Newsletter – Issue LXIII July 2023

# **NEWSLETTER**





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### **ABOUT**

ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ITC) is a network of a group of Italian capital goods manufacturing companies. This innovative project is promoted by UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE (the Italian machine tools, robots and automation manufacturers' Association), AMAPLAST (the Italian plastics and rubber machinery and moulds manufacturers' Association) and ACIMGA (the Italian manufacturers' association of machinery for the graphic, converting and paper industry). The ITC network facilitates a flexible collaboration among leading Italian machinery manufacturers in order to share resources and knowledge with the common aim of strengthening their presence in the Indian market.

Indian companies consider ITC as their first point of reference in India and get immediate answer/feedback to their queries from the respective Italian companies. Fresh enquiries and technical solutions are also discussed and properly followed-up with the member companies.

The enquiries for other machines/technologies will also be entertained.

Office Address: Italian Technology Center – ITC India

Office No. 003, Lunkad Sky Station, Near HDFC Bank, Datta Mandir Chowk, Viman Nagar, Pune - 411 014 (INDIA) Tel.: +91-

20-41226111

E-mail: marketing@itc-india.in

Website: www.itc-india.in / www.itc-india.it

The above office is presided by Mrs Barbara Colombo (Managing Director - FICEP) through its India SPV (Rare Tech LLP) - Mr. Sandeep Chadha (Director); www.raretech.org.



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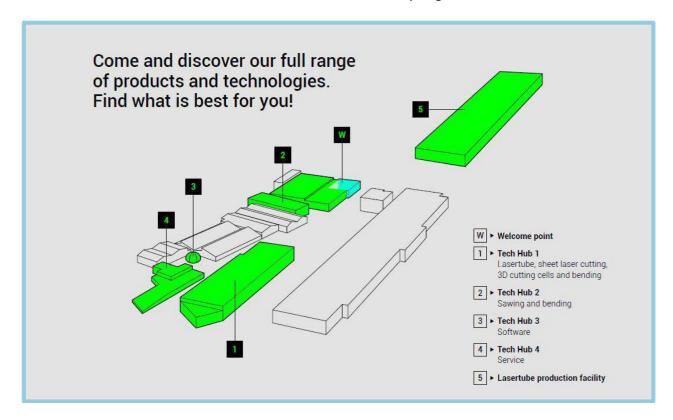
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### BUFFOLI TRANSFER S.P.A

Via Stretta 40 25128 Brescia (Italy) Tel.: +39 030 201550 Fax: +39 030 201555

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# SINCE WORLD LEADER IN MACHINE 1930 TOOL MANUFACTURING



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### Leader in precision engineering and industrial blades' production

In this article for ITC India, we present:

### **LINERS**

The experience acquired in the field of precision mechanics has been put to good use in the construction of liners and parts used in the metallurgical industry. The liners are made in such a way as to ensure maximum durability for the customers.

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The treatment is performed homogeneously over the entire surface without interruptions, in order to guarantee maximum resistance and the best possible support to the stresses caused by impacts and slips. The pieces are straightened by hand and checked one by one with laser machines by highly qualified personnel for total compliance with the required flatness.

Liners can also be made using other materials and special treatments according to the specific requests of the customer.

**FIND OUT MORE** 

### **BLADES FOR METAL**

Blades in various types of Inconel for hot cutting of slabs and blooms up to 1500°C

**FIND OUT MORE** 

### **BLADES FOR PLASTIC**

Plastic is synonymous with PET, polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC, polyvinyl chloride and much more. For each of these materials, there is the right blade, built with the right steel.



We produce blades for granulators, grinders, and cutters. The quality standard that we offer to our customers derives from decades of experience in the field of high-performance precision blades.

