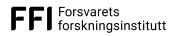




Proposal for the 29th International Conference on Information Fusion in 2026 Trondheim, Norway







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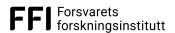






Photo: Mykola Ksenofontov / Visit Trondheim.

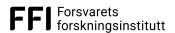
## **WELCOME TO TRONDHEIM!**

The small city or the large village. Trondheim, with its 182 000 inhabitants has the best of both: it is small enough to both easily find your way around and feel the informal generosity among people which you can experience in small places. Yet it is large enough to overwhelm you with its enrichment, might it be in culture, food or especially: technological advancement. Trondheim is considered the tech capital of Norway, with between 50 and 70 new tech companies being established each year. One reason for this is that the largest university in Norway. The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norwegian: Norges teknisk-naturvitenskaplige universitet, NTNU) is located in Trondheim, has 40 000 students, attracts the best students in Norway and is also very popular among foreign students. Together with SINTEF – which can be considered as the bridge between industry and research - and 7000 researchers, this makes science permeate the whole city.

Trondheim is today the third biggest city of Norway. It is placed in the middle of Norway at latitude 63.4 degrees north and longitude 10.4 degrees east. Here, it takes advantage of the Gulf stream which yields a warmer temperature than other places at the same latitude. By the time of the conference, you can expect a daytime temperature between 15 and 20 degrees Celsius, and thanks to the northern location, the sun will be up at more than 20 hours per day.

Together with the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (Norwegian: Forsvarets Forskningsinsitutt, <u>FFI</u>), NTNU have had the most extensive activity at previous Fusion conferences among research organizations in Norway. Trondheim is therefore the most natural location for hosting Fusion 2026 in Norway.







## ORGANIZING TEAM

In putting together the organizing team for this bid, we have aimed for a balance between strong support in the Norwegian Fusion community and well-known names who have extensive experience of organizing Fusion. The team is led by the two general chairs Edmund Førland Brekke and Gustaf Hendeby.

#### Edmund Førland Brekke (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway)

Edmund Brekke is Associate Professor in Sensor Fusion at the Department of Engineering Cybernetics at NTNU. His MSc thesis focused on seismic inversion, while his PhD thesis was on tracking in clutter. Before his current appointment, he worked on underwater navigation as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Acoustic Research Lab at the National University of Singapore (NUS). His main research interests are in sensor fusion for marine surface autonomy, with a particular focus on the use of multi-target tracking in autonomous collision avoidance systems.

Dr. Brekke is since 2018 an Associate Editor for the



IEEE Journal of Oceanic Engineering in the areas of target tracking, SLAM, inertial navigation, collision avoidance and autonomous vehicles. He has played a pivotal role in establishing the current research activites on maritime surface autonomy at NTNU as manager or key resarcher in the Autosea, Autosit, Autoferry and Autosight projects, as well as the centre for research-based innovation SFI Autoship. He is a co-founder of Zeabuz AS, which developed and provided the autonomy system used in the world's first trial operation of an autonomous passenger ferry. Dr. Brekke is the author of 90 peer-reviewed papers on sensor fusion, motion control and autonomy, of which more than 20 are journal papers.

#### Gustaf Hendeby (Linköping University, Sweden)

Gustaf Hendeby is Associate Professor and Docent at the division of Automatic Control, Department of Electrical Engineering, Linköping University. He worked as Senior Researcher at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) 2009--2011, as Senior Scientist at Swedish Defense Research Agency (FOI) and held an adjunct Associate Professor position at Linköping University 2011--2015. His main research interests are sensor fusion and stochastic signal processing with applications to nonlinear problems, target tracking, and simultaneous localization and mapping (SLAM),

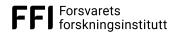


and he is the author of several published articles and conference papers in the area. He has experience of both theoretical analysis as well as implementation aspects.

