

Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Awards granted in two research fields

The Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award recognizes outstanding research papers involving meteorological observation methods and instruments. Two awards are granted biannually in connection with the WMO TECO/METEOREX conference and carry a cash prize of USD 10,000.

The 60th session of the World Meteorological Organization's Executive Council (June 2008) conferred the Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation to O. Bousquet, P. Tabary and J. Parent-du-Châtelet (all from France) for their paper entitled "On the value of operation-

ally synthesized multiple-Doppler wind fields" published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, Vol. 34, 2007.

The Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for the Development and Implementation of Instruments and Observations was conferred to L. Lanza (Italy), M. Leroy (France), C. Alexandropoulos (France), L. Stagi (Italy) and W. Wauben (the Netherlands) for their paper entitled "WMO laboratory intercomparison of rainfall intensity gauges" published as IOM Report No. 84, WMO/TD No. 1304, 2006.

The TECO/Meteorex conference was organized in St. Petersburg, Russia on 27th-29th November 2008.



Vaisala attends 89th AMS Annual Meeting

The Vaisala team was very active during the 89th American Meteorological Society events held in Phoenix, Arizona, 11- 15 January 2009. Vaisala unveiled its North American Giant Leap student internship program during the Career Fair, and sponsored the WeatherFest, which was open to the general public.

During the conference, Vaisala also published a global announcement, stating that the company is investing in the development of an operational reference radiosonde. Special guest speaker Dr. John W. Zillman of Melbourne, Australia, Chair of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Steering Committee and former President of the World Meteorological Organization, discussed the GCOS project at the event.

Vaisala unveiled its brand new exhibition booth, which showcased the new branding and images. Our annual cocktail reception was

another success, with over 241 attendees. Vaisala was also a proud co-sponsor of the International Dinner that followed the reception.

As the outgoing AMS President, Vaisala's Dr. Walter Dabberdt hosted the 89th AMS Awards Banquet. Honors were granted to, among others, Vaisala's Ronald L. Holle (AMS Fellow) and a special award to the Vaisala Sigmet team for their long-term contribution to the field of weather radar signal processing.

Vaisala also sponsored the 4th Conference on the Meteorological Applications of Lightning Data, and chaired many of the sessions.

Ronald L. Holle (left) receiving his AMS Fellowship from Dr. Walter Dabberdt.



Vaisala acquires Aviation Systems Maintenance Inc.

In line with its strategy, Vaisala seeks to grow as a service provider. The company's US subsidiary Vaisala Inc. acquired Aviation Systems Maintenance, Inc (ASMI), a Kansas, US based airport service company with over USD 2.6 million net sales in 2008. The acquisition closed on January

1st, 2009, and the value of the deal was USD 3.2 million.

ASMI's core expertise is founded over 25 years of customer relationships relating to the installation and maintenance of instrumentation at airports.

The acquisition significantly strengthens Vaisala's position as

a maintenance provider in the US airport weather market, complementing the current Vaisala contracts and adding expertise in the maintenance services for other instruments commonly used at airports.

Revolutionary new innovation brings significant improvements to lightning detection accuracy

Vaisala has developed a revolutionary solution which will significantly improve lightning detection worldwide. Through the use of a Vaisala-patented location algorithm, the Total Lightning Processor™ improves the lightning detection location accuracy by a factor of two - improving the precision range from 500 meters to 250 meters or less.

This improvement benefits many businesses and operations vulner-

able to lightning - including aviation, power utilities, forestry, insurance, meteorology, chemical processing plants, oil and gas, and more.

Additionally, the new product introduces a user-friendly web-based interface with performance tools, which can save up to 80% of the customer's time in analyzing lightning detection sensor raw data files and overall network performance. The first solution of its kind

in the world, it also includes multiple network performance maps and provides dynamic detection efficiency and location accuracy maps. These give critical details of network status at any given time.

Vaisala owns and operates the US National Lightning Detection Network®. Customers worldwide rely on Vaisala's expertise in lightning data and information systems.



President of Finland visits Vaisala

The President of the Republic of Finland, Tarja Halonen, along with her spouse, Doctor Pentti Arajärvi, and the Governor of the Province of Southern Finland, Anneli Taina visited the Vaisala headquarters in March.

The visit commenced with a brief Vaisala overview, followed by a presentation about Vaisala's business

in Africa. President Halonen had recently returned from a trip to West-Africa, which made the topic current to her party.

The group also paid a visit to the Vaisala weather radar laboratory and cleanroom, where the President had a chance to learn more about Vaisala's weather radar develop-

ment project as well as the in-house high-tech sensor production. The President and her spouse showed interest in Vaisala's know-how by interviewing our employees about their work roles and tasks as well as about their general wellbeing at Vaisala.

From left to right: Vaisala's CEO Kjell Forsén, President Tarja Halonen and Doctor Pentti Arajärvi.



Idaho Transportation Department honors Vaisala RWIS partnership

A team comprised of Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Maintenance and Operations and Vaisala has been awarded the 2009 Idaho Transportation Department Excellence in Transportation Award, for their partnership on the Road Weather Information Stations (RWIS) Build Out program.

"We are proud to receive this prestigious award, which truly represents the end product of our valuable partnering arrangement," said Paul Bridge, Roads Offering Manager for Vaisala. "Vaisala has deployed 49 new RWIS sites and has renovated an

existing 27 sites in partnership with the ITD. The program included the first statewide use of non-intrusive pavement sensors, which was the most advanced technology at the time of installation. The deployment decision required a high level of trust and commitment from both parties, but this is now paying high dividends, both in public safety and maintenance efficiency. The critical road weather information that ITD receives in real time via IceNet, the RWIS website site monitor, allows their maintenance staff to make the most efficient use of their resources."

Excellences in Transportation Awards are sponsored bi-annually by the Idaho Transportation Department to recognize outstanding initiatives in developing, planning, and implementing transportation projects throughout Idaho. The ITD Maintenance & Operations award is presented to the collaborators of a project that exemplified using innovative equipment, processes and procedures; promoted partnerships and collaborations, and improved transportation safety and performance.

Vaisala.com receives a facelift

www.vaisala.com got a new look on March 3rd as the new Vaisala visual image was launched online. The English language website was first to undergo this change, and all local websites are planned to follow by the end of June.



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