

IDEON
SCIENCE PARK

Catalyzing Innovation

A Year of Impact



2024

Highlights of the Report



Get to Know the Innovation District

How We Make A Difference



How We Develop Businesses



Our Areas Of Impact



“We help turn bold ideas into reality“

A Note From the CEO



Friends, stakeholders, and partners,

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud of the strides we have made in advancing innovation and deep tech, and in positioning Ideon Science Park as a hub for groundbreaking technologies.

Collaboration remains central to our mission. Together with our partners like Smile, Minc, Medeon, Krinova, HETCH, and Medicon Village Innovation, we have strengthened Skåne’s innovation ecosystem. Initiatives such as Skåne Ventures and Skåne Capital Day highlight the power of these partnerships.

Attracting talent is a key priority. Through efforts like the Cross-Border Talent Bridge and STEM Up, we have improved access to vital skills. Career Day 2024 stimulated connections between companies and top international talent, leading to new hires.

In the fast-growing ‘New Space Tech’ sector, we welcomed astronaut Marcus Wandt to Ideon and continued our work with ESA BIC Sweden to support space-focused startups. In cybersecurity, Innovation Day 2024 brought stakeholders together to explore digital protection for innovation. We also laid the groundwork for a platform to support defense innovation—another step toward shaping the future through deep tech.

As we move forward, our commitment remains strong: to catalyze innovation, support entrepreneurship, and help build a sustainable and competitive society.

Sincerely,

Anders G. Nilsson

CEO, Ideon Science Park

Ideon Science Park

Ideon Science Park is one of Europe’s leading deep tech and innovation hubs. We are located in Lund, Sweden. Since 1983, we have brought together startups, researchers, and entrepreneurs to turn groundbreaking ideas into real-world solutions.

Deep tech refers to cutting-edge technologies based on scientific or engineering breakthroughs that require significant R&D and have the potential to solve complex societal or industrial challenges.



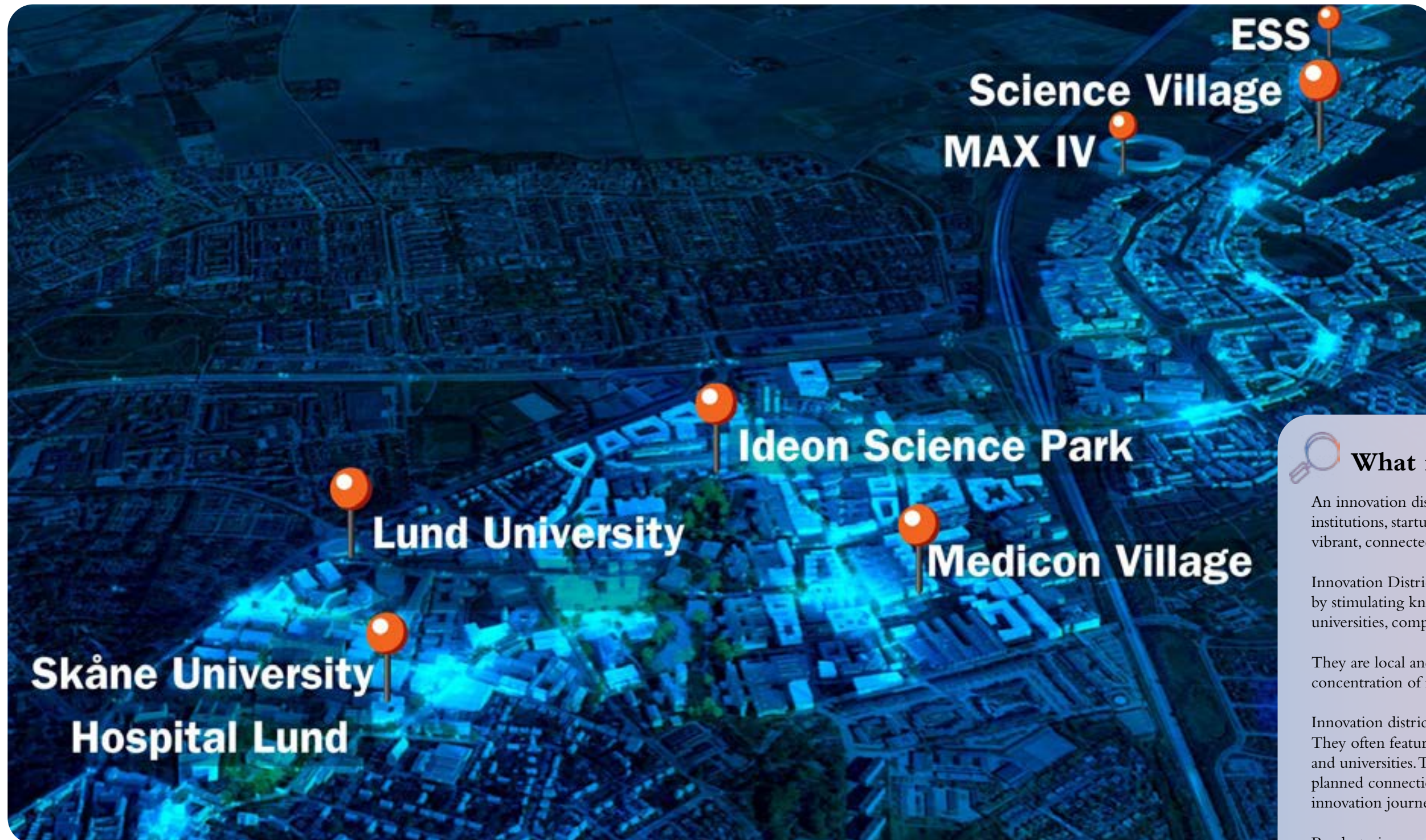
What is a Science Park?

