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NEWSLETTER

new technologies and innovation policy

CONTENTS:

I. EUROPEAN DESIGN PRIZE 1988

Karl-Heinz Narjes, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, announced in a ceremony that took place at the Centre Borschette on 15 February 1988 the winners of the First European Community Design Prize.

Three companies received the first prize, from among 32 entrants from nine EC member countries nominated by national design organisations. The prize, for achievement in product, communications and environment design, was awarded to:

— L. GOOF, Denmark, a firm specialising in dentistry equipment;

— LAMY, Federal Republic of Germany, a manufacturer of writing implements;

— TECNO, Italy, a furniture manufacturer.

Additionally, two honourable mentions of the jury were given to:

— GORI, Denmark, a manufacturer of wood stains;

— ITALDESIGN, Italy, a consultant on motor car design

This Newsletter is issued by Directorate XIII — C, Exploitation of research and technological development, technology transfer and innovation, in Directorate-General 'Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation' of the Commission of the European Communities. For more information about its contents please write, **including the address label** *with all your correspondence, to:*

Commission of the European Communities
DG XIII — C
L-2920 Luxembourg

Editor: A. v. Witzleben

for their role in the utilisation of design concepts and the development of the design profession respectively.

All participants received a special certificate for being selected for the event.

The European Community Design Prize is part of a series of activities that the Commission of the European Communities has been sponsoring to stimulate the use of good design throughout European industry. These actions are part of the Strategic Programme for Innovation and Technology Transfer (SPRINT), a Community programme which aims at improving innovation and technology transfer in European Industry. SPRINT is carried out under the responsibility of Vice-President Narjes and is managed by DG XIII, Directorate-General for Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation.

The purpose of these design-related actions, which are carried out in close cooperation with several European design organizations, and particularly with the Danish Design Council, is to show the economic benefits of good design. They also aim to demonstrate the different ways design can be used as a management tool by industry, especially in the areas where innovation and design converge.

The European Community Design Prize is a reward to small and medium-sized companies that have shown a consistent application of design concepts and, therefore, project an image of quality worth emulating by other economic agents.

The companies nominated for the prize have achieved excellence in one or more of the fields of product, communication, and environment design. All companies were nominated not for one, but for a series of accomplishments in these areas, including design management skills. Most of these companies have always appealed to the talents of some of Europe's most renowned designers. Their activities also demonstrate that good design is a means of achieving excellence and economic benefits, regardless of their size.

The candidates for the European Community Design Prize will be featured in an exhibition at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre. The exhibition will open to the public on 16 February and can be seen until 2 March, from 9h00 to 18h00.

The European Community Design Prize was set up by the Commission of the European Communities in cooperation with the following design promotion organisations:

— Institut Belge pour le développement de l'industrial design, Brussels

— Rat für Formgebung, Frankfurt

— Danish Design Center, Copenhagen

— Agence pour la promotion de la création industrielle, Paris

— The Design Council, London

— Associazione per il Disegno Industriale, Milan

— Kilkenny Design, Kilkenny

— Stichting industrieel ontwerpen Nederland, Rotterdam

The catalogue 'The European Design Prize' is available from the Danish Design Center, H. C. Andersens Boulevard 18, DK-1553 Copenhagen.

Information Day on New Technologies and Innovation

Directorate C 'Exploitation of research and technological development, technology transfer and innovation' in Directorate-General XIII of the Commission of the European Communities will hold an information day for journalists on 28/29 April 1988. It will take place in Luxembourg and will consist of a general presentation of Directorate C's activities as well as special demonstrations of:

— examples of recent research results from Community-funded research and from cost-sharing research

— recent publications on new technologies

— case studies of the SPRINT Programme (Strategic PRogramme for INnovation and Technology Transfer).

In the last few years it has been realized that Europe's technological problems are partly due to shortcomings in the conversion of research results into marketable products. This is the reason why the Commission now attaches more importance to innovation and technology transfer, including the dissemination of information on new research results and new technologies.

DG XIII-C wishes to invite two or three journalists from the fields of science, research and economies from each Member State to this information conference, and one journalist from each EFTA Country. The Commission will meet economy-class air travel costs and provide an accommodation allowance of 70 ECU per day.

Journalists interested in attending this conference are asked to contact by March 20 at the latest (with brief details of their activity):

Mr A. v. Witzleben
CEC — DG XIII/C
JMO B4/103
L-2920 Luxembourg

Tel. (352) 4301-3351 or 3169

II. COMMUNITY R&D RESULTS

Under this section the Newsletter 'New Technologies and Innovation policy' reports regularly on recent innovations stemming from Community-funded research.

