- 664 -

## INOVAREA, ELEMENT DETERMINANT PENTRU PROGRESUL TEHNOLOGIC

## INNOVATION, A DECISIVE FACTOR IN TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

## Conf.dr.ing. Călin Ciprian OŢEL

Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca

**Abstract:** The paper begins by presenting basic notions such as invention, innovation but also the notion of creativity because without its existence the first two cannot take place. Below are a series of examples of inventions / innovations that have emerged since ancient times and that have revolutionized humanity as landmarks of technological progress. Forms that innovation can take within the company, the stages of the innovation process in a company in the form of a diagram but also the stages necessary for the spread of innovation among consumers are also presented.

**Keywords:** invention, innovation, creativity, technological progress, innovation process, Diffusion of Innovation Theory