

## Final Stages of the Coordinated EU-Japan Research Projects

May 05, 2015 (HE103). In 2011 the European Commission (EC) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) launched a coordinated call, one of the first cooperative activities derived from the Science and Technology Cooperation agreement signed by the two Parties.

The focus was on the fundamental properties of novel superconducting materials, and the following three coordinated EU-Japan research projects were chosen out of the nineteen deemed eligible among those proposed:

- Light element molecular superconductivity: an interdisciplinary approach "LEMSUPER", coordinated by *Prof. Kosmas Prassides, University of Durham, UK*, and *Prof. Yoshihiro Iwasa, University of Tokyo*;
- Exploring the potential of Iron-based superconductors "SUPER-IRON", coordinated by *Prof. Marina Putti, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, IT*, and *Associate Prof. Jun-ichi Shimoyama, University of Tokyo*;
- Establishing the basic science and technology for Iron-based superconducting electronics applications "IRON-SEA", coordinated by *Dr. Kazumasa Iida, Leibniz-Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V., DE*, and *Prof. Hiroshi Ikuta, Nagoya University*

In March 2015, they had all reached their final stages. Therefore, a joint review meeting was held in Tokyo, in the headquarters of JST, on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The attendees were the Coordinators of the twinned projects, representatives of the EC and JST agencies, and external reviewers.

The SUPER-IRON and IRON-SEA projects, which have dealt with iron-based superconductors and explored a common yet distinct field, decided to take advantage of this occasion and to hold a Joint Workshop right after the joint review meeting.

Prof. Jun-ichi Shimoyama and Prof. Hiroshi Ikuta organized the joint Workshop, which offered the good opportunity for both presenting the latest results and making the final assessments on the future of the research on these novel superconductors.

The "**Joint Workshop on Iron-Based Superconductors, by SUPER-IRON and IRON-SEA**" took place on March 10-11th, 2015 at the JST Tokyo Headquarters in the Science Plaza Conference Hall, and has featured contributions by all the groups involved in the two projects reported in the list below:

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – SPIN  
The University of Tokyo  
Leibniz Institut für Festkörper- und Werkstoffforschung Dresden e.V.  
Nagoya University  
Atominstutit of the Vienna University of Technology  
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
Kyushu University  
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology  
National Institute for Materials Science  
Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry  
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

The workshop represents the pinnacle of a series of exchange activities carried out by the Japanese and European partners of the projects, which have comprised also frequent researcher and student exchanges, in addition to the periodic project meetings.

This frequent circulation of people together with constant data flow has contributed to strengthen the relationships among the groups involved, laying the basis for cooperation that is destined to last beyond the end of the projects. All the groups involved agree on considering those collaborations to be one of the most important results obtained thanks to the call.

May 6, 2015 (Editor's Note): To our knowledge, the collaboration initiated under "SUPER-IRON" continues as "SUPER-IRON II," at this time without any external support, but formalized by a signed collaboration agreement.