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E-mail: lorenzon@lorenzon-it.com

Tel: +39 023510741





### A LIFE PROJECT FOR CLEANER AIR IN FACTORIES

Losma Spa, Fae Technology and Ma-El have joined forces to create the Green Factory Life project. The project aims to provide an integrated environmental sanitation system that monitors the pollution parameters in factories through air quality detectors. The goal is to minimise CO2 levels and eliminate spores, moulds, odours, carcinogens, bacterial and viral loads in the air during processing cycles. The air purification system combines Photocatalytic Oxidation (PCO) with Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI). In addition, integrating IoT sensors and predictive models developed via a data analysis dashboard will improve plant efficiency and ensure high energy savings and predictive and automated maintenance.

Here is a description of the main focal points of the centralised Green Factory LIFE system:

### 1. The production plant



Research on suitable materials and technologies conducted in 2022 led the team to create a pilot plant green factory. The entire air purification system fitted with detectors was installed at Ma-El Srl in Presezzo, near Bergamo. Ma-El Srl manufactures moulds and equipment for the cold working of metals. A complex suction system that conveys over 15000 cubic metres of air to be treated.

### 2. Argos Pro, the filtration unit



Argos Pro is the core of the technology revolving around the Green Factory project. It consists of a cartridge filtration unit that purifies the oil mists, vapours, and fumes of various mechanical processes. Argos Pro is available in 3 sizes, with flow rates from 3,000 to 15,000 m3/h and with different combinations of increasing filtration efficiency, up to an efficiency of 99.97%. It is fitted with a digital display for viewing the main functions and the exclusive "LED Up" system, which can indicate the clogging status of the filter elements via three colours.

### 3. The Photocatalytic Oxidation (PCO) system



The photocatalytic oxidation (PCO) filtration system treats the air by radiating band-A ultraviolet lighting at 365 nm to the titanium dioxide (TiO2) filter. This treatment is also effective against viruses, bacteria, and pollutants in plants producing processing waste. A driver controls and reduces the power supply of the UVA LEDs installed on the electronic circuit when their temperature reaches or exceeds 70 °C.

### 4. Plant management interface



A programmable control interface remotely manages the various suction areas along the plant.

The control interface can self-calibrate the system based on the air data. Moreover, end-users can keep track of the system's warnings and notifications and remotely manage the plant's predictive maintenance. The plant's control interface system includes a program that self-manages and sets suction parameters for the various areas.

### 5. IoT Air Quality Monitor sensors



After developing and testing the hardware and firmware, the first air quality detection devices were installed at Ma-El's pilot plant.

IoT sensors collect information from the production plant to enable new value-added functions of the filtration systems. The air quality sensors and an IoT (Internet of Things) gateway are part of the sensor network of the Green Factory project and help improve the air quality in work settings.

### 6. The plant's dashboard



The plant's dashboard displays the data collected by the IoT Air Quality Monitor sensors to allow users to monitor air pollutant parameters at all times. From  $PM_{1-100}$  to VOCs and  $CO_2$  values in the air, this software is used as a process management panel, providing an overall view of the plant's air quality.

Did you like what you read about the green future of your factory?

Leave us your impression, fill in the European survey dedicated to the project: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/LIFE">https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/LIFE</a> GreenFactory Survey2023



### EDITORIAL SMALL BV AND BV26 PRESSES AND WAX INJECTION CAPABILITY

Founded in 1955, MILLUTENSIL is today a world-wide leader in the production of die & mould spotting presses, press equipment and conveyor belts. With almost 70 years of experience, MILLUTENSIL has been able to consolidate its presence in Italy and penetrate international markets with three main production lines: Blue Line, Green Line and Yellow Line.

The Blue Line is MILLUTENSIL's iconic production line, which includes a wide range of die & mould spotting presses, i.e. high-precision machinery to facilitate the adjustment, repair and validation of moulds, and die openers developed strting from our customers' needs.

The presses are divided into two main series: the MIL series includes machines for validating medium and large sized-moulds, while the BV series, an acronym derived from the initials of the owners' names, Beatrice and Veronica, provides presses designed for smaller moulds.

Platen sizes range from a minimum of 770x660 mm., with the smallest BV25P model, to a maximum of 2000x1500 mm., with the BV34-35 model.

