



Organisation

Innovació i Recerca Industrial i Sostenible (IRIS)

Established in January 2007 in Catalonia, Spain

Provide research and engineering solutions and services to industry:

Process Optimisation (new processes and treatments, novel techniques: HPU, plasma, Ozone, etc.); **Process control and monitoring** – chemical and physical techniques, contactless sensors; **Process automation; Development of new products; ICT – System control**



Sectors- agro-food, plastics and packaging, environmental, materials



Project and Results



Ultra-veg

ULTRAVEG

Development of a high power ultrasound system for the low-cost, fast, effective and quality drying of fruit and vegetables

Duration: 24 months (Sept. 2008- Aug. 2010)

Funding programme: Research for SMEs

Coordinator: GOKSER Makina Sanayi Ticaret LTD STI, Turkey (SME)

SME Partners: GOKSER Makina Sanayi Ticaret LTD STI, Turkey

Fullwell Mill Ltd., United Kingdom

Gefriertrocknung Greven GmbH, Germany

Aktive Arc Sarl, Switzerland

Hebold Mixing and More GmbH, Germany

RTD Partners: Technical University of Berlin, Germany

TTZ Bremerhaven, Germany

Innovació i Recerca Industrial i Sostenible, Spain



Project and Results



Overall goal- to bridge a technological gap in the European dried food industry by providing SMEs with a cost effective, easily scalable and versatile high power ultrasound pre-treatment methodology, which will accelerate the drying process and preserve the quality of the product by drying at lower temperatures.

Expected results: precompetitive ultrasound ULTRAVEG prototype that has been validated in the food drying industry



Experiences made

SMEs are the owners of the Foreground (Programme Default)- to this end an IPR Capacity Building Session was organised for the SMEs in order to ensure that the SMEs were capacitated to manage and protect for Foreground (delivered by IPR experts)

Exploitation Manager- a representative of one of the SMEs from the future supply chain. He brings a pragmatic approach, is close to the market, and has past expertise in IPR, patents, etc.

Dissemination and confidentiality- it is vital to establish and agree on non-confidential information that can be disseminated (and indeed discussed). RTDs ask the SMEs for permission prior to any dissemination or publication activity from their side



Experiences made

A situation arose whereby the building of special laboratory equipment had to be outsourced, in line with evolution of the research direction:

it is imperative to sign a **confidentiality agreement** with any subcontractors.

they **have no access to the project IP**- this is very important to clarify beforehand

The **good definition of Background Included and Background excluded** is of paramount importance and it should be included in the Consortium Agreement.

We have an active **Dissemination Manager (end-user SME)**, who has been very proactive- even though it is an applied research project with clear commercial interest for the SMEs involved- there is good scope for dissemination activities once non-confidential information is established



Recommendations for other SMEs and EC

It is important to do a **thorough patent search at the start of the project**- from conception to implementation stage 1 to 2 years can have passed and it is important to be aware of any developments since proposal preparation

It is important to **clearly define the scope of a precompetitive prototype**- so that the SMEs know what to expect

The **coordination/project management work is a significant responsibility for an SME**- they need to focus on their business activity. To this end, the most experienced organisation should act as coordinator or at least as supporting coordinator to the SME

Keep the SMEs in the driving seat- they will appreciate it.



Recommendations for other SMEs and EC

Keep the SMEs informed about the evolution of the work, and **share developments as they emerge**- there is no need to wait until the next project meeting

The SMEs should start thinking about the **exploitation of the results** from an early stage- SMEs might want to wait until the prototype is built, however they really should be encouraged to discuss these issues before; they already know what the expected results are.

Protection of the results is very important- the RTDs should provide support and guidance to the SMEs at this level and **assist them in clearly defining the foreground** so that the best protection routes can be evaluated.