

# ***Finnish to English MT***

*Two Finnish companies, Kielikone Limited and Trantex Limited have established a joint venture company, called Transwise, to offer machine translation services from Finnish to English.*

The translations are produced with the Translator's Workstation, developed by Kielikone. Machine translation services are targeted especially at customers who need basic translations from Finnish to English quickly and at low cost. Transwise is a subsidiary of Kielikone and operates at the same location as Kielikone in Helsinki. Kielikone holds a 75% share in Transwise and is responsible for producing the translations. Trantex markets the services and participates in system development.

The companies' reasoning is that the market for machine translations is developing rapidly. As markets are becoming increasingly global, more organisations and individuals need a fast, attractively priced means of having their texts translated into other languages. The Translator's Workstation, developed by Kielikone, is claimed to be the first functional machine translation system for Finnish. Kielikone also licenses the Workstation, so that customers can either buy translation services or purchase the system licence.

Kielikone specialises in developing language software. In addition to the machine translation system, its product range includes electronic dictionar-

ies and grammar and style checker software. Kielikone has also developed a high-quality morphological analyser and a parser for Finnish.

Kielikone, which was sponsored originally by Sitra and later by Technology Development Centre, has been developing its machine translation system since 1987. In addition to Trantex, Nokia Telecommunications and Rautaruukki have participated in the development work. The machine translation system uses a general dictionary of over 50,000 words, plus special dictionaries that can be created and compiled for each customer or project. The system can translate several sentences per second.

Trantex is a large European localisation agency. The company was established in 1983, and by January 1995 its staff had grown to 82 people and its net sales to FIM 19 million (USD 4 million). Trantex specialises in technical writing and in localising software, help systems and manuals. Through its subsidiary, Bitwit, it also offers training and product support services. Trantex is a Microsoft Solution Provider and an authorised Drake Test Centre. A network of international partner companies ensures a large language capability.