Caldorobot®: computerized control system for heating and air-conditioning plants

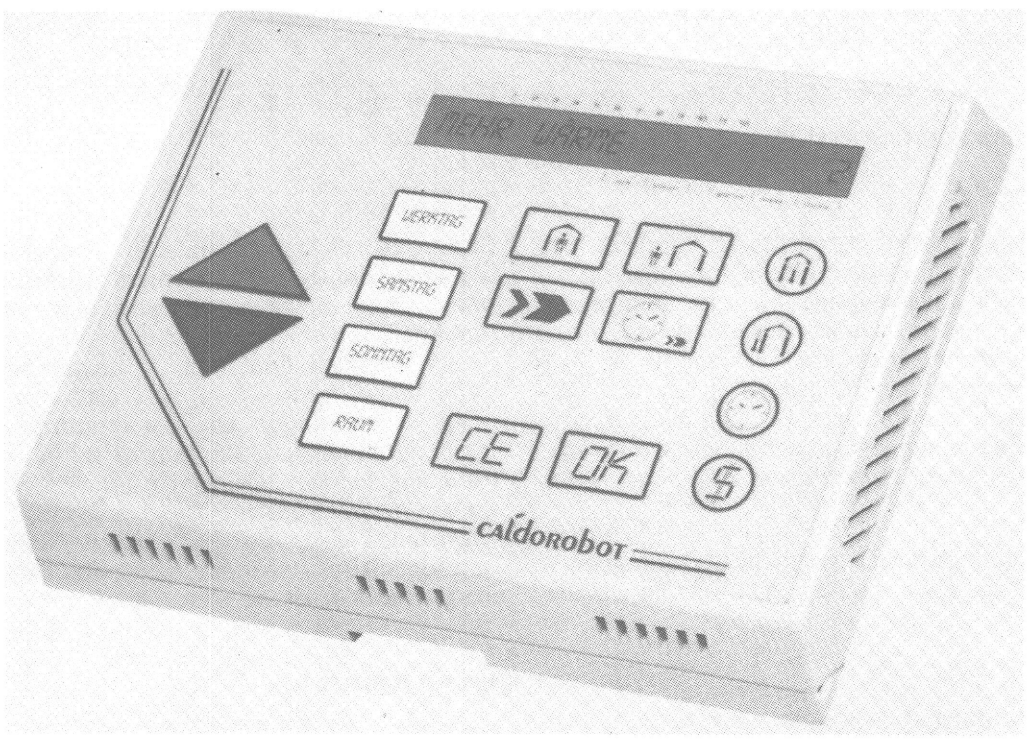
Caldorobot® is a micro-computer network employing the most advanced selflearning techniques to control heating and air-conditioning systems. Caldorobot® acquires knowledge independently, adapting to local conditions and controlling temperatures in such a way as to ensure a high degree of comfort. It cuts heating costs by up to 40%. Caldorobot® can be installed in all types of existing and new buildings: apartment blocks, commercial buildings, schools, offices, hotels, private homes etc.

Caldorobot® can be installed together with Telerobot®, a telematic network allowing remote management of heating and air-conditioning systems and of other equipment in the building (lighting, lifts, gas/fire/burglar alarms etc.). The complete system, which operates with normal phone lines, has controls for these types of equipment, improving the efficiency of heating and air-conditioning systems, as well as the general running of the building, so as to offer an enhanced service.

Caldorobot® has been developed by CSEA, Turin, with the financial aid of the Commission of the European Communities (DG XII).

Further information can be obtained from:

EASY SpA
48, via Vincenzo Monti
I-10126 Torino
Tel.: (11) 650 85 07



Caldorobot® local control unit.

Just published:

INNOVATIONS FROM COMMUNITY RESEARCH

— Selection 1986 —

This brochure features a number of innovations — stemming from research programmes financed or co-financed by the European Community — which have recently found commercial application.

Its aim is to inform non-specialized decision-makers and thus help disseminate knowledge about these innovations in accordance with the provisions of the legal framework in which they arose.

