

World class machine manufacturing in Pohjois-Savo

Machine and equipment manufacturers from northern parts of Pohjois-Savo develop their products and services based on the needs of their clients. Local trust in companies, competitive R&D environments and competitive development funding enable successful growth for enterprises.



Jari Sihvonen

Pohjois-Savo supports the world's leading ecosystem for the manufacturing of forest and mining machinery. The industry is very significant, since the annual export value for these companies is close to a billion euros. The growth has been fueled by broad-minded and active cooperation in development. Machine manufacturers Normet and Ponsse have both played a significant role in this.

The roots of Normet lie in the Itikka farm in Iisalmi, where Jaakko and Jussi Sarvela developed accessories for tractors in the 1960's. The story of Ponsse began in the 1970's when Einari Vidgren built a forest machine of his own to increase working efficiency.

By the beginning of the 21st century, Normet and Ponsse were both highly respected internationally in their fields, but both wanted to grow to become the leaders of their industries. The companies chose network cooperation as one of their strategies to ensure growth.

Normet started cooperation with their subcontractors by launching a development project with the aim of improving their network's cost efficiency. At the same time they outsourced some of their functions, such as the preparation and processing of steel.

Ponsse wanted their subcontractors close to their production facilities, so a village of their partner enterprises formed around them. Today, that village is a hot spot of know-how and employs over 250

people. The world's leading companies, both internationally and domestically, serve as clients for these partner enterprises.

Normet and Ponsse have been involved in multiple development projects, first heading them and later on as mentors and sparring partners. Today, small and medium-sized enterprises develop their operations alongside their peers. R&D environments of public organizations have also participated in the development projects and processes, offering equipment and expertise that answer the ever evolving needs of the companies with flexibility. All parties benefit from cooperative development and the improvement in competitiveness.

The development of machine and energy industry in Pohjois-Savo have

been supported through EU structural funds by nearly 10 million euros in the last 10 years (overall expenses around 13 M €).

PONSSE produces forest machines for the cut-to-length method.

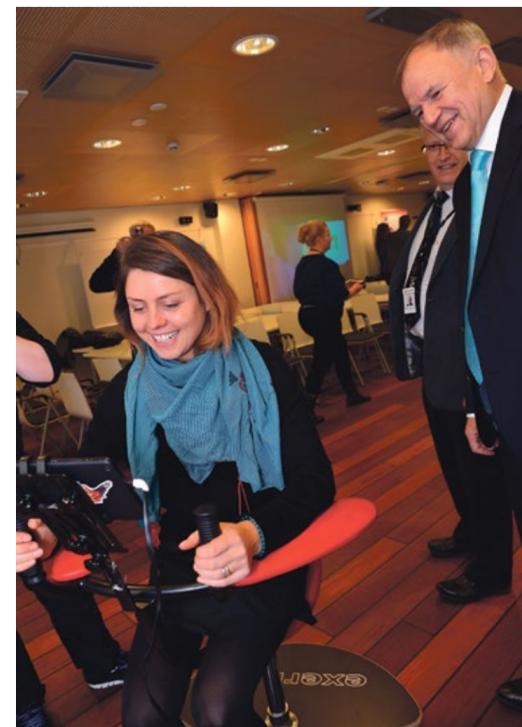
NORMET provides advanced solutions for selected customer processes in underground mining and tunneling. Both companies are one of the world's leading manufacturers in their fields.

www.ponsse.com/fi
www.normet.com

Technology renews healthcare services

Health technology refers not only to equipment but also to diagnostic methods and support systems. In addition, digitalization and the Internet of Things allow the use of applications in personal care and health monitoring, as well as remote care services. The development of health technology is supported not only by the pressure on innovation, but also by the pressure on the health care field: Technology will help to curb health costs, especially when investing in health promotion and disease prevention.

Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytienis Andriukaitis visited Kuopio in November 2016. He got a speedy glimpse of health game development.



Jari Sihvonen

Gamification mixes health technology with entertainment and creates traction and adoption that leads to sustainable patient behavior modifications and better health outcomes. Gamification gives us clear

goals, proper challenges and rules that motivates, commits and inspires users to better life management and self-help.

