



editorial

Last November, I was asked to give my opinion on the relevancy of Key Enabling Technologies for SMEs during EC Vice-President Tajani's mission for Growth to Portugal.

Reason for this was the fact that nanotechnology has been identified by the EC as one of the six Key Enabling Technologies. But guess what ?

These is a new kid on the block ! One month later I attended a meeting with Erik Drexler, the founding father of molecular nanotechnology in the 80-es. And he was kind of frustrated that over the last couple of decades nanotechnology became similar to science fiction. Which of course has nothing to do with science fiction! So he suggested to redefine nanotechnology into the better understandable Atomic Precise Manufacturing.

So to get this right: we started somewhere in the early 90-es with rapid prototyping, which evolved via rapid manufacturing into nowadays 3D printing. And the next step (in fifty-or-so-years) will be APM. A new challenge for our SG which is present and active at exactly this cross-over between micro-and nanotechnology.

Rim H.M. Stroeks
Chairman

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ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK DAYS

Elevator Pitches Event on Micro and Nanotechnologies Catania, 29 nov 2013

During the SME week coordinated by the European Commission and the Enterprise Europe Network Days (www.eendays.it), on the 29th of November 2013 Consorzio Catania Ricerche, in collaboration with EEN Sicily, Confindustria Sicilia, Consorzio Arca and Mondimpresa, organized an Elevator Pitch Event in Catania, at the National Research Council (CNR) building, in via Gaifami 18.



Thanks to this event, University and CNR researchers, SMEs from the high-tech District of Etna valley and other stakeholders presented their organization and their sectors of interests to the members of the Enterprise Europe Network “Micro & Nanotechnology Sector Group”.

“Each member of the Sector Group – as the chairman, Mr Emilien Watelet, said – represents the most competitive and innovative areas in Europe, as far as Micro & Nanotechnologies are concerned”. Members from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, had the opportunities to meet representatives of the High-Tech District, promoted and supported by the Ministry of Education and Research (MIUR).

“International cooperation represents a great opportunity to increase investment in research and development – as pointed out by the President of Consorzio Catania Ricerche, Prof Renato Bernardini- it is a concrete way fort he rising of employment, especially for the new generations”.

Following the Elevator Pitches Session, the Sector Group members visited the STMicroelectronics factory, listed in the stock exchange of Milan and Wall Street, so that they better appreciated the local high-tech industrial reality.

“The objective of the initiative is to promote international collaborations in light of the EU programme Horizon 2020, to be published soon, that will finance for over 70 billions of Euros”, as affirmed by the Italian member of the Sector Group and organized of the event, Dr Francesco Cappello.



Success-story : When Dutch/German SME cooperation turns out to be one-of-a-kind research and business partner for World Leading Top University Yale (USA)

JPE, a Dutch engineering-company, dealing with the development and realization of high-end opto-mechanical applications often in deep vacuum and cryogenic environment and divers ultra-precision positioning and testing instruments. For their specific developed device, the so called Piezoknob, JPE was looking for a certain kind of actuators that, after some serious adjustments in the field of miniaturization (one of the most consistent trends in microtechnology), PI Ceramic a German company, which is one of the world’s leading companies in the field of piezoceramics, was able to offer.

Both companies met several times thanks to the assistance of the Micro & Nano sector group members.

- The first time during the 2009 Precision Fair in the Netherlands
- A next contact was established during a company mission organized by Syntens in cooperation with the local EEN-partner STIFT to Thuringia, Germany, in June 2010
- A third meeting, also organized by Syntens and STIFT in close cooperation with the local EEN partner ARIST/CCIR de Franche-Comté, was needed for both companies to agree to do business together at the Micronora Fair, in Besançon-France, October 2010.

Over the last six months already 50 Piezoknobs were being sold all over the world and has generated business with Yale University in the US, one of the world's most outstanding universities in the forefront of medical and scientific research. This is a very unique and clear example that the Network is not only able to operate on the business-based level between SME's and industry but in the unique environment of the highest fundamental academic research as well.

