



Espaço Energia

Revista técnico-científica da área de energia

Issue 09
October, 2008

Editorial

The Brazilian technology sector has recently been exposed to a wave of new concepts related to innovation, especially those generated by research and development initiatives and which, consequently, allow the acquisition of competitive differential sustained through the generation of expertise knowledge.

In spite of this wave of new concepts, the current management model in the country continues to struggle in the attempt to fully absorb them, imposing barriers to an effective integration between the academic world and the industry world. The academy, in turn, is striving to show to society that it is open to generate results which provide useful benefits. However, it still resists almost puritanical in its model to undertake research. The resistance showed by both worlds imposes to the country the loss of the opportunity to generate innovation and to rise as a nation which creates knowledge-based wealth.

The country's scientific production has reached a level which indicates a significant contribution to science. Nevertheless it is still lacking an effective mechanism that connects this knowledge to practice, so as to consolidate a fruitful innovation process. In countries which excel as scientific leaders and are well-known for their maturity in the innovative enterprises context, a significant number of scientists act in the industry sector, which makes it possible for companies to absorb the scientific culture, keeping them away from management techniques based on the industrial revolution and, at the same time, drawing the academy's attention for new opportunities that generate practical benefits to society.

One of the main objectives of this periodical is to (e)stimulate innovative enterprises through scientific works and thus to promote the integration between academy and industry. In this context, the periodical has focused on scientific publications originated from R&D projects, and summons

the scientific community to invest in new methods for technology innovation management in partnership with the industry sector.

This issue presents five scientific papers originated from works developed in different regions of the country. The first one addresses the issue of legal and regulatory risks which can affect the exploration of small power hydroelectric plants, focusing on the main administrative stages of the process. The second and the third papers address technical aspects in the context of spacer cable lines, focusing on quality specifications of materials used in this kind of system and on a new methodology for the evaluation of equipments and accessories subjected to stress conditions, emphasizing the importance of thermography in the detection of flaws. The fourth paper analyses the relation between attendance goals established for the “Luz para Todos” programme and information gathered in the state of São Paulo, proposing the incorporation of more comprehensive criteria in the formulation of public policies related to the access and the use of electrical energy. The fifth and last paper analyses the technical, economical and environmental contribution of small hydroelectric powerplants to the isolated power system of the state of Rondônia.

In addition to the above mentioned papers, Espaço Energia brings in this issue a more representative scientific referee board, since the periodical has grown not only in terms of number of submissions but also in terms of impact caused on the academic and industrial areas as far as the energy sector is concerned. We hope that this scientific vehicle can increasingly stimulate this kind of integration and promote the generation of knowledge and the innovative entrepreneurship.

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Editor