

Finland Project Management Roundup

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INTRODUCTION

This roundup continues the coverage of Association of Project Professionals Finland, PMI Finland Chapter and some of the key projects currently going on in Finland.

ASSOCIATION OF PROJECT PROFESSIONALS FINLAND

Association of Project Professionals Finland (APPF) is a not-for-profit organization, and the International Project Management Association (IPMA) Member Association (MA) in Finland.



Founded in 1978, APPF promotes the interaction, project-oriented thinking, and exchange and development of practical and theoretical knowledge among project management professionals with over 4000 individual and 200 organizational members. APPF organizes two annual conferences: *Projektipäivät* in late fall and *3PMO* in early summer.

This year the 3PMO will take place on 13.6.2023 in Tampere under the theme *Virstanpylväs* [milestone]. The Projektipäivät event took place on 25 ... 26.10.2022 in Helsinki under the theme *The place for growth*. Please navigate to www.pry.fi/en for general information on APPF, and to www.pry.fi/tapahtumat for information on 3PMO and Projektipäivät.

PMI FINLAND CHAPTER

PMI Finland Chapter is a not-for-profit organization providing project practitioners in Finland continuous learning, networking and community support. The Chapter was founded in 2005. Today, with more than 300 members, the chapter is increasingly recognized as a community where its members can enhance their project management and leadership skills, as well as network with other project management professionals.



PMI Finland Chapter hosts a number of events such as Breakfast Round Tables, regular meetings taking place once a month in Helsinki and occasionally also in other locations. The chapter members have the opportunity to attend events for free or with a discount and the chapter sends its members a regular newsletter with localized content on project management. Additionally, the Chapter supports its members in their professional development and training.

PMI Chapter Finland organizes an annual conference in the spring, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event has cancelled since 2020. Please navigate to www.pmi-fi.org/ for general information on the PMI Finland Chapter and its annual events.

OLKILUOTO 3

The 1 600 MW Olkiluoto 3 nuclear power plant, originally contracted to be built by consortium comprising **Areva** and **Siemens** for **Teollisuuden Voima** (TVO) at Olkiluoto, Finland, has been completed.

The unit was scheduled to commence commercial full-power operations in December 2022, however, the completed power plant has run into repeated problems with various technical systems. The latest problem appeared in late October, when testing had to be suspended due to problems with turbine plant water circulation pumps: Fractures were first found in the impeller of one pump, and when inspected more closely, similar fractures were discovered in all water circulation pumps. The impellers have now been replaced, and testing has resumed. Several key tests remain to be completed, and the unit will likely remain offline until early February. Regular commercial operations are expected to start in March.

With 1 600 MW electrical power generation capacity, Olkiluoto 3 is one of the most powerful nuclear power plants in existence. Once fully operational, Olkiluoto 3 is expected to produce roughly 15% of the electricity consumed in Finland.

The contract for building the Olkiluoto 3 power plant was signed in 2003 for 3 000 M€, and construction began in 2005, targeting completion in June 2009. Due to numerous challenges during the planning and construction phases, the target date was pushed forward several times.

At the project completion, after all litigation costs have been paid, and all delay penalties have been applied, the Olkiluoto 3 power plant has cost TVO a total of 5 700 M€. TVO has been understandably disappointed that the project is almost 100 % over the original budget and over 13 years behind the original time schedule.



Olkiluoto 3 and 2 power stations in winter weather (photo courtesy TVO)

HANHIKIVI 1

Fennovoima, the organization that was driving the Hanhikivi 1 nuclear power plant project, has closed the project down, and terminated the employment contracts of almost all – 350 out of 356 – employees.

This comes after the termination of contract with **RAOS Project**, the Russian supplier of nuclear know-how and equipment. Fennovoima had been experiencing increasing headwind due to the Russian involvement in the project and the Russian attack on Ukraine. Mr. **Mika Lintilä**, Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs had announced earlier, that due to Russian attack on Ukraine, he was ready to shut down the endeavor.

Fennovoima announced earlier it is demanding 2 000 M€ from Rosatom as compensation for Rosatom inability to implement the project. Similarly, Rosatom announced it is demanding 3 000 M€ from Fennovoima for contract cancellation. There is a preliminary decision from a Dispute Review Board on the subject, however, Fennovoima and Rosatom see the DRB decision from strongly opposing perspectives.

Mr. **Matti Suurnäkki**, Fennovoima CEO, announced on 1.12.2022 that ownership of the company has been transferred almost completely to **Voimaosakeyhtiö SF**. With Voimaosakeyhtiö now owning 97 %, the Russian **RAOS Voima** is now a minority owner with only 3 % ownership. Mr. Suurnäkki explained: “Fennovoima needed financing and organized a share issue in which Voimaosakeyhtiö SF subscribed for shares and the minority owner did not. As a result, the minority shareholders' ownership decreased”, and continued “The future will show how to proceed here. The site itself is good and Finland needs clean, carbon-free energy, and the works at Hanhikivi are already under way.”

This concludes the PMWJ coverage of the Hanhikivi 1 project.

LÄNSIMETRO

The second implementation phase of Länsimetro extension to the existing Helsinki metro system has been finished, and operation of the new stations commenced on 3.12.2022. Festivities were organized at the new stations, and several people showed up to take the first train from Kivenlahti at 4.56 on the morning of 3.12.2022. Everything went smoothly, and no serious problems were reported during the first few days.

