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Research and industry

Discussion on issues of technology transfer, intellectual property and spin-off

Date: June 27th, 2013

Location: Physics and Astronomy Department, Largo Enrico Fermi, 2 – Room A– Florence

Organizer: National Institute of Optics of the National Research Council

Abstract. The event was an opportunity to study topics of Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property and Spin-off in order to encourage the process of exchange and collaboration between research institutions, local authorities and specialized companies.

Keywords. Research, Industry, technology transfer, intellectual property, spin-off

It is with motivated concern that we observe the position of our country in international technological competition. Italy is lagging significantly behind the main European countries, especially with regard to investment in research and the ability to generate patented innovations. However, despite the inadequate funding of the research sector, the data on scientific production indicate the substantial stability of the Italian research system, which is characterized by a good level of scientific productivity. Technology transfer from research centres to companies thus becomes a fundamental passage for the growth of competitiveness, particularly for those SMEs that do not have their own facilities for research.

The conference “Research and Enterprise” of June 27th, 2013 sought to explore the intellectual property issues of technology transfer and spin-offs by providing guidelines for developing project ideas and protecting them with adequate patents.

The conference was held in Arcetri at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and was organized by the National Institute of Optics (now CNR-National Research Council), which since its foundation in 1927 has directed its activities towards innovation, technology transfer, scientific and technical consultancy, with implications in sectors essential for the economy such as aerospace, environment, cultural heritage, energy, health, security, and more.



The conference attracted a very good attendance, both from representatives of institutions and from researchers who have achieved important results in transferring their research to enterprise.

After the welcome greetings from the INO director and the director of the DSFTM (Dept. of Physical Sciences and Technologies of Matter) of the CNR, the representatives of the University, the INGV (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology) and the Tuscan Regional Authority reported on the subject. There was a very interesting address by the Scientific Attaché at the Italian Embassy in Stockholm, who presented the Swedish experience in the use of research results as a development engine for the economy. The Vice-Chancellor for Technology Transfer at the University of Florence and the representative of the General Management of CNR reported on the same theme. The mechanisms of operation of start-ups and spin-offs were illustrated by Atlante Ventures Mezzogiorno and Elevator Pitch Trainer, who also clarified how to present the results of research to investors. The afternoon was devoted to the presentation of some excellent results: *Taggalo*, a spin-off of INO-CNR for the evaluation of the impact of audio-visual advertising present in stations and in crowded places; *Emoled*, a device that promotes the coagulation of blood in wounds developed by Light4tech in collaboration with LENS and I'IFAC-CNR; the SENSOR Laboratory of CNR and the University of Brescia, which develops biochemical sensors for ICT (Information and Communication Technology), nano medicine, food and security.

The activities of the Technology Centre of Navacchio, the Polo OPTOSCANNA and the BNLab of CNR were also illustrated. Modalities and problems encountered in the path that goes from the invention to the patent were discussed by Piaggio & C Spa and the clerk assigned to the patents at the DSFTM Department of the CNR.