

# Blekinge.

SWEDEN'S GATEWAY FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SEK  
**9.5**

*Billion is being invested in improved infrastructure for roads, railways, and airports.*

12

**BLEKINGE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND NATO ARE BUILDING THE INTERNET OF THE FUTURE**  
THIS GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH COLLABORATION AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD'S DIGITAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS.

4



**THOUSANDS OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES AS SOUTH EAST OF SWEDEN EXPANDS**  
5,000 NEW EMPLOYEES ARE NEEDED AS THE BUSINESS SECTOR INVESTS IN THE GREEN TRANSITION.

14



**FROM THE ARCHIPELAGO TO THE WORKPLACE IN MINUTES**  
A LIFE SURROUNDED BY NATURE WITHOUT COMPROMISING ON CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE.

16



DARREN FENNELL, SITE MANAGER AT NKT KARLSKRONA:

**We are investing SEK 11 billion in the world's largest submarine cable factory.**

9



# Blekinge – Where Life and Business Grow Together

**B**lekinge stands out as a dynamic business region, with the third-highest goods export value per capita in Sweden. The business sector is characterized by large international corporations such as Saab Kockums, Ericsson, NKT, Roxtec, Tarkett, Alfa Laval, AAK, and Volvo. Many are employed in companies that compete on an international market, with export and productivity ingrained in their DNA. Additionally, the region's investments in Research and Development (R&D) relative to the size of the economy are among the highest in the country, which is necessary to maintain strong competitiveness and growth.

Currently, there are large-scale investments being made in both infrastructure and industry. Several companies in the region are investing in response to the green transition. NKT is building the world's largest factory for high-voltage submarine cables and Sweden's second-tallest tower. It's growing by 2.6 meters per day – an impressive feat! To further strengthen maritime technology development in Blekinge, Region Blekinge has invested SEK 50 million in a unique R&D fund at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), a venture that will create many ripple effects.

Blekinge's industrial tradition has a long history. For instance, Sweden's first female engineer, Vera Sandberg spent her formative years in Karlshamn. In addition, world-class subcontractors support the entire industrial ecosystem, which is now operating at full speed, with thousands of people sought in various categories. As the business sector expands, it also demands more personnel in healthcare, education, and social services. Add to that the fact that the Armed Forces is a major employer in the region, and we've only seen the beginning of this expansion. The Nato membership, Blekinge's geographical location in the middle of the Baltic Sea region, and its proximity to Europe are key factors. There is already great potential in land and energy availability and the energy supply will grow even more when one of the companies waiting to invest in offshore wind power gets its permits approved.

## GOOD LIFE. GOOD BUSINESS.

The absolutely best thing about Blekinge is that you can have the luxury of working at a world-leading company while living amidst nature, with easy access to both forests and the archipelago. Additionally, all children benefit from access to culture throughout elementary school, fostering creativity and entrepreneurship whether one chooses employment or starts a business.

In Blekinge, you can also enjoy an active lifestyle right on your doorstep. If you're a golf enthusiast, you'll find plenty of courses nearby. The crème de la crème of festivals, Sweden Rock, attracts audiences from all over the world, or how about the Nordic region's largest safari park, Eriksberg?

For those of us living here, proximity is everything. Many have the privilege of walking, biking, or even taking a boat to work. One person who knows what it's like to move here is NKT's site manager, Darren Fennell, originally from Ireland. He shares his experience of living, working, and thriving in Blekinge (page 9).

**HERE, "WHERE LIFE AND BUSINESS GROW TOGETHER"** is not just a slogan – it's the reality! Feel free to contact or visit us, and we'll tell you more!

**Catharina Rosenquist**

Business Strategist, Region Blekinge/Business Blekinge



Scan the QR code  
to visit Business Blekinge.



Team Business Blekinge: Catharina Rosenquist, Petronella Lång, and Peter von Trampe.



## Creating Opportunities for New Businesses in Blekinge – Together

**F**öretagarna is Sweden's largest organization for small and medium-sized businesses, with 60,000 members, of which 1,000 are in Blekinge.

**THE INDUSTRY IN BLEKINGE** is expanding rapidly, and with this, more subcontractors are needed. We already see that even smaller companies have a high demand for more employees. To make this possible in a reliable way, we are working together with universities, campuses, municipalities, and educational companies to meet the competence needs at all levels. The region's growth is increasing the demand for more infrastructure investments throughout the region. We are collaborating with the state, region, and other actors to realize these investments. Our member companies are working to secure more land for construction so that we can build both housing and businesses across the entire region. Together with the municipalities, region, and the County Administrative Board of Blekinge, we will be able to offer more companies and residents the opportunity to establish themselves here.

**FÖRETAGARNA SEES BLEKINGE** as a growing region with great potential in both manufacturing, tourism, and other industries. We expect to be a significant part of the development in the future. Welcome to our beautiful region!

**Lasse Nilsson**

Chairman of Företagarna Karlshamn  
Vice Chairman of Företagarna Region South

**business  
Blekinge.**

Business Blekinge is a cooperation between academy, clusters, science parks, municipalities and regional authorities.



A NEWSPAPER FROM BUSINESS BLEKINGE –  
PART OF REGION BLEKINGE.  
November 2024

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT,  
PLEASE CONTACT:  
CATHARINA ROSENQUIST  
BusinessStrategist  
0455-73 71 15  
catharina.rosenquist@regionblekinge.se  
www.businessblekinge.se



REGION  
BLEKINGE

PROJECT MANAGER: JONATAN FRANSSON EDITOR: ROBIN KARLSSON  
ART DIRECTOR: SARA WOODROW COVER PHOTO: REGION BLEKINGE  
PRINTING: BOLD PRINTING MITT

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS AND CUSTOMER MAGAZINES, CONTACT:  
JONATAN FRANSSON jonatan.fransson@crossmediagroup.se

Crossmedia Communication  
Axel Johanssons gata 4, 754 50 Uppsala  
crossmediagroup.se

**CROSSMEDIA**  
COMMUNICATION



# Closer to your dream career.

## Come home to the future!

**Invest in a career in Blekinge's industrial and technology companies**

Many of Blekinge's industrial and technology companies are at the forefront of developments in their field, showing the way and investing wholeheartedly in a sustainable future. Over the next few years, these companies will need to take on several thousand new employees in a range of different occupations. We hope you will be one of them!

### Find your job here

One of the places where Tectank's member companies advertise their vacancies is on the [talangattraktion.se](https://talangattraktion.se) website. Go straight there via the QR code, or find out more about a future career in Blekinge's industrial and technology companies at [www.techtank.se/en/comehometothefuture/](https://www.techtank.se/en/comehometothefuture/)



**BLEKINGE. Come closer.**







# Karlskrona – Centre for the World's Most Important Challenges

Oskar Frånberg, Associate Professor in Marine Systems Engineering at BTH with over 15 years of experience from the Swedish Defence Research Agency, is not just a researcher – he is a visionary. As an entrepreneur and innovator, he has made it his mission to bring groundbreaking research from the lab into the real world. He stands at the forefront of the technological revolution in the defense sector, constantly seeking new ways to take innovations from the field, through the lab, and out into the market.

## Key Role for BTH in NATO Mission on Securing Data Traffic

Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), with the support of NATO, is developing technology for a more secure internet. The aim is to protect internet communication when submarine cables, which carry the majority of the world's data traffic, face issues such as accidents or sabotage. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Marine Technology Center of Sweden (MTC).

TEXT: BRITT-MARIE MELIN PHOTO: BTH

This groundbreaking project spans the next 2.5 years, and BTH's Vice-Chancellor Henric Johnson explains why BTH was chosen as the Swedish institution to participate in the project:

"We have unique expertise directly relevant to this type of societal challenge. Additionally, we have a long tradition in marine technology, making us particularly suited for this mission."

