

Successful Commercialisation of (Nano)technology: Lessons from the Start-Up Nation

Nava Swersky Sofer (Founder and Co-Chair Nanolsrael, Israel)

Building a sustainable innovation-based economy is the new 'holy grail'. Within this, successful commercialisation of research outcomes is a particularly challenging task. Some countries and regions, such as Israel, have found ways to utilise the products of their publicly-funded universities and research institutes for the public good, while creating sustainable companies and successful outcomes for their institutions and researchers.

Nanotechnology can offer solutions to many of the problems facing humanity in the fields of health, energy, water, communications and more. There is significant commercial upside in many of the new technologies being developed today at universities and research institutes. However, the breadth of technologies, the multitude of potential applications and the technical complexities often add an extra layer to the already challenging task of turning new scientific discoveries into meaningful business opportunities and commercially successful products.

We will review some successful models and best practices from Israel and other countries for building a 'Start-Up Nation' in general and success in nanotechnology in particular, and draw some lessons which may be relevant for Italy.