Investment opportunities in Digital Technologies

Region Östergötland

Linköping

Norrköping

ÖSTERGÖTLAND

Östergötland holds a strong position within digital technologies, with a long tradition of innovation dating back to the Datasaab era. Linköping University leads Sweden's largest investment in AI infrastructure, with world-class research in machine learning, visualization, cybersecurity, and connected systems. Visualiseringscentrum C in Norrköping and the National Supercomputer Centre are internationally recognized hubs for visualization, computation, and data-driven innovation.

The region hosts a dynamic business cluster within the Internet of Things, digital manufacturing, and software development, featuring companies such as Actia, SICK IVP, Configura, and Interspectral. The link between research and industry is strengthened through programs such as the Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP) and AI Sweden. The well-developed innovation support system—including LiU Innovation, LEAD, Linköping Science Park, and Norrköping Science Park—contributes to transforming research results into new growth companies. The combination of cutting-edge research, industry, and innovation environments makes Östergötland a key region for the digital technologies of the future.

Content

Disclaimer: This information is not exhaustive but provides examples of research, companies, and innovation-promoting actors in Östergötland.

Values that Östergötland can offer companies in Digital Technologies

Region Östergötland, together with the regional innovation support system, has developed a value proposition for companies considering establishing operations in the region.

This offer is designed to provide meaningful support through access to key support functions, research environments, strategic partnerships, and other resources that help businesses establish themselves in Östergötland. This value proposition includes, among other things, the following benefits:

- **Access to excellent expertise** in digital technologies through decades of research and development at Linköping University.
- **A strong tradition in advanced computing** and supercomputers, with national and European resources for AI and high-performance computing.
- **A cohesive innovation ecosystem** supporting the entire chain from early-stage research and idea development to commercialization and international expansion.
- **Strong clusters in visualization and image analysis**, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and connected systems, bringing together hundreds of companies.
- **Access to cutting-edge competencies in new materials**, semiconductor technology, and digital security—direct drivers of next-generation digital solutions.
- **A wide range of actors offering business development**, innovation support, internationalization support, and access to global markets.
- **A strong culture of collaboration** between academia, industry, and the public sector that drives the development of new technologies and solutions.

Regional strengths

Visualization and Image Analysis

Östergötland has a long tradition in visualization and image analysis, with world-leading research environments. Here, technologies are developed to process and visualize complex data—from industrial processes and urban planning to advanced decision-support systems. Visualiseringscentrum C in Norrköping is an internationally recognized hub combining research, innovation, and public outreach.

Connected Products and Systems

The region is strongly positioned in the development of connected products and systems, where Internet of Things and sensor technologies are combined with advanced software. Solutions are created for everything from smart cities and sustainable transportation to autonomous vehicles and digitalized industry. The broad ecosystem enables rapid scaling of ideas from prototype to international market.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Linköping University is one of Europe's seven AI "factories" and the center of Sweden's largest investment in AI infrastructure. The region hosts a growing cluster of companies and research environments applying AI and machine learning in areas such as image recognition, predictive analytics, industrial automation, and digital health. The combination of advanced research expertise and entrepreneurial actors creates a unique environment for developing future AI solutions.

Cybersecurity

Östergötland has strong capabilities within cybersecurity, both in research and industry. Solutions are developed for secure communication systems, digital infrastructure, and protection against cyber threats. The combination of university research and a growing ecosystem of companies creates a robust environment for cybersecurity technology development and application.

Advanced Manufacturing

Östergötland has a unique position with deep competence in advanced manufacturing technologies. Advanced materials represent a major area of opportunity within Digital Technologies. The region hosts leading research and expertise in creating new materials, utilizing advanced materials, and developing new manufacturing methods for existing materials.

Smart, Secure, and Robust Connected Products and Systems

Internet of Things, sensors, and AI are examples of areas where researchers and companies in Östergötland excel. This strength area builds on a combination of world-class research and high-tech companies.

Industrial structure

Digital technologies in Östergötland span several sub-sectors and form a broad innovation and industrial ecosystem. Prominent areas include:

- **Internet of Things** and connected products and systems — developing sensors, smart devices, and industrial platforms.
- **Artificial intelligence (AI)**, data analytics, and cybersecurity — focusing on processing large datasets and protecting digital systems.
- **Smart industry and digital manufacturing** — automation, digital twins, and connected components for industrial digitalization.
- **Digital infrastructure services and software** — such as cloud services and digital platforms.
- **Digitalization initiatives** within the public sector — smart cities, digital governance, and data-driven systems for municipalities and regions.

Examples of companies include larger actors such as Actia AB and SICK IVP AB, as well as consulting firms like HiQ and a range of smaller companies including Configura, Astacus, Dyno Robotics, Visage Technologies, Interspectral, Voysys, Sparsit, Infviz, Visiarc, Skymaker, Dubblett, and others.

