

A. Ahlström Real Estate Ltd invests in new business premises project in Tampere city centre

A. Ahlström Real Estate Ltd, a subsidiary of Ahlström Capital, managing the company's real estate and forest holdings, has invested in the Ratapihankatu real estate project in Tampere. The company's real estate strategy aims at long-term investment in premium office properties in the Helsinki metropolitan area, Tampere and Turku. The property's location in the immediate vicinity of the main railway and the new tram line in Tampere, a certified high quality future office and a strong anchor tenant perfectly match the company's investment criteria.

The City of Tampere arranged a plot assignment and concept contest for the blocks. Gofore Plc will be the main tenant of the property, and architecture agency Arkkitehtitoimisto Helamaa & Heiskanen is responsible for planning the premises.

"Together, we will create premises to complement the cityscape of central Tampere. The project will both develop the city and provide new business premises in a prime location", says Peter Ahlström, CEO of A. Ahlström Real Estate Ltd. By 2023, a modern and unique premium quality office building will be completed in the block area. The aim is to obtain LEED Platinum certification for the building. In addition to the new office building, the project comprises the city's protected old cargo station, which was saved from the threat of being demolished by moving it to the location of a former club hall in July 2020. Business premises will also be built in the old cargo station and the adjacent residential building, respecting the traditions of the old buildings.

"The project, named GO21, will be a significant addition to the cityscape of central Tampere. The result will be an entity of modern premises that meet the requirements of today's working life and everyday life, where high-quality construction, wellbeing at work and environmental sustainability play key roles", says Jukka Hannus, CEO of Jatke Pirkanmaa Oy.

The office block's anchor tenant will be Gofore Plc, a growing listed company based in Tampere. The new office building will house the company's new head office, built to comply with Gofore's values.

"We are excited to be able to start planning our new headquarters now. We believe that this building will respond to the matters that are important to Gofore, such as environmental responsibility, the city's modern work culture and networking together. At this site, we will be able to implement solutions in a way that suits the time after corona", says Mikael Nylund, President and CEO of Gofore Plc.

Tampere-based craft business is bringing new life to the old cargo station, as a distillery, partner and experience activities of Pyynikin Brewing Company are planned for the premises. The purpose of the company is to further strengthen its position and operations in Tampere. The old cargo station and the residential building will support the activities planned for the premises, and the operations of the independent craft beer brewery will retain the narrative value of the buildings. History is concretely visible in them now and will remain so in the future. All repairs and refurbishments will be carried out with respect to the original character of the buildings.

"This would be a great opportunity to create a large enough, unified space for experiences for the brewery's shareholders and to open our operations to citizens, tourists and companies. I think Tampere deserves its own whiskey distillery", says Tuomas Pere, the founder of the Pyynikin Brewing Company.

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