**THE PROJECT IS LED BY** Cornell University in the USA, and besides BTH, researchers from Johns Hopkins University, ETH Zurich, and the Swedish Defence University are participating, along with telecommunications companies and government representatives from several NATO countries.

**BTH IS ALREADY** a leading player in defense innovation in Sweden, which Henric Johnson believes is crucial to the project's success.

"We have a holistic perspective that is unique among Swedish universities. This enables us to collaborate effectively with both civilian and defense actors to create a unique infrastructure."

**THE INVESTMENTS** taking place in Blekinge are comparable to those happening in northern Sweden, and the academic sector plays a central role in the region's future development.

"Innovation and commerce go hand in hand, and where academia plays a key role, we see the greatest successes. That's something we can learn from places like Silicon Valley and Boston. We are at the center of industrial

development here in Blekinge. We have the ability to attract international talent and work in both the industrial and academic worlds," Henric Johnson concludes.



Henric Johnson, Vice-Chancellor of BTH, leads BTH's participation in NATO's project to protect internet communication in the event of accidents or sabotage.

When he was offered a position at Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona in 2015, he didn't hesitate for a moment.

"Karlskrona is exactly the right place to tackle the three most critical global issues right now: energy, security, and sustainability," states Oskar with conviction.

### KARLSKRONA – HUB FOR FUTURE INDUSTRY

Karlskrona is not only a charming coastal town; it is also home to some of Sweden's most advanced companies, namely Saab Kockums, which manufactures everything from ships to submarines, and NKT, the world's largest producer of electric cables. In addition, the city is an epicenter for massive investments – over SEK 140 billion in order volumes and more than SEK 20 billion in industrial investments.

"We've already gone through the type of transformation that is now happening in northern Sweden. In the 1990s the tech boom created thousands of new jobs. Now we are facing a new wave of progress, where our IT expertise is linked with world-leading companies in energy, technology and security," Oskar explains.

### AN INNOVATIVE FUTURE – FROM IDEA TO REALITY

In Karlskrona, the Marine Technology Center of Sweden (MTC), together with Blekinge Institute of Technology and a new research fund, is fueling success. Oskar describes the city as a hub for a new entrepreneurial

“Karlskrona is exactly at the right place to tackle the three most critical global issues right now.”



Oskar Frånberg is an Associate Professor in Marine Systems Engineering with over 15 years of experience from the Swedish Defence Research Agency.

spirit – a modern pioneering spirit where opportunities are there to be seized.

"We have incredible testing facilities here. We can test any marine technology product, from the concept stage to full-scale tests."

### READY TO LEAD

With his innovative mind-set and keen eye for future possibilities, Oskar Frånberg sees Karlskrona as ready to lead the way toward a safer, more sustainable, and more energy-smart future.

Blekinge Institute of Technology

**Get closer to  
world-class  
research.**







# 3D Technology to Preserve History

With internationally recognized research in several fields, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) is highly ranked in many evaluations. Students from all over the world come here to be part of the future.

TEXT: BRITT-MARIE MELIN PHOTO: BTH

One of BTH's focus areas is computer science, where the research profile HINTS – Human-Centered Intelligent Realities – is at the forefront. Veronica Sundstedt, Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer, leads the effort to create the next generation of intelligent environments.

“Our goal is to develop smart, user-aware digital environments that both industry and society can benefit from,” says Veronica.

## VISUAL DATA ANALYSIS REVOLUTIONIZES MARINE TECHNOLOGY

In another project the focus is aimed at visual data analysis and visualization, specifically within marine technology applications. It involves transforming massive amounts of data from sensor systems into user-friendly visual insights.

“Marine technology is a strategic area where there is an enormous need for effective visualization,” Veronica explains. “From sustainable oceans to monitoring and detection, our research results can make a difference.”

## 3D TECHNOLOGY TO PRESERVE HISTORY

BTH's research can also be applied in a variety of



contexts, and Veronica gives another example in the field of digital cultural heritage, making museums virtually accessible to the public.

“There are countless possibilities with 3D technology. It can preserve history, showcase archaeological discoveries, and create experiences that would otherwise not be possible,” Veronica says.

## VR AND AI IN HEALTHCARE AND SUSTAINABILITY

BTH is also at the cutting edge in fields such as AI, machine learning, and health innovations. An exciting collaboration within HINTS is carried out together with Virotea, where VR technology is used in elder care to provide seniors

with a richer and more meaningful daily life.

“By using VR and gaming technology we can develop creative solutions for health-care and other areas where new technology in education and simulations is of great interest,” says Veronica.

## A GLOBAL ATTRACTION

What is happening at BTH attracts not only Swedish students. International talents are drawn here to be part of the ever-growing development. The plans to introduce new master's programmes in games and interactive systems is a step towards attracting even more global talent – and contributing to Sweden's future skills supply.



FOTO: BTH

## World-Leading Ecosystem for Marine Technology Innovation

In Blekinge, there is a unique ecosystem consisting of industry, the public sector, and academia, with Blue Science Park serving as an innovative development environment that promotes growth in marine technology and digital solutions. The goal is a secure and green Europe, focusing on offshore energy, defense, and sustainable marine environments.

Blue Science Park, which includes the Marine Technology Center of Sweden (MTC) and Tech Concept Lab, works to promote research and the development of the ecosystem in collaboration with Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH).

“Our task is to ensure that the actors get to know each other and understand each other's needs and capabilities,” says Lennart Johansson, Acting CEO of Blue Science Park.

REGION BLEKINGE IS making a long-term investment of SEK 50 million over five years in a Research and Development fund at BTH. Blue Science Park has actively identified the needs of the business sector and the Swedish Armed Forces, leading to eight projects starting in the fall of 2024. The plan is to scale up the fund's resources and expand marine technology research at BTH.

FURTHERMORE, MTC has been recommended as a test center within Nato's DIANA initiative, for technology development and innovation in the surface and underwater domains. The test center has two main focus areas: defense and offshore energy.

“We are now outlining a concept for a national structure on how to best integrate civilian innovations into defense. We aim to become the national hub that solves challenges for the Swedish Navy and marine environment challenges,” says Lennart.



Lennart Johansson, Acting CEO of Blue Science Park

THE CHOICE OF BLEKINGE as the national hub is obvious, he adds:

“Karlskrona was founded as Sweden's naval base and remains Sweden's naval base. Here we have BTH, companies like NKT, Roxtec, and Saab Kockums, testing environments such as one of the world's best diving laboratories (FM DNC) at the naval base, and impressive experience solving marine challenges. From a marine perspective, Blekinge has the best conditions to lead this development.”

Region Blekinge and BTH have signed an agreement for a joint initiative in marine technology. The purpose of this initiative is to boost the development of the marine technology field, and it is a long-term commitment aimed at securing the supply of expertise and strengthening research and development capabilities for businesses and organizations in the region over time. The focus is on building a strong and well-developed research and educational environment in marine technology at BTH, as well as identifying and strengthening relevant areas where marine technology is applied. Region Blekinge is contributing SEK 50 million to this initiative from 2024 to 2028.

# AFRY ALWAYS FINDS A SOLUTION

There's a lot happening in Blekinge, something that the engineering firm AFRY is keenly aware of as they actively contribute to the region's growth and success.

**B**lekinge is a fantastic place to work, not only because there's a lot going on right now and many industrial companies are moving forward, but also because we're close to nature and the beautiful archipelago," says Andreas Melkersson, Section Manager at AFRY in Karlskrona.

**THE REGION BENEFITS** from a diverse mix of industries, each influenced by different economic cycles. This diversity is a significant advantage for the region and allows a firm like AFRY to balance its strengths over time. The industrial landscape includes major sectors such as automotive, defense, energy, process, and traditional manufacturing. Blekinge is home to both small companies and large international firms like Saab, Volvo, and NKT Cables. The variety within this relatively small region is remarkable, and as a competence company, AFRY aims to engage in all areas.