The regional innovation support system

Östergötland's innovation support system is well developed and built on a long tradition of collaboration between academia, industry, the public sector, and entrepreneurs.

The support network includes a wide range of actors offering assistance throughout the innovation journey — from early ideas to internationally established companies.

- **LiU Innovation** provides advice and support to students, researchers, and employees on idea development, business creation, and financing.
- **LEAD Business Incubator** offers programs and resources for entrepreneurs seeking faster and more secure growth, whether through research-based spin-offs or new startups.

Key actors strengthening Digital technologies development in the region include:

- **Linköping Science Park**, a central meeting place for over 350 companies and 6,500 employees with a strong focus on innovation, growth, and knowledge exchange.
- **Norrköping Science Park**, offering an attractive environment for companies within digital technologies to establish their first commercial production and grow.
- **LiU Holding AB and LiU Invest AB**, providing early financing, business development, and networks to commercialize research results from Linköping University.

Examples of support areas include:

- Identification of potential innovations in research projects
- Support for entrepreneurs in both early and scaling phases
- Identification of public funding
- Analysis of production and processes
- Business model analysis
- Contacts with relevant researchers and public actors for planned establishment

Research at Linköping University

Linköping University is a national leader in digital technologies, combining strong interdisciplinary research with close collaboration across industry and the public sector. The university excels in areas such as AI, machine learning, autonomous systems, cybersecurity, and data-driven innovation, supported by leading environments like WASP, WISE and AI Sweden.

With expertise spanning software, hardware, embedded systems, and human–computer interaction, LiU delivers cutting-edge research that is rapidly translated into real-world applications. Strong ties to key industries – including aerospace, manufacturing, and health tech – together with advanced labs, testbeds, and a dynamic innovation ecosystem, position the university as a driving force in digital transformation.

Education

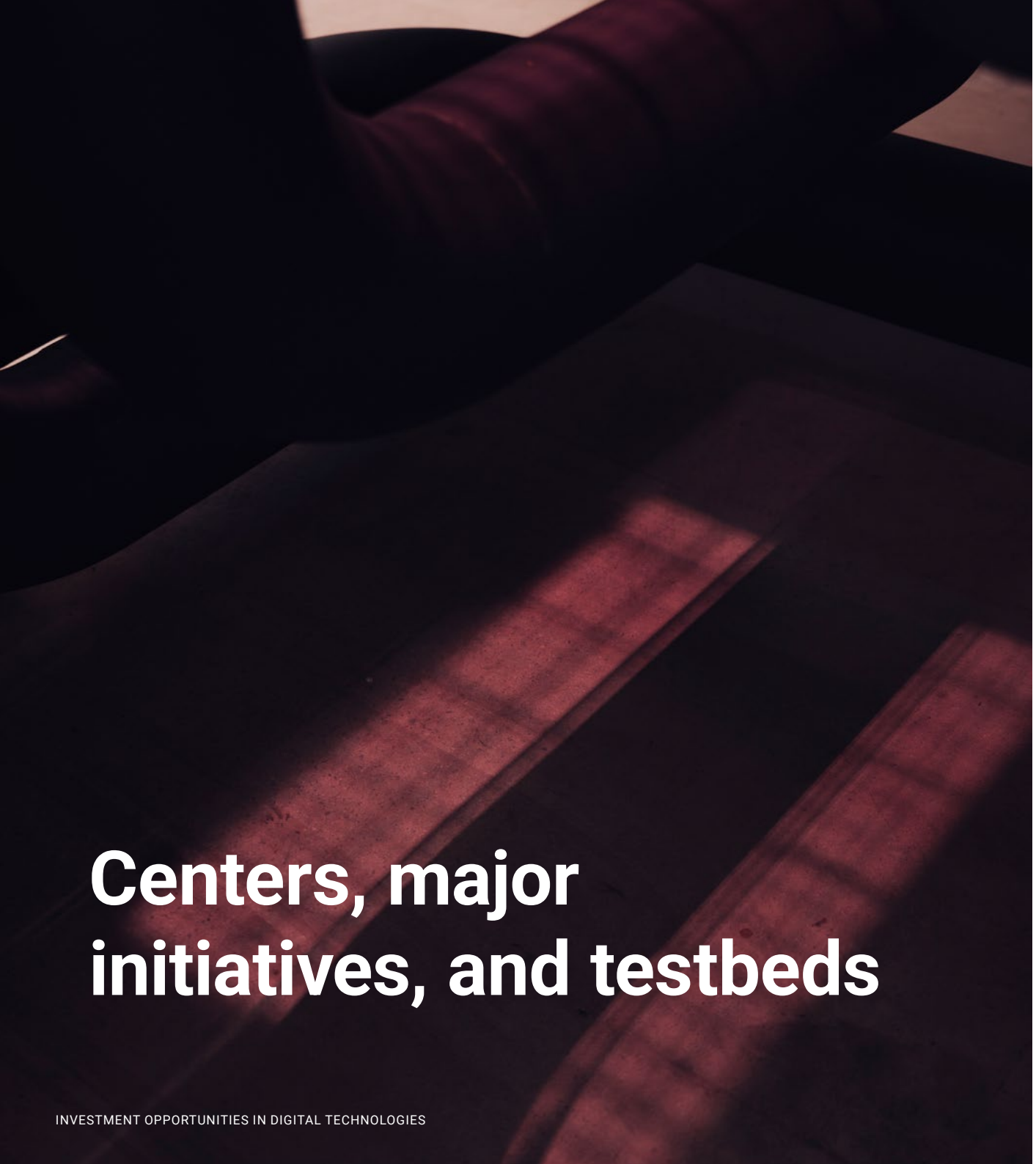
Linköping University has about 45,000 students across four campuses, including ca 20 000 distance and off-site learners. The university offers 135 degree programs – 32 of which are international – and about 700 standalone courses. With exchange agreements with 400 universities in 50 countries, LiU hosts around 1,700 international students annually and awards about 2,600 bachelor's and 3,100 master's degrees each year. Linköping University is the only university in Sweden to offer an English taught civil engineering programme with an international profile and inbuilt studies abroad. Since many years Linköping University ranks number one in Sweden on both having the highest percentage of students successfully entering the job market upon graduation and doing it quickly.

