

*Knut och Alice
Wallenbergs
Stiftelse*

Proof-of-concept Grant in AI or Quantum Technologies

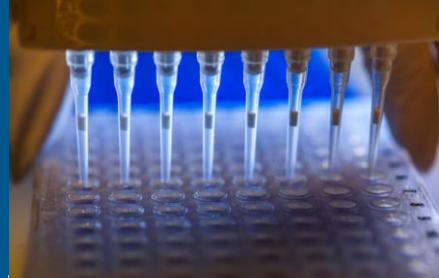
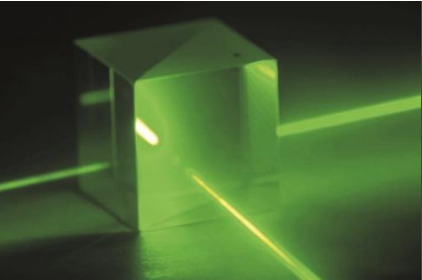
Open from February 17 to April 14

Webinar | 2025-02-25

The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation

SEK 2.2 billion in 2023 and over SEK 37 billion in grants since 1917 for excellent basic research and education in Sweden

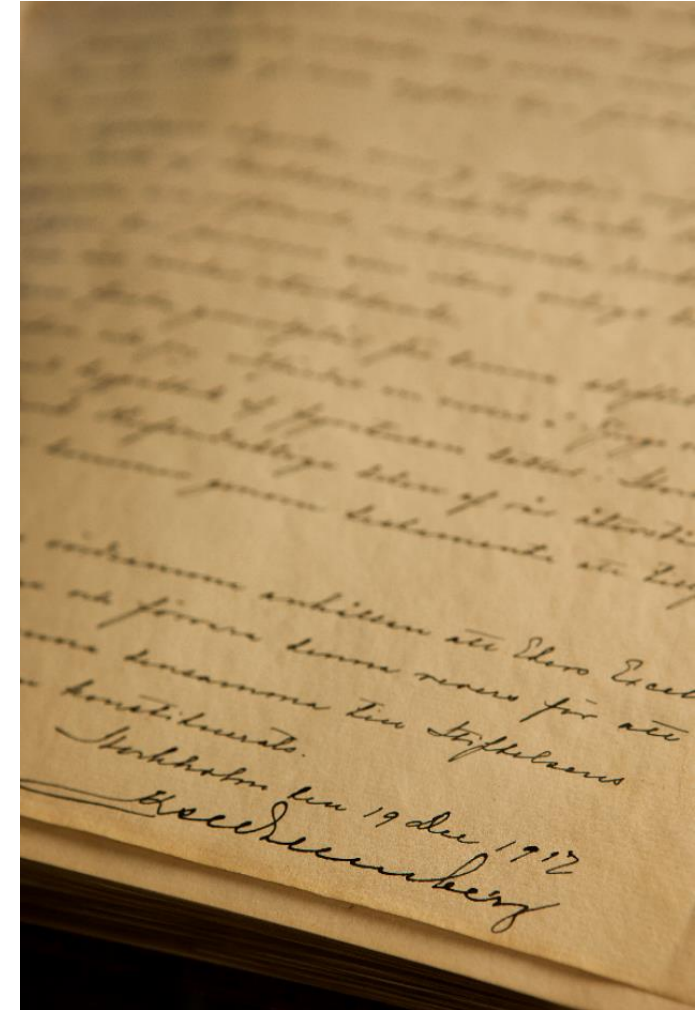
- One of the largest private research funders in Europe
- Grants mainly for natural sciences, technology and medicine
- Long-term grants for excellent researchers and research projects
- Strategic grants and scholarship programs – important for the research community, industry and society



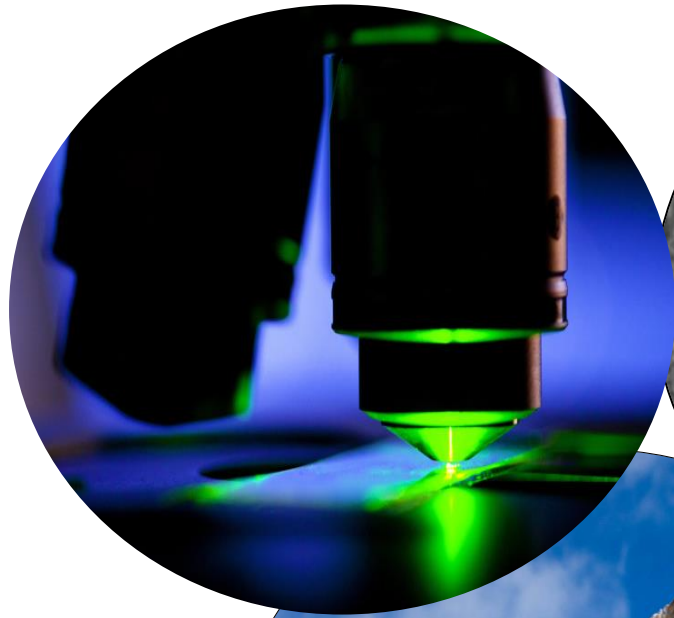
Statutes

”The Foundation’s main purpose is to support basic research and education beneficial to Sweden - *Landsgagneligt*”