Available from:

Mr B. B. Goodman
CEC/DG XIII/C/3
Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 4301-2959 or 3176

III. Industrial Property Rights and Innovation

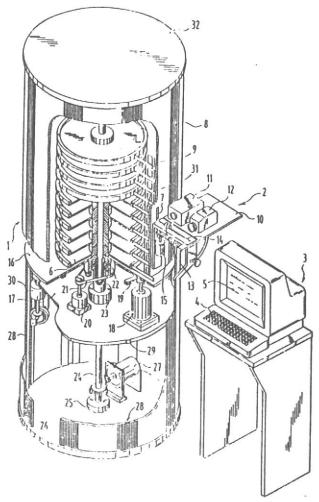
Patent applications recently published

The Patent Applications shown in this section concern inventions resulting from EC-funded or from cost- shared EC contract research

1. Device for storing and handling photographic slides

Inventor: E. CORRADO

Ref.: EUR Pat 2182



The device allows storing and handling of photographic slides for the purpose of selective projection. It comprises at least one magazine (6) for storing the slides, and a computer-controlled means (18, 27) of moving these magazines in such a way as to place any desired slide in front of a removal aperture (7). The storage magazines are stacked around a vertical shaft. The means for moving the magazines comprise a reversible motor (18), which transports the entire stack of magazines vertically, and a motor (27) which rotates them around the vertical shaft. The computer controls the removal and replacement of a slide according to its memorized selection criteria introduced by the user, taking into account the respective position of the set of magazines at any given moment.

2. Fluid-tight coupling device for microwave radiation

Inventor: W. MUELLER

Ref.: EUR Pat 2201

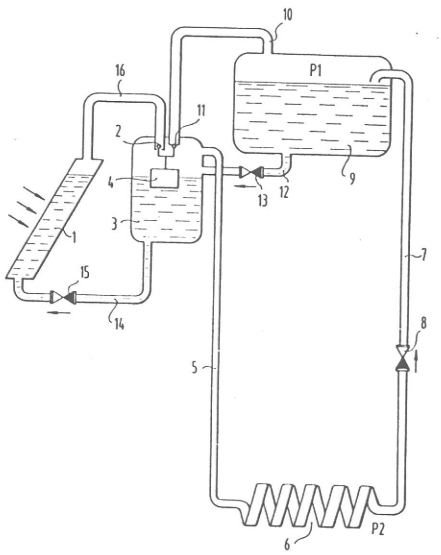
Fluid-tight coupling devices ('microwave windows') are required for channelling microwaves from their source through a gas-filled wave guide into a vacuum vessel. The usual coupling devices known hitherto do not always resist power densities of thermal loads in the megawatt or higher frequency ranges, as generated by gyrotorons or free electron lasers. Fusion research, however, requires coupling devices corresponding to large high- frequency power transmission and long-time exposure.

The present coupling device meets these requirements. Its main parts are a wave guide and a tubular window made of dielectric material (e.g. high-frequency ceramics, Al_2O_3 or transparent vitreous silica) permeable to microwaves. The wave guide leads from the entrance connected to the microwave source to the exit which is sealed, fluid-tight, by the microwave reflector reflecting sideways, through the tubular window, the microwave radiation axially emitted from the exit. An external can-shaped section of the wave guide surrounding the tubular window reflects the microwave radiation received through the window towards the wave guide exit. A special device conducts a low-damping coolant from the input to the output ends of the can-shaped section of the wave guide.

3. Device for passive heat transfer

Inventor: G. DE BENI, R. FRIESEN

Ref.: EUR Pat 2185



Passive heat transfer occurs when no source of energy other than heat is available, for example in the case of a domestic heating system where the heat source (boiler) is located in the basement and the radiators on the upper floors, However, such natural circulation of the heat transfer medium between the boiler and the radiators cannot occur if the source of heat is located above the radiators, as is the case where a solar collector is installed on the roof of a building.

The new device allows this kind of passive heat transfer between a source of heat such as a solar collector and a condenser (6) to be achieved by means of a vapourizable liquid. Its two-stage operating cycle (2, 11) is controlled by a float valve (4) located inside the separator tank (3). In the first stage, a boiler (1) supplies vapour to

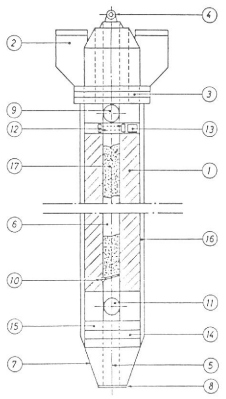
the condenser (6) feeding the tank. In the second stage the boiler receives the liquid from the tank (9). The separator tank (3) is located between the boiler and the condenser, so that the float valve located inside it links the vapour space in the separator tank to the vapour space in the boiler (1) (first stage), and to the vapour space in the tank (9) (second stage), in such a way that, when one link is open, the other is closed.

