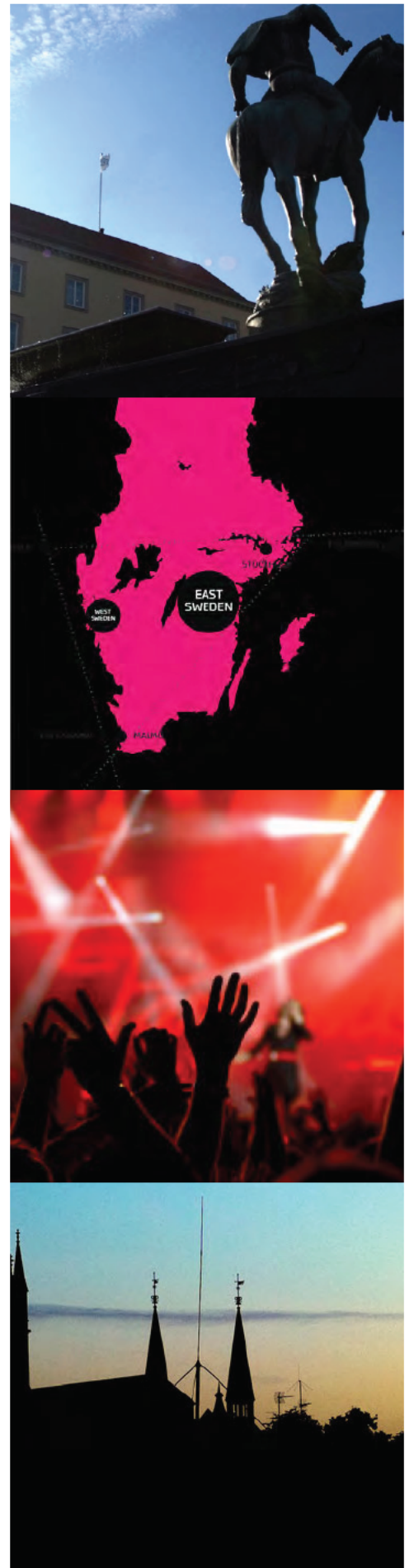
The TPC is selected based on the successful constellations that worked together in the TPC for Istanbul and Karlsruhe.

The local chairs from East Sweden Convention Bureau have **extensive experience at organising small and large international conferences** in the region.

We have chosen to have the same chairs for Tutorials and Special Sessions for the reasons that we want to add a couple of new focus areas to the Fusion conference. These focus areas are **machine learning for information fusion, and autonomous systems, respectively, inspired by the WASP research program**. This means that we plan to organise tutorials given by experienced researchers in the field (including WASP affiliates) and follow up with Special sessions (including invitation to a subset of the 250 WASP graduate students). Fredrik Heinz has participated in numerous **Fusion conferences** in the past, and is heavily involved in both the graduate study program and the AI research area of WASP. Karl Granström has participated in every fusion conference for the past ten years, and has given both Tutorials and proposed several Special Sessions.

The Awards Chairs are senior researchers with long experience from Fusion conferences, and they represent the **sensor data fusion and the information fusion areas**, respectively.

Zoran Sjanic has participated in many past Fusion conferences. He has a mixed position at LiU and SAAB and a **large network with local companies and organisations**, which make him an excellent candidate to coordinate the sponsor activities.



ORGANISATION TEAM

GENERAL CHAIRS

[Fredrik Gustafsson](#) fredrik.gustafsson@liu.se | **Linköping University**

[Gustaf Hendeby](#) gustaf.hendeby@liu.se | **Linköping University**

LOCAL ARRANGEMENT CHAIRS

[Jenny Irwin](#) jenny.irwin@escvb.se | **East Sweden Convention Bureau**

[Nico Nauta](#) nico.nauta@escvb.se | **East Sweden Convention Bureau**

TECHNICAL CHAIRS

[Lennart Svensson](#) lennart.svensson@chalmers.se | **Chalmers**

[Peter Willett](#) willett@engr.uconn.edu | **University of Connecticut**

[Uwe Hanebeck](#) uwe.hanebeck@kit.edu | **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology**

[Elisa Shahbazian](#) elisa.shahbazian@ooda.ca | **OODA Technologies Inc.**

PROGRAM CHAIRS

[Lyudmila S Mihaylova](#) L.S.Mihaylova@sheffield.ac.uk | **Sheffield University**