"In western Blekinge, the focus is naturally on the automotive industry due to Volvo and its suppliers, but thanks to our history and expertise,

we also work with other clients across Europe," says Paul Jarnehäll, Section Manager in Olofström, where AFRY specializes in advanced automation and production solutions, primarily for the automotive sector.

**AFRY CURRENTLY EMPLOYS** over 100 engineers and technicians in Blekinge, and regional investments have allowed the company to grow significantly.

"As a competence company, we contribute to the region's growth. At AFRY, we recruit many students from Blekinge Institute of Technology by being agile and offering a wide range of tasks. By building competencies relevant to our client companies, we ensure the region has the right skills over time. We've also seen companies experience a dip in their order intake, and thanks to us at AFRY, they've had a short start-up time when business picks up again," says Joakim Hellkvist, Business Area Manager within the Industrial & Digital Solutions division.

**AFRY HAS NEARLY** 20,000 employees globally and operates in virtually all technical fields. Through its internal network, additional expertise is available for local projects if needed.



"We usually say that clients can ask us just about anything within engineering, and we almost always find a solution," adds Hellkvist.

**CURRENTLY, AFRY** primarily supplies designers and project managers to major industries and their investment projects, which can involve both machine and product development, with projects varying in length and complexity.

"The variety of large and small projects, combined with the breadth of industries in the region, makes working at AFRY incredibly stimulating. Our consultants get a lot of variety if they want, but also high continuity if that's what they prefer," says Andreas Melkersson.

**WITH OPERATIONS** in Olofström, Karlshamn, and Karlskrona, AFRY covers all of Blekinge's needs, both from a local and long-term perspective. Collaboration between offices, consultants, and clients is

key to ensuring the region remains competitive. While there are challenges, there is also a strong underlying drive.

"We are involved in several clusters and networks and, of course, aim to share our experiences and knowledge. I believe that the product-owning companies can also make a significant difference in the region by working together on issues like innovation and skills development. We have a lot of good things to build on," says Paul Jarnehäll.

**AFRY IS PART OF** most major industrial projects in Blekinge today. With expertise in mechanical and machine design, automation, electrical design, and project management, AFRY intends to continue contributing to regional development while providing sustainable solutions.



# THE FLOORING GIANT IN RONNEBY DELIVERS TO THE ENTIRE WORLD



If you were to lay out the volume of Tarkett flooring produced at the Ronneby factory since its inception in the mid-1940s in a one-meter-wide strip, it would stretch five times around the world. In 2024, the annual volume, according to the same calculation, would cover the distance from Ronneby to Beijing. It's no exaggeration to say that Tarkett is one of the largest flooring manufacturers in the world, with a significant portion produced in the small town of Ronneby in Blekinge.

**W**ith a market share of 70% in Sweden, there's a good chance that the floor you see in a school, hospital, sports hall, nursing home, or shop comes from Tarkett," says David Håkansson, site manager at Tarkett's Ronneby factory.

**IN RONNEBY**, manufacturing dates back to the 1940s, and it was also where the company's first plastic flooring, marketed under the name Tarkett, was launched. Today, Ronneby is home to the group's largest production and distribution unit, as well as a recycling facility for homogeneous plastic floors. In

addition, it hosts technical support, research and development, and design departments.

"Here in Ronneby, everyone has a connection to Tarkett," says David Håkansson, adding that many employees have worked at the factory for over 40 years, which speaks to the pride among the staff.

**SINCE ITS INCEPTION**, innovation has been a key factor in the company's success. Through innovative solutions that combine aesthetics, functionality, and sustainability, Tarkett has developed flooring that lasts for decades. Tarkett was the first in the world to remove phthalates, and their iQ flooring stands out for its ability to restore the surface and appearance through dry buffing.

"The Tarkett floor in the arrival hall at Bromma Airport has been there since the mid-1950s. With the amount of foot traffic it sees daily, few places in Sweden are subject to more wear and tear – yet 75 years later, it remains untouched and in good condition. That's quite amazing," says David Håkansson.

waste and resource consumption. Their latest innovation, IQ Loop, is made from 65% recycled material, making it one of the most sustainable floors and materials on the market.

"We work long-term and want to continue leading the development toward a more sustainable industry," concludes David Håkansson.



David Håkansson, site manager at Tarkett's Ronneby factory

**TARKETT HAS** long been a pioneer in sustainability and actively works with circular economic models, where they recycle and reuse materials to reduce







**Mats Åhman, Head of Digital Solutions at Roxtec.**

**factor10 consultants Per Rovegård, Markus Eliasson, and Dino Opijac who develop custom-made software with Roxtec to drive their business forward.**

# SOFTWARE AS LEVERAGE FOR GROWTH

**Digital development has brought about changed customer behaviors. This means virtually all companies – even traditional industrial companies – need to master the ability to develop value-creating software for their customers in order to be competitive. Helping companies achieve this is one of factor10's specialties.**

**F**or most companies, custom-developed and business-driven software is an untapped leverage. This insight has been a strong driving force for factor10 ever since it was founded 18 years ago.

"Sales is the bottleneck for almost all companies. When collaborating with clients we repeatedly see software development becoming the decisive factor that opens this bottleneck and drives their entire business forward," says Per Rovegård, CTO at factor10."

A Blekinge company that recognized the need to invest in value-creating software early on is Roxtec International AB. Twelve years ago this multinational industrial company, known for its innovative sealing solutions for cable and pipe transits, began a significant transformation that contributed to a tripling of its turnover.

## SOFTWARE THAT DRIVES SALES

It all began with Roxtec identifying a need: customers had difficulty figuring out which combination of all their products to choose for a specific situation. Instead of trying to solve the problem by adding more salespeople or online material, Roxtec deci-

ded to use software. The choice of partner fell on factor10.

The first software released was Transit Designer™ – a user-friendly and free tool that makes it easy for customers to choose the right sealing solution, resulting in time savings of up to an incredible 80 percent during the design process.

"Transit Designer™ is still our absolutely biggest lead generator, we estimate that half of our sales come from it. In one way or another, this software is involved in almost all our product sales," says Mats Åhman, Head of Digital Solutions at Roxtec.

## BUSINESS BENEFITS IN FOCUS

Following the first success, Roxtec has continued to develop software together with factor10. Today, they have a software suite that helps designers, owners, installers, and operators collaborate safely and time-efficiently throughout the entire lifecycle of a facility.

"The trust that exists between Roxtec and factor10 is a key success factor. Mats doesn't micromanage, he simply describes his vision and trusts us to turn it into reality," Per Rovegård says.

"I appreciate that factor10 so often contribute important insights and thoughts about business benefits that we should take

advantage of. They're a business partner as much as a software consultancy," Mats Åhman adds.

## EXPERIMENT AND START SMALL

Mats is constantly identifying new customer needs to support with software. In addition, users have begun to request the possibility of using Roxtec's software in projects with completely different types of products and tasks. With factor10 as their partner, software as a subscription service has become an additional revenue stream for Roxtec.

Mats' advice to other companies facing the same transformation is to start small:

"First, you need a visionary who realizes how much can be done. But then you need someone who understands how small you can start and still deliver direct value for the user. And that's something factor10 is very good at!"



**They're a business partner as much as a software consultancy.**

## ABOUT FACTOR10

**factor10** is a Swedish consultancy with coding architects who help companies with their most important business-related challenges. factor10 was founded in 2007 with the core idea that there's a better way to develop software, based on flexibility, minimalism, and longevity. Over the years, they've helped companies such as DARPA, Microsoft, and Monitor. Together with their clients, factor10 wants to make the world more sustainable and democratic.