4. Marine sediment sampling device

Inventor: M. R. JAMET

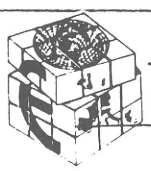
Ref.: EUR Pat 2183

The invention refers to a device for taking samples from the sea bed (17). It comprises a tubular body at one end of which guide vanes are located externally (9, 11) to ensure that the device remains vertical during its descent through the water. The other end is tapered externally to facilitate the penetration of the tubular body into the sediment and includes a non-return valve (10) to close the central channel in the tubular device so that the sediment taken up is retained.



Further information on the patent applications described above can be obtained from:

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General XIII/C/1
Attn.: Ms L. GERLACH (JMO B4/068)
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel.: (352) 4301-2922
Telex: 3423/3446 COMEUR LU



LASER TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRY

6-7-8 June 1988 · — · PORTO · — — · PORTUGAL

LASER TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRY is an INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE supported by the Commission of the European Communities under its plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer (SPRINT).

The Optics Division of the EPS, SPIE, Optics Division - Portuguese Physical Society and Rectorate of the University of Porto are among other sponsors.

The objectives of the conference are assessment of and the dissemination of the information on the following aspects of laser technologies for industry: metrology, detection, machine and process control, nondestructive testing for quality improvement; processing of metallic and nonmetallic materials for increasing the productivity of small manufacturing enterprises; applications to robotics and automation (equipment and systems, cost benefit analysis, technology transfer mechanisms, European programs for technological development).

The impact areas intended are:

- technological innovation
- rationalized usage of traditional and new materials
- the creation of new design and manufacturing methods
- methods for the fabrication of new types of products
- productivity increase
- quality improvement
- greater competitiveness for European industry in European and world markets with resulting benefits in terms of expanded markets created by new products, improved competitive positions through better quality products, introduction of new manufacturing technologies having greater commercial impact, and introduction of innovative manufacturing technologies facilitating new fabrication methods and the ability to fabricate new types of products.

The address for further information is:
"Secretariat: LASER TECHNOLOGIES IN INDUSTRY"
c/ o Professor Olivério D.D. Soares
Laboratório de Física - Faculdade de Ciências
Praça Gomes Teixeira
P-4000 Porto - PORTUGAL

Telephone: (351-2) 31 02 90 Ext. 235 - Telex: 28190 FCUP - Telefax: (351-2) 69 87 36

IV. CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

New technologies for the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas resources

Luxembourg, 22-24 March 1988

Europe's security of hydrocarbons supply depends heavily on the ability to locate and exploit new oil and gas reserves.

To ensure the availability of these resources, a new generation of technology is required: more effective, reliable, less expensive.

Since 1973, the European Community has implemented a programme which provides financial support for technological development in the field of hydrocarbons.

For the European Community, today and tomorrow, the challenge is to:

- face up to the more and more difficult conditions of exploration and exploitation;
- develop technologies which will activate, at minimum cost, the oil and gas reserves for production in the year 2000.

European industry has already considerably expanded its efforts to attain the current technological level.

The third symposium will offer the opportunity to:

- present the results of projects that have benefited from the Community's financial support in the following disciplines: geology, geophysics, drilling, production, technical exploitation, enhanced recovery, pipe laying, storage, natural gas;
- determine the priority of technological objectives for the forthcoming years;
- hold a round table discussion on the future and effectiveness of the Community's support programme.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt:
For further information, please contact:
Pour de plus amples informations, s'adresser à:
Per ulteriori informazioni, rivolgersi a:

Commission of the European
Communities — DG XIII/C/2
Att. Mr D. NICOLAY (JMO B4/086)
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG
Tel.: (352) 4301-2946 or 3164
Telex: COMEUR LU 3423

The **Commission of the European Communities,** through its Directorate-General 'Energy', Coal Directorate, and with the collaboration of the Directorate-General 'Telecommunications, Information Industry and Innovation', is organizing from **4 to 6 May 1988** in Luxembourg at the Jean Monnet Building, Room M 6, an information symposium on

IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY — MODERN MANAGEMENT IN THE COALMINES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

You are hereby invited to attend this conference and are requested to return the attached registration form not later than **15 April 1988** if you intend to take part.

