

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Education Outreach and Workforce Development for Emerging Communities (IPB)

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THE DISTRETTO VIRTUALE - ASI "TOP SCORER" 2023 RANKING. A CHALLENGE TO THE
WIDE AUDIENCES TO PROJECT TECHNOLOGICAL IDEAS IN AND OUT OF THE SPACE
ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

The Distretto Virtuale (from hereon D.V.) Portal on ASI's (Italian Space Agency) website, originally funded by our Ministry of Research, has always played an important role in promoting an open, bottom-up, information exchange in and out of the Italian Space sector. In fact, besides being a platform for the Space Business and Science Community, it was designed to accept and share any contribution from society, with its independent status and its "user generated" / direct participant certified liability content approach. As a result we now have, among more than 500 collaborating participants, which obviously include all of the operational Space actors, a good number of newcomers and outsiders such as astrophile, innovative, educational associations, foundations, public entities, schools and organisations. Among the various outreach programmes carried out in time by the D.V., some of which presented at the IACs (sectoral studies, basic space training, educational modules, socio-cultural enquiries, partnering initiatives, etc.) one is especially important because it presents and enhances a large number of technologies registered in a specific prototypes/products essential/user friendly archive of the Portal. The rationale is to cover both prototypes (at any level of readiness) and new products, in their "pitch" phase, along with the estimated costs and duration of the relative envisaged campaigns. Deliberately, this also includes spin in / spin out technologies for industrial cross fertilization from and to Space. Because of a sizeable accumulation of such archival "entries" in the last years, the launch of the "D.V. Top Scorer challenge 2023" was decided, namely the first public release of a ranking for these technologies, which is automatically performed by an in-built operator based on a scale from 0 to 100 points (most oriented to academia - business virtuous cycles and terrestrial societal returns). An event is planned in the next months at the end of the evaluation procedure, to prize the 10 "top scorers" with visibility and other advantages (vouchers for exhibitions, educational subsidies, etc.). Hopefully, this ranking is bound to bring some "fresh air" into the often too cryptic and exclusive competitive cycles of our sector. Spin in and spin out technologies will be probably outstanding. Accordingly, we plan to update and release our dedicated format enquiry (lastly presented at IAC 2018 in Bremen) on space related - enabled technologies applications and their derived business in diversified terrestrial domains: medical, special materials and components, clothing and fashion, aeronautical, land monitoring, etc.).