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Call for bids to organize & host the 15th IAFSS Symposium, Europe, 2026

The IAFSS Committee welcome bids for the 15th IAFSS Symposium, to be held in Europe in 2026. Selection of the host for the symposium will be made by the new Management Committee at its April meeting, which will be associated with the virtual 13th IAFSS Symposium organized and hosted by the University of Waterloo. An exact date will be defined and communicated by those sending in a bid.

If you are interested in hosting the 15th IAFSS Symposium, we kindly ask that you:

- (a) make your interest known (intent to submit a bid) no later than March 5, 2021, and**
- (b) submit your formal bid no later than March 26, 2021.**

Considerations for host selection will be as follows:

BACK-UP and SUPPORT

- Institutional / departmental commitment and adequate department staffing to support event
- Commitment of local/national fire community to hosting symposium
- National and local sponsorship opportunities
- Local meeting planning and execution staff (either in-house or external agency)
- Website development and online registration capabilities
- Active participation in Symposium Committee meetings.
- Ability to organise a virtual or hybrid symposium.

VENUE

- To be located in Europe.
- Adequate meeting facilities (up to 400-500 attendees) with large plenary space and 3 session spaces, two poster sessions (at least 60 posters each), preferable all in one building. Catering facilities nearby (with 2-4 minutes) walk for lunch.
- Adequate number of sleeping rooms in close proximity is desired. A mix of quality (i.e. 2-4*star) hotel and other accommodations, including student housing opportunities, should be available.
- Ease of international travel (e.g., flights, rail) and local transportation to venue and accommodation.
- Social program opportunities (welcome reception, night out, and symposium banquet inclusive, as well as providing optional social opportunities for evenings).
- Partner program opportunities.
- Virtual/hybrid alternatives to be listed and explained

The local host organization is not responsible for the content of the technical program, poster program, or workshops. The Program Committee makes the decisions on the program and the Symposium Committee makes decisions on the content of the overall symposium. Cooperation between both committees is a crucial component for the success of the symposium. A financial agreement is made before the organization of the conference with IAFSS. The organisers should be aware that the generated profit is forwarded to IAFSS.

The timeline and selection process is as follows:

- Bidders are to submit a written (email) **intent to submit** a formal bid to the current IAFSS Honorary Secretary, Dr. Brian Meacham (brian@meachamassociates.com), no later than **March 5, 2021**.
- Bidders are to submit written details of their **formal bid** to the current IAFSS Honorary Secretary, Dr. Brian Meacham (brian@meachamassociates.com), **no later than March 26, 2021**.
- Bidders are asked to prepare a **pre-recorded presentation, maximum 20 minutes**, and send to the Honorary Secretary no later than one week before the meeting with the new Management Committee. The IAFSS Honorary Secretary will be in contact regarding acceptable format and email address / file transfer location.
- Bidders will be able to **defend their bid** to the IAFSS Management Committee during a **virtual meeting with the Management Committee**. This meeting will be organised around the time of the virtual 13th Symposium (exact date and time to be provided to bidders in early April). This meeting will provide opportunities for questions and discussion with the Committee members. During the virtual Management Committee meeting questions and further clarifications will be asked by the members. (No new presentation will be possible as we need to reduce the meeting time as we have different time zones.)
- **A decision will be made by the IAFSS Management Committee at this meeting.**
- **Bids arriving after March 26 or incomplete bids will not be considered.**

For reference and guidance, I have attached to this letter a copy of the material provided by the University of Lund in their successful bid for the IAFSS 12th Symposium in 2017.

If I can be of any assistance to you in your decision to bid, or in the content of the bid, feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you for your support of the IAFSS.