Please return to:

Commission of the European
Communities — DG XIII/C/2
Att. Mr D. NICOLAY (JMO B4/086)
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG
Tel.: (352) 4301-2946 or 3164
Telex: COMEUR LU 3423

Einschreibeformular/Registration form
Bulletin d'inscription

(Bitte in Druckbuchstaben ausfüllen)
(Block capitals please)
(Prière de remplir en caractères d'imprimerie)

Name/Name/Nom: _____

Vorname/Forename/Prénom: _____

Beruf/Position/Profession: _____

Unternehmen/Firm/Entreprise/Institution: _____

_____

Anschrift (bitte unbedingt Postleitzahl angeben):
Mailing address (please include the postal code):
Adresse postale (ne pas oublier le code postal):

_____

_____

_____

Tel.: _____ Datum/Date: _____

International conference
'Energy efficiency in land transport'
Luxembourg, 16-18 May 1988

The Commission of the European Communities is organizing an International conference on energy efficiency in land transport in the framework of general policy objectives:

(i) to improve the energy efficiency of transport systems;

(ii) to encourage replacement of hydracarbons wherever justified because of positive effects on primary energy consumption and because of related financial considerations.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt:
For further information, please contact:
Pour de plus amples informations, s'adresser à:
Per ulteriori informazioni, rivolgersi a:

Commission of the European
Communities — DG XIII/C/2
Att. Mr D. NICOLAY (JMO B4/086)
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG
Tel.: (352) 4301-2946 or 3164
Telex: COMEUR LU 3423

International conference
'Pyrolysis and gasification'
Luxembourg, 15-18 November 1988

The Commission of the European Communities is organizing an International conference on the pyrolysis and gasification of waste materials (including plastics, rubber and wood wastes, various forms of biomass and other low-grade solid fuels) as a potential resource for:

(i) the production of storable fuels, chemical intermediates, synthesis gas, monomers, or activated carbon;

(ii) the fuelling of spark-ignited engines, gas turbines or retrofitted boilers.

If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster please send an abstract of not more than two typewritten pages (for details see First Announcement). The deadline for the presentation of abstracts has been extended up to 31 March 1988.

The original of the abstract plus eight copies should be sent to:

Prof. Dr. Ir. A. BUEKENS
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Pleinlaan, 2
B-1050 Brussels

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt:
For further information, please contact:
Pour de plus amples informations, s'adresser à:
Per ulteriori informazioni, rivolgersi a:

Commission of the European
Communities — DG XVII/E1
Att. Mr G.L. FERRERO
200, rue de la Loi (Terv 06/8)
B-1049 BRUSSELS
Tel.: (32/2) 235 79 72
Telex: COMEU B 21877

V. PUBLICATIONS

1988 Publication Programme of DG XIII-C

DG XIII-C is responsible for the publication of information on results from Community-funded and cost-shared R&D.

In 1987 about 150 monographs (books, mostly published via commercial publishing houses) and 600 'EUR-Reports' (via the Office for Official Publications) were produced.

DG XIII-C also publishes the journal 'Euroabstracts', which contains summaries of all scientific publications from the staff of the Commission's research centres (12 issues comprising 1500 titles per year).

Material for the above-mentioned publications come from the Commission's various Directorates-General, mainly those which are involved in research and technology matters, such as DG III and DG XII (industrial technology), DG V and DG XII (living and working conditions), DG VII (transport), DG XII and the Joint Research Centre of the CEC (mainly energy).

More information on the Commission's publication programme will be given in the next Newsletters.

Persons to be contacted about DG XIII-C Publications:

Mr C. André or Mr E. Phillips
Commission of the European Communities
Directorate-General XIII/C/2
Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel.: (352) 4301-2948 or 2916
Telex: 3423/3446 COMEUR LU

VI. SPRINT, THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

1. Innovating Across Europe: The SPRINT Transnational Network

(SPRINT contractors meeting, Luxembourg, 1-2 February, 1988)

With 170 contractors and over 100 technical agreements between firms to their credit, the SPRINT network for innovation support and technology transfer has come of age. After three years of operation, and as preparations for a main-phase SPRINT programme (1989-1993) begin, stock needed to be taken and lessons learned.

The full contingent of 170 present SPRINT network contractors, plus another 40 or so potential future participants and a further score of selected experts, converged in Luxembourg on 1-2 February for a two-day evaluation session hosted by DG XIII (Directorate General for Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation) of the Commission of the European Communities.

Vice-President NARJES of the Commission insisted on the need for an effective Community innovation and technology transfer policy in order to ensure future European prosperity, and Mr Carpentier, Director-General of DG XIII, sketched four possible areas for a main-phase SPRINT programme: finance for innovative companies, in particular at the seed and pre-seed stages; technology demonstration and dissemination, especially to benefit the Community's traditional industries; training in management techniques such as quality, value analysis, design etc.; setting up an 'innovation in Europe' observation unit to become more familiar with what is going on in this field and to permanently assess measures and policies.

Developing an effective infrastructure for innovation advisory and technology transfer support to firms across the Community has been a prime objective of SPRINT. The progress made, the difficulties encountered and problems remaining to be tackled were critically reviewed in plenary and working-group discussions on: 'best-practice' models and methods for innovation and technology transfer support; marketing techniques for innovative products; marketing support services to firms.

