

SERC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM SMART EXPLORATION RESEARCH CENTER

WINTER 2026

MEETINGS!

During this winter SERC has been present at several meetings, where the Nordic Geological Winter Meeting in Turku, Finland, was the main event where we were both exhibitors and sponsors.

Svemin Exploration day

In December our friends at Svemin organised a great day in central Stockholm that gathered a big part of the mining and exploration stakeholders from industry, government and academia. Our Center Director Alireza Malehmir was invited to talk about the successful investigations in Blötberget together with Nordic iron -Innovation Unleashed: Navigating the Path to Discovery at Blötberget.

Nordic Geological Winter Meeting

The Center was very well represented at the NGWM 2026 in Turku, Finland. More than 15 members of SERC were on site giving numerous presentations, showing posters, holding workshop etc. We also had our own booth in addition to being sponsors of the event.



SERC progress meeting in Gothenburg

In January our third annual Progress meeting was held in Gothenburg where Thomas Zack hosted us in the University Wallenberg conference center. Focus was on the center's scientific achievements and awarded for best poster and presentation was Arianna Koufopoulou, PhD student from Uppsala University.



UPDATES

New students and postdocs

Three new PhD students have recently joined the center: **Yaman Abu Jaish** in Lund and **Felix Van Santvliet** and **Florian Velter** in Uppsala. Yaman will work on "multi-scale petrophysical and geophysical characterisation of the subsurface for mineral exploration" under supervision of Tina Martin. Felix and Florian will both work on material from Viscaria in Kiruna with Magdalena Markovic and Alireza Malehmir as main supervisors. You are all very welcome to SERC!

Double award!

We are delighted to congratulate our two Early Career Professionals **Julia Sordyl** and **Samuel Zappalà** that both got awarded with the Uppsala University Jonas Bjurzon premium award "for an excellent thesis of scientific content written by a student or junior academic teacher"!



Mobility tracker

In addition to spreadsheets for Publications, Safety statistics and Projects, we now have launched a Mobility tracker that is live on our internal SharePoint site. All this to keep better track of the Center's progress and for more efficient dissemination of the results.

NEW FRIENDS OF THE CENTER

Viscaria



We welcome Viscaria as a new HREE Friend of the center! Viscaria is also part of the NAVIS project together with BitSimNOW and Uppsala University. Two of our new PhD students, Felix and Florian, have already started working on drill cores to collect data.



EMerald Geomodelling AS



EMerald Geomodelling is a tech company dedicated to revealing unknown ground conditions. As a LREE Friend they are able contribute to the center with advanced geophysical modelling and AI-driven interpretations. Collaborations like this is a key to shape a responsible future for mineral exploration. Welcome aboard EMerald!

FROM SOME OF OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS

EuroBattery Minerals



In January EuroBattery Minerals announced that they have successfully submitted applications for Strategic Project status under the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) for both the San Juan tungsten project in Spain and the Hautalampi battery mineral project in Finland.

Nordic Iron



In Blötberget Nordic Iron has now completed an extensive drilling program. Approximately 21,000 meters of core drilling, in totally 39 holes, indicates what could be the best intersection ever in Blötberget. These results strengthen the view of Blötberget's potential and indicate an increase in mineral resources by c. 20 million tonnes to a total of approximately 87 million tonnes. The drill program was based on earlier geophysical investigations conducted together with Smart Exploration Research Centre.

A NEW MINERAL DISCOVERED BY SERC HONORARY RESEARCHER

Åsgruvanit

A new mineral has been discovered in Norberg, named Åsgruvanit after the finding site. **Erik Jonsson**, state geologist at SGU and honorary associate researcher at SERC, have together with other researchers described the new mineral that is unusually rich in Rare Earth Elements (REE), especially Cerium (Ce). Read more:

<https://www.sgu.se/om-sgu/nyheter/2026/januari/asgruvanit/>

Our Four Hubs

The centers activities are organised in **four technical and scientific hubs** that in turn are interconnected through three main themes: Innovation-Digitalization, Footprints-Pathfinders, and Integration-Target Ranking.

Hub 1

Green Sensing Technologies;

Robotics, slimhole systems, geochem/petrophysics, UAV-ROV and digital platforms.

Hub 2

Mineral Systems;

Lithospheric endowment and geodynamics, ore forming processes.

Hub 3

Data Analytics & Geomodels;

Standardisation of databases, dynamic data and models. Machine-learning solutions, target ranking and vectors.

Hub 4

Secondary Resources & Geometallurgy;

Green methods for extraction of Rare Earth Elements (REE) from mine tailings.