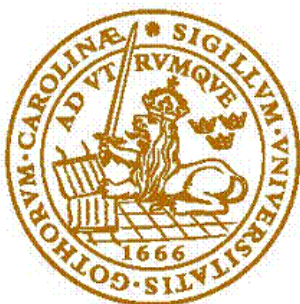
Sincerely,

Prof. Patrick van Hees Chair, IAFSS

Annex

Example of bid for the 12th IAFSS conference

Application for the
IAFSS 2016/2017
Conference
Lund, Sweden



LUND
UNIVERSITY

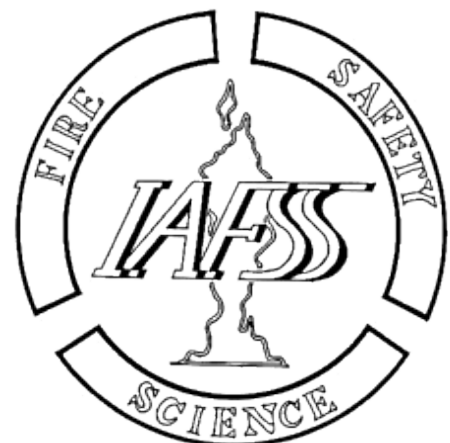


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Sweden

Sweden is a country located in the northern part of Europe, see figure 1. It is quite a small country with 9.4 million inhabitants. Despite being a small nation Sweden is big in science. Sweden also has beautiful landscapes and nature. Lund is a city located in the southern part of Sweden, in the Skåne region. Lund University is one of Europe's leading universities.



Figure 1: Map of Europe.

Lund University

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is one of the broadest, largest and oldest universities in Scandinavia. The University has an excellent academic reputation with a large number of visiting professors and international students and is one of Sweden's strongest research universities. Lund University has consistently been ranked among the world's top 100 universities in recent years.

Lund University has eight faculties and offers education and research in engineering, science, law, social science, medicine, humanities, theology, economics and more. The University has around 47,000 students, 2,800 research students and 6,000 employees. The main campus is located in Lund, with two additional campuses in Helsingborg and Malmö.

The Faculty of Engineering

The Faculty of Engineering at Lund University (LTH in Swedish) was founded in 1961 and is one of the leading engineering faculties in Europe. The Faculty of Engineering offers a wide variety of engineering programmes, including fire protection engineering. The Faculty of Engineering also has a wide range of research areas. The research is of high international standard and the faculty is world-leading in several areas.



Figure 2: The Faculty of Engineering campus. Photo: Mikael Risedal.

The Department of Fire Safety Engineering and Systems Safety

Lund University was one of the first universities in the world that started with fire engineering research and development. The research started in Lund in the 1960's. This was the foundation of the advanced, internationally high valued research now being conducted at the Department of Fire Safety Engineering in Lund. Ove Pettersson, Professor of Structural Mechanics (later converted to Professor of Building Fire Safety and Technology), was one of the pioneers in fire safety engineering in Lund. Ove Pettersson then proceeded to be one of the founders of the IAFSS. Today the Department of Fire Safety Engineering and Systems Safety in Lund are active members of the IAFSS and are continually helping to produce newsletters and other work. Members of the staff have been part of the executive committee for many years (Prof. Magnusson, Dr. Karlsson and Prof. van Hees).

In 1986 The Faculty of Engineering initiated the first technical university level education of fire protection engineers in Europe. Counterparts outside Europe were very few at the time. In 2001 the Faculty of Engineering started a master program in Risk Management and Safety Engineering. Recently a European Erasmus Mundus Master program was started with Edinburgh and Gent University.

The Department of Fire Safety Engineering and Systems Safety is responsible for education and research in Fire Safety Engineering and Societal Systems Safety.

The primary research areas of the department are:

- Human Behavior in Fire
- Fire Risk Analysis
- Fire Development and Modelling

670 fire protection students have graduated from the Faculty of Engineering in Lund. Nine of those have continued to a PhD. The students have a close connection with the department and many would be interested in attending the conference, meaning that many Swedish visitors are guaranteed.

Robert Jönsson is the Head of department in Lund. 2010 the SFPE Engineering Program Master Chris Jelenewicz stated that “Robert Jönsson is widely recognized for making the program at Lund University one of the preeminent fire safety engineering schools in the world”.

Two of Lund University’s research networks, LUCRAM (Lund University Centre of Risk Assessment and Management) and TRRC (Training Regions Research Centre), are conducted at the department.

