

## Interview with Enrico Villa, Chairman of the board of EUREKA Cluster CATRENE



Enrico Villa, Chairman of the CATRENE Board

**How successful has the last call been and what are the Cluster's expectations for the future?**

We can show a very positive feedback in terms of new proposals of Call 4: out of 19 Project Outlines ultimately 14 Full Proposals have been submitted; we are now in the labeling process. We are expecting some difficulties in funding all the projects, on the one side due to budget constraints of public authorities but also due to different priorities of Member States.

**Nanotechnology (as part of the Key Enabling Technologies) holds enormous promise for Europe's future. In a recent Communication, the European Commission charts a way forward for these technologies, which will help enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of our economy. How does this relate to the challenges for the nanotechnology industry and how does CATRENE intend to address them?**

In its EUROPE 2020 Strategy, the Commission recognises the importance of industrial competitiveness for growth and jobs as well as the ability to address societal challenges in coming years. Mastering and deploying key technologies in the European Union is

central to strengthening Europe's capacity for industrial innovation and new products as well as service developments.

Recent EUREKA HLG recommendations for the next Common Strategic Framework (CSF) ask for a major change by translating ideas into marketable products and in crossing the recognised valley of death with a strategy comprising three pillars focused on technological research, product development and pilot line demonstrators, and world class advanced manufacturing. CATRENE, with its peculiar characteristics of bottom-up approach flexibility, and EIF, close-to-market approach is well positioned to provide the right answers and to improve European competitiveness.

**Which measures are required to give European industry a competitive edge in deploying the industrial technologies of the future? How can we better and more effectively capitalise on our R&D results?**

On top of the requested refocusing and rebalancing of the Common Strategic Framework, as described above, we should implement the strategy as laid down in the New CATRENE White Book to strengthen and to exploit positions, where we have competitive advantages and where we are strong in the European value chain. (automotive, industrial, medical, communications). In addition, we have to capitalise on new opportunities encountered by social challenges like energy saving, ageing population, etc.

**What actions could stimulate technology? Do you see venture capital as one of these ways alongside maybe public procurement and more joint strategic programming? What role can the EUREKA Clusters active in ICT and nanotechnology play here?**

Venture capital can play a key role when moving from technology and process to pilot line and advanced competitive manufacturing. Europe is relatively weak in this field. In the KETs (Key Enabling Technologies) recommendations a new and important role is requested by EIB/EIF as well as in using more Structural Funds for Smart Specialisation in all regions.

**Do the main participants in CATRENE represent the more active actors in Europe in the field? What are the recent success stories?**

CATRENE, and its Cluster predecessor in the segment of microelectronics, have created the right ecosystem for cooperation of large companies, SMEs, research institutes and academia. In the last CATRENE calls, more than 300 partners provided resources in projects. Many success stories have been achieved, just to mention the various Innovation Awards in the last years as well as the EUREKA Innovation Award in 2010.



### European Nanoelectronics Forum 2011

The fourth European Nanoelectronics Forum organised jointly by the EUREKA Cluster on nanoelectronics CATRENE and the ENIAC Joint Undertaking (JU) will take place this year on 15-16 November, in Dublin. This event attracts key players from industry, academia and public authorities; the topics of the forum include the integration process of public and private efforts to boost research in nanoelectronics, fields of innovation in Europe, the semiconductor market and looking ahead for the European nanoelectronics industry.

<http://www.eurekanetwork.org>, <http://www.catrene.org>