# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND AND THE STATE OF WASHINGTON CONCERNING COOPERATION ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND GREEN TRANSFORMATION

The State of Washington ("Washington") and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland, hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Participants"

***Considering*** the shared values and aspirations;

***Recognizing*** the strong and growing collaboration between Washington and Finland;

***Seeking*** to leverage the strengths and assets of their respective industries, including their research, development, innovation and business ecosystems to expand mutually beneficial collaboration;

***Emphasizing*** the shared commitment to advancing green transformation of the economy and strengthening leadership in advanced technologies; and

***Acknowledging*** the long and productive history of bilateral exchanges and cooperation between Washington and Finland in the fields of culture, science, research, innovation, and industry,

**Affirm the following:**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to strengthen and expand cooperation between the Participants' respective knowledge-based institutions, innovation ecosystems, businesses, and government entities.

This MOU is intended solely to express the Participants' intentions and does not affect any existing or future rights or obligations arising from other international agreements and arrangements. This MOU does not create any rights or obligations under national or international law.

**SCOPE OF COLLABORATION**

The Participants intend to strengthen cooperation in innovation, research, development, commercialization, and the deployment of advanced technologies and solutions supporting the green transformation of the economy.

Areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to:

- 5G and next-generation connectivity technologies, including end-user applications enabled by advanced connectivity;

- The safety, efficiency, sustainability, and digitalization of Ports, maritime, supply chain and logistics;

- Sustainable transportation solutions, including circular economy approaches for batteries and battery materials;

- Circular economy initiatives including industrial waste reduction, industrial symbiosis, and recycling innovations;

- Aerospace and defense innovation, including collaboration on dual-use technologies and advanced manufacturing;

- Clean energy generation, transmission, storage, and deployment;

- Sustainable forestry, fisheries, aquatic ecosystems, and water resource management, including the application of science, technology, and policy to support community and climate resilience and working waterfront;

- Emerging and transformative technologies that shape how societies function and interact, including gaming, quantum technologies, data centers, and artificial intelligence (AI); and

- Knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices to foster inclusive growth and competitiveness of small and medium-sized businesses, including those owned by individuals from traditionally underrepresented communities.

**MECHANISMS OF COLLABORATION**

Subject to their respective laws, regulations, policies, and available resources, the Participants intend to:

1. Exchange information, experiences, and best practices relating to relevant policies, regulations, and strategic initiatives;

2. Share knowledge and develop best practices for creating market opportunities and end-user applications that advance green transformation and digital connectivity;

3. Facilitate the establishment of direct contacts, partnerships, and collaborative initiatives amongst relevant public and private sector actors, with the objective of strengthening links between the innovation and business ecosystems of Finland and Washington;

4. Promote dialogue, networking, and cooperation amongst companies, research institutions, universities, innovation clusters, and other actors through visits, workshops, meetings, conferences and other mutually agreed activities;

5. Encourage the participation of researcher institutions, Tribes/indigenous communities, natural resource agencies, innovation clusters, and company representatives in partnerships and joint projects under relevant national, regional, international programs and testbeds, and that support the development of platforms that facilitate such cooperation;

6. Explore opportunities for supporting research and innovation pathways, investment, customer discovery, and market entry for startups and subject matter experts (SME's) between the two regions; and

7. Explore and undertake other mutually determined activities and arrangements that further the objectives of this MOU.

**ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

The following outcomes align with the purpose, scope, and mechanisms described. Participants anticipate the cooperation under this MOU may contribute to:

1. Expanded Innovation Partnerships – Increased collaboration among companies, universities, research institutions, innovation clusters, and public-sector organizations in Finland and Washington.
2. Joint Research and Pilot Initiatives – Development of collaborative research, demonstration projects, and testbeds in areas such as clean energy, advanced connectivity, AI, quantum technologies, the blue economy, smart logistics, and the circular economy.
3. Enhanced Trade and Commercialization – Greater opportunities for market access, business development, and commercialization of innovative technologies and services.
4. Knowledge and Policy Exchange – Increased sharing of information, best practices, and policy experiences related to sustainability, digital infrastructure, transportation, and emerging technologies.

5. Stronger Talent and Research Networks – Expanded connections among researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and industry experts through exchanges and collaborative activities.
6. Sustainable Economic Growth – Advancement of shared goals in decarbonization, resource efficiency, sustainable transportation, and clean technology deployment.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to facilitate cooperation under this MOU, each Participant may designate a coordinating institution or agency. Each Participant will give the other notice once a coordinating institution or agency is established and after any change is made.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

This MOU is not legally binding and is not intended to supersede national law or international obligations by which the Participants are bound. This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an international treaty and does not create any rights or obligations under international law. Nothing about this Memorandum of Understanding will be construed to limit either Participant's ability to act in accordance with their own laws, rules, regulations, or other legal authorities.

**DISPUTES**

The Participants will endeavor to resolve any differences derived from the interpretation or application of this MOU through discussion and negotiation.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Each Participant will bear their own expenses in connection with the preparation of the above-mentioned cooperation.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

To the extent permitted by law, Participants wishing to carry out joint research projects under this MOU will establish separate instruments to provide for the disposition of any intellectual property that might arise from such joint research projects.

**DURATION, EFFECTIVE DATE AND DISCONTINUATION**

This MOU will come into effect on the date of signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. The MOU can be renewed for successive five (5) year periods by mutual understanding of the Participants.

This MOU may be amended, if jointly decided by the Participants in writing.

Either Participant may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notification about its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding. The Participants accept and acknowledge that, upon notice of termination, this Memorandum of Understanding will become void at such date identified in the notice.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the validity or the duration of any specific agreement or projects or activities made under the present Memorandum of Understanding until the completion of such specific agreements, projects or activities, unless the Participants decide otherwise or otherwise required by law.

This Memorandum of Understanding was signed in duplicate on October 13 in 2026 Seattle, Washington, USA in the English language.

**For the State of Washington**

Bob Ferguson
Governor

**For the Government of Finland**

Ambassador of Finland to the United States, Leena-Kaisa Mikkola