The BV26E press is an upgraded version of the previous model, with a hydraulic system controlled by electronic proportional servo-valves and parallelism control via Heidenhain optical lines. Platen dimensions are 980×750 mm., with a maximum load capacity of 4000 kg. on the lower platen and up to 1200 kg. on the upper platen. The clamping force is up to 300kN. The BV26E is also the first press, among the smaller ones, to include the possibility of integrating the new Siemens multitouch ITP 1000 tablet with the corresponding MyMILL© App, developed and registered by MILLUTENSIL, thanks to the experience gained with its customers. This tablet gives the possibility to store all the machine-specific documentation, such as the instruction manual and mechanical drawings, photos and videos of the tested moulds. Besides, it contains a dedicated section, where it is possible to contact the remote assistance service directly, in case of need.

All presses in the series can also be equipped with tilting of the lower platen or table rotation, or a combination of both options, should the customer require it.

In addition to standard accessories, these presses can be equipped with a unit that allows the automatic injection of low-pressure wax into the mould cavity. This allows to check the size and thickness of pre-production mouldings, including even the thinnest burrs, and to ensure the correct filling. The injection unit is equipped with a wax container with electric heating, a pneumatic drive to regulate pressure and a chamber temperature control to maintain a constant wax flow. This is a highly requested accessory for customers with small and medium-sized moulds, as it enables extremely precise and accurate mould validation.

MILLUTENSIL spotting presses allow to show the customer a sort of 'prototype', in order to see how the mould was tested on the machine.





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Cod.Fisc e P.IVA 08060920157 REA Milano nº 1200630 Reg. Imp. Milano nº 08060920157 Capitale Sociale: Euro 554.000,00 i.v.

Plant Via delle Industrie, 10 26010 Izano (CR) ITALY

Warehouse Via delle Industrie, 13 26010 Izano (CR) ITALY Millutensil S.r.I.
Corso Buenos Aires, 92
20124 Milano (MI) ITALY
Tel. +39 02 29404390
Fax +39 02 2046677
info@millutensil.com



### **2022 BALANCE – BEYOND ALL EXPECTATION**

# for Italian manufacturers of plastics and rubber processing systems: 4.67 billion euros in revenues

The year-end figures for 2022 are official and the picture painted by the MECS Statistical Study Center, which published them, is a year worth framing: the plastics and rubber technology industry represented by Amaplast (Italian association of manufacturers of plastics and rubber processing machinery and moulds) closed the year with a turnover of 4.67 billion euros, the second-best performance ever. The variance with respect to 2021 is +5% and the December forecast (4.5 billion) proved to be somewhat cautious. And the balance among Amaplast members was even better (+9% turnover with respect to 2021).

The result is all the more satisfying if compared to the numerous difficulties confronting the industry over the course of the year – some of which are having continuing effects – between export limits to Russia, raw materials and component shortages, and skyrocketing energy costs.

The main driver of this historical result was exports, which showed a particularly positive trend towards the end of the year, with a total value again above the threshold of 3 billion euros.

After a most excellent 2021, the domestic market remained relatively stable, with a less pronounced increment of 0.8% and turnover of 2.54 billion euros.

Italian market of machinery, equipment and moulds for plastics and rubber (million euros)				
	2021	2022	Δ% 2022/2021	
production	4,450	4,670	4.9	
export	2,990	3,250	8.7	
import	1,060	1,120	5.7	
domestic market	2,520	2,540	0.8	
trade balance	+1,930	+2,130	10.4	

In detail, exports by the Italian manufacturers – which continue to be the destination for 70% of production – show progressive growth towards the three principal geographical destination zones:

- Europe (EU and extra EU): +8%
- Americas: +12%, thanks mainly to South America (+33% overall, with peaks mainly for Brazil and also, albeit with lower absolute values, for Colombia, Chile, and Peru). In North America, sales to the United States have slowed somewhat (-3%) while Mexico has recorded a strong new rebound (+35%)
- Asia: +9%. In the Far East (+9% on average), sales to India stand out at +24%, while China has retreated (-7%); in the Middle East (+11% overall) the driving forces are Saudi Arabia (+36%) and the Emirates (+58%).

