INFM partner in a exciting European education project

Silvia Merlino, Roberto Fieschi, Marco Bianucci and Brian Davies
INSTITUTION: Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia (INFM- University of Parma), Parma, Italy

New multimedia technologies have shown their potential for providing significant steps forward both in the teaching of scientific and technological subjects, and in popularising them. In comparison with other subjects, physics and technology are often considered difficult, but interactive multimedia tools, with their simulations and video clips can be very effective for giving good preliminary intuitive approaches to scientific concepts.

The project “Multimedia on Energy and Semiconductors for European Countries”, which has been selected by the Commission of the E.U. within its “Raising Public Awareness” programme, has the specific objective to provide young students, their teachers and the general public in European countries with courses on ‘Energy and its transformations’, and on ‘Semiconductors and their applications’ in the form of user-friendly multimedia packages both on the Internet and on CD-Roms, for both PC and Mac platforms. In developing these courses, we kept in mind the need to capture the attention, and then encourage the interest of the student, or member of the public. If diffidence and lack of confidence can be overcome, then physics, chemistry and technology become interesting and fascinating subjects.