[Pieter de Villiers](#) pieter.devilliers@up.ac.za | **University of Pretoria**

TUTORIAL AND SPECIAL SESSION CHAIRS

[Karl Granström](#) karl.granstrom@chalmers.se | **Chalmers**

[Fredrik Heintz](#) fredrik.heintz@liu.se | **Linköping University**

AWARDS CHAIRS

[Wolfgang Koch](#) wolfgang.koch@fkf.fraunhofer.de | **Fraunhofer FKIE**

[Anne-Laure Jousselme](#) Anne-Laure.Jousselme@cmre.nato.int | **NATO CMRE**

FINANCIAL CHAIR

[Chee-Yee Chong](#) chee.y.chong@gmail.com | **Independent Consultant**

SPONSOR CHAIR

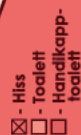
[Zoran Sjanic](#) zoran@isy.liu.se | **Saab AB and Linköping University**

Venues

Linköping Konsert & Kongress



LINKÖPING
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Capacity

<u>Venue</u>	<u>Max/pers</u>
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Crusellhallen	1200
Spegelsalen	150
Verdefoajén	150
Marmorfoajén	228
Galleri K	138
Garden	600
Garden/Verde	687
Balkongen	40
Backstage	100
Studion	150
Musikalen	250
Solot	50
Sonaten	80
Operan	150
Operetten	80
Duetten	50
Pressläktaren	24
Noten	10
Takten	10
Accenten	10
Reprisen	10



MILJÖMÄRK
3055 0028
MILJÖMÄRK
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING

Crusellhallen *(Plenary)*

Large and imposing with great acoustics and character. Experience the sensation in Crusellhallen, the pride and joy of Linköping Konsert & Kongress. Crusellhallen is our largest conference and concert hall. There is room for up to 1,200 guests. The hall can easily be divided so that just over 760 places remain. 386 places have built-in writing tables. You are welcome to come and enjoy the magic atmosphere of Crusellhallen.

Experience the powerful feeling in our large concert hall



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
1200



Cinema seating
(Backdrop down)
760



Built-in writing
tables
386

DIMENSIONS (STAGE)

Width 22,5 m
Depth 13,5 m
Surface area 300 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- 1 Headset
- 2 Microphones (wired)
- 1 Podium
- 1 Lectern
- Projector
- Film screen
- PowerPoint Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



LINKÖPING
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MILJÖMÄRKT
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING

VENUES IN LINKÖPING KONSERT & KONGRESS

Marmorfoajén (*Exibition Area*)

Bright, fresh and versatile with fantastic light. Welcome to Marmorfoajén, the entrance hall of Linköping Konsert & Kongress. Marmorfoajén is constantly changing with exhibitions, fairs and mingles. In Marmorfoajén there is a sizeable bar with space for substantial gatherings and events. With lovely light from large glass panels and roof windows, Marmorfoajén is a bright hub in Linköping Konsert & Kongress.

Linköping Konsert & Kongress light, open spaces, close to everything



**NUMBER OF SEATS
WHEN FURNISHED**



Dinner
450

Exhibitor
(3x2 m)
Qty 35

Exhibitor
(5x3 m)
Qty 17

DIMENSIONS
Surface area 1067 m²

TECHNOLOGY
The technology is
customised based on
each individual event



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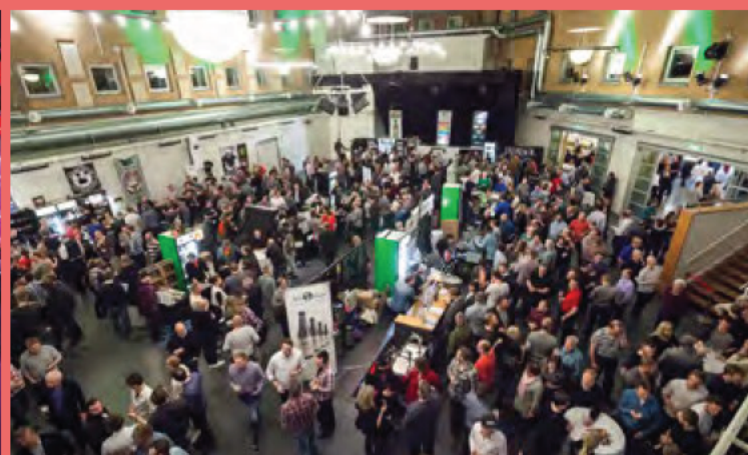


**MILJÖMÄRKT
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING**

Garden *Lunch venue*

Garden is a large flexible inner court with a glass roof and outstanding space. Fairs, conferences and dinners alternate here. The incredible ceiling height with roof windows gives the venue light and life. The Garden is our largest lunch and banqueting hall and is suitable for everything from lunches to gala dinners. There is a permanent stage here for entertainment and dancing. By opening into the adjacent venue the capacity is further extended so that as many as 1,800 guests can participate in an event.

