

## **Conference CRUI – University and the City**

### **Session: "Innovation and Development"**

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“It really works. It must be possible”. Few words but a strong statement. It means tenacity, perseverance, persistence and spirit of research. It means Fraunhofer. To say yes. To put forth the limits. Always looking for the new. Not only to reflect, but also to stare at the future. This is the principle of Fraunhofer. Because we are people who are not satisfied with a simple yes or no. Because we have ideas where others give up. Because we want to be able to say, at the end of each project: “We did it!”

Fraunhofer is the biggest organization for applied research in Europe and it undertakes its activities within a big international network. Our research fields are defined according to people’s needs: health, security, communication, mobility, energy and environment. And for this reason our researchers’ work has great impact on our future life. We are creative, we conceive new technologies, we design new products, we improve processes, we open new paths. We invent the future.

Fraunhofer’s network entails 66 institutes in Germany and several research centers and representative institutions all around the world. Altogether, more than 24000 cooperators, mostly with an education in engineering or in natural sciences, produce a yearly research volume of more than EUR 2 billion. Of this amount, 1,7 billion come from research contracts: two thirds are accomplished through direct collaborations with firms and through research project financed with public funds. Only one third of the basic funding is covered with state financing, in order to allow the institutes to conceive solutions to problems of future relevance for society and for the economy. In 2010, Fraunhofer has established the first branch in Italy: Fraunhofer Italia Research scarl in Bozen. Fraunhofer Italia drives its attention mainly on small medium size firms on the Italian territory and it co-works with its clients through commissioned research projects and cooperative projects co-financed by public funds. All the projects by Fraunhofer aim at creating solutions with tangible results, immediately available for use on behalf of the firms. This is the driving force and the motivation pushing our researchers: applied research of immediate utility for the economy and the good of society!