European Symposium on Training in Innovation Management

Paris, 14-15 April 1988

The 'European Symposium on Training in Innovation Management' is being organized jointly by the Commission of the European Communities, ANVAR (Agence Nationale de Valorisation de la Recherche) and the Ministère de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur.

The aim of the symposium is to compare the training courses in innovation management currently offered in the various countries of the Community with a view to encouraging transnational exchanges in this field, increasing awareness among the target audiences, and moving towards a better definition of the content of the training offered.

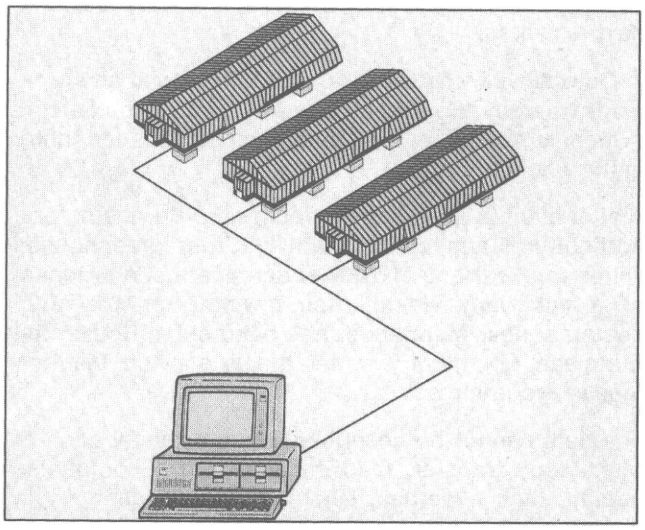
For further information, please contact:

CEFRI (Centre de formation aux réalités internationales)
Colloque européen

30, rue Cabanis
F-75014 PARIS
Tel.: (1) 45 65 25 00
Telex: 205 666 F

2. More Intelligent Greenhouses: A Technology Transfer project under the SPRINT-Programme

A typical case of inter-firm cooperation which came about under the SPRINT transnational networks is on More Intelligent Greenhouses:



The origin of this case can be traced back to a technology transfer meeting organised by the ARIST (Agence régionale d'information scientifique et technique) of Aquitaine in the town of Agen on 23 and 24 June 1987 (under the name 'Journées de transfert de technologie').

Preparations for the meeting started as early as February 1987, with a mail-shot sent to some 1500 firms in the Aquitaine region. It was explained that the purpose of the meeting was to allow those firms that wanted to consider diversifying into new activities to meet technology transfer agents who had in their portfolio technologies likely to fit their specific needs.

The requirements of the firms that responded were carefully analysed and sent to the members of the network of technology transfer agents, both public and private, all over France, with which ARIST-Aquitaine is used to working. In the end, 31 firms and 14 technology transfer agents were represented at the meeting, which in fact took the form of carefully pre-arranged bilateral talks. In all, 152 such conversations took place.

Actually, two of the 14 technology transfer agents were non-French. They were GOMOV (Gewestelijke Ontwikkelingsmaatschaapij Oost-Vlaanderen) of Ghent, Belgium, which is a publicy-funded establishment, and the consultancy firm Asesoria Industrial Zabala, of Pamplona, in Navarre, Spain. These two organisations and ARIST-Aquitaine work in partnership under the SPRINT Programme.

One of the companies which had expressed an interest in new products is Etablissements SEMIB-SOUDAGE, of Bordeaux, a mechanical engineering firm with an annual turnover of about 2 million Ecus and 30 employees, providing special-purpose machinery, pressure vessels, pipework, etc, to a wide range of clients in the motor industry, aerospace, papermaking, glassmaking and the agri-food business. Dr. José Maria Zabala, manager of Asesoria Industrial Zabala, thought he had spotted a technology which would suit SEMIB-SOUDAGE. It was a computerised greenhouse control system designed by DANASA (Desarrollo Agricola de Navarra S.A.), a company belonging to a group established near Pamplona employing about 100 people.

The group's expertise is fairly diversified, but its strong points include the computerisation of industrial processes and the design and construction of devices for the modernisation of agriculture. It developed the computerised greenhouse control system jointly with IBM Spain and the Agricultural Engineering School of Villava.

As can be seen from the figure, the role of the system is, first, to measure important parameters both outside the greenhouse (e.g. temperature, humidity, solar radiation, wind speed) and inside (e.g. air temperature, humidity, ground temperature) and provide information about the fertilising loop (for instance on the rate of flow, pH and pressure of the nutrients solution), the heating system and various other vital installations.

