

3.6 ITALY

Italy, with a GDP of about \$740 billion (U.S.) spends about 1.3% of this amount on R&D. About 33% is spent by the private sector. About 1% of the labour force is employed in R&D. ● ●

Key exports sectors include by order of importance; engineering products, textiles/clothing, transport equipment, metals/minerals, chemicals, food and agriculture. More than half of exports are to other EC countries.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

The major trends in government R&D policies are:

- "Internationalization" of R&D: increased support and commitment to European research programs such as EUREKA, BRITE, ESPRIT, etc. and efforts to correlate domestic programs with these in order to cut costs and duplication as well as to link up with technologically strong EC companies and consortia.
- Gradual increase in government allocations to industrial applied research to 3% of GNP and renewed (fiscal) incentives for contributions by private industry.
- Reorganization of state administration of R&D resources and programs through the centralization of policy and management in the Ministry of Technological Research and Universities (MRST), make MRST the sole administrator of the state R&D budget and the focal point for a cohesive Italian R&D effort coordinating all CNR (National Research Council) domestic programs, private industrial R&D, academic research and Italian public and private participation in EC programs.

- Institution of new state agencies (e.g. the Italian Space Agency) reporting to MRST responsible for coordinating and monitoring all private and public R&D initiatives within a given sector (space) and coordinating these with European EC programs (e.g. ESA).
- Increase of government grants and fiscal incentives for environmental R&D programs and for technological and industrial investment in Southern Italy.

The private sector drive for technological development has been motivated by a belief in R and D and need to be on tech edge to be competitive edge in 1992 EC economic integration.

The major technological thrusts are: machining centres, automation, robotics, electrical and electronic controls; automotive sector; recycling and processing of materials; advanced materials; industrial machinery; informatics (computers etc); marble granite sector; avionics; furniture, design, manufacturing use of new and mix materials; food processing, packaging, canning, automation, special machinery; wood working machinery and tools; plastics, machinery and processing; petro chemical, chemical processing, fine chemicals; ceramics, processing, machines, and equipment; shoe manufacturing; textiles, fashion, machines and equip.; leather tanning and processing.