A science park is a physical and collaborative environment that supports the growth of knowledge-based companies by fostering innovation, research, and partnerships between businesses, academia, and public institutions.



Lund Innovation District

A Well Renowned Area for Innovation



What is an Innovation District?

An innovation district is a defined urban area where research institutions, startups, scaleups, and talent come together in a vibrant, connected environment.

Innovation Districts speed up innovation and economic growth by stimulating knowledge exchange and collaboration between universities, companies, public actors, and companies.

They are local and geographical innovation systems with a high concentration of innovation capacity.

Innovation districts integrate work, living, and learning spaces. They often feature labs, co-working hubs, testbeds, cafés, venues, and universities. The goal is to enable spontaneous as well as planned connections, spark new ideas, and support the full innovation journey, from concept to market.

By clustering people, places, and programs, innovation districts attract talent, drive cross-sector innovation, and become engines for regional and national competitiveness.

Notable examples include MaRS, Toronto, Rotterdam Innovation City, Kendall Square, Boston, White City & West Tech Corridor, London.

Source: Lund University

How We Make a Difference

Incubation in Numbers

Venture Capital

Total venture capital attracted by our start-ups. Since the inception of the incubation programs in 2003 (startup alumnis)



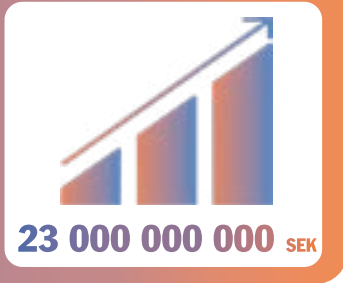
Annual Revenue

Total annual revenue generated by our startups



Accumulated Revenue

Total accumulated revenue generated by our startups. Since the inception of the incubation programs in 2004 (all startup alumni)



Money back to society

Estimated payroll taxes and employer contributions paid during the most recent fiscal year



Money back to society

Estimated accumulated payroll taxes and employer contributions paid since the inception of the incubator in 2004



400 Companies at Ideon Science Park



10 000 People work at deon Science Park



35 Startups in Incubation Programs

Fun Fact

- Each year, 21% of startups in the incubator are led by female CEOs
- Each year, 42% of startups in the incubator have female employees on their teams.

Ideon Science Park Community Activities



95

Total number of events 2024 is 95 whereof 44 networking events, 43 knowledge sharing and 6 matching events.

3200

Total number of attendees to the events



International Delegations

During 2024, we welcomed delegations from Great Britain, Holland, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Japan, Ukraine, Belgium and several African states. The Association from the Diplomats in Sweden also visited. .



Develop Your Business

Incubation programs for all startup phases

We support innovative companies of all stages with business development and growth services.

