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Title: **KNOWLEDGE SOURCES FOR INNOVATION OF FIRMS ACTIVE IN FORMAL STANDARDIZATION**

**Technovation:** The International Journal of Technological Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology Management

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Area Editor

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**On 4/29/2015 11:03 AM, Technovation wrote:**

Ms. Ref. No.: TECHNOVATION-D-14-00535R1

Title: KNOWLEDGE SOURCES FOR INNOVATION OF FIRMS ACTIVE IN FORMAL  
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Technovation: The International Journal of Technological Innovation,  
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**ABSTRACT:**

Innovation requires knowledge which may stem from within or outside a firm. This paper argues that participation in standardization committees may be an important source of external knowledge. Participants in standardization get the opportunity to understand and influence technological development and in doing so, meet representatives of suppliers, competitors, customers and research institutes. Our study aims to distinguish this source of information for innovation from other sources. We develop a conceptual framework and test it by combining firm-level data from the Dutch Community Innovation Survey about the sources companies use for their innovation with data from the Netherlands

Standardization Institute about firms' involvement in their committees. The substantial overlap shows that many innovative firms also participate in standardization. It turns out that firms using knowledge from cooperation with scientific organizations are more likely involved in formal standardization. A significant contrast is provided by the finding that utilizing suppliers' information is less common for companies participating in standardization. We provide an extensive discussion what knowledge can be accessed by involvement in standardization and how this could provide an alternative mean to access knowledge from suppliers for innovation activities. Our analysis hints at the importance of participation in formal standardization as an external knowledge source for innovation.

Reviewer #1: (Previous Version)

This paper is not easy to read, including the references, tables, structure, and writing style. Authors should refine this paper significantly.

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Section 1:

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Section 2.2:

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Section 3:

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Section 4:

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Section 5:

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Reviewer #2: (Previous Version)

While the paper is well written and presents an analysis based on a large data set, it is not coming across too impactful. Here are my concerns:

1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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I suggest the authors need to acknowledge the limitations and then conduct some kind of validation to get this paper to the next stage

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