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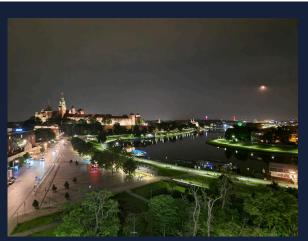# Advancing Near-Data Processing: NEARDATA Partners Gather at Sano in Krakow

By Anna Partyka (SANO)

On June 10–12, the **NEARDATA consortium gathered at the Sano Centre for Computational Medicine in Kraków** for a project meeting. The meeting focused on reviewing the final scientific progress, planning the last stages of the project, and coordinating the integration of tools developed by the project partners. Discussions also covered the practical use cases demonstrating extreme near-data processing in cloud, HPC, and serverless infrastructures. The meeting also provided a valuable platform to strengthen collaboration within the consortium and explore new research opportunities with experts from Sano.

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In addition to these joint meetings, NEARDATA also involves the ongoing scientific work, daily research activities, and international engagement of consortium members. One recent example is the participation of Piotr Kica, Scientific Programmer in Sano's Extreme-scale Data and Computing team, at the 25th **IEEE International Symposium on Cluster, Cloud and Internet Computing (CCGrid2025),** held on May 19–22 in Tromsø, Norway.

Representing Sano, Piotr presented a poster titled **"Serverless Approach to Running Resource-Intensive STAR Aligner"**, co-authored with Michał Orzechowski (Scientific Programmer) and Maciej Malawski, Research Team Leader of Extreme-scale Data and Computing. The study analyzed the applicability of serverless services for RNA-sequence alignment using the STAR aligner. The team proposed and implemented a fully serverless solution based on AWS ECS in Fargate mode, evaluated its performance and cost-efficiency in a medium-scale experiment, and suggested directions for further optimization.

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