Contradictory signals are arriving from the African continent, contrary to what was observed for 2021: exports to North Africa fell by 24% on average while those to sub-Saharan markets have increased by a similar proportion.

Destination areas of the Italian plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds exports (%)

equipment and modius exports (70)				
	2021	2022		
Europe (UE)	57.7 (45.1)	57.2 (44.8)		
North America/USMCA	16.7	16.4		
Asia/Oceania	15.7	16.1		
Central/South America	4.9	5.8		
Africa	5.0	4.5		

# Top ten destination countries of the Italian plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds exports (000 euros – 2022 ranking)

Countries	2021	% out of total	Countries	2022	% out of total	Δ % 22/21
Germany	368,673	12.4	Germany	422,651	13.0	14.6
United States	358,119	12.0	<b>United States</b>	346,621	10.7	-3.2
Poland	137,892	4.6	Poland	179,765	5.5	30.4
China	159,700	5.4	China	149,271	4.6	-6.5
France	160,128	5.4	France	148,942	4.6	-7.0
Mexico	104,579	3.5	Mexico	141,362	4.4	35.2
Spain	104,845	3.5	Spain	126,302	3.9	20.5
India	87,037	2.9	India	108,252	3.3	24.4
Turkey	89,850	3.0	Turkey	98,491	3.0	9.6
United Kingdom	105,276	3.5	<b>United Kingdom</b>	95,381	2.9	-9.4
total "top 10"	1,676,100	56.2	total "top 10"	1,817,038	55.9	8.4
other countries	1,310,122	43.8	other countries	1,430,174	44.1	9.2
world	2,986,222	100.0	world	3,247,212	100.0	8.7

The 2023 outlook remains uncertain, given the economic and political context that is still a bit up in the air. While the issue of energy costs and availability of raw materials and components has shown some partial improvement, troubles continue to be the order of the day – such as the recent bank crisis – and this makes any attempt to forecast the future quite challenging, to say the least.

For the Italian segment of the industry, 2023 is above all the year of PLAST, one of the world's premier fairs for the plastics and rubber industry organized by Promaplast srl. After a five-year hiatus, the fair will open its doors again on 5-8 September 2023 at the Fiera Milano Rho fairgrounds. Companies are getting ready to show the world the best of the Made-in-Italy in terms of design, materials, sustainability, and smart technology.

www.amaplast.org www.plastonline.org



ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE COSTRUTTORI DI MACCHINE E STAMPI PER MATERIE PLASTICHE E GOMMA

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER PROCESSING MACHINERY AND MOULDS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AMAPLAST - Centro Direzionale Milanofiori Palazzo F/3 - 20057 Assago MI (Italy) tel. +39 02 8228371 - fax +39 02 57512490 info@amaplast.org - www.amaplast.org codice fiscale/fiscal code 80134430158



After the success of the second edition of Print4All, the road towards the next trade fair to be held at Fiera Milano from 27 to 30 May 2025 starts with the Print4All Conference 2023, a key event to exchange communications and information organised by Acimga and Argi, in collaboration with Fiera Milano.

Print4All Conference 2023, key milestone in the Roadmap to Print4All 2025, is a system project that, since its first edition in 2016, has set as its goal that of being a "tool" at the service of all communities in the printing and converting industry, with the specific intention of creating industry cohesion to continue to ensure growth and longevity. An event for the entire supply chain, for all printing technologies and applications, dedicated to all companies involved in the design and use of innovation in the printing world.

The keyword for the 2023 edition is CONVERGENCE: the convergence of technologies, applications and markets, in the future of sustainable and effective printing, across all industry segments, from graphics to marketing, packaging and industrial sectors. The world of printing is a technological sector with a high innovative and virtuous value in terms of circularity and production efficiency. In the current context of constant change, it is essential to support the entire printing and communication supply chain by providing an aggregating and inclusive international and national platform, dedicated to the hottest topics in the market across segments and technological and application convergence.

