

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

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**ANALYSIS OF THE ITALIAN SPACE INDUSTRY COMPETENCIES: A REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION
MAPPING****Abstract**

The paper reports the first results of a study conducted in Italian Space Agency (ASI). Research has as objective the analysis of Italian space sector with the aim to understand the Italian entrepreneurial fabric, tied to the space sector. To achieve this purpose has been done a mapping of the companies operating in the sector, while also providing useful information in support of the activities being carried out of the national agency, in the broader context of the space economy initiatives undertaken at European level.

In addition to the database of ASI, they have been analyzed also ESA's database, the websites of three Italian space sector associations (AIPAS, ASAS and AIAD), also ICE (Italian Trade Agency) and finally "Italy Aerospace Reports" by Global Business Reports.

Preliminary results show 450 companies (mainly in the upstream), which are almost all SMEs. However, a small number of large groups prevails in the sector, both in terms of employment and revenues. The main companies represent roughly 80

Regarding the identification of the skills of the companies, it was used the technology tree of ESA (26 domain technology and 100 subdomain). This data shows some predominant skills of Italian companies and consequently the technologies that they possess. This result can confirm that in Italy there is a complete product chain in the space sector. The technology tree of ESA is primarily concerned with technologies that refer to the upstream. Considering that the downstream is the most promising sector for national economic growth, this paper aims to stimulate the downstream development that corresponds to less than one third of all employment in the sector.