



In Memoriam: Tapani Juhani Ritoniemi

Tampere, Finland, 19th of March 2009

It is with great sorrow that we have to report that our founding member, CEO and invaluable friend Tapani Ritoniemi has passed away on Monday March 16th, 2009, after a sudden illness. He will be sorely missed both by his relatives and the workers of VLSI Solution Oy.



Tapani Ritoniemi, born in November 22th, 1964 at Peräseinäjoki, Finland, got his Master of Science degree from Tampere University of Technology in 1989, quickly followed by founding of VLSI Solution Oy in 1991. He acted as the CEO for VLSI Solution right from its beginning.

Tapani, as he was known by his coworkers and customers, was a hands-on kind of a man. While controlling the economical flow of a multi-million dollar company, he was always ready for verbal sparring on technical issues, on which his knowledge was often unparalleled. He could receive huge amounts of information and immediately grasp the essentials of them. No technical question was too big or small for him.

Apart from being our CEO, Tapani was an invaluable friend and mentor, with a passionate vision for the future, and with an energy that felt inexhaustible. After a long day in office he would regularly go biking or skiing, which attributed to his great physical fitness.

While we are devastated by the passing on of Tapani, life must go on. Products are being shipped. Development projects continue. Our dedication to our customers is unwavering.

VLSI Solution was Tapani's greatest passion for almost two decades, and we will ensure that his vision of a Finnish VLSI design and manufacturing company will continue.