Health cluster, including health technology is one area of smart specialization of Pohjois-

Savo. Within it cross-sectoral collaboration in health technology, its know-how and gamification creates innovative and user friendly solutions.

Top level water expertise network in Kuopio, Pohjois-Savo

Kuopio Science Park is one of Finland's most comprehensive water expertise centers.

It brings together multidisciplinary expertise in product development and practice testing for technical applications related to water purification and monitoring, water chemistry and microbiology, knowledge on the special features of mining and groundwater as well as on risk management. Collaboration with industry and SMEs from different parts of Finland is an essential part of RDI-activities. The network's special strength is the ability to carry out challenging pilot-scale test runs and product development testing in concrete industrial sites. Pilots have also been conducted abroad in co-operation with local partners.

In recent years, the network has also sparked start-ups for the water field. The network includes a university, a polytechnic and two sector research institutes. The experts do active collaboration also with both national and international networks.

Water is one of the topics for smart specialization in Pohjois-Savo. The development of water competence began already in early 1980's. Financing of EU Structural Funds has made it possible to create an exceptionally versatile set of equipment for the water area. It will enable a long-term development of applied research and product development in Kuopio Science Park.



P. Forsman, GTK

Water treatment technologies and Pilot-scale testing

Savonia University of Applied Sciences

Water level and process water cycle management

Geological Survey of Finland, GTK

Environment and process monitoring

University of Eastern Finland, UEF

Comprehensive risk management

National Institute for Health and Welfare THL

Finland's first European Region of Gastronomy

The Pohjois-Savo region plans to become known for its food, both nationally and internationally. ProAgria, Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo, the city of Kuopio and Savonia University of Applied Sciences are bidding for the prestigious European Region of Gastronomy title for the Kuopio region for 2020.

The title is awarded to 2-3 different regions each year, for one year at a time. The gastronomical regions for 2017 are the Aarhus region in Denmark, the Lombardy region in Italy and the Riga-Gauja region in Latvia.

The European Region of Gastronomy Platform is a cooperative network of European regions that aims to stimulate



collaboration in the fields of gastronomy, tourism, urban culture and art. The title brings with it international visibility for the region as well as an influx of tourism and events. It is hoped to also have a positive effect on the local food industry.

In order to bid for the title, the applicant must deliver a bid book that presents the region's food, traveling, agriculture and cultural activities from education possibilities to entrepreneurs, associations and events in the fields. Savonian's bid book will

be completed in June 2017. An international panel of experts will visit Kuopio during the SATOA goes wild food festival in mid June. The panel will estimate the readiness of the region to hold the title.

The SATOA Food Festival in Kuopio was named as one of the most important products of Finland's food tourism industry. This means the festival will also gain additional visibility from Visit Finland's marketing campaigns.



EUROPEAN REGION OF GASTRONOMY
KUOPIO REGION CANDIDATE 2020

Pohjois-Savon liitto
Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo

POHJOIS-SAVO

POHJOIS-SAVO region has a combination of an easygoing attitude, excellence in science and technology, arts and industry. High-quality skills and natural resources offer great opportunities for new growth and the development of new products and services.

POHJOIS-SAVO is home to over 200 exporting companies whose innovative products and services represent the cutting edge in their fields and are recognized the world over.

MACHINE AND METAL industries include specialized transport solutions, forestry machinery, hydraulic piling machines and mining equipment. The region also boasts several world-leaders in energy technology, mechanical wood processing, and chemical and mining industry.

POHJOIS-SAVO REGION

- Population 250 000
- Largest city: Kuopio 118 000
- Growth of export of manufacturing industry in 2000-2015: +24 % (average in Finland +10 %)
- 27 % of total berry production in Finland
- 10 % of total Finnish export of mechanical wood processing

SMART SPECIALISATION OF POHJOIS-SAVO

- Machine and energy technology
- Wood and bio processing
- Foodstuffs
- Health cluster
- Water

