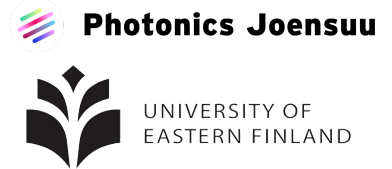




Jyrki Saarinen

**Head of the Center
for Photonics Sciences**

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Professor Jyrki Saarinen is the head of the Department of Physics and Mathematics at the University of Eastern Finland and the Photonics Research Center, focusing on the applications and commercialisation of photonics. With over 30 years of experience, Jyrki has deep business development and management expertise, ranging from startups to large international companies.

Jyrki Saarinen is the co-founder and former CEO of Heptagon and has also served as a founding member and chairman of the Photonics Finland network. In addition, Saarinen has held leadership roles in numerous significant projects and initiatives, both internationally and domestically.

Jyrki Saarinen is a respected lecturer, having taught not only at the University of Eastern Finland but also at Aalto University, UC Berkeley, and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. Saarinen is a sought-after speaker, mentor, and coach with strong networks in Europe, North America, and Asia. He regularly appears in the media and at various events and has written articles for publications such as Helsingin Sanomat, Talouselämä magazine, and Tiedelehti.

Jyrki Saarinen holds a Master's in Engineering from the former Helsinki University of Technology, where he also completed his Licentiate and Doctorate in Engineering. Additionally, he has an MBA from the Executive School of Business at the Helsinki University of Technology and certifications as a Certified Board Member (CBM) and CBM Chairperson from the Finnish Chamber of Commerce.

Jyrki Saarinen's unique background combines science, business development, and strategic sales, making him a sought-after speaker in academic and business contexts. Jyrki believes that photonics is the key technology of this century, and his vision focuses on strengthening the conditions for photonics research and commercialisation.

Areas of Expertise:

- Technology commercialisation and startup innovations
- Scientific and academic leadership
- International business and networking
- Innovation management and entrepreneurship
- Science communication and scientific innovations in business environments