

INNOVIT INNOVATION CENTER

Two Years
of Bridging Italy
and Silicon Valley

INNOVIT is Italy's hub for innovation and culture in San Francisco, bridging Italian entrepreneurship and research with Silicon Valley's dynamic ecosystem.



Connecting Italy and Silicon Valley

Through strategic acceleration programs, international partnerships, and impactful initiatives, INNOVIT connects the vital resources of Silicon Valley with the best opportunities offered by Italian enterprises. INNOVIT plays a pivotal role in uniting the Italian diaspora in Silicon Valley, fostering a thriving community of professionals and entrepreneurs who actively support our startup acceleration programs. Their engagement not only strengthens ties between Italy and the Bay Area but also serves as a powerful 'give back' to Italy, fueling innovation and providing Italian startups with invaluable insights, mentorship, and connections that accelerate their growth on a global scale. Over the past two years, this initiative has fostered valuable synergies, established a strong presence in San Francisco, and significantly contributed to Italy's international standing in innovation.

INNOVIT's Stakeholders

INNOVIT is promoted by the Directorate General for Country Promotion of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in San Francisco. ITA (Italian Trade Agency) is the implementing body of the project, operating through its offices in New York and Los Angeles.

In addition to the Innovation Center, INNOVIT includes the desks of ICE (the agency for the promotion abroad and internationalization of Italian enterprises) and the Italian Cultural Institute of San Francisco. INNOVIT is a strategic initiative of the Italian Government to promote the national innovation ecosystem in the United States. In October 2022, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and ICE entrusted the activities of the Italian Innovation Center to the Giacomo Brodolini Foundation, a think and do tank for innovation and local development, and to Entopan Innovation, Incubator and Accelerator of Harmonic Innovation Group.



Sergio Strozzi - *Consul General of Italy in San Francisco*

As Consul General of Italy in San Francisco, I could not be happier of the results achieved by INNOVIT in only two years since we opened the new Italian Innovation and Culture Hub at the end of 2022. It is the first-of-a-kind Innovation Hub that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy has launched abroad and I am more than proud of the work done. In two years of operations, INNOVIT has brought over 200 Italian Startups and SMEs and 300 Entrepreneurs to San Francisco. In the 6 acceleration programs held in 2023 and 2024, the Italian Hub has provided these entrepreneurs high quality mentorship sessions and connections with the major representatives of Silicon Valley tech environment in the areas of fundraising, access to US Market, technological partnerships and Silicon Valley entrepreneurial mindset. INNOVIT and the Consulate General have day by day enlarged the network of local US partners and mentors, also leveraging on the Italian diaspora in the Bay Area by engaging the top Italian experts. INNOVIT has strategically changed the narrative about Italy in Silicon Valley as a Country of innovation high technology Companies, talents and cutting edge applied scientific research.

Massimo Carnelos - *Head of Innovation at the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

INNOVIT is the coming of age project of the Italian Government to cater a different and sometimes less known idea of Italy: a country that has consistently been a hotbed of innovation, technological advances, human-powered progresses and generation of ideas. Beyond the popular “Made in Italy” icons such as Fashion, Food and Design, the Italian Innovation Center helps bridging the tech energies of our country with the Silicon Valley; and from there to the rest of the United States and the global innovation scenes. With the support of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Italian Trade Agency and the guidance of the Italian Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in San Francisco, INNOVIT has rapidly gained credibility, both in Italy and in the US. Thanks to the dedication and passion of all people involved (institutions, partners, advisors, staff, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini and Entopan Innovation), we can look forward to more affirmation, success and growth, to the benefits of today’s and tomorrow’s generations of Italian innovators and entrepreneurs.

Erica Di Giovancarlo - *Trade Commissioner Executive Director for the USA - ITA Italian Trade Agency*

INNOVIT has been a challenge that the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) has embraced from the beginning, with significant investments in both financial and human resources. As the executing Agency, we are proud of the outstanding results achieved in these first two years: the strategy we developed has proven successful, the partners we selected have been delivering excellent services, and the many events we’ve organized within the Innovation Center have elevated Italy’s reputation as a hub of innovation and creativity in Silicon Valley. Although we were among the last countries to establish an innovation center here, we have quickly become one of the leading players since day one. We are pleased that INNOVIT has become the dynamic platform we envisioned, enhancing the value-added services we have provided to startups and SMEs for over a decade, while now extending our presence in Silicon Valley alongside our established ecosystems in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and Chicago.

