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As the Director of Research & Trends, Strategia ed Innovazione, Telecom Italia Group, I hereby confirm the strong interest of our company in the FuturICT flagship initiative and our commitment in active collaboration.

The Telecom Italia labs (previously CSELT, founded in 1964 in Torino) have more than 40 years of activity as the Telecommunications Research Centre and Laboratories of Telecom Italia.

Most of the R&D activities of the Group are performed inside the Innovation and R&D Departments of Telecom Italia and involve around 4500 researchers and technicians with an average investment of 650 Meuro per year.

Strategy & Innovation is the department whose remit is triggering the develop of new services and products taking advantage of technological innovation coming both from the internal Research and from external technological evolution; to do this it also operates following an Over The Top approach in agreement with major player of the CE world.

TILab is the department whose remit is the supervision of all technological innovation for the infrastructure, scouting for new technologies and engineering operations for services and network platforms.

A relevant part of the ICT technologies planned to be developed by the FuturICT project are of great interest for Telecom Italia. I will mention only a few representative examples.

Telecom Italia, in conjunction with other major players such as Alcatel-Lucent, DoCoMo, France Telecom, Motorola, Nokia, NSN, STM, Telefonica and Vodafone, is indeed one of the consortium's main partners and performs intensive research activities in the areas indicated by the European Union's ICT Program.

Recently Telecom Italia has widened its know-how, shared its strategic visions and confirmed its competence by presenting the document (White Paper) on eMobility to EWG-5's group of experts focused on "**Context Provisioning and User Profiling for User-Centric Services**", where the context, the model and the context-aware service architecture are ensured by Telecom Italia's "**Context Awareness**" research project. This document is also an explicit acknowledgement, by all of the partners involved, of Telecom Italia's experience in context-awareness research and of an undeniable commitment to this sector on an EU level in the upcoming years.

Finally, Telecom Italia has been invited to conduct activities related to Context Awareness with eMobility, to contribute to the preparation of Public-Private Partnership "**When smart technologies connect people**" initiatives, with the startup meeting to take place at Acropolis (Nice). Moreover, Telecom Italia is also part of the steering board of the PPP initiative, along with 15 other leading TLC companies, for appropriately managing the EU budget dedicated to research and industrial innovation, set at €300 million for 2011-2013.

Telecom Italia ventures to define “**intelligent city**” models by developing groundbreaking digital services that enhance key municipality-level issues including energy efficiency, environmental monitoring, communication with citizens and the promotion of tourism. The “**Smart Cities Laboratory**” will make it possible to evaluate the on-the-ground application of planned solutions, and to establish guidelines for evolving urban areas towards an “intelligent city” model, supporting municipalities as they implement these solutions in their local areas. Starting with the public lighting network – once it has been equipped with sensors linked to the telecommunications network – the Laboratory will help to identify ways in which public service network infrastructures can help municipalities become more efficient in the provision of traditional services, achieve significant savings, and provide innovative services to the general public.

The **ECONET** (*low Energy CONsumption NETworks*) research project, financed by the EU, is intended to contribute to the global challenge for energy savings, concentrating its attention on consumption by the systems which make up the fixed communications network, whether looking at it from the consumer or the operator’s side. To this end, the main challenge consists in designing, developing and testing new technologies and the criteria and mechanisms of integrated controls to enable effective power savings in the equipment through the dynamic adaptation of the network capacity and resources to the actual traffic loads and user demands, while warranting Service Quality.

The EU-funded **EARTH** (*Energy Aware Radio and NeTwork TechNologies*) research project has the ambitious goal of taking part in the international challenge of energy savings, with a special focus on mobile communications systems. The project, grouping a consortium of 15 members, including six industrial partners such as (in addition to Telecom Italia) Alcatel-Lucent, Ericsson, DOCOMO, NXP, TTI Norte and IMEC, deals with a wide range of issues, from the development of a new generation of equipment and components, to the adoption of new deployment strategies and network management systems, to the use of innovative algorithms for making efficient use of radio resources. The common goal is to specifically cut the systems’ power consumption by more than 50%, with the resulting benefits in terms of savings and decreased polluting emissions.

A further example is our project, “**Future of Learning**”, which tries to understand both how learning may be transformed (to become continuing learning) and how business could be transformed when the new learning systems are available, for the sales personnel, for example, as well as for our clients. Doesn't the design of products and services require the inclusion of learning systems enabling those who use them to exploit them in the best way, and to become part of the project? We are getting used to the transition from being pure users to producers of contents.

Therefore, we are convinced that FuturICT initiative will be our preferred interlocutor for creating so far unexplored links, bringing to new developments and synergetic strategies converging with the goals of the EU agenda for 2020.

Thank you for your efforts in setting up this initiative and I hope to hear from you very soon about the FuturICT development.



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