

I.FAST

Innovation Fostering in Accelerator Science and Technology

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MILESTONE REPORT

I.FAST KT Report ready

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ABSTRACT

The I.FAST Knowledge Transfer (KT) Report has been made available as an I.FAST note and its release represents the completion of the I.FAST milestone MS09. The report contains the outcome of a survey carried out in second half of 2021, as a combined effort of the I.FAST Tasks 3.1: “Coordination and industrial partnership support” and Task 3.2: “Knowledge Transfer and Business Opportunities in Accelerator R&D”. The survey was aimed at assessing the innovation potential and the Technology Transfer opportunities of the I.FAST R&D activities.

The KT report covers the general methodology and survey background, as well as the goals and the results of the analysis and briefly discusses possible and planned next steps to be executed in the framework of the Task 3.2.

I.FAST Consortium, 2022

For more information on IFAST, its partners and contributors please see <https://ifast-project.eu/>

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Delivery Slip

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1 The Survey

In the context of the broader engagement and support of industry in I.FAST activities pursued by WP3: “Industry Engagement”, one of the main tasks is represented by the setup of a survey plan for assessing the innovation outcome of R&D activities involved in the project and the potential of these innovations to be implemented by industry, as well as a dedicated initial knowledge and technology transfer survey on the R&D activities.

This assessment was carried out together within the Task 3.1: “Coordination and industrial partnership support” and Task 3.2: “Knowledge Transfer and Business Opportunities in Accelerator R&D” and covers the initial expectations of the participants and can later on be compared with actual achievements obtained throughout the project.

To gauge the sentiment of the participants, we gathered their feedbacks through a questionnaire that was sent to all the leaders whose tasks involved R&D activities to be carried out with industry as well as those that are possibly of industrial relevance.

Criteria to identify the tasks deemed relevant, in terms of industrial innovation and knowledge transfer potential, were identified and led to a selection of 29 tasks out of a total of 54.

The Task Leaders were then contacted to verify if their activities were effectively envisaging industrial involvement and the ability to produce commercial results or knowledge transfers that can lead to industrial innovations. As a result of this analysis, a set of 28 R&D activities was defined and a questionnaire was sent to each of the coordinators in July 2022. Four main areas were addressed with the survey:

- potential of industrial innovation;
- industrial participation and involvement;
- technology transfer expectations;
- applications and commercialization.

for a total of 35 different aspects investigated, 20 with multiple-choice answers and the remaining 15 soliciting free text feedback.

2 The outcome

By the end of September, 17 coordinators had replied to our survey, resulting in a response rate of 61%.

The analysis of the collected responses was then carried out soon after and initial results presented at the I.FAST Open Steering Committee meeting held on Nov. 15, 2021.

The picture that emerged from the survey confirmed that activities in I.FAST have in general a good innovation potential and that their TRL is expected to grow significantly during the four years of the project.

The final outcome of the analysis has been described in detail in the KT report released in February 2022 as an I.FAST Note¹. Besides summarizing the current status and knowledge transfer plans, a few actions, to be taken on the basis on the survey results for fostering and optimizing knowledge transfer and exploitation, are also described therein.

¹ E. Franchin, M. Morandin, D. Safi, "I.FAST Knowledge Transfer Report: Assessment of Innovation Potential and KT Opportunities in IFAST R&D Activities", I.FAST note n. ...