Visit [factor10.com](https://factor10.com) to find out more.





The third tower will be Sweden's second-tallest tower. ►



# NKT is building the world's largest factory for high-voltage offshore cables

With an investment of EUR 1 billion and a major initiative to build the world's largest factory for high-voltage offshore cables—as well as a groundbreaking cable-laying vessel—NKT aims to become the world's largest manufacturer of underwater cables. In addition to creating 500 new jobs, this project will strengthen Karlskrona's position as a global center for marine technology.

TEXT: CHRISTOPHER SCOTT PHOTO: NKT

The electrification of society continues, and the demand for electrical energy is rising in tandem with the green transition. As a result, the demand for high-voltage cables from NKT, a key component in the infrastructure needed for more people to use renewable electricity, is also increasing. “We play a key role in the green transition. What we do is not only unique in Sweden but globally. We connect countries and wind farms, making it possible to transfer renewable electricity from where it is generated to where it is most needed. The demand for our cable systems is currently very high, which is why we are expanding our operations,” says Darren Fennell, Head of NKT Karlskrona.

AT THE START of last year, NKT decided to invest in a new factory to increase its capacity, driven by the high demand for renewable energy, which is where high-voltage cables come into play. These cables are crucial for building the infrastructure to transport energy from where it's

generated to where it needs to be used, such as between countries. This decision involves an investment of approximately EUR 1 billion. By the end of Q2 2024, NKT's order backlog for high-voltage cables amounted to EUR 11.3 billion. “The investment includes a brand-new factory and a new cable-laying vessel: NKT Eleonora. She will be capable of handling 23,000 tonnes of cable and designed to run on methanol, significantly reducing its climate footprint. We are set to become the world's largest factory for high-voltage offshore cables, with Sweden's second-tallest tower at 200 meters,” says Darren. **COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION** is set to begin in 2027, making it NKT's largest facility and the crown jewel in terms of the company's capacity. The technology here is cutting-edge, and the test laboratories resemble something from NASA. “You could say we do everything from start to finish: research and development, design and project management, production, installation, and service. Right now,

we are producing cables for 525,000 volts. Six sets of these cables could essentially transfer the entire energy needs of Sweden,” says Darren. **NKT'S EUR 1 BILLION INVESTMENT** will make the Karlskrona factory critical in meeting the high demand and contributing to the electrification of Europe. “Another important aspect is the jobs we are creating in the region—up to 500 new positions. The investment also supports additional jobs with all the subcontractors involved during the construction phase. We are already one of the largest private employers in the region, with around 1,800 employees, and this investment will further strengthen that. It also confirms that Karlskrona is becoming a center for marine technology, not just in Sweden but in Europe and globally. Being part of the green transition and doing what we do here at NKT in Karlskrona is groundbreaking. You can work for an international company with exciting development opportunities, engaging with different



cultures and diversity, while also enjoying proximity to nature and the archipelago. It is all about quality of life here,” concludes Darren, who relocated to Karlskrona from Ireland.



Darren Fennell,  
Head of NKT Karlskrona

## ABOUT NKT:

NKT connects a greener world with high-quality power cable technology, playing a central role in the transition to green energy. NKT designs, manufactures, and installs low-, medium-, and high-voltage cable solutions that enable sustainable energy transmission.

Since 1891, NKT has been innovating power cable technology, from building infrastructure for the first light bulbs to transmitting megawatts of renewable energy today.

NKT is headquartered in Denmark and employs 6,000 people. NKT is listed on Nasdaq Copenhagen and had a turnover of EUR 2.6 billion in 2023.  
[www.NKT.com](http://www.NKT.com)  
[www.NKT.com](http://www.NKT.com)

## FACT BOX:

- The Karlskrona factory primarily produces offshore cables but also manufactures land cables.
- The most recent investment decision, made in May 2023, amounts to EUR 1 billion.
- The investment includes a new factory and a new cable-laying vessel, specifically built to install cables on the seabed.
- The capacity expansion will make the factory the world's largest production facility for high-voltage offshore cables.
- The new factory is expected to be operational by 2027.





Marine  
Technology  
Center  
of Sweden



# For a safe and green Europe

**Marine Technology Center of Sweden enable a safe and green Europe.**

With a focus on offshore energy, defense and sustainable oceans, we are a unique ecosystem that unites industry, the public sector, and academia. Our mission is to advance research and innovation in the realm of marine technology.

**Welcome to Karlskrona and Blekinge!**

**mtcos.se**

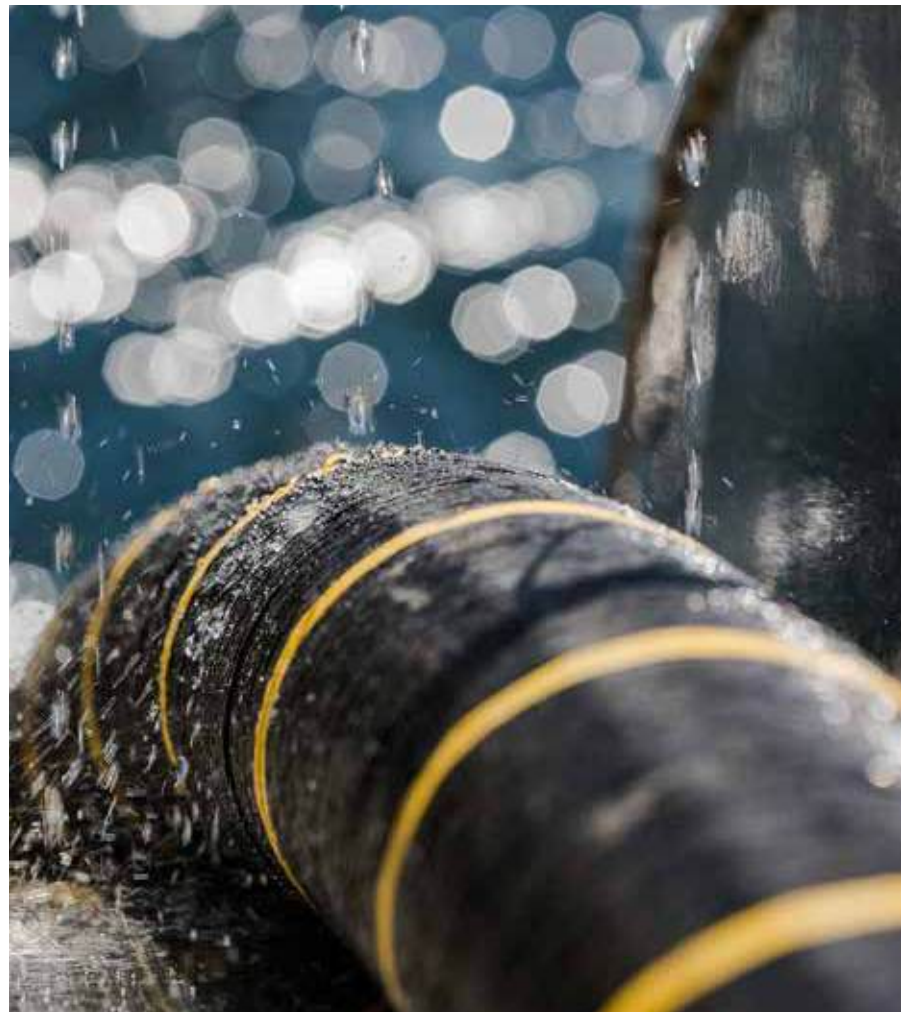




**NKT cables are enabling  
the green transition  
around the world.**

**From Sweden to  
major projects  
globally.**

By bringing renewable  
electricity to millions  
of people and reducing  
emissions, our cables  
play a vital role in building a  
more sustainable future.



