MIRTA –Interactive Map of the Technology Resources in Astrophysics

MIRTA is a project aiming to support and improve the networking and sharing capabilities of the technology research community - and more - inside the Italian Institute for Astrophysics, with possible interactions with, and extensions to, other institutions.

The project focuses on the design and production of a database, an interactive search engine and a community forum, in order to connect people and ease the sharing of tools, knowledge, instruments, expertise.

INAF is involved in a high number of scientific and technological research projects on an international scale. These activities, in order to be optimally managed, require an operational approach to sharing information and resources and facilitating contacts in the community.

MIRTA aims at building an online tool that makes it simple and effective to search within the community for the resources, skills and help one needs.

The project consists in the development of an interactive map (IM), easy to consult, in which information on technological research in INAF is collected. The information will concern: laboratories, research and technical personnel, skills, facilities, relationships with industry, areas of interest and application, collaborations and anything that can be shared within the community.

Behind the IM user interface there will be a database, fed and updated by the INAF community itself. The information contained in the database will be conveyed into structured metadata documents (descriptive of individual skills, knowledge, tools, etc.), which will populate the (potentially relational) database, which the IM will query to respond to user searches.

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