Location

Lund is located in the southern part of Sweden, in the Skåne region. The main University campus is located in Lund. Lund is situated close to both Copenhagen airport (*Kastrup*) and Malmö airport (*Sturup*). It takes about 30 minutes to reach Lund from Copenhagen airport by train and around 40 minutes from Malmö airport by bus. From Sweden’s capital Stockholm it takes about 4.5 hours by train and 1 hour by air.

Copenhagen airport has great connections to plenty of European airports which make Lund easy to reach by flight no matter where you are travelling from.

Figure 3 shows the location of Lund, Malmö, Copenhagen airport and Malmö airport.

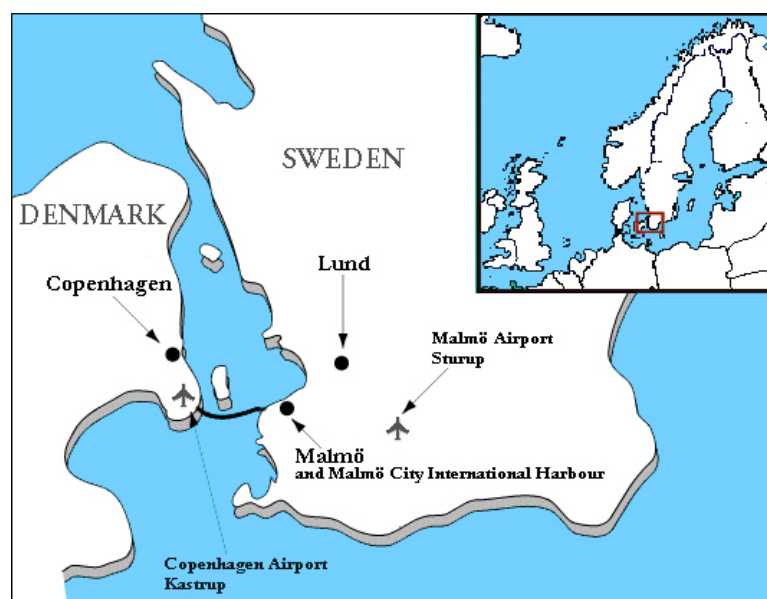


Figure 3: Map with Lund and nearby airports.

Previous events

The Department of Fire Safety Engineering and Systems Safety at Lund University are proud members of the IAFSS.

The 2010 and 2000 SFPE (Society of Fire Protection Engineers) international conferences were hosted by Lund University. There were 307 total attendees and 30 countries were represented at the 2010 conference. The interest from former and current students was huge and many participated in the conference.

Robert Jönsson, chairman of the Department of Fire Safety Engineering and Systems Safety at Lund University, was the president of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers for the year 2010.

Conference venue

There are many great options for conference venues in Lund.

The Congress centre is an organisation in Lund that offers conference services for the University. *The Congress centre* can provide help with venues, logistics, technology, staff and catering. They have extensive experience in organising congresses, conferences and other events. *The Congress centre* offers a lot of different venues nearby *the University site*.

The University site is located in the heart of Lund, in the park *Lundagård*, with beautiful surroundings. A few examples of lecture halls are *the University Building's auditorium* (holds 450 people), *Palaestra et Odeum* (holds 250 people) and *Eden* (holds 144 people). *The AF-castle*, which is a small castle located near *the University site* has a grand hall that holds up to 750 people as well as smaller lecture halls. *The AF-castle* can also arrange banquets for up to 500 people.

Figure 4 shows an aerial view of the park *Lundagård*, with *the University Building*, *the AF-castle* and *Palaestra*. Figure 5 shows pictures of *the Palaestra* and *the University Building*.