*We connect a greener world*

[nkt.com](https://nkt.com)



**Blekinge's geographical location**, in the middle of the southern Baltic Sea region, has rarely been more strategic than it is now, from a security and a logistics- and trade perspective. F17 in Ronneby and the naval base in Karlskrona play a crucial role in Sweden's defense of its airspace, coastline, and maritime areas. Blekinge's ports serve as important hubs for a large portion of Sweden's import and export flows. To handle both current and future transport demands, particularly due to Nato membership, SEK 9.5 billion is being invested in infrastructure. In a few years, it will be possible to travel to Hamburg, Germany, in just a few hours via the Öresund Bridge and the Fehmarn Belt connection.

**In Blekinge, we have strengthened** our collaboration to meet the growth opportunities we see ahead.

## Major Infrastructure Investments Pave the Way for the Green Transition in Southern Sweden

Rarely has Blekinge had such favorable conditions as it does today. Global developments have provided a boost, creating new opportunities for significant and crucial establishments.

**A**ccording to Peter Nygårds, an industrial advisor who has been responsible for identifying strategic locations for green industries in northern Sweden, three key factors are driving Blekinge's impressive progress: "Nato membership, the government's decision on the SouthEast Rail Link, and the green transition, which demands robust and more climate-friendly transportation. These three conditions have given Blekinge a boost, creating enormous potential for the region."

**BLEKINGES' PORTS TODAY** have great potential to develop into important hubs, both for Nato membership with transport to the Baltics and Eastern Europe, and for businesses to utilize maritime transport in new ways, now that the SouthEast Rail Link will connect from the north.

"This will have a hugely positive impact, as railway connections to the ports create a comprehensive, climate-smart transport solution. Around the ports and railways, new opportunities for business establishments are emerging. There is growing interest in being close to this dynamic," says Peter.

**HE ALSO VIEWS** the collaboration between Blekinge's municipalities as a significant asset:

"In the process surrounding the SouthEast Rail Link,

Blekinge's municipalities have acted together, sending a unified and powerful signal to the national authorities. This has been important for strengthening the decision-making process with clear regional commitment. It's very positive that the government has now decided on the expansion and has also tasked the Swedish Transport Administration with speeding up the process. This opens up the possibility for integrating maritime and railway transport, which is far more resource-efficient and results in lower emissions."

**HE ADDS THAT** trade flows are expected to shift more toward Eastern Europe for various reasons:

"When the ports of Karlshamn and Sölvesborg receive additional support from the SouthEast Rail Link, it creates excellent opportunities for sustainable development in Southern Sweden. The ports also present new opportunities for offshore wind power. There is potential for producing hydrogen, which can then be stored or transported via pipelines to the ports."

**THE CONDITIONS FOR** Blekinge's development have changed rapidly, and one reason for this positive shift is the strong leadership shown by Blekinge's politicians. The commitment to the SouthEast Rail Link is clear evidence of this.



The Blekinge Establishment Group consists of Business Blekinge, Region Blekinge, and establishment managers from Blekinge's five municipalities.



Peter Nygårds,  
Industrial Advisor

"An incredibly important asset is, of course, Blekinge Institute of Technology. It's crucial that the university is included in strategic discussions and is part of the development process. Together with the SouthEast Rail Link and Nato membership, we are creating a larger labor market, increased business mobility, and comprehensive education and skills development," concludes Peter Nygårds.





## Favorable Conditions Power Blekinge

With a strategically important location and a strong power grid, Blekinge serves as a key hub for the supply of energy in southern Sweden. The region is proactively and aggressively addressing energy issues, with Svenska Kraftnät making significant investments to strengthen the national grid.

**T**oday, Blekinge is 30 percent self-sufficient in electricity, a figure the region is working to increase. Robert Hedman, energy strategist at Region Blekinge, explains:

“We have a clear understanding of the importance of energy for the green transition and business competitiveness, which is why we are driving several initiatives to increase the availability of fossil-free electricity both in the short and long term. We are working to ensure that our electricity networks never become an unexpected bottleneck.”

**KARLSKRONA IS** one of the most important offshore ports in the Nordics, with constant loading of submarine cables by NKT. The ports of Karlshamn and Sölvesborg are also well-equipped to play crucial roles as

offshore wind power expands in the Baltic Sea.

“Seven Swedish and European companies are planning wind farms off Blekinge’s coast, and potential investments are in the range of SEK 150–250 billion. A single wind farm could generate electricity equivalent to two to six times Blekinge’s annual electricity needs,” says Robert.

**THE RELATIVELY STRONG** electricity grids offer excellent opportunities to connect both energy-intensive operations and new electricity production. According to Svenska Kraftnät, southeastern Sweden is one of the few areas where offshore wind power on a gigawatt scale can be connected relatively quickly, and future investments could significantly increase capacity.

## International School of Karlskrona...

...is now IB (International Baccalaureate) certified, from primary to secondary school – offering a unique opportunity for global education in Blekinge.

**T**his means the school follows an international curriculum, with all instruction conducted in English, and after a thorough authorization process, the school has been IB-certified since June 2024.

“We already have many students from families connected to companies like Ericsson and

Blekinge Institute of Technology. Now, with expansions at companies like NKT and the potential for a Nato presence in Karlskrona, we see new opportunities. Families considering a move to Blekinge need not hesitate due to concerns about their children’s education,” says Martin Andersson, Principal, Karlskrona Municipality.

## New Approaches Needed in an Expanding Job Market

The demand for skilled workers is growing across almost every sector in Blekinge. As a result, new strategies are being tested to create more educational programs that offer fantastic opportunities for those who wish to study locally.

**T**here is intense pressure in Blekinge’s business sector, and the demand for skills has increased significantly, not just in the private sector but also within the Armed Forces. This development is driving the need for qualified labor across both private and public sectors.

“To meet the demand, we are working to expand the offerings of established educational providers, and we’ve been successful. The key is collaboration,” says Sara Vaarning Vetter, Skills Supply Process Leader at Region Blekinge.

**NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** often emerge through partnerships with actors in other regions. Campus Ronneby is a prime example, focusing on meeting local competence needs. They simply bring the education home to Blekinge, Sara explains.

“In addition to working with vocational college providers across Sweden, they’ve also taken steps to bring more university-level programs to Blekinge that don’t already exist here. Right now, Campus Ronneby has partnerships with Jönköping University and Linköping University. You apply to study at the respective university but stay at Campus Ronneby to complete your studies. Campus Karlshamn is also adopting this concept in collaboration with Mälardalen University.”

**THE RESULTS ARE** already evident. Now, you don’t need to leave Blekinge to study – you can stay and enjoy a good life during your studies, or even move here to

study or accompany someone who does, says Sara. She continues:

“This doesn’t just apply to full-length programs. Many shorter courses and training programs are available as well, known as upskilling and reskilling for existing employees. Both new and established education providers are welcomed. We always strive to make it as smooth as possible to establish new educational programs,” Sara says.

**FOLKUNIVERSITETET IS** the latest vocational education provider to expand its operations, and they had this to say about the collaboration:

“We chose to establish ourselves in Blekinge thanks to the strong partnership we’ve developed with Region Blekinge, which has actively supported us in identifying the competence needs of the labor market,” says Ulrika Hall, Head of Operations at Folkuniversitetet.

“The commitment and optimism here have enabled valuable connections with both Blekinge Institute of Technology and various companies and employers in the region. This has led to a shared ambition to develop educational programs that support the region’s growth.”



Sara Vaarning Vetter,  
Skills Supply Process Leader,  
Region Blekinge



Robert Hedman,  
Energy Strategist, Region  
Blekinge





also one of the major drivers creating business opportunities and success for Blekinge. Many companies already have specialized expertise that contributes to reducing their carbon footprint, particularly the larger companies, which plays a crucial role in this effort. They, in turn, rely on small and medium-sized businesses to operate sustainably as well.