Dr. Hendeby is since 2018 an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems in the area of target tracking and multisensor systems, and since 2021 leader of the WASP Localization and Navigation Area Cluster. He has attended every Fusion conference but one since 2012, served as general chair for the 25th Fusion conference in Linköping, Sweden, 2022, and as Technical Chair for the 26th Fusion conference in Charleston, SC, 2023 and has a good understanding what is expected of the arrangements. Furthermore, he serves in the ISIF Board of Directors (2023-2025).

An overview of the entire organizing team is provided in the table on the next page:





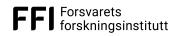


Role	Persons	Affiliation		
General chairs	Edmund Brekke Gustaf Hendeby	NTNU Linköping University		
Technical chairs	Fredrik Gustafsson Audun Jøsang Narada Dilp Warakagoda	Linköping University University of Oslo FFI		
Program chairs	Ondrej Straka Elisa Shahbazian	University of West Bohemia OODA Technologies		
Tutorial chairs	Pierluigi Salvo Rossi Angel Garcia-Fernandez	NTNU University of Liverpool		
Special session chairs	Simon Maskell Pramod Varshney	University of Liverpool Syracuse University		
Sponsor chairs	Brita Gade Carina Norberg Vooren	FFI FFI		
Awards chairs	Stefan Werner Anne-Laure Jousselme	NTNU CS Group		
Local arrangement chair	Torleiv Bryne	NTNU		
Financial chair	Steve Løkkeberg Harila	NTNU		
Publications chair	Lyudmila Mihaylova	University of Sheffield		
Publicity chairs	Zhansheng Duan Erik Blasch Roslyn Lau	Xi'an Jiaotong University Air Force Research Laboratory DST Group		

# **CONFERENCE SIZE**

With exception of the first two Fusion conferences, and the conference during Covid-19 in 2021, no Fusion conference has had significantly fewer than 250 attendees. Thus, we consider 250 as a lower bound for the number of attendees. On the other hand, only two Fusion conferences have had 450 or more attendees. The conference in Linköping, which in many ways is like Trondheim, had 311 attendees. Based on this, we consider the possibilities of 250, 300 and 400 attendees in our budget. We believe that many local researchers, both at NTNU and in the local industry, will be interested in attending the conference. Trondheim is inside the Schengen Area, and well connected to major aviation hubs, so that travel to Trondheim is as straightforward as to any location in the European Union. Furthermore, hotel prices are significantly lower than in metropoles such as, e.g., London.





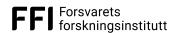


# **FINANCIAL PLAN**

The following budget is presented in USD, whereas the underlying financial plan is in Norwegian Crowns (NOK) to minimize the risks associated with changing exchange rates as the major costs will be paid in NOK. Attendance fees are inclusive of VAT, all other numbers are exlusive of VAT.

_		]	Revenue				-
Projected attendance		Low (250)		Medium (300)		High (400)	
	Fee	#	Revenue	#	Revenue	#	Revenue
Earlybird - Regular	911	170	123958	204	148750	272	198333
Earlybird - Student	521	32	13333	39	16250	52	21667
Standard - Regular	1042	42	35000	51	42500	68	56667
Standard - Student	651	6	2604	6	3125	8	4167
Tutorials	194	74	27210	88	32446	119	43732
Sponsorship			26268		26268		26268
Total income			228374		269339		350833
		1	Expenses		G .		G .
			Costs		Costs		Costs
Publicity							
Website			725		725		725
Printed program			5163		5163		5163
Administration							
PCO packages			8673		10290		13524
Credit card fees			906		1359		1359
Accounting			2038		2446		3261
Conference							
Hotel packages			64466		77301		103188
Parallel sessions			24185		24185		24185
Bags, USB, etc.			22645		27174		36232
Unforeseen expenses			1812		1812		1812
Publications							
Conference catalysts			2717		2717		2717
Easychair license fee			1178		1178		1178
Catering / social program							
Welcome reception			19293		20199		22917
Banquet			29099		34284		44656
Entertainment			1630		1359		1359
Social program			10870		10870		10870
ISIF Board meeting			3080		3080		3080
Plenary speakers			6069		6069		6069
Tutorial fees			3401		4056		5466
Total expenses			207948		234264		287758
Surplus		-	20426	-	35075		63075