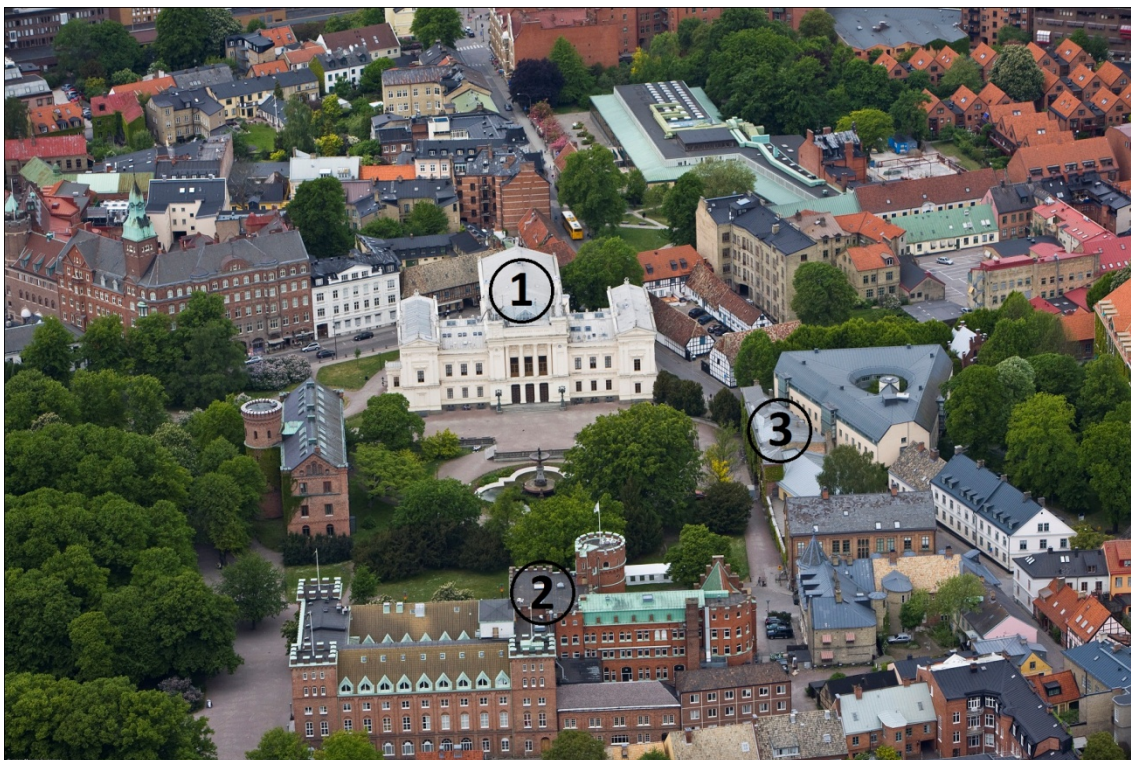


Figure 4: Aerial view of the park Lundagård. (1: The University Building, 2: The AF-castle, 3: The Palaestra).

Photo: Gunnar Menander.



Figure 5: Left photo: The Palaestra by Mikael Risedal. Right photo: The University Building by Kennet Ruona.

Another possible venue is the Faculty of Engineering at Lund University. The Faculty of Engineering consists of many buildings which all are located close to each other and it only takes a few minutes to walk between them.

The Student Union Building is a building at the centre of the Faculty of Engineering with an auditorium that holds 400 people and a lecture hall that holds 200 people. Additionally there are plenty more buildings with more lecture halls, a couple that hold around 200 people and plenty more that hold around 150 people.

The Faculty of Engineering is located about 1 kilometre from the centre of Lund with nice surroundings. The building in which The Department of Fire Safety Engineering is located is very close to *the Student Union Building* and has three large lecture halls.

They can hold 210, 160 and 108 people. In *the Student Union Building* there is a grand hall where it is possible to arrange fine dining for up to 400 people.

Figure 6 shows *the Student Union Building* and one of the lecture halls inside.



Figure 6: *The Student Union Building*. Left photo: Mikael Risedal. Right photo: Gunnar Menander

A third option is the *Scandic Star Hotel*. It is located about 2.5 km from the centre of Lund. This hotel has three quite large lecture halls. One of these holds up to 450 people, while the others hold 180 and 120 people. In addition to these they have lecture halls that hold around 45 people. *Scandic Star Hotel* also has a grand hall where they can arrange banquets for up to 550 people. The hotel has 196 rooms with 528 beds.

Professional conference organisers

There are several professional conference organisers available in Lund. *The Congress centre* is in cooperation with the professional conference organisers *Congrex Sweden AB*.

