

Il Sole 24 Ore

Nordmeccanica, new plant in Piacenza

Sara Deganello

Yesterday, Nordmeccanica inaugurated its new production site in Piacenza's industrial area. Providing 3,000 square metres of space, it involved a total investment of around 3,000,000 Euros over two years, and will also lead to 30 new hires. The company, founded in 1978 and specialised in the production of machinery for flexible packaging, will manufacture two types of machines here: laminating machines, that is systems that combine different materials, such as plastic films, paper, aluminium and metallised films, used to produce primarily food and pharmaceuticals packaging; and metallisers for packaging in which the aluminium is vaporised, therefore present in small quantities on the processed product, making it suitable for recycling as it is considered a single material. *"On the 20,000 square metre site where the new building is situated, we will be building another 5,000 square metre plant over the new three years, as well as a new 3,000 square metre office building, with a total investment of 5-10 million Euros,"* Vincenzo Cerciello, the company's technical director tells us. *"The new space is needed to expand production in order to produce ever-more complex and larger machines, for the extended timeframes of the supply chain, and for testing: all the engineering is done here in Piacenza. For this further development, we will need another 50-70 people. We are receiving more and more requests from our customers for technical aftersales support, and so we find ourselves increasingly moving from being a pure manufacturer towards the field of solutions provider".*

The technical director highlights how, in parallel to this expansion, the company has also worked on energy efficiency: *"We have installed 3,000 square metres of solar panels, with an output of 580 kW and an annual electricity output of 850 kWh, which will cover 40% of our requirements. The company has grown constantly over the last few decades, primarily at an international level. Every year, we re-invest 5% of our turnover. We are focusing on next-generation systems for the new requirements in the food packaging sector: recyclable, sustainable, paper-based, for example. It is a revolution, and the whole market is making major investments within this sector,"* adds the company's president, Antonio Cerciello. *"Our 2022 turnover was more than 110 million Euros, 95% of which was generated abroad, with over 4,000 machines sold around the world (and around 270 systems per year). In 2021 it was 95 million Euros, and our forecast for 2023 is for growth of a further 10%,"* clarifies Alfredo Cerciello, Nordmeccanica's financial director.

There are currently a further three plants in Piacenza, in addition to



those in China and the USA

Piacenza. Nordmeccanica has inaugurated a 3,000 square metre plant in the Emilian city's industrial area

The new opening is part of a development path for the company which, in addition to an increase in production capacity, includes a forecast 30% growth of turnover over the next three years.

Also present at the inauguration was Italy's Minister for Economy and Finance, Giancarlo Giorgetti, who highlighted how Italian enterprise continues to invest in innovation to compete in global markets.

Nordmeccanica is involved in a 5.8 million Euro research project for a period ranging from three to five years – Remopack (Recyclable mono-material for packaging), in partnership with the University of Parma – to create and industrialise completely recyclable packaging, starting out with analysis of the product.

In 2022, the project obtained financing of 2.7 million Euros from the “Ministry for Business and Made in Italy”.

At a global level, Nordmeccanica holds a 75% market share in the packaging machines sector and 65% in the field of industrial applications.

The company currently employs over 300 people, with six sites (four in Italy, one in Shanghai, China, and one in New York, USA), as well as two direct operating branches, in India and Argentina, as well as a network of representatives covering 87 countries all around the world.

The company's plans involve a 30% increase in income in the next three years.

The company's turnover was 110 million Euros in 2022, 95% of which was generated abroad