### Risk and surplus

To reach the desired surplus of 30K USD the conference should have more than 285 paying attendees and more than 25K USD in sponsor revenue. With higher numbers of participants, the surplus may become significantly higher. The conference will fail to break even if we have less than 250 attendees *and* less than 6K USD in sponsor revenue. However, we anticipate that even a handful of small to medium enterprises (SMEs) would be able to provide most of this sponsor revenue. Furthermore, the Research Council of Norway has traditionally sponsored similar conferences with up to 10K USD. If we expect a very low number of attendees in late 2025 or early 2026, we may want to reduce some of the expenses. One such measure could be to arrange the conference at the NTNU campus instead of at a hotel. Note that this can only be done if the conference is arranged in June.

# **CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The outline of the program will be decided only in 2025 in order to ensure relevance to the research frontier in 2026. We plan to keep the same focus as Fusion conferences in recent years. We fill further push topics that are relevant to Norwegian industry, such as maritime applications, autonomy, arctic situational awareness, offshore surface and seafloor surveillance, multi-agent systems, biomedial instrumentation and medical imaging. This is important in order to encourage a large number of local attendees. We plan a similar student program as for previous Fusion Conferences, i.e., no poster session.

The profiles of the technical chairs reflect a diversified approach to information fusion, including low-level fusion (including tracking and navigation), high-level fusion as well as machine learning. Furthermore, both academia and the defence sector are represented among the technical chairs. Similarly, we have also aimed for some level of diversity among special session chairs and tutorial chairs.

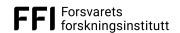
# **CONFERENCE DATES**

We propose two alternative dates of the conference, including one tutorial day:

- Tuesday June 23rd to Friday June 26th 2026, or
- Tuesday July 7th to Friday July 10th 2026.

The Scandinavian members of the organizing team have a strong preference for June. The most important reason for this is holiday traditions. Most Scandinavians take summer vacation during July, and they typically travel abroad or to summer houses in the mountains or near the coast. This means that the number of local attendees will be lower in July than in June. Also, most of the public sector, including NTNU, closes down in July, meaning that the available services of the university will be very limited. In contrast, late June is an ideal time for experiencing summer in Trondheim, as there will be daylight almost 24 hours a day. The main challenge with June is that the submission deadlines will need to be slightly earlier than at most previous Fusion conferences.







## **CONFERENCE FACILITIES**

The formal responsibility for arranging the Fusion 2026 conference will be given to NTNU Konferanser, which is NTNU's own Professional Conference Organizer (PCO). NTNU Konferanser has extensive experience with arranging similar conferences, and they have established collaboration with all the main conference hotels in Trondheim. In accordance with tender rules in the public sector of Norway, NTNU Konferanser will send a tender request to the main conference hotels in Trondheim after Trondheim has been awarded the 2026 Fusion conference. There exist at least 3 hotels with capacity for the conference: Clarion Hotel & Congress, Scandic Nidelven and Scandic Lerkendal. Among these, we consider Clarion Hotel & Congress the most ideal venue due to its size and location. Scandic Nidelven also has a central location, and extraordinary food options, but chosing this hotel would require us to cap the number of participants at 400. Scandic Lerkendal is also huge, but outside of the city center.

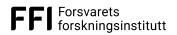
Clarion Hotel & Congress is located on the harbor of Trondheim, right next to Pirbadet (the largest indoor waterpark) and Rockheim (Norway's national center for pop and rock). The harbor basin next to Clarion is frequently used by NTNU cybernetics students as a testing ground for maritime autonomy research.





