Google to invest €13 billion (about $15 billion) in AI infrastructure in Finland – its largest single investment in Europe

International, Science, Technology & Indices · 30 October 2026 · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/30



News

On 9 September 2026 Google announced it will invest €13 billion (about $15 billion) in Finland over the next two years – its largest single investment in Europe. It covers expansion of its Hamina data centre, three new data centres at Kajaani, Muhos and Vaala, and clean-energy and battery projects, to meet demand for services such as Search, Maps and Gemini AI. Construction is planned for 2027–28 and is expected to support over 37,000 jobs.

Key facts

Announced	9 Sep 2026 – Google (Bikash Koley, VP, Global Infrastructure)
Amount	€13 billion (≈ $15 billion) over 2 years – Google's largest single investment in Europe
Sites	Hamina (former paper mill bought 2009; seawater cooling) + new centres: Kajaani, Muhos, Vaala
Energy	22-year deal with Fortum's Loviisa nuclear plant (from 2028; up to 50% of output); 94 MW battery system; new onshore wind

Jobs	37,000+ during construction (2027–28); €3.6 billion a year to Finland's GDP
Controversy	Oct 2026 (reported 7 Oct) – Finland's supervisory agency (LVV) ordered work halted at the Muhos and Kajaani sites over forest clearing without environmental impact assessment

Background

- Geography: Finland is a Nordic country of northern Europe; capital Helsinki. Sweden lies to the west, Norway to the north and Russia to the east (its longest land border); the Gulf of Finland is to the south (Estonia across it) and the Gulf of Bothnia to the west. 'Land of a thousand lakes'. Hamina is a town on the Gulf of Finland coast.
- Polity: after long neutrality, Finland became NATO's 31st member in April 2023 following the Russia–Ukraine war; Sweden joined as the 32nd in March 2024. NATO – 1949 Washington Treaty; HQ Brussels. Finland has been an EU member since 1995; PM Petteri Orpo.
- Science–economy: training and running AI models needs huge computing power and electricity; cooling is a major data-centre cost. Finland's cold climate and low-carbon power (nuclear, wind, hydro) attract data centres; Microsoft and TikTok owner ByteDance have also announced investments there. The Loviisa nuclear plant supplies about 10% of Finland's electricity.

Tamil Nadu link: Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and its parent Alphabet, was born in Madurai and grew up in Chennai; he studied engineering at IIT Kharagpur.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **Free quiz + daily PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · All news of this day: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/current-affairs-english/2026/10/30

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in