At Ideon Science Park, startups get the support they need based on where in their growth journey they are.

The Ideon team consists of a dedicated team of professional business-, pitch- and investment coaches who guide startups from discovering the essence of their business idea towards a successful company.

We have tailored the route to success for startup companies since 2001.

We are passionate about helping small companies grow faster by building value within a dynamic and creative environment.

We offer some of Sweden’s most well-renowned incubation and growth programs for tech and deep tech startups:



Our Incubation Programs



Start

From Idea to Startup

START is a 6-month incubation program for entrepreneurs with a passion and a drive and an urge to start their own business based on a unique solution or idea.

During START, entrepreneurs get help developing their ideas into a sustainable business. START gives startups access to co-working spaces where they can meet and interact with other entrepreneurs also setting out on their journey.



Build

Launching a Business

Ideon Science Park’s business coaches guide new companies through the process of launching a business.

BUILD targets new businesses with

a solid idea based on innovation, unique competence or solution.

Startups in BUILD have registered a Swedish company and are either just building their team or have a team in place. In our program BUILD, startups learn more about how to develop their business, get access to funding, get support in building business concepts and coaching while building in your organization.

In BUILD, companies will be guided over several months. The first month consists of workshops on key topics they need to delve into to get a flying start. In the following months, the startups get to work with peers in guided group sessions. They benefit from networking, peer-to-peer learning, and continuous development of their business.



Grow

Maturing the business

GROW is a tailor-made acceleration program for startups in the continuous phase after BUILD. If they have already participated in one of our incubation programs or

another incubator, or have experience running their own business, they can apply for GROW.

In GROW, startups can take their company to new heights. It is designed to help start ups scale and achieve sustainable growth.

During the program, startups will get guidance from experts and industry leaders providing strategic advice. They will expand their network and further expand connections with investors, partners, and industry experts to unlock new opportunities. On the agenda is, among other things, developing a comprehensive growth strategy that aligns with their long-term goals.



Celebration

The incubator celebrated 20 years in 2024 together with alumni. The result of 20 years of incubation, 330 companies.



Celebration

Pitcher’s Corner celebrated its 10 year anniversary.



Scale

Scaling Your Business

Scale is a program for companies in the continuous phase after GROW. Startups that have developed their businesses further in one of our programs or at another incubator, or

have developed experience of running a business are welcome to apply to SCALE.

A typical SCALE company has 10 million in venture capital and can manage on a runway of 12-18 months. It still faces strategic challenges but has a consolidated business model.

The program offers the company to attend larger events approximately (four) 4 times per year. SLUSH – the world’s leading startup event is one such event.

Voices from the community

“It is incredibly important for us that this area thrives. It attracts our talents”

— Louise Dolck Strömberg,
HR Director at Axis Communications



“It is in CellaVision’s DNA to be part of this environment. From the very beginning, our focus has been global. Today, our technology is used worldwide”

— Magnus Blixt, CFO of CellaVision



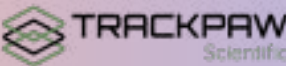
“InnoviGuard may be my vision, but Ideon has sharpened it, boosted my confidence, and shown me that even the hardest challenges are better faced together. For that, I’m truly grateful.

— Carl Hendrix,
CEO and founder, Innoviguard



“I find it extremely refreshing to be surrounded by entrepreneurs who have completely different ideas who can share their struggles and experiences with each other, as one otherwise is used to seeing mainly other’s success.

— Lisa Tchapanova Alberktson,
founder and CEO of TrackPaw



Our Areas of Impact

We lead projects in key impact areas to support and accelerate the growth of companies in our community.



Defense

Speeding Up Defense Innovation in Sweden

In 2024, we laid the foundation for a new platform accelerating defense and dual-use innovation – technologies with applications in both civilian and defense sectors. With growing interest in areas such as cybersecurity, AI, sensors, autonomous systems, and secure communications, we began shaping a framework to support early-stage companies operating at this intersection.

In close collaboration with defense stakeholders, investors, authorities and tech experts, we initiated the development of a dedicated acceleration platform – designed to help startups validate their solutions, scale their businesses, and navigate the specific challenges of dual-use innovation.

