

*Fostering successful partnerships  
between industry and academia*

A practical approach

**ITMATI-REPSOL Joint Research Center**



*J. Francisco Rodriguez*

*June 2016*

*European Conference on Mathematics for Industry*

# Repsol Technology Center



>200 Scientists and Engineers

Exploration and Production of Oil  
and Gas

Oil refining

Petrochemicals

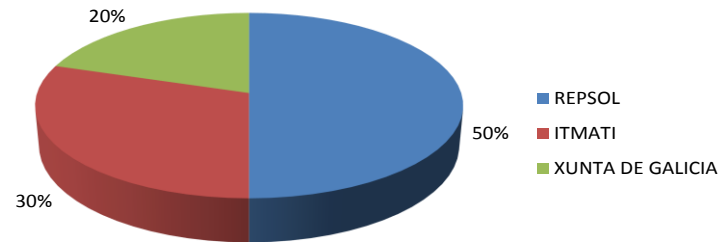


# ITMATI – Repsol *Joint Research Center*



Three lines of research:

- 1. Optimization of production plans including uncertainty.**
- 2. Optimization of designs of batteries for electric vehicles.**
- 3. Identification of chemical kinetics in industrial reaction systems.**



# A Joint Research Center

*in the field of Industrial Mathematics*

- 1. Motivation.** *What benefits to expect?*
- 2. Initial steps.** How to start it up?
- 3. Advice on management.** How to run it?

# 1. Motivation.

## Which benefits to expect?

- ✓ **Network** of excellence.
- ✓ **Maths** as a powerful machinery.
- ✓ **Strategic partnerships** vs one-time collaborations.

## 2. How to start it up?



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How to get funding?



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3. Show that **people in the academia are committed** to solving **industrial problems**.

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### How to get funding?

1. Show own **successful examples** of collaboration.
2. Fix not only final results, but also **intermediate milestones**.
3. Show that **people in the academia are committed** to solving **industrial problems**.
4. Search for **public funding**.

## 2. How to start it up?



### 3. Advice on Management.



Where to place the money?

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#### Where to place the money?

1. Invest on **grey matter**

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2. ¿HW?



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3. More gray matter.....**experts outside** the JRC.

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1. Invest on **grey matter**
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3. More gray matter.....**experts outside** the JRC.
4. **Communication of results.**

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How to run it?

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How to run it?



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#### Focus on PEOPLE

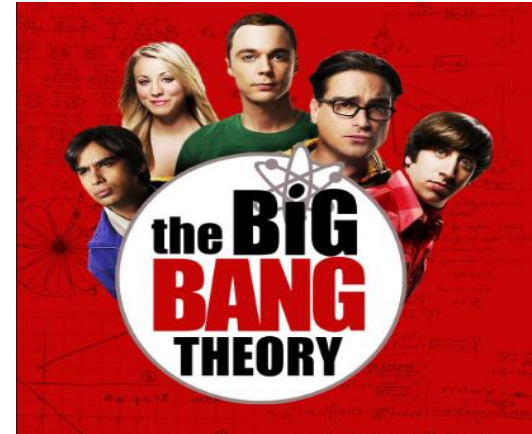
- **Company must be involved in the recruitment** process
  - > Goals-oriented people.
  - > Good communication skills.
  - > “Gantt-creation” abilities.

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#### Focus on PEOPLE

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  - > Mathematicians
  - > Physicists.
  - > Computer Science.

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per hour



meters  
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- Create a **mixed industrial-academic environment**.
  - Plan teamwork.
  - Promote flexibility.
  - Motivate through a balance of short-term and long-term goals.
  - Encourage publications, PhDs...

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#### How to set GOALS?

Keep **clear roles in the partnership:**

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#### How to set GOALS?

Keep **clear roles in the partnership:**

- **Goals** of the JRC must be **set by the Company.**
- **Methods** must be **set by the Academia.**
- Both Company + Academia -> responsible for meeting deadlines.

### 3. Advice on management.



#### How to set GOALS?. Examples



Build by Nov17 a sw tool to include uncertainty in oil and product prices in a multi-refinery production planning problem

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#### How to set GOALS?. Examples

- ✓ Build by Nov17 a sw tool to include uncertainty in oil and product prices in a multi-refinery production planning problem
- ✗ Solve by Lagrangean Decomposition a multi-stage stochastic NLP using a parallel-efficient progressive hedging algorithm

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#### How to set GOALS?. Examples

Get by Jun16 a faster than real time rigorous thermo-electro-chemical simulator of a Li-ion cell including degradation mechanisms.

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#### How to set GOALS?. Examples

- ✓ Get by Jun16 a faster than real time rigorous thermo-electro-chemical simulator of a Li-ion cell including degradation mechanisms.
- ✗ Solve coupled multilattice non-linear systems of PDEs using discontinuous Galerkin methods

### 3. Advice on management.



#### Final notes

- For industry, ***maths = software.***

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  - Plan and **build a GUI. Visualization** features are very important.

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#### Final notes

- For industry, ***maths = software.***
  - Make your methods **resilient.**
  - Stick to **best sw engineering practices.**
  - Plan and **build a GUI. Visualization** features are very important.
- Keep **frequent communication...**
  - ...between company and university.
  - ....among lines of research.

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#### Final notes

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....a “LP problem”....

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#### Final notes

- For industry, ***maths = software.***
    - Make your methods **resilient.**
    - Stick to **best sw engineering practices.**
    - Plan and **build a GUI. Visualization** features are very important.
  - Keep **frequent communication...**
    - ...between company and university.
    - ....among lines of research.
- .....Define a communication matrix and stick to it.

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***Thanks for your attention!***

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