Its second role is to integrate these data, which represent the environment in which the crops inside the greenhouse are living, and, in line with the particular requirements of the crops at various stages of their development, define the adjustments to be made to this environment.

Its third main function is to send out relevant instructions to the various devices that can bring about these adjustments, namely the actuators that govern the heating, sprinkling, cooling, fertilising and other systems.

DANASA is of course marketing the system itself in Spain. The company had tried previously to market it in another European country, through a representative, but the attempt proved unsuccessful because of the system's sophistication. In other words, DANASA learned that the product could only be sold outside Spain with the help of real partners, who would not only have the necessary local commercial know-how, but be in a position to solve all the technical problems that would inevitably arise, particularly in terms of maintenance and adaptation of the system to specific needs. SEMIB seemed to DANASA to be the right choice for the French market.

In August 1987, SEMIB conducted a market study to determine the prospects of the control system as a viable product in France. The results were very positive, in

terms both of the competitiveness of the product and the size of the potential market. It is estimated that, in Aquitaine alone, some 3.5 milion Ecus will be invested in computerised greenhouse control systems over the next ten years.

In October 1987, DANASA and SEMIB signed an agreement whereby the French company would market the system in Aquitaine, first, and, once established there, in the whole of France.

A pilot plant is already being built near Bordeaux for a horticultural application involving four greenhouses with a total surface of 5,000 square metres. A proposal for a much larger installation, covering an area of 25 hectares, near Marmande, has been submitted to the European Community under the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes.

The deal cannot be described as an ordinary case of technology transfer. It is a case of two companies pooling their expertise. DANASA will remain fully in charge of the computer aspects, receiving feed-back from SEMIB in order to enable it to improve the system constantly. SEMIB contributes its engineering know-how and marketing skills. In this latter respect, it should be borne in mind that, for climatic reasons, the market for greenhouses is much larger north than south of the Pyrenees.

The participation of GOMOV, ARIST-Aquitaine's Belgian partner, at the Agen meeting, produced an unexpected result. Like the other technology transfer agents that had decided to take part, GOMOV had studied the profiles of the firms that were to be present and conducted a search in order to find a suitable partner. In the case of one of these firms, the Belgian search indicated that its ideal partner was. . .another firm in Aquitaine about 20 km away.

M. Serge TARIS

SEMIB-SOUDAGE

30 bis, rue Jean Hameau
F-33041 Bordeaux Cedex
Tel.: (33) 56 39 54 21

Francisco Javier CERVERA

DANASA

Carretera Pamplona-Huesca, km 9
Torres de Elorz (Navarra)
Spain
Tel.: (34) 19 31 78 11

Dr. José-Maria ZABALA

Asesoria Industrial Zabala

Navas de Tolosa, 5
31002 Pamplona
Spain
Tel.: (34) 48 22 89 63

M. Alain CLAVIER

ARIST-AQUITAINE

Agence rég. d'information scientifique
et technique, 10, place de la Bourse
F-33076 Bordeaux Cedex
Tel.: (33) 56 81 20 20

This is one example of 121 technology transfer agreements so far concluded under the SPRINT Programme.

The brochure: Innovating across Europe — The SPRINT Network for Inter-Firm Cooperation, which has just been published, contains detailed information on another six technology transfer contracts in:

Understanding movement using radiation

Robots for better security

Managing traffic on motorways

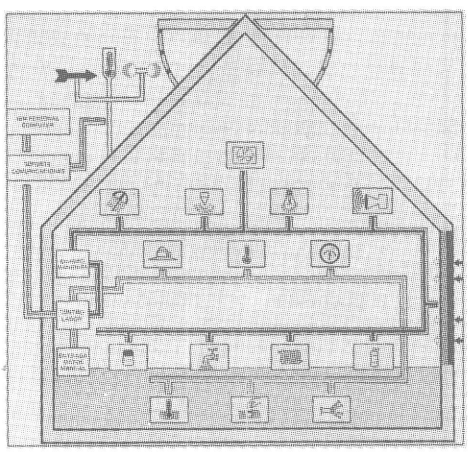
The language of engineering

'Machine cardiologist' transfer their know-how

Turning data into pictures

The brochure can be obtained on free of charge from:

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate-General XIII-C
Mr R. Miège
Jean Monnet Building
L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel.: (352) 4301-4181
Telex: 3423 COMEUR LU



A schmatic cross-section of a greenhouse equipped with a DANASA control system.
Top left: the meteorological station.
Green circuit: the computer and the communication devices.
Blue circuit: sensors for inside air temperature, for inside air humidity and for soil temperature, radiometer, conductivity meter, etc.
Red circuit: control points for heating, ventilation, cooling, irrigation, humidification, opening and closing doors, artificial lighting, etc.