Our ambition: to create a trusted environment where cutting-edge innovation can thrive across sectors critical to societal resilience and European competitiveness. This work represents the first step toward building a long-term strategic initiative within Ideon’s deep tech ecosystem – strengthening Sweden’s position in the future landscape of defense and security innovation.

“

There is a lack of neutral platforms where the Armed Forces and defense industry can meet with startups and researchers, where true innovation meets real needs, and development is actually allowed to happen. This is why we have created an innovation platform for defense.”

Johan Vaernholt, Head of Business Development



Talent Attraction

How do we help attract talents?

Cross-border Talent Bridge. Ideon Science Park has joined forces with Lund Municipality, Medicon Village, OpenTech, Copenhagen Capacity, Copenhagen Municipality, and Medicon Valley Alliance. We are actively driving talent acquisition in the Öresund region’s tech and life science sectors.

The project Cross-Border Talent Bridge, co-funded by Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak, tackles the growing demand for skilled candidates, talent, in these fields by creating a collaborative environment that attracts, retains, and develops top talent across the entire region.

During 2024, we organized a Career Fair for 180 international students and 15 participating companies.

Since 2017, Ideon Science Park has organized the popular Ideon Coder Kids — a full day of programming activities held during the autumn break. The event is open to both beginners and more experienced young coders.

Ideon Coder Kids is designed for children aged 8–15 and welcomes both newcomers and those with prior programming experience. Participants get the opportunity to explore programming, game development, web design, and problem-solving in a fun and engaging environment.

The goal of Ideon Coder Kids is to inspire a passion for coding and digital creativity among children and young people, and to empower them to continue growing their skills and interests.

Ideon Coder Kids is made possible through close collaboration with SONY, Axis, Handelsbanken, Bosch, Newseed, ARM, Qlik, Codiska, and Vattenhallen Lund university. This year’s Coder Kids event welcomed 150 participating children

“

Talent attraction is absolutely critical to the Öresund region (encompassing southern Sweden and eastern Denmark, including cities like Lund, Malmö, and Copenhagen) because it underpins the region’s ability to compete, grow, and lead in innovation on a global scale.”

Lotta Wessfeldt, Deputy CEO, Ideon Science Park





Energy

Accelerating Innovation in Sustainable Energy

Our energy initiatives focus on accelerating Sweden's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon energy system. Our strategy emphasizes five key areas: decarbonization, electrification, energy efficiency, decentralization, and digitization. By promoting innovation in clean technologies, smart grids, and electrification, we aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy security, and build a resilient energy infrastructure.

Collaborating with the Swedish Energy Agency, we support the commercialization of energy innovations. This partnership fosters environments that encourage collaboration among researchers, companies, and intermediaries, aiming to increase awareness of funding opportunities and diversify ideas addressing energy challenges.

A key initiative was Energize!, a breakfast seminar series co-hosted by Ideon Science Park and Lund University, funded by the Swedish Energy Agency. The series brings together energy and climate tech innovators, experts, startups, and established companies to encourage collaboration and accelerate the green transition. Startups pitch ideas for feedback, while larger companies gain insight into new technologies and potential partnerships. The goal is to spark collaborations, innovative projects, and investments that drive sustainable energy solutions forward.

We also hosted a diverse array of energy-focused companies, including NEKTAB-Nordisk Elkraftteknik AB, Cold Earth Research Company AB, Zerotide AB, and SenseNode AB. These companies contribute to the park's mission by developing sustainable energy solutions, from smart energy tracking technologies to scalable renovation analyses aimed at reducing climate footprints.



We hope to see tangible partnerships leading to new innovative projects and investments and ideas catalyzed into action”.

Sara Egidius, Head of Project Management Office at Ideon Science Park.

Semi-conductors

Empowering the Development of the Semiconductor Sector in Sweden

Sweden invests heavily in semiconductors. In 2024, Ideon Science Park applied to be part of the new national initiative, *Semicon Sweden* and joined early 2025. This effort unites leaders from research, industry, and innovation to strengthen our semiconductor sector.

Over the next four years, we will work to connect startups, scaleups, and deep-tech innovators with the broader semiconductor ecosystem.

As a leading innovation hub, we will drive collaboration between startups, academia, and industry to ensure cutting-edge research creates real-world impact.



