



NOVEL MATERIALS DISCOVERY

NOMAD Laboratory Centre of Excellence

Industry Interview - Pedro Martínez Cid, Deputy Director of Innovation



IBERDROLA operates a group of electrical utility companies in 39 countries, with most of its activities taking place in Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, Mexico and Brazil. The IBERDROLA Group is aware of the importance of investing in innovation to remain at the forefront of its sector. Its R&D efforts are designed to optimise operating conditions, improve safety, reduce environmental impacts and develop technologies to face the energy challenges of the future. Making big-data analytics tools available to address materials modelling will enable new developments in strategic research areas; for example, smart grids, clean generation, offshore wind farms, and other new technologies.

What's the status of your company's access/use of materials data, and how will it evolve/improve in the short term?

With regards to the access or use of materials data, Iberdrola normally accesses databases belonging to third parties or collects the necessary information from our technology collaborators (manufacturers, technological centres, and universities) on the basis of the specific R&D activities or projects.

At a more strategic level, what could realistically be done in the medium-term to improve the way in which you access/use/exploit materials data, and what role could the NOMAD Laboratory play in facilitating or enabling this work?

We develop teams for our specific business areas (networking, clean energy generation, or renewables) in collaboration with manufacturers at a global scale, whether they are working on innovative projects or driving the technological development of those manufacturers. In order to be incorporated into our electrical systems, the materials that these teams are making will have to have been previously validated in the manufacturer's laboratories or in their counterpart laboratories in other countries, and of course in demonstration projects within our own facilities.

More than focusing on the materials that make up the equipment, we are interested in the completed system. In the very long term, we are counting on the resource development initiative PERSEO. Through this program, we are implementing technological security with third-party databases, the development of energy generation, or transportation and distribution networks, but our teams are always directed towards new business ventures. You can read more in the Iberdrola Innovation Report online (<https://www.iberdrola.com/sustainability/innovation>).

Do you have any specific suggestions about the way your organization could interact with NOMAD, to help us to better understand and target your needs in terms of data and relative analytics tools?

To me it seems that more than anything, NOMAD will have to account for manufacturers of electrical goods, for reasons noted in the prior response.

What actions/resources could you make available to establish and maintain fruitful collaborations with NOMAD?

It would be complicated to participate in analytical tool testing in to our current situation. However, we will perform a case-by-case analysis of our availability to test NOMAD's proposals.

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