NordForsk is seeking:

- ## Nordic WLCG Tier-1 Operations Engineer

NordForsk[1] coordinates the Nordic WLCG Tier-1 (NT1) collaboration on behalf of the participating Nordic countries. NT1 is financed through national contributions and delivered by the participating national e-infrastructure organisations under a Nordic Memorandum of Understanding. NordForsk provides the administrative, contractual and governance framework for the collaboration.

https://www.nordforsk.org

The Nordic Tier-1 (NT1) is the Nordic contribution to the Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG), which provides computing and data services for the Large Hadron Collider experiments at CERN. NT1 operates a large distributed infrastructure across Nordic sites, with around 60 petabytes of storage and growing.

The core responsibilities of NT1 include:

- Operating reliable, high-availability storage and computing services for WLCG.
- Developing and maintaining dCache-based distributed storage, ARC services, accounting and supporting middleware.
- Monitoring service health, performance, capacity, security and data movement across the participating sites.
- Providing coordinated Operator-on-Duty coverage and supporting the 24/7 availability requirement.
- Collaborating with CERN, WLCG, dCache.org, national providers and other big-science infrastructures.
- Preparing the Nordic service for evolving experiment requirements, including the High-Luminosity LHC era.

NordForsk is looking for an Operations Engineer with a broad Linux systems background in automation, DevOps and networking to join the distributed team running the Nordic Tier-1 for LHC data storage and computing. The candidate will support reliable operation and high-volume data movement across the multi-site WLCG production environment.

The new team member will report to the NT1 Activity Manager and is expected to commit 50% of full-time work to NT1. The remaining time should be committed to the candidate's home institution, preferably in work with useful technical synergies. The engagement is normally established through a two-year renewable service contract with NordForsk.

It is expected that the candidate has, or is interested in, permanent employment at a scientific computing organisation, national e-infrastructure provider, university or collaborating institution in a Nordic country.

[1] NordForsk is an organisation under the Nordic Council of Ministers that provides funding for Nordic research cooperation as well as advice and input on Nordic research policy. The organisation plays a key role in enhancing the value of existing research activities in the five Nordic countries, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland, as well as the autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Aaland Islands. The organisation's head office is located in central Oslo. For further information, see https://www.nordforsk.org.

Candidates must have a good command of English, both written and spoken, and be comfortable working independently in a geographically distributed operational team.

Approximately half of the time committed to NT1 is used for the Operator-on-Duty service, normally one week every fourth or fifth week. During the duty week, the operator is expected to be online during normal office hours and to respond to incidents, alarms, user requests, questions from participating sites and coordination needs with WLCG partners. The remaining NT1 time is used for maintaining and improving the service together with the rest of the team.

The position is advertised to strengthen our team which has a diverse set of proficiencies. The two profiles listed are examples of what we think would complement the current team, but a candidate is very welcome to make their own case for what they will bring to the team to operate and improve our distributed infrastructure.

Common tasks:

- Participating in the Operator-on-Duty rotation and handling incidents, alarms, requests and operational coordination during office hours.
- Administering and troubleshooting Linux-based services supporting dCache, virtualisation, databases, monitoring, security and service communication.
- Collaborating with storage, middleware, automation, network and security specialists to resolve cross-layer production issues and prepare NT1 for evolving WLCG and High-Luminosity LHC requirements.

Automation profile

- Increasing the coverage and quality of Ansible automation and infrastructure-as-code, including provisioning, configuration, upgrades, validation, backup and recovery workflows.
- Integrating services and operational checks into repeatable automation and CI/CD workflows, with clear documentation and operational runbooks.
- Increase the number of services we can automatically deploy without manual steps

Network profile

- Improving network routing, redundancy, failover and high-availability arrangements, and maintaining clear, secure and auditable firewall configuration, including nftables-based policy management.
- Investigating end-to-end transfer bottlenecks, packet loss, latency, TCP behaviour and host or network-interface limitations in high-throughput data paths.
- Working with switches, routers, BGP-connected environments and national or international network providers, and developing monitoring and telemetry for network and service performance.

There is an option for additional compensation for night and weekend on-call participation supporting NT1's 24/7 requirement; participation is not mandatory. The team communicates daily through group chat, meets regularly by video and normally meets face to face up to three times per year.

Questions about the position and applications should be directed to Mattias Wadenstein, NT1 Activity Manager (maswan@ndgf.org), or Abdulrahman Azab Mohamed, NT1 Activity Owner (abdulrahman.azab@sigma2.no). Application deadline 2026-11-29.