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INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE CASE STUDY OF SPANISH FIRMS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY (SUMMARY)

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≈ SUMMARY ≈

**INTERNATIONAL ENERGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE CASE
STUDY OF SPANISH FIRMS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY**

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Principal Topics

Body of knowledge about international entrepreneurship (IE) and its contribution to the development of new technologies in emerging industries like renewable energy is still narrow and need further development in both theoretical and empirical aspects. Furthermore, the notion of energy entrepreneurship (Wüstenhagen & Wuebker, 2011) and current practical and theoretical advancements under the name of sustainable entrepreneurship (Schaltegger & Wagner, 2011; Dean & McMullen, 2007), eco-entrepreneurship (Holt, 2011) and environmental entrepreneurship (York & Venkataraman, 2010) have made significant and diverse contributions to address challenges associated with fossil fuels and fostering sustainable energy development. Due to the paramount importance of energy entrepreneurship and its development toward the new international markets, the main objective of this paper, is to explore the linkage between IE and international development and commercialization of renewable energy as emerging industry.

Method

Given the novelty of subject about energy entrepreneurship and the scarcity of empirical research about the entrepreneurial internationalization of firms from renewable energy industry, we adopted an approach to gather reach and in-depth data. Therefore, we employed multiple-case design with six cases of entrepreneurial companies in renewable energy industry from Spain. Drawing upon triangulation principle (Yin, 2009), we triangulated our data and informants. We have also used several sources of secondary data, apart from the interview data. The interviews are based on semi-structured questions. These interviews are specially designed concerning entrepreneur, company's structure and resources, industry's structure and policy schemes in Spain.

Results and Implications

Results of this study highlight that internationalization process in renewable energy industry differ from other industries in terms of entrepreneur, firm, industry and policy. Entrepreneur's motives and philosophical perspective differentiate them from conventional entrepreneurs, because of the non-financial motives like sustainability and environmental issues and forging solution in global scale to confront environmental degradation and global warming. Internationalization is a common practice for companies to overcome financial, technological and commercialization constraints and challenges. At the industry level, it is already a globally integrated industry and technological maturity is a significant factor that affects the internationalization of the firms positively. Finally, this industry is policy-driven and supportive policy scheme seems to be the most significant factor in entrepreneurial internationalization of renewable energy companies from Spain.

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