3. News from TII, the European Association for the Transfer of Technologies and Industrial Information:

Transnational staff exchanges relating to technology transfer methodologies

The SPRINT programme provides for grants to finance transnational staff exchanges relating to technology transfer methodologies or industrial information. This scheme has just been extended for another two years, i.e. until the end of 1989.

The programme is geared to representatives of firms or organizations which work in the field of technology transfer or industrial information, who wish to become familiar with the working methods of similar establishments located in other countries of the Community. It aims in particular at promoting transnational collaboration projects. There are two types of exchange:

— short-term exchanges: 2 to 3 weeks,

— medium-term exchanges: 2 to 3 months.

Grants awarded to exchange partners include the reimbursement of a return trip (excursion fare or first-class train fare) and the payment of a daily allowance of 25 Ecus. In the case of the medium-term exchanges (2 to 3 months), a grant of 500 Ecus per month is also payable to the host organization on production of an end-of-exchange report.

The staff exchange programme is managed by the European Association for the Transfer of Technologies, Innovation and Industrial Information (T.I.I.). Further details and application forms can be obtained from:

T.I.I. Secretariat
3, rue des Capucins
L-1313 LUXEMBOURG
Tel. (352) 46.30.35
Fax: (352) 46.21.85

TECHNOLOGY AUDITING

TII Methodology Training Seminar for Technology Development Consultants
Date: 26 and 27 April 1988, in Hannover (during the industry fair)
Programme and registration: TII, see address above

4. Training in innovation management in the European Community Member States

— Study just published by the CEC —

This is the outcome of a survey in the EEC Member States on the programmes — both public and private — for training in innovation management which are available on the market.

This survey has provided for the first time a list of 206 organizations which, between them, offer 368 programmes; it gives the information supplied by each organization and a country-by-country analysis.

These programmes are at a university level of sophistication and are intended for engineers, managers and leaders of enterprises. The content of these programmes and their level of implementation vary widely and differ from country to country. The Federal Republic of Germany seems to be in the lead. There are fewer programmes in Southern Europe.

The demand from small and medium-sized enterprises for these programmes is generally still rather weak, because they are not aware of what is at stake.

The initiatives come mainly from private individuals such as professors or consultants, while government ministries, especially ministries of education, are relatively inactive.

Recommendations are made for action at national level. There is a large field of possible activities, and these existing networks, though fragile, may be the basis for them.

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg
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5. Conferences under the SPRINT-Programme

Under the SPRINT Programme the Commission is promoting the „Europeanisation" of conferences on new technologies. Here is an overview of some of the forthcoming conferences:

Title of the conference	Date	Venue	Organizer
Aiming for excellence: the technology transfer route	17. 3. 1988	Glasgow (UK)	Scottish Council (Development and Industry), Glasgow The Royal Society, Edinburgh
Flexible manufacturing for small and medium-sized enterprises	1.-2. 6. 1988	Dublin (IRL)	EOLAS (ex IIRS), Dublin
Methods and techniques for implementing flexible manufacturing systems	15. 6. 1988	Amsterdam (NL)	Intervisie, Leiden Fraunhofer Institut für Rationalisierung, Aachen Brighton Polytechnic, Brighton
Licensing in Europe	7. 6. 1988	London (UK)	Licencing Executives Society (Britain & Ireland), London
Information — The core strategy for regional and industrial growth	6. 5. 1988	Madrid (ES)	Instituto de empresa Sica, Madrid Innovation Consultants LT, Dublin
Moyens de coopération à l'innovation et au transfert technologique dans l'industrie agroalimentaire	1. 5. 1988	Parma (IT)	Aster SRL, Bologna Frauenhofer Institut für Lebensmitteltechnologie und Verpackung, München Jutland Technological Institute, Aarhus Danish Meat Research Institute, Roskilde Food Research Association, Leatherhead
Application of advanced technologies in medium and small-scale clothing and footwear production	1. 11. 1988	Limerick (IRL)	2.000 Plus BV, Maastricht Alan S. Sutton, Cadier en Keer National Institut of Higher Education, Limerick
Aerospace spinoff to SMEs	10. 11. 1988	Eindhoven (NL)	Microcentrum Nederland, Eindhoven Flemish Aerospace Group, Antwerpen
Directional properties of materials	17. 8. 1988	Louvain (BE)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Metallkunde e. V., Oberursel Catholic University, Louvain