With enormous flexibility and fantastic space for new experiences



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
600



school seating
274



Dinner
600



6 pl - 210
8 pl - 352
10 pl - 300
12 pl - 360
Islands

Exhibitor
(3x2m)
Qty 32

Concert
180

DIMENSIONS

Width 660 m²
Stage 8x4 m

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- 1 Headset
- Microphones (wired)
- Projector
- Film screen
- PC
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



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MILJÖMÄRK
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ANLÄGGNING

Musikalen *(Breakout)*

Musikalen is a large and light venue centrally placed in Linköping Konsert & Kongress. A sizeable group can meet here. Musikalen's stage is also suitable for smaller events. Why not raise the tempo of a conference with a musical interlude or a stand-up performance? There are also excellent spaces adjacent to the venue, suitable for dinners, mingles and exhibitions.

Large light venue centrally located in Linköping Konsert & Kongress



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
250



school seating
120



U-seating
36



6 pl - 90
8 pl - 120
10 pl - 80
12 pl - 96

Islands

DIMENSIONS

Width 25 m
Depth 9 m
Surface area 225 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- 1 Headset
- 1 Microphone (Wireless)
- PC
- Projector
- Film screen
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



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MILJÖMÄRKT
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING

Operan *(Breakout)*

With light and space looking onto beautiful parkland, Operan accommodates medium sized meetings. The breadth of the venue makes it easy for speakers to maintain close contact with the audience. Operan has a raised stage, which makes it easy to view the venue and be seen. Immediately adjacent to Operan there are mingle areas, and the other facilities in Linköping Konsert & Kongress are close by.

With its light and space, it is easy to enjoy being in Operan



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
150



school seating
92



U-seating
30



6 pl - 90
8 pl - 88
10 pl - 80
12 pl - 72

Islands

DIMENSIONS

Width 19 m
Depth 10 m
Surface area 190 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- 1 wireless microphone
- Headset
- Projector
- Film screen
- PC
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



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MILJÖMÄRKT
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING

Operetten *(Breakout)*

Light and space looking out on beautiful parkland makes Operetten a delightful setting for medium sized meetings. The breadth of the venue makes it easy for speakers to maintain close contact with the audience. Large glass panels give light and space for enjoyable meetings. Immediately adjacent to Operetten lie countless facilities and pleasant spaces for mingling and individual meetings.

Large glass panels give light and space for enjoyable meetings



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
80



school seating
50



U-seating
22



6 pl - 42
8 pl - 32
10 pl - 40
12 pl - 48

Öar

DIMENSIONS

Width 12 m
Depth 7 m
Surface area 84 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- Projector
- Film screen
- PC
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



LINKÖPING
KONSERT & KONGRESS



MILJÖMÄRKT
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING

Solot *(Breakout)*

With excellent light and a view of lush greenery, Solot is a conference venue to delight. Here you will find the best setting for the smaller meeting and proximity to all the facilities inside Linköping Konsert & Kongress. Solot is an easily accessible, popular venue with good space and functionality. Welcome to successful and enjoyable meetings in Solot!

Easily accessible with views of lush greenery



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
50



school seating
30



U-seating
18



6 pl - 30
8 pl - 16
10 pl - 20

Islands

DIMENSIONS

Width 8 m
Depth 7 m
Surface area 56 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- PC
- Projector
- Film screen
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



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MILJÖMÄRKT
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ANLÄGGNING

Sonaten *(breakout)*

With a view of the inner court by Östergötlands Museum, Sonaten is a bright and functional meeting venue for the smaller meeting. Sonaten is an easily accessible, pleasant venue with good space and functionality. Welcome to successful and enjoyable meetings in Sonaten!

