

## Milestone MS4.3: Protocol for the exchange of expertise and information with the private sector

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**Purpose of the document**

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This document illustrates a specific methodology developed together with the private sector for assuring an exchange of expertise and information in respect of the intellectual property rights on both sides and classified information from the industry.

Exchange of expertise with the private sector is assured through the ACTRIS virtual innovation platform.

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**Cooperation with the private sector**

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ACTRIS-2 devotes substantial efforts towards innovation and transfer of knowledge to SMEs. A potential large market exists in Europe for improving air pollution control and monitoring, use of renewable energy and for developing cost-effective and innovative instrumentation. ACTRIS-2 has already established links with several SMEs and a long history of joint technological developments that contributed to economic growth. In WP4 several actions are contributing to reinforce partnership with SMEs and assets of EU-SMEs in the competitive eco-industry market, in Europe and elsewhere. The ACTRIS-2 innovation platform provides the proper framework to foster exchange of interest between RI partners and SMEs. This platform facilitates technology transfer and joint public-private ventures for raising Transfer Readiness Level of emerging technologies developed within the RI.

It was foreseen to have a specific workshop, organized during the first year of the project (MS4.2), where to invite all the SMEs operating in the specific sector with the idea to start to establish a platform for a continuous exchange of expertise with the private sector in particular for promoting joint public-private collaboration for high-risk innovation and close-to-market activities applied to atmospheric observation technologies. After consulting with SMES, it was decided to do not organize this specific workshop (not feasible to find a suitable date for all the interested SMEs). It was decided to have a virtual platform for exchange of expertise with the SMEs through the project website and through the use of a specific mailing list for SMEs. Moreover SMEs have already participated in WP2 and WP3 technical meetings and they will be invited to all the future ACTRIS-2 technical meetings.

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## Associated Partnership with the Private Sector

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ACTRIS-2 intends to continue to support all the EU SMEs operating on the market for technologies and services related to atmospheric observations and in particular, to facilitate this collaboration with the private sector under a mutual-support concept that allows the bilateral exchange of expertise and information.

ACTRIS-2 encourages research institutions and companies from the private sector active in the field of aerosols, clouds, and trace gases to become Associated Partner in the project.

An overview of the ACTRIS-2 partnership with SMEs is given in table WP4.1. 11 SMEs are associated partners (3 more associations are currently in process). Not all SMEs involved are associated partners but as users of the calibration facilities (collaborative partnerships). Other SMEs are involved (not listed in below table) of which instrumentation and components are deployed for standardized measurements within ACTRIS-2, e.g., Ionicon Analytik GmbH (Austria), Apel-Riemer Environmental Inc (USA), LEOSPHERE (France), Teknocalor (Finland), etc.

*Table WP4.1: List of ACTRIS-2 partnership with the private sector*

Associated Partnership		Collaborative Partnership	
Organisation	Country	Organisation	Country
Aerosol Consulting ML SarL	Switzerland	Aerodyne Research, Inc.	USA
Abacus Laser	Germany	ADDAIR	France
Aerosol d.o.o	Slovenia	Brechtel	USA
Airmodus Oy	Finland	Campbell Scientific Ltd.	UK, France
CIMEL Electronique	France	Halo Phototonics	UK
CNC Solutions	Greece	METEK GmH	Germany
Ecotech Pty Ltd	Australia	Raymetrics S.A.	Greece
Meteomodem	France	Sigma Space Cooperation	USA
Ricardo-AEA Ltd.	UK	Tenum	France
RPG Radiometer Physics GmbH	Germany	TSI GmbH / TSI Inc.	Germany / USA
TOFWERK AG	Switzerland		

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## Non Disclosure agreement

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A specific Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) has been developed (CNR, CNRS-UBP) together with the private sector for assuring that this exchange of expertise and information respects the intellectual property rights on both sides and classified

information from the industry. This is used as part of the available documents for the call for associated partners for the private sector launched in October 2015 ([www.actris.eu](http://www.actris.eu)). This NDA is flexible enough to be modified for each of the companies in order to meet specific needs.

In the NDA (signed by ACTRIS-2 and the associated SMEs partners) the exchange of information, which may be confidential, is being disclosed only under the terms and conditions foreseen in the specific agreement.

In the NDA, the term "Information" includes any information, technical, regulatory, economic, financial, commercial, industrial and / or scientific knowledge, including know-how, data, data bases, software and computer programs (in object code or source code form), ideas, inventions, photographs, samples, data, materials, products, technology, processes, specifications, drawings, schematics, studies, test results, formulas, protocols, manuals, business plans, software, marketing plans, production quantities, and any other type of information in whatever form, whether patentable or not, and /or patented or not, and all intellectual property rights arising there from, revealed by one of the PARTIES to the other PARTY, made available or submitted, orally, in writing, or by any other media, including electronic transmission, physical inspection or observation or more generally any means of divulgation of the Information that may be chosen by the PARTIES during the time this agreement is in force.

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### **ACTRIS virtual innovation platform**

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ACTRIS has developed a virtual innovation platform in order to facilitate cooperation with the private sector.

This virtual platform facilitates the exchange of expertise and information with SMEs and it is composed by:

Web-based tools (available via the ACTRIS website at [www.actris.eu](http://www.actris.eu)):

- Continuous call for Associated Partnership with the Private Sector.
- Specific calls for Associated Partnership with the Private Sector.
- Announcement of opportunities for testing new instruments at the Calibration Centres and ACTRIS stations providing TNA.
- Documentation on technological standardization.
- Announcement of specific tools, software etc. available through Virtual Access (WP10).

- Announcement of specific technical meetings and workshop.
- Collection of feedback from the private sector through the TNA
- Reports on cooperation with the private sector.

Not all these tools have been fully implemented at moment because the activity is in progress and some final documentation on standard-making process and reports on cooperation with the private sector will be available only at a later stage, accordingly with the ACTRIS-2 DoA. However all the documents already available, also based on previous projects (i.e. ACTRIS in FP7) which could be relevant for the private sector have been made available on the project website.

A specific mailing list for associated SMEs has been established and it is used to advertise any relevant opportunity.

Feedback from the private sectors are collected after the access to the facilities and are handled accordingly to the specific NDA.

Beside this virtual platform, exchange of expertise and information with the private sector benefits from specific technical meetings and workshops focused on a specific technology, as those organized in WP2 and WP3 or at the Calibration Centres (WP6, WP7 and WP8) and as part of intercomparison campaigns open to the private section through TNA (WP9).

ACTRIS-2 opportunities of cooperation with the private sector are also announced at relevant events, conferences and exhibits.

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### **Future activities**

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ACTRIS-2 is working in close cooperation with the other ENV RIs within the project ENVRPLUS. Within ENVRPLUS, an “Environmental Research Infrastructures meet industrial partners” event will be organized on May 18-19, 2017 with industries related to environmental science, to explore directions and opportunities for future joint actions and to promote new partnerships. Topics such as emerging technologies in environmental monitor, metrology, standardization and conformity, smart solutions, etc. will be addressed. ACTRIS will participate in this event.