



Vaasan yliopisto

12.8.2026

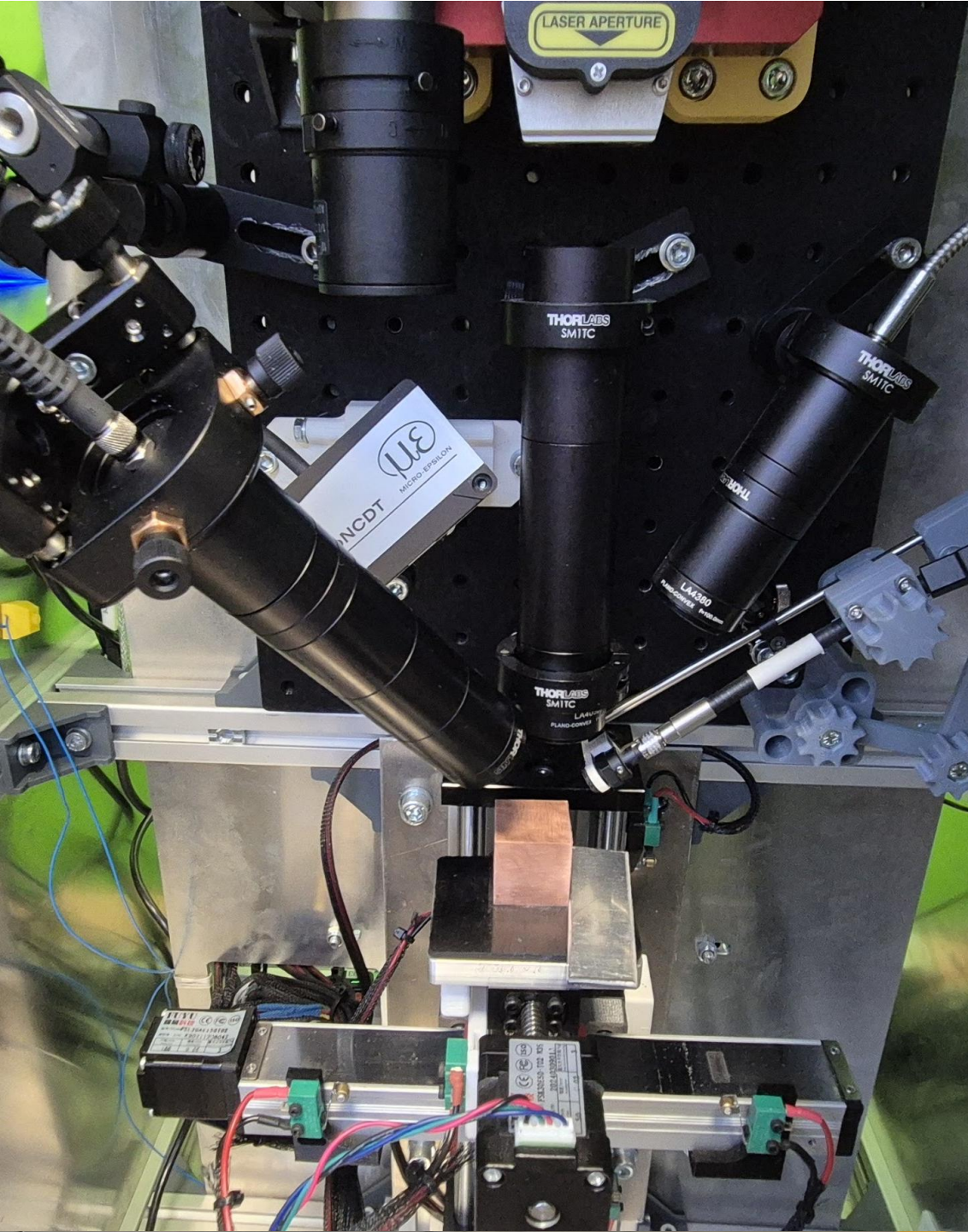
SPACE WEDNESDAY · WASA INNOVATION CENTER

Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Pori and Vaasa

Pekka Suominen

How we build Finland's strongest space technology competence hub





Pekka Suominen

Professor, Automation Engineering

- ▶ Responsible of Automation and Robotics education in Pori and Vaasa
- ▶ PhD, Physics (University of Jyväskylä 2006)
 - ▶ Accelerator technology, ion sources / plasma physics and magnetic plasma control
 - ▶ Robotics, automation and AI in industry
- ▶ Research
 - ▶ Material identification using optical emission spectroscopy and AI methods.
- ▶ Entrepreneurship
 - ▶ Founded 3 startups, over 15 years of entrepreneurial experience
- ▶ Organizations
 - ▶ University of Jyväskylä, CERN, Prizztech, SAMK, University of Vaasa



Automation and Robotics – Education in Pori



Academic education and industry/research collaboration in the Pori and Vaasa regions

2022

Foundation funding to launch the programme (Ulla Tuominen and Eurajoki Savings Bank foundations)

2024

Programme launched in autumn 2024
"Master's Programme in Robotics"

2025

"Automation and Robotics"