Bright and pleasant with a view over the inner court



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
80



school seating
50



U-seating
22



6 pl - 42
8 pl - 32
10 pl - 40
12 pl - 48

Islands

DIMENSIONS

Width 11,5 m
Depth 7 m
Surface area 80 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- PC
- Projector
- Film screen
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

The technology is customised based on each individual event



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MILJÖMÄRKT
KONFERENS-
ANLÄGGNING

Duetten *(Breakout)*

With exceptional functionality, good space and light, Duetten is a venue for successful and enjoyable meetings. Close to the Linköping Konsert & Kongress Bistro and other locations, venues and facilities in Linköping Konsert & Kongress, Duetten is a really great place for smaller meetings

A venue for successful and enjoyable meetings



NUMBER OF SEATS WHEN FURNISHED



Cinema seating
50



school seating
30



U-seating
16



6 pl - 30
8 pl - 24
10 pl - 20

Islands

DIMENSIONS

Width 8 m
Depth 7 m
Surface area 56 m²

STANDARD AT CONFERENCE

- Sound system
- Projector
- Film screen
- PC
- PowerPoint-Browser
- Wi-Fi
- Audio induction loops

TECHNOLOGY

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MILJÖMÄRKT
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TRAVEL TO LINKÖPING

TRAVEL BY AIR TO LINKÖPING

It's easy to get to Linköping. You can fly directly to Linköping or to one of the nearby airports.

Linköping City Airport

Fly direct to Linköping City Airport, situated just 10 minutes from the city centre. Visitors from all over the world come to Linköping on the KLM-run Amsterdam–Linköping flights. Three flights daily.

www.linkopingcityairport.se | +46-13-18 10 30
Airlines: www.klm.com

Norrköping Airport

You can also get to Linköping via the nearby Norrköping Airport, situated a 30 minutes drive away. You fly into Norrköping with BMI (Lufthansa) via Munich. Two flights daily.

www.norrkopingflygplats.se | +46 11-15 37 10
Airlines: www.flybmi.com

Skavsta Airport

Alternatively, you can fly with Ryanair or Wizz Air to Stockholm Skavsta Airport situated outside Nyköping –one hour by car from Linköping. There is a direct coach service from Skavsta to Linköping with the Flygbussarna airport coaches.

www.skavsta.se
Airlines: www.ryanair.com, www.wizzard.com
www.flygbussarna.se/en

Stockholm Arlanda Airport

The largest airport in Sweden is Arlanda Airport, based north of Stockholm. Most major international airlines are represented here. Travel from Stockholm Arlanda Airport to Linköping takes approximately 2,5 hours by train or car.

www.arlanda.se
www.flygbussarna.se/en
www.arlandaexpress.se

TRAVEL BY RAIL TO LINKÖPING

The central station is a 5-10 minute walk from the city centre, hotels and congress buildings.

Travel time to/from: Stockholm: 1 hour 39 minutes | Price ~250SEK*
Gothenburg: 3 hours 19 minutes | Price ~200SEK*
Malmö: 2 hours 44 minutes | Price ~250-300SEK*
Copenhagen: 3 hours, 30 minutes | Price ~250-350SEK*
Train direct from Arlanda to Linköping costs ~350SEK*

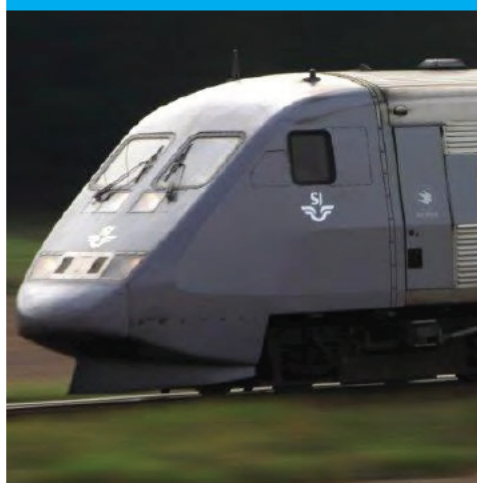
**2018 pricing*

www.sj.se



Washington DC	SEK 6000:-
New York	SEK 3900:-
Stansted	SEK 250:-
Amsterdam	SEK 1500:-
Munchen	SEK 1600:-
Xian	SEK 3700:-

The above flight prices are approximate, based on availability, for a return trip. The earlier the trip is booked the better the price.



SWEDEN IN THE WORLD



ARE THERE ANY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS OR SPECIAL VISA REQUIREMENTS?