With the metro line now operating, construction sites are increasingly busy around the new stations: Apartment buildings, shopping centers and car parking facilities are being erected at extreme speed in order to serve the passengers. There are a number of construction sites around the metro line stations, and not all station exists are available when the operations commence in December.



Aerial view of Kivenlahti, with the metro station construction site at the bottom (photo courtesy Kalle Koponen / HS)

The westward metro extension has been implemented in two phases: The first phase of the extension lengthened the existing line from *Ruoholahti* to a new terminus at *Matinkylä* in late 2017. The second phase of the extension takes the line further to *Kivenlahti*.

The second phase of the extension, a 7.4-kilometer (4.7 mi) route was approved for construction in February 2014, and the construction began flexibly as the work on the first phase was being completed. The second phase of the westward metro extension runs entirely within Espoo city limits. The second phase of the extension was originally planned to be completed in 2020, and now in 2023. The cost of the second phase was originally estimated at 801 M€, however, now stands at 1 159 M€.

This concludes the PMWJ coverage of the Länsimetro project.

RAIDE-JOKERI

The consortium comprising **YIT** and **VR Track** is finalizing the construction of the Raide-Jokeri light rail line. The project is ahead of the original time schedule, and the project is achieving project target below cost estimate. Due to the smooth construction phase, commercial operations are expected to start in August 2023 – the original time schedule called for service to commence in late 2023 / early 2024.

The *Alliance model* that has been employed in the Raide-Jokeri project, is what the customer project leader Mr. **Juha Saarikoski** and alliance project leader Mr. **Kari-Pekka Lumme** consider the main contributor towards successful project completion.



Welding tracks in the dead of night to avoid thermal expansion (photo courtesy Raide-Jokeri)

The Raide-Jokeri light rail transit system – similar to the *Metro Blue Line* light rail in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US, and the *Metrolink* in Manchester, England – is planned for the metropolitan Helsinki area to complement the existing public transit service. Raide-Jokeri will connect two Helsinki metro stations – *Itäkeskus* in eastern Helsinki, and *Keilaniemi* in the eastern Espoo – to one another with 25 km of street-level double track and 33 stops. Raide-Jokeri will replace bus line 550, which is currently the most heavily congested line in metropolitan Helsinki area, in 2024 summer. The new light rail transit system is intended to enhance the reliability and travel comfort of the transverse public transportation i.e. traffic in the areas surrounding the immediate downtown Helsinki.

The first idea of a transverse light rail transit system was introduced in 1990 and agreed to be one of the next-generation public transit systems to be constructed in 1994. Instead of a light rail system, the transverse connection has been operated with bus service since 2006.

KRUUNUSILLAT

Kruunusillat [*Crown Bridges*] is a major infrastructure project in downtown Helsinki. The project is set to construct a string of bridges to traverse *Kruunuvuorenselkä*, a waterway east of the downtown area, and to establish a new tram line to connect the *Laajasalo*, *Korkeasaari* and *Kalasadama* areas to the immediate downtown area by means of 10 km light rail line.

Construction works have now been started in *Kalasadama*, as well as *Verkkosaari*. In addition to the bridges, more apartment buildings are being constructed along the future tram line. The tram line from *Kalasadama* to *Pasila* will start operations in 2024, and in 2027 all the Kruunusillat bridges will be completed in 2027.



An artist's view of a tram crossing the Merihaansilta (illustration courtesy kruunusillat.fi)

The project will be implemented in two phases: The first phase includes the main construction works, including the bridges, at an estimated cost of 326 M€. The second phase includes extending the tram tracks to the Helsinki Central Railway Station at an estimated cost of 10 M€. Other works project costs, such a new rolling stock and a new tram depot, are estimated at 214 M€, bringing the total cost to 550 M€. The alliance way of working adds to the challenge of creating an exact cost estimate for the project.

Kruunusillat project implementation is scheduled to complete by the end of 2026. The new tram lines are estimated to commence operations in the beginning of 2027.

Two continuous live video feeds are available from the main construction sites at https://enlapser.cloud/1339551240/fi/read/Kruunusillat_Helsinki_toistin_1_video , and at https://enlapser.cloud/2065466739/fi/read/Kruunusillat_Helsinki_toistin_2_video .

About the Author



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Dr. Jouko Vaskimo is an International Correspondent and Senior Contributing Editor for **PM World** in Finland. Jouko graduated M.Sc. (Tech.) from Helsinki University of Technology in 1992, and D.Sc. (Tech.) from Aalto University in 2016. He has held several project management related positions with increasing levels for responsibility. Jouko holds a number of professional certificates in the field of project management, such as the IPMA Level C (Project Manager), IPMA Level B (Senior Project Manager), PMP, PRINCE2 Foundation, and PRINCE2 Practitioner. Jouko is also a Certified Scrum Master and SAFe Agilist. Jouko is a member of the Project Management Association Finland, a founding member of PMI Finland Chapter, and the immediate past chairman of the Finnish IPMA Certification Body operating IPMA certification in Finland. Since October 2007, he has been heading the Finnish delegation to ISO/TC 258. Jouko resides in Espoo, Finland and can be best contacted at jouko.vaskimo@aalto.fi . For more information please navigate to www.linkedin.com/in/jouko-vaskimo-6285b51 .