SERC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM SMART EXPLORATION RESEARCH CENTER

SUMMER 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY!

Our third General Assembly, GA26, was conducted in Stockholm in August at our core partner **Tyréns** and hosted by Mats Svensson. The three day meeting started of by a site visit at the **Epiroc** test mine in Nacka and was ended with a two day geological excursion to the island of **Utö** in the southern Stockholm archipelago, guided by Iain Pitcairn. The meeting gathered nearly 60 persons and was focused on presenting the scientific progresses made within our four thematic hubs.





Ronne Hamerslag & Johan Högnäs

Partnership Excellence Award

Our first Partnership Excellence Award was awarded **Nordic Iron** as a recognition of their exceptional commitment to SERC, openness to collaboration, access to real-world exploration challenges and their long-term support of our research and innovation.

Excellence in Scientific Communication Award

For the second time **Arianna Koufopoulou** was awarded for her outstanding ability to communicate science clearly, creatively and engagingly. Arianna stood out for turning excellent research into a message that connects with audiences, exactly the kind of skill we want to encourage among our early-career researchers.



Arianna Koufopoulou

UPDATES

Dissertation

The Smart Exploration Research Center congratulates **Lea Gyger** on successfully defending her thesis and obtaining the title PhD in in Uppsala in June!

The thesis, *Advancing Subsurface Imaging for Mineral Exploration Through Broadband Acquisition, Surface DAS, and SWD in Blötberget, Sweden*, is an important contribution to geophysical methods for mineral exploration and subsurface imaging.



Student theses

In May **Alva Ekstam** presented her BSc thesis *Characterization of Rock Mass Properties from Measurement While Drilling (MWD):Validation through Logging and Drill Core Mapping.* Supervisor was Maria Ask, Uppsala University.

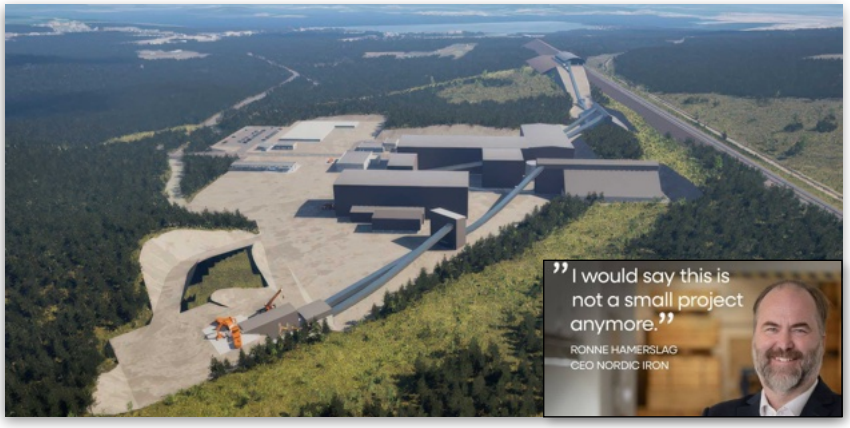
In June **Viktor Börjesson** presented his MSc thesis *The Alkaline Rocks of Almunge (Central Sweden): Age, Petrogenesis and REE potential.* Supervisor was Hannes Mattsson, Uppsala University.

In August **Eman Elfakharani** presented her MSc thesis *Upper Crustal structures of the Blötberget mining area, central Sweden. 2D reflection reprocessing of a space 3D dataset. Supervisor was Alireza Malehmir, Uppsala University.*

FROM OUR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

Nordic Iron

The plans for Nordic Iron's future mining operations in Blötberget and Väsmanfältet are taking on an increasingly clear shape. New renderings show how the planned above-ground facility at Skeppmora might look like. The area is located roughly between Blötberget, Gräsmossen, and the existing railroad.



Viscaria

During August, the Exploration Geophysics group at Uppsala University conducted a seismic survey at the Viscaria mine in Kiruna, northern Sweden. A combination of 3000 nodal seismic recorders and multiple downhole DAS fibre-optic cables will provide key structural insights into the deposits in the area. The survey is a collaboration between Uppsala University, Viscaria and BitSimNOW (Prevas), and is conducted through the **NAVIS** research project which has received funding from Swedish Metals and Minerals and Swedish Energy Agency.

FIELD WORK

One of our exciting projects deals with the alum shale in the central Swedish-Norwegian Caledonides: *Deciphering geological processes responsible for formation of selected REE and graphite deposits through combined petrological and geophysical approach*. This summer our PhD student **Edgar Alan Martinez-Salinas** visited the Tåsjön and Trollheimen regions and performed detailed samplings in cross-sections, mainly along rivers, and targeted alum shale and black schists. The sampling is intended to track anomalous element enrichments (Uranium, Vanadium and Molybdenum) and link them to possible changes in lithology, structural domains, or tectonic blocks.



MEDIA ETC

Updated web site

Our web site www.smartexploration.se has undergone substantial reworking during the last year, including translation of (most pages) into Swedish, presenting more co-workers and Early Career Professionals, and lists of publications.

LinkedIn

During 2026 our LinkedIn page https://www.linkedin.com/company/smartexploration/ reached over 6000 followers and currently have more than 6800 persons or pages following us on our (almost) daily posts.

Youtube

The Centers YouTube channel, at https://www.youtube.com/@SmartExplorationResearchCenter now include all our filmed material including two MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) and short films from our meetings, seminars, field work etc.

Seminar series

The SERC lunch seminar series, organised by Stockholm University, has started again and will be announced on our website www.smartexploration.se and on LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/smartexploration/