

European Research & Innovation Project Innovative climate-control system to extend range of electric vehicles and improve comfort

Interview with Dr Claudia CATTANEO

Expert in membrane industrial application & project manager at TICASS, Italy

Can you please tell us a little bit about yourself?

I come from Recco, a small town on the East Riviera of Liguria. I completed my Master degree in Environmental Engineering in 2001 at University of Genoa and then I had a Ph. D. in Methods and Technologies for the Environmental Monitoring.

I worked for many years at University of Genoa as researcher assistant on different topics related to wastewater depuration techniques and environmental and health risk assessment for contaminated sites. I joined TICASS in 2011, when the consortium launched its activities, with the role of project manager within financed projects (H2020, MED, Life+, etc.) and private commissions, dealing with environmental topics with a particular focus on waste and water issues.

"A common point of my works days is the continuous interaction with different subjects"

I'm a contact point for TICASS's associates for technical issues and I usually work together with the whole TICASS team in drafting proposals for financed projects about innovation and industrial research. I am also involved as a teacher in training activities organised by TICASS.

Dr Claudia CATTANEO

works at TICASS since 2011, with the role of project manager within financed projects and private commissions.

In XERIC, she is in charge for the general management of the activities leaded by TICASS (respect of the time-line and financial aspects). Two experts specifically hired and two Departments of UNIGE are also involved in the projet, so Claudia is representing the "point of convergence" for all types of information, incoming and outcoming, about technical, financial and administrative topics.

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What is appealing to you being a researcher? How challenging is it?

In my opinion, to be a researcher is appealing because you have the possibility to interface different issues and to know different aspects of the same problem.

I think that the main challenge for a researcher is to find innovative solutions to conventional problems in order to achieve relevant results, that means basically to go beyond the state-of-art.

What does your daily job look like?

I do not have a typical day at work, but I think that a common point of my work days is the continuous interaction with different subjects, i.e. academic figures, entrepreneurs, technicians and administrative officers.

So my work day is usually very dynamic! My main activities go from internal meetings to coordinate, to set up and write documents and reports for contracts in being, meetings with third subjects, technical visits to plants and sometimes also activities at TICASS laboratory.

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What excites you in the XERIC project?

I was internally selected to be involved in XERIC because of my technical skills and

my previous experience in European projects. In my opinion, one focal innovative point in the XERIC project is bringing together research labs and industry, encouraging the technology transfer and the interdisciplinary approach.

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What are, according to you, the major challenges to be overcome in XERIC?

XERIC is a very challenging project. Each single partner is in charge of activities that must achieve relevant results. So anyone has his own specific challenge, according to competences and skilled experience.

Basically, the major challenges are related to the achievement of these partial results, in accordance with time and costs, in order to achieve the final one, which is the development of the innovative climate conditioning system with improved performances and the evaluation of its potential in the automotive market.

What are you expecting from the project?

I think that one positive output expected from XERIC could be to enlarge the field application of the 3F-CMC technology to other sectors, i.e. buildings, greenhouses etc... This will improve the competitiveness of enterprises involved in the project.

Are you participating in other international projects? Can you talk about them and explain the role you play?

Nowadays, I'm also involved in a European project called FORCE (Innovation action H2020), that aims to minimize the leakage of materials from the linear economy and work towards a circular economy. The city of Genoa participates for the wood waste and engage enterprises, citizens and academia to create and develop eco-innovative solutions. As TICASS, we are implementing an integrated wood management Urban Laboratory, with the aim to create innovative market applications and test new technology applications.

Then, from 2018 I'll be involved as project manager for TICASS in a new incoming project, about the management of wastes coming from the fishing, aquaculture sectors and harbor activities, involving different actors located in some regions in Italy and France.

"One positive output expected from XERIC could be to enlarge the field of application for the 3F-CMC technology to other sectors, i.e. buildings, greenhouses, etc."

Thanks for your time Claudia. All the best for XERIC and your other projects!

Claudia's skills

Chemical engineering; industrial membrane application, project management

TICASS, a partner in the XERIC project

TICASS – acronym for Innovative Technologies for Environmental Control and Sustainable Development - is a non-profit Consortium established in March 2010, composed of research authorities and large, medium and small companies. TICASS performs, promotes and enhances research activities, as well as transferring excellence technologies in the "Energy and Environment" area with regards to Sustainable Development and Quality of Life. The consortium main goal is to widen knowledge and introduce innovative technologies by the cross-border cooperation, with universities and other public and private bodies.

TICASS carries out XERIC's research tasks by addressing and coordinating synergically the **work of TICASS and UNIGE teams**. TICASS in collaboration with UNIGE has carried out for many years theoretical and experimental research on air dehumidification/conditioning with liquid desiccants and membrane contactors. XERIC capitalizes on their recent research results internationally patented by the Genoa University: the **three Fluids Combined Membrane Contactors (3F-CMC) components**.

XERIC in brief

XERIC is a European Research & Innovation Project Start date: 1st June 2015 End date: 31st May 2018

> Number of partners: 8

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