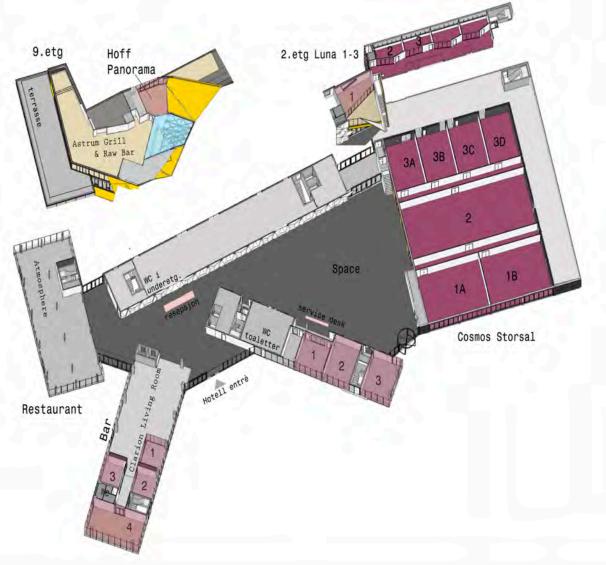
The hotel has a total of 400 rooms and suites. The conference center has 18 meeting rooms with a total area of 3053 square meters. The largest meeting room can take up to 1800 attendees, but is frequently divided into smaller rooms for conferences with parallel sessions. The large meeting room can also host the banquet, even if the number of attendees surpasses the record from previous Fusion conferences (491 attendees).



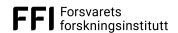














### TRAVEL TO TRONDHEIM

There are several options when it comes to the choice of itinerary to Trondheim. The short and effective option is by plane.

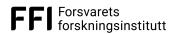
- <u>Trondheim Airport</u> is located 30 km north of Trondheim, and can be reached by a 50-minute flight from <u>Oslo Airport Gardermoen</u> 24 times per day. You can arrive from abroad with certain airlines and fly onward domestically without collecting your luggage (<u>Transfer Oslo Airport Avinor</u>).
- The following cities have direct flights to Trondheim airport: Alicante, Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Gdansk, Helsinki, Krakow, Las Palmas, London, Malaga, Manchester, Nice, Riga, Split and Stockholm. There are daily flights to and from the major hubs London, Amsterdam and Copenhagen.



There are several bus services from Trondheim airport to the city of Trondheim (every 20 min on weekdays), or you can go by train, taxi or rent a car:

- The bus service <u>Værnes Ekspressen</u> takes only 25 minutes to the city center. It stops right outside the door at most hotels in Trondheim City Center, and costs 20 USD.
- The <u>train</u> takes about 35 minutes from the airport to Trondheim central station (walking distance from both Clarion and Scandic Nidelven) and cost about 4 USD.
- Taxi costs from 60 to 70 USD if the taxi is not shared with others.
- Six car rental companies operate at Trondheim Airport (Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Europear, Hertz and Sixt).







If you happen to have extra time when travelling to Norway, you can experience some of the beauty of the Norwegian nature. You can either take the 7-hour journey on the Dovre train line which has its highest point at 1024 meters, or you can rent a car and tailor your own trip along the magnificent sceneries that Norway offers. The distance from Oslo Airport to Trondheim is 450 km and takes about 6 hours to drive. You can even choose to arrive to Norway at Bergen, and enter the Hurtigruten boats that will take you to Trondheim in two nights and one day. This will give you an unforgettable view of the Norwegian coastline with its spectacular mountains and fjords.

#### If you choose the **train**:

There are several departures from Oslo to Trondheim both with day train and overnight options. The trip takes around 7 hours.

#### If you choose the car:

There are several big car rental companies that offer one way car rental options. Among these are Sixt, Avis and Hertz.

#### If you choose the boat:

The seaways of the Norwegian fjords from Bergen with the famous Coastal Express is your possibility through the use of <u>Hurtigruten</u>. The boat stops just outside the Clarion hotel on the harbor every day.

### **NORWAY**

**Official name:** The Kingdom of Norway.

Capital: Oslo.

Form of government: Parliamentary, representative democratic constitutional monarchy.

