

## Press release

# Francesco Colonna: new innovation manager joins PARK INNOVAARE

**PARK INNOVAARE, Villigen (CH) October 19, 2017 – Recently coming on board, Dr. Francesco Colonna has made PARK INNOVAARE's team complete in his role as Senior Project Manager Innovation & Funding. Dr. Colonna, a solid-state physicist, obtained his PhD at the University of Amsterdam. He has a proven track record in developing industrial relations, having gained first-hand experience in industrial R&D and project management at the Materials Innovation Institute and at the Fraunhofer Institute IWM in Freiburg (Germany), where he had served since 2012. In 2015, Dr. Colonna pursued an executive education degree in technology innovation at the Politecnico di Milano (MIP).**

As Senior Project Manager Innovation & Funding, Dr. Colonna will be taking over the implementation of the innovation strategy and further development of industrial relations at PARK INNOVAARE – with a strong international focus. He will also identify possibilities for collaboration with different industrial partners and research groups and actively build bridges between lab and market. By connecting with entrepreneurs, R&D specialists and researchers, he will initiate and develop a science-industry exchange platform to identify promising innovation cases that can be developed into innovative companies.

Dr. Colonna will also be responsible for the development of a funding infrastructure at PARK INNOVAARE and support resident companies in obtaining funding appropriate to their actual needs and state of development. This includes not only venture capital but also other non-dilutive funding sources of the EU program *Horizon 2020* as well as Switzerland Innovation's proprietary funding instrument, the Swiss federal guarantee of 350 million CHF, which is exclusively available to residents of one of the five innovation parks, including PARK INNOVAARE.

Portrait Francesco Colonna

<https://parkinnovaare.cloud-hosting.ch/index.php/s/TScWDekKuc0IBTz>

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#### **About PARK INNOVAARE**

PARK INNOVAARE is the innovation site at the Paul Scherrer Institute PSI. Here, innovations in the fields of Accelerator Technology, Advanced Materials & Processes, Human Health and Energy are the focus of attention. Centered on providing the best services for industrial research groups and spin-offs at our location, we bring together innovators with a creative drive from large corporations, SMEs and research institutions from Switzerland and abroad. Our objective is to connect the right people with each other and thus quickly turn innovations into marketable products and solutions.

[www.parkinnovaare.ch](http://www.parkinnovaare.ch)

For more information on PSI: [www.psi.ch](http://www.psi.ch)