Print4All Conference represents an annual scenario update, which leads the industry towards the 2025 trade fair and focuses on market trends and challenges to be faced in the next two years, broken down into the three vertical elements that constitute the pillars of Print4All: packaging & labelling | commercial printing & graphic arts | industrial & wide format.

Print4All Conference is organised by Acimga (Association of Italian Manufacturers of Machinery for the Graphic, Paper and Converting Industries) and ARGI (Printing Industry Suppliers Association) in collaboration with Fiera Milano and with the support of ITA (Italian Trade Agency, the government agency that supports the development of Italian companies abroad). Print4All Conference is the main event in a roadmap of events towards Print4All 2025 (27-30 May 2025 - Fiera Milano, Rho).

### THE AGENDA OF THE EVENT

### 9:30 – Welcome speech

Daniele Barbui, President Acimga Antonio Maiorano, President Argi Paolo Pizzocaro, Fiera Milano, Exhibition Director Print4All

10:00 – Global trends analysis in the printing and converting industry
Mark Hanley, CEO IT Strategies

### 10:20 - Trend analysis in the Italian printing market

Stefano Portolani, Printing Research Studies Stratego Group

### 10:45 - Packaging as media: future ideas

Raffaele Bombardieri, R&D packaging Manager Granarolo

Luca Cheri, Sales Manager Fonti di Vinadio (Sant'Anna)

Diego Lazzarin, Private Label Manager – Packaging Bennet

Armando Garosci, Director Largo Consumo

### 11:10 – With open eyes: visual communication in the new century

Laura Patrizia Condello, Marketing Manager Rinaldo Franco (Best Friend)

Laura Bettazzoli, Marketing Manager Bonduelle

Daniele Castagnini, National Sales Director FRoSTA AG

Armando Garosci, Director Largo Consumo

### 11:35 - OPEN LABS by SPONSOR COMPANIES

Paper converting and integrated Finishing today, by Petratto

Edoardo Pinton, Head of Facility & Single Foliation Production Pixartprinting

Romeo Zarantonello, CEO IGL

Uteco's latest technologies for innovation, by Uteco

Andrea Caselli, NSWE & FAMA Region Manager Uteco

Being sustainable in Printing Production and Mailing, by Ricoh

Giorgio Bavuso, Sales and Industrial Printing Manager Ricoh Italia

Federico Tornielli, CEO PRT Group

### 12:30 - Market convergence and its effect on printers and converters

Pat McGrew, Managing Director McGrew Group

### 13:00 - Lunch - networking and open Sponsors' corner

### 14:30 – Finance in support of business growth and export plans

Emilio Panzeri, President Italfinance

Nicola Carboni, Head of International Finance Division Italfinance

Massimiliano Brion, Head of Structured and Extraordinary Finance Division Italfinance

### 15:15 - Open Labs by Sponsor Companies

Digital printing in flexible packaging by Fujifilm

Mario Gazzani, Technical & Business Development Manager Fujifilm

Labels & Packaging: beyond four-color printing by Omet

Marco Calcagni, Sales Director Omet

### 16:00 - Sustainability, Circularity, and Packaging Regulation: what developments for the supply chain?

Marco Pasqualini, Associative Development Istituto Italiano Imballaggio

Massimo Ramunni, Deputy General manager Assocarta

Alberto Palaveri, President Giflex

### 16:45 - Nutruring inclusion. It's forbidden to crush dreams

Nico Acampora, fondatore PizzAut

### 17.15 - Sum-up and Closing speech

For more information:

Gwyn Garrett - Press Office Acimga

ggarrett@acimga.it - mob. +39 375 5082158







ITALIAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF MACHINERY FOR THE GRAPHIC, CONVERTING AND PAPER INDUSTRY
Piazza Castello 28, 20121 Milano – Tel. +39 022481262 – Fax +39 02 22479581 – C.F. 80079370153 – info@acimga.it – www.acimga.it