For the betterment of Sweden



BASIC SCIENCE



LONG-TERM



INNOVATION



FREEDOM



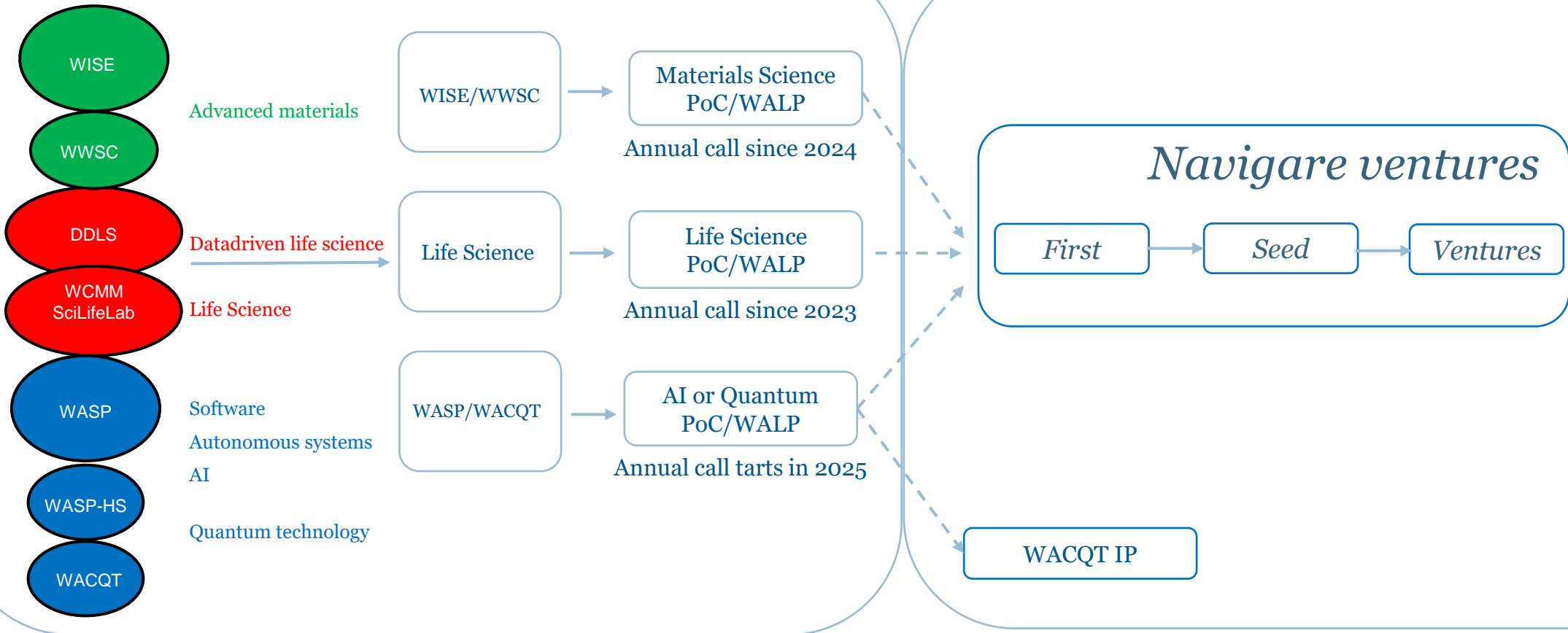
COMPETENCE

A complete innovation system for KAW researchers

KAW

Profit from Navigare goes back to Swedish research

Navigare AB



1st KAW Proof-of-concept grant in AI or Quantum Technologies

- The purpose of the grant is to bridge the gap between basic research and utilization or commercialization of research results in AI or Quantum Technologies
- Supports activities that prepare for innovation and commercialization of methods, products or processes
- The Proof-of-Concept grant is linked to the Wallenberg Launch Pad (WALP)
- Eligible to apply are those who have or have had grants from the Wallenberg Foundations and employed at a Swedish university
- It is an academic research grant - no strings attached!



Overview of the Process



Application and Expert panel Review:

- Raise awareness among the KAW scientist and identify top candidates for WALP

WALP Phase 1 main activities:

- Coaching of candidates, preparing them for the WALP pitch and (potential) grant recommendation

WALP Phase 2 main activities:

- Continue to build the team and complement it with e.g. experts, lab professionals, etc.
- Develop a Minimum Viable Product for research validation
- Establish deeper relationship with potential users

Proof of Concept Call in AI or Quantum Technologies

2025 Timeline

- Call opens on **February 17, 2025**
- Call closes on **April 14, 2025**
- First review panel meeting is at the end of April 2025
- Review panel result by June 31, 2025
- 3 WALP coaching sessions in Sept.-Nov. 2025
- WALP pitches in December 2025
- Decisions in December 2025

