

ISTT; The Founder of Technology Parks in Iran



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) Quarterly E-Newsletter! We are thrilled to launch this platform as a window into the vibrant and dynamic world of innovation flourishing within our community.

ISTT stands as a beacon of scientific and technological advancement in the heart of Iran, fostering a collaborative ecosystem where groundbreaking ideas take shape and transform into tangible solutions. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the latest International developments, achievements, and opportunities emerging from our diverse network of Science and Technology Park Experts, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders.

In each issue, you can expect to find:

♦ **Spotlights on cutting-edge research and technologies:**

Discover the innovative projects shaping the future across various sectors.

♦ **Success stories from our resident companies:**

Learn about the remarkable journeys of startups and established businesses within ISTT.

♦ **Updates on upcoming events, workshops, and conferences:**

Stay connected with the latest happenings in our community.

♦ **Insights from STP leaders and experts:**

Gain valuable perspectives on the trends and challenges driving the world of science and technology.

♦ **International news and opportunities:**

Stay informed about global collaborations, partnerships, and advancements in the scientific and technological fields.

We invite you to join us on this route as we continue to push the boundaries of innovation and contribute to the global scientific community.

Thank you for your interest in ISTT. We hope you enjoy this first edition and look forward to sharing many more with you."

Your constructive participation in this path will guide us toward our goal.

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Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT)

Three Knowledge-Based Products Unveiled in ISTT with the Presence of the Vice President for Science, Technology, and K-Based Economy



A laser leak detector was among the products unveiled by **Hossein Afshin**, the Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy. This knowledge-based product is believed by its producers to position Iran among the top five countries possessing this technology.

Another knowledge-based product unveiled during the visit was aerogel, recognized as the lightest solid material used in aerospace and petrochemical industries. A laser welding machine was also revealed during the event.

In a statement following the unveiling of these k-based products, Afshin noted that there will be special support for companies capable of exporting in this new era.

The Vice President elaborated on the support programs for knowledge-based and technology companies, highlighting the efforts to attract both domestic and foreign investors for supporting k-based companies.

Afshin emphasized on strengthening venture capital funds as another initiative of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Afshin highlighted that the most significant program of this vice presidency is to change financing methods, as traditional methods are inadequate for securing funding.

He regarded Isfahan Science and Technology Town as one of the country's greatest assets and expressed intentions to collaborate with the Ministry of Science, Research & Technology to transform it into an international science and technology town.

Additionally, the Vice President visited several k-based companies settled in ISTT, where company managers shared their challenges, concerns and suggestions regarding financial support, currency allocation, facilitation of research and development processes, evaluation procedures of k-based companies, and the development of technological infrastructure and equipment.

ISTT News & Activities:

New Appointment for ISTT's Presidency

The Minister of Science, Research, and Technology (MSRT) appointed Dr. Seyed Mehdi Abtahi as the new President of ISTT



H.E. **Dr. Hossein Simaei Sarraf**, Minister of SRT, has appointed **Dr. Seyed Mehdi Abtahi** as the President of Isfahan Science and Technology Town.

Dr. Abtahi, holds a PhD degree in Civil Engineering and is an associate professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Isfahan University of Technology. He has published over 130 research articles in reputable national and international journals, completed more than 45 research projects with industries, registered 5 patents, and authored 3 books.

Notably, his executive experience includes serving as the President of Isfahan University of Technology (IUT), Vice President for Student Affairs and Culture, and Vice President for Research and Technology at IUT. He previously held the position of Presidency at ISTT in 2018.

It is worth mentioning that **Dr. Ghasem Moslehi** previously served as the head of ISTT.



ISTT News & Activities:

ISTT Supported Organization of IRIS Training Workshop in Mongolia

International Training Workshop on "Innovate, Integrate, Incubate: Knowledge and Experience Exchanging Workshop in STP Tenant Admission, Services, and Incubation Management"



Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubator and Science Park Development, under the auspices of UNESCO (IRIS) with the cooperation of Science Park Administration (SPARK) and the National Information Technology Park (NITP) of Mongolia organized successfully a training and experience sharing program in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 19th of August 2024. The event was held at the sideline of ASPA 27th Annual Conference. The event was supported by ISTT.