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#### **UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE**



Associazione Costruttori Italiani Macchine Utensili, Robot e Automazione Italian Machine Tools, Robots and Automation Manufacturers' Association viale Fulvio Testi 128, 20092 Cinisello Balsamo MI (Milan, Italy) tel. +39 02 262 551, telefax +39 0226 255 214/349 http://www.ucimu.it.e-maii: ucimu@ucimu.it

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### UCIMU MEETING: AN EXCELLENT 2022 FOR THE ITALIAN MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY 2023 STILL POSITIVE, BUT THE ORDER INTAKE SLOWS DOWN

*Cinisello Balsamo, 3 July 2023.* The year 2022 was extremely positive for the Italian manufacturing industry of machine tools, robots and automation systems, which registered **double-digit increases and set new records** for most economic indicators, among which production and consumption.

With these results, once again, the Italian industry of the sector confirmed to be one of the key players in the international scenario, where it came in fourth in the ranking of production, exports and consumption.

The year 2023 will still close with a positive sign, and thus with new records for the sector, but the order intake for the first part of the year showed a rather marked slowdown caused by the general atmosphere of uncertainty.

This is the framework summed up by the president of UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE, **Barbara Colombo**, this morning, during the **Members' Meeting**, which was also attended by **Adolfo Urso**, Minister for Enterprises and Made in Italy (via video link), **Gian Maria Gros-Pietro**, economist and president of Intesa Sanpaolo, and **Federico Visconti**, rector of LIUC Cattaneo University.



Mrs. Barbara Colombo (President UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE)

### **THE ACTUAL RESULTS OF 2022**

According to the final data processed by the Economic Studies Department & Business Culture Centre of UCIMU, in 2022, the Italian production of machine tools, robots and automation systems reached 7,280 million euro, recording a 15% increase versus 2021. Consumption grew by 26% to 6,311 million euro, leading to a rise both in domestic deliveries (3,812 million euro; +21.6%) and in imports (2,499 million euro; +33.3%).

**Exports** also **increased to 3,468 million euro** in 2022, i.e. **8.5% more** than in the previous year. The **exports-to-production ratio dropped from 50.5% in 2021 to 47.6% in 2022.** 

In 2022, the main export markets for the Italian product offering were the United States (482 million euro, +43.5%), Germany (306 million euro, -13.3%), China (226 million euro, -0.7%), France (193 million euro, +9.6%), Poland (188 million euro, +6.2%), Turkey (124 million euro, -3.9%), Spain (119 million euro, +19.7%), Russia (99 million euro, -3.9%), Mexico (84 million euro, +5.2%) and Switzerland (74 million euro, +36.8%).

The positive performance of the Italian industry of the sector had a positive impact on the utilisation of production capacity, whose annual average went up significantly, going from 80.2% in 2021 to 86.6% in 2022. The order portfolio was also on the rise, attaining 8 months of guaranteed production versus 7.3 in the previous year.

The turnover of the sector achieved the amount of 10,482 million euro.

### **FORECASTS 2023**

Based on the forecasts elaborated by the Economic Studies Department & Business Culture Centre of UCIMU, the year 2023 should also close with a positive trend, but the order intake of the first half of the year is at a standstill.

**Production** should stand at **7,750 million euro, i.e. 6.5% more than** in the previous year, thus marking a **new absolute record** in the history of the Italian industry of the sector.

Consumption should rise to a new record-breaking value of 6,835 million euro (+8.3%), driving the manufacturers' deliveries to the domestic market, which should achieve a new record, amounting to 4,155 million euro (+9%). Imports should also go up, attaining the value of 2,680 million euro (+7.3%).

**Exports** should grow to **3,595 million euro (+3.7%)**, thus returning to the pre-Covid levels.

Based on UCIMU processing on ISTAT data, in the first three months of 2023, the main export markets of the Italian machine tool offering were **the United States** (126 million euro, +35.4%), **Germany** (89 million euro, +43.8%), **China** (55.5 million euro, +23.3%), **France** (54 million euro, +33.9%), **Poland** (38 million euro, +10.2%), Turkey (34 million euro, +86.8%), Mexico (29 million euro, +49.7%), Czech Republic (27 million euro, +118%), Spain (25 million euro, -16.5%) and India (24 million euro, +38.9%).

