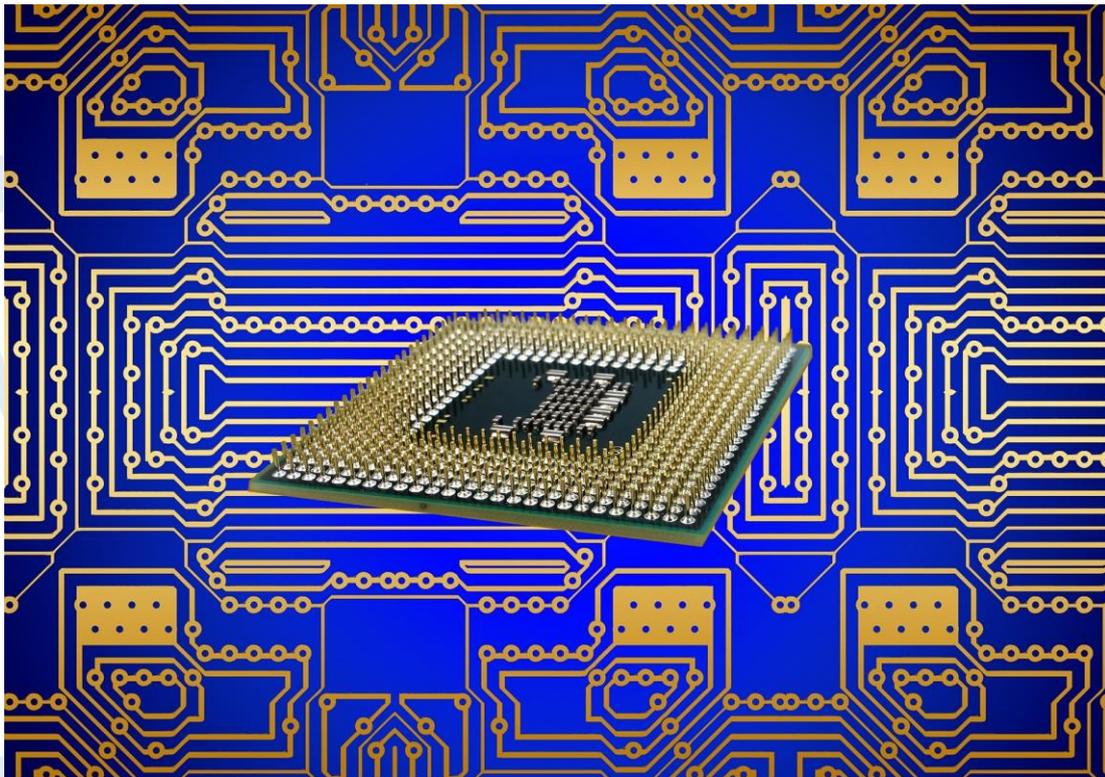




PRESS RELEASE

Sistema Trieste and Information Technology: the cooperation between SISSA and IBM gets underway



A meeting seals the start of the joint activities between the two organisations. The event's round table also gathers the representatives of the scientific institutions of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. One guiding concept: the integration of knowledge and expertise is at the basis of innovation

11 December 2017

"The world is our lab" is the title of the seminar held at the International School for Advanced Studies - SISSA of Trieste by Alessandro Curioni, director of IBM Research - Zurich and vice-Chairman of IBM Europe. This recent meeting launched the collaboration between SISSA and IBM. Local scientific institutions such as the University of Trieste, Elettra



Sincrotrone Trieste, Area Science Park, ICTP, OGS Trieste also participated in the round table organised during the event.

Curioni explains that the chosen title «reflects a deep thought: complex problems in the field of Information Technology can only be solved by the integration and the collaboration between the three protagonists of change: industry, academia and society. In this way, the world can become our training ground in which to innovate at the highest levels with applications that, starting from information technology, can reach the most diverse fields: from health to environment to our everyday life».

Business and academia: cooperation with SISSA

There must be a reciprocal exchange between technological business and academia, explains Curioni: «Academia is a source of excellence, because it offers the highest level of knowledge and expertise which is required by a reality like ours. Business, on the other hand, offers opportunities and stimuli based on the search for solutions which are immersed in a present and future reality, bringing a global perspective».

The director of SISSA, Stefano Ruffo, confirms the importance of the collaboration established with IBM: «The initiatives envisaged by the agreement, which will see the respective expertise come together, are many and all of great value. In this way, as research centre, SISSA is a source of prestigious scientific wealth; it confirms itself as an important counterpart in that process of essential importance along the route for innovation which is the transfer of knowledge. The collaboration with IBM is an opportunity for reciprocal growth and comparison. Moreover, in much of the research conducted at SISSA, from astrophysics to materials sciences, from neuroscience to the study of biological systems, mathematical and computational modelling and informatics play a fundamental role. SISSA is also strongly committed to the frontier sector of training. The Master's in High Performance Computing – MHPC activated with ICTP is an important example of this". Indeed, it should be pointed out how the need to nurture training paths aimed at the development of the potential offered by technological innovation starting from *cognitive computing* is becoming increasingly evident.

Trieste, pole of scientific excellence

"Systematizing cooperation" is an important aspect of innovation, explains Fabrizio Renzi, Director of Research Innovation and University of IBM Italy: «IBM spends 6 billion dollars a year in



research and development contributing to producing more than 8000 patents in the USA, in 2016 alone. But that is not enough. For us it is essential to open up to academia, as we have done with SISSA thanks to this agreement, and with a system like that of the Trieste area, with world-renowned entities. Moreover, the scientific and technological hub of the region is strategically positioned, even geographically, towards Eastern Europe».

In the Information Technology field, with other local institutions, SISSA has already activated important proposals. These include the Master's in High Performance Computing, which originates from a collaboration with ICTP, which trains professionals able to work with high-performing computers. MHPC will see IBM engaged in a two-week course, next February, geared to transmitting expertise and notions for the use of these refined tools but also, as explained by Patrizia Guitani, Exec Architect & Italy Storage Champion of IBM Italy, «the opportunity to develop projects and new ideas, to understand how to truly work better with these systems with extraordinary potential». The University of Trieste, together with that of Udine, SISSA and, later, ICTP has activated a new Master's Degree in Data Science and Scientific Computing this year designed to prepare its students to the new challenges of society and Industry 4.0. These initiatives are part of a context in which complementary actions are carried forward in the respective environments, as it emerged during the round table held at SISSA, by the other institutions which have participated in the meeting, namely OGS, Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste, Area Science Park. The context of Trieste is an extremely active and fertile one, which can provide ideas and opportunities for collaboration with the multinational technology company.

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