

## Collaboration Letter

**To: Research Council of Finland (Suomen Akatemia)**

**Re: Collaboration Letter — TAU AI Factory (TAU-AIF)**

FIRI 2026 Thematic Research Infrastructures: Local Research Infrastructures for Strengthening Regional R&D

Dear Members of the Research Infrastructure Committee,

The City of Tampere confirms its commitment to collaborate with Tampere University in the development and utilisation of the TAU AI Factory (TAU-AIF) local research infrastructure.

**Context: Tampere's smart-city and digitalisation strategy.** The City of Tampere has invested significantly in smart-city infrastructure and digital services. The city's strategy positions Tampere as Finland's leading industrial-technology hub and identifies artificial intelligence as a cross-cutting enabler for smart-city services, public-sector efficiency, strengthened business growth, and citizen engagement. Tampere City Lab functions as a real-world testing environment for innovations, including AI-powered services for urban governance.

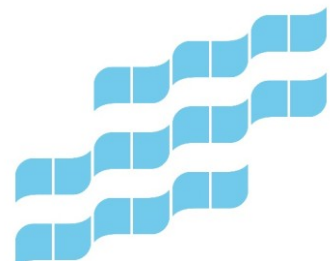
**Practical collaboration in the TAU-AIF development project.** The City of Tampere will contribute to the TAU-AIF development project in the following concrete ways:

(1) Smart-city use cases. We will provide real-world use cases for AI-driven municipal services, including smart-city IoT data processing, AI-enhanced cybersecurity for urban infrastructure, and data-driven decision support for city governance. These use cases will be developed in collaboration with TAU researchers, particularly in the domains of cybersecurity and secure IoT systems.

(2) Tampere City Lab testbed environments. We will make Tampere City Lab's physical and virtual testbed environments available for AI experiments conducted using TAU-AIF compute resources, creating an integrated pipeline from AI model development (on the infrastructure) to real-world testing (in the city environment).

(3) Requirements specification and evaluation. Staff from the city's innovation and technology development unit will participate in defining requirements for AI-driven municipal services and in evaluating pilot outcomes. This ensures that the infrastructure's services are designed for practical deployment, not only for academic publication.

**Resources.** The City of Tampere participates using its own resources. No funding is requested from the Research Council of Finland. Our contribution consists of staff time from the innovation and technology unit and Tampere City Lab, access to non-sensitive smart-city data and testbed environments, and expertise in public-sector AI requirements and evaluation.



**Building R&D competency.** This collaboration will strengthen the City of Tampere's capacity to evaluate, commission, and manage AI services for urban governance. Our staff will gain hands-on experience working with university-grade AI infrastructure, developing the competencies needed to specify and oversee AI-powered public services as the city's digital transformation accelerates.

This Letter is signed electronically.

Yours sincerely,

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