Groundbreaking public-private-academic partnerships

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In addition to conducting its own R&D, Vaisala works closely with customers, research institutes and universities in order to carry out one of its most fundamental values: science-based innovation. The forms of cooperation include partnership projects, support for meteorological training programs, grants and the funding of scholarships and internships. Dr. Dmitri Moisseev and Professor David Schultz have some first-hand experience of partnering with Vaisala.

Dr. Dmitri Moisseev builds a radar meteorology research program in Helsinki

Dr. Dmitri Moisseev is a weather radar researcher, currently working at Helsinki University with the goal of building a successful research program in the field of radar meteorology. Vaisala is partly funding Dr. Moisseev's five-year post, which started in December 2007.

Originally from Moscow, Dr. Moisseev has a Ph.D. from Delft University of Technology in Holland, where he lived for six years. After this, he moved to the USA to carry out some further studies at Colorado State University, CSU.

During his stay at CSU, Dr. Moisseev came into contact with Vaisala and heard about the radar development project and weather radar prototype at Helsinki University. "It turned out to be an extremely interesting project. What makes it so unique is the true public-private-academic partnership involved: the cooperation between Vaisala, the Finnish Meteorological Institute and Helsinki University is groundbreaking. Each party brings a valuable and different viewpoint and expertise into the mix. For this reason I would say that Helsinki is the best place in the world for a radar researcher just now."

Dr. Moisseev and research partners are continuing to work on radar development. "The university prototype, built together with Vaisala, is being used for further improving the signal processing qualities and testing new algorithms, and of course, for education," he explains.

David Schultz - Professor of Experimental Meteorology at the University of Helsinki

Professor David Schultz is a mesoscale meteorology expert from Oklahoma, USA. He has been living in Finland since November 2006 and is actively participating in the Finnish meteorological scene - thanks to funding provided by the University of Helsinki, the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) and Vaisala. Professor Schultz was recently appointed Professor of Experimental Meteorology at the University of Helsinki for the next five years.

Professor Schultz's responsibilities at the university include teaching courses on mesoscale and synoptic meteorology, advising students on their research projects, collaborating with Sabine Goeke and Dmitri Moisseev on snow and radar research, and integrating meteorology into the large productive aerosol research program. At FMI he builds bridges between research and operational forecasting, does research to help improve weather forecasting, and contributes to the scientific leadership of FMI. With Vaisala, Professor Schultz provides scientific leadership to the Helsinki Testbed project, and helps develop scientific research projects to make better instrumentation.

"Although keeping three different 'sponsors' keeps me busier than most people, I am proud to be affiliated with these three organizations, especially Vaisala. My fiancée's father says all academics should spend time working in industry so that we have real-world experience. Working with Vaisala on challenges you face in instrument and solutions development and marketing has given me a different perspective than the 'ivory-tower' world of academia," Professor Schultz explains.

"In the United States there is a lot of discussion about the public-private-academic partnership and how the roles of each should be defined so that they work together effectively. The different weather organizations I am affiliated with in Helsinki seem to have resolved many of the issues that face the US. They really are an example for the rest of the world in terms of cooperation." ■