Other PCO's are *Destination Öresund*, *Hansen Conference & Event AB*, *Malmö Kongressbyrå AB* and *MCI-group*. These organisations can provide help with hotel reservation, website, venues and much more.

Lund also has plenty of caterers that offer help with meals.

Accommodation

Lund has a wide range of different hotels. Many hotels are positioned near the centre of Lund. For those who are located in the outskirts of Lund there is a great network of buses. *First Hotel Planetstaden*, *Grand Hotel* and *Lundia* are examples of nice hotels with a high standard. Lund also offers more affordable options, for example *Ibis Hotel*, *Hotel Ideon* and *Hotel Sparta*. Hotels *Ideon* and *Sparta* are both placed on campus. Lund largest hotel *Scandic Star Hotel* is located 2.5 km from the centre of Lund.

In the next few years some hotels are planning to expand, including *First Hotel Planetstaden* and *Ideon Gateway*.

Activities and attractions

Lund is one of the oldest cities in Sweden. It is a quite small city with around 110,000 inhabitants. Despite this the city offers a lot of different activities and attractions, many positioned in the centre of the city. For those attractions that are located outside the centre of Lund there is good bus communications.

Lund offers a wide range of activities:

- Shopping
- Pubs and bars
- Cinemas and Theatres
- Museums
- Golf
- Walking trails
- Bicycling

The centre of Lund is located only a few minutes walk from *the University site*. The city has a wide range of different restaurants and cafés. Here you can find Swedish cuisine as well as international restaurants. Lund also has a lot of nice cafés, bars and pubs. Many of the restaurants offer outdoor seating in parks or market places.

In Lund you can find plenty of museums, art galleries and parks, as well as theatres and cinemas. In the centre of Lund there also is a wide range of shops where you find food, clothes and souvenirs. In the surroundings the nature is beautiful with nice walking trails.

If you are interested in sightseeing you might want to visit:

- *The Cathedral of Lund*, which was built in the 11th century and is one of Sweden's most popular tourist attractions. See figure 7.
- *Kulturen*, an old museum that present a great exhibition about how people used to live. The museum also presents smaller exhibitions, for example art and design.
- *The Botanical garden*, in the centre of Lund with over 7,000 species grown on 20 acres. See figure 7.



Figure 7: Left photo: Botanical garden Right photo: Domkyrkan. By Mikael Risedal.

Lund is located close to Malmö, 3rd largest city in Sweden, and Copenhagen, capital of Denmark. These two cities offer an even wider range of activities and attractions.

Future research facilities

In the coming ten years, two large research facilities will be built in Lund: Max-Lab IV and ESS (European Spallation Source).

Max-Lab IV

Max-lab is a research facility currently possessing accelerators for synchrotron radiation research (Max I, Max II and Max III). The newest addition, Max IV, should be completed in 2015 and it will be the far most powerful synchrotron radiation facility in the world.

ESS (European Spallation Source)

Scheduled to be completed in 2020, five years after Max IV, is the ESS. It will be a multipurpose research centre, with what will be the world's most powerful neutron source. Its function is similar to a giant microscope, and by firing neutrons at materials it will tell us more about the physical properties of the materials. This will allow for research in i.e. medicine, environmental science and communication.

Lund is already of hub of science and education, but will rise to an even higher level with these two additions. Because of these facilities the number of hotels and conference venues will surely increase significantly in the following years.

Summary

Lund is a “big little city” with a friendly atmosphere. The city is easy to reach both by train and flight no matter where you are travelling from. Sweden is a safe country and environmentally friendly. There are many options of hotels and conference venues, as well as restaurants and activities.

Fire safety research has been conducted for nearly 50 years at Lund University, and the Department of Fire Safety Engineering and Systems Safety is famous for advanced, internationally high valued research.

The department was one of the first in the world to initiate a university level education of fire protection engineers, and as of today 670 engineers have graduated from the program. Many of these graduates (as well as the over 100 current fire safety students) still have a strong connection with the department and would be very interested in attending the IAFSS conference. The numbers of Swedish visitors are therefore likely to be big, especially as it will be the first time that the IAFSS conference will come to Sweden!