2026

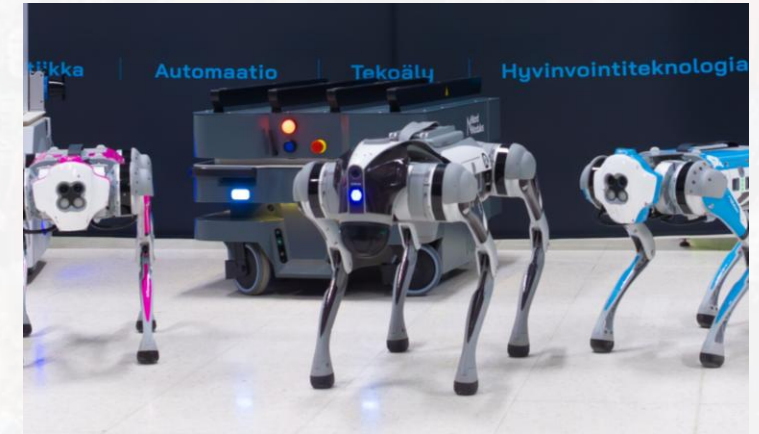
Student recruitment, company links and research projects, doctoral paths and space applications



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Integration into SAMK research and laboratories

RoboAI Research Center: Industry, Green, Health, Cyber, Space



Pori Space Lab and West Coast collaboration



PORI SPACE LAB

Space science/technology education and research partnership:
City of Pori, University of Turku and SAMK



New master's programme starts in 2027

Space Technology and Environmental Remote Sensing
University of Turku degree programme in Pori



Connections to other fields

Space connects with automation, robotics,
cybersecurity, AI and remote sensing data



Call for collaboration

Build a joint West Coast initiative along
the **Vaasa–Pori–Turku** axis



SuomiAreena's Great Space Day 26.6.2026



What's next...?

Clear education profile

Curriculum streamlining → New modules: Space, Cyber, AI

Stronger laboratory teaching

Make hands-on work a visible part of the study programme

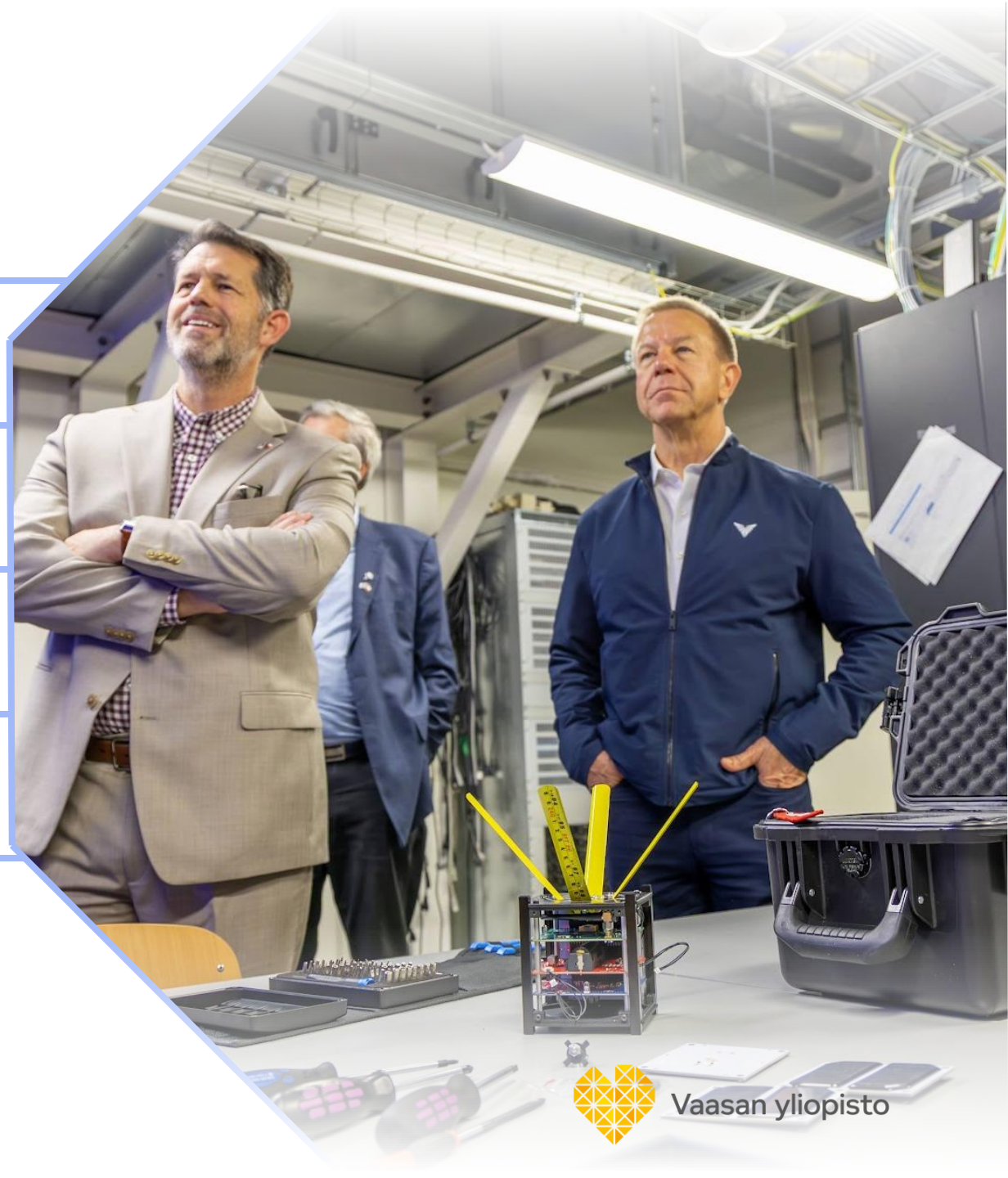
Joint project concepts

Funding applications require a shared vision

Companies involved from the start

The best partnerships are built already in the planning phase

**The West Coast has a plenty of expertise -
let's bring it all together!**





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Thank you!

Invitation to collaborate
on developing new space projects!
Welcome to visit SAMK on 1.9.2026!

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