Ingela Håkansson,  
CEO, Techtank

“We are therefore actively working on initiatives to support companies in their sustainability efforts, so they remain relevant and stay at the forefront,” Ingela explains.

“In addition to this, we need more people in our region to become a part of our expanding industry. This requires good and relevant education and opportunities for further training, something we collaborate on extensively with the municipalities and educational institutions.”

“We also need to attract people from other parts of the country and abroad.”

ONE OF TECHTANK’S ways of attracting new employees is the job portal [Talangattraktion.se](#), where member companies post a wide range of exciting career opportunities.

“We ensure that those who secure jobs in Blekinge’s industry can find a place in various networks and have opportunities for skills development in their roles,” Ingela concludes.

FACT BOX:

- **Techtank** is a regional industrial cluster jointly owned by Region Blekinge and the five municipalities of Blekinge.
- **Twelve well-known brands** are part of Techtank’s network for large industrial companies with more than 250 employees in Blekinge: AAK, Alfa Laval, Dynapac, Hanza, NKT, Roxtec, Saab Kockums, Shiloh, Södra Cell, Tarkett, TitanX, and Volvo Cars.
- **Other members include** small and medium-sized companies—product owners, subcontractors, and service providers that supply the industry.

# Thousands of New Employees Needed for Blekinge’s Industry

Blekinge’s industry plays a leading a leading role in the global green transition, a driving force that creates significant opportunities for the region. Techtank is an umbrella organization for approximately 65 industrial companies with 10,000 employees in Blekinge and surrounding areas, working to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of the industry.

“We strengthen the competitiveness of the industry through initiatives in skills, business, technology development, and innovation,” says Ingela Håkansson, CEO.

MANY COMPANIES ARE experiencing strong growth.

According to a survey conducted last year in collaboration with Teknikcollege, Blekinge’s industry will need around 5,000 new employees by 2028. “The survey showed that not only engineers are needed but even more so, production-related roles. This is an enormous challenge and, at the same time, a great opportunity,” says Ingela.

TECHTANK’S PRIMARY FOCUS is on those already employed, and the organization works intensively to broker skills development for the industry.

“There is a great need to build new competencies, especially in sustainability and circularity as part of the green transition.”

THE GREEN TRANSITION is



## Port of Karlshamn - a logistics hub

The Port of Karlshamn is the natural link that connects companies with both national and international markets – we open the door to new business opportunities.



## Ronneby Airport – where Sweden and the world are just around the corner

With a strong focus on sustainability, we help drive the transition to a fossil-free aviation sector so that we can enable people to meet – in Blekinge, Sweden and around the world – for generations to come.

[swedavia.com/ronneby](https://swedavia.com/ronneby)





# Unique Conditions for Sustainable Food Production

Blekinge’s unique coastal landscape and geography provide excellent conditions for both blue and green industries.

The Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve is a UNESCO-designated area that aims to integrate sustainable development with the preservation of the unique natural and cultural values of Blekinge’s coastal landscape. The area serves as a model for how humans and nature can coexist sustainably.

“We operate through a non-profit organization that functions as a platform for collaboration among all stakeholders in the area,” says Daniel Granello, coordinator of the Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve.

A KEY PART OF this work involves promoting local agriculture through the brand Jordmån Blekinge and raising awareness about sustainable food production.

THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE is also involved in mussel

farming in the archipelago, which helps clean the water and provides a base for locally produced animal feed, offering coastal fishermen an additional source of income. The goal is to contribute to a more sustainable fishing industry in the Baltic Sea by reducing overfishing and using mussel meal instead of fish meal as animal feed.

IN ADDITION TO these projects, the biosphere reserve focuses on restoring waterways and creating wetlands to promote fish ecosystems. Daniel also emphasizes the importance of international cooperation among biosphere reserves.

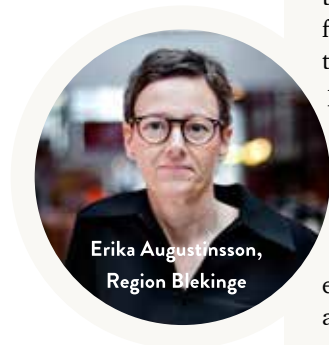
“We have regular exchanges with actors in other biosphere reserves, both in Sweden and globally,” he says.

WITH BLEKINGE’S close proximity between stakeholders and strong entrepreneurial spirit, Daniel sees great potential for the region to



Daniel Granello, Coordinator of the Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve

lead the development of sustainable food production.



Erika Augustinsson, Region Blekinge

# Blekinge Takes the Lead in Mission-Oriented Innovation

Through five pilot projects, Blekinge is leading the way in new mission-oriented innovations that can address global societal challenges.

Mission-oriented innovation is about renewing and adapting the innovation process to meet today’s needs. In Sweden, Vinnova and other research actors have been pushing for new ways of working, which include changes in both structures and policies, as well as practical approaches.

IN BLEKINGE, the focus is on the purpose and direction of innovation efforts. The EU has identified five missions to which it is directing substantial resources and support: sustainable oceans, climate adaptation, sustainable cities, agricultural land, and cancer.

“That’s what we in Blekinge are focusing on. With the knowledge we have, for example in marine technology and digital technology, we can contribute in several areas,

including sustainable oceans and climate adaptation,” explains Erika Augustinsson, Innovation Strategist at Region Blekinge.

ONE OF THE PROJECTS focuses on reducing microplastics in the ocean, while another targets climate adaptation by developing innovations that address challenges such as drought and heavy rainfall. Additionally, pilot projects are underway to tackle issues related to mental health and general well-being.

“If we can test these solutions in Blekinge and find scalable models, there’s a huge market ahead,” concludes Erika Augustinsson.

THIS WORK IS one of the reasons why Blekinge was recently awarded the “Regional Innovation Valley” designation by the European Commission, recognizing the region as an important European innovation hub.



The possibilities are endless

At AAK, we are a team that is genuinely passionate about Making Better Happen™.

We are an international organization that takes responsibility for a sustainable future.

[www.aak.com](http://www.aak.com)

Excellent arbetsgivare 2024

## We provide...

Water  
Fiber network  
Electricity grid  
District heating  
Waste management  
and a great workplace

## ...around the clock!

[www.ronneby.se/miljoteknik](http://www.ronneby.se/miljoteknik)







◀ Photo: Mikael Tannus

Johan Andersson, CEO of Mellby Gård, Erik Andersson, Chairman of Eriksberg, and the design duo Oscar Kylberg and Prince Carl Philip Bernadotte. Photo: Anders Blomlöf

“Visiting the park is a fantastic experience, whether you choose to drive through with your own car or take a guided tour. For those looking to indulge, the park also offers a hotel, fine dining, a renowned wine cellar, and a delightful spa.”

**IF YOU PREFER GOLF**, there are eight golf clubs that collaborate in the coastal area – a partnership that’s extremely popular and even award-winning. Those interested in fishing can join many others in Sweden’s southernmost wilderness, enjoying Blekinge’s famous salmon fishing or relaxing by one of the many lakes and, perhaps reeling in some perch.

**ANNA ALSO HIGHLIGHTS** the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Naval City of Karlskrona, home to the Naval Museum and the Blekinge Archipelago Biosphere Reserve.

“They both bring a special pride and joy to the region,” she says.

“UNESCO is a factor that people love to mention. It’s a great strength to have two destinations with that quality mark. Many visitors are drawn to the World Heritage site because it adds even more meaning to their visit. The archipelago is extraordinary in that it spans such a large area, reaching across all of Blekinge.



Anna Eriksson,  
Marketing Communications  
Specialist, Visit Blekinge

wild boar, Père David’s deer, and European bison in their natural habitat. Recently, the new hotel section, Arken, opened, with suites designed by the duo [Prince Carl Philip](#) and [Oscar Kylberg](#).

