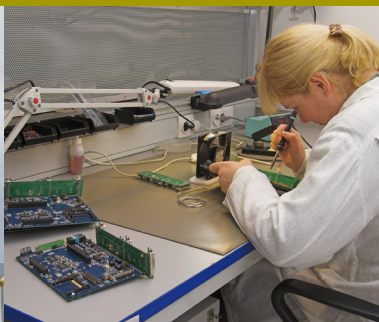


*Research that  
shapes our future*

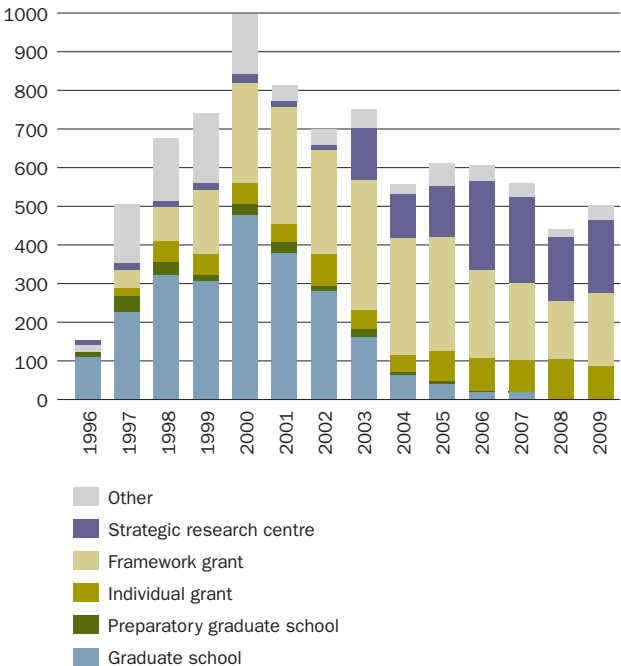


## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research was founded in 1994 with capital from the former wage-earner funds. The founding capital was SEK 6 billion. The objective of the Foundation is to support research in natural science, engineering and medicine that strengthens Sweden's competitiveness. The Foundation's Governing Board consists of ten persons two of which are appointed by the Government. Seven are appointed by the outgoing Governing Board following nominations by the research councils (2), Swedish universities (2) and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (3 together). One member is appointed by the outgoing Board itself. The chairperson and the vice chairperson are elected by the Board internally.

The Foundation is currently funding more than 200 research projects in the form of strategic research centres, framework grants or individual grants. Up to and including 2009, the Foundation has approved research support totalling approximately SEK 12 billion, of which approximately SEK 3 billion has not yet been disbursed.

**Disbursed per annum and form of support (SEK millions)**



As a result of active capital management and the positive past performance of the stock market, the capital has grown and amounted to approximately SEK 9,5 billion at the start of 2010, despite the fact that approximately SEK 9 billion had been disbursed up to then.

## **STRATEGY**

According to its statutes, the Foundation is supposed to promote the development of strong research settings of the highest international standard and of importance for Sweden's future competitiveness. The Foundation has defined strategic research as research that will be of benefit to Sweden in the long term. Benefit can be assessed based on one or more of the following aspects:

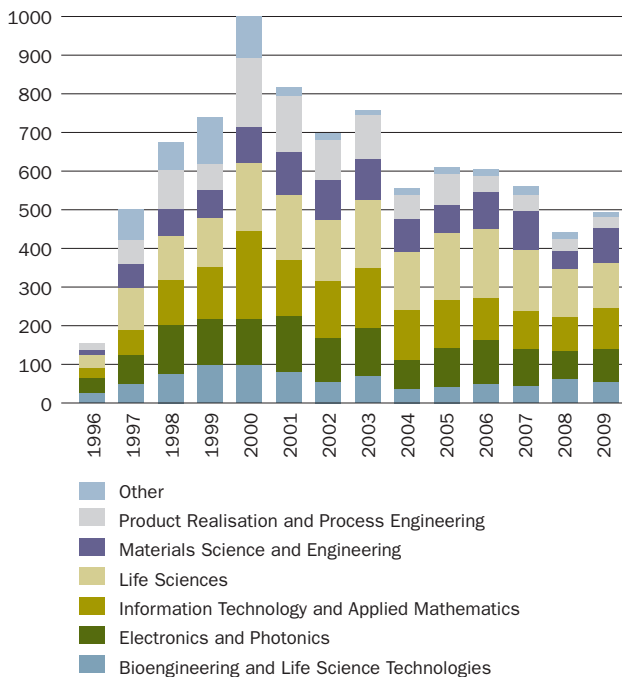
- research, the results of which may serve as a basis for the development of existing or new companies
- well-educated graduates, who through broadened and improved graduate training are attractive for employment primarily in industry and society, but also in universities and research institutes
- the ability of internationally high-class research environments to attract uniquely qualified researchers and international investments to Sweden
- research that serves as a focus for international cooperation, whereby knowledge of interest to Swedish industry can be accumulated

All of this also contributes to a higher quality of life via more employment opportunities, improved working conditions and better health, as well as to a more sustainable society.

## **APPLICABILITY**

The supported research is intended to result in deeper knowledge and expertise that is expected in the long term to be applicable in knowledge-intensive and high-technology branches of industry or social sectors in Sweden.

**Disbursed per area of research (SEK millions)**



## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE**

The Foundation is trying to clarify its role as a research funding body via a transparent process – from planning and call for proposals via selection procedure and decision to evaluation and accounting.

