

Invitation to High-level Select Roundtable Discussion

Unlocking Nordic testbeds: Removing cross-border barriers to innovation

12 March 2026 | 11:00–14:00 | Swedish Embassy in Oslo

Moderated by Caitriona Mullan,
B-Solutions Advisor and Cross-Border Expert, AEBR

Agenda

The purpose of the roundtable will be to provide key stakeholders with an opportunity to review the evidence, and to discuss and identify appropriate next steps toward achieving Nordic collaboration on testbeds and research infrastructure – in ways which can amplify innovation ecosystems beyond borders and improve access for companies seeking to innovate, develop and grow.

Format: The approach to each session will be that the speakers named will each speak for no more than 5 minutes to convey their perspective and ideas. The Moderator will then guide a participative discussion, inviting responses and interactions from those around the table. For the lunchtime session, guests will be served lunch at the outset and a discussion will ensue over the meal.

Agenda on the next page >>



Agenda

10:30 – 11:00

Registration and refreshments

11:00 – 11:20

Welcome by the Ambassador of Sweden to Norway,
H.E. Mikael Eriksson

Introduction by the moderator Caitriona Mullen,
Association of European Border Regions

Enhancing the Nordic innovation climate through improved collaboration on testbeds

Annika Daisley, The Svinesund Committee and
Dr. Kjell Nilsson, Nilsson Landscape (*b-Solutions
case expert*)

11:20 – 12:00 | Session 1: Research infrastructure

Imagining solutions for problems experienced: what
is needed from agencies and the Nordic Council of
Ministers respectively? Can we draw any inspiration
from ESS and are there any lessons learnt from a
successful European competition?

Session 1 Speaker remarks:

The cooperation between Oslo Science City and Astra Zeneca

Idar Kreutzer, International Director, NHO and
Christine Wergeland Sørbye, CEO Oslo Science City

Joint Nordic Research infrastructure cooperation and research funding

Arne Flåøyen, former Director of NordForsk

European Spallation Source – a result of successful Nordic collaboration which will open for all who have a brilliant idea

Pia Kinhult, Head of Host States Relations, ESS

12:00 – 12:30 | Session 2: Testbeds

The view from industry and the regions: how open
and competitive are Nordic testbeds from a Nordic
perspective? What actions can be taken in order to
make Nordic testbeds more competitive?

Session 2 Speaker Remarks:

The access to testbeds – a Swedish overview

Adam Edström, Director, fiber optics, photonics and
twin transition, RISE

Anders Carlberg, Senior Strategist, Region Västra Gö-
taland

Manufacturing Technology – a Norwegian catapult center with an interesting concept

Emma Østerbø, General Manager at Manufacturing
Technology Norwegian Catapult Centre and NCE
Manufacturing

12.30 – 13:50 | Session 3: Lunchtime Discussion

Strategy, Policy and Solutions

This session will explore issues emerging from the
previous session and will explore further questions
such as:

- Could the Nordic countries' research and innovation
infrastructure be used more effectively and if so, how?
- How can Vinnova and Innovation Norway contribute
to better access to the national R&I infrastructure?
- Which initiatives can be taken by Nordic Innovation?
What political initiatives can be taken for improving our
innovation climate and make it easier for new compa-
nies to develop their products?

Initial Remarks from:

Sindre S. Bornstein, Managing Director, Nordic
Innovation, Darja Isaksson Director-General,
Vinnova, and Håkon Haugli, CEO, Innovation Norway

The political dimension – Members of the Committee of Economic Development, Norwegian Parliament

Additional Remarks from:

Solveig Vitanza, Norwegian Labour Party and
Erlend Larsen, Norwegian Conservative Party

13:50 – 14:00 | Next Steps and Summing Up



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