

We have seen in the country, lately, a significant movement in favour of technological innovation. This has been evidenced by several initiatives from the corporate sector, by means of events based on the interaction with the academic sector, and also from the government sector, with the introduction of federal and state incentive laws. A major goal of this movement is to induce the country to emerge as a potency in terms of specialized knowledge and solutions design based on creativity.

The experiments in this context, however, lead to the identification of areas that need urgent attention, mentioned here, not necessarily in order of importance. The first is the change of attitude by the sectors responsible for resource management, whose mentality still seems to be against innovation. The second is education, since its practice still works in an unidirectional manner, where the teacher, holder of knowledge, seeks to convey their teachings to the students, however, in most cases, without promoting interaction. Modern education models make greater use of research, interaction, complexity and feedback. The third, and last for now, is the difficulty of interaction that, in general, exists between the two sectors, academy and industry, which is an issue consistently mentioned in the editorials of this journal.

Forums focused on the interaction between the two sectors aiming at laying the grounds of R&D and technological innovation enterprises, despite having promoted the evolution of attitude of scientists and entrepreneurs in recent years, still seem to face the same problem: managers seeking specific solutions rather than investing in the production of specialized knowledge as a way to gain sustainable competitive differentiation and scientists seeking funding for projects aimed solely at academic production, establishment of infrastructure and scholarships for students. Moreover, distortions are still evident in the practice of research groups that fight each other instead of uniting around a nobler end.

Notwithstanding all this, the country has demonstrated its potential to the world as it is today responsible for a significant portion of the intellectual production. Sooner or later the time will come when the country will know how to harvest the fruits of their investment. The interaction between the two sectors is essential. On one side, the academy making use of its expertise to bring practical benefits to society. On the other side, the industry investing in R&D, taking effective part in the process, not only to obtain a specific result, such as a product, but also and more importantly specialized knowledge as a means to obtain sustainable differentiation and emancipation.

This edition of Espaço Energia has five articles, after a rigorous evaluation and selection process, with an acceptance rate of approximately 35%. The first paper presents a tool for evaluating the regional energy potential from renewable sources, aiming at sustainability and the minimization of environmental impacts. The paper presents some results applied to a city of about forty thousand inhabitants. The second article discusses the strategic behaviour of companies winners of power transmission auctions, which assumed an important role in the restructuring of the

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electricity sector, evaluating the profitability of their enterprise. The work analyses the determinants for high discounts at auctions held between 1999 and 2012. The third paper describes a model for the implementation of works of distribution planning, aiming at obtaining benefits both as regards the electricity sector as the financial health of the company, contemplating cost reductions in its structure and losses of non-execution of the constructions plans. The fourth paper discusses the evaluation of the influence of adding natural coconut fibers in concrete subjected to the action of chloride ions in order to verify the feasibility of using the material in distribution poles in coastal regions. Finally, the fifth paper reports the results obtained in an R&D project whose object was the development of an automatic system for measuring and recording rapid electromagnetic phenomena in distribution networks, particularly in long feeders, in places subject to a high incidence of lightning.

The editorial board of Espaço Energia expects that this issue be of interest and value to all of you.

Klaus de Geus
Editor