Sweden is a signatory of the Schengen agreement and so travel between all other signatories of that agreement is open. Travel within Scandinavia is similarly open. As a member of the European Union, no visa is required for any other member nation. U.S.A., Canada and many other nations are also exempt from visa requirements for visits to Sweden under 3 months.

A complete list of countries for which visas will be required can be found [online](#).

Letters of invitation will be provided to registered conference delegates who require one to speed the visa application process.

WHAT CURRENCY WOULD BE USED FOR THE CONFERENCE ACCOUNTING?

We have chosen to use SEK as conference currency.

ARE THERE ANY IMPORT/EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON EQUIPMENT FOR THE EXHIBITIONS?

No special restrictions except regarding hazardous materials. If very expensive equipment is being brought in for demonstration purposes (with the intention to take it back again after the exhibition) then duty and tax on the equipment may have to be paid on arrival in Sweden. This is paid back when the equipment is removed again departure. This standard process is called ATA-Cané and will be handled by the participant's home country.



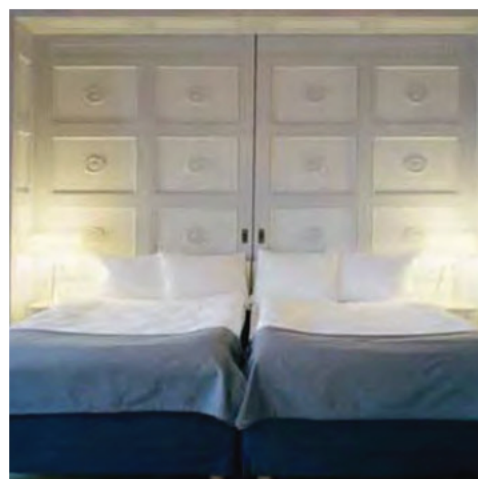
HOTELS WITHIN A **5-10**

MINUTE WALK FROM THE CONGRESS CENTRE

HOTELS	# ROOMS
Best Western Linköping	74
Elite Storan	113
Clarion Collection Hotel Slottsparken	148
Linköping City Hotel & Hostel	33
Quality Hotel Ekoxen	229
Scandic City	216
Scandic Frimurarhotellet	258
Scandic Väst	150
Sky Hotell	70
Stångå Hotell	41
Quality Hotel the Box *25 min walk	176
TOTAL	1734

Approximate hotel prices for 2021 range from 970SEK - 1200SEK per night.

*Click on the hotel name for more details.



LINKÖPING

HOTELS, TRANSPORT AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST



Hotels

1. Park Hotel
2. Scandic Frimurarehotellet
3. Stångå Hotell
4. Hotell Östergyllen
5. Best Western Hotel Linköping
6. Elite Stora Hotellet
7. Scandic City
8. Clarion Collection Slottsparken
9. Quality Hotel Ekoxen

Travel

21. Bus station
22. Train station
23. Canal boat, "Kind"

Misc

24. County museum, "Länsmuseet"
25. Cathedral, "Domkyrkan"
26. City hall, "Stadshuset"

FACTS ABOUT SWEDEN and GOOD STUFF TO KNOW

Official name: The Kingdom of Sweden

Capital: Stockholm

Form of government: Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy

Population: 10 million

Opening hours: Banks are usually open Monday–Friday 10–15, Shops are open Monday–Friday 10–18, Saturday 10–14. Shopping malls have longer opening hours and are also open on Sundays. Grocery stores are typically open 8-20.

Measures: Metric system

Currency: Swedish krona, SEK

1€ equals ~10SEK,

1US\$ equals ~8SEK (2018)

Dialing code: +46

Time zone: Central European Time (CET)

Drinking water: Tap water is safe to drink

Sweden is the fourth-largest country in the European Union by area. Sweden has a total population of just over 10 million of which 2.3 million has a foreign background. It has a low population density of 22 inhabitants per square kilometre (57/sq mi); the highest concentration is in the southern half of the country. Approximately 85% of the population lives in urban areas.

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, with a monarch, Carl Gustav XVI, as head of state. The capital city is Stockholm, which is also the most populous city in the country. Legislative power is vested in the 349 member unicameral Riksdag. Executive power is exercised by the government chaired by the prime minister. Sweden is a unitary state, currently divided into 21 counties and 290 municipalities.

