



EURO
CITIES

Fast-tracking intelligent transport systems

ITS FACTORY
INNOVATIVE
TAMPERE SITE

Tampere



Unique environment for innovation

Tampere's ITS Factory is fast tracking intelligent transport systems (ITS) by providing a collaborative working environment that supports progress from concept to commercialisation. Cities are increasingly turning to ITS to meet their transport challenges, but barriers are preventing major breakthroughs.

Urbanisation and rising congestion and air pollution are forcing cities to find new ways for citizens to move about easily and conveniently and with less impact on the environment. ITS solutions can give policy makers, operators and users the information they need to make smarter use of the transport network, making them integral to the future of city travel.

ITS solutions use real time data showing what's happening on the streets to improve the fluency, functionality, ecology, efficiency and safety of the transport system. They help improve the experience for users, and encourage eco-friendly journey choices. But getting good ideas out on to city streets is often hampered by an uncoordinated approach to data access and development support.

Creating a community

For ITS solutions to realise their potential, all transport operators need to pool their data. If a service tells a user the train they were planning to catch is delayed, it needs to offer alternative multimodal options. In designing ITS Factory, Tampere recognised the need for close cooperation across all forms of public transport. But as an experienced intelligent transport pioneer, it also knew this was not enough.



The idea behind ITS Factory is to create a collaboration forum that can take ITS innovations from fragmented applications to complete and scalable solutions.

Mika Kulmala, traffic engineer, city of Tampere and ITS Factory



cities in action

May 2015

where: Tampere, Finland
what: mobility
when: 2012+

Tampere understood that the development and adoption of ITS services also requires collaboration between businesses with bright ideas and researchers with unique insights, as well as government bodies involved with policy, legislation and standards. ITS Factory reflects this understanding, bringing together local, national and international public and private stakeholders to work towards common goals.

Tampere's experience also highlighted that achieving these goals would depend on four additional factors. These were built into ITS Factory's design: offering standardised traffic data to developers, providing access to the city's transport system as a piloting platform, involving end users to ensure solutions meet their needs, and assisting with exploitation and marketing.

Encouraging smart travel

ITS Factory is acting as a catalyst for projects exploring applications such as multimodal route planners and parking information services. Some of these are driven by independent developers and groups of partners while others are part of the EU's 7th Framework Programme (FP7). Tampere is currently participating in around 10 projects, involving approximately 2,000 citizens a week.

Two major FP7 projects are being piloted in Tampere, STREETLIFE and MoveUs. The first is developing mobility information systems showing the real value of public transport options in terms of time, cost and carbon footprint. It aims to create solutions for traffic managers and city administrators as well as mobile apps motivating citizens to choose sustainable transport alternatives through the use of engaging 3D virtual environments.

MoveUs is similarly focused on taking 'the pulse of urban mobility' to help change travellers' habits. The idea is to integrate mobility data from citizens, vehicles and infrastructures in a cloud-based platform that can then gather, transform and deliver it in a coherent and useful way. As with STREETLIFE, recommendations for more sustainable travel choices will be supported by a range of incentives.

Spreading the word

ITS Factory has succeeded in proving its open and innovative model and in gathering a critical mass of collaborators - including 30 members and hundreds of developers. Tampere itself is already feeling the impact, with new services and the holistic development of a sustainable transport system making a big difference to energy efficiency.

The knowledge and technologies generated within ITS Factory are also being shared through international networking activities and the ITS Roadmap. This document has an important role to play in helping other cities and countries monitor progress in critical areas such as standardisation and the availability of open data and interfaces.



Universities need to actively reach out to connect research with industry solutions and public services - as we are doing through ITS Factory, which brings together all players across the ITS landscape.

Sami Kallio, executive in residence, Smart Traffic Business Development, University of Tampere