The Foundation strives for an active dialogue with universities and research institutes as well as individual researchers and clients in the private and public sectors.

The Foundation also wishes to contribute via active information efforts to an improved dialogue in research-related matters between different sectors of society, particularly between industry and academia.

The Foundation also expects those who work in the supported activity to take their own responsibility to disseminate the results of their research.

## **FORMS OF SUPPORT**

The Foundation works with several different forms of support. Two types of grants predominate: framework grants and individual grants to leading younger researchers. The period of the grant is three to six years. The Foundation also conducts a mobility programme in order to stimulate mobility between the university sector and industry – in both directions.

### **Framework grants**

A number of researchers from a large research group or from a few independent research groups, co-located or at different universities or institutes, collaborate to solve an important research problem. One of the researchers is the main applicant and is responsible for coordinating the scientific activities within the project. If the main applicant is active at a research institute, at least one of the co-applicants must work at a university. A programme committee consisting of experts from both academia and industry follow and support the projects within the programme.

### **The programme *Future research leaders***

The purpose of this programme is to identify and support young, particularly promising researchers with leadership potential and offer them grants to put together their own internationally competitive research groups. The programme also includes special leadership training for the grant recipients.

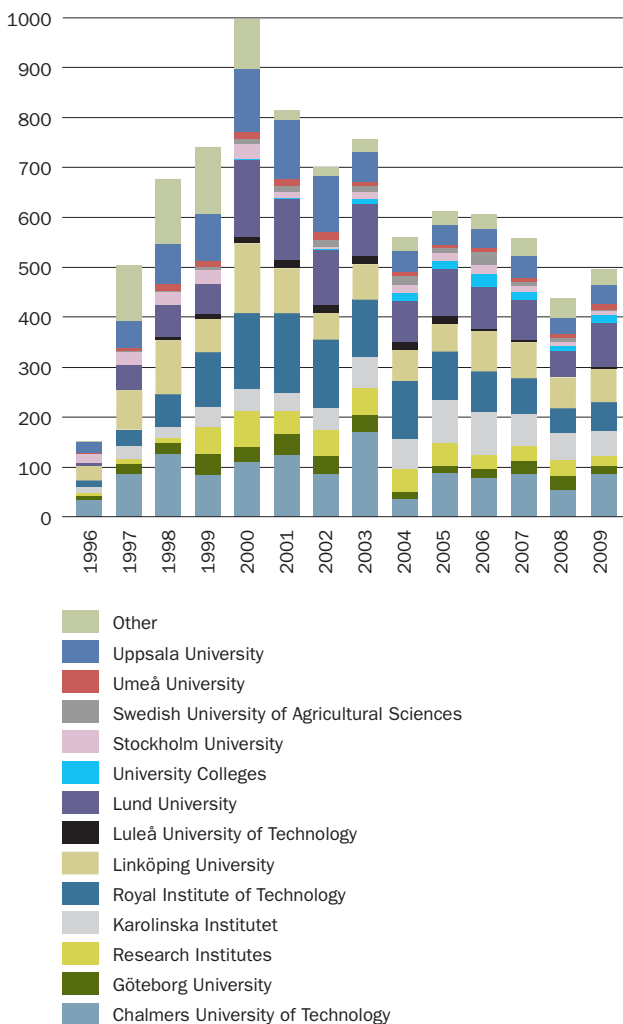
### **The programme *Ingvar Carlsson Award***

The purpose of this programme is to give homecoming postdocs an opportunity to launch their own independent and creative research careers in Sweden. This programme also includes leadership training.

### **International cooperation**

International cooperation is of great importance for maintaining and raising the scientific quality of the supported research. The Foundation therefore considers it an important task to promote cooperation between leading Swedish and foreign research groups. Cooperation agreements exist with Japanese organisations, among others

## Disbursed per university (SEK millions)



## ORGANISATION AND WORK FORMS

### Executive Management, secretariat and selection organisation

The Foundation is presided over by an Executive Director answering directly to the Governing Board. He is assisted by a secretariat of 15 persons and a selection organisation that involves a large number of Swedish and foreign researchers and representatives from industry and society.

## **Financial Management**

The Foundation's Governing Board is responsible for the managing the Foundation's capital. Capital management should be conducted with a reasonable level of risk and in a conservative and balanced manner with the aim of ensuring a satisfactory return with low management costs and high administrative efficiency.

According to its statutes, the Foundation is free to choose between gradually depleting the capital and only spending the return.

## **APPLICATION PROCESSING**

### **Competitive application procedure**

In order to encourage innovative research within a limited, variable budget framework, the Foundation uses a competitive application procedure. The Foundation does not normally consider applications submitted without a preceding call for proposals.

All programmes are concluded after the agreement period, which is normally five to six years. The quality and relevance of the completed research activity are evaluated and the experience is fed back.

### **Quality and relevance**

Review of applications and evaluation of completed research and graduate training are central functions to guarantee both scientific quality and strategic relevance in the activities. These tasks are performed by internationally leading scientific and industrial experts. The purpose is to create confidence in the research community as well as in society at large.

## THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH

- Supports research and graduate training in natural science, engineering and medicine for the purpose of strengthening Sweden's future competitiveness
- Finances a large number of research projects at universities and colleges, many in collaboration with industry
- Awards individual grants to particularly prominent researchers
- Supports important areas such as biotechnology, materials development, microelectronics, information technology and product realisation
- Has an annual payment volume of about SEK 600 million
- Has a capital base of nearly SEK 10 billion (August 2010)



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*  
STRATEGIC RESEARCH