Sweden joined the European Union on 1 January 1995, but declined NATO membership, as well as Eurozone membership following a referendum. It is also a member of the United Nations, the Nordic Council, the Council of Europe, the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Sweden maintains a Nordic social welfare system that provides universal health care and tertiary education for its citizens. Sweden ranks highly in numerous metrics of national performance, including quality of life, health, education, protection of civil liberties, economic competitiveness, equality, prosperity and human development.

WHEN TO GO AND WHAT TO PACK

The best time to visit Sweden is from May to September. June is the month with the longest days, with the midnight sun in the north and the white nights (midnight twilights) in the south, July is the warmest month.

In July the days can get warm so shorts, t-shirts should be on the packing list but also long pants, sweaters, a rain coat/umbrella. Swimwear for a refreshing swim in a lake or off one of the many islands in the Baltic sea.

Average daily hours of sunlight in July: 18 hours! Some clouds may however be present.



PERCEPTIONS OF SWEDEN

COLD	EXPENSIVE	DARKNESS	TALL BLONDE WOMEN	VOLVO
POLAR BEARS IN THE CITY STREETS	ABBA	NOBEL PRIZE	VIKINGS	RESERVED
CRIME NOVELS	REMOTE	IKEA	MEAT BALLS	

Yes, the winters can get quite cold and dark but on the flip side, in Sweden we are lucky to get four seasons and without them you wouldn't be able to experience ice driving or the ice hotel! Dark...absolutely but every place in the world gets the same amount of daylight, just distributed differently. Without the darkness you wouldn't experience the magic of the sometimes everlasting light, even sunny, summer nights.

In Sweden we love to Fika, enjoy a coffee and a cinnamon roll in a café. One of your first scent sensations when arriving in Sweden may well be that of coffee and cinnamon. While hanging at the café you may play Minecraft or Candy Crush while listening to Spotify or Skyping with a friend- all Swedish innovations.

Many Swedish women are tall and blonde but far from all. But you'll find them to be strong minded and independent.

Sweden has come far with gender equality. The parental leave law allows the father to stay home with the children longer than in any other country. Sweden has never finished lower than fifth in the Gender gap rankings by the World Economic Forum.

Sweden is far away, at least if you travel from places like Los Angeles, Sydney or Cape Town. But if you are travelling to Europe from any of those places- what isn't? But within Europe, Sweden is only a 2-3 hour flight from most places. Sweden itself is long, the size of California, and very diverse.

Space, now that is far away. In Sweden we believe that space tourism will take off from Lapland the land of reindeers, in northern Sweden in just a few years. Preparation and training for these trips have already begun at Spaceport Sweden- Europe's gateway to space and space travel.

VOLVO is a Swedish invention as is the sportscar Koenigsegg going from 0-300km/h in just 15 seconds. Safety is important and at VOLVO the three point seatbelt system standard in all vehicles was invented in 1951. When biking the fashionable Hövding bicycle helmet may be around your neck, this "invisible" helmet is equivalent of a vehicle airbag...and as you probably guessed it was invented in Sweden.

IKEA revolutionized retail and how retailers operate...flat-pack furniture, assemble yourself, keep costs down, quality high, showcase the furniture and store layout in a way that gets you buying more of its products than you initially intended. Yup!

There are many more inventions and much more to Sweden than this page has room to cover but perhaps you should come and explore them for yourself. Perhaps you'll have the company of a Wallander, Läckberg or the Millennium trilogy book as you make that flight or train ride over to this great country in the North. Where a lot gets done but we are shy to brag about.



DISCOVER ÖSTERGÖTLAND, EAST SWEDEN

DAY TRIPS FROM LINKÖPING

GÖTA CANAL and BERG LOCKS

The canal is one of the biggest construction project in Swedish history. Construction of the 190 km long canal with 58 locks began in 1810 and was completed in 1832. Enjoy a ride on one of the beautiful canal boats, bike along it, and make sure to visit Berg where you'll see the Carl Johan's staircase with its seven connected locks and boats navigating their way through as they rise or are lowered 18,8 metres. Restaurants, museum, mini golf and the Cloetta candy factory outlet store. Berg is a 15 minute drive from downtown Linköping.

NORRKÖPING

30 minutes by highway or by commuter train you'll find yourself in this city once dominated by the paper and textile industry, giving it the nickname "the Manchester of Sweden" or Peking. With a population of 135 000 it's the 8th largest city in Sweden. The old industrial landscape has been transformed into the site for a congress centre, several museums, the Norrköping campus for Linköping University, hip apartments and a fashionable district for shopping and dining. Visit the Workers' Museum, Visualization Centre. Enjoy a beautiful walk along water falls in the old industrial landscape and along the Motala stream that runs through the city. A great way of exploring the city is by jumping on one of the yellow trams.

