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FINNISH INDUSTRY BOOSTS COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND SPECIALISATION

NMP Finland Conference presents the cutting-edge programmes of Finnish nanotechnology, functional materials and new production technologies

Helsinki, Finland - April 16th 2008 - Finnish industry seeks a global competitive advantage through market-driven research programmes. The **NMP Finland Conference**, organised by **Tekes**, Finland's funding agency for technology and innovation, presents three spearhead projects that merge industry needs with scientific research.

“Companies can reverse the flow of engineering work to low-cost countries through specialisation and wide-ranging collaboration. Industry-driven research is a key advantage of Finnish industry in global competition,” said Mr. **Reijo Munther**, Director, Materials Technology, Tekes.

The Tekes **FinNano**, **Functional Materials** and **NewPro** programmes aim to bridge industry needs with scientific research. The programmes support the development of market-driven technological know-how in Finland and aim for results that can be widely utilised.

“Each of these programmes is at a different stage, and at the moment we have particularly high expectations for the recently launched Functional Materials programme. The programmes support all Finnish clusters of strategic industry expertise and promote sustainable development,” said Mr. **Pekka Koponen**, CEO, Spinverse Ltd.

Finland is a forerunner in nanotechnology, and the fast-growing field has already produced strong results. The 70-million euro **FinNano** programme, currently in its third year, has launched companies and new business throughout the country. On a worldwide scale, Finland has enjoyed notable success in commercialising nanotech innovations, and the field still holds a wealth of untapped potential for the key areas of Finnish industry.

New materials are gaining ground as the next significant innovation area for Finnish companies. The Tekes **Functional Materials** programme aims to develop functional materials for different industries in Finland. The aim is to provide Finnish industry with access to the best possible expertise in materials production and use through domestic and international networking. The total volume of the programme is over 200 million euros.

Finnish metals technology companies are using innovative production methods to promote sustainable profitability and business resilience. Metal companies are specialising and developing their business opportunities through networking. By the end of 2009, the Tekes **NewPro** programme aims to double the share of special products in the business portfolios of Finnish steel and other metal producers when compared to 2004 levels.

“Multidisciplinary cross-industry collaboration can significantly boost the effectiveness of research activities. Tekes spearhead programmes demonstrate that traditional industries can create business opportunities through new technology,” said Reijo Munther.



The Tekes FinNano, Functional Materials and NewPro programmes are presented at the NMP Finland Conference, held on the 16th and 17th April 2008 at Helsinki Fair Center (Messukeskus), Helsinki, Finland.

The NMP Finland Conference is organised by Spinverse Ltd. The company commercialises emerging technologies by combining scientific, industrial and investment expertise with a broad contact and knowledge base. Spinverse Ltd. coordinates the Tekes FinNano and Functional Materials programmes. The NMP Finland Conference is expected to attract over 400 experts from over 14 countries. A large number of companies will have a presence in the Materia 08 exhibition, the largest technical event in Finland.

For more information about the event, please visit www.nmpfinland.net.

Additional information on the Tekes programmes is available at:

FinNano: www.tekes.fi/finnano (link to English site in upper right-hand corner)

Functional Materials: www.tekes.fi/materiaalit (link to English site in upper right-hand corner)

NewPro: www.tekes.fi/newpro (link to English site in upper right-hand corner)

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Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, is the main government financing and expert organisation for research and technological development in Finland. Tekes finances industrial R&D projects as well as projects in universities and research institutes.

Approximately half of Tekes funding is channeled through its diverse range of programmes.

www.tekes.fi

Spinverse Ltd. specialises in commercialising emerging breakthrough technologies. The company brings together leading industry innovators by coordinating the Tekes FinNano and Functional Materials programmes, as well as by organising the annual Nanotech Northern Europe event.

Spinverse Ltd. was founded in 2004 and is located in Espoo, Finland. www.spinverse.com