### **COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

**Barbara Colombo**, president of UCIMU-SISTEMI PER PRODURRE, stated: "If we analyse the trend in the last three-year period 2021-2023, it is clear that the Italian machine tool industry has become stronger after the public health crisis, which it was able to face more effectively and energetically than many competitors, starting with Germany. These results prove our capabilities and the value of our agile and strongly innovation-oriented model of enterprises".

"For several years now, companies in the sector have been working in a situation that could be defined as "unusual business", in which changes of scenario are a constant variable. It is not easy, but we do and will do again in the future".

"In response to the situation of general uncertainty that actually affected our order collection in the first half of the year, our enterprises have identified **some challenges** on which they intend to concentrate in the medium-long term future, in order to strengthen their positioning in the international market: innovation that translates into **digitalisation&sustainability**, availability of skilled personnel, servitisation and internationalisation".

### Digitalisation&Sustainability

Nowadays, the real challenge for manufacturers with regard to innovation is the digitalisation&sustainability combination. This translates into the capacity of developing systems, which ensure efficient processes for users, i.e. characterised by an appropriate use of resources and adequate production time, as well as into the possibility of measuring the environmental impact (e.g. carbon footprint) at every stage of the manufacturing process.

However, such a rapid evolution in the innovation processes, in which companies are playing a leading role, cannot do without a support action by the economic and industrial Country System.

"For this reason, we ask the Government authorities to confirm and strengthen the Transition Plan 4.0, which - in our opinion - must structurally provide for a modular system of tax incentives that can be combined and cumulated and may more considerably reward those who invest in new machines, whereby digitalisation also enables sustainability".

"In particular, we think that, in addition to the first measure - the one that is currently in force, consisting in the tax credit for investment in state-of the-art digital production technologies - there should be another tax credit for investment in machines that are integrated together to create a system implementing the two value chains, the physical and the digital one. Finally, there should be a third measure that can ensure a tax credit for sustainability, in order to push enterprises towards "green manufacturing", in line with the European directives".

### **Availability of skilled personnel**

Italian machine tool companies have great difficulty in finding skilled personnel trained to operate in their plants. Indeed, globalisation and digital transformation impose a significant revision of the skills required of employees and drive the emergence of new professional figures that did not exist before.

Two particularly interesting aspects emerge from a recent survey conducted by UCIMU on the "Need for professional figures and professional skills of companies in the sector". The first aspect: some technical figures that could be defined as "traditional" are still central to the activities of enterprises in this industry and are difficult to find. The second aspect: for the future, the figures with digital and automation skills, as well as management competence are those of greatest interest to the companies in the sector. This means that we need to get in touch both with young graduates from technical institutes and ITS (Higher Technical Institutes) and with university graduates, not only in engineering.

To reduce the mismatch between job demand and supply, companies often enter into cooperation agreements with technical institutes in their areas, so that the institutes themselves can become nurseries from which to draw for their employment needs. In this activity, they are supported by associations, such as UCIMU, which directly operate to encourage the dialogue between the world of school and academic education & training and the world of enterprises, also with the aim of better targeting their education curricula, so that they can be more in line with the real needs of enterprises.

However, this is a complex and articulated work, whose results will be seen in the medium-long term. Therefore, it is essential that the Country System can directly **support Schools and Universities**, **by adapting the curricula of educational pathways** at all levels to the changes in the context.

On the other hand, we ask the Government authorities to confirm, also for the future, the applicability of tax credit for education and training, which is essential to support companies in a rapid refresher training and re-qualification process of their staff.

Finally, labour cost, which increased by 6.6%, is a further problem for the enterprises that have to hire personnel, so we ask the Government authorities to intervene by reducing tax wedge.

