

Connecting National Nanotech Clusters To Global Networks

Abstract

Patenting activities and technology diffusion in nanotechnology are being increasingly driven by collaborative, international, collaboration. These collaborative arrangements are often based on patents' portfolio complementarities which in turn are problematic to assure due the multidisciplinary nature of nanotech research. To support the technology transfer process within or across country, this study examines key actors in the nanotubes field, in order to assess how international collaborations might occur and which commercialization strategies Italy-based organizations may deploy towards Chinese actors. The findings show that significant linkages of the Italian nanotech system appear as being highly centralized around key players within their own cluster. Overall, the results suggest that strengthening the linkages between scientific and corporate actors may eliminate many barriers and accelerate the nanotech commercialization into international networks. Implications for policy makers are also highlighted.