

## LETTER OF COLLABORATION

### **Regarding the Proposal: Research & Pilot Center for Sustainable Polymer Technologies at Tampere University**

### **Research Council of Finland call: 2026 Thematic Research Infrastructures – Local research infrastructures to strengthen regional R&D activities**

The City of Tampere hereby express strong support for Tampere University's proposal to establish the *Research & Pilot Center for Sustainable Polymer Technologies*. This initiative aligns closely with the City's strategic goals to advance sustainable industry, deepen research–industry collaboration, and reinforce Tampere's position as a leading innovation hub in Finland and internationally. The Center addresses key regional development priorities by enabling advanced research, piloting, and technology transfer activities that support the transition toward sustainable materials and circular solutions.

Business Tampere contributes significant added value to the project through its established and continuously developing network of local companies and its neutral, trusted role in the regional innovation landscape. Building on these strengths, Business Tampere together with City of Tampere and relevant stakeholders including Tampere University, is developing a material development ecosystem that serves as a gateway between companies and regional research, development, and innovation actors.

The City of Tampere recognizes the proposed Center as an important investment in the region's sustainable future. The initiative strengthens local innovation capacity, enhances regional competitiveness, and supports the City's long-term vision of fostering a high-value, research-intensive business environment. The City of Tampere look forward to continued collaboration with Tampere University throughout the development and implementation of this research infrastructure.

We hereby confirm our commitment to supporting the successful execution of the Research & Pilot Center for Sustainable Polymer Technologies and its integration into the broader regional innovation ecosystem.

*Irene Vekkeli*

*Director of Economic Development and Innovation*

*City of Tampere, Finland*