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ANALYSIS OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION INSTRUMENTS IN THE  
ITALIAN SPACE SECTOR

**Abstract**

The analysis presented in the paper highlights the opportunity to optimise the effectiveness of the IP protection in the Italian Space sector and draws a way forward for a better use of the instruments of the IP protection and knowledge transfer. This paper aims at exploring the concept of Intellectual Property rights regarding the Italian space sector. Firstly, the paper presents an overview of the main categories of Intellectual Property Rights currently used in the space sector and analyses the differences among them. A special focus is dedicated to the Italian Legislation and to the European and International Law. The paper describes some national initiatives aimed at generating technological innovation through the exploitation of Intellectual Property, as an instrument of Industrial policy. Secondly, the document offers a detailed analysis of the main policies regulating IPR, patent ownership as well as licenses in ESA, in the European Union and in Italy (research entities and universities). Moreover, a part of the paper is dedicated to the description of the different ways in which SMEs and small start-ups, operating in the space industry, are handling IPR issues. In conclusion, the authors present some examples of strategies able to stimulate an innovative use of IPRs adoptable by both public entities and companies. The purpose of the authors is also to propose a way forward to optimise the effectiveness of IP protection.