

News in Brief

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Finland's 'Giant's Kettle' at Shanghai

Finland will be taking part in the Shanghai World EXPO 2010 with a pavilion named the Giant's Kettle ('Kirnu' in Finnish). The emphasis in the choices of materials for the innovative Giant's Kettle is on minimal environmental loading.



The Giant's Kettle pavilion will be clad with scaly modern shingles designed especially for the project. The shingles are manufactured from UPM ProFi wood plastic composite. The innovative material is produced mainly from recycled raw material and is ideal for outdoor use. Environmentally friendly UPM ProFi has a hard-wearing surface with low moisture and it retains its colour in differing weather conditions.

The World Expo 2010 Shanghai China is expected to be the biggest of all times. Up to 80 million people are expected to visit the Expo site of over 300 acres in October 2010. The World Expo's theme is "Better City, Better Life". Finland's themes will deal with well-being from the perspectives of competence and the environment.

>> www.finlandexpo2010.fi
>> www.upm-kymmene.com

Vehicle that identifies radiation

Environics Oy, a company that operates in the safety sector, is starting to produce vehicles that analyse radiation. The company says there is no equivalent product on the market.

Radiation-analysis vehicles can be used, for example, to guarantee safety in big cities and at major events. The vehicle can show quickly whether there is an object that contains a radioactive substance in the environment.

The vehicles can be constructed on the frame of a van or small lorry. The price depends on how it is equipped. The cheapest version is about half a million euros. With comprehensive fittings, the price rises to between 2 and 3 million euros.

Veli-Matti Lahti, Vice President of Sales at Environics Oy, believes that the vehicle will become a hit product, saying that negotiations for orders with the first customers are already under way.

>> www.environics.fi

Maintenance robot for fusion plant

Fusion energy is a promising option as a source of energy for the future. The advantages of fusion are the practically limitless fuel reserves and climate friendliness.

The international fusion energy test plant (ITER) is one of the most challenging energy projects of all time.

Developing the maintenance of the critical components at the plant, which is being built in France, is the responsibility of VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and Tampere University of Technology. A full-scale research environment for the European fusion programme's maintenance robot started operating in January in Tampere.

The test plant project is a significant indication of the esteem in which the expertise of Finns

is held. The remote-handling operations and virtual technologies play a crucial role in maintaining the reactor. They also have enormous scope for industrial use.

"The development of the technology for a fusion reactor is creating new expertise in Finland that will speed up the productivity and competitiveness of the country's industry," says **Erkki KM Leppävuori**, the Director General of VTT.

>> www.vtt.fi

Ecological sailing

Environmental factors now hold a crucial position in the choice of materials and manufacturing methods of the boat industry. As a result of Proboat and Sustainable Boating, two research projects that are under way in the Boat Programme of Tekes-Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, the boat industry will soon have an increased number of practical ways of increasing ecological features both in the products and production.

Environmental friendliness starts with the boat builders and distributors. Buyers today want to purchase products that have taken into account the environment effects of production, fuel consumption and choice of materials.

The Sustainable Boating project is looking into the environmental effects of boats through their entire life cycle: from production materials to fuel consumption and the recycling of boats taken out of use. Proboat is seeking options for boat firms from the ecological perspective and modernizing existing products. The final results of the projects can be expected during 2010.

>> www.tekes.fi

Best mobile game from Finland

Independent Games Festival chose the Finnish Zen Bound game as the best iPhone game out of five finalists. Zen Bound was described as a calm and meditative puzzle game in which scoring the highest number of points is not the main aim.

The game was developed by Secret Exit, which was set up in 2006 and specialises in mobile games. The company uses Apple's digital distribution and marketing channel, the biggest benefits of which are the small distribution costs and the scope for shopping regardless of time or place.

Tekes's Verso (Vertical Software Solutions) has funded the company's product development. "Secret Exit is an excellent example of how success is not dependent on a company's size. When a company has the right attitude, an enthusiastic and competent team and original innovation, the result is a winning product," says Verso's head, Keith Bonnici.

>> www.secretexit.com

Finnish game industry

The Finnish game industry is going well. Unlike many other sectors, it is growing quickly. Tekes-Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Industry is involved in keeping the industry's wheels turning.

In 2008 the industry's turnover grew by 11 per cent, the number of employees by six per cent and the number of companies in the industry by more than four per cent. The reasons for the success include strong technological and content expertise, a good price/quality ratio

in the production and motivated personnel.

Tekes has funded the Finnish game industry for several years. In 2008 it opened the Play Finland website to make the industry well known to the world's media, investors and players.

>> www.playfinland.fi

New technology centre – InnoHub

Philips Applied Technologies and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland have entered into cooperation over InnoHub, which has helping companies create innovations in the areas of health care, wellbeing and lifestyle products as its business idea.

InnoHub is a creative atmosphere that supports the development of user-responsive innovations. It brings together experts with backgrounds in different fields to think up ideas for new kinds of solutions and new, profitable business activities. The experts can work in the home and hospital environments built at InnoHub.

For companies InnoHub is a service point where the creation of an idea for a product, and the pilot and testing stages come together. The user-responsive operating method reduces the products' development costs and speeds up access to their markets. The services can be utilised by multinational companies and SMEs.

Philips established the first InnoHub in Singapore in 2004. The second InnoHub was set up in the Helsinki district because the area is an innovation centre with a global reach.

>> www.vtt.fi