

Arctic Passion News

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Dear Reader,

The past year has been one of the most consequential in our company's history. A shifting geopolitical landscape, a growing global focus on the Arctic, and rapidly evolving customer needs compelled us to reassess our direction.

These forces also created new opportunities. Arctic expertise is no longer a niche capability but a core element of international security and strategic infrastructure.

Following the change in ownership, we have taken a defining step by transitioning from the name Aker Arctic to Railo Technology, operating globally under the Railotech brand. This is more than a rebranding; it reflects our strengthened independence, broader technological capabilities, and long-term strategic intent. We are positioning ourselves for a future in which Arctic technology plays an increasingly important role.

The acquisition of Bluetech was another pivotal milestone. Its purpose was to deepen our design expertise and scale our capacity for larger, more complex programmes. Both organisations will continue under their own brands and as independent business units, preserving their distinct strengths. Together, however, we form a more capable entity, combining agility with scale.

Internationally, the year marked a decisive shift. We are establishing a U.S. subsidiary — one of our most important strategic initiatives in years. Demand for Arctic capability in the United States is accelerating, particularly within government programmes. A local presence enables us to engage at an early stage in acquisitions where design decisions will shape Arctic operational readiness for decades to come.

Cooperation between Finland and the United States in icebreaker development also advanced significantly. The memorandum of understanding signed in October 2025 on a new icebreaker class based on Finnish expertise underscored the strategic importance of our capabilities.

A central outcome is the Arctic Security Cutter programme, comprising 11 icebreakers. Six are based on the MPI concept we have developed, with construction in both Finland and the United States.

The programme strengthens the role of Finnish engineering in Arctic security while deepening transatlantic technological cooperation.

Meanwhile, the global icebreaker market is undergoing structural change. Ageing fleets, the Arctic's growing strategic importance, and tightening environmental standards are reshaping priorities. Icebreakers are increasingly viewed not only as enablers of winter navigation, but as instruments of national resilience and security.

Through the ICE Pact, Finland, Canada, and the United States are jointly building future Arctic capability, reinforcing long-term demand for advanced icebreaking and ice-capable vessels.

In Finland, we are contributing to the next generation of icebreaker design. The new B+ class introduces a novel propulsion architecture optimised for life cycle efficiency over a 50-year service life, combining operational performance with energy efficiency. This reflects an important shift toward sustainable, future-ready icebreaking.

We are navigating the most significant transformation in our company's history: a new identity, a stronger group structure, expanding international reach, and next-generation technologies. The scale of change is considerable, but so is the opportunity. Our focus is clear: to build the foundation for the next generation of Arctic capability, rooted in Finnish expertise, distinctive in character, and globally influential.

Sincerely yours,

Mika Hovilainen
Managing Director

