

press release

Paris, February 17, 2017

AXA MATRIX RISK CONSULTANTS OPENS ITS R & D OFFICE DEDICATED TO THE ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL HAZARDS AT THE FEDERICO II UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES

Laurent Barbagli, CEO of AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants – a subsidiary of AXA Corporate Solutions specializing in Risk management and Engineering consultancy – and Marcello Forte, CEO of AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants Italy, opened a new Research and Development office at the San Giovanni a Teduccio University in Naples. The inauguration took place on 10 February during a one-day conference on Natural Catastrophes with prominent representatives of Industry, Research and University, notably the President of the Italian Conference of University Rectors, Prof. Gaetano Manfredi.

The unique Research & Development facility in Italy is headed by **Fabio Petruzzelli, Loss Prevention Engineer** at AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants since 2014. Graduated with a Ph.D. in Seismic Risk from the University of Naples, Fabio has done research and developed during four years together with **Prof. Iunio Iervolino** the current AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants' earthquake approach.

Through this new office, AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants aims at developing innovative products for risk assessment and mitigation of risks arising from natural disasters, and thus at acting as a link between the world of University research and the world of Industry.

Natural disasters represent today the main cause of mortality and of direct and indirect economic impacts, which are mainly due to the changes in society becoming increasingly complex and global, and therefore more fragile and exposed to catastrophic events. Demographic explosion and growing urbanization

and industrialization have been further reasons for AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants and the Federico II University of Naples to accelerate the search for innovative solutions for the assessment, management and mitigation of risks which Research, Industry and Insurance cannot ignore.

By establishing the AXA "Center of excellence for seismic and tsunami risks" in Naples, AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants builds on its strong partnership with the Department of Facilities Engineering and Architecture (DiST) at the Federico II University which is world widely renowned in the field of natural risk assessment.

Thanks to their partnership launched in 2009 following the earthquake in L'Aquila, AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants and the Federico II University have been able to develop innovative methodologies, in particular for the assessment and mitigation of seismic risks in the field of insurance and industrial Risk management.

AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants, a subsidiary of AXA Corporate Solutions and dedicated Engineering Company of the AXA Group, has been specializing for over 15 years in the development and application of advanced solutions for engineering analysis of risks and in supporting the decision-making process of Risk management for large industrial groups.

With more than 160 engineers in 18 countries, AXA MATRIX Risk Consultants is able to provide its clients with support in managing complex portfolios of structures and in identifying, quantifying and mitigating risks, be they natural, technological or industrial, which might threaten the continuity of their business.

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