



Pictured, from left to right: Jani Poutianen (FMI), Heikki Turtiainen (Vaisala), Johanna Haanpää (Havis Amanda Junior Chamber), Timo Ketola (President, Junior Chamber Finland).

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Great ideas get noticed

Helsinki Testbed wins Productive idea of the year contest

Helsinki Testbed, a joint effort between Vaisala and the Finnish Meteorological Institute, has won the community category of this year's Productive idea contest in Finland.

Helsinki Testbed is a research and experimentation platform for new weather observation equipment, systems, services and forecasting models. It covers the Greater Helsinki area. Helsinki Testbed enhances the cooperation between researchers, companies and end-users, and facilitates the utilization of research results in practice, such as in precision weather services.

According to the contest jury, the Testbed research project is an unconventional and bold demonstration of how meteorology and technology can be harnessed to communicate local weather conditions in real-time. The jury stated that the Testbed project utilizes

Finnish technology and know-how in an exemplary way. The long-term goal is to promote the formation of a leading edge meteorological center in the Helsinki area. The idea has significant societal impacts, and it has already gained great international attention.

The contest, established to promote creative business activity, was organized for the 28th time. It seeks new and innovative ideas that are less than three years old and that have already been taken into productive use. The contest has two categories: a business category and a community category.

The Productive idea contest is organized by the Junior Chamber International Finland. The contest is carried out in cooperation with Kauppalehti and Kauppalehti Optio magazines, OP bank group, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Finnish Industry Investment Ltd, Tamro

Oyj, Federation of Finnish Enterprises, Central Chamber of Commerce of Finland, and the Association for Finnish Work.

The project expands

In 2007, the Finnish Meteorological Institute and Vaisala will launch phase II of the Helsinki Testbed project. Its goal is to move from the development of the platform and infrastructure to actual application development. The three-year phase II project seeks to develop new precision weather services relating to, for example, air quality, urban traffic, fire extinguishing and rescue, boating, as well as a number of outdoor activities. ■

Further information:

www.fmi.fi/weather/stations_88.html
<http://testbed.fmi.fi>