PIA
FINNISH DEFENCE AND
AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES

Drones as a Strategic Factor: Rethinking Security for Critical Infrastructure

05.11.2026

CTO Lauri J. Kangas

About the speaker

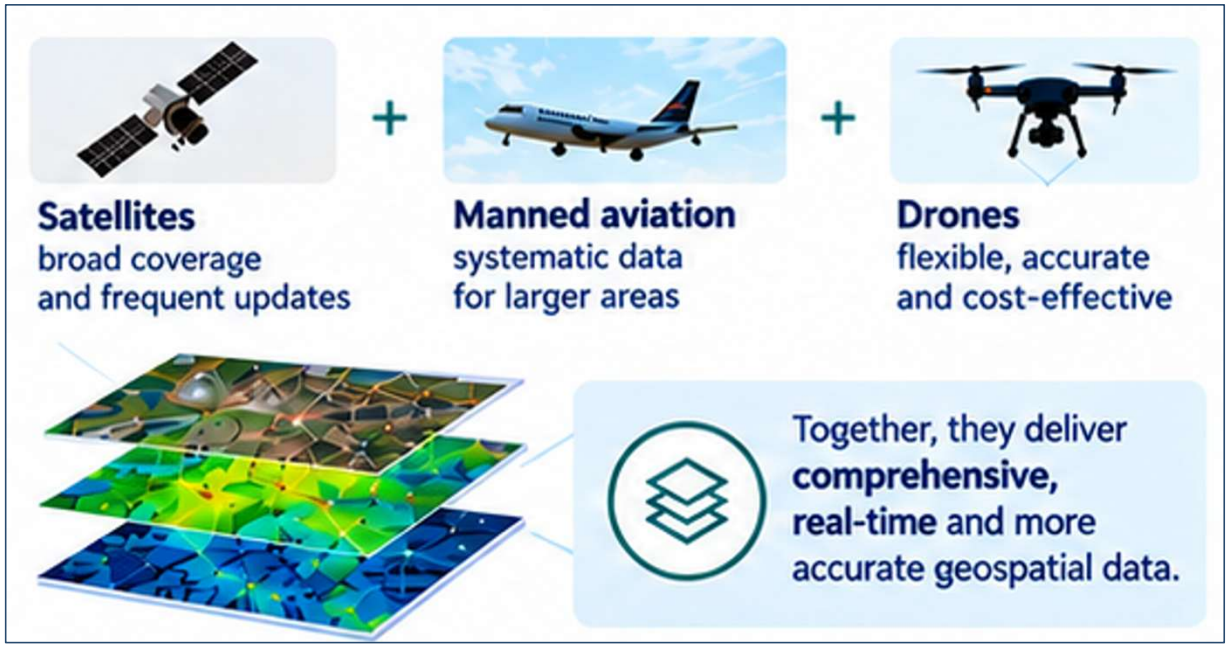
- Chief Technology Officer at
  Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries, PIA
- Background in: C5ISR, decision analysis, analysis tools for operational planning, autonomous systems
- MSc (Tech.) 2005 – Helsinki University of Technology
  - Major in Operations Research (Applied Mathematics)
- Work experience: 20 years of defence capability development
  - 2007–2021 **Insta**
  - 2004–2007 **Finnish Defence Forces**
  - 2000–2004 Nokia Research Centre, Helsinki University of Techonology

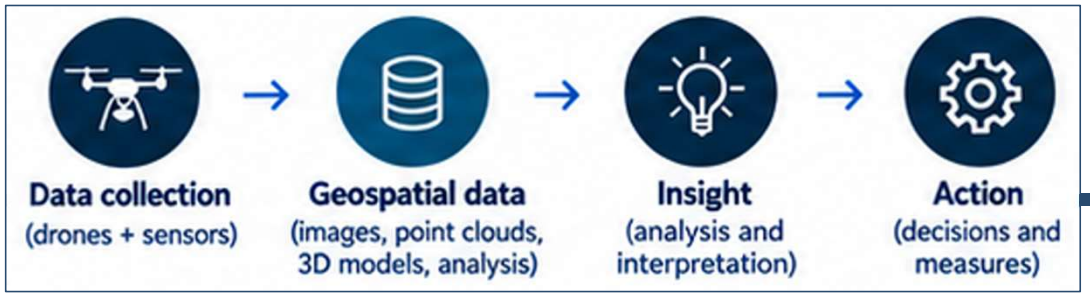


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The New York Times
July 6th, 2026
A Drone Killed Three Ukrainians. It Was Guided Entirely by A.I.
An attack by what Ukrainian officials said was a Russian drone with an Nvidia chip presages a dystopian future of weaponry untethered to humans.
Image: DALL-E

Drones fulfill the situational awareness gap





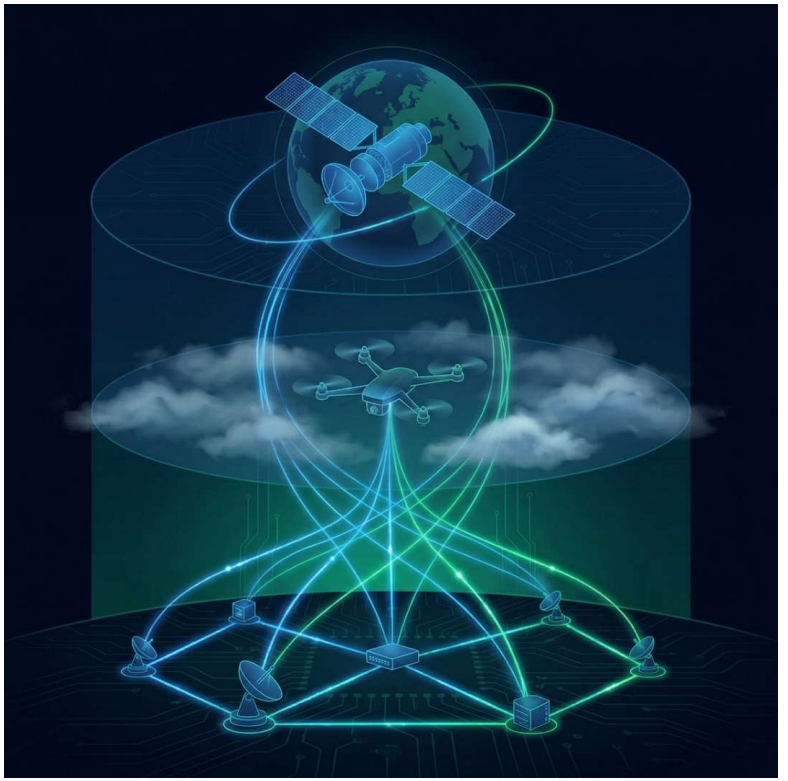
Drivers of change:

- **From static to real-time**
- **From manually operated to automated**
- **From data overload to intelligence**

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Airspace is the next infrastructure to go digital

- In the long term:
  - Modern Digital Infrastructure of Society
    - Becoming increasingly autonomous
    - Converging
    - Moving increasingly off the ground
- In the near and mid-long term:
  - ???
  - Assisted automation of low altitude operations
  - Urban air mobility





Rapporteur appointed to prepare recommendations for developing Finland’s drone sector

Prime Minister’s Office

Press release | 7 October 2026, 13:17

Prime Minister Petteri Orpo has appointed Lauri Kangas, Chief Technology Officer at the Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries Association (PIA), as a rapporteur to prepare recommendations aimed at strengthening the competitiveness, growth and exports of Finland’s drone sector. The study will focus on civilian applications of drones. The objective is to strengthen Finland’s position as a frontrunner in unmanned aviation.


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