This full-day workshop, titled "Innovate, Integrate, Incubate: Knowledge and Experience Exchanging Workshop in STP Tenant Admission, Services, and Incubation Management," provided a comprehensive and engaging program, ensuring that participants gain valuable insights and practical strategies to enhance their STP operations and incubation management practices.

The workshop was mainly targeted those involved in STP industry in Mongolia. Therefore, some 80 participants from different organizations in Mongolia including Science parks, universities, research and innovation hubs, technology transfer centers together with a number of the international participants from South Korea, Vietnam, China, Japan and Iran attended this program.

The experts and speakers from Iran, China, South Korea and Thailand shared their knowledge and experiences with the participants in the form of presentations followed by Q&A and interactive sessions that ended with a panel discussion. It was also a great networking opportunity for the participants.

The sessions were conducted and moderated by Mozhgan Yazdianpour, Herbert Chen, Junseok Seo, Watcharin (Lhing) and Ehsan Yazdian as the speakers.

The workshop was part of UNESCO IRIS's ongoing commitment to supporting member states in building knowledge-based companies and promoting sustainable development through training and Knowledge sharing.

Previously IRIS had organized several similar programs in Nigeria, Oman, China, Malaysia and Iran.

ISTT Visits:

The visit of participating teams of Physics Olympiad 2024 (IPHO 2024)



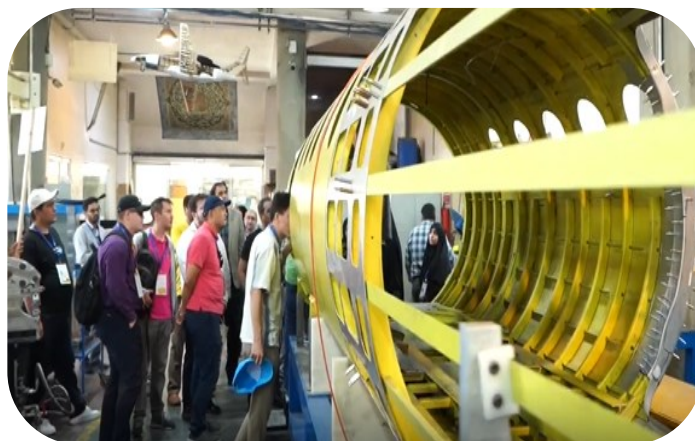
Physics Olympiad Students Visit Isfahan Science and Technology Town.

During the 54th International Physics Olympiad (IPHO 2024) held in Isfahan, team leaders and student participants visited the Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT).

In this visit, the world's physics prodigies got a firsthand look at the scientific and technological achievements of the knowledge-based companies located in ISTT and also Isfahan Regional Center for Technology Incubators and Science Parks Development under the auspices of UNESCO (IRIS).



With great enthusiasm, the students visited various laboratories and workshops of the companies and got acquainted with innovative projects in various fields of physics such as medical physics, nanotechnology, and renewable energies. Also, the visit to the Science Museum, which deals with physics concepts in an attractive and interactive way, was very enjoyable for the students.



ISTT Visits:

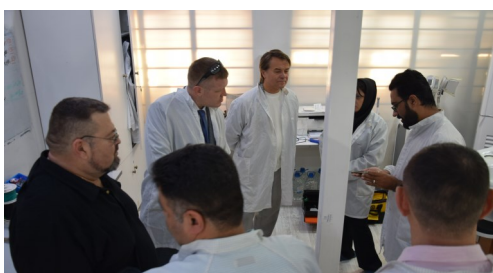
Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT), hosted three different delegations from Russia this fall. The visits coincided with three major events: The Second National Exhibition of Technology and Innovation of Isfahan (Fannema) October 1-3, 2024, the 3rd Exhibition of Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Industries and a visit by the First Deputy Governor of Novgorod Province (November, 12th - 2024).

