



The Solar Fuels
Israeli Center of Research Excellence

Marsilio Ficino fellowships - a joint postdoctoral program of I-CORE Solar Fuels and ENEA

I-CORE Solar Fuels – *the Israeli Center of Research Excellence in Renewable and Sustainable Energy* and **ENEA** – *the Italian national Agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development* are seeking excellent candidates for postdoctoral fellowships.

The joint postdoctoral program I-CORE Solar Fuels – ENEA is supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the framework of the Italian-Israeli Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Its objective is to strengthen the bi-national cooperation in science and technology between Italy and Israel.

Fellowships will be granted to young Italian postdocs coming from Universities and Research Institutions throughout the country to help open new paths towards excellence for young researchers, some of whom will eventually join the Italian research system.

The fellowships are named after the leading Italian scholar and educator Marsilio Ficino*.

RESEARCH SCOPE

The Israeli Center of Research Excellence in Renewable and Sustainable Energy (www.icore-solarfuels.org) is part of the I-CORE program, initiated by the Government of Israel and adopted by Israel's Council of Higher Education, in order to reinforce Israel's intellectual capacities and to promote synergy among Israel's leading research centers.

The main objective of the “I-CORE Solar Fuels” is the R&D on innovative technologies for the generation of clean, efficient energy from renewable sources. Its research directions include biomass generation, solar water splitting technology as well as CO₂ reduction, and the exploration of how molecular building blocks such as H₂, CO, CO₂, methanol and ethanol can be converted into larger, liquid fuel molecules.

Research in this field in Israel is still in its preliminary stages, but it has tremendous potential to lead to significant breakthroughs in specific directions. The I-CORE provides an unparalleled opportunity to advance this field on a national scale, through fruitful cooperation among institutions, and to leverage

research in Israel and abroad. It is an important step towards the development of alternative fuels and reducing global dependence on oil.

SELECTION PROCESS

Thanks to the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian postdocs can submit an application for a 6- or 12-months fellowship to carry out a R&D program in one of the institutions taking part in the "I-CORE Solar Fuels": Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The grant covers all travel and subsistence expenses for the duration of the fellowship and assistance with visas and housing will be provided.

The selection of applications will be performed by a joint Committee of ENEA and "I-CORE Solar Fuels" representatives. Key criteria for the selection will be:

1. the scientific potential of the candidates, as assessed by their academic record and thesis, publications, previous research experience and by any previous awards and honors;
2. the expected benefits of the fellowship for the trainees, as indicated by a short research statement (or tentative project) submitted with the application;
3. the interest of a receiving party within the "I-CORE Solar Fuels" system.

The appointed candidates will submit a brief activity report to the Committee every three months.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply, please send the application form and a signed CV (both as .pdf) by e-mail to the following addresses:

meravm@tx.technion.ac.il and andrea.quintiliani@enea.it

Applications must also include 2 letters of recommendation from representatives of academic or research institutions. All documents must be in English.

The deadline for the submission of the applications is **August 1, 2014**.

Please write to andrea.quintiliani@enea.it for any further information.

***Marsilio Ficino** (Figline Valdarno, 1433 – Careggi, 1499) a leading humanist philosopher and translator of Plato's work, was appointed by Cosimo de' Medici head of the new Platonic Academy in Florence, which could be regarded as the first I-CORE of the Renaissance. With his pupils, including Pico della Mirandola, he shared an unprejudiced enthusiasm for alternative sources of knowledge beyond Catholic doctrine, including Jewish mysticism, the liberal arts and astrology.