

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, today visited Tallinn University of Technology to become acquainted with laboratories and start-up companies of the Faculty of Information Technology and the Competence Centre of Food and Fermentation Technology, the Marine Systems Institute and the Centre for Biorobotics, which are all located in the Information Technology House.

At the Faculty of Information Technology, different laboratories and products developed by start-up companies, including robots used in a number of spheres (e.g. health care) were introduced to President Ilves. Among other things, the Head of State tasted bread and ice-cream specifically developed for the Estonian food industry, at the Food and Cell Analysis Laboratory.

"The co-operation between Tallinn University of Technology and Estonian and foreign companies and the state is remarkable, as the list of your partners includes the Ministry of Defence, the Estonian Information System's Authority, hospitals and Enterprise Estonia. The conclusion of six contracts per month with various partners for the scientific development of products and services should set an example for any research institution. Successful international co-operation within the framework of research projects of the European Commission is also praiseworthy," President Ilves said.

The Head of State added that he is expecting great deeds and good results from the new proto-typing centre, Mektory, where students, professors and different partners of the university from both the business and public sector level co-operate. E-health and e-governance laboratories will also be among the 16 different laboratories; according to the President, society in general will only gain from their work.

"X-Road, the e-governance project of the Republic of Estonia, has enjoyed huge success largely thanks to the co-operation between the professors and research specialists of the Faculty of Information Technology of Tallinn University of Technology and the Estonian Information System's Authority," admitted President Ilves and added that in the future, they should aim at enhancing the user-friendliness of services offered even further. "Our solutions are pure genius and we set a good example for the world in general in this sphere. The next step would be to make our solutions fast and easy to use during the era of e-applications."

During his visit, President Ilves met with the Rector of Tallinn University of Technology, Andres Keevallik; Director of the Innovation and Business Centre, Tea Varrak; Administrative Director Margus Leivo; and Professor Gert Jervan, as well as Senior Research Specialist of the Faculty of Information Technology, Artur Jutman; Professor Jüri Vain; Director of the Competence Centre of Food and Fermentation Technology, Urmas Sannik; Professor Raivo Vilu; Professor of the Marine Systems Institute, Professor Jüri Elken; and Professor of the Centre for Biorobotics, Maarja Kruusmaa.

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