

# DOMANDA E OFFERTA DI RICERCA & SVILUPPO NELLA PMI ITALIANA

Due casi studio: il NISLabVCO e il Consorzio Ruvaris

Demand And Offer Of Research & Development In Italian Smes

*Two case studies: NISLabVCO and Consorzio Ruvaris*

Angelo Bonomi

*National Research Council of Italy  
CNR-CERIS*

*Institute for Economic Research on Firm and Growth  
Collegio Carlo Alberto - via Real Collegio, n. 30  
10024 Moncalieri (Torino) – ITALY*

Tel.: +39 011 68 24 911;  
fax : +39 011 68 24 966;

email: [abonomi@bluewin.ch](mailto:abonomi@bluewin.ch)

**ABSTRACT:** This work considers two case studies concerning R&D offer by NISLabVCO, a research laboratory for industrial R&D projects, and R&D demand by Consorzio Ruvaris, composed by a group of firms in the sector of taps and valves, and dedicated to technology innovation. In both cases the study has been carried out for a period of six years since starting of their activity. An appropriate benchmarking has been considered for the study and constituted by professional contract research, in the case of NISLabVCO, and R&D management as carried out in the big industry, in the case of Consorzio Ruvaris. In the case of NISLabVCO it has been observed an undeniable positive effect on technology innovation in its territory, however, human and financial resources available are not sufficient for development of the laboratory and competitive innovations. In the case of Consorzio Ruvaris it has been shown the validity of SMEs cooperation for technology innovation and good results have been obtained for cooperative learning by doing, however, management of R&D is too much similar to that of learning by doing to be effective in developing really competitive innovations. Questions on public aid concern the fact that both organizations are not generally directly eligible to such aids. Furthermore, in the case of Consorzio Ruvaris, the regionalization of R&D aids in Italy makes difficult cooperative participation of SMEs in the same sector but in different territories. Finally it is suggested to focus public aid in prefeasibility studies for contract research organizations and in specific critical moments of innovation development to make more effective the science to business process.

**KEYWORDS:** technology innovation, research & development, learning by doing, contract research organization, industrial districts, cooperation, public aid.