



PRESS RELEASE

CRS4 celebrates its thirty years anniversary

Cagliari, November 27th 2020

CRS4 - Center for Advanced Studies, Research and Development in Sardinia was established on November 30th 1990 by the Sardinian Regional Government. The Nobel Prize **Carlo Rubbia** was then appointed as first Chairman of the Board of Directors, while the scientist Paolo Zanella as CEO. At the same time, a large group of young researchers from all over the world were also hired.

In the subsequent years, the research center started in Sardinia gave rise to an ecosystem of innovation in which CRS4 played the driving role: the Region provided an initial financial support of 10 billions Liras to study, develop and apply cutting-edge solutions using enabling computational technologies in the fields of ICT's, energy and environment as well as high-performance computing; in 1993 *www.crs4.it* was created as the first website in Italy and in 1994 the Center contributed to the availability of the first online newspaper in Europe (*unionesarda.it*); in 1995 the first Italian internet service provider (*Video On Line*) and the first radio broadcasting in live streaming (*RadioX*) were started; also in 1995 CRS4 developed the first Italian search engine (*Search in Italy*); subsequently, the Sardinian Regional Government kept on financially supporting digital economy and innovative start-ups.

Giacomo Cao, sole director of CRS4 says: "From its establishment up to these days, the Center has contributed to the achievement of **important scientific and technological goals** that have been of tremendous importance for the Sardinian Region". Cao adds: "Today, the driving sectors of research are ICT's, energy and environment, biosciences, visual and data intensive computing as well as computational infrastructures. Recently, the establishment of a new sector '**Digital Technologies for Aerospace**' will be able to contribute, for example, to the **next initiatives of Lunar and Martian exploration** as well as to apply the resulting technologies in areas such as **mobility, agrifood, cultural heritage and land security**".

Cao concludes: "Another important **goal** will be to envisage new research scenarios, related, for example, to **quantum computing**, which will give the opportunity to tackle very complex problems and to obtain the corresponding results in a very short time as compared to those ones that can be obtained with current supercomputers".



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Maria Assunta Serra, special commissioner of **Sardegna Ricerche** comments: “CRS4 and Consorzio 21 - now renamed as Sardegna Ricerche - were both born from the enlightened vision of a new development based on advanced technology, promoted since 1985 by the Council of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia, then chaired by sardist President Mario Melis. In that year Consorzio 21 was founded with the aim, initially, of assisting the technological development of small and medium-sized regional enterprises and, subsequently, of creating and managing the Science and Technology Park of Sardinia. Was then decided to build a pivotal infrastructure for this type of development in Sardinia: an advanced computing research centre. The project was developed by the planning councillors of the regional governments held by Melis and Floris, together with the heads of the Consorzio 21. On November 30th, 1990 the company CRS4 scarl was registered in Cagliari: Consorzio 21 was one of the founding members and took over the Vice Presidency. As a founding member and sole public body, Sardegna Ricerche has since then continued to have a guide and control role in the activities of the CRS4 , but above all it supports and stimulates the development of high-tech products, processes and services, not only in the field of ICT, but also in those of diagnostics and personalised medicine, the enhancement of cultural and environmental heritage and tourism”.

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