ARKÖSUNDS ARCHIPELAGO

About a 90 minute drive from downtown Linköping you will find yourself in the beautiful archipelago of the Baltic sea. Make a stop at the pier for an ice cream or freshly smoked fish, and watch the boats go by. You can rent kayaks or go ferry hopping between the islands of "Kopparholmarna". Bring your swim wear!

VADSTENA

Only 40 minutes by car from Linköping, sublimely situated beside Lake Vättern, Vadstena is a legacy of both church and state power, and today St Birgitta's abbey and Gustav Vasa's castle compete with each other for admiration. The atmosphere in the old town, with its wonderful cobbled lanes, intriguing small shops and wooden buildings.

OMBERG

The Omberg Ecopark is located on the eastern shore of Lake Vättern, less than an hour's drive from Linköping. Here you will be captivated by splendid orchids and enthralling myths. You can wander among old giant oak trees and shady beechwood forests, as well as enjoy the fantastic view from Hjässan – Omberg's highest point. Omberg has been turned into an ecopark in order to preserve and develop the natural values in the area. Enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful home of Ellen Key's "Strand" built in 1911, and breathe in the spectacular view.

ALVASTRA KLOSTER

This magical place of a cloister in ruins, just minutes away from Omberg, was founded by French Cistercian monks in 1143 and was during the middle ages the most powerful cloister in Sweden until it was abandoned after the Reformation around 1530. Here, the holy Birgitta lived for five years. Stones from the cloister were used to build the castle in Vadstena.

RÖKSTENEN

On your way to Tåkern or Omberg, make a stop in Rök and visit one of the most famous Nordic runestones. It features the longest known runic inscription in stone with 760 characters and is considered the first piece of written Swedish literature.

REJMYRE GLASSWORKS

has been producing beautiful glassware since 1810. Go on a guided tour through the fascinating world of glass and see it being produced from up close. Perhaps you'd like to give it a go? The tour ends up in the gift shop where there are always nice offers at factory prices. One hour's drive by highway from Linköping.



KOLMÅRDEN WILDLIFE PARK

A 50 minute drive from Linköping you can enjoy one of Scandinavia's most exciting experiences! Nestled in a beautiful countryside the park covers 1.5 square kilometres (370 acres) and is among the most popular tourist attractions in the Nordic countries. Home to 600 animals from all over the world, Kolmården offers activities for the entire family. In the Dolphin Show "Life", an international hit, dolphins leap from the water into the hearts of the audience. Board the Safari gondola, the only one of its kind in the world, to quietly glide close above lions and giraffes. Come face to face with big cats in Tiger World, and watch enthralled as raptors swoop overhead in the Birds of Prey Show "Wings". If you dare try a ride on Wildfire - the greatest wooden rollercoaster in the world. With three inversions, a top speed of over 110 km/h, a drop angle of 83 degrees and 12 airtime moments this ride is a real game changer!

ASTRID LINDGREN'S WORLD

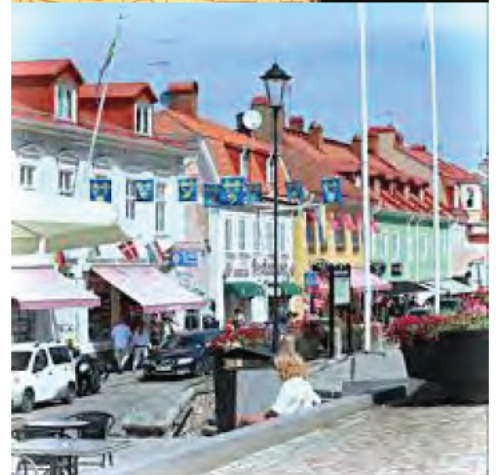
Be there when Emil hoists Ida up the flagpole, play tag with Pippi Longstocking or explore Matt's Fort. In Astrid Lindgren's World you and your family become part of the classic children's stories, and the line between story and reality, and between theatre and play, becomes blurred. The park is full of imaginative play areas, and music and singing can be heard from our many stages throughout the day. 90 minute drive from Linköping.

