

ITS progress in Finland

ITS at political level

The government has launched [Transport policy guidelines and transport network investment and financing programme until 2020](#) (available in English). In this policy paper ITS is identified as a tool to improve traffic safety with automatic enforcement and safety systems (like VMS), to ensure the capacity of network with electronic fee collection based on satellite positioning and to support the logistic processes with telematics. The public transport should have a national ticketing system.

Based on the policy guidelines the Finnish Parliament has stated that EFC based on satellite positioning should be carefully investigated.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has started one year project about the options of the congestion charging in Helsinki metropolitan area.

ITS in research and development

Now the R&D work in ITS has been re-organised so that the Finnish Road Administration is responsible in national programme coordination. The national programme on intelligent transport (ÄLLI) has started and it aims at generating and facilitating services for the end users. New approach is the large scale living labs and testbeds for ITS services. An open on-board unit especially for payment applications is under research.

Another field is the broadband communications enabling public transport.

The Finnish ICT cluster has established new company Tivit Ltd., which has built up the national Cooperative Traffic ICT programme including in first phase 13 projects with 35 man-year research work. Main focus is sensor data fusion and driver assistance based on new information services. The next phase will be launched next year. The National Technology Agency Tekes will support the new programme with 50% subsidy.

ITS services for citizens

Today in Finland about every fifth of 2,5 million cars has a navigator – and 320.000 units are expected to be sold this year. In addition gps and navigation application is coming very popular in smart phones. Destia Traffic service on the real-time traffic information (RTTI) is available through-out the country as well as in Sweden and Norway. The Finnish Road Administration is just to start delivering travel time information covering the main roads (3500 km) as a basis for commercial services.

In public transport the journey times will be shortened and passengers will have wireless internet connections in all buses and trams in Helsinki metropolitan area by 2009. The new traffic light priority system is based on gps and the new wireless broadband network (flash-ofdm).

ITS Finland activities

ITS Finland has today 62 [members](#) and the annual budget is 255.000 euros.

Mr. Kimmo Ylisiurunen has been elected as the next secretary general of ITS Finland from the first of November after Antti Rainio's five year period.

The network has three thematic groups meeting six times per year: Architecture, Business and Usability.

The association is publishing electronic newsletter ITS News (in Finnish) six times a year circulating in 1000 copies to decision makers.

The annual strategy process has produced the updated Development Strategy for Intelligent Transport for the years 2007-2011 ([abstract](#)). The report on global markets trends was completed last spring ([abstract](#)).

ITS knowledge for all

ITS Finland has launched a web-page about ITS services and will keep it regularly updated.

The members of ITS Finland have together with the Finnish Science Centre Heureka produced an exhibition about [Intelligent Traffic](#), which has visited in two years by 420.000 people (Finland has 5 million citizens).