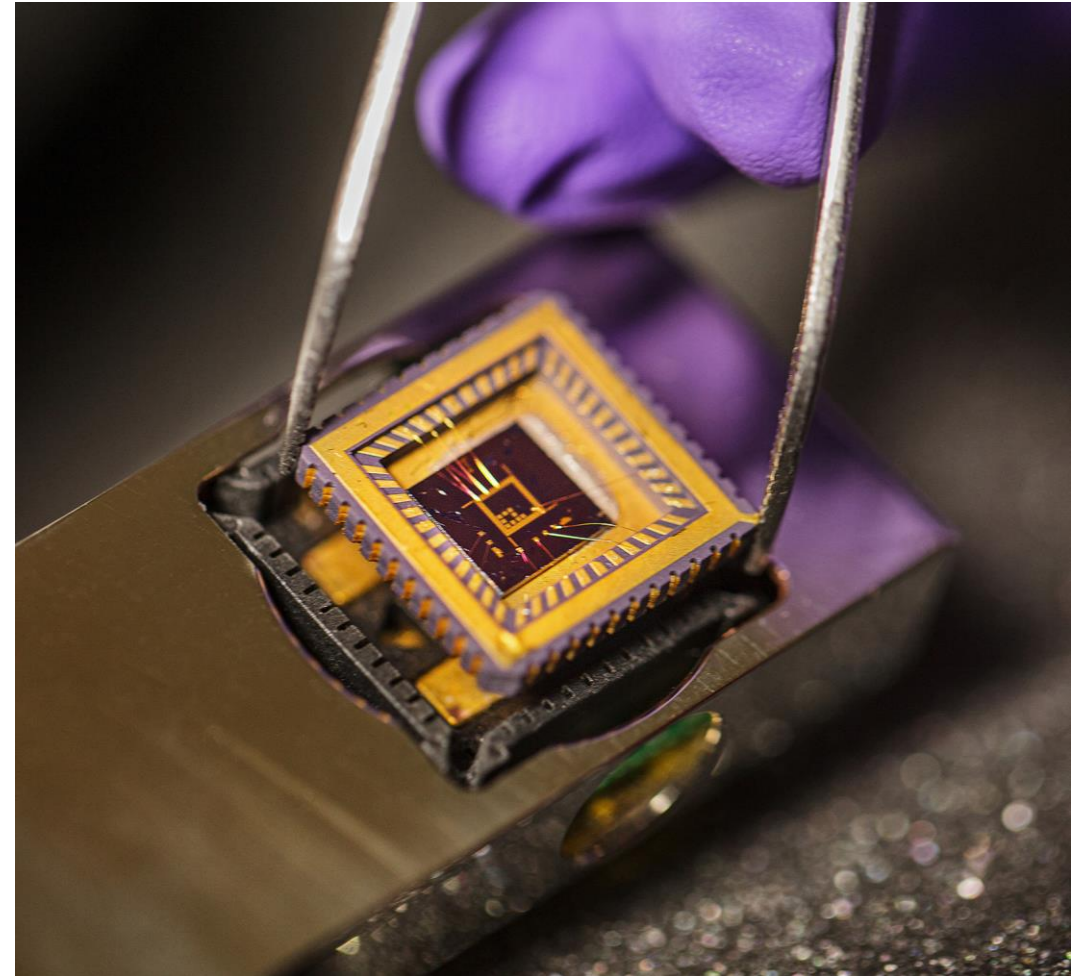
Research Categories

Autonomous Systems and AI

- Software for and in Autonomous Systems
- Autonomous Systems and Robotics
- Machine Learning
- Mathematics for AI

Quantum Technologies

- Quantum Computing and Simulation
- Quantum Communication
- Quantum Sensing



Grant application and evaluation

Application

- **Project description and plan** (need, benefit, competition, approach, max 10 pages; follow instructions)
- **One-page project pitch** (important!)
- **Complete budget** (university)
- **CV**
- **Certificate** from the head of department
- **Verification(s) of interest** from external party(ies)

Evaluation criteria

- Does the proposed innovation solve a **persistent and important problem**?
- Is the potential **solution well defined**?
- Is the potential **solution novel and unique**?
- Is there **interest from external partners**?
- Is the intellectual property (IP) protected and/or is there a **plan for protection**?
- Is the Proof-of-Concept project and its milestones **well defined and relevant**?
- Is the proposed **team** adequate?
- Is the **time plan and budget** realistic?

Budget and cost

The PoC grant can be between **1 and 4 million SEK**

The PoC grant is usually covering costs for **up to 24 months**

The PoC grant **can only be used for costs at a university** and should follow the university's processes and regulations and KAW regulations

Costs that are allowed on a KAW PoC grant:

- Salary of project members hired by the university
- Infrastructure
- Software licenses
- Travel cost to attend conferences and fairs
- Rent of office/lab space
- Up to 20 % university indirect costs

Suggested next steps...

- Define the Proof-of-Concept study: its **goal** and the well-defined and value-creating **work packages** and **milestones** needed to take you there
- Identify and engage with **external parties** (potential partners, customers, users, investors) - you need an interest verification for the project
- If relevant: contact your **innovation office** for business advice, support with market analysis, IP and/or regulatory strategy etc
- Apply on the KAW application portal

Thank you!