

# LESI2022 In Venice: A Post-Pandemic Meeting That Re-Fueled LES Members And Created Lasting Memories

By Dana Robert Colarulli

This past May – after nearly two years of virtual interaction—the LES global audience was able to reconvene – in-person! LES Italy hosted the LESI2022 Annual Conference in the beautiful and historic city of Venice—a venue rich in the history of innovation in addition to being one of the most captivating cities anywhere in the world. LES President Mattia Dalla Costa and LESI President John Paul served as the masters of ceremonies for two days of rich content, ample opportunities to network and build relationships, and—of course, when in Venice—great food and venues that created memories that attendees will carry with them. A number of awards were also given to recognize long-term service to the organization and creativity that kept our organization connected throughout the pandemic.

## Theme and Program

The theme for the conference was: “Back to Licensing: Restarting Business and Fueling Innovation.” The program was built around critical industry areas—including automotive, telecommunication, energy and green tech, healthcare, and fashion—where new technologies have disrupted and challenged norms. The conference topics explored collaborations for developing and licensing technology and how they fuel the next generation of innovation. State of the Industry Briefings combined with keynotes addressing issues relevant to the content, creative and fashion industries, and concurrent sessions on a variety of practice areas and topics created a very worthwhile event—one that was especially memorable for some as their first international event since the beginning of the pandemic.

## State of the Industry Briefings

A core piece of the program was the set of four State of the Industry Briefings. These one-hour, industry-led expert panel discussions focused on four critical industry areas defined by change—and were received with great interest by LES members in attendance. Speakers discussed changes in the business and technology and the impact of those changes on licensing. These four sessions were as follows:

### (1) Health Care Industry Transformations: Adapting to an “Ever-Changing” Environment

This panel discussion explored how the life sciences industry has been responding to continued challenges and opportunities, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Hayley French (a member of the LESI Board of Directors) who facilitated this discussion, the panel addressed issues such as drug development, clinical trial availability, and supply chain issues, as well as presented the current deal landscape and trends in licensing and M&A.

### (2) Automotive Industry Transformations: Technologies “Driving Change” in the Automotive World

John Carney facilitated this discussion, reflecting many of the topics also discussed throughout the years in the LESI Automotive Industry Advisory Board (which John also chairs). Speakers discussed industry transformations related to new technologies including autonomous driving, transitions to electric-powered



vehicles, 5G vehicle connections, and protection and licensing of the underlying IP rights in these areas.

### (3) Telecommunications Industry Transformations: A “Changed” World—Where Connected Technology is Enabling an Era of Growth

Sonja London (who also serves on the LESI Board of Directors) facilitated this conversation with experts discussing various innovations in the telecommunications industry, the licensing policies and practices that are developing, and how intellectual property is being used as the telecom sector continues to change and grow.

### (4) Energy & Green Tech Industry Transformations: Causing “Change” in Other Industries

Dallas Wilkerson moderated this panel representing a global audience familiar with new technologies now being employed, how development of those technologies has changed the industry, and what impacts this has on licensing as companies try to understand and address global commitments.

## Release of the Videos from LESI2022 and Future Meetings

The event is difficult to fully capture in word or pictures—but the pictures are a joy to look through! You can access pictures from the event at [www.lesi2022.org](http://www.lesi2022.org).

LESI plans to also release videos from the LESI2022 meeting in early September. We know that the LES global community is vast, and that many members are unable to join for the annual conference even when a pandemic is not looming. For those LES members, we have been finding ways to keep them in the conversation, even if only virtually.

In September, we plan to host a webinar to celebrate the events that happened in Venice, provide top line take-aways from the state of the industry briefings, and provide access to the videos from the state of the industry briefings and perhaps a few others recorded at the event. We will also discuss other continuing conversations on these topics that will happen during the next year leading up to LESI2023. Stay tuned for information on the date and registration information for this event.

Finally, we hope you will consider joining us for LESI2023 which will take place in Montreal, Canada (2023 April 30-May 2 —Mark your calendars!) and then in Madrid, Spain in 2024! Ciao for now! ■