Research and doctoral education

The university has 364 professors and 1,300 doctoral students. On average, 28 licentiates and 161 PhDs graduate each year, reflecting the strong research environment and active doctoral training.

Departments relevant to Digital Technologies

- **Department of Physics, Chemistry and Biology (IFM)** – advanced research in new materials, semiconductor technology, and nanotechnology.
- **Department of Computer and Information Science (IDA)** – leading research and education in AI, machine learning, programming, data analytics, and cybersecurity.
- **Department of Science and Technology (ITN)** – strong in visualization, simulation, media technology, and integrated electronic systems.
- **Department of Electrical Engineering (ISY)** – expertise in control engineering, communication systems, vehicle automation, signal processing, and electronics.
- **Division of Information Systems and Digitalization (IEI)** – focusing on digital transformation and IT support in organizations.



Centers, major initiatives, and testbeds

Östergötland hosts a number of research centers, major initiatives, and testbed environments that support collaboration between academia, industry, and the public sector.

Examples of such initiatives and environments in Östergötland include:

National Supercomputer Centre (NSC) – A leading national provider of high-performance computing and storage for over 25 years; part of NAISS and central to Sweden's and Europe's AI development.

Visualiseringscentrum C, Along with research environments such as CMIV and AIDA – internationally recognized nodes for visualization and image analysis.

Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP) – Sweden's largest single research initiative, with Linköping University playing a central role.

AI Sweden – With a regional node in Linköping, bringing together companies, researchers, and public actors to accelerate AI adoption nationally.

Skills supply

Linköping University, ranks among the top 2% of universities worldwide in international rankings. The university has strong focus on engineering education.

Programs relevant to Digital Technologies include, among others:

- Master's in Computer Science
- Master's in Cybersecurity
- Master's in Digitalized Construction
- MSc in Computer Engineering

Linköping University also offers tailored commissioned education for professionals based on organizational needs.

Financing

National level

Sweden's innovation and support system for research, development, and investment operates at both national and regional levels, complemented by dedicated investment and transition programs for industry.

At the national level, the government and public agencies create frameworks, funding, and guidelines for innovation and commercialization, including:

- Research funding
- National innovation programs and collaboration platforms
- Special investment grants for transition, commercialization, or pilot-scale projects

Examples of national programs:

- **Klimatklivet** – Investment support for companies, municipalities, regions, and organizations implementing measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. charging infrastructure, biogas production, circular flows).
- **Industriklivet** – Support program targeting industrial transformation to fossil-free or carbon-negative solutions, financing feasibility studies, pilot and demonstration projects, and investments in transition technologies.

Regional level

Regions manage their own regional development funds and play an important role in implementing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which promotes innovation and business-related development. Support may be granted to companies for R&D activities or to innovation support actors working to develop businesses, industries, and value chains.

Additionally, Almi Företagspartner offers both business development services and financing in the form of loans and venture capital.

As eligibility criteria and conditions for innovation and investment support may change, interested actors are encouraged to consult the latest information on the respective authorities' websites.

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