GRÄNNA

Located on the south eastern shore of lake Vättern this picturesque town with cobblestone streets, gardens and beautiful colourful wooden houses is idyllic. Famous for its hard candy, visit one of the many factories and see how the hot melted sugar is turned into hard candy in a rainbow of colours and flavours. If you are interested in history the Andrée expedition exhibit is a must to visit, telling the story of the 1897 polar expedition.

VISINGSÖ,

While in Gränna take the short ferry ride over to this beautiful island. The island is best explored by horse and carriage, horseback, by foot or on a rented bike. Visit the castle ruin, Kumlabý church, the gardens of Wisingsborg, go kayaking or on a fishing excursion in the lake Vättern.





DISCOVER SWEDEN

Sweden, respectfully known as the Kingdom of Sweden is as varied as it is long with mountains in the north and rolling plains and sand dunes in the south, with deep forests and open coastal shore line and thousands of lakes. Rich in nature and culture, towns and cities all looking forward to your visit.

STOCKHOLM is truly one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. The city is built on 14 islands, with a well preserved medieval city center and lush parks. Learn about the tragic journey of the Vasa Ship who, sank on her maiden voyage in 1628, was raised from the sea in 1961 and today, almost restored to her former beauty, is berthed in Scandinavia's most popular museum, The Vasa Museum. Skansen is an open-air museum that provides insight into Sweden's heritage and natural history. Fotografiska is a museum dedicated to contemporary photography and Moderna Museet offers one of the world's finest collections of 20th and 21st century art. Take a swim in the city center or go boat hopping in the mesmerizing archipelago of 24 000 islands. The shopping is great, the restaurants are top class and there are hotels to suit every pocket book.

If Stockholm is the most beautiful city in Sweden, **GOTHENBURG** is said to be the most welcoming one, and a city where there is always something going on. Being an industrial seaport, Sweden's second city opens to the vast archipelago on the west coast, a unique maritime landscape, which is very accessible by boat. The city has an international reputation for its innovative cuisine, based on local products, specially fish and crustaceans from the North Atlantic. With over 25 museums, sport arenas, good shopping possibilities and a perfect mixture of old and new – this is definitely a city worth discovering.

MALMO, capital of the southern region Skane, was founded in the 11th century. Explore the medieval Malmohus Castle from the 14th century. Gaze up at the twisted apartment building Turning Torso, Malmo's landmark, by Spanish architect Calatrava. It is located in a new award-winning ecological housing area, The Western Harbour, built on the former industrial grounds of a shipyard. Malmo is a multicultural city where traditions of other cultures have been woven into old Scanian traditions. In magical summer evenings the sky and the sea blend into a radiant blue background to the graceful Oresund Bridge.

VISBY, on the island of **GOTLAND**, was a prominent member of the Hanseatic Union in the 12th and 13th century. The old medieval ramparts rather attract than keep visitors out these days and during the Medieval Week in August you can rub shoulders with knights in

shining armor and try medieval gourmet fare.

The entire southern part of the island of **OLAND** has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its extraordinary biodiversity and prehistory. Discover some rare species of orchids and visit Tall John, a lighthouse where migrating birds flock on their journey to warmer destinations.

LAPLAND in the far north offers expansive wilderness, vibrant cities, white sandy beaches, the traditions of the Sami people and the first and original Ice Hotel.

DALECARLIA is probably the most Swedish region in Sweden. Come celebrate a traditional Midsummer, where you dance around the flower decked Maypole until early morning! Pick your own favorite wooden Dala Horse! Go on a beaver or moose safari! If you are the sporty type, measure your skills to that of 40 000 other cross-country skiers in the yearly Vasaloppet, based on the legendary King Gustav Vasa's escape in 1520, on skis, from the King of Denmark. In Mora you can visit the magnificent museum of the world famous artist Anders Zorn, who was frequently hired to portrait American presidents and high society members in Europe in the early 20th century. In Sundborn the former home of another Swedish painter, Carl Larsson, is guaranteed to charm your socks off. Music anyone? Dalhalla is a former limestone quarry, transformed into an outstanding open-air concert arena. Here you can enjoy world class performers and Swedish artists in the light summer nights.

SMALAND is the part of Sweden from which most of the 1.3 million Swedes that emigrated to North America between 1840 and 1930 originated. Today Smaland is home to IKEA, Pippi Longstocking and the Kingdom of Crystal. Here you can enjoy a close-up view of skilled glassblowers transforming the syrupy molten glass into beautiful work of art. Complete your day with a traditional "Hytt sill", hot-shop herring.

