

# THE OPEN RESEARCH PLATFORM NOVA FoU (R&D)

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## Abstract

Nova Center for University Studies, Research and Development (Nova) in Oskarshamn gives university courses, conducts research and performs business development ([www.novaoskarshamn.se](http://www.novaoskarshamn.se)). Nova is contributing to the long-term growth in the region by creating networks between academia, business and society.

Nova FoU (R&D) is the research platform at Nova, a collaboration between Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Co. (SKB) and the municipality of Oskarshamn. Nova FoU facilitates external access for research and development projects outside the nuclear business to the SKB facilities, data and competences in Oskarshamn. The aim of Nova FoU is through research create local and regional spin-off effects in favour for the society and business. Nova FoU provides access to the following SKB facilities:

- Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory (HRL)
- Bentonite Laboratory at Äspö
- Canister Laboratory in Oskarshamn
- Site Investigation Oskarshamn (Laxemar)

The Nova FoU platform also offers access to the harbor remediation project in Oskarshamn which is the largest environmental project in Sweden.

The number of research projects at Nova FoU has increased steadily during the seven years of operation. The actual situation year 2016 is:

- 34 ongoing scientific projects representing a value of 55 million SEK
- 160 researchers use Nova FoU as a research platform
- 10 domestic and international universities in addition public organizations and companies conduct research through Nova FoU
- 46 peer review publications per year

The Nova FoU research platform is used for the following type of research:

- Geosphere projects with an environmental and fundamental natural science focus
- Geotechnology used in infrastructure projects such as underground construction of e.g. tunnels
- Geothermal research for energy production from deep (1-7 km) boreholes
- Demonstration, education and public relations that are an important part of the Nova FoU activities. The aim is to inform about the unique technology and know-how in e.g. nuclear technology and to attract new research projects to the open research platform Nova FoU.

Nova FoU can be regarded as the rehearsal for the planned National Geosphere Laboratory (NGL) project which will transform Äspö HRL into a national and international research infrastructure.