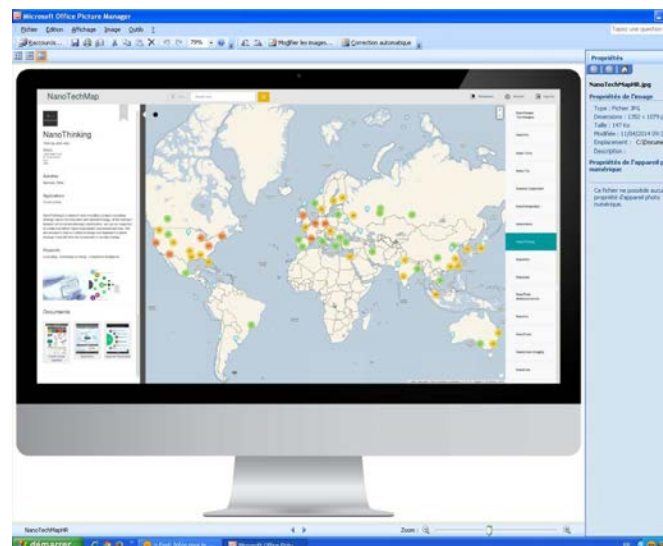


NANOMAP, an original initiative from a French Sme

A French SME, NanoThinking has recently developed the NanoTechMap, the largest online exhibition of nanotechnology featuring over 4000 companies.

All the worldwide nanotechnology players can now identify with just a few clicks its future best clients, suppliers and partners thanks to this.

See more details at www.nanothinking.com



EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITIES

Optical component designing and modelling for the manipulation of light.

A Greek company, active in developing, producing and marketing patterned surfaces by means of nanoimprint and roll to roll nanoimprint lithography, is looking for a partner to design optical components and/or diffractive elements capable of manipulating various forms of light. The Greek company is looking for companies and/or research organisations with extensive know how in designing of optical components using commercial or self developed designing tools and/or mathematical models.

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Tag or other solution to detect a change of temperature

A French SME is looking for a solution to capture temperatures. The ideal solution would be a chemical tag to be placed on a tube. The tag must be stable for temperatures between 15 and 25° celsius but must announce a change if the temperature goes under or over these references. The company would like to find a partner able to provide an on-shelf solution.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Industrial technologies 2014 – Matchmaking event

11 April 2014, Athens, Greece

PRAXI/HELP FORWARD Network and MIRTEC, members of Enterprise Europe Network – Hellas, invite you to participate at the International matchmaking event during Industrial Technologies 2014. The matchmaking is going to take place on the 11TH of April 2014 at the Athens International Conference Centre Megaron. The networking event is offering the possibility to businessmen, entrepreneurs, researchers and innovators to carry out open networking activities during the face to face meetings. This one day event targets innovative companies, universities and researchers interested in sharing new project ideas and finding collaboration partners focused on the following areas: Advanced, materials, sustainable and smart manufacturing, sustainable construction, energy efficiency, chemicals, industrial automation, green transport, biotechnology, nanotechnology.

The registration of organizations and profiles and selections of bilateral meetings can be done through:

www.industrialtechnologies2014.eu/2014/01/register-to-the-brokerage-day/

The event is taking place during the Greek Presidency of the European Council.

High-Tech System 2014

The International High-Tech Systems event will be held from 6th till 8th of May 2014 in Eindhoven in the Netherlands. International suppliers will be able to speak to open-minded engineers and technical managers that are interested in their solutions, unique technologies, services and advanced systems and components.



Exclusively for the foreign participants, various company visiting tours are offered on 6th of May : there is once in a lifetime opportunity to look behind the scenes of renowned organizations such as FEI, Roth&Rau, TNO, Addlab, CleanPackCentre, NXP and many others. A brokerage event is also organized by the Enterprise Europe Network on this occasion the 7th and 8th of May: <http://www.b2match.eu/hts2014>

9th Micro & Nanotechnologies brokerage event at Micronora 2014

The 9th Micro & Nano brokerage event will take place during the Micronora fair on 25 and 26th of September 2014.

The last edition has already generated 7 transnational partnerships. Others are still pending.

Registrations are open at:

www.micro-nano-event.eu/registrations.

Topics: advanced materials, micromechatronics, micro-nanotechnologies, ICT.

This newsletter is an initiative of the Micro & Nano sector group.

Chair of the group: Rim Stroeks, Syntens, Netherlands –

Vice chair: Mehmet Kirca, Turkey –

Communication : Anne-Marie Vieux, CCIR de Franche-Comté and Melissa Adou-Machecler, CCI Essonne, France.

Visit the Micro & Nano sector group page on the Enterprise Europe Network website to get the name and contact details of the closer member in your country:

<http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu/about/sector-groups/nano-microtechnologies>

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