# Find Your Dream Life in Blekinge

In Blekinge, you can find the perfect combination of living in a beautiful house by the archipelago or on a secluded farm for that matter, and not having to compromise on exciting career opportunities.

TEXT: BRITT-MARIE MELIN

**H**ere you’ll find jobs at world-leading companies, top-notch housing, and everything is literally just around the corner. In Blekinge, you’ll have more time left for what you want to do, as commuting times are short. You can often ride your bike to work, or even take a boat, according to Anna Eriksson, Marketing

Communications Specialist at Visit Blekinge.

**BLEKINGE ALSO OFFERS** a thriving cultural scene, including the internationally renowned Sweden Rock Festival, which attracts around 50,000 visitors each year from near and far.

“I attended this year with my daughter. It was wonderful to see how the festival created a sense of community among

the visitors. The audience was represented by all age groups, I think that was a key.”

**FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO** experience Blekinge’s stunning nature, there are plenty of options, such as Eriksberg Wildlife and Nature, the largest safari park in the Nordics, located along the coast between Karlshamn and Ronneby. Visitors can see

# THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT IN KARLSKRONA’S NEW DISTRICT



Karlskrona is facing significant growth, and with the Lindblad 24 district, Brinova aims to contribute to the city’s future development and strengthen Karlskrona’s position as a modern and sustainable city.

**B**rinova Fastigheter has long been a key player in Karlskrona’s urban development. Now, as the city enters an expansion phase, Brinova seeks to contribute to its long-term growth through the Lindblad 24 project.

“Karlskrona is growing, and as property owners, we want to help make that possible,” says Martin Wallin, Regional Manager East at Brinova Fastigheter.

The Lindblad 24 district is located in the Skeppsbrotorget area on northern Trossö, making it an attractive location for both residents and businesses. The

project includes new housing with sea views, modern office spaces, and a parking garage, meeting the city’s demand for parking in the area.

## A BALANCE BETWEEN TRADITION AND FUTURE

The new buildings in the district will be designed as passive houses, equipped with solar panels, battery storage, and energy-efficient systems to minimize energy consumption.

“We want to achieve the lowest possible energy consumption by building to the highest standards and incorporating the latest technology,” says Martin Wallin.

A particular challenge has been designing Lindblad 24 to harmonize with Karlskrona’s unique cityscape, which has contributed to the city’s World Heritage status.

“It’s been important for us to create architecture that is both economically and environmentally sustainable. We’ve had excellent cooperation with the municipality to ensure that the design fits within the city’s World Heritage environment,” explains Martin Wallin.

The hope is that the zoning plan for Lindblad 24 will be approved early

next year, with construction set to begin in 2025 and an estimated build time of 18 months.

“Lindblad 24 will not only become a hub for both residents and businesses on Trossö, but also strengthen Karlskrona’s position as a modern and sustainable city,” concludes Martin Wallin.

## LINDBLAD 24

- Approx. 50 new apartments
- Approx. 200 new parking spaces in a new parking facility
- Approx. 4,100 sqm of light BTA for housing/offices
- Approx. 3,200 sqm of light BTA for cultural school/offices

Follow the project at [www.brinova.se](http://www.brinova.se)





# WE HELP YOU BECOME PART OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Where you might see the end of a product's life, we see the beginning of something new. We want to create a sustainable world in collaboration with you – a world where nothing is wasted. Together, we create circular waste solutions.

Learn more about how we can collaborate for sustainable waste management at [stenarecycling.com/sv](https://stenarecycling.com/sv).

Stena Recycling Blekinge  
+46 10 445 7590  
[blekinge@stenarecycling.se](mailto:blekinge@stenarecycling.se)



# THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION HELPS PEOPLE GROW

The municipal collaboration Cura Individutveckling is a broad organization with nine operations within the psychosocial and neuropsychiatric fields, as well as administrative authority. For 30 years, Cura has supported the municipalities of Blekinge by running services in areas such as treatment, education, and care. The organization's motto and driving force is "We help people grow!"

**A**s a municipal federation, where Blekinge's municipalities are members, Cura has the ability to coordinate and optimize resources across municipal borders. Cura also sells places to other municipalities and private companies, which results in lower costs for the member municipalities and creates the conditions for maintaining a high and stable quality. "There are significant benefits to collaboration, especially for smaller municipalities where the demand for certain services may be too low to run them independently," explains Anette Rasmusson, CEO of Cura. Cura's services include residential care homes (HVB) for youth and families, LSS housing, and boarding

schools for individuals primarily with autism spectrum disorders. The organization also runs a school offering specialized education for the same target group. Additionally, Cura provides family law services, family counseling, personal ombudsmen, training initiatives, and supervision. "We are a broad organization with many services, which we can adapt to the specific needs of the member municipalities," says Anette Rasmusson. **COLLABORATION FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT** The municipal association is politically governed by a board with representatives from the five member municipalities. This collaboration allows



Anette Rasmusson,  
Managing Director of Cura

flexibility in starting new services or adapting existing ones to meet changing needs or new legal requirements. This is especially important when new legislation, such as the upcoming Social Services Act, comes into effect. "Municipalities face major challenges today, and sometimes collaboration is the solution. At Cura, we are ready to meet the new demands that come with changing needs or legislation, and we look forward to continuing to be a vital part of Blekinge municipalities' work," concludes Anette Rasmusson.

- Our Services:**
- Notavillan HVB
  - Villa Mjällby HVB
  - Klaragymnasiet with boarding school
  - Sjöarp group housing
  - Family law
  - Family counseling
  - Personal ombudsmen
  - Cura Resource Center







FOTO: ULF BITTE APPELQVIST ►



# Culture from an Early Age Nurtures Creativity

Children and young people in Blekinge, from preschool up until high school, have unique access to music, theater, literature, art, and film. The Blekinge Model makes culture and cultural heritage accessible to everyone – a model that sparks curiosity and creativity and fosters the development of innovative entrepreneurial skills.

TEXT: CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

**T**his cultural guarantee ensures that every child in Blekinge has access to professional culture starting from preschool. Throughout their upbringing, they have the opportunity to experience cultural events, participate in workshops, and make culture a natural part of their lives, says Paulina Oredsson, project manager for the Blekinge Model.

**THE FIRST STEPS** were taken in the 1990s, initially focusing on music and theater. Over recent years, the model has expanded to include more art forms.

“It’s important to focus on a wide range of activities,” says Paulina.

“There are so many aspects that stimulate children’s creativity. Some might find it particularly exciting to learn about an author’s creative process, while others are inspired by art or a theater performance. For example,

we now offer tours at Blekinge Museum, where the new exhibition ‘Back to the Stone Age’ gives children an exciting experience of cultural heritage.”

**WHAT MAKES** the Blekinge Model unique is that it operates on a regional level. It’s not uncommon for municipalities to make similar efforts, but Blekinge stands out at the regional level.

“The regional coordination ensures quality, with regional organizations like Musik i Blekinge, the Regional Theater, and the County Museum guaranteeing a high standard. The coordination is also crucial for equity, ensuring that children in all municipalities have the same opportunities.”

**THERE’S PLENTY OF** research showing that culture and creativity have positive effects on the brain, linked to both well-being and innovation, and it also improves

performance in other subjects. The Blekinge Model also enables various cultural practitioners to have a broad and accessible platform.

“We are working toward two goals – increasing accessibility and making it easier for Blekinge’s cultural creators. It’s a double win, and we can see that the model is appreciated by the municipalities.”

