

**Public announcement****Deepening works completed on the Rauma 12.0 m fairway (Rihtniemi fairway)**

The deepening works on the southern Rauma fairway, which began in 2016 as a joint project of the Finnish Transport Agency and the Port of Rauma, were completed in November and **the fairway began operations with a maximum authorised draught of 12 metres on 15 December 2017**. The new maximum authorised draught makes it possible for larger vessels than before to enter the Port of Rauma, thus improving the port's competitiveness and reducing emissions from navigation, as each vessel's load can be increased by as much as 100%.

During the project, the maximum authorised draught in southern Rauma fairway was increased from 10 to 12 metres. In addition to underwater dredging and blasting works, work was carried out on aids to navigation and a dredge spoil basin was built. The project is the Finnish Transport Agency's first waterway project in which all clean ground material dredged from the fairway was deposited in the dredge spoil basin built during the project. Wasa Dredging Oy was the main contractor of dredging works.

The total cost of the joint project was €44.8 million, of which the Finnish Transport Agency contributed €31.5 million and the Port of Rauma €13.3 million. During the work, more underwater rock than planned was found, which increased the project cost and workload. Despite the increased workload, it was possible to start using the fairway with the maximum authorised draught of 12 metres slightly ahead of schedule.

The Rauma waterway project is the first data-model based fairway project in which the contractor carried out building works based on design models commissioned by the customer and the works progress has been monitored using a data model. Now that the works have been completed, the data model can continue to be used in maintenance.

Water and fisheries inspections were carried out during the project and will continue after the completion of the work in 2018, in a manner approved by the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment in Southwest Finland.

As part of the Finnish Transport Agency's digitisation project, 33 modern navigation marks were built on the Rihtniemi fairway in 2017. The new technology makes it possible to adjust the lighting intensity of aids to navigation according to weather conditions and traffic, thus increasing the safety and environmental friendliness of the fairway. For more information about the Finnish Transport Agency's digitisation project, see www.liikennevirasto.fi/hankkeet/digitalisaatiohanke

See the news video for the project: Fairway brought into use with a maximum authorised draught of 12 m (<https://youtu.be/FpCaPxG7MKc>)

Further information about the project:

Rauma fairway project webpages: www.liikennevirasto.fi/rauman_vayla

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