**Population:** 5.5 million.

**Time zone:** Central European Time (CET).

Dialing zone: +47

Currency: Norwegian krone, NOK. 1 EUR = 12 NOK, 1 USD = 11 NOK as of June 2023.

Measures: Metric system.

**Drinking water:** Tap water is safe to drink everywhere. Most Norwegian people drink tap water most of the time and bottled water is seen as something to drink if you forget to bring a water bottle.

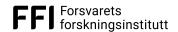
**Opening hours:** Banks are usually open Monday-Friday 10:00-15:00. In the cities, most stores are open 10:00-18:00. Shopping malls have longer opening hours, and grocery stores are often open until 21:00. Outside of the cities, the stores often close earlier on Saturdays. Most stores (grocery stores included) are usually not open on Sundays.

**NATO member:** Norway has been an active participant in NATO since the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington on the 4th of April 1949.

**EU member:** Norway is <u>not</u> a member of the EU. However, Norway is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Schengen area.

**Visa:** Citizens of the United States, EU, the Shengen area and other countries with which Norway has an agreement, do not need a Visa to visit Norway. Other people need a Schengen visa to visit Norway.







The country of Norway has a long coastline with many beautiful fjords, and a massive mountain range. The mountain range runs through the Scandinavian Peninsula, and is called the Scandes. The majority of the Scandes is on the Norwegian side of the peninsula, with its highest peak, Galdhøpiggen, at 2469 meters above sea level. Norway also has more than 2500 glaciers, and the glacier <u>Jostedalsbreen</u> is the largest glacier in continental Europe.

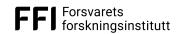
Norway reaches from 57 to 78 degrees north. The climate is greatly affected by the mountain range, and the Gulf Stream. This makes winters in Norway mild and wet along the coast, while in the mountains and in eastern parts of the country, the winters are usually cold, with plenty of snow. In the summer, the average temperature span from 13-18 degrees Celsius, however the temperature often rises above 20 degrees Celsius in the middle of the day. The weather changes rather quickly in Norway, and therefore we have a saying "Det finnes ikke dårlig vær, bare dårlige klær" which means: "There is no bad weather, only bad clothing". However, Trondheim has a rather stable weather, compared to other coastal cities in Norway, since the mountains surrounding the city, are only around 500 meters above sea level.

Nature has always been of significant importance in Norway. The stereotype of the typical Norwegian who pursues "friluftsliv" is often true: There is a great love and respect among Norwegians for the outdoor activities close to the wilderness. The right to pursue this is maintained through <u>Allemansretten</u>, which is the right to travel across private grounds in nature, to temporarily stay there, and to pick wild berries, fruit, mushrooms and some plants.



*The pulpit rock near the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city Stavanger in the south of Norway is a popular tourist destination.* 







# HOTELS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT

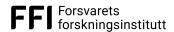
There is a large amount of hotels in the city center of Trondheim, showing a wide variety and covering a large price range. Within 15 minutes walking distance from the Clarion Hotel and Congress or Scandic Nidelven you find these among several more (click on the hotel names for more detail):

HOTELS	# ROOMS	Approximate price per room per night (USD)
Clarion Hotel and Congress	400	145 (double) – 409 (suite)
Scandic Nidelven	343	155 (single) – 282 (suite)
Radisson Blu Royal Garden	298	118 (single) – 336 (suite)
Scandic Bakklandet	169	136 (single) – 318 (suite)
Thon Hotel Trondheim	107	91 (single) – 155 (family room)
Comfort Hotel Park	120	136 (double) – 173 (suite)
Quality Hotel Prinsen	122	127 (double) – 327 (suite)
Britannia Hotel	224	273 (double) – 545 (suite)
Thon Hotel Nidaros	163	118 (single) – 182 (business room)
Clarion Collection Hotel Grand Olav	106	155 (double) – 200 (double)
Quality hotel Augustin	136	118 (single) – 327 (suite)
Scandic Solsiden	155	127 (double) – 318 (family room)
Trondheim Vandrerhjem	98 beds	100 (double) – 155 (family room)
Best Western Chesterfield Hotel	54	118 (single) – 191 (family room)
Best Western Plus Hotel Bakeriet	117	127 (single) – 173 (family room)



Since the Trondheim city center is fairly compact, most locations of interest will be within walking distance of all these hotels. Trondheim is also served by an extensive network of bus routes. Ticket prices are 4 USD for a single ticket, 12 USD for a day ticket and 27 USD for a week ticket. Taxis can be booked at all hotels, but will typically cost 5-10 times as much as a bus ticket.







### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

We intend to arrange the welcome reception of the conference at <u>Erkebispegården</u> (the Archbishop's Palace) next to the Nidaros Cathedral, Norway's national sanctuary hosted by the community of Trondheim. This will include a complimentary organ concert for all attendees of the conference. In addition to this, a possibility is to arrange an informal pre-conference get-together at the local brewery <u>E. C. Dahls</u>. We plan to arrange the banquet dinner at the conference hotel.



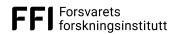
Norwegian industry and researchers are world leading in several areas related to information fusion, in particular related to offshore technology, marine autonomy and defense. Many innovations, such as ultrasonic imaging and dynamic positioning, can be traced back to NTNU, which has the strongest technical profile among all Norwegian universities. Based on this, and the strong maritime profile of the local industry, Trondheim is known as the "silicon harbor" of Norway.

The organizing team will therefore engage the local industry and research communities to showcase concrete projects, inventions and products of relevance to the Fusion community. In particular, this includes <u>Kongsberg</u>, <u>DNV</u>, members of the <u>Ocean Autonomy Cluster</u> (including <u>Maritime Robotics</u> and <u>Zeabuz</u>), <u>SINTEF</u> and researchers working on autonomous passenger ferries at NTNU. The autonomous passenger ferry milliAmpere 2 carried more than a thousand passengers during its trial operation in 2022. A new trial operation is planned for the summer 2023, and milliAmpere 2, or a more advanced successor, will most likely be available as a short-cut between the Brattøra harbor (where Clarion is located) and the city center for the Fusion 2026 attendees.



milliAmpere 2 with passengers disembarking during the trial operation in September 2022.







Trondheim has a long and rich history which dates back to to the year 997 when it was founded by Viking king Olav Tryggvason. Between the years 1030 and 1270 it was the capital of Norway. During these years the construction of the cathedral <u>Nidarosdomen</u> started and it was finished for the first time in 1320. It is the northernmost historical pilgrim destination in Europe and still today pilgrims from all over the world come to visit the cathedral, just as they have done since the Middle Ages. Other than that, both Trondheim and its surroundings are full of historical events and buildings. You can spend days in the UNESCO world heritage site <u>Røros</u>, enjoy a coffee at Trondheim's most photogenic neighborhood <u>Bakklandet</u>, or take a day at either the folk museum <u>Sverresborg</u> or the island <u>Munkholmen</u>; a few examples of what Trondheim has to offer.

While talking of Trondheim, we must not forget the food. Trondheim claims to be the food capital of Norway and this might just be true since the region won the European region of Gastronomy in 2022. Many meetings are solely placed in the region because of the food alone. Apart from local food. The city is full of cozy cafes and Nordic cuisine restaurants, including five with Michelin stars, where local producers, brewers and foragers offer world-class flavors. Some sample prices for restaurant meals are 11 USD for McDonalds/Kebab, 15-18 USD for pizza (Egon or Una Pizzeria), 18-34 USD for sushi buffet (Sabrura og Sushime), 40+USD for steak and 16 USD for a pint of beer.