**THE BLEKINGE MODEL** is closely connected to the national project KulturCrew. Youth aged 10 to 25 who are involved in or responsible for organizing cultural events at school, youth centers, or other settings can join a KulturCrew. They receive training in areas like event management, marketing, and democratic practices. They learn that their opinions matter and how to express them effectively to achieve their goals. Democracy plays an important role in this, and when we look at youth councils in



Paulina Oredsson,  
Region Blekinge,  
Culture and Education

municipalities, we’ve seen that former KulturCrew members often get involved.

“This is where we see a strong connection between culture and entrepreneurship. These are skills that are valuable whether you start a business, or take employment in the private or public sector,” concludes Paulina Oredsson.

## THIS IS THE BLEKINGE MODEL – A CULTURAL GUARANTEE FOR CHILDREN:

- **A regional cultural guarantee** based on cooperation agreements between the county’s municipalities and Region Blekinge.
- **Cultural experiences are coordinated at the regional level** and co-funded by the region and municipalities.
- **Activities take place** during school hours to ensure that all children have the same opportunity to experience culture, regardless of their background or where they live in the region.
- **The Blekinge Model** includes music, theater/dance/circus, school cinema, author visits, visits to the museum, and art.

## Creative Beats Makes Waves Beyond Blekinge

**C**reative Beats, one of Musik i Blekinge’s productions, has been inspiring children and young people to create their own music for about 10 years through workshops and guidance in music production with computers, synthesizers, and DJing – everything that relates to “new music creation”. The production has gained significant attention across the country, with tours in both Blekinge’s schools and

throughout Sweden.

Recently, Creative Beats was recognized by Make Music Matter and the Tim Bergling Foundation and was invited to participate in Järvaveckan. The success of this event has led to a larger-scale collaboration and exchange.

**Make Music Matter** and **the Tim Bergling Foundation** work to combat mental health issues, develop young people’s skills, and promote creativity and well-being – goals that Creative Beats also shares.



# BLEKINGE - Where life and business grow together

What if we said there's a place that's just as perfect for life as for business?  
A place where everything is at arm's length: decision-makers, dynamic business networks, and a highly skilled workforce. Blekinge in the south east of Sweden is this place.



ATTRACTIVE TECH CONDITIONS.



MARINE TECHNOLOGIES.



SMART INDUSTRIES.

Experience our  
**strengths!**

## Trusted expert domestic Sewage treatment plants

Modern and environmentally  
friendly Sewage solutions

SitePro.

Upptäck. Förbered. Leverera.

**Kingspan BAGA**  
Fredrik Håkansson T: 0455-35 05 23  
Johan Åkesson T: 0455-35 05 40  
[www.kingspan.se/baga](http://www.kingspan.se/baga)



## Social responsibility is about investing in people and the environment

SBB is one of the leading property companies in the Nordics for social infrastructure. We are a reliable and long-term partner for the public sector. We work with tailored community facilities that are modern and climate-positive. At least 50 percent of our new constructions will be built with wood from certified forestry. At the same time, we believe that the most sustainable buildings are those that have already been constructed.

The most important people should have the best  
properties. Read more at [www.sbbnorden.se](http://www.sbbnorden.se).





# “INDUSTRIAL GREEN TRANSITION DRIVES OUR GROWTH ACROSS ALL BUSINESS AREAS”

Uddcomb is a young company, but its unique technologies have provided competitive advantages to its clients in the energy, petrochemical, nuclear, process, pulp & paper, oil & gas, and mining & steel industries for over 40 years.

## UDDCOMB’S BUSINESS AREAS

### New Builds (Mechanical Production Equipment Construction):

As an EPMI provider (Engineering, Procurement, Manufacturing & Installation), we offer our clients comprehensive project management with reduced commercial and technical project risks.

- Uddcomb has developed world-leading technology in high-voltage cable storage and handling. Uddcomb offers complete cable carousel systems with laying arms, carriers, cable baskets, and vertical lay machines (VLM) for high-voltage cable production. Uddcomb’s technical solutions increase storage capacity and reduce costs.

**Life-time Extensions:** Custom corrosion protection solutions for renovation, repairs, and life-time extensions of pressure vessels such as reactors, digesters, distillation towers and vacuum towers for crude oil. The UDDCOMB METHOD® provides corrosion protection for the most challenging process environments. This unique on-site pressure vessel renovation method makes it possible to radically extend the lifespan while eliminating the need for costly investments in new pressure vessels.

- R&D, Uddcomb is at the forefront of welding innovation with techniques such as the UDDCOMB METHOD®, UDDCOMB OPTICLAD®, UDDCOMB OPTICRO™ and UDDCOMB OPTIGAP™.



**Nuclear Power:** The name Uddcomb is synonymous with advanced welding in various nuclear applications, including test blocks, the manufacture of internal parts, and advanced on-site welding repairs.

**Technical Support:** By offering a wide range of service and maintenance to all clients, we ensure that critical production equipment meets standards and maintains performance throughout its lifecycle.



# The original Multi Cable Transit

The MCT Brattberg multi cable and pipe transit was patented in the early 1950s and has since then become the industry standard because of its high performance and safety features. With just a few components we create a safer environment.



Putting  
safety first

[www.mctbrattberg.com](http://www.mctbrattberg.com)



BLEKINGE. COME CLOSER.

# Find your future in the marine capital of Sweden

Thousands of new jobs within  
marine technology are being created  
in Karlskrona by 2030.

Join us on our growth journey.

Read more at [karlskrona.se](https://karlskrona.se) or contact us at  
[naringsliv@karlskrona.se](mailto:naringsliv@karlskrona.se) and we will give you all  
the information you need.



[karlskrona.se](https://karlskrona.se)

EXPANSIVE KARLSKRONA.



BLEKINGE. Come closer.

# SOUTHEAST RAIL LINK

## - essential for Sweden

The construction of the new Southeast Rail Link is essential for Sweden's future and connects Södra Stambanan (Southern trunk line) in Älmhult with Blekinge Railway Coastline. The rail link will create completely new opportunities for businesses to grow in the region as well as creating redundancy and resilience in the railway system by linking Sweden with the Baltic Corridor in Eastern Europe.

The rail link will also contribute important future component transportation possibilities for the Swedish Armed Forces and Nato and it will significantly increase Blekinge's attractiveness for new investments, an improved competence supply and more export as well as import via the ports.

The western municipalities in Blekinge work closely together to develop and refine the investment offers in connection with available land, the railway and the ports in Blekinge.

The construction start of the Southeast Rail Link is planned by the Swedish Transport Administration in 2027 - 2029.

For more information, contact:

Håkan Andersson, Business Development Mgr., Olofström municipality Mathias Wijk, Head of Business Establishment, Karlshamn municipality, Stefan Olofsson, Business Development Mgr, Sölvesborg Municipality



 OLOFSTRÖMS  
KOMMUN

 Sölvesborgs  
kommun

 Karlshamns  
kommun



# Come closer to *feeling at home.*

When you are greeted by the calmness. When you are seen for who you are. When you find your personal space and a greater community. That's when you are home.

Ronneby has a lot to offer to make you feel right at home. Charming neighbourhoods close to schools and activities, an expansive business sector, and good communications. Adventures in the beautiful archipelago and deep forests, as well as cultural environments and parks beyond the ordinary. And last but not least, sustainability in every aspect of life.



*Ronneby*

[www.ronneby.se](http://www.ronneby.se)



Good life + greener grass



Sweden's golf coast, situated in Blekinge, offers eight sustainability-certified courses within 60 minutes.

In this idyllic and dynamic region in the south of Sweden, you also find an archipelago, World Heritage, and many opportunities in a rapidly expanding business sector.

With a rich history in technology and innovation, Blekinge is investing in the future and in research that leads towards a more sustainable world.

**In Blekinge, you will find the good life both on and off the course.**

**BLEKINGE.** Closer to possibilities.

VISITBLEKINGE