### Servitisation

More and more companies in the sector are working on developing an offer that includes, in addition to the sale of the physical product (the machine), a series of value-added services that can improve the user's satisfaction. This activity could also become an **interesting**, **additional source of income for manufacturers**.

Moreover, along the lines of what has already happened in other sectors, UCIMU is developing, together with some accredited partners from the leasing world, the issue of sales through operational rental, in order to monitor an activity that is slowly approaching the machinery sector.

### Internationalisation

"Exporting is our first way of being present the international market, but it cannot and must not be the only one. Our enterprises are aware of that and are structuring themselves, in order to better seize the opportunities (even the untapped ones) offered by foreign demand, both from traditional economies, such as those of EU countries and the USA, and from emerging economies, such as China, India, Vietnam and Turkey".

"Companies take advantage of their participation in international trade fairs, but also of their own network of sales agents. Then, there are companies that have offices or branches, mostly sales offices or after-sales service points. On the other hand, **few enterprises have production facilities abroad and on this we must still improve**".

The medium-small size of companies in this industry makes the setting-up of production sites around the world extremely complex. Therefore, the enterprises of this sector have been organising themselves to be present in several areas by using alternative ways that may be functional to their business targets. For example, this is the case of business networks, whose creation was spurred by the Association and which bring together several member companies. In particular, UCIMU is currently engaged in the establishment of the Business Network in Vietnam, modelled on the successful ITC India, established more than a decade ago and confirmed until 2026.

In addition, in support of internationalisation activities, UCIMU has been acting with ad hoc initiatives, carried out independently or sometimes with the participation of institutional partners, among which SACE, SIMEST and ICE-Italian Trade Agency.

"In this regard – concluded President Barbara Colombo – we ask the Government authorities for more resources to invite foreign buyers to Italy and, as soon as possible, for the reopening of Fund 394. We hope that this fund may be open not only to SMEs, but also to Mid-Caps, (which drive the production chain) for non-repayable and low-interest financing of internationalisation activities, such as, for example, setting-up of offices and branches and creation of business networks abroad, as well as development projects regarding ecological and digital transition and participation in international trade fairs".

#### Contact:

Claudia Mastrogiuseppe, External Relations and Press Office Manager, +39 0226255.299, +39 3482618701 <a href="mailto:press@ucimu.it">press@ucimu.it</a> Massimo Civello, External Relations and Press Office +39 0226255.266, +39 3487812176 <a href="mailto:press@ucimu.it">press@ucimu.it</a> Filippo Laonigro, Technical Press Office, +39 0226255.225, <a href="mailto:technical.press@ucimu.it">technical.press@ucimu.it</a>



Company Names	Details of Machineries	Companies logo
BLM S.p.A	Tube processing machines, Laser Tube cutting, CNC Tube bending, end- forming, automatic sawing, Wire bending machines, Five Axis Laser cutting machines, Laser sheet cutting machines.	BLM GROUP
BUFFOLI TRANSFER S.p.A	CNC Rotary Transfer Machines (Bar or Blanks), complete with automation, robotic and gaging systems. IoT (I4.0) technology and software.	BUFFOLI
FICEP S.p.A.	CNC lines for the processing of profiles and plates for the steel construction industry (drilling, milling, marking, scribing, sawing, plasma and oxy cutting, punching, shearing). Hydraulic, mechanical andscrew presses, shears, saws and automation for the forging industry	FICEP
LORENZON S.r.l.	Knives and jaws for tube industry, guideway and sideways for machines and hydraulic presses, knives and blades with all the shapes for metal industry, precision plates and liners for rolling mills, machining up to 10 meters.	LORENZON  1933
LOSMA S.p.A	Air filtration systems and coolantfiltration systems for machine tools	WORKING CLEAN, BREATHING HEALTHY
MILLUTENSIL S.r.l	Die & Mould spotting presses, dies splitters for splitting, equipment for presses, coil lines, cut to length line (CTL)	■ MILLUTENSIL®