
PRESS RELEASE

Joint laboratory agreement between Directa Plus and Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia

The goal is to experiment the graphene industrial production technology patented by Directa Plus in lithium ion batteries and Nylon-based polymers

Genoa, 12th June 2014 – A joint laboratory agreement was signed by **Directa Plus**, the leading Italian technology company that developed an innovative, patented and approved process for the industrial production of graphene, and **Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT)**.

The goal of the agreement is to **transfer the innovation represented by graphene into industrial products used on the large scale**, guaranteeing mass material production at competitive prices.

Graphene-based product production and development are Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia Graphene Labs' main goals. IIT researchers' scientific experience will be key in optimizing the material produced by Directa Plus and for its application in manufacturing Lithium batteries and other composite materials. Moreover, the agreement includes the **exchange of know-how between Directa Plus and IIT** through the joint collaboration of the respective teams.

"We are particularly proud of this partnership agreement that allows Directa Plus to come into contact with the research and development potentials provided by the most innovative Italian research centre in the industry, just when our company is getting ready to open the largest European extra pure graphene sheet industrial production plant" - confirmed Giulio Cesareo, Directa Plus President and CEO. – "Thanks to this joint-lab, we will be able to further test our exclusive technology in new application fields with high growth potential such as the lithium ion battery and Nylon-based polymer fields".

"Partnerships with companies is key in focusing graphene research on applications directly transferable to the market", stated Vittorio Pellegrini, Director of Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia Graphene Labs, "One of the fundamental problems is tied to the need to increase the quantity of graphene to be produced to apply it in an industrial chain context. The agreement with Directa Plus will allow us to broaden the horizons of technology transfer and to innovate the energy system by creating, for example, lithium batteries with graphene-based electrodes that may be more efficient and flexible".

The global market related to graphene applications is expanding at a rapid pace. In 2012 alone, more than 3000 patent applications were submitted and the world demand for graphene, which is now estimated at 150-200 tonnes per year, is expected to grow to over one thousand tonnes for 2020.

Directa Plus, founded in 2005 and with headquarters in the ComoNext Science and Technology Park in Lomazzo (CO), is a technology company pursuing the development and marketing innovative manufacturing processes for the production of a new generation of nanomaterials targeting existing global markets. Next June 23rd, Directa Plus will open its "Graphene Factory", a new industrial centre distinguished for being the largest production plant in Europe of pristine graphene nanoplatelets, based on a patented and granted technology and designed according to a modular, replicable and exportable logic. The first module has 30-tonnes per year production capacity. To date, Directa Plus holds 26 granted patents and 19 patents pending.

Find out more about Directa Plus at www.directa-plus.com

Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT), is a private Foundation jointly established by the Ministry of Education, University and Research and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Its aim is to promote excellence in both basic and applied research and to facilitate the development of economy at national level. The number of IIT's staff people is about 1250. The scientific area accounts for about 85% of personnel, 44% of which is from abroad: 27% are scientists from more than 50 countries and 17% are Italian researchers who have come back to Italy after a professional experience abroad.

IIT has produced more than 4000 publications and 140 inventions resulting in 301 patent applications. In Genoa, departments include: robotics ("Robotics, Brain and Cognitive Sciences" and "Advanced Robotics"), life sciences ("Neuroscience and Brain Technologies" and "Drug Discovery and Development") and "Nanochemistry", "Nanophysics", "Nanostructures", "Pattern Analysis & Computer Vision" and "iCub" facilities. Since 2009 scientific activity has been further supported by 10 subsidiary research centers located elsewhere in Italy (Turin, Milan, Trento, Parma, Rome, Pisa, Naples, Lecce) and committed to developing the platforms foreseen by the 2012-2014 scientific plan.

Find out more about IIT at www.iit.it

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