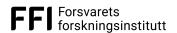
Finally, nature: When it comes to nature, Trondheim and its surroundings can offer so much. The Nordic countries are so lucky to have <u>Allemannsretten</u> (the right to roam), which gives you fantastic possibilities to enjoy nature from close view. We recommend the following places close to Trondheim city:

- The area of <u>Ilabekken</u> and <u>Theisendammen</u> connects the western city center with the park and nature reserve <u>Bymarka</u>.
- <u>Ladestien</u> is perhaps the most popular hiking trail in Trondheim and extends 8 km from Ladehammeren to Rotvollfjæra. Ladestien is a wonderful way to experience the Trondheimsfjord, which, by the way, is the first official test area for autonomous ships in Norway. Ladestien is a prime candidate location for the traditional Fusion 5km run.
- Some of the best vantage points in Trondheim are Våttåkammen, Gråkallen and Geitfjellet in bymarka, Tyholttårnet and Clarion skybar.



Photo: Mykola Ksenofontov / Visit Trondheim.







### **PUBLICITY PLANS**

We will pursue the following strategies to increase the publicity around the Fusion conference:

- Strong presence at Fusion 2025 to market Trondheim, possibly including a booth at the conference.
- A clear strategy for sending out emails to attendees of previous Fusion conferences. Working with ISIF to develop a good branding of these emails.
- Make use of IEEE to spread the word.
- Propose special sessions to which a wider group of potential attendees can be invited.
- Make a publicity-friendly web page of the conference, taking search engine optimization into account.
- Well ahead of the conference, stress test the registration system to ensure that registration is easy for potential attendees.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

We will bring in IEEE AES as co-sponsor of the conference, and this way ensuring that the papers are published in IEEExplore. We will use the standard ISIF copyright clause.

### LIABILITY

The formal responsibility for the conference belongs to NTNU through NTNU Konferanser and the service providers hired by NTNU Konferanser, such as the conference hotel. As a state organization, NTNU is prevented by law from purchasing any kind of insurance, including liability insurance. This is because the state according to Norwegian law is "self assurer", thus taking direct responsibility for any potential claims. We will require appropriate insurances of the service providers in the tender requests.



Vår saksbehandler Rita Ottervik Vår ref. 2023/7647 oppgis ved alle henvendelser Deres ref.

Dato 09.06.2023

#### Trondheim – The compact knowledge city and Norway's Technology Capital

Trondheim is home to Norway's largest university, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, and Scandinavia's largest private research organisation, SINTEF. This translates into a dynamic citizen population where one in five inhabitants are registered students and one in seven inhabitants work within the knowledge and innovation sectors, heavily focussed on technology.

Students, researchers and citizens alike are encouraged to test their ideas out and co-create methodology to mitigate global challenges, using Trondheim as a starting arena and an interactive living lab.

Norwegian industry and research are world leading in several areas related to sensor fusion, in particular within offshore technology, marine autonomy and defense.

Trondheim hosts and organizes several national and international conferences as well as cultural and sports events every year. Among many exhibitions, the city is a proud host of the world's largest aquaculture exhibition, Aqua Nor, with more than 17 500 visitors from more than 60 nations.

The Fusion 2026 conference will be most welcome to Trondheim in 2026 and the conference will draw our full attention and receive support during the conference.

Sincerely yours,

Rita Ottervik Mayor of Trondheim

Elektronisk dokumentert godkjenning uten underskrift

Fakultet for informasjonsteknologi og elektroteknikk

Vår dato Vår referanse

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Deres referanse

### **FUSION 26'**

NTNU's vision is Knowledge for a better world. Al, robotics, and the drive for autonomous vehicles and system is impacting our world and will have a significant impact on our society in future. Research on these topics is part of NTNU's research and education portfolio and will increase in the years to come as part of realizing our vision in an everchanging world.

NTNU aims to be internationally competitive and attractive to talented staff, students and foster international collaboration by being in the forefront within AI, sensor fusion and autonomous systems. Hosting international conferences is a vital part of our strategy to reach our vision as an attractive institution to work at, study and collaborate with. It is therefore with great pleasure we support the initiative to host the International Conference of Information Fusion (FUSION) here in Trondheim in 2026.

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I recommend the ISIF board of directors to appoint NTNU as the organizer of the FUSION'26 conference.

Yours sincerely,

Ingelin Steinsland,

Vice dean research

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