Semi-conductors are crucial to Europe's technological sovereignty and security. 75% of the world's semi-conductors are produced in Asia. Semi-conductors are essential to critical infrastructure like power grids, telecommunications, and defense systems. Having domestic production in Europe to safeguard against these geopolitical risks is crucial. The pandemic exposed the dangers of over-reliance, Europe cannot afford to be in this situation again.”

Anders G Nilsson, CEO, Ideon Science Park





New Space Tech

Supporting Space Tech Startups

New Space Tech is transforming the space industry – making it more accessible, accelerating innovation, and opening new business opportunities in aerospace, defense, and telecommunications.

At Ideon Science Park, we help space tech startups turn their cutting-edge technology into real-world solutions. We offer business support, incubation programs, and access to expertise, resources, and funding.

Our focus is on deep tech and space innovation. We work with startups using satellite data, AI, robotics, earth observation, quantum computing, and space-enabled solutions – helping them develop, scale, and connect with the right partners.

By supporting space tech companies, we contribute to strengthening Sweden's role in the global space economy.



We create opportunities for space entrepreneurs to pitch ideas, gain insights, and connect with investors, industry leaders, and research institutions to accelerate commercialization and growth,”

Leonie Blum, Business Developer and Project Manager for ESA BIC at Ideon Science Park.



Highlights within New Space Tech

- Prominent sectors among the startups were; agriculture & forestry, climate & environmental monitoring, smart cities & urban applications. Most of the startups combine Earth Observation (EO) and AI technologies, addressing real-world challenges on Earth through data-driven solutions.
- In 2024, Ideon joined forces with ABI, Innovatum, and UIC to launch the new Swedish Space Innovation Centre (SSIC). The project aims to accelerate the commercialization of space research in Sweden, and support startups that leverage space-based technologies (e.g., satellite data, positioning, communications) to solve challenges on Earth.

Partners: ABI (Luleå), Innovatum (Trollhättan), UIC (Uppsala), Vinnova, Swedish National Space Agency (Rymdstyrelsen), European Space Agency (ESA), Tillväxtverket

Cybersecurity

Ramping Up Cybersecurity Efforts

Ideon Science Park is engaged in enhancing cybersecurity for Swedish companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), through several key initiatives and collaborations.

We are a core partner in the Sweden Secure Tech Hub, a national cybersecurity innovation initiative co-funded by the EU and Tillväxtverket. This hub is part of the Sweden ICT consortium, which includes six leading science parks across Sweden. Luleå Science Park, Kista Science City, Linköping Science Park, Lindholmen Science Park and Blue Science Park. The mission is to help SMEs develop secure digital products and services from the earliest stages of design and development.

In October we arranged Säkerhet för Framtiden, with Säpo, Teknikföretagen and SOFF (Säkerhets- och försvarsföretagen) with highlights on how we protect ourselves against industrial espionage and explore the business opportunities in Sweden's fastest-growing market.

The conference engaged 100 delegates from academia, industry and the public sector in Skåne.



Cybersecurity is no longer just a concern for large corporations, it is essential for SMEs to protect their innovations, operations, and customer trust. Many smaller businesses think they are not a target. The reality is that they often have fewer defenses, making them more vulnerable to attacks. I enjoy working in cybersecurity because it's about empowering these companies, giving them the tools and knowledge to stay resilient in a digital world. Seeing businesses grow securely and confidently is motivating.”

Sara Egidius, Head of Project Management Office at Ideon Science Park, heads our cyber security initiative.



The Team

Catalyzing Future Innovations

Ideon Science Park is powered by a team of dedicated business developers, committed to helping innovative companies grow and thrive. With deep expertise across tech, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, we work closely with startups, scaleups, and established companies to provide hands-on support, strategic guidance, and access to a strong regional and international network.



Special thanks to

Our Owners



Our Partners



Our assignment by SUN

- **Create more companies** based on science and innovation
- **Create more jobs** in the region
- **Be the link between** university, private businesses and society



What is SUN?

Stiftelsen för samverkan mellan Lunds Universitet och näringslivet. It was established in 1986

Its mission is to facilitate collaboration and knowledge exchange between Lund University and the business community.

**“ Ideon Science Park is where
research becomes reality and
ideas become business**