The INNOVIT Innovation Center empowers Italian startups, companies, and institutions with tailored programs, industry connections, and strategic support, fostering transatlantic collaboration and strengthening the Italian industrial system.



ACCELERATION PROGRAMS

INNOVIT's custom acceleration programs support startups, scaleups, and SMEs from Italy by providing resources to compete on a global stage. Covering fields such as Generative AI, Robotics, Life Sciences & Digital Health, CleanTech, FinTech & InsureTech, and Space Economy, which offer mentorship from industry leaders, access to cutting-edge infrastructure, and tailored market strategies to help Italian startups succeed. These programs emphasize strategic partnerships, helping participants leverage the unmatched opportunities in Silicon Valley while showcasing the innovation that Italian entrepreneurship has to offer.

EVENTS AND DEMO DAY

INNOVIT has hosted numerous events and Demo Days to foster community involvement and support Italian startups in establishing their presence in Silicon Valley. These events serve as platforms for showcasing innovations, pitching to investors, and networking with other entrepreneurs, mentors, and industry experts. By engaging the local community, INNOVIT strengthens ties with the ecosystem, providing Italian enterprises visibility and credibility in one of the world's most competitive markets. INNOVIT has achieved exceptional outcomes, not only through impressive numbers of INNOVIT Alumni composed by startups and entrepreneurs but also by driving significant investments towards startups and establishing numerous strategic partnerships. These achievements underscore the impactful role of INNOVIT's programs in advancing Italy's innovation landscape.

"Our programs provide Italian startups the opportunity to engage with the world's most advanced entrepreneurial ecosystem, creating a bidirectional flow of ideas and expertise that enriches the Italian economy"

Alberto Acito
Director of the INNOVIT
Innovation Center



"The synergy between the Giacomo Brodolini Foundation and Entopan Innovation has been managing the Innovation Center at INNOVIT as a powerhouse of innovation. We're not simply bridging Italy and Silicon Valley — we're creating a fertile ground where bold ideas and impactful partnerships are cultivated, driving the evolution of global innovation ecosystems."

Francesca Buonanno
Chief Project Manager

OUTPOSTS & CUSTOMED PROGRAMS

INNOVIT plays a pivotal role in connecting Italian corporates and institutions with the dynamic environment of Silicon Valley. Acting as an outpost, INNOVIT facilitates relationships between Italy's corporate sector, academic institutions, regional bodies—including Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Apulia, Lazio, and Campania and the American innovation ecosystem. Key companies already involved include Eni, Enel, Terna, Italgas, Mermec, ITA Airways, IAG, Amcham, ELIS, and Cislalpinia, highlighting the breadth of collaboration.

MANAGING PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to their dedication and hard work, the Giacomo Brodolini Foundation and Entopan Innovation have made INNOVIT a tangible expression of the value that public-private collaboration can generate, creating new opportunities for growth and prosperity that benefit the entire country. Together, the Giacomo Brodolini Foundation and Entopan Innovation have structured a highly effective team, consisting of approximately 8 people based permanently in San Francisco and another 10 in Italy. This team has quickly learned to work together productively, benefiting the Italian industrial system and fostering transatlantic collaboration. Their combined efforts symbolize a concrete shift capable of generating new innovation and economic development chains, ensuring that INNOVIT's activities are effective, aligned with the principles of harmonic innovation, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for growth and sustainable progress.



FACTS & FIGURES

Startups
Accelerated

195

597 Number
of Sessions

626 Mentors
& Speakers



291

Entrepreneurs
Supported

6 Programs
for startups

176 Events

10 Programs for Innovative SMEs

1000+

Meetings

5000+

Visitors

INNOVIT's social media metrics have been exceptional, demonstrating highly significant results in just two years. The rapid growth and engagement across platforms reflect INNOVIT's influential role in fostering innovation and collaboration.

FOLLOWERS ON LINKEDIN

YEAR 1

4,143

YEAR 2

9,401

IMPRESSIONS

425,838

MEDIA COVERAGE

The exceptional interest of both online and print media in INNOVIT during its first two years reflects the significant impact of the initiative. A total of 1,373 articles have been published, showcasing INNOVIT's achievements and the growing interest in its activities. Media coverage over INNOVIT's first two years highlights an exceptionally positive sentiment, emphasizing innovation, international collaboration, and its role as a key instrument in Italy's strategy for global impact. The narrative is overwhelmingly positive, with strong expectations for INNOVIT's future.



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ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY



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