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Press release

## **New research and development initiative in Oskarshamn**

**Oskarshamn Municipality and the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Co (SKB) have signed a five-year agreement for a new research and development platform at NOVA HögsoleCentrum named NOVA R&D. The joint venture will meet part of SKB's research and development needs while allowing for spin-off effects in the public and business sectors both locally and regionally.**

The platform will be able to make use of SKB's facilities and expertise in Oskarshamn Municipality as a basis for research and development. The ambition is that NOVA R&D will include at least two scientific fields at the end of 2007 and at least four after five years.

A number of established academic institutions were contacted during the period the agreement was being prepared. All have displayed interest in the unique research and development opportunities that exist in Oskarshamn Municipality based on SKB's activities. It should be possible for both the natural and engineering sciences as well as the social sciences to interact and collaborate.

Projects with external funding should also be able to be managed and executed within NOVA R&D. This will lead to greater synergies and broaden the base for the collaboration.

“The research platform is an example of a local spin-off effect of SKB's presence in the Oskarshamn region and could act as a magnet for growth opportunities,” says Peter Wretlund, municipal commissioner in Oskarshamn.

“SKB has a need to ensure competence and conduct research based on SKB's research, development and demonstration programme (RD&D). Moreover, it is in SKB's interest that the results of its internal research be put to wide use in society, not least locally and regionally,” says Mats Ohlsson, Site Manager at the Äspö HRL.

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