NEAT 2026

Netherlands Embedded AI Technologies Symposium

Final report of the 4TU.NIRICT Community Funding project "Algorithms and Hardware for Embedded AI" (NIRICT2025). Event held on Friday 19 June 2026 at SURF, Utrecht.

Project team

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Introduction

NEAT (Netherlands Embedded AI Technologies) is a community-building initiative that brings together the Dutch ecosystem working on resource-constrained AI systems, spanning hardware, software, algorithms and applications. AI capabilities are moving rapidly from the cloud to sensors, wearables, vehicles and other edge devices, and the Netherlands hosts strong but scattered expertise in this field across universities, research institutes and companies. With the support of 4TU.NIRICT, we organized the first NEAT symposium to connect these groups, to give early-career researchers a stage next to established experts, and to seed lasting collaborations between academia and industry.

Activities

The symposium took place on Friday 19 June 2026 at the SURF offices in Utrecht as a free, full-day, in-person event. The program opened with an interactive introduction round in which participants presented themselves, followed by twelve selected pitch presentations from PhD students, postdocs and faculty members who introduced their research to the community.

Fourteen invited talks were organized in five thematic sessions. Industry speakers from Axelera AI, Signify and Sorama presented real-world edge AI use cases such as camera-based pool safety, self-correcting smart lighting and acoustic monitoring. Academic sessions covered hardware-aware model optimization and compute-in-memory (Maastricht University, NXP, Eindhoven University of Technology), neuromorphic computing and neural interfaces (University of Southern Denmark, Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology, Innatera), and edge AI for human-centered applications such as biometrics, human-machine interaction, ingestible sensing and augmented reality (University of Twente, Leiden University, imec/OnePlanet, SNAP). Several talks included live demonstrations, among them spiking neurons processing radar signals on the spot and a highly miniaturized ingestible sensor. The day concluded with a social dinner attended by around thirty participants, which gave ample room for informal exchange and new contacts.

Impressions of NEAT 2026 at SURF Utrecht. More photos are available in the online gallery.

Achieved results and impact

The event reached full capacity. All 60 available seats were booked well before the event, and a waiting list had to be opened; in total, more than 50 researchers and practitioners attended on the day. The audience covered all four 4TU universities (Delft, Eindhoven, Twente and Wageningen) together with Maastricht University, Leiden University, research institutes including ASTRON, SURF, the Netherlands eScience Center and imec/OnePlanet, and companies including NXP, Philips, Signify, Sorama, Axelera AI, Innatera and SNAP. The symposium also attracted international participants from institutions in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Portugal and Denmark.

All talks were recorded and published. The symposium website hosts the full program with abstracts, speaker profiles, a photo gallery and links to 25 recorded videos on YouTube, making the content available to the wider community beyond the attendees. The wrap-up post on LinkedIn reached over 150 reactions and 10 reposts, and participant

feedback was very positive. The organizing team intends to explore a follow-up edition to turn NEAT into a recurring national event.

The 4TU.NIRICT support is acknowledged on the symposium website, in the opening presentation and in the public announcements of the event.

Links

Website: https://www.neat-symposium.org

Talk recordings: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMyfnkD0BBlk

Photo gallery: https://www.neat-symposium.org/Gallery/

LinkedIn wrap-up post: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7474729156153573376/

We thank 4TU.NIRICT for funding this event and SURF for generously hosting it in their facilities in Utrecht and covering the lunch for all participants.