



## CAlytic membrane REactors based on New mAterials for C1-C4 valorization

CARENA is a large-scale integrating project funded by the EC

### Interview with Prof. Paolo Ciambelli – University of Salerno, Italy



*Paolo Ciambelli, is Full Professor in industrial chemistry at the University of Salerno, Italy since 1990. He obtained his diploma “Laurea” in Chemical Engineering in 1970 at the University of Naples, Italy. After 10 years spent as Full Assistant and 8 years as Associate Professor at the University of Naples, in 1990 he moved to Salerno, as Full Professor in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Salerno. In 2006, he was appointed Chairman of the board for the Doctorate in Chemical Engineering at the University of Salerno. During 2007 to 2012, he was the Director of the NANO-MATES, Research center for nanomaterials and nanotechnology at the University of Salerno. In 2010, he became the Chair of the South Division of the Italian Association of Chemical Engineering. He is also a member of many Societies: since 1997, a member of the American Chemical Society and American Institution of Chemical Engineering. At the University of Salerno, he is a member of the Academic Senate and of the research Council of the University, one of the directory board of division of industrial chemistry and catalysis group of the Italian Chemical Society and one of the scientific council of CUGRI (Inter University Consortium of Risk and Hazard management). He is also head of the department of Chemical and food Engineering and President of the Italian Association of Zeolites. He has a long experience in the field of catalytic processes and nanomaterials. He is also responsible of Italian and European projects. He is involved also in research contracts funded by public institutions and private companies. He is the author of over 250 international publications and 12 patents.*

**What made you opt for a career as a researcher? How would you define your job?**

The charm of the discovery through the experimentation activity and the opportunity of transferring discoveries into applications. Work for human development.



Campus of the Salerno University

**We'd like to catch a glimpse of your daily activities. What is an average day (or week) for you?**

Typical activity of a 5-day week, if not involved in events outside (congresses, meetings, visits). Take the bus to arrive (30 minutes) at 8 a.m. at the department. Look at e-mail and work on that. Give a lecture to BSc or Ms students (2 hours, 3 days per week). Small lunch. Research group meeting (from research projects to research papers manuscripts to PhD or Ms thesis work) or faculty meeting. Look at the last minute literature. Take the bus 6 or 7 p.m to come back home.





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*The CARENA project has been designed with a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary approach. What progress can be expected if chemists work in closer relation with other disciplines?*

I strongly **believe in multidisciplinary approach**, also due to my 20-year experience as professor of chemical engineer in a Chemistry Department, Faculty of Sciences. I headed during 5 years NANO\_MATES, an interdepartmental research centre on nanomaterials and nanotechnology at the University of Salerno, gathering colleagues from 8 departments. **Competitive research today is obliged to have a multidisciplinary approach.**

*CARENA brings together Research labs and industry. How do you view research-industry collaboration within the framework of the project?*

It's essential.

*What is the added-value of an EU project such as CARENA compared with other partnerships on the same topic you may be involved in?*

The wide extense of potential applications.  
The completeness of the partnership.

### CARENA in brief

Starting date: 1st June 2011  
Project duration: 2011 – 2015  
Number of partners: 19  
Coordinator: Arend de Groot, ECN,  
the Netherlands  
Programme: FP7-NMP-2010-LARGE- 4  
Project Reference: GA 263007



*“The research-Industry collaboration: it is essential.”*



*Last but not least, let's zoom out on broader themes. Sustainable development and environment issues are key concerns nowadays. How does membrane chemistry fit in the pattern? Would you say chemistry is going through major changes?*

Membrane chemistry and, more in general, chemistry may give significant contribution to sustainable development of chemical industry with respect to production and use of energy, and environment protection. An interesting aspect is the feasibility of innovation in a scenario in which consolidated process solutions are becoming cheaper due to low price of energy and products raw sources.

*Thank you Paolo for answering my questions, and all the best for CARENA and the other projects you are involved in.*

*Interviewed by Laurence Bosch*

