

NANOTECHNOLOGY AND ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES: THE SCIENTIFIC ANSWER FOR THE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

At NanotechItaly 2015 unveiled state-of-the-art research on KETs sustaining industrial innovation and competitiveness through research, technology transfer and investments.

(Bologna, 1 December 2015) - The eight edition of NanotechItaly has successfully ended. Three days looking at the near future of responsible research and innovation in Italy and at international level looking the most promising and cutting edge technologies of this century

The numbers of the 2015 edition overtake the ones of the last year edition. During the three days there have been over 550 participants from 25 countries, 220 presentations (114 oral and 105 poster), more than two hundred one – to – one meetings - RtoB and BtoB - at the brokerage event, and 17 exhibitors. The conference received the support of more than 30 institutions, agencies and national and international organizations and has seen the presence of representatives of the business community, that this year exceeded the 30 % of the total participants. More than 200 students and other people attended the side event *“Spazio ai giovani ...e non solo! Engaging in Science and Technology”* held on Friday afternoon.

Researchers, entrepreneurs, managers, policy makers met in the CNR Research Area in Bologna for the most important annual event in Italy on nanotechnology and the other KETs - Key Enabling Technologies.

The high-profile speakers of the three days intensive programme, addressed from different angles the issue of the KETs, considered by the European Program Horizon2020 and the regional Smart Specialization Strategy as an essential tool to promote and support the development and industrial competitiveness of Europe in the coming years.

Key Enabling Technologies covers an ample area of R&I: nanotechnology, advanced materials, photonics, micro- and nano-electronics, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing. Given their enabling character they have a systemic effect along the entire production value chain, having the capability to innovate processes, products and services.

A comprehensive analysis of the role of KETs for industrial development has been illustrated during NanotechItaly, in areas such as **healthcare** and **medical devices**, **smart manufacturing** and **soft robotics**, **materials** and **graphene** based innovation, **bio-inspired** and **bio-based technologies**, **aerospace**, as well as key sectors for the Made in Italy such as **cultural heritage**, **food packaging**, **anti-counterfeiting** and **security**.

The Conference showcased the state-of-the-art research , at national and international level, and opportunities for industrial innovation, and the commitment of both policy makers and industry in the exploitation/deployment of these technologies. Nowadays, nanotechnologies and KETs have a significant role in the investment strategies of business players in a variety of sectors.

NanotechItaly2015, is organized by Italian Association for Industrial Research (AIRI), National Research Council (CNR), Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), Veneto Nanotech Italian, in collaboration with Federchimica, Assobiotec, Polytechnic of Turin, Aster, Italian Trade Agency,

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