The visits provided platforms for fostering international scientific collaborations. The Russian delegations had the opportunity to explore the cutting-edge research and development activities at the ISTT. Discussions focused on potential areas for joint research projects, technology transfer, and Technology exchange programs.



The Fannema Exhibition showcased innovative technologies and products developed by Iranian researchers and companies.

The 3rd Oil and Gas Exhibition (October 17-20, 2024) highlighted Iran's capabilities in the energy sector. The specific approach of this exhibition is to showcase the application of cutting-edge technologies to address challenges and improve efficiency in the oil, gas, refining, and petrochemical industries. This event was made possible through the generous support and collaboration of the National Iranian Gas Company, the Fuel Consumption Optimization Company, the Iranian Oil Equipment Manufacturers Association (ISTMNA), the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Isfahan Municipality, and ISTT.



Visit of a Group of Russian Visitors from ISTT & some of It's knowledge-based companies specializing in the oil and gas sector.

A Russian delegation led by Evgenii Bogdanov, Deputy Governor of Novgorod Region, visited ISTT on Tuesday 12th November, 2024 to explore collaboration opportunities. A group of businessmen active in different fields including food industry and energy accompanied deputy governor to explore the possibility of establishing cooperation with Iranian companies. This visit marks a significant milestone in the growing relationship between Iran and Russia in the field of science and technology.



ISTT Companies attend the 3rd Exhibition of Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Industries and ISTT Was Recognized as the best Booth

Some seven technology and k-based Companies in Isfahan Science and Technology Town (ISTT) were present in ISTT's pavilion in the 3rd exhibition on introducing the latest technological developments in oil, gas, petrochemical and refining industries. Establishing the interaction and cooperation between knowledge-based and technology-driven enterprises and the petroleum and natural gas industries was one of the major goals of this exhibition where ISTT was recognized as the best booth, showcasing the active participation of its knowledge-based and technology companies.



The ISTT booth received overwhelming interest from attendees and visitors. This specialized exhibition commenced on Thursday, October 26th, and concluded on Sunday, October 29th.

It attracted experts and enthusiasts from the oil, gas, refining, and petrochemical sectors. The ISTT companies stationed at the pavilion successfully captured the attention of visitors, managers of large industrial companies, industrialists, technologists, faculty members, and students by demonstrating their capabilities. As a result of the recognized expertise and experience of these companies, numerous joint meetings were held between the ISTT companies and industry players in the oil and gas sector. These interactions yielded positive outcomes for the market development of knowledge-based and technology companies, resulting in collaborations with major companies operating in the oil and gas industry.

Among the high ranking officials visiting ISTT's pavilion was Mohammad Javad Zarif, Deputy President for Strategic Affairs, as well as a number of other authorities and a specialized trade delegation from Russia and Belarus.

The participating companies successfully introduced their knowledge-based and technological products and achievements to industry stakeholders and expanded their customer base.

ISTT Company, Novin Laser Saba at the World's Largest Gold and Jewelry Exhibition

Novin Laser Saba, a pioneering Iranian company settled in ISTT, has made a significant mark at the "**Mumbai Jewelry and Gold Exhibition**," one of the largest and most prestigious global events in the field. This year's exhibition featured over 1,500 exhibitors from 60 countries and attracted around 40,000 visitors. This event serves as an ideal platform for showcasing the latest innovations in the gold and jewelry industry and confirms Iran's competitive capabilities on an international scale.



Participation in such a renowned exhibition is crucial for entering global markets. India, with its rapidly growing economy and a population exceeding one billion, plays a vital role in the global gold and jewelry sector. The country is not only one of the largest producers and consumers of gold but also a strategic market for companies seeking to expand their international business relations.

At the Mumbai exhibition, Novin Laser Saba successfully attracted attention from specialists, jewelers, and international investors by showcasing advanced laser technologies. The company's ability to create intricate designs using micrometric laser technologies was of great interest at the exhibition. These innovations allow jewelers to achieve complex and delicate designs more efficiently than traditional methods.

Novin Laser Saba's achievements at the exhibition clearly demonstrate Iran's capabilities in advanced technologies. The company's high-precision laser machines for engraving and cutting gold and jewelry have gained global recognition, marking a significant milestone in showcasing Iran's competitive edge in the industry.

The company's location in ISTT as an SDG Model Zone was an advantage for its successful presence at this exhibition.

ISTT Companies in the International Iran Metafo 2024 Exhibition

ISTT companies active in the fields of steel and metallurgical industries were presented in the international exhibition of Iran Metafo 2024.



The 21st International Metallurgy Exhibition (IranMetafo 2024), focusing on steel, mining, non-ferrous metals, copper, aluminum, zinc, casting, molding, machining, forging, refractories, industrial groups, and heat treatment, was held from November 23 to 26, 2023, at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, with the participation of industry professionals from Iran and other countries including Italy, China, Taiwan, France, Germany, India, Spain, Singapore, Austria, Sweden, South Africa, Japan, the UK, Turkey, Belgium, Oman and Brazil.

More than 800 domestic and international companies, along with representatives of various brands, showcased their latest achievements at this exhibition, which was held in collaboration with specialized metal industry associations. Concurrent with the exhibition, workshops, negotiations, as well as B2B meetings with trade delegations were held among the participating groups from public and private sectors.

The ISTT's specialized network for steel and metal industries, has been established with the aim of fostering synergy among companies with similar industries and target markets, as well as creating appropriate infrastructure with a specialized focus on the market and customers to expand technological economic and commercial activities.

It's worth mentioning that over 800 active companies in the steel industry have showcased their cutting-edge technologies at this exhibition, and the share of foreign companies has increased to about 30% in this edition.

ISTT Awards & Honors:

ISTT Selected as one of 50 World SDG Model Zones



This Certificate
is hereby awarded to



Isfahan Science & Technology Town (ISTT)

recognized by the Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ) as a
2023 “SDG Model Zone Partner”
for its commitment towards sustainable development

James Zhan
Chief Adviser
United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Co-Chair of GASEZ

Samir Hamrouni
Chief Executive Officer
World Free Zones Organization
(World FZO)
Co-Chair of GASEZ

In an international assessment carried out by several international organizations including the International Association of Science Parks (IASP), in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ) ISTT was selected and recognized as one of the 50 selected SDG Model Zones.

This initiative aims to mobilize and acknowledge the efforts of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and Science and Technology Parks (STP) communities in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The program focuses on showcasing best practices and experiences that promote sustainable development.

Among the 200 nominated candidates, ISTT is proud to be among the 50 chosen zones, which were evaluated based on criteria derived from UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2019.

The criteria include:

- Commitment to sustainable development
- Promotion of investment in the SDGs
- Levels of social, environmental, and governance standards and compliance
- Linkages and spillovers

ISTT is the only Iranian candidate to receive this prestigious international recognition. Other countries with selected zones include Spain, China, Sweden, Turkey, the United States, UAE, South Korea, and Canada, among others.

ISTT is continuously following activities which are in line with these sustainable goals and to make a sustainable future. The UNESCO Center, IRIS, located in ISTT is also helping and supporting these activities through different programs along with its mission.

ISTT Awards & Honors:

ISTT 's Dorsa Company Among the Top Companies of Asia in ASPA Award 2024.

Dideh Rayan Sanati Isfahan (Dorsa), a k-based company residing in ISTT, has been honored with the 2024 Excellence Prize by the Asian Science Parks Association (ASPA).



From left to Right: M. Yazdianpour, M. Heidari, S.Kowm and E. Yazdian

The 27th ASPA conference was held in Mongolia this year, with four companies from South Korea, Turkey, and Iran as finalists. In this edition, the "Grant Prize" was awarded to TDM, a South Korean medical implant manufacturer, while the "Excellence Prize" went to **Dorsa**, a knowledge-based company based in **ISTT**, specializing in AI-based quality control systems. **Mehdi Heidari**, CEO of Dorsa, emphasized the company's commitment to environmentally friendly solutions.

ASPA's evaluation criteria encompassed various aspects of Dorsa's operations, including sales performance, human resources, technological capabilities, and R&D efforts.

The ASPA Excellence Prize is annually awarded to recognize outstanding companies that demonstrate exceptional capabilities and innovation in management, skills, and technology.

The Director of International Affairs at ISTT has been elected as a fellow of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW).



Mozghan Yazdianpour, Director of International Affairs at Isfahan Science and Technology Town, has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Engineering and Technology of the Developing World (AETDEW). This prestigious appointment recognizes Yazdianpour's significant contributions to the field of science and technology.

The AETDEW is a distinguished organization dedicated to promoting engineering and technology in developing countries. Fellows of the Academy are recognized for their outstanding achievements and their commitment to advancing engineering and

technological innovation.

Yazdianpour's election is a testament to her expertise and dedication to fostering international scientific cooperation and innovation.

ISTT Awards & Honors:

ISTT's Noor Arvand Company International Honor.

Awarded the 'Global Community Innovation, Science and Research Certificate' and honored with the 'Medal and Certificate of the Turkish Inventors Association' at the 2024 National Fan-Nama Exhibition.



Noor Arvand Company, a pioneer in innovation and a member of ISTT and based in the specialized art incubator center, has successfully received two prestigious awards including the 'Global Community Innovation, Science, and Research (GCISR)' certificate and the 'Medal and Certificate of the Turkish Inventors Association (TUMMIAD)' at the 2024 National Fan-Nama Exhibition.

Inspired by the architectural grandeur of Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Square, this company has designed a unique pavilion for the creative industries at the Fan-Nama exhibition. Demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainability, the company has developed a highly water-resistant brick made from recycled stone industry waste. Noor Arvand, an ISTT member, joined the specialized art incubator center in 2019 and has since been at the forefront of innovative materials, including illuminated products.

BRICS STI Network Welcomes Director of ISTT International Affairs to Advisory Committee.

Director of ISTT International Affairs ,Joins China-BRICS STI Incubation Network Advisory Committee, Fostering Global Innovation.

Mozghan Yazdianpour, Director of International & Scientific Cooperation, has been appointed to the BRICS STI Incubation Network International Advisory Committee. The Committee allows for the members to be key innovation contributors globally, leading to enterprises to participate in the growing global economy. The BRICS STI Incubation Network presents a chance to contribute to scientific cooperation internationally, promoting technological advancements and development.

[Read more...](#)



International News :

The 41st IASP World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation held in Nairobi, Kenya.



The 41st World Conference of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation was held from September 24 to 27, 2024 in **Nairobi, Kenya**.

More than 70 speakers from the global innovation ecosystem gathered at this event to discuss the theme 'Demography, Entrepreneurship, and Technology: Defining the Frontiers of Future Economies'. The conference brought together experts to discuss the latest trends and challenges in innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Key topics included youth entrepreneurship, circular economy, and inclusive innovation. The event provided a platform for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and exploring how innovation can drive positive change.

IASP's 40th Anniversary celebrated at IASP Nairobi



Cutting the anniversary cake: John Tanui and Lena Miranda with Board members and Konza Technopolis CEO

In 2024 IASP reaches a milestone 40th birthday, having been created back in 1984. Stemming from a small group of science and technology parks who wished to forge international connections and collaborate, over the past 40 years it has gone from strength to strength under the careful guidance of successive International Boards and for many years under the management of CEO Luis Sanz (from 1996 to 2019), then led by CEO Ebba Lund since 2019 to date. Today IASP has 320 members spanning 76 countries and 6 regional divisions.

During the IASP World Conference in Nairobi at the 'night under the stars' Gala Dinner, a large cake was brought on the stage, and following a brief introduction by IASP CEO Ebba Lund and congratulatory remarks from IASP President Lena Miranda and IASP African Division President John Tanui, the cake was ceremoniously cut by the two Presidents.

International News :

Beijing is Set to Host the IASP Conference in 2025

In 2025 the IASP world conference will be going to **Beijing (China)** and will explore the theme: "Elevating excellence: Innovation spaces driving high-quality development."



The Beijing team received the IASP conference flag from Konza Technopolis at the Nairobi World Conference. The 2025 event will spend four days delving into how the rapid development of science and technology and the advancement of economic globalization, science parks, districts, areas of innovation and other innovation spaces have significant advantages and great potential in fostering innovation. The conference will look at the

important role such ecosystems play in building regional innovation capabilities, improving the industrial structure, and promoting employment.

‘Development’ will be a key word, as sub themes will cover topics linked to urban development, economic development, and development trends as well as build a community of innovation and entrepreneurship open innovation ecosystems. Read more on: <https://www.iasp.ws>

IASP's World Conference 2026 will be in Sophia Antipolis in France



The IASP World Conferences are a flagship item on the agenda of the association and the bidding process to host such event gets increasingly tight, as was seen with three great candidates hoping to host the IASP 2026 World Conference.

This year the finalists were Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, Edmonton in Canada and Sophia Antipolis in France, who all showcased the best that their cities, countries and innovation

ecosystems could offer to delegates and shared inspiring presentations about their bids.

The IASP General Assembly found it a tough decision, as it went to a second round, and after a tense counting of votes it was decided that IASP will be going to **Sophia Antipolis, France** for our 2026 World Conference.

Founded in 1969, Sophia Antipolis employs a cluster-centric approach to foster collaboration across technology, research, and development sectors. The science and technology park spans 2,400 hectares of predominantly green spaces, aiming to create a conducive environment for work and creativity. Some 2,500 companies, including 4,500 researchers and 250 foreign-owned companies work from Sophia Antipolis, in areas such as information and communication technology, biotechnology, healthcare, and sustainable practice. Read more on: <https://www.iasp.ws>

International Opportunities & Upcoming Events: :

28th Annual ASPA Conference to be Held in Thailand in 2025

The Asian Science Parks Association (ASPA) is excited to announce that the 28th Annual ASPA Conference will be held in Thailand in November 2025. This year's conference will take place at the Thailand Science Park convention center.

The theme of the conference is "**Roles of STPs in facilitating corporates on the ESG journey.**"

The conference will bring together leaders from science parks, universities, government agencies, and corporations to discuss the critical role of science parks in supporting businesses in their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives.

For further information please visit: <https://www.cyberaspa.org/>



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International Opportunities & Upcoming Events: :

■ Call for UNESCO/The People's Republic of China - The Great Wall Co-Sponsored Fellowships Program 2025-2026



unesco

With a view to promoting the human resource development and capacity building of developing countries and to enhancing international exchanges in the field of education, culture, communication, science and technology and the friendship among peoples of the world, the Government of the People's Republic of China and UNESCO will co-sponsor a total number of seventy-five (75) fellowships in various fields of study at undergraduate and postgraduate levels during the academic year 2025-2026. Among these fellowships, forty-seven (47) vacancies

will be open for new recruitment to candidates from 135 developing Member States in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Europe and Arab region.

Tenable at a selected number of Chinese universities, these fellowships are intended for students and researchers who plan to pursue degree study at the postgraduate level, or undertake individual research with periodic guidance from the assigned supervisors in China.

A candidate may apply for either a one-year Visiting Scholar Program (as General or Senior scholar), or a Master's or Doctoral degree program with the duration of study ranging from 2 to 5 years.

For further information please visit: <https://www.unesco.org/en/fellowships/greatwall>

■ Call for Applications: COMSTECH Award 2025



It is hereby announced that the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMSTECH) is calling for nominations for the 2025 Science and Technology Awards to recognize outstanding scientists in the fields of:

- COMSTECH Life Time Achievement Awards in Biology and Chemistry
- COMSTECH Awards for Excellence in S&T
- COMSTECH Award for Excellence in Science Communication

For Further information and Registration please visit:

<https://comstech.org/comstech-awards-2025-announcement/>

The closing date of receipt of the applications is Monday, **March 31, 2